

# How Forests Think

Liza Lim

## I. Tendril & Rainfall

$\text{♩} = 50$

1

Sheng  $\frac{10}{4}$   $10\frac{1}{2}$   
 $\frac{4}{4}$

Bass Flute  $\frac{10}{4}$   $10\frac{1}{2}$   
 $\frac{4}{4}$

Oboe  $\frac{10}{4}$   $10\frac{1}{2}$   
 $\frac{4}{4}$

Bass Clarinet  $\frac{10}{4}$   $10\frac{1}{2}$   
 $\frac{4}{4}$

Alto Saxophone  $\frac{10}{4}$   $10\frac{1}{2}$   
 $\frac{4}{4}$

grainy tone  $\overbrace{\quad\quad\quad}^7$   $\overbrace{\quad\quad\quad}^7$  tongue slap  $\overbrace{\quad\quad\quad}^3$   $\overbrace{\quad\quad\quad}^7$  t.s.

*mp* *mf*

$\text{♩} = 50$

Trumpet in C  $\frac{10}{4}$   $10\frac{1}{2}$   
 $\frac{4}{4}$

Trombone  $\frac{10}{4}$   $10\frac{1}{2}$   
 $\frac{4}{4}$

T. Block  
Tom-toms  
Roto-tom  
Bass Drum  $\frac{10}{4}$   $10\frac{1}{2}$   
 $\frac{4}{4}$

Rain Stick  $\frac{10}{4}$   $10\frac{1}{2}$   
 $\frac{4}{4}$

$\text{♩} = 50$

Violoncello  $\frac{10}{4}$   $10\frac{1}{2}$   
 $\frac{4}{4}$

Double Bass  $\frac{10}{4}$   $10\frac{1}{2}$   
 $\frac{4}{4}$

Sample Score Only

How Forests Think - Score in C  
I. Tendril & Rainfall

Alto Sax.  $10\frac{1}{2}$ /<sub>4</sub> *vib.* (let the silence deepen) **12**/<sub>4</sub>

R.S.  $10\frac{1}{2}$ /<sub>4</sub> **12**/<sub>4</sub>

Alto Sax.  $12$ /<sub>4</sub>

Rain Stick  $12$ /<sub>4</sub> *pp* *mp* *ff* *ppp*

Alto Sax. *f* *pp* *p* *pp* *mf* *ff*

Rain Stick

Tc  
C  
B  
C Ta  
Eb  
+C

t.s. 3 bisbig. tr gliss. 3 tr 3

Sheng *fff* *mp.f*

Rain Stick *ff* *ppp*

5 *sfz* (1) (2) (1) (2)

(same cluster) 20" 10"

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8-10"  $\text{♩} = 50$

glissandi ad lib. single note and cluster gliss. gl.

Sheng 6 *f* *pp* *mp* *mf* *pp*

Sheng 8 *mp*

Alto Sax. 7 3 7 7 3 *mp*

Sheng 10 *mp* *f* *mp*

Alto Sax. breathy ord. 7 7 7 3 *mf* *pp*

Sheng 12 *mp* *mf*

Alto Sax. 7 3 7 *mp* *pp* *mf*

How Forests Think - Score in C  
I. Tendril & Rainfall

14 [si - sou]

Sheng *f* *mf* *mf*

B. Fl.

Ob.

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. *mp* *mf*

Tpt.

Tbn.

T. Block  
Tom-toms  
Roto-tom  
Bass Drum *mf* *f*

rub with superball  
brushes  
superball  
rub.  
brushes roll

Vc. *mf* *mp* *mf*

D.B. *mf* *pp*

h. sul pont.  
ord.

(separate bows)

How Forests Think - Score in C  
I. Tendril & Rainfall

**♩ = 66**

Sheng *f* *mp* *mf* keep first chord sounding

B. Fl. *f* *mf*

Ob. *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

B. Cl. *mf*

Alto Sax. *f* *mf* *mp*

**♩ = 66**  
(wa-wa mute) lip bend

Tpt. *mf* *f* *mf* *mf* *f* *mp*

Tbn.

