

Benjamin Finley
Glacier
for percussion ensemble



Glacier by Benjamin Finley
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Program Notes

Glacier for percussion ensemble represents a snapshot of the ever-changing (and ever-fleeting) geologic wonders around us. One has only to visit an iconic national park such as Yellowstone, Yosemite, or Grand Canyon to witness the landscape-sculpting power of time and the elements working in concert. Through a variety of smooth, blended keyboard textures, juxtaposed angular percussive motives, and cold metallic punctuation, I've attempted to tell a short story in imagery of a typical "geologic day" in the life of a glacier - perhaps spanning a few million years in real time.

This piece also celebrates the life and work of the Scottish-born environmentalist and preservationist John Muir, whose symbiotic and spiritual relationship with nature fueled a lifelong pursuit of the very simplest and meaningful forms of human existence. Muir authored dozens of essays about nature and his travels (usually by foot) and was perhaps more instrumental in the creation and protection of the U.S. national parks than anyone in history.

Glacier was composed in the winter of 2010 and is written for 13 players. The piece was commissioned by Jay Cloar and the Ada High School Percussion Ensemble from Ada, Oklahoma, who gave the premier performance in February of that year.

— Benjamin Finley

Performance Notes

Due to the thickly orchestrated nature of *Glacier* in some places, challenges may arise with respect to balance. Care should be taken to ensure that melodic lines (as well as counter melodies) are clearly heard and that the keyboard voices are not overpowered by the percussion parts.

A wide range of dynamics and implement timbres will enhance the effectiveness of *Glacier*. Marimbas should consider using three different mallet hardnesses:

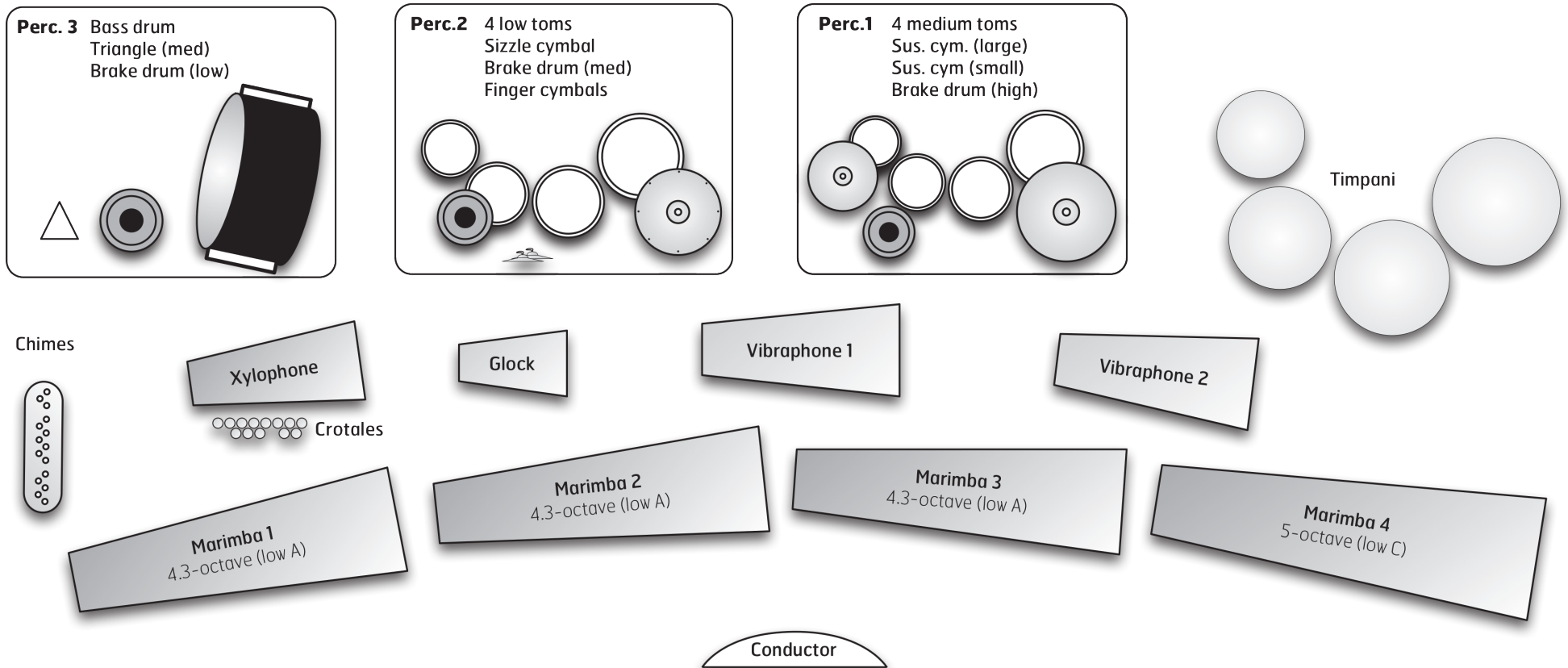
- **medium-soft:** mm. 1-58, and mm. 83-127
- **medium-hard:** mm. 63-81
- **soft:** mm. 136-end

