



for 4 percussionists & piano

David Grahame

(2013)

I. DRUM DANCE

II. NACHTMUSIK
...and under the veil of night all becomes still...

III. ALLEGRO, FULL OF LIFE

Duration: ca. 21'

INSTRUMENTATION

* many instruments (especially mallet instruments) will be shared

Player 1

Player 1's instrumentation sequence includes: Tam-Tam, Wood-Block, Claves, Tom-Tom / Snare, Tenor Drum, Tambourine, Triangle Open/Close, Bell Tree, Suspended Cymbals, and Cowbells. The notation is written on a single staff with various rhythmic values and accidentals. Below the staff, the shared instruments are listed: Glockenspiel, Crotales, Tubular Bells, and Vibraphone.

Player 2

Player 2's instrumentation sequence includes: Bass Drum, Tam-Tam, Bongos, Tambourine, and Vibraslap. The notation is written on a single staff. Below the staff, the shared instruments are listed: Timpani (5 drums), Tubular Bells, Glockenspiel, and Vibraphone.

Player 3

Player 3's instrumentation sequence includes: Tom-Toms, Vibraslap, Triangle, Bell Tree, and Cymbals. The notation is written on a single staff. Below the staff, the shared instruments are listed: Marimba, Xylophone, and Crotales.

Player 4

Player 4's instrumentation sequence includes: Bass Drum, Kick Drum, Tam-Tam, Tom-Toms, Claves, Snare Drum, Tambourine, Hi-Hat, Triangle, and Cymbals. The notation is written on a single staff. Below the staff, the shared instruments are listed: Vibraphone, Xylophone, and Tubular Bells.

Programme Note

---, a representation of the 3 canvases of movements and 3 strikes of a mallet/stick, is a work for piano and four percussionists sporting a large range of instruments. Movement I (*Drum Dance*) is high-energy and loud. Rhythms and gestures are passed between players who appear to be in one loud jam session. Named after writing, Movement II (*Nachtmusik*) is thusly titled because of the imagery it evokes of a still night. Something ominous approaches, tensions build, but was it just an overreaction? Wind chimes rattle, but all is calm. Movement III brings us out of the floating and open air of the *Nachtmusik* and is a relentless drive toward the seemingly far-away 'finish line'. This is the first time there are full melodies, harmonic stability, and the full array of percussion.

- January, 2013

Composer's Note

Movement I is a fast paced drum dance. There is very little pitched material in this movement, rather relying on rhythm as the forward thrust. What little pitch from the piano stays in the growling depths of the piano's lower registers. As its name suggests, the use of percussion is limited exclusively to setups of drums (and related instruments such as cymbals etc.)

Movement II is about the other extreme: exploring the bright, especially pitched, metallic colors. It is a journey of shifting timbral centres, moving organically from one extreme to the next. Conversely to *Drum Dance*, a strong sense of 'fluid rhythmic activity' pervades *Nachtmusik*. A lot of the material for this movement is generated by the piano's opening few bars – which in itself is all a progressional development of the opening gesture. Roles of the percussion and piano alternate, with initially percussion shading the piano's lines to becoming the focus.

Movement III is my exploration of Sonata-Allegro form: what could I achieve with a form so incredibly established, how do I manipulate and maneuver it? It is a loud, yet sometimes delicate, finale, incorporating material and colours from the previous two movements – essentially taking their materials, combining them and transforming them.

II. Nachtmusik

...and under the veil of night all becomes still...

Adagio ♩=64

Percussion 1: Crotales, *pp*, *l.v.*
 Percussion 2: Glockenspiel, *pp*, *l.v.*, *p*, Finger Cymbal
 Percussion 3: Vibraslap, *p*
 Percussion 4: Triangle, *pp*, *l.v.*, Cymbal, *p*
 Piano: *p leggiero*, *pp*, 8va, 3, 7, 8

Perc. 1: 5
 Perc. 2: 3
 Perc. 3: 3
 Perc. 4: Vibraphone, *p*, 8va, 3
 Pno.: 8va, 3, 8va, 3, 8va, 3

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Perc. $\text{H } \frac{4}{4}$

Perc. $\text{H } \frac{4}{4}$

Crot. $\text{H } \frac{4}{4}$

Vib. $\text{C } \frac{4}{4}$

Pno. $\text{C } \frac{4}{4}$

pp

ppp

p

Bell Tree

mp 3

p 3

pp 3

B

B

B

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