


THE
VENTURING
SPACE



Composer: G. West May 2021

Programme notes

Inspiration for this composition came from the poem 'Echoes' by Audre Lorde.

This composition explores the relationship between the spoken word and the received. The piece is split into two sections (A and B) which look at the opposing listening types of passive and active.

Section A

This section explores the relationship between the speaker and the passive listener. The recordings have been muffled and in this section the performers navigate through seven cells with no regard or direct correlation to what is happening in the recording.

Section B

This section explores musically the relationship between speaker and the active listener. Performers must listen and engage actively to the speaker and respond to them musically, carefully considering tone, dynamics, speed and the shape of the response and should mimic as close to a natural conversation as possible.

Responses have been split broadly into the three categories of engagement, elaborative and empathetic. This is to assist the performers in formulating a response speedily.

The performers can decide how and when to respond based on the box chosen. Instrumentation, techniques and certain pitches have been suggested at times, these instructions must be observed.

"There is a timbre of voice that comes from not being heard and knowing / you are not being heard / noticed only by others / not heard for the same reason."

'Echoes' by Audre Lorde

	Passive	Active
Description	Listening without being fully present. Provides no questions or feedback. One way communication.	Listening and being fully present. Reacts to what is communicated. Two way communication.
Attitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selective and dismissive Mechanical responses Poor body language Non-comittal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full attention Reacts to what is heard, with non-verbal cues, paraphrasing or repetition. Is Listening to gain full understand.
Behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yawning Distracted Bored Uninterested. Not in the here and now Poor eye contact Poor body language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged React in the moment Good body language Reflective Questioning Full attention Patient

Performance Notes

Section A

- Each instrumental part has seven cells of musical ideas
- Performers choose the start point and can navigate through any of the cells as they deem appropriate.
- Performers can interpret the cells as they see fit with regards to tempo, dynamics and phrasing, but should follow the technique.
- Performers should make use of the middle (resting) cell

Section B

- Performers are requested to listen carefully and respond appropriately to the spoken recording, mimicing a conversation.
- Each instrumental part has mutiple word/ sentence responses and specific instructions with regards to tone, technique and particular pitch/ harmony. Performers need to read the key on the score before performing.
- Responses have been split into three categories to help the performers formulate their response quickly.
- Performers interpret rhythm, tempo, dynamics and phrasing.
- With regards to rhythm, performers are mimicing the natural rhythm of the words and how they would choose to say them naturally with responding to the speaker.
- With regards to suggested pitches/ harmony: Two chordal voicings have been used. If the performers reponse as a natural spoken pitch would normally rise or fall e.g. a question, then performers are requested to use both chords and move to the next chord towards the end of their response.

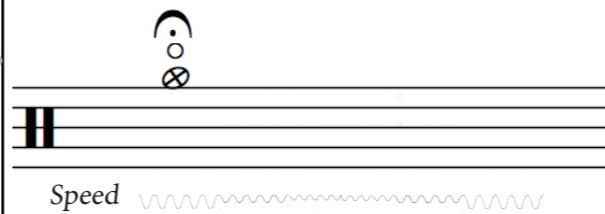
Key


The diagram shows a musical staff with various percussion symbols. From left to right: Bongos (two eighth notes), Wood blocks (two eighth notes), Bass (a half note), Hi-hat (Closed and Open symbols), Foot (a quarter note), Sus Cymbal (a circle with an X), Cow bell (a triangle), and Tam tam (a circle with an X).

Percussion

Section A - Passive

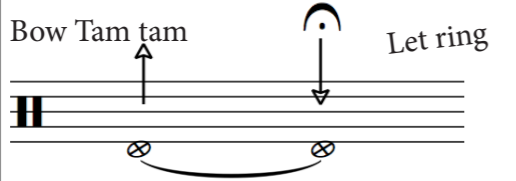
Hi-hat with whisk roll



Speed 

Detailed description: A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation shows a pair of vertical bars on the first line, followed by a half note on the second line with a whisk roll symbol (a circle with a vertical line through it) above it. Below the staff, the word "Speed" is followed by a wavy line.

