Petr Bakla

MATERIAL AND DREAMS

for ensemble of 17 musicians

2009

durata: 12 min

Commissioned by the Ostrava Center for New Music

score

Instruments:

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1 flute, also piccolo (+alto flute, should there be no B-extension on the flute in C)
1 oboe
1 clarinet in Bb
1 bassoon, also contrabassoon
1 horn in F
1 trumpet in C (or in D)
1 trombone (with F-attachment)
1 tuba
percussion (2 players)
               1 marimba (mar.) – 4.3 octaves minimum (i.e. ranging from \frac{}{} ) if possible, 2 marimbas of the same range
               1 vibraphone (vibr.)
               1 cymbal (cymb.) - crash, medium sized
               1 high kettle drum (timp. picc.) – with available
               1 low kettle drum (timp. grande) - ranging as low as possible
1 piano (with sustain pedal)
1 harp
2 violins
1 viola
1 violoncello
1 double bass (five stringed or with C-extension)
(17 players)
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The score is not in C, all instruments are written in usual transpositions.

The french horn is notated a fifth above sounding pitch also in the bass cleff.

The piccolo sounds an octave higher.

The contrabassoon and the double bass sound an octave lower.

The marimba and the vibraphone sound as written.

Explanatory notes:

Note for the conductor:

Instead of bar numbering, numbers of pages of the score correspond to numbers of lines in musicians' parts. Example: playing second bar on p. 35 is to be requested as: "line (number) 35, second bar".

General:

- Accidentals apply to the whole bar.
- No vibrato throughout!
- Dal niente, al niente () is to be understood in relation to the given overall context, not literally.
- Tremolos on two notes: only the first note is notated with duration (full duration of the tremolo), the other note being only indicated as a blackhead without a stem (very much in the same way as with trills). Both notes are supposed to be equally strong and are played legato (strings). The tremolo continues over all notes connected with a ligature. For example:



All tremolos (on one note or on two notes) should always be as dense as possible.



Winds, brass:



Repeat the note as fast as possible



a dash above a note: tongued + tenuto

Trumpet:

sord. = straight mute

Trombone:

sord. = straight mute

Slap - always definite pitch, close to ordinary staccato articulation. Dynamics indicate desired intensity of resulting sound.

Percussion:

The two players mostly share the same instrument. Typically, player 1 produces tremolo, while player 2 dampens and undampens the instrument (i.e. the indicated marimba or vibraphone key, the kettle drum, or the cymbal) with his hand. For example:



- let sound without dampening
- dampen completely

o gradual transition to dampened / undampened sound (increase / decrease pressure)

Where player 2 is dampening notes produced by player 1, these come in parentheses in his part.

Where player 2 is dampening notes which he produces himself, these come without parentheses.

The dynamics written are those corresponding to undampened sound, and the intensity of playing action is to be kept constant (unless indicated otherwise), thus the dampened notes will be softer in result.

Player 2:

• • repeat the note as fast as possible, very evenly, with just one hand (always with beater, see mallets)

dense "raindrop" patterns on indicated marimba keys; with fingers, using mostly nails

Pages 24-30 are best performed on two marimbas, if a second marimba is available.

Mallets:

Both players:



Medium marimba sticks

Player 1 only:



Hard timpano sticks (to be used also with cymbal)



Hard, heavier rubber sticks (for the vibraphone)



Hard vibraphone sticks (possibly another pair of rubber sticks)

Player 2 only:



Medium beater, rather heavy

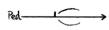
(like those ones normally used with gongs, for example; here it is used with the marimba, kettle drums, cymbal)

Piano:

Ped = right pedal

SP = sustain pedal

1C = una corda (3C = back to ordinario)



very fast right pedal exchange so that the harmonics sound over - an echo of the note(s) attacked.



release right pedal gradually



vertical bar preceding an interval: play chromatic cluster within this range

Harp:

As usual, the harmonics sound an octave higher than written (i.e. the string to be used is notated, not the sound).

- indicates exact duration of the preceding note(s), i.e. dampen the plucked string(s) at the end of the note; contrary to "let sound", which comes indicated with a slur. Important: dampen plucked string only, allowing sympathetic resonance to sound over. Complete dampening of the instrument with no resonance left comes indicated with sign.
- T près de la table always valid for one note only (i.e. the next note not bearing a T above is played ordinario). Always with fingertip, producing "hard" sound.

Strings (except double bass):

= Overpressure - alto sul tasto, very slow / short bow. Deep, grinding sound of indefinite pitch.

An encircled "+" sign at the end of a line, such as:

