## Variations on a Musical Scene

for five instruments, electronics, motors, and light

deok-Vin lee (2025)

Video (excerpt): <a href="https://youtu.be/czDLzbMP3dA">https://youtu.be/czDLzbMP3dA</a>

### **Setting and General Instruction**

#### Four pitched instruments

Any four instruments from the strings or wind families can perform the piece.

Each instrument features short solo or duo moments in the indicated variation below.

Instrument1 (P1): 4th. Variation. Instrument2 (P2): 3rd. Variation. Instrument3 (P3): 1st. Variation. Instrument4 (P4): 4th. Variation.

#### One percussion (Perc)

Percussion is not replaceable.

Organize the instrument set freely, including three main instruments and additional options.

Sticks, brushes, or other tools can be used as desired.

Instrument A: Mid to high instrument): Snare drum, bongo, or similar.

Instrument B: Mid to low instrument): Tom-tom, or similar.

Instrument C (low or large instrument): Bass drum, massive wood block, or similar.

Other instruments: Additional instruments can be included and used in the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Variations.

#### **Objects**

Each performer has a table (five tables) where many different object are placed.

Performers can select objects freely. An example list is provided below.

List: Plastic bag, balloon, backpack, linen, tissue paper, bottle, dumbbell, book, mug, pillow, blanket, magazine, candy, ladder, chair, pen, scarf, frying pan, cardboard box, towel, broom, flower pot, tennis racket, sponge, notebook, stapler, umbrella, clock, candle, basket, bucket, napkin, tape, glove, helmet, yoga mat, football, table, hammer, plush toy, hanger, and so forth.

### Electronics (Elec) and Light

Stereo + Subwoofers (3 channels)
Strobe light or flat Led \* 1 + multiple large light bulbs

#### Motors

Electromechanical vibration motors (over 60W each ) \* 5 Each motor is attached to a table assigned to each performer.

### Wireless audio system

Each instrument is equipped with a wireless audio system. Transmitter \* 1 or 5 + receiver \* 5 + mini speaker \* 5

#### Duration

All written durations are approximate. The duration may vary depending on the performance.

### Harmonic Theme (H.T.)

The harmonic theme follows a generic F major progression: Tonic–Subdominant–Dominant–Tonic.

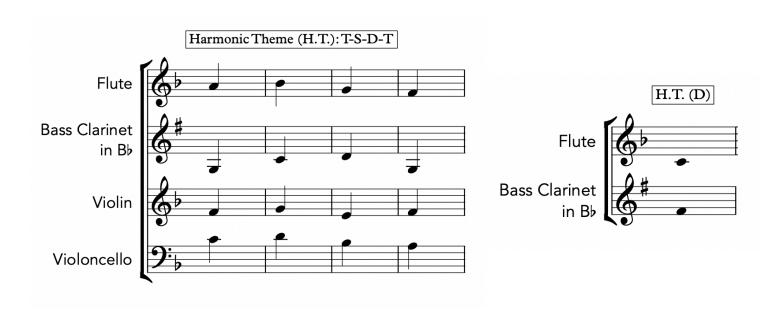
Tones or tone combinations can be freely chosen but must be determined beforehand.

### For hand werk

For the premiere, the following instruments and tone combinations are suggested.

Instrument 1: Flute Instrument 2: Violin Instrument 3: Cello

Instrument 4: Bass Clarinet in Bb

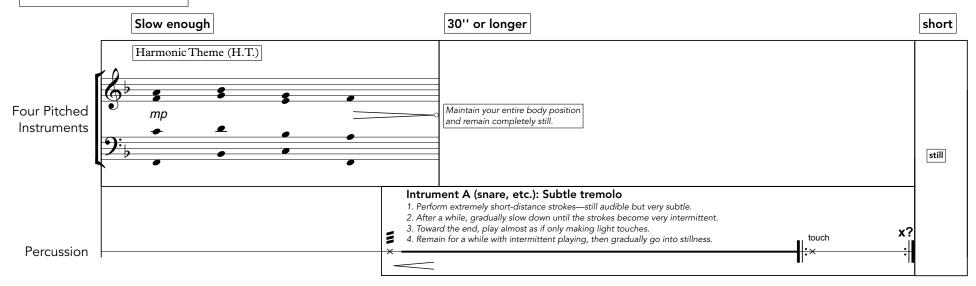


## Variations on a Musical Scene

for Ensemble hand werk

### **Musical Scene**

deok-Vin lee (2025)





