

Benjamin Finley

Blade

for solo multipercussion



Blade by Benjamin Finley
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Notes

Blade, for solo multi-percussion, is centered around an abbreviated drum set (snare drum, bass drum, tom toms – played while standing) and is complemented by three semiresonant metals (of the performer's choosing). Compositionally, *Blade* uses a series of hemiola-driven rhythmic gestures to weave a seemingly complex tapestry of percussive sound and is underwritten by a common, recurring melodic theme which travels freely among all voices.

While the performer should indeed take liberty with the selection of instruments, the following general framework is suggested as a guide:



As indicated above, it is thematically important that the three upper membranous voices (tom toms and snare drum) be tuned to successive intervals of a major 2nd.

Letter E should be played with medium felt mallets, if possible. Using double-ended mallets may help to facilitate the quick change back to hard sticks, which should occur before letter F.

The title comes from two sources of inspiration: 1) the antique lawn mower blades and other metal objects found in salvage yards – which seem to make such useful percussion instruments, and 2) the way in which each new rhythmic gesture seems to “slice” its way into what seems to be an established pulse.

Blade is dedicated to Blake Tyson.

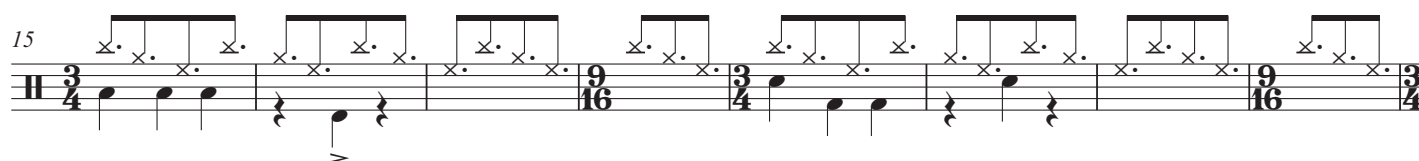
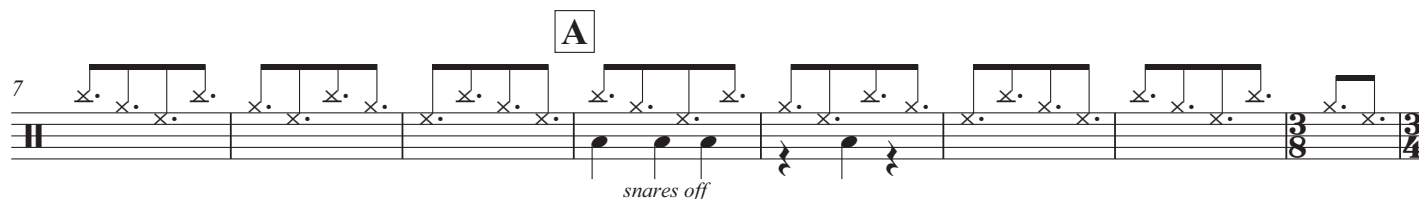
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Relentless ♩ = 160



f hard mallets



cresc.



B A tempo

mf 3x



R L L R R L L R R L L R R L
2x

Sample
Image

* Dynamics from mm 51-73 apply to bass drum only

* Tom toms/snare drum remain at *mf*

51

R L L R R L L R L R R L L R R L

3x

sim.

4x

mf

p

54

ff

p

57

f

60

sim. . .

63

66

3/4

4/4

R L L R R L L R R

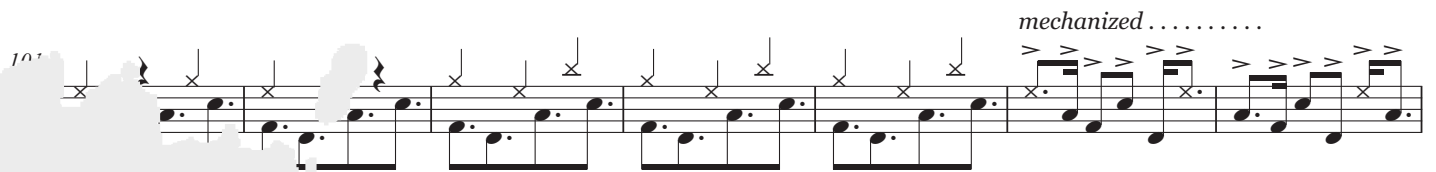
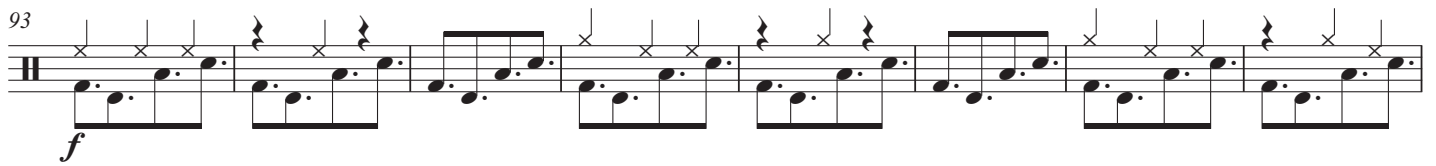
69

