Transposed score

Dividing Light

for Mixed Ensemble, Electronics, Lighting, and Projection

by Aidan Gold

Duration: 12-13 min.

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Instrumentation

Flute (doubling Piccolo and Bass Flute) Clarinet in Bb (doubling Bass Clarinet in Bb and Clarinet in Eb) Violin Cello

Percussion (1 player, 3 different setups / positions):

Perc. Position 1: Piccolo Snare Drum, Tom, Floor Tom, Bass Drum, 2 Tin Cans, 3 High Metals (short, non-resonant, unpitched high metal instruments, such as brake drums, railroad spikes, muted triangles, etc.), Tam-tam, Wind Gong, China Cymbal, Suspended Cymbal, Sizzle Cymbal, Splash Cymbal

Perc. Position 2: At least 8 Wood Instruments (Woodblocks, Temple Blocks, Log Drums, Wood Slats, etc.), Tuned Gong (any pitch, must be small enough to be easily movable, and must be on a stand that is easily movable e.g. with wheels)

Perc. Position 3: 6 Pitched Metal Instruments – C4, Eb4, E4, G4, Ab4, B4 (C4 = middle C; choose a variety of pitched resonant metal instruments depending on what is available for those specific pitches – e.g. Almglocken, Singing Bowls, Tubular Bell Chimes, Tuned Gongs, Metal Pipes, Pot Lids, etc. – use a Vibraphone to fill in any of the 6 pitches that you cannot find a different instrument for)

in addition: many Wind Chimes to be positioned around the space – at least 8. (note: by "Wind Chimes" I mean basically anything that will jingle/make sound when brushed up against – mark trees, bamboo chimes, garden chimes, glass chimes, clay chimes, small bells and jingles, etc.; the more varied the better) See <u>Setup Diagram – Overview</u> on pg. 5 for placement information.

Piano (additional requirements: strings accessible - all G# strings labelled; a heavy object that can keep the sustain pedal depressed)

Fixed Media Electronics (1 person on a laptop triggering sound files)
Sound Designer (1 person changing the reverb of the instruments in the space)
Lighting Designer – Spotlights and Color Changes (controlled by 1 person)
(OPTIONAL) Projection – Fixed Media Visuals (video files projected onto back wall)

Program Note

- Anything important we need to know now that we've landed?
- Just be careful, ok? It's a strange world from our previous surveys we've identified some objects that seem to be used for sitting, some skinny tall metal sculptures, and a lot of bizarre mechanisms that jingle when you touch them, scattered around for no discernable reason. And if you're really unlucky, sometimes there's a big crowd of ... *creatures* that show up and just sit there, watching you.

Please don't split up. There's a reason why we're having you land as a group. The last thing we need is some gratuitous reverb wandering in and making it impossible for you all to stick together. In the event that you are separated, remember that you each have a partner, and try to find them. For security purposes, each pair will communicate using a different sense – hearing, sight, or touch – remember which one you are, or else your partner won't be able to connect with you. Once you make your connection, be sure to maintain it. Watch out for things that will break your connection – loud noises, visual obstructions, or moving too far apart. You don't want to be left alone out there. Things can happen in that space that we really don't understand.

But hopefully we don't have to worry about that. Please remember, you don't live there – your job is to get in, explore, and get out. And no matter what, whatever you do, *NEVER step out of the light*.

Sections

In this score, the piece is split into 7 sections:

Landing (approx. 1'30")
 Duet: Sound (approx. 1')
 Duet: Sight (approx. 2')
 Duet: Touch (approx. 2')
 Takeoff? (approx. 2')
 Collapse (approx. 45")
 Fading (approx. 3')

However, these sections should not be treated as separate movements. The music should continue from one section to another with no pause in between.

Electronics

Fixed Media: performed by 1 person on a laptop with MaxMSP, seated at a table offstage or otherwise significantly separated from the main setup on stage. They trigger fixed media tracks at 13 cues, labelled in the score. These tracks should sound as if they are coming from the space itself and should be balanced so as to not overpower the ensemble, but they should always be audible by the audience and the musicians on stage. A melodic / harmonic transcription of the fixed tracks is given on the score, but this is only for reference purposes – all this player has to do is trigger the cues where they are written.

The **Sound Designer** controls a live reverb, picking up the ensemble's sound with microphones, processing them, and sending that sound out through the speakers. There are four different levels of reverb required throughout the piece:

Reverb 1 – extremly dry, like a tiny, cramped space

Reverb 2 – a small concert hall

Reverb 3 – a large concert hall or cathedral

Reverb 4 – unnaturally reverberant, as if in an echoing cavern

The performer should adjust the decay time and room size for each of these reverb levels so that they work in the space. It should be possible to jump immediately between all four levels, as well as to gradually fade between one level and another.

Note: Depending on the space and technology available it may be possible for the sound designer to also trigger the fixed media electronics.

Lighting

This piece requires a lighting designer controlling the position and size of various spotlights. Similarly to the sound designer, the lighting designer should be offstage or otherwise far away from the setup on stage. Depending on the stage and position of the performers, one or several spotlights may be used. The spotlights must have as sharp of a light border as possible, making it very clear whether a performer is in the spotlight or not. The unlit portions of the space, should be as dark as possible. The colors of the light are specified in vague terms – e.g. white, red, blue, etc.; the lighting designer should find versions of each color that look good in the space and are bright enough to maintain a clear distinction between the lit and unlit areas of the stage.

The lighting part is notated in the setup diagrams placed throughout the score, indicating position and color changes.

Projection (optional)

This can be controlled by a person on a laptop, triggering fixed images at various places throughout the score. These images should be projected onto the back wall above and behind the performers, not onto a separate projection screen. Similarly to the sound and lighting designers, this person should be offstage or otherwise far away from the setup on stage.

The projection part is not notated in this score.

Conducting

This piece may be performed with or without a conductor. If a conductor is needed, they should conduct from the beginning of the piece until **Rehearsal D**, and then walk offstage. The ensemble should perform without a conductor until the start of **5. Takeoff?**, at which point the conductor may walk back on stage and conduct again until the end of **6. Collapse**, and then walk back offstage.

Positioning & Choreography

Throughout the piece, the musicians move between different locations in the space. Each location is given a name in the format [Instrument] Position [#]. An overview map showing the locations of all the positions (as well as music stands, chairs, and large instruments) can be found on page 5. In addition, the diagrams placed throughout the score show where the musicians will be for each section.

At several points, some of the musicians are asked to **wander around the space**, either on the way from one position to another, or away from and then back to the same position. While wandering, the performer should move smoothly but with a sense of curiousity, as if they are exploring the space – as if the objects on the stage were a world that they were just now seeing for the first time. The wind chimes should be positioned around the space at points within the areas labelled "misc. wind chimes", so that the performers can easily play them by brushing against them as they wander. Sometimes the performers hold their instrument while wandering, and sometimes not, as specified in the score. While wandering, the performers should take care to never step out of the light.

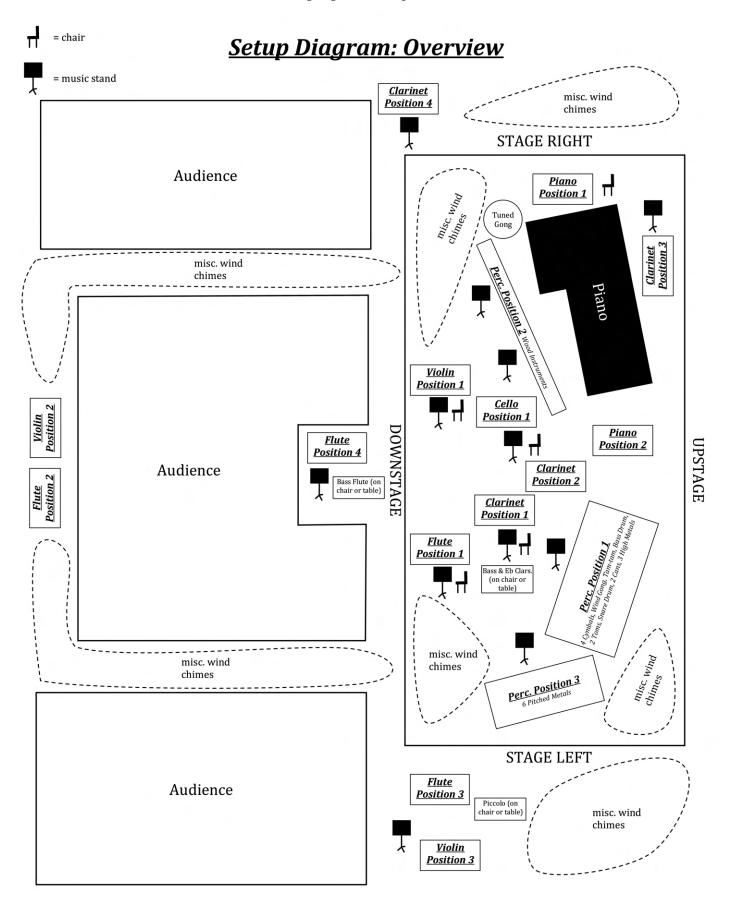
Because of the movement of the performers as well as the choreography (occasionally asking the performers to look at each other), some parts of the music must be memorized:

Flute: m. 40 - 59 & 88 - 124

Clarinet: m. 43 – 65 Violin: m. 38 – 60 Cello: m. 42 – 65 Percussion: m. 39 – 52

Piano: m. 41 - 52 & Fading box B - end

These sections are designed to be memorizeable, and usually consist mostly of rests and repeated or interactive patterns.



