



Rules  
to  
GAME OF TREE

## GAME OF TREE

### "Rules of the Game"

- OBJECT: to create a musical composition involving one or more performers.
- EQUIPMENT: one playing board, two dice, tokens, green cards, white cards, blank white paper, and writing utensils.
- PREPARATION: Place the playing board on the table or floor and put the green and white cards on their allotted spaces on the board. Each player chooses one token to represent him on his travels around the board, and is given a blank white piece of paper to write his part of a musical score. He must select a definite pitched instrument with at least a three octave range for which he will be writing. The name of the instrument should be written in the upper left hand corner of the score part (-see SCORE).
- THE PLAY: Each player in turn throws the dice. The player with the lowest total starts the play. He places his token on the corner marked START HERE and moves his token in the direction of the arrow the number of spaces indicated by the dice. After he has completed his play and marked his score with the appropriate pitch, noise or silence, the turn to play passes to the left. The tokens remain on the spaces occupied and proceed from that point on the player's next turn. Two or more tokens may rest on the same space at the same time.
- GREEN CARD: If a player's token lands on a square not situated at a corner, he proceeds to draw a green card. The green card will determine whether the player writes a pitch indicated by "P" or a noise indicated by "N" on his score part.
- If a pitch (P) is indicated, then a general register for that pitch will be given on the card: high indicated by "H", middle indicated by "M", or low indicated by "L". The actual pitch to which these designations apply will be located in the space below the square on which the player's token rests. If there is a word with the pitch, the word may be spoken in conjunction with the pitch (i.e., before, after, or simultaneous with), replace the pitch, or be replaced by the pitch, whatever the player chooses. If there is only the word "of" in the space, the word must be used instead of a pitch. If the space is empty, an indefinite pitch on the particular instrument must be chosen (i.e., violin: pizzicato behind the bridge on the G string).
- If a noise (N) is indicated by the green card, the player must think of a sound (noise) associated with the building or space located directly above the square on which the token rests (i.e., Permanently Yours Employment Agency: telephone ring). The noise may be one that can be performed live or taped, with or without amplification.
- The duration of the pitch or noise is indicated on the square on which the player's token rests: "L" indicating a long duration of approximately 4 seconds, or "S" indicating a short duration of 1 second or less. When writing a long pitch, a whole note is used. When writing a short pitch, a black note head is used. When writing a long noise, "4 sec." is written above a bordered description of the noise. When writing a short noise, "1 sec." is written above a bordered description of the noise. The first pitch or noise should be written in the lower left hand corner of the player's score part. The next pitch or noise will be written directly to the right of the first (-see SCORE).

SILENCE:

If a player lands on a corner before each player has had a turn, he writes the word "silence" on his score part. Once all players have had at least one turn, then the next player landing on a corner requires all players to write "silence" on their score parts and proceed to the next system upwards, writing their next pitch or noise (or silence) directly above the very first one of the game (-see SCORE). They proceed on this system until after each player has had a turn, someone lands on a corner requiring all players to proceed to the next system upwards. When all players finally proceed to the 4th system and each has had his turn, the next player to land on a 'silence' ends the game.

The duration of all silences is approximately 4 seconds. Players may treat their silences like the other noises of their score parts and write "4 sec." above them, but since there is only one approximate duration for silences, it is not required.

A silence resulting from a drawn blank white card should be treated just as though a player has landed on a corner (-see WHITE CARD).

WHITE CARD:

If a player rolls doubles or a total of 4 or 10, he moves his token as usual the sum of the two dice. Before drawing a green card, he selects a white card for special instructions. He follows what is required of him, and then unless indicated otherwise, he draws a green card. Sometimes he must choose a green card to follow through with white card instructions (i.e., "tremolo pitch or noise"). Sometimes he needn't choose a green card when a white card uses the words "play instead". If a white card is blank, it indicates "silence", and the player (or players) should act as though he landed on a corner (-see SILENCE). If a player lands on a corner after having rolled doubles or a total of 4 or 10, the silence takes precedence over the white cards, so no further action is necessary by the player.

END OF GAME:

When all players have proceeded to the 4th system upwards, and each has had at least one turn on this system, then the next player to land on a corner or draw a blank white card ends the game.

PERFORMANCE:

In a performance situation, the players of the game don't necessarily have to be the performers. Players should write their score parts clearly and with enough description for the sounds so they can be interpreted accurately by any knowledgeable musicians of the particular instruments involved with the game.

The performance space can be located indoors or outdoors. The players should not be clustered together, but separated in space preferably among or around the audience.

