

JIM CASELLA

BEYOND THE CLOUDS

for percussion orchestra



Beyond the Clouds by Jim Casella
© 2017 Tapspace Publications, LLC (ASCAP). Portland, OR.
All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Printed in USA.

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.

TSPCE17-021

Beyond the Clouds was commissioned in 2017 by the Vandegrift High School Percussion Ensemble from Austin, Texas where my friend Joe Hobbs serves as the director of percussion.

In 2013 Joe, myself, and a small group of friends planned a trip across the globe to Nepal, where we would trek for three weeks to the remote Himalayan base of the Annapurna massif. Each of us had been dealing with various forms of transition and loss in our lives, and this adventure was a way to challenge ourselves both physically and mentally, facing the unknown together.

One of the details we overlooked in planning is that our trip was to take place during Nepal's monsoon season. This meant hiking in the rain most days, up and down endless, steep, ancient trails and across wobbly, slick suspension bridges at high altitudes. Views of the mountains were completely obscured by clouds, though on rare occasions majestic, glaciated peaks would emerge from a clearing, bringing a completely new dimension to where we actually were.

The miserable, soggy, leech-filled paths became our gateway to witnessing something magnificent beyond the clouds. I've found this to be a useful metaphor of life, acknowledging how immediate perception and circumstances often differ from a broader, more objective reality.

Since the adventure in Nepal, we have embarked on several others in different parts of the world. Each trip has been filled with unique challenges and discoveries. Perhaps most importantly they represent the power within making a deliberate choice to connect and persevere together. I treasure these experiences and these friends.

Beyond the Clouds is dedicated to Joe Hobbs, Mark Hunter, and Sean Womack – the friends with whom I've shared these ongoing adventures. It premiered in Chicago, Illinois, at the 2017 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic.

—Jim Casella

PERFORMANCE NOTES

A number of small, but unique instruments are called for in this piece. **Himalayan yak bells** come in a variety of shapes and sizes, but may be a little hard to find. They're literally the bells worn around the necks of yaks in the mountains of Nepal and are essentially a rustic cowbell with a clapper made of animal horn. Listen to the audio recording included here for an audible reference to aim for. You can probably find something similar by searching the internet for "antique cow bells" or salvage livestock bells. The older and rustier, the better. If you have a few extras beyond those used by Percussion 1, give additional bells to the chime and timpani players to spread out the sound of the yak bells as the piece fades away.

Singing bowls and **Tibetan finger cymbals** are pretty easy to find in Himalayan specialty stores, or vendors who sell meditation supplies. The bowl needs to be used for both 'singing' as well as struck using muted and open strokes. A medium-sized bowl (roughly 8-10" in diameter) should work well, and its primary tone (or prominent overtones) would ideally sound near an E or B pitch. Tibetan finger cymbals are heavier and thicker than the finger cymbals often found in music stores, or the kind you might see used in belly dancing. The sound should be dark with a long decay.

The **Chinese gong** performed by Marimba 4 should be a small (roughly 12") and splashy sounding. It should not be a tam-tam style instrument. This gong should color and enhance the sound of the Tibetan finger cymbals.

Bamboo wind chimes should sound peaceful and distant. These are often available in garden supply or import stores. I would recommend mixing a larger set with a smaller set for a wide spectrum of bamboo sounds. These can work like the yak bells, gently sounding from afar. For an enhanced effect, a few sets may be distributed to other players in the ensemble to gently play as the piece fades out.

An authentic **pod rattle** may be harder to find than the synthetic (or wood) ones made by Meinl (often called "birds" or "waterfall"). The Meinl versions work great and will be available from any reputable percussion instrument supplier.

The Percussion 1 and 2 parts are sometimes quick to transition from one instrument to another. These should be achievable with good preparation, however feel free to add another player or two to divvy those parts up if extra performers are available.

Bows are called for on Vibraphone 2, Crotales (chime player), Marimba 1, and Marimba 2. Use bass bows if possible. The Marimba 1 player needs two bows, but if this poses a budgetary concern, play this part with only one bow on G, E, and C (in place of the written double stops). It's also possible that with some clever stage positioning, bows can be shared by Vibe 2 and Marimba 2, and by Chimes and Marimba 1. Bowed marimba parts have some space on either end of their bowed parts during which players could retrieve nearby, shared bows.

Ankle bells and **sleigh bells** should differ in timbre with ankle bells sounding lower and darker.

