

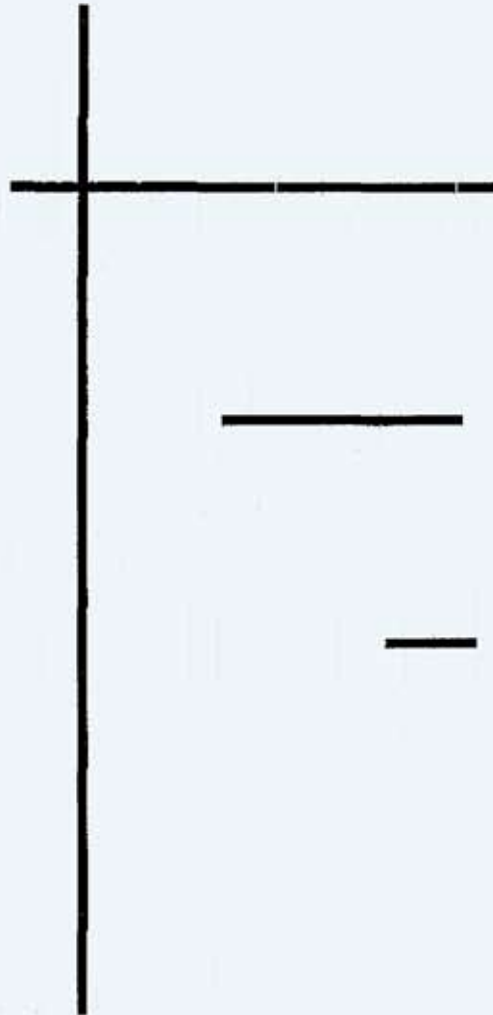
JAMES BURGER

Experimentalist/multi-instrumentalist **James Burger** has been developing sonic landscapes for more than thirty years, combining rhythmysticism, overtones, and dronetextures.



“The instruments that I have chosen for this presentation are reflective of the emotional complexity of rhythm. One approaches them conversationally, with a desire to learn from the dialogue.”

--JB



Rhythmic Rumors

Percussive Interpretations
of
Emily Dickinson's Poetry

JAMES BURGER



Amherst, Massachusetts
July 27, 2002

Rhythmic Rumors is a series of percussive explorations into the meter, beat, and rhythms within three of Emily Dickinson's poems, including French and Italian translations.

An improvisation based upon her 1858 letter to Joseph A. Sweetser concludes the program.

Original manuscripts are in Special Collections at the Jones Library in Amherst, Massachusetts.



Special thanks to:

The Jones Library, Amherst, Massachusetts

Pro Percussion Services, Simsbury, Connecticut

Rhythmic Rumors

Percussive Interpretations of
Emily Dickinson's Poetry

by

James Burger

Immured in Heaven!

Talking Drum

We play at Paste

Talking Drum

A little Madness in the Spring

Talking Drum

Un grain de Folie au Printemps

Gong

Un grano di follia

Shruti Box

To Joseph A. Sweetser

Talking Drum



About the instruments:

Talking Drum



From Ghana, the talking drum was originally used as a means of communication, with its controllable pitches and tones functioning as phonetics. It is traditionally held under one arm and struck with a curved stick. Notes are changed by varying the pressure on the drum's laces.

Gong



Ceremonial by nature, the gong is one of the most transcendent musical instruments. It has a wide dynamic range of volume, sustained overtones, and harmonic microtones, conveying moods ranging from metallic harshness to calm meditation.

Shruti Box



The shruti box is an accordion-like drone instrument from India, generally played as accompaniment to vocal performances. Wooden levers can be set to cover small wind-holes, thereby determining the key notes.