



Preparing for your first session. . .

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Headphones

In order to hear during your session, you'll need to wear headphones. Optimal headphones are in-ear-monitors such as [these](#).

We will provide all the cabling you need, so do not worry if the cable for your headphones is short. The most important things are that:

- The headphones block out some ambient noise
- The headphones are comfy to wear while you perform

No headphones? No probs yo! We have a pair you can borrow, and plenty of pairs of brand new silicon earbuds you can try out.

Considerations

Get creative: think about unique ways you can get sounds from your instrument. Prepare alternate tuning ideas. Get ready to get loose!

A (very friendly and nice) cat lives in the space, and we often involve food/drink with our ceremonies. Reach out to Andrew if there are any allergy concerns!

Contact Information

Andrew Grathwohl
334 Eastern Parkway, 4B
Brooklyn, NY 11225-1298
<http://sonicmultiplicities.audio>
andrew@grathwohl.me

What To Bring

The only necessary equipment to bring is as follows:

- Your instrument
Bring things that modify your sound, too, like mutes/capos/etc.
- A set of extra strings/reeds/etc. aren't a bad idea
- A pair of headphones
Please see the guide on the left-hand side of the page.
If you aren't sure about this, reach out to Andrew. He can help! :)
- Yourself!
Please dress comfortably!
Our mics are very sensitive; wear quiet clothing.
Same goes for shoes, we recommend avoiding heels.

Performer profile

Please text/email Andrew with the following information at least 2 days before your first recording date:

- Name under which you'd like to be attributed
First+Last name is sufficient
- Preferred contact information
To get in touch with you about recordings/dates.
- Instrument(s) you'll be playing.
Please be specific with instrument maker and model, if applicable.
- Whether you prefer performing standing or seated.

What To Expect

It takes about 10-15 minutes to get setup on the microphone, and to get your headphone mix setup. Performances last between 10-30 minutes at a time, generally. We record everything. You'll get an AMAZING sounding mastered audio file of your work within 1-3 days after the session.

This isn't really Western music. Concepts like "time signature" and even "key signature" are for the most part thrown away. But make no mistake: there's real heart in this musical world. Our emotions explode out from our instruments during a SM session. The music is intense, the audience is respectful, and the world we explore is unfettered territory. This is participatory music, and it's meant to have fun with. There's no pressure in this space, it's all a journey, and there's no right or wrong way to play.

Garrett Semmelink - Violinist/Sonicmeister

Tips for a successful first SM performance:

- Confidently play a pure tone on your instrument.
- Introduce changes gradually at first. For instance, pitch, attack/decay, dynamics, rhythm
- Repetition is good and will likely trigger good response (short fragments, tonal clusters, gestural)
- Imagine your instrument assuming different roles, i.e. melodic, rhythmic, harmonic, texture, style, solo vs. accompaniment
- Play with the sensitive you might bring to a chamber music experience, orchestra, etc.
- Listen discerningly to the results and adjust as you think necessary. You're in control, this is your sound!

Once you have the hang of it...

- Think of a recent technical roadblock, a rewarding musical experience you've had, an inspirational performance (whether related to your music, someone else's, or no music at all)
- Just play and try to listen more than think
- Find comfort, enjoyment, solace, etc. in what you're hearing and feeling.
- Try to "let go" of anything you've learned, pre-conceived constructs, musical idioms, etc.
- What makes you tick?
- Relax, get comfortable, be confident, be curious, be free
- Follow your instincts and enjoy!!