

DAVID BIEDENBENDER

FERRUM

for percussion quartet

BENT SPACE MUSIC

Perusal copy only. Any unauthorized use is strictly prohibited.

Ferrum was commissioned by Gwendolyn Dease and the Michigan State University Percussion Ensemble for the 2017 Percussive Arts Society International Conference.

My sincere thanks to Kramer Milan, Sebastian Buhts, Steven Murtonen, and Daniel Gerhardt for their feedback and hard work on the premiere of this piece.

Published by Bent Space Music:
www.davidbiedenbender.com

Performance materials available from Bent Space Music:
www.davidbiedenbender.com

Contact the Composer:
davidbiedenbender@gmail.com

© Copyright 2017 by David Biedenbender
International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.
First printed October 2017.

Perusal copy only. Any unauthorized use is strictly prohibited.

INSTRUMENTATION

Four Percussionists

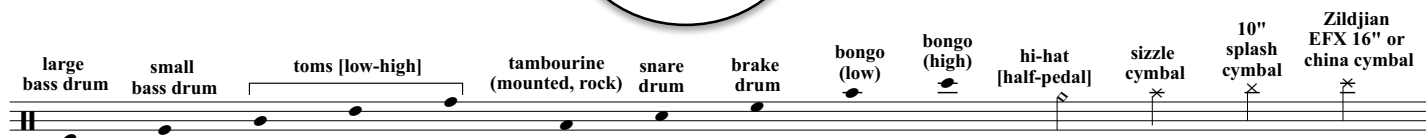
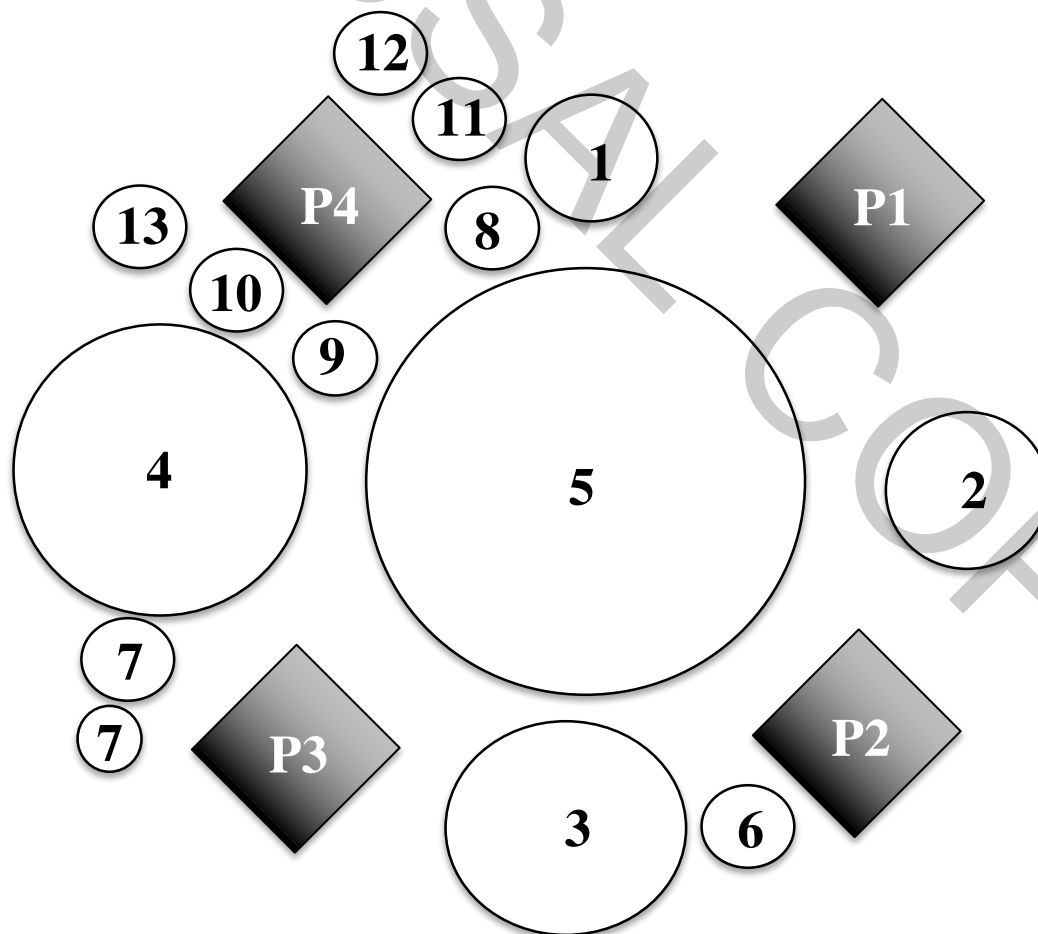
Percussion List:

