

crooked blue

jimmy bunch [2018]

written, with thanks, for Ensemble Paramirabo

Performance notes

General

Players must endeavor to sync together rhythmically and gesturally as one big instrument. A tight, focused, rhythmically precise sound that responds to the sounds the other players are making is necessary. The gestures are designed to spring off the traditional groove patterns that each meter implies [dashed lines indicate the division of asymmetrical meters, and additionally serve to clarify how gestures hang within symmetrical meters]. Try to balance your attention to individual details / sounds, with an awareness of how each moment builds longer phrases. As much as possible make sure that the work doesn't sound merely pointillistic.

Articulations

A tenuto [-] in this piece implies a slight emphasis to the sound; hold for the full value of the note flatten out the tone and make it clean and straight.

When a tenuto / staccato [_.] is paired with a crescendo, it indicates a rapid crescendo, making the sound “shine out” or glint from the texture.

The tone of staccatos should sound light and unforced, except where a stronger accent is also indicated.

Dynamics

Dynamic markings in brackets - **[ff]** – are “action notation,” meaning that the resulting sound will not be double forte [in this example], but that it will require a “double-forte” amount of force to get the right sound.

Accidentals

Accidentals apply for the bar unless cancelled.

General symbols

⊕ This is a “choke” symbol. It indicates the sound the player should forcefully cut off any sound that they are currently making.

Winds

Percussive sounds, whenever possible, should articulate the pitches on which they are written [including key clicks].

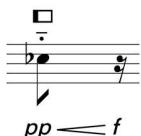
Try to dynamically balance the flute's tongue pizzicato with the clarinet's slap tongue so that neither overpowers the other.



Key click. Forcefully / percussively strike the key without sending air through the instrument [except where indicated]. Make an attempt, where possible to articulate the notated pitch. If that is not possible, the player should simply get a percussive sound. It often occurs in the piece that other sounds will happen on the same notated pitch level after a key click [ex. m. 9]. The player should leave their fingers down and make the new sound without lifting their fingers up and re-striking the key.



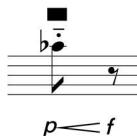
Sharp, inward breath. The arrow pointing left indicates inhale. Arrows pointing right indicate exhaling. The open / white square indicates a breath tone with almost no discernable pitch. Merely a percussive effect.



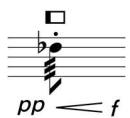
Shadow tone. More air sound than pitch. Less than sotto voce [especially on clarinet, essentially just enough pitch added to the breath tone to distinguish between gradations of pitched breath]. When occurring at loud dynamic levels, keep the pitch unfocused.



Sotto voce. Approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ tone $\frac{1}{2}$ breath.



Full tone [a.k.a., "ordinario"]



Tremolo hashes indicate fluttertongue.



Solid arrows indicate a gradual transition between two states. Dashed arrows indicate the continuation of a playing style until a new indication is given.



[Flute] Triangle shaped noteheads indicate a tongue “pizzicato.” Pronounce a hard “t” into the flute to get a pointed, tight, pitched percussive sound. Don’t use too much air.



[Flute] tongue ram. Finger the triangular pitch, and percussively stop the hole of the mouthpiece with your tongue [the performer may add an aspirate attack, but the focus of the sound should be on the percussive thud. The resulting pitch will be a Major 7th below the fingered pitch.



[Flute] Where a verbal sound is indicated below a note [sa, pa, or chuh], simply forcefully pronounce the word into your airstream. “Pa” will sound like a variant of the tongued pizzicato. “Sa” will emphasize the sibilant, create a shaped release of energy. “Chuh” will have a relatively hard, fatter attack. It is common that all three vocal attacks will activate higher partials of the fingered tone. That is acceptable [in fact, desired].



[Clarinet] Soft, relatively unpitched slap-tongue. Pitch should only be present enough to hear a general sense of lowness or highness. The sound should not be as aggressive as a full-pitched slap. Make it as tender, small, and as precise as possible.

