

CHINOOK

Percussion Quartet

Nathan Hall

September 2011

Duration: 7 minutes

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'Chinook' is a sonic representation of the Chinook (or 'snow eater') wind patterns near Boulder, Colorado. Unique to this area and to Wyoming, very quick and strong winds are pulled over the continental divide; barometric pressure sharply decreases and the winds warm as they flow down the mountains. The weather returns again to its calm equilibrium within a relatively short time, usually under an hour.

In this piece, I wanted the percussionists to 'play' the patterns of wind speed and and pressure in a musical way, but also limit the ensemble to non-pitched instruments (mostly wood and stone materials), and a very small setup for each player. Each player progressively moves from high to low pitched instruments, changing their rhythms based on weather data. There is even a moment when the winds are calm enough for the birds to make an appearance.

Many thanks to the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) for their valuable time, data, and site-specific location, and special thanks to climatologist (and fellow musician) Jeff Weber.

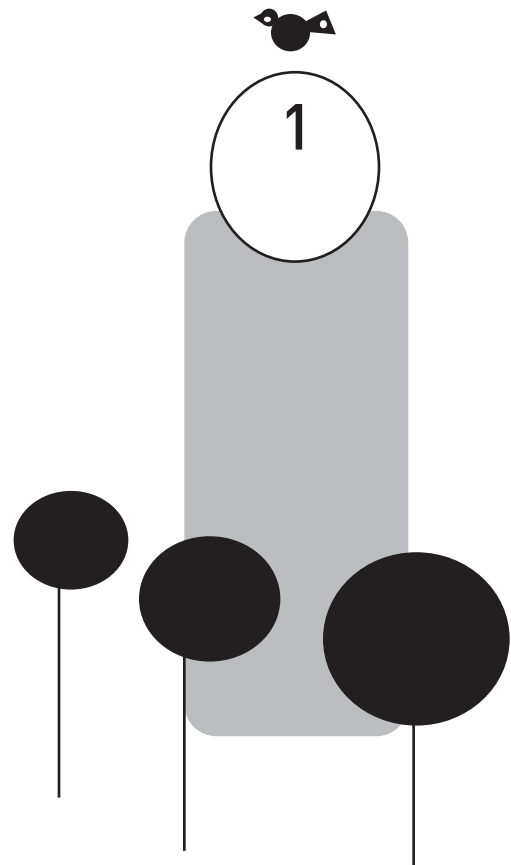
Setup:

Percussion 1: Low bongo, medium and low toms, rute sticks, timpani mallets, bird whistle.

Percussion 2: Log drum, 3 temple blocks (hi/med/low), suspended finger cymbal, mounted low woodblock, soft & hard rubber mallets, bird whistle.

Percussion 3: Cajón, claves, stones, bird whistle.

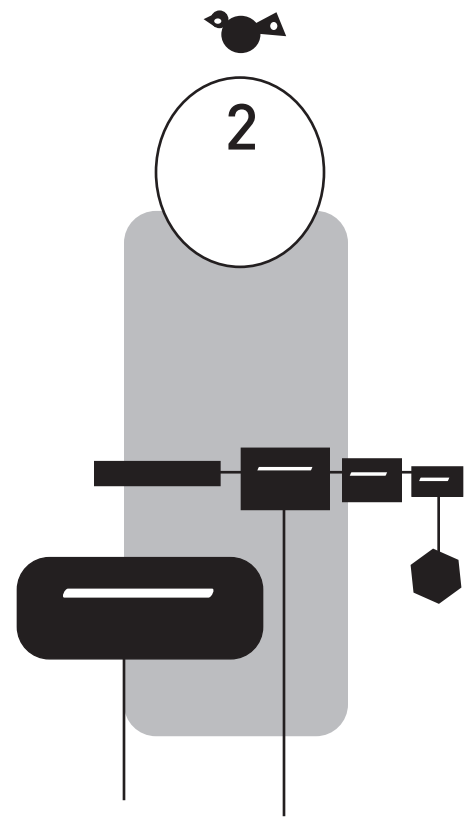
Percussion 4: Egg shaker, lower-pitched shaker, sand shaker, plastic shaker filled with gravel, clapping and finger snaps, bird whistle.



1

Rute Sticks hit together
Rute Sticks on rim of tom
Low Bongo
Medium & Low Toms
Bird Whistle

