

Crystal Miniatures for clarinet and drum set by Howard J. Buss was composed for clarinetist, Dr. Allison Storochuk. It was premiered by her and percussionist Jalan Jamal on July 9, 2023 at the Westin Westminster Hotel in Denver, Colorado during ClarinetFest. Through the ages people have attributed metaphysical properties to crystals. This set of five short character pieces musically addresses aspects of the nature of the respective crystals.

I. Mischievous Pyrite “Fool’s Gold” (1’43”)

II. Deep Azurite (1’52”)

III. Faceted Amethyst (2’06”)

IV. Smoky Quartz (2’07”)

V. Snowflake Tempest (2’54”)

Total duration without pauses is approximately 11’

It may come as a surprise to the listener that the often-lyrical melodies of *Crystal Miniatures* are dodecaphonic. Not all permutations of the row are used, and some are used more than once. It was the composer’s intent to musically reflect the similarities and the differences of geometric constructions of the crystals, while at the same time showcasing their beauty and unique auras.

	I ₀	I ₃	I ₇	I ₁₀	I ₉	I ₅	I ₁	I ₂	I ₈	I ₄	I ₆	I ₁₁	
P ₀	C	E _b	G	B _b	A	F	D _b	D	A _b	E	G _b	B	R ₀
P ₉	A	C	E	G	G _b	D	B _b	B	F	D _b	E _b	A _b	R ₉
P ₅	F	A _b	C	E _b	D	B _b	G _b	G	D _b	A	B	E	R ₅
P ₂	D	F	A	C	B	G	E _b	E	B _b	G _b	A _b	D _b	R ₂
P ₃	E _b	G _b	B _b	D _b	C	A _b	E	F	B	G	A	D	R ₃
P ₇	G	B _b	D	F	E	C	A _b	A	E _b	B	D _b	G _b	R ₇
P ₁₁	B	D	G _b	A	A _b	E	C	D _b	G	E _b	F	B _b	R ₁₁
P ₁₀	B _b	D _b	F	A _b	G	E _b	B	C	G _b	D	E	A	R ₁₀
P ₄	E	G	B	D	D _b	A	F	G _b	C	A _b	B _b	E _b	R ₄
P ₈	A _b	B	E _b	G _b	F	D _b	A	B _b	E	C	D	G	R ₈
P ₆	G _b	A	D _b	E	E _b	B	G	A _b	D	B _b	C	F	R ₆
P ₁	D _b	E	A _b	B	B _b	G _b	D	E _b	A	F	G	C	R ₁
	RI ₀	RI ₃	RI ₇	RI ₁₀	RI ₉	RI ₅	RI ₁	RI ₂	RI ₈	RI ₄	RI ₆	RI ₁₁	

Howard J. Buss (b.1951) is recognized internationally as a composer of contemporary classical music. His compositions have received critical acclaim and have been performed in more than 50 countries. His music is frequently featured at national and international music conventions and festivals. Faculty and student musicians from universities as well as current and former members of organizations such as The Boston Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, Vancouver Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, etc. have performed them. A copy of his patriotic composition *Fanfares* is included in the Presidential Collection of Ronald Reagan. Buss’ more than 280 published works include instrumental solos, chamber music, symphonic, choral, and band works.

Upon hearing his music critics have written: “By far the night’s most memorable piece” - The Los Angeles Times, “This is truly one of the finest works in our idiom” - Robert McCormick in the Florida Percussive News, “The evening’s highlight” - The Maine Sunday Telegram, and “Buss’ music is a mix of intellect and fun. There is a complexity here that is most appealing.” – Fanfare Magazine

Buss has received numerous awards and his commissioned works include original compositions as well as arrangements. His music is frequently analyzed in doctoral dissertations, lectures, and professional music journals. His compositions have been recorded on the Albany, Bottega Discantica (Italy), Crystal, Capstone, De Ferrari (Italy), DUX (Poland), Equilibrium, 4-Tay, Granada Brass (Spain), HoneyRock, IBS Classical (Spain), PL Productions, C. Alan Publications, Urania (Italy) and Ravello labels.

Howard J. Buss received a B.A. in Applied Music from West Chester University, M.M. in Performance and M.M. in Composition from Michigan State University, and D.M.A. in Composition from the University of Illinois. He is the founder and former editor of Brixton Publications (ASCAP) and Buss Publications (BMI), which publish contemporary American concert music.

Crystal Miniatures Drum Set Key

hi-hat (foot) kick drum low wood block snare drum (ghost stroke)

hi-hat (foot splash) low floor tom snare drum high wood block

ride cymbal 2 low mid tom ride cymbal 1 (on dome)

low tom cowbell ride cymbal 1 high mid tom hi-hat struck (closed)

hi-hat struck (open) triangle (open) bar chimes

crash cymbal 1 crash cymbal 2 (Such as TreeWorks Tre35db Classic Double-Row 69 Bar Chime)

7 tambourine maracas

Mallets: wooden sticks, wire brushes, 2 marimba mallets, metal beater for triangle.

