

To Whom it May Concern,

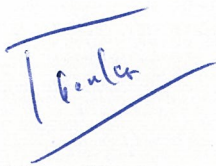
The 20th century was a time of unprecedented expansion of percussion orchestration, instrument manufacture, and technical innovation. The imagination of the experimental composer, coupled with the devotion of groups such as *Les Percussion*s de Strasbourg, combined to move percussion to the forefront of contemporary music's progression. By the end of the 20th century, percussion cultivated a broad spectrum of expressive capabilities from its enormous family of instruments. Ensemble XII is refining the medium of the large percussion force for the 21st century.

My association with Ensemble XII (formerly the Lucerne Festival Percussion Group) began in 2004 at the Lucerne Festival Academy. This Academy offers an opportunity for rigorous engagement with modern music. Ensemble XII has performed numerous works under my direction and the guidance of the soloists of the Ensemble Intercontemporain. They have served adeptly as the percussion section for performances of masterworks by Stockhausen, Varese, Eotvos, and my own pieces. They have also premiered more than a dozen new works for large percussion orchestra. The interpretive abilities of this group have been significantly shaped by performances of *Ionisation*, *Ameriques*, *Gruppen*, my own *Notations*, as well as the exploration of the latest compositions for percussion group.

From the group's debut performances in 2004 came an overwhelming enthusiasm from the players, composers, and audience. This led to a residency at the Lucerne Festival Academy of Ensemble XII from 2005 to 2008. During this time, twelve new works were commissioned and premiered by Ensemble XII. Now, a significant repertoire exists and the original enthusiasm has grown to a whole-hearted devotion to the proliferation of this group.

Born of the modern orchestra's percussion section, Ensemble XII has now gained autonomy as an international ensemble of 12 young professional percussionists. As individual advocates and specialists in the field of contemporary music, Ensemble XII represents the next generation in the evolution of modern percussion.

I strongly believe in this project and think it must be supported by composers, concert promoters, audiences, and patrons of the arts.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Boulez". The signature is enclosed within a hand-drawn blue rectangular border.

Pierre Boulez

Lucerne, Switzerland
3 September, 2008