

# *Superorganisms*

a score for the Chicago Scratch Orchestra by Dan Godston

*Superorganisms* includes five sections. Any & all instrumentation as well as vocalizations are acceptable and invited. Duration: 15 minutes (3 minutes per section). (The duration could be truncated or expanded depending on what is required during a concert.)

The orchestra is divided into four sections—A, B, C & D. The conductor indicates when each section begins. Musicians play the superorganism reflected in the title of the section, as well as individual parts / members of that given superorganism. For instance, if a musician is in “ant colony,” he/she could play the whole colony or one of the ants, or shift among different members and the whole superorganism. One could think & perform with a general “ant” in mind, or a specific “ant” in mind: fire ant, bull ant, worker ant, Adam Ant (just kidding, Mr. Goddard), leafcutter ant, etc.

1. “Ant Colony” performed by A.
2. “Beehive” performed by B.
3. “Siphonophore” performed by C.
4. “City” performed by D.
5. “Solar System” performed by the full orchestra.

## Notes:

1. Variations of *Superorganisms* could include sections / movements with birds, fungi, etc.
2. Tip o’ the hat to O.E. Wilson & Bert Hölldobler: <http://nyti.ms/JSqHwF>.
3. Here’s a post on the Richard Dawkins Foundation website about the siphonophore: <http://bit.ly/KAqVrE>.
4. I guess technically a solar system isn’t a superorganism, but oh well. (Or is it? Must a superorganism and its parts exclude non-sentient beings (<http://bit.ly/2XIKQH>)? Could a planet or a sun be considered a superorganism?) This isn’t intended to be presented to the National Institute of Science, or maybe it could be. If NIS has an auditorium, we could propose that they commission the CSO to perform there (with taxpayer dollars of course).