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If You Walked a Mile

for marimba and computer

SAMPLE (2015)

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Mike McFerron

“We must talk about poverty, because people insulated by their own comfort lose sight of it.”

– Dorothy Day

If You Walked a Mile for marimba and computer was written in 2015 for acclaimed percussionist, Andrew Spencer. Texts in this work are excerpted from George Miller’s eponymous social justice poem, which was written specifically for this composition.

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Performance Notes:

If You Walked a Mile requires a standalone application (Macintosh only) for performance and is available from the publisher website, <http://www.redearthpublishing.com> (order RE1059-P).

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Duration: ca. 8.5 minutes

for Andrew Spencer
If You Walked a Mile

Mike McFerron

$\text{♩} = 104$ *crisply*

FX-1
hard rubber mallets

Marimba

Fixed Media

ff

drone continues

If you walked a mile in my shoes,
they'd fall apart before you got to
the end of the block

but if you could walk a mile in my shoes
you'd feel the hard crusty earth and every
jagged stone would bite your feet.

10

ff

If you walked only a few feet in my shoes, You'd cry for another pair right away, You'd see they offer no
protection when other people stepped on your toes. But you see while you're made of plastic I'm made of clay

18

A

FX-2

smoothly

f *p*

and you are worth something...And I am not.

isorhythmic pattern continues

24

mf *f* *sfp* *n* *mf*

30 *a memory...*

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ff sffp *ff sffp* *f*

new pitch class added to drone

36

sffp ff sffp ff

new pitch class added to drone

42 **B** *heavily marked*

mp ff

isorhythmic pattern continues

new pitch class added to drone

48 **FX-3**

mf crescendo sffp ff

54

sfzp *ff*

60

sfzp *ff* *sfmp* *ff* *mp* *f*

66

C *isorhythmic pattern continues* *sfmp*

drone bass note moves up to G
C5 is added to drone

72

ff *mp*

77

sfzp *n* *mf* *f*

drone bass note moves down to C

84

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90

D

sffp \longrightarrow *ff*

isorhythmic pattern continues \rightarrow

drone bass note moves up to E⁵
pitch center changes to E⁵

95

f

100

ff

106

f \longrightarrow *ff*

111

f \longrightarrow *ff* \longrightarrow *f*

[B^b]

116

very aggressively

120

exasperated!

128

still crying out

138

FX-4

simply with resignation

(bells) *n*

mp [*lascia vibrare al fine*]

sustained harmony begins and last until the end. only changes in harmony are notated

154

In the course of my life I've only had one person who actually tried to walk in my shoes...

She was an ex-nun and ex-stripper and she had blisters

She threw my shoes back at me and said: "How can you wear those things? They're just killing me. How do you even take one small step when at every moment you try to cheat death?"

169

That's what most people say after one small dose of empathy.

Standing in another's shoes we begin to see the labor and the love that people make to stand even wobbly on their feet.

184

And thus the circle is now complete. They have their shoes and I have mine

the loss of hope...

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Score (RE1059): \$30