#### 2' or longer

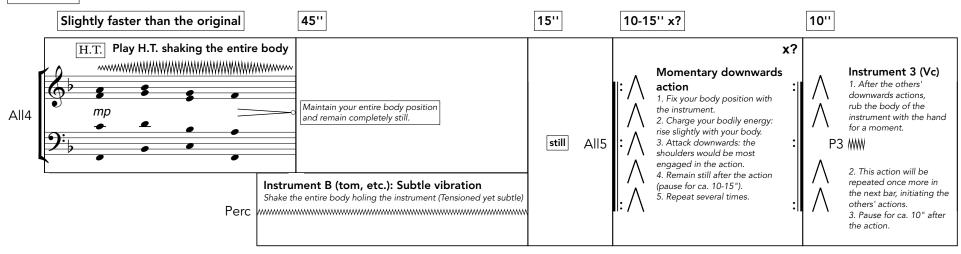
#### **Understated musical actions**

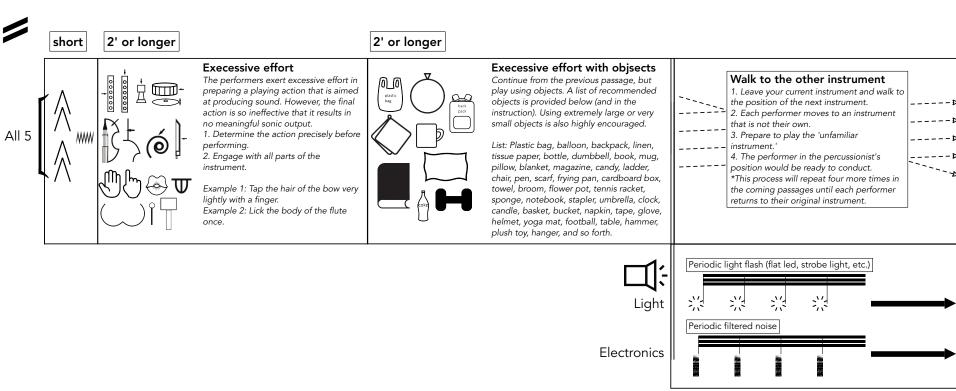
All performers repetitively play extremely subtle, minimal actions originally derived from sound production. The goal is for performers to maintain the tension of instrumental playing while shifting focus to the actions themselves. These actions stem from the performer's own bodily habits related to instrumental playing—what can be called professional habits. These habits are fragmented and aestheticized. Ultimately, there will be "almost" no actual sound production, with only the actions remaining.

All5

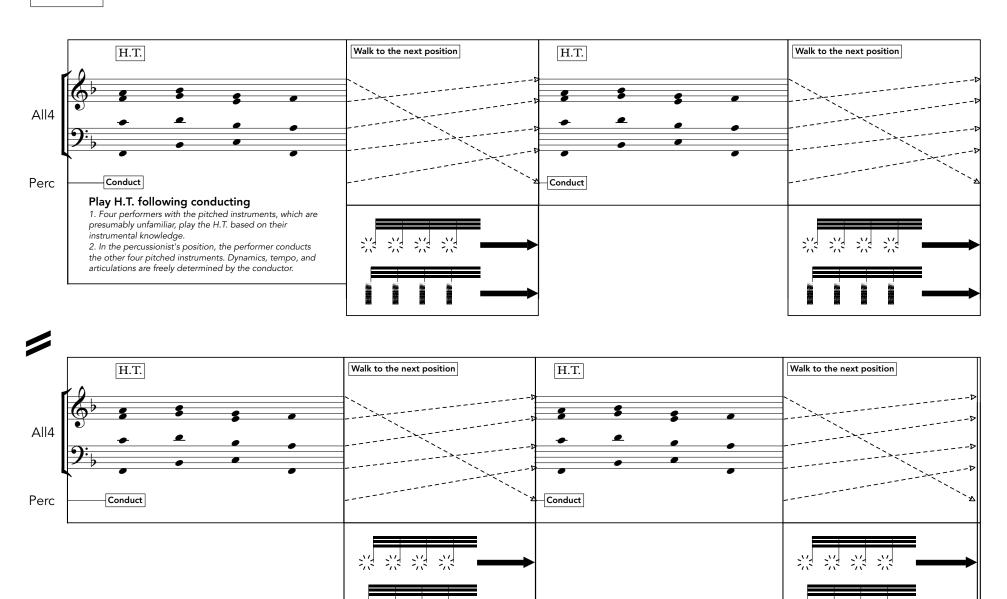
- Example 1: The clarinetist conceives a high note and prepares to play it. The body feels the tension, yet the clarinetist releases the tension at the moment of playing, without actually producing the note.
- Example 2: The cellist positions for a certain note. Instead of bowing, the bow slowly moves away from the string and returns.
- Example 3: The percussionist fixes a stick on the membrane and slowly draws a tiny circle.
- 1. All actions are executed in extremely subtle ways so that the performers appear almost still.
- 2. All actions should be very slow and deliberate.
- 3. Many actions imply sound production, while some are fragmented from it and mechanically executed with intention.
- 4. Pitches are determined by the last two harmonies of the harmonic theme (Dominant-Tonic) that have already been played, though they can be transposed to different octaves.
- 5. The percussionist remains with a single instrument, Instrument A (e.g., snare drum, bongo, etc.).
- 6. End with a short pause before starting the next passage.

