

Stuart P. O'Neil

Rain

for percussion ensemble and solo flute



Rain by Stuart P. O'Neil

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Notes

Rain is a short study in minimalism and tone color. Think of it not as a drizzle or a thunderstorm but as a steady afternoon shower with a bit of rumbling in the distance.

Dynamic markings are provided on the page, but they are merely guidelines. The ensemble volume should always be dictated by the flute; a mezzo-forte for a flute note *in* the staff is obviously less than a mezzo-forte high above the staff.

While the dynamic range should vary throughout the piece, there should be no real surprises. (Moments such as letters F and O come close, but please use restraint so as not to overdo it. Also, make sure that the flute does not become shrill in these spots.)

The vibraphone ostinato ties the piece together, but be careful that it does not dominate. Keep the pedal down the entire time to create a blurred texture. It may be necessary to reset the pedal at letter D and two bars before letter I. (A marimba may be used if a vibraphone is not available; if so, the player should use fairly soft mallets.)

Be careful that the glockenspiel part does not become harsh in the upper register, especially when it has the melody at letter I. The tuned crystal glasses are written for two players, each assigned to two notes; there is always a rest between notes to better facilitate the transition between glasses. Ideally, these parts should sound an octave higher than written, so use the smallest glasses possible. Whole notes for the rainstick should not be interpreted literally. Each rainstick entrance should be sustained for much longer than four beats, and eventually the sound will simply fade away.

