

for Seth Gordon

Northfield Falls,
Vermont
November 20, 2007

Lunar Cascade in Serial Time

November

Dennis Báthory-Kitsz

Prepare the guitar with twelve 'capos' (reverse frets) made of butcher's twine or other soft string. Tie each tightly, the first at the top above the first fret, the remaining eleven between the frets. The performer will also need a knife or blade and twelve pairs of mallets (very soft foam or yarn through firm plastic like Delrin). The first measure of the pair is performed (repeated if necessary), the string is cut during the second measure of the pair, and each successively harder mallet is used. The dynamics increase proportionately through all thirteen levels. The positions to strike or roll on each string are: on bridge (B), near bridge (>B), near center (C), near frets (>F), on frets (F).

The musical score consists of 13 systems of notation, each with a dynamic marking and performance instructions. The dynamics are: pppppp, ppppp, pppp, ppp, pp, p, mp, mf, f, ff, fff, ffff, and fffff. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and rests. Performance instructions include accents (>) and specific striking positions (B, >B, C, >F, F) indicated by circled letters above the notes. A vertical strip of 13 images runs down the center of the page, corresponding to the 13 systems of notation. The images show various winter scenes: snow-covered trees, a close-up of snow, a snow-covered branch, a close-up of snow, a snow-covered branch, a close-up of snow, a snow-covered branch, a close-up of snow, a snow-covered branch, a close-up of snow, a snow-covered branch, a close-up of snow, and a close-up of snow. At the bottom right, a diagram shows the sequence of striking positions (B, >B, C, >F, F) across the strings, with arrows indicating the path of the mallets.