

JOHN WILLMARTH

TENTACLES

for percussion ensemble



Tentacles by John Willmarth
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TSPCE16-009

Program Notes

A composition for beginning percussionists, *Tentacles* depicts the flexible appendages found on some of the oceans' most mysterious and elusive creatures. Flowing, yet powerful, the work explores the different facets of tentacles.

Written for 6-10 players, the instrumentation allows flexibility for a variety of equipment situations (minimum keyboard requirements are xylophone and glockenspiel). Melodic sections bookend a non-pitched percussion feature that gives keyboard players opportunities to play additional instruments. Scaled difficulty levels within the parts will allow students of various ability levels to be challenged. Mature sounding, but accessible, this piece is a great choice for any concert or festival performance.

Players and Instrumentation

Tentacles requires **6-10 players** with the following instrumentation:

Player 1

- Glockenspiel
- Claves
- China cymbal

Player 2

- Xylophone
- High conga

Player 3*

- Vibraphone
- Tambourine

Player 4*

- 4.3-octave marimba (low A)
- Low conga

Player 5

- Timpani (2)
- Suspended cymbal

Player 6

- Snare drum
- Temple blocks
- Cymbal (with brush)

Player 7

- Bass drum
- Triangle

Player 8

- Tam-tam
- Brake drum

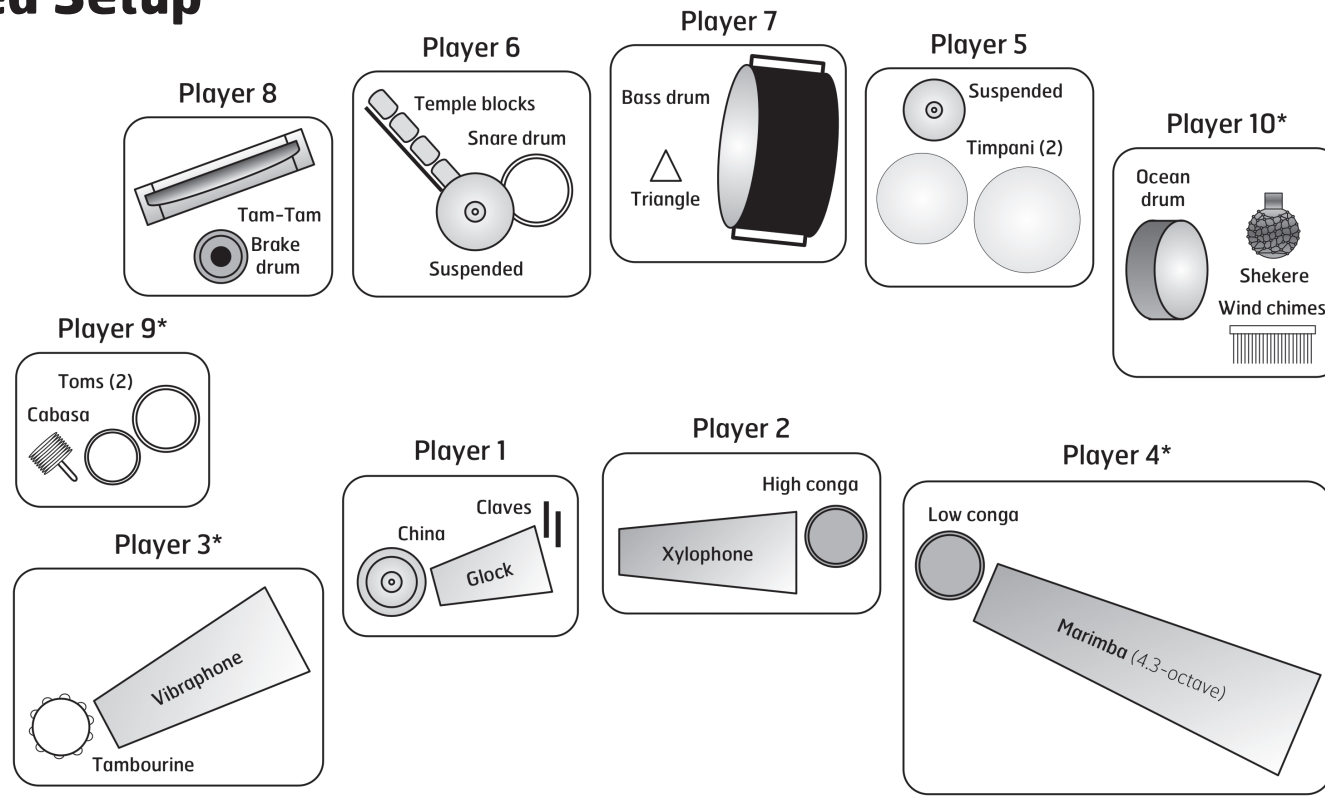
Player 9*

- Concert toms (2)
- Cabasa

Player 10*

- Wind chimes
- Ocean drum
- Shekere

Suggested Setup



Audience

* Denotes optional part

Level: Med-Easy
Approx. playing time: 3'50"

