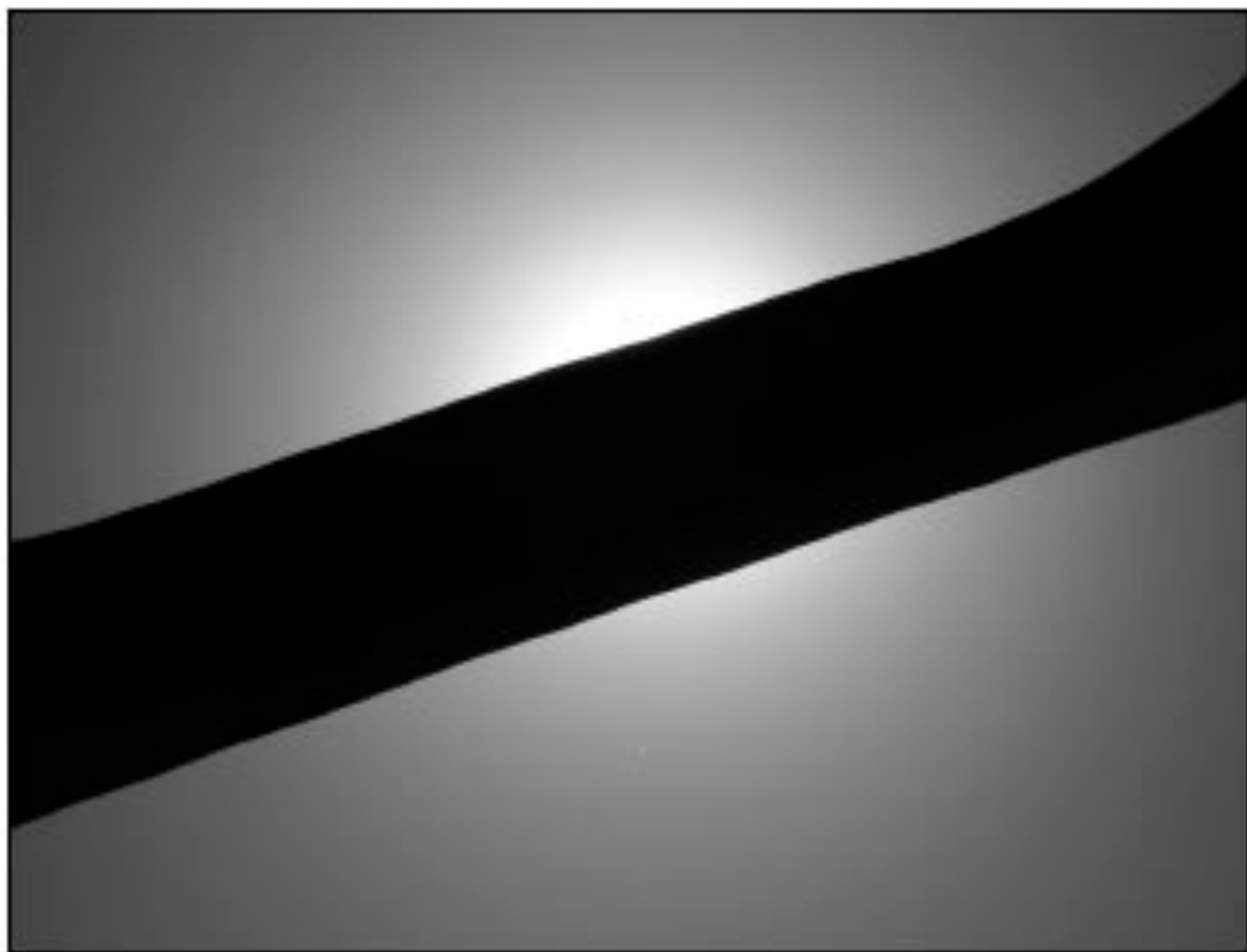


**Michael Bettine**



**SOUNDINGS**

# Michael Bettine - metal percussion

## SOUNDINGS

This recording, as with most of my recordings, just happened. I came up with an idea, an impression, and went with it. The initial inspiration came from thinking about how percussion would sound under water. I imagined the sounds reflecting & refracting, creating a whole new world of sounds. From this initial idea I worked on, and composed, a 33-minute piece.

In playing metal percussion, the tones ring out and fade away into the air. For me, it's as important to play the spaces, as it is the notes, leaving the sounds hanging like mist in the air. I like the idea of the sounds moving from one to another at an unhurried pace—opening, evolving, and unfolding. For this piece I had new sounds in mind, so I created a set of aluminum *Sound Plates* to add a ringing bell-like sound to the larger, ringing Gongs. These Sound Plates yield a more definite pitch, focused and clear, that is a nice contrast to the full frequency wash of the larger Gongs. Much like an Indonesian Gamelan, or the Philippine Kulintang, the Sound Plates are tuned to themselves as a melodic set, and not to specific Western pitches. The sound of the aluminum is unique, offering a thinner, sharper sound than bronze or nickel-silver, with fewer overtones. Thus I have melody, but in a non-traditional manor, giving the music a more otherworldly quality.

**SOUNDINGS** was written for *Ingenuity Fest* in Cleveland, Ohio. I premiered it in September, 2010 at the Fest, held on the historic Detroit Superior Bridge in downtown Cleveland. The fest was held in the lower level of the 2-level bridge, so the water theme fit really well.

~ **Michael Bettine**

Produced by Michael Bettine for *Intuitive Arts Media*. Performed, recorded, and produced at *The Gong Room* by Michael Bettine in August/September 2010. All titles written and © 2010 by Michael Bettine.

Special thanks to: Paiste (Ed Clift, Erik Paiste, Andrew Shreve) and Mike Balter Mallets (Mike Balter). Also: Michael Paiste, Andrea Centazzo, Frank Perry, Ed Mann, Steve Hubback, and Matt Nolan for inspiration.

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An Intuitive Arts *Hand Made* recording.

Michael is a **PAiSte** cymbals/sounds/gongs artist & uses Mike Balter Mallets









