

Burn

for Womens' or Childrens' voices and Percussion

16th Century Mayan Text
Translated by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno

Emily Doolittle, 1996

♩ = approx. 72 *mf* *f*

(very freely)

1 solo

Burn 3

♩ = 112
accel... (m. 27, ♩ = 212)
with great intensity, gradually becoming chaotic

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

pp

Dampened Cymbals

Large Tam-Tam

mf

*In this section, accents indicate which note is to be on the downbeat. Precise alignment of grace notes is not necessary.

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Text from *The Destruction of the Jaguar*, ©1987 by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno, published by City Lights Books

1

(♩ = 128, accel.)

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

(*mp*) _____ (*mf*)

Dampened Cymbals

(*mp*) _____ (*mf*)

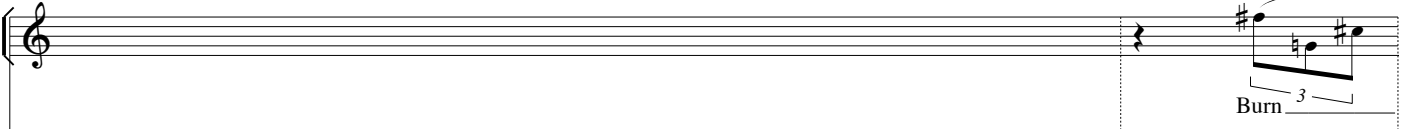
Chinese Opera Gong

(Pitch bends up.)

(*mp*) _____ (*mf*)

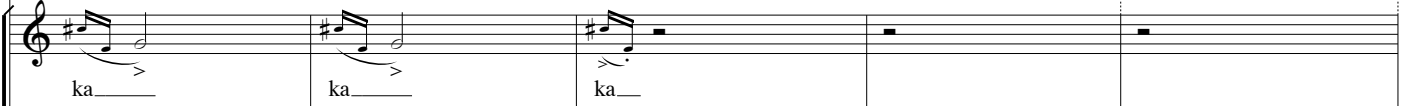
Dampened Cymbals

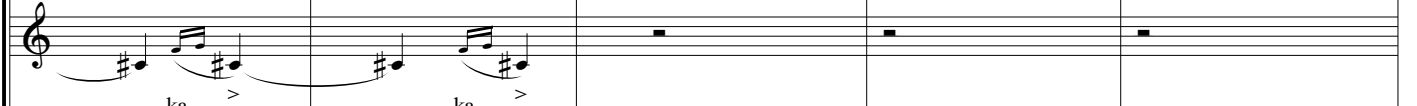
Opera Gong

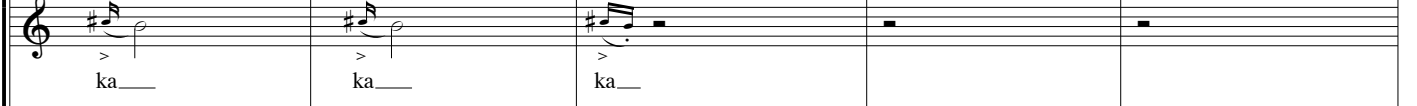
1 

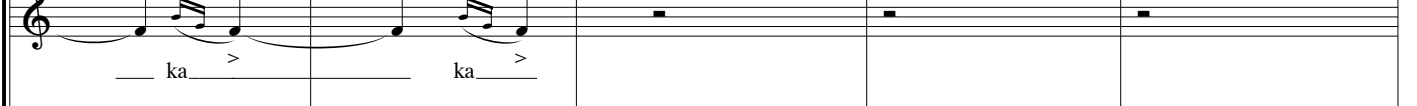
(♩ = 192)

All voices are abruptly cut off by the Tam-Tam.

2 

3 

4 

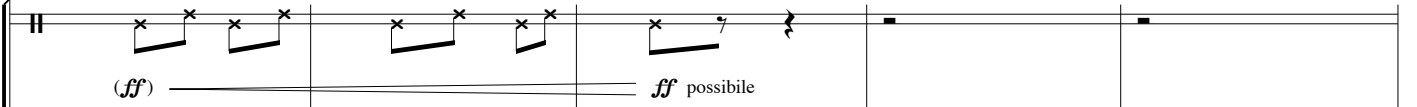
5 

6 

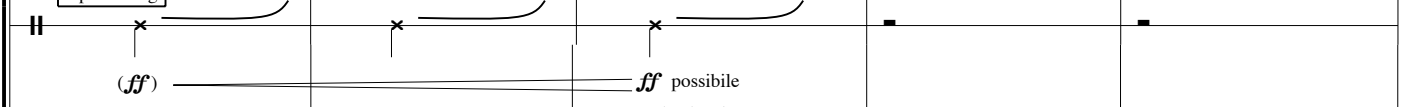
7 

8 

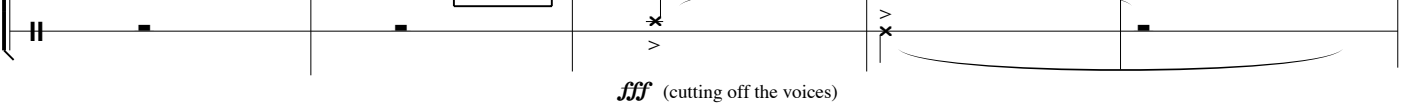
(*ff*)  *ff* possibile

Dampened Cymbals 

(*ff*)  *ff* possibile

Opera Gong 

(*ff*)  *ff* possibile
loud and resonant

Tam-Tams 

fff (cutting off the voices)

