

ROCK PIECE

for multiple performers

Pauline Oliveros

Each participant chooses a pair of resonant rocks to use as percussion instruments. Each participant establishes an independent pulse with the rocks. The pulse is to be maintained steadily without any rhythmic interpretation or accents. While listening to the overall sound, if the participant perceives that she/he is synchronizing exactly, or in a simple multiple or division by two or three of another participant's pulse, she/he stops in order to listen and begin a new pulse that is in depend in rate from all other pulses.

In the beginning, the participants may be dispersed throughout the performance area. After listening for environmental pulses, each participant begins independently, or on some agreed upon cue. The participants move slowly and freely, sounding out the environment in all directions with their rock pulses and gradually converging into a tight circle for the ending. Participants may end independently, or on cue. *Rock Piece* might begin and remain out-of-doors, or move indoors. Conversely, *Rock Piece* might begin in a tight circle indoors and move out-of-doors with the participants gradually dispersing until the pulses can no longer be heard.

August 16, 1979