"Portraits from the Menagerie: Nightmare Creatures, part II"

By David Matthew Shere

A miniature concerto for solo electric guitar and chamber orchestra (part II in a musical series on the theme of nightmares)

Copyright © 2006, David M. Shere

"Portraits from the Menagerie: Nightmare Creatures, part II"

By David Matthew Shere

Pr	reface	iii
Performance Notes		iv
Ι.	Prelude to Another Nightmare	1
II.	The Banshee	7
III.	The Ghost	13
IV.	The Witch	17
\mathcal{V} .	The Giant	33
VI.	The Skeleton	48
$\mathcal{V}II.$	The Demon	61
VIII.	Aftermath	95

Copyright ©2006, David M. Shere

PREFACE

For as long as I can remember, I have always had an extraordinarily vivid and lucid nightmare life. In the fall of 2002, while an undergraduate at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, WA, I became interested in writing a suite of musical sketches to portray some of the archetypal characters which I confront in my nightly wanderings. I sat down and compiled a list of creatures, chose five of them, and began sketching musical ideas to represent my thoughts about each creature. I completed the original "Portraits" in late November 2002, and premiered the piece at Cornish in mid-December 2002 with the Seattle Chamber Players. The piece was very well-received. In fall 2003, when I arrived at UC Santa Barbara to begin graduate studies, I submitted the piece to the Ensemble for Contemporary Music; it was chosen and performed again in early spring 2004, and it was once again well-received. I felt as though my musical treatment of the subject matter had struck a particular nerve, and I became interested in doing more sketches.

The original list I had compiled contained over 40 creatures. I decided that the appropriate thing to do would be to develop the list into a *series* of suites, each suite representing a new night of dreams. In fall of 2005 I chose six more characters, and began sketching ideas for the next suite in the series. I completed this second suite in late August of 2006, and here it is.

The first nightmare suite was written for Pierrot ensemble; the second nightmare suite is a miniature concerto written for electric guitar, and a small chamber orchestra based around the original Pierrot ensemble. The music of the second suite is definitively more complex in both harmonic language and orchestration than the first suite, and represents a distinct forward leap in my evolution as a composer. I owe Dr. Jeremy Haladyna a great debt of thanks for this evolution; his valuable insights in private lessons have helped me to overcome frustrating limitations in my compositional vocabulary, which had previously obstructed me from the full range of expression necessary to the soundscapes I wanted to portray.

-David M. Shere Santa Barbara, CA; October 2006

PERFORMANCE NOTES

INSTRUMENTATION:

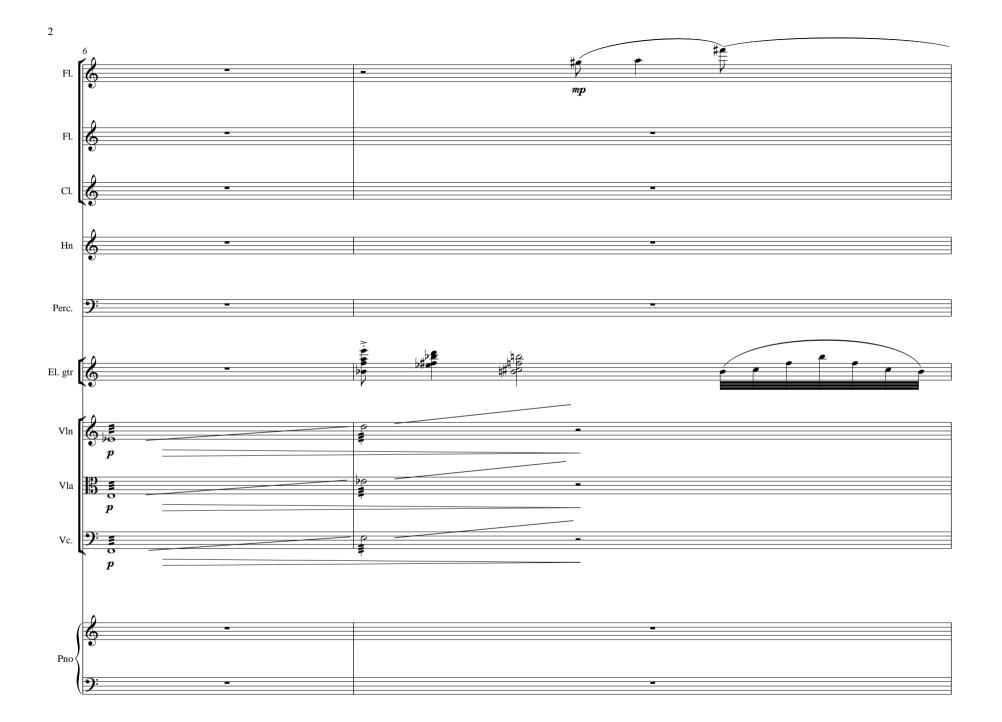
- 2 C flutes
- Bb Clarinet
- Horn in F
- Electric guitar (soloist)
- Percussion (cymbal, 1 large gong, bass drum, 1 wood block, crotales, glockenspiel, marimba)
- Violin
- Viola
- Violoncello
- Piano

-Movement VI requires that the string players and the horn player have wooden sticks or pencils handy for *col legno* and percussive purposes.

-The overall tonal and timbral approach of each player to the piece should have a soft, blurry, hypnotic quality. At no time should the performance of any instrument sound harsh or piercing. Even at the loudest dynamic points, there should always be a warm, *Impressionistic* quality to the sound colors, evocative of a drowsy, dreamy state.

