

THE GREAT PLASTO-DIO-DADA DRAMA

Lisa Bielawa

WWW.LISABIELAWA.NET

Note

Premiere: September 7, 1997, MATA Festival by percussionist Lee Ferguson
Commissioned by 1996 Composers Commissioning Program, American Composers Forum

Duration: 13'
Instrumentation: For solo percussion

Berlin Dadaist Johannes Baader's contribution to the 1920 First International Dada Fair was a free-standing collage/sculpture/installation, which had an 18-line text description in the Fair guidebook. The artwork itself eventually disintegrated, since it was very casually constructed, but this long description remains. The percussionist in this piece recites the text, sometimes singing or chanting, sometimes talking, while playing an assortment of unpitched instruments assembled in the spirit of the original collage/sculpture. Baader was most well-known for his loud interruptions of sermons in the Berlin Cathedral; perhaps I was thinking of these interruptions when I incorporated whole sections of the aria "Rejoice Greatly" from Handel's *Messiah* into the texture of the first movement, in the spirit of Dadaist "ready-made" art.

Publishing & Management: Daniel Brodney | 917.676.1858 | brodney@prodigy.net

Press Contact: Christina Jensen PR LLC | 646.536.7864 | christina@christinajensenpr.com