

«Quintenzirkel» / "Circle of fifths" for GingerEnsemble

Lara Stanic 2021

Sound performance for four performers, sine waves, compass and rope.

The performance is a play with "forbidden" fifth parallels.

Four performers move in a spatial (fifths) circle.

Each performer generates a sine tone using an app. A compass is built into the app which reacts as a sensor to the movements or orientation of the performers in space and controls the frequency of the sine wave.

The performers position themselves in four directions. Each position has a starting pitch: North - C1, South - G1, and East - E1, West- B1. See diagram. The performer pairs tune a fifth and walk slowly in a circle. They pull on a rope and move the fifth together.

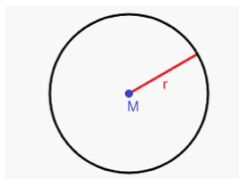
Material

Strong for example climbing ropes, chalk, tape, mobile phone, app, smal mobile loudspeaker, audio cable

Preparation

Draw a circle on the floor with chalk. Use the rope as a compass . The circle can be any size depending on the room/stage. For example, 5 m in diameter.

Find the cardinal points N E S W with the compass and mark them on the floor with some tape.



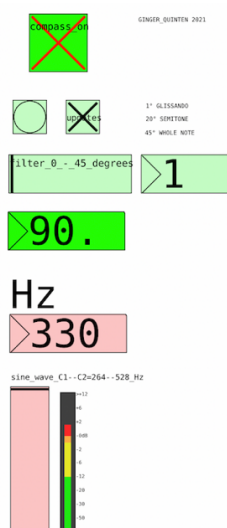
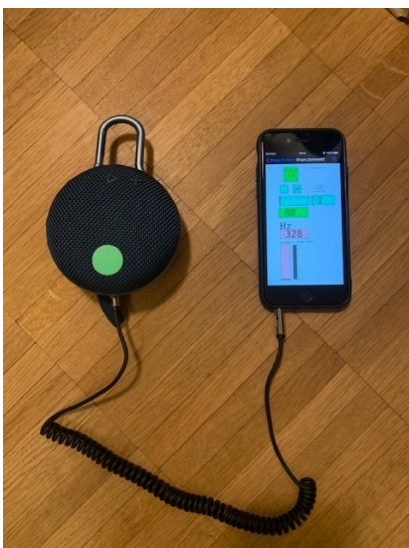
Connect the mobile phone via audio cable to a small portable speaker.

No Bluetooth connection. Set the LS volume rather high. All performers the same.

Switch mobile phones to flight mode, WLAN off, volume approx. 70%. Close all other apps.

Start the performance application. Let it run in the background. = Screen black.

The loudspeaker switched off = no sound. Hide the mobile phone and the loudspeaker in your trouser pockets.



Performance

Start

The performers come to the centre of the circle, each take one end of the rope, place on four positions and tighten the ropes. Positions: Performer 1 = 0° / P2 = 90° / P3= 180°/ P4= 270°.

