HARRY PATCH

Sebastian ADAMS

To Francis and Corrie, for their immeasurable contribution to the composition of this piece

a quartet for flute, horn in f, violoncello and piano in eight untitled movements

performance notes

This work may only be performed when prefaced with a solo work for each of the four instruments involved.

The performers may choose any solo pieces they wish to play, with the exception of the horn player, who must play the *Appel Interstellaire* from Messiaen's *Des canyons aux étoiles*.

Three loudspeakers, three long lengths of audio cable and an audio interface are required in the seventh movement of *Harry Patch*.

The three loudspeakers should be placed in three locations outside the auditorium of varying distance and preferably variable acoustic. The passages in cue-sized notation at the end of the seventh movement are to be recorded during the rehearsal period by the performers, and played back through the relevant speaker (each instrument is marked near, medium or far). Some thought is required to record and sequence this effectively and efficiently. Parts for these passages are available from the composer on request.

Harry Patch must be performed in the lowest lighting possible. There are specific lighting cues in several movements, which must be obeyed unless an alternative solution can be provided which obtains both less light and greater atmosphere.

If stand lights are to be used, they **must** be switched off when a player is not involved in a movement.

The third movement consists of off-stage horn. The movement is in four sections, taking place in four 'stations' in the vicinity of the auditorium. The first station should be reasonably far away from the auditorium, the second should be quite close (and preferably with significant natural echo), the third very far away, and the fourth so far away that the instrument can barely be heard.

The piece should only be performed in the context of a concert series that also contains Messiaen's *Quatuor pour la fin du temps*, and is intended as a sequel to that work.

Harry Patch was premiered in July 2015 by Miriam Kaczor, Hannah Miller, Yseult Cooper Stockdale and David Adams. It was written with each of these individuals in mind at all times.

The premiere was the culmination of Kirkos Ensemble's Blackout series, a series of three concerts in almost total darkness centred on big works for four musicians. The previous concerts centred on the *Quatuor* and on Reich's *Different Trains*, and included specially composed pieces by (in order of performance) Kevin Volans, Roger Doyle, Ed Bennett, Robert Coleman, Tom Lane, Seán Clancy and Raymond Deane, as well as an existing work by Gráínne Mulvey. The final concert also included works by Sculthorpe, Froberger and Roxanna Panufnik.

Duration: roughly one hour and five minutes

a note about harry patch

Harry Patch was the last surviving soldier known to have fought in the trenches in World War One. Post-war, he led an unremarkable life until he was shunted into the spotlight by the sheer genetic fluke of having outlived thousands of other men. Seen by the media and the public as a glorious hero, once interviewed he turned out to have anti-war views, saying "war isn't worth one life". Harry Patch is entirely unprogrammatic, Patch being the figurehead rather than the main character, but that quote was the germ for the whole piece, having given myself the brief of having to bookend a series beginning with Quatuor pour la fin du temps and middling with Different Trains. Messiaen looks out from war with hope, with total belief in a gracious higher power, Reich looks back to document atrocity, thinking how easily he could have been in the position of the people he interviewed. Mine is rooted in the present, a meditation on the futility of war and the tragic unchangeability of the human condition. In the climax of the seventh movement, the pointless clattering of the piano answers Messiaen, saying "sorry, you were wrong."

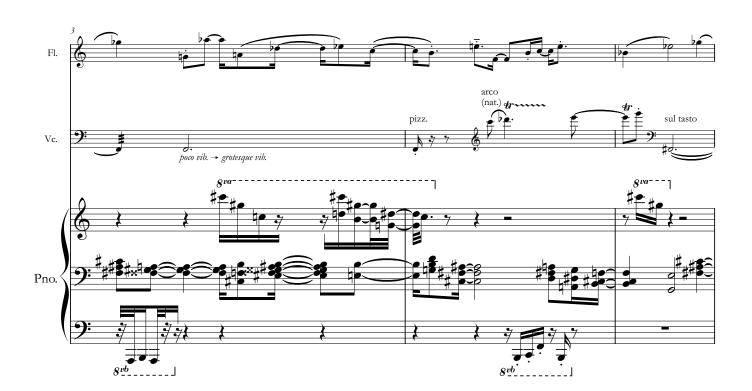
Sebastian Adams

Harry Patch

for quartet of flute, horn, violoncello and piano

I.



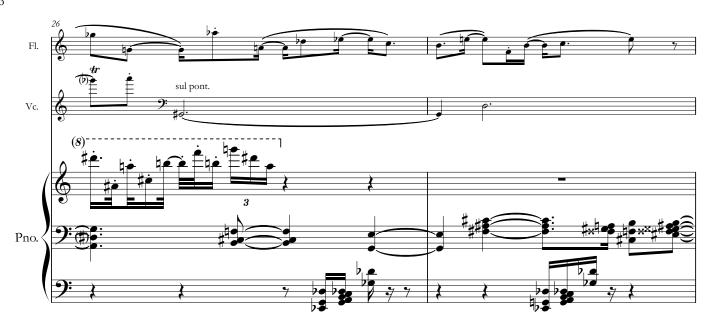


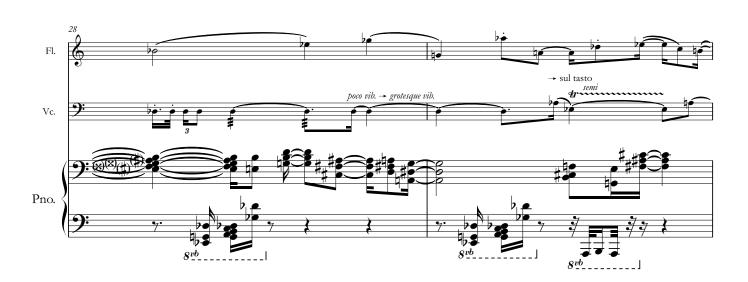












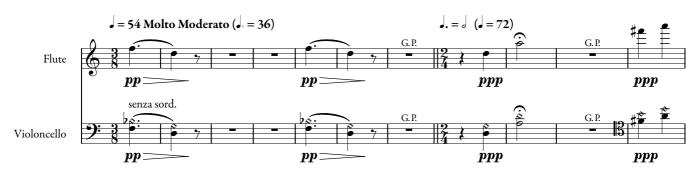


Harry Patch

II.

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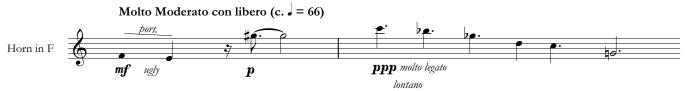
S. Adams

From Harry Patch for solo Horn in F

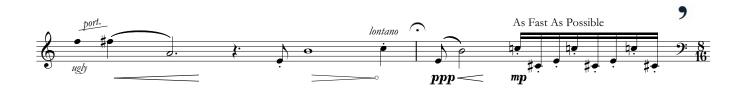
From Harry Patch

S. Adams (2015) (rev. 2017) version: 25/03/2017

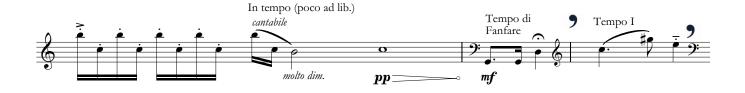
off stage - begin at Station One (see performance notes)





