47 TUCANAE

violist(s), 17 music stands and a large, open space

Robert Blatt

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The work involves the superimposition of 17 known positions of millisecond pulsars in the globular cluster 47 Tucanae on a seven-circuit labyrinth. A diagram outlines the position of each pulsar within the labyrinth. A music stand is place at each pulsar position, with the front of the music stands facing the directions indicated by arrows in the diagram.

There are 17 pages of music, and each page contains the name and frequency of rotation of one of the 17 pulsars notated in equal temperament with cent deviation. Each music stand holds the page of music associated with its pulsar.

A performance begins with a violist entering the labyrinth. With more than one violist, each enters one at a time, waiting until the preceding violist has reached at least one music stand. Upon reaching a music stand, the indicated note is softly played for the length of a bow stroke. When a violist arrives at the center, they turn around and follow the path back. The performance is finished when all violists have exited.

A performance occurs, ideally, outside at night under a starry sky.



































