

SPOKEN WORD

Spoken Word is a short multiple percussion solo, dedicated to Prof. Aiyun Huang, of McGill University, and part of a collection of multiple percussion solos compiled by Dr. Andy Bliss. (see Innovative Percussion Publications for purchasing information.)

In the tradition of performance art, which seems to have found a home in advanced multiple percussion solos, *Spoken Word* aims to explore the complexity of multiple percussion performance that moves beyond traditional percussion performance. The inclusion of a found object (a wind-up baking timer) adds a mechanical, menacing presence to the performance of the etude that demands a visceral output by the performer – both in speech and drumming. It starts as white noise and gradually becomes recognized as a quasi-metronome by the end of the piece. The styles of drumming in this work stem from rock, 2nd generation rudimental drumming, and “ECM” jazz textures and the overall impact should be evocative of something from the dada art scene. It is strongly suggested that performers chose their own text to recite during performance and that it be aggressive, challenging subject matter.