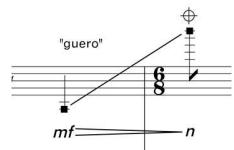


[Clarinet] Hard, full-pitched slap-tongue. Pitch content should speak clearly [though the effect is primarily still a percussive one]. Should have a slightly more aggressive / pronounced sound than the soft slap.

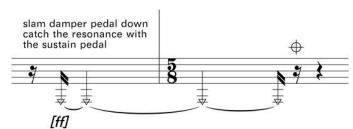
Piano preparation

The piano should be prepared with nylon screws carefully placed at the octave harmonic node of the string for each of the following pitches: C3, Eb4, Ab4, Gb5, and E-natural-7. Nylon screws are a softer material that will bend the string slightly out of tune [the string will recover its tuning after you remove the screws]. They should only affect the tuning, and not make an enormous timbre difference with to the string. The general pitch of each prepared string should maintain its presence.

pedal with perceived harmonies/gestures. When you see a target stop articulation, cut off the pedal resonance, too.



“Guero” effect [see Lachenmann’s “Guero”]. Sweep the fingernails of your hand along the keys to create a soft string of clicky sounds. The dynamic can be controlled by the speed of movement along the keys. Be careful to not allow pitches to come out. The ranges are relative and not of significant importance, except to suggest the relative length of the sound.



At the indicated moment, the pianist should forcefully depress the damper pedal to catch the “reverb effect” with the sustain pedal. This gesture is “switched on” and “switched off” by sounds in other instruments.

Strings

Note the scordatura in the cello. All the string indications and fingerings are calculated to allow the cello to produce the pitches desired for the harmonies. Please do not attempt to change any of the fingerings as doing so will alter the harmonic content of the composition.

Natural string harmonics notated with diamond shaped noteheads, with an accompanying string number. I've notated the finger placement that will produce the harmonics I'm looking for at the desired register. There are also “non-nodal harmonics” – i.e., places where I've asked the players to use harmonic level finger pressure that are not at a harmonic node, and thus, will not produce a clean harmonic / sound.

Articulations

When a tenuto-staccato is accompanied with a rapid crescendo, perform this *pique*. When the tenuto-staccato is *not* accompanied by a crescendo, keep the bow on the string, creating instead a flat, rhythmically precise sound, like a darting quick breath.

CLT + 1/4h

Col legno tratto with a little bit of bow hair to whisper the pitch.

CLB

Col legno battuto [sometimes this occurs with jeté. If so, perform SLP]

ESP

Sul ponticello

SLP

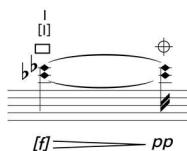
Sur la pointe [at the tip of the bow]

ORD

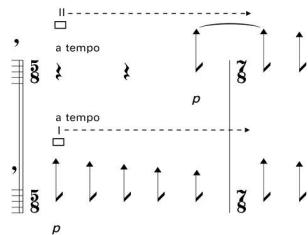
Ordinary playing style



Open string LH pizzicato. These should generally be left to ring as long as possible.



String colored air sound. The string indications show that both of the pitches should be lightly fingered on the same string. The effect will be that the resonance of the string will be damped to the extent that only a colored tone – the ghost of the topmost fingered pitch – will emerge from the instrument. The white square reinforces this intention [similar to the shadow tones in the clarinet / flute]. The bow weight and speed will need to be appropriately adjusted to achieve the desired effect. See Hans Abrahamsen's *Schnee* [Canon 1] for another example.



At the end of the first movement, a similar ghosted, relatively pitched air sound is called for. In this case, the pitch is less important than the relative sensation of higher or lower breath sound. Use harmonics-level finger pressure in an extremely high position on the instrument [above the fingerboard]. The sounding result should be light.



String ringing harmonic pizzicato. The string number and location of the harmonic node are given. The player should touch the string lightly, then pull away their finger in sync with the plucking hand so that the harmonic continues to ring [as long as possible] after the note has been plucked. Pitch should be clear.



