



Brittany J. Green

Men nor Gods  
*for Soprano and Percussion*



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## **Program Notes**

*Men nor Gods* is a chamber piece for soprano and percussion. The piece uses text from Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Eros*. It is comprised of five sections. The first section serves as an introduction, characterized by thick chords on the vibraphone juxtaposed against sextuplets. This section is the most rhythmically active section and the only section with metered passages. The voice is introduced through a series of vocalizations intertwined with the active rhythms of the tam-tam and crotales. As the section closes, the opening line of the text is heard.

The B section features lush chords, similar to the introduction, though the timbre varies. The vocal line weaves in and out of these chords, climbing towards a high C- the climax of the piece. The C section falls in dynamics and register as the vocal line moves towards a low A. This section becomes increasingly gritty and sparse as it goes on, ending on a singular note. In the final section, the timbre and rhythmic motion from the introduction returns, down a major third, leading to a fading roll on a single pitch.

## **Text**

The sense of the world is short;  
    -Long and various the report;  
        To love and beloved  
Men nor gods have outlearned it.  
'Tis to be improved.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, public domain

## **Performance Notes**

Percussionist should bow all notes in section C.

Vibraphone chords in sections A and E should be performed with both hard and soft mallets.

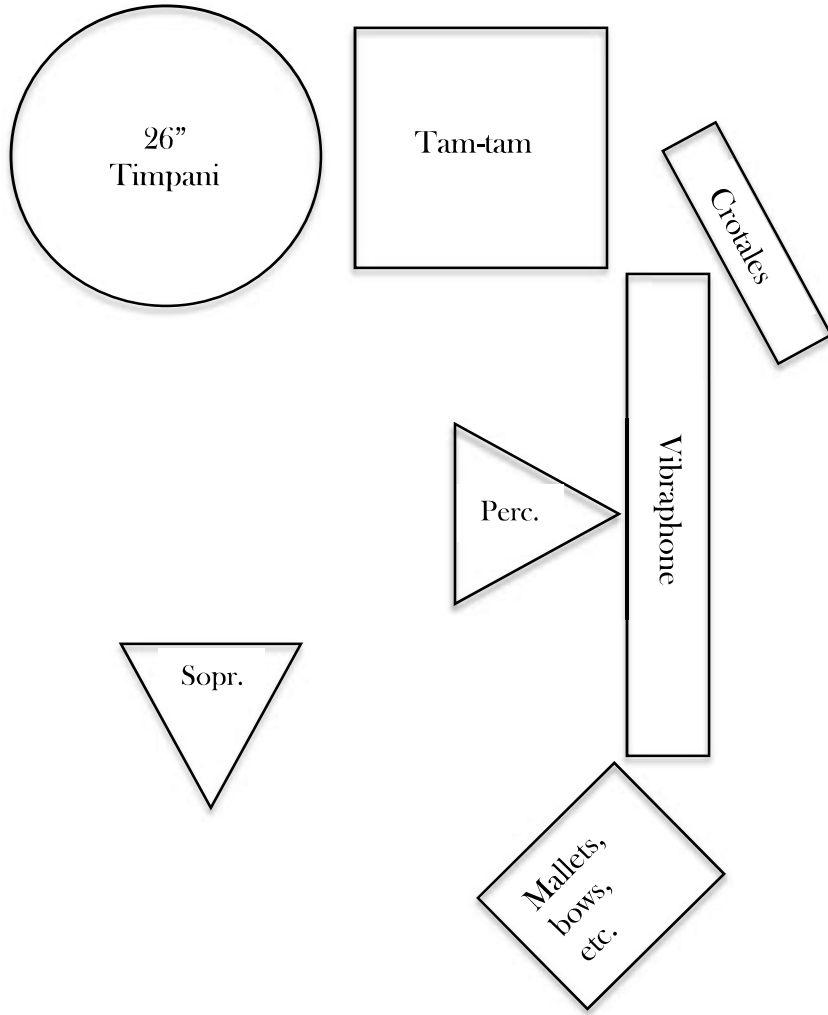
The vocalist should sing section E off stage.

Refer to the notation key attached.

## **Equipment**

Crotales: C6-C7 full octave	Brick
Finger Cymbals (to be played by soprano)	Small Super Rub Mallets
Large Tam-tam	Large Super Rub Mallets
26" Timpani	Medium Triangle Beater
Vibraphone with motor	Soft Vibraphone Mallets
Suspended Cymbal (no stand needed)	Hard Vibraphone Mallets
2 bows	Small Brass Mallets

# Percussion Set Up



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Audience

# Notation Key

Play finger cymbals      "S" sound      Quarter tone sharp      Quarter tone flat

Bow tam-tam      Tap tam-tam w/medium triangle beater      Scrape tam-tam w/super rub mallet (size specified in score)      Play with back end of mallets

Bow suspended cymbal on timpani  
Timpani should be tuned to B natural

Bow suspended cymbal on timpani  
Create trill by pressing and releasing pedal rapidly  
Timpani should be tuned to B natural

# Men nor Gods

for voice and percussion

Brittany J. Green  
Text: Ralph Waldo Emerson

(off stage)

**A** mystically and incredibly slow

Soprano  
finger cymbals

Ca. 7-8" G.P. Ca. 9-10" G.P.

Percussion  
tam-tam  
vibraphone  
crotales  
suspended cymbal w/timpani

**A** mystically and incredibly slow

Ca. 7-8" G.P. Ca. 9-10" G.P.

vibraphone  
soft mallets  
motor on slow

*p* *n.* *pp* *n.*

S

P

*n.* *mf*

*Lead.*

*muted w/mallet*

hard mallets

Ca. 5-6"

3

\*

S

P

*mf* *mf*

*Lead.*

> (still off stage) (enter stage right)

tam-tam  
small super rub mallets

vibraphone  
hard mallets

Ca. 4-5"

3

\*

**B**  
BJG