Notation

All Instruments

boxed instructions

= instructions having to do with physical movement (e.g. moving to a new location, wandering around the stage)



= open meter (10 second long bar). While in open meter, a whole rest denotes a rest of indefinite / open duration.

Bold tempo marks \downarrow = 120 denote tempos that apply to all the parts

Non-bold tempo marks J = 120 denote tempos that only apply to that specific part



= play the notes specified in the given duration, but the relative speed of each note is up to you



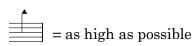
= sustain the pitch until the end of the solid line



= repeat the figure between the repeat signs for the duration of the solid line



= perform a hand gesture, in time (specified in the score)





= play random pitches, following the given rhythm and approximating the given contour



= groups of slashed 32nd notes indicate very fast, random rhythms. In this case, this means play random notes in the space of two beats with very fast random rhythms



= accel. and decel. over the given duration (does not need to be the exact number of notes specified)



= gliss. (the headless stems only indicate rhythm, and should not be rearticulated)

Flute

= blow air through instrument while fingering the given pitch. Some faint pitch may escape but the sound should be mostly air.

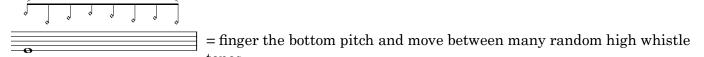
= while blowing air, rotate the flute from normal playing position (open mouthpiece) to closed position (mouthpiece covered by mouth)

1/2 air = play with roughly 1/2 air sound, 1/2 pitch

= a harmonic (finger the normal notehead, and overblow to produce the harmonic). In this case, the exact pitch of the harmonic is not specified.

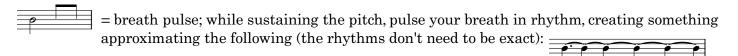
= play the first pitch, and then gradually overblow to produce higher and higher harmonics

whistle tones are either notated at sounding pitch (with "whistle tone" specified above) or as harmonics:



= vocalize the given consonant into the mouthpiece, creating a sharp, somewhat pitched attack

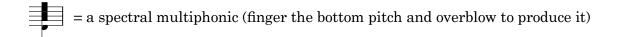
sing+play = if not specified, sing the same pitch (or an octave up or down) as the one you are playing

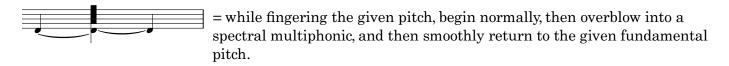


= very quickly 'scoop' up to the given pitch from an unspecified lower pitch. This can be done with the embochure or with an extremely fast fingered scale.

Clarinet

sing+play = if not specified, sing the same pitch (or an octave up or down) as the one you are playing





= very quickly 'scoop' up to the given pitch from an unspecified lower pitch. This can be done with the embochure or with an extremely fast fingered scale.

Percussion



Piano

= cluster with the palm (either on the keyboard or on the strings inside the piano – specified in the score)

?va = the passage is transposed to a different octave based on something else that is happening (specified in the score)

= pluck the string inside the piano

= wildly strum back and forth in given register

= strum strings inside the piano with fingernail in given register

= silently depress the given key

Violin & Cello

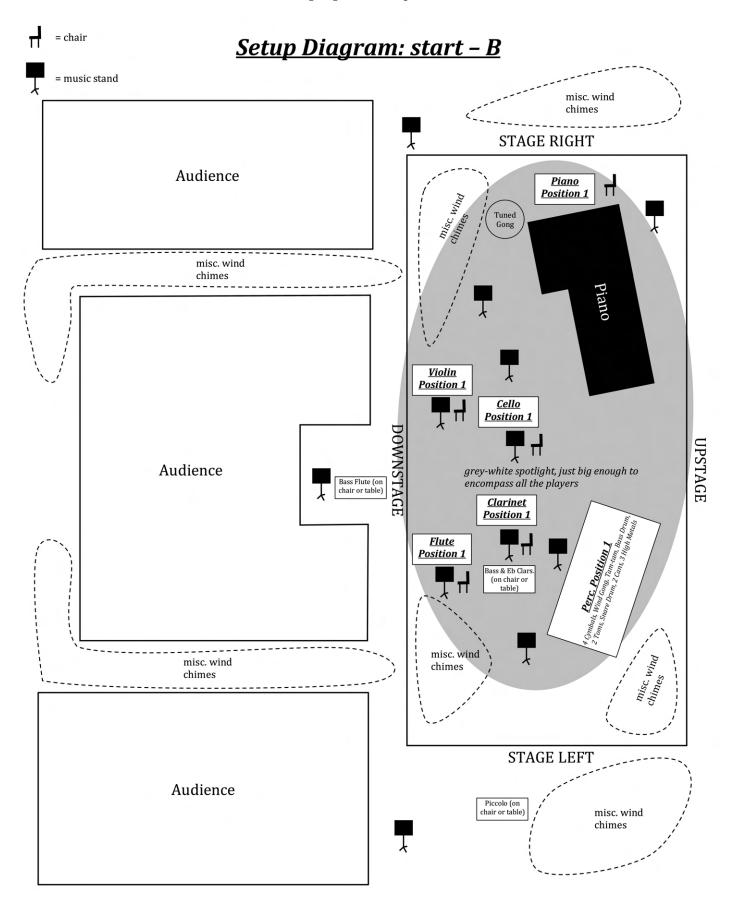
Roman numerals specify strings – IV = lowest string; I = highest string

s.p. = sul ponticello; s.t. = sul tasto; msp = molto sul ponticello; mst = molto sul tasto

unless otherwise specified, use a normal, expressive vibrato for all passages. s.v. = senza vibrato

= an unspecified high harmonic

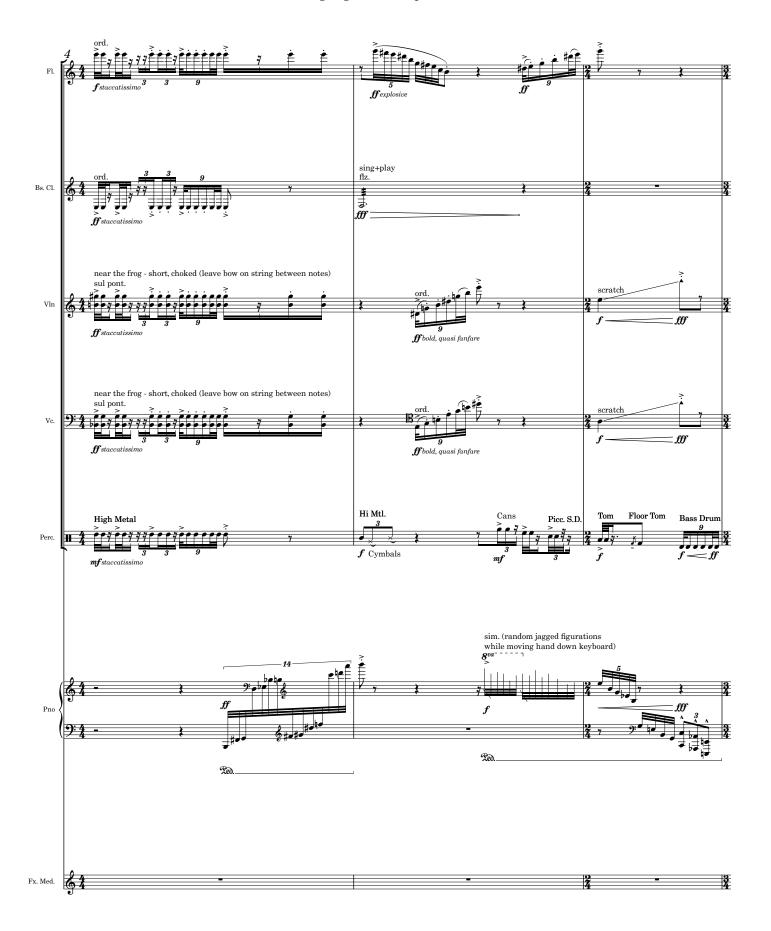
= smoothly move from harmonic pressure to normal pressure