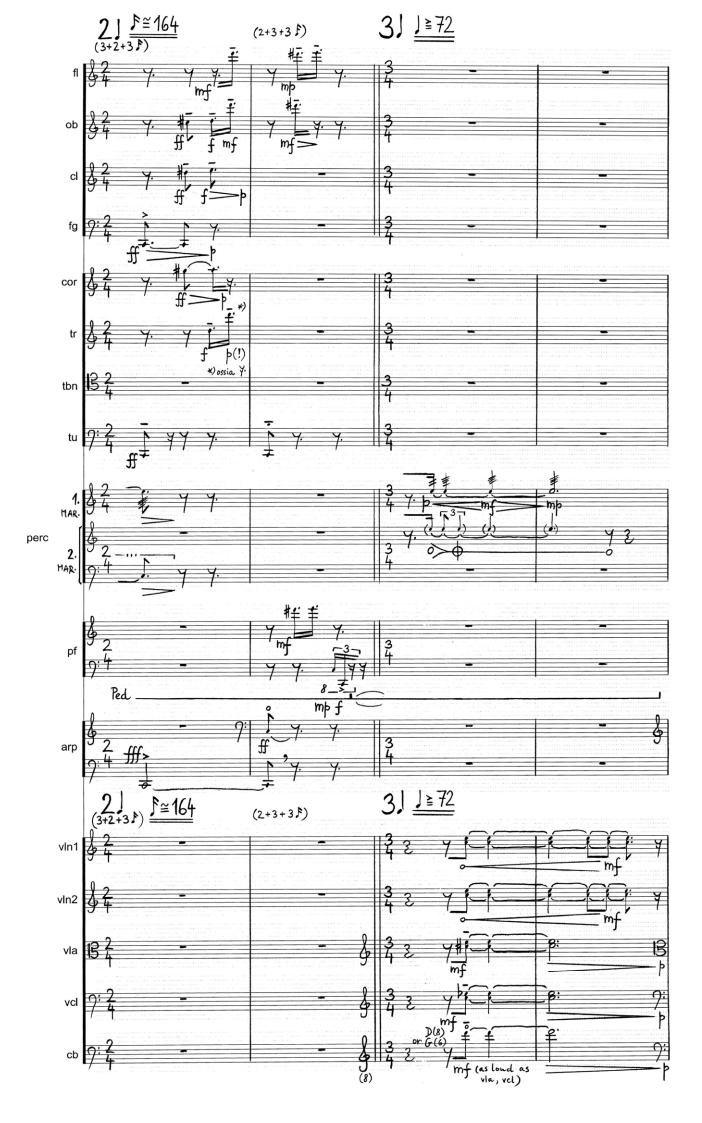


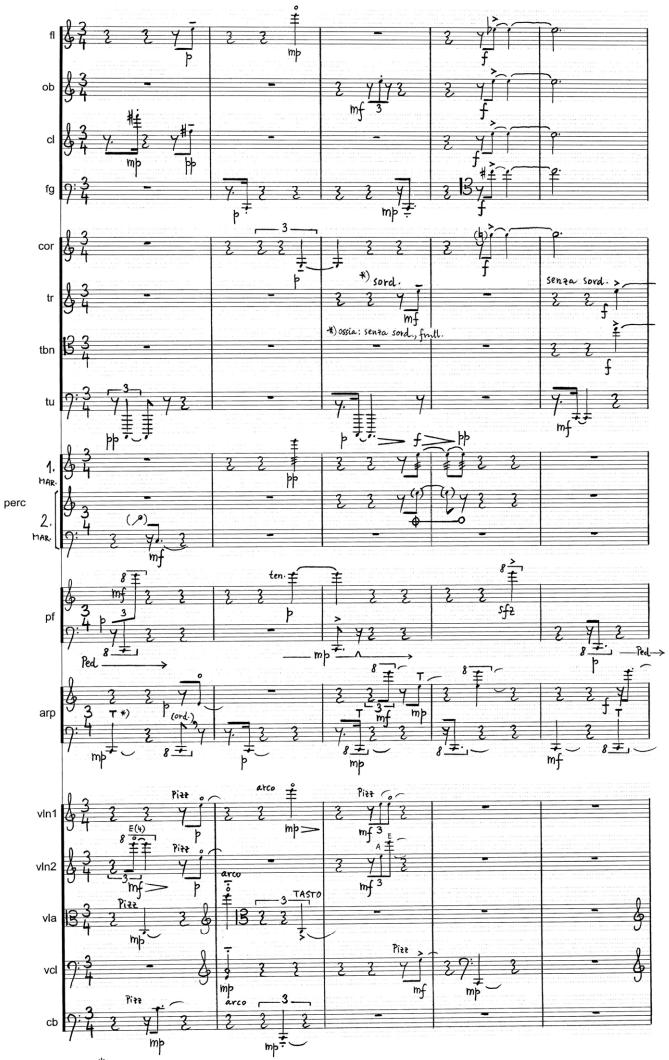
= left hand pizz (sfz) combined with continuous tremolo (pp). This is done on one and the same string and without any caesura in the tremolo bowing. Thus, in addition to the tremolo, as if percussive, "wood" pizzicato sound will be obtained.

In this example: the g is being bowed, stopped with first finger (or the thumb with cello); then comes the b on the same string (third or fourth finger) with a crescendo and decrescendo back to pp, followed by a left hand pizz, which is produced by strong action of the stopping finger being "removed" from the b; this falls back to g, which descends glissando down to f. The tremolo bowing is not to be interrupted at any moment and its dynamic is independent of that of the pizz, which should basically be as loud as possible. Play always alla corda, sul ponticello, stopping the first note with the first finger (thumb).



1) ALL INSTRUMENTS ARE WRITTEN IN USUAL TRANSPOSITIONS (i.e. THE SCORE IS NOT IN C). The french horn is written a 5th above sounding pitch even in the bass claff





*) T = PRES DE LA TABLE (Valid for one note only). Always with fingertip, "hard".



