

Ludwig van Beethoven
Pathétique
from *Piano Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 74*
arranged for percussion ensemble
by Alan Miller



Pathétique by Ludwig van Beethoven, arr. Alan Miller
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Performance notes

Pathétique may be performed with or without a conductor.

It is recommended that you use 4.5 octave (low F) marimbas for the marimba 2 and 3 parts. However, with a few adjustments the marimba 2 part can be made to fit on a 4.3 octave (low A) marimba. If only one low F instrument is available, use it for marimba 3. Using low A marimbas on both marimba 2 and 3 is not advised.

The opening section should be played with large, heavy mallets. Strive for maximum sound with minimum articulation. Pickup notes in the timpani should be very aggressive. Vibes and timpani should play the note values precisely as written. The ritard and fermata in measure 9 will allow for a quick mallet change to a harder mallet for all keyboard players (and timpani). Vibe 2 should already have hard mallets by the time measure 9 arrives.

As a starting point (certainly not a rigid rule), vibe players should only “feather” quarter notes as they move very fast, but pedal full value any note longer than a quarter note. Any eighth notes should be played dry (no pedal). Adhere to rests precisely. The timpani part in the faster section is very difficult. The pedaling demands are such that attempting to play on timpani that do not have gauges will be extremely challenging. To make the part a little more manageable, the timpanist may omit a lot of the “split octaves” and simply play both eighth notes on the lower pitch.

At letter C, a bass drum with a crash cymbal attachment is called for. If one is not available, omit the bass drum part and play the crash cymbals. Also, a more mellow mallet choice would be in order for marimba 2 and vibe 2 in this section. Players should have a chance to change back to harder mallets during the fermata right before letter D.

At letter E, it is difficult to get the marimba 1 part to speak above the ensemble. The player should be using mallets that are sufficiently articulate, but not abrasive. Other players must be aware of the high-end marimba part and balance down. At measure 109, don't let the eighth notes dominate. The moving line and, later, the whole notes are most important.

The accelerando at letter J should start very slow, almost rubato at first, then slowly pick up steam until the end is a blur of notes.

