

Mind Control

Jesper Pedersen 2010

For multiple performers and cassette tape.
Duration: variable but not longer than 3 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS

Objective: to make a single note on the instruments sound by the use of the mind alone and consequently failing to do so.

Text to be read to the audience when the piece starts:

"This piece is called Mind Control by Jesper Pedersen. In it we will attempt to play our instruments by the force of the mind alone [performers point to head]. Since this is a very difficult task we ask you kindly to be very quiet during the performance. Takk fyrir."

The tape operator (one of the performers) press "Play" thereby starting the piece. The volume should be set to medium low.

The performer will focus on the note and try different approaches to reach the objective. It is important that it is done with great focus and concentration.

The level of tension in mind and body grows exponentially as the piece unfolds.

After a while the concentration and tension is so great that it breaks down because of the failure of making any notes sound.

The performer reacts to this failure by displaying disappointment and/or anger and/or by vocal outburst before hitting the note hard and leaving the stage disappointed and ashamed.

The performers should not end the piece together.

The last performer to give up ends the piece by stopping the cassette player and walking off stage.

