

Mimisis/Methexis

To Pauline Oliveros

Dan Dunn
10/77

MIMISIS/METHEXIS REQUIRES 12 VOCALISTS, 8 VIOLINS, 2 TRUMPETS, 2-CHANNEL TAPE, AND 8 CASSETTE RECORDERS. THE PERFORMANCE MUST TAKE PLACE IN A LARGE OPEN AIR SPACE OF LOW AMPLITUDE AMBIENT SOUND REMOTE FROM POPULATED AREAS. THE COMPOSITION IS INTENDED FOR ITS PERFORMANCE TO COINCIDE WITH SUNRISE AT THE OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE SITE. THE TRUMPETS AND VIOLINS BEGIN THE PERFORMANCE AND PLAY FOR APPROXIMATELY 5 MINUTES BEFORE THE TAPE ENTERS. THEY CONTINUE TO PLAY DURING THE TAPE AND FOR APPROXIMATELY 5 MINUTES AFTER THE TAPE FADES OUT. THE CASSETTE RECORDERS SHOULD REMAIN AUDIBLE THROUGHOUT. TOTAL DURATION OF THE COMPOSITION IS 30 MINUTES.

TAPE- THE TWO CHANNEL TAPE WAS REALIZED IN AN EXTENDED TUNNEL AT MALAKOFF DIGGINS STATE PARK IN THE SIERRA-NEVADA MOUNTAINS, SUNSET AUGUST 1977. EACH CHANNEL CONSISTS OF ONE MALE AND ONE FEMALE VOCALIST WHOSE ACTIVITY CONSISTED OF SUSTAINING PITCHES FOR A FULL BREATH WHILE ATTEMPTING TO REINFORCE RESONANCE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TUNNEL. PERFORMANCE PLAYBACK OF THE TAPE SHOULD BEGIN APPROXIMATELY 5 MINUTES AFTER THE TRUMPETS AND VIOLINS START TO PERFORM. LOUDSPEAKERS SHOULD BE LOCATED AT THE POSITIONS INDICATED IN THE DIAGRAM WITH CONES FACING UPWARDS TOWARD THE SKY. PLAYBACK AMPLITUDE SHOULD BE SLIGHTLY LOUDER THAN THE LIVE VOCALISTS.

VOCALISTS- EACH ANTIPHONAL CHORUS CONSISTS OF 3 FEMALE AND 3 MALE VOICES. SING SUSTAINED TONES ONLY, FOR FULL BREATHS, MAINTAINING A CONTINUOUS RESONANCE WITHOUT ALLOWING ANY SILENCES TO OCCUR IN THE TOTAL GROUP TEXTURE. FOCUS PRIMARILY ON PITCH MATERIAL FROM THE TAPE OR OTHER PERFORMERS, SINGING ONLY WHEN THE TAPE IS AUDIBLE.

VIOLINS- VIOLINS SUSTAIN INDIVIDUAL PITCHES GIVEN IN ANY ORDER OR OCTAVE FOR ONE FULL BOW LENGTH, PULLING THE BOW AS SLOWLY AS POSSIBLE WHILE MAINTAINING EVEN PRESSURE. SEPARATE SUSTAINED PITCHES WITH EQUIVALENT DURATIONS OF SILENCE. PITCHES INDICATED ARE PRECISE HARMONIC RATIOS IN JUST INTONATION (PRIME RATIOS THROUGH 9). $1/1 = G\ 392\ HZ.$

