

Tanner Jones

derealization, dissociation,
other buzz words for my spiraling

(2021)

for two electric guitars,
percussion, and live electronics

Program Notes

If every composer has a piece about the ongoing pandemic, this is mine.
derealization... is a reflection on mental health in an age of isolation and escapism.

Performance Notes

All Performers:

Tuning: The scordatura tuning indicated at the beginning remains throughout the piece. The score is written as “transposing,” meaning the pitches indicated are not the sounding pitches; play as if in standard tuning.

Proportional Notation: For all but the last 35 measures of movement two, each “measure” is meterless, with timed durations indicated above the measure.

Guitars:

Amplification/Settings: Each player should use a roughly medium-sized amp (1x10”, 1x12”, etc.). Changes in distortion and reverb levels can be controlled onboard or via effect pedals.

Percussion:

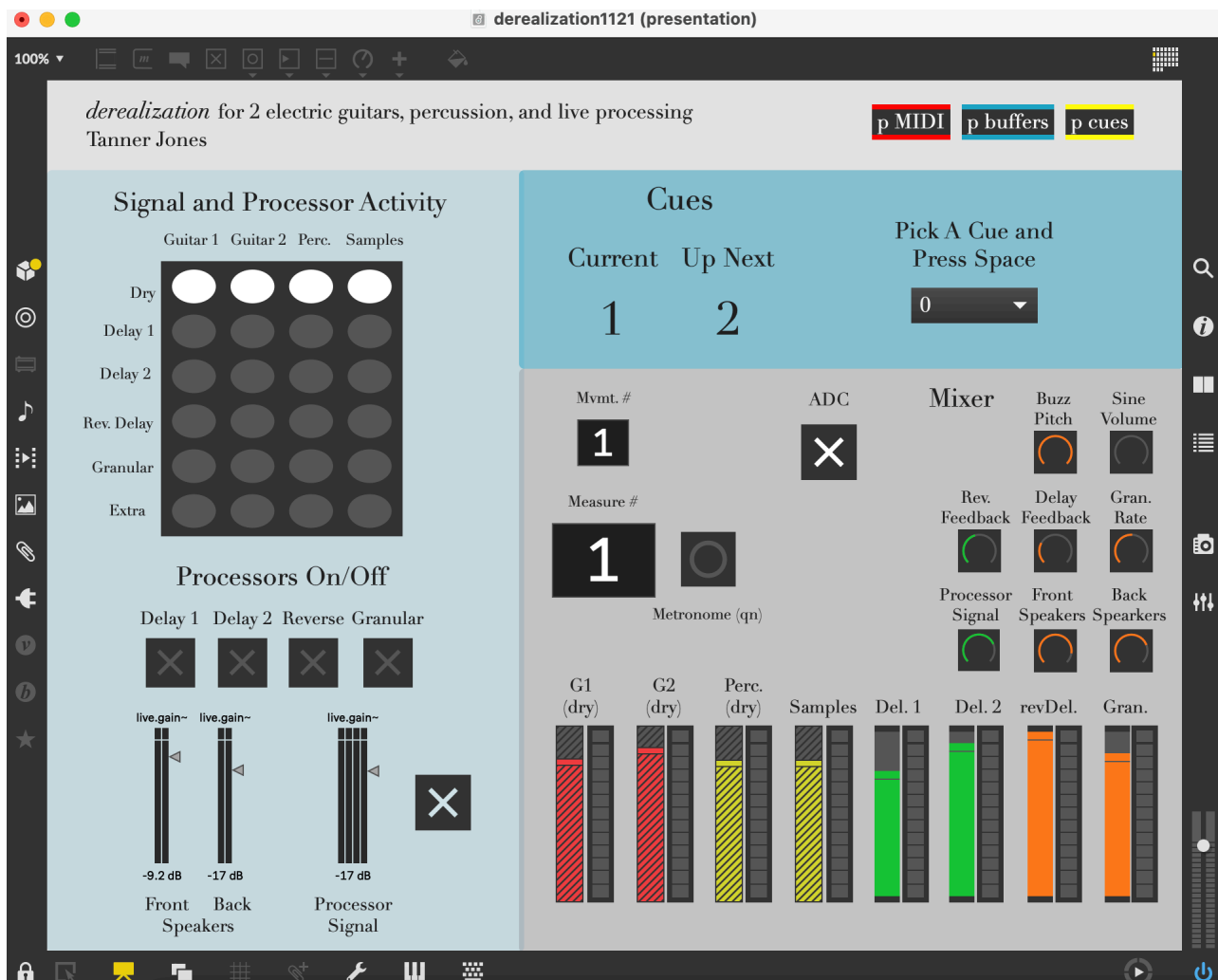
The percussionist is asked to play on a table-top acoustic guitar throughout the piece. Use as cheap a guitar as possible. Drum sticks are required.

