

GREGORY ROWLAND EVANS

T I Ā N S H Ū

天書
析世鑒—世紀末卷

; or, mad writings in a Book from the Sky

for twelve players

2018/19

VIOLONCELLO

FOREWORD

Tiānshū is the name of an art installation in the form of a book by artist Xu Bing filled with meaningless glyphs in the style of traditional Chinese characters, referred to in English as “A Book from the Sky.” The term *tiān shū*, which can be translated to mean “divine writing,” originally referred to religious texts but is now used to mean “gibberish.” A possible alternative title could be “Nonsense Writing.” The first title of this installation, and the Chinese subtitle of this piece, can be translated to “Mirror to Analyze the World: The Century’s Final Volume.” I have elected to typeset the Chinese title and subtitle of this piece in traditional Chinese characters rather than simplified characters in the spirit of the traditional nature of Xu Bing’s woodcut printing used in the making of *Tiānshū*, although it is possible that this is not the correct choice. (G.R.E.)

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Score is transposed.

Microtones:



Accidentals apply only to the pitch which they immediately precede.

c.8'

Tianshu is dedicated in admiration and friendship to Trevor Bača, Josiah Wolf Oberholtzer, and Jeffrey Treviño from whom I have learned so much.

T i ā n s h ū

天書

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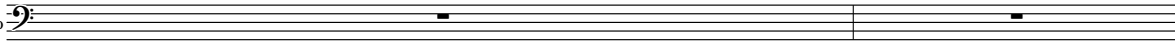
Gregory Rowland Evans

♩ = 108

5
4

2
4

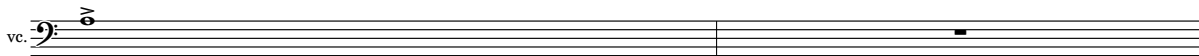
Violoncello



3

4
4

3
4



p _____

5

4
4

4
4

5:4



fff _____ *mf* ↘

mp _____

7

4
4

4
4

Ⓐ

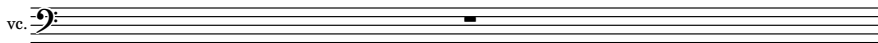


fff ↘

mp _____

9

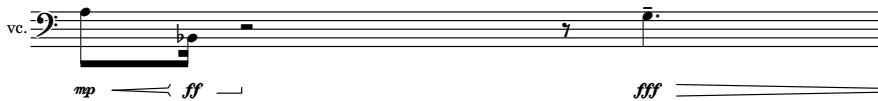
5
4



10

5
4

3:4



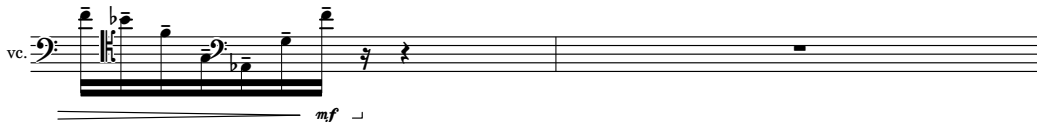
mp _____ *fff* ↘

fff _____

11

3
4

3
4

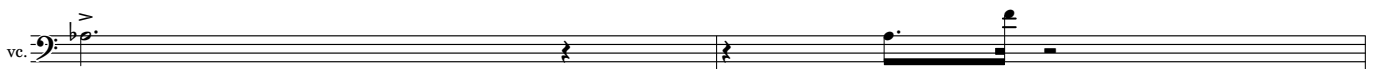


mf ↘

13

4
4

4
4



p _____

mp _____ *fff* ↘

15

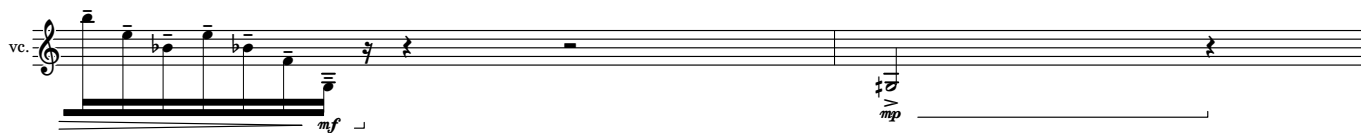
5/4

vc. 

