

# **Music for Climbing** **Equipment**

**By Aidan Gold**

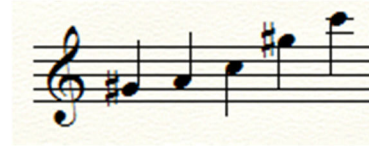
For Five Players (and a conductor if  
necessary)

## Instrumentation:

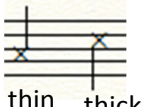
Player 1: 5 Pitons, pitched approximately:

1 Angled Piton: 

2 hard plastic mallets



Player 2: 5 Chocks, hung from a trekking pole:

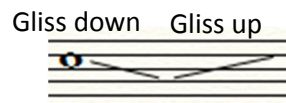
2 Ice screws (1 thin, 1 thick):   
Piano (low strings accessible)

1 hard plastic mallet, 1 triangle beater, 2 soft felt mallets



Player 3: Picket, 2 Water Buckets:

1 soft yarn mallet, 1 snare stick



Player 4: Higher-pitched Ice Axe

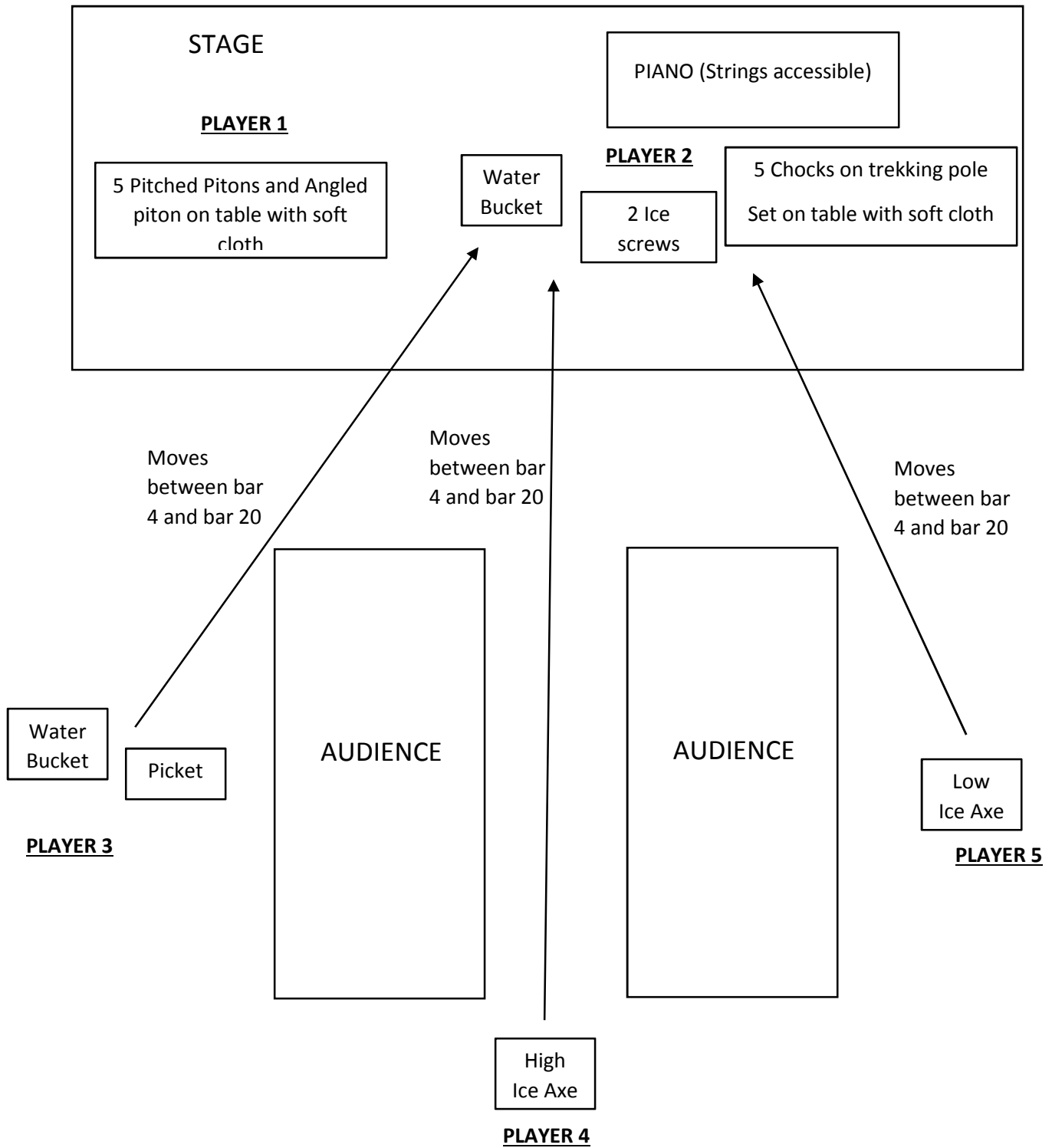
1 soft yarn mallet, 1 snare stick

Player 5: Lower-pitched Ice Axe

1 soft yarn mallet, 1 snare stick

Duration: Approx. 2 min 30 sec.