Strings of rapid notes with diamond-shaped noteheads indicate light finger pressure. The pressure should not be light enough for harmonics to emerge but, combined with ESP bow placement, should create a complex and raspy tone.

Brief programme note:

Crooked blue is the first in a cycle of pieces that contemplate intertextuality [*all the borrowed future before us*]. This piece is structured around a 12-bar blues progression that has been "time-stretched" to create areas of harmonic saturation that stretch over the 100 measures of the piece. Each harmony plays with the coincidence that in many jazz practices, as well as spectral music practices, upward harmonic extension ["upper structures" / higher partials] play an important role in shaping the color and timbre of harmonic space. Harmony is read through spatialized color analogies. The entire cycle of pieces plays furthermore with the experience of feeling time, placing the performers in a constant state of temporal shift that can be felt as rather disorienting, making the task of mutual integration into a "counter-pointillistic" texture [a "super-instrument," as Helmut Lachenmann might put it] a matter of deep focus and constant dependence upon listening, feeding off of, and dancing with one another.

crooked blue

for the Ensemble Paramirabo

j. bunch

darting, dancing, angular, clean $\text{♩} = \sim 120$

The musical score consists of five staves representing different instruments:

- Flûte:** The top staff, written in treble clef. It features a dynamic marking *p* and a small square symbol above the notes.
- Clarinette en B♭:** The second staff, also in treble clef. It has a dynamic marking *p* and a small square symbol above the notes.
- Piano:** The third staff, which includes both treble and bass clefs. A note in the bass clef is labeled "prepared with nylon screws". The dynamic *f* is indicated above a note in the treble clef staff.
- Violon:** The fourth staff, in treble clef. It includes dynamics *f*, *pizz.*, *pizz.* (with a double bar line), *sim.*, and *p*.
- Violoncelle:** The bottom staff, in bass clef. It includes dynamics *f*, *pizz.*, *sim.*, and *p*. A bracket below the staff is labeled "scordatura".

The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. Measure 1 starts with a forte dynamic *f* for the piano. Measures 2 and 3 show eighth-note patterns for the woodwind parts. Measures 4 and 5 feature sixteenth-note patterns. Measures 6 and 7 continue the sixteenth-note patterns. Measures 8 and 9 conclude the section with eighth-note patterns.

2

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

45 48

45 48

45 48

45 48

II pizz. l.v. I. arco II pizz. III pizz. IV pizz. I pizz.

Fl.

Hold back, a tempo A

B♭ Cl.

Hold back, a tempo [ff] p

Pno.

8va Hold back, a tempo p

Vln.

Hold back, a tempo pp < f [ff] I II arco [au talon]

Vc.

Hold back, a tempo pp < f [ff] I II arco [au talon]

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

4

12

3·2·3

p < f

mp

p

p

p

sfpp

< f

mf = pp

f

p

f

mp

mp = p

[f]

mp

[f]

p

mp

12

3·2·3

p

p

p

16+3

p

16+3

6

8va

3

3

12

3·2·3

ord.

mp = p

p

mf

p

p

16+3

[f]

pp = f

mf = p

p

< f

mf = p

12

3·2·3

ord.

mp = p

p

mf

p

16+3

pp < f

pizz.

I

arco

pizz.

6

Fl. *mp* [ff] *f* *p* <=> [ff] *mf* *p* *mf* *C* *mp* = *p* *mf*

B♭ Cl. *mf* *p* *mf* *mf*

Pno. *mf*

Vln. IV [IV] SLP jete *V* *ord.* *p* *mf* *mf* *pp* < *f* [ff] *mf* = *p* *pp* < *f* *mf*

Vc. I arco [7th partial of Ab] *pp* *sfp* *mf* *mf* I [arco] I pizz.

