threads

AMY BRANDON 2019

Program Note.

From the most traditional music to the most extreme we almost always include gestures that begin at nothing, gain prominence, and return to nothing – a 'swell'.

The simplest to imagine is a volume swell using hairpins, like this:

This piece explores this particular gesture in many different dimensions, not just in the dynamic profile of traditional melodic lines, but also through swells of microtonal pitch, of white noise, of timbre, of distortion, of pointillistic elements, of density and of nothing.

Duration.

~15min

Instrumentation.

Violin

Optional carbon-fibre bow or bow alternative for col legno battuto and tratto

Viola

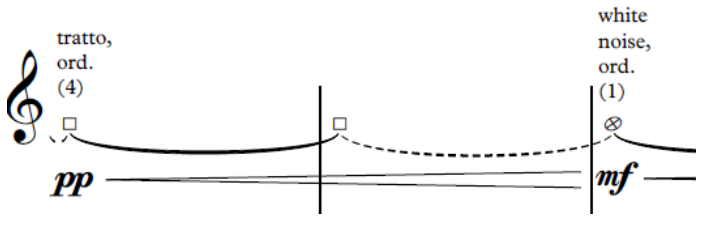
Optional carbon-fibre bow or bow alternative for col legno battuto and tratto

Cello

Optional wooden mute eg.
https://www.amazon.com/JSI-BHBU0503A488-Ebony-Cello-Mute/dp/B000F3HK5U
Optional carbon-fibre bow or bow alternative for col legno battuto and tratto

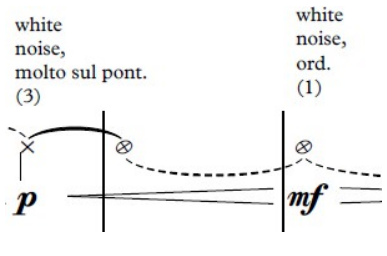
Performance Notes – GENERAL.

Dotted ties indicate a transition between sounds. This transition does not have to be measured.

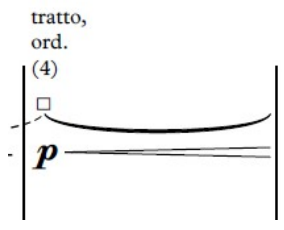


Performance Notes – NOTATION.

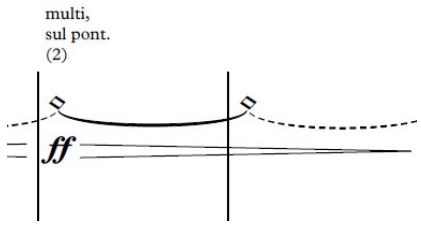
X noteheads indicate **white noise of some type, indicated further through specific notes** (see below).



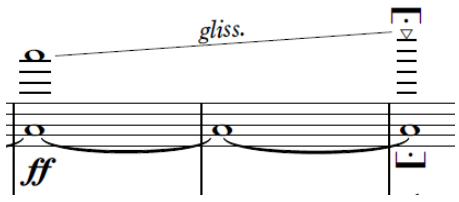
SQUARE noteheads indicate **col legno tratto, medium bow speed**



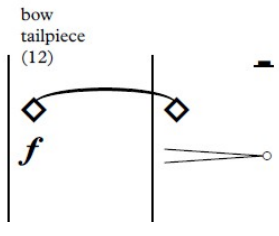
HARMONIC noteheads indicate **multiphonics or harmonics indicated further through specific notes** (see below).



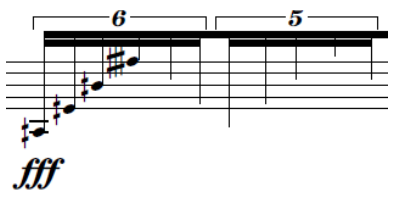
TRIANGLE noteheads indicate **the highest pitch possible.**



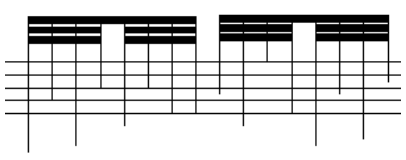
LARGE DIAMOND noteheads indicate **bowing the mute or tailpiece**



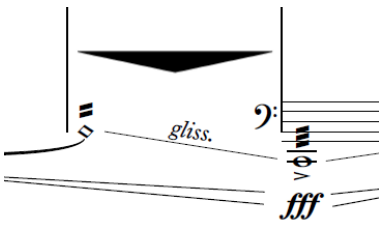
SMALL noteheads indicate **any pitch in this approximate range.**



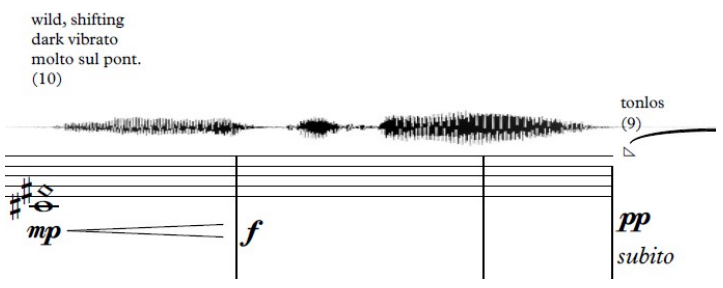
HEADLESS notes indicate **random pitches.**



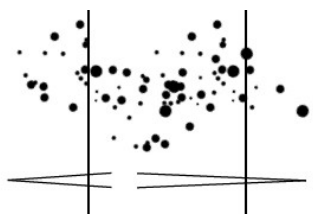
Dark WEDGES indicate overpressure from nothing to complete distortion.



SOUND WAVE indicates a sifting vibrato width (NOTE 10).



DOT CLOUDS indicate a **dense** combination of col legno battuto (NOTE 19) and out-of-tune pizzicato, molto sul pont. and/or molto secco (NOTE 20).



Performance Notes – Specific Sounds.

IMPORTANT:

If a particular sound is not possible, impracticable, or unsuited to the particular instrument, one of similar character can be substituted.

NOTE 1: white noise, ord.
Example: https://youtu.be/ky0d8AVBPgE?t=42

NOTE 2: slow, heavy bow, molto sul pont., noisy fluttering multiphonic
Example: https://vimeo.com/92219934

NOTE 3: white noise, molto sul pont.

NOTE 4: **col legno tratto – medium bow**: A medium speed bow with normal pressure and muted strings, creating a static-y sound.
Example: https://vimeo.com/57220707

If col legno tratto is not a good fit, bow a muted string very slowly, deliberately creating a white-noise feathery sound AND/OR bow normal notes molto sul pont. OR a combination as the performer sees fit, creating a whispery, feathery effect – not the usual bright clear 'speaking' harmonic or note.

NOTE 5: distorted trill
Example from Ligeti String Quartet No. 2: https://youtu.be/lZwU7QmnCFo?t=429

NOTE 6: 'white noise' (ie. very distorted) vibrato, molto sul pont.
Example: https://youtu.be/fHYYxXRGmjI?t=4

NOTE 7: sliding harmonic
Example: https://youtu.be/awQBh9ADp98?t=35

NOTE 8: 'white noise' (ie. very distorted) trill, molto sul pont.
Example: https://youtu.be/fHYYxXRGmjI?t=258

NOTE 9: tonlos, on the bridge
Example: https://musaic.nws.edu/videos/extended-techniques-in-contemporary-music-part-i-to

NOTE 10: wild, dark harmonic vibrato
Example: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rBLonai4imS1BLNMzTGFSX9R4Vvlh7c7/edit

NOTE 11: rasp, molto sul tasto
Example: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHYYxXRGmjI&feature=youtu.be&t=273

NOTE 12: bow tailpiece
Example: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIFIqr-DgKg

NOTE 14: bow mute
Example from *Mani.Giacometti* by Pierluigi Billone: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2wcY5l2jdY
Score Excerpt: http://www.pierluigibillone.com/pdf/mani_giacometti_example.pdf

If a mute is not available, bow the tailpiece (1st choice) OR the lowest possible note (2nd choice)

NOTE 15: distorted tone, slight overpressure, heavier bow, don't obscure pitch completely, sul pont.

