Southern Excursions

12 Amateur Found Object Percussionists, South and Southwest China Field Recordings

Jeff Roberts

Instrumentation

CD Track of Field Recordings

12 Wine Glasses
6 Wine Bottles
12 Drinking Glasses
3 Ceramic Plates
4 Small Ceramic Bowls
4 Ceramic Soup Bowls
2 Tibetan Prayer Bowls
16 Plastic Bottles
7 Tin Cans
6 Baroque Recorders (Soprano or Alto)
24 Metal Beaters (sections of coat hangers

* Various found objects for players 1-4 used for Group Improvisation sections

12 Timers

Performance Notes

Introduction

This piece represents a synthesis between live found object sound and field recordings made in Southern China and ethnic minority villages in the southwest Chinese provinces of Guizhou, Guangxi and Yunnan. The intention of this piece is to allow a group of performers to interact using live acoustic sound with the sounds of the village and surrounding natural environments of a variety of different cultures and locations.

This field recording/live performance interaction is meant to form a concrete composition with structural and aesthetic meaning on its own, but the underlying goal is to allow the performers to develop a more intimate listening experience with the everyday sounds of village life by using their found object sound worlds to creatively interact with these local sound worlds.

Anyone can perform this piece, but it is written for people not trained in music or not familiar with new or experimental music. Thus the piece can also be thought of as platform for an introduction or teaching through active participation. Techniques are simple and but should be rehearsed. Performance of each part is flexible and need not stay exactly within the designated playing times. But some accuracy should be developed in the performers in performing their parts. As well, performers should be rehearsed enough so that they are able to spend more time listening to each other and especially the field recording part as a way to create dialogue with other performers and to integrate their sounds into the village soundscapes.

Performing the Piece

Timers are synchronized to start together (and to start playback of the CD) with a cue from a central person at the beginning of the piece. Performers read from parts with starting and stopping times for each event to be performed.

Spatial Organization

Performers 1-4 should remain together as a group, preferably in front of the audience on a stage. Performers 5-12 can circle the audience from the sides and behind. If possible, place CD playback speakers both in front of and behind the audience. The overall goal is to blend the live sound (both in volume level and spatial location) with the recorded sound.

Performance Techniques

Wine Bottle

blow gently blow across the lip of the bottle to produce a pitch

Wine Glass, Drinking Glass, Plates, Small Bowl, Soup Bowl

chimes using two hand and two metal beaters, gently and spontaneously dangle them in and around the collection of glasses, bowls, etc to produce a wind chime effect.

Prayer Bowl

rub using a wood prayer bowl beater, rub the lip or side of the bowl continuously to eventually produce a sustained pitch

Performance Notes

Plastic Bottles

random use two empty plastic water bottles to spontaneously bounce them on a table surface to produce different spontaneous rhythms.

<u>Tin Can</u>

- *tap even rhythm* the performer should choose a tempo of his/her own choice that is also different from any even rhythm tapping by other performers or in the field recordings
- tap and countthe performer will be given a ratio (e.g. 3:7) in
his/her part. A tap on the can should occur on
the first of each count. For example:

tap tap 123 1234567

repeat continuously for the time duration indicated.

