

To Robert Matthew Ogburn

Lamarck was a Mutant

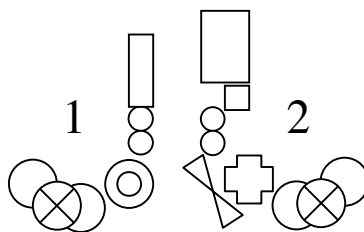
For Percussion Duo

Program Note



In the Arts and Humanities , I find it intriguing to encounter extremely intelligent persons expounding on the principles of evolution, with self-assured authority. Often, the dichotomous relationship between Lamarck and Darwin is posited with a great sense of satisfaction on the part of the speaker at his/her own enlightenment. The argument goes something like this: “Lamarck was wrong, evolution actually happens as a result of spontaneous mutation, as Darwin proposed. The arts (including music) must align itself with this worldview and cease to inject the teleological imperative into the historical *narrative*.” These are my words (intentionally loaded) and are meant only to provide a brief summary of some of the attitudes I have encountered in seminars, symposia, and the like. In conversations with my brother (a biologist and amateur musician) – as well as through my own research – I have concluded that many artists are simply wrong about Lamarck. Lamarck believed in the “inheritance of acquired traits,” and it is this belief that separates him from the ensuing generation (especially Darwin). **Lamarck was a mutant.**





-James J. Ogburn,
March 2, 2006

Set-up for *Lamarck was a Mutant*



Center Stage

1  Lg. Tam Tam  Wood Head Drum

2  B-D  Wd. Blck.  Frying Pan  Crotales

Both
Plyrs.   Toms & Susp. Cymbal  Temple Bowls

Score Layout:

Mallets:

Percussion 1: 2 soft Tam beaters, 2 swizzels (stick w/ moleskin or timpani beater at butt end), hard yarn mallet.

Percussion 2: 2 soft B-D beaters, 2 swizzels (stick w/ moleskin or timpani beater at butt end), hard yarn mallet, superball mallet.