

Ben Morris

Commissioned by Chris Eagles

**clear and calm pools of
tremendous depth**



for percussion and fixed media

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Ben Morris Music

www.benmorrismusic.com

bmorriscomposer@gmail.com

(+1) 973-722-0460

clear and calm pools of tremendous depth

for percussion and fixed media

Total Duration: ca. 7'45"

Program Note

clear and calm pools of tremendous depth is a phrase in the park map of Yellowstone National Park describing the park's signature hot springs. When visiting the springs, I was struck by the vivid turquoise color of the water and how deep these springs went down; seeing the surface triggered my imagination about what the channel looked deeper into the earth. This piece depicts submerging oneself into the clear blue spring and sinking down into the bottom, hundreds or thousands of feet down. Percussion instruments integrate freely from samples from hot springs, boiling water, mysterious, unidentified deep ocean sounds, and other found sounds from the park.

Instruments

Splash cymbals (2), vibraphone, indeterminate assortment of glass bottles, clay blocks, piccolo woodblocks, and cans, brake drums (2), bongos (2), congas (2), concert bass drum (with inverted suspended cymbal), beaded chain

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Bubbling ♩ = 120

with threaded dowel tip

splash cymbals (2)
choke/mute with hand

swipe with threaded
dowel

Percussion

Track

p choked, grooving (accents sempre *f*)

sputtering bubbles

cont'd bubbles



5

Perc.

T.



8

Perc.

T.

A

swipe with threaded
dowel

cont'd bubbles



11

Perc.

T.

swipe with threaded
dowel

swipe with threaded dowl

14

Perc.

T.

B 18

falling out of time with track (track doesn't rit.)

rit. accel.

Perc.

mf

vocoder bubbles...

T.

Faster (perc. only)

22

quick sputtering, like bubbles, alternating muted and unmuted freely, switch cymbals freely and choke

ad lib. (not exact rhythm)

Perc.

T.

(0:49)

(to fan bundle stick)

(0:53)

swish between splash cymbals with fan bundle stick

more sparse

p

Perc.

T.

30

(1:01)

(1:03)

getting busier/splashier

mf

fp

Perc.

T.

(1:05)

clear and calm pools of tremendous depth | Ben Morris

C

In time with track

34

⊕ to Vib.

Perc.

ff

T.



38

Perc.

T.

Calm and clear

(1:21)

D

Vibraphone

42

glassy, calm

Vib.

Red. p

with high synth sparkles and swells

T.



46

Vib.

sim.

T.

50

Vib.

T.

55

Vib.

T.

59

Vib.

T.

quiet shimmer

F (2:01)

polysynth hit with delay

water slosh + bird tweet

63

Vib.

T.

mf

ppp

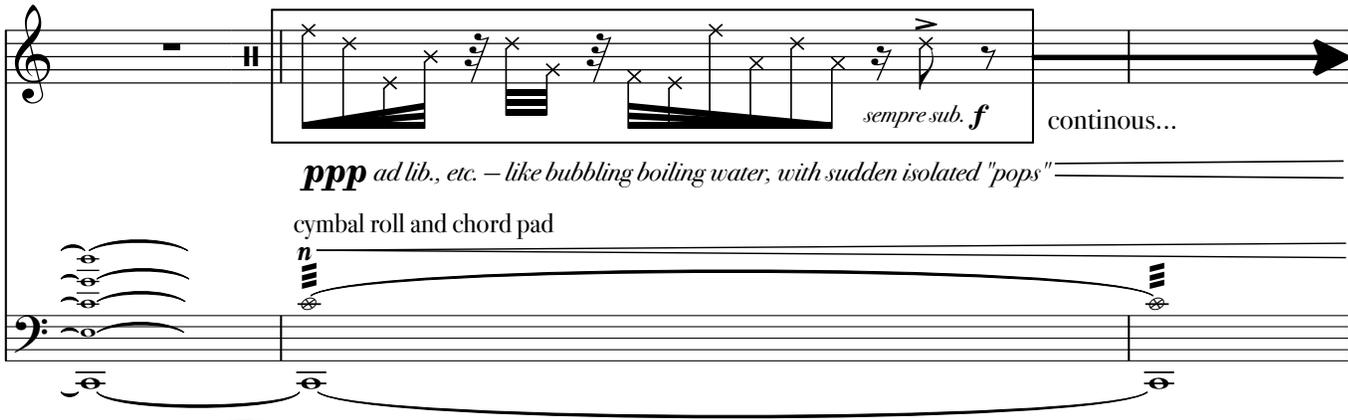
pad swell

water slosh + bird tweet

assortment of glass bottles, clay blocks, cans, piccolo woodblocks, brake drums (2), bongos (2), and congas (2) on edges (any order). Improvise and interact with track

