

Ensemble Builders for Percussion

Six Ensemble Works Playable With as few as Four Percussionists

Composed by
Robert Clayson

Glockenspiel.....	1
Chimes	1
Xylophone.....	1
Vibraphone.....	1
Marimba I.....	1
Marimba II	1
Timpani	1
Triangle	1
Tambourine.....	1
Tom-tom.....	1
Suspended Cymbal.....	1
Percussion	2
(Snare Drum, Bass Drum)	

Individual Piece Information

1. FIRST AND SECOND GO-ROUND

Minimum required instrumentation:

- Glockenspiel
- Tambourine
- Snare Drum
- Bass Drum

Other info:

- Tempo: 100 BPM
- Duration: 2:10
- Key Signature: F major
- Rolls: no
- Changes in Timpani: no
- Rhythmic Values: whole notes – eighth notes

2. MARCH

Minimum required instrumentation:

- Glockenspiel
- Xylophone
- Tambourine
- Snare Drum

Other info:

- Tempo: 100 BPM
- Duration 2:00
- Key Signature: B flat major
- Rolls: yes
- Changes in Timpani: no
- Rhythmic Values: whole notes – eighth notes

3. THE COURT JESTER

Minimum required instrumentation:

- Timpani
- Glockenspiel
- Xylophone
- Snare Drum

Other info:

- Tempo: 132 BPM
- Duration 2:00
- Key Signature: G minor
- Rolls: yes
- Changes in Timpani: no
- Rhythmic Values: whole notes – sixteenth notes

4. FLURRIES SUSPENDED IN THE SUNSET

Minimum required instrumentation:

- Glockenspiel
- Xylophone
- Vibraphone
- Marimba 1

Other info:

- Tempo: 90 BPM
- Duration 2:30
- Key Signature: A minor
- Rolls: yes
- Changes in Timpani: yes
- Rhythmic Values: whole notes – eighth notes

5. RUNNING SPEED

Minimum required instrumentation:

- Glockenspiel
- Xylophone
- Snare Drum
- Toms

Other info:

- Tempo: 160, 80 BPM
- Duration 2:00
- Key Signature: C minor
- Rolls: yes
- Changes in Timpani: no
- Rhythmic Values: whole notes – sixteenth notes

6. FANFARE

Minimum required instrumentation:

- Glockenspiel
- Vibraphone
- Snare Drum
- Tambourine

Other info:

- Tempo: 90, 140 BPM
- Duration 2:30
- Key Signature: B flat major
- Rolls: yes
- Changes in Timpani: no
- Rhythmic Values: whole notes – sixteenth notes

Program Notes

The more time I spend around beginning percussion programs, the more I see a need for meaningful percussion ensemble music that is accessible to a wide range of instrumentations and skill levels. Too often at solo and ensemble festivals, I see young percussion ensembles play pieces that were written for other instrument groups and adapted for mallet instruments. The idea of “flex” band pieces has always intrigued me as an educational tool for young band programs, so I have set out to write pieces for beginning to intermediate percussion ensembles in this style. *Ensemble Builders for Percussion* is a set of six “flex” style percussion ensemble pieces for young percussionists. While being scored for a large percussion section, each piece has a minimum instrumentation of quartet that will still allow the piece to function. The optional parts have been written so that you can still have your intermediate students play with your beginning students if need be. The pieces are presented in what I believe to be a sequential order so your students can grow from piece to piece. It is my sincere hope that you and your students enjoy these pieces. No matter how small or large your percussion program is, they still deserve to play good music that is written with them in mind.

Ensemble Builders for Percussion

(Six Ensemble Works Playable With as Few as Four Percussionists)

3

Full Score

No. 1 - First and Second Go-round

ROBERT CLAYSON
(ASCAP)

$\text{♩} = 100$

4

Glockenspiel *mp*

Tambourine

Percussion
(Snare Drum,
Bass Drum) *mp*

Xylophone

Vibraphone

Marimba 1 *mp*

Marimba 2

Chimes *mp*

$\text{♩} = 100$

Timpani

Triangle **4**

Tom-toms **4**

Suspended Cymbal

1 2 3 4 5

9

Glk.

Tamb.

Perc.

Xyl.

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

9

Timp.

