

Boltzmann Brain

for 2 or 3 percussionists

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Performance Notes

Snare: **slashed noteheads** are rimshots, **x-noteheads** are side stick hits. A **trill** is performed as a tremolo, which may be made irregular both in duration of individual hits and in dynamics. The snare and the drums must be perceived as parts of the same entity, so the choice of drum sticks / brushes and the manner / dynamics of playing should take into the account the type of drums that are used.

Drums: Any three drums of the same family, of three different pitches; bottom line indicates lowest pitch, top line indicates highest pitch. **Arrow heads** are fast arpeggi. A **trill** is always a simple tremolo when encountered above a single note, but may be read as an alternating tremolo when it affects two or three notes (e.g. 1/2/1/2/1.., or 1/2/3/1/2/3.., etc.). Similar to snare trills, these may be made irregular. In two- and three-note trills this may also mean alternating the drums in various ways (1/2/3/1/2/3.., or 1/3/2/1/3/3/2.., etc.). If possible, **appoggiaturas** should be dry and/or muted quickly. Extra drums may be used (e.g. six, two for each pitch), which would help low hits decay longer, and add variety to fast passages.

Forte is not a particularly loud volume level here, just the average required to unite the drums and the snare into a single entity. Other dynamic indications are given in relation to that level.

Version for Three Performers

Another snare player may participate in the performance, using brushes only. They should accompany the piece with a continuous quiet brush swirl on another snare. It should be dynamically and rhythmically uniform, but without anything resembling a steady beat. This swirl is not affected by tempo changes. It begins with the first note and ends with the last note; thus the last portion of the last measure is completely silent. The player also reinforces some of the notes of the main snare line (normal hits with normal hits, rimshots with rimshots). These accents are color-coded:

Green = a single hit

Orange = two or three hits, a fast irregular pattern

Purple = two to five hits, a fast irregular pattern

Ideally, these shouldn't interrupt the swirl. These reinforcements are not restricted dynamically, but like the other instruments, this snare should be a part of the same entity as the other snare and the drums.

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Snare Drum $\text{♩} = 90$ $\frac{5}{4}$

Percussion $\frac{5}{4}$ *f* 3 3 3 5 *tr*

4 3 3 3 *p*

9 *mp* *p* *f* 3 3 *tr* 3

15

Musical score for measures 15-18. The upper staff contains a melodic line with various ornaments and dynamics. The lower staff features a complex accompaniment with triplets and a *mp* dynamic. Dynamics include *f* and *mp*. A purple accent mark is present above the final measure.

19

Musical score for measures 19-26. The upper staff continues the melodic line with a *rit.* marking. The lower staff has a *f* dynamic and a *tr* marking. Time signatures change from 3/4 to 5/4. Dynamics include *f* and *p*.

27

Musical score for measures 27-31. The upper staff has a tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 75$. The lower staff features triplets and *tr* markings. Dynamics include *f*. A *tr 3* marking is present above the final measure. The section ends with an *accel.* marking.

32

Musical score for measures 32-35. The upper staff has a tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 110$. The lower staff features triplets, *tr* markings, and a quintuplet. Dynamics include *f*. A purple accent mark is present above the final measure.

36 $\text{♩} = 100$

41

47 $\text{♩} = 120$ rit. . . .

52 $\text{♩} = 90$

56

Musical score for measures 56-59. The right hand features a melodic line with a trill (tr) and a triplet (3). The left hand has a complex accompaniment with triplets and dynamic markings *ff* and *f*. A purple bracket highlights a melodic phrase in the right hand.

60

Musical score for measures 60-64. The right hand continues with triplets and a trill. The left hand features a trill (tr) and dynamic markings *mp*, *f*, *p*, and *f*. A purple bracket highlights a melodic phrase in the right hand.

65

Musical score for measures 65-70. The right hand includes an *accel.* marking and a triplet. The left hand features a triplet and dynamic markings *mp* and *f*. A purple bracket highlights a melodic phrase in the right hand.

71

Musical score for measures 71-74. The right hand includes a tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 120$ and a triplet. The left hand features a trill (tr) and dynamic markings *mp* and *f*. A purple bracket highlights a melodic phrase in the right hand.

75

mp f 3 3 3 ff mp f tr

Detailed description: This system contains measures 75 through 78. The upper staff features a melodic line with an orange eighth note in measure 75, followed by eighth and sixteenth notes. The lower staff has a complex accompaniment with triplets and slurs. Dynamic markings include *mp*, *f*, *ff*, *mp*, and *f*. A trill (*tr*) is marked in measure 78.

79

rit....

$\text{♩} = 90$

tr

ff mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 79 through 83. Measure 79 begins with a *rit.* marking. A tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 90$ is present. The upper staff has a melodic line with an orange eighth note in measure 80 and a purple eighth note in measure 82. The lower staff has a complex accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *ff* and *mp*. A trill (*tr*) is marked in measure 81.

84

f mp f 3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 84 through 88. The upper staff has a melodic line with a green eighth note in measure 85 and a green eighth note in measure 87. The lower staff has a complex accompaniment with triplets. Dynamic markings include *f*, *mp*, and *f*. A triplet of eighth notes is marked in measure 88.

90

p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 90 through 93. The upper staff has a melodic line with a purple eighth note in measure 91 and a purple eighth note in measure 92. The lower staff has a complex accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *p* is present in measure 90. A triplet of eighth notes is marked in measure 92.

6

96

The image shows a musical score for two staves, measures 96 through 100. The upper staff begins with a dashed line above it, labeled "rit..". The lower staff features a *ff* (fortissimo) dynamic marking under a long note in measure 97, and a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic marking under a chord in measure 99. The score concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 100.