

As Soon As I Can Let Go, I Will Go Alone

for 12-Piece Sinfonietta Ensemble

(2026)

MARK KIM-MULGREW

As Soon As I Can Let Go, I Will Go Alone

for 12-Piece Sinfonietta Ensemble

2026

Mark Kim-Mulgrew

Duration: 5 minutes

Score revision in July 2026

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Instrumentation

Flute

Clarinet in Bb

Trumpet in C

Trombone

Percussion 1

3 Wood Blocks

1 Snare Drum

1 Bass Drum

1 Marimba

Percussion 2

3 Wood Blocks (shared with Percussion 1)

1 Snare Drum (shared with Percussion 1)

1 Tam-tam

1 Vibraphone

Piano

Violin 1/2

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

Program Notes

"As Soon As I Can Let Go, I Will Go Alone", written for the Texas New Music Ensemble, began with a melody. It made sense, I thought, to repeat this melody a few times. At some point, it no longer made sense to do so, but I didn't want to leave it behind yet. I tried to hold on to it, starting with what I thought was a useful abstraction. Eventually, I ended up with a small fragment that I repeated again, and again, and again. Oh, and there's the original melody again. Was I supposed to let it go?

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Tempo

There is one tempo marking ("fast and relentlessly") for the entire piece, with no tempo changes (e.g., accel., rit.) or pauses (e.g., fermatas). Keeping a consistent tempo is important, given the central importance of rhythm and meter in this piece (see also "Metric and Rhythmic Considerations").

The suggested tempo is dotted quarter equals 72 throughout the piece. The composer hopes that the ensemble will choose a sufficiently high beats-per-minute count to properly channel the *fast and relentless* (e.g., 72 – 84). But a performance at a slower tempo (e.g., dotted quarter equals 66) with rhythmic clarity is preferable to a less crisp performance at a faster tempo.

Metric and Rhythmic Considerations

There are metric changes at nearly every measure of this piece, and the composer hopes that the ensemble can forgive him for this transgression. The piece revolves around a small number of metric grids and variations thereof:

1. The *theme*, which consists of *Part A* ($5/8 + 6/8 + 7/8 + 3/8 + 9/16$) and *Part B* ($10/16 + 5/8 + 5/16 + 6/16 + 10/16$)
2. The *response* to the theme, which consists of a *buildup* ($5/8 + 3/4 + 9/8 + 7/8$) and a *release* ($5/8 + 6/8 + 6/8 + 6/8$)
3. The *percussion loop*, which repeats 10/16.

Using the above, the metric and rhythmic map of the piece can be given as follows.

Theme	Response	Theme	Response	Transition	Theme	Percussion Loop	Theme	Percussion Loop	Theme	Theme
RN#1 – 3	RN #4 – 5	RN#6 – 16	RN #17 – 18	RN #19	RN#20 – 21	RN#22 – 28	RN#29	RN#30 – 36	RN#37	RN#38

- Rehearsal #1 is the initial introduction of Theme Parts A and B.
- Rehearsal #2 is Theme Parts A and B.
- Rehearsal #3 is Theme Part A.
- Rehearsal #4 is Response Buildup and Response
- Rehearsal #5 is Response Buildup with one beat truncated from the last measure (m. 37) and a 2/8-measure (m. 38) appended for punctuation.
- Rehearsal #6 is Theme Parts A and B.
- Rehearsal 7 – 14 retain the metric and rhythmic structures of Theme Part A and B precisely, once the three one-measure interjections (m. 64, m. 74, m. 86) are excluded. The interjections recycle rhythmic materials from Response.
- Rehearsal #15 – 16 are Theme Parts A and B.
- Rehearsal #17 – 18 are Response Buildup and Response, followed by 5 extra measures of 6/8.
- Rehearsal #19 is a transition section, entirely in 6/8.
- Rehearsal #20 – 21 are Theme Parts A and B.
- Rehearsal #22 – 24 is Percussion Loop, with the marimba in the background layer repeating the rhythmic material of the last measure of Theme Part B (which is in 10/16). Both the wood blocks in the middle ground layer and the soloing instrument in the foreground layer repeat the same rhythmic pattern spanning four Percussion Loops.
- Rehearsal #25 repeats the same Percussion Loop rhythmic material as the background layer of Rehearsal #22 – 24.
- Rehearsal #26 – 27 has the same metric and rhythmic structure as Rehearsal #23 – 24.
- Rehearsal #28 has the same metric and rhythmic structure as Rehearsal #25.
- Rehearsal #29 is Theme Part B.
- Rehearsal #30 – 36 has the same metric and rhythmic structure as Rehearsal #22 – 28, with the background-layer marimba replaced by a background-layer vibraphone.
- Rehearsal #37 is Theme Parts A and B.
- Rehearsal #38 is Theme Part A with the last 9/16 measure substituted with a 2/8-measure punctuation.