Players and Instrumentation

Glacier requires **13 players** with the following instrumentation:

1. **Xylophone, crotales** (2 octaves)
2. **Glockenspiel**
3. **Chimes**
4. **Vibraphone 1**
5. **Vibraphone 2**
6. **Marimba 1** – 4.3-octave (low A)
7. **Marimba 2** – 4.3-octave (low A)
8. **Marimba 3** – 4.3-octave (low A)
9. **Marimba 4** – 5-octave (low C)
10. **Timpani** (4 drums)
11. **Percussion 1** – 4 medium toms, large suspended cymbal, small cymbal (w/triangle beater), high brake drum
12. **Percussion 2** – 4 low toms, sizzle cymbal, medium brake drum, finger cymbals
13. **Percussion 3** – Bass drum, medium triangle, low brake drum

Suggested Setup



Level: Advanced
Approx. playing time: 5'50"

To the Ada, OK High School Percussion Ensemble – Jay Cloar, director

Glacier

In Memoriam: John Muir

Benjamin Finley

♩ = 88 Distant, expansive

Crotales/
Xylophone

Glockenspiel

Chimes

Vibraphone 1

Vibraphone 2

Marimba 1

Marimba 2

Marimba 3

Marimba 4

Timpani

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Percussion 3

E-B-C#-D#

4 low tom toms

soft felt mallets

concert bass drum

p *mp* *m*

Sample
Image

The image displays a page from a musical score, likely for a string quartet, featuring staves for Violin I (VI), Violin II (V2), Viola (Ch), and Cello/Double Bass (Cr X). The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The tempo and mood are indicated as "A = 108 Flowing, undulating". The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte). The music is divided into measures, with some measures containing rests and others containing active notation. A large, faint watermark of a map of Italy is visible in the background.

Sample Image

Sample Image

B

35

Cr X

G

Ch

V1

V2

M1

M2

M3

M4

26"

E-A#-C#-D#

T

P1

P2

P3

p

mp

mf

f

to sticks

p

mp

mf

f

p

mf

pp

pp

pp

p

p

p

Sample
Image

42

Cr X

G

Ch

VI

V2

M1

M2

M3

M4

M5

M6

M7

M8

M9

M10

M11

M12

M13

M14

M15

M16

M17

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M1325

M1326

M1327

M1328

M1329

M1330

M1331

M1332

M1333

M1334

50

Cr X

G

Ch

V1

V2

M1

M2

M3

M4

T

P1

P2

P3

mp

mf

f

A musical score for a piece titled "Glacier – Finley". The score is written for a large ensemble, including a woodwind section (Cr X, G, Ch), a string section (V1, V2, M1, M2, M3, M4), a tuba (T), and a percussion section (P1, P2, P3). The music is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The score is divided into measures, with dynamics such as *mp* (mezzo-piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *f* (forte) indicated. The percussion section includes a snare drum (P1), a cymbal (P2), and a tom-tom (P3). The woodwind section includes a cor Anglais (Cr X), a flute (G), and a clarinet (Ch). The string section includes violins (V1, V2), violas (M1, M2), cellos (M3, M4), and a tuba (T). The score is written for a large ensemble, with each instrument part having its own staff. The music is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The score is divided into measures, with dynamics such as *mp* (mezzo-piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *f* (forte) indicated. The percussion section includes a snare drum (P1), a cymbal (P2), and a tom-tom (P3). The woodwind section includes a cor Anglais (Cr X), a flute (G), and a clarinet (Ch). The string section includes violins (V1, V2), violas (M1, M2), cellos (M3, M4), and a tuba (T).

