

Ideal:Reality for Drumset Quartet

Ethan Isaac
2022

Program Note:

Ideal:Reality is a part of a series of pieces based in restriction. Prompted by the lack of distinct tone in percussion, I strove to reach beyond that; To bring out the tonal reality locked within our preconceived notions of the drum as the antithesis of pitched sounds. To achieve this, I utilized techniques derived from tuning systems, and the research of composer Ben Johnston. Some of the basic building blocks of rhythm are repeated in the physics of pitches, in polyrhythms. With a focus on the relationship between the fifth (represented by the glockenspiel bars) and the resulting polyrhythms, Ideal:Reality displays the interference one can have when one's ideals face reality. The mathematic “Ideal” represented by the polyrhythms and the “Reality” being the linear, driving rhythms.

Ideal : Reality (2022)

Composed by Ethan Isaac (b.1996)

Written for the 2022 So Percussion Summer Institute Final Concert

Instrumentation:

4 Drum sets
Including 4 Kick Drums,
4 Toms (Large, L-Medium, Medium, Small)
2 Hi-Hats
2 Snare Drums
2 Cymbals (Size variable to desired loudness)
2 Conga heads (or full size)
4 Glass Beer Bottles (preferably in pairs of different tones)
2 Loose Glock Bars (Notes C and G)

Technical Requirements:

Computer with DAW
Two microphones, preferably condensers. Placed near any of the kits.
PA system

Technical Notes:

This work includes an **optional** electronic element, included in the purchase of this score is a Reaper session (a free audio program) that will have the proper settings for a performance of this work. If you wish to create a session within a DAW of your choice feel free to copy over the settings from the included session file as they can be replicated with an EQ, gate, and reverb of your choice. You do not need to be picky with microphone placement as it is more so a source of noise to open the gate and be processed by the EQ than for any sound reinforcement.

Performance Notes:

As this work can be quite loud, feel free to dampen the drums by any means necessary for the performance space. The cymbals can be especially loud, so feel free to experiment with sizes starting on the smaller side. Small foam tubing is best for setting up the loose Glock bars. Refer to the video on So Percussion's YouTube channel for an idea of what the set up looks like. There are other possibilities, such as standing with kick drums behind you. Feel free to explore what works best for your group!

The breakdown section near the end of the piece can be extended by feel. Don't feel limited by the bars written, try and find interesting ways to disrupt the feel and breakdown. Approximately 30 seconds of breakdown would be the lower limit.

Link to previous performance - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baGvdE7Fw3k>

Percussion Key

Percussion 1

Kick Drum

Floor Tom

Snare Drum

Ride Cymbal

Crash Cymbal

Percussion 2

Kick Drum

Tom

Hi-Hat

Crash Cymbal

Bottle head, neck, body

Percussion 3

Kick Drum

Floor Tom

Conga Low

Conga High

Hi-Hat

Bottle head, neck, body

Percussion 4

Kick Drum

Floor Tom

Snare Drum

Glock C

Glock G

Ride Cymbal

Ideal:Reality

Ethan Isaac

Ideally ♩ = c. 127
snare on

Percussion 1
Percussion 2
Percussion 3
Percussion 4

pp *mf* *pp* *p* *mp* *p* *f*

5

Perc.
Perc.
Perc.
Perc.

f *ff* *f* *ff* *mf*

8

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

f *pp*

p

p

p

p

12

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

mf

p

p

pp *ppp*

15

Perc.

Perc.

f

Perc.

f

Perc.

mf sub.

18

Perc.

ff sub.

Perc.

pp — *ff*

Perc.

ff sub.

21

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

24

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

mp sub. *f*

mp sub. *f*

mp sub. *f*

mp sub. *f*

[illegible]

30

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

snare off

p

fff sub.

ff

ff

p

fff sub.

33

Perc.

fff sub.

To Bot.

Perc.

mf

To Bot.

Perc.

mf

Perc.

fff sub.

snare on

35

Perc.

f

3

Bot. 1

Bot. 2

Perc.

f

3

3

37

Perc.

Bot. 1

Bot. 2

Perc.

pp sub. *mf*

37

Perc. 1: Melody with eighth notes and rests. Measure 37: quarter note, eighth rest, eighth note, quarter note, eighth rest, eighth note. Measure 38: quarter note, eighth rest, eighth note, quarter note, eighth rest, eighth note.

Bot. 1: Rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with 'x' marks. Measure 37: eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest. Measure 38: eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest.

Bot. 2: Rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with 'x' marks. Measure 37: eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest. Measure 38: eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest.

Perc. 3: Triplet of eighth notes. Measure 37: eighth note, eighth note, eighth note. Measure 38: eighth note, eighth note, eighth note.

Dynamics: *pp* sub. (Perc. 3), *mf* (Perc. 1)

39

Perc.

