

Chair Jam Performance Notes

This piece is written in the style of Japanese Taiko drumming as it has long phrases, many unisons and endless possibilities for visual enhancement within the Taiko drumming style. Plan to research Taiko drumming to enhance the experience and understanding of this culture of drumming.

This piece utilizes drumsticks being played on various parts of a standard, classroom chair, without arms, to produce the various sounds. How the chair is played, or where it is played, is notated below the note and the stickings are notated below the sound. Please refer to the legend below for notation and correct stickings. As with dynamics, all notations and stickings should continue until a new notation or sticking is presented.

The chairs should be placed at the front of the stage with the **A** chairs positioned sideways with the back of the chair facing stage right with the left side of the chair to the audience. The **B** chairs should be placed back to back with the **A** chairs. **B** chairs should face the opposite direction with the back of the chair facing stage left, with the right side of the chair to the audience. Players should stand in front of their chairs with **A** players right side of their body toward the audience and **B** players should face **A** players with the left side of their body facing the audience. **A** and **B** players will be facing each other in pairs.

Rehearsal tips:

1. If staffing allows, plan to rehearse in sectionals with the **A** and **B** groups rehearsing separately.
2. Secondly, practice together but with each voice in a large group; i.e. **A A A A A A** **B B B B B B**
This allows for more success due to being surrounded by the same voice. This would also suffice for a performance.
3. The final goal would be to rehearse and perform as follows; **A B A B A B A B A B A B**
This is much more appealing, visually, but, also certainly harder for performers as each performer is surrounded by the opposite voice.

The suggested "per player" equipment for this piece would be as follows:

- 1 standard metal and/or plastic classroom chair
- 1 pair of light drumset sticks or timbale sticks

Legend:

- B** – strike one or both sticks in the middle of the seat of the chair.
- SB** – strike one or both sticks on each side of the seat of the chair, where there is metal reinforcement.
- S** – strike one or both sticks directly on the side of the back of the chair, as it faces you.
- T** – strike one or both sticks in the middle of the top of the back of the chair.
- SC** – strike both sticks together, stick clicks, in the formation of an **X** in front of the players face.

Chair Jam

by Lamar Burkhalter

♩ = 160 - 168

The musical score is divided into four systems, each with two staves: Chair A (top) and Chair B (bottom).
- **System 1 (Measures 1-4):** Chair A and B play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with stems and flags. Above the notes are letters T and S. Below the stems are letters R and L. A dynamic marking *f* is present at the start.
- **System 2 (Measures 5-8):** Chair A and B continue the rhythmic pattern. Above the notes are letters SB and B. Below the stems are letters R and L.
- **System 3 (Measures 9-13):** Chair A and B play a pattern of quarter notes with stems and flags. Above the notes are letters B, SC, SB, S, and T. Below the stems are letters R and L. Measure 13 has a boxed 'A' above it.
- **System 4 (Measures 14-18):** Chair A and B play a pattern of quarter notes with stems and flags. Above the notes are letters B, SB, and S. Below the stems are letters R and L. Chair B has a dynamic marking *ff* at the start of this system.

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