

# **There are two ways to escape suffering it... the second is risky, and demands constant vigilance and apprehension**

This Piece was written for the November 2023 Bard Percussion Concert.

“The inferno of the living is not something that will be; if there is one, it is what is already here, the inferno where we live every day, that we form by being together. There are two ways to escape suffering it. The first is easy for many: accept the inferno and become such a part of it that you can no longer see it. The second is risky and demands constant vigilance and apprehension: seek and learn to recognize who and what, in the midst of inferno, are not inferno, then make them endure, give them space.” - from ‘Invisible Cities’ by Italo Calvino

This piece explores intricate dynamics between individuals and larger groups, particularly when collective responses take a dark turn. In the current global context, this exploration gains significance as many individuals face the choice of passively adopting others' responses to world events or investing emotional energy to develop personalized perspectives and drive change.

## **Instrumentation**

### **P1**

Pipes: F, Gquarter#, Ab, Db  
Crotales: F, Bb  
Wood slat: Bb  
medium bottle  
microphone  
floor tom  
upside-down snare drum  
small drum (bongo or similar high pitched)

### **P2**

Pipes: Ab, B, F, G, Cquarterb  
Crotales: Db, Ab  
Wood slat: F  
small bottle  
cardboard+sharpie  
MIDI controller to trigger electronics  
floor tom  
upside-down snare drum  
small drum (bongo or similar high pitched)

### **P3**

Pipes: C, Eb, Ab, D  
Crotales: C, Bb  
Wood slat: C  
large bottle  
tiny bell  
floor tom  
upside-down snare drum  
small drum (bongo or similar high pitched)

### **P4**

Pipes: Eb, E, G, Bdoubleb  
Crotales: G, Ab  
Wood slat: Ab  
medium bottle  
cardboard+sharpie  
tiny bell  
floor tom  
upside-down snare drum  
small drum (bongo or similar high pitched)



### **The tape consists of the following sounds:**

- processed recordings of the Calvino quote in German, Romanian, and Hungarian
- a crotale wobbling on a snare drum
- a short woodblock roll
- the squeaking of a Metro North train as it pulls in to Croton Harmon station
- my bedroom radiator grooving at 2am
- a metal sculpture by Vincente Garcia
- a glass bottle dragged on a wall on 14th Street in NYC
- a snippet of Pauline Oliveros Sonic Meditations recorded at SōSI '18
- an out of tune harp with loose strings in the backstage of the Fisher Center at Bard College
- the hissing sound of a Hungarian HÉV train as it stops at its final stop at Szentendre
- the bells of the Mátyás Templom (Matthias Church) in Budapest
- a construction by the Stedelijk in Amsterdam
- the crowd at LA Union Station
- the “iron clap” - the crowd clapping for pianist Grigory Sokolov after a concert at the Palace of Arts in Budapest

There are two ways to escape suffering it...  
 the second is risky, and demands constant vigilance and apprehension

Dániel Matei

**A2**

**A**      hover/move bowed crotale over upside-down snare

Percussion 1: tape intro, mouth quote into mic. *n < p* listen to/react to /play with P3. 5

Percussion 2: tape intro, stand still and face forward. WRITE CALVINO QUOTE ON CARDBOARD

Percussion 3: tape intro, stand still and face forward. hover/move bowed crotale over upside-down snare. *n < p* listen to/react to /play with P1

Percussion 4: tape intro, stand still and face forward. completely still and grounded until tiny bell at 13

10

P 1: 5-measure bracket, notes with a flat, tremolo pattern.

P 2: 5-measure bracket, notes with a flat, 5-measure bracket.

P 3: Silent.

P 4: Silent.

**A3**

Musical score for section A3, measures 12-14. The score is written for four parts: P 1, P 2, P 3, and P 4. The time signature is 6/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).  
- P 1: Starts at measure 12 with a slur over a five-note pattern. Includes dynamics *ppp* and *f*.  
- P 2: Similar to P 1, with a slur over a five-note pattern. Includes dynamics *ppp* and *f*.  
- P 3: Includes the instruction "tiny bell" and "3rd time only".  
- P 4: Includes the instruction "tiny bell" and "3rd time only".  
- All parts end at measure 14 with a final chord marked with a bell icon and "~20".

**B**

Musical score for section B, measures 15-16. The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 70$ . The time signature is 6/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).  
- P 1: Features complex rhythmic patterns with slurs and dynamics *>*.  
- P 2: Features complex rhythmic patterns with slurs and dynamics *>*.  
- P 3: Features complex rhythmic patterns with slurs and dynamics *>*.  
- P 4: Features complex rhythmic patterns with slurs and dynamics *>*.  
- Measures 15 and 16 show intricate rhythmic textures with various slurs and dynamics.

