

Between Jailbait And The Dead

for improvising electric guitarist and improvising internet-video-searcher

Equipment:

Electric guitar
Large amplifier
Computer with fast internet access
Loud PA system

Set-up:

The electric guitar should be connected to the large amplifier.
The computer with fast internet access should be connected to the PA system.
The volume levels between amplifier and PA system should be balanced, although both should be loud.

Preparation:

Watch the video recordings of the first performances at www.vimeo.com/davidpocknee as guidance for the stylistic content of the improvisations.

Performance:

The internet-video-searcher starts by silently pre-loading a set of between 2-5 videos of drum solos from a video streaming site (such as youtube.com). These videos should be chosen to create a cacophonous, polyphonic racket when played together – drum tutorials with rock and metal drummers, drum solos from progressive rock performances and American marching bands are all great source material. The only caveat is that there should be no instrument other than drums playing in the recording.

These recordings are all set silently playing simultaneously with the computer muted.

On cue, the electric guitarist starts playing loudly and distorted in a rock/free-improv style (see video for clarification) at the same time that the internet-video-searcher unmutes the computer.

The two improvisors then engage in an improvisation in which the internet-video-searcher searches, changes and mixes videos in relation to what the electric guitarist is playing, and the guitarist responds to the sounds from the mix of videos chosen by the internet-video-searcher.

Neither the guitarist nor the audience should see the videos, only hear them.

Only 2-5 videos can ever be playing simultaneously.

The piece ends at the discretion of the improvisors, but short and sweet is preferred.

David Pocknee

first performed May 2013
score created 20 March 2014