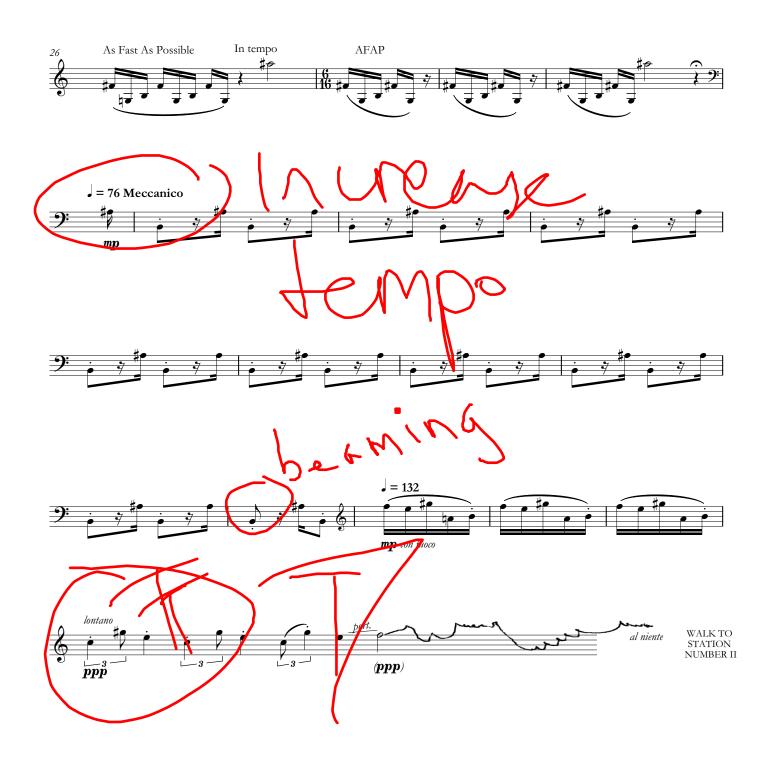




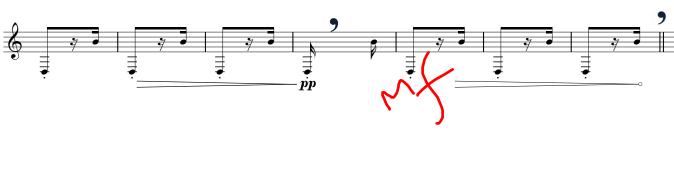




















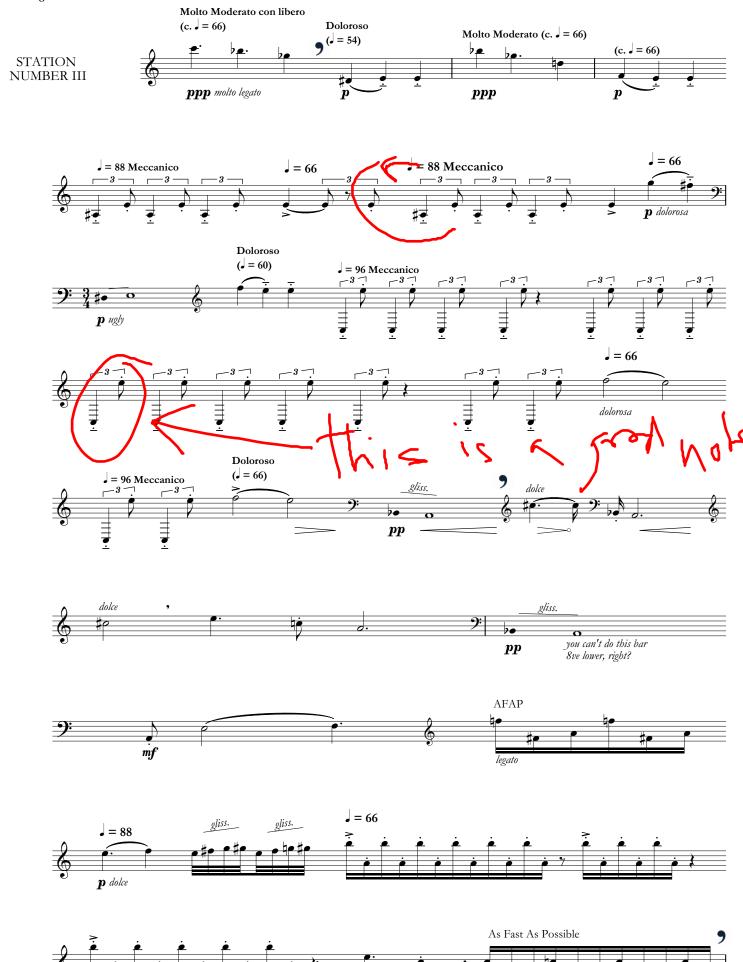




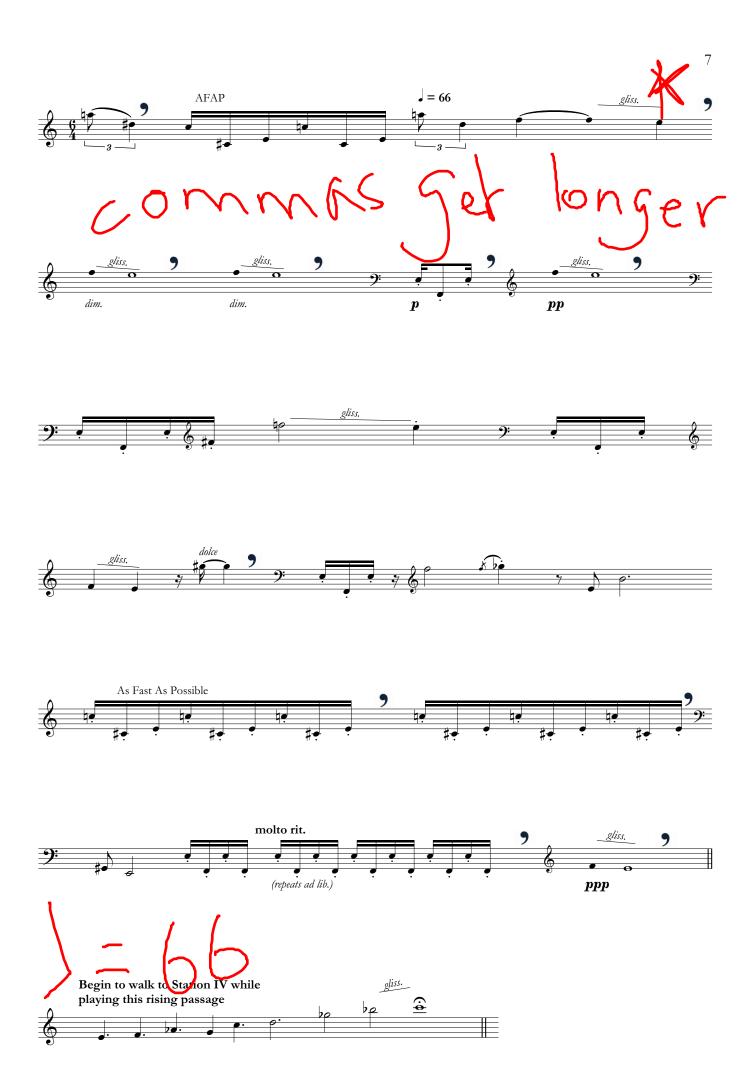








poco rubato



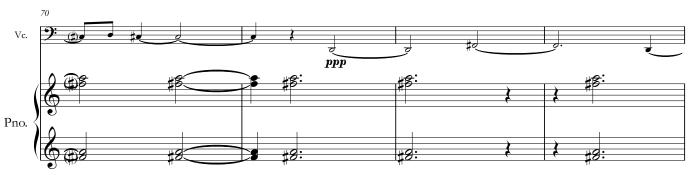




