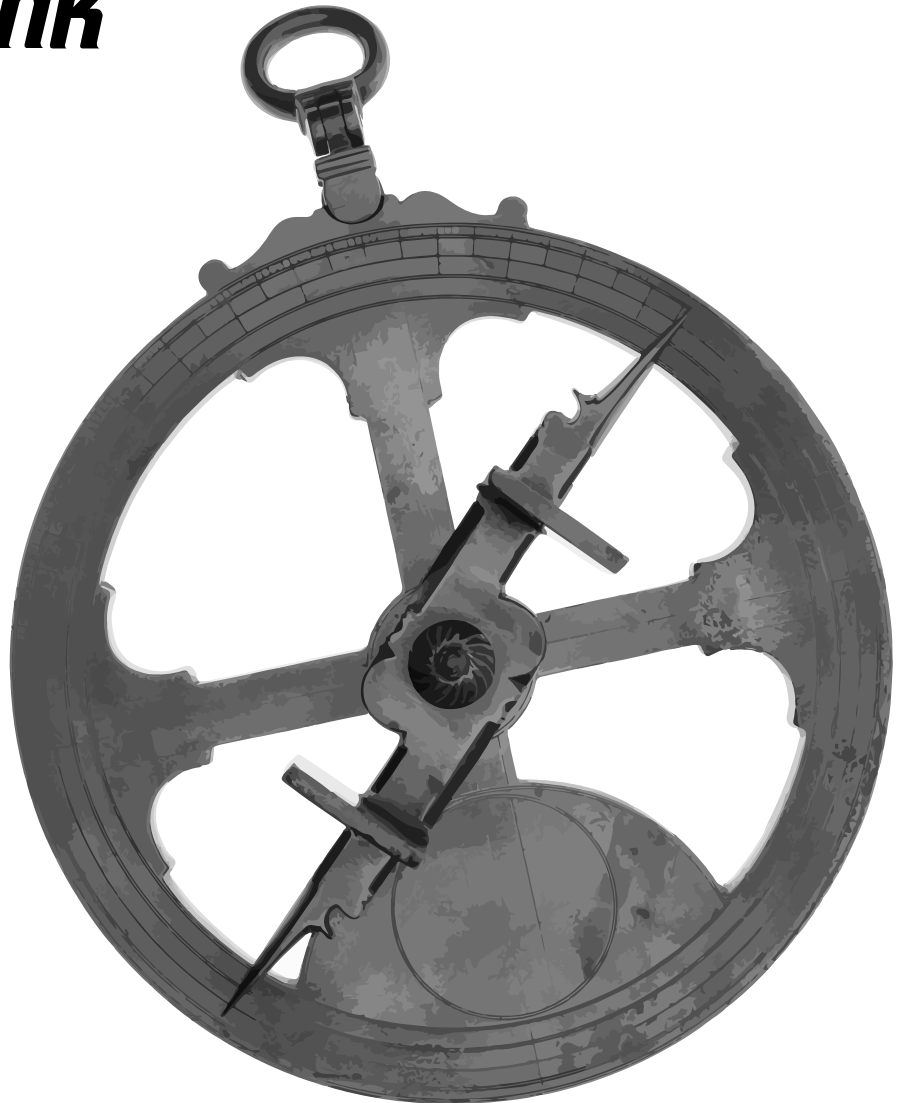


Sam Pluta

STAR TAKER

for Wet Ink



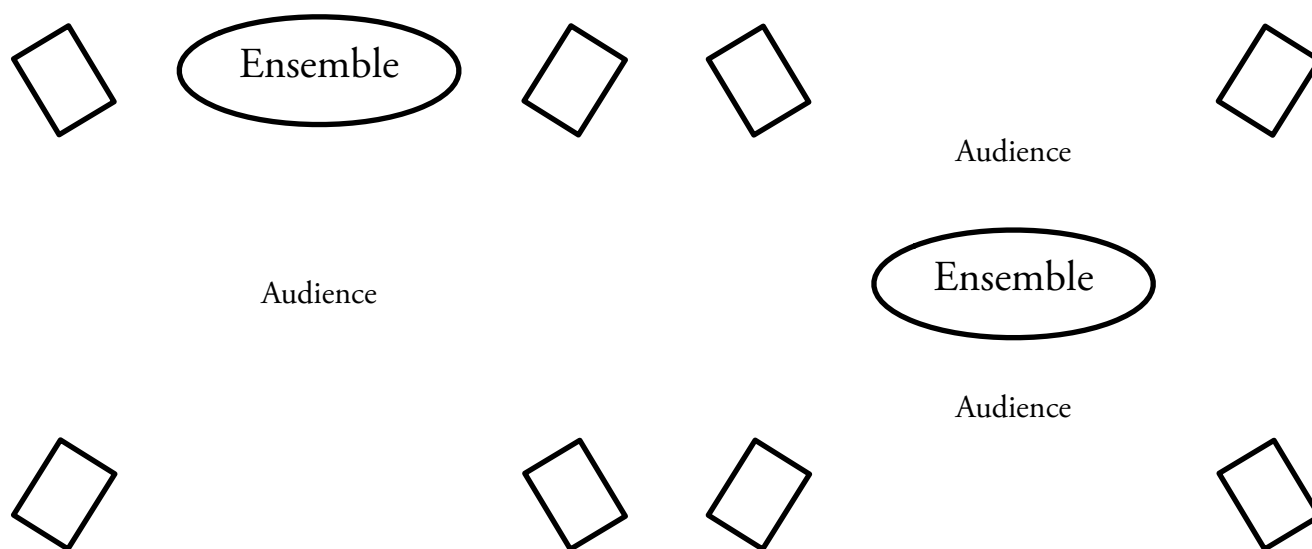
Program Note:

Over the course of the last couple of years, I have been introduced to a number of wonderful recordings of the music of the Ars Subtilior period. This music has a series of qualities that distinguish it from that written after 1500. It has an intense focus on counterpoint, with many layers of music all moving at different speeds. Each performer, acting more as an individual in the musical landscape rather than in concert, weaves ornate soloistic lines, notated in an attempt to capture the intricacies of the improvised performance practice of the time. Alternate tunings add myriad colors to the somewhat static harmonic topography. Finally, the music has a kind of floating quality, largely due to it having been written as a set of simultaneous parts, rather than as a score.

Star Taker, while in no way sounding like a work from the Ars Subtilior, is influenced by this period's ethos. It is named after the astrolabe, also known as the Star Taker, the ancient navigational device used, until the invention of the sextant in the 18th century, by mariners and astronomers, to plot the heavens and explore the ever expanding known world. This composition is meant to be an exploration of the mind, a brief glimpse into a heightened state of focus and awareness.

