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Approved by the Thesis Committee:	
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David Bashwiner	
Peter Gilbert	

# **COMPOSITION PORTFOLIO**

By

## JOSE EDUARDO OREA DOMINGUEZ

## **BACHELOR OF MUSIC**

# UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO DECEMBER 2019

## **THESIS**

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Music
Music

The University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico

May, 2022

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To my parents, Hilario Orea Sanchez and Maria Isabel Dominguez Gomez, who gave me immeasurable support over the years. Your constant encouragement and love are the greatest gifts of all.

### **COMPOSITION PORTFOLIO**

By

### JOSE EDUARDO OREA DOMINGUEZ

B.M., Music, The University of New Mexico, 2019.

M.Mu., Music, The University of New Mexico, 2022.

### **ABSTRACT**

This composition portfolio consists of a series of works written during my master's degree at the University of New Mexico. Each chapter in this collection includes a brief structural and aesthetic description as well as specific annotations regarding its instrumentation, writing style/system, and pitch collection (if existent). The compositions featured in this portfolio are: *Orbits (Interstellar Cloud 1, 2021)* for amplified large ensemble, *Centaurus (2021)* for amplified variable ensemble from 2 to 8 performers, *Prisma (2020)* for amplified modified *Pierrot* quintet, *Sirius (2022)* for amplified vocal ensemble, *Wormhole (2021)* for amplified solo violin, *Space-Time Burst (2021)* for amplified solo trombone and live electronics, and *Nebula (Cloud 2, 2020)* for four amplified bowed string instruments in any configuration + optional video projection.

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### **CHAPTER 1- Work for Orchestra or Chamber Orchestra**

# Orbits (Interstellar Cloud 1, 2021) - For Amplified Mixed Large Ensemble and 2 Female Voices.

**Instrumentation:** 2 female voices, piccolo, 2 Bb bass clarinets, bassoon, trombone, tuba, piano, percussion-1 (glockenspiel + timpani), percussion-2 (chimes + suspended cymbals), violin, viola, and double bass.

Orbits incorporates elements from previous pieces both technically and structurally. This work is the first part of a much larger structural design whose purpose is to help develop Parametric Counterpoint<sup>12</sup> as a practical approach. From the simultaneity of events taken from Wormhole to the sound output generated by the multi-channel amplification notion of Pris-Ma<sup>3</sup>, this composition integrates all elements and arguments in a much larger single structure.

Orbits adds a layer of complexity to the music by combining three different temporalities in a single space. Structural temporality rules the form of the piece as a unity. Proportional and "individual" temporality work together in favor of single-event correlations both at the small and large scale.<sup>4</sup> On the one hand, proportional temporality is defined as the relative duration of musical gestures marked by a written length and a specific size of such gesture in relationship to contiguous sonic fragments. On the other hand, "individual" temporality is the personal sense of tempo proper to each performer, ruled by the interaction

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Derived from conversations with Dr. Jose-Luis Hurtado, who originally conceived this idea.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Research project in process.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Further explored in following chapters.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Refer to page four (first page of the performance notes) of the score to observe instructions regarding temporality.

between given rhythmic and temporal segments. <sup>5</sup> Moreover, the different interactions among instruments and their technical configurations raise questions on how to expand my idiolect for this kind of spatial and temporal thought.

In terms of writing style, Orbits combines certain aspects of traditional notation and graphic elements that determine specific textural ideas and motivic relationships. Silence has been included in this score by means of proportionally controlled length-based blank spaces. Despite the organized nature silences possess within the compositional structure, the temporality each performer allocates to a determined section of the piece, which fluctuates between 30-180 BPM,<sup>6</sup> will also affect the relative length he/she assigns to silences by means of perceptual space in between relatively contiguous sounding gestures. Also, the proportional length of elements with a written approximate duration, will affect the already variable tempo of each performer. Overall, the piece aims to create a flexible spatial-temporal relation among trajectories for both the performers and the audience.

In terms of pitch (p) and pitch-class (pc) content, Orbit's first version (Interstellar Cloud 1) comprises a series of independent but intertwined constructions (see **Figure 1**). Each one of the indicated "spheres" (colored in the diagram), represents a specific set-class with a defined length marked by the orbital amplitude of the diagram, and a sequential relationship with other spheres (dotted lines). For example, the black sphere in the center of the diagram is defined as "singularity" and represents absolute silence. The first sphere (light blue) is ruled by a [5,6,8,9, e,1,2] normal form or (0134689) heptachord and a short length in relationship to the overall framework. The following orbit (red) is a subset of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Refer to page four (first page of the performance notes) of the score to observe instructions regarding temporality.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> According to stipulated instructions in the piece's Performance Notes.

the first sphere (037) plus an added pc-t, which gives the second segment its specific identity, and giving a (0158) prime form for the tetrachord. The third orbit, which has a [e, 1, 5] natural form and a (026) prime form, takes two members of the first sphere (pc-e and pc-1), and adds pc-e as a defining identity member. In a similar fashion, the following orbits are either a transformation of the original set-class, or a subset of the primary set-class plus an identity pc as it occurred in the examples described above. This first version of the piece stops in the orbit number seven (brown colored sphere), which demarks the climactic section of the overall framework, and which is ruled only by pc-6. Nonetheless, the last section of the score revolves around pc-9, which is the identity pc for the last orbit (dark blue). This intentional "ending" works to reflect the inconclusive environment of the piece as it is built so far.

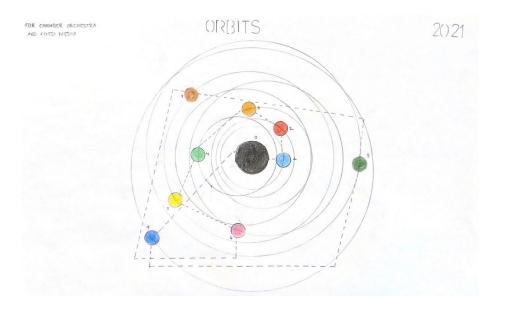


Figure 1- Orbit's structural diagram.

# ORBITS

(Interstellar Cloud ~1)

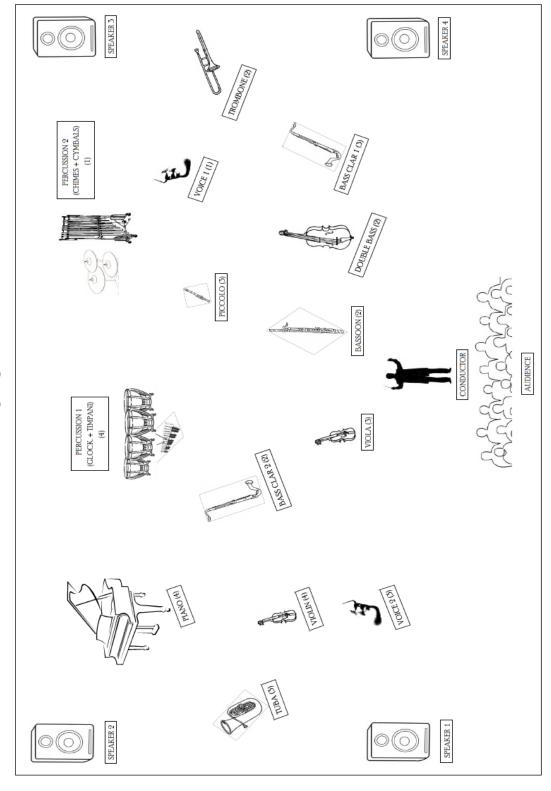
For Amplified Mixed Large Ensemble and 2 Female Voices

(17' approx.)

Eduardo Orea

2021

# Percussion 2 (Chimes and Suspended Cymbals) Percussion 1 (Glockenspiel and Timpani) 2 Bass Clarinets in Bb INSTRUMENTATION 2 Female Voices Piccolo Flute Double Bass Trombone Tuba in C Bassoon Violin Piano Viola



# PERFORMANCE NOTES

# **AMPLIFICATION**

- . As it is indicated on the SETUP page, there must be four (4) speakers located at the sides and back of the performing space in order to maximize the intended effects.
- All instruments must be individually amplified and connected to the specific speaker on the stage, as it is indicated in parentheses on the SETUP page, in order to create a multi-source sound feedback/effect for each instrument of the ensemble.

# ALIGNMENT

- = Green dashed line cues indicate structural tempo changes (further explained below).
- = Red dashed line cues indicate that two or more textures and/or gestures have exact alignment (i.e., their onset is the same).
- = Dotted blue line cues indicate that two or more textures have inexact alignment (i.e., they are offset). These lines can also show that offset textures are played sequentially and are used as referential markings.

# TEMPO

- · The pace for each section is determined by three different temporal vectors: structural temporality, individual temporality, and spatial temporality.
- = For the structural temporality, general markings can be found in the upper side of the page, as well as overall verbal indications (apply to all instruments of the ensemble). non smettere di accelerare
- For the individual temporality, a specific metric distribution and alignment (further explained below) has been purposefully written for each instrument of the ensemble.
- \_\_\_ " ca. \_\_ = For the spatial distribution, gestures with a relative length have been built. The value of each pitch, texture and/or effect within the indicated gesture is relative to the space and distribution it occupies inside the determined proportion ("chunk") of music.

# PERFORMANCE NOTES-II

# SILENCE

= Unless specifically indicated (i.e., eight-note silence), blank spaces indicate silence.

. The length of each silence depends on the proportional size of the segment in relationship to its contiguous sonic fragments in terms of size and structural and/or individual temporality, depending on the case.

# PITCH

Sections with indicated fixed pitch must be played as written.

The properties of the sections without indicated fixed pitch, the performer must choose a register and intervallic content for the gesture according to its

= Bracket with middle line and/or single line indicates approximate center/middle register/range of the instruments (Cymbals are the only exception as they use positioning in relationship to the line (center).

Chromatic succession is not to be played. three lines).

Alternate (balance) between accidentals in any order ( $\sharp, \natural, \flat$ ).

# DYNAMICS

• f < > = General changes and dynamic motions are mostly written with traditional verbal indications including crescendos and diminuendos.

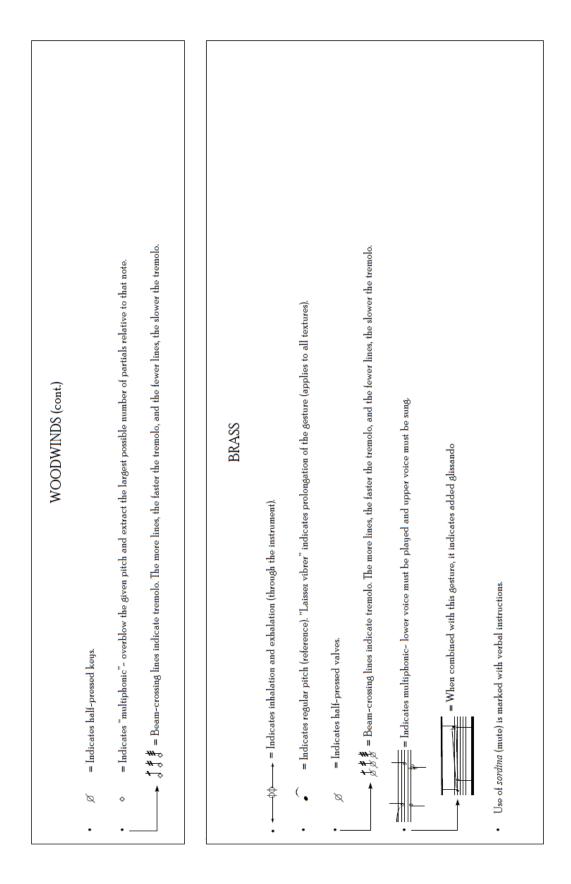
= "Strings have an extra staff above the regular line which indicates the position of the bow in the instrument.  $B = Bridge \ \overline{G} \ T = Tasto (for reference).$ 

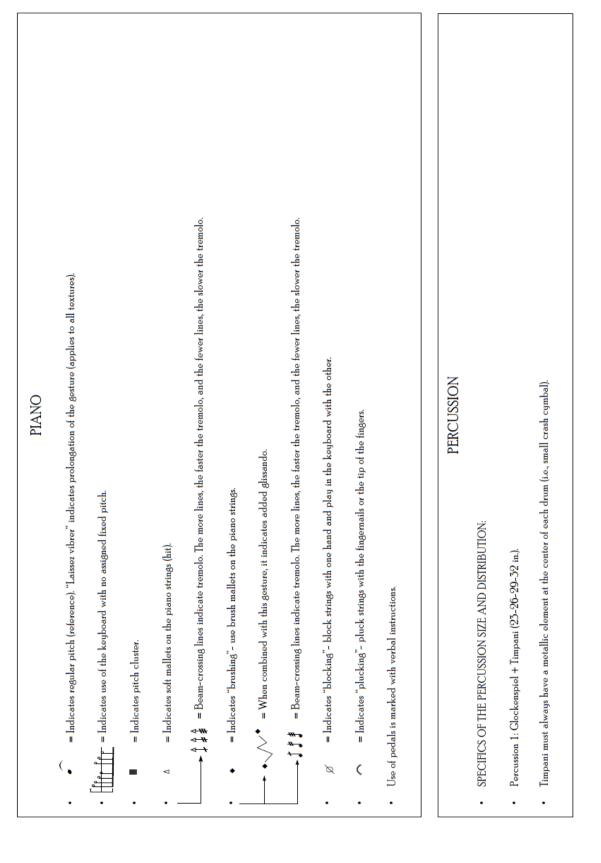
= Change in transparencies indicates dynamic transformation; the darker/thicker shadowing, the stronger/louder; and the lighter /thinner shadowing, the "weaker" softer.

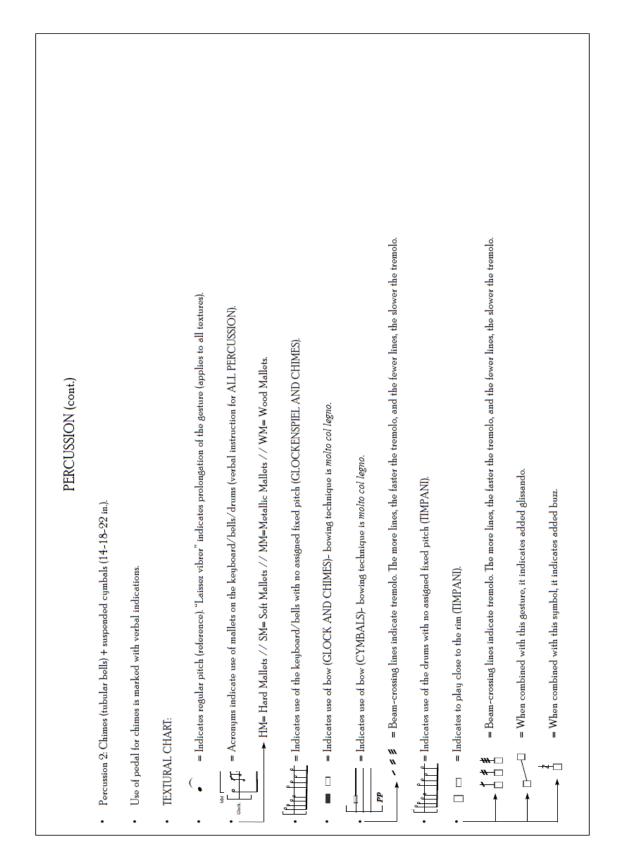
# PERFORMANCE NOTES TEXTURAL CHARTS

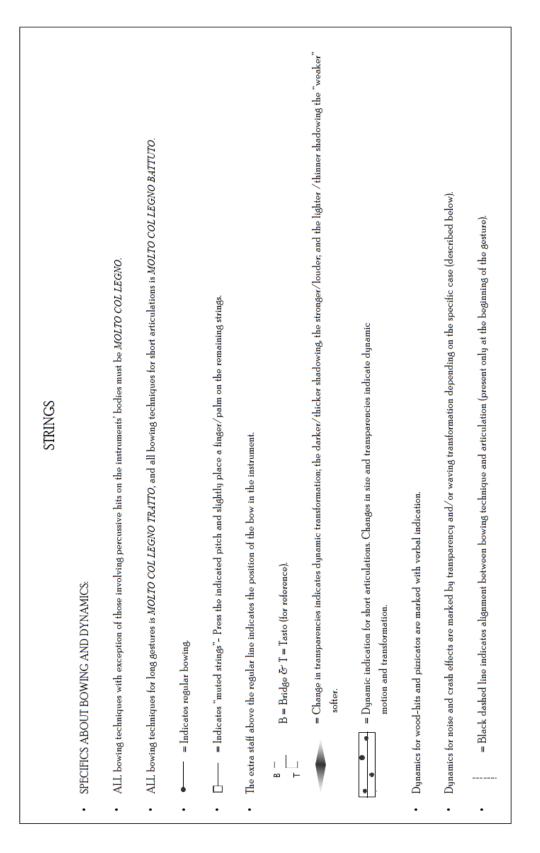
# ■ □ = Indicates buzz- vibrate the teeth against each other while vocalizing the given pitch or the chosen intervallic content. WOODWINDS • = Indicates regular pitch (reference). "Laissez vibrer" indicates prolongation of the gesture. VOICES = Indicates whisper- always making an "Oh!" sound with molto bocca chiusa. = Indicates whistle- always making an "Oo!" sound with molto bocca chiusa. =Indicates tongue clicking against teeth and upper cavity of the mouth. = When combined with this gesture, it indicates added glissando. $\neg \Diamond \Diamond \longrightarrow = Indicates inhalation and exhalation (through the instrument).$ = Indicates inhalation and exhalation. = Indicates flutter tongue. = Indicates key clicking. = Indicates slap tongue. + Ø

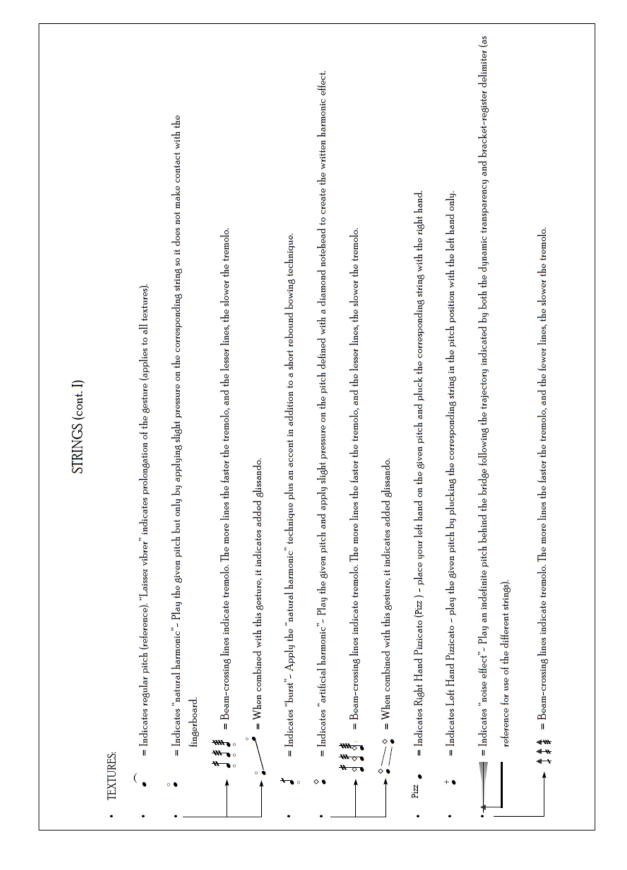
🏅 🗦 = Beam-crossing lines indicate tremolo. The more lines, the faster the tremolo, and the fewer lines, the slower the tremolo.

