Conceptual Church Hymn

Dennis Báthory-Kitsz

The following program was written in Level II BASIC for Tandy machines.
It will generate an endless stream of hymn sheets. The hymn sheets
produced by this version were sent to 28 churches in Vermont.

```
10   CLS : DIM A$(20),B$(100)
20   A$(1) = "Close mouth.   "
30   A$(2) = "Find your place.   "
40   A$(3) = "Look down.   "
50   A$(4) = "Look up.   "
60   A$(5) = "Get lost.   "
70   A$(6) = "Diminuendo.   "
80   A$(7) = "Sing nothing softly.   "
90   A$(8) = "Sing nothing loudly.   "
100  A$(9) = "Gently.   "
110  A$(10)= "Open mouth.   "
120  A$(11)= "Rest.   "
130  A$(12)= "Crescendo.   "
140  A$(13)= "Sing nothing.   "
150  A$(14)= "Spread out arms.   "
160  A$(15)= "Rhythmic!   "
170  A$(16)= "Fold in arms.   "
180  A$(17)= "Concentrate.   "
190  A$(18)= "Be distracted.   "
200  A$(19)= "Rubato.   "
210  A$(20)= "Fermata.   "
220  FOR X = 1 TO 99 : B$(X) = A$(RND(19)) : PRINT B$(X); :
NEXT
230  B$(100) = A$(20)
240  LPRINT"Conceptual Church Hymn" : LPRINT" " : LPRINT" "
250  LPRINT"Part Number";RND(99) : LPRINT" " : LPRINT" "
260  B = LEN(B$(X))+B
270  IF B>62 THEN LPRINT"   " : PRINT"   " : B = LEN(B$(X))
280  PRINT B$(X); : LPRINT B$(X);
290  NEXT
300  LPRINT B$(100)
310  LPRINT CHR$(11)
320  I$ = INKEY$ : IF I$ = "" THEN 320 ELSE 220
```

To: Vermont Churches
Re: Conceptual Church Hymn

Dear Minister and Choir Director:

The *Conceptual Church Hymn* you have received is a revised version of the *Hymn* premiered by the Roxbury Union Congregational Church Choir and guests in the spring of 1989.

Sunday, May 19, 1991, is your scheduled date for the performance of this new version, and copies have been sent throughout Vermont for joint performance on this day. The performance itself, however, is conceptual. Whether or not your choir members actually sing this *Hymn* at your services, the unique copy of the score prepared for you will be performed, at least conceptually, by your choir on May 19. Such a performance will be imagined, but not imaginary. Hundreds of singers across Vermont will participate in the active silence of this music on that day.

The *Conceptual Church Hymn* score may be performed either as 100 beats or 100 measures. Each singer has a unique score; of the hundreds of parts sent throughout the state, no two are alike. (Ten unique parts are enclosed for you.) At each change (beat or measure, your choice), the singers perform one instruction on the score. After 99 instructions, the score concludes with a simultaneous fermata for everyone.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this *Conceptual Church Hymn.* It is dedicated to peace in the world.

Sincerely,

Dennis Báthory-Kitsz
January 6, 1991

Conceptual Church Hymn

Part No. 68

Be distracted. Sing nothing loudly.
Fold in arms. Get lost. Find your place. Be distracted.
Find your place. Sing nothing. Spread out arms.
Concentrate. Look down. Sing nothing softly.
Be distracted. Gently. Rubato. Sing nothing. Open mouth.
Find your place. Diminuendo. Fold in arms. Look up.
Close mouth. Rubato. Be distracted. Spread out arms.
Rhythmic! Spread out arms. Close mouth. Rhythmic!
Look down. Look down. Find your place. Sing nothing.
Sing nothing softly. Be distracted. Rubato.
Sing nothing loudly. Sing nothing. Open mouth. Rubato.
Look up. Spread out arms. Open mouth. Rubato. Rubato.
Sing nothing. Rubato. Open mouth. Look up.
Sing nothing softly. Sing nothing loudly. Rhythmic!
Find your place. Sing nothing. Sing nothing loudly.
Rubato. Be distracted. Look up. Get lost. Rest.
Sing nothing. Look up. Look up. Rest. Rhythmic!
Fold in arms. Look up. Close mouth. Diminuendo. Gently.
Be distracted. Concentrate. Sing nothing loudly.
Diminuendo. Look up. Close mouth. Fold in arms.
Crescendo. Be distracted. Open mouth. Spread out arms.
Sing nothing loudly. Open mouth. Get lost. Concentrate.
Sing nothing softly. Sing nothing softly. Gently.
Concentrate. Look down. Sing nothing loudly. Diminuendo.
Look down. Open mouth. Get lost. Rest. Look up.
Sing nothing softly. Sing nothing softly. Fermata.