

DYLAN SHERIDAN

THE CURIOUS LIGHT OF
MISTER MOON

FOR COUNTER TENOR AND PERCUSSION

Percussion Instruments

FM radio, FM transmitter, Vibraphone, G# Whirley, Low E Gong, a little brass bell, 3x Chinese Tom-Toms, Chinese “doing” cymbal, 5x temple blocks, xylophone, big cymbal, finger cymbals, little bell on a string, 5x Jars of Brandy, a few little rocks, flexitone, pitched wine glasses (A, A#, B), D# gong, hollow frog (or wood block), snare drum, several ceramic plates, hi-hat, chicken egg, low G# Gong

i - FM radio, FM transmitter, Vibraphone, G# Whirley, low E Gong

ii - Low E Gong, little bell, 3x Chinese Tom-Toms, Chinese “doing” cymbal, 5x temple blocks, xylophone, Vibraphone

iii - xylophone, big cymbal, finger cymbals, Vibraphone

iv - FM radio, FM transmitter, little bell on a string, 5x Jars of Brandy, a few little rocks, flexitone, pitched wine glasses (A, A#, B)

v - Vibraphone, G# Whirley, pitched wine glasses (A, A#, B), D# gong, hollow frog (or wood block), ceramic plates, snare drum, hi-hat, chicken egg

vi - FM radio, FM transmitter, Vibraphone, Low G# Gong

Staging and Costume

Performers may choose the extent to which they wish to include costume and staging in performance. The stage should be very dark and highlighted with blue ‘moonlight’ lighting. Props should at least include a worn couch upon which Mister Moon sits as he drinks brandy and tells his tale.

Other Notes

- In addition to the directions given, performers are encouraged to ad-lib movement about the stage.
- Mister Moon is also required to play the cello, and the part has been written in such a way that a proficient musician with no previous experience on the instrument should be able to perform both parts.



Counter Tenor & Cello – Michael Linert
Percussion – Mike Lunoe

Premiere performance
January 23, 2011 @ College-Conservatorium of Music, Cincinnati



i - hello, Mister Moon

mp
Sitting back singing to yourself, pained, burdened and slightly drunken. Look down and around but do not connect with audience

$\text{♩} = 63-66$

Voice

Full of the light of Mis-ter Mis-ter Mis-ter Moon

Violoncello

Rubber mute
Bow between bridge and tailpiece sul II & III

out of radio sound --- --- n

Vibraphone
FM Radio
Whirley (G#)

audience laughter, clapping (transmit track 1 via FM transmitter. cresc. as you tune slightly in and out to either side of the station for c. 30")

$\text{♩} = 63-66$

p

Continues to play in background until end of (i)

The musical score is arranged in three staves. The top staff is for Voice, the middle for Violoncello, and the bottom for Vibraphone. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 9/8. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 63-66. The voice part has lyrics and a performance instruction. The cello part has performance instructions and a dynamic marking. The vibraphone part has a performance instruction and a dynamic marking. There is a box with a note about audience laughter and clapping, with an arrow pointing to the vibraphone part.

7

Voice

yes - sir yes - sir yes - sir yes - si-ree full of the light of Mis-ter Mis-ter Mis-ter Moon yes - sir yes - sir yes - sir yes - si-

Vib.



12

Voice

ree!

spoken manic nonsense. Ad lib.

meld words into [u]

...but I said, "where oh where do butterflie ssleep?" and he said,	"onastarlitnighta- butterflyturnsintoa dragonfly"	which in A.'s opinion is very serious indeed. How shall I put it?	It is a most astonishing development
--	--	---	--

Vib.

20 with an eerie, shimmering vibrato (like a theramin)

Tr. Solo

[u]

Vib. g# whirley (improvise softly and fairly slowly with these pitches)



meld [u] into words
becoming frantic

25

Tr. Solo

So I said,
"wellblowthedragonfliesnose
andwrapthefishinapapertissue"
...
and he said,

"BUT THERE AREN'T
ENOUGH STARS!"

"There aren't enough stars?"
There aren't enough stars!

Vib.

In A.'s opinion
it's very serious indeed

meld words into [u]

(deeply pondering the lack of stars)

[u]

meld [u] into words
(becoming even more frantic)

it's very im- -portant, because in A.'s opinion,

Vib.

g# whirley



There aren't enough
stars!! there aren't
enough stars!!

(etc. continue rambling about the lack of stars)

meld words into [u]

(sit up with sudden realization)

[u]

"I'M A STAR..."

