

Katharina S. G. Mueller

Low Life

for Bassoon, Trombone, Contrabass and Percussion

Program Note

"Low Life" is a celebration of low voices. The bassoon, trombone and contrabass each take a soloistic role, expressing a wide range of musical characteristics unique to each instrument, and showcasing each instrument's strength as a bass voice. The bassoon's opening gesture is the seed of the material for the whole piece: syncopated rhythms of long short long, fast staccato repeated notes, a descending two-note sting. The musical possibilities contained in that very first gesture are extracted and explored in subsequent sections, creating a chain reaction of developments that accumulate to interwoven texture at the finish.

Percussion Note

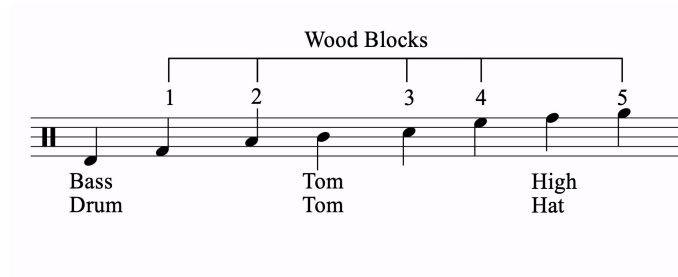
W.B.s = all Wood Blocks

H.H. = High Hat

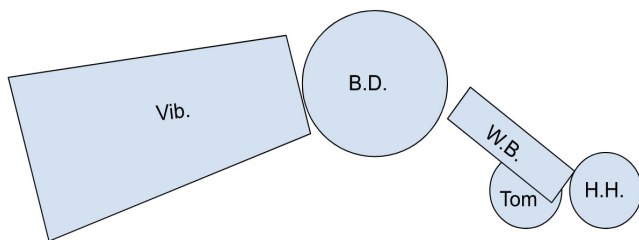
Tom = Tom tom

B.D. = Bass Drum

Vib. = Vibraphone



Recommended Setup:



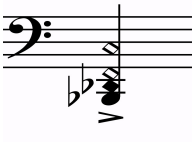
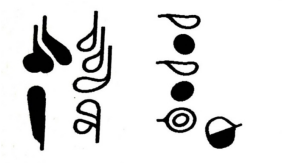
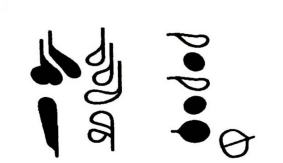
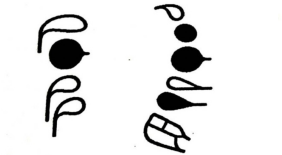
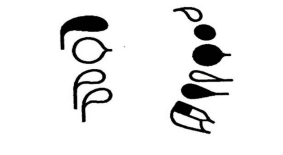
Mallet Inventory:

2 double-sided sticks: drumsticks + medium-hard bassdrum

4 medium rubber mallets: for vibraphone and woodblocks

2 or 4 hard yarn mallets: for vibraphone and bass drum

Bassoon Note

Multiphonic 1	Multiphonic 1	Multiphonic 2
		
Multiphonic 2		
		

Multiphonics 1 and 2 correspond to multiphonic # 6 and multiphonic #2 from Jamie Leigh Sampson's *Contemporary Techniques for the Bassoon: Multiphonics*.

Recordings of these multiphonics can be found here:

<http://www.contemporarybassoon.com/group-1-multiphonics-1ndash25.html>

Trombone Note

With fingers on harmon mute, gradually transition from closed to open (or vice versa)



General Notes

For all bars with 5+4/8 time signature, the following rhythmic divisions apply.



Low Life

for Bassoon, Trombone, Bass, and Percussion

Katharina S. G. Mueller (2023)

♩=100

Solo

Bassoon

Percussion

W.B.s w/ sticks

B.D. w/ medium-hard B.D. mallet

simile

ff fpp ff ff fpp

p f ff p f

6

Bsn.

Tbn.

Perc.

float above

f f < ff f p

Solo

f ff

ff

ff

11

Bsn.

Tbn.

Perc.

f p

Solo

f ff ff

ff

15 A Heavy

Bsn. *f* *ff*

Tbn. *f*

Perc. W.B.s *f* *fff* *f* *p* *ff*

Cb. *fff*

Solo
Sul A, E

20

Bsn.

Tbn.

Perc. *p* *f*

Cb.

23 *tongue rams*

Bsn. *f* *p*

Tbn.

Perc. *p* *f* *mp* *ff*

Cb. *p*

medium rubber mallets

[illegible]36 | **C** | **Groovy**

The first system of the musical score features four staves. The Bsn. staff (Bassoon) begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a 5+4 measure rest, followed by a melodic line. The Tbn. staff (Trombone) has a 5+4 measure rest, then enters with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a 'smooth' articulation. The Vib. staff (Vibraphone) has a 5+4 measure rest, then enters with a mezzo-forte (*mp*) dynamic and a 'no pedal' instruction. The Perc. staff (Percussion) begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a 5+4 measure rest, followed by a rhythmic pattern. A rehearsal mark 'W.B. 4' is placed below the Perc. staff.

