

Constantin Basica

# **Fugue for Bells, Beans, and Bugs**

for three performers, bells, beans, bugs, and video

2017

Dear musicians,

I am excited to present you this piece and I hope you will enjoy performing it! I would like to provide a few instructions.

In **PART 1**, you are moving in a prescribed sequence of footsteps around the table, while clapping and euphorically reciting the words *bells*, *beans*, and *bugs*. The motion is both forward and backward, so you will be essentially scrubbing back and forth through the sequence. The recitation and the clapping rhythms are reversed appropriately.

**PART 2** (last bar in the score) consist of you grabbing handful of bells, beans, and bugs from the table, and dropping them up on the table and on the floor. This process unfolds in quasi-slow-motion and repeats twice. Simultaneously, you recite the words three times in fabricated slow-motion voice. Immediately after, each of you grabs a bucket and gloves and starts picking up the objects from the floor. A video accompanies this part, which duplicates your action. At the end of the video, your doppelgängers discover a bizarre monster: think of the science fiction film *Arrival*, but instead of the spaceship, you can see a colossal hybrid between a plastic bug, a white bean, and a metal jingle bell. This discovery is accompanied by a musical apex, at which point you all stop picking up objects, stand up, and look at the screen, as if hypnotized.

**Handclaps:** Please choose a distinct sound for each performer (different positions of hitting the palms). In "slow-mo" and "super slow-mo" and "freeze", the handclaps should be performed as usual (in order to make sound), only the body and the voice are slowed down. As you will see, there are only 3 rhythmic cells that are repeated (and they always fall on the same footsteps), but the back and forth movement displaces and inverts them.

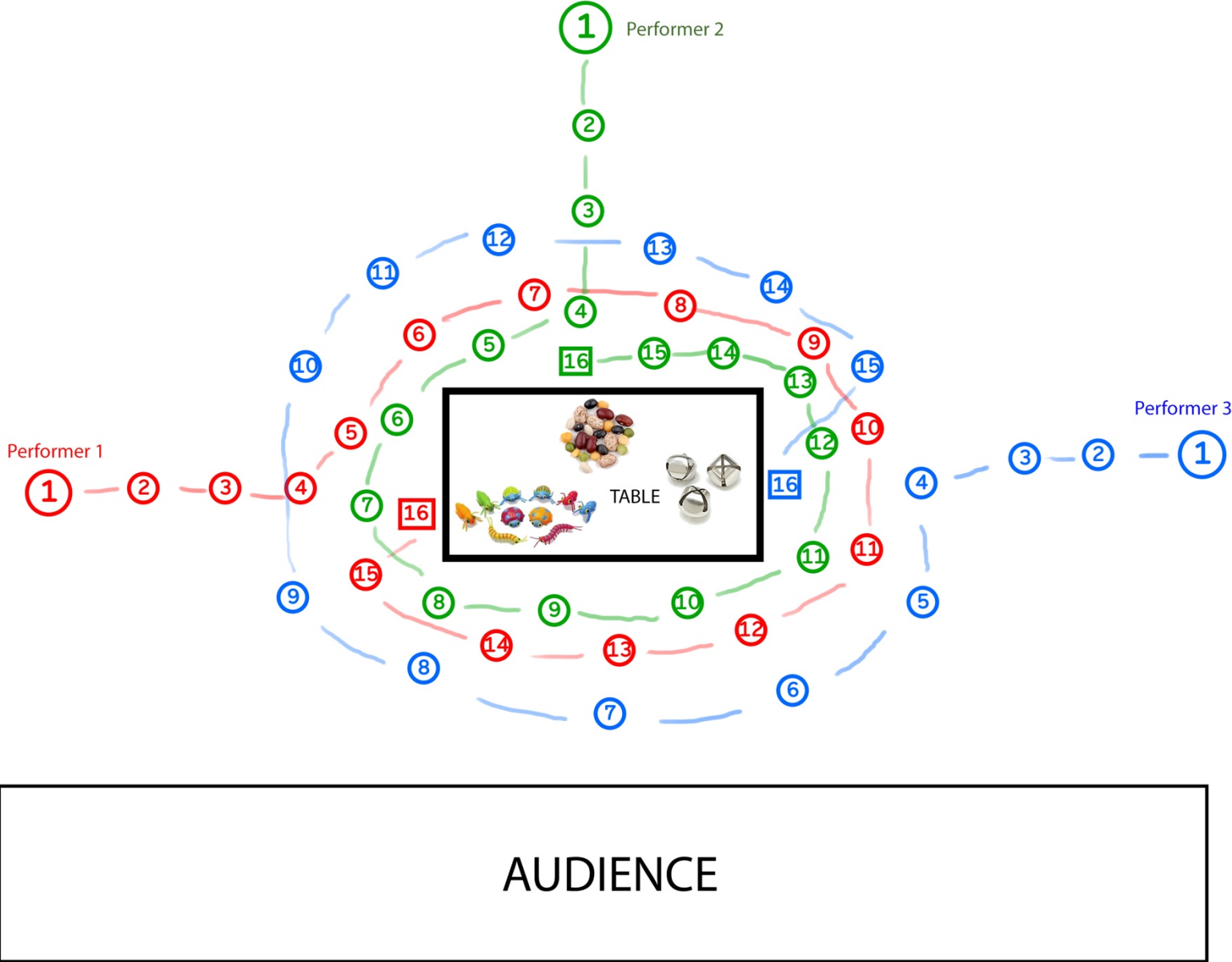
**Voice:** You will be reciting the words *bells*, *beans*, and *bugs*, forward and backward. Don't worry about getting the phonemes exactly the same in palindrome, the idea is not to mimic a computer process. The lines indicate approximate glissando or steady pitch. You don't have to coordinate amongst yourselves to recite on the same pitches.

