

THE LESSER COVERTS OF THE BEND OF A
BIRD'S WING WHEN DISTINCTIVELY COLORED

for any number of performers
with bowed stringed instruments

Tune one string of your instrument to a strong resonant frequency of the performance space. (When several persons perform they should tune to not more than three different frequencies). Position yourself anywhere within the space.

Play all the harmonics of that one open string. Rest one finger of your left hand very lightly on the string at the nut. Move the finger as slowly as possible from the nut to the bridge. Bow continuously, but vary the bowing quality (weight, amount of hair, point of contact, etc.) to bring out as many different harmonics as possible at each position of the finger. You may stop the movement of the left hand to hold and explore a position, but you may never move back towards the nut. Do not use tremolo or vibrato.

The process of moving from nut to bridge should take at least thirty minutes and should never sound like a glissando. When you reach the bridge, stop playing. Wait for the other performers to finish, then leave the space.

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