

The C duo

for two people in an intimate relationship

//Alexis Porfiriadis

//2014

The C duo (2014) is a verbal score consisting of 102 verbally instructed parts. Performers are invited to make a group realization of the composition using any amount of this material. The order of actions and their respective timings should be decided collectively prior to the performance. The resultant realization should be the product of a conversation between the performers and it should by no means be decided by one single person.

The actions of *The C duo* may be combined in any manner (based on the performers' choice), so that an action can continue while another starts, more than one action can be performed simultaneously etc. An action can be repeated by the same person provided that one or more other actions are inserted between repetitions to avoid successive appearances of the same action. The order in which the actions are presented in this score reflects no structural preference on the part of the composer.

Perform the piece in a concert or at home just for yourselves. In the case of a public performance duration should be not less than 6 minutes. In this case you are encouraged to perform your chosen action(s) as naturally as possible. Extreme displays and theatrics should be avoided at all costs. Each version should be agreed on for the specific performance; it may not be rehearsed or played at an earlier performance.



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1. Perform/sing a piece (or part of a piece) that you know your partner likes. Don't reveal which one it is during rehearsals. Perform the action both at the same time. Up to 3 minutes.

▪

2. Think about something about your partner that that makes you furious. Make a sound to express it.

▪

3. Note everything you appreciate in your partner. Count the letters. Play one sound for each letter.

▪

4. Recall the place where you first met. Make sounds that characterize this place.

▪

5. Perform the improvisation of reaching a dead-end.

▪

6. Close your eyes. Remember the first time you made love. Play music for as long as the memory lasts; don't think at all about what you're playing.

▪

7. Each one with his/her instrument. Without prior agreement, try to play together music that inspires absolute mutual harmony for 3 minutes.

▪

8. Play for 2 minutes, each one with the instrument of the other.

Alexis Porfiriadis, 2014

The C duo (actions: 1-8)



9. Close your eyes. Project your partner's face in your mind. Play a melody and offer it to her/him with all your love.

▪

10. Bring your partner's favorite drink. Drink a glass together and offer one to the audience.

▪

11. Play your partner's favorite song on his/her instrument. It doesn't matter if you don't know how to play the specific instrument or if you can't perform the song well. Play it anyway.

▪

12. Perform the improvisation of affection.

▪

13. Improvise together for 3 minutes on the same instrument.

▪

14. One plays the background, the other becomes the soloist. For 2 minutes. Change roles and repeat the process for 2 more minutes.

▪

15. Visit one of your favorite places. Videotape the visit. Use parts of the video as a visual background of the performance.

▪

16. Improvise using your partner's hands. For 2 minutes.

Alexis Porfiriadis, 2014

The C duo (actions: 9-16)



17. Embrace each other while improvising on one instrument. For 2 minutes.

▪

18. Perform the improvisation of aloofness.

▪

19. Improvise supplementing each other's musical gestures. Up to 3 minutes.

▪

20. Close your eyes. Remember your worst row. Play/sing a melody of reconciliation.

▪

21. Record the sounds of a day you are home for many hours. Then, create together a 5-minute sonic environment; use it as an accompanying sonic source of the performance.

▪

22. Close your eyes. Recall the warmth of his/her embrace when you lay in bed under the covers. Hold on to the thought. Feel the warmth. Improvise.

▪

23. Close your eyes. Think about all the reasons why you are a couple. Play a sound for each reason.

▪

24. Sit down and lean back to back/head to head. Improvise for 3 minutes while trying to constantly contact his/her back and head.

Alexis Porfiriadis, 2014

The C duo (actions: 17-24)



25. Close your eyes. Project your partner's face in your mind. Play sounds only for him/her. If you lose contact with his/her face, stop playing immediately. Concentrate and bring back his/her face to mind and play again. Your objective is to play sounds for 1 minute without losing contact with his/her face.

[Homage to Pauline Oliveros]

▪

26. Perform the improvisation of exclusion.

▪

27. Put your hand on his/her belly. Upon each exhalation, play a chord/cluster or a sound. Play 60 different chords/cluster/sounds.

▪

28. Put your hand on your partner's neck. Feel his/her heartbeat. Play 30 sounds in sync with the beat of his/her heart.

▪

29. Lay down on the floor. Your partner lies on top of you with his/her face closely contacting yours and plays sounds calmly for 1 minute.

