

## Secreto a voces [*An open secret*]

By Ximena Alarcón-Díaz. Jan 2, 2017  
For 3 people in a telematic/mobile circle  
Duration 85"

*This score is dedicated to Pauline Oliveros for the precious teachings that she left with me.*

### *Introduction*

In these contemporary times of immediate communication, 'free' display of thoughts, and a permanent sharing of personal information stimulated by social networks, I feel a need for a shared expression space that holds a sense of privacy while nourishing social trust.

This score stimulates both respectful and creative sharing of deep individual needs (secrets) while building collective trust, experiencing the strength of distant sonic and social interconnections.

### *Preparation*

Create a circle of three people living in distant locations.

The circle shares emails.

The circle agrees: a software to connect[1], a day and time to perform, and the order in which the participants will be 'speakers', according to their location on the planet (e.g. moving from East to West, or from South to North), so everyone will have the chance to speak, crisscrossing the planet.

At the agreed time the members of the circle will know who is the first speaker and the order.

A moderator needs to be chosen.

### *Salutation*

The moderator makes sure that all connections have been established and all participants are online.

The moderator invites participants to breathe, and each member of the group introduces herself by saying "Hi" "Name" "Geographical Location" and "Mind location" (in any language) e.g. Hola, Ximena, Londres, Heart, and adding a free gesture of salutation (visual and/or sonic, depending on the software) to which the others will respond by greeting back with the same greeting.

When the salutations have finished,

Everyone keeps silence, waiting for the first speaker to start.

The performance starts.

### *Speaker 1 and subsequent speakers (25" per person)*

In your most quiet time

Listen to your inner voice

Listen to a secret [2] that you need to express

And that your inner voice trusts with you

Amplify it in a whisper which only you could understand

Repeat it as many times as needed, and gradually transform the whisper into sounds that cannot be fully formed as words

When ready, voice these sounds one time to the circle

Wait for their echoes

And listen for the trust

After having heard all the echoes  
respond immediately with a word or sound that you trust

Give mental space for the next speaker  
And become a listener

### *Listeners*

Choose a response delay time from 1 to 5 seconds  
Or trust the delay of the long distance transmission medium

Listen to a secret that is trusted to you by a distant speaker  
Receive it in a warm sonic space of understanding  
Beyond language(s)  
Fill gaps of the whisper with verbal sounds that emanate from the heart  
As if in a new private language of secret protection  
Amplify the secret back to the speaker in that new language  
Reaffirming the bonds of trust

Listen for the response of the speaker  
As if in a mutual trust

If it is your turn, become a 'speaker'  
If it is not, listen for the next 'speaker' and start again the cycle.

When the go around returns to the first person who acted as a speaker, all speakers voice aloud,  
once and with a time delay from 1 to 6 seconds, the transformed secrets in a new secret language  
directing these voices to a place in the world where they would like to be heard.

Everyone listens in their mind for the echo coming from those places  
Silently thank your trust circle, gradually grounding yourself in the physical place where you are  
(e.g. feeling your feet on the ground).  
When you are ready, disconnect from the group with a smile.

Offline, continue listening for echoes while awake and in your dreams  
Until the need has been fulfilled (a response has been received).  
When the need is fulfilled  
Each participant sends a sonic gift of gratitude to your fellow circle listeners via email

It doesn't matter if the fulfilment takes seconds, hours, days or years.

### Notes

1. This score is for a group of people connected through a bi-directional streaming audio software that suits all. I recommend: Jacktrip, Soundjack, Google Hangouts, or Zoom. For mobile: LiveShout (bi-directional for iPhone) or LocusCast (unidirectional), together with Locus Map. It requires headphone listening, and binaural microphones if possible—otherwise participants can use any available microphone. In some software, panning options could be used. If participants have binaural microphones, and the streaming software is stereo, the *speaker* will speak in the right ear of the microphone, and the *listener* will respond in the left ear of the microphone. The mics are open all the time during the performance, both for speakers and for listeners. This effect will identify acoustically the speaking/listening experience, holding symbolically the secret in-between the two ears. If mobile software is used, public spaces can be used to increase the intensity of the expression of the secret.
2. Speakers can prepare secrets in advance of the performance, and use the available time to connect to these.