

STEVE POTTER / MUSARC

COUNCIL SYSTEM

Game for 12 or more singers, Radio Host & Composer

each singer needs a scrap of paper & a pen/pencil

created with Ivo Krankowski (Radio Host & interviewer) & Musarc,
responding to a prompt by Joseph Kohlmaier & Cathy Heller Jones,
for "Musarc folk meet on a midsummer day until dusk III", Saturday
6 July 2019, Whitechapel Bell Foundry



PHASE 0

RADIO HYPE

c. 2'30"

CHOIR amongst audience.

RADIO HOST stands, or sits atop a very tall chair, e.g. a tennis umpire's chair.

He has a beautiful silver vintage radio mic and pop shield.

COMPOSER stands at a tiny red keyboard.

COMPOSER begins playing.

RADIO HOST: ...here, where *without* the presence of political parties, a new form of democracy is taking shape. Within this long divided nation, it seems, people have finally had enough.

Having reported on poverty, youth unemployment and corruption, I have never doubted that the Ouseans had deep grievances. Yet I found it hard to believe that people power could have any effect.

All that was to change when a group of sex workers brought a revolutionary plan to a picket line of striking teachers. For once a grassroots movement galvanized the nation and surprisingly large crowds turned out not just to protest but to disarm security guards stationed at the traditional sites of political power.

Less than a month on, the revolution has spread to the core of the middle class, who now seeks drastic change to its own means of existence — we might say, to its very soul. Tabloid presses in Luton have been burnt to the ground, revolutionary councils have begun to form throughout the country, and no one knows what sort of government, if any, will emerge from their murky procedures.

It was said that the revolution would not be televised, yet my team has gained access to these council meetings, which we expect to begin in less than 3 minutes. Earlier I spoke to some of the citizens present in the local councils as they prepared to elect a regional Political Council.

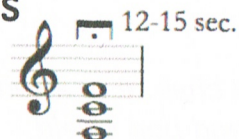
[RADIO HOST plays from a laptop prerecorded interviews in which Musarc members weigh in on the direct democratic process or talk about who they think is the strongest candidate for the regional council from their circle of acquaintances, or who is weak or wrong for the position though well-loved, or whatever.]

RADIO HOST: There you have it. Neither a president nor a prime minister will lead this fledgling community, and candidates for the Political Council will compete without the old party system to prop them up. Political parties, it seems, are a thing of the past.

PHASE 1

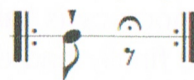
A. FORMING GROUPS

COMPOSER signal A.



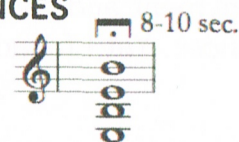
c. 1'50"

- CHOIR: begin to sing or hum quietly your recollection of a song you knew as a child, and move into performance space. Listen to each other and form groups of 4-5.
- CHOIR: when your group is complete all humming switch to singing, singing gets louder, select a syllable from your song & loop it.



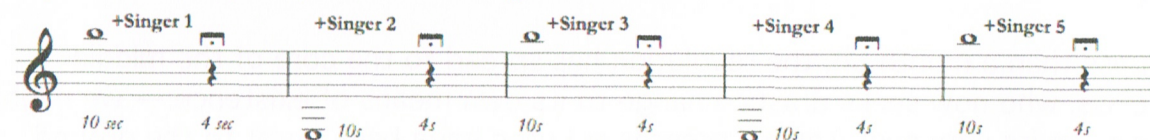
B. MINI-PERFORMANCES

COMPOSER signal B.



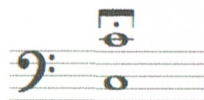
c. 1'20"

- CHOIR: stop singing. Get ready to perform childhood song for small group. Identify singer to go first (whoever is in northernmost position in group).
- COMPOSER signals first singers to begin. Perform for 10 seconds. COMPOSER signals stop. Pause for 4 seconds. Moving clockwise around the group, repeat for 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th singers.



C. DISCUSSION

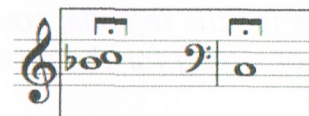
COMPOSER signal C.



c. 2'00"

- CHOIR: groups discuss, on the basis of the mini-performances, who they wish to represent the group in the regional council.
- CHOIR: when your group is ready to vote signal to the composer by shouting 'VOTE!' over and over.

COMPOSER: keeps the organ playing during the discussions, using weights to keep the keys down whilst circulating through the groups to see how their discussions are progressing.



PHASE 1

A. FORMING GROUPS

(as groups are forming)

c. 1'50"

RADIO HOST:

Folks, this is an historic moment. We are witnessing the birth of direct representation, a new chapter in democracy. After centuries of subjugation to political parties the people of this country have finally broken down the old powers.

We can see here how groups are forming naturally according to the will of individual citizens.

I understand that each of these groups is going to select one member to represent it at the regional Political Council.

Let's listen in to their process.

B. MINI-PERFORMANCES

RADIO HOST silently watches

c. 1'20"

C. DISCUSSION

(as groups are discussing)

c. 2'00"

RADIO HOST:

Each candidate has made their statement and the democratic groups are now discussing... We're not entirely sure WHAT they are discussing. But we do know that the groups will take AS LONG AS THEY NEED for these discussions. Of the candidates. And WHO they would like to represent them. At the regional Council.

optional, time permitting: I believe we have some further interviews with candidates that we can share with you now. As they continue to discuss. [RADIO HOST plays further prerecorded interviews with Musarc members]

(when groups start to shout 'vote')

RADIO HOST improvises, e.g.:

Some of the groups are looking eager to vote for their representative now.