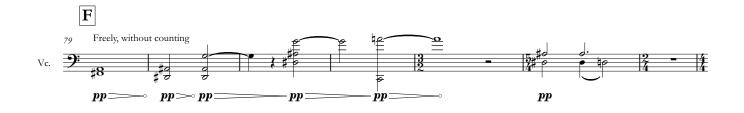










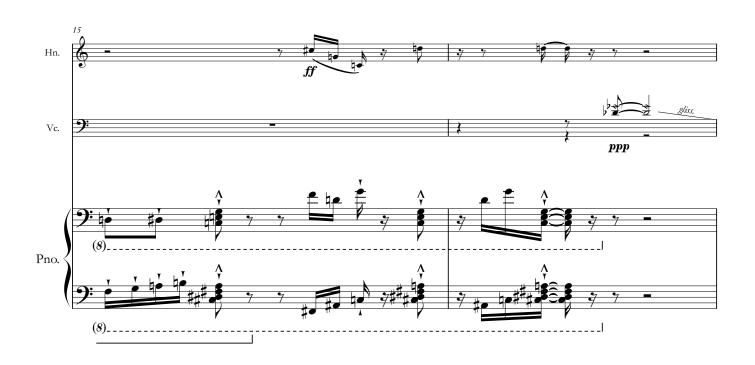


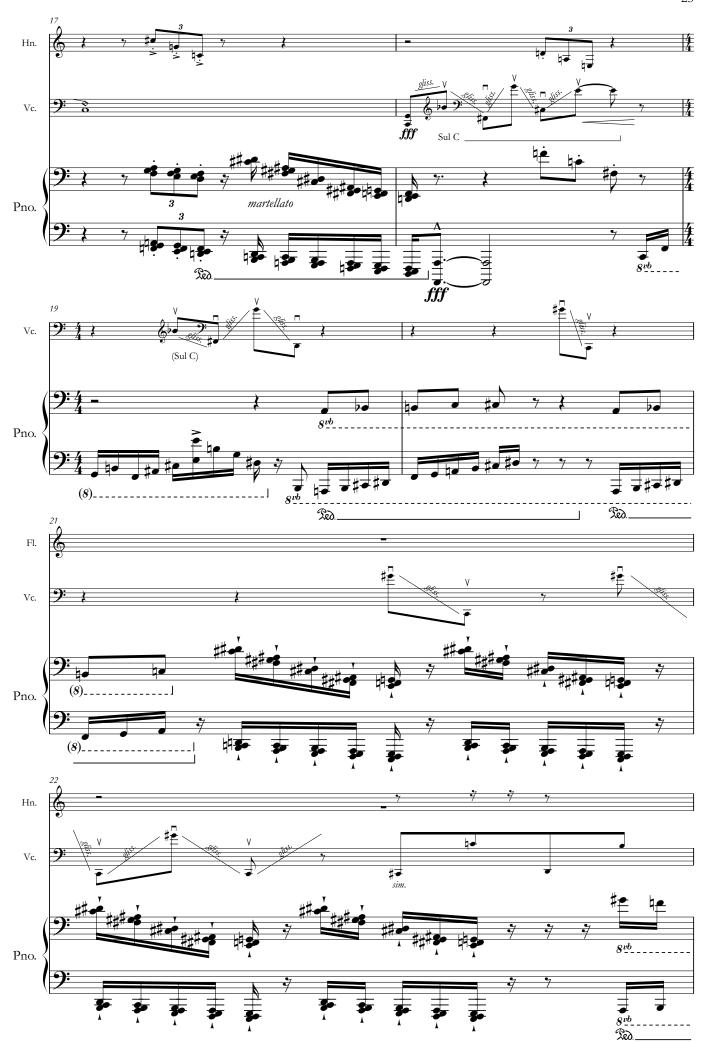


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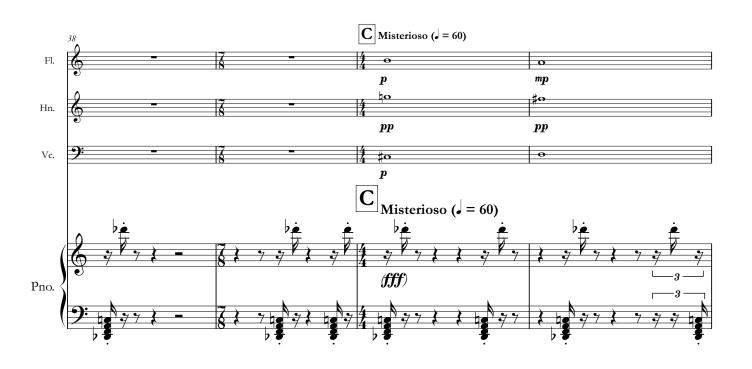


