

Marc Sabat/John Oswald

pier

for ships' horns

PLAINSOUND MUSIC EDITION

pier (1996)

*for any number of ships' horns operated by air compressors
written by Marc Sabat & John Oswald for the
ships of St. John's Harbour, Newfoundland
premiered at Sound Symposium 1996
duration: 5 minutes*

Instructions:

All horns should be operated by air compressors which may conceivably run out of air during the performance, creating timbral changes.

Each ship has a performer and a timekeeper. Timekeepers co-ordinate the beginning and ending of the piece by radio contact with each other and stopwatch. During the 5 minute duration of the piece, they indicate the beginning and ending to the performers.

Each performer executes the same instructions at their own tempo, depending on the nature of the individual ship's horn:

Play 99 short blasts at a steady tempo as fast as possible so each is clearly heard and separated from the others.

Segue immediately to 1 long sustained blast until the 5 minute mark is given. Sustain even if the air compressor begins to lose pressure.

