

**UCLA**  
**Contemporary Music Score Collection**

**Title**

freeze-frame, or: the beauty myth

**Permalink**

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/6js117hd>

**Author**

Castillo, José A.

**Publication Date**

2020

# freeze-frame, or: the beauty myth

for mixed ensemble and photoshoot

José A. Castillo

jacz

Camera shutter-*stutter*, flash, *click-ck* and *s-snap*. A cinematographic technique in which a single frame shows repeatedly, producing a static shot that resembles a still photograph. *freeze-frame, or: the beauty myth* is inspired by feminist literature, instagram clout-seekers, and social media algorithms. "The power of our unexpressed and unrecognized feeling" - A.L.

## **I n s t r u m e n t a t i o n**

2 Mallet Percussion (Vibraphone, Marimba)

String Trio (Violin, Viola, Cello)

Bass Clarinet

2 Actors ("Model"/Dancer, Photographer)

## **P e r f o r m a n c e**

Stage directions are indicated but the actors are free to improvise and choreograph their performance within the suggestions or as desired. Both actors are encouraged to interact with their setting including other performers, each other, and their audience. A separate staff indicates stage directions, synchronized activity, and rhythmic cues. For example, the photographer is asked to capture a photograph (with flash lighting turned 'on') in synchronicity with the notated rhythms.

Additional props for staging are suggested and may include: studio photography backdrops or lighting kits/softboxes.

Approximate duration: 8 ' 50 "

Premiere in Austin, Texas on November 12, 2019, featuring Sarah Jack ("Model"/Dancer) and Caleb S. Barnes (Photographer).

jacz

# freeze-frame, or: the beauty myth

for mixed ensemble and photoshoot

José A. Castillo

**Pulse** ♩ = ca.140-150

let ring

Vamp until actors are in place:

Last time:

**4**

Vibraphone

Marimba

Bass Clarinet

Violin

Viola

Cello

Model, Photographer

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*mf*

*pp*

*f*

*pp*

*f*

*pp*

*f*

*mf*

*sim.*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*f*

*pp*

*f*

*pp*

*f*

*mf*

*sim.*

Model & Photographer:  
Enter stage left, together.  
Move into photoshoot position.

Model: Pose ad lib.  
Photographer: Take photos ad lib.

8

Vib. *f*

Mrb. *pp* *mf* *pp*

B. Cl. (2nd time only) *ppp* *f* *ppp* (1st time)

Vln. (2nd time) *f* *sim.* *pp* *pp* *f* *pp* *sim.* *f* *pp*

Vla. *f* *pp* (2nd time) *pp* *f* *pp* *pp*

Vc. (2nd time)

Stage -----> ||: Cont. -----

13

Vib. *with mallet handle*

Mrb.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Stage

**Model & Photographer:**  
 Photoshoot stops abruptly.  
 Both freeze in place.  
 (Dancer may begin solo dance.)

**Photographer:** Pace towards the  
 ensemble, away from the model.  
 (Don't get too close to the ensemble  
 yet. Observe from afar.)

The musical score consists of seven staves. The top six staves are for instruments: Vibraphone (Vib.), Mallets (Mrb.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The bottom staff is labeled 'Stage' and contains two horizontal dashed lines with arrows pointing to the right, indicating a stage action. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (D major). It begins at measure 16. The Vibraphone part features a sequence of notes with dynamics *pp*, *f*, *ff espr.*, and *sf*, including triplet markings. The Mallets part provides a steady accompaniment. The Bass Clarinet part includes a triplet and a wavy line indicating a tremolo. The Violin part starts with 'col legno e saltando' and 'M.O.', followed by 'arco' and 'sul ponticello' sections with dynamics *f*, *pp*, *f*, and *pp*. The Viola and Violoncello parts also feature 'col legno' and 'pizz.' markings, with dynamics *mp*, *pp*, *pp*, *f*, and *pp*. The Stage staff shows a transition from a simple line to a more complex diagrammatic representation of a stage element.

Photographer: Picture of ensemble from a distance.

