

/SOUCH/DRON/HUM/

For SSA, AM Radio & Objects

Preparation:

- One AM radio, tuned to static
- 3x objects
- Performers should stand in a line across the stage, with the radio in front, on the floor (centre stage)
- Stopwatch(es)
- 'Modules' page - containing guide pitches, vocabulary, and object suggestions

This piece is intended to have a very soft dynamic throughout. In larger spaces, 3x microphones for vocals (& objects), and 1x microphone for AM radio will be required.

Performance:

Start stopwatch(es), then:

- Hum pitches *pianissimo* lasting as long as **one breath**. Begin on one of the guide pitches on the 'modules' page
*Subsequent pitches should be **very** close to the original (less than quarter-tone) - direction of pitch at performer's discretion*
- Stagger your entries, gradually
- Blow long breaths** occasionally
- Pause as you wish
- Pitches amongst the trio should not move towards any particular tonality; '**microtonal**' **beatings** are encouraged

After **60-100 seconds**, speak any of the Scots & Gaelic words from the 'modules' page, *pianissimo*
Each word should take the length of a breath to complete

- Blow long breaths occasionally
- Stop and start as you wish
- Pitches as with the hummed notes, but **spoken matter-of-factly**
- Feel free to speak the definitions of the words on the 'Modules' page, if you wish (any pitch, conversational)

After **one more minute (from first utterance of spoken words; approx. 2:00 - 2:40)**, the performer in the centre will turn on the radio. Static will sound

- At the same dynamic as the performers
- The radio remains on for the remainder of the piece**

Once the radio has been switched on, **all singers pause**, then either:

- Make stuttered '**t**' sounds; **arrhythmic**, like ice melting
- Manipulate the chosen objects **with extreme care**. Make quiet, slow crunching sounds

Continue these actions **for one to two minutes**, then **stop one by one**, gradually

Turn off the radio after a time.

Total duration 4-5'

MODULES

Pitches, words, and possible objects

Radio provided by the composer. Objects provided on request

There are no parts, as such - all performers choose material freely from each of the categories below.

PITCHES

Hum **one** of these pitches **piannissimo**, the length of a breath. Each hum should be microtonally higher or lower than the last, if possible. Aim for less than a quarter-tone difference on each subsequent pitch.



WORDS

Souch - the sound of the wind; a long breeze
(soo-ch. 'ch' as in 'loch')

Dron - Drone; often referring to bagpipes
(roll 'r' slightly, if possible)

Wheesk - creak softly; footsteps in snow
(wee-shk)

Dreich - gloomy, oppressive weather
(dree-ch. 'ch' as in 'loch'. roll 'r' if possible)

Cailleach - Celtic Goddess of Winter
(ka-lee-ach. 'ch' as in 'loch')

OBJECTS

-The radio is required and will be provided by the composer

Other possible objects for manipulation (one per performer, any combination):

Manipulate these in any way, in order to make quiet, crunching sounds. Like footsteps on snow, or melting ice.

- Aluminium foil
- Tracing paper
- Bubble wrap
- Packing peanuts in a small cardboard box
- Pine cones