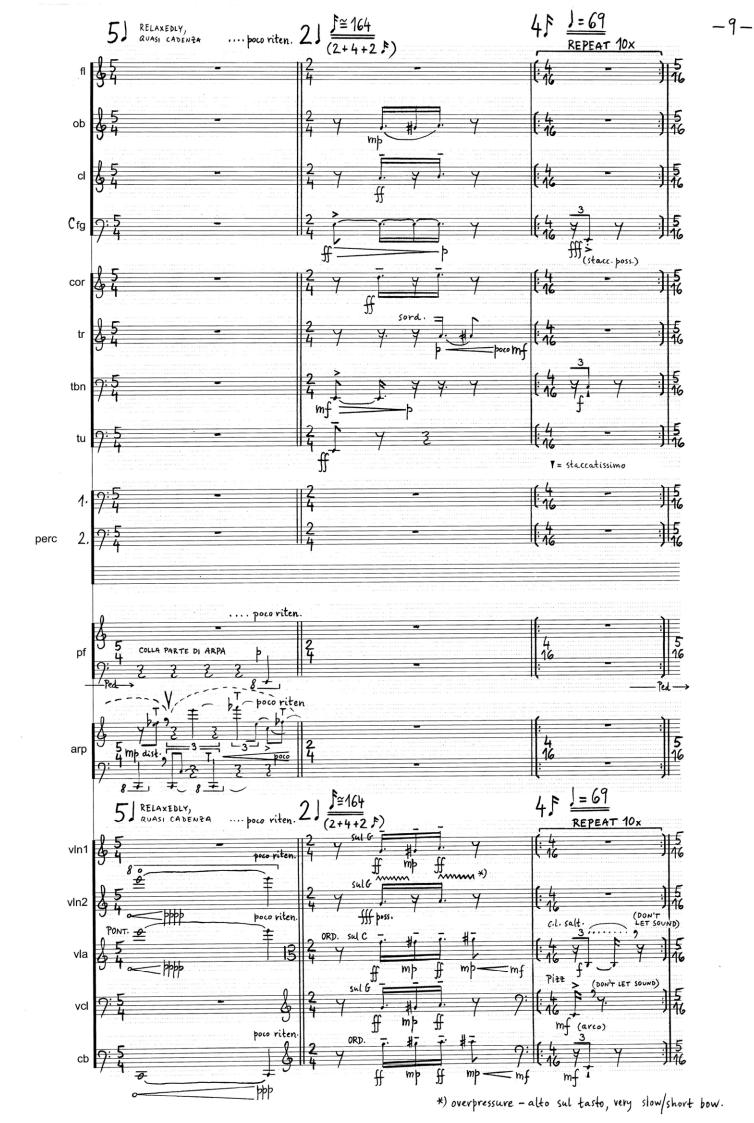


(legato, poco ped ad lib.), no ritardando.





