

Tension:Release

For Percussion Quartet

Ethan Isaac
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Tension:Release

Ethan Isaac (b.1996)

Written for the Sō Percussion Institute's 15th Anniversary

Instrumentation:

Semi-Open, with default list

The pitch of chosen objects are important for the piece, and should follow somewhat along the default structure. Anything outside of that is pretty much fair game. Materials are don't need to be consistent if the group feels it creates an interesting effect. Below is the default instrumentation. Using a single set of mallets most compatible with your instruments would likely be best.

Percussion 1:

Four Loose Glockenspiel Bars (C6,E6,C7,E7)

Wood Block (High)

Wood Block (Medium)

Percussion 2:

Splash Cymbal

Temple Block (High)

Temple Block (Medium High)

Percussion 3:

Temple Block (Medium Low)

Temple Block (Low)

Small Frame Drum

Percussion 4:

Wood Block (Medium Low)

Wood Block (Low)

Bongo Drums

Percussion Key

The musical score for 'Percussion Key' consists of four staves, each representing a different percussionist. The instruments are indicated by labels above the notes:

- Percussion 1:** Wood Blocks (first two notes), Glock. (last two notes).
- Percussion 2:** Temple Blocks (first two notes), Splash Cymbal (third note).
- Percussion 3:** Frame Drum (first note), Temple Blocks (second and third notes).
- Percussion 4:** Bongo Drums (first two notes), Wood Blocks (last two notes).

The score is written in a single system with a common time signature. The notes are placed on a five-line staff, with the first line representing the highest pitch and the fifth line representing the lowest pitch. The notes are black dots, and the stems are vertical lines. The percussion parts are arranged in a way that suggests a complex polyrhythm.

Program Note:

Tension:Release is a continuation of the work in my previous percussion quartet Ideal:Reality. These pieces can be performed together or separately. The instrumentation is open, but with the restriction that the tones of the percussive objects be aligned by the names given to the instruments(High, Low, Medium). Similar to Ideal:Reality, many of the linear rhythms are sources from a justly tuned third, which matches the polyrhythm 5:4. As per the previous work, it is surprising how in a less theoretical space how our preconceived notions break down. This movement represents another step in the emotional journey one experiences when you leave the mental realm of ideal forms and return to physical actionable space.

Approx. Duration: 3'

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Lethargic, Scherzo-like ♩ = c. 80

First system of the score for four percussion parts. The time signature is 5/4. Percussion 1 starts with a rest, then plays a sixteenth-note triplet (marked with an accent) in measures 1 and 2, with dynamics *f* and *pp*. Percussion 2 plays a quarter note in measure 1 (*f*) and a half note in measure 2 (*p*). Percussion 3 plays a quarter note in measure 1 (*mf*) and a half note in measure 2 (*mf*). Percussion 4 plays a quarter note in measure 1 (*p*) and a half note in measure 2 (*f*).

Second system of the score for four percussion parts. The time signature is 5/4. Measures 3 and 4 are marked with a triplet bracket over the first three notes. Percussion 1, 2, and 3 have a five-measure phrase in measure 4, marked with a '5' above the staff. Measure 5 is marked 'molto rit.' and features a half note with an accent. Dynamics for all parts are *f*, *p*, *ff*, *pp*, and *p* across the measures.

a tempo

6

Perc. 1 *mp* *f* *pp* *f*_{sub.}

Perc. 2 *f* *pp* *f* *ff*

Perc. 3

Perc. 4 *mp* *f* *p*

9

Perc. 1 *p* *pp*

Perc. 2 *f*

Perc. 3 *p* *pp*

Perc. 4 *f* *f* *p*

12 **Weakly, letting go** **Anxious** ♩ = 120

Glock. *f* *f*_{sub.}

Perc. 2 *f*

Perc. 3 *f*

Perc. 4 *mp* *cresc.*

14

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

5 5 3 5 5 3

16

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

f *f* *f*

5 5 *ff* 3 *f*

18

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

ff *f* *ff* *f*

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

20

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

f *ff* *f* *ff*

f sub. *p* sub. 5 5 3

fff sub. *f*

22

Glock.

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

f *f*

f sub. 5 5 3 *p* sub. 5 5 3

fff sub. *f*

24

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

f *f* *ff*

f sub. 5 5 3 *p* sub. 5 5 3

fff *f* *fff*

26

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

sempre. ff

f

p sub. cresc.

fff

28

Glock.

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

ff mf

ff

f

pp

ff

f

pp

30

Glock.

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

f sub.

f sub. cresc.

ff

mf

pp

pp

32

Glock.

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

ff

f sub.

5

5

3

ff

3

ff

mf

fff sub.

ff

35

Perc. 1 mf sub. cresc.

Perc. 2 mf cresc.

Perc. 3 mf cresc.

Perc. 4 mp cresc.

5 5 3 5 5 3

37

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

f cresc.

5 5 3 5 5 3

Detailed description: This image shows a musical score for four percussion parts, labeled Perc. 1 through Perc. 4. The score covers measures 37 to 42. Percussion 1 and 2 play a sequence of eighth notes, with Perc. 1 having a crescendo marking (*f cresc.*) starting in measure 41. Percussion 3 plays a similar eighth-note sequence. Percussion 4 plays a more complex pattern involving quintuplets (5), triplets (3), and quintuplets (5) of eighth notes. The score is written on a grand staff with four staves. Measure numbers 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, and 42 are indicated at the top. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The percussion parts are written on staves with a C-clef (soprano for Perc. 1, alto for Perc. 2, tenor for Perc. 3, and bass for Perc. 4). Perc. 1 and 2 have a key signature change to one sharp (F#) in measure 41. Perc. 3 and 4 remain in one flat. Perc. 4 has a key signature change to one sharp (F#) in measure 41. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, beams, and dynamic markings.

39

Glock.

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

f cresc.

f cresc.

41

Glock.

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

f cresc.

43

Glock.

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

ff

ff

45

Glock.

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

3

3

5

5

3

5

5

3

47

Glock.

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Releasing

fff

sempre. ff

5

5

5

5

3

ff

5

5

3

49

Glock.

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

ff

ff

f

mf

5

5

5

3

f

5

5

3

52

Glock.

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

f *pp*

5

5

5

3

54

Glock.

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

p *pp* *mp*

5

5

5

3

f *pp*

57

Glock.

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

p *pp* *mp* *pp*

5

5

5

5

5

5

5

5

60

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

p *pp*

mp

The musical score consists of four staves labeled Perc. 1, Perc. 2, Perc. 3, and Perc. 4. Measure 60 is marked with a '60' above the first staff. Perc. 1 plays a sequence of notes: a half note G4, a quarter rest, a half note A4, a quarter rest, a half note B4, and a quarter rest. In measure 61, Perc. 1 plays a half note G4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, and a quarter note C4, with a crescendo hairpin from *p* to *pp*. Perc. 2 and Perc. 3 both play a single half note G4 in measure 61. Perc. 4 plays a half note G4 in measure 60 and a half note F#4 in measure 61, with a crescendo hairpin from *mp* to a final note.