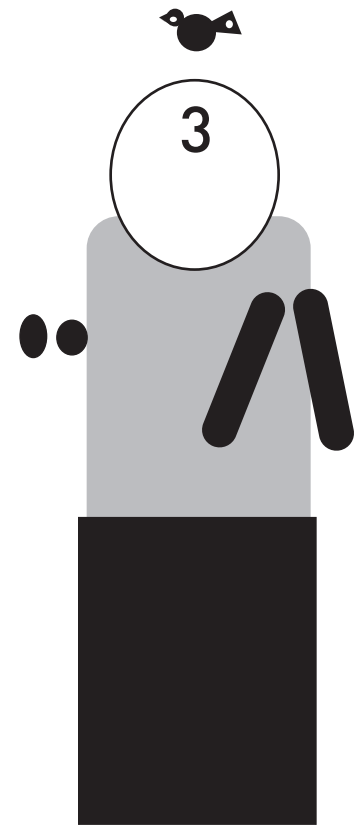
Timpani Mallets



2

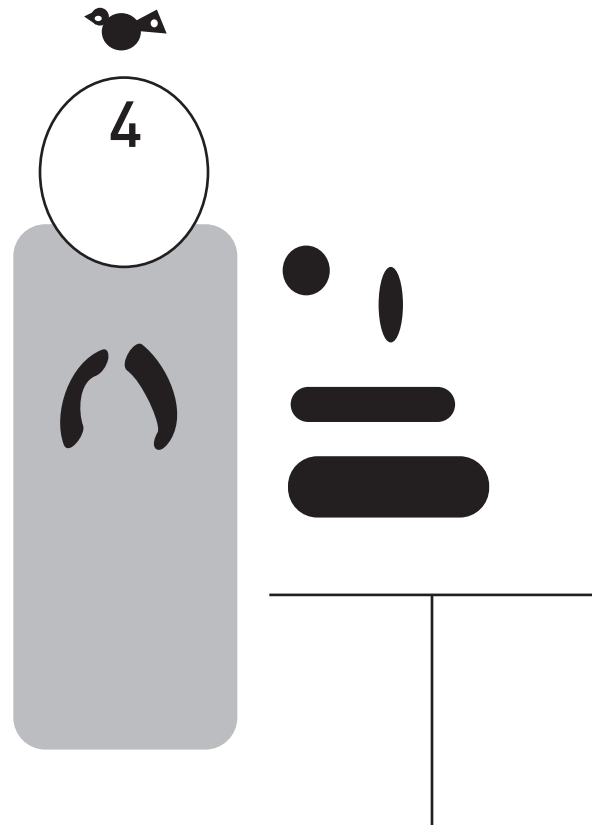
Low Woodblock (mounted)
Log Drum
Bird Whistle
Finger Cymbal (suspended)
Lo/Med/Hi Temple Blocks

Soft and Hard Rubber Mallets



3

Cajon:
3 pitch areas (low/med/high)
Bird Whistle
Claves
Stones



4

Sand Shaker
Bird Whistle
Egg Shaker
Clapping
Snapped Fingers
'Lo' Shaker (lower pitch than egg)

Gravel in a Plastic Shaker

CHINOOK PERCUSSION LAYOUT

Chinook

Percussion Quartet

Nathan Hall

♩ = 96

Percussion 1

RUTE sticks hit together

mf

Percussion 2

HI TEMPLE BLOCK with mallet stick

mp

Percussion 3

CLAVES

p

Percussion 4

EGG SHAKER, hit against palm

mp

Egg shaker (shaken freely)

13

Perc. 1

Rute sticks on rim of tom

mp > ppp

Perc. 2

hard mallets

p > ppp

p

Perc. 3

closed to open

(hit against palm)

mp

Perc. 4

p

Chinook

23

Perc. 1

L R *sempre*

Perc. 2

hard mallets

p *ppp*

Perc. 3

closed to open closed to open

Perc. 4

(lo shaker)

(pattern) 1 2 3 4 5 6

31

LO BONGO, timp mallets

Perc. 1

p

MED TEMPLE BLOCK, hard mallets

L R

Perc. 2

p

R L R R L

Perc. 3

STONES

ppp *mf*

Perc. 4

7

Chinook

39

sticks of timp mallets (flip mallet)

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

mp

MED TEMPLE BLOCK, soft rubber mallets

mp

ppp

ppp

46

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

mp

pp

mp

mp

CAJON >

Chinook

51

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

FINGER CYMBAL WOODBLOCK

f (*l.v.*) *subito p* *mf* *f* (*l.v.*)

55

(MED TOM)

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

SHAKERS EGG+ LOW

LH *pp* *mf* *pp*

RH *pp* *mf* *pp*

subito p *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

slide palm

CLAP

SNAP (grace notes) *mp*

70

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

mf 5 5 5 5

(F. CYM) (WOODBLOCK)

mp

f *p* *mf*

mf SAND SHAKER

mp

(LO TOM) 6

74

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

6 6 6 6

LO TEMPLE + LOG DRUM

mf

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

mf

Chinook

78

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

f *mp* *f*

82

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

ff *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf*

GRAVEL SHAKER

f

91

Perc. 1 *ff* *mf* (MED TOM) (LO BONGO)

Perc. 2 *ff* *mf* (F.CYM) WOODBLOCK *f* (L.v.) *mp* *f* *mp*

Perc. 3 *ff* *ff* *f*

Perc. 4 *mf*

trem. slows down

96

Perc. 1 6 6 6 6 1 2 3

Perc. 2 *f* *mp* *mf* (LOG DRUM and LO TEMPLE) 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Perc. 3 *mf*

Perc. 4

Chinook

100

4 5 6

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

pp

mf

mp

(LO + MED T.B.)

(MED + HI T.B.)

105

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

mf

p

mf

p *f*

mf

STONES

SNAPS/CLAPS

111

BIRD WHISTLE, sparse at first growing more florid

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

mf 3 3 3 3 *mp* *p*

BIRD WHISTLE, sparse at first growing more florid

BIRD WHISTLE, sparse at first growing more florid

BIRD WHISTLE, sparse

121

fading MED TOM with mallet sticks (as before)

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

fading MED+HI TEMPLES, soft mallets CAJON (medium pitches)

more florid fading SHAKERS EGG+ LOW RH LH

mp *mp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mp* *pp*

151

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

CLAVES (open hand)

p

160

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

pp

pp

pp

pp

mp

mp

mp

mp