What Orbs!
for solo piano
Theresa Wong
Area 1

Piano frame

*Godzilla Ball
(a very large rubber ball)
What Orbs!

for Luciano Chessa

Theresa Wong 2008

1. Introduction: Standing at the curve of the grand piano, loosely hold a ping pong ball in one hand and roll it up and down along Area 1 of the piano string ends. Complete the introduction by releasing the ball gently on the strings and waiting until the ball comes to a stop.

2. RH: Begin improvising a beat by patting two parts of the piano frame gently. The beat is to be groovy but relaxed.

3. While RH continues the beat, LH begins throwing rubber balls onto the piano strings one at a time, leaving space in between each throw. Use 10-20 varying sized balls.

4. LH: begin to throw more than one ball at once, increasing the frequency of ball bounces.

5. RH: eventually stop the beat and join LH in throwing rubber balls so that the bouncing sound is continual. Use Godzilla ball* only once or twice during the whole piece, preferably on lower strings.

6. After the frequency of bounces builds up, reintroduce the beat with the RH while continuing to throw balls with the LH, being careful to blend the two sounds in a seamless way.

7. Let all bouncing balls come to a rest and continue the beat by itself with the RH to conclude the piece.

Note: the player is to concentrate on creating smooth transitions between the sounds and rhythms created by the steady beat and the bouncing balls, rather than exaggerating the theatricality of the gestures.