

## Some Thoughts on Writing for Marimba.

Regarding, marimba writing, it is 4.3 octave marimba. Range in picture attached. This is my guide to writing for marimba.

Devise textures using 2 or 4 mallets making use of space and allowing the marimba to resonate. Idiomatic examples include marimba solos by ***Eric Sammut and Keiko Abe***, good for inspiration but do not copy the styles, create your own. You can also write intending 2 mallet playing, in linear styles also.

If writing at the piano, and considering 4 mallet playing, you can use fingers 2 and 5 in each hand to judge intervals and stretches in each hand. The 4 sticks cannot move completely independently, each hand holds 2 mallets and those two mallets can move alternately but not at great speed for sustained playing, I'm not a machine. But you can create interesting sparse and busy textures.

Marimba can be played with 4 mallets, but please don't write constant changing 3 and 4 note chords in a vamp style - this is impractical and doesn't exploit the textures available on the marimba. It's not a piano.

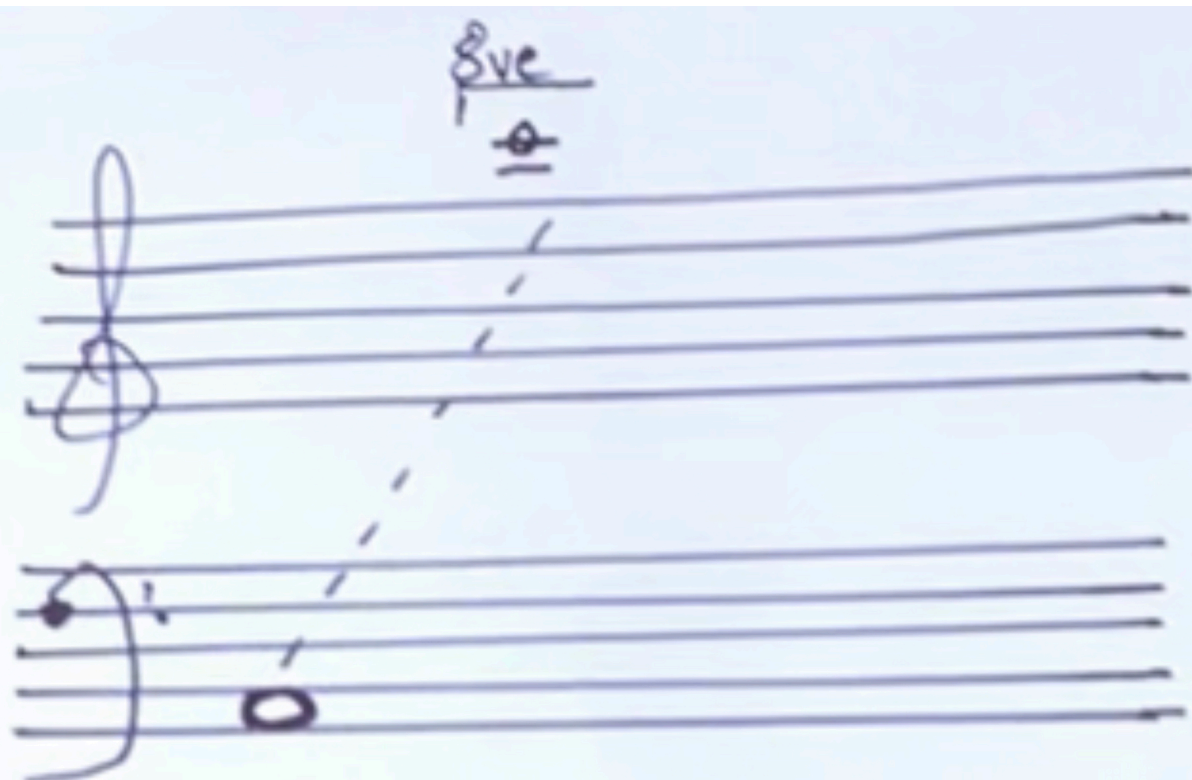
To emphasise, create textures using 2 or 4 mallets, which exploit the resonance of the marimba when each bar is struck, maybe only one or two notes need to be struck at a time, in sparse and in busy textures.

TEXTURE!

SOUND!

RESONANCE.

Thanks.



MARIMBA  $4\frac{1}{3}$  OCTAVE RANGE .