

Minimalism

Phasing

Take a short loop of notes, a tone row of sorts. Make a copy, but cut it slightly short. Loop these two samples onto of each other to create phasing. At certain times the note will align to form intervals/chords depending on the number of looping samples.

Eg. Steve Reich – Piano Phase

Stepping

Similar to the phasing, take a set of notes and loop them. The second loop will move through the set of notes, starting on the next note in the sequence each time.

Eg. Steve Reich – Clapping Music

Cells

Create a variety of short tone rows in roughly the same key (some variation later on will add interest). Select a variety of instrument to perform with. Create a pulse of 1/1 (not 4/4 where there is a beat accent). Move through the cells, repeating as many times as desired, but never going back to a previously performed cell. The instruments/performers can move as quickly or as slowly through the cells as desired. Make sure each cell is performed in time with the pulse.

Eg. Terry Riley – In C

Useful Links

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/music/articles/9147162a-f36f-41df-a67a-9952d41c161e>

<https://musicatschool.wordpress.com/2008/01/14/minimalist-composing-techniques/>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLA87B2C8C3FD90AD9> - Youtube Playlist: Minimalism Film Music