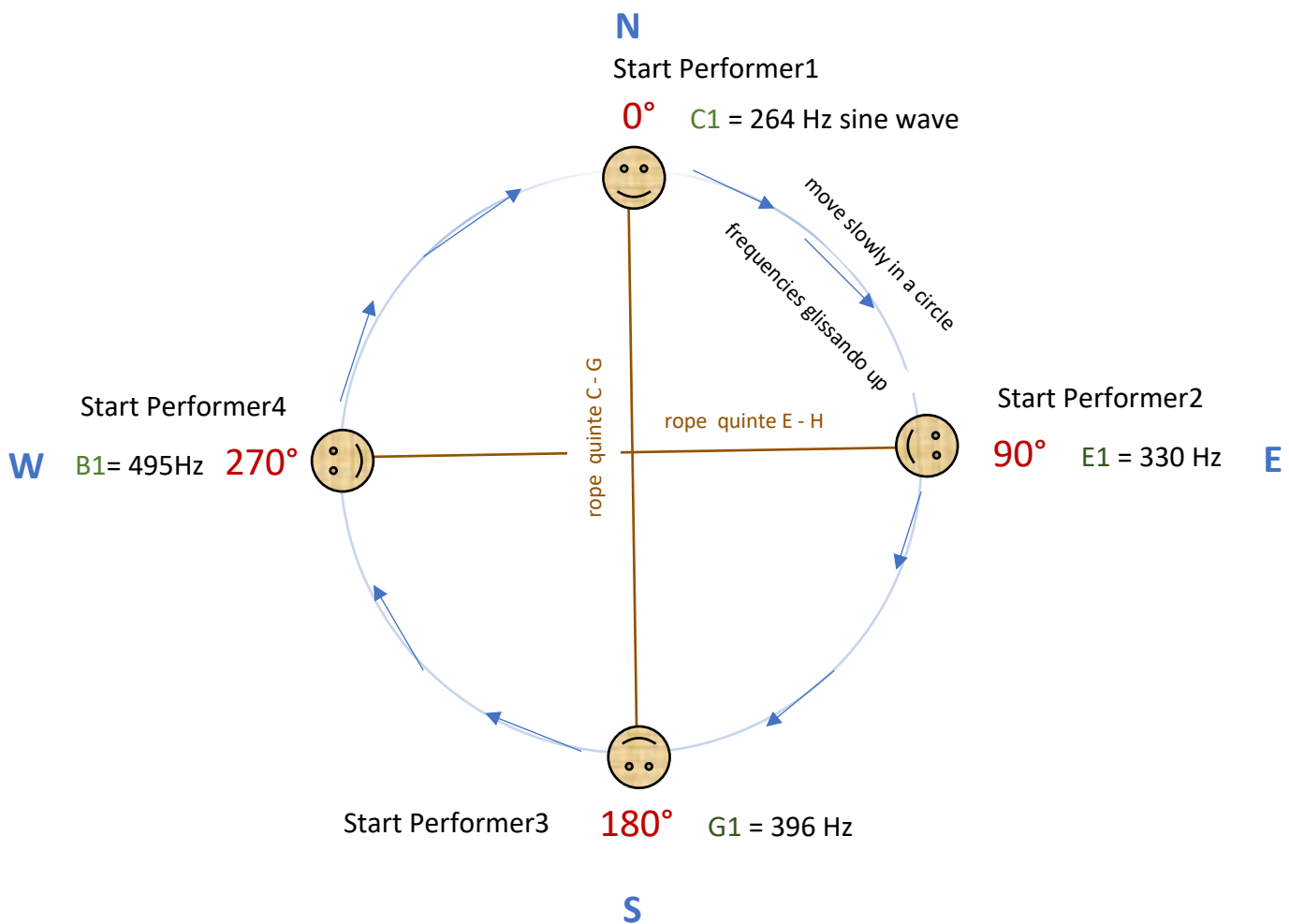
All performers face each other.

Performer1 counts in " 1 2 3 4 leave"- All turn the loudspeaker on. Remain in the starting position for approx. 10 seconds. The fifths C-G and E-B sound.

On the signal " 1 2 3 4 go " walk slowly, describe the circle.

Round 1

The performers walk clockwise. Walk the half or full circle. (decide In the rehearsal) While walking, they create glissandi upwards. Stopping at 0°/90°/180° or 270° for a few seconds, and "tune in" the fifths C - G and E - B.

