

egg

solo oboe (and two CDs)

egg - for oboe and two CD players

egg combines traditional notation with 'audio scores': very small pieces of recorded and manipulated sound that constitute material to be learned by attempting to imitate them as closely as possible. The 'audio scores' are played back through the performer's headphones from two CD players set on 'Random Mode', providing the aleatoric function which partly determines the structure of the piece.

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Performance notes

There are two types of material the performer has to learn: The notated score and the 'sounding' score.

The notated score is in two parts:

- the 'G sharp section', which consists of a very long and evolving gesture. Its duration is about 2':15".
- the 'end section' in which a short 20" gesture is followed by a very long, B natural note.

The 'sounding' score results from the playback of two audio CD-Rs (see back cover):

- CD 1, which contains three types of tracks
 - a. Seven short - electronically produced - pitched gestures. The oboist has to imitate the sound of these gestures as closely as possible and then memorize them. At the start of those tracks there is a single short reference tone and at the end, two very short reference tones.
 - b. Three 'silent' tracks. At the start of those tracks there is a single short noise sound and at the end, two very short noise sounds.
 - c. Nine absolutely silent tracks of durations ranging from 5" to 20".
- CD 2, which contains 2 tracks: The first is silent and has the exact duration of CD 1. The second one has a sine-tone version of the 'end section' from the notated score.

The setup:

(See picture)

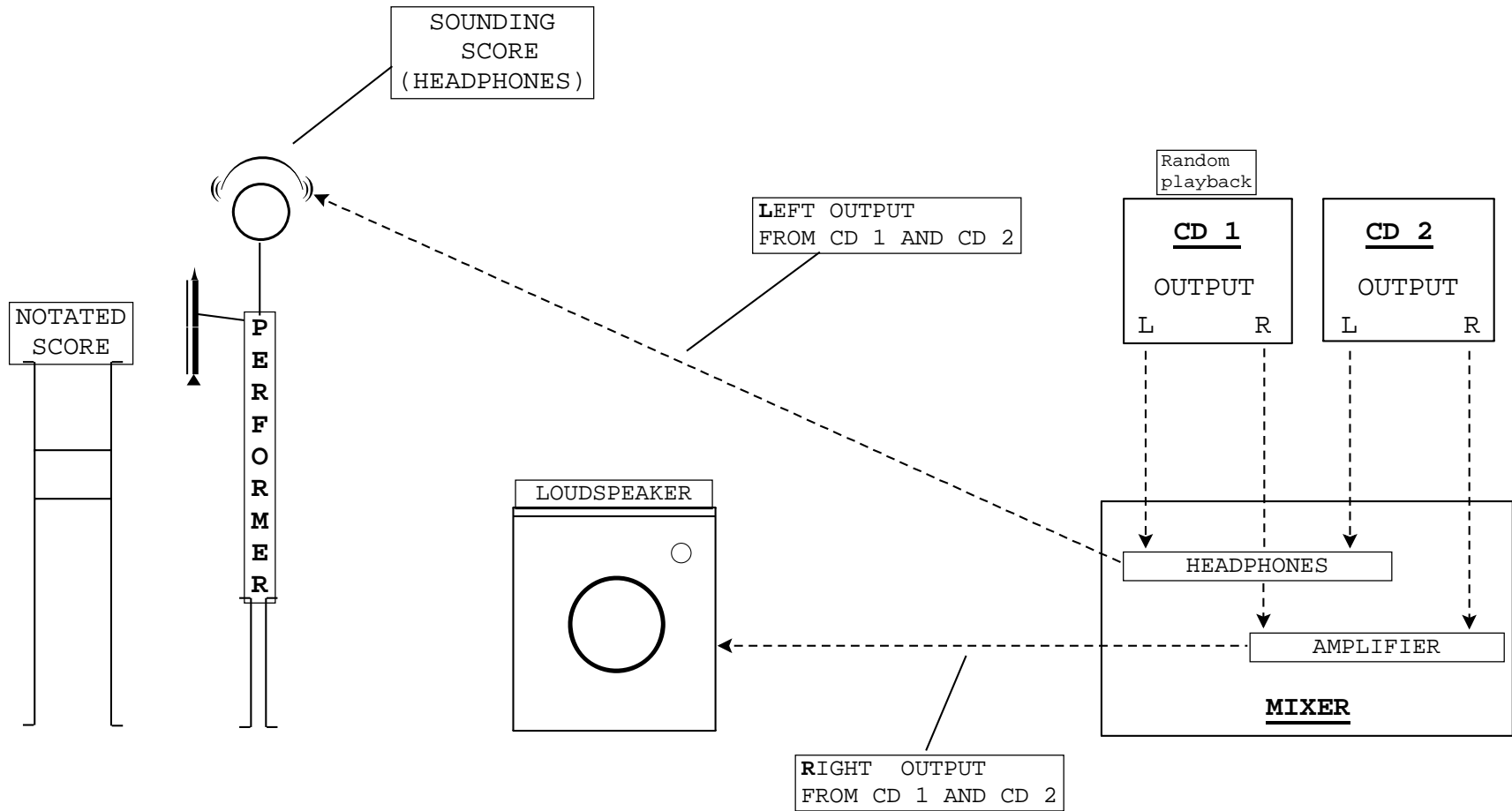
- Two CD players that can play CD-Rs and feature the 'Random' playback option.
- Small mixer with 4 inputs, 2 outputs and a headphone output with a separate mix.
- Amplifier
- Loudspeaker
- Headphones with a long extension lead.

