

# ***THEME IN SEARCH OF VARIATIONS***

PERCUSSION TRIO  
MARK APPLEBAUM, 2004

# THEME IN SEARCH OF VARIATIONS

for percussion trio  
Mark Applebaum, 2004

Duration: approximately 3 minutes.

\* \* \*

Although it is an autonomous piece that may be performed on its own, *Theme in Search of Variations* invites musical responses in the form of other pieces—variations that might be performed in succession on a given concert. It was originally composed as a provocation to my students of the graduate composition seminar at Stanford University, composers who then wrote individual percussion pieces—*variations*—of their own. The subsequent pieces were later performed together in concert under the title *Themes and Variations and Bridges*, along with this theme as well as a kind of “coda” movement that bridged together extracted bits from each composer’s contribution.

METAL

~ WOOD

SKIN

①

\* TUBULAR BELLS

VIBRAPHONE

~ METAL

~ WOOD

SKIN

②

\*\* CROTALES

\*\* GLOCKENSPIEL

~ METAL

~ WOOD

SKIN

③

\* CELESTA

MARIMBA

METAL WINDCHIMES

LOW TRIANGLE

MEDIUM SUSPENDED CYMBAL

MEDIUM TAM

SHAKER

GUIRO

LOG DRUM

BONGOS

CONGA

BAMBOO WINDCHIMES

MEDIUM TRIANGLE

HIGH SUSPENDED CYMBAL

LARGE TAM

SHAKER

SANDPAPER BLOCKS

WOODBLOCKS

CONCERT TOMS

BASS DRUM

GLASS WINDCHIMES

HIGH TRIANGLE

LOW SUSPENDED CYMBAL

SMALL TAM

SHAKER

HIGH COWBELL

TEMPLE BLOCKS

ROTO TOMS

8ve

8ve

\* SOUNDING ONE OCTAVE HIGHER  
 \*\* SOUNDING TWO OCTAVES HIGHER

## INSTRUMENTATION

### Player 1

Metal Windchimes  
 Low Triangle  
 Medium Suspended Cymbal  
 Medium Tam  
 Shaker  
 Guiro  
 Log Drum (with high and low pitches)  
 Bongos  
 Conga  
 Tubular Bells  
 Vibraphone

### Player 2

Bamboo Windchimes  
 Medium Triangle  
 High Suspended Cymbal  
 Large Tam  
 Shaker  
 Sandpaper Blocks  
 Woodblocks (high and low)  
 Two Concert Toms  
 Bass Drum  
 Crotales (upper octave)  
 Glockenspiel

### Player 3

Glass Windchimes  
 High Triangle  
 Low Suspended Cymbal  
 Small Tam  
 Shaker  
 High Cowbell  
 Temple Blocks (high and low)  
 Three Roto Toms  
 Celesta  
 Marimba (four octave)

### Player 1 Mallets

Medium Yarn  
 Hard Rubber  
 Tubular Bells Hammers  
 Triangle Beater

### Player 2 Mallets

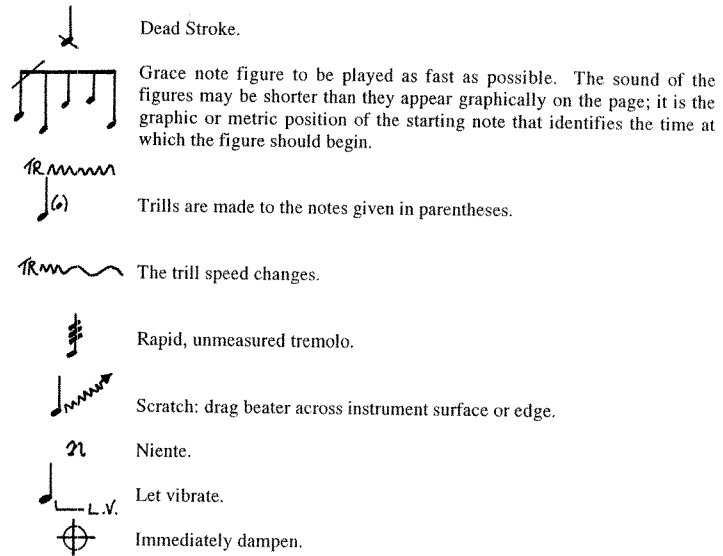
Brass  
 Wood Sticks  
 Superball Mallet (for friction on bass drum)  
 Triangle Beater

