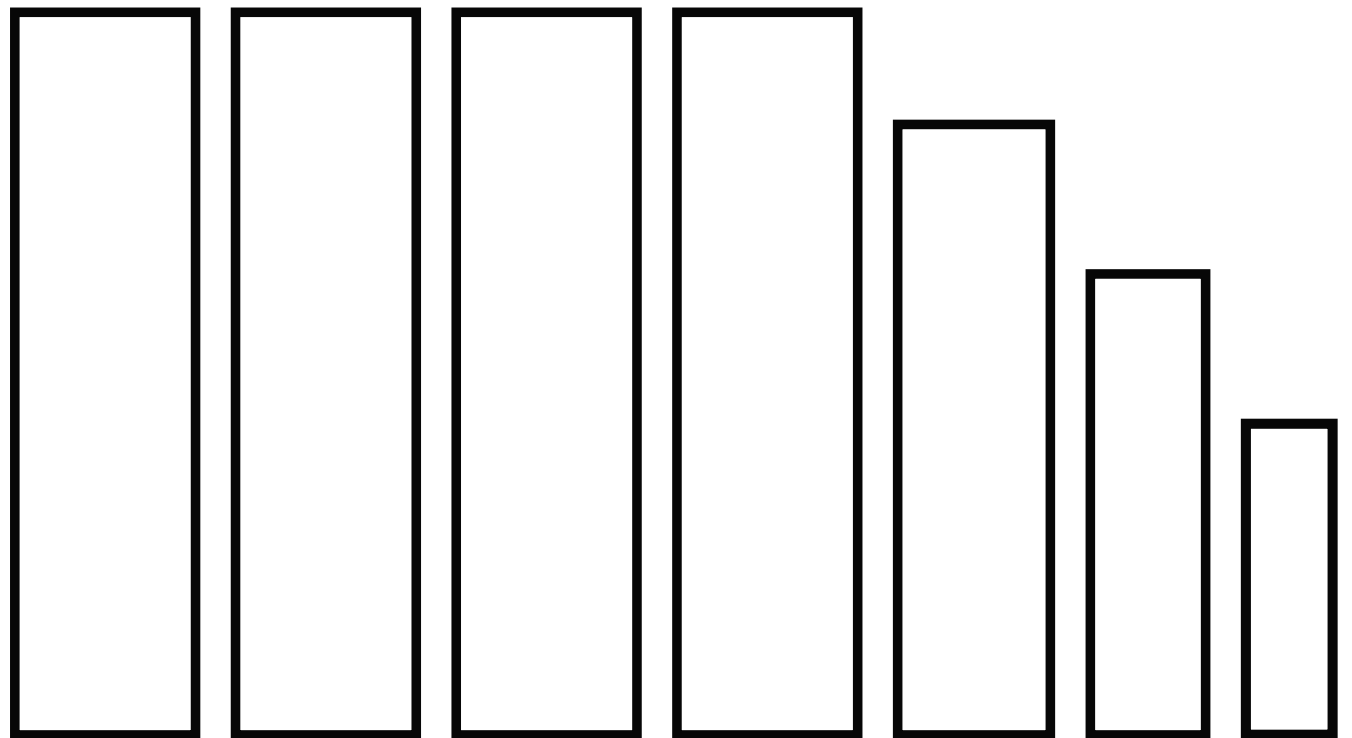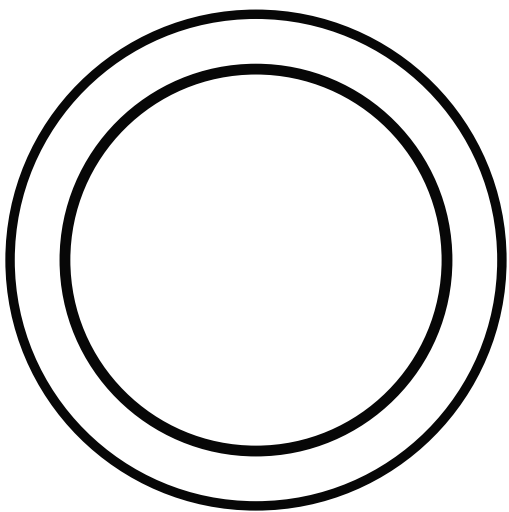# FOR PERCUSSION

