

Connor Simpson

Percussion Quartet

Buzzed

6'

2020

Mere Fly Press

For Percussion Only

Buzzed

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6 minutes

2020

Connor Simpson

Mere Fly Press (ASCAP)

Program Notes

Buzzed slows down and analyses the gestures of the sounds chosen for the piece and represents them structurally. The buzzing gesture controls the form of the piece, just as a coin rattles on a vibraphone, large attacks occur throughout the piece increasing in frequency by a constant ratio. Other sounds like rattles are represented by randomly scattered wooden attacks and the friction within an attack is represented by bowed techniques.

Instrumentation

Percussion 1

Steel Pan

(if no steel pan, play steel drum part on Vibes)

Temple Blocks (coin half taped on middle tpl. bl.)

Snare (upside down, batter head on both sides)

1 Finger Cymbal

Bow

Percussion 2

Marimba

2 toms

Tam-tam (2 chopsticks and mallet tied, dangling on head)

1 Finger Cymbal

Bow

Percussion 3

Vibraphone (coin half taped on Eb 5, B5 and B6)

Suspended Cymbal (upside down, filled with coins)

Congas

1 Finger Cymbal

Bow

Percussion 4

Xylophone (coin half taped on e5)

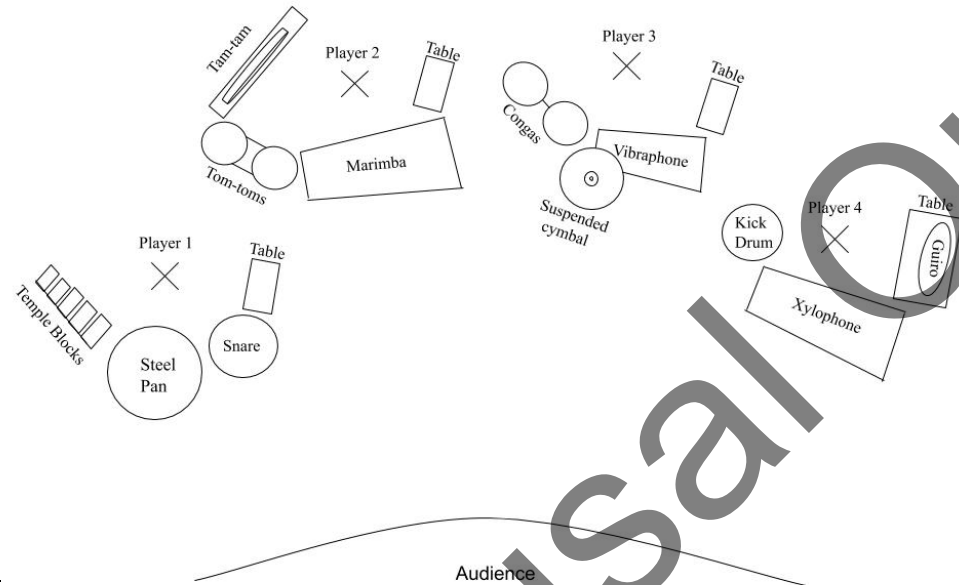
Guiro (on table, do not pick up to play)

Kick drum (on table, played with mallets)

1 Finger Cymbal

Bow

Setup




Performance Notes


- Each percussionist is to have a stopwatch of some kind. Before the piece begins, the percussionists are to all synchronize their stopwatches exactly.
- Each system represents 15 seconds, and the performers are to estimate the timing of each sound within that system based on the position within the system unless specified otherwise according to the following line.
- Any gesture marked with a time i.e. **0:13:00** is to be played when the percussionist's stopwatch matches that time exactly.
- All quarter notes represent an individual attack whereas whole notes represent sustained notes i.e., bowing, or sustained repeated attacks i.e., rolls.
- Performers should aim not to listen to one another or to imply a sense of meter throughout the piece.
- The performers are asked to remain still while resting and look down at their instruments.


Notation

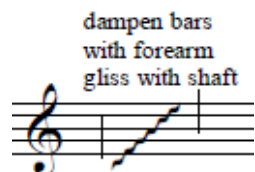
Pitched Percussion

 Dead Stroke

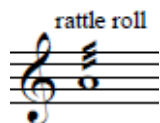
 Body

 (On Vibraphone, Marimba and Xylophone) Muffle key with hand by “grabbing” from above and below. Strike using other hand

 (On Vibraphone, Marimba and Xylophone) Mute key by firmly placing mallet on top of key. Strike the shaft of mallet on top of the key with the other mallet.



