

## Composer Notes for *Shush Me Awake*

### **Instrumentation**

alarm-enabled door with crash bar  
Honeywell barcode scanner  
Summit resource sharing courier bag  
Kik Step stool  
flat-shelf (trayed) book truck  
plastic CD case  
3M detection system  
metal book ends  
microfilm drawer  
map drawer  
Spacesaver mobile storage (compact shelving unit)  
X-ACTO paper cutter  
3M book desensitizer  
Ideal 6430 stamp  
Trodat professional 5430 stamp  
2000 Plus 2015 stamp  
Spectra S40 stamp  
books deposited in an external book drop  
books deposited in an indoor book drop  
books pulled off a shelf  
books placed on a shelf  
female shusher  
male shusher

Sound samples recorded on a ZOOM Handy Recorder H2; entirely composed and mixed in Audacity 2.1.3.

### **Notes on Manipulation**

Because the piece uses only “found” sounds and no traditional musical instruments, I took advantage of the Change Pitch effect to manipulate the Honeywell barcode scanner recording and create a series of sound files to stand in for the individual notes of a chromatic scale over several octaves. These are used in several staccato sections in the piece. By selectively combining these “notes” and using the Paulstretch effect to lengthen them, I was able to create chords with a synthesized keyboard flavor. I also utilized the Reverse effect to spin some sequences backwards, much like a DJ does.

Some individual sounds were spliced into smaller segments and rearranged to make other sounds. For instance, what I think of as the bass drum and hi-hat percussion sounds in the piece come exclusively from edited shush samples. The final mix has 22 tracks, several of which are themselves made from multiple layers. “Shush Me Awake” represents somewhere around 150-200 hours of labor, not counting the background research mentioned in the framing essay.