16

5/4

3/4 (B)

vc. 

18

3/4

2/4

vc. 

20

3/4

4/4

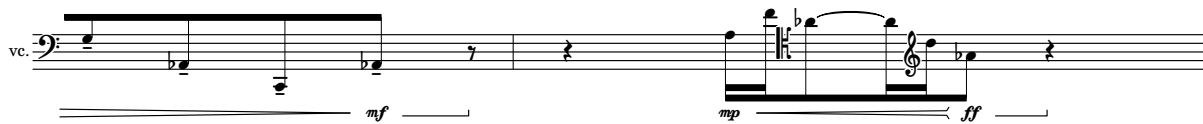
vc. 

22

3/4

4/4

(C)

vc. 

24

3/4

5/4

vc. 

26

3/4

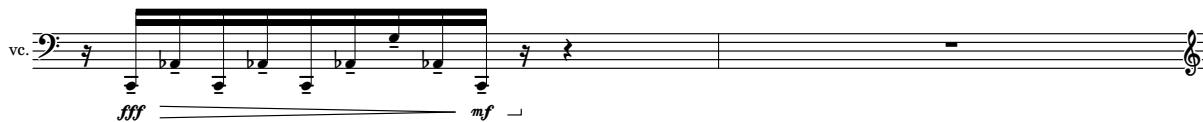
3/4

vc. 

28

4/4

3/4

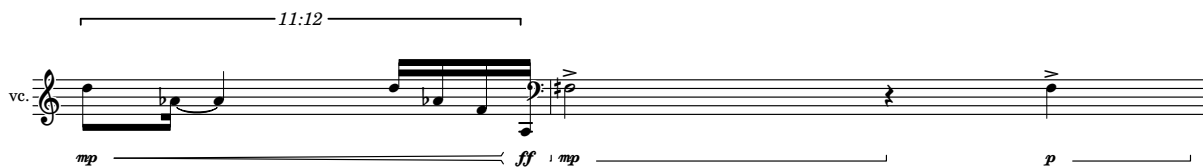
vc. 

30

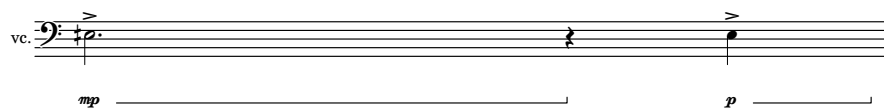
3/4

(D)

4/4

vc. 

32

5
4

33

4
43
4

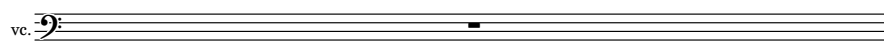
35

5
4

E



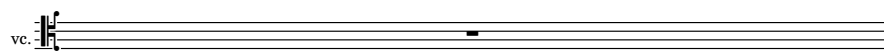
36

5
4

37

5
4

38

5
4

39

4
44
4

F



41

5
4

42

5
4

43

4/4 4/4 5:4

vc. *ff* *mp* *ff* *mp*

45

3/4 4/4 3:4

vc. *ff* *mp* *ff*

47

4/4 3/4 5:4

vc. *mp* *mp*

49

5/4

vc. *ff*

$\text{♩} = 90$

50

5/4 2/4

vc.

52

4/4 3/4

vc. *mf* *p*

54

4/4 4/4 3:2

vc. *mp* *pp*

56

4/4 4/4 (G) 11:12

vc. *ff* *mf* *p*

58

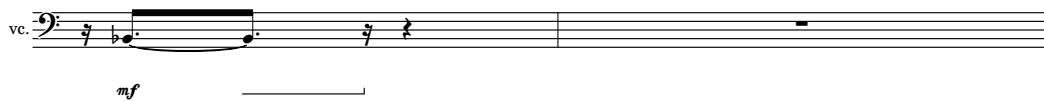
5/4

vc.

