

The sounds in *Nickel* were created by bowing and tapping my 6 x 12 inch Nickel Gong during a recording session. This very expensive and dense metal is normally used in situations where high temperatures and stresses are encountered. Acoustically, the metal produces an array of overtones and subtones simultaneously.

This piece is one of my first to use an instrument that I made. The music was born out of frustration. Although I love the traditional compositional process of notating pitch and rhythm, at the time I produced *Nickel* I was unable to drive the pen in that way. Consequently this piece used improvisation to generate the source material. When ready, I recorded the first take and listened to it while recording the second, then the third and so on until I felt the piece was complete. There are seven tracks in this final version. At that time this piece was produced I began thinking that no matter what the rhythms or pitches were, if your performance intention was true and musical then the product would be as well.

None of the sounds in this piece have been digitally modified in any way.