

Jay C. Bartzner

**RYONEN'S CLEAR
REALIZATION
(2014)**

for speaking percussion trio

UNSAFE BULL MUSIC

Key

All stick choices are left in the able hands of the performers. All metals should be allowed to ring until their natural decay.

The image shows a musical score for three staves, numbered 1, 2, and 3. Each staff begins with a square box containing a vertical line, representing a specific instrument. The notes on the staves are as follows:

- Staff 1: Notes on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th lines. A dashed line below the staff spans from the first note to the fourth note, labeled "5 tin cans". A note on the 6th line is labeled "triangle".
- Staff 2: Notes on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th lines. A dashed line below the staff spans from the first note to the third note, labeled "3 toms/drums". A note on the 5th line is labeled "suspended cymbal".
- Staff 3: Notes on the 2nd and 3rd lines. A dashed line below the staff spans from the first note to the second note, labeled "2 woodblocks". A note on the 3rd line is labeled "prayer bowl".

Notes on Speaking

Narration is written below each staff. Speak in a normal inflection and speak around attacks in other parts. Strive for a natural storytelling delivery.

Program Notes

I first heard the koan about Ryonen on the Daily Buddhism podcast. At first, I was struck by the Zen teachers' reactions to Ryonen since their views on her beauty offended my more contemporary feminist attitudes. The story stuck with me and I kept thinking about it. The more I sat with it the more I saw my reaction change. I now do not see Ryonen as a victim of a male-dominated culture in this story. Instead, I see her astounding dedication to Zen and her liberation through non-attachment embodied by her actions.

Ryonen's Clear Realization

Jay C. Batzner

$\text{♩} = 60$

1 *p*

2 *p* scrape

3 *p*

4

1 *mf*

2 *mf* scrape

3 *mf*

8

1

2 scrape

3

The Buddhist nun know as
Ryonen was born in 1797.

10

1

2 *p*

3 *p*

She was granddaughter

2

13

1 *mf* *f*

2 *f* scrape

3 *mf* *f*

of the Japanese warrior Shingen. Her poetical genius

16

1 *p* *p* scrape

2 *p*

3

and alluring beauty were such that at 17 she was serving the empress as one of the ladies of the court.

20

1 *f*

2 *f*

3 *f*

The beloved empress died suddenly

23

1

2 *f* scrape

3

and Ryonen's hopeful dreams vanished. Ryonen became aware of the impermanency of life in this world. It was then that she desired to study Zen.

1
2
3

senza misura, start slow and accelerate
(do not coordinate)

p

senza misura, start slow and accelerate
(do not coordinate)

p

33

1
2
3

pp

f

Ryonen's relatives disagreed

f

f

38

1
2
3

and forced her into marriage.

With a promise that she might become a nun after she had borne three children, Ryonen assented.

mp

p

41

1
2
3

p

scrape

p

4
45

1

2

3

p

f

48

1

2

3

p

mf

Before she was 25,

52

1

2

3

p

mf

mf

she had accomplished her conditions. Her husband and relatives could no longer keep her from her desire.

56

1

2

3

p

f

p

She shaved her head, took the name Ryonen, and started on her pilgrimage.

Ryonen

Ryonen, which means "to realize clearly,"

60

1

2

3

mf

mf

mf

5

64

$\text{♩} = 92$

1

2

3

f

68

1

2

3

f

74

1

2

3

f

79 ♩=80

1 *ff*

2 *ff*

3 *ff*

84

1 *p* *f* *mp*

2 *p* *f* *mp*

3 *p* *f* *mp*

p Ryonen came to the city of Edo and asked Tetsugyu to accept her as a disciple. *f* *mp* At one glance,

91

1 *f* *mf* *f*

2 *f* *mf* *f*

3 *f* *mf* *f*

f the master rejected her because she was too beautiful *mf*

96

1 *p* *f*

2 *p* *f*

3 *p* *f*

p Ryonen went to another master, Hakuo. *f* Hakuo refused her for the same reason.

100

1 *mp* saying that her beauty would only *f* make trouble

2 *mp* *f*

3 *mp* *f*

105

1 *p* Ryonen took a hot iron and placed it against her face in a few moments

2 arco *p* *f*

3 *p* *f*

113

1 *p* Ryonen's beauty had vanished forever. *f* Hakuo then accepted her as a disciple.

2 arco scrape *f* *f*

3 *p* *f*

119

1 *f* senza misura, start slow and accelerate (do not coordinate)

2 *f* senza misura, start slow and accelerate (do not coordinate)

3 *f* senza misura, start slow and accelerate (do not coordinate)

8
126

1
f

2
f *p*

3
f

Commemorating this occasion, Ryonen wrote a poem on the back of a little mirror.

130

1

2 *arco*

3

mp *mp*

In the service of my Empress, I burned incense to perfume my exquisite clothes

Now a homeless mendicant

136

1
f

2
p

3

I burn my face *f* to enter a Zen temple.

When Ryonen was about to pass from this world,

141

1
pp *pp*

2
pp

3
pp

she wrote another poem

Sixty-six times have these eyes beheld the changing scene of autumn

145

1
2
3

pp *p*

I have said enough about moonlight Ask no more. Only listen to the voice of pines
and cedars when no wind stirs.

152

1
2
3

senza misura, start slow and accelerate

f