

the transfixing promise of melting April ice *

Yamaha DX7IIFD + E! and Yamaha TX802

Bruce Pennycook

Commissioned by Sergio Barosso
with the assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts

Duration: ca. 10 minutes

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**Title from the poem "Jamaica" by Tessa McWatt*

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This work was commissioned by composer and synthesizer virtuoso, Sergio Barosso, with the assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts. The challenge to me was to find a mode of expression and world of gestures that complemented the performer's combination of electro-acoustic instruments and his extraordinary facility with synthesizer performance techniques.

The title of the work is a quotation from the poem, *Jamaica*, by the Canadian writer Tessa McWatt. I was drawn to the sense of longing and expectation in this poem and have tried to evoke similar images through the use of prolonged phrases and glacial timbres.

In 1999, I realized the second component of this work - a series of images to complement the recorded or live-performance version. I took a set of 35mm and digital photographs near the Lachine Rapids in Montreal during the months of March and April. I processed these into a sequence of timed "slides" which can be viewed on the computer or projected.

The complete work - live-performance and slides - was premiered on September 30, 1999 at Pollack Hall, Montreal.

Bruce Pennycook
Montreal, 1999

the transfixing promise of melting April ice

Versions...

Version 1a: Synthesizer performance with DXIIFD+E1 and TX802 (1990)

Version 1b: Audio recording (1992)

Version 2a: Synthesizer performance plus timed image projection (1999)

Version 2b: Audio recording plus timed image projection (1999)

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Equipment Requirements – Live Performance Versions

Yamaha DX7IIFD with Grey Matter E! Card
2 FootSwitches and 1 Expression Pedal for DX7II
Yamaha TX802 FM Tone Generator
April Ice DX7IIFD Floppy Disk
April Ice TX802 RAM Cartridge
Sound Reinforcement: 4 channels in (DX, TX), stereo out hall.

Mac or PC with Powerpoint (minimum 256 Mbytes of DRAM)
Digital Projector and Screen

Equipment Requirements – Audio Recording Versions

April Ice Enhanced CD (standard audio track plus Powerpoint file)
Stereo audio playback (cd)
Mac or PC with Powerpoint (minimum 256 Mbytes of DRAM)
Digital Projector and Screen

About the recording

The recording was made in Studio A of the McGill University Recording Studios. The work is performed by Sergio Barosso and includes an extended "cadenza" developed by Barosso for his live performances of the piece.

Slide Timings

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Bruce Pennycook, Montreal, 1999

Slide/Event	Content	Time	Action
33	Credit Screen (with a Continue and Quit button)	PRE	if Quit then exit, if Continue then go to next screen
1	BLANK (black screen)	PRE	post text for 5 seconds then hold BLANK until any keystroke
	after keystroke PAUSE	(2 seconds)	
	Slide Description	Music Time	
2	ice/water (b&w)	0:00	Music and Slides Begin
3	bridge (b&w)	0:12	
4	riverside (b&w)	0:30	
5	waterfall (b&w)	0:37	
6	twigs (b&w)	0:44	
7	tree reflection (b&w)	0:48	
8	ice edge on water (colorized)	0:52	
9	ice block floating on blue background	1:10	
10	ice block (pink) + water edge	1:26	
11	ice block + water edge - posterized	1:39	
12	ice block + water edge - neon edge	1:44	
13	ice bridge floating on dark blue background	2:12	
14	ice block on dark background	2:56	
15	icicle pointing up - plasticized	3:04	
16	ice block and waterfall	4:28	
17	ice block (vertical) and waterfall - dark	4:42	
18	ice on river with dark reflections	4:50	
19	reflections - vertical trees	5:02	
20	reflections - deep view	5:10	
21	reflections - horizontal, pinkish	5:17	
22	reflections - painted	5:20	
23	reflections - painted, brown	5:34	
24	ice block, neon underlit	5:42	
25	ice block, hazy, purple	6:18	
26	ice edge on water crackled	6:26	
27	icicle pointing down, blue sphere lit	6:40	start of cadenza
28	blue shovel plate #1	7:28	final sequence
29	blue shovel plate #2	7:37	
30	blue shovel plate #3	7:40	
31	blue shovel plate #4	7:48	
32	blue shovel plate #5	7:54	HOLD to end of music
33	blue #5 + CREDITS	HOLD	Continue and Quit buttons
	extra slides (blank)		
34	BLANK		safety
35	BLANK		safety

Bruce Pennycook

The Canadian composer, Bruce Pennycook, holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in composition from Stanford University (Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics) and a M.Mus. and a B.Mus. in composition from the University of Toronto.

