

HAPPY IDIOT
for solo percussion

Performance Notes

This piece should be played with reversible drumsticks/vibe mallets. Occasionally different mallets will be used (for tam-tam, bass drum and crotales) but I have tried to write the piece so that the majority of it can be played with one set of sticks.

As you will notice, the piece is divided into lettered modules: A – L. Each of these modules should be played through *at some point* in the piece. The modules taken as a whole might be thought of as a narrative, or memory. As a player, your job is to make your way, slowly, from A-L, while jumping back in time to previous moments in the story. At times you may end up jumping back and forth in a highly fragmented manner; at other times you may slowly develop a module in a minimalist fashion, gradually increasing the number of notes you play in it, while occasionally jumping to a previous module for a few beats.

Essentially, the rule is that you can jump backwards, but not forwards; that is, you cannot jump forward to anything that you haven't played yet. Also, you should spend at least 15 seconds in any given module when first playing it, before bouncing around.

The piece is meant to lurch between 'happy idiocy' and mystery, as our own lives often do. Whether you improvise during performance, or prepare a performance in advance, is up to you; whatever you feel most comfortable with. My hope is that you will come to know all of the modules well and can 'write your own story' using them.

I have prepared a short sample performance for you, but I ask that you first play around with the ideas on the base score based on what I have written here. The sample should not be thought of as any kind of final draft, but it should give a good idea about how to work with some of the modules.

Another possibility might be to run more than one module at a time, but I wasn't sure about the technical feasibility of that so I didn't write it into the sample. But by all means, please experiment with this if you think it's viable!

Of course I am looking forward to hearing your ideas about the piece too, and am always happy and eager to answer any questions you might have. My info is below.

Best wishes for a happy and peaceful holiday and new year!

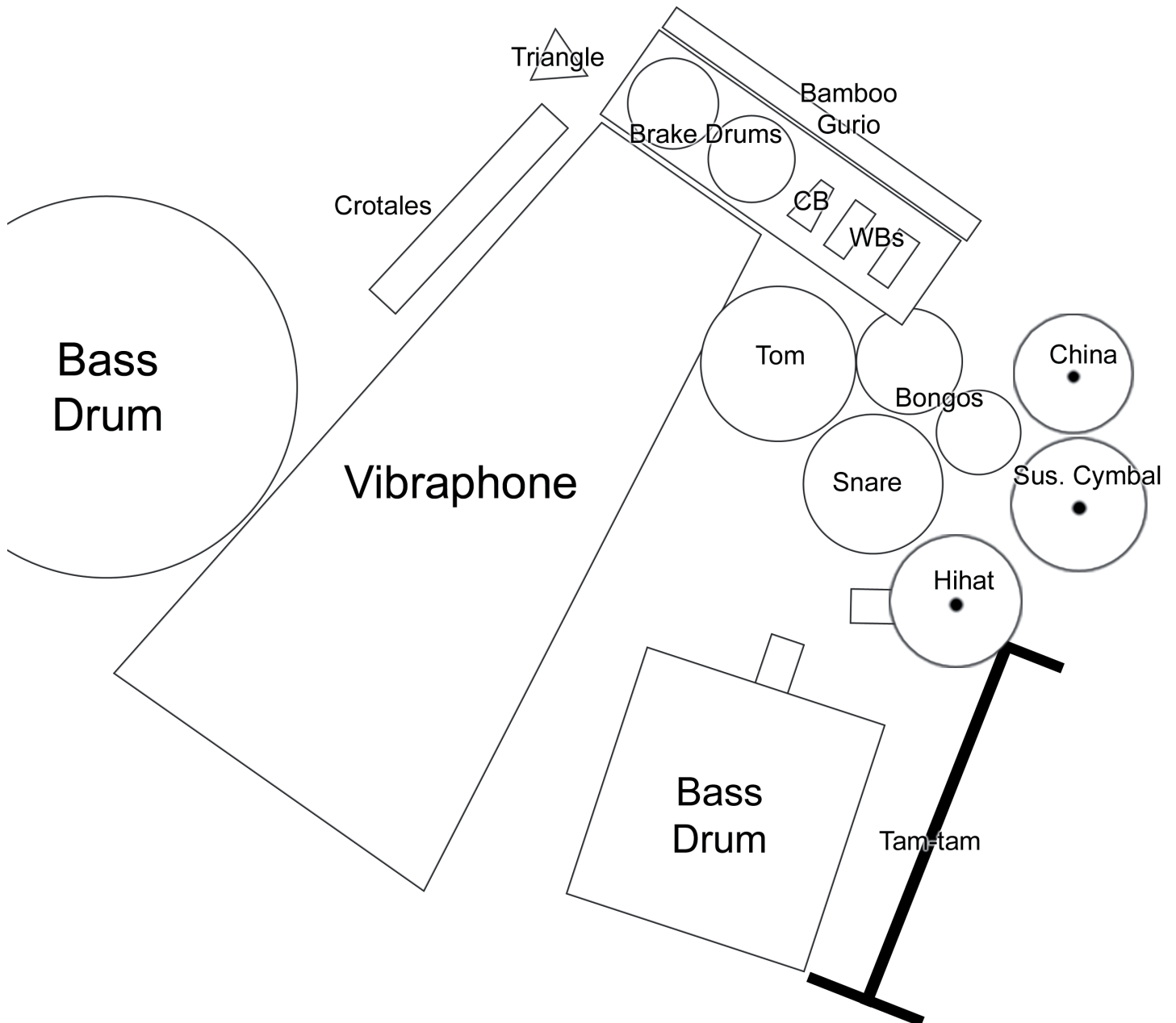
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Setup