I. Prelude to Another Nightmare

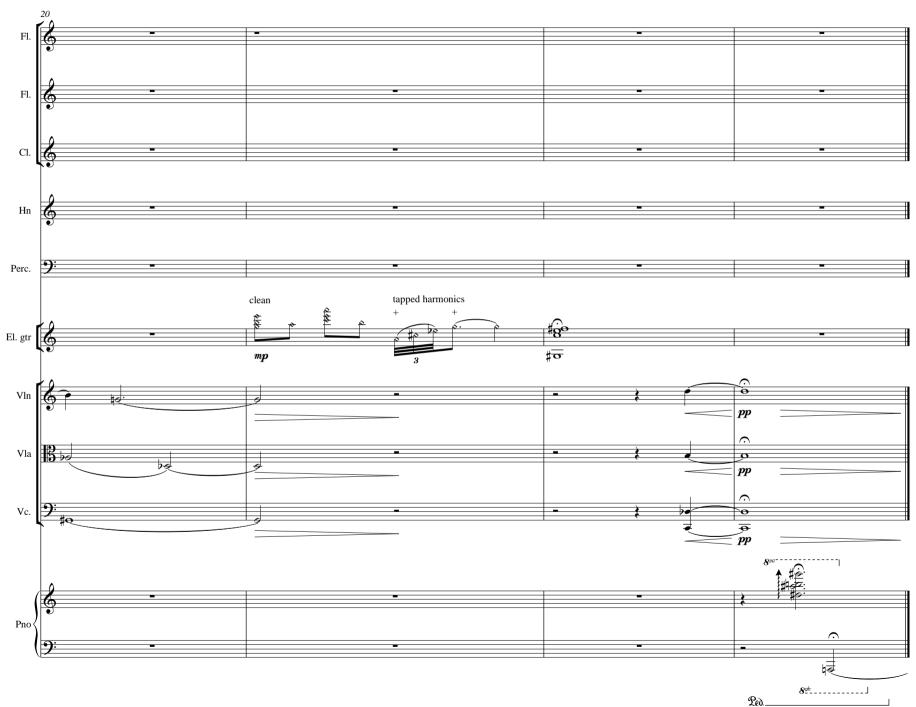


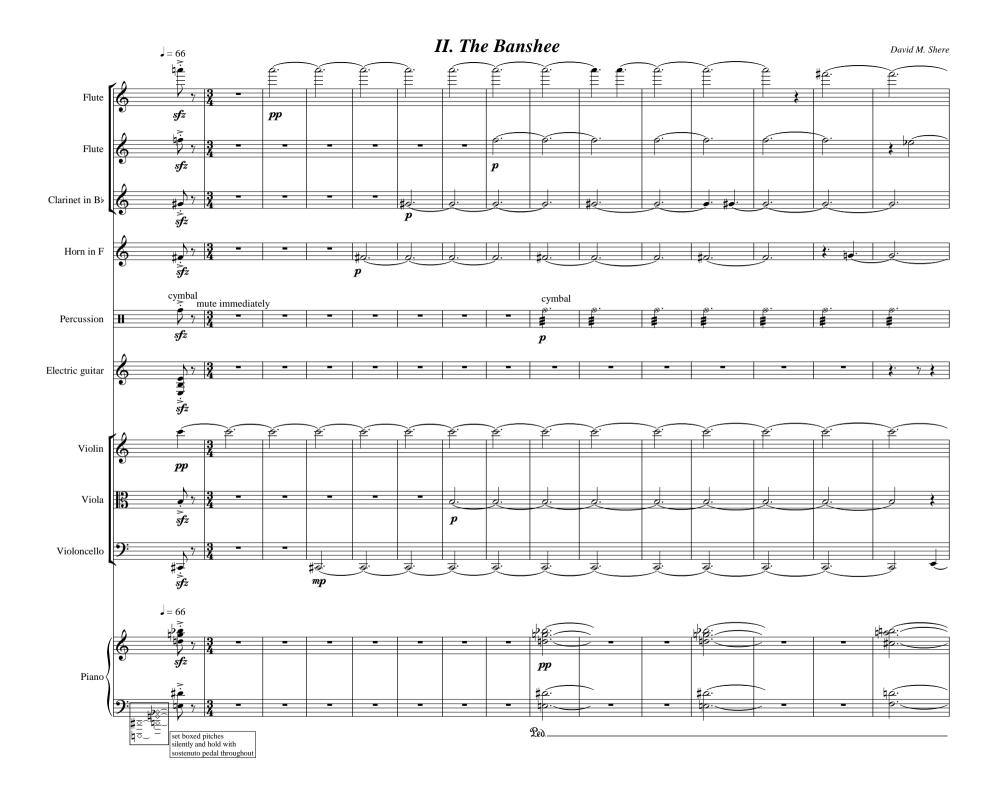










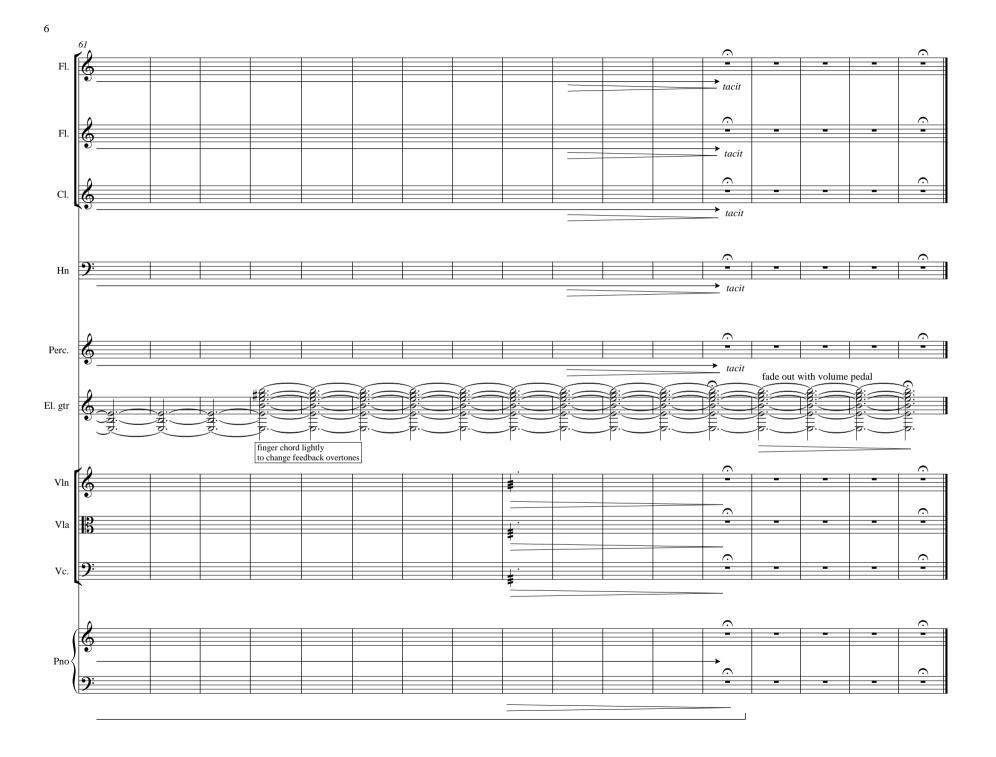




















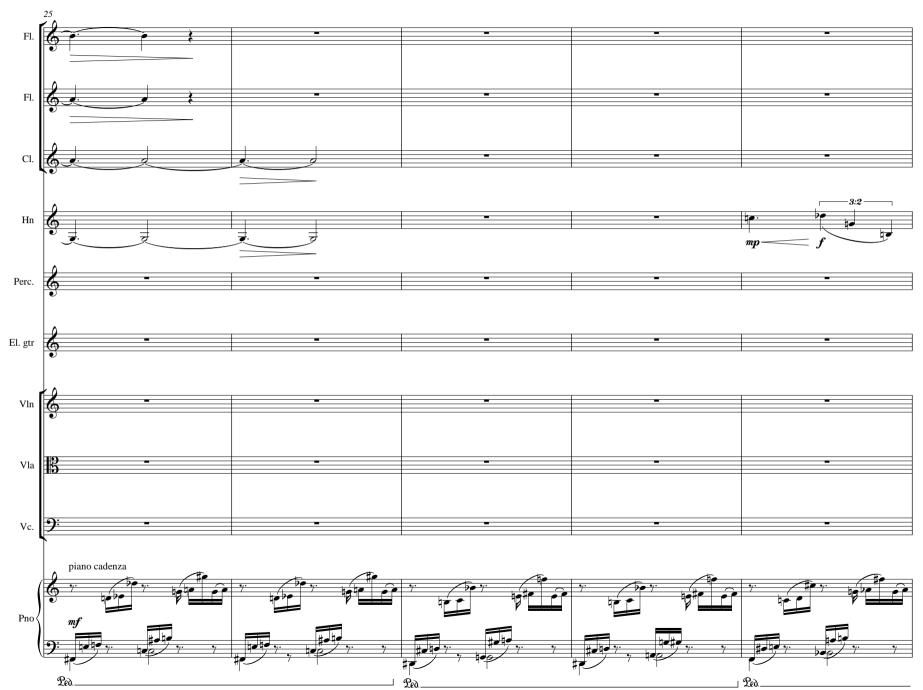














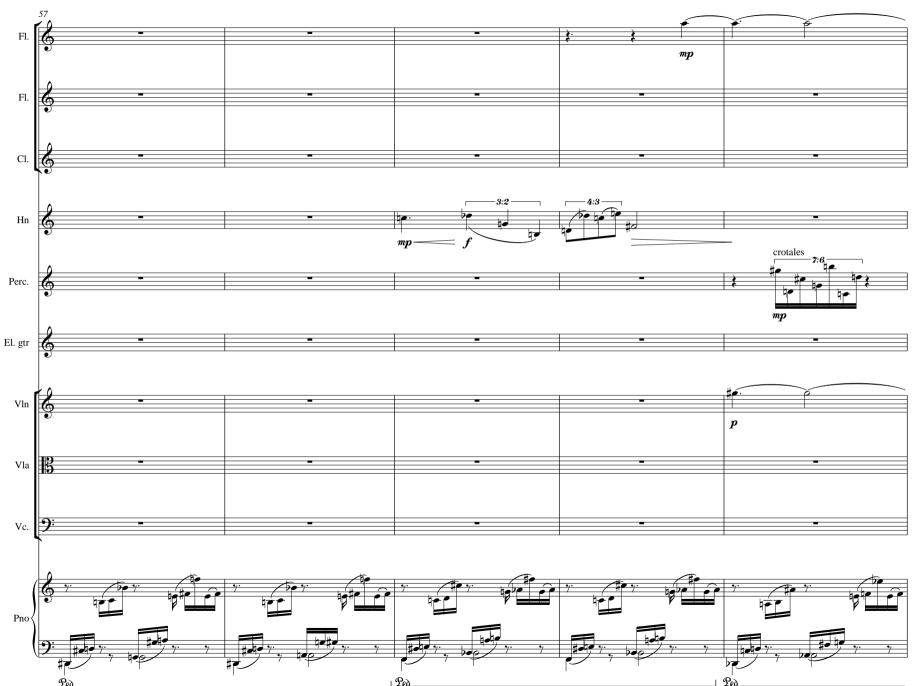