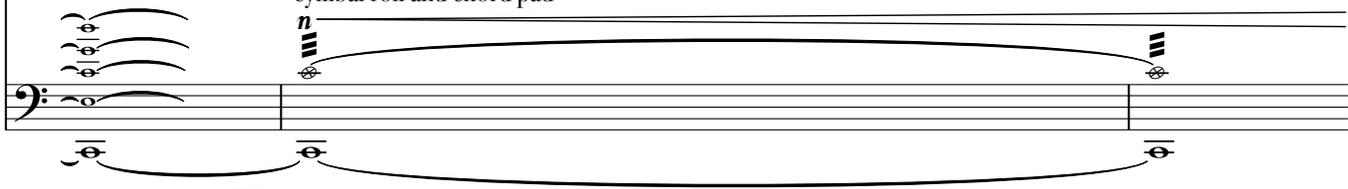
(2:13) one hand with hard xylophone mallet and brush, another hand with soft marimba mallet and fan bundle stick

67

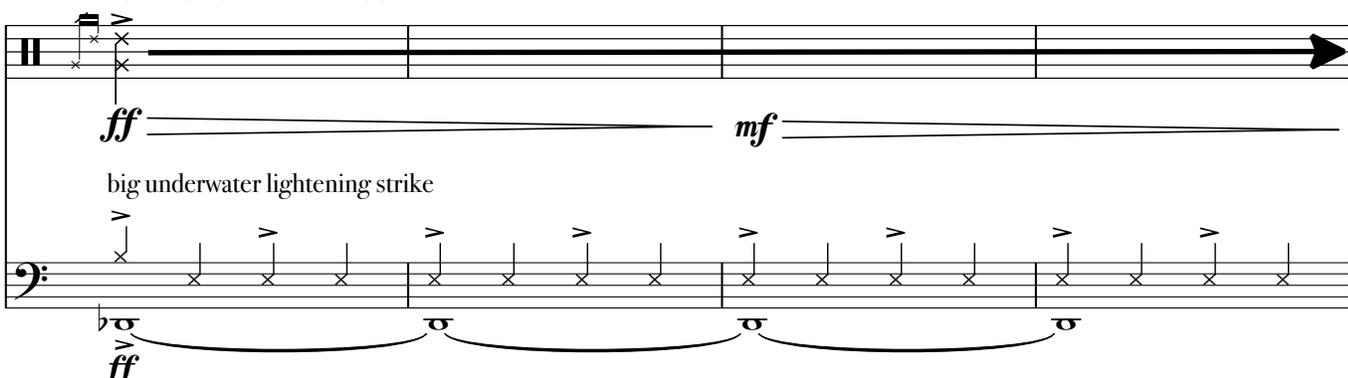
Vib. 

ppp *ad lib., etc. - like bubbling boiling water, with sudden isolated "pops"*

cymbal roll and chord pad

T. 

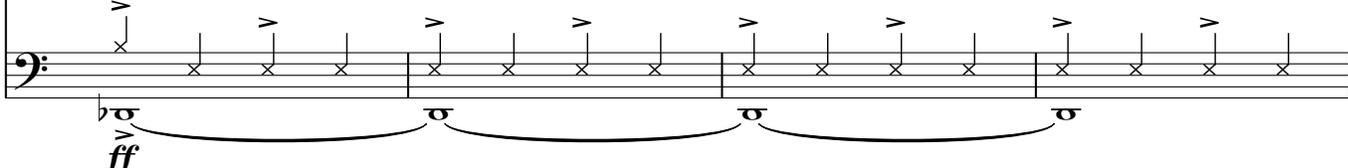
70

Perc. 

