

Performance score: A Prophet Looking For A Wall To Write On

the piece consists of three elements:

- 1) a slow pulse
- 2) a series of mainly drone, tremolo or arpeggio based gestures with short spaces between them, suggesting nonchalance and lack of response
- 3) improvised Waterphone gestures to coincide with the spaces, suggesting aggressively promoted urgent questions and dogmatic warnings

Basic option: for an improvising Waterphone player and a prerecorded Cork City Gamelan texture

Contact me for a prerecorded Cork City Gamelan background texture, which will be exclusively yours to use. I can work on the overall length of the texture, the tempo and character of the pulse, and the spacing and number of the gestures with you.

The piece starts and finishes with the pulse.

Begin playing the first Waterphone gesture before the first background gesture starts.

Play subsequent Waterphone gestures in the spaces between the background gestures - overlap live and prerecorded gestures as you see fit.

Play the penultimate gesture at the end of the last background texture.

Play a final gesture after the pulse finishes.

Compose your own texture:

Contact me for a collection of Cork City Gamelan sounds to compose and produce your own background texture.

Feel free to alter the pitch and duration of any of the sounds.

Feel free to add your own recordings of meaningless noises: voices, crowd, traffic, machinery, etc.

The piece should start and finish with the pulse.

Begin playing the first Waterphone gesture before the first background gesture starts.

Play subsequent Waterphone gestures in the spaces between the background gestures - overlap live and prerecorded gestures as you see fit.

Play the penultimate gesture at the end of the last background texture.

Play a final gesture after the pulse finishes.

Variation for two or three Waterphone players:

The second Waterphone player fills the space and attempts to emulate the character of the prerecorded textures.

The first Waterphone player directs the pacing and spacing.

The pulse may be prerecorded or played live by a percussionist. If available, another Waterphone player should play the pulse.

Fell free to use this score as a guide for making studio recordings your own versions of A Prophet Looking For A Wall To Write On

Günther Berkus, October 2nd, 2011