

Steel in Suspension

For Prepared Piano

Composed by

Austin Engelhardt

2021

Duration: approximately 15 Minutes

Steel in Suspension

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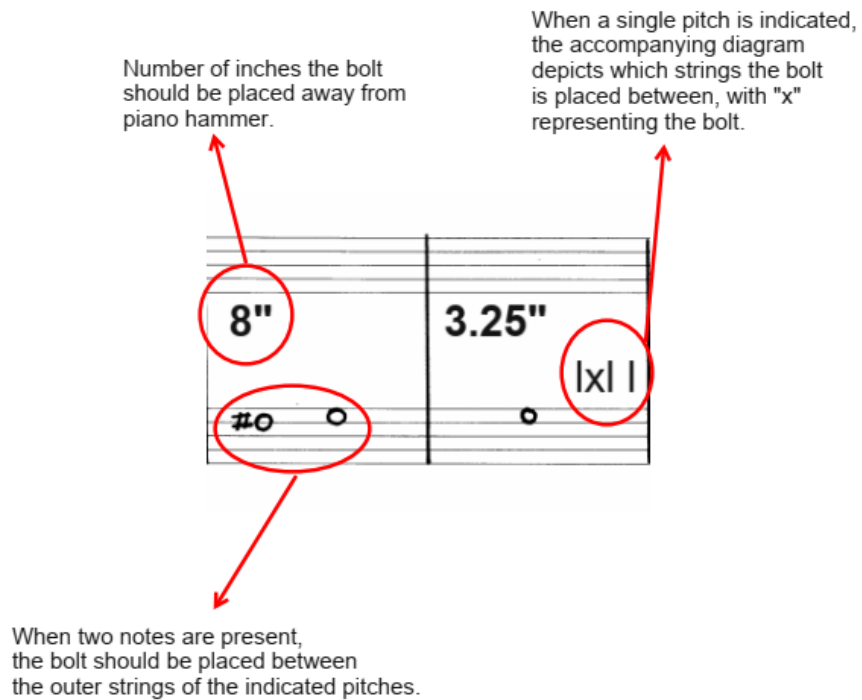
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Prepared Piano Setup & Instructions

- Always **wash your hands thoroughly** prior to the preparation and performance of this piece.
- Just as no two pianos are built the same, no two preparations for this piece will be the same. The measurements for this piece's preparations are approximate. The performer is encouraged to adjust them to better suit their individual piano. Maximum resonance is optimal.
- The included preparation map indicates distance (in inches) the bolt should be placed away from the hammer of the piano.
- F.P. "Furthest Position," indicates the bolt should be placed as far from the hammer as possible, avoiding contact with the sound board of the piano.
- No bolt should contact any part of the piano, except the string.



7"	9"	11.75"	6"	10.25"	7.5"	10"	6.75"	9.25"

7.5"	6"	9"	8"	3.25"	5.25"	6.50"	3.5"	4.5"

5"	3"	F.P.	4.5"	3"	8 4.25"	3.5"	4.5"	F.P.

3"	3.75"	2.5"	F.P.	2"	3.25"	2.25"	3"	F.P.

F.P.	F.P.	F.P.	F.P.	F.P.	F.P.			

Performance Notes

- **Pedaling** – Pedaling is indicated only where necessary. All other pedaling is left to the discretion of the performer.
- **Clefs** – Octave up clefs are used.



- **Muting** - Mute the indicated string with your hand before playing the note.

Mute



- **Harmonics** – Play a harmonic on the indicated string. The harmonic does not need to be a specific pitch but should be the strongest sounding one available.

Harm.



- **Plucked Notes** – Pluck the indicated piano string with your finger.

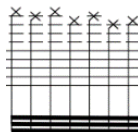
Pluck.



- **Square Noteheads** – Slap strings on the inside of the piano with the palm of your hand. Follow the general contour, but notes are not specific.

