Paul McGuire


FULL SCORE
(FOR REHEARSAL)
SHORTHAND SCORE
(FOR LIVE PERFORMANCE)

FULL SCORE
(FOR REHEARSAL)

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

## Instrumentation

Percussion 1
Percussion 2

Duration: ca. 14 minutes

This piece does not require a conductor. However, the performer of Percussion 1 should lead the piece and cue where appropriate.
A stopwatch should not be used. All timings are approximate (see General Notation for more details).

The performers should only use the full score as a means to learn the piece. In concert, they should recall its intricacies as accurately as possible from memory with the aid of the shorthand score. This is in the interest of a fluid and organic live performance.

The instruments should be amplified in order to project the microdetails of the various sounds. It is preferable that each drum (floor tom/snare drum) be close miked from above with an individual condenser microphone, placed at a distance of ca. 40 cm from the instrument (i.e. two microphones per performer). No contact microphones should be used. The overall signal should output in stereo to a pair of large loudspeakers, located either side of the performance area. Percussion 1 should be panned to the 2 o'clock position in the stereo field, while Performer 1 should be panned to the 10 o'clock position.

Stage Setup


## Percussion 1 Setup

The performer should be seated on the right side of the stage throughout (from the perspective of the audience, see Stage Setup).
The required instruments for this part are a floor tom (with a coated top head) and a prepared snare drum (with a coated top head)
The snare drum should be prepared by crudely sticking $4 \times$ ca. 15 cm strips of duct tape beside one another on the top head, ca. 10 cm from the edge. Another $4 \times$ ca. 15 cm strips should be crudely stuck beside one another on top of, and at a perpendicular angle to these strips. The surface of this duct tape should be uneven, and should make a frictional sound when scratched with one's fingers. $2 \times \mathrm{ca} .15 \mathrm{~cm}$ strips of sandpaper tape should be stuck near to one another on the top head, ca. 10 cm from the edge. A ca. $40 \mathrm{~cm} \times 40 \mathrm{~cm}$ microfibre cloth should also be placed on the top head. See fig. 1 for the location of these preparations. The strainer should be switched off throughout the performance.


Fig. 1: Preparation of snare drum (Percussion 1).

The floor tom should be placed to the performer's right, and the prepared snare drum to their left.
The performer is required to have 2 x retractable metal-stranded drum brushes (referred to as "Brush 1 " and "Brush 2 " throughout the score), $2 \times$ superball mallets with a plastic stick ca. 0.7 cm in diameter, 1 x soft yarn mallet, 1 x double bass bow, $1 \mathrm{xca} .40 \mathrm{~cm} \times 40 \mathrm{~cm}$ microfibre cloth (mentioned above) and 1 x ca. $60 \mathrm{~cm} \times 40 \mathrm{~cm}$ tea towel.

Brush 1 should be almost entirely retracted at the beginning of the piece, while Brush 2 should be half-open throughout the performance. The strands of Brush 2 should be pierced through the tea towel (ca. 15 cm from the corner) at the beginning of the piece.

The sticks of Superball Mallets 1 and 2 should be moderately rosined.

## PERFORMANCE NOTES (CONTINUED)

## Percussion 2 Setup

The performer should be seated on the left side of the stage throughout (from the perspective of the audience, see Stage Setup).
The required instruments for this part are a prepared floor tom (with a coated top head), a prepared snare drum (with a coated top head) and $2 \times$ grenadine claves.

The floor tom should be prepared by placing a ca. $20 \mathrm{~cm} \times 20 \mathrm{~cm}$ sheet of coarse sandpaper (sand-side facing upwards) at approximately the centre of the top head.

The snare drum should be prepared by crudely sticking $4 \times$ ca. 15 cm strips of duct tape beside one another on the top head, ca. 10 cm from the edge. Another 4 x ca. 15 cm strips should be crudely stuck beside one another on top of, and at a perpendicular angle to these strips. The surface of this duct tape should be uneven, and should make a frictional sound when scratched with one's fingers. $2 \times \mathrm{ca} .15 \mathrm{~cm}$ strips of sandpaper tape should be stuck near to one another on the top head, ca. 10 cm from the edge. In addition, ca. 150 g of sea salt crystals should be scattered over the the top head. A ca. $40 \mathrm{~cm} \times 40 \mathrm{~cm}$ microfibre cloth should also be placed on the top head. See fig. 2 for the location of these preparations. The strainer should be switched off throughout the performance.


Fig. 2: Preparation of snare drum (Percussion 2).

