

Instructions for Variable Ensemble

Parameters X: Micromanagement

for two electric guitars, four laptops, transcriber, and variable ensemble

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Parameters X: Micromanagement Instructions for Variable Ensemble

Instructions:

Each player, apart from the two guitars has a stopwatch

Players should start their stopwatches at a cue from Guitar 1. This cue is given when they turn on their distortion pedals.

Each score is algorithmically generated, and so will be different each time it is printed.

The score consists of *gestures* separated by silences.

Each box in the score is a *gesture*.

A *gesture* is a set of *events* linked together to form a musical phrase.

An *event* can be: an attack or a sudden change in timbre or pitch.

The first row in each box (No. of Events) indicates how many *events* should be played in the *gesture*.

The length of an *event* is free and can overlap successive *events*.

Multiple *Events* can be played simultaneously (i.e. as a chord).

e.g. a *gesture* containing 8 events could be played as two four-note chords.

Each *gesture* should be played at the time shown above the box.

The first *gesture* should be *piano* and as **fast as possible**. After this, dynamics should be between *ppp* and *f*.

The length of each *gesture* should be longer than the previous one.

All *gestures* should be as similar as possible to the previous *gesture* played, even though the number of *events* may be different.

When the *gestures* have reached a length where they are as long as the time between boxes, players should attempt to fit all the *events* indicated in the time before the next *gesture* occurs.

When all players have completed the last *gesture*, they should loop it until the end of the piece, with each loop lasting exactly 8 seconds.

Stop playing when Guitar 1 gives a cue to stop.

For Un-pitched Instruments:

Un-pitched instruments should treat every *event* as an attack or sudden change in timbre and ignore the second row of instructions (No. of circled notes).

For Pitched Instruments:

Three minutes into the piece, you will be given Form 87b by the transcriber, which will have notes that have been circled on it.

These circled notes are the ones referred to in the second row of each box (No. of circled notes).

The second row of each box (No. of circled notes) indicates how many of the *events* in a *gesture* should involve a note that was circled on Form 87b.

If you can not play any of the highlighted notes, then transpose them into an octave that is playable.