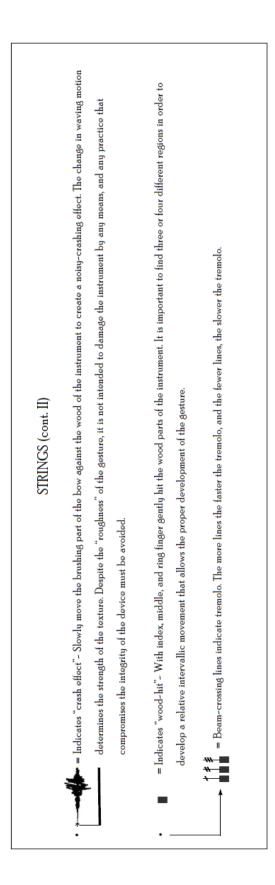


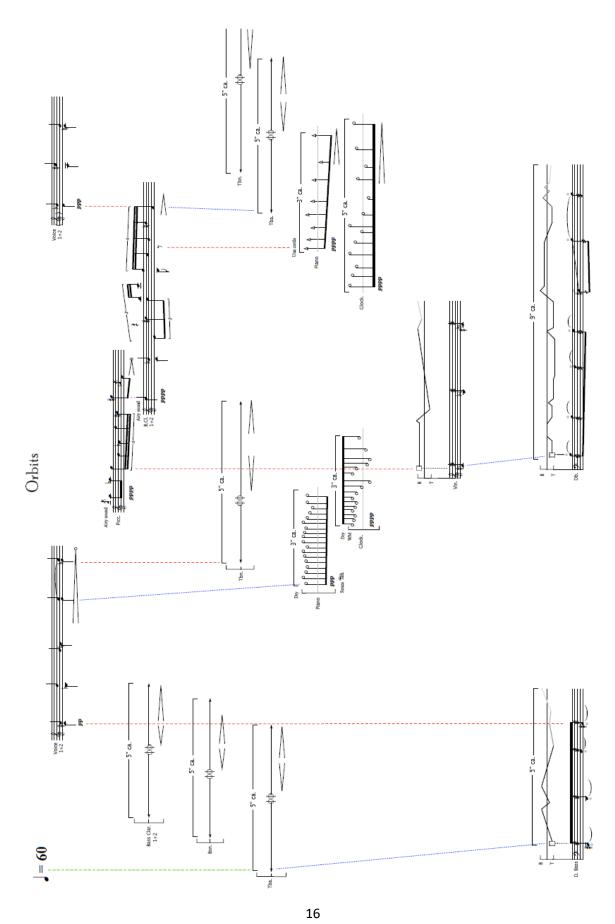




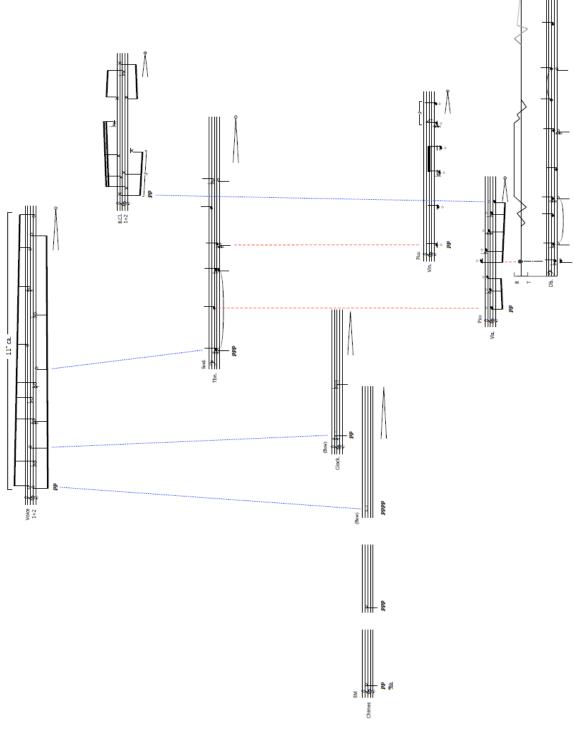




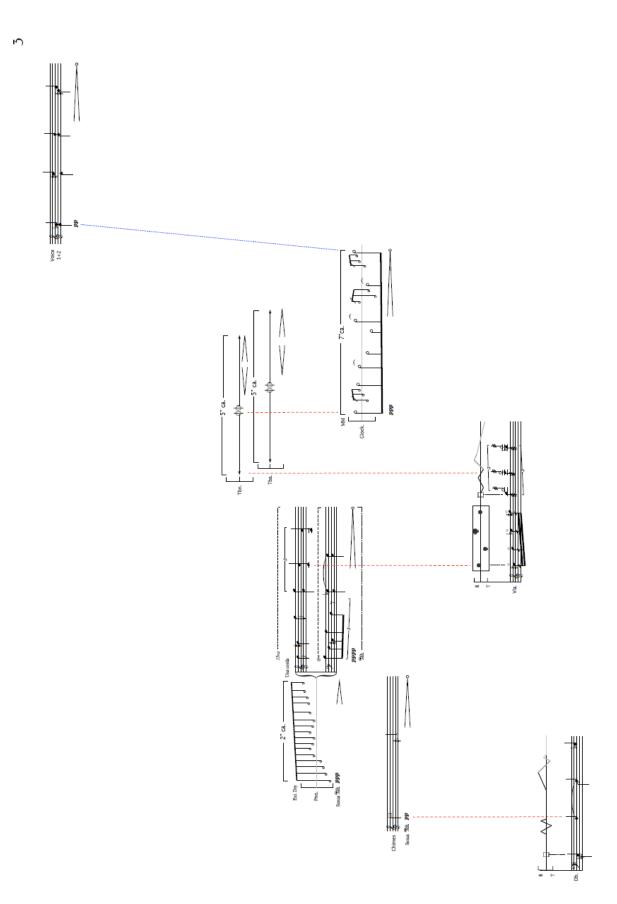


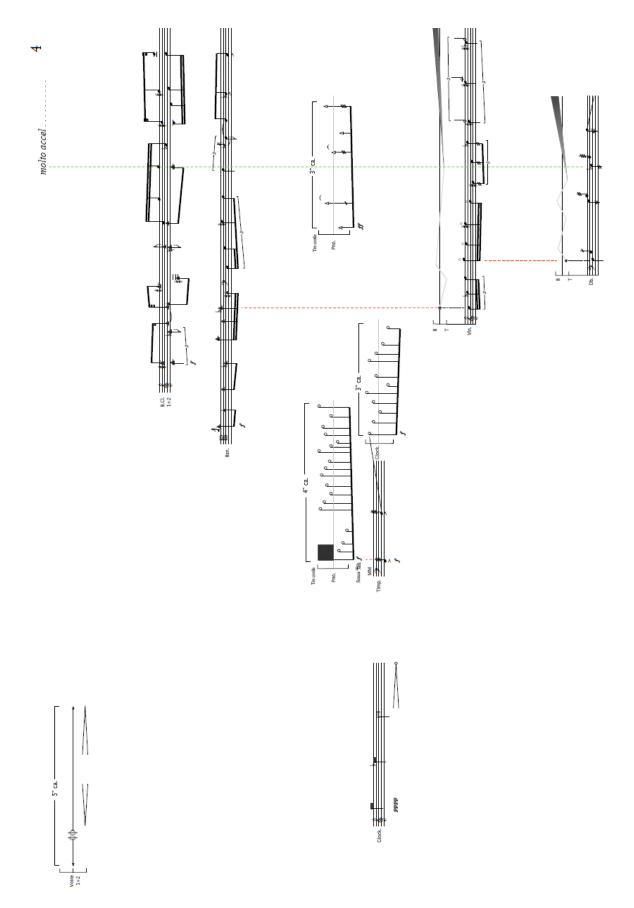




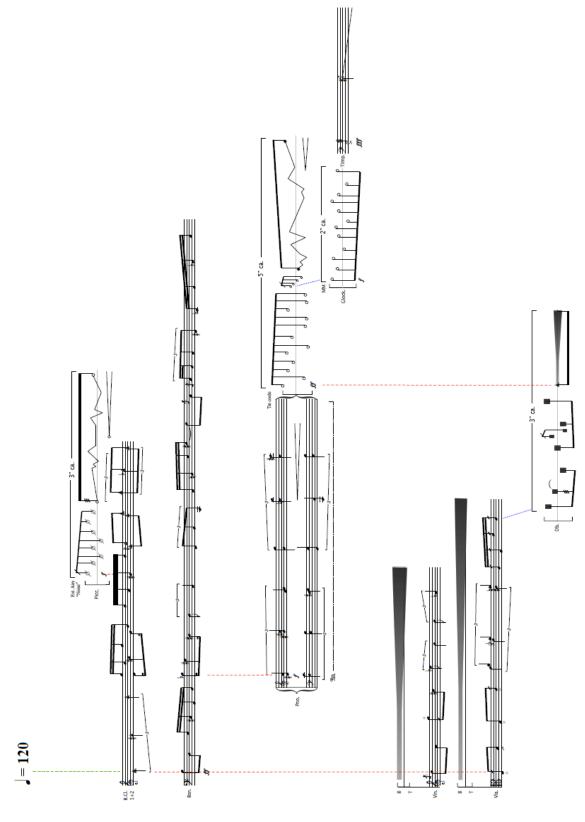


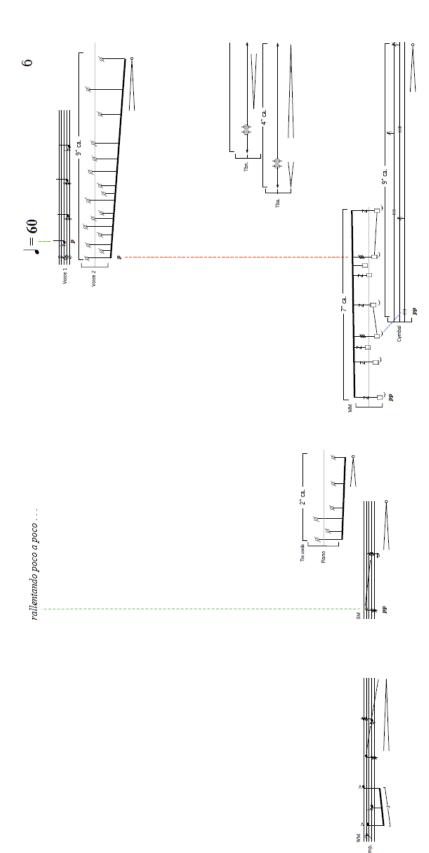


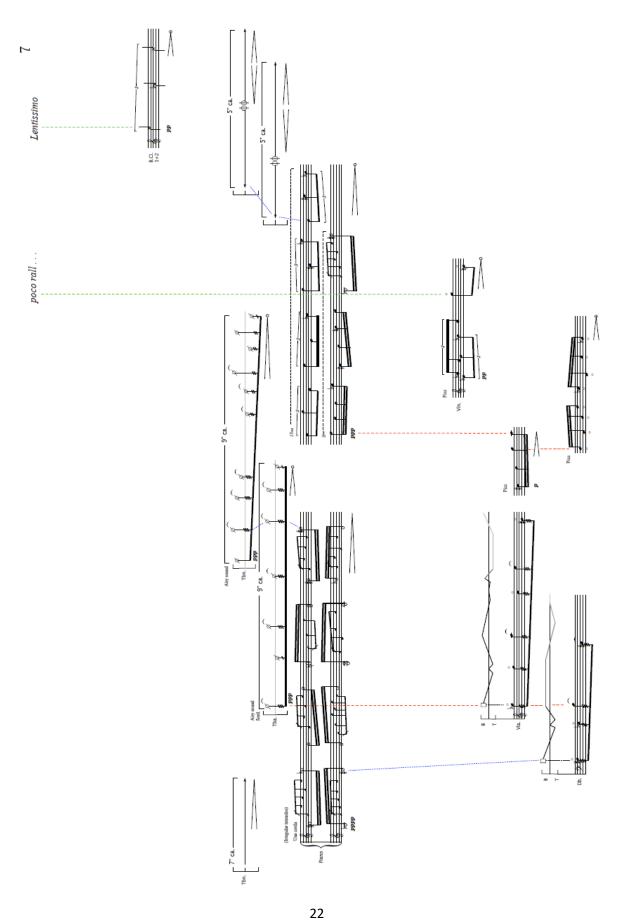


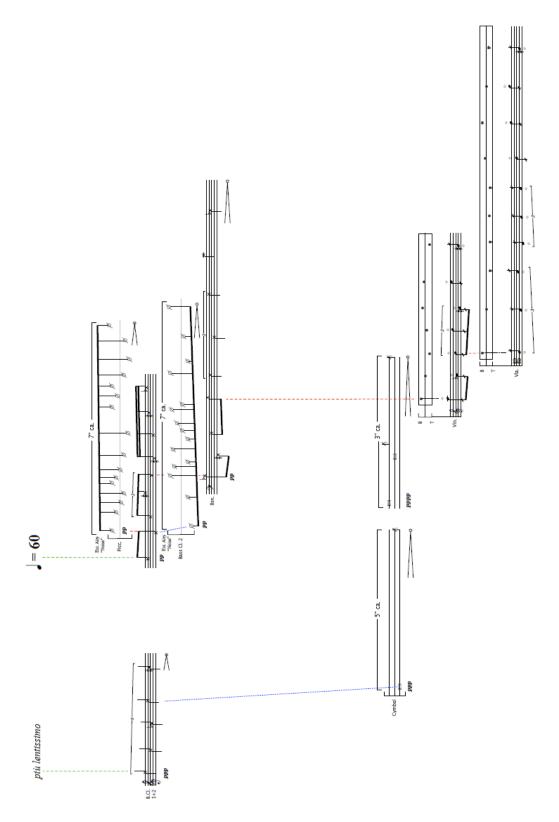


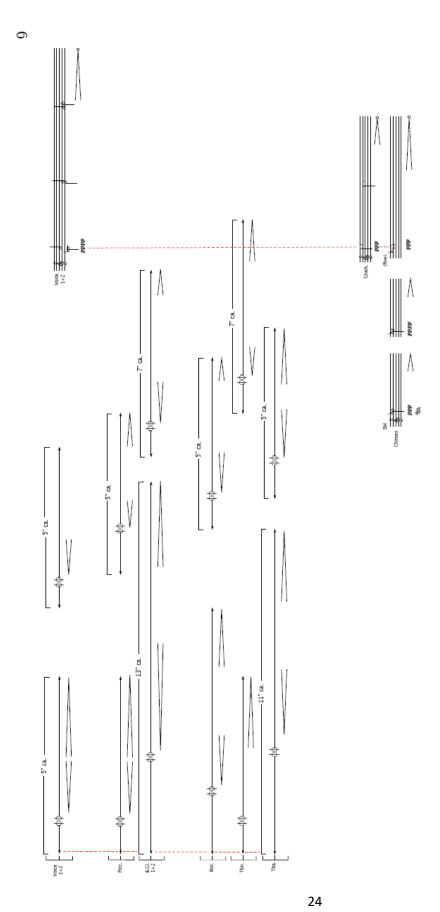


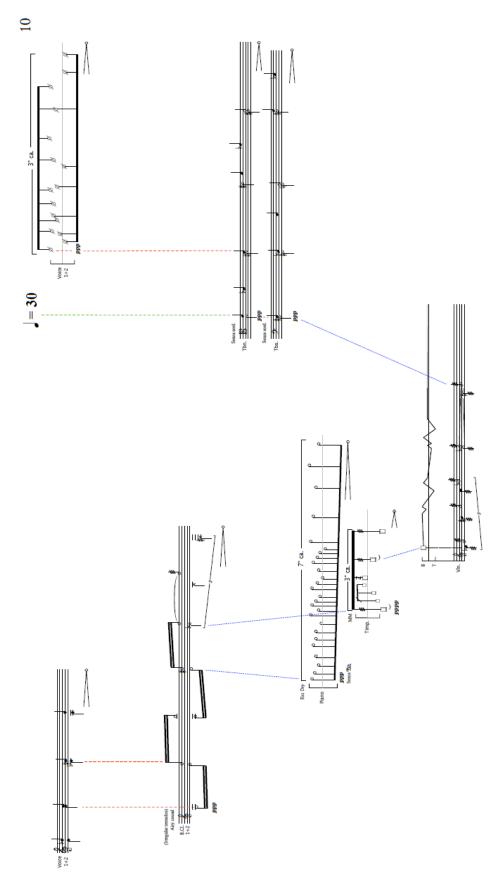




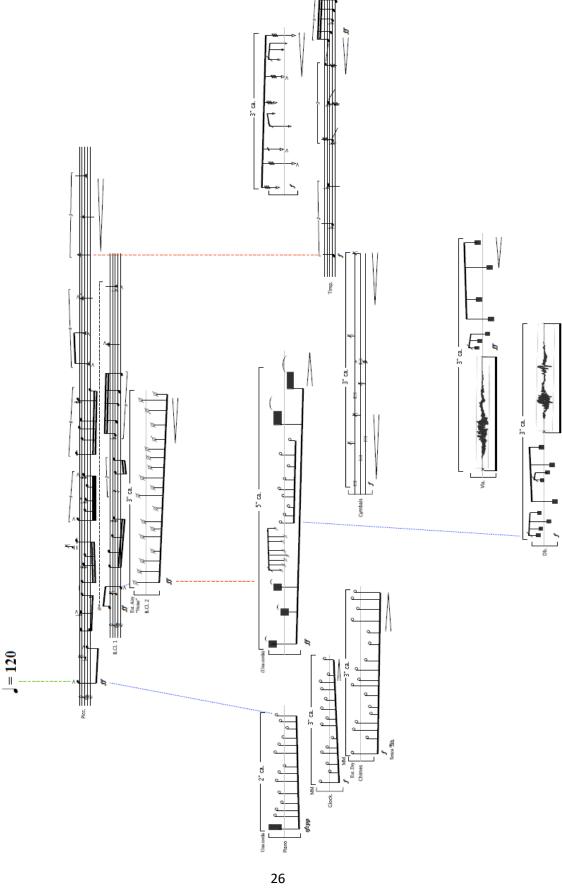


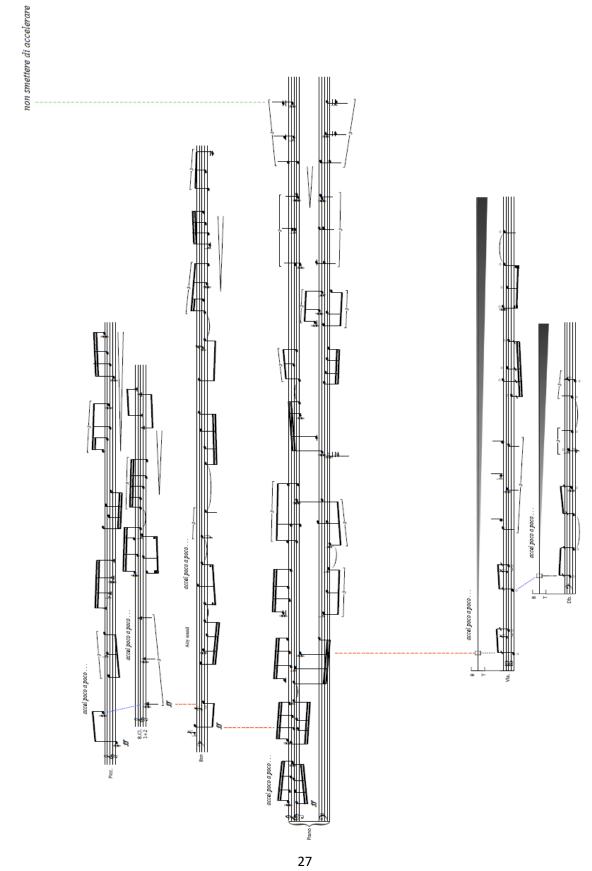


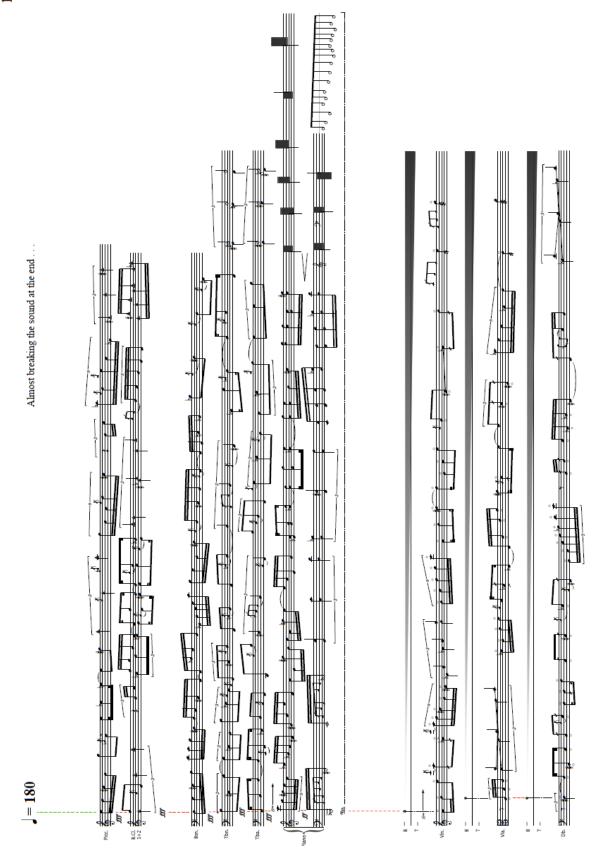


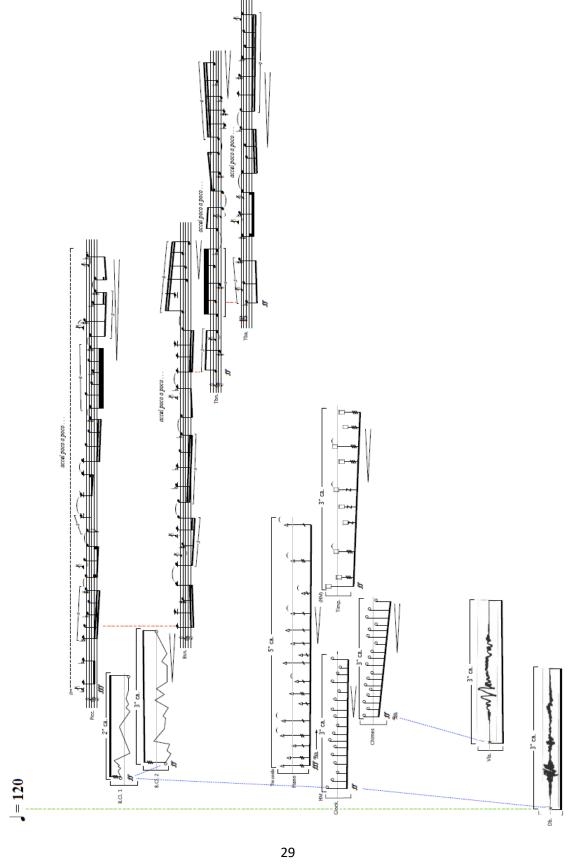


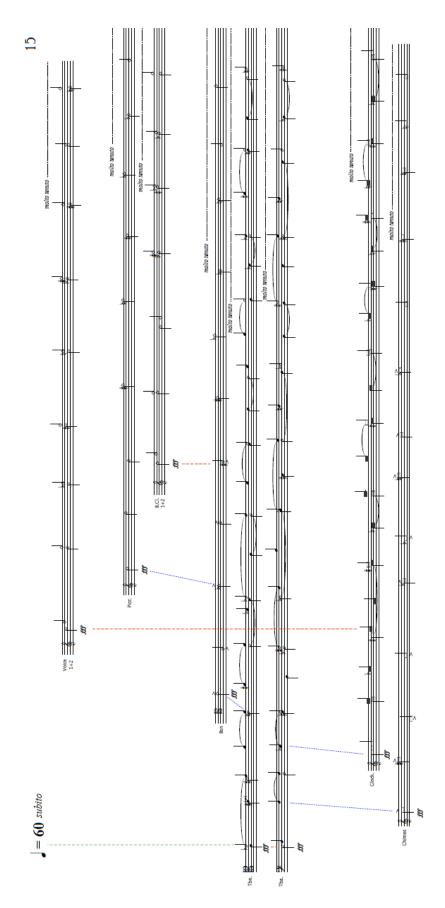


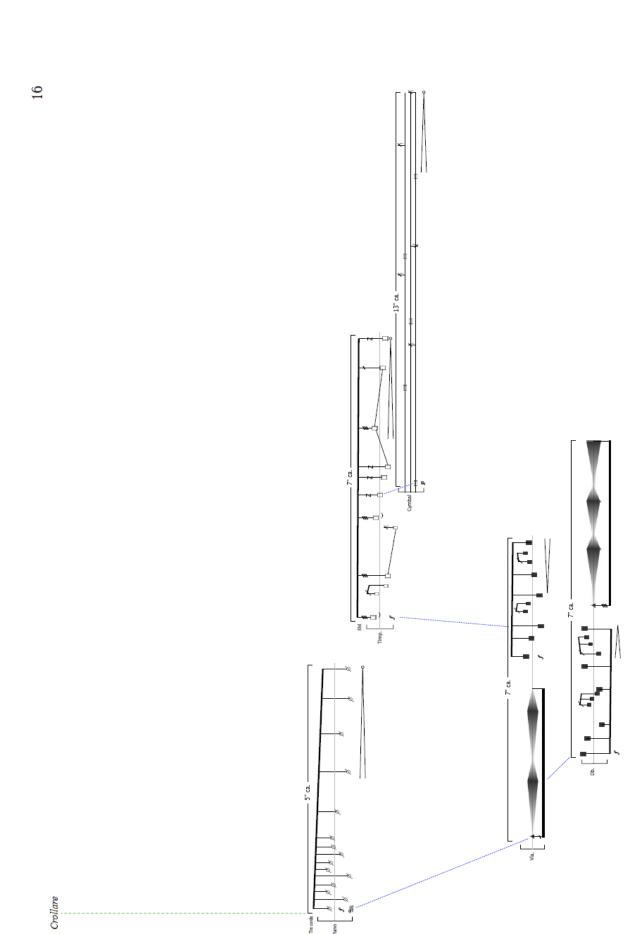


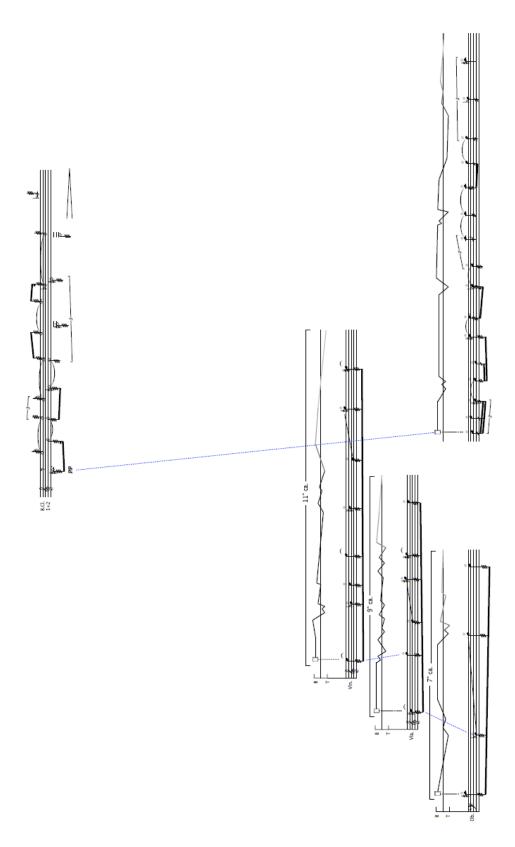


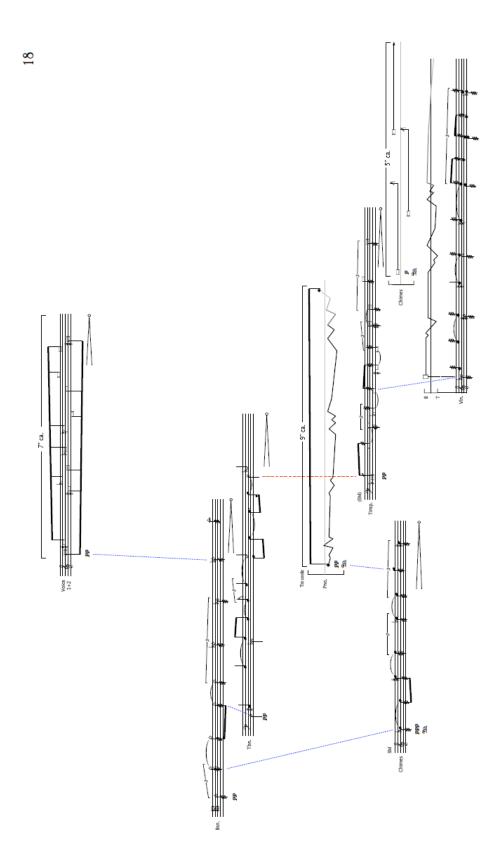


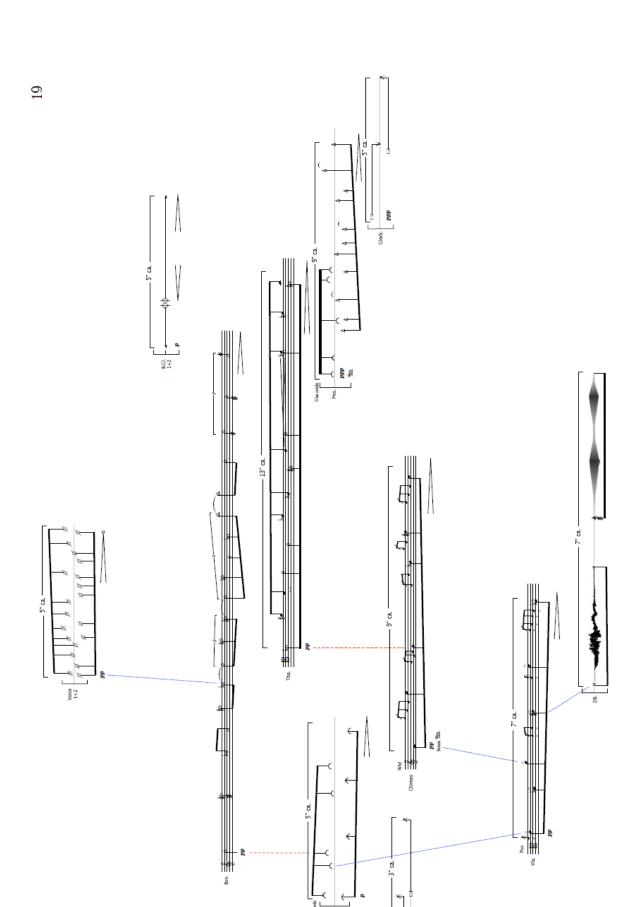


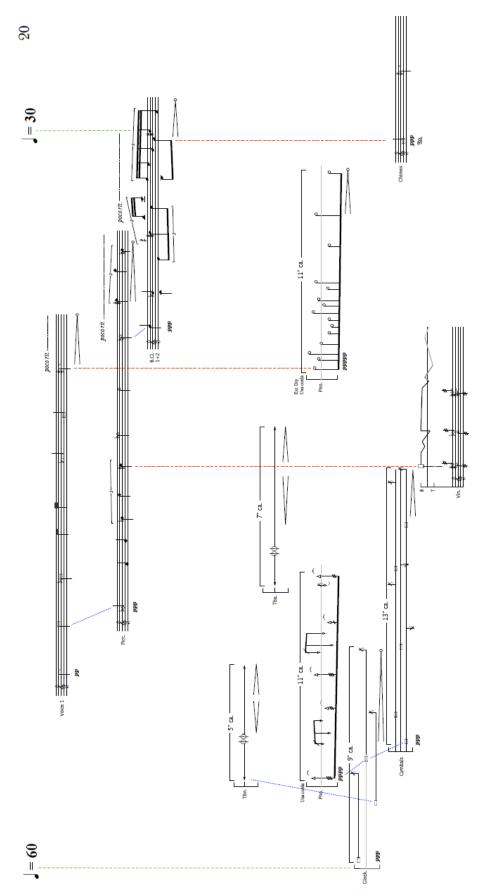


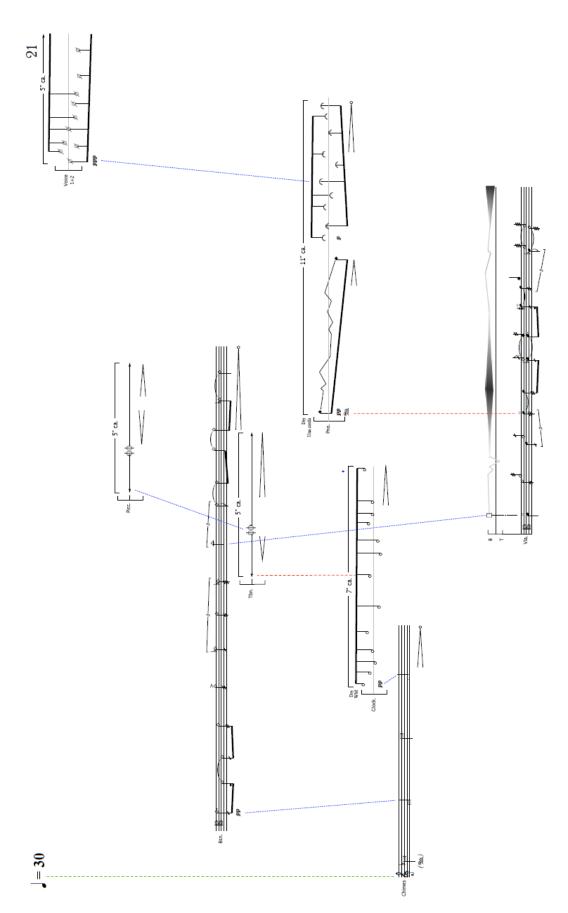


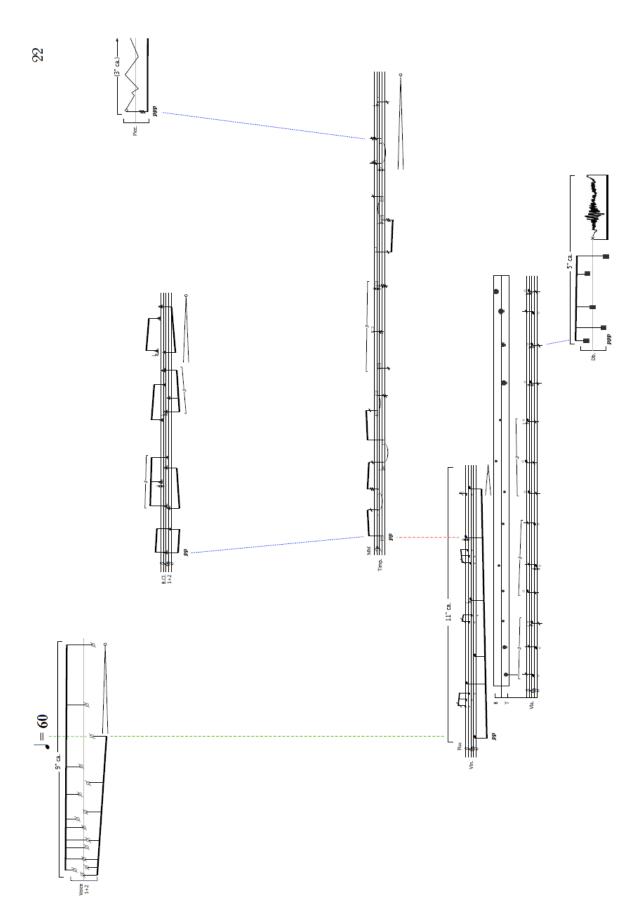




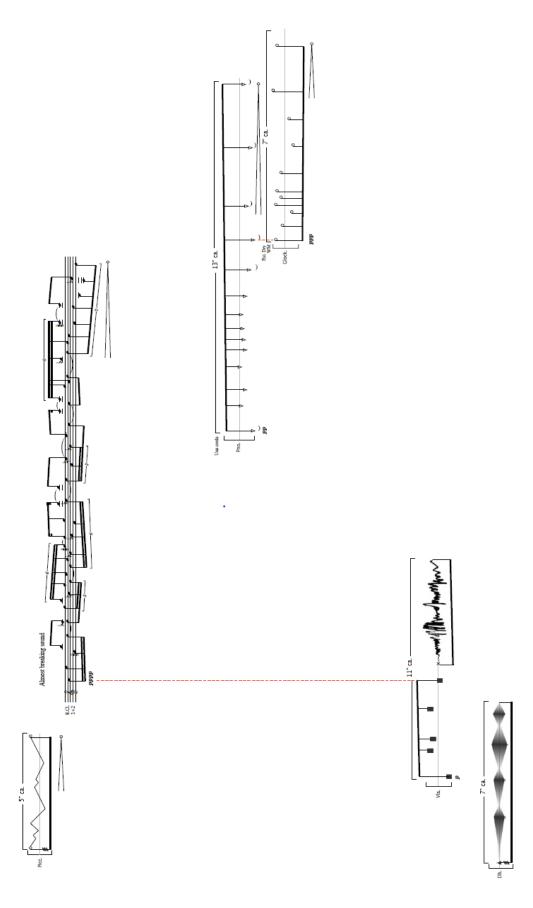




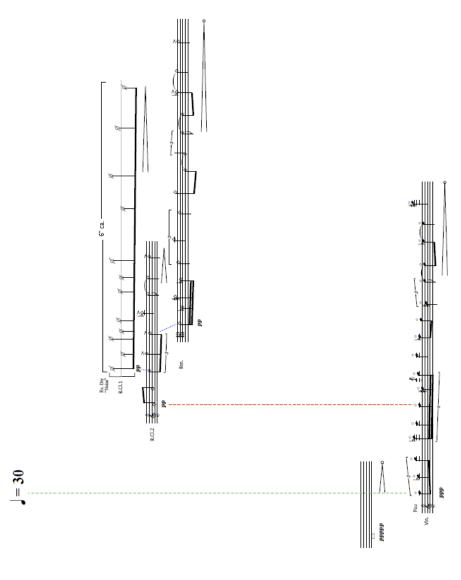






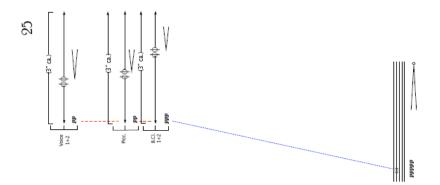






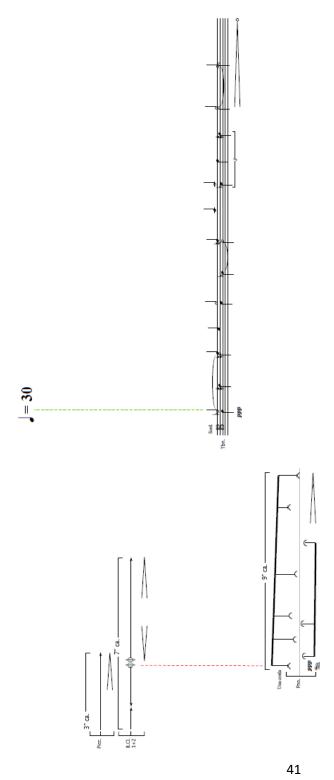






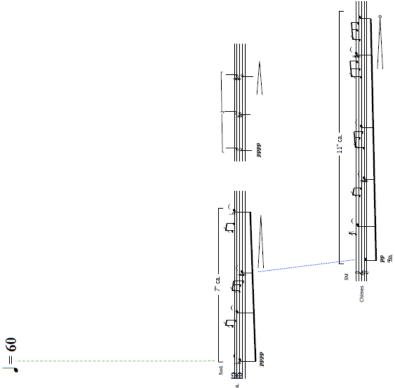




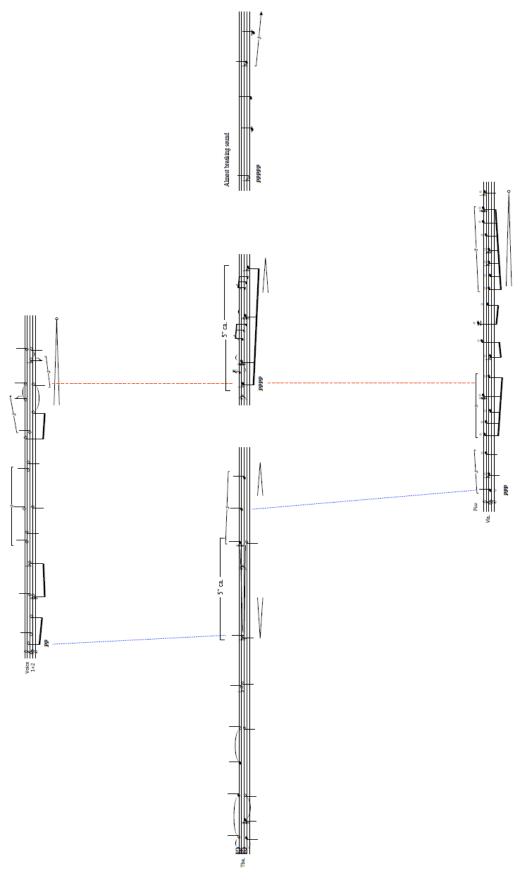


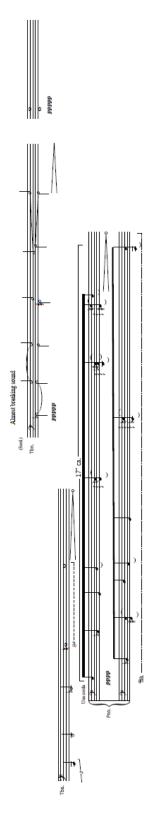




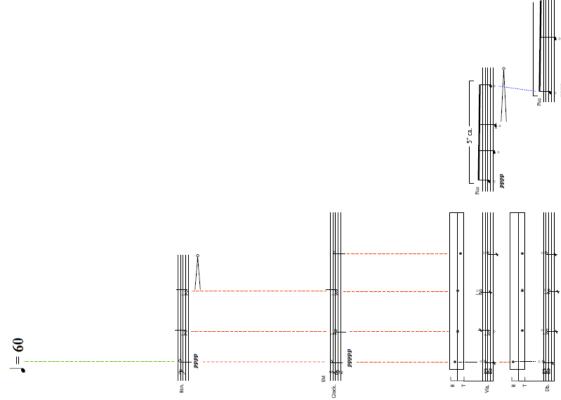


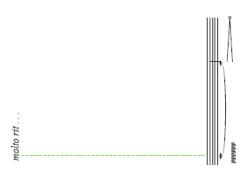




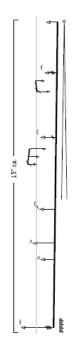


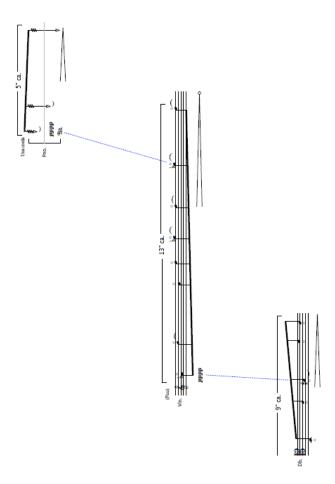




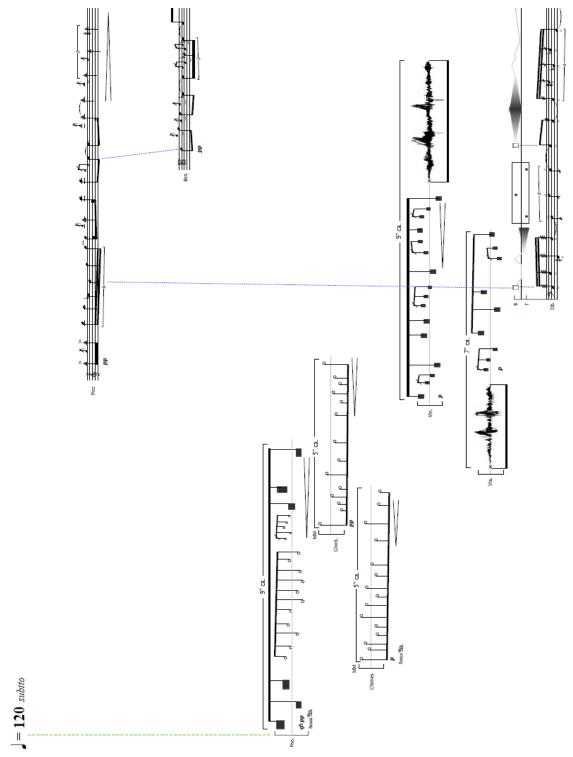


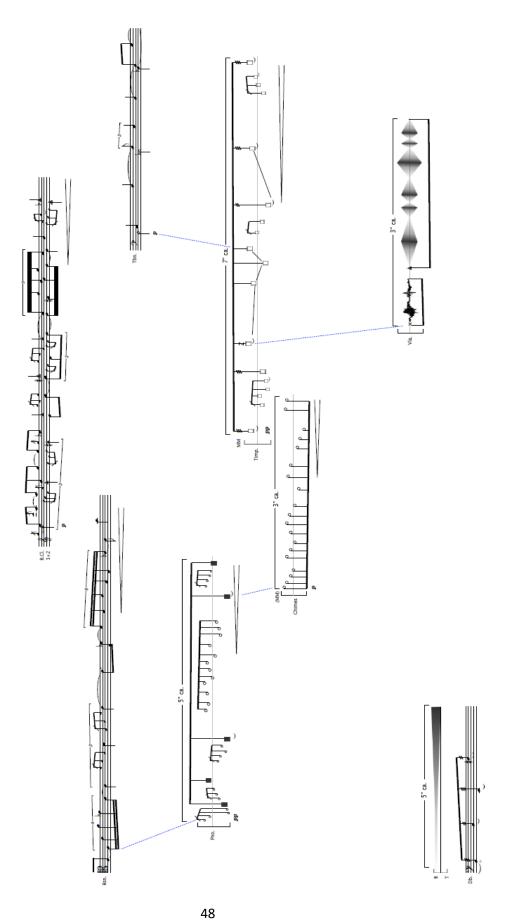


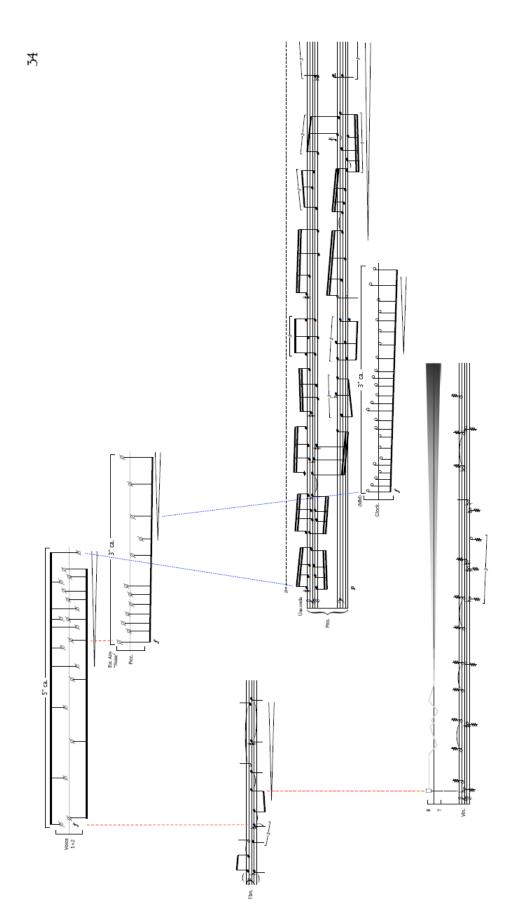


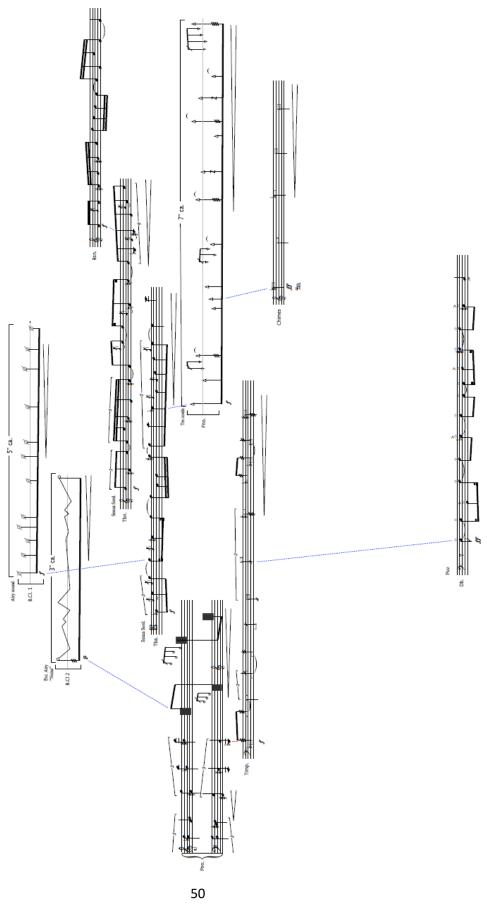


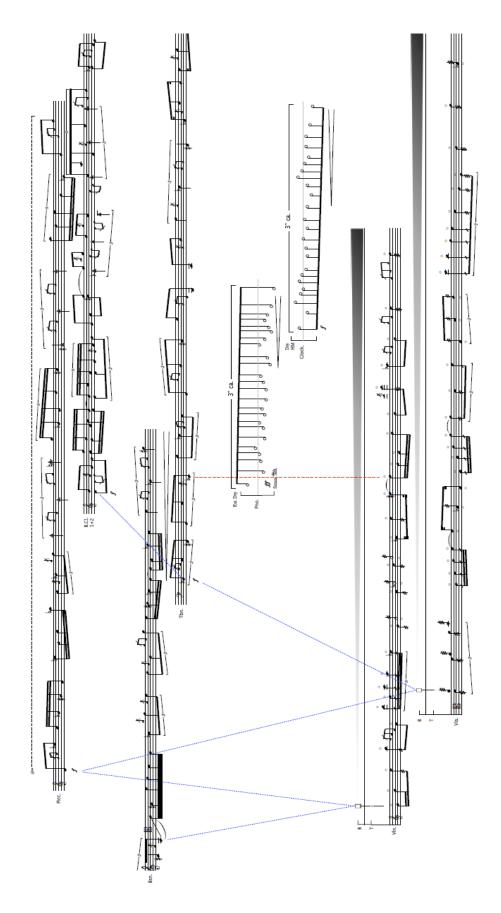


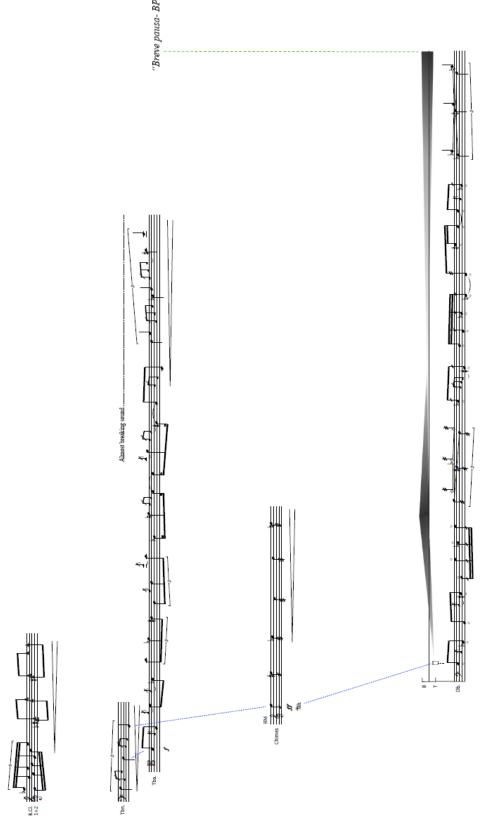


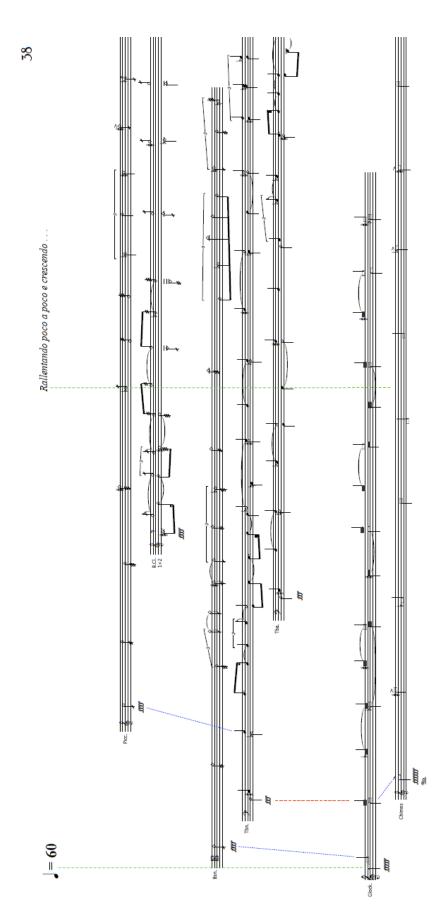


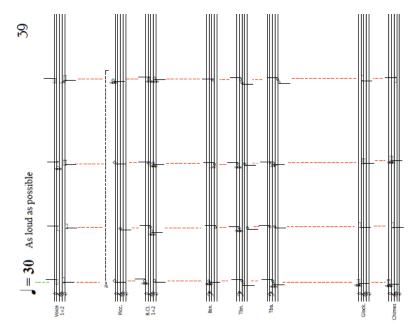


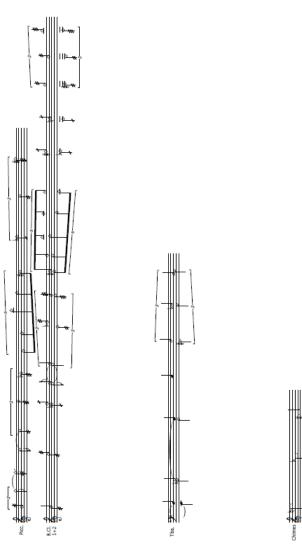


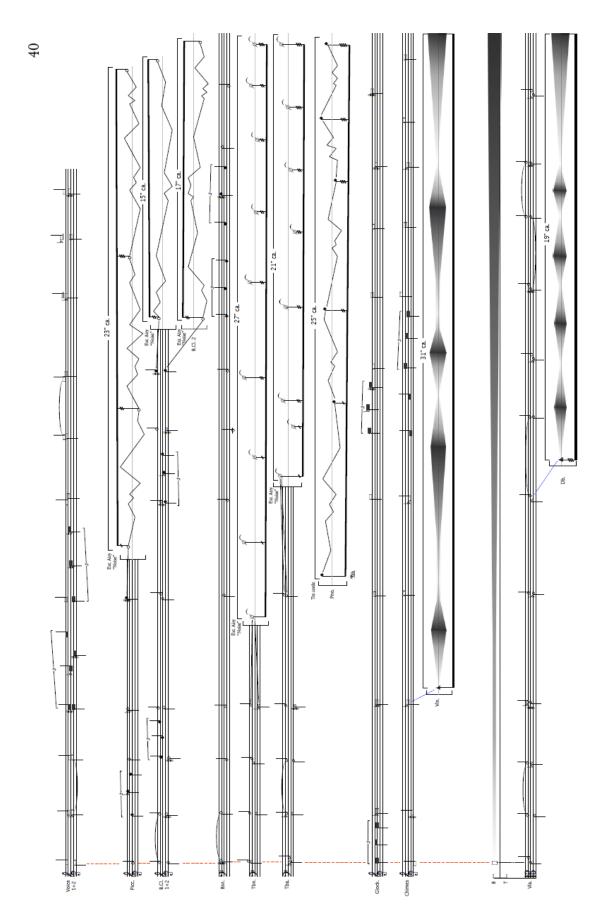


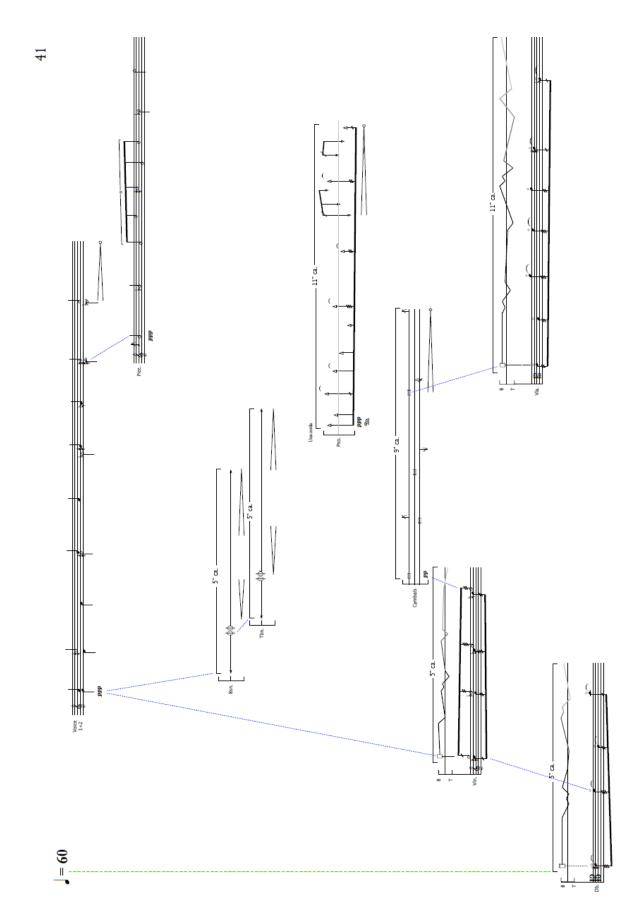


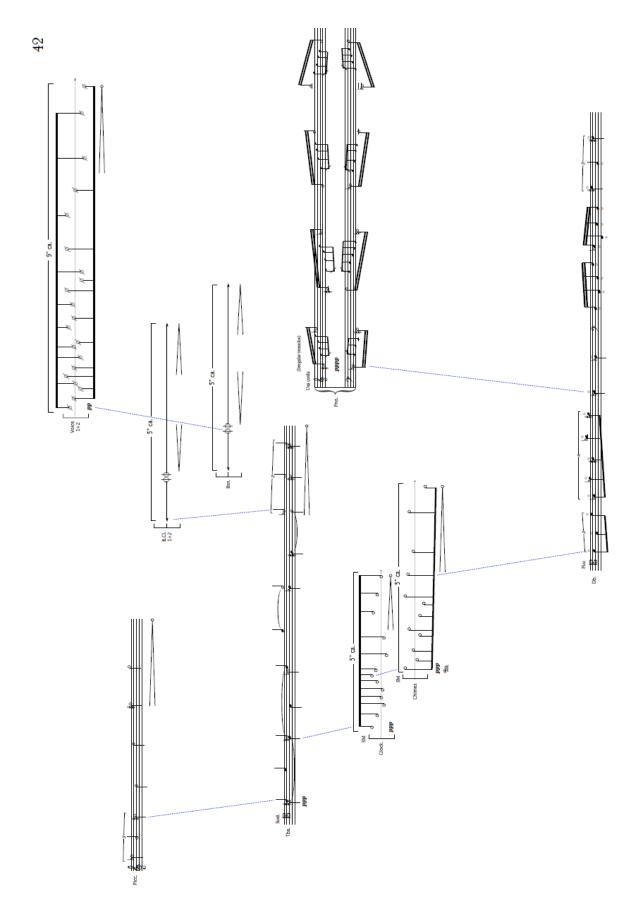


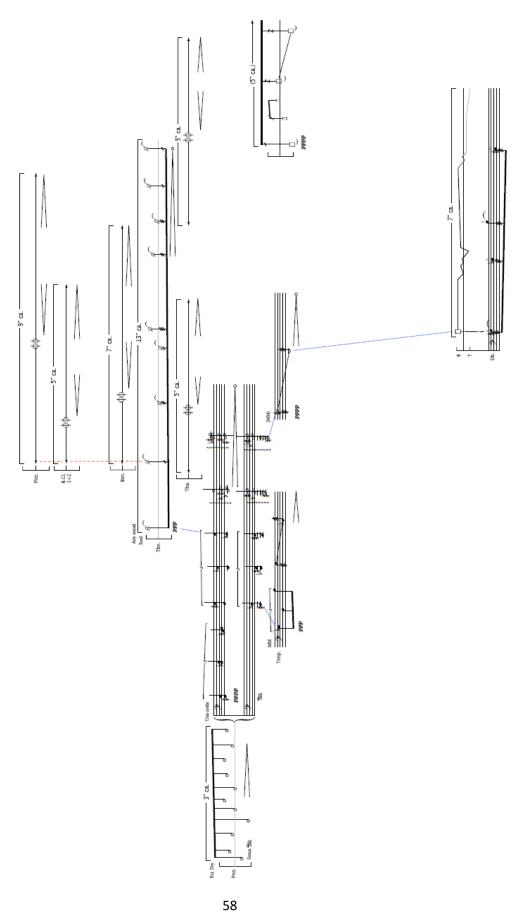


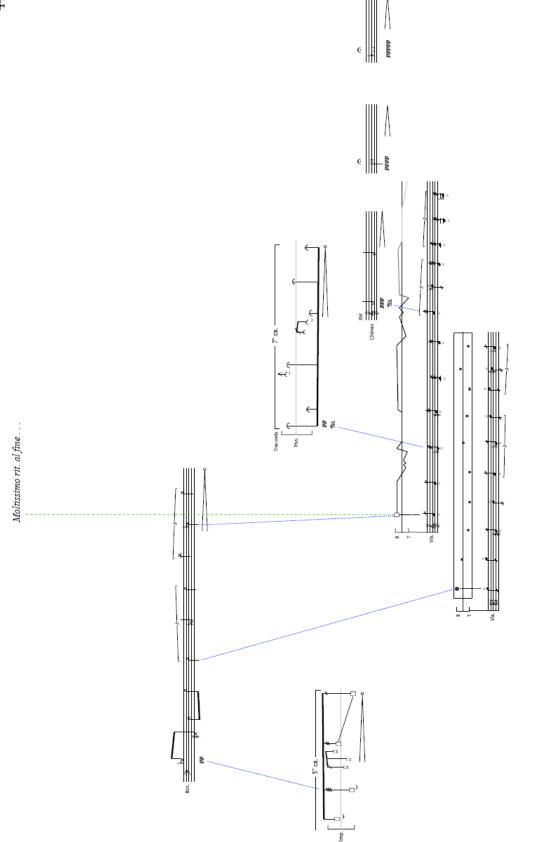












### **CHAPTER 2- Work for Chamber Ensemble**

### Centaurus (2021) - For Amplified Variable Ensemble from 2 to 8 Performers

**Possible Instrumentation:** 2 to 8 performers inside a piano's acoustic box- Alto Flute, English Horn, Clarinet in A, Soprano Saxophone, Trumpet in C, Flugelhorn, Trombone, Bass Trombone.

This piece was developed by using the Centaurus constellation<sup>7</sup> configuration as its main structural principle. First, I present a tridimensional projection in a two-dimensional plane (axonometric projection)<sup>8</sup> as a substitute for the traditional staff. The Axonometric Projection (3D- "staff") defines the relationships between gestures and isolated elements in terms of length, duration, movement, dynamics, relative register, and orientation. The Axonometric Projection matrix does not possess a specific facet that faces upward, hence allowing multiple orientations (see **Figure 2**). It is critical to understand the structural design of the piece from a four-dimensional perspective (two dimensions for projection, one dimension for space, one dimension for time), as it reflects the multi-perspective positioning of each presented gesture as mentioned above.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Google, Centaurus Constellation, Constellation Guide.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Google, Definitions for Axonometric Projection.

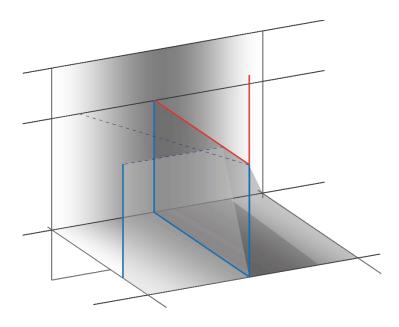


Figure 2- Axonometric Projection Matrix

Second, all the included writing techniques, work in favor of the interacting dimensions of the events as they add depth, movement, and temporality to the music. In this sense, gesture-clusters within the composition include movement, emphasis, and trajectory in a single space-occurrence. The mentioned gestures are combined with proportional distances to convert this spatial principle into a musical one. Also, I added dynamic transformations inside each individual moment, in order to add depth into the otherwise unidimensional illustration. The gestural content of this piece was carefully chosen to represent a spherical model with non-given standpoint (multiple options) in as many musical dimensions as possible, starting with relative rhythmic configuration, dynamics, proportional durations, etcetera, as mentioned above. This last multi-dimensional consideration aims to aesthetically represent the relative positioning of objects in space, where there is not up or down, and everything can be seen from any angle. This idea is aesthetically presented in the draft as it aims to allow multiple organizational configurations and performing results without losing the coherence of the musical discourse.

### **CENTAURUS**

For Amplified Mixed Ensemble

of Variable Nature

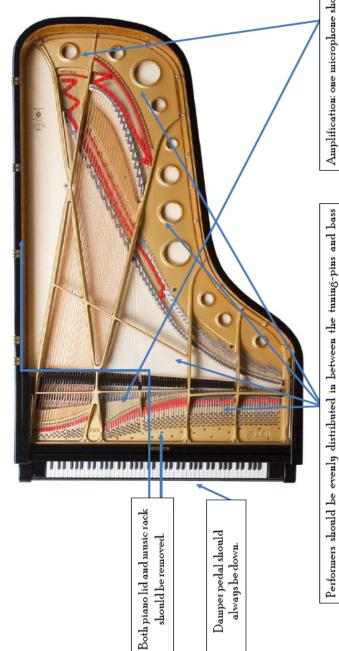
 ${\scriptscriptstyle \sim}2$  to 8 Performers in any Combination ${\scriptscriptstyle \sim}$ 

(17' approx.)

Eduardo Orea

2022

## INSTRUMENTAL SETUP AND AMPLIFICATION



Amplification: one microphone should be placed close to the bass bridge and another microphone close to the treble bridge. In addition, 2 speakers should be placed on the stage, preferably one at each side of the performing space.

• 2 performers: 1- treble strings, 2- plate region.

bridge area of the piano as follows:

- 3 performers: 1- treble strings, 2- plate region, 3- bass bridge.
- 4 performers: 1- tuning pins, 2- treble strings, 3- plate region, 4- bass bridge.
- From 5 to 8 performers: distribute in such a way that all instruments of the ensemble point towards the piano's acoustic box.

always be down.

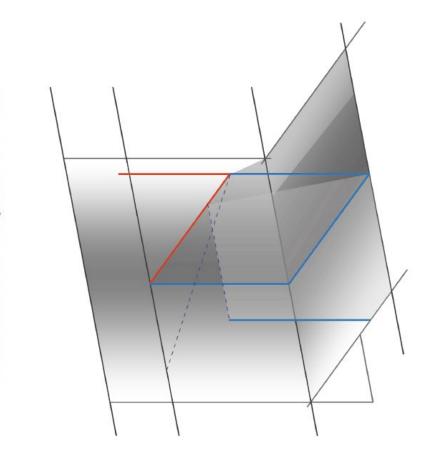
### CENTAURUS

# List of possible Instruments for the Ensemble

- Alto Flute
   English Horn
   Clarinet in A
   Soprano Saxophone
   Trumpet in C
   Flugelhorn
   Trombone
   Bass Trombone

as long as there are at least two, but no more than eight performers. \*Note: there can be one or more instruments of the same type

CENTAURUS Axonometric Projection Matrix



## CENTAURUS

## Performance Notes

### GENERAL

- With exception of the first and last page (marked with an asterisk), each performer should assign a random order to the different pages of the score.