- 1 – small tom
- 2 – medium tom
- 3 – large tom
- 4 – small bass drum
- 5 – large bass drum
- 6 – (concert) snare drum
- 7 – bongos (low and high)
- 8 – hi-hat
- 9 – brake drum/anvil
- 10 – Zildjian EFX 16" or china cymbal
- 11 – large (10") splash cymbal
- 12 – sizzle cymbal
- 13 – heavy rock tambourine (no head)

*see note below

*1-3: all toms should all be rather large, comparable to floor toms in depth and darkness of sound, graduated from high (1) to low (3). There should be timbral consistency from high to low between drums 1-5, so passages moving from high to low and low to high sound coherent.

SUGGESTED SETUP



Duration: ca. 6:30

PROGRAM NOTES

This piece comes from two kinds of music that I love: heavy metal and Indian Carnatic music. I spent a summer in Mysore, India studying Carnatic music—specifically, the mridangam, a hand drum which serves as the primary rhythmic instrument in the Carnatic music ensemble. My favorite metal band is Meshuggah, a Swedish group known for its use of incredibly intricate and virtuosically executed rhythmic material. For me, although vastly different in many ways, Meshuggah and Carnatic music are deeply connected in their use of complex rhythmic cycles. The title for this work, *Ferrum*, is the latin word for iron—a heavy metal—and also references the ferric oxide (rust) tuning paste used on the drum heads of the mridangam, which gives the instrument its distinct metallic timbre.

PERUSAL COPY

for Gwendolyn Dease and the
Michigan State University Percussion Ensemble

Ferrum

for percussion quartet

David Biedenbender

$\text{♩} = 72$

[dark, resonant; felt]

1

2

3

4

ppp

ppp

==

1

2

3

4

ppp

ppp

Perusal copy only. Any unauthorized use is strictly prohibited.

2 7 8 Ferrum

1 *(ppp)* 3 5 3

2 *(ppp)* 5

3 [dark, resonant; felt] *ppp*

4

10

1 5 *p* 3 5 3 *ppp*

2 3 5 *p* 3 5 3

3 5 3 *p* 5 3 5 3

4 *ppp* *p*

13 14

1 *(ppp)* 3 5 3

2 *ppp* *(ppp)* 5

3 *ppp* *(ppp)*

4 *ppp*

25

1 *(pp)* 3 5 6 *mp* 5 3

2 5 6 *mp* 5 3 *pp*

3 *(pp)* 3 5 6 *mp* 5

4 *pp* 3 5 3

27

1 *pp* *(pp)* 3

2 3 5 6 *mp* 5 3 *pp*

3 3 *pp* 3 5 6 *mp* 5

4 5 3 *mp* *pp* [tip of stick]

29

1 5 6 *mp* 5 3 5

2 3 5 6 *mp* 5 3

3 3 *pp* 3 5 6 *mp*

4 * * * * *mp*

1 *pp* 3 5 6 *mp* 5

2 *pp* 3 (*pp*) 5 6 *mp* 5

3 5 3 *pp*

4 *p* *sim.*

33

1 3 3 *pp* 3 3 5

2 3 3 *pp* (*pp*) 3

3

4 *mp* *pp* *molto*

36

1 6 5 3 *mf* *pp*

2 5 6 5 *mf* 3 *pp* (*pp*) 3

3 3 5 6 5 3 *mf* *pp*

4 *mf* 3 *p* *mf*

1 *(pp)* 3 5 6 *mf* 5 3

2 5 6 *mf* 5 3 *pp*

3 *(pp)* 3 5 6 *mf* 5

4 *pp* *p*

41

1 *p* *f* *sub.* *p* 3

2 3 5 6 *mf* 5 3 *p* 3 5

3 3 *p* 3 5 6 5 *mf* 3 *p*

4 *f* *p* *mf*

44

1 5 6 5 *f* 3 *p* 3 5 6 5 *f*

2 6 5 3 *f* *p* 3 5 6 5 *f*

3 3 5 6 *f* 5 3 3 *p*

4 *p* *f* *p*

Ferrum

47

[butt of stick]

