

Meridians

for rock drum set and improvising speaker or singer

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This collection of small pieces functions essentially like a collection of drum loops such as those used by some electronic dance music producers. Performers select whichever drum pattern they want. During the performance the drummer keeps playing the selected pattern while the other performer, using whatever amplification and/or FX necessary, improvises a speech, a poem, or a song. Each performance should be at least a minute long.

The drum set part includes little in terms of dynamics or phrasing indications. These are largely left to the performer, although a general idea of whether the beat is loud or not is sometimes indicated in the beginning. The pattern may include slight dynamic changes from one repeat to another, or it may include none. Occasionally when several sounds are indicated as simultaneous, you may play them in a free arpeggio, even if it means shifting the pattern by a beat or more. Some patterns require improvisation (instructions which start with a plus sign), in others an option for improvisation is indicated. Ornaments, long fermatas, caesuras may be used, albeit sparingly, in any of the patterns.

Patterns notated as two or more repeated sections (for example, AABB) can be played in any sequence (for example AAAAAABBAABBBBABA). Once started, any section must be played through to its end. Patterns which feature two endings are to be looped with the first ending, while the second is to be used for the ending.

The other performer's part is an improvisation based on at least one practice session with the drummer. Spoken and sung parts may or may not synchronize their words and/or melodies to the beat. Any vocal techniques may be used, as well as percussive sounds, noises, and so on. For example, elements of beatboxing may be incorporated into the performance, provided that the sound system is set up so that the drums form an organic whole with the vocal part. To that end, and/or to enrich one's options during the performance, electronic effects such as delay or distortion may be employed. A looper is one of the more interesting options to explore.

Any number of pieces can be performed during a single program, and in any order. During the performance of any one piece there must be at least one noticeable period of time when the drummer is playing alone, the other performer being silent.

Meridians

1

Jashiin
2018

Drum Set

$\text{♩} = 60$

mp *f* *mf*

This pattern may be accompanied with an improvisation on finger cymbals (worn by the speaker/singer).

Detailed description: This musical notation for a drum set is written on a single staff with a common time signature. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 60. The piece starts with a dynamic of mezzo-piano (mp). The first two measures feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents. The third measure has a dynamic shift to forte (f) and includes a triplet of eighth notes. The fourth measure returns to mezzo-forte (mf) and features a triplet of eighth notes. The piece concludes with a repeat sign.

2

Drum Set

$\text{♩} = 60$

Detailed description: This musical notation for a drum set is written on a single staff with a common time signature. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 60. The piece starts with a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, some with accents. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and eighth rests. The piece concludes with a repeat sign.

3

Drum Set

$\text{♩} = 105$

Detailed description: This musical notation for a drum set is written on a single staff with a common time signature. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 105. The piece starts with a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, some with accents. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and eighth rests. The piece concludes with a repeat sign.

4

Drum Set

$\text{♩} = 82$

Detailed description: This musical notation for a drum set is written on a single staff with a common time signature. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 82. The piece starts with a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, some with accents. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and eighth rests. The piece concludes with a repeat sign.

5

Drum Set $\text{♩}=140$

6

Drum Set $\text{♩}=96$

+ improvisation on pedal hi-hat throughout the loop, but make sure you stop at least once to play the entire loop as written

7

Drum Set $\text{♩}=116$

mp *mp*

8

Drum Set $\text{♩}=73$

9

Drum Set $\text{♩}=69$

1. 2.

10

Drum Set $\text{♩}=102$

This pattern may be accompanied (both sections) with an improvisation on a medium sized or a large gong.

11

Drum Set $\text{♩}=100$

12

Drum Set $\text{♩}=74$

p

13

Drum Set $\text{♩}=77$
mp

+ improvisation on tom-toms

14

Drum Set $\text{♩}=100$

+ improvisation on the snare drum, no longer than three measures, and only once

15

Drum Set $\text{♩}=69$

+ improvisation on the snare drum, no longer than three measures, and only once

16

Drum Set $\text{♩}=112$
p

+ improvisation on the snare drum, no longer than three measures, and only once

Drum Set $\text{♩}=100$
mf

Drum Set $\text{♩}=100$
mp

Drum Set $\text{♩}=61$
f *ff* *f* *fff*

Drum Set $\text{♩}=97$
f *ff* *p* *f*

Drum Set $\text{♩}=70$
mp *f* *ff* *mf* *mp* *p* *f*