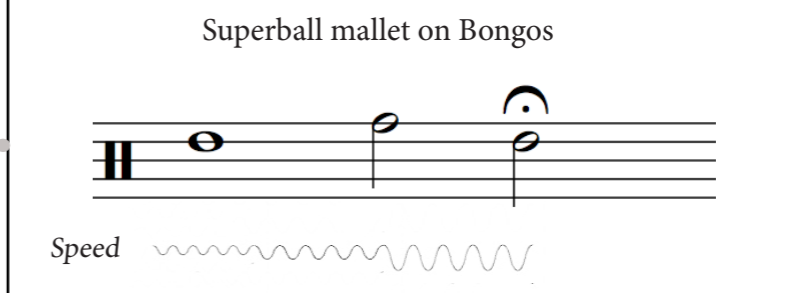
Bow Tam tam




Let ring

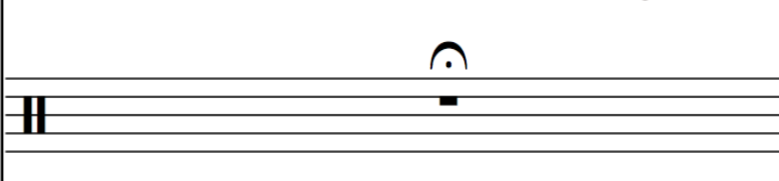
Detailed description: A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation shows a pair of vertical bars on the first line, followed by a half note on the second line with a bow tam tam symbol (a circle with a vertical line through it) above it. Below the staff, the word "Speed" is followed by a wavy line.

Superball mallet on Bongos



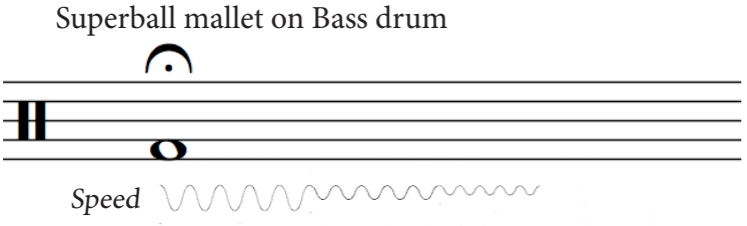
Speed 


Detailed description: A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation shows a pair of vertical bars on the first line, followed by a half note on the second line with a superball mallet symbol (a circle with a vertical line through it) above it. Below the staff, the word "Speed" is followed by a wavy line.



Detailed description: A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation shows a pair of vertical bars on the first line, followed by a half note on the second line with a superball mallet symbol (a circle with a vertical line through it) above it.

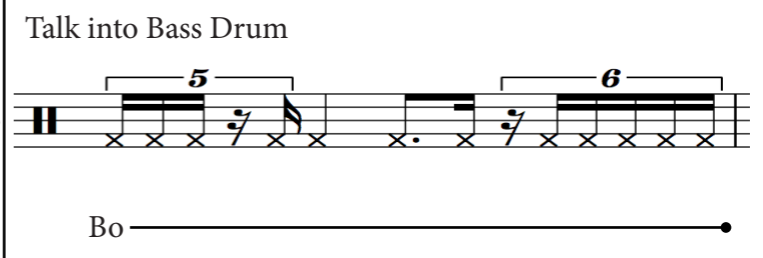
Superball mallet on Bass drum



Speed 

Detailed description: A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation shows a pair of vertical bars on the first line, followed by a half note on the second line with a superball mallet symbol (a circle with a vertical line through it) above it. Below the staff, the word "Speed" is followed by a wavy line.

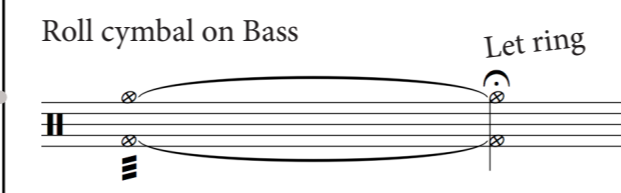
Talk into Bass Drum



Bo _____

Detailed description: A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation shows a pair of vertical bars on the first line, followed by a half note on the second line with a talk into bass drum symbol (a circle with a vertical line through it) above it. Below the staff, the word "Bo" is followed by a horizontal line with a dot at the end.