Tentacles

John Willmarth

Unmetered

On Cue #1

On Cue #2

On Cue #3

CLAVES (rubato)

slowly gliss up and down with pedal down

roll on cymbal, resting upside down on timpani head while moving pedal up and down

TEMPLE BLOCK (rubato w/ rubbe.

BASS DRUM (w/ 2 mallets)

OCEAN DRUM

Glockenspiel
+Claves
+China cym

Xylophone
+High conga

*Vibraphone
+Tambourine

*Marimba (4.3-octave)
+Low conga

Timpani (2)
+Sus cymbal

Snare Drum
+Temple blocks
+Cymbal w/ brush

Bass Drum
+Triangle

Tam-Tam
+Broke drum

*Concert Toms (2)
+Cobasa

*Wind chimes
+Ocean drum
+Shekere

In Time (♩ = 88)

3/4

3/4

3/4

3/4

3/4

3/4

3/4

3/4

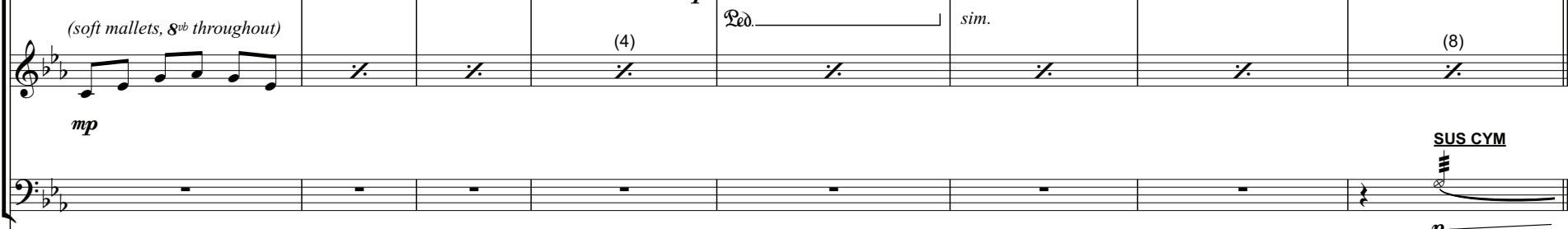
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* Denotes optional part

Sample Image

A**GLOCKENSPIEL***(med-soft plastic mallets)*

G  **p**
 X *(rubber mallets)*
 V  **mp** *Red.* *sim.*
 M *(soft mallets, 8^{vb} throughout)*
 T  **p**

CYMBAL *(w/ brush)***mp** *l.v. sempre (unless otherwise noted)***ppp***scrape (w/ triangle beater)**l.v.**tap w/ triangle beater***pp** *l.v. sempre (unless otherwise noted)***CABASA****mp****WIND CHIMES***gliss.**gliss.*

Sample
Image

B 

Score for Willmarth – Tentacles, measures 1-10. The score includes parts for G (Guitar), X (Xylophone), V (Violin), M (Mandolin), T (Timpani), SD (Snare Drum), BD (Bass Drum), TT (Tom-Tom), CT (Cymbal), and WC (Woodblock).

Measures 1-10:

- G:** Treble clef, key of B-flat major. Notes: 1. Bb4, 2. A4, 3. G4, 4. F4, 5. E4, 6. D4, 7. C4, 8. Bb4, 9. A4, 10. G4.
- X:** Treble clef, key of B-flat major. Notes: 1. G4, 2. A4, 3. Bb4, 4. C5, 5. Bb4, 6. A4, 7. G4, 8. F4, 9. E4, 10. D4. Dynamics: *p* at measure 1.
- V:** Treble clef, key of B-flat major. Notes: 1. G4, 2. A4, 3. Bb4, 4. C5, 5. Bb4, 6. A4, 7. G4, 8. F4, 9. E4, 10. D4. Dynamics: *mp* at measure 1.
- M:** Treble clef, key of B-flat major. Notes: 1. G4, 2. A4, 3. Bb4, 4. C5, 5. Bb4, 6. A4, 7. G4, 8. F4, 9. E4, 10. D4. Dynamics: *mp* at measure 1.
- T:** Bass clef, key of B-flat major. Notes: 1. Bb2, 2. A2, 3. G2, 4. F2, 5. E2, 6. D2, 7. C2, 8. Bb2, 9. A2, 10. G2. Dynamics: *mp* at measure 1, *p* at measure 2. Label: **TIMPANI** (soft mallets).
- SD:** Snare drum. Notes: 1. x, 2. x, 3. x, 4. x, 5. x, 6. x, 7. x, 8. x, 9. x, 10. x. Dynamics: *p* at measure 4, *mp* at measure 5. Label: **TEMPLE BLOCKS** (rubber mallet).
- BD:** Bass drum. Notes: 1. -, 2. +, 3. +, 4. +, 5. -, 6. -, 7. -, 8. -, 9. +, 10. +. Dynamics: *p* at measure 2. Label: **TRIANGLE**.
- TT:** Tom-tom. Notes: 1. x, 2. x, 3. x, 4. x, 5. x, 6. x, 7. x, 8. x, 9. x, 10. x. Dynamics: *p* at measure 4, *mp* at measure 5.
- CT:** Cymbal. Notes: 1. -, 2. -, 3. -, 4. x, 5. x, 6. -, 7. -, 8. -, 9. -, 10. -.
- WC:** Woodblock. Notes: 1. -, 2. -, 3. -, 4. -, 5. -, 6. -, 7. -, 8. -, 9. -, 10. -.

Sample Image

To Coda ♢

24

G

X

V

M

T

p *mp* *p* *mp*

2

l.v.

Sample Image

C Double time (♩ = 176)

The musical score is for a piece titled "Tentacles" by Willmarth. It is in double time, with a tempo of 176 beats per minute (♩ = 176). The score is written for a percussion ensemble and includes the following parts:

- G (Gong):** Treble clef, key signature of two flats (B-flat, E-flat). It starts with a half note, followed by rests for the remainder of the piece.
- X (Xylophone):** Treble clef, key signature of two flats. It starts with a half note, followed by rests. In the fifth measure, it begins a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, marked *mf* and *p*.
- V (Vibraphone):** Treble clef, key signature of two flats. It starts with a half note, followed by rests.
- M (Maracas):** Treble clef, key signature of two flats. It starts with a half note, followed by rests. In the fifth measure, it begins a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, marked *mf* and *p*.
- T (Tom-toms):** Bass clef, key signature of two flats. It starts with a half note, followed by rests. In the fifth measure, it begins a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, marked *mf* and *p*.
- SD (Snare Drum):** Treble clef, key signature of two flats. It starts with a half note, followed by rests. In the fifth measure, it begins a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, marked *mf* and *p*.
- BD (Bass Drum):** Treble clef, key signature of two flats. It starts with a half note, followed by rests. In the fifth measure, it begins a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, marked *mf* and *p*.
- TT (Tambourine):** Treble clef, key signature of two flats. It starts with a half note, followed by rests. In the fifth measure, it begins a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, marked *mf* and *p*.
- CT (Cymbal):** Treble clef, key signature of two flats. It starts with a half note, followed by rests.
- WC (Woodblock):** Treble clef, key signature of two flats. It starts with a half note, followed by rests.

The score is written in double time, with a tempo of 176 beats per minute (♩ = 176). The key signature is two flats (B-flat, E-flat). The score is written for a percussion ensemble and includes the following parts:

- G (Gong):** Treble clef, key signature of two flats (B-flat, E-flat). It starts with a half note, followed by rests for the remainder of the piece.
- X (Xylophone):** Treble clef, key signature of two flats. It starts with a half note, followed by rests. In the fifth measure, it begins a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, marked *mf* and *p*.
- V (Vibraphone):** Treble clef, key signature of two flats. It starts with a half note, followed by rests.
- M (Maracas):** Treble clef, key signature of two flats. It starts with a half note, followed by rests. In the fifth measure, it begins a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, marked *mf* and *p*.
- T (Tom-toms):** Bass clef, key signature of two flats. It starts with a half note, followed by rests. In the fifth measure, it begins a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, marked *mf* and *p*.
- SD (Snare Drum):** Treble clef, key signature of two flats. It starts with a half note, followed by rests. In the fifth measure, it begins a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, marked *mf* and *p*.
- BD (Bass Drum):** Treble clef, key signature of two flats. It starts with a half note, followed by rests. In the fifth measure, it begins a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, marked *mf* and *p*.
- TT (Tambourine):** Treble clef, key signature of two flats. It starts with a half note, followed by rests. In the fifth measure, it begins a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, marked *mf* and *p*.
- CT (Cymbal):** Treble clef, key signature of two flats. It starts with a half note, followed by rests.
- WC (Woodblock):** Treble clef, key signature of two flats. It starts with a half note, followed by rests.

