S. Adams

2018.2

[for string orchestra]

2018.2

2018.2 was commissioned by the Irish Chamber Orchestra

Forces:
10 violins
4 violas
3 cellos
1 double bass
[conductor]

Duration: 13 minutes

This piece includes extensive use of text notation and cellular notation. In all cases, these cells of music or text should be treated as source material rather than as a text to be read literally. As long as other musical instructions (e.g. timing, dynamics) are observed, individual players can deviate greatly from the exact instructions within the cells (i.e. those regarding playing techniques or material).

The openness of the notation is in part due to that making sense for the ideas being presented, and in part an attempt at experimenting with allowing the individual members of the orchestra great space to interpret and alter the piece.

In general, major chords or arpeggios should ideally be played with very pure tuning – this means a flattened major third (14 cents below equal temperament) and minor seventh (31 cents below equal temperament). This tuning is not essential except in places where it is explicitly marked in the score.

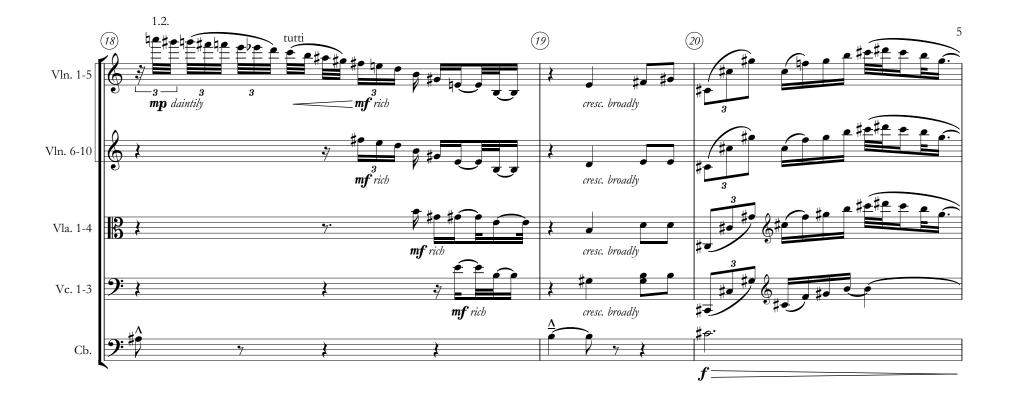
More detailed Performance and Analysis Information is provided in a separate document.

This version of the score was exported on: 06 September 2018

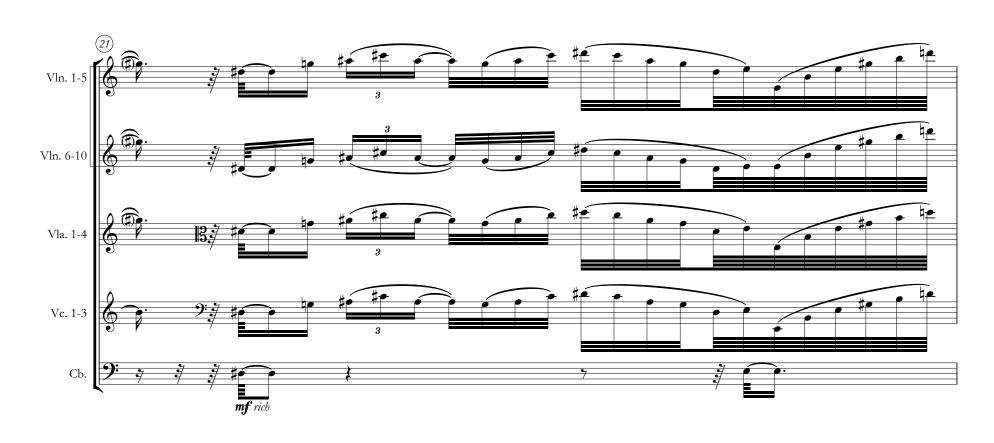


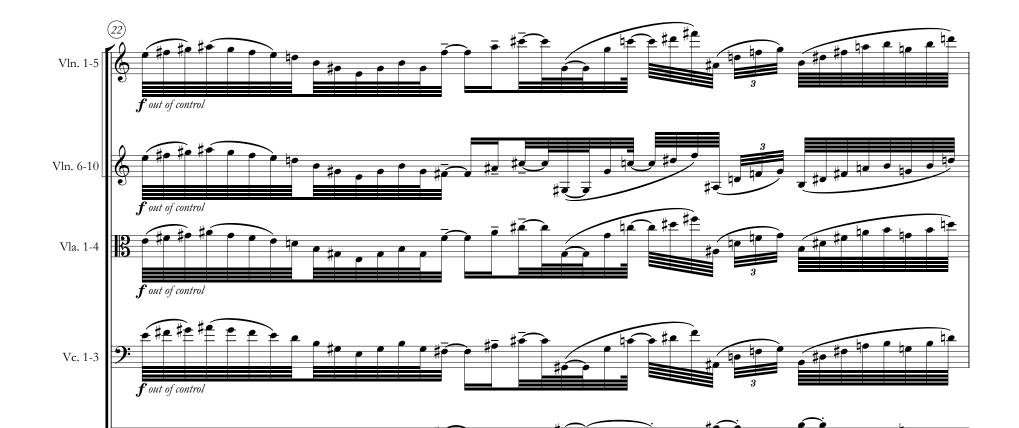












All

Improvise a fast, Descending, mostly Chromatic, gesture starting on any high note. Dynamic *mp*.

Over the course of this bar, gradually transform into Noise Texture, maintaining fast rhythms.

Instead of transforming into Noise Texture A, cellos should transform into a bottom C, played mf

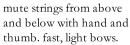
CHOOSE FROM THESE NOISE TEXTURES:

{these are the basis of all noise textures in the piece)



trem. vertical bow at heel; gliss with very light finger pressure. [aim for noise only]





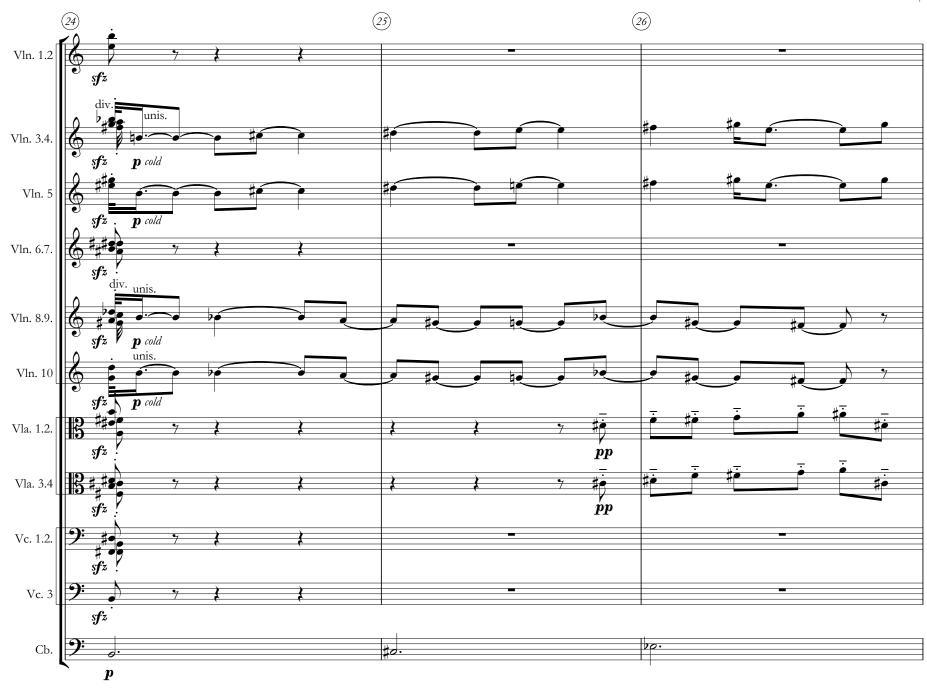


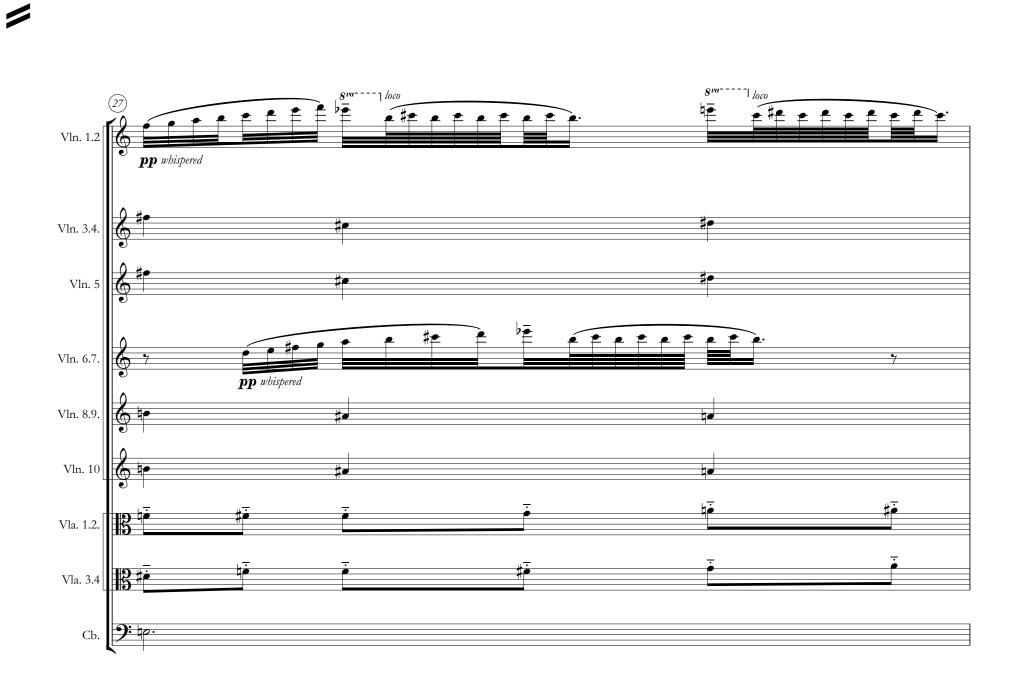
Hold mute in L.H. and pres to string(s). Bow on or over the mute.

Extreme bow pressure; bow almost directly on bridge (on fingerboard side) Col legno richochet: Mute/damp string with hand. Drop bow as hard as you dare, landing on wood. Exaggerate the bow's natural bounce.

Bow catch: finger a note past fingerboard on lowest string. Catch bow in string and release with great force and velocity, through a long, fast bow-stroke. When you release the bow, begin a fast, exaggerated descending gliss. The sound should be mainly unpitched, with some hints of pitch and overtones.

These cells may be viewed either as final material or as a starting point to be freely modified. When asked to play material from cells, individual players should feel free to play any material that feels appropriate, as long as the instructions outside cells are fully observed.

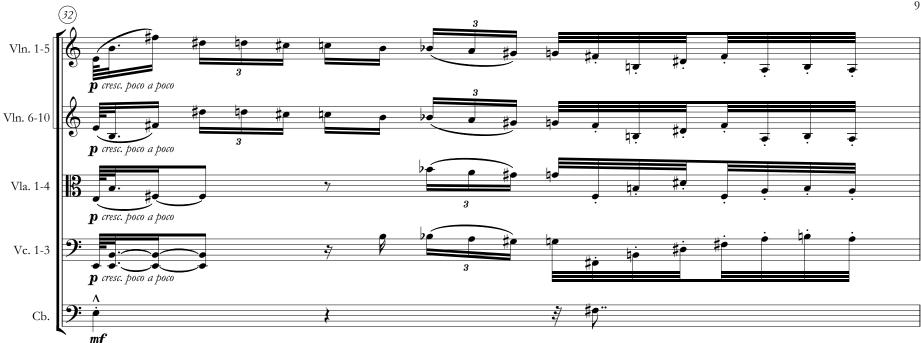










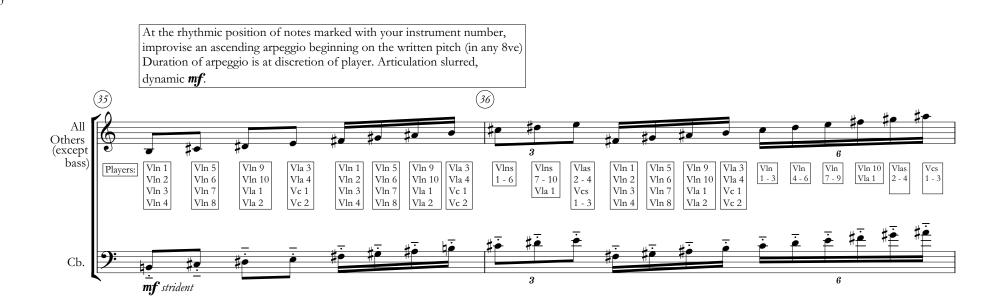


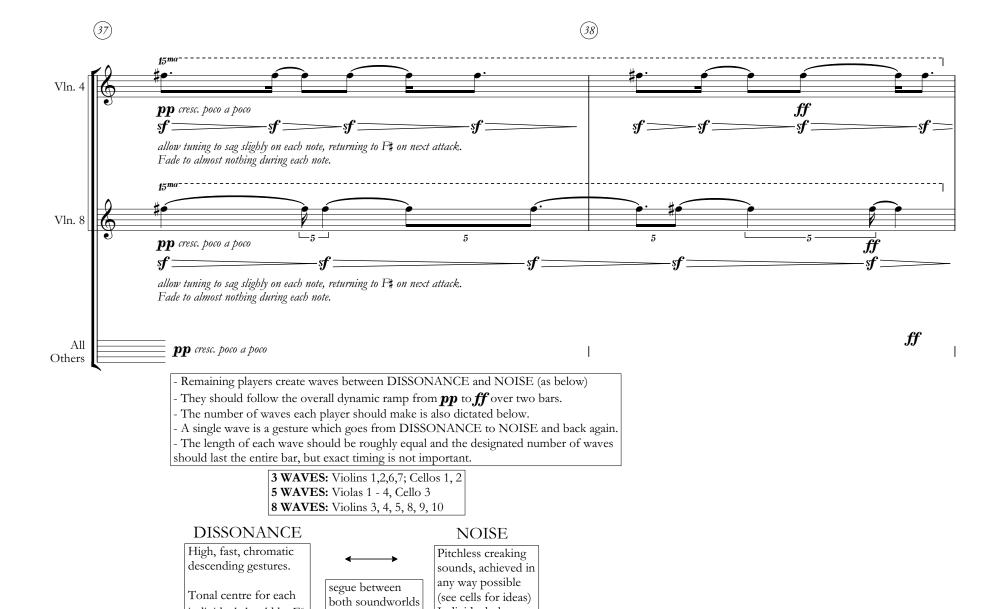










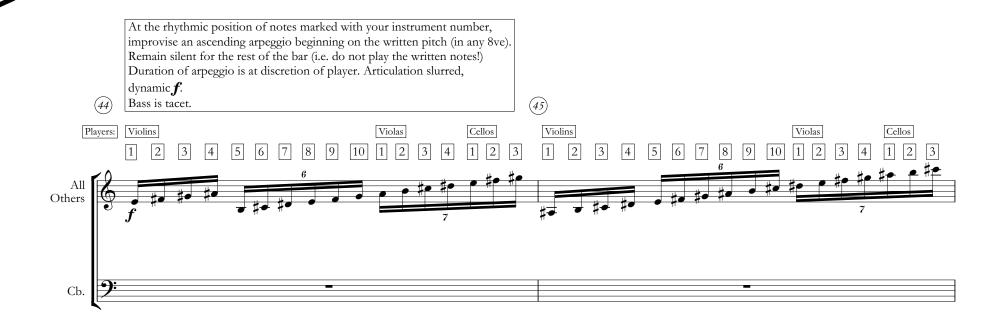


Individual players may do so in their own way.

individual should be F#

Choose between sul ponticello or overpressure sound.





Follow the leader:

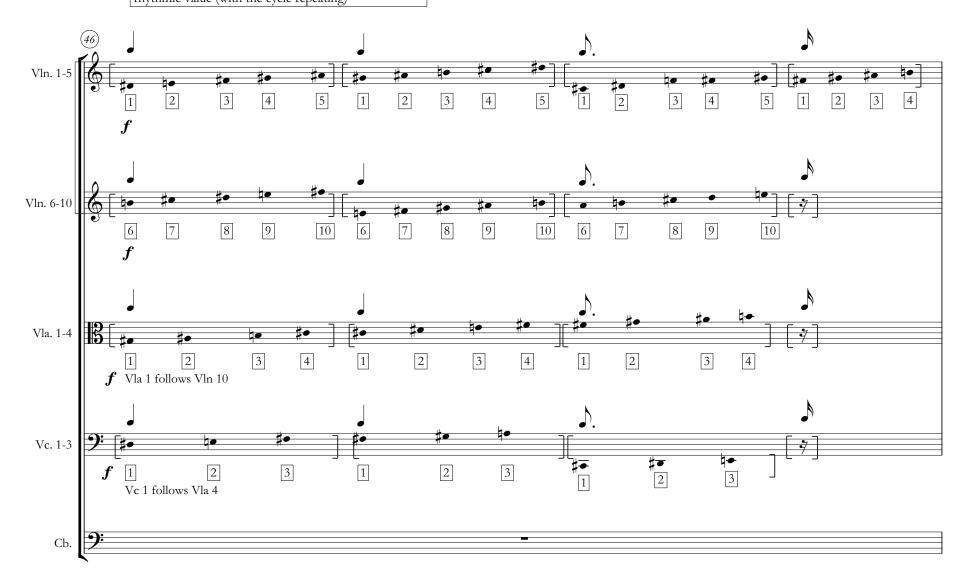
Players are numbered as set out in front matter.

