

# Pumpin' Oil

a theatrical work commissioned by thingNY  
for many voices & optional portable instruments

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This is a piece for actors, musicians, amateurs, activists, etc. An ability to keep time is an asset. So is conviction. Events follow one after the next without a break, creating a continuous pulsing music. Amplification is an asset. Optional instruments: vocalists may carry percussion instruments and beat them in time (example: snare drum.) If additional musicians are used (winds, brass, strings, etc.), there should be one instrumentalist for each vocalist and they should begin in pairs, the vocalist representing the oil man, the instrumentalist, the oil rig. Written notes are optional, or may be extended by adding G minor harmony, and sung and played in any octave (but not too much in the higher octaves). In the 6/8 bar, any notes may be sung/half-sung/chanted or played.

EVENT #1. Stage is empty. First performer (and optional partner) enters, marching, plants himself at attention, facing the audience, then begins the music. Additional vocalists enter in the same way, joining in the chanting.

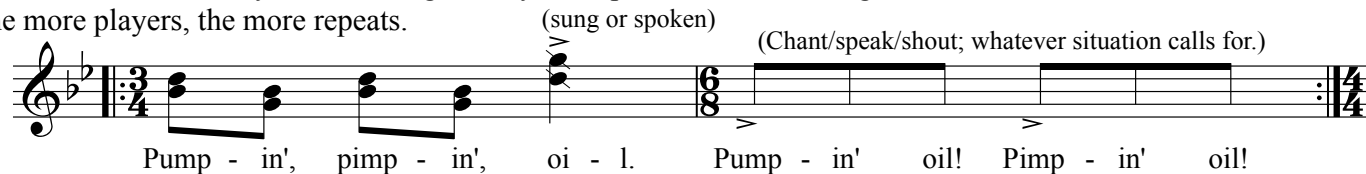
♩ = 132 or faster



Pump- in', pump- in', pump- in'. Pimp- in', pimp- in', pimp- in'. Pump-in' oil! Pimp-in' oil!

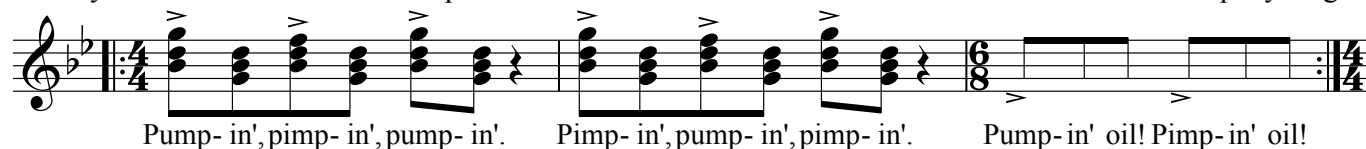
EVENT #2: Once everyone is on stage, everyone repeats this event an agreed number of times. The more players, the more repeats.

(sung or spoken) (Chant/speak/shout; whatever situation calls for.)



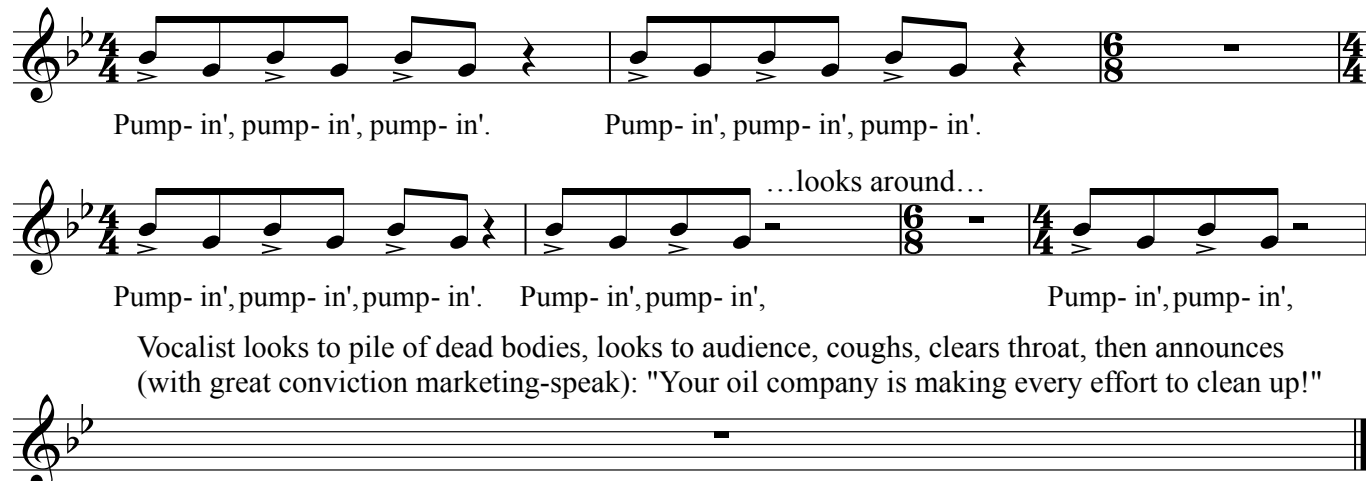
Pump - in', pimp - in', oi - l. Pump - in' oil! Pimp - in' oil!

EVENT #3: One by one, each vocalist starts to cough during the rest; they try to continue with the chant, but eventually they are overcome by coughing and gasping and they drop out of the chant by falling to the ground where they remain until the end of the performance. OPTION: someone "read"/shouts current oil company slogans.



Pump- in', pimp- in', pump- in'. Pimp- in', pump- in', pimp- in'. Pump-in' oil! Pimp-in' oil!

EVENT #4: Only one performer (and optional instrumentalist) remains standing, preferably to one side of stage.



Pump- in', pump- in', pump- in'. Pump- in', pump- in', pump- in'. ...looks around... Pump- in', pump- in', pump- in'. Pump- in', pump- in', Pump- in', pump- in'

Vocalist looks to pile of dead bodies, looks to audience, coughs, clears throat, then announces (with great conviction marketing-speak): "Your oil company is making every effort to clean up!"