21

Vib. *mp*

Mrb. *mp*, *sf*, *f*, *p*

B. Cl. *mp* *semplice*, *pp*

Vln. *p* (*2nd time*), *arco*, *sf*, *f*, *p*, *f espr.*

Vla. *p* (*2nd time*), *sf*, *f*, *p*, *mf*

Vc. *p*, *sf*, *f*, *p*, *mf*

Stage

*Model: Solo dance (cont.)*  
*Photographer: Photoshoot of ensemble ad lib.*



27 (1st time only) (Both times) 31 (2nd time only)

Vib.

Mrb.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Stage

*mp* (2nd time: *cresc.*, growl and ornament ad lib.) *mf* bruscamente

*subito p* with egg shaker *p* pizz. *p* pizz. *p*

*Model*: Expand reach of dance to include full stage.

*Photographer*: From a distance, kneel and take 4-5 photographs of the bass clarinet.

*Photographer*: Approach the ensemble slowly. Take 8-12 photographs of the bass clarinet.

33 (1st time only) 35

Vib. *mf* *cresc.*

Mrb. *mf*

B. Cl. *p* *cresc.* *f*

Vln. arco *pp* *sf* *sf* *sf*

Vla. arco *pp* *sf* *sf* *sf*

Vc. arco *pp* *sf* *sf* *sf*

Stage

*Model/Dancer:* With your choreography, increasingly mimic or mirror the ensemble's musical gestures.  
*Photographer:* Distance yourself from the ensemble and take photographs of it from afar.

The musical score consists of seven staves. The first six staves are for instruments: Vibraphone (Vib.), Mallets (Mrb.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The seventh staff is labeled 'Stage' and contains a dashed line with an arrow pointing to the right. The score is in 4/4 time and the key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The music begins at measure 38. The Vibraphone part features a melodic line with dynamics *mp cresc.*, *ff*, and *fz cresc.*. The Mallets part provides harmonic support with dynamics *cresc.*, *f*, and *fz*. The Bass Clarinet part has dynamics *mp*, *ff*, *fz*, and *pp*, including a triplet of eighth notes. The Violin, Viola, and Violoncello parts play sustained chords with dynamics *pp*, *sf*, *sf*, *ff*, and *pp*. The Viola part includes the instruction *f espr. 3*. The Stage staff is marked with a dashed line and an arrow.

**Vib.** 43 *f* *maracas* *pp* *ff* *mp* *sfz* 47

**Mrb.** 43 *ff* *pp* *ff* *mp* (mallet handle) *sfz* *f*

**B. Cl.** 43 *f* *pp* *sf* *sf* *f* *gliss.* *sfz* 3

**Vln.** 43 *ff* *pp* *sf* *sf* *f* *giocoso* *sfz* 3

**Vla.** 43 *ff* *pp* *sf* *sf* *sfz* 3

**Vc.** 43 *ff* *pp* *sf* *sf* *sfz* 3

**Stage** 43

Model: grotesque, silent laughter; exaggerated.

Model: dance cont. - - - - ->

Photographer: Take photograph of the ensemble.

53 (4th time only)

Vib. *mp semplice*

Mrb. *sfz* (tacet 1st time) *mp* (all 4 times)

B. Cl. *p* (tacet 1st time)

Vln. *gliss. b<sup>b</sup>* *mf* with egg shaker (tacet 1st time)

Vla. *sfz* *p* pizz. (tacet 1st time)

Vc. *sfz* *mp* (tacet 1st, 2nd times)

Stage

Photographer: Take photograph of the ensemble.

Photographer: Take photograph of the ensemble.

Model/Dancer: Reconvene with photographer and incorporate them into your solo dance; in a teasing manner  
 Photographer: Photoshoot of model ad lib.

55

Vib. (3rd & 4th time) 4X 57 *mf*

Mrb. (last time only) *pp* *mf*

B. Cl. (all 4 times) *mf* *p*

Vln. *pp* *sf* *f* *p* arco

Vla. *mf* *sf* *f* *p* arco

Vc. *mf* *sf* *f* *p*

Stage

Model: dance cont.

Photographer: Distance yourself from model and view the ensemble from afar.

61

Vib. *(p. f)* *sf* *f* *ff*

Mrb. *(p. f)* *sf* *pp* *f* *ff*

B. Cl. *(p. f)* *sf* *f* *ff*

Vln. *(p. f)* (2nd time only) *f* arco *sf* *pp* (play) *p* *f* *mf* *ff*

Vla. *f* (2nd time only) *sf* *pp* (play) *p* *f* *mf* *ff*

Vc. *f* (2nd time only) *sf* *pp* (play) *p* *f* *mf* *ff*

Stage

1. 2.