Electronics:

The piece requires 3 dynamic microphones (into an interface), a Max/MSP patch by the composer, and a four-channel speaker system (ideally positioned as FL, FR, BL, BR).

A Max/MSP patch for coordinating measure timing is included. The patch, to be shown on a monitor facing the players, counts each measure throughout the piece based on the time durations in the score. It also displays a metronome (quarter note) for the last 35 measures, which are in time. A version of this patch displays on the controllerist's patch as well.

The electronics part is intended for a controllerist using a Launch Control XL controller. Knobs, sliders, and buttons can be rerouted through the MIDI subpatcher if using a different controller. Cues are advanced via the spacebar or the first (leftmost) button.



transposed score

derealization, dissociation, other buzz words for my spiraling

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i. i am awash with restlessness

Electric Guitar 1
light distortion, light reverb
feedback (pickups close to amp)
tuning: c# / g# / d# / g# / c# / c#

Electric Guitar 2
heavy distortion, light reverb
feedback (pickups close to amp)
tuning: c# / g# / d# / g# / c# / d

Percussion
table-top guitar w/ sticks
tuning: c# / g# / d# / g# / c# / c#
all strings, over soundhole
(5 stroke) >
f
3

Electronics
set: Del. Vol. 1 = 0, Del. Vol. 2 = 127, Rev. Del. Vol. = 127, Gran. = 64

1

E.Gtr. 1
3
move to seat
3.5"
8va
2.5"
f
pick scrape slowly from bridge to nut V, VI
(let ring) X X

E.Gtr. 2
move to seat
f
slide across strings over fretboard (hard pressure) with left stick in pattern indicated

Perc.
5:4
f

Elec.
Button 2
2

2

6 (8^{va})

E. Gtr. 1

E. Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

Del. Vol.

Button 2

(pattern similar to table-top guitar in m. 2)

9 (8^{va})

E. Gtr. 1

E. Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

Del. Vol.

Button 2

(pick scrape)

12 (8va)

E.Gtr. 1

E.Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

Del. Vol. 127

Button 2

ff

all strings, over soundhole

f

3

3

5:4

15

E.Gtr. 1

E.Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

8va

f

(pick scrape)
V, VI

bar at first fret with left stick
(hammer on hard)

(slide)

3

change Buzz Pitch ad lib. (dial 7A)

Button 2

(Del. Vol. stays at 127 throughout)

4

18 (8va)

E.Gtr. 1

E.Gtr. 2

(pick scrape)

Perc.

(change Buzz Pitch)

Elec.

Button 2

21 (8va)

E.Gtr. 1

E.Gtr. 2

Perc.

(change Buzz Pitch)

Elec.

Button 2

24 (8^{va})

E. Gtr. 1

E. Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

(change Buzz Pitch)

Button 2

27

E. Gtr. 1

E. Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

all strings, over soundhole

f

3

4

6
30 *8va*

E.Gtr. 1

f

E.Gtr. 2

(pick scrape)
V, VI

(slide)

Perc.

5
change Buzz Pitch ad lib.

Elec.

Button 2

33 *(8va)*

E.Gtr. 1

E.Gtr. 2

Perc.

(change Buzz Pitch)

Elec.