Vib.

g# whirley

low E gong

vib

f

(Turn off radio)

ii - the Moon and a cigarette

♩=c. 66

Treble

p *mf* *p* stretch (operatic)

one night on my way home from the ci ne ma_ I hurled a rock at

Violoncello

Vibraphone

♩=c. 66 little bell

improv. tasteful grove with 3x chinese tomtoms & chinese doing cymbal +occasional temple block

Percussion

mf *p* low e gong

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a piece titled "ii - the Moon and a cigarette". It features four staves: Treble, Violoncello, Vibraphone, and Percussion. The Treble staff contains the vocal melody with lyrics: "one night on my way home from the ci ne ma_ I hurled a rock at". The music includes dynamic markings such as *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *p* (piano), along with performance instructions like "stretch" and "(operatic)". There are also triplet markings (3) and a crescendo hairpin. The Violoncello staff is currently empty. The Vibraphone staff has a tempo marking of "♩=c. 66" and a note for "little bell". A box contains the instruction: "improv. tasteful grove with 3x chinese tomtoms & chinese doing cymbal +occasional temple block", with an arrow pointing to the right. The Percussion staff includes a "low e gong" with dynamic markings *mf* and *p*, and a trill-like figure.

pure tone → nasty tone

p → *f*

Tr. mis - ter Moon _____ that rock went o ver the chim - ney and

Perc. pause ostinato restart ostinato

||

f 3+4+3 *p* (lyrical, freely)

Tr. struck mis - ter Moon as he was sing - ing a song → (hum)

Perc. temple-blocks

pause ostinato

♩=76-80

(pale, eerie)

Tr.

the wa-ning mis-ter Moon's tail end_ chipped off he flushed red with an - ger(rrrr) "Now

(bow below bridge just above tailpiece)
grating, mournful

cello

n *p*

vib.

Ped. *p*

restart,
getting louder
and angrier, add
templeblocks &
more cymbal

(ostinato culminates in tamtam)

Perc.

p

speech like (but not too much)

p

like a nervous stutter

put me back to - ge - ther!" "I'm tru - ly sor-ry I beg your par - don"

play 5 - 6 random pizz. notes

xylophone

f



(pale, eerie)



Tr.

"It's un - par-do-na- ble"

"For hea-ven's

grating

play 3 - 4 random pizz. notes

Vc.

n ————— *p*

echo "put me back together"

xylophone

Vib.

vib.

p

f p

f

Perc.

rall. . . . ♩=50

Tr. (freely) *p*

"No no no no nono no! Put me back to - ge - ther!" Mis-ter

Vc.

Vib. vib. *p*

rall. . . .

Perc. *p* tr

restart ostinato →

Tr. Moon looked un - for - giv - ing but in the end

Perc.

Tr. tra-ded for-giv - nes for a ci - ga - rette

leans back relaxed and lights up a cigarette.

solo

Vibraphone

p

Perc.

→ end ostinato

tr

ppp

iii - the moon in his pocket

♩=120

Cigarette drops out of mouth as
Mister Moon is rudely awoken by xylophone.

The musical score is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 1-5) is in 4/4 time. The Voice part is silent. The Cello part has a rest followed by a note with a 'snap pizz.' marking and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Percussion part (cymbals, temple blocks, finger cymbals) is silent. The Xylophone part plays a melodic line with dynamics *f*, *p*, *f*, *f*, and *f*. The second system (measures 6-10) is in 3/4 time. The Tr. Solo part has lyrics: "Mi - ster Moon was wal-king with him - self in-side his poc-ket on a hi-lly road his shoe-lace". The Vc. part has a rest followed by a note with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Xylophone part plays a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *f*, *p*, *f*, and *p*.

Voice

cello

cymbals
temple blocks
finger cymbals

xylophone

Tr. Solo

Vc.

xylo.

f *p* *f* *f* *f*

fp *f* *fp*

f *p* *f* *p*

Mi - ster Moon was wal-king with him - self in-side his poc-ket on a hi-lly road his shoe-lace

Tr. Solo (drop pitch) *fp* *f*

came un - done he was ben-ding down to tie it when

Vc. *f*

xylo. *f* *fp* *f*



Tr. Solo *fp* *f* *p* pale, eerie

Mis ter moon rolled out his poc - ket Mis - ter

Vc. *f*

Percussion big cymbal

xylo. *fp* *f* *f* *p* to vibraphone

Tr. Solo

Moon rolled out his poc - ket and down the slope he rolled

Vc.

