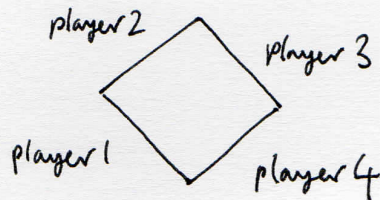


Hum

Jan
2015

music by Edward Hendersom
words by Lavinia Murray

Layout: seated around a square table



duration: c. 20 minutes

Actions

1. Fork - Hit a tuning fork on the side of your head and listen until the sound dies away.
2. Whistle - Whistle a pitch (NOT the pitch of the fork) in one full breath. The pitch should be the same for each iteration.
3. Hum - Hum a little tune, stop when you need to breathe. The tune should be the same each time, starting from the same point. This should be v. quiet, to yourself.
4. Harmonica - Breathe out into the highest section of a harmonica.
5. Text - Read the text in your part in a clear voice, as if you are talking to the person opposite you on the table. i.e. an 'inside voice' - don't try and project.
6. Gesture - Make a yawn / salutation gesture with both hands up, leaning back in your chair.

PLAYER 1

To begin, pick a number between 5 and 10 and count to it before you start.

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 1 2
1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 2
2 2 2 2 1 2 3 3 2 3 3 3
3 3 2 2 2 3 3 2 3 2 3 3
4 4 3 3 3 4 3 4 3 3 3 4
3 4 4 3 4 4 5 *All things are quite silent.* 5
A E I O U. Nothing arrives. 5 *I hum.* 4 4 4 5 *I know*
I am humming. I do not know I am humming. 4 5 *Smile. Nod*
2 5 *Just...pass the butter, please.* 2 3 3 3 5
But how terrible to have lost their voices. 5 *Laughter.* 4
3 1 4 5 *Just eat, smile, eat.* 5 *I am troubled that*
Alistair's here 4 4 5 *I no longer hear talk nor laughter.*
6 1 1 1 3 3 1 4 6 4 2 6
4 1 4 4 3 4 2 1 1 6 5 *I feel I*
have been partially emptied-out. 5 *I only know you're speaking*
because I turn and look at your faces. 5 *I do not want your father*
to know. Nor your brothers. 6 6 4 2 2 6 3
5 *Sound is vibration.* 6 1 2 2 3 4 5 *Light*
reaches quicker than sound. 5 *I remember sound.* 3 5 *I*
remember sound.

PLAYER 2

To begin, pick a number between 5 and 10 and count to it before you start.

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 2
2 2 1 1 2 1 2 2 1 1 2 2
2 1 2 2 2 3 2 2 2 3 2 2
3 2 2 3 3 2 3 3 3 2 2 3
4 4 4 4 3 3 3 4 4 4 4 4
4 2 2 3 3 4 4 4 1 4 4 4

5 *All things are quite silent. 5 A E I O U. Nothing arrives. 5
I hum. 5 I know I am humming. I do not know I am humming.*
4 4 5 *Smile. Nod. 5 4 4 5 Just...pass the butter,
please. 5 But how terrible to have lost their voices. 5 The rattle
and clatter of meals. 2 2 5 Birdsong. 2 4 5 Just eat,
smile, eat. 6 6 1 5 My ears are filled with an overcast
scrabbling. The like when we have starlings nesting in the eaves.*
1 5 *I feel I have been partially emptied-out. 1 5 I know when
I am most likely to be spoken to. When I am most expected to
speak. 2 4 2 2 2 4 2 1 6 2*
3 2 5 *I do not want your father to know. Nor your brothers.*
4 5 *The shift in pressure in the air. 3 1 6 2 6*
1 4 3 5 *Light reaches quicker than sound. 2 3*
4 3 4 2 6 5 *I remember sound. 3 4 2*
1 6 *I remember sound.*

PLAYER 3

To begin, pick a number between 5 and 10 and count to it before you start.

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 1
2 2 2 1 2 2 2 1 1 2 2 3
3 2 1 1 1 2 2 3 4 2 2 2
2 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 4 4 3
3 3 4 4 3 2 3 4 4 3 4 4
4 4 4 5 *All things are quite silent.* 4 4 3 3
5 *A E I O U. Nothing arrives.* 3 5 *I hum.* 5 *I know I am humming. I do not know I am humming.* 2 1 4 2
4 6 5 *Smile. Nod.* 4 1 1 6 1 1 3
5 *Just...pass the butter, please.* 5 *But how terrible to have lost their voices.* 3 4 6 3 2 6 3 1 2
4 5 *Laughter. Birdsong.* 5 *But their voices is the biggest and most unbearable loss. Just eat, smile, eat.* 5 *If he realises I am deaf he will see it as a punishment visited upon a family whose several generations have worked with those who could not hear, teaching them to speak.* 2 5 *I no longer hear music* 4 3 6
1 5 *I feel I have been partially emptied-out.* 3 3 5 *I only know you're speaking because I turn and look at your faces.* 5 *I do not want your father to know. Nor your brothers.* 2 3 3
6 2 5 *Light reaches quicker than sound.* 1 1 5
But you remember sound more than you recall light. 4 3 5 *I remember sound.* 1 3 1 5 *I remember sound.*

PLAYER 4

To begin, pick a number between 5 and 10 and count to it before you start.

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 2
 2 1 1 2 2 2 1 1 1 2 2 2
 2 2 3 3 3 3 2 3 2 3 3 3
 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 2 2 3 3 3
 3 3 2 3 3 3 2 3 4 4 4 4
 4 4 3 4 4 3 3 3 4 4 4 4

5 *All things are quite silent.* 5 *A E I O U. Nothing arrives.* 5 *I hum.*

5 *I know I am humming. I do not know I am humming.* 2 5

Try to gauge when I am spoken to. Who asks me things at

breakfast? Just...pass the butter, please 5 *Just...pass the butter, please.* 5 *But how terrible to have lost their voices.* 1 3

3 2 1 3 1 6 5 *Laughter. Birdsong.* 3 2

3 2 2 6 3 2 6 5 *Just eat, smile, eat.* 5

My ears are filled with an overcast scrabbling. The like when we

have starlings nesting in the eaves. 4 3 6 1 5 *I feel I*

have been partially emptied-out. 6 1 1 4 5 *I know*

when I am most likely to be spoken to. When I am most expected to

speak. 4 1 2 6 3 5 *I do not want your father*

to know. Nor your brothers. 2 2 6 1 2 4 6

2 1 3 5 *Light reaches quicker than sound.* 1 3

3 3 1 4 5 *I remember sound.* 2 6 3 4

2 5 *I remember sound.*