

Scott Smallwood

# *Surface Tension*

for solo percussionist

(for David Schotzko)

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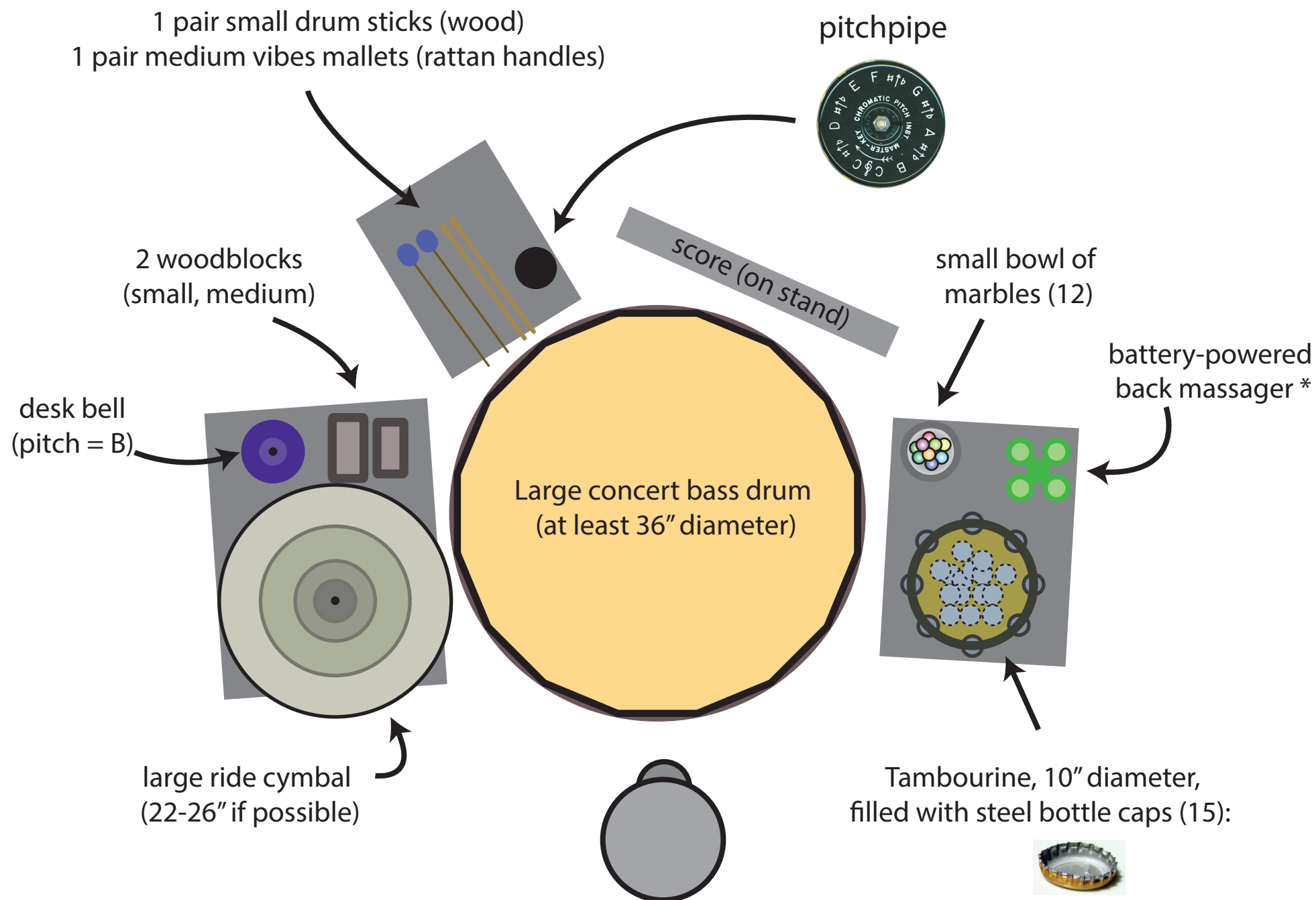
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# Surface Tension

for solo percussionist

by Scott Smallwood

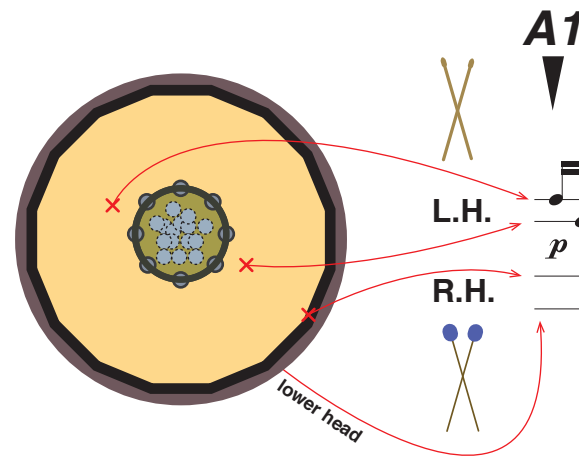


## NOTES:

- 1.) This piece is in 4 sections, approx 10' long.
- 2.) If performed in an intimate space, no amplification is needed. Amplification recommended for larger concert halls.
- 3.) All sections performed *attacca*
- 4.) Bass drum head should be loose but not flabby (both sides)
- 5.) Original premiere performed with dance (see later notes and documentation for details)
- 6.) Performer should be keenly aware of sonic characteristics of the performing space, and adjust performance volume appropriately

\* massager must be able to turn on without applying constant pressure (normal on/off switch)

Place tambourine (filled with bottle caps) in center of bass drum, head down



**A1**  
♩ = 80

L.H.