James M. Creed, summer 2022

notes on *For Percussion*

As is obvious, these pieces are very silly – a bad joke proceeding to fall in on itself (in the last, the joke is more of the material than the material is). Like most silly pieces, they work best if played very seriously. If programmed with the Tenney and the Lucier (in the programme order given later) they form an hour-ish concert of steady-pulse percussion music that draws attention to the particular instruments, player and space without making a big deal about any of them at any particular point – this is more interesting to me than either the joke or the pieces, but also more interesting to me than the Tenney or the Lucier (which are two very interesting pieces, regardless).
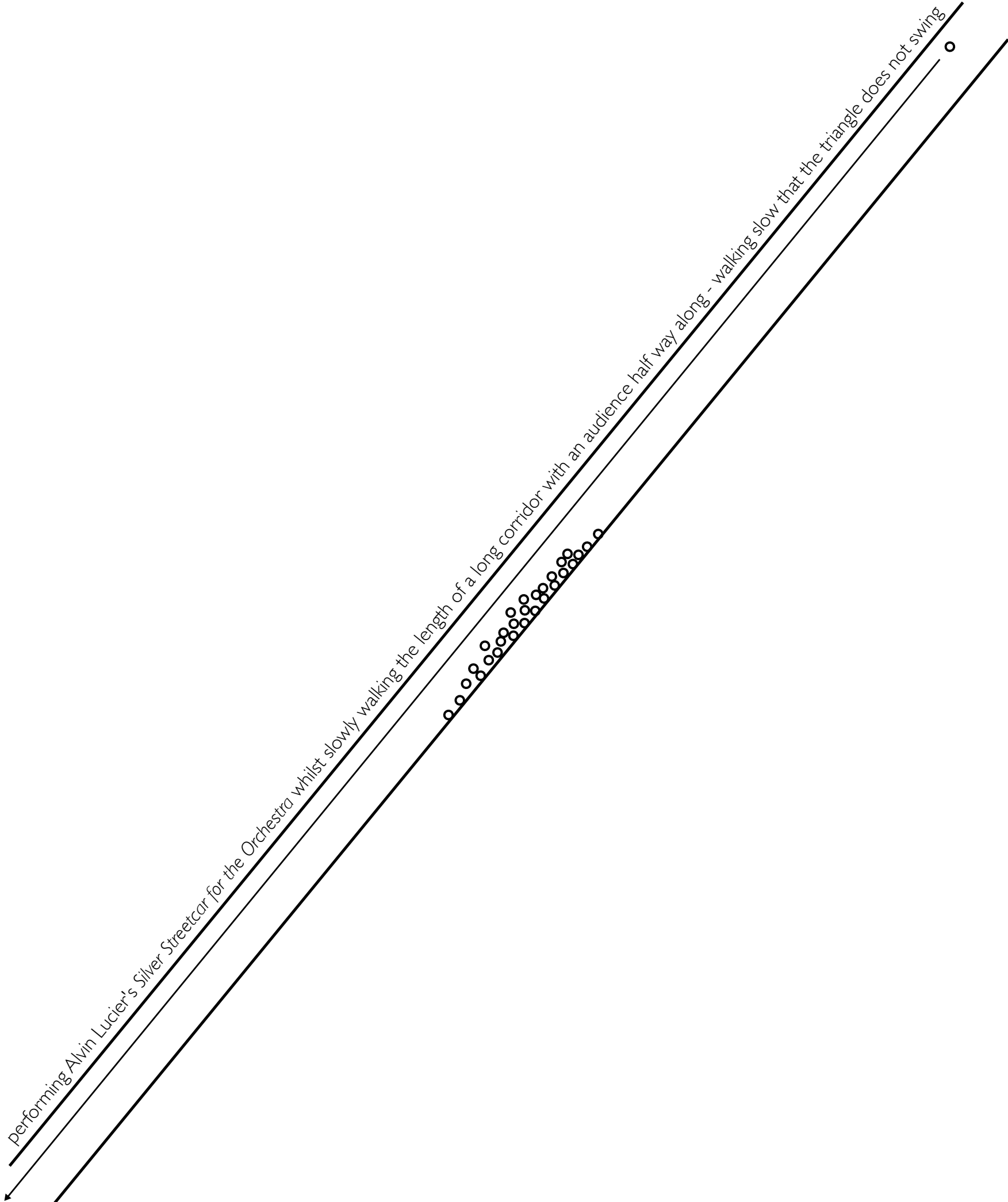
contents

HAVING ONLY SEEN THE SCORE FOR JAMES TENNEY'S *HAVING NEVER WRITTEN A NOTE FOR PERCUSSION* WHILST HAVING NEVER SEEN THE SCORE FOR ALVIN LUCIER'S *SILVER STREETCAR FOR THE ORCHESTRA*

HAVING NOW SEEN THE SCORE FOR ALVIN LUCIER'S *SILVER STREETCAR FOR THE ORCHESTRA* (WHICH I HAD ALREADY HEARD) WHILST HAVING STILL ONLY SEEN THE SCORE FOR JAMES TENNEY'S *HAVING NEVER WRITTEN A NOTE FOR PERCUSSION*

for tam tam
with soft mallet
♩ = 60

struck repeatedly at *mf* and louder, the tam tam sounds pretty similar wherever you hit it
(well, not strictly similar - similarly complex; similarly unsimilar)
at *p*, the timbres of different impact areas are more distinct, or, their differences are more stable

find two areas of the tam tam with clearly different timbres when struck at *p*
begin with one, under cover of *mf* (⌞_____⌟) move to the other, etc.

HAVING AT LAST HEARD JAMES TENNEY'S *HAVING NEVER WRITTEN A NOTE FOR PERCUSSION* (WHICH I HAD ALREADY READ) AND ALSO SEEN THE SCORE FOR ALVIN LUCIER'S *SILVER STREETCAR FOR THE ORHESTRA* (WHICH I HAD ALREADY HEARD)

performing Alvin Lucier's Silver Streetcar for the Orchestra whilst slowly walking the length of a long corridor with an audience half way along - walking slow that the triangle does not swing

Programming suggestion for *Having only...*, *Having now...*, and *Having at last...*:

_____ _____ , percussion

_____

___ / ___ / _____

-

[the score for James Tenney's *Having Never Written a Note for Percussion* is projected and/or distributed]

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Silver Streetcar for the Orchestra
Alvin Lucier, 1988

-

Having only seen the score for James Tenney's *Having Never Written a Note for Percussion*
whilst having never seen the score for Alvin Lucier's *Silver Streetcar for the Orchestra*
James M. Creed, 2022

-

[the score for Alvin Lucier's *Silver Streetcar for the Orchestra* is projected and/or distributed]

-

Having now seen the score for Alvin Lucier's Silver *Streetcar for the Orchestra* (which I had already heard)
whilst having still only seen the score for James Tenney's *Having Never Written a Note for Percussion*
James M. Creed, 2022

-

Having Never Written a Note for Percussion
James Tenney, 1971

-

Having at last heard James Tenney's *Having Never Written a Note for Percussion* (which I had already read)
and also seen the score for Alvin Lucier's *Silver Streetcar for the Orchestra* (which I had already heard)
James M. Creed, 2022

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