

The works presented on this recording have occupied my thoughts, creative process and performance programming for approximately seven years, affording me the opportunity to regularly re-consider my interpretations and expressive ideas. I am often amazed at how great compositions gradually reveal themselves to us over long periods of time, both in grand concepts and the most nuanced details. I so enjoy the idea of starting over and re-inventing the wheel. If one has the courage to do so, fundamentally new interpretive ideas await discovery.

Per Nørgård's seminal multiple percussion work *I Ching* is a tour-de-force of timbral possibilities, dramatic shifts, and ferocious waves of sound. Requiring a stage full of percussion instruments drawn from various world cultures, but composed within the Western classical tradition, *I Ching* has taken its rightful place of importance in the contemporary percussion repertoire. Jacob Druckman's wonderfully subtle composition *Reflections on the Nature of Water* affords the performer many choices of character and timbre within its six unique movements describing various properties of water. With *Portrait of Forest* Toshi Ichiyanagi paints a beautiful and occasionally alarming picture of the forest and its inhabitants.

Concerto for Darabukka and Percussion Quartet is as much a reflection of musics that have moved me, as it is a personal artistic expression. Inspired to compose the work by my darabukka teacher Abdulhamid Alwan, it is my hope that it provides an opportunity for the audience to sample the expressive, timbral and stylistic possibilities of this simple, yet beautiful drum. While I certainly enjoy exploring the endless instrumental possibilities available to the contemporary percussionist, I also find that the simplicity of the drum is at the root of my percussive passion, and continues to inspire my musical thoughts and dreams.

I Ching, four movements for solo percussion, was written in 1982 and dedicated to the Danish percussionist Gert Mortensen. *I Ching* (The Book of Changes) is the thousand year old Chinese oracle book, whose 64 combinations of six >Yang< or >Yin< lines (bright or dark) represent 64 states of being for all living things, including human beings. The 64 states of being should be thought of as an eternal, hidden cycle which lies behind everything that we do: for example the supreme, the enthusiastic, initiative (combination or >Hexagram< no. 1, the creative) or the despair of the moment, the warm and friendly, and so on. These states of being exist on all levels - the official, the private, etc. - at the same time and in many speeds.

Over a period of six years I have, in about 10 works, worked with a percussion version of the >infinity row structures<, which have since 1960 been the basis of my compositional method. Since it was precisely bright and dark sounds - yang and yin - that permeated these percussion pieces in a multitude of layers in tempo and texture, the concept of *I Ching* was a natural source of inspiration for me, when Gert Mortensen prompted me to write my second piece for solo percussion. (Nørgård)

I. Thunder Repeated: The Image of Shock (hexagram no. 51)

Shocking brings progress. Shocking comes with a terrible noise. Laughing and shouting with awesome glee, people are frightened for a hundred miles around. Yet, the sacrificial vessel is not lost.

Repeated arousing (thunder) forms the condition for shocking. Therefore, an enlightened person, when badly frightened, seeks to improve himself.

II. The Taming Power of the Small (hexagram no. 9)

(>>9 Sounds<< or >>9<< Sounds)

Restrained will bring progress. Dense clouds, but no rain is seen from the border on the west (satisfaction).

The gradual (wind) moves about the firm (heaven) forming the condition for the Restrained. An enlightened person, therefore, must conceal even his virtuous conduct.

III. The Gentle, the Penetrating (hexagram no. 57)

Penetrating Influence brings progress in small matters. It is advantageous to have a goal in mind. There is further advantage in seeing the leader.

The gently penetrating (winds) following upon itself forms the condition for Penetrating Influence. An enlightened person, therefore, expands his destiny in the conducting of his affairs.

IV. Towards Completion: Fire over Water (hexagram no. 64)

Before the End comes progress. But if the young fox, having nearly crossed the stream, gets his tail wet, there will be no advantage.