Play your numbered note and an arpeggio stemming from it.

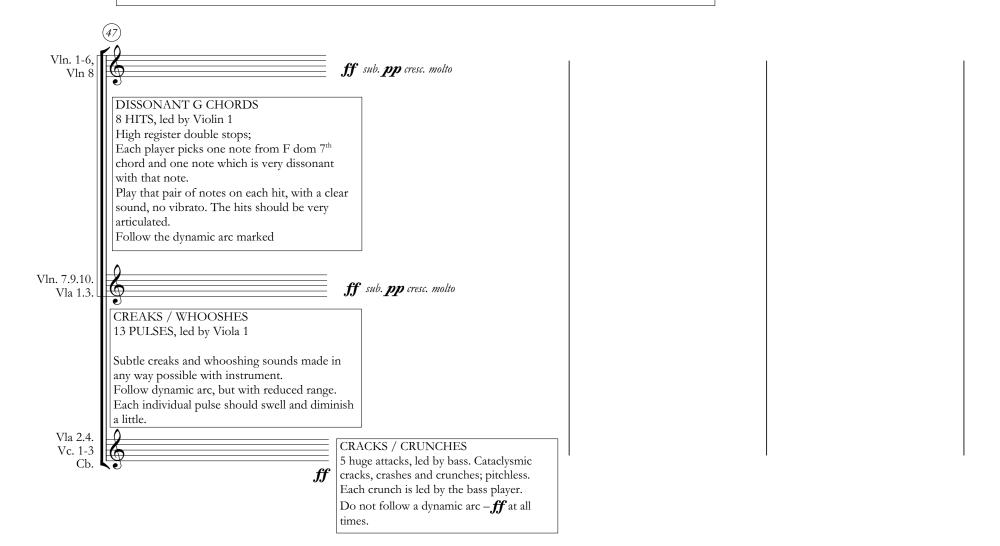
Play directly after the player with the number before yours.

The leader of the orchestra (Violin 1)

begins each gesture. They should reset on each marked rhythmic value (with the cycle repeating)



The orchestra is divided into three groups (of 8, 5, 5). Each group has a designated leader. The instructions for each group are executed independent of the conductor over the course of three bars. Members of each group should play each gesture in sync with their leader. Each group's first pulse should be on the first beat of b. 47.





Follow the leader:

Players are numbered as set out in front matter.

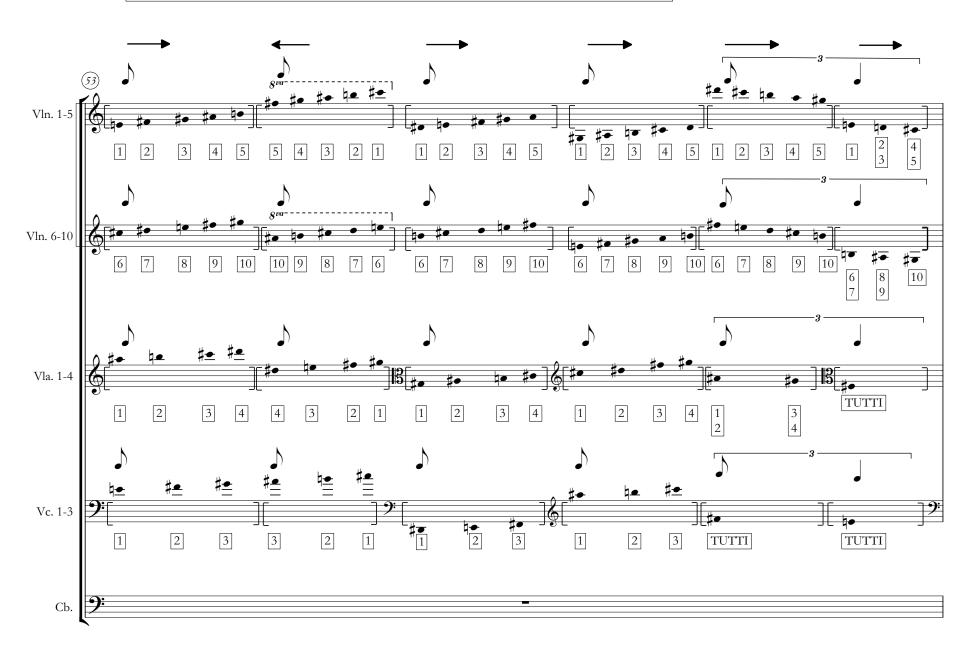
Viola 1 is the player numbered after Violin 10; Cello 1 is the player after Viola 4.

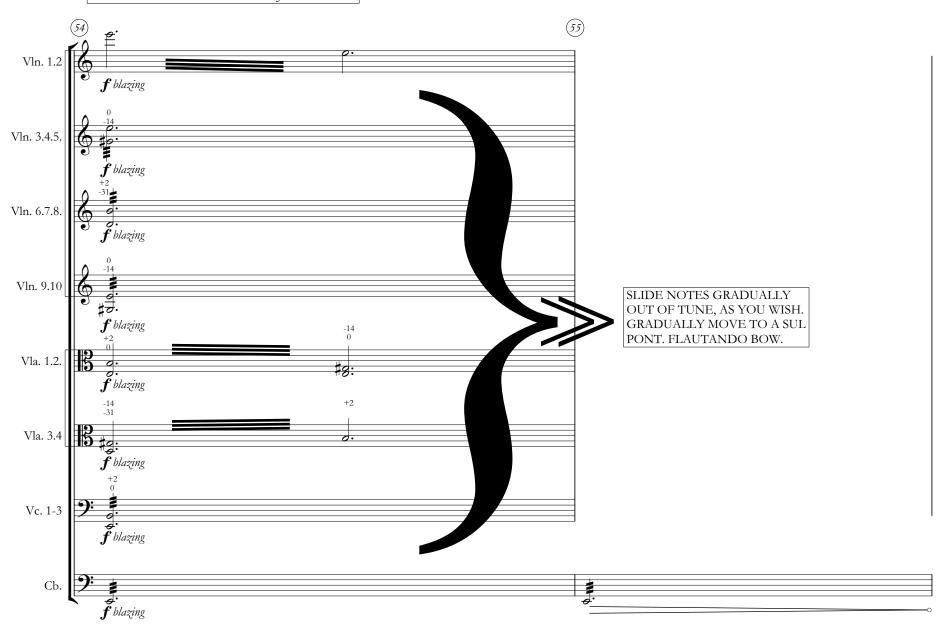
Play your numbered note and a major arpeggio or dom 7th stemming from it.

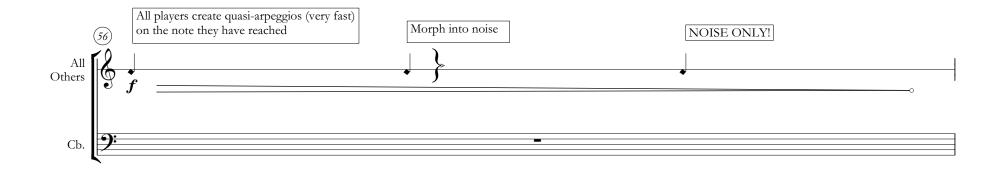
Play directly after the player either with the number before or after yours (see the marked arrows)

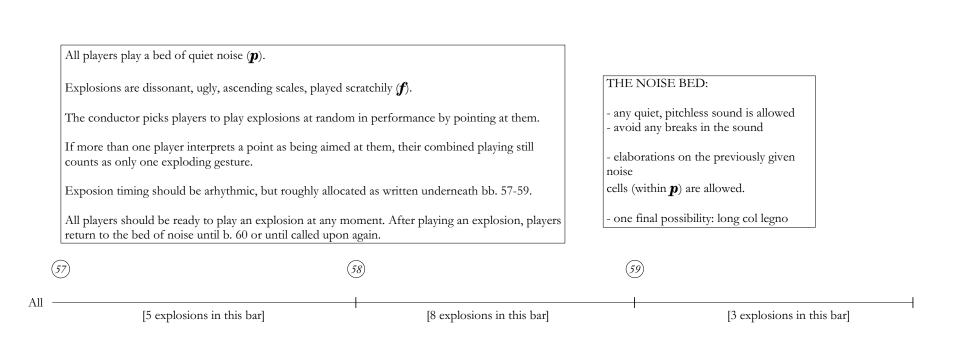
Gestures are begun by the leader at the rhythmic position notated over the staff. Violin 1 leads the gestures in places marked with an arrow pointing forwards;

Cello 3 leads when marked with a backwards arrow (i.e. second quaver of Bar 53).

