Merlijn Twaalfhoven

Play (2016)

Composed for Fifty for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire
**Play**

for String Quartet

Performance Notes

String Quartet by **Merlijn Twaalfhoven** (2016)
Commissioned by the Kronos Quartet for
*Fifty for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire*

Note for the players:

In this piece, the quartet invites the audience to add specific sounds to the music. It is important that this happens in a free, open, and natural way, without too much explanation or any kind of rehearsal.

My suggestion as an introduction for the audience: “In this piece you are welcome to join. We won’t explain exactly what to do, but we’ll invite you to “humm” with the harmonies at the beginning, and use your hands and feet for what will follow.”

All players are active in guiding the interaction with the audience. An effective sign can be to put your hand behind your ear, meaning: “I am listening.”

Violin I has a directing role, for example to point out sections in the audience that will copy sounds or rhythms from the specific players.

Keep in mind that this interaction is playful, but not funny. We should take the contribution of the audience seriously, create an atmosphere of tranquility and careful listening, and guide with dedication and precision.

I strongly encourage the performers to take the composition as a starting point for your own ideas and to play with the audience more! For example, you can build a further improvisation with rhythmical sounds of the audience around bar number 54.

It is also possible to perform without audience participation.
Before the start, ask:
"Can you Hum with us?"

Free tempo.
Invite parts of the audience to pick up the specific tones.
(For example left side with the cello, middle with the 2nd violin, right side with viola)

Listen to audience: are they humming?
Don't make a sign or invitation now, just create attention to the silence or soft humming.
Show all audience rhythm of cello: feet  
Sign to audience: "continue" on the string

Rhythm with feet: (keep it gentle and easy)
Put your instrument down
(You need both hands)
Sign to right side of audience: "look at viola"

Show right side audience rhythm of viola:
Clap on right

Put your instrument down
"continue"
Sign to left side of audience: "look at Violin II"
REPEAT AS MUCH AS NEEDED
to establish the rhythm with the audience.

Show left side audience rhythm of violin II:
High: Clap on thigh.
Low: stamping feet (left-right).

Sign to audience:
Low: stamping feet (left-right).

On cue V1
Play until cue V1

Give cue
"continue"
on the string

On cue V1
Play until cue V1

Only percussive sounds.
Put down your instrument.
High: clap on thigh.
Low: stamping feet.

Put down your bow.
Put down your bow.
Put down your bow.
Ad lib.: make this section longer
with variations on this rhythm

Stop! Hands in the air...
(Audience might need a few seconds to stop as well)

on the string

marcato

on the string

marcato

marcato

marcato

marcato

marcato

marcato

marcato

marcato

marcato

marcato
\[ x = \text{Rhythm with feet} \]
Bow down.
Feet: left-right. Invite audience to join.

Bow down.
Feet: left-right.

Bow down.
Feet: left-right.

Bow down.
Feet: left-right.

Bow down.
Feet: left-right.

High: With hand on thigh. Invite audience to join.

Feet: continue...

High: With hand on thigh. Invite audience to join.

Feet: continue...

Hand on thigh fade out....

Hand on thigh fade out....

Hand on thigh fade out....

Hand on thigh fade out....
Listen to audience: are there still sounds?
Let it happen and then, gently: make a sign:
"Silence"

Show you are listening to audience.
(for example put your hand behind your ear)
Let them humm for a bit more...

Merlijn Twaalfhoven / Play
Merlijn Twaalfhoven

Play (2016)

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Free tempo.
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middle with the 2nd violin, right side with viola)

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Play
for string quartet
Merlijn Twaalfhoven, 2016
50 for the Future
The Kronos Learning Repertoire

Before the start, ask:
"Can you Humm with us?"

Show all audience rhythm of cello: feet
(keep it gentle and easy)

Sign to audience:
"continue"

on the string

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Put your instrument down
(You need both hands)
Sign to right side of audience: "look at viola"

Show right side audience rhythm of viola:
Clap on thigh.

Sign to audience:
"continue"
Sign to left side of audience:
"look at Violin II"

REPEAT AS MUCH AS NEEDED to establish the rhythm with the audience
Show left side audience rhythm of violin II:
High: Clap on thigh.
Low: stamping feet (left-right).

