

The Dying Pillow

For 12 cymbals

For Synergy percussion

Each player is assigned a colour. A smooth flat line indicates a soft dynamic, and the widening of the line means getting louder. Use a bow to play the cymbal and try as where possible to make the bow change inaudible.

A 'dot' at the end or start of a line means to articulate the start or end in some strong way, if there is no dot you should ease in at the start and let the cymbal ring out at the end.

Floating 'dots' are soft cymbal strikes that can ring out (i.e. do not require dampening). These can be on the cymbals being bowed, or on others - which could be crotales or any other type of 'cymbal like' instrument.

Choose a variety of different cymbal sizes and types. Be inventive with the way you set up in the space, don't group together as a whole.

The score should be read in the Decibel Score Player app on networked iPads, but can also be read as a video score.

Program Note:

This piece is a reflection on ingrained racism against indigenous people in Australia. The violence from both sides during the late 1800's, colonial governments introduced systems of 'protective' legislation. A Chief Protector was appointed to watch over the interests of Aboriginal people to 'smooth the dying pillow'. This phrase also appeared in a newspaper article in 1925, where a missionary spoke of "smoothing the pillow of the dying race". This article is reproduced as the background to the score.