

Benjamin Finley
Cold Light
for solo marimba with percussion quartet



Cold Light by Benjamin Finley
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Program Notes

Cold Light is a term I frequently use to describe a typical midwinter day in the western United States. The sky is often clear, with a bright, distant sun low in the sky. The air is dry, crystalline, and nearly always carried by a swift crosswind. This beautifully frozen and clean landscape greets its inhabitants every morning, bringing a bright outlook to even the most frigid days.

Written during an especially snowy week in January of 2011, *Cold Light* is dedicated to Kelsey Creed, who premiered the piece with members of the East Central University Percussion Ensemble later that April.

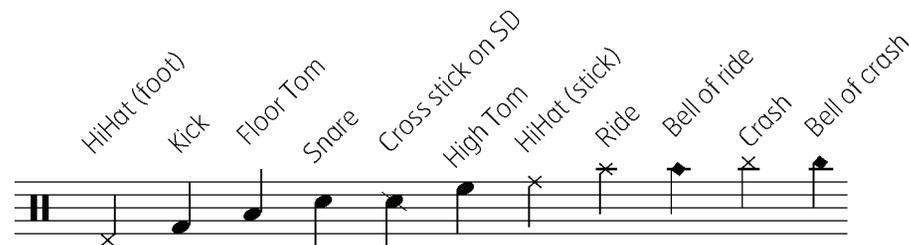
—Benjamin Finley

Performance Notes

Much of the solo marimba part is written in a low register, so it is important that the supporting keyboard/percussion parts (particularly drumset) pay close attention to balance. Additionally, the soloist should select mallets that speak clearly across the entire range of the instrument. Though most of *Cold Light* is not intended to be particularly virtuosic, mm. 216–227 are quite technical and may be slightly modified at the discretion of the performer.

From an ensemble standpoint, an accomplished drum set player with considerable experience playing odd time signatures will contribute a great deal to the success of performing *Cold Light*.

Drumset Notation Key

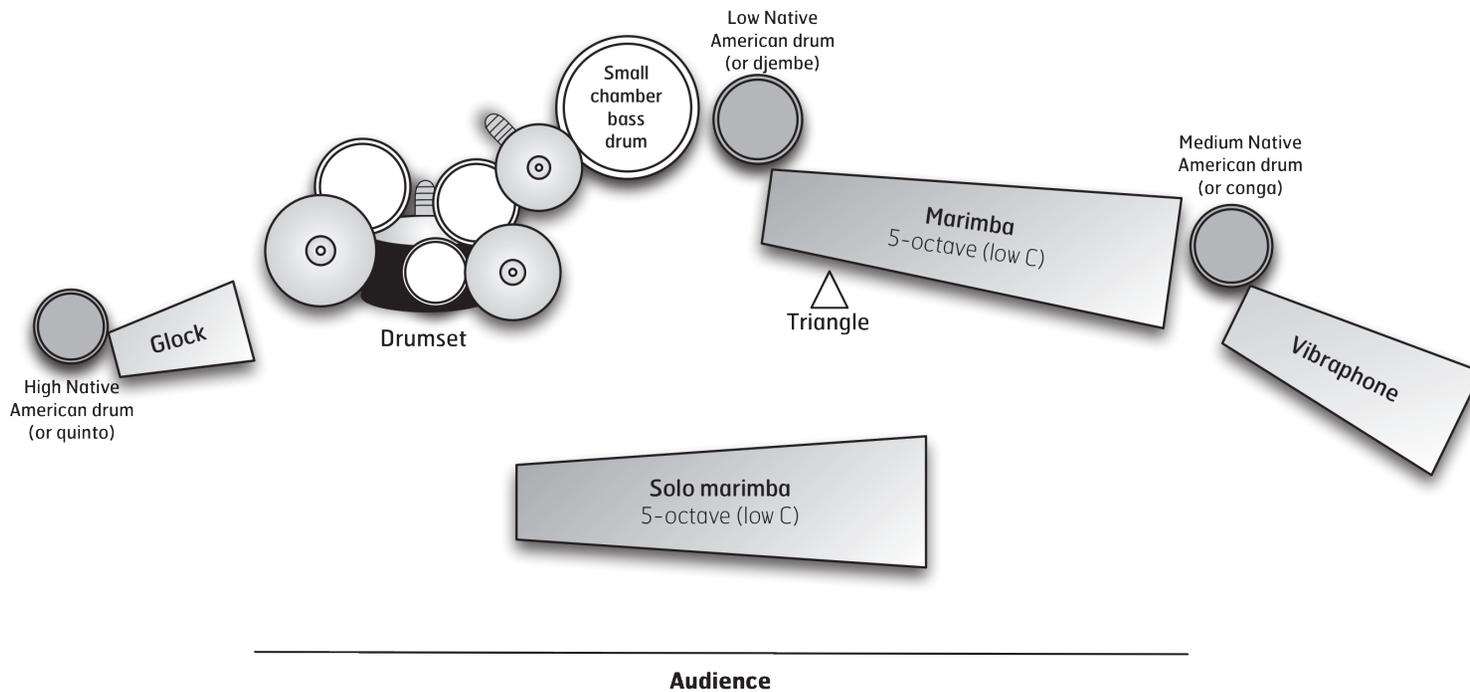


Players and Instrumentation

Cold Light requires **5 players** with the following instrumentation:

