How to Compose for CrossTalk

- ☐ CrossTalk has between 6-8 players each semester.
  - ☐ Don't feel that you have to write for all members of the group. Duos, Trios, Quartets, etc. are all fine.
  - ☐ Each player, depending on the parts, may be capable of covering more than a single voice (player, instrument, sound, etc).
    - ☐ Examples:
      - ☐ One sound (part, voice, instrument, etc.) during the "A" section and different sound in the "B" section.
      - ☐ Layered sounds are very easy. If parts are doubled (or at fixed intervals), one player can cover all the doubling sounds.
      - ☐ If the parts aren't "crazy complex", a single player might be able to cover 2-3 polyphonic parts at the same time.
      - ☐ Sound effects or long pads can be triggered in the middle of other more active lines.
      - ☐ In the past, CrossTalk has performed pieces that required over 25 individual parts (instruments, voices, sounds, etc).
- ☐ CrossTalk has a dedicated sound person who can do live mixing and effects.
  - ☐ Specific mixing ideas can be designated and specified in the composition.
  - ☐ The main mixer is a Yamaha 01V digital mixer.
- ☐ The list of the group's electronic percussion controllers is below:
  - ☐ 4 - Alternate Mode DrumKAT Turbo
  - ☐ 2 - Alternate Mode MalletKAT (4-octaves)
  - ☐ 2 - ZenDrum LT
  - ☐ 2 - ZenDrum XT
  - ☐ 1 - Alternate Mode TrapKAT
  - ☐ 1 - Roland HandSonic
  - ☐ 1 - Korg WaveDrum
  - ☐ The group also has a number of other devices that can serve as controllers such as Trigger Fingers, an APC40, etc.
- ☐ The actual programming of the individual parts is done by the players.
  - ☐ For example, a particular melodic pattern might be programmed on one pad using the alternate-notes feature, or on ten different pads, depending on how the player decides is the best way to perform the part.
  - ☐ A part that is highly chordal in nature might be played on the MalletKAT or it could even be played by a ZenDrum firing samples that are actually chords rather than single notes.
  - ☐ Bottom line: Write the music you want to hear and CrossTalk will figure out exactly how to play everything in a live performance.
- ☐ Feel free to use any sounds you wish.
  - ☐ CrossTalk works with sampled sounds and synthetic sounds.
  - ☐ The group has an extensive set of performing and sound designing software, and any sound that can't be programmed and duplicated closely enough can be sampled.
    - ☐ The group has access to:
      - ☐ Reason
      - ☐ Native Instruments Komplete
      - ☐ Logic (and MainStage)
      - ☐ Live
      - ☐ Rob Papen's collection of Explorer II instruments (Blade, Punch, Blue, Predator, etc.)
      - ☐ Zebra, Diva, Alchemy, Iris, Stutter Edit, Geist, Tremor, and others
      - ☐ SoundForge
  - ☐ The composer may be asked to provide stems or individual samples in extreme cases.
    - ☐ For example: a unique sound that was created by heavily processing a section of a famous speech.
- ☐ Musical Styles
  - ☐ The group can really play just about any style you wish to write.
  - ☐ In the past, the group has played
    - ☐ Jazz "ish" compositions
    - ☐ Instrumental versions of pop songs
    - ☐ Experimental works (soundscapes)
    - ☐ Commissioned "art" music
    - ☐ World music styles
    - ☐ EDM Styles - House, Dub, Chill, etc.
- ☐ BOTTOM LINE - Write for what you want to hear, CrossTalk will figure out how to play it live!
- ☐ QUESTIONS? - I'll be happy to help! Contact Dr. Norman Weinberg at
    - Office - 520-626-7055

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- ☐ Office - 520-626-7055
- ☐ Home - 520-743-1181
- ☐ Cell - 520-275-5507
- ☐ email - nweinber@u.arizona.edu