

Camera Silenta. Two eggs in a cup to stand in for reality. For Apartment House.

Performers will require one small mp3 player each (with the option to randomise playback), an equivalent number of pre-amplifiers (able to power two loudspeakers), two loudspeakers (per performer), contact microphones (if necessary), and a bank of fifteen recordings of the same 'silent' room layered in a simple progression (I. II. III. IV. Etc.) The latter can be provided by the composer if required.

Each layer of the room recordings will last one minute. The total duration of the performance will thus be fifteen minutes. As stated, each performer will require two loudspeakers, both playing back the same random variation of layered 'silent' room recordings, which will be different for each performer.

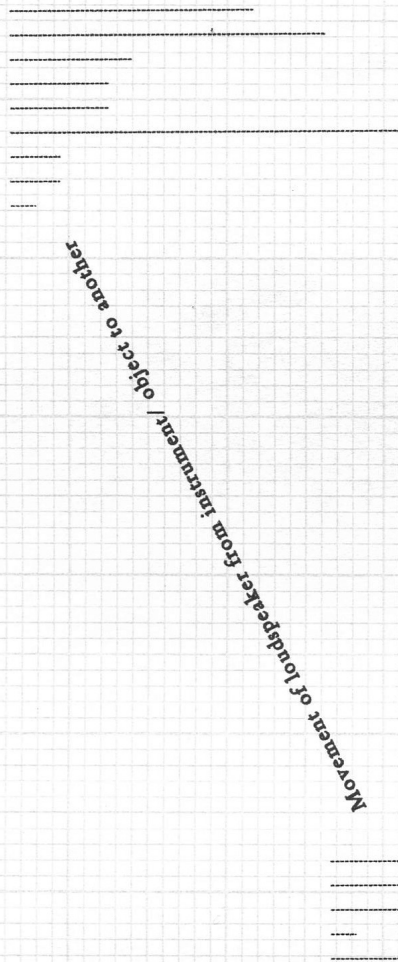
One loudspeaker, for each performer, need be situated permanently on the resonant body of an instrument or object located at any point of the venue, the other loudspeaker need be placed temporarily on an instrument or object in another part of the venue. Each performer can choose to relocate the latter speaker to yet another instrument or object in the venue, taking care to remove it when one layer of the recording stops, and placing it down just as another layer starts – removed at 5 minutes and replaced at 6 minutes, for example.

If a decision is made to use contact microphones (so as to further amplify the 'silent' signals travelling into the medium), a set volume must be decided upon in advance. In either case, care need be taken in order to avoid amplifying incidental sounds during the performance.

Performers should be as still as the objects before and after relocation of the second loudspeaker. The general volume of the piece is up to the performers. As with the possible auxiliary amplification, a single volume must be set in advance, taking into account the layered dynamic of the pre-recordings.

Patrick Farmer. August 2014.

Example of procedure for one performer.
Descending lines = approximate number of sequential layers present in pre-recording.



Static loudspeaker with instrument/object

