

Matt Geer

# Tesseract

for flute and piano

2023

Full Score  
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# Programme note

In a ceaseless quest to probe the farthest boundaries of human perception and cognitive experience, "Tesseract" emerges as both a musical composition and a perceptual phenomenon—an ontological study in sound. Inspired by the mathematical and geometric concept of a tesseract—a hypercube in four-dimensional space—this piece seeks to interrogate, challenge, and augment our phenomenological understanding of time through the auditory senses. The architecture of the work employs a multi-layered approach to time signatures, organized in an intricate tapestry of permutations. The time signatures— $2/4$ ,  $4/4$ ,  $5/8$ , and  $7/8$ —interact with each other not merely in a sequential manner but in a more dimensional and intersecting fashion. Each of these signatures represents a layer in a four-dimensional construct, akin to the four edges meeting at each vertex in a tesseract. They engage in a nuanced interplay, designed to facilitate a unique, almost kaleidoscopic, sense of time within each listener. The concept of temporal consciousness thus becomes an active participant, not merely a passive receptor, in the auditory experience. The choice of the octatonic scale serves to deepen the composition's inquiry into the nature of perception and multi-dimensionality. Derived from a pitch-class set that can be permuted in multiple ways, the octatonic scale itself becomes a microcosm of the ever-fluid notion of temporal consciousness. It is like viewing a four-dimensional object projected into our three-dimensional world; we can perceive its various facets but can never fully grasp its totality. A crucial dimension of "Tesseract" lies in its invitation to 'meta-listen.' The composition employs abrupt shifts in dynamics, extended techniques, and irregular rhythmic patterns to draw attention to the very act of listening. The music beckons you to become acutely aware of your own shifts in perception and consciousness as you navigate through its complex structures. Here, the narrative is not within the music itself; rather, it exists within the cognitive and emotional framework of each listener. Your perception is not merely a mirror reflecting the music but a prism, refracting it into spectra of experience that are uniquely your own. In essence, "Tesseract" is not just a composition but an experiential soundscape, probing the complex terrains of temporal consciousness and self-aware perception. The work exists as a moment-to-moment unfolding, a continuous becoming—an auditory enactment of phenomenological existence. As you lend your ears to this musical experiment, you are not just listening to a piece; you are engaging in an intricate dialogue between the composition and your own sentient awareness, between geometric abstraction and felt experience.

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**Tesseract**  
for flute and piano

Duration: 7'15"

# Tesseract

for flute and piano (2023)

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Cyclic ♩ = 40

Flute

*pp*

Piano

*ppp*

*una corda*

Fl.

Pno

*una corda*  
(u.c.)

Fl.

Pno

*una corda*  
(u.c.)

Fl.

Pno

*una corda*  
(u.c.)

Fl.

Pno

(Pia.)  
(u.c.)

Fl.

Pno

(Pia.)  
(u.c.)

Fl.

Pno

(Pia.)  
(u.c.)

Fl.

Pno

(Pia.)  
(u.c.)

Fl.

Pno

(Fl.)  
(u.c.)

Fl.

Pno

(Fl.)  
(u.c.)

Fl.


Pno

(Fl.)  
(u.c.)

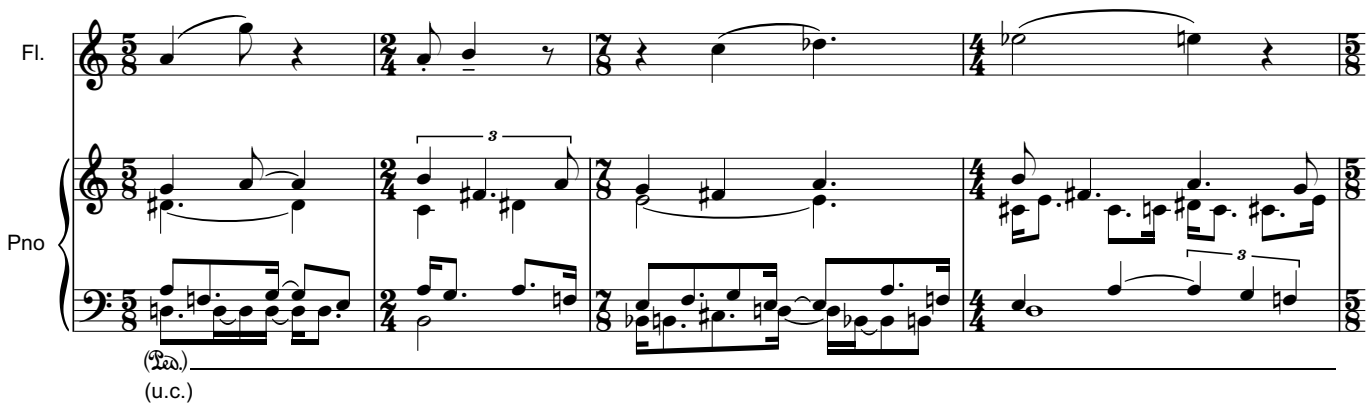
Fl.

