

David Rosenboom 1966

dedicated to

Ornette Coleman
with reference to
Archie Shepp

revised Partially 1968 and Partially 1983 Formerly titled

"The Thud, Thud, Thud of Sufficiating Blackness"

commissioned by and written for

G. Allan O'Conner and William Youhass

ensemble:

Two percussionists with doubled piano-celeste, alto saxophone and cello parts plus sound notator

first performance: (Urbana, Illinois, 1967)

G. Allan O'Connor and William Youhass, percussionists; Lee Duckles, cello; James Cuomo, alto sozophone; Neely Bruce, piano-celeste; Donald Andrus, sound rotator; James Beauchamp, recordist This score is to be realized by two percussionists with rather large instrument setups and performers of alto saxophone, piano-celeste, cello and sound rotation parts. The latter three instrumental performers also have "doubles" indicated during two sections of the score, one beginning at 2'15" and continuing until 4'18" and a second beginning at 8'65" and continuing until the end of the piece at 12'00". These "double" parts may be realized in several ways. They may be prerecorded and played back through loudspeakers during a performance. In this case a group of loudspeakers should be used which is sufficient to create a continuous ring of perceived sound origination points surrounding the audience. When the "double" parts are prerecorded the results should be mixed into at least a stereo sound space, though a quadraphonic or larger space may also be used. In any case, notations for the live, dynamic rotation of this sound space are included in the score. This will involve an additional performer with suitable sound rotating equipment.

Another realization of the "double" parts may involve a second group of alto saxophone, piano-celeste and cello performers. In this version the physical location of the "double" group should be remote from the location of the primary performing spoup. Their sounds should be amplified with microphones and loudspeakers and should be made to appear to rotate in the manner outlined above.

A third realization of these "double" parts may involve first prerecordins the sounds as in the first version. Then this source recordins could be converted to distal sound data in a suitable computer music system and "resynthesized" so as to match the orisinal instrumental sound as closely as possible. The idea of this approach is to obtain a sound that appears to be like the instrumental but has a quality which sets it appear from the orisinal in some mystifying but extremely subtle sense, due to the inability of the "resynthesis" process to exactly duplicate the instrumental qualities. This result should also be made to rotate in the manner outlined above.

This composition involves the construction of a large, complex temporal sculpture which forms the structural scafolding of the piece. Once errected, this scafolding forms a framework on which are hung numerous stylized musical sestures. These sestures are notated with varying degrees of freedom for the performers interpretation, forming a meeting ground between the highly structured and improvisational aspects of the work.

Roughly seven degrees of freedom are allowed in the various notational forms. The following are examples.

- Figures with the smallest degrees of freedom are notated in the traditional Western style.
- 2. The length of the figure is precise but the placement of the notes within the figure is suggested by proportional spacing. The note lengths will vary to accompage their placement. There are no silences.

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR PERFORMANCE

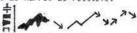
 The length of the figure is also suggested by proportional spacing. Other factors are as in 3. above.



4. A group of notes of specified value are placed within a figure of suggested length. Note lengths are fixed but silences may be included in the interpretation. φ

etation.

5. Only a mapping of instruments, timbres and dynamics is given. This generally occures in the percussion parts and should be thought of as one continuous sound, but made up of composite units or new attacks. An example would be a fast running stream of short notes. No silences are allowed within a gesture, except where the graphic shape or line is broken. A special case of this occures in the percussion parts where lines with arrow heads are used. These indicate a fast stream of notes which moves accross the instrument map indicated. The sound is continues, but breaks when the arrow stops. Each arrow or line is a single gesture, though there may be many of these following eachother guickly. Arrows are further distinguished from moving clusters, described below, in that the pitch width of the moving sounds is to be as narrow as possible.



6. A snaphic shape is used to sive sussestions of pitch area or timbre modulation. These may involve moving clusters of sounds as well. They should be thought of as continuous and containing many variations and fluctuations. Dynamics are indicated separately.



There are special notations for the rotation of the sound field of the "double" instrumental parts. These are intended to achieve the effect of different directions and rates of movement of this sound field through 360 degrees around the perimeter of the audience space. Ideally, this should be accomplished by a live performer who can react musically to the progress through the score of the live musicians.

The sound rotator notations are as follows.

- H home Position sound field should merse somewhat with the Primary instrumental group when in the home Position
- H not home postion the position most opposite, far or remote from the home position
- R ~ rotate clockwise, as viewed from above the audience
- L rotate counter clockwise

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70004 spin the sound clockwise continuously around the space

QQQA spin the sound counterclockwise continuously around the space

The lengths and forms of the curved arrows will indicate the general rate or velocity of sound movement.