(On Vibraphone, Marimba and Xylophone) Firmly place forearm across bars. Glissando from an indeterminate pitch to another indeterminate pitch using the shaft of the mallet.




(On Vibraphone, Marimba and Xylophone) Before the performance find a pair of two adjacent bars on the instrument such that the shaft of a mallet may be placed in between the bars and rest against a resonator. Then, roll on the designated bar.

Unpitched Percussion


 Dead Stroke

 Body

 Rub base of mallet against key. Place end of shaft firmly on key and firmly press down on the while allowing the mallet to vibrate.

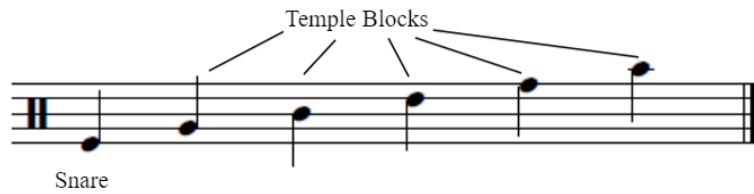
 Buzz roll

finger roll

 Finger roll on surface. With considerable pressure drag finger pad across surface.

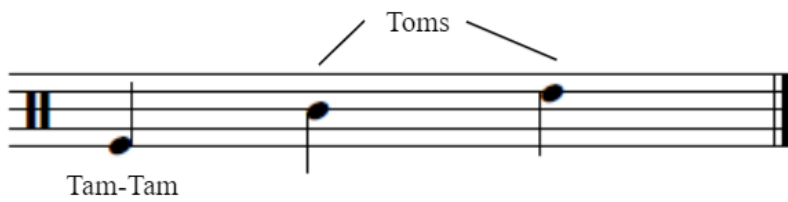
Notation keys

Percussion 1



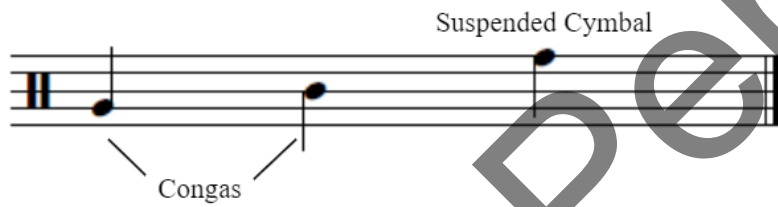
Musical notation for Percussion 1 on a five-line staff. The notation begins with a double bar line and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first note is on the first line (G4) and is labeled "Snare". The second note is on the second line (A4). The third note is on the second space (B4) and is labeled "Temple Blocks". The fourth note is on the third line (C5) and is also labeled "Temple Blocks". The fifth note is on the third space (D5) and is labeled "Temple Blocks". The sixth note is on the fourth line (E5) and is labeled "Temple Blocks". The notation ends with a double bar line.

Percussion 2



Musical notation for Percussion 2 on a five-line staff. The notation begins with a double bar line and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first note is on the first line (G4) and is labeled "Tam-Tam". The second note is on the second line (A4). The third note is on the second space (B4) and is labeled "Toms". The fourth note is on the third line (C5) and is labeled "Toms". The notation ends with a double bar line.

Percussion 3



Musical notation for Percussion 3 on a five-line staff. The notation begins with a double bar line and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first note is on the first line (G4) and is labeled "Congas". The second note is on the second line (A4) and is labeled "Congas". The third note is on the second space (B4) and is labeled "Suspended Cymbal". The fourth note is on the third line (C5) and is labeled "Suspended Cymbal". The notation ends with a double bar line.

Percussion 4



Musical notation for Percussion 4 on a five-line staff. The notation begins with a double bar line and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first note is on the first line (G4) and is labeled "Kick Drum". The second note is on the second line (A4). The third note is on the second space (B4) and is labeled "Guiro". The notation ends with a double bar line.

