heliocentric

2005-2011 ten instruments

heliocentric

(2005-2011) for ten instruments

Commissioned by the City of Liverpool as part of CONSTRUCTION

to Harry Gilonis

duration: approximately 15 minutes

Instrumentation:

duo 1 bass flute

bass recorder

duo 2 clarinet in A 1 & 2

duo 3 quartertone flugelhorn

alto trombone

quartet percussion (one player): at least 2 kalimbas or similar instruments - see below

baroque triple harp electric guitar

cello

Staging and electronics

All instruments should be amplified. Heliocentric is conceived for performance with live three-dimensional spatialisation of the instrumental sounds. The sounds of each of the three duos should be projected so as to "rotate" slowly and independently of the other duos around the centre of the performing space, with the members of the duo diametrically opposite one another - duo 1 closest to the centre and to ground level, duo 2 in an intermediate position and duo 3 furthest from the centre and furthest from the ground. The quartet sounds should be placed together in the centre like a single complex instrument. Amplification should be differentially used to give all ten instruments a comparable dynamic range. Reverberation is added to the quartet sounds as specified in the score. If necessary the music can be performed without the spatialisation, but still amplifying all the instruments and adding reverb where indicated, and also placing the three duos in different positions around the central quartet as facilitated by the nature of the performing space.

Organisation of the score

The score consists of four components: the quartet score, which is used by the quartet and by the conductor, and the three duo scores which also exist as separate duos: Adocentyn for bass flute and bass recorder, Hypnerotomachia for two clarinets in A and Aurora for quartertone flugelhorn and alto trombone. The versions of those scores used for heliocentric differ slightly from the duo versions in that there are more and subtler tempo changes, and the music is mostly split into fragments with numbered cues, sometimes necessitating a division of long sustained passages into separate "phrases". The changes in tempo are mostly close to the conducted tempo and are intended principally to desynchronise the layers of the music from one another. Some sections are also rebarred relative to the duo versions to make conducting easier, without altering the material. The cues are given by the conductor, generally to one duo at a time but sometimes two, at which point the duo plays until the end of that fragment, usually at its own tempo independently of the rest of the ensemble, and then stops to await the next cue. In some places one of the duos plays continuously for an extended period together with the conductor.

The quartet score contains all the cues for all duos. The rehearsal numbers next to the boxes refer to points in the duo scores. A box with an attached arrow indicates that the activity continues until the end of the arrow. A box without an arrow indicates that the activity continues until (approximately!) the vertical position of the end of the box.

In sections B and D, timings in seconds are given between cues. Many of these depend on the precise tempo taken by one or other of the duos, so the timings in the score should be taken only as an approximate guide to the order of entries and exits, and their durational proportions.

General performing notes

Trills, tremoli and gracenotes always as fast as possible; trills and mordents are always to the nearest semitone unless otherwise indicated.

Quartertones: (4) 45 4 # # (9) Smaller intervals are notated using an arrow pointing up or down from one of these accidentals; the precise intonation of such pitches may be inferred from the notated fingering. "Normal" fingering for a given pitch is indicated by N when this might not otherwise be clear. The use of circular breathing is assumed during extended unbroken passages.

] = tongue-stop at the end of a sound (winds); stop bow on string (cello), damp all sound (harp, guitar)

Performing notes for duo 1

Glissandi should be executed by changes of fingering except for the few indicated embouchure-glissandi in the flute part.

Performing notes for duo 2

The passages in two-part counterpoint work by juxtaposing multiphonic dyads which have one pitch in common so that, with care, one pitch will sound as sustaining while the other changes.

Glissandi are sometimes to be executed using the embouchure, sometimes with the fingers and sometimes by a combination of both. Where no indication of embouchure-glissando (as a sloping line above the stave prefixed by emb.) is given, the glissando is intended to be produced by changes in fingering.

♦ = pitch produced by "normal" fingering, when this fingering is altered (typically by adding trill keys) to produce a different pitch or microtonal sequence. This pitch is shown only as a shorthand for its fingering and is not intended to be heard! Resultant pitches are shown with normal noteheads.

> = slaptongue (not necessarily staccato!)

Performing notes for duo 3

In the flugelhorn part, the number after the "tr" in a trill indicates the valve to be trilled; "tr(L)" indicates a lip-trill.

All multiphonics are "split sounds" rather than involving the voice.

Arrows on accidentals indicate justly-intoned deviations from equal temperament, although these may, depending on context, also be approximated to the nearest quartertone. The flugelhorn quartertones are produced with a fourth valve whose tubing is half the length of that of the second valve. Valves are notated in the score as necessary, as are trombone slide positions (i-VII) and harmonics (pedal=1).

- (above stave) = "normal" tone production.
- = "air sound" (extremely faint pitch sounding a major seventh lower than the played pitch these resultants are shown as small notes)
- ♦ = intermediate between these (a "breathy" sound but with "normal" pitch still audible).
- $\bigcirc \oplus + =$ open, half-closed and closed mute (plunger or harmon).
- [x:] = throat-flutter (x = "ch" as in "loch") for indicated duration, sometimes simultaneously with fluttertongue.

Performing notes for quartet

The percussionist should use at least two kalimbas or similar instruments. Two are specified in the score (kalimba 1 smaller and higher in general pitch-range, kalimba 2 larger and lower) but these may be augmented ad libitum, particularly by instruments with distinctively different timbres, to replace the specified ones for one or other section of the score. Kalimbas in tempered tuning should be retuned so that their tuning is irregular. In particular, no two tongues should be exactly in unison. Pitches are not specified in the score. Each instrument is notated using one line to represent the central and longest tongue, and noteheads without lines either side to represent however many other tongues the instruments used may have. Therefore the pitch goes up the further away (in either direction!) from the centre line. Kalimbas with a larger number of tongues are to be preferred, and kalimbas with buzzing metal rings around the tongues are welcome.

The **triple harp** is tuned thus:



The harp requires five crocodile clips as "preparations" on its lowest strings.

The electric guitar should use as default a "clean", semi-acoustic type sound: bright but without distortion or significant compression. A volume pedal should be used to realise the often gradual and/or wide changes in dynamic. In the first and fifth sections the lowest three strings are "prepared" using crocodile clips clipped to the strings near the bridge. In the first section, these preparations are also to be moved to unspecified different positions as indicated, in order to produce a variety of different timbres at different times. In the fourth section, the open B string is played throughout with an EBow and varies only in timbre - alternations between 5 basic "sounds" are indicated, to correspond to 5 different basic effect-combinations, which should be highly distinct from one another except in dynamic (although without clear pitch-shifting, or delays or other effects which produce a discernible regular "rhythm" or pulsation), but each of these may be slowly varied during their duration by gradually adjusting one or other parameter. The most practical way to organise the effects would probably be to assign each of the five sounds to a different effects pedal (with all five pedals connected in series), so that each change would involve simultaneously switching one pedal off and the next on. If this is done accurately the resultant audible clicks will be masked by the kalimba sounds.

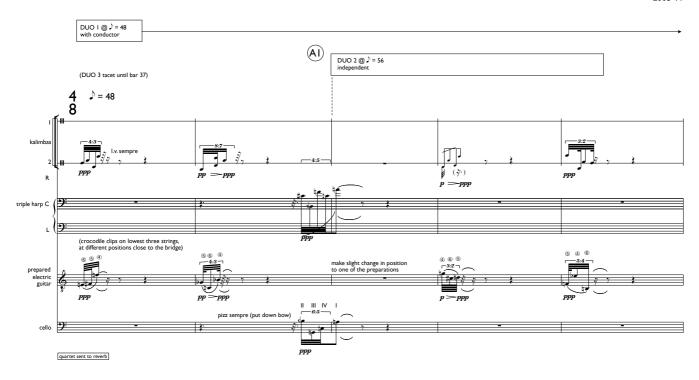
In the **cello** part:

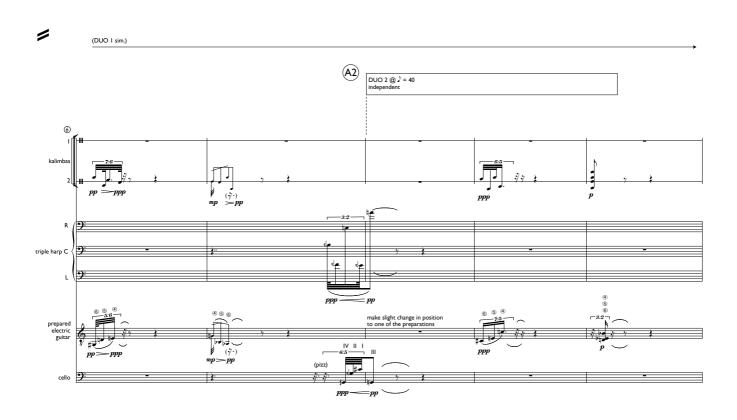
(a) psp, msp = poco and molto sul ponticello respectively, the former already being noticeably different in timbre from nat., the latter being as extreme as possible consistent with the fundamental pitch remaining audible. pst, mst = poco and molto sul tasto (similarly).

For suggestions and inspirations on instrumental techniques, thanks to Katja Blischke, Daryl Buckley, Rhodri Davies, Peter Evans, Ben Marks, Carl Rosman and Tristram Williams.

