NOTATION AND PERFORMANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Cello

There are two special percussion effects. Notes are sometimes given with X-shaped noteheads at written pitches c and g:

- pitch c indicates making a resonant sound by slapping front of cello body with hands
- pitch g indicates making sound by tapping with the bow on cello body

The bow may be tapped on any object other than the strings, so long as that same object is used throughout the performance. Ideally, tap the bow against the body of the cello. The object should have an abrupt decay and a wooden or metallic sound which may be clearly distinguished from the other instruments.

Percussion

Three types of instruments are used:

- Crotales. Only the highest octave is necessary, written pitches c’’ through b’’;
- Two Cuban bells of different pitches. Cuban bells are conical shaped cow bells – usually the pair is linked by a U-shaped piece of metal;
- Two Chinese cymbals of different pitches.

Percussion is scored in two staves. The upper staff in the neutral clef is for Chinese cymbals and Cuban bells. The lower staff in treble clef is for crotales. A legend of the instruments and pitches given by the neutral clef is as follows:

Play Cuban bells and Chinese cymbals with soft yarn mallets. Play crotales with small, soft metal mallets; use graphite or glass mallets as an alternative, but only if necessary.

Chinese cymbals are always severely dampened to drastically increase decay time. (For example, draping a towel over half the cymbal.) It may be necessary to mute Chinese cymbal attacks by hand if the dampening material is not heavy enough.