Sample
Image

Sample Image

Sample Image

56

G

X

V

M

T

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

p

mf

SUS CYM

p

p

mf

The musical score is written for five staves labeled G, X, V, M, and T. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 2/4. The score begins at measure 56. Staves G, X, and V contain mostly rests, with some eighth-note patterns in measures 58-60. Staff M has eighth-note patterns in measures 56-58 and rests thereafter. Staff T has a continuous eighth-note pattern throughout. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). A 'SUS CYM' (sustained cymbal) effect is indicated in measure 61 on staff T. A large, stylized, light gray graphic of a tentacle is overlaid on the left side of the score, partially obscuring the staves.

Sample
Image

F **CHINA**

G *f* **2** *l.v.*

X *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

V *f* *mp* *f*

M *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

T *l.v.* **TIMPANI** *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *l.v.*

SD *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *f*

BD *f* **2** *l.v.*

TT *f* *mp* *f*

CT *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

WC **2**

(warm heater)

**Sample
Image**

G

Half time (♩ = ♩ = 88)

D.S. al Coda

Score for Willmarth – Tentacles, Half time (♩ = ♩ = 88). The score is written for five staves: G (Guitar), X (Xylophone), V (Violin), M (Mandolin), and T (Tuba).

The G staff contains whole rests throughout the piece.

The X staff begins with a melody in the first measure, marked *p*. It then contains repeat signs (double bar lines with dots) in measures 2 through 7, and a final measure with a whole note, marked (8).

The V staff contains whole rests in measures 1 through 3, followed by a melody in measure 4 marked *mp*. The melody consists of eighth notes, with a slur over measures 4 and 5 labeled *Red.*, and a slur over measures 6 and 7 labeled *sim.*. It then contains repeat signs in measures 8 and 9, and a final measure with a whole note, marked (4).

The M staff begins with a melody in the first measure, marked *mp*. It then contains repeat signs in measures 2 through 7, and a final measure with a whole note, marked (8).

The T staff contains whole rests throughout the piece.

The percussion section includes a Cymbal part (w/ brush) and a Tom part.

The Cymbal part begins with a melody in the first measure, marked *pp*. It then contains repeat signs in measures 2 through 4, and a final measure with a whole note, marked *mp*. The Cymbal part ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign in measure 8.

The Tom part begins with a melody in the first measure, marked *pp*. It then contains repeat signs in measures 2 through 4, and a final measure with a whole note, marked *pp*. The Tom part ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign in measure 8.

The score concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign in measure 8.

Sample
Image

Coda ϕ

Score for **Tentacles** (Coda section). The score is written for a 10-piece ensemble: G (Guitar), X (Xylophone), V (Violin), M (Mandolin), T (Trumpet), SD (Snare Drum), BD (Bass Drum), TT (Tom-Tom), CT (Cymbal), and WC (Woodblock). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The Coda section consists of 8 measures. The G part starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a melodic line with some rests. The X part starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and plays a rhythmic pattern. The V part starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and plays a rhythmic pattern. The M part starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and plays a rhythmic pattern. The T part has a melodic line with some rests. The SD part starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and plays a rhythmic pattern. The BD part has a melodic line with some rests. The TT part has a melodic line with some rests. The CT part has a melodic line with some rests. The WC part has a melodic line with some rests. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics, and articulation marks.

Sample
Image

H

89

G

X

V

M

T

place sus. cym. upside down on timp. head

SUS CYM (on timp. head)

mp

p

p

2

l.v. sempre

p

(warm beater)

pp

mp

OCEAN DRUM

mp

Sample Image

Sample Image

98 **rit.** **Unmetered**

G *pp* *l.v.*

X *pp*

V *pp* *l.v.*

M *pp*

T

SD

BD *p*

TT

CT

WC

TEMPLE BLOCK (*rubato*)

Sample
Image

Presto (♩ = 176)

104

G

X

V

M

T

mp

pp

mp

pp

mp

pp

mp

pp

(remove cymbal)

(muffle)

p

pp

Sample Image



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