

# Q Train: Instructions

"Q Train" is an aleatoric composition for multiple performers, to be recorded in sequence. To accomplish this, all performers will need the ability to play multiple audio tracks simultaneously through headphones while recording. This can be accomplished using multitrack audio recording software ("DAW").

The first performer will receive a field recording of the MTA Q Train crossing the Manhattan Bridge. They will record three layers of audio on top of the train recording, then hand the files to the next performer -- who will similarly add their performances to the sum. The final result will be an accumulation of all layers of voice on top of the train recording.

When it is your turn:

1. You may sing any of the lettered lines on the following page, in any order for any length of time.
  - a) Draw inspiration from what you hear, be it the sounds of the train or previous singers.
  - b) You may sing at any tempo, use what you hear to guide you.
  - c) You may transpose a line to any octave.
  - d) If a line indicates a chord, you may sing any of the written notes.
  - e) Indicated measures may be repeated any number of times.
  - f) Allow some silence to accommodate for subsequent performers.
  - f) You may double (or harmonize in the case of chords) with a previously recorded performance.
  - g) Let your ear guide you -- make choices that enhance the listening experience / interest.
2. For your second take, begin at least 20 seconds after hearing your voice from the first take. Follow the same steps as above.
3. For the third take, begin at least 20 seconds after the second take starts (40 seconds after the first take). Follow the same steps as above.
4. After recording these three takes, you will have three separate audio files. Send your files, along with the audio files you received, to the next performer.

The following page contains the lines of music to be performed.

# Q Train: Lines

a

*pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf*

Thump chest

Sssssee... - - - Sssssee... - - - Sssssee...

b

*mp* singer can voice "tak", "mup", "pup", or "dut" interchangeably *mf*

c

*p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Snap Fingers

Laal lal Laal lal Laal lal Laal lal Laal lal Laal lal Laal lal Laal lal

d

*p* with mouth closed or tongue against roof, white boxes indicate briefly open for 16<sup>th</sup> note duration\*

M \_\_\_\_\_ N.... \_\_\_\_\_

e

*mp* [away from mic] [towards mic] [away from mic]

Wo - - o - ow Wo - - o - ow Wo - o - o - ow Wo - - o - ow Wow

f

*p* Gradually morph your vocalization from "Eee" to "Oh"

Eee \_\_\_\_\_ Oh \_\_\_\_\_ Eee

g

*Espressivo*

Ah... Ooo Ah... Eh

\* The position of the boxes should be considered approximate, you are free to explore this texture.  
 "M" is mouth closed, "N" is mouth open with tongue against roof.  
 Note the density of the texture in the first vs. second half.