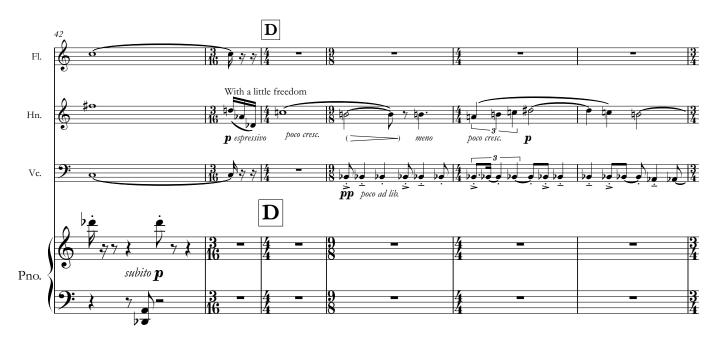






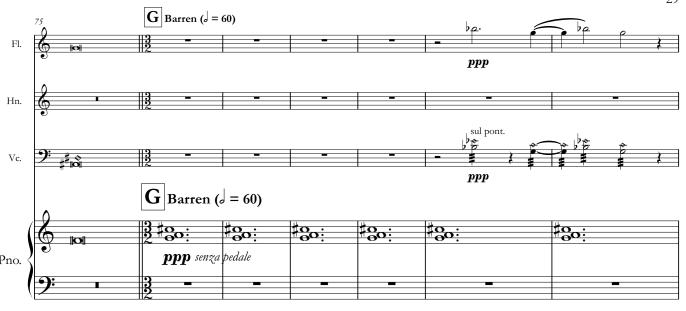


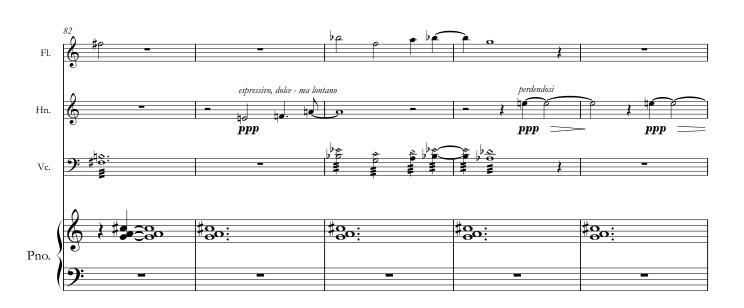


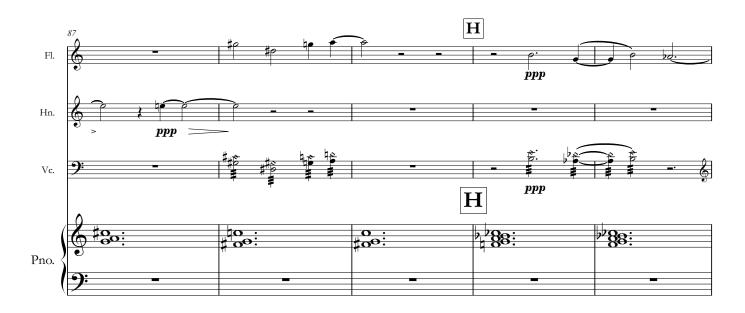


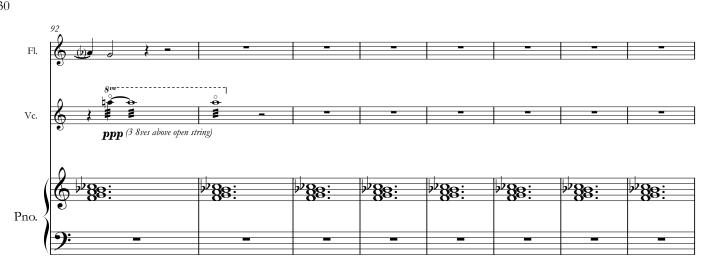


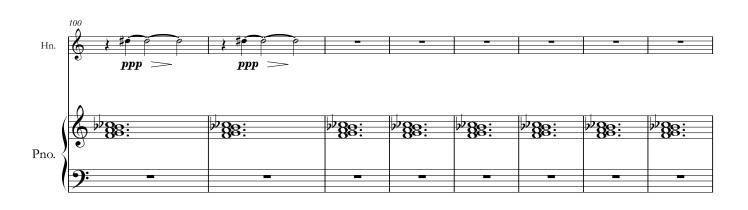