6

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

20

p — *p* *mf* — *p* [ff] *mf* — *p* *f* [ff] *mp* *mf* — *p* *mf* +

p — *p* *mf* — *p* [ff] *mf* — *p* *f* [ff] *p* *mf* — *p*

20

mf +

8^{va} — ,

mf +

20

arco [III] CLT + 1/4h III [III] [arco] arco *mf* +

mf — *p* *mf* [ff] *mf* *pizz.* III *mf* *mf* +

mf [ff] *mf* — *p* < *f* *mp* [ff]

D 7

Fl. B♭ Cl. Pno. Vln. Vc.

pp — *f* *p* — *f* *mp* — *p* — = — ← → "chuh" *p*

mf *pp* — *f* sim. *mf* *mp* — *p* *pp* — *f* *mf* — *pp* sim. *mp*

mf *p* *mf* *p*

24 8^{va} — 8^{vb} —

[f] *pp* — *f* *mf* *pp* — *f* *[f]* — *pp* *ord.* *mf* *p*

III *II* pizz. *II* arco *III* *[f]*

8 [E]

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

Measure 8 (Flute and Bassoon Clarinet):

- Flute: $mp \rightarrow p f$, $mf \rightarrow p$, f , $mp \rightarrow f$, $mf \rightarrow p mp$, $[ff] mf$, $p \rightarrow f$, $[ff]$, mp , $pp \rightarrow f$, "sa"
- Bassoon Clarinet: $[ff] mp \rightarrow p f$, $mf \rightarrow p$, f , mf , $\rightarrow p mp$, mf , $\rightarrow p \rightarrow f$, $[ff] mp$, $pp \rightarrow f$

Measure 28 (Piano):

- R.H.: \downarrow , \uparrow
- L.H.: $\#$
- Piano: $p \rightarrow mf$

Measure 28 (Violin):

- CLT + 1/4h
- $mf \rightarrow p$, mf , f , $[ff]$
- $\#$, $pizz.$, $\#$, III
- $\#$, II , $arco$, \square , $pizz.$, $mf+$
- $[ff]$, CLB , $jete$, IV , III , $pizz.$

Measure 28 (Cello):

- $\#$, III , $arco$, $[IV]$, $[ff]$
- IV , $pizz.$, I , $arco$, $non cresc.$, IV , p , mf
- I , II , $arco$, $[ff]$, $pp \rightarrow f$, p , mf

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

32

pp *f* *[ff]* *f* *[ff]*

f

mf

[ff]

f

pp *f* *mf+* *[ff]*

mf+

f

mf+

mp

mf

[ff]

mf

pp *f*

mf+

[ff] = p

crescendo poco a poco

I arco

IV [IV]

SLP jete

pizz.

III IV arco

SLP off string non jete +

III [III]

[ff] = pp

pp *f*

IV pizz.

IV - arco pizz.
ESP

II -

I arco

IV + o

Fl. 10

B♭ Cl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

Measure 36: Flute and Bassoon Clarinet play eighth-note patterns. Pno. has sustained notes. Vln. has pizz. and arco. Vc. has pizz. and arco.

Measure 37: Flute and Bassoon Clarinet play eighth-note patterns. Pno. has sustained notes. Vln. has arco ESP [au talon] and SLP CLB jete. Vc. has pizz. and arco.

Measure 38: Flute and Bassoon Clarinet play eighth-note patterns. Pno. has sustained notes. Vln. has IV arco ESP [au talon] and II arco ord. Vc. has pizz. and arco.

Measure 39: Flute and Bassoon Clarinet play eighth-note patterns. Pno. has sustained notes. Vln. has I pizz. and II arco. Vc. has pp and mf+.

Measure 40: Flute and Bassoon Clarinet play eighth-note patterns. Pno. has sustained notes. Vln. has III arco and I arco. Vc. has pp and f.

Measure 41: Flute and Bassoon Clarinet play eighth-note patterns. Pno. has sustained notes. Vln. has II arco and I arco. Vc. has pp and f.