- All pages of the score can be read from any orientation (e.g., vertical, horizontal, diagonal, etc.).
- The duration of each page should be circa 35 seconds. The performer should play all gestures in the page during this time frame before continuing to the next page.

### **PROJECTION**

- The Axonometric Projection (3D, "staff") defines the relationships between gestures and isolated elements in terms of length, duration, movement, dynamics, relative register, and orientation.
- The Axonometric Projection matrix does not possess a specific facet that faces upward, hence allowing multiple orientations.

## Performance Notes ~ II

# ORIENTATION AND TEMPORALITY

- Gestures can be played in any direction (e.g., right-left, up-down, etc.) independently of the chosen orientation.
- Full gestures are linked by dotted lines and should be played in their entirety (full trajectory) before the performer continues onto the next gesture.
- Isolated elements should be played by relationships of proximity (grouping).
- Temporality is relative to the number of elements in a page. The more elements, the faster the relative tempo, and the fewer elements the slower the relative tempo.
- The size of each element represents its relative length in comparison to contiguous gestures. Length is determined by the relationship between the number and size of elements present in a page, as well as an approximate 35" duration for each page.

# Performance Notes ~ III

#### REGISTER

- > The relative register of gestures will depend on the chosen orientation:
- Vertical: upper side-high register; middle-middle register; lower side-low register.
- Horizontal: upper side high register; middle- middle register; lower side-low register.
- Diagonal: left side-high register; middle-middle register; right side-low register.

#### PITCH

- There is no indicated fixed pitch; the performer should choose an intervallic relationship according to the positioning of the gestures within the selected projection orientation.
- Chromatic succession is not to be played.
- . Alternate between accidentals in any order.
- The size of each symbol represents its relative length in comparison to contiguous gestures.

# Performance Notes ~ IV

#### TEXTI RE

Each symbol represents a specific texture. Indications for how each instrumental family should play any given symbol are given in the Textural Chart below.

### DYNAMICS

Changes in transparencies and depth (i.e., size of the element) define the dynamic transformations for the gestures. The smaller/thinner the element, the softer it sounds; the bigger/darker the element, the louder it sounds.

#### SILENCE

- Blank spaces define silent fragments.
- > The length of the silence will depend on the number of elements, different trajectories and relative temporality of the trajectory within the approximate 35" duration for each page.

### CENTAURUS

## Textural Chart

WOODWINDS (Alto Flute, English Horn, Clarinet in A, and Soprano Saxophone)

- > = Regular pitch.
- ► = Half-pressed keys with a relatively short attack.
- $X=K\mathrm{ey}\,\mathrm{clicks}\,(\mathrm{softly}\,\mathrm{blow}\,\mathrm{some}\,\mathrm{air}\,\mathrm{through}\,\mathrm{the}\,\mathrm{instrument}\,\mathrm{while}\,\mathrm{playing}\,\mathrm{the}\,\mathrm{key}\,\mathrm{clicks}).$ 
  - $\blacksquare$  = Granular: overpressure with relative short articulation.
- 🔳 🍱 = Indicates flutter tongue (FT). The more lines the faster the FT; the lesser lines, the slower the FT.
  - A = Indicates slap tongue.
- ightrightarrow = Overblown partial: choose a pitch according to the position of the element in the page and overblow the note to extract as many partials as possible using the throat. Changes in size and transparency of the unifying trajectory in between symbols (diamonds) indicate dynamic transformations.

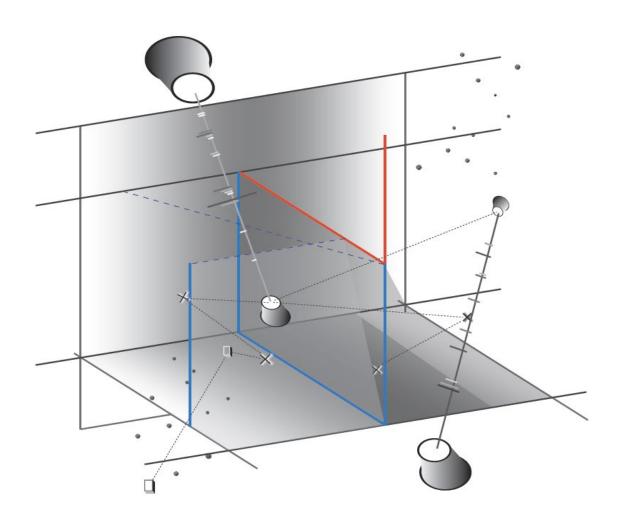
 $\rightarrow$  = Wind: blow approximately 80% air and 20% sound. A bigger circle indicates a lower starting relative pitch, and a smaller the circle indicates a higher departing relative pitch. Changes in wavelength saturation of the unifying trajectory in between symbols indicate dynamic transformations.

BRASS (Trumpet in C, Flugelhorn, Trombone, and Bass Trombone)

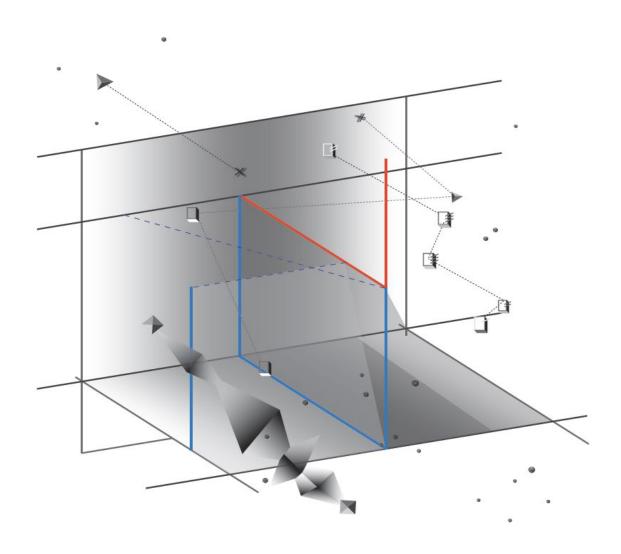
- Instruments must have a Harmon mute in the bell at all times.
- = Regular pitch.
- = Half-pressed valve with a relatively short attack.
- $\mathsf{X} = \mathit{Tap}$ : tap tongue against mouthpiece to create a percussive effect.
- $\Box = G_{ranular}$ : overpressure with relative short articulation. Trumpet/Flugelhorn should not use any valves for this effect (pitch change is controlled by mouth adjustment), and trombone(s) should play this effect using 1st position only.
- 🔳 🚅 = Indicates flutter tongue (FT). The more lines the faster the FT; the lesser lines, the slower the FT.
- A = Burst: short articulation lip multiphonic. This effect may be achieved by forcing a pitch into the instrument by bending the lip. The smaller the symbol in the page, the smaller the bending and vice versa.

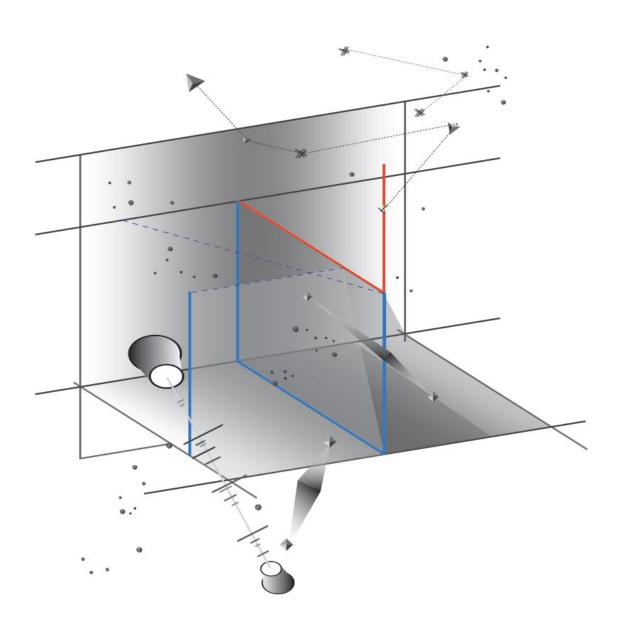
 Sung Multiphonic: choose a pitch according to the position of the element in the page and sing any interval above such pitch. Change in size and transparency of the unifying trajectory in between symbols (diamonds) indicate both intervallic and dynamic transformations. A bigger/darker trajectory denotes a larger sung interval with a stronger dynamic; and a thinner/lighter section of the trajectory indicates a smaller sung interval with a softer dynamic.

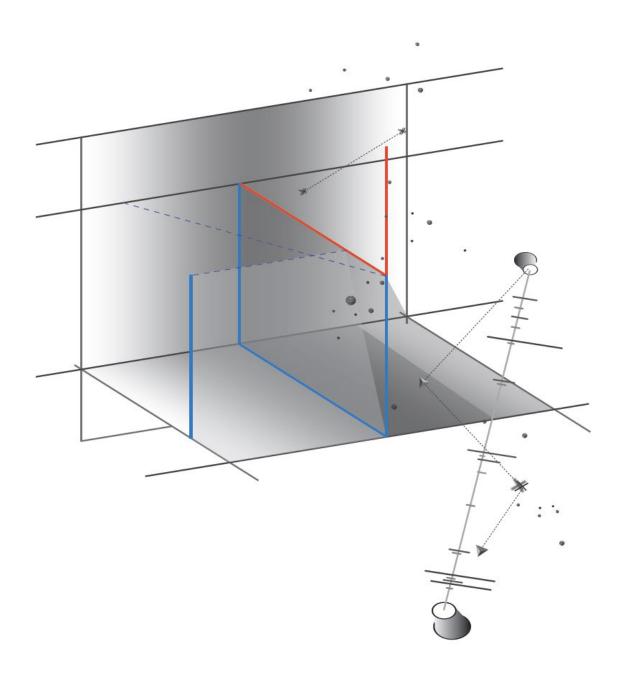
 $\bigcirc = Wind$ : blow approximately 80% air and 20% sound. A bigger circle indicates a lower starting relative pitch, and a smaller circle indicates a higher departing relative pitch. Changes in wavelength saturation of the unifying trajectory in between symbols indicate dynamic transformations, air pressure and vibrato. A darker/thicker wavelength denotes a stronger dynamic and air pressure, as well as a more present vibrato. A lighter/thinner section of the wavelength indicates a softer dynamic and air pressure, as well as a less present vibrato.