VIOLINS 1 - $1/1, 3/2, 5/4, 7/4, 7/5, 10/9$

VIOLINS 2 - $1/1, 4/3, 8/5, 8/7, 10/7, 9/5$

VIOLINS 3 - $1/1, 3/2, 5/3, 7/6, 9/8, 9/7$

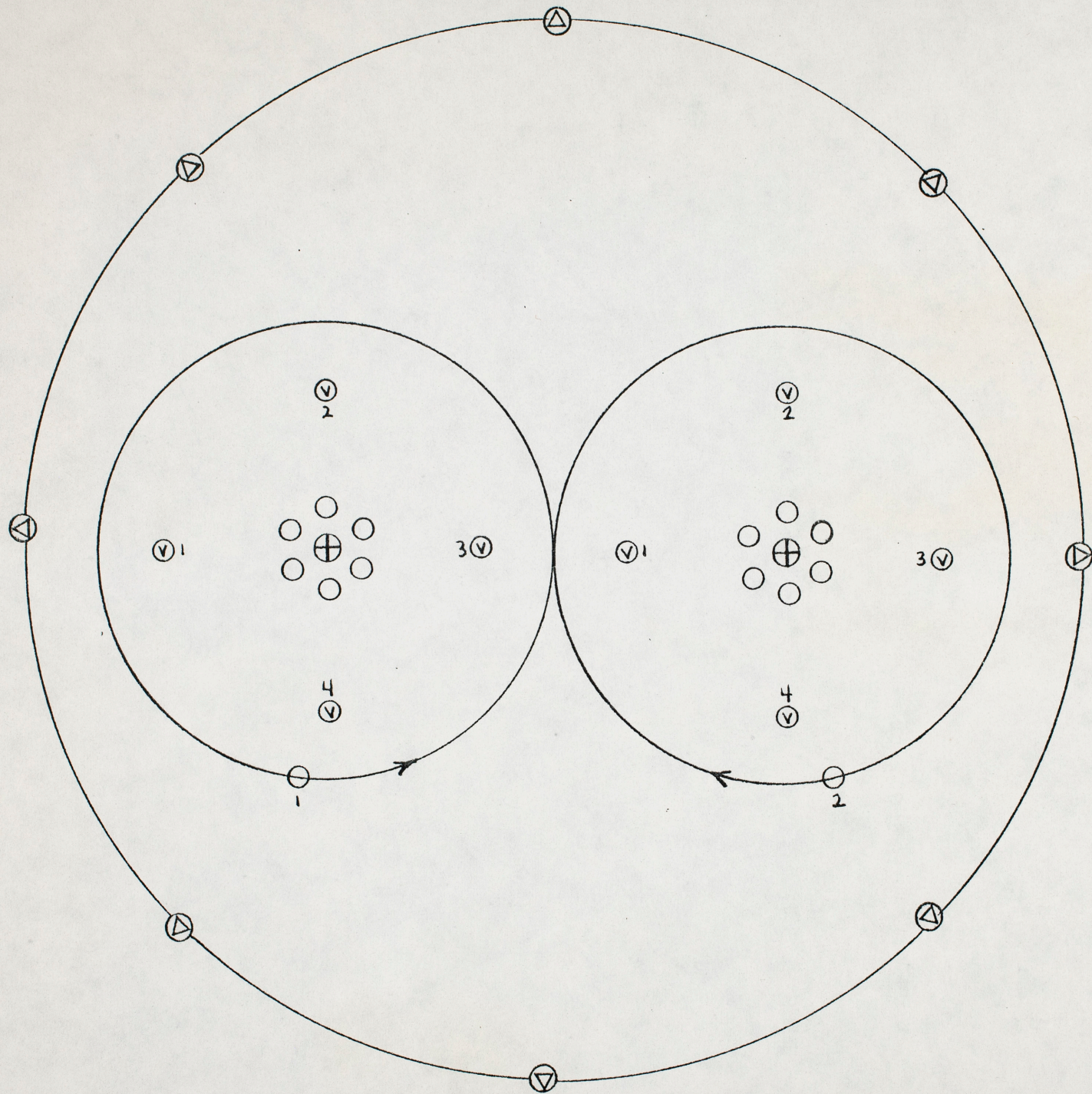
VIOLINS 4 - $1/1, 4/3, 6/5, 12/7, 16/9, 14/9$

TRUMPETS- THE TRUMPETS WALK SLOWLY IN THE INDICATED ORBITS WHILE PERFORMING.

ONE- SUSTAIN SINGLE PITCHES A^b , C , E^b IN ANY ORDER OR OCTAVE FOR FULL BREATHS AND SEPARATED BY AN EQUIVALENT DURATION OF SILENCE

TWO- SUSTAIN SINGLE PITCHES $F^\#$, $A^\#$, $C^\#$ IN ANY ORDER OR OCTAVE FOR FULL BREATHS AND SEPARATED BY AN EQUIVALENT DURATION OF SILENCE

CASSETTE RECORDERS- RECORD SINEWAVE FREQUENCIES (HZ) 34,55,89,144,255,377, 610,987,1597,2584,4181, AND 6765 WITH ALL AMPLITUDES OF THE INDIVIDUAL FREQUENCIES BALANCED. PLAYBACK THIS RECORDING THROUGH ALL 8 CASSETTE RECORDERS AT THE INDICATED POSITIONS. AMPLITUDE SHOULD BE LOUD BUT BELOW THE DISTORTION LEVEL.



- - VOICES
- Ⓧ - VIOLINS
- ⊕ - LOUDSPEAKERS
- ⊖ - CASSETTES
- ⊙ - TRUMPETS