

Hello, again. This time I would like to apologise to steel drum teachers and steel drum fans in general for saying the instrument is really, really annoying and when used as therapy, it just makes the situation worse. It's true, it does, but you know what? It could be even worse than that. Imagine if bagpipe lessons were taught in mental homes. Have you heard a newbe bagpipe player? If so, you will know of the constant atonal screeches. And that's just coming from one person, can you picture half a dozen or so tone deaf people with mental problems playing at the same time? There isn't even a word to describe the sound. Having thought about it, steel drums are actually a relatively good choice to teach as beginners can very easily sound at least relatively good! Again, there is often nothing that beats sweet, sweet silence, but you know that smooth, far from harsh noise you get in your ears that is called 'tinnitus'? It's not a million miles away from the sound of the percussion. If you can put up with tinnitus, you can put up with cheerful Jamaican music. :)

I guess now I should apologise to fans of bagpipe music. Don't worry as surprise, I am a fan too! Not a massive fan, but I do have some medieval bagpipe music in my collection. Sadly for Scottish people that may sound like a joke, but it's true I do have such music and I do find it atmospheric. Even more sadly, the word 'atmospheric' isn't always synonymous with 'good' as there is 'atmospheric' music you can buy that just consists of real people in a real insane asylum screaming for about an hour. No tune, no harmony, just people going 'aaaargh'. But at least it's atmospheric right? I'm wondering how the whole project was agreed upon by all who were involved. The man with the idea could be like 'I have something really different for you, you just have to trust me...' to the music producer, and in the end, the producer would have to had thought to himself 'Yep, you've made some solid points. I will make your idea a reality.' Give me bagpipe music over that any day.

I'm wondering why no one has ever made a CD of steel drumming in a mental institution if some people are so keen to know what such places are like. Not only would you get a dense collage of sound, you would get phrases only crazy people would say, such as 'why do the voices keep talking to me' and 'can I go back to my room'. Yeah. Very entertaining, I think not. :S Can you guess which of the two phrases were said by me? Or maybe I said both? Nope, I just said the latter as at the time, I believed I knew why the voices were talking to me, so it was trick question! Ok, ok, that wasn't really true as actually my hallucinations went away very quickly once I was on medication. There were no mental home hallucinations! It's something, right? Furthermore, when I was at my regular home WAITING to go to another home, the voices telling me 'I'm crazy' I experienced for a short while didn't bother me anyway, as I agreed with them, as did everyone else. Who cares?

Here's an idea for a CD: The sound of people in a mental home munching on biscuits and drinking coffee. Nurses discourage unhealthy eating habits, but if you have an endless supply of such treats and you give them away for free, when there is nothing else to do(!) they really are asking for trouble. They might as well say something like 'Go on... there's nothing wrong with taking something if it's infinite. These biscuits are like the air you breathe. Go on.. Take some... Taaaake soome.' It's very easy to exploit someone who can't think properly. Who would say such a thing? Angry steel drum teachers. Now for my final apology: Sorry to steel drum teachers AGAIN! Whilst there WERE as many biscuits and drinks as you could possibly want (ice cream lollipops were rarer, I don't know why), such conversations

never actually happened. Which is good! Oh yes, and I must apologise about James' outrageous behaviour, I'll have a word with him. And... bye!