

# MHL 603 – PREPARATION 8

## *Minimalism*

due **Mon, Nov 23** at 6pm via email  
(mason.bates@notes.sfcm.edu)

### Please listen to the following:

- Riley, *In C*
- Reich, *Music for 18 Musicians*
- Glass, *Einstein on the Beach*

Pick **one** of the following topics and write **one or two paragraphs**:

1. Minimalist music focuses on pulsing rhythms, slowly-shifting textures, and simple harmonies. Compare how the three pieces above and think about *rate of change*. How would you measure the rate of change in each piece? What changes happen in a particular passage that make you feel that something is changing? Focus on specific details such as harmony, rhythm, and texture (orchestration). Be sure to discuss each of the three pieces in detail.
2. Go to the library and find the *Einstein on the Beach* DVD on reserve (it's DVD #256). Watch a bit of the piece and, after that, watch the interview with Robert Wilson and Philip Glass. Do you think this piece can be defined as opera? For starters, what is your definition of opera? How well do you feel minimalism works in moving drama forward? Do you think the music of Riley or Reich would work as well in an operatic setting?

### Please follow the following format for your documents:

- Write "Preparation 8" and your name at the top
- Specify which question you are answering
- Save your document as a PDF and include "Prep2" and your name in the filename (for ex: "Prep8-MasonBates.pdf")