

Water percussion: a research on a new musical matter

Luís Alberto Bittencourt, Universidade de Aveiro

- great variety of unconventional sounds;
- requires a technical demand and different approach;
- no information in specialized bibliography;
- How to perform it?

How water and music relate to each other

- Metaphoric, allegoric use

(in the arrangement of notes, rhythm organization, instrument's choice)

- Real use

(real water used as an instrument, sounds generated directly from the liquid)

- Full use

(water and music mix completely: Michel Redolfi's *Underwater concerts*)

Possibilities of water use in percussion repertoire

- to transform the sound of an instrument
 - To amplify the sound
 - To produce sound itself

Water combined with percussion: to transform the sound

Water gong



Possibilities of water use in percussion repertoire

Water merged with percussion: a sound amplifier

African water drum



Water as the main sound source

Water Music (2004) — Tan Dun (b. 1957)

ISSUE 1: Instrumentation: Creative thinking to build the instruments



Water Music (2004) — Tan Dun (b. 1957)

• **ISSUE 2: Experimentation with the instrument to develop and improve 7 new water percussion techniques**

1. Water drips
2. Water patting
3. Water flick
4. Water hitted by water
5. Tremolo patting
6. Bubbles
7. Water cup drums

Water as the main sound source

Water Music (2004) — Tan Dun (b. 1957)

- **ISSUE 3: to develop a personal repertoire
for the improvising sections**

Water Music (2004) — Tan Dun (b. 1957)

- **ISSUE 4: Creative thinking to rearrange the music**
 - What part should I play?
- Do I play just a single part or switch between two or more parts?
 - It is possible to perform simultaneous parts?
 - What music structure should I adopt?
 - Should I play all sections of the piece?
 - Should I exclude any section?
- How to choose a structure that is coherent with the ideas conceived by the composer? how to preserve, in a solo version, the quality of the musical content presented through 4 musicians?

Contributions from this research

- Complete description about the performance of 7 water percussion techniques and on how to build some instruments required;
- Classification charts of the water percussion techniques and also about water use in percussion repertoire;
- Detailed analysis of the work *Water Music* from the performer's perspective;
- Public performances, workshops for composers, audio and video recordings (both solo and percussion quartet).

Thank you all!

www.luisbittencourt.wordpress.com

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