



“Foremost In Marching And Concert Percussion Literature”

P.O. Box 292671 Nashville, TN 37229 / 1-800-624-8001 FAX 1-615-885-0370 / [www.rowloff.com](http://www.rowloff.com)

# Seconds Away

by **Cory Nichols**  
**Advanced - 5:50 / 10 Players**

## Instrumentation

Bells, (2) Vibes, (2) Marimba, Timpani, Chimes, Drum Set,  
Congas, Bongos, Gong, Bass Drum, (2) Temple Blocks,  
Sand Block, Suspended Cymbal, Shakers, Bell Tree,  
Hi-Hat, Triangle, Sleigh Bells, Claves, Slap Stick

*Program Notes Included.*

“SECONDS AWAY” by Cory Nichols © 2022 by Row-Loff Productions  
International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved.

# Program Notes for *Seconds Away*

“Seconds Away” was written in 2002 as a sleep-deprived college student, trying to find my way in a competitive program. While writing it, parts of my life began to make its way into the composition. There is a time motif that persists throughout the piece noting 2 precious commodities for a young college student: time and sleep. This is where “Seconds Away” begins.

A young undergrad goes from dreaming in a deep sleep, to waking up in a panic because you are running late for an 8 am music theory class. You are running late and on top of that, the car won’t start because you drive the typical “college clunker”. At the last minute, it starts and your adventure begins. While driving to class, you notice a river and the landscapes that surround it on a beautiful morning. Once parked, the chaos returns as you run across campus to get to class. Once you arrive to your destination you feel a sense of relief and triumph only to realize you will do the journey all over again tomorrow.

This piece had many influences. At the time I was immersing myself in the music of Pat Metheny, Genesis, and Yes. I was also becoming aware and maybe a little obsessed with the writing style of Erik Johnson from The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps. Erik was the first arranger that made me think differently about the role of front percussion ensemble in a marching activity. He knew how to make an outdoor ensemble sound like a percussion ensemble in a concert hall. There are many nods to Erik throughout the piece. In closing, I would like to give a special thanks to Ken Green for being a great mentor and encouraging me to write and compose. Ken has been a champion for “Seconds Away” for many years and has pushed me to get this piece published. Thanks for the nudge, Mr. Green. I would also like to thank Oliver Molina for his help behind the scenes coordinating and communicating. An additional thanks to Zack La Fosse for his help in editing the music prior to publishing.

## About Cory

“Seconds Away” is Cory’s debut as a published composer for percussion ensemble. Cory received his bachelor’s degree at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA under director of percussion, Ken Green. Cory has instructed percussion programs for many high school ensembles in Louisiana and Tennessee. In 2003, Cory moved to Nashville to focus on performance as a bass player. He has played with various ensembles as a live performer and studio sessionist. In 2016, Cory switched gears and attended Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN to join the master’s program in Applied Behavioral Analysis. He received his degree in the Fall of 2017 and received his certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. As Cory continues to practice in this field, he still performs and records sessions as a bassist in Nashville.

# Seconds Away

Dedicated to Ken Green and the Northwestern State University Percussion Ensemble

by Cory Nichols

♩ = 84

The musical score is written for a percussion ensemble in 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves. The first four staves are for Marimba 1, Marimba 2, Vibes 1, and Vibes 2. The next three staves are for Bells, Chimes, and Timpani. The final three staves are for Drum Set, Percussion 1, and Percussion 2. The score is divided into six measures. Marimba 1 plays a sustained chord in the first measure, marked *p*. Marimba 2, Vibes 1, and Vibes 2 enter in the third measure with sustained chords, marked *p*. In the fifth measure, Marimba 2, Vibes 1, and Vibes 2 play chords marked *mp*. The Drum Set part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with 'x' marks, including a 'cup chime' in the first measure. Percussion 1 plays a steady eighth-note pattern with 'x' marks, marked *p*, with a note for '2 temple blocks' in the first measure. Percussion 2 plays a steady eighth-note pattern with 'x' marks, marked *p*, with a note for 'triangle' in the first measure.

# Seconds Away

pg. 2

*dreamy*

*dead strokes*

7 8 9 10 11

*mp*

*mf*

*mf*

Marimba 1

Marimba 2

Vibes 1

Vibes 2

Bells

Chimes

Timpani

Drum Set

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

# Seconds Away

pg. 15

This musical score is for page 15 of the piece "Seconds Away". It features ten staves of music, each for a different instrument or percussion part. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into four measures, each 16 bars long. The first measure starts at bar 61 and ends at bar 64. The second measure starts at bar 65 and ends at bar 72. The third measure starts at bar 73 and ends at bar 80. The fourth measure starts at bar 81 and ends at bar 88. The instruments and their parts are: Marimba 1 (melodic line with slurs and dynamics), Marimba 2 (rhythmic accompaniment), Vibes 1 (melodic line with slurs and dynamics), Vibes 2 (rhythmic accompaniment), Bells (melodic line with slurs and dynamics), Chimes (chordal accompaniment), Timpani (rests), Drum Set (cup chime), Percussion 1 (2 temple blocks), and Percussion 2 (triangle). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, dynamics (ff), and performance instructions like "dead strokes" and "no pedal".

