

BRIAN BLUME
PERSISTENCE
for percussion quintet



Persistence by Brian Blume
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TSPCE16-015

Program Notes

Persistence is scored for five percussionists playing a mixture of pitched and non-pitched instruments through ever-changing time signatures (mostly 7/8 and 3/4 alternating). Players often share instruments, with as many as four players on two marimbas at one time. The title emerged from the persistent 16th-note rhythm played on the metal pipe throughout much of the piece. Even while meters and accents change, the pipe is persistently moving the music forward. Inspired in part by the sounds and rhythms of Trent Reznor, *Persistence* provides performers and listeners an opportunity to explore the blending of sounds and colors while experiencing different ways of feeling and interpreting rhythmic grooves.

Persistence was composed in the spring of 2015 for the Southeastern University Percussion Ensemble (Lakeland, FL) and premiered at the McCormick Marimba Festival at the University of South Florida in Tampa on January 30, 2016.

Notation Key

The notation key defines the instrument assignments for five players across five staves:

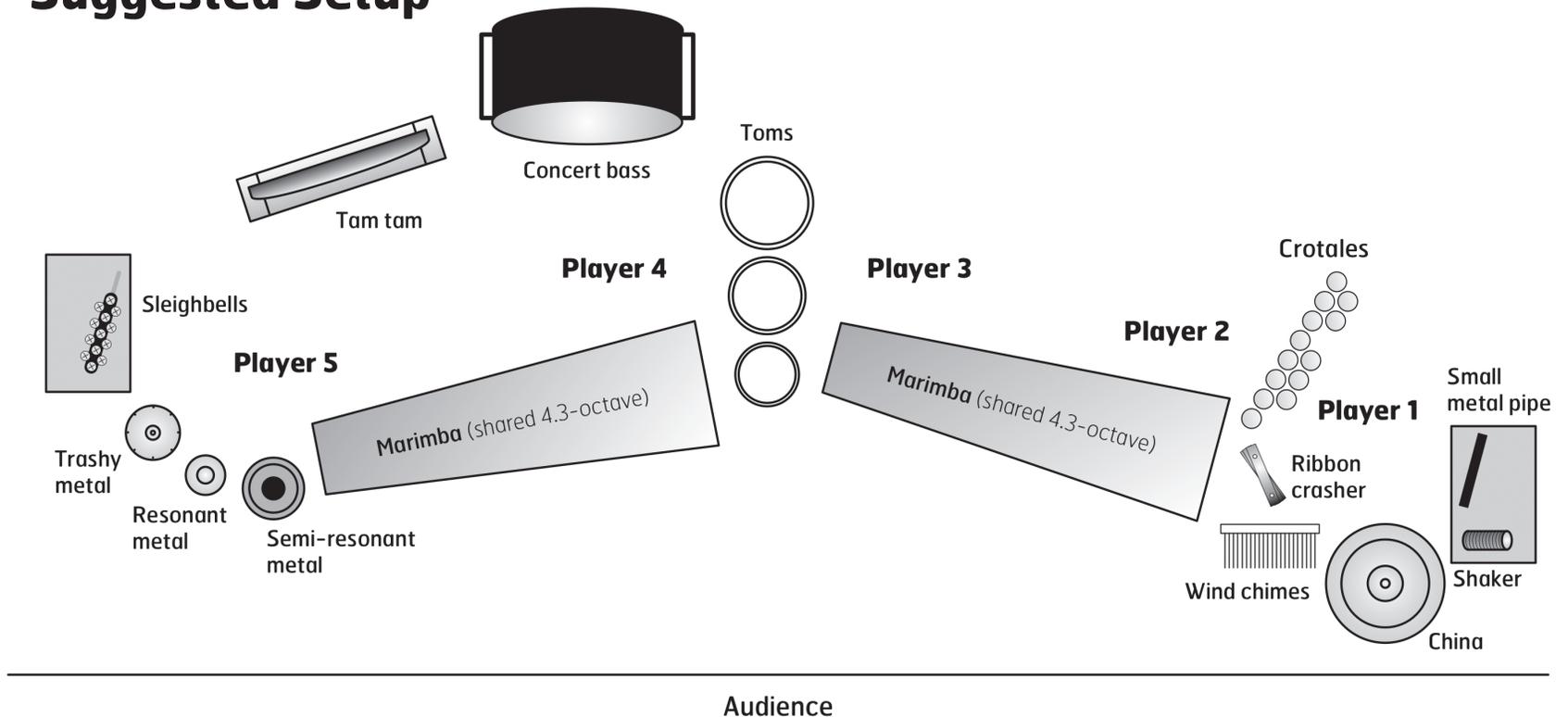
- Player 1:** Shaker, Ribbon crasher, Metal pipe, Wind chimes, China cymbal.
- Player 2:** no unpitched percussion.
- Player 3:** Toms.
- Player 4:** Bass drum, Bass drum rim, Tam tam, Toms.
- Player 5:** Tam tam, Sleighbells, Semi-resonant, Resonant, Trashy, Metals.

