

PRISMA:  
BOOK *of*  
MOVES

a suite for theatrical quartet (2021)

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## ANOTE

This suite is to be performed by a theatrical quartet, a group familiar with music performance as well as theatrical music, theater, and/or dance. This piece should include instruments, and can include any instruments that can be set up on stage and played at will, more or less with the hands. Set them about the stage like a cornucopia of instruments for any member to play on.

Instruments should be multiple to a person, and placed around the stage conveniently. While there are hardly any directions to play an instrument, there is nonetheless an opportunity to do so within almost every textual indication. Performance time is around 30 to 40 minutes.

As an added layer of theatricality, members are acting as themselves, who have just received this mysterious score and were thrust upon stage to play it. It seems, as the members play on, that the score has a mind of its own.

## INTRODUCTIONS

immediately after walking onstage:  
do not bow. motion to bow, then stop,  
mouth agape, expression shocked  
and ever lifeless. do not dip your  
head. stare through the audience,  
past the point of discomfort.

relax. breathe. in. out.

in. out.

inout.

inoutinoutinoutinoutinoutiiiiiiiiin.

and oooooooooooooooooooooooooout.

## GROUPTHINK

*Stomp your feet and clap your hands.*

*c'mon, let's do a little dance, now!*

Stop! Who said you could dance?!

This music is to be revered, not  
tarnished with unnecessary  
m o v v e e m m e n t t s s s .

Go about the stage and think  
about things. About sound. Go  
and experiment with the timbre  
of an instrument as penance.

*someone gets a little too into the  
analysis and gets grooovy*



six swings swtich sing witch  
sin nix sitches wing stitches  
britches brits bring brat bratchet  
bratsche bringer singer sling  
her scurvy topsy turvy swerve  
he serve he curvy cure we  
you're the lure the lurid leery leeming  
scheming schema dream-ah team  
uh deem dean dan done dun dun  
dun foo fum for fun stun stuck stick six

moving as slowly as possible, walk around the stage analyzing areas you have never taken into account before...

*...the group then makes music out of the turning of the pages of this booklet.*

AKFEDUS  
TAKFEDUS  
TSPACET  
TACETA

create noise, run around, howl at the moon (or any light source), and generally, do anything to grow more intense...

*...the group instead falls back upon standard notions of musical intensity, wary to anger the audience and the composer, as well as the music itself. the score was, indeed, very angry.*

*the group stops, affixed, each like  
marionnettes with strings twisted,  
their visages in knots. they try to  
look to each other but can only  
move their eyes.*

*they walk together to form a circle,  
hopelessly fighting against every step.*

## MONOCRHOMES I

*all members but one  
collapse onto the stage.  
the standing player has free reign  
to do what they please (within  
some sort of reason) on stage.*

play a solo, punch the air, show us  
your personality, then tag another  
soloist. give us all you've got!

## MONOCHROMES II, III, & IV

as you tag the next soloist, grab  
each others forearms, and collapse  
as they stand up, taking their place.

*this continues until all four players  
have had their dominion over the  
stage.*

## WIDE GAMUT

Improvise again, continuing  
your earlier solo on top  
of every other player.

*The players quickly realise this will  
not work, motioning to the audience  
to forgive them for a momentary  
lapse in the flow of the production.*



*Each player tempers their musical choices to cater to the balance of the group. Hesitantly, each player joins in the music-making, creating a groovy remnant of their earlier attempt.*

*They all come to a halt when one player stops after dropping their music with a vicious page turn. In a sign of solidarity (as if to say “see! nothing will happen to us if we mess up the music”), the remaining players drop their music one by one.*

## MYOPIA

*The group makes music out of throwing and trashing this score against the ground.*

*The group becomes more and more attracted to the ground. The score is very, very angry. As the music continues and the destruction toward the score becomes near fatal, the life forces of the performers seem to fade as well.*

*Some players are on their knees,  
some laying down on the ground, all  
too weak to be upright at the moment,  
all now focused on unraveling the  
scores from their binding. It seems  
they are linked to each score, and as  
the pages of the scores go loose, the  
members collapse for good.*

# BLACKOUT