▪

30. One instrument. One hand each on this instrument. An improvisation exuding togetherness, harmony and the feeling that you complete each other.

▪

31. Perform the improvisation of indignation.

Alexis Porfiriadis, 2014

The C duo (actions: 25-31)



32. Find an issue/notion/ideology on which you are totally on the same page. Express it simultaneously, each one with your instrument for 3 minutes. Do not make any other prior agreement apart from choosing the issue/notion/ideology.

▪

33. If there's a movie that you both really like, chose one of its scenes lasting up to 3 minutes. Screen the clip and accompany it musically.

▪

34. Record – each separately – thoughts you have for each other. Play the two recordings simultaneously and accompany them musically. Up to 5 minutes.

▪

35. Perform the improvisation of compromising.

▪

36. Stay in bed, more or less for a whole day. Record it. Wearing headphones, listen separately to a random part of the recording and improvise on what you heard. For 3 minutes.

▪

37. Look at each other's eyes constantly without a break and improvise for 1 minute.

▪

38. Perform the music of self-denial. The music may be improvisational or a pre-written score, old or new.

Alexis Porfiriadis, 2014

The C duo (actions: 32-38)



39. Record a melody, one for the other. Play the recordings simultaneously.

▪

40. Perform together the improvisation of ecstasy.

▪

41. Create sounds using your partner's body as your only instrument.

▪

42. Go on a one-day excursion to a place you both love; when you return home, record a five-minute improvisation using only instruments/objects you keep at home. Play the recording at the performance and accompany it musically.

▪

43. Touch your partner. Feel the warmth of his/her body. Transfer this warmth on any instrument you chose and play sounds until the feeling is gone.

▪

44. Whisper in your partner's ear what he/she must play or in which way he/she must improvise. Take different decisions in every rehearsal and performance.

▪

45. Perform the improvisation of anticipation.

▪

46. Play a piece (of any era or aesthetic style), which you think describes an important attribute of your partner.

Alexis Porfiriadis, 2014

The C duo (actions: 39-46)



47. Play a piece or improvisation, which reveals your innermost feelings for your partner.

▪

48. Whisper something tender in your partner's ear. Then, he/she must close his/her eyes and play sounds for as long as the warmth of your sweet words lasts.

▪

49. Hug and squeeze each other as tightly as you can. Feel the warmth of one another.

▪

50. Close your eyes. Savour the feeling. Let go, but keep holding each other's hand. With your free hand, play sounds for as long as the feeling of the embrace lasts.

▪

51. Use a mattress. Perform an improvisation under the covers.

▪

52. Perform the improvisation of boredom.

▪

53. Play sounds while your partner is whispering a nice story in your ear.

▪

54. During the performance exchange a gift: an instrument or an object, which produces sounds effortlessly. Improvise simultaneously for 3 minutes, each one only with his/her gift. Don't rehearse the action and don't reveal your gift before the performance.



55. Chose a piece lasting up to 4 minutes, which you both like. Let your partner wear headphones, listen to it and play sounds on top of it; you play sounds on top of what your partner is playing.

▪

56. Play music with your partner's favorite object.

▪

57. Associate your partner's name to a poem/image/saying/text that you like. Play and set music to this poem/image/saying/text.

▪

58. Close your eyes. Think about your greatest moments. Play sounds having all these moments in your mind.

▪

59. Perform the improvisation of nostalgia.

▪

60. Express how much you are into him/her with a song.

▪

61. Stay naked at home and record an improvisation in which the only instruments you use are each other's bodies. Play 1 to 3 minutes of this recording in the performance.



62. Record one of your intercourses. Keep 2-3 minutes of the recording. Play the recording during the performance and accompany it musically.

▪

63. Embrace. Play an improvisation with an instrument or object each one of you is holding and is contacting your partner's back.

▪

64. Each of his/her tones is also yours. Every noise he/she makes is your noise too.

▪

65. Create a 3-minute structure for a mutual improvisation. Your structure must have 6 parts lasting 30 seconds each. Mutually agree upon what you will do in each part.

