

Brad Decker

Ripple



for Flute, Marimba, and Computer

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Brad Decker (2019)

About the piece:

"Ripple" is about how small events can accumulate to contribute to broader, more meaningful ones. I began working on it during the grip of winter, 2019, and was longing for the promise of spring. During this time, I was struck by this famous quote by the late Robert F. Kennedy, which still holds true today:

"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." - Robert F. Kennedy, 1966

Musically, this piece explores how two small pitch cells can interact in a variety of ways. The initial gesture is rather tame, but these gestures accumulate to create larger, sweeping polyrhythmic sections. The computer part surrounds the duo with a stereo soundscape, at times mirroring their pitch and rhythmic content.

This piece was written for my good friends Rebecca Johnson and Jamie V. Ryan, and is dedicated to them.

Accompanying App (Mac only) can be downloaded at www.braddecker.org

Score Notes:

Accidentals: for passages in a meter, the accidentals carry through the bar. For passages that are not metered, accidentals apply only to the note they precede.

Time cues are provided as a guide. The times are approximate.

The circled numerical cues are for the computer part, which will play the appropriate cue at the notated point in the score. The cue audio overlaps in a way that allows for some flexibility of the performers regarding fermati and other indeterminate time elements.

Graphics below some trills and tremolos attempt show levels of intensity and speed of the gesture. Please utilize some freedom in these moments so that you are able to create a feeling of ebb and flow between the performers (and the computer).

Flute trills that involve special fingerings are notated with an * above it.

flute notation:

x = air

+ = percussion

⊕ = air/percussion

T = through the teeth

◇ = harmonic

Timbral Trills: From alternate fingerings

The image shows musical notation for flute trills and tremolos. It consists of two staves of music. The top staff has four measures, and the bottom staff has four measures. Each measure contains a trill or tremolo gesture with various symbols (x, +, ⊕, T, ◇) above the notes to indicate intensity and speed. The notes are on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat).

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Musical score for measures 1-5. Flute part includes trills marked with asterisks and dynamic markings *sfz*, *p*, and *f*. Marimba part features dynamic markings *sfz* and *p*, and includes the instruction "ad lib note order. accel/decel." with a circled measure. A circled "1" indicates the start of the tape section.

Musical score for measures 6-10. Flute part includes trills marked with asterisks and dynamic markings *sfz*, *p*, and *f*. Marimba part features dynamic markings *sfz* and *p*. A circled "2" indicates the start of the tape section.

11

Fl. *tr* *sfz* *f* *p* *tr* *p* *sfz*

Mar. *sfz* *p* *sfz* *p* *sfz*

Tape **3** 1:00

16

A ($\text{♩} = 40$)

Fl. *p* *f* *p* *f* *sfz*

Mar. *pp* *f* *pp* *sfz* *f*

Tape **4** **5** 1:20

19

Fl. *p* *f* *tr* *tr*

Mar. *f* *pp* *f* *pp*

Tape **6** 1:40

22

Fl. *p* 6 *f* *p* *ff* *p* *f* *tr**

Mar. *sfz* *sfz* *pp* *p* *sfz* *p* *f* *p*

Tape **||** 2:00

26

Fl. *tr** *sfz* *p* 5 *p* *f* *p* 5 3 *f*

Mar. *pp* *sfz* *pp* 5 *f* *p* *f* *pp*

Tape **||** 7 2:20

31

Fl. *tr** *pp* 3 5 *ff* 5 *sfz* *f* *sfz* 5 *ff* 3 *fff*

Mar. *pp* 5 *f* *p* *f* *pp* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *pp* *sfz*

Tape **||** 8 2:45

B

36

Fl.

Mar.

Tape

9

3:00

3:15

43

Fl.

Mar.

Tape

3:30

3:45

C

50

Fl.

Mar.

Tape

10

4:00

53

Fl.

Mar.

Tape

4:10

56

Fl.

Mar.

Tape

4:20

59

Fl.

Mar.

Tape

4:30

D

62

Fl.

Mar.

Tape

11

4:40

65

Fl.

Mar.

Tape

67

Fl.

Mar.

Tape

4:50

69

Fl.

Mar.

Tape

5:00

ff

Detailed description: This system covers measures 69 and 70. The Flute (Fl.) part begins with a trill on a high note, followed by sixteenth-note patterns with accents. The Maracas (Mar.) part features sixteenth-note patterns with accents and markings for *8va* (octave up). The Tape part includes a 5:00 time marker. The dynamic marking *ff* (fortissimo) is present in the flute part.

71

Fl.

Mar.

