

Breaking Boundaries
Pauline Oliveros



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Play a chord. Hold the keys down and listen to the end of the sound.

The selected chord may have three or more notes governed by the player's need to play a new chord while continuing to hold the keys of the previous chord down. The chord might be more or less consonant or dissonant to begin.

Keep holding the keys of the first chord and break the silence with another chord that is most dissonant to the first chord. Listen to the end of the sound. Keep holding the keys of the new chord and release the keys of the first chord. Break the silence with a chord that is consonant with the previous chord. Listen to the end of the sound. Continue this cycle adding and subtracting consonant and dissonant chords until a way to break the established pattern is heard and tried; then, alternate the established cycle of dissonant and consonant chords with new boundary breaking ways.

For a duo or an ensemble version, all players use the same instructions — selecting chords and breaking boundaries independently. Pedal work and dynamics are free.