Dividing Light

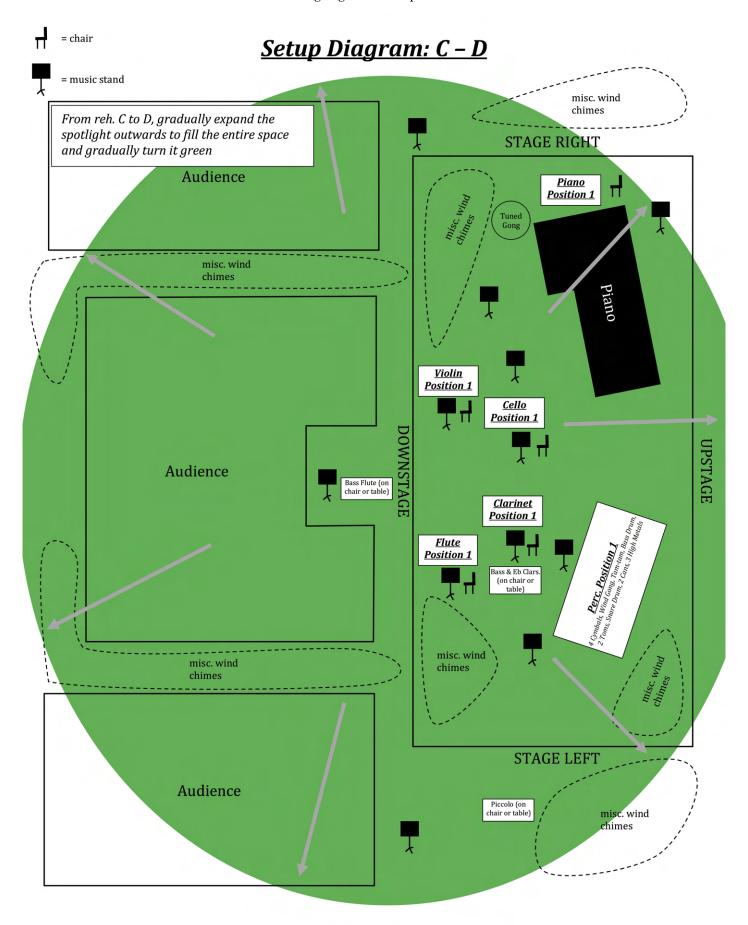
Aidan Gold



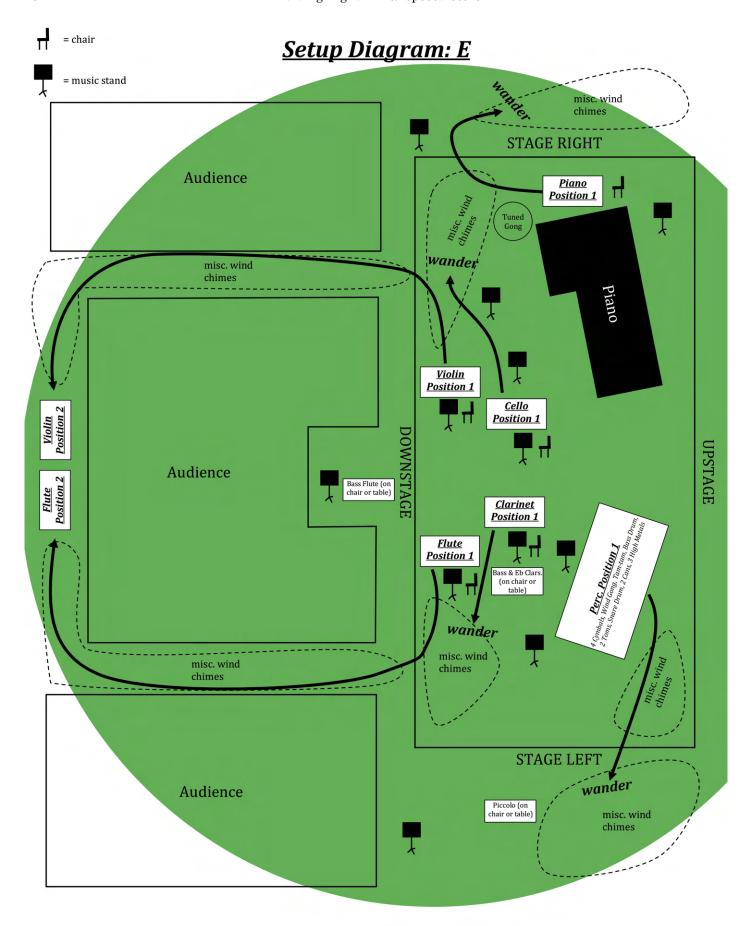


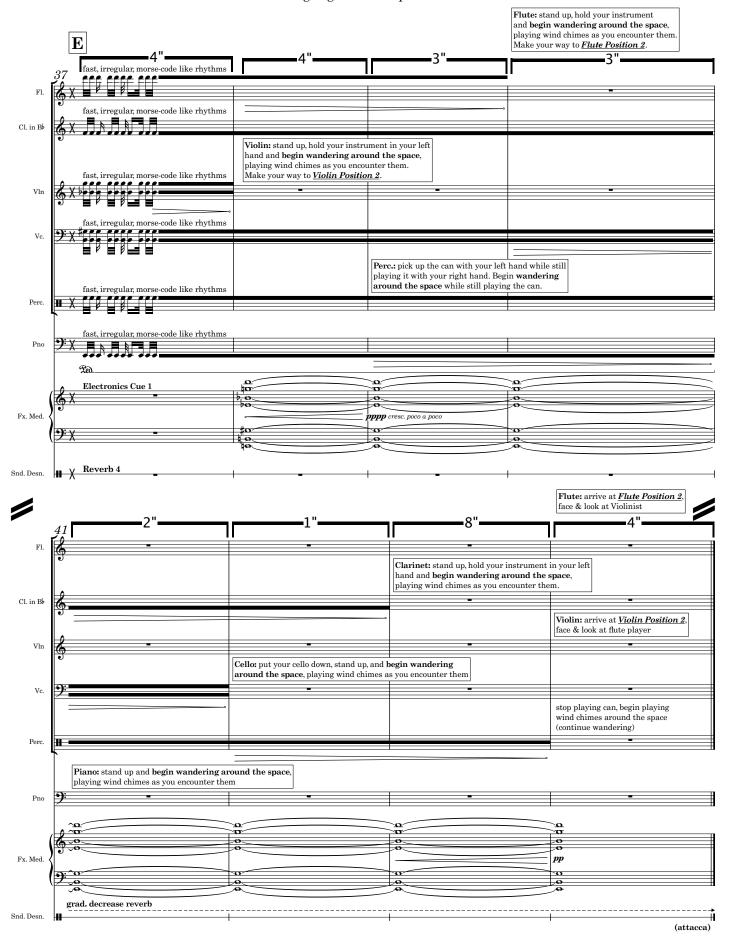




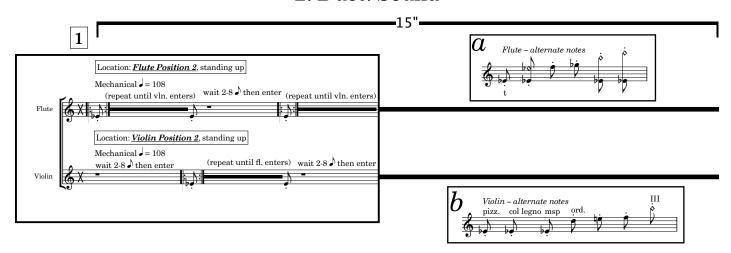








2. Duet: Sound

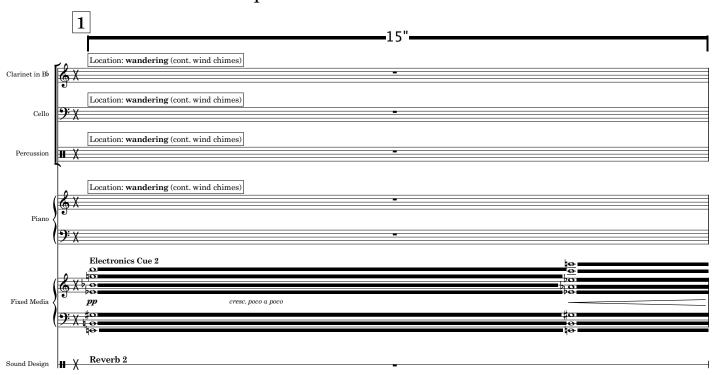


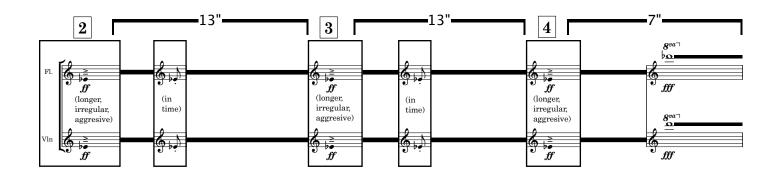
Flute and Violin: Play regularly repeating eighth notes. You pass them between each other so that there is a continuous pulse, always stopping when you hear the other player enter (so that there is only *one note* of overlap), and then coming in again after the other player plays 2-8 notes. Continue staring at the other player throughout the duet – do not break eye contact until rehearsal mark 5.

Dynamics during the duet are **up to the performers**, but try to always make yourself heard above the electronics. Playing around with dynamics is encouraged, e.g. crescendoing as you play your repeated notes until you are cut off by the other player, or decrescendoing after entering, or inserting irregular accent patterns, quoting the rite of spring, etc.

As you continue the duet, begin gradually varying your timbre and color more and more by drawing from the box of alternate notes for your instrument (box a for flute, box b for violin), substituting that for your repeated figure. The longer you play, the more you should draw from the alternate notes box, creating a sense of gradually accumulating complexity.

