

timbral sketch for bassoon and bass

For two players.

Durations: variable.

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Individual tones throughout the piece should have as regular as possible timbre and loudness for their duration. The same pitch should be used for both instruments throughout.

Bassoon: a single, clear and moderately loud tone for one full breath.

An equal amount of silence.

Bass: a single, clear and moderately loud tone for an approximately equal time.¹

An equal amount of silence.

Bassoon: a single, clear and moderately loud tone for one full breath.

Bass: starting immediately as the bassoon tone finishes; a single, clear and moderately loud tone for an approximately equal time.

Bassoon and bass now alternate tones in this manner, playing directly after one another. Each tone should strive to move (almost) imperceptibly closer to the timbre of the previous (other player's) tone.

(Focus only on the previously played tone, giving no heed to what has come before.)

Repeat this process to the limit of the players' technical (and aural) skills.

A silence.

The process in reverse; taking an approximately equal time, starting to move away from each other slowly at first, but accelerating the differences over time, exploring as wide a timbral range as possible.

¹ This might be facilitated by following your actual breath; or not.