1 *p* *molto*

2 *p* *molto*

3 *f* *p* *molto*

4 *(pp)* *f* *p* [butt of stick]

51 Heavy

1 *f* *mp sub.*

2 *f* *mp sub.*

3 *p* *f*

4 *f* *mp*

54

1 *f*

2 *f*

3 *p* *mf*

4 *f* *mp* *f*

57

1

2

3

4

mp *f* *mp*

60

1

2

3

4

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

62

1

2

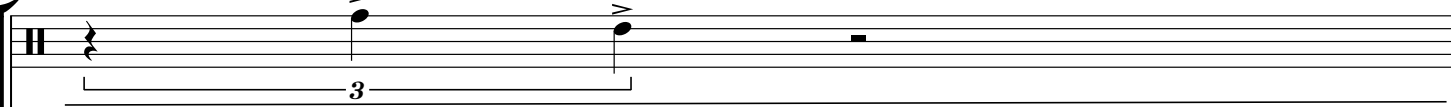
3

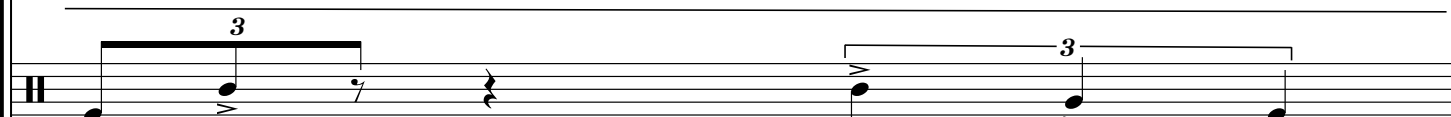
4

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

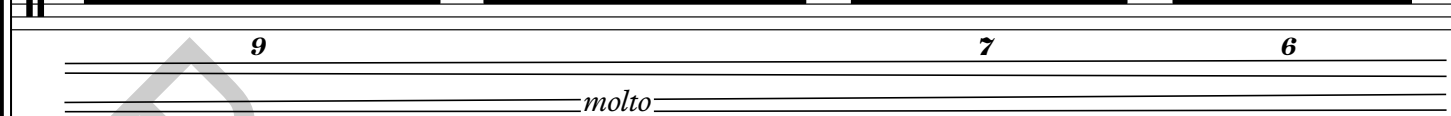
7 6 5 5 6 7

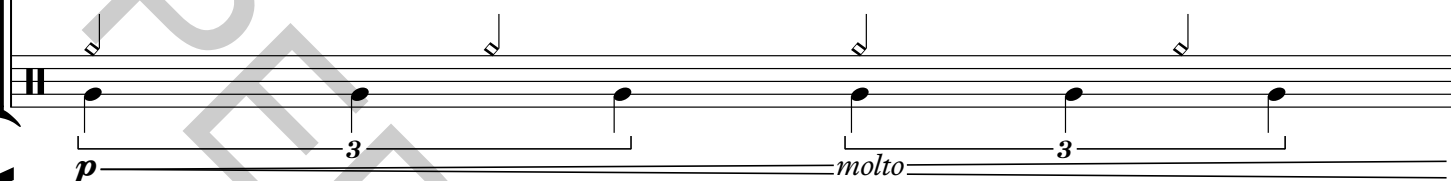
3 3 3 3 3 3

1 

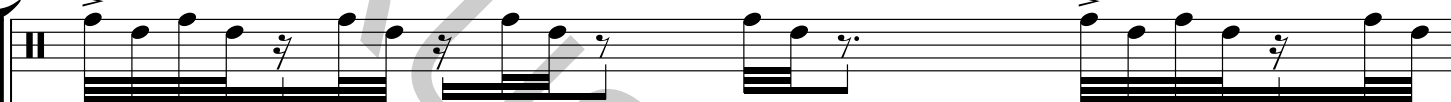
2 

3 