Measure 42: Flute and Bassoon Clarinet play eighth-note patterns. Pno. has sustained notes. Vln. has I arco and II arco. Vc. has pp and f.

Fl. *p* [ff] *mf+* **G** *sfpp* *f* *mp* [ff]

B♭ Cl. *p* [ff] *mf+* *sfpp* *f* *mp* *f*

Pno. *p* *mf+* *f*

Vln. *[III] arco* *mf+* *f* *mp* *p* *f* *ff* *pp-f*

Vc. *[III] arco* *pizz.* *II* *III* *IV* *III* *II* *II*

This page contains five staves of musical notation for Flute, Bassoon, Piano, Violin, and Cello. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. Measure 40 starts with Flute and Bassoon playing eighth-note patterns. The piano has sustained notes. Measure 41 begins with a dynamic change and continues with more complex patterns for all instruments, including sustained notes and rhythmic figures. Articulation marks like 'sfpp' (sforzando pizzicato) and 'arco' (bowing) are present. Measure numbers 40 and 41 are indicated at the start of each measure. The page number 11 is in the top right corner.

12

Fl. ord. *f*

B♭ Cl. ord. *f*

Pno.

Vln. arco *mf+* *f*

Vc. 44

ord. *p* *f*

ord. *p* *f*

H "chuh"

pp *f*

8va *f*

mf *f*

arco *pp* *f* pizz.

[pizz.] *arco* *pp* *f* sim.

I II III IV

Fl. 48 [ff] f sfp³ "pa" sim ord. [ff] f "pa"

B♭ Cl. sfp³ f f+ [ff] f+ [ff] f+ [ff]

Pno.

Vln. 48 SLP ord. [au talon] pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. II III arco + o arco pp-f pp-f pp-f pp-f

Vc. 48 arco [7th partial of Ab] I arco IV pizz. III II

14

Fl. 52

B♭ Cl.

Pno.

Vln. 52

Vc. 52

Flute part (Measures 52-53):

- Measure 52: Dynamics [ff], f+, ord., ff, f+, mp, sfpp, sfpp, f+.
- Measure 53: Dynamics ff, f+, ord., ff, f+, sfpp, sfpp, f+.

Bassoon part (Measures 52-53):

- Measure 52: Dynamics ff, f+, ord., ff, f+, sfpp, sfpp, f+.
- Measure 53: Dynamics ff, f+, ord., ff, f+, sfpp, sfpp, f+.

Piano part (Measures 52-53):

- Measure 52: Dynamics ff, f+, ord., ff, f+, sfpp, sfpp, f+.
- Measure 53: Dynamics ff, f+, ord., ff, f+, sfpp, sfpp, f+.

Violin part (Measures 52-53):

- Measure 52: Dynamics ff, f+, ord., ff, f+, sfpp, sfpp, f+.
- Measure 53: Dynamics ff, f+, ord., ff, f+, sfpp, sfpp, f+.

Cello part (Measures 52-53):

- Measure 52: Dynamics ff, f+, ord., ff, f+, sfpp, sfpp, f+.
- Measure 53: Dynamics ff, f+, ord., ff, f+, sfpp, sfpp, f+.

Fl. 16
f+ = mp f+ [ff]
f+ = mp f+
[ff]
f+ = mp
f+
p
sfpp
f = p
f+
p cresc.

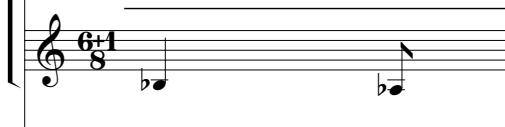
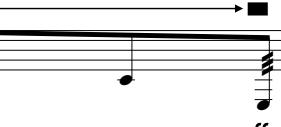
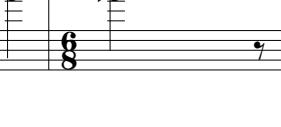
B♭ Cl.
f+ = mp f+
[ff]
f+ = mp
f+
p
f+
p cresc.

