



Miguel Espinel

Dimming

for electric guitar and computer

2015

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INSTRUMENTATION:

ELECTRIC GUITAR

COMPUTER

Duration: ca. 6 minutes

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Denton, TX

Performance Guidelines and Technical Details

Setting up the electronics:

This piece requires a computer with the Max MSP environment (a free runtime version to run existing patches can be downloaded from www.cycling74.com), and a sound interface for input. The guitar may be plugged directly into the interface.

To set up the patch, extract the file “dimming.zip” to a directory in the computer. Open the file “dimming.maxpat” and check the audio settings to make sure that they match those of the interface. Set input for the instrument.

To set up the sampler, drop the folder called “samples” from the directory (extracted from the zip file) into the folder-drop box inside the patch. Alternatively, it is possible to browse for the folder or write the folder’s path directly into the folder path box. Click the “sample list” button in the patch to make sure the samples have loaded correctly (there should be a list showing all of the samples). This list may not be visible in fullscreen mode.

Performing the piece:

Begin the piece by activating either the spacebar or MIDI control. Once the piece begins, the computer part will play continuously until the end. The guitarist follows the computer part in improvisation. The amount of activity is represented graphically in the score. The computer and guitar part follow a freely-artistic representation of multiple graphs of EEG data of brainwave activity of humans during the second stage of non-REM sleep. The guitar part shows general notated contours, techniques and written instructions; the performer should use these only as guides and improvise following the lead of the computer part.

Watch the “CURRENT STATUS” window to monitor the progress of the piece.

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