

Date du récital/Date of recital: 2022 Nov.14th

Nom/Name: Zikun Zhao

Classe de/Class of: Fabrice Marandola, Kristie Ibrahim, Alexandre Lavoie

These program notes are written by the student performing and are presented by the student in partial fulfillment of the requirements of their course.

Ces notes de programme sont écrites par l'étudiant-interprète et sont présentées en tant que réalisation partielle des critères de leur cours.

The program's unifying theme will be percussion, electronics, and visual arts combinations. I want to use percussion to explore new types of art and use theatrical performance to express self-awareness in different directions. I chose two works, *Time & Money* by Pierre Jodlowski and *En passant* by Xue Han that illustrate different compositional and technical approaches.

Time & Money by Pierre Jodlowski

Time & Money was commissioned by the GRM (Groupe de Recherches Musicales) in France. The piece is composed for solo percussion, video, and electronics, and features two parts: the first part is theatrical, the musician playing on an amplified wooden cube; The second part's set up is a multi-percussion/drum set. The composer Pierre Jodlowski (born 1971) from France dedicates his artistic approach to contemporary music. His work expands into many areas and explores the dynamic relationship between imagery, interactive programming of installations, stage design, with music performance. In 2015, he won the Grand Prix Lycéen des Compositeurs with *Time & Money*. The visual artist Vincent Meyer created the video for the piece: it is a metaphor

for time and money, creating a visual contrast and accompanying the performer. The premiere took place in 2004 in Paris, performed by Jean Geoffroy, a world-renowned percussionist and professor at the Paris and Lyon National Superior Conservatories. He also first performed this piece in Canada at the 2007 Montreal New Music Festival.

At the age of 23, I have only a small glimpse of the complex rules of adult society where time and money are people's primary concerns. The musical direction of this piece is very dense, as we sometimes do in life. It questions this society and our behavior toward time and money. What we are really seeking is the ultimate peace in our hearts.

En passant by Xue Han

En passant is a live performance piece for solo percussionist and audiovisual projection, commissioned by CIRMMT. The piece explores the interplay between gestures that occur in sound and has twenty-one scenes. This piece's setup includes vibraphone, timpani, tam-tam, and many world percussion instruments. The musician's specific gestures control music and video sequences in real time - which is different from the former work, *Time & Money*, where the mapping between gestures and sound is based on fixed sounds triggered by a pedal. The composer Xue Han (born 1989) comes from China and her compositions explore body language, spoken word, and their representation in music. The video is produced by visual artist Seph Li, born in China, who holds a double bachelor's degree in computer science and digital design from Tsinghua University. His works have been exhibited at many major media art festivals around the world. The premiere of *En passant* was performed by Martin Daigle in May 2022 in

McGill's Multi Media Room (MMR), in Montreal. This piece interprets the characteristics of Eastern aesthetics. It resonates with the culture I grew up in, and I found a sense of cultural identity.