

Beat! Beat! Drums!

for

soprano, cello & tuba

Dedicated to Richard Perry and Craig Hultgren

Text by
Walt Whitman

Music by
Joe L. Alexander

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Beat! Beat! Drums!

text by Walt Whitman

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Beat! Beat! Drums!, text by Walt Whitman, was composed in the spring of 1998. The text is a call to arms and was completed during the first year of the American Civil War. The unusual instrumentation was inspired by the performers Craig Hultgren, cello and Richard Perry, tuba. It was premiered by Hultgren and Perry, along with Melanie Kyle, soprano, on October 23, 1998 at the University of Montevallo.

Accidentals only apply to the line, or space on which they are written.

Text Used:

Beat! Beat! Drums!

Beat! beat! drums!—blow! bugles! blow!
Through the windows—through doors—burst like a ruthless force,
Into the solemn church, and scatter the congregation,
Into the school where the scholar is studying,
Leave not the bridegroom quiet—no happiness must he have now with his bride,
Nor the peaceful farmer any peace, ploughing his field or gathering his grain,
So fierce you whirr and pound you drums—so shrill you bugles blow.

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Score

Text by Walt Whitman
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♩ = 72

Mezzo-Soprano

Cello

Tuba

f *p*

f *p*

A

4

4

4

f *n* *f*

pizz. strum alternate high-low

8

8

8

mf *8vb*

simile

Beat! Beat! Drums!

B

2
13

a tempo

13 *a tempo* arco s.p. * *f*

13 *mp* *f*

19

19 ord. 5 gliss. (b^b) (b^b) (b^b) fl. tng. ord. *p*

C

25 c.l.b. ** *mf* ord. IV gliss. *f* ord.

25 *f* 3 *subito p* *p* *f*

30 G.P. *f* speaking singing

Beat! beat! drums!

30 G.P.

30 G.P.

* s.p. = sul ponticello
 ** c.l.b. = col legno battuto

36 *f* **D**

blow! bu-gles! blow! strum simile

36 pizz. *f*

36 *mf*

41 speaking

41 s.p. arco

41

E

slightly faster *** rhy singing speaking singing

Through the win - dows through doors

47 slightly faster

47

52 speaking singing

Burst Burst

52

52

*** duration of the speaking part

Beat! Beat! Drums!

F

4
56

con vib. Burst like a ruth-less force In to the sol-ern church, —

ord. *mp* *f*

mp

61

ff

G

and scat-ter the con-
gre-ga-tion, —

c.l.b. ord. *ff* *mf* *p*

f *n* **H**

70

f *f* *p* *f*

Beat! Beat! Drums!

75 *f*

In to the school _____ where schol - lar is _____ stud - ying;

mp

79

Leave _____ not

mf

mf

pizz.

82

the bride _____ groom qui - et

p

f speaking *s.p.* singing *p f*

no pont. c.l.b. ord.

87

No Hap - pi - ness must he ha - ve

pp

pp

mp

Beat! Beat! Drums!

6
92

mf

now with his bri - de

92 snap pizz *f*

92 *pp*

J

f

Nor the peace - ful far - mer any peace

96 arco s.p. *p*

96 *f* *mp*

101 plough - ing his field or gat - her - ing his

101 ord. *mf*

101 *p* *mp*

105 grain. So fierce you whirr and pound you drums

105 s.p. vibrated gliss pizz. arco pizz. *f*

105 *mf* *f* rit. *f* rit.

L

a tempo

111 *strum a tempo* *simile*

111 *a tempo*

116 **M**

116 *f* *g^{vb}*

so shrill

116 *arco* s.p.

116 *f* *g^{vb}*

123 **N** *ff*

123 you bu -

123 *ord.* (e) (o)

123 *f* 3

129 gles blow blow.

129 *mf* *mp*

129 *mp* 3 3 *p*

The composer welcomes any questions concerning *Beat! Beat! Drums!*
and would greatly appreciate hearing about performances.

Inquires and programs should be sent to:

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Cello

Joe L. Alexander

♩ = 72

f **p** **f** 6

5 **pizz.** **n** **f** **A** strum alternate high-low simile

11

B *a tempo* **arco** **s.p.*** **f** **ord.** **gliss.** 5

23 **C** **c.l.b.**** **mf** **ord. IV** **gliss.**

29 **ord.** **G.P.** **2** **f**

36 **D** **strum** **pizz.** **f** **s.p.** **arco**

42 **E** *slightly faster*

* s.p. = sul ponticello

** c.l.b. = col legno battuto

49 **2**

56 *con vib.* **F** ord. *mp* *f*

63 **G** c.l.b. *ff* *ff* *mf*

69 ord. **H** *p* *f* *f*

76 *mf* *pizz.*

I arco s.p. no pont. c.l.b. ord. c.l.b. ord. c.l.b. *f* *pp*

92 snap pizz **J** *f* s.p. arco *p*

100 ord. **K** s.p. vibrated gliss *mf* *f* *pizz.*

109 arco rit. **L** strum a tempo *f* *pizz.*

116 **M** arco *f* **3**

125 ord. **N** *mf* *mp*

Beat! Beat! Drums!

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Tuba

Joe L. Alexander

♩ = 72

The musical score is written in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. It consists of several systems of music, each starting with a measure number. The first system (measures 1-5) begins with a dynamic of *f* and includes a section labeled 'A'. The second system (measures 6-13) starts with a dynamic of *n* and includes a section labeled 'B'. The third system (measures 14-18) continues with dynamics of *mp* and *f*, and includes a section labeled 'C'. The fourth system (measures 19-29) includes dynamics of *p* and *f*, and includes a section labeled 'D'. The fifth system (measures 30-37) includes dynamics of *f*, *subito p*, and *f*, and includes a section labeled 'E'. The sixth system (measures 38-42) includes a dynamic of *mf* and includes a section labeled 'E' with the instruction 'slightly faster'. The seventh system (measures 43-49) includes dynamics of *mf* and *f*, and includes a section labeled 'E' with the instruction 'slightly faster'. The eighth system (measures 50-54) includes dynamics of *mf* and *f*, and includes a section labeled 'E' with the instruction 'slightly faster'. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

6 *f* *p* *f*

14 *mp* *f* *fl. tng.* *ord.*

19 *p*

30 *f* *subito p* *p* *f*

38 *mf*

43 *mf* *f*

50 *mf* *f*

8^{vb} 8^{vb}

A B C D E

n *a tempo* *subito p* *slightly faster*

G.P. 2

55 F 6

G H

74

80 I 4

90

J 2

105 K rit.

L *a tempo* M

120

127 N