

SUMMER GARDEN

for prepared tapes or electronics
and multi-channel sound system

Preparation

Visit the performance space on several occasions at the time of day that you intend to perform. Relax, listen, and compile a list of the sounds that you hear. Separate them into four categories: "occurring continuously," "intermittent but common" (occurring several times per visit), "infrequent" (once or twice per visit), and "rare" (occurring only once during all the listening).

Pick at least one sound from each category and prepare a very accurate imitation of each as it sounds at, or near, its source. You may tape-record the original sound, from as close to its source as possible. You may copy a facsimile from a sound-effects record. You may use electronic circuitry to synthesize the sound.

Connect each imitation to an amplifier and speaker. Provide yourself with controls that enable you to switch channels on and off without audible clicks or thumps and without affecting the volume settings. Place each speaker as close to its original sound's source as practical, where it cannot be seen by the audience. Assemble the imitations, amplifiers and controls on a table in front of the audience.

Set the initial volumes so that the imitations will

be barely audible to the audience. Then switch off all the channels.

Performance

Seat yourself behind the table. Listen for the sounds that you have chosen. Whenever you hear one, switch on its imitation; when the original stops, switch off the imitation.

Very slowly raise the gain of the amplifiers. The imitations should become as loud as the originals and then louder. Watch the audience carefully: once you sense that people are becoming aware of what you are doing, stop the performance. The number of "aware" people needed to terminate the performance is left to your discretion.

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