4 

p 

65

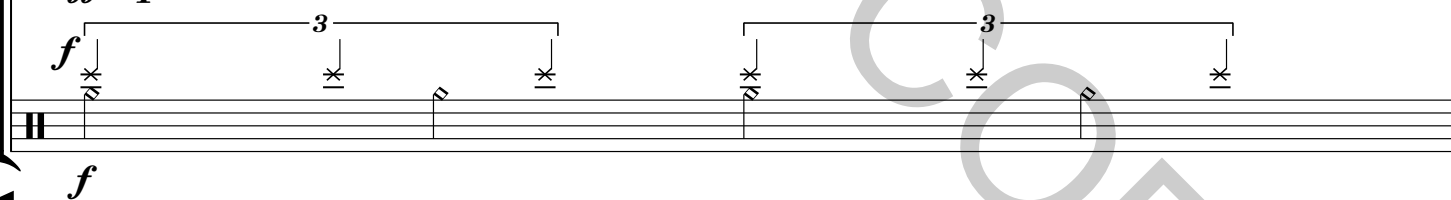
1 

2 

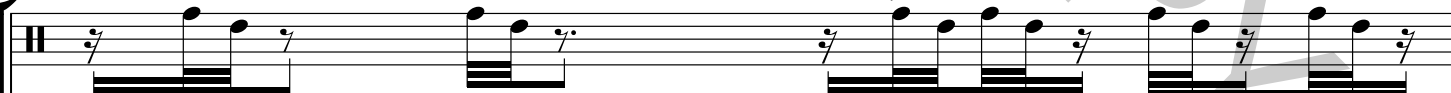
3 

4 

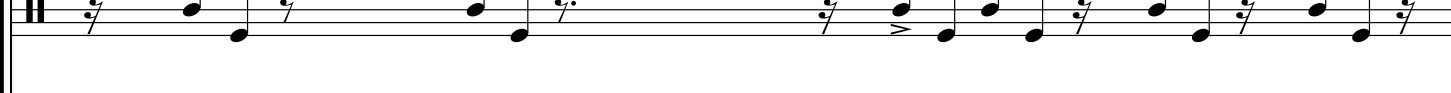
ff 

f 

66

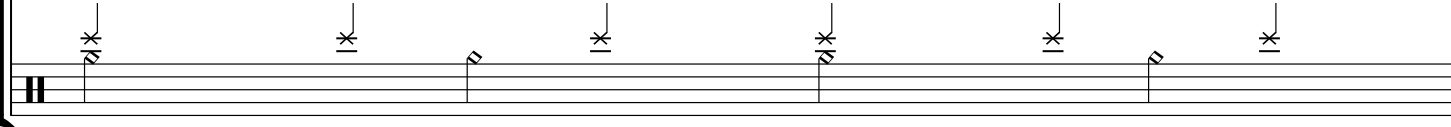
1 

2 

3 

4 

ff 

mp 

67

1

2

3

4

7

9 *ff*

3

68

1

2

3

4

7

6

5 *mf*

6

3

69

1

2

3

4

7

9 *ff*

3

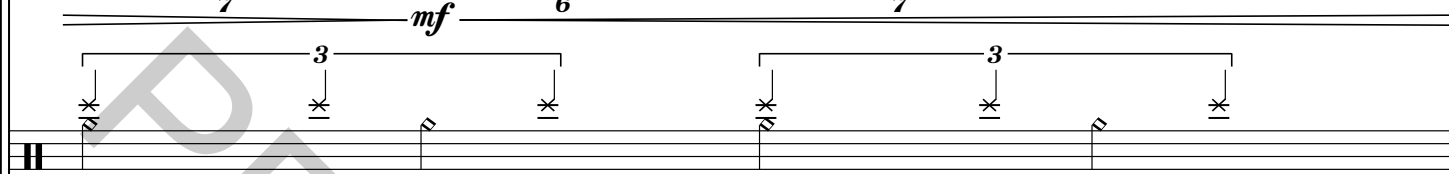
Ferrum

70

1 

2 

3 

4 

7 *mf* 6 7

71

1 

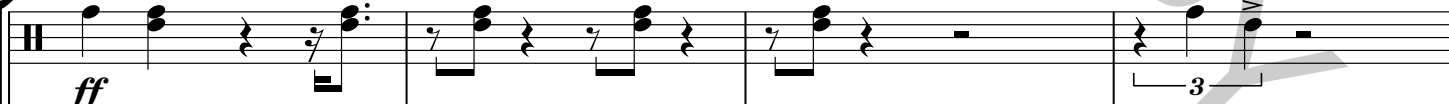
2 

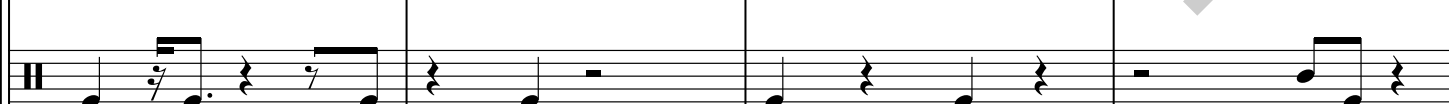
3 

4 

9 7 6

72 $\text{♩} = 108$ $(\leftarrow \text{♩} \text{ } \text{♩} \text{ } \text{♩} \rightarrow)$

