

components derive their value solely through their assigned context (2009)

James Saunders

programme note

components derive their value solely through their assigned context (2009) explores similarities between bowed wood and radio static at low volumes. The title is taken from Jack Burnham's essay *System Esthetics* (1968). The piece is part of the series *divisions that could be autonomous but that comprise the whole* (2009-) and was written for Parkinson Saunders.

performance information

two players, each with:

2 radios, barely audible and tuned to different static sounds (no music, talking).

violin bow

4 wood surfaces which produce different noise sounds when bowed (some could be resonant)

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

each player has a complete set of identical 14 pages

pages may be played in any sequence: these should be different for each player

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

duration: 14'00"

components derive their value solely through their assigned context was written for Parkinson Saunders.

radio (2), wood (4)

1'00"

radio: on

20"

[41]

bowed wood (4)

0

ppp (< >)

1'02"

18"

[1'20]

radio (1)

radio: on

58"

off
22"

radio (1), wood (4)

radio: on
22"

off
56"

bowed wood (4)
o _____
o-pppp (-----)
44"

17"

17"

wood (4)

bowed wood (4)

o —————

ppp (< >)

56"

9"

9"

radio(z), wood(z)

20"

radio: on

36"

off
14"

bowed wood(z)

o —————

o-pppp (-----)

30"

40"

radio (2), wood (3)

19"

radio: on
30"

off
19"

bowed wood (3)

o —————

o-pppp

54"

7"

7"

wood (3)

bowed wood (3)

o —————

o-pppp (-----)

l'oo~

wood (2)

bowed wood (2)

o _____
ppp(< >)
38"

22"

radio (1), wood (2)

6"

radio: on

40"

off

6"

15"

boned wood (2)

o-----

o-pppp (-----)

22"

15"

radio(1), wood(3)

5"

radio: on
40"

off
5"

36"

boned wood (3)
0 _____
ppp (<=>)
14"

wood (1)

18"

bowed wood (1)

o _____

PPP (< >)

28"

radio (2), wood (1)

30"

radio: on

[44]

12"

bowed wood (1)

0 _____

ppp (< >)

28"

8"

6"

[42"]

radio (1), wood (1)

radio: on
12"

off
28"

bowed wood (1)

0 —————

0-pppp(-----)
|||

24"

16"

radio (2)

14"

radio: on
26"

[off]

[40]