Sonata for the President-Elect
for three performers with building materials

Stephen F. Lilly
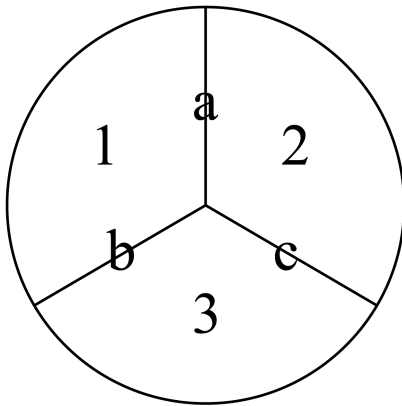
(2016)

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The three performers (represented by numbers) are arranged in a circle according to the following diagram:
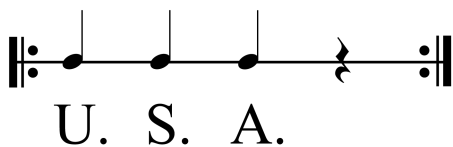

Using building materials intended for children (e.g. stacking blocks or Legos), each performer attempts to build two walls separating themselves from the other two performers (on the diagram, the walls are represented by letters).

Performers may steal from one another's structure to aid in the construction of the wall with the other performer (e.g. Performer 2 may take from Performer 1's progress on Wall a to reinforce Wall c). However, during construction, performers cannot leave their own territory in pursuit of building materials nor can they steal from one section of a wall to help along another portion of the same wall (e.g. Performer 2 cannot take some of Performers 1's work on Wall a to reinforce another part of Wall a).

While building, each performer should cantankerously list all the things that make them angry. Performers should avoid direct confrontation, but should two performers find themselves locked in a stare-down over a partially constructed border, they should both chant repeatedly:

U. S. A.

When one of the two performers gets louder than the other feels comfortable with, the louder performer wins and construction resumes.

Ideally, the piece would never end, but practically, one or more builders may abandon the project.