

Piano for People

//Alexis Porfiriadis

//2013

The verbal composition *Piano for People* (2013) is performed by a group of people with a grand piano. During the performance of the score, people should sit on chairs placed around the piano. The performance must not have any audience; if a member of the group decides not to play, s/he must leave the room before the performance begins.

If a concert is announced it must be clarified that the composition shall be performed by the group of people, who will decide to attend the event. The people who are responsible for the performance space should place the chairs around the piano and disseminate the six pages of instructions to the participants.



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A few words about the performance of *Piano for People*

Welcome to the performance of the composition *Piano for People*. This composition can be realized only with your assistance. There are chairs around the piano that you can sit on. On the chairs you will find this page plus three pages with verbal instructions. These instructions invite you to make various actions using the piano. You can perform whichever and as many of those you choose. You can perform them in whatever order and at the same time with other actions performed by your co-players (with the exception of an instruction calling for the opposite). In order to participate in the performance of the score you must perform at least one action.

There is no limitation on the time needed to read the instructions. Everybody may read at their own pace and without stress. The procedure is relaxed and discussions among the group are welcome. After reading the instructions individually, you must collectively decide about the duration of your performance. No other pre-agreement is necessary. When the performance begins please avoid talking to each other.

Thank you and have fun!

Alexis

1. Swiftly pinch all the single strings of the piano, once.

▪

2. Press once, swiftly and consecutively, all the black piano keys moving either up or down from the first key you press.

▪

3. Play 10 keys simultaneously as loudly as you can.

▪

4. Find a way to play once as many piano keys as you can simultaneously without your hands or feet in direct contact with the instrument.

▪

5. Play once, consecutively and as fast as you can all the white piano keys moving either up or down from the first key you press.

▪

6. Play four different keys loudly and fast.

▪

7. Pinch one or two strings in the piano's interior, once each and at the same time that someone else is playing the keys.

▪

8. Try to produce three completely different sounds using the mallet inside the piano. Make as many attempts as you consider necessary to reach a result that is satisfactory for you.

▪

9. Play as much as keys you can simultaneously, at a specific moment that no one is playing the keys.

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Piano for People (actions: 1-9)



10. Using one hand, try to play once, as fast as you can all the piano keys consecutively moving either up or down from the first key you press.

▪

11. If you are not a pianist, try to play a melody that you like on the keys.

▪

12. Pinch, with a very swift movement the highest and lowest (or the other way round) piano string.

▪

13. Play fifteen different white keys as fast as you can.

▪

14. Slowly slide your nail on a string in the low register of the piano from its beginning to its end, once.

▪

15. Play simultaneously as many black keys as you can, once.

▪

16. Press once, as quietly as you can ten different keys simultaneously and at the same time that someone else is performing an action in the interior of the piano.

▪

17. Slide your nail/s with a swift movement on the strings at the same time when someone else is playing the on the keys.

▪

18. Slide the mallet across all the piano strings once with a swift movement.

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Piano for People (actions: 10-18)



19. Lie underneath the piano and softly hit the piano's bottom board to listen to the different sounds it will make. Hit the piano carefully trying not to damage it.

▪

20. Press the right piano pedal and softly hit the interior of the piano with your hand. Try to produce 4 different sounds. Make as many attempts as you consider necessary to reach a result that is satisfactory for you.

▪

21. Agree with another member of the audience on a simultaneous action: one will play all the piano's keys consecutively and the other will pinch all the piano strings consecutively. Both of you must perform the action as swiftly as you can. This agreement must take place before the performance of the score begins.

▪

22. Try to find a way to play as many chords as you can without your hands in direct contact with the instrument.

▪

23. Play consecutively 10 different white keys with your right hand with descending motion while playing at the same time 10 black keys with your left hand with ascending motion. Or the opposite.

▪

24. If you are not a pianist try to play one of the sorrowful tunes you can think of.

▪

25. If you are right-handed, play very fast with your left hand's index finger consecutively all the black keys once, moving either up or down from the first key you press (if you are left-handed execute with the index of your right hand).

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Piano for People (actions: 19-25)



26. Choose two objects that that you can find inside the performance space. Explore the different sounds you can produce with them playing in the piano's interior. Perform only if no one else is playing in the interior. You have at your disposal as much time as want to explore sonically the piano's interior, but please consider that other people may also want to play. Be careful to not damage the instrument.

▪

27. Play once five different keys as hard as you can. Keep the keys pressed until no sound is produced any more.

▪

28. Play for a while a rhythm that you like by pressing 10 keys simultaneously.

▪

29. Simultaneously with another member of the group, one of you shall try to play as many white keys as possible and the other as many black keys as possible. Do this once. Make an agreement with whom you will collaborate before the performance of the score begins.

▪

30. Press repetitively one key 27 times as swiftly as you can. The speed must not prevent you from counting correctly. If you lose count because of the speed, begin again only slower this time.

▪

31. Pinch once 10 strings simultaneously.

▪

32. While someone is pressing on the right pedal, sing something loudly with your head in the piano's interior. Agree with whom you will cooperate before the performance of the score begins.

33. Try to press as many strings you can over all their length in the piano's interior using your hands. When you succeed with this, another member of the audience must play quietly all the black keys once, consecutively and moving either up or down from the first key you press. Agree with whom you will collaborate before the performance of the score begins.

▪

34. Quietly play 10 different keys simultaneously while another member of the group, at the same time, also quietly plays 10 different keys simultaneously. Agree with whom you will collaborate before the performance of the score begins.

▪

35. Play 44 different keys randomly at a relatively swift pace. If you lose count, please begin again.

▪

36. Play one key using your elbow. If you strike more than one key the first time, try again until you succeed.

▪

37. Play a very high and a very low key simultaneously 5 times, as swiftly as you can.

▪

38. Play all the keys consecutively with your left hand from low to high and with your right hand from high to low. Stop when your hands meet.

▪

39. Play 5 black keys simultaneously with your left hand while playing at the same time 5 white keys with your right hand.

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Piano for People (actions: 33-39)