**Footsteps:** There is a total of 16 footstep positions, as shown below in the diagram. The score shows how to move through the sequence. When "freezing", only one foot should be on the ground.

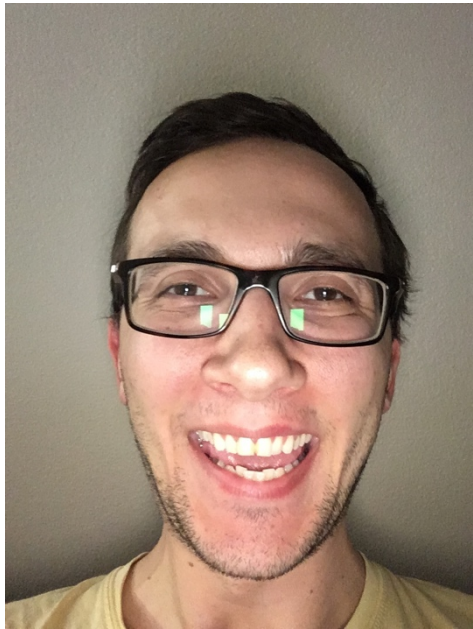
Please feel free to send me any questions you might have: [email@constantinbasica.com](mailto:email@constantinbasica.com).

All the best,  
Constantin

This is an approximation of the three footstep sequences (the distances between footsteps are obviously not scaled correctly). As you can see, the idea is to circle the table once and reach the last footstep (16) on the same side you started.



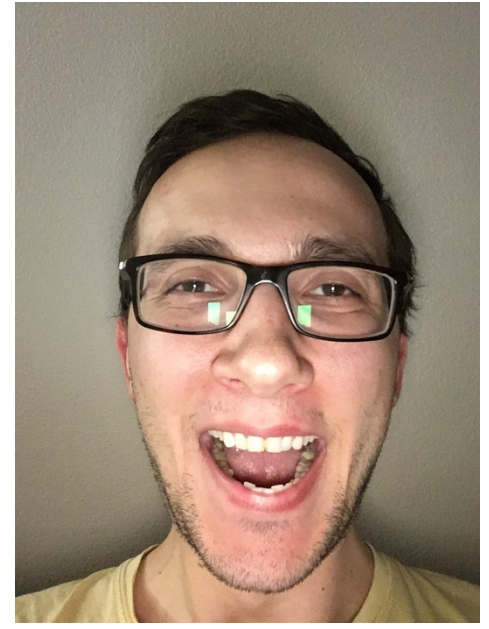
Throughout PART 1, your facial expressions while reciting the words (and during pauses) should be similar to these:



