

a4

For The Great Learning Orchestra

Instrumentation:

- a4 size papers, a few for each performer
- pencils, pens or other drawing utensils, at least one for each musician
- conductor

1st Movement: Drawing

The musicians draw a picture of a musical instrument on their paper, considering the sound this action makes.

2nd Movement: Reed sounds

The musicians use the paper as a reed instrument, blowing air to its edge while holding it taut with their fingers. The paper needs to be close to the lips but not touching them. The length and tightness of the vibrating part of the paper determines the pitch of the sound.

The length of each of these parts will be determined by a conductor.

1. Unisono. The orchestra attempts to play one note in unison, and hold it for a while.

2. Fast. The orchestra improvises, trying to play as many notes as possible.

3. Chord. The orchestra attempts to form a giant microtonal chord. One musician starts by playing a note and holding it. The one adjacent plays a note that differs as little as possible in pitch. This goes on until all musicians have a pitch to keep playing. The resulting chord is held about as long as the unisono in 1 was held.

3rd Movement: Flight

The musicians fold their instruments into airplanes and throw them into the air simultaneously, at the conductor's signal.

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