The essence of the score from the Performing Point of view lies in the time structures and the individual musical mestures. Great care should be exercised in shaping the sestures contained on each page. The score Proceeds according to clock time. Each page represents 28-seconds of music, 36 pages resulting in a 12-minute performance, not counting sound deacy time at the end. These lengths should be adhered to pricely and all musical mestures made to fit within them.

Each performer will have exact tempo markings associated with his/her part. These may or may not be the same as those for other players. They should be used to determine the precise values of individual note lengths and the speed with which individual musical sestures are executed. They also give an indicatation of the seneral pacing and rate of movement for each individual part. The 20-second time block for each page of score remains fixed, however. Silences may be inserted at appropriate places inbetween individual sestures assumested by the notation, in order to make the musical events fit the 20-second page length.

Vertical, dashed lines in the score indicate coordination landmarks. These are events which represent points of ensemble synchrony or important cues in the music. Small symbols associated with these lines indicate which instrumental parts are involved in these synchrony points. In some cases the notation, "The Tune", is indicated. In these cases the player with this indication may be considered the leader for that particular event.

If a conductor is used he/she should indicate the Passase of time, the besinnings and endings of individual 20-second score pages, the entrances and exits of Parts, seneral dynamics, matters of balance and may direct special attention to the special, synchronous coordination events.

Clusters in the Piano-celeste Part are indicated by black squares. The Player should Play all the notes that exist between the hishest and lowest indicated pitches. Their duration is indicated by proportional spacing.

There are two kinds of distorted sounds written for the alto saxophone. The first, indicated by note stems without heads, is a sound of indeffinite pitch, produced in the approximate pitch area indicated, spannins a narrow pitch bandwidth of only a half-step or so and is executed with definite rhythm. The second, notated with black sraph-like areas, is to be realized as one continuous, broad spectrum sound that sides and moves as a indicated. It may vary in pitch width and timbre. Double stops may be introduced here.

The following is a list of the instruments needed to perform the percussion parts.

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PF	RCI	188	TON	1:

1 medium sized triangle, notated: 🛆

2 anvils, high and low, notated:

4 suspended cymbals, notated:

A scale of sizes ransins from approximately 8" to 24" should be stablished. The cymbals should then be alternated between the two percussion marts so that there will be no duplications of cymbal sizes between players.

5 cup sonss, notated:

Pitches:

2 tam tams, small and large, notated:

1 tamborine, notated: 💥

1 snare drum; notated:

1 high hat, (always played with the foot unless otherwise notated), notated:

x an array of bells of sarna, mounted, notated: $\overline{\Delta}$

3 cow bells, high, medium, and low, notated:

3 or 4 wood blocks of different sizes, notated:

6 temple blocks, notated:

1 marimba, notated:

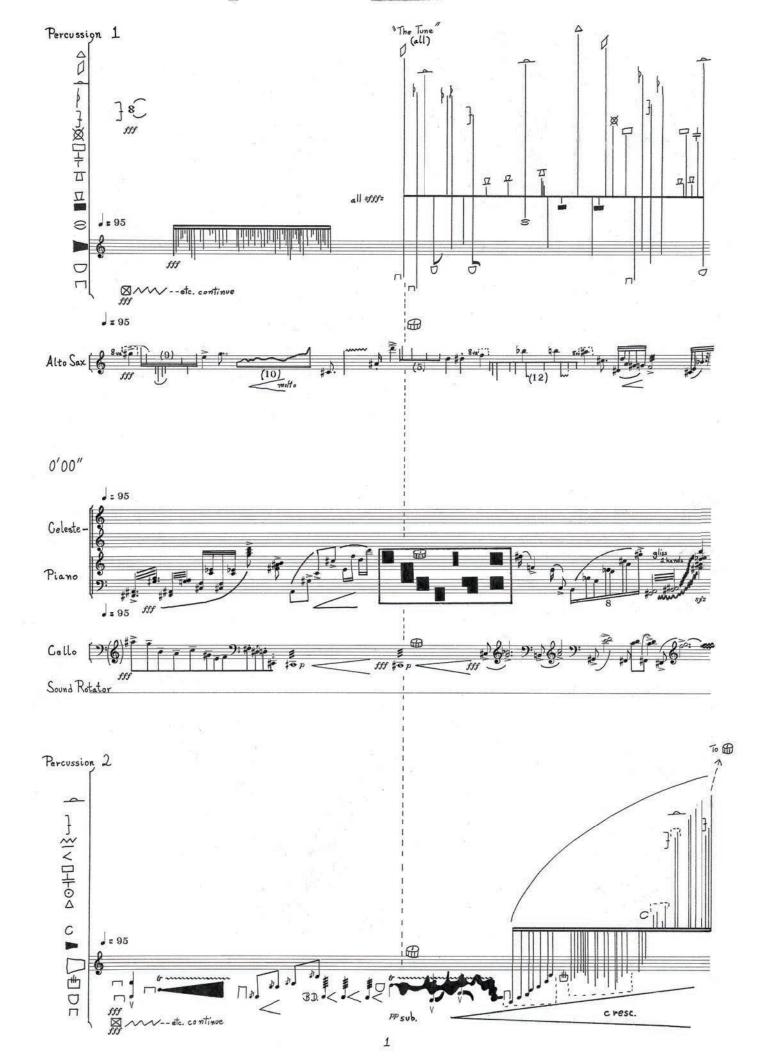
1 timpani, medium size, notated:

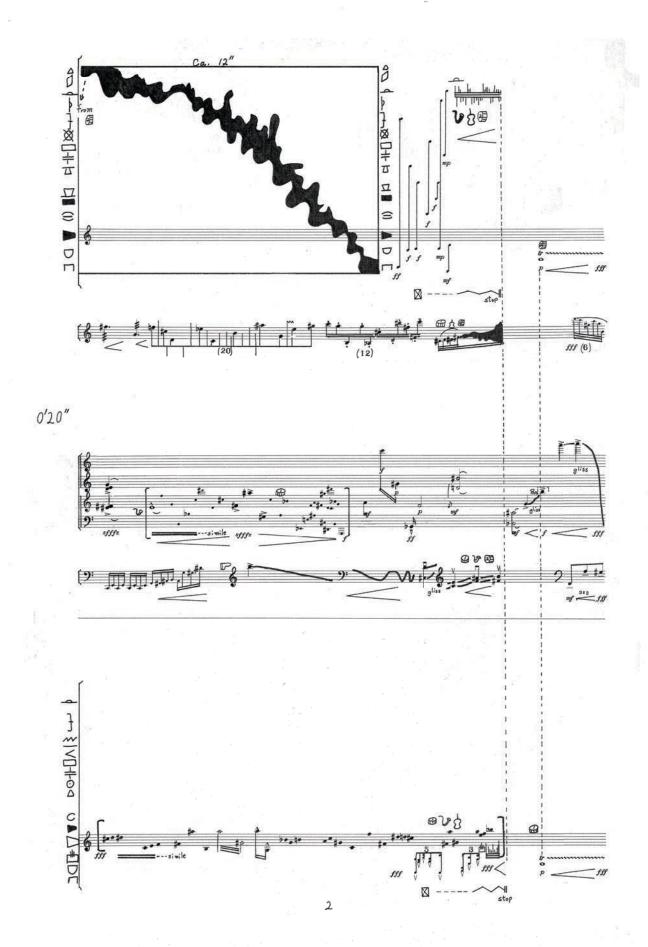
1 set of graduated drums, (1 small bass drum, 1 timbali, 2 bongos, 3 toy drums), notated: Note: occasionally the bass drum is signified by, B.D. —4-