(B)eeeeeeeeee(l)



(B)eeeeeeeeee(an)



(B)uuuuuuuuu(g)

sssssssssss



# PART 1

approx. ♩ = 77

Voice

Handclap 1

Footsteps

# PART 1

approx. ♩ = 77

Voice

Handclap 2

Footsteps

bell s bell s bells! bell s lleb s! s lleb s lleb s bell s bells! s lleb s lle

Forward

Backward

1Left 2Right 3L 4R 5 6 7 8 9L 8R 7 6 5 4 3 2R 3L 4 5 6R 5L 4 3 2R

# PART 1

approx. ♩ = 77

Voice

Handclap 3

Footsteps

**A**

9

bean\_s bean\_s beans! bean\_s neab\_sneab! s\_neab\_s neab\_s bean\_s beans! s\_neab\_s nea

Forward

Backward

1Left 2Right 3L 4R 5 6 7 8 9L 8R 7 6 5 4 3 2R 3L 4 5 6R 5L 4 3 2R

**A**

bell\_s bell\_s bells! s\_lleb\_s bell\_s bells! bell\_s s\_lleb\_s lleb! bell

1L 2 3 4 5 6R 5L 4 3L 4R 5 6 7 8 9 10 11L 10R 9 8 7 6R 7L 8

**A**



**C** **D**

slow-mo freeze

25

s bea b bean

9 10 11 12 13 14R 13L 12 11 10R 11L 10R 11L 12R

**C** **D**

slow-mo freeze freeze

bell s lleb

11L 12R 13 14 15L 14R 13 12 11L

**C** **D**

freeze freeze freeze

bug s bug s bugs! s gub s bug s bugs! bug s s

1L 2 3 4 5 6 5L 4 3L 4R 5 6 7 8 9 10R 9L

32 E

super slow-mo freeze 5

s neab sneab! s neab s

11L 10 9L 8 7L 6R 5 4 3L

slow-mo freeze freeze freeze

bell s lleb slleb! s lleb s

12R 11L 10R 9 8 7L 6R 5 4 3L

freeze freeze freeze

gub sgub! s gub s

8R 7L 6R 5 4 3L

**F**

39

slow-mo freeze

bean s beans! s neab s nea

4R 5 6 5L 4 3L 2R

**F**

slow-mo freeze

bell s bells! s lleb s

4R 5 6 5L 4 3L

**F**

slow-mo freeze freeze

bug s bugs! s gub s gu bug s

4R 5 6 5L 4 3L 2R 1L 2 3

**G**

46

freeze

bean s beans! bean s bean s

1L 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 10 11 12 13 14 15

**G**

llc bell s bells! bell s bell s

2R 1L 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15L

**G**

bug s bugs! bug s bug s

4 5 6 7 8 9 8 7 8 9 10 11 10 11 12 13 14 15

**H**

♩ = 144 (or double your selected tempo)

# PART 2

refer to the instructions

52

neab

s

bean

s

14R 13 12 11 10 9L 10R 11 12 13 14 15 16R

**H**

♩ = 144 (or double your selected tempo)

# PART 2

refer to the instructions

lleb

s

bell

s

14R 13 12 11 10 9L 10R 11 12 13 14 15 16R

**H**

♩ = 144 (or double your selected tempo)

# PART 2

refer to the instructions

gub

s

bug

s

14R 13 12 11 10 9L 10R 11 12 13 14 15 16R