

Being/Melding

Matthew Dotson

2008

Ca: 6'00"

Amplified Contrabass, Percussion Duo and Fixed Electronics

Instrumentation:

Amplified Contrabass

Percussion 1:

Snare

Bongos (high and low)

Temple Blocks

Xylophone (range below)



Percussion 2:

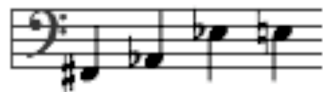
Tambourine

Timbales (high and low)

Temple Blocks (can be shared with Perc. 1)

Bass Drum

Timpani (4 drums tuned as below)



Mallet choice has been left to the performer

Bass should ideally be amplified via a pickup and sent through an on-stage PA. Tone settings should be set for boosted mids and highs in order to better cut through the instrumental texture.

This piece can be performed un-conducted if the instrumentalists have enough rehearsal time to memorize the tape part. If not, a conductor either with or without click-track can be used.

Conducting ceases at m. 150 for bass cadenza and at m. 179.

Notes on Notated Electronics:

Notation is mainly for purposes of synchronization with instruments. To that end, bass and treble clefs only denote relative highness or lowness of sound while notation between staves indicates a mid-range sound.

Traditional notation indicates either a brief hit or a held-out sound in a limited registral range.

Traditional notation enclosed in brackets indicates a non-exact, representative texture.

Triangle notation indicates a sound with a larger registral saturation, direction of triangle indicates either a sound with natural decay (forwards) or a swell to abrupt cut-off (backwards).



Mixed-block notation indicates an erratic texture.



Instrumental Notes:

* Timpani drums are numbered I being the lowest and IV the highest, subsequent pitch changes do not have to be exact.

**"X" notation in bass indicates a unpitched slap against the fingerboard with the right-hand, the left hand being used to mute the strings.

s. p. - Sul Ponticello

s. t. - Sul Tasto

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1 ♩ = 120

Contrabass

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Fixed Electronics

p *mf*

mp

mf

p

high poly-rhythmic texture

low regular pulse

accelerando in all electronics

(bong.)

(tamb.) (b. drm.)

Cb. ⁷ s. t. ----- s. p. *mf*

The Cello staff (Cb.) is in bass clef. It features a whole note chord in the first measure, followed by a melodic line starting in the second measure. The line includes a dotted quarter note, an eighth note, and a sixteenth note triplet. A dynamic marking of *mf* is placed below the staff, with a hairpin indicating a gradual increase in volume.

Perc. 1 (snare) *mf*

The Percussion 1 staff (Perc. 1) is in treble clef. It contains a series of eighth notes, followed by a snare drum roll indicated by a vertical bar with three diagonal lines. The staff concludes with a triplet of eighth notes. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present, with a hairpin showing volume changes. A box labeled "(snare)" is positioned above the drum roll.

Perc. 2 *mf*

The Percussion 2 staff (Perc. 2) is in treble clef. It features a series of eighth notes, some of which are grouped into triplets. A dynamic marking of *mf* is located below the staff, with a hairpin indicating volume dynamics.

Elec. *mf* *p* *mf*

Sparse, poly-rhythmic textures

The Electric guitar staff (Elec.) consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melodic line with a fermata over the first measure and a slur over the next two. The bass staff features a dense, rhythmic texture of sixteenth notes. A dynamic marking of *mf* is at the beginning, followed by a *p* (piano) marking, and then another *mf* marking. A box labeled "Sparse, poly-rhythmic textures" is placed above the right side of the staff.

14 norm. ----- bridge ----- norm. arco arco

Cb.

Perc. 1 (rim shot) (t.bl.)

Perc. 2

Elec.

The musical score consists of four staves. The Cb. staff is in bass clef and includes performance markings for 'norm.', 'bridge', and 'arco' sections, with dynamics ranging from *p* to *mf*. Perc. 1 is in treble clef and includes markings for '(rim shot)' and '(t.bl.)' with dynamics from *p* to *f*. Perc. 2 is in treble clef and includes a triplet marking and dynamics from *p* to *mp*. Elec. is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and includes a large black wedge-shaped graphic and dynamics from *p* to *mf*.

22 norm.-----bridge arco

Cb. *mf* *mf* *mp*

Perc. 1 (bong.) *mf* *mp* (t.bl.) *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Perc. 2 *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Elec. *mf* *mf* *mf* *p*

Cb. +
○
let ring arco

30

mf *p* (sul E) *mf* *p* *mf*

Perc. 1

30

p *mf* *mp*

Perc. 2

30

p *mf* *p* *mp* *mf p* *p* (soft attack)

(to timpani) (timpani)

Elec.

30

mf *mf* *mf* *p*

40 norm.-----

Cb.

p

Detailed description: This staff is for the Contrabass (Cb.). It features a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music consists of a melodic line with notes on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th lines of the staff. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is placed below the staff. A dashed line at the top of the staff is labeled "40 norm.".