The **3 woodblocks** performed by Vibraphone 2 should be somewhat high in pitch, as if extending the upper range of the temple blocks.

The **shaft slaps** performed by Marimbas 2-4 should be accomplished by sharply striking the bar with the shaft of the mallet perfectly parallel to the bar, and somewhat pressed downward like a dead stroke. They're a little tricky to execute accurately. These should differ in timbre from the regular "back of mallet" parts that strike the bar normally with the butt of the mallet.

Vibraphone pedaling is written in when it's intended to be specific, and "no pedal" is sometimes used when no sustain is deliberate. In all other cases, vibraphone players can use their best judgement on proper pedal phrasing and amounts. Long notes typically indicate a sustained sound, even if pedal indications aren't included.

There are a few opportunities to share instruments if needed. Namely, the mark tree in the Percussion 2 part can be shared by the Glockenspiel player if following the suggested setup. Also, one sizzle cymbal can be shared by the Marimba 3 and Chime players.

The offset **glockenspiel duet** that starts at bar 147 is intended to be performed on two separate sets of bells giving it more spacial separation on stage. It is possible, however, for this part to be played on a shared instrument. If sharing, simply omit the whole notes in measures 159–161.

There is the potential for the mounted kick drum and muted timpani parts to overpower some of the mallet shaft parts. Take care in balancing these drum parts the the keyboard texture, and consider playing them with sticks rather than felt mallets for a thinner, shorter sound.

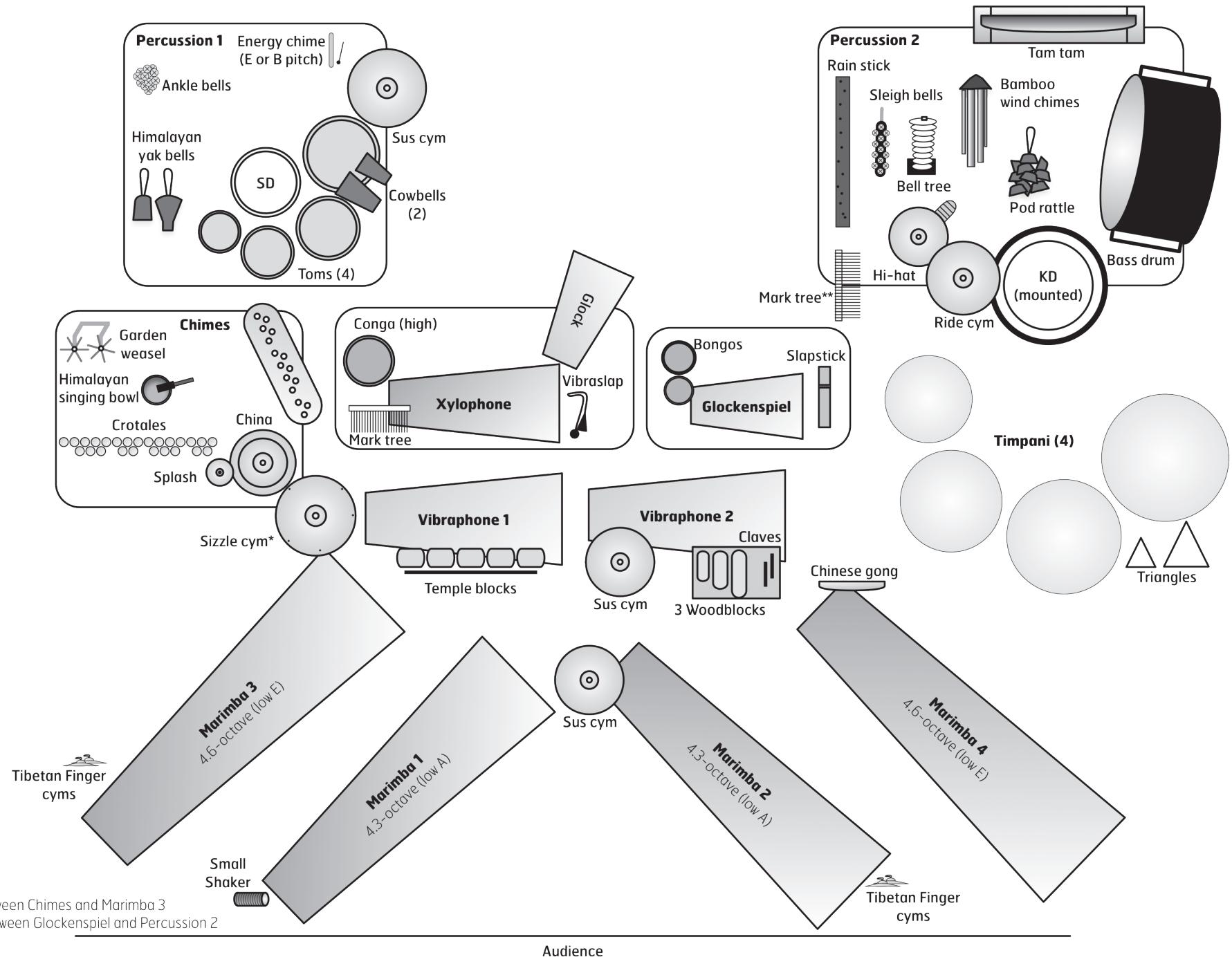
Many of the main thematic gestures in this piece are offset, canonically separated by entrances one to four counts apart. As such, players must posses a strong command of timing. If performed well, these staggered parts should form composites that weave into colorful dialog.