Electronics, Setup, and Timing:

Star Taker consists of a 20m20s fixed media part that is played back in two or four channels. If in two channels, the electronics should be presented in stereo. If in four channels, the ensemble can be arranged on stage, with the four channels surrounding the audience, or the ensemble can be at the center of the room with the speakers around the audience:



The Ensemble plays to a precise timer, started in sync with the electronics, timing entrances and exits to coincide with the playback.

Star Taker - Tenor Saxophone

Sam Pluta

0:00-2:20

Cz

Ten. Sax.

mf

Four successive swells on the provided multiphonic. Swell with and tune to the simultaneous sound in the electronics. Use the following timings:

0:58-1:15
1:17-1:33
1:43-2:01
2:03-2:20



6:06-8:40

C5

Tf

saxophone swells in and out (15sec per swell). cello follows saxophone, starting with a natural harmonic, increasing with brightness as the sax gets louder, and decreasing in brightness as it decrescendoes

Ten. Sax.

Vc.

ord

mf sul pont

ord

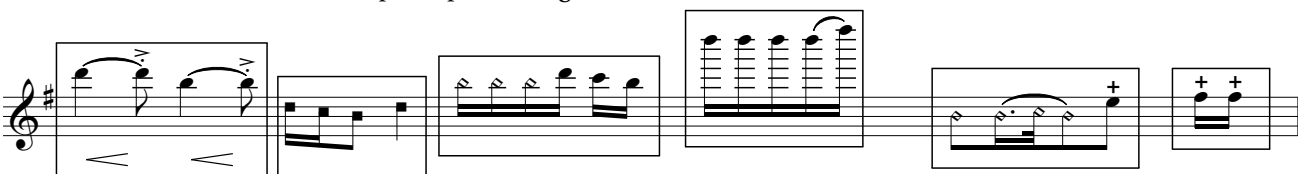
mf

Square note head - tongue ram
x notehead - tongue ram/very short
diamond notehead - mostly air sound
plus - slap tongue