D. CASTING VOTES

c. 1'40"

COMPOSER signal D: "OKAY VOTE!"

→ CHOIR: on a scrap of paper put '1' next to name of preferred candidate, '2' next to name of next favored candidate and so on. You may vote for yourself. (see Appendix)

COMPOSER underscoring

E. COUNTING VOTES

c. 2'20"

COMPOSER signal E: "COUNT!"

→ CHOIR: count the votes (see Appendix). Not everyone need be involved in counting. If you're not, then hum your recollected song during the counting.

→ CHOIR: when your group has determined a winner shout "HUP!" (plus the winner's name if you feel like it) as a way of sending the winner off to join the Regional Council. Segue to PHASE 2.

COMPOSER funky underscoring

PHASE 2

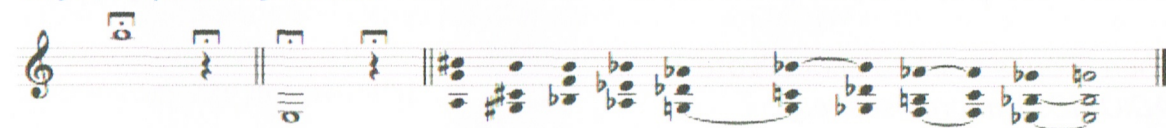
COMPOSER continues playing funky underscoring.

REGIONAL COUNCIL: the selected individuals form a new group, the Regional Council. It must decide, musically, how to end the piece. Shall the group make music that belongs to a genre? Shall the Council select music that is already written? Shall the Council select a conductor from amongst themselves...

WORKERS COUNCILS: Everyone who has not been elected to the Council remains in their small group. These groups become the "Workers Councils". Their concern is to preserve the entire group (choir + audience) & to enhance its life together. Their first matter of business is to discuss the ticket prices for the choir's next event.....

The end of the piece is to be determined by the REGIONAL COUNCIL and put into effect by the WHOLE CHOIR.

COMPOSER may try to end the piece differently from the keyboard. The group may accept or reject this.



D. CASTING VOTES

c. 1'40"

RADIO HOST [option, if there wasn't time during section C]:

I believe we have some further interviews with candidates that we can share with you now. As they continue to cast their votes.

[Plays further prerecorded interviews]

COMPOSER underscoring

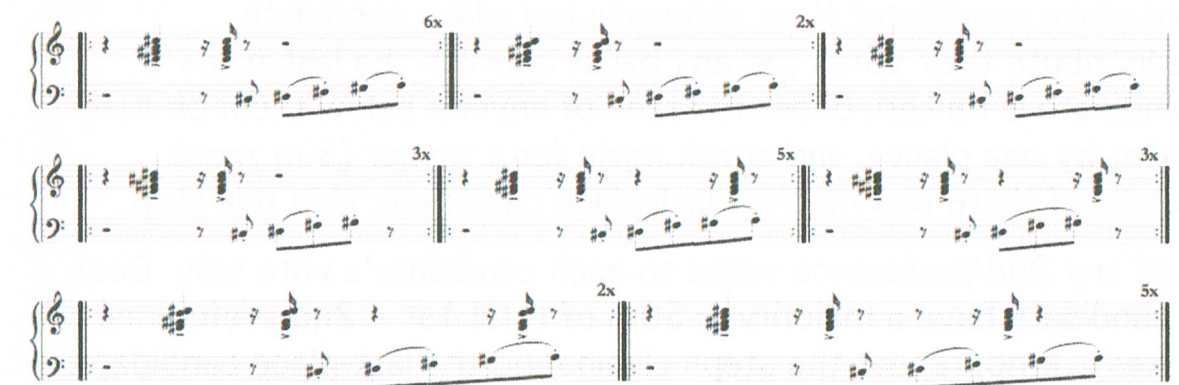


E. COUNTING VOTES

c. 2'20"

RADIO HOST improvises, narrating what happens, e.g.: The votes are being tallied now... Exit polls indicate...

COMPOSER funky underscoring



PHASE 2

RADIO HOST (ad libitum):

The Regional Council is now taking shape. I can see [x] from the western group, [x] from the southwestern group [etc: And here's a surprise, I wasn't expecting [x] to be selected.]

The Council will soon begin discussing the community's next move. They may have a karaoke night planned for us, or perhaps we will all soon be singing Renaissance music. We don't know what is coming. ...

Meanwhile, the groups of workers have not broken up. They are engaged in discussions as we speak. We're not sure WHAT is going on there.

Improvise further announcements.

APPENDIX

CASTING THE VOTES (Phase 1, section D):

Stop allocating preferences when you cannot decide between the candidates. You do not need to vote for them all, but your vote will be as effective as possible if you mark as many of your preferences as you are able to.

COUNTING THE VOTES (Phase 1, section E):

First add up the 1st-preference votes for each candidate. Does a candidate have a majority (3 or more votes)? If no, is there a clear last-place candidate? If so, eliminate last-place candidate, redistribute their votes (on any ballot in which the last-place candidate is ranked, boost the rank of anyone below them on that ballot by one place), and check again for a winner (3 or more votes). If there was no clear last-place candidate, skip this step.

Add any 2nd-preference votes to each candidate's vote tally. Does a candidate have a majority (>50% of total 1st + 2nd-preference votes)? If no, repeat the steps eliminating the last-place candidate. Add any 3rd-preference votes. Repeat this process until a candidate achieves a majority.

If, after all votes have been tallied, no candidate has a majority, eliminate any candidates tied for last place & redistribute their votes. If, after doing this, there is a tie for 1st place, attempt to break the tie by comparing vote totals in the previous round. If there is still a tie, break the tie by drawing lots.

Alternatively, groups may decide to count the votes however they like!