

Alex Temple

B|L|W|R|R|Y | L|I|N|E

(2022)

for four or more pitched instruments

Performance Instructions

Blurry Line is an exercise in heterophony. Each performer plays the same melodic line from the same score, but with rhythms of their choosing. (Rhythms do not have to be regular!) Phrases are marked by barlines; each phrase should begin in a staggered fashion, with all performers entering within a couple of seconds of each other. As the phrase continues, they can diverge further if they so choose. (You may want to make decisions as an ensemble about how much divergence you want to allow.)

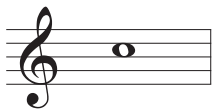
Tempo markings ("slow," "moderate" and "fast") are deliberately vague; don't try to coordinate a single tempo for all performers!

The piece can be played by any group of four or more pitched instruments. The score includes versions written in treble clef and bass/tenor clef; these are identical except for their range, and performers are welcome to use whichever one they prefer. If the range of the line moves outside the practical range of your instrument, feel free to switch octaves as necessary. The score also includes treble-clef versions in two common transpositions.

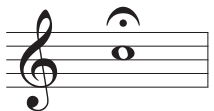
Expressive effects such as portamento, vibrato, fluttertongue, etc. are encouraged!



Play with any rhythm of your choice.
Don't synchronize with the other players.



Hold until every performer has arrived at this note, then all release together. When there are multiple whole notes in a row, begin each one with performers entering in a staggered fashion rather than simultaneously.



Hold until every performer has arrived at this note; then all continue holding *ad lib* before releasing together.



Play consistent note values in regular rhythm.
Don't synchronize your tempo with the other performers.

- all performers pause together briefly
- ” all performers pause together for a bit longer
- ”” all performers pause together for long enough to convey a break between major sections

BILURRY LINE

Alex Temple

Slow

fff melancholy, like a neo-noir film score (think Chinatown or Taxi Driver) *ff* *f*

mf *mp* *p*

A **Moderate** **Fast**

pp *p* *pp* *mp* *ppp* delicate

Moderate

pp *mp* *pp* *mp*

Fast

ppp

B **Moderate**

pp *f* *p* sensuous and lyrical

blurry line

(C)

Fast

Musical staff C: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Dynamics: *mp*, *mf*, *f*, *ff*, *f*. Tempo: Fast. Performance instruction: "blurry line".

Accel.

Musical staff C continued: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Dynamics: *f*. Performance instruction: "repeat ad lib.".

repeat ad lib.

n

(D) Fast Slow

Musical staff D: Treble clef, key signature of two flats (B \flat , E \flat). Dynamics: *ff*, *pp*. Tempo: Fast to Slow. Performance instruction: "vast and overwhelming".

Fast Slow

Musical staff E: Treble clef, key signature of two flats (B \flat , E \flat). Dynamics: *ff*, *pp*. Tempo: Fast to Slow.

(E) Fast

Musical staff F: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). Dynamics: *fff*, *pp*. Tempo: Fast.

Slow Moderate

Musical staff G: Treble clef, key signature of two flats (B \flat , E \flat). Dynamics: *fff*, *ppp*. Tempo: Slow to Moderate. Performance instruction: "like an afterthought".

n

BIL WURRY LINE

Alex Temple

Slow

fff melancholy, like a neo-noir film score (think Chinatown or Taxi Driver) *ff* *f*

A Moderate Fast

Moderate

Fast

B Moderate

Blurry Line

24

mp *mf* *f* *ff* *f*

Fast

Accel.

repeat ad lib.

n

D

Fast

Slow

ff *pp*

vast and overwhelming

Fast

Slow

ff *pp*

E

Fast

fff *pp*

Slow

Moderate

fff *ppp* like and afterthought *n*

Treble Clef Version

Transposed for instruments in B_♭

BILLY WILLY LINE

Alex Temple

Slow

fff melancholy, like a neo-noir film score (think Chinatown or Taxi Driver) *ff* *f*

mf *mp* *p*

A **Moderate** **Fast**

pp *p* *pp* *mp* *ppp* delicate

Moderate

pp *mp* *pp* *mp*

Fast

ppp

B **Moderate**

pp *f* *p* sensuous and lyrical

blurry line

mp mf f ff **C** Fast

Accel. repeat ad lib. n

D Fast Slow ,
ff pp
vast and overwhelming

Fast Slow ,
ff pp

E Fast
fff pp

Slow Moderate
fff ppp like an afterthought n

Treble Clef Version

Transposed for instruments in E₅

BILLY WILLY LINE

Alex Temple

Slow

fff melancholy, like a neo-noir film score (think Chinatown or Taxi Driver) *ff* *f*

mf *mp* *p*

A **Moderate** **Fast**

pp *p* *pp* *mp* *ppp* delicate

Moderate

pp *mp* *pp* *mp*

Fast

ppp

B **Moderate**

pp *f* *p* sensual and lyrical

blurry line

(C)

Fast

Accel.

(D)

Fast

Slow

Fast

Slow

(E)

Fast

Slow

Moderate