

Collective Composition for Multiple Violas

Created at the American Viola Society Festival 2016 “Exploring New Pathways”

Oberlin College and Conservatory: June 8 – 10, 2016

Guided and Facilitated by Violist/Composers Alexis Bacon and Stephanie Griffin, with Gwen Franz, Klaus Froese, Chris Gokelman, Christopher Luther and Rachel Mooers

Duration: ca. 7 minutes

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Instructions</u>
Slowly shifting long tone harmonies	Each player chooses a pitch and plays it softly for the entire duration of one bow. With little or no pause between notes, each player then takes on a pitch that is being played by another musician.
Transition: Popping Notes	The musicians begin to play notes that pop out of the texture, starting within the prevailing pitch pool, then opening up to include other pitches and registers.
Awkward Silences	As the popping notes take over the texture, the musicians gradually discontinue any long sustained tones, resulting in silences: moments of pregnant pause and tension.
Gesturing	“Conduction” moments: During this section any musician can lead improvisational gestures through conducting or by leading from the viola.
Groove	One musician sets up a simple quarter note pulse and the others gradually layer rhythmic “riffs” over it.
Viola Repertoire Outbursts	The groove continues, but with spontaneous spasms and outbursts from the standard viola repertoire.
Percussive Sounds	When the moment seems right, one musician begins using percussive sounds. This is the cue for the Repertoire Outbursts to end. Everyone joins in on percussive sounds and fades out to end.