

Danse

for Riqq (Arabic Tambourine)

N. P. Stottlemyer

NPS 002 - \$10.00

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Danse was inspired by N. P. Stottlemeyer's interactions with the employees of a Giza market during he and his wife's visit to Egypt in August of 2008. This composition is written for the riqq, an Arabic tambourine approximately 9 inches in diameter with 10 pairs of large, brass jingles or sajat. The riqq is capable of a vast array of timbres and dynamic contrast. It is the principal percussion instrument of classical music in the Near/Middle East.

When choosing an instrument to perform with, consider that the skin must be tensioned high, so natural skin should only be used when performing in an arid climate. A tunable riqq is preferable. Jingles must be of high quality to ensure clear distinction of syncopated rhythms.

The performer of this composition should be familiar with the traditional techniques for the riqq. The instrument is held using the Oriental grip. In open position, shaking should be executed in the traditional side-to-side fashion, contrasting the contemporary front-to-back technique. Dum is played with the 2nd finger on the skin between the center and the edge while tek is played with the 4th finger on the edge of the skin where it meets the bearing edge. The muted stroke (often called “pa” or “sak”) is played with the tips of the fingers in the center of the skin. If the performer is familiar with other techniques for playing the muted stroke (for example, with the 1st and 3rd fingers), they may be substituted. In closed position, all strokes are muted (with the exception of dum) by pressing both 2nd fingers on the skin. Dum in closed position is played with the 4th finger, however if the performer is advanced and is able to execute a 1st finger dum, a 1st finger dum may be substituted when appropriate. The muted stroke is played with the 3rd finger and tek is played with the 4th finger.

Key:

Jingles (Shaken) Jingles (Palm against shell) Dum Muted Stroke -Closed (Pa or Sak) Tek Muted Stroke -Open (Pa or Sak) Jingles (Fingers on jingle)

A recording of this piece can be heard at www.NPStottlemeyer.net. Any questions regarding the performance of this piece can be directed to:

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