

# hag riding

for flute & 3 percussionists

poems by Lucille Clifton

music by Anna Rubin



*hag riding*, composed for Umbilicus, is based on two poems by Lucille Clifton, the late and highly honored poet, who spent part of her career in Maryland. The two poems, *hag riding* and *auction street*, are vivid and direct. Her fierce art is captured with precision in these works. I am grateful to Tom Goldstein for his encouragement and many pleasurable hours spent exploring the extensive resources of Umbilicus.

hag riding

why  
is what i ask myself  
maybe it is the afrikan in me  
still trying to get home  
after all these years  
but when i wake to the heat of morning  
galloping down the highway of my life  
something hopeful rises in me  
rises and runs me out into the road  
and i lob my fierce thigh high  
over the rump of the day and honey  
i ride i ride

auction street

consider the drum.  
consider auction street  
and the beat throbbing up through our shoes,  
through the trolley  
so that it rides as if propelled  
by hundreds, by thousands  
of fathers and mothers  
led in a coffle to the block.

consider the block,  
topside smooth as skin  
almost translucent like a drum  
that has been beaten  
for the last time  
and waits now to be honored  
for the music it has had to bear.  
then consider brother moises,  
who heard from the mountaintop:  
take off your shoes,  
the ground you walk is holy.

Both poems are from *The Terrible Stories*,  
published by BOA Editions Ltd. (1996) and used with their permission.

## Performance Notes

FLUTE  
(Accidentals apply within the beat)

Freely overblow

Exact pitches are not important

Timbral trill

Tongue ram

HT!

Accelerate over beats indicated

Dynamic applies to text and instruments

some thing

Sn. *mp*

Rub head of drum w/drumstick or hand in a circular pattern for duration of note .

Maracas

*p-mf*

Exaggerated soundless mouthing of words

whispered regular speech

*ff*

Let intonation rise

Emphasize last zz sound

May be I gal - lop - ping down the high - way shoes

(for the

Perc. I  
w/  
Flute

Shekere Maracas

Perc. II

Triangle Plastic Maracas Assorted Wood pieces Lo Tom Tom  
Agogo Med Cymbal Hi-Hat Med Gong

Flexatone Cabasa Bongos Congas Lo T. Tom

Caxixi

Freely vary accents on Bongos and Congas.

Cabasa Triangle Maracas Gong Med Tom Tom  
Guiro Tambourine (mounted) Snare Finger cymbals Whistle

Perc. IV

Drum sticks played vs. each other, vs. another player's, or overhead (O.H.) as specified. When in parentheses, hold sticks still while other player strikes them.

hag riding

Freely through M. 2

Return to normal playing position.

♩ = ca. 70-72

4/4 Face Stage R and slowly turn facing Stage L. *freely overblow* *freely overblow*

HT! *f* *f* *p*

Return to normal playing position.

gliss.

I. Percussion

Text

Return to normal playing position.

Maracas

*p-mf*

II. Percussion

Text

Return to normal playing position.

Cabasa

*p-mf*

III. Percussion

Text

Hold snare in hands so that you can stroke the wires directly Snare (Snares on)

*p-mf*

I.

5

II.

Agogo

III.

