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

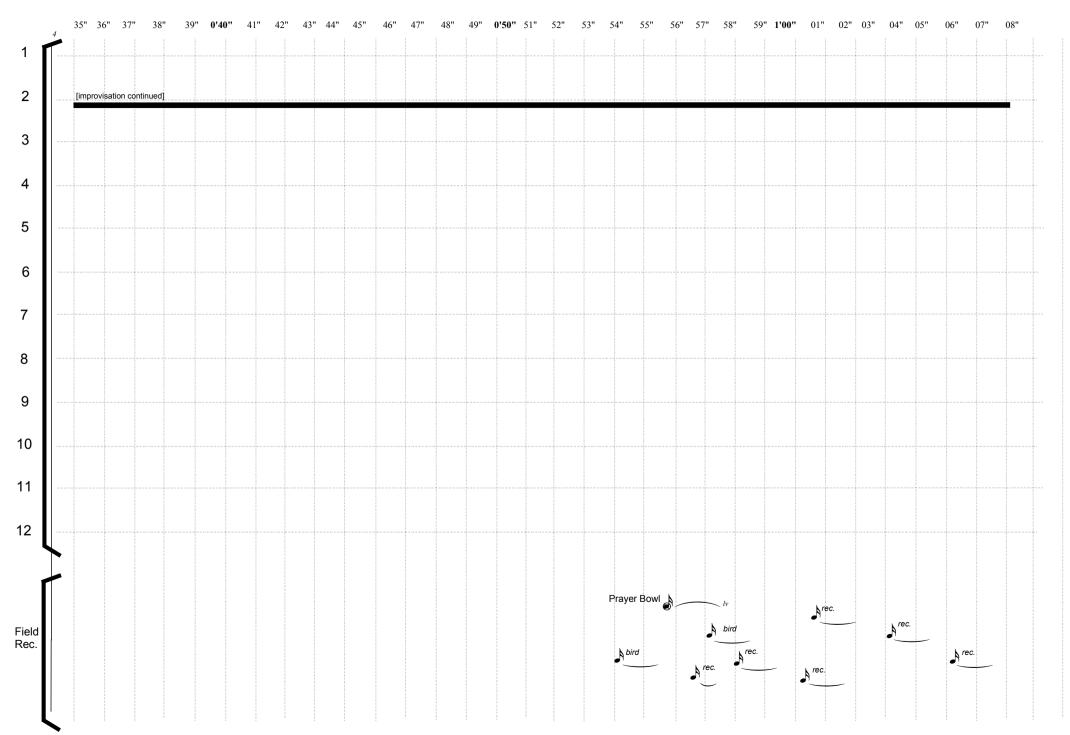
| Chirp | make short bird like chirps with one or two |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------|
| | notes on the recorder. Use a light but spiked |
| | breath attack. |
| Trill | rapidly move back and forth between 2 notes. |