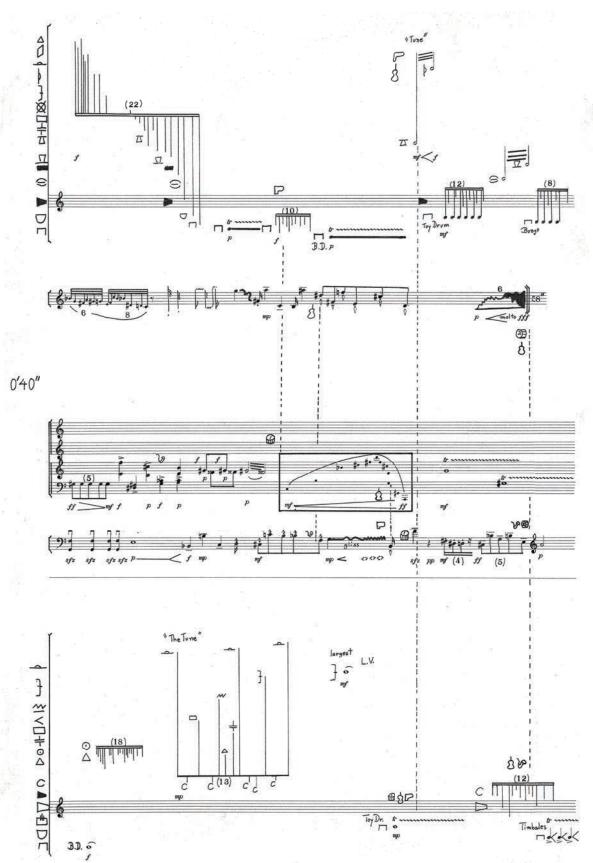
INSTRUCTIONS FOR PERFORMANCE

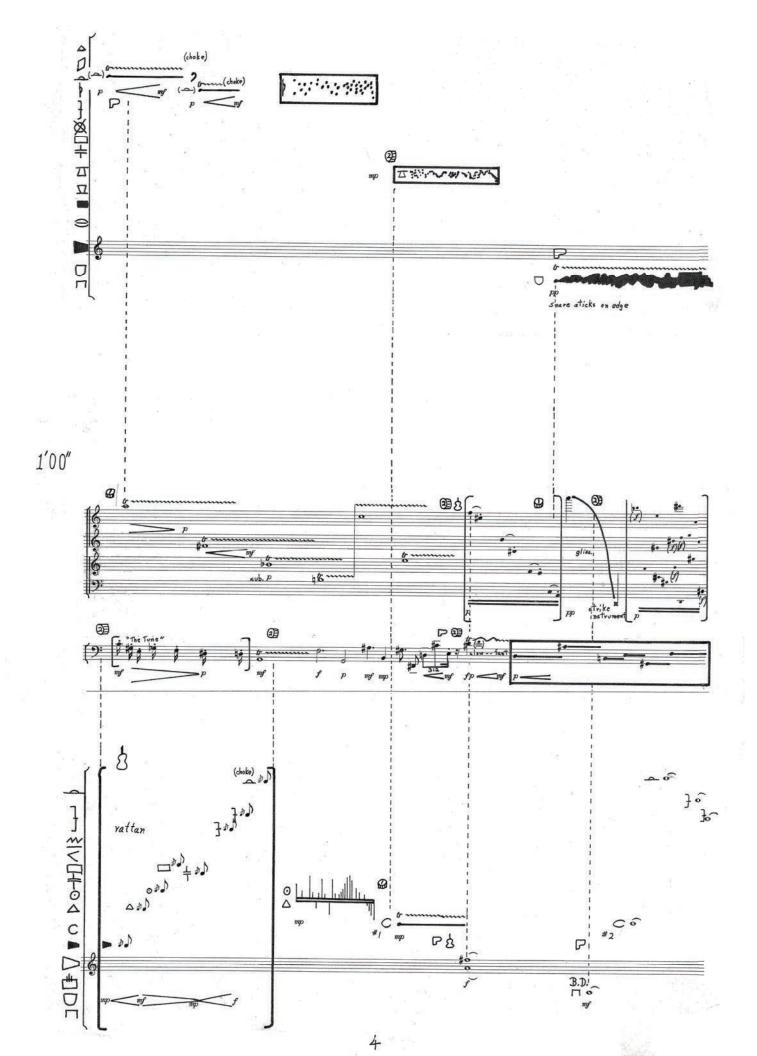
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1 rack of very hish, lisht metal sounds. This rack should be strung with as many instruments as possible, (sleigh bells, other bells, metal tubes, chains, wind chimes, antique cymbals, small cowbells, etc.). The rack should be constructed in a manner such that it will continue to sound for some time after being activated, usually by shaking. For instance, it could be suspended from a bar on rubber straps. The symbol for the rack is:
Two notations for activating it are used, for shaking and,
, indicating striking the suspended instruments with sticks.
PERCUSSION 2
4 suspended cymbals, notated:
4 small sonss ransins in size from 7" to 16", notated:
1 very larse tam tam, (the larsest used in the piece), notated:
1 suiro, notated: W
1 slap stick, notated: —
1 set of castagnets mounted so that they can be played with sticks, notated:
1 snare drum, notated:
1 hish hat, notated:
The high hat is always played with the foot unless otherwise notated.
6 antique cymbals, notated: Pitches used:
5 triangles, very small to very large, notated: \triangle
7 almslocken, notated: C
Almslocken Pitches should be chosen such that the dominant Pitch of a
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR PERFORMANCE
siven instrument lies between notes of the tempered scale, thus:
h
1 xylophone, notated:
1 vibraphone, notated:
The vibraphone motor should always be running.
1 marimbula, notated:
2 tampani, notated:
1 set of graduated drums, (one very small and one very large bass drum, timbalis, bongos, and toy drums), notated:
Note: bass drums are sometimes referred to as, B.D. 3.D.
1 rack of light wooden sounds, (suspended claves, wood and shell wind chimes, sticks, temple blocks, wood blocks, rattles, maraccas, etc.) The rack should be constructed as for Percussion 1. Notation is also as for Percussion 1.
All pitched percussion instruments other than keyboard ones are

