

Robert G. Patterson
Lustration for the Millennium (1996)

Program Notes

Lustration for the Millennium is essentially a straightforward Introduction and Variations, however, it utilizes the form to create a mystical catharsis based on the fundamental characteristics of religious meditation. The piece does not reference any particular religion or culture but rather seeks common elements in the meditative rituals of many religions. The introduction announces to the world the performance of the ritual, and each variation represents a new stage in meditative process.

The score contains the following direction.

The auditorium lights should be out for the duration of *Lustration for the Millennium*, starting before the performers walk on the stage. The performers should wear solid black. Ideally, there will be no applause as the performers enter. If the audience applauds during the performers' entry, the performers should not acknowledge it. When the piece is over, the stage lights should brighten to their normal setting with the first sounds of applause, and the performers should acknowledge it then as is customary.