R.H.

*p* *siempre*

Musical staff with a continuous eighth-note pattern.

Musical staff with dynamic markings: *mp*, *mp*, *mp*, *mp*.

Musical staff with a continuous eighth-note pattern.

Musical staff with dynamic markings: *p*, *mp*, *mp*, *mp*, *p*.

Musical staff with a continuous eighth-note pattern.

Musical staff with dynamic markings: *mp*, *p*, *mp*, *mf*, *p*, *mp*.

Musical staff with a continuous eighth-note pattern.

Musical staff with dynamic markings: *mp*, *p*, *mp*.

≈ 2:00

**A2**

**L.H.** Put drumsticks down, place cymbal in centre of drum (upside down), and place desk bell in centre of cymbal. Pick up vibes mallets.

Pick up tambourine and shake softly back and forth (20", while placing new objects w/ LH)

**R.H.**

**≈ 2:20**

**B1**

**L.H.**

**R.H.**

One-handed roll, moving from edge to center and back for each slur marking, approx 5" each

*p*

5" 5" (etc)

*mf*

(Put down tambourine, place pitchpipe in mouth so that both Cs can be blown)

*p*

*mf* ring bell

*mf* w/ knuckles on shell

*mf* w/ fist on head

*mp* blow both Cs

*p*

*mf* rapid taps on head w/ fingers (ad lib)

*mp*

*mp*

*mf*

*mf*

*f*

*mf*

Place massager on head \*

**B2**

continue rolling on cymbal, outer edge, flatly, for 30"

*f*

*f*

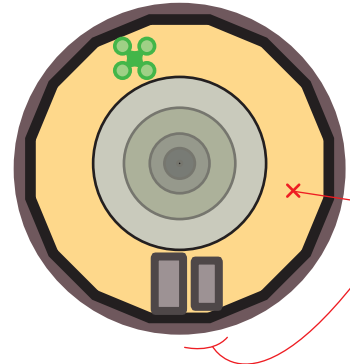
**I.v.**

\* ideally, the massager will slowly move itself around the bass drum

**≈ 4:20**

**≈ 4:50**

Remove desk bell; place wood blocks



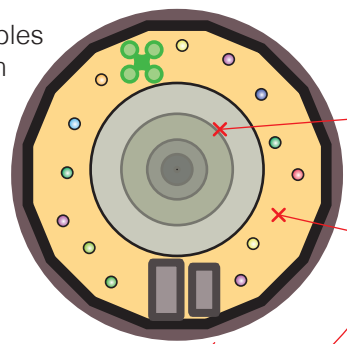
**C**  
♩ = 120

lightly, w/ finger tips

mp

≈ 6:40

Pour marbles onto drum



**D**  
♩ = 120, fluctuating

each group: slightly irregular rhythm, expressive, with slight pause at end

p

mp pp

A musical staff showing six measures of music. Each measure contains a dense pattern of sixteenth notes with a single accent mark (an 'x' above a vertical line) placed over the pattern. The dynamics range from mezzo-piano (mp) on the left to piano-piano (pp) on the right.

♩ = 120, fluctuating ——— accel. ———

5-10"

p

A musical staff showing six measures of music. Each measure contains a dense pattern of sixteenth notes with a single accent mark (an 'x' above a vertical line) placed over the pattern. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 120, fluctuating, with an acceleration (accel.) indicated. A red bracket above the first measure is labeled '5-10"'. The dynamic is piano (p).

continue accel. ———

mp mf

A musical staff showing six measures of music. Each measure contains a dense pattern of sixteenth notes with a single accent mark (an 'x' above a vertical line) placed over the pattern. The dynamic ranges from mezzo-piano (mp) on the left to mezzo-forte (mf) on the right. The instruction 'continue accel.' is written above the staff.

add hyper-rhythms: sixteenth-and-beyond-note embellishments, ad lib, increasing in density...

♩ = 160, fluctuating ——— accel. ———

5-10"

mf ff

A musical staff showing six measures of music. Each measure contains a dense pattern of sixteenth notes with a single accent mark (an 'x' above a vertical line) placed over the pattern. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 160, fluctuating, with an acceleration (accel.) indicated. A red bracket above the first measure is labeled '5-10"'. The dynamic ranges from mezzo-forte (mf) on the left to fortissimo (ff) on the right.

add hyper-rhythms: sixteenth-and-beyond-note embellishments, ad lib, increasing in density...

≈ 9:20

Place massager in center of cymbal

A diagram of a cymbal with a massager placed in the center. A red arrow points from the text 'Place massager in center of cymbal' to the massager. The massager is a small, circular device with a central green dot and a red dot.

E

gradually press down on vibrator, pressing down more and more, approx. 40"

switch off

≈ 10:00

A horizontal timeline starting with a double bar line. It is labeled 'gradually press down on vibrator, pressing down more and more, approx. 40"'. It ends with a vertical bar and the text 'switch off'. The time marker '≈ 10:00' is at the end of the timeline.