Musical score for section B, measures 16-17. The time signature changes to 3/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).  
- P 1: Features complex rhythmic patterns with slurs and dynamics *>*.  
- P 2: Features complex rhythmic patterns with slurs and dynamics *>*.  
- P 3: Features complex rhythmic patterns with slurs and dynamics *>*.  
- P 4: Features complex rhythmic patterns with slurs and dynamics *>*.  
- Measures 16 and 17 show intricate rhythmic textures with various slurs and dynamics.

17

Musical score for measures 17-18, parts P1-P4. The score is in 3/4 time. Part P1 features a complex rhythmic pattern with slurs and accents (>) over groups of notes. Part P2 has a simpler melody with slurs. Part P3 has a complex rhythmic pattern similar to P1. Part P4 has a melody with slurs and accents.

19

Musical score for measures 19-20, parts P1-P4. The score is in 3/4 time. Part P1 has a complex rhythmic pattern with slurs and accents (>) over groups of notes. Part P2 has a melody with slurs and accents (>) over groups of notes. Part P3 has a complex rhythmic pattern with slurs and accents (>) over groups of notes. Part P4 has a melody with slurs and accents (>) over groups of notes.

21

Musical score for measures 21-22, parts P1-P4. The score is in 3/4 time. Part P1 is mostly empty. Part P2 has a melody with slurs and accents (>) over groups of notes. Part P3 has a complex rhythmic pattern with slurs and accents (>) over groups of notes. Part P4 has a melody with slurs and accents (>) over groups of notes.

**B2**

23

Musical score for measures 23-25, parts P1-P4. Measure 23 features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and rests, with fingerings '5' indicated below. Measure 24 continues this pattern. Measure 25 shows a change in rhythm with fewer notes and rests. Parts P1, P2, and P3 have rests in measures 24 and 25, while P4 continues with a rhythmic pattern.

26

Musical score for measures 26-27, parts P1-P4. Measure 26 features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and rests, with fingerings '5' indicated below. Measure 27 continues this pattern. Parts P1, P2, and P3 have rests in measure 27, while P4 continues with a rhythmic pattern. The time signature changes to 5/4 at the end of measure 27.

28

Musical score for measures 28-31, parts P1-P4. Measure 28 features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth notes and rests, with fingerings '5' indicated below. Measures 29, 30, and 31 continue this pattern. Parts P1, P2, and P3 have rests in measures 29, 30, and 31, while P4 continues with a rhythmic pattern. The time signature changes to 5/4 at the beginning of measure 28.

29

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 29 and 30. It consists of four staves labeled P 1, P 2, P 3, and P 4. P 1 has a treble clef and contains a series of eighth notes with diamond-shaped accents. P 2 has a treble clef and contains eighth notes with diamond-shaped accents. P 3 has a treble clef and contains eighth notes with diamond-shaped accents. P 4 has a treble clef and contains quarter notes. The music is in 4/4 time.

30

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 30 and 31. It consists of four staves labeled P 1, P 2, P 3, and P 4. P 1 has a treble clef and contains eighth notes with diamond-shaped accents. P 2 has a treble clef and contains eighth notes. P 3 has a treble clef and contains eighth notes with diamond-shaped accents. P 4 has a treble clef and contains eighth notes. The music is in 4/4 time.

31 **16th = 5let - 56bpm**

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measure 31. It consists of four staves labeled P 1, P 2, P 3, and P 4. P 1 has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature, with a whole rest. P 2 has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature, with a sequence of eighth notes grouped by a bracket and labeled '5'. P 3 has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature, with a whole rest. P 4 has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature, with a whole rest.



32

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

33 **5let = 16th - 70bpm**

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

34

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

C

35 ♩ = 56

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

38

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

Detailed description: This system contains measures 38 through 41. It features four staves labeled P 1, P 2, P 3, and P 4. Staves P 1 and P 2 play a continuous eighth-note pattern with a '5' fingering indicated above the notes. Staves P 3 and P 4 play a single bass note (B-flat) in the first measure, followed by rests. The time signature is 4/4, and the key signature has one flat. The system concludes with a double bar line and a 6/4 time signature.

39

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

Detailed description: This system contains measures 42 through 45. It features four staves labeled P 1, P 2, P 3, and P 4. Staves P 1 and P 2 play a continuous eighth-note pattern with a '5' fingering indicated above the notes. Staves P 3 and P 4 play a single bass note (B-flat) in the first measure, followed by rests. The time signature is 6/4, and the key signature has one flat. The system concludes with a double bar line and a 4/4 time signature.

