# This With That 

MUSIC FOR TWO MIXED CHAMBER QUARTETS

## ALL MUSIC CO-COMPOSED BY Chris Jentsch | John Bacon

FLUTE, ALTO FLUTE, PICCOLO
VIOLIN
CELLO
PIANO

CLARINET, BASS CLARINET TRUMPET (MIXED MUTES), SOUSAPHONE TROMBONE (MIXED MUTES), TUBA<br>MARIMBA

TOTAL PERFORMANCE TIME:

$$
\text { +/- } 75 \text { MINUTES }
$$

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## About This With That...

The two composers wrote music mostly in isolation for This With That, a modified aleatoric project. For each title the composers alternated writing for one of the quartets in advance of the simultaneous performance of each movement pair, knowing very little about what the other composer was preparing for the other quartet.

In addition to our general aspiration to write sparsely, basic variables like length and dynamics were agreed upon for each title, and then one or two pre-determined parameters were specified as to tessitura, style, harmonic framework, articulation, texture, or key center, etc. For example, for one movement we decided that one composer would write low notes, the other high ("Hi Lo"); for another, one wrote melodies, the other harmonies ("Homophonia"); one wrote staccato and one legato for "The Long and the Short of $\mathrm{It}^{\prime \prime}$; and then there were a handful of variations on those ideas.

Video recordings from the premiere are available at the YouTube channel for Chris Jentsch.

Chris Jentsch and John Bacon, Jr. have a history of musical collaboration originating in the 1990s. They worked in jazz groups in Rochester and Buffalo, NY, recorded as a guitar/ drums duo, and worked with the Maelstrom Percussion Ensemble on concerts and commissions. The centerpiece of their current collaboration is a co-compositional performance This Witb That in which the two have worked independently within predetermined guidelines to produce an evening of simultaneous new music. This collaboration was funded through a New York State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Composer Commission for 2015.

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Three extra movements were arranged to supplement the above titles for the November 2015 premiere at Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center in Buffalo. For each of three concerto minuscolos, the composers picked three instrumentalists who were all empowered to select one part from their book, and those three performed their parts at the same time. A fourth player was picked in each case as a soloist to improvise with the new aggregate.

Also, there was one other movement we named "Free Connection". One composer picked one of his movements for one of the quartets, and the other composer picked a different title written for the other quartet, and those two quartets were performed simultaneously.

Lastly, on request from the chamber ensemble Wooden Cities, the composers prepared a thirty minute suite version of this project for slightly different instrumentation. The suite was premiered in Buffalo at PAUSA in March 2016.
(A) $d=60$


These two separate scores are to be performed simultaneously, and are only approximately intended to line up visually.

$$
d=100 \quad 1
$$

Clarinet in $\mathrm{Bb}^{b}$


Trumpet in $B b$




14
${ }^{13}$



21




## Homophonia



These two separate scores are to be performed simultaneously, and are only approximately intended to line up visually.


$\mathrm{B} b \mathrm{Cl}$.




32




51
$\mathrm{B}, \mathrm{Cl}$.


Bb Tpt.

Tbn.


33 Alto Flute in G



60
$\mathrm{B}, \mathrm{Cl}$.




42
Fl.

$\mathrm{B}, \mathrm{Cl}$.


B $b$ Tpt.


47

Fl.


VIn.


Vlc.

Pno.

$\mathrm{B} \cdot \mathrm{Cl}$.


Bb Tpt.



Bb Cl .

[5]


VIn.

Vlc.

$\mathrm{B}, \mathrm{Cl}$.





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Fl.



Score


Fl.



Score


Score


Fl.


Fl.



Score


Fl.



Score

The conductor will cue each player indicating which section to begin with and when to enter. Repeat each measure as indicated. Use one pitch of your choice per measure in the 5's and 7's. Follow the contour of the longer value melodies using whatever pitches you like. dynamic should be pp-mp throughout. Rest whenever you like for $10-20 \mathrm{sec}$. total.

