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African Sun Walk

by Dan Moore

Medium - 3:58 / 8-9 Players

Instrumentation

**Xylophone, (2) Marimbas (one 4 octave, one 4 1/3 octave), Vibes,
(2) Djembes, Axatse (Shakere or Shaker), African Bell,
(2) Djun Djuns or Small Marching Bass Drums, Mark Tree**

Performance Notes

- African Sun Walk should be played at a nice "walking tempo," so don't play it too fast.
- In measures 66 - 91, the Xylo & Vibes players move to Marimba 2 as in traditional marimba playing of Mexico and Central America. If using pans or added players, those players either drop out or they can also move to additional marimbas (three players on each instrument as needed).
 - The conductor/leader should play a sparsely improvised talking drum part.
- Letters C, F, & G are solo sections and may be repeated as desired. All Solos are on the D pentatonic scale.
- The axatse is an African style gourd shaker played in a sitting position. "K" indicates to hit the axatse on the knee and "H" means to play with the hand.
 - Djembe sounds are indicated as follows: 1st space - bass tone / 3rd space - open tone
2nd space with x - dead tone (play leaving the hands dampening the drum) / top of staff with x - slap tone
- Bass drums are traditional African djun djun drums but two small marching bass drums (played horizontally) can be easily substituted.
- The African bell or gancogui is an iron bell with a dark complex tone. A timbale cowbell played with a metal beater is a good substitute.
 - The vibes part can be played on either vibes or double second steel pans or can be doubled on both.
A lead pan can also be used with some minor octave adjustments.
 - The xylophone part can also be doubled on a lead pan.

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♩ = 116-120

The musical score is arranged in a system of staves. The top staff is for Xylophone, followed by Vibes / Steel Pan, Marimba 1, Marimba 2, Djembe 1, Djembe 2, Axatse (Shaker), and 2 Bass Drums / African Bell / Mark Tree. The score is in 2/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked as ♩ = 116-120. The piece is divided into four measures. The first measure is a rest for all instruments. The second measure begins with a 2-measure rest for the Xylophone, Vibes, and Marimbas, followed by a 4-measure rhythmic pattern. The third measure continues the rhythmic pattern. The fourth measure concludes with a 4-measure rest for the Xylophone, Vibes, and Marimbas, followed by a 4-measure rhythmic pattern. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). Performance markings include accents (^) and slurs (>). The Axatse part includes a sequence of notes marked with 'K' and 'H' in the fourth measure, with a dynamic of *f*.

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Xylophone

Vibes / Steel Pan

Marimba 1

Marimba 2

Djembe 1

Djembe 2

Axatse (Shaker)

**2 Bass Drums
African Bell
Mark Tree**

5 6 7 8

mf

mf

K K H K H K H K *simile throughout*

African Sun Walk

pg. 3

Musical score for *African Sun Walk*, page 3. The score is written for a percussion ensemble and consists of nine staves, each representing a different instrument. The music is in 4/4 time and the key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The score is divided into four measures, numbered 9, 10, 11, and 12. The dynamic marking *mf* (mezzo-forte) is indicated at the beginning of measures 10, 11, and 12. The instruments and their parts are:

- Xylophone:** Measures 10-12 feature a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, starting with a *mf* dynamic.
- Vibes / Steel Pan:** Measures 9-12 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents (>) and a repeat sign in measure 9.
- Marimba 1:** Measures 10-12 feature a melodic line with eighth notes, starting with a *mf* dynamic.
- Marimba 2:** Measures 9-12 feature a bass line with eighth notes and rests.
- Djembe 1:** Measures 9-12 feature a complex rhythmic pattern with eighth and sixteenth notes and accents.
- Djembe 2:** Measures 9-12 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents.
- Axatse (Shaker):** Measures 9-12 feature a steady rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.
- 2 Bass Drums:** Measures 9-12 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.
- African Bell:** Measures 9-12 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.
- Mark Tree:** Measures 9-12 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

The overall dynamic marking *mf* is placed at the bottom of the page, centered under measures 10-12.