The performance:

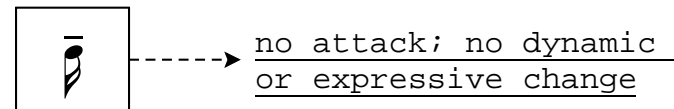
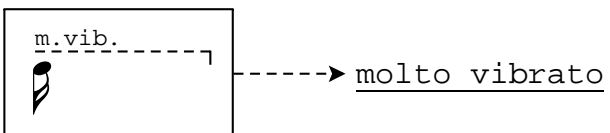
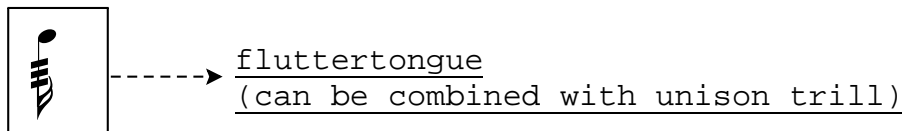
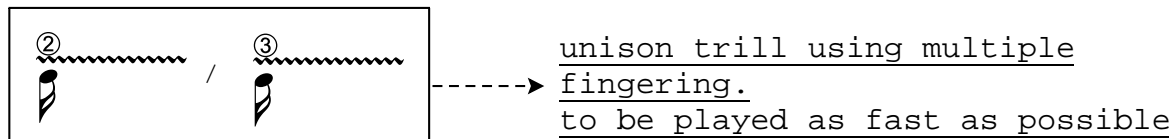
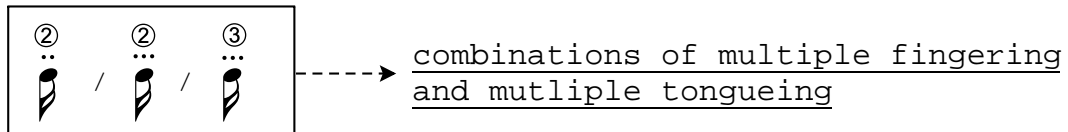
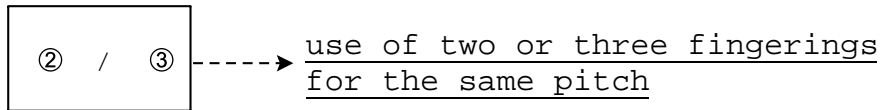
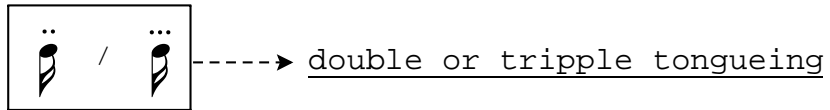
- The two CD-Rs are placed in the CD players. The CD player which contains CD 1 is switched on 'Random' playback.
- At the start of the performance the oboist places the headphones on his ears. Then, preferably someone else, starts the two CD players simultaneously.
- Immediately the oboist starts to read and perform the 'G sharp section' from the notated score.
- The notated score will be interrupted randomly 10 times by the sound from the headphones:
 1. Seven times by a single short reference tone indicating the start of a pitched gesture. This gesture has to be imitated as precisely as possible. Two very short reference tones indicate an immediate return to the notated score, exactly at the point it was interrupted.
 2. Three times by a single short noise sound, at which point the oboist pauses completely and remains still. Two very short noise sounds indicate an immediate return to the notated score, exactly at the point it was interrupted.
- Exactly at the time CD 1 ends (duration 3':34"), CD 2 will be changing from Track 1 (which is also 3':34" and silent) to Track 2.
- Track 2 then starts with the sounds of a reference tone, a noise, two reference tones and a last noise. This prompts the oboist to start performing the 'end section' from the notated score. This should happen, whether or not the 'G sharp section' has been played throughout.
- During the whole performance, very short fragments of what the oboist hears on the headphones are also played back on the loudspeaker. This is can happen because the two CD-Rs have a total LEFT-RIGHT separation and each channel (LEFT and RIGHT) has a different output.
- Towards the end of the 'end section' the oboist plays a very long B natural which is also doubled on the loudspeaker. The oboist must continue playing after the end of the speaker playback for at least 7", but can choose to keep playing until they run out of breath. No circular breathing should be used. No gradual fade out.
- The 'end section' should, in its entirety be performed without any dynamic variation apart from what is sparsely indicated.