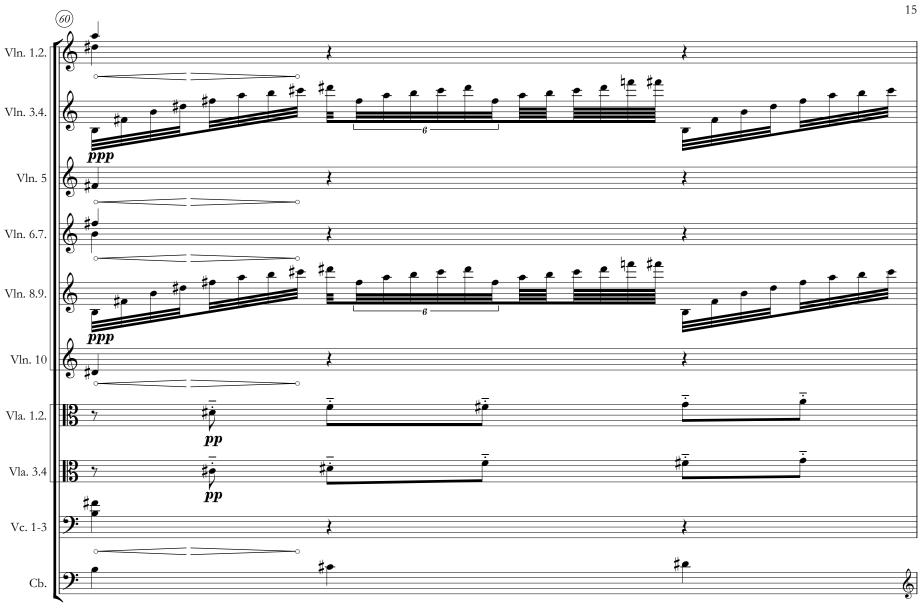




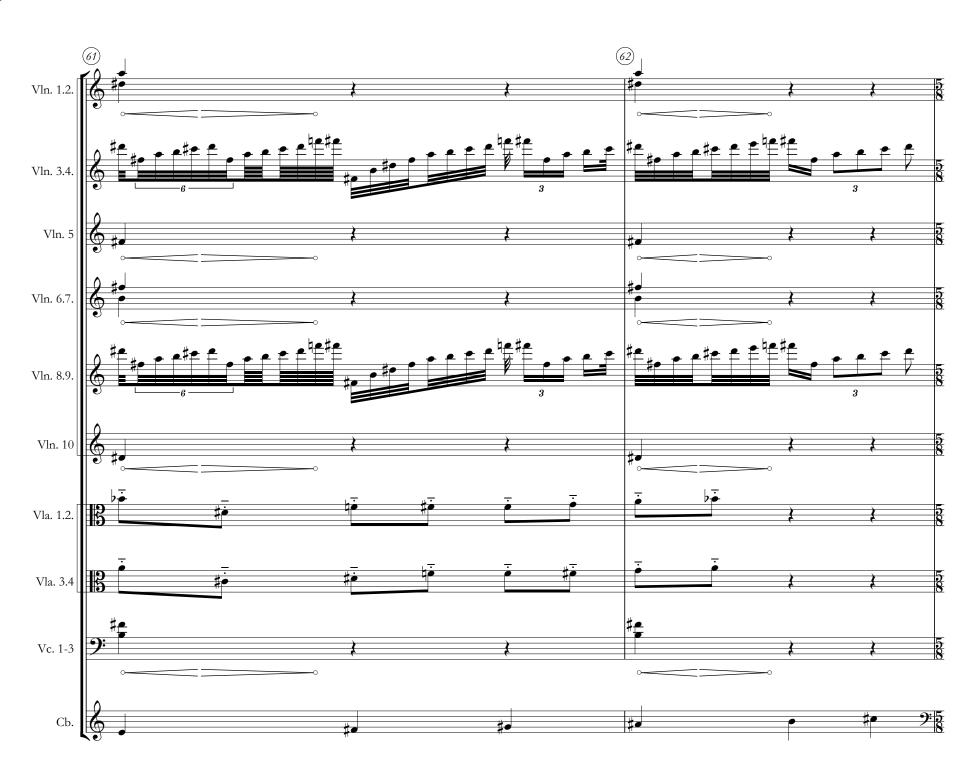


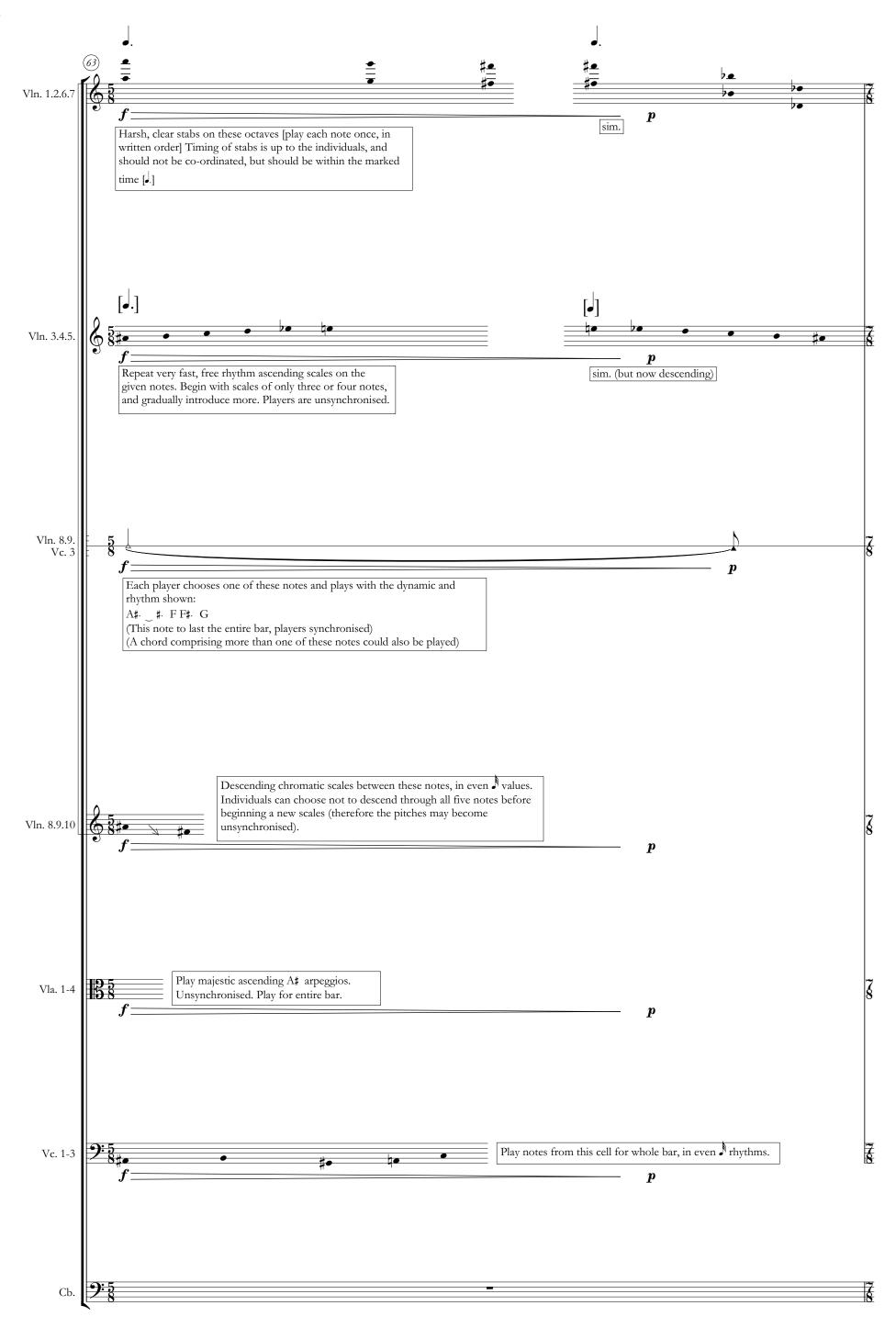


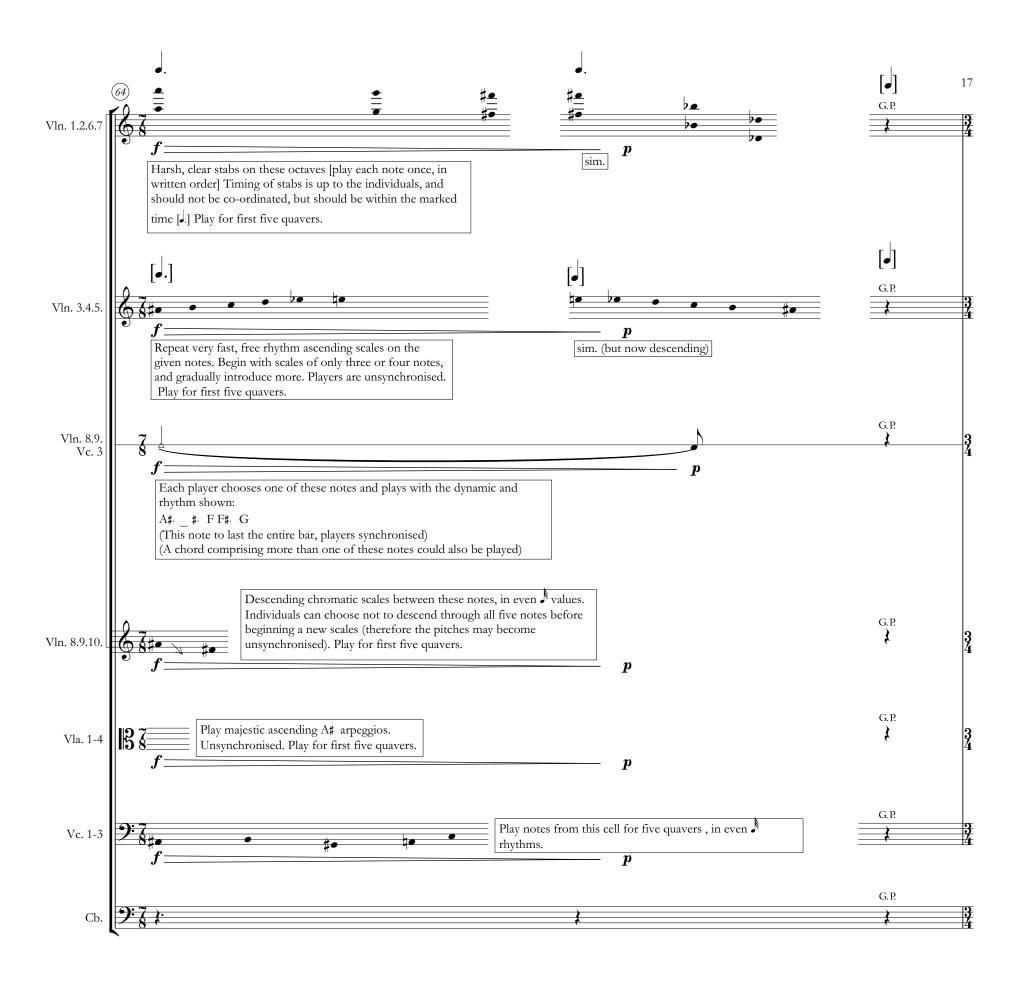


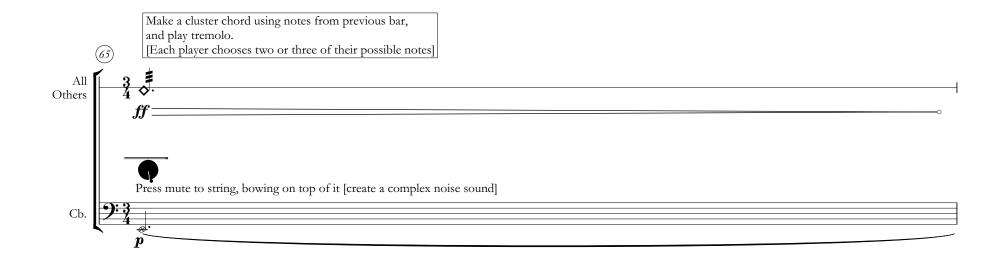


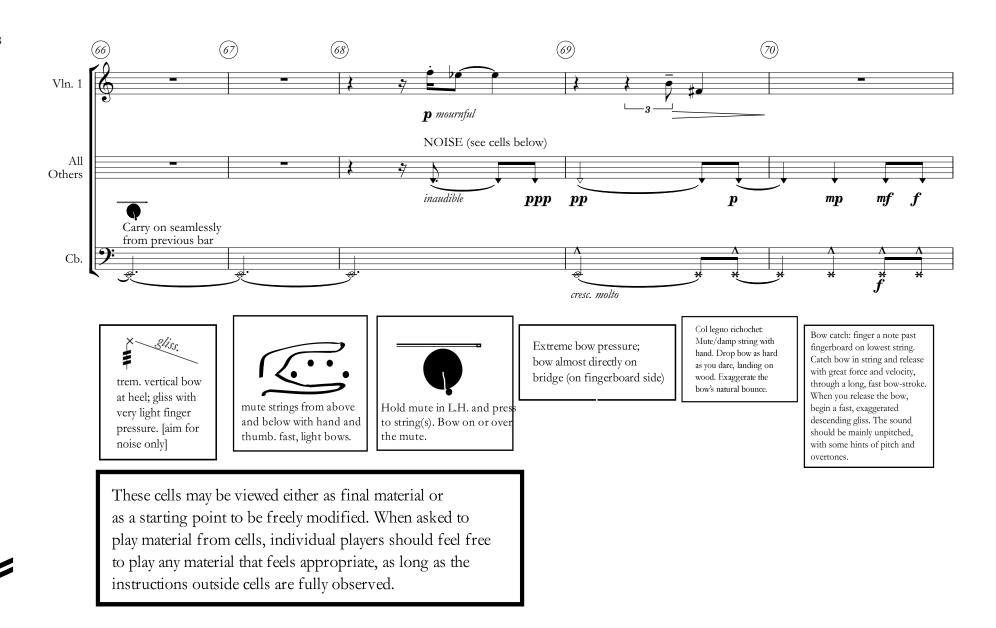






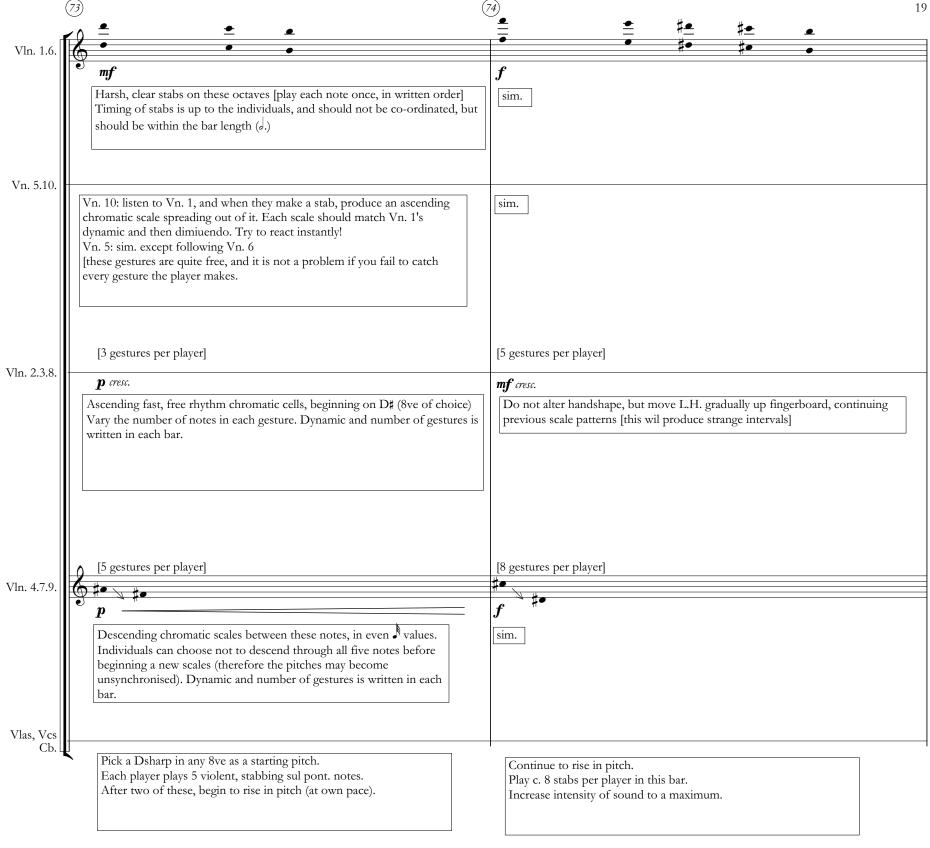


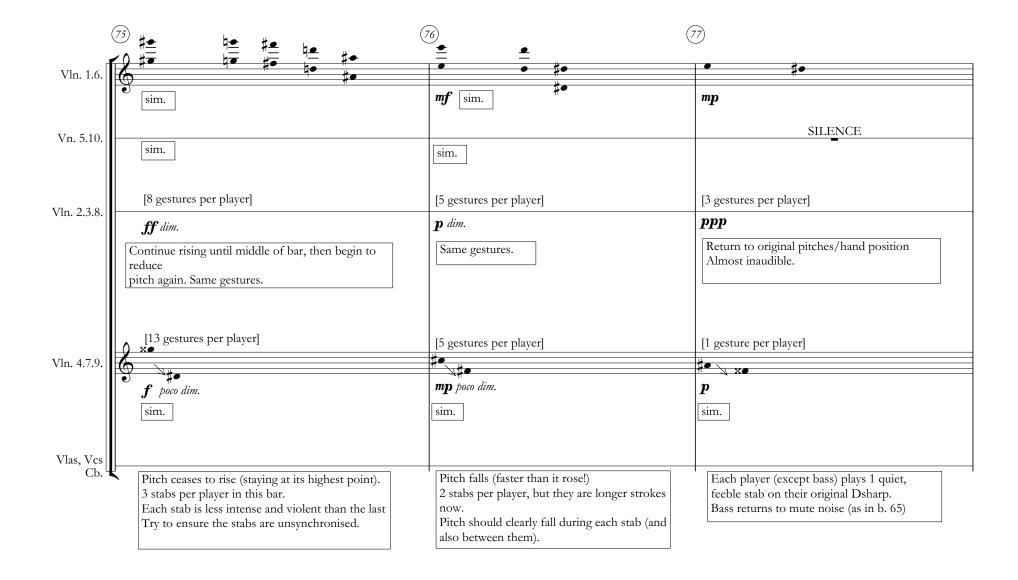


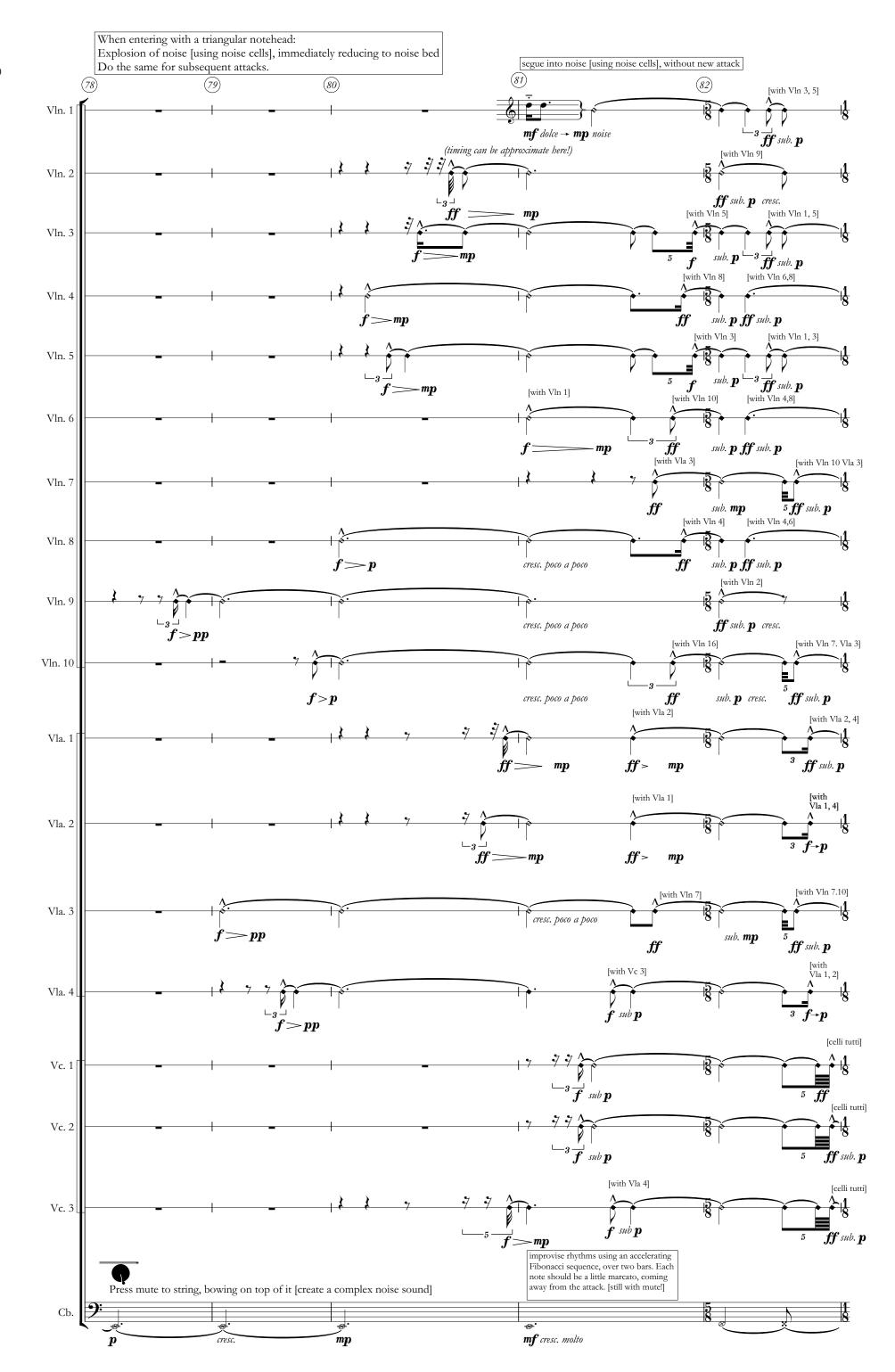




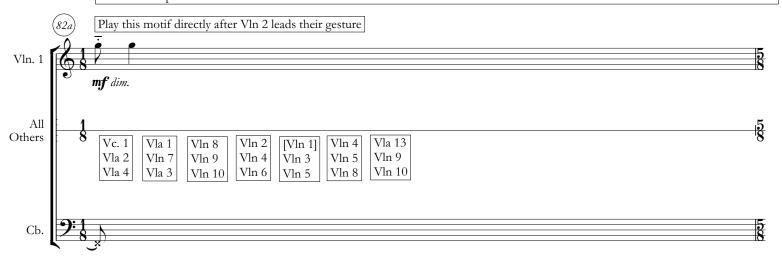


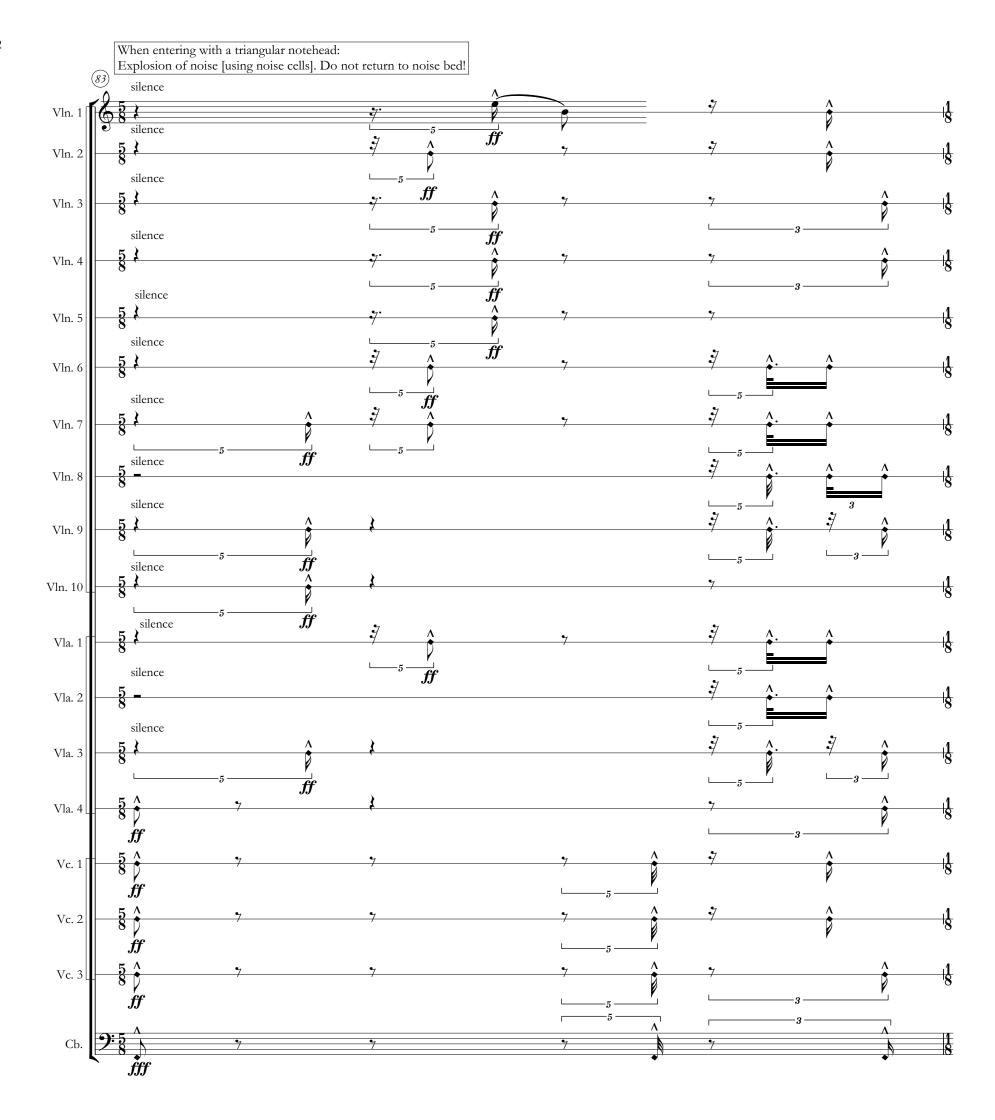






In this sub-bar, follow the leader begins (still with the same noise gestures $(f \rightarrow p)$). Vc. 1 leads the first strike at the start of the sub-bar Players then play in the order they are marked (from left to right) on this staff. Players grouped in the same box should play together, and the top-most number in the box is tasked with leading the gesture (and must ensure it comes directly after the gesture made by the leader of the previous box.