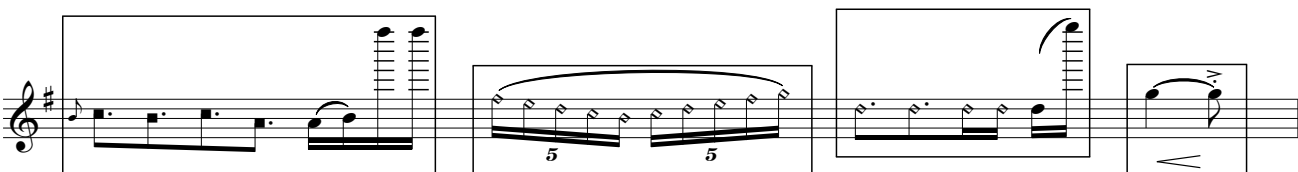
page 2

13:45-14:26 - cut off on the 6th upward percussive gesture in the electronics

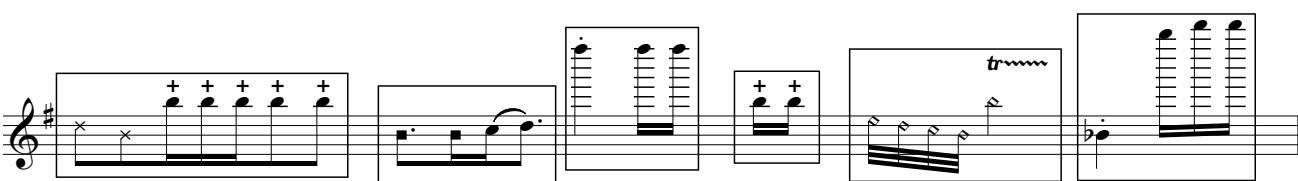
Ten. Sax.



Ten. Sax.



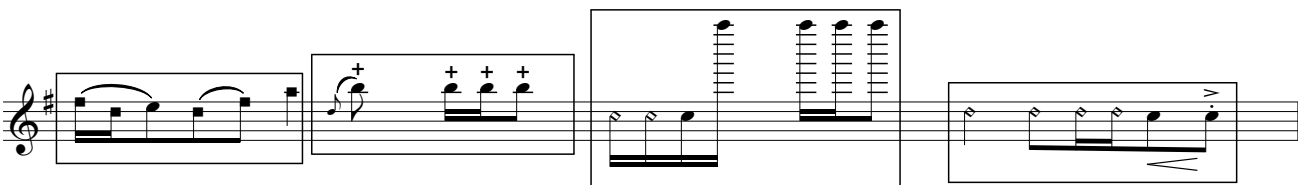
Ten. Sax.



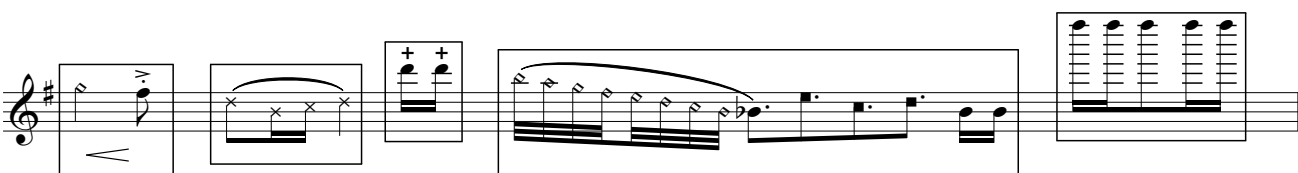
Ten. Sax.



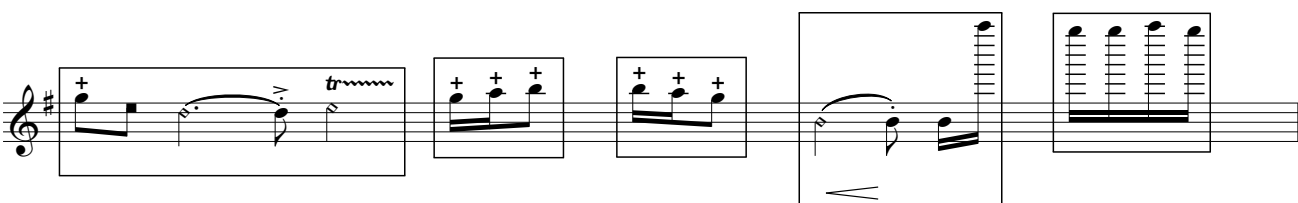
Ten. Sax.



