Alex Danson

String Quartet no. 3

Score

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Accidentals affect only the notes they precede.

All notes will be played *non vibrato*, unless otherwise stated.

All repeated passages and held notes should be performed in the background, without overshadowing the other instruments playing.

The synchronization of this work is mainly based on cues, indicated with arrows. The arrowhead shows the direction the cue is given.

Tempo is variable, the relationships between notes are the same as in measured music, but the performer is encouraged to play them *rubato,* in his/her own pace.

All 32nd notes are to be performed as fast as possible

Duration is approximately 15 min.

Abbreviations and symbols

pizz. M.S. - left hand pizicatto, also denoted by a “+” sign

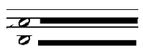
sul pont., s.p. - *sul ponticello*

legno batt., l.batt, - *legno battuto*

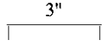
ord. - *ordinario*, *normale*

vibr. - *vibrato*, produced in normal manner

indicates that the preceding passage in-between repeat signs should be repeated until the wavy line ends. Wavy line between staffs denotes that the two instruments above and below are to keep the synchronization between them.

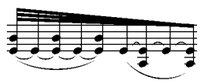
 indicates that notes are to be held as long as the horizontal line shows

indicates that the rest should be held for the given amount of seconds, or *al segnale*

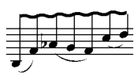


indicates that the notes under it should be held for the given amount of seconds

The amplitude of *vibrato* is graphically represented by one of the three symbols:

 “feathered” beams, indicate *rallentando*
(or *accelerando*, if beams are reversed)

Diamond-shaped note heads, together with the string used, indicates harmonics.

 wavy eight-notes beams indicates *libero*, exaggerated *rubato*

PROGRAMME NOTES

The String Quartet consists of one movement, approximately 15 minutes long.

It starts with an energetic outburst on all four instruments in perfect synchronization, to continue with a flashback showing the way we got here in the first place.

The violins are starting together an *ostinato* rhythm that will be carried throughout the entire piece. In the mean time, the cello starts its own melody, followed closely by the viola, in a folk-influenced *parlando-rubato* manner, (as opposed to *giusto* initiated by the violins). This melodic section is developed until three out of four instruments will participate towards the end (1st Violin, 2nd Violin and the Cello).

Now, the omnipresent *ostinato* initially started by the two violins, becomes the gathering point for all the instruments, culminating in perfect synchronized *fortissimo,* followed by the destruction of it in un-synchronized repetition, leading to chaos. A rapid *sul ponticello* succession followed by a final chord concludes the movement.

String Quartet no. 3

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello

= c. 120 pp ff sfz p pizz. M.S.

3" 3" 3" 3"

1 2

= c. 120 **Ritmico** arco sul pont. pizz. M.S. legno batt. pizz. M.S. l.batt. arco s.p. l.batt. arco s.p. pizz. M.S.

ppp sempre

= c. 120 **Ritmico** pizz. M.S. legno batt. arco sul pont. l.batt. arco s.p. pizz. M.S. arco s.p. pizz. M.S. l.batt.

ppp sempre

arco

ppp sempre

10" 10"

= c. 80 **Rubato semplice**

= c. 80 **Rubato semplice**

ppp p 1" p poco dim. 3

V1
V2
Vla
Vcl

3 4 5 6

mf mf p dim. pp mp mp mf mp dim. pp sempre poco a poco sul. pont. poco a poco ord. perdendosi mf

