

# SHY WILD THINGS

## Score and Overview

Inspired by a quote attributed to the Austin, TX singer-songwriter Blaze Foley, "All wild things are shy.", *Shy Wild Things* was written for the 2024 National Teacher's Summit in Austin. This piece asks participants to not only play written ostinato patterns in the first section, but to create sounds and patterns that will be featured in the second section, *The Forrest*. This is an invitation to the performers to create from a place of complete freedom, without the presence of fear. What sounds would you make?

This piece makes use of a right-hand technique called 'flesh-dedillo'. To accomplish this sound, performers will use the pad of a right-hand finger or fingers to rub rapidly across the written strings to create a soft, haunting texture.

*The Forrest* also includes a notated percussion part. This was originally played on a cajon but can be performed on guitar by tapping on the bridge for a bass drum sound and knocking on the side of the guitar for the snare sound. There isn't an included percussion part, this can be taught easily by rote.

### Preparation

Co-creation is a wonderful tool to engage an ensemble, and encouraging artistry within the framework of this piece can make it approachable even for those with little or no composition experience. In *The Forrest*, which is the B section of *Shy Wild Things*, the following indication is included in the score and all parts, along with 2 blank staves:

*Performers will create an ostinato that works over the dedillo chord progression above. Use any note: A-B-C-D-E-F#-G.*

*Use percussion, harmonics, pizz. etc... any technique you would like.*

*Consider the expression you would make when no one is looking, when there is no fear, only the wild. Write something on the staff below that helps you remember your part.*

*The Director will collaborate with the ensemble to create a layered composition using select ostinatos from each part and/or a cacophony of wild sounds together.*

Ahead of the rehearsals, share the included recording of the dedillo patterns for *The Forrest* and encourage your ensemble to create something, and share either an audio recording or a picture of the transcribed part. The director will ultimately make arrangement decisions based on the entries received and transcribe the chosen parts for the group.

### Flexible Arrangement

*Shy Wild Things* is an ostinato based composition, written for the flexibility that this approach offers. Feel free to experiment with the source material and make it your own. Create your own patterns of entrances and exits, make arrangement choices that suite your group, don't be shy!

# SHY WILD THINGS

Travis Marcum

Score

**A**

Guitar 1 Level 9  
Guitar 2 Levels 1-3  
Guitar 3a Levels 1-4  
Guitar 3b Level E  
Guitar 4 Levels 3-6  
Guitar 5a Level 9  
Guitar 5b Level E  
Percussion

0 open string (6) p  
0  
3 fret 3 string (6)  
3

Detailed description: This block contains the first four measures of the score for guitars 1 through 5b and percussion. Guitars 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4, and Percussion are silent, indicated by a horizontal line with a bar. Guitars 5a and 5b play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 4/4. Fingering and dynamics are indicated below the staves.

5  
G5a  
G5b

0 open string (5)  
0  
3 fret 3 string (6)  
3

Detailed description: This block contains measures 5 through 8 of the score for guitars 5a and 5b. Guitars 5a and 5b continue the rhythmic pattern from the previous block. The key signature and time signature remain the same. Fingering and dynamics are indicated below the staves.

**B**

G2 *pont.* *p* *f* *p* *sim.*

G5a *sim.*

G5b *sim.*

13

G2

G5a

G5b

**C**

G1 *mf* *sim.*

G5a

G5b *sim.*

21

G1

G5a

G5b

D

Musical score for guitar parts G1 through G5b, measures 25-28. The score is in D major and 4/4 time. It features a complex arrangement with multiple staves. G1 and G2 have melodic lines with accents. G3a and G3b play chords with dynamic markings *f* and *p*. G4 includes a section marked "H XII" and "pizz." with a "ord." instruction. G5a and G5b play a rhythmic accompaniment. The bottom staff (G5b) has a "sim." marking.

Musical score for guitar parts G1 through G5b, measures 29-32. This section begins at measure 29 and includes a "rit." (ritardando) marking at the start of measure 30. The dynamics are more varied, including *mf*, *pp*, and *mp*. The melodic lines in G1 and G2 continue with accents. The accompaniment in G5a and G5b remains consistent. The bottom staff (G5b) has a "sim." marking.

The Forrest

**E** *a tempo* tremolo markings indicate flesh dedillo

The score consists of seven guitar staves (G1, G2, G3a, G3b, G4, G5a, G5b) and a percussion staff (Perc.). The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The guitar parts feature complex tremolo patterns with various fingering indications (1-4, 2, 3, 4) and dynamic markings like *sfz*. Chord changes are marked with  $\text{C}\text{V}\text{II}$ . The percussion part is marked with the number 33 and contains rhythmic patterns indicated by 'x' marks on a staff with a treble clef.