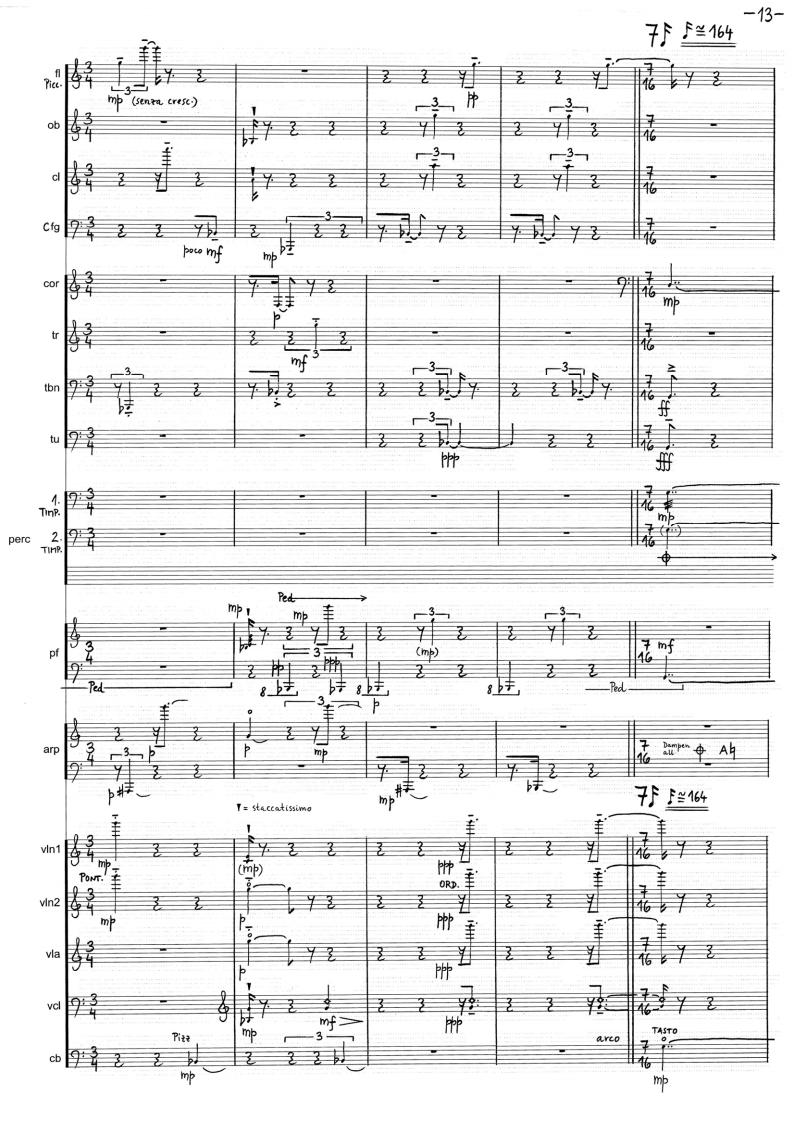


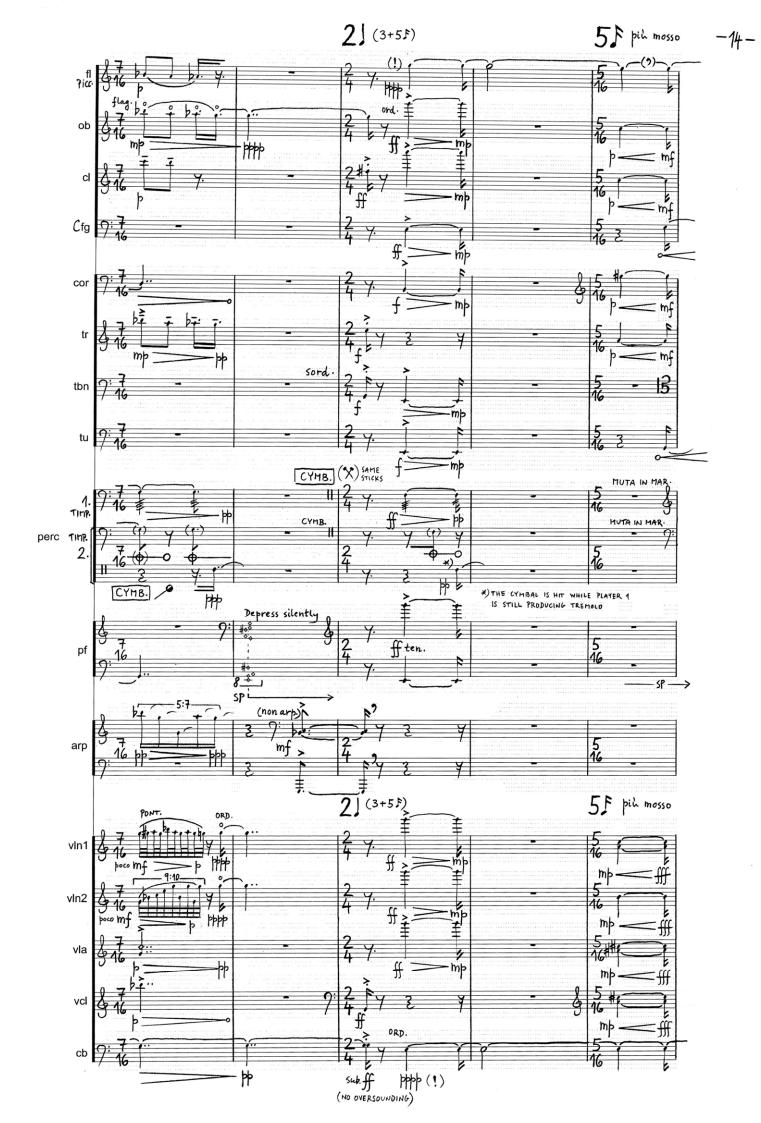






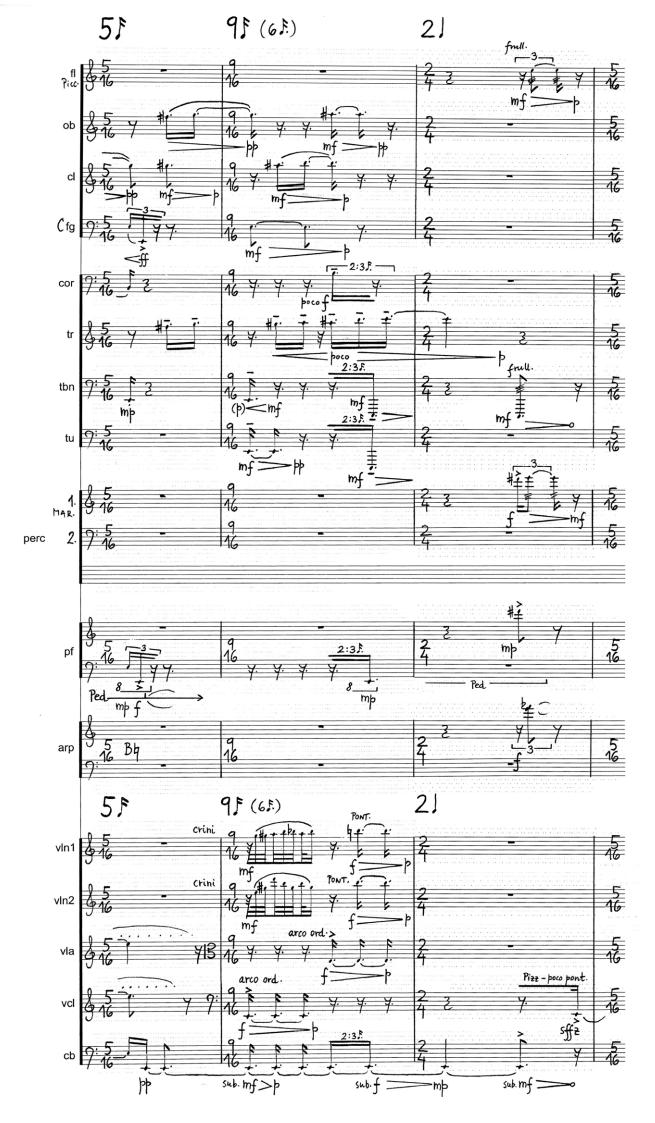


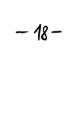


















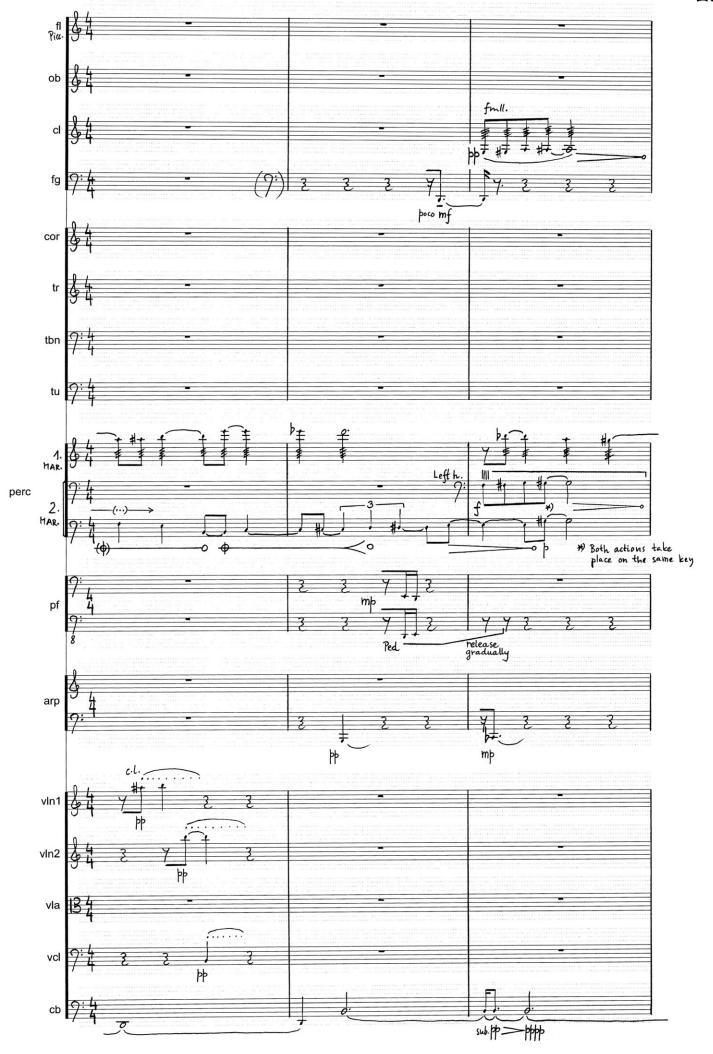


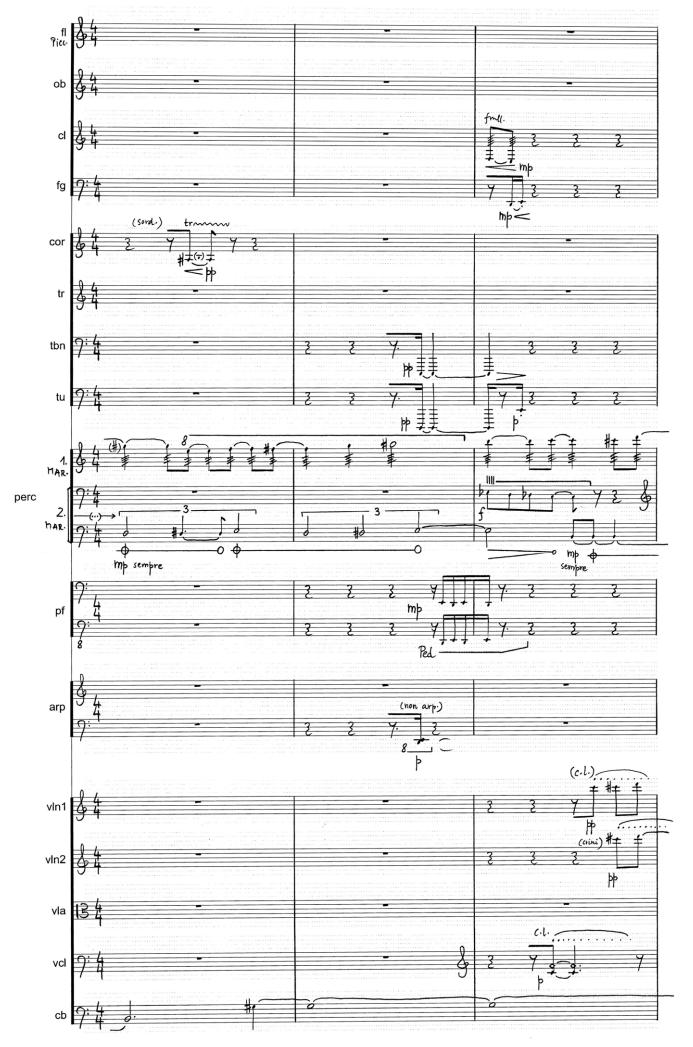




