

Chinese Fire Drill
by Scott Pfitzinger
(for FOUR musicians, treble clef, any key)

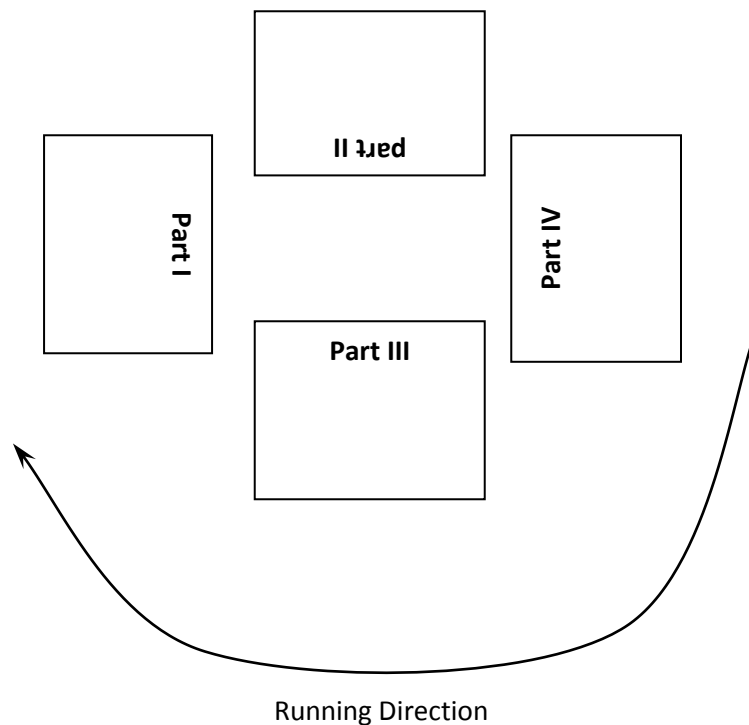
Background: The term "Chinese Fire Drill" has been around since the 1930s and refers to a prank where a car pulls up to a stoplight and all the people get out, run around the car a few times, get back in (usually in different seats), and drive off. It is not meant to be offensive or racist, as the term has lost all association with race over the last 70 years.

Preparation: The four Parts are placed in any order on a table or similar surface facing outward (see diagram). Make sure there is sufficient space around the table for the musicians to run.

Directions: Each of the musicians chooses one of the parts (I, II, III, or IV) and, beginning together, plays it at any tempo they choose without transposing. When the musician on Part I gets to the end and yells, "Chinese Fire Drill!", everyone immediately stops playing and starts running around the music in a clockwise direction. Whoever was on Part I decides when and where to stop, with everyone else filling in the empty places. The new player on Part I (possibly the same as before) becomes the new leader and the process repeats until all four players have played Part I.

Duration: Approximately 4-8 minutes.

Possible Musical Arrangement



Chinese Fire Drill

Part I

Scott Pfitzinger

Musical score for "Chinese Fire Drill" Part I, measures 1-16. The score is written in treble clef and features various time signatures and dynamics.

Measures 1-4: 4/4 time signature. Dynamics: *mf*, *f*, *mp*. Includes a slur over measures 2-3 and a fermata over measure 4.

Measures 5-8: 3/4 and 4/4 time signatures. Dynamics: *mf*, *mf*. Includes a slur over measures 6-7 and a fermata over measure 8.

Measures 9-12: 3/4 and 4/4 time signatures. Dynamics: *f*. Includes a slur over measures 10-11 and a fermata over measure 12.

Measures 13-16: 4/4 time signature. Dynamics: *ff*. Includes a slur over measures 14-15 and a fermata over measure 16. Measure 16 ends with a double bar line.

Measure 16 includes a trill (*tr*) and four asterisks (***) above the staff, indicating a performance instruction: "Yell: Chinese Fire Drill!!".

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Part II

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The musical score consists of three staves of music in treble clef. The first staff (measures 1-5) starts in 4/4 time, changes to 5/4, then back to 4/4, and ends in 3/4. It features dynamics of *mf*, *f*, and *ff*, with accents and slurs. The second staff (measures 6-9) starts in 3/4, changes to 4/4, and ends in 2/4. It includes a triplet and a *cresc. poco a poco* marking, with dynamics *mp* and *f*. The third staff (measures 10-12) starts in 2/4, changes to 4/4, and ends in 6/4. It features dynamics *mf*, *mp*, and *f*, with accents and slurs. The piece concludes with a repeat sign.

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Part III

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The musical score consists of three staves of music in treble clef. The first staff (measures 1-5) starts in 3/4 time, changes to 4/4 at measure 2, returns to 3/4 at measure 4, and ends in 5/4 at measure 5. It features dynamic markings of *f*, *f*, and *mf*, along with accents and a fermata. The second staff (measures 6-9) starts in 5/4, changes to 3/4 at measure 7, returns to 5/4 at measure 8, and ends in 4/4 at measure 9. It includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 6, dynamic markings of *mp*, and accents. The third staff (measures 10-13) starts in 4/4, changes to 3/4 at measure 11, and ends in 4/4 at measure 13. It features dynamic markings of *mf*, *p*, *mp*, *mf*, and *mp*, along with accents and a repeat sign at the end.

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Part IV

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Musical score for 'Chinese Fire Drill' Part IV, measures 1-12. The score is written in treble clef and consists of three staves. The first staff (measures 1-5) starts in 4/4 time, then changes to 3/4 time. It features dynamic markings *mp*, *mf*, and *mp*, along with articulation marks (x) and hairpins. The second staff (measures 6-8) starts in 4/4 time, then changes to 3/4 time, and then back to 4/4 time. It features dynamic markings *f*, *mf*, and *p*, along with articulation marks (x) and hairpins. The third staff (measures 9-12) is in 4/4 time and features dynamic markings *ff*, *mf*, and *mp*, along with hairpins. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.