Buzzed

Connor Simpson

Score

0:10:00 **Snare**
sempre senza corde

0:13:00 **Temple Blocks**
body
buzz roll

Percussion 1

fff *f* *mf*

0:10:00 **Toms**

Percussion 2

fff

0:10:00 **Congas**

Percussion 3

fff

Vibraphone
rattle roll

mf *mf*

Finger Cymbal, Xylophone
place finger cymbal on key silently
strike finger cymbal resting on bar

0:10:00 **Kick Drum**

Percussion 4

fff *f*

15"

0:25:00

Perc. 1

Marimba
dampen keys with forearm
gliss with shaft

mp *ff*

dead stroke (d.s.)

f

Vibraphone
mute key by grasping firmly

f

Cymbal
rattle coins

p *p*

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

15"

0:40:00

Perc. 1 Steel Pan body *pp*

Perc. 2 Tom 2 0:49:00 body *mp*

Perc. 3 Vibraphone with shaft *mp*

Perc. 4 Kick Drum 0:44:00 body *mf* Xylophone roll on body with shafts *p < f*

15"

0:55:00

Perc. 1 Steel Pan body *p*

Perc. 2 Tam-tam *f*

Perc. 3

Perc. 4 Xylophone mute key with mallet strike shaft of mallet *mf*

15"

1:10:00

Steel Pan



Perc. 1

Marimba

8va

b

o

mp

Perc. 2

Vibraphone



Congas



Perc. 3

Kick Drum



Perc. 4

15"

1:25:00

Finger Cymbal, Snare

place finger cymbal on snare silently

strike finger cymbal



Perc. 1

Congas

1:37:00

body



Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

15"

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1:40:00

Temple Blocks
rattle shaft of
mallet inside block

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

15"

1:55:00

Marimba

d.s.

mp

dampen keys
with forearm
gliss with shaft

pp

Xylophone

with
shaft

p

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

15"

2:10:00

Perc. 1 **Snare**
rub snares with fingers
p

Perc. 2 **Tom 2, Finger Cymbal**
strike finger cymbal resting on tom
mf

Perc. 3 **Vibraphone**
mute key by grasping firmly
ff

Perc. 4 **Xylophone**
mute key with mallet strike shaft of mallet
mf

15"

2:25:00

Perc. 1 **Finger Cymbal, Snare**
strike finger cymbal
mp

Perc. 2 **Fam-tam**
with medium mallets
pp < *f*

Perc. 3 **Vibraphone**
p

Perc. 4

15"

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2:40:00

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Xylophone
roll on
body
p < > *p*

Marimba
8va
pp

Snare
pp

15"

2:55:00

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Congas
pp

Congas
2:59:00
body
f

Xylophone
body
mp

Marimba
mp

Temple Blocks
rattle shaft of
mallet inside block
pp

Temple Blocks
rub base of
mallet on block
mf

Finger Cymbal, Vibraphone
strike finger
cymbal
mp

slowly place
finger cymbal
on bar

bowed
mf

15"

3:10:00

Perc. 1 **Snare** *ff* finger roll on head *p* **Snare** *mf*

Perc. 2 **Toms** *ff*

Perc. 3 **Congas** *ff* **Vibraphone** *mp* drop mallet between bars *mp* strike finger cymbal just above bar *ff > pp*

Perc. 4 **Kick Drum** *ff* **Xylophone** bowed *p* *place finger cymbal on kick drum silently* **Kick Drum** 3:23:00 body *p*

15"

3:25:00

Perc. 1 *mp* **Snare** *pp*

Perc. 2 **Marimba** dampen keys with forearm gliss with shaft *p* mute key by grasping firmly *p*

Perc. 3 **Vibraphone** with shaft *mf*

Perc. 4 **Kick Drum** strike head *mp*

15"

3:40:00

Perc. 1 Steel Pan body *p*

Perc. 2 Tam-tam *mf*

Perc. 3 Vibraphone
mute key with mallet, strike shaft of mallet *mf*

Perc. 4 Xylophone
roll on body *p < p* d.s. + *p*

15"

3:55:00

Perc. 1 Temple Blocks *mf* Snare *fp* *pp*

Perc. 2 Tom 1 *p* Tom 1 4:07:00 body *mf*

Perc. 3 Vibraphone with shaft *p* Finger Cymbal, Congas
place finger cymbal on conga silently strike head *mf*

Perc. 4

15"

4:10:00

Perc. 1

Steel Pan
body
f

Perc. 2

Tam-tam
mp

Marimba
f

Marimba
mute key by grasping firmly
f

Perc. 3

Finger Cymbal, Congas
strike finger cymbal resting on conga
mp

slowly place finger cymbal on conga

Perc. 4

Xylophone
p

Guiro
p

15"

4:25:00

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Marimba
mute key with mallet
strike shaft of mallet
mp

Toms
finger roll
f

Perc. 3

Congas
strike finger cymbal on conga
mf

Vibraphone
bowed
mf

Perc. 4

Xylophone
p

Xylophone
rub base of mallet on key
 Δ
mf

15"

