

# Nostalgia

*By Vanessa Tomlinson ©2013*

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Nostalgia is a preparation for improvisation – done onstage, in silence, in front of the audience. Alternatively it is an exercise in improvisation, done together, in silence, in front of each other.

**Preparation:** You will find a series of instructions as the score. Please cut these up into individual cards so there are 4 and 6 for each player. If you need more, simply copy the instructions again so some players have the same cards.

Deal out the cards to the players, and then place the card that says PLAY at the end. Each player does not have to have the same amount of cards, but should have either 4, 5 or 6 cards (excluding PLAY). The players must not see these cards before going on stage. Choose someone to be the leader to give hand cues to move on to the next card.

**Pre-performance instructions:** In this work you will be asked to undertake a series of “imaginative listenings”. You will receive a series of cards with instructions on them such as “Listen to the sound of.....”. Your task is to try, as hard as possible, to listen to that sound – in your imagination. You look at the first card only until the cue from your leader (after around 30”). Then you will change to the next card, and attempt an aural transformation from the sound you had, to the next sound. This process continues. At some point, one of your cards will say PLAY, and then you begin improvising. You are alone, but please do not disregard others.

**Performance:** The imagined sounds happen live in front of the audience, in silence. If you would like you may provide cards for the audience (perhaps one instruction for the entire audience), or they can simply listen to, (watch), you. Once you start playing, try to resist joining the ensemble for as long as possible. Use your imaginative listenings as inspiration for playing. The piece finishes when are ready.

Listen to the sound of urgency	Listen to the sound of a football cheer	Listen to the sound of chatter.....on an airplane
Listen to the sound of peace	Listen to the sound of your childhood backyard	Listen to the sound of autumn
Listen to the sound of urgency	Listen to the sound of children leaving the classroom	Listen to the sound of water as it runs over stones
Listen to the sound of your Grandmother's kitchen	Listen to the sound of happiness	Listen to the sound of yourself, crying
Listen to the sound of the waves as they touch the sand	Listen to the sound of your first car.....on gravel	Listen to the sound of rain, when it has stopped
Listen to the sound of the desert	Listen to the sound of your father's voice	Listen to the sound of footsteps

PLAY	PLAY	PLAY
PLAY	PLAY	PLAY