59

 $\frac{5}{4}$ $\overbrace{\hspace{2cm}}^{3:2}$

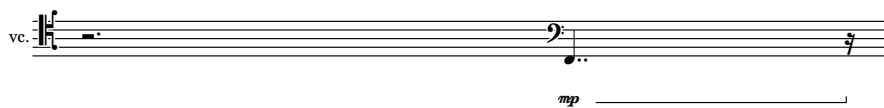

60

 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$


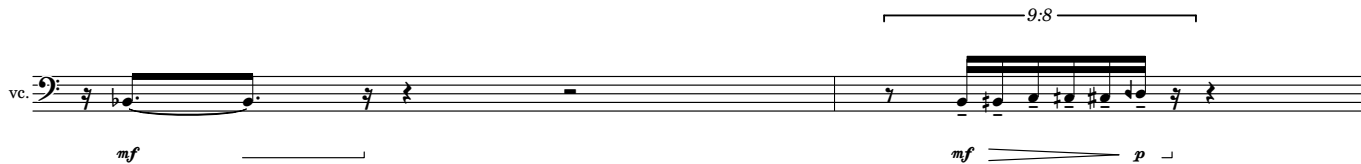
62

 $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\overbrace{\hspace{2cm}}^{3:2}$


64

 $\frac{5}{4}$


65

 $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$
 $\textcircled{\text{H}}$


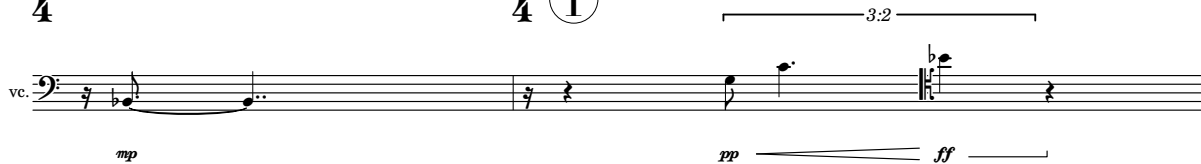
67

 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$

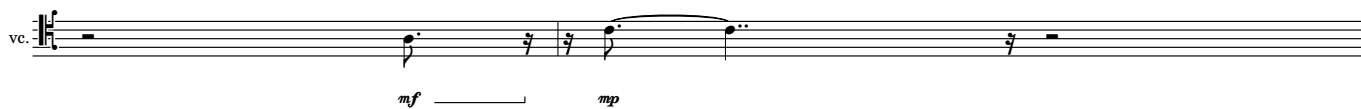

69

 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

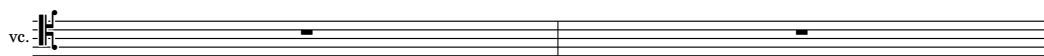

71

 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\textcircled{\text{I}}$


73

 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$


75

 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$


77


$\frac{4}{4}$

$\frac{3}{4}$

vc.

mp *mf*

79 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\textcircled{\text{J}}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ 9:8


vc. 

81 $\frac{5}{4}$ $\overbrace{\hspace{10em}}^{5:6}$

vc. 

p mf

82 $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ 7:8

vc. 

84


$\frac{5}{4}$ K

vc.


mp

The musical score is written on a five-line staff. The voice part (vc.) is indicated by a bass clef and a 'vc.' label. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 5/4. The music begins with a half note G2, followed by a half note A2, and then a half note B2. A slur connects the first two notes. The third note is a half note G2. The piece ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The dynamic marking 'mp' is placed below the first note.


85 **5**
4

vc. 


86 $\frac{5}{4}$

vc. 

87 **5**
4

vc. 

