

PROGRAM

TIMBER (2009)
Michael Gordon

Leah Bowden
Dustin Donahue
Christopher Clarino
Fiona Digney
Ryan Nestor
Steven Schick

NOTE

I began working on *Timber* in 2009 at the invitation of the Dutch-based dance group, Club Guy & Roni, and the percussion ensembles Slagwerk Den Haag and Mantra Percussion. I had written many orchestral works over the decade, beginning with *Decasia* in 2001 up to *Dystopia* in 2007, and I wanted to clear my mind of pitches and orchestration.

For that reason, I decided early on that *Timber* would be for non-tuned percussion and that each percussionist would play one instrument only. I thought of composing this music as being like taking a trip out into the desert. I was counting on the stark palette and the challenge of survival to clear my brain and bring on visions.

I imagined that the six instruments would go from high to low, and that, through a shifting of dynamics from one instrument to the next, the group could make seamless and unified descending or ascending patterns. After working on rhythmic sketches with Mantra Percussion in early 2009, I went to Amsterdam in June to workshop my ideas with Slagwerk Den Haag. I had the plan but I was searching for the right instruments.

After some experimentation, Slagwerk's Fedor Teunisse brought out a set of wooden simantras. These slabs of wood, which looked like standard building materials from a lumberyard to me, had a gorgeous sound. It was distinct enough so that the clarity of the percussive hits could be heard, and was also extremely resonant, producing a complex field of overtones. With inspiration from this discovery, I returned to New York to finish the music for Club Guy & Roni's extravaganza 'Pinball and Grace,' which premiered in October of 2009.

— *Michael Gordon*

UC San Diego

EXPERIMENTAL THEATER

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DIRECTED BY STEVEN SCHICK
FEATURING MICHAEL GORDON'S TIMBER

FEBRUARY 11, 2014, @7PM
CONRAD PREBYS
EXPERIMENTAL THEATER

ABOUT

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