

The Silences Between us
ALEKS PILMANIS

- I. *The Silences Between us* is performed by at least four players.
- II. Use any pitched instruments that allow sonic variation and improvisation, including human voice, amplified / electronic instruments, and some found instruments.
- III. *The Silences Between us* is performed in three movements: I. *Agreement*, II. *Discordance*, and III. *Silence*. Each performer moves through the movements at their own pace, independent from other performers in the ensemble. The ultimate goal of each performer is to reach the end of the piece first.
- IV. All performers begin in movement one at the same time.
- V. Each performer is required to play a unique motif. Motifs can be composed by each performer prior to the performance, or improvised during movement I. Motifs should be relatively short, approximately 5 seconds in length, and should have some linear quality to them. Motifs should be composed or improvised with care, as to create a diversity of timbre, color, dynamics, and character within the motifs of the ensemble.
- VI. The contents of this score and the goals of the performers should not be made available or apparent to the audience.

MOVEMENT I.

Agreement

Performers play their motifs one at a time, in a predetermined order. The order in which these motifs are played can be determined logically, such as by the arrangement of the performers on stage, or randomly, or musically, with regard to how each motif sounds in relation to the others. Whichever way the order is determined, it *must* be understood and agreed upon by all performers prior to the performance. The performance of each motif should be preceded and followed by a brief period of silence. When the final motif is finished, all performers simultaneously continue to movement II.

MOVEMENT II.

Discordance

The goal of each performer in movement II is to play through the entirety of their motif uninterrupted. However, in this movement, the order is not predetermined, and each performer has the ultimate goal of moving to movement III faster than the other performers. Each performer may “interrupt” another performer’s motif with their own, in the goal of preventing them from moving to the next movement—if a performer’s motif is “interrupted,” both the performer and the interrupting performer must finish playing their motifs, but remain in movement II and sit in silence until another performer is either interrupted, or successfully performs their motif. Once either of these conditions is met, the silent performers may once again attempt to perform their motifs. If there are only two performers left in movement II, and they interrupt each other, they both move to movement III.

MOVEMENT III.

Silence

The goal of performers in movement III is to reach the end by achieving a period of 7 seconds of silence within the ensemble. Performers in movement III can still play their motif to “interrupt” performers in movement II, and the same rules apply. If there is a 7 second period of silence, all performers in movement III reach the end of *The Silences Between us*, and exit the stage or performing area. The piece officially concludes when all performers have left the performing area.