

# Peppered Sound

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for woodblock, tuning fork and plate, clave,  
thunder tubes, gravity sticks, ratchet, recorder,  
sine-wave generators and background noise

for two players

by Andrew Pink

## INSTRUMENTS:

This piece requires the following instruments:

1. Two woodblocks
2. Clave
3. Recorder (any)
4. 'A 440' Hz tuning fork (as heavy as possible)
5. A tin plate- this is set in motion by the tuning fork held lightly on its surface. Experiment to find resonant points.
6. One large and one small thundertube- these instruments may be familiar. They are cardboard tubes open at one end and sealed with a tight membrane at the other. Attached to this membrane is a long coiled spring, which will vibrate when, agitated by rocking the tube. This will excite the resonant air in the tube causing a thunderous sound. Available from thundertubes.com or Hobgoblin Music in the UK.
8. Ratchet- this can be of the football type or the typical percussion member.
9. Two gravity sticks- again may be familiar. They are children's toys and consist of a thin plastic tube with a sliding 'widget' inside that, on inversion, allows the rapidly compressing air to rush through it causing a loud squeal. Two are recommended, held together as one.
10. Two sine-wave generators and amplification. The old style analogue continuously variable model is best. The two generators must interact to produce beats. Choose two frequencies around 300Hz and similar in pitch.
11. The pieces' third player is the ambient background noise in the room that the performance takes place in. The piece is a trio with this as the constantly changing third element.