

Hard Boiled Capitalism and the Day Mr. Friedman Realized Google is a Verb is the title for my most recent commission - a vibraphone solo for the esteemed young multiple percussionist, Michael Truesdell (www.miketruesdell.com). This work will be premiered during Mr. Truesdell's solo recital at the Nancy Zeltsman Festival in the summer of 2009 and takes its title from a quirky observation I noticed in the summer of 2006.

At the time I had been reading Milton Friedman's book, Capitalism and Freedom, when I also finished Thomas Friedman's new masterpiece, The World is Flat. In Thomas Friedman's book he observes that www.google.com has empowered the world with so much information and leveled the playing field of intellectual property so much that he considered the launch date of www.google.com one of the ten most significant days in the world in the last 20 years. Milton Friedman, on the other hand, was considered to be a grandfather of the "neo-con" movement with his ideas on capitalism - both new and old - and I am tickled to think of him reading Thomas Friedman's book. I wonder what he thought would happen to capitalism when the playing field of intellectual property had been so leveled by what we now call "googling". Surely this old economist would have bristled to have a hallowed number quickly stolen and relegated to a flippant verb. Hard Boiled Capitalism..., while timely, given our country's state of financial affairs, was actually conceived before the popular notion of our country's current recession.

I aim to reflect the fervor so many Americans felt at the height of indulgence and the clean newness that a purging of outdated ideas has to offer the next generation of Americans. I chose the medium of vibraphone, partly at Mr. Truesdell's request, but also because I feel that the simplicity of graduated metal bars is so often overlooked, much like the fundamental concept of living within one's means - a lesson long overdue for much of America.

HARD-BOILED CAPITALISM AND THE DAY MR. FRIEDMAN NOTICED GOOGLE IS A VERB

*low F#, high D, Eb, E, and F keys placed
above pegs, so as to leave dampener
dysfunctional for said notes*

for solo vibraphone

Ben Wahlund
Fall, 2008

fan at lowest speed possible

with reckless abandon and pensive musing

$\text{♩} = 175$
ff
 clear vibraphone of any resonating prepared keys
 $\text{♩} = 92$
mf
 Ped.

22

very aggressive (and accented) dead stroke causing a slight pitch bend if possible

37 (♩ = 140)

46 3

First system of musical notation, measures 46-56. It features a treble clef and a 10/8 time signature. The music consists of a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, and a bass line with eighth notes. There are several accents (^) and dynamic markings (>).

Second system of musical notation, measures 46-56. It continues the melodic and bass lines from the first system. It includes triplet markings (3) over groups of notes and a section marked with a circled 'b'.

normal dead stroke

Third system of musical notation, measures 46-56. It features a circled 'b' at the beginning and a section with a 'normal dead stroke' annotation. The music includes a dynamic marking of *f* (forte).

Fourth system of musical notation, measures 46-56. It includes triplet markings (3) and a complex chordal structure at the end of the system with overlapping circles.

57

First system of musical notation for measures 57-66. It features a treble clef and a 5/4 time signature. The music consists of a melodic line with eighth notes and a bass line with eighth notes. There are several accents (^) and dynamic markings (*sfz* and *mf*).

Second system of musical notation for measures 57-66. It continues the melodic and bass lines from the first system. It includes accents (^) and dynamic markings (>).

Musical staff 1: Treble clef, 17/16 time signature. Features eighth notes with accents and a bass line with dotted rhythms.

Musical staff 2: Treble clef, 9/8 time signature. Includes a box labeled "64" and sixteenth-note runs with accents.

Musical staff 3: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Features sixteenth-note runs with accents and a bass line with triplets.

Musical staff 4: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Includes sixteenth-note runs with accents and a bass line with dotted rhythms.

Musical staff 5: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Starts with a box labeled "71" and "(♩ = 175)". Features sixteenth-note runs with accents and a bass line with dotted rhythms.

Musical staff 6: Treble clef, 7/8 time signature. Includes sixteenth-note runs with accents and a bass line with dotted rhythms.

Musical staff 7: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Features sixteenth-note runs with accents and a bass line with dotted rhythms.

mallet dampen upper register prepared notes

Musical notation for the first system, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. It includes dynamic markings 'x' and 'x /', and a triplet of eighth notes. The system concludes with a measure containing a '5' above the staff.

Musical notation for the second system, including a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 4/4 time signature. It features a triplet of eighth notes, a box labeled '85' with '(♩ = 184)', and a 'Ped.' marking with a line extending to the right. The dynamic marking 'mp' is present.

Musical notation for the third system, showing a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of a melodic line with eighth notes and a bass line with quarter notes.

Musical notation for the fourth system, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 4/4 time signature. It includes a melodic line with eighth notes and a bass line with quarter notes.

Musical notation for the fifth system, starting with a box labeled '104' and '(♩ = 86.5)'. It features a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 4/4 time signature. The dynamic marking 'f' is present.

Musical notation for the sixth system, including a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 4/4 time signature. It features a melodic line with eighth notes and a bass line with quarter notes. A 'Ped.' marking with a line is at the end.

Musical notation for the seventh system, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 4/4 time signature. It includes a melodic line with eighth notes and a bass line with quarter notes.