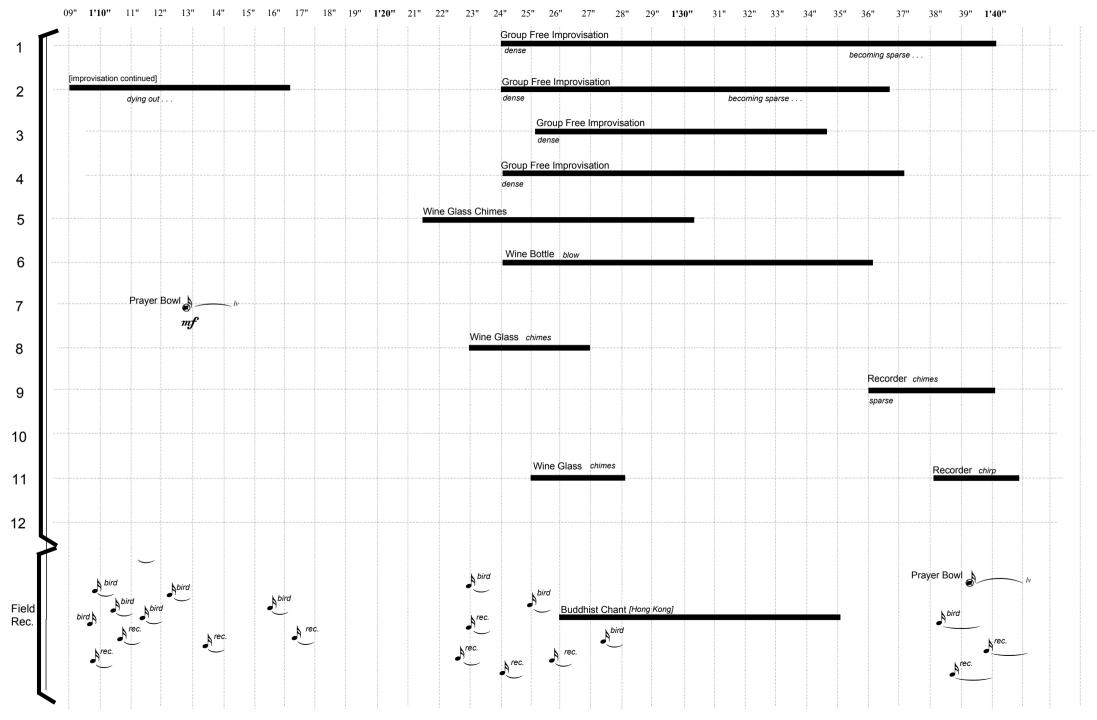
Various found objects

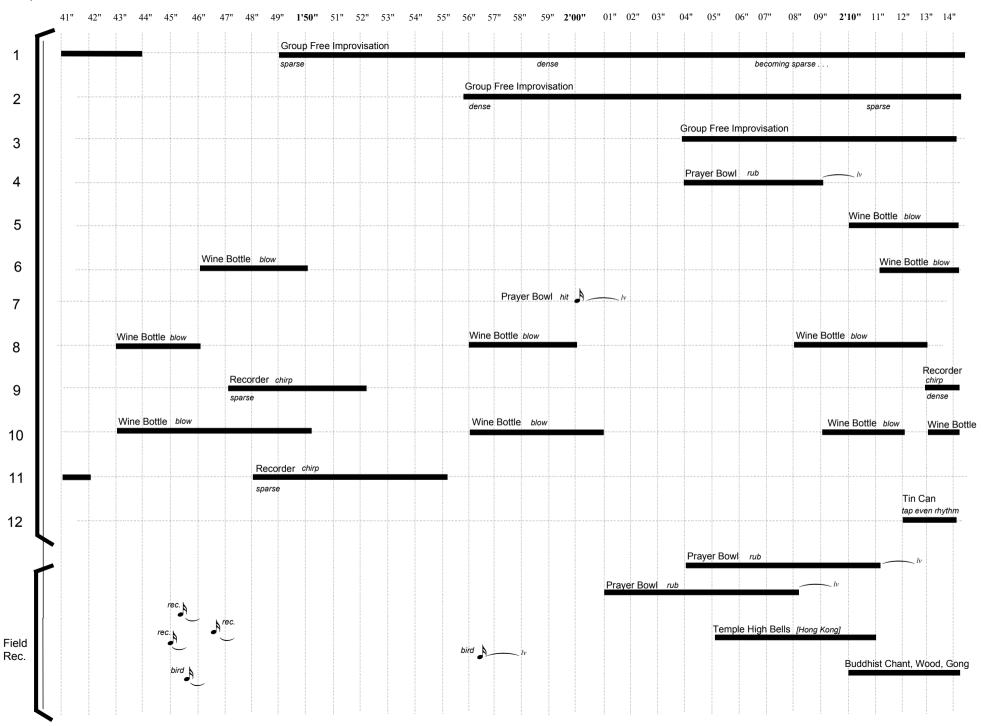
Performers 1-4 form a quartet where there are many instances of group improvisation. During these times, performers should interact using a collection of self-selected found objects that are unique to their own setup but that also blend well with the other found objects used by the ensemble.

Southern Excursions

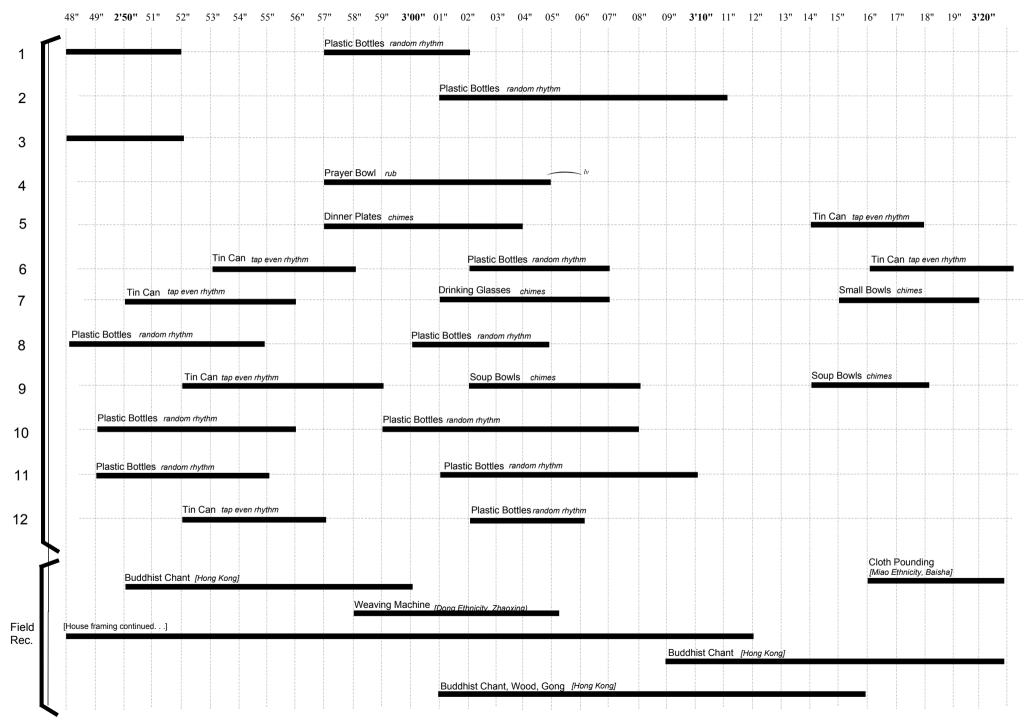
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| 8 | | | | | | Deserve | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | | bec | oming spar | se | | Recorder | r trill | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | blow | | Wine Bo | ttle <i>blow</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Plas | tic Bott | les ran | dom rhy | thm | | | | | |
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| Rec. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Hous | e Fram | ing So | unds | [Dong Etl | nnicity, Zh | aoxing) | | |
| | | | | | | | | | Buddh | ist Cha | nt, Wood, | Gong | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Г | Group Improvisation | Plastic Bottles random rhythm | |
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| | | Plastic Bottles random rhythm | Wine Glass |
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| | | Small Bowls chimes | |
| | Wine Glass chimes Wine Glass ch | imes | Wine Glass chimes |
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| | 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] | |



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| | 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 |

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| ſ | [group improvisation continued] | Recorder chirp | |
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| | [group improvisation continued] | Group Improvisation | |
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| | | 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 |
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| 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 | |

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