Brass Mutes

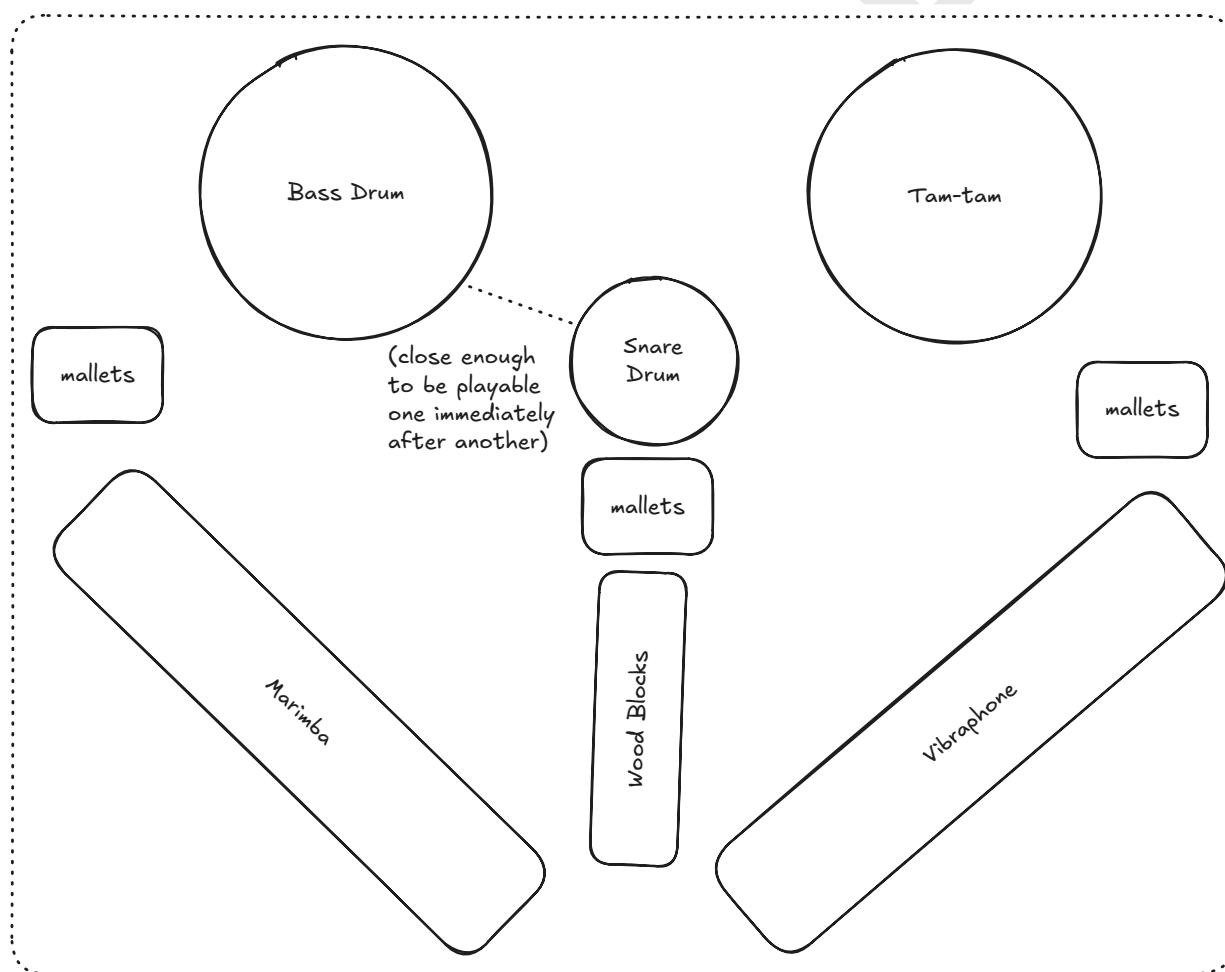
This piece calls for two kinds of mutes for both the trumpet and the trombone: a straight mute (Rehearsal #23, 24) and a cup mute (Rehearsal #19, 20, 21, 33, 36).