Ten. Sax.



Ten. Sax.



Ten. Sax.

Perc.

china cymbal

ff

10 sec

15 sec

Repeat about 9 times (every 25 seconds).
Start on the following timings:

16:25	18:35
16:50	19:00
17:20	19:25
17:45	19:50
18:10	



Tenor Saxophone finds a note in tune with the BD, playing this note as softly as possible inside the BD sound.

Percussion

20:00

BD

pp

Star Taker - Piano

play each phrase as fast as possible
keep timings approximate

Sam Pluta

0:00 1:27 (octava always applies to both staves) 1:29 1:34

15^{ma}

heavy pedal 1:40

2

1:59 8^{va} 2:03

repeat 6X about every 15-25 seconds to 4:35

3 2:27 4:30

5 4:36

6

7 4:51

Musical score for system 7, measures 4:51 to 4:58. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It contains a series of eighth notes with accidentals (flats and naturals) and some rests. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains a series of eighth notes with accidentals. The system ends with a double bar line.

8

Musical score for system 8, measures 4:59 to 5:06. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It contains a series of eighth notes with accidentals and some rests. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains a series of eighth notes with accidentals. The system ends with a double bar line and a measure with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat, with a measure rest and a "8vb" marking.

9 5:13

Musical score for system 9, measures 5:07 to 5:14. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It contains a series of eighth notes with accidentals and some rests. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains a series of eighth notes with accidentals. The system ends with a double bar line and a measure with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat, with a measure rest and an "8va" marking.

10

Musical score for system 10, measures 5:15 to 5:22. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It contains a series of eighth notes with accidentals and some rests. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains a series of eighth notes with accidentals. The system ends with a double bar line and a measure with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat, with a measure rest.

11 5:24

Musical score for system 11, measures 5:23 to 5:30. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It contains a series of eighth notes with accidentals and some rests. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains a series of eighth notes with accidentals. The system ends with a double bar line and a measure with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat, with a measure rest and a "15ma" marking.

5:32 repeat about every 5 seconds
 15^{ma}   9:25 $\text{♩} = 72$ continue similarly for 3min 3 linking with perc attacks

fade out by 6:15

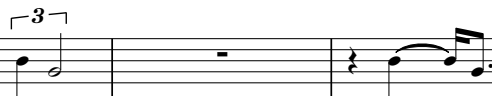
stopped at different points along the string
 pedal down

12:35 - start with percussion
 repeat approx 2.25x

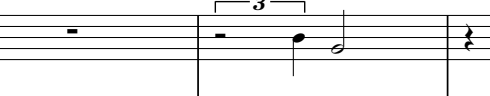
8^{vb} 

15 $\text{♩} = 120$

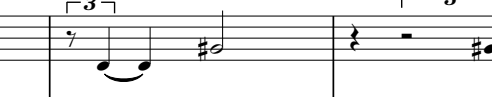
pedal on

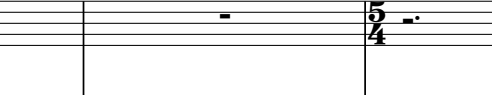
21

26 repeat 3x

13:45 - change with percussion
 repeat approx 5x

31  

14:25 - on the 6th upward sweeping percussive hit in the electronics
repeat approx 3 times

