

Towards a Nominalization of DW Set-Theoretical Music Analysis

Jonathan Silpayamanant

Friday, February 22, 1997
10:00 a.m. at the Chello Shed

"It is often taken for granted that everything customarily called logic, including the calculus of classes, is purely neutral machinery that can be used without ontological implications in any constructional system. But this neutrality is preserved only so long as the machinery is uninterpreted. If we use variables that we construe as having entities of any given kind of values, we acknowledge that there are such entities. In using variables that have individuals as values we are acknowledging that there are individuals--an acknowledgment we are not likely to be able or want to avoid. If we also use variables that call for classes as values, we acknowledge that there are classes."

Nelson Goodman--The Structure of Appearance

"By means that meet the standards of nominalism set by Nelson Goodman we can define relations that behave in many ways like the membership relation of set theory. Though the agreement is imperfect, these pseudo-membership relations see much closer to membership than to its usual nominalistic counterpart, the part-whole relation. Someone impressed by the diversity of set theories might regard the theories of these relations as peculiar set theories; someone more impressed by the non-diversity of the more successful set theories--ZF and its relatives--might prefer not to. This verbal dispute does not matter; what matters is that the gap between nominalistic and set-theoretic methods of construction is narrower than it seems."

David Lewis--"Nominalistic Set Theory"

"In brief, while the nominalist may construe anything as an individual, he refuses to construe anything as a class. But just what is the principle of this refusal? In my book I said that, roughly speaking, the nominalist sticks at a distinction of entities without a distinction of content; and some of my critics have overlooked that more explicit formulation that soon followed. The nominalist denies that two different entities can be made up of the same entities."

Nelson Goodman--"A World of Individuals"

I.

What is Nominalism?

II.

Nelson Goodman and the Structure of Appearance

III.

No countenance of Abstract Entities

IV.

Goodman and Quine "Steps Toward a Constructive Nominalism"

V.

David Lewis and Nominalistic Set Theory

VI.

Dipert/Wheldon Set-Theoretical Music Analysis

VII.

Some objections

VIII.

The Benefits

...from the Chello Shed

Friday, February 21: 11:30 a.m.

Iannis Xenakis/Stochastic Music/Group Theory

Saturday, February 22: 1:00 a.m.

What is "Just Intonation": A survey of microtonal music from Partch and Haba to La Monte Young and Ezra Sims

Saturday, February 22: 3:00 a.m.

Jonathan Silpayamanant: Performance

Saturday, February 22: 11:30 p.m.

Cage's Music as Perlocutionary Utterances

Sunday, February 23: time tba

Performance