Roll cymbal on Bass



Let ring















Detailed description: A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation shows a pair of vertical bars on the first line, followed by a half note on the second line with a roll cymbal symbol (a circle with a vertical line through it) above it. Below the staff, the word "Let ring" is written.

Section B - Active

Percussion











Engagement

Responses on bongos and woodblocks

 I'm here	 Yes
 You're welcome	 Go on
 I understand	 Good
 I suppose	 Great
 I know	 Right
 Yeah, that's true	 Okay
 I'm not sure what you mean	 Wow










Elaborative

Responses on cow bell and Cymbals

 What do you mean?	 Try
 Do you need to talk?	 Can you expand?
 Can you explain further?	 How are you feeling?
 How did it make you feel?	 Tell me more
 Why do you think that?	 Are you okay?

Empathetic

Responses on bass drum and Tam Tam

 I'm sorry you're feeling like that
 I hear what you're saying
 I'm sure that's not true
 You're right
 You must feel upset
 Thank you for trusting me
 I'm always here for you
 I'm glad you told me
 You're not alone

Key:



Drum stick



Whisk



Superball



Brush



Bow

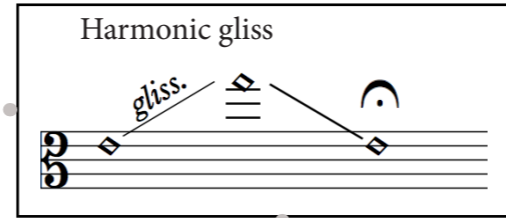


Free choice

Viola

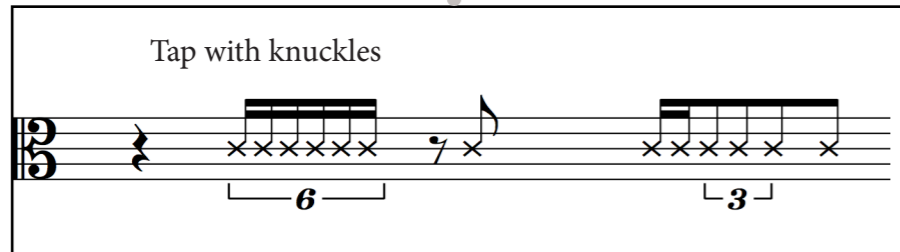
Section A - Passive

Harmonic gliss



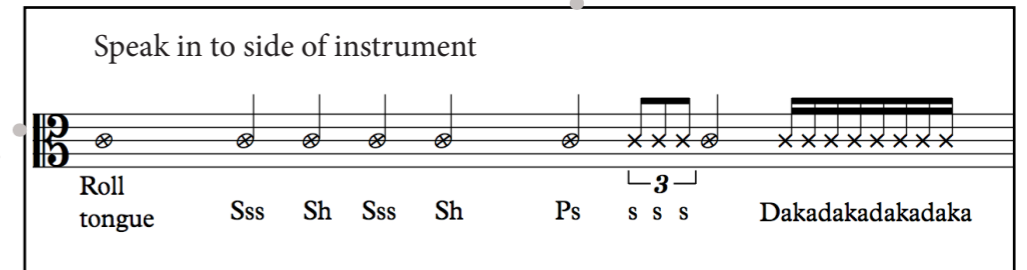
A musical staff in bass clef showing a glissando (gliss.) over a harmonic. The glissando is indicated by a line with a diamond at the start and end, and a 'gliss.' label. The harmonic is shown as a note with a natural sign and a 'C' above it.