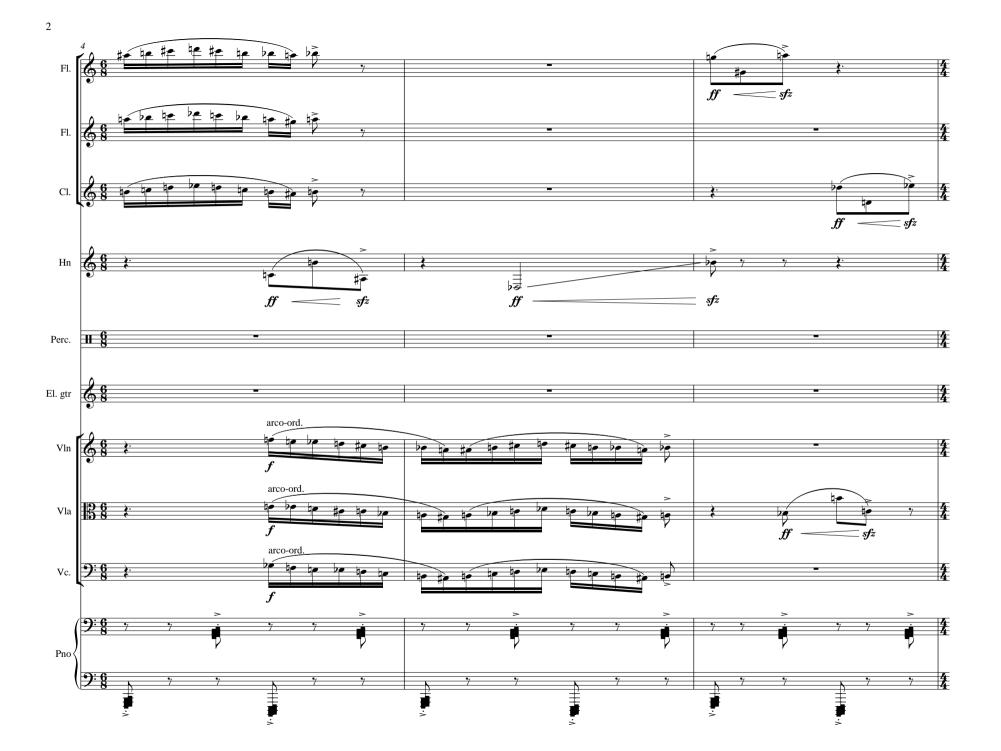


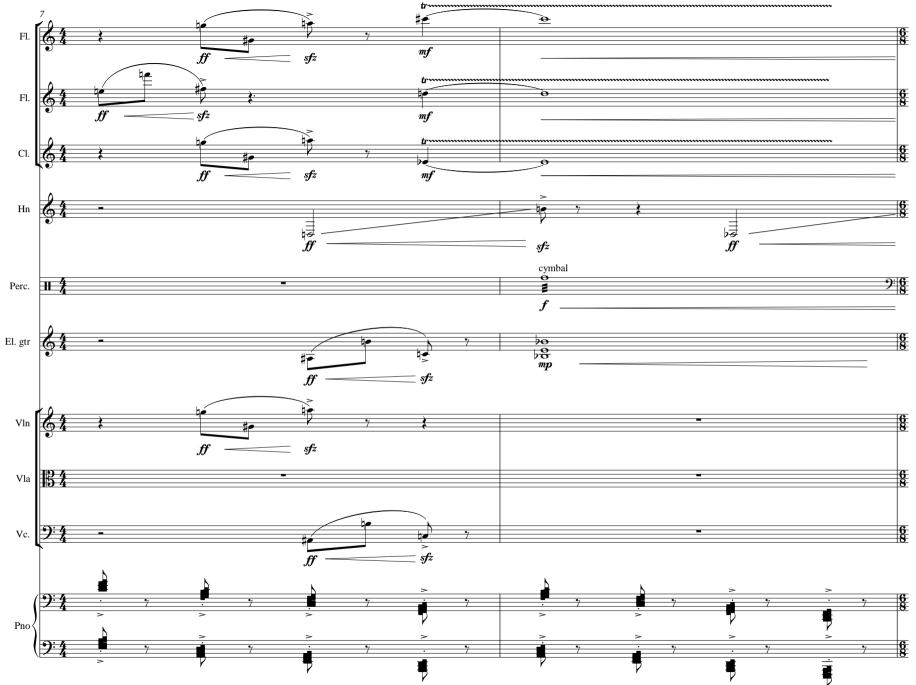




VI. The Giant





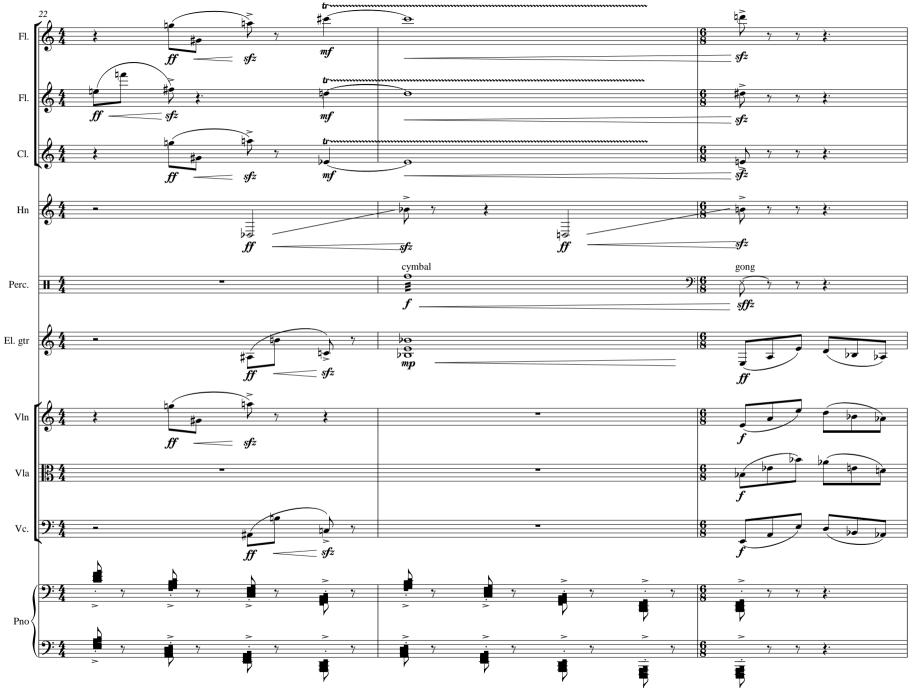




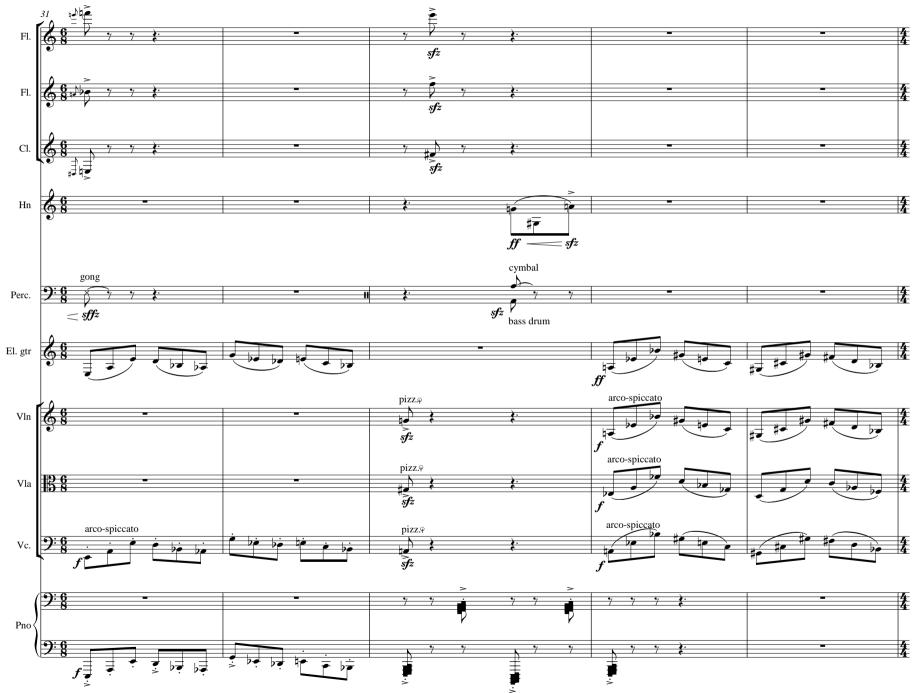






















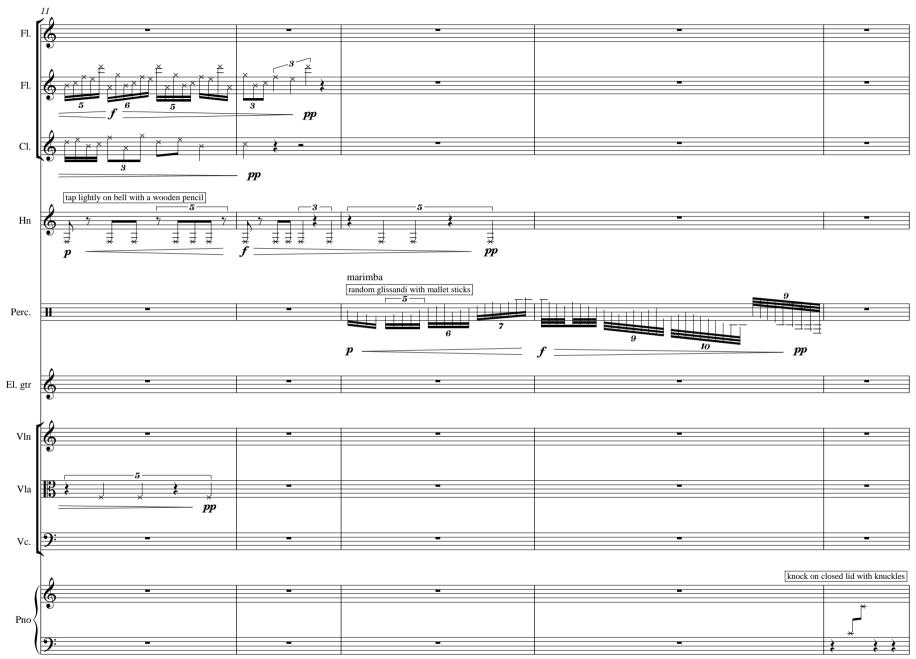


VI. The Skeleton



p _____





