

"Orchestral Improvisation" is conceived for three conductors and 25 sustaining instruments such as strings, winds, and brass. The 25 performers are divided into five groups of five. The instruments within each group should be as closely related as possible. Strings, winds, and brass must be separated from one another. The five groups are placed in different locations in the auditorium surrounding the audience. (For this reason the piece is more effective in a room without a stage.) The groups are placed in sufficiently close proximity so that each conductor is able to hear all five groups.

Two conductors conduct two groups each and the remaining conductor conducts one group, but this group should be capable of being the loudest (brass). Each conductor has nine cue cards (11"x14").

D=Dissonance (sustained unless otherwise indicated)

G=Glissando (direction and rate cued by the conductor)

H=Harmony (sustained major triad) The loudest group, group 5, plays C major. Groups 1-4 play C major, F# major, A major, and Eb major respectively.

M=Mute or Multiphonics

$\frac{1}{4}$ =C major triad with quarter tone inflections (sharp or flat)

S=Sound effects

T=Trill

U=Unison

V=Very slow vibrato

Each group is a unit and always plays together. If a group is cued to play dissonance, they do not play octaves, unisons, fifths, etc. with one another. They play seconds, sevenths, etc. (They may have an octave relationship with a performer not in their group.)

Dynamics and formal considerations are determined by the conductors at the performance. Nothing should be predetermined. The conductors should make decisions by listening to one another! The unison card is NOT used before the end of the piece. When one of the three conductors decides the piece should end she gives a unison cue. (THIS PITCH IS NOT PREDETERMINED!) As soon as the other two conductors are aware of the unison they should follow suit. The piece can not end until all five groups have played the unison.

It is not necessary that this piece be performed with exactly 25 players. This is just a guide line. The first performance took place in Potsdam, NY with three conductors and 19 players in four groups.

Wendy Chambers
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