for Steven Schick and red fish, blue fish

Evan Ziporyn

MELODY COMPETITION

percussion sextet

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Melody Competition (6/2000 version) is for six players.

Instrumentation and set-up:
2 marimbas
2 vibraphones
6 sets of non-pitched instruments, each comprising:
  - one resonating drum, such as tom-tom
  - one medium not-particularly-resonant metal (sharp attack, short decay), such as a Beijing opera gong
  - one higher-pitched piece of wood. Such as a woodblock

There should be as wide a variety of sounds within each "family" of instruments as will still allow aural connections. It should be clear that the drums are related and are making interlocking melodies, as are the metal and wood instruments. It is suggested that ensembles assemble sets of instruments with similar sounds and wide melodic ranges. All six sets should be set up in the same configuration so that all players’ arm motions are visibly similar (i.e., all drums on the player's left, all metal dead center, all wood to the right).

Do not try to find sets of mallet instruments that are perfectly in tune with one another. Small discrepancies are preferable.

Players and instruments are divided into two groups, left and right. Players should be located from stage left to stage right, as indicated in the score (L1, L2, L3, R1, R2, R3). Instruments should be arranged so that players can stay in their relative position no matter what instrument they are playing. Please contact the publisher or composer for suggested set-ups.