Parameters X: Micromanagement
Overview
David Pocknee

Duration: Approx. 20 min

Explanation

This is a piece for two electric guitarists, a "transcriber", and a variable ensemble of 1-10 players of any instrument.

This piece has no full score, but consists of 4 separate parts:

david_pocknee_-_micromanagement_guitars.pdf

david_pocknee_-_micromanagement_transcriber.pdf

david_pocknee_-_micromanagement_variable_ens_instructions.pdf

david_pocknee_-_micromanagement_variable_ens_score.ods

Electric Guitarists

The two electric guitarists plug a large collection of cables into different combinations of two electric guitars, four laptops, four distortion or overdrive pedals and two guitar amplifiers creating different feedback loops.

The score for the two electric guitarists showing how to connect the guitars, laptops, distortion pedals and amplifiers is entitled *david_pocknee_-_micromanagement_guitars.pdf*

The list of cables needed is outlined in the guitar part.

All four laptops should be running the Max/MSP patch: *david_pocknee_-_micromanagement_laptop.pat*

They will all need the Max/MSP external fiddle~ by Miller Puckette (search online for the latest version, the one included in the .zip file is only for windows, I think).

The Max/MSP patch records, amplifies and delays its input and detects pitches using fiddle~. All laptops are unamplified and use their internal speakers – for this reason it is advised that the performance happens as close to the audience as possible, as the piece is quiet.

Transcriber

The "transcriber" is a person who writes down notes that appear in the Max/MSP patch on the laptops (this is the pitch of the feedback) onto a form, which is then photocopied and distributed to the members of the Variable Ensemble (a clothes line can be used to do this). The Variable Ensemble then use the pitches on the form as pitch material. This form and further instructions can be found in *david_pocknee_-_micromanagement_transcriber.pdf*

Variable Ensemble

The Variable Ensemble is a group of 1-10 players of any instruments. The notes that they play and their timing is organized using a stopwatch and an OpenOffice spreadsheet entitled *david_pocknee_-_micromanagement_variable_ens_score.ods*, which provides their score. This spreadsheet randomly generates a new score every time it is opened, creating unique parts for each player. Further instructions on how this score is to be read can be found in the file *david_pocknee_-_micromanagement_variable_ens_instructions.pdf*

The Variable Ensemble uses a stopwatch to work through their scores, playing events which get closer together and eventually transform into the pitches detected in the feedback at the start of the piece.