Performers will create an ostinato that works over the dedillo chord progression above. Use any note: A-B-C-D-E-F#-G, Use percussion, harmonics, pizz. etc... any technique you would like Consider the expression you would make when no one is looking, when there is no fear, only the wild. Write something on the staff below that helps you remember your part.

The Director will collaborate with the ensemble to create a layered composition using select ostinatos from each part and/or a cacophony of wild sounds together.

37

G1

G2

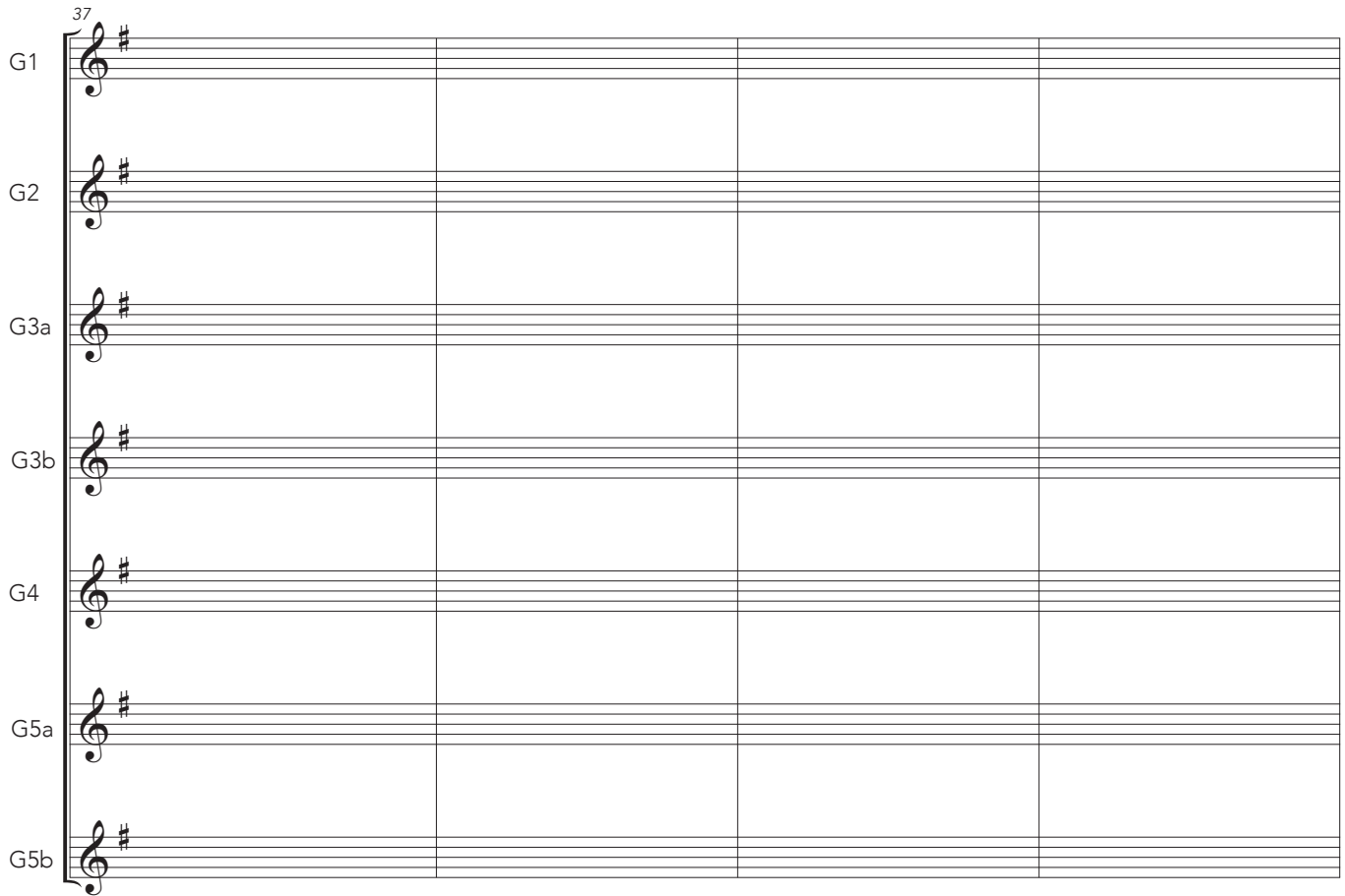
G3a

G3b

G4

G5a

G5b

A musical score system consisting of seven staves, labeled G1 through G5b on the left. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The staves are empty, with only the initial clef and key signature markings present. The system is divided into four measures by vertical bar lines.