4/4

73

L R

Sample Image



Sample
Image



122 $\frac{7}{4}$ $\frac{21}{16}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ *p*

124 $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ *f* *p* *f* Driving

129 3 3 3 3

138 3 3 3

147 3 3 3 3

$\text{♩} = 240$

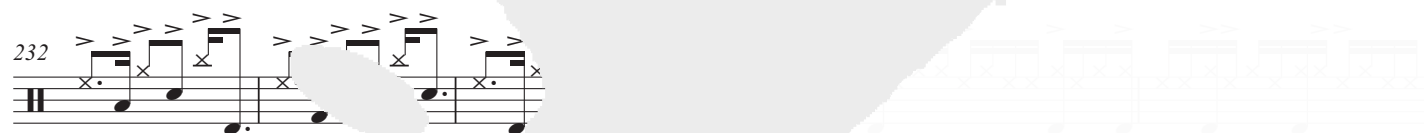
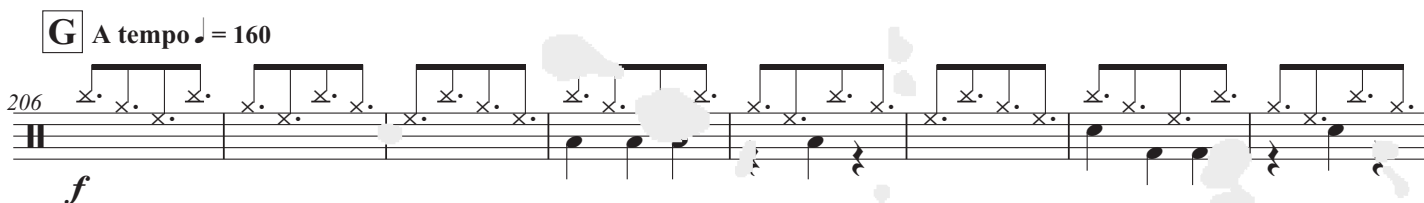
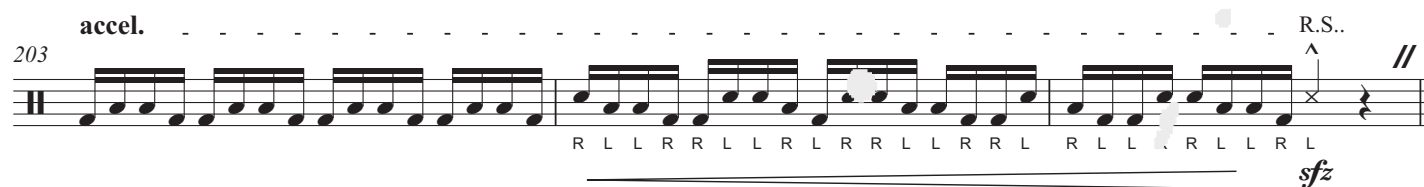
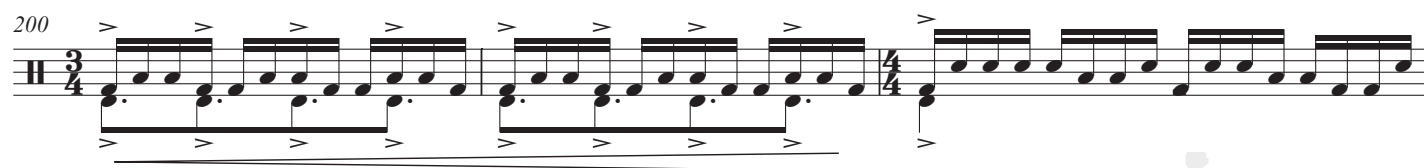
156 $\frac{3}{4}$

162

168

Sample Image

[illegible]



Sample
Image