

Patrick Fitzgibbon
The Travelers
for steel band



The Travelers by Patrick Fitzgibbon
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Program Notes

After years of listening to, studying, and playing the music of pan greats like Boogsie Sharpe, Jit Samaroo, and Andy Narell—and two trips to Trinidad to play in Panorama—I had to try my hand at composing for steel band. *The Travelers* is the title track of the resulting album. Its extended form is meant to take listeners on a journey of contrasting rhythmic and harmonic ideas. It was inspired by the montunos of Cuban piano great “Pupy” Pedrosa and the harmonic language of Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, and Brazilian singer/songwriter Milton Nascimento.

Two melodic motifs “travel” their way through different sections of the piece. The extended “jam” section breaks away from these motifs and takes a more improvisational approach. The rhythms heard throughout borrow components from Caribbean styles such as songó, bolero, and calypso as well as some mixed-meter ideas.

It is my hope that the intricate harmonies, catchy rhythms, and recognizable themes will provide enjoyment for all listeners.

—Patrick Fitzgibbon

Performance Notes

I would suggest that a vital component to rehearsing *The Travelers* is having a solid drummer who is intimately familiar with the written part and the recording. The process will be much easier on the pan players if the drummer knows the part inside and out by the first rehearsal.

Also, take the necessary time to break down the rhythm in each new section to be sure the players understand how their parts fit together. I would suggest looping the following sections for rehearsal:

- Letter B (first 2 bars)
- Letter E (first 4 bars)
- Letter F (first 4 bars)
- Letter J (first 4 bars)
- Letter K–L

As a steel band director myself, I know there are time constraints when learning a long piece. As an idea, you could use the “jam” section (letter J) to feature an improvised solo instead of the written part.

Finally, the rhythms in this piece are meant to be played with a Caribbean type of swing. For example, the unison rhythm at one before F should be slightly “triplicated” in order to get the proper feel. Listen to the recording for a reference or, better yet, listen to calypso greats like Mighty Sparrow or Lord Kitchener!

Players and Instrumentation

The Travelers requires at least **8 players** with the following instrumentation:

Tenor pan (lead), double tenors (or double seconds), double seconds, double guitars, triple guitars, bass pans, drumset, congas, claves, shekere (or cabasa, guiro, shaker, etc.) and cowbell.

Level: Med-Advanced
Approx. playing time: 9'45"

The Travelers

Patrick Fitzgibbon

A

♩ = 110

Tenor *mf*

Double Tenor (or Double Second) *mf*

Double Second *mf*

Double Guitar *mf*

Triple Guitar *mf*

Bass *mf*

Drumset *ride* *L.v.* *HH* *mp*

Percussion *mp*

7

T *mp*

mp

mp

mp

2

2

(4)

(4)

Sample Image

B

13

T *cresc.* **2** *mf*

DT *cresc.* **2** *mf*

DS *cresc.* **2** *mf*

DG *cresc.* **2** *mf*

TG *mf* *mf*

B *cresc.* **2** *mf*

D *cresc.* *p* *Cr.* *mf*

P *cresc.* (8) *mf*

18

T *cresc.* **2** *cresc.*

DT *cresc.* **2** *cresc.*

DS *cresc.* **2** *cresc.*

DG *cresc.* **2** *cresc.*

TG *cresc.* **2** *cresc.*

B *cresc.* **2** *cresc.*

D (4)

P (4)

Sample Image

C $\text{\textcircled{S}}$ **D**

T *f* *mp*

DT *f* *mp*

DS *f* *mp*

DG *f* *mp*

TG *f* *mp*

B *f* *mp*

D *f* *mp* *bolero* LH=cross-stick 3 RRLRL R LRR 3 *sim.*

P *mp* *bolero* 3

31

T *mp* *f*

DT *mp* *f*

DS *mp* *f*

DG *mp* *f*

TG *mp* *f*

B *mp* *f*

P *mp* *f* *fill* 3

Sample
Image

37

T
DT
DS
DG
TG
B
D
P

E

T
DT
DS
DG
TG
B
D
P

Sample Image

no repeat on D.S.