Tap with knuckles

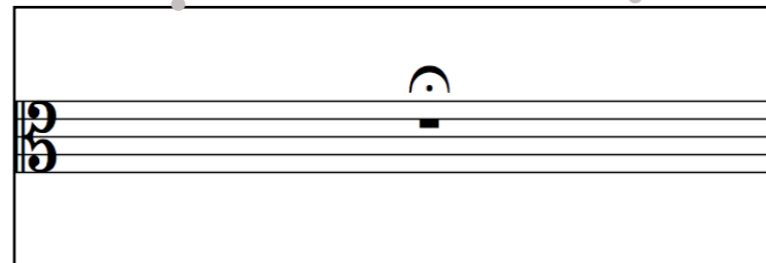


A musical staff in bass clef showing two groups of sixteenth notes marked with 'x' for tapping. The first group is bracketed with a '6' and the second with a '3'.

Speak in to side of instrument




A musical staff in bass clef showing various articulations: Roll tongue, Sss, Sh, Sss, Sh, Ps, s s s, and Dakadakadakada. The 's s s' is bracketed with a '3'.



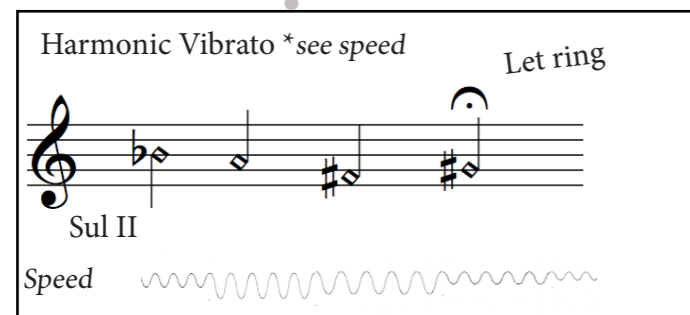
A musical staff in bass clef with a natural sign above the staff.

Harmonic Vibrato *see speed

Sul II

Speed 

Let ring



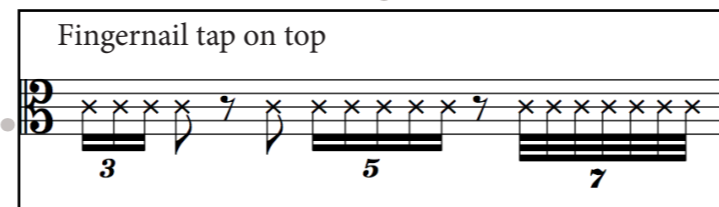
A musical staff in treble clef showing a harmonic vibrato. The notes are G4, A4, B4, and C5. The vibrato is indicated by a wavy line below the staff. The notes are marked with a natural sign and a 'C' above them.

Col Legno



A musical staff in bass clef showing a series of chords and triplets. The first triplet is marked with a '5' and the second with a '3'.

Fingernail tap on top

















A musical staff in bass clef showing three groups of notes marked with 'x' for fingernail tapping. The first group is bracketed with a '3', the second with a '5', and the third with a '7'.

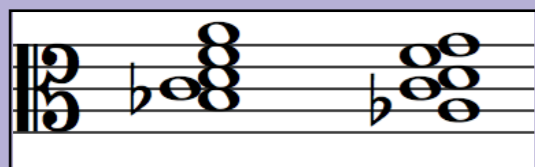
Section B - Active

Viola

Engagement











Responses on bongos and woodblocks

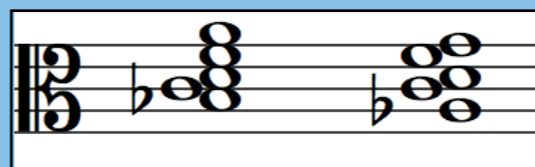
 I'm here	 Yes
 You're welcome	 Go on
 I understand	 Good
 I suppose	 Great
 I know	 Right
 Yeah, that's true	 Okay
 I'm not sure what you mean	 Wow



Elaborative










Responses on cow bell and Cymbals

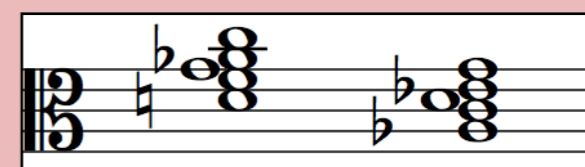
 What do you mean?	 Try
 Do you need to talk?	 Can you expand?
 Can you explain further?	 How are you feeling?
 How did it make you feel?	 Tell me more
 Why do you think that?	 Are you okay?