From 1978 to 1987 he was a professor at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario in the Department of Music and the Department of Computing and Information Science. In 1987 he joined the Faculty of Music, McGill University where he formed graduate and undergraduate degree programs in music technology. From 1997-2000 he held the position of Vice-Principal for Information Systems and Technology at McGill University. Pennycook is currently an independent composer, author and consultant living in Montreal.

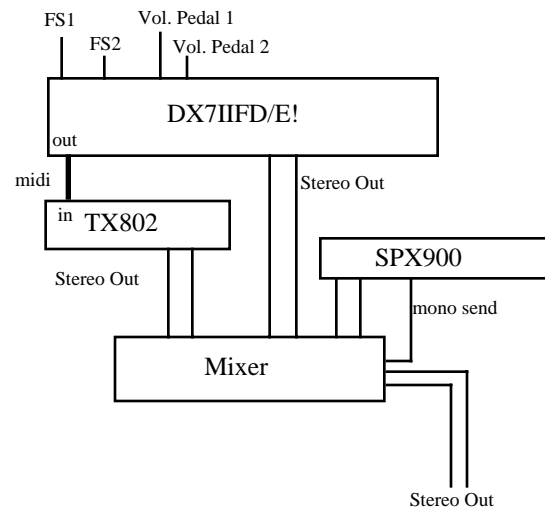
Pennycook's works for soloist or small ensemble coupled with interactive computer systems have been performed and broadcast widely in Canada, US, Europe and Japan. He has published numerous articles on music and technology and contemporary compositional methods.

For more information visit: www.pennycook.tzo.com

Montreal, 2002

SET UP DIAGRAM

" the transfixing promise of melting April ice"



Loading Data

TX802

- o put April Ice RAM Cartridge in TX802
- o memory protect OFF
- o LOAD all data from cartridge

DX7IIFD

- o put April Ice Floppy Disk in DX7IIFD
- o memory protect OFF

The Grey Matter E! Card

This device is a small computer added to the DX7IIFD. It permits the DX7 to be partitioned into 8 channels of information thus behaving exactly like the TX802 Tone Module. It also provides an 8-channel sequencer. For this work, sequence data is provided on the April Ice DX7 Floppy Disk. Once loaded, it remains in memory even after the DX7 is powered off. The sequences are executed by pressing the appropriate button on the DX7 as described in the score.

Performance as an Electroacoustic Work

Macintosh PowerPC
Stereo Audio Out
Display Out to Projector (or view on screen)

Instructions

On the ICE CDROM: ICE.pdf (this file), ICE-audio (the piece as electroacoustic work), ice.ppt (the powerpoint of the images)
Copy the Power Point (ice.ppt) file to disk. Run PowerPoint and set to "Show Movie".
Start the CD and immediately do one mouse-click.
Start the Power Point Movie (it will proceed by interernal timings)

Wait for the audio to end and the screen to show the credits before turning off the display.

NOTE - You may play the audio portion only as long as Sergio Barosso gets credit as the performer.

17

(S)

"the transfixing promise of melting April ice"

(T. McWatt)

Bruce Pennycook

1991, rev. 1993, 1999



Blank Screen

DX711
(pan on)

VP:F

gliss.

FC

dim.

gliss.

Time

0

10

20

10"

cresc.

f

SEQ.

(Seq 1 Start)

(metallic)

mp

f

VP affects DX7 only
 CS1 affects DX7 only
 All signals require reverberation
 (large hall: 2-3 sec.)

2

(S)
18

DX711

Musical notation for DX711, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef). The treble staff contains a series of notes with various dynamics: *dim.*, *fp*, *fp*, *fp*, *fp*, *fp*, *fp*, *fp*. There are also markings for *(sfz)*, *trem. above (2 pitches)*, and *held note*. A circled 'S' is present above the staff. The bass staff contains notes with dynamics *fp* and *fp*. A circled 'S' is also present below the bass staff.

DX vol < 10

dim.

fp

*trem. above
(2 pitches)*

fp

(S)

fp

fp

fp

fp

#4

fp

fp

TIME

20

26

38

40

(decay...)

(Seq.2 start)

cresc. poco a poco

SEQ.

pp

N

(*mp*)

(*mf*)

pp

f

p

"...April ice"

DX711

19 lightly, uneven

mp *ff* (VP1) N *pp*

TIME 42 46 50 60

SEQ. *molto cresc.* F *dim.* (no Sequence 3)

F N "…April ice"

4

(S)
20

very rapid tiny notes

DX711

Musical notation for DX711. The upper staff is a treble clef with a single note marked 'brev' and a circled 'S' above it. The lower staff is a bass clef with a wavy line representing a tremolo, starting with two 'tr' markings. Above the wavy line is the text 'gradual rit.' with a series of dashes. Below the wavy line is a dynamic marking 'f' followed by a wedge-shaped decrescendo to 'F dim.' and then 'N'. To the right of the wavy line, there are dynamic markings 'pp', 'mf', and 'p' with wedge-shaped crescendos and decrescendos. Below these are 'FC1:' and 'etc. (uneven)' with similar wedge-shaped markings.