### Var. 1

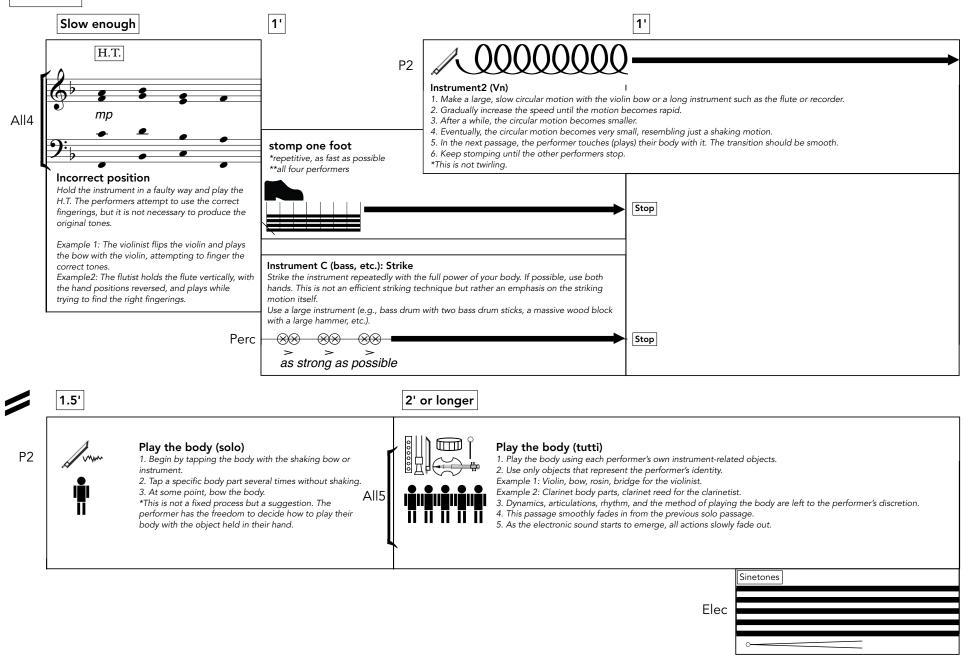


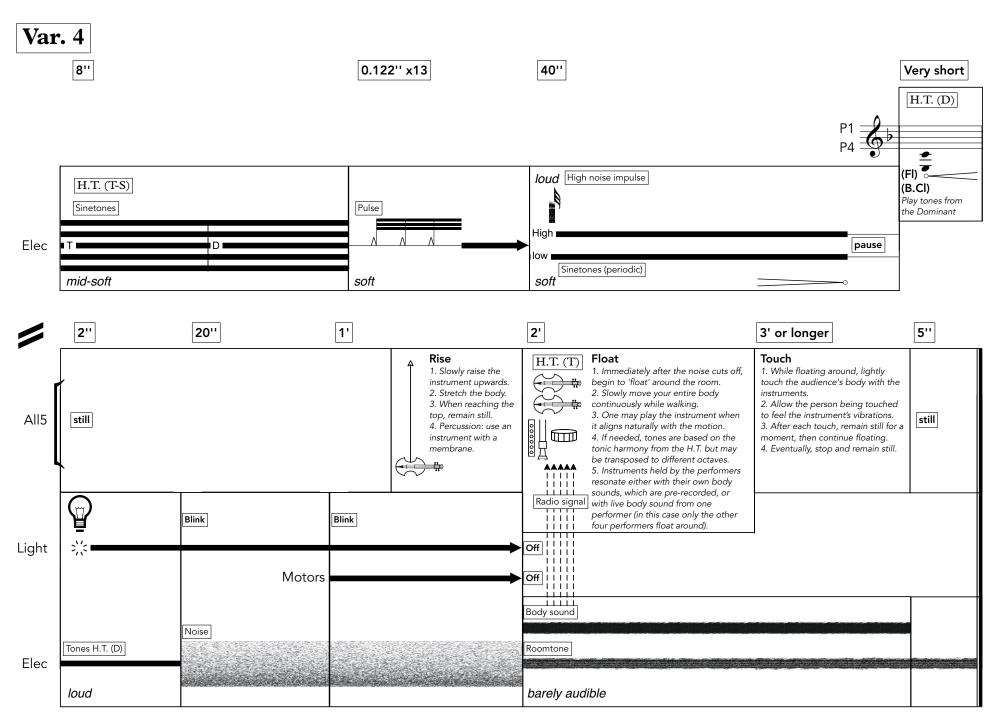


# Var. 2



### Var. 3





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