

Speaking of

for two performers sharing a keyboard

to Emily Aiken and Brianna Taylor

Laurent Estoppey, May 2016

Scenography:

The piece may be played by two musicians (focusing the audience attention only on the sound) or – preferably – by two dancers/movers. (In this case, it should be unclear to the audience if the performers are musicians or dancers).

The two performers stand side by side and share the same keyboard. They will remain in contact with the keyboard throughout the performance.

If two dancers/movers are playing, they will explore the constrained movements they can produce, these movements being always inspired and generated by the sounds and the music.

In either performance style, each couple creates its own story, its own character.

Execution:

To produce a sound, first activate knob 1 (player A) or 4 (player B); then press one of the keys and turn the knob to the right till getting a proper volume. Turn the knob back to the left at the end of each note (which last between 12" and 20").

The twenty-five keys refer to the alphabet (minus z) and each triggers a sound originally produced on a saxophone.

Think of words or phrases and spell them slowly with the keys.
The sounds will guide the pace and the mood of the performance.
Silences are allowed.

Additional options:

Knob 2 (player A) and knob 3 (player B) allow to change the panoramic (left/right) of the sound.
Knobs 5/6 (player A) and 7/8 (player B) activate filters to degrade the sound.
Feel free to add these effects during the performance.

The duration can vary according to the needs of the performance.

