

Rick Dior

Four Dances for Percussion Ensemble



Four Dances for Percussion Ensemble by Rick Dior
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Program Notes

Four Dances for Percussion Ensemble was commissioned in 2001 by the Charlotte Civic Orchestra for a youth percussion ensemble. It is a crowd pleasing, groove-based composition consisting of four contrasting movements that are held together by reappearing rhythmic and melodic motifs. These themes and rhythms are derived from several different musical cultures and are performed on standard orchestral percussion as well as certain South American and African percussion instruments.

The piece begins with *Minimalistic Dance* with the timpani providing a repetitive figure based on an African rhythm called *Abakwa*. This rhythm is accompanied by bongos, claves, and congas. The first melodic theme is introduced by the glockenspiel and reappears again in the last movement.

Next is the *Festive Dance* which begins with flamenco-style handclapping and evolves into a “south of the border” melody followed by a short Irish jig.

The third movement is entitled *Eastern Dance*. Here the music travels to the Far East through the use of various gongs. Three tuned Chinese opera gongs introduce a theme that is further developed in the fourth movement. Other strange but commonly used sounds in this movement include bowed cymbals, wood chimes, an LP™ Vibratone, and glissando cymbal rolls played on the timpani.

The fourth movement, entitled *Percussive Dance*, uses some of the previously stated themes and introduces several new ones in what can only be described as a hypercharged orchestral percussion assault. This movement uses all of the common European orchestral percussion instruments and features a timpani cadenza.

Players and Instrumentation

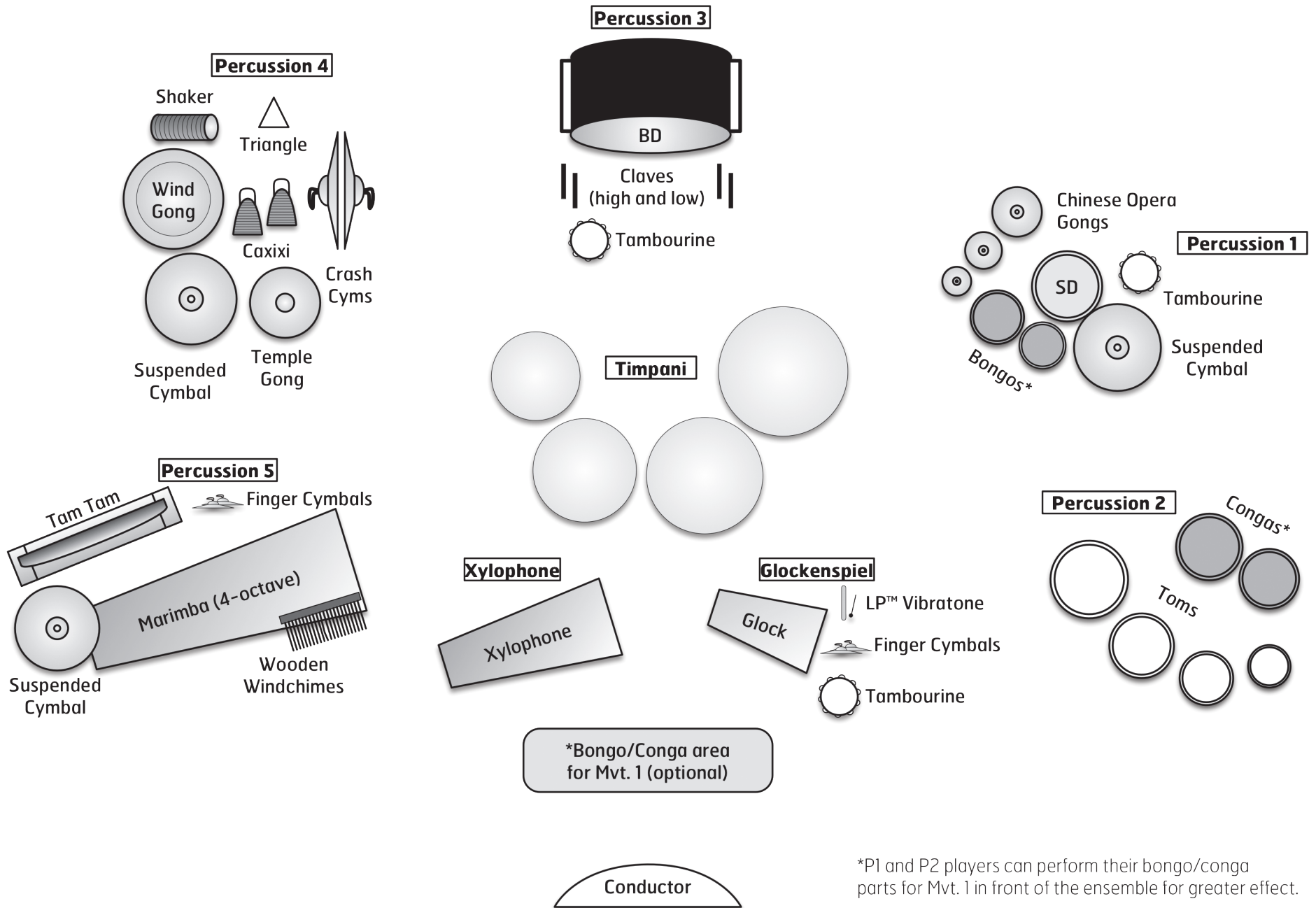
Four Dances for Percussion Ensemble requires **8 or more players** with the following instrumentation:

Xylophone, glockenspiel, 4 timpani, 4 concert toms (10-12-14-16), concert bass drum, snare drum, field or tenor drum, cymbals (crash and 2 suspended cymbals with bass bow), finger cymbals (2 sets), 2 small tambourines, orchestral headed tambourine, gongs (tam tam, temple gong, wind gong, and 3 small Chinese opera gongs), 4-octave marimba, 2 caxixi, shaker, bongos, congas, wooden windchimes, LP™ Vibratone, and high- and low-pitched claves.

Instrumentation substitutions: Instead of a xylophone, an African Balafon may be used. If you lack three Chinese opera gongs, you may substitute with three differently pitched splash cymbals (or small crashes). Other effect cymbals may be used as substitutions for the temple and/or wind gongs.

Additional players: More players may be added by doubling the xylophone parts on marimba (sounding one octave lower) and/or the bell parts on vibes (sounding two octaves lower).

Suggested Setup



*P1 and P2 players can perform their bongo/conga parts for Mvt. 1 in front of the ensemble for greater effect.

Level: Medium
Approx. playing time: 8'30"

Commissioned by the Charlotte Civic Orchestra October, 2001

Four Dances for Percussion Ensemble

Rick Dior

I. Minimalist Dance

$\text{♩} = 170$

A

Xylophone

Glockenspiel

Timpani

G-D-E-G
Solo l.v. *sempre*
mf

Percussion 1

Optional: Move to stage front/center for Mvt. 1

Bongos ad lib 2 3 4
mf

Percussion 2

Optional: Move to stage front/center for Mvt. 1

LH Congas ad lib 2
RH *mf*

Percussion 3

Claves (low) *mf*

Percussion 4

Caxixi *mf*

Percussion 5

Sample
Image

15

B

C

X

G

T

P1

7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

Marimba

f

Sample Image

D

X

29

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

G

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

T

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

P1

(bongos)

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

P2

(congas)

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

P3

(claves)

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

P4

(caixixi)

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

P5

(marimba)

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

Sample
Image

43 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

X

G

T

P1

36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

19 20 21 22 23 24

35 36 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

P3

P4

P5

Sample Image

E

X 57 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

G

T

P1 (bongos) ad lib 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 11 12 13 14

P2 (congas) 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58

P3 (claves) 25 26 27 28 29

P4 (caixixi) 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56

P5 (marimba)

Sample
Image

F

71 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

X

G

T

15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

P1

64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76

33 34 35 36 37 38

67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76

P3

P4

P5

Sample Image

Sample Image



99

X

G

T

Solo

I.v.