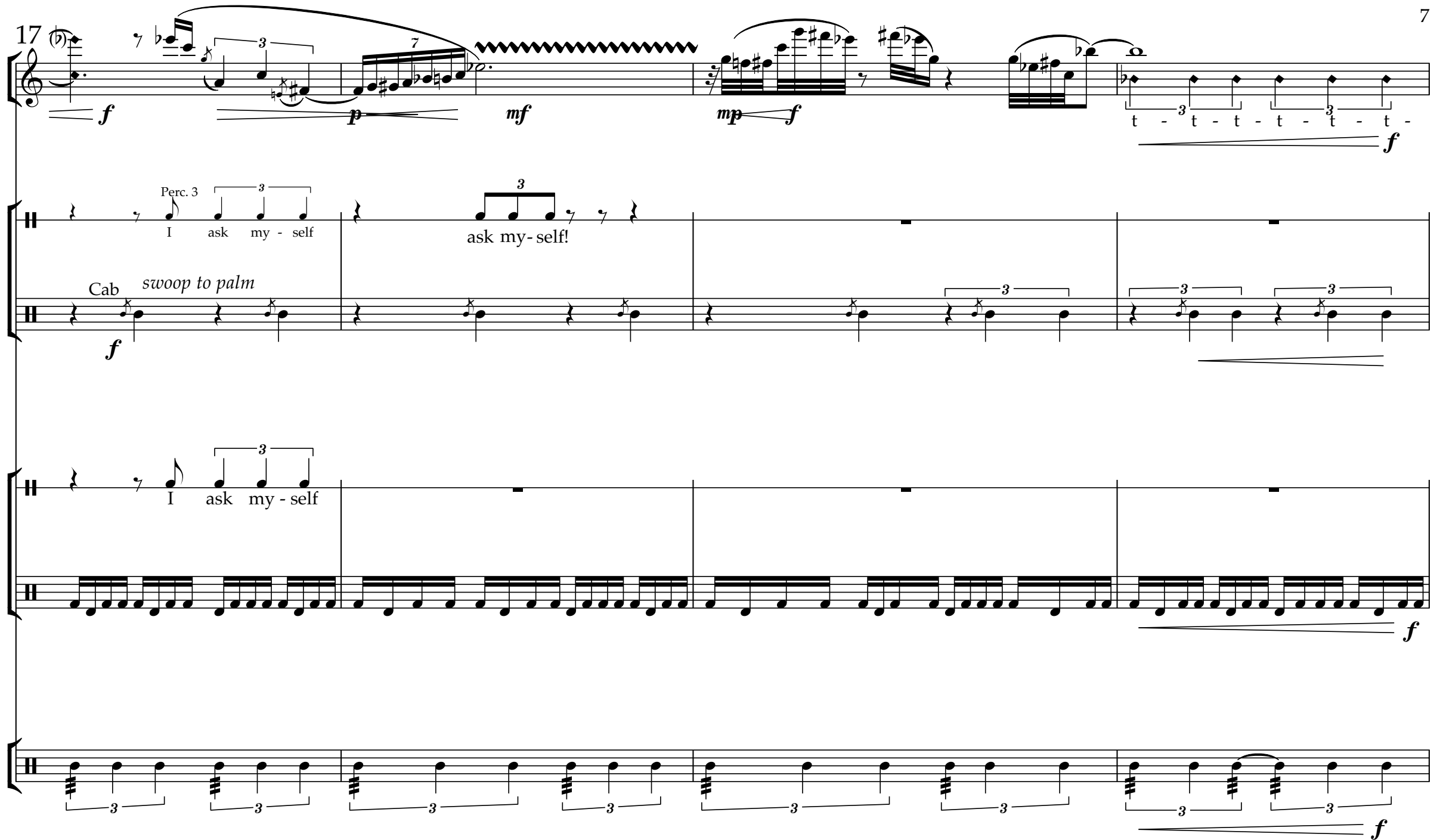
IV.

Tap head of  
snare w/ hand

Rub head of drum

Striking drum with fingers



17 

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

Perc. 3  
I ask my - self  
ask my-self!

Cab swoop to palm  
*f*

I ask my - self

*f*

*f*

Return to normal playing position.

HT!

This musical score is for a percussion ensemble with vocal lines. It consists of five staves. The first staff is a vocal line with lyrics: "May-be it is the af - ri - kan". The second staff is for Maraca, Lo T. Tom, and Bongos. The third staff is for Bongos. The fourth staff is for Tamb. (Tambourine), Sn. (Snare), and Rim (Rim). The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, time signatures, and dynamic markings like *ff* (fortissimo) and *p* (piano). There are also triplets and accents marked with a '+' sign. The tempo or mood is indicated by 'HT!' at the beginning.