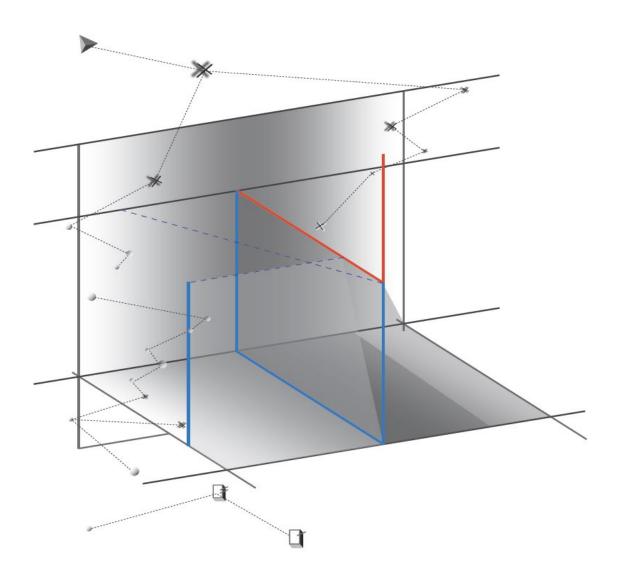


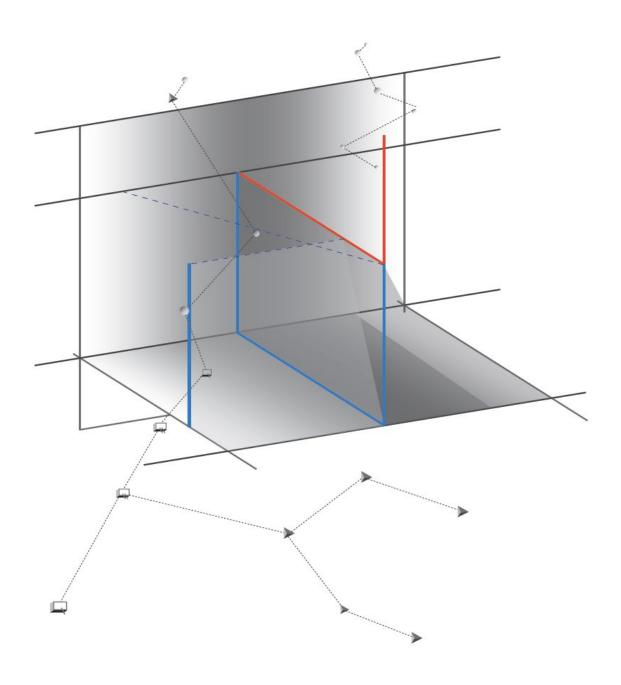


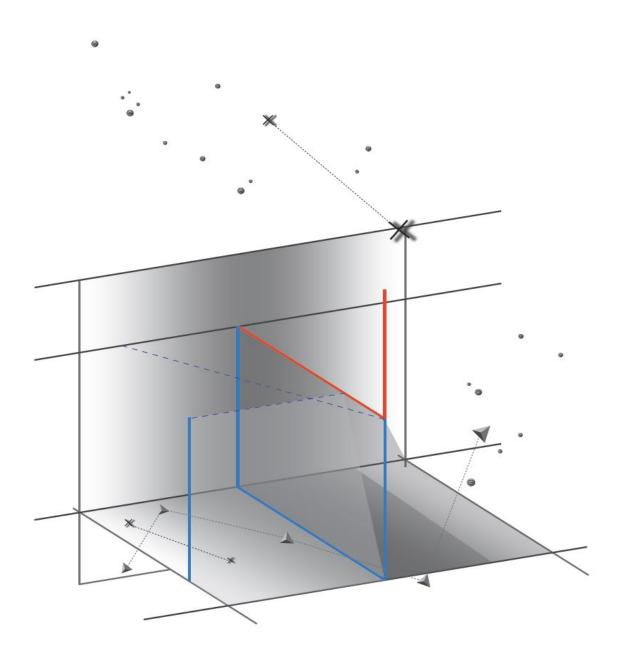


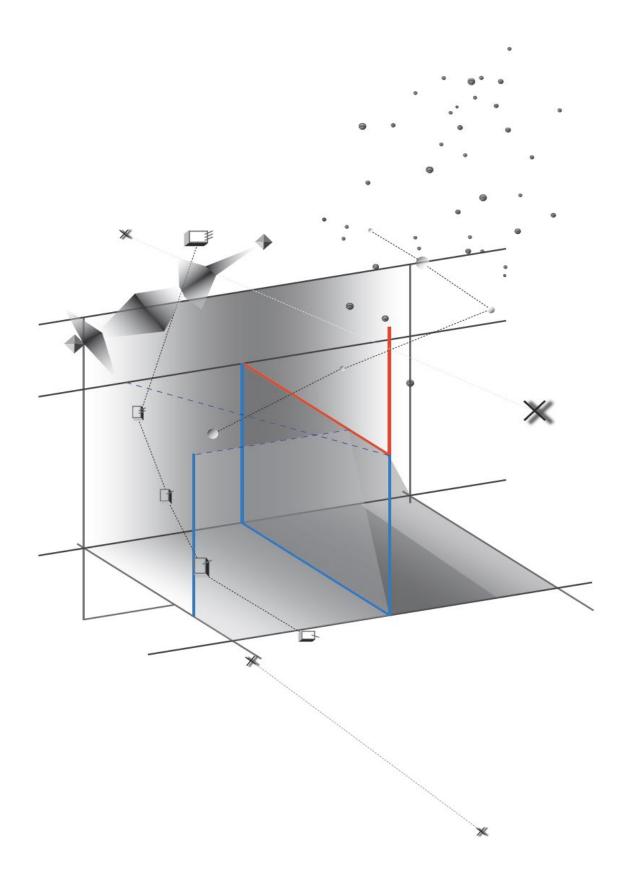


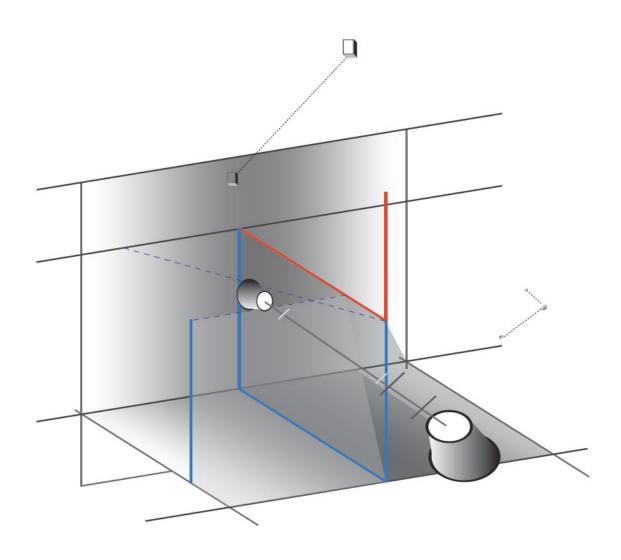


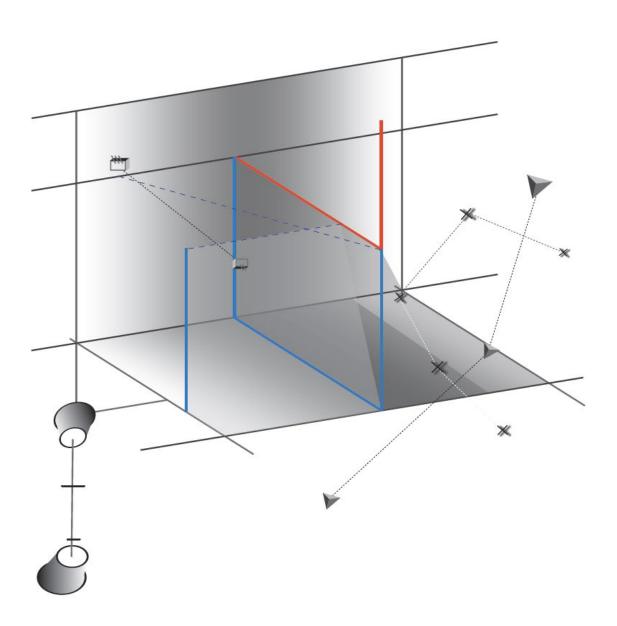


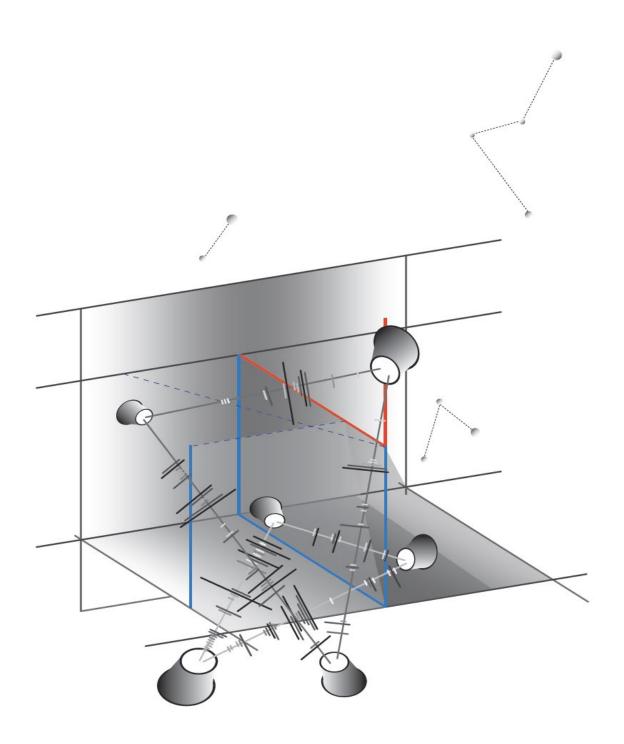


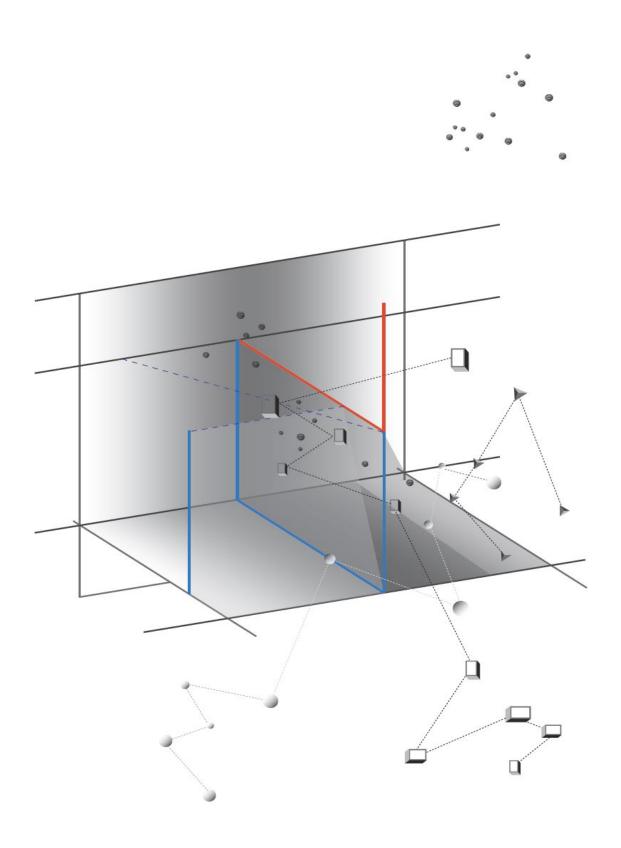


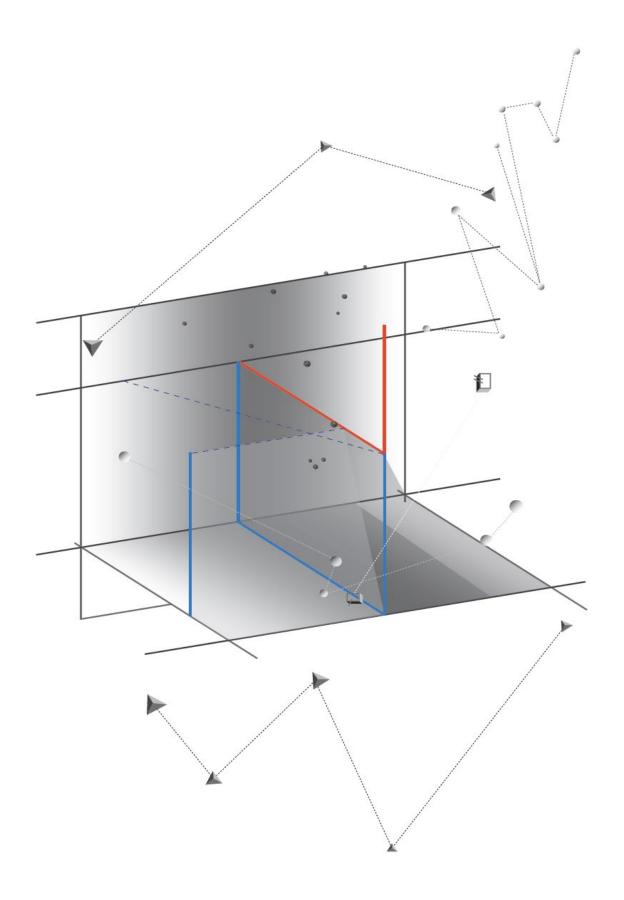


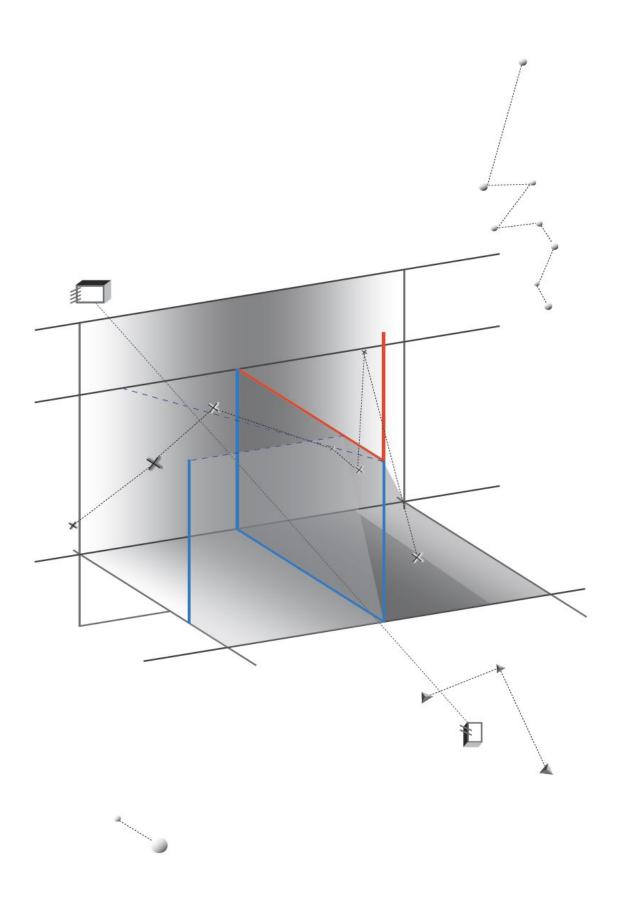


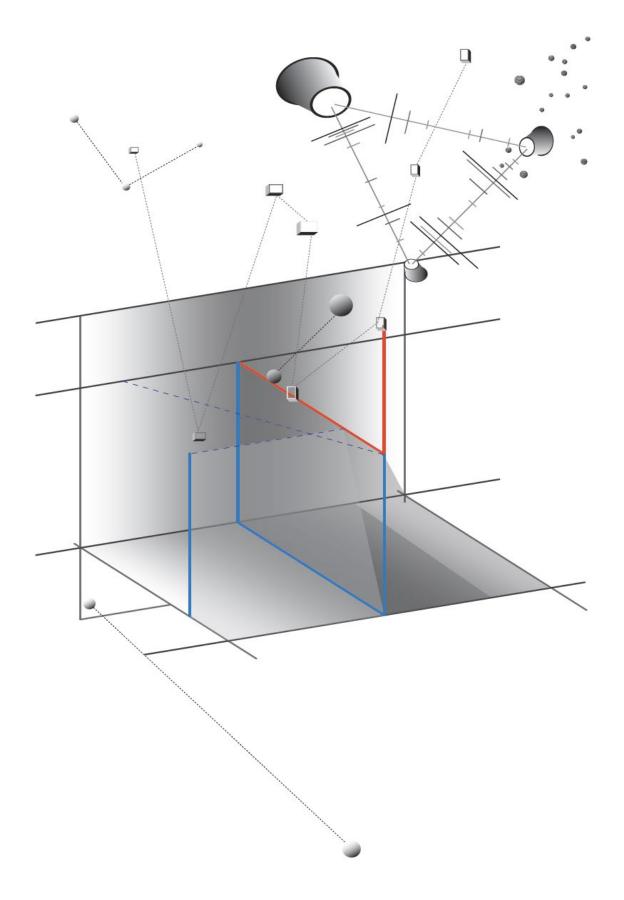


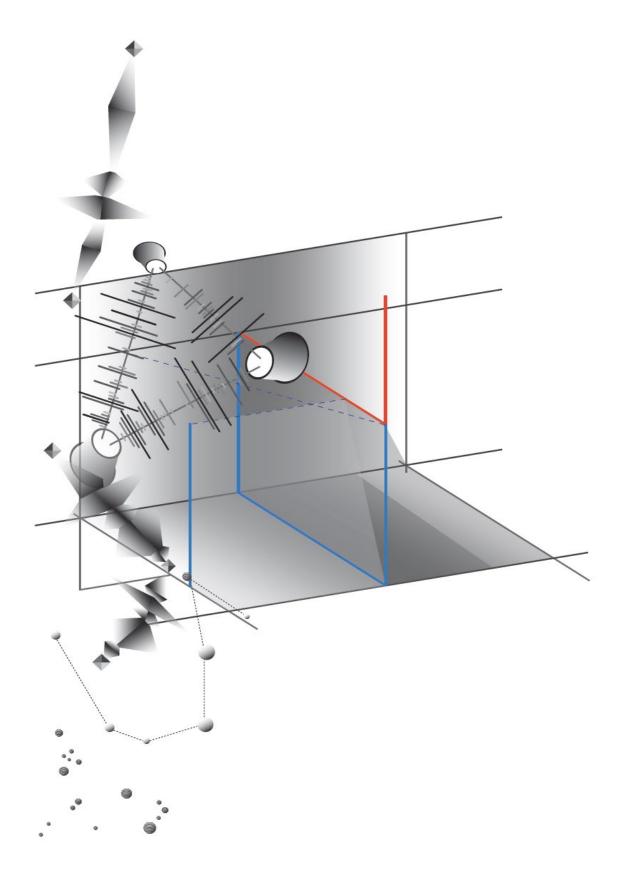


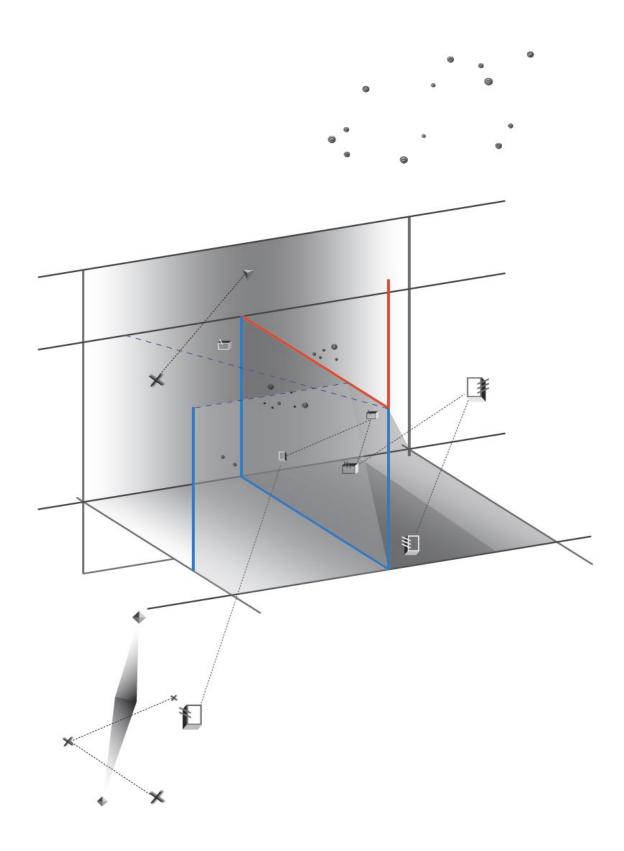


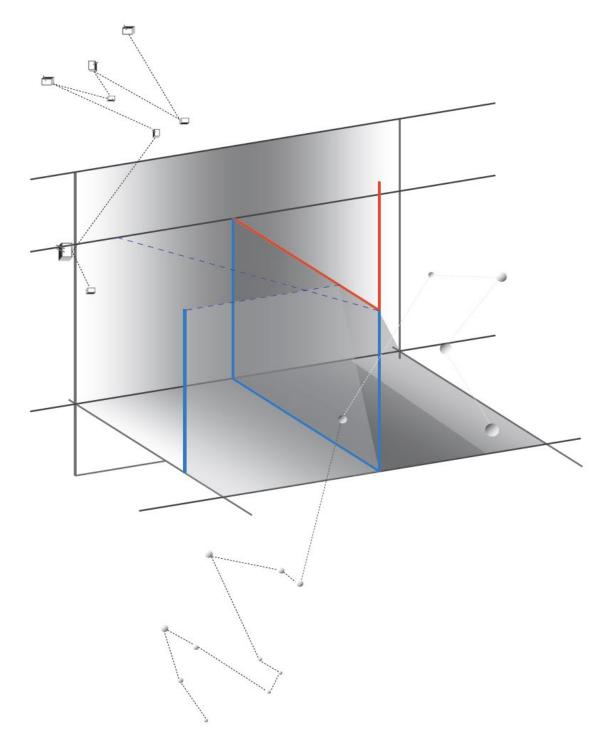




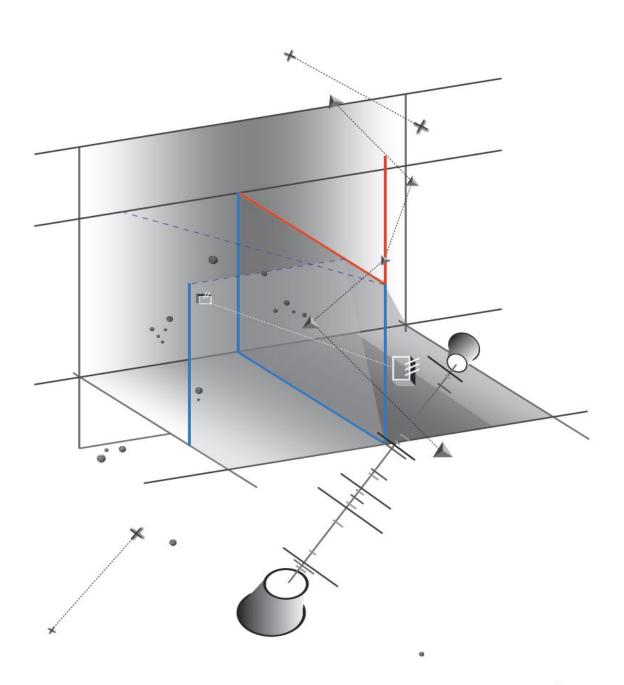


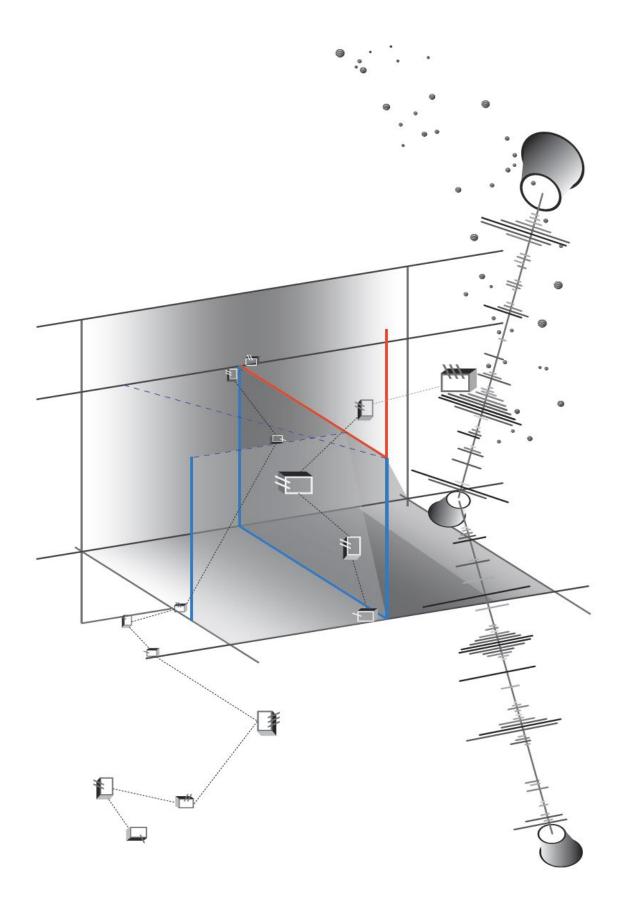


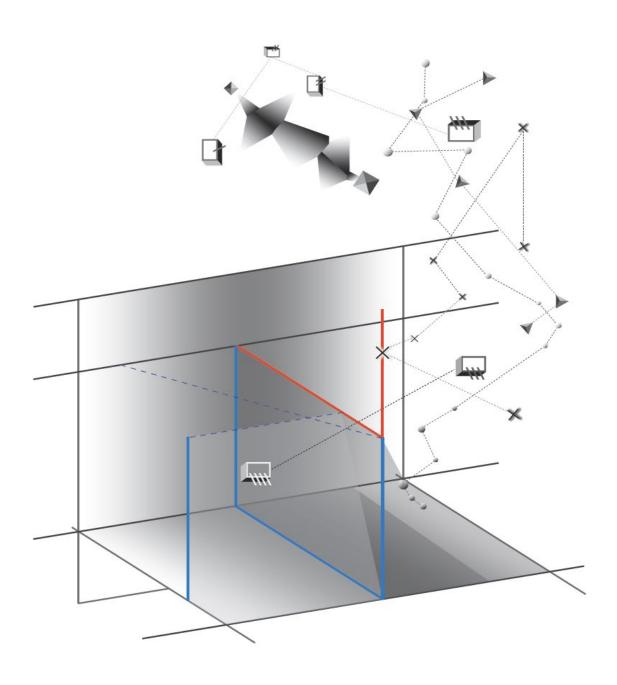


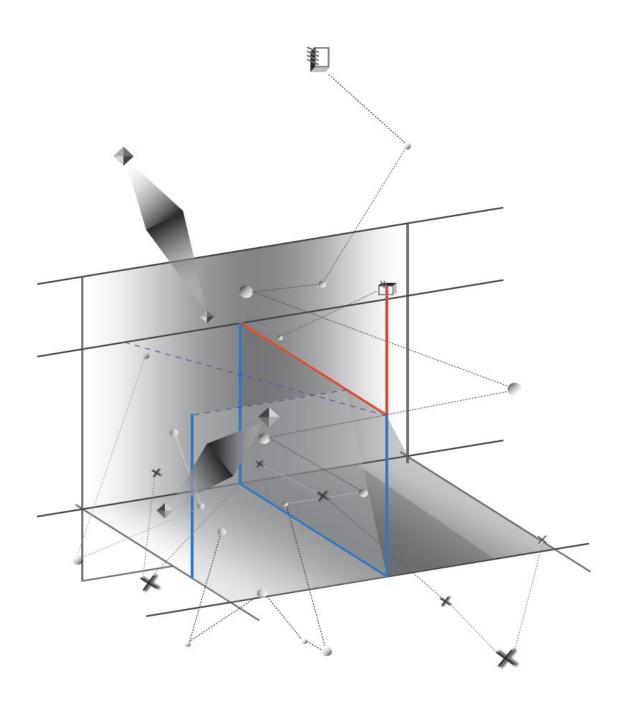


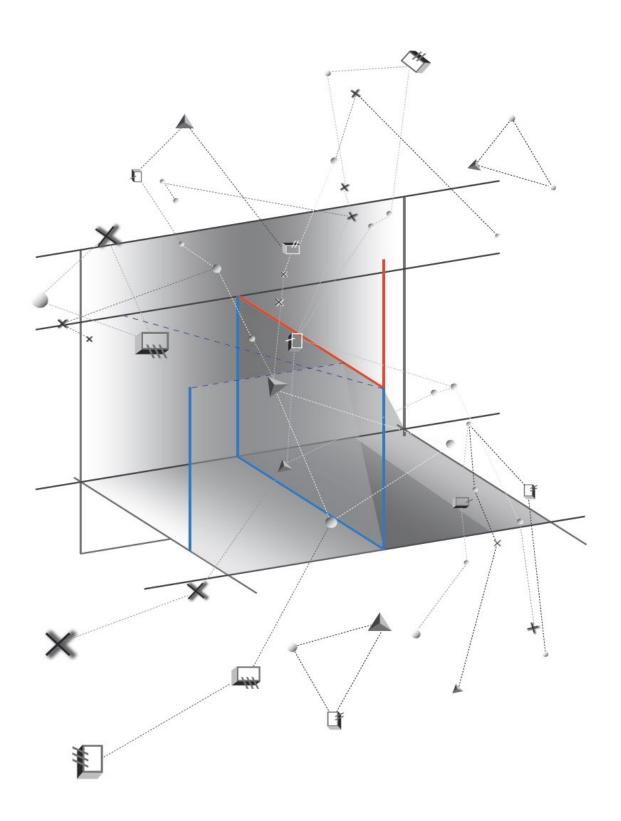


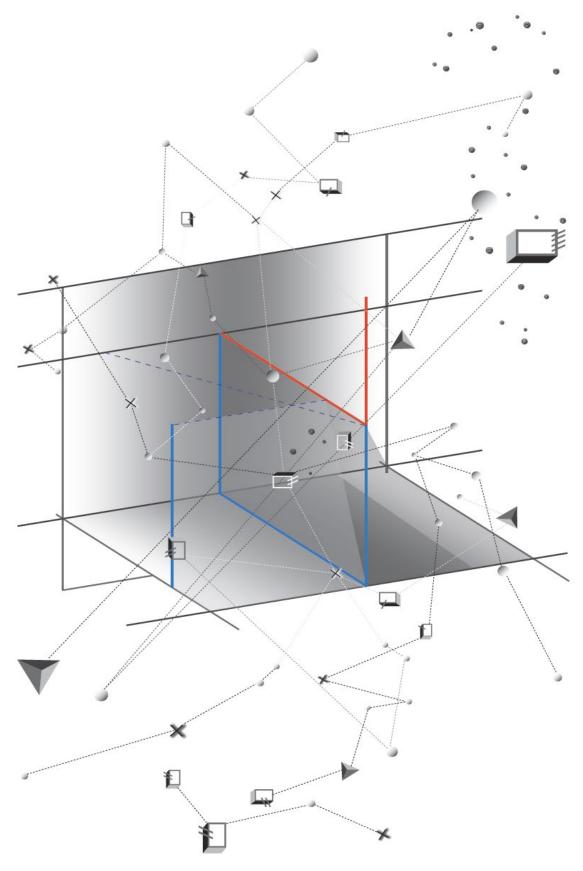


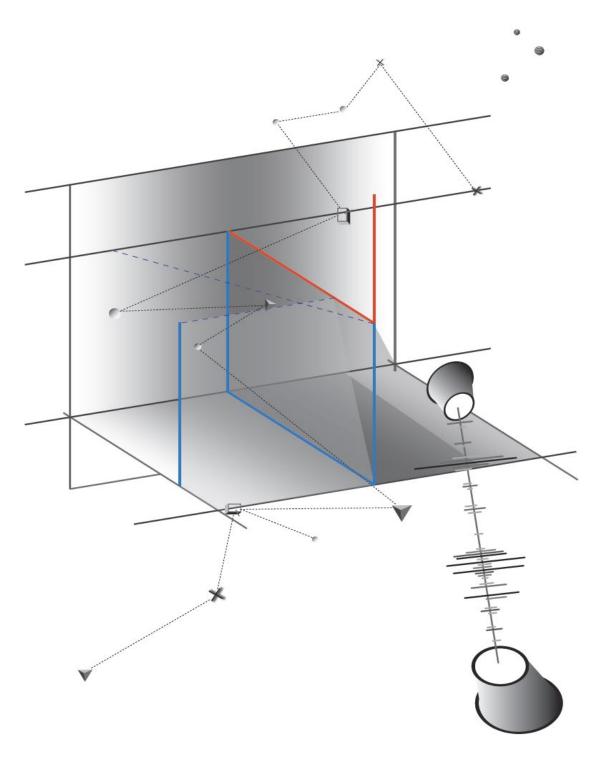


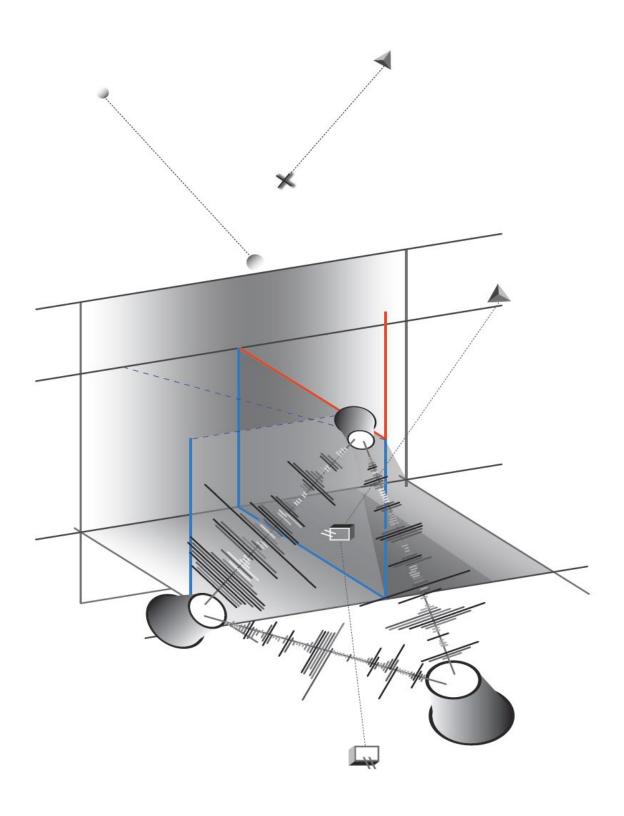


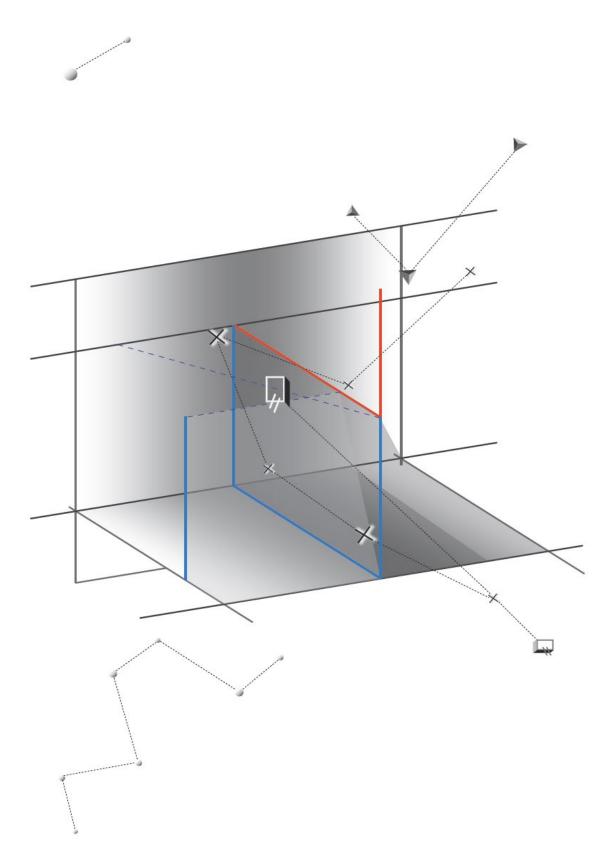


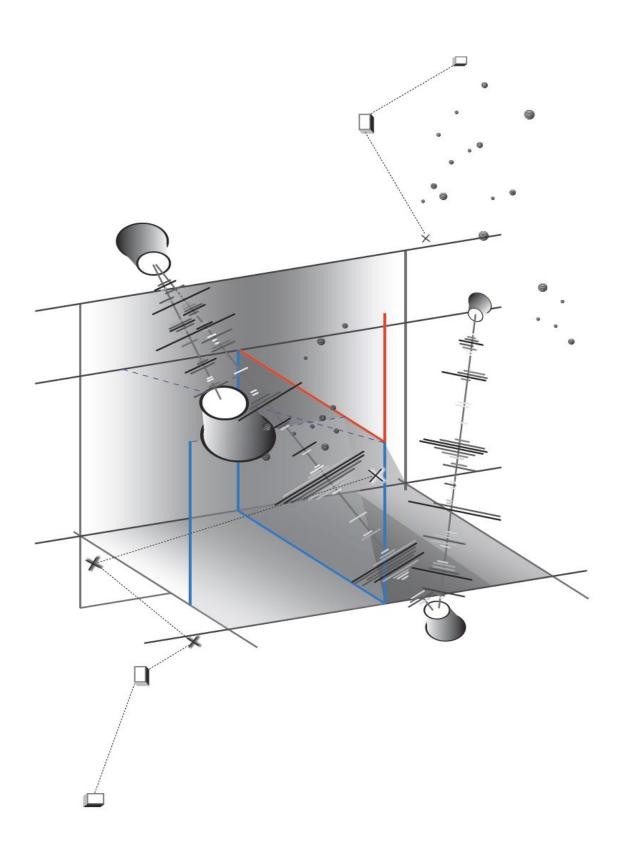


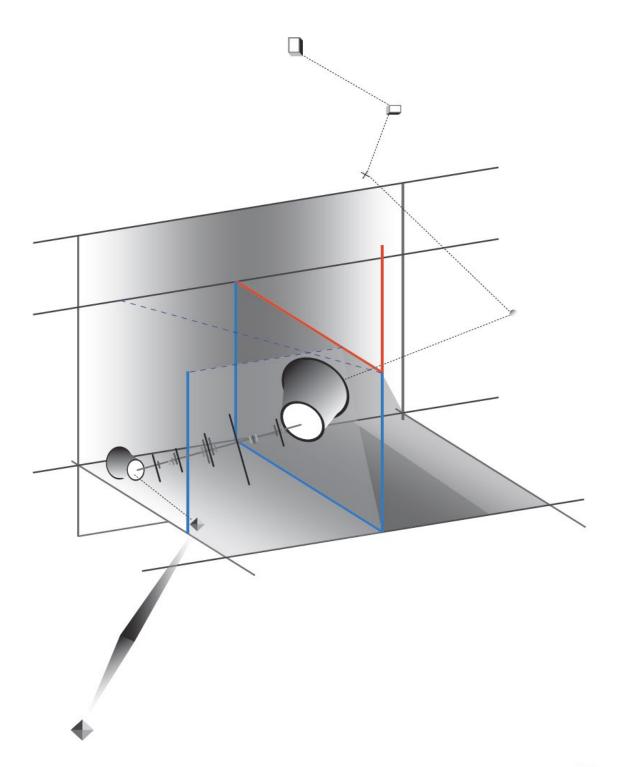














### PRIS-MA (2020) - For Amplified Modified Pierrot Quintet

Instrumentation: piccolo, violin, Bb bass clarinet, violoncello, and piano.