Musical score for measures 47-51. The score is for a band with parts for Trumpet (T), Drum Trumpet (DT), Drum Set (DS), Double Bass (DG), Tenor Bass (TG), Bass (B), Drums (D), and Percussion (P). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into two first endings (1. and 2.) by a double bar line. The first ending leads to the second ending. The dynamic marking *cresc.* is present in all parts. The drum part includes 'fill' markings with dashed lines and a '1' below them. The percussion part has a similar 'fill' marking.

Musical score for measures 52-56. The score continues with the same instruments as the previous system. A key signature change to two flats (B-flat and E-flat) occurs at measure 52, indicated by a box with the letter 'F'. The dynamic marking *f* (forte) is used in all parts. The drum part includes 'songo' markings above the notes. The percussion part also includes 'songo' markings. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat signs on both sides.

Sample
Image

56

Musical score for measures 56-58. The score is written for a string quartet (T, DT, DS, DG, TG, B) and piano (D, P). The top two staves (T and DT) contain vocal lines with lyrics. The DS, DG, and TG staves contain complex rhythmic patterns. The B staff contains a bass line. The D and P staves are mostly empty, with some rests and a few notes at the end of the section.

59

Musical score for measures 59-61. The score is written for a string quartet (T, DT, DS, DG, TG, B) and piano (D, P). The top two staves (T and DT) contain vocal lines with lyrics. The DS, DG, and TG staves contain complex rhythmic patterns. The B staff contains a bass line. The D and P staves are mostly empty, with some rests and a few notes at the end of the section.

Sample Image

G

T
DT
DS
DG
TG
B
D
P

to ride cymbal

tumbao

H

T
DT
DS
DG
TG
B
D
P

to ride bell

Sample
Image

73

Musical score for measures 73-77. The score is arranged in a grand staff with ten staves: T (Tenor), DT (Drum Tenor), DS (Drum Snare), DG (Drum Gong), TG (Drum Tom), B (Bass), D (Drum), and P (Percussion). The vocal parts (T and DT) feature a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The drum parts (DS, DG, TG, B, D, P) provide a complex rhythmic accompaniment with various patterns and accents.

78

Musical score for measures 78-82. The score continues with the same ten-staff arrangement. A double bar line with repeat dots is at the beginning of measure 78. A vertical bar with a '1' above it is placed at the start of measure 80. The vocal parts continue with their melodic line. The drum parts include a section labeled 'songo' starting in measure 80, which features a specific rhythmic pattern. The score concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 82.

Sample Image

81

Musical score for measures 81-83. The score includes staves for Tenor (T), Drum Tenor (DT), Drum Snare (DS), Drum Bass (DG), Tenor Bass (TG), Bass (B), and Percussion (P). The percussion part includes a snare drum (D) and a tom-tom (P). The music is in 4/4 time and features a complex rhythmic pattern with many eighth and sixteenth notes.

84

Musical score for measures 84-86. The score includes staves for Tenor (T), Drum Tenor (DT), Drum Snare (DS), Drum Bass (DG), Tenor Bass (TG), Bass (B), and Percussion (P). The percussion part includes a snare drum (D) and a tom-tom (P). The music is in 4/4 time and features a complex rhythmic pattern with many eighth and sixteenth notes. A double bar line is present at the end of measure 84. A box with the letter 'J' is placed above the Tenor staff in measure 85. The Percussion part has a section labeled 'to ride bell' and another labeled 'tumbao'.

Sample
Image

88

Score for measures 88-91. The score includes parts for Tenor (T), Double Trumpet (DT), Double Saxophone (DS), Double Bass (DG), Tenor Bass (TG), Bass (B), Drums (D), and Percussion (P). The Tenor part has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The DT and DS parts have a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The DG and TG parts play a steady bass line with chords. The B part has a melodic line with eighth notes. The D and P parts have a simple drum and percussion pattern.

92

Fine

Score for measures 92-95. The score includes parts for Tenor (T), Double Trumpet (DT), Double Saxophone (DS), Double Bass (DG), Tenor Bass (TG), Bass (B), Drums (D), and Percussion (P). The Tenor part has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The DT and DS parts have a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The DG and TG parts play a steady bass line with chords. The B part has a melodic line with eighth notes. The D and P parts have a simple drum and percussion pattern. The word "Fine" is written above the Tenor part in measure 94, and the dynamic marking *ff* is present in measures 93 and 94.

