

Javier Alejandro Garavaglia

**"TT" (Spiel für Tommy und seine Bratsche)**

for viola solo (1987)

**DURATION:** ca. 8 minutes

*"TT" (Spiel für Tommy und seine Bratsche)* is the first of several works I composed based on the principle of "Spielen" (German: "to play") in all its possible uses, for example, the election and the combination of the materials by composing, the selection of several extended techniques, the composing itself, the interpretation of the piece, listening to it, etc.

The materials of piece consist mainly of fixed 11x **"objects"**, tried personally on the viola. Their duration is given in seconds throughout; as a result, the piece does not work with normal/classic metre, but only of sections with given durations in seconds. Opposite to the **"objects"** are **"breaks"**, pauses which play as an important role as the **"objects"** and are also given in seconds. Exact rhythms and metre are not given, because whilst both **"objects"** and **"breaks"** are provided an exact overall duration, the events inside them are mostly free.

The 11x objects are partially ordered to a 12-tone-series and are used in varied manner. It is important to notice, that the series does not quite work hereby as a structural parameter (as it is common in serialism) but only as a "pitch generator", whose order is not always kept, mainly because of the improvising style of the whole work. The note **c4** however acts as an axis that relates events and objects with each other. Whilst most intervals are taken from the 12-tone series, there are two whose importance and repetition are outstanding: the major seventh (and its inversion, the minor second) and the minor third.

The piece was dedicated to Tomás (Tommy) Tichauer, my viola professor from 1982 to 1990 in Buenos Aires (Argentina), who suddenly died due to a heart attack at the age of 50 in December 1994. A home studio recording of the piece played by Tichauer himself can be found at: [https://icem-www.folkwang-uni.de/~gara/Media/TT\\_1987\\_Tichauer.mp3](https://icem-www.folkwang-uni.de/~gara/Media/TT_1987_Tichauer.mp3)

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