String Mutes

This piece contains one *con sord.* passage on the violins: Rehearsal #31 – 32. Any orchestral mute suffices.

Percussion Setup

The percussion parts of this piece are written to be playable by two percussionists sharing one snare drum and one set of 3 wood blocks with sufficiently distinct pitches (high, medium, low). A suggested percussion setup is as follows:



Note that Percussion 1 is asked to turn off the snares in mm. 121 – 125 (approximately 5.4 seconds with the suggested tempo of dotted quarter equals 84) so Percussion 2 can play

1. a snare-on snare drum passage (mm. 117 – 120)
2. a wood blocks passage (mm. 121 – 125)
3. a wood blocks *and* snares-off snare drum passage (mm. 126 – 130)

without pause. Any alternate percussion setup with each percussionist having their own snare drum must still make Percussion 2's snare drum be readily accessible to Percussion 1 to enable a proper performance of mm. 117 – 130.

Percussion Mallets

Minimally, this piece requires each percussionist to employ

- two pairs of keyboard mallets with clearly distinguishable hardness (Percussion 1 plays the marimba, and Percussion 2 plays the vibraphone)
- one pair of drumsticks (for the snare drum and the wood blocks), and
- one large-drum mallet (Percussion 1 plays the bass drum, and Percussion 2 plays the tam-tam).

There are a few places that explicitly or implicitly call for specific keyboard mallet choices:

- Rehearsal #15 (m. 92) asks Percussion 1 to "restate the theme using different mallets than the ones [they] used in Rehearsal #1";
- Rehearsal #21 (m.126) asks Percussion 1 to "mimic indeterminately pitched wooden percussion instruments" using a marimba;
- Rehearsal #29 (m. 157) asks Percussion 2 to "play with harsh aggression, using mallets that would be appropriate for Rehearsal #30 onward";
- Rehearsal #30 (m. 162) asks Percussion 2 to "mimic indeterminately pitched metal percussion instruments" using an unpedaled vibraphone.

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TRANSPONSED SCORE

1 Fast and relentlessly ♩ = 72

Flute

Clarinet

Trumpet in C

Trombone

Marimba

Vibraphone

Piano

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

evenly

f

6 2 *with quiet agitation*

fl *p* *with quiet agitation*

cl[B♭] *p* *with quiet agitation*

mar *p sub.* *with quiet agitation*

vib *evenly* *f* *with quiet agitation* *p sub.*

12

fl

cl[B♭]

mar

vib

va *p*

vc *p*

17

3

fl

cl[Bb]

tpt[C]

tbn

mar

vib

va

vc

db

aggressively open
f

aggressively open
f

To Percussion Kit 1

To Percussion Kit 2

aggressively
f

aggressively
f

23

4 *with a momentary relief*

fl *p* *with a momentary relief*

cl[Bb] *p* *with a momentary relief*

tpt[C] *sfz* *p* *with a momentary relief*

tbn *sfz* *p* *with a momentary relief*

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
b.dr.

Percussion Kit 1 *p*

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
tam.

