

Lago Argento
for percussion, video, and electronics

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California, February 2010

Abstract

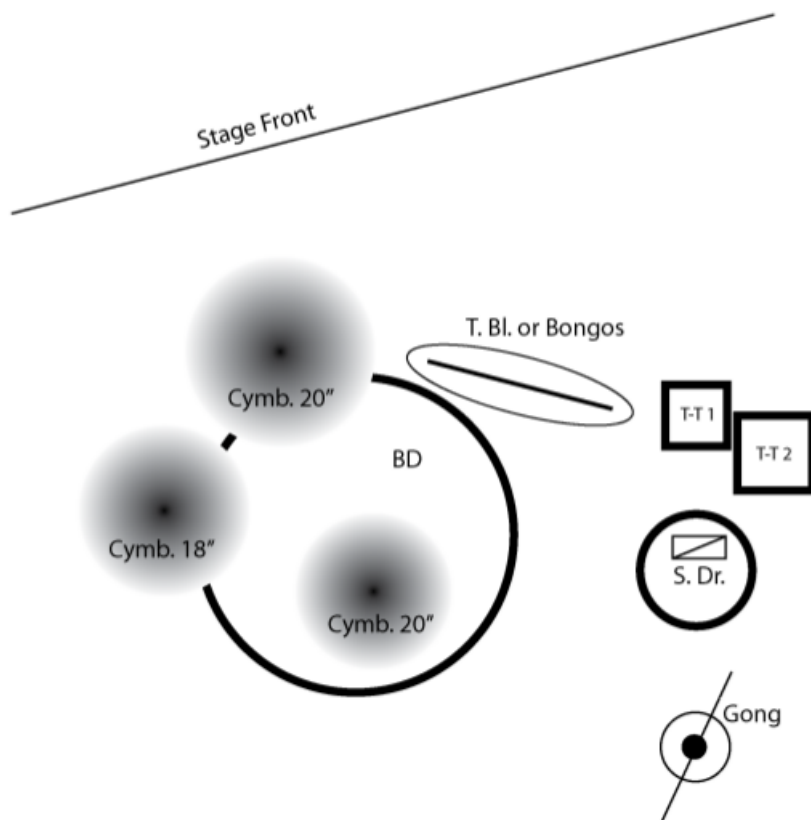
800 feet below the surface of the Chihuahuan Desert in Mexico, there is a lake surrounded by walls of silver. Miners at "La Platosa" extract its minerals day and night, every day of the year. With the support of a Graduate Research Grant from UCI, I traveled to the city of Bermejillo to capture the most 'precious' sounds from the heart of this mine. This work for percussion and video tries to recreate the harsh and surreal environment where miners spend their daily life.

0.1 Instrumentation

1. Concert Bass Drum (36"- 40")
2. 2 Tom-Toms (high 1 & 2)
3. Snare Drum, 14"
4. Bongos
5. 3 woodblocks
6. Gong
7. 3 suspended cymbals (20" ride, 18" crash, 20" concert)

0.1.1 Mallets

1. Bow (bass)
2. Snare Drum sticks
3. Soft yarn mallets
4. hard/semi hard wood block mallets
5. brush (fully extended)
6. gong mallet



0.2 Technical Notes

The audiovisual materials are contained on the video file *LagoArgentoMPG4.mov* that should be in the same folder as *LagoArgentoOpenGL.maxpat* and *cues.txt*. The video contains the images and sound of the electronic part of the piece. The Max/MSP patch should be run on a laptop that can be seen at all times by the percussionist. The patch includes timecode and a monitor for the video. Once the patch is running there is a floating screen that should be dragged to an external monitor. The aspect ratio should be match the external screen. The screen can be placed next to the percussion set at a moderate distance. The percussion set and the screen should look like one single element on stage in order to keep the eyes of the audience as much as possible on both elements.

