

ALEXIS PORFIRIADIS

A void gesture

2022

for a group of people (2 to 15 persons)

A void gesture (2022) is a verbal score for a group of people (2 to 15 persons). The score consists of 26 pages, with 4 or 8 different instructions on each page, divided in two different categories, A and B. Performers should cut the instructions off the pages prior to the performance, in order to create a pack of 120 instructions for a musical, physical or symbolic gesture.

The group has to collectively decide on the total duration of their version prior to the performance. Each performer should then choose the instructions s/he likes in collaboration with his/her co-players. Each performer should choose at least 5 instructions from category A. The use of instructions from category B is optional. The distribution of the material should be the product of collective decisions during the rehearsals and it should not be decided by one single person. Do not distribute the instructions in random.

Group of 2 to 5 persons

Group members should collectively create a score using any amount of the instructions they chose (at least 5 instructions from category A for each person), in any sequence and combinations. All group members should play using this score, meaning that all group members should know what their co-performers are playing in all times.

Group of 6 to 15 persons

If a group is larger than 5 persons then people should form subgroups.

6 to 10 persons → 2 groups (3+3, 3+4, 4+4, 4+5, 5+5)

11 to 15 persons → 3 groups (4+4+3, 4+4+4, 5+4+4, 5+5+4, 5+5+5)

Subgroups should collectively decide the total duration of their version prior to the performance. Subsequently, each subgroup follows the performance instructions given for a 2 to 5 persons group (meaning that for each subgroup a whole pack of the 120 instructions should be used). Each subgroup does not have to know what the other(s) subgroup(s) are playing. No director is needed in all cases.



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A

An uneasy sequence of notes or noises

An uneasy gesture

Another uneasy sequence of tones or noises

Silence

As many short notes as you can play in 10 seconds using all registers

An uncontrollable gesture

As many chords (tonal and atonal) as you can play in 10 seconds using all registers

Silence

Fifteen different short notes

Repeating the same short and loud atonal chord 18 times

A provocative gesture

A loud long noise

Along and very loud atonal chord

Silence

A quiet tonal melody

A quiet atonal melody

A quiet tonal melody (different than the first one)

A quiet atonal melody (different than the first one)

A gesture of love

Silence

Repeating the same noise 20 times

A gesture of respect

Repeating the same note 30 times

A long quiet atonal chord

Silence

A short tonal chord

A long atonal melody

An impassioned gesture

Nine different tonal chords

A long note

Silence

Three different notes performed in three different registers

A short succession of chords, repeated three times

A gesture of defiance

Silence

Seven different noises performed with seven different dynamics

A short loud cluster

A long quiet note

A gesture of impatience

Silence

A farewell melody

A farewell gesture

Silence

A short quiet melody

An even shorter quiet melody

A gesture of appreciation

A short quiet melody

A very short quiet melody

Silence

A melody you heard from a co-player

A gesture of friendship

Silence

Seven different short notes performed with seven different dynamics

Nine different quiet noises

Eleven different short notes performed with eleven different dynamics

Thirteen different quiet noises

A hopeless gesture

Silence

A long note

A short atonal chord

A long cluster

A short tonal chord

A long note

A gesture of comfort

A very long note

Silence

Three different quiet noises

A sentimental gesture

A long quiet note, middle register

A long quiet singing note (use your voice)

Silence

A very short note, middle register

A wondering gesture

Silence

A loud long 8-note tonal chord, high register

A loud long 8-note atonal chord, low register

A dramatic gesture

A long quiet note, high register

Silence

Five different notes, with 5 different dynamics

A tonal chord

A noble gesture

A quiet short noise

A quiet long cluster

Silence

Many random short chords/clusters

One long loud note, low register

A rude gesture

Repeating the same cluster 51 times

Silence

Two loud noises

A gesture of indignation

Fifteen different noises performed with fifteen different dynamics

A loud cluster

Silence

Three short loud noises

Seven different quiet notes

A gesture of joy

Silence

One long note, high register

Three different notes, in three different registers

A melody you love

A heartfelt gesture

A long quiet tonal chord

Silence

Many random quiet notes

A tonal chord

A friendly gesture

Many random quiet notes

Silence

Eight different short notes, performed with eight different dynamics

Eight different short noises, performed with eight different dynamics

A series flamboyant gestures, while playing 14 notes and noises with 14 different dynamics

Silence

A loud noise

Eleven different noises, performed with eleven different dynamics

A long loud noise

An angry gesture

Silence

A melody from a movie you love

A theatrical gesture

Silence

A chord with two notes

A short cluster

Repeating a note 22 times

A dismissive gesture

Silence

Two quiet noises

Eleven different notes, performed with eleven different dynamics

A gesture of despair

Twelve different quiet notes

Silence

A note

A noise

A note

A noise

A note

A noise

A gesture of indifference

Silence

A melody of a popular song you like

A vernacular gesture

Silence

Two different noises

20 different notes, each in different register than the preceding one

A gesture of support

A long quiet noise

A long quiet note

Silence

A minor chord repeated seven times

A ceremonial gesture

A diminished chord repeated 13 times

Silence

Six different notes each performed in different register

A cluster repeated 25 times

Seven different noises each performed with different dynamic

Eight different tonal chords each performed in different register

A series of frantic gestures

Silence

A trill with two notes, which makes an accelerando and a crescendo simultaneously

A tremolo with four notes, which makes an accelerando and a crescendo simultaneously

A menacing gesture

A tremolo with eight notes, which makes an accelerando and a crescendo simultaneously

A tremolo with 11 notes, which makes an accelerando and a crescendo simultaneously

Silence

A gracious melody

A gracious gesture

Silence

As any different notes in all registers, as you can play in 10 seconds

A grand gesture

As many different noises, as you can play in 10 seconds

Silence

A noise

35 very quiet different notes using all registers

A noise

12 very quiet different notes using all registers

A noise

A token gesture

A noise

Silence

A continuous quiet noise

An unselfish gesture

A different continuous quiet noise

Silence

Many short quiet notes

A nervous gesture

Many short loud notes (play them fast!)