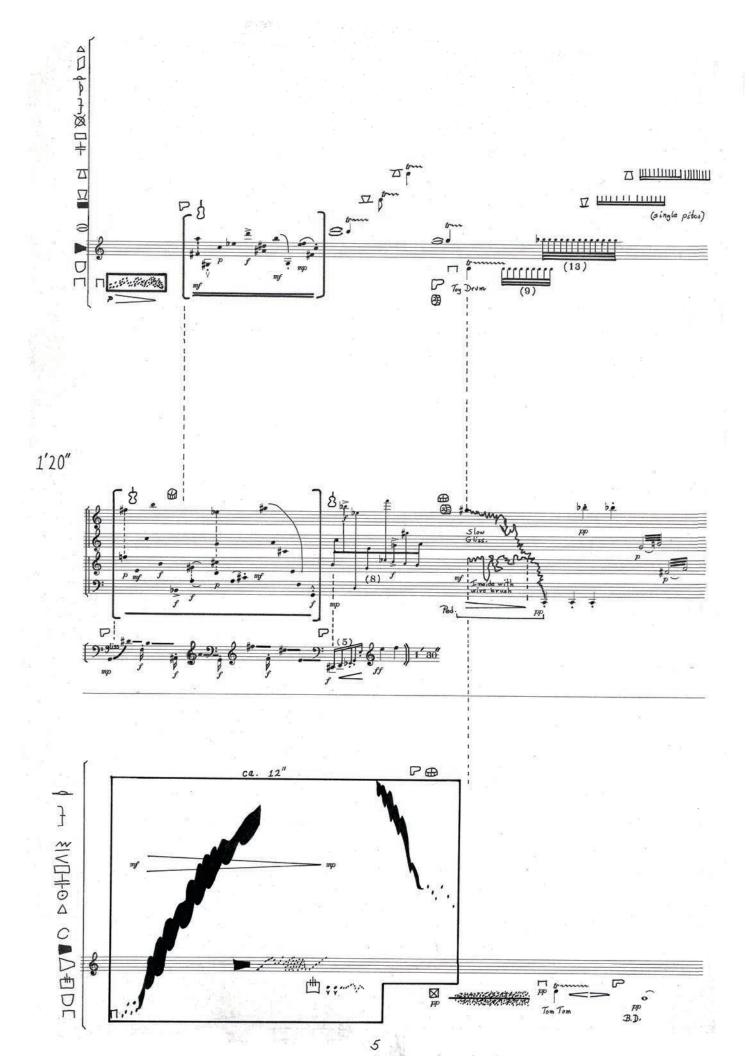
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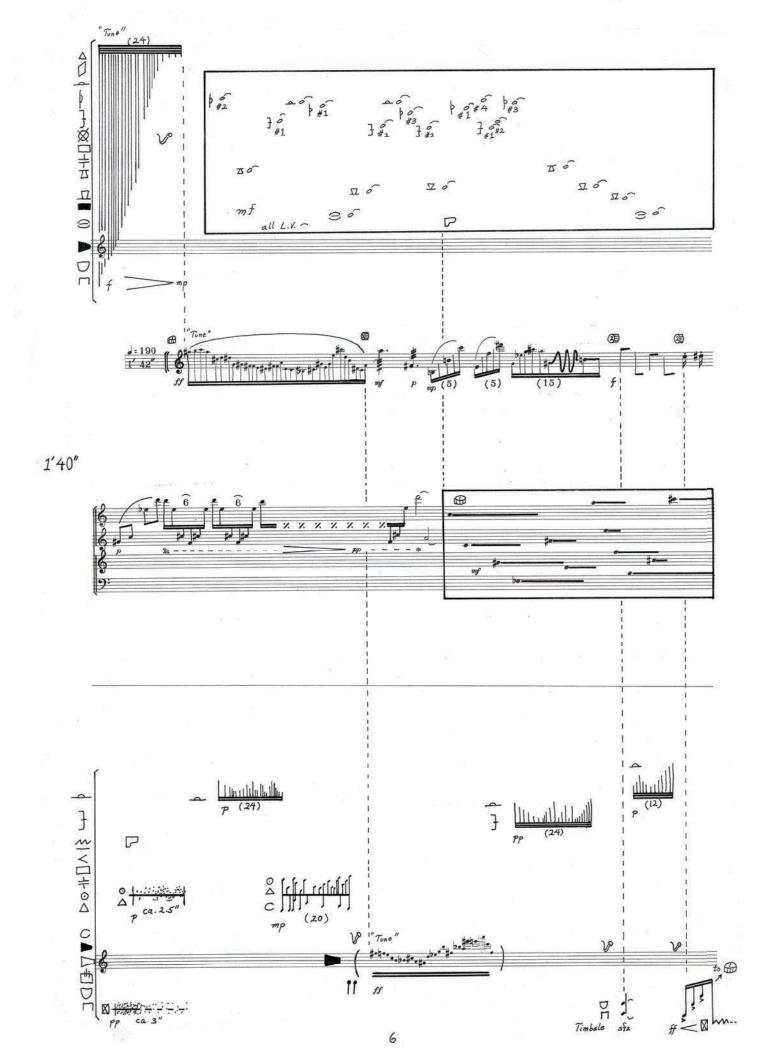


