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Iron Mon

by John R. Hearnes

Medium - 4:19 / 10 - 12 Players

Instrumentation

**Xylo, Vibes, 4 1/3 Octave Marimba,
Electric Guitar, Electric Bass, Drumset,
Congas, Mounted Tambourine, Glass Bottle,
Vibraslap, Hi/Lo Jam Blocks, Shaker, Guiro,
Small Mounted Cowbell, Splash Cymbal**

Performance Notes for *Iron Mon*

Iron Mon is a piece that explores two styles of music from Jamaica: reggae and ska. The reggae feel used in the first half of the piece is a two-feel shuffle known as “one drop” where count 1 of the measure is dropped from the bass drum pattern and the emphasis is on count 3 (or 2, if counting in cut time). After the fermata, the ensemble kicks into a ska feel. The eighth notes are now straight, and the feel changes to four instead of two. The tempo does not have to speed up at that section, but it is fine to do so.

It would be very helpful for performers of the piece to study the history and theory of Jamaican music, including listening to different pieces that incorporate the styles found in *Iron Mon*.

The drumset player should pay close attention to getting the right feel for the reggae and ska patterns. The piece can turn square quickly if the right feel is not being played. The snares should be turned off, and care should be taken to note the difference between the cross stick and regular snare hit notations. Although it is recommended for the player to ad lib, he or she should remember to do so in the proper style; this includes types of fills and where to accent with crashes.

The percussion parts can be played by one person each, with both players setting up his or her zone to facilitate ease of reaching all instruments. If desired, to accommodate more players, assign two players to each part. As stated earlier, listening to good Jamaican music should be helpful for understanding how auxiliary percussion parts function within the groove. Players can ad lib as long as the parts fit the style and are supportive of the groove.

Space is important to the groove of the bass line. The guitar part should be played with a clean sound; keep the notes crisp but not muted where the tone isn't clear.

The second marimba part should watch carefully for the 8vb (one octave lower) and loco (as written) sections in the music. **Both marimba parts can be played on the same instrument**, but there may be a couple of instances of “elbow rubbing.”

The section at Letter **H** can be opened up as long as desired for a vibes solo. Use the G major scale to start with, then branch out to other cool tones as music theory knowledge and aural skills allow.

Have fun!

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♩ = 138 Reggae Style: Shuffle 8s, Two Feel

The musical score is arranged in a multi-staff format. The top four staves (Xylophone, Vibraphone, Marimba 1, and Marimba 2) are currently empty, with only measure numbers 2, 3, and 4 indicated above the lines. The bottom five staves (Guitar, Bass Guitar, Drum Set, Percussion 1, and Percussion 2) contain musical notation. The Drum Set part includes notes with 'x' marks above them, indicating muted slaps. The Percussion 1 part includes notes with 'x' marks above them, indicating muted slaps. The Percussion 2 part includes notes with 'y' marks above them, indicating vibraslap. The score is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Marimba 2: all notes 8vb through measure 71

ad lib in "one drop" style
hi hat, cross stick

snares off

mf

congas ad lib

x = muted slap

mtd. tamb.

vibraslap

high/low mtd. blocks

small mtd. cowbell

mf

Iron Mon

pg. 2

Musical score for "Iron Mon" (page 2). The score is arranged in a grand staff format with the following instruments and parts:

- Xylophone:** Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 5, 6, 7, and 8 contain rests.
- Vibraphone:** Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 5, 6, 7, and 8 contain rests.
- Marimba 1:** Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 5, 6, 7, and 8 contain rests.
- Marimba 2:** Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 5, 6, 7, and 8 contain rests.
- Guitar:** Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 5, 6, 7, and 8 contain rests.
- Bass Guitar:** Bass clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 5, 6, 7, and 8 contain rests.
- Drum Set:** Treble clef. Features a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents (marked with 'x') and occasional cymbal hits (marked with 'o' and '+').
- Percussion 1:** Treble clef. Features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents (marked with 'x') and a section labeled "straight 8s" in the final measure.
- Percussion 2:** Treble clef. Features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents (marked with 'x') and a section labeled "splash" in the final measure.

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A

Xylophone: Rests in measures 9, 10, 11, and 12.

Vibraphone: Rests in measures 9 and 10. In measure 10, plays a dotted quarter note G4. In measure 11, plays a dotted quarter note G4. In measure 12, plays a dotted quarter note G4. *mf*. *simile thru bar 33*.

Marimba 1: Rests in measures 9, 10, 11, and 12.

Marimba 2: Rests in measures 9 and 10. In measure 11, plays a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) marked *mf* and *(8vb)*. Rests in measure 12.

Guitar: Rests in measures 9 and 10. In measure 10, plays a chord G marked *mf* and *clean, neck pickup*. In measure 11, plays a chord G. In measure 12, plays a chord Am.

Bass Guitar: Rests in measures 9 and 10. In measure 10, plays a glissando marked *mf* and *gliss*. In measure 11, plays a quarter note G2. In measure 12, plays a quarter note G2.

Drum Set: Plays a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with a snare drum on the second and fourth beats. *mf*.

Percussion 1: Plays a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with a snare drum on the second and fourth beats. *mf*.

Percussion 2: Plays a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with a snare drum on the second and fourth beats. *mf*.

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rit. -----

a tempo (or faster)
Straight 8s, Four Feel

E *Ska!*

Xylophone
61 62 63 64
mf *f* *mf*

Vibraphone
mf *f* *mf*

Marimba 1
mf *f* *mf*

Marimba 2
mf *f* *mf*

Guitar
Am Bm C D G
mf *f* *mf*

Bass Guitar
mf *f* *mf*

Drum Set
mf *f* *f* *mf*
set up ska section
ad lib ska groove, utilize hi hat bell
(all hi hat notes open except 2 and 4)

Percussion 1
mf *f* *mf*
ad lib

Percussion 2
shaker
mf

mf

Iron Mon

pg. 17

This musical score is for page 17 of the piece "Iron Mon". It features eight staves of music, each with a specific instrument or role:

- Xylophone:** Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 65-68. Includes dynamic markings like mf and f .
- Vibraphone:** Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 65-68. Includes dynamic markings like mf and f .
- Marimba 1:** Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 65-68. Includes dynamic markings like mf and f .
- Marimba 2:** Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 65-68. Includes dynamic markings like mf and f .
- Guitar:** Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 65-68. Chord symbols C, D, G, and G are indicated above the staff.
- Bass Guitar:** Bass clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 65-68.
- Drum Set:** Standard drum notation with various symbols for snare, hi-hat, and bass drum.
- Percussion 1:** Standard percussion notation with various symbols.
- Percussion 2:** Standard percussion notation with various symbols.

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Xylophone [#]69 70 71 72 *f*

Vibraphone *mf*

Marimba 1 *f*

Marimba 2 (end 8vb) *loco to 87 (both x)* *f*

Guitar C D G C D G *mf*

Bass Guitar (*) on repeat only* *mf*

Drum Set *f* *mf* *cont. ab lib*

Percussion 1 *mf*

Percussion 2 *mf*

Section Header: **F**