Kjell Samkopf



Score

About the work

The sound material in «Seed Circulation» is the sound of different types of seeds that are rotated around in a circular motion on shallow plates and containers of different sizes and materials: wood, metal, braided bast, cardboard, terracotta, porcelain, and the like.

The seeds should consist of self-harvested seeds, preferably of edible plants in the player's local area. These are grouped into three categories by size: small, medium, and large. The seeds are distributed on plates of different materials, which means different degrees of friction. They are rotated at three speeds: slow, medium slow and fast, with gradual transitions from one speed to the next.

The letters in the title «Seed Circulation» have been translated into numbers according to numerology conversion tables. These numbers determine the duration, the overall form and the various parameters in the work.

«Seed Circulation» was composed for the exhibition «Sacred Cycles» by visual artist Caroline Ho-Bich-Tuyen Dang and composer Kjell Samkopf at FUGE, Kaufeldtgaarden, Gjøvik, Norway, from May 29 to June 27, 2021.

During the exhibition, it was first performed by Birger Mistereggen, Kjell Tore Innervik and Kjell Samkopf.

This composition has been supported by the Arts Counsel Norway.

Playing instructions

The work

The work «Seed Circulation» consists of 11 individual - but similar - parts.

It can be performed by 1 to 11 players.

If performed with less than 11 players, the players are free to decide which parts to perform.

If performed with less than 11 players, one or more parts can be recorded and preparred as soundfiles, and played back via loudspeakers, together with the physical performance.

Preparations

Each performer is encouraged to collect 11 types of seeds from local edible plants. Try to find seeds of different sizes (i.e., small, medium sized and large).

Each performer is invited to find 11 shallow plates or circular shaped containers of different materials: wood, metal, braided bast, cardboard, terracotta, porcelain, and the like.

Distribute the 11 seed types in the 11 shallow plates (one seed type to each plate, do not mix the seeds), taking into consideration the size, shape and hardness of the seeds, the size and shape of the plates and the friction between seeds and different plate materials. Take care finding good sounding combinations of seeds and plates.

Each part consists of 11 sections, corresponding to the 11 plates. Decide which plate will be used in the different sections (one plate per section). There are open spaces in the parts where you can write in seed type and plate material by hand.

The sections are numbered from 1 to 11.

Notation

The seeds are to be rotated in a circular motion at three speeds: slow, medium slow and fast, with gradual transitions from one speed to the next.

The three speeds are indicated with capital letters:

S - slow

M - medium slow

F - fast

Three arrows indicate speed change:

→ - continue in same speed

7 - gradually increase in speed

- gradually slowing down in speed

For the short section of one minute:

FM, SM, FS - gradually change in speed from the first to the last speed indicator (FS = fast to slow), within the timeframe of one minute.

The actual speed is determined by how the seeds move on each plate.

Performing

The 11 sections are organized along a timeline. The work has to be played using a stopwatch. Total duration is 53 minutes.

The players should not hurry going from one section to the next, i.e. changing from one plate to another. Take your time, and strive for slow and fluid movements throughout the piece. Be gentle to the seeds and listen to their song.





















