

# GOLDFISH VARIATIONS for two performers

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In GOLDFISH VARIATIONS the musical outcome is determined by the movement of a goldfish, which is placed in a fishbowl between two performers.

The performers can use any instruments, instrument and voice, or voice alone.

Both performers must play notes or phrases within the same whole tone scale.

The performers should interpret the behaviour of the goldfish in real time so that the instrument/vocal performance is synchronous with the movement of the goldfish.

The performers determine the duration of the performance.

The movement of the goldfish determines the tempo, pitch, articulation and dynamic variation. These parameters are transformed according to the following goldfish behaviour:

**Tail swish:** *tempo*

The tempo will increase or decrease according to the tail swish of the goldfish. Each beat is determined by the swish of the goldfish's tail (or lateral fins).

A note (or a rest) should be played on each beat (left or right swish of the goldfish's tail).

**Swimming direction:**

**up or down:** *pitch*

↑ *phrase/pitch ascends (overall melody ascends, but may include any note in the scale)*

↓ *phrase/pitch descends (overall melody descends, but may include any note in the scale)*

The vertical gradient determines the number of steps between the notes played (i.e. the steeper the gradient, the larger the interval)

The initial position of the goldfish will determine where to pitch the beginning of the piece.

**left or right:** *articulation*

→ *staccato*

← *legato*

**toward or away:** *dynamic variation*

swims toward performer: *forte (cresc.)*

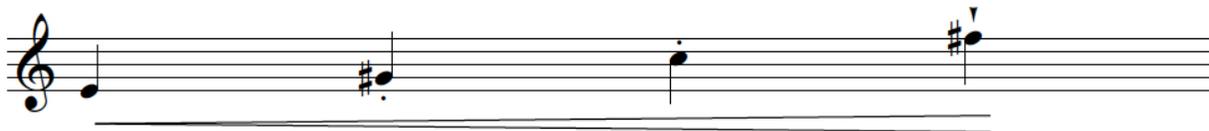
swims away from performer: *piano (dim.)*

**stationary (tail or lateral fin movement ceases):** *pause/rest until tail movement resumes*

**stationary (tail or lateral fin movement continues):** *repeat phrase or note, at same volume etc.*

**goldfish breaks surface of water:** *increase all parameters*

**Example 1.** *The goldfish swims up to the right, towards the performer.*



**Example 2.** *The goldfish floats downward in the tank, without swishing its tail, then swims away from the performer. (Pause as the goldfish sinks then resume at a pitch lower than previous phrase).*

