

Trenchcoat Dances

For Percussion and Electronics

Trenchcoat Dances is a percussion concerto -

originally written for the formidable Lynn Vartan and the stellar ensemble GREEN,
reworked in this version for percussion and electronics

with a difference-

The percussionist, playing a large drumset, is both the rhythmic foundation and the source of much foreground interest. This is a delicate balancing act for the performer – to be the rhythm section and the diva all at once is not an easy task.

A few words about the individual movements:

Skin and Bone – A simple melody (the bare “bones”) decorated by increasingly elaborate percussion licks mainly on the toms (the “skin”).

Skunk Hour – The title of a poem by confessional poet Robert Lowell describing his obsessive and desperately lonely voyeurism (“I myself am hell, nobody’s here”) counterpointed by the paranoid conviction that he is being followed by “skunks”. Pleasant stuff.

Snakeheads and Coyotes – Coyotes lead immigrants across the US border from Mexico. Snakeheads are their counterparts in Europe.

Torched – A torch song from hell, with occasional key changes to a sleazy cocktail bar near you.

Trenchcoat Dance – the title track of the piece: The music wears a trenchcoat and frequently flashes bits and pieces of the other movements at the audience.

-Shaun Naidoo
Los Angeles, May 2003

Duration: 18 minutes and 40 seconds

Please note that there are 2 CDs of the electronic part:

1. A rehearsal CD with internal program numbers for the individual movements. While providing ease of access to sections within the movements this CD is unsuitable for performances due to occasional noticeable breaks in the sound. A separate sheet listing the programs within each movement is attached.
2. A performance CD with one program number per movement.

Percussion Map

The diagram shows a musical staff with two staves. The top staff is labeled 'TOMS' and has notes for 'kick bass drum', 'floor', 'lo', 'mid', 'hi', and 'snare'. The bottom staff is labeled 'br. drums*' and has notes for 'timbales', 'bongos', 'congas', 'cowbells', 'hi-hat', 'cymbal (crash/ride)', and 'whistle'. A note at the bottom right indicates '*approx. tuning'.

+ "Concert Grand Marimba" (low A)