

VARIATIONS FOR DOUBLE-BASS

benjamin patterson

pitches, dynamics, durations and number of sounds to be produced in any one variation in this composition are not notated. (in the first performance by the composer a graphic score derived from ink blots was used as a guide; however, there are many other satisfactory solutions.)



I.

unfold world map on floor. circle with pen, pencil, etc. city in which performance is being given. locate end pin of bass in circle. Locate north and align with compass. affix with tape display local flag.

using four different toy whistles, animal or bird imitators or calls, etc. tune strings of bass as well as possible.

MAP
bird calls

III.

produce a number of arco, quasi-webern sounds. (Twining)

normal

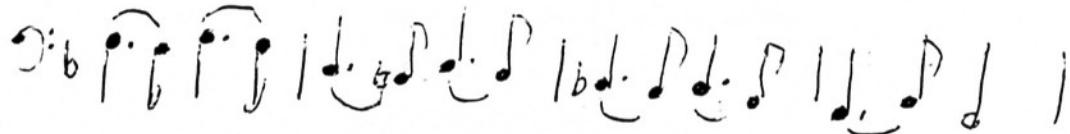
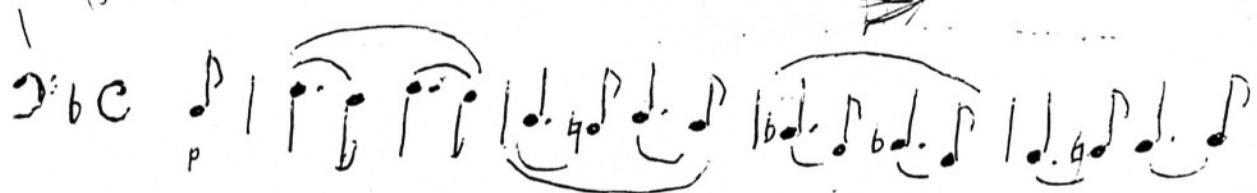
Andante mosso v



IV.

above + below bridge

place a number of wooden and plastic spring-type clothespins ^{just} on strings ~~several inches~~ above bridge in such a manner that they rattle and/or produce odd tones. arco; tremelo, trills and/or long tones.



(X)

V.



weave strips of gold-face paper through strings in space between bridge and fingerboard. fasten four colorful plastic butterflies to strings over gold paper. performing normal, "bartok" and/or "fingernail" pizzicati, catapult butterflies from strings.

(Rhythms)

Do This Milan VI. Newcastle

fasten clamps ("C" clamps, woodworking, etc. of various sizes)

over playing area on each of the four strings. flip clamps with fingers in such a manner that they rebound between adjacent strings.

VII.

place small objects of metal (paper clips, hair pins, etc.) on each string in various positions above bridge. perform double-stops, arco and/or pizzicato.

VIII.

holding bass by fingerboard upside-down, balance on scroll.

1. rub object of rubber (suede-leather brush, etc.) over strings

Comb

2. rub, crumbling to small pieces, large piece of celotex over strings

upside
rubber
Tyratofam
wheel

3. roll narrow wheeled furniture caster slowly down from endpin over tailpiece, bridge, G string and into pegbox (caster may squeak)

IX.

Rigolito; I bar. ~~Accord and winds~~

holding bass right-side-up perform long tones and double stops with two bows (right and left-hand)

Pizzicato

Violinistes

Accord *Andante mosso* *V*

Bird or sax *Trompet*

rrott

on lap

X.

Pizzett on strings stop Rott

perform pianissimo, medium and short tones arco with mute

XI.

Pizzacote Rigoletto full

agitate strings with following materials

1. brushes on folding brush

1. comb (as with hair; may employ mirror)

2. corrugated cardboard color samples

3. newspaper holder (wooden sticks as used in libraries) leather brush

filled with tissue paper, newspaper, cellophane, toilet paper, tinfoil, etc.

4. feather duster (red) other colors

The musical score consists of three staves, each representing a different brush. The top staff is labeled "1. Brush" and has four measures. The middle staff is labeled "#2. Brush" and also has four measures. The bottom staff is labeled "#3. Brush" and has four measures. The music is written in common time with quarter notes. Each measure contains four notes, with the first note having a circled "1" above it and the second note having a circled "2" above it. The third and fourth notes in each measure have circled "3"s above them. Measures 1 and 2 of each staff begin with a dynamic "p". Measures 3 and 4 begin with a dynamic "V". Measures 1 and 2 of the first two staves end with a fermata. Measures 3 and 4 of the first two staves end with a repeat sign. Measure 4 of the third staff ends with a repeat sign.

XII.

(optional)

Rigoletto rhythm.
with Chinese drum + Cuban

lay bass on side. slap and knock with flat and knuckles of hands

XIII.

place bass on stand, in a corner, or on a chair

1. fan with Japanese or Spanish hand fan and blow with mouth over strings

2. place inside bass one end of flexible tube to which is attached a balloon. (f-hole) fasten pump or mouth to other end and inflate balloon. Detach pump, attach whistle and allow balloon to deflate blowing whistle.

Pizzett