This composition has been written using as its main concept the positioning and light emitted by the Orion and Cancer constellations. <sup>910</sup> The arrangement of each texture is crucial to the understanding of the piece because it reflects the relative proportional interactions between the main positional stars used as referential points for the compositional framework.

Given the physical nature of the light emitted by the above-described constellations, the prism method of refraction and bending was chosen to better describe how the different portions of electromagnetic waves behave and become perceptible for the human eye. 11 These waves, while naturally inaudible to the human ear, are transformed in the piece, by assigning a range between 20-20,000 Hz to each color refraction, to fit the needs of the human hearing range, thus becoming perceptible. It is important to mention that there are specific portions of the audible spectrum assigned to a certain instrument, but rather, the acoustic transformation is achieved by the intertwinement of different textures and their respective dynamic transformations.

In this composition the amplification method aims to resemble the bending of light waves through a prism via sound alteration from a specific viewpoint by adding a slight reverberation. Refraction, on the other hand, is represented by the instrumental setup, which

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Kimm Ann Zimmerman, and Daisy Dobrijevic, Orion Constellation: Facts, location and stars of the hunter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Google, Cancer Constellation, Constellation Guide.

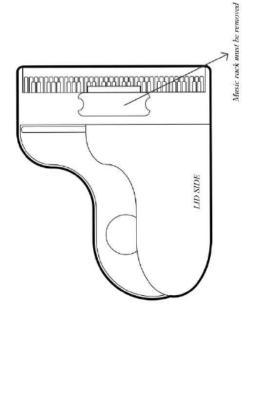
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Google, 2.3 Refraction of Light through a Prism.

looks for a single sound source (inside the piano) that breaks in multiple frequencies but with a similar origin, such as it occurs in a prism.

(10'33" approx.)

Composer: Eduardo Orea 2020

# PRIS-MA SET UP: Part I



Mic.2 close to the bass bridge

A Lid must be fully open

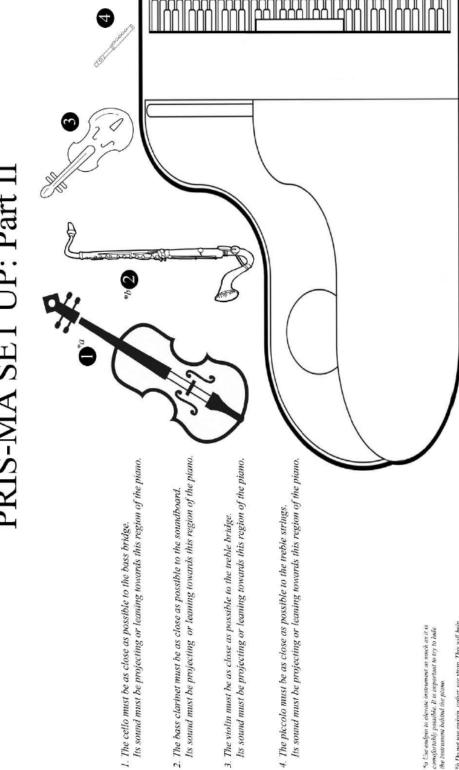
One single light on the stage
above the piano

- The piano must be as close as possible to the edge of the stage.
- The curtains must be low enough that the and tence can only see the hards of the pianist and the other performers lower body.
- There must be at least two speakers on each side of the stage. They must be placed so that the curain is behind them, this will make the sound be better projected towards the audience.
- The rest of the instruments must remain hidden behind the curtain and the piano Iid of all times before, during and after the performance.

Pedal must always be down

Mic.1 close to the tuming pins





\*a Use endpin to elevate instrument as much as it is comportant to try to hade the instrument behind the plano.

\*b Do not use endpin, rather, use strap. This will help hide the instrument better.

## PRIS-MA

Performance Notes - Part I

**♦**GENERAL

String and wind instruments must be a close as possible to the microphones to increase amplification. → The duration of each system (page) is around 31 seconds.

**♦**PITCH

→ Chromatic succession is not to be played.

→ Alternate (balance) between accidentals in any order (b-h-#)

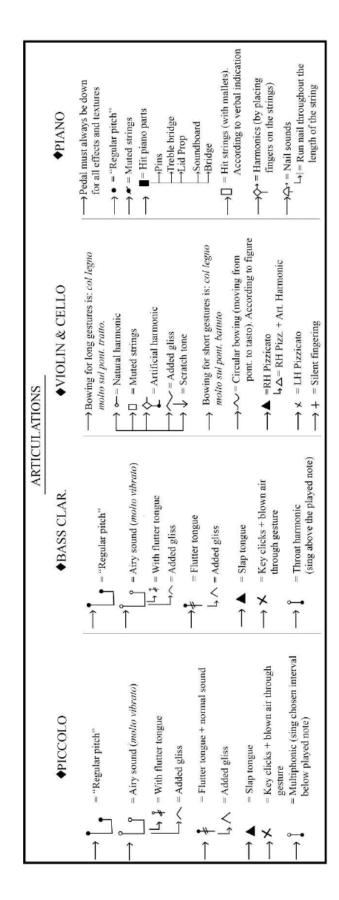
**♦**ALIGNMENT

Square brackets delimit instrument register. The middle of the square bracket indicates the approximate center of the register.

→ Dashed line cues indicate that two or more textures have exact alignment, their onset is the same. Dotted line cues indicate that two or more textures have inexact alignment, they are offset. They can also show that offset textures are played sequentially.