Performance Notes:

It is easy for the percussionist to coverup and overwhelm the clarinetist. At all times the players must devote special attention to the balance. It is recommended that the drummer employ a lighter stick such as the 7a. The percussionist may choose to mute drum heads in spots as desired.

The drum set required includes four tom-toms. The notation suggests three mounted toms and one floor tom; however, the performer may elect to use two on the floor and two mounted. The drummer has the choice to either read from score, or from the provided drum set part.

for Allison Storochuk

Crystal Miniatures

Score in C

for clarinet and drum set

I. Mischievous Pyrite "Fool's Gold"

Howard J. Buss (ASCAP)

$\bullet = 126$

Clarinet
(part is in B \flat)

mf
wooden sticks (w.s.)

Drum Set

mf

mp

Cl. *f* *mf* *mp* *mf*

DS (snare ghost note) *f* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Cl. *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*

DS *f* *mf* *f* *mp*

Cl. *mp* *mf* *f* *p*

DS *mf* *f* *mp*

(hi-hat foot splash)

Cl. *mf*

DS *mf*

A

Cl.

DS

Cl. *f*

DS *f*

(b)

Cl. *f* *p*

DS *p*

D

Cl. *mf* *f* *molto rit.*

DS 50 *f* *mf*

Cl. 53 *ff*

DS 53 *f* *ff* l.v.

II. Deep Azurite

$\bullet = 72$

Cl. 55 *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

DS 55 *mp* *p* *p* *mp* *p*

wire brushes

metal beater

(brushes)

bar chimes use hand

lightly

mp

(Such as TreeWorks Tre35db Classic Double-Row 69 Bar Chime)

E

67

Cl. *ppp* wire brushes

DS *mp* *p > ppp* *p*

74

Cl. metal beater (brushes)

DS *pp* lightly *p* l.v.

79

Cl. *mp*

DS *p* lightly

83

Cl. *ppp*

DS bar chimes *mp*

(Such as TreeWorks Tre35db Classic Double-Row 69 Bar Chime)

III. Faceted Amethyst

86 $\bullet = 66$

Cl.

Tambourine

DS

mf

6/8 alternates with 3/4

foot pedals

mf

90

Cl.

DS

mf

f

mf

hi-hat foot splash

f

94

Cl.

DS

mf

f

mf

f

Detailed description: This musical score is for the piece 'Faceted Amethyst' from the 'Crystal Miniatures' collection. It is written in C major and 6/8 time, with a tempo of 66 beats per minute. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 86-89) features a Clarinet (Cl.) with a whole rest, a Tambourine with a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and accents, and Drums (DS) with a simple bass drum pattern. The second system (measures 90-93) includes a Clarinet part with a melodic line starting at measure 90, marked with a box 'F'. The Tambourine continues its pattern, and the Drums add a hi-hat foot splash. The third system (measures 94-97) shows the Clarinet with a more complex melodic line, while the Tambourine and Drums maintain their respective patterns. Dynamics range from mezzo-forte (mf) to forte (f).

G

99

Cl. *mp* *mf*

DS *mf*

104

Cl.

DS *f* w.s.

109

Cl.

DS

H

116

Cl. *mp* metal beater

DS *mp* wire brushes

120

Cl.

DS

w.s.

mp \longrightarrow *mf*

125

Cl.

DS

f

L.v.

I

130

Cl.

DS

f

134

Cl.

DS

mf

f

3

138

Cl.

DS

p \longrightarrow *mf*

on bell - - - - -

ord.

IV. Smoky Quartz

♩ = 63

154

Cl.

154

Maracas

154

DS

marimba mallets

p

pppp < *ppp* > *pppp*

160

Cl.

160

DS

p

p < *mp* > *p*

p

168

Cl.


168

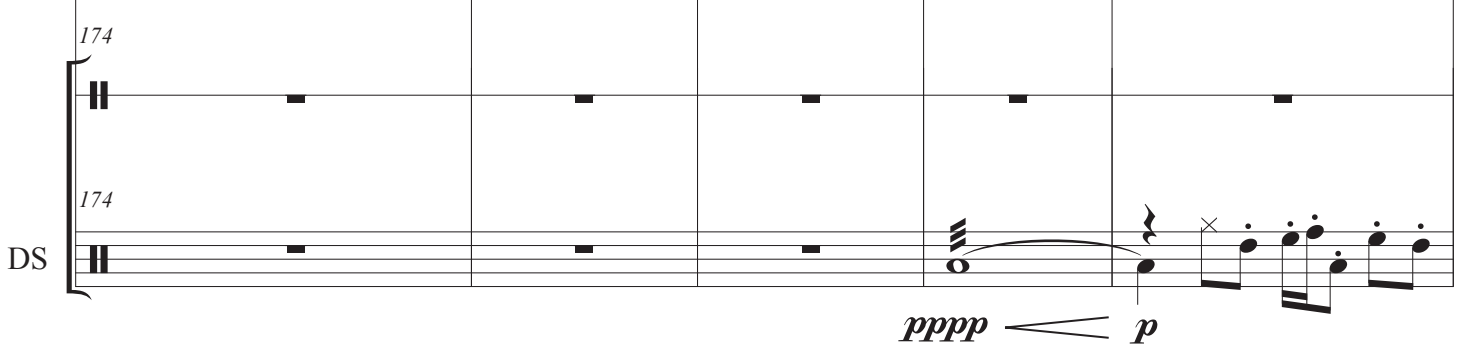
DS

K


(4)