Perc.

xylo.

Tr. Solo

o-ver and o-ver and o-ver and o-ver and

* At this point Mister Moon rolls off-stage and out of the concert hall. His voice grows more and more distant until it has disappeared completely. Left on-stage in silence for a few moments, the percussionist begins

(Mister Moon can again be heard, arriving on opposite side of stage)

n

3 **3** **3**

over and o-ver and o-ver and

*all players cont. repeating all parts until Mister Moon arrives on-stage and, exhausted, picks up his cello to joins vib.

sus. finger cymbals

Perc.

f

vib.

p cresc.

Tr. Solo

f

o-ver and o-ver and o-ver and o-ver and o-ver and o-ver and o-ver and o-ver and o-ver and o-ver and o-ver and o-ver

arco

Vc.

f with heavy rock feel

Perc.

f

vib.

f with heavy rock feel

(exhausted)

Tr. Solo

un-to the ends of the earth

Vc.

temple blocks

Perc.

vib.

Xylophone

f

f

f

f



Tr. Solo

Vc.

vib.

f

p

f

f

f (excitedly)

Tr. Solo

Mi ster Moon ran af-ter Mi-ster Moon but since he was mov ing e-ver so

(randomly placed pizz. ad lib.)

vib.

f

==

Detailed description: This system contains three staves. The top staff is for Tr. Solo in treble clef, with lyrics underneath. The middle staff is for Vc. in bass clef, with a circled 'p' and the instruction '(randomly placed pizz. ad lib.)' above it. The bottom staff is for vib. in treble clef, with a dynamic marking of *f* below it. The music is in 3/4 time and features various time signature changes (4/4, 3/4, 4/4, 3/4). A double bar line with two parallel lines below it is located below the vib. staff.

Tr. Solo

quick - ly the in - ter - val be-tween Mi - ster Moon and Mis ter moon grew

(pizz.)

vib.

Detailed description: This system continues the musical score with three staves. The top staff is for Tr. Solo in treble clef, with lyrics underneath. The middle staff is for Vc. in bass clef, with a circled 'p' and the instruction '(pizz.)' above it. The bottom staff is for vib. in treble clef. The music is in 3/4 time and features various time signature changes (5/4, 4/4). The vib. part has a complex rhythmic pattern with many beamed notes.

Tr. Solo

far - ther and far - ther and far - ther and far - ther and far - ther and far - ther a -

Vc. arco

vib.



Tr. Solo

part and lost sight of him-self in the mist far be - low.

Vc. (snap pizz.) *f*

vib.

* very free, with a lot of space
 Rythmicized sections ♩=84-88
 Succession of event otherwise
 indicated through spacial
 notation.

iv - how i sobered up

voice

Violoncello


Percussion - fm radio
 little bell on a string
 in a jar of brandy/water
 flexitone

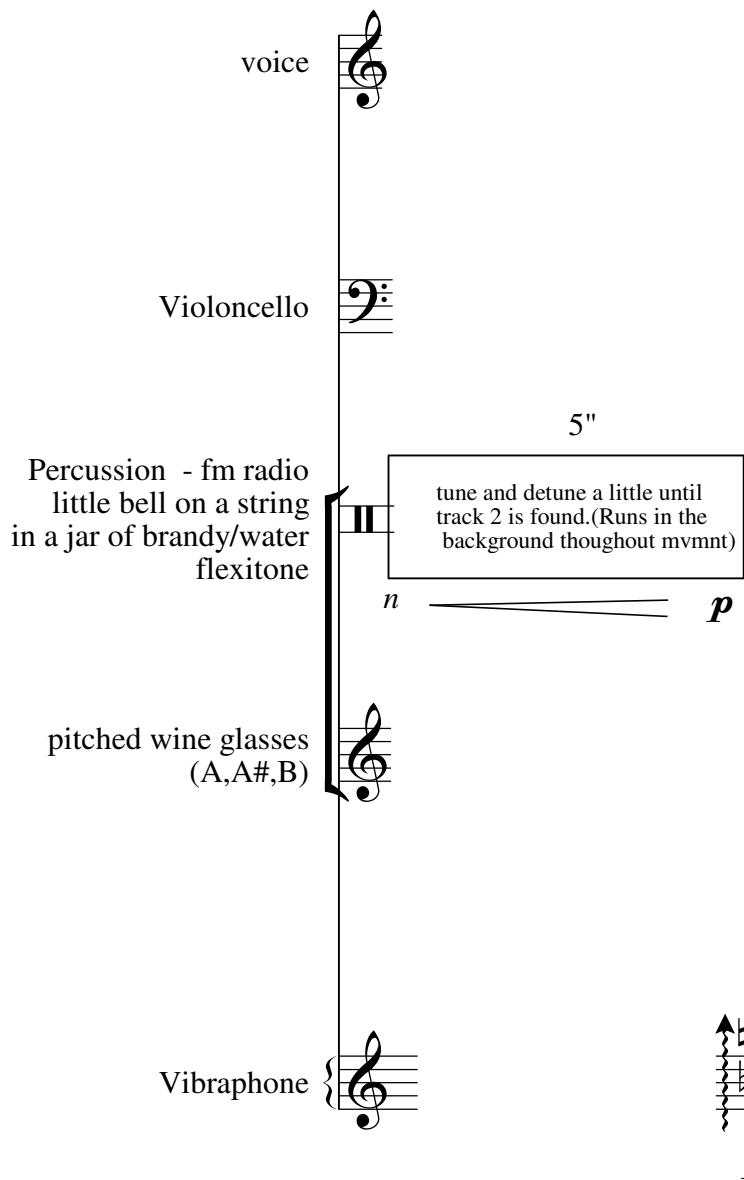
pitched wine glasses
 (A,A#,B)

