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Vestiges and dry-erase ghosts.

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Vestiges and Dry-Erase Ghosts

for two voices and ensemble

by

Isaac Barzso
B.M., Florida State University, 2019

A Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty of the

School of Music of the University of Louisville

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of

Master of Music in Music Composition

School of Music University of Louisville Louisville, KY

May 2021

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A Thesis approved on
April 29, 2021
by the following Thesis Committee

Krzysztof Wołek
Katherine Calcamuggio Donner
Steve Rouse

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To Krzysztof Wołek, for your guidance, encouragement, and advice in all situations and circumstances, as well as much-needed patience and belief as I followed my rabbit holes of concepts and experimentation

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to my colleagues and friends at the University of Louisville who have been as equally willing to press me intellectually as they have been to share a drink: especially Rron Karahoda, Tanner Jones, Isaac Smith, Roger Knight, Rachael Smith, and Joshua Baerwald

to my family for their love and unconditional support of my goals

thank you.

PROGRAM NOTE

vestiges and dry-erase ghosts comes heavily from the desire to explore the transfer of information and communication across media, coupled with an interest in focusing on changes over the course of long-term repetitive structures (through both literal repetition and re-inscription of material). A pre-existing semantic text is eschewed in favor of individual phonemes and indistinct vocalisms, balanced by processes of removal, repetitions, and cross-body transfer. Individual vocalisms are analyzed and split into multiple pieces of text, actions are removed aurally yet remain visually, and formal structures are interrupted by processes of repetition, with the long-form structure of the piece ultimately being built through the analysis of the details of which it is comprised.

Throughout the piece, the very idea of individual role and the dynamics of cause and effect are questioned. How do processes decay the whole before becoming re-inscribed? How do individual parts comprise a whole? What remains when we remove something from the whole?

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INSTRUMENTATION

```
flute
oboe
clarinet (doubling bass clarinet)
alto saxophone
horn in f
trumpet in c
trombone
two percussionists*
electric guitar
piano
two mezzo-sopranos
two violins
viola
violoncello
double bass
        *percussion 1:
                bass\; drum
                metal plate
                snare drum
                medium\ concert\ toms\ (3)
                s and block \\
                tam-tam placed on timpani (20")
        *percussion 2:
                bass drum
                metal plate
                temple blocks (4)
                crotales (\mathbf{2};\,\mathbf{A4},\,\mathbf{B4}) - dipped in bucket of water for pitch bending
                {\it shaker}
                tam-tam placed on timpani (23")
```

duration: ca. 24 minutes

performance notes

all instruments

1/8 and 1/4-tone accidentals



transitions between performance techniques are indicated by an arrow



certain sections of the piece are to be treated as if they have been redacted from the score, these sections will be marked with the direction pantomimedand with the use of x noteheads. this optimally will result in some sound, namely the "silent fingering" of the strings, lightly blowing for the winds and brass, the light touching of the keyboard, etc.; it should be an audible effect in addition to being a significant visual one. these slight sounds should be intentional, but great care should be taken that the "silent fingering" does not become significantly audible.

voices

non-pitched sounds (speaking, etc.)

exhale

blow air through partially open mouth

sing into cupped hands

aeolian whistle: airy whistle sound with only a light shading of pitch (line indicates pitch contour)

strike hand against lips, interrupting the voice

vocal key (all as in American English pronunciations):

a as in father 3 as the z in azure I as in fin i as in see t as in told e as in late o as in home d as in done uh as in gun

w as in water

u as in loop s as in sand sh as in should g as in good m as in mother

woodwinds

speak into instrument

blow through instrument with prescribed fingering (flute: blow directly into tube). note: this is separate from pantomime

flutter-tongue (flt.)

timbral trill

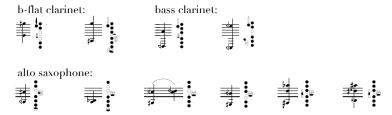
clarinet only: spectral overblow

slap tongue

clarinet only: remove head joint and hit opening with palm while fingering pitch

air only, as in pantomime, but without the effort to mime action

multiphonic fingerings (concert pitch)



brass mutes: horn uses hand-stopping; trumpet uses harmon mute; trombone uses plunger mute hit mouthpiece with palm while fingering pitch speak into instrument blow through instrument with prescribed fingering air only, as in pantomime, but without the effort to mime action percussion instruments needed: percussion 1 percussion 2 bass drum $bass\; drum$ metal plate metal plate snare drum temple blocks (4) medium concert toms (3) crotales (2; A4, B4) - dipped in bucket of water for pitch bending sandblockshaker



tam-tam placed on timpani (20")



beaters:

- wire brush sweep in circular motion (wire brush)
- hard mallet dampen
- soft mallet
- superball mallet
- sticks

 $beyond\ these\ indications,\ the\ most\ idiomatic$ beater should be used for each situation

tam-tam on timpani:

tam-tam should be placed on the timpani face-down; the range of the timpani is represented by a two line staff, the top line representing the highest pitch possible, and the bottom line representing the lower pitch possible

tam-tam placed on timpani (23")

piano



piano harmonics: sounding pitch displayed as diamond notehead, depressed pitch displayed below as standard notehead

mute strings with free hand

sweep plastic card on keys

- inside the piano, hit strings in general region of indicated pitch with a metal guitar slide
- inside the piano, quiver metal guitar slide in general region of indicated pitch
- close fallboard/keylid
- pluck string with fingernail

electric guitar

it is preferable that the player use a guitar that is capable of decent sustain (optimally a solid-body, through-neck instrument) along with a tube amplifier when possible, for reference, the composer used a Fender Jazzmaster and a Fender Blues Deluxe 40-watt amplifier.

player will need:

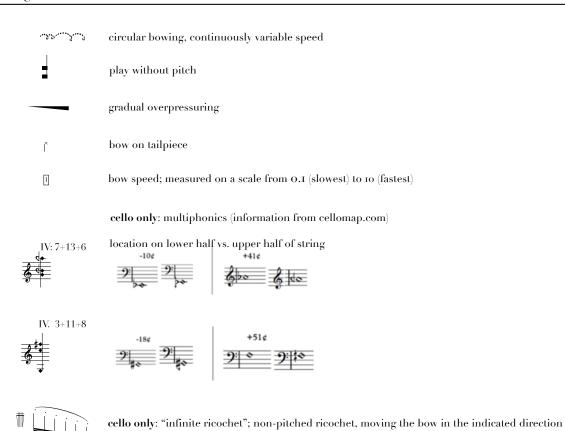
- volume pedal for swells
- natural-sounding distortion (either as a pedal or onboard a high-quality amplifier)
- an EBow

rapidly and erratically sweep left hand over medium range of neck without plucking



slide left hand without plucking in general area of indicated pitches

strings



amplification

all players should be lightly amplified, with very little compression, and mixed so that the amplification balance is even. the percussionists should each have at least three microphones running throughout their setup.