Trgl.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

6 7 8 9 10 11

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Glk.

Tamb.

Perc.

Xyl.

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Timp.

Trgl.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

With mallets

18 19 20 21 22 23

25

Glk.

Tamb.

Perc.

Xyl.

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

25

Timp.

Trgl.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

24 25 26 27 28 29

With sticks

33

Glk.

Tamb.

Perc.

Xyl.

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

33

Timp.

Trgl.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

30 31 32 33 34

The musical score is for a percussion ensemble. It spans measures 30 to 34. The instruments are arranged in two systems. The first system includes Glk., Tamb., Perc., Xyl., Vib., Mrb. 1, Mrb. 2, and Chm. The second system includes Timp., Trgl., T-toms, and Sus. Cym. The key signature is one flat. Dynamics are indicated by *mp*, *p*, and *f*. A large diagonal watermark 'Excelcia Music Publishing' is overlaid on the score.

Glk.

Tamb.

Perc.

Xyl.

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Timp.

Trgl.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

35 36 37 38 39

44

No. 2 – March

$\text{♩} = 100$

Glockenspiel

Xylophone

Tambourine

Percussion
(Snare Drum, Bass Drum)

Vibraphone

Marimba 1

Marimba 2

Chimes

$\text{♩} = 100$

Timpani

Triangle

Tom-toms

Suspended Cymbal

1 2 3 4 5 6

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23

27

Glk.

Xyl.

Tamb.

Perc.

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

27

Timp.

Trgl.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

mp *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

24 25 26 27 28 29

With mallets

SGP2101FS

43

Glk.

Xyl.

Tamb.

Perc.

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

43

Timp.

Trgl.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

With mallets

mp *f*

37 38 39 40 41 42 43

Glk.

Xyl.

Tamb.

Perc.

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Timp.

Trgl.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

With sticks

With mallets

mp *f*

44 45 46 47 48 49 50

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10

Glk. *f* *mf*

Xyl. *f* *mf*

Timp. *f* *p*

Perc. *f* *p*

Vib. *f*

Mrb. 1 *f*

Mrb. 2 *f* *p*

Chm. *f*

10

Tamb. *f* *p*

Trgl. *f* *p*

T-toms *f* *p* With sticks

Sus. Cym. *f* *p*

8

9

10

11

12

13

Glk.

Xyl.

Timp.

Perc.

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Tamb.

Trgl.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

Glk.

Xyl.

Timp.

Perc.

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Tamb.

Trgl.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

f

20 21 22 23 24 25

26

Glk. *f*

Xyl. *f*

Timp. *f*

Perc. *f*

Vib. *f*

Mrb. 1 *f*

Mrb. 2 *f*

Chm. *f*

26

Tamb. *f*

Trgl. *f*

T-toms

Sus. Cym. *p* *f* *p* *f*

With mallets

26 27 28 29 30 31

The musical score is for measures 26 through 31 of 'The Court Jester'. It features a variety of percussion instruments. Measures 26-31 are marked with a '26' in a box at the beginning of the staff. The instruments and their parts are: Glockenspiel (Glk.), Xylophone (Xyl.), Tom-tom (Timp.), Percussion (Perc.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Maracas 1 (Mrb. 1), Maracas 2 (Mrb. 2), Chimes (Chm.), Tambourine (Tamb.), Triangle (Trgl.), Tom-toms (T-toms), and Suspended Cymbal (Sus. Cym.). The dynamics are marked as *f* (forte) for measures 26-31, and *p* (piano) for measures 27 and 29. A 'With mallets' instruction is present for the suspended cymbal in measures 27 and 29. The score is watermarked with 'Excelcia Music Publishing'.