10

Perc. 1

4:40:00 Snare *f*

4:41:00 Snare body

Temple Blocks buzz roll

Snare

Steel Pan

Perc. 2

4:40:00 Toms *f*

Marimba bowed

Marimba *rattle roll*

Marimba with shaft

Perc. 3

4:40:00 Congas *f*

Vibraphone

Vibraphone body

Perc. 4

4:40:00 Kick Drum *f*

Finger Cymbal, Xylophone

strike finger cymbal

slowly place finger cymbal on key

Guiro

Xylophone

mute key with mallet

strike shaft of mallet

15"

4:55:00

Perc. 1

Temple Blocks

strike finger cymbal resting on temple block

Steel Pan

place finger cymbal on snare silently

Snare

strike finger cymbal

Perc. 2

Tom 1

Marimba

drop mallet between keys

Perc. 3

Vibraphone

mute key by grasping firmly

Cymbal

rattle coins

Vibraphone

body

Vibraphone

8va₁

Perc. 4

Xylophone

d.s.

Xylophone

with shaft

15"

5:10:00

Perc. 1: Steel Pan with chopstick (Buzzed), Snare finger roll

Perc. 2: Marimba d.s. +, Tom 1 5:15:00 body, Tam-tam

Perc. 3: Vibraphone body, Vibraphone strike finger cymbal, Vibraphone strike key, Vibraphone bowed 8va

Perc. 4: Guiro, Xylophone, Xylophone rub base of mallet on key

15"

Perc. 1: Snare 5:25:00, Finger Cymbal, Snare strike finger cymbal, slowly place finger cymbal on head, Snare strike head, Snare *place finger cymbal on trap table*, Steel Pan

Perc. 2: Marimba bowed 8va, Toms 5:25:00, Marimba drop mallet between bars, Marimba ord., Marimba, Tam-tam, Marimba *pick up mallet*, Marimba body

Perc. 3: Congas 5:25:00, Vibraphone with shaft, Cymbal, Vibraphone d.s. 8va, Vibraphone strike finger cymbal resting on bar, Congas, Vibraphone with shaft, Cymbal d.s. +

Perc. 4: Kick Drum 5:25:00, Guiro, Xylophone body, Xylophone, Kick Drum 5:30:00 body, Kick Drum strike finger cymbal resting on kick drum, Xylophone *place finger cymbal on kick drum silently*, Kick Drum, strike finger cymbal, *place finger cymbal on trap table*

15"

Buzzed

5:40:00 Snare finger roll
 Perc. 1 Snare ord. 5:47:50 Temple Blocks Steel Pan Temple Blocks Steel Pan body Temple Blocks Steel Pan with chopstick Snare

5:47:50 Marimba bowed 8va Marimba bowed 8va Marimba with shaft Tom 1, Finger Cymbal *place finger cymbal on tom silently* strike finger cymbal Marimba 8va Marimba 8va Tom 1

Vibraphone rub base of mallet on key Congas 5:47:50 Vibraphone drop mallet between bars Congas strike finger cymbal resting on bar Congas strike finger cymbal resting on head *pick up mallet* Vibraphone d.s. Cymbal

Finger Cymbal, Xylophone slowly place finger cymbal on bar strike finger cymbal Kick Drum 5:47:50 Kick Drum finger roll Finger Cymbal, Xylophone *place finger cymbal on bar silently* strike key 8va Xylophone 8va Xylophone body

15"

5:55:00 Snare 5:58:75 Temple Blocks Steel Pan body Snare 6:04:38 finger roll ord. Temple Blocks Snare 6:10:00

5:58:75 Finger Cymbal, Marimba slowly place finger cymbal on bar strike finger cymbal Toms 5:58:75 Marimba 8va Marimba strike finger cymbal just above bar 8va Marimba rub base of mallet on key 8va Toms 6:04:38 Finger Cymbal, Marimba strike finger cymbal slowly place finger cymbal on bar Marimba 8va Tom 1

Vibraphone dampen bars with forearm gliss with shaft Congas finger roll on heads 5:58:75 Vibraphone bowed 8va Congas *place finger cymbal on conga silently* Congas 6:04:38 Congas bowed 8va Congas strike head strike finger cymbal strike finger cymbal 8va 8va Congas

Xylophone rub base of mallet on key 8va Kick Drum 5:58:75 Xylophone 8va strike finger cymbal on key bowed 8va Kick Drum 6:04:38 Kick Drum body

15"

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