## Ittai Rosenbaum

## ILINX

## For percussionist and visiting musicians and dancers

## (2014)

Ilinx is a fifty minute long composition in six episodes for solo percussionist and changing ensemble of musicians and dancers. The setup of the percussion instruments is changing for each episode according to specific floor plans and diagrams, and poses constant ergonomic challenges for the percussionist. The score cannot be performed without much movement of the percussionist: running, walking in circles, crawling, jumping and swirling. Gestures in llinx are made equally of sound and movement, but it is not a dance or a theatrical work, only an exaggeration of the motions percussionists do.

The six episodes are seamlessly tied one to the other and subtitled Edges, Intimate Things, Metallophone Nest, Pitches, Frontal Variations and Ending. The subtitles represent the general topic of the episodes, yet they are not disclosed to the audience. In each episode the percussionist concentrates on a particular musical topic or theme and uses instruments of different timbre groups. Each episode presents different relations to space, different trajectories or axes of movement across the venue in varying velocity and manner, and a different attitude towards the audience. Meanwhile, the other musicians and dancers perform a parallel, seemingly disconnected set of short cues, never synchronized in tempo with the percussion part and absolutely unmindful and disregarding of the space, the audience and especially of the percussionist. The ensemble offers a contrasted musical and performative reality to that of the percussionist.

## Performers

| Percussion | Accordion | Vocalists: |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Flute | Piano | Soprano |
| Tenor saxophone | Synthesizer/Keyboard | Alto |
| Violin |  | Tenor |
| Cello |  | Baritone |
| Trombone |  |  |
| Soprano recorder |  | Two dancers |

## Percussion instruments

Bass drum, 3 wood blocks on rack, claves, African claves, jaw Harp, sheets of paper, dry leaves, small pouch, tiny bell, beads chain, wrist bells, 2 finger cymbals, small shaker, stationary castanets, small bell ("High Bell")*, 9 metal pipes in different pitches, 10 Alpenglocken in different pitches, agogo, metal spiral, hand bells, shells, foot bells, tubular bells, medium-small gong, medium gong, crotales, vibraphone, 2 smooth cobbles, frame drum, rain-stick, wind chimes, suspended triangle, metal bowl, large gong

Cymbals: ride 1, ride 2, crash 1, crash 2, splash, China
Tom-toms: high, medium-high, low-medium, low, floor 1, floor 2
Rototoms: high, medium, low
Mallets: standard drum sticks (2 pairs), medium-hard mallets (2 pairs), single large bass drum soft mallet, pair of soft bass drum mallets, triangle wand,

* The small bell is hanged at the top of the tripod (see p. 92), and should preferably be of a special, attractive design.


## Additional equipment

1. Simple shoulder cloth bag
2. Instrument stand for claves
3. Music stands: no more than 4 for the percussion, preferably none, 5 stands at storage room (see room plan, p. 93), 6 stands in passage room, 1 for keyboard (total: 16-12)
4. Stool for cello, behind the piano
5. Stool for frame drum, stored under the piano
6. Rain-stick stand or a tall basket for diagonal position
7. Sheets of paper (see specifications in page 106)

## Locations of beaters at the beginning of the performance

1. Hard mallets on clave stand
2. Hard mallets inside tripod (to be used later also for episode 4 and for the bowl of episode 6)
3. Pair and single soft large mallets near bass drum
4. Large gong mallet attached to the gong frame
5. Drum sticks by wood blocks
6. Drum sticks on piano (for episode 5)

## Special stage design and objects

1. Ten-foot truncated tripod with poles held together near the top and rungs at about half the height and $3 / 4$ the height to hang bells and metal pipes. A small bell is hung at the top so that the percussionist cannot reach it with a drum stick. If the tripod is too low for that, add an extension to one of the poles. The High Bell inside the tripod should be hanged on a hook; the hook should be tied to a fishing string that can be rolled easily in order to pull down the bell at the end of episode 3.


Figure 1. Tripod, view from side, high bell


Figure 2. Tripod, view from above and location of metal pipes, bells, cymbals, agogo and large spiral spring
2. Truncated cone to attach the percussion parts of episode 4

3. 3 partitions to cover the backstage entrances and the keyboard player. The partitions should preferably be white and simple.

