

ferric

for ensemble entropy and mark sanders. by phil maguire (2017)
baritone saxophone // alto flute // drums // computer

all performers use stopwatches

ferric is comprised of two 'sides', of equal length (5 mins each side, with a 10 second pause in between)

*a*_drone

*b*_noise

side a

performers *start stopwatches*

saxophone and flute play a *pianissimo* drone on *concert A5*. computer plays a *sine wave* drone on the *same pitch*

the drummer has a *speaker underneath a tom drum*, connected to a microphone, which will feed back when held close to the drum. they should *improvise with the feedback*, creating an unstable drone, *perhaps by pressing* on the drum, and *maintaining the same pianissimo dynamic* of the other performers (tones with beatings are possible and should be sought out)

saxophone, flute, and computer will *very gradually drift in pitch*, straying no more than an approximate *50 cents* from the original pitch (approx. quarter-tone)

continue for the remainder of side a. *after 5 minutes, all performers stop* in unison, and *pause for 10 seconds* (the speaker can be switched off)

side b

after the 10 second pause, side b begins

all performers should strive to *begin side b in unison*, at the same *pianissimo* dynamic as side a

saxophone, flute, and computer create noise akin to *vinyl crackle* and *scratched CDs*. this can be produced however they see fit

the *intensity and density* of these sounds should *increase throughout* the duration of side b, *maintaining the same dynamic*, and culminating in a *saturated noise texture*

the *drummer* will begin side b by playing a *snare roll*, at the same *pianissimo* dynamic as side a

they are then *free to drift* from this through the duration of side b, *expanding across the kit* however they wish, *maintaining the same dynamic*, and culminating in a *saturated noise texture*

as side b progresses, the *overall texture* should be as *dense/tense/strained a fabric of noise* as possible

after 5 minutes, side b, and the piece, end

all performers should *strive to end in unison, abruptly*