

Kevin Michael Kay

The World is Sound

Percussion Piano Quartet

Instrumentation

Percussion 1

tam-tam (friction mallets and mallets for rolling)
large gong (friction mallets)
tom-tom drum (friction mallets)
vibraphone (cello bow and medium vibraphone mallets)

Percussion 2

tam-tam (friction mallets and mallets for rolling)
large gong (friction mallets)
tom-tom drum (friction mallets)
bass drum (friction mallets and mallets for rolling)
crotales (cello bow)

Piano 1 (fish-line bow with rosin is needed)

Piano 2 (fish-line bow with rosin is needed)

NOTE for percussionists: The large gong, tam-tam, and tom-tom drum are shared. They should be arranged in a way such that both players can access them. Every time friction mallets are used, percussionists may use two instead of one to achieve desired dynamics. At certain moments in the piece, percussionists may have to roll the tam-tam with mallets in one hand while using the friction mallet in the other hand. These moments are notated.

Percussion Techniques

The large gong, tam-tam, and bass drum are all played solely using a friction mallet.

The head of the friction mallet is dragged along the surface of the instrument.

The motion of this dragging is depicted using one of four diagrams, shown below:



Drag in circular motion close to the perimeter of the instrument



Drag in circular motion about halfway between the perimeter and center of the instrument



Drag in circular motion starting near the perimeter and swirling inwards towards the center



Drag from the top of the instrument down through the center and towards the bottom

Bowed vibraphone and crotales are notated with standard string bowing articulations.



Vibraphone harmonics: Play the indicated note but touch the bar right in the center.

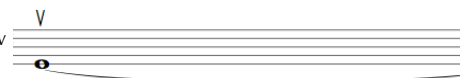
Vibraphone pedal is always held for the entirety of the phrase until the stop sign.

Piano Techniques

Written for the Yarn/Wire Institute 2017

Tremolos should not just be played as block chords. Play all the notes within the chord one at a time, but very quickly. A random and rapidly changing sequence is preferred, but it is OK if the succession falls into a natural pattern, like fingers 5-4-3-2-1 (in a 5 note chord).

An up bow is used to notate a bowed string. The bowing does not have to be in one continuous motion; you can bow back and forth just do not cause a break in the sound.



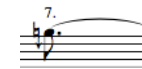
Piano 1 needs the following strings prepared with bows: C2, F#2, G2, A2, B2, C3, E3

Piano 2 needs the following strings prepared with bows: A1, D2, G2,, E3

A diamond notehead indicates that the player should place a finger on the string(s) of the indicated note right in front of the damper (but very close to it), and strike the note on the keyboard. The resulting sound is a flourish of harmonics.



Piano harmonics are notated with the fundamental pitch in the left hand (which is the note that will be struck on the keyboard), and the resulting pitch in the right hand, as well as the corresponding harmonic number. The example shown is bass clef in the left hand (A2) and the resulting pitch is in treble clef (G5, slightly flat).



It is suggested that the pianist mark finger placement for harmonics.



The following notation is used to show that the pianist is to drag their finger along the string(s) of the note shown in the left hand, from one place on the string to another. The most commonly used marker is the 2nd harmonic, which is halfway down the string. The pianist may drag their finger towards the damper or away from the damper, depending on if the glissandi notation goes down (towards) or up (away). The pianist is to strike the keyboard in the rhythm of the glissandi.



Example: From the second harmonic away from the damper to an unspecified end location



From the second harmonic towards the damper

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Tempo: ♩ = 44

Percussion 1: large gong friction mallet(s). Dynamics: *pp* to *mf*.

Percussion 2: crotales. Dynamics: *pp* to *mf*.

Piano 1: *ff* *loco* *pp* *mf* *pp*. Includes a fermata with the instruction "hold until the end".

Piano 2: *pp* *mf* *pp*. Includes a fermata with the instruction "hold fermata until your ears have adjusted to the timbre" and another fermata with the instruction "hold until the end".