40

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

Detailed description: This system contains measures 46 through 49. It features four staves labeled P 1, P 2, P 3, and P 4. Staves P 1 and P 2 play a continuous eighth-note pattern with a '5' fingering indicated above the notes. Staves P 3 and P 4 play a single bass note (B-flat) in the first measure, followed by rests. The time signature is 4/4, and the key signature has one flat. The system concludes with a double bar line and a 5/4 time signature.

41

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

Detailed description: This system contains measures 41 and 42. P1 and P2 play a continuous eighth-note pattern with five-measure slurs. P3 has a rest in measure 41 and a tremolo in measure 42. P4 has a rest in measure 41 and a single note in measure 42.

42

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

Detailed description: This system contains measures 43 and 44. P1 and P2 continue their eighth-note patterns. P3 has a rest in measure 43 and a tremolo in measure 44. P4 has a rest in measure 43 and a single note in measure 44.

43

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

Detailed description: This system contains measures 45 and 46. P1 and P2 continue their eighth-note patterns. P3 has a rest in measure 45 and a single note in measure 46. P4 has tremolos in both measure 45 and measure 46.

44

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

45

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

46

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

47 **D** **E**

P 1 *sing / phrase like a non-percussionist classical musician*

P 2 *sing / phrase like a non-percussionist classical musician*

P 3 *sing / phrase like a non-percussionist classical musician*

P 4 *sing / phrase like a non-percussionist classical musician*

Detailed description: This block contains musical notation for measures 47 through 51. It features four staves labeled P 1, P 2, P 3, and P 4. Above the first two staves are boxes containing the letters 'D' and 'E'. The music is written in treble clef with various time signatures: 8/4, 4/4, 5/4, 2/4, and 4/4. The notes are mostly quarter and half notes, with some rests. A performance instruction 'sing / phrase like a non-percussionist classical musician' is written below each staff.

52 **F** csillagok, csillagok...

P 1 csillagok, csillagok...

P 2 csillagok, csillagok...

P 3 csillagok, csillagok...

P 4 csillagok, csillagok...

Detailed description: This block contains musical notation for measures 52 through 57. It features four staves labeled P 1, P 2, P 3, and P 4. Above the first staff is a box containing the letter 'F'. The music is written in treble clef with time signatures of 4/4, 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4. The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes. A performance instruction 'csillagok, csillagok...' is written below each staff.

58

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

Detailed description: This block contains musical notation for measures 58 through 63. It features four staves labeled P 1, P 2, P 3, and P 4. The music is written in treble clef with time signatures of 4/4, 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4. The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes. There are no performance instructions written below the staves.

G

64

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

Detailed description: This system contains measures 64 through 68. It features four staves labeled P 1, P 2, P 3, and P 4. The music is in 2/4 time. A box labeled 'G' is positioned above the first staff at the start of measure 68. The notation includes various note values, rests, and articulation marks. In measure 68, there are sixteenth-note runs in the P 2 and P 4 staves, with '6' fingerings indicated below the notes.

69

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

Detailed description: This system contains measures 69 through 71. It features four staves labeled P 1, P 2, P 3, and P 4. The music is in 2/4 time. Measures 69 and 70 are marked with a repeat sign and 'x3'. The notation includes sixteenth-note runs in the P 1 and P 2 staves, with '6' fingerings indicated below the notes. The P 3 and P 4 staves have eighth-note patterns.

72

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

Detailed description: This system contains measures 72 through 75. It features four staves labeled P 1, P 2, P 3, and P 4. The music is in 2/4 time. Measures 72 and 73 are marked with a repeat sign. The notation includes sixteenth-note runs in the P 1 and P 2 staves, with '6' fingerings indicated below the notes. The P 3 and P 4 staves have eighth-note patterns. At the end of measure 75, the time signature changes to 3/4.

74

Musical score for measures 74-75, parts P1-P4. The score is in 3/4 time. P1 and P2 have melodic lines with some notes marked with a circled 'X'. P3 and P4 have rhythmic accompaniment. P3 has sixteenth-note runs with '6' fingerings. P4 has eighth-note accompaniment.

76

**H**

Musical score for measures 76-78, parts P1-P4. A rehearsal mark 'H' is present. The score features complex rhythmic patterns and time signature changes (1/4, 2/4, 5/4). P1 and P2 have melodic lines with '6' fingerings. P3 and P4 have rhythmic accompaniment with '6' fingerings and accents. P1 and P2 have a repeat sign and a fermata in the final measure.

