

festen var sjov !

(the party was fun!)

Dedicated to Denmark and partying



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(Oslo 2020, updated Warsaw, 2022)

Preface

"festen var sjov" is a performance based piece for a quintet of clarinet in Bb, laptop, percussion, electric guitar and cello. All players will also play specified objects, perform some basic acting and recite some text.

"festen var sjov" is a comedic piece meant to be played in a comedic setting by players that are willing and able to "go all out". A deeply serious approach to the piece will not work. The main vision behind the piece is that it should be a good time for both the audience and the players, but still be based of contemporary musical elements.

The piece is dedicated to Denmark and partying. It includes household objects related to partying as well as samples from various Danish popular-culture. There is no political or philosophical thought behind this.

In regards to how the piece is meant to be played:

- Have a comedic approach to everything. Always over-act and over-do. Any shame you might have should be left at home while performing and practicing this piece.
- Pitch does not matter so much. What matters is dynamics, rythms and texture.
- Laptop-player should program their own synths after composers instructions.
- *f* means play very harsh, *ff* means play extremely harsh, *fff* means play as harsh as you possibly can. Again, pitch or tone-quality does not matter so much. Treat other dynamics in similar fashion. *mf*; is now a normal *f*, *p* is now *mf* and *pp* is *p*.

Before entering the stage all players should put their designated objects into the plastic bags. On stage there should be 2 tables, in accordance with the stage plot. Also all instruments should be on the stage including: the microwave oven, glass slide, distortion pedal, guitar-amp, laptop, midi keyboard, guitar pick and cello bow. All other objects should be in the players plastic bags until the piece ask for them. All players should enter the stage from different places in the venue. Get creative with this if possible. Someone can enter from the audience, some from behind the stage, under the stage and so on. All players should walk onto the stage while carrying their plastics bags and act as if they would go to a party. Possibly greeting each other and doing some chit-chat before the music starts.

Technical details

Microwave oven, and all of the percussionists objects should preferably be amplified. It might be a good idea to amplify all instruments and provide monitors for the players. Do so in accordance with venue and sound engineer if present.

The sound system for the laptop can be solved in whatever way seems the best, I have no opinions.

Instruments and objects

Percussion

- Plastic bag with logo from local popular grocery store.
- 0, 33 beer-can
With or without alcohol.
Preferably a Danish brand.
- Bucket or trashcan
Fairly small, has to be sturdy enough to throw beer-can in without it falling over
- Microwave oven
Prefearbly an older model with an actual alarm and not a bell sound.
- Drum sticks
- 1 bag of microwave popcorn
- 1 very large bag of potatoe chips
- 1 hammer
A wooden hammer if possible.
If not avavilbe then a normal harmmer is fine.
- 1 cocio
If the percussionist does not enjoy cocio then it can be exchanged with some form of iconic Danish soda.

Clarinet in Bb

- Plastic bag with logo from local popular grocery store.
- 0, 33 beer-can
With or without alcohol.
Preferably a Danish brand.

----- (Share with Clarinet)

Electric guitar

- Plastic bag with logo from local popular grocery store.
- 0,33 beer-can
Alcoholic or non-alcoholic.
Preferably Danish brand, but anything works.
- Bucket or trashcan
Fairly small, has to be sturdy enough to throw beer-can in without it falling over.
- Pretzel sticks (saltstenger)
Standard bag of local variety.
- Glass slide
- Distortion pedal

