

Jesper Pedersen

BREATHALYZER

Two performers

Animated notation

Duration: 5:40



The piece was written for Duo Harpverk and premiered in the Nordic House, Reykjavik, December 2013.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- The animated score: <http://vimeo.com/81556766> (contact me for HiRes video download).
- Laptop or tablet capable of playing back the video file.
- Small table or music stand for the computer.

INSTRUMENTATION

The two performers, referred to as *Frank* and *Katie* in the score, each have custom made pan pipes. *Frank* also plays a large (20-24 inches) china cymbal, suspended or lying on a padded trap table so it can resonate freely. The china cymbal is tapped lightly on the edge with a finger. Performer 2, *Katie* also plays a prepared pedal harp. A honey dipper is placed in between the low E and F wire strings (see <http://sites.siba.fi/web/harpnotation/wooden-object-in-strings>). The honey dipper is tapped with a finger producing a resonant gong like sonority. It is necessary to experiment with the honey dipper's position to get a good sound. *The harp can also be substituted by a medium-large suspended thai gong (17-20 inches) tapped lightly on the nipple with a finger.*

The pipes can easily be constructed from different lengths of 20 mm Ø straight tubing (or 3/4 inch conduit) that can be obtained at the recycling station or bought at a hardware store. The pipes are (unlike pan pipes) open in both ends and have a soft noisy sound with a weak fundamental when blown across the open edge (like blowing a beer bottle).

The original instruments use aluminum tubing but steel or plastic tubing would also work. The only concern is that the wall of the tubing has to be thin and sharp.

Pipes 1 - tube lengths

- 1: 630 mm / 24.80 inches
- 2: 234 mm / 9.21 inches
- 3: 247 mm / 9.72 inches
- 4: 202 mm / 7.95 inches
- 5: 222 mm / 8.74 inches

Pipes 2 - tube lengths

- 1: 318 mm / 12.52 inches
- 2: 208 mm / 8.19 inches
- 3: 240 mm / 9.45 inches
- 4: 264 mm / 10.39 inches
- 5: 189 mm / 7.44 inches

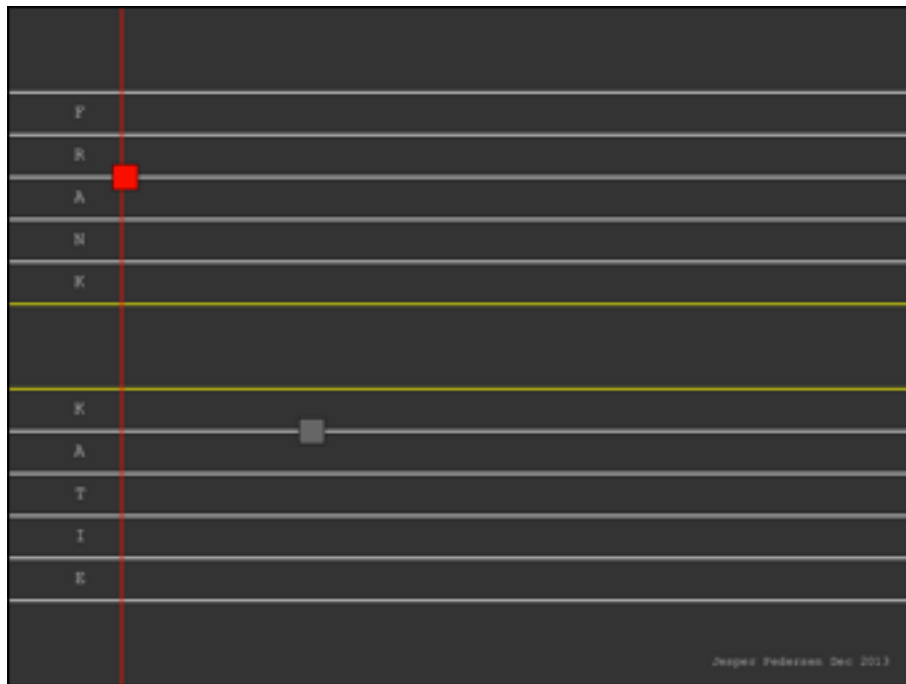
The pipes are held together with gaffer tape with pieces of corrugated cardboard for support. A nicer looking option is to hot glue the pipes together with pieces of 3-ply plywood glued across for support. Please observe that the pipes are to be assembled in the said order and not in a traditional ascending scale.

THE SCORE

The score for *Breathalyzer* uses animated notation rendered to a video file.



The score is not projected for the audience but read directly off a laptop screen or tablet.



screenshot of the animated score showing symbolic graphics moving from right to left

The white lines represent the pipes. Each line represent a pipe, read from bottom to top as pipes 1-5 (left to right).

The yellow lines represent the china cymbal (Frank) and honey dipper harp gong (Katie).

The notes are represented by squares moving horizontally from right to left. Play when the square hit the red line (the play head). One event equals one breath or one attack.

Dynamics: The piece is very quiet all the way through.