### Player 3 Mallets

Medium Yarn  
 Soft Yarn  
 Hard Rubber  
 Triangle Beater

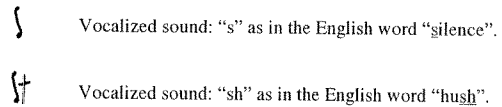
In the case of instruments that are repeated among the ensemble (triangles, suspended cymbals, tams, shakers) care should be taken to choose contrasting but compatible sounds and, when noted, that their pitches be arranged accordingly (e.g. player one has the lowest triangle, player two has the middle triangle, player three has the highest triangle).

## LEGEND



## VOCALIZED SOUNDS

The adopted notational convention of the following sounds is the international phonetic alphabet which is widely referenced, including appendix 11 of Alfred Blatter's *Instrumentation and Orchestration*, second edition. Vocalized sounds may be made at any comfortable pitch.



## ACCIDENTALS

Accidentals apply only to the note to which they immediately adhere. However, several "courtesy" natural signs additionally appear.

# THEME IN SEARCH OF VARIATIONS — FOR PERCUSSION TRIO —

M. APPLEBAUM 2004

**1**

METAL  
WOOD  
SKIN  
TUBULAR BELLS \*  
VIBRAPHONE

MEDIUM YARN MALLETS

3 3 3 5

mp < f pp mf ff mp < f pp mf ff

2/4 = 60

4

PED

POCO RITARD

3/4

1/4

15"

**2**

METAL  
WOOD  
SKIN  
CRYSTALS  
GLOCKENSPIEL

BRASS MALLETS

3 3 3 5

mp f pp mf ff

2/4 = 60

4

PED

POCO RITARD

3/4

1/4

15"

**3**

METAL  
WOOD  
SKIN  
CELESTA  
MARIMBA

MEDIUM YARN MALLETS

3 3 3 5

mp < f pp mf ff pp mf ff mp < f

2/4 = 60

4

PED

POCO RITARD

3/4

1/4

15"

**Handwritten Notes:**

- HAMMERS
- L.V. SIM. TUBULAR BELLS PEDAL REMAINS \* BLOCKED DOWN
- SIM. L.V.
- TR. M.

8

15"

15"

YARN Mallet

CYMBAL

TAM

WITH HANDLE

WITH RUBBER Mallet

CYMBAL TAM

BONGOS CONGA

BONGOS

RUBBING HANDS ON DRUM

TAKE HARD RUBBER MalletS

VOCALIZED:

YARN Mallet

TAM

CYMBAL

WITH HANDLE

3/8 = 54 3/4

SANDPAPER BLOCKS

SANDPAPER BLOCKS

SLOW!

BASS DRUM

RUBBED WITH SUPERBALL Mallet

TAKE WOOD STICKS

VOCALIZED:

YARN Mallet

TRIANGLE BEATER

TRIANGLE

YARN Mallet

WITH HANDLE

YARN Mallet

3/8 = 54 3/4

TRIANGLE CYMBAL TAM

YARN Mallet

CYMBAL

TRIANGLE

TAM

WITH HANDLE

YARN Mallet

TAKE HARD RUBBER MalletS

VOCALIZED:

10 HARD RUBBER MALLETS

CYMBAL

LOG DRUM

BONGOS CONGA

CYMBAL

UNISON

WOOD STICKS

WOODBLOCKS

DRUMS

3 4

3 4

HARD RUBBER MALLETS

TEMPLE BLOCKS

ROTO TOMS

5 8

5 8

17

TAM  
LOG DRUM  
BONBOS  
CONGA

SCRAPE WITH AMBULE  
TAM L.V.  
sf

UNISON

5  
8  
CYMBAL  
WOOD BLOCKS  
DRUMS

2  
4  
3  
4  
EDGE OF CYMBAL  
L.V.  
pp  
mf  
pp  
3  
2nd pp  
pp  
7  
8  
3  
4