PLAYERS AND INSTRUMENTATION

Beyond the Clouds requires **12 players** with the following players and instrumentation:

- 1) **Glockenspiel**
+ mark tree, bongos, slapstick
- 2) **Xylophone**
+ vibraslap, mark tree, 1 conga (high), glockenspiel
- 3) **Chimes**
+ crotales (2-octaves), sizzle cymbal, china cymbal, splash cymbal, Himalayan singing bowl, garden weasel
- 4) **Vibraphone 1**
+ temple blocks
- 5) **Vibraphone 2**
+ claves, 3 high woodblocks, suspended cymbal
- 6) **Marimba 1 (low A)**
+ small shaker
- 7) **Marimba 2 (low A)**
+ suspended cymbal, tibetan finger cymbals
- 8) **Marimba 3 (low E)**
+ sizzle cymbal (shared w/ chimes), tibetan finger cymbals
- 9) **Marimba 4 (low E)**
+ chinese gong (roughly 12")
- 10) **Timpani (4 drums)**
+ 2 triangles (large & medium)
- 11) **Percussion 1**
4 concert toms, himalayan yak bells (or deeply pitched, rustic patio chimes), snare drum, suspended cymbal, 2 cowbells, energy chime (approx. E or B pitch), ankle bells
- 12) **Percussion 2**
concert bass drum, mounted kick drum, tam-tam, mark tree, bamboo wind chimes, hi-hat, ride cymbal, bell tree, rainstick, sleigh bells, pod rattle

SUGGESTED SETUP



BEYOND THE CLOUDS

JIM CASELLA

Energetic ♩ = 148

Glockenspiel (+mark tree, bongos, slapstick)

Xylophone (+vibraslap, mark tree, 1 conga (high), glockenspiel)

Chimes (+crotolas (2-oct), sizzle cym, china cym, splash cym, singing bowl, garden weasel)

Vibraphone 1 (+temple blocks)

Vibraphone 2 (+claves, high woodblocks (3), sus cym)

Marimba 1 (low A) (+small shaker)

Marimba 2 (low A) (+sus cym, tibetan finger cyms)

Marimba 3 (low E) (+sizzle cym, tibetan finger cyms)

Marimba 4 (low E) (+small chinese gong)

Timpani (4) (+2 triangles (large & med))

Percussion 1 (concert toms (4), himalayan yak bells, snare drum, sus cym, cowbells (2), energy chime, ankle bells)

Percussion 2 (concert BD, kick dr (mounted), tam-tam, mark tree, bamboo wind chimes, hi-hat, ride cym, bell tree, rainstick, sleigh bells, pod rattle)

Glockenspiel (w/ bright plastic)

Xylophone (w/ hard rubber or cord)

Chimes (rake w/ hard plastic mallet)

med-hard mallets

soft mallets

med-hard mallets

medium mallets

Large triangle

Medium triangle

Sus cym (scrape w/ tri beater)

f Bell tree (scrape)

PP Bamboo wind chimes (sparse)

Sample
Image

Sample Image

BEYOND THE CLOUDS – Casella

G
X
Ch
VI
V2
M1
M2
M3
M4
Timp
P1
P2

26 27 28 29 30 31

Sample
Image

BEYOND THE CLOUDS – Casella

B

Glockenspiel (w/ bright plastic)

