Noise

for any number of megaphones
(the more the better)
Scott Cazan

The accompanying graph is an averaged interpolation of data generated from Google. It represents the amount of results, separated by year, for the search term "historic event" between the years 800 BC and 2010 AD. The title is a reference to the book, "Noise: The Political Economy of Music" by Jacques Attali.

Performance:

Throughout the designated time-period, amplify various sound-producing objects throughout the area. The objects should be amplified to the loudest volume that is possible with the megaphone. The amount of attention given to each object is up to the performer but should be long enough that someone could notice.

The graph indicates a percentage of feedback (characterized by a squealing sound) that should occur from the group as a whole during each time period. The graph should be interpreted individually by each performer.

A higher bar on the graph indicates a larger overall percentage of feedback and for longer sustained periods. A shorter bar on the graph indicates that feedback should occur in shorter "blips" and are less common in the group overall.

After the 14 minute mark (where the graph essentially goes blank) performers are not required to stop their sound. They should hold their current sound for as long as they see fit.

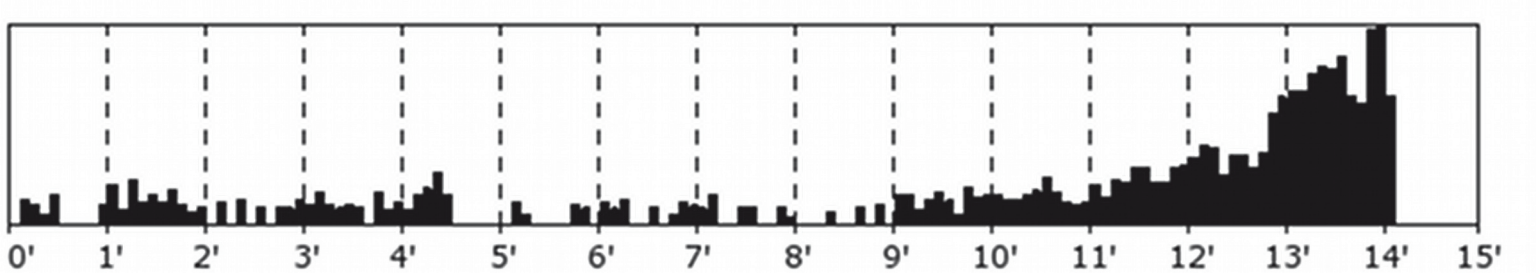
Creating feedback:

Feedback will depend on the space in which you are standing (or sitting). A more resonant space will be more likely to produce feedback quickly while you are amplifying objects. This is also true of smaller, indoor spaces. In this situation, one should be more careful when raising the volume of the microphone.

When feedback is not happening automatically (such as in large outdoor spaces) one should use their torso to create it. Simply holding the microphone side of the megaphone close to the body or right up against the body will produce feedback when the volume is high. If it does not, "bouncing" the megaphone against the body should get it started.

Longer (sustained) tones:

The taller parts of the graph require a more sustained feedback tone. To control feedback simply "ride" the volume control on the megaphone to get the desired volume. When the feedback hints at becoming too loud pull the volume down slightly and when the feedback hints at getting too soft or disappearing, turn the volume up slightly. This should allow you to maintain a relatively solid and sustained tone for those sections.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