

Daniel Harrison

Sometimes My Arms Bend Back

Two Movements for Toy Piano & Percussion Trio

Instrumentation:

Toy Piano (Range C4-C6)

Percussion 1:

4 Flower pots arranged from lowest to highest sounding
Resonant piece of scrap metal of the players choice
Harmonica in the key of Ab
2 wineglasses of similar size filled with an indeterminate amount of water
arranged from lowest to highest sounding.

Percussion 2:

4 metallic mixing bowls arranged from lowest to highest sounding
Resonant piece of scrap metal of the players choice (something that
timbrally differs from the mixing bowls; should be a harsh and gritty sound)
Harmonica in the key of Db
2 wineglasses of similar size filled with an indeterminate amount of water
arranged from lowest to highest sounding.

Percussion 3:

4 hollow metal pipes (optimally with a hollow, mellow [not bright] sound)
arranged from lowest to highest sounding
Resonant piece of scrap metal of the players choice (something that
timbrally differs from the metal pipes; should be a harsh and gritty sound)
Harmonica in the key of B
2 wineglasses of similar size filled with an indeterminate amount of water
arranged from lowest to highest sounding.

Percussion keys:

The image displays musical notation for three percussion parts across two movements. The notation is presented on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) for each part.

Movement I (Mvt. I key):

- Percussion 1:** Features a piece of resonant scrap metal. The notation shows a sequence of notes with an upward-pointing arrow labeled 'L' (lowest) and a downward-pointing arrow labeled 'H' (highest), indicating a glissando effect. Above the staff, it says "flower pots arranged from lowest sounding to highest".
- Percussion 2:** Features a piece of resonant scrap metal. Similar to Percussion 1, it shows a glissando with 'L' and 'H' arrows. Above the staff, it says "metallic mixing bowls arranged from lowest sounding to highest".
- Percussion 3:** Features a piece of resonant scrap metal. Similar to Percussion 1, it shows a glissando with 'L' and 'H' arrows. Above the staff, it says "hollow metal pipes arranged from lowest sounding to highest".

Movement II (Mvt. II key):

- Percussion 1:** Features an Ab harmonica. The notation shows notes in three registers: low reg., mid. reg., and high reg. Additionally, there are notes for a low sounding wineglass and a high sounding wineglass.
- Percussion 2:** Features a Db harmonica. The notation shows notes in three registers: low reg., mid. reg., and high reg. Additionally, there are notes for a low sounding wineglass and a high sounding wineglass.
- Percussion 3:** Features a B harmonica. The notation shows notes in three registers: low reg., mid. reg., and high reg. Additionally, there are notes for a low sounding wineglass and a high sounding wineglass.

Performance notes:

Dynamic crescendo from niente, decrescendo back to niente.



In the second movement each percussionist is asked to perform on harmonica. There are not any specific pitches notated, instead there are only general registers (L, M, H) notated. The performer is to blow into these registers and catch as many notes as possible within that generalized register

(aim to sound at least three notes). The desired effect between the three percussionists is a thick, reedy haze. Breathe in as needed.

Each percussionist is asked to perform on wine glasses in the second movement. To activate the sound of the wine glass wet your finger with water and then lightly rub along the rim of the glass in a circular fashion. The wine glasses should all be similar in size and style and be filled with an indeterminate amount of water (individually chosen by each percussionist; 6 different pitches are desired). Each percussionist should be able to sound two different indeterminate pitches, one low and one high.

The toy piano should be set up in front of the perc. Trio as a soloist. Care should be taken so that the percussion does not overpower the sound of the toy piano; a level synthesis of sound is desired and amplification might be required.

Each movement may be performed individually or as a set.

- I. duration ca. 7'
- II. duration ca. 6'

Total duration: ca. 13'

For Laura
Sometimes My Arms Bend Back
I.

Spinning uncontrollably ♩ = 144 (♩ = 72)

Daniel Harrison

angular & aggressive



Toy Piano

flower pots (L-H) With Rattan sticks with rubber mallet heads

Percussion 1

metallic mixing bowls (L-H) With Rattan sticks with rubber mallet heads

Percussion 2

hollow metal bars (L-H) With Rattan sticks with rubber mallet heads

Percussion 3

5

Toy Pno.

