for Chester Greenwood

to be sung by at least 20 voices

yvan vander sanden

Prepare

Singers should agree on a vowel or consonant to sing, five minutes before going on stage. I recommend you use the I Ching for best results, but other methods can be tried just as well.

Once on stage, examine the conductor. If it looks like he will not be able to suppress his urge to conduct, sing with your eyes closed.

Start

If all is quiet, start singing the timbre agreed upon. Female singers start at 330 Hz, male singers at 220 Hz. All the singing should be done very softly. The tones should be very long, only interrupted for breathing. (*Try not to breathe at the same time as the singer next to you does.*)

Enjoy the sound of a perfect fifth for a very long time. You may occasionally want to double or halve the frequency you're singing.

Evolve

When you feel like at least five minutes have passed, put your earmuffs on. Please make an effort to find earmuffs with good noise reduction. If you have difficulty finding earmuffs, you could also use acoustic earplugs.

At this point, be convinced that you're singing the correct pitch all the time. Other people may deviate from it, but yours is right. Do not pay attention to what you hear. Do not use a tuning fork.

Close

After another VERY long time, take out your earplugs. Keep singing the same pitch for a while.

Start listening to the frequency of your left neighbour. After a few breaths, change to this frequency. You may also double or halve it again, especially if the singer to your left is not of the same voice type. Keep tracking this singer's pitch. If s/he changes it, follow after your next breath.

If there is no one to your left, just keep singing your own frequency until you hear another frequency is becoming very dominant. Then change to that frequency after your next breath.

When there is only one pitch left *(octaves may occur)*, keep singing this for a short while, then stop. The music ends here.

A choreography could be added to the music. In any case the visual aspect should be Dadaistic. Do not try to mystify the experience. And certainly do not light any candles!