

Notes for *Music Pass*.

This piece was written in 2010 for the Xavier College Guitar Ensemble in Melbourne.

At the end of each music lesson the Xavier students are given a music pass with the date and time of their lesson. The distinctive percussive effects in this piece are achieved by placing pieces of paper the size of the music passes (9cm x 11cm) under the strings.

Notes for performers:

Parts 1 and 2 do not require a piece of paper inserted between the strings.

Parts 3-6 will need a piece of paper each to insert between the strings. The piece of paper should be approximately 9cm x 11cm.

To begin, guitars 3-6 should insert the paper over the sixth string, under the fifth, over the fourth, under the third and so on. Move the paper along the strings until it sits next to the bridge.

Guitars 3-6 start the piece with guitars turned back to front – i.e. the back of the guitar facing the audience.

Explanation of indications in the parts.

Rub fingers on guitar back.

Rub RH fingers back and forth on guitar back.

Flip guitar over

Flip the guitar over so that the strings are facing the audience. Normal playing position!

Rub right hand fingers on guitar strings

Rub RH fingers on the strings (on the bass strings for maximum sound).

Move paper along the neck towards the nut

Hold the paper and move it back and forth to obtain the semi-quaver rhythm. Continue to do this and move the paper gradually towards the nut.

Rub RH along strings and gradually move towards bridge.

Leave the paper next to the nut and rub RH back and forth on the strings to achieve semi-quaver pattern. Whilst doing this, move RH towards the bridge.

Right and left hand percussion on neck.

Both hands hit the strings onto the fretboard to give a snare-like effect. The lowest pitch indicates the RH and the highest pitch the LH.

Knock on guitar side.

Use RH knuckles to knock on the side of the guitar. Begin on the upper side of the guitar near the neck and gradually move around the guitar (still on the upper side) towards the bridge.

N.B. Guitars 3-6 play the melodic material in bars 56-88 with the paper against the nut. The paper is gradually moved back to the bridge position for the strumming section.

Remove paper

Grab the paper and toss into the air with a flourish!

Ken Murray