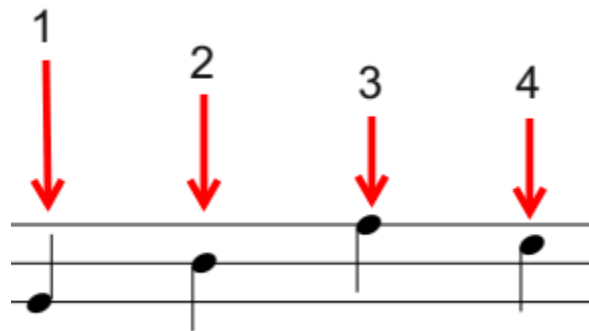


- **“X” Noteheads** – Play random notes, as fast as possible, following the contour depicted.



Playing on the Bolts

- In this piece, the performer plays on the bolts used to prepare the piano with percussion mallets.
- Two types of mallets are needed, one with a rubber tip, and one with a brass tip. The performer should never over strike the bolt with too much force. The bolt should not shift position after being struck.
- The sustain pedal is always indicated to be depressed when a bolt is struck. This is to allow the reverberant nature of the gesture to be fully experienced.
- Bolt strikes need not be in perfect time but should be as close as possible.
- When a bolt is to be played, a three-line staff will appear. The staff will always be the topmost staff.

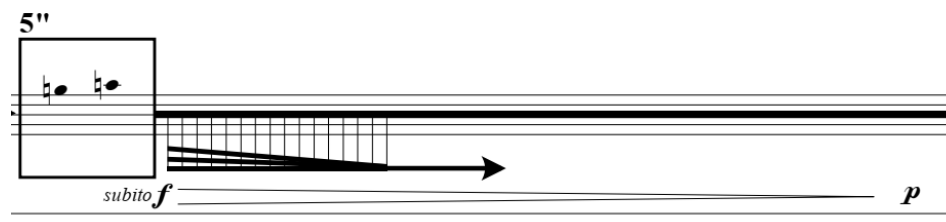


- The three lines on the staff indicate the three general zones of bolts.
 - Zone one (the bottom of the three lines) are the bolts between C4 and C5.
 - Zone two (the middle of the three lines) are the bolts between D#5 and F6.
 - Zone three (the top of the three lines) are the bolts in the highest octave of the piano.
 - Bolts in between lines (labeled “4” above) show contour of a line and signify a random bolt in that general area should be struck.
- Arrows indicate the notes that bolt strikes follow when rhythm is more flexible.

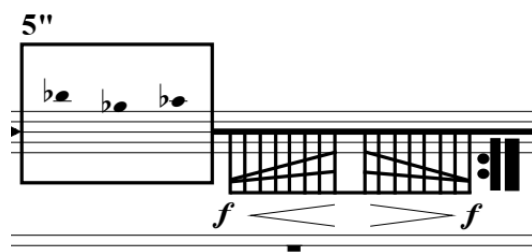


Box Notation

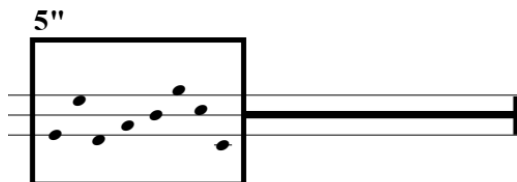
Often in during the piece, the performer is asked to play using box notation. This appears for both playing on the keys, as well as playing on the bolts with mallets. Boxes indicate that the given notes or gestures should be repeated for the full duration indicated.



- The duration is indicated (in seconds) on the top left of the box.
- Often a general rhythmic contour is provided underneath the line and to the right of the box. In the example given above, the gesture should start loud and fast, and over the course of five seconds, the repetition of the two notes should slow down and get quieter.
- If an arrow appears after the rhythmic contour, then the gesture should unfold over the entire indicated duration.



- If a repeat sign follows the indicated rhythmic contour. The gesture should repeat more than once in the indicated amount of time. (Shown above)
- If there is not given rhythmic contour, the gesture should be played as fast as possible.



- When bolt strikes appear in boxes, then any bolt may be struck.

Steel in Suspension

For prepared piano

Austin Engelhardt

Reverberant ♩ = 60

Piano

15^{ma}

mf *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p*

Ped. _____

Pno.

15^{ma}

5"

Continue depicted contour for indicated duration.

Mute Harm.

mf *pp*

Pno.

(♩ = 60)

15^{ma}

sub. *mp* *mf*

Mute Harm.

Pno.

