

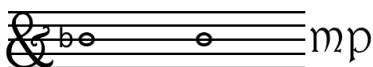
***Novus Ordo Seclorum* (2008) – 8 minutes – by Hunter Ewen**  
for eight or more performers, Wii-mote conductor, computer and video projection  
Commissioned by The Institute for Ethical and Civic Engagement  
and the University of Colorado at Boulder College of Music  
to Celebrate Constitution Day 2008

The United States Constitution is often considered the single greatest force in sculpting the landscape of 20th and 21st century politics, locally and internationally. Without blueprint, or precedent, our founding fathers drafted the most significant document of young America, hewn from the hopes and dreams of a nation that craved equality, authority, and liberty. They created. They eschewed tradition. They functioned in wild bursts of imagination and horror. They were artists.

Novus Ordo Seclorum, from the Great Seal of the United States, translates to "new order for the ages". The proposed composition is an attempt to capture the ethos of the political culture at the time of the Philadelphia convention. The thrill of uncertainty and the joy of human collaboration are embodied in a unique vision, developed by Hunter Ewen. Novus Ordo Seclorum features a set of live performers, underscoring a series of dramatic readings, where the music is generated, and notated, by a computer.

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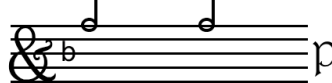
**With public sentiment - nothing can fail. Without it - nothing can succeed. (Abraham Lincoln)**



rapid erase/delete - egele p to f  
every 2-4 repetitions



evenly - fade into background texture



smooth - but accent where desired



slur (long phrases) - re-articulate  
every 2-3 repetitions



random (but appropriate) sforzandi

The notated music is a tribute to the beautiful new graphical interface of MAX 5, a graphical music oriented programming language. The score is best described as "Terry Riley at Hogwarts". Repeated harmonic and melodic patterns writhe and undulate under a series of dramatic readings that transport the listener on a journey through the rich history of the American Constitution. The procedural modulations are audibly, and visibly, apparent, as the generated music and text will be projected for the musicians as well as the audience to enjoy. The projection is aesthetic and functional; there are no other scores available. All eyes are on the same target. Everyone looks together.

**The history of free men is never really written by chance - but by choice - their choice! (Dwight D. Eisenhower)**

slur (long phrases) - re-articulate every 2-3 repetitions

smooth - but accent where desired

accented notes

random (but appropriate) sforzandi

evenly - fade into background texture

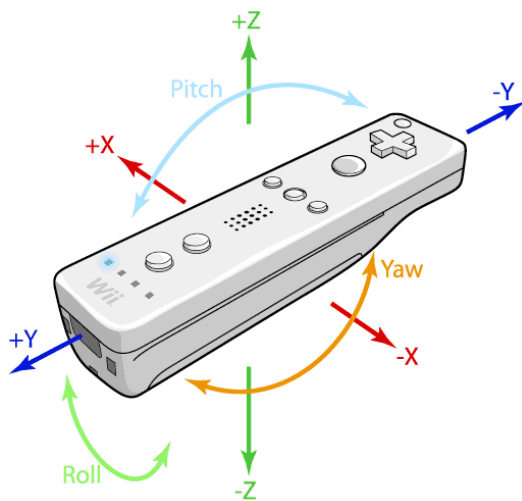
Marcato where appropriate - but still smooth

rapid erase/delete - cycle p to f every 2-4 repetitions

accented notes

A conductor will be necessary, but (s)he is employed in a unique and unusual way. (S)he will not control tempo - but will instead control dynamics, instrumentation, modulation, and the overall flow of the music.

This will be accomplished with the help of a wireless protocol, developed by Ewen, that allows communication between computer and a Nintendo "wii-mote" controller in the conductor's hand. Improvisatory changes are relayed to a computer which will be immediately displayed on the projection. The remote allows for 11 unique buttons, as well as tracking pitch and roll data (the conductor will be able to make realistic hand gestures on stage). There is also a force feedback system of vibration and 4 LED's that will allow the computer to relay subtle information to the conductor. The computer will choose from a bank of rhythms, pitches, and quotations and present them to the orchestra to play.



From collaborating musicians, to the wireless conductor, to the audience - everyone who experiences this music will feel exhilaration through uncertainty, civic pride through subject matter, and unity through collaboration.