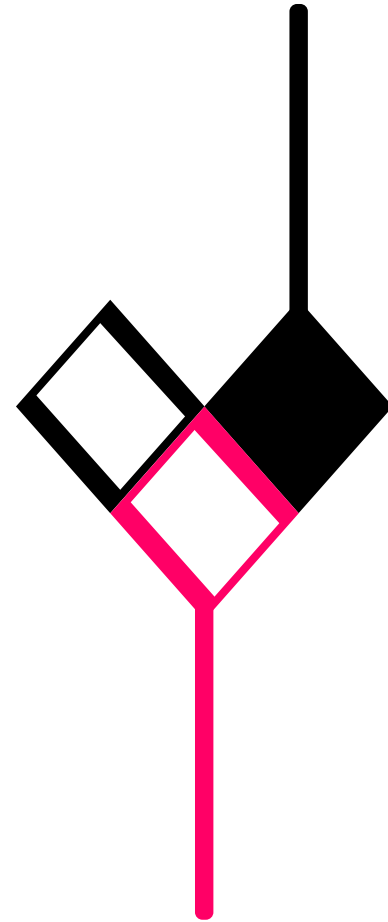


Mensura

for open ensemble and smart vibrating metronomes

Mark Dyer

2022



Written for CoMA Manchester as part of the Cyborg Soloists research project.

Premiered by CoMA Manchester on 5th March 2022 as part of the Contemporary Music for All Festival.

Instructions

This piece can be performed by 3-10 players. Each players needs their own **Soundbrenner Pulse watch** and **smart phone** or **tablet**.

A **Leader** should be chosen. They will also require a small handbell or sound bowl. Aside from moments coordinated by the handbell, players move through the score independently from one another.

If possible, this score should be **memorized** and not used in performance.

Pre-performance

Download the [Soundbrenner](#) app to your smart phone or tablet ("Device") and sync your Pulse watch ("Watch") to the app.

Turn off your Device **screen timeout**.

Swap your synced Watch with another performer and attach to wrist. Ensure this swap links everyone in the ensemble.

Using the app:

- 1) In Player screen, set the time signature to **1/4** and the beat to a **crotchet**.
- 2) In Settings>connected Watch>Vibrations, for accent marker 1, select **Short Duration Weak**; for accent marker 2, **Long Duration Regular**.
- 3) In Settings> connected Watch>Lights, for accent marker 1, select **White**; for accent marker 2, select **Pink**.
- 4) In Settings>App Settings>**Turn off Sounds**
- 5) In Settings>App Settings>**Turn on Display**

Performance Set-up

In a standard concert hall layout, sit in a line at a single table facing the audience. In a round auditorium layout, sit around a table facing inwards away from the audience. Ideally, the table will be black or covered with a black cloth. Your Device should rest on the table directly in front of you and your Watch wrist should be clearly visible to the audience .

Ambient lighting should be dim in order to emphasis the flashing lights of the Watches and Devices.

Ideally, performers are unamplified. If needed, lightly amplify ensemble with a little reverb.

Notation



With one hand, measure your pulse rate, preferably at the neck. For as long as stated or until regular pulse found.



With the other hand, tap your pulse into the app using your **Device**. Challenge yourself to be as accurate as possible.

3

pulses

Refers to pulses received from your **Watch**





Leader to use **handbell**, quietly. Image you are coordinating the procedures of a ritual.

Mensura

1

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Cue	Action	Notes
All players	Accent marker 1 	
Leader		
 All players		Eyes closed Breath as quietly as possible At least 30 secs

Cue	Action	Notes
Leader		Focus Establish a flow
When you receive a steady pulse on your Watch		You are a Morse Code operator, encoding your heart rate to your Device and transmitting it to another
Once you have synced your heartbeat to your Device	Proceed to Breathing Square	

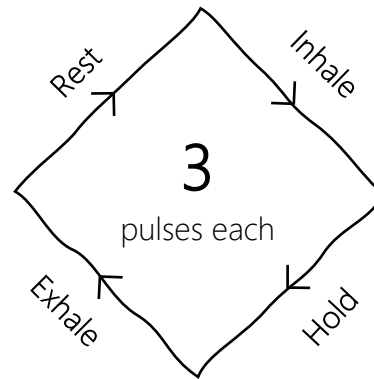
Breathing Square

3

Cue

Action

Notes



Breath through **nose**

Make breathing audible

Enter a meditative state

You are a gentle tide

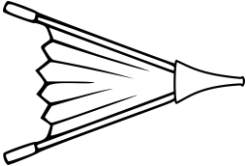



When you suspect a decrease
in your own heartrate








proceed to
Bellows Breathing

Bellows Breathing

4








Cue	Action	Notes
<p data-bbox="315 675 454 707">All players</p>	<div data-bbox="824 499 1422 887"><p data-bbox="853 499 1032 579">Inhale through nose</p><p data-bbox="1182 499 1384 579">Exhale through mouth</p><p data-bbox="1099 778 1126 831">1</p><p data-bbox="1046 852 1184 887">pulse each</p></div>	<p data-bbox="1626 539 1805 571">Breath loudly</p> <p data-bbox="1626 624 1899 655">Forcibly push air out</p> <p data-bbox="1626 708 1977 788">You are a pair of bellows fueling a furnace!</p>
<p data-bbox="259 1078 658 1158">When you suspect an increase in your own heartrate</p>	<div data-bbox="819 1015 1379 1187"><p data-bbox="1232 1086 1379 1163">proceed to <i>Chanter</i></p></div>	

Cue	Action	Notes
All players	<div data-bbox="846 427 1034 507">Inhale through nose</div> <div data-bbox="922 536 954 600"></div> <div data-bbox="922 644 954 702">1</div> <div data-bbox="898 719 978 756">pulse</div> <div data-bbox="1193 427 1335 507">Sing pitch on Exhale</div> <div data-bbox="1245 536 1276 600"></div> <div data-bbox="1245 644 1276 702">2</div> <div data-bbox="1220 719 1310 756">pulses</div>	<p>Each player chooses individual pitch</p> <p>Comfortable mid-range</p> <p>Soft p <i>non vibrato</i></p> <p>"ah" vowel sound</p>
When your sung note coincides with another's	<div data-bbox="761 855 909 1024"></div> <div data-bbox="972 874 1102 1018"></div> <div data-bbox="1144 887 1415 1008">Proceed to Breathing Square or Bellows Breathing</div>	
When ensemble settle into a mutual tempo*	<div data-bbox="1043 1117 1124 1238"></div>	At any point

* This should be experiential rather than exact. If not achieved within the allotted time, proceed regardless and enjoy the ensuing mayhem.

Chanson

6

Cue	Action	Notes
 All players	Accent marker 2 	Select Accent marker together
All players Enter one at a time <i>ad hoc</i> .	<div> <div>Inhale</div>  </div> <div> <div>Sing on Exhale</div>  rhythm </div> <div>1</div> <div>pulse each</div> <div>in-side / my heart / pre-sents / it-self / to you</div>	Choose two pitches, one per syllable Stepwise/triadic, modal/diatonic <i>mp poco vib. Expressivo</i> Sing syllable pairs in order, then at random
Leader (at discretion)		At least 1 min after first entry
 All players	TACET 	Stop together <i>Fine</i>