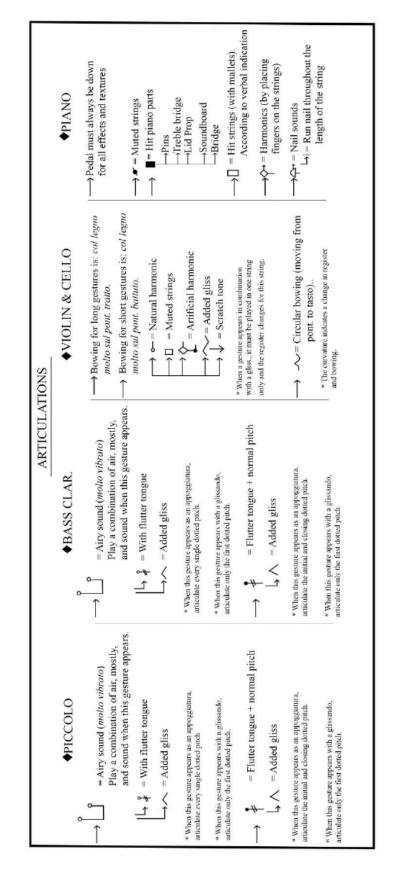
### PRIS-MA

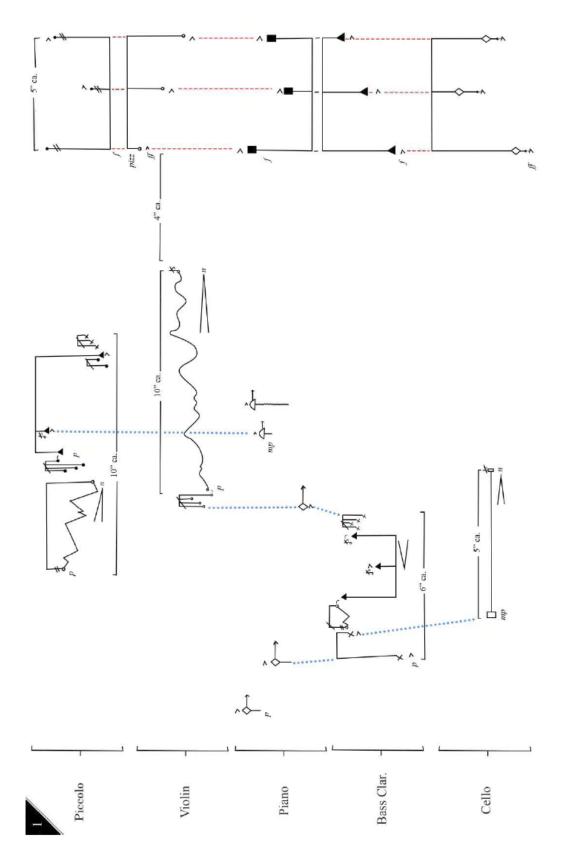
Performance Notes - Part II

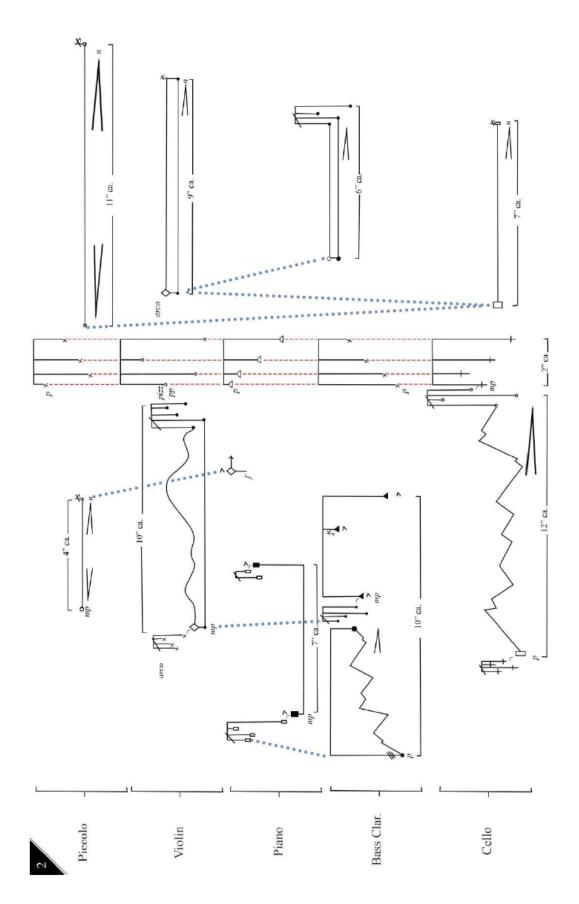


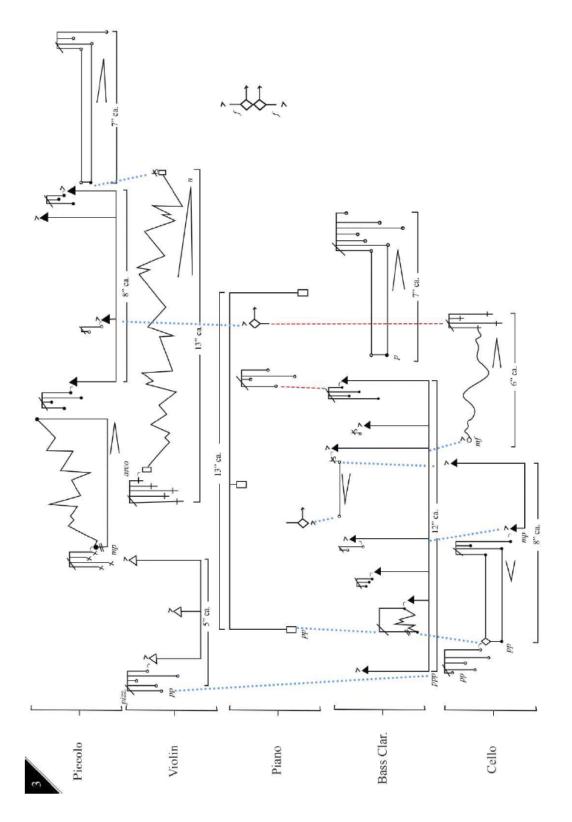
### PRIS-MA

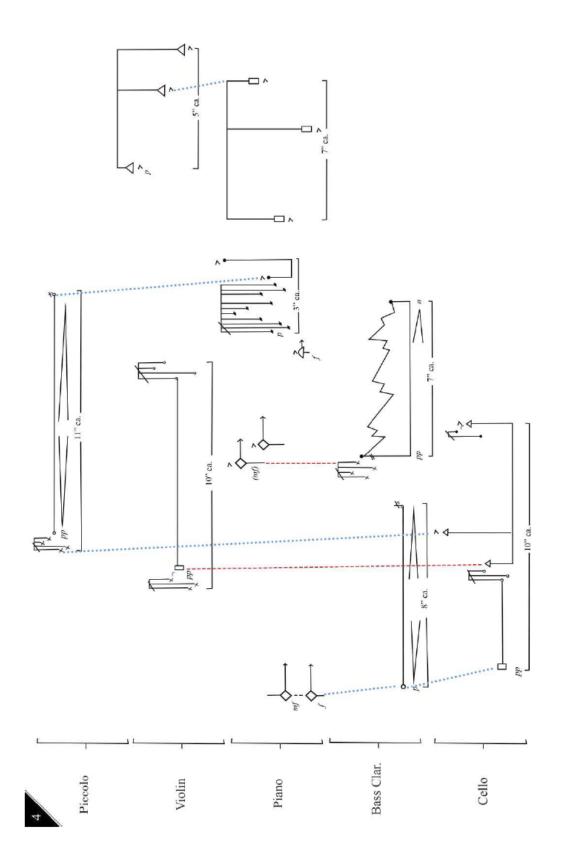
Performance Notes - Part III

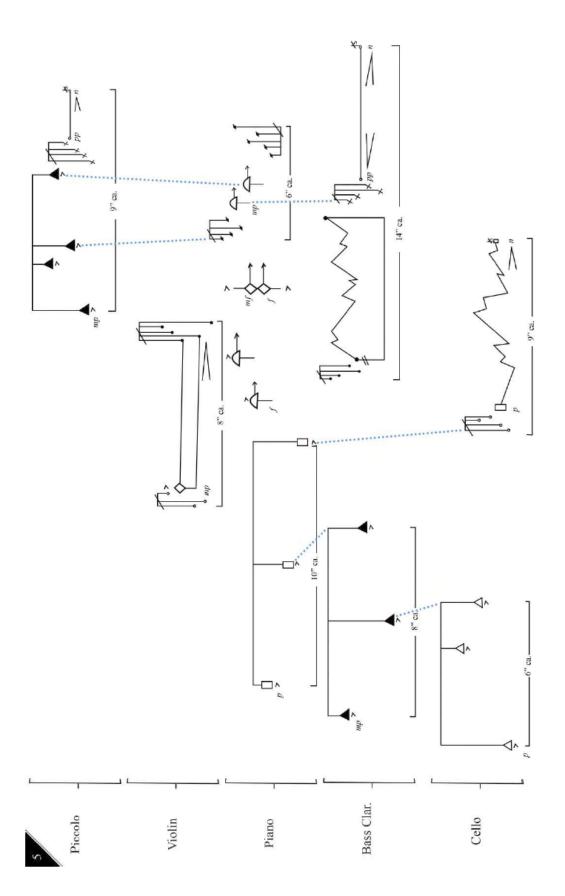


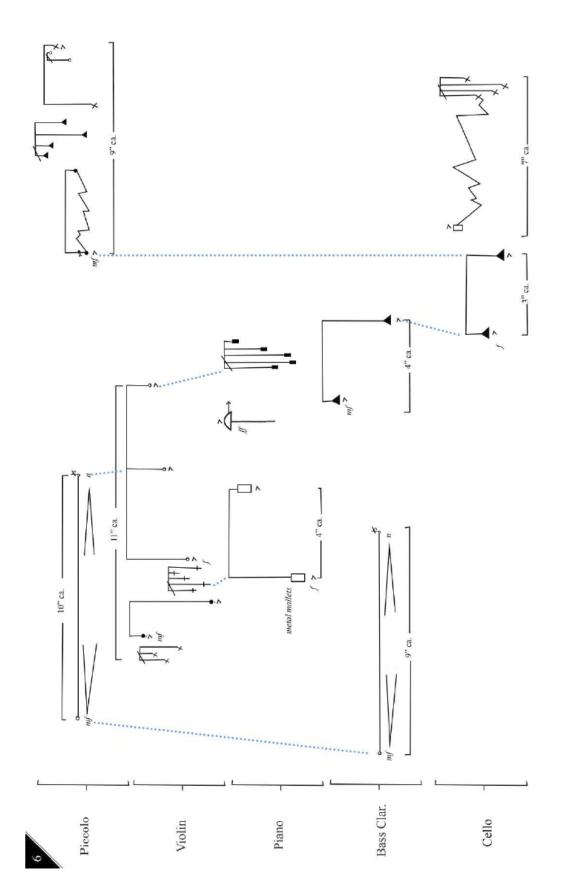


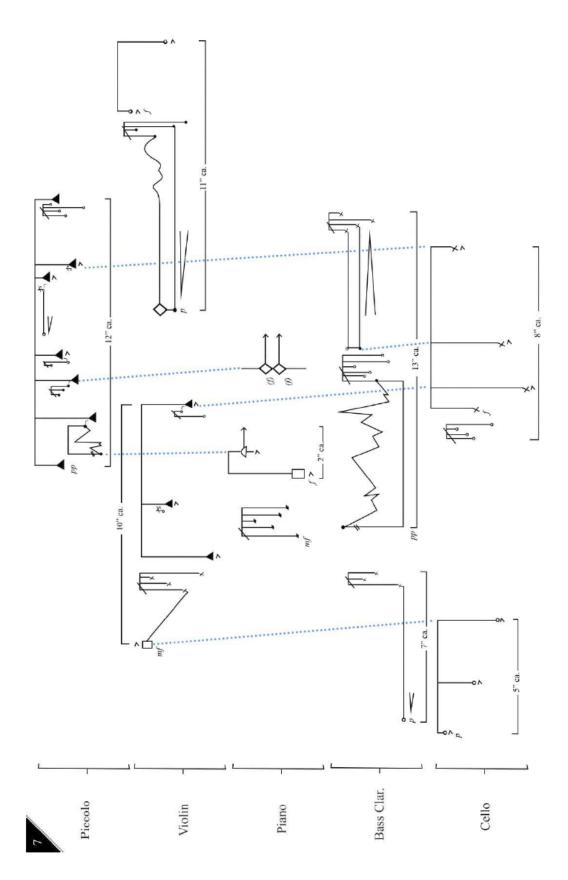


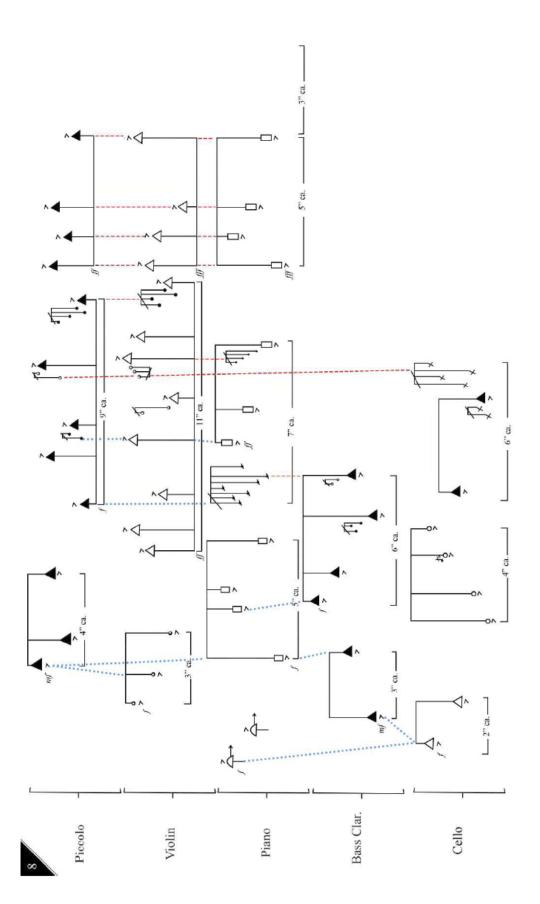


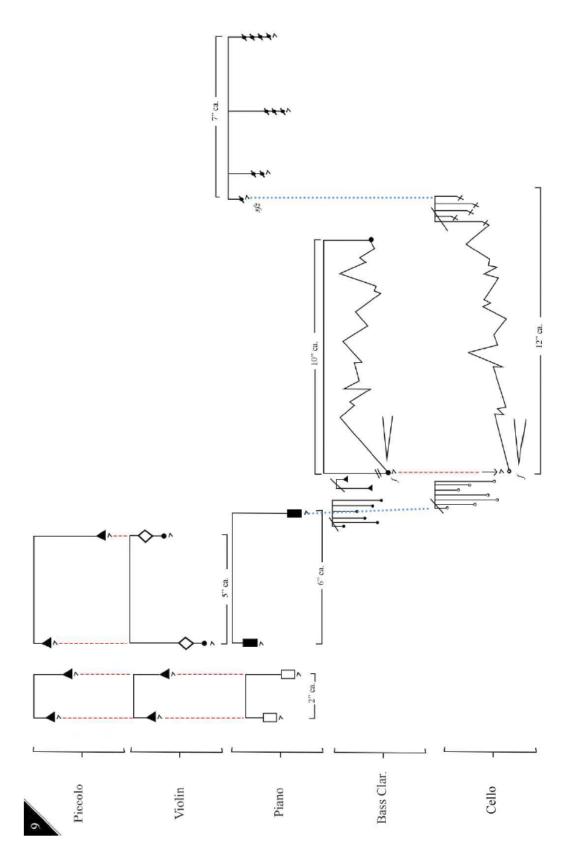


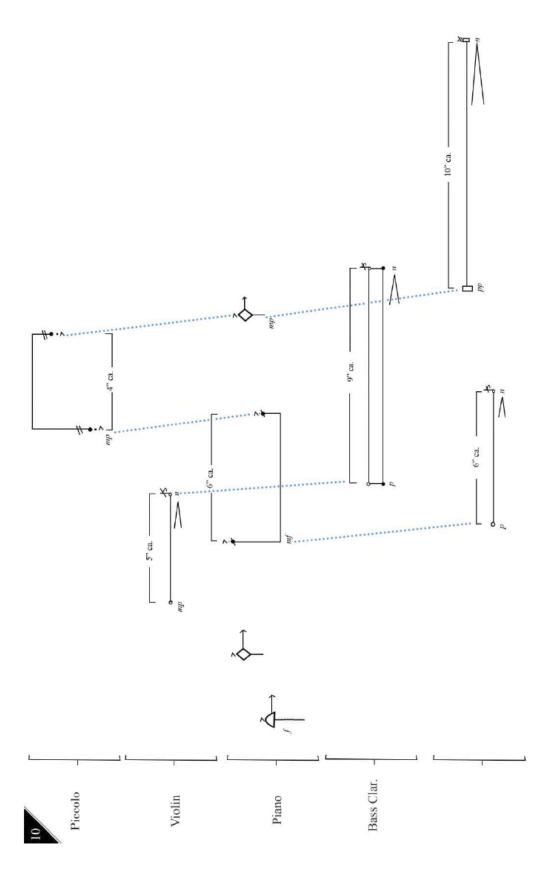


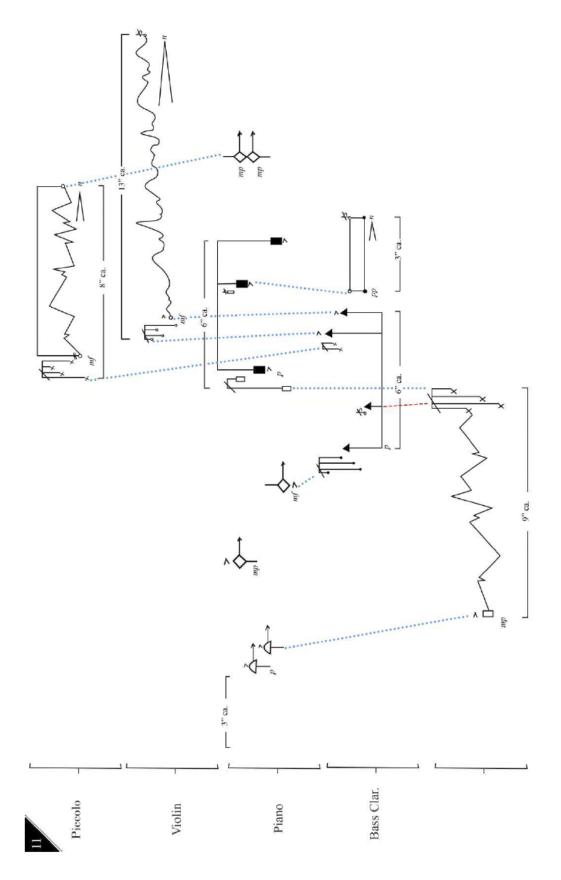


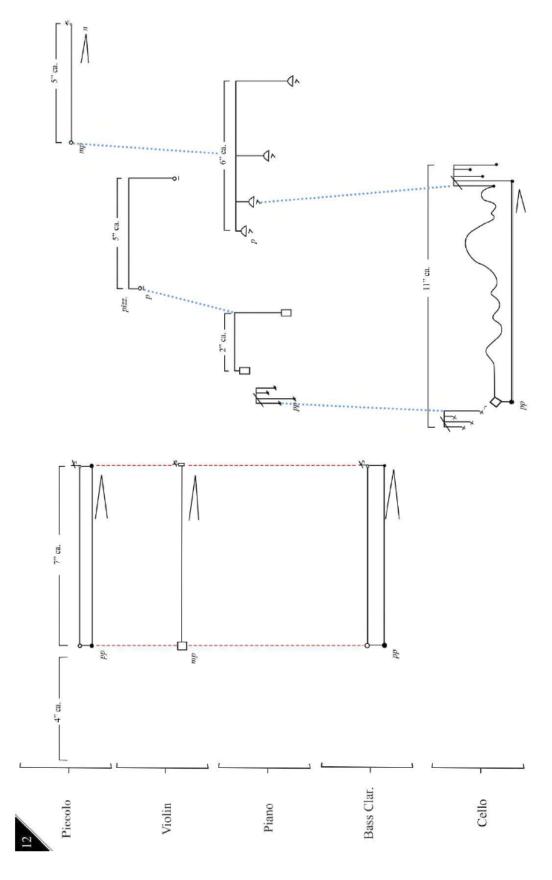


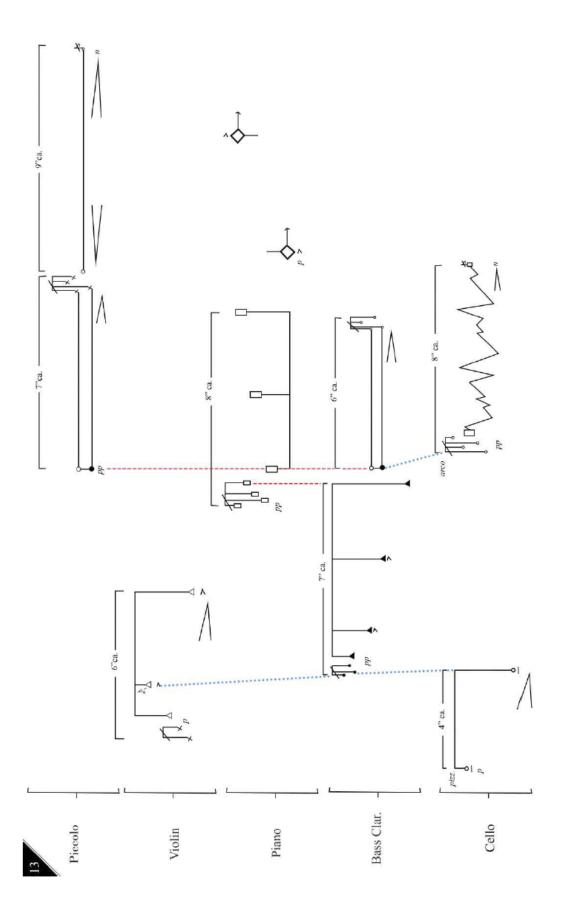


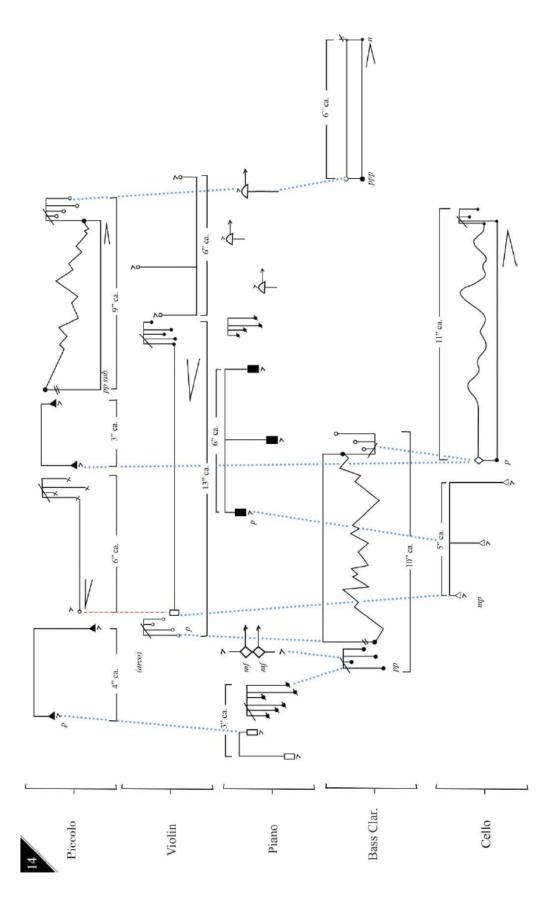


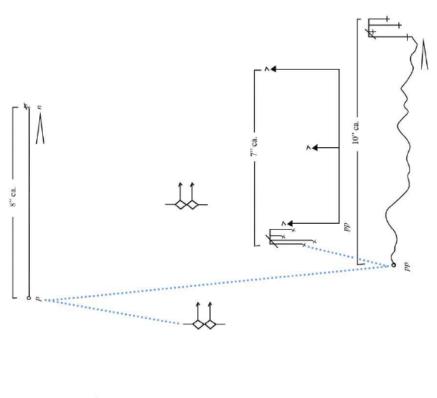


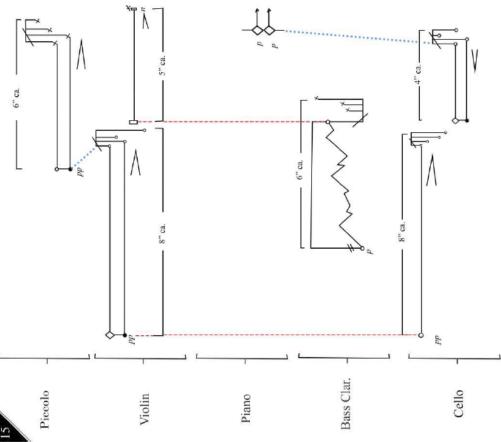


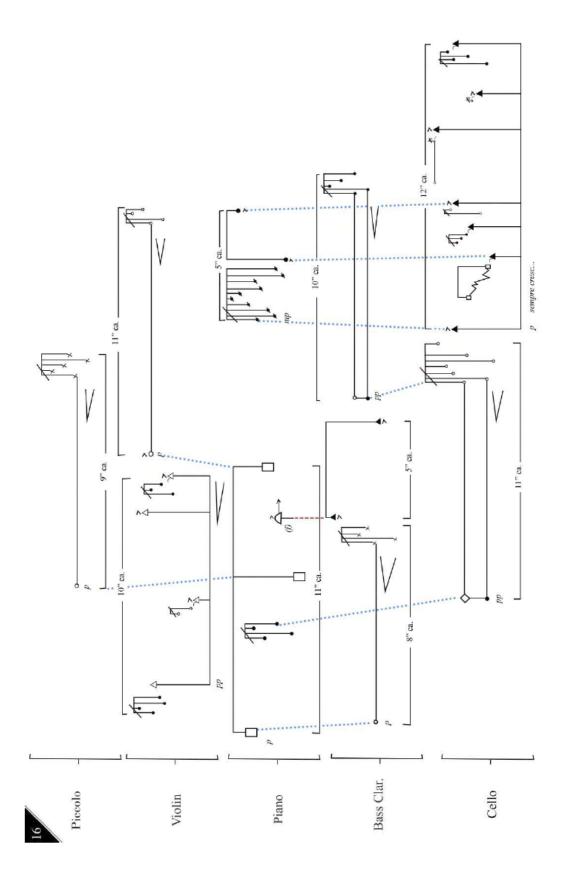


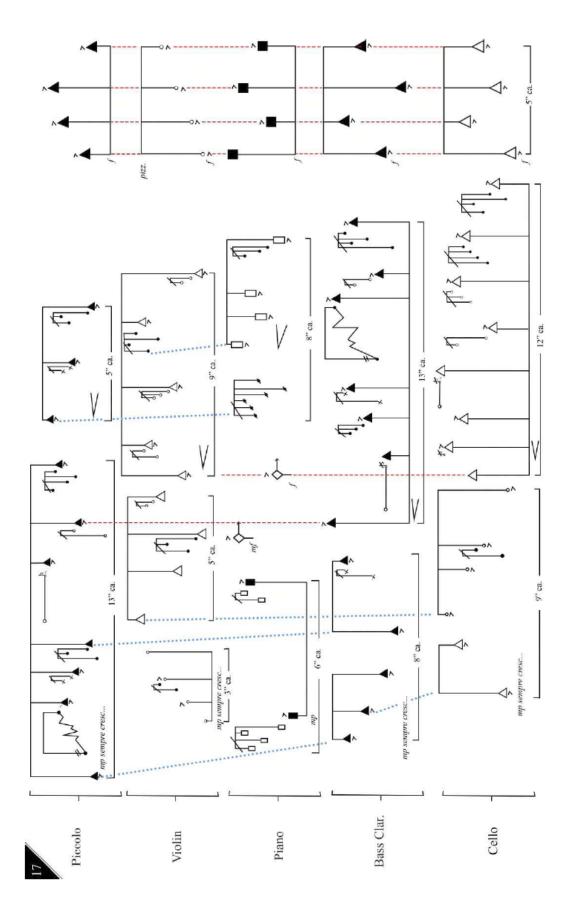


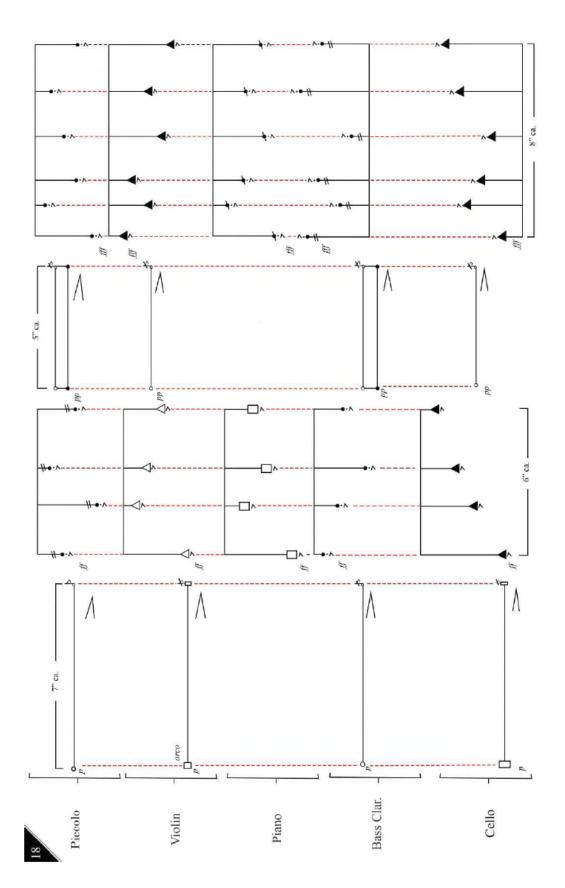


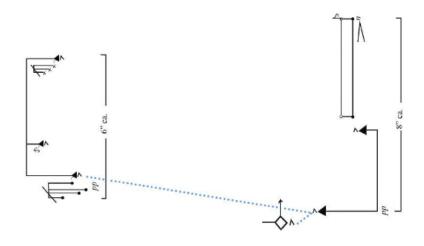


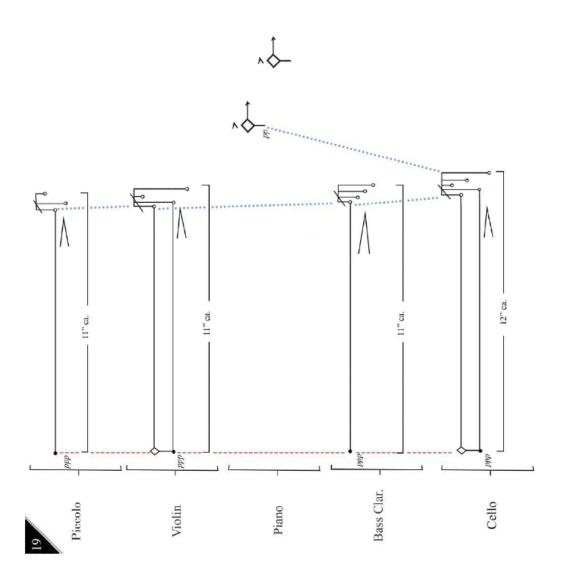


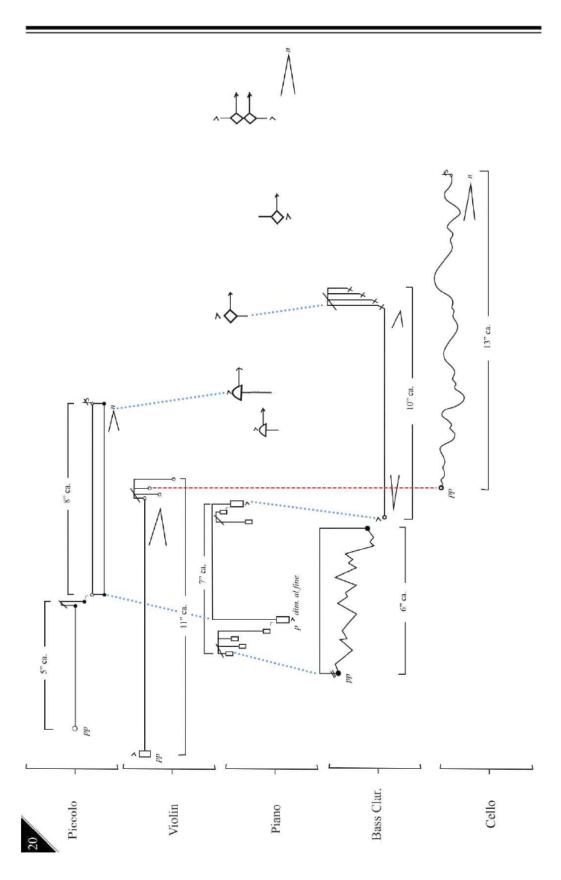












### **CHAPTER 3- Work for Sung or Spoken Voice**

### Sirius (2021) - For Amplified Vocal Ensemble

**Instrumentation:** 1 bass, 1 baritone, 1 tenor, 1 mezzo-soprano, 1 soprano, 1 high soprano (mezzo-soprano can be replaced by a counter-tenor).

This piece has been composed using the Sirius constellation<sup>12</sup> contour as its main abstract criterion. First, it is presented a double three-layer projection in a two-dimensional plane as a substitute for the traditional staff, which is critical to better understand the structural design of the piece because it reflects the bi-focal configuration of each presented gesture. The Orthogonal Projection<sup>13</sup> (3D- "staff") defines the relationships between gestures in terms of length, duration, movement, dynamics, relative register, and orientation. The Orthogonal Projection matrix does not possess a specific facet that faces upward, hence allowing multiple orientations (see **Figure 3**). It is crucial to comprehend how the structural design of the piece consists of a four-dimensional diagrammatic perspective (two dimensions for projection, one dimension for space, one dimension for time), as it reflects the multiperspective positioning of each presented gesture as mentioned above.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Elizabeth Howell, and Alisa Harvey, Sirius: The brightest star in Earth's night sky.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Dan Margalit and Joseph Rabinoff, 6.3 Orthogonal Projection.

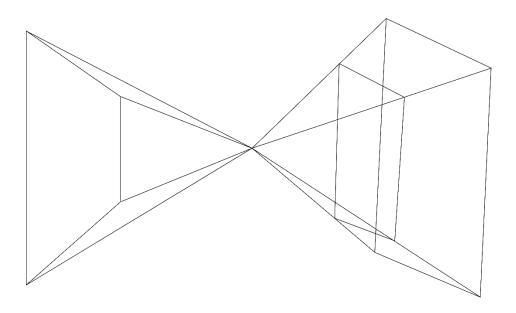


Figure 3- Orthogonal Projection Matrix

Second, all the writing techniques work in favor of the interacting dimensions of the events as they simultaneously add depth, movement and temporality to the music. In this sense, gesture-groups within the composition include movement, emphasis, and trajectory in a single space-occurrence. Such gestures, in combination with proportional distances, convert this spatial principle into a musical one. Dynamic transformations are integrated inside each individual token to increase depth into the otherwise unidimensional depiction. Finally, a non-lyrical vocal content has been carefully chosen for this piece in order to represent a globular prototype with non-assigned viewpoint (multiple options) in as many musical scopes as possible, starting with relative rhythmic configuration, dynamics, proportional durations, etcetera, as mentioned above. This last consideration aims to visually represent the relative placement of the intended objects in space being simultaneously observed by multiple viewers, all using independent standpoints.

## SIRIUS

For Amplified Vocal Ensemble

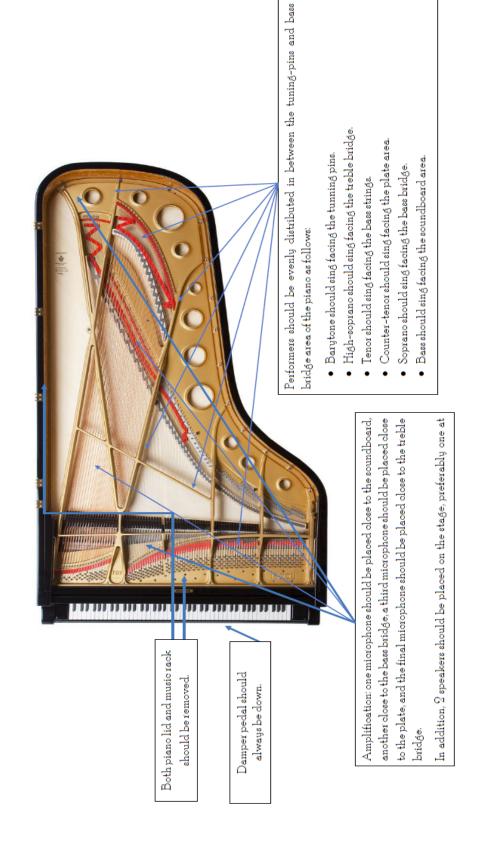
–1 bass, 1 barytone, 1 tenor, 1 mezzo, 1 soprano, 1 high soprano –

(17' approx.)

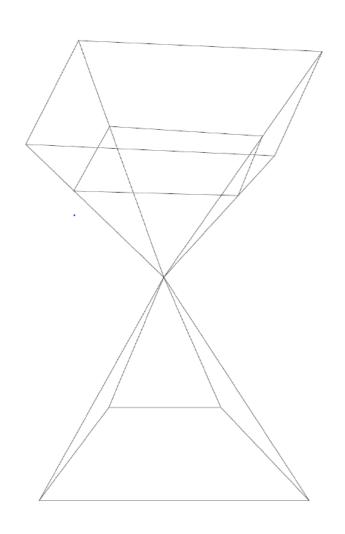
Eduardo Orea

2022

# ENSEMBLE'S SETUP AND AMPLIFICATION



SIRIUS Orthogonal Projection Matrix



### SIRIUS

## Performance Notes

### GENERAL

- With the exception of the first, climax, and last page (marked with an asterisk), each performer should assign a random order to the different pages of the score.
- All pages of the score can be read from any orientation (e.g., vertical, horizontal, diagonal, etc.).
- The duration of each page should be circa 35 seconds. The performer should play all gestures in the page during this time frame before continuing to the next page.

### **PROJECTION**

- > The Orthogonal Projection (3D-"staff") defines the relationships between gestures in terms of length, duration, movement, dynamics, relative register, and orientation.
- The Orthogonal Projection matrix does not possess a specific facet that faces upward, hence allowing multiple orientations.

## Performance Notes ~ II

# ORIENTATION AND TEMPORALITY

- Gestures can be played in any direction (e.g., right-left, up-down, etc.) independently of the chosen orientation.
- Full gestures are linked by dotted lines and should be played in their entirety (full trajectory) before the performer continues on to the next gesture.
- Temporality is relative to the number of elements in a page. The more elements, the faster the relative tempo, and the fewer elements the slower the relative tempo.
- by the relationship between the number and size of elements present in a page, as well as an approximate 35" duration The size of each element represents its relative length in comparison to contiguous gestures. Length is determined for each page.

# Performance Notes ~ III

## REGISTER

- The relative register of gestures will depend on the chosen orientation:
- Vertical: upper side-high register; middle-middle register; lower side-low register.
- Horizontal: upper side high register; middle- middle register; lower side-low register.
- Diagonal: left side-high register; middle-middle register; right side-low register.

#### PITCE

- There is no indicated fixed pitch; the performer should choose an intervallic relationship according to the positioning of the gesture within the selected projection orientation.
- Chromatic succession is not to be sung.
- Alternate between accidentals in any order.
- The size of each symbol represents its relative length in comparison to contiguous gestures.

# Performance Notes ~ IV

### **TEXTURE**

Each symbol represents a specific texture. Indications for how the different voices should play a given symbol are given in the Textural Chart below.

## **DYNAMICS**

Changes in transparencies and depth (i.e., size of the element) define the dynamic transformations for the gestures. The smaller/thinner the element, the softer it sounds; the bigger/darker the element, the louder it sounds.

#### II FNCF

- Blank spaces define silent fragments.
- The length of the silence will depend on the number of elements, different trajectories and relative temporality of the trajectory within the approximate  $55^\circ$  duration for each page.

## SIRIUS

## Textural Chart

# APPLIES FOR ALL VOICES:

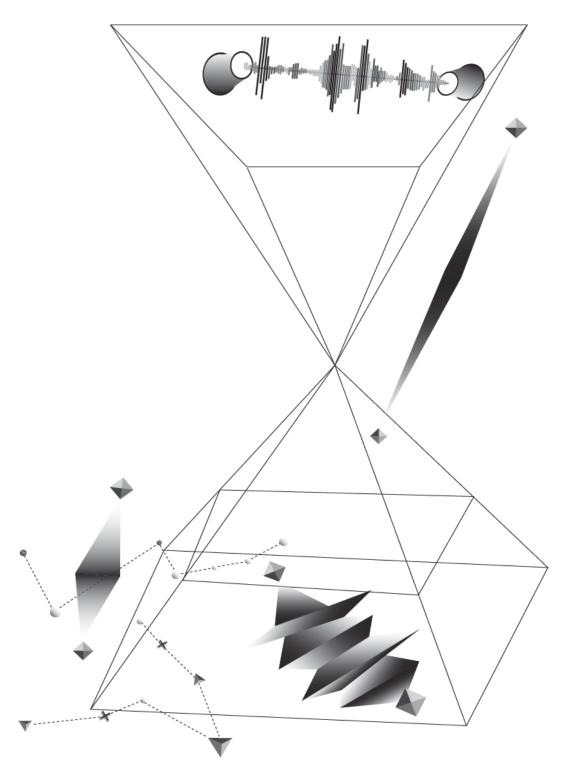
- = = Regular Pitch: Sing the chosen pitch by always producing an "Oh!" sound with a semi closed mouth.
- > (0= Whistle: Always producing an "Oo!" sound with a semi closed mouth.
- X = Indicates tongue clicking against teeth and upper cavity of the mouth.
- > = Noise: Sing an indefinite pitch with an "Ee!" sound while generating a slight overpressure in the back of the

throat.

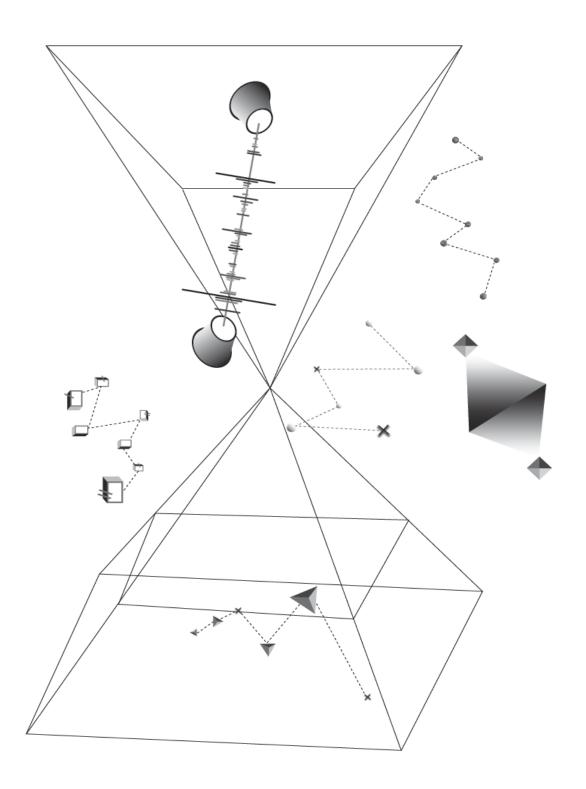
- 🗐 🌁 = Indicates added flutter tongue (FT). The more lines the faster the FT; the lesser lines, the slower the FT.
- $\blacktriangle = B_{uzz}$ : Vibrate the teeth against each other while vocalizing the chosen pitch. Д

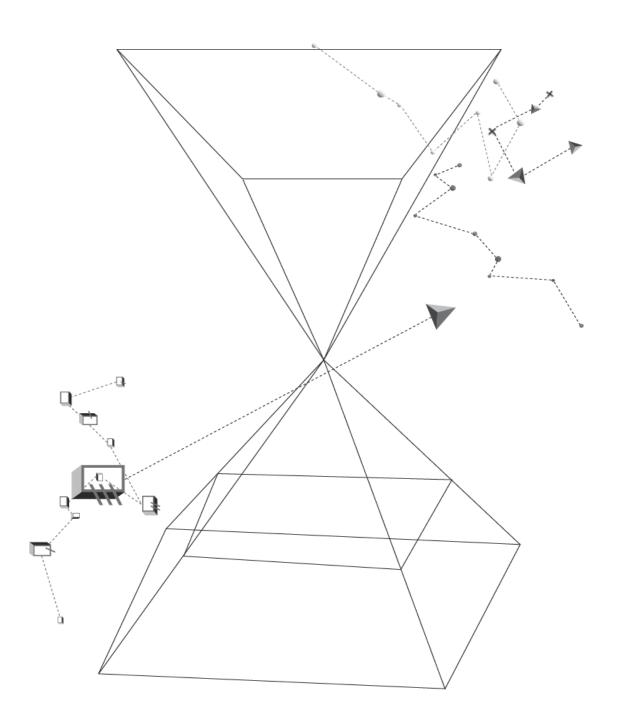
= Overtone: choose a pitch according to the position of the element in the page and produce a superimposed overtone with the tongue/lips by changing vocals. Changes in size and transparency of the unifying trajectory in between symbols (diamonds) indicate dynamic transformations. \_

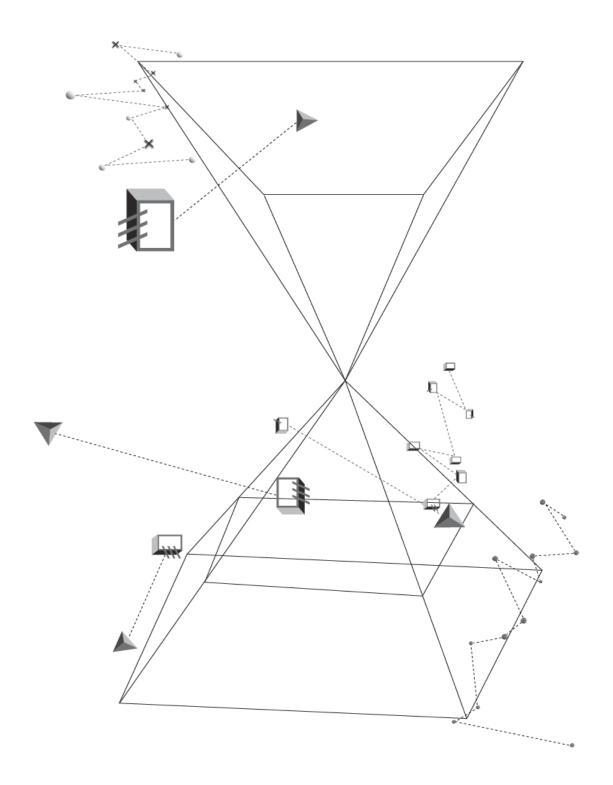
= Wind: blow approximately 80% air and 20% sound. A bigger circle indicates a lower starting relative pitch, and a smaller circle indicates a higher departing relative pitch. A bigger "circle" indicates a lower starting relative pitch, and a smaller the circle indicates a higher departing relative pitch. Changes in wavelength saturation of the unifying trajectory in between symbols indicate dynamic transformations.