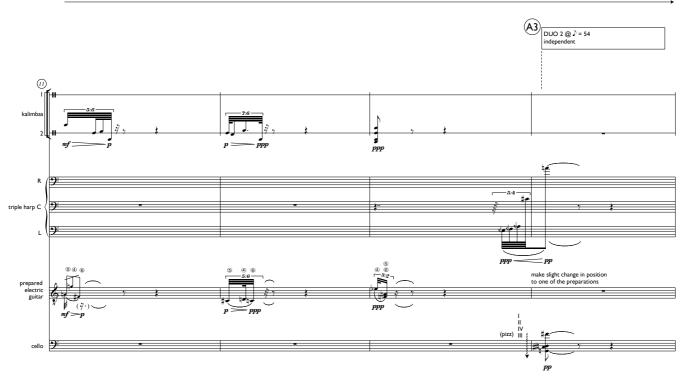
heliocentric

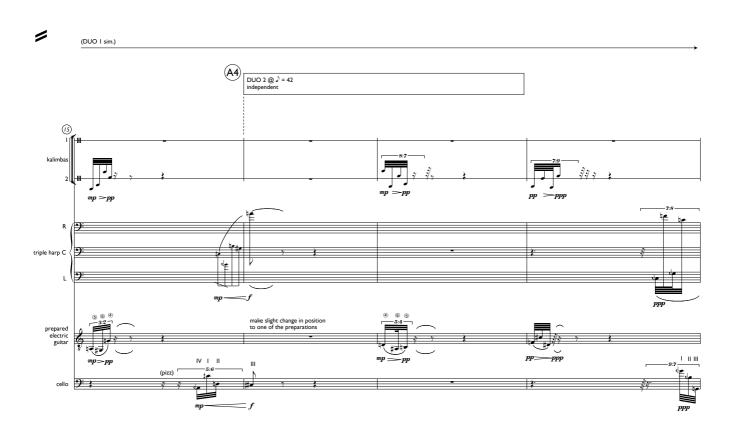
Richard Barrett 2005-11

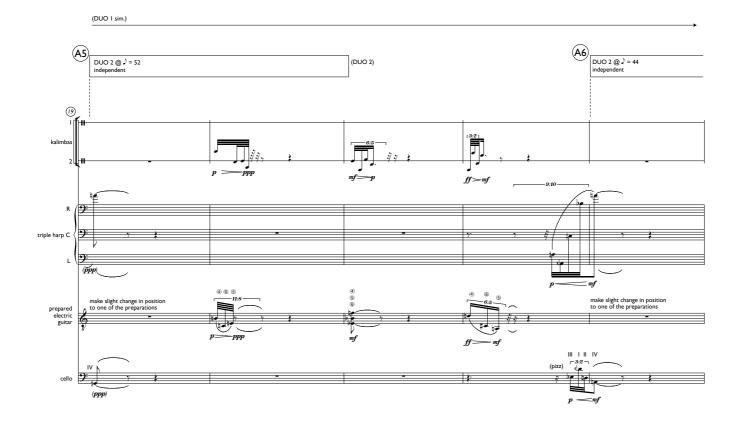


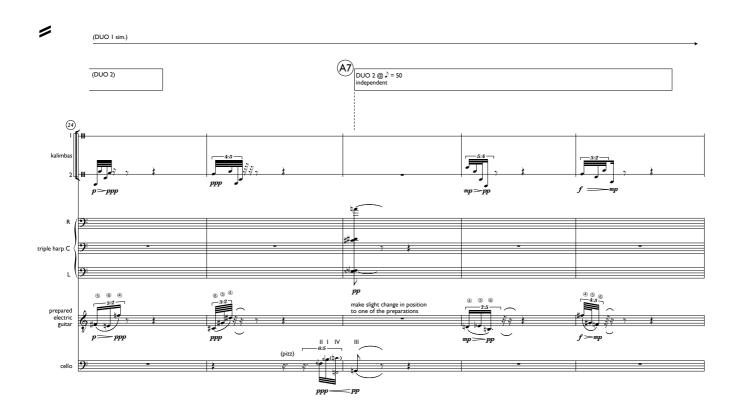


(DUO I sim.)

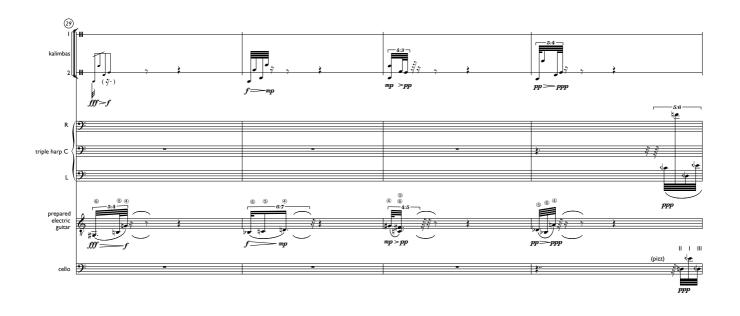


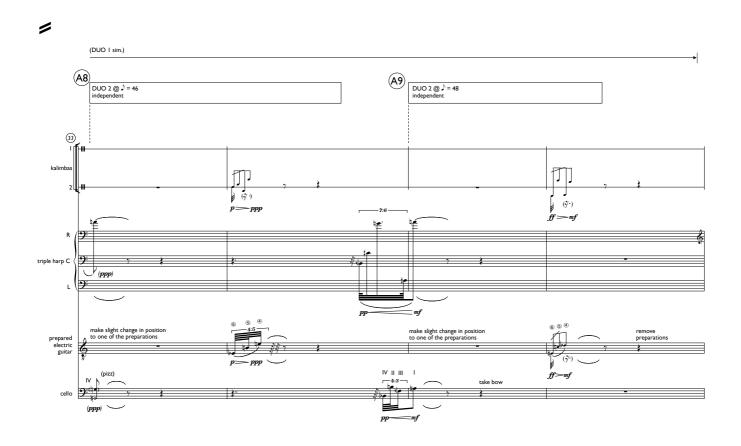


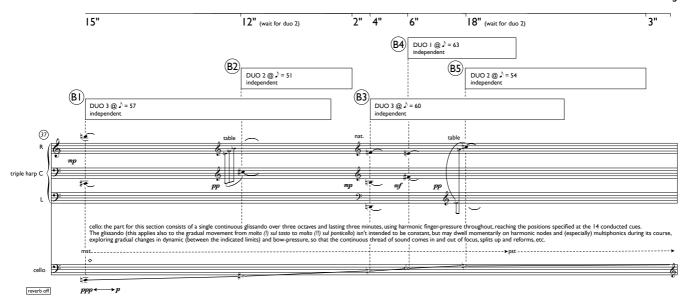


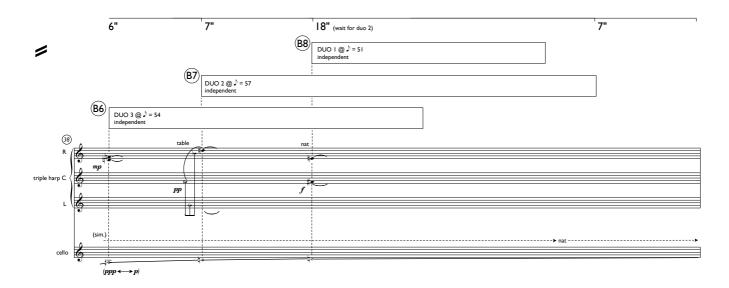


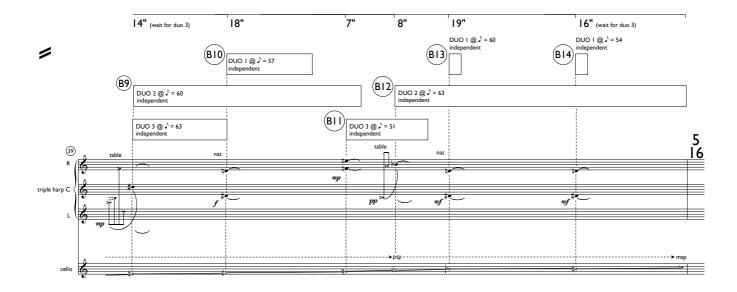
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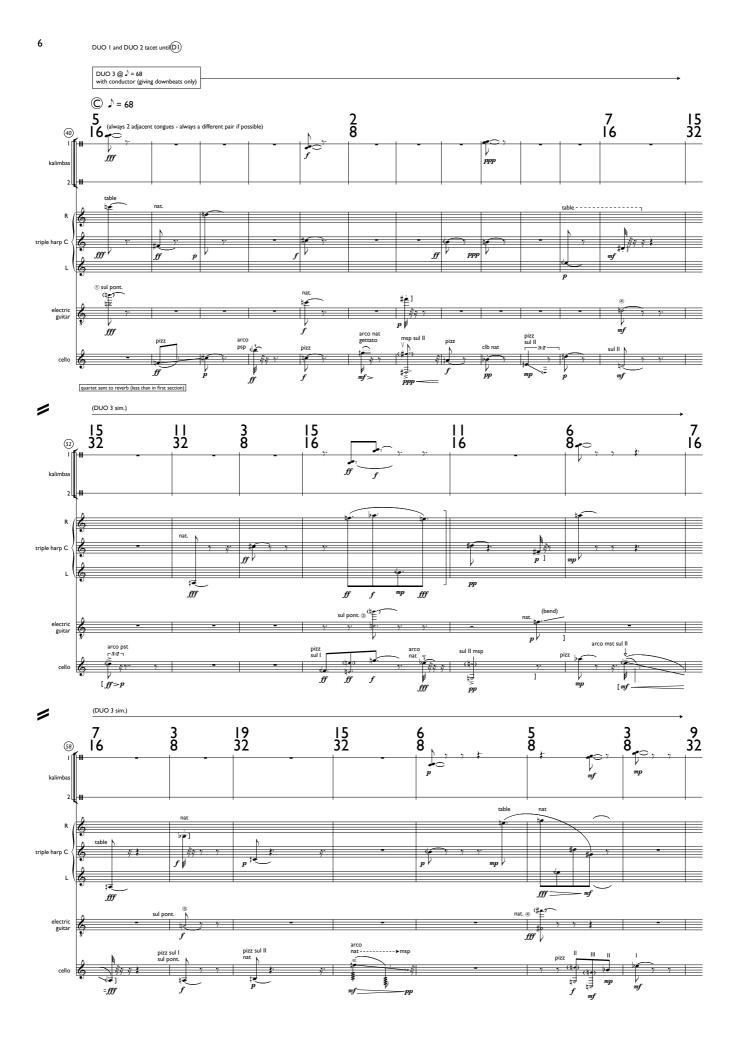




