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Elastic Semantic Transfer (2020) for

KNM Berlin

First, transferred from the mind to handwriting, and then to sound. When stretching a word, semantic field is lost, but with a simple instruction, a new meaning expressed in sound emerges.

Before the performance, choose at least one very short and one very long word in any language (a collection of pairs is valid too). At any moment, any performer may walk towards the microphone and perform the following actions:

Approach slow and confident to the station, turn on the little lamp, write the word down (table is amplified with a contact mic) and speak the chosen word in the following manner:

Performer 1

Vowel(s)

-5-8" Between sung and spoken. As natural as possible, improvise ad lib melismatic microtonal inflections accenting deviations.

After a small comma, speak the contiguous consonant.

Do this till you finish the word (vowels' duration will gradually become shorter).

Turn off the lamp.

After the pause, another performer (or the same one), may approach the table, turn on the lamp, write a word etc...alternate short and long words.

Consonants

All consonants should be short except for one:

Elongate only one consonant per word (You may play around with the shape of your mouth in order to make different filter shapes):

rrr (trill, performing it gutturally is a good option as well) f, s, sh
(fricative)

n, m (nasal)

or

Repeat randomly one fricative: ch, pf

If the word begins with a consonant pronounce it independently.

If two vowels are together or are pronounced as a combination perform them like that.

Other performer(s)

Respond to performer 1 in either of these two manners (not every performer should answer every time):

- Every performer who has an instrument that can sustain a tone should respond to consonants after 3-5", start with any pitch (do not constrain to equal temperament), improvise ad lib microtonal inflections accenting deviations.
With either an exponential crescendo or decrescendo from/to n or fff or vice versa.
Durations will increase in an organic-nonlinear manner from 1-3" to 5-10" within every word.
Some instruments may leave the instrument vibrate after reaching fff, but most should stop the instrument abruptly.
Different timbres may be employed, that is up to the performers.

- Every performer who can produce a percussive or a complex sound may respond immediately or wait up to 2" after a consonant. Events may be short or last up to 8 seconds.

