

Drone (1993)

Drone takes its name from the bourdon tone (drone), in this case the open 'G string', which is held during the entire composition. The use of this is of an ancient order: one meets the drone in western music (in the form of a pedal point), in classical Indian music (played by the Tamboura) and in many types of folk music. Thereby the work is subdivided into rhythmic cycles or tala's, which to a western ear make an impression of irregularity, but nevertheless have a fixed rhythmic pattern. In the context of a string quartet where usually the emphasis is placed on expressivity, this rhythmic aspect has a refreshing character.