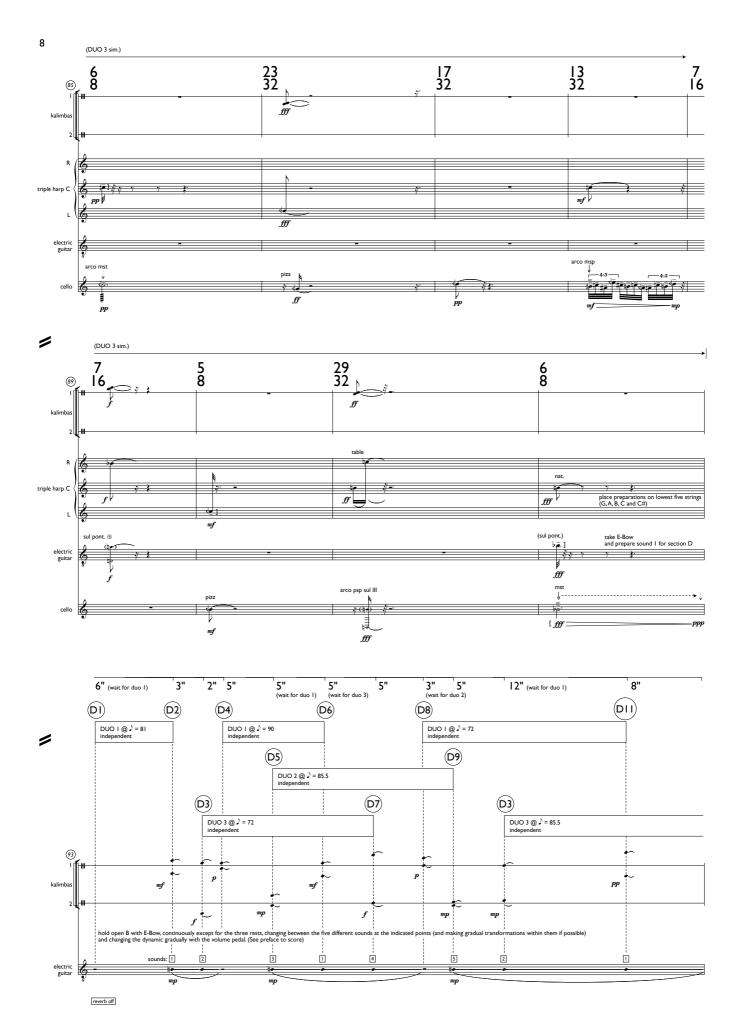


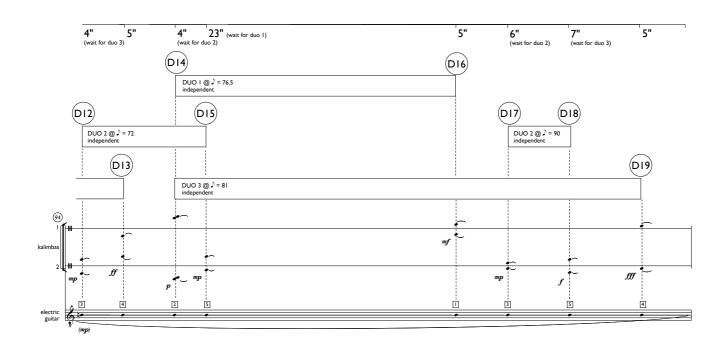


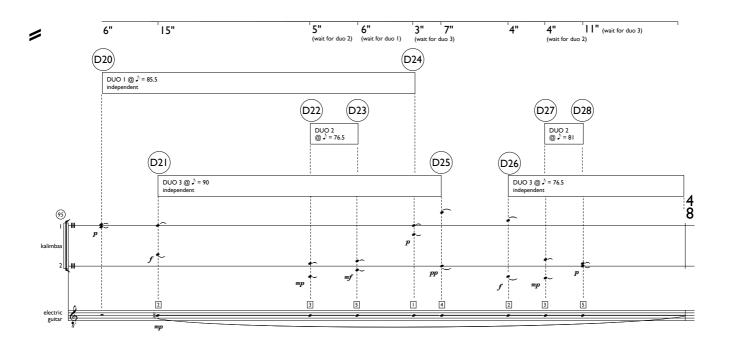


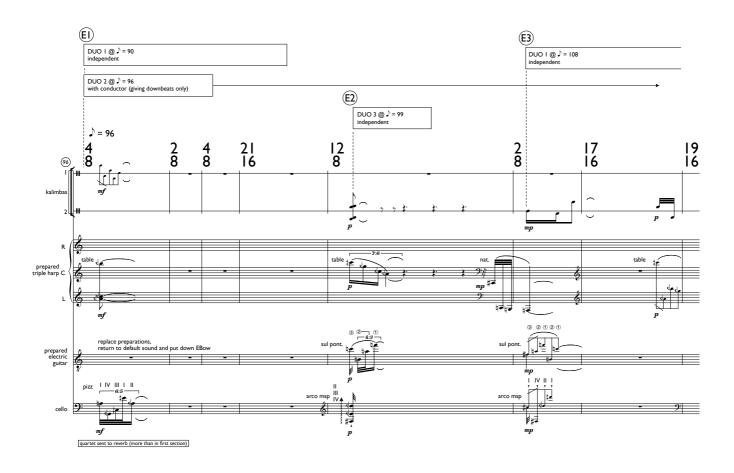


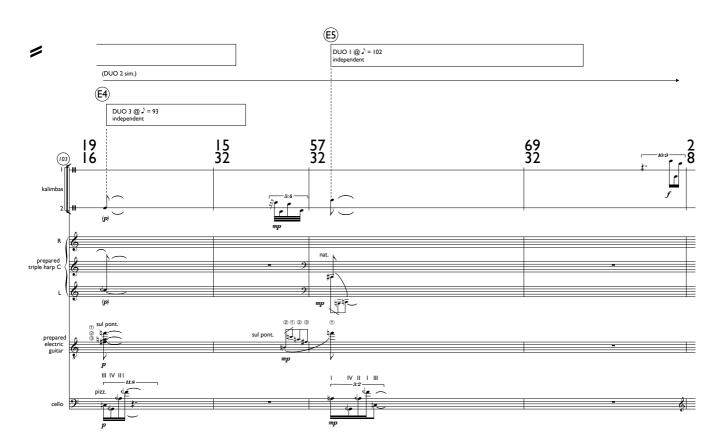


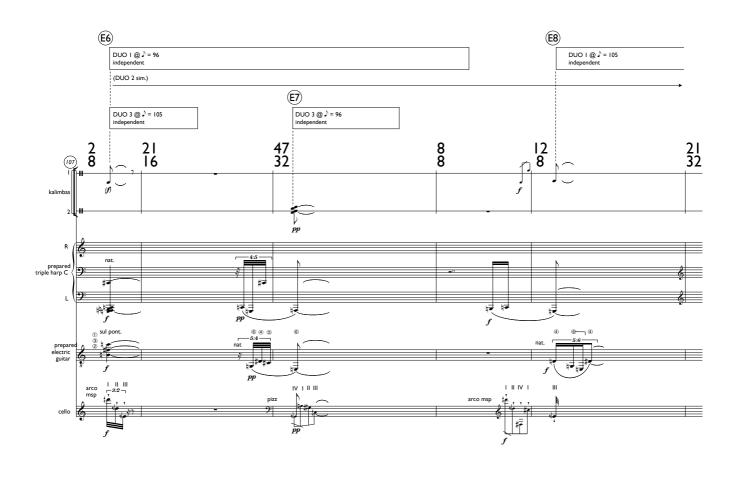


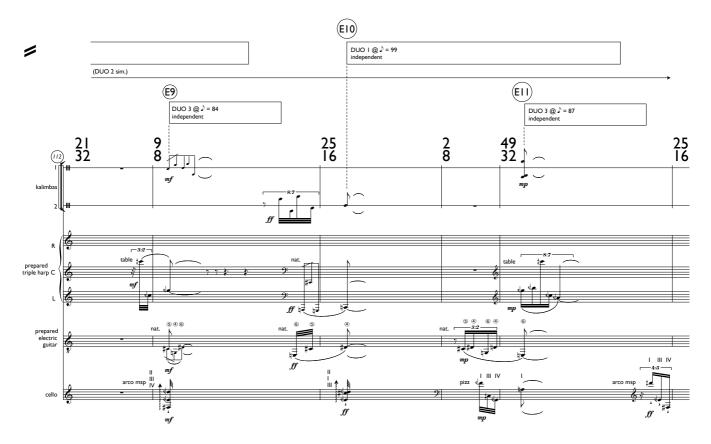


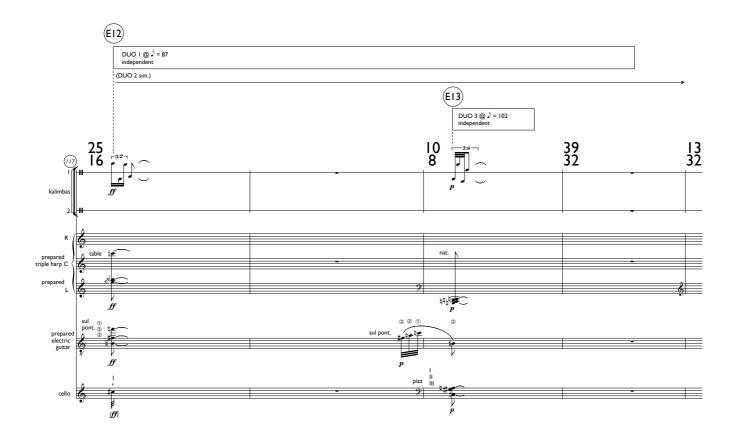


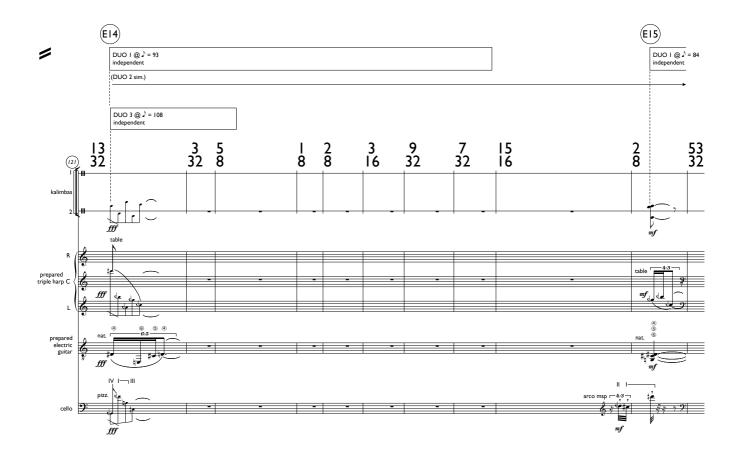


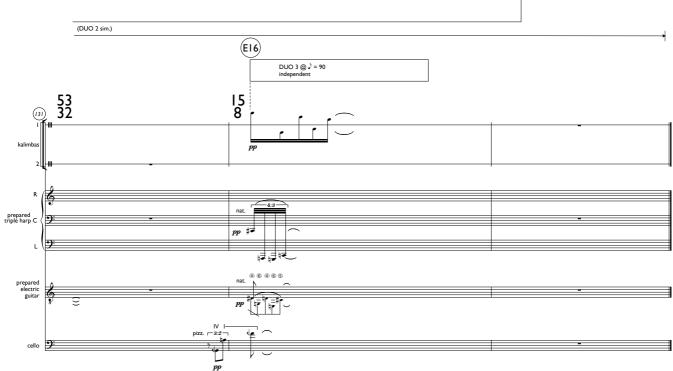










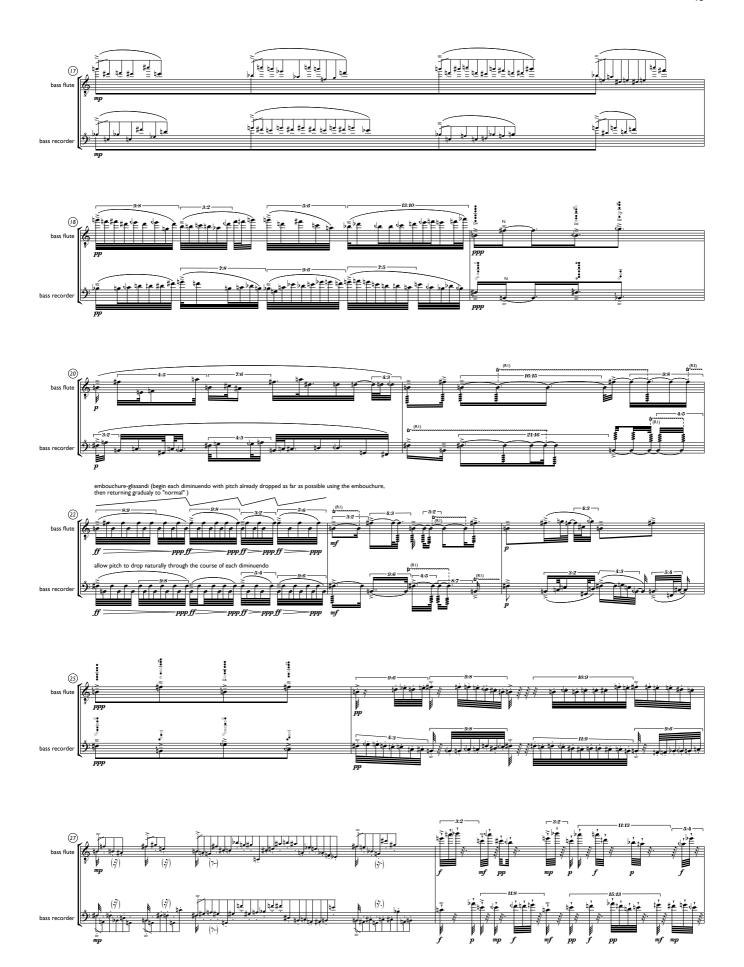


In a complete performance of CONSTRUCTION, the following part Omaggio a Chirico begins after a silence of a few seconds