The conscious (fire) is above the dangerous (water) forming the condition for Before the End. An enlightened person, therefore, is careful of his discriminations in the outside world, and of the position he occupies. (R.L. Wing)



Reflections on the Nature of Water (1986)

Jacob Druckman

Reflections on the Nature of Water is a small payment toward a very large debt. There were primarily two composers, Debussy and Stravinsky, whose music affected me so profoundly during my tender, formative years that I had no choice but to become a composer. It is to Debussy that I doff my hat with these reflections of his magical preludes. (Druckman)

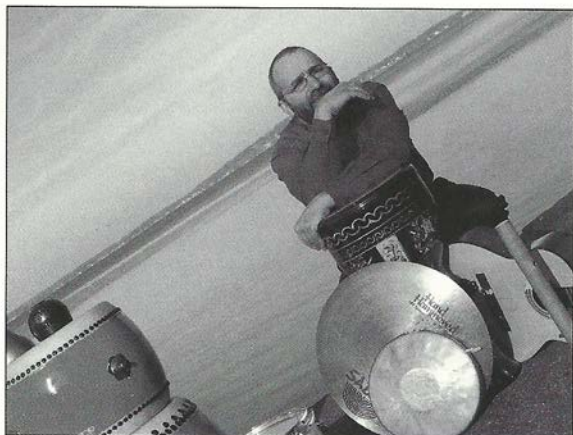
William Moersch, Leigh Howard Stevens and Gordon Stout, through the National Endowment for the Arts, commissioned *Reflections on the Nature of Water* for a performance of new works for marimba at the 1986 Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Washington, DC.

Concerto for Darabukka and Percussion Quartet (2004)

Anthony Di Sanza

Composed in January of 2004, *Concerto for Darabukka and Percussion Quartet* explores three traditional Middle Eastern Iqa'at (rhythmic cycles); Masmudi Kabir (8/4 time signature), Jourjunah (10/8), and Karachi (2/4), as well as one original cycle set in 12/8. Structured in a modified rondo form and requiring extensive improvisation by the soloist, the work combines traditional Middle Eastern percussion sounds with instruments from Eastern Asia, South America, the United States and the Caribbean.

In addition to the Middle Eastern musical inspiration, I incorporated concepts of monadic chant and Japanese festival drumming, as well as the lovely and exciting music of Japanese composers Akira Nishimura and Kaoru Wada. *Concerto for Darabukka and Percussion Quartet* is dedicated to my darabukka teacher and dear friend, Abdulhamid Alwan.



Credits

Executive Producer: Anthony Di Sanza

Recorded at Audio, Ltd. Studio, Cross Plains, WI

Recorded, Edited and Mixed by Marv Nonn

Recorded, Edited and Mixed on SADiE PCM8 DPA,
Neumann, Royer and Shure Microphones

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Graphic Design: Michael P. Tanner

Special Thanks to my wonderful wife and daughter, Jess and Maggie, for their unconditional love! I would also like to thank my parents for a lifetime of support and encouragement.

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a University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate School Research Grant.



Anthony Di Sanza has performed, presented master classes, and held residencies in North America, Europe and Asia. A strong supporter of new music, Di Sanza has been involved with the commissioning and premiering of over 30 new compositions with numerous chamber ensembles, including; Sole Nero – Piano and

Percussion Duo, Keiko Abe and the Michigan Chamber Players, Galaxy Percussion and the Wisconsin Brass Quintet.

Anthony has compositions published with Alfred and HoneyRock and his book *Improvisational Practice Techniques; A Handbook for Incorporating Improvisation into the Percussionist's Daily Practice Routine* is published by RGM music. Anthony earned his graduate degrees at the University of Michigan studying with Michael Udow, Salvatore Rabbio and Julie Spencer and he earned his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Youngstown State University, studying with Joseph Parlink.

Currently Associate Professor of Percussion at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, Anthony is an endorser of Sabian Cymbals, Black Swamp Percussion, Remo Drumheads and Encore Mallets, as well as an educational endorser of Pro-Mark Drumsticks.

1. **Portrait of Forest** (1983) ASCAP/JASRAC

Toshi Ichiyangi 8:04

I Ching (1982) ASCAP/KODA

Per Nørgård 28:12

2. *Thunder Repeated: The Image of Shock*

7:29

3. *The Taming Power of the Small*

2:08

4. *The Gentle, the Penetrating*

6:45

5. *Towards Completion: Fire Over Water*

11:54

Reflections on the Nature of Water (1986) ASCAP

Jacob Druckman 15:02

6. *Crystalline*

3:04

7. *Fleet*

1:48

8. *Tranquil*

2:31

9. *Gently Swelling*

2:05

10. *Profound*

3:29

11. *Relentless*

2:06

12. **Concerto for Darabukka and Percussion Quartet** (2004) ASCAP Anthony Di Sanza 14:26

Darabukka: Anthony Di Sanza

Percussion : Jason Richins, Tim Russell, Jamie V. Ryan and Cindy Terhune

Total Time: 65:43



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