

Fluxkit Transcriptions – Sebastian Adams (v. 26/06/24)

A typist transcribes texts contained in a Fluxkit into musical notation, which is displayed to performers (and audience). The music notation, along with the typed text, is then used as a framework for improvising by a group of performers.

The technical apparatus the piece was written for is outlined below. Alternate performance methods which follow the spirit of the event score but ignore the technical requirements would also be acceptable (for example, I could imagine a handwritten version where a scribe writes a transcription by hand onto manuscript paper, with a video camera projecting a view of their writing to the audience, and where the scratchings of the scribe's pen are amplified)

REQUIRED:

This piece relies on the ChatMusic software environment I developed, which was worked out conceptually by Carl Ludwig Hübsch and me starting in 2016. The first performance used the v. 0.7.4.3 of the software, with minor bug fixes that were incorporated into the next version. The departures from the initial settings in that version were as follows: Technique and Instrument text was hidden; mirrored video was turned off. Command changes (to affect notation parameters) were executed by typing commands separately to text phrases. This software is open source and available from me (currently not published).

To play this piece, you also need to get or make a Fluxkit. A Fluxkit is a collection of event scores stored in a container (e.g. Water Yam by George Brecht). I made the piece with the Fluxkits Kirkos created in 2016 in mind, and used one of these to play the premiere. If you don't have access to a Fluxkit, you could make one, for example by cutting up parts of the Fluxus Workbook (freely available online e.g. on the Monoskop website) and placing them in a box.

The performers and the audience should both be able to see the notation. In the premiere, this was achieved by splitting a video signal to two projectors, one behind the audience, the other behind the performers.

PREMIERE:

The first performance of this piece was played by Lina Andonovska, Hannah Miller, Adam Collins and Yseult Cooper Stockdale (as Kirkos) on 25.06.24 as part of an Irish Composers' Collective concert in Unit 44, Dublin. I was the typist for the performance.

TECHNICAL NOTE:

ChatMusic is designed to run on MacOS under Max 8.4, but should also run on Windows 10. If the patch no longer works or is not accessible, an equivalent could be created using any software that can convert text into musical notation in real-time (i.e. through an algorithm that translates the text into pitches and rhythms using a cipher). Another example is available (at the time of writing) at stolenmusic.org/thoughtmusic.

The exact parameters and cipher available in the software are not especially important for this piece.