Faint Clicks

for four soprano saxophones (or four oboes)

J. Simon van der Walt

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Composer's note

We were moving into a new house; this was when I was a kid, living in South Africa. I was left alone in the house for a while, while my parents went back to the old place for more stuff. As I wandered around the huge empty living room, I became aware of a strange... clicking sound? When my parents got back, my dad tore off the skirting board to reveal... termites! They had eaten away almost all of the wood, leaving only a paper-thin shell; from the outside, there was nothing to be seen. This picture stays with me, an image of how our minds worked, us apartheid-era white kids; oppressive racism just under the surface, invisible, never to be discussed.

'Faint Clicks' dates from 1995. It is one of the first pieces I made with the aid of a commercial midi sequencer, proving to my own satisfaction that this was a valid tool for contemporary composition. Most of the music is derived in a formal but non-rigorous way from a single 17-bar phrase; the software made it very simple to generate the various canons, retrogrades, inversions and transpositions which make up the piece.

Some creepy-crawly music, then; you might even catch the occasional key-click as the players negotiate some of the more tortuous passages...

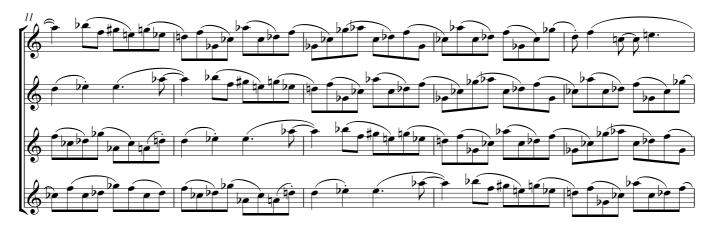
History

This is version 2, 5/2/2005; improved notation, some minor errors corrected, programme note amended, but essentially the same music. Originally version (27/11/95) also had a slightly longer title.

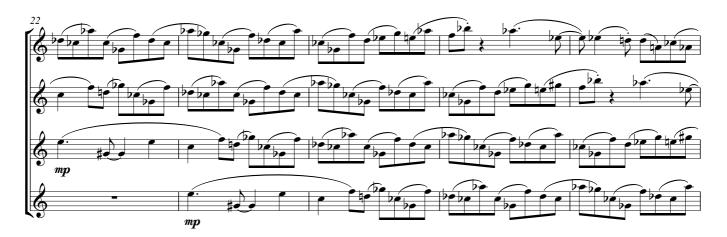
Duration 7'30

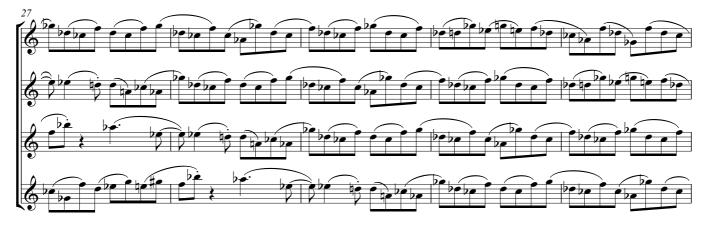






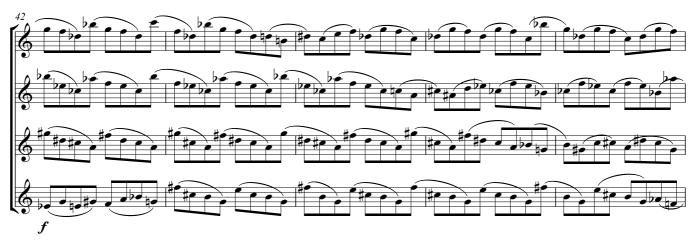








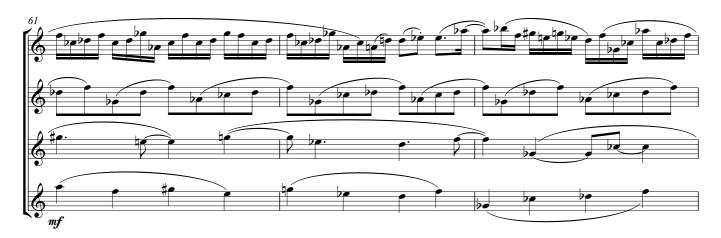






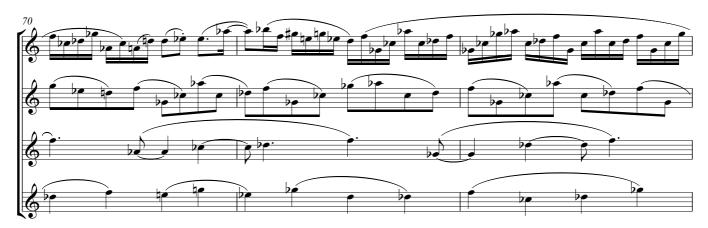












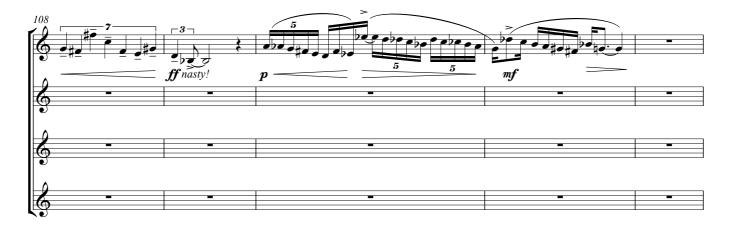








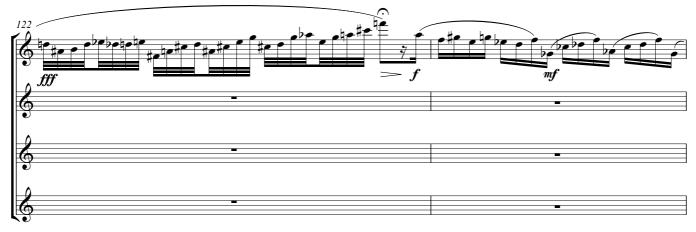


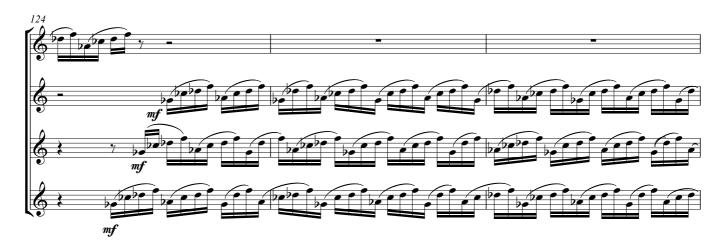






















mp dolce

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