

empty repeating canvas

Put two empty 4/4 measures (or just the numbers 1 through 8) with a repeat sign up on the board.

Pick a sound and a moment in these eight counts to make it. Repeat your sound in the same spot as the piece repeats.

Count it in and let the groove happen.

Variations:

Add a hand signal that cues a change of sound and/or placement.

Add changing dynamics.

Make sounds “more musical” by deciding on a chord or a scale to choose from

Extend the number of measures. Change time signature.

Try adding long notes for part of the group or every other time through.

Make sounds less musical by adding a soundscape theme.

Decide together on a nice opening and closing section.

This is heavily inspired by a workshop with Fred Frith in which he introduced my students and I to a piece of his. It was a photograph print with two empty bars of 5/4 sketched on top.