Bot. 1

Bot. 2

Perc.

pp *f*

39

Perc. 1: Melody with eighth notes and rests. Measure 39: quarter note, eighth rest, eighth note, quarter note, eighth rest, eighth note. Measure 40: quarter note, eighth rest, eighth note, quarter note, eighth rest, eighth note.

Bot. 1: Rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with 'x' marks. Measure 39: eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest. Measure 40: eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest.

Bot. 2: Rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with 'x' marks. Measure 39: eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest. Measure 40: eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest, eighth note, eighth rest.

Perc. 3: Triplet of eighth notes. Measure 39: eighth note, eighth note, eighth note. Measure 40: eighth note, eighth note, eighth note.

Dynamics: *pp* (Perc. 3), *f* (Perc. 1)

41

Perc.

Bot. 1

Bot. 2

Perc.

pp *mf*

Measure 41: Perc. 1 has a melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes. Bassoon 1 and 2 play sixteenth-note patterns. Perc. 2 has a melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes. Dynamics range from *pp* to *mf*.

Measure 42: Perc. 1 has a melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes. Bassoon 1 and 2 play sixteenth-note patterns. Perc. 2 has a melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes. Dynamics range from *pp* to *mf*.

43

Perc.

Bot. 1

Bot. 2

Perc.

pp *mf*

Measure 43: Perc. 1 has a melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes. Bassoon 1 and 2 play sixteenth-note patterns. Perc. 2 has a melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes. Dynamics range from *pp* to *mf*.

Measure 44: Perc. 1 has a melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes. Bassoon 1 and 2 play sixteenth-note patterns. Perc. 2 has a melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by eighth notes. Dynamics range from *pp* to *mf*.

45

Perc.

mp

mf

Bot. 1

Bot. 2

Perc.

mp

mf

47

Perc.

f

mf_{sub.}

Bot. 1

Bot. 2

Perc.

f

49

Perc.

Bot. 1

Bot. 2

Perc.

p

p

p

51

Perc.

Bot. 1

Perc.

Perc.

f

f

f

58

Perc. 1

pp *mf* *pp*

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Solo simile

Perc. 4

(4)

61

Perc. 1

mf

Perc. 2

p *mf*

Perc. 3

p *mf*

Perc. 4

p *mf*

Musical score for Percussion section, measures 64-67. The score consists of five staves, each labeled "Perc.". Measures 64 and 65 are marked with "(8)" and "(9)" respectively. Measure 66 features a forte (*fff*) dynamic marking. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, rests, and articulation marks such as accents and slurs.

67

Perc.

mf *ff* *mp*

Perc.

mf *ff* *mp*

Perc.

mf *ff* *ff*

Perc.

mf *ff* *mp*

70

Perc.

ff *mf* *ff*

Perc.

ff *pp* *f* *ff*

Perc.

mp *ff* *mf* *ff*

Perc.

ff *mf* *ff*

73

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

mp

p

mf

mf *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf*

76

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

f *ff* *mf* *ff*

ff *p*

ff

78

Perc. 1

mf *ff*

Perc. 2

mf *ff*

p sub.

Perc. 3

fff

Perc. 4

mp *ff*

80

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

81

f

pp

ff

ff

mf

ff sub.

[illegible]

86

Perc.

molto cresc. poco a poco

ff sub.

mp sub. *molto cresc. poco a poco*

mp sub.

molto cresc. poco a poco

mp sub. *molto cresc. poco a poco*

mp sub.

88

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

90

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

This musical score for percussion instruments covers measures 90 and 91. It consists of four staves. The first staff, labeled 'Perc.', uses a treble clef and contains a series of eighth and sixteenth notes with accents. The second staff, also labeled 'Perc.', uses a treble clef and features a continuous pattern of eighth notes with 'x' marks above them. The third staff, labeled 'Perc.', uses a treble clef and shows a triplet of eighth notes followed by eighth notes. The fourth staff, labeled 'Perc.', uses a treble clef and contains a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes with accents. The music is organized into two measures, with a double bar line between them.

92

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

This musical score for percussion instruments covers measures 92 and 93. It consists of four staves. The first staff, labeled 'Perc.', uses a treble clef and contains a series of eighth and sixteenth notes with accents. The second staff, also labeled 'Perc.', uses a treble clef and features a continuous pattern of eighth notes with 'x' marks above them. The third staff, labeled 'Perc.', uses a treble clef and shows a triplet of eighth notes followed by eighth notes. The fourth staff, labeled 'Perc.', uses a treble clef and contains a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes with accents. The music is organized into two measures, with a double bar line between them.

94

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Continue cresc.

96

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

98

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

100

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

fff *fff sub.*

fff *fff sub.*

fff *fff sub.*

fff *fff sub.*

Slowly divide into four different tempos (30")

And fall apart improvising on material...

102

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Get very slow

104

Perc.

