

Prismatic Thermophiles

For Bb Clarinet, Cello,
Piano, and Percussion

By Blake Cordell

Dur. 6' 05"

2025

Program Notes

A constellation of life thriving under the ever-bubbling water's surface, its form unseen but its presence unmistakable in the rocky rainbow that descends deep underground, an iris of the Earth's many watchful eyes.

This piece is inspired by the geothermal pools of Yellowstone National Park – in particular, Morning Glory. The music represents the many colors of the earth, the glimmer of the still water, the unseen bustling world of microscopic organism thriving on the heat, and the perpetuity of the pool.



Percussion

Marimba

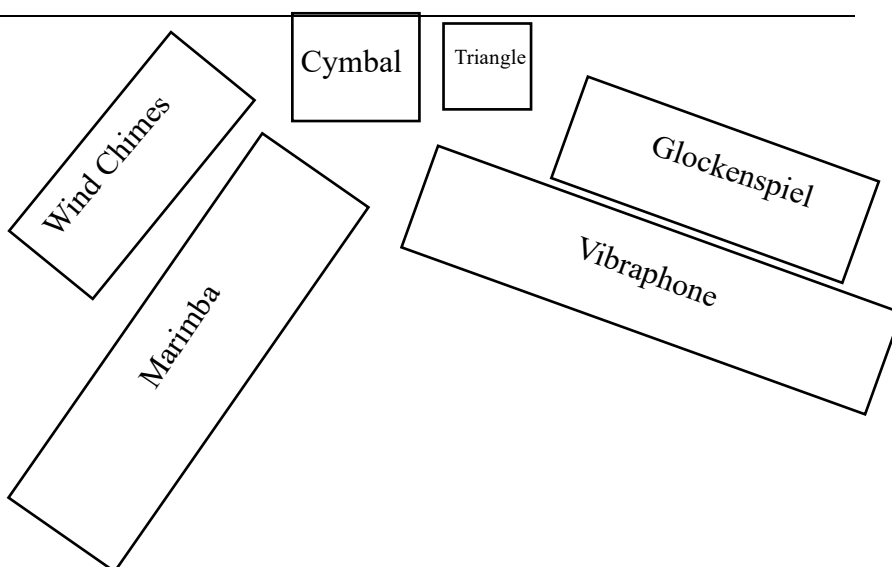
Glockenspiel

Vibraphone

Suspended Cymbal

Wind Chimes

Triangle



To facilitate frequent instrument changes, it is recommended to utilize a single pair of double-sided mallets that have one medium-hard yarn head and one hard plastic head each in order to accommodate all instruments.

Prismatic Thermophiles

For chamber ensemble

Blake Cordell

Constant Bubbling ♩ = 50

2

Clarinet (B Flat)

p *pp* *p*

Violoncello

pizz. *mp*

Percussion

mp

Piano

pp

3

4

Cl.

mp

Vc.

Perc.

mp

Pno.

p

5 6

Cl. *p* *mp*

Vc. *mf*

Perc. *p* *mf*

Pno. *pp* *ppp* *p* *ppp*

7 8

Cl. *tr* *mf*

Vc. *arco* *p* *clb* *mf* *ord.* *f* *mf* *sfz*

Perc. *mp* *8va* *mf*

Pno. *mp* *mf*

9

Cl.

p sub.

A

Vc.

pizz. *ff*

arco *f*

p sub.

Perc.

Sus. Cymbal

l.v.
With triangle beater

pp

Pno.

mf

ppp

8va

mp

11

12

Cl.

pp

p

Vc.

pp

Perc.

