

for Bill Sallak

Aisle Five

Dennis Báthory-Kitsz

Percussion 1	Five Standard Metal ("Tin") Cans (#1, 2, 3, 5, 10 — 10 is lowest)	Tuna (or Wet Cat Food) Can Array (7 flat cans, high to low; bottom 2 or 3 may be holiday cookie tins)
Percussion 2	Three Paper Frozen Juice Cans (2 small, 1 large — large is lowest) Hershey's Syrup Can (16-oz, down) Metal Tea or Candy Canister (up)	Three Plastic Yogurt Containers (standard size, lids on, facing up) Three Fresh Wax Paper Sheets (hanging, short, medium, long)
Percussion 3	Three Standard Glass Jars (small, medium, large — large is lowest) Two Plastic Milk Jugs (lids off) (half-gallon & gallon — gallon is lowest)	Two Metal Coffee Cans (printed, lids on, facing up) Two Metal Coffee Cans (printed, lids off, facing down)
Player's Voice	Use This as the Center of the Vocal Range, But Not as an Absolute Pitch	

*hiphop rhythmic pattern; e.g.,
upbeats are very late on 2 & 3,
slightly irregular on 4*

The musical score is written for four staves. The top staff is for Percussion 1, the second for Percussion 2, the third for Percussion 3, and the bottom for Player's Voice. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 90~110+, rap tempo. The time signature is 4/4. The score consists of four measures. The first measure is a whole note. The second measure contains a melodic line with a 7:4 ratio. The third measure contains a melodic line with a 5:4 ratio. The fourth measure contains a melodic line. The percussion parts are indicated by vertical lines and brackets.

The percussion may be set up in any convenient way. The visual idea is to leave the labels on all the commercial products, and to perform the music by setting up after a meal in which all the products have actually been used to prepare the meal. It's a lot of tuna, Hershey's syrup, coffee, milk, and juice—but if a full audience is being fed, there will be plenty of empty containers to choose from.

Most of the containers are standard, but for clarity on a few details: paper frozen juice cans are boxboard with metal ends, one of which has been pried off and discarded; printed metal coffee cans are the kind *not* wrapped in a thin plastic label; the metal tea or candy canister is the collector's sort given at the holidays, with a fitted lid; and tuna cans are available in several sizes, arrayed by pitch, and can be substituted with metal cookie tins (such as Scandinavian cookies or ribbon candy) for the lowest two or three instruments.

The volumes should be balanced so that the dynamics of all instruments match.

*improvise hiphop
rhythm during text*

heard on the radio we're éating bad
so looked in the cabinets to see what i had.
worried by my habits before i go shópping,
driving round the city for some bargain hópping.
park the car, head inside, roll out the básket—
fluorescent, air-conditioned, no old tisket nor tasket;
here's a modern shop of food encased in plástic.

repeat percussion 7mm

*rhythmic pattern almost the same,
instruments change; improv okay*

Shop full of food en - cased in plas - tic. (oo)_____

so dówn aisle one, poking through the fruit—
 can my random green thoughts get to the truth?
 get to have the food you crave year round,
 but never put your finger into the ground.
 coming in by trúck, gassed frúit don't súffer,
 but úsing what's in season makes your life no róughier.
 never mind, i put it dówn into my cart;
 brain don't have control over stómach nor hèart.

repeat percussion 8mm

repeat percussion 8mm

Shop full of food en-cased in plas - tic. (oo)_____

5:4

thoughts grow big passing through aisle four;
 gotta take my dairy goods out through the door,
 but rbgh cows' milk threatens our héalth,
 while poison chemicals don't hélp the farmers' wealth.
 sterile seed engineered down to the genes—
 packed with monsanto lawsuits if you ain't got the méans.
 debate over science of global wármíng...
 no matter true or false, you listening to the wármíng?
 i grab a jug or two of milk and move right òn,
 preaching to myself elicits a major yàwn.

