

# 519

For Solo Suona

By Austin Engelhardt



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Dedicated to Kwan Leung Ling and Chen Yi

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2021

# Program Notes

519 is a piece for solo Suona based in the world of improvisation. Over the course of the work, the performer disassembles their instrument and uses each part to explore sounds and timbres possible on the instrument. The work was inspired by watching my friend Kwan improvise on his instrument and hearing all of the tonal possibilities he was able to achieve.

## Performance notes

- Two Suona are need for the piece, selection of Suona range is left to the discretion of the performer.
- The piece notates no exact pitches; all pitches are left to the discretion of the performer.
- The performer may insert improvisation anywhere in the piece.
- The performer should have fun with it!



20" Two Suona: Think circular thoughts and speed up over time.

Sustain a pitch for while.

Improvise a melody, repeat it.

15" - 20" One Suona: freely improvise in low register, never too loud.

8" Angular improv: Think geometrical thoughts.

10" Circular breath, hold one pitch until impressed.

10" Bird sounds ala 百鳥朝鳳, never to dense

12" Reed Only: follow density, never too loud.

Body only: playing as if a flute.

Improvise as long as desired using only the body.

Always getting quieter, until only breath.