

HARD-BOILED CAPITALISM

AND THE DAY MR. FRIEDMAN REALIZED GOOGLE IS A VERB

Hard Boiled Capitalism and the Day Mr. Friedman Realized Google is a Verb is the title for my most recent commission – a vibraphone solo for the esteemed young multiple percussionist, Michael Truesdell (www.miketruedell.com). This work was premiered during Mr. Truesdell's solo recital at the Nancy Zeltsman Festival in the summer of 2009 and takes its title from a quirky observation I noticed in the summer of 2006.

At the time I had been reading Milton Friedman's book, *Capitalism and Freedom*, when I also finished Thomas Friedman's new masterpiece, *The World is Flat*. In Thomas Friedman's book he observes that www.google.com has empowered the world with so much information and leveled the playing field of intellectual property so much that he considered the launch date of google.com *one of the ten most significant days* in the world in the last 20 years.

Milton Friedman, on the other hand, is considered to be a grandfather of sorts in the “neo-con” movement because his ideas on the economy – both new and old – and I am tickled to think of him reading Thomas Friedman's book. I wonder what he thought would happen to capitalism when the playing field of intellectual property had been so leveled by what we now call “googling”. Surely this old economist would have bristled to have a hallowed number quickly stolen and relegated to a flippant verb.

Hard Boiled Capitalism..., while timely – given our country's state of financial affairs, was actually conceived before the popular notion of our country's current recession. I aim to reflect the fervor so many Americans felt at the height of indulgence and the clean newness that a purging of outdated ideas has to offer the next generation of Americans. I chose the medium of vibraphone, partly at Mr. Truesdell's request, but also because I feel that the simplicity of graduated metal bars is so often overlooked, much like the fundamental concept of living within one's means – a lesson long overdue for much of America.

***Contact Composer for Purchasing Information**