Accompaniment to 2. Duet: Sound



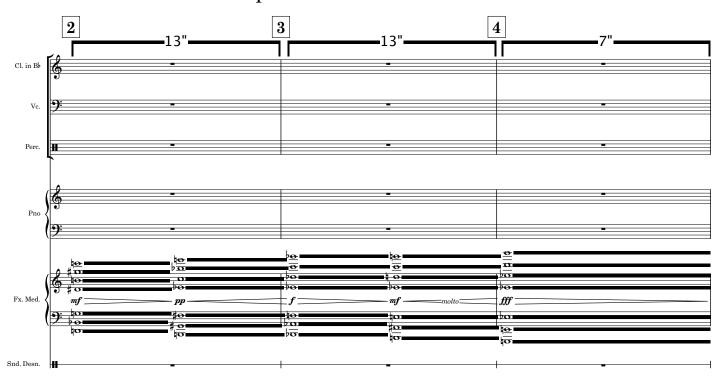


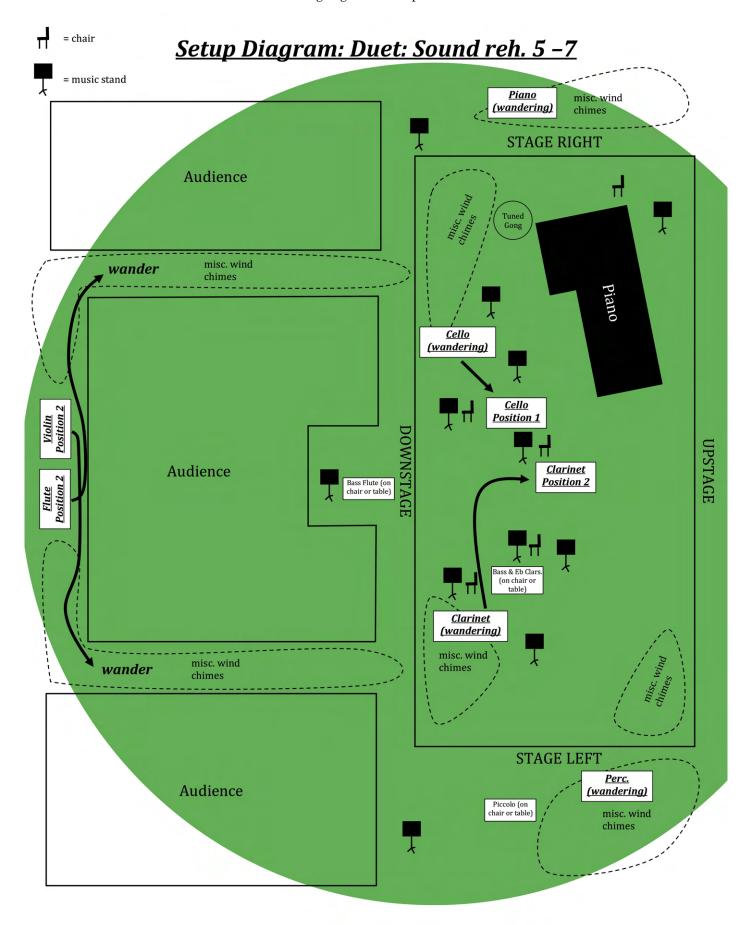
Flute and Violin: As you continue your duet, the electronics part will swell three times (the peaks of the swells are marked as rehearsal marks 2, 3, and 4). As each swell peaks, your repeated notes should become irregular, longer, and aggressive, like you are straining to be heard. Don't alternate – play continuously, overlapping with the other instrument. You should still be drawing freely from the box of alternate notes, and you may prefer to use some of the higher, more aggressive sounds for these sections.

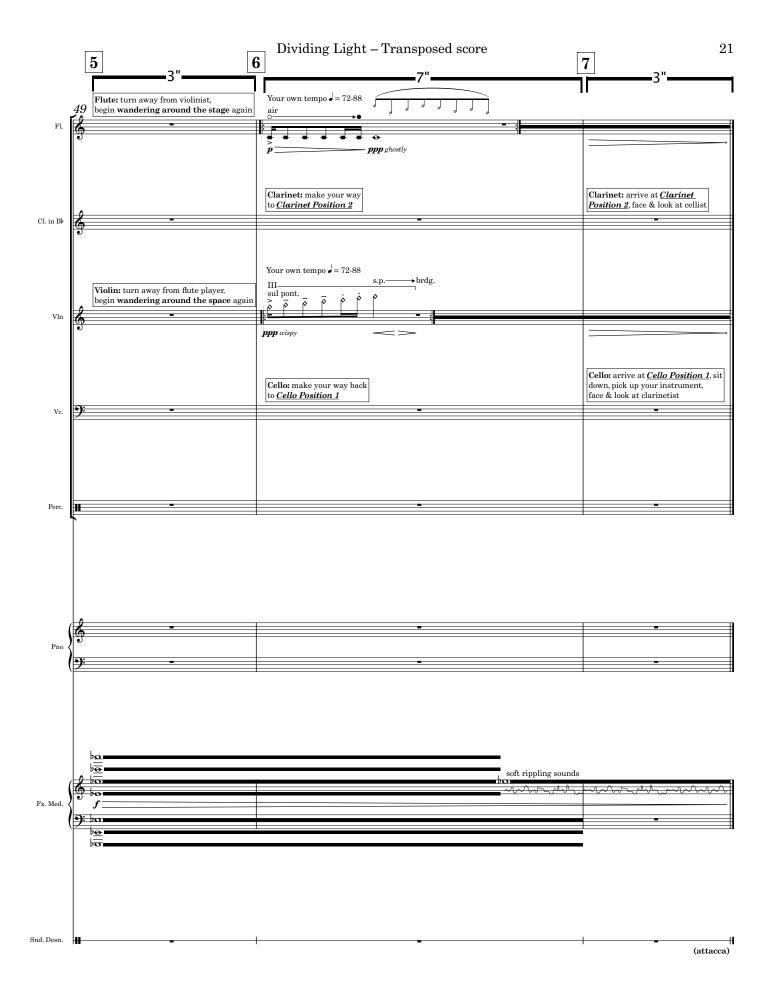
Once each swell fades enough so that you can easily hear the other musician, return to regular eighth notes at the previous \downarrow = 108 tempo, and go back to the pattern of passing the pulse between each other with only one note of overlap, with free dynamic changes (and still freely borrowing from the boxes of alternate notes on the previous page).

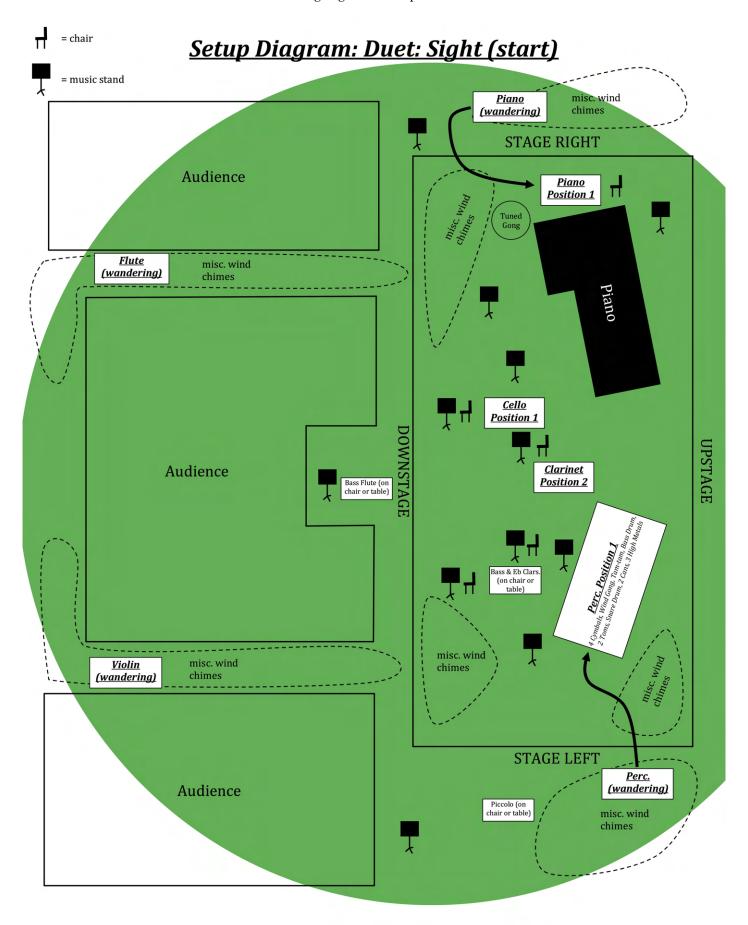
A few seconds after the third swell peaks (reh. 4), move to the high sustained note for the remainder of the 7 seconds (both players do not need to begin or end the note at the exact same time).

Accompaniment to 2. Duet: Sound

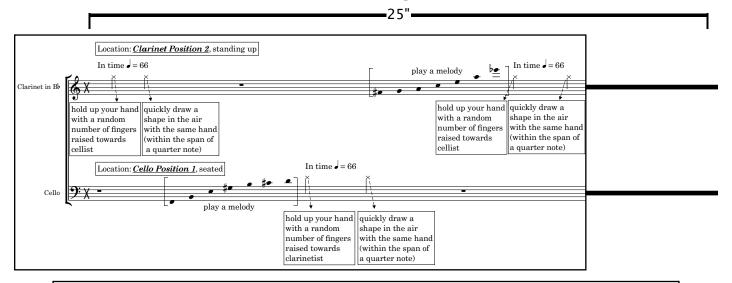








3. Duet: Sight



Clarinet and Cello: The Clarinet will begin by giving two hand signals with their right hand in time at J = 66 (described in the box above). Then the Cello will improvise a melody based on those two hand signals, and then give the Clarinet two hand signals. The Clarinet will improvise a melody, and then give two hand signals back to the Cellist. Continue passing melodies and hand signals back and forth throughout this section.

How to generate the melody

Pitches: drawn freely from the bracketed pitch collections for each instrument in the box above.

Number of notes: determined by the number of fingers the other musician held up in their first hand signal.

