

Dave Soldier
2015

Lewitt Etudes

for any collection of musicians

a player produces a series of pitches that move up or down. Another player answers by moving in the opposite direction, so that the pitches from each pair of players produces either a V shape or an inverted V.

X

Similar to a V, but the second player of each pair begins before the first ends, producing X shapes

O

A player produces pitches or sounds that describe a large very slow circle: if there is a pause before it starts again, we will call it an “o”).

sin wave

like an **O** but continuous

XX

#7 Five or more musicians, open duration

One player plays a deep groove with a backbeat

There are four verses: for each, a different player leads one verse

The others imitate the leader's phrases in a call and response (harmonies are fine).

The leader creates a melody that would support the phrasing and rhythm of the following lyrics, and the others (answer back):

They say the joint was rockin'	(They say the joint was rockin')
A goin' round and round	(A goin' round and round)
Yeah reelin' and rockin'	(Yeah reelin' and rockin')
What a crazy sound	(What a crazy sound)
Well they never stopped rockin'	(Well they never stopped rockin')
Til' the moon went down	(Til' the moon went down)

Verse 1 is loud & swinging

Verse 2 is quieter

Verse 3 is crazier

Verse 4 is fast and loud

XX

XX

#24 any number of musicians, 3 minutes

1 bit code

each player produces a series of rapid “1s”, which are a single pitch,

and “0s”, which are silences

everyone plays these binary sequences quietly, aiming toward a group sound of a gently percolating humming

a variation can use shorter 1s, as “dits” and longer 1s as “dahs” in which case the is no longer 1 bit but Morse code

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#25 any number of musicians, 3 minutes

bytes

as in #24, but each player can choose any note from a 7 note scale plus one note that is silent

each plays quietly, aiming toward a group sound of a gently percolating humming

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#26 any number of musicians, open duration

telephone

either before or during the performance:

one player invents a short musical phrase and sings or plays it quietly into the ear of the next at a volume that cannot be clearly heard by anyone else: this is repeated for each player

when the last player has heard the melody, in order and as fast as possible, each plays the phrase that they heard

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#39 any number of musicians, 3 minutes

Play the following in unison:

CHUNKa CHUNKa CHUNKa

CHUNKa CHUNKa CHUNKa

Chunka beep beep beep

Beep beep beeeeeeeep

Repeat

Chunka BEEP BEEP BEEP

Chunka BEEP BEEP BEEP

Chunka

Chunka

CHUNKa CHUNKa CHUNKa

Beeeeeeeep

beeeeeeeep

beeeeeeeep

Repeat

Beep beep beep-a beep

Chunka beep beep beep

Beep b-beep

Beep b-beep

Beep beep beep-a beep

rest, then play the entire piece again slower

rest, then play it a third time, starting at the original speed, and accelerate



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#47 any number of musicians, 3 or more minutes

HCAB

after Wendy Carlos

play quotes from Bach pieces

play quote inversions by standing or lying upside down

play quote retrograde by turning away from the audience

play quote retrograde inversions by being upside down and turning backwards

the ensemble moves from either: extremely quiet to extremely loud back to quiet

or extremely loud to extremely quiet to extremely loud

XX