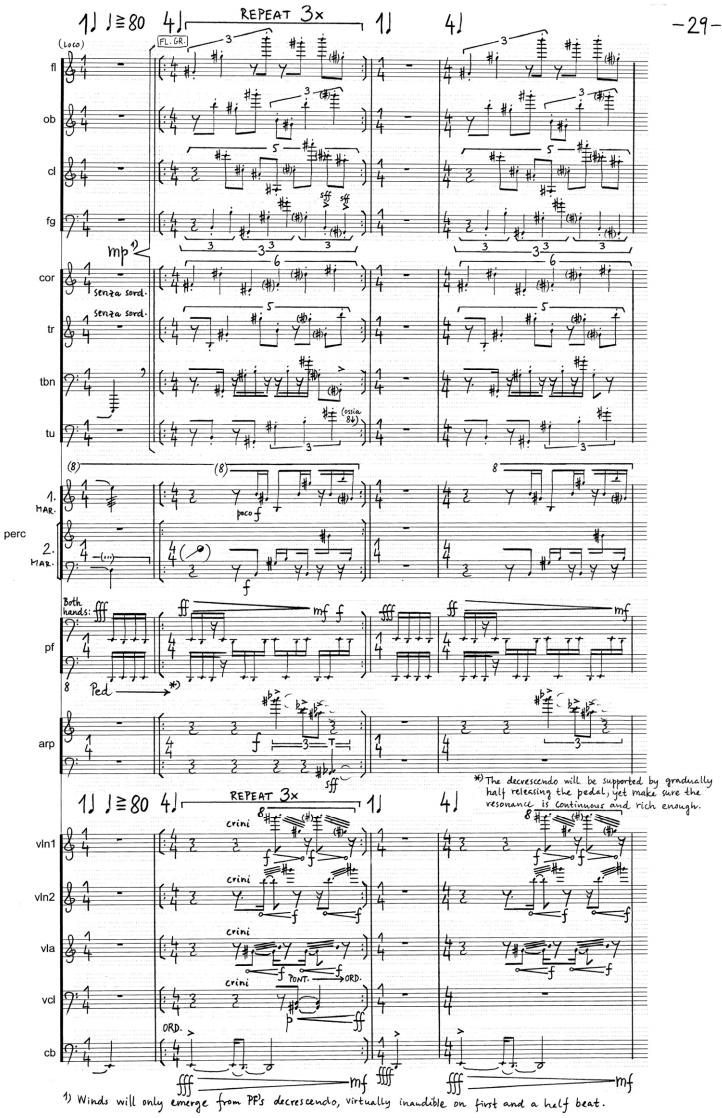




















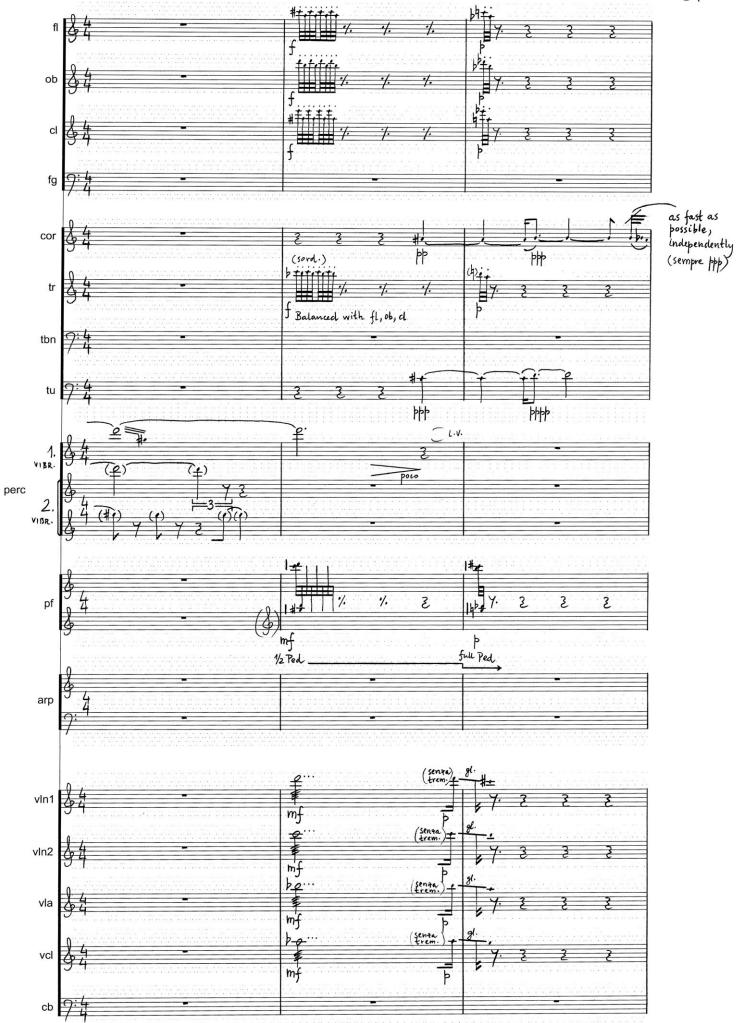












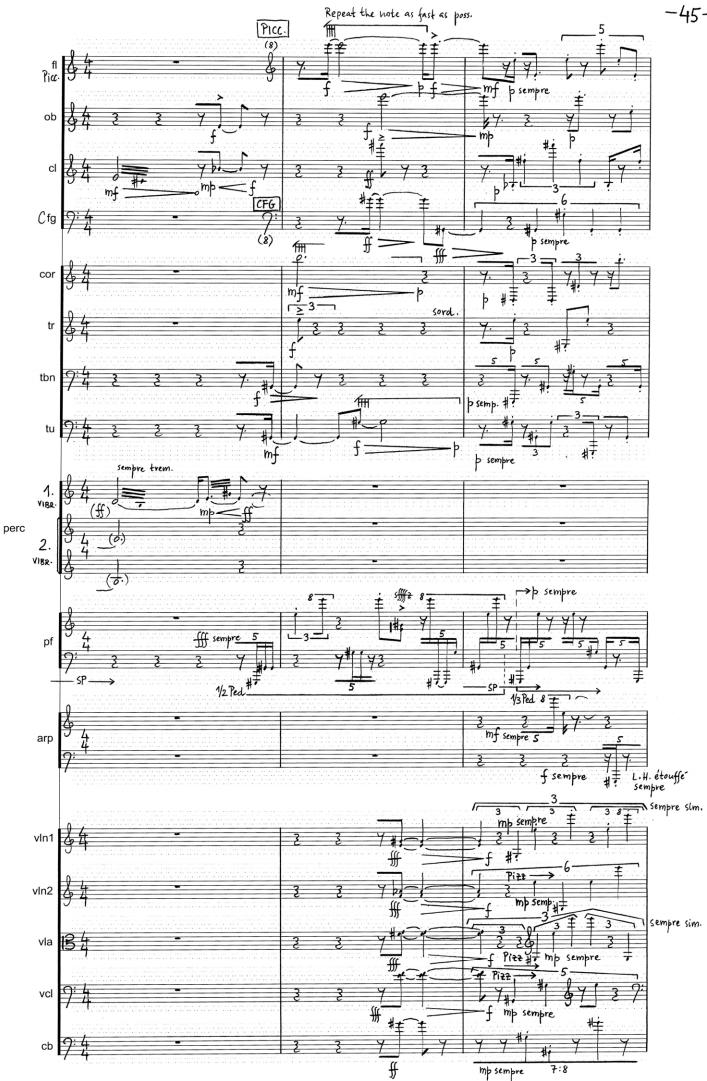








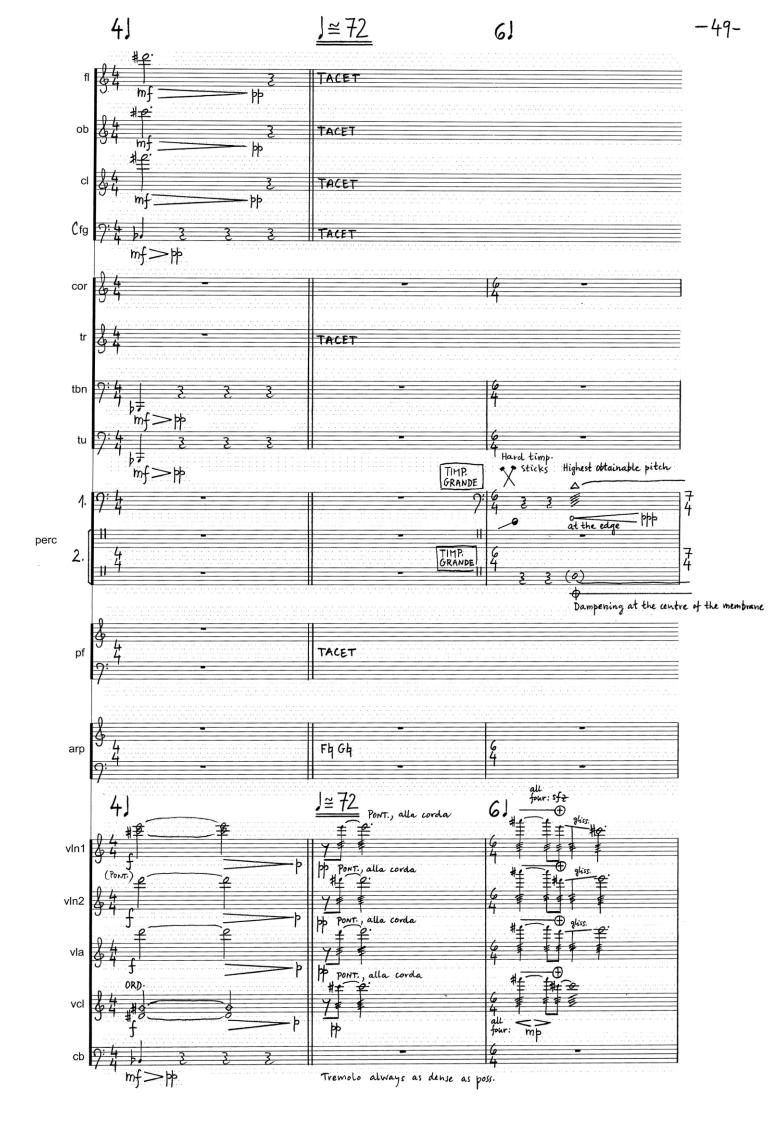


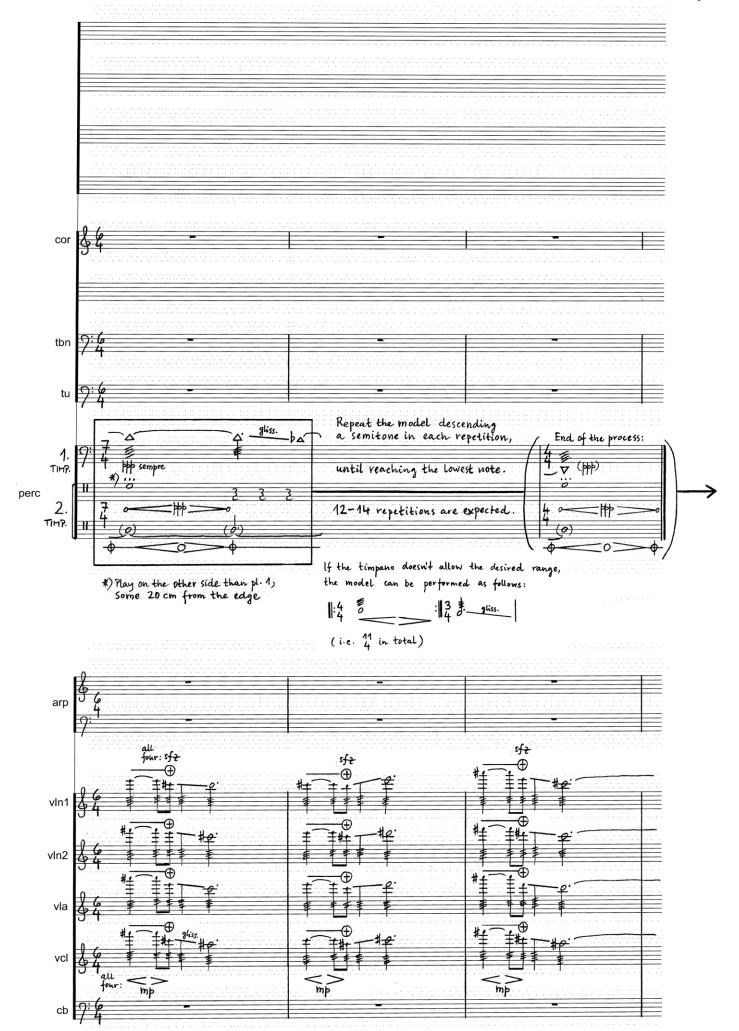






