

ricefall

for sixteen or more performers

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ricefall is for 1x16, 2x16, 3x16 or 4x16 performers, rice, materials and a performance location

the duration of the piece is 18 minutes. it might be nice to repeat the piece with some separation, by programming it at the beginning and end of a concert.

the performing space is divided up into a square surface, 12 by 12 meters (ca. 40 x 40 feet), although smaller spaces might work.

there are sixteen squares of ca. 3 x 3 meters, with four units in each direction (see chart).

one performer (or the multiple thereof) will occupy each square. if there is more than one person per square, the performers may divide it equally, or may multiply the total area of the square.

in each square there is a material (on the floor) and a small table (with a container of rice).

there are eight kinds of material on the floor: metal, wood, stone, paper (on a hard surface), hard plastic, rice, dry leaves and ceramic (or glass).

the material should cover as much of the square as possible, given the performer a large surface on which to let the rice fall.

each kind material is used in two different locations, but there should be a clear difference in sound (resonance and/or pitch) between the two, as between, for instance a metal platter and a metal bowl, or different kinds or weights of paper.

the materials, with their different resonances are laid out by chance or choice (and the chart below may also be used).

plastic 1	metal 2	rice 1	paper 2
metal 1	leaves 2	ceramic 2	wood 2
wood 1	stone 2	ceramic 1	paper 1
stone 1	leaves 1	plastic 2	rice 2

all of the sounds in this piece are created by rice falling. the performers should use dry, uncooked rice of any kind and size (though it would be ideal to mix the various kinds and sizes). performers will probably need ca. 2 to 3 pounds of rice each. perhaps, afterwards, it can be cleaned and cooked.

there are sixteen individual parts, one for each player. these may be distributed at random. where multiples of two, three or four are involved, the players sharing the same square should have the same part.

the performance begins and ends with a minute of silence.

after the first minute there are 16 time units lasting 60 seconds each, with rice falling for the whole duration of the unit.

performers will need stopwatches.

each part describes an intensity (and style) of falling rice for each 60 second unit. all descriptions of the rate and amount of falling rice are approximated: an extra grain falling here and there or slight changes of speed are natural and anticipated.

intensity levels need to be calibrated and balanced; and for this purpose, a chart, laying out the various intensities over the course of the 16 time units has been provided. the highest intensity is steady (but not heavy) rain of rice.

- (1) = one grain falls, fairly regularly, every 2 to 3 seconds (count internally, but do not coordinate)
- (2) = one grain falls, fairly regularly, about every second (count internally, but do not coordinate)
- (3) = two to three grains fall, fairly regularly, about every second (as above)
- (4) = one to two small handfuls of grain fall gently out of the hand every second
- (5) = intermittent rice falling at a moderate rate, faster than what takes place at level (4)
- (6) = continuous falling rice at a moderate rate
- (7) = continuous falling rice at a fast rate: rapid but very light, with individual grains still perceivable
- (8) = continuous falling rice: fast, rapid (like a light rain)

depending on how much rice is falling in a section, the performer will need to develop a strategy that allows her to grab (as quietly as possible) the necessary rice from the bowl in a way that allows for continuity.

in general, the performer will want to explore the ways in which s/he can control the rate and regularity of the falling rice; explore for her own satisfaction the sound itself.

the performance space should be fairly resonant, but it should not have too much reverberation, as the spatial location of each performer should be audibly distinct.

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ricefall (chart)

section	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
part	intensity level															
1	6	7	8	7	5	3	2	2	4	6	8	5	1	1	3	4
2	7	8	7	6	6	4	3	3	3	5	7	6	2	1	2	4
3	5	6	8	7	6	4	3	2	3	4	8	7	2	1	2	3
4	7	6	8	8	4	3	2	1	4	7	8	4	1	2	3	5
5	7	8	8	7	4	3	1	2	6	7	7	4	1	1	4	5
6	6	7	8	8	5	2	1	3	4	5	7	6	1	1	3	3
7	4	6	8	7	5	2	1	3	4	7	8	5	1	2	4	4
8	5	8	8	7	4	2	3	2	5	6	8	4	1	1	2	5
9	6	8	8	6	6	4	2	2	3	7	8	5	1	1	3	3
10	6	6	7	8	5	4	3	2	4	7	8	5	1	2	3	4
11	8	7	8	7	5	3	2	1	4	6	7	4	1	1	4	4
12	5	7	8	6	4	3	1	2	3	5	8	5	1	1	3	3
13	5	8	8	7	6	3	2	1	5	7	8	4	1	1	4	5
14	6	7	7	8	5	3	3	2	4	6	8	5	2	1	2	4
15	6	6	8	7	4	3	2	2	4	5	8	6	1	1	3	5
16	7	7	8	6	6	2	1	2	4	6	8	5	1	2	3	3
<i>average</i>	6	7	7.81	7	5	3	2	2	4	6	7.75	5	1.19	1.25	3	4