T. Block  
Tom-toms  
Roto-tom  
Bass Drum *mf* *p* *mf* *ff* *mf*

Temple block (hard beater) (rute)

**♩ = 66**

Vc. *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

D.B. *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *mp*

How Forests Think - Score in C  
I. Tendril & Rainfall

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with the following parts from top to bottom:

- Sheng:** Starts at measure 31 with a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a fortissimo (*f*) chord. It includes a 'prepare' instruction, a glissando (*gliss.*) over a series of notes, and ends with a triplet of eighth notes at a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.
- B. Fl.:** Features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes and a 'bisbig.' (pizzicato) instruction with a trill.
- Ob.:** Plays a melodic line with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, including a triplet of eighth notes.
- B. Cl.:** Provides harmonic support with sustained notes.
- Alto Sax.:** Plays a melodic line with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, including a triplet of eighth notes.
- Tpt.:** Features a melodic line with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic, a trill (*tr*), and a fortissimo (*f*) dynamic.
- Tbn.:** Remains silent throughout this section.
- Percussion:** Includes T. Block, Tom-toms, Roto-tom, and Bass Drum. It features a 'ruthes' (rhythmic) pattern with triplets and a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.
- Vc.:** Provides harmonic support with a fortissimo (*f*) dynamic, including a triplet of eighth notes, and a piano (*p*) dynamic.
- D.B.:** Remains silent throughout this section.

# II. Mycelia

♩ = 46

accel. . . . .

Violin on Timpani II

Violoncello

Double Bass

(with guiro bow) *mp* *mf* *pp*

guiro bow sul tasto *pp* *mf*

h. sul pont. *tr*

♩ = 50

with normal bow

Vln. on Timp. II

Vc.

D.B.

*mp* *f* *mp* *f*

tr ord.

with normal bow *mp*

♩ = 50

Sheng

Vln. on Timp. II

Vc.

D.B.

*pppp* *mp*

*f*

Ped.

ord. *pp*

8

Sheng

Vln. on Timp. II

Vc.

D.B.

*pp*

*mf*

*mp*

*mf*

h. sul pont.

ord.

tr

3

3

3

tr

tr

10

Sheng

Vln. on Timp. II

Vc.

D.B.

*mp*

*mf*

*f*

*mf*

*p*

*mp*

(Ped.)





(slightly slower tempo if necessary)

Sheng

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Alto Sax.

explore beating tones between notes

(slightly slower tempo if necessary)

Tpt.

Tbn.

Vib.

(slightly slower tempo if necessary)

Vc.

D.B.



29

Sheng *f*

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

Alto Sax. *mf*

Tpt. *mf*

Tbn. *mf*

Vib. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

D.B. *f*

How Forests Think - Score in C  
III. Pollen

The musical score is for the piece "How Forests Think - Score in C III. Pollen". It is written in 6/4 time and C major. The score includes parts for Sheng, Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Alto Saxophone (Alto Sax.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Trombone (Tbn.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Viola (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The Sheng part begins at measure 31 with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a melodic line. The Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, and Trumpet parts all play a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Trombone part plays a single note with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The Vibraphone part features a triplet of eighth notes, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Viola and Double Bass parts play a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. A large green watermark "Sample Score Only" is overlaid diagonally across the score.



## IV. The Trees

Percussion set-up:

- Timpani I: Tibetan bowl (placed on upturned hand drum) + small pebbles  
2 rin gong
- Timpani II: Violin placed on wooden tray with dried peas  
Chinese cymbal with dried peas (as in movement I)  
Chinese gong, upturned, + dried peas

duration of each line is approx. 20-30 seconds

1

Timpani I: Tibetan bowl: intermittently drop pebbles inside (vary rate)

Timpani II: Chinese cymbal: pick up small handfuls of peas, create 'gusts' of falling rain

2

sim. add pedalling

Timpani I

Timpani II

*pp*

3

Sheng (amplified) throat singing / harmonics

Timpani I: Violin: drop peas on wood and strings, peas also fall on wooden tray  
Tibetan bowl: drop peas inside bowl and also into the hand drum

Timpani II: Chinese cymbal and gong — roll with beaters, drop peas

*Ped. ad lib.*

4

Sheng harmonic singing

Timpani I+II: Explore different combinations and densities of "raining" sounds, pedal ad lib.  
Add rin gongs (struck with hard beaters) — sparsely, ritualistic, respond to singing  
[*pp* → *mf*]