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Abstract for an Invited Paper for the MAR10 Meeting of the American Physical Society

Understanding Musical Instruments: Composing "Updike's Science"

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My subjects are the physics of music and the music of physics. First, I do some demonstrations illustrating the physics of brass musical instruments. Next, tenor Carl Halvorson will sing my song cycle "Updike's Science." These songs are settings of humorous poems of John Updike. Each song is about a different branch of science: Thermodynamics, Particle Physics, Chemistry, Hydrodynamics, Cloud Physics, and Biology.