

# Standard Literature

A structured musical improvisation for 2 - 20 performers

*Commissioned by Entropy Ensemble*

**Benjamin D. Taylor**  
**2010**

# Standard Literature

Benjamin Taylor

## Standard Literature

A structured musical improvisation for 2 - 20 performers  
*commissioned by Entropy Ensemble*

**Benjamin D. Taylor**  
2010

**Duration:** 5-20 minutes

### Performance Notes

This piece is an exploration of the sonic properties of books. It is not the intent of this piece to destroy or mutilate books in any way.

### Instrumentation

Hard-back books should always be used. Books should also be chosen so as to include many sizes and thicknesses. Books with any type of textured cover are preferred (for DJ-like scratching sounds).

### Instructions

Each performer is to sit and hold a book on his/her lap. Most often it will be easiest to let the book rest on the performer's thighs so that both hands may articulate the book. The group should "rehearse" this piece by practicing the included "phrases" all together to become familiar with the types of articulation as well as general rhythmic ideas associated with those techniques. In performance the performers are not bound to these exact ideas; however, the piece should have a steady pulse of about 120 beats per minute *most of the time*. Moments of "free" time, or an absence of pulse, are acceptable but should be used sparingly. Performers may tacet at any time. Performers may trade books at any time.

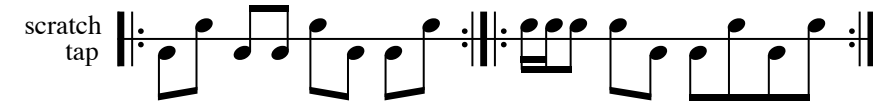
### Techniques for Producing Sounds\*

- tap with fingernails
- scratch with fingernails
- flick with pointer finger
- strike with sides of thumbs
- strike with palm of hand
- strike with wrist
- strike with knuckles
- flip pages quickly (by grabbing only the very corner of the pages)
- flip pages slowly one-by-one
- slam book shut
- drop closed book with cover parallel to ground
- hold book and strike against leg

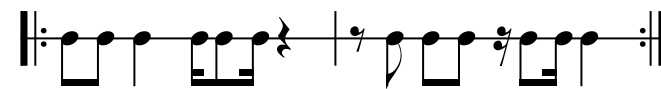
\*This list is not meant to be inclusive; rather, it should be a starting point for an improvisatory exploration of sound. Performers may add to this list if they discover other sounds made with books.

### Phrases for rehearsal

#### Fingernails



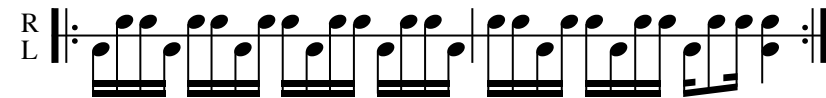
#### Knuckles



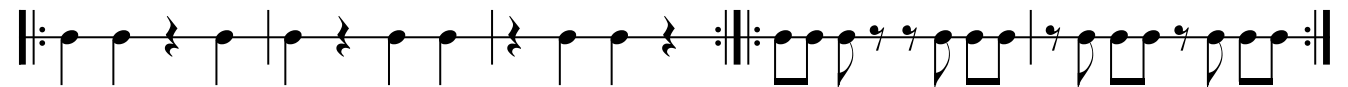
#### Flip Pages (by the corner, quickly)



#### Thumbs



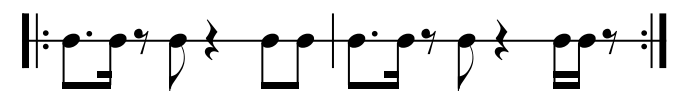
#### Slam Shut (alternate between 3 or 4 people)



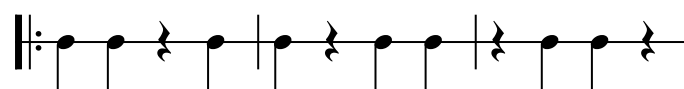
#### Flick and Palm



#### Wrist



#### Flip Pages (one by one)



#### (alternate between several people to do this)



#### Drop Book

