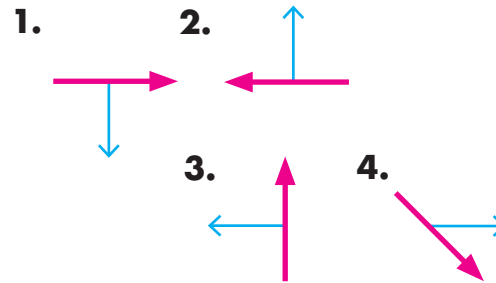# *this used to be something else (II)*

varun kishore

Phonetic text scores originally created for exploratory drone improvisation using electric guitar, ebow, and synthesizers are reimagined for saxophone and percussion. Performers interpret short fragments of text as sound, ranging from recognizable vowels to abstract groups of letters, creating textures that offer a different perspective on the idea of the drone.

The idea is to read these text-sounds as one would read words. The next step is to mentally/imaginatively translate these text fragments into sound, and then perform this imagined sound with an instrument—this is almost always an approximation or abstraction of the sound in your head.

how to navigate the score:

1. Each sound is read left to right (magenta arrow); the grid is read top to bottom (cyan arrow):
"EEE, EEE, YOOEE, AI, AI, AI".

2. Each sound is read right to left (magenta arrow); the grid is read bottom to top (cyan arrow):
"IA, IA, IA, EEEOOY, EEE, EEE".

3. Each sound is read bottom to top (magenta arrow); the grid is read right to left (cyan arrow):
"IEE, AEE, IEE, AOE, IOE, AYE"

4. Each sound is read top left to bottom right (magenta arrow); the grid is read left to right (cyan arrow):
"EOA, EOI, EEA, EEI, EE, E".

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E	E	E	E	E	E
Y	O	O	E	E	E
A	I	A	I	A	I
O	O	O	O	O	O
A	A	A	A	A	A
W	A	A	O	O	W
Z	M	M	Z	M	M
Y	U	Y	U	Y	U
U	N	N	U	N	N
G	N	G	N	G	N

Proceed through the grid as indicated by the sequence of arrows. Repeat/explore each fragment for as long as you like. Lines between sounds denote attack points. No lines = indeterminate note length/attack. Magenta letters are optional.

If possible, use a loop pedal to record and layer fragments as you go.

FX: at least delay and reverb, but anything else is fair game (especially if it helps some of the more abstract sounds/wacky letter groupings). POG-style octave/pitch-shifting and some kind of filtering might work well.

SAXOPHONE

1. 2. 3. 4.

5. 6. 7. 8.
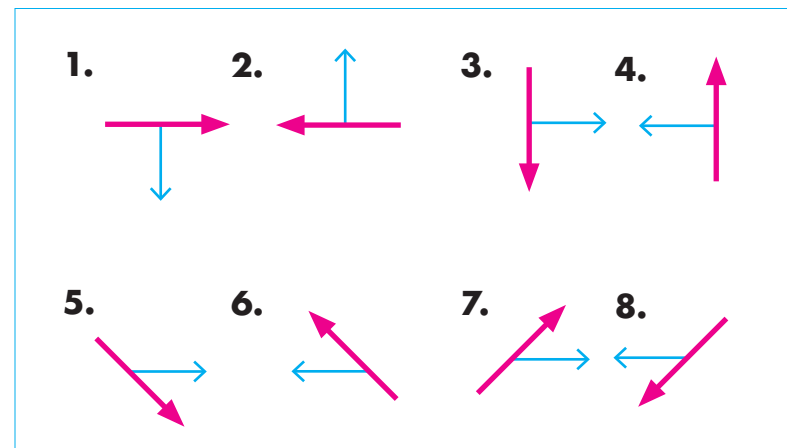
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Proceed through the grid as indicated by the sequence of arrows. Two-letter fragments in boxes denote single hits, six-letter fragments are phrases. You can play anything you like to realize your mental interpretation of the phrase (multiple drums, rolls, etc). Repeat/explore each fragment/phrase for as long as you like, and feel free to apply rhythm to each fragment or groups of fragments. Magenta letters are optional.

The grid on the right is a collection of entirely optional single hits that may be combined with the main grid at any time—direction arrows only apply to the main grid.

Instruments: any reasonably practical collection of drums and cymbals will work, though it would be great to have some combination of bass drum/toms/snares/fun pitched percussion.