35



40

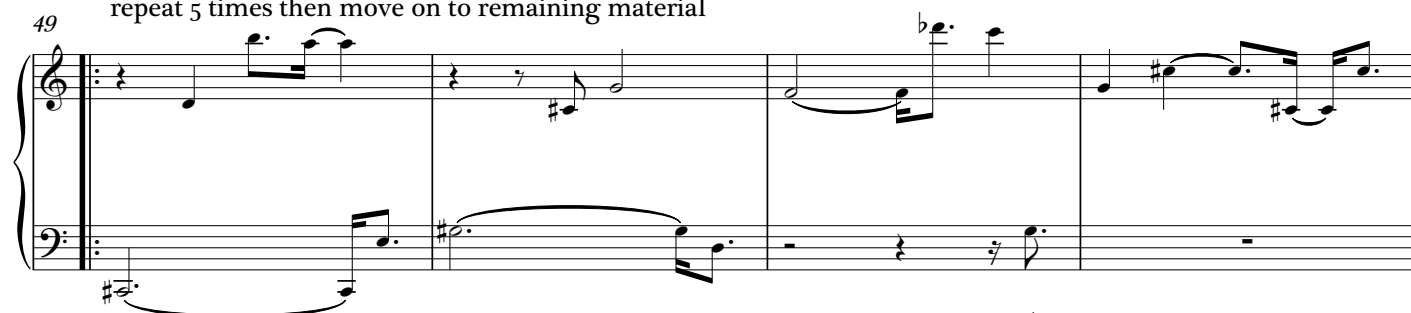


45

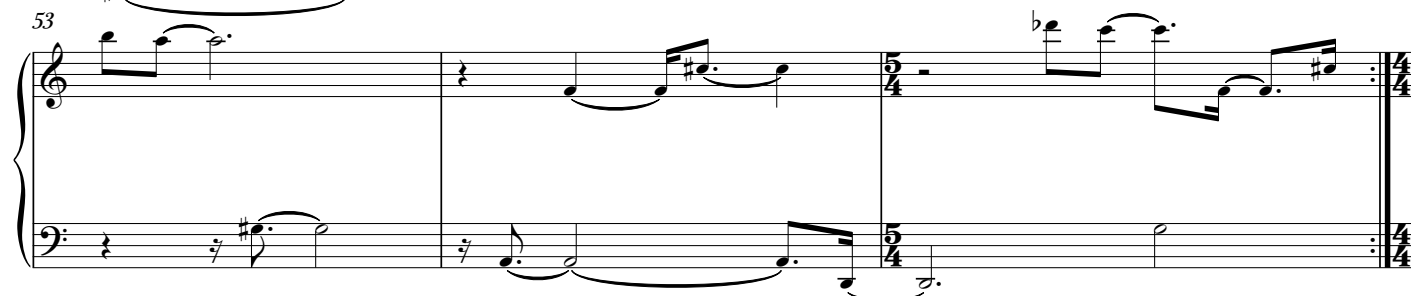


15:51 - change together with percussion
repeat 5 times then move on to remaining material

49



53



56



61

66

71

ritardando poco a poco...

76

82

88

94

low rumble

Vibraphone
3 Large Cymbals
China Cymbal
Bass Drum

Star Taker - Percussion

♩ = 72

Sam Pluta

Bass Drum 6 minutes 3 large cymbals 6:00 bell →

Percussion

Vibraphone

6 crash mp b c

Perc.

10 b

Perc.

14 b c b b c

Perc.

18

Perc.

22 8:00 continue cymbal swells, focusing on the sixteenth note pulse (play off stopped piano)

Perc.

at the same time 35 seconds

Vib.

mp
full pedal always

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a percussion ensemble. The top staff is for Percussion, which includes a Bass Drum (6 minutes), 3 large cymbals (6:00), and a bell. The bottom staff is for Vibraphone. The score is divided into measures 6, 10, 14, 18, and 22. Measure 6: Percussion has a crash (mp) and a bell (b). Vibraphone has a pedal (c). Measure 10: Percussion has a bell (b). Vibraphone has a pedal (c). Measure 14: Percussion has a bell (b), cymbal (c), bell (b), bell (b), and cymbal (c). Vibraphone has a pedal (c). Measure 18: Percussion has a bell (b). Vibraphone has a pedal (c). Measure 22: Percussion has a bell (b). Vibraphone has a pedal (c). The score also includes a 35-second section for the Vibraphone. The score is written for Sam Pluta.

24 12:35 - start with piano

Vib. *pp*

29 *full pedal always*

34

38

42

46

50

53

if you finish before 13:45,
start from bar 24 and play to 13:45

13:45

3

58 repeat approx. 4.5 times



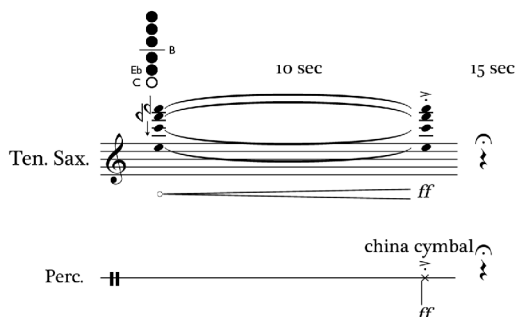
60 clear pedal on first repeat

14:25 - on the 6th upward sweeping percussive hit in the electronics
repeat approx 3.5 times