ricefall : part (1)

sections are indicated with roman numerals.

timings indicate the beginning of each section.

descriptions indicate the manner and rate of the falling rice.

numbers in parenthesis indicate levels of intensity of falling rice, on a scale from 1 to 8.

the performance begins with one minute of silence.

I	1:00	continuous, moderate (6)
II	2:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
III	3:00	continuous, fast (8)
IV	4:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
V	5:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
VI	6:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
VII	7:00	one grain per second (2)
VIII	8:00	one grain per second (2)
IX	9:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
X	10:00	continuous, moderate (6)
XI	11:00	continuous, fast (8)
XII	12:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
XIII	13:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XIV	14:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XV	15:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
XVI	16:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)

the performance ends at 18:00

ricefall : part (2)

sections are indicated with roman numerals.

timings indicate the beginning of each section.

descriptions indicate the manner and rate of the falling rice.

numbers in parenthesis indicate levels of intensity of falling rice, on a scale from 1 to 8.

the performance begins with one minute of silence.

I	1:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
II	2:00	continuous, fast (8)
III	3:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
IV	4:00	continuous, moderate (6)
V	5:00	continuous, moderate (6)
VI	6:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
VII	7:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
VIII	8:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
IX	9:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
X	10:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
XI	11:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
XII	12:00	continuous, moderate (6)
XIII	13:00	one grain per second (2)
XIV	14:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XV	15:00	one grain per second (2)
XVI	16:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)

the performance ends at 18:00

ricefall : part (3)

sections are indicated with roman numerals.

timings indicate the beginning of each section.

descriptions indicate the manner and rate of the falling rice.

numbers in parenthesis indicate levels of intensity of falling rice, on a scale from 1 to 8.

the performance begins with one minute of silence.

I	1:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
II	2:00	continuous, moderate (6)
III	3:00	continuous, fast (8)
IV	4:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
V	5:00	continuous, moderate (6)
VI	6:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
VII	7:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
VIII	8:00	one grain per second (2)
IX	9:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
X	10:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
XI	11:00	continuous, fast (8)
XII	12:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
XIII	13:00	one grain per second (2)
XIV	14:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XV	15:00	one grain per second (2)
XVI	16:00	about two to three grains per second (3)

the performance ends at 18:00

ricefall : part (4)

sections are indicated with roman numerals.

timings indicate the beginning of each section.

descriptions indicate the manner and rate of the falling rice.

numbers in parenthesis indicate levels of intensity of falling rice, on a scale from 1 to 8.

the performance begins with one minute of silence.

I	1:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
II	2:00	continuous, moderate (6)
III	3:00	continuous, fast (8)
IV	4:00	continuous, fast (8)
V	5:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
VI	6:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
VII	7:00	one grain per second (2)
VIII	8:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
IX	9:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
X	10:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
XI	11:00	continuous, fast (8)
XII	12:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
XIII	13:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XIV	14:00	one grain per second (2)
XV	15:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
XVI	16:00	intermittent, moderate (5)

the performance ends at 18:00

ricefall : part (5)

sections are indicated with roman numerals.

timings indicate the beginning of each section.

descriptions indicate the manner and rate of the falling rice.

numbers in parenthesis indicate levels of intensity of falling rice, on a scale from 1 to 8.

the performance begins with one minute of silence.

