

Alvin Luera

In Memoriam for Higgins

IN MEMORIAM JON HIGGINS
for clarinet in A
and slow sweep, pure wave oscillator

DESCRIPTION

A pure wave oscillator sweeps the frequency range of the clarinet, taking 20 minutes to do so. The clarinetist plays long tones across the ascending wave, producing audible beats between the sounds of the clarinet and the slowly rising pure wave. The beats occur at speeds determined by the distances between the sounds. The farther apart, the faster the beating; at unison no beating occurs. Furthermore, the beats may be heard to spin in elliptical patterns through space.

OSCILLATOR

A slow sweep, pure wave oscillator is routed through an amplifier to a single loudspeaker, positioned Stage Right. The sweep width is set from 130.8 Hz to 1244.5 Hz; the sweep rate at 30 seconds per semitone. At the beginning of the performance the volume of the amplifier is raised from zero to a level at which the audible beats are vivid for listeners; then the wave is allowed to sweep upward uninterruptedly and without alteration for the duration of the performance. It is faded out a few seconds after it has reached its upper limit and the clarinetist has stopped playing.

CLARINET

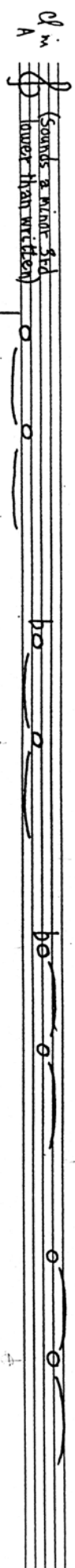
The clarinetist sits Stage Left, opposite the loudspeaker. He or she starts and stops his or her tones simultaneously with the oscillator pitches notated directly beneath them. If necessary, a chromatic tuner is used to help the player locate the oscillator pitches precisely. A volume level is chosen which produces the most vivid beating. In cases where the tones cannot be held their full duration, the clarinetist shortens them equally from both ends.

Alvin Lucier
Newport Beach, California
3/20/87

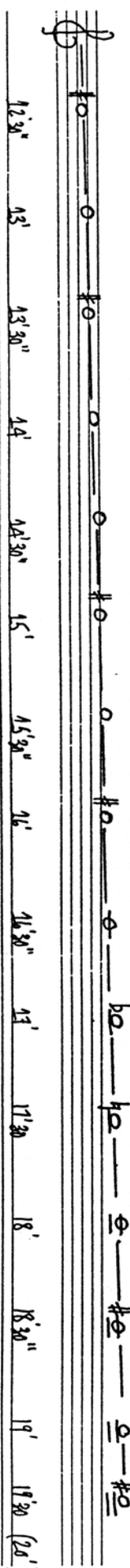
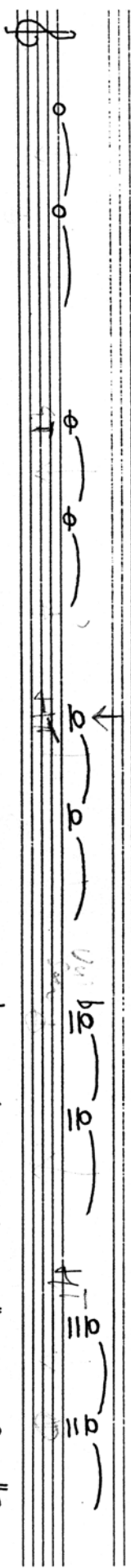
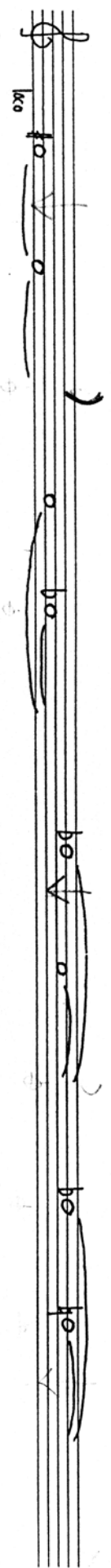
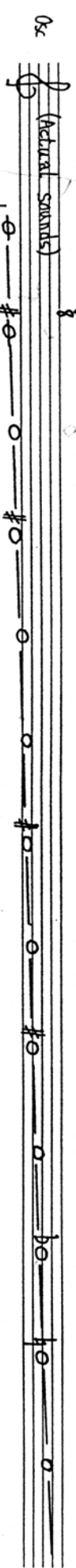
Clarinet in A

IN MEMORIAM JON HIGGINS
FOR
CLARINET IN A
AND SLOW SWEEP PORE WAVE OSCILLATOR

Cl^m
A
(Sounds a minor 5th lower than written)



Os
(Actual sounds)



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