## Room plan

This version is designed for the performance studio (room 131) at the music department in the University of California Santa Cruz. The work may be performed in other venues of these characteristics:

1. Stage area should be at least 25 feet wide and 23 feet deep
2. Stage area and audience should be at somewhat the same level, and there should be easy access of the performers to areas around or behind the audience area
3. There should be either backstage room or a partitioned area on-stage large enough to accommodate about twelve musicians
4. The main entrance to the venue should be within easy access to the performers

The score should, however, be accommodated to the different proportions.



## Technical Instructions

1. The cloth bag should contain the following items: jaw Harp, sheets of paper, dry leaves, small pouch, tiny bell, beads chain, wrist bells, 2 finger cymbals and dice. The bag should be installed behind the partition at the lower left side of the floor plan
2. Four ensemble members sit on the right side of stage. They leave their seats at the end of episode 1 and move according to routes prescribed by the score
3. The sustain pedals of the vibraphone and the tubular bells should be set into pressed position

## Performance Instructions

## General

1. Unless indicated otherwise, performers should not assume theatrical behavior but only concentrate on performing the scored music. The composition ends with all performers leave the hall and there should not be any formal ending to the performance.
2. The score should not necessarily be memorized, although playing from memory would be beneficial. The percussion parts should be placed in restricted number of locations.
3. Some passages entail swift, virtuosic and even frantic movement. The movement instruction is either "(follow)", or not indicated at all. It is understood that at times the scored music might not be successfully executed.
4. The text whispered in the second episode is a random selection of short texts by Malcolm de Chazal. The text is printed both in a concentrated format on two pages, and also on single pages: one poem on each page. The single poems are, however in a font too large to fit a single page (see specifications), hence only several words will be printed and only fragments of the poem appear. The performer whispers poems either to individual audience members or to a small group of close by audience:
a. Choose one of these single pages
b. Finds the poem in the concentrated format
c. Read the poem from the concentrated format
d. After reading hand over the single page, with the fragmented poem to the audience member to whom you whispered (if whispered to a group, hand over to one of them)
5. Cymbals are never choked unless indicated otherwise

## Visiting performers

1. At the beginning of the performance the performers are located as in floor plan
2. The ensemble members should totally disregard the audience and the percussionist
3. Unless indicated otherwise, ensemble members should always return to their original location backstage after completing activity in the stage zone.
4. Recorder player should have the instrument ready to play but preferably hidden from audience
5. Backstage rooms should be comfortable to sit at
6. Synthesizer and keyboard player should be hidden from audience
7. For each cue in the score of the ensemble there is an excerpt from the percussion part and an arrow pointing at the beginning. Entrances need not be absolutely precise.
8. Conducting and cues are the responsibility of various members of the ensemble. The inscription $C O N D U C T O R$ is marked above the staff of the responsible member for each cue
9. When in the venue, ensemble members should absolutely avoid any sign of communication with the percussionist and the audience or acknowledgement of their existence. All activity should be reduced to the minimum necessary. Except for the last cue, music should be either memorized or read from parts set in indistinctive locations:
a. Tucked to the walls: cue 8 (episode 2) flute, violin, saxophone, trombone, cello
b. For the last cue musicians should enter with a music stand, and set it at the location indicated by the score
10. A stool should be prepared in front of the passage room for the cellist
11. Locations for performers' parts:
a. Copies of the full score and a performance outline should be located in the two backstage rooms
b. All piano parts should be prepared to play on the piano rack
c. Parts for alto in cues $7,10,18$ and 19 should be placed on the closed piano lid
d. Parts for the instrumentalists in cues 11 and 12 should be tucked to the backstage doors

## Legend

## Verbal and numerical instructions

| Example | Format | Meaning |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | Number in circle | Rehearsal numbers for <br> percussionist |
| Variations 1.01 | Plain font text and <br> number in rectangle | Reference to a room-plan <br> of the same number |
| Edges, ensemble cue 1 | Plain font text and <br> number in rectangle | Ensemble cue number |
| Place medium tom in front-center <br> facing audience | Italic font text | Action instruction. Usually <br> these actions are not <br> restricted by beat or time. |
| Theme | Plain font text in rectangle | Rehearsal mark |
| to claves | Text in hexagon | Go to the indicated <br> location and/or <br> instrument |

