

Composer:

Dimitri Voudouris

Composition:

NPFAI.3.1

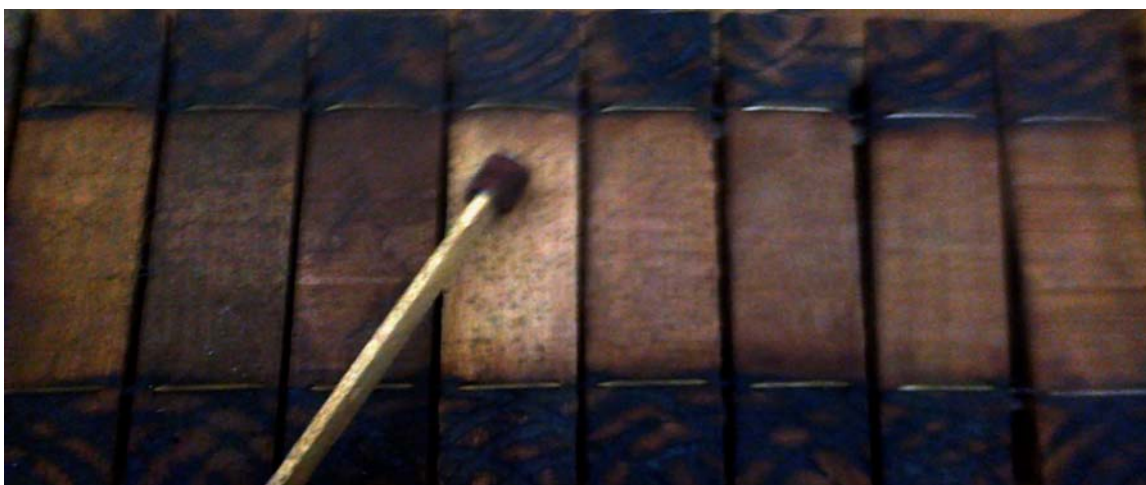
Composed:

2018

for

African xylophones , mbira , computer assisted processing

This is the 7th installment in the NPFAI series (*New possibilities for African Instruments*). I named the work NPFAI.3.1 as the sounds of the African xylophone and mbira were recorded during the making of NPFAI.3. African music consists of complex rhythmic patterns, the most common polyrhythm plays three beats on top of two, like a triplet played against straight notes often involving one rhythm played against another to create a polyrhythm. The call-and-response nature of the rhythm, where one drum will play a rhythmic pattern, echoed by another drum playing the same pattern. A core rhythmic pattern is typically played, with drummers then improvising new patterns over the static original patterns.



Xylophone 1: © Copyright: D.Voudouris 2018

The African xylophones used are comprised of sneezewood, the computer assisted the sounds of the mbira and xylophones by partially transforming them into a distortive processional backdrop of continuous repetitive rhythms throughout the work.



Mbira: © Copyright: D.Voudouris 2018

NPFAI.3.1 brings to mind the funeral music performed by the LoDagaa community of Ghana, the intertwining rhythmical interaction of the African xylophone and mbira produce patterns of communicative repetition which together with the distortive element in real life reflect upon the emotional suffering of those left behind in the announcement of death.