Vibraphone

5"

tune and detune a little until
 track 2 is found.(Runs in the
 background throughout mvmt)

n  *p*



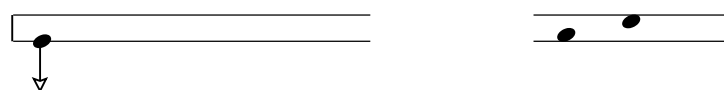
with a drunken swing




One night

p

drop rock into brandy



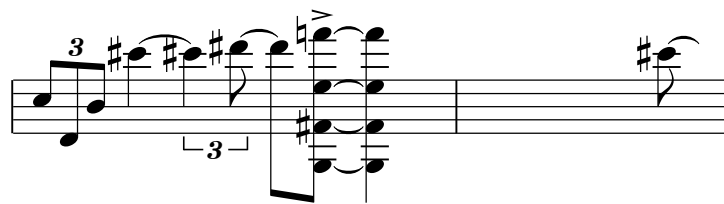
3"

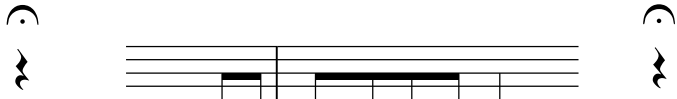


pp < *mp* >



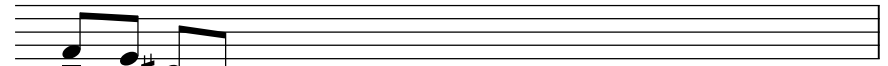
p





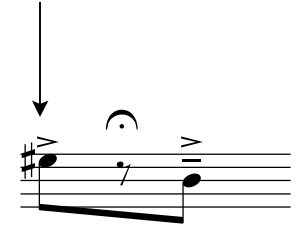
I was wal kin' a- long

f suddenly angry



sing-ing a song

cello
straight
(rubber mute)

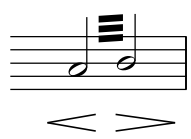


f
(drunkenly)

small rocks in brandy

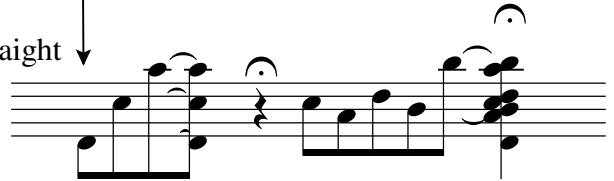


Wine Glasses



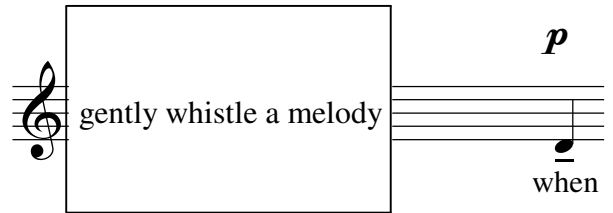
straight

Vibraphone



p calmly

8"



gently whistle a melody

p

when

mp

Detailed description: This block contains musical notation for a whistle melody. It features a treble clef on the left. The melody is written on a five-line staff. The first part of the melody is enclosed in a rectangular box. Above the box, the text "8\"" is written. Below the box, the text "gently whistle a melody" is written. To the right of the box, the melody continues with a single note on the second line of the staff, followed by the text "when". The dynamic marking *p* (piano) is placed above the staff, and *mp* (mezzo-piano) is placed below the staff.