HT!

May-be it is the af - ri - kan

May - be it is the af - ri - kan af - ri - kan

May - be it is the af - ri - kan

May - be it is the af - ri - kan

Tamb. Sn. Rim Tamb. Sn. Rim Tamb. Sn. Rim Tamb. Sn. Rim Tamb. Sn. Rim Tamb. Sn. Rim

freely overblow

*t-tr*

26

*f* 3

9

3

gliss.

in me

*mf* +

3

*p* *f*

3

af - ri - kan

in me

Bongos

gliss.

*f*

3

af - ri - kan

in me

*Sn. Rim* *Tamb.*

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

29

*p* *Speak near the mouthpiece*

*mp* af - ri - kan af - ri - kan

*mp* af - ri - kan af - ri - kan

Perc 4 3 Perc 3 3 3

trying to get trying to get trying to get home\_

May-be it is the

*mp*

*mf* af-ri-kan in me in me trying to get trying to get home

Perc 4 3 3

Perc 1,2 3 3

af - ri - kan af - ri - kan still still trying to get

Tamb.

*mp*

34 *Put down Fl.*

aft-er all those years (zz)

Shek

*p* *3* *f* *3* *p*

years (zz)

Mar

*3* *f* *3* *3*

years (zz)

*Pick up 2 wire brushes*

*Conga - roll 2 wire brush stems across head of inscreasing in speed as you increase volume.*

*p* *f*

home aft-er all those years (zz)

Mar.

*p* *3* *f* *3* *3*

12 39

accel. HT!

Cabasa

To Fl.

Drumsticks O.H.

Drumsticks O.H.

Drumsticks O.H.

Tamb. (finger roll)

check tamb stuff on last piece

ghost note

sub

sub

sub

fp

44  $\text{♩} = 92$  13

I. *mf* 7 *f* *sfz* *HT!*

II. HH 3 Med Cymb HH 3 Hi-Hat *f*

IV. Perc 4 But when I wake *f* to the heat of the morn-ing *mp* *T S T B T S T*

IV. But when I wake *f* *mp* *f* Guiro 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

48

48

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

*tr*

*ff*

*f*

*f* *ff*

*T* *S* *T* *B* *T* *S* *T* *T* *3* *T* *3* *T* *3* *T* *3*

*f* *ff*

Tamb.

*ff*

♩ =138 High energy

52

**Vocal Line:**

ff Unison 3 gal-lop-ping down the high-way

**Guitar Line:**

ff Unison 3 gal-lop-ping down the high-way

**Bass Line:**

ff Unison 3 gal-lop-ping down the high-way

**Drum Line:**

Lo T. Tom

Sn

Face Perc 1V

56

*fl. tong.*

*gliss.*

*mf*

*f*

high - way

high - way of my

life

Facing forward,  
R stick plays vs  
Perc 1- L stick

L stick plays vs  
Perc 2- R stick

*etc. sim.*

Wd.

Med Cymb

*f*

*ff*

Perc 2,3

high - way of my

life

Facing forward,  
R stick plays vs  
Perc 1- L stick

L stick plays vs  
Perc 2- R stick

*etc. sim.*

Perc 2 & 3  
face each other w/ raised sticks.  
s  
Perc 2 strikes  
opposite sticks of Perc 3  
(x)(x)(x) (x)(x)(x) (x)(x)(x)

high - way of my

life

life

Face Perc 1

Tamb.

Whstl.

*mp*

*ff*

*sfz*

*sfz*



.....

