

**Samuel Vriezen**

# **Tien Lezers / Ten Readers**

(2008)

Duration: 16'30"

This piece is registered with BUMA. Distribution of these instructions and of the .mp3-files is free, provided the composer is notified of any performance. At the time of writing the composer can be reached at [sqv@xs4all.nl](mailto:sqv@xs4all.nl).

## **TEN READERS / TIEN LEZERS** (Samuel Vriezen, 2008)

For ten readers with bags, books and .mp3-players.

Ten readers in a wide circle or semi-circle. Seating reflects part number: reader N should sit next to readers N-1 and N+1. If in a circle, reader 1 should sit next to reader 10.

Each reader has a bag with a book in it. Each reader chooses his own book. The books should all be in the same language; otherwise, choice of book is completely free - it should be any book that you are reading at the moment, or that you want to be reading, and there are no limits to type or genre. The books may not be recognizable to the audience: remove the dust jacket, or wrap it up in a blank one.

Each reader has an .mp3-player. Each part consists of an .mp3-file; there are 10 such files, a separate one for each reader.

Each .mp3-file starts with four clicks, one second apart from one another, at 0:00, 0:01, 0:02 and 0:03. These are provided to help synchronize the piece. Before performance starts, each .mp3-player should be paused at 0:04" sharp - i.e. after the fourth click.

Performance may begin with everybody seated, or with everybody off-stage. At the beginning of the piece, all readers press "play" at the same time, so that the tracks will be exactly synchronized.

The first 45 seconds of all parts are noise. During this time, readers should move to their seats (if performance starts off-stage), and get their books from their bags and start reading silently. When the noise abates after 45 seconds, everybody is reading with full concentration.

During the next 15 minutes, readers will occasionally hear a click. Whenever one hears a click, one speaks out loud the word that one is reading at that moment. After 15 minutes, there is another 45 seconds of noise; during this time, performers stop reading, put the book in their bags, and (if performance started off-stage) move off-stage.

### **STRUCTURE OF THE PIECE**

The first 10 minutes are completely based on a slow on-going pulse. Every 3 seconds, there may or may not be an event (a word from one of the readers). During this time, the pulse gradually "fills up" with events (starting from a long silence to saturation with a word every 3 seconds), then dissipates to a long silence, then fills up again. In the 10th minute, speakers occasionally speak at the same time (forming "word chords").

After 10 minutes, rhythm becomes irregular, and tempo suddenly changes to a very fast tempo in all parts, giving a dense word cloud texture. Which, over the last 5 minutes, gradually gets sparser and sparser, after which the piece ends.