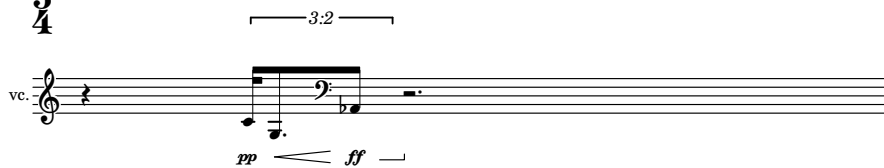
88 $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ (L)

vc. 

mp *pp* *ff*

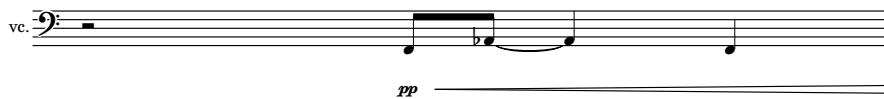
90

5/4

vc. 

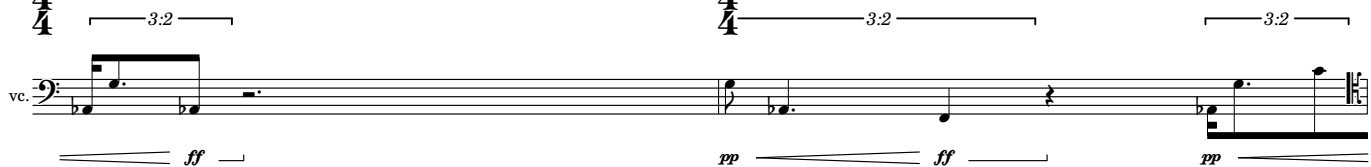
91

5/4

vc. 

92

4/4

vc. 

94

3/4

vc. 

96

4/4

vc. 

98

5/4

vc. 

99

5/4

vc. 

101

4/4

vc. 

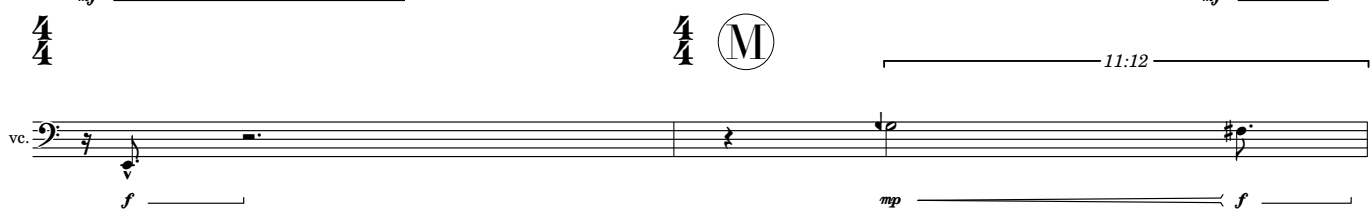
103

4/4

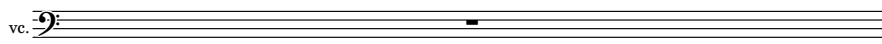
vc. 

105

4/4

vc. 