15^{ma}

7"

Repeat depicted contour for indicated duration.

p *p*

Ped. Slowly depress pedal.

pp

(15^{ma})

5"

subito **f** **p**

Pno.

Detailed description: This block shows the beginning of the piano introduction. It features a treble clef staff with a 5-second sustain pedal mark (indicated by a box labeled '5"'). The music starts with a **f** dynamic, marked 'subito', and then decays to a **p** dynamic. The bass clef staff is mostly silent, with a few notes in the lower register. A diagram below the staves shows the sustain pedal being depressed and held.

(♩ = 60)

(15^{ma})

f **p** **mp** **mf** **f** **pp**

rit.

Mute Pluck. Harm.

Pno.

Detailed description: This block contains the main section of the piano. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 60. The music is in 3/4 time and features several triplet patterns. Dynamics range from **f** to **pp**. Performance instructions include 'Mute', 'Pluck.', and 'Harm.'. The bass line starts with a **mf** dynamic and includes a **pp** section. A 'rit.' (ritardando) marking is present in the bass line. The treble line has a **f** dynamic at the start, followed by **p**, **mp**, **mf**, **f**, and **pp**.

(15^{ma})

mf **p** **mp**

Pno.

Detailed description: This block continues the piano part. It features triplet patterns in both the treble and bass staves. Dynamics include **mf**, **p**, and **mp**. The treble line starts with a **mf** dynamic, followed by **p** and **mp**. The bass line starts with a **p** dynamic and includes a **mf** dynamic.

(15^{ma})

5"

Pno.

p *mf*

Ped. *mf*

(15^{ma})

5"

Pno.

p *p*

f

Allegro

Pno.

f *mp* *ff* *subito p* *f*

(♩ = 60)

Pno.

ff *mf* *mf* *f*

Harm. *p*

ff *mf* Ped.

(15^{ma})

Pno.

p *f*

(15^{ma})

Pno.

f *f*

(15^{ma})

Pno.

subito p *f*

Rubber Mallet

Pno.

(15^{ma})
4"

ff *ff*

f

Using indicated mallet, strike a bolt in the indicated range.

*see performance notes for more details

2 Expressive and with Rubato ♩ = 50

Pno.

mp *fp* *f* *p* *f* *p*

f *mp* *p*

Brass Mallet

Brass Mallet

Pno.

Mallet strikes need not be perfectly in time. Allow them to resonate briefly before continuing

pp *mf* *f* *mf*

Ped.

8

Rubber Mallet

Piano score for measures 8-11. The score is in 3/4 time. Measure 8 features a treble clef staff with a melodic line starting on G4, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The left hand has a bass clef staff with a chordal accompaniment. Measure 9 shows a treble clef staff with a melodic line starting on G4, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The left hand has a bass clef staff with a chordal accompaniment. Measure 10 shows a treble clef staff with a melodic line starting on G4, marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The left hand has a bass clef staff with a chordal accompaniment. Measure 11 shows a treble clef staff with a melodic line starting on G4, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The left hand has a bass clef staff with a chordal accompaniment.

Rubber Mallet

Piano score for measures 11-14. The score is in 3/4 time. Measure 11 features a treble clef staff with a melodic line starting on G4, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The left hand has a bass clef staff with a chordal accompaniment. Measure 12 shows a treble clef staff with a melodic line starting on G4, marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The left hand has a bass clef staff with a chordal accompaniment. Measure 13 shows a treble clef staff with a melodic line starting on G4, marked with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The left hand has a bass clef staff with a chordal accompaniment. Measure 14 shows a treble clef staff with a melodic line starting on G4, marked with a piano-piano (*pp*) dynamic. The left hand has a bass clef staff with a chordal accompaniment. A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is present above the treble staff in measure 14. A 3-measure triplet is indicated in the left hand of measure 14. The time signature changes to 3/4 at the end of measure 14.

Ped. —————

Rubber Mallet

Piano score for measures 14-17. The score is in 3/4 time. Measure 14 features a treble clef staff with a melodic line starting on G4, marked with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The left hand has a bass clef staff with a chordal accompaniment. Measure 15 shows a treble clef staff with a melodic line starting on G4, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The left hand has a bass clef staff with a chordal accompaniment. Measure 16 shows a treble clef staff with a melodic line starting on G4, marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The left hand has a bass clef staff with a chordal accompaniment. Measure 17 shows a treble clef staff with a melodic line starting on G4, marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The left hand has a bass clef staff with a chordal accompaniment.