NOTE 16: not together, as fast as possible

NOTE 17: molto sul pont, punta d'arco
Example: Ben Johnston String Quartet No. 7: https://youtu.be/gYsJNrLiYiM?t=49

NOTE 18: Microtonal pitches do not have to be exact.

NOTE 19: jeté

Very soft, arythmic jeté or saltando changing frequently to many different parts of the violin creating shifting timbres of extremely soft, gentle sounds. Minimize battuto and scratch sounds as much as possible. Space between dots indicates silence and shape or density of dots indicates gesture. Sounds should be barely perceptable.

NOTE 20: adding short, sharp, brittle additions as much as possible ie. OUT-OF-TUNE pizz. secco, pizz. molto sul pont, or battuto on chinrest.

NOTE 21: beside the bridge, metallic,
Example: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgQUc23rG1M

NOTE 22: Slide quadruple stop irregularly up and down only moving within a semitone per bar, small notes are approximate guideposts

NOTE 23: Wild and crazy improv figure from Andrew Norman's *Teresa (A Companion Guide to Rome):*
Example: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xn9n0g80DbY&list=PL0_riGVa_iQgKQLb1yZ4xj4vnbHoabTeX

NOTE 24: pitches half muted

NOTE 25: pitches 3/4 muted

NOTE 26: silent fingering, exact rhythm not imperative

FULL SCORE

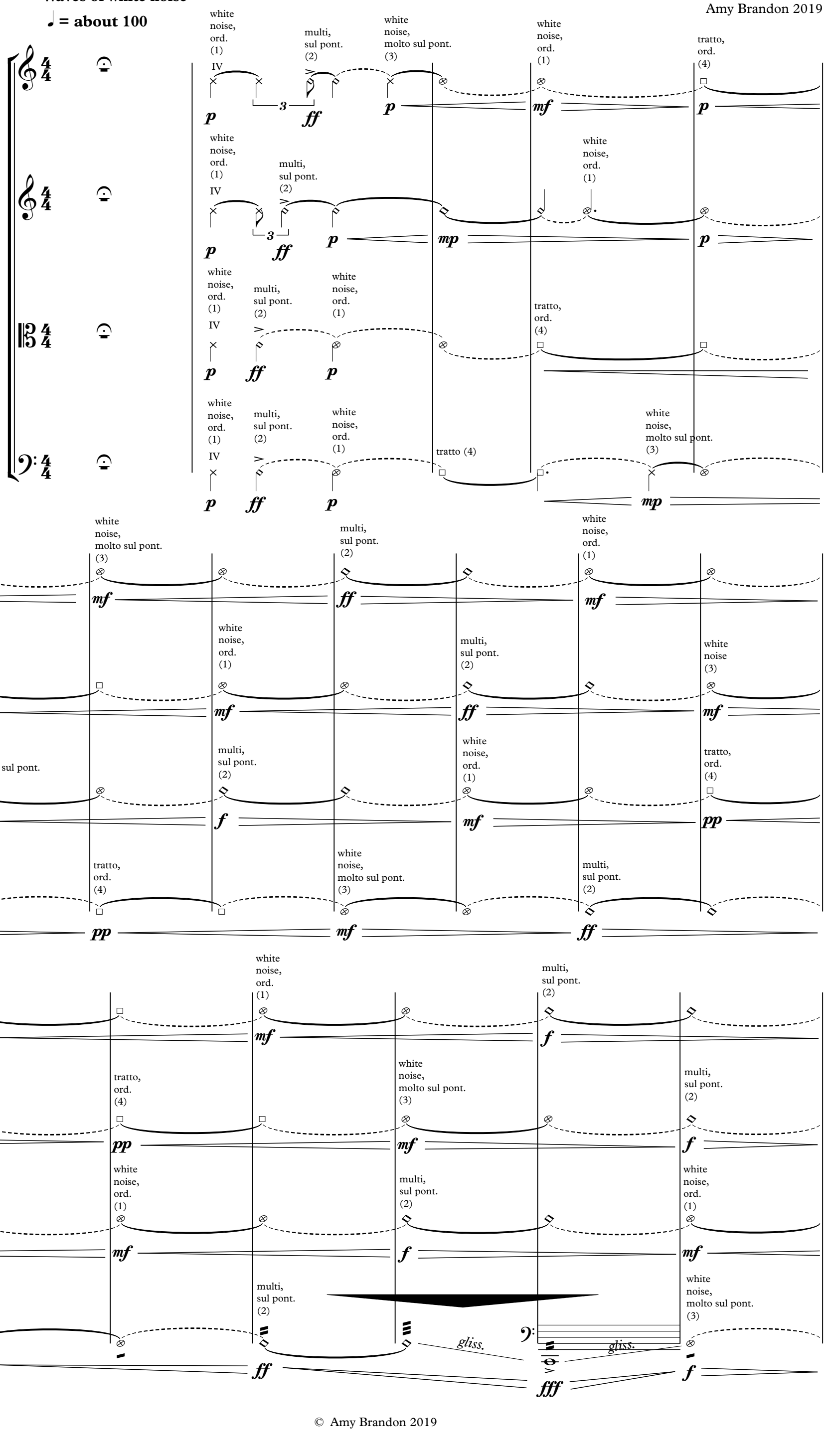
threads

for Chartreuse Trio

Amy Brandon 2019

Waves of white noise

♩ = about 100



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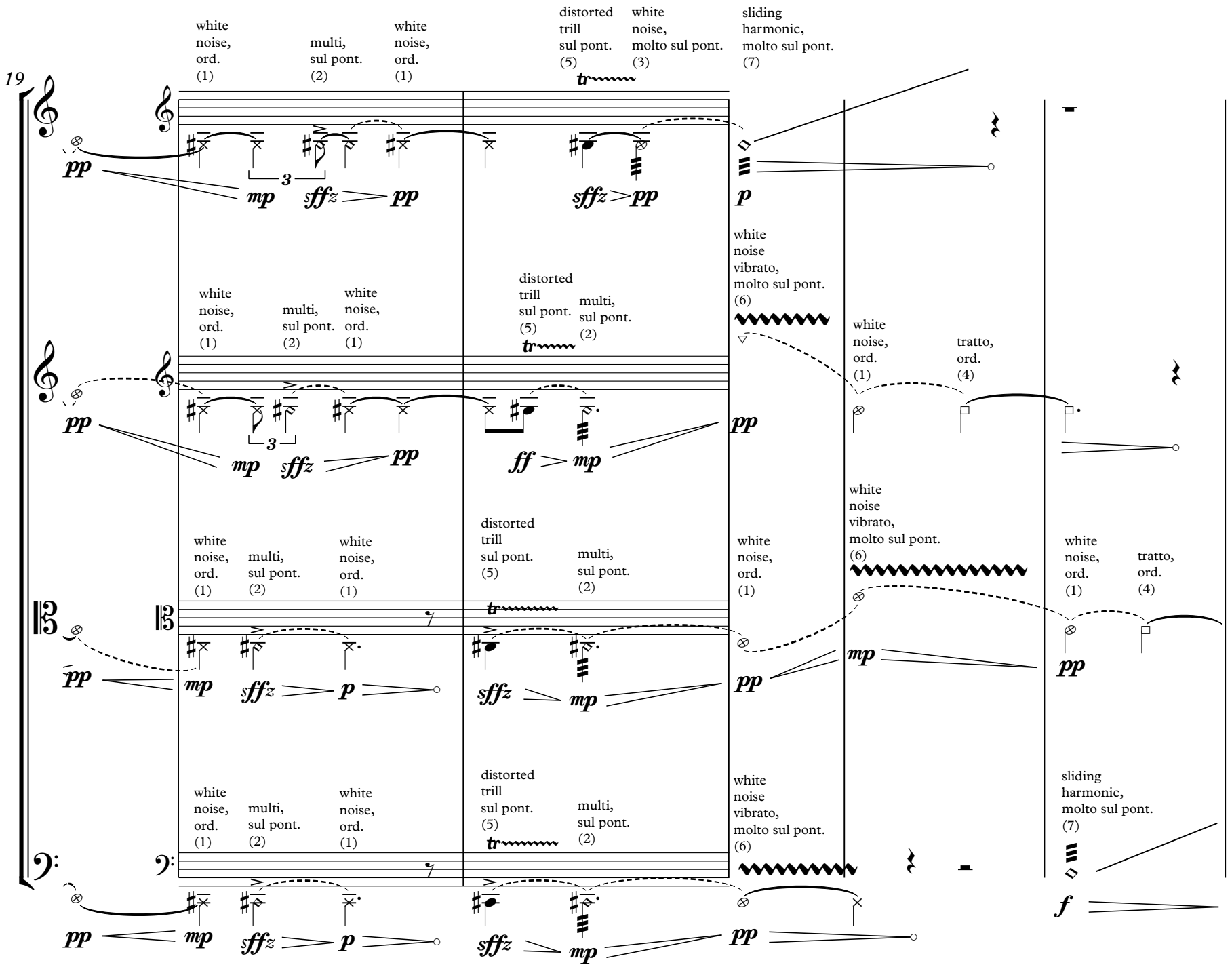
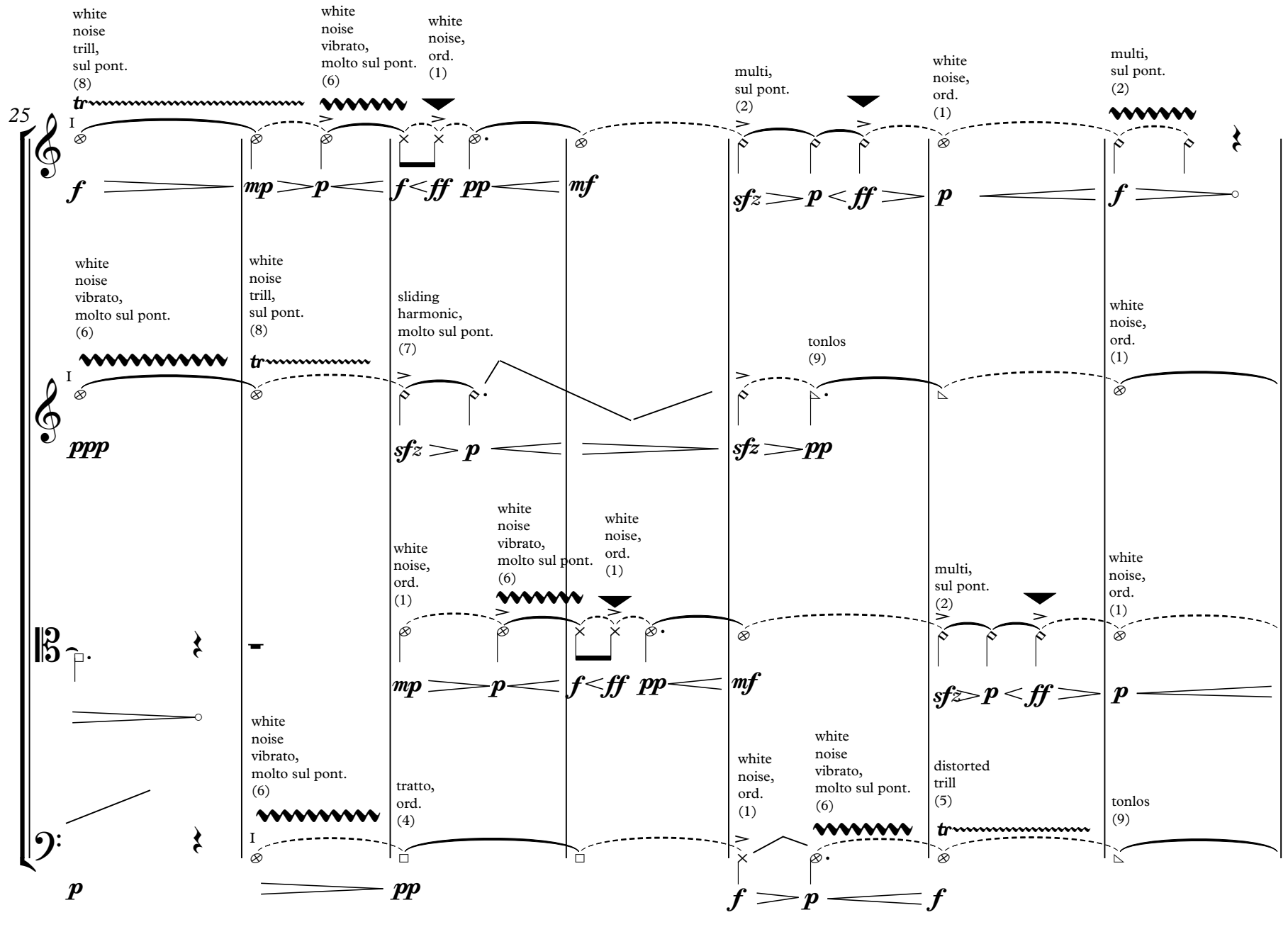

19
white noise, ord. (1)
multi, sul pont. (2)
white noise, ord. (1)
distorted trill sul pont. (5)
white noise, molto sul pont. (3)
sliding harmonic, molto sul pont. (7)
white noise vibrato, molto sul pont. (6)
white noise, ord. (1)
tratto, ord. (4)
pp
mp
sffz
p
ff
mf


25
I
white noise trill, sul pont. (8)
