

cha chi ka

for Four Amplified Voices and Two Percussion

Thomas Childs

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Percussion 1

large gong or
tam-tam(bowed)
djembe
klong yaw (djembe
if unavailable)
marimba
bass drum w/
kick pedal

Percussion 2

ocean drum (or rainstick)
vibraphone (w/ 2 bows)
suspended cymbal
almglocken (use vibes
if unavailable)
udu drum
conga
marimba

Auxiliary Percussion

(also played by vocalists)
wind chimes
maraccas
cow hoof shells (may sub.
earthy-sounding rattle)
small gong
guiro
rainstick
ankle shakers (left foot of vocalists)

Performance Notes:

Introduction:

The introductory section before the vocal percussion is fairly free time. The dashed barlines are approximate passage of time in 10 second increments. Each percussionist is given an approximate span of time to play and may choose how long to play. Approximated times are notated in the elipses at each entrance. The exception is Percussion 2 on the bowed vibes entrance: the intention is to give some general ratio to notes played, not create a strict time. The transition into the body of the piece begins with Percussion 1 setting a specific tempo on the djembe at rehearsal letter B. All performers should begin counting time at this cue.

Main body:

Each section of vocal percussion relies on one percussionist to carry a main rhythm. (i.e. Perc.1 djembe rhythm in C) A groove is set up for each section as an example. The other percussionist is given several instruments with which to color or add to the main rhythm. All instruments with a quick attack should be played in time with the rhythm. The only limitation on the secondary percussionist for a section is instrumentation and the notated rests.

djembe, conga & klong yaw notation:

slap

bass tone

marimba & kick:

kick

udu notation:

stem (x head) pull off top hole

side hole top hole

body
(l & r hand)

VOCALS:

All vocal parts are focused rhythmically, with emphasis on consonants rather than vowels. Additionally, if parts are assigned to different voice registers, vocalists should maintain the syllables in their separate registers as much as possible.

Pronunciation key:

- All "ch" sounds should be crisp, emphasize the consonants, don't linger on vowels
- The "t t ts" sounds should simulate a hi-hat
- "oo da" should have a hard glottal attack, as should any syllables beginning with vowels, such as "áh" (with the exception of "a-o" in Voice 3 at Rehearsal H)
- dm di der, lm li ler= dm is a 'd' attack, mainly an 'mmm', der passes quickly through the 'e' to an 'rrrr'. The repeated L or D should pluck or flip the tongue against teeth
- "a - o" in Voice 3 at Rehearsal H is all long vowel sounds (enjoy the open vowels, no one else has any!!)
- bol-yah!= bol passes quickly to the 'l' which should be rolled for the duration of the note
- ying, yeng= immediately pass through the vowel to the nasal 'ng'

****ENUNCIATE!!** Any syllable questions left unanswered are up to you to decide.

Vocalist notations:

All non-pitched notes have irregular heads (x, diamond, etc.) More specific pitches have standard heads, though some pitches are derived from percussion instruments and some from other vocalists.

The image shows three musical notation examples for vocalists:

- STOMP:** A staff with two lines. The top line is labeled 'stomp' and has four notes with irregular heads (diamonds) and stems. Above the notes are 'L' and 'R' labels. The bottom line is labeled 'vocal' and has four notes with irregular heads (diamonds) and stems. Below the notes are the lyrics 'cha chi ka', 'chi', and 'chi'.
- leg slap (both hands w/ two notes, one hand with one note):** A staff with two lines. The top line has two notes with irregular heads (diamonds) and stems. The bottom line has two notes with irregular heads (diamonds) and stems. Above the notes are 'L' and 'R' labels. Below the notes are the lyrics 'CHA' and 'ch'.
- clap or body percussion (hitting chest with "ugh" vocal):** A staff with two lines. The top line has three notes with irregular heads (diamonds) and stems. The bottom line has three notes with irregular heads (diamonds) and stems. Below the notes is the number '3'.

NOTE to Sound Reinforcement: If the performance space is capable of surround sound, it is suggested that the four voices be panned one to each corner. If only stereo is available, spread the panning of the voices across the spectrum from left to right.

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A

This musical score system, labeled 'A', features six staves: Voice 1, Voice 2, Voice 3, Voice 4, Gong (bowed), and Ocean Drum. All staves are in 4/4 time. Voice 1 and Voice 4 play a 'ghost' whistle at approximately 5 seconds, marked with a circled '~5" and a dynamic of *p*. Voice 2 plays wind chimes at approximately 5-10 seconds, marked with a circled '~5-10" and a dynamic of *p*. Voice 3 plays maracas at approximately 5-10 seconds, marked with a circled '~5-10" and a dynamic of *mf*. The Gong (bowed) and Ocean Drum parts begin at 10 seconds. The Gong (bowed) part is marked with a dynamic of *p* and later *mp*. The Ocean Drum part is marked with a dynamic of *p* and later *mp*. A circled '~10-15"' is placed above the Ocean Drum staff between 10 and 20 seconds. The system concludes at 30 seconds.