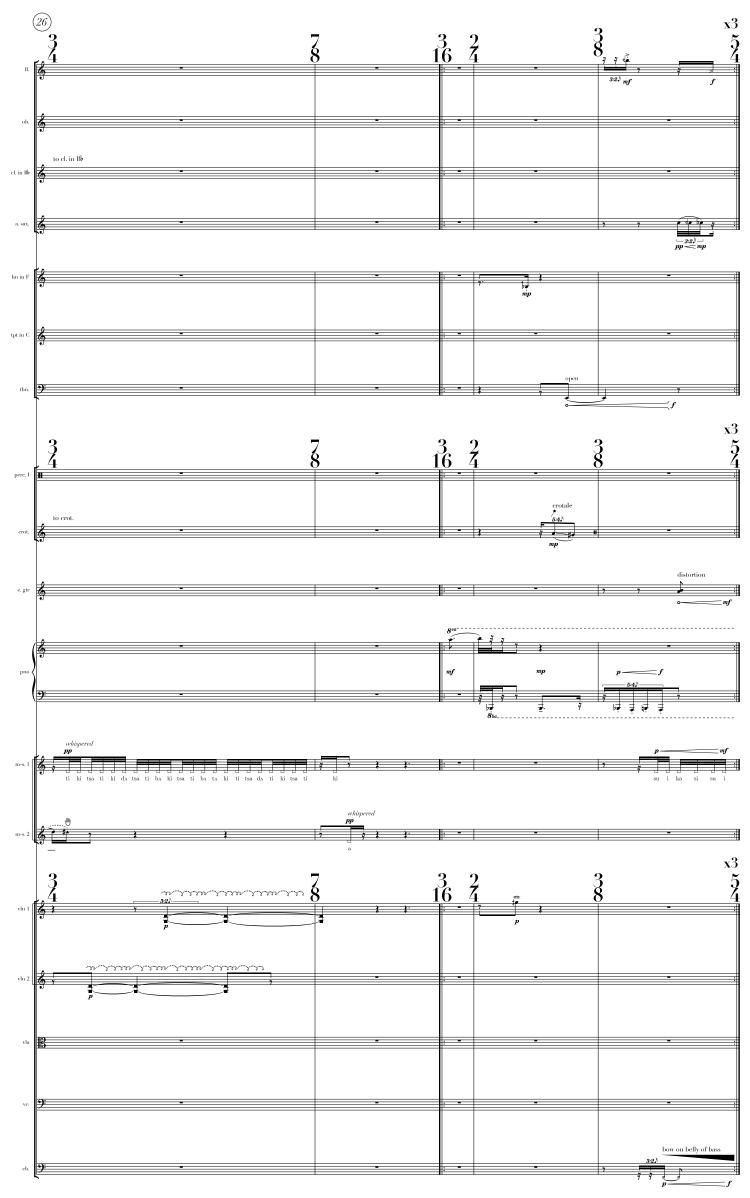


















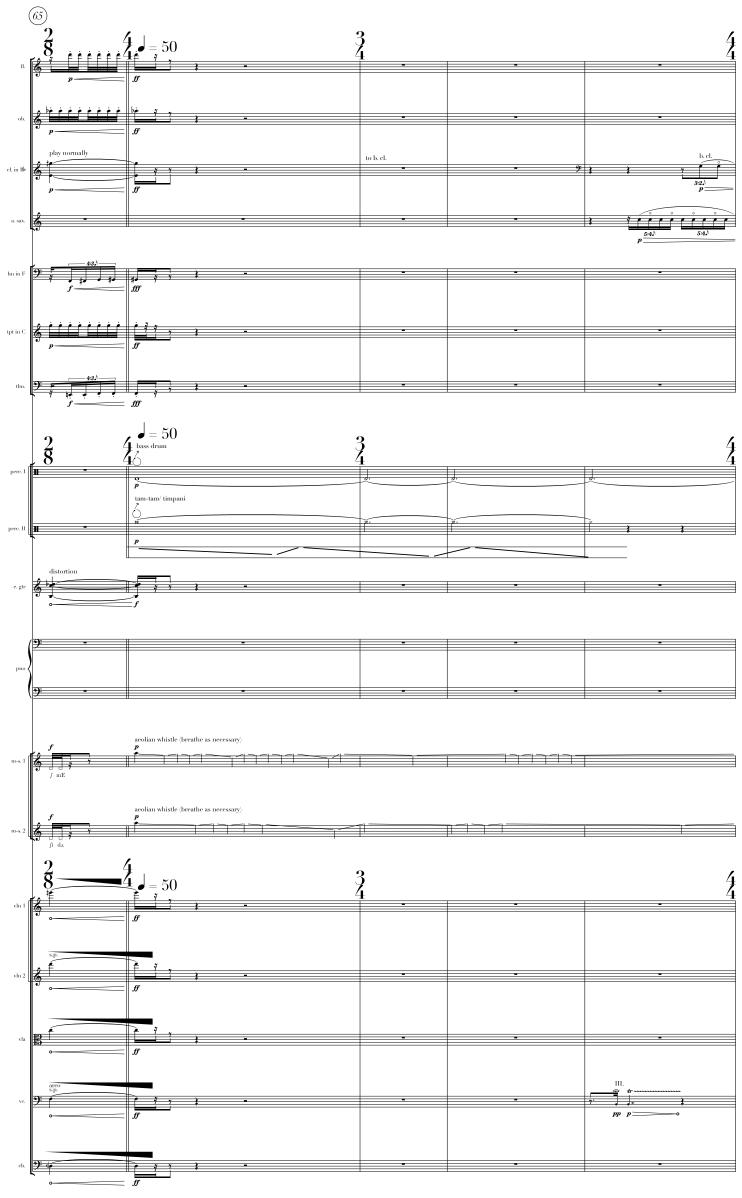


(51) (a. (51) ob. el. in B♭ **8** → = 110

i.











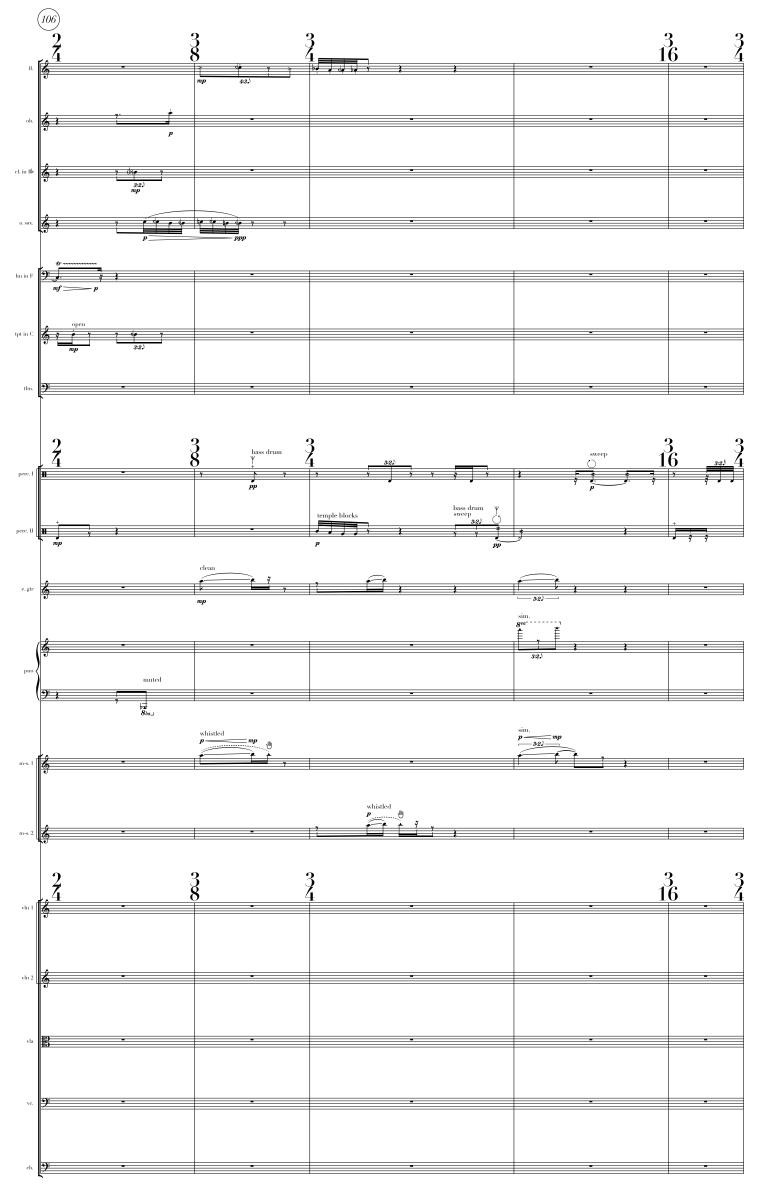






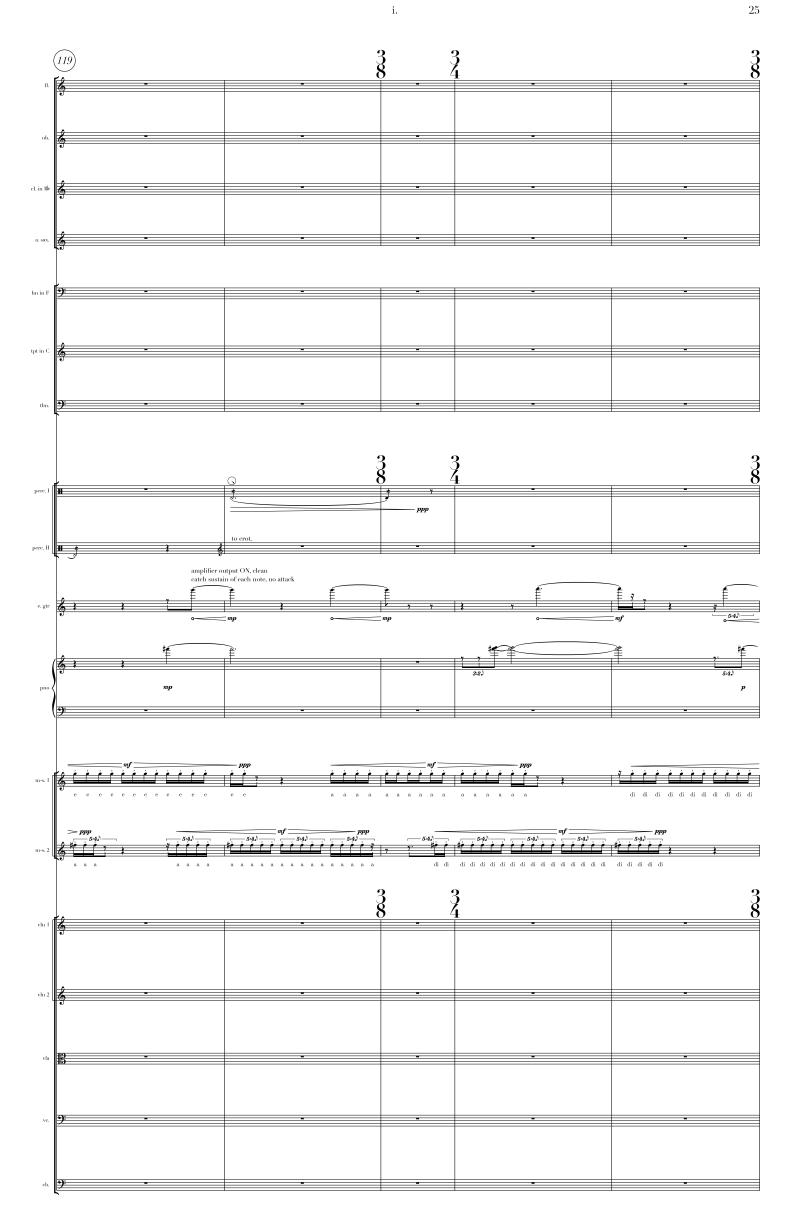












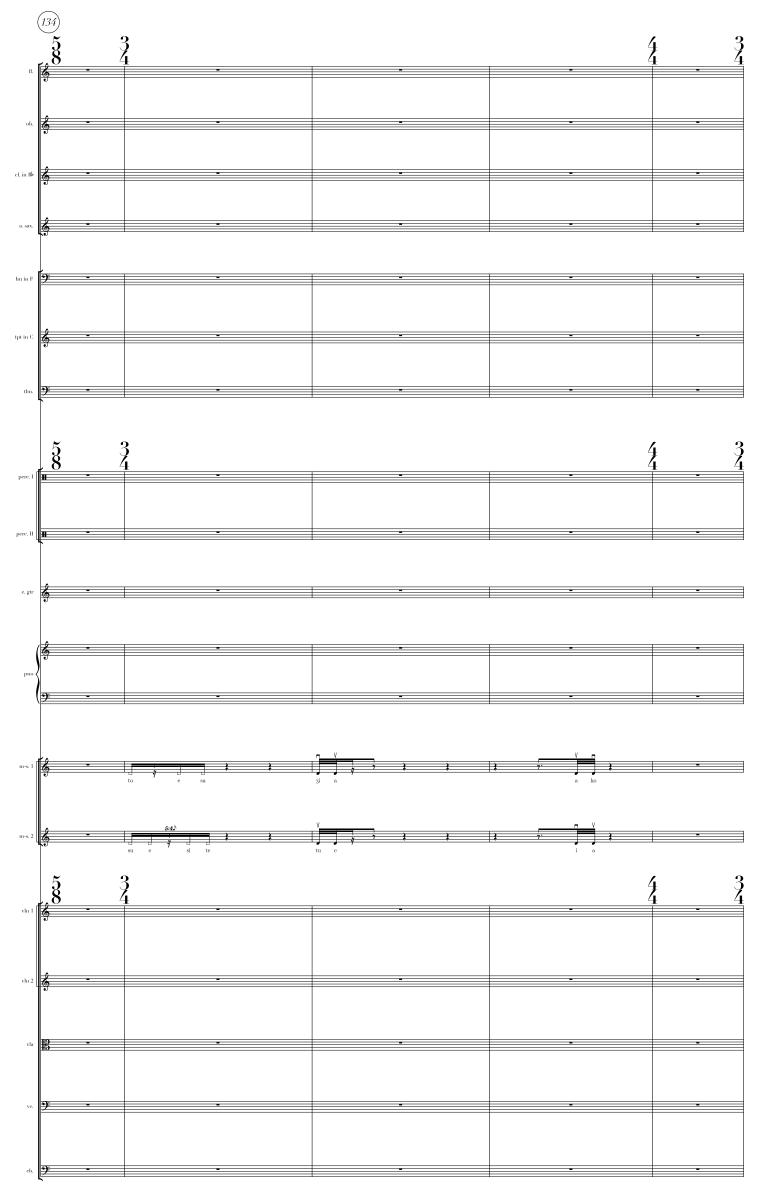
26 i



i. 27



28 i.