Players and Instrumentation

Persistence requires **5 players** with the following instrumentation:

- **Crotales** (low octave, shared w/ P1 & P2)
- **4.3-octave (low A) marimba** (shared w/ P2 & P3)
- **4.3-octave (low A) marimba** (shared w/ P4 & P5)
- **Trashy metal** (cymbal stack, trash can lid, or similar)
- **Resonant metal** (large Zil-bell, bell plate, or similar)
- **Semi-resonant metal** (brake drum, slightly dampened bell plate, or similar)
- **Small metal pipe**
- **Ribbon crasher**
- **China cymbal**
- **Tam tam** (shared w/ P4 & P5)
- **Sleighbells**
- **Wind chimes**
- **Small shaker**
- **3 concert toms** (10", 12", 14", shared w/ P3 & P4)
- **Concert bass drum**

Suggested Setup



Persistence

Brian Blume

♩ = 92-96

METAL PIPE (*hard plastic*)

play 3x

Musical score for the first system of 'Persistence'. It features five staves for different instruments: Player 1 (Metal Pipe), Player 2 (Crotales), Player 3, Player 4, and Player 5 (Metals). The score is in 7/8 time and consists of 8 measures. Player 1 plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents, marked *mf*. Player 2 plays a melodic line with eighth notes, marked *mf* (*dampen*). Player 5 plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents, marked *mf*. The score includes a repeat sign and a *play 3x* instruction.

Musical score for the second system of 'Persistence'. It features five staves for different instruments: Player 1 (Metal Pipe), Player 2 (Crotales), Player 3, Player 4, and Player 5 (Metals). The score is in 7/8 time and consists of 8 measures. Player 1 plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents. Player 2 plays a melodic line with eighth notes. Player 5 plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents.

Sample
Image

A

13 1. 2.

f *mf* *mp* *mf* *f* *p* *pp* *f* *mf* *mf* *mp*

MARIMBA (med-hard yarn)

CONCERT TOMS (med yarn)

TAM TAM (scrape) *l.v.* MARIMBA (med-hard yarn)

A1

MARIMBA (med-hard yarn) *mp*

Sample Image

A2

Musical score for section A2, measures 25-30. The score is written for five staves. The top staff (1) is a snare drum part with a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The second staff (2) is a melody in treble clef with dynamics *mf*. The third staff (3) is a piano accompaniment in treble clef with a dense texture of eighth notes and dynamics *mp*. The fourth staff (4) is a bass line in bass clef with dynamics *mf*. The fifth staff (5) is a melody in treble clef with dynamics *mf*. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 7/8, then 3/4, 7/8, 3/4, 7/8, 3/4, 7/8, and finally 3/4.

A3

Musical score for section A3, measures 31-36. The score is written for five staves. The top staff (1) is a snare drum part with a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and dynamics *fp*. The second staff (2) is a melody in treble clef with dynamics *mf*. The third staff (3) is a piano accompaniment in treble clef with a dense texture of eighth notes and dynamics *mf*. The fourth staff (4) is a bass line in bass clef with dynamics *mf*. The fifth staff (5) is a melody in treble clef with dynamics *mf*. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 7/8, then 3/4, 7/8, 3/4, 7/8, 3/4, 7/8, and finally 3/4.

Sample Image

37

+RIBBON CRASHER

B CHINA CYMBAL (w/ stick)

1 *f*

2 *f* **CROTALES (let ring)**

3 *f* **CONCERT TOMS (hard yarn)**

4 *mf* *f* **BASS DRUM** *p* *f* **(rim)**

5 *f* **METALS**

rit.

9/16 3/4

pp

p *f*

mp

TAM TAM (warm beater)

pp *p*

Sample Image

C Slowly, poco rubato (♩ ≈ 63)

WIND CHIMES
SHAKER
(med yarn)
MARIMBA (med-soft yarn)
MARIMBA (med yarn)
TAM TAM (scrape) l.v.
MARIMBA (med-soft yarn)
MARIMBA (med-soft yarn)
CROTALES

D accel.

CROTALES (hard yarn)
MARIMBA
TAM-TAM l.v.
(dampen)

Sample Image

E ♩ = 92

SHAKER
L.v.
mp
(undampen crotales)

MARIMBA (med-hard yarn)
p *mf*

(med-hard yarn) (dead stroke)
pp *f*

72

L.v.

mf *pp* *mp*

mf *mp*

(dead stroke)
f *p* *f*

mf *f* *p* *mp*

SLEIGHBELLS
f *p* *mf*

Sample Image

78 **F** $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

1 *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf*

2 *mf* *mp* *mf*

3 *f* *p*

4 **MARIMBA** *mp*

5 *mp* (8)

88

1 *mp*

2 *mp*

3 **TOMS** *p*

4 *mp*

5 *mp*

Sample Image

G

1 **SNARE** *l.v.*

2 **CROTALES** *f*

3 *p* *f*

4 **BASS DRUM** 2 2

5 **METALS** 2 2

1 *ff* *l.v.*

2 *p* *f* **MARIMBA**

3 *p* *f*

4 *ff* *mp* *f*

5 *ff* *p* *f*

Sample
Image

H

Musical score for measures 1-115. The score consists of five staves. Staff 1 (top) is marked *ff* and *mf*. Staff 2 is marked *ff* and *mf*. Staff 3 is marked *ff* and *mf*. Staff 4 is labeled **MARIMBA** and marked *ff* and *mf*. Staff 5 is marked *ff* and *mf*. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with frequent accents and dynamic shifts.



116

I

Musical score for measures 116-150. The score consists of five staves. Staff 1 is marked *mp*. Staff 2 is marked *p* and *pp*. Staff 3 is marked *p*. Staff 4 is marked *p*. Staff 5 is marked *p*. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns and dynamic shifts.

Sample Image

122

1 **CROTALES** *l.v.*
p

2 *8^{vb}*
p

3 **MARIMBA**
p

4 **BASS DRUM** *l.v.*
p

5 *l.v.*
8^{vb}
p



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