Crotales (w/ bright plastic)

Sizzle cym (gently w/ finger)

Ch

VI

V2

M1

Marimba

Snare drum no heads

Bass drum (w/ bright plastic)

Mark tree

41 42 43 44 45 46 47

TSPCE17-021

Sample Image

BEYOND THE CLOUDS – Casella

G

X (4) (8) (4)

Sizz cym

Ch (4) (8) (4)

Crotales

Chimes
(w/ bright plastic mallet on tube)

VI

V2 sim.

p f p p

M1 (8) (4) (8) (4)

M2 (8) (4) (8) (4)

Sus cym

M3 (4) (8) (4) (8)

M4 (4) (8) (4) (8)

Timp

P1 (4) (8) (4) (8)

mp pp

P2 3 pp

Sample Image

BEYOND THE CLOUDS – Casello

G

X

Ch

VI

V2

M1

Sample Image

(8) (4)

Crotales Chimes (on tube)

f p no pedal f p

p p p f p

8^{meas} (4) 8^{meas} (4)

8^{meas} (4) 8^{meas} (4)

sim.

(4) (4)

to sticks pp

Ride cym (w/ rods)

p

Sample Image

BEYOND THE CLOUDS – Casella

C

G *mp* (8) *(w/ chime hammer)* *gradual cresc.* **Vibraslap** *mf* **Xylo (med-dark plastic)** *f*

X

Ch *mf* *gradual cresc.* *f*

VI *p* *mf* *sim.* *mp* *f* *mp*

Claves

V2 *p*

M1 (8) (4) *p* *mf* *sim.* *mp* *f* *mp*

M2 *p* *mf* *sim.* *mp*

M3 (8) *mp* *gradual cresc.* *mf*

M4 *p* *mp* *mf*

Timp *mp* *p* *mp*

PI *SD (rim knocks, snares off)* *Low tom (dry/ muffled)* *mp* *gradual cresc.* (4)

P2 *mp pp*

Sample Image

Sample Image

D

Sample Image

Sample Image

BEYOND THE CLOUDS – Casella

G

X

Ch

Splash

China

Splash

short chokes

VI

V2

Temple blocks

mf

M1

M2

M3

f

mf

f

mf

M4

nat.

sim.

f

mf

f

mf

Timp

P1

P2

2

2

92

93

94

95

96

Sample Image

BEYOND THE CLOUDS – Casella

E

Bongos (w/ glock mallets) **Glock**

Mark tree *random/sparse*

Chimes (rake w/ hard plastic)

Vibes

Violin *p — mf* *f* *p — f*

V2 *pp* *pp*

M1

Sus cym *secco* *sffz* *p — f* *pp* *p*

Toms

Sample Image

BEYOND THE CLOUDS – Casella

F

Bongos
(w/ moleskin-covered sticks)

G

X

Chimes
(w/ plastic mallets on tube)

Ch

V1

V2

M1

M2

M3

M4

Tim

P1

P2

Bongos
(w/ moleskin-covered sticks)

High conga (w/ moleskin covered sticks)

Himalayan bowl (w/ wood bowl ringer)

Temple blocks (w/ hard rubber mallets)

3 woodblocks (w/ hard rubber mallets)

Tibetan finger cym.

Sizzle cym

gradually gliss down to lowest note

Energy chime (w/ h...

F

Sample Image

G

(4)

(4)

dampen open notes after striking

w/ back of mallet

w/ back of mallet

Small shaker

Marimba (shaft slaps, dead strokes)

Marimba (shaft slaps, dead strokes)

Marimba (shaft slaps, dead strokes)

p

ff

p

mp

p

mp

119 120 121 122 123

Sample Image

BEYOND THE CLOUDS – Casella

Slapstick

Xylophone (w/ back of mallet)

f

V1

V2

M1

M2

M3

M4

Timpani

P1

P2

Sample Image

Sample Image

G

x

Ch

VI

v2

M1

felt (loco)

SD (stick shots) **Cym** (crash)

Concert BD (w/ felt stick)

f

133 134 135 136

TSPCE17-021

Sample Image

BEYOND THE CLOUDS – Casella

H

I Half Tempo ♩=74

Mark tree (gently, random)

G
X
Ch

Vibes (w/back of mallets)
VI
Vibes (w/back of mallets)
V2

M1
M2
M3
M4

Timp

P1
P2

Rainstick (gently)