17 8

Feel the rhythm

Pno.

p *mf* *f*

20 8

Pno.

p *p* *mf*

23 8

Pno.

p *p* *mf* *f* *mp* *pp* *mf*

26 8

Pno.

mf *p* *mf* *f* *f*

29

Pno.

f *f* *f*

32

Pno.

subito p *f*

35

Pno.

accel.

subito p

Adagio ♩ = 50

Allegro

(L.H.)

(R.H.)

Piano score for measures 37-40. Measure 37 is marked *f*. Measure 38 has a tempo change to Allegro and a key signature change to B-flat major. Measures 39-40 are marked *f* and *mf* respectively. The right hand features triplets in measures 38 and 39.

Piano score for measures 40-43. Measure 40 is marked *p*. Measure 41 is marked *sp*. Measure 42 is marked *ff*. Measure 43 is marked *f*. The right hand features a triplet in measure 40.

Piano score for measures 43-47. Measure 43 is marked *f*. Measure 44 is marked *subito p*. Measure 45 is marked *p*. Measure 46 is marked *f*. Measure 47 is marked *f*. The right hand features triplets in measures 43 and 44.

Piano score for measures 47-50. Measure 47 is marked *ff*. Measure 48 is marked *fff*. Measure 49 is marked *f*. Measure 50 is marked *fff*. A Brass Mallet part begins in measure 49, marked *f*. The tempo returns to Adagio (*a tempo*) with a metronome marking of ♩ = 50. A *rit.* marking is present above measure 47. A *Ped.* marking is present below measure 50.

50 8

Pno.

f *p* *p* *p*

53 8

Pno.

mf *p* *mp* *mf*

56 8

Pno.

p *molto rubato* *f* *p*

Normale

59 8

mf *mp* *p*

Pno.

Play boxed notes as fast as possible. No given contour. 4"

63 8

f

Pno.

65 8

ff *f* *mp*

Pno.

68 8

f *fff*

ff *fff*

f *fff*

f

accel.-----

Pno.

Cadenza

Pno.

71

3

3

3

4/4

4/4

f

Rubber Mallet

Random rapid strikes on large range of bolts.

Heavy pedal use for cadenza.

Pno.

74

Brass Mallet

6"

Strike bolts in indicated range, following rhythm in no specific tempo.

Pno.

77

4"

3

Strike low strings of the piano using the palms of your hand.

ff

Pno.

80

mf

p

ff

mf

p

mf

As fast as possible, slowly
depress the sustain pedal.
Pitches are approximate.

83

Pno.

f

84

Mute

Pno.

ff *p* *f*

87

Pno.

subito p *mf* *p* *ff* *subito p*

90

Pno.

f *fff*

Steel in Suspension

5"

Piano score for measures 93-95. The right hand features a melodic line with a trill-like figure in measure 94, which is highlighted by a box and labeled "5\". The left hand has a sustained bass line. A dynamic marking of *ff* is present at the end of the system, with the instruction "Allow to resonate" above it.

Piano score for measures 96-98. The right hand contains triplet figures in measures 96 and 98, and a single note in measure 97. The left hand has a sustained bass line. Dynamic markings include *mf* in the right hand and *mf* in the left hand.

Piano score for measures 99-101. The right hand features triplet figures in measures 99 and 101, and a single note in measure 100. The left hand has a sustained bass line. Dynamic markings include *p* in the right hand and *p* in the left hand.

Piano score for measures 102-104. The right hand contains triplet figures in measures 102 and 104, and a quintuplet figure in measure 103. The left hand has a sustained bass line. Dynamic markings include *mf* in the right hand and *mf* in the left hand.

Pno.

105

f

mp

p

mf

mp

Pno.

109

mp

mp

mf

f

Strike most resonant bolt available. Allow to fully finish resonating before ending.

Pno.

112

112

subito p

ff

f

Rubber Mallet

Ped. _____