I	1:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
II	2:00	continuous, fast (8)
III	3:00	continuous, fast (8)
IV	4:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
V	5:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
VI	6:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
VII	7:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
VIII	8:00	one grain per second (2)
IX	9:00	continuous, moderate (6)
X	10:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
XI	11:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
XII	12:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
XIII	13:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XIV	14:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XV	15:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
XVI	16:00	intermittent, moderate (5)

the performance ends at 18:00

ricefall : part (6)

sections are indicated with roman numerals.

timings indicate the beginning of each section.

descriptions indicate the manner and rate of the falling rice.

numbers in parenthesis indicate levels of intensity of falling rice, on a scale from 1 to 8.

the performance begins with one minute of silence.

I	1:00	continuous, moderate (6)
II	2:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
III	3:00	continuous, fast (8)
IV	4:00	continuous, fast (8)
V	5:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
VI	6:00	one grain per second (2)
VII	7:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
VIII	8:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
IX	9:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
X	10:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
XI	11:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
XII	12:00	continuous, moderate (6)
XIII	13:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XIV	14:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XV	15:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
XVI	16:00	about two to three grains per second (3)

the performance ends at 18:00

ricefall : part (7)

sections are indicated with roman numerals.

timings indicate the beginning of each section.

descriptions indicate the manner and rate of the falling rice.

numbers in parenthesis indicate levels of intensity of falling rice, on a scale from 1 to 8.

the performance begins with one minute of silence.

I	1:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
II	2:00	continuous, moderate (6)
III	3:00	continuous, fast (8)
IV	4:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
V	5:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
VI	6:00	one grain per second (2)
VII	7:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
VIII	8:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
IX	9:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
X	10:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
XI	11:00	continuous, fast (8)
XII	12:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
XIII	13:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XIV	14:00	one grain per second (2)
XV	15:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
XVI	16:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)

the performance ends at 18:00

ricefall : part (8)

sections are indicated with roman numerals.

timings indicate the beginning of each section.

descriptions indicate the manner and rate of the falling rice.

numbers in parenthesis indicate levels of intensity of falling rice, on a scale from 1 to 8.

the performance begins with one minute of silence.

I	1:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
II	2:00	continuous, fast (8)
III	3:00	continuous, fast (8)
IV	4:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
V	5:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
VI	6:00	one grain per second (2)
VII	7:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
VIII	8:00	one grain per second (2)
IX	9:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
X	10:00	continuous, moderate (6)
XI	11:00	continuous, fast (8)
XII	12:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
XIII	13:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XIV	14:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XV	15:00	one grain per second (2)
XVI	16:00	intermittent, moderate (5)

the performance ends at 18:00

ricefall : part (9)

sections are indicated with roman numerals.

timings indicate the beginning of each section.

descriptions indicate the manner and rate of the falling rice.

numbers in parenthesis indicate levels of intensity of falling rice, on a scale from 1 to 8.

the performance begins with one minute of silence.

I	1:00	continuous, moderate (6)
II	2:00	continuous, fast (8)
III	3:00	continuous, fast (8)
IV	4:00	continuous, moderate (6)
V	5:00	continuous, moderate (6)
VI	6:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
VII	7:00	one grain per second (2)
VIII	8:00	one grain per second (2)
IX	9:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
X	10:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
XI	11:00	continuous, fast (8)
XII	12:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
XIII	13:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XIV	14:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XV	15:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
XVI	16:00	about two to three grains per second (3)

the performance ends at 18:00

ricefall : part (10)

sections are indicated with roman numerals.

timings indicate the beginning of each section.

descriptions indicate the manner and rate of the falling rice.

numbers in parenthesis indicate levels of intensity of falling rice, on a scale from 1 to 8.

the performance begins with one minute of silence.

I	1:00	continuous, moderate (6)
II	2:00	continuous, moderate (6)
III	3:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
IV	4:00	continuous, fast (8)
V	5:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
VI	6:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
VII	7:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
VIII	8:00	one grain per second (2)
IX	9:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
X	10:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
XI	11:00	continuous, fast (8)
XII	12:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
XIII	13:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XIV	14:00	one grain per second (2)
XV	15:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
XVI	16:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)

the performance ends at 18:00

ricefall : part (11)

sections are indicated with roman numerals.

timings indicate the beginning of each section.

descriptions indicate the manner and rate of the falling rice.

numbers in parenthesis indicate levels of intensity of falling rice, on a scale from 1 to 8.

the performance begins with one minute of silence.