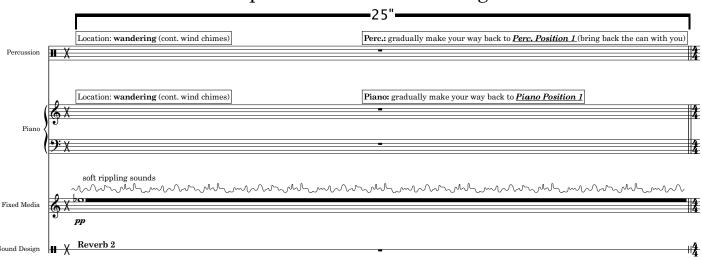
Contour: follow the shape the other musician drew in the air with their second hand signal. (note: if the melody consists of only 1 or 2 notes, the contour may be impossible to realize, in that case, just play part of the contour)

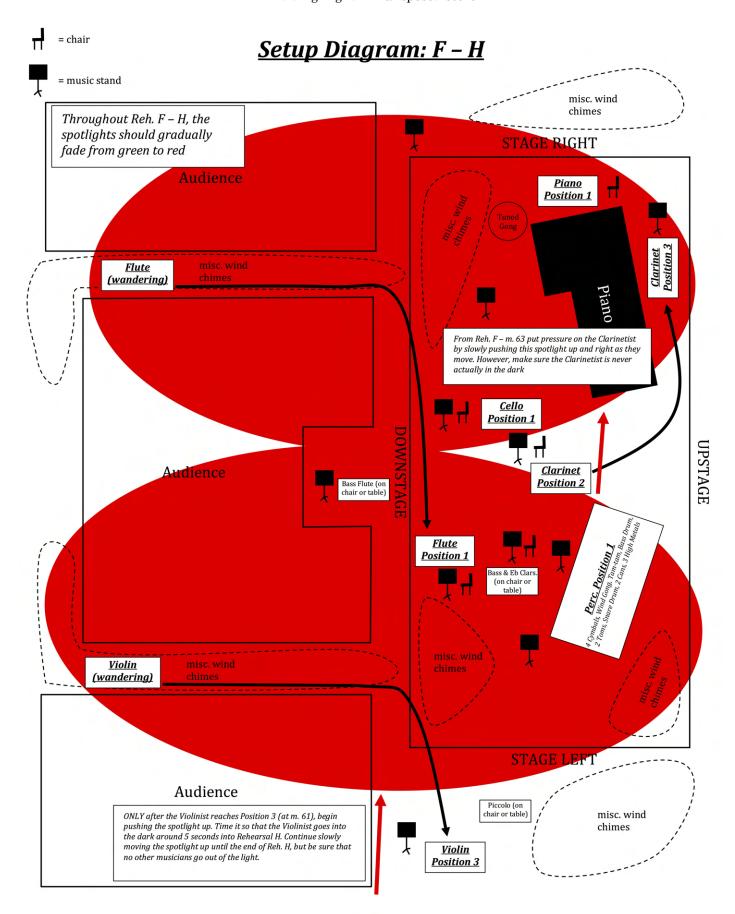
Rhythm: free, but in general each note should be J between J = 50 and J = 120.

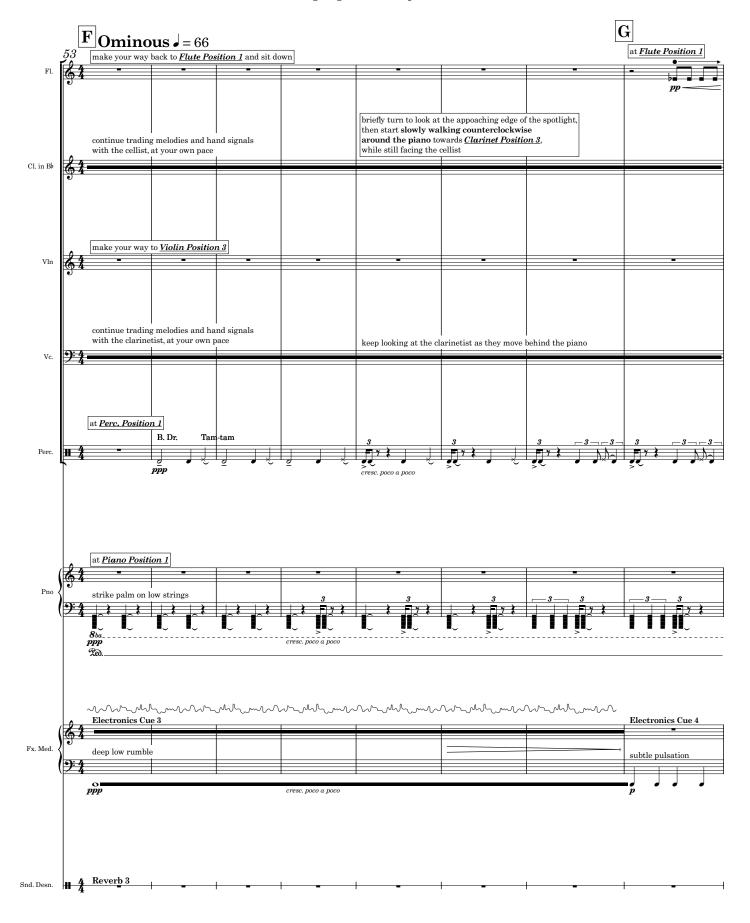
Dynamics, articulation, phrasing, etc.: up to the performer.

The pacing should be relatively fast – begin playing your melody as soon as the other musician finishes their second hand signal, and begin your hand signals as quickly as possible after finishing your melody. **Stare at the other player** throughout the duet – do not break eye contact until the clarinetist steps behind the piano 3 bars after rehearsal **G**.