List of files

1. LagoArgentoMPG4.mov
2. LagoArgentoOpenGL.maxpat
3. cues.txt

0.2.1 Materials

1. Laptop
2. Midi pedal/controller. The Max/MSP patch was programmed to use a Line6 FBV Express MKII controller; The patch can be modified to be used with any controller.
3. Long usb cable to connect the pedal/controller in order to start/stop the movie.
4. Video adapter with long cable to connect the video output of computer to a projector.
5. Projector.
6. Screen, stage size.
7. Stereo PA system.

0.3 About the Notation

The z symbol on stems indicates a bouncing of the mallet on the instrument. The arrows pointing down from timecode to a note indicate that the section should be perfectly synchronized with the video/timecode. The free improvisation section starting at timecode 1416 should not be more than 2 minutes long. Use preferably sounds from cymbals and gong.

Lago Argentio

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Electronics

3 Wood Blocks

3 Cymbals

Gong

2 Bongos
Snare
2 Toms
Bass Drum

Largo

rall.

niente

f

♩=112

Freely

3

2 Bongos
Snare
2 Toms
Bass Drum

ff

4

Hit the stick on right hand (on snare)

fff

sfp

A Start movie

♩ = 60

0000

Electronics

2 Bongos
Snare
2 Toms
Bass Drum

Musical notation for measures 5 and 6. The top staff (Electronics) features a melodic line with dynamics *fff*, *mf*, and *p*. The bottom staff (2 Bongos, Snare, 2 Toms, Bass Drum) features a complex rhythmic pattern with accents.

fff sempre.

Musical notation for measures 7 and 8. The top staff (Electronics) features a melodic line with dynamics *fff*, *mf*, and *p*. The bottom staff (2 Bongos, Snare, 2 Toms, Bass Drum) features a complex rhythmic pattern with accents.

sf *mf*

Musical notation for measures 9 and 10. The top staff (Electronics) features a melodic line with dynamics *fff*, *mf*, and *p*. The bottom staff (2 Bongos, Snare, 2 Toms, Bass Drum) features a complex rhythmic pattern with accents.

ff *fp* *ff* *f*

Musical notation for measures 11 and 12. The top staff (Electronics) features a melodic line with dynamics *fff*, *mf*, and *p*. The bottom staff (2 Bongos, Snare, 2 Toms, Bass Drum) features a complex rhythmic pattern with accents.

mp

ff

13

fff mf p fff mf p

fff

fff

Detailed description: This system contains measures 13 and 14. The top staff features a melodic line with accents and dynamic markings: *fff*, *mf* (with a hairpin), and *p*. The bottom staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with accents and dynamic markings: *fff* and *fff*.

15

fff mf p fff mf p

fff

Detailed description: This system contains measures 15 and 16. The top staff features a melodic line with accents and dynamic markings: *fff*, *mf* (with a hairpin), and *p*. The bottom staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with accents and dynamic markings: *fff*.

17

fff mf p fff mf p fff mf p

fff

fff

mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 17, 18, and 19. The top staff features a melodic line with accents and dynamic markings: *fff*, *mf* (with a hairpin), and *p*. The middle staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with accents and dynamic markings: *fff*. The bottom staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with accents and dynamic markings: *fff* and *mf* (with a hairpin).

B

♩=60

1059

20

Wheel dissolves

(woodblocks are on BD)
(cymbal is on BD upside/down)

use woodblocks to beat while holding drumsticks **5** **5**

throw woodblocks on BD use drumsticks (use woodblocks) **5** **5**

(Bass drum vibrates) *fff*

22

use drumsticks *mf*

throw woodblocks on BS, try to hit cymbal (use drumsticks) **5**

p *f* *f* *p*

25

p

meccanico

With woodblocks. Throw sticks on BS *ff*

everything resonates and bounces off the BS **3**

1150

Musical score for measures 29-31. Measure 29 has a fermata. Measures 30-31 show rhythmic patterns with 'x' marks and a piano (*p*) dynamic marking.

