

mirabile dictu

eldritch Priest
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Instruments and equipment:

- one amplified melodica (preferably miced and run through a small amplifier.)

Effected sounds:

A) medium/slow moving modulating effect altering the pitch by no more than a third of a tone (66 cents). A kind of slow warble with a slight delay. B) a 'tremolo' or 'rotating Leslie speaker type' effect with a medium/fast rate.

- Three stereo systems each with a CD player (numbers 1-3) with a random/shuffle function that does not repeat tracks and stops after all the tracks on the CD have been played.

- Another CD player is needed to run into a separate guitar amplifier.

- Dictaphone

performance:

In each stereo CD player number 1 2 3 should be placed CD "1", "2", "3" respectively. In the CD player that runs into the guitar amplifier should be placed CD "4". The melodica should be amplified by a microphone and fed through the effects machine on setting "A". The performer should be seated upon the floor with the microphone resting in front of the melodica. The Dictaphone is near at hand.

The performance begins with the activation of the four CD players set to play on random/shuffle. (Each CD from 1-3 has the same material over 99 tracks {sinetones, other noises and silence}; however, each has a slight difference in overall length. CD "4" is a number of solo guitar tracks and silence.)

The performer plays meandering/wandering lines for the first 33 minutes of the work, moving from a 'busy', mostly chromatic wandering, to a 'sparsely' shifting pentatonic minor meandering.

At 33'00 the performer pauses.

At 40'00" the performer places the Dictaphone near the amplified source of the melodica and begins to record. At 43'00" the melodica returns (with effect 'B') playing a certain cluster of notes beginning (F F# G# A#) in a short long (. _) rhythm and transposing this cluster to new keys at irregular times. A few single notes should interrupt this sequence from time to time until 53'00".

At 53'00 the melodica begins a slowly descending single note motion that is mostly chromatic. At the same time the performer rewinds the Dictaphone to the beginning, places it next to the microphone amplifying the melodica, and plays the tape. The melodica continues in its descending fashion; however, when the chords from the 43'00"-53'00" begin sounding from the Dictaphone, the performer, whenever they perceive a modulation, should alter his/her descent by rising a perfect fifth from the note they are presently sounding. The performer continues this descending and rising play until the Dictaphone reaches the end of the recorded material.