Button 2

36 (8va)

E.Gtr. 1

E.Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

(change Buzz Pitch)

Button 2

39 (8va)

E.Gtr. 1

E.Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

(change Buzz Pitch)

Button 2

8

E. Gtr. 1 ⁴²

E. Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

(change Buzz Pitch) → set: Buzz Pitch = 0

Gran. Rate 64

Button 2

all strings, over soundhole

3

8^{va}

(slide)

15 (8^{va})

E. Gtr. 1

E. Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

Gran. Rate 0

Button 2

48 (8^{va})

E. Gtr. 1

E. Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

Gran. Rate

Button 2

(hammer-on trill)

127

51 (8^{va})

E. Gtr. 1

E. Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

Gran. Rate

Button 2

0

10
54 (8va)

E. Gtr. 1

E. Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

Gran. Rate

Button 2

57

E. Gtr. 1

E. Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

all strings, over soundhole

buzz roll

decrease speed

7

60

E. Gtr. 1

E. Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

(slow)

fast double stroke roll

decrease speed

(slow)

63

E. Gtr. 1

E. Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

Del. Fdbk 0

buzz roll

decrease speed

12

66

E. Gtr. 1

E. Gtr. 2

Elec.

Del. Fdbk

127

69

15"

20"

E. Gtr. 1

E. Gtr. 2

Elec.

Del. Fdbk

Ring Vol.

0

0

127

change amp settings:
light distortion, heavy reverb

change amp settings:
light distortion, heavy reverb

8

ii. this place was mecca

randomly select any fret/string indicated with each box;
extremely slow
natural harmonics at frets 7 or 9

Electric Guitar 1

4"

fret 9

p

Electric Guitar 2

randomly select any fret/string indicated with each box;
extremely slow
natural harmonics at frets 7 or 9

fret 9

p

9

Delay 1 and 2 Vol.: 0

Ring Vol. 127

Electronics

E.Gtr. 1

4

frets 5, 7, or 9

E.Gtr. 2

frets 5, 7, or 9

Elec.

Ring Vol.

E. Gtr. 1

E. Gtr. 2

Elec. Ring Vol. 0

7

frets 9 or 12

frets 5, 7, or 9

grad. increase speed of notes

frets 9 or 12

frets 5, 7, or 9

grad. increase speed of notes

Detailed description: This musical score is for measures 14-15. It features three staves: E. Gtr. 1, E. Gtr. 2, and Elec. The E. Gtr. 1 staff starts with a treble clef and a '7' above the first line. It contains two boxes of notes. The first box, labeled 'frets 9 or 12', contains two diamond-shaped notes. The second box, labeled 'frets 5, 7, or 9', contains four diamond-shaped notes with a 'grad. increase speed of notes' annotation above it. The E. Gtr. 2 staff also has a treble clef and contains two boxes of notes. The first box, labeled 'frets 9 or 12', contains two diamond-shaped notes. The second box, labeled 'frets 5, 7, or 9', contains four diamond-shaped notes with a 'grad. increase speed of notes' annotation above it. The Elec. staff shows 'Ring Vol.' with a line that starts at a certain level and then drops to '0' at the end of the piece. Vertical dashed lines separate the two measures.

E. Gtr. 1

E. Gtr. 2

Elec. Del. 1 and 2 Vol. 0

10

(grad. inc. speed)

(grad. inc. speed)

(Ring Vol. remains at 0 for the rest of the piece)

Detailed description: This musical score is for measures 16-17. It features three staves: E. Gtr. 1, E. Gtr. 2, and Elec. The E. Gtr. 1 staff starts with a treble clef and a '10' above the first line. It contains a long horizontal line with an arrow pointing right, labeled '(grad. inc. speed)'. The E. Gtr. 2 staff also has a treble clef and contains a long horizontal line with an arrow pointing right, labeled '(grad. inc. speed)'. The Elec. staff shows 'Del. 1 and 2 Vol.' with a line that starts at a certain level and then drops to '0' at the end of the piece. Vertical dashed lines separate the two measures. A note at the bottom states '(Ring Vol. remains at 0 for the rest of the piece)'.

(grad. inc. speed) →

13

E.Gtr. 1

frets 7 or 9

E.Gtr. 2

frets 5, 7, or 9

Del. 1 and 2 Vol. →

Elec.

(grad. inc. speed) →

16

E.Gtr. 1

(grad. inc. speed) →

E.Gtr. 2

Del. 1 and 2 Vol. →

Elec.

16

(grad. inc. speed)

frets 5, 7, or 9

E. Gtr. 1

Musical staff for E. Gtr. 1. It features a treble clef and a series of diamond-shaped notes. A box highlights a section with fretting diagrams: a diamond on the 5th fret, a diamond on the 7th fret, and a diamond on the 9th fret with a horizontal line above it.

