

although it may appear to vary by the way in which units are joined (2009-10)

James Saunders

programme note

although it may appear to vary by the way in which units are joined (2009-10) is scored for guitar, melodica and radio. The ordering of pages is constrained by the requirement that at the end of one page and the beginning of the next share a common sound. The title is taken from Mel Bochner's essay *The Serial Attitude* (1967). The piece is part of the series *divisions that could be autonomous but that comprise the whole* (2009-) and was written for Stephen Chase.

performance information

one player:

radio, barely audible and tuned to variable static (LW), with an unstable pitch component.

melodica, with means to depress two keys (tape, weight), and extension wind pipe

classical guitar

two wooden pencils

setup

tune the radio to the specified static sound

tape the F/G keys down on the melodica

place the guitar on its back on a table, with the melodica and radio nearby

one pencil should be threaded through the strings (over the sound hole, but find a position which does not produce buzzing), with the 1st, 3rd and 5th strings lying above the pencil, and the 2nd, 4th and 6th strings below.

the other pencil is used to activate the string: place the flat end of the pencil on the 6th string between the sound hole and bridge.

with a relatively firm grip between the thumb, index and middle fingers, steadily slide hands alternately down the pencil ensuring a continuous movement

the pencil will vibrate the string producing a pedal tone with clear overtones (no buzzing)

it requires some friction between the fingers and pencil: try rotating the pencil to find a suitable position as this sometimes produces a successful result

o-pppp (----) on the edge of silence; sound will stop and start uncontrollably
ppp (<>) very quiet, with naturally occurring, unforced variations

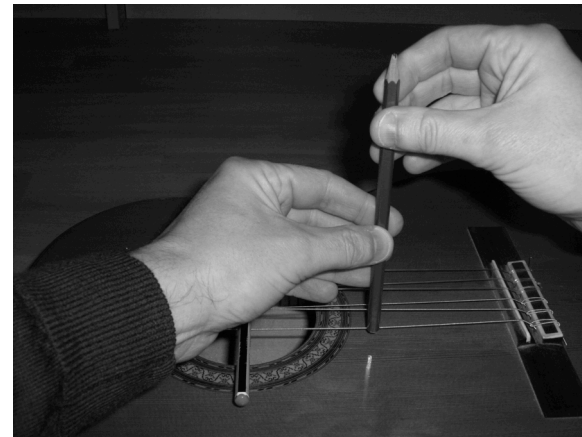
pages may be played in any sequence, but with the requirement that the end of one page and the beginning of the next must share at least one common sound (or both be silent). The continuing sound(s) should not be rearticulated when the next page begins.

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 prepare a performance score if preferred.

duration: 7'00"

although it may appear to vary by the way in which units are joined was written for Stephen Chase and first performed by him at Bank Street Arts, Sheffield, on 21 April 2010..



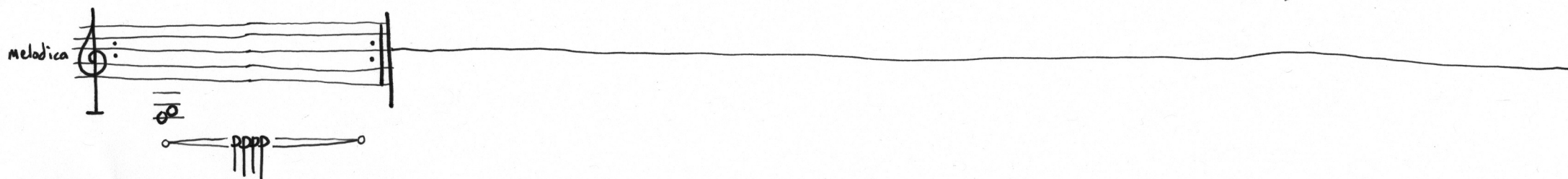
radio
static

0

pppp (< >)

22"

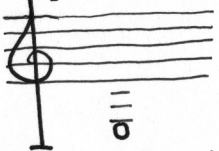
38"



60"

prepared guitar

[bow with pencil]



ppp (<=>)

53"

7"

radio
static

0

pppp (<=>)

7"

53"

prepared
guitar



[bow with pencil]

ppp (<=>)

31"

29"

melodica

prepared guitar

[bow with pencil]

radio
static

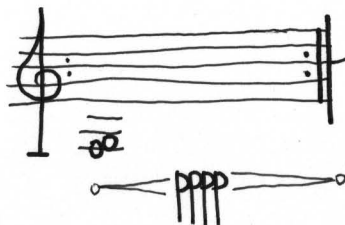
o

pppp (< >)

46"

14"

melodica



14"

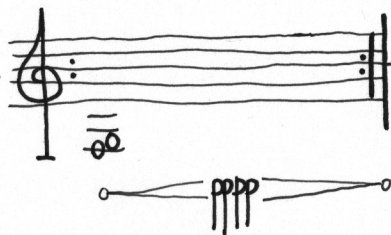
46"

radio
static

o
pppp (<=>)

60"

melodica



60"

prepared
guitar

[bow with pencil]