The prepared floor tom should be placed to the performer's right, and the prepared snare drum to their left.
The performer is required to have 1 x retractable metal-stranded drum brush (referred to as simply "brush" throughout the score), $1 \times$ mallet with a plastic stick ca. 0.7 cm in diameter, $1 \times \mathrm{ca} .20 \mathrm{~cm} \times 20 \mathrm{~cm}$ sheet of coarse sandpaper (mentioned above), $1 \times \mathrm{ca} .40 \mathrm{~cm} \times 40 \mathrm{~cm}$ microfibre cloth (mentioned above), and ca. 150 g of sea salt crystals (mentioned above).

The brush should be half-open throughout the performance.

## General Notation

Rhythmically, this piece is non-metrical. In other words there is no discernible pulse. For this reason, traditional bars and beats have not been notated. Instead, musical cells have been plotted on a horizontal timeline. These cells indicate when the performers should be playing, and the blank spaces in between represent a period in which they should either be silent or allowing their previous statement to ring out. The timeline is divided into various sized segments that are measured in seconds, and the length of each segment is indicated above the system. These segments are used in order to clearly align certain entries, exits and actions, and to make the pacing easier to interpret. The timeline is only an approximate guide. The performers should not follow stopwatches, but instead should use their collective intuition to dictate the length of each phrase. As the instruments in this piece are used in unconventional ways, traditional staves have been eschewed, for the most part, in favour of a series visual graphs that represent the various shifting parameters of each performer's part.

The text above the beginning of each passage indicates the instrument to be used for that particular gesture (in BOLD UPPER CASE TEXT), a summary of the action(s) involved and the implement(s) to be used (both in bold lower case text), as well as the type of grip to be used on the implement and a general performance direction (both in light lower case text). See fig. 3 for a simplified example.

## INSTRUMENT TO BE USED THROUGHOUT PASSAGE:

Summary of action(s) involved and implement(s) to be used in passage.
Grip to be used on the implement. General performance direction (not always present).
Fig. 3: Simplified example of text written at the beginning of a passage.

## Hands

R.H. Perform the specific gesture(s) using one's right hand.
L.H. Perform the specific gesture(s) using one's left hand.
B.H. Perform the specific gesture(s) using both hands.

Summaries of Actions (a select list, in order of appearance)
Percussion 1

Focus the strand tips of Brush(es) 1 and/or 2 on a single spot on the top head of the floor tom and stir. The action should feel like drawing repeating circles in the air with one's wrist, rather than like twisting a screwdriver. The sound should be crackly and busy.
FLOOR TOM:
Stir Brush(es) 1 and/or 2 on top head.

Drag Superball Mallet(s)
1 and/or 2 across top
head.

While ensuring its/their superball head(s) maintain contact with the top head of the floor tom, drag Superball Mallet(s) 1 and/or 2 from one position to another to create a muted, unstable pitch.

FLOOR TOM:
Drag Brush 1 across top head
when instructed.

While ensuring its strand tips maintain contact with the top head of the floor tom, drag Brush 1 from one position to another on the top head to create a percussive, frictional sound.

With its/their strands pierced through the tea towel, focus the strand tips of Brush(es) 1 and/or 2 on a single spot on the top head of the floor tom and stir. The action should feel like drawing repeating circles in the air with one's wrist, rather than like twisting a screwdriver. The sound should be muted, crackly and busy.

## Summaries of Actions (a select list, continued)

Percussion 1 (continued)
FLOOR TOM:
Drag Brush 2 through tea
towel across top head.

FLOOR TOM:
Beat stick of Superball
Mallet 2 with Superball
Mallet 1.

FLOOR TOM:
Bow plastic sticks of
Superball Mallet(s) 1
and/or 2 on top head.

With its strands pierced through the tea towel, and ensuring its strand tips maintain contact with the top head of the floor tom, drag Brush 2 from one position to another on the top head to create a muted, percussive and frictional sound.

While holding Superball Mallet 2 by its plastic stick so that its superball head touches the top head of the floor tom, beat its plastic stick with Superball Mallet 1 to create a hollow thud.

While holding Superball Mallets 1 and 2 by their plastic sticks with one's left hand so that their superball heads touch the top head of the floor tom, bow the plastic sticks with the double bass bow, using one's right hand, to create murky, unstable pitch.

Percussion 2

PREPARED FLOOR TOM Stir brush on shell.

Focus the strand tips of the brush on a single spot on the shell of the prepared floor tom and stir. The action should feel like drawing repeating circles in the air with one's wrist, rather than like twisting a screwdriver. The sound should be crackly and busy.