Cello

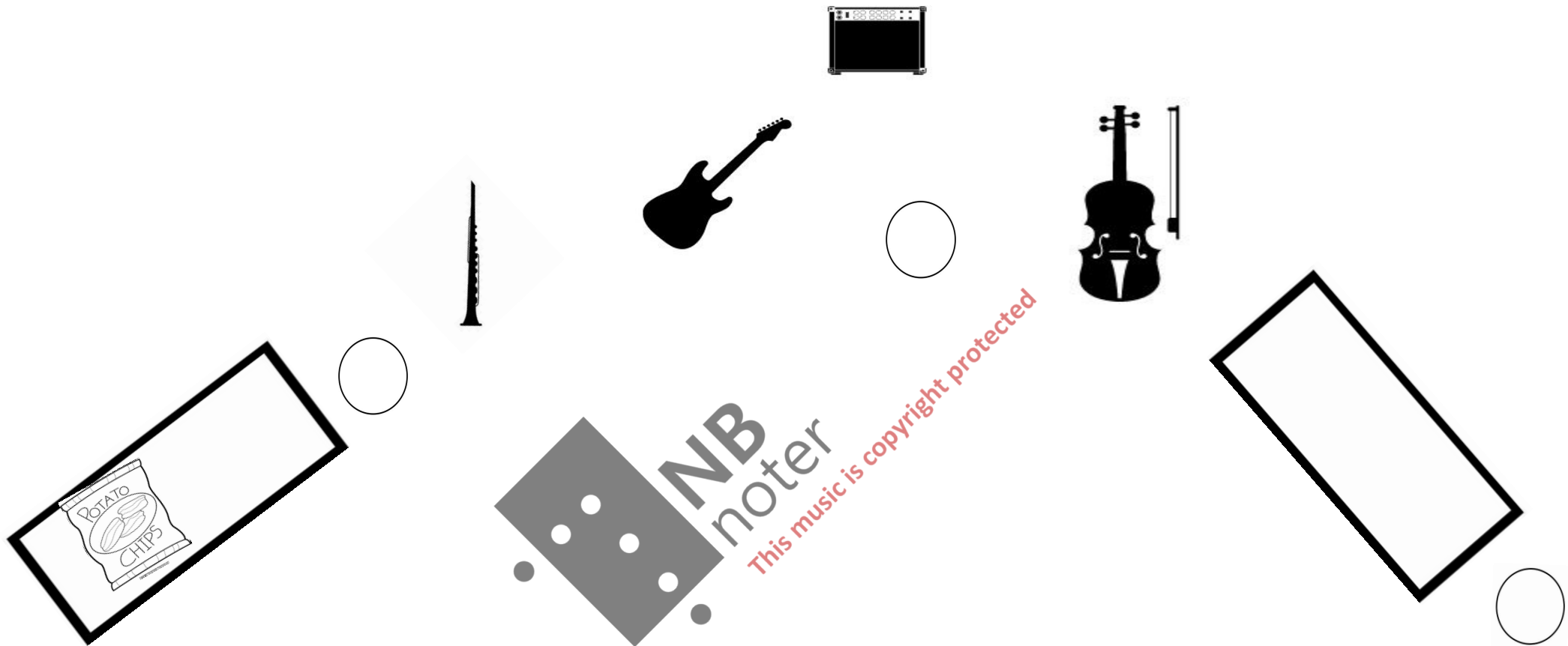
- Plastic bag with logo from local popular grocery store.
- 0, 33 beer-can
Alcoholic or non-alcoholic.
Preferably Danish brand, but anything works.
- Pretzel sticks (saltstenger)
Standard bag of local variety.

Laptop

- Midi keyboard (at least 2 octaves)
- Plastic bag with logo from local popular grocery store.
- 0,33 beer-can
Alcoholic or non-alcoholic.
Preferably Danish brand, but anything works.
- Bucket or trashcan
Fairly small, has to be sturdy enough to throw beer-can in without it falling over.
- Synth 1 (all synths are to be programmed and played from the PC)
Percussive, but still with audible pitch, very short release and sustain.
- Synth 2
Industrial style, heavy synth with portamento.
- Synth 3
Tutti church organ.
- 11 samples (provided by the composer)
To be played indivually so that they can overlap.
- Kazoo
- Confetti bomb
as large and expensive as the budget can take

Stage plot

3



Circles are buckets.
Put the speakers for the computer wherever you want.

♩ = 80

System 1:

- Clarinet in Bb:**
 - Casually walk in with plastic bag and take a seat.
- Laptop:**
 - Casually walk in with plastic bag and take a seat.
 - Synth 1
 - Synth 2 (portamento)
- Percussion:**
 - Casually walk in with plastic bag and take a seat.
 - Dramatically open popcorn container. Place 2 bags of popcorn in microwave and set it for 2,5 minutes.
 - Let the microwaves alarm ring 4 times. Dramatically open the door and wait 5-10 seconds before proceeding to next bar.
 - Scream in your mother-tongue and bang on top of microwave with drum sticks.
- Electric guitar:**
 - Casually walk in with plastic bag and take a seat.
- Cello:**

System 2:

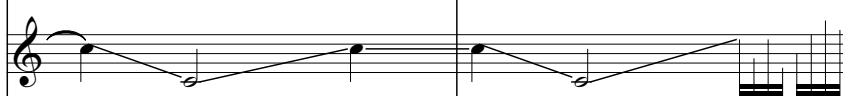
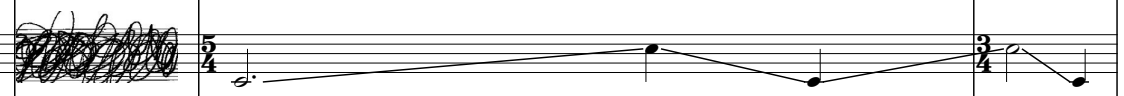
- Cl. (Clarinet):**
 - 10 keyslaps.
- PC. (Percussion):**
- Perc. (Percussion):**
- E. Gtr. (Electric guitar):**
 - ultra legato.
- Vc. (Violoncello):**

