

## **Paul STEENHUISEN - PROGRAM NOTES**

PIECE: Intaglio sulla cervello

"Intaglio sulla cervello" (Engraved on the brain) shares the same basic material as the solo piano piece Every Joy Pop Turbo – a spectral analysis of me kicking in a window. All events in both pieces are derived from a brief, aggressive event, yet at the same time, there is no moment in the trio that is that same as any moment in the piano piece. The violin and cello parts gradually spin out of the piano material, and it is the mapping of the primary content that contributes to the identity of the music. Rhizomes, similarities interspersed into a languid assemblage that refers outwardly to 1. The art of Albrecht Durer, and 2. A memorial service I attended while composing the piece at the Bay of Bengal, in Pondicherry, India. With the Durer, aspects of engraving techniques and the essence of titles of his works resonate in the textures and performance instructions. The cover photo for the piece is a work by Durer in which a finger presses down on the side of a skull, a pen and ink well nearby. From Pondicherry, for example, the imagery of severed tiger's heads with gnashing teeth in ashram prayer spaces inform some of the performance directions. Probably without resolution, these influences interact and provide the context for the composition of the music.

First performed by Corey Hamm, Eric Wilson, and David Gilham at the Sonic Boom Festival, Vancouver. It was commissioned by Trio Fibonacci with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, and is dedicated to the memory of Hassaram Narwani (1914-2009).