

James Weeks

Entuning (vocal version)

for a single vocalist

2026

In an open-air space, prepare by immersing yourself in the sound environment; with eyes closed, focusing on each sound in turn and gradually immersing yourself within their polyphony (see Polyphonic Listening). Continue until you feel calm, focused and attentive. Keep your eyes closed throughout the rest of the piece.

Hum a long tone at a comfortable pitch on every outbreath. Hold it for a long breath each time, and take time breathing in between hums.

Hum very gently and softly, so that it is only one level up from silent breathing. From your listening perspective, your sound should be embedded within the sound environment rather than standing out. Try to hear it as both a sound coming from within you and as something that is part of the environment at the same time. This dual perspective, inwards and outwards, is the point of the piece.

Listen also to the relationship of your pitch to the other sounds, as if your tone is tuning the environment to itself, and to you. Enjoy the harmony this makes, between both pitched and unpitched sounds, such as birds, water, wind in leaves, voices, traffic or aeroplanes.

Continue humming the same tone on every outbreath for as long as you want, taking breaks whenever you need. When you wish, change to another pitch, but only when you feel you need a change.

Finish the piece after you have finished listening.

for my friends at ARCH, Durham
March 2026