Sample Image

G
X
Ch
VI
V2
M1

Glockenspiel (w small, light brass mallets)

Glockenspiel (w small, light brass mallets)

Sizzle cym (warmly)

mp

147 148 149

Sample
Image

BEYOND THE CLOUDS – Casella

G

X

Ch

VI

V2

M1

M2

M3

M4

Tim

P1

P2

Sample Image

Sample Image

J

G

X

Chimes (w/ hammer)

VI

V2

M1

Sizzle cym (warmly)

mp

w/ soft mallets

mallets

Sample Image

BEYOND THE CLOUDS – Casella

G

w/ med plastic mallets

X

Ch

VI

w/ hard mallets

V2

w/ medium mallets

M1

M2

M3

M4

(4)

Marimba (w/ med-soft mallets)

Timpani

P1

P2

Sleigh bells

Sample Image

Sample Image

G *mf*

X

Ch *mp*

VI *f*

V2 *mf*

Marimba (w/ med-hard mallets) *mp f mp f mp f mp f*

Marimba (w/ med-hard mallets) *mp f mp f mp f mp f*

to 2 med mallets (flipped)

to 2 med mallets (flipped)

Snare drum *n pp mf pp mf pp mf pp mf*

Sample Image

BEYOND THE CLOUDS – Casella

K ♩=148

G

X

Ch

V1

V2

M1

M2

M3

M4

Tim

P1

P2

Splash (choked)

Temple blocks (w back of vibe mallets)

no pedal

to medium mallets

w/ back of mallets

muffle

w/ med mallets

Toms (rims w/sticks)

(head)

Kick (w/sticks) rim

Sample Image

Sample Image

L

w/ bright plastic mallets

mp — mf

cresc.

mf

Chimes (w/ hammer)

mf

cresc.

China

f

damp

mp — f

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

mp — f

Ped.

mf

Ped.

cresc.

Ped.

f

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

Ped.

(8) —

mp — f

locos

mf

f

mf

locos

nat.

dead strokes

mf

mf

cresc.

f

n (dome)

Toms

f

mf

Hi-hat (w/ sticks)

Sample Image

BEYOND THE CLOUDS – Casella

A page of musical notation for orchestra and percussion, labeled "Sample Image". The score includes parts for G, X, Ch, VI, V2, M1, M2, M3, M4, Timp, P1, and P2. The music features various dynamic markings, including "Splash", "China", "short chokes", "temple blocks", "Ped.", "mf", "f", "mf", "nat.", "sim.", and "2". The page number 23 is at the top left, and the section title "BEYOND THE CLOUDS – Casella" is at the top center. The bottom of the page shows measure numbers 180 through 184.

Sample Image

180 181 182 183 184

BEYOND THE CLOUDS – Casella

M

Half-tempo ($\frac{1}{2} = \text{J}$)

w/ med plastic mallets

Chimes (w/ hammer)

Xylophone (w/ hard rubber or cord)
rhythm can be ambiguous

Singing bowl

VI

V2

MI

Yak bells

191 192 193 194 195 196 197

Sample Image

BEYOND THE CLOUDS – Casella

poco rit.

Slightly slower ($\text{♩} = 70$)
delicately

w/ med-soft mallets
x = mallet dampen

w/ med-soft mallets
x = mallet dampen

poco rit.

release

198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208

Sample Image

N $\text{J}=\text{Quasi A Tempo (in 2)} \text{ J}=68$

BEYOND THE CLOUDS – Casella

N $\text{J}=\text{Quasi A Tempo (in 2)} \text{ J}=68$

G
X
Ch
VI
V2
M1
M2

Crotales (w/plastic)
Crotales (w/bow)
cord mallets (blend w/ mar. 3.)
w/ soft mallets

pp
p
f
pp
p
f
pp
n
p
f
pp
n
p
f
pp
ppp pp

212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219

TSPCE17-021

Sample Image

BEYOND THE CLOUDS – Casella

Sample Image

G

X

Ch

VI

V2

M1

M2

M3

M4

Timp

PI

P2

220

221

222

223

224

225

gradually getting more sparse, fading to nothing

gradually getting

gradually

Yak bell (optional)

gradually getting more sparse, fading to nothing

Sample Image

G
X
Ch
V1
V2
M1
D

p *f*

niente

ff

n

niente

niente

niente

niente

niente

niente

230 231 232 233 234 235

Sample
Image



tapspace.com