



AMERICAN COMPOSERS FORUM

WASHINGTON, D.C. CHAPTER

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The American Composers Forum, DC Chapter presents:

Hand Leg Suit

By Michael Boyd

Performers:

Michael Boyd, trombone

Stephen Lilly, electric bass

Michael Sparrow, snare drum

Kristian Twombly, vibraphone

The title **Hand Leg Suit** was one of several possible names for the rock band for which this piece was composed (at the request of its quite excellent trombonist Ben Lanz). Additionally, the title reflects a shift in my approach to composition that began with this piece from a strict focus on sound to the physical actions of the performers (thus the parts of the body in the title). In this piece specifically, players are provided with two general types of information that they interpret and amalgamate to generate the performance: simple graphic images, and charts that list actions, parts of the body, and parts of the instrument. Though each performer generally presents these interpretations without specific consideration for other members of the ensemble, the group periodically coordinates through the repetition of specific segments of the score. Ultimately, the players are required to continually rethink how their instrument and body are used in performance, creatively producing material that both represents their individuality and at times generates a unique sense of ensemble.

Michael Boyd is a composer and theorist currently pursuing a DMA in composition from the University of Maryland at College Park where he also holds undergraduate degrees. He will receive an MA in music history and theory from the State University of New York at Stony Brook this August as well. Michael has studied composition with Lawrence Moss, Peter Winkler, Dan Weymouth, and presently Thomas DeLio. Additionally, Michael has taught at both the University of Maryland and SUNY Stony Brook and currently performs recent experimental music in the Baltimore/DC area with the Bay Players.