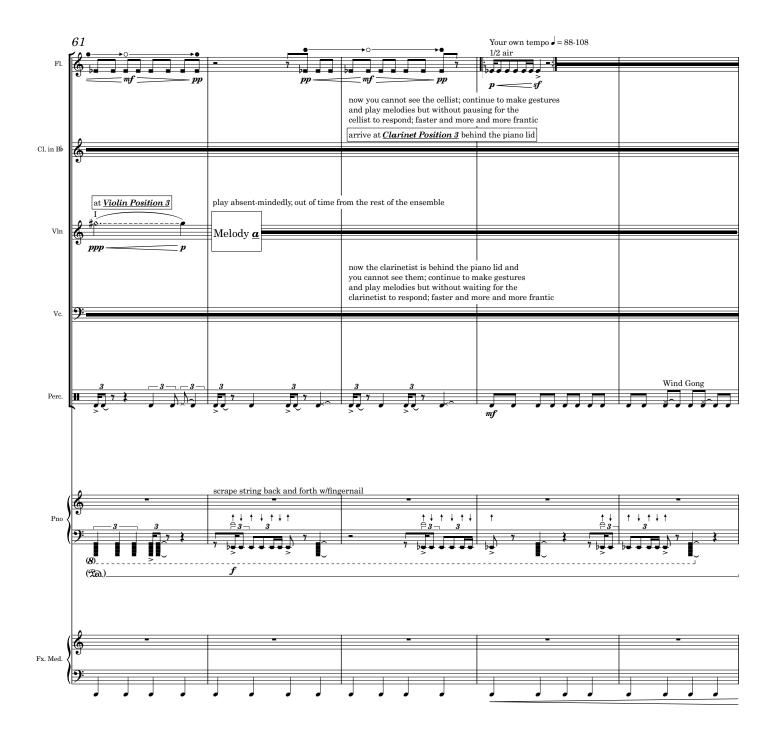
Accompaniment to 3. Duet: Sight



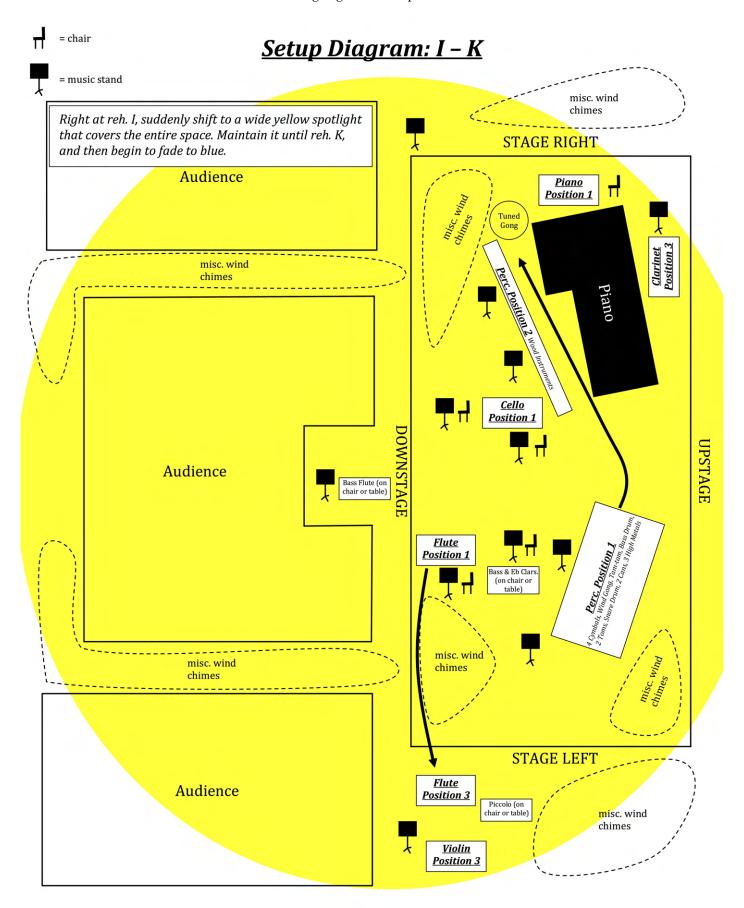


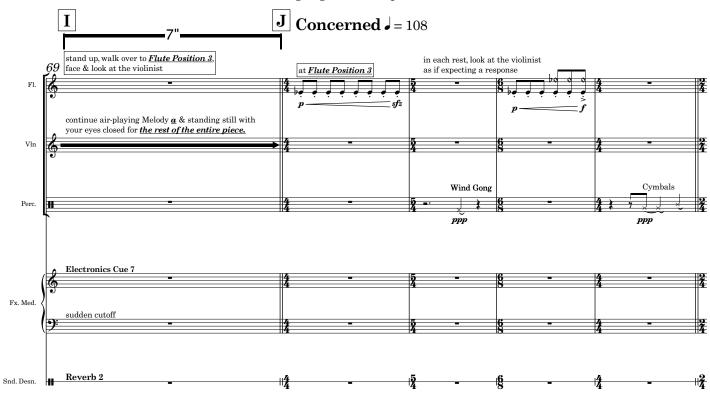


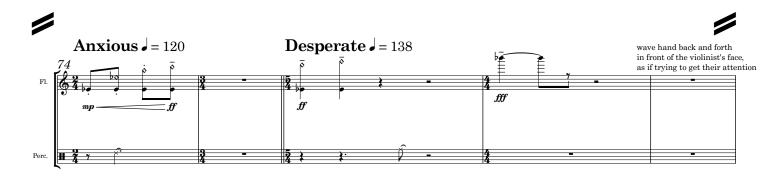


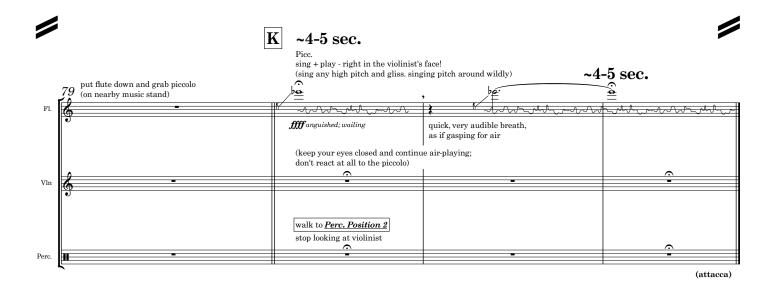


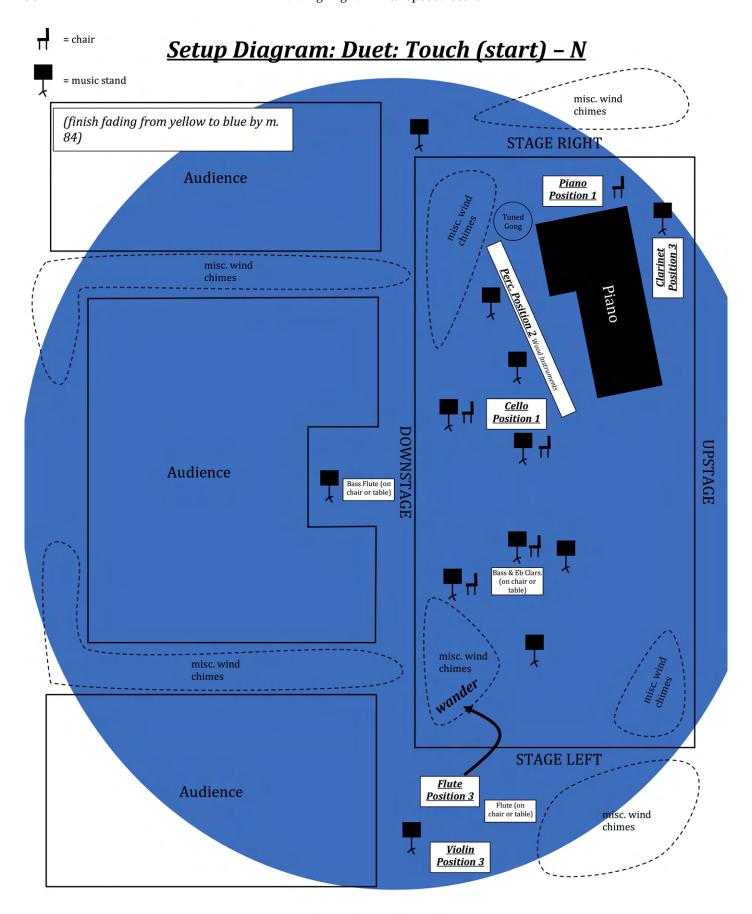






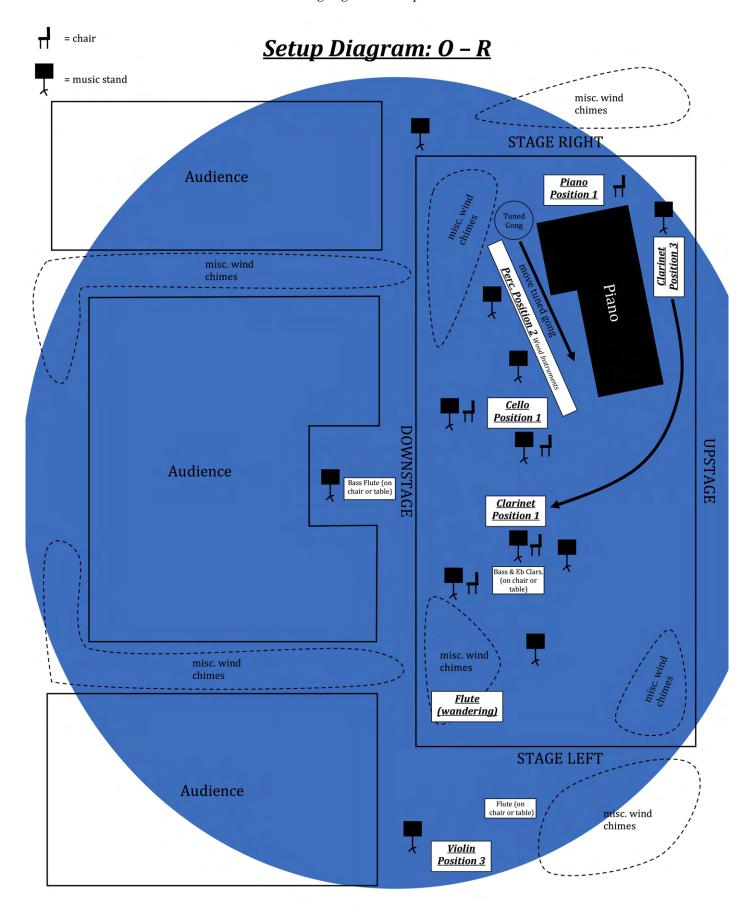




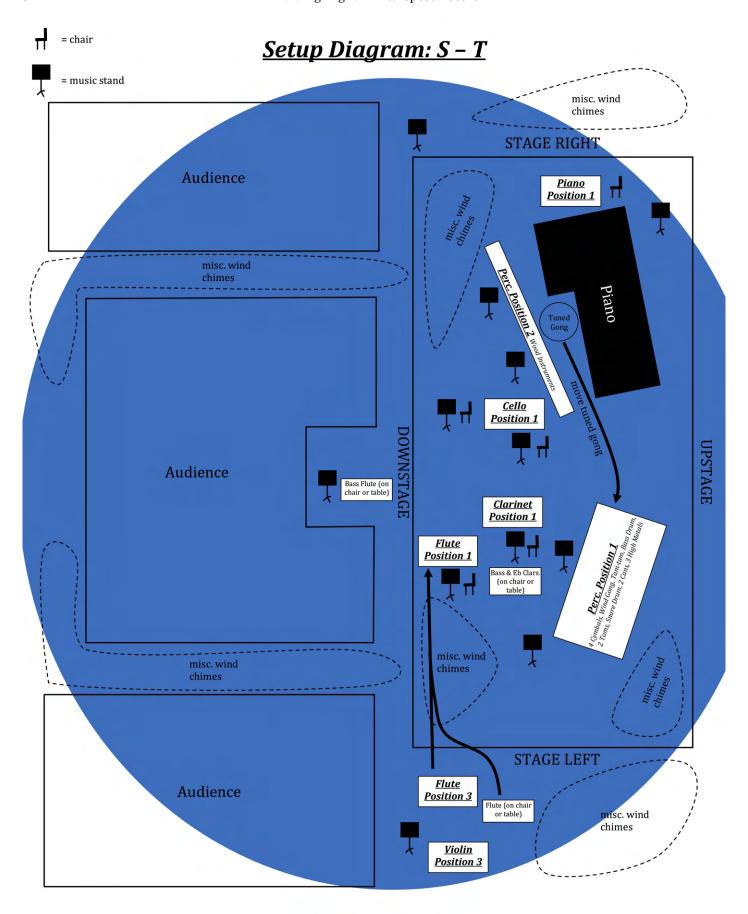


4. Duet: Touch

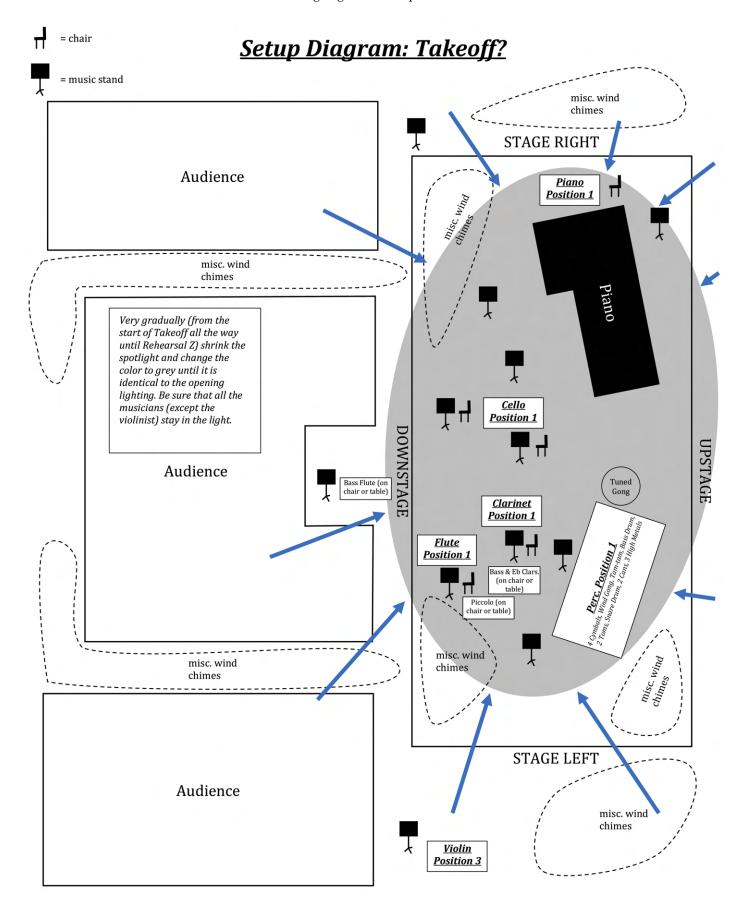




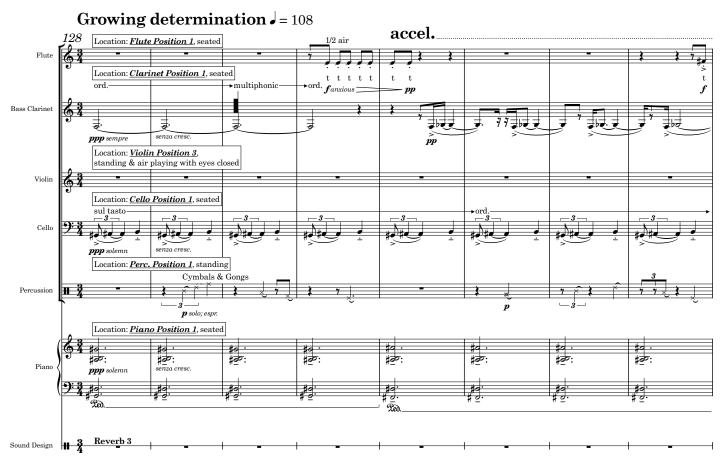


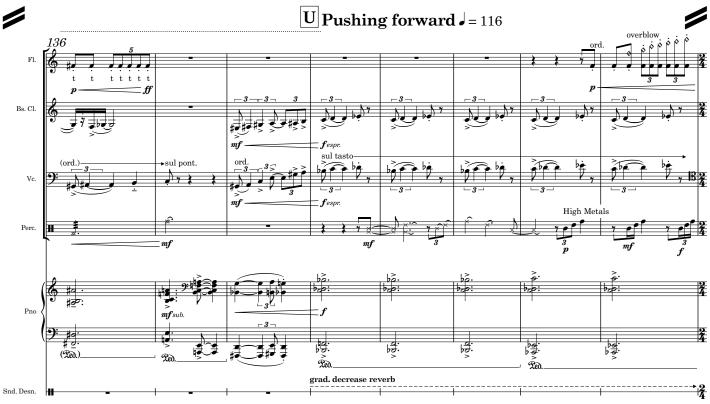






5. Takeoff?









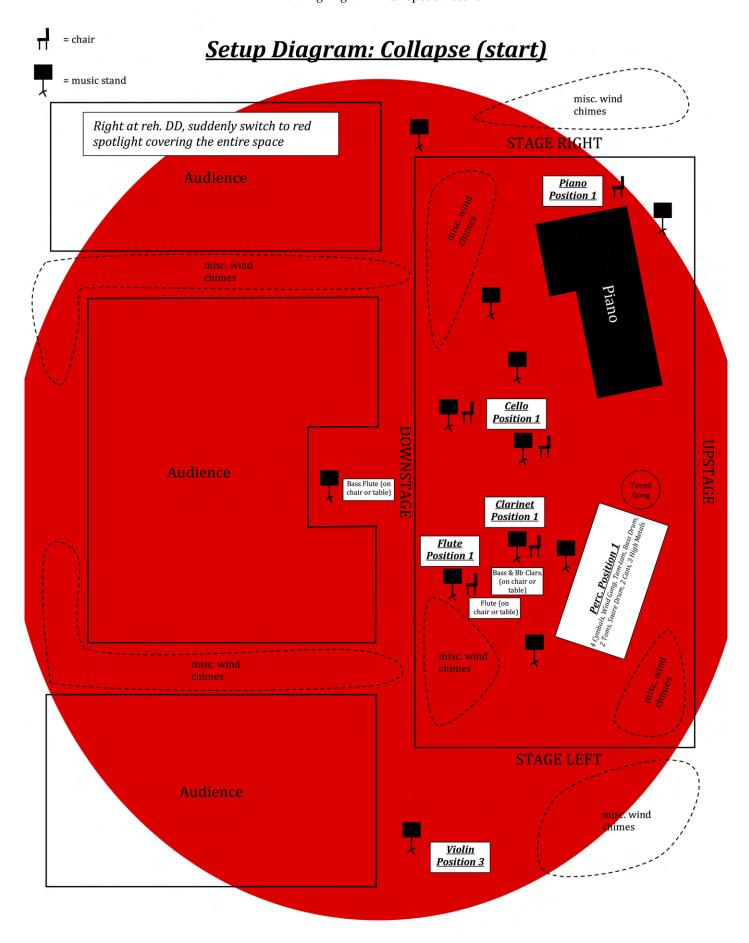


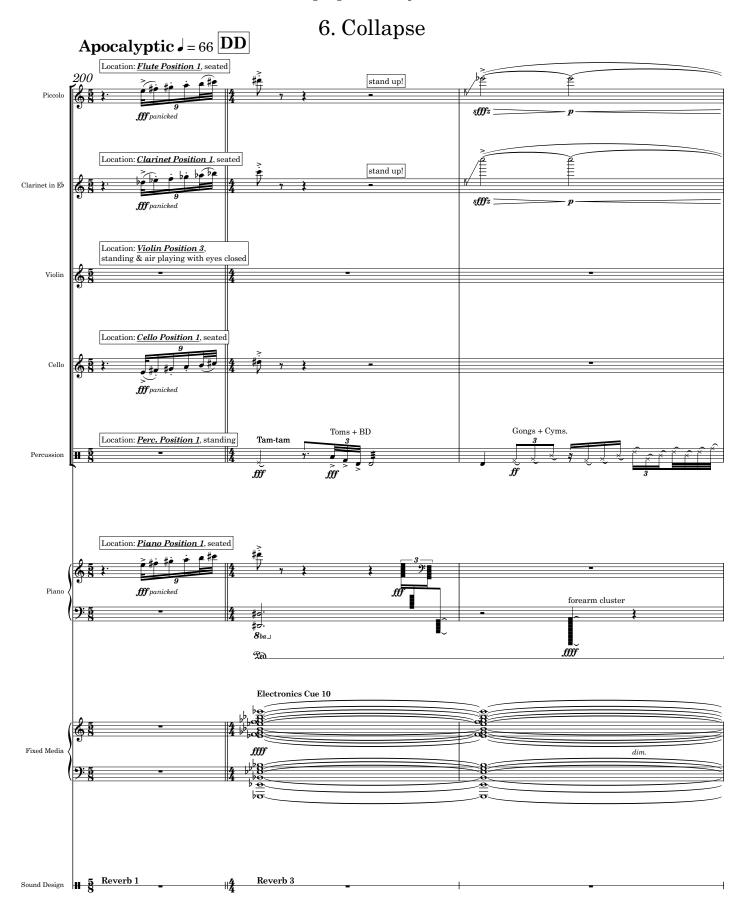






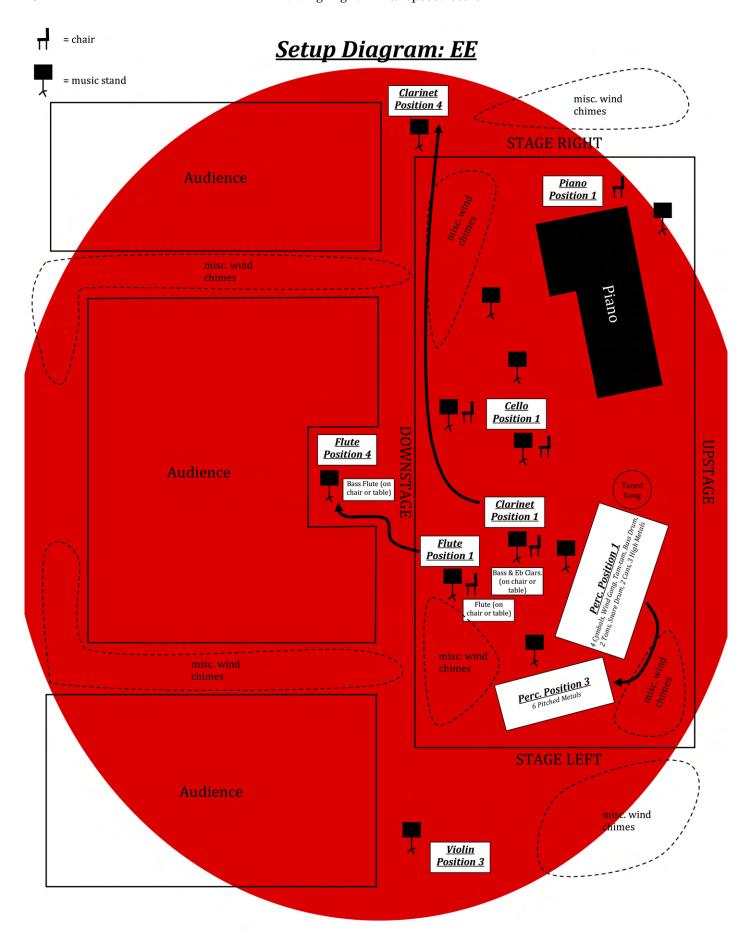


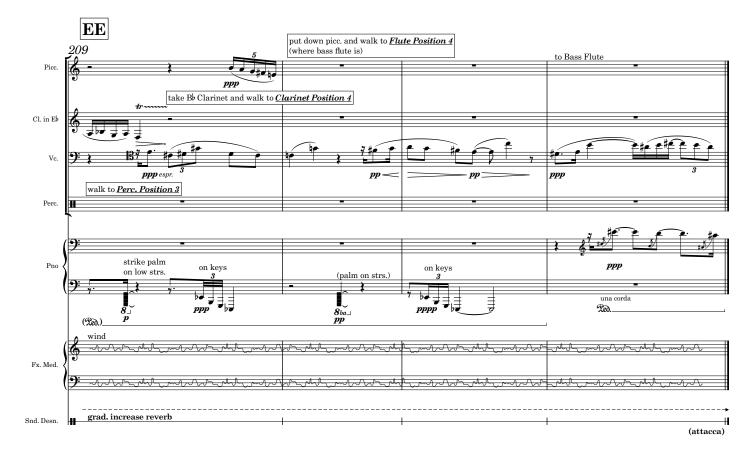


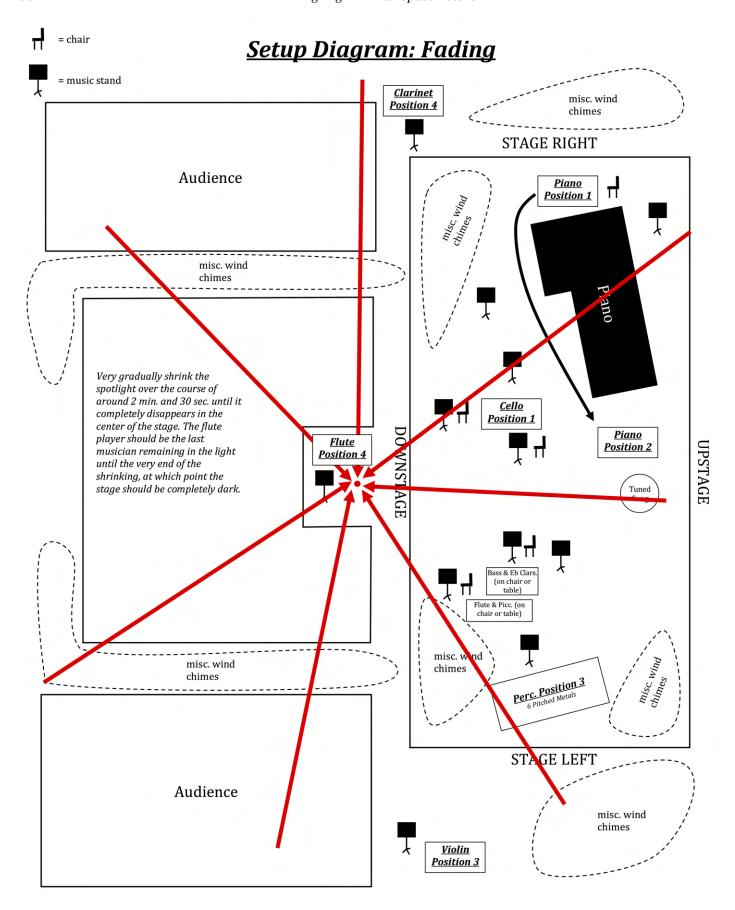




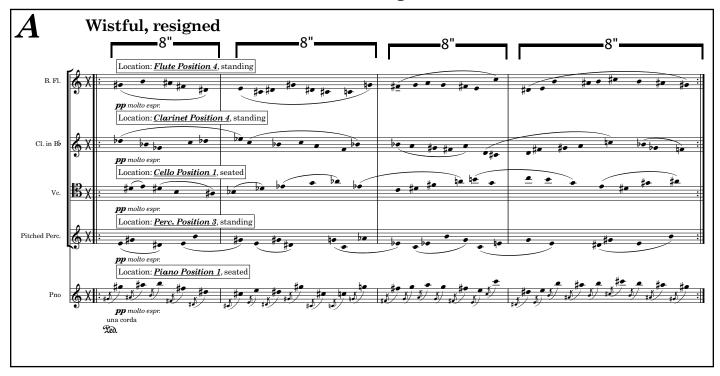








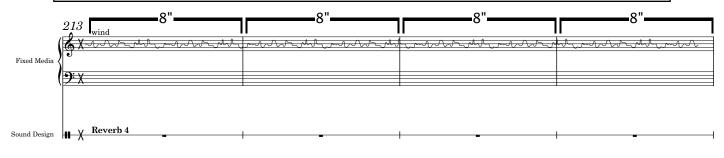
7. Fading



