

Works for Portable Percussion Ensemble (Grade I-III) Volume One

Assignment:

Write a grade I, II, or III percussion ensemble work for “portable” percussion trio. The piece should be approximately 2-3 minutes in length, utilizing only instruments or “found sounds” portable enough to fit in a backpack (excluding music stands as trap tables). The composition should include relatively equal difficulty amongst parts. Keep in mind the instruments utilized must be readily available and affordable for a beginner/available in the typical public school setting.

In addition to the score, parts and legend (if applicable), create a suggested setup diagram and rehearsal notes. The piece should also provide pedagogical information addressing what techniques, musical elements, and chamber skills are implemented in the composition. This latter part is to assist directors in selecting the work. Depending on instrumentation, it may be advisable to include instrument substitutions.

Notation Considerations:

Consider using percussion staff systems typically found in non-melodic percussion scoring. Address page turns in parts. Avoid using D.C. or D.S. in this composition. Repeats (measure repeats and section repeats) are acceptable.

The score and parts should follow standard Finale standards and be “publish-ready.” The final product should be saved as a PDF.

Include diagrams, legends, rehearsal notes, and any programmatic information in the final PDF.

Form Considerations:

Consider the following: introduction, A section, transition, B section, transition, return of the A section, and coda. Grade III works may use more sections or expanded forms (theme and variations, etc).

Additional Considerations:

We will video performances of each work during Finals Week for inclusion on YouTube and as a resource to students and directors. We will allot no more than 30 minutes for rehearsal and recording of each work.

The final publication will be made available for download/print at the conclusion of the semester. Workflow of the assignment will be provided with due dates.

Spring 2019 Adams State University Percussion Studio Special Project

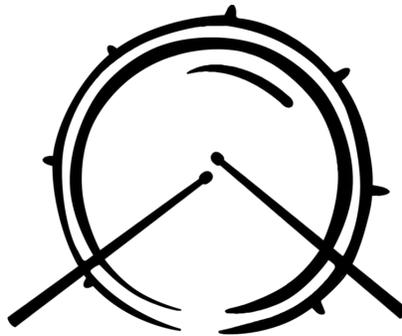
Difficulty Level:

Grade I: For first or second year students. Limit instruments per performer to one, note values of eighth notes or longer in value, little syncopation, and no rolls. Moderato tempo, occasional dynamic changes, basic rudiments, and limited counterpoint. Avoid extended techniques. Use simple meter without changes.

Grade II: For middle school students. Multiple instruments per performer may be utilized. Syncopation can be utilized sparsely and some counterpoint may be included. Limited rolls may be used and varied dynamics are encouraged. Tempo range from Andante to Allegro with no more than two tempo changes. Use of accents is encouraged (particularly on strong beats). Use simple meter with limited or no meter changes and include stickings in some sections.

Grade III: For late middle school/early high school. Multiple instruments per performer may be utilized, rolls may be included, and further use of rudiments encouraged. Counterpoint should exist in sections, tempi may vary, and compound meter may be used. Dynamic variance should be used, including subito and gradual changes. Accents should be used, including on weak beats and include stickings in syncopated and unison sections. May include short (and well-explained) sections of “chance.”

To distill grade levels even further for you, think Grade I can be sightread with no preparation, Grade II can be read with limited preparation, and Grade III would require one to two rehearsals.



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About the Project:

In an effort to make chamber percussion music more accessible to all, the Adams State Percussion Studio is embarking on a multi-year project to create several volumes of works for “portable” percussion ensemble. Young percussionists, regardless of socio-economic factors, rehearsal space availability, and instrument inventory should have the opportunity to rehearse and perform works written solely for percussion. This project intends to address the needs of percussionists of all levels and add to the chamber percussion repertoire both pedagogically and artistically.

The final product will be made available to the public via download (or print) at minimal cost, with all proceeds going to the Adams State University Percussion Studio for future projects and expenses of this project.

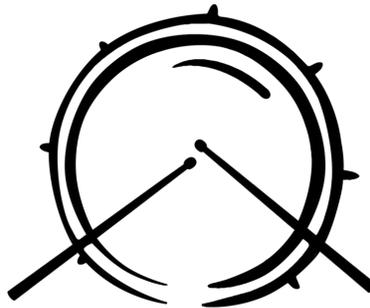
Each volume will include pedagogical information, annotations, and be overseen for quality, accessibility, and difficulty by Dr. James W. Doyle. The pieces will be recorded and available on YouTube for promotions and educational purposes.

For each work, composers are given specific guidance in the form of a rubric and recommended workflow.

For future volumes, students, Adams State University alumni, faculty, and guest composers will be included in the publications.

Volume One is expected to be released no later than July 1, 2019.

If interested in contributing to Volume One or future volumes, please contact Dr. Doyle at jwdoyle@adams.edu



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