A nervous gesture

Silence

33 different notes

A scornful gesture

Silence

A 16th century art-music melody

An 18th century art-music melody

A 19th century art-music melody

A gesture of supplication

A 20th century art-music melody

A 21st century art-music melody

Silence

An upwards glissando

A noise

An awkward gesture

A downwards glissando

Two noises

An awkward gesture

Silence

Rapid gestures while playing short notes and noises for 30 seconds

As many notes as you can play in 5 seconds

An extravagant gesture

As many chords (tonal and atonal) as you can play in 8 seconds

Silence

A long loud tonal chord (let it fade out)

A long loud atonal chord (let it fade out)

A long loud cluster (let it fade out)

An imperious gesture

Silence

A loud major chord in both hands (let it fade out)

Another loud major chord in both hands (let it fade out)

A magnanimous gesture

A third loud major chord in both hands (let it fade out)

The beginning of a melody you like

Silence

The beginning of another melody you like

Silence

An oratorical gesture

The beginning of a third melody you like

Silence

Very fast, not comprehensible melodies

An obscene gesture

Silence

A series of loud tonal chords which have no functional relations between them

A decisive gesture

Silence

A short loud noise

Silence

Short loud note

Silence

A sharp gesture

Silence

A short loud noise

Silence

A short loud note

Silence

The same noise 25 times

An uncouth gesture

Silence

An art music melody from the classical period

Silence

An art music melody from the romantic period

A comical gesture

Silence

A folksong melody

A fatherly gesture

Silence

A quiet noise

A quiet note

A different quiet note

A quiet noise

Silence

A quiet note

A quiet noise

A small gesture

Silence

Two different tonal chords repeated rhythmically 35 times

A rhythmical gesture

A note repeated rhythmically 26 times

Silence

A medieval melody

A royal gesture

Silence

A melody written by a woman art music composer

A feminine gesture

A text written by a woman writer

A feminine gesture

Silence

An energetic melody from the baroque art music period

An energetic gesture

An energetic melody from the classical art music period

Another energetic gesture

An energetic melody from the 20th century art music period

Silence

Four majestic chords

A triumphant gesture

Silence

As many notes and noises as you can play without any kind of pause in 30 seconds

An ecstatic gesture

Silence

A calm tonal melody made by you

A welcoming gesture

A calm atonal melody made by you

Another welcoming gesture

Silence

Using the instrument or your voice in ways you never did before

A WTF gesture

Silence

A short quiet note

A short quiet noise

Two different short quiet notes

A tiny gesture

Three different short quiet noises

Five different short quiet notes

Another tiny gesture

Seven different short quiet noises

Another tiny gesture

Silence

A vivid melody

A vivid gesture

Silence

A silly pop melody

A silly gesture

Another silly pop melody

Silence

A ferocious gesture

Fast, loud clusters in all registers

Silence

Many notes

Many noises

Many notes

An excited gesture

Silence

A middle-dynamic 8-note chord (let it fade out)

A middle-dynamic cluster with 10 notes (let it fade out)

A thoughtful gesture

A middle-dynamic cluster with at least 25 notes (let it fade out)

Silence

Playing 10 different notes using 10 different ways of playing

A fastidious gesture

Silence

Random clusters in all registers

An apish gesture

Random clusters in all registers

Silence

A cordial gesture

Two different melodies, one tonal, one atonal, played simultaneously

Silence

Using the instrument in an absolutely absurd way

An absurd gesture

Silence

An ungainly gesture

An ungainly noise

Silence

The same chord 44 times

An insulting gesture

Silence

A quiet atonal chord in low register

Silence

Two quiet atonal chords in low register

Silence

A weary gesture

A quiet atonal chord in low register

Silence

B

A musical gesture inspired by Gustav Mahler

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Mauricio Kagel

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Tōru Takemitsu

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Robert Ashley

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Earle Brown

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Kaija Saariaho

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Georges Aperghis

Silence

A musical gesture by Galina Ustvolskaya

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Tristan Murail

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Witold Lutosławski

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Kurt Weil

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Elliot Carter

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Krzysztof Penderecki

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Erik Satie

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Luigi Nono

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by John Cage

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Henry Cowell

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Gérard Grisey

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Fausto Romitelli

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Janni Christou

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Nikos Skalkottas

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Helmut Lachenmann

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Béla Bartók

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Alban Berg

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Sergei Prokofiev

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Steve Reich

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Claude Debussy

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Igor Stravinsky

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Arnold Schoenberg

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Morton Feldman

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Alexander Scriabin

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Anton von Webern

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Pierre Boulez

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Beat Furrer

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Iannis Xenakis

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Luciano Berio

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Karlheinz Stockhausen

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by György Ligeti

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Olivier Messiaen

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Salvatore Sciarrino

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Brian Ferneyhough

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Charles Ives

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Pauline Oliveros

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Georg Friedrich Haas

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Giacinto Scelsi

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Frederic Rzewski

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by György Kurtág

Silence

A musical gesture inspired by Mathias Spahlinger

Silence