Pno.

p

pp

10

p

pp

Prismatic Thermophiles

13

Cl. *ppp* *p* *mp* **B**

Vc. *mf* *p* *mf*

Perc. Soft mallet *p* *mp*

Pno. *p* *pp* *p* *mp*

15

Cl. *mf* *mf*

Vc. *p* *f* *mf* pizz. arco

Perc. **Vibraphone** *mf*

Pno. *mp* *p* *mp* *pp* *mp* *10* *8*

The musical score is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 13-14) features a Clarinet (Cl.) with a melodic line starting at measure 13, marked *ppp* and *p*, and a Violoncello (Vc.) with a sustained bass line marked *mf* and *p*. Percussion (Perc.) uses a soft mallet for a sustained note marked *p* and *mp*. The Piano (Pno.) has a complex texture with rapid sixteenth-note passages in the right hand, marked *p* and *pp*, and a more melodic line in the left hand marked *p* and *mp*. A bracket labeled 'B' spans measures 13 and 14. The second system (measures 15-16) features a Clarinet (Cl.) with a melodic line marked *mf* and *mf*. The Violoncello (Vc.) has a line marked *p*, *f*, and *mf*, with 'pizz.' and 'arco' markings. Percussion (Perc.) features a Vibraphone part marked *mf*. The Piano (Pno.) continues with complex textures, marked *mp*, *p*, *mp*, *pp*, and *mp*, with measures 15 and 16 containing 10 and 8 sixteenth notes respectively.

17

Cl.

mp *p*

Vc.

f

Perc.

Triangle

Mark Tree

Slowly

Glockenspiel

pp *p*

Pno.

10

pp *mp*

19

Cl.

pp

Vc.

f

Perc.

pp

Pno.

pp *p* *ppp* *pp*

21 **C** 22

Cl. *ppp* *pp* *p*

Vc. *mp* *mf*

Perc. *p* *pp* **Sus. Cymbal**

Pno. *8va* *10* *mp* *10* *8* *pp* *p*

23 24

Cl. *p* *mp* **III** **II**

Vc. *mf* *mf*

Perc. *p* **Vibraphone**

Pno. *(8)* *mp* *10* *7* *p* *p* *pp*

The musical score is written for four instruments: Clarinet (Cl.), Violoncello (Vc.), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The piece is in 3/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score is divided into two systems, each containing four staves. The first system covers measures 21 to 22, and the second system covers measures 23 to 24. A rehearsal mark 'C' is placed above measure 21. The Clarinet part begins with a *ppp* dynamic, followed by a *pp* dynamic in measure 22, and then a *p* dynamic. The Violoncello part starts with a *mp* dynamic, followed by a *mf* dynamic. The Percussion part includes a *p* dynamic and a *pp* dynamic, with a 'Sus. Cymbal' effect indicated. The Piano part features a *8va* marking and a *10* marking, with dynamics ranging from *mp* to *pp*. The second system covers measures 23 to 24. The Clarinet part begins with a *p* dynamic, followed by a *mp* dynamic, and then a *III* and *II* marking. The Violoncello part starts with a *mf* dynamic, followed by a *mf* dynamic. The Percussion part includes a *p* dynamic and a 'Vibraphone' effect indicated. The Piano part features a *(8)* marking and a *mp* dynamic, with dynamics ranging from *p* to *pp*.

25 26

Cl. *mp*

Vc. *p* *mf*

Perc. Glockenspiel *mf* *ppp* Vibraphone

Pno. *mf* *p*

27

Cl. *mf* **D**

Vc.

Perc. *p* *mf*

Pno. *p* *pp* 10 10

29 30

Cl. *mp*

Vc. *mf*

Perc. *mf mp p* Glockenspiel

Pno. *p* 10

31 32

Cl. *mf*

Vc.

Perc. *ppp p* Vibraphone

Pno. *8va*

33 E

Cl. *mf*

Vc. *f* *pizz.* *f*

Perc. *mp*

Pno. *mp* *p* *mp*

35 36

Cl. *f*

Vc. *f* *arco* *clb* *ff*

Perc. *pp* *mf* *p* *f* *p*

Pno. *8va* *8ba* *p* *mf*

37 *tr* *pp* *f* *tr* *mf* 38

Cl.

Vc. *f* *pizz.* *ff* *f* *arco* *clb* *ff* *f*

Perc. Glockenspiel *f*

Pno. *mf* *15^{ma}* *tr* *mp*

39 F *f* *p* *mf* 40

Cl.