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5

large gong
friction mallet(s)

to tam-tam

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

pp *mf* *p* *f*

pp *f*

pp *mf* *p* *f*

mf *p* *f*

no break

no break

8^{vb}

The musical score is written for four parts: Perc. 1, Perc. 2, Pno. 1, and Pno. 2. Perc. 1 and Perc. 2 are marked with a '5' at the beginning of the first staff. Perc. 1 uses a large gong friction mallet(s) and has a dynamic range from *pp* to *f*. Perc. 2 also has a dynamic range from *pp* to *f*. Pno. 1 and Pno. 2 are marked with a '5' at the beginning of the first staff. Pno. 1 has a dynamic range from *pp* to *f*. Pno. 2 has a dynamic range from *mf* to *f*. The score includes a 'no break' instruction and an 8vb marking.

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9

Perc. 1

tam-tam friction mallet(s)

to large gong

large gong friction mallet(s)

Perc. 2

Pno. 1

loco

Pno. 2

pp f p

pp f pp p

pp f ppp p

pp f ppp

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13

Perc. 1

to tam-tam

tam-tam friction mallet(s)

to vibraphone

f *pp* *ff*

Perc. 2

to tom-tom

f *p* *f*

Pno. 1

ppp *p* *mp* *p*

no break

no break

Pno. 2

loco

p *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

loco

5

5

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17

vibraphone

Perc. 1

pp *f* *no break*

pp *f* *no break*

Perc. 2

tom-tom friction mallet(s)

to large gong

pp *f*

Pno. 1

p *mp* *p* *p* *mp* *p* *p* *mp* *p* *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *mp* *mf*

no break *no break* *no break*

mp *f*

Pno. 2

mp *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*

5

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21

Perc. 1

pp *f* *mp* *p* *mf*

no break

21

Perc. 2

large gong friction mallet(s) to tam-tam

pp *ff*

21

Pno. 1

p *p* *mp* *pp* *p* *ppp* *ff*

no break

21

Pno. 2

p *mp* *ppp* *f* *pp* *ff*

5

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25

Perc. 1

f *p* *ff* *mp*

25

Perc. 2

tam-tam friction mallet(s)

pp *ff* to crotales

25

Pno. 1

p *ff* *ppp*

no break

25

Pno. 2

pp *ff* *ppp* *p*

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medium vibraphone mallets

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pno. 1

Pno. 2

crotales

no break

This musical score page contains measures 29 through 32 of the piece 'The World Is Sound' by Kevin Michael Kay. It features four staves: Percussion 1 (medium vibraphone mallets), Percussion 2 (crotales), Piano 1, and Piano 2. Percussion 1 has a melodic line with dynamics *p*, *mp*, *p*, *mp*, *p*, *mf*, *mp*, and *mf*. Percussion 2 has a sparse accompaniment with dynamics *mp*, *mf*, *mp*, and *mf*. Piano 1 plays a complex melodic line with triplets and dynamics *mp*, *p*, *mf*, *mp*, *mf*, and *mp*. Piano 2 provides a harmonic foundation with sustained chords and a final 'no break' instruction in measure 32.

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33

Perc. 1

mp *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Perc. 2

p *f* *mp* *mp*

Pno. 1

mf *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

Pno. 2

ppp *mp* *mf* *mp* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

no break

mp

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37

Perc. 1

p *f* *mp* *p*

Perc. 2

p *f* *p* *mp*

to tam-tam

tam-tam friction mallet(s)

to large gong

Pno. 1

mp *f* *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

Pno. 2

mp *mp* *f* *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *pp* *pp*

no break

no break

no break

p

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41 *rit.* *mp*

Perc. 1

41 *a tempo* *p* *f* *p* *3* *V*

Perc. 2

41 *pp* *f* *to crotales*

Perc. 2

large gong
friction mallet(s)

Pno. 1

41 *p* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *f*

Pno. 2

41 *ppp* *mp* *f* *...to the damper...*

4. *s* *s* *s*

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45

Perc. 1

mp

Perc. 2

crotales *p* *mp*

tam-tam friction mallet(s) *pp* *f*

Pno. 1

pp *mp* *f*

Pno. 2

4. *mp* *pp* *f*

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49 Perc. 1 *p* *mp* *f* *pp*

49 Perc. 2 to crotales *p* *mp* *f* *pp* bass drum friction mallet(s)

49 Pno. 1 *mp* *p*

49 Pno. 2 11. *mp* *pp*

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53 *p* *mp*

Perc. 1

f *mp*

53 *f* to crotales crotales *mp*

Perc. 2

53 *f*

Pno. 1

2. *p* *mf* ...to the damper...