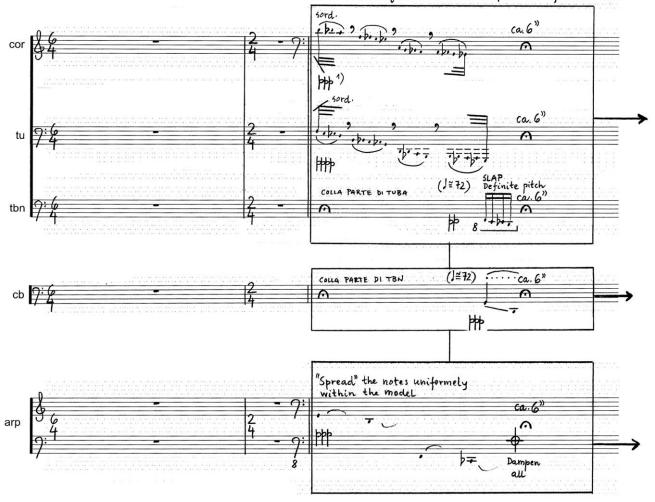




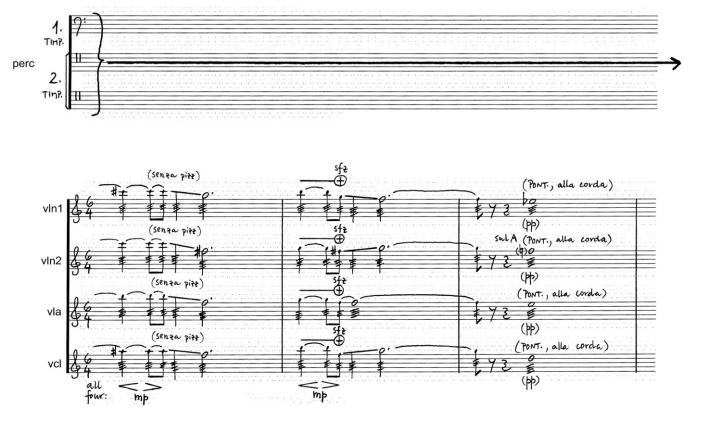


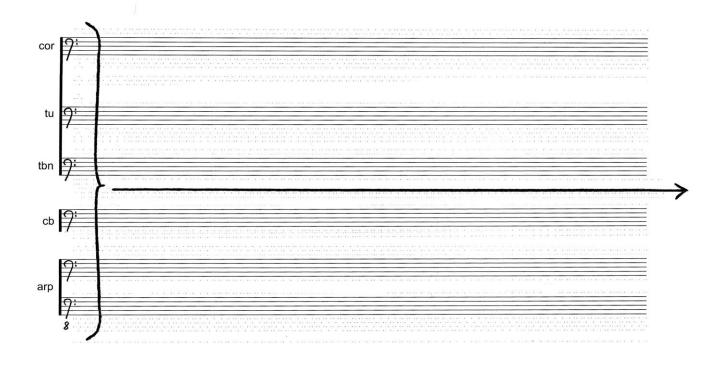
The model is repeated alongside timpano tremolo and yet 2-3 times after the percussionists have reached their lowest note (conductor gives a cue).