10

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

14

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

18

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

22

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

26

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

32

30

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

p *f* *mf*

p *f* *mf*

p *f* *mf*

34

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

p *f* *mf*

p *f* *mf*

p *f* *mf*

38

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

p *f* *mf*

p *f* *mf*

p *f* *mf*

42

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

p *f* *mf*

p *f* *mf*

p *f* *mf*

46

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

3 *p* *mf*

3 *p* *mf*

3 *p* *mf*

50

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

3 *p* *mf*

3 *p* *mf*

3 *p* *mf*

54

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

3 *p* *f* *mf*

3 *p* *f* *mf*

3 *p* *f* *mf*

58

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

62

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

66

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

70

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

74

Flowing, slowly descending $\text{♩} = 80$

74

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

resonant piece of scrap metal

sfz

resonant piece of scrap metal

sfz

with butt end of stick

p

76

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

mf

78

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

with butt end of stick

p *mf*

80

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

with butt end of stick

p 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

82

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

mf 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

84

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

86

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

88

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

90

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

93

Fragmented ♩=72

92

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

sfz

sfz

resonant piece of scrap metal w/ mallet head

sfz

94

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

f

f

f

sfz

97

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

sfz

f

sfz

f

f

5

3

5:4

3

100

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

f

3

3

5:4

3

3

3

104

Flowing, slowly descending ♩=80

103

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

f

sfz

p

sfz

6

6

6

6

105

Toyo Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

p

107

Toyo Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

mf

109

Toyo Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

p

111 $\text{♩} = 72$

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

f *p* *f* *p*

f *p* *f* *f*

f *f* *p* *f*

f *f* *f* *p*

6 6

115

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

f *p* *f* *p*

f *p* *f* *f*

f *p* *f* *f*

f *p* *f* *f*

3 3 3 3

3 3

f *p* *f* *f*

p *f* *p* *f*

f *p* *f* *f*

f *p* *f* *f*

121

breaking free, flowering $\text{♩} = 80$

solo

119

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

f *p* *sfz*

f *p* *sfz*

f *p* *sfz*

f *p* *sfz*

6 6 6 6

3 3

f *p* *sfz*

f *p* *sfz*

f *p* *sfz*

f *p* *sfz*

122

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Detailed description: This system covers measures 122 and 123. The Toy Piano part features a melodic line in the right hand with slurs and accents, and a bass line in the left hand with sixteenth-note patterns. The number '6' is written below the bass line in each measure. The Percussion parts (1, 2, and 3) are currently silent, indicated by a horizontal line across each staff.

124

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Detailed description: This system covers measures 124 and 125. The Toy Piano part continues with the same melodic and bass line patterns as the previous system. The Percussion parts remain silent.

126

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Detailed description: This system covers measures 126 and 127. The Toy Piano part continues with the same melodic and bass line patterns. The Percussion parts remain silent.

128

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

130

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

132

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

134

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

136 **grotesque**

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

138

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

bursting with joy

140

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

142

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

144

harsh & oppressive

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

146

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

148

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

150

Toy Pno.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

hit top of toy piano with palm of hand

II

Daniel Harrison

Vague, like a distant memory ♩ = 52

Toy Piano

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Percussion 3

5

Pno.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

lost, without a sense of identity

9

Pno.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

high wineglass

13

Pno.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

high reg.

17

Pno.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

high wineglass

21

24

Pno.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

25

Pno.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

high wineglass

29

Pno.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

low wineglass

low wineglass

33

Pno.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

37

Pno.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

41

Pno.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

45

Pno.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

49

Piano (Pno.) part: Measures 49-52. The right hand plays eighth-note runs with slurs and accents. The left hand features a triplet of eighth notes in measures 51 and 52. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

Percussion (Perc.) part: Measures 49-52. The snare drum (top staff) plays a pattern of eighth notes with slurs. The tom-toms (middle and bottom staves) play sustained notes with slurs, including a cymbal in measure 52.

53

Piano (Pno.) part: Measures 53-56. The right hand continues with eighth-note runs and slurs. The left hand plays sustained notes. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

Percussion (Perc.) part: Measures 53-56. The snare drum (top staff) plays a pattern of eighth notes with slurs. The tom-toms (middle and bottom staves) play sustained notes with slurs, including a cymbal in measure 56.

57

Piano (Pno.) part: Measures 57-60. The right hand plays a series of notes with slurs and accents. The left hand plays sustained notes. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

Percussion (Perc.) part: Measures 57-60. The snare drum (top staff) plays a pattern of eighth notes with slurs. The tom-toms (middle and bottom staves) play sustained notes with slurs, including a cymbal in measure 60.

61

Pno.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

cue off together

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for four staves. The top staff is for Piano (Pno.) and contains four measures, each with a whole note chord. The bottom three staves are for Percussion (Perc.) and contain rhythmic patterns with accents and slurs. The percussion parts are synchronized with the piano chords. The text 'cue off together' is written at the end of the percussion staves.