

Hand Leg Suit

mixed instrumental ensemble (2-6 players)

Performance Instructions

This piece is to be performed by two to six musicians each with access to one of the following instruments: trombone, clarinet, amplified string (electric guitar, bass, etc.), unamplified string (violin, double bass, etc.), vibraphone, or snare drum. The players need not be experienced with these instruments; skill levels may range from novice to professional. Each player is provided with a spiral-bound “score.” Each page of the score is divided into three sections. The left portion of the page contains a graphic image of some kind, while the right presents two charts (or portions of charts), one above the other. The upper chart is the same for all instruments while the lower is idiomatic for each.

The basic performance method for this piece involves the interpretation of the various graphic images (left side of each page) by each player using the charts (right side of the page) provided on the same page. A given graphic image will suggest an action or series of actions which will be interpreted using the charts. For example, a triangle might suggest a path of movement in the performance space, the production of three sounds, a linear glissando, or a variety of other interpretations depending on information from the charts (these sample interpretations are perhaps the most obvious, and therefore less desirable). In some cases only one word appears in the charts on the right of the page. When this is the case, the player should focus their interpretation on that word only. However, when multiple words are found on the charts, the goal of that interpretation should be the simultaneous integration of all words. In these situations, players may begin that page’s interpretation by addressing a single word or smaller group of words, but should strive to reach a point when all words are interpreted concurrently. Specific durations for each interpretation are to be determined by individual performers (some graphics inherently suggest repetitions) with consideration given to the desired length for the entire performance as well as coordination with other performers. Pauses should not be intentionally inserted, though they may occur naturally due to page turns or other practical matters. *Players are encouraged to be creative and explore!*

Each player is provided with two scores, one with twenty-five pages, the other with ten. The shorter score will encourage a variety of interpretations of the same group of pages, while the longer will facilitate the interpretation of many different pages. For each instrument, both scores are quite similar; the longer score is an expanded version of the shorter. Either score may be chosen for a given performance. The pages of the score are arranged in performance order. Performers can begin with any blue page. The initial entrances made by the ensemble should not occur simultaneously, nor should they be overly separated. All four players will then begin progressing through the score at their own pace. At some points it may be desirable for the group to coordinate. To accomplish this, certain sections of the score are noted as *potentially* “repeatable.” These consist of pairs of yellow pages, which are the same for all players. When one of the four players desires group coordination, they should, upon reaching it, repeat one of these sections (both yellow pages). If the other players deduce that one of the performers is repeating a section and correctly identify it, they should immediately join in repeating that section (this makes it possible for some pages to be excluded from a given

performance). It is important to note that since single pages may naturally imply repetition, it is the repetition of a pair of pages that denotes one of the “repeatable” sections. Players should familiarize themselves with these sections prior to performance so that they can be identified with as much ease as possible. During the repeated sections, players should strive to vary their interpretations so that only the generic essence of each graphic is repeated, not one specific interpretation. When any player feels that the group has adequately articulated the fundamental nature of the section, they should leave it and continue movement through the plan. When any player believes that all of the repeatable sections have been performed by the group, they can begin performing (repeating) the “coda” section of the score (green pages) at any time. The rest of the ensemble should coordinate with this player as soon as they perceive that he/she is repeating the coda by immediately also repeating the green pages (players should address this coordination as they did when repeating the yellow pages). Performers should stop playing when they sense that all players are performing the coda and that its fundamental nature has been reached. If one or more players notice that other members of the ensemble have stopped performing, and are not performing the ‘coda’ section, they should continue through the plan until they reach the coda, which they should repeat (with varying interpretations) until they have personally reached the essence of the section, whereupon they should also drop out. When all four players are no longer performing, the piece is finished.

Printing Instructions

Each *Hand Leg Suit* performance score should be printed on four different colors of paper: white, yellow, green, and blue. The 10-page short performance scores mix the four colors significantly, containing four yellow, two green, two blue, and two white pages; the 25-page long performance scores contain four yellow, two green, two blue, and seventeen white pages. Below the page numbers are listed for each performance score that should be printed on non-white paper. Note that when printing on colored paper is not convenient or practical, it may be possible to find alternate ways to make these pages as distinct. The score is ideally printed on 8.5"x14" legal paper, though an 8.5"x11" reduction is also acceptable.

Amplified String Short Score Yellow: 4, 5, 7, 8 Green: 1, 2 Blue: 3, 6	Snare Drum Short Score Yellow: 1, 2, 4, 5 Green: 7, 8 Blue: 3, 9	Unamplified String Short Score Yellow: 1, 2, 8, 9 Green: 5, 6 Blue: 3, 10
Amplified String Long Score Yellow: 9, 10, 17, 18 Green: 1, 2 Blue: 5, 14	Snare Drum Long Score Yellow: 1, 2, 7, 8 Green: 15, 16 Blue: 5, 20	Unamplified String Long Score Yellow: 1, 2, 18, 19 Green: 12, 13 Blue: 5, 21
Clarinet Short Score Yellow: 4, 5, 8, 9 Green: 1, 2 Blue: 3, 6	Trombone Short Score Yellow: 1, 2, 4, 5 Green: 7, 8 Blue: 6, 10	Vibraphone Short Score Yellow: 1, 2, 7, 8 Green: 4, 5 Blue: 6, 9
Clarinet Long Score Yellow: 4, 5, 16, 17 Green: 1, 2 Blue: 3, 14	Trombone Long Score Yellow: 1, 2, 7, 8 Green: 13, 14 Blue: 12, 22	Vibraphone Long Score Yellow: 1, 2, 15, 16 Green: 5, 6 Blue: 7, 17