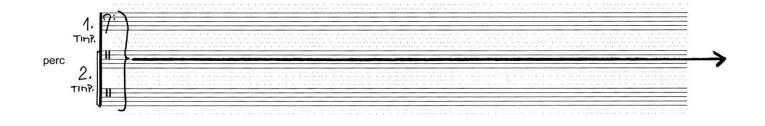
Within the model, musicians play only loosely coordinated, but start together at each repetition of the model.

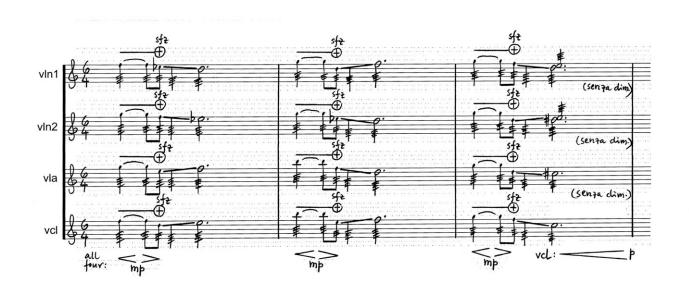


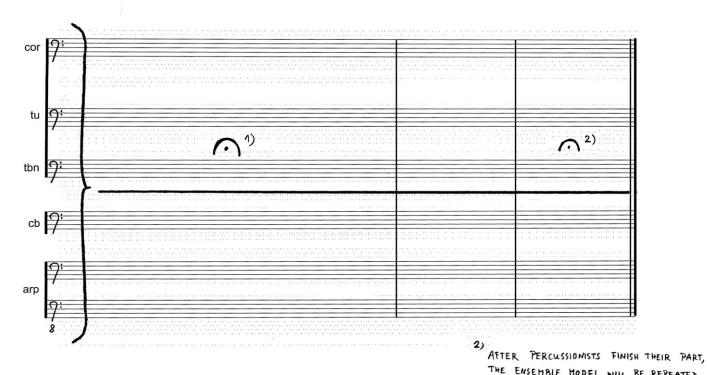
1) SOMEWHAT IN THE BACKGROUND COMPARED TO THE TUBA



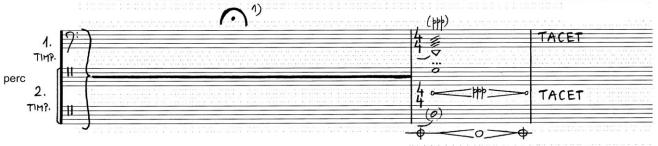




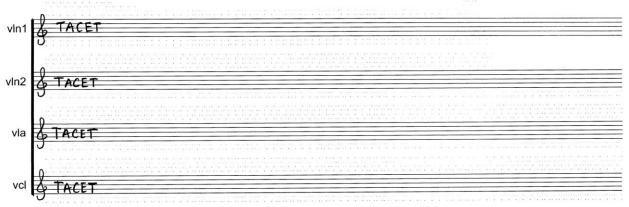




THE ENSEMBLE MODEL WILL BE REPEATED YET 2-3 TIMES.



1) UNTIL PERCUSSIONISTS REACH THE LOWEST NOTE (ca. 25-35 sec.)



20.7. 2009