I	1:00	continuous, fast (8)
II	2:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
III	3:00	continuous, fast (8)
IV	4:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
V	5:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
VI	6:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
VII	7:00	one grain per second (2)
VIII	8:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
IX	9:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
X	10:00	continuous, moderate (6)
XI	11:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
XII	12:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
XIII	13:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XIV	14:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XV	15:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
XVI	16:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)

the performance ends at 18:00

ricefall : part (12)

sections are indicated with roman numerals.

timings indicate the beginning of each section.

descriptions indicate the manner and rate of the falling rice.

numbers in parenthesis indicate levels of intensity of falling rice, on a scale from 1 to 8.

the performance begins with one minute of silence.

I	1:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
II	2:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
III	3:00	continuous, fast (8)
IV	4:00	continuous, moderate (6)
V	5:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
VI	6:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
VII	7:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
VIII	8:00	one grain per second (2)
IX	9:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
X	10:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
XI	11:00	continuous, fast (8)
XII	12:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
XIII	13:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XIV	14:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XV	15:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
XVI	16:00	about two to three grains per second (3)

the performance ends at 18:00

ricefall : part (13)

sections are indicated with roman numerals.

timings indicate the beginning of each section.

descriptions indicate the manner and rate of the falling rice.

numbers in parenthesis indicate levels of intensity of falling rice, on a scale from 1 to 8.

the performance begins with one minute of silence.

I	1:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
II	2:00	continuous, fast (8)
III	3:00	continuous, fast (8)
IV	4:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
V	5:00	continuous, moderate (6)
VI	6:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
VII	7:00	one grain per second (2)
VIII	8:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
IX	9:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
X	10:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
XI	11:00	continuous, fast (8)
XII	12:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
XIII	13:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XIV	14:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XV	15:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
XVI	16:00	intermittent, moderate (5)

the performance ends at 18:00

ricefall : part (14)

sections are indicated with roman numerals.

timings indicate the beginning of each section.

descriptions indicate the manner and rate of the falling rice.

numbers in parenthesis indicate levels of intensity of falling rice, on a scale from 1 to 8.

the performance begins with one minute of silence.

I	1:00	continuous, moderate (6)
II	2:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
III	3:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
IV	4:00	continuous, fast (8)
V	5:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
VI	6:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
VII	7:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
VIII	8:00	one grain per second (2)
IX	9:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
X	10:00	continuous, moderate (6)
XI	11:00	continuous, fast (8)
XII	12:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
XIII	13:00	one grain per second (2)
XIV	14:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XV	15:00	one grain per second (2)
XVI	16:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)

the performance ends at 18:00

ricefall : part (15)

sections are indicated with roman numerals.

timings indicate the beginning of each section.

descriptions indicate the manner and rate of the falling rice.

numbers in parenthesis indicate levels of intensity of falling rice, on a scale from 1 to 8.

the performance begins with one minute of silence.

I	1:00	continuous, moderate (6)
II	2:00	continuous, moderate (6)
III	3:00	continuous, fast (8)
IV	4:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
V	5:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
VI	6:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
VII	7:00	one grain per second (2)
VIII	8:00	one grain per second (2)
IX	9:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
X	10:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
XI	11:00	continuous, fast (8)
XII	12:00	continuous, moderate (6)
XIII	13:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XIV	14:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XV	15:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
XVI	16:00	intermittent, moderate (5)

the performance ends at 18:00

ricefall : part (16)

sections are indicated with roman numerals.

timings indicate the beginning of each section.

descriptions indicate the manner and rate of the falling rice.

numbers in parenthesis indicate levels of intensity of falling rice, on a scale from 1 to 8.

the performance begins with one minute of silence.

I	1:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
II	2:00	continuous, fast, light (7)
III	3:00	continuous, fast (8)
IV	4:00	continuous, moderate (6)
V	5:00	continuous, moderate (6)
VI	6:00	one grain per second (2)
VII	7:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
VIII	8:00	one grain per second (2)
IX	9:00	one to two small handfuls of grain per second (4)
X	10:00	continuous, moderate (6)
XI	11:00	continuous, fast (8)
XII	12:00	intermittent, moderate (5)
XIII	13:00	one grain of rice every 2 to 3 seconds (1)
XIV	14:00	one grain per second (2)
XV	15:00	about two to three grains per second (3)
XVI	16:00	about two to three grains per second (3)

the performance ends at 18:00