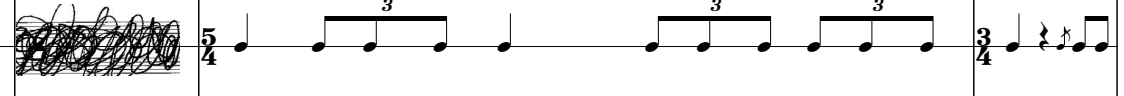
Additional Instructions:

- harsh nasty tone
- Sticks on microwave. Leave the microwave door open for the rest of the piece.
- Glass slide on all 6 strings
- Heavy distortion
- scratch.

Tutti: Gradually become complete chaos. roughly 20 seconds of chaos.

Cl.  15  5

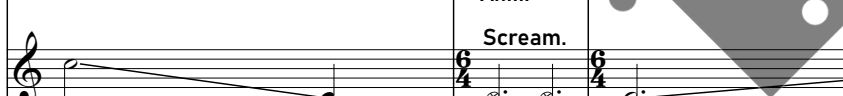
PC.  

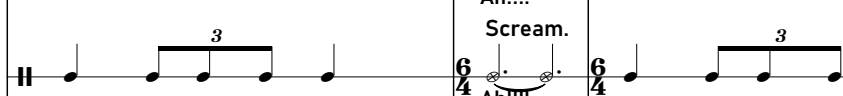
Perc.  

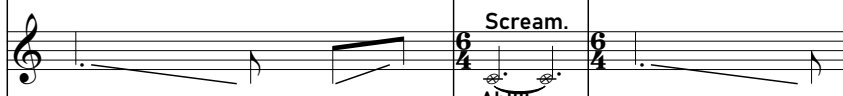
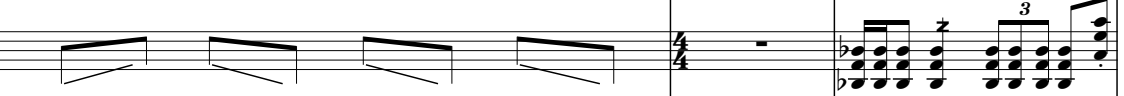
E. Gtr.  

Vc.  5  6

Cl.  20  7

PC.   7

Perc.   3

E. Gtr.   3

Vc.  6  6

Scream. Ah!!!!

Random dissonant multiphonics.

very slow portamento. Random pitch.

Slight scratch.

Cl.

PC.

Perc.

E. Gtr.

Vc.

fake it till you make it.

fake it till you make it. quasi-romantic.

Projected

Chaos. 5 seconds.

Slight overpressure.

Slight overpressure.

Tutti: Improvise freely with the written material until the end of the sample.

8

40

soft, breathy sound.

p

random multiphonic.

Improvise freely with sample 1.
Free use of dynamics, effects etc.

Improvise freely with hands on potato chip bag.

+ glass slide on one string
+ clean
+ ad lib

without slide.

p

mf

molto ponticello.

p

==

$\text{♩} = 70$

diamond notehead = tongue slap.

45

sim.

key slap.

50

Cl.

pp

sample 2.

sample 3.

sample 4.

mf

PC.

Whisper

Hammer on potato chip bag.

pp

p

mf

Perc.

1 2

+ distortion

+ glass slide

sim.

p

mf

E. Gtr.

pp

pizz.

arco.

pizz.

arco.

pizz.

p

mf

Vc.

pp

p

mf

55 **Fast stupid Waltz** ♩ = 80 9

Cl. *f* *ff*

PC. sample 5. sample 6. sample 7.

Perc. *f* *ff*

E. Gtr. scrape pick on muted E string. Ad lib. *f* *ff*

Vc. arco. pizz. arco. pizz. arco. *f* *ff*

65 **Fast stupid polka** ♩ = 90 70 75

Cl. *fff*

PC. sample 8. sample 9. sample 10.

Perc. *fff*

E. Gtr. ridiculous clean strum. + distortion. *fff*

Vc. pizz. arco. pizz. arco. *fff*

10

80 **Tutti:** Wait until end of sample. $\text{♩} = 70$ play beautifully. 85

Cl. f

PC. f

Perc. Casually eat potatoe chips.

E. Gtr. f

Vc. f

Dramatically take out kazoo from bag and present to audience.

Casually eat pretzel sticks.

Dash pretzel sticks on strings while keeping the strings muted.

