

42nd string quartet
Erik Carlson
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There are no parts or score.

Players get the information they need from a small wireless earphone, preferably invisible to the audience.

A pd patch to send the audio is available by request or can be constructed from the information below.

The piece consists of a series of short chords played in rhythmic unison by the quartet at intervals ranging from 3 - 15 seconds.

Immediately after playing a chord, each player will hear the names of 2 pitches which will form their notes of the next chord.

The cellist always plays on strings III and II.

The violist always plays on strings IV and III.

The second violinist always plays on strings IV and III.

The first violinist always plays on strings III and II.

The first note name a player hears is a note to be played on their lower string.

The second note name a player hears is a note to be played on their upper string.

(All note are randomly chosen from the possible notes between but not including the open string and the string above it.)

There will be a 4-click cue (at 140 bpm) to indicate when to play the chord, which should be a full beat in duration at tempo 140.

There is a 1/100 chance for each note of each chord that it is to be sustained softly until the next chord. This is indicated by a short tone that sounds after the note name.

Play with a gentle but full sound.

Play for as long as desired.