This piece is one in a series of works for the following setup.
Not all of the instruments below are necessarily used in this piece.

medium suspended cymbal
china cymbal
hihat
triangle
gurio
2 woodblocks
cowbell
2 brake drums

pair of bongos
snare drum
tom-tom
pedal bass drum
high octave of crotales
vibraphone
large concert bass drum
large tam-tam



Notation:

Triangle ---Brake Drums--- Cowbell ----Woodblocks---- Guiro China Cymbal Suspended Cymbal Hi-hat

Pedal BD Tom-tom Snare Drum -----Bongos-----

Crotales

Vibraphone

Tam-Tam Large BD

Instruments should sound at approximately the following pitches, if possible.

Tom-tom Snare Drum -----Bongos----- ---Brake Drums--- Cowbell ----Woodblocks---- Triangle

(a little flat) (a little flat)

8va

Happy Idiot

Play with vibe mallet/drumsticks

Spend at least 15 sec on each measure before moving on

Be sure to read performance notes before playing - these are modules, not a straight score.

Flat, mindless, happy

♩=140

Betsey Biggs

Score for Percussion, Crotales, and Vibraphone, measures A through D.

Measure A (7/4): Percussion (drumsticks, snares off), Percussion (drumsticks, snares off, *f*), Crotales, Vibraphone.

Measure B (8/4): Percussion (mallets, *mp*), Percussion (mallets, *mf*), Crotales, Vibraphone.

Measure C (11/4): Percussion (mallets, *p*), Percussion (mallets, *mp*), Crotales, Vibraphone.

Measure D (13/4): Percussion (mallets, *p*), Percussion (mallets, *mp*), Crotales, Vibraphone.

Measure 12/4: Percussion (drumsticks, snares on, *f*), Percussion (drumsticks, snares on, *f*), Crotales, Vibraphone.

Score for Percussion, Crotales, and Vibraphone, measures E through H.

Measure E (12/4): Perc. (whistle!, *ff*), Perc. (whistle!, *ff*), Crot., Vib., Perc. (bass mallet, tam-tam mallet, *p*).

Measure F (3/4): Perc. (drumsticks, *ff*), Perc. (drumsticks, *ff*), Crot., Vib., Perc. (bass mallet, tam-tam mallet, *p*).

Measure G (29/4): Perc. (drumsticks, *mf*), Perc. (drumsticks, *mf*), Crot., Vib., Perc. (bass mallet, tam-tam mallet, *p*).

Measure H (11/4): Perc. (drumsticks, *fff*), Perc. (drumsticks, *fff*), Crot., Vib., Perc. (bass mallet, tam-tam mallet, *p*).

Measure 18/4: Perc. (drumsticks, *mf*), Perc. (drumsticks, *mf*), Crot., Vib., Perc. (bass mallet, tam-tam mallet, *p*).

9 I

Perc. II $\frac{18}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{11}{4}$

Perc. I $\frac{18}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{11}{4}$

Crot. $\frac{18}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{11}{4}$

Vib. $\frac{18}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{11}{4}$

Perc. II $\frac{18}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{11}{4}$

mallets *p*

knitting needles *mf*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 9, 10, and 11. Measure 9 is in 18/4 time and features the vibraphone (Vib.) and mallets playing a series of chords. Measure 10 is in 10/4 time and features the crotonal (Crot.) and knitting needles playing a rhythmic pattern. Measure 11 is in 11/4 time and features all five instruments: Percussion II, Percussion I, Crotonal, Vibraphone, and Percussion II.