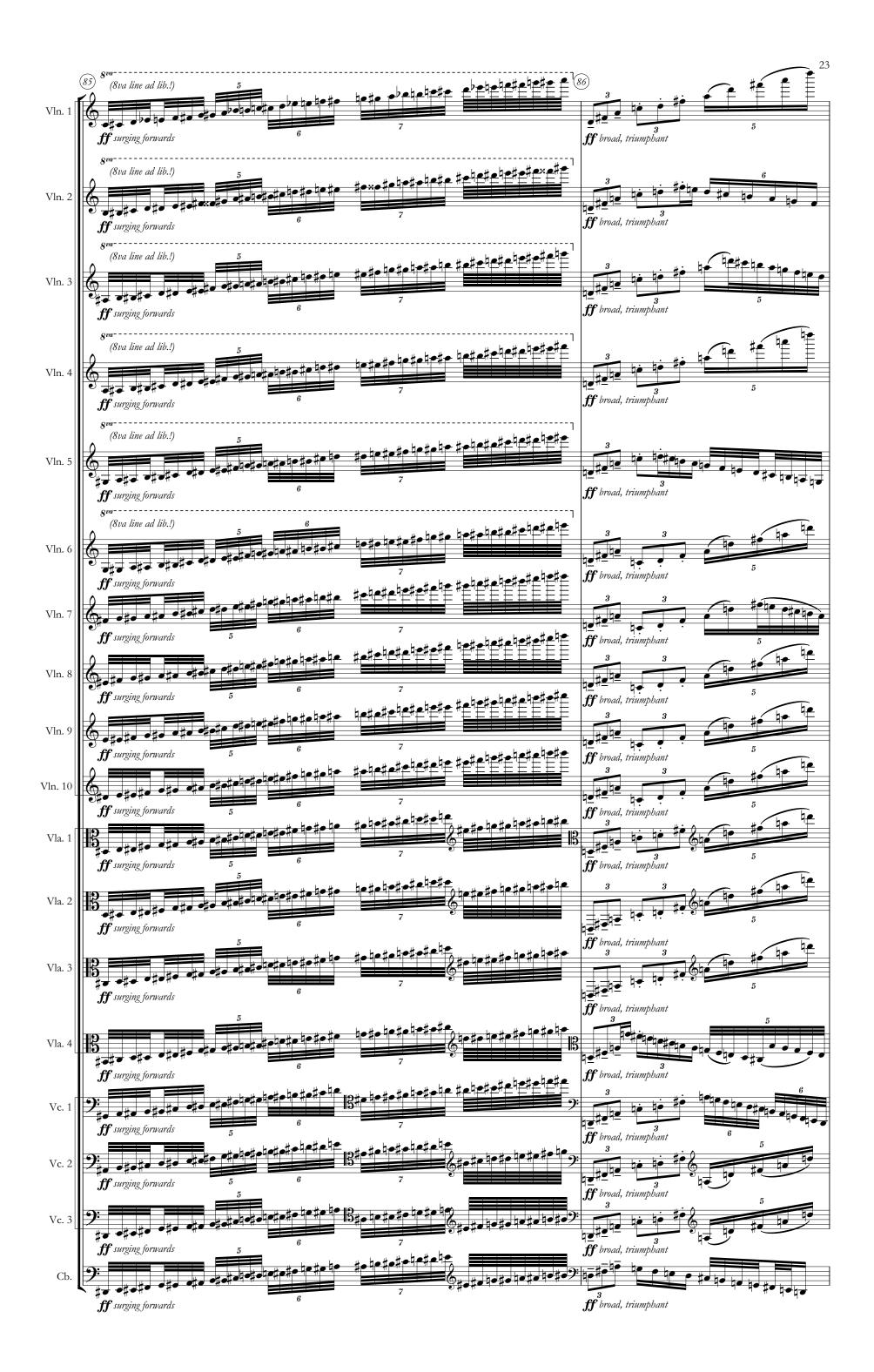
In this sub-bar, follow the leader begins (with dramatically violent noise gestures). Vc. 1 leads the first strike at the start of the sub-bar Players then play in the order they are marked (from left to right) on this staff. Players grouped in the same box should play together, and the first number in the box is tasked with leading the gesture (and must ensure it comes directly after the gesture made by the leader of the previous box. Violin 1 begins the series of gestures, on the downbeat of the sub-bar. The passing of these gestures needs to be extraordinarily rapid [approx. 40ms between each gesture]! If necessary, the duration of this bar can be lengthened slightly - but it must be an intensification of what has happened before.

(83a) All Others Vla 1-4 Vln Vln Vla Vc Vln Vla Vln Cb Vc 17 Vc Vla Vln 1-10 | Vc 1-3 | 1 - 5 | 6 - 10 | Tutti | Tutti Tutti Tutti | Tutti | 2-4 Vla 3,4 | 1 - 7 Vln Vln Cb Cb Vln 8 - 10 8 - 10 Vln 3 - 5 4 - 7

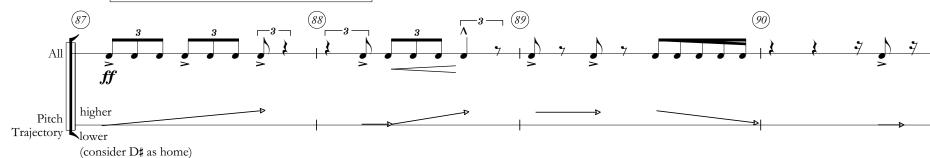
All Others Vlns Vlas Vcs

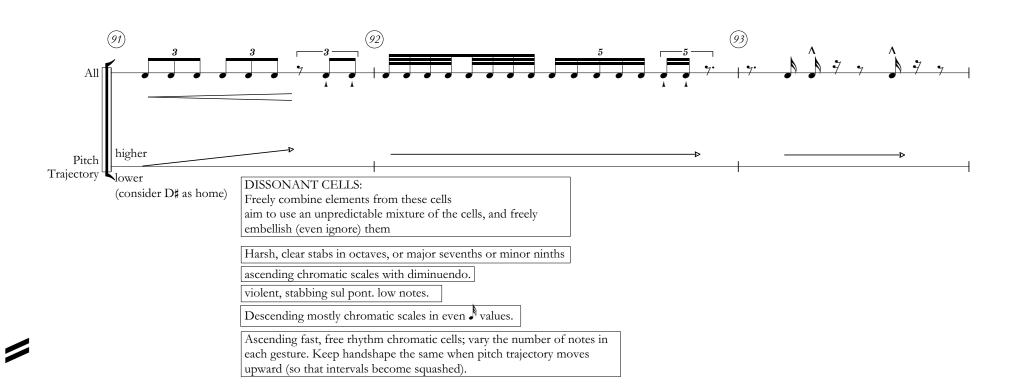
Follow the leader: In this bar, each player plays a wildly violent noise gesture directly after the previous player. This bar is made up of one gesture going the entire way around the orchestra (leaving out Bass) and then doing the same in the opposite direction. The gap between each gesture is roughly 30ms - be ready!

Vcs Vlns 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 3 3 2 1 4 3 2 1 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



Ictus for dissonant gestures [bb. 87 - 94]
Apply the notated pitch trajectory to your gestures.
ensure the rhythmic shape given is extremely clear.
All rests indicate a G.P.



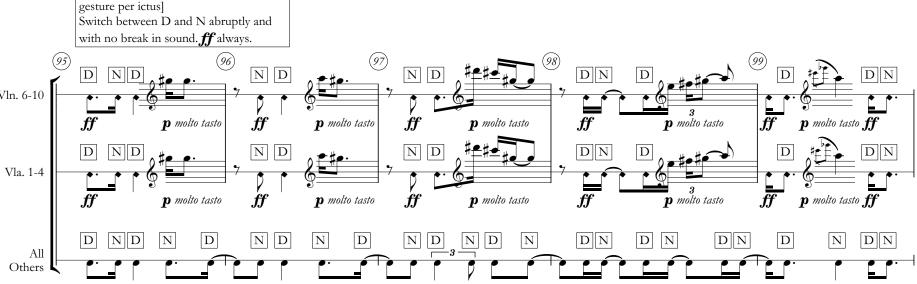


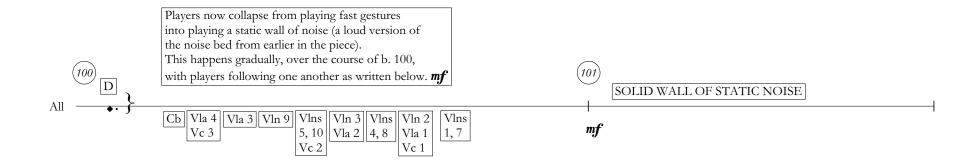


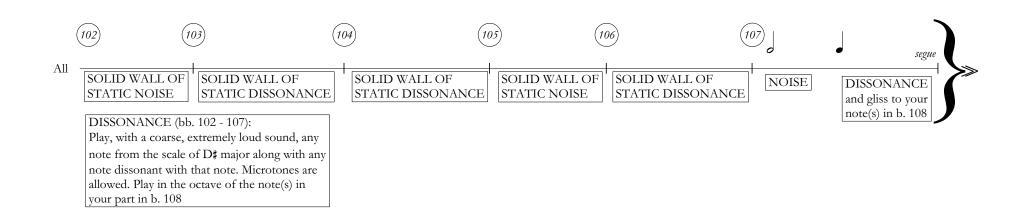
Alternate DISSONANCE and NOISE gestures in rhythm above.
95 - 99 is all TOTAL SATURATION [play constant gestures, rather than one gesture per ictus]
Switch between D and N abruptly and

[i.e. constant gestures, rather than

one gesture per ictus]

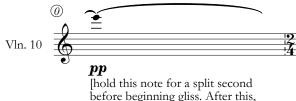




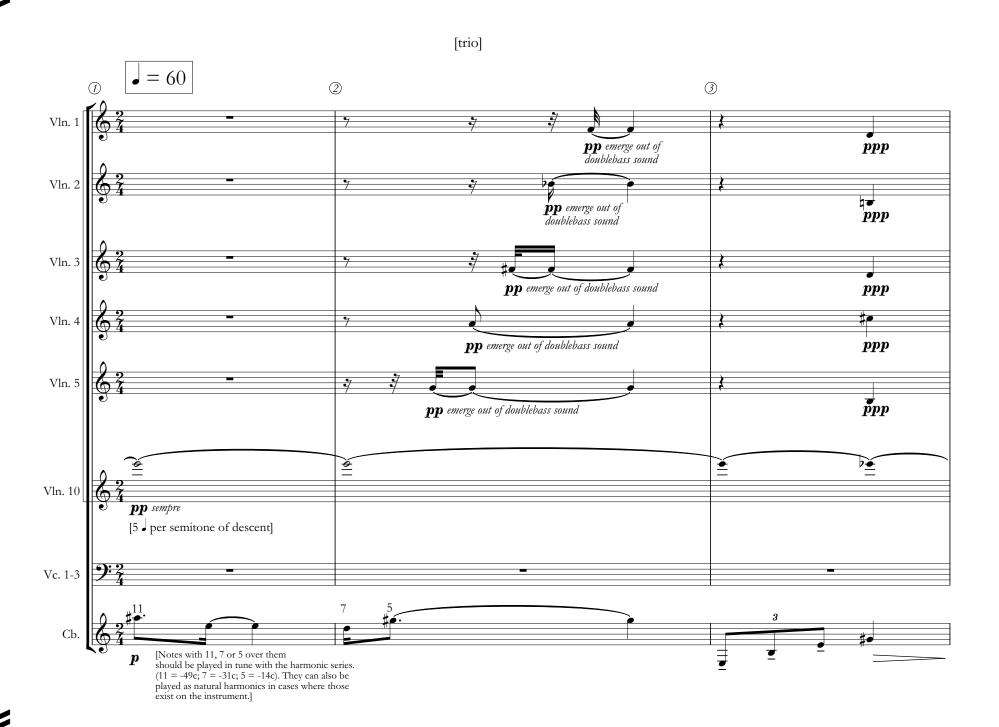


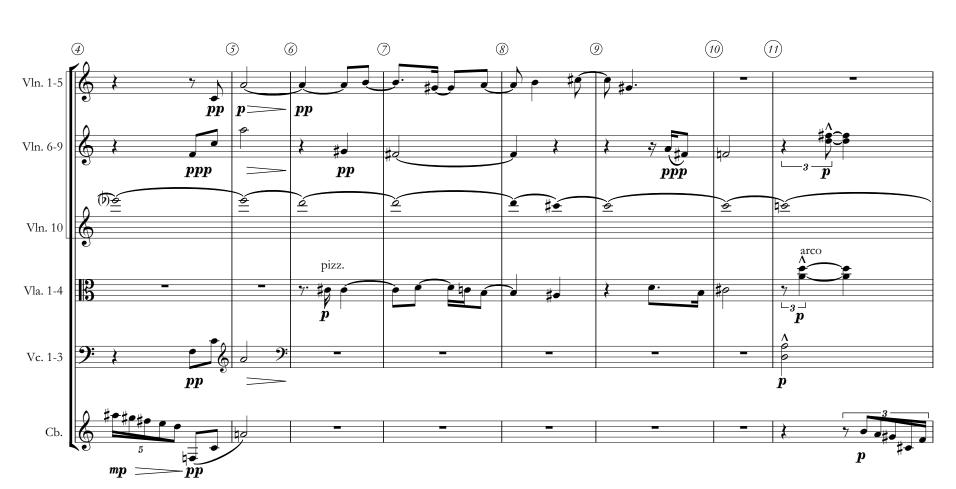


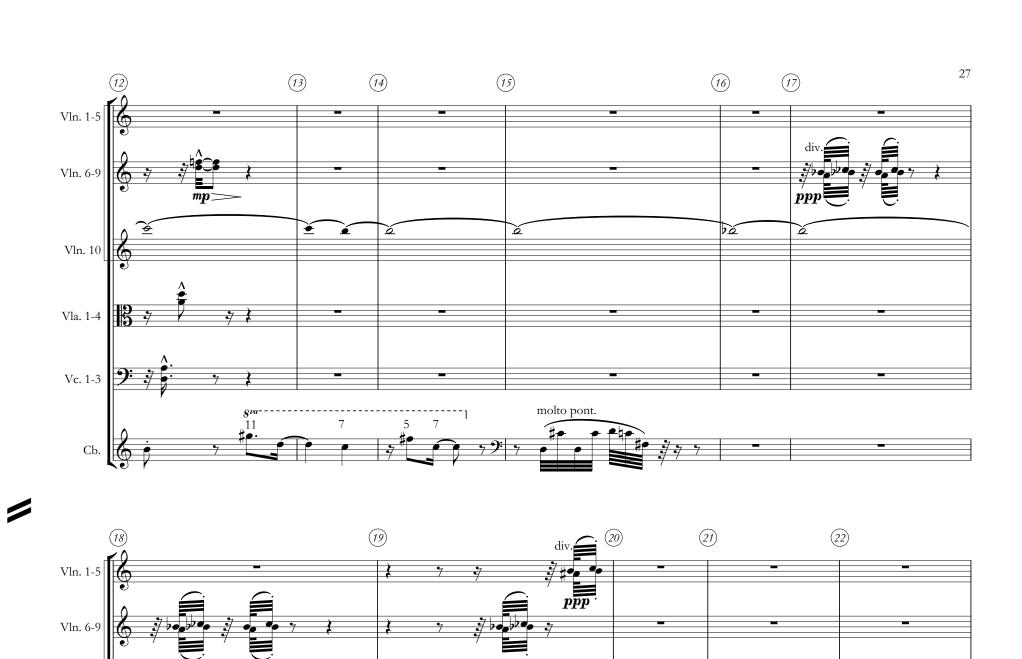
very gradual gliss. throughout trio section aim to reach each lower semitone at the point indicated