1 

2 

3 

4 

ff *ff* *ff* *ff* *f*

1 *mp* 3 *cresc.* 3 3

2 *mf* 5 5 5 5 5 5

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

4 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

89

1 *mf* 3 *p* 3 3 3 3

2 5 5 *f*

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

4 *f* *p* 5 3

92

1 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

2 *pp* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

4 *mp* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

95

1

2

3

4

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

98

1

2

3

4

101

102

1

2

3

4

f

f

f

f

p

104

1 *mf* *f* 3

2 *f* *mf* *f*

3 5 6 *f* 5 3 3 *p* 3 5

4

107

1

2

3 6 *mf* 5 3 3 *p*

4

109

1 *mf*

2 *mf*

3 3 5 *f* 3 3 *mp* 3 *f*

4 *pp* *mf*

16

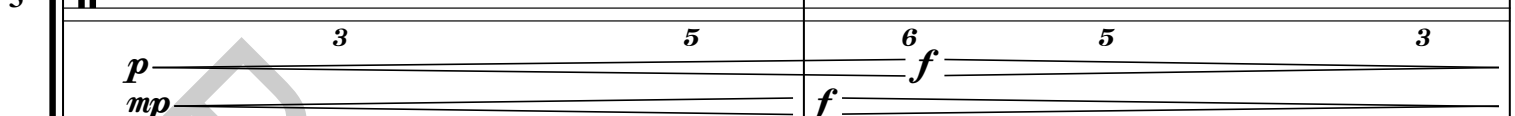
112

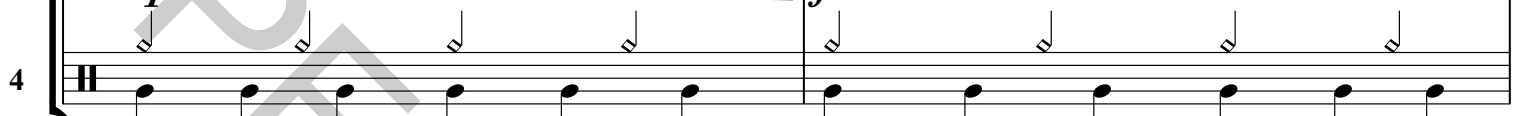
Ferrum

1 

2 

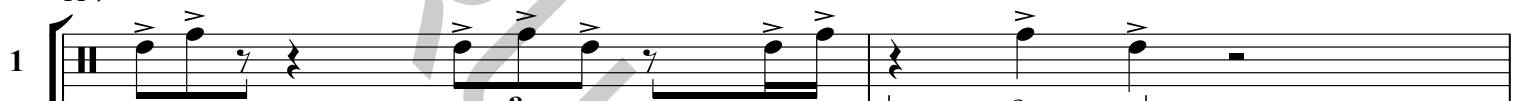
3 

4 

5 

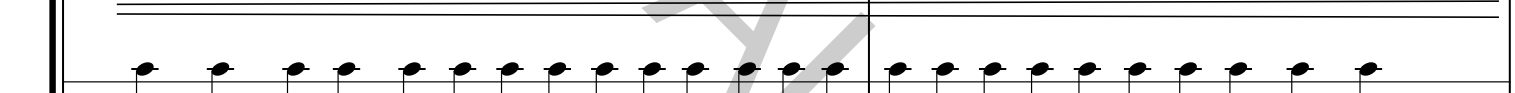
6 

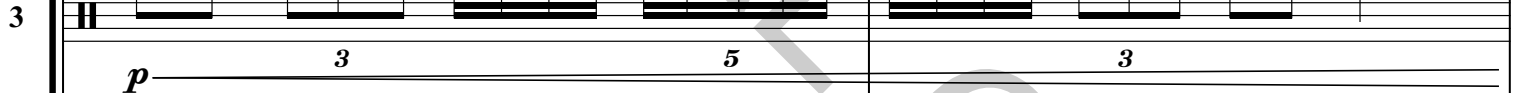
114

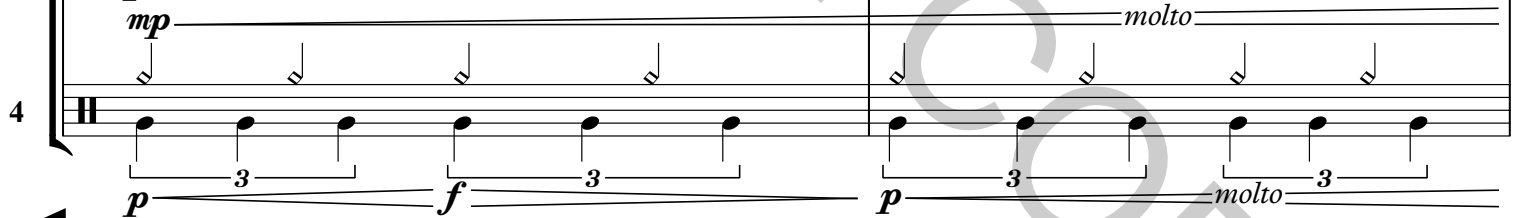
1 