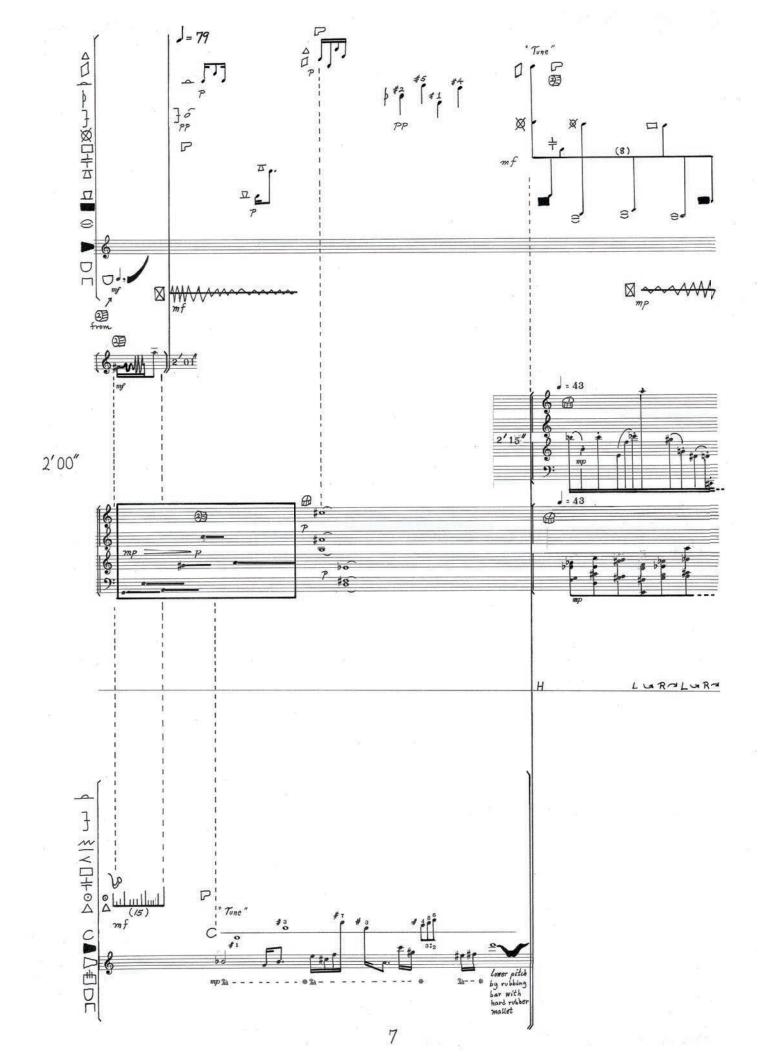


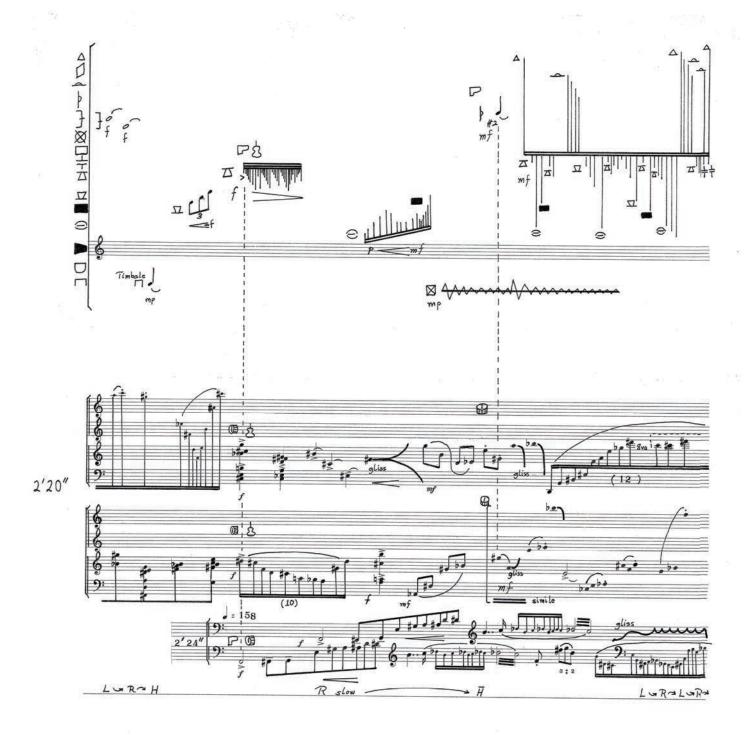




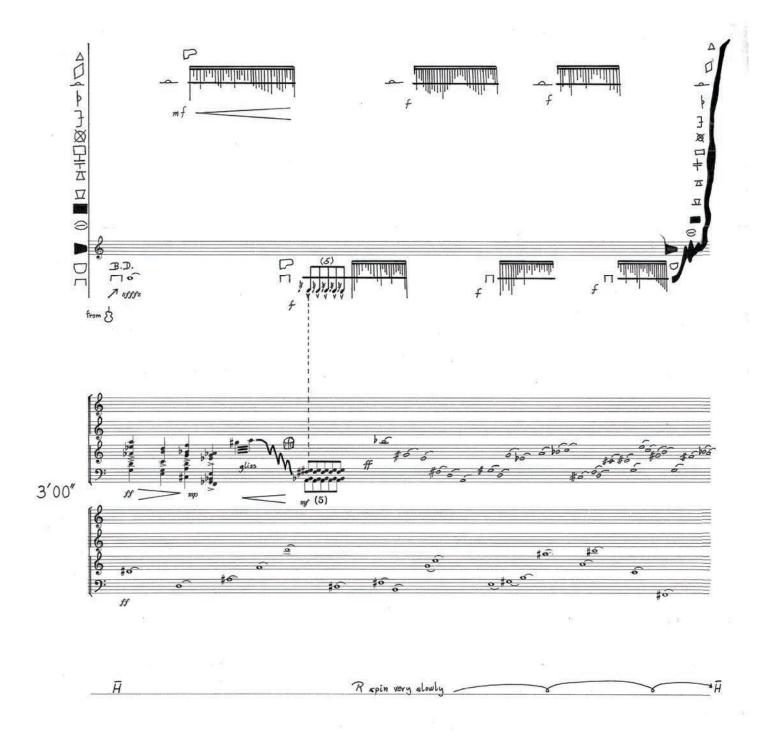