5  
8  
CYMBAL  
TEMPLE BLOCKS  
ROTO TOMS

2  
4  
3  
4  
CYMBAL ON BELL  
L.V.  
2nd  
sf  
7  
8  
3  
4

23

LD6 DRUM

BONGOS  
CONGA

3  
4

TAM

WOOD BLOCKS

DRUMS

7  
12

3  
4  
SCRAPE  
WITH  
HANDLE  
LV.

TAM

TEMPLE BLOCKS

ROTO TOMS

7  
12

WINDCHIMES  
CYMBAL

LOG DRUM

BOMBOS  
CONBA

UNISON—  
CHOKE

## WINDCHIMES

WOODCHIMES  
CYMBAL  
TAM

## WOOD BLOCKS

DRUMS

CHOKE

WINDCHIMES  
—L.V.

$\frac{4}{4} \text{ } \text{ } = 58$

CHOKE

WINDCHIMES  
—/V

$$\frac{4}{4} \text{ } \text{ } = 58$$

WINDCHIMES  
CYMBAL  
TAM

TEMPLE BLOCKS

Re To TAMS

36

TRIANGLE

SHAKER

BONGOS  
CONGA

Handwritten musical score for measures 36-38. The score is for Triangle, Shaker, Bongos, and Conga. The tempo is 58 BPM. The key signature is one flat (Bb). The time signature is 4/4. The score includes a section labeled "TAKE TRIANGLE BEATER" and a section labeled "TRIANGLE SHAKER". The Triangle part has a dynamic marking of *f* *p*. The Shaker part has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The Bongos and Conga parts have a dynamic marking of *f* *p*. The score includes a section labeled "TAKE TRIANGLE BEATER" and a section labeled "TRIANGLE SHAKER".

TRIANGLE

SHAKER

DRUMS

Handwritten musical score for measures 39-41. The score is for Triangle, Shaker, and Drums. The tempo is 58 BPM. The key signature is one flat (Bb). The time signature is 4/4. The score includes a section labeled "TAKE TRIANGLE BEATER" and a section labeled "TRIANGLE SHAKER". The Triangle part has a dynamic marking of *f* *p*. The Shaker part has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The Drums part has a dynamic marking of *f* *p*. The score includes a section labeled "TAKE TRIANGLE BEATER" and a section labeled "TRIANGLE SHAKER".

ROTO TOMS

Handwritten musical score for measures 42-44. The score is for Roto Toms. The tempo is 58 BPM. The key signature is one flat (Bb). The time signature is 4/4. The score includes a section labeled "TAKE TRIANGLE BEATER" and a section labeled "TRIANGLE SHAKER". The Roto Toms part has a dynamic marking of *f* *p*. The score includes a section labeled "TAKE TRIANGLE BEATER" and a section labeled "TRIANGLE SHAKER".

39  
WINDCHIMES  
TRIANGLE

SHAKER  
GUIRO

WINDCHIMES  
TRIANGLE

SHAKER  
GUIRO

WINDCHIMES  
GUIRO PLAYED WITH TRIANGLE BEATER

SLOWING

mp

WINDCHIMES  
TRIANGLE  
SHAKER  
SANDPAPER BLOCKS

WINDCHIMES  
TRIANGLE

SHAKER  
SANDPAPER BLOCKS

WINDCHIMES

SANDPAPER BLOCKS

SLOWING

mp

WINDCHIMES  
TRIANGLE  
SHAKER  
CAW BELL

WINDCHIMES  
TRIANGLE

SHAKER  
CAW BELL

WINDCHIMES

SOFT YARN

CAW BELL

SLOWING

mp