The Vacuum Cycle (string quartet no.1)

(in four movement to be performed separated or together in time)

Einar Torfi Einarsson (2013)

(i) <u>Location:</u> Orbit (earth's or any other astronomical object's)

<u>Material (actions)</u>: Protective transparent airtight box containing 'air', a string instrument and solar powered programmable robotic arm holding a bow. The pre-programmed robotic arm, using the bow, applies severe pressure on the strings along with irregular and continuous jerking motion.

Duration: Lifespan of the nearest sun.

(ii) <u>Location:</u> Anywhere within an atmosphere (installation space, concert hall, stage, museum, field, etc.)

<u>Material (actions)</u>: Transparent vacuum box (vacuum chamber) containing a string instrument and battery powered mini motor connected by cogwheels to a bow-hair 'belt' that runs continuously over the strings. Additionally, the string instrument should have automatic tuners attached to its pegs. These automatic tuners should be preprogrammed to continuously 'search' for, or tune to, a different (microtonal) pitch every $1/\pi$, $2/\pi$, $3/\pi$ and $4/\pi$ second.

<u>Duration:</u> As long as battery power permits.

(iii) Location: Performance space (stage, concert hall, etc.)

Material (actions): Performer with a remote control and a transparent vacuum box (vacuum chamber 1), placed within another transparent vacuum box (vacuum chamber 2) and held with wires from corner to corner. The inner most vacuum box should contain a string instrument and a battery powered wheel saw. Both should be stationary but close to each other. Additionally, a gradually closing bench vice should be situated around the body of the instrument (the 'gradual closing' mechanism should be operated by a battery powered motor powerful enough to squeeze and smash the instrument). The only control the performer has is putting the battery powers on or off.

Duration: Performer's discretion

(iv) Location: Within a human body, preferably in the blood stream

<u>Material (actions)</u>: Construct a nano string instrument, smaller than 1/21 of the diameter of a human hair, which can vibrate its strings in direct relation to the amount of adrenalin and oxygen in its environment. Inject the performer of 'iii' with this nano string instrument.

<u>Duration:</u> The rest of performer of 'iii''s life.