

Dane P. Yates

taiji_[2014]

full score

an electroacoustic work for found metal objects,
electronic drumkit + kontakt app

(and electronics)

taiji^{•••}_[2014]

Notationally, this piece is quite unscored and a very open work for player performance and improvisation with the instrumentation given to them.

For this piece, the performer will need a copy of [taiji player] a kontakt app to be mapped to an electronic drumkit. Other instruments used can be any found metallic objects as well as further manipulations and processing of the sound and space keeping true to the story of Taiji and the information given to you.

Before performance, the performer should learn to utilize all expressions and effects of the [taiji player].

The total length of the piece can remain up to the performers interpretation of the score.

The found metal objects should be quite piercing and have a long decay on them.

taiji is a small town located in the Wakayama Prefecture, Japan. It is quite explicitly infamous both for its annual dolphin drive hunt and the mercury levels of the town. The dolphin drive hunt takes place every year in Taiji from September through to April. Over 1600 dolphins were hunted and cruelly killed in 2007 for human consumption or resale to dolphinariums, and most of these were caught at Taiji. The annual dolphin hunt provides income for local residents, but has received international criticism for both the cruelty of the dolphin killing and the high mercury levels of the dolphin meat.

The hunt begins when a pod of dolphins has been spotted; fishing boats move into position. One end of a steel pipe is lowered into the water, and the fishermen aboard the boat strike the pipe with mallets. This is done at strategic points around the pod, in an effort to herd them toward land. The dolphins of course get scared of the intruding sounds and swim away from it and into the cove of Taiji where it is roped and netted off, trapping the dolphins. The following day, fishermen, dolphin trainers and executives of amusement parks like SeaWorld or television executives will arrive at the beach to buy their new dolphin, sometimes with prices up to and beyond \$50,000 dollars. The dolphins who are not bought are killed brutally, sometimes with a single stab or slice on rocks and left to bleed and flip around helplessly over hours.¹

The dolphins are then sold as meat and delivered around Japan. The dolphin meat can be a very high potential health risk as studies have shown a high level of mercury found within the dolphin meat and is not recommended for children or pregnant women. The mortality rate for Taiji and nearby Koazagawa, where dolphin meat is also consumed, is over 50% higher than the rate for similarly sized villages throughout Japan. Although this can be quite easy to see, tests done within Taiji on hair samples have claimed that none of the villagers show any symptoms of mercury poisoning.

¹ *Before new laws came in as 'humane ways of dispatch', although they are still considered too brutal that they would not be tolerated or permitted in any regulated slaughterhouse.

Section A (pipe)

Start quite silent, let tension brood between hits
Stuttered banging of the found metallic object/s
Processing of the sounds or space is welcome

Section B (pod)

Use natural dolphin samples of taiji player

Section A + B

Draw two elements together slowly build up to a
medium of noise and cacophony.

Section C (cove)

Press hihat pedal still building up.
Concentrate more on the electronic drumkit now.

Build up concentrating mostly on cymbal hits and
patterns. At highest point depress the pedal ending with a
crash.

Section A

3 hits of found metal objects with long silences in
between.

Section C + B

Play with only the natural samples of the taiji
player with hihat pedal pressed down. Hihat pedal can be
pressed and depressed at will, benefitting the music
rhythmically and timbrely.

Section A

1 Single hit of the found metal object, long pause.

Section A + B + C

Combine all three sections here; build up to highest and noisiest point. Other electronics is encouraged here.

End quite abruptly

Section A

1 Single hit of the found metal object, long pause.

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