Samuel Johnstone August 2021

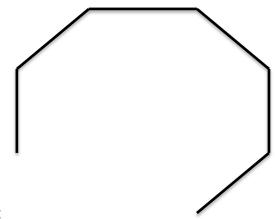
### **OVERVIEW**

#### **Structure**

The piece is for 8 performers:

- 3 percussion
- 2 microphone performers
- 2 saxophone
- 1 accordion

The performance of the piece takes place in an incomplete octagon, which will be built up during the performance:



The piece is in three parts:

#### **SECTION 1: CONSTRUCTION** (Total duration: 3 minutes)

- Percussionists lay tape around perimeter of octagon & tap rocks at each position.
- Saxophone and accordion sit at edge of performance space & play accompanying figures.
- Microphones wait, hidden in audience.

#### **SECTION 2: EXCAVATION** (Total duration: 6 minutes)

- Percussionists lay tape between corners of octagon & improvise with different instruments
- Microphones move freely around space, amplifying sounds of percussion.
- Saxophone and accordion remain seated, play accompanying figures.

#### **SECTION 3: DISSIPATION (Total duration: 3 minutes)**

- All performers move around space freely.
- All performers gradually leave one by one.

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### **INSTRUCTION SCORE**

#### Percussion

Act as if you are archeologists, excavating a pavilion. Build up the construction site and find sounds at each corner of the octagon.

#### **SECTION 1: CONSTRUCTION**

#### MOVE BETWEEN POSITIONS:

- Build up perimeter of octagon: take tape and lay out between positions.
  - Performer 1 starts at Position 1 and moves towards position 3.
  - Performer 2 starts at Position 3 and moves towards position 5.
  - Performer 3 starts at position 5 and moves towards position 7.

#### PERFORM AT EACH POSITION:

- Tap rocks together, differently to (but in dialogue with) other performers.
- Improvise in a duo with one of the seated musicians

Section is finished when perimeter of octagon is completely laid with tape.

#### **SECTION 2: EXCAVATION**

#### MOVE BETWEEN POSITIONS:

- Slowly move between corners of octagon, laying out tape
- Always choose a direction that has not yet been laid out with tape

#### PERFORM AT EACH POSITION:

- Improvise with instruments at each position
- Play into microphones when they are present
- If two performers meet at same position, play instrument together
- Improvise in a duo with one of the seated musicians
- Build in intensity poco a poco until tutti climax.

#### END:

• Section is finished when every corner of octagon is connected to another with tape.

#### **SECTION 3: DISSIPIATION**

#### MOVE:

- Walk freely inside and outside the octagon.
- After a while, leave performance space slowly one by one.

#### PERFORM:

- Play handheld percussion instruments (using fragments as inspiration)
- Perform into microphones when you meet one

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### **INSTRUCTION SCORE**

#### **MICROPHONES**

You are a surprise element.

Amplify the percussion to create new, surprising sounds.

Always walk with purpose between positions.

#### **SECTION 1: CONSTRUCTION**

Hide in audience, watch perimeter being built up.

#### **SECTION 2: EXCAVATION**

#### MOVE BETWEEN POSITIONS:

- Enter performance space suddenly and purposefully, one at a time.
- Walk between percussionists at each corner of octagon.
- Keep changing distance to other microphone:
  - o other end of octagon
  - o close to each other
  - o at same position
- Move gradually faster between positions until end of section

#### PERFORM AT EACH POSITION:

- Amplify percussion sounds.
- Stay long enough to capture resonance of each sound.

#### END:

Section is finished when every corner of octagon is connected to another with tape.

#### **SECTION 3: DISSIPIATION**

#### MOVE:

- Wait for all performers to walk around performance space.
- Walk freely inside and outside the octagon.
- After a while, leave performance space slowly one by one.

#### PERFORM:

- Amplify percussion, saxophone or accordion sounds as you meet them.
- Stay long enough to capture resonance of each sound.

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### **INSTRUCTION SCORE**

#### **SAXOPHONE & ACCORDION**

You are accompanying the construction and excavation of the pavilion.

### **SECTION 1: CONSTRUCTION**

- Choose one percussionist, and improvise in duo with them throughout piece
- Building a dialogue with the percussionists' sounds

#### **SECTION 2: EXCAVATION**

- · Keep improvising in dialogue with duo partner
- Develop material as the performer changes between different instruments
- Build in intensity to a climax

#### **SECTION 3: DISSIPIATION**

#### MOVE:

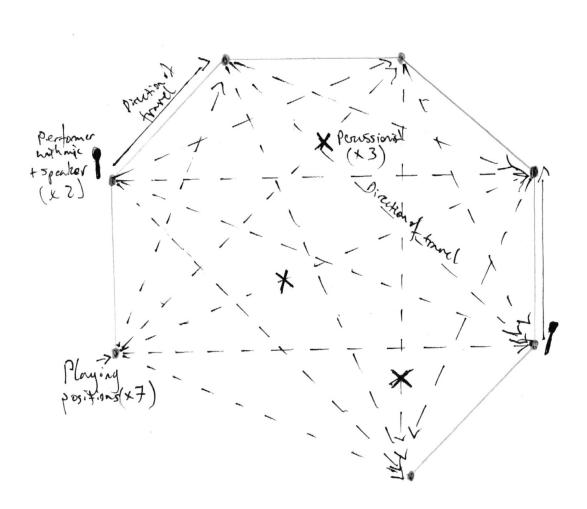
- Stand up and walk freely inside and outside the octagon.
- Leave performance space slowly, one by one.

#### PERFORM:

- Repeat musical fragments you have played in piece ad lib.
- Perform into microphones when you meet one

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### **SPATIAL SKETCH**



2 saxophenes 1 accordion