Repeat box A over and over. Within each bar, each musician should choose their own rhythm, unsynchronized with the other musicians. Try to roughly synchronize the movements between each 8-second bar across the ensemble, but the shifts do not need to be exactly together. No gaps in the texture should be perceptible to the audience. Continue repeating until the edge of the spotlight gets closer to you (see next page)

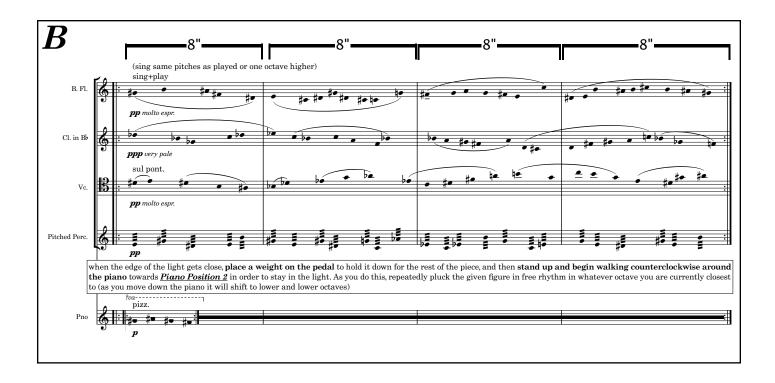
Electronics

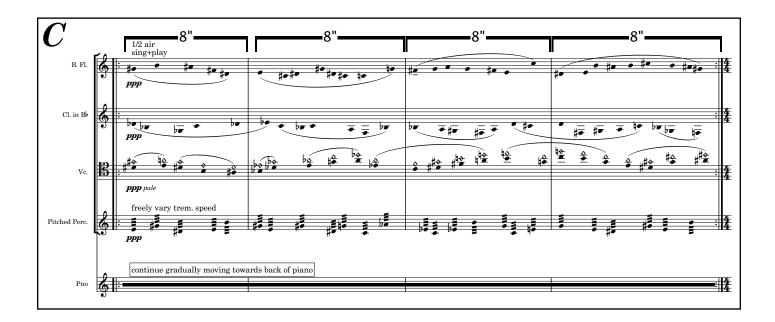
Trigger **Electronics Cue 11** after the ensemble has played one full iteration of **box A**. The electronics loop does not need to be in perfect sync with the ensemble's loop.





As the edge of the spotlight gets closer and closer to you, move to box B and then to box C. Since each musician is in a different place in the space, you will each move to box B and C at a different time. Try to maintain your place within the four measures as you move – e.g. if you are in the middle of the second measure of box A when you shift to box B, begin in the middle of the second measure of box B.