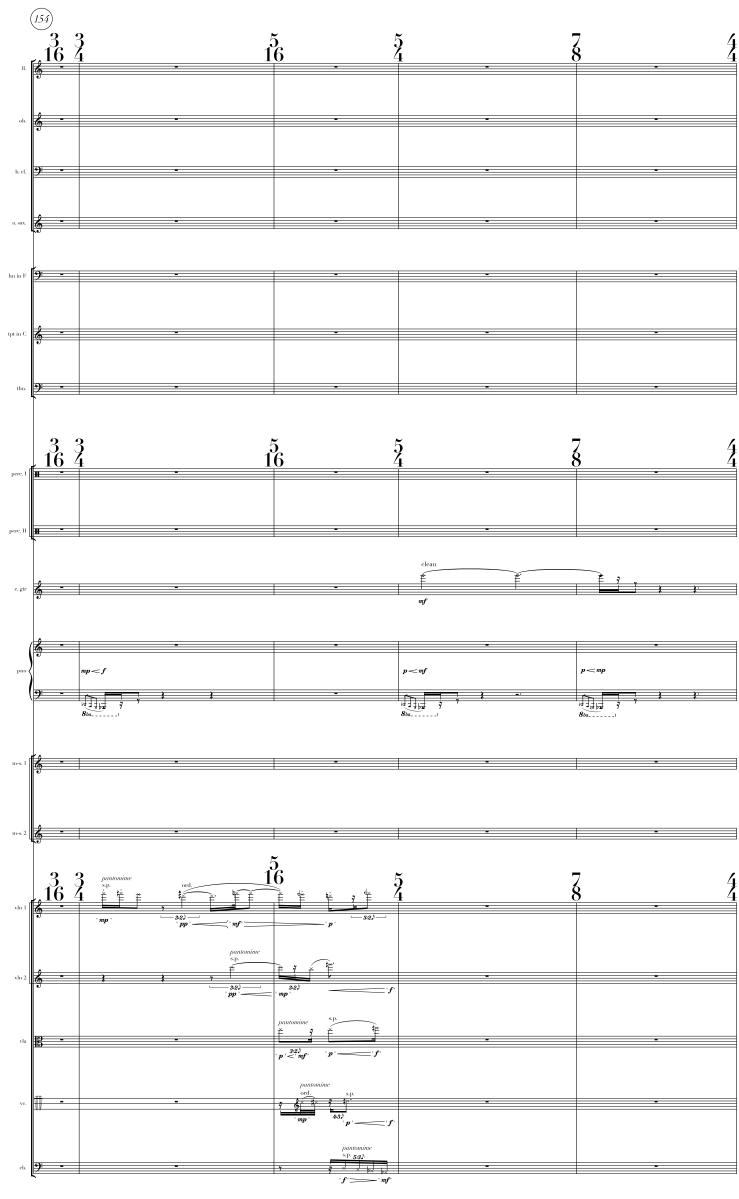


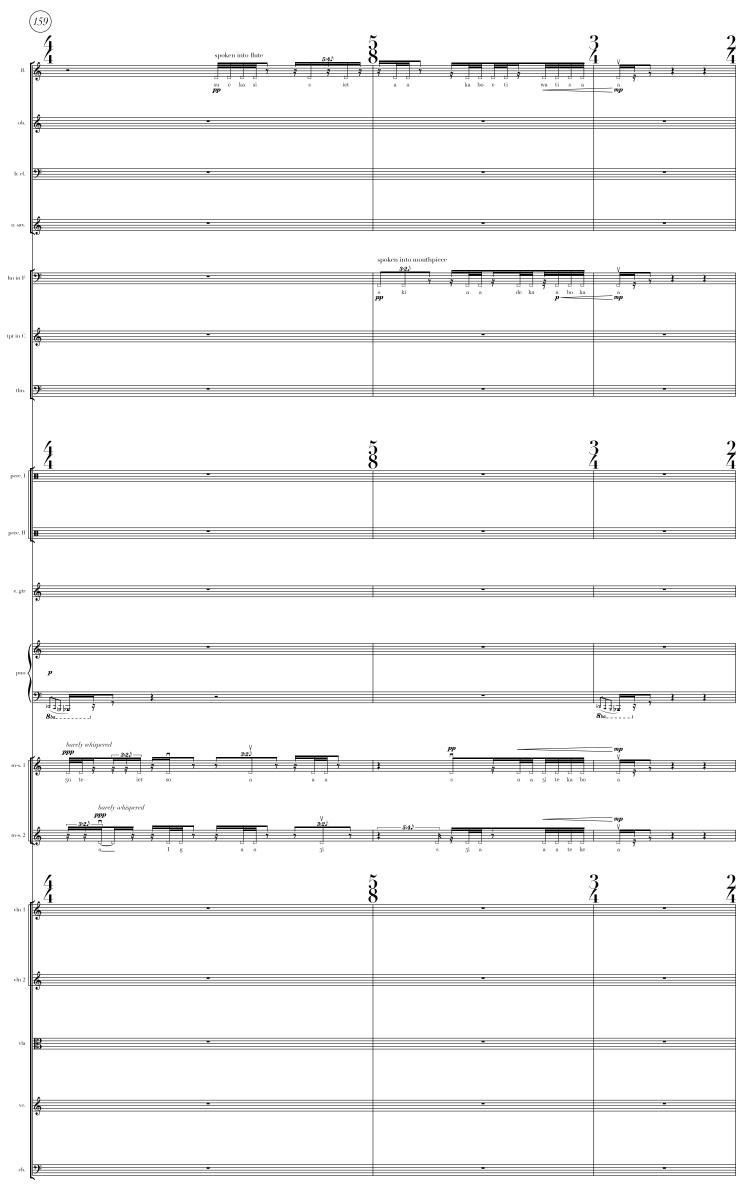


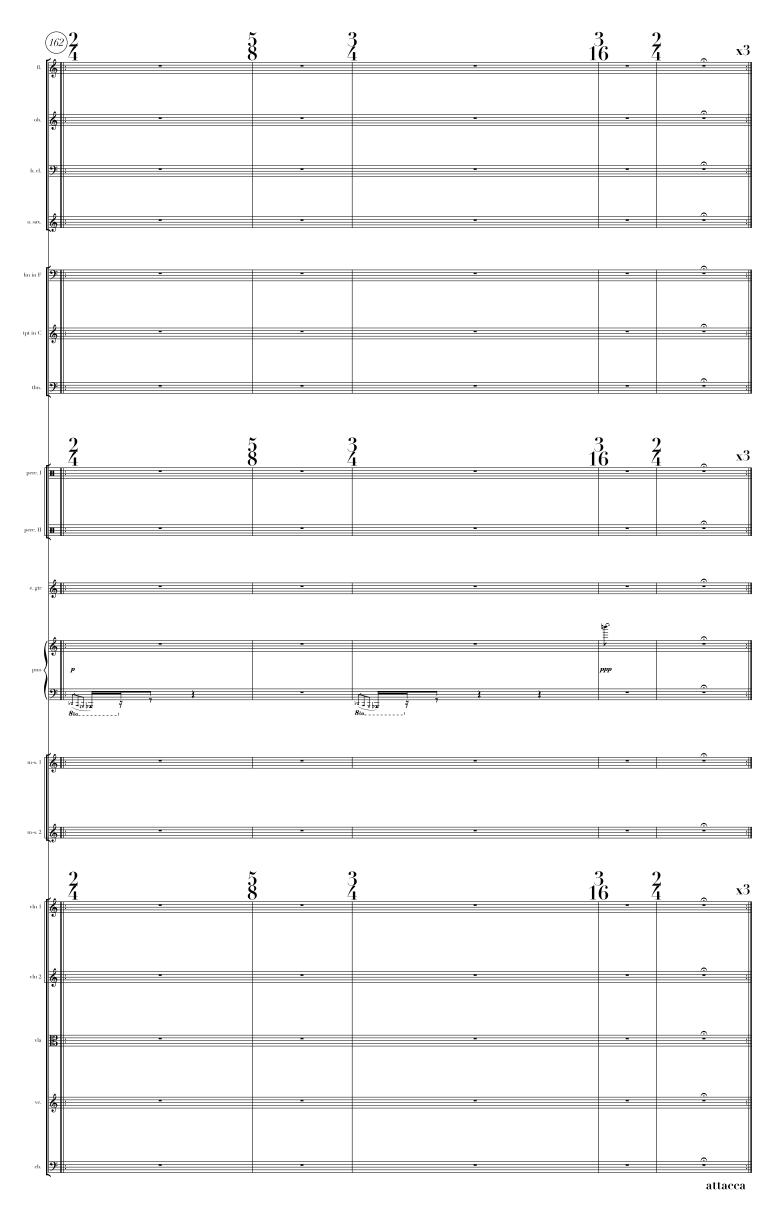
30 i.



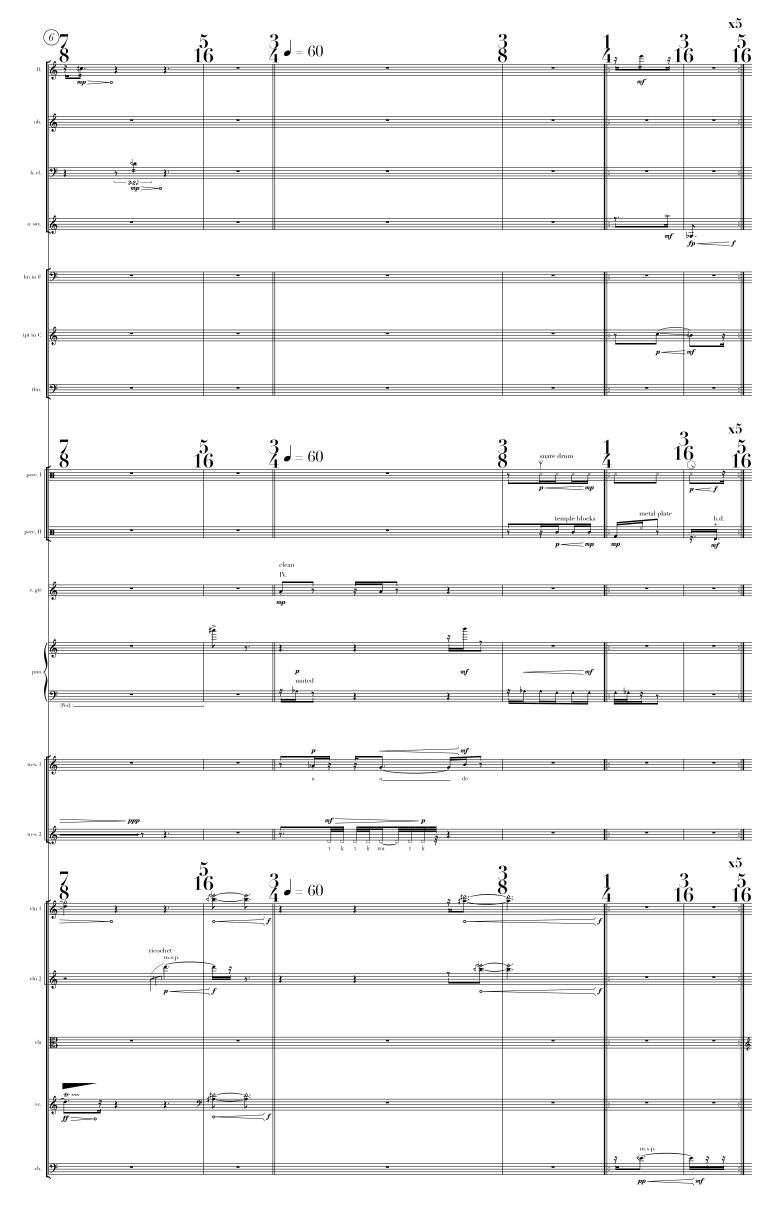
32 i.