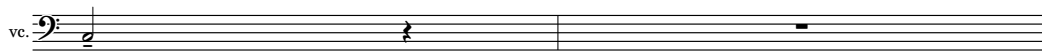
107

5
4

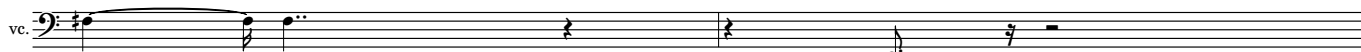
108

5
4*mf**mp*

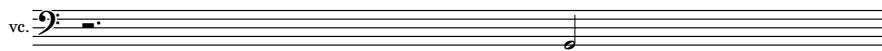
109

3
4*mf*

111

4
44
4*mp**f**f*

113

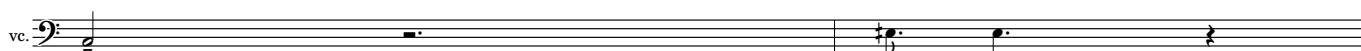
5
4*mp*

114

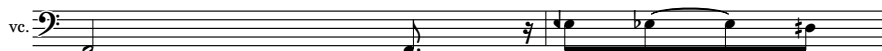
5
43
4

N

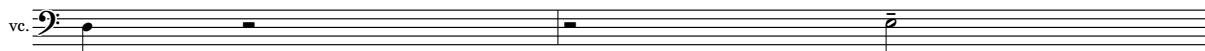
9:8

*mf**mp**f*

116

3
42
4*mf**f**mp*

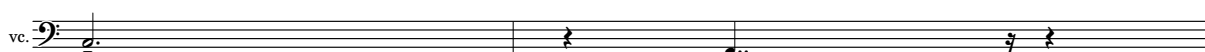
118

3
44
4*f**mp*

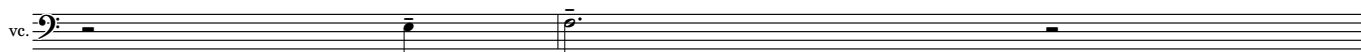
120

3
44
4

O

*mf**mf*

122

3
45
4*mp**mf*


44

44 


vc. 

mp _____ *mf* _____ *f* _____

54


vc. 

54

vc. 

44

44

vc. 

34

44


vc. 
mf

44

34


[illegible]

54

vc. 

54

24

vc. 

44

34

vc. 

mf  *ff* 

152 $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\overbrace{5:4}$

vc. *ff* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$ *mf* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$ *p* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$

154 $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ (S) $\overbrace{5:6}$

vc. *pp* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$ *mf* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$ *ff* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$

156 $\frac{5}{4}$

vc. $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$

157 $\frac{5}{4}$ $\overbrace{3:4}$ $\overbrace{11:12}$

vc. *p* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$ *pp* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$ *ff* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$ *mf* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$

158 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

vc. *ff* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$ *mf* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$

160 $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

vc. *mf* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$ *ff* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$ *p* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$ *pp* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$

162 $\frac{5}{4}$ $\overbrace{9:8}$

vc. *ff* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$ *mf* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$

163 $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ (T) $\overbrace{5:4}$

vc. *ff* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$ *mf* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$ *mf* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$ *ff* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$

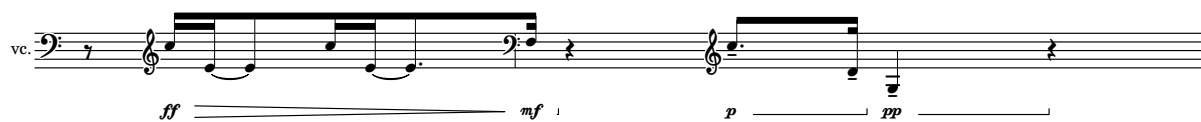
165 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\overbrace{13:12}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\overbrace{5:4}$

vc. *p* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$ *pp* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$ *mf* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$

167 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\overbrace{7:8}$

vc. *ff* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$ *ff* $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$

169

 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ (U)

171

 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ 5:4

173

 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ 

175

 $\frac{4}{4}$

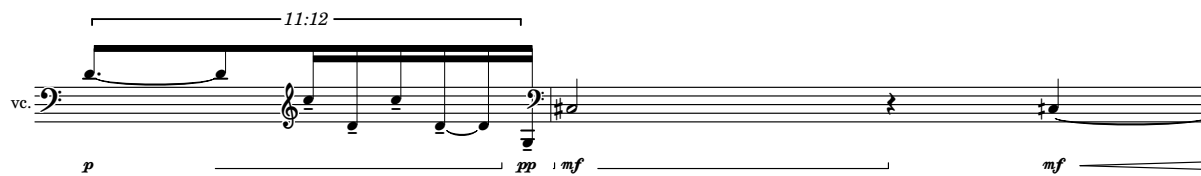
11:12

 $\frac{3}{4}$ 

177

 $\frac{3}{4}$

(V)

 $\frac{4}{4}$ 

179

 $\frac{5}{4}$

7:6



180

 $\frac{4}{4}$

5:6

 $\frac{3}{4}$ 

182

 $\frac{5}{4}$

(W)



183

 $\frac{5}{4}$ 