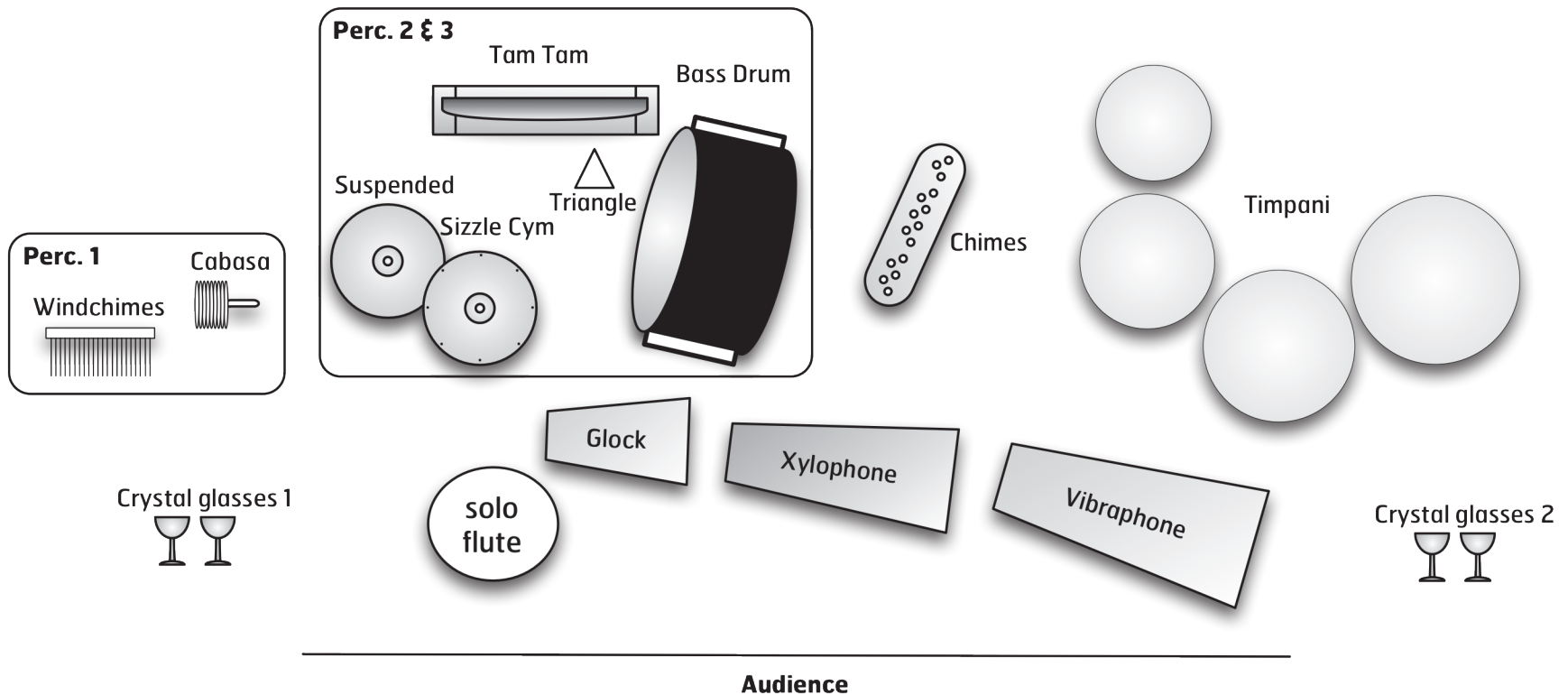
Players and Instrumentation

Rain requires **11 players** with the following instrumentation:

1. **Solo flute**
2. **Tuned crystal glasses 1*** (D & F)
3. **Tuned crystal glasses 2*** (E-flat & C)
4. **Glockenspiel**
5. **Xylophone**
6. **Vibraphone** (or marimba)
7. **Chimes** (+ rainstick)
8. **Timpani** (4 drums)
9. **Percussion 1** – Windchimes, Cabasa
10. **Percussion 2** – Suspended Cymbal, Sizzle Cymbal
11. **Percussion 3** – Bass Drum, Tam Tam, Triangle

* Note: Tuned crystal glasses should be played by gently circling the mouth of the glass with a wet finger to create a sustained tone.

Suggested Setup



Level: Med-Easy
Approx. playing time: 3'20"

Rain

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Stuart P. O'Neil

♩ = 112 Steady and Fluid

Flute

Tuned crystal glasses 1 (D&F)

Tuned crystal glasses 2 (E♭&C)

Glockenspiel

Xylophone

Vibraphone (or Marimba)
maintain steady tempo and volume throughout, á la ostinato
mf
Red. sempre

Chimes (+ Rainstick)
mf

Timpani
tuning: F-A♭-B♭-E♭

Percussion 1
Windchimes, Cabasa
windchimes
begin slowly and softly, gradually increase volume

Percussion 2 & 3
Sus Cym, Sizzle Cym
BD, Tam Tam, Triangle

Sample
Image

A

8

F

CG1

CG2

G

X

mf

mf

(4)

rainstick

pp

mf

butt end of mallet
on sus cym dome

Sample
Image

Sample Image

22

F

CG1

CG2

G

X

D

Sample Image

30

E

F

f

f

f

f

f

f

pp — *f*

Sample
Image

38

F

CG1

CG2

G

X

mf

mf

mf

mp

Sample Image

45

H

I

F

CG1

CG2

G

X

V

Ch

T

P1

P2

P3

mp

bring out

Sample Image

52

F

CG1

CG2

G

X

(4)

(8)

cresc.

mf

pp

mf

Sample Image

J

60

K

L

F

CG1

CG2

G

X

V

Ch

T

P1

P2

P3

mf

mp

Sample Image

68

F

CG1

CG2

G

X

M

3

3

Sample Image

75

N

O

f

f

pp

The musical score is arranged in a system of staves. The Flute (F) staff begins with a measure marked '75' and a box containing the letter 'N'. The Clarinet in G (CG1) and Clarinet in Bb (CG2) staves have measures with slurs. The Guitar (G) staff has a measure with a box containing the letter 'O'. The Saxophone (X) staff has a measure with a box containing the letter 'O'. The Violin (V) staff has a measure with a box containing the letter 'O'. The Chamberlain (Ch) staff has a measure with a box containing the letter 'O'. The Trombone (T) staff has a measure with a box containing the letter 'O'. The Piano I (P1) staff has a measure with a box containing the letter 'O'. The Piano II (P2) and Piano III (P3) staves have a measure with a box containing the letter 'O'. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings. A large, stylized graphic of a hand holding a piano key is overlaid on the right side of the page.

Sample
Image

P

Rit. poco a poco.

83

F

CG1

CG2

G

X

(4)

l.v.

l.v.

l.v.

Sample Image



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