

# Age and the Greater Coming Together

By Marc Jensen

*For Pauline Oliveros on her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

*This is a short reflection on a lifetime of personal connections when gathered to celebrate someone's life.*

## **Preparation:**

Each person in attendance should take a moment to think back over his or her life and jot down some notes that address the following questions:

- What year did I first meet the person we're celebrating today?
- Was this person important in my life before we actually met?
- Was there a time when we were closest? Any key dates in our relationship?
- How did this person influence my life over time? How did this influence grow or change?

## **Performance:**

Project the year of the celebrated person's birth on a screen visible to all in attendance. The person conducting the piece should give a clear beginning cue, and when the piece begins, the date on the screen should begin ticking forward steadily at a rate of one year per second.

Each person in attendance should remain silent until the year counter arrives at the date in which the celebrated person first entered his or her life. When that point arrives for each person in attendance, each individual may begin making any sound that he or she feels expresses his or her relationship, which will likely change over time.

This sound may be as simple as humming.

When the timeline reaches the current year, everyone in the group should be sounding. The sound may stop there, or keep going until it naturally ends. This is the sound of the moment that is happening right now.