2 

3 

4 

5 

6 

116 [butt of stick]

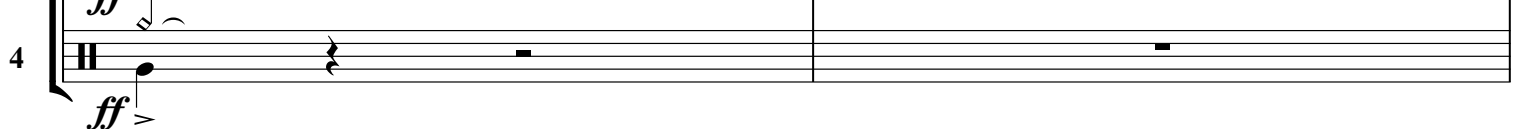
1 

2 

3 

4 

5 

6 

127

1 *sffz*

2 *sffz*

3 *sffz*

4 *sffz*

130

131

1 *ff*

2

3

4

133

1

2

3

4

pp *ff*

Ferrum

136

1 2 3 4

139

1 2 3 4

141

[*fast swells; out of time; slow roll slightly at top of cresc.; not simultaneous with other players]

1 2 3 4

144

Measures 144 and 145 of the musical score. The score is for four staves. Staves 1, 2, and 3 contain continuous eighth-note patterns with a '5' (quintuplet) marking over groups of five notes. Staff 4 contains a sequence of chords, each marked with an asterisk (*). The music is in a 2/4 time signature.

146

Measures 146 and 147 of the musical score. The score is for four staves. Staves 1, 2, and 3 contain continuous eighth-note patterns with a '3' (triplet) marking over groups of three notes. Staff 4 contains a sequence of chords, each marked with an asterisk (*). The music is in a 2/4 time signature. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a 'fff' (fortissimo) dynamic marking.