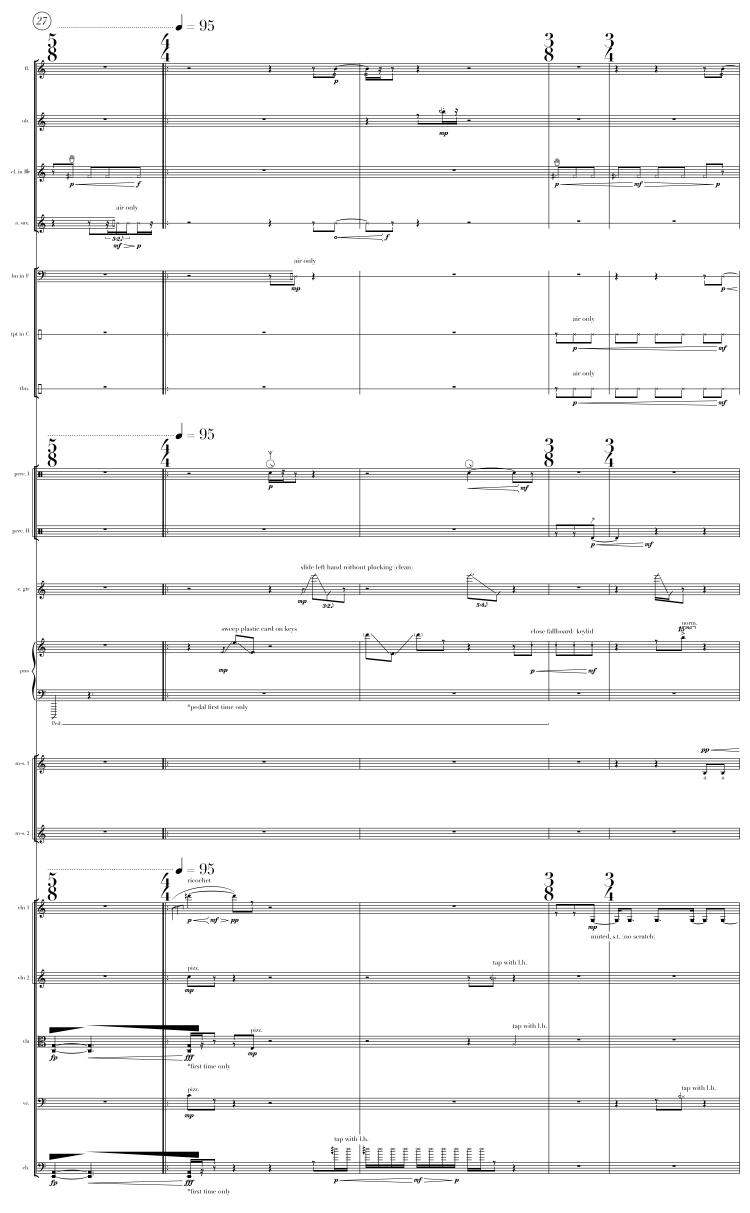


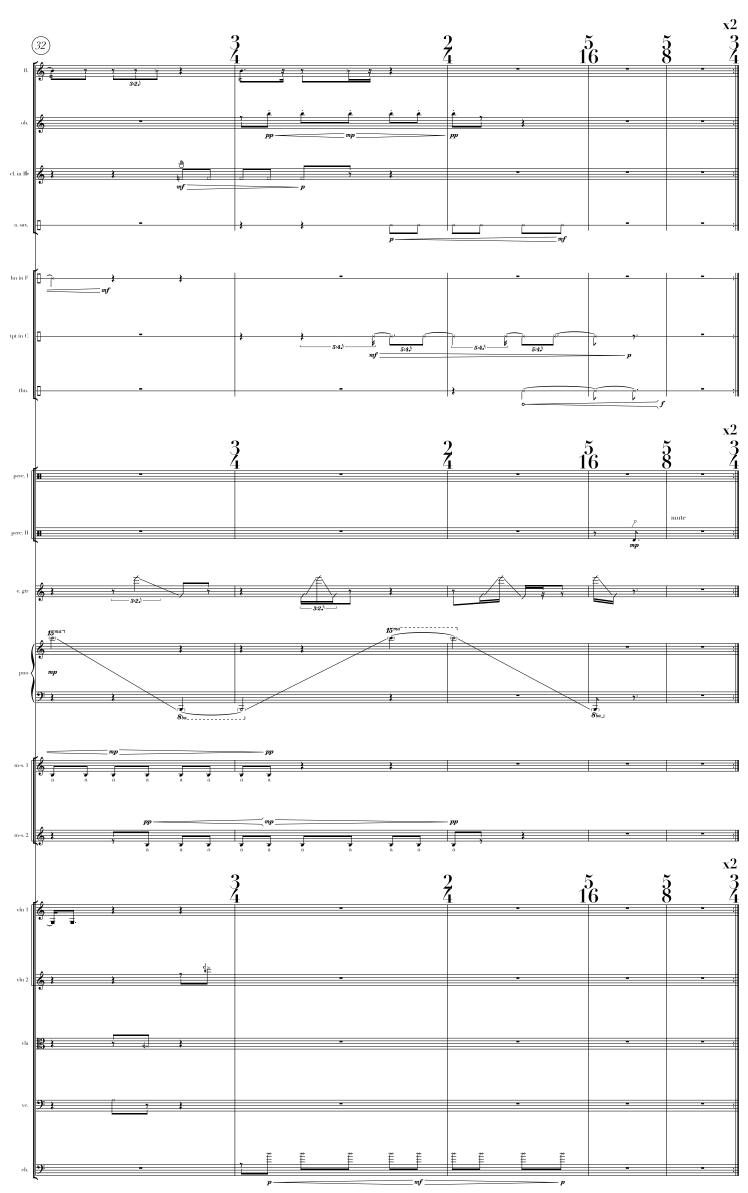


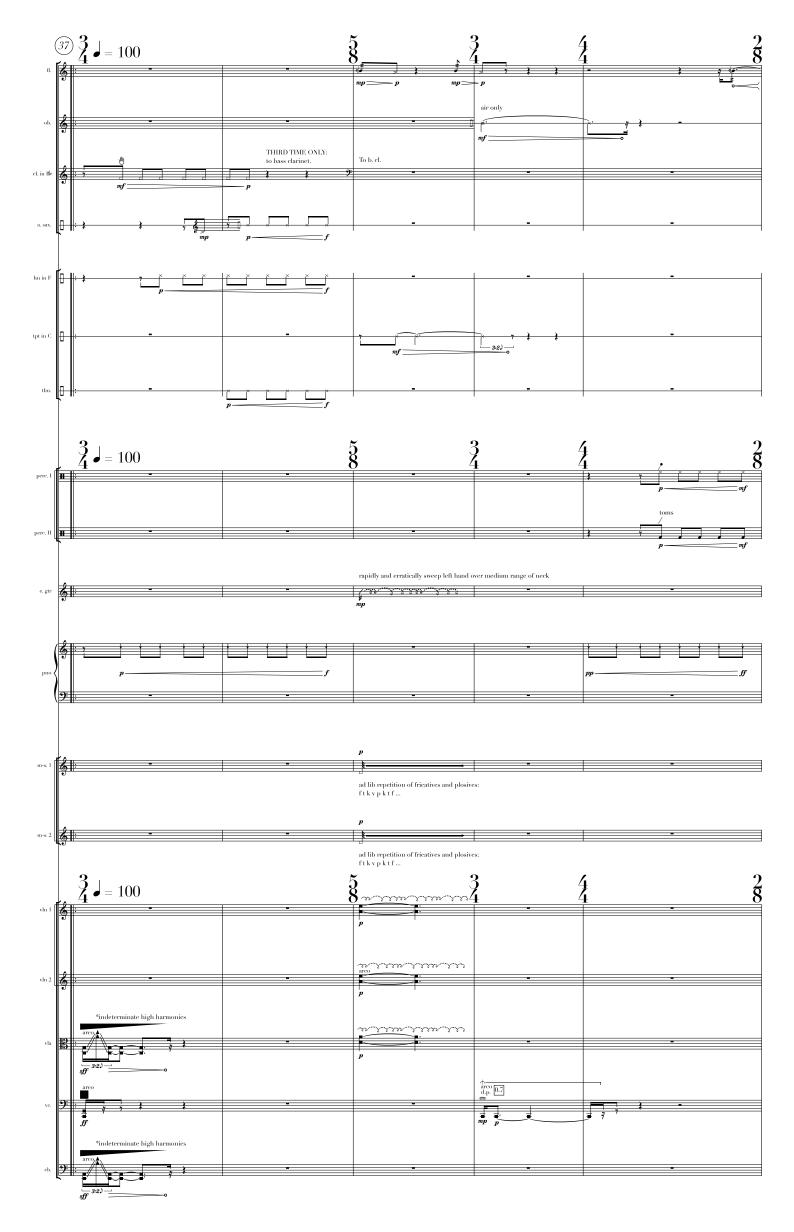