▪

66. Think of a person you both despise. Play sounds for 2 minutes having this person in mind.

▪

67. Create a graphic score, one for the other. Perform the scores simultaneously.

▪

68. During the performance, give one another a written instruction for an improvisation. Perform the instructions simultaneously. Do not rehearse the action and do not reveal the instruction prior to the performance. Duration of action: 3 minutes.



69. Both explore sonically an instrument that you've never played before. Play it only in the performance – do not rehearse the action.

▪

70. Play the soundtrack of your life together so far (as each one interprets it). Simultaneously.

▪

71. Make sounds together for 2 minutes using a very small instrument.

▪

72. Set-up a screen to obstruct visual contact with the audience. Take your clothes off. Try to improvise while the other is attempting to arouse you sexually.

▪

73. Videotape your partner while executing usual chores of his/her daily routine. Use the video as material accompanying a certain point of the performance.

▪

74. Perform the improvisation of being allies.

▪

75. Think about your favorite part of his/her body. Associate it with a text/poem. Read the text/poem in a low voice and accompany it with sounds.

▪

76. Close your eyes. Imagine your partner naked. The instrument you have in front of you is his/her body. Create sounds caressing it. Up to 2 minutes.

Alexis Porfiriadis, 2014
The C duo (actions: 69-76)



77. Invite a mutual friend, either girl or boy, whom you both love and respect and play music with him/her. Up to 5 minutes.

▪

78. Play the melody of bliss.

▪

79. Play simultaneously, each separately, the tune you love from your favorite CD/vinyl record – the music must be heard from speakers.

▪

80. His/her fingers are the medium to play sounds for 1 minute.

▪

81. Take photos recording your partner's daily chores. Create a 2-minute slide show and screen it during the performance the same time that you are performing another action.

▪

82. Perform the improvisation of emotional exhaustion.

▪

83. At home, make him/her reach sexual climax. Record the process. Use the recording to create a live musical climax on stage.

▪

84. Ask one of your favorite couples to reveal their thoughts about you as a couple. Record them and use the recording as a sonic background of another action.



85. Play a sound for each letter of his/her name. Each sound must come from a different material (wood, glass, metal, plastic membrane, etc). If a letter of the name repeats itself, the sound must also be repeated in the exact same way.

▪

86. Pick a friendly couple whom you both appreciate and love; invite them to play a five minute improvisation with you.

▪

87. Think of your partner's favorite saying. Find a song/musical piece relevant to the saying and play it in the performance, recorded or live.

▪

88. Switch off all the lights in the performance space. Invite all the couples to kiss as long as the lights are out.

[One performer shall deliver a written invitation while the other is performing another action]

▪

89. Invite the audience to sing one of your partner's favorite songs. The action must begin and end upon your signal. The title of the song must be mentioned in the invitation.

[One performer shall deliver a written invitation while the other is performing another action]

▪

90. Invite all the couples to watch the remaining part of the performance holding each other's hands.

[One performer shall deliver a written invitation while the other is performing another action]



91. Perform the improvisation of perseverance.

▪

92. Perform the improvisation of authority.

▪

93. Prepare your partner's favorite dish. Offer it to the audience at the end of the concert.

▪

94. Videotape your sleep during the night. Chose a 3 minute clip and screen it during the performance; accompany it musically together.

95. Fill the bathtub and take a bath together. Record an improvisation with water. Chose 1 to 3 minutes of it and reproduce the recording during the performance, accompanying it only with percussion sounds.

▪

96. Visit your favorite outdoor spot. Record a 5-minute improvisation only with objects you'll find there.

▪

97. Perform the improvisation of deception.

▪

98. His/her whole body is the medium to produce sounds using other sources. Up to 3 minutes.



99. Invite all your favorite couples at your house. Give a simple instruction you have decided upon mutually as a couple and improvise all together for 5 minutes. Videotape the improvisation and screen it while performing at least one other action.

▪

100. Invite all your favorite couples to the performance. Give them an instruction and improvise all together with instruments and objects that you will provide.
[The invitation must be sent before the concert in writing, by post]

▪

101. Perform the improvisation of fulfillment.

▪

102. Invite all your favorite couples in an outdoor urban space. Ask them to perform an action demonstrating the companionship and love they share. Videotape the event. Screen the video without sound and accompany it musically.

