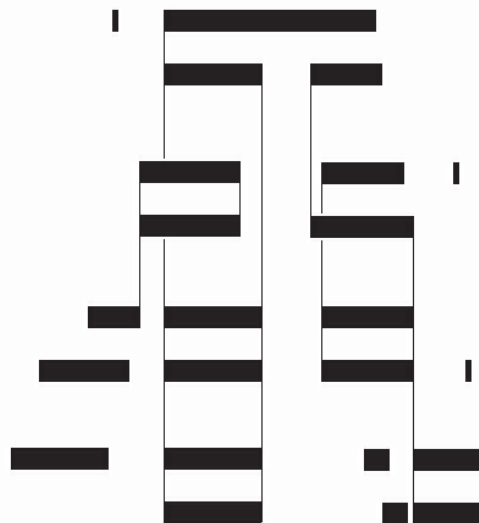


# GINO ROBAIR AND COMPOSERS & SCHOOLS IN CONCERT



## Composer Workshop: Working with Graphic Scores and Indeterminate Notation

### Cue Sheet for Teachers



Recommended for grades 9 - 12

#### Workshop Description

This three-period workshop will introduce students to the concept of the graphic score and other notational schemes that expand the traditional concept of notes on a five-line staff. Scores by John Cage, Cornelius Cardew, and Earle Brown will be examined and concepts of interpretation will be discussed and practiced. Students will also play the scores using various interpretive ideas. The workshop will conclude with students creating their own scores for the class to perform, using a variety of materials that include analog and digital media, photos, drawings, and concrete objects such as leaves, strings, and others.

#### Instructional Goals

- Understanding the relationship between music and the graphic arts, as well as other disciplines.
- Performing on instruments, alone and with others, in a variety of musical styles.
- Develop skills in listening, analyzing, and describing music.
- Compose and arrange music within specified guidelines.

#### Course Outline

**Period 1:** Introduction to the graphic scores and examine levels of specificity and interpretation. Discussion on Interpretation vs. Improvisation. Students perform the scores.

**Period 2:** Continue discussion on interpretation ideas. Perform scores in small groups. Students discuss and analyze each other's interpretations. Introduce the idea of creating one's own graphic score. Give assignment for the following week: each student creates a graphic score.

**Period 3:** Students present their own scores to the class, explaining the ideas in them. Student composers conduct other students in playing the graphic score. Students discuss and analyze each piece in a constructive way.

#### Teaching Artist, Gino Robair

**Gino Robair** has created music for dance, theater, radio, television, silent film, and gamelan orchestra, and his works have been performed throughout North America, Europe, and Japan. He was composer in residence with the California Shakespeare Festival for five seasons and music director for the CBS series *The Twisted Tales of Felix the Cat*. His commercial work includes themes for the MTV and Comedy Central cable networks. Gino is one of the "25 innovative percussionists" included in the book *Percussion Profiles* (SoundWorld, 2001). His opera, "I, Norton," is based on the life of Norton I, Emperor of the United States.

## POST-WORKSHOP IDEAS

- School ensemble performs students' graphic scores during a school concert.
- Students collaborate with each other on a large-scale graphic score to tell a specific story that is then interpreted by student ensembles in concert.
- Students attend a concert by a local professional ensemble that is presenting new works using graphic scores. The students could also attend a rehearsal and discuss the work with the musicians.

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