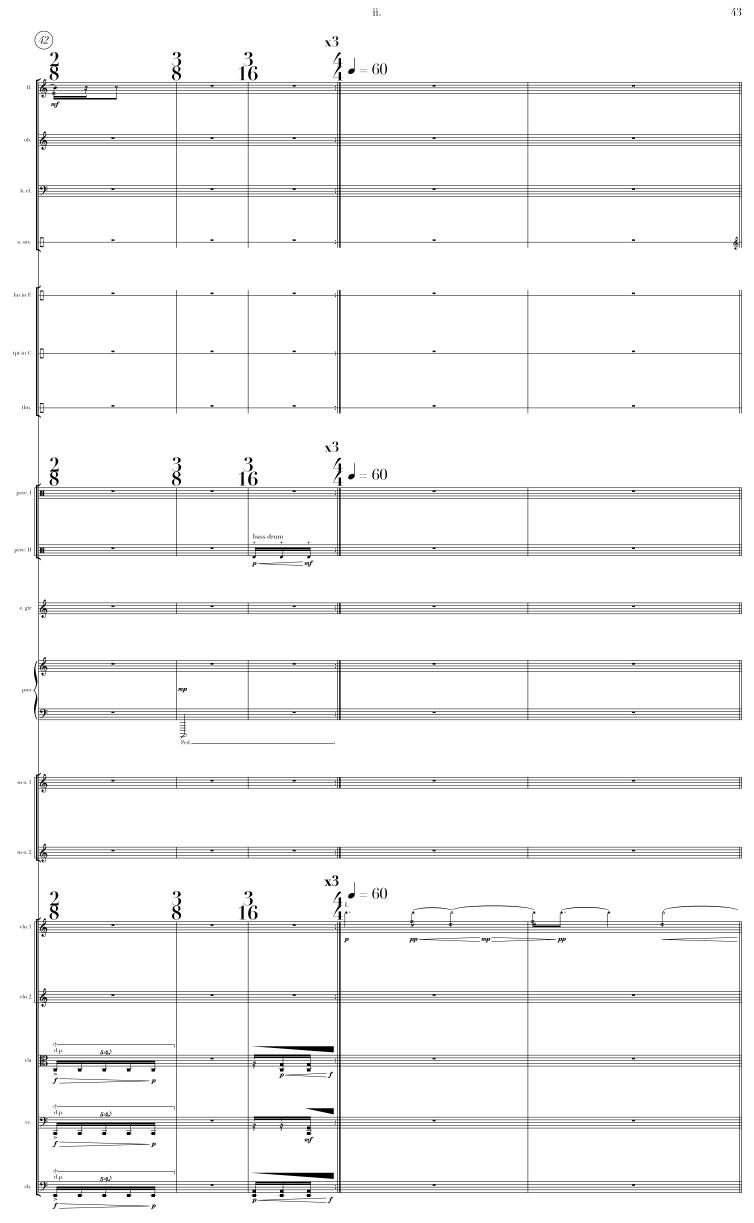






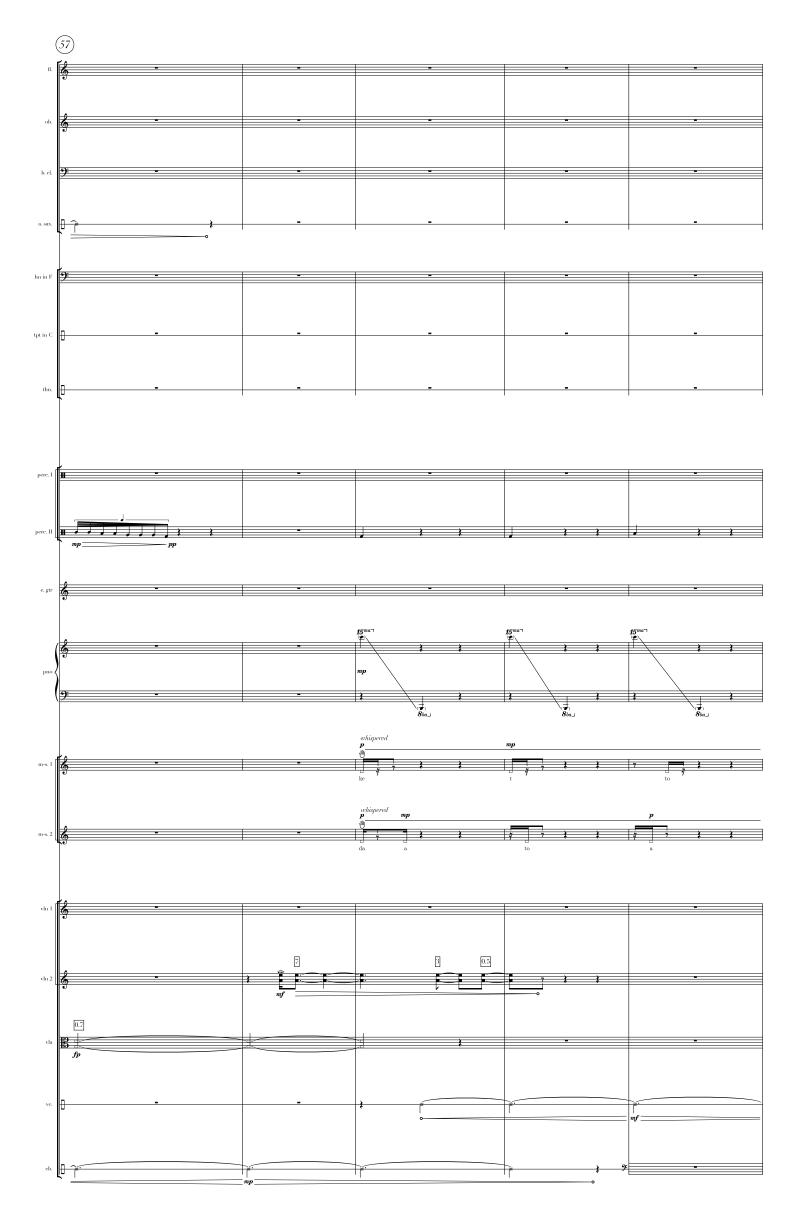


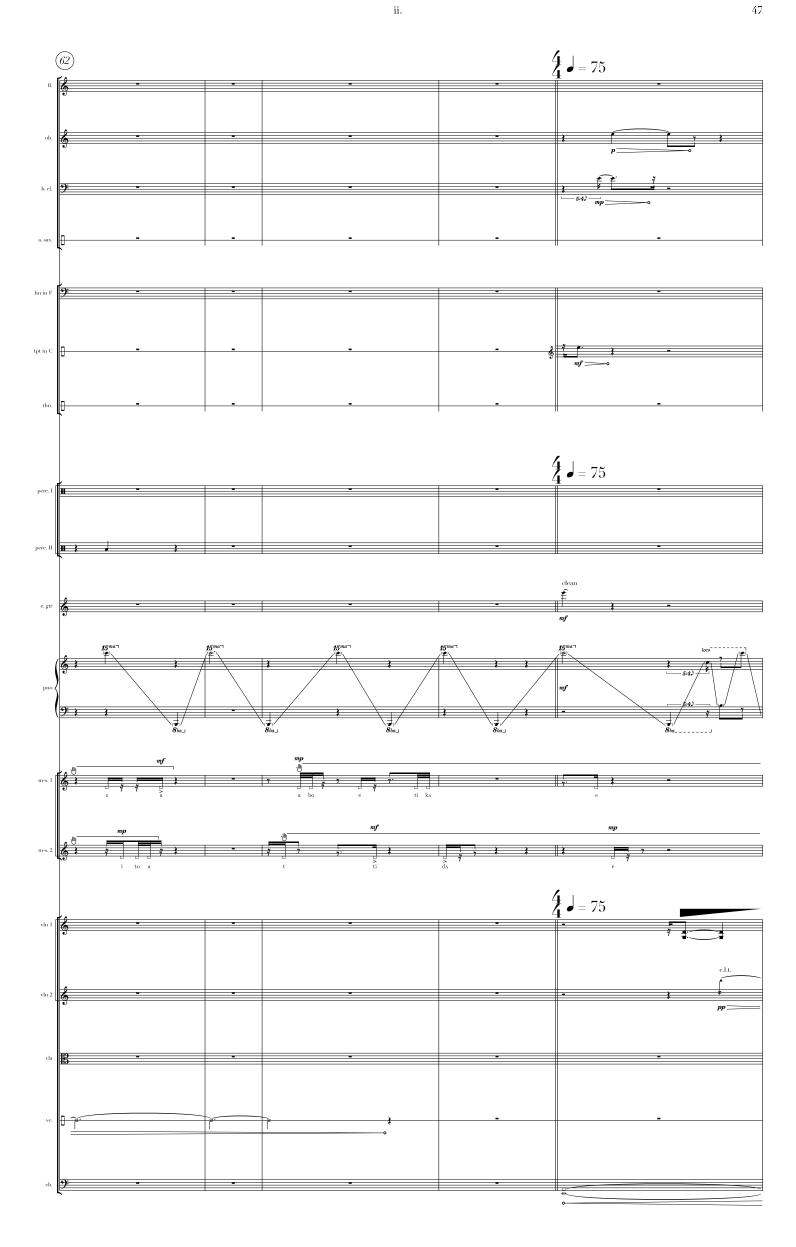


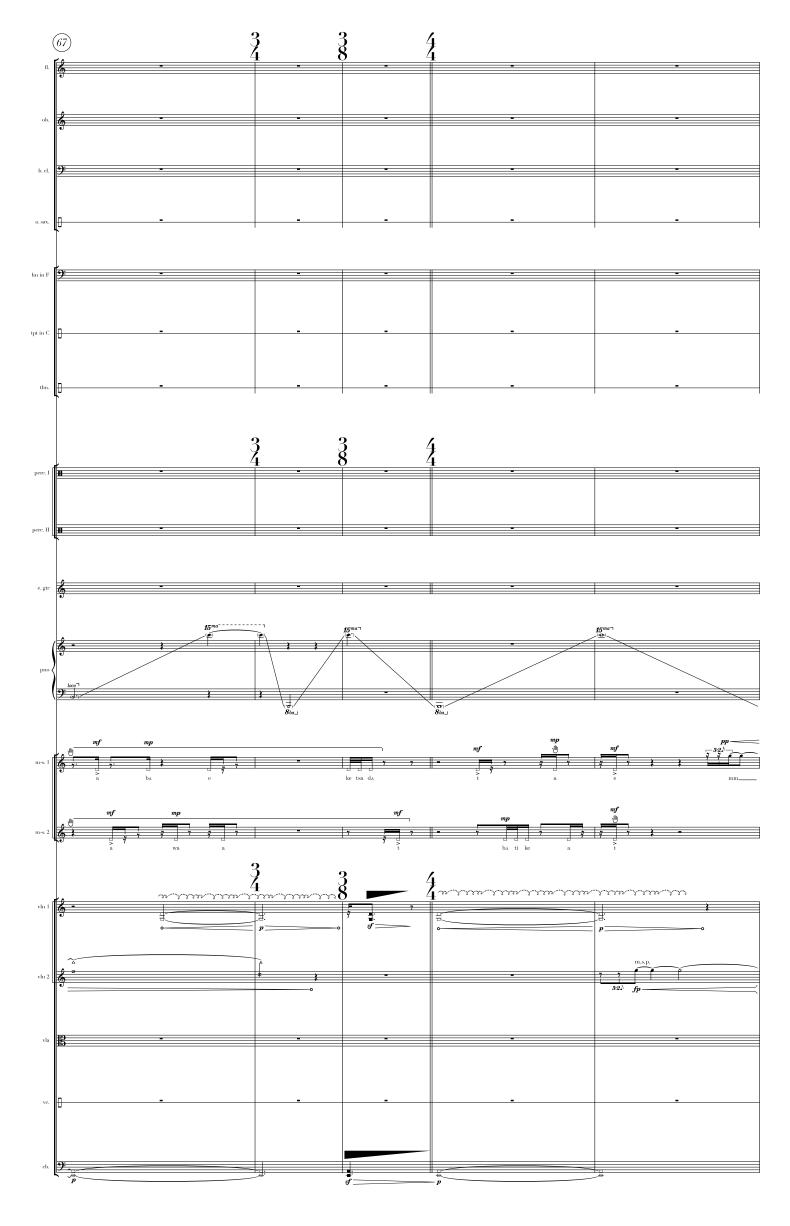