67 clear pedal on first repeat

Repeat about 9 times (every 25 seconds).
Start on the following timings:

16:25	18:35
16:50	19:00
17:20	19:25
17:45	19:50
18:10	

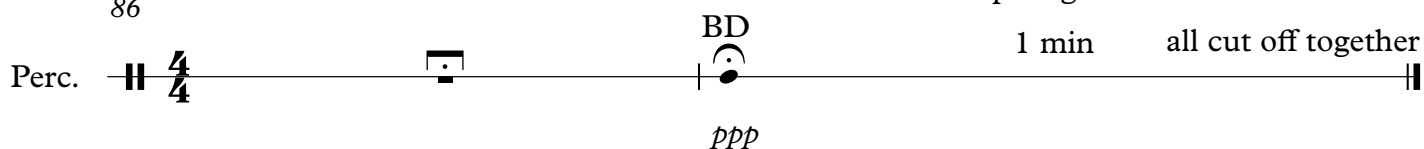
15:51 - change together with piano
repeat approx 6 timesat 16:25, sax comes in with the above gesture
add a choked china cymbal at the end of the sound
continue with vibes music
sax/perc gesture continues after vibes are done playing

80 clear pedal on first repeat



86

20:00 - after last sax/perc gesture



Star Taker - Violin

6 min

Sam Pluta

0:00 6:02

Violin

mf 7th partial on the A string and 5th partial on the E string
constantly shifting focus between the two notes
interact with cello

Violoncello

mf 13th partial on the A string
play a combination of natural harmonics, artificial harmonics, and fingered notes
constantly change timbre between pure tone, overpressure noise, and sul pont
allow other pitches to enter if they want to
move between gradual transformations of timbre and quicker moves from pure tone to noise
interact with violin

7:30 8:00-11:00 11:00-12:30

Vln.

perforated overpressure on the E string
blend with electronics

13:23 14:14 14:55

Vln.

45 sec 40 sec 40 sec

metal mute

bowing together
always

Vc.

metal mute

15:34 16:08 16:40 17:13 17:46 20:00

Vln.

6 4x 50 sec 20 sec 60 sec 60 sec

sub norm
(should feel like an edit)

8^{va}

Vc.

20 sec 8^{va}

Star Taker - Violoncello

Sam Pluta

6 min

0:00 6:02

Violin

7th partial on the A string and 5th partial on the E string
constantly shifting focus between the two notes
interact with cello

Violoncello

mf 13th partial on the A string
play a combination of natural harmonics, artificial harmonics, and fingered notes
constantly change timbre between pure tone, overpressure noise, and sul pont
allow other pitches to enter if they want to
move between gradual transformations of timbre and quicker moves from pure tone to noise
interact with violin

mf

6:06-8:40

Ten. Sax.

saxophone swells in and out (15sec per swell). cello follows saxophone, starting with a natural harmonic, increasing with brightness as the sax gets louder, and decreasing in brightness as it decrescendoes

Vc.

mf sul pont

ord

mf

9:10-12:30 12:10-12:30

Vc.

fade in and out of the texture
focus on the beating pattern of the interval
gradually change the interval between a minor second to smaller and larger,
changing the beating pattern between the notes

13:23 45 sec 14:14 40 sec 14:55 40 sec

Vln. metal mute

bowing together
always

Vc. metal mute

15:34 4x 50 sec 20 sec 60 sec 60 sec 20:00

16:08

16:40

17:13

6

Vln. *sub norm*
(should feel like an edit)

17:46

20 sec

Vc. *sub norm*

Ending - Starting at ~20min - Sax, Perc, Vln, Vc

For about 1 minute, ending together with a sharp cutoff. Pitches should be as quiet as possible, with the noises made from the bow crossing the string often being louder than the pitched sounds. Pitches may also be so quiet as to not speak. Each player starts in any box on the page. The music is read normally, from left to right. However, after a the player completes a box, they may choose to repeat the box, improvise on the material in the box, jump backwards a number of boxes, repeat a sequence of boxes just played, or jump to anywhere else on the page. Partial boxes are also possible.

The musical score is organized into three main sections: Violin (Vln.), Violoncello (Vcllo), and Viola (Vc.). Each section contains multiple staves with various musical notations and performance instructions.