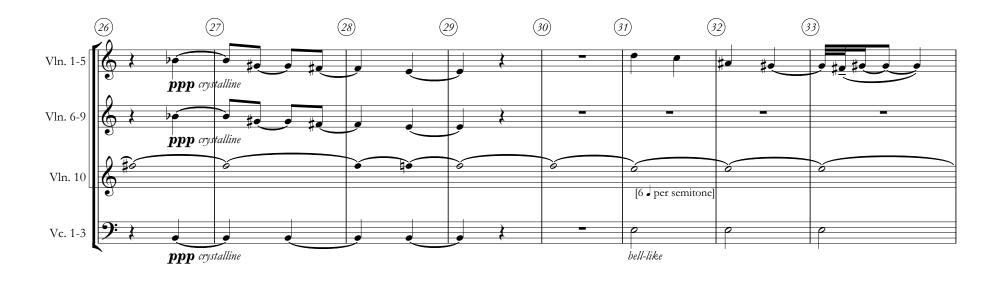
pp [hold this note for a split second before beginning gliss. After this, the conductor should indicate the first bar of the trio]

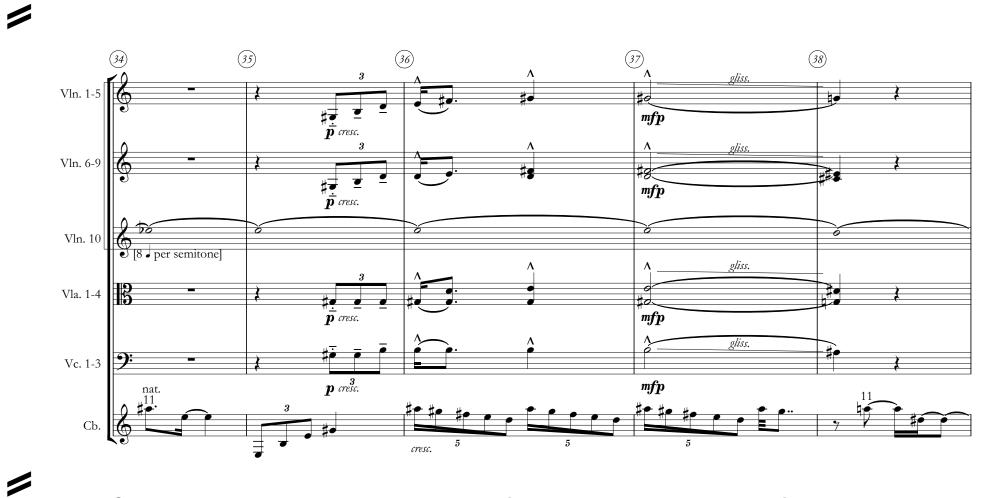




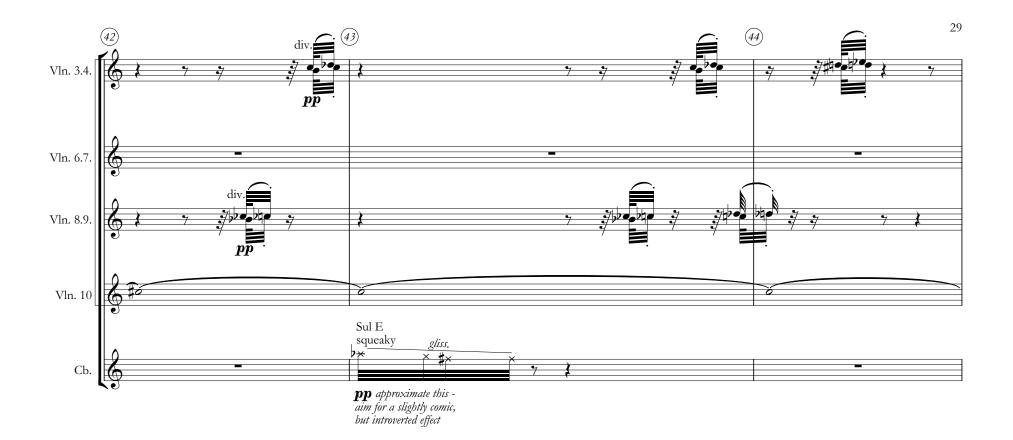












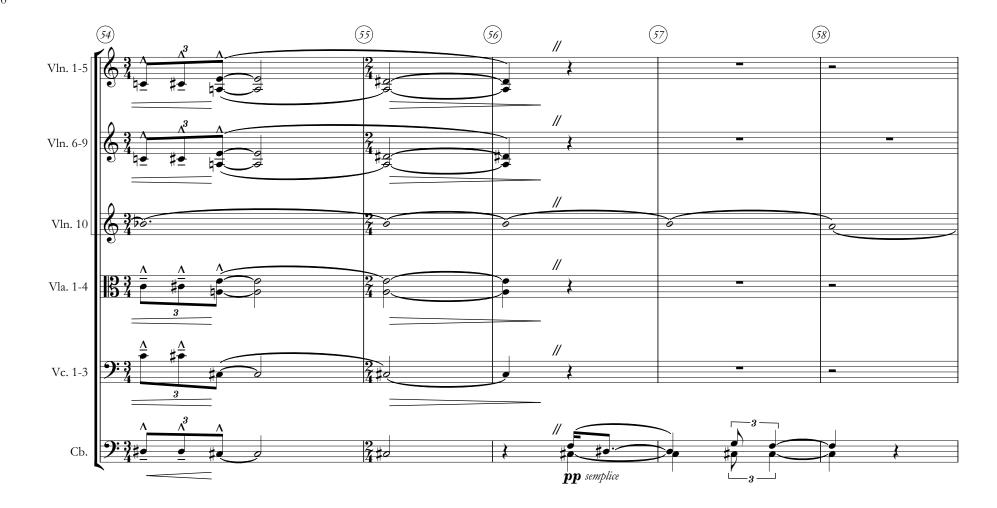


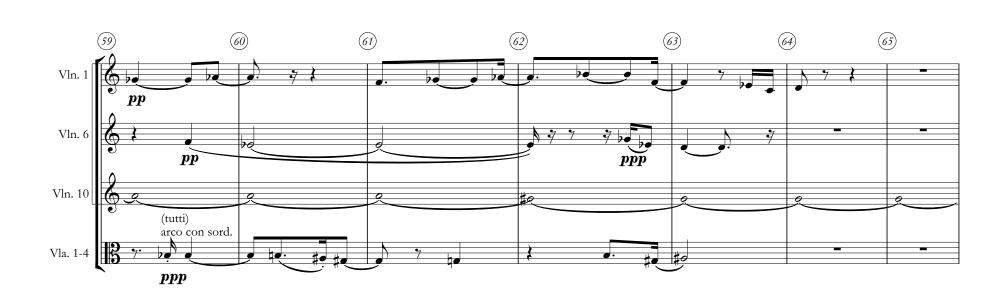
Vln. 6.7.

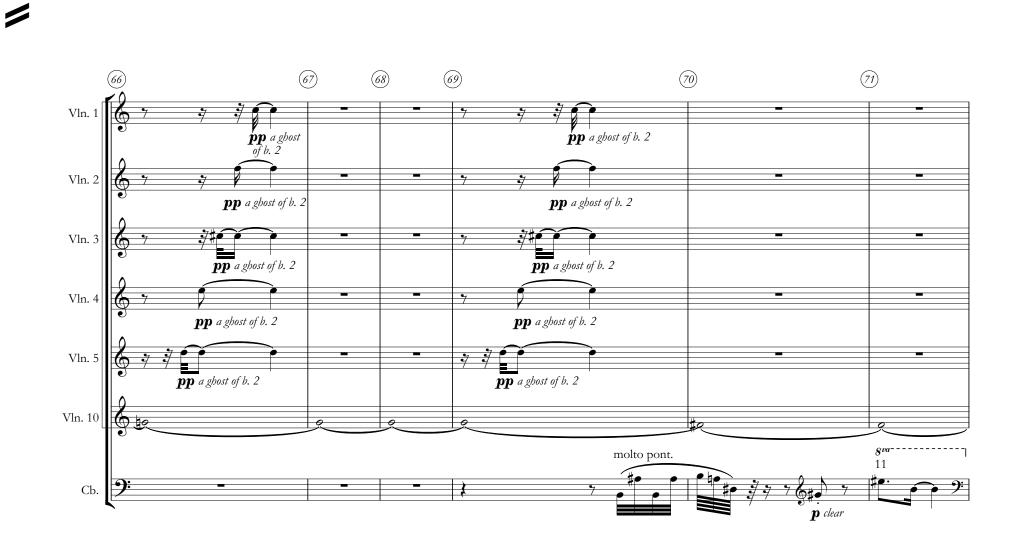
Vln. 8.9.

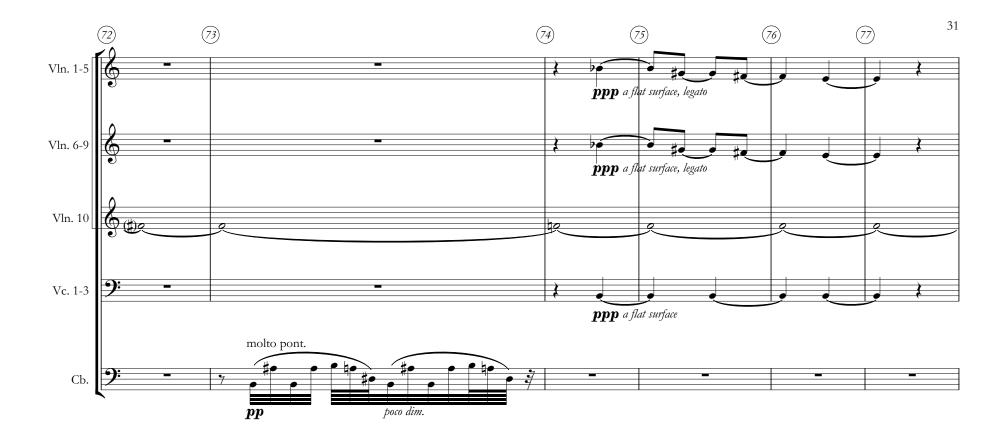
Vln. 10



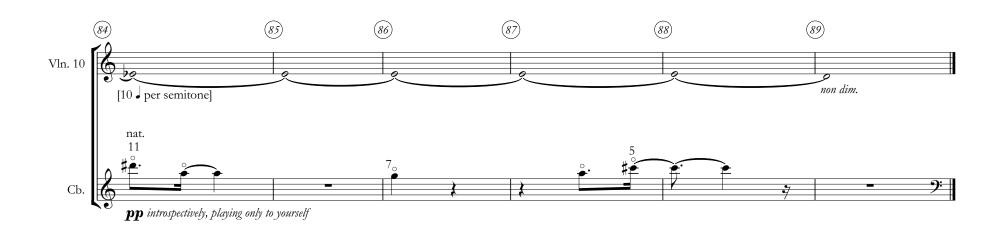




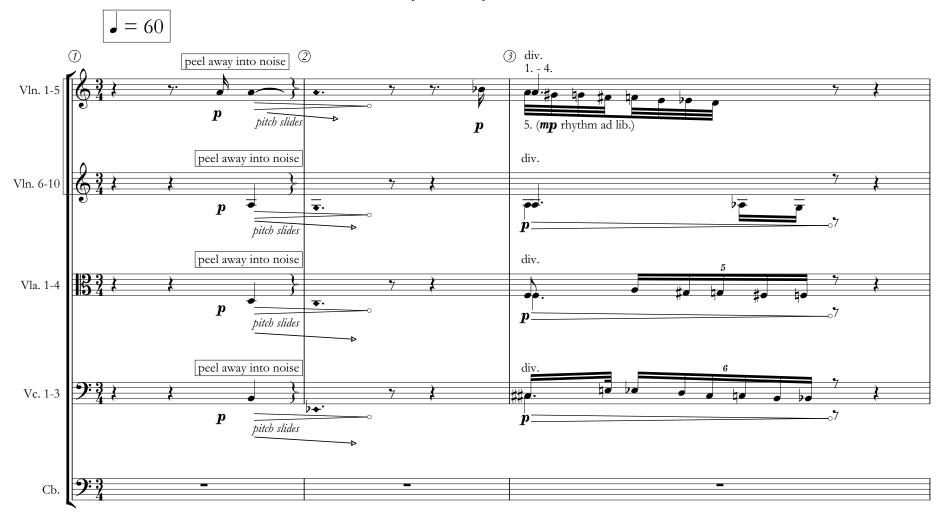


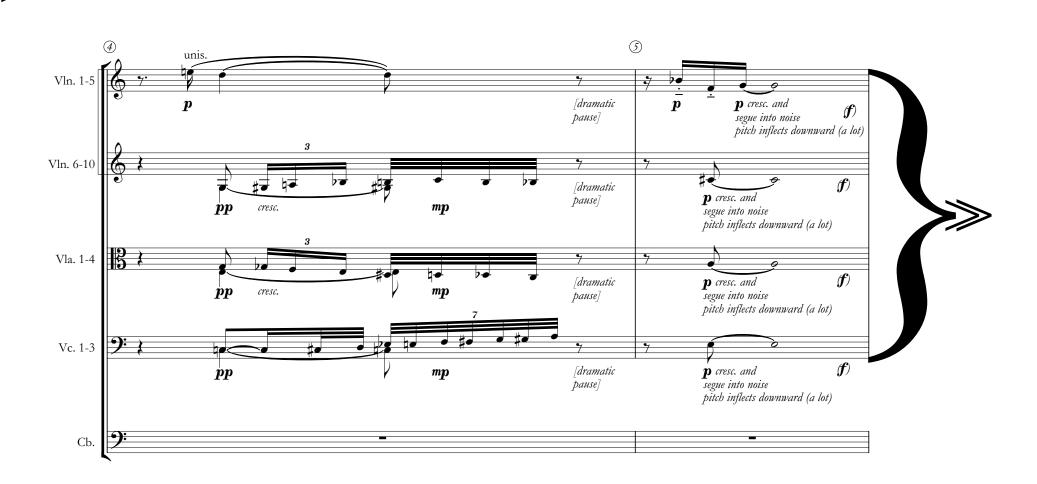


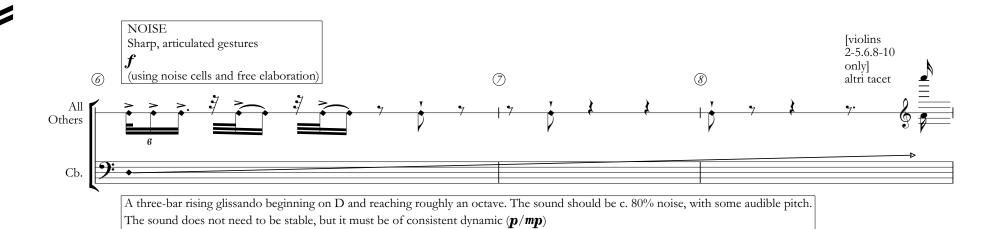


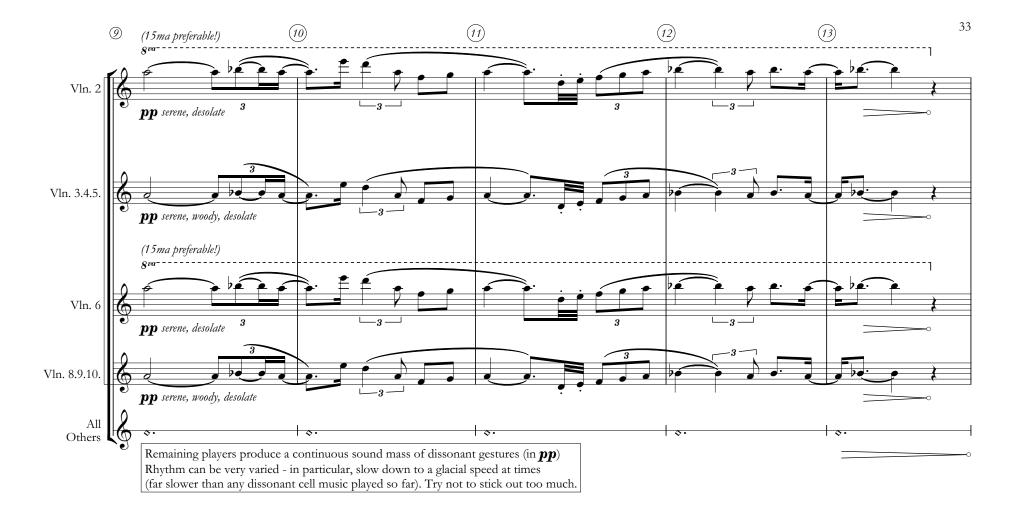


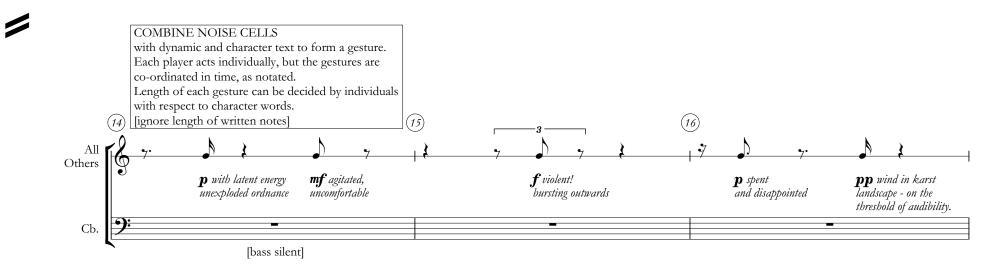
[second half]