P1

43 44 45 46 47 48

Optional: Return to P1 location

92 93 94 95 96

Optional: Return to P2 location

P3

47 48

P4

91 92 96

P5

Sample
Image

II. Festive Dance

J

113

X

G

E-G-C-E

T

P1

Hand Claps (low pitch)

mf

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

P2

Hand Claps (low pitch)

mf

2

3

4

5

6

P3

Tambourine (dry)

mf

2

3

P4

Hand Claps (high pitch)

mf

2

3

4

P5

Hand Claps (low pitch)

mf

2

3

4

Sample
Image

129 **K** **L**

X *f*

G 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

T pedal between high E and F *f*

P1 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

P2 10 11 12 13 14 15

P3 8 9 10 11 12 13

P4 11 12 13 14 15

P5 11 12 13 14 15

Sample Image

Sample Image

Sample Image

N ♩. = 80

O

159

X

G

T

P1

P2

P3

P4

P5

n

mf

p

mf

p

mf

p

mf

n

mf

F-G-A-E

Tambourine thumb roll 2 3 2

Tom toms (rim) 2 3 2 3

(à la bohran drum muted/open tones)

Triangle 2 3

Finger cyms. l.v.

Sample
Image

170

X

G

T

rit.

transition to 16ths
at new tempo

P $\text{♩} = 186$
ON CUE

mf

P1

3

2

3

n

ad lib

P3

P4

7

P5

Sample
Image

Sample Image

III. Eastern Dance

♩ = 64 Slowly, in 2

Q

182

X

G

T

low F to E

Vibratone

p

mf

roll on cym placed upside down on 29" drum

p *gliss.* *f* *gliss.*

3 opera gongs

mf

I.v. sempre

p

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

bow cym

very gently ad lib

Sample
Image

195

X

G

T

Finger cyms

I.v.

Glock

p

(cym off)

(opera gongs)

P1

(toms)

P2

(bass drum)

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

P3

Temple gong

p

(wooden wind chimes)

P5

Sample
Image

206

X

G

T

P1

P3

P4

P5

Finger cym's

I.v.

p

A-B-D-E

pp

2

3

4

Sample

213

accel. $\text{♩} = 170$

X

G

T

P1

(toms)

P2

(bass drum)

P3

5 6 7 8 9

P4

Sus cym

(wooden wind chimes)

P5

mp *ff* *mf* *ff* *fp* *p* *fp*

Glock

Sample
Image

IV. Percussive Dance

220

Score for Percussion Ensemble (IV. Percussive Dance), measures 220-224.

Parts and Instruments:

- X: Xylophone
- G: Gong (Tambourine (small) shake roll)
- T: Tom (G-B-D-E)
- P1: P1 (Percussion 1)
- P3: P3 (Percussion 3)
- P4: P4 (Percussion 4)
- P5: P5 (Percussion 5)

Measure 220:

- X: Rest
- G: *f* (Tambourine (small) shake roll)
- T: *ff* (G-B-D-E)
- P1: *f*
- P3: Rest
- P4: Rest
- P5: Rest

Measure 221:

- X: Rest
- G: Rest
- T: Rest
- P1: *ff*
- P3: Rest
- P4: Rest
- P5: Rest

Measure 222:

- X: *f*
- G: Rest
- T: Rest
- P1: *ff*
- P3: Rest
- P4: Rest
- P5: Rest

Measure 223:

- X: *p*
- G: Rest
- T: Rest
- P1: *p*
- P3: *ff*
- P4: *ff*
- P5: *ff*

Measure 224:

- X: *p*
- G: Glockenspiel
- T: *p*
- P1: *p*
- P3: *p*
- P4: *ff*
- P5: *ff*

Annotations:

- Tam tam I.v. sempre
- Glockenspiel
- G-B-D-E
- Tambourine (small) shake roll
- I.v. sempre
- Crash cymbal

Sample
Image

228 **R**

X

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

G *f* *l.v. sempre*

T *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

P1 (snare drum)

P2 (toms) 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

P3 (bass drum) *f* *p* *f*

P4 **Sus cym** *f* *p*

P5 (tam tam) *f*

Sample Image

[illegible]

Sample Image

[illegible]

Sample Image

279

X

G

T

Play E's 2nd x

P1

9 10 11 12

Rimshots

w/mallets

I.v.

p *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff*

Sample Image

Sample Image

Sample Image

308

X

G

T

slowly

accel.

build to roll and cutoff on cue

gliss

ff

fff

(snare drum)

P1

(toms)

P2

(bass drum)

P3

(sus. cym.)

P4

(tam tam)

P5

ON CUE

D.S. al Coda

2/4

Sample
Image

[illegible]



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