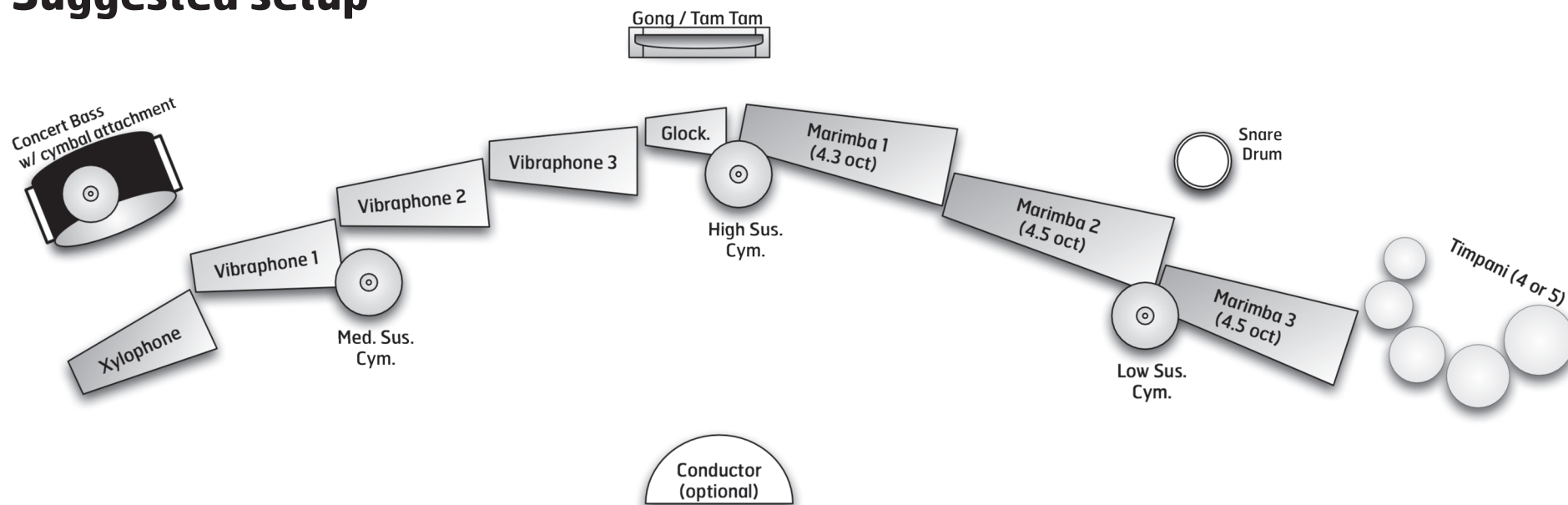
Instrument/Parts list

This arrangement calls for eight players.

Four timpani (5 recommended)
Two 4.5 octave marimbas (low F)
One 4.3 octave marimba (low A)
Glockenspiel (w/high D recommended)
Three vibraphones

Xylophone
Concert bass drum with crash cymbal attachment
Concert snare drum
Tam tam
Three suspended cymbals (high, mid, low)

Suggested setup



Level: Med-Advanced
Duration: approx. 3'40"

Pathétique

from *Piano Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 74*

Ludwig van Beethoven
arr. Alan Miller

♩ = 72
tam tam

Glockenspiel

Vibraphone 1

Vibraphone 2

Vibraphone 3

Marimba 3

Sample Image

The musical score is written for five instruments: Glockenspiel, Vibraphone 1, Vibraphone 2, Vibraphone 3, and Marimba 3. The key signature is C minor (three flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as 72 beats per minute. The score begins with a 'tam tam' instruction. The Glockenspiel part is mostly rests. The three Vibraphones play a series of chords, starting with a forte (f) dynamic and increasing to fortissimo (ff). The Marimba 3 part enters later, playing a melodic line with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic, which also increases to fortissimo (ff). The score includes various dynamic markings such as f, ff, mp, and cresc. (crescendo). The score is partially obscured by a large, stylized, light gray graphic of a hand or arm reaching across the page.

9 **rit.** A ♩ = 140

G

V1 *p* *mf* *cresc.* *dim.*

V2 *pp* *mf* *cresc.* *dim.*

V3 *pp*

M1 *p*

M2 *p* *mp* *dim.*

M3 *p* low sus cym

T

Sample
Image

17

G

VI

V2

V3

high sus m

mf

cresc.

mp

cresc.

mf

cresc.

Sample Image

TSPCE-24

25 **B**

The musical score for measures 25-28 of 'Pathétique – arr. Miller' features the following details:

- Measures:** 25, 26, 27, 28.
- Staff G:** Treble clef, 3/8 time. Measure 25 has a whole rest. Measure 26 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 27 has a whole rest. Measure 28 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a forte (*f*) dynamic.
- Staff V1:** Treble clef, 3/8 time. Measure 25 has a whole rest. Measure 26 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 27 has a whole rest. Measure 28 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a forte (*f*) dynamic. A 'medium sus cym' (medium sustained cymbal) effect is indicated above the staff.
- Staff V2:** Treble clef, 3/8 time. Measure 25 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 26 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 27 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 28 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a forte (*f*) dynamic.
- Staff V3:** Treble clef, 3/8 time. Measure 25 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 26 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 27 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 28 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a forte (*f*) dynamic.
- Staff M1:** Treble clef, 3/8 time. Measure 25 has a whole rest. Measure 26 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 27 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 28 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a forte (*f*) dynamic.
- Staff M2:** Bass clef, 3/8 time. Measure 25 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Measure 26 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Measure 27 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Measure 28 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.
- Staff M3:** Bass clef, 3/8 time. Measure 25 has a whole rest. Measure 26 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Measure 27 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Measure 28 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.
- Staff T:** Bass clef, 3/8 time. Measure 25 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 26 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Measure 27 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Measure 28 has a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

Sample
Image

Sample Image

40

G

V1

V2

V3

M1

M2

M3

T

f

medium sus cym

f

cresc.

f

mp

f

cresc.

mf

mf

f

dim.

f

dim.

low sus cym

f

Sample
Image

47 **rit.** **C** **A tempo**

G

V1 **bass drum w/cymbal attachment**
mp

V2 *mp*

V3 **solo**
p *mf*

p *mf*

mf

Snare Drum
mp

mp

Sample Image

56

G

mf

cresc.