40

Bsn. *mf* *f* *mf* *f*
 Tbn. *mf* *p* *f* *p* *f*
 Vib. *mf* *p* *f* *p* *f*
 Perc. *mf* *p* *f* *p* *f*
 Cb. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*
Solo, energized
arco

44 D

Bsn. *mp* *p*
 Tbn. *p* *mp* *pp*
 Vib. *p* *mp* *p* *mp*
 Perc. W.B.s *p* *pp* *mp* *p*
 Cb. *p* *mp*

48

Bsn. *mp* *p* *mf*
 Tbn. *p* *p* *mf*
 Vib. *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *pp* *mp* *ff*
 Perc. *p*
 Cb. *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

E

52

Bsn. *f* *mf*
 Tbn. *f* *mp*
 Vib. *mf*
 Perc. *B.D.* *W.B. 5* *ff* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*
 Cb. *ff*

56

Bsn.

Tbn.

Vib.

Perc.

Cb.

p *p* *p* *pp*

mf *f* *mf* *f*

59

F ♩=120 Big, Brilliant

Bsn.

Tbn.

Vib.

Perc.

Cb.

ff *ff* *ff* *f* *pp* *ff* *ff*

bell-like *bell-like* *percussive* *hard yarn mallets* *B.D. (same mallets)* *bell-like*

Sul III, 4th partial *simile*

64

Bsn. *fp* *ff* *fp*

Tbn. *ff* *f* *ff*

Vib. *f* *Red.*

Perc. *f*

Cb. *fp* *ff* *fp*

69

Bsn. *ff* *fp* *fff* *f* *Solo disjunct*

Tbn. *fff* *p*

Perc. *fff* *Sus Cym.*

Cb. *ff* *fp* *fff* *f*

74

Bsn.

Tbn.

Perc.

Cb.

H

f

soaring

W.B.5 *w/ stick*

mf

Tom *w/ yarn mallet*

79

Bsn.

Tbn.

Perc.

Cb.

84 **I**

Bsn. *ff*

Tbn. *ff*

Vib. *ff* no pedal 3

Cb. *thunderous ff*

88 **J** ♩=100 Wintery, Dreamy

Bsn. *fp* *ff* *mf* *soaring*

Tbn. *fp* *ff*

Vib. *same yarn* *simile*

Cb. *Solo soaring* *f* *f*

93

Bsn. *f* *mp* *mp* *mf* *f*

Vib.

Cb. *f*

99

Bsn. *mp* *mf* *f* *pp*

Vib. *p*

Cb. *pp*

K ♩=80 Irritating

Solo

106

Tbn. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *ff* *p*

Perc. *f* *p* *ff*

W.B.s w/ sticks

Sus Cym

109

Bsn. *p*

Tbn. *pp* *pp* *f* *p* *f*

Perc. *p* *p* *f*

[Sus Cym]

113

Bsn. *f*

Tbn. *f* *p* *f* *p*

Perc. *mf*

117

[L] Harsh, Imposing

Bsn. *fff* *p* *fff*

Tbn. *pp* *p* *pp*

Perc. *p* *ff*

[B.D.] (w/ sticks)

Cb. *fff* *p* *fff*

121

Bsn. *p* *fff*

Tbn. —

Perc. *p* *ff* *f* *p*

Cb. *pp* *fff*

125

M ♩=120 Perpetual

Bsn. *f*

Tbn. *senza sord.* *f*

Perc. *ff* *f*

Cb. *ff*

129

Bsn.

Tbn.

Perc.

Cb.

ff *mf*

ff *mf*

ff *mf*

ff *mf*

Tom

N

132

Bsn.

Tbn.

Perc.

Cb.

135

Bsn.

Tbn.

Perc.

Cb.

poco a poco cresc.

poco a poco cresc.

poco a poco cresc.

138

○ Celebratory

Bsn.

poco a poco cresc.

ff

Tbn.

ff

Perc.

ff

Cb.

ff

141

Bsn.

Tbn.

Perc.

Cb.

144

Bsn.

Tbn.

Perc.

Cb.

147

Bsn. *ff*

Tbn. *ff*

Perc. *ff*

Cb. *ff*

149

Bsn.

Tbn.

Perc.

Cb.

Q ♩=80 At Ease

R Peaceful

152

warmly *rit.* *subtle drone*

Bsn. *p* *pp* *mf* *pp*

Tbn. *warmly* *p* *pp* *mf*

Vib. *motor on w/ hard yarn mallets* *p*

Perc. **Tom**

Cb. *warmly* *p* *pp* *mf* *4th and 5th partials* *mp* *3* *3*

159

Bsn. *mf* *pp* *mp*

Tbn. *p* *p* *p*

Vib. *mp* *p*

Cb. *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

165

Bsn. *ppp* *p* *ppp*

Tbn.

Vib. *p* *Red.*

Cb. *6th* *delicate 8th 8va* *p*

170

Vib.

Cb. (8)

173

Vib. *pp* *l.v.*

Cb. (8) *pp* *ppp*