

Tracks 1 - 4

Igor Lešnik

DWARFS (2003)

Four movements for percussion ensemble

duration 19:43

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Dawn (theme by Živojin Glišić) | 05:39 |
| 2. The Temple of Blue Dwarfs | 06:21 |
| 3. Carpet ride | 04:52 |
| 4. EE-HUH Theme | 02:49 |

Recorded December 20. 2003 at R-1 recording studios of Croatian Radio, sound engineer: Božidar Pandurić, recording producer: Igor Lešnik

Performers: Marko Mihajlović / vibraphone; Maja Ileković / marimba; Tomislav Kovačić / timpani; Damir Korošec / drum-set; Predrag Kresojević / congas; Tomaž Lojen / xylophone; Goran Gorše / glockenspiel; Hrvoje Sekovanić / chimes; Stanislav Muškinja & Josip Burjan / percussion; Igor Lešnik / tupan

Written pretty much in a popular large percussion ensemble style and based on a well known fairy tale about Snow-white and seven dwarfs, this four-movement piece is a kind of "medley set" of themes taken from various albums of Jazzbina - a jazz group led by Igor Lešnik in eighties. In this comprehensive work the odd time signatures, the instruments and the melodies of Southeastern European folk music are freely combined with percussion patterns of South America and mixed with standard jazz chord progressions. This composition puts high demands on performance skills in both solo (in particular vibes, marimba & timpani parts) and ensemble playing. Although the music may sound improvised to some extent, the piece is actually entirely written out.

Igor Lešnik

HOMMAGE A BALL (1995)

For soprano and percussion

duration 13:24

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|----------------------------|-------|
| 5. <i>Credo</i> | 03:12 |
| 6. <i>Pas de Deux</i> | 02:24 |
| 7. <i>Deadly Unplugged</i> | 05:12 |
| 8. <i>All'Inizio</i> | 02:34 |

Recorded April 24. 2004 at R-1 recording studios of Croatian Radio, sound engineer: Božidar Pandurić, recording producer: Igor Lešnik

Performers: Tamara Felbinger-Franetović / soprano; Tomislav Kovačić / marimba & snare drum; Marko Mihajlović / vibraphone & snare drum; Tomaž Lojen / timpani & snare drum; Damir Korošec / drum-set; Goran Gorše / glockenspiel & voice; Maja Ileković / xylophone & voice; Predrag Krešojević & Hrvoje Sekovanić & Stanislav Muškinja & Josip Burjan / percussion & voices

German writer, poet and one of the founders of Dadaism Hugo Ball (1886-1927) wrote *Six Poems of Voices and Sounds* in 1916 and can rightly be considered the inventor of this form of expression. Although these verses have no meaning in the usual sense of the word, poems such these can be read in any language, left to free association, and experienced as stories with a theme. Igor Lešnik's interpretation is a rough representation of Ball's life backwards through four selected situations: religion, love, death, and childhood. Music was added after the text was given a "language" and "meaning." It is not hard to imagine how things could develop: dance, cabaret, marionettes, cartoons...This recording offers the four ensemble movements. There are two additional movements in this work which are for a soloist.

Franz Cibulka & Igor Lešnik
CONCERTO FOR PERCUSSION & PERCUSSION (2002)

duration 16:15

9. <i>I. Allegro</i>	06:05
10. <i>II. Adagio Moderato</i>	04:33
11. <i>III. Presto, Cadenza - Finale</i>	05:34

Recorded November 22, 2003 at R-1 recording studios of the Croatian Radio, sound engineer: Božidar Pandurić, recording producer: Igor Lešnik

Performers: Igor Lešnik / soloist on timpani (track 9.), vibraphone (track 10.) and drum-set (track 11.); Tomaž Lojen / xylophone, Marko Mihajlović / vibraphone; Goran Gorše / marimba; Maja Ileković / glockenspiel; Damir Korošec / chimes; Tomislav Kovačić / timpani; Stanislav Muškinja / drum set

Austrian *Franz Cibulka* teaches clarinet, chamber music and music theory at J. J. Fux Conservatorium in Graz. He has composed over 300 compositions for a wide variety of ensembles, from large symphonic works to smaller chamber music. Cibulka received numerous awards for his work and there are several recordings of his music. This composition was created by exchanging music examples through electronic mail. The work was premiered in 2002 as a double concerto for percussion and organ by ATTACCANTILENA. Later Franz orchestrated the score for orchestra and also for symphonic band. Igor then arranged it for percussion ensemble. The percussion ensemble version may also be performed without a guest soloist in which case, each movement highlights a different instrument / player of the ensemble.

