

Variation on variations without a theme (drones ongs)

A collection of pieces for small to large ensemble; any instrumentation. Written for the Perth Drone Orchestra, with love.

Durations: variable.

Sage J Harlow (Sage Pbbbt)
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three

Three (pre-determined) players start playing at the same time. They each play ‘one sound’ for their phrase, as unvarying as possible (with little consideration for what the other players sound like—they should all start at the same time without predetermining any sounds).

For the remainder of the piece, as any individual player comes to the end of their phrase—a single breath for breath-based instruments, or approximate equivalents for others—another player ‘takes over’ their sound. The three sounds do not need to start and finish together after the beginning of the piece. Players should focus on the individual quality of one particular sound with no regard for the other sounds.

Strive to make the ‘transitions’ as seamless as possible, and ‘match’ the sound as closely as possible within the constraints of your instrument(s). Players should disregard all previous versions of the sound and try to ‘match’ only what they currently hear.

Explore ways to facilitate easy transitions; consider the group dynamics.