



DANCING MACHINES

an Etude Arrangement for Advanced Battery Percussion

Written & Arranged by:
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|
to the Original Music of:
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DAN BRIGGS, AND MATT LYNCH

Dancing Machines by Nova Collective, arranged by Zachary L. Brumfield
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OVERVIEW

HEADING

This advanced etude for battery percussion pushes both the hands and the mind, offering performers a multi-layered challenge of rhythm, color, and endurance. Written to “Dancing Machines” by Nova Collective, it explores rhythmic sonority, dissonant textures, and the full range of the battery ensemble. The inclusion of accessories such as puffies, ribbon crashers, and rim effects adds a unique timbral depth, transforming the battery into a soundscape that alternates between raw aggression and subtle nuance.

The piece unfolds in two contrasting sections, each with its own tempo and character. The opening 195 BPM demands precise rudimental control, with driving figures, split-part interplay, and exposed feature moments that push individual responsibility to the forefront. Rapid alternations of 4:6 tuplets, metric modulations, and dynamic contrasts keep players and audiences on edge, with the battery often mirroring the melodic contour of the track in both tone and rhythm.

Midway through, the music transitions into a more textural and atmospheric sound world. The Vivace and subsequent passages highlight the ensemble’s ability to move from tightly interlocked rhythms to expansive gestures—shifting between puffies, rim-knocks, and stick flips to evoke new colors. Here, space and sonority become just as important as velocity, requiring performers to balance touch, placement, and blend across the line.

As we conclude, the etude reintroduces energy in waves, demanding bursts of power, sudden drops in dynamic, and dense sticking combinations. From cascading six-stroke rolls to syncopated bass splits and tenor cross-overs, every phrase tests control, endurance, and awareness. The culmination is as thrilling as it is unforgiving—making it an etude that is as much about ensemble cohesion as it is about technical virtuosity.

This piece is not for the faint of heart. It is a journey through shifting tempos, textures, and emotional intensity—one that rewards both performers and listeners with its blend of precision, risk, and artistry.

OVERVIEW

INSTRUMENTATION

BATTERY PERCUSSION

- **3-9 Marching Snare Drums (w/ Mounted Ribbon Crasher)**
Two standard marching drum sticks
- **2-4 Marching Tenor Drums**
Two standard marching drum sticks with rubber butts or secondary set of puffy/soft mallets
- **5 Marching Bass Drums**
Two standard and puffy marching mallets

from Nova Collective's "The Further Side"

DANCING MACHINES

an Etude for Advanced Battery Percussion

Nova Collective
arr. Zach Brumfield

Presto (♩ = 195)

2 3 4 5 **A**

Snare

Tenors

Basses

player no. 1

player no. 2

player no. 3

player no. 4

all players

4:6

4:6

p *f* *pp* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

B1

7 8 9 10 11 12 14

ribbon crasher (on rim, if not available)

center to gut edge

BLUE: Split Part A
GREEN: Split Part B

all players

5

f *p* *f* *p* *ff* *p* *f* *p*

[illegible]

The musical score for Exercise E2 consists of three staves across six measures. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests, often grouped with beams or slurs. Dynamic markings like *mf*, *f*, and *p* are used throughout. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 above notes. Breath marks (diagonal slashes) appear at the end of several phrases. Measure 57 features a key signature change to one flat (B-flat major/E-flat minor) and a time signature change to 3/4. A tempo marking of 5:6 is present in measure 58.

The image shows a musical score for three staves in 4/4 time. The score is divided into measures 59-61, 62-64, and 65-67. A large 'F1' label is at the top left. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, dynamics (p, f), and articulation marks (accents, slurs). The staves are labeled with 'H' and '4/4' time signature. The first staff has a 9-measure phrase starting at measure 59, followed by a 3-measure phrase at measure 61, and a 4:6 ratio at measure 62. The second staff has a 4-measure phrase starting at measure 61, followed by a 4:6 ratio at measure 62, and a 3-measure phrase at measure 64. The third staff has a 4-measure phrase starting at measure 61, followed by a 4:6 ratio at measure 62, and a 3-measure phrase at measure 64. The score is marked with 'p' (piano) and 'f' (forte) dynamics, and includes articulation marks like accents and slurs.

72 *gut edge* 73 74 **G2** 76 77

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

*stems up - split part b
stems down - split part a*

78 79 80 81 83 **H1**

p *mf* *mp* *p* *f* *p* *f* *f*

all players 4:6

to front edge

The image displays a musical score for 'The Firebird' by Igor Stravinsky, specifically a section from the 'Introduction' movement. The score is written for three staves, likely representing different instruments or voices. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

Staff 1 (Top): This staff begins with a measure marked '95' and a tempo marking 'to center'. It features a series of eighth notes with a 'p' (piano) dynamic. The next measure, marked '96', shows a '5' (quintuplet) and a 'f' (forte) dynamic. The third measure, marked '97', continues the quintuplet with a '5' and a 'p' dynamic. The fourth measure, marked '98', shows a '3' (triple) and a 'p' dynamic. The final measure, marked '99', shows a '3' (triple) and a 'p' dynamic.

Staff 2 (Middle): This staff begins with a measure marked '95' and a tempo marking 'to center'. It features a series of eighth notes with a 'p' (piano) dynamic. The next measure, marked '96', shows a '5' (quintuplet) and a 'f' (forte) dynamic. The third measure, marked '97', continues the quintuplet with a '5' and a 'p' dynamic. The fourth measure, marked '98', shows a '3' (triple) and a 'p' dynamic. The final measure, marked '99', shows a '3' (triple) and a 'p' dynamic.

Staff 3 (Bottom): This staff begins with a measure marked '95' and a tempo marking 'to center'. It features a series of eighth notes with a 'p' (piano) dynamic. The next measure, marked '96', shows a '5' (quintuplet) and a 'f' (forte) dynamic. The third measure, marked '97', continues the quintuplet with a '5' and a 'p' dynamic. The fourth measure, marked '98', shows a '3' (triple) and a 'p' dynamic. The final measure, marked '99', shows a '3' (triple) and a 'p' dynamic.

The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings (p, f, pp). It also includes a 'switch to mallets' instruction in the third measure of the bottom staff. The time signature is 4/4.

H4

101 *to front edge* 102 103 *to front edge*

The score consists of three staves, each with a 4/4 time signature. The notation includes various rhythmic values (quarter, eighth, sixteenth notes), rests, and dynamic markings (*f*, *mf*, *p*, *ff*, *pp*). Fingerings (1-5) and articulation marks (accents, slurs) are present. The music is divided into measures 101, 102, and 103, with a 'to front edge' instruction above measures 101 and 103. The bottom staff includes a '6' above a measure in measure 102 and a '5' above a measure in measure 103.



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