

**Two Duos** was composed for the ensemble Due East (Erin Lesser, flute and Greg Beyer, percussion) in the course of a composition/performance/recording collaboration involving the duo and composers David Maki, Mark Engebretson, Alejandro Rutty, Carl Schimmel, Jeff Heriott and John Allemeier.

The movement titles are taken, respectively, from the name of a game and a toy. Whac-a-Mole is an arcade game in which players use plastic mallets to hit figures of moles when they pop up from holes. Listeners will undoubtedly understand the meaning of the title when they hear the music. See <http://whacamole.com> for more information and links to online versions of the game. According to the extremely entertaining web site <http://www.floamit.com>, Floam is a microbead modeling compound. It's kind of like a space-age Play-Doh made of small Styrofoam beads (such as you might find in a beanbag chair) that are colored and sticky. You can make sculptures out of Floam, but it doesn't dry out, so it can be re-shaped over and over again. The music is appropriately sticky and gooey. Be sure to check out the "Floambot" video.

On a more serious level, both movements, and especially Floam, represent a renewed attempt to discover and develop means of working with harmony in ways that are both somewhat "traditional" and at the same time, appropriate to our time and place. Whac-a-Mole further tries to maximally exploit a minimum of percussion instruments (snare drum, bass drum and hi-hat) in a virtuosic context (especially for the flute), along with metric modulations for both.