white noise vibrato, molto sul pont. (6)
white noise, ord. (1)
multi, sul pont. (2)
sliding harmonic, molto sul pont. (7)
tonlos (9)
tratto, ord. (4)
distorted trill (5)
f
mp
p
ff
pp
mf
sfz
ppp

32

wild, shifting
dark vibrato
molto sul pont.
(10)

tonlos
(9)

mp f pp subito

wild, shifting
dark vibrato
molto sul pont.
(10)

tonlos
(9)

mp f pp subito

wild, shifting
dark vibrato
molto sul pont.
(10)

tonlos
(9)

mp f pp subito

wild, shifting
dark vibrato
molto sul pont.
(10)

add mute

mp f

39

rasp,
molto sul tasto
(11)

white
noise,
ord.
(1)

rasp,
molto sul tasto
(11)

bow
tailpiece
(12)

white
noise,
ord.
(1)

p ff p p ff p f p

bow
tailpiece
(12)

rasp,
molto sul tasto
(11)

white
noise,
ord.
(1)

bow
tailpiece
(12)

p ff p p ff p f p

bow
tailpiece
(12)

bow
tailpiece
(12)

rasp,
molto sul tasto
(11)

white
noise,
ord.
(1)

f p mf p f

bow
mute
(14)

tonlos
(9)

bow
mute
(14)

remove mute

p ff p ff p

48

multi,
sul pont.
(2)

white
noise,
ord.
(1)

ord.

white
noise,
molto sul pont.
(3)

pp ppp pp p

bow
tailpiece
(12)

tratto,
ord.
(4)

white
noise,
molto sul pont.
(3)

p mf p mf

tratto,
ord.
(4)

p

4

A **Undulating waves**

55

white noise, molto sul pont. (3)
ord.
ppp mp f mf
ord.
molto sul pont.
f mp mf
multi, sul pont. (2)
white noise, ord. (1)
ord.
mf p p mf
white noise, ord. (1)
white noise, molto sul pont. (3)
white noise, ord. (1)
ord.
p mp mf

61

molto sul pont.
ord.
ff p
ord.
molto sul pont.
ppp f
molto sul pont.
ord.
molto sul pont.
gliss.
p f mp
molto sul pont.
ord.
molto sul pont.
p gliss. f
f p f

67

molto sul pont.
ord.
gliss. gliss.
mf p f
ord.
molto sul pont.
gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss.
mf p p
ord.
molto sul pont.
ord.
gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss.
f p mf
ord.
molto sul pont.
tr
ord.
sffz p f

73

molto sul pont.

