

# Fire Dance On Ko Tao

**Mark Powers**

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

- Nearly any type of cup cymbals may be used: ching (Thailand), manjira (India), or tingsha (Tibet). Common finger cymbals will suffice if no others are available.
- The splash cymbals in measures 20-27 and 36-58 are to be struck directly by the cup cymbal that Player 1 is already holding.
- For Player 2 to facilitate muting Player 1's splash cymbals at measures 44-47, the two need to setup facing each other and in close proximity.
- Player 2's mid drum should not be tuned too high in pitch, but still noticeably higher than the low drums played by Players 3 & 4. The low drums should be tuned to match each other as closely as possible.
- The two bullroarers used should differ in size from each other.
- A long rainstick is recommended, however an ocean drum may also be substituted.

## SETUP

(audience here)

**P4 P2 P1 P3**

## THE BULLROARER

The bullroarer, classified as a "free aerophone," is a simple instrument with a long history of use in nearly every part of the world. Whether used as a musical instrument, a ceremonial tool, a communication device or a child's toy, the vibrato sound of a spinning bullroarer can range from a gentle hum, to an eerie buzz, or to a whirling thunder. Other names for this instrument are: rhombus, brummer, pūrerehua, turndun, and imigluktaaq.

Traditionally made of wood and rope, however the instructions below will allow you to make a bullroarer from some everyday objects.

### SUPPLIES:

- ruler (wood, plastic or metal - preferably with a hole near one end) or plastic water/soda bottle (small-neck type works best)
- sturdy string (or very light rope)
- scissors

### STEPS:

1. Cut a 3-foot length of string.
2. Tie and knot the string securely through the hole in the ruler, or around the neck of the plastic bottle.
3. Stand several feet away from other people or objects.
4. Hold the free end of the string, let the ruler or bottle dangle, and then begin spinning it (either over head or in front of you).
5. Experiment with varying the speed and angle that you're spinning the instrument at to alter the sound created.
6. Try making additional instruments with different types of rulers and plastic bottles; each will have its own unique sounds and characteristics.

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Grade 3+  
duration 2:10

FULL SCORE

Allegro ♩ = 126  
Cup Cymbals

Player 1  
(Cup Cymbals,  
3 Splash Cymbals)

Player 2  
(Mid Drum, China  
Cymbal, Rainstick)

Player 3  
(Low Drum, Bullroarer)

Player 4  
(Low Drum, Bullroarer)