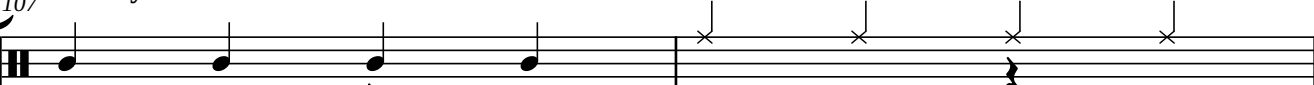
Perc.

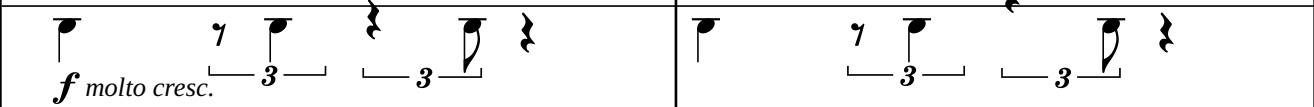
Perc.

Perc.

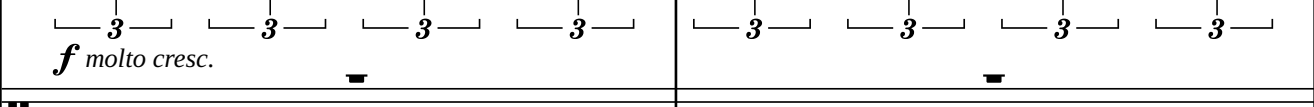
Start ringing Glock 5th to signal the close

107 **Ideally** ♩ = c. 127

Perc. 

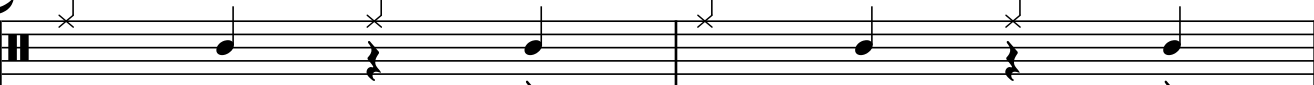
Perc. 
f molto cresc.

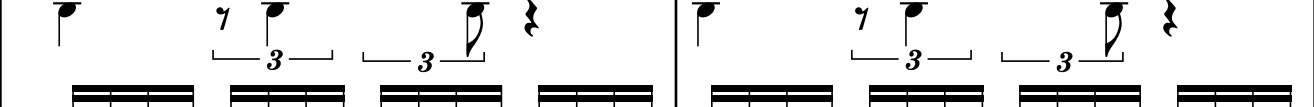
Perc. 
f molto cresc.

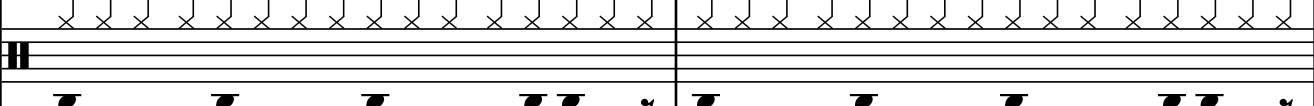
Perc. 
f molto cresc.

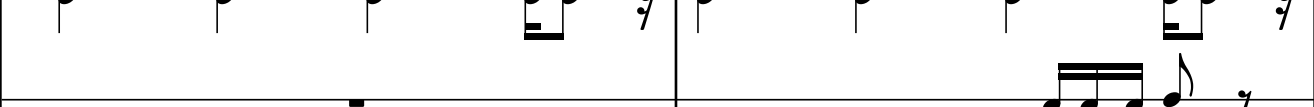
Perc. 
f molto cresc.

109

Perc. 

Perc. 
f molto cresc.

Perc. 
f molto cresc.

Perc. 
f molto cresc.

Perc. 
f molto cresc.

111

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

This block contains the musical notation for measures 111 and 112 of a percussion score. It consists of four staves, each labeled 'Perc.' on the left. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and sixteenth notes, often grouped with beams and slurs. Some notes are marked with 'x' symbols, indicating specific percussion sounds. Measure 111 starts with a double bar line and a repeat sign. Measure 112 continues the patterns. The bottom two staves feature more complex rhythmic structures, including triplets and sixteenth-note runs.

113

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

ffff

ffff

ffff

ffff

This block contains the musical notation for measures 113 and 114 of a percussion score. It consists of four staves, each labeled 'Perc.' on the left. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and sixteenth notes, often grouped with beams and slurs. Some notes are marked with 'x' symbols, indicating specific percussion sounds. Measure 113 starts with a double bar line and a repeat sign. Measure 114 continues the patterns. The bottom two staves feature more complex rhythmic structures, including triplets and sixteenth-note runs. The first three staves have a 'ffff' dynamic marking at the beginning of measure 113. The bottom staff has a 'ffff' dynamic marking at the beginning of measure 114. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.