fff possibile

27 *fff*

1 *Raucous*
♩ = 212 (no longer accelerating)

Burn

2 ka ka ka ka

3 ka ka ka ka ka

4 ka ka ka ka

5 ka ka ka ka ka ka

6 ka ka ka ka ka ka

7 ka ka ka ka ka ka

8 ka ka ka ka ka

fff

Raucous

Dampened Cymbals

Opera Gongs

fff (Pitch bends up!)

Triangle

fff

31 (*fff*)
$$(fff)$$

iii (*fff*)

Beginning to lose energy (little by little decrescendo and ritardando.)

36

1 tutti ka ka ka ka ka

2 ka ka ka ka join soprano 2 part on p. 9

3 ka ka ka ka ka

4 ka ka ka ka join alto part on p. 9

5 ka ka ka ka ka

6 ka ka ka ka ka ka

7 ka ka ka ka ka ka

8 ka ka ka ka ka ka

(*fff*) *f*

Dampened Cymbals

(*fff*) *f*

Opera Gong

(*fff*) *f*

As parts 1 - 8 drop out one by one, they join the S1, S2, and A music at the bottom of the page. Alignment of the measures between the two sections is only approximate, as the 2/4 music is gradually slowing down while the 3/8 music is strictly in tempo.

41

1 ka ka ka ka ka ka

3 ka ka ka ka ka ka ka

5 ka ka ka ka ka ka ka

6 join soprano 2 part below ka ka

7 ka ka ka ka ka ka ka join soprano 1 part on p. 10

8 ka ka ka ka ka join alto part below

mp (fading away)

Cymbals

Opera Gong

mp (fading away)

Morbid Chant (coming from nowhere and gradually taking over)

♩ = 100

S1

S2 *pp*, poco a poco cresc. Burn, burn, on

Alto *pp*, poco a poco cresc. Burn,

pp

Tam-Tam

pp

1 *ka ka* *ka* *ka* *ka* *ka* *ka* *ka* *ka*

3 *ka* *ka* *ka* *ka* *ka* *ka* *ka* *ka* *join soprano 2 part below*

5 *ka ka ka ka* *join soprano 1 part below*

(mp) *p*

Cymbals

(mp) *pp*

Opera Gong

(mp) *pp*

S1 *pp, poco a poco cresc.*
Burn, burn, on

S2 earth we shall burn, on earth we shall

Alto burn, on earth we shall burn, on

(p) *mp*

Tam-Tam

(p) *mp*

The two sopranos who sing part 7 sing the solo line on the following page.

Singers prepare to divide into groups A, B, C, D, and E on the following page.

pochiss. rit.

57

7



be - come cin - ders in the blow - ing wind_

S1



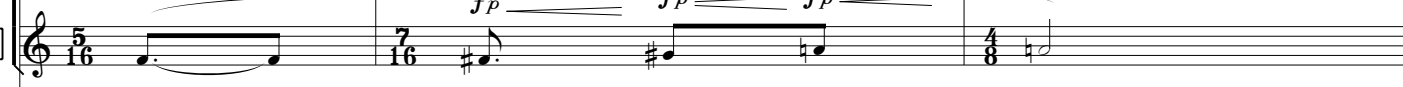
be cin- in blow- wind 3

S2



be cin- in blow- wind

Alto



be cin- in blow- wind *f* *piu f*

Vibraphone Bars



There are 3 (or more) singers on each of parts A through E. For each triplet figure, all three singers sing the first triplet eighth-note. One singer sustains the first triplet eighth (to the end of the next beat), while the other two singers move to the second triplet eighth. One of the two singers sustains that note while the other moves to and sustains the third triplet eighth-note. Allow the vowel sound to change slightly as the register changes.

♩ = 60 (very freely, like gusts of wind)

60 7

A nothing

B *pp*

C *pp* 3 *pp* *p* *p* *mp*

D *p* 3 *p* *p*

E 7 nothing *mp*

p *mp*

Glockenspiel (sounding two octaves above written pitches)

Vibraphone Bars

p *mp*

Musical score for five staves (A, B, C, D, E) and piano accompaniment. The score is divided into three measures, with a key signature change from 5/4 to 3/4 in the second measure.