Sign to audience:
"continue"
Give cue on the string

mp cres.

Only percussive sounds.
Put down your instrument.
High: clap on thigh.
Low: stamping feet.

Ad lib.: make this section longer with variations on this rhythm

Stop! Hands in the air...
(Audience might need a few seconds to stop as well)
Play by Merlijn Twaalfhoven

on the string

marcato

Bow down.
Feet: left-right. Invite audience to join.

High: With hand on thigh. Invite audience to join.
Feet: left-right...

Merlijn Twaalfhoven / Play
Play by Merlijn Twaalfhoven

Listen to audience: are there still sounds?
Let it happen and then, gently: make a sign:
"Silence"
Invite audience to humm with the players
Show you are listening to audience.
(for example put your hand behind your ear)
Let them humm for a bit more...
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It is also possible to perform without audience participation.
Before the start, ask:
"Can you Humm with us?"

Free tempo.
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(For example left side with the cello,
middle with the 2nd violin, right side with viola)

Before the start, ask:
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50 for the Future
The Kronos Learning Repertoire
Play by Merlijn Twaalfhoven

x = RHYTHM WITH FEET: left - right

REPEAT AS MUCH AS NEEDED
to establish the rhythm with the audience

Play until cue V1

On cue V1

f

mp cresc.

2
Only percussive sounds.
Put down your instrument.
High: clap on thigh.
Low: stamping feet.
Put down your bow.

Stop! Hands in the air...
(Audience might need a few seconds to stop as well)

Ad lib.: make this section longer with variations on this rhythm
Play by Merlijn Twaalfhoven

65

\( \text{on the string} \)

\( p \)

(Vln. 1)

67

\( \text{marcato} \)

\( f \)

69

\( x = \text{Rhythm with feet} \)

71

73

75

79

Bow down.

Feet: left-right.

\( pp \)

\( p \)
High: With hand on thigh. Invite audience to join.
Feet: left-right...

Hand on thigh fade out ....

pizz.
(V2: feet optional)
Listen to audience: are there still sounds?
Let it happen and then, gently: make a sign:
“Silence”

Show you are listening to audience.
(for example put your hand behind your ear)
Let them hum for a bit more.
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Viola

for string quartet

Merlijn Twalfhoven, 2016

50 for the Future

The Kronos Learning Repertoire

Free tempo.

Invite parts of the audience to pick up the specific tones.

(For example left side with the cello, middle with the 2nd violin, right side with viola)

Before the start, ask:
"Can you Humm with us?"

 tempo: 72 bpm

fade in double stop

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Rhythm with feet:
(keep it gentle and easy)

(turn page while tapping feet)
REPEAT AS MUCH AS NEEDED to establish the rhythm with the audience.

Only percussive sounds.
Put down your instrument.
High: clap on thigh.
Low: stamping feet.
Put down your bow.

Merlijn Twaalfhoven / Play
Ad lib.: make this section longer with variations on this rhythm

Stop! Hands in the air...
(Audience might need a few seconds to stop as well)
Bow down.
Feet: left-right.

High: With hand on thigh. Invite audience to join.
Feet: continue...

Hand on thigh fade out ....
Listen to audience: are there still sounds?
Let it happen and then, gently: make a sign: “Silence”

Show you are listening to audience.
(for example put your hand behind your ear)
Let them humm for a bit more...
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Before the start, ask:
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Violoncello

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REPEAT AS MUCH AS NEEDED
to establish the rhythm with the audience

On cue V1

Play until cue V1

On cue V1

Play by Merlijn Twaalfhoven
Only percussive sounds.
Put down your instrument.
High: clap on thigh.
Low: stamping feet.
Put down your bow.

Ad lib.: make this section longer
with variations on this rhythm

f
Stop! Hands in the air...
(Audience might need
a few seconds to stop as well)

P

x = Rhythm with feet

f

Bow down.
Feet: left-right.

pp
High: With hand on thigh. Invite audience to join. Feet: continue...

Sign to audience: “continue” pizz. mf, cresc. to f

cresc.

Listen to audience: are there still sounds? ff
Let it happen and then, gently: make a sign: “Silence”

Show you are listening to audience. (for example put your hand behind your ear)
Let them humm for a bit more...