SONIC FRUIT & VEG MACHINE

CONCEPT
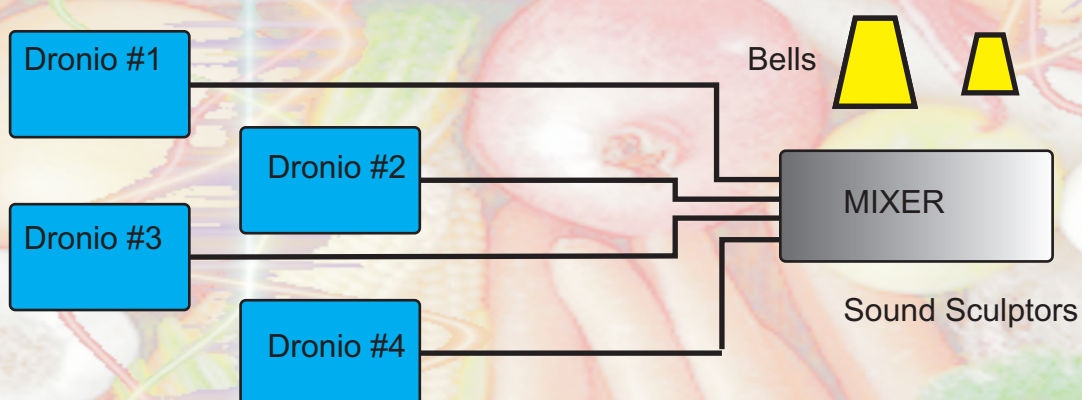
This ambient piece is based upon the level of digestive activity of four or five vegan friends and it was written during the Welsh "Firebreak" lockdown during the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020. It aims to create the opportunity for an audience to become participants in the live performance, regardless of their level of musical ability, by following simple instructions to produce a collective output and a sense of communal well being.

The piece uses four custom made "Dronioes". These are metal boxes, each with three pairs of spikes on the top. Each spike is connected to a square-wave oscillator whose frequency changes when a piece of fruit or veg is impaled on them.

There are four Dronioes, each representing a particular householders digestion. At this time the behaviour rules are a maximum of four people at a table so we have one Dronio on each of four tables, each with four people. Each Dronio is wired remotely to a mixer where sound sculptors will gradually modulate the outputs.

The sound sculptors will also act as the system clock marking time with two bells. Whilst the piece will last about 20 minutes real-time the score progresses against approximate "half hour" clock chimes mirroring the consumers waking hours. Hours marked by the clang of a bell; half hour by a smaller bell.

LAYOUT

Dronio #1 — Dronio #2 — Dronio #3 — Dronio #4 — MIXER — Bells — Sound Sculptors

METHOD

As we are basing the score on digestive tract activity there will always be some base noise occurring.
We start at 7.00am with the first chime and the basic drone of the four Dronioes.
From then on the participants observe the hour and half hour chimes and follow the part which matches the identity on their Dronioes.
When the score specifies a fruit or veg then pick up a sample and press it down on a pair of spikes.
If the part is blank remove the fruit or veg.
If there are more than 3 items in the score try swapping some items during the allotted time period.
Continue this process until 9.00 p.m. when everyone will finish with a slice of lime

Lyndon Owen 9/11/2020