

Examen in Metals (Etude #4)

For solo vibraphone, mixed metals, and electronics

Composer

- Brady Harrison, www.bradyharrisonpercussion.com

Performer

- Brady Harrison, www.bradyharrisonpercussion.com

Program Notes

Examen in Metals uses prepared vibraphone as a unifying element that at times stands in stark contrast to the electronics and at times is part of the electronic signal path. Within the framework of the piece, which will be performed by the composer, the performer is charged with creating an individually written response to a carefully crafted self-inquiry based on the process of an Examen, a meditative ritual of daily self-reflection that is a common Jesuit practice. Using the performer-crafted prose, the performer is then charged with the task of producing a play along recording that accompanies the work which is customized to each performer, and combining that with real-time processing and spoken word, becoming both the performer and producer. The piece is available for purchase soon at www.bradyharrisonpercussion.com

Description of Electronics

- Fixed elements: The piece requires the performer to follow a set of directions to create a personalized text, based on the process of an examen. Once the text has been written and edited, the performer is required to prerecord the text, and edit the recording based on a rhythmic template that is provided with the score. In this way, the performer is both the performer and the producer of the fixed media that accompanies the work.
- Live elements: There are two opportunities for live looping, although the performer may opt to prerecord the tracks and trigger them within the context of the piece. The first section is recorded during the piece, and is triggered to be replayed toward the end of the work to function in a modified hoquet with the live part. The second live looping instance occurs toward the middle of the work where the performer actually sings some layered material that has effects applied to it in real time, including a flanger and chorus, to create an affected version of the natural human voice.

Technical Details

- 1) For this performance, the electronics are controlled by a Ableton Live set being controlled by a Push2 controller, although, the piece can be setup in many different DAWs and performed using a variety of different hardware interfaces, since the prerecorded material is performer generated.

- 2) Along with a computer, the piece requires an audio interface, and preferably a hardware controller, microphones for both the vocal loop and percussion setup, speakers, and in-ear monitors.

Logos