## Signs and symbols

| Sign | Meaning | Comment |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | performer | The tip indicates the direction of the face |
| $\infty_{0}^{\infty}{ }^{\infty}$ | Instruments for episode 2 | Beads, wrist bells, stationary castanets, tiny bell, egg/shaker, two finger cymbals |
| $\longrightarrow$ | Cymbal |  |
| $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{HM} \\ \text { tom } \end{gathered}$ | Tomtom |  |
| $00 \square$ | Wood blocks |  |
| Rotems | Rototoms | High, medium, low |
|  | Small gong | Suspended on a high stand |



|  | Relocate an instrument |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## Notation

| Sign | Meaning | Comment |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| As softly as possible, |  |  |
| preferably silently |  |  |


| Ally | Whisper |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Abbreviations: | Cymbals |  |
| Ch | China |  |
| Sp | Splash |  |
| Cr | Crash |  |
| R | Ride |  |
|  | Tom-toms |  |
| H | High |  |
| HM | High-medium |  |
| LM | Low-medium |  |
| L | Low |  |
| F | Floor |  |
| $\frac{\mathrm{n}}{\times}$ | Indefinite number of the rhythmic value in the denominator | In this example: indefinite number of eights |
| 尸 | Lay down instrument/mallet | These signs appear only when the action of laying or picking up the instrument has rhythmic significance |
| $4$ | Pick up instrument/mallet | These signs appear only when the action of laying or picking up the instrument has rhythmic significance |
|  | Interchange locations of instruments | The first two notes denote picking instruments up and the second pair indicate laying them down |
|  | (Episode II) Pick up instruments and play them one against the other |  |


| 三 |  | Play on music stand <br> Specific instrument note-head and the inscription "back" |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \begin{array}{l} \text { back } \\ \# \\ \# \\ \# \end{array} \end{aligned}$ |  |  | Play on the back of the instrument |
| $p$ |  | Diamond shaped empty notehead | Silent note |
| Cym. <br> $\underset{\text { Agg. }}{\text { Spr }}$ H.bls |  | Vertical double headed arrow between two notes of different instruments | Beat one instrument with the other. In this example beat cymbal with hand bells |

## Bass drum

| Beat and retain beater on skin to |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| choke resonance | Scrape skin |  |
|  | Advance with beating/muffling <br> according to the arrow | Scrape skin with right hand finger <br> Beat the drum at the point <br> indicated by asterisk |


| (17) | Tap with index finger |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 屏 | Snap finger | Index or middle finger, held by thumb and released powerfully |
| M/ | Beat with hand and then raise arm to the air | As if propagating the sound |
|  | Beating advances on the skin | Example: beater retained on skin to muffle resonance in eighth notes, beginning at center of skin, advancing to the edge |
|  |  | Example: finger tips play accelerated notes, beginning at edge of skin, advancing to the center |
| 電 | Crumple paper |  |
|  | Inserted music (music or directions appear in the box) | Arrow points to the approximate beginning point. The inserted music is not synchronized to the main score. |
|  | Inserted music, no box: same as above, but the inserted music appears later in the score |  |

## Mallets

| $(\sqrt{\text { (I }}$ | Mallet |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| (J) | drum stick |  |


| (J) | Bass drum large and soft mallet | Should always <br> remain by bass <br> drum |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| (d) | Claves |  |
| (hold) | Hold beaters without playing |  |
| (1) | Soft mallet | Should always <br> remain by bass <br> drum |

## Ensemble cues score



## Instruments and playing techniques

## Frame drum

Strokes:

1. $\mathrm{Pa}(\mathrm{Ka})$ - center of drum, 4 fingers of dominant hand hitting and stopping the vibrations
2. Doom - side of drum, thumb of dominant hand
3. Tek (Tak) - side of drum, ring finger of dominant hand
4. Ke (Ka) - side of drum, ring finger of holding hand

## Jaw harp

The jaw harp should preferably be made of bamboo and not be too loud.
Tied notes: single pluck with multiple mouth movements

## Technical Specifications

Printed sheets of paper

- Font: Aparajita (or similar), size 146
- Paper size: Letter or A4
- Paper color: brown/light-brown


## Text

## The texts in episode II

Malcolm de Chazal, from Sens-Plastique (1945) and Sens Magique (1957), translated by Patricia Terry. Surrealist Painters and Poets, an Anthology. Edited by Mary Ann Cows. MIT Press. Cambridge, MA; London, 2001

A bicycle rolls on the road. The eye The road is the third wheel Is a one-actor Rolling the other two.