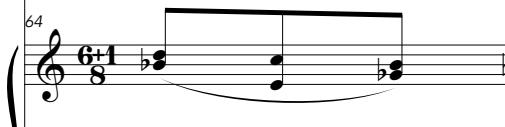
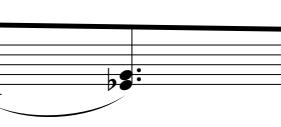
Pno.
cresc.

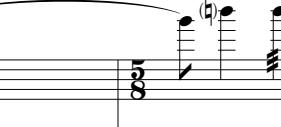
Vln.
pizz.
arco
pp < f+
pizz.
arco
sim.
pizz.
brutale arco
ff
pizz.
arco
ESP
I
arco

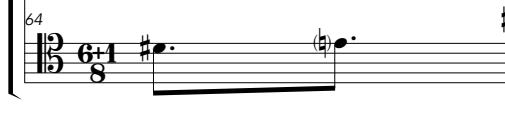
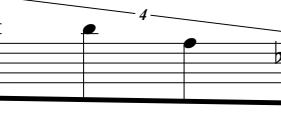
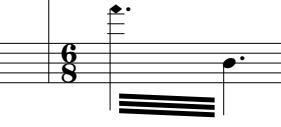
Vc.
I
pizz.
II
I
arco

Fl. 6:1 64   J timbre trill   8 

B♭ Cl. 6:1 64   full and joyful   8 

Pno. 6:1 64   ff   8 

Vln. 6:1 64  ff fiery  off string brutale  8 

Vc. 6:1 64 I  4 II  8 III  8 IV  8 V 

18

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

68

timbre trill

brutale

68

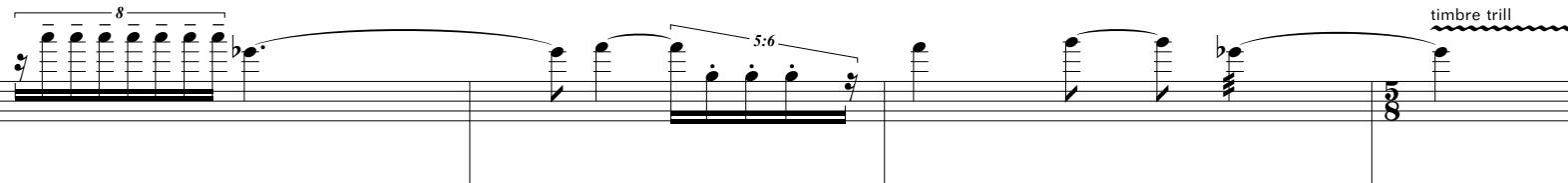
off string
brutale

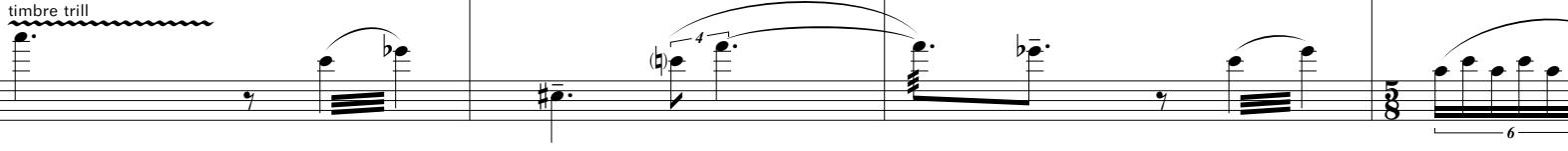
molto vib.

