

## **SignWriting Symposium 2014**

### **ABSTRACT**

#### **Thoughts on Sutton SignWriting as Musical Notation**

**by**

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This paper considers the potential for Sutton SignWriting as a tool for conveying instructions for performers in a musical setting through a discussion of its unique affordances and limitations as a script system. To place this discussion in context I review the methods and challenges of the composition of a short piece of mine, Problem Child, for double bass and facial expression. I also touch on the work of other composers interested in composing the physical and bodily movements of performers in relation to musical instruments and/or as musical gesture itself, and I attempt to represent these composers' interests in such methods as well as to briefly speculate on the potential usefulness for and impact of SSW on contemporary composition more generally.