

Alexander Wu

June 2024

learning

for three percussionists

duration: 4'

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Instrumentation

Player 1: 5 or more balloons (not inflated, one of which needs to have a unique color and have a hex nut in it), kazoo, megaphone, guitar amp (the noisier the better)

Player 2: 5 or more balloons (not inflated), kazoo, megaphone

Player 3: 5 or more balloons (not inflated), kazoo, megaphone, whirly tube

Players 1 & 2 share: soft mallets

Players 2 & 3 share: finger cymbals

Players 1 & 3 share: bow

All share: suspended cymbal

In summary: 15 or more balloons (not inflated, one of which needs to have a unique color and have a hex nut in it), 3 kazoos, 3 megaphones, 1 guitar amp, 1 whirly tube, 1 suspended cymbal, 1 set of finger cymbals, 1 set of soft mallets, 1 bow

Technical Notes

General

This piece highlights many silent or nearly silent gestures. Three types of lines are used to indicate the loudness of a gesture:

———— a straight line indicates a fully audible gesture

..... a densely dotted line indicates an almost inaudible gesture

..... a sparsely dotted line indicates an inaudible gesture

The notation is not proportional to time. All durations are approximate; do not use a stopwatch when performing.

A plus sign (+) indicates holding an object or starting an action; a minus sign (-) indicates putting down an object or stopping an action. Sometimes, an object is never used between taking it and putting it down. This is intentional. With the megaphone or the amp, a + means turning it on, and a - means turning it off.

Technical Notes (cont'd)