36

Glk. *p* *p* *f*

Xyl. *p* *p* *f*

Timp. *p* *f*

Perc. *mp* *mp* *f*

Vib. *p* *p* *f*

Mrb. 1 *p* *p* *f*

Mrb. 2 *p* *p* *f*

Chm. *ff* *f*

36

Tamb. *mp* *f*

Trgl. *mp* *f*

T-toms *mp* *f*

Sus. Cym. *p* *mp* *f*

With sticks

32 33 34 35 36 37

This musical score is for a percussion ensemble. It includes staves for the following instruments: Glk. (Glockenspiel), Xyl. (Xylophone), Timp. (Timpani), Perc. (Percussion), Vib. (Vibraphone), Mrb. 1 (Maracas 1), Mrb. 2 (Maracas 2), Chm. (Chimes), Tamb. (Tambourine), Trgl. (Triangle), T-toms (Tom-toms), and Sus. Cym. (Suspended Cymbal). The score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The percussion parts are primarily rhythmic, using eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and specific percussion symbols (like 'x' for cymbal or '▲' for triangle). A large, diagonal watermark reading 'Preview Only' and 'Excelcia Music Publishing' is overlaid across the center of the page.

38

39

40

41

42

43

44 45 46 47 48 49

Glk.

Xyl.

Timp.

Perc.

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Tamb.

Trgl.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

With mallets

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No. 4 – Fluries Suspended in the Sunset

Slowly ♩ = 90

Glockenspiel *mp*

Xylophone 4

Vibraphone 4 *mp*

Marimba 1

Marimba 2

Chimes

Timpani 4 *p*

Triangle 4 *p*

Tambourine *p*

Percussion (Snare Drum, Bass Drum) 4 *p*

Tom-toms *p*

Suspended Cymbal *p* *With mallets*

p mp p mp p

1 2 3 4 5 6

9

Glk.

Xyl.

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

9

Timp.

Trgl.

Tamb.

9

Perc.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

mp

p

mp

pp

mp

p

mp

p

With sticks

7 8 9 10 11 12

Glk.

Xyl.

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Timp.

Trgl.

Tamb.

Perc.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

mf

p

mf

p

mf

p

p

mp

p

mp

mp

p

mp

With mallets

13 14 15 16 17 18

Glk.

Xyl.

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Change C to D

Timp.

Trgl.

Tamb.

Perc.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

p *mp* *f*

19 20 21 22 23 24

25

Glk.

Xyl. *p*

Vib. *p*

Mrb. 1 *p*

Mrb. 2 *p*

Chm. *p*

25

Change D to C, F to G

Timb.

Trgl. *p*

Tamb. *p*

25

Perc. *p*

T-toms *p*

Sus. Cym. *mp*

With sticks *p*

25 26 27 28 29 30

35

41

Glk.

Xyl.

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

41

Change G to F

Timp.

Trgl.

Tamb.

41

Perc.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

36 37 38 39 40 41

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Glk.

Xyl.

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Timp.

Trgl.

Tamb.

Perc.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

With mallets

mp *p* *mp* *p*

42 43 44 45 46

51

Glk.

Xyl.

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Change F to G

Timp.

Trgl.

Tamb.

Perc.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

pp

With mallets

pp

52 53 54 55 56

No. 5 – Running Speed

$\text{♩} = 160$

Glockenspiel

Xylophone

Percussion
(Snare Drum, Bass Drum)

Tom-toms

Vibraphone

Marimba 1

Marimba 2

Chimes

$\text{♩} = 160$

Timpani

Tambourine

Triangle

Suspended Cymbal

1 2 3 4 5

Glk.

Xyl.

Perc.

T-toms

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Timp.

Tamb.

Trgl.

Sus. Cym.

1.

2.

ff

ff

p

p

ff

ff

ff

f

ff

p

p

With mallets

p

p

6

7

8

9

10

Glk.

Xyl.

Perc.

T-toms

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

10

Timp.

Tamb.

Trgl.

Sus. Cym.

10 11 12 13

SGP2101FS

Glk.

Xyl.

Perc.

T-toms

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Timp.

Tamb.

Trgl.

Sus. Cym.

Glk.

Xyl.

Perc.

T-toms

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Timp.

Tamb.

Trgl.

Sus. Cym.

The musical score is for a percussion ensemble. It consists of 11 staves, each representing a different instrument. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into five measures, numbered 19 to 23 at the bottom. The instruments and their parts are: Glk. (Glockenspiel), Xyl. (Xylophone), Perc. (Percussion), T-toms (Tom-toms), Vib. (Vibraphone), Mrb. 1 (Maracas 1), Mrb. 2 (Maracas 2), Chm. (Chimes), Timp. (Timpani), Tamb. (Tambourine), Trgl. (Triangle), and Sus. Cym. (Suspended Cymbal). The score features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth notes, quarter notes, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and dynamic markings. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'Preview Only' and 'Excelcia Music Publishing' is overlaid across the center of the page.

