

Joseph Bourdeau  
Escalator to Nowhere  
Solo Guitar  
c. 5'00"

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for solo guitar

**Preparation** - Before taking the stage "randomly" tune an acoustic six string guitar, intentionally seeking discordant or extreme pitches for open strings.

**Staging** - The performer should sit on a stool in the center of the stage. To the performer's right there should be a music stand holding a pair of wire clippers, or another tool suitable for safely cutting guitar strings. The guitar may be amplified with light reverb at the performer's discretion. If used, amplification should be achieved through microphones rather than pickups.

**Performance** - Take the stage and sit casually, without acknowledging the audience. Take a moment to situate yourself before strumming open strings once, very dramatically, and allowing the chord to ring until it has decayed naturally. Once the chord has decayed, begin slowly and deliberately tuning the guitar. While the guitar need not be tuned around E, it should sound perfectly in tune with itself using the interval structure found in traditional standard tuning. This may be accomplished using any techniques the performer desires, but should look very natural and should not employ the help of a tuner or any drones. Once the guitar is in tune, strum an EM chord and allow it to decay naturally, as before. Once the chord has died immediately begin randomly, and very forcefully plucking the guitar strings with all fingers of both hands. The right hand should pluck over the sound hole, while the left hand should pluck over the highest frets on the fretboard. Do this for 7-10 seconds, increasing in intensity all the time. Once a maximum of force has been achieved, behave as if flying into a rage, and begin forcefully and angrily pulling strings off the guitar, one at a time. Once only the highest string remains calm suddenly. Pluck the string several times, while adjusting the tuning very slightly. Once "satisfied" with the pitch of the string, casually take the clippers and cut the string as if completing a routine task. Throw the guitar over one shoulder like a bundle and leave without acknowledging the audience.