The water says to the wave, "You are swallowing me." "How could I?" Replied the wave, "I am your mouth."

Absolute
Mastery
Of the body
Comes only in death.
"I'll never
Be
Old"
Said the man
"I have hope."

The road
Runs
In both directions
That's why
It stands still.
"Take me
Naked"
The flower said
To the sun, "Before
Night
Closes
My thighs"

The noise, bit off bits of itself
And left
Its teeth
Among
The keys
Of the piano.

With their peaks
Two mountains
Were touching a cloud.
For an instant
The cloud felt
Topsy-turvy
Unable to find
Its head.

When the fine
Seized the branch
The branch gave way
And the flower
Stuck its head out
To see what was going on.

Fanning yourself?
Not so.
The fan's in the wind's hand
That's why
You feel cool.

Emptiness
Has no
Way
Out.

If light unfurled
Its peacock tail
There would be
No room
For life.

Sugar
Doesn't know
What it tastes like.
Someone
Tasting it
Gives sugar
A taste of sugar.
"I've gone all the way around The Earth,"
One man said.
"Poor fellow
And all that time
You haven't progressed
Half an inch
In your body."
The pupil
Turned the eyes
The iris followed
The white of the eye
Delayed
Just long enough
Friend
for you
To slip into the face
Of the one you love.

A stone
Hears its heart beat
Only
In the rain.

The circle
Is an alibi
For the center
And the center
Is a pretext For the circle.

She wore
Her smile
Pinned
To her teeth.

## Light

Dressed
For the afternoon
Went
To play golf
With the holes.

The lake
This morning
After
A bad
Night
Got into
Its tub
To relax.

The wave
Out of its depth
On the shore
Went down.

He was
In such a hurry
To get to life
That it
Let him go.

| "I love you," | The quickest route | She anchored |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The woman said. | From ourselves | Her hips |
| "Be careful," | To ourselves | In his eyes |
| Said her lover, | Is the Universe. | And brought him |
| Too much |  |  |
| Or you'll come back |  |  |
| To yourself |  |  |
| Love is round." |  |  |
| "One and one | Blue | The car |
| Make two" | Always has | Will never |
| Said the mathematician. | An idea | Attain |
| What's that | Up its sleeve. | The speed |
| To God and the zero? |  | Of the road. |
| Cut water | Night |  |
| As much as you like | Is a rimless |  |
| Never | Hole. |  |
| Will you find |  |  |
| The skeleton. |  |  |
| The skeleton of wind |  |  |
| In life itself. |  |  |

The woman said.
"Be careful,"
Said her lover,
"Don't love me
Too much
Or you'll come back
To yourself
Love is round."
"One and one
Blue
Always has
An idea
Up its sleeve.

Night
Is a rimless
Hole.

Will you find
The skeleton.
The skeleton of wind In life itself.

## Texts sung by the ensemble

Sappho, from Sappho: a new translation, translated by Mary Barnard, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1958.

You may forget but
let me tell you
this: someone in
some future time
will think of us

Federico García Lorca, from "ciudad sin sueño (Nocturno del Brooklyn Bridge)", Poeta en Nueva York; Tierra y luna, edición crítica de Eutimio Martín. Barcelona: Ariel, 1981.
"No duerme nadie por el cielo. Nadie, nadie.
No duerme nadie."

