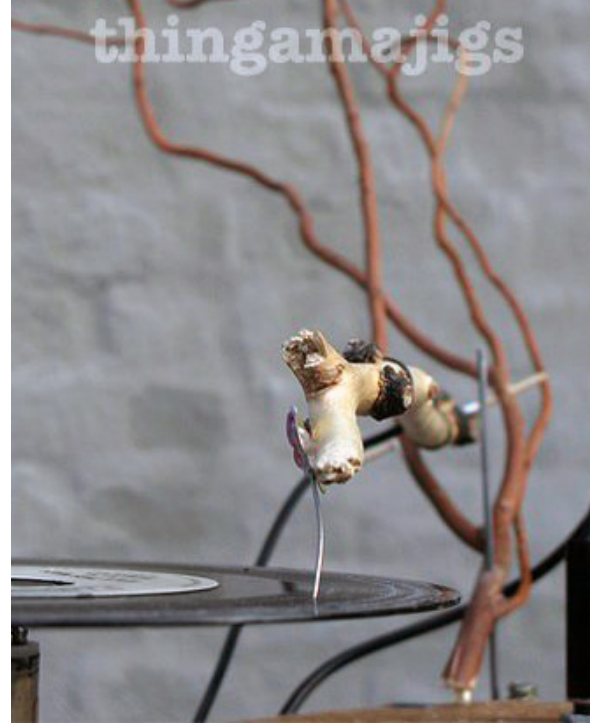


THINGAMAJIGS & COMPOSERS AND SCHOOLS IN CONCERT

Composer Workshop: Electronics, Instrument Building, DIY

Cue Sheet for Teachers



Recommended for grades 9 - 12

Workshop Description

In this three-period, hands-on workshop and presentation, high school students are exposed to how the use of objects found in our everyday environments can be used to create exciting and innovative music. The group demonstrates and discusses the definition of a musical instrument and how it has changed since Bay Area artists such as Henry Cowell, Harry Partch and Lou Harrison started to challenge the definition. This workshop encompasses learning areas as diverse as building instruments from raw materials, DIY electronics, composition and improvisation techniques, notation, and performance strategies and dynamics.

Students are asked to bring household objects that can be used to create unique sounds. The Thingamajigs Performance Group will kick off the workshop with a live performance and demonstration.

Instructional Goals

- Introduce composition and improvisation concepts (no previous improvisation skills are required)
- Cultivate student creativity through instrument building, music composition, and improvisation
- Foster listening and analytical skills
- Frame musical practices in a historical context
- Provide experience in directing small ensembles
- Encourage collaboration

Course Outline

Period 1:

- Thingamajig Performance Group performance #1
- Introduction of workshop pedagogy
- Demonstration of made/found instruments
- Thingamajig Performance Group performance #2
- Group work and class improvised piece
- Class assignment and closing

Period 2 & 3:

- Improvisation and collaborative work
- Group work
- Group performances and improvisations

Thingamajigs Performance

Group Using found material, DIY electronics, and traditional non-Western instruments, the Thingamajigs Performance Group combines Eastern sensibilities with American experimental approaches and performance practices. Thingamajigs Performance Group (TPG) creates original works in a collaborative manner with each ensemble member having equal creative input in guiding the work to fruition. Through alternate tuning systems, innovative instrument designs, and sound-worlds influenced by cultures across the Pacific Rim, this composers collective has developed a highly original musical practice.

POST-PERFORMANCE IDEAS

- Show *Harry Partch -- Composer: A BBC Documentary*
- Compose a musical work that combines made instruments from the workshop and standard instruments
- Have the students write an essay on the following topics:
 1. The connection between music and math
 2. The comparison between different improvisation traditions

www.composersandschools.com
www.thingamajigs.org