

The Great Indoors (2020)

- for park ranger & any number of explorers

In times of quarantine and rest, we, as animals, strive to reconnect with nature in novel ways. Each explorer here is given a random map of a national park by the park ranger, with the name unbeknownst to one another.

As the park ranger (conductor) starts the ensemble on their journey through the parks simultaneously, the explorers individually pace themselves through the trails on their respective maps, selecting an available entrance. They can each choose to demonstrate the landmark cues explained by the legend, fitting all the instruments in a backpack before the piece begins. These cues may be omitted or repeated, just as one would backtrack on a real path or engage with the same landmark more than once, or none at all. The explorers will remain active but stationary.

At any given time, the park ranger may approach any number of explorers if they wish to do so and participate using instruments from their own backpack, without verbal communication. It is solely up to the park ranger to interpret where the explorers are in their journey and join them without any clues. The piece is finished when the park ranger feels as though each explorer has taken in a healthy dose of scenery and sun. After the piece, the location of each explorer may then be revealed.

Instrumentation

(for each performer, as well as park ranger)

1. A backpack (on your back & with most of the contents in the backpack before the piece begins)
 - A medium bottle of water
 - A metal fork and knife
 - A piece of paper
 - Tape
 - Your car keys
 - Your phone (sound on)
2. Shoes (already on your feet)
3. Music stand(s) (to rest your map, legend, and items if necessary)
4. The Legend (found on the next page)
5. A random map of a national park (handed out by the park ranger)

Legend

	Paved/Unpaved Road	Audibly walk in place, stopping occasionally to take in the sights while speeding up and slowing down naturally.
	Campground	Constructively wave around a sheet of paper in the manner of setting up a flag or a tent.
	Restroom	Urgently knock on your music stand (or any hard surface) as you would a busy bathroom stall.
	Ranger Station	Shamelessly take a picture of your nearby surrounding with the camera on your phone (camera sound on).
	Drinking Water	Obnoxiously gurgle a mouthful of water and swallow with an audible gulp.
	Gas Station	Routinely grab your car keys and double click the unlock button. Double click the lock button once more.
	Horseback Riding	Gently ease into a slight trot from your normal walking pace. Resume walking on-foot after.
	Medical Clinic	Violently extract a piece of tape from its roll and bandage around any object.
	Picnic Area	Calmly unzip your backpack and search thoroughly. Zip up your backpack once you are through.
	Food Service	Joyously clank together and play with your silverware.