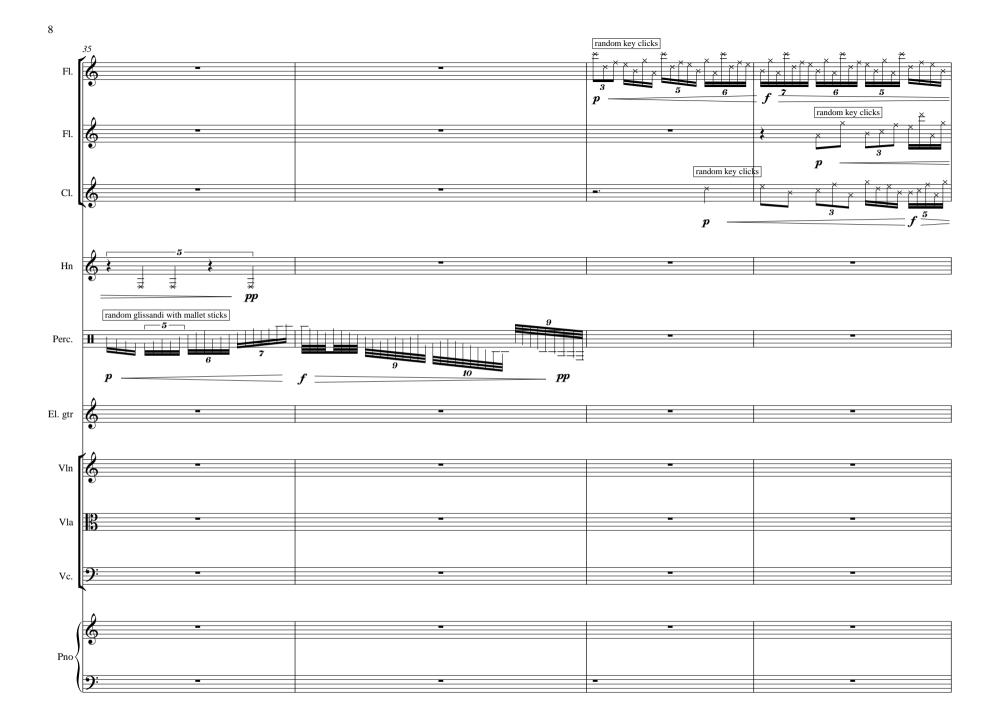
pp











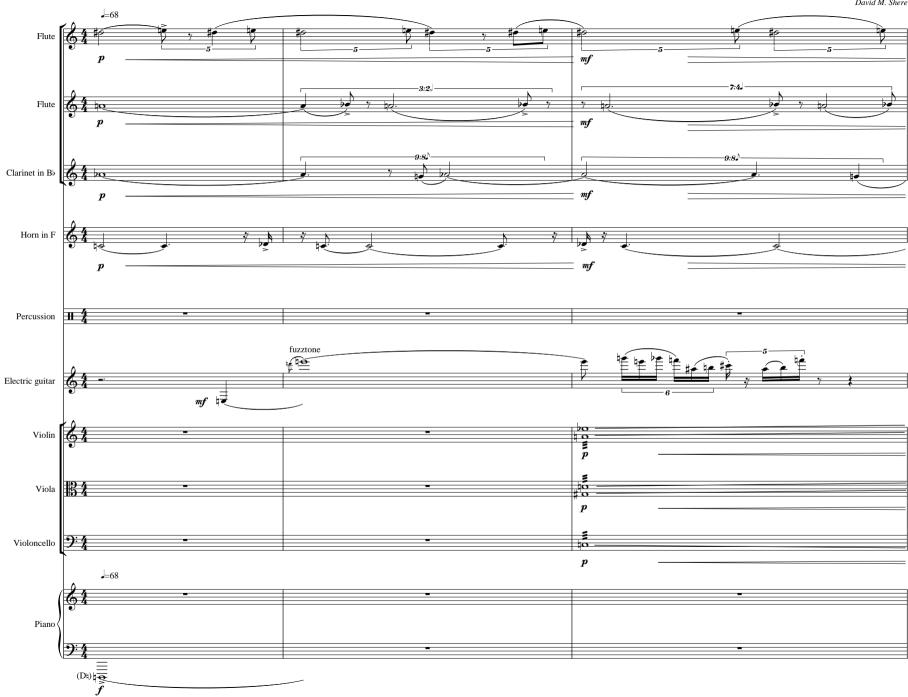






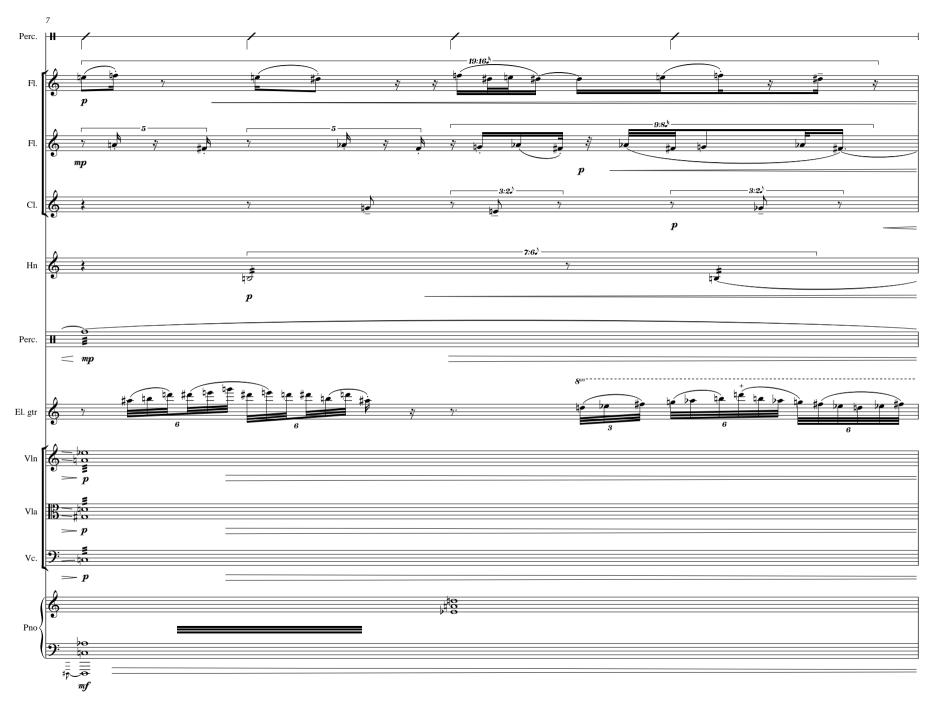


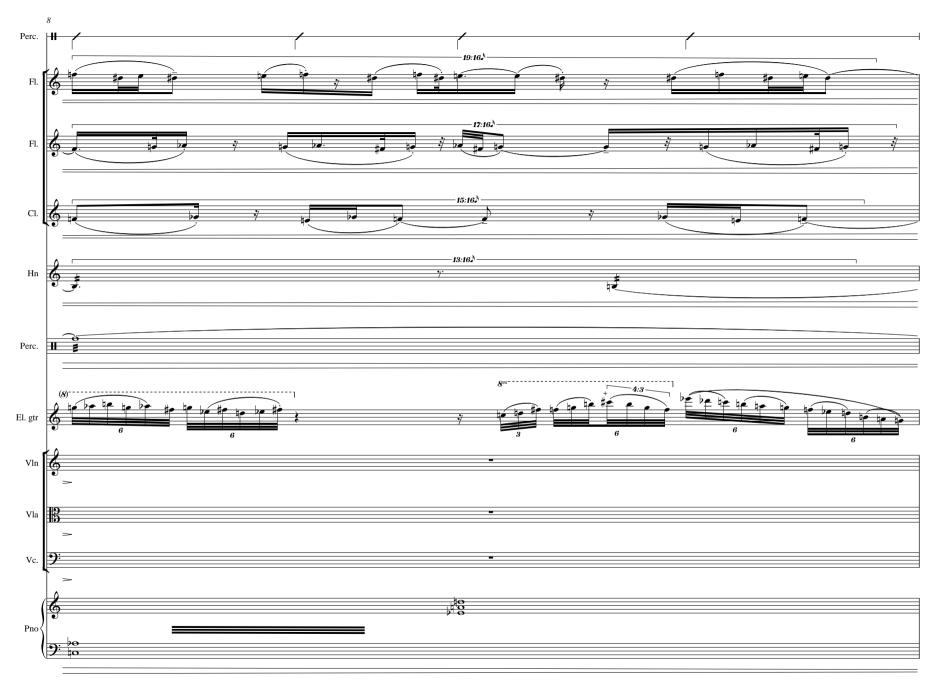
VII.The Demon



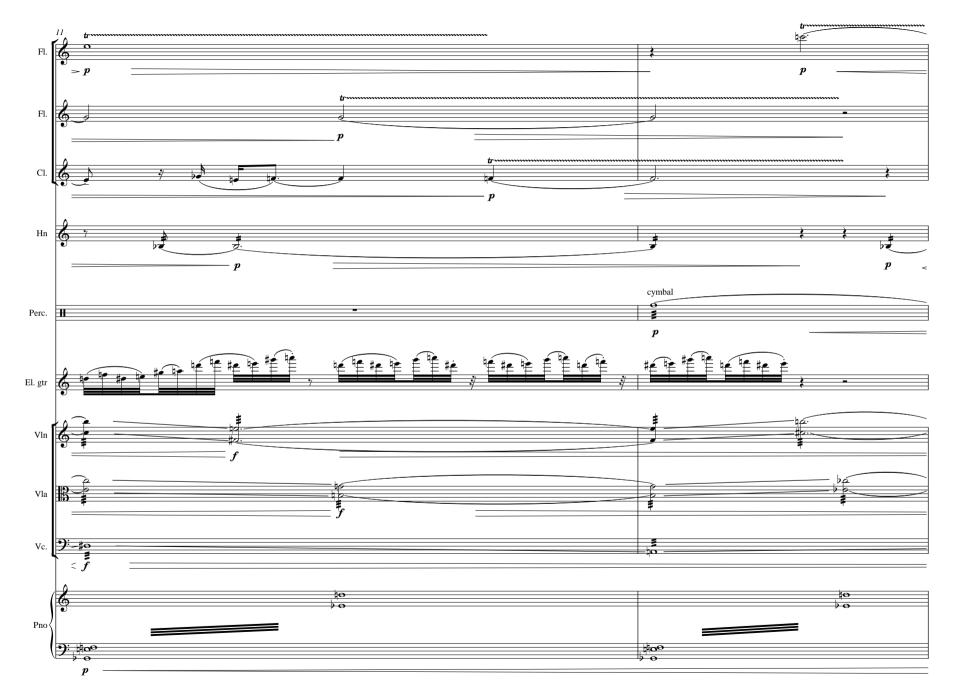
David M. Shere

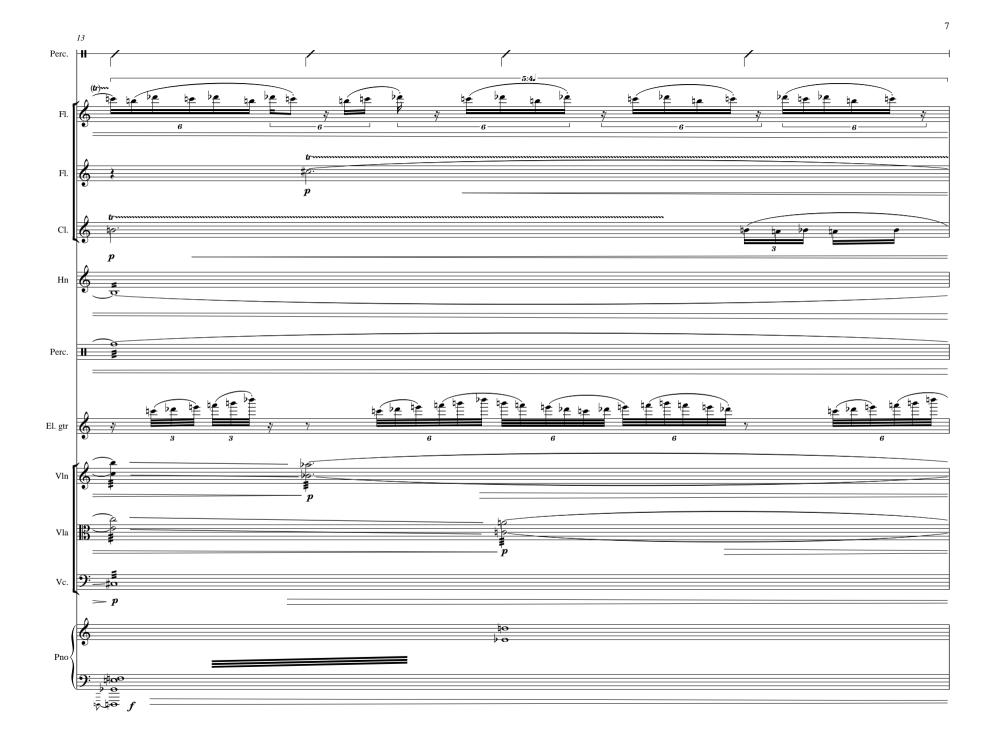