DUO I (bass flute and bass recorder)

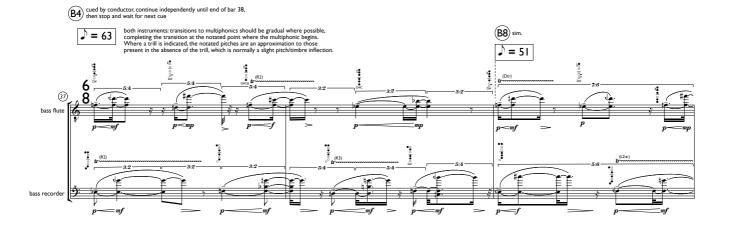
play continuously with conductor until end of bar 36

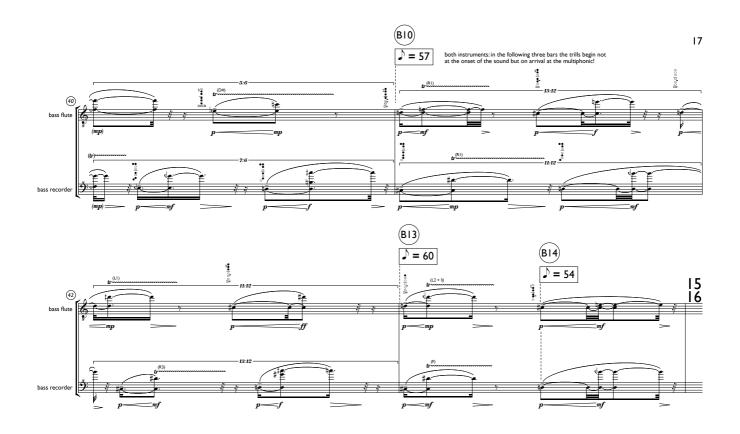




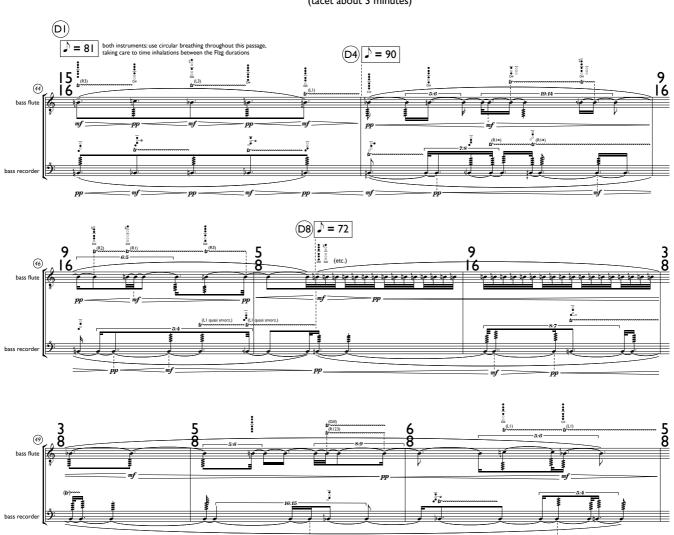


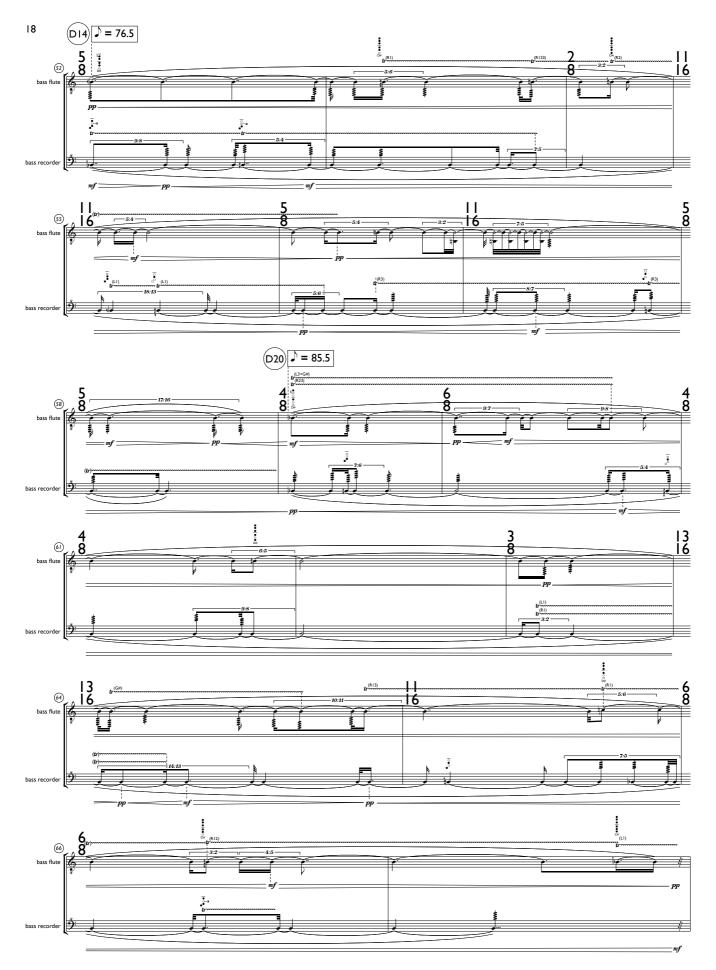
(tacet about 33")





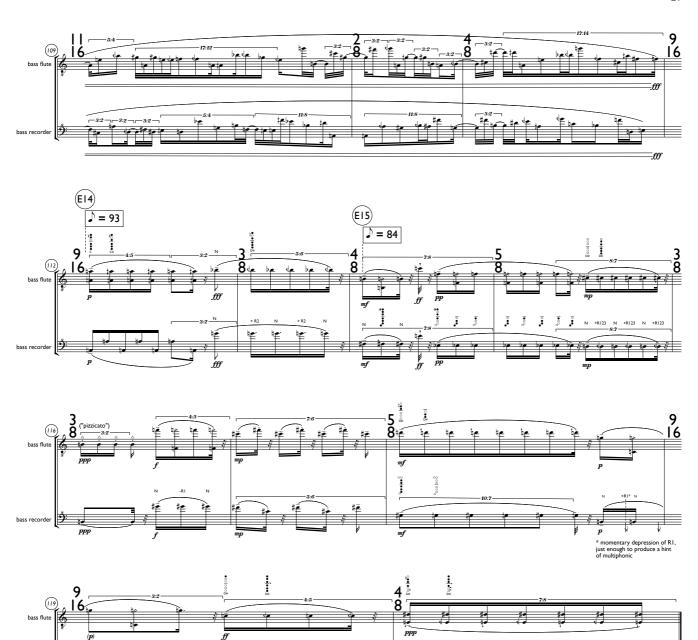
(tacet about 3 minutes)