## Repeat each measure 3-5 times


(2)

(4)

On Cue-Unison

(5) Repeat each measure 3-5 times


## Additional Notes for conductors:

The two quartets should act independently. Observe the following set of instructions within each quartet.

The conductor will stagger the entrances of the instruments and cue them forward through the score individually so that some instruments (at least one) are ahead of the others.

Instruct the players to perform each measure at their own tempo disregarding the other players' tempi.

The players should play one pitch per rhythmic figure (measure) in the septuplet and quintuplet sections ( 1 and 3 ).

The measures with longer notes values in sections 2 and 5 should use whatever pitches but follow the contour.

Section 4 is a conducted unsion figure for the tutti ensemble. Players should pick one note and repeat it as conducted.

## Charm School



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20
Fl.



## 37



Fl.



39
Fl.



## Reaching Accord

Score
from This With That


These two separate scores are to be performed simultaneously in synchronization with each other and are intended to line up visually.



Score


16



Score

24


ALL PLAYERS: Improvise short iterations of the note indicated (not necessarily starting on beat "1"). Any length between staccato and a full quarter note at a time (no longer). Any rhythm. Vary being sparse and busy with the frequency of your one note gestures.


Score

BbTpt.
B. Cl .


31




Score

Reaching Accord



Score



Fl.


Score

55




$m \boldsymbol{f}=$





Score


Score


Score


Fl.

from This With That


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19
Bb Cl .






37



Fl.



$\mathrm{B}, \mathrm{Cl}$.


## Undertones

from This With That


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Score


Improvise short iterations of the note indicated (not necessarily starting on beat "1").
Any length between staccato and a full quarter note at a time (no longer).
12 Vary being sparse and busy with the frequency of your one note gestures.
Bb Cl .


Tbn.
3 Tpt.



Bb Cl .



Score


Bb Cl .




45


Score


Bb Cl .


Bb Tpt.



Bb Cl .


Score



B $b \mathrm{Tpt}$

Tbn.



Score


These two separate scores are to be performed simultaneously, and are only approximately intended to line up visually.
$d=92$




Score


Score

B. Cl





Opt. $8 v b$ on high F if $m p$ 42 unreasonable.



Improvise random short high notes INTO the piano at 50. May be


Score


Picc.

(1) $d=112$


These two separate scores are to be performed simultaneously in synchronization with each other and are intended to line up visually.

(9)


Score


4
(19)
F. $\frac{2}{2}$



19


Score


27
B. Cl .




8


43
B. Cl .


Bb Tot.



51


Score


59
B. Cl .


Score

B. Cl.


Bb Tpt.

Tbn.



0
Fl.


Vln.


Vlc. (67)
F.


## 67

B. Cl .



Score

B. Cl .


Score

B. Cl .


Bb Tpt.

Tbn.


Score

Fl.
(91)


91
B. Cl .


Bb Tpt.

(8)



Bb Tpt.

Tbn.


Score



Score

Fl.


Vln.


Pno.


Fl.


128




139
B. Cl .



Trading Post





These two separate scores are to be performed simultaneously, and are only approximately intended to line up visually.

## Transposed Score



$\mathrm{B} b \mathrm{Cl}$.


Bb Tpt.


Mrb.


bl.


Bb Tpt.

Tbn.



37

Bb Cl .


B , Tpt.



Bb Tpt.


Mrb.
Tbn.



62
$\mathrm{B} b \mathrm{Cl}$.



Mrb.



8
Triangulation
55


Bb Tpt.


Tbn.
В Tp.

Mrb.


$\mathrm{B}, \mathrm{Cl}$.


Bb Tpt.


Mrb.



The two quartets have almost the same exact music to be performed at almost the same time. The brass centered group should start just after the strings based group, perhaps starting a few beats or so after, but no precise time interval is required. The two groups should perform independently. They do not have to share the same quarter note pulse, and they only need to be "close" in terms of tempo.




