

"BRIDGE"

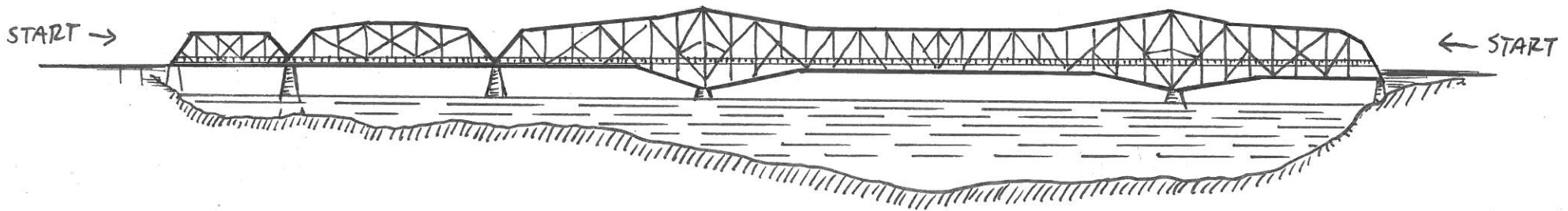
Jesse Z. Stewart 2013

(IN SITU: 45.429751 | -75.703296)

- for one or more performers -

This piece explores the Royal Alexandra Interprovincial Bridge between Ottawa, Ontario and Gatineau, Quebec as a musical instrument. It can be performed by almost anyone, regardless (or despite) musical training.

The performer begins by walking from either the Ontario or Quebec side to the approximate middle of the Alexandra Bridge along the pedestrian pathway.



As you walk along the path, listen to the sounds of the vehicles passing over the asphalt and metal portions of the bridge, creating a series of ever-shifting drones that differ in pitch, timbre, and volume depending on the size and speed of the vehicles as well as their position relative to your own. Listen also for other sounds emanating from the bridge or from the river below. Once you have reached the middle of the bridge, place your ear against the metal railing that spans the bridge's length and listen to the sounds of the bridge as they travel through the structure itself.

As an optional variation, performers can treat the series of drones created by the passing vehicles as a musical ground upon which they superimpose rhythmic figures by tapping on different parts of the bridge's metal railing using their fingers, drum sticks, or percussion mallets. When finished, go back to listening to the sounds of the bridge as you walk back to one end or the other.