3 5

4. *p* *mf* ...to the damper...

5 5

Pno. 2

53 *f*

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56 Perc. 1 *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf* *f* *mp* *no break*

56 Perc. 2 *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf* *p*

56 Pno. 1 *p* *pp* *mf* *f* *mp* *from the damper...*

56 Pno. 2 *pp* *mf* *f*

The musical score is written for four parts: Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Piano 1, and Piano 2. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score begins at measure 56. Percussion 1 and Percussion 2 play melodic lines with dynamic markings of *pp*, *mp*, *pp*, *mf*, *f*, and *mp*. Percussion 1 has a 'no break' instruction. Piano 1 and Piano 2 play accompaniment with dynamic markings of *p*, *pp*, *mf*, *f*, and *mp*. Piano 1 has a 'from the damper...' instruction. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and articulation marks.

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60

Perc. 1

f

pp *mp*

Perc. 2

to tam-tam

f

tam-tam friction mallet(s)

p *f*

Pno. 1

f

pp *f*

Pno. 2

past 2. harmonic... 2. past 2. harmonic...

mp *f*

...to the damper...

from the damper...

...to the damper...

p *mf* *p*

ppp

8^{vb}

8^{vb}

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64

Perc. 1

to large gong

large gong
friction mallet(s)

to tam-tam

to tom-tom

tom-tom
friction mallet(s)

to bass drum

tam-tam
friction mallet(s)

pp

f

pp

bass drum
bass drum mallets

pp

Pno. 1

pp

f

mp

f

pp

...to the damper...

Pno. 2

no break

no break

f

pp

pp

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68

(keep friction mallet in one hand, add a mallet roll in the other hand)

to vibraphone

let the room breathe

vibraphone

3

ff

p

f

68

to crotales

let the room breathe

ff

p

68

let the room breathe

ff

ppp

mp

8^{vb}

8^{vb}

68

no break

let the room breathe

no break

loco

ff

ppp

pp

mp

no break

loco

5

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72 Perc. 1 *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

72 Perc. 2 *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

72 Pno. 1 *no break* *no break* *no break* *no break*

72 Pno. 2 *mf* *s* *mp* *mf*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains measures 72 through 76. It features four staves: Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Piano 1, and Piano 2. Percussion 1 and 2 play rhythmic patterns with triplets and accents, marked with dynamics *p* (piano) and *f* (forte). Piano 1 plays sustained chords in the left hand, with the instruction 'no break' written above the staff. Piano 2 plays a more active melody in the right hand, including slurs, accents, and dynamic markings of *mf* (mezzo-forte), *s* (sforzando), and *mp* (mezzo-piano).

