

WEDNESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

John Cage was an American composer (1912-1992). His most famous work was 4'33" - a piece of music where the musicians sat in silence. The idea is that no place is really silent, so the composition is the sounds in the environment.

In 1987 he wrote a piece of music called 'As Slow as Possible', with its first performance taking 30 minutes, but some performances started reaching hours, with pianists trying to follow the instruction in the name.

To take this to an extreme a church in central Germany built a custom organ and has been playing the piece since September 2001, with 18 months of silence before the first note! It's due to finish in 2640.

Yesterday a note was played for the first time in two years, with a D4 being sounded, which will play for 2 and a half years! On [this Classic FM page](#) you can hear the chord change.



- 1) Is this music? Is it art?
- 2) Can you imagine creating something that you know you wouldn't see the end of?
- 3) What's the longest you have ever spent on a project?
- 4) People booked tickets years ahead to hear the change - is there anything you'd book in advance for?