

# Friends (2024)

for marimba and vibraphone

Brandon Shen

## Program Note

Friends is a fun, little duet written for 5.0 octave marimba and 3.0 octave vibraphone featuring sounds inspired by J-pop and jazz. Playing music with friends fills me with joy, so I envisioned a piece that two friends would have lots of fun playing together. While the piece starts simply and playfully, the tone eventually shifts to one that is deeply grateful. I hope the performers of this piece feel the same thing- a sincere gratitude for each other, for this ability to make music together.

## Instrumentation

Friends requires a 3.0 octave vibraphone (F3 to F6), and a 5.0 octave marimba (C2 to C7).

## Performance Notes

Vibraphone pedaling is to be left up to the performer.

Measure 27 features an improvised section. Chords are written for each instrument to improvise over, and each instrument should trade measures to improvise over each chord, repeating as necessary. If improvisation is not possible, writing out a predetermined solo is also acceptable. Players should try to be creative while still attempting to convey synergy between players. This section is entirely flexible- if players have alternative ideas about harmony, form, or something else that is not exactly outlined in the music, it is highly encouraged to experiment with it.

Written music is provided, but highly discouraged. I promise you'll have more fun with it if you approach this section as a jam with your friend!

Measure 45 features a free-time vibraphone solo. While rhythm is notated for the solo, it does not need to be strictly followed. Instead, let time flow more freely in order to create a sense of ambience while still emphasizing the rhythmic and melodic contours of the phrase.

# Friends

for marimba and vibraphone

4 minutes 54 seconds

Brandon Shen (2024)

Strolling, ca. ♩ = 127

Vibraphone

mf

p

Marimba

mp <

sim.

mp 3

6

Vib.

mf

p on the beat

10

Mrm.

mf

Friends - Brandon Shen (Score)

77

Vib.

Mrm.

Musical score for Vibraphone (Vib.) and Maracas (Mrm.) starting at measure 77. The Vibraphone part features a melodic line with triplets and slurs. The Maracas part has a rhythmic accompaniment with slurs and accents.

15

Vib.

Mrm.

18

*mf*

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

Musical score for Vibraphone (Vib.) and Maracas (Mrm.) starting at measure 15. The Vibraphone part includes a boxed measure number "18" and dynamic markings *mf*. The Maracas part includes dynamic markings *mf*, *f*, *mf*, *f*, and *mf* with slurs and accents.

Friends - Brandon Shen (Score)

20

Vib.

Mrm.

*f*

ghost sim.

*mf*

24

Vib.

Mrm.

*f*

Friends - Brandon Shen (Score)

Solo section! optionally repeat as many times as needed for improvised or self-written solos (and accompaniment)- written parts optional.  
explore stuff like trading different durations, expanding on each other's ideas, or even using body percussion and vocalizations (and other extended techniques).

27

Amaj7 Fmaj7 A7

Vib.

Mrm.

30

F7 Am7 Fm7

Vib.

Mrm.

Friends - Brandon Shen (Score)

1. 2.

33 Dm9 Fm9 E♭maj9 Dmin11 Bm7 C#m7 Dm7

Vib.

Mrm.

3

3 3 6

*mf*

36 G6 Dm7 Db7 37

Vib.

Mrm.

end improvisation

*mf*

3

end improvisation

sim.

*f*

*mf*

*f*

Friends - Brandon Shen (Score)

40

Vib.

Mrm.

*p*

*f*

*mf*

*f*

*mf*

43

Vib.

Mrm.

rit. ---

*f*

*f*

Friends - Brandon Shen (Score)

45  $\text{♩} = 50$ , freely  
motor on

Vib.

Mrm.

46 rit. 47 song-like, ca.  $\text{♩} = 90$

Vib.

Mrm.

Friends - Brandon Shen (Score)

48

Vib.

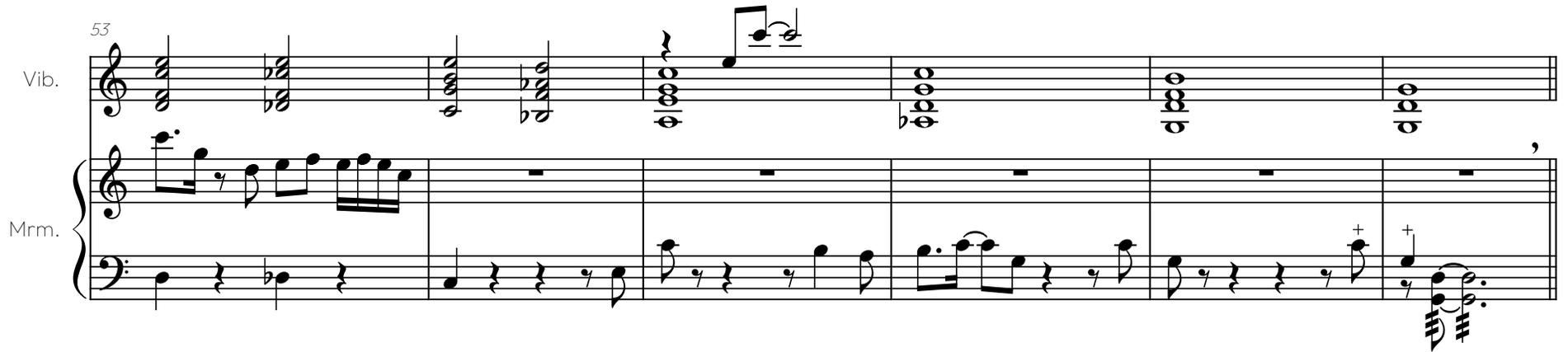
Mrm.



53

Vib.

Mrm.



59

slowly building energy (ca. ♩ = 50)

(Marimba) accel.

Vib.

Mrm.

15



Friends - Brandon Shen (Score)

62

rit. -----

(Marimba)  $\text{♩} = 72$   
play

Vib.

Mrm.

66

Vib.

Mrm.

*mp cresc. poco a poco*

69

Vib.

Mrm.

Friends - Brandon Shen (Score)

74 a tempo

72

Vib.

Mrm.

*fp cresc.*

*f*

76

Vib.

Mrm.

80

Vib.

Mrm.

82

Friends - Brandon Shen (Score)

83

Vib.

Mrm.

86

Vib.

Mrm.

*fp* *ff* *sub. mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *mf*

*fp* *ff* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Friends - Brandon Shen (Score)

90

Vib.

Mrm.

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

93

Vib.

Mrm.

95

*mf* *f* *ff* 3

*ff* 3

Friends - Brandon Shen (Score)

96

Vib.

Mrm.

99

Vib.

Mrm.

Friends - Brandon Shen (Score)

103 *rall.* 105 dreamily, ca. ♩ = 56  
tenderly, motor on

Vib.

Mrm.

106

Vib.

Mrm.

(Vibraphone)

(Play)