Tape

start slowly, accel poco a poco

sfz

pp

Detailed description: This system covers measures 71 and 72. The Flute (Fl.) part starts with a trill (marked 'T') and continues with sixteenth-note patterns. The Maracas (Mar.) part has sixteenth-note patterns with accents. Dynamic markings include *sfz* (sforzando) and *pp* (pianissimo). The instruction "start slowly, accel poco a poco" is written above the flute part.

74

Fl.

Mar.

Tape

ff

sfz

Detailed description: This system covers measures 74 and 75. The Flute (Fl.) part is blank. The Maracas (Mar.) part features sixteenth-note patterns with accents. Dynamic markings include *ff* (fortissimo) and *sfz* (sforzando). A circled '8' is marked above the first measure.

77

Fl.

Mar.

Tape

5:30

12

5:50

$\text{♩} = 40$ **E**

$\text{♩} = 40$ **E**

pp

sfz

*tr**

*tr**

*tr**

*tr**

*tr**

82

Fl.

Mar.

Tape

6:00

3/4

6:30

pp

*tr**

*tr**

*tr**

*tr**

*tr**

*tr**

F $\text{♩} = 50$

Fl. *p*

Mar. *sfz*

Tape **13** 6:40

Fl. *9*

Mar. *8^{va}*

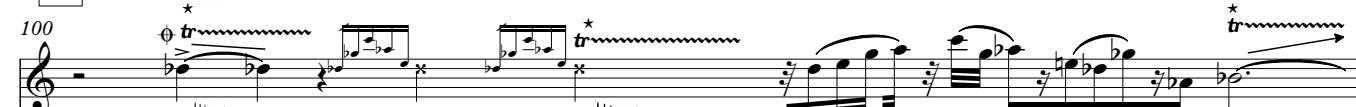
Tape 6:50

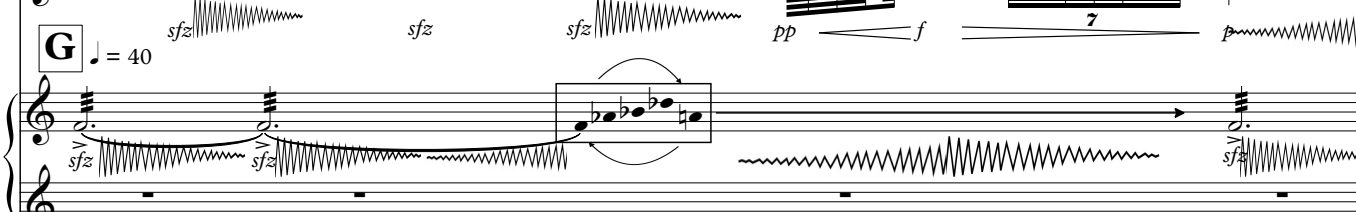
Fl. *9* 5 - 7"


Mar. *8^{va}* 5 - 7"


Tape 7:00

100

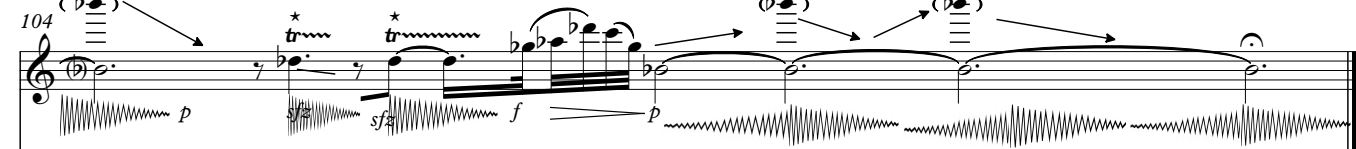
Fl. 

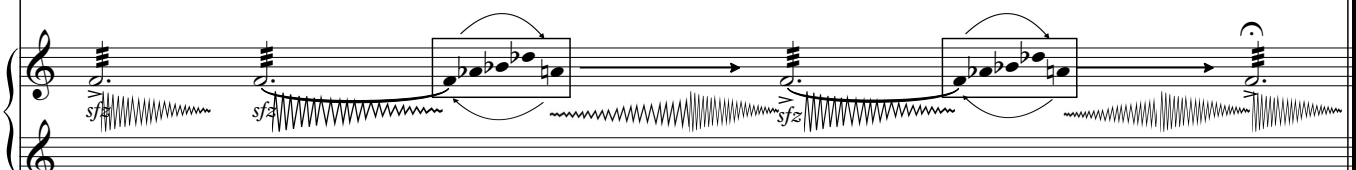
Mar. 


Tape 

G ♩ = 40 

104

Fl. 

Mar. 

Tape 

Charleston, IL
March 22, 2019