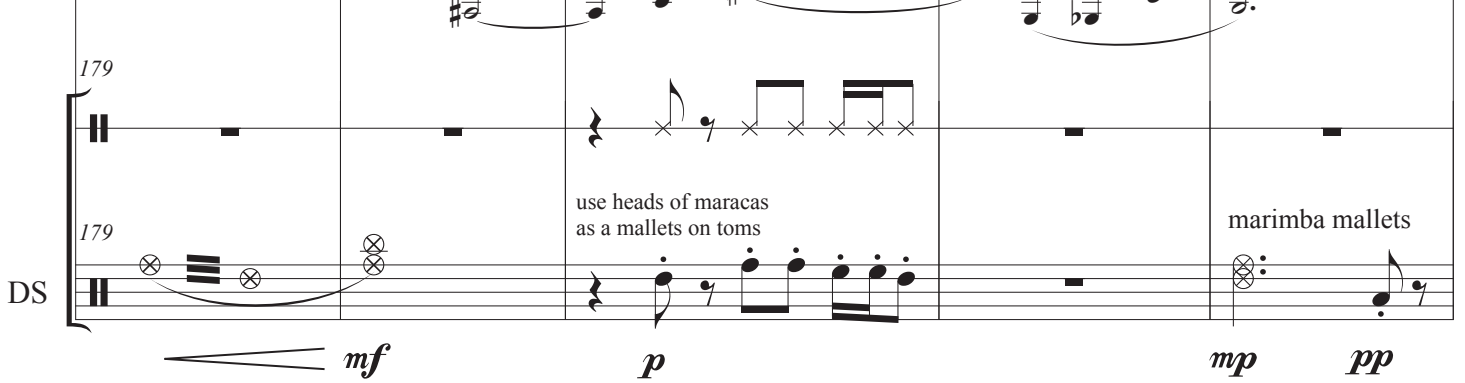
pppp < *ppp* > *pppp* *p* < *mf*

Cl. 


DS 

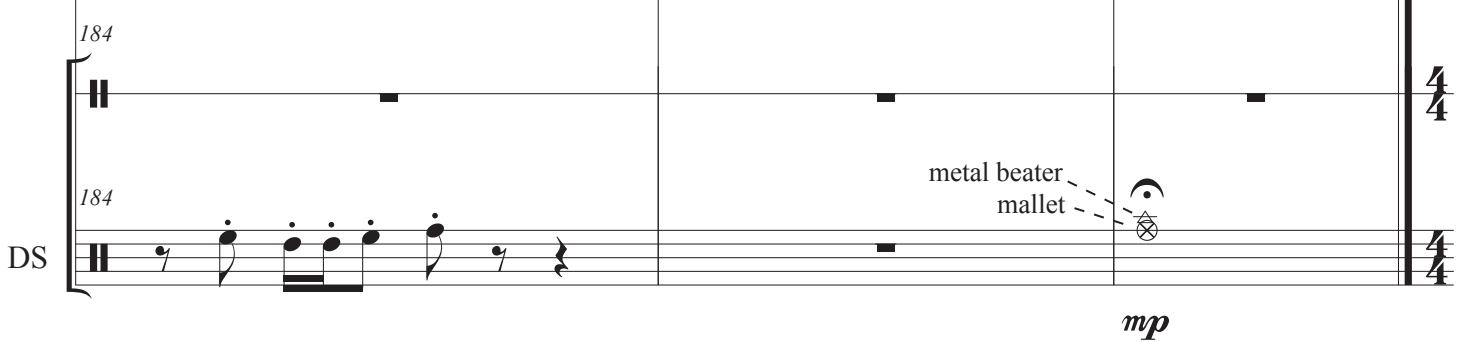
pppp \triangleleft *p*

Cl. 

DS 

mf *p* *mp* *pp*

Cl. 

DS 

mp

V. Snowflake Tempest

♩ = 112

187

Cl. *mf*

DS

189

Cl. *f*

DS *mp* *f*

w.s.

192

Cl.

DS *f* *mp*

M

196

Cl. *mf*

DS *mf*

Cl. ¹⁹⁹ *tr* *mf* *p* *mf*

DS ¹⁹⁹ *mf* *p* *mf*

Cl. ²⁰³ *f.t. and growl* *tr* *mp* *f sub.*

DS ²⁰³ *pppp* *mp* *f sub.*

Cl. ²⁰⁷ *mf*

DS ²⁰⁷ *mf*

N

(♩=♩) ♩ = 56

Cl. ²¹¹ *p* *ff* *mf*

DS ²¹¹ *p* *ff* *mf*

215

Cl.

DS

mf

217

Cl.

DS

mp *f*

p *ff*

mf

219

Cl.

DS

mf

mf

221

Cl.

DS