This musical score system continues from the first system, featuring six staves: Vc. 1, Vc. 2, Vc. 3, Vc. 4, Gong, and Vibes. Vc. 2 plays wind chimes at approximately 20-25 seconds, marked with a circled '~20-25" and a dynamic of *mp*. Vc. 4 plays cow hoof shells at approximately 10-15 seconds, marked with a circled '~10-15" and a dynamic of *p*. The Gong part continues with a dynamic of *mp*. The Vibes part, labeled 'vibes (bowed) pedal on', begins at 40 seconds with a dynamic of *mp*. The system concludes at 60 seconds.

Score sample, cont'd

C

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

Vc. 3

Vc. 4

Djembe

Shells
Guiro
Ocean dr.
maraccas

mf

Cha chi ka chi cha chi ka chi chi ka cha cha chi ka chi

mf

shells, guiro, ocean dr., marac.

mf

5 6 7

mf

cha chi ka chi

mf

cha chi ka chi

mf

cha chi ka chi

mf

continue in similar pattern

play at will

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

Vc. 3

Vc. 4

Djembe

Shells
Guiro
Ocean dr.
maraccas

f

cha chi ka chi

f

Cha chi ka chi cha chi ka chi chi ka cha cha chi ka chi

f

cha chi ka chi chi ka cha cha Cha chi ka chi cha chi ka chi chi ka cha cha chi ka chi

f

cha chi ka chi chi ka cha cha Cha chi ka chi cha chi ka chi chi ka cha cha chi ka chi

f

8 9 10 11

f

f

Vc. 1
cha chi ka chi chi ka cha cha cha chi ka *p*

Vc. 2
cha chi ka chi chi ka cha cha cha chi ka *ff* cha chi ka *f*

Vc. 3
cha chi ka chi chi ka cha cha cha chi ka *p* cha chi ka

Vc. 4
cha chi ka chi chi ka cha cha cha chi ka *sub. p* cha chi ka cha chi ka

Djembe
ff *sub. p* *f* *sub. p*

Shells
Guiro
Ocean dr.
maraccas
ff *sub. p* *f* *sub. p*

12 13 14

D

Vc. 1
ch ch ch CH *f*

Vc. 2
ch *p* ch *mf*

Vc. 3
cha chi ka *f* ch CH *mf* cha chi ka *f* chi cha chi ka chi chi ka cha

Vc. 4
ch ch ch *mp* ch *f* CH

Djembe
f *sub. p* *mf*

Shells
Guiro
Ocean dr.
maraccas
f *sub. p* *mf*

15 16 17 18

Score sample, cont'd

Vc. 1
cha chi ka chi CHA CHA cha chi ka chi chi cha chi ka chi chi chi ka

Vc. 2
bol _____ ya bol - - - ya ta

Marimba

Perc. 2

102

103

104

Vc. 1
cha chi ka chi chi cha chi ka chi CHA CHA cha chi ka chi chi

Vc. 2
bol _____ ya bol ya ti ka tah bol _____ yah

Vc. 3
(marimba) lim _____ li _____ ler _____

Vc. 4
(marimba) di _____ di _____ der _____

Marimba

Perc. 2

105

106

107

Vc. 1
cha chi ka chi chi chi ka cha chi ka chi chi cha chi ka chi CHA CHA

Vc. 2
bol ya ta bol ya bol ya ti ka tah

Vc. 3
ler ler ler ugn lim li ler ler ler ler ugn

Vc. 4
der der der ugn dim di der der der der ugn

Marimba

Perc. 2

108

109

110

Vc. 1
cha chi ka chi chi cha chi ka chi chi cha chi ka chi chi

Vc. 2
bol yah bol ya ta bol ya

Vc. 3
lim li ler ler ler ler ugn lim li ler

Vc. 4
dim di der der der der ugn dim di der

Marimba

Perc. 2

111

112

113

Score sample, cont'd

The musical score is arranged in six staves. The top four staves are for Violins 1, 2, 3, and 4. Each violin part has a vocal line with lyrics. The lyrics for Vc. 1 are: "Cha chi ka chi" (measures 153-154) and "cha chi ka Cha Chi Ka CHA CHI KA!" (measures 154-155). The lyrics for Vc. 2 are: "Cha chi ka chi" (measures 153-154) and "cha chi ka Cha Chi Ka CHA CHI KA!" (measures 154-155). The lyrics for Vc. 3 are: "Cha chi ka chi" (measures 153-154) and "cha chi ka Cha Chi Ka CHA CHI KA!" (measures 154-155). The lyrics for Vc. 4 are: "Cha chi ka chi" (measures 153-154) and "cha chi ka Cha Chi Ka CHA CHI KA!" (measures 154-155). The fifth staff is for Klong Yaw and the sixth for Conga. Both have rhythmic notation with accents (>) and a dynamic marking of *ff* at the end of the piece. The page is divided into two systems: measures 153 and 154 on the left, and measures 154 and 155 on the right.

153

154