Pno

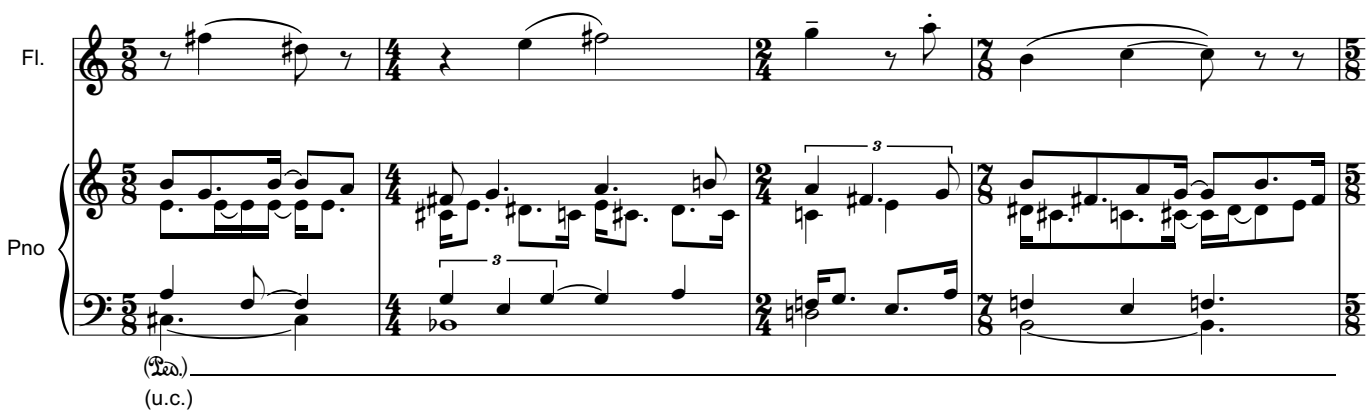
(Fl.)  
(u.c.)

Fl. 

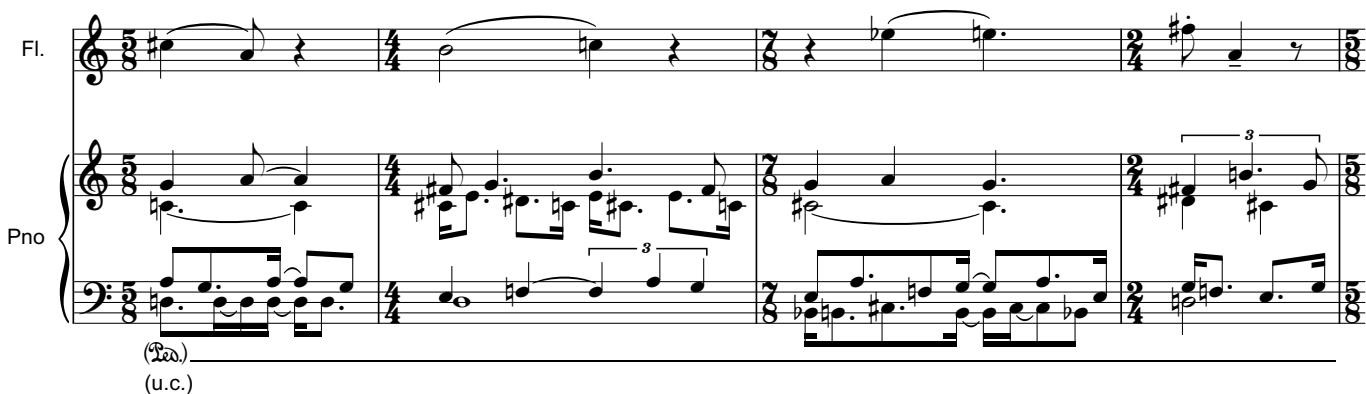
(Pia.)  
(u.c.)

Fl. 

(Pia.)  
(u.c.)

Fl. 

(Pia.)  
(u.c.)

Fl. 

(Pia.)  
(u.c.)

Fl.

Pno

(Pia.)  
(u.c.)

Fl.

Pno

(Pia.)  
(u.c.)

Fl.

Pno

(Pia.)  
(u.c.)

Fl.

Pno

(Pia.)  
(u.c.)



Fl.   
Pno  
(Pia.)  
(u.c.)

Fl.   
Pno  
(Pia.)  
(u.c.)

Fl.   
Pno  
(Pia.)  
(u.c.)

Fl.   
Pno  
(Pia.)  
(u.c.)