

#FERGUSON

solo percussion

MUSIC BY JON BELLONA

#FERGUSON

Notes

#Ferguson is based upon Twitter feeds surrounding the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO on Aug. 9, 2014. Michael Brown was shot and killed by officer Darren Wilson, which sparked riots and civilian unrest. Demonstrations were met with militaristic police response and curfews. The event underscored the racial disparities of the justice system, receiving national media attention. Inspiration for the piece initially came from mapping Twitter feeds in real time to create sonic events, and these social media responses to the events in Ferguson eventually found their way into the third section of this work.

#Ferguson is divided into three sections: introduction, the shooting, and public reactions. The first section sets the scene sonically. Like a reporter on a typewriter, the work introduces the main character by spelling out Michael's name (tenor drum). Musical material via Twitter (woodblocks) are interspersed. The second section introduces the police (snare drum). The third section focuses on tweets surrounding the event. In August and September, *#ferguson* and other relevant tweets pushed past 100,000 tweets per day. By the end of *#Ferguson*, there is the slow down of public response combined with measures taken by the police in response to Ferguson. We are left, not with resolution, but instead with questions. Have positive changes be enacted after the shooting of Michael Brown? Has our political system (local, regional, state, and federal) opened any channels for dialogue surrounding racial profiling and inequalities of the prison system? Or have prejudices towards minorities remained the status quo?

I sincerely hope my last question is not true.

Jon Bellona

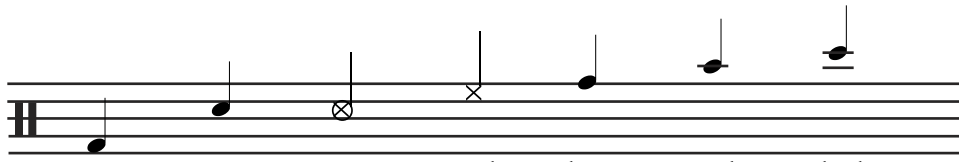
November 8, 2014

Instrumentation

Tenor drum (no snares)

Snare drum (with snares on)

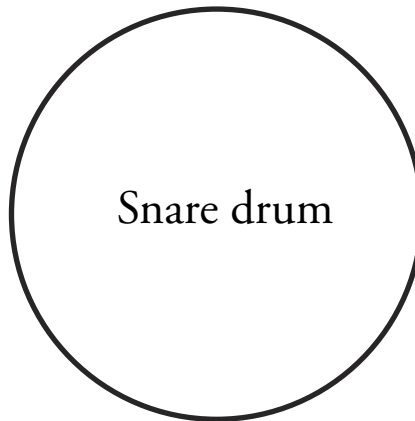
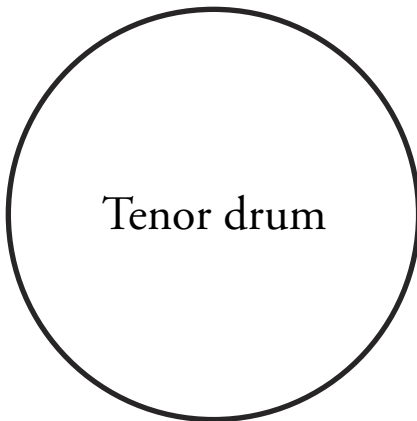
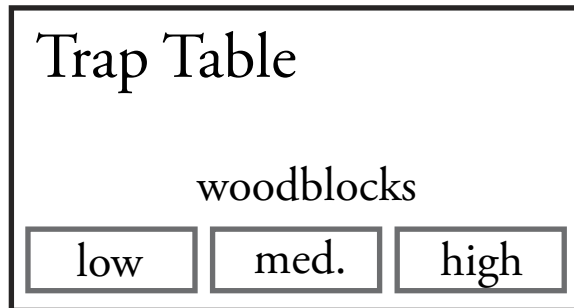
Three woodblocks (low, medium, high)



A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The staff contains seven notes, each with a vertical line above it indicating the instrument. The notes are: a quarter note on the first space (tenor drum), a quarter note on the second space (snare drum), a quarter note on the second space with an 'X' on the stem (snare rimshot), a quarter note on the second space with an 'X' on the stem (stick click), a quarter note on the second space (low woodblock), a quarter note on the second space (medium woodblock), and a quarter note on the second space (high woodblock).

tenor drum snare drum snare rimshot stick click low wood-block medium wood-block high wood-block

Suggested Setup



#Ferguson

Jon Bellona

♩ = 85 Setting the scene

Percussion

Precise

M

pp

8 i

c

15

h

22

a

29

e

36

l

43

B

50

f subito *p*

r

57

o

64

w

71

n

78

subito p

(♩ = 100)

Aggressive

Aug. 9, 2014

A

101

6 6

p

9 9

104

3

f

p

9 9 9 9

107

fff

111

3 3 3 3

115

fff

119

3 3 3 3 9 9 9 9

122

3 3 3 3

fff

126

9 9 3

p *fff*

129

9 9

p *fff*

131

mp

135

f *p* *f*

139

p *f* *mp*

142

f *p*

146

p *f* *p* *f* *p*

150

f *p*

155

fff

B Twitter response
 (♩ = 120) *Bursting, Frenetic*

ff

163

166

169



172

precise, even

175

frenetic

178

183

188

193

198

203

208

213

217

222

227

232

237

240

subito p 9 9 *ff* 6

243

Musical notation for measures 243-245. The piece is in 2/4 time. Measures 243-244 feature sixteenth-note runs with a '6' below the staff. Measure 245 features a '9' below the staff and the instruction *subito p*.

246

Musical notation for measures 246-248. Measures 246-247 feature sixteenth-note runs with a '9' below the staff. Measure 248 features a '7' below the staff and the instruction *f*. The time signature changes to 4/4.

249

Musical notation for measures 249-251. Measures 249-251 feature sixteenth-note runs with accents (>) above the notes.

252

Musical notation for measures 252-254. Measures 252-253 feature sixteenth-note runs with accents (>) above the notes. Measure 254 features a '9' below the staff and the instruction *mp*. The time signature changes to 3/4.

255

Musical notation for measures 255-256. Measure 255 is a whole rest. Measure 256 features a '9' below the staff and the instruction *n*. The time signature changes to 2/4.

257

Musical notation for measures 257-260. Measures 257-260 feature sixteenth-note runs with a '9' below the staff.

260

Musical notation for measures 260-262. Measures 260-262 feature sixteenth-note runs with a '9' below the staff.

frenetic more about chaos than correct notes here...

263

Musical notation for measures 263-265. Measures 263-265 feature sixteenth-note runs with a '9' below the staff.

266

Musical notation for measures 266-270. Measures 266-270 feature sixteenth-note runs with a '9' below the staff.

269

9 9 9 9 9 9

272

9 9 9 9 9 9

275

9 9 9 9 9 9

278

9 9 9 9 9 9

281

9 9 9 9 9 9

284

9 9 9 9 9 9

287

9 9 9 9 9 9

290

9 9

subito p

fff