

Percussive Notes

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Trio Für Die Kinder Der Welt

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Morleo Editore

An ostinato-driven piece strongly rooted in minimalism, this 16-minute percussion trio resembles the musical character of several works by Philip Glass and will likely be a favorite for many percussionists. Set in three movements and scored for vibraphone, low-A marimba, and timpani (4), the piece is extremely tonal although no key signature is given and accidentals are frequent. Both mallet parts use four mallets extensively, and bows are required for the vibraphone in the second movement.

The first movement begins in 10/8 but changes time signatures regularly. Both mallet parts are primarily rhythmic with extensive double-stops and hand-to-hand broken chords. In this movement, there are no tuning changes in the timpani part and the ostinato bass line lays easily in the hands.

The second movement is based on a repeated 14-measure phrase in 2/4. The

movement opens with the solo marimba performing an arpeggiated sextuplet figure. The timpani part enters in the second phrase with a soft mallet playing sextuplets in one hand and additional punctuations in the other hand with a wooden mallet. The more linear timpani writing in this movement requires limited tuning of the 29-inch drum. In the third phrase, the melody enters in the vibraphone, played with bows and set with longer durations and repeated notes to contrast the flowing and more rhythmic accompaniment.

The third movement alternates between sections in 3/8 and 6/8 and functions as a scherzo movement. More extensive pedaling is required in the timpani part and, as in the first movement, the keyboard parts primarily feature repeated rhythmic chords with some occasional melodically intended arpeggiations. This high-energy movement ends the work with unison rhythmic figures in all three voices.

A readable, but fairly challenging work because of its length, time signatures, and overlapping rhythmic ideas, this would be a perfect chamber piece for ambitious undergraduate percussion students.

—*Josh Gottry*