

# ***SIMULSCRIBE***

[part IV of the ongoing **TASK** series]

Ryan Carraher (2020)

---

- It is not necessary to be a professional musician to perform this work, it may be performed by any interested party.

- Requirements

- A large table
- A chair
- A short memorized text
- Two pieces of paper (can be loose pieces of paper, a notebook opened to a blank page, a small notepad, a piece of cardboard, etc.)<sup>1</sup>
- Two writing utensils
- A metronome (the metronome is to be heard by the audience)
- (optional) contact microphone(s) to amplify the table's surface
- (optional) two webcams displayed through two screens
- (optional) a blindfold if you're feeling dramatic

- Instructions

- (1) Place one piece of paper and one writing utensil on each end of the table;
- (2) Sit down at the center of the table and start the metronome (the metronome can be set to any speed you wish but it will remain unchanged throughout the performance and should not be loud or distracting);
- (3) Fully extend both arms parallel to the floor (like an airplane);
- (4) Keeping your arms extended, cross one over the other and pick up the writing utensils (one in each hand)<sup>2</sup>;
- (5) Face forward or place your head on the table (as if you were sleeping) and close your eyes;
- (6) For each metronome pulse three (3) events happen simultaneously:
  - (I) Speak one (1) letter from the memorized text;
  - (II) Write one (1) letter that is ***different from the one you are speaking*** with your right hand;
  - (III) Write one (1) letter that is ***different from both the one you are speaking AND the one produced by your right hand***, with your left hand;
- (7) Continue one letter at a time until the entire memorized text has been spelled out.

---

<sup>1</sup> The two pieces of paper need not be the same size and/or material.

<sup>2</sup> Due to the crossing, your right hand should be on your left side and your left hand should be on your right side. Each hand is holding a writing utensil and positioned over the pieces of paper. Remain fully extended.

- Additional Comments
  - This task will produce failures and hesitations, this is intended and encouraged!
  - You may become displaced from the beat, this is okay, simply find your way back to it (if you choose to do so).
  - The text is always spoken/spelled as it is written (i.e. do not speak the letters out of order)
  - Regarding the letters you write, they do not need to be part of a word, they must be different from the spoken letter and the other written letter. For example, let's define the memorized text as "the dog". A possible realization of the first two events would be: (1) speaking the letter "T" while the right hand writes "Q" and the left hand writes "G"; (2) speaking the letter "H" while the right hand writes "F" and the left hand write "P". All these events occur on the metronome impulse.
  - If you choose to use the contact microphones, the sounds of the writing should be mildly amplified
  - If you choose to use the webcams and screens: one webcam should be positioned over each piece of paper so the audience can see the letters being written.
  
- If a performance of this task is being staged please contact me ([ryan@ryancarraher.com](mailto:ryan@ryancarraher.com)) with any questions or concerns.
- This task can be performed live or documented as a video recording, a written commentary about your performance experience, or not documented at all.