

conjoined tremolo autopsy
for three percussionists
by Clint McCallum

The Title:

The piece is kind of one long tremolo. To me tremolos possess an “other being” quality. This is especially true when played on cymbals: their resonating gives them a life of their own, in the sense that there are always unpredictable sounding-results but also that its vibrations “strike back” at every stroke of your mallet. So the piece is the living being of the tremolo dissected, filleted out, and observed. The word “autopsy” should convey this compositional process that I used to treat the concept of the tremolo, but also the physical-emotional state that the piece should provoke. When you are hovering on the boundary between precise iterations and breathing tremolos it should recall the unsure wonderment of first dissections—an unprecedented spiritual space where boundary lines between life and death bend and interweave.

The Instrumentation:

Percussion 1 and 2: vibraphone; 3 suspended cymbals; 2 "sizzle" cymbals; hi hat; 2 octaves of crotales.

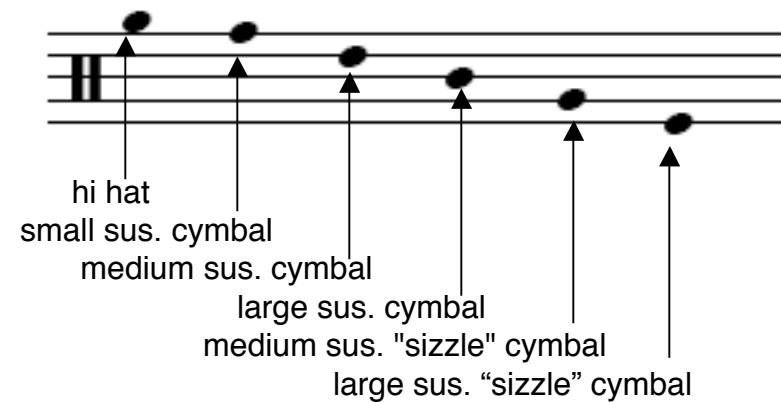
Percussion 3: Largest tam-tam available; largest gong available; glockenspiel.

The Notation:

Percussion 1 and 2:

Upper stave is always vibraphone or crotales.

Cymbal stave:

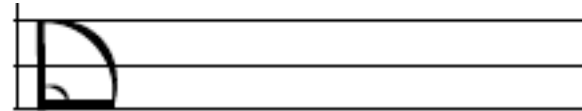


The two percussionists cymbals should sound as close as possible (i.e.: P1 small sus. cymbal=P2 small sus. cymbal).

An "x" shaped note head on the hi-hat space indicates a closing of the cymbals with the foot pedal.

Percussion 3:

Tam stave:



Bottom line is the center of the tam, top is the edge.

Techniques:

Scrape head of snare drum stick across surface of tam-tam to get a high shrieking sound.

Scrape triangle beater on surface of tam-tam to get a cloudy metallic tremolo.








Upper stave is always glockenspiel.

Percussion global:

All attacks are to be assumed to let ring.

If the note is tied to a successive note with a "+" articulation, that signifies a damping of the cymbal.

If a "+" appears above a note that is not tied to, the cymbal should be struck while damped.

Mallets: hard=  soft yarn=  medium yarn=  triangle beater (perc. 3)=  gong beater (perc. 3)=  super-ball (perc. 3)=  snare stick (perc. 3)= 

All tremolos as fast as possible.

The Duration:

c.a. 9.5 minutes

conjoined tremolo autopsy

Clint McCallum

①

♩ = 58

Percussion 1
let ring sempre
crotales
vibes
crotales

Percussion 2
let ring sempre
vibes
crotales
vibes
crotales

Percussion 3
tam
scrape with head: make squeaking sound
let ring sempre
"p" < sffz
"p" < sffz
"p" < sffz
beat
scrape
"p" < sffz
"p" < sffz

②

P. 1
vibes

P. 2
vibes

P. 3
scrape
f

conjoined tremolo autopsy

2

P. 1

P. 2

P. 3

fff

fff

beat 3:2

scrape

scrape

"p" fff



P. 1

P. 2

P. 3

f

beat 3:2

f

scrape

scrape

fp

fff

p<fff

conjoined tremolo autopsy

4

4

P. 1

P. 2

P. 3

P. 1

P. 2

P. 3

conjoined tremolo autopsy

6

P. 1

P. 2

P. 3



P. 1

P. 2

P. 3

ca. 14 seconds

6 crotales

vibes

ca. 14 seconds

crotales

10:8

vibes

10:8

beat as fast as possible at random over entire surface, continue until interrupted... (ca. 14 seconds)

fff

conjoined tremolo autopsy

8

8

P. 1

P. 2

P. 3



P. 1

P. 2

P. 3

conjoined tremolo autopsy

P. 1

P. 2

P. 3

Musical score for measures 123-132. Part P. 1 (top) features a complex melodic line with many slurs and accents. Part P. 2 (middle) has a more rhythmic, repetitive pattern. Part P. 3 (bottom) contains dense tremolo passages with various rhythmic groupings like 6:4 and 3:2. The score includes multiple time signature changes and dynamic markings.



P. 1

P. 2

P. 3

10

crotales

gong

Musical score for measures 135-145. Part P. 1 (top) starts with a melodic phrase and then transitions to a dense tremolo section marked 'crotales' and 'ff'. Part P. 2 (middle) also features a tremolo section marked 'crotales' and 'ff'. Part P. 3 (bottom) has a melodic line that transitions to a long, sustained tremolo section marked 'gong' and 'ff'. The score includes time signature changes and a '5x' marking.

conjoined tremolo autopsy

10

P. 1

P. 2

P. 3

143

143

143

5x

4x



P. 1

P. 2

P. 3

149

149

149

4x

3x

6x