3 3

V1

cresc.

V2

cresc.

V3

3 3 3

3 3

cresc.

M1

3 3 3

M2

M3

T

Sample
Image

65

G

f

V1

mf

V2

mf

V3

f

Sample Image

Sample Image

84

rit. **D** A tempo

G

mp

V1

V2

dim.

mp

V3

3

3

3

3

3

dim.

mp

mp

dim.

dim.

Sample Image

92

G

VI

V2

V3

M1

M2

M3

T

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

mp

cresc.

mf

cresc.

f

ff

ff

ff

high sus cym

marimba

Sample Image

99 **E**

G *f* *ff*

V1 *mf* *f*

V2 *mf* *f*

V3 *ff*

f *ff*

mf *f*

f

Sample Image

107

G

f

cresc.

V1

f

cresc.

V2

f

cresc.

V3

f

cresc.

M1

f

cresc.

M2

f

cresc.

M3

f

T

f

Sample Image

115

F ♩ = 72

G

ff

mp

mp

V1

ff

fff

ff

V2

ff

fff

mp

ff

mp

V3

ff

fff

ff

gong

ff

fff

ff

ff

fff

ff

Sample Image

123

G

rit. $\text{♩} = 140$

dim. *pp* *mp*

VI *mp* dim. *pp* *mp* *f*

V2 dim. *pp* *mp* *f*

V3 *mp* dim. *pp* *mp*

M1 *f* *p*

M2 *mp* dim. *pp* *p* *f*

M3 low sus cym.

T *pp* *p*

Sample
Image

H

132

G

V1

V2

V3

mp *f* *mf*

mp *f* *mf*

fp *f* *f* *mf*

Sample
Image

141

G

V1

medium sus cym

mf

V2

V3

M1

M2

M3

T

Sample
Image

148

G

high sus cym

V1

cresc.

V2

cresc.

V3

gong

$\otimes$

f

f

cresc.

f

cresc.

Sample Image

I

155

G

f *mf* *ff*

V1

to xylo

ff *mf* *ff*

V2

ff *mf* *cresc.* *ff*

V3

mf *cresc.* *ff*

M1

ff *f*

M2

ff *f*

M3

mf

T

mf

xylophone

Sample Image

163

G

VI

V2

V3

mf $\leq$ *ff*

mf $\leq$ *ff*

mf *cresc.* *ff*

mf *cresc.* *ff*

f *mf* $\leq$ *ff*

cresc.

cresc.

Sample Image

171

J $\text{♩} = 60$ **accel.**

G

cresc. *fff*

V1

5 *cresc.* 5

V2

cresc. *fff*

V3

cresc. *fff*

M1

cresc. *fff*

M2

mf *f* *ff*

M3

fff

T

f

Sample
Image

179

G

V1

V2

V3

ff *fff*

f *cresc.* *fff*

mf *cresc.* *fff*

cresc. *fff*

cresc. *fff*

f *cresc.* *fff*

low sus cym *fff*

Sample
Image

K

186 ♩ = 160

G

V1

V2

V3

M1

M2

M3

T

mp *cresc.*

p *cresc.*

p *cresc.*

Sample
Image

191 *tam tam* $\text{♩} = 200$

G *ff*

V1 *f* *cresc.* *fff*

V2 *f* *cresc.* *fff*

V3 *f* *cresc.* *fff*

cresc. *fff* *fff* *fff*

cresc. *fff*

cresc. *fff*

cresc. *fff*

cresc. *fff*

Sample
Image



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