# Matt Geer

slowing up and speeding down (2)

for any keyboard instrument

2022

## Programme note

Listening 'at this moment in time is much like a dog chasing its tail. When a listener hears and subsequently directs their attention to a moment, they are merely examining a memory. If one anticipates a moment and focuses on a time-point, they are merely pre-empting a moment. Many may describe temporality as linear experience; left to right, right to left, or a continuous line stretching to and from eternity. However, temporality operates in absolute parallel with spatiality. I see time as something which comes at and over you. Occasionally, you may be looking forward and observing a time-point approaching you. At other times, you may be looking behind you and witnessing a time-point fade into the infinite distance. The past and future are strong forces constantly fighting to grab your attention. Perhaps you could lookup? Much like a cloud flies high above your head, the time-point at which the raindrop leaves the cloud compared to when it hits your head sits in a different place on the temporal spectrum. What may feel like the present is often the past and, if not, a murky anticipation of a time-point.

Although a real-world moment and a moment as a manifestation of our consciousness are different, what qualities does a real-world moment have? How do we interact with a time-point when we experience it? The primary stage of experiencing a moment in time is our delayed experience to a real-world time-point. We often use terms such as 'immediate' or 'present' to describe this. Real-world moments are indestructible, but often our consciousness is shrouded in time-points that these time-points present as decaying objects as time passes over us. There is a direct correlation between the distances separating us from our delayed experience of a time-point and the perceived decay of a time-point experience. This decay will eventually present as nothingness but a false nothingness. A period of temporal experience may follow where the initial experience of the time-point presents as nothingness but may appear again as a memory. This memory has very little to do with the fixed real-world time-point but is a false manifestation of the time-point experience. Both the time-point experience and the memory are not bound by the real-world temporal spectrum and so cannot be classified as a moment.

Moments occur in the real world and are present as time-points, not in the consciousness. However, human consciousness acts as a barrier between the real world and our apprehension of a time-point. A moment in temporal consciousness may present as either a loose-fitting observation of a time-point approaching us, a decaying time-point experience or a severely injured time-point manifesting as a memory.

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#### **Duration:**

40 minutes (with repeats) 20 minutes (without repeats)

The work can equally be performed with or without repeats. However, if the performer chooses to play with repeats, they must play them all.

#### **Versions:**

There are multiple versions of *Slowing Up and Speeding Down*, which have been arranged by the composer and are listed below:

- Slowing Up and Speeding Down (1), for piano
- Slowing Up and Speeding Down (2), for any keyboard instrument
- Slowing Up and Speeding Down (2), for four unspecified instruments
- Slowing Up and Speeding Down (2), for string quartet

#### Compatibility:

- *Slowing Up and Speeding Down (1)* is a stand-alone work for piano.
- The *Slowing Up and Speeding Down (2)* series (for any keyboard instrument, four unspecified instruments and string quartet) may be played as stand-alone works *or* simultaneously, either metrically synchronised or unsychronised. If versions are played unsynchronised, the individual players of their version must synchronise, but groups of players between the versions may play unsynchronised. They should start gesturally at the same time, but the music ends when the last group finishes their notated music.





