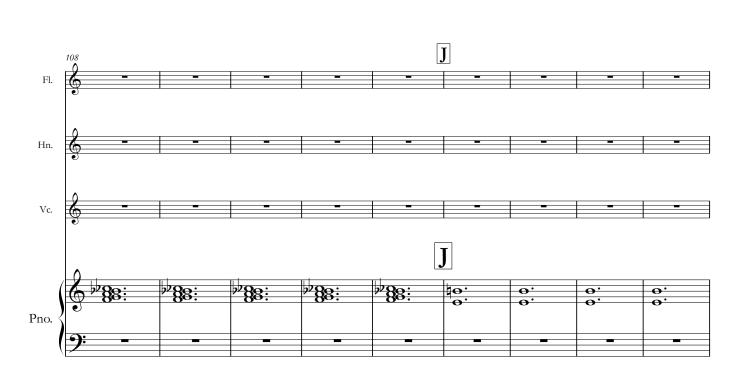












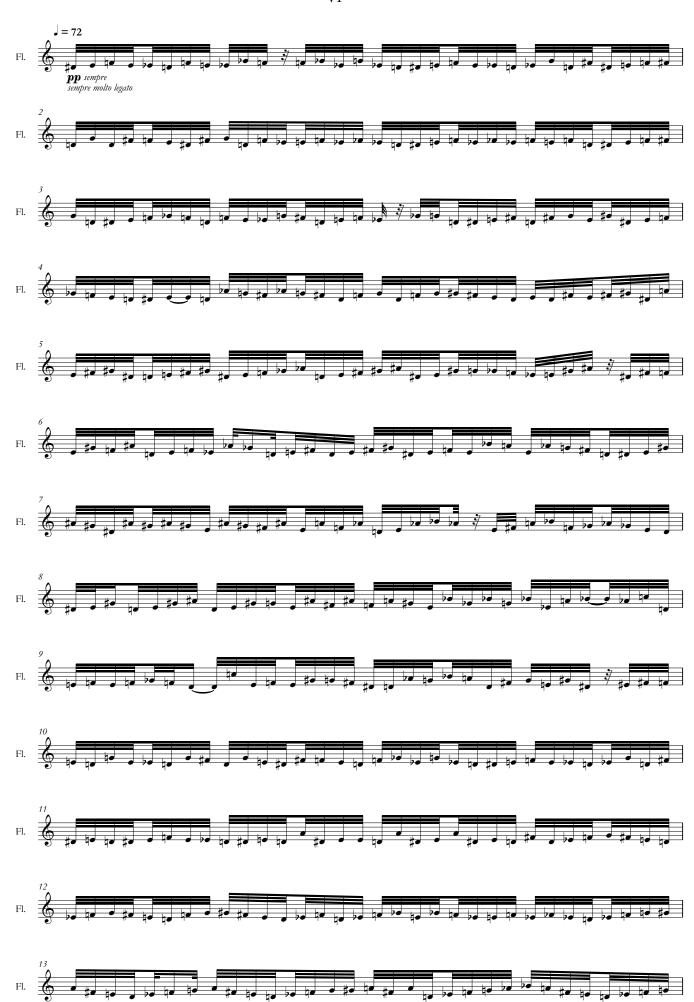


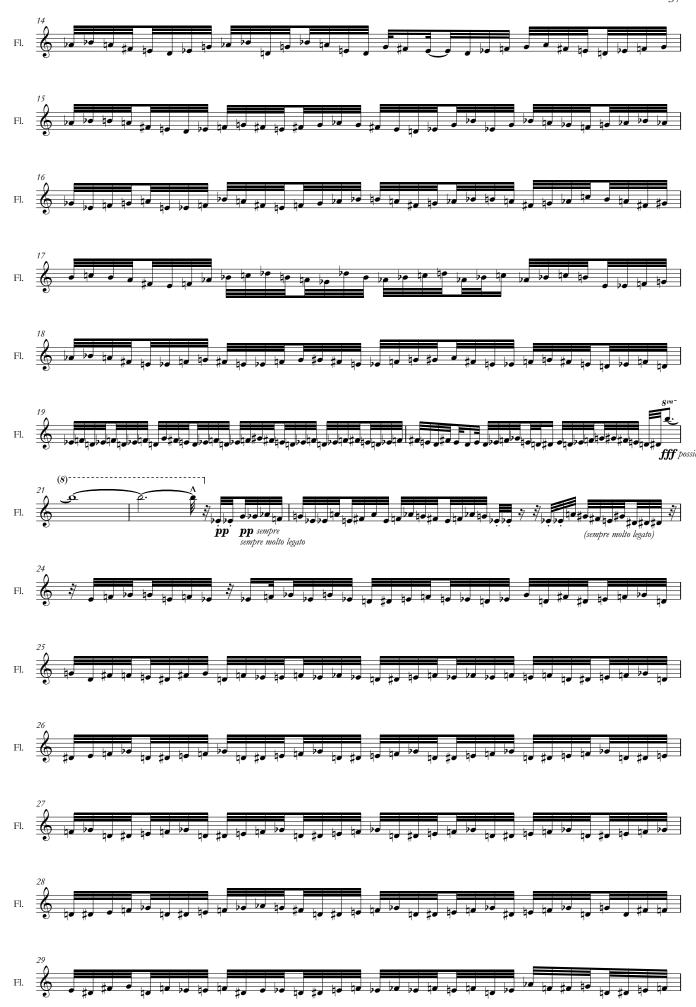


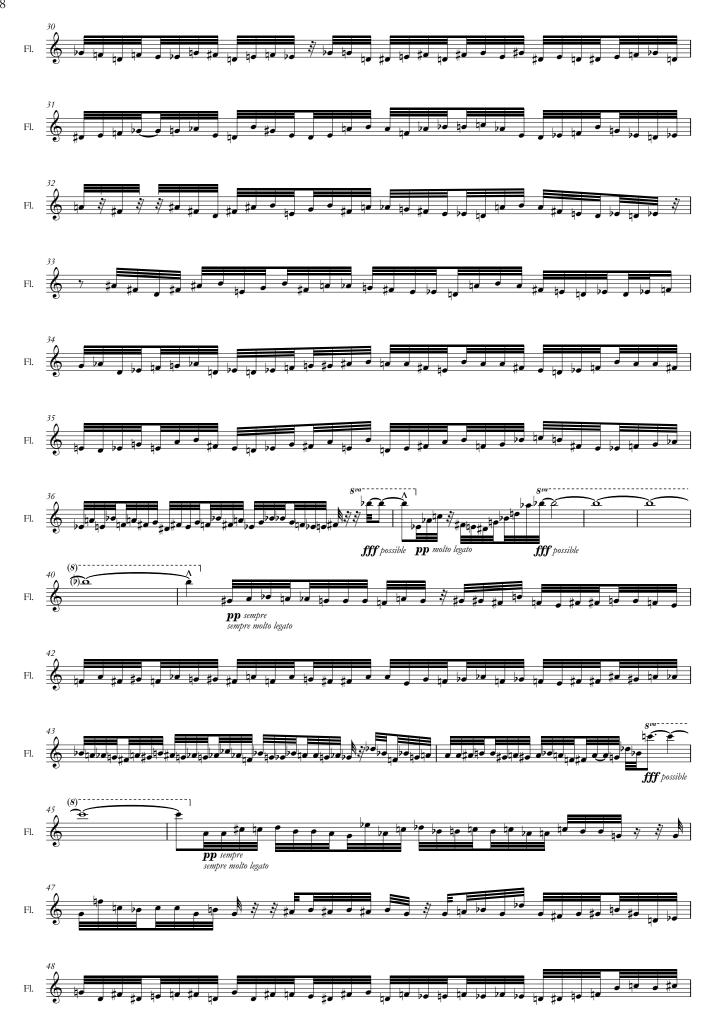


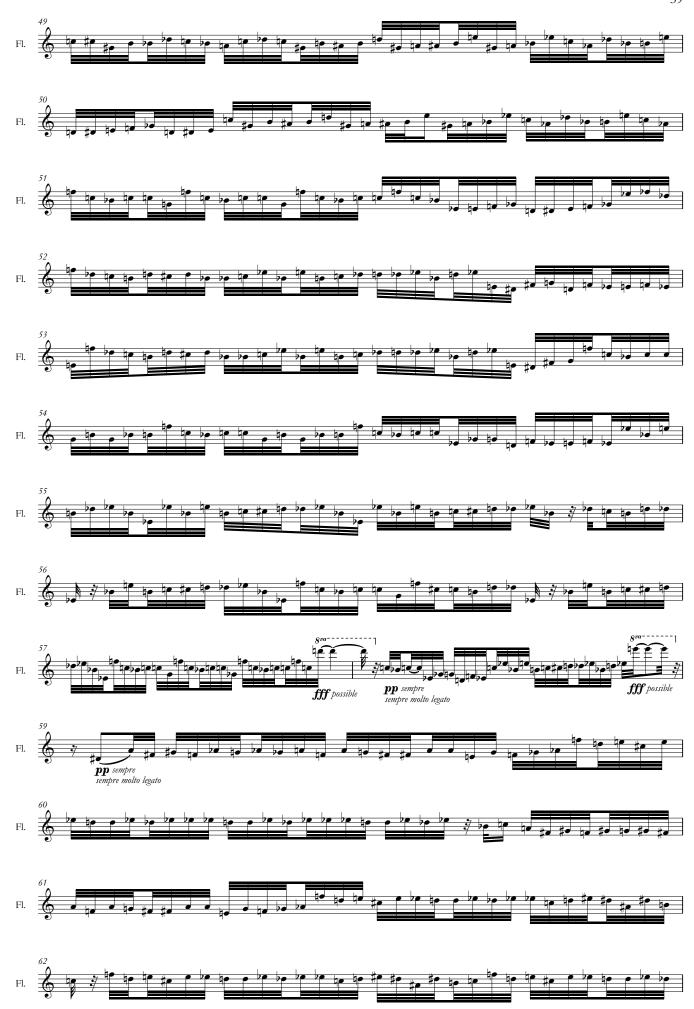


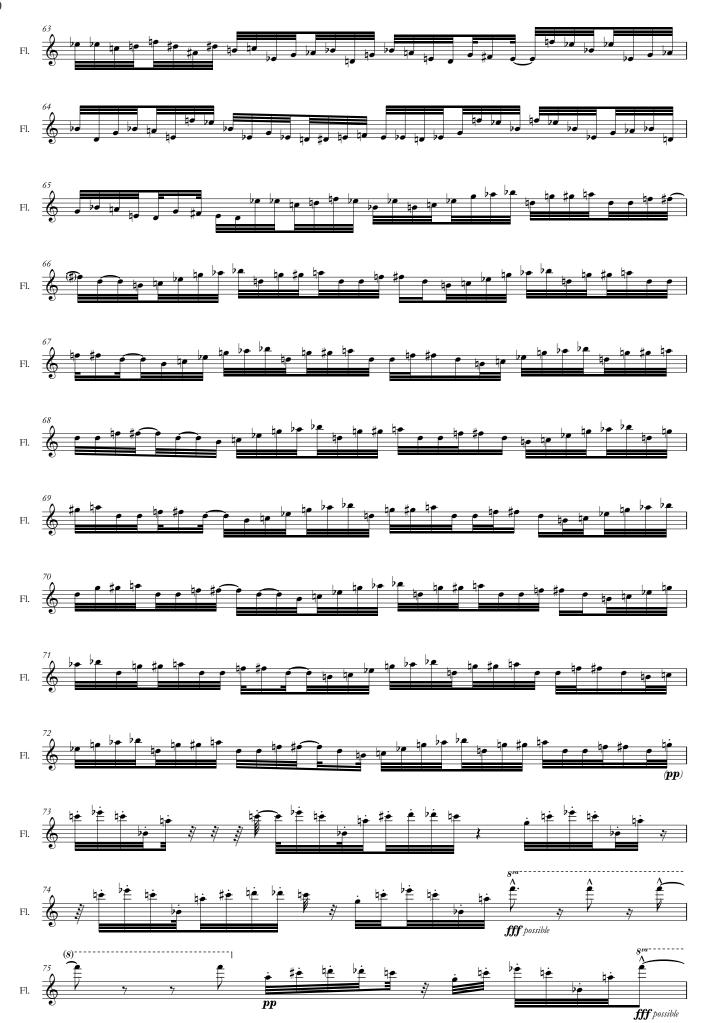


