\<Klung\>

This instrument is a computer controlled acoustical angklung designed and build in 2000. The anklungs themselves are made of hardened brass and tuned to a western scale covering two octaves.

The instrument is very rare and stems from an instrument build in Berlin around 1900 on request of the father of my composition teacher, Norbert Rosseau, who happened to be a circus director. He wanted to show instruments and musicians from other cultures in his circus, in line with wild animals. The role of these natives -in this case indonesians- had to be performed by circus clowns. The original instruments being build from bamboo and tuned to pelog or slendro tunings, he wanted the newly build anklung to be 'corrected' to our civilised tuning system as well as stable for humidity and temperature changes. Hence the construction using brass and the tuning conforming to A=440Hz. The 'modernised' instrument was donated by testament in 1984 to the Ghent conservatory by Norbert Rosseau. However, at a given moment when the conservatory building was under renovation, I found the remnants of this instrument on a big trash container. It was in a state of absolute neglect and parts were missing. However, I didn't hesitate a moment to take it along with me.

The research I did with regard to the instrument also revealed that in the circus it was used with electric lights, a novelty at that time. When we decided to turn it into a robotic instrument, we definitly wanted to include this original feature.

Fot the automation of the anklung shaking, heavy duty bidirectional solenoids were used.

The robot instrument is mounted on a heavy duty trolley and can be taken on the road for street performances. However, it is not rain resistent and should be protected against moisture.

\<Klung\> played its very first automated scales on sunday the 18th of june 2000. Its first public appearance was at the occasion of the 'Web Strikes Back' project' (Tromp Biannual) in Eindhoven. At that occasion is was played by commands coming from the internet in real time.

The musical range for this robot is: