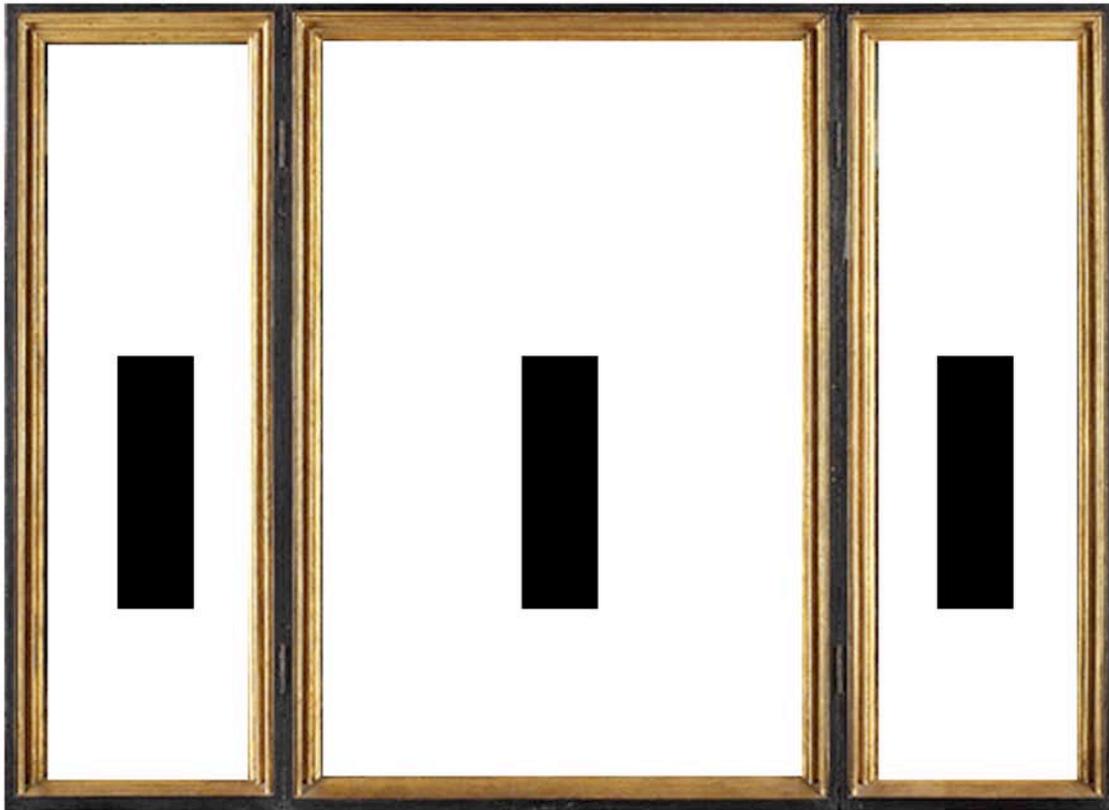# SONIC TRIPTYCH

Sharon Cheslow 2007

SONIC TRIPTYCH III (2007)
A sound performance event for multiple performers
Duration: anywhere from ten minutes to three hours

The triptych is composed of multiple sets of 3 performers. The performance is structured visually and sonically as a triptych. It premiered at Ladyfest Bay Area in 2002 with 3 sets of 3 women and was updated as Sonic Triptych II for Illuminated Corridor in Oakland, CA in October 2006. This second version included 15 performers.

The piece is set up for numerous, random sets of 3 to perform sound-producing actions of their choice. These actions are to be based on creative work chosen as a representation of individual aesthetic and to facilitate collaborative participation.

Each performer chooses a sound-producing action that has a duration of anywhere between 3-20 minutes, depending upon the total length of the event. The only requirement is that the choice should be something the performer has previously performed. The choice may also be a work-in-progress.

The options available may include:
• a creative work performed in its entirety (no more than the total time limit)
• fragments of a creative work, pieced together and/or repeated
• a restructured creative work
• a looped creative work
• free improvisation
• any combination of the above

Instructions:

1. The 3 triptych panels are labeled I, II, III. Each panel situates the performer left, center, right.
2. There should be an area off to the side of the triptych area for performers to gather and wait in line for their turn to perform. Performers can stand or sit while waiting. However, at any given time there should be at least 3 individuals sitting in chairs off to the side, ready to perform.
3. The piece begins when the first 3 performers in line enter triptych panels Ia, IIa, IIIa. The second group in the triptych is comprised of Ib, IIb, IIIb. The third group is comprised of Ic, IIc, IIIc … and so on up to the end of the event.
4. Performers do not have to start or end at the same time. Each individual must perform between 3-20 minutes (based upon the total time limit of the event determined beforehand). This can include time for setting up and breaking down. If individuals need more time to set up, perform and break down, or if they need help, a technical assistant should be used. Equipment can be set up before the event and kept off to the side. It can also be moved off to the side after a performer is finished and broken down after the event is over. Keep in mind that the set up and break down can be part of the "sound-producing action".
5. As the "a" performers finish, they are replaced by the next performers in sequence. The next individual in line may then enter any triptych panel, which is available (i.e. - when Ia finishes, Ib begins; when IIa finishes, IIb begins).
6. Performers can get back in line once they are finished or they may stop completely and exit the triptych area.
7. As the "b" performers finish, the next performers in sequence replace them. This continues for all "c" performers in groups I, II, III and should have the effect of each triptych group moving in and out of time/space with the others.
8. Performers can get back in line as many times as desired.
9. The piece ends either when there is no one left in line or at the pre-determined time.