19

20

21

22

23

26

Glk.

Xyl.

Perc.

T-toms

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

26

Timp.

Tamb.

Trgl.

Sus. Cym.

p *f* *p* *f*

24

25

26

27

28

33

34 ♩ = 80

Glk. *mf*

Xyl. *mp*

Perc. *p*

T-toms

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

34 ♩ = 80

Timp.

Tamb.

Trgl.

Sus. Cym. *p* *f*

34 35 36 37 38

Glk.

Xyl.

Perc.

T-toms

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Timp.

Tamb.

Trgl.

Sus. Cym.

mf

mp

p

mf

mf

p

p

p

With sticks

p

39 40 41 42 43

Glk.

Xyl.

Perc.

T-toms

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Timp.

Tamb.

Trgl.

Sus. Cym.

24

24

24

p

p

mf

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52

Glk.

Xyl.

Perc.

T-toms

Vib.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Timp.

Tamb.

Trgl.

Sus. Cym.

p

53

54

55

56

57

61

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Glk.

Vib.

Perc.

Tamb.

Xyl.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Timp.

Trgl.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

mp

pp *mp*

p

With sticks

7 8 9 10 11 12

Glk.

Vib.

Perc.

Tamb.

Xyl.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Timp.

Trgl.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

mp

pp

With mallets

13

14

15

16

17

18

$\text{♩} = 140$

Glk. *f* *mf*

Vib. *f* *mf*

Perc. *f* *mf*

Tamb. *f* *p*

Xyl. *f* *mf*

Mrb. 1 *f* *mf*

Mrb. 2 *f* *mf*

Chm. *f* *p*

$\text{♩} = 140$

Timp. *f* *mf*

Trgl. *f* *p*

T-toms *f* *mf*

Sus. Cym. *f* *p*

With sticks

19 20 21 22 23 24

Glk.

Vib.

Perc.

Tamb.

Xyl.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Timp.

Trgl.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

mp *f* *mp*

25 26 27 28 29 30

Glk.

Vib.

Perc.

Tamb.

Xyl.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Timp.

Trgl.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

f

mp *f*

31 32 33 34 35 36

SGP2101FS

(Musical score snippet showing percussion parts: Glk., Vib., Perc., Tamb., Xyl., Mrb. 1, Mrb. 2, Chm., Timp., Trgl., T-toms, Sus. Cym.)

Glk.

Vib.

Perc.

Tamb.

Xyl.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Timp.

Trgl.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

49 50 51 52 53 54

59

Glk.

Vib.

Perc.

Tamb.

Xyl.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Timp.

Trgl.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

f

60 61 62 63 64

Glk.

Vib.

Perc.

Tamb.

Xyl.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Timp.

Trgl.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

mp

f

Glk.

Vib.

Perc.

Tamb.

Xyl.

Mrb. 1

Mrb. 2

Chm.

Timp.

Trgl.

T-toms

Sus. Cym.

mp *ff* *mp* *ff*

70 71 72 73 74 75

With mallets

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About the Author

Robert Clayson



Robert Clayson currently serves as an adjunct instructor for the Troy University School of Music. His duties at Troy University include teaching private lessons and providing instruction for the “Sound of the South” Marching Percussion Section. Mr. Clayson earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Music Education from Troy University in 2015 and his Master’s Degree in Percussion Performance from Indiana University in 2017.

As a performer, Mr. Clayson is an active member of several regional orchestras across the Southeastern United States, including the LaGrange Symphony Orchestra, the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, and the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra. In 2012, Mr. Clayson performed with the Troy University Percussion Ensemble at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention as a member of the winning ensemble in the International Percussion Ensemble Competition. He received first place in the Percussive Arts Society Marching Festival Individual Collegiate Keyboard Competition in 2013 and also received first place in the 2017 Indiana Day of Percussion Collegiate Solo Marimba Competition. In addition to these honors, he was selected as a semi-finalist in the Great Plains International Marimba Competition in 2014 and 2017. Mr. Clayson is an Innovative Percussion Artist and is a member of the Blackswamp Percussion Educator Network.