

J.S. Bach

Concerto in A Minor

“Allegro” from *Concerto for 4 Harpsichords & Strings* (BWV 1065)

Mallet Sextet from “Bach on Wood”
arranged by Brian Slawson



Concerto in A Minor - “Allegro” from Concerto for 4 Harpsichords & Strings (BWV 1065)

By J.S. Bach, arranged by Brian Slawson

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Performance notes

HISTORY

Harpsichord concertos were written throughout the Baroque era, particularly by J.S. Bach. This “Allegro” from Bach’s *Concerto for 4 Harpsichords & Strings (BWV 1065)*, however, is based on Vivaldi’s, *Concerto for 4 Violins in B minor, RV 580*. For one composer to “borrow” material from another during Bach’s time was considered a flattering gesture.

In Bach’s day, the harpsichord was a very common instrument but rarely featured in concertos, probably due to its limited dynamic range. It usually served as a continuo instrument in a supportive role, playing bass lines and harmonies above (figured bass). Bach’s *Brandenburg Concerto No. 5* may have been the first work featuring the harpsichord as a solo instrument in a concerto.

ENSEMBLE

Mallet instruments have much in common with the attack and decay properties of harpsichords, making arrangements such as this a logical choice. Tutti sections should be kept light and bouncy whereas the sections featuring Marimba 1 and the accompanying bass lines can be approached with a more aggressive, improvisational fervor, perhaps like one of the greatest improvisers of them all, J.S. Bach himself.

– Brian Slawson

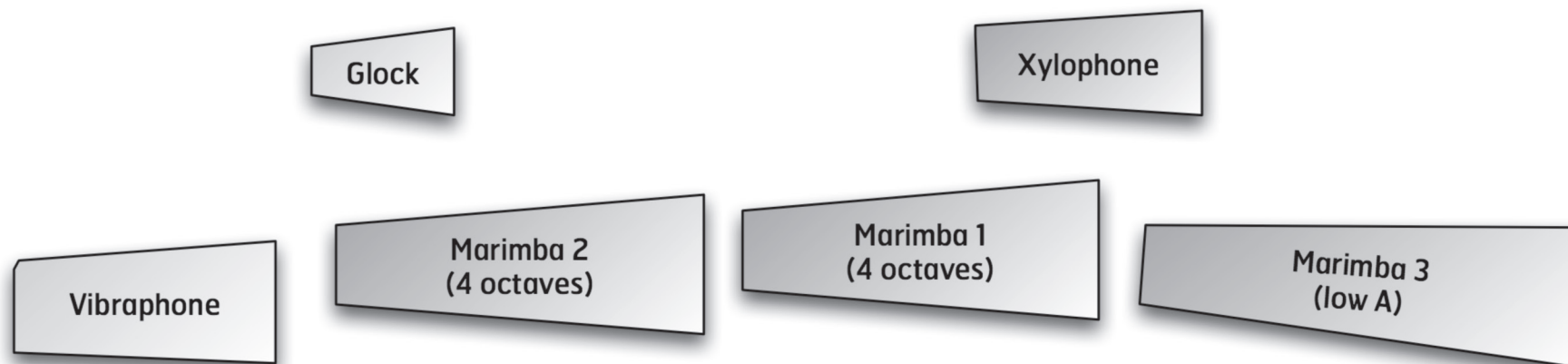
Instrument list

Concerto in A Minor requires 6 players using the following instrumentation.

- Glockenspiel
- Xylophone
- Vibraphone
- Marimba 1 (4 octaves)
- Marimba 2 (4 octaves)
- Marimba 3 (4.3 octaves – low A)

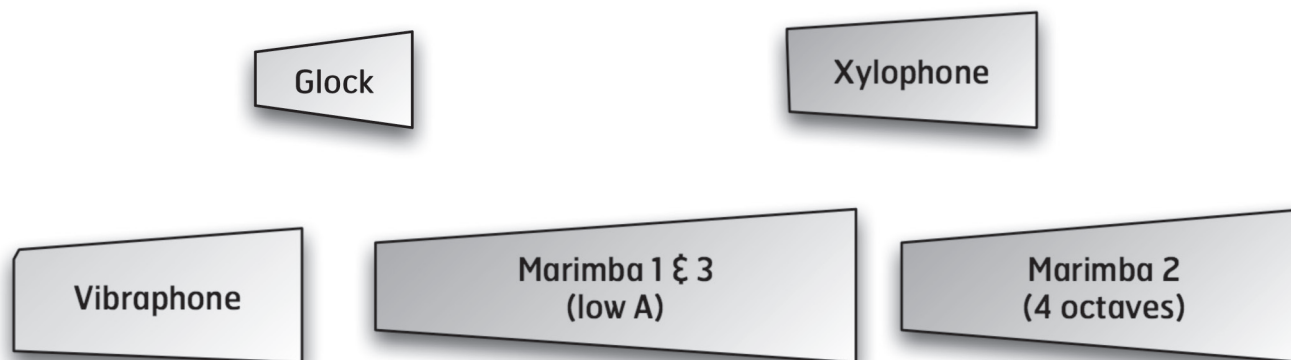
NOTE: If three marimbas aren’t available, two marimba players can also share a 4.3 octave (low A) marimba as shown in the alternate setup diagram.