— — — — —

75

18 75

*f*

es and runs me

W/ Perc 3

*mp*

Perc 1

es ris - es

W/ Perc 2

and runs me out in - to the road

Bongos

*mp*

*fp*

freel fast patterns

Perc 3

ris - es ris-es in me

Sn Tamb

*mp*

80

*(tr)*

*fl. tong.*

*f* 3

3 3 3 3 3

Perc 4

and i lob

Unison Perc 3,4

my fierce thigh high

Unison Perc 3,4

o-ver the rump

Wd.

*f* *fp*

*f* *fp*

*f* *fp*

*f* *fp*

Med. Cymb.

Vary cymbal surface and bell

3 3 3

Perc 4

and i lob

Unison Perc 2,4

my fierce thigh high

Unison Perc 2,4

o-ver the rump

Flex.

Vary intensity, speed

*p-f*

Unison Perc 2,3

my fierce thigh high

Unison Perc 2,3

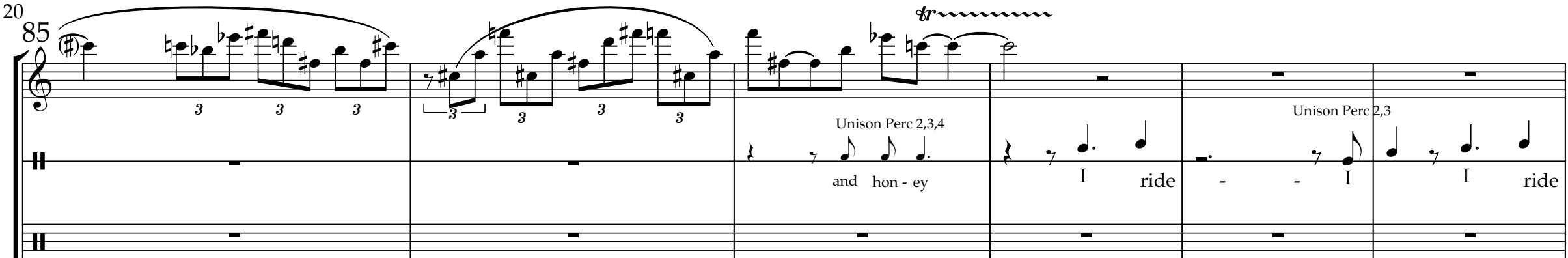
o-ver the rump

Tamb.

*fp*

Cab.

85



3 3 3

3 3 3 3

Unison Perc 2,3,4

and hon - ey

I ride

Unison Perc 2,3

I ride

Unison Perc 3,4

of the day

gliss.

gliss.

Unison Perc 3,4

and hon-ey

I ride

Unison Perc 1,3

I ride

Vary cymbal surface and bell

3 3 3

4

Unison Perc 2,4

of the day

gliss.

gliss.

Unison Perc 2,4

and hon-ey

I ride

Unison Perc 1,2

I ride

(Flex)

Unison Perc 2,3

of the day

gliss.

gliss.

Unison Perc 2,3

and hon-ey

I ride

Whstl

91

21

Put Fl down, put Shek in L hand



M

Musical staff 1: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff contains a melodic line with triplets and a final measure with a forte (*fff*) dynamic marking. The bottom staff of the system is empty.

Musical staff 2: Treble clef. The staff contains a melodic line with lyrics: "Aaa - - yee, Aaa - - yee ride!". The bottom staff of the system contains a rhythmic line with a forte (*ff*) dynamic marking and a note with a "+" sign.

Tri Beater rattling on surface of Cym.

Drumsticks

Musical staff 3: Treble clef. The staff contains a melodic line with lyrics: "Aaa - - yee, Aaa - - yee ride!". The bottom staff of the system contains a rhythmic line with a forte (*ff*) dynamic marking and a note with a "+" sign.

Flex Use hard mallet

No muting l.v.

Run one finger up & down surface of clapper to get continuum of rattle to pitched sound.

Musical staff 4: Treble clef. The staff contains a melodic line with lyrics: "Aaa - - yee, Aaa - - yee ride!". The bottom staff of the system contains a rhythmic line with a forte (*ff*) dynamic marking and a note with a "+" sign.