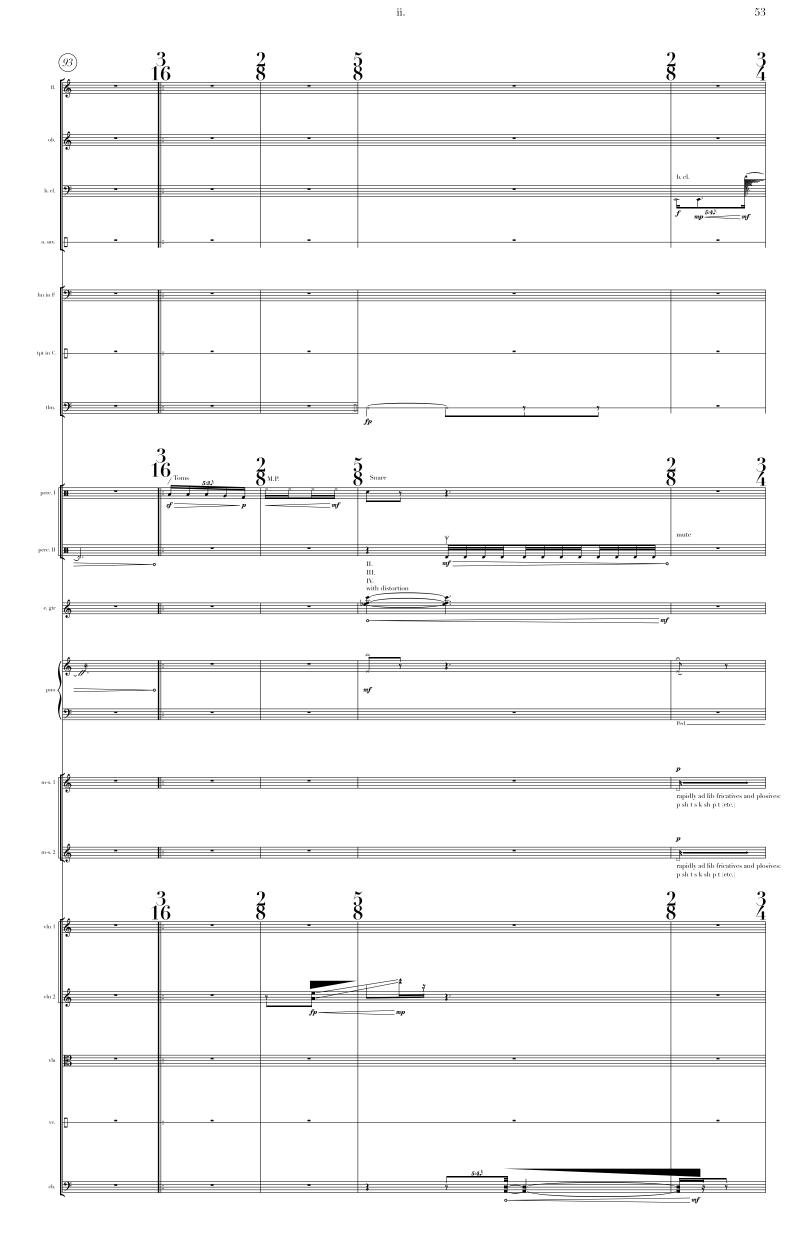


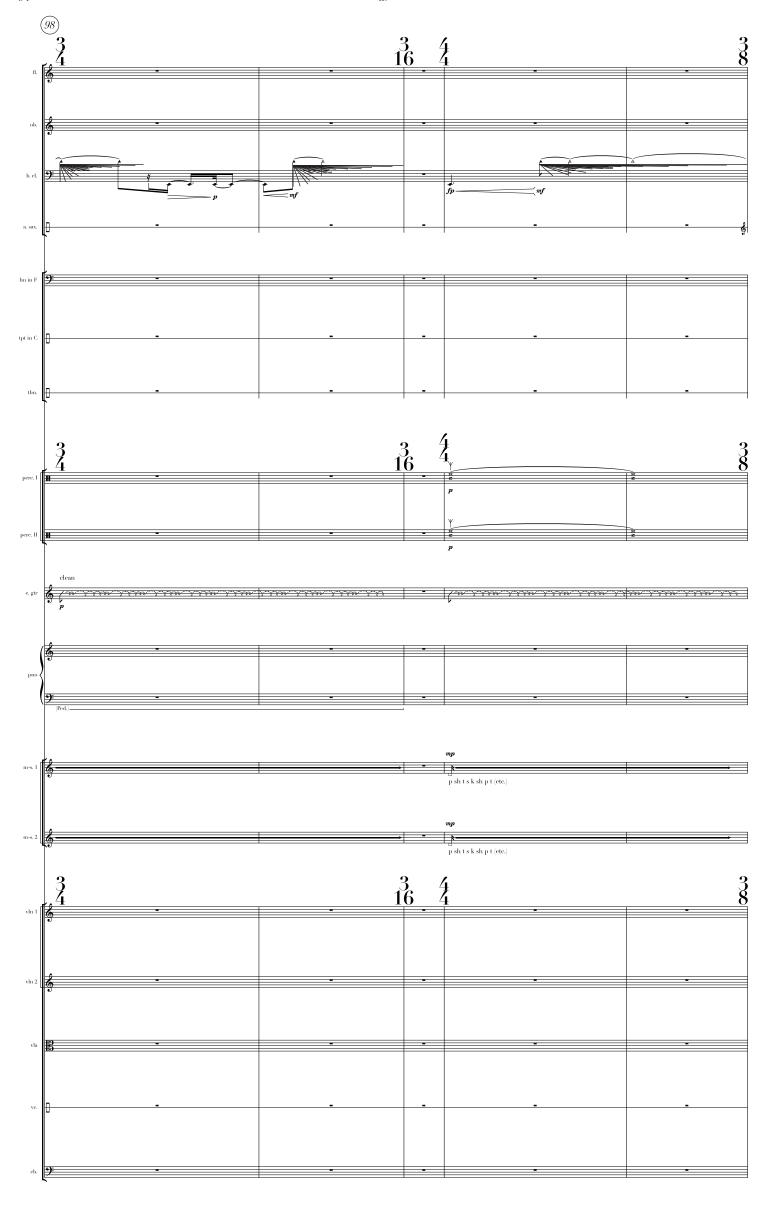


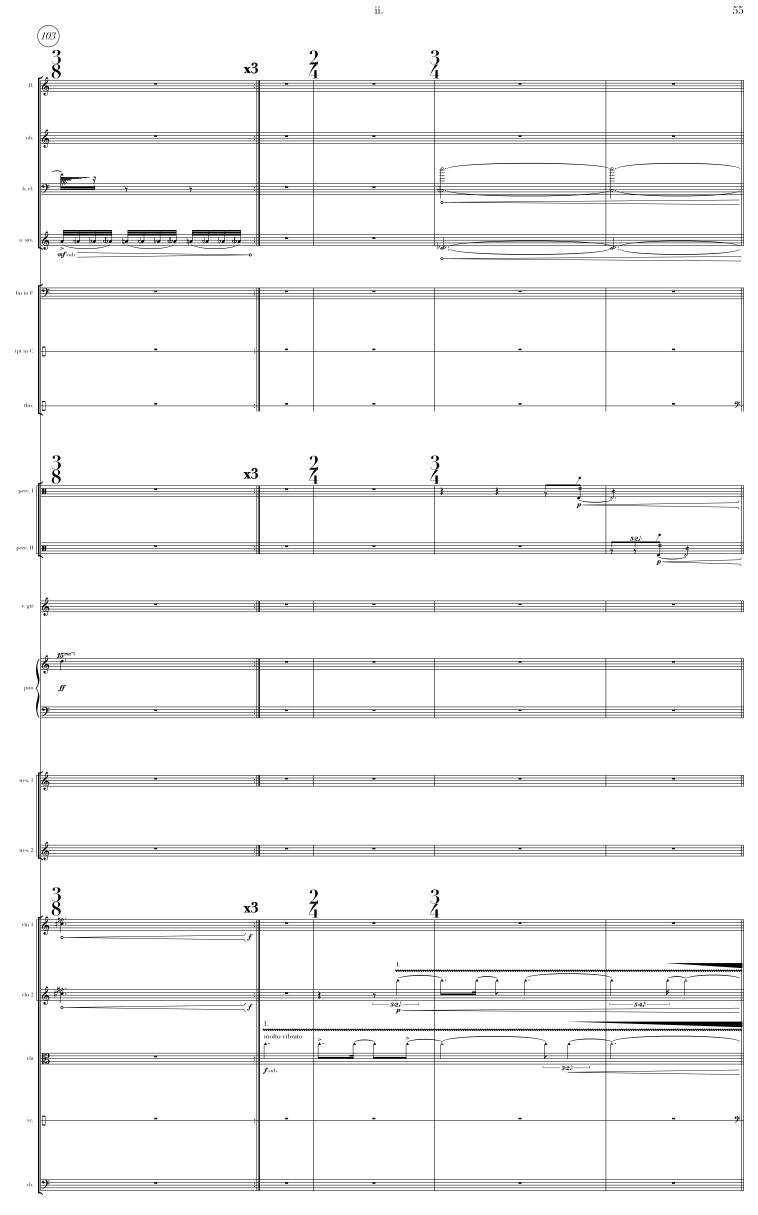