Bb Tpt.

Tbn.



Bb Tpt.

Tbn.




Bb Cl .

$\mathrm{B} \quad \mathrm{Tpt}$.

Tbn.

$\mathrm{B}, \mathrm{Cl}$.


Bb Tpt.

$\mathrm{B}, \mathrm{Cl}$.


Bb Tpt.

Tbn.


Mrb.



## Double Chance instructions

## Instructions for all instruments:

1. These instructions have been provided to explain the modified aleatoric nature of the movement. All of the members of both quartets have been given similar instructions.
2. With a common quarter note pulse taken from the fundamental tempo of the part in front of you, the members of the quartets are instructed to play measures from their parts at random. Entrances may be concerted or staggered.
3. Given the music you hear being made around you, feel free to make improvisatory choices about which bars to play. The idea is that the quartets will perform a shuffling of the measures on the parts. It is fine to play consecutive measures, but no more than five in a row at a given time may be played from the source material. Individual measures may be repeated at any time, but not for more than three times in a row.
4. In lieu of choices based on personal aesthetic decisions, at any time any musician may instead choose to be as mechanically random as possible in selecting measures to play. One may switch between aesthetic decisions and random choices at any time. In general terms, choices that seem to "go together" in some traditional harmonic sense are neither to be exclusively avoided nor sought. The spirit of these instructions though is more important than the letter.
5. Articulations should be faithfully reproduced, but dynamics may be improvised for parity with others at any time. Ritards and fermatas should be ignored or modified so that one's improvised part more or less "keeps up" rhythmically with the others. Every performance should be different.
6. Inasmuch as any measure with any amount of beats may be performed adjacent to any other, the movement can be considered to have a basic quarter note pulse with no bar lines.
7. As another aesthetic choice, musicians are encouraged to improvise rests,
especially if the aggregate texture created by the two quartets seems busy.
8. As the two minute mark approaches, the conductor will administer a "pre-cue with ritard and decrescendo" leading to a cued fermata ending.
9. Conductor's Instructions: As the movement approaches approximately the twominute point, you should have the attention of the quartet members. Be listening for a moment at which you feel good about signaling for a fermata that the quartet lingers over before you signal the final cut-off. You will have to use your judgement as to what might constitute a close for this movement. Administering a "pre-cue with ritard and decrescendo" might give you more control as you approach a final ending fermata.
10. The overall result should be a "dream-state" or even "nightmare" version of the score - all of the major motives swirl in and out with the thematic and harmonic resonance of having come from something unified. Like some sort of "musical tornado", Double Cbance carries with it all of the important structures of the last town touched down upon.
[02:00]
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These two separate scores are to be performed simultaneously according to the attached instructions, and are not intended to line up visually.



Vln.

B. Cl .

Tron.


B. Cl .

Trbn.

Sousa

Mar.





from This With That


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Score


Picc.



Picc.


Score


BbTpt.


Picc.


Vln.




Score


Score


Picc.



Picc.


Vln.


# Broadcasting in the Blind 

## from This With That



These two separate scores are to be performed simultaneously, and are only approximately intended to line up visually.



Score




25

Fl.


Pno.


Score




## Conclusion

Score
Phrases, numbered and separated by aspostrophe, should be played in a random order. Not neccessarily the order printed. Each player should play independently of the others but with attention to the overall musical result.
The conductor may or may not cue the players in and out.
The movement should end when the other quartet reaches their Fine. The conductors should coordinate this ending.


These two separate scores are to be performed simultaneously and are not intended to line up visually.

$$
d=144
$$



Bb Tpt.


Fl.


B b Tpt.

$\mathrm{B}, \mathrm{Tpt}$.


Fl.


Vln.

Vc.


Bb Tpt.


Fl.


Vln.



Fl.