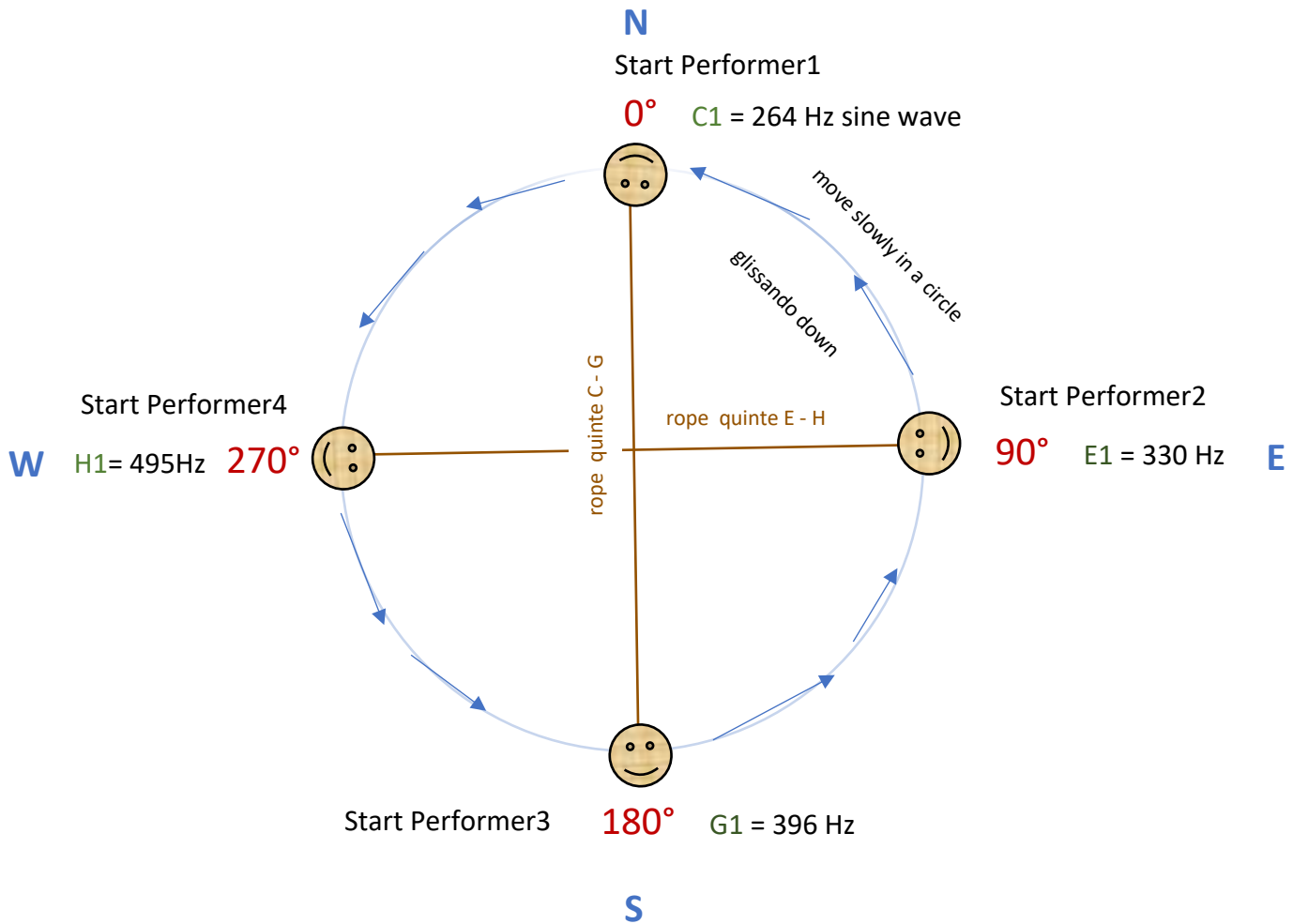


End of round 1/ Start of round 2

All performers turn synchronously once 180 degrees at the location. The performers now stand with their backs to each other. Always hold the ropes.

Round 2

The performers walk anti-clockwise. Half or the whole circle. They perform glissandi downwards. At each $0^\circ/90^\circ/180^\circ$ or 270° they stop for a few seconds and "tune in" the fifths.



End

The performers slowly lay the ropes on the floor and carefully walk out of the circle, each in their own direction.

They try to hold the frequencies as much as possible. Leave the Stage and switch off the loudspeakers in any order.