**Marimba 1**  
61 *dead strokes* 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 64  
*ff*

**Marimba 2**

**Vibes 1**  
*dead strokes* 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 64  
*ff*

**Vibes 2**

**Bells**  
*dead strokes* 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 64  
*ff*

**Chimes**  
*no pedal* 3

**Timpani**

**Drum Set**  
*cup chime*

**Percussion 1**  
*2 temple blocks*

**Percussion 2**  
*triangle*

# Seconds Away

pg. 16

65 6 6 66 *normal strokes* 67 68 69

**Marimba 1**  
*ff* *p*

**Marimba 2**  
*ff* *p*

**Vibes 1**  
*normal strokes*  
*ff* *p*

**Vibes 2**  
*ff* *p*

**Bells**  
*ff*

**Chimes**  
*normal pedal*  
*ff* *mp*

**Timpani**  
*to normal playing area*  
*pedal gliss. up, rev. like a car*  
*ff* *normal*

**Drum Set**  
*china*  
*mp* *flat ride cymbal*

**Percussion 1**  
*suspended cymbal*  
*mp* *2 temple blocks*

**Percussion 2**  
*f* *sleigh bells* *f*

*f*

# Seconds Away

pg. 31

Musical score for "Seconds Away" (page 31), featuring multiple percussion instruments. The score is divided into four measures, with measure numbers 117, 118, 119, and 120 indicated above the Marimba 1 staff.

**Marimba 1:** Measures 117-119 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in a descending sequence. Measure 120 features a complex rhythmic pattern with a key signature change to one flat (B-flat).

**Marimba 2:** Measures 117-119 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in a descending sequence. Measure 120 features a complex rhythmic pattern with a key signature change to one flat (B-flat).

**Vibes 1:** Measures 117-119 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in a descending sequence. Measure 120 features a complex rhythmic pattern with a key signature change to one flat (B-flat).

**Vibes 2:** Measures 117-119 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in a descending sequence. Measure 120 features a complex rhythmic pattern with a key signature change to one flat (B-flat).

**Bells:** Measures 117-119 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in a descending sequence. Measure 120 features a complex rhythmic pattern with a key signature change to one flat (B-flat).

**Chimes:** Measures 117-119 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in a descending sequence. Measure 120 features a complex rhythmic pattern with a key signature change to one flat (B-flat).

**Timpani:** Measures 117-119 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in a descending sequence. Measure 120 features a complex rhythmic pattern with a key signature change to one flat (B-flat).

**Drum Set:** Measures 117-119 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in a descending sequence. Measure 120 features a complex rhythmic pattern with a key signature change to one flat (B-flat).

**Percussion 1:** Measures 117-119 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in a descending sequence. Measure 120 features a complex rhythmic pattern with a key signature change to one flat (B-flat).

**Percussion 2:** Measures 117-119 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in a descending sequence. Measure 120 features a complex rhythmic pattern with a key signature change to one flat (B-flat).

# Seconds Away

pg. 32

Musical score for "Seconds Away" (page 32), featuring ten instruments: Marimba 1, Marimba 2, Vibes 1, Vibes 2, Bells, Chimes, Timpani, Drum Set, Percussion 1, and Percussion 2. The score is in 2/4 time and D major. The first four measures are marked with measure numbers 121, 122, 123, and 124. All instruments play at a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic.

**Marimba 1:** Plays a series of chords in the right hand, starting with a *ff* dynamic. Measure numbers 121, 122, 123, and 124 are indicated above the staff.

**Marimba 2:** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand, starting with a *ff* dynamic.

**Vibes 1:** Plays a melodic line in the right hand, starting with a *ff* dynamic.

**Vibes 2:** Plays a chordal accompaniment in the right hand, starting with a *ff* dynamic.

**Bells:** Plays a melodic line in the right hand, starting with a *ff* dynamic.

**Chimes:** Plays a melodic line in the right hand, starting with a *ff* dynamic.

**Timpani:** Plays a melodic line in the right hand, starting with a *ff* dynamic.

**Drum Set:** Plays a rhythmic pattern in the right hand, starting with a *ff* dynamic.

**Percussion 1:** Plays a rhythmic pattern in the right hand, starting with a *ff* dynamic.

**Percussion 2:** Plays a rhythmic pattern in the right hand, starting with a *ff* dynamic.