5

gliss.

mf f p

ord.

p mf

molto sul pont. ord.

pp mf

molto sul pont. ord.

p fff

78

ord. molto sul pont.

mf p f

molto sul pont. ord.

p pp f

ord. molto sul pont.

pp mf

molto sul pont. ord. molto sul pont.

p fff ppp

84

ord. molto sul pont.

> mf p ff

molto sul pont. ord.

mf ff

ord. molto sul pont. ord.

p fff

ord. molto sul pont. ord.

f fff

Disturbed, erratic

NOTE 16: not together and as fast as possible

accel.

♩= about 120

A tempo

♩= about 120

B

89

distorted, sul pont (15)

ord.

gliss.

ffff

distorted, sul pont (15)

ord.

gliss.

7

fff

distorted trill, sul pont. (5)

ord.

tr

gliss.

distorted trill sul pont. (5)

ord.

ffff

91

(ord.)

molto sul pont.

ord.

slur freely

espres.

p f p f

molto sul pont.

ord.

molto sul pont.

ord.

gliss.

p f p mf

ord.

molto sul pont.

ord.

molto sul pont.

mf p mf p

molto sul pont.

ord.

molto sul pont.

gliss.

p mf f p f

98

molto sul pont.

ord.

molto sul pont.

gliss.

f p

ord.

molto sul pont.

ord.

molto sul pont.

mf p mf p

ord.

molto sul pont.

ord.

molto sul pont.

p mf f p

106

gliss.

p ff

ord. molto sul pont. ord.

mf p ff

ord. molto sul pont. ord.

f p ff

ord. gliss. molto sul pont. ord.

mf ff

accel. **A tempo**

NOTE 16: not together and as fast as possible

distorted, sul pont (15) ord.

113

6 6 gliss. gliss.

ffff p

distorted, sul pont (15) ord.

7 7 gliss.

ffff p

distorted trill, sul pont. (5)

tr gliss.

fff p

distorted trill sul pont. (5) ord.

gliss. 7 gliss.

tr distorted, sul pont (15)

ffff f

115

gliss.

f ff

gliss. distorted, sul pont (15) 7

f p ff

gliss. distorted trill, sul pont. (5)

tr

distorted, sul pont (15) gliss. 6

p f p f

119

ord.

molto sul pont.

p f p mp

ord.

molto sul pont.

mf p f

molto sul pont.

ord.

mp mf mp

molto sul pont.

ord.

molto sul pont., punta d'arco (17)

gliss. gliss.

p f p

distorted, sul pont (15)

123

ord.

gliss.

sul pont (15)

ord.

ff f

distorted, sul pont (15)

ord.

7

ord.

distorted, sul pont (15)

5

ord.

ff p f

distorted trill, sul pont. (5)

distorted trill, sul pont. (5)

ff p ff p

distorted trill sul pont. (5)

ord.

molto sul pont., punta d'arco (17)

sffz pp p gliss. gliss. gliss. mf

128

ff

molto sul pont.

p mf

(ord.)

molto sul pont.

mf p mf

gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss.

mp mf

C

Nervously

132

mp
subito

Exact pitches not imperative (18)
molto sul pont., punta d'arco (17)

5 7

mp

molto sul pont., punta d'arco
(17)

gliss.

ppp

molto sul pont., punta d'arco
(17)

p

gliss. *gliss.* *gliss.*

133

7 5

gliss.

gliss.

134

5 7

pp

gliss.

10

accel. = about 132

135

not together and as fast as possible (16)
distorted,
sul pont
(15)
ord.

ffff

gliss.

not together and as fast as possible (16)
distorted,
sul pont
(15)
ord.

ffff

distorted trill, sul pont.
(5)

gliss.

not together and as fast as possible (16)
distorted
trill
sul pont.
(5)
ord.

ffff

137

ff *mf*

Exact pitches not imperative (18)
molto sul pont., punta d'arco (17)

ff *p*

ff *ppp*

molto sul pont., punta d'arco (17)

ff *p*

gliss.

139

gliss.

140

gliss.

7

5

gliss.

pp

gliss.

gliss.

141

5

7

gliss.

gliss.

accel.

not together and as fast as possible (16)
distorted,
sul pont
(15)

142

gliss.

gliss.

7

ffff

distorted, sul pont
(15)

7

7

ffff

distorted trill, sul pont.
(5)

tr

gliss.

fff

distorted
trill
sul pont.
(5)

distorted,
sul pont
(15)

5

tr

ffff

12

A tempo

143

ord.

gliss.

gliss.

f

distorted, sul pont., (15)

port.

5

port.

5

ord.

ffff

f

distorted, sul pont., (15)

port.

port.

ord.

ffff

147

gliss.

gliss.

mf

mp

ord.

gliss.

f

p

gliss.

distorted, sul pont (15)

ord.

gliss.

ffff

p

151

gliss.

gliss.

p

pp

pp

D

♩= about 100

156

ord.

mf

ord.

gliss.

gliss.

mf

p

ord.

mf

ord.

mf

160

mf

164

14

Like muted constellations

E

♩=100

Very soft, arythmic jete or saltando changing frequently to many different parts of the violin creating shifting timbres of extremely soft, gentle sounds.
Minimize battuto and scratch sounds as much as possible. Space between dots indicates silence and shape or density of dots indicates gesture. Sounds should be barely perceptable.
(19)

168

ppp

ppp

ppp

espres.

beside the bridge,
metallic
(21)

mf

white
noise,
ord.
(1)

beside the bridge,
metallic
(21)

173

ppp

mf

f

white
noise,
ord.
(1)

p

beside the bridge,
metallic
(21)

mf

179

beside the bridge,
metallic
(21)

mf

183

white
noise,
ord.
(1)

f

p

188

beside the bridge,
metallic
(21)

white
noise,
ord.
(1)

beside the bridge,
metallic
(21)

