

objects in space

for 4 to 20 players

Patrick Harrex

after Paul Klee: Nichtskomponiertes im Raum

General instructions

The work may be performed by any number of players from 4 to 20 on any pitched instruments. If keyboard instruments or keyed percussion, such as vibraphone and marimba, are used, the performer is to play only a single line of notes throughout. Strings play arco.

The independence of each performer is critical. In particular each one should set his or her own pulse without reference to any other performer. Players may find it helpful during their individual preparation/practice to fix their individual performance intentions in advance – this may avoid their being influenced by other performers during the performance.

Players do not have to begin at the same time. They may, however, all finish together if they agree in advance that one of them will give a signal to bring the performance to an end (see the instructions for each player, below).

Everyone must play quietly throughout the performance. The starting note, particularly for players of wind instruments, therefore must not be any higher than the performer can comfortably play quietly.

Any or all of the players may move around the performing area and/or auditorium while performing the work. If they do this, they should return to their original positions if they finish playing before the performance comes to an end.

Instructions for each player

1. imagine that you are playing a high note very quietly
2. play that note (**N**) (quietly), repeating it in a regular but fairly slow pulse
3. increase the rate of the pulse at which you are playing the note until you reach a speed that you want to stay with, then
4. maintaining the faster pulse, immediately play a lower note (**n**), but pitched less than an octave below the first note you played (**N**) – you can use microtones if available on your instrument – always play quietly
5. still playing the new note (**n**), slow down until you reach a fairly slow pulse (not necessarily the same as at 2., above)
6. continue to play (**n**) at the slower pulse
7. return to your original note (**N**) but continue to play this at the same pulse (as at 6., above)
8. repeat steps 3. to 7., above, as many times as you like, always returning to your original note at step 7. and never playing again any lower note played at step 4. Continue to play quietly throughout the performance
9. continue until you wish to stop or until you have used all the available lower notes (at step 4.) or until directed to stop by another player who has been chosen to signal the end of the performance.