Percussively mash chip bags together. Make a big mess if possible.

If sticks break then get more.

90 95

Cl. ff

PC. ff

Perc. ff

E guitar. ff

Cello. ff

Throw pretzel sticks one by one at the guitarist.

Romantic con molto molto vibrato.

Throw kazoo at the player that deserves it the most.

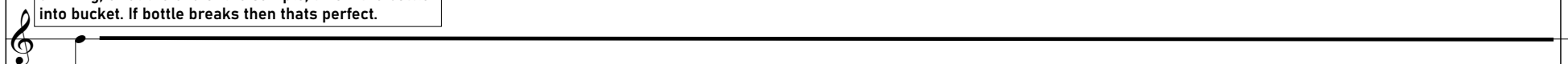
synth 3.

Throw all chips bags on the floor.

Tutti: Play the anthem ad lib however you want using any technique until end of sample. Gradually become complete chaos. Does not have to be in unis.
Durata: 1:02 minutes.

Cl. 

PC. 

Perc. 

E. Gtr. 

Vc. 

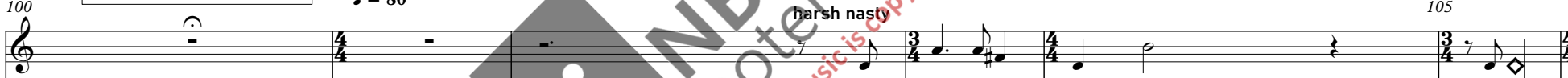
Cue sample 11. Improvise freely with effects and synth 3.

Proudly present bottle of Cocio to the audience.
Remove bottle cap and throw it into the audience. Yell: SKÅL! Very loudly and drink ad lib. When finished drinking, or at the end of the sample, throw the bottle into bucket. If bottle breaks then thats perfect.

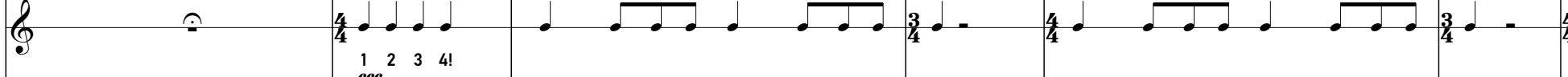
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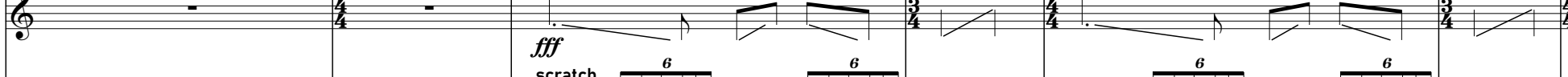
Tutti: The whole ensemble should stand up and dance for 30 seconds. (without any music)

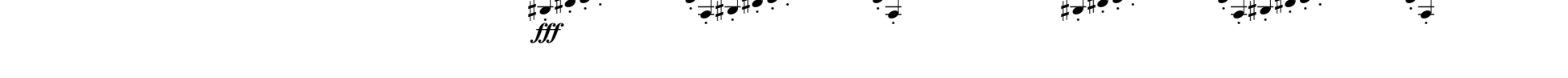
♩ = 80

Cl. 

PC. 

Perc. 

E. Gtr. 

Vc. 

harsh nasty

fff

Synth 2 (portamento)

fff

sticks on microwave and shout.

1 2 3 4!

fff

+ Glass slide on all 6 strings
+ Heavy distortion

fff

scratch.

6

6

6

6

105

Cl. 

PC. 

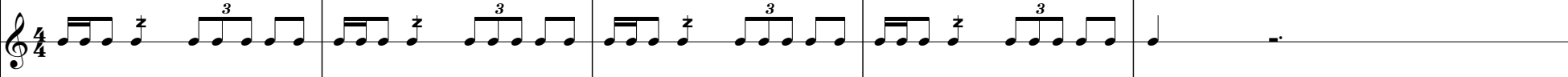
Perc. 

E. Gtr. 

Vc. *ultra legato.*  *scratch.* 

Cl. 

PC. 

Perc. 

E. Gtr. *Ultra lead.*
Molto vib. espressivo.
fff 

Vc. *Slight scratch.*  *Slight overpressure.* 

120 **tutti unis.** 13

Cl. 

PC. 

Perc. 

E. Gtr. 

Vc. 

Get your confettibomb ready and run into the middle of the stage.

Molto vib. espressivo.

Fest - en var sjov!

Shoot confetti into the audience.

Fest - en var sjov!

Fest - en var sjov!

Fest - en var sjov!

Fest - en var sjov!

Fest - en var sjov!



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