f

mp

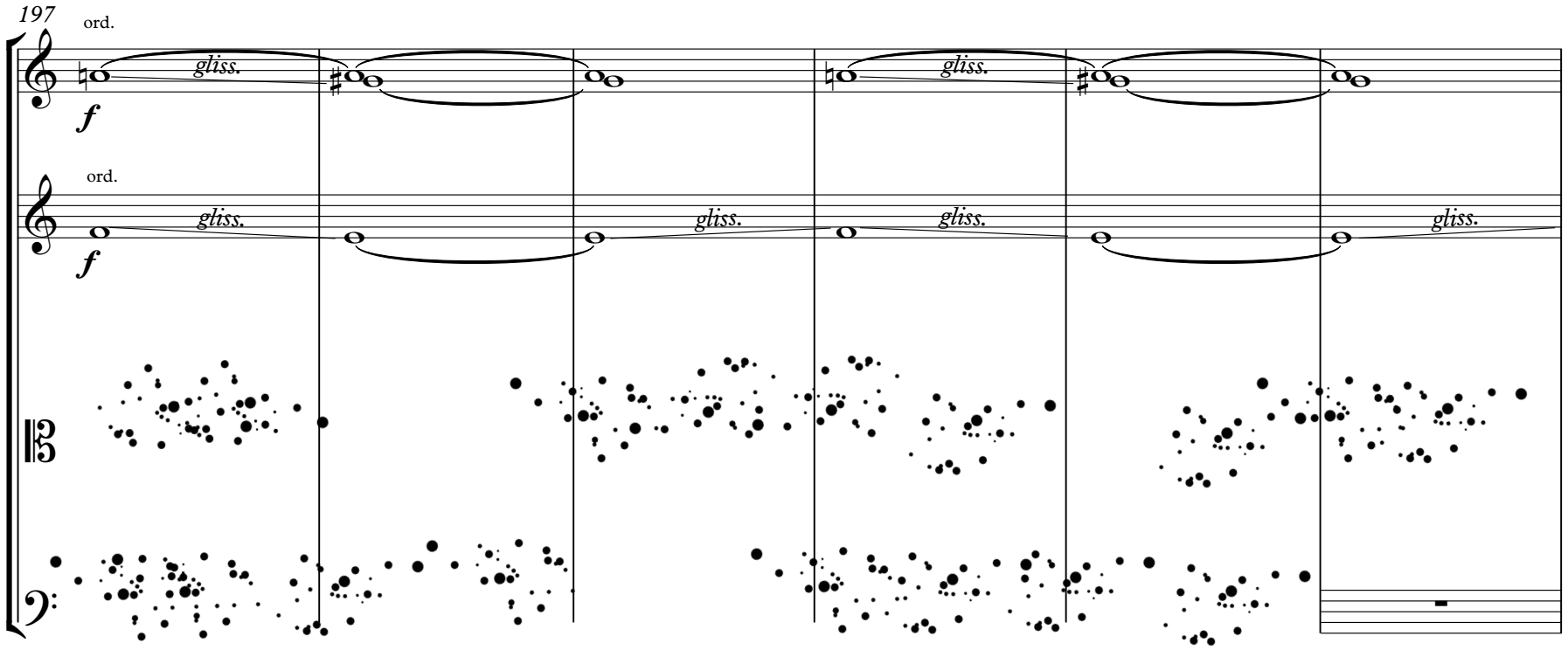
mp

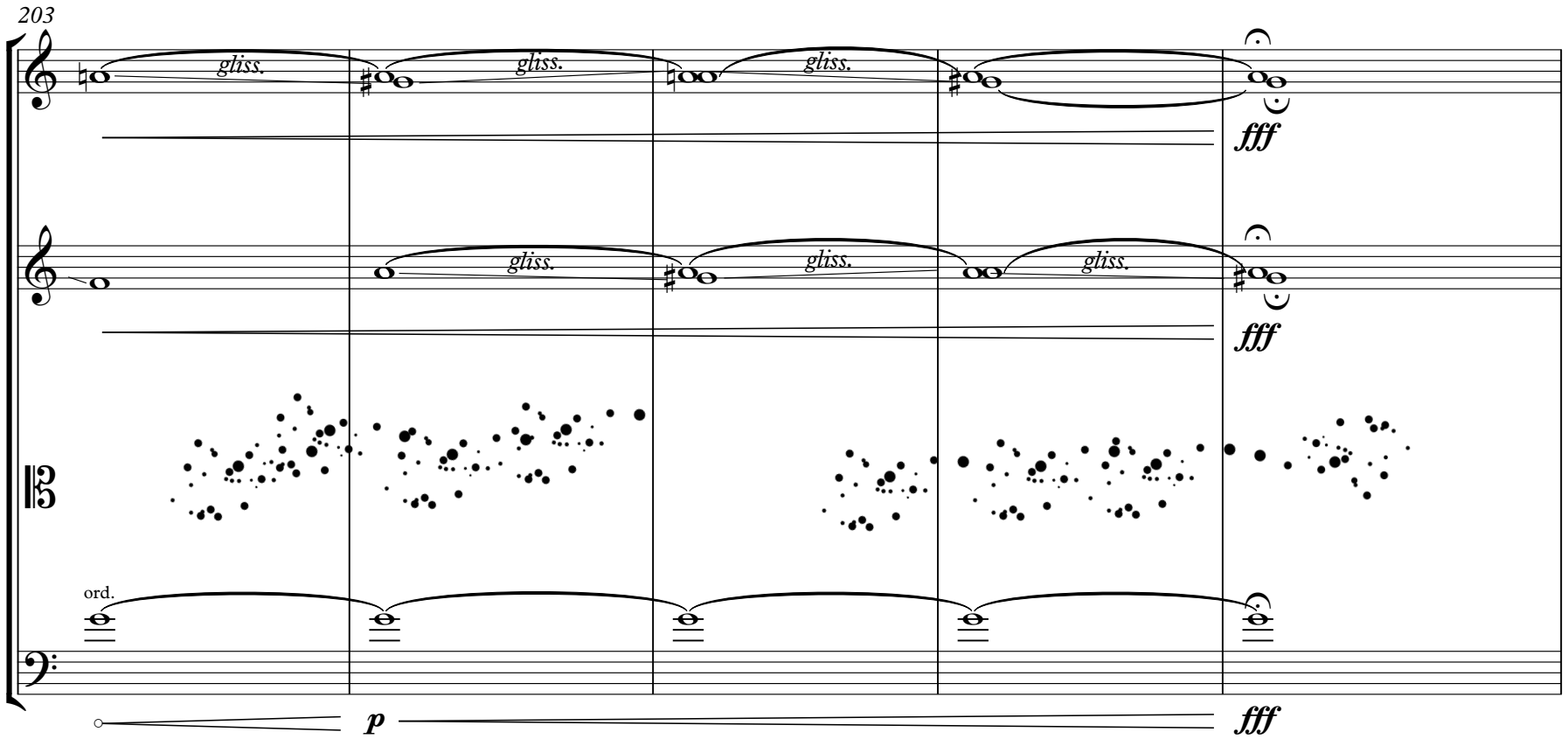
193

white
noise,
ord.
(1)