Mar

Gong

l.v.

Tri beater in continuous circles on gong w/ L hand

Whstl

Strike with plas. Mar *sfz*

l.v.

*mf*

♩ = 76

22  
98

Face front

Shek

Perc 1: Look & point  
at R rear corner of hall w/  
extended R arm &  
slowly sweep from R to  
L w/ glance  
following arm motion.

*accent bottom*

Wood

*f*

Hi Hat

*p*

Face front

Drumsticks on  
Congas

*f*

Perc 3: Look & point  
at R rear corner of hall w/  
extended R arm &  
slowly sweep from R to  
L w/ glance  
following arm motion.

Sn

*f*

Tamb

*Strike with  
drumstick*

*f*

104

Shek

Lo Tom

Wd

Lo T. Tom

Hands rim

Bongos

Conga

Bongos

Sn Tamb Sn

tap bottom fingers on bottom

*ppp*

*f*

*p*

*f*

*p*

*ff*

*p*

*ppp*

*p*

*f*

*p*

*ppp*

*sfz f*

*p*

*p*

*ff*

*p*

*ppp*

This musical score is for a percussion ensemble and a vocal part. It consists of five staves. The first staff is for a vocal line labeled 'Shek', written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff is for 'Lo Tom' (bass drum), the third for 'Wd' (wood block), the fourth for 'Hands rim' (hand drum rim), and the fifth for 'Sn' (snare drum) and 'Tamb' (tambourine). The score is divided into five measures. The first measure shows the vocal line and wood block. The second measure shows the vocal line and wood block. The third measure shows the vocal line and wood block. The fourth measure shows the vocal line and wood block. The fifth measure shows the vocal line and wood block. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The dynamics range from *ppp* (pianissimo) to *sfz f* (sforzando fortissimo). The wood block part features a melodic line with a key signature change in the fifth measure. The hand drum rim part features a rhythmic pattern. The snare drum and tambourine parts feature a rhythmic pattern. The vocal part features a melodic line with a key signature change in the fifth measure.

This musical score consists of four staves. The top staff is a melody line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a series of eighth notes in measures 109-111, followed by a half note in measure 112, and then a series of eighth notes in measures 113-114. A wavy line above the staff in measures 113-114 indicates a tremolo effect. The second staff is a percussion line in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp. It includes various rhythmic patterns and dynamics: *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *f* (forte), and *ff* (fortissimo). The third staff is another percussion line in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp, featuring patterns for Maracas, Bongo, Drumstick, and Conga. The fourth staff is a percussion line in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp, featuring patterns for Wirebrush, Snares, and Cross stick. The score includes various musical notations such as beams, slurs, and dynamic markings.

rim Cross stick Wood Bl rim Elbow ord Elbow ord rim Med Cymb

(Vary articulation between B, T, S in accordance w dynamics) Maracas Bongo Drumstick Conga Drumsticks vs. each other O.H.

No snares Wirebrush Snares on Hold 1 maraca while striking Snare w/ wirebrush Cross stick Let stick drop w/ 1 hand

116

*gliss.* *gliss.*

*mp*

6 6 25

Drumsticks  
vs. each other O.H.

*f* Hi Hat

*ff*

Sticks O.H.

Lo T.Tom

Let stick drop w/ 1 hand

Conga

Let stick drop on  
conga

Sticks  
O.H.

Vs. Perc 4

*f* *pf* *p* *f*

Perc 3 & 4  
hit each  
others' stocks

Perc 3 & 4  
hit each  
others' stocks

Fl.

*f*

Con-si-der the drum!

rim

Cross stick

Sticks  
O.H.

Vs. Perc 3

*f* *mf* *f*

[illegible]

127

4/4

slap tong

M - Noisiest multiphonic 27

I.

subp

II.