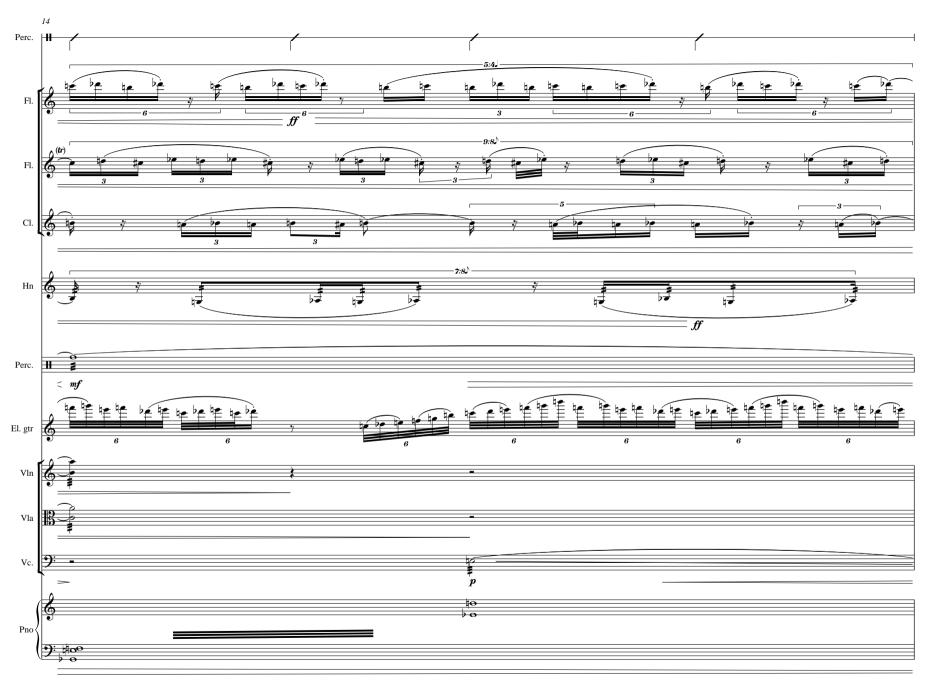


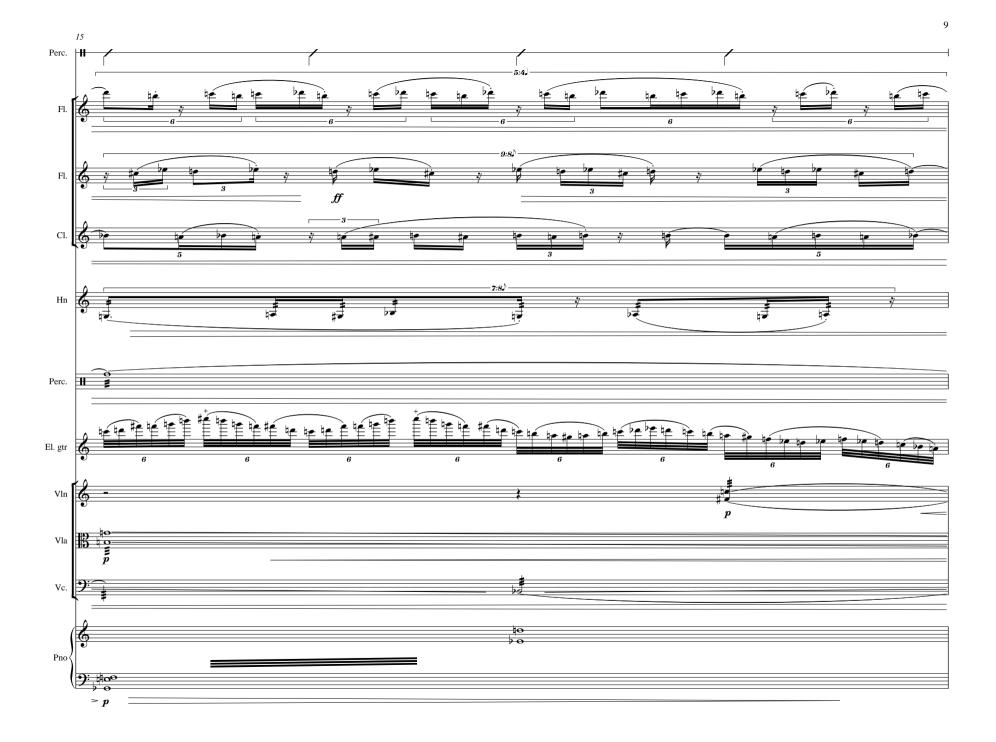




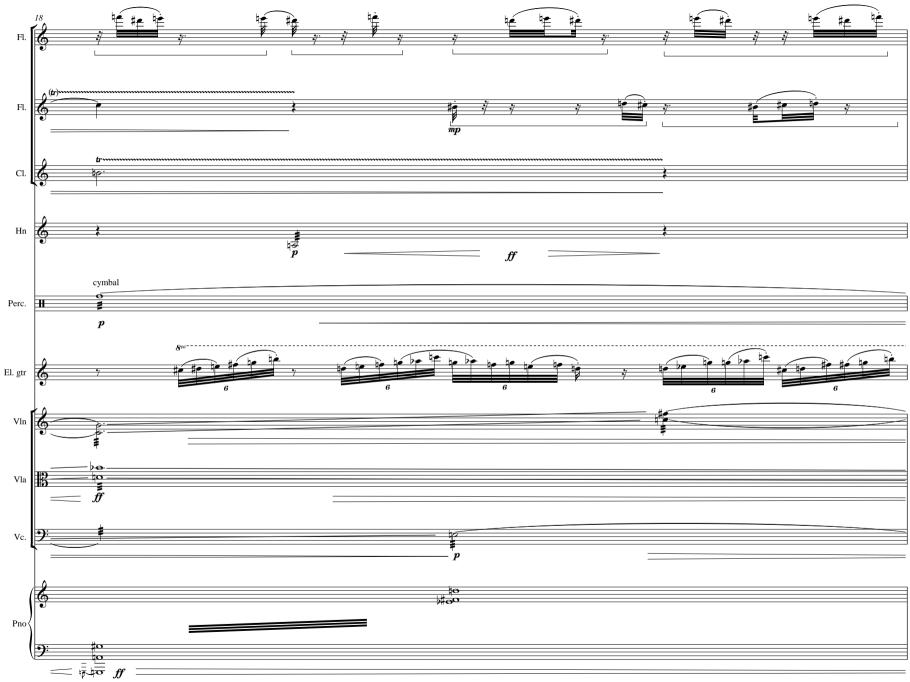


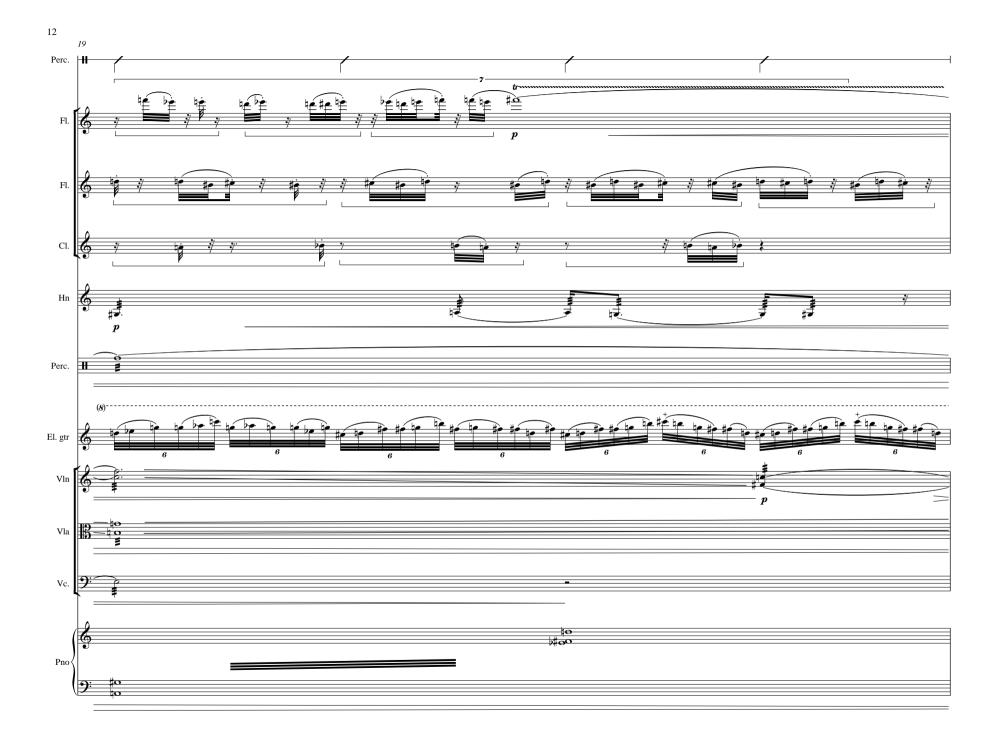


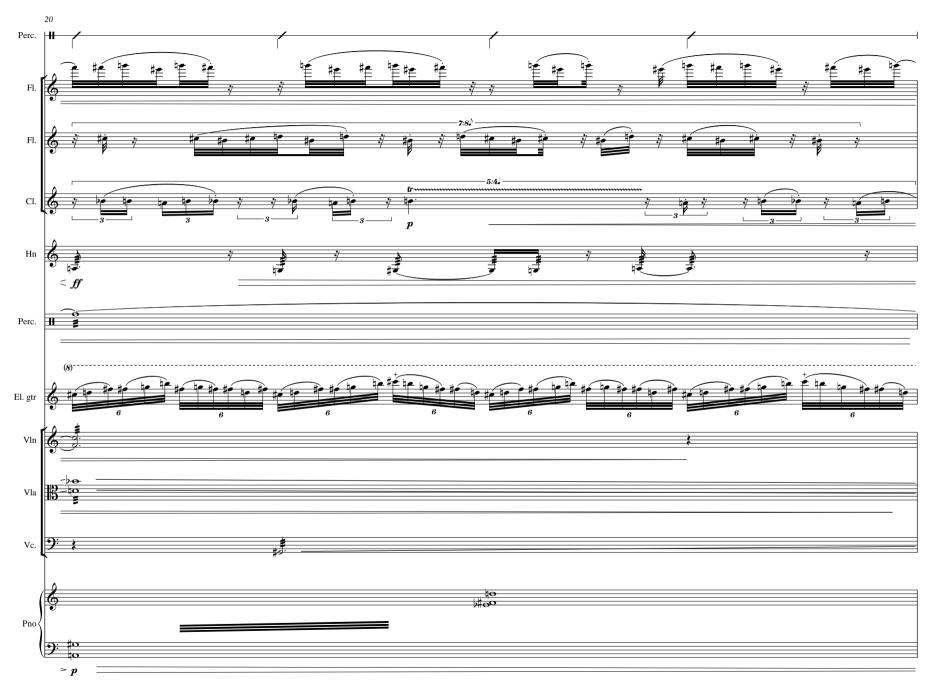


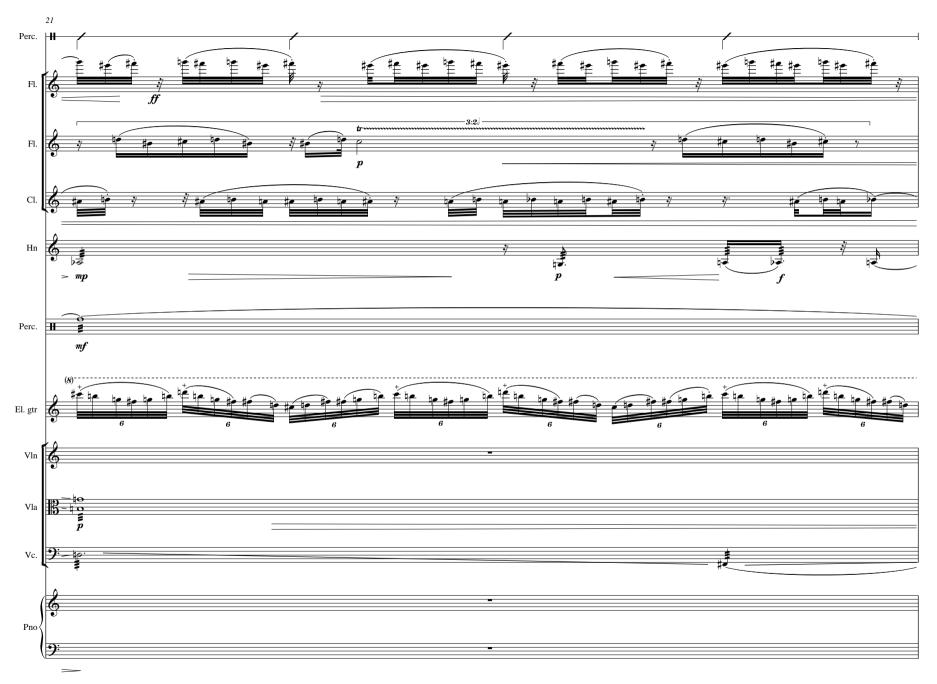


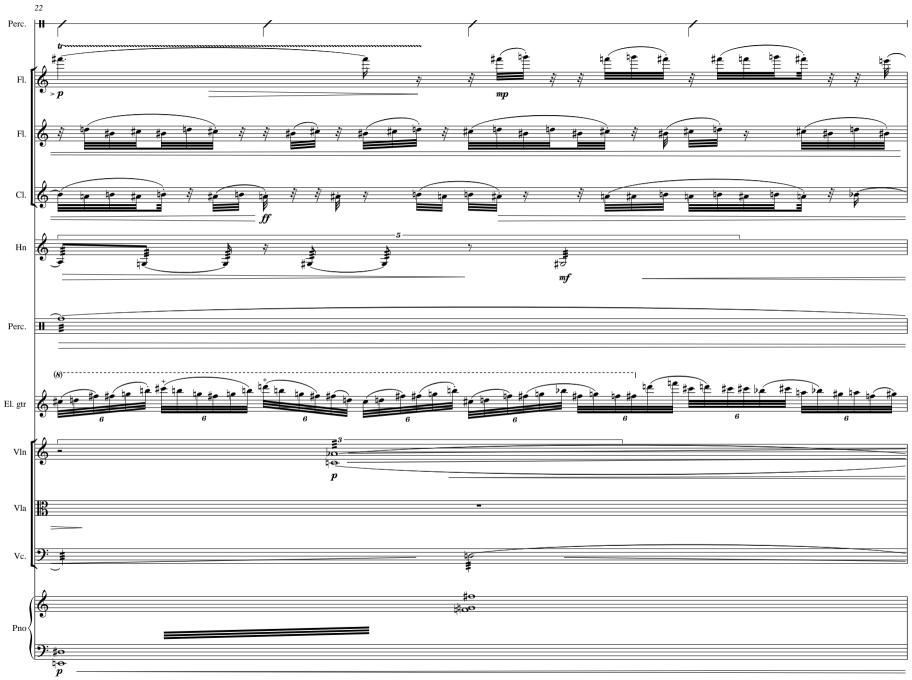


