

Ludwig van Beethoven

Für Elise

arranged for percussion ensemble by
Christopher M. Retschulte



creativity in percussion™

Für Elise arranged by Christopher M. Retschulte
© 2014 Tapspace Publications, LLC (ASCAP). Portland, OR.
All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Printed in USA.

www.tapspace.com

Notice of Liability: Any duplication, adaptation, or arrangement of this composition requires the written consent of the copyright owner. No part of this composition may be photocopied or reproduced in any way without permission. Unauthorized uses are an infringement of the U.S. Copyright Act and are punishable by law.

TSPCE14-007

Program Notes

Für Elise, or *Bagatelle # 25 in A minor* (WoO59), is perhaps one of the most well-known pieces of music in the world. Written in 1810, Ludwig van Beethoven was almost completely deaf when he wrote this famous piano piece. Although the piece was composed in the early part of the 19th Century, it was not published until 1867, some 40 years after the composer's death in 1827.

Performance Notes

An effective performance of this arrangement requires sensitivity and communication from all members of the ensemble. The performer's ability to express emotion with a delicate touch will be the inherent challenge, rather than a technical display of notes. Furthermore, adding slight fluctuations in tempo at appropriate musical spots will bring more life to the piece than playing it at a static tempo. Use the accel./rit. markings as a general guideline, but feel free to be creative with your interpretation.

Since the vibraphone is the lead part, this player should be stationed in the center of the ensemble setup. This will help facilitate better communication so that all players can more easily follow its lyrical intent. Ideally, a 4.6-octave marimba (low E) should be used, but if only a 4.3-octave (low A) instrument is available, the low E notes can be performed up one octave.

Medium-soft covered mallets should be used throughout in the vibraphone and marimba. The glockenspiel and xylophone should use a hard rubber or soft acrylic mallets in order to blend with the texture of the other keyboards. The timpani should use a heavy, dark-sounding mallet.

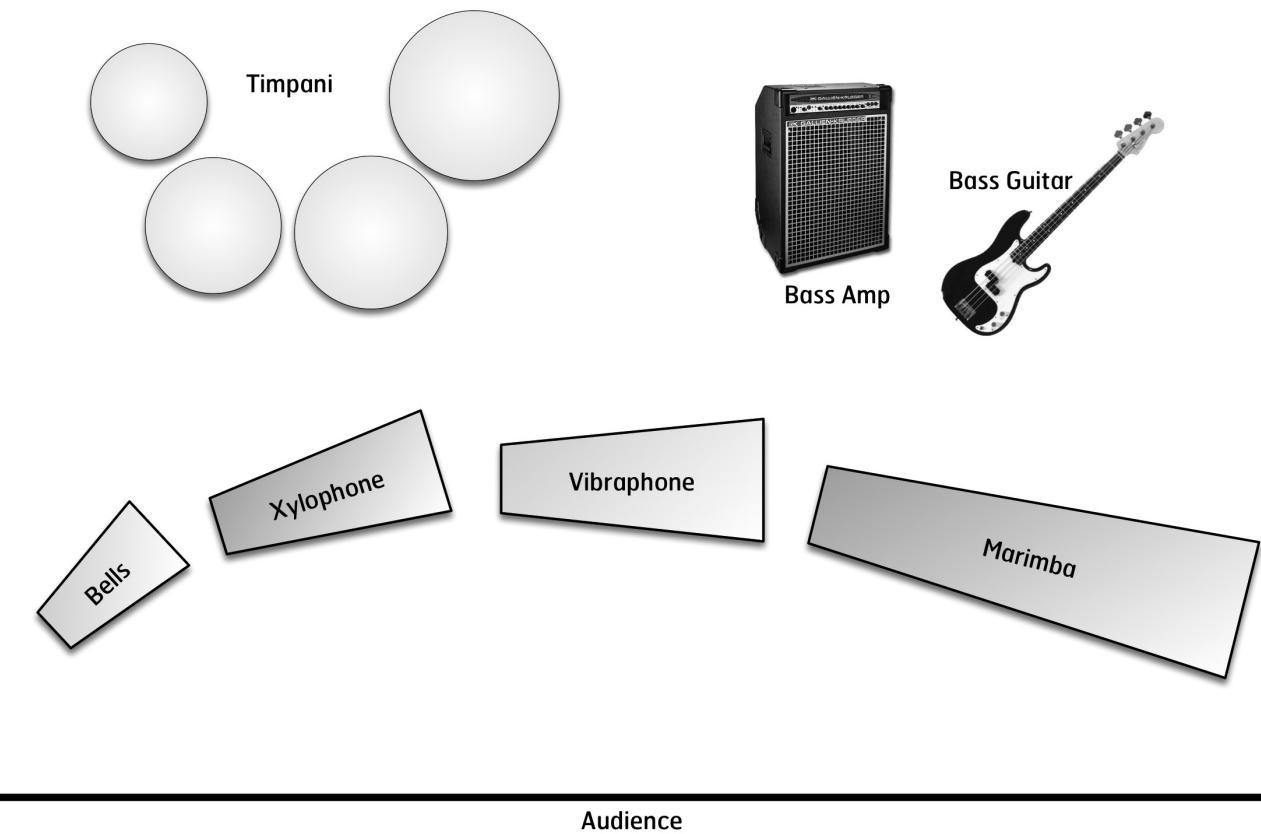
The optional bass part may be played on electric bass, acoustic bass, or even a synthesizer bass patch to help fill out the lower frequencies of the percussion choir. The balance of this part should be carefully mixed so that it's only a subtle presence in relation to the rest of the ensemble.