Percussion Kit 2 *p* *with a momentary relief*

pf *mp* *f*

vn I *ff* *p sub.* *quiet punctuations, like soft percussion*

vn II *ff* *p sub.* *quiet punctuations, like soft percussion*

va *ff* *p sub.* *quiet punctuations, like soft percussion*

vc *ff* *p sub.* *quiet punctuations, like soft percussion*

db *ff* *p sub.*

28 *no longer relieved* *panic!*

fl *mf* *ff* *f*

cl[Bb] *mf* *panic!* *ff* *f*

tpt[C] *no longer relieved* *mf* *f*

tbn *no longer relieved* *mf* *f*

wb[hi] *To Marimba* *Marimba* *panic!* *ff*

wb[mid] *To Vibraphone* *Vibraphone* *panic!* *without pedal* *ff*

wb[low] *sn.dr.* *tam.*

pf *no longer relieved* *ff*

vn I *ff*

vn II *ff*

va *ff*

vc *ff*

db *ff*

32 5 *another momentary relief* *with anger*

fl *pp* *ff*

cl[Bb] *pp* *ff*

tpt[C] *panic! ff* *another momentary relief pp* *with anger f ff*

tbn *ff* *pp* *f ff*

To Percussion Kit 1 **Percussion Kit 1**

wb[hi] *pp* *f sub.* *sfz*

wb[mid] *pp* *f sub.* *sfz*

wb[low] *pp* *f sub.* *sfz*

sn.dr. *pp* *f sub.* *sfz*

b.dr. *pp* *f sub.* *sfz*

To Percussion Kit 2 **Percussion Kit 2**

sn. on *pp* *f sub.* *sfz*

pf *pp* *ff sub.* *fff*

vn I *quiet punctuations, like soft percussion pp* *with anger ff sub.* *fff*

vn II *quiet punctuations, like soft percussion pp* *with anger ff sub.* *fff*

va *quiet punctuations, like soft percussion pp* *with anger ff sub.* *fff*

vc *quiet punctuations, like soft percussion pp* *with anger ff sub.* *fff*

db *pp* *ff sub.* *fff*

6 trombone solo
nervously, like you haven't slept for days

39 *fp*

trumpet solo
nervously, like you haven't slept for days

44 *p*

7 flute solo
frantically

49 *f*

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
b.dr.

sfz

To Vibraphone

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
tam.

sfz

8 clarinet solo
frantically

54 *f*

9

cl[Bb]

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
b.dr.

sfz

Vibraphone

vib

vibraphone solo
frantically

mf match clarinet dynamics

60

vib

64 10

fl *ff* *pp*

cl[Bb] *ff* *pp*

tpt[C] *ff* *pp*

tbn *ff* *pp*

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
b.dr. *f* *pp*

piano solo
frantically
f

pf

vn I *ff* *pp*

vn II *ff* *pp*

va *ff* *pp*

vc *ff* *pp*

db *ff* *pp*

The musical score is for a full orchestra and piano. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/8 time signature. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 64 and 10 indicated. The instruments are arranged in a standard orchestral layout: flutes, clarinets, trumpets, trombones, woodwinds, piano, violins, viola, violin, and double bass. The piano part is marked 'piano solo' and 'frantically'. The woodwinds and strings are marked with dynamics like 'ff' (fortissimo) and 'pp' (pianissimo). The piano part has a dynamic marking of 'f' (forte). The score includes a large, faint watermark that reads 'STEFAN'.

11

70

ff

ff

ff

ff

To Marimba

Percussion Kit 2

To Vibraphone

Vibraphone

To Percussion Kit 2

ff

ff

ff

cello solo
frantically

f

f

p

12

76

Marimba

marimba solo
frantically

f

13

fl
cl[Bb]
tpt[C]
tbn
mar
wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
tam.

Percussion Kit 2
snare off

double bass solo, with piano doubling
frantically

pf

vn I
vn II
va
db

double bass solo, with piano doubling
frantically

f

ff

8ba

81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90

14

87

pf

8^{ba}

mf

ff

db

mf

15

92

mar

f

pf

f

vn II

va

f

vc

f

restate the theme using different mallets than the ones you used in Rehearsal #1

16

97

fl *f*

cl[Bb] *f*

tpt[C] *f*

tbn *f*

To Percussion Kit 1

Percussion Kit 1

wb[hi] *sfz*

wb[mid]

wb[low]

sn.dr.

b.dr.

sn. on

sfz

pf *mp*

vn I *f*

vn II *p*

va *p*

vc

db *f*

17

p

103

fl

cl[Bb]

tpt[C]

tbn

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
b.dr.

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
tam.

pf

vn I

vn II

va

vc

db

mf

ff

f

p

mf

f

p

p

f

ff

mp

f

ff

mp sub.

f

ff

mp

f

ff

To Marimba

snare on To Vibraphone

[illegible]

116

fl

cl[Bb]

tpt[C]

tbn

Marimba

mar

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
tam.

pf

vn I

vc

db

mp

mf

cup mute

p

pp

snare on

f

ff

p

f

ff

f

ff

8va

20

121 accompany the wood block solo providing a rhythmic restatement of the theme
cup mute

tpt[C]

p *mp* *f*

accompany the wood block solo providing a rhythmic restatement of the theme
cup mute

tbn

p *mp*

turn off the snares for percussion 2

mar

wood block solo: this is a rhythmic restatement of the theme

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
tam.

21

126

panic!

fl

panic! *f*

cl[Bb]

panic! *f*

tpt[C]

panic! *f*

tbn

f *f*

mar

f

mimic indeterminately pitched wooden percussion instruments

percussion 1 will have already turned off the snares
snares off

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
tam.

22

131

mar

wood block solo: to be used as the rhythmic basis for the upcoming solos

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
tam.

f

23

136

tpt[C]

trumpet solo: align rhythmically with wood blocks
straight mute

f

mar

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
tam.

24

140

tpt[C]

tbn

trombone solo: align rhythmically with wood blocks
straight mute

f

mar

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
tam.

