

Jason Baker

# **Lonely City Suite**

suite for snare drum in three movements



**Lonely City Suite** by Jason Baker  
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Level: Advanced

Duration: Approx. 3'30" (all three movements)

## I. Another Day in the Back Bay

$\bullet = 85$

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a grand staff. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The tempo is marked as 85 beats per minute. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 1, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, and 14 indicated at the start of their respective lines. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamic markings such as *ff*, *p*, *mf*, and *f* are used throughout. Performance instructions include 'SLOWER' and 'ACCEL.' (accelerando). The score concludes with a final measure marked with a double bar line.

Sample  
Image

## 3

# Sample Image

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## II. Things Fall Apart

SNARES OFF

$\text{♩} = 75$

The musical score is written for a single staff in 7/8 time. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a tempo marking of quarter note = 75. The score consists of six lines of music. The first line contains five measures, the second line contains five measures, the third line contains five measures, the fourth line contains four measures, the fifth line contains four measures, and the sixth line contains four measures. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth, sixteenth, and thirty-second notes, as well as rests. Dynamic markings include *ff*, *mf*, *f*, *p*, and *ppp*. There are also crescendo and decrescendo hairpins. The score ends with a double bar line.

Sample Image

## III. Last One Out

♩ = 190

6

11

15

19

23

28

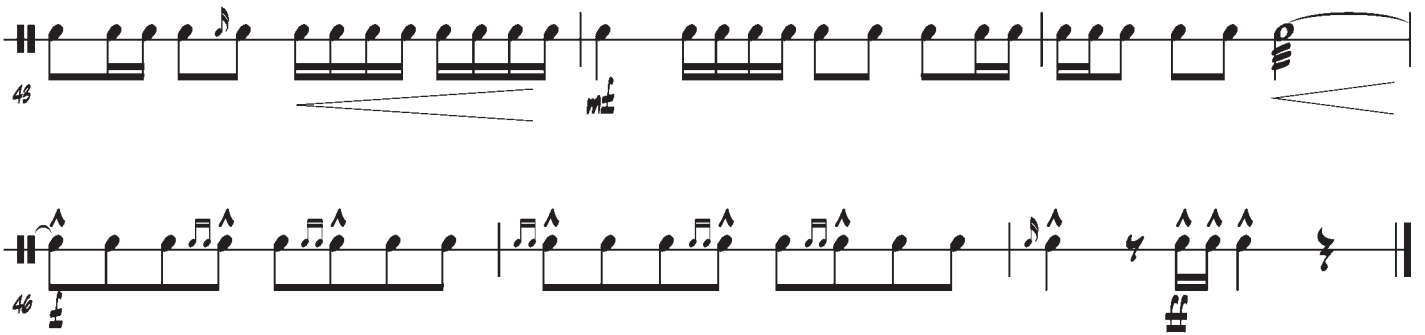
32

36

39

A TEMPO

Sample  
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## program notes

Written in three movements, the musical material for **Lonely City Suite** was composed between the fall of 1998 and the spring of 2001 when I lived in Boston, Massachusetts. I kept a notebook of snare drum phrases, often writing them while “desk ridden” at one of the various jobs that I worked during that time. I intended to eventually use these ideas to construct various movements and eventually a suite. The piece, as it exists now, was not “assembled” until several years later.

The first movement, “Another Day in the Back Bay” combines techniques found in many orchestral snare drum etudes and “groove-like” micro-temporal structures. The latter was influenced by the electronic music project “Aphex Twin” which my roommate at the time listened to.

The second movement, “Things Fall Apart” is intended to be a mixed-meter funeral march. The title is taken from a book by African author Chinua Achebe.

The third movement, “Last One Out” is in a short rondo form (A-B-A-C-A). The content of the “B” and “C” sections consists of expanding rhythmic cells. The final return to “A” is preceded by a “cross-shot”; the only extended technique in the entire piece.

## about the composer

**Jason Baker** currently teaches percussion at Mississippi State University. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Texas, a Master of Music degree from the New England Conservatory of Music, and a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Connecticut. His teachers include: Mark Ford, Christopher Deane, Will Hudgins, Peter Coutsouridis, Rosemary Small, and Ernest Centoscudi.

Dr. Baker maintains an active schedule as a solo artist, giving performances and clinics throughout the southeast, Texas, and New England. He has performed at several Percussive Arts Society International Conventions and the Texas Music Educators Association Convention. In November of 2005 Jason released his debut CD, “The Noble Snare”, with Smith Publications/11 West Records. He is also an active performer with several regional orchestras in the north Mississippi area.

Jason has also performed with the Glassmen, Boston Crusaders, and Connecticut Hurricanes Drum and Bugle Corps. He has previously taught percussion for the Boston Crusaders, Boston College Marching Band, and several high school programs throughout Texas. Prior to his appointment at Mississippi State University, Dr. Baker served on the music faculty of Texas Woman’s University.

Jason is proud to be an artist for Innovative Percussion and serves as the secretary for the Mississippi chapter of the Percussive Arts Society.

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