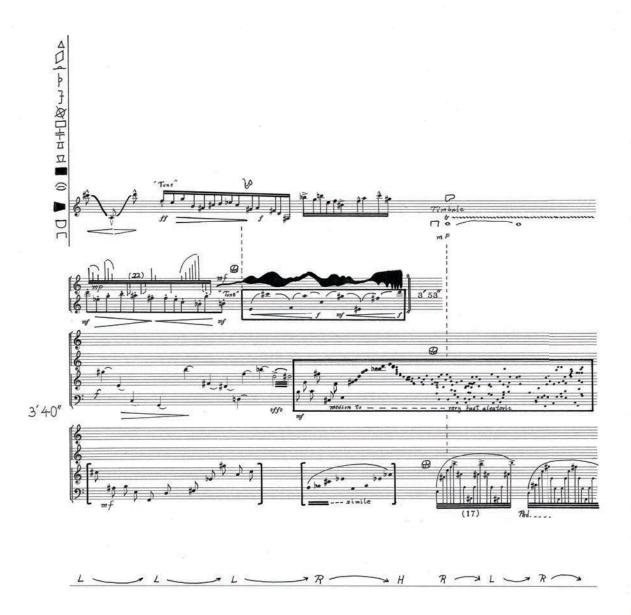


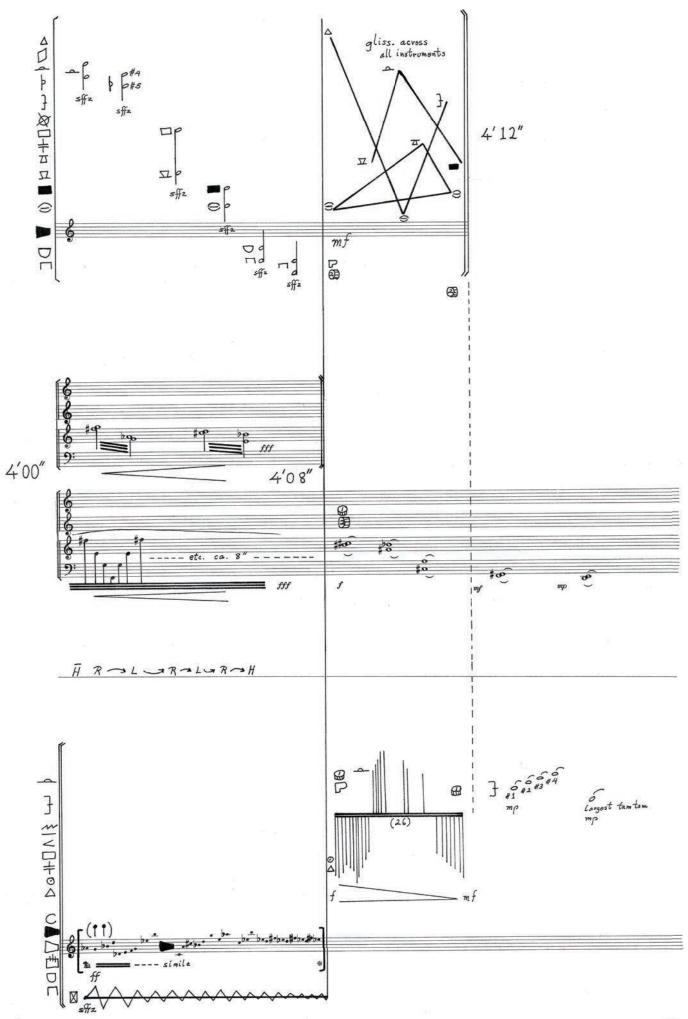


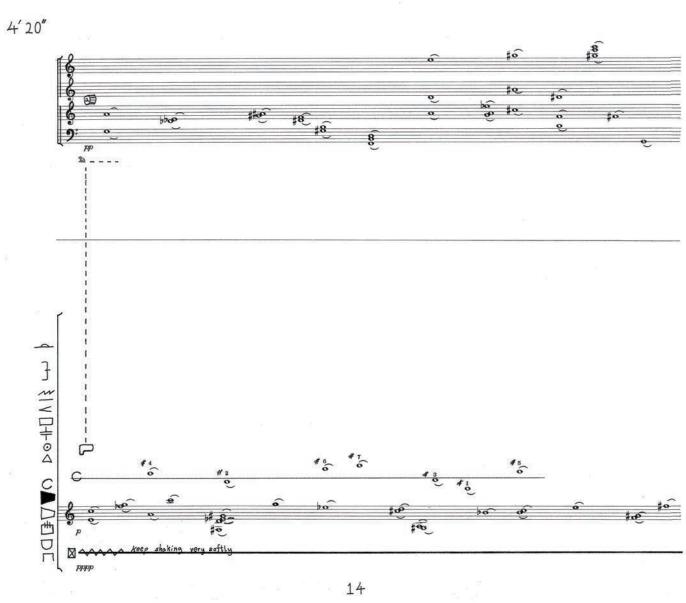


