materials vary greatly and are simply materials (2010)

James Saunders
programme note

*materials vary greatly and are simply materials* (2010) uses ten different materials placed in a harp, and then bowed. The materials are drawn from the list of traditional gifts given for the first ten wedding anniversaries. The title is taken from Donald Judd’s essay *Specific Objects* (1964). The piece is part of the series *divisions that could be autonomous but that comprise the whole* (2009-) and was written for Rhodri Davies. It is dedicated to Tim Parkinson and Angharad Davies, and first performed at their wedding.

performance information

harp
two bows
ten materials: cotton, paper, leather, wood, fruit, sugar, salt, wool, copper, tin

find ten objects, one for each material type.
sugar and salt may be placed in containers if loose, such that they vibrate when the container is bowed (the container should make as little sound as possible)

place each object between the strings of the harp in advance.
each action in the score indicates which object should be bowed.

ppp (<>) very quiet, with naturally occurring, unforced variations

pages may be played in any sequence

times refer to durations of sounds and silences (no action marked)

use a stopwatch; determine a page order and mark performance times on score if required, or create a performance score.

duration: 4’00”
wood 0

PPP (<>)

40°
cotton 0 ———
ppp(<>)
40"

fruit 0 ———
ppp(<>)
8"