*Model and Photographer:*  
Gradually reconvene where originally started.





72 73

Vib. *p* *f* *mp* *f*

Mrb. *f*

B. Cl. *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *pp* *sf* *pp*

Vln. *mp* *f* *dim.* *pp* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

Vla. *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *ppp* *f* *dim.*

Vc. *f* *dim.* *mp*

Stage

Model: Pose ad lib.  
Photographer: Take photos ad lib.

77

Vib. *cresc.* *f* *dim.*

Mrb. *p* *f* *dim.*

B. Cl. *cresc.* *f* *dim.* *tr* *mp*

Vln. *p* *cresc.* *f* *dim.* *mp*

Vla. *mp* *cresc.* *f* *dim.* *tr* *tr* *tr* *mp*

Vc. *cresc.* *f* *dim.*

Stage

-----> 2/4 -----> 6/4 -----> 4/4 -----> 6/4

83 84

Vib. *mp*

Mrb. *mp* *sf*

B. Cl. *p < f > p*

Vln. *sf* *soli* *sf*

Vla. *sf furioso*

Vc. *mp* *sf* *sf*

Stage  $\frac{6}{4}$   $\otimes$

*Model:* Posing cont.  
*Photographer:* Observe model without taking photographs.

*Photographer:*  
Take photograph of the ensemble.

91      bowed until mm. 118

Vib. bowed until mm. 118

Mrb. bowed until mm. 118

B. Cl.

Vln. bowed until mm. 118

Vla.

Vc.

Stage

**Photographer:**  
Take photograph  
of the ensemble.

**Photographer:**  
Take photograph  
of the ensemble.

**Model:** Take out smart-  
phone device.

**Model/Actor:** With smart phone, follow the photographer  
around the stage and exaggeratedly take photos of them  
with flash 'on'.  
**Photographer:** Gradually distance yourself from the model  
every time they get close to you.

94

Vib. *mf*

Mrb. *mf*

B. Cl. *mp* non-vibrato

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Stage

98

Model & Photographer:  
Freeze.

Model and Photographer:  
Continue action.





109

Vib. *p* *cresc.* *ff* **113**

Mrb. *cresc.* *ff*

B. Cl.

Vln. *cresc.* *ff*

Vla. *cresc.* *ff*

Vc. *cresc.* *ff*

Stage 109  $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{6}{4}$



114

Vib. *poco rit.*

Mrb.

B. Cl. *f espr.* *sf*

Vln. *p*

Vla. *sfz* *p*

Vc. *sfz* *p*

Stage

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 24, is titled "freeze-frame, or: the beauty myth". It contains six staves of music. The first staff is for Vibraphone (Vib.), starting at measure 114 with a melodic line that includes a *poco rit.* marking. The second staff is for Mallets (Mrb.), showing a rhythmic accompaniment. The third staff is for Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), featuring a melodic line with dynamic markings *f espr.* and *sf*. The fourth staff is for Violin (Vln.), playing a rhythmic accompaniment with a *p* dynamic. The fifth staff is for Viola (Vla.), also with a rhythmic accompaniment and *sfz* and *p* dynamics. The sixth staff is for Violoncello (Vc.), with a rhythmic accompaniment and *sfz* and *p* dynamics. At the bottom, a "Stage" staff is indicated by a dashed line and a final measure with a fermata.

119 *a tempo* 120

Vib. (Walk over to marimba's treble register)

Mrb. Percussionist 1 (both: with butt of mallet handle) *mf* Percussionist 2 *mf*

B. Cl. *mf* *f* *p*

Vln. arco *f* pizz. *sfz* *mp*

Vla. arco *f* pizz. *sfz* *mp*

Vc. arco *f* pizz. *sfz* *mp*

Stage Model/Dancer:  
Resume dance. →



128 132

Vib. *p*

Mrb. Percussionist 1:  
Return to vibraphone *modo ordinario* *mf* *modo ordinario* *p*

B. Cl. *growl* *ff* *f*

Vln. *arco* *ff* *sf* *sf* *sf* *p*

Vla. *arco* *ff* *sf* *sf* *sf* *p*

Vc. *arco* *ff* *sf* *sf* *sf* *p*

Stage

*Model/Dancer:* Choreography becomes more sullen and introspective.  
*Photographer:* Reenter stage left.