f

mp

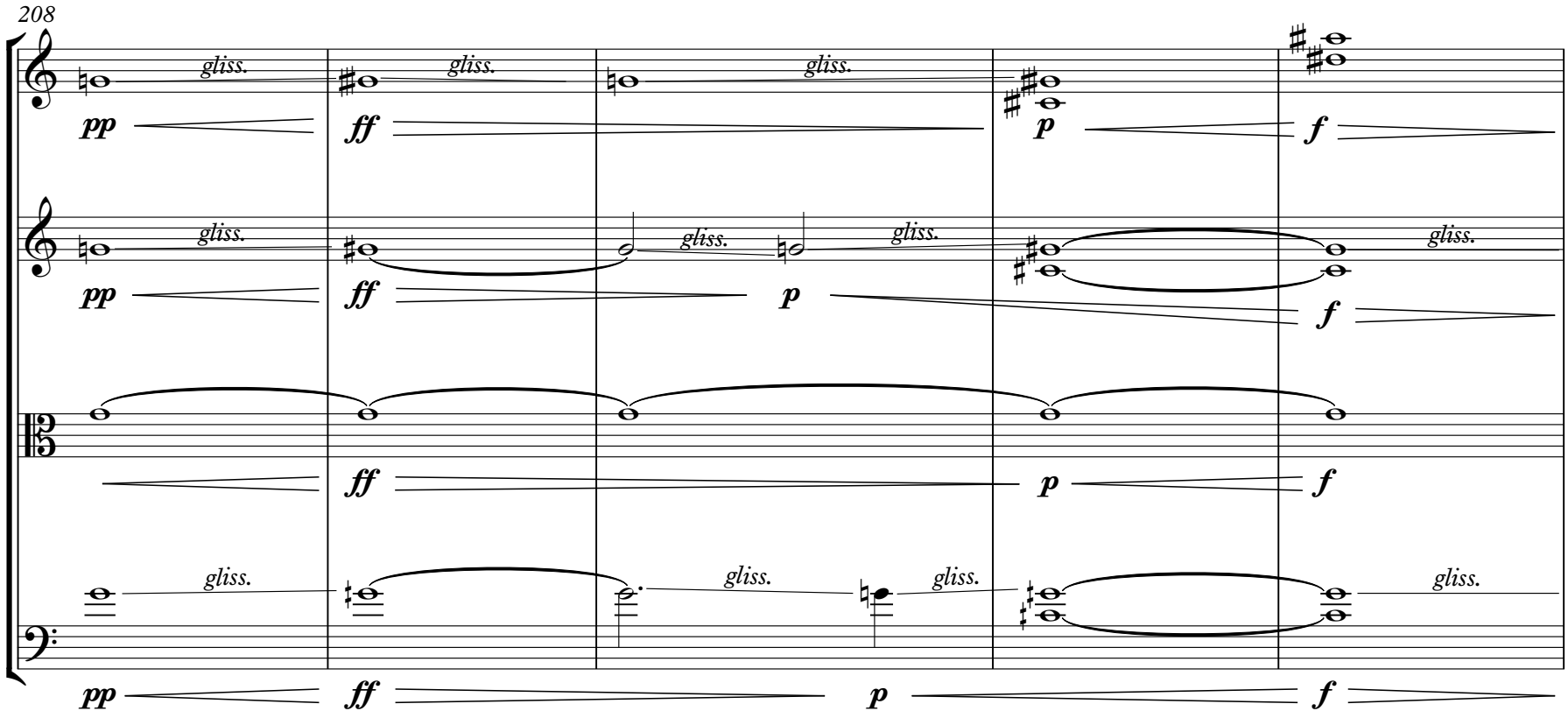

197
ord.
gliss.
f
ord.
gliss.
f


203
gliss.
fff
ord.
p
fff

F

Richly, dense, smoothly

208



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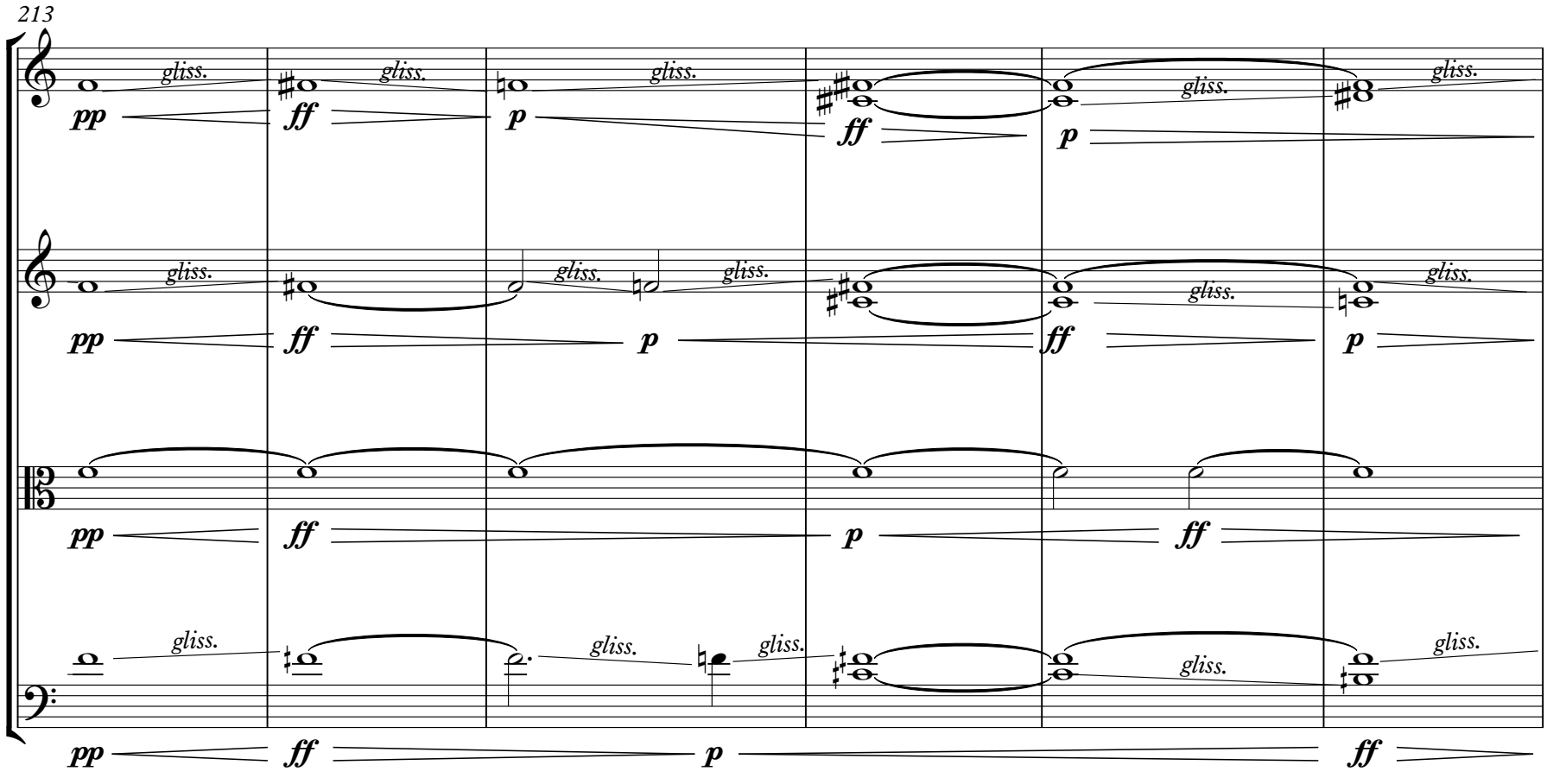