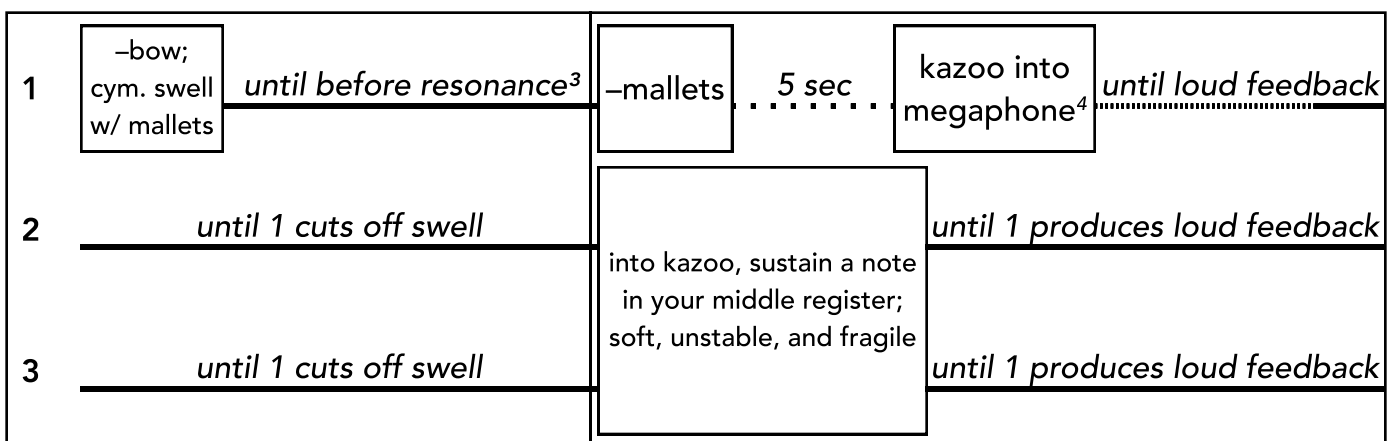
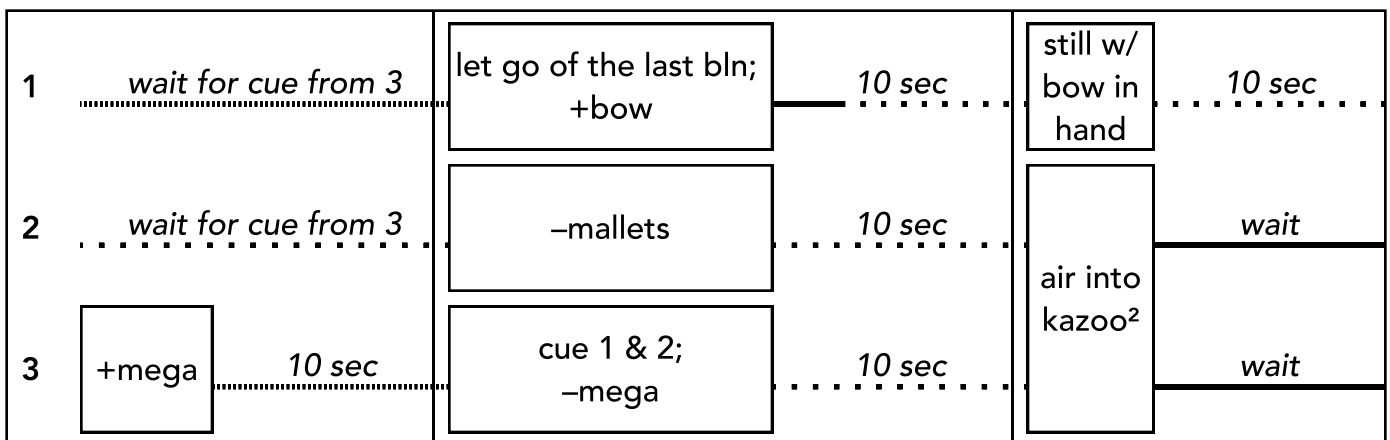
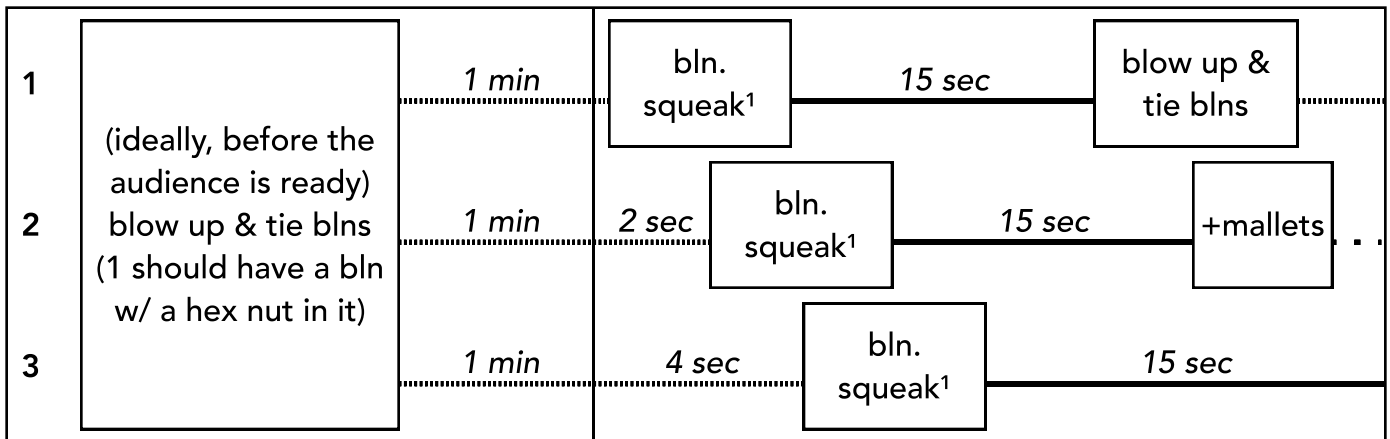
Specific

- 1** bln. squeak: Deflate the balloon with one hand stretching out the end of the balloon and the other pressing down to close 90% of the opening. This will limit the airstream and produce a high squeaking noise.
- 2** air into kazoo: Blow into the mouthpiece of the kazoo from a distance of about ¼ in. (0.5 cm) to produce a high-pitched white noise.
- 3** cym. swell: A cymbal swell should always be cut off right before the high resonant partials come in.
- 4** kazoo into megaphone: Place the membrane of the kazoo against the microphone of the megaphone to produce feedback.
- 5** rotate bln w/ nut: Rotate the balloon with the hex nut in it until the nut starts to spin around in the balloon at a regular speed. This will produce a tone.
- 6** mallet clicks: Hit one stick against the other.
- 7** faulty AI voice: You can find a sample audio synthesized by RAVE here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FH_h91VVuag.
- 8** finger cym. dead stroke: Strike the finger cymbals in the most muted way possible.

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