

# Water percussion: a research on a new musical matter

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- great variety of unconventional sounds;
- requires a technical demand and different approach;
- no information in specialized bibliography;
- How to perform it?



# How water and music relate to each other

- Metaphoric, allegoric use

(in the arrangement of notes, rhythm organization, instrument's choice)

- Real use

(real water used as an instrument, sounds generated directly from the liquid)

- Full use

(water and music mix completely: Michel Redolfi's *Underwater concerts*)



# Possibilities of water use in percussion repertoire

- to transform the sound of an instrument
  - To amplify the sound
  - To produce sound itself



# Water combined with percussion: to transform the sound

Water gong





# Water merged with percussion: a sound amplifier

African water drum

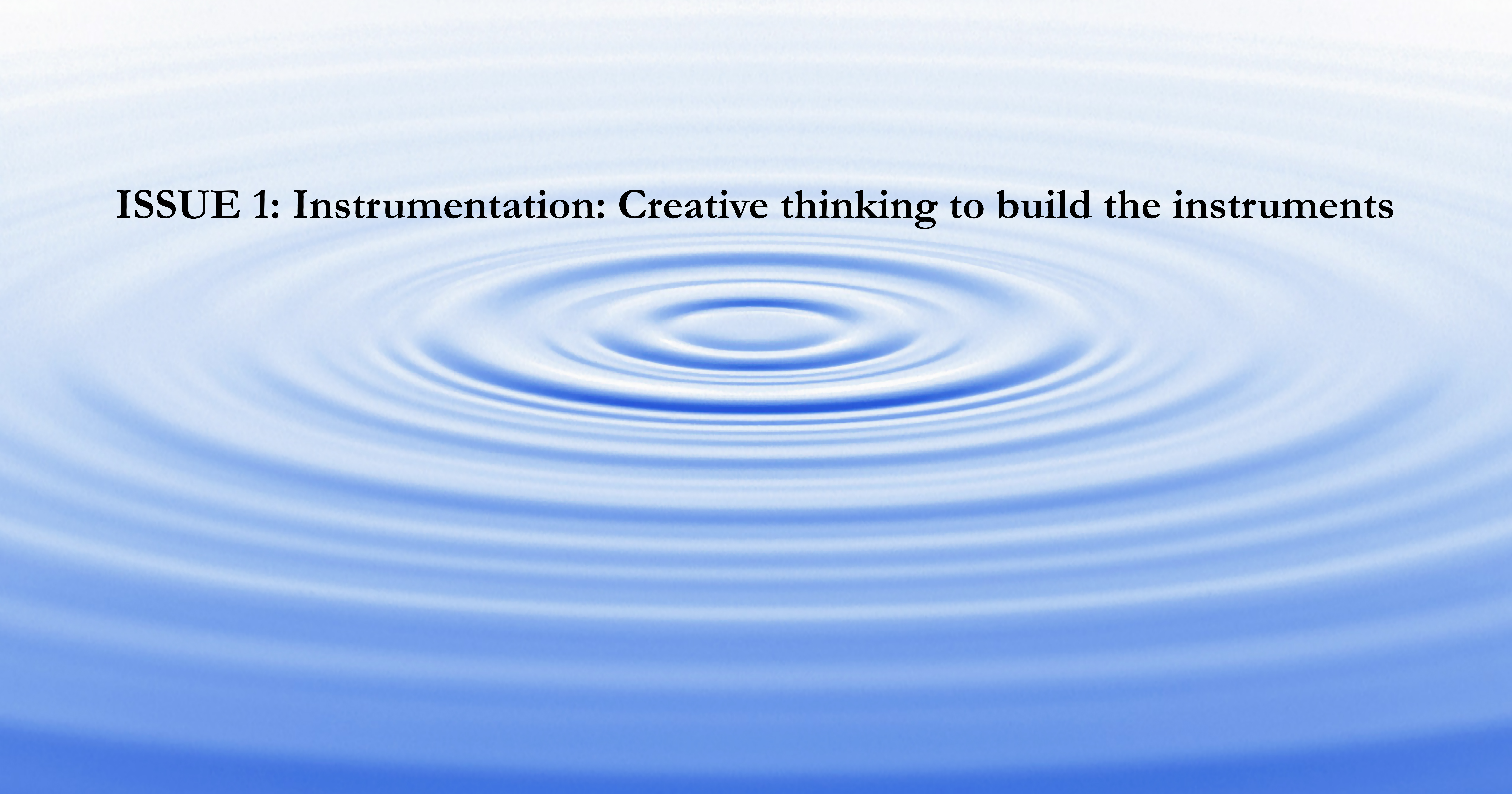




# Water as the main sound source

*Water Music* (2004) — Tan Dun (b. 1957)

**ISSUE 1: Instrumentation: Creative thinking to build the instruments**





# *Water Music* (2004) — Tan Dun (b. 1957)

• **ISSUE 2: Experimentation with the instrument to develop and improve 7 new water percussion techniques**

1. Water drips
2. Water patting
3. Water flick
4. Water hitted by water
5. Tremolo patting
6. Bubbles
7. Water cup drums



Water as the main sound source

## *Water Music* (2004) — Tan Dun (b. 1957)

- **ISSUE 3: to develop a personal repertoire  
for the improvising sections**



## *Water Music* (2004) — Tan Dun (b. 1957)

- **ISSUE 4: Creative thinking to rearrange the music**
  - What part should I play?
- Do I play just a single part or switch between two or more parts?
  - It is possible to perform simultaneous parts?
    - What music structure should I adopt?
  - Should I play all sections of the piece?
    - Should I exclude any section?
- How to choose a structure that is coherent with the ideas conceived by the composer? how to preserve, in a solo version, the quality of the musical content presented through 4 musicians?



# Contributions from this research

- Complete description about the performance of 7 water percussion techniques and on how to build some instruments required;
- Classification charts of the water percussion techniques and also about water use in percussion repertoire;
- Detailed analysis of the work *Water Music* from the performer's perspective;
- Public performances, workshops for composers, audio and video recordings (both solo and percussion quartet).



Thank you all!

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