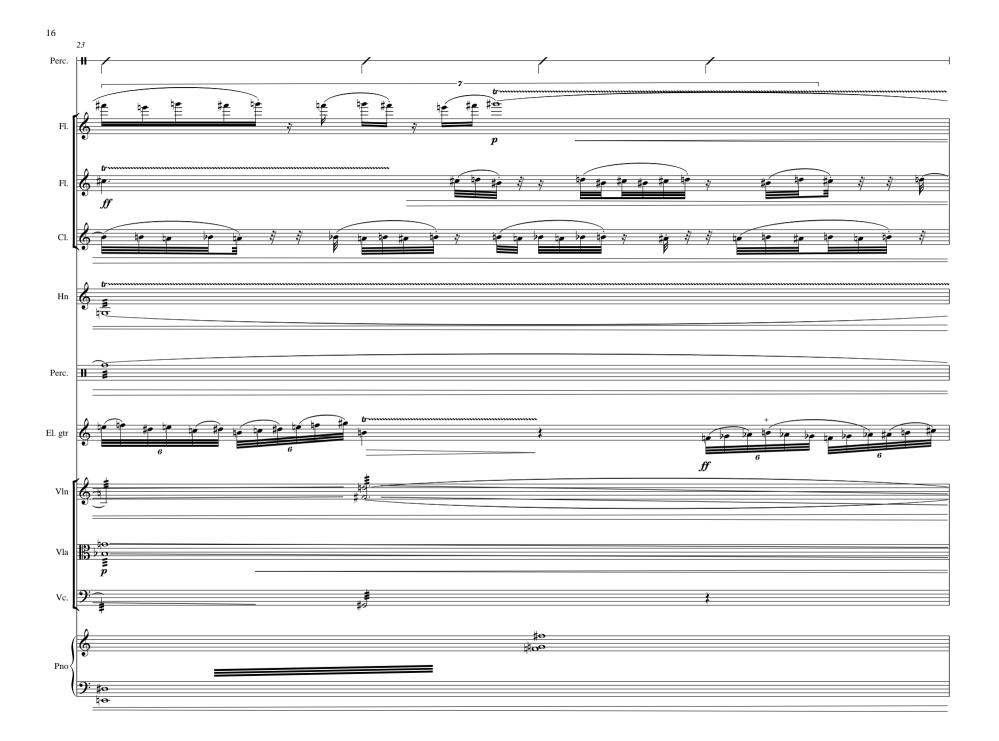


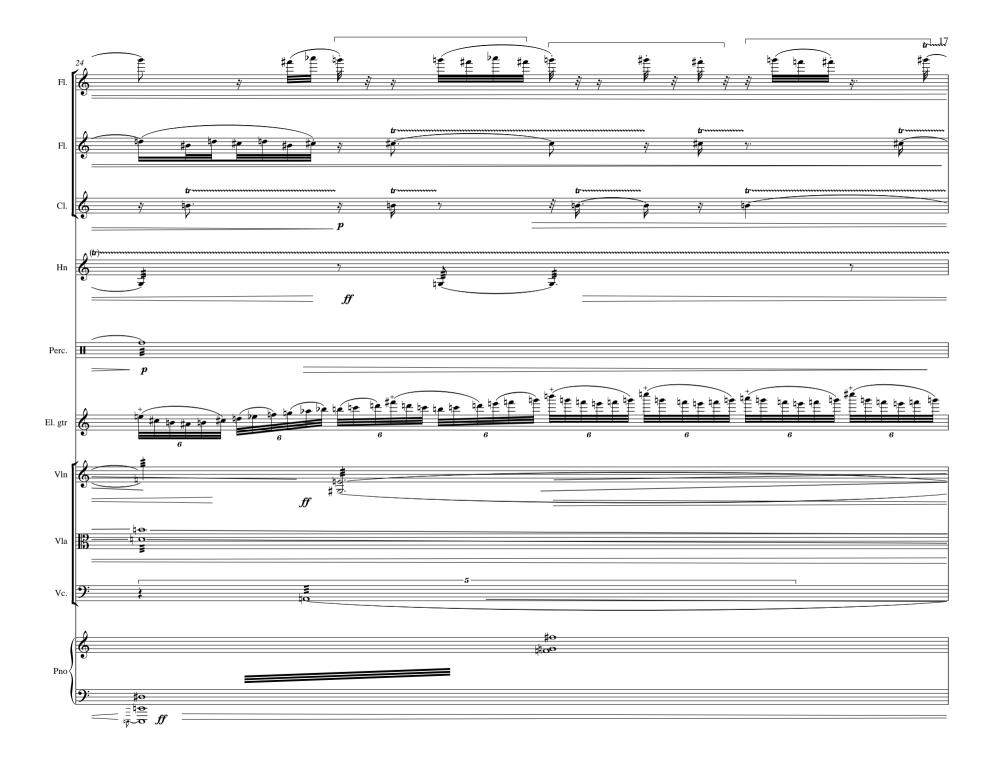


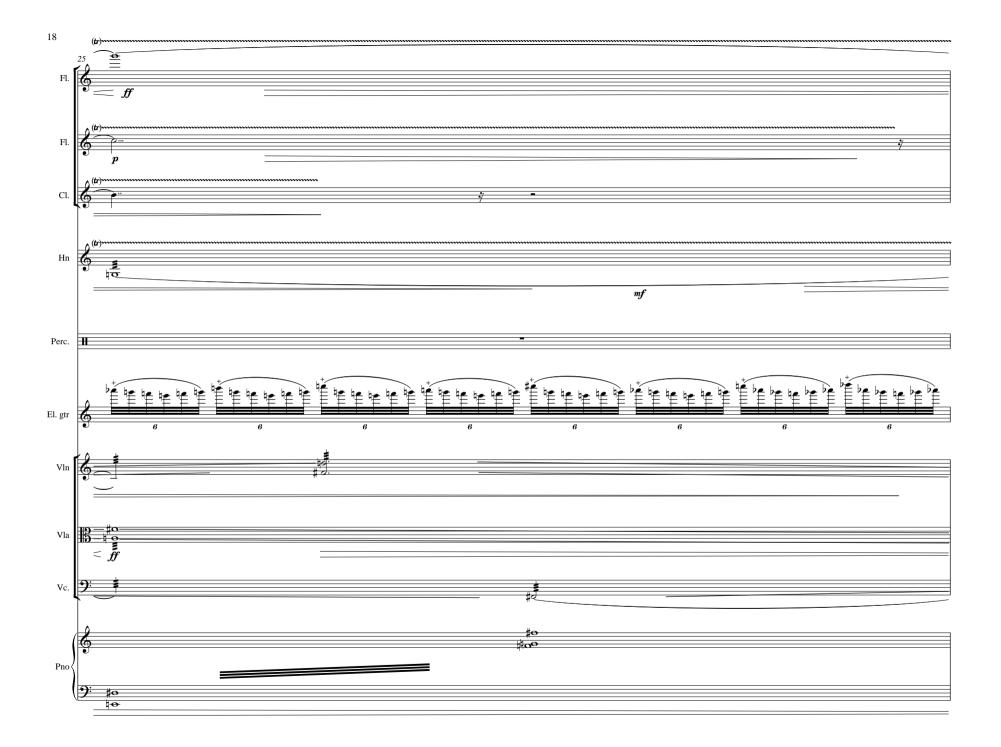


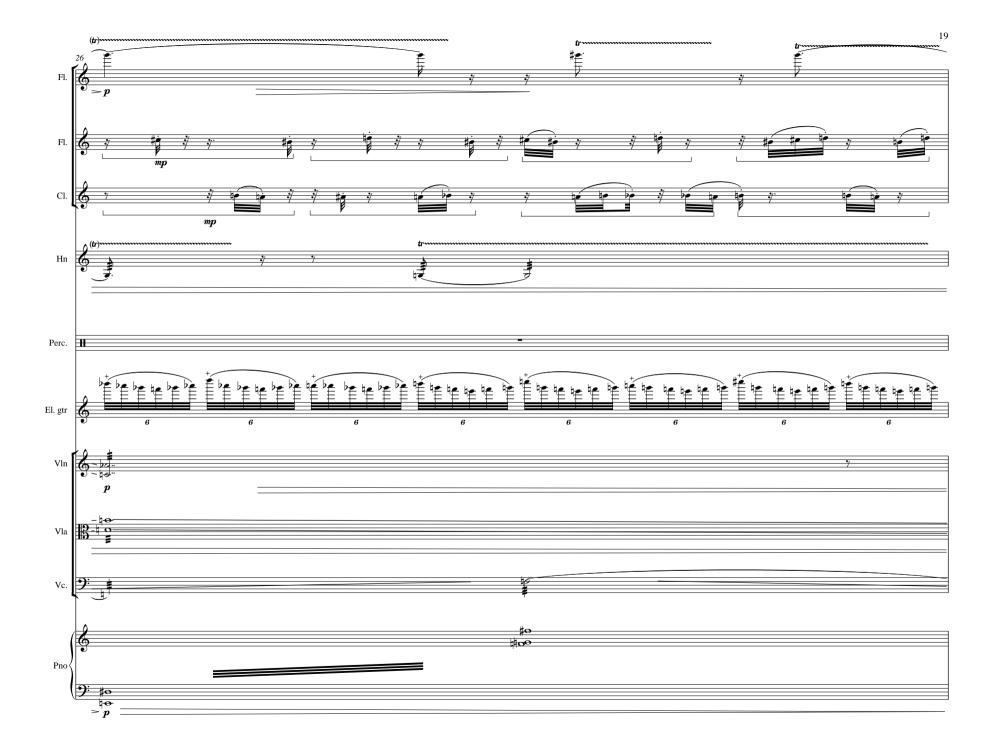


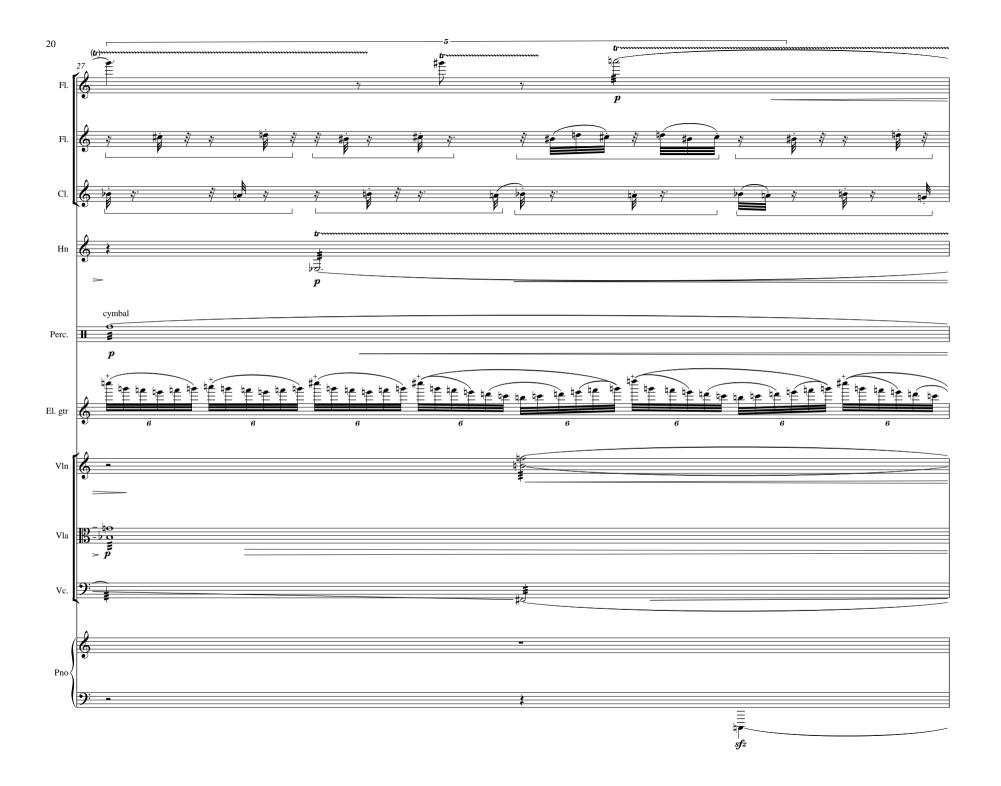


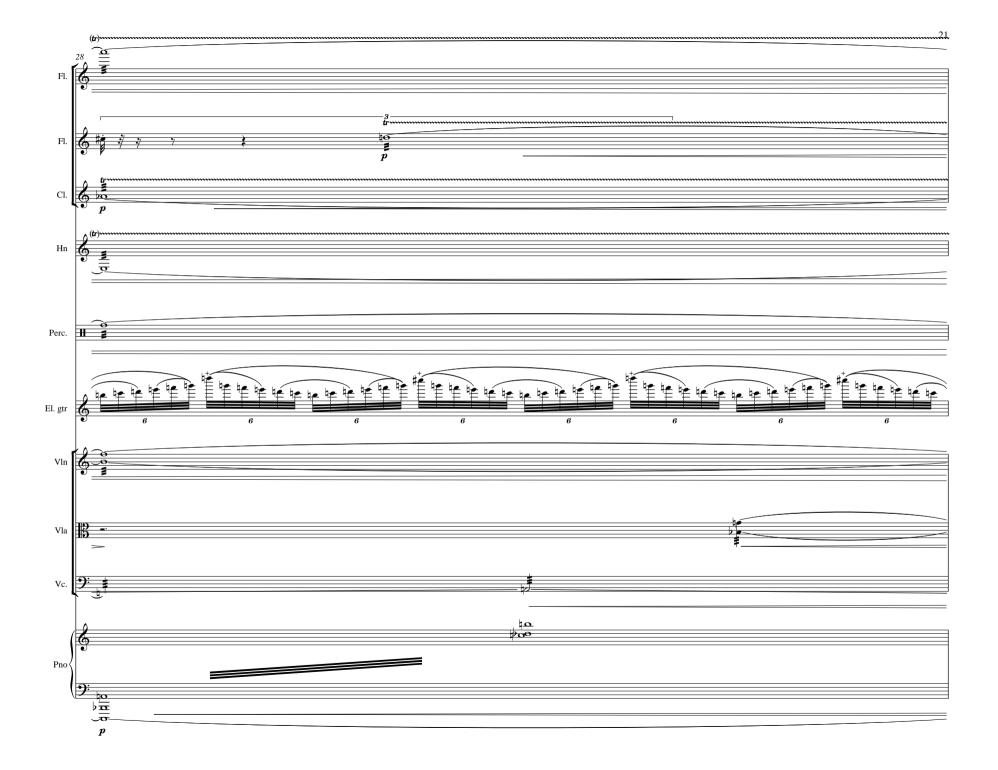


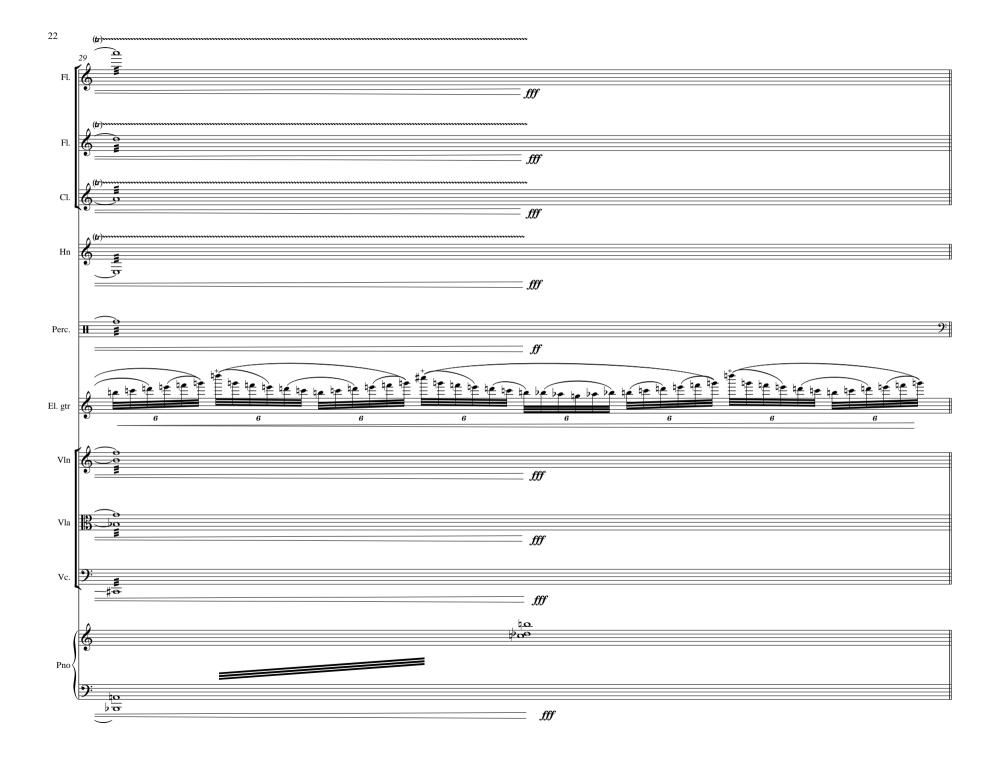