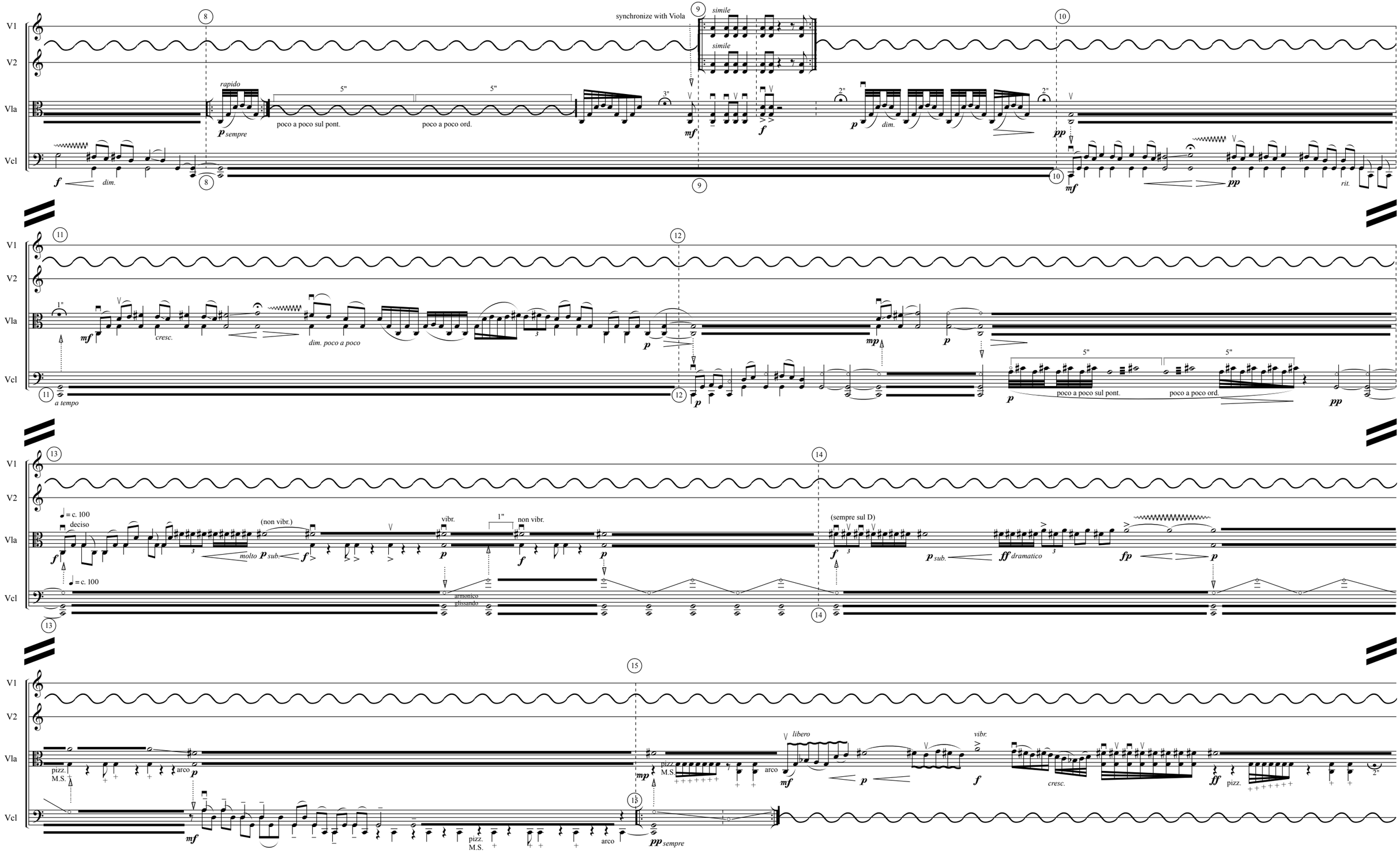
vibr. 1" 1" 1" 3 al segnale al segnale

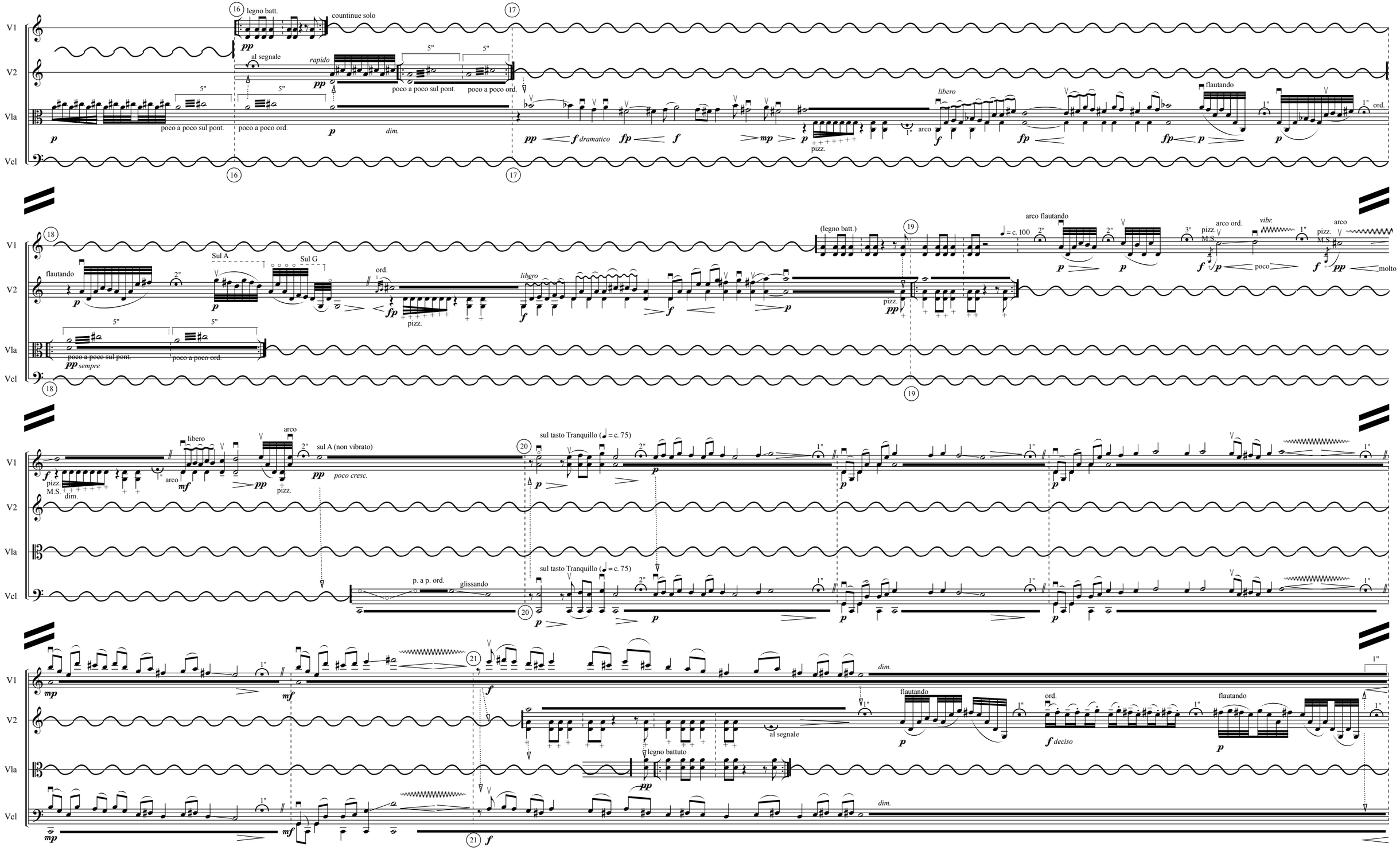
pp p p pp poco pp

7

sul. pont. poco a poco ord. 3" 2"

mp mp f p molto mf vibr. pp poco pp p f subito p f f p mf poco rubato non vibr. p


V1
V2
Vla
Vcl
synchronize with Viola
simile
rapido
poco a poco sul pont.
poco a poco ord.
dim.
rit.
a tempo
cresc.
dim. poco a poco
poco a poco sul pont.
poco a poco ord.
♩= c. 100
deciso
(non vibr.)
molto
vibr.
non vibr.
(sempre sul D)
dramatico
armonico glissando
pizz.
M.S.
arco
libero
vibr.
cresc.
pizz.
sempre


V1
V2
Vla
Vcl
legno batt.
countinue solo
al segnale
rapido
poco a poco sul pont.
poco a poco ord.
dim.
dramatico
libero
arco
pizz.
flautando
ord.
Sul A
Sul G
(legno batt.)
arco flautando
= c. 100
pizz. M.S.
arco ord.
vibr.
poco
molto
sempre
sul A (non vibrato)
poco cresc.
sul tasto Tranquillo (♩ = c. 75)
p. a p. ord.
glissando
legno battuto
deciso

V1
V2
Vla
Vcl

22 23 24 25 26 27

piu veloce (♩ = c. 90)
col V.1 sul tasto (♩ = c. 90)