41

G1

G2

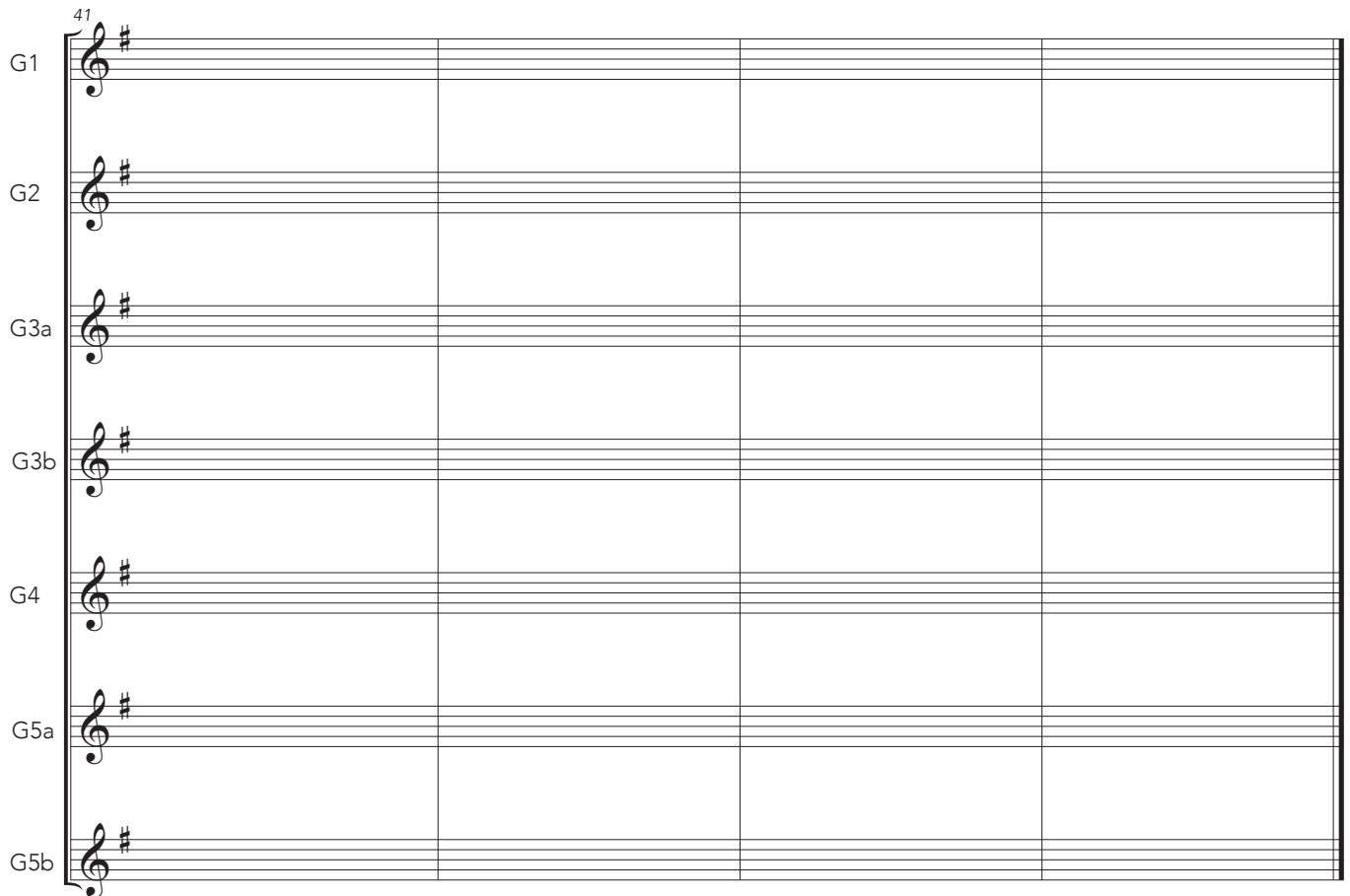
G3a

G3b

G4

G5a

G5b

A musical score system consisting of seven staves, labeled G1 through G5b on the left. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The staves are empty, with only the initial clef and key signature markings present. The system is divided into four measures by vertical bar lines.