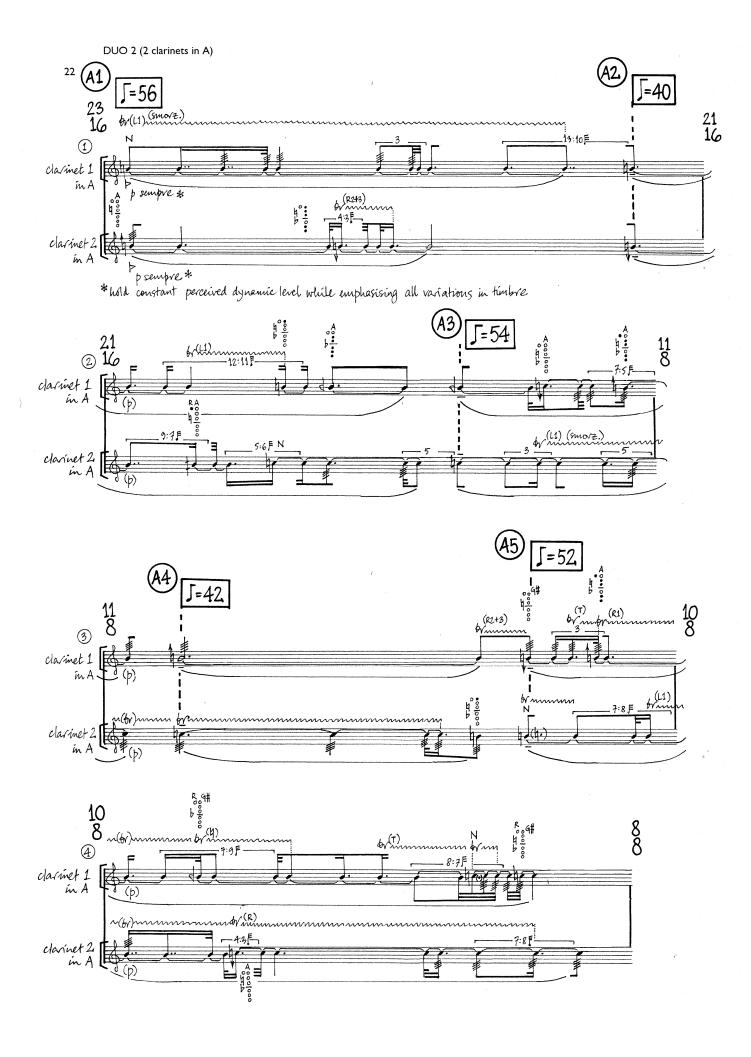


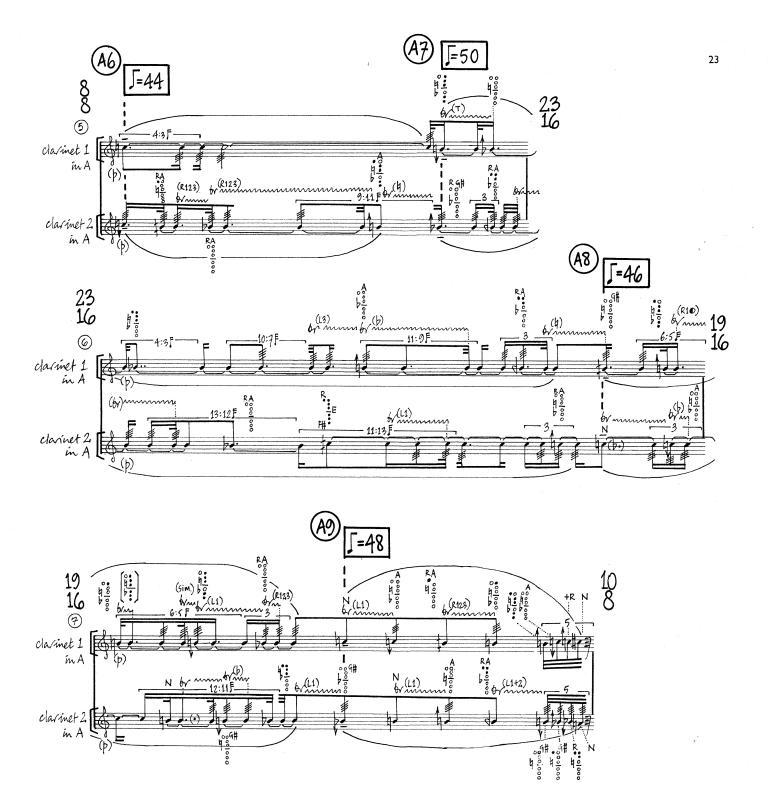


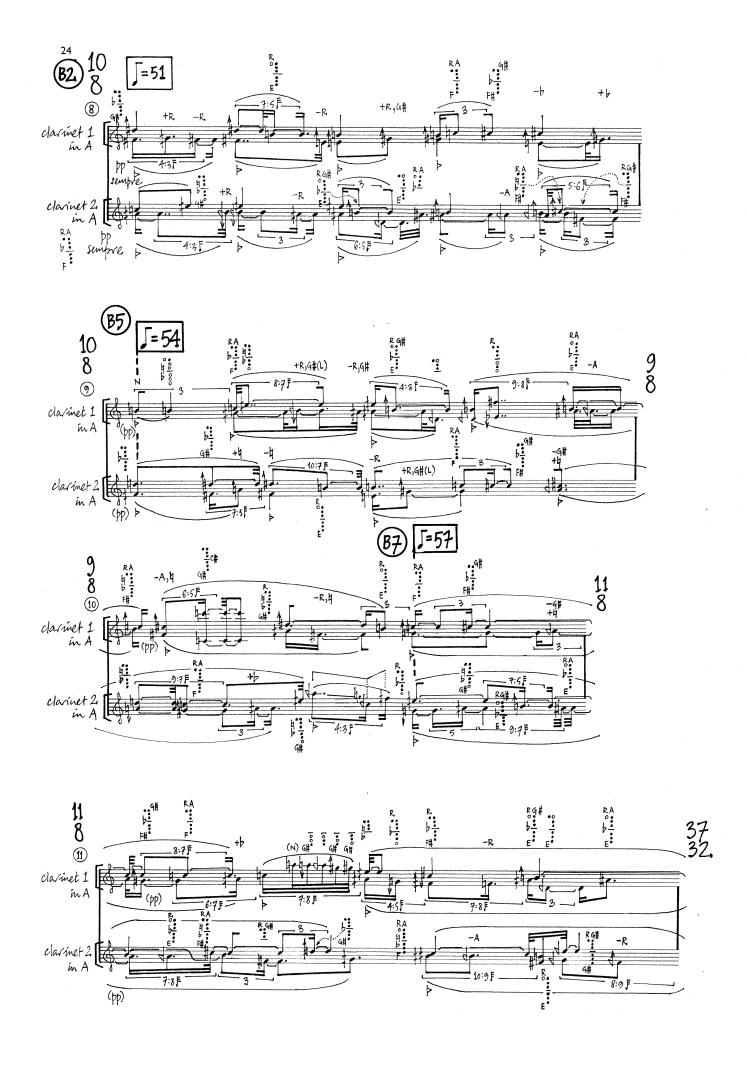
(EI) **♪** = 90 E3 | 9 16 **E5 ♪** = 102 9 16