The score parts of a particular game are played simultaneously. Each performer should focus on his score part alone, not worrying if he is 'with' the other performers. Naturally, the timing of each score part will be different, so endings of each system will not occur simultaneously nor will the end of the score parts occur simultaneously among the performers. The performers should leave approximately 1 second of space (or silence) between sounds (i.e., pitch, noise or silence). Timbres of sounds, unless specifically indicated, are left to the imagination of the performers.

As mentioned earlier, noises may be taped, so performers may use cassette recorders along with their instruments to be played at appropriate moments. Each performer's sounds should be on his own separate tape located in his particular area of performance.

The over-all dynamic level of the performance should be 'piano' (soft).



SCORE:

Refer to the sample score or score part (on the next page) when reading the following detailed explanations. It might be noted that the sample is the complete score if there is only one player of the game. It is a score part if there are two or more players.

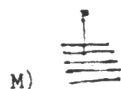
Explanations

- A) The name of the instrument for which the player will be writing should be written in the upper left hand corner.
- B) The number of the particular tree game and the date it is played should be written in the upper right hand corner.
- C) The first sound should be written in the lower left hand corner (- this is where the performer will begin reading his score or score part). Note that the sound is a short pitch written on a staff with no clef. A clefless staff indicates treble clef when reading the pitch. All other clefs must be indicated on the staff. In this particular situation, the player had the choice to use the word "but" in conjunction with the pitch, instead of the pitch, or simply ignore the word and use the pitch alone. Obviously, the latter was chosen. The register indicated on the green card was probably "M" (middle).
- D) The second sound, written directly to the right of the first, is a long noise.
- E) The next sound, 'silence', is an indication for the player (and performer) to proceed to the next system upwards. This particular sound did not necessarily occur during this player's turn since once all players have had a turn, the next player landing on a corner or drawing a blank white card requires all players to write 'silence' on their score parts and proceed to the next system upwards.
- F) The first sound of the second system is the word 'of'. Though the player drew a green card indicating a pitch(P), the space below his token has only the word 'of' in it with no pitch.
- G) The next sound is a short noise. It is a sound that would probably be taped for performance.
- H) The next sound is a long pitch with a word 'is'. The player had a choice again and this time chose to use the pitch in conjunction with the word. He has written the word so it stops the sound of the pitch when it spoken in performance.
- I) The next sound 'silence' is an indication to proceed to the next system upwards.
- J) The first sound of the third system is 'silence'. This silence did occur on the player's turn before each player had a turn on this particular system. Therefore, the others did not write it in their scores. He wrote it as though it were a long noise to distinguish it from a silence which ends a system. This procedure is optional. The word 'silence' would have been sufficient.
- K) The next sound is a short noise. This particular sound would probably be amplified.
- L) The next sound 'silence' is again an indication to proceed to the next system upwards, being the fourth and final one this time.
- M) The first sound of the fourth system is a short pitch. In this particular case, it is a high indefinite pitch. Therefore, it can be deduced that the space below the player's token was empty, requiring him to select an indefinite pitch on the instrument he is writing for.
- N) The next sound 'silence' ends the game.

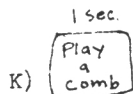
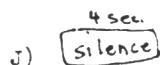
SAMPLE SCORE OR SCORE PART:

A) Violin

B) Tree Game #29 8-4-84

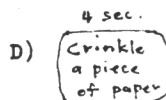
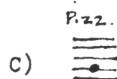
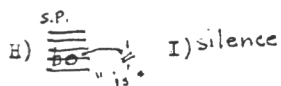
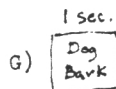


N) silence



L) silence

F) "of"

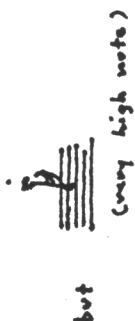


E) Silence.

(SEE PRECEDING PAGE FOR DETAILED EXPLANATIONS)

# White cards template (p.1) for Game of Trees

Say and play instead:



Say after:

of

Begin pitch or noise when another player's pitch or noise ends.

Say after:

but

Repeat pitch or noise with syllables of the word:  
of·fir·my·tion

(If on a 'silence', choose any pitch or sound to repeat)

play before:



Repeat pitch or noise 5 times

(If on a 'silence', choose any pitch or sound to repeat)

Say before:

is

Repeat pitch or noise 4 times

(If on a 'silence', choose any pitch or sound to repeat)

Repeat pitch or noise with syllables of the word:

con·tra·dic·tion

(If on a 'silence', choose any pitch or sound to repeat)

Play pitch or noise in a tremolo style for 2 seconds

play instead:

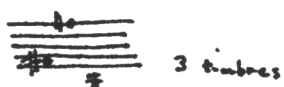


Play instead:



Begin pitch or noise and immediately stop when another pitch or noise begins.

play instead:



Begin pitch or noise with another player's pitch or noise