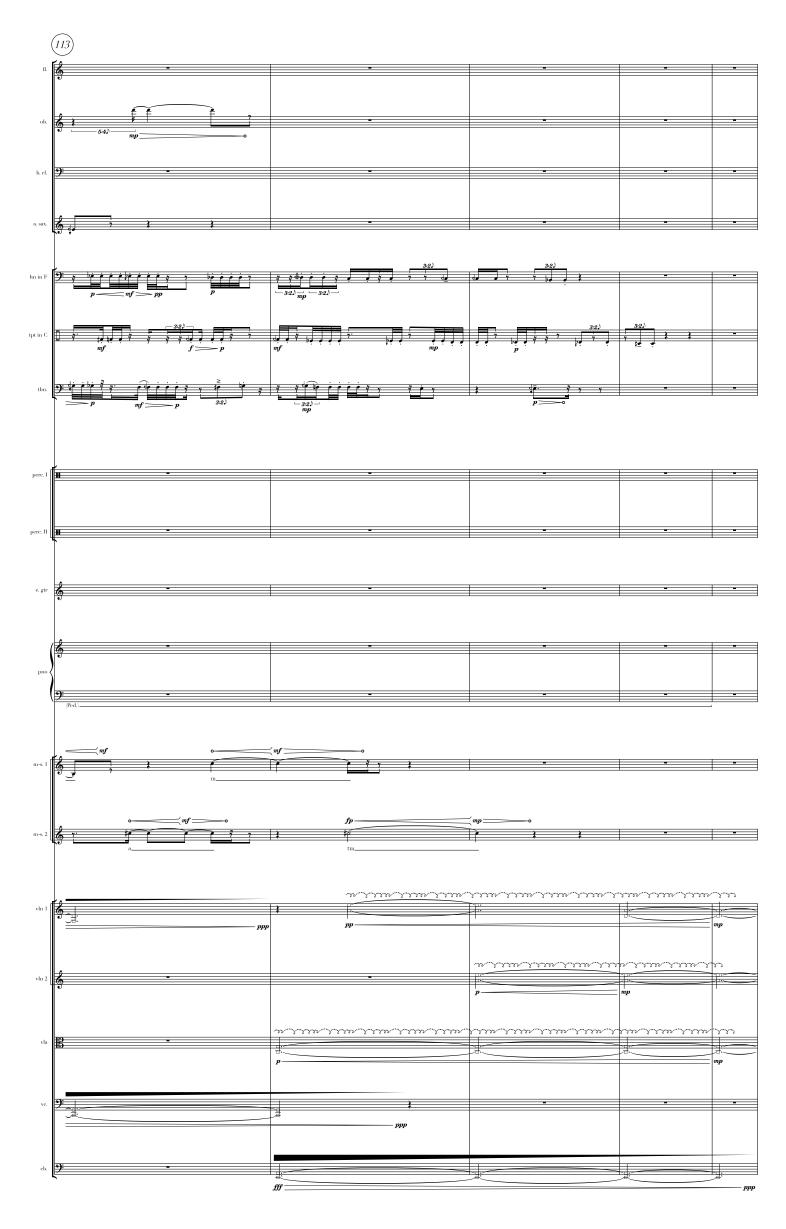


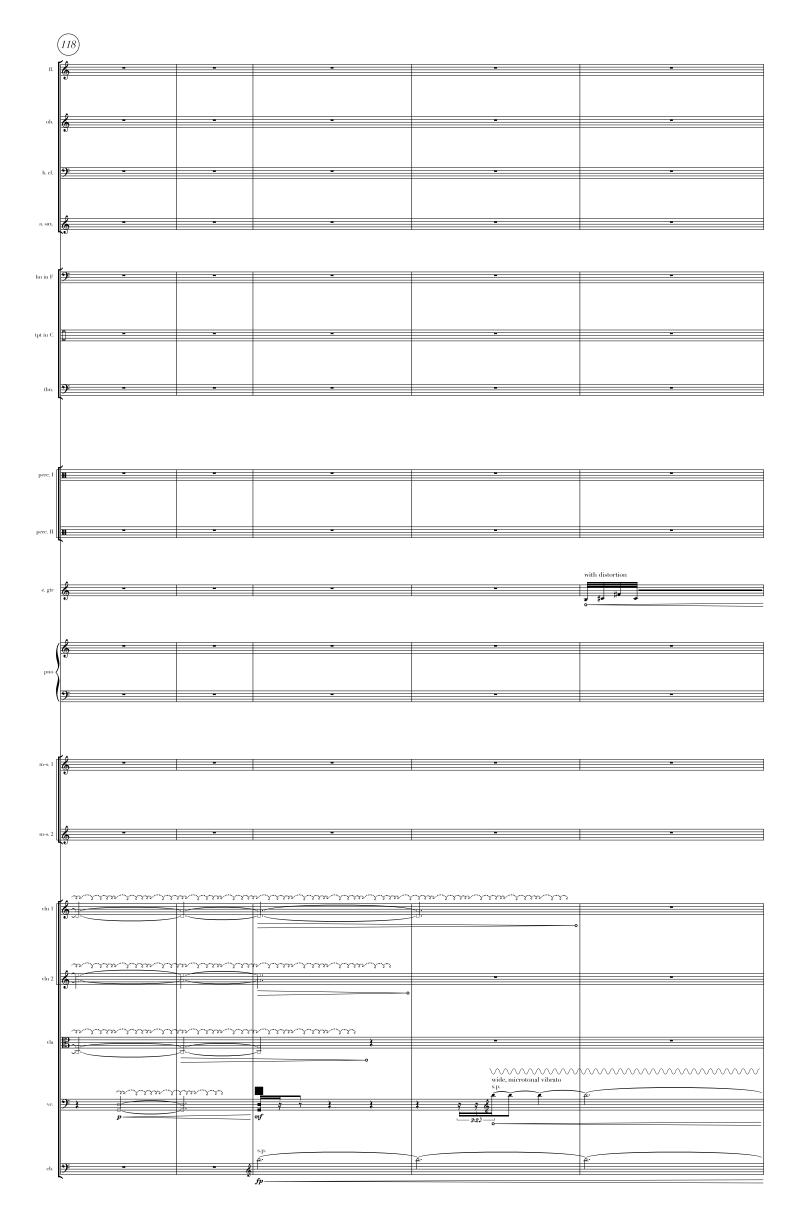




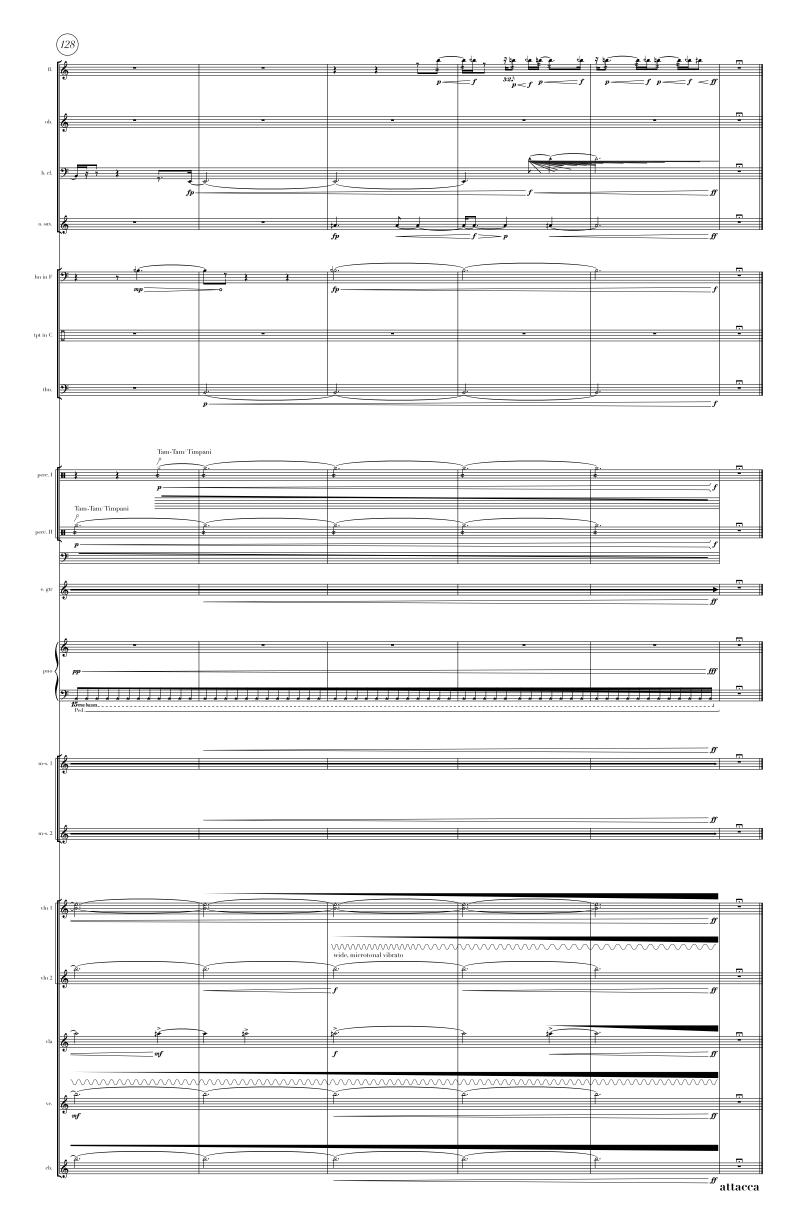














62 iii.





