

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.

(X)

map

bird calls

III.

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

normal

Andante mosso v

IV.

above + below bridge

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

V.

~~Above + below bridge~~

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.

Rigolano

with arco

copies of butterflies

Do This Milan VI. Newcastle

fasten clamps ("C" claps, 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
2. rub, crumbling to small pieces, large piece of cellotex over strings
3. roll narrow wheeled furniture caster slowly down from endpin over tailpiece, bridge, G string and into pegbox (caster may squeak)

upside down
rubber
styrofoam
wheel

IX.

Rizolotto; 1 bar. ~~Acoustic~~ binds

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

instruments!
Accord.
bind or sax
cl.

Andante mosso v

The musical score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a bass clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature. It starts with a dynamic marking 'p' and includes several measures of music with notes, rests, and slurs. Above the notes are handwritten markings: '1', '2', '3', '4', and 'v'. The second and third staves continue the musical notation with similar markings. The fourth staff shows a more complex rhythmic pattern with notes and rests. The score is annotated with various performance instructions and markings throughout.