TIME

60 1'14 1'20

SEQ.

Musical notation for SEQ. The upper staff is a treble clef. The lower staff is a bass clef with a thick black bar containing the number '4', with '(Sequence 4)' and '(microtones)' above it. To the right, there is a wavy line and a dot on the staff. Below the staff are two wedge-shaped markings.

"...April ice"

DX711

(sim.) CS1 4 CS1 0 CS1 7 CS7 - 0 CS1 4

mp *pp* *mf* *pp*

FCL: 10 0 10 0

TIME

1'30 1'40

8^{va} *cresc.*

SEQ.

sfz p *f*

8^{vb} *mf*

“...April ice”

6

(S)
21

8va

DX711

Musical notation for DX711, consisting of two staves. The top staff begins with a cluster of notes marked *p*. A circled 'S' above a box containing '21' points to a specific measure. Dynamics include *pp* < *mf* with 'FC' markings, *sfz p* < *f* < *p*, and *p*. The bottom staff is marked '(microtonal)' and includes dynamics *pp* < *mf*, *mf* < *ff*, and *p*.

TIME

1'50

1'56

SEQ.

Musical notation for SEQ., including a sequence diagram and a bass line. The sequence diagram shows a horizontal line with four dots, labeled '(Sequence 5)'. A bracket below it indicates a duration of '6"'. Dynamics include *f*. The bass line features a sequence of notes with wavy lines above them.

"...April ice"

DX711

(8va) —

mf *f* *p* *f* *f*

loco

(S) (S) (S) (S)

TIME



2'16

SEQ.

continues sim.

pp

f (LFD) sim.

sim. →

“...April ice”

8

DX711

ff *pp* *F* *N* *subito* *mp* *pp* *mf* *ff* *mf* *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr* *F* *l.v. sustain*

tr *con forza*

(S) (S)

TIME

2'22

2'36

2'40

SEQ.

sim. *F*

mp

"...April ice"

DX711

22

Largo

MOD WHEEL OFF

very high and quiet

increase dynamics/density

MOD WHEEL 50%

(S)

(pp)

mp

p

mf

TIME

2'48 2'50 3'14

(Seq. 6 starts)

24

SEQ.

The image shows a musical score for DX711. It consists of three main parts: a DX711 staff, a TIME axis, and a SEQ. staff. The DX711 staff has a treble and bass clef. A circled 'S' is above a box containing '22', with an arrow pointing to a thick vertical bar on the treble staff. A circled 'S' is also above a wedge-shaped dynamic marking on the bass staff that starts at 2'48 and ends at 2'50, labeled '(pp)'. The DX711 staff has a fermata at 2'50. The TIME axis has tick marks at 2'48, 2'50, and 3'14, with film strip icons at 2'50 and 3'14. The SEQ. staff has a circled 'S' above a thick horizontal bar labeled '24' that spans from 2'48 to 3'14. Performance instructions include 'Largo', 'MOD WHEEL OFF', 'MOD WHEEL 50%', 'very high and quiet', and 'increase dynamics/density'. Dynamics markings 'mp', 'p', and 'mf' are shown with wedge-shaped markings on the DX711 staff.

"...April ice"

10

M.Wh. 50% - - - MAX MIN - - - 50% - - - MAX MIN - - -

DX711

p *mf* *p* *f*

(S) (S) (S)

p (pulsing)

TIME

3'24

SEQ.

2 *mf* *pp* gliss.

p *mf* *pp* gliss.

"...April ice"

M.Wh. (sim.)

DX711

(S) CS1:4 (pulsing) CS1:7

ff *f*

TIME

3'40

4'00

SEQ.

(I)

gliss. | *mf* ————— *f* | *gliss.* | *pp*

(II)

mf ————— *f* | *gliss.* | *pp* | *mf*

“...April ice”

1 2

DX711

DX VOL \triangleleft 5

p *f* *mf* *ff*

CS1: 0

CS1: 0 1 2 4 6 7

(pulse rate)

TIME

3'50

SEQ.

f *ff*

N \triangleleft N \triangleleft N \triangleleft N \triangleleft

N \triangleleft N \triangleleft N \triangleleft

"...April ice"

DX711

F

(S)

CS1: 7 5 3 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

F

VP1: F *p* F *p* FN

VP2: F *p* F *p* FN

TIME

4'14 4'28

SEQ.

