

Jesper Pedersen

# LASER CAT

piano and electronics

animated notation  
duration: 6:00



The piece was written for and premiered by Tinna Þorsteinsdóttir.

## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Good resolution low noise video projector mounted directly above the piano keyboard on a tall heavy duty light stand or in the ceiling pointing downwards on the piano keyboard.
- Computer capable of playing back video and audio.
- 2 Sound exciters (transducers) with stereo amplifier.
- Good subwoofer with lowpass filter.
- Slight amplification of the piano with two good condenser mics (depending on the size and acoustics of the venue).
- Optional video projection of the christmas cat eating the audience created by visual artist Halldór Úlfarsson.

## SETUP

The projector is mounted either on a tall light stand or in the ceiling in such a way that it faces downwards projecting onto the keyboard of the piano. The projector is to be set to 1024x768 resolution. It is important that the projector is set high enough above the piano so that it can project on the full range of the piano keyboard.

The projector should have a projection angle vs distance ratio to cover the entire keyboard of the piano. Careful adjustment is needed to fit the projected graphics onto the keyboard.

Sound exciters are taped to the soundboard underneath the piano so the piano also acts as a resonator for the electronic sound. A little experimentation is needed to find the sweet spot since it varies from instrument to instrument.

If it is not possible to tape anything to the piano, then substitute the sound exciters for smaller speakers placed on top of the sound holes in the metal frame inside the piano so that the sound makes the strings resonate. The goal is to make the electronic playback emerge from the piano itself and blend with it acoustically.

## COSTUME

The pianist is dressed up as a black cat wearing a long black tail, cat mask and ears. This will help the pianist getting into the role of being a cat.

## THE SCORE

The score uses animated graphic notation and that optimally is to be rendered in real time using the attached pd-patch and sound files. It can also be played back using a video file.

The score can be seen here: <http://vimeo.com/56595562>



## INSTRUCTIONS

The two red dots, or "lasers" move back and forth over the black and white keys. Follow the lasers. Colored boxes appears and when the lasers travel through them, the notes are played. Follow the movement and direction of the lasers. Playing style should be like a cat trying catch the red dot.

Play only when the laser(s) are inside a box.

When the whole keyboard turns yellow. Stop playing and immediately hit the sustain pedal hard. Resume hunting lasers when the keyboard goes back to the previous state.

The piece is one long crescendo and accelerando.

In the beginning the lasers move slowly and the performance is calm with the performer sneaking up on the notes.

As the piece progresses the lasers and boxes will move faster and faster making it more difficult to catch all the notes.

Fast moving green boxes are introduced with the purpose of distracting the performer further making the performance more erratic and louder.

Towards the end of the piece everything is loud chaos.