

Pauline Oliveros, from *Software for People*
selected writings 1963-80

The Poetics of Environmental Sound

The following was produced at the invitation of composer Udo Kasemets, editor of *CANAVANGARD*. "The Poetics Of Environmental Sound" appeared in Issue 1, *Focus on MusicEcology*, published by Berandol Music Limited, Canada.

"The Poetics Of Environmental Sound" consists of a listening exercise and quotations from about 150 different responses to the exercise. The quotations are arranged as if the sounds and emotional qualities effect a collaborative musical composition.

It was first assigned to students at the University of California at San Diego as part of a liberal arts course known as The Nature of Music. This course encourages students to develop musical perception through group improvisation, graphic notation and tape composition.

Theory students of Alvin Lucier at Brandeis University and Allen Strange at Indiana University also participated.

*"I Heard A Boy Singing
Long Long Ago.
He Rode With The Reins Loose
And Let The Horse Go."*

Robert Duncan

Listen to the environment for 15 minutes or a longer but pre-determined time length.

Use a timer, clock or any adequate method to define this time length.

Describe in detail the sounds you hear (heard) and how you feel (felt) about them.

Include internal as well as external sounds.

You are part of the environment.

Explore the limits of audibility:

(highest, lowest, loudest, softest, simplest, most complex, nearest, most distant, longest, shortest sound)