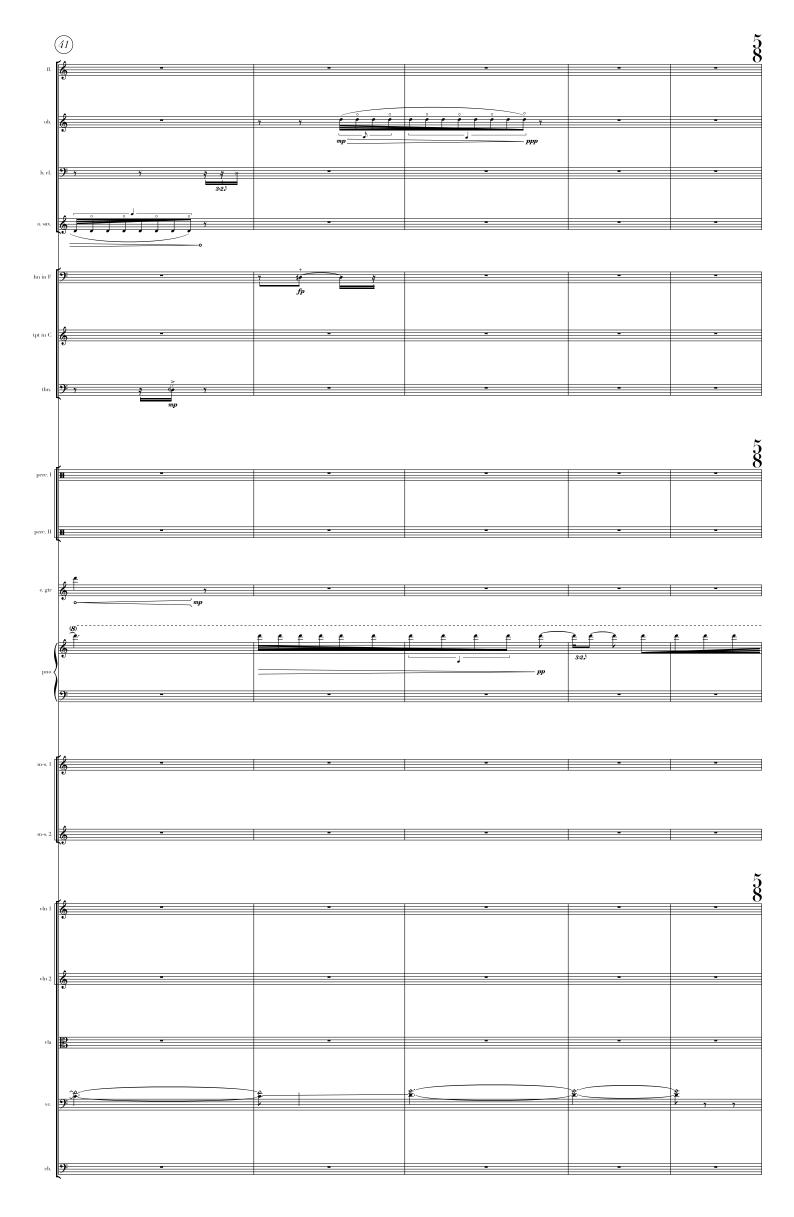












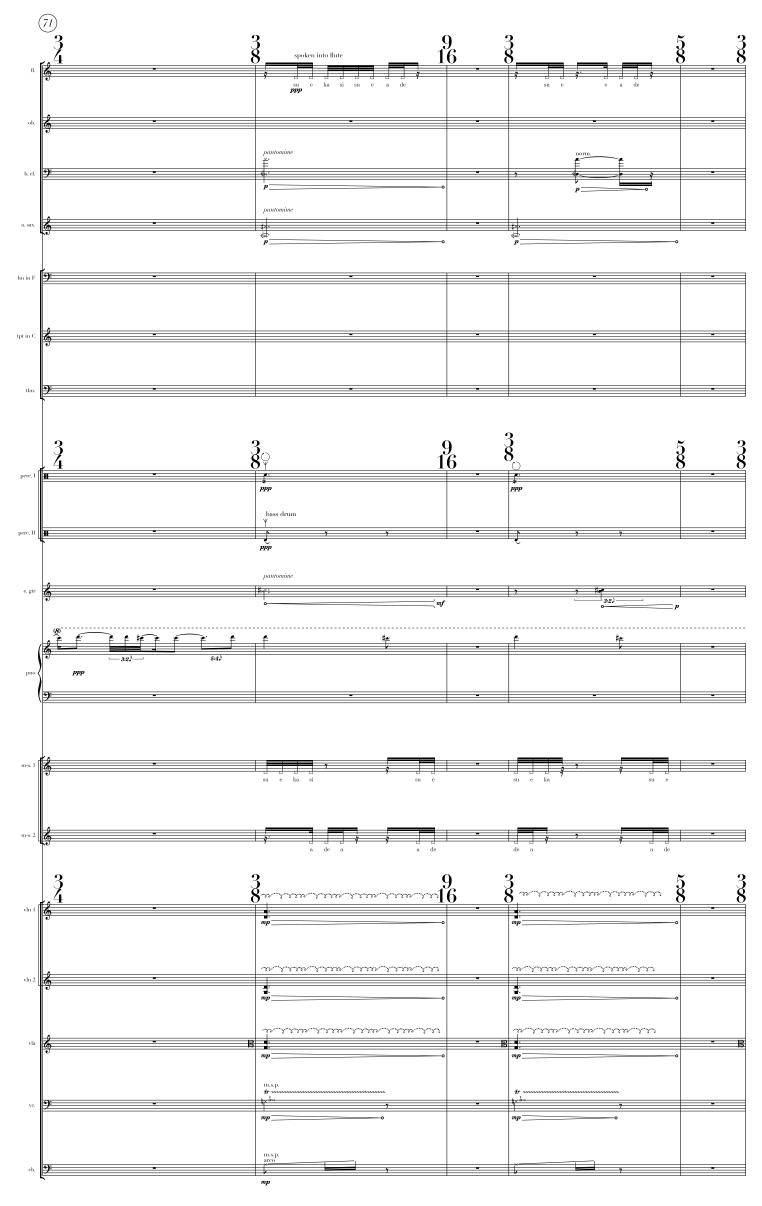


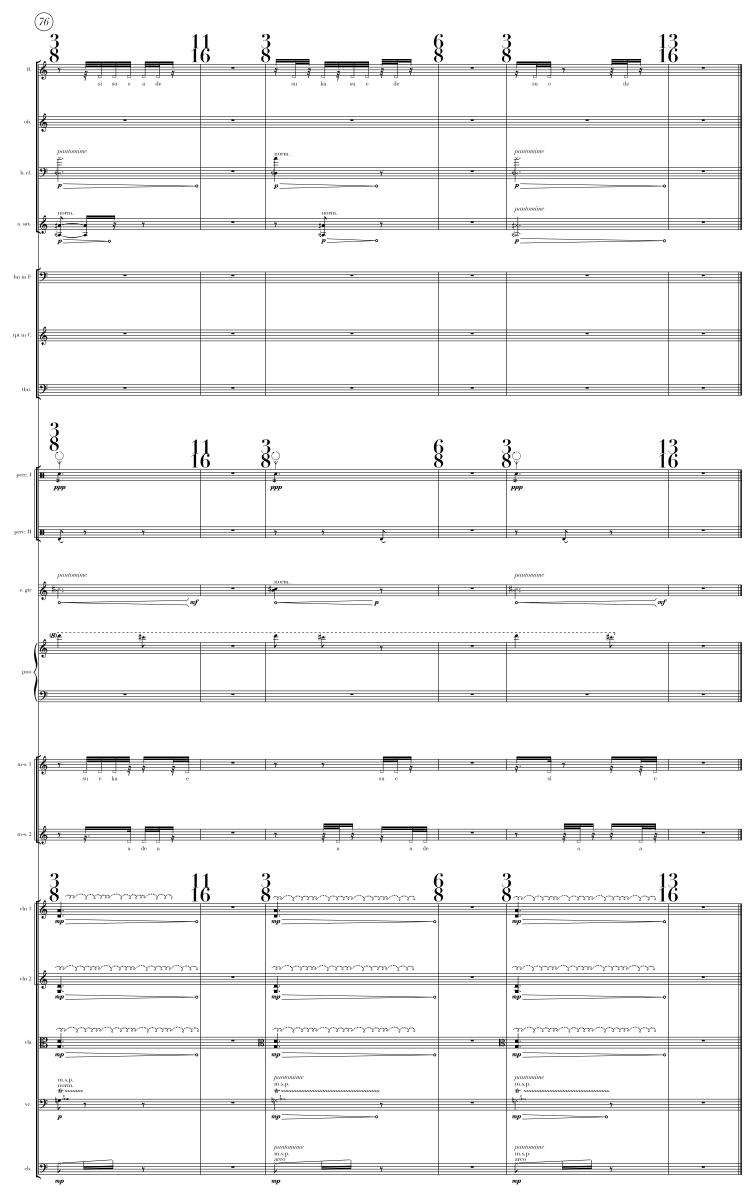












CURRICULUM VITAE

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EDUCATION

University of Louisville, Louisville, KY

Master of Music in Music Composition, August 2019 (expected) May 2021

Moritz von Bomhard Fellow in Composition

Composition: Krzysztof Wolek

Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Bachelor of Music in Music Composition with Honors in the Major, August 2015 August 2019

Honors Thesis: in a sleepier century, for dancers and chamber orchestra

Composition: Ladislav Kubík, Stephen Montague, Mark Wingate

Guitar: Christopher Mrofchak

FESTIVALS AND CONFERENCES

NYC Electronic Music Festival, New York, NY (virtual, summer 2021)

Summer Institute of Contemporary Performance Practice, Boston, MA (virtual; composer fellow, June 2021)

New Music on the Point, Leicester, VT (postponed in summer 2020; attended virtually in June 2021)

SPLICE Institute (virtual; participant in Kyma workshop, June 2021)

The Loretto Project, Nerinx, KY, August 2020 - August 2021

Impulse New Music Festival, Santa Barbara, CA, (virtual, August 2020)

International Clarinet Association ClarinetFest, Reno, NV (postponed in 2020; rescheduled for Fort Worth, TX in summer 2021)

TURN UP Multimedia Festival, Tuscon, AZ, (postponed in spring 2020; rescheduled for spring 2021)

University of Louisville New Music Festival, Louisville, KY, 2019

Charlotte New Music Festival Composition Workshop, Charlotte, NC, 2019

Charlotte New Music Festival Max/ MSP/ Workshop, Charlotte, NC, 2019

Florida State University Biennial Festival of New Music, Tallahassee, FL, 2019

Florida State University Biennial Festival of New Music, Tallahassee, FL, 2017

ADDITIONAL PERSONAL INSTRUCTION

Master Classes

Georg Friedrich Haas, 2019 Lilya Ugay, 2019 Libby Larsen, 2018

Private Lessons

Erin Gee, 2020 Sam Pluta, 2020 Sky Macklay, 2019/2020 Marti Epstein, 2019 Marc Mellits, 2019 Emily Koh, 2019 Kyong Mee Choi, 2018 Panayiotis Kokoras, 2018 Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, 2015-2019

GRANTS, COMMISSIONS, AND HONORS

long_come_vanish_ for percussion duo and video commissioned by Catch XXII/ University of Michigan SMTD, 2021 (upcoming).

New Music on the Point, composer fellow (commissioned new work for JACK Quartet, June 2021).

The Loretto Project, commissioned new work for piano trio, 2020.

 ${\bf Equal\ Sound\ Scholarship,\ Impulse\ New\ Music\ Festival,\ 2020.}$

TURN UP Multimedia Festival, 2019 work Triptych-portrait selected for inclusion, 2019.

 $\textbf{International Clarinet Association Clarinet Fest}, 2019 \ work \ \textit{Triptych-portrait} \ selected \ for \ inclusion, 2019.$

Moritz von Bomhard Fellowship, University of Louisville, 2019 2021.

Florida Society of Composers, Inc. Mixtape, 2019 work Kentucky Derby selected for inclusion on release, 2019.

David Ward-Steinman Undergraduate Composition Award, Florida State University, 2018-2019.

FSU/UGA Composition Residency, 2017 work A desperate attempt at persuasion selected for performance, University of Georgia, 2019.

 $\textbf{David B. Ford Undergraduate Research and Creativity Award}, Florida \ State \ University, 2018.$

Collevoxus Composer Concert, 2017 work ... I wandered down to the beach and sprawled out on the sand... selected for performance, University of North Texas, 2018.