piu veloce (♩ = c. 110)
al segnale
flautando
ord
dim.
cresc.
vibr.
sub.
sync. with V2
sync. with V1
sync. with Vla
dim. poco a poco
dim. e rall.
(legno batt.)
legno batt.
arco
pizz.
M.S.
non vibrato
(make sure everyone is ready, then lead into next section)

28

V1
pizz
M.S.
p
cresc. p. a p.
ff *accel.*

V2
pizz
M.S.
p
legno batt.
cresc. p. a p.
pizz
arco
legno batt.
arco
ff *accel.*

Vla
p
l. batt.
arco
pizz.
M.S.
cresc. p. a p.
arco
ff *accel.*

Vcl
28
p
l. batt.
arco
sul C
cresc. p. a p.
ff *accel.*

V1
simile
ff sempre

V2
simile
ff sempre

Vla
simile
ff sempre

Vcl
simile
ff sempre

repeat until there is no audible rest,
then lead into next section (max 10 sec.)

(constant *tempo*)

continue *accel.* in your own pace

poco a poco rall.

continue *accel.* in your own pace

29

V1
al segnale
sul pont.
p
5"
molto
1"
ord.
pizz.
p
3"

V2
al segnale
sul pont.
p
5"
molto
1"
pizz.
ord.
p
3"

Vla
al segnale
sul pont.
p
5"
molto
1"
ord.
pizz.
p
3"

Vcl
2"
29
sul pont.
p
5"
molto
1"
pizz.
ord.
p
3"