This should create a busy crackling and popping sound.

PREPARED SNARE DRUM:
Massage and crush sea
salt crystals on top head with palm and fingers.

PREPARED SNARE DRUM:
Stir Brushes 1 and 2 through microfibre cloth (held with L.H.) on top head.

FLOOR TOM:
Hover Superball Mallet 1
above top head.

FLOOR TOM:
Loudly move grip up
plastic sticks of Superball
Mallets 1 and 2 on top
head.

PREPARED FLOOR TOM: Drag end of mallet stick across top head.

PREPARED FLOOR TOM: Stir brush on sandpaper on top head.

With the microfibre cloth placed flat on the top head of the prepared snare drum and held in place with with one's left hand, focus the strand tips of Brushes 1 and 2 on a single spot on the microfibre cloth with one's right hand, and stir. The action should feel like drawing repeating circles in the air with one's wrist, rather than like twisting a screwdriver. The sound should be muted, crackly and busy.

Hold Superball Mallet 1 by its stick so that its superball head hovers ca. 1-2 mm above the top head of the floor tom. When the top head vibrates, it should do so against the superball and cause a buzzing sound.

While holding Superball Mallets 1 and 2 by their plastic sticks so that their superball heads touch the top head of the floor tom, slowly and firmly move one's grip up the rosined plastic sticks to create a low, frictional rumble.

While holding the mallet upside down, and ensuring that the end of its plastic stick maintains contact with the top head of the prepared floor tom (the stick should be angled ca. $45^{\circ}$ in relation to the top head), drag the mallet from one position to another to create a low, frictional sound.

With the sheet of sandpaper placed flat (sand side facing upwards) on the top head of the prepared floor tom, focus the strand tips of the brush on a single spot on the sandpaper and stir. The action should feel like drawing repeating circles in the air with one's wrist, rather than like twisting a screwdriver. The sound should be bright, crackly and busy.

Grips (in order of appearance)
Percussion 1

Downward dagger grip (Brush 1 in right hand shown):


Mallet grip
(Superball Mallet 2 in left hand shown):


Double downward dagger grip (Brushes 1 [white] and 2 [black] in right hand shown):


Double mallet grip: Superball Mallets 1 [white] and 2 [black] in left hand shown:


Asymmetric double mallet grip
(Superball mallets 1 [white] and 2 [black] in left hand shown):


## Grips (continued)

Percussion 2

Pinch grip (brush in left hand shown):

Upside down mallet grip (mallet in left hand shown):


Clefs
Percussion 1


Brush 1 retraction clef. The height of the vertical line-filled wedge on the corresponding stave depicts the retraction level of Brush 1. The top line of the corresponding stave represents a fully opened brush, while the bottom line represents a fully retracted brush. Therefore the higher reaching the wedge, the more open Brush 1 should be (note that neither Brush 1 nor Brush 2 should ever be more than half-open).

Implement position clef. The corresponding diagram and stave show where on an instrument an implement(s) should be placed at a given moment, along with the type of implement to be used (see Symbols). If there is more than one position shown, then the performer should drag the implement, when directed, from the starting position (always written as a ' 1 ') for that particular gesture to the next position (' 2 '), and then onto the next position (' 3 ') if there is one, and so on. Note that the sequence of numbers resets for each gesture, so that the beginning position for the second gesture, for example, is written as ' 1 ,' and also that if more than one implement is used in a given gesture, separate sequences of position numbers apply to each implement. See fig. 4 for more details.


Fig. 4: Example of an implement position clef with its corresponding diagram and stave (Brush 1 on floor tom shown)


Aggressiveness clef. The height of the solid black wedge on the corresponding stave depicts the aggressivesness (the firmness and speed, essentially the dynamic) of the action in question. The top line of the corresponding stave represents maximum aggressiveness, while the bottom line represents minimum aggressiveness. Therefore the higher reaching the wedge, the more aggressive the action should be.

Clefs (continued)
Percussion 1 (continued)


Plastic sticks of Superball Mallet(s) 1 and/or 2 clef. The horizontal, line-filled wedge on the corresponding stave depicts how far one's grip on the plastic sticks of Superball Mallet(s) 1 and/or 2 should be from the head(s). The top line of the corresponding stave represents the maximum distance from the head, while the bottom line represents the minimum distance. Therefore the higher reaching the wedge, the further one's grip should be from the head(s). A thicker solid black line on the corresponding stave depicts the position at which the plastic sticks of Superball Mallets 1 and 2 should be bowed. Note that image of the clef itself adjusts each time to show how the superball mallets are being used at that particular moment (e.g. the amount of mallets being gripped, whether or not a bow is being used on them, the distance of one's grip from the head(s) of the mallets and the type of grip being used).