1. **Solo marimba** - 5-octave (low C)
2. **Glockenspiel** - high native american drum (or quinto)
3. **Vibraphone** - medium native american drum (or conga)
4. **Marimba** - 5-octave (low C), low native american drum (or djembe), triangle
5. **Drumset** - small chamber bass drum

Suggested Setup



Level: Med-Advanced
Approx. playing time: 5'00"

for Kelsey Creed

Cold Light

for solo marimba with percussion quartet

Benjamin Finley

♩ = 192 Crystalline

A

Solo Marimba

Glockenspiel
+Nat. Amer. drum (sm.)

Vibraphone
+Nat. Amer. drum (med.)

Marimba
+triangle
+Nat. Amer. drum (lg.)

Drumset
+sm. chamber bass dr.

SM

G

V

M

DS

Sample
Image

21

SM *sim.*

G *mf*

V *mf*

M *mf*

DS *mf* cross-stick

The score for measures 21-28 is written for five instruments: SM (Soprano Saxophone), G (Guitar), V (Violin), M (Cello/Double Bass), and DS (Drum Set). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 7/8. The SM part features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, marked *sim.* (sustained). The G and V parts play sustained chords, marked *mf*. The M part provides a bass line with eighth notes and rests, also marked *mf*. The DS part features a cross-stick pattern with eighth notes and rests, marked *mf*. Measure 21 starts with a 7/8 time signature, which changes to 3/4 for measures 22-28. There are two double bar lines with a '2' above them in the DS part, indicating a two-measure rest.

Sample
Image

The continuation of the musical score for measures 29-36. The G, V, and M parts continue with sustained chords and bass lines. The DS part continues with the cross-stick pattern. Measure 29 starts with a 7/8 time signature, which changes to 3/4 for measures 30-36. There are two double bar lines with a '2' above them in the DS part, indicating a two-measure rest.

37

SM
G
V
M
DS

(4)

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 37 through 44. It features five staves: SM (Piano), G (Guitar), V (Violin), M (Viola), and DS (Drum Set). The SM staff has a treble clef and a bass clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 7/8 time signature. The G, V, and M staves have a treble clef. The DS staff has a drum clef. The music consists of chords in the SM, G, V, and M parts, and a drum pattern in the DS part. A measure rest is indicated by a double slash in the DS staff at measure 40. A circled number '4' is placed above the DS staff at measure 41. The system ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

45 *more assertive*

SM
G
V
M
DS

f

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 45 through 48. It features five staves: SM (Piano), G (Guitar), V (Violin), M (Viola), and DS (Drum Set). The SM staff has a treble clef and a bass clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 7/8 time signature. The G, V, and M staves have a treble clef. The DS staff has a drum clef. The music is marked with a dynamic of *f* (forte). The SM part has a more assertive melodic line. The G, V, and M parts have sustained chords. The DS part has a drum pattern. The system ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Sample Image

53

SM

G

V

M

DS

(4)

2

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of a musical score. It features five staves: SM (Soprano/Melody), G (Guitar), V (Violin), M (Cello/Double Bass), and DS (Drum Set). The SM staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The G, V, and M staves have a bass clef and the same key signature. The DS staff has a drum clef and a 3/4 time signature. The SM staff contains a melodic line with eighth notes and slurs. The G staff is mostly rests with some notes in the later measures. The V staff has a harmonic accompaniment with chords. The M staff has a bass line with chords. The DS staff shows a drum pattern with 'x' marks for cymbals and a '4' above a measure, followed by a '2' above another measure.

SM

V

DS

l.v.

p

2

Detailed description: This block contains the continuation of the musical score. It features three staves: SM, V, and DS. The SM staff continues the melodic line with slurs and accents. The V staff has a harmonic accompaniment with chords and a dynamic marking of *p*. The DS staff shows a drum pattern with 'x' marks and a dynamic marking of *p*. There are also some rests and a '2' above a measure in the DS staff. The staves are numbered 10/8, 10/8, and 10/8 respectively.

