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Illumination - Program Note

Illumination seeks to artistically incorporate a click track, a commonly-used facet of electronic music in which a metronome-like beat helps the performer stay in time. In this tradition, the click track is usually only heard by the performer via headphones. As a performer, I have frequently performed with electronic tracks requiring click track. However, I became increasingly frustrated by the mechanisms involved in implementing this and questioned why I hid this facet from the audience.

Furthermore, as a disabled artist seeking ways to artistically incorporate accessibility methods, such as open captions and sign language interpretation, I realized that the click track, at least in musical contexts, is a form of access. It provides assistance and access to the piece for the performer to stay rhythmically connected to the entire musical material. This realization encouraged an artistic exploration of the click track, specifically through this work's instrumentation of percussion solo.

Illumination was commissioned by a consortium of percussionists led by Hunter Gross, and written in the Summer of 2022 in Charlottesville, VA.