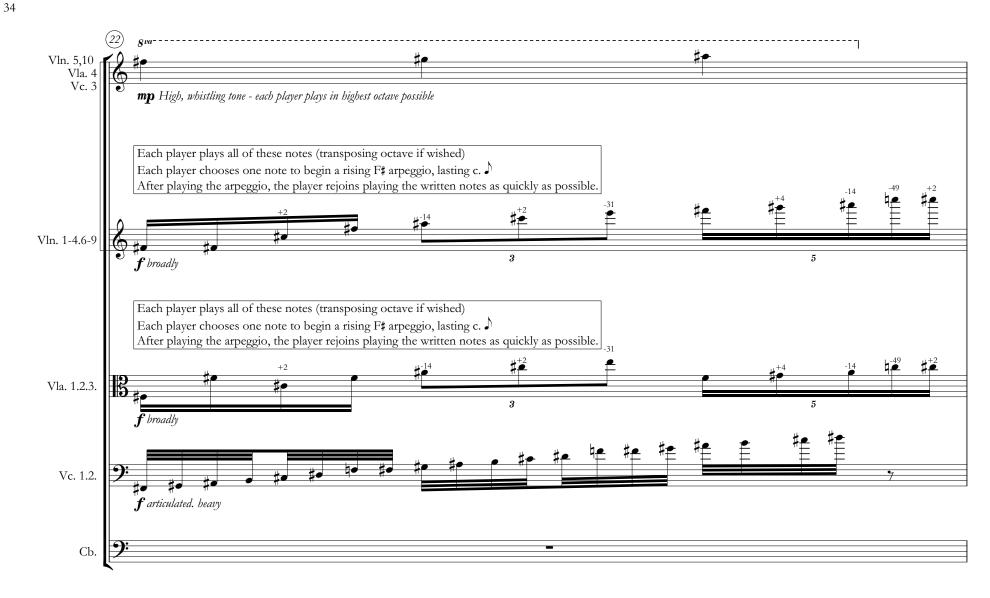


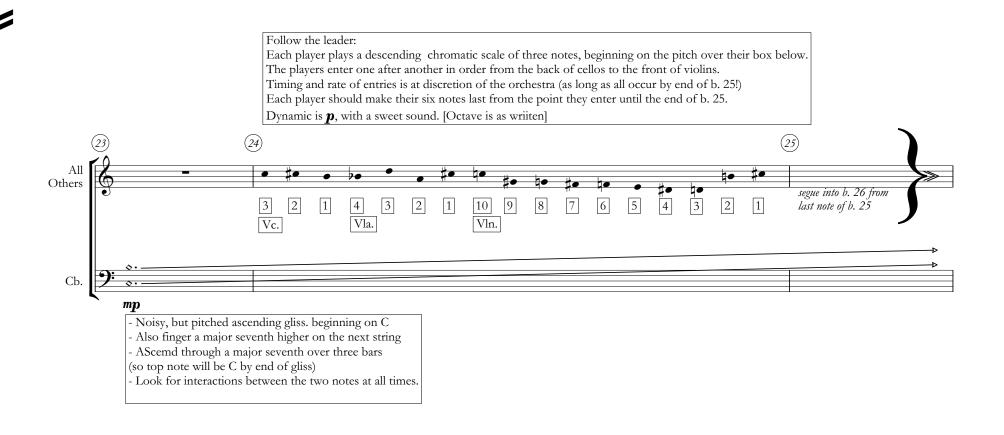


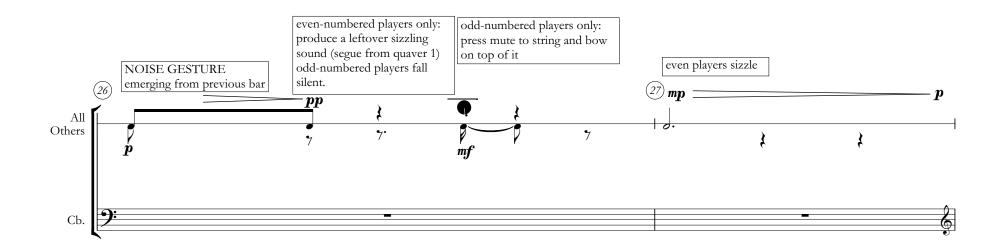


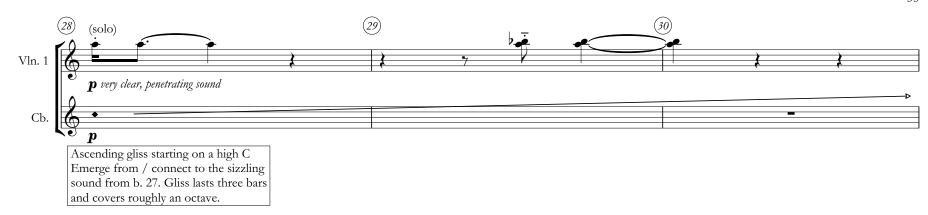


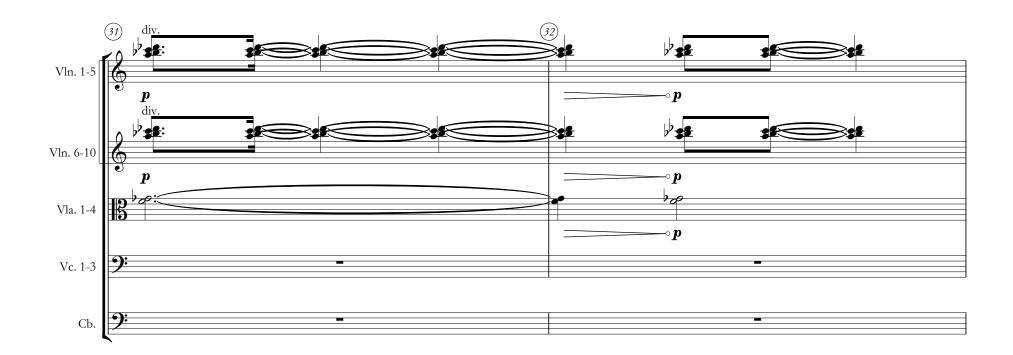
A five-bar rising glissando beginning on D and reaching roughly an octave. The sound should be c. 80% noise, with some audible pitch. The sound does not need to be stable, but it must be of consistent dynamic (mp/mf). The sound must be harsher than bb. 6-8 and pressurised

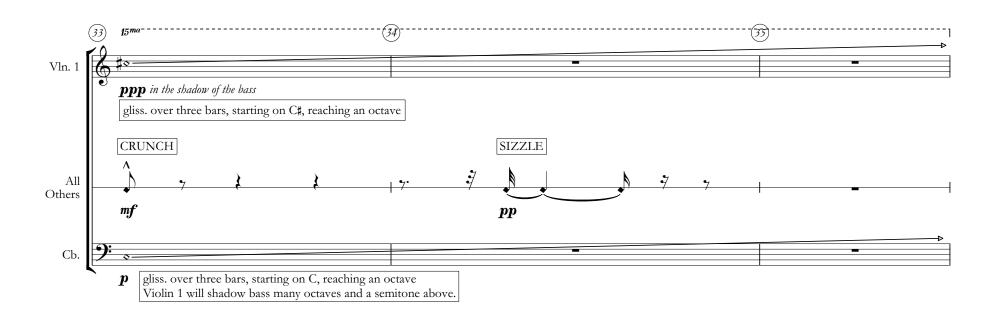


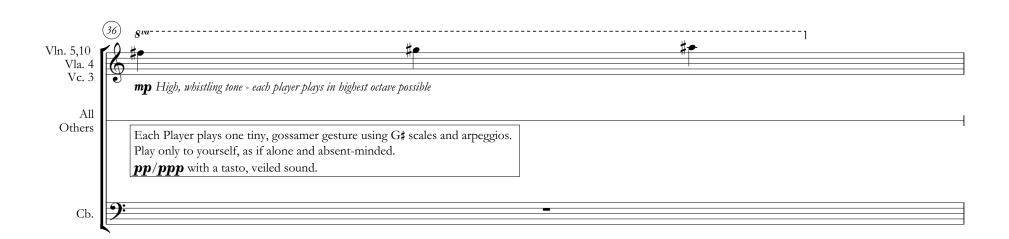




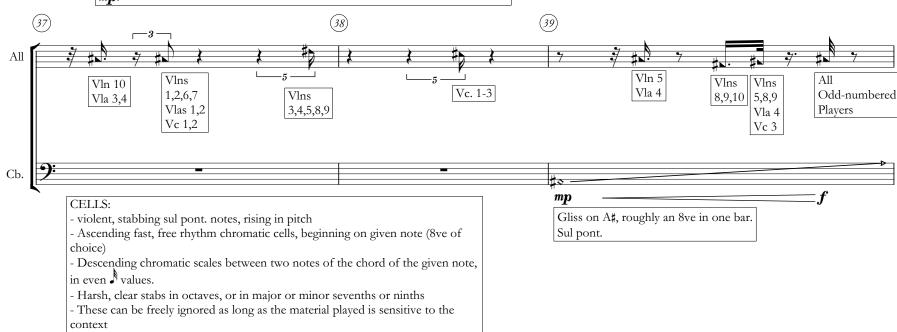


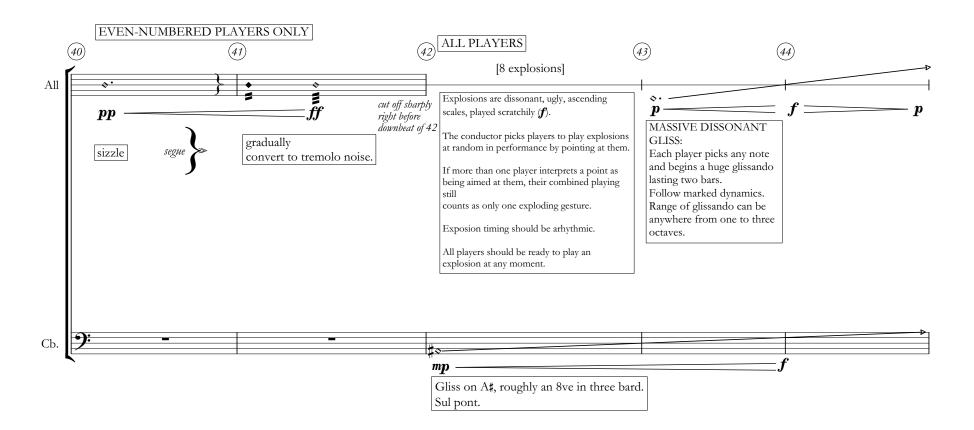


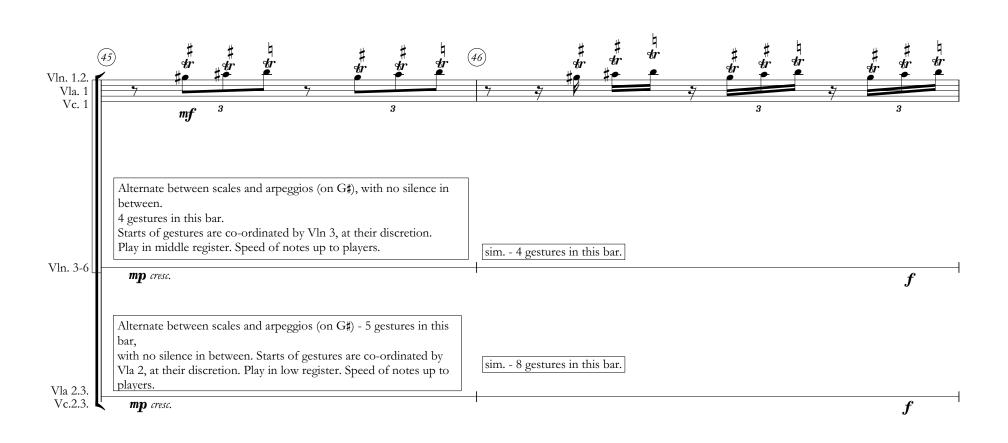


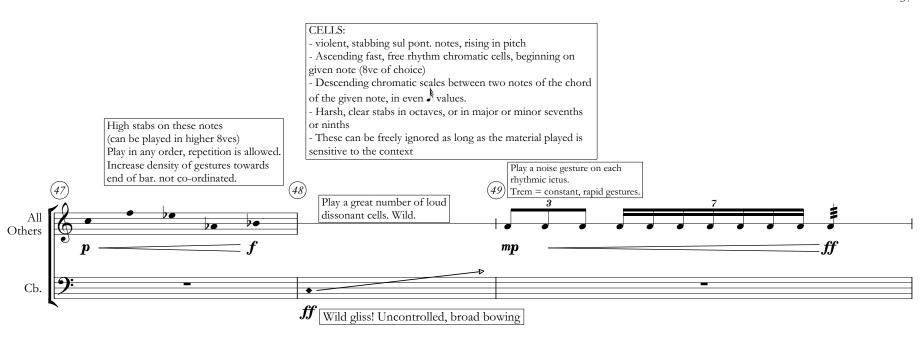


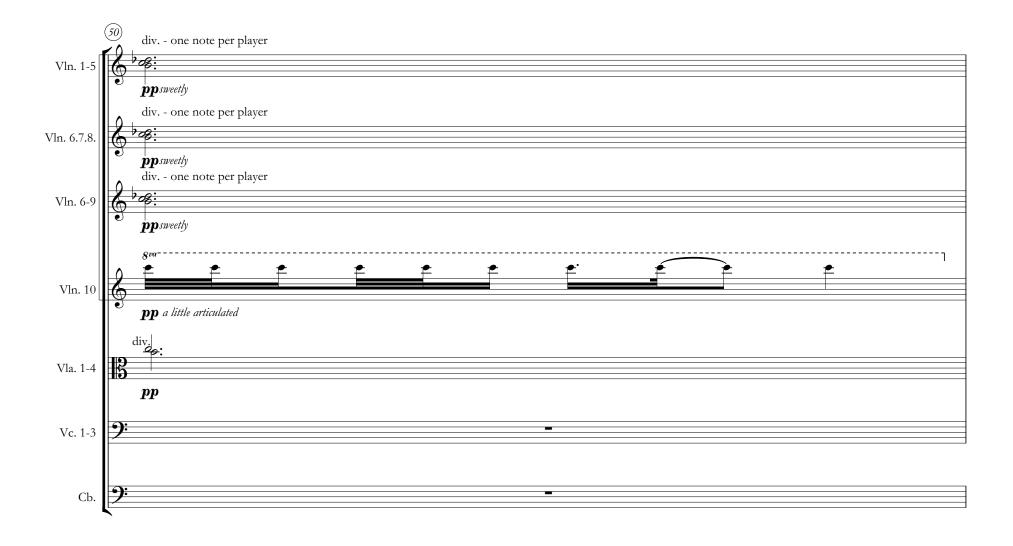
At the places players are indicated to play, they should make a dissonant gesture based on the cells written along with these bars. The cell should centre on the notated pitch, and duration of gesture is up to each individual. 8ve is also up to the individual. Dynamic can vary, but in the region of **mp**.