25

145

fl *percussively*
f

cl[Bb] *percussively*
f

vn I *percussively*
f

vn II *percussively*
f

va *percussively*
f

vc *percussively*
f

db *percussively*
f

PRELIMINARY SCORE

26 trumpet solo
open

tpt[C] ¹⁴⁷ *sfz f*

mar *sfz f*

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
tam. *sfz f*

pf *sfz f*

==

27 trombone solo
open

tbn ¹⁵¹ *f*

mar

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
tam.

pf

==

28 155 *percussively*
f

29 *percussively*
f

cl[Bb] *f*

tpt[C] *percussively*
p

tbn *percussively*
p

To Percussion Kit 1

wb[hi]
 wb[mid]
 wb[low]
 sn.dr.
 b.dr.

Percussion Kit 1
 snares on
p

To Vibraphone

Vibraphone
 play with harsh aggression, using mallets that would be appropriate for Rehearsal #30 onward

vib *ff*

pf *percussively*
f

vn I *percussively*
f

vn II *percussively*
f

va *percussively*
f

vc *percussively*
f

db *percussively*
f

160 30

tpt[C] *f*

tbn *f*

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
b.dr. *f*

vib *p sub.* without pedal — mimic indeterminately pitched metal percussion instruments

164 wood block solo: to be used as the rhythmic basis for the upcoming solos

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
b.dr. *p*

vib

31

168

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
b.dr. *p* stay in the background but be clearly audible to the ensemble

vib *mp* stay in the background but be clearly audible to the ensemble

violin soli: align rhythmically with wood blocks
con sord. *f*

vn I *f*

violin soli: align rhythmically with wood blocks
con sord. *f*

vn II *f*

32

72

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
b.dr.

vib

vn I

vn II

33

176

percussively
f

cl[Bb]
f

percussively
cup mute
mf

tpt[C]
mf

percussively
cup mute
mf

tbn
mf

percussively
f

vc
f

percussively
f

db
f

34

478

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
b.dr.

sfz *p* stay in the background but be clearly audible to the ensemble

vib

sfz *mp* stay in the background but be clearly audible to the ensemble

pf

sfz *p* stay in the background

viola solo: align rhythmically with wood blocks
sul pont.

va

f

35

482

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
b.dr.

vib

pf

va

This musical score block contains measures 482 through 485. The drum kit part at the top includes hi-hat, mid-tom, low-tom, snare, and bass drum. The vibraphone (vib) plays a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The piano (pf) has a grand staff with a sustained bass line in the left hand and rests in the right hand. The viola (va) plays a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including some triplets. The measures are marked with measure numbers 482, 483, 484, and 485.

36 186 *percussively*
f
percussively
f
percussively
cup mute
mf
percussively
cup mute
mf
percussively
f
percussively

37 188 *f*
 wood block solo: this is a rhythmic restatement of the first half of the theme
ff
 193
p
open
p
open
p
 snares on
p
 with pedal
fff

fl
 cl[Bb]
 tpt[C]
 tbn
 vc
 db
 wb[hi]
 wb[mid]
 wb[low]
 sn.dr.
 b.dr.
 vib

The musical score is for a piece titled "As Soon As I Can Let Go, I Will Go Alone". It consists of two systems of staves. The first system (measures 186-192) features a woodwind and brass ensemble. The flugelhorn (fl) and clarinet in B-flat (cl[Bb]) play a melodic line marked "percussively" and "f". The trumpet (tpt[C]) and trombone (tbn) play a similar line marked "percussively" and "cup mute" with a "mf" dynamic. The violin (vc) and double bass (db) provide a rhythmic accompaniment marked "percussively" and "f". The second system (measures 193-199) features a percussion section. A wood block solo (wb[hi], wb[mid], wb[low]) is marked "ff" and "wood block solo: this is a rhythmic restatement of the first half of the theme". The snare drum (sn.dr.) and bass drum (b.dr.) play a rhythmic pattern marked "p". The vibraphone (vib) plays a melodic line marked "with pedal" and "fff". The first system ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The second system begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

38

198

fl *fff*

cl[Bb] *fff*

tpt[C] *ff*

tbn *ff*

wb[hi]
wb[mid]
wb[low]
sn.dr.
b.dr. *ff*

To Percussion Kit 2

Percussion Kit 2 *fff*

pf *fff*

vn I *fff* senza sord. martelé

vn II *fff* senza sord. martelé

va *fff* martelé

vc *fff* martelé

db *fff* martelé