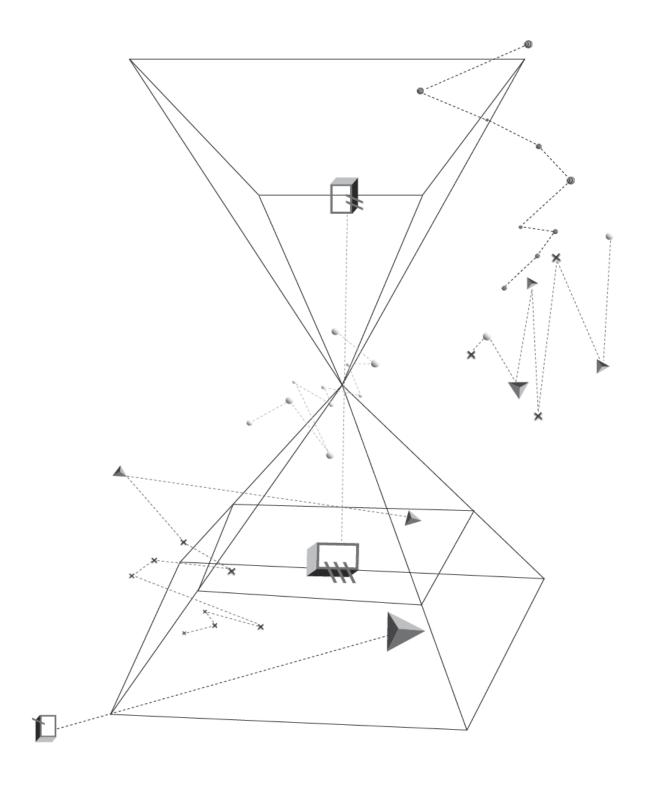


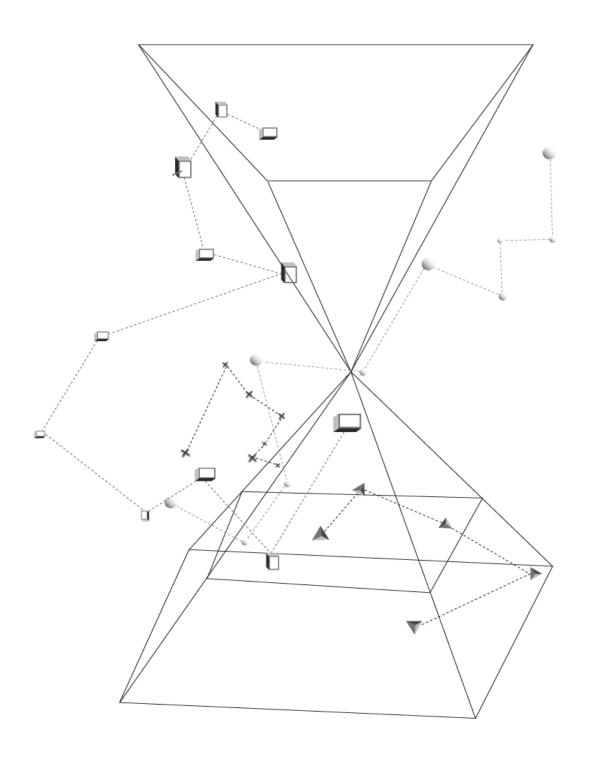


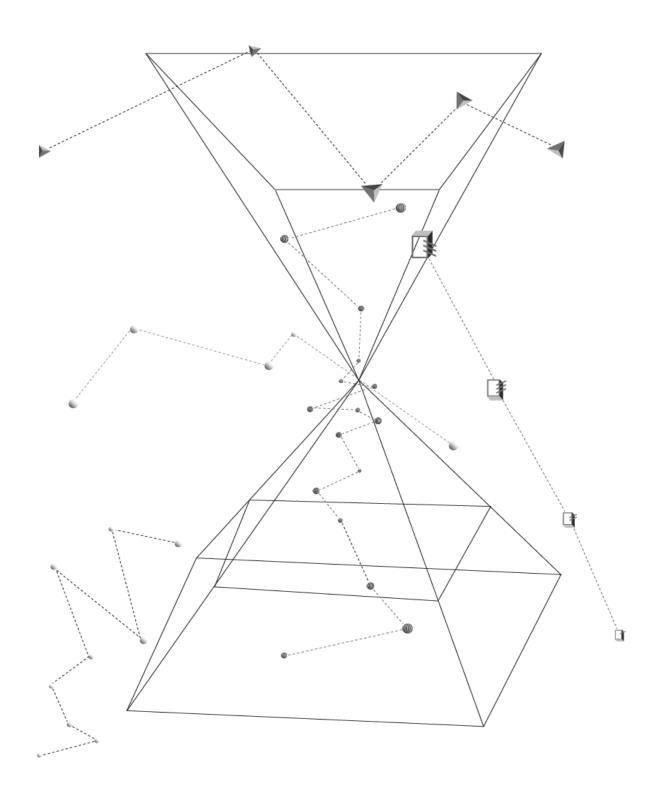


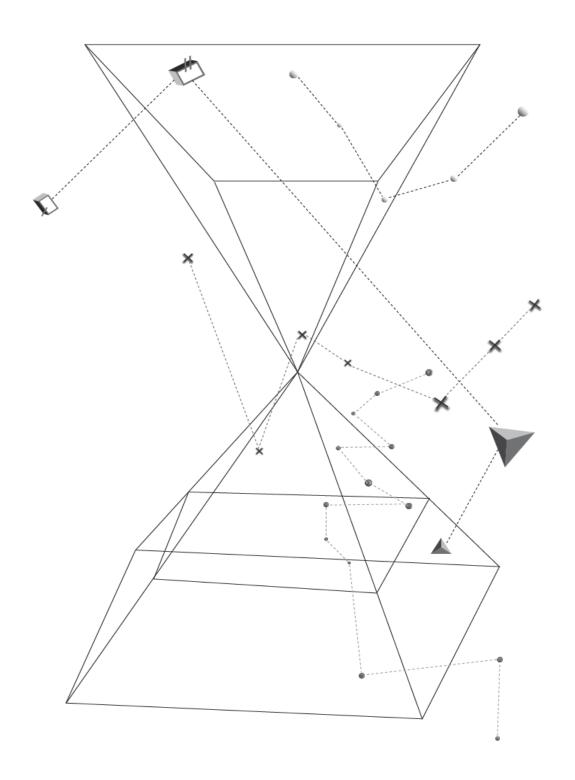


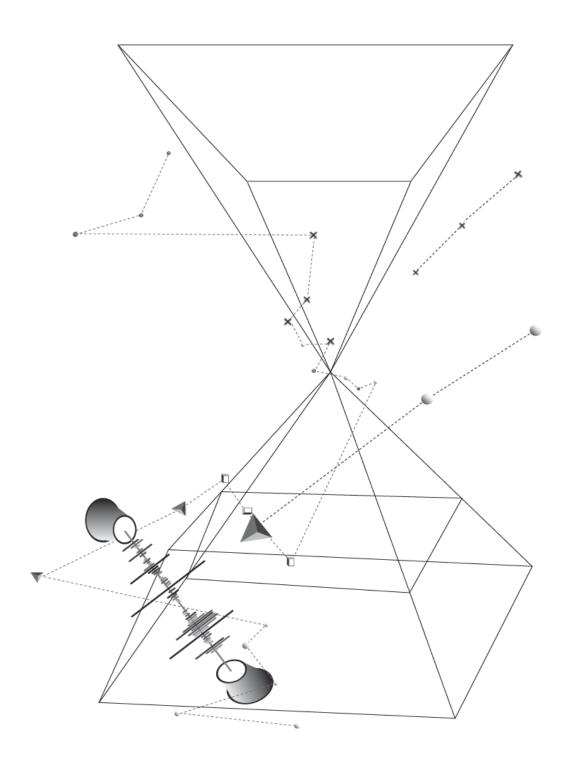


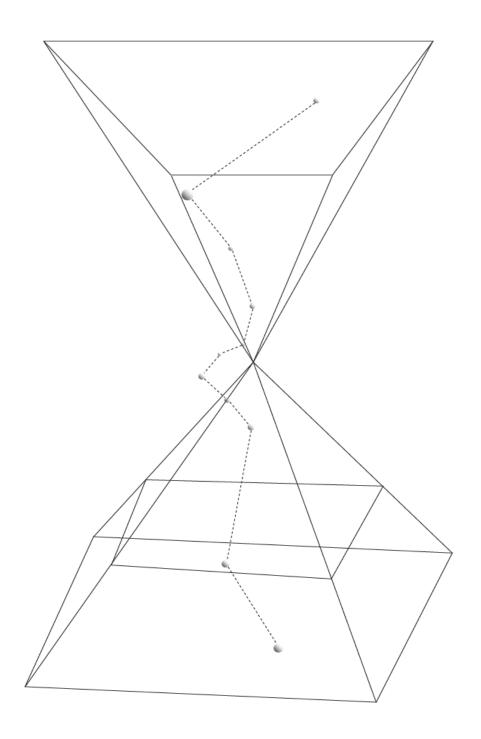


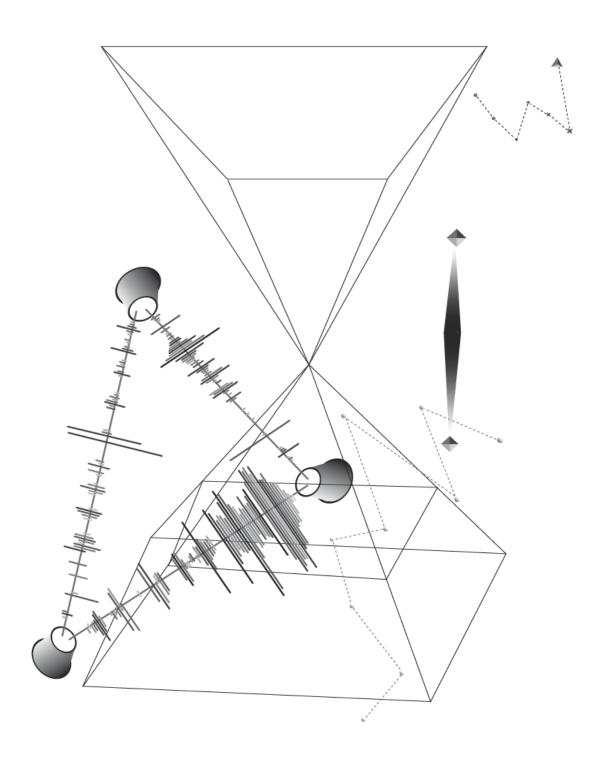


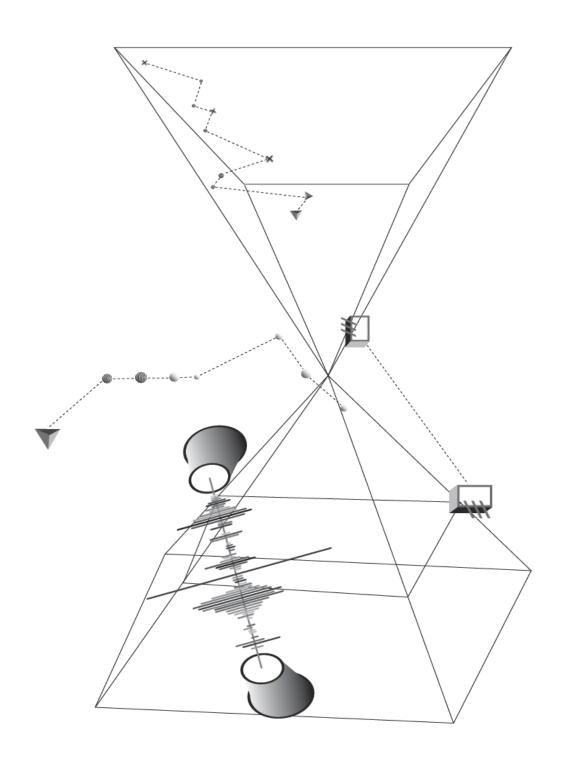


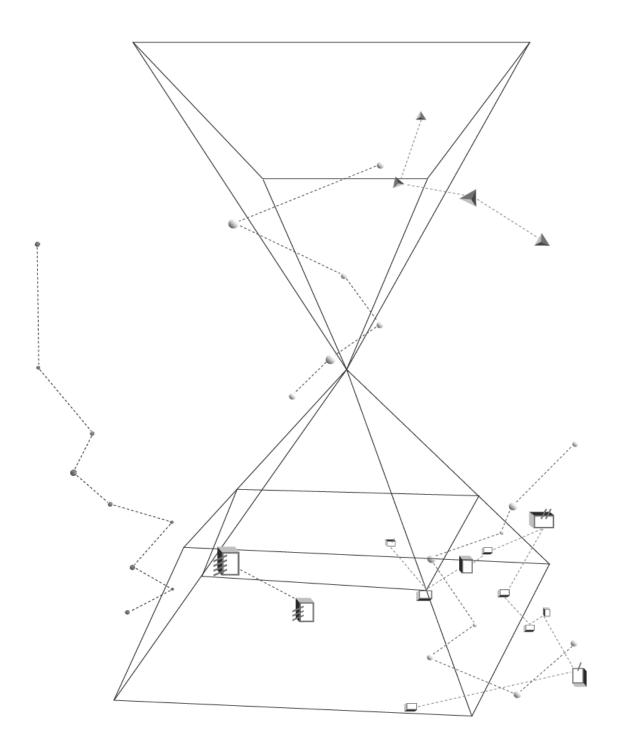


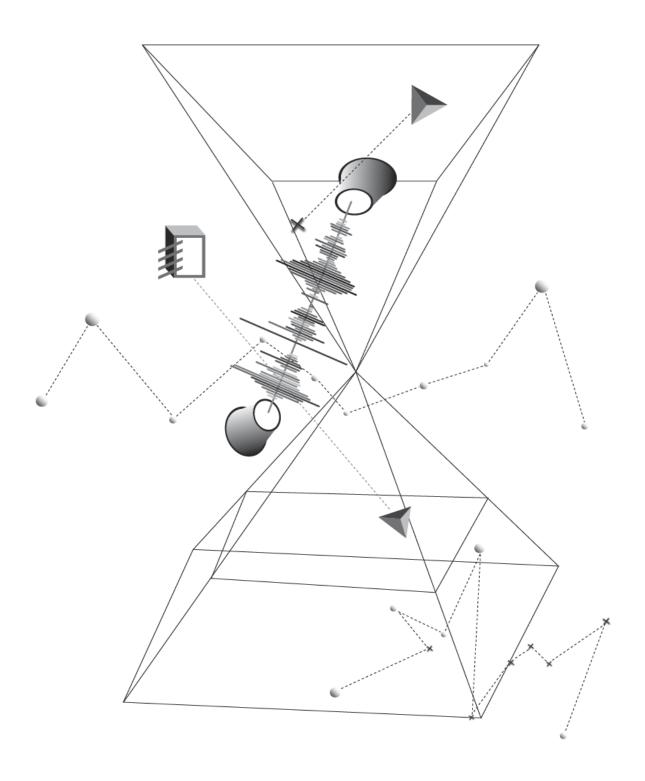


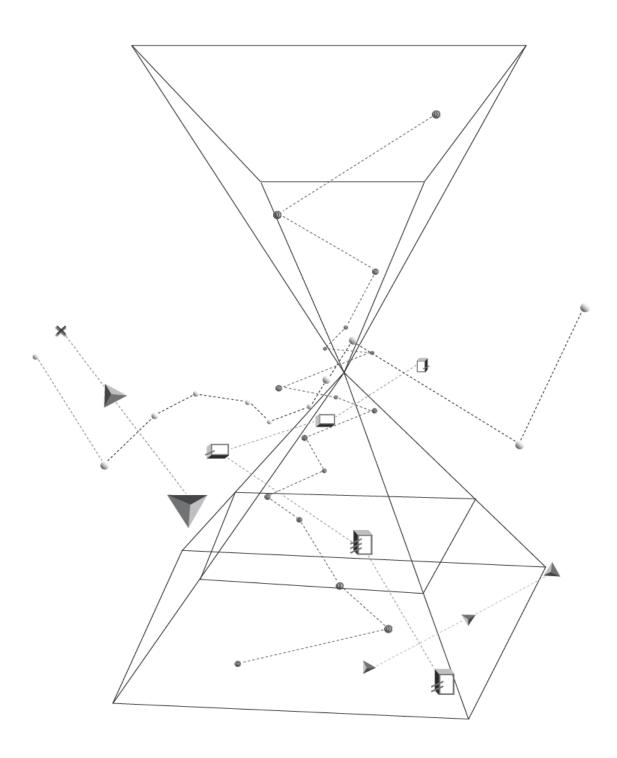


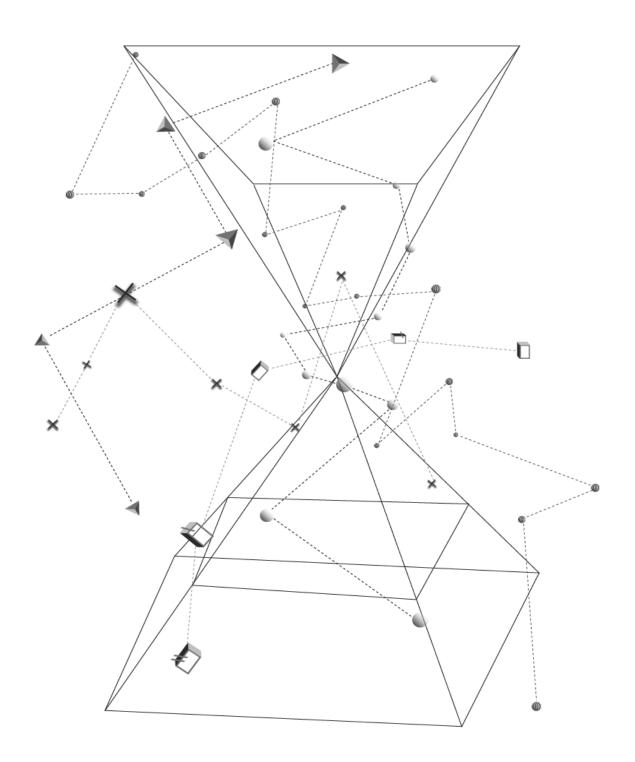


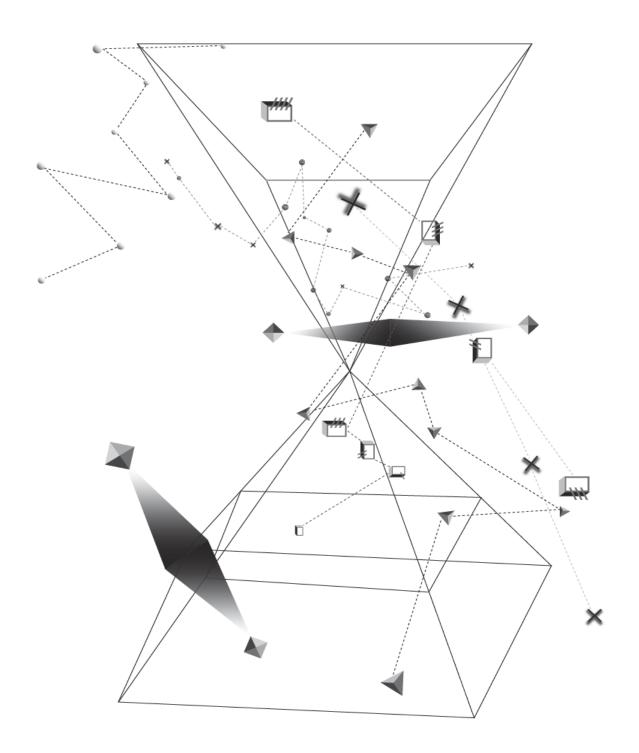




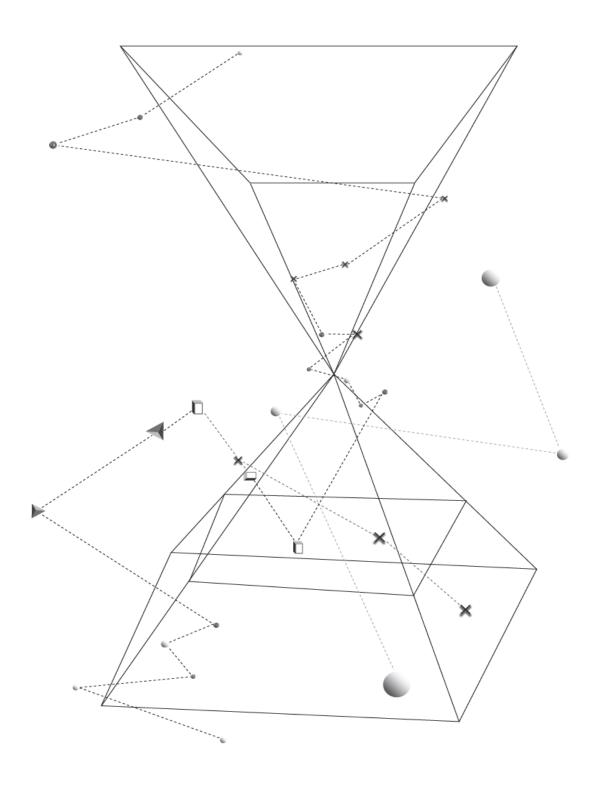


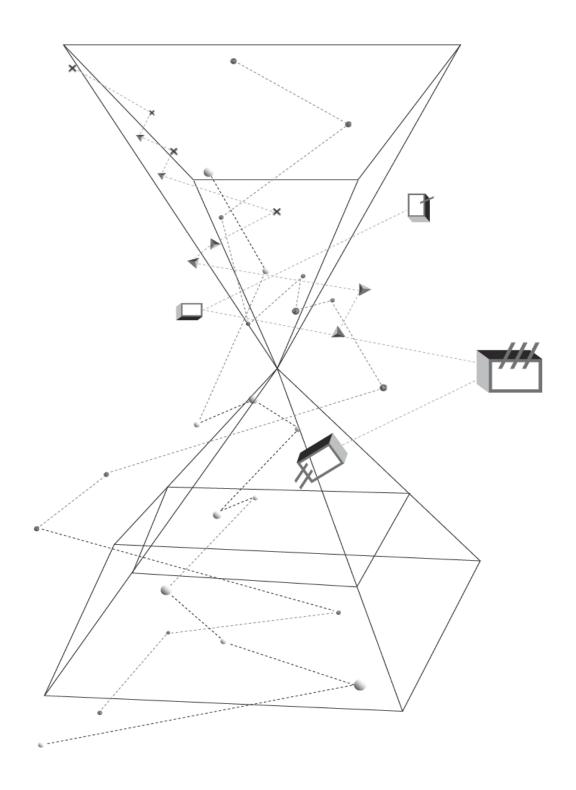


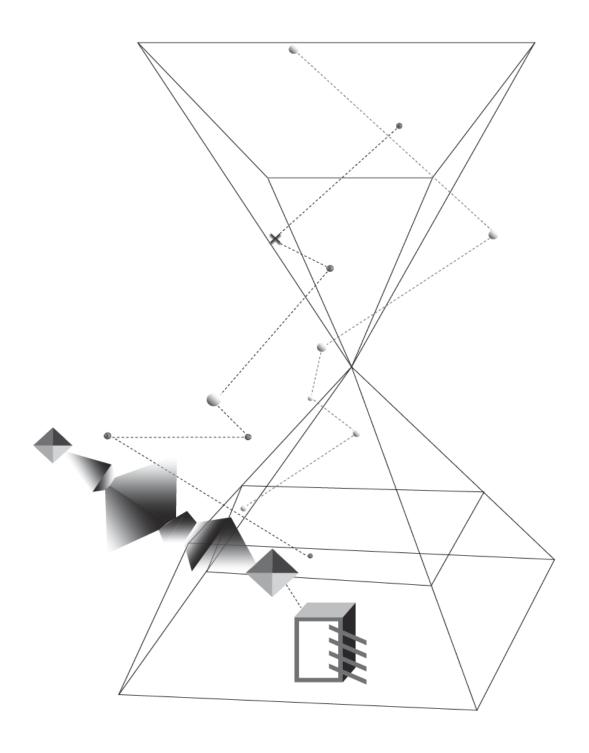


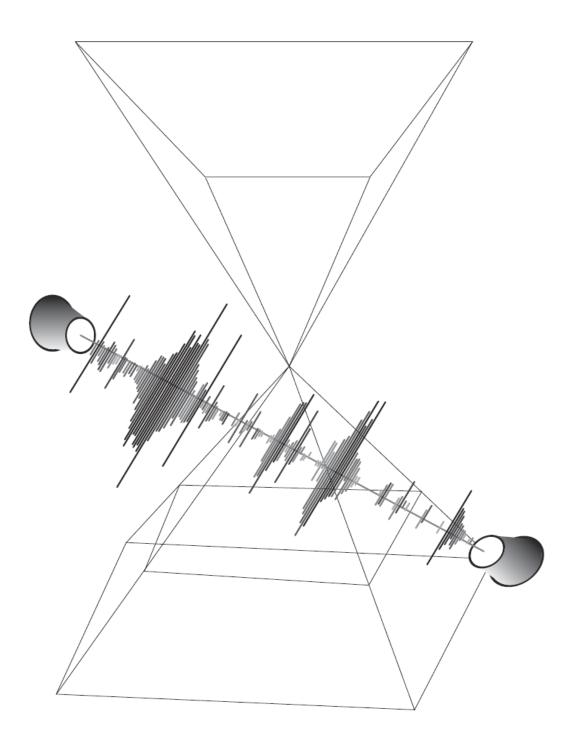


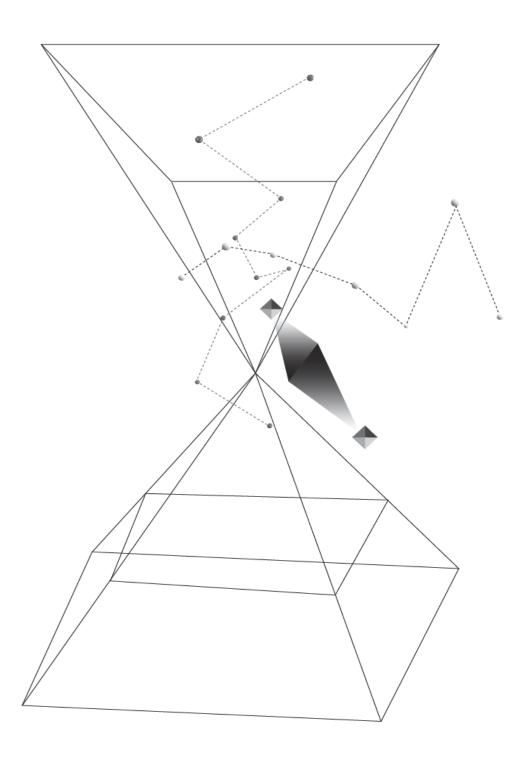


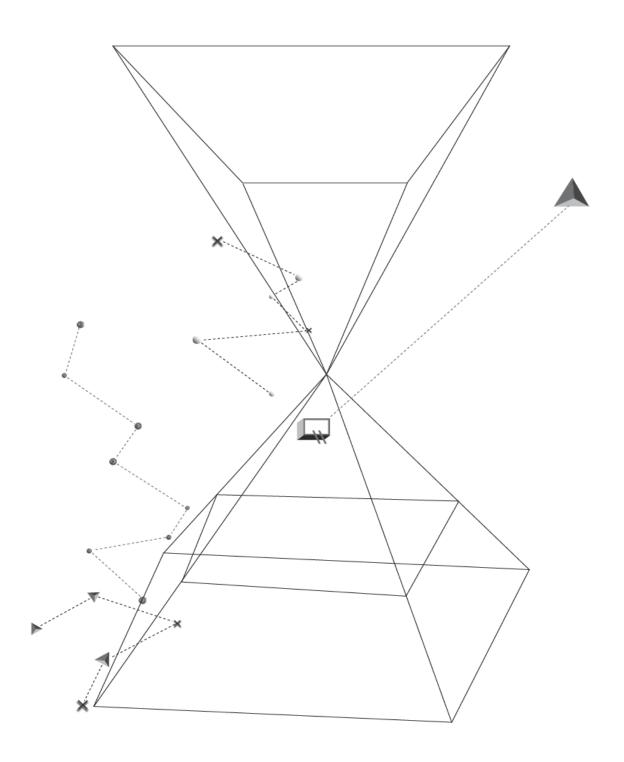


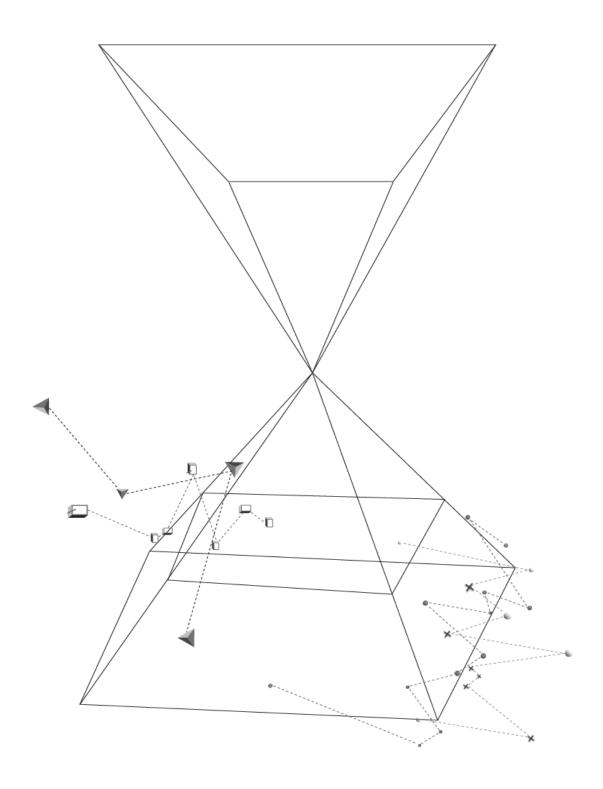


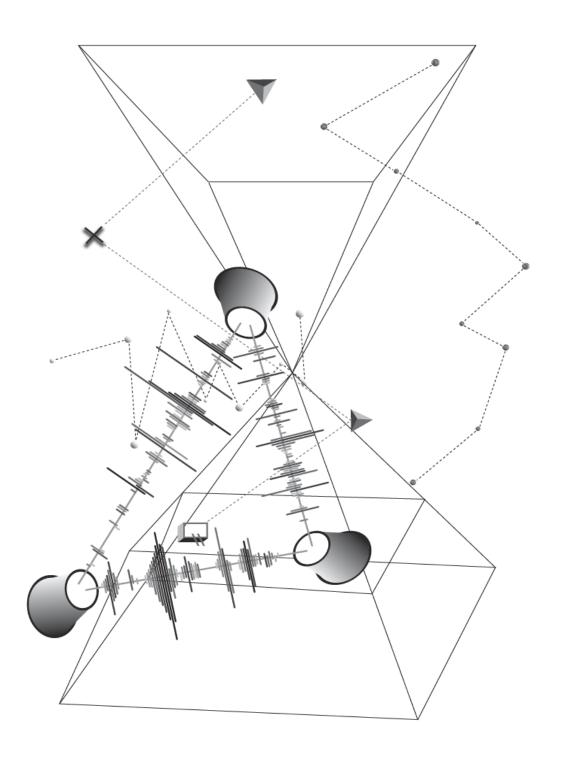


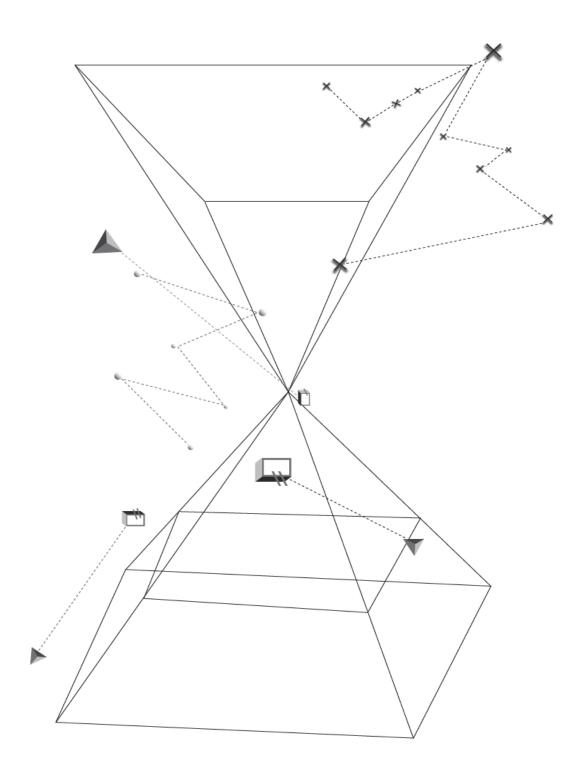


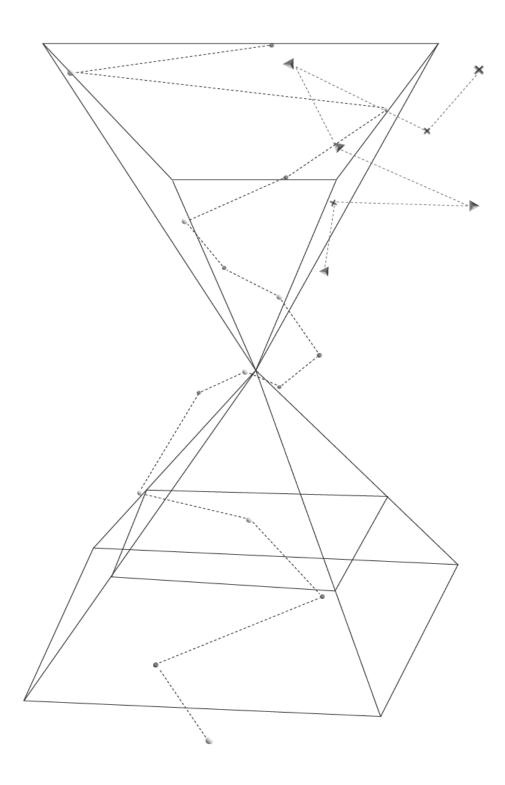


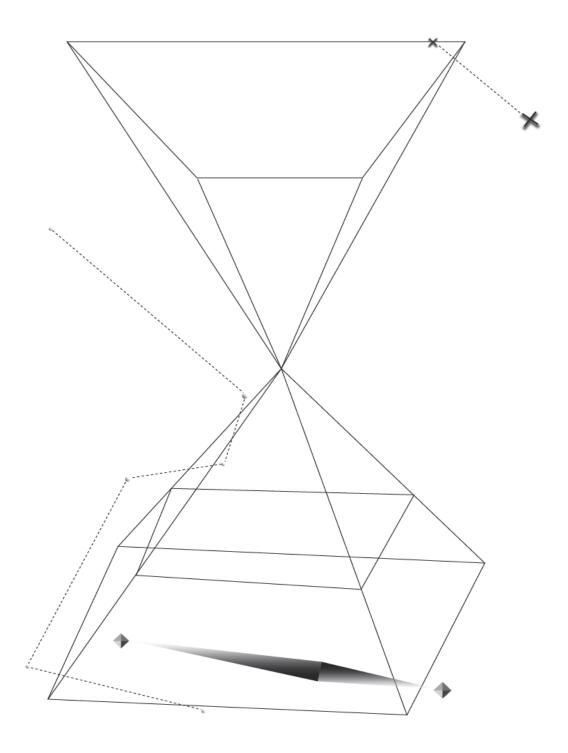














#### **CHAPTER 4- Work for Solo Instrument**

#### Wormhole (2021) - For Amplified Solo Violin

This piece was composed using the theoretical series of space and time bending events necessary for a wormhole to occur as its main tenet. For example, the idea of a Wormhole is based on the speculative structure linking disparate points in space-time in four spatial dimensions, where a two-dimensional being can experience a part of a three-dimensional object. This definition, while simple, is useful to better grasp the idea behind the model of the piece both in the structural diagram, as well as the notational decisions.

For example, the presentation of two "staffs", one for the left hand and another for the right hand, is critical to recognize the notational structure, as it reflects the abovesaid virtual bending of space-time that connects two extremely distant points in the galaxy/universe in a single two-dimensional event. In a similar fashion, all the techniques used within the piece, work in favor of the interacting edges of the event as they need a "bridge" to converge. In this sense, trajectories such as the presented "transitional indefinite pitch" in combination with the proportional bowing distances, convert the hypothetical notion of a Wormhole into a musical one. The use of added dynamic transformations has been applied to add depth, or a first approach to a tridimensional convergence of elements, into the otherwise unidimensional and somewhat "traditional" musical representation. Silence has been included in this score by means of proportionally controlled length-based blank spaces.

Despite the organized nature silences possess within the compositional structure, the variable temporality each performer assigns to the piece, which fluctuates between 47-56 RPM, <sup>15</sup> will

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Choi, Charles Q., Spooky physics phenomenon may link universe's wormholes.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> According to stipulated instructions in the piece's Performance Notes.

also affect the relative length he/she assigns to silences by means of perceptual space in between relatively contiguous sounding gestures.

The gestural content of this piece was carefully chosen to represent an inexact "mirroring" of itself in as many musical dimensions as possible, starting with pitch, rhythmic configuration, dynamics, proportional durations, etcetera. Such a multi-dimensional construct aims to aesthetically represent the relative similar nature of both ends of the space-time connection. In terms of pitch (p) and pitch class (pc) content, the composition starts with a pc-0, which is aesthetically used to represent the unifying singularity of the multi-dimensional space. The first full gesture of the piece is conformed by a (01245679) octachord, which is the main basis for the entire construction of the composition. As it can be observed in the last page of the score<sup>16</sup>, the last two gestures with assigned discrete pitch, also conform an octachord with a (01235689) prime form. While the ending octachord does not have an exact similar form in comparison to the opening one, it contains most of the pitches of the original pc-set, hence reinforcing the mirroring nature of the piece as explained in the aesthetic description. In a similar fashion, the ending pitch is a pc-0, which completes the above-described mirroring concept.

Within the middle-section of the composition a similar structure can be observed. In page five <sup>17</sup>, the starting gesture of the third system proposes a contrasting element with a (013568) prime form and a tripartite half note--(half note value) triplet--quarter note-quarter note rhythmic construct. On page seven <sup>18</sup> the first (quarter note value)-triplet on the third

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Refer to page 9 (marked with a number 6) in the below presented score to observe the described annotations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Refer to page 5 (marked with a number 2) in the below presented score.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Refer to page 7 (marked with a number 4) in the below presented score.

system, which has a (037) prime form, is a built after a T11 is applied to the original hexachord, and one element from each of the three parts of the first presented gesture is used as token to develop a similar movement. While the representation of the (037) triplet is not an exact mirror of the priorly exposed hexachord, it presents two similar features that make their relationship transparent. On the one hand, the above-mentioned use of an element from each part of the original gesture by means of a T11 operation, makes clear the pitch-relationship among non-contiguous segments. On the other hand, the metric diminution of the triplet in relationship to the middle segment of the original gesture shows a clear rhythmic association among trajectories. If such relationships were not transparent enough, both triplets present an almost exact parallel bowing motion and technique.

Finally, further explanation on the pc-content seems rather unnecessary given the textural nature of the piece. However, it is important to mention that all gestures are built with a mirroring pc-set transformation, in a similar fashion to the two examples briefly presented above.

# WORMHOLE

FOR AMPLIFIED SOLO VIOLIN

(14' APPROX.)

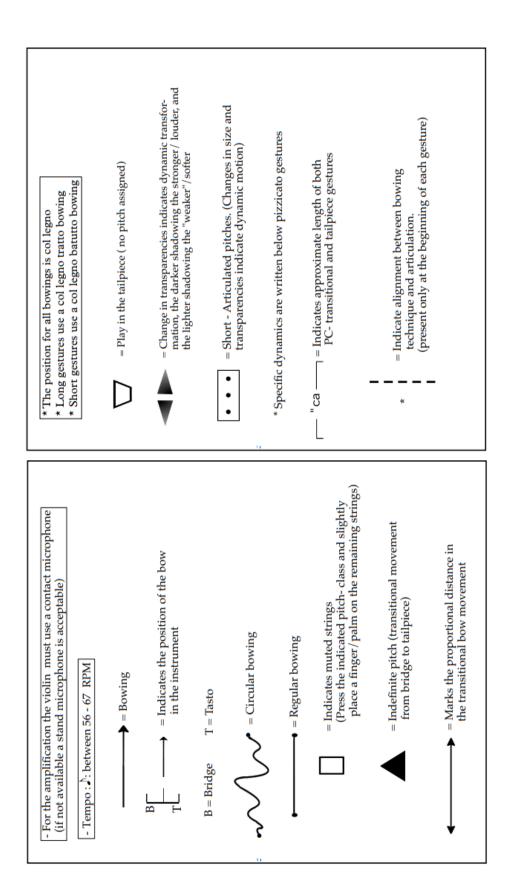
EDUARDO OREA

2021

### WORMHOLE

For amplified solo violin

### Performance Notes

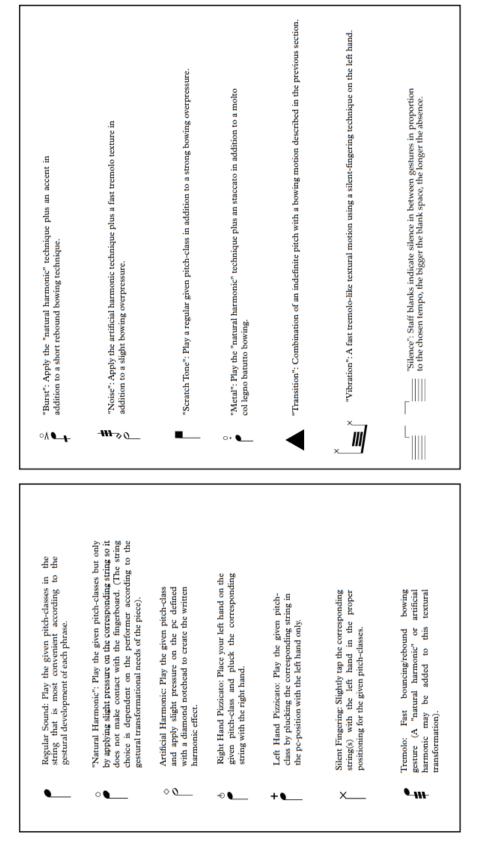


### WORMHOLE

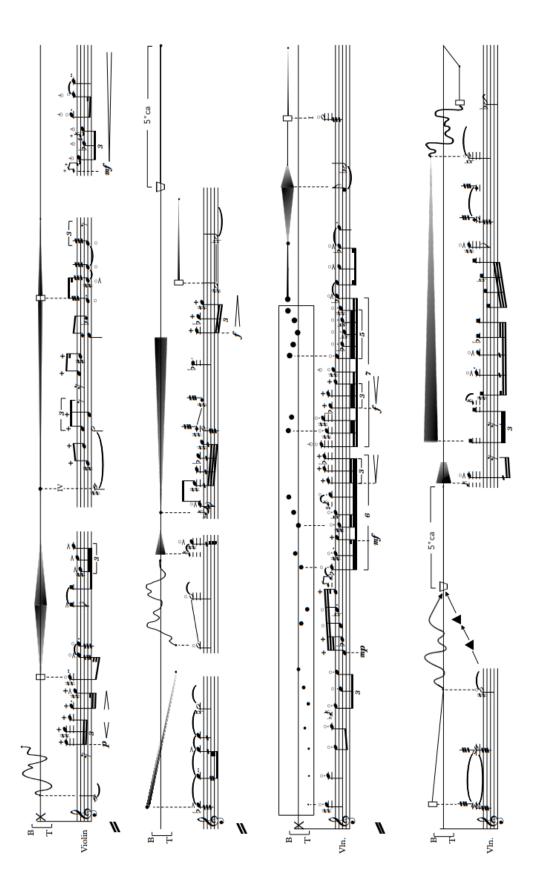
For amplified solo violin

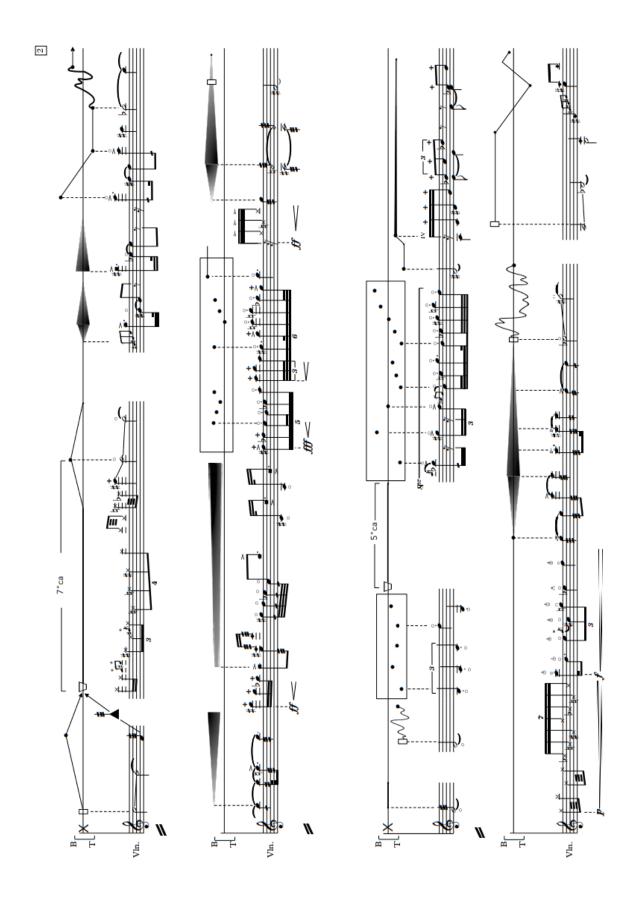
### Performance Notes 2

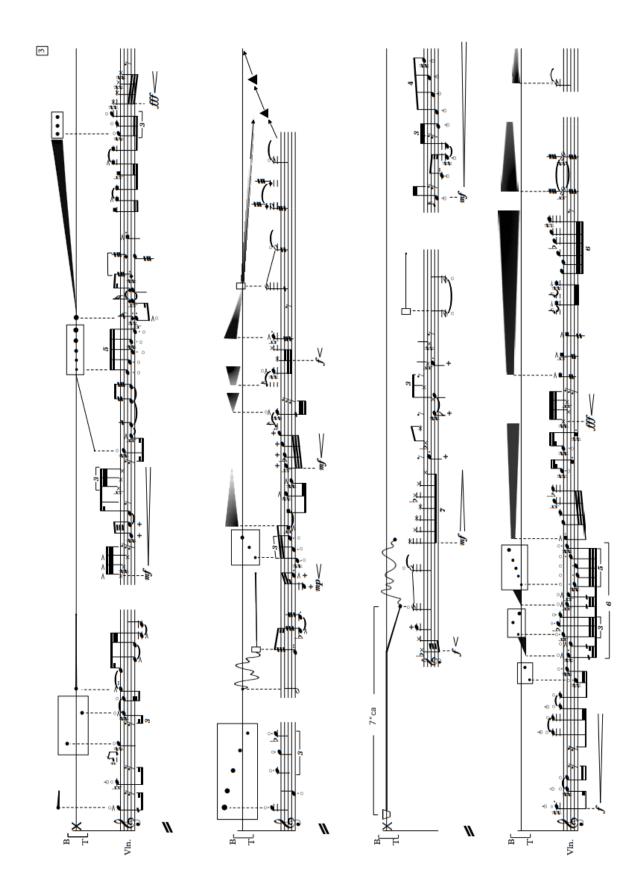
#### Articulations

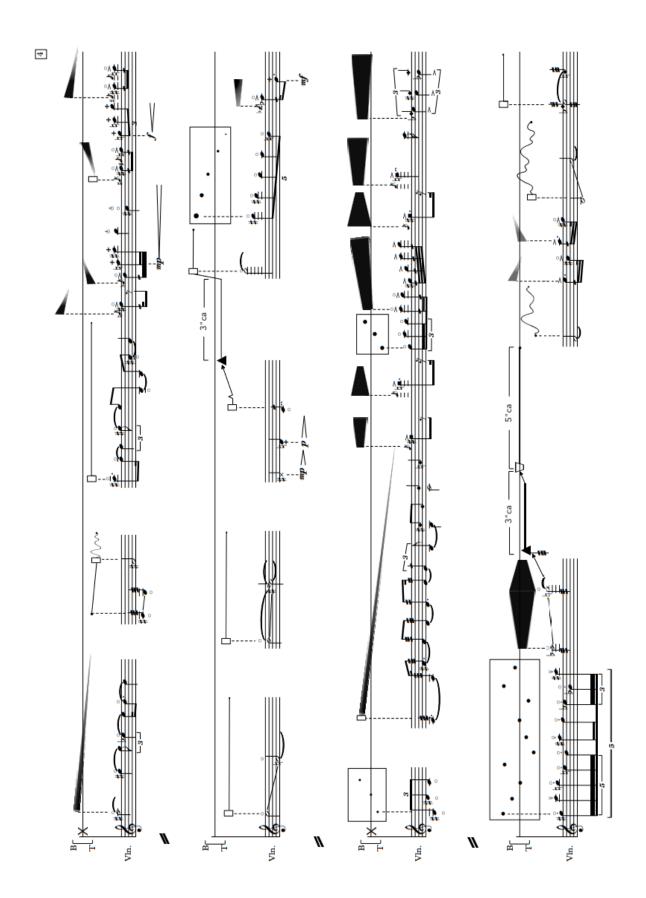


<u>-</u>

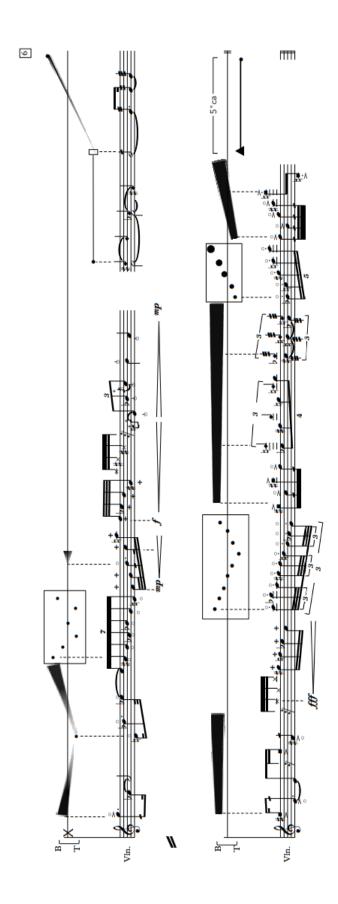












#### **CHAPTER 5- Work for Instrument/Ensemble using Electronics**

#### **Space-Time Burst (2021) - For Amplified Solo Trombone and Live Electronics**

This piece uses the small but violent clashes between matter and anti-matter as a mainframe of structural development. On one hand, the series of small gestures and textural constructions aesthetically signify an abstract representation of the material fluctuations in the space-time. On the other hand, the live electronics embody multiple alterations through pseudo-randomized coding, which resembles the unpredictable behavior of quantum particles constituting the immense but still unrevealed presence of anti-matter through sound waves. The mentioned pseudo-randomization was built using a Max MSP patch where eight different delay channels were plugged to eight different effects (i.e., granular, harmonizer, etc.). Each one of the mentioned channels was then connected to a toggle that identified a specific frequency range that triggered the different effects when the performer reached certain rates. <sup>19</sup> Finally, all controlling delays were plugged to a coll page command that set specific time reactions for each channel.

