

# Friday May 18

a (semi)composed event for many performers

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2007

## **General Information**

- *Friday May 18* was created for the Bay Players' performance on the same date at Artomatic 2007 in Crystal City, Virginia. Future performances of this work should occur on either a Friday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of any month, or during the month of May; performances that do not meet this criteria should be titled *Friday May 18: Unofficial Version*.
- The event should take place in a moderate to large room. Three or more areas should be designated as "performance spaces"; two to four areas should be designated "electro-acoustic playback spaces"; the remainder of the room can contain chairs and/or standing/walking space for audience members.
- The minimum total duration for this event is 45 minutes. There is no upper duration limit, though performances should occur continually; events longer than a few hours may require shifts of performers to properly sustain the performance.

## **Electro-acoustic Playback**

- Two to four areas within the performance space should be reserved for electro-acoustic playback. These areas should be as far apart from each other as possible and, when there are more than two playback areas, they should be roughly equidistant from each other.
- Each playback area should contain equipment to play a stereo CD, selecting CD tracks at random; thus a standard CD player and some sort of stereo speaker system will suffice (fidelity is not necessarily a concern).
- One or more performers should assemble a CD that is comprised of tracks no longer than ninety seconds. The number of CD tracks should be equal to the total duration of the event in minutes; for multi-hour events, new CDs should be created for each hour of the performance. The individual tracks of the CD should be excerpts of experimental compositions (acoustic and/or electro-acoustic) that have been either composed or performed by event participants. One track should be an excerpt of banal, overplayed, highly recognizable popular music; for the premiere of this work, an excerpt of Led Zeppelin's "Black Dog" was used.
- Copies of the CD should be made so that one exists for each playback area; all CDs should be played with the CD player set to "random" throughout the performance at a moderate volume.

**Performances**

- Performances of experimental, preferably indeterminate compositions should occur through the event. The performed compositions can be composed by participants or others (Cage, Wolff, etc.); interdisciplinary (not music-specific) works, such as those created by Fluxus artists or poet Jackson Mac Low, are encouraged.
- Performances should include as many performers as possible and may occur simultaneously. Groups of performers should be spaced evenly throughout the space.

**Visual Performances**

- Photograph and/or draw the performance situation.

**Audience Participation Cards**

- The three pages that follow contain fifteen sets of instructions that are each comprised of five lines of text. Each set should be printed, cut out, and taped to medium or large index cards (or handwritten on index cards).
- One performer should be in charge of initially distributing the set of cards, either to audience members or by placing them on chairs (or throughout the space if no chairs exist).
- The performance of each card is self-explanatory.
- Performers, if not participating in a composition, may perform cards freely.

Mumble incoherently  
About mushrooms  
To yourself  
Until you have named every type of mushroom you have eaten  
Then toss the card into the air

Imitate loudly  
Ambient room noise  
To someone who is performing  
Until you disrupt the performance  
Then drop the card in a corner of the room

Hum prominently  
Your least favorite song  
To anyone wearing green  
Until you have hummed the chorus  
Then hide the card

Rave crazily  
About email spam as it relates to Spam the processed meat  
To someone who seems bored  
Until you have framed them as different manifestations of the same thing  
Then run away from your card

Bark sharply  
Like a dog  
At a trash can  
Until you begin to get strange looks from others  
Then put the card in the trash

Sing out  
About any vegetable  
Towards the ceiling  
Until the vegetable's name loses all meaning to you  
Then rip the card into tiny pieces

Speak as slowly as possible  
About your childhood  
To your hand  
For 5 minutes  
Then give the card to a stranger

Vocalize repeatedly  
The word "canoe"  
To a stranger  
Until they say "canoe" back to you  
Then place the card on the floor next to them

Say confidently  
Something complimentary  
To someone wearing brown shoes  
Until they say "thank you"  
Then fold the card into half and give it to them

Intone steadily  
A diatribe about traffic  
To someone near you  
Until you use the word "rage"  
Then crumble the card and throw it across the room

Whisper discretely  
A fake family secret  
To a person that resembles a family member  
For two to three minutes  
Then pass the card to them face down

Yell passionately  
About your laundry  
To nobody at all  
Until you have thoroughly addressed the topic  
Then give the card to a person wearing clothes that you like

Read aloud  
Any writing you can find in the room that is not on cards  
To anyone that will listen  
Until there is nothing else to read  
Then give the card to someone outside of the performance space

Ramble on and on  
About the “prepared piano”  
To someone who looks like they might prepare pianos  
Until they ask you about prepared pianos  
Then formally present them with the card

Plead desperately  
For an explanation of Euclidean geometry  
From a person that seems not likely to respond  
Until they speak to you or walk away  
Then hand the card to them in a stylized manner