Sample
Image

87

SM *mf* *ff*

G high native american drum (or quinto) - large sticks *fp*

V medium native american drum (or conga) - large sticks *fp*

M low native american drum (or djembe) - large sticks *fp*

DS small chamber bass drum - large sticks *p*

rim or shell *ff*

rim or shell *ff*

rim or shell *ff*

rim or shell *ff*

Sample Image

105

SM

G

V

M

DS

115 **D** Meccanico

SM

G

V

M

DS

mf

p

mf

p

mf

p

lv.

lv.

Sample Image

123

Musical score for SM, G, V, M, and DS staves. SM (Soprano) has a melodic line with a *f* dynamic. G (Guitar) and V (Violin) have sustained chords and melodic fragments with *mp* and *mf* dynamics. M (Music) has a bass line with *mp* and *mf* dynamics. DS (Drum Set) has a rhythmic pattern with *mp* and *mf* dynamics.

Continuation of musical score for SM, G, V, M, and DS staves. SM (Soprano) has a melodic line with a *ff* dynamic. G (Guitar) and V (Violin) have sustained chords and melodic fragments with *f* dynamics. M (Music) has a bass line with *f* dynamics. DS (Drum Set) has a rhythmic pattern with *f* dynamics.

Sample
Image

138

SM *mf* *ff*

G *1.v.* *ff*

V *1.v.* *ff*

M *ff*

DS *mf* *f* *ff*

SM *mr*

G *1.v.*

V *1.v.*

M

DS

Sample Image

152 **E** Connected, sonorous

Musical score for SM, G, V, M, and DS staves. SM: Treble and Bass clefs, key signature of two sharps. Treble clef has a series of chords. Bass clef has a rhythmic pattern. G: Treble clef, mostly rests, with a melodic line starting in the 3rd measure. V: Treble clef, mostly rests, with a melodic line starting in the 3rd measure. M: Bass clef, mostly rests. DS: Drum set notation with asterisks and slash symbols, including a (4) and (8) marking.

Continuation of musical score for SM, G, V, M, and DS staves. SM: Treble and Bass clefs, key signature of two sharps. Treble clef has a series of chords. Bass clef has a rhythmic pattern. G: Treble clef, mostly rests, with a melodic line starting in the 3rd measure. V: Treble clef, mostly rests, with a melodic line starting in the 3rd measure. M: Bass clef, mostly rests. DS: Drum set notation with asterisks and slash symbols, including a 4 marking.

Sample Image

168

SM

G

V

M

DS

mf

mp

mp

mp

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 168 through 175. It features five staves: SM (Soprano/Melody), G (Guitar), V (Violin), M (Cello/Double Bass), and DS (Drum Set). The SM staff has a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The G, V, and M staves have treble clefs, and the DS staff has a bass clef. The SM staff contains a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mf* and a hairpin crescendo. The G staff has a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mp*. The V staff contains sustained chords with a dynamic marking of *mp*. The M staff contains sustained chords with a dynamic marking of *mp*. The DS staff shows a drum pattern with 'x' marks indicating cymbal hits. A double bar line is present at the end of measure 175.

176

SM

G

V

M

DS

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 176 through 183. It features the same five staves as the previous system. The SM staff continues the melodic line. The G staff has sustained chords. The V staff has sustained chords. The M staff has sustained chords. The DS staff continues the drum pattern. A double bar line is present at the end of measure 183.

Sample Image

200

SM
mf
l.v.

G
mf
l.v.

V
mf
l.v.

M
mf
l.v.

DS
mf
(4)

208

SM
f
l.v.

G
f
l.v.

V
f
l.v.

M
f
l.v.

DS
f
(4)

Sample Image

216 **G**

SM

mf

G

V

M

DS

ff

10/8

native american drum

ff

native american drum

native american drum

10/8

10/8

10/8

10/8

Sample Image

236 **H**

SM

G

V

M

DS

f

f

1.v.

f

f

244

SM

G

V

M

DS

Sample Image

251 **I** Driving

Musical score for SM, G, V, M, and DS staves. SM: Treble clef, 3/4 time, dynamics include *ff* and accents. G: Treble clef, 3/4 time, dynamics include *f*. V: Treble clef, 3/4 time, dynamics include *f*. M: Bass clef, 3/4 time, dynamics include *f*. DS: Drum set notation, 3/4 time, dynamics include *f*, with repeat signs and a '2' above.

Continuation of musical score for SM, G, V, M, and DS staves. SM: Treble clef, 3/4 time, dynamics include *mp* and *ff* with *l.v.* (lento vivace) markings. G: Treble clef, 3/4 time, dynamics include *mp* and *ff* with *l.v.* markings. V: Treble clef, 3/4 time, dynamics include *mp* and *ff* with *l.v.* markings. M: Bass clef, 3/4 time, dynamics include *mp* and *ff* with *l.v.* markings. DS: Drum set notation, 3/4 time, dynamics include *mp* and *ff*, with repeat signs and a '2' above.

Sample
Image



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