

Discretions for Ensemble (July - November 2015) – Clinton Green

After Clinton Green and Barnaby Oliver's Discretions performance, Conduit Arts, 31 July 2015.

For 5 or more improvising performers (musicians, dancers). Short improvisations are performed in a variety of combinations decided by pre-arranged playing times. Playing times are cued by pre-set alarms on mobile phones.

Performance Space

A social situation with conversation, eating and/or drinking (lunch break at a festival, for example).

Instrumentation

Any. Dancers and other improvising performers should also be encouraged to participate.

Each performer must also have a mobile phone that can have multiple alarms set that alert with vibration (not sound).

Duration

30-60 minutes

Structure/method

The facilitator chooses at least 5 times during the performance for each performer as cues for their improvisations. Each cue should be shared with at least one other performer. Each performer is informed of their own performance times, and either they or the facilitator sets these as alarms in the performer's mobile phone prior to the performance. The phone is then set to vibrate and either held by the performer or placed in their pocket (so they will feel the vibration).

The performer is only aware of their own performance times, not anyone else's.

When a performer's alarms sounds, they turn of the alarm, stand up, and perform a short improvisation with other performers who have stood at the same time.

The improvisation should be short. The guiding principle of *Discretions* is to 'look for an ending' rather than a way to extend the improvisation.

When the improvisation is complete, return to what you were doing before (eating/talking/drinking) until your next alarm.

The final alarm will include all performers, and can be a little longer in duration.

Example schedule for a 45 minute performance with 7 performers:

Performer	Times
Tom	1:01, 1:10, 1:25, 1:31, 1:42
Meg	1:01, 1:07, 1:15, 1:20, 1:42
Harry	1:07, 1:12, 1:25, 1:37, 1:42
Kate	1:10, 1:15, 1:28, 1:35, 1:42
Nick	1:12, 1:20, 1:25, 1:37, 1:42
Sue	1:04, 1:20, 1:31, 1:37, 1:42
Lin	1:04, 1:12, 1:28, 1:35, 1:42

This sample schedule can be used/adapted for your own staging of *Discretions for Ensemble*. The guiding principles of scheduling should be:

- Each time has at least two performers
- All performers are cued for the last scheduled time

The above sample schedule has attempted to slot different performers together at each time, with a subtle increase in activity and number of performers towards the end (EG, more trios appear towards the climax). Other facilitators may prefer to keep have some duos/trios reoccur throughout as *motifs*, or experiment with other dynamics.

Note: the schedule should only be available to the facilitator. Performers should not see this schedule; they should have no prior knowledge of who they will be performing with at each cued time.