G (2:17) hit, then continue
sim. ad libitum a la m. 68

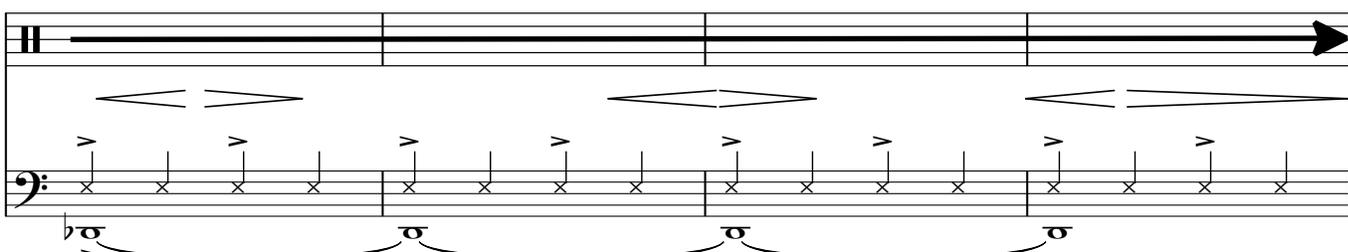
ff **mf**

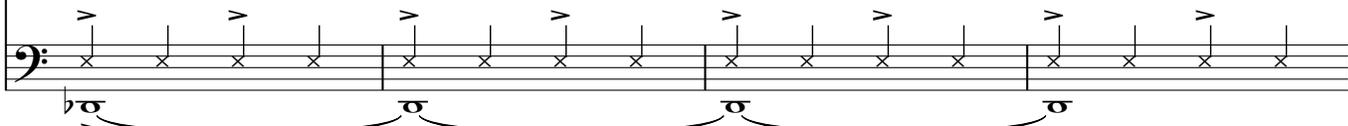
big underwater lightening strike

T. 

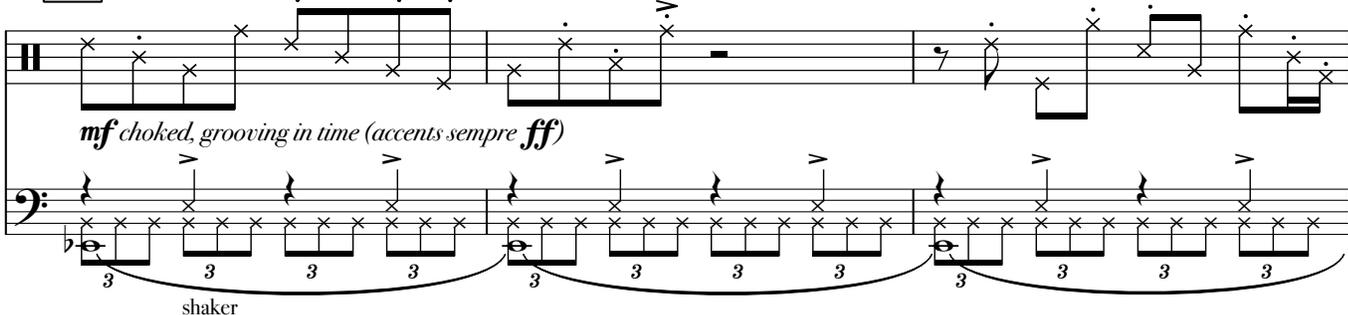
ff

74

Perc. 

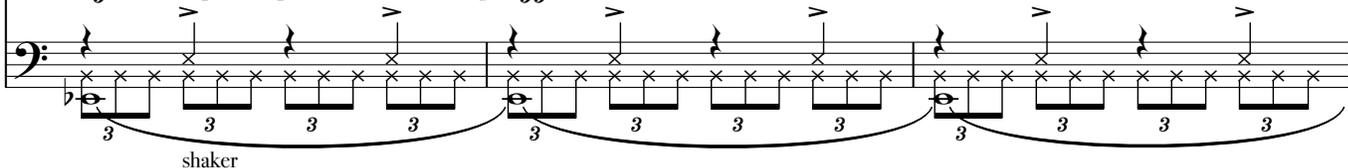
T. 

78

Perc. 

H (2:33) *ad lib. bottles, clay blocks, bongos, congas, etc. as before. same mixture of sticks - grooving in time*

mf *choked, grooving in time (accents sempre ff)*

T. 

shaker

81

Perc.

T.



84

Perc.

T.



87

falling out of sync with track (track tempo doesn't change)

Perc.

T.



90

I

(2:55) spiraling out freely

(track and perc. part)

rit.

(3:02)

Perc.

T.



to bass drum with inverted suspended cymbal and bow

94

♩ = 82

Perc.

T.

(3:22) m. 100-112 in track

(4:00)

J

improvise with bowed inverted suspended cymbal on bass drum (arco) freely, keep sparse, interact with track - listen in 113

99 Perc. 

T. 

start **p**, then vary dynamics

quiet bubbles (pitch has faded)

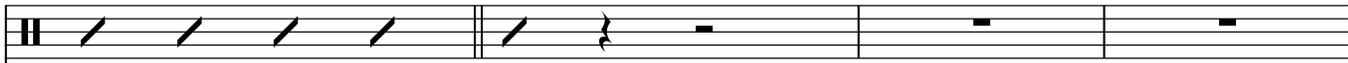
p

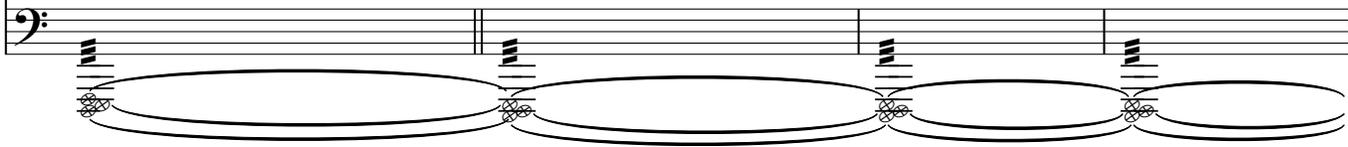


K

(4:06) (remove cymbal from bass drum, get beaded chain)