Suggested setup



Alternate Setup:

(if only two marimbas are available)



About Brian Slawson

Since his scholarship studies at The Juilliard School, **Brian Slawson** has continued to pioneer innovative paths in percussion. Grammy-nominated as 'Best New Classical Artist,' Brian has appeared on NBC's Tonight Show, Entertainment Tonight, The CBS Morning News and NPR's "All Things Considered." Mr. Slawson has an extensive discography, including solo releases on the Sony/CBS and Belltone labels. His smash debut, *Bach On Wood* hit Billboard's Top 10 and remains one of the world's premier vehicles for exposing new audiences to classical music.

Brian has shared the stage with classical luminaries Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copland, recorded with pop icons from Stevie Ray Vaughan to Marie Osmond and punctuated jokes for comedians Bill Maher, Eddie Murphy, and Jerry Seinfeld. He is the voice of "Gusto the Bulldog" in Warner Bros. *Music Expressions* and a featured artist in McGraw-Hill's *Spotlight on Music*. In addition to serving as Principal Timpanist of the Brevard Symphony Orchestra, Brian's multi-media company, Slawsongs, has created award-winning custom music for feature films, television and radio.

Mr. Slawson proudly endorses Ludwig-Musser, Zildjian, Vic Firth, Remo, Grover Pro Percussion, Rhythm Tech, Alternate Mode and Sibelius. His teachers have included Saul Goodman, Buster Bailey, Alexander Lepak, David Smith and Drew Grouse.

Legendary vibraphonist, Lionel Hampton, described Brian Slawson as "one of the finest percussionists to come along in many years." *Modern Drummer* magazine calls Brian "a visionary, be it performer, producer or composer."

Level: Med-Advanced
Duration: 2'30"

Mallet Sextet from "Bach on Wood"

Concerto in A Minor

"Allegro" from *Concerto for 4 Harpsichords & Strings (BWV 1065)*

J.S. Bach
arranged by Brian Slawson

Allegro ♩ = 110

Glockenspiel

Xylophone

Vibraphone

Marimba 1

Marimba 2

Marimba 3

The image displays a musical score for a Mallet Sextet, featuring six staves: Glockenspiel, Xylophone, Vibraphone, Marimba 1, Marimba 2, and Marimba 3. The music is in 4/4 time, A minor, and marked 'Allegro' with a tempo of 110 beats per minute. The score is arranged by Brian Slawson, based on J.S. Bach's 'Concerto for 4 Harpsichords & Strings (BWV 1065)'. The first system shows the initial measures, with dynamics like 'mf' and 'f' indicated. The second system continues the piece, featuring trills and tremolos. The third system shows a change in dynamics to 'f' and 'mf'. The fourth system includes a large, stylized graphic of a mallet player's hand and arm, partially obscuring the score. The fifth system continues the musical notation. The sixth system shows the final measures of the excerpt, with dynamics like 'f' and 'mf'.

Sample
Image

Sample Image

29

G

X

V

M1

M2

M3

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mp

mp

mp

f

mp

f

Sample Image

43

G *p*

X

V *p*

M1 *mf*

M2 *p*

M3 *p*

49

G *mf* *cresc.*

X *mf* *cresc.* *tr* *pp*

V *f* *cresc.* *p*

M1 *cresc.* *p*

M2 *f* *cresc.*

M3 *cresc.*

Sample Image

A sample image of a musical score. The score is written on six staves, featuring various musical notations including notes, rests, and dynamic markings like "rit." and "trm". A large, stylized silhouette of a person is overlaid on the left side of the image. The text "Sample Image" is written in a large, bold, black font in the bottom left corner.



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