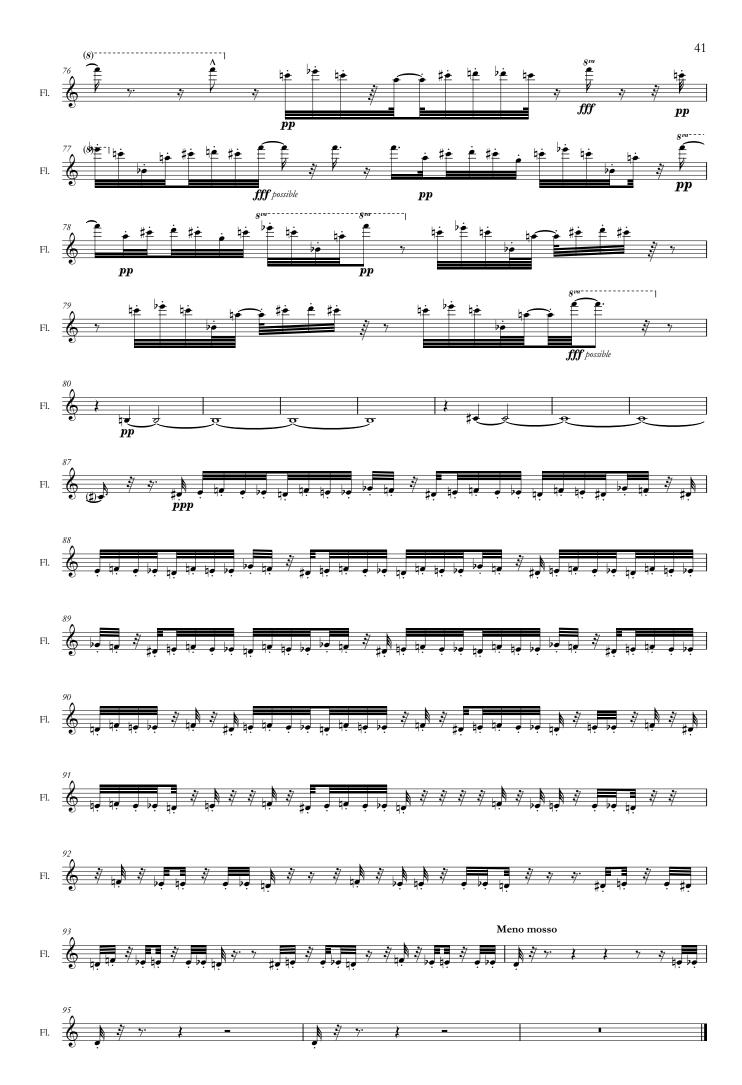








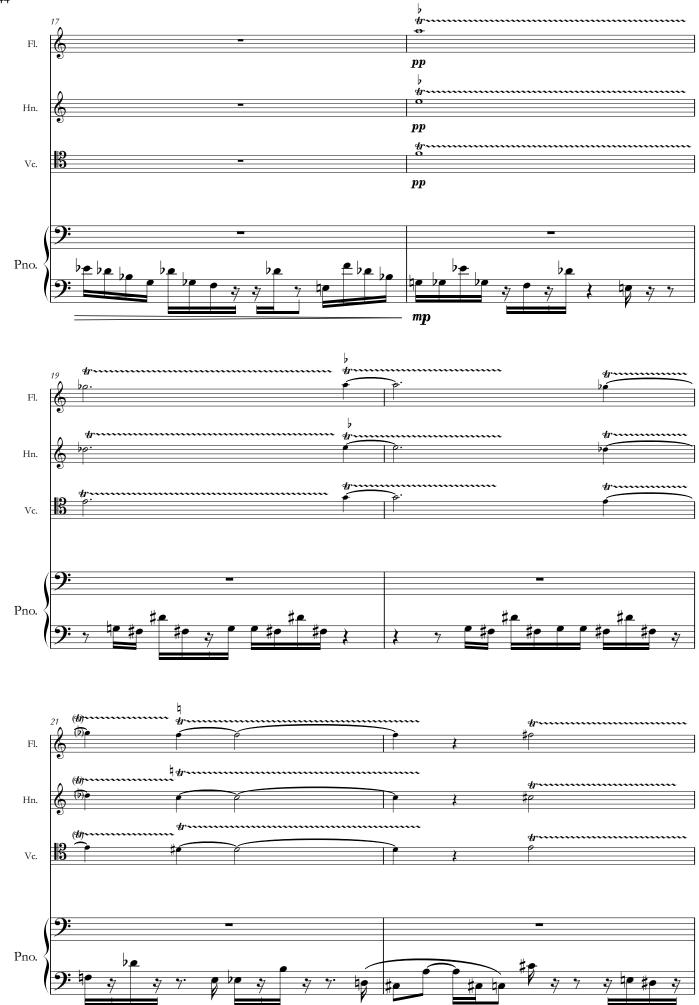


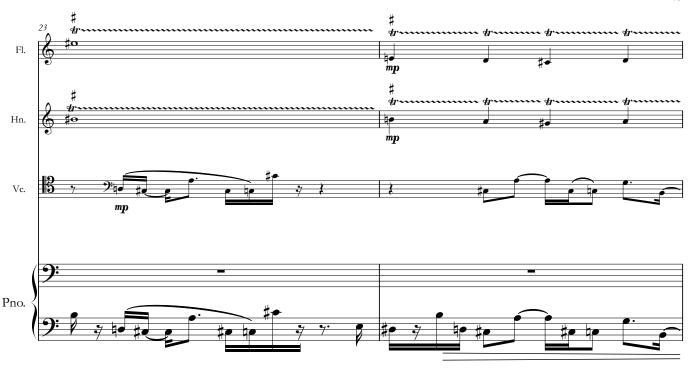


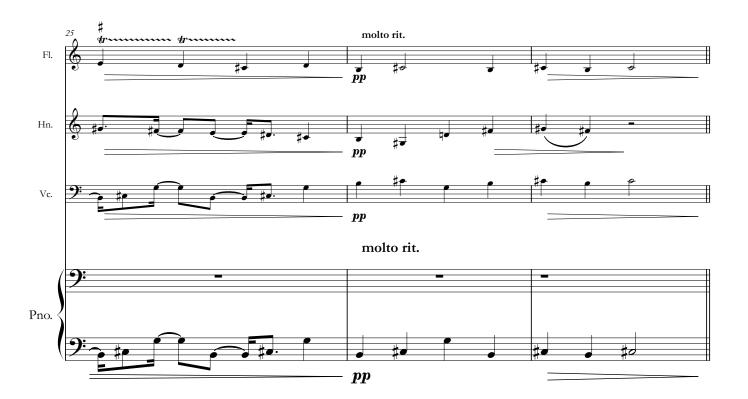
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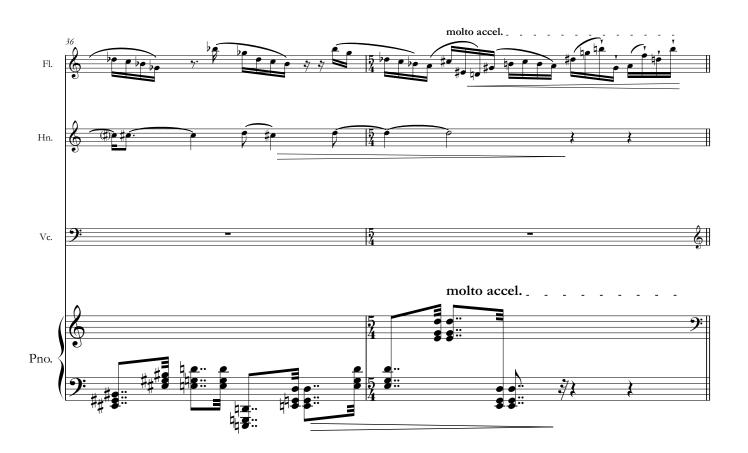