Recorder

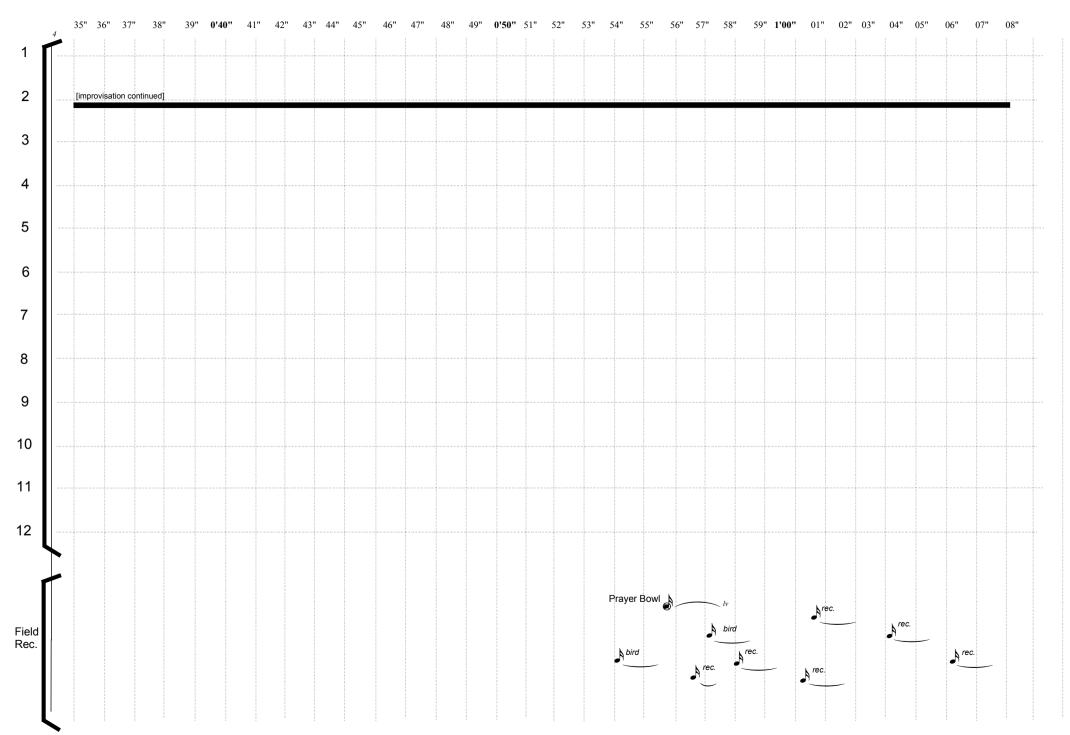
Chirp	make short bird like chirps with one or two
	notes on the recorder. Use a light but spiked
	breath attack.
Trill	rapidly move back and forth between 2 notes.

