

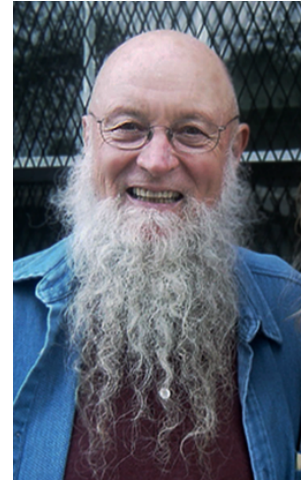
Aleatory Extension: *In C* by Terry Riley

In *Pop!*, students experienced making choices and having control over how they would play the aleatory section of the piece. In this second aleatory experience, students have control over how long they will play the phrases that make up the piece. The phrases are extracted from Terry Riley's *In C*.

In C contains 53 melodic phrases. The shortest phrase lasts a half a beat; the longest 32 beats. Each phrase can be repeated as often as a musician chooses to do so.

What are the aleatory aspects of *In C*?

Musicians play the phrases in sequence, but determine individually how often to repeat a phrase and when to move on to the next. Players can also choose to stop and listen for short periods of time to promote the sense of ensemble. Dynamic shading is encouraged as a group decision as the piece unfolds.



Terry Riley

The band can experience an excerpt of *In C*, using a small set of Riley's phrases and his directions. Directors will need copies (electronic or paper) of selected phrases in the key of C, plus transpositions for instruments not in C. The activity is easiest to do in small ensembles where each player can make independent decisions.

Process

Students Will

1. Be introduced to the story and structure of *In C* by Terry Riley.
 - Imagine what it will sound like and share a few thoughts.
 - See an image of the 53 phrases in the piece.
 - Listen to the opening xx minutes and find the pulse; tapping it on the back of their hands.
 - Discuss their impressions of the piece.
2. View selected patterns, and practice each by:
 - Clapping it
 - Speaking it (rhythmically)
 - Singing (solfege)
 - Playing each with their instruments in unison until the patterns are secure
3. Play the aleatory game with Riley's phrases.
Explain Riley's Rules:
 - Decide how long your version will be.
 - Remember that the ongoing "C" is played at the same pulse throughout (this C is played as the 8th note pulse). Who will play it? Piano, mallet percussion?
 - All patterns are played with the same constant pulse – no *accelerando* or *ritardando*

- Repeat each phrase as many time as you wish
- Enter when you are ready

4. Play and have some aleatory fun.



References for students and teachers:

- The [Wikipedia page for In C](#) for background
- A [video of a teacher demonstrating In C phrases on ukulele](#)
- [Practice video](#)
- The [first 10 minutes of Riley's original recording](#)

C.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.

7. 8. 9. 10.

11. 12. 13. 14. 15.

16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21.

22. 23. 24.

25. 26. 27. 28.

29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34.

35.

36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42.

43. 44. 45. 46. 47.

48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53.

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