40

Perc. 1

Detailed description: This staff is for Percussion 1 (Perc. 1). It shows a rhythmic pattern of short horizontal strokes. In the final two measures, there are notes with vertical hatching above them, indicating a specific percussive sound.

40

Perc. 2

(soft attack)

mf

Detailed description: This staff is for Percussion 2 (Perc. 2). It features a bass clef and a key signature of two flats (Bb). The music consists of a melodic line with notes on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th lines of the staff. A dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) is placed below the staff. The instruction "(soft attack)" is written below the first measure.

40

Elec.

mf

f

Detailed description: This staff is for the Electric instrument (Elec.). It features a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (Bb). The music consists of a melodic line with notes on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th lines of the staff. A dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) is placed below the staff. A large black wedge-shaped graphic is placed above the staff, indicating a crescendo or decrescendo. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed at the end of the staff.

45 bridge

Cb.

f *p f* *p* *f*

pizz.

45

Perc. 1

mf *f* *mf* *p < mf* *mf*

45

Perc. 2

II - A* (to misc. perc. set-up)

f *p* *mf* *p < mf* *mp* *p* *mf > p*

45

Elec.

mf *f* *mf* *subito p*

arco *suddenly aggressive, detache* *calming down*

Cb. 57 *mp* *f*

Perc. 1 57 *> p* *f*

Perc. 2 57 *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *f* (tamb.)

Elec. 57 *mf* *mp* *f* *decresc.*

The image shows a musical score for four parts: Cb., Perc. 1, Perc. 2, and Elec. The score is divided into measures starting at measure 57. The Cb. part is marked 'arco' and has performance instructions: 'suddenly aggressive, detache' and 'calming down'. It features dynamic markings of *mp* and *f*, and includes triplets. The Perc. 1 part has dynamic markings of *> p* and *f*. The Perc. 2 part has dynamic markings of *p*, *mp*, *mf*, *p*, and *f*, and includes a 'tamb.' marking. The Elec. part has dynamic markings of *mf*, *mp*, and *f*, and includes a 'decresc.' marking. The Elec. part also features large black wedges indicating volume changes and a boxed-in section of notes.

Cb. ⁶⁴ *mf*

Perc. 1 ⁶⁴ (to xylophone) *p*

Perc. 2 ⁶⁴ *p*

Elec. ⁶⁴ "dropping" texture *mp*

Cb. arco norm. pizz.

82 *mp* *mp* *mp*

Perc. 1 *p* *mf* *mp*

Perc. 2 *mf*

Elec. *(p)*

94

Cb.

arco
s. t. ----- s. p.

mf *f* *mf*

Perc. 1

mf

Perc. 2

(to timpani)

mf

Elec.

"dropping" texture

silence

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 94-100. The Cb. part starts with a melodic line in bass clef, marked *mf*. At measure 97, it switches to *arco s. t.* (arco sul tasto) and continues with a melodic line. At measure 98, it switches to *s. p.* (sul ponticello) and plays a series of notes with a forte (*f*) dynamic. At measure 99, it returns to *mf*. Perc. 1 plays a rhythmic pattern in treble clef, marked *mf*. Perc. 2 plays a rhythmic pattern in bass clef, marked *mf*, with the instruction "(to timpani)". The Elec. part consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with slash marks indicating muted notes. Annotations include "dropping" texture and "silence".

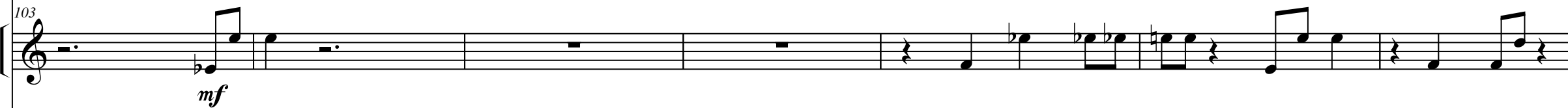
Cb. ¹⁰³



p *mf* *p* *mf* *mp*

Detailed description: This is the musical notation for the Cello (Cb.) part, starting at measure 103. The staff is in bass clef with a 7/8 time signature. The music consists of a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. There are several accents (>) placed above the notes. The dynamics are marked as *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *p*, *mf*, and *mp* (mezzo-piano) across the measures.

Perc. 1 ¹⁰³



mf

Detailed description: This is the musical notation for Percussion 1 (Perc. 1), starting at measure 103. The staff is in treble clef. The music features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, some with stems pointing down, suggesting a specific percussion instrument like a snare drum. The dynamic is marked as *mf*.

Perc. 2 ¹⁰³



IV - F

Detailed description: This is the musical notation for Percussion 2 (Perc. 2), starting at measure 103. The staff is in bass clef. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, some with stems pointing down. There are sharp signs (#) on some notes. A dynamic marking *mf* is present. Above the staff, the text "IV - F" is written, likely indicating a chord or a specific rhythmic pattern.