repeat percussion 10mm

5:4

Shop full of food en-cased in plas - tic. (oo)_____

5:4 5:4

another aisle of vegetables in shelves of cans;
 popeye ate the spinach made him the man!
 used to be tin cans sealed tight with lead,
 'til they found the food make you crazy & dead.
 still, putting plastic yogurt back in the ré-cyc
 ain't good as the economy of riding a bike.
 can't find nothing clean & fresh here to assuage me,
 distracted when my cell phone beeps to page me
 in the aisle with food so far from its earth.
 phone's computer ringtone ain't got no mirth.
 moving right along i feel cold and clammy;
 nothing 'round here would've pleased my grámmy.

repeat percussion 12mm

5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4

Shop full of food en-cased in plas - tic. (oo)_____

5:4 5:4

repeat percussion 11mm

using my grocery card gets me great b́argains;
 that's how the store's computers track h́ow far í been—
 clean-room shiny macs and gates's pc's, ýa,
 nothing with bacteria, ńo, but end up in nigeria, ýo.
 heavy metal poison but ain't this song about f́ood?
 sure, but shelves don't repĺenish if you don't compúte.
 everybody wins say economists live or dead,
 but keynes & trickle-down end up ón ýour head.
 be a giant śucking sound said old perót—
 wake yourself up from your free-trade dŕeam, ýo!
 out of your control they v́ote for WÍPO [*whíp-oh*].

5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4

three measures improvisation on above instruments, followed by fixed measure

Shop full of food en - cased in plas - tic. (oo)_____

turn back to áisle thrée, what'd i forget?
 morning brew and cake, cookies all i can get.
 so chocolate and coffee—go fór the fair trade;
 some ethical shopping and my dáy is made.
 but it's hard to pass the chips made for a píttànce;
 want to ease my conscience with some remíttànce.
 craving that white sugar turns me aside,
 so conscience be damned and i let it slide.

repeat percussion 8mm

The first system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top two staves contain rests, while the bottom staff contains a vocal line with notes. The notes are: a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F4.

The piano accompaniment for the first system is shown in two staves. The bass staff contains a series of chords: G2-B2, A2-C3, B2-D3, C3-E3, B2-D3, A2-C3, G2-B2, and a final chord with a double bar line. The treble staff contains a series of chords: G4-B4, A4-C5, B4-D5, C5-E5, B4-D5, A4-C5, G4-B4, and a final chord with a double bar line.

Shop full of food en - cased in plas - tic. (oo)_____

The second system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top two staves contain notes and rests, while the bottom staff contains a vocal line with notes. The notes are: a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F4.

The piano accompaniment for the second system is shown in two staves. The bass staff contains a series of chords: G2-B2, A2-C3, B2-D3, C3-E3, B2-D3, A2-C3, G2-B2, and a final chord with a double bar line. The treble staff contains a series of chords: G4-B4, A4-C5, B4-D5, C5-E5, B4-D5, A4-C5, G4-B4, and a final chord with a double bar line.

(oo...)

hít áisle fíve hunting tuna for a quick bite—
 clean and sanitary, chunk brown or solid white...
 but plastic nets break loose into the ócean
 joining condoms, tóothbrushes & bottles of lótion.
 sub-tropical gyre or north pacific vórtex,
 full of plastic trash swirling síze of téxas;
 little bags of resin beads, they call them núrdles—
 big plastic rings are marine life déath-girdles.

----- repeat vocal pattern through lyrics (8mm) -----

repeat percussion 8mm

Sea full of fish en - cased in gir - dles. (oo)_____

appetite is góne as i leave áisle fíve,
 heading to the checkout numb & half alive,
 cart full of plastic with something dead inside,
 look guilty out the window at my gás-powered ride.
 my spirit is limping, my heart getting hard,
 but yes I pull óut my loyalty card.

----- slowly bring in earlier repeated vocal pattern (6mm) -----

repeat percussion 6mm

Shop full of food en - cased in plas - tic. oo.

Northfield Falls, Vermont, November 18, 2007