Vc. *knock* *ff* *arco* *tr* *mf* *knock* *f* *arco* *pp*

Perc. Vibraphone *p* *f* *p* Triangle *With tail of mallet* *mf* Vibraphone *mp* *mf* *p*

Pno. *mp* *15^{ma}* *mf* *tr* *mp*

p *mp*

41 *tr* *mp* *mf* *f* 42 *tr* *pp*

Cl.

Vc. *f* *ff*

Perc. *mf* *p* *mp* Glockenspiel

Pno. *p* *tr*

43 *p* *mp* 44

Cl. *pizz.* *arco* *mf*

Vc. *sfz* *mf*

Perc. *p* *mp* Vibraphone

Pno. *pp* *pp*

45 46

Cl. *pp*

Vc. *mf* *p*

Perc. *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Pno. *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

47 48

Cl. *mf* *p* *mf* *mp*

Vc. *f*

Perc. *mp* *Marimba* *mp*

Pno. *mp* *p* *mf* *p*

49 **H**

Cl. *mf* *mp* 50

Vc. *mf* *mf*

Perc. *mp* *mf* *mp*

Pno. *p* *pp* 15^{ma}

51 *p* *mp* 52

Vc. *mp* *mf* 4:3 4:3

Perc. *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Pno. (15) *p* 15^{ma} *pp*

53 54 I

Cl. *p* *mf* *p*

Vc. *mf* *pp*

Perc. Mark Tree Sus. Cymbal *pp* *ppp*

Pno. *pp* *mf* *ppp*

56 57 8

Cl. *mp* *p* *mp*

Vc. *pp*

Perc. Vibraphone *p* *pp* *p* *p*

Pno. *p* *mf* *8va* *p*

Detailed description: The musical score is for a piece titled 'Prismatic Thermophiles'. It consists of four staves: Clarinet (Cl.), Viola (Vc.), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 53 and 54, with a section marker 'I' above measure 54. The second system covers measures 56 and 57. The Clarinet part has dynamics *p*, *mf*, and *p*. The Viola part has dynamics *mf* and *pp*. The Percussion part includes instructions for 'Mark Tree' and 'Sus. Cymbal' with dynamics *pp* and *ppp*. The Piano part has dynamics *pp*, *mf*, and *ppp*, and includes an 8va section in measure 57. The second system starts at measure 56. The Clarinet part has dynamics *mp*, *p*, and *mp*. The Viola part has dynamics *pp*. The Percussion part includes instructions for 'Vibraphone' with dynamics *p*, *pp*, *p*, and *p*. The Piano part has dynamics *p*, *mf*, and *8va* *p*.

58 59

Cl.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

(8)

Sus. Cymbal

Vibraphone

60 61 7:4

Glockenspiel

mf

mf

mp

pp

mf

mp

f

mf

ff

f

ff

f

p

f

mf

mf

62

Cl.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

mf

f

10

Sus. Cymbal

p

8va

62

63

64

Cl.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

mf

pp

mp

sfz

Vibraphone

pp

mf

mp

f

8va

63

64

65

65 J

Cl. *p* *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Perc. *p* *p*

Perc. *pp*

Pno. *p* *ppp* *p* *8va*

67 68

Cl. *mf*

Vc. *mp* *mf*

Perc. Marimba *mp*

Pno. *ppp* *p* *8va* *ppp* *p* *8va*

69 70

Cl. *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vc. *mf*

Perc. *p* *pp* Triangle

Pno. *pp* *p*

71 72

Cl. **K**

Vc. pizz.

Perc. Marimba *p* Glockenspiel *p*

Pno. *p* *15^{ma}* *mp* *p*

73 74

Cl. *p*

Vc. *mp*

Perc. **Vibraphone** *p* **Sus. Cymbal** *ppp*

Pno. *p* *8va*

75 76

Cl. *p*

Vc. *p*

Perc. *p*

Pno. *pp* *ppp*