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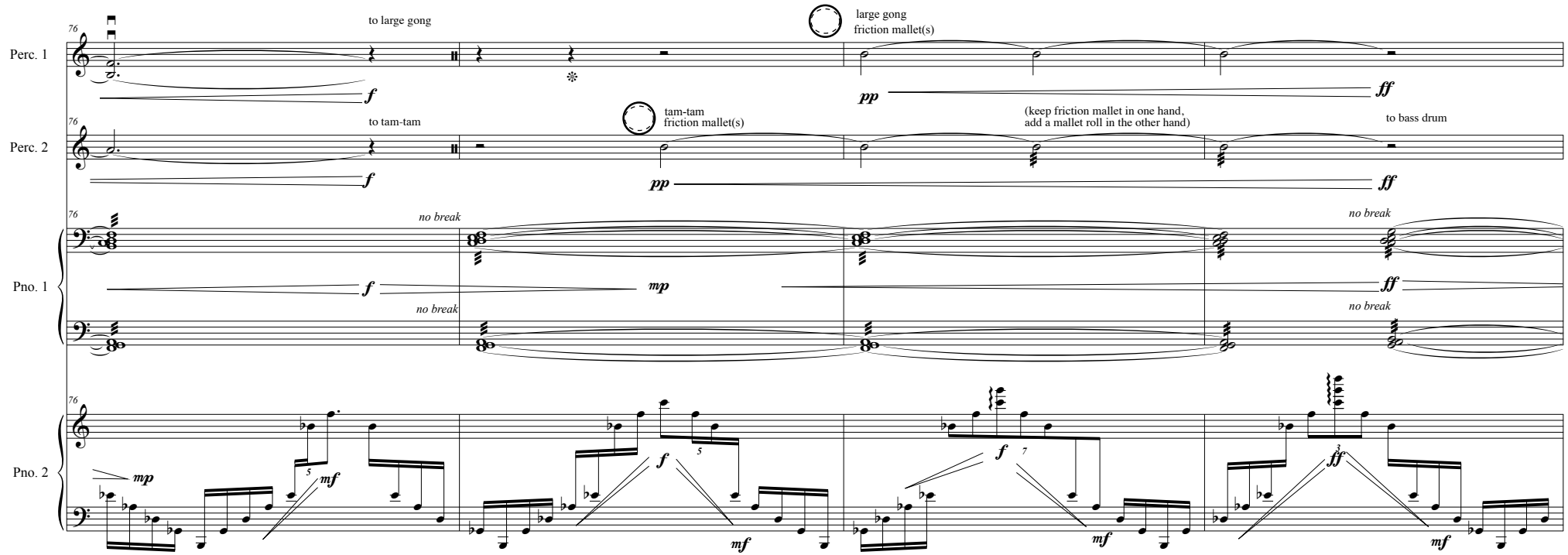
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76 Perc. 1 to large gong  large gong friction mallet(s) *f* *pp* *ff*

76 Perc. 2 to tam-tam  tam-tam friction mallet(s) (keep friction mallet in one hand, add a mallet roll in the other hand) to bass drum *f* *pp* *ff*

76 Pno. 1 no break *f* *mp* *ff* no break

76 Pno. 2 *mp* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *ff* *mf*



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80

Perc. 1

large gong
friction mallet(s)

to tam-tam

pp *ff*

Perc. 2

bass drum
bass drum mallets

pp *ff*

Pno. 1

mf *ff*

no break

Pno. 2

f *mf* *f* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *ppp*

mf

7 3 7 3 7 3

8va - - -

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84  tam-tam friction mallet(s)

Perc. 1 *pp* (keep friction mallet in one hand, add a mallet roll in the other hand) *ff* let sound begin to clear *pp*  vibraphone

Perc. 2 *p* bass drum bass drum mallets *ff* let sound begin to clear *pp*  crotales *mp*

Pno. 1 *> pp* *ff* let sound begin to clear *mp* loco 7. *mp*

Pno. 2 *< p* *ff* let sound begin to clear *mp* 11. *mp*

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88 Perc. 1 *mp* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

88 Perc. 2 *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

88 Pno. 1 5. 4. 7. 3. 11. 9. 4. *mp* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mp* *mf* *mp*

88 Pno. 2 9. 5. 9. 7. 5. 11. *mp* *mp* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

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92

Perc. 1

to tom-tom

tom-tom friction mallet(s)

long fermata (≈ 15 seconds)

let sound fully clear

ff

pp *mp* *pp* *fff*

Perc. 2

bass drum friction mallet(s)

long fermata (≈ 15 seconds)

let sound fully clear

ff

pp *mf* *pp* *fff*

bass drum mallets

Pno. 1

ff

pp *mf* *pp* *fff*

long fermata (≈ 15 seconds)

let sound fully clear

V

Pno. 2

8^{vb}

long fermata (≈ 15 seconds)

let sound fully clear

ff

pp *fff*

8^{vb}