F

p F

“...April ice”

1 4

Ⓢ very rapidly, lightly
23

MWheel —————> Full

(2" - 4")

DX711

Musical notation for DX711, featuring a treble clef and various dynamic markings: *p*, *mf*, *pp*, *pp*, *mf*, and *p*. The notation includes a series of vertical lines representing notes and a curved line above the final notes.

TIME

4'34

4'40

SEQ.

(Seq Start)

Musical notation for SEQ., featuring a bass clef and a curved line above the staff.

"...April ice"

DX711

mf
FC *cresc.* - - - - - full

tr *tr* *tr* *tr*

p *pp* *mf*

f *pp*

TIME

4'42 4'52

SEQ.

Chnl 1: *8va* *ppp* (sim.) *mf*

Chnl 2: *ppp* (sim.) *mf*

Detailed description: This block contains a musical score for DX711. The top staff is a treble clef with a melodic line featuring trills and a crescendo. Below it are dynamic markings: *mf*, FC, *cresc.*, *p*, *pp*, *mf*, *f*, and *pp*. The *pp* and *f* markings are connected to the *pp* and *pp* markings in the lower staff respectively. The lower staff is divided into two channels, Chnl 1 and Chnl 2, both in treble clef. Chnl 1 starts at 4'42 with an *8va* marking and a *ppp* dynamic, followed by a *mf* dynamic at 4'52. Chnl 2 starts at 4'52 with a *ppp* dynamic and a *mf* dynamic. Both channels have a *(sim.)* marking. The TIME section shows two vertical lines at 4'42 and 4'52. The SEQ. section shows two staves with notes and dynamics.

“...April ice”

16

DX711

8va (sim.)

pp — *fpp* — *fpp* — *ff* — *p*

—→ (MWheel open) —→

TIME

5'04 5'10 5'20

SEQ.

pp — *f* *pp* — *ff* *gliss.*

“...April ice”

DX711

(S) **24** (8va) **P.W.** *slow, shallow gliss.* **P.W.—hold to end of decay** **P.W.** *step, fast* **P.W.—sim.**

mf *ff* *p* *mf* *ff* *ff*

TIME

5'26 5'30 5'44

SEQ.

(no pitch blend) *fp* (sim.) *fp* (sim.) *fp* (sim.) *fp*

gliss. *fp* (sim.) *fp* (sim.) *fp*

f

"...April ice"

DX711

(8va)

R.H. **P.W.** *slower*

R.H. L.H.

pp *f*

TIME

5'54 6'00

SEQ.

ff *sfz* sim. →

“...April ice”

DX711

very rapid trem.

fp *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

(slowly up kbd.)

fp *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

TIME

6'00 6'40

SEQ.

sfz p *sfz p*

sim. →

“...April ice”

20

25

DX711

trem. ()

ff

trem. ()

accel.

S

S

TIME

6'48

6'50

S ① →

S ② →

SEQ.

N

(no sequence)

"...April ice"

DX711

rapidly *8va-*

f

6'54

(S1)

(S2)

26

leger

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 26, 27, and 28 of DX711. The treble clef staff features a series of eighth notes, with the first measure marked 'rapidly' and '8va-'. The bass clef staff has a bass line starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic. There are two sets of empty staves labeled (S1) and (S2) in the treble clef. Measure 26 is boxed with the number 26. The piece concludes with a 'leger' marking and a final note.

DX711

f

slower

8va-

7'30

mf

29

"...April ice"

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 29 and 30 of DX711. The treble clef staff has a few notes at the beginning, then a long rest, followed by a phrase marked 'slower' and '8va-'. The bass clef staff has a bass line starting with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. There are two sets of empty staves labeled (S1) and (S2) in the treble clef. Measure 29 is boxed with the number 29. The piece ends with a double bar line and the text '"...April ice"'. A time signature change to 7/30 is indicated above the bass clef staff.

22

29

DX711

Musical notation for DX711 instrument. The treble staff contains a melodic line with notes and rests. The bass staff contains a bass line with notes and rests. A tremolo (trem.) is indicated over a group of notes in the bass staff. A simile (sim) is indicated over a group of notes in the bass staff. The dynamic marking *mf* is present in the bass staff.

TIME

7'36

7'46

SEQ.

Musical notation for SEQ. instrument. The treble staff contains a series of glissandos (upward and downward) with a slight curve. The dynamic marking *mf* is present, followed by *dim.....*. The bass staff contains a series of notes with a dynamic marking *mp*.

mf

(long gliss down)

mp

"...April ice"

DX711

TIME

7'50 8'06 8'20 9'05 9'14

8va

SEQ.

f *mp* *ff* *mp* *mp* *p* *mf* *p*

molto dim.

(pulses)

Credits

(decaying)

S S N