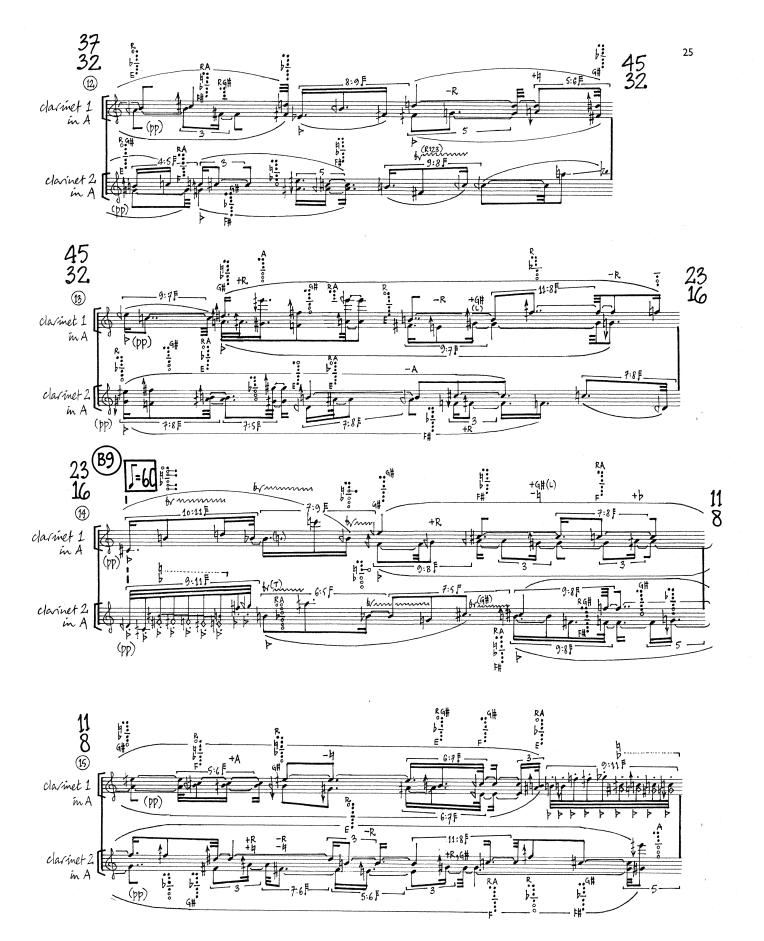


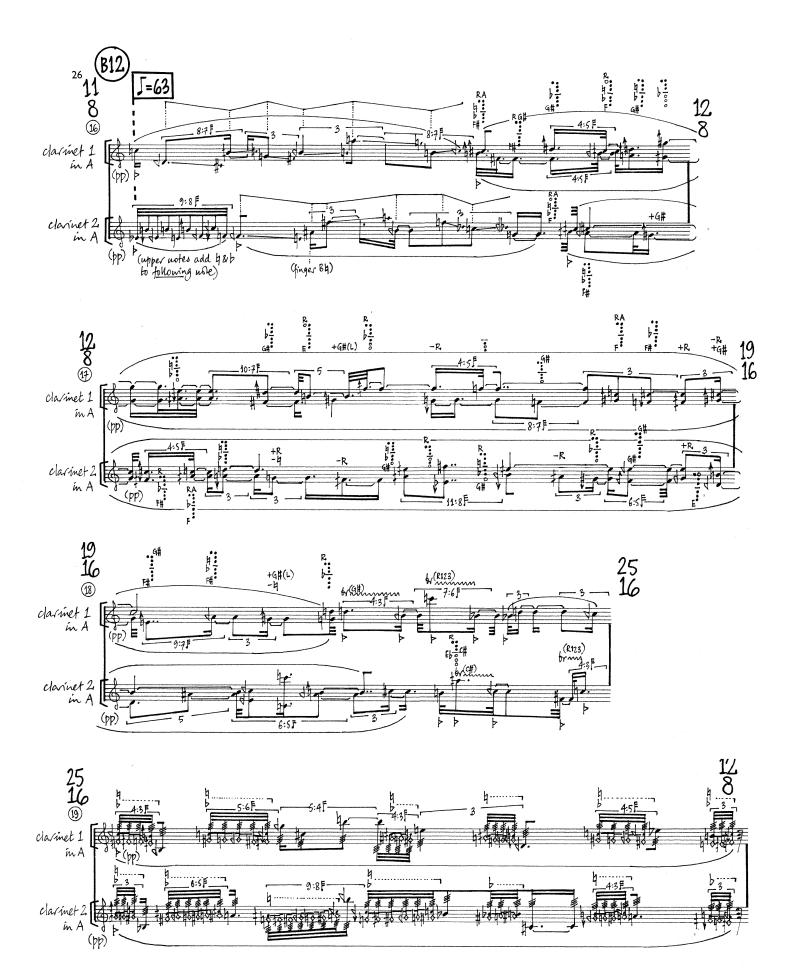




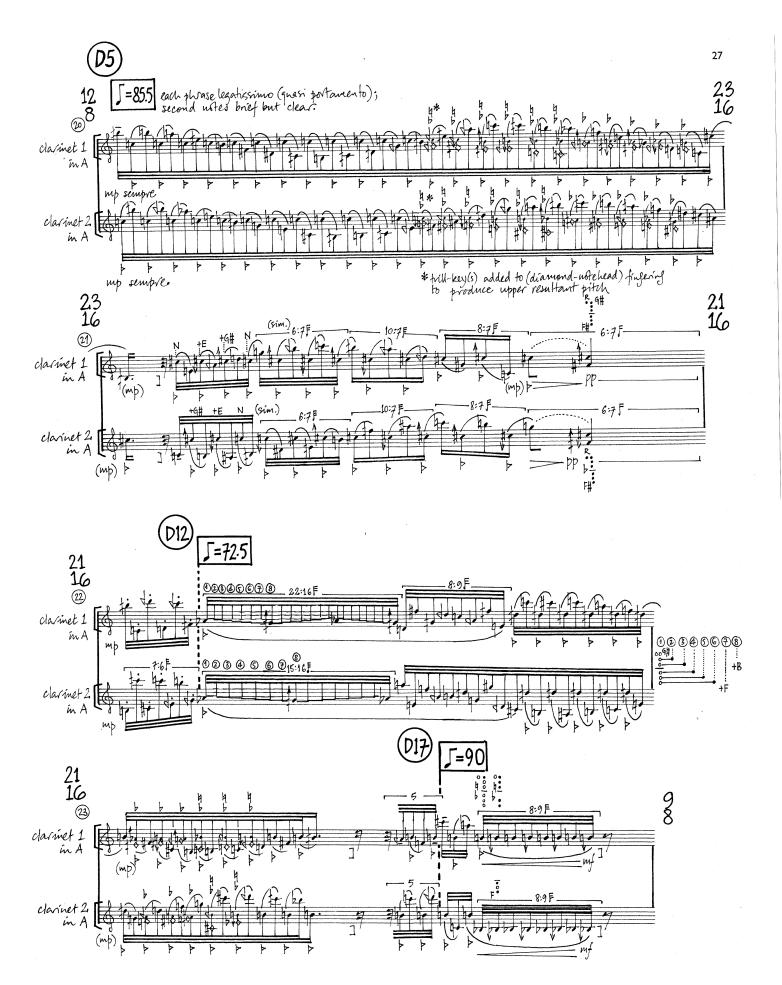


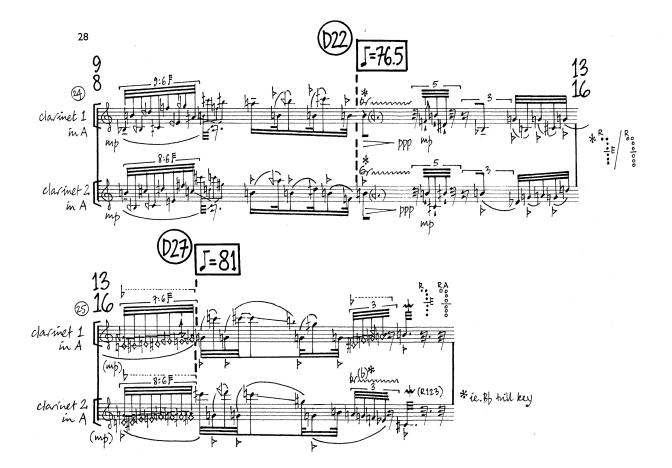


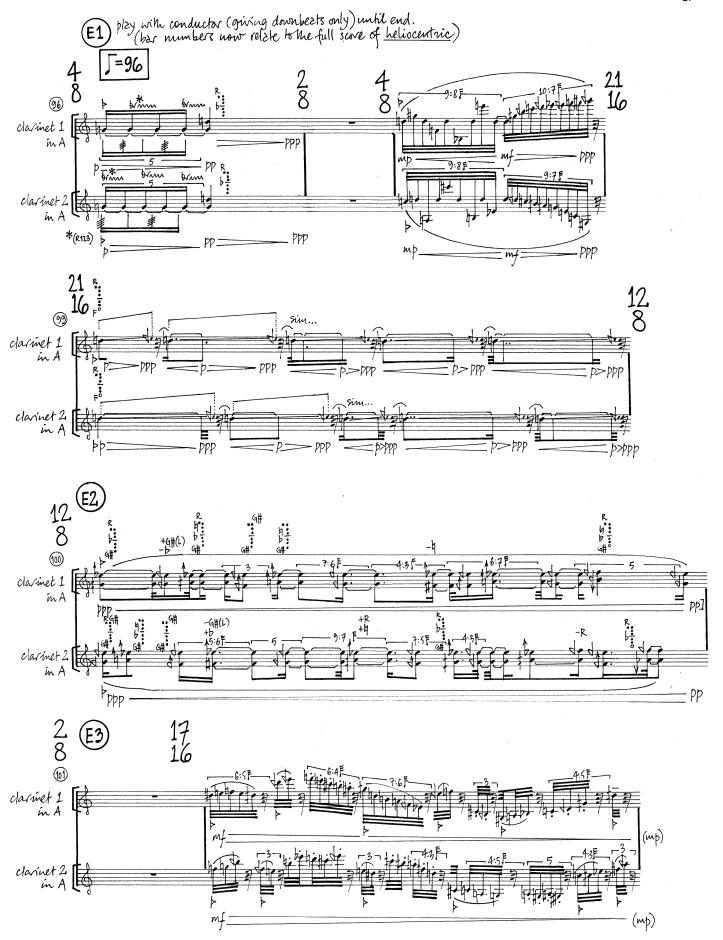


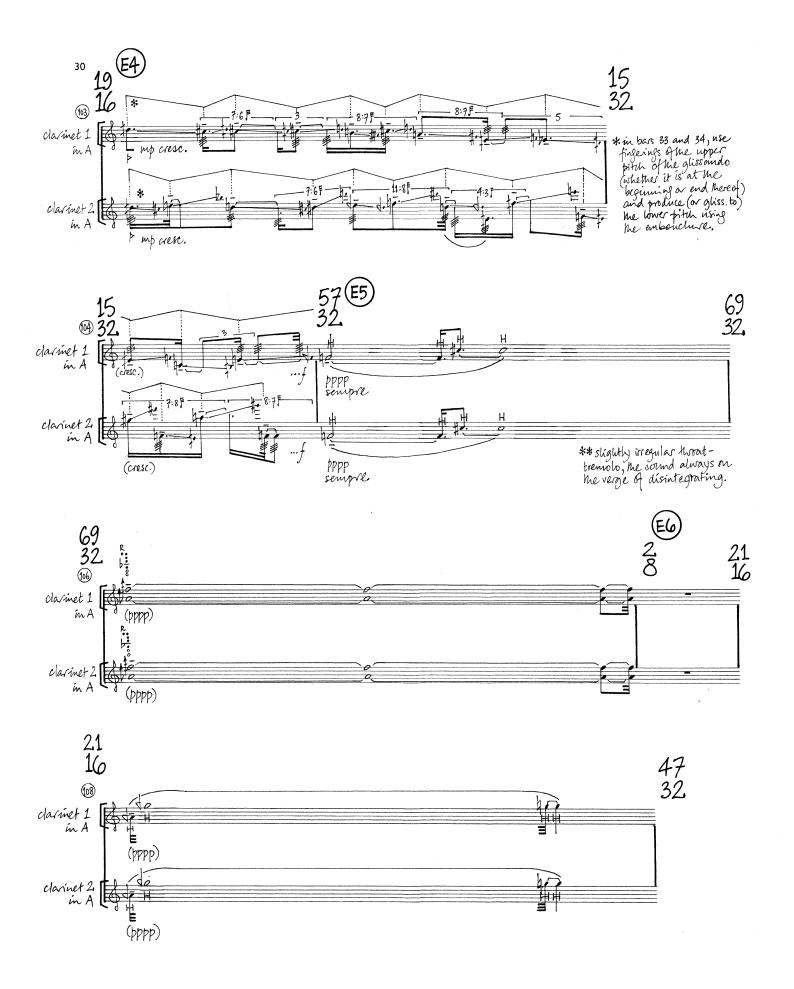


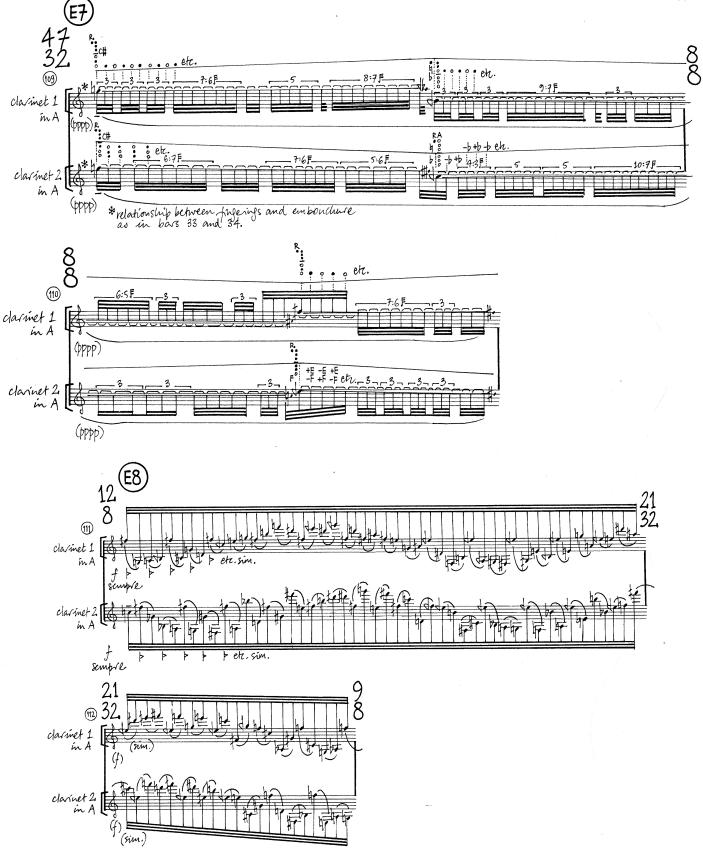
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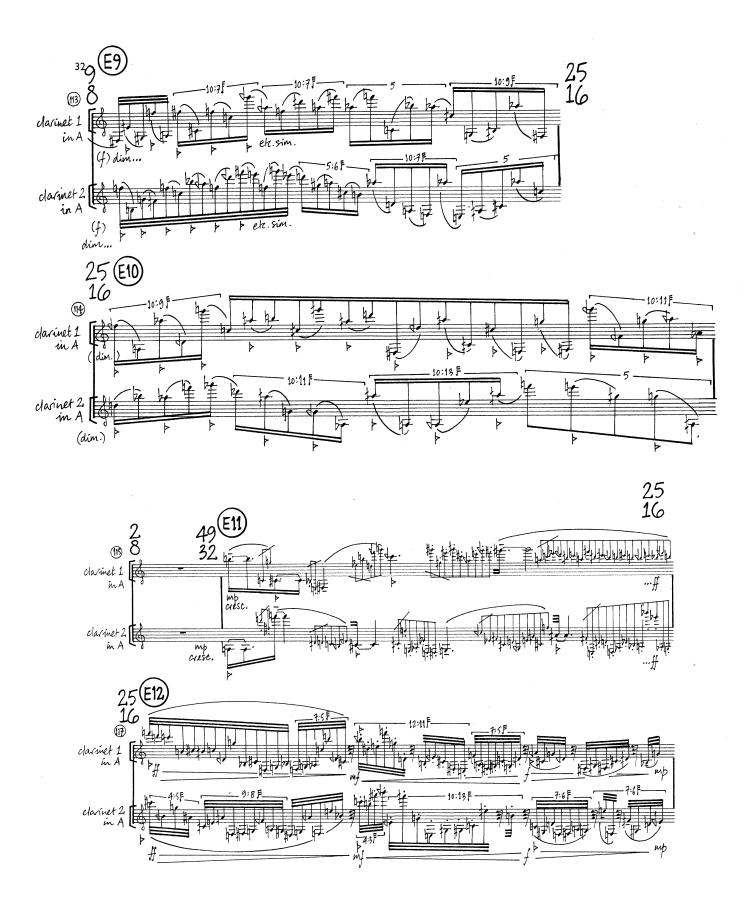