114

114 Perc. 

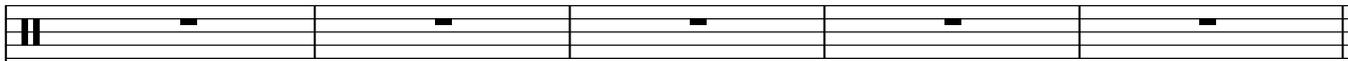
T. 

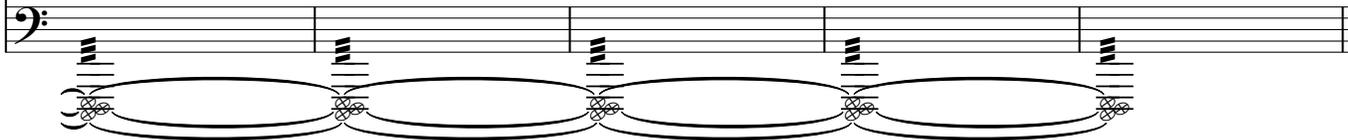
n

very low bubbles →



118

118 Perc. 

T. 



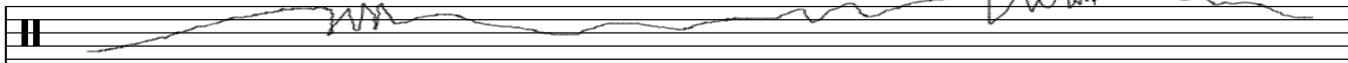
Click track: ♩ = 120

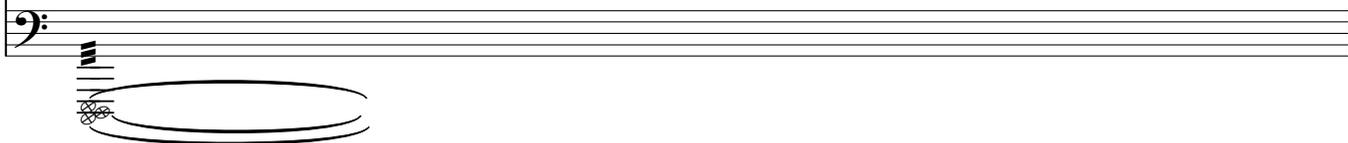
L

(4:30)

32"

123 drag/swirl beaded chain on bass drum head - loosely follow contour for motion cont'd...

123 Perc. 

T. 

ppp *mf* *p* *ppp*

8

M (5:02)

28"

138

Perc.

Waveform showing amplitude over time. Dynamic markings *f* and *p* are indicated with a hairpin.

T.

Low F note with a long oval above it labeled "(low F fading in)".



152 **N** (5:30) improvisation, trailing off To Vib.

Perc.

Rhythmic slashes in the first measure, followed by rests. Dynamic markings *n* and *mf* are present.

T.

Low note with a long oval above it. Dynamic markings *n* and *mf* are present.



O (5:35) Deep inside a sparkling cave

Vibraphone

156 glassy, calm

Vib.

Vibraphone notation with notes and dynamic markings *p* and *Red*.

T.

Low note with a long oval above it.



160 *sim.*

Vib.

Vibraphone notation with notes and a triplet marking *sim.*

T.

Rests in the tuba staff with a "4" marking below.



164

Vib.

Vibraphone notation with notes and a long oval above.

T.

Rests in the tuba staff with an "8" marking below.

168

Vib.

T. 12

P (6:07)

172

Vib.

T. 16

176

Vib.

T. 20

180

Vib.

(no trem.)

T. 5

Q (6:31)

184

Vib.

T. 5

188 to brushes **molto rit.**

Vib.

T.

low bass gliss.

gliss.

R (6:44) *mm.* 190-212

Washing up on a distant shore (a tempo ♩ = 120)

190 freely stroke up and down vibe keyboard with brush, vary speed and dynamics as desired (white notes)

Vib.

T.

p (1st time only) wave sounds

(last time only)

S (7:30)

213

pp *n*

(7:34) ord. (with mallets) l.v.

pp

T.

pp