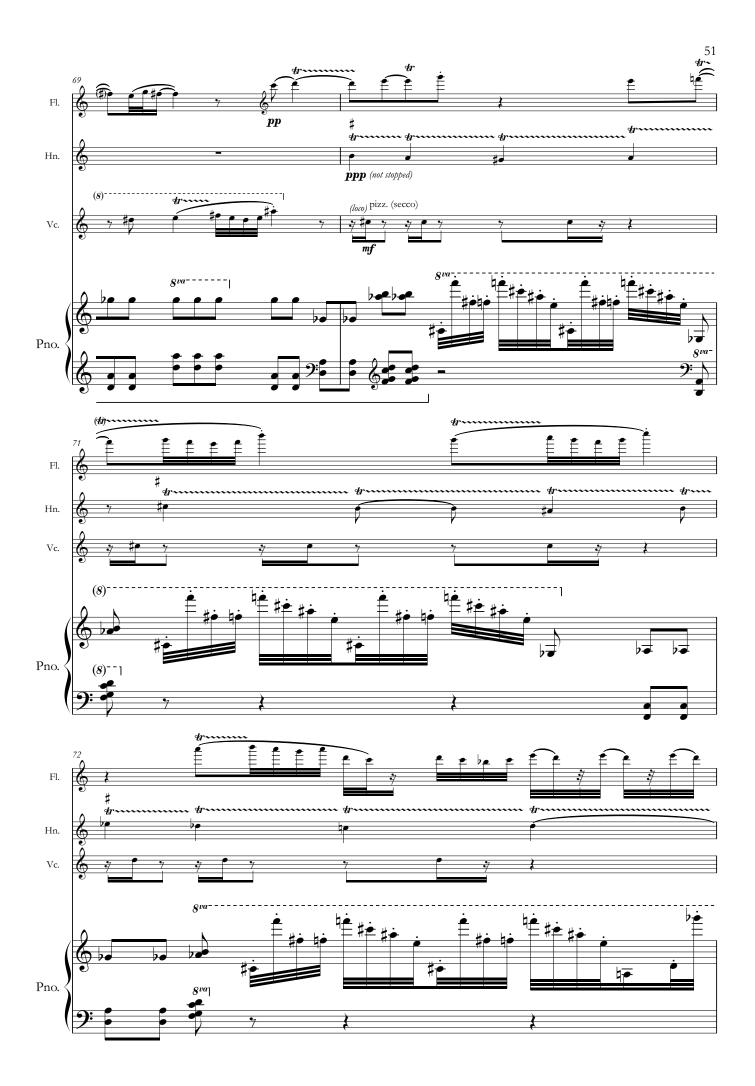






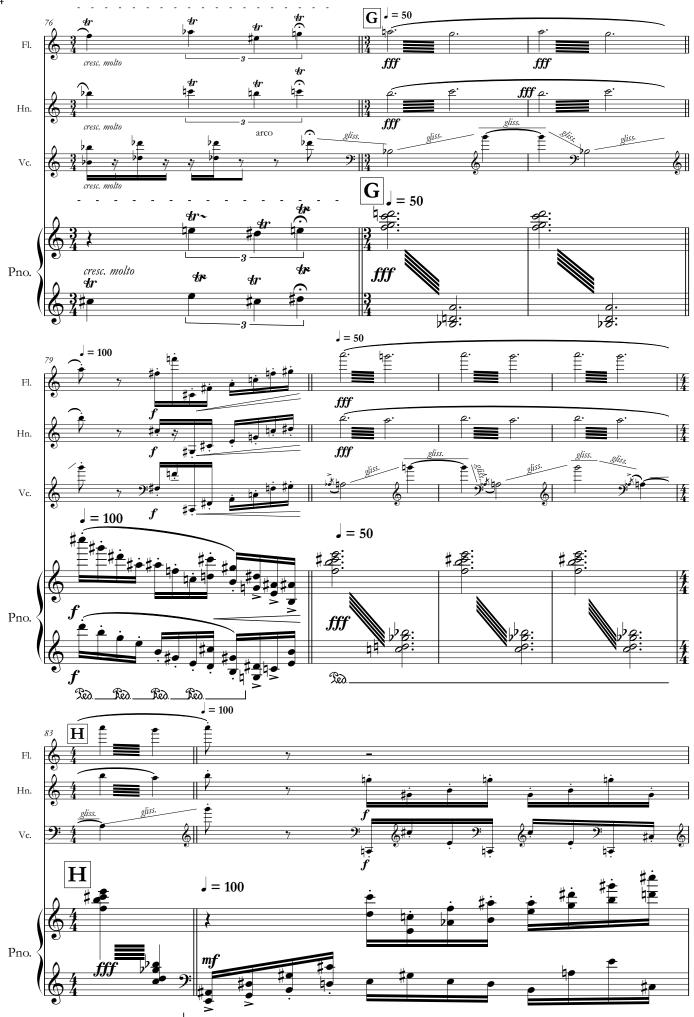




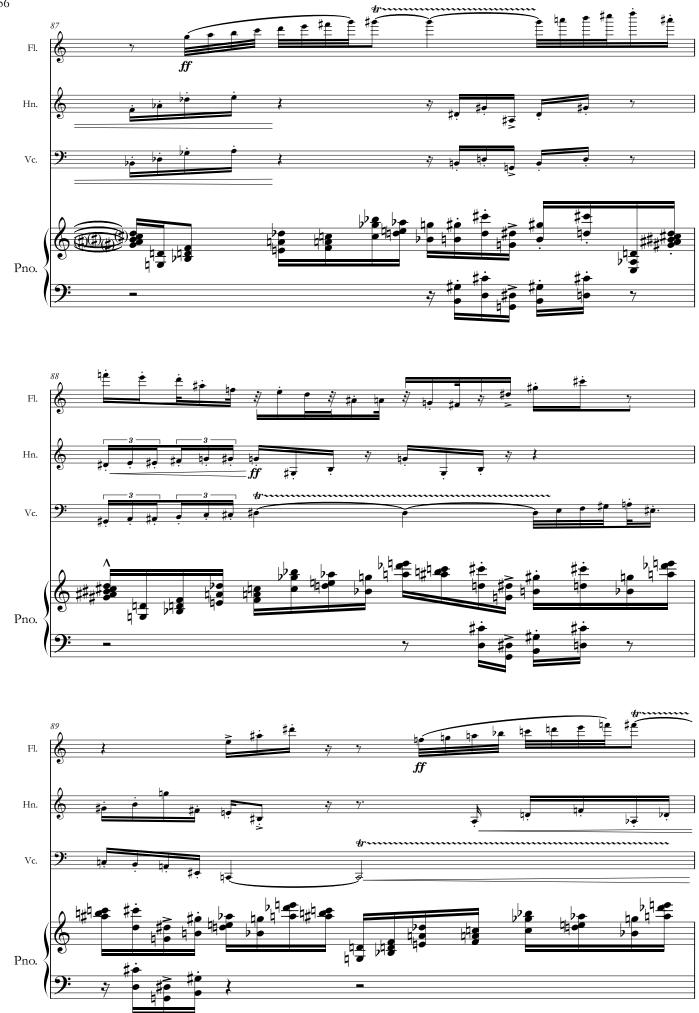


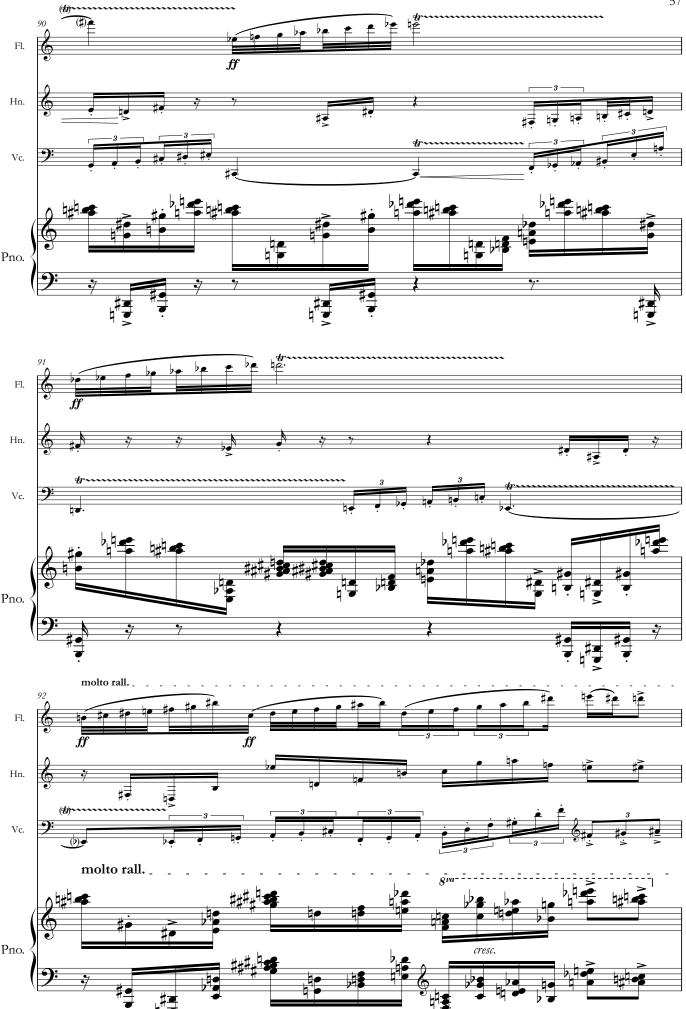
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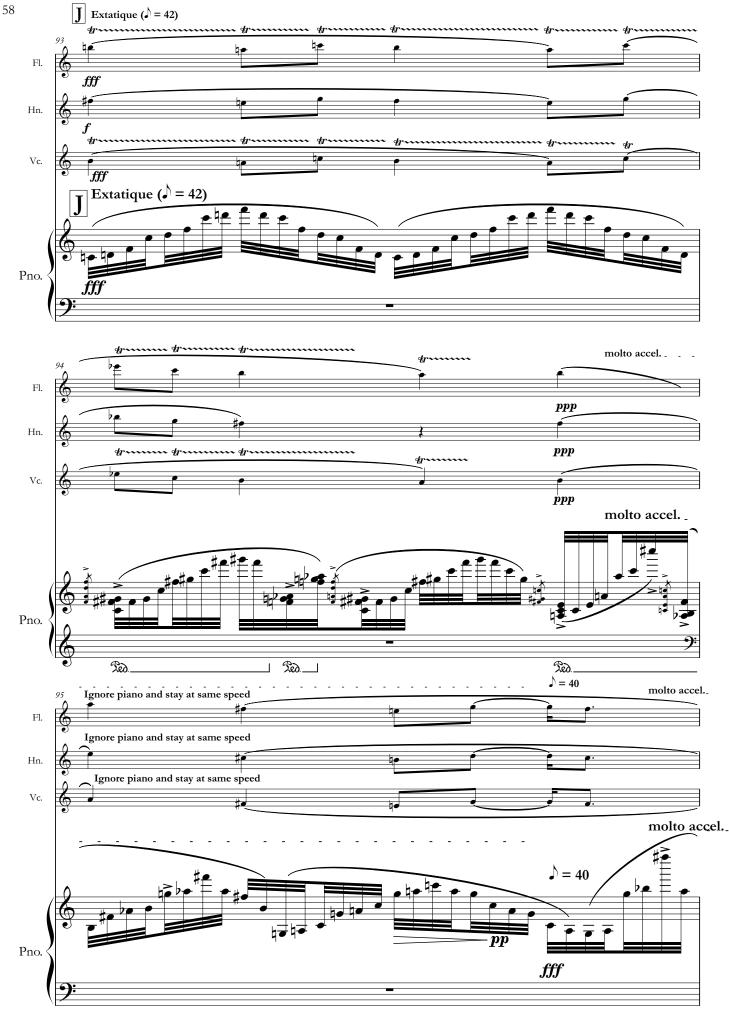






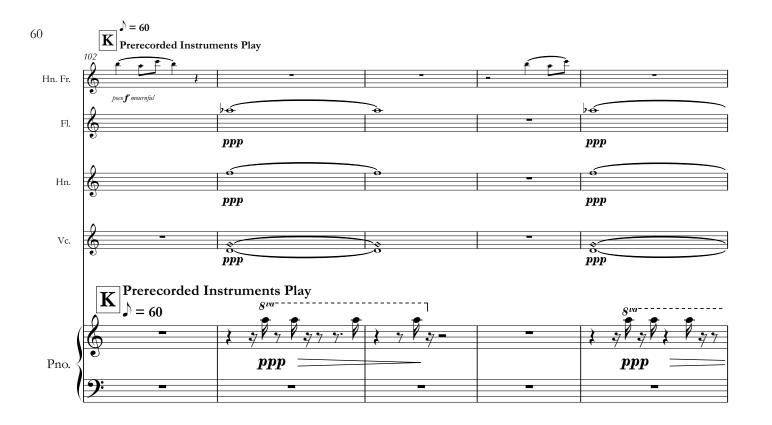




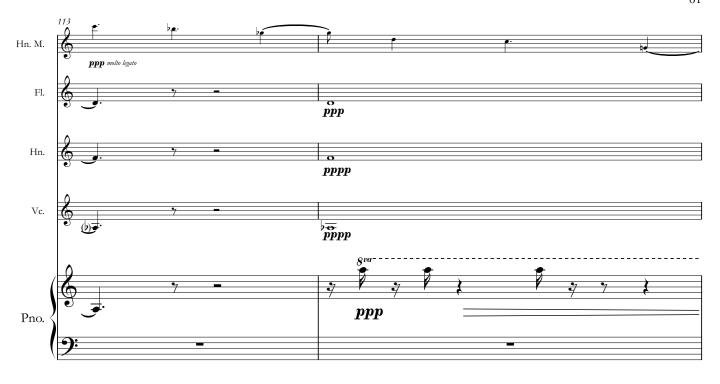


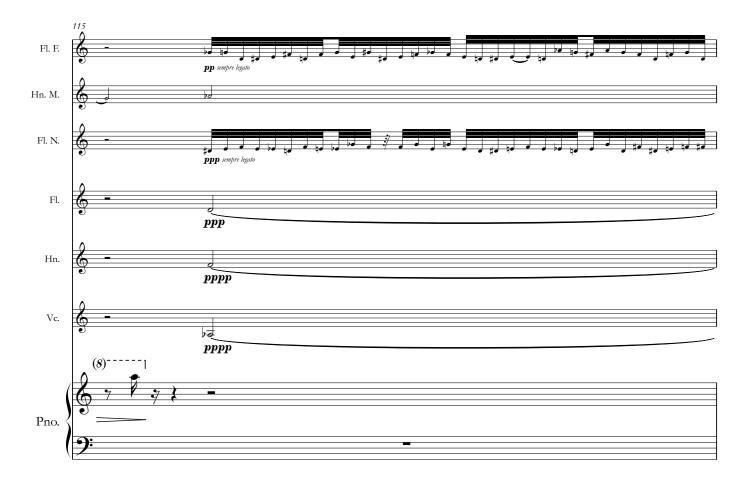






















During the closing section of the seventh movement, all light for performers should be gradually extinguished.

Light in the auditorium (i.e. lights for audience etc.) should also be totally extinguished during this section. The removal of light must be conducted in an atmospheric and dramatic manner.

The final movement should be played in complete darkness if possible, requiring the performer to learn it from memory.

Alternatively, the first bar may be played in darkness, then a dim spotlight raised on the player. This should then be gradually lowered over the course of the piece.

At the end of the piece, the performance space should be utterly dark.



