

Analyzing Alvin Lucier's *I Am Sitting in a Room*: A Potential Measure of the Natural Resonant Properties of Performance Spaces at Randolph College

Alvin Lucier's *I Am Sitting In a Room* is a sound/art piece in which spoken word is recorded, played back and then recorded multiple times until the characteristics of the original recording disappear. We hypothesize that this procedure emphasizes the room's resonant frequencies. Dr. Speer's group will, with our technical help, perform and record this work using various input signals in various performance spaces on the Randolph College campus. We will also independently measure the acoustical properties of these spaces using more standard techniques to serve as baseline comparisons. We will analyze the acoustical data from these measurements and the performances to understand the relationship between the outputs of these performances and the baseline acoustical measurements. We will then build a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.) art piece that incorporates the scientific output of this project and Lucier's work into an art/music/sound performance.

Performing Alvin Lucier's *I Am Sitting In a Room*

(Companion research to Schenk and Vazquez)

Alvin Lucier's sound art piece *I Am Sitting In a Room* explores the science of acoustics by amplifying and playing a recorded speech in a room, re-recording it, and laying/recording again and again – possibly emphasizing the room's natural resonant frequencies and ultimately removing all semblance of human speech. In three or four specific variations, we will realize performances of this work in performance spaces on the Randolph College campus. In addition to producing several interesting sound art pieces that incorporate the output of our sister project, we hope to explore the use of *I Am Sitting In a Room* as a measure of the resonant characteristics of performance spaces.



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