Alvin Lucier – *I am sitting in a room*

90th Birthday stream: starting 8pm May 13th and continuing all day May 14th (Alvin's birthday)
ISSUE Project Room issueprojectroom.org

Instructions:

In celebration of Alvin's 90th birthday, 90 artists are being invited to record their own version of 'I am sitting in a room'. We are grateful for your participation. Please review the following timeline and instructions carefully and contact Zev Greenfield: zev@issueprojectroom.org or Trevor Saint: prettynoisybell@gmail.com with any questions.

Below you will find technical instructions. Once you complete your recording, please:

1. Deliver the files to ISSUE at: curatorial@issueprojectroom.org through common transfer platforms: Dropbox, Wetransfer, Google Drive, or comparable transfer platform is fine;

2. Use the following naming convention when submitting your file "IAMSITTINGINAROOM90-ARTISTNAME";

3. Audio quality at 24bit, 44.1kHz is preferred*

4. Video should be submitted at 1080p resolution (1920 x 1080) in MP4 or MOV format; Video will be horizontal so a laptop video recording will work well.*

*If you do not have audio or video equipment we are able to accept different quality audio and/or video from a cell phone. If you are using your cell phone to record video, please place horizontally;

5. At the time of submission, when you send your audio and video files, please provide a short 100 word max. bio (also to be emailed to curatorial@issueprojectroom.org).

Timeline: ISSUE will be aiming to announce the event early/mid April. Given that there are to be 90 participants, we are coordinating three groups of 30 submissions at a time. Your submission is within **Group 3** and we would ask that you deliver your file and bio no later than **Monday April 5th**. If you need any additional time, please contact Zev or Trevor as soon as possible.

Script

I am sitting in a room different from the one you are in now.

I am recording the sound of my speaking voice and I am going to play it back into the room again and again until the resonant frequencies of the room reinforce themselves so that any semblance of my speech, with perhaps the exception of rhythm, is destroyed.

What you will hear, then, are the natural resonant frequencies of the room articulated by speech.

I regard this activity not so much as a demonstration of a physical fact, but more as a way to smooth out any irregularities my speech might have.

Technical Instructions:

Please note that a satisfactory realization of this piece needs prep time and careful adjustments of the technical equipment. Be prepared to spend an afternoon with it… ;-)
Trial and error will be required and is part of the process

Please video-record yourself during the performance using a computer, a smartphone or comparable device. For audio-recording please us a Zoom recorder or comparable device. For the actual performance of the piece you will need a separate computer on which you have to install a program that recycles your speech (details below.)

If you don't have equipment or have any trouble but wish to be involved please feel free to be in touch with Zev & Trevor and we will facilitate assistance.

1) Testing the Alvin Lucier Room Delay Patch

The ROOM MAX Patch for Mac OS can be downloaded here:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/n2jt9ztjzius0y2/AAAUGfDOvpgBEWELOIyYDvBsa?dl=0

There are three alternative files included:
1) Alvin_Room_Patch_2013.maxpat – This is for people who have Max/MSP installed on their computers.
2) Alvin_Room_Patch_2013.app – This is a standalone app that works on any Mac without having to install MAX/MSP. It uses only the first input of your audio interface. The signal routing is done with a mixer.
3) Alvin_Room_Patch_2021.app – This standalone app may be used if you don't have a mixer and want to use input 1 and 2 on your audio interface.
Unpack the compressed ZIP file on your computer and run the app by double-clicking it.

When opening the app, please note that it might ask for access to your Desktop and your Microphone. If you accidentally denied mic access, go to System Preferences > Security & Privacy > Privacy > Microphone to enable it.

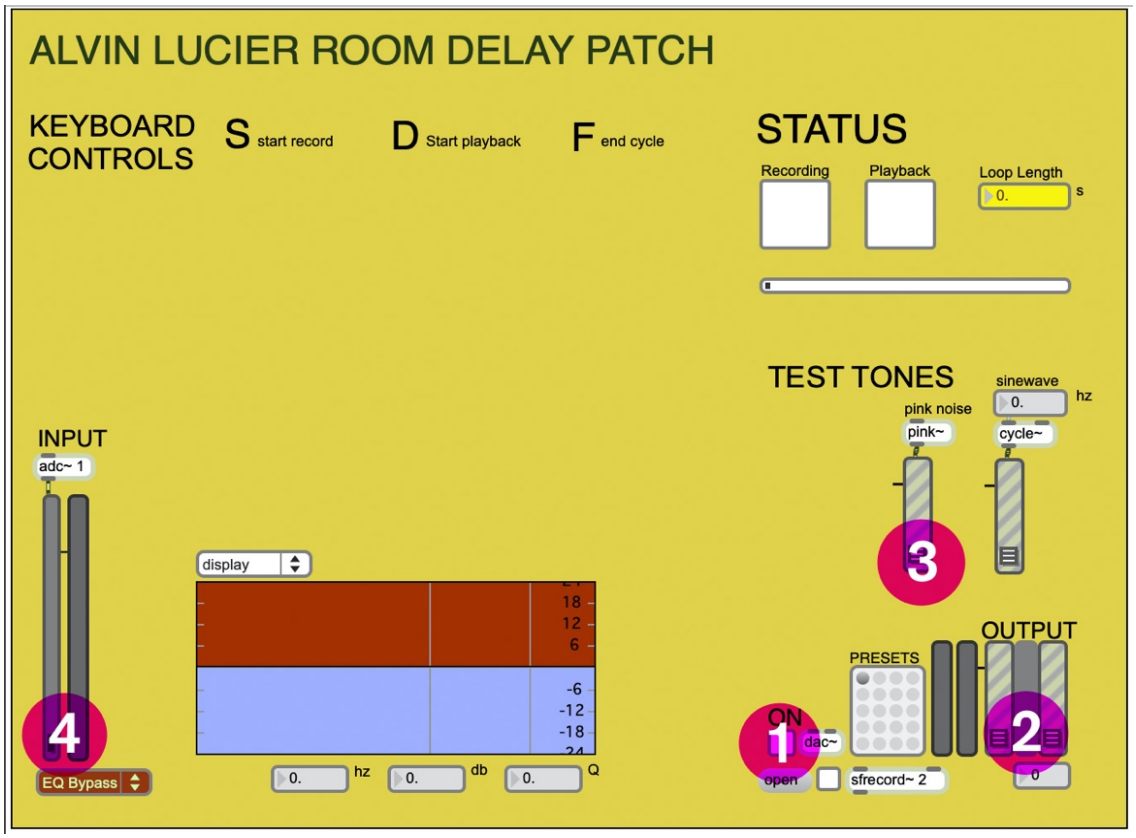
If the app does not open at all or gives an error message, you have to temporarily disable the gatekeeper function of your Mac OS:

1. Open a terminal by pressing Cmd + Space, enter "Terminal" and open the application.

2. Run the following command: **sudo spctl --master-disable** (Enter your administrator password when requested.)

3. You can re-enable the gatekeeper by running the command: **sudo spctl --master-enable.**
(If you don't feel comfortable changing the security settings on your computer, feel free to download a 30-day testversion of MAX from: https://cycling74.com/downloads and use the Alvin_Room_Patch_2013.maxpat)

Once you opened the app or patch, it looks like in the attached screenshot. You can test it on the Macbook with internal mic and speakers.



TEST AUDIO:

1) Push ‘ON’ button.

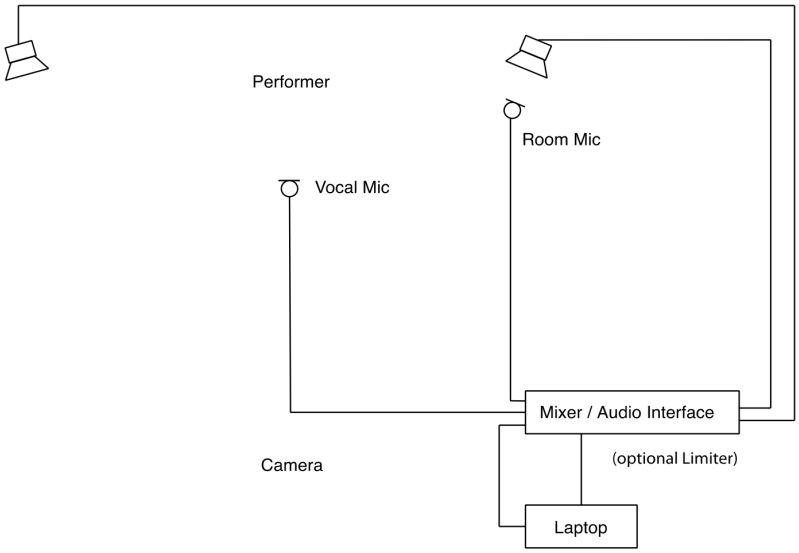
2) Turn up output (right) to marker.

3) Check test tone: Pink noise. If you hear noise coming out of your speakers, your output works. For the test just use built-in microphone and built-in output which is connected by default.

4) Raise volume for input (left) to marker. Just say some words, you should be able to see the meter next to the input fader.

For testing the process, press S for initial recording, then press D for starting the process and F for stop. Once you pressed D, below STATUS the actual loop length is displayed and the black spot in the white bar is moving corresponding to the actual position in the loop.
If this works, please check with an audio interface attached. After you double-click on ‘~dac' (next to the ON button) you can choose the interface for input and output device. If this also works you may connect microphone and speaker.

2) Setting up your audio equipment



Playback system
For playing back the audio you need a PA or a Home HiFi System (small mixing desk and limiter optional)

Vocal microphone (on a small mic stand) for the seated reader to amplify the initial reading. If possible, use a super- or hypercardioid condenser microphone (Neumann KMS105, AKG C414 etc.) or a dynamic mic (Beyerdynamic M88, Shure SM-58 etc.) Connect the microphone to your audio interface or mixer (which will be connected to the interface).

Room microphone (on a mic stand), so that it can be easily placed in front of one speaker facing the membrane. Try 50cm distance and an off-center position for a start and adjust accordingly.
Recommended is an omnidirectional condenser mic (Neumann KM-183, Schoeps MK2 or MK2S, DPA 4006 etc.), but cardioid works, too. Connect the microphone to the inputs of your audio interface or mixer (mixer will be connected to the interface).

If you just own one microphone, you may place the speaker beside you, so you can use it as both a vocal and room mic.
You may use a limiter to regulate the input levels coming from the room microphone, but this is not mandatory. Feel free to use the above mentioned mixer to conveniently adjust input and output levels during the realization.

3) Recording your performance

1. Press S on your keyboard to start the recording process
2. Record the script into the microphone:
3. After you finished the text, mute your vocal mic (using the input dial at your audio interface or your mixer) and press D on your keyboard. From now on the text will be played back into the room, and will be re-recorded through the room mic. Let the process run for 15-20min.
Please do not run longer than 20mins as this is the requested maximum length of the submission.

Check input levels during the recycling process - turn down input/output fader gently, if applicable.

Stop the process at the end of the last recycling process (indicated by the position bar in the MAX program) by pressing F on your keyboard.