Sample Image

K

97

T *solo w/ DSI*
mf

DT *solo w/ Tenor*
mf

DS (4) (4)

DG *mp*

TG *mp*

B *mp*

D (4)

P (4)

L

T

DT

(4)

(4)

(4)

(4)

Sample
Image

M

109

Musical score for measures 109-113. The score includes staves for Tenor (T), Drum Tenor (DT), Drum Snare (DS), Drum Gong (DG), Drum Tom (TG), Bass (B), Drum (D), and Percussion (P). The DS staff has a '(8)' above it. The D and P staves have a '(4)' above them. The score features complex rhythmic patterns and melodic lines for the vocal parts.

114

Musical score for measures 114-118. The score includes staves for Tenor (T), Drum Tenor (DT), Drum Snare (DS), Drum Gong (DG), Drum Tom (TG), Bass (B), Drum (D), and Percussion (P). The DS, D, and P staves have a '(4)' above them. The score continues with complex rhythmic patterns and melodic lines for the vocal parts.

Sample Image

119 **N**

T
DT
DS (8)
DG (4)
TG (4)
B
D (4)
P (4)

T
DT
DS (8)
DG (4)
TG (4)
B
D (4)
P (4)

Sample
Image

O

129

Musical score for measures 129-133. The score includes staves for Tenor (T), Double Tenor (DT), Drum Set (DS), Double Bass (DG), Tenor Guitar (TG), Bass (B), Drums (D), and Piano (P). The Tenor and Double Tenor parts feature melodic lines with slurs and ties. The Drum Set part has a pattern of slashes with a '(12)' above it. The Double Bass and Tenor Guitar parts play chords with slurs. The Bass part has a simple rhythmic pattern. The Drums and Piano parts have slashes with '(4)' above them.

134

Musical score for measures 134-138. The score includes staves for Tenor (T), Double Tenor (DT), Drum Set (DS), Double Bass (DG), Tenor Guitar (TG), Bass (B), Drums (D), and Piano (P). The Tenor and Double Tenor parts continue their melodic lines. The Drum Set part has slashes with '(4)' above it. The Double Bass and Tenor Guitar parts play chords with slurs. The Bass part has a simple rhythmic pattern. The Drums and Piano parts have slashes with '(4)' above them.

Sample Image

P

139

T

DT

DS (8)

cowbell
mp

DG

TG

B

D

P

143

T

DT

DS (4)

DG

TG

B

D

P

Sample
Image

Q

Musical score for measures 147-150. The score includes staves for Tenor (T), Double Tenor (DT), Drum Set (DS), Double Bass (DG), Tenor Guitar (TG), Bass (B), Drums (D), and Piano (P). The Tenor and Double Tenor parts feature complex rhythmic patterns with accents and slurs, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Drum Set part is marked with a slash and the number (8). The Double Bass and Tenor Guitar parts play a steady accompaniment with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The Bass part has a simple rhythmic line. The Drums and Piano parts play a consistent rhythmic pattern, also marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

Musical score for measures 151-154. The score includes staves for Tenor (T), Double Tenor (DT), Drum Set (DS), Double Bass (DG), Tenor Guitar (TG), Bass (B), Drums (D), and Piano (P). The Tenor and Double Tenor parts continue with complex rhythmic patterns, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Drum Set part is marked with a slash and the number (4). The Double Bass and Tenor Guitar parts play a steady accompaniment with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The Bass part has a simple rhythmic line. The Drums and Piano parts play a consistent rhythmic pattern, also marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

Sample Image

R

155

Musical score for measures 155-160. The score includes staves for Tenor (T), Drum Tenor (DT), Drum Set (DS), Double Bass (DG), Tenor Bass (TG), Bass (B), and two Percussion parts (D and P). The DS part has a '(8)' marking above the first measure and '(4)' above the fifth. The D and P parts have '(4)' markings above the fifth measure. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4.

160

Musical score for measures 160-165. The score includes staves for Tenor (T), Drum Tenor (DT), Drum Set (DS), Double Bass (DG), Tenor Bass (TG), Bass (B), and two Percussion parts (D and P). The DS part has a '(8)' marking above the fourth measure. The D and P parts have '(8)' markings above the fourth measure. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4.

Sample
Image

S

to pan

D. Solo Fine

168

Sample Image