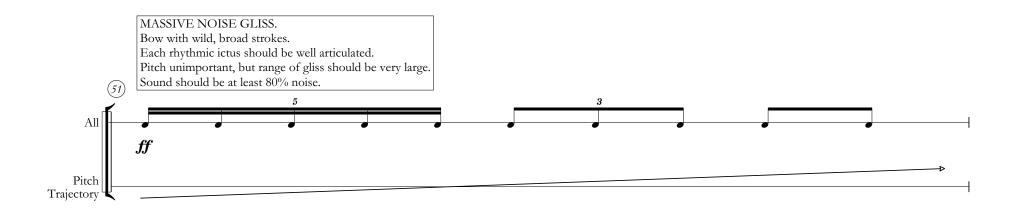


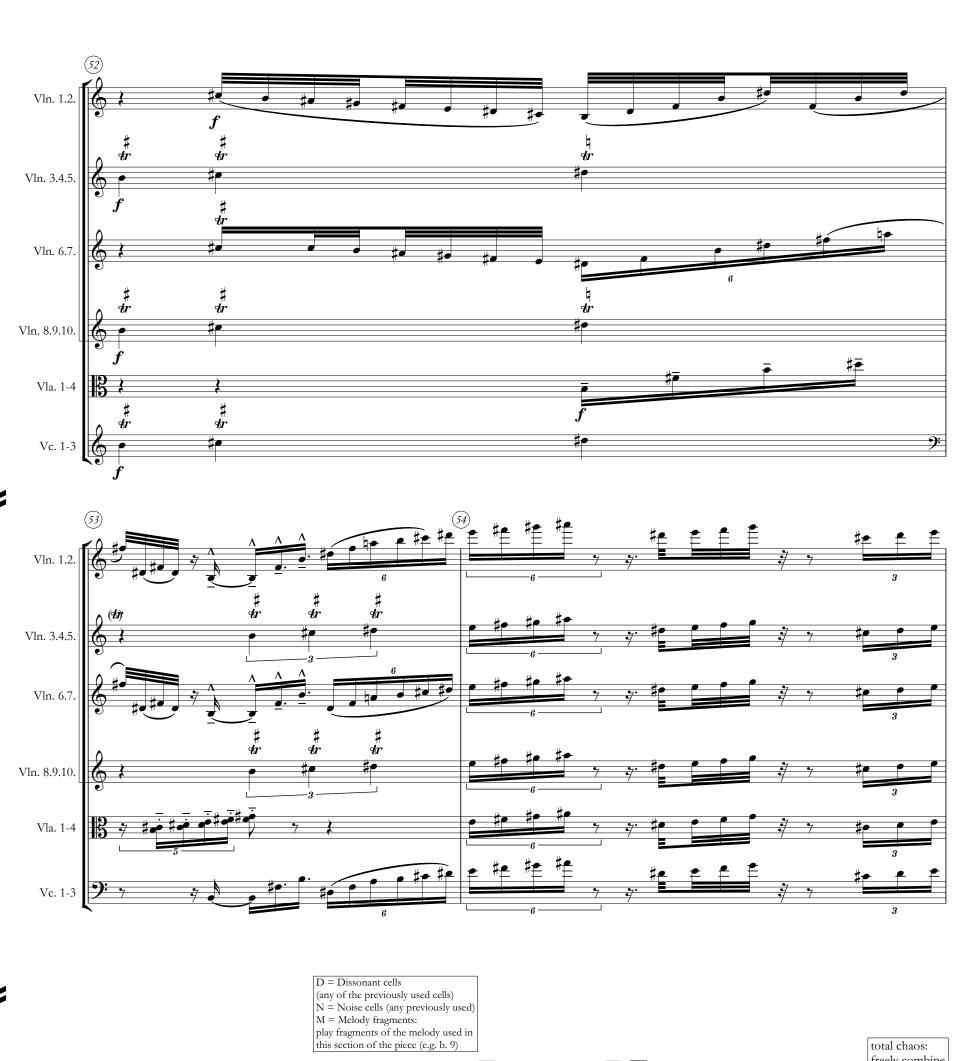


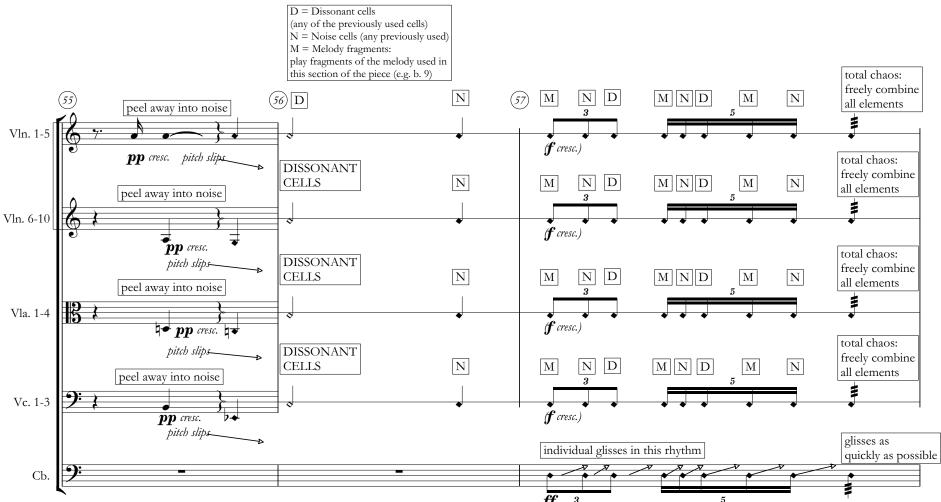












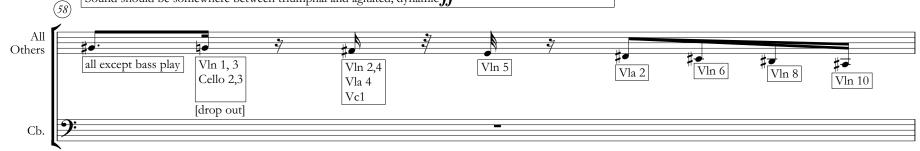
All players (except bass) begin playing ascending G# major scales at the start of this bar.

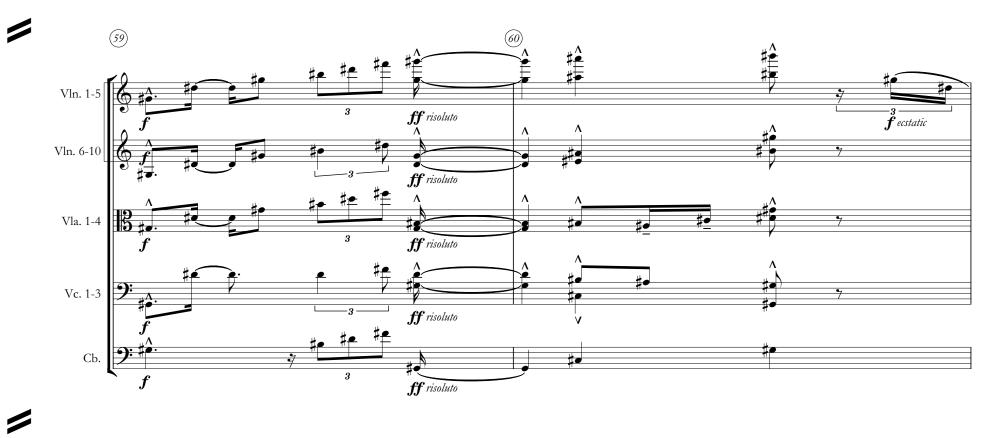
At the marked points in the bar, change to playing the scale of the written note.

At these points, some players are also indicated to fall silent

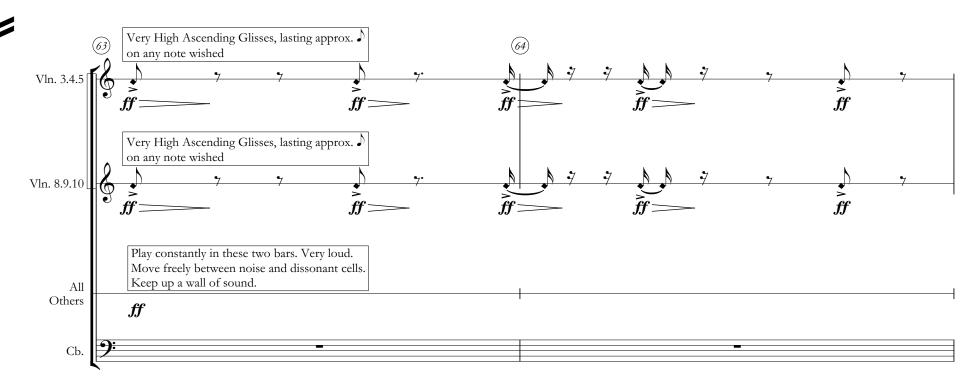
(their numbers are beneath the notes - they should not play the note/scale their number is written under.

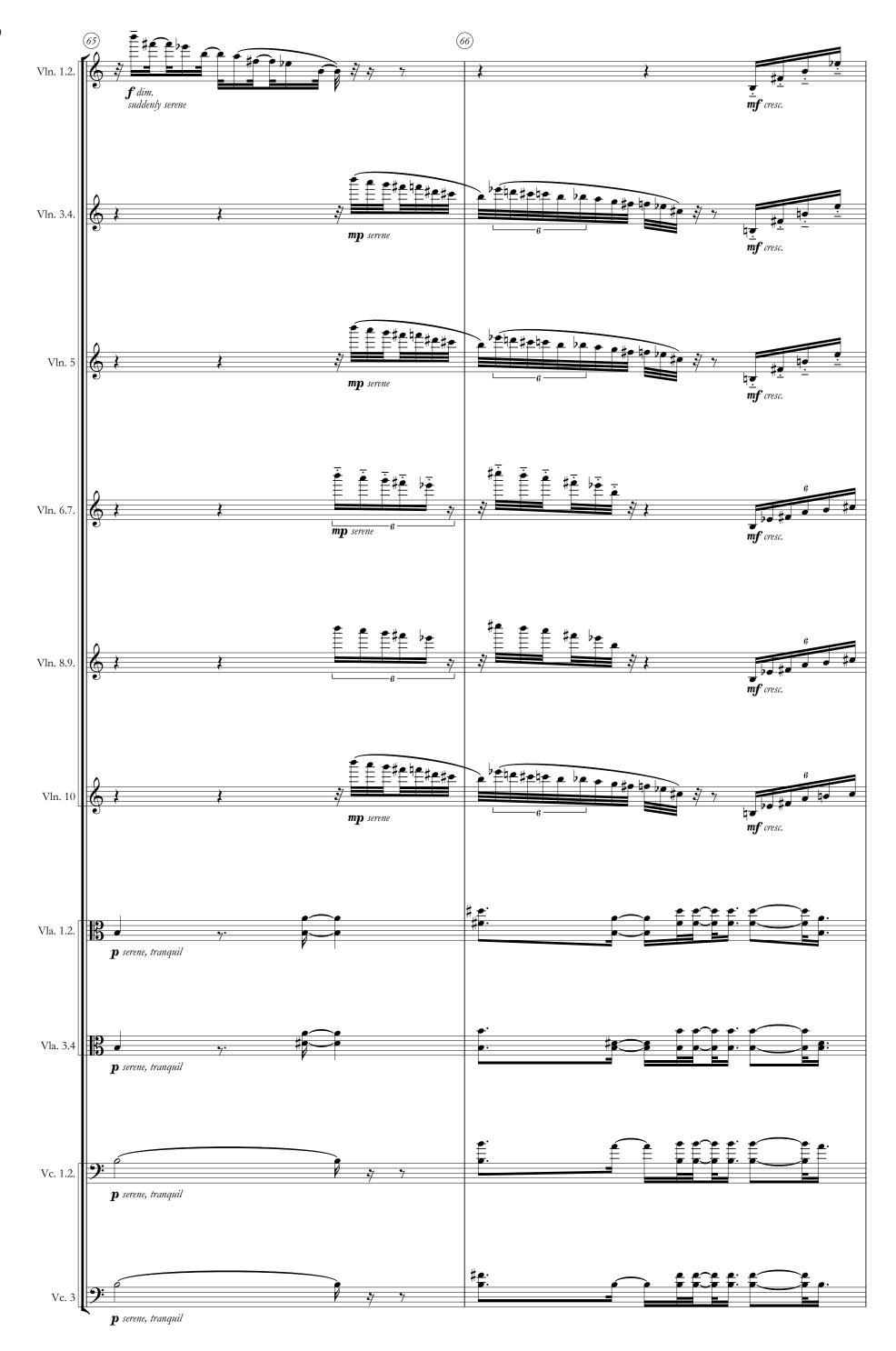
Sound should be somewhere between triumphal and agitated; dynamic **ff**

