VARIATIONS FOR DOUBLE-BASS

benjamin patterson

pitches, dynamics, durations and number of sounds to be produced in any one variation in this composition are not notated. (in the first performance by the composer a graphic score derived from ink blots was used as a guide; however, there are many other satisfactory solutions.)

I.

unfold world map on floor. circle with pen, pencil, etc. city in which performance is being given. locate and pin of bass in circle. locate north and draw with compass. attach with tape display local flag.

using four different toy whistles, animal or bird imitators or calls, etc. tune strings of bass as well as possible.
III.

produce a number of arco, quasi-webern sounds (Tuning)

Andante mosso

IV. above + below bridge

place a number of wooden and plastic spring-type clothespins on strings several inches above bridge in such a manner that they rattle and/or produce odd tones. arco, tremelo, trills and/or long tones.

V. weave strips of gold-face paper through strings in space between bridge and fingerboard. fasten four colorful plastic butterflies to strings over gold paper. performing normal, "bartok" and/or "fingernail" pizzicati, catapult butterflies from strings.
Do This Milan VI. Newcastle
fasten clamps ("C" clamps, woodworking, etc. of various sizes) over playing area on each of the four strings; flip clamps with fingers in such a manner that they rebound between adjacent strings.

VII.
place small objects of metal (paper clips, hair pins, etc.,) on each string in various positions above bridge, perform double-stops, arco and/or pizzicato.

VIII.
holding bass by fingerboard upside-down, balance on scroll.
1. rub object of rubber (suede-leather brush, etc.) over strings
2. rub, crumbling to small pieces, large piece of cellotex over strings
3. roll narrow wheeled furniture caster slowly down from endpin over tailpiece, bridge, G string and into pegbox (caster may squeak)

IX.
holding bass right-side-up perform long-tones and double-stops with two bows (right and left hand)

Andante mosso

\begin{align*}
& \text{\textit{Ricordi o: bar}} \\
& \text{\textit{Andante mosso}} \\
& \text{\textit{Pizzicato}}
\end{align*}
on lap

perform pianissimo, medium and short tones enpò with mute

agitare strings with following materials

2 brushes or felting brush

1) comb (as with hair, may employ mirror)

2) corrugated cardboard color samples

2) newspaper holder (wooden sticks as used in libraries)

filled with tissue paper, newspaper, cellophane, toilet paper, tinfoil, etc.

3) feather duster (red or open color)

XII.

Ki goko rhythm

with chinese drum + Tucan

lay bass on side, slap and knock with flat and knuckles of hands

XIII.

place bass on stand, in a corner, or on a chair

1. fan with japanese or spanish hand fan and blow with mouth over strings

2. place inside bass one end of flexible tube to which is attached a ballon (f-hole) fasten pump or mouth to other end and inflate ballon. detach pump, attach whistle and allow ballon to deflate blowing whistle.
XIV.
(may overlap above)
pull "chain" (previously prepared) of various threads, cords, strings, ropes, shoelaces, plastic, insulated electric wiring, and/or old rags out of bass through f-hole. "chain" may be replaced again inside through opposite f-hole.

necklace on peg

peg-box previously prepared with a) filling of small pieces of wire, colored paper, plastic, metal or b) eatibles and covered with unobtrusive black paper.

1. open hole in paper cover with corkscrew, drill, knife, saw, and/or scissors.
2. clean out foreign material with dining fork (eat)
3. choose texts or pictures from newspaper, magazine, etc. crumple and place in peg-box.
4. replace paper cover and tape closed.
camel

XVI.

camel head

pull silk-stocking over scroll and fasten with garter around

neck above saddle. set on chair, peg-box (toe) down and place

rose between strings under bridge. insert cigarette & light

Andante mosso


Tremolo

Andante


XVII.

address, write message (reading aloud) and stamp picture postcard.

post in f-hole.

cat

end rather and bind whistle

cologne, 1961

revised pittsburgh, 1962

Revised, Château Beauregard 1987