

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 II. 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. (Tuning)

*Normal*

Andante mosso *v*

*with arco*  
*with arco*  
*with arco*

IV.

above & below bridge

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

19

*with arco*  
*with arco*  
*with arco*

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.

*Rigoletto*

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.

upside  
rubber  
styrofoam  
wheel

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

IX.

Rizolotto; 1 bar ~~Andante~~ *binds*

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

*whistles!*  
Accord.  
bind of sax  
cl.

Andante mosso v

The musical notation consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. It features a series of notes with slurs and accents, including a dynamic marking 'p'. The second and third staves continue the melodic line with similar slurs and accents. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a final note and a dynamic marking 'v'. Handwritten annotations include 'whistles!' and 'Accord.' on the left margin, and 'bind of sax' and 'cl.' near the first staff. The tempo/mood is indicated as 'Andante mosso v'.

Portt

on lap

X.

Portt on string stop ~~Portt~~

perform pianissimo, medium and short tones also with mute

XI.

~~Pizzicato~~ ~~Rigolito~~ 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) filled with tissue paper, newspaper, cellophane, toilet paper, tinfoil, etc.

4. feather duster (red) other colors

Chinese drum

XII.

(optional)

Rigolito with Chinese drums + Tucan

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 - Windm.

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

Simultaneously

Portt

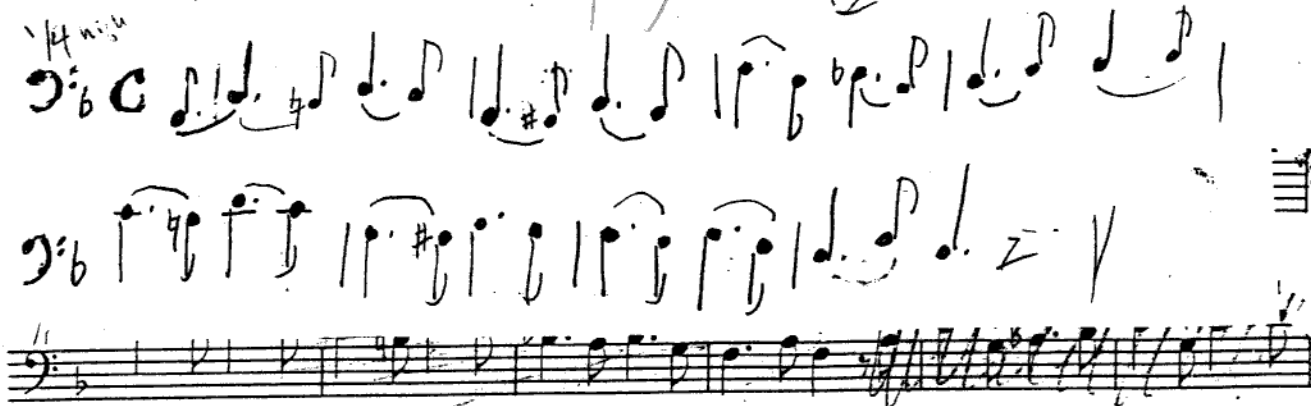
XIV.

(may overlap above)

pull "chain" (previously prepared) of various threads, cords, strings, ropes, shoelaces, plastic, insulated electric wiring, and/or old rags out of bass through f-hole. "chain" may be replaced again inside through opposite f-hole.

rope

necklace on pegs



XV.

peg-box previously prepared with a) filling of small pieces of wire, colored paper, plastic, metal or b) eatibles and covered with unobtrusive black paper.

1. open hole in paper cover with corkscrew, drill, knife, saw, and/or scissors.
2. clean out foreign material with dining fork (eat)
3. choose texts or pictures from newspaper, magazine, etc. crumple and place in peg-box.
4. replace paper cover and tape closed.

leg

Camel

camel head

XVI.

bow tie

pull silk-socking over scroll and fasten with garter around

neck above saddle. set on chair, peg-box (toe) down and place

rose between strings under bridge. insert cigarette + light

Andante mosso *v*

card

XVII.

address, write message (reading aloud) and stamp picture postcard.

post in f-hole.

end rabbit and <sup>cat</sup> bird whistle

cologne, 1961

revised pittsburgh, 1962

Revised, chateau Beauregard 1989