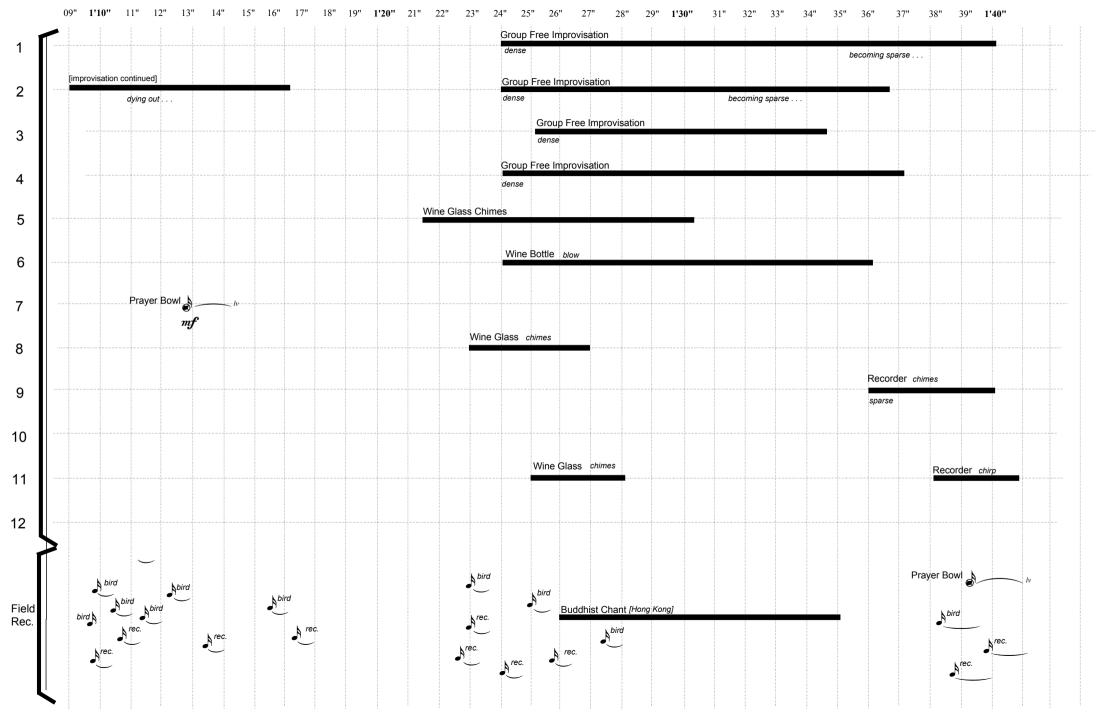
Various found objects

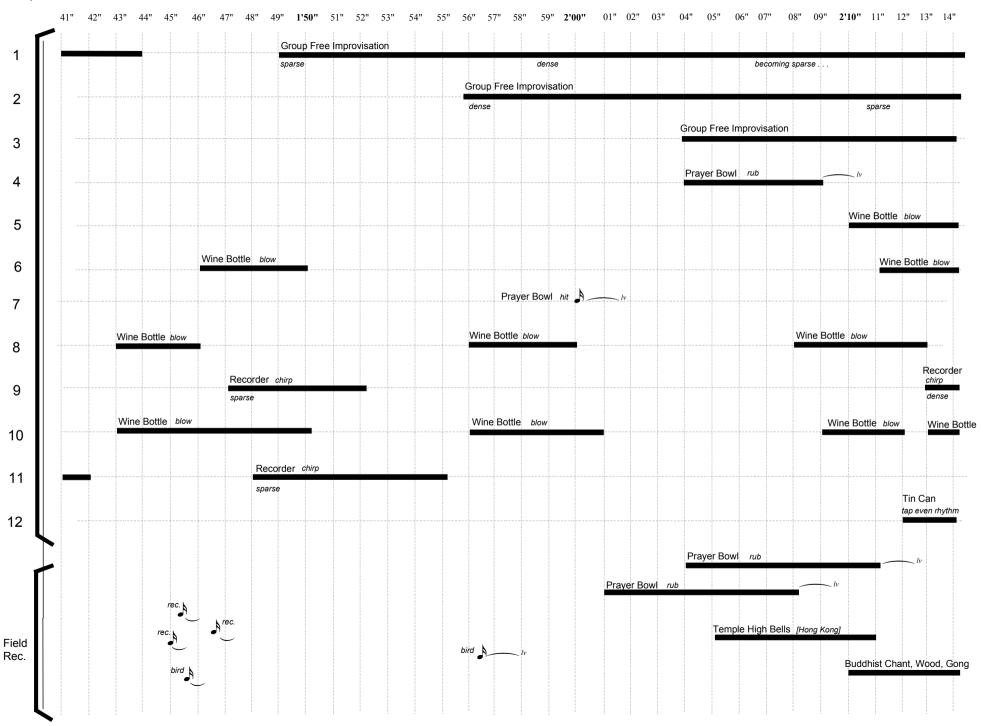
Performers 1-4 form a quartet where there are many instances of group improvisation. During these times, performers should interact using a collection of self-selected found objects that are unique to their own setup but that also blend well with the other found objects used by the ensemble.