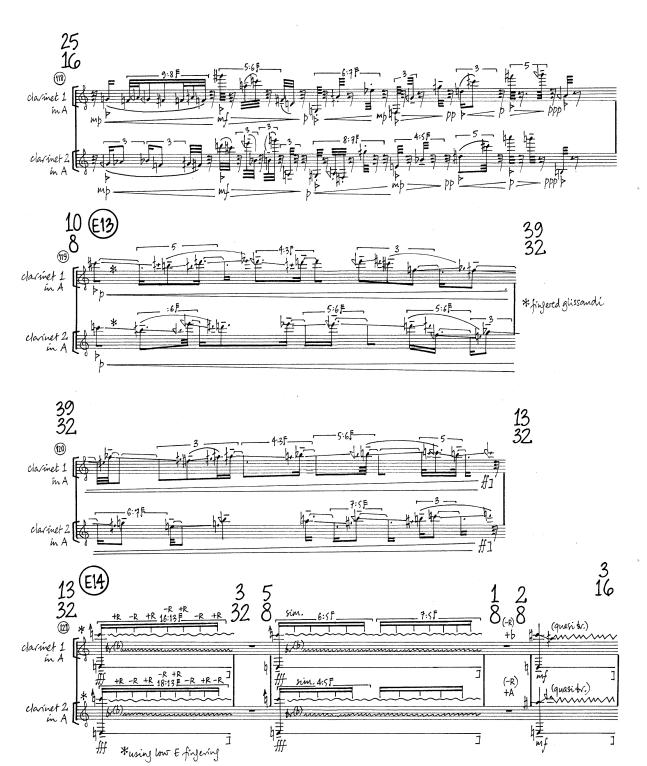


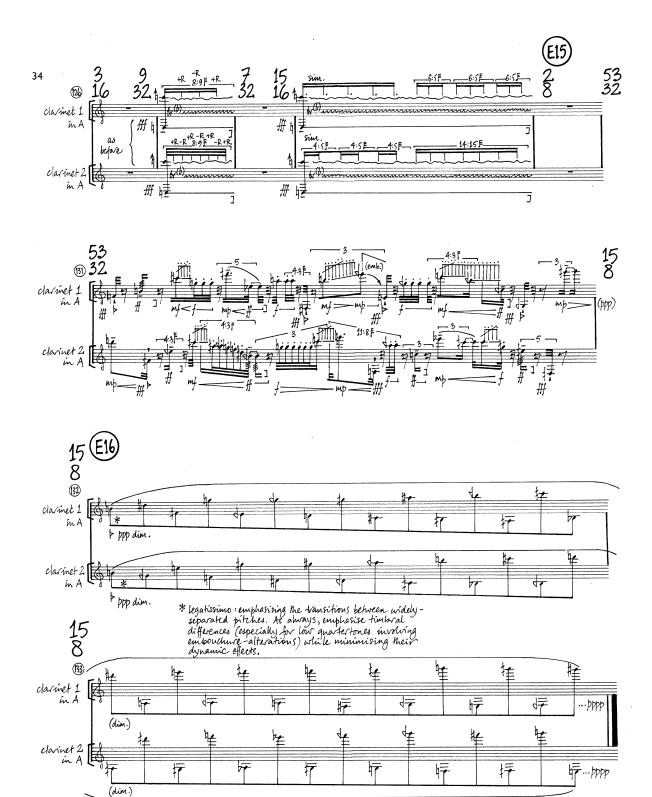


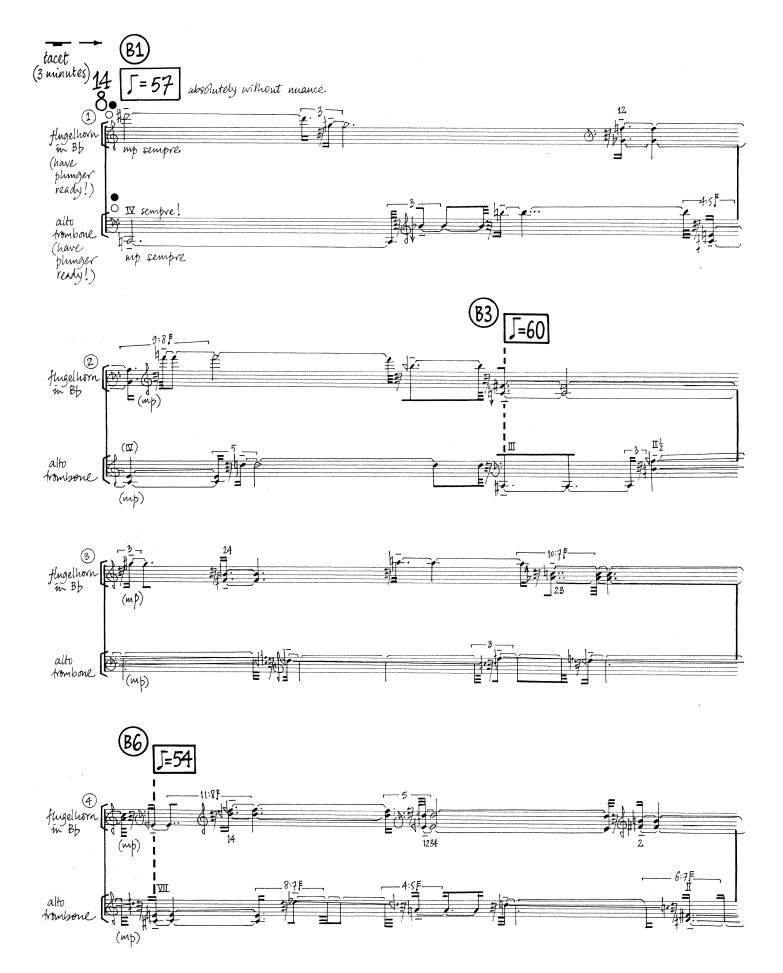


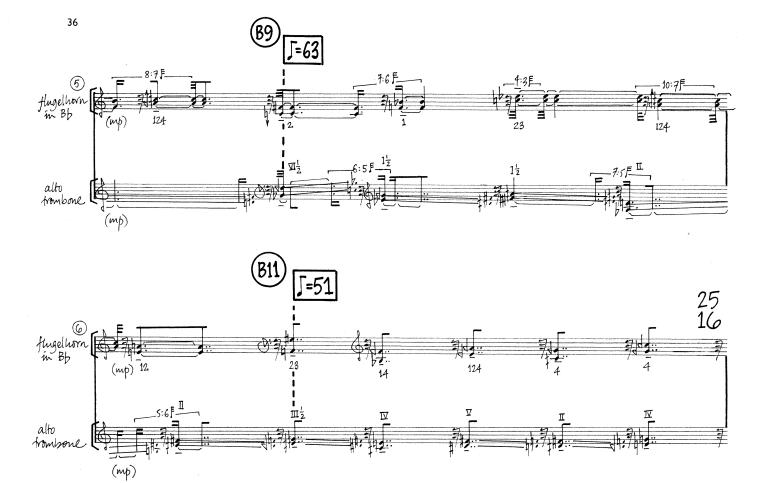


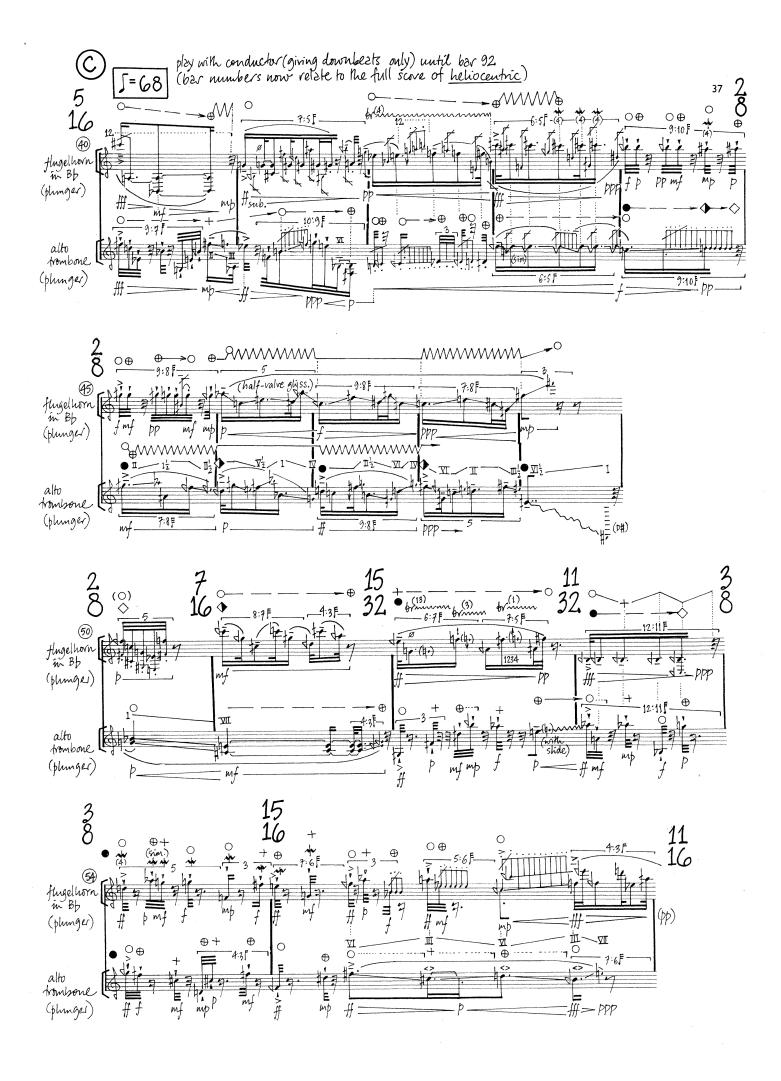


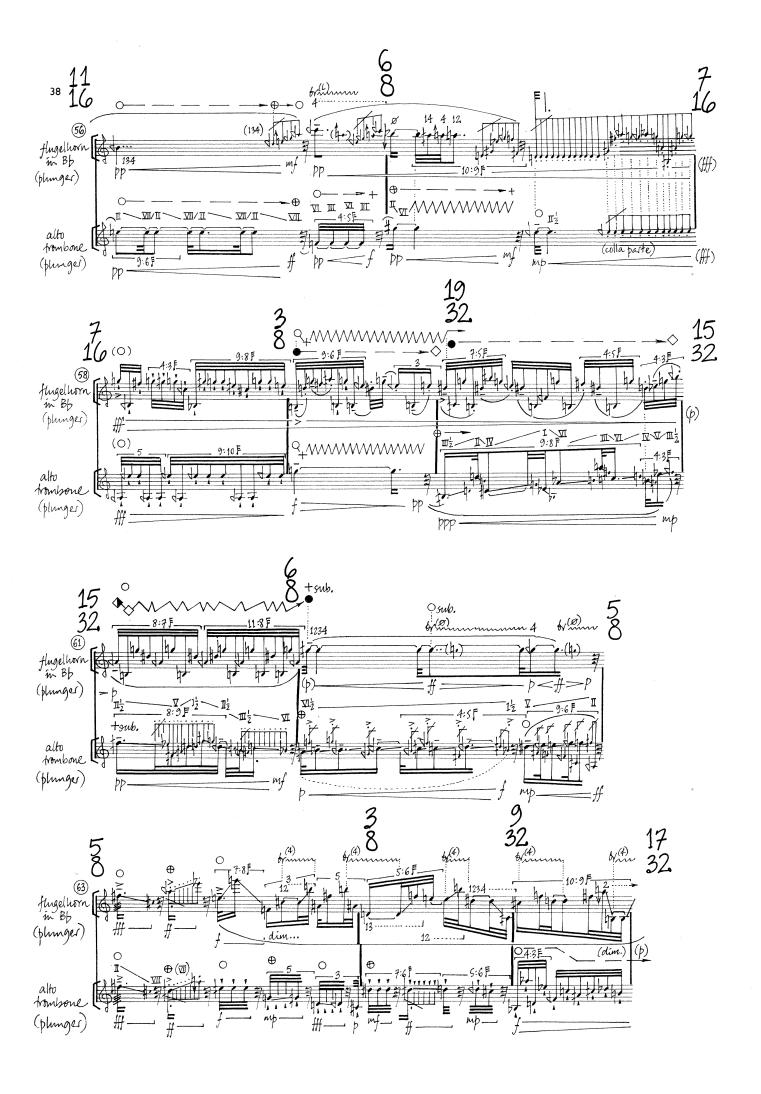


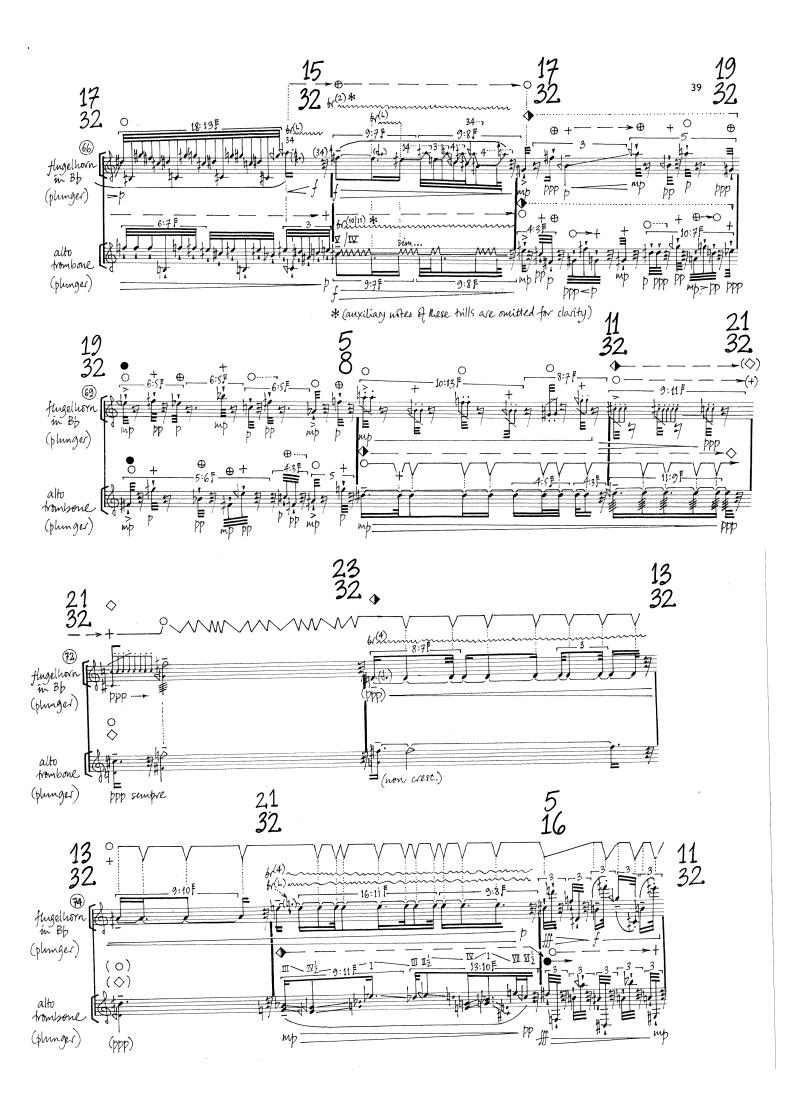