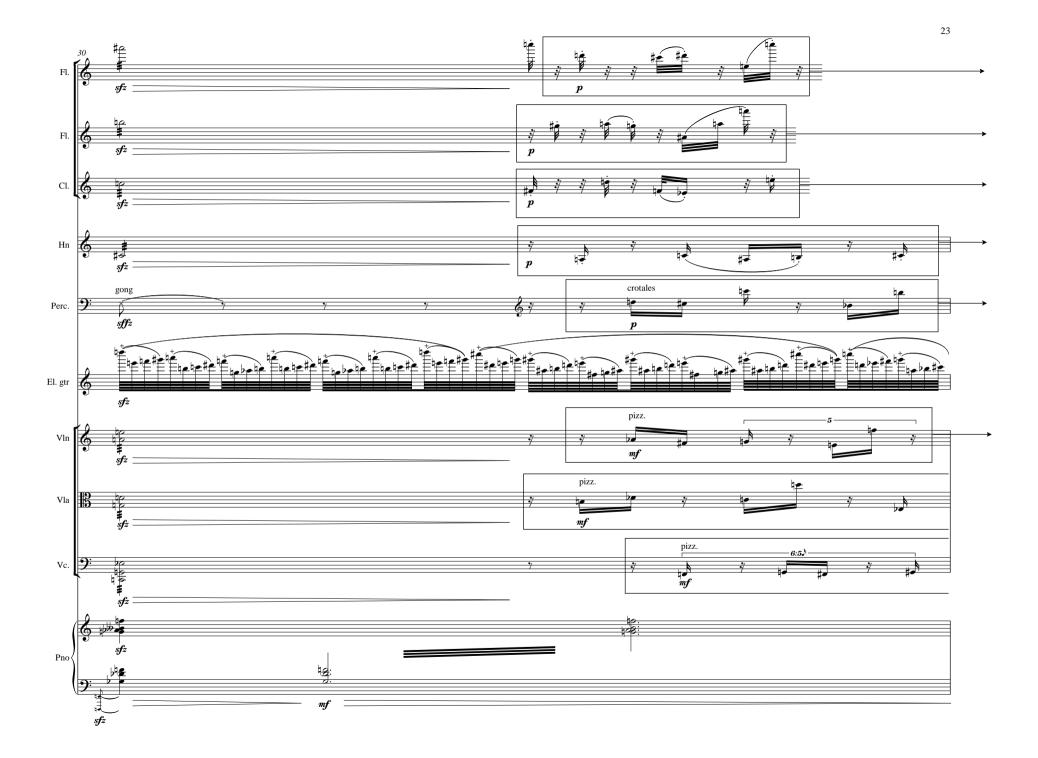


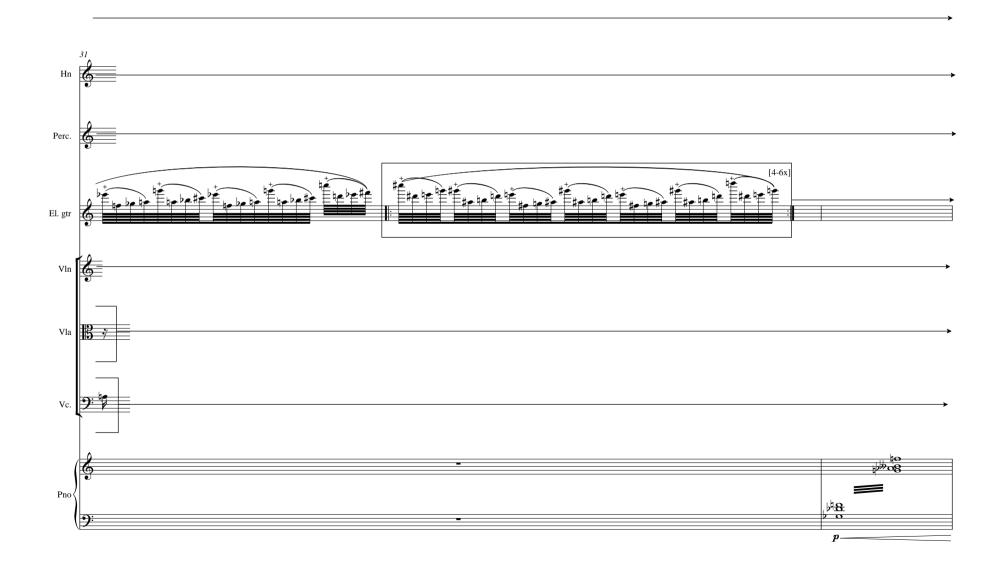


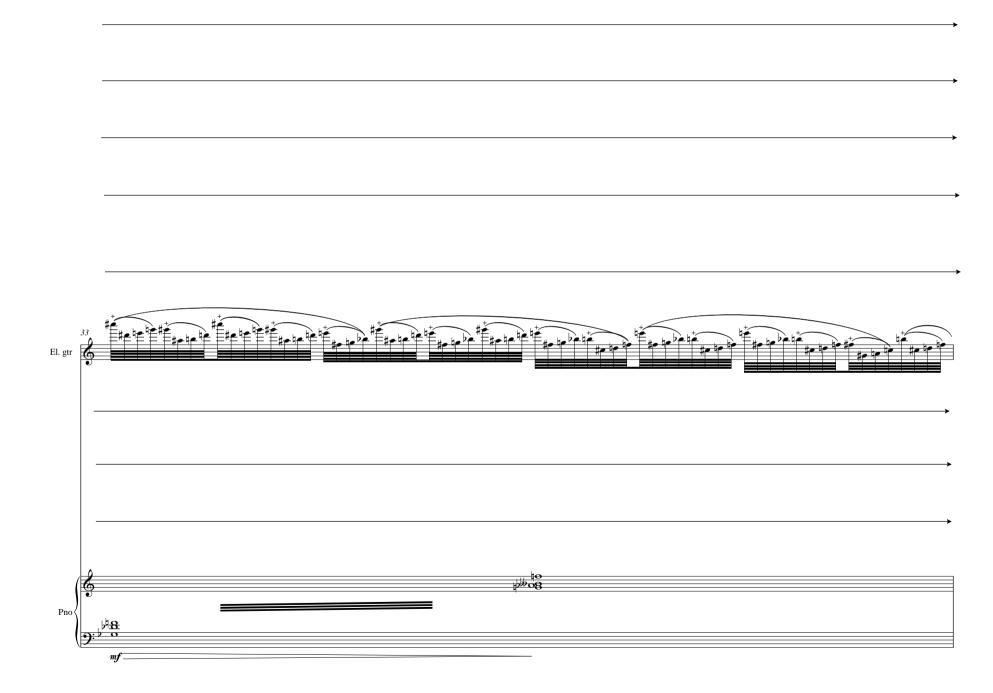


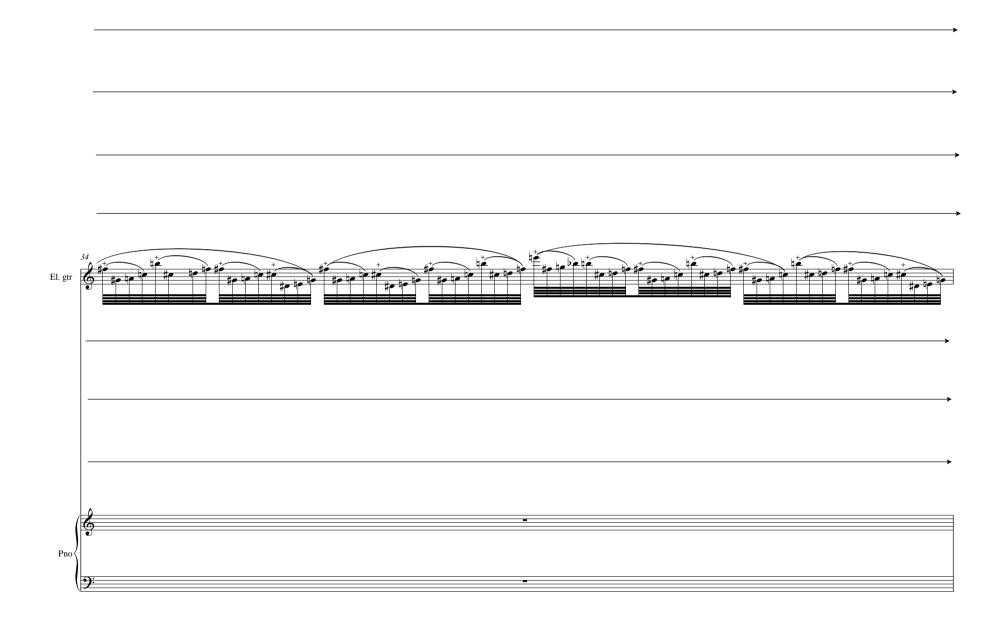


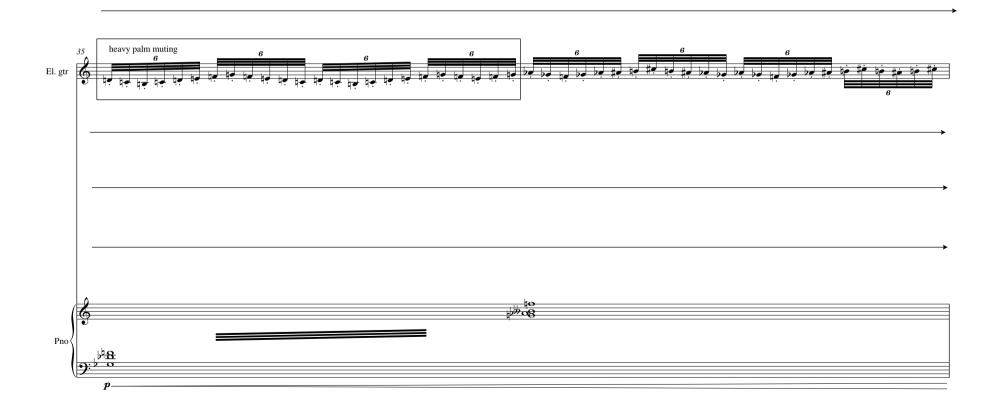


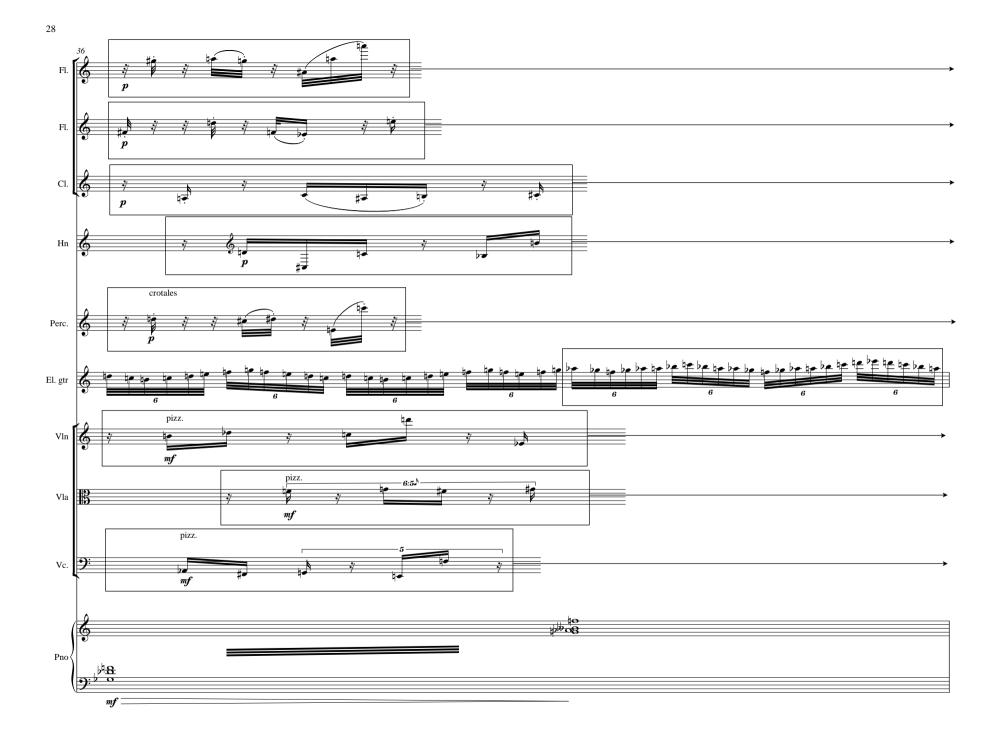


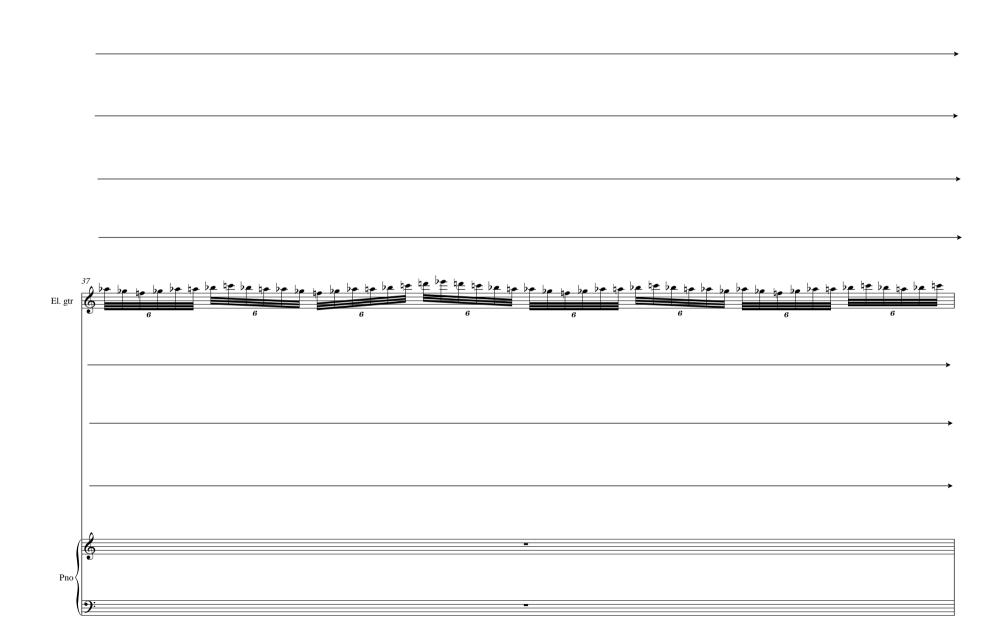


