

Six
Haiku after Bashō

for percussion quartet

by Paul Cowell

2015

- 1 A cuckoo**
- 2 Lightning**
- 3 Spring rain**
- 4 Autumn storm**
- 5 Temple bell**
- 6 A cicada shell**

The haiku

1 A cuckoo

A cuckoo cries
and through the vast bamboo thicket
the moon's light

時鳥
大竹藪を
もる月夜

hototogisu
ôtakeyabu o
moru tsukiyo

2 Lightning

A lightning gleam:
into the darkness
a night-heron's cry

稲妻や
闇の方行く
五位の声

inazuma ya
yami no kata yuku
goi no koe

3 Spring rain

Spring rain
leaking through the roof
dripping from the wasp's nest

春雨や
蜂の巣つたふ
屋根の漏り

harusame ya
hachi no su tsutau
yane no mori

5 Autumn storm

Wild boars too
are blown along
an autumn wind

猪も
ともに吹かるる
野分かな

inoshishi mo
tomo ni fukaruru
nowaki kana

6 Temple bell (My grass-thatched hut)

Clouds of cherry blossoms
the temple bell in Ueno
or Asakusa?

花の雲
鐘は上野か
浅草か

hana no kumo
kane wa ueno ka
asakusa ka

7 A cicada shell

A cicada shell:
it sang itself
utterly away

声にみな
泣きしまふてや
蝉の殻

koe ni mina
nakishimôte ya
semi no kara

The haiku may be read out before (or after) each movement.

Performance notes

	Player 1	Player 2	Player 3	Player 4
1	Snare drum 1	Bell plate Triangle Suspended cymbal	Woodblocks (3)	Bongos
2	Snare drum 1	Triangle Suspended cymbal	Woodblocks (3)	Bongos
3	Snare drum 1	Castanets	Woodblocks (3)	Bongos
4	Snare drum 1	Triangle Suspended cymbal	Tambourine	Snare drum 2
5	Bell plate Triangle	Suspended cymbal	Tambourine	Maracas
6	Claves	Castanets	Woodblocks (3)	Güiro

Suggested layout

	Castanets	
	Suspended cymbal	Tambourine
	Triangle	Woodblocks
Bell plate		Maracas
Claves		Güiro
Snare drum 1		Bongos
		Snare drum 2

This arrangement provides separation between the two snares and bongos, but other arrangements are possible. The bell plate may be any resonant metal plate with a long sustain. It need not be large as long as it is fairly bell-like. A large hand bell is an alternative.

Cuculus optatus

The Oriental cuckoo or Horsfield's cuckoo

Gorsachius goisagi

The Japanese night heron

Six Haiku after Bashô for percussion quartet was awarded second prize by the Portland Percussion Group (www.portlandpercussiongroup.com) in “Nothing with Wheels 2015”. *Six Haiku* was first performed by the group in Portland in May 2015.

Paul Cowell
(www.paul-cowell-music.com)

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1 A cuckoo

Paul Cowell

A cuckoo cries
and through the vast bamboo thicket
the moon's light

Andante $\text{♩} = 84$

Snare drum 1

Bell plate

Triangle

Suspended cymbal

Woodblocks (3)
Cuculus optatus
soft mallets

Bongos

hands

stick shot
nat.

sim.

bell plate

I

II

III

IV

10

I

II

III

IV

sticks

p

15

I

II

III

IV

pp

mp

p

20

I

II

III

IV

triangle

ppp

susp cym

ppp

bell plate

ppp

ppp

p

2 Lightning

Paul Cowell

A lightning gleam:
into the darkness
a night-heron's cry

Moderato $\text{♩} = 90$

Snare drum I

Triangle

Suspended cymbal

Woodblocks (3)

Bongos

ppp nat. *sim.*

pp soft sticks

Gorsachius goisagi

I

II

III

IV

p

p

p

25

triangle
f
 susp cym
 3
 hard mallets
p
f
fff hard stick
p
p
p
f
ff
p

36

dome
 nat.
 sim.
ppp
pp soft sticks
ppp
ppp

49

p
pp
ppp
ppp
pp
p
p
pp

3 Spring rain

Paul Cowell

Spring rain
leaking through the roof
dripping from the wasp's nest

Allegro ♩ = 120

Snare drum 1

Castanets

Woodblocks (3)

Bongos

stick shot

nat. sim.

p sempre

hard mallets

p sempre

p sempre

8

I

II

III

IV

15

I

II

III

IV

22

System 1 (Measures 22-29):
Staff I: Starts with a rest, followed by eighth notes with beams, and quarter notes. Measure 29 ends with a double bar line.
Staff II: Mostly rests, with eighth notes in measures 25 and 26.
Staff III: Eighth notes with beams, quarter notes, and eighth notes with beams.
Staff IV: Eighth notes with beams, quarter notes, and eighth notes with beams.

30

System 2 (Measures 30-36):
Staff I: Eighth notes with beams, quarter notes, and eighth notes with beams. Measure 36 ends with a double bar line.
Staff II: Eighth notes with beams, quarter notes, and eighth notes with beams.
Staff III: Eighth notes with beams, quarter notes, and eighth notes with beams.
Staff IV: Eighth notes with beams, quarter notes, and eighth notes with beams.

37

System 3 (Measures 37-44):
Staff I: Eighth notes with beams, quarter notes, and eighth notes with beams. Measure 44 ends with a double bar line.
Staff II: Eighth notes with beams, quarter notes, and eighth notes with beams.
Staff III: Eighth notes with beams, quarter notes, and eighth notes with beams.
Staff IV: Eighth notes with beams, quarter notes, and eighth notes with beams.