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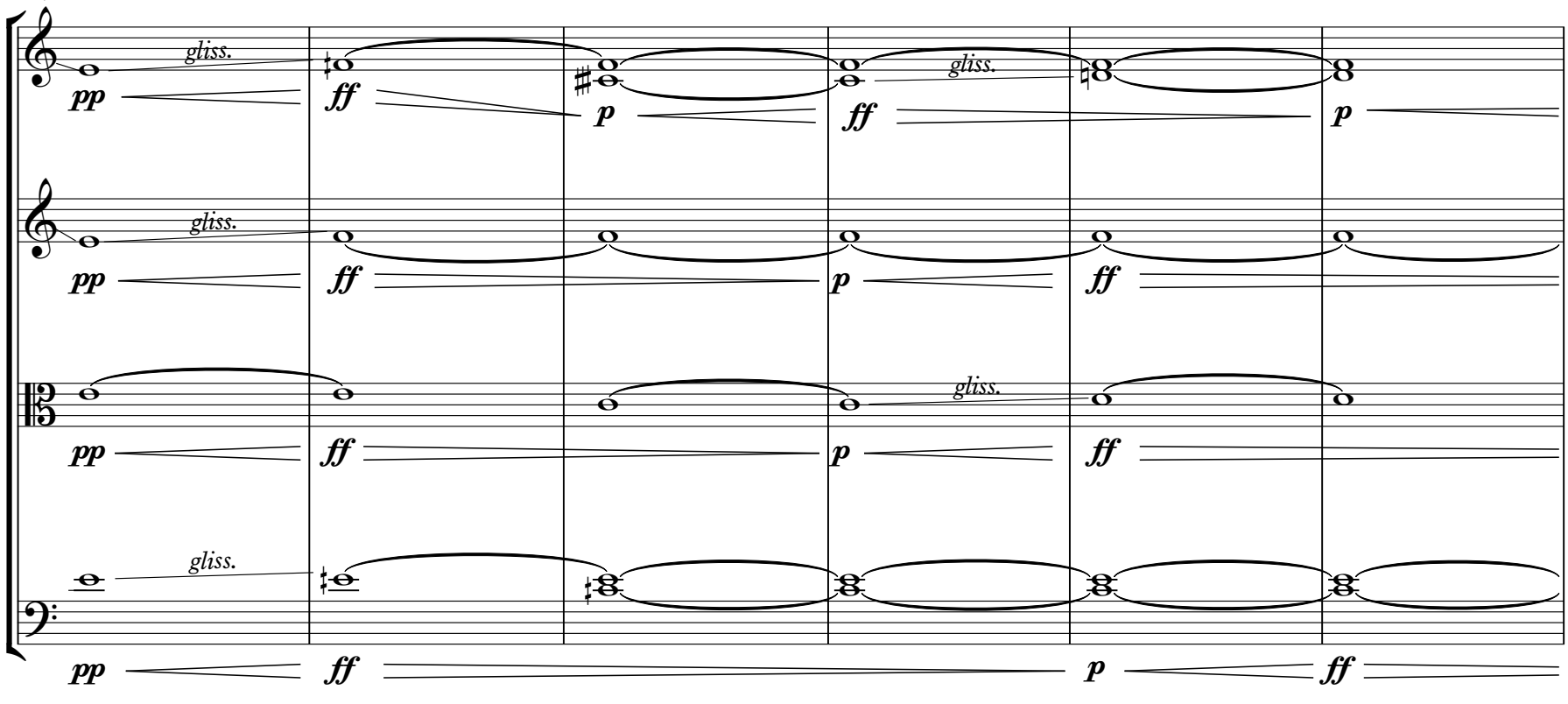
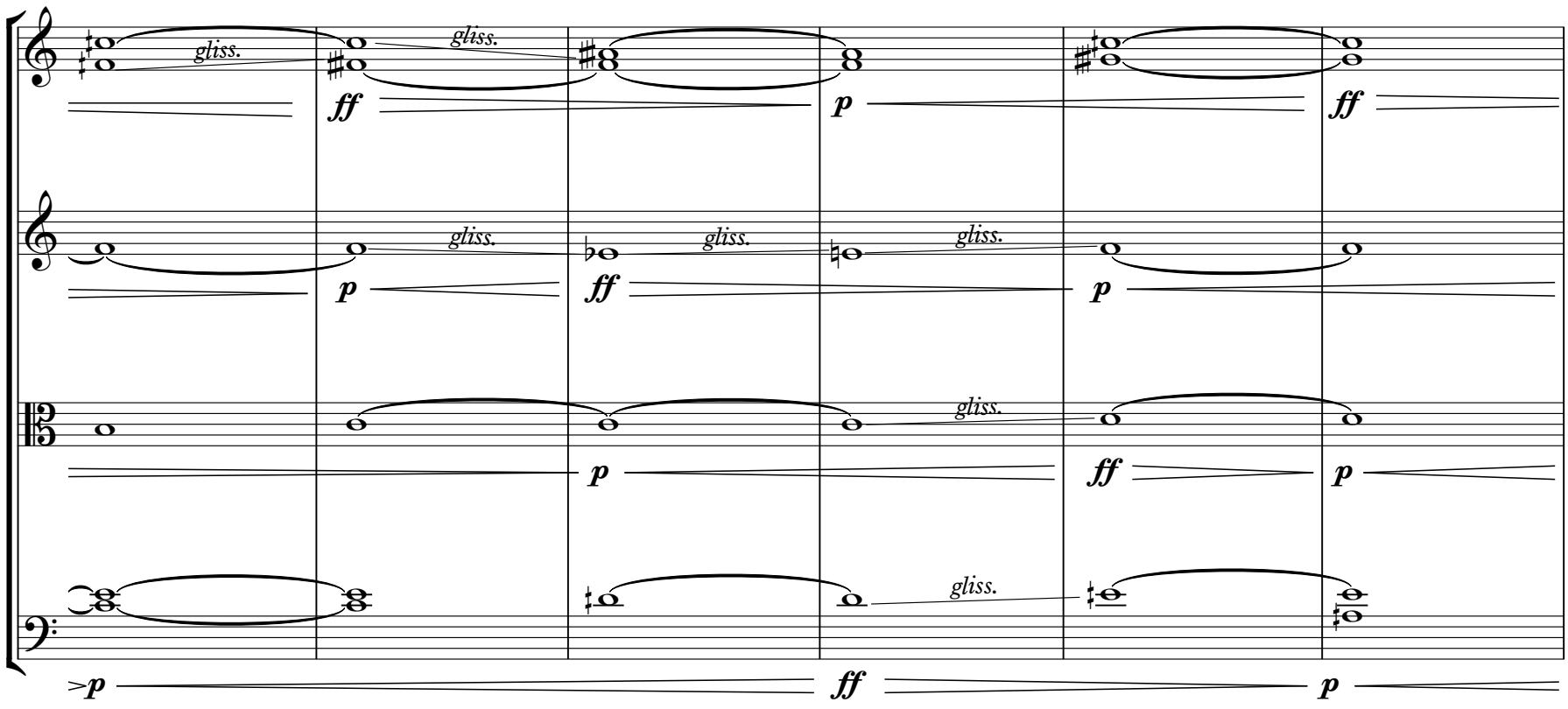
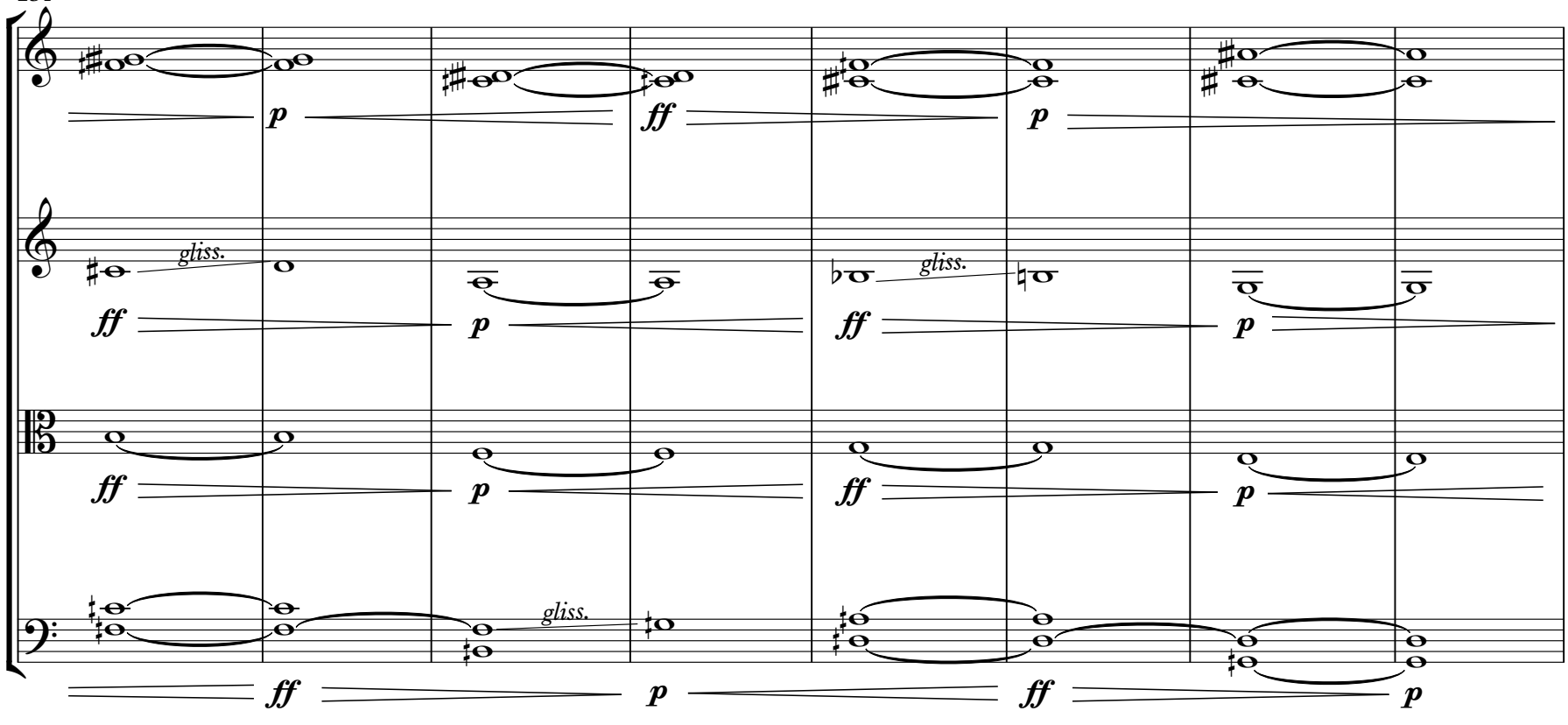