Players and Instrumentation

Für Elise requires **5-6 players** with the following instrumentation:

- **1 glockenspiel**
- **1 xylophone**
- **1 vibraphone**
- **1 marimba** (4.3 or 4.6-octave)
- **1 set of timpani** (4)
- **1 bass (optional)** (electric, acoustic, or synth)

Suggested Setup



Level: Med-Easy
Approx. playing time: 3'30"

Für Elise

Ludwig van Beethoven
arr. Christopher M. Retschulte

Allegro Moderato ($\text{♩} \approx 116$)

accel. A tempo rit. $\text{♩} = 80$ accel.

Glockenspiel

Xylophone

Vibraphone

Marimba

Timpani GACE

Bass

pp p p

pp

p

pp

pp

pp

A tempo

rit.

1. 2.

G

X

V

M

T

C

Sample Image

12

rit. accel. **B** A tempo rit.

pp

p

p

pp

p

pp

p

pp

19

accel. A tempo 1. 2.

mp

mp

Sample Image

C

32

G X V M T C

p *mf* *p* *mf* rit.

mf

p *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*

mf

p *mp* *mf* *p*

mf

p.

mf

Sample Image

37

accel. D A tempo rit.

G: *p*

X: *p*

V: *mp*

M:

T:

C:

mp

pp

pp

43

accel. A tempo

G: *p*

X: *p*

V: *p*

M:

T:

C:

mf

mf

Sample Image

50

rit.

E

accel.

A tempo

rit.

E

p

G X V M T C

57

accel.

A tempo

F

G X V M T C

Sample
Image

Musical score page 6, measures 63-68. The score consists of five staves: G (treble), X (soprano), V (alto), M (bass), T (tenor), and C (contrabass). The key signature changes from G major to F# minor at measure 63. Measure 63 starts with a G major chord. Measures 64-65 show a transition with various chords and rests. Measures 66-68 continue with chords and some eighth-note patterns.

Musical score page 6, measures 69-74. The score continues with the same six staves. A large, semi-transparent graphic of a white grand piano is overlaid on the left side of the page. Measure 69 begins with a G major chord. Measures 70-73 show a continuation of the musical line with various chords and rests. Measure 74 concludes the section with a final chord. The piano graphic has a shadow effect.

pedal on 29" drum

Sample
Image

H

75

G X V M

B to A

T C

82 rit.

accel.

tempo

rit.

accel.

Sample Image

88

A tempo

G

X

V

M

T

C

94

rit.

accel.

J A tempo

G

X

V

M

C

Sample
Image

100

rit.

molto rit.

G

X

V

M

T

C

Sample
Image