

Incident in Row W



Pringler's *Etude Bruté* was a massive work. In addition to a full-sized symphony orchestra and eight-part caribou chorus, it called for a battery of thirty percussionists arranged equidistant around the audience. The Bung Hollow Festival Orchestra, which commissioned the piece, fell twenty-nine percussionists short of the requirement but compensated by attaching one of each specified instrument to a mobile platform. At the premiere, percussionist Anton Dinklaker played admirably as he circled the spectators, aided by Bung Hollow metropolitan bus driver Buzz Meptang. However, things deteriorated during the Finale, whose spirited tempo forced Meptang to increase his speed to 15 mpg. The resulting centrifugal force caused Dinklaker to tumble off the platform eight measures from the end. Worse, without a counterbalancing percussionist, Meptang lost control of his vehicle and plunged into Row W, where – also unfortunately – the razor sharp-edged crash cymbal sliced off one of the Mayor's noses. Still, the impromptu drama elicited hearty cheers from the normally subdued audience.