E. Gtr. 2

(grad. inc. speed)

frets 7, 9, or 12

Musical staff for E. Gtr. 2. It features a treble clef and a series of diamond-shaped notes. A box highlights a section with fretting diagrams: a diamond on the 7th fret, a diamond on the 9th fret, and a diamond on the 12th fret with a horizontal line above it.

Perc.

Percussion staff featuring a guitar headstock icon on the left. It contains several upward-pointing triangle notes indicating plucking points.

pluck strings at headstock

f

Elec.

Del. 1 and 2 Vol.

127

22

(grad. inc. speed)

E. Gtr. 1

Musical staff for E. Gtr. 1. It features a treble clef and a thick horizontal line across the staff, indicating a sustained or muted sound.

E. Gtr. 2

(grad. inc. speed)

Musical staff for E. Gtr. 2. It features a treble clef and a thick horizontal line across the staff, indicating a sustained or muted sound.

Perc.

Percussion staff featuring a guitar headstock icon on the left. It contains several upward-pointing triangle notes indicating plucking points.

Elec.

Del. Fdbk. 0

(Delay 1 and 2 Vol. remains at 127 for the rest of the piece)

(grad. inc. speed)
frets 5, 7, 9, or 12

E.Gtr. 1

25

E.Gtr. 2

(grad. inc. speed)
frets 5, 7, 9, or 12

Perc.

Elec.

Del. Fdbk.

28 as fast as possible

E.Gtr. 1

f

E.Gtr. 2

as fast as possible

f

Perc.

Elec.

Del. Fdbk.

ff

18
31

E. Gtr. 1

E. Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec. Del. Fdbk. 0 (sound continues) - - - - -

30"

32 in time ♩ = 54

9

E. Gtr. 1

E. Gtr. 2

Elec. 4/4

f

mf

10

35

E.Gtr. 1

E.Gtr. 2

Elec.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 35, 36, and 37. E.Gtr. 1 (top staff) features diamond-shaped notes (likely indicating a specific playing technique) in measures 35 and 37. E.Gtr. 2 (middle staff) plays a long, sustained chord across all three measures, with a 'hammer-off' instruction in measure 37. The Elec. (bottom staff) is empty.

38

E.Gtr. 1

E.Gtr. 2

Elec.

Detailed description: This system covers measures 38, 39, and 40. E.Gtr. 1 (top staff) has diamond-shaped notes in measures 38 and 39, followed by a triplet of diamond-shaped notes in measure 40. E.Gtr. 2 (middle staff) plays a long, sustained chord across all three measures, with a 'hammer-off' instruction in measure 39. The Elec. (bottom staff) is empty.

⑤ ⑨ ⑫

E.Gtr. 1

E.Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

41

hammer-off
pluck strings at headstock

f

3

⑨ ⑤ ⑨

E.Gtr. 1

E.Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

44

gradually tune down all tuning pegs

Del. Fdbk. 0

E.Gtr. 1

E.Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

(5) (9) 3 (7)

(12) 3 3

bend trill 1/2 step

(detune)

Del. Fdbk.

E.Gtr. 1

E.Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

(9) (12) 3 (7) (5)

(7) (9) (12) 3

f

(detune)

Del. Fdbk.

22

E. Gtr. 1

E. Gtr. 2

Perc.

Elec.

53

9 7 5 7 9 12

3 3 3

9 7 12

3

ff

Del. Fdbk.

127

56

E. Gtr. 1

E. Gtr. 2

Elec.

7 5 7 9 12 9 5 9 7 9 12

3

3

ff

Rev. Del. Fdbk. 0

(Del. Fdbck.: 127)

59

⑦ ----- ⑨ ----- ⑤ ----- ⑦ ----- (♩)

E.Gtr. 1

E.Gtr. 2

Elec. Rev. Del. Fdbk. Del. Fdbk. 127

62

⑨ ----- ⑦ ----- ⑨ ----- ⑫ -----

E.Gtr. 1

E.Gtr. 2

Elec. Rev. Del. Fdbk. 127 Del. Fdbk. 0

65

30" 15"

E.Gtr. 1

E.Gtr. 2

Elec. Rev. Del. Fdbk. Del. Fdbk.: 0