

INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE & COMPOSERS AND SCHOOLS IN CONCERT



Composer Workshop: The Listening Room

Cue Sheet for Teachers

Recommended for grades 9 - 12

Workshop Description

In this 90 minute workshop--led by the award-winning International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), along with Composers and Schools in Concert's (CSIC) In-Residence Composer--students discuss the question: What is a composer? Students' ideas on the topic are challenged by the instructors, who provide some unexpected answers. The (CSIC) In-Residence Composer presents briefly on his or her work while ICE performs and demonstrates the art of translating notes on a page into sound. The workshop leads students to compose their own musical scores in graphic notation, which ICE, joined by students on various percussion instruments, will perform.



Instructional Goals

Students will:

- Achieve an inclusive definition of a composer.
- Gain experience in analyzing and describing music.
- Gain experience in composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
- Gain exposure to unusual (extended) techniques of instrumental playing.
- Participate on the same creative level as their instructors.
- Encourage collaboration and consensus among classmates.

Course Outline

90 Minute Workshop:

- Introductions of In-Residence Composer and ICE.
- First round of questions for students: What is a composer?
- Presentation by Composer.
- Performance by ICE.
- Second round of questions for students: What did they hear? How did it challenge their assumptions about what a composer does, and what performers do?
- Demonstrations by ICE members of extended instrumental techniques.
- Demonstrations of basic principles of graphic scores, with student volunteers.
- Demonstrations of handheld percussion instruments, with student participation.
- Group composition exercise, guided by In-Residence composer and ICE members.
- Performance of student works by ICE and their student peers.
- Summary and follow-up, final round of discussions.

International Contemporary Ensemble

ICE's commitment to building a diverse, engaged audience for the music of our time has inspired The Listening Room, an educational initiative that draws on the rich vocabulary of experimental music—improvisation, graphic scores, team-based performances, and non-traditional instruments—to teach collaborative creative skills to students of all ages and skill levels. Using team-based composition and graphic notation, ICE musicians lead students in the creation of new musical works, nurturing collaborative creative skills and building an appreciation for musical experimentation.