

# Musical symbols of the ephemera – eternal dichotomy in the final movement of *Tehillim* by Steve Reich

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**Abstract:** *In my paper I chose to analyse a 20<sup>th</sup> century work by Steve Reich, a musical setting of psalms in Hebrew language. The dichotomy between the evanescence and the eternal in the last musical part of Tehillim is a hermeneutical aspect that caught my attention because of the artful way in which the composer used augmentation as a symbol of time dilation. Time and rhythm in music are metaphorical images of extra-musical time –the human time in comparison with the divine time. The hermeneutic analysis of the musical texts offers the opportunity to go beyond the harmonic and rhythmic texture, to a spiritual universe whereby the composer argues his choices.*

**Keywords:** *eternal, ephemera, evanescence, symbol, psalm, augmentation, rhythm*

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