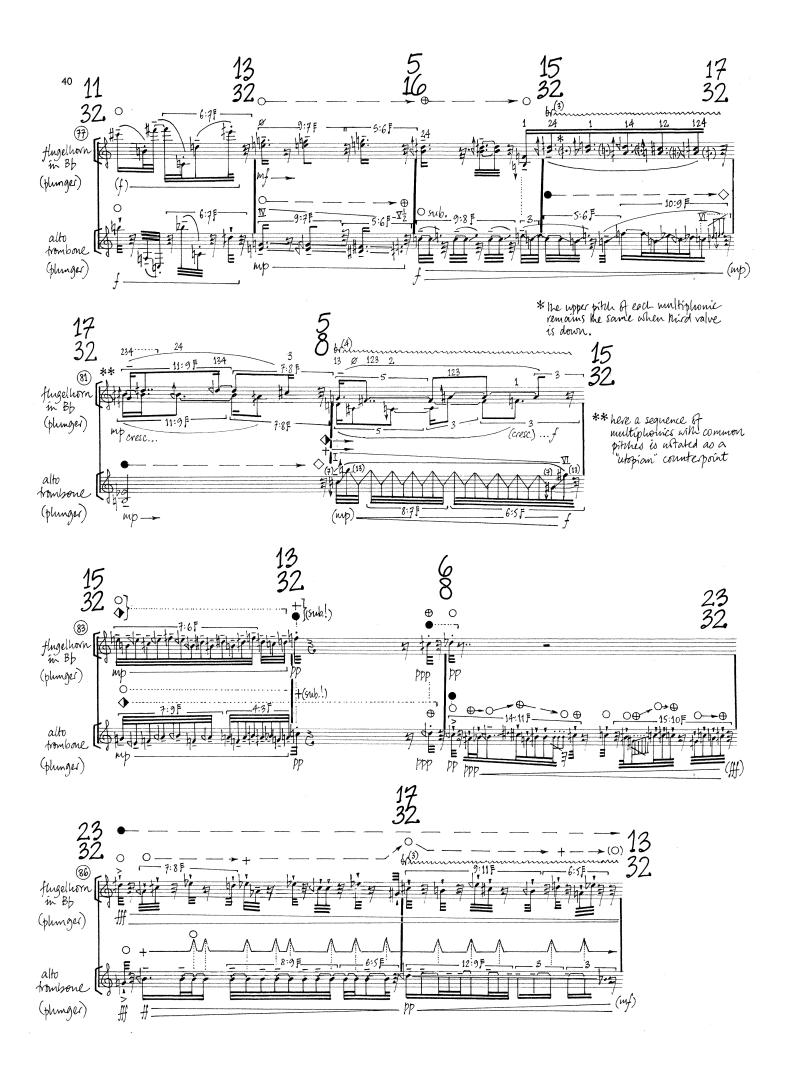


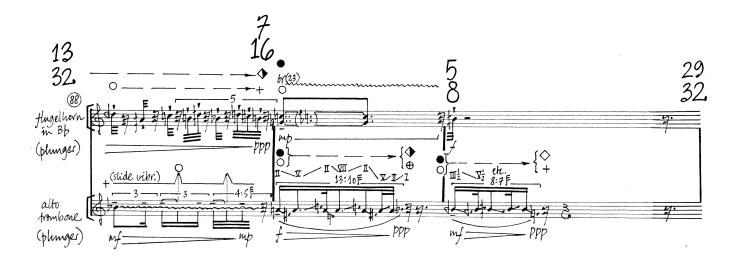


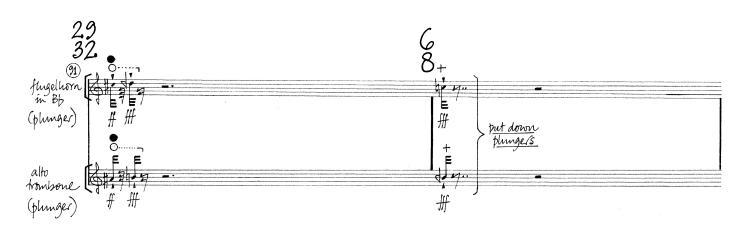


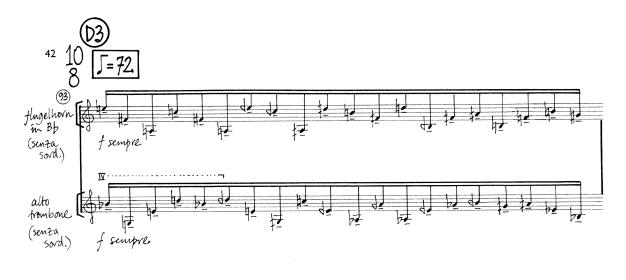


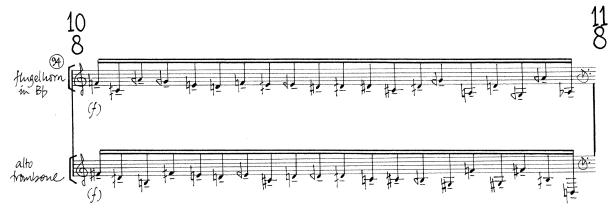


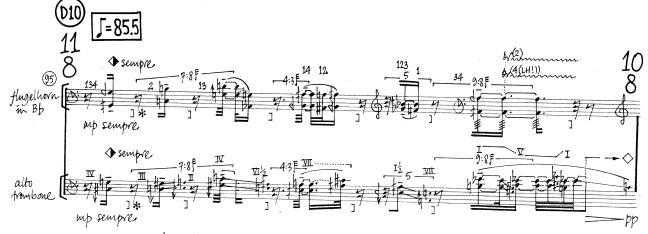












* except where indicated, end each sound/phrase with a tongue-stop

