

JOHN WILLMARTH

RELEASE THE KRAKEN

ENSEMBLE

PERCUSSION QUARTET

PLAYERS
4

DURATION
3'00"

SKILL LEVEL
MED-EASY



JOHN WILLMARTH
RELEASE THE KRAKEN
for percussion quartet



Release the Kraken by John Willmarth
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TSPCE16-021

Program Notes

Ancient tales of the Kraken go back as far as the 13th century and commonly describe an octopus-like creature that was big enough to crush large ships. Today the legend of the Kraken lives on in sea lore.

This action-packed, programmatic work depicts an attack from the mythical sea creature. Dynamic swells at the beginning evoke the image of the giant monster stirring at the bottom of the ocean. As the piece develops, the Kraken emerges, wreaking havoc and destruction. Interplay between the players is meant to portray the creature's tentacles as they flail wildly in a coordinated attack. At the conclusion, the Kraken descends back into the murky depths from whence it came.

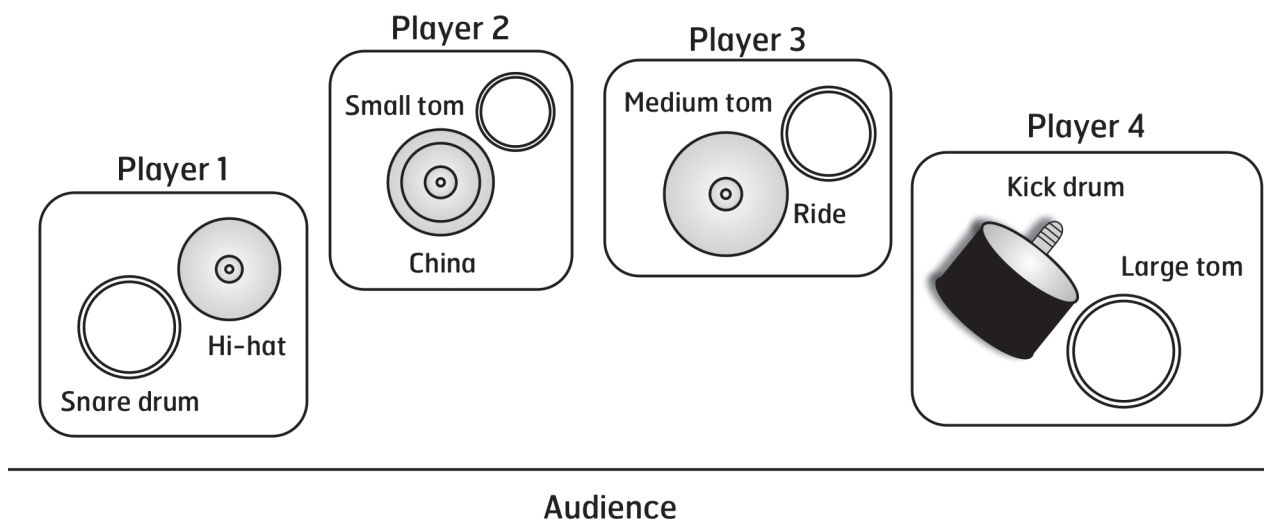
Release the Kraken uses all the instruments found in a standard five-piece drumset divided up among four players. Geared toward beginning percussionists, rhythmic content is primarily rooted in 8th notes with some basic 16th note patterns peppered throughout. Students will have opportunities to sharpen ensemble skills and develop rhythmic precision due to the variety of textures presented throughout the piece.

Players and Instrumentation

Release the Kraken requires **4 players** using the standard components of a five-piece drumset:

- Snare drum
- Small tom
- Medium tom
- Large tom
- Kick drum
- Hi-hat
- China cymbal
- Ride cymbal

Suggested Setup



Release the Kraken

John Willmarth

Mysteriously ♩ = 144

SNARE DRUM (snares off)

Player 1
Snare drum
Hi-hat

Player 2
China cymbal
Small tom

Player 3
Ride cymbal
Medium tom

Player 4
Large tom
Kick drum

p *f* *p*

p *f* *p*

p *f* *p*

p *f* *p*

rit. a tempo

7

HH
SD

China
T1

Ride
T2

f *p*

f *p*

p *f* *p*

p *f* *p*

rit. **A** a tempo

CHINA CYMBAL
(scrape w/ coin)

RIDE CYMBAL
(- = half accent)

mp

mp

mp

(cross-stick)

L R R L

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

f *foot*

SMALL TOM
(rim)

mp

L R L R R L

Sample
Image

20

HH
SD

China
T1

Ride
T2

T3
Kick

KICK DRUM

mp

26

HH
SD

China
T1

Ride
T2

T3
Kick

B (rim shot)

mf

p

f

CHINA CYMBAL

f

mf

f

mf

f

31

HH
SD

China
T1

Ride
T2

T3
Kick

f

f

f

Sample
Image

C (- = *half accent*)

D

Sample Image

56

HH
SD

China
T1

Ride
T2

T3
Kick

mf (rim) L R L R

2 2 2

61

HH
SD

China
T1

Ride
T2

T3
Kick

2 2 2

R R

67

HH
SD

China
T1

Ride
T2

T3
Kick

ff *ff*

71

HH
SD

China
T1

Ride
T2

T3
Kick

R L R R L R L R

76

HH
SD

China
T1

Ride
T2

T3
Kick

p *ff*

p *ff*

p *ff*

p *ff*

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

China
T1

Ride
T2

mp *mf* *f* *ff* *fff*

fff *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff*

fff *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff*

Sample
Image

E

HH SD
China T1
Ride T2
T3 Kick

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

L R R L

Measures 1-5 of the musical score. The HH SD part has a pattern of eighth notes and rests. The China T1 part has a pattern of eighth notes and rests. The Ride T2 part has a pattern of eighth notes and rests. The T3 Kick part has a pattern of eighth notes and rests. The dynamics are *mf* and *p*.

90 rit. a tempo rit. Slower

HH SD
China T1
Ride T2
T3 Kick

f *p* *f* *p* *p* *f* *p* *p* *f* *p* *p* *f* *p* *p* *f* *p*

(scrape w/ coin)
L.v.

Measures 6-10 of the musical score. The HH SD part has a pattern of eighth notes and rests. The China T1 part has a pattern of eighth notes and rests. The Ride T2 part has a pattern of eighth notes and rests. The T3 Kick part has a pattern of eighth notes and rests. The dynamics are *f* and *p*. The tempo markings are rit., a tempo rit., and Slower. The instruction (scrape w/ coin) L.v. is present.

Sample
Image