# Setup:



## Additional Instructions:

- Both Ice Axes should be struck on the flat back part of the top.
- Players 3, 4, and 5 should always be holding their instrument in one hand and a yarn mallet and a snare stick in the other hand (using any 4 mallet-grip that allows independent use of either mallet), except when they put down their mallets to briefly pick up an ice screw to scrape their instrument with (ex. in measure 20-21).
- In measures 10-11 player 2 should put down both ice screws in a place easily reachable by both him/her and players 3, 4, and 5.
- When there is a downward sloping glissando line in player 3's part, s/he lowers the picket into the nearest water bucket, and holds it in the water bucket until there is an upward sloping glissando line, where s/he pulls it out of the water bucket.
- During the final 5 measures, the thin ice screw will bounce wildly around the low piano strings. This is intentional.
- Between measures 4 and 20, players 3, 4, and 5 will make their way from their initial positions to the stage. The timing should be worked out such that the players slowly walk at the same rate and arrive on stage at the same time.
- The tremolos in parts 3, 4, and 5 should be continually varying in speed and dynamics (though never surpassing the written dynamic by too much), but always beneath the melodies in parts 1 and 2.
- Throughout bars 22-24, players 4 and 5 when directed use their ice axe to push the specified Chock off of player 2's trekking pole while s/he is holding it, until player 2 is holding just a trekking pole, which s/he then puts down in the next measure. The Chocks will hit the stage floor. This should be choreographed in rehearsal such that there is no break in the music and no collisions between players.
- The piece can be much easier with a conductor. The conductor can help keep everyone together in the unmeasured sections as well as assist with counting for parts 3, 4, and 5, because parts 1 and 2 are largely off beat and do not keep time very well. The conductor should stand in a place where all 5 players could see him/her, and yet s/he would not block the audience's view of any of the instruments (ex. inbetween players 1 and 2 on the stage).

# Music for Climbing Equipment

Aidan Gold

**Unmetered.**

Player 3: picket yarn mallet

Player 4: high ice axe yarn mallet

Player 5: low ice axe yarn mallet

*sfpp*

*ppp* *p* *ppp*

**4** note: this bar does not have to be followed exactly. Just make the gestures overlap more and more until all three players are producing continuous sound. **approx. 20 sec.**

**5 sec.** **Largo misterioso.** ♩ = 60.

P 1: angle piton

P 2: hold both ice screws in one hand

P 3: slowly start walking towards the stage

P 4: slowly start walking towards the stage

P 5: slowly start walking towards the stage

*ppp* *pp* *pp*

this tremolo should constantly vary in speed

*p* hard plastic mallet

thin ice screw

scrape with triangle beater

Unmetered.  
4 sec. 4 sec.

Largo misterioso. ♩ = 60.  
5 Pitched Pitons  
hard plastic mallet

7

P 1

thick ice screw

P 2

put down ice screws,  
pick up trekking pole  
with 5 Chocks on it

5 Chocks *pp*

P 3

yarn mallet

*f subito* *ppp* this tremolo should constantly vary in speed

P 4

yarn mallet

*f subito* *ppp* this tremolo should constantly vary in speed

P 5

yarn mallet

*f subito* *ppp* this tremolo should constantly vary in speed

13

P 1

*pp* *mp*

P 2

*mp* *pp* *p* *mp*

P 3

with shaft of yarn mallet

yarn mallet

*p* *ppp*

P 4

P 5

13

with shaft of yarn mallet

*p*

*poco a poco accel.*

Musical score for five percussion parts (P1-P5) from measure 17 to 20. P1 is in treble clef, P2-P5 in bass clef. Dynamics range from *ppp* to *f*. Includes performance instructions like "with shaft of yarn mallet" and "arrive at the stage".

Part	Measure 17	Measure 18	Measure 19	Measure 20
P1	<i>mf</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>pp</i> → <i>mf</i>	
P2		<i>mp</i>		<i>mp</i> → <i>f</i>
P3		<i>pp</i>	<i>mp</i>	
P4	<i>p</i>	<i>pp</i>		
P5	<i>ppp</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>p</i> → <i>mp</i>	

Musical score for five percussion parts (P1-P5) from measure 21 to 23. P1 is in treble clef, P2-P5 in bass clef. Dynamics range from *p* to *f*. Includes performance instructions like "with shaft of yarn mallet" and "yarn mallet".

Part	Measure 21	Measure 22	Measure 23
P1	<i>mf</i>	<i>p</i> → <i>p</i> → <i>mf</i>	<i>mf</i>
P2	<i>mp</i>		<i>mp</i> → <i>f</i>
P3	<i>mp</i>		<i>f</i>
P4	<i>mf</i>		<i>p</i>
P5		<i>mp</i>	

24

P 1 *f* *mp* *f espress.*

P 2 scrape with triangle beater  
*p*

P 3 with shaft of yarn mallet  
*f* *p*

P 4 with shaft of yarn mallet  
*mf* *p*

P 5 24 with shaft of yarn mallet  
*mf* *mf* *p*



Flowing. ♩ = 80.

27

P 1 *sfz* *sfz* *mf* *f* *mf*

P 2 *f* *mf*

P 3 *mf* *mp*

P 4 *mf* *mp*

P 5 27 *mf* *mp*



Music for Climbing Equipment

30

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

P 5

*ff* *fff* *ff*

*p* *f* *ff*

*mf* *f* *mp*

*mf* *f* *mp*

30

*mf* *f* *mp*

33

P 1

P 2

P 3

P 4

P 5

*fff* *ff* *f*

*sfffz* *p* *sfffz* *p* *sffz* *p* *sfz* *p* *sffffz*

*fff* *niente*

*fff* *niente*

33

*fff* *niente*

Largo misterioso. ♩ = 60. poco accel.

angle piton

put down thick ice screw  
put thin ice screw on low piano strings

roll on piano strings with 2 soft mallets

yarn mallet

yarn mallet

yarn mallet

let ring