



(Photo: Cottonwood Fall (Populus deltoides), N. America)

Centers

(1) In both natural space and time, the most difficult of all tasks is to find and know the living centers.

(2) What we think of as tonality in music is perhaps nothing more than a confused concept about how sounds are centered in space. Like a tree which reaches from root to crown, suspended between earth and open sky, sounds move to naturally center themselves in a dynamic web of relationships.

Implied in this is that what has been called a-tonal music simply cannot or does not exist. At the same time, it must be said that much music has been written which lacks strong, clear, articulate centers. Trying to perform or listen to such music is much like the exasperating experience of having to navigate on foot prototypically featureless urban landscapes. Who does not know this feeling, when offered no center, of being lost before one starts?