## Ilinx I (Edges)

## Percussion:

3 Wood blocks, claves, bass drum Tom-toms: H, HM, LM, L, F1, F2
Rototoms: H, M, L
Beaters: sticks, hard mallets, single large soft mallet









Edges 2.01

(:ia)

(in)

(150)











Ilinx I (Edges)



Ilinx I (Edges)


## Ilinx II (Intimate things)

Percussion: simple shoulder cloth bag containing a jaw Harp, sheets of paper, dry leaves, small pouch, tiny bell, beads chain, wrist bells, 2 finger cymbals, small shaker, stationary castanets
claves, bass drum
Mallets: 2 soft, 1 large soft
Ensemble: 2 dancers, voc: SATB, piano, flute, violin, sax, trombone, cello, recorder, accordion
The percussionist carries a shoulder cloth bag from under the piano, approaches audience and communicates to them soft sounds and small and light objects taken from the bag.

## Instructions:

1. Approach audience in random order, trying to eventually interact with all members of audience
2. Keep a light movement, do not obtrude yourself upon audience and try to avoid physical contact
3. When passing sheets of paper, reach out to remote audience by passing it to them via neighboring audience members
4. Do not use voice except prescribed whispered texts in the score
5. When audience cooperation is required, use minimal body gestures to express desired action and avoid explicit directions to audience.



## Ilinx II (Intimate things)

Intimate, ensemble cue 4

## to most remote audience


$B D$.

3 it
A
ca. $15^{\prime \prime}$

II

## Ilinx II (Intimate things)



Game - preparation


Ilinx II (Intimate things)

(1) 0


Game - follow rules, repeat until the speed is too high for the performer

$=$


Ilinx II (Intimate things)



## Ilinx II (Intimate things)




Ilinx II (Intimate things)


## Ilinx II (Intimate things)

Fl


Intimate, ensemble cue 9

S. Rec.

S. Res.



## $\mid=60 \mathrm{bpm}$ <br> 91

Act.
II 1. Collect instruments back into bag
2. Approach audience and disperse some more pieces of paper
3. Stand in front of audience
4. Take a sheet of paper out of bag
5. Look intently at audience and extend your arm forward, holding the paper in front of you to express the will for audience participation
6. Gesture audience to hold their sheets of paper and shaking them according to your conducting:
7. Use body gesture to condct audience:


Right
Center
left

8. Collect the papers back from the audience. Do not insist on collecting all the sheets.

## Ilinx III (Metallophone nest)

Percussion: Small bell, metal pipes, Alpenglocken, Cymbals, agogo, metal spiral, hand bells, castanets, rattle sheets of paper, shells, foot bells
Cymbals: R1, R2, Cr1, Sp, Ch
Metal pipes: 9 , in different pitches
Alpenglocken: D4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, A5
Ensemble: soprano, sax, trombone, cello, accordion, synthesizer,

Beaters: hard mallets







Ilinx III (Metallophone nest)




## Ilinx IV (Pitches)

Percussion: triangle, tubular bells, medium-small gong, medium gong, crotales, vibraphone
Beaters: hard mallets
Ensemble: voc: SATB, flute, violin, sax, trombone, cello, piano, synthesizer


High bell


Relocation is done by the following performers:
Tubular bells - soprano; Crotale - tenor, vibes - bass; med-gong - piano; med-small-gong - recorder; cyl music stand - accordion

## Ilinx IV (Pitches)



Prc.



## Ilinx IV (Pitches)





Prc.


(21)

Prc.

(22)
Ilinx IV (Pitches)


(25) $d=100$

Prc.


(29)

Prc.

(30)

Repeat several times in increasing tempo
$\operatorname{Prc} \underset{\sim}{\text { (2) }}$
(31) $\boldsymbol{\$}$ Very fast $(d=$ ca. 140$)$

Prc.



Ilinx IV (Pitches)


## Ilinx V (Frontal variations)

Percussion:
Toms: F1, L, LM, HM
Cymbals: R1, R2, Cr1, Cr2, Sp, Ch
Claves
Beaters: drum sticks


$\frac{\text { Var. } 3}{17} d=128$



Ilinx V (Frontal variations)






## Ilinx VI (Ending)

Percussion: 2 smooth cobbles, African claves, frame drum, rainstick, wind chimes, suspended triangle, metal bowl, large gong
Beaters: triangle wand, single hard mallet for bowl, large soft mallet for gong
Ensemble: voc: SATB, flute, violin, T.sax, trombone, cello, piano, synth

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Ilinx VI (Ending)
Cbls.

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Af.Cl.

AfCl


Ilinx VI (Ending)

AfCl.


