Staff A: Treble clef, 5/4 time. Measure 1: Rest. Measure 2: *p* (piano), quarter notes G4, F#4, E4, D4. Measure 3: *mp* (mezzo-piano), quarter notes G4, F#4, E4, D4.

Staff B: Treble clef, 5/4 time. Measure 1: *mp*, quarter notes G4, F#4, E4, D4. Measure 2: *p*, quarter notes G4, F#4, E4, D4. Measure 3: *mp*, quarter notes G4, F#4, E4, D4.

Staff C: Treble clef, 5/4 time. Measure 1: *mp*, quarter notes G4, F#4, E4, D4. Measure 2: *p*, quarter notes G4, F#4, E4, D4. Measure 3: *mf* (mezzo-forte), quarter notes G4, F#4, E4, D4.

Staff D: Treble clef, 5/4 time. Measure 1: *mf*, quarter notes G4, F#4, E4, D4. Measure 2: Rest. Measure 3: Rest.

Staff E: Treble clef, 5/4 time. Measure 1: Rest. Measure 2: Rest. Measure 3: Rest.

Piano Accompaniment:

- Measure 1: *mf* (mezzo-forte), 5/4 time, bass line: G3, F#3, E3, D3.
- Measure 2: *p* (piano), 3/4 time, bass line: G3, F#3, E3.
- Measure 3: *mp* (mezzo-piano), 3/4 time, bass line: G3, F#3, E3.

Singers prepare to divide into groups a, b, c, d, e, f, and g on the following page.

66

A *p*

B *mp*

C *mf*

D *f*

E

f *p* *piu f*

Glockenspiel

Vibraphone Bars

f *p* *piu f*

♩ = 144
as if approaching from a distance

Maraca

p poco a poco cresc.

70

Maraca

(poco a poco cresc.)

Wood Block

p poco a poco cresc.

Tom-Toms

p poco a poco cresc.

a

 b

 c

 d

 e

 f

 g

mp *mp* *mf* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

drift drift o - ver ver

mp *mp* *mf* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

(mp, poco a poco cresc.)

(mp, poco a poco cresc.)

(mp, poco a poco cresc.)

Singers prepare to divide into groups A, B, C, D, and E on the following page.

83

mf *mf*
 a o - land
 b (an echo) *mp* the ver
 c (an echo) *p* land *fp* land,
 d *f* (an echo) *p* the drift the
 e (an echo) *pp* land
 f (an echo) *pp* the o -
 me *mf* ver land *ppp*
mp *mf* *ppp* *mp* *fp*

Maraca
 (*mf*, poco a poco cresc.)
 Wood Block
 (*mf*, poco a poco cresc.)
 Drums
 (*mf*, poco a poco cresc.)

A *mf* ver *piu f* moun - tains, *f* sea_ *ff*

B (an echo) *pp* tains, *piu f* moun - *piu f* to

C *f* the *f* the *f* out *f* out

D (an echo) *p* moun - *mf* ver (an echo) *p* tains, *piu f* to

E *f* tains *f* o - *f* moun - *mf* sea_ *ff*

f *p* *f* *ff*

(f, poco a poco cresc.) *ff*

(f, poco a poco cresc.) *ff*

(f, poco a poco cresc.) *ff*

♩. = 96 (♩. = ♩.), pco rit.

I **A** **B** **C** **D** **E**

ff *p* *f* *gliss.* *ee* *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *ff* *p* *f*

Vibraphone Bars

Maraca

Tom-Toms

nothing *mp* *f* *mf* *fp*

Weep

Singers prepare to divide into groups 1 through 8 on the following page.

singer **I** moves to top line

* (1) Down an octave from here to the end, if necessary

103

Vibraphone Bars

(Optional, to help the singers find pitches)

(Optional, to help the singers find pitches)

mp *p* *pp*

3 3 3

109 *mf* *mp* nothing

1 know, know well:

Morbid Chant

S1 *pp* *mp* know, know well: Ash does not suf - fer .

S2 *mp* Ash does not suf - fer .

Alto *mp* Ash does not suf - fer .

mp

p Tam-Tam

Vibraphone Bars *pp*

The musical score is for a piece titled "Morbid Chant". It is written in 4/4 time. The score includes five staves: a vocal staff labeled "1", and three vocal staves labeled "S1", "S2", and "Alto". There are also two instrumental staves at the bottom: "Vibraphone Bars" and "Tam-Tam". The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score begins at measure 109. The vocal part "1" starts with a melody in the first measure, followed by a rest. The vocal parts "S1", "S2", and "Alto" enter in the second measure with the lyrics "know, know well:". In the third measure, the vocal parts continue with the lyrics "Ash does not suf - fer .". The instrumental parts "Vibraphone Bars" and "Tam-Tam" enter in the third measure. The "Vibraphone Bars" part has a melody in the first measure, followed by a rest. The "Tam-Tam" part has a melody in the first measure, followed by a rest. The score ends in the fifth measure.