Empathetic

Responses on bass drum and Tam Tam

 I'm sorry you're feeling like that	 I hear what you're saying
 I'm sure that's not true	 You're right
 You must feel upset	 Thank you for trusting me
 I'm always here for you	 I'm glad you told me
 You're not alone	



Key:



Pizzicato



Arco



Con Sorda



Harmonics



Tap



Free choice

Piano

Section A - Passive

Muted strings

Musical notation for muted strings, showing a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a series of eighth notes with '+' symbols above them, indicating muted strings. The bass staff contains a series of eighth notes with '+' symbols above them, also indicating muted strings.

String gliss

Musical notation for string gliss, showing a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a series of notes with a glissando line above them, indicating a string glissando. The bass staff contains a series of notes with a glissando line below them, indicating a string glissando.

RH: 2nd partial harmonics

Musical notation for RH: 2nd partial harmonics, showing a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a series of notes with a '2' above them, indicating the second partial harmonic. The bass staff contains a series of notes with a '2' below them, indicating the second partial harmonic. A 'Ped.' marking is present in the bass staff, and an asterisk is at the end of the piece.

Musical notation for a whole note chord, showing a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a whole note chord, and the bass staff contains a whole note chord.

Hum into body of piano

RH play

Chord cluster

Musical notation for Hum into body of piano, RH play, and Chord cluster, showing a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a series of notes with a '3' above them, indicating a triplet. The bass staff contains a series of notes with a '3' below them, indicating a triplet. A 'Ped.' marking is present in the bass staff, and an asterisk is at the end of the piece.

Hard plectrum scrape on strings

Musical notation for hard plectrum scrape on strings, showing a bass staff. The bass staff contains a series of notes with a 'P' above them, indicating a plectrum scrape. A 'Ped.' marking is present in the bass staff, and an asterisk is at the end of the piece.

LH Pizz with plectrum

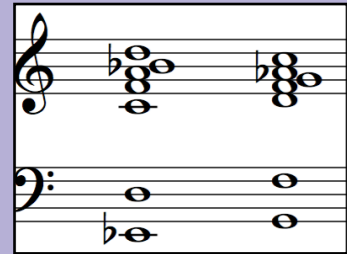
Musical notation for LH Pizz with plectrum, showing a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a series of notes with a 'P' above them, indicating a plectrum. The bass staff contains a series of notes with a 'P' below them, indicating a plectrum. A 'Ped.' marking is present in the bass staff, and an asterisk is at the end of the piece.

Section B - Active

Piano

Engagement

Responses on bongos and woodblocks



I'm here



You're welcome



Yes



I understand



Go on



I suppose



Good



I know



Great



Yeah, that's true



Right



I'm not sure
what you mean



Okay



Wow



Elaborative

Responses on cow bell and Cymbals



Do you need to talk?



What do you mean?



Can you explain further?



Try



How did it make you feel?



Can you expand?



Why do you think that?



How are you feeling?



Tell me more

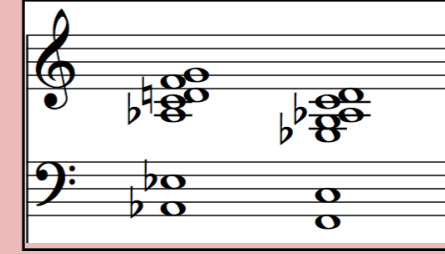


Are you okay?



Empathetic

Responses on bass drum and Tam Tam



I hear what you're saying



I'm sorry you're feeling like that



You're right



I'm sure that's not true



Thank you for trusting me



You must feel upset



I'm glad you told me



I'm always here for you



You're not alone



Key:



Pizz strings



Play



Mute



Harmonics



Plectrum scrape



Free choice