Elec. ¹⁰³



poly-rhythmic pulse

Detailed description: This is the musical notation for the Electric guitar (Elec.) part, starting at measure 103. The staff is in treble clef. The notation is minimal, consisting of short horizontal lines on the staff, indicating a rhythmic pulse. A box labeled "poly-rhythmic pulse" is connected to the first measure. The bottom staff of the system is also present but empty.

niente

cresc. -----

110

Cb.

mf *mp* *mf* *mp* *p* *mf* *mp*

Perc. 1

cresc. -----

Perc. 2

IV - F# III - E IV - G II - B_b

cresc. -----

Elec.

110

p ----- *mp*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 110 to 116. It features three staves: Cymbal (Cb.), Percussion 1 (Perc. 1), Percussion 2 (Perc. 2), and Electric Bass (Elec.). The Cb. staff uses a bass clef and contains a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with 'x' marks above them, indicating cymbal hits. Dynamic markings for Cb. are *mf*, *mp*, *mf*, *mp*, *p*, *mf*, and *mp*. Perc. 1 is in a treble clef and plays a melodic line with triplets and rests. Perc. 2 is in a bass clef and plays a melodic line with triplets and rests. The Perc. 2 staff includes chordal indications: IV - F#, III - E, IV - G, and II - B_b. Both Perc. 1 and Perc. 2 staves have a *cresc.* marking with a dashed line. The Elec. staff consists of two empty staves (treble and bass clefs) with a *p* dynamic marking at the start and an *mp* dynamic marking later. Measure numbers 110 are indicated at the beginning of each staff.

117

Cb.

mf *mp* *mf*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Elec.

117

117

mf

129

Cb. arco *ff* *mf*

Perc. 1 *ff* *mf* *ff* *f* *mf* *f*

(bass drum) (to misc. perc. set-up)

Perc. 2 *ff* *mf* *f* *p* *f*

Elec. *mf* high poly-rhythmic texture

Cb. arco

138

ff *mf* *ff* *ff*

Perc. 1

138

mf < f

Perc. 2

138

mp *f* *f* *mp* *f*

(tamb.) *p* *f*

Elec.

138

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 138-145. The Cb. part (contrabass) is in bass clef, starting with a half note G2, followed by quarter notes G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, F1, E1, D1, C1. Dynamics are *ff* (measures 138-139), *mf* (measure 140), and *ff* (measures 141-145). Perc. 1 has a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and accents. Perc. 2 has a steady eighth-note pattern with accents and dynamic markings *mp*, *f*, *f*, *mp*, *f*. The Elec. part consists of seven large wedge-shaped figures, each starting with a half note and followed by a quarter note, with dynamics ranging from *mp* to *f*. The word 'arco' is written above the Cb. staff.

free, cadenza-like, un-conducted

arco norm. ----- bridge

144

Cb.

p ----- *ff*

ff *mf* ----- *p* *ff* ----- *mf* ----- *p*

pizz. rake w/ right hand pizz. pizz.

144

Perc. 1

ff

144

Perc. 2

ff

144

Elec.

high poly-rhythmic texture

ff

Cb. ¹⁵⁶ *ff* *mf* *p* *mf*

The Cello part begins at measure 156 with a dynamic of *ff*. It features a melodic line with various articulations, including accents and slurs. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' and a bracket. The dynamics transition to *mf*, then *p*, and finally *mf* again. The part concludes with a few dotted notes.

Perc. 1 ¹⁵⁶ *ff* *mf* *p* *mf*

The Percussion 1 part consists of a series of rhythmic pulses, represented by short horizontal lines on a five-line staff, corresponding to the measures of the Cello part.

Perc. 2 ¹⁵⁶ *ff* *mf* *p* *mf*

The Percussion 2 part consists of a series of rhythmic pulses, represented by short horizontal lines on a five-line staff, corresponding to the measures of the Cello part.

Elec. ¹⁵⁶ *ff* *mf* *p* *mf*

The Electric guitar part is shown in two staves (treble and bass clefs). It features a series of rhythmic pulses, represented by short horizontal lines on the staff lines, corresponding to the measures of the Cello part.

Cb. ¹⁶³ *f* *p* *mf* *f* *arco* *mf* *f* *sfz*

The Cello staff begins at measure 163 with a triplet of eighth notes. The dynamics are *f*, *p*, *mf*, *f*, and *sfz*. An *arco* instruction is placed above the staff in measure 167. The notation includes various note values, rests, and slurs.

Perc. 1 ¹⁶³

The Percussion 1 staff shows rhythmic notation with vertical stems and flags, indicating specific rhythmic patterns across measures 163 to 172.

Perc. 2 ¹⁶³

The Percussion 2 staff shows rhythmic notation with vertical stems and flags, indicating specific rhythmic patterns across measures 163