A third 'Practise' CD-R is included with the score. It contains the 7 pitched electronic gestures without the reference tones, so the oboist can have a less frustrating repeated listening of the gestures to be imitated.

PERFORMANCE SETUP



Notation Index



egg

solo oboe and two CD players

G sharp section

sempre senza vibrato,
unless otherwise indicated

musical score for solo oboe and two CD players, G sharp section.

Tempo: $\text{♩} = 44$

Measure 1: 6/16 time signature. Dynamics: ff sfz mp ppp ff $ffff$. Performance instruction: *poco a poco rall.*

Measure 2: 5:4 time signature. Dynamics: sfz p pp $pppp$ ppp . Performance instruction: *molto rit.*

Measure 3: 7:5 time signature. Dynamics: f . Performance instruction: *sub. $\text{♩} = 34$*

Measure 4: 5:4 time signature. Dynamics: sfz sfz fff pp p . Performance instruction: *gliss.*

Measure 5: 5/8 time signature. Dynamics: p ff p fff mf pp mp mf ff pp $ffff$. Performance instruction: *poco a poco accel.*

Measure 6: 6:5 time signature. Dynamics: mf ff $ffff$ p ppp . Performance instruction: *sub. $\text{♩} = 64$*

Measure 7: 4/16 time signature. Dynamics: mf ff $ffff$ p ppp . Performance instruction: *gliss.*

Measure 8: 7/16 time signature. Dynamics: $pppp$ pp fff f p ppp ppp mp . Performance instruction: *sub. $\text{♩} = 44$*

Measure 9: 9:5 time signature. Dynamics: pp mf p ppp ppp mp . Performance instruction: *sub. $\text{♩} = 44$*

Measure 10: 7:4 time signature. Dynamics: ppp mp . Performance instruction: *gliss.*

Measure 11: 5/8 time signature. Dynamics: fff p sfz sfz ff $ffff$ ff sfz p sfz p sfz fff p mp . Performance instruction: *m.vib.*

14

pp ffff ffff fff mf ff ffff p mp mf ppp ff p pp fff ppp

(♩=44) poco a poco accel. → ♩=82

18

f ppp ff mp fff ffff fff ff mf fff mf pp f ff f sffffz

22

pp ppp mp ff mf f p mp fff ffff

25

pp ff ffff mp f fff pp fff ppp ppp pp

accl. → $\text{♩}=74$

sub. $\text{♩}=62$

29 $\frac{6}{16}$ $\frac{5}{16}$ $\frac{4}{16}$ $\frac{3}{16}$

sub. $\text{♩}=48$

33 $\frac{3}{16}$ $\frac{6}{8}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{7}{5}$ $\frac{5}{3}$ $\frac{4}{16}$ $\frac{3}{8}$

37 $\frac{5}{8}$ $\frac{4}{16}$ $\frac{5}{16}$ $\frac{3}{16}$

40 $\frac{3}{16}$ $\frac{6}{8}$ $\frac{3}{16}$ $\frac{3}{16}$ $\frac{4}{16}$

poco a poco accel. → $\text{♩}=112$

ffff ffff ffff ff sffffz fff ffff ffff fff mf ffff f fff fff fff fff sffffz

ffff sffffz ffff sffffz ff ffff f pp mf ff fff p mf mp fff

ffff ffff fff ffff pp ffff

ffff ffff

end section

♩=92

non espressivo

1

7:5

5:4

4

16

16

16

8

sempre mp

5

6:5

5:4

7

9:5

6

16

4:3

4

8

10

5:4

4

16

7:4

3

16

sub. mf

play for at least
7" after the end
of the CD playback