Sample
Image

C With primal vitality

Cr
X

G

Ch

V1

V2

M1

f

mf

w/sticks

mf

mf

mf

Sample Image

66

Cr X

G

Ch

V1

V2

M1

M2

M3

M4

T

P1

P2

P3

D xylophone

f

f

f

f

Sample
Image

72

Cr X

G

Ch

VI

V2

M1

x = high brake drum

Sample
Image

EIn 1: Soaring high above

Sample Image

86

Cr X

G

Ch

VI

V2

M1

M2

mp

soft felt

2

mp

sizzle cym.

mp

The musical score is written for a percussion ensemble. The staves are labeled Cr X, G, Ch, VI, V2, M1, and M2. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The score begins with a measure number of 86. The percussion parts include various rhythmic patterns, including eighth notes and rests. Dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *soft felt*. A specific percussion instrument is indicated as 'sizzle cym.' (sizzle cymbal). The score is partially obscured by a large, light gray silhouette of a person in the bottom left corner.

Sample
Image

This musical score is for the song "The Rose Tree" and includes the following parts and markings:

- 95**: Measure number at the top of the first system.
- Cr X**: Cello and Double Bass.
- G**: Guitar.
- Ch**: Chamberlain (Celeste).
- V1**: Lead Vocal 1.
- V2**: Lead Vocal 2.
- M1**: Musician 1 (likely a keyboardist or multi-instrumentalist).
- M2**: Musician 2.
- M3**: Musician 3.
- M4**: Musician 4.
- T**: Tenor.
- P1**: Percussion 1 (likely a snare drum).
- P2**: Percussion 2 (likely a hi-hat).
- P3**: Percussion 3 (likely a bass drum).
- mf**: *mezzo-forte* (moderately loud).
- mp**: *mezzo-piano* (moderately soft).
- l.v.**: *left voice*.
- sus. cym.**: *sustained cymbal*.

Sample Image

104 crotales

Cr X

G

Ch

VI

V2

M1

M2

Sample Image

The musical score is written for a percussion ensemble. The staves are labeled Cr X, G, Ch, VI, V2, M1, and M2. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The score begins at measure 104, marked with a box labeled 'crotales'. The Cr X staff has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The G and Ch staves have similar melodic lines. The VI staff has a sustained chord. The V2 staff has a low, sustained chord marked 'l.v.' (likely 'low volume' or 'low'). The M1 and M2 staves have a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The score continues for several measures, with various musical notations including notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

This musical score is for the song "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel. It is a 12-measure excerpt starting at measure 113. The score is written for a piano (P1, P2, P3), voice (T), and guitar (G). The key signature is D major (two sharps). The time signature is 4/4. The piano part features a complex, arpeggiated melody in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand. The voice part has a single line with a few notes. The guitar part has a single line with a few notes. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, accidentals, and dynamic markings like *mf* and *mp*. There are also some performance instructions like "l.v." (left hand) and "B to A" (B to A). The score is presented in a clean, professional layout with a white background and black notation.

Sample Image

122

Cr X

G

Ch

VI

V2

M1

Sample Image

This musical score is for the song "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel. It is arranged for a piano, guitar, and a variety of percussion instruments. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The piano part (P1) features a complex, arpeggiated melody in the right hand, while the guitar (G) provides a steady, rhythmic accompaniment with triplets. The percussion section includes a triangle (P3), a finger cymbal (P2), and a set of bells (M1-M4). The score is divided into two systems, with the first system starting at measure 133. The dynamics range from piano (p) to mezzo-piano (mp) and pianissimo (pp). The score is presented in a clean, professional layout with a white background and black musical notation.

142

Cr X

G

Ch

VI

V2

M1

dim.

niente

pp

pp

pp

p

p

dim.

p

pp

niente

Sample Image

Sample Image