In this composition, the use of added musical dynamic changes on top of the gestural motion has been applied to add layers of complexity, in terms of a pseudo-tridimensional representation, into an otherwise unidimensional picture. In addition, the gestural content of this piece (i.e., modified multiphonics) was selected to represent the dual occupation of space in a similar time as it occurs with the above discussed quantum particles. This last

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Refer to page four of the below presented score to observe the presentation mode of the described MAX-patch.

dimensional consideration aims to aesthetically represent the simultaneity of events in a given moment and their proportional repercussions.

In terms of pitch (p) and pitch-class (pc) content, the piece is based on a (0246) tetrachord which gradually mutates throughout the piece. The pc-6 and pc-2 with an appoggiatura function within that first gestures, are also used to build full ideas within the piece's development. A clear example of this role transformation can be observed in the second gesture with fixed pitch within the same system as the original tetrachord. In such presentation, pc-6 is presented as one of the main members of the group, while the supporting appoggiaturas (pc-2 and pc-7) include one member of the previously presented appoggiaturas (pc-2) and a new member (pc-7) which will follow the same role-mutation as one of its previous peers. Soft exchanges such as the presented above are crucial to understand the fixed pitch structure of the composition. Despite the relevance of the abovedescribed minor transformations, major operations also play an important role within the composition's framework. In the last page<sup>20</sup>, the first gesture of the fifth system reintroduces an almost exact "copy" of the original statement, using a (0246) prime form as a product of a T4I operation. If the operation does not suffice a clear relationship among groupings, the metric and contour similarity denote a clear rhythmic association among trajectories.

Finally, further explanation on the pc-content seems rather unnecessary given the textural nature of the piece. However, it is important to mention that all gestures are built with a role-mutation and pc-set transformation, in a similar fashion to the two examples briefly presented above.

 $<sup>^{20}</sup>$  Refer to page 6 (marked in the score with a number 2) within the below presented score to identify annotations.

# SPACE\_TIME

# BURST

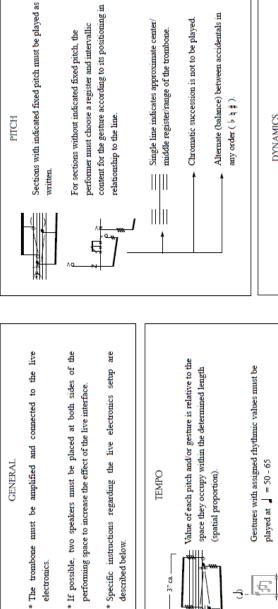
For Solo Trombone and Live Electronics (Between 5' and 8' approx.)

Eduardo Orea

2021

# PERFORMANCE NOTES

PITCH



#### DYNAMICS

Alternate (balance) between accidentals in

any order ( | | | | |

Chromatic succession is not to be played.

Single line indicates approximate center/

- \* Change in transparencies indicate dynamic motion. Lighter/thinner color in lines, beams, noteheads, etcetera, indicate softer dynamics, and darker/thicker gestures indicate stronger dynamics.
- \* Transitions in between transparencies denote gradual crescendos and decrescendos according to the performer's interpretation of the dynamic range.

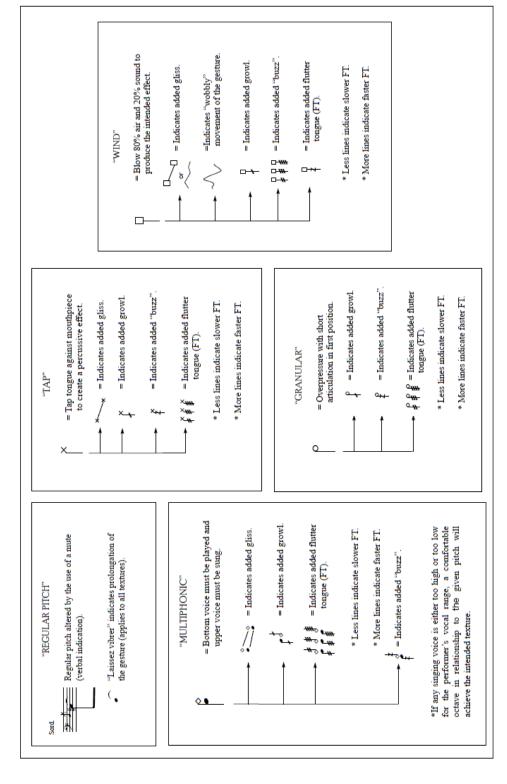
the proportional size of the segment in relationship to its contiguous

sonic fragments.

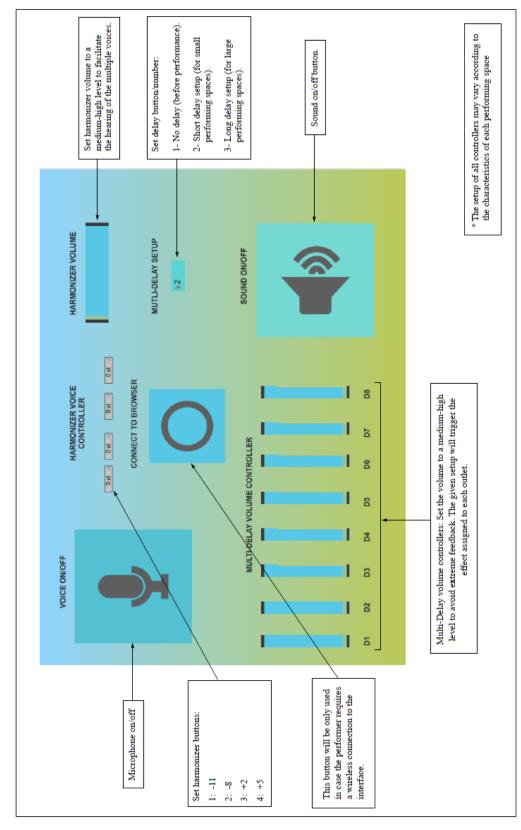
Blank spaces indicate silence. The length of the silence depends on

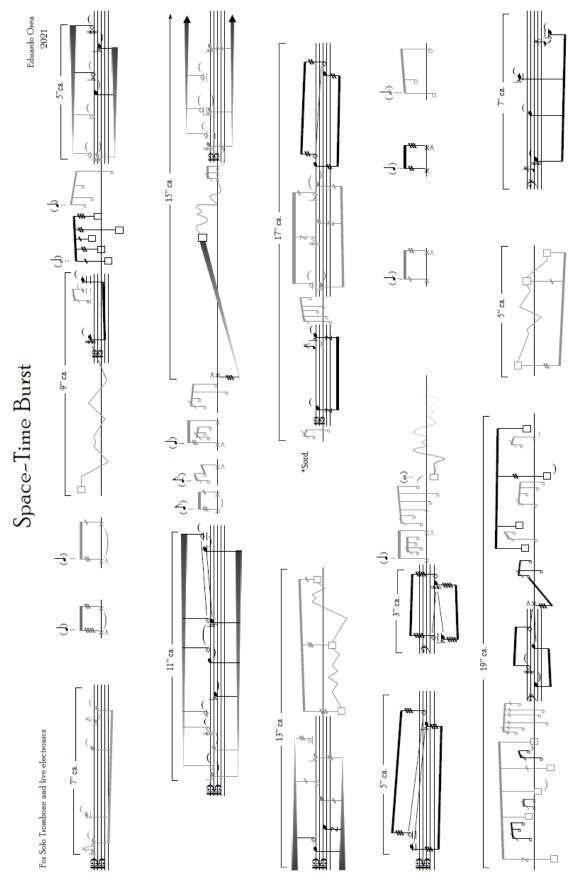
SILENCE

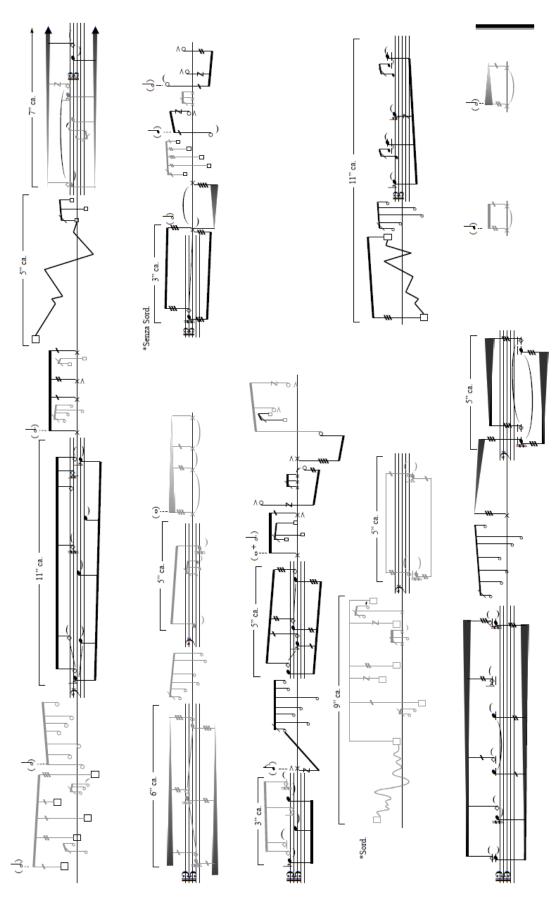
### TEXTURAL CHART



# LIVE ELECTRONICS SETUP







#### **CHAPTER 6- Interdisciplinary Work**

#### Nebula (Cloud 2, 2020) - For Four Amplified Bowed String Instruments in Any Configuration + Optional video projection.

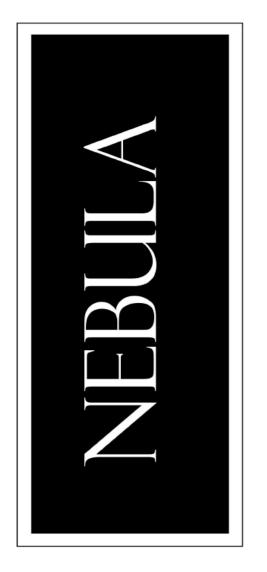
This piece has been composed using as its main foundation, the violent and deathly explosion of the Crab Nebula.<sup>21</sup> First, the placement of each gesture is crucial to the piece's development because it reflects the relative spatial associations between the main vectors taken as structural arguments for the composition.

Second, sound emitted in a nebula's explosion is a rather difficult element to represent in musical values due to imperceptible properties of the void in space. That being said, the extremely low dynamic range proposed for the structural diagram of this composition resembles the abovementioned relative emptiness. The amplification method aims to represent the temporal motion of light from a specific viewpoint by adding a slight reverberation. For instance, the application of specific extended techniques such as "muted strings + natural harmonic" is an abstraction of the high frequencies emitted by the previously discussed explosion with a large spectral content in a low-frequency environment.

The interdisciplinary part of the project emerged as product of the collaboration with the Sponte string quartet for the Mexican premier of Nebula (Cloud, 2). The composition was proposed to be included within the *Festival Internacional Camerata 21* (FICA-21) as part of the quartet's contemporary performance requirement. After review and subsequent approval, and due to the online format of the festival (only applicable for 2020 and 2021), it was decided to develop a visual projection of the piece's most important segments. The idea

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Nola Taylor Tillman, The Crab Nebula (M1): Facts, discovery & images.

included two different videos of the Crab nebula in relative motion and positioning in space being projected behind the ensemble. To achieve such goal, a *caja negra* (black box) performing space was rented and prepared for the recording.



For four amplified bowed string instruments

(5' approx.)

EDUARDO OREA

Cloud-2 (2020)

# NEBULA Performance Notes - Part I

#### **♦**GENERAL

- → All instruments must be amplified (preferably contact mics).
  - gesture has its own approximate duration noted in brackets. → The duration of each system is about 35 seconds. Each

#### **♦**PITCH

- → Pitch succession must be non-diatonic (e.g., Maj/min scale).
- → Chromatic succession is not allowed.
- →Alternate between accidentals in any order (b-h-#).

#### **♦**SILENCE

→ Blank spaces indicate silence whose length depends on the relationship to its contiguous sonic fragments in terms of proportional size of the segment. Consider, this is in structural and/or individual duration.

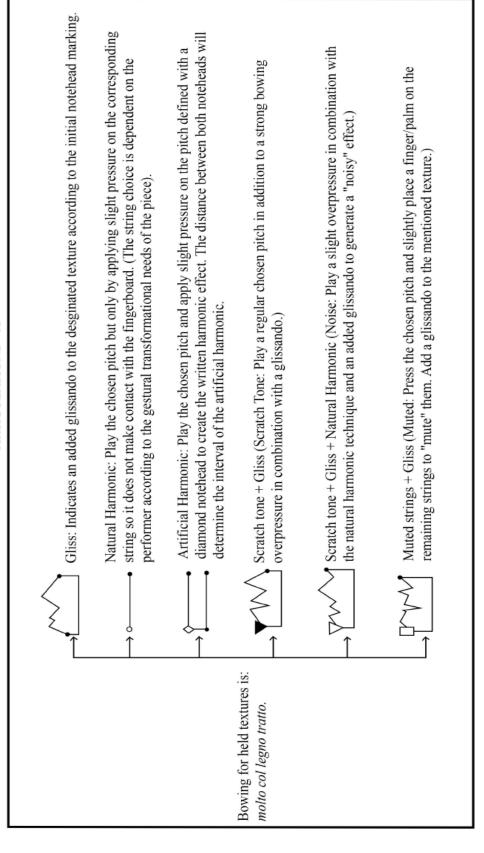
#### **♦**ALIGNMENT

- of the square bracket indicates the approximate center of the → Square brackets delimit instrument register. The middle line register.
- → Red dashed-line cues indicate that two or more textures have exact alignment, their onset is the same.
- → Blue dotted-line cues indicate that two or more textures have inexact alignment, they are offset. They can also show that offset textures are played sequentially.

### NEBULA

# Performance Notes - Part II

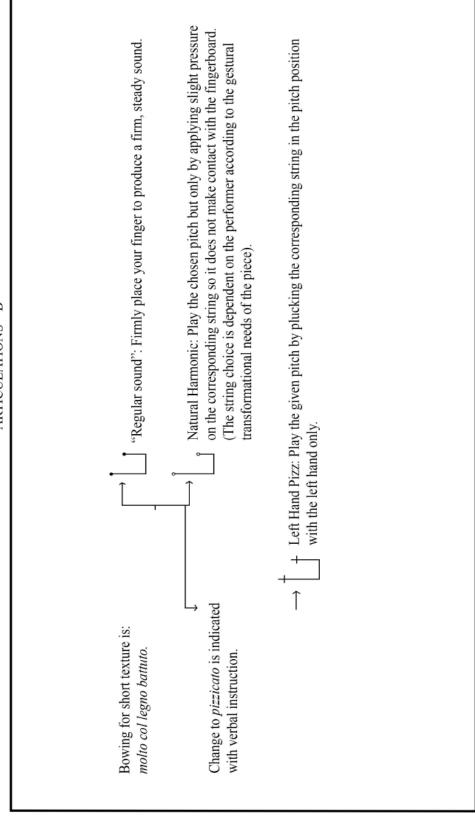
#### ARTICULATIONS - A



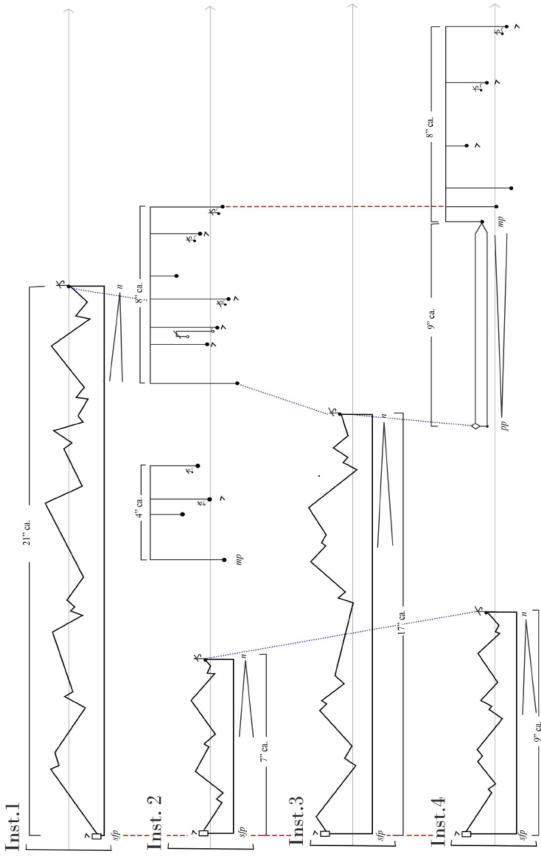
### **NEBULA**

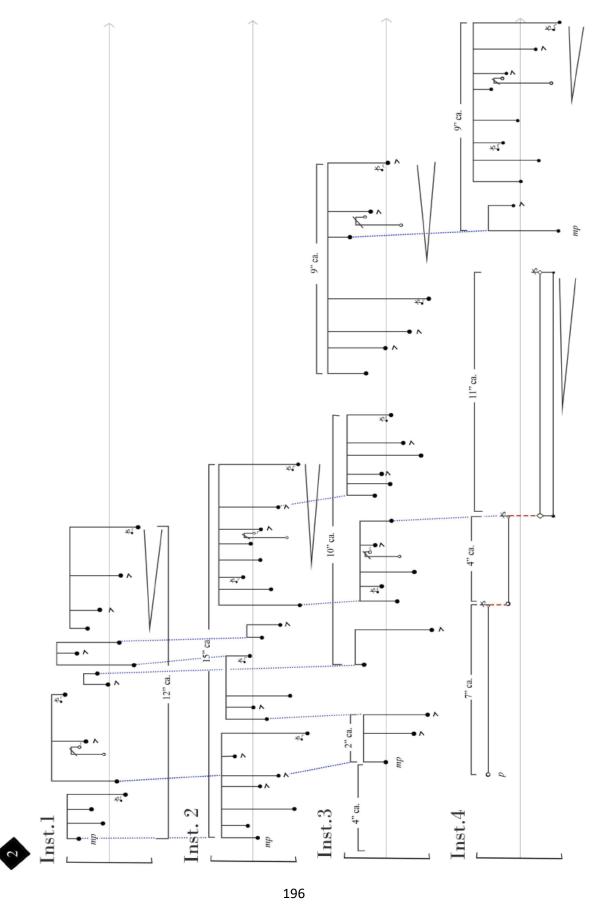
# Performance Notes - Part II

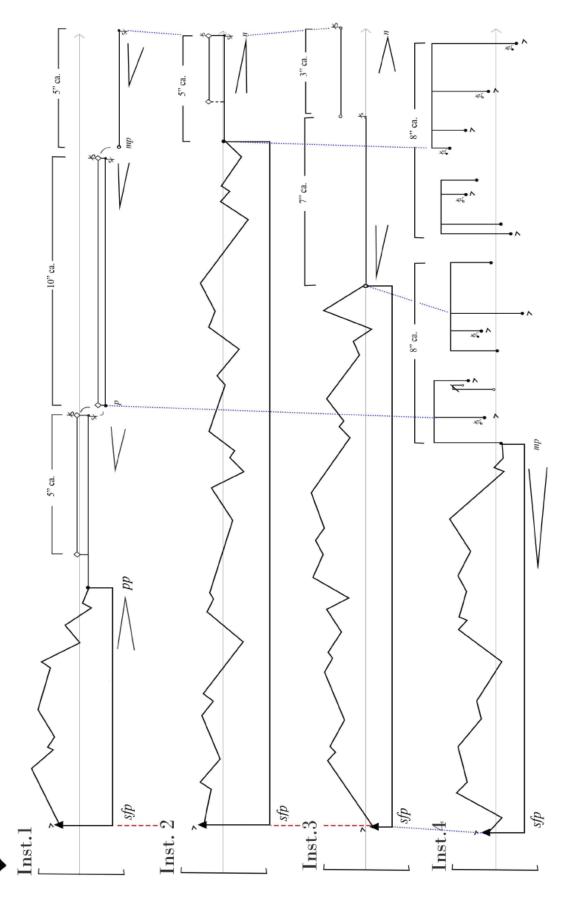
#### ARTICULATIONS - B

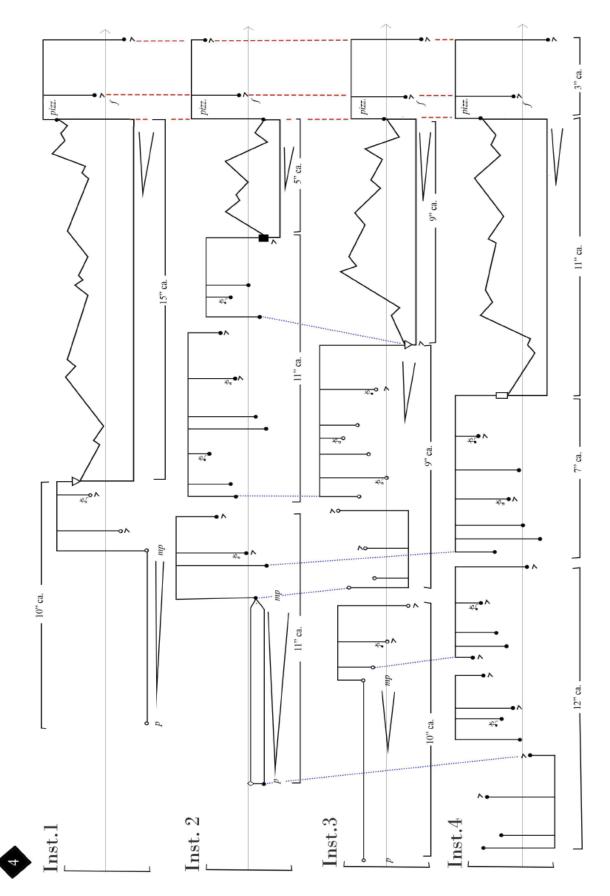


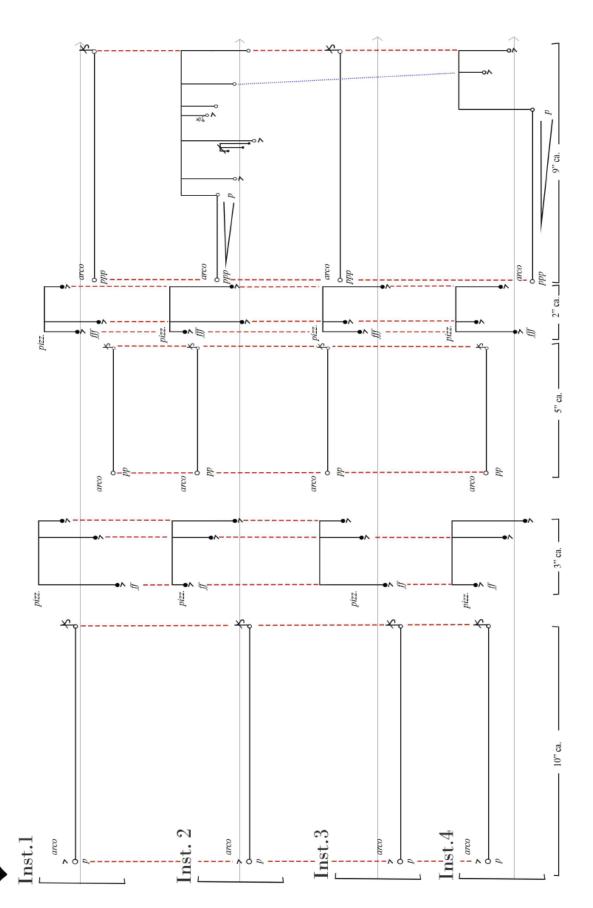
# NEBULA

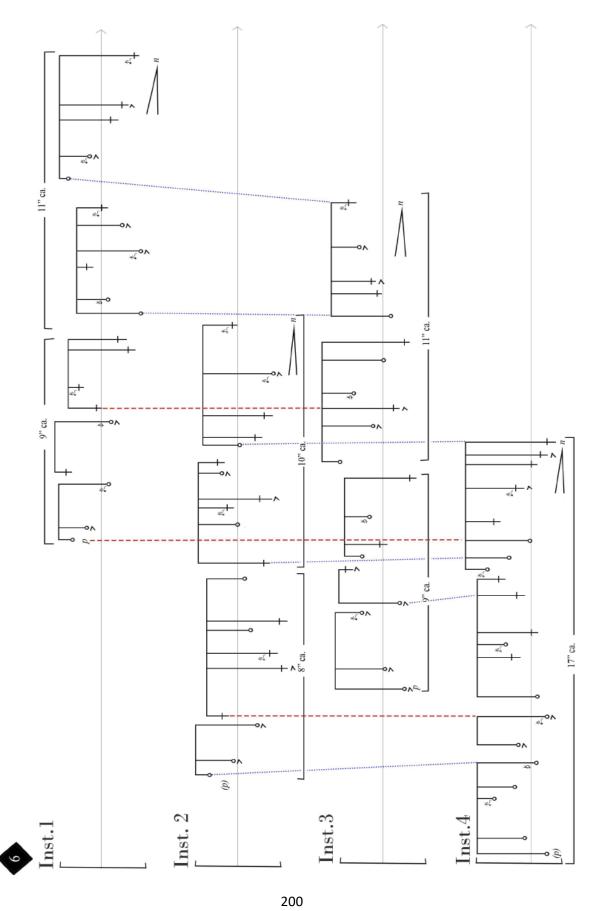


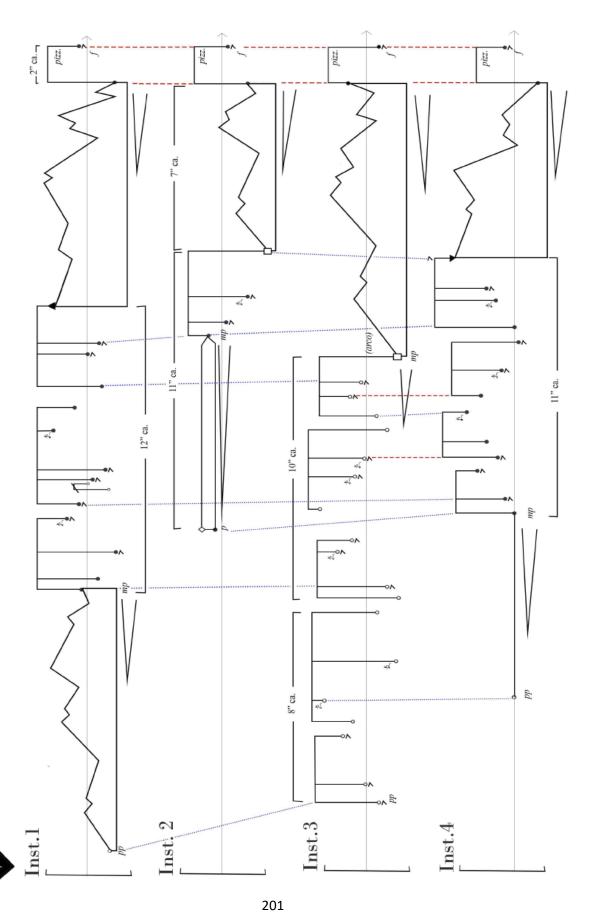


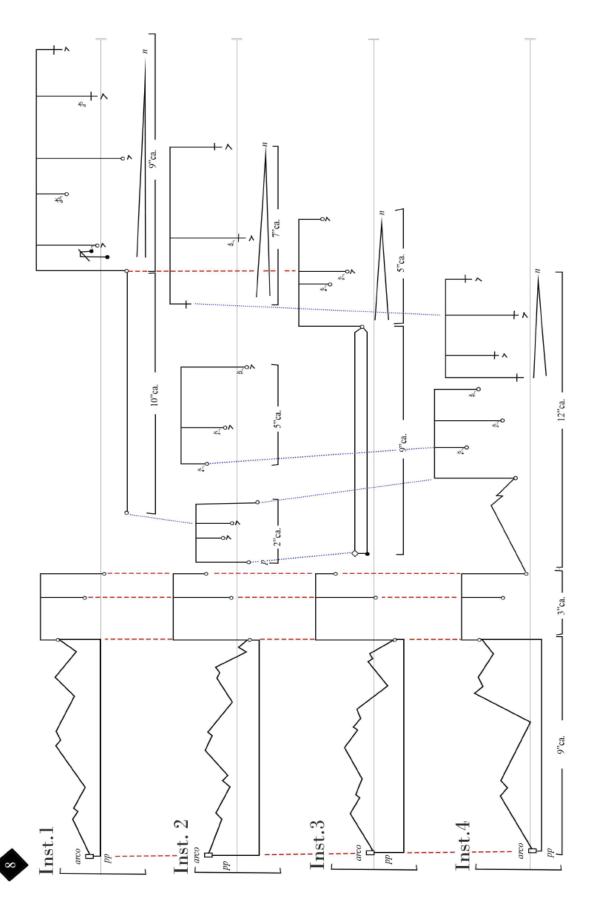












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