4 Autumn storm

Paul Cowell

Wild boars too
are blown along
an autumn wind

Feroce $\text{♩} = 132$

Snare drum 1

Triangle

Suspended cymbal

Tambourine

Snare drum 2

I

II

III

IV

9

I *mf* 5 5 *p* 5

II

III

IV *mf* 5 5 *p* 5

13

I rimshot *ff*

II *ff*

III *ff*

IV rimshot *ff*

18

I nat. *f* 5 *ff* 5

II

III

IV nat. *f* 5 *ff* 5

♩ Temple bell (My grass-thatched hut)

Paul Cowell

Clouds of cherry blossoms
the temple bell in Ueno
or Asakusa?

Andante moderato ♩ = 132

Percussion:

- Bell plate:** 5/8 time signature, rests in all measures.
- Triangle:** 5/8 time signature, rests in all measures.
- Suspended cymbal:** 5/8 time signature, rests in all measures.
- Tambourine:** 5/8 time signature. Measure 1: quarter rest. Measure 2: quarter note (pp). Measure 3: quarter note (p), eighth notes (p). Measure 4: quarter note (pp).
- Maracas:** 5/8 time signature. Measure 1: eighth notes (p). Measure 2: eighth notes (p). Measure 3: quarter rest. Measure 4: eighth notes (pp).

Strings:

- I (Violin I):** 4/4 time signature. Measure 1: quarter note (f), quarter note (f), quarter note (f). Measure 2: quarter note (mf), quarter note (mf), quarter note (mf). Measure 3: quarter note (mf), quarter note (mf), quarter note (mf). Measure 4: quarter note (pp), quarter note (pp), quarter note (pp).
- II (Violin II):** 4/4 time signature. Measure 1: quarter note (p), quarter note (p), quarter note (p). Measure 2: quarter note (p), quarter note (p), quarter note (p). Measure 3: quarter note (p), quarter note (p), quarter note (p). Measure 4: quarter note (p), quarter note (p), quarter note (p).
- III (Viola):** 4/4 time signature, rests in all measures.
- IV (Cello/Double Bass):** 4/4 time signature, rests in all measures. Measure 4: quarter note (p).

12

I

II

III tanbourine
p

IV
pp *p*

17

I bell plate
p *pp* triangle
pp

II susp cym (bowed)
pp

III *p*

IV *p*

23

I *ppp* *ppp*

II *ppp*

III *pp*

IV *pp*

6 A cicada shell

Paul Cowell

A cicada shell:
it sang itself
utterly away

Moderato ♩ = 80

The musical score is written for four percussion instruments: Claves, Castanets, Woodblocks (3), and Güiro. The tempo is Moderato with a quarter note equal to 80 beats per minute. The time signature is 3/8. The Claves part consists of a single note on the third beat of the first measure, marked *p*. The Castanets part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and rests, with a triplet of eighth notes on the second beat of the first measure, marked *pp*, and a triplet of eighth notes on the second beat of the second measure, marked *p*. The Woodblocks (3) part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and rests, with a triplet of eighth notes on the second beat of the first measure, marked *p*, and triplets of eighth notes on the second beats of the second and third measures. The Güiro part consists of a single note on the second beat of the first measure, marked *pp*. The score is divided into four systems, labeled I, II, III, and IV. System I includes a fermata over the first measure of the Claves part. System II includes a triplet of eighth notes on the second beat of the first measure of the Castanets part, marked *pp*, and a triplet of eighth notes on the second beat of the second measure, marked *p*. System III includes a triplet of eighth notes on the second beat of the first measure of the Woodblocks (3) part, marked *p*, and a triplet of eighth notes on the second beat of the second measure, marked *pp*. System IV includes a triplet of eighth notes on the second beat of the first measure of the Güiro part, marked *pp*.

14

Musical score for measures 14-18, featuring four staves (I-IV).
Staff I: Rests in measures 14-15, then eighth notes with accents and triplets in measures 16-17, ending with a quarter note in measure 18.
Staff II: Triplet eighth notes in measures 14-15, rests in 16-17, then triplet eighth notes in measure 18.
Staff III: Triplet eighth notes in measures 14-15, then chords with triplets in measures 16-18.
Staff IV: Rests in measures 14-17, then a quarter note with an accent in measure 18.

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

19

Musical score for measures 19-24, featuring four staves (I-IV).
Staff I: Triplet eighth notes in measures 19-20, rests in 21-22, then triplet eighth notes in measure 23, ending with a quarter note in measure 24.
Staff II: Triplet eighth notes in measures 19-20, rests in 21-22, then triplet eighth notes in measure 23, ending with a quarter note in measure 24.
Staff III: Triplet eighth notes in measure 19, then chords with triplets in measures 20-24.
Staff IV: Rests in measures 19-20, then quarter notes with accents in measures 21-24.

f *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *f*

25

Musical score for measures 25-28, featuring four staves (I-IV).
Staff I: Rests in measures 25-26, then eighth notes with accents in measure 27, ending with a quarter note in measure 28.
Staff II: Rests in measures 25-28.
Staff III: Rests in measures 25-26, then chords with accents in measures 27-28.
Staff IV: Rests in measures 25-26, then quarter notes with accents in measures 27-28.

p *pp* *ppp* *pp*