Scrub BD with hands doing a big clockwise producing noise ad libitum. Do not apply pressure.

1223

Musical score for measures 32-34. Measure 32 has a "clear BS" instruction. Measures 33-34 show melodic lines with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) to mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic range.

35

Musical score for measures 35-37. Measure 35 has a *sim.* instruction. Measures 36-37 show melodic lines with various rhythmic patterns.

sim.

38 sim.

Musical score for measures 38-42. The score is written for three staves. The top staff contains a melodic line of eighth notes. The middle staff contains a bass line with dotted notes. The bottom staff contains a complex bass line with sixteenth notes and rests. The word "sim." is written above the top staff at the end of the system.

43

Musical score for measures 43-47. The score is written for three staves. The top staff is mostly empty. The middle staff has a melodic line starting in measure 44. The bottom staff has a bass line with a "l.v." marking in measure 44. A dynamic marking "p" with a hairpin is present in measure 47. A fermata is placed over the final note of the middle staff in measure 47.

48

Musical score for measures 48-52. The score is written for three staves. The top two staves are empty. The bottom staff contains a melodic line with a "scomparendo" marking above it, which is a dashed line indicating a gradual fade-out. The time signature $\frac{2}{4}$ is written at the end of each staff.

C ♩=60

1347 (bass sound) l.v. *f*

1416 [Free improvisation] Stop movie Start movie

1420 (bass sound 2) l.v. *f*

Apply pressure to BD and move hand along diameter producing a pitched sound. Use brush on other hand to scrub and hit drum ad libitum

mf

D ♩=108

1430 electronics *mf* *mf*

1440 solo electronics *mp*

1510

1524 *mp*

64

Musical score for measures 64-68. The score is written for a grand staff with three staves. The top staff contains rests. The middle staff contains a melodic line starting in measure 64. The bottom staff contains a continuous triplet of eighth notes. A horizontal line spans measures 64-68 with the dynamic marking *pp* below it.

69

Musical score for measures 69-71. The score is written for a grand staff with three staves. The top staff contains notes with the instruction "dead stroke on BS" above it. The middle staff contains a melodic line. The bottom staff contains a continuous triplet of eighth notes. Dynamic markings *mp* are placed above the middle staff in measures 69 and 71. The instruction *sempre piano* is written below the bottom staff.

72

Musical score for measures 72-73. The score is written for a grand staff with three staves. The top staff contains rests. The middle staff contains a melodic line. The bottom staff contains a continuous triplet of eighth notes. The instruction *sempre piano* is written below the bottom staff.

74

Musical score for measures 74-76. The score is written for a grand staff with three staves. The top staff contains notes with the dynamic marking *ppp* below it. The middle staff contains a melodic line. The bottom staff contains a continuous triplet of eighth notes. The instruction *mp sempre* is written below the bottom staff.

77

switch to bow

Bow cymbals ad libitum

E

81 **1634**

mf

1643

♩=63

83

fff

mf *ff* *sim.*

87

Musical score for measures 87-88. Measure 87 features four groups of sixteenth-note chords, each marked with a '5' above it. Measure 88 begins with a dynamic marking of *fff* and contains a quarter note followed by a dotted quarter note. A dynamic marking of *fp* is placed below the second measure.

89

Musical score for measures 89-91. Measure 89 has a dynamic marking of *mf*. Measures 90 and 91 are mostly rests. Measure 91 ends with a dynamic marking of *fp* and a hairpin symbol.

92

1735.20

Musical score for measures 92-95. Measure 92 has a dynamic marking of *mf*. Measure 93 has a dynamic marking of *f*. Measure 94 has a dynamic marking of *ppp*. Measure 95 has dynamic markings of *p*, *ppp*, *f*, and *ff*. A red box containing the number 1735.20 is located in the upper right area of the score.

97 **F** ♩=60

sempre staccato e secco.

mf 3

100

fff

103

fff *sfp*

106

meccanico

mp *p*