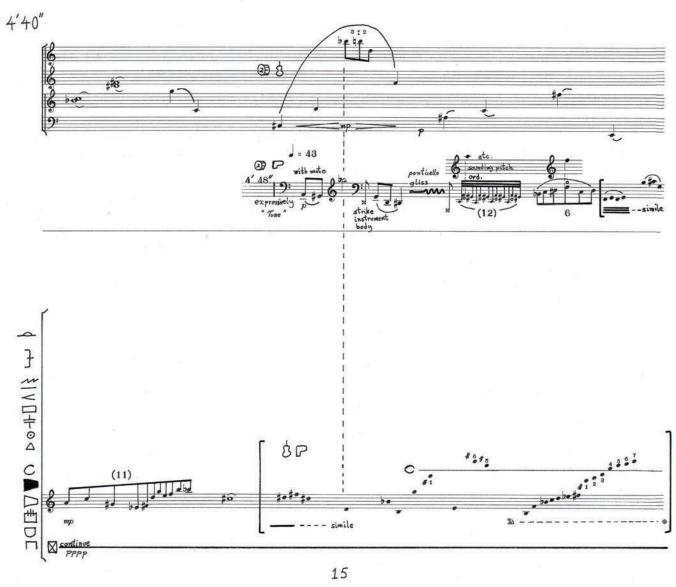












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