Cookin’ With Cheese

Dwayne Engh

_Cookin’ With Cheese_ was written for a good friend and colleague (Phil Rounding) at Fairview Junior High School as a thank you for all the sarcasm and umm… “colourful” phrases/names he has taught/called me. I knew he would appreciate the sarcasm and playfulness of the piece. It was based on the concept of a kitchen cooking show that was used for an improvised piece by the _Move to Strike Percussion Group_ on a 2003 concert.

_Cookin’ With Cheese_ pokes fun at poorly produced TV cooking shows. It starts with a video of a cooking show (as lame as possible, please), is later interrupted by putting a mini bag of popcorn in a microwave and starting it… the piece then continues until the musicians break into reciting recipes, and finishes with the reoccurring percussion break (and eating the finished popcorn on stage).

**Instrumentation:**
All four players must go home (or to a Thrift Store) and find 3 different pitched kitchen pots/pans/wooden bowls/plastic bowls which will be played with regular drumsticks. I would recommend that all four players place their instruments on towels on a table and stand behind that to perform the piece.

The only requirements are that:
- each player needs a low, medium and high pitched kitchen object.
- each player is internally consistent (i.e. one person has all metal or all plastic).
- there is variety between the four players so that different tone colours are heard.

Each player will also need to find 3-4 recipes in order to recite them during the piece. You will also need a video/DVD machine, TV, a microwave and a mini bag of popcorn.

**List of Cues:**
Cue 1: Start video of local cooking show
Cue 2: Percussionists start improvising random kitchen sounds
Cue 3: Player 1 puts mini-bag of popcorn into the microwave and starts it
Cue 4: Start groove
Cue 5: All musicians start reciting recipes (Start sparsely and increase texture/volume)
Cue 6: Gradually add players in one by one while reciting of recipes gets louder
Cue 7: Start groove
Cue 8: Get finished popcorn from the microwave and start eating

**Performance Time:** ~ 2:00 – 2:30 minutes (improvised sections can be lengthened)

Dwayne Engh has been blessed with a wide range of opportunities throughout the world as a composer, conductor, percussionist, and educator. He recently had the opportunity to participate in a residency as a composer at the Banff Centre for the Arts, where he also played for the Banff Centre Opera and with the Banff Festival Orchestra. He holds a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Education (Masters of Teaching) from the University of Calgary.

Dwayne has written for chamber ensembles, choirs, dance, film and theatre. His original compositions have been performed on CBC Television. He has written for dance groups including the Alberta Ballet School of Dance, Corps Bara Dance Company and Providence Catholic Winterguard (Chicago). His most recent works for theatre include Sam Shepard’s _savage love_ (2004) and Daniel MacIvor’s _The Soldier Dreams_ (2001). He has written percussion ensemble pieces for many ensembles, most notably _Move to Strike_, the Calgary Stampede Showband, the Sizu-City Elementary School Marching Band (Japan) and the Central Kitsap High School Percussion Ensemble (Washington).

An accomplished percussionist, he has performed with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and the National Ballet Orchestra, recorded for CBC Radio and performed with pit orchestras in both Toronto and Calgary. Mr. Engh is a founding member of the “Move to Strike Percussion Group” and of the saxophone-marimba duo “Saximba.” He has worked as a modern, Flamenco and West African dance percussion accompanist for the University of Calgary Dance Program and for the DJD School of Dance. He is an active freelance percussionist and drummer around Calgary.

Mr. Engh is the Director of Bands for the Calgary Exhibition & Stampede and the Music Director of the community choir Cum Vino Cantus. As well, he was formally an Off-Campus Teacher Representative and a high school English and Music educator for the Calgary Board of Education.
Cue 1
T.V. plays
approx. 15 seconds

Cue 2
ad lib. - random kitchen sounds
approx. 15 seconds

Allegro • \( \text{4} / \text{4} \)
continue ad lib until groove starts

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Cue 5
recite recipes
approx. 20-30 seconds

Cue 6
recite recipes louder
add players one by one - vamp

Cue 7
start groove

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