

Dance of the Wind Up Toy

by Chris Crockarell

Publisher: Row-Loff Productions (1993)
Duration: 2' 30"
Difficulty: Easy
Players: 9 players

Instrumentation:

- 1) Bells
- 2) Xylophone
- 3) Vibraphone
- 4) Marimba 1
- 5) Marimba 2 (share 4.3 octave instrument with player four)
- 6) Tambourine, Snare Drum, High Tom, Ride Cymbal
- 7) Ratchet, Triangle, Suspended Cymbal, Siren Whistle
- 8) Wood Block, Temple Blocks, Bass Drum
- 9) Timpani (32", 29", 26", 23")

Composer Notes:

Dance of the Wind-Up Toy was written in the early years of Row-Loff Productions. There was a concern about the void of easier percussion ensemble literature in the marketplace. This piece was intended to be fun and entertaining for the students yet with subliminal basic theory such as easy chord changes and basic arpeggio movement for the keyboards as well as basic percussion instruments using repetitive rhythms in order to serve as a listening tool for other players. I feel that it is very important in the early stages of percussion performance to allow the student to be a part of a repetitive groove. The timpani part has its stand-out moments as well as supplying a strong lower tonal and rhythmic foundation throughout the piece. Just for fun, there are a few "toy" instruments written that help establish that "Wind-Up Toy" sound.

Formal Structure:

m. 1: Introduction	m. 46: C Section
m. 7: A Section	m. 62: Transition
m. 30: Transition	m. 66: B Section reprise
m. 34: B Section	m. 74: Coda
m. 42: Transition	

Historical/Stylistic Considerations:

This work was commissioned by Russell Middle School and is clearly designed as a piece to introduce young students to percussion ensemble.

Technical Elements:

All mallet parts are playable with two mallets and each part, except bells, includes some double stops. The three non-pitched percussion parts require each student to manage multiple percussion instruments, but with sufficient time between each instrument to make this an excellent introduction to multiple percussion logistics. The timpani part contains four tuning changes which could be challenging to younger percussionists if tuning gauges aren't available.

Musical Elements:

The entire piece is set in B-flat major and at steady tempo in common time except for a ritardando and 6/4 measure in the coda. Mallet parts that aren't stepwise often feature chordal outlines and the majority of the dynamics are consistent throughout the entire ensemble.

Teaching Points:

- **Point 1 – Multiple Percussion Logistics:** Percussion 2 m. 62-82

sus. cymbal w/ hard yarn mallet

62 63 64 65 66

ff

67 68 69 70 71

mf

72 73 *siren* 74 *crash cymbals or sus. w/ stick* 75 76

ff

Ritard 77 78 79 80 81 *ratchet* 82 *sus. cymbal*

mf *f* *ff*

$\text{♩} = 132$

- **Point 2 – Reading a Moving vs. Stationary Melodic Line:** Vibes m. 54-57

54 55 56 57

- **Point 3 – Broken Chords:** Bells m. 23-30

23 24 25 26 27

f

28 29 30