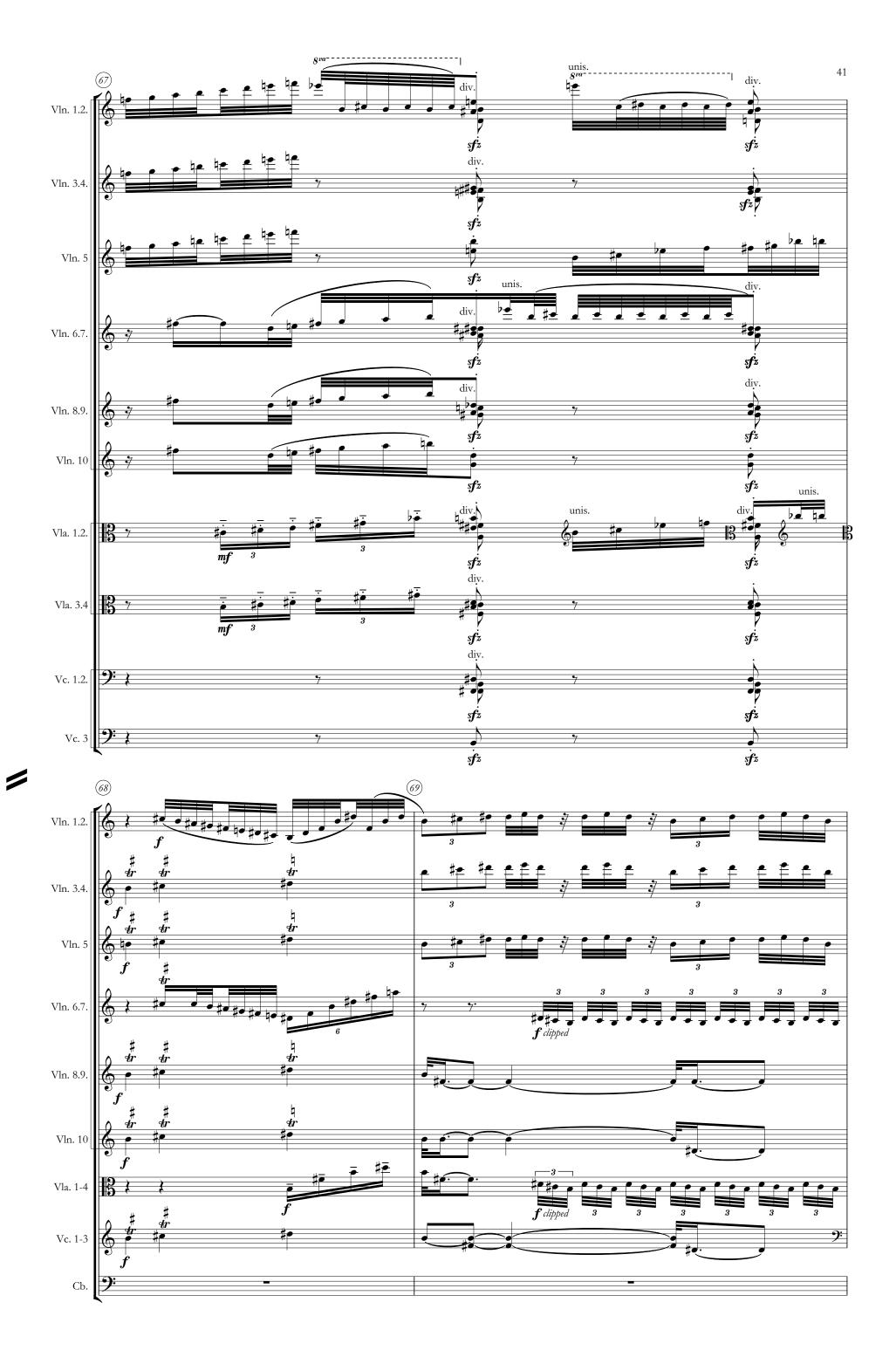


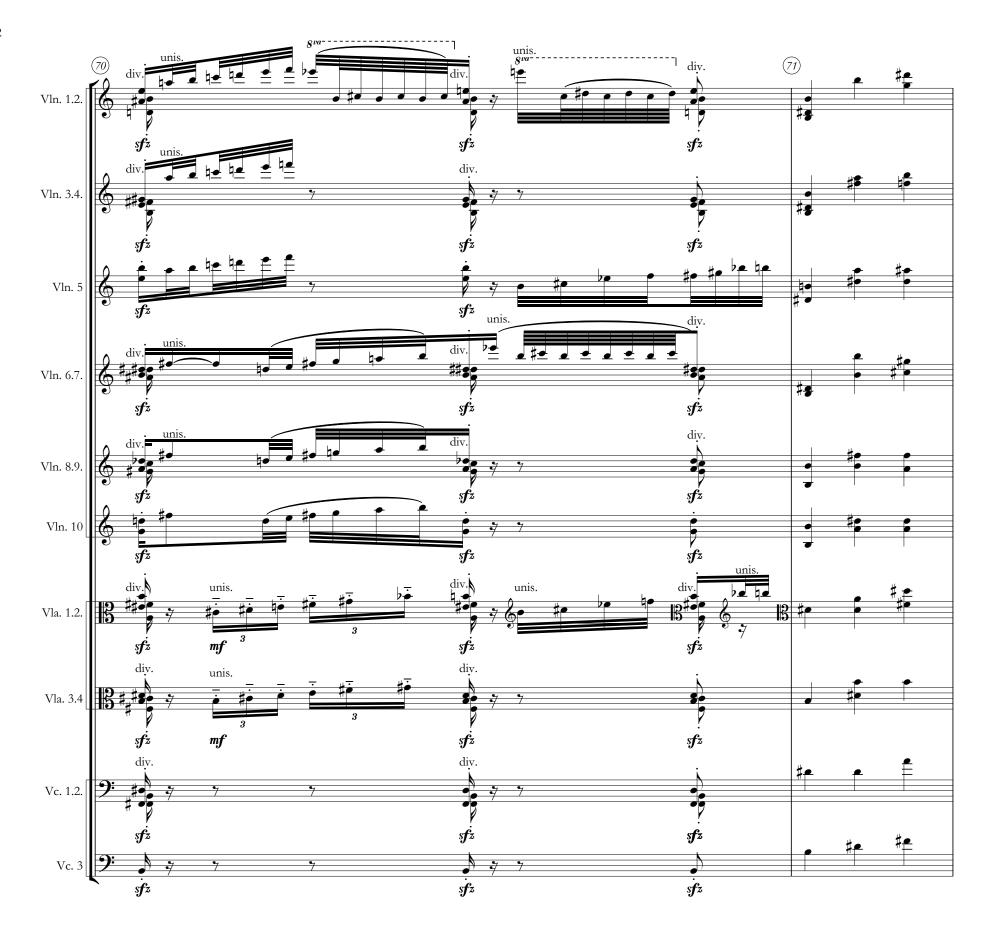


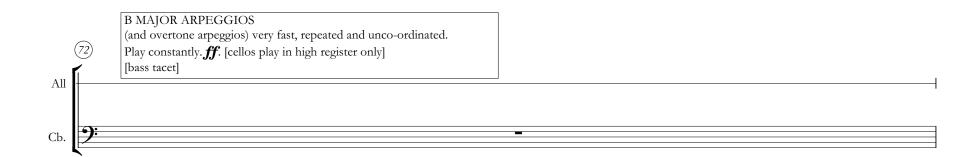


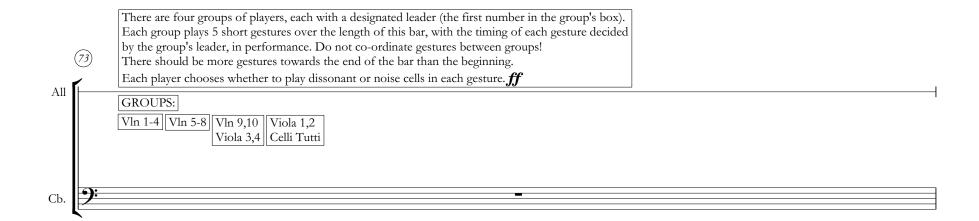














The bass will play eight notes in these two bars.

The notated rhythms are cues for the bass rhythm.

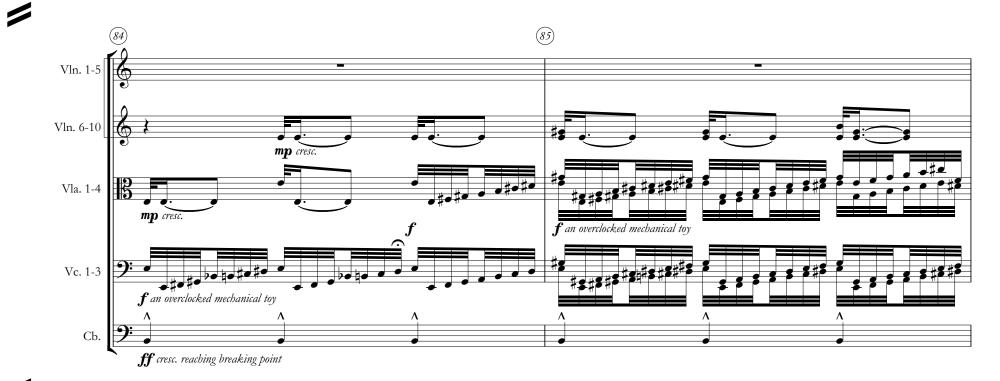
Each player (unco-ordinated) should improvise a rising (and crescendoing) arpeggio out of the bass note.

Each crescendo should be higher in pitch and more jubilant than the previous one.

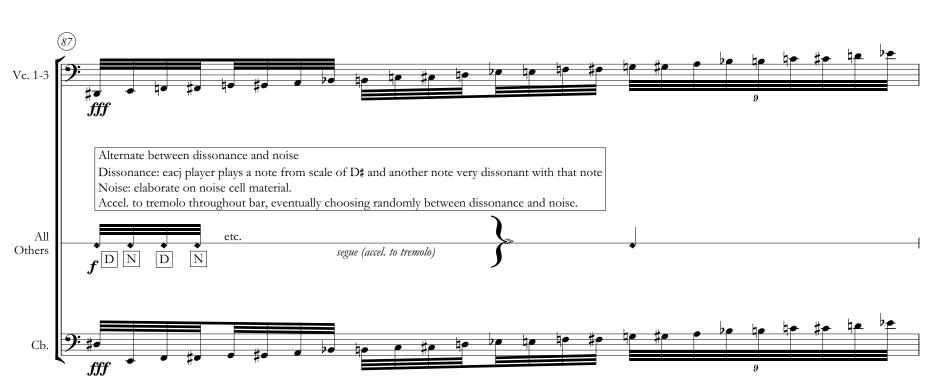
The chords for the arpeggios are written in boxes.

There should be a short silence between each arpeggio gesture.



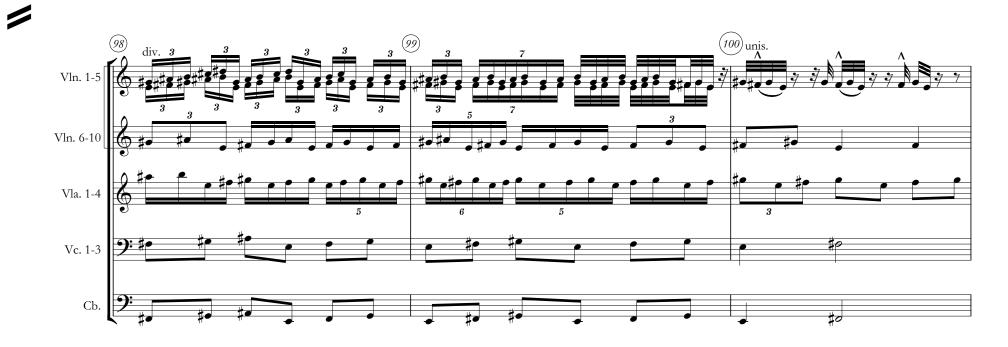






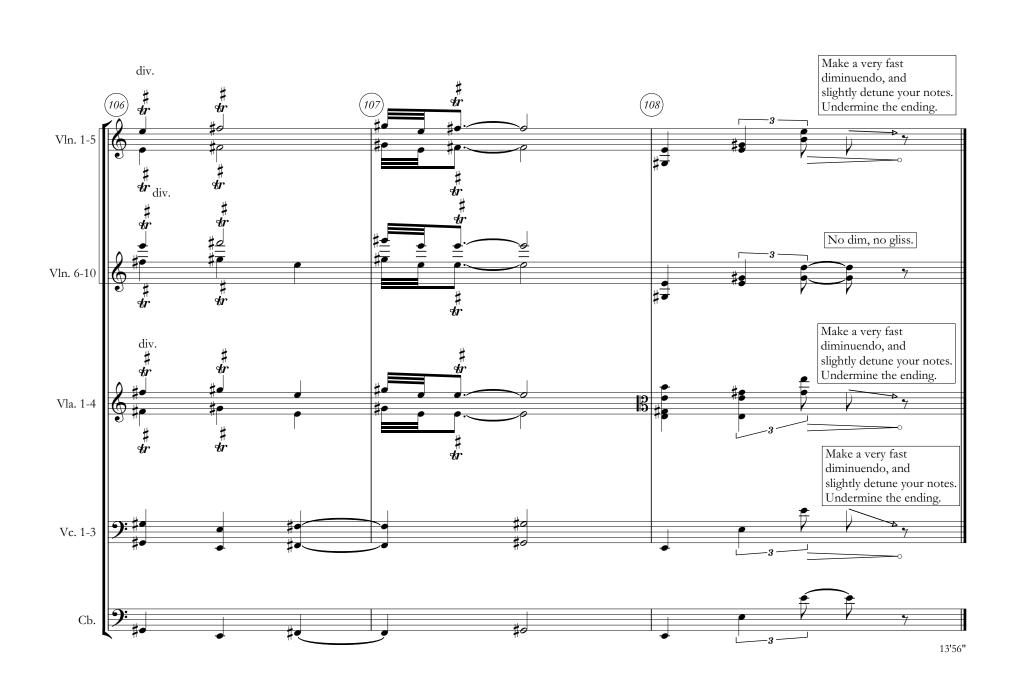












2018.2

PERFORMANCE NOTE + INFORMATION ON STRUCTURE + ERRATA

2018.2 was commissioned by the Irish Chamber Orchestra

Forces:

10 violins

4 violas

3 cellos

1 double bass

[conductor]

Duration: 13 minutes

Seating:

[Vln 5] [Vln 10]

[Vln 3] [Vln 4] [Vln 8] [Vln 9] [Vla 3] [Vla 4] [Vc 3] [Vc 4]

[Vln 1] [Vln 2] [Vln 6] [Vln 7] [Vla 1] [Vla 2] [Vc 1] [Vc 2]

Position of double bass is at the discretion of the performers.

THIS DOCUMENT WAS SAVED ON 14 September 2018

[PERFORMANCE STYLE/INSTRUCTIONS]

Interpreting text notation and cellular material:

This piece includes extensive use of text notation and cellular notation. In all cases, these cells of music or text should be treated as source material rather than as a text to be read literally. As long as other musical instructions (e.g. timing, dynamics) are observed, individual players can deviate greatly from the exact instructions within the cells (i.e. those regarding playing techniques or material).

The openness of the notation is in part due to that making sense for the ideas being presented, and in part an attempt at experimenting with allowing the individual members of the orchestra great space to interpret and alter the piece.

I hope that through using these kinds of notation in the way I have, I have created room for each member of the orchestra to exercise great freedom and express their individuality. Further to that, I hope that there is room for the conductor and the ensemble as a whole to put their own stamp on the piece in a more extreme way than is generally possible.

The context for me writing this piece is a convergence between my long interest in more typical Western Art Music and a recent interest in text pieces such as those associated with the Fluxus movement.

Cells are not often repeated. This may seem like an oversight, or a foolish attempt to save page turns, but actually I would encourage you to misremember the cells as the piece goes on, and to try and develop on what you have already played.

A final note about this: I can easily imagine a successful performance of this piece which totally ignores my cells and where the players make their own ones in the spirit of what I have written – this would not be against my wishes!

Momentum:

Much of the score is made up of very short passages of contrasting material. It is important to find ways to carry momentum through these passages so that the larger structure and trajectory are articulated. The music should not sound like it's stopping and starting constantly.

Tuning:

In general, major chords or arpeggios should ideally be played with very pure tuning – this means a flattened major third (14 cents below equal temperament) and minor seventh (31 cents below equal temperament). This tuning is not essential except in places where it is explicitly marked in the score.

The tutti cluster chords (for example bb. 2, 6, 24 of the first half) are stacked overtones of the harmonic series and could also be tuned to the harmonic series – I decided not to notate it like this, although it was my original intention.

KEY:

Non-standard noteheads: Interpret via the text instructions segue: gradually

transform into the

next piece of material

[STRUCTURE]

Fundamentally, this piece is an expression and exploration of its structure, which is based on contrasting sections lengthening and shortening in values based on the Fibonacci Series.

Systematically lengthening and shortening sections of music has been a major feature of my music over the past 12 months, and I am exploring it for the following reasons: (a) to attempt to sow ambiguity in defining the difference between local changes in texture and major structural changes (at what point does a structural section of music become to short to hold that name?) and (b) in order to create highly organised but complex musical structures.

The piece is made up of three movements: a first half and second half, which mirror one another in many ways, and a 'trio' section which comes in the middle. After the first half, one violin keeps playing their note as the rest of the orchestra pause briefly before beginning the trio.

OUTER HALVES STRUCTURE:

The outer halves are based on units one bar of 3/4 (3 seconds at crotchet = 60) in length, lasting in total 108 bars each (this is the sum of [1+1+2+3+5+8+13+21]*2). These movements are written almost entirely in 3/4 in order to clearly articulate this basic unit. A detailed graph of the structure of the two halves is included at the end of this document.

There are two main "types" of music, which are further subdivided into elements which are further split in various less systematic ways, again using numbers from the Fibonacci Series.

The two material types are:

SCALES/ARPEGGIOS

And

DISSONANCE/NOISE

These are set up in opposition to one another.

The individual elements are divided into sections comprising only scales or arpeggios, and only dissonance or noise. The sizes of these sub-sections are also split in proportions using adjacent numbers from the Fibonacci series.

The first half begins with long sections of the scale/arpeggio music, and ends with long sections of dissonance/noise. In the second half, the opposite happens. The trio section intervenes as a kind of deep-freeze of the longer sections of noise/dissonance.

In the second half, there are new elements: Scales and arpeggios are joined by an insistent Do-Re-Mi figure which eventually takes over; dissonance/noise is joined both by snippets of a "noise melody" (taken from an earlier piece by me), and by a bass glissando. The bass glissando is a both a repercussion of the violin 10 part in the trio, and an analogue to the ascending bass scales at the beginning of the first half.

THE GAP:

The gap between movement 1 and the trio should be an extremely unusual moment. From the moment the final chord of movement 1 ends, the audience should have the feeling that violin 10 is being totally ignored by the conductor and the rest of the orchestra, and also that the player is oblivious to the presence of any audience or any other musicians. It should seem as if something has upset the natural order, and somehow one player has fallen outside the world of the piece. The length of the gap is to be short, and at the discretion of the conductor (perhaps the most sensible thing is to take exactly the amount of time between movements that would seem natural if there was no violin 10 part?)

TRIO STRUCTURE:

The trio is based on a unit of 2/4 in length, and lasts 89 bars. 89 is a Fibonacci number, but it is also the sum of two squares, both of which are Fibonacci numbers squared ([5*5]+[8*8]). The trio is structured with five sections of five bars and then eight of eight bars, with four types of material ordered in this way, to form a Rondo: [ABACA][DACABADA]. The climax of the movement comes at 55 bars, dividing its structure into two smaller Fibonnaci numbers (55+34).

The name trio comes because as I was thinking about writing it, the type of music and its function in the wider whole reminded me of the trios in Bruckner's Scherzi.

TONALITY:

Local tonality is closely related to the material being used, with more remote keys being associated with dissonance/noise. Roughly speaking, my concept of harmonic remoteness in this piece is derived from the relative remoteness of notes in the harmonic series: each of the first 32 partials is rounded to the nearest semitone and used once as a key area. The most consonant 16 intervals which appear (relative to E) are used for the scales/arpeggio material, and the others are used for the dissonant/noise material. In general, both types of material begin with the most consonant intervals they are allowed and gradually reach more remote territory at the end of the first half, before heading back towards E throughout the second half. This process was not done systematically/perfectly, but holds as an insight into my thinking; furthermore, in some of the dissonant/noise sections, a tonality will be impossible to discern, even though one was named on my sketches. At the very end of the piece, the final E major chord slips in tuning – this was a very late decision, made only as the score was being typeset, but it indicates that the passage home to safe tonal territory was purely an illusion!

Tonality in the trio is simpler, mainly moving around by ascending fourths, and seeking out interactions with the gradually falling violin glissando.

[ERRATA]

The third stave on pp. 16 + 17 (Vln 8.9. Vc. 3) should not be present – this is a copying error!

The second stave on system two of p. 37 (Violin 6.7.8.) is redundant.

- pp. 16/17 First half bar 63 and bar 64 should both have [dotted crotchet] [crotchet] written over the top stave (the second dotted crotchet is a misprint)
- p. 42 [second half] b. 71: there is an expression mark missing in all parts, this should be something like "forte, soaring, at peace"
- p. 44 b. 84 second beat, celli the fermata on the last demisemi is a typing error (this has been removed in the part!)



