

# Surfaces of Emergence

Scott Mc Laughlin 2013

3-6 electric guitars with humbucker pickups

This piece is an open-score whose layout and timings are dependent on the space. This score is an example of the premiere which took place in the Creative Arts Building (CAB) at Huddersfield University (UK). Three floors of balconies overlooking a central open space for audience.

## Layout:

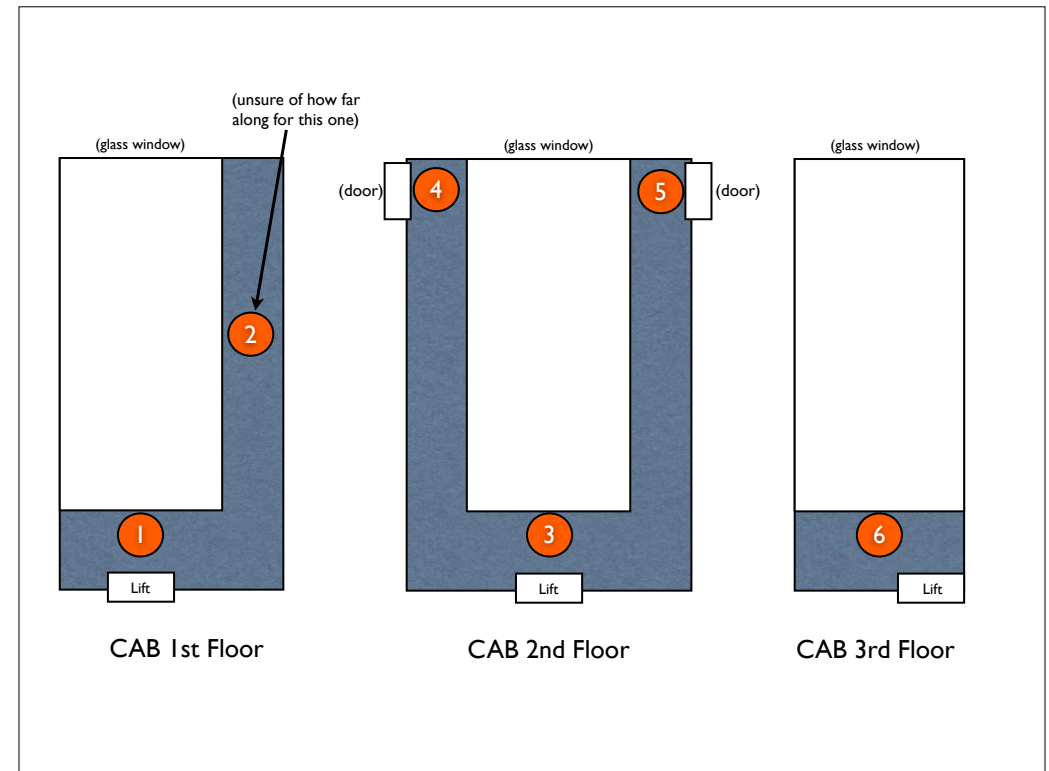
- players 1-6, as per diagram on right.
- Position the amp to give yourself maximum manoeuvrability.

## Performance Instructions:

- Only use feedback from vibrating open strings (non-microphonic feedback).
- Feedback pitch is only changed by moving guitar position relative to the amplifier.
- all gestures are very slow and gentle, no sudden movements...
- before performance, set amplifier to level with constant but controllable feedback. Set guitar volume to maximum.
- muting of strings can be done by hand but may be more practical to use tissue, cotton-wool, cloth, etc.

## Score - General:

- Timings are approximate and should be approached gently. Avoid sudden changes in volume. Score cells' start/end should have a long fade-in/out using guitar volume.



## Score:

### “ET”:

- i. Mute all strings except low-E<sup>1</sup>, touch guitar headstock to amplifier body and leave it there.
- ii. Allow E-string to feed back at any harmonic and hold it.
  - i. if the feedback is too much then stop the guitar touching the amp.

### “E”:

- i. Mute all strings except low-E.
- ii. Allow E-string to feed back at any harmonic.
  - i. hold this harmonic for a while.
- iii. Make the slowest possible change to a different feedback tone on the E-string.
  - i. hold this harmonic for a while.
- iv. repeat iii several times.

### “O”:

- i. no muted strings.
- ii. change to a new feedback tone and hold for a while, at least 4 seconds.
- iii. attempt to return to the immediately previous feedback tone, then hold the resulting tone for a while.
- iv. repeat iii.

for example:

A (7") - B (10") - A (6") - B (5") - C (11") - B (9") - C (5") - B (9") - C (5") - B (5") - D (14")

### “O-E” & “O-E/A”

- i. as “O” above but with strings E or E-and-A muted.

**Dark grey cells** are silent, turn down guitar, slightly **detune** some of the strings, especially lower strings.

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<sup>1</sup> later in the piece this will no longer be an “E” due to detuning, ET here simply refers to string-6 regardless of actual pitch.