11 J K L

Perc. II $\frac{11}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{14}{4}$

Perc. I $\frac{11}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{14}{4}$

Crot. $\frac{11}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{14}{4}$

Vib. $\frac{11}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{14}{4}$

Perc. II $\frac{11}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{14}{4}$

mf knitting needles

drumsticks

knitting needles

bass mallet

Detailed description: This system contains measures 11, 12, 13, and 14. Measure 11 is in 11/4 time and features Percussion II and knitting needles. Measure 12 is in 8/4 time and features Percussion I and drumsticks. Measure 13 is in 14/4 time and features all five instruments: Percussion II, Percussion I, Crotonal, Vibraphone, and Percussion II. Measure 14 is in 14/4 time and features all five instruments.

Happy Idiot

Play with vibe mallet/drumsticks

This is a sample performance, which should be helpful in creating your own.

Flat, mindless, happy

♩=140

Betsey Biggs

Percussion

drumsticks
snare off

Crotales

Vibraphone

Percussion

10

Perc.

Perc.

Crot.

Vib.

Perc.

19

Perc. 8/4 5/4 11/4 12/4 11/4

Perc. 8/4 5/4 11/4 12/4 11/4

Crot. 8/4 5/4 11/4 12/4 11/4

Vib. 8/4 5/4 11/4 12/4 11/4

Perc. 8/4 5/4 11/4 12/4 11/4

mp *p* *mp* *p* *f*

mallets mallets mallets mallets drumsticks snares on

24

Perc. 11/4 12/4 11/4 12/4 6/4 12/4

Perc. 11/4 12/4 11/4 12/4 6/4 12/4

Crot. 11/4 12/4 11/4 12/4 6/4 12/4

Vib. 11/4 12/4 11/4 12/4 6/4 12/4

Perc. 11/4 12/4 11/4 12/4 6/4 12/4

p *p* *f* *mp* *ff* *ff*

mallets mallets drumsticks snares on mallets whistle! whistle!

bass mallet tam-tam mallet bass mallet

p *f* *p*

29

Perc. $\text{H } \frac{12}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$

whistle!

ff drumsticks *ff* drumsticks

Perc. $\frac{12}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$

ff *ff*

Crot. $\frac{12}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$

Vib. $\frac{12}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$

Perc. $\text{H } \frac{12}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$

bass mallet tam-tam mallet

p *f*

37

Perc. $\text{H } \frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{29}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{11}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$

drumsticks
snare on

mf *fff* *mf*

Perc. $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{29}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{11}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$

Crot. $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{29}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{11}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$

Vib. $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{29}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{11}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$

Perc. $\text{H } \frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{29}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{11}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$

p *p*

42

Perc. $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{11}{4}$ $\frac{9}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$

ff drumsticks *p* mallets *p* mallets

Perc. $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{11}{4}$ $\frac{9}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$

mp *mp*

Crot. $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{11}{4}$ $\frac{9}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$

Vib. $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{11}{4}$ $\frac{9}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$

mallets *p*

Perc. $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{11}{4}$ $\frac{9}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$

p

49

Perc. $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{16}{4}$ $\frac{14}{4}$

Perc. $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{16}{4}$ $\frac{14}{4}$

Crot. $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{16}{4}$ $\frac{14}{4}$

Vib. $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{16}{4}$ $\frac{14}{4}$

Perc. $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{16}{4}$ $\frac{14}{4}$

54

Perc. $\text{H } \frac{14}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$

Perc. $\frac{14}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$

Crot. $\frac{14}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$

Vib. $\frac{14}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$ mallets *p*

Perc. $\text{H } \frac{14}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{10}{4}$

59

Perc. $\text{H } \frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$

Perc. $\frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$

Crot. $\frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ knitting needles *mf*

Vib. $\frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ mallets *p*

Perc. $\text{H } \frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{8}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{6}{4}$

66

Perc. *mf* knitting needles drumsticks *mf* knitting needles drumsticks

Perc.

Crot. knitting needles *mf*

Vib.

Perc.

75

Perc. *ff* drumsticks knitting needles


Perc.


Crot.


Vib.


Perc. bass mallet

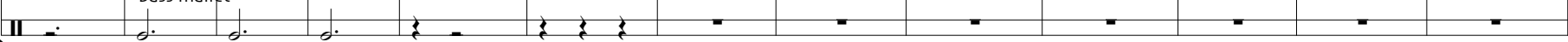
86

Perc. 

Perc. 

Crot. 

Vib. 

Perc. 

knitting needles

knitting needles

knitting needles

bass mallet