

Instrumentation

Flute

The flautist plays bass flute and five bottles (12 oz. longnecks—I've been using Smuttynose) tuned to the following *blown* pitches:



(The F-sharp bottle is empty; the C-natural bottle is almost full.)

Percussion

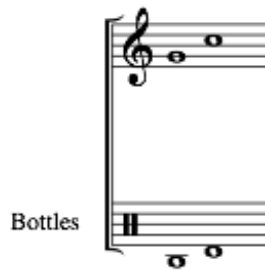
The percussionist plays:

- 1. Vibraphone, with pedal held down throughout.
- 2. Seven bottles. Five are tuned to the following *struck* pitches:



(The empty bottle produces the highest struck pitch.) These should be arranged in a row, and stabilized so that they can be hit and blown without grabbing them.

The other two are tuned to the blown pitches



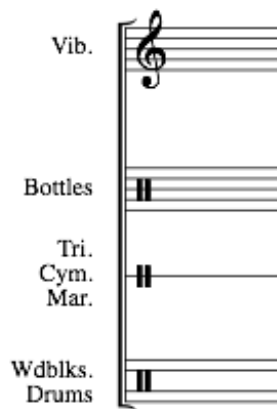
These are used only in the last part of the piece (sections F and G), and they are never struck; it may be easiest to pick them up individually.

- 3. Five tuned woodblocks and five tuned drums:



4. Triangle, suspended cymbal, and maracas.

The entire setup is notated on four staves:



(Most of the time I leave out the vibraphone staff, and sometimes I cut out others to facilitate page turns, but if this is irritating I can make the layout consistent.)

This entire setup needs to be compact to allow for very quick changes between instruments.

As written, many of the changes are probably impossible unless you MacGyver some mallets with threaded-rod shafts. Let me know what's reasonable and what I should change.

The bottle and percussion tuning should be *approximate*: the idea is to create a haze of pitches as a background for the flute and vibraphone's pitch material.

Notation

General

1. The "<>" is a swell. For example:



means crescendo to *f* and then fade out.

2. I often write a dotted line (e.g. *ff*) as a shorthand for *subito*.

3. For measures starting with dotted lines (see rehearsal F in particular), the players coordinate the downbeat, then follow their own part without worrying about how things line up.

Flute

Diamond noteheads for harmonics, e.g:



A triangle notehead means the highest (and generally loudest) overblown note possible:



Tongue ram (sounding a major seventh lower than notated):



Percussion

Bottle notation: stems up for blowing, stems down for tapping and scraping; e.g:



is a sustained blown note with tapping on the same bottle.

Duration: 6 minutes