Bongos

Congas

pp

p

ff

free, wild improv on all instruments

III.

p

(remove can)

ff

ff

free, wild improv on all instruments

IV.

f

through the trol-ley so that it rides - - - (zz) - - as if pro-pelled by

Guero

mp

slowly stroke

ff

free, wild improv

132 Put Fl down

Put Shek down - To Fl.

I. *ff* Shek as if pro-pelled by hun-dreds by thou-sands of mo thers of fa-thers led in a cof-fle to the block! Con-si-der the

II. *sfz* *f* (Follow Perc 1-As loud as possible while still letting Perc 1 be audible) Cutoff on cue from Perc 1 at end of 'block' Unison Consi-der the

III. *sfz* *ff* (Follow Perc 1-As loud as possible while still letting Perc 1 be audible) Cutoff on cue from Perc 1 at end of 'block' Unison Con-si-der the

IV. *f* (Follow Perc 1-As loud as possible while still letting Perc 1 be audible) Cutoff on cue from Perc 1 at end of 'block' Unison Consi-der the

Pick up snare & cradle it, then rub head gently throughout this section.

[illegible]

I. *Mime words, Perc 3 says)*  
(for the last\_ time)  
*fl. tong.*  
*mp*  
*3*  
*slap tong.*  
*fl. tong.*  
*3*  
*slap tong.*  
*fl. tong.*  
*3*  
*slap tong.*  
*fl. tong.*  
*3*

II. *Mime words, Perc 3 says)*  
(mm)  
(for the last\_ time)  
*Mime with force*  
*Drumsticks O.H.*  
*(Solo)*  
*p*  
*pp*  
*Random selection of instruments, varying + and o*  
*poco*

III. *Mime with force*  
*ord.*  
*for the last\_ time\_ (mm)*  
*ff*  
*pp*  
*Random selection of instruments, varying + and o*  
*poco*

IV. *Mime words, Perc 3 says)*  
(for the last\_ time)  
*Random selection of instruments, varying + and o*  
*Med T Tom*  
*pp*  
*pp*  
*poco*

148

*slap tong.* *fl. tong.*

*mf* *f*

3 3 6 7

31

Med Cymb

Wd 3 3 3 3 3

Cax in 1 hand

Flex in other hand

Sn Med T Tom Sn

*mf* *mf*

32

152

rit. . . . .

*ff*

*f*

*p*

*p*

Mar (in 1 hand)

Tri (in other hand)

With great solemnity

156

6

*tr*

Whistle tone

*mf*

*gliss.*

*n*

the block waits now to be hon-ored for mu - sic it has had to bear

Gong (gently use foot)

*p*

*p*

*afap but gradually slow in random order*

*mf*

*gliss.*

*n*

the block waits now to be hon-ored for mu - sic it has had to bear

Pick up bow

Bow Flex

*f*

If possible, from rear  
of hall, a speaker forcefully  
recites the last lines of the  
poem. Or Perc I can recite  
the line.

163

*f* Then con-sid-er Bro-ther Mo-ses who heard from the moun-tain top take off your shoes, the ground is ho-ly! *Unison*

Point to speaker in rear.  
If Perc 1 is speaking,  
turn towards her.

Perc 1 Then con - sid - er Bro - ther Mo - ses who heard from the moun - tain top take off your shoes, the ground is ho-ly! *Unison*

*mf*

Point to speaker in rear.  
If Perc 1 is speaking,  
turn towards her.

Perc 1 Then con - sid - er Bro - ther Mo - ses who heard from the moun - tain top take off your shoes, the ground is ho-ly! *sfz*

Flex

*mf* *sfz*

Point to speaker in rear.  
If Perc 1 is speaking,  
turn towards her.

Perc 1 Then con - sid - er Bro - ther Mo - ses who heard from the moun - tain top take off your shoes, the ground is ho-ly! *Unison*

Fing Cmb Tamb

*ff* *sfz*

*freely*