Tracks 12 - 14

Igor Lešnik

CHAMADE SUITE (1993)

For percussion sextet

Published by HoneyRock

duration 07:39

12. <i>Chamade</i>	03:33
13. <i>Retraite</i>	02:45
14. <i>Diane</i>	01:19

Recorded June 16. 2003 at R-4 recording studios of Croatian Radio, sound engineer: Božidar Pandurić, recording producer: Igor Lešnik

Performers: Tomislav Kovačić / snare drum I.; Marko Mihajlović / snare drum II.; Damir Korošec / snare drum III.; Tomaž Lojen / snare drum IV.; Goran Gorše & Predrag Kresojević / bass drum & cymbals

The composition is based on musical themes written as series of military drum signals commissioned by Croatian Ministry of Defense in 1992. Chamade is an old French name for drum and trumpet signal meaning "Cease fire", Retraite could be translated to English as "Taps" and Diane as "Morning Call". Drumming at the end of this CD brings us somehow also to the beginning of all music. If its (music's) performance should transmit a message, the prior signal purpose of the membrane tightened on the shallow cylinder, requires from a drummer also to be a musician. If playing a violin is actually scraping with the hair from the horse's tail over the cat's guts - than, hitting donkey's skin with the pair of wooden sticks is no less an artistry.



photo by I. Lešnik

biNg bang

Jeunesses Musicales Croatia (JMC) percussion ensemble was founded in 1999 under artistic leadership of Igor Lešnik during one of the percussion festivals organized by the International Cultural center of JMC in Grožnjan. The biNg bang performing members are the best percussion students of Croatia and laureates of numerous percussion competitions in Croatia and Slovenia. In addition to standard percussion ensemble repertoire biNg bang is also premiering works of Croatian composers. Currently, the list of the ensemble's guest soloists includes Ney Rosauero, Jean Geoffroy, John Beck, Michael Udow and Payton MacDonald. biNg bang is winner of Percussive Arts Society 2004 Percussion Ensemble Competition. Appearing on the photo from left to right are: Hrvoje Sekovanić, Stanislav Muškinja, Tomislav Kovačić (with microphone), Goran Gorše, Predrag Kresojević, Damir Korošec with Maja Ileković on his back, Josip Burjan, Marko Mihajlović, Tamara Felbinger - Franetović and Tomaž Lojen

Tamara Felbinger Franetović / soprano

Pure and warm quality of her voice, expressive stage presence and immaculate technique placed Tamara Felbinger among the top Croatian singers. She studied at the Music Academy of Zagreb with Zdenka Zabcic Hesky and as a student, began to collaborate with exceptional Croatian conductors including (Nikša Bareza, Miro Belamarić, Pavle Dešpalj, Milan Horvat, Vjekoslav Šutej), orchestras (Zagreb Philharmonic, HRT Symphony) and ensembles (Zagreb Soloists, Croatian Baroque Ensemble, Musica Viva. Her concert performances as well as operatic roles in *Carmen*, *Werther*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Magic Flute*, *Marco Polo* and many others received critical acclaim. Apart from performing in all major venues and opera houses at home, Tamara Felbinger also appeared in Austria, France, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Slovenia, Switzerland and Spain.

Igor Lešnik is one of the leading European percussionists. His compositions are part of concert programs of renowned soloists and ensembles as well as percussion competitions. His collaborations with famous colleagues, his rich collection of recordings and his international concert activities introduced Croatian percussion music to the world. Since 1984 he leads the Croatian Radio Symphony

orchestra percussion section and since 1990 Igor has organized international percussion events. As founder of the percussion department at the Music Academy in Zagreb, he is regular guest at renowned universities and his percussion articles have been published in a wide variety of magazines. Professor Lesnik is the president of the Croatian Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society. He has received several awards for his artistic achievements at home and in 2003 was awarded French knighthood title for accomplishments in arts and literature.



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