

Economics (2017 Version)

For 6-10 players of any instrument with controllable pitch, volume and dynamics

Written for the *Kick The Can* protest concert

"In art as in life, those with the most money control the cultural agenda"

Set-up

All players should sit or stand with page 2 of the score in front of them.

All players should be able to reach everybody else's page 2.

Instructions

The circles on your page 2 indicate how you should modify the sound you are playing.

When money is placed in one of your circles you must modify your sound in that way.

e.g. if 5 Euro Cents are placed in your **Dynamics: Louder** circle, then you must play louder.

Speed is the time between the attacks of notes. The amount of time you sustain each attack for is the **Duration**.

The higher the amount of money placed in a circle, the more you must modify your sound.

You can place any amount of money into another player's circle at any time in the piece.

Money in your circles can be placed in another player's circle.

However, you cannot move any money *into* your own circles – instead, you must wait for the market to deliver it.

Performance

All players empty any money in their pockets into a pile in front of them.

All players start by playing sounds:

in the middle range of their instrument,

mezzo piano,

every quarter-note at around $\text{♩}=80$, unsynchronised with the other players,

with each note lasting half of the duration between attacks (i.e. one 8th-note at $\text{♩}=80$).

After the first piece of money has been moved, players have the option to slightly vary their parameters.

Small variations within all parameters are allowed,

e.g. pitches can be a collection of alternated pitches in the required range.

However, these variations should be small enough such that

even the addition of the smallest piece of currency will still result in a noticeable change.

Pitches need not be equally-tempered.

Chords can be used, but only if all participating instruments are capable of playing chords of that size and dynamic.

The piece can finish upon a monopoly being reached, stasis, chaos, systemic collapse, or a fixed time-limit

(5-10mins has been the average performance length so far).

It is best to make a note of how much money you put into the piece before starting. This prevents fights.

Players can ask the audience for money. This is a form of public subsidy.

This piece can also be performed using any money substitutes, such as: alcohol, property, or sexual favours.

David Pocknee

Den Haag, March 2010

revised Den Haag, April 2010

and Manchester, June 2017

My Suggestions/Things to Consider

Avoid a staid, measured performance;

you are participating in a

dynamic, chaotic and unpredictable system.

But don't try to make it funny.

In a DEN HAAG A££ \$TAR\$ €N\$EMB£€

performance on 7 June 2010,

at Studio Loos in The Hague,

the audience organically got involved

in the piece and started competing with each other

and the performers, placing their

credit cards, car keys, wallets etc.

in the circles on the performer's scores.

In the audio recording you can

even hear the Zoom recorder being

picked up and used as currency.

It was beautiful chaos.

This happened naturally, though,

through creating an open, welcoming and

anarchic performance environment.

Don't try and force this outcome.

Pitch

Dynamics

Speed

Duration

HIGHER

LOUDER

FASTER

SHORTER

LOWER

SOFTER

SLOWER

LONGER