Southern Excursions

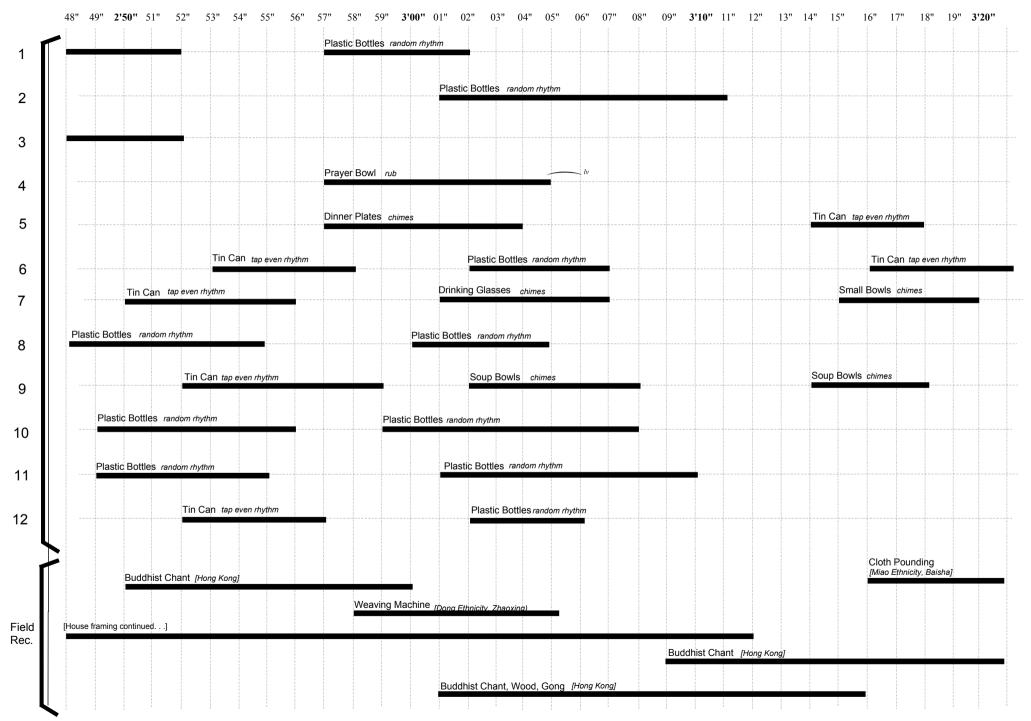
	0'	00'' 0	01" (2" ()3"	04"	05"	0	6"	07"	08	" 0)9"	0'10"	11"	12"	13"	14"	15	5"	16"	17"	18"	19"	0'2	0'' 21	1" 22	2" 2	23"	24"	25"	26"	27"	28"	29"	0'30"	31"		33"	34"
1	-																																							
2		Solo	Wood	lwind	Imprc	ovisat	ion [C	hines	e Xia	o, Sha	kuhac	hi or R	ecord	ler]																										
3																																								
4																																								
5																																								
6																																				Pra	ayer B	lowl		
7																0																				p	Ň	lv		
8																																								
9																0																								
10																																								
11																							2																	
12																																								
Field Rec.	_																																							
Nec.																																								
Ļ																																								







	1	5" 16"	17"	18" 19"	2'20"	21" 22"	23" 2	24" 2	5" 26	5" 27	7" 28"	29"	2'30"	31"	32"	33" 34	4" :	35" 30	5" :	37"	38"	39" 2	2'40"	41"				46"	47"
1																										Recorde	e r chirp		
2								Group	Free Ir	mprovis	ation																		
2																										Recorde	or obiro		
3																										Recorde	, criiip		
4																						F	Prayer I	Bowl <i>i</i>	nit 👌 –	h	,		
																						Tin C	an co	ount and	tap 2:4				
5																													
6						Tir	n Can <i>tap</i>	even rhyti	hm								Tin Ca	an <i>count</i>	and ta	p 2:7					-				
7		Tin Can	tap even rh	nythm		Tin Can <i>t</i>	tap even rhy	/thm										Tin Ca	n <i>tap</i> e	even rhy		radually	slower .						
0		Wi	ne Bottle	blow														Plasti	c Bott	les ran	idom rhy	thm							
8						Deserve																							
9		bec	oming spar	se		Recorder	r trill																						
10		blow		Wine Bo	ttle <i>blow</i>															Plas	tic Bott	les ran	dom rhy	thm					
10				Recorde	r obien							Rec	order	trill				Tin Ca	n cou	nt and t	an 3:5			Tin (Can cou	nt and tap	0 2:4		
11				sparse																	up 0.0								
12																						Tin C	an coi	unt and	tap 2:4				
ľ	>																												
Field		Buddhist	Chant																										
Rec.																					Hous	e Fram	ing So	unds	[Dong Etl	nnicity, Zh	aoxing)		
									Buddh	ist Cha	nt, Wood,	Gong																	
Ļ																													



Г	Group Improvisation	Plastic Bottles random rhythm	
	Group Improvisation	Plastic Bottles random rhythm	
	Group Improvisation		
		Plastic Bottles random rhythm	
		Plastic Bottles random rhythm	Wine Glass
		Plastic Bottles random rhythm	Plastic Bottles random rhythm
		Small Bowls chimes	
	Wine Glass chimes Wine Glass ch	imes	Wine Glass chimes
	Soup Bowls <i>chimes</i>	Soup Bowls chimes	Soup Bowls chimes
,		Plastic Bottles random rhythm	Plastic Bottles random rhythm
1	Plastic Bottles random rhythm	Plastic Bottles random rhythm	
	Tin Can tap even rhythm	Plastic Bottles random rhythm	
	Buddhist Chant, Wood, Gor	g [Macau] House Framing - Crowd Noise	
	Cloth Pounding [Miao Ethnicity, Baisha]	House Framing - Loud Hammering House Framing Sounds (Dong Ethnicity, Zhaoxing)	
eld		Speaking, Singing [Miao Ethnicity, La	ingde]
с.		Cloth Pounding [Miao Ethnicity, Baisha]	
		Church Fountain [Macau]	