sim

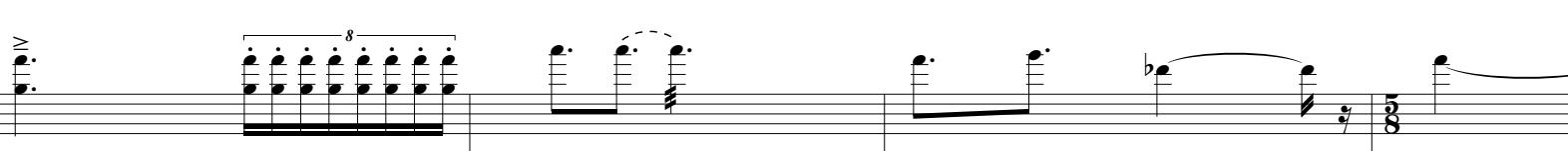
off string
brutale

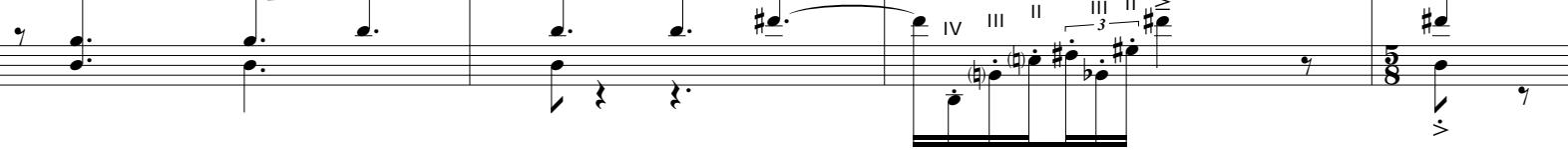
ESP

Fl. 72 

 B♭ Cl. 72 

 Pno. 72 

 Vln. 72 

 Vc. 72 

19

timbre trill

off string brutale

K still, inexpressive, distant

Fl. subito *pp*

B♭ Cl. still, inexpressive, distant
subito *pp*

Pno.

Vln. subito *pp*

Vc. subito *pp* still, inexpressive, distant

8^{va}-----

76 8^{vb}----- 8^{vb}-----

IV -----> [through measure 89]

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 10, measures 80-85.

Fl. (Flute) plays eighth-note patterns in 8/8 time.

B♭ Cl. (B-flat Clarinet) plays eighth-note patterns in 8/8 time.

Pno. (Piano) has two staves. The top staff (treble clef) starts with a melodic line in 8/8 time, marked *(8va)*. The bottom staff (bass clef) provides harmonic support in 8/8 time. Measure 80 ends with a fermata over the piano's bass line. Measure 81 begins with a piano dynamic of 3.

Vln. (Violin) and **Vc.** (Cello) play eighth-note patterns in 8/8 time. Measure 82 features grace notes above the violin line. Measures 83-84 show complex sixteenth-note patterns in 8/8 time, with measure 84 marked with a double bar line and 4.

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

84

84

84

84

84

84

Fl. 88 , L a tempo [mp] pp <>

B♭ Cl. 88 , a tempo [mp] pp <>

Pno. 88 a tempo "guero" technique [mf] pp "guero" 8vb

Vln. 88 , a tempo p

Vc. 88 , a tempo p ESP

This musical score page contains five staves for Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Piano (Pno.), Violin (Vln.), and Cello (Vc.). The music is in common time throughout. Measure 88 begins with a melodic line in the Flute and Bass Clarinet. The piano part features a 'guero' technique. The Violin and Cello provide harmonic support with sustained notes and rhythmic patterns. Dynamic markings include 'a tempo', 'mp', 'pp', 'mf', and 'ESP'. Measure 89 continues the melodic line and harmonic support, maintaining the established textures and dynamics.

Fl. [mp] [mf] [mp] [mf] 3 [p] [mf] [f]

B♭ Cl. pp <=> ppp [mf] p n < p [f]

Pno. 8^{va} pp "guero" mf n

Vln. depress and hold the sustain pedal [ff] jete [tight] ord.

Vc. 8^{va}

Fl. 96 [mp] KEY SOUND: *[mf]* BREATH: *p* <>

B♭ Cl. 96 KEY SOUND: *[mf]* BREATH: *p* <>

Pno. 96 "guero" [mp] pp pp pp pp

Vln. 96 Vc. 96