79

Musical score for measures 79-81, parts P1-P4. The score is in 5/4 time. P1 and P3 are mostly silent. P2 has a melodic line with sixteenth-note runs and '6' fingerings. P4 has a rhythmic accompaniment. Time signature changes to 2/4 and back to 5/4 are shown.



81

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

84

**I** disjunct chaos

on or off - alternate between freezing and playing disjunct, sped up or slowed down gestures from the piece

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

94

**J** **J2**

grounded

Q

grounded

grounded

hover/move bowed crotale over upside-down snare

*p*

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

J3

101

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

zap

107

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

WRITE CALVINO QUOTE ON CARDBOARD

J4

112

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

tiny bell

114

Musical score for measures 114-116, parts P1-P4. The score is in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). Measure 114 starts with a 4/4 time signature. At the beginning of measure 114, there is a circled 'b' with a line pointing to a B-flat note in P1. A bracket labeled '5' spans the first five notes of P1. A circled 'b' with a line pointing to a B-flat note in P2 is also present. A bracket labeled '3' spans the last three notes of P1 and P2. At the start of measure 115, the time signature changes to 2/4. A bracket labeled '5' spans the first five notes of P3. A circled 'b' with a line pointing to a B-flat note in P2 is also present. A bracket labeled '3' spans the last three notes of P2. At the start of measure 116, the time signature changes to 3/4. A circled 'b' with a line pointing to a B-flat note in P2 is also present. A bracket labeled '3' spans the last three notes of P2. Part P4 has a 'tiny bell' symbol above the first note of measure 115.

117

Musical score for measures 117-119, parts P1-P4. The score is in 3/4 time. A bracket labeled '4' spans the first four notes of P1. Part P1 has a circled 'x' above the first note of measure 117. Part P2 has a circled 'x' above the first note of measure 117. Part P3 has a circled 'x' above the first note of measure 117. Part P4 has a circled 'x' above the first note of measure 117. The time signature changes to 5/4 at the start of measure 118.

118 **J5**

Musical score for measures 118-120, parts P1-P4. The score is in 5/4 time. A box labeled 'J5' is at the top left. Brackets labeled '6' are placed under the first six notes of P1, P2, and P3 in each measure. Part P1 has a circled 'x' above the first note of measure 118. Part P2 has a circled 'x' above the first note of measure 118. Part P3 has a circled 'x' above the first note of measure 118. Part P4 has a circled 'x' above the first note of measure 118. The time signature changes to 2/4 at the start of measure 119.

119

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

121

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

123

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

124 **K**

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

Detailed description: This system contains measures 124 through 128. It features four parts: P 1, P 2, P 3, and P 4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 5/4. P 1 and P 2 are in treble clef, while P 3 and P 4 are in bass clef. P 1 and P 2 play a melodic line with sixteenth-note patterns and slurs, with '6' indicating a sixteenth-note group. P 3 plays a rhythmic accompaniment with sixteenth-note patterns and slurs, also marked with '6'. P 4 plays a simple bass line with quarter notes and a final accented note. A box labeled 'K' is positioned above measure 124.

125

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

Detailed description: This system contains measures 125 through 129. It features four parts: P 1, P 2, P 3, and P 4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 5/4. P 1 and P 2 are in treble clef, while P 3 and P 4 are in bass clef. P 1 and P 2 play a melodic line with sixteenth-note patterns and slurs, with '6' indicating a sixteenth-note group. P 3 plays a rhythmic accompaniment with sixteenth-note patterns and slurs, also marked with '6'. P 4 plays a simple bass line with quarter notes and a final accented note. A box labeled 'K' is positioned above measure 125.

127

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

This musical score block covers measures 127 through 132. It features four parts: P 1, P 2, P 3, and P 4. The time signature is 2/4. Part P 1 consists of a sequence of sixteenth-note chords, each marked with a '6' below it. Part P 2 consists of a sequence of sixteenth-note chords, also marked with a '6' below each. Part P 3 features sixteenth-note chords with slurs, each marked with a '6' above it. Part P 4 consists of sixteenth-note chords, each marked with a '6' above it. The score concludes with a 3/4 time signature change.

129

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

This musical score block covers measures 129 through 132. It features four parts: P 1, P 2, P 3, and P 4. The time signature is 3/4. Part P 1 consists of a sequence of eighth-note chords. Part P 2 consists of a sequence of eighth-note chords. Part P 3 consists of eighth-note chords with slurs and some notes marked with an 'x' in a circle. Part P 4 consists of eighth-note chords with slurs and some notes marked with an 'x' in a circle. The score concludes with a double bar line.