

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 "hummm" 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.