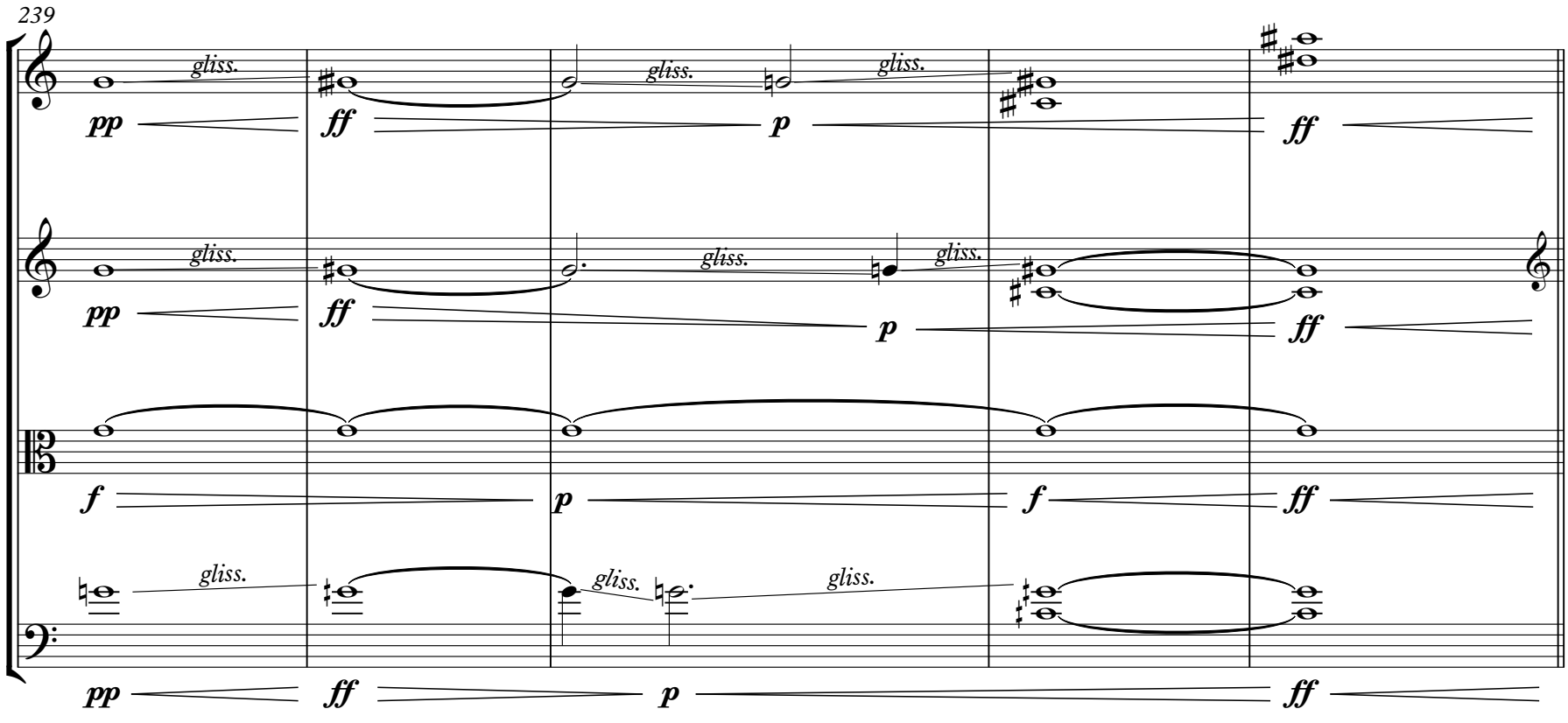
18


gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
ff
p
ff
p
ff
p
ff
p
ff
p
ff
p
ff
p
ff
p

231


gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
p
ff
p
ff
p
ff
p
ff
p
ff
p
ff
p
ff
p

239


gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
pp
ff
p
ff
pp
ff
p
ff
f
p
f
ff
pp
ff
p
ff

Violently

NOTE 22: Slide quadruple stop irregularly up and down only moving within a semitone per bar, small notes are approximate guideposts, rhythm ad. lib.

G

♩= about 80

Extend as long as possible about 60 seconds, not together, accel. poco a poco

IV III II I

244

6 5 7 6

gliss.

fff

♩= about 106

6 5 7 6

fff

gliss.

fff

gliss.

fff

H

Majestically

♩=100

247

espres.

fff

mf

fff

mf

fff

mp

fff f mf

252

f mf mp p

mp

f

mp

p

mp

258

pp mf mp mf

espres.

mf p pp mf

espres.

mf p f

pp mf

264

f ff mp mf p

p mp mf

mp mf

p mf

espres.

269

ff f p

f mf f

f mf p

f mf p

276

pp ff p

pp ff p

pp ff p

ff p

f

f

f

I **Languidly, airy, white noise**

molto sul pont.,
punta d'arco (17)

282

gliss.

p

ord.

pp

gliss.

p

molto sul pont.

ord.

p mp f pp

288

gliss.

mp

gliss.

molto sul pont.

espres.
ord.

mf

294

gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss.

mf

gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss.

port.

f

300

gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss.

f

ff

gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss.

ff

306

gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss.

p

pp

f

7

gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss.

p

espres.

ord.

mf

f

5

312

gliss.

mf

5

7

gliss.

mf

314

partially muted,
1/2 pitch (24)

7

mp

p

partially muted,
1/2 pitch (24)

7

3

mp

315

3

p

7

3

p

24

316

white
noise,
molto sul pont.
(3)

p

almost completely muted,
1/4 pitch left (25)

mp

7

almost completely muted,
1/4 pitch left (25)

7

mp

3

317

pp

3

white
noise,
molto sul pont.
(3)

p

7

3

pp

318

rit.

silent fingering,
exact rhythm not imperative
(26)

3

ppp

silent fingering,
exact rhythm not imperative
(26)

3

7

3

ppp

A tempo

J

molto sul pont.,
punta d'arco (17)

♩=102

321

gliss.

gliss.

p

'wild and crazy improv',
gritty
(23)

mf

ord.

f

ord.

f

♩=104

♩=106

323

gliss.

gliss.

pp

♩=108

♩=110

325

gliss.

gliss.

p

26

♩=112

327

♩=114

gliss.

♩=116

329

♩=118

♩=120

331

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

mp

fff

mp

fff

mp

fff

mp

fff