

# *Snake Dance No. 1*

*for percussion quartet*



*by*  
*Kyle Gann*  
*(1991)*

# Snake Dance No. 1: Instruments and notation

The image shows three staves of musical notation for percussion instruments. Each staff begins with a double bar line and a 'C' time signature. Percussion 1 has notes corresponding to gongs (large and small), cowbells, a small drum, a lion's roar, some small clicky instruments, and a ratchet. Percussion 2 has notes for brake drums, woodblocks, and rattles or shakers. Percussion 3 has notes for tom-toms.

**Perc. 1:** gongs: large / small, cowbells, small drum, lion's roar, some small clicky inst., ratchet

**Perc. 2:** brake drums, woodblocks, rattles or shakers

**Perc. 3:** tom-toms

Percussionist 4 plays only a large drum, preferably wooden with a hide head and struck with a soft mallet.

Percussionists 3 and 4, at least, should wear jingle bells on their wrists; possibly the whole ensemble.

An optional, additional part for keyboard sampler is available from the composer.

*Snake Dance No. 1* was written for Essential Music, who premiered it at The Kitchen in New York City in 1991. The piece is dedicated to the ensemble's directors, John Kennedy and Chuck Wood.

Cover based on a design by Bernard Dawahoya.

To John Kennedy and Charles Wood

# Snake Dance No. 1

Kyle Gann  
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♩ = 96

**A** 2X

Musical score for Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Percussion 3, and Bass Drum, measures 1-3. The score is in 3/8 time. Percussion 1, 2, and 3 start with a rest in measure 1. In measure 2, they play a series of eighth notes with accents, marked *ff*. In measure 3, they play a series of eighth notes, marked *mp*. Percussion 1 has a *mf* dynamic and a 5-measure phrase in measure 3. The Bass Drum plays a steady eighth-note pattern throughout.

Musical score for Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Percussion 3, and Bass Drum, measures 4-6. The score is in 3/8 time. Percussion 1 starts in measure 4 with a *mp* dynamic. In measure 5, it has a *mf* dynamic. In measure 6, it has a *mp* dynamic. Percussion 2 and 3 play eighth-note patterns. Percussion 3 has a triplet in measure 6. The Bass Drum plays a steady eighth-note pattern.

Musical score for Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Percussion 3, and Bass Drum, measures 7-9. The score is in 3/8 time. Percussion 1 starts in measure 7 with a *mf* dynamic and a triplet. In measure 8, it has a *mp* dynamic. In measure 9, it has a *mf* dynamic and a 5-measure phrase. Percussion 2 and 3 play eighth-note patterns. Percussion 3 has a triplet in measure 9. The Bass Drum plays a steady eighth-note pattern.

10 *mf* *p* *f*

Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3  
B. D.

15 *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3  
B. D.

18 **B** 2X *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3  
B. D.

21

Perc. 1  
*mp* 5

Perc. 2  
*p*

Perc. 3  
*p* 5

B. D.  
*p* 5

24

Perc. 1  
3

Perc. 2  
5

Perc. 3  
5

B. D.  
5

28

Perc. 1  
*mp* 5

Perc. 2  
*p*

Perc. 3  
*p*

B. D.  
*p*

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33

Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3  
B. D.

*mf* 3 3 5 5

**C** 2X

36

Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3  
B. D.

*p* 3 *f* 3 3 *mf* 3  
*p* 3 *f* 33 33 *mf*  
*p* 3 *f* *mf* 3  
*p* 3 *f* 3 3 *mf* 3

40

Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3  
B. D.

3 5 3 3

44

Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3  
B. D.

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

49

Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3  
B. D.

*f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

**D** 3X

53

Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3  
B. D.

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

57

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

B. D.

Musical score for measures 57-60. Percussion 1 (Perc. 1) starts with a *ff* dynamic, followed by *mf* and *p*. Percussion 2 (Perc. 2) starts with *ff*, then *mf*, and *p*. Percussion 3 (Perc. 3) starts with *ff*, then *mf*, and *p*. Bass Drum (B. D.) starts with *ff*, then *mf*, and *p*. The score includes various rhythmic patterns, including triplets and quintuplets, and changes in time signature from 19/16 to 9/8 to 15/16.

**E** 3X

60

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

B. D.

Musical score for measures 60-63. Percussion 1 (Perc. 1) starts with a rest, then *mp*, and *ff*. Percussion 2 (Perc. 2) starts with *mp*, then *ff*. Percussion 3 (Perc. 3) starts with *ff*. Bass Drum (B. D.) starts with *ff*. The score includes various rhythmic patterns, including triplets and quintuplets, and changes in time signature from 7/8 to 15/16 to 9/8.

64

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

B. D.

Musical score for measures 64-67. Percussion 1 (Perc. 1) starts with *mf*, then *f*, and *mp*. Percussion 2 (Perc. 2) starts with *mf*, then *f*, and *mp*. Percussion 3 (Perc. 3) starts with *mf*, then *f*, and *mp*. Bass Drum (B. D.) starts with *mf*, then *f*, and *mp*. The score includes various rhythmic patterns, including triplets and quintuplets, and changes in time signature from 21/16 to 6/8 to 9/8.



67

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

B. D.

71 **F** 3X

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

B. D.

74 **G** 4X

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

B. D.

78

Perc. 1  
*mf* 5 5 3

Perc. 2  
*mf* 3 3 3

Perc. 3  
*mf* 5 3 3 3

B. D.  
*mf* 5 3 3 3

81

**H 4X**

Perc. 1  
*f* 3 3 3 3 3 3 *mf*

Perc. 2  
*f* 3 3 3 3 3 3 *mf* 3 3 3

Perc. 3  
*f* 3 3 3 3 3 3 *mf* 3 3 3

B. D.  
*f* 3 3 3 3 3 3 *mf* 3 3 3

84

**I 5X**

Perc. 1  
5 5 *f* *mp* 5 5

Perc. 2  
*f* *p* 5

Perc. 3  
*f* *p* 5

B. D.  
*f* *p* 5

**J** 5X

**K** 6X

87

Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3  
B. D.

**L** 7X

**M**

90

Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3  
B. D.

96

Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3  
B. D.