Violin (Vln.) Section:

- Staff 1:** Starts with a "metal mute" instruction. The first box contains a series of notes with the instruction "ppp at all times". The second box contains a series of notes with a "ric (ind)" instruction. The third box contains a series of notes with a "6" instruction. The fourth box contains a series of notes with a "6" instruction.
- Staff 2:** Starts with a "ric (ind)" instruction. The first box contains a series of notes with a "5" instruction. The second box contains a series of notes with a "6" instruction. The third box contains a series of notes with a "5" instruction. The fourth box contains a series of notes with a "jete" instruction. The fifth box contains a series of notes with a "ric (ind)" instruction. The sixth box contains a series of notes with a "6" instruction. The seventh box contains a series of notes with a "7" instruction.
- Staff 3:** Starts with a "sp" instruction. The first box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction. The second box contains a series of notes with a "n" instruction. The third box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction. The fourth box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction. The fifth box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction. The sixth box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction. The seventh box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction.
- Staff 4:** Starts with a "sp" instruction. The first box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction. The second box contains a series of notes with a "jete" instruction. The third box contains a series of notes with a "jete" instruction. The fourth box contains a series of notes with a "jete" instruction. The fifth box contains a series of notes with a "jete" instruction. The sixth box contains a series of notes with a "jete" instruction. The seventh box contains a series of notes with a "jete" instruction.

Violoncello (Vcllo) Section:

- Staff 1:** Starts with a "metal mute" instruction. The first box contains a series of notes with a "n" instruction. The second box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction. The third box contains a series of notes with a "ppp at all times" instruction. The fourth box contains a series of notes with a "n" instruction. The fifth box contains a series of notes with a "n" instruction. The sixth box contains a series of notes with a "n" instruction. The seventh box contains a series of notes with a "n" instruction.
- Staff 2:** Starts with a "ric (ind)" instruction. The first box contains a series of notes with a "5" instruction. The second box contains a series of notes with a "7" instruction. The third box contains a series of notes with a "jete" instruction. The fourth box contains a series of notes with a "ric (ind)" instruction. The fifth box contains a series of notes with a "9" instruction. The sixth box contains a series of notes with a "7" instruction. The seventh box contains a series of notes with a "5" instruction. The eighth box contains a series of notes with a "6" instruction.
- Staff 3:** Starts with a "sp" instruction. The first box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction. The second box contains a series of notes with a "n" instruction. The third box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction. The fourth box contains a series of notes with a "ric (ind)" instruction. The fifth box contains a series of notes with a "9" instruction. The sixth box contains a series of notes with a "7" instruction. The seventh box contains a series of notes with a "6" instruction.
- Staff 4:** Starts with a "n" instruction. The first box contains a series of notes with a "n" instruction. The second box contains a series of notes with a "n" instruction. The third box contains a series of notes with a "jete" instruction. The fourth box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction. The fifth box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction. The sixth box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction. The seventh box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction.

Viola (Vc.) Section:

- Staff 1:** Starts with a "ric (ind)" instruction. The first box contains a series of notes with a "5" instruction. The second box contains a series of notes with a "7" instruction. The third box contains a series of notes with a "jete" instruction. The fourth box contains a series of notes with a "ric (ind)" instruction. The fifth box contains a series of notes with a "9" instruction. The sixth box contains a series of notes with a "7" instruction. The seventh box contains a series of notes with a "5" instruction. The eighth box contains a series of notes with a "6" instruction.
- Staff 2:** Starts with a "sp" instruction. The first box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction. The second box contains a series of notes with a "n" instruction. The third box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction. The fourth box contains a series of notes with a "ric (ind)" instruction. The fifth box contains a series of notes with a "9" instruction. The sixth box contains a series of notes with a "7" instruction. The seventh box contains a series of notes with a "6" instruction.
- Staff 3:** Starts with a "n" instruction. The first box contains a series of notes with a "n" instruction. The second box contains a series of notes with a "n" instruction. The third box contains a series of notes with a "jete" instruction. The fourth box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction. The fifth box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction. The sixth box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction. The seventh box contains a series of notes with a "sp" instruction.

Tenor Saxophone finds a note in tune with the BD, playing this note as soft as possible inside the BD sound.

The percussion notation shows a Bass Drum (BD) sound. The notation consists of a vertical line with a horizontal bar across it, indicating a single beat. The instruction "pp" (pianissimo) is written below the notation.