

The 120 Days of Sodom / Must We Burn Sade?

For narrator and multiple players (any instruments).

Durations: variable.

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First Movement (de Sade)

The narrator turns to a random page of de Sade's text and starts reading.

At any point a player may respond musically to the narration (at which point the narration stops). Play what you desire and for as long as you desire.

If more than one player responds, each should play for as long or short a duration as they desire, responding to other players or not as they desire.

If particularly moved to do so, other players may join in, keeping in mind the text that immediately preceded the musical response.

All responses to the narration have equal weight: excitement, amusement, disgust, boredom, a desire to silence the narrator, etc.

Performers should feel free to allow their faces and body language to express their responses to all aspects of this performance at all times.

Second Movement (de Beauvoir)

Follow the instructions for the First Movement but using de Beauvoir's essay 'Must we Burn Sade?'

Structure

Optionally, a previously agreed equal number of text narration for each movement could lend a nice symmetry to the piece. Length of texts read and musical responses need not have equal length for the two movements. (A perfectly 'valid' performance might consist of players cutting short every reading of de Sade within moments, playing short responses with a second half consisting of whole pages of de Beauvoir's work read with elaborate musical responses, for example. Or vice versa.)