

Grounding

For one or two instruments in the lower register
& Electronics

Written for James Oesi & Joe Qiu
Double Bass & Bassoon
Commissioned by 840 series, London, UK

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Concept

840 series commissioned this work for bassoon and double bass. Both instruments play in a low register. Both instruments can for instance be seen as fundamental to 'ground' a harmony within ensemble or orchestral performances. I decided to use the instruments quite literally as 'grounding' instruments. The musicians receive a lamp as score. The light of this lamp will change brightness. There are 5 levels of brightness.

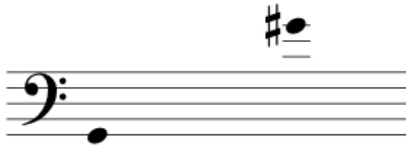
Each brightness level is directly related to a fundamental frequency and all 5 fundamental frequencies have been connected to a series of pitches, a specific harmony. Performing the 5 corresponding fundamental notes can 'ground' each harmony/brightness with the result that the light will turn off. The specific brightness of the light and the sound of its harmony are the musicians' guide to find the fundamental notes.

1. Instrumentation & electronics

Any 1 or 2 instruments that can perform in this range:



And/or this range:



Electronics:

Small speaker
Battery powered amplifier
Jack cable
Led lights (flashlight with LEDS)

Computer
Arduino circuit board
USB cable
Maxmsp application
Arduino application

All information about the electronics is explained in this score. With this information, the performer can build the electronics. However, the composer can also deliver the electronics.