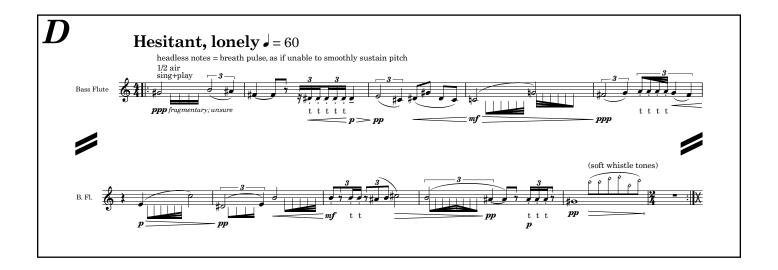




Clarinet, Cello, and Perc: the moment the edge of the spotlight passes over you and you go into the dark, close your eyes and begin air-playing the same 4-bar loop that you were just playing. Continue air playing with eyes closed until the end of the piece.

Piano: Once you reach the back of the piano, step away from it and arrive at *Piano Position 2*. Close your eyes and "air-play" the same plucked passage you were just playing until the end of the piece.

Flute: the moment that you are the only musician left in the light (and everyone else has begun air playing), move to the **beginning of box D** and repeat it until you are in the dark. Once you are in the dark, air-play like everyone else. (as above)



Electronics: when the Flute moves to **box D**, make the electronics almost imperceptibly quiet. Continue the loop until the stage becomes completely dark, and then move to rehearsal **FF**.