I dropped in - to a well

Detailed description: This block contains musical notation for a vocal line. It features a vocal clef (soprano clef) on the left. The melody is written on a five-line staff. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, Bb4, A4, G4. Above the staff, there are two hairpins: a crescendo hairpin starting under the first two notes and a decrescendo hairpin starting under the last two notes. Below the staff, the lyrics "I dropped in - to a well" are written.

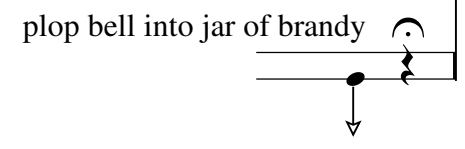


f

HELP! _____

Detailed description: This block contains musical notation for a vocal line. It features a vocal clef (soprano clef) on the left. The melody is written on a five-line staff. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, Bb4, A4, G4. Above the staff, there is a dynamic marking *f* (forte) and a slur covering all six notes. Below the staff, the lyrics "HELP! _____" are written.

plop bell into jar of brandy



Detailed description: This block contains musical notation for a sound effect. It features a vocal clef (soprano clef) on the left. The notation consists of a single note on the second line of the staff, with a downward-pointing arrow below it. Above the staff, the text "plop bell into jar of brandy" is written.

The image shows a musical score for two instruments: Cello and Vibraphone. The Cello part is written on a single staff with a treble clef. It features a single note with a fermata, marked with a dynamic of *f*. The Vibraphone part is written on a single staff with a bass clef, featuring a triplet of eighth notes marked with a dynamic of *mp*. The lyrics are written below the Cello staff, with the tempo/mood markings "(straight)" and "(swing)" placed above the notes. A vertical line connects the Cello staff to the Vibraphone staff, indicating a relationship between the two parts.

cello

f

Vibraphone

mp

(straight)

I shou-ted

(swing)

and some-bo-dy took the trou ble to lo-wer a rope

P hushed, *cresc.*

straight pushing forwards (slight *accell.*)



I inched my way out of the mouth



slower

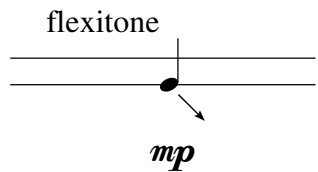


of a half-swilled

f 
(operatic)



bran - dy bo- ttle_

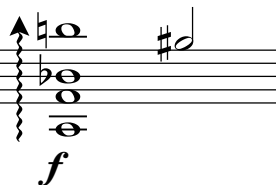


wine glasses



f

Vibraphone



attacca

Voice

mp
which i was dan-gling from
one of my hands

cello

swing
p *f*
trill
f (frantically shake bell in and out of brandy)

v - on brawling with Mister Moon

Voice *n*
 Violoncello
 wine glasses
 whirley
 xylophone
 vibraphone
 snare drum
 hi-hat
 egg
 hollow frog
 jar of water
 gong

=92
 remove mute
 with wire brushes
 =92 *mf*
 frog
 plop
 gong d#

Mr. Moon
f spit words/sing aggressively
 I stopped in at a ca-fe a big ball of a fe-llow was drin-king a beer

Perc.
 cont. ad lib. (on wine glasses only) with similar rhythms/pitches. maintain steady pulse.

mp

Perc.
 Voice
 Violoncello
 (ad lib.)

he said "you shoul - dn't"

pp

(ad lib.)

voice
 Cello
 perc.

f
ff

be here
 you're two hours late!
 angrily

(wine glasses ad lib.)
 "plop"

be here
 you're two hours late!

(wine glasses ad lib.)
 "plop"

I said it's none of your_ damned busi-ness

'n he said if

(wine glasses ad lib.)

(gong)

mp

(ad lib.)

Voice

peo-ple knew

they'd give you a thra - shing

get out get out get

pp

ff

f

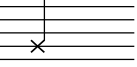
p

(ad lib.)

sounds of a brawl

faster

Voice



out!