54" 55" 56" 57" 58" 59" 4'00" 01"	02" 03" 04" 05" 06" 07" 08" 09" 4'10 " 11" 12"	13" 14" 15" 16" 17" 18" 19" 4'20" 21" 22" 23" 24" 25"
Wine Glass chimes	Wine Glass chimes	
	Tin Can tap even rhythm	Drinking Glasses chimes
Small Bowls chimes	Small Bowls chimes	Small Bowls chim
Wine Glass chimes	Wine Glass chimes	Wine Glass chimes
	Soup Bowls chime	28
	Tin Can tap even rhythm	Tin Can tap even rhythm
Plastic Bottles random rhythm	Tin Can tap even rhythm	
	Drinking G	Blasses chimes Drinking Glasses
	Weaving Machine	Suona Instrument Folk Song
	Dong Ethnicity Children's Folk Song	
Speaking, Singing		
Cloth Pounding [Miao Ethnicity, Baisha]		Cloth Pounding

					Solo Improvi			
				Wine Bottle blow				Group Improvisation
	Prayer Bowl	rub -	<i>lv</i>					
	Wine Glass a	nimes						
						Wine Bottle	A blow	
	Small	Bowls chimes						
	Wine Glass chimes							
	Soup Bowls a	imes						
		Tin Can tap eve	n rhythm					
			W/					
			Wine Glass chimes					
		Drinking Glass	es chimes					
•								
					House	e Framing - Crowd Noise		
Cloth Pounding								

ſ	[group improvisation continued]	Recorder chirp	
	[group improvisation continued]	Group Improvisation	
		Group Improvisation	
	Prayer Bowl hit		
		Wine Bottle blow Wine Bottle blow	
	Wine Bottle blow	Wine Bottle blow Wine Bottle blow	0
	Recorder chirp	Recorder chirp	
	Wine Bottle blow	Recorder chirp	
	Wine Bottle blow	Win blow	ne Bot v
	Wine Bottle blow	Wine Bottle blow Wine Bottle blow	ne Bott w
	Recorder chirp	Wine Bottle blow	
		Waterfall [Anshun, Guizhou]	
1	House Framing - Crowd Noise Buddhist Temple Drum	Temple High Bells	
		Lusheng Echo [valleys of L	angde]

31" 32" 33" 34" 35" 36" 37" 3 Group Impro		5" 46" 47" 48" 49" 5'50" 51" 52" 53" 54" Recorder <i>chirp</i> Group Im	55" 56" 57" 58" 59" 6'00" 01" 02" 0 provisation
	Group Improvisation	G	broup Improvisation
	Group Improvisation		Group Improvisation
			Prayer Bowl
Tin Can tap even rhy	hm		
		Wine Bottle blow	
		Recorder chirp sparse	Recorder chirp
		Recorder chirp	Recorder chir
		sparse Recorder chirp	
		sparse	
		Recorder chirp	Recorder chirp
		sparse	
Tin Can tap even rhythm		Tin Can tap even rhythm	
Cloth Pounding		Prayer Bowl	
Waterfall [Anshun, Guizhou]	Lusheng Echo [valleys of Langde]		
	Lusheng Maker [Paika, Guizhou]		
Cloth Pounding		Cloth Pounding	
Lusheng Echo [valleys of Langde]	Buddhist Chant, Wood, Go	ng	

	Recorder chirp			Recorder chirp			
				sparse		dying out	
		Crown Improvingtion		operou			
		Group Improvisation					
		Group Improvisation					
			Pri	rayer Bowl hit			
			Recorder chirp				
			sparse				
Recorder	chirp		Recorder	chirp			
			sparse				
			Recorder chirp				
			sparse				
			Recorder	chirp			
			sparse		dying out		
			•				
	Prayer Bowl 👌 –	Prayer Bowl n	ıb		L		
					hv		