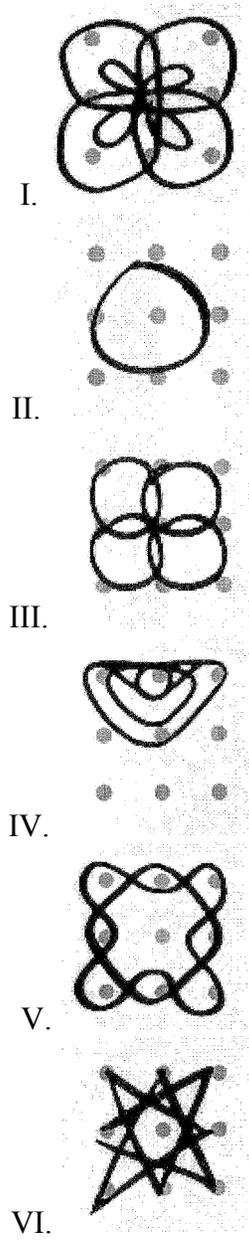


Saturday, January 14, 2017, 1 PM
'62 Center for Theatre and Dance, CenterStage

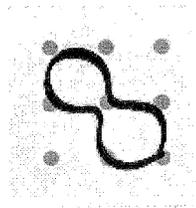
Tom Johnson (b. 1939)

Nine Bells (1979)

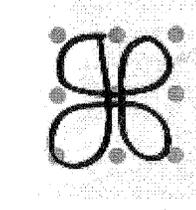
Performed by Ed Gollin



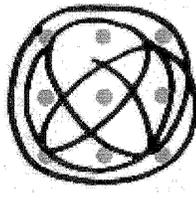
VII.



VIII.



IX.



(drawings of the basic patterns of each movement by Tom Johnson)

ABOUT *NINE BELLS*

The works of composer **Tom Johnson** (b. 1939) often explore the interaction of mathematical design and musical sound. A student of Morton Feldman, Johnson was active in the New York new music scene in the 1960s and 70s, before moving to Paris in 1983. "Nine Bells" (1979) is one of Johnson's most celebrated compositions, a minimalist work that requires the performer to walk specific pathways (clover leaves, circles, stars, and so forth) through a 3x3 matrix of nine pitched bells, striking bells according particular cyclical rhythmic patterns. The pealing patterns of the bells are often transformed in logical ways over the course of a given movement (e.g. by adding or subtracting tones, or by shifting phase relative to the movement's pathway). The sound of the performer's footfall is part of the composition: the walking pace (i.e. tempo) of each movement is specified in the score, and the meter and specific rhythms in each movement are generally determined by the geometry of that movement's pathway and the distances between bells therein (adjacent, diagonal, inside turns, outside turns, etc.). The work thus makes audible and visible the melodic permutations latent in each pathway.

ABOUT THE PERFORMER

Ed Gollin is a Professor of Music Theory at Williams College. His academic interests include the analysis of twentieth-century music (esp. the music of Béla Bartók), mathematical models of musical structure, and process music—most notably the music of Steve Reich. He is also an avid rock-climber and mid-distance runner; this latter skill has proven a useful asset in preparation for the performance of *Nine Bells*.