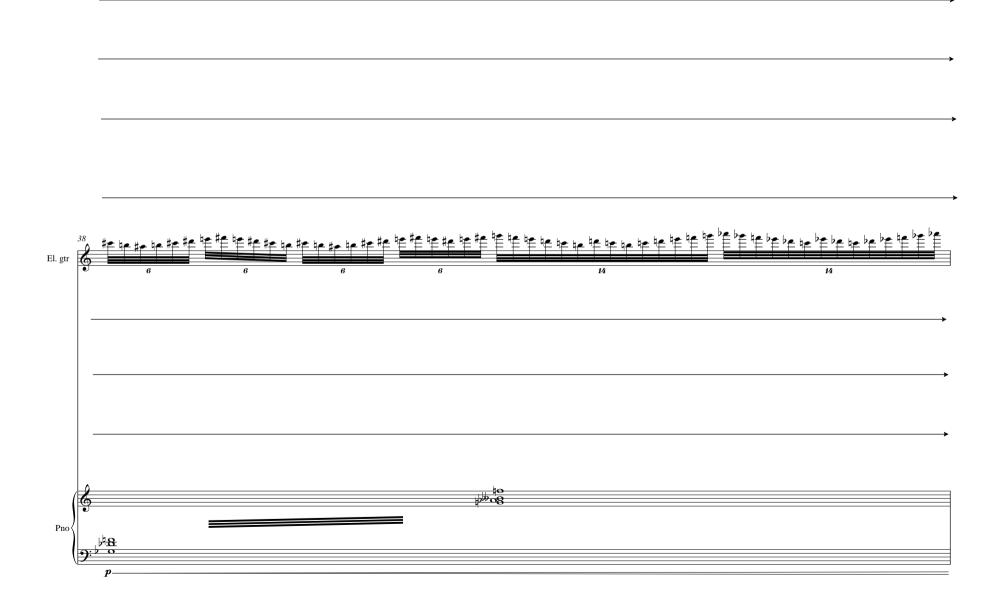


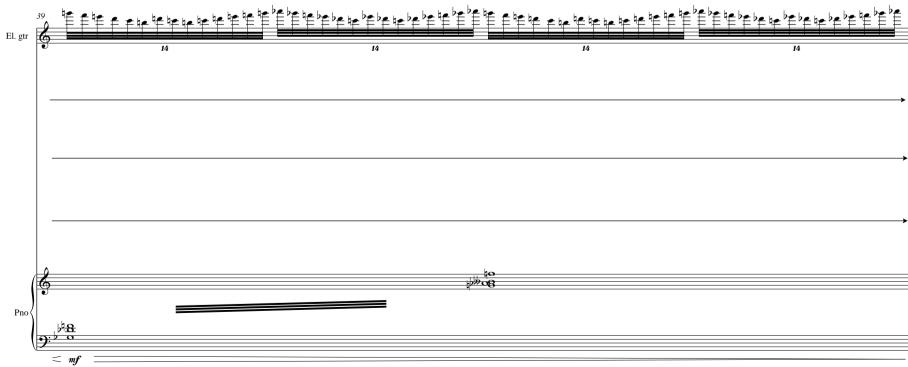


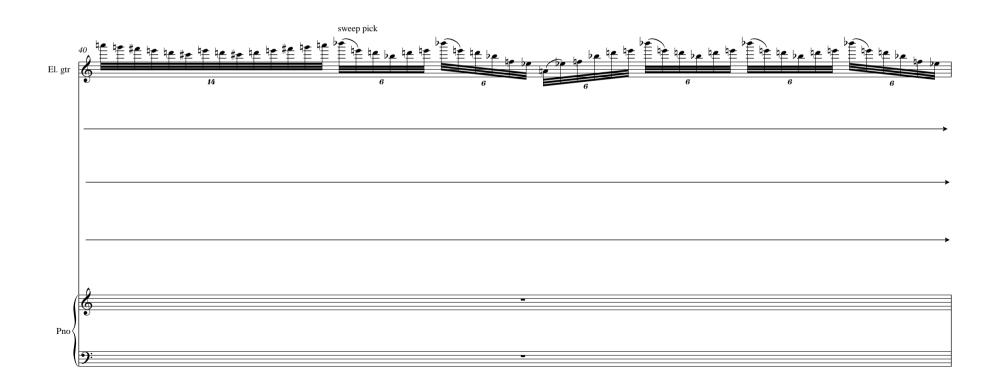


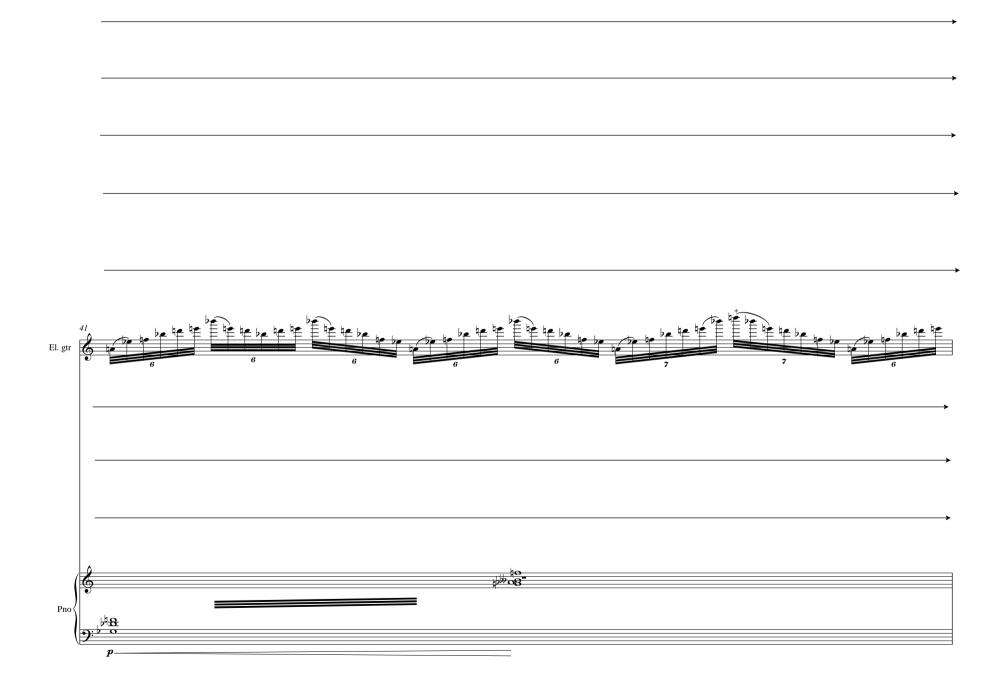


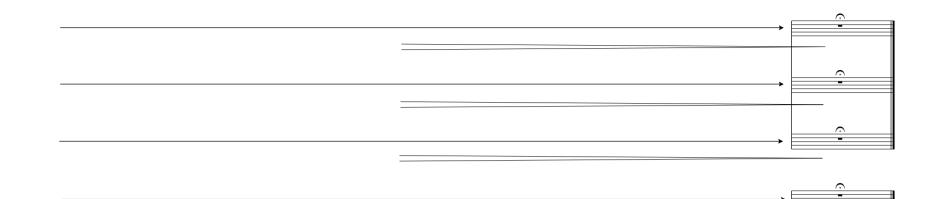


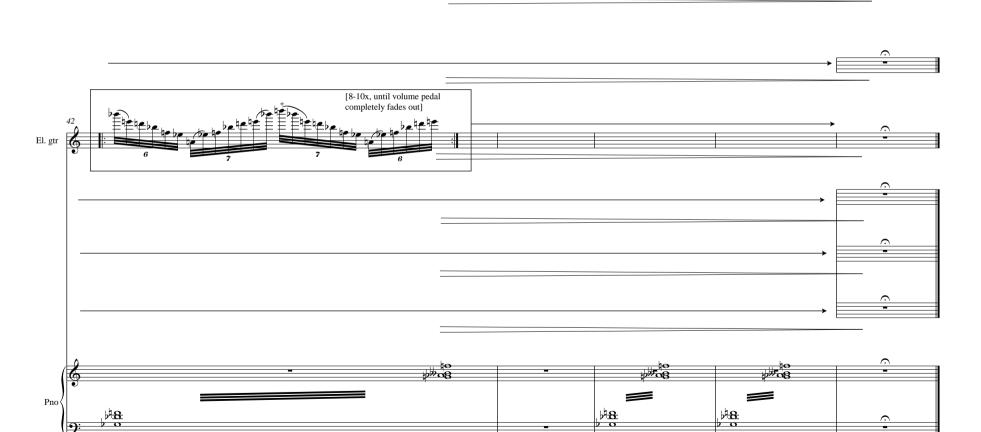












*p*____

_ mp _

mf 🗆

VIII. Aftermath



= 50