Cello

ff agressive

Whirley

f freely -contour should be loosely followed

perc.

f



Vc.

Vib.

perc.

♩=124

molto vib.

While I sta - gered to my feet Mister Moon took flight

alternate unevenly rolled and unrolled notes

mf (with mallet handle) *sim.* (mallet ord.) (do not roll triplets)

snare frog cymbal

mp

Detailed description: This system contains three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics 'While I sta - gered to my feet Mister Moon took flight'. It features a triplet of eighth notes on 'sta - gered' and another triplet on 'took flight', with a 'molto vib.' marking above the first triplet. The middle staff is a vibraphone line in treble clef, marked 'alternate unevenly rolled and unrolled notes'. It starts with a triplet of eighth notes marked 'mf (with mallet handle)', followed by a 'sim.' marking, and ends with two triplets marked '(mallet ord.) (do not roll triplets)'. The bottom staff is a drum line in a common time signature, marked 'mp', with notes for snare, frog, and cymbal.



Voice

i picked up my pis-tol and fired but he got a-way ree - ling as he

molto vib.

Vib. (with mallet handle) (mallet ord.) (with mallet handle)

Detailed description: This system contains three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics 'i picked up my pis-tol and fired but he got a-way ree - ling as he'. It features three triplets of eighth notes, with a 'molto vib.' marking above the final triplet. The middle staff is a vibraphone line in treble clef, marked '(with mallet handle)'. It contains three triplets of eighth notes, with the first two marked '(mallet ord.)' and the third marked '(with mallet handle)'. The bottom staff is a drum line in a common time signature, with notes for snare and frog.

Voice

climbed the eas - tern sky

Cello, *f*

vib.

Perc., *tam* *tam* *snare* *tr* *tam* *snare* *tr*

Voice

I got down on one knee, took aim

Vc.

Vib.

Perc., *snare* *tr* *tr*

pp

rubato, declamatory

f

Voice

Vc.

Perc.

(bang!)
R.S. hi-hat
f

R.S. *f*

(egg should spat on the beat)

Mis-ter Moon plumm-e-ted

ff *mp*

mf
large tamtam



cello

and ev-ry-one cheered

bra-vo!

whip

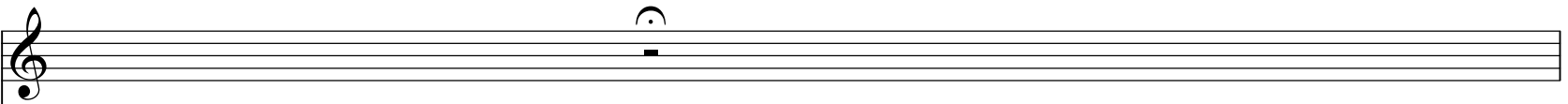
Perc.

ff *ff* *ff*

(an awkward applause)

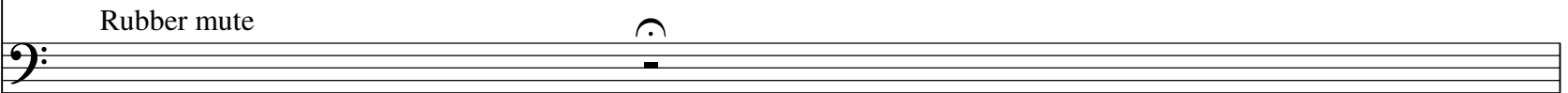
vi - ton koro pii pii

Treble Solo



Violoncello

Rubber mute

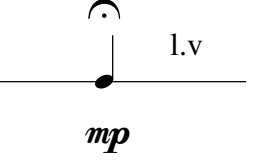




Vibraphone

c.130"

low G# gong

Play Track 3
Improvise using vib.and G# gong.
Try to imitate the pitches you hear (A, B, C).
Hold off using the gong until around the 30" mark. (The thirrd gong signals end of improvisation.)
Single notes as well as swelling repeated note gestures should be used.
Do note use too many notes.



(Third gong - end of improv)

freely (♩=c.60)

p reflective

it was a night like this

mp distantly frantic

"What did you say?"

(Cello)
Bow between bridge
and tailpiece sul II & III

p

(Gong) 1.v
p



"no doubt it was a night like this"

"What did you mean?"

(cello)
Bow between bridge
and tailpiece sul II & III

(Gong) 1.v
p

you picked up

that

rock

n

Vibraphone

(full of the light of mis - ter mis - ter mis - ter Moon)

p