The musical score consists of seven staves. The first six staves are for instruments: Vib. (Vibraphone), Mrb. (Maracas), B. Cl. (Bass Clarinet), Vln. (Violin), Vla. (Viola), and Vc. (Violoncello). The seventh staff is for the Stage. The score begins at measure 133. The Vib. part features a melodic line with dynamics *sf*, *p*, *sf*, and *p*, and includes triplet markings. The Mrb. part has a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *sf* and *p*, and a *cresc.* marking. The B. Cl. part starts with a *f* *giocoso* marking, followed by *sf* and *p*, and ends with *cresc.*. The Vln., Vla., and Vc. parts provide harmonic support with *sf* dynamics and *cresc.* markings. The Stage staff has a dashed line and an arrow pointing right, with two text boxes: "Model/Dancer: Decelerate." and "Model/Dancer: Accelerate into a pose."

139

Vib. *f* *pp* *ff*

Mrb. *f* *pp* *ff* *subito p*

B. Cl. *f* *tr* *mf* *ff*

Vln. *f* *mf* *ff*

Vla. *f* *mf* *ff*

Vc. *f* *mf* *ff*

Stage

140

*Model/Dancer: Freeze in place.  
Photographer: Take a photograph  
and immediately freeze in place.*

*Model & Photographer:  
Gradually ease into a  
different position.*

*Model/Dancer: Freeze in place.  
Photographer: Take a photograph  
and immediately freeze in place.*

144

Vib. *ff* subito *p* *cresc.* *mf* *ff*

Mrb. *mf* *ff* *p* *cresc.* *mf* *ff* *p*

B. Cl. *ff* *mf* *ff*

Vln. *ff* *mf* *ff* *p*

Vla. *ff* *mf* *ff*

Vc. *ff* *mf* *ff* *p*

Stage

*Model/Dancer:* Freeze in place.  
*Photographer:* Take a photograph and immediately freeze in place.

*Model & Photographer:*  
 Gradually ease into a different position.

*Model/Dancer:* Freeze in place.  
*Photographer:* Take a photograph and immediately freeze in place.

*Model/Dancer:* Gradually unfreeze and take the camera from the photographer.  
*Photographer:* Follow the model's lead.

150 *rit.* *Meno mosso*

Vib. *mf*

Mrb. *cresc.* *mf*

B. Cl. *p* *sf*

Vln. *cresc.* *mf*

Vla. *p cresc.* *pizz.* *arco* *mf*

Vc. *cresc.* *mf*

Stage



155

Tempo primo

let ring

Vib. *p* (2nd time only)

Mrb. *p*

B. Cl. (1st time only)

Vln. *pp* sul tasto

Vla. (1st time only) *pp* *mf* *pp*

Vc. *p* *pp* *mf* *pp*

Stage

**Model & Photographer:**  
 Reconvene in starting position, except  
 the photographer is now modeling.  
 Stay still.

159

Vib. *mf* *f*

Mrb. *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

B. Cl. *mf espr.* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

Vln. *mf espr.* M.O.

Vla. *mf* *sim.*

Vc. *pp* *f* *pp* *pp* *f* *pp* *pp* *f* *pp*

Stage

Model: Take photos ad lib.  
Photographer: Pose ad lib.

165 167 (1st time only)

Vib. *f* *mf* *dim.*

Mrb. *pp* *mf* *pp* (*mf* *p*) *dim.*

B. Cl. (1st time) *mf* *pp* *f* *pp*

Vln. (2nd time) *f* *pp* *mf* *pp* *sim.* *f* *pp* *mf*

Vla. *pp* *f* *pp* *mf* *pp*

Vc. *pp* *f* *pp* *mf* *pp*

Stage 165

Model: Take photos ad lib.  
Photographer: Pose ad lib.

170 fade to nothingness

Vib.

170 2nd time: fade to nothingness

Mrb.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Stage

*ppp*

*f* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mp* *p*

*sim.* *sim.*

*mf* *p*

Model/Dancer:  
 Sit on stage next to the ensemble with  
 photographer's camera in hand.

Photographer:  
 Exit stage left gradually.