Beat stick of Superball Mallet 2 with Superball Mallet 1 clef. A notehead on the the corresponding stave depicts when one should beat the stick of Superball Mallet 2 with Superball Mallet 1.

Bend applied to plastic sticks of Superball Mallets 1 and 2 clef. The height of the dot-filled wedge on the corresponding stave depicts the amount of bend one should apply to the plastic sticks of Superball Mallets 1 and 2 with one's left hand. This action affects pitch and colour of the tone produced when the plastic sticks are bowed. The top line of the corresponding stave represents the maximum amount of bend, while bottom line represents the minimum amount of bend. Therefore the higher reaching the wedge, the more aggressive the action should be.

Percussion 2

Implement position clef. The corresponding diagram and stave show where on an instrument an implement(s) should be placed at a given moment, along with the type of implement to be used (see Symbols). If there is more than one position shown, then the performer should drag the implement, when directed, from the starting position (always written as a ' 1 ') for that particular gesture to the next position (' 2 '), and then onto the next position (' 3 ') if there is one, and so on. Note that the sequence of numbers resets for each gesture, so that the beginning position for the second gesture, for example, is written as '1,' and also that if more than one implement is used in a given gesture, separate sequences of position numbers apply to each implement. See fig. 5 for more details.


Fig. 5: Example of an implement position clef with its corresponding diagram and stave (brush on prepared floor tom shown [this particular example does not occur in Performer 2's part).


Aggressiveness clef. The height of the solid black wedge on the corresponding stave depicts the aggressivesness (the firmness and speed, essentially the dynamic) of the action in question. The top line of the corresponding stave represents maximum aggressiveness, while the bottom line represents minimum aggressiveness. Therefore the higher reaching the wedge, the more aggressive the action should be.

## Symbols

Percussion 1
General Symbols
Resulting pitch area. One should
should aim for a pitch in the region
shown (in this case between

D1-A1). | Dynamic not applicable. Here, the |
| :--- |
| particular parameter this refers to |
| (an angle or a position) remains |
| static and helps to shape the |
| overall sound rather than |
| generating a sound on its own. |



Angle of Superball Mallets 1 and 2 in relation to the top head of the floor tom (in this case ca. $45^{\circ}$ ).


Sporadically ad. lib change the angle of Superball Mallets 1 and 2 in relation to the top head of the floor tom (in this case the mean angle is ca. $45^{\circ}$ ).

Bowing Symbols (above plastic sticks of Superball Mallet(s) 1 and/or 2 stave)
Bow the plastic sticks of the
superball mallet(s) shown in the
given direction (in this case bow
the plastic sticks of both Superball

Mallets 1 and 2 with an upbow). $\quad$| Alternate between upbowing |
| :--- |
| and downbowing at one's |
| discretion. |

Symbols Relating to Implement Position

| Brush 1. | Brush 2. |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Superball Mallet 1. | Left hand (appears to scale <br> [i.e. bigger] in implement <br> position diagram). | Sporadically ad. lib. drag Mallet 2. |
| Brush 1 around this |  |  |
| position (may also apply |  |  |
| to other implements). |  |  |

Percussion 2
General Symbols
Dynamic not applicable. Here, the particular parameter this refers to (an angle or a position) remains static and helps to shape the overall sound rather than generating a sound on its own.

Symbols Relating to Implement Position
Brush.

| Left hand (appears to scale |
| :--- |
| [i.e. bigger] in implement |
| position diagram). |


| End of mallet stick (lower |
| :--- |
| point of symbol represents |
| precise location). |


| Sporadically ad. lib. drag |
| :--- |

brush around this
position (may also apply
to other implements.

Right hand (appears to scale [i.e. bigger] in implement position diagram).


FULL SCORE





H






L


M







## PERFORMANCE NOTES

## Hands

R.H. Perform the specific gesture(s) using one's right hand.
L.H.

Perform the specific gesture(s) using one's left hand.
B.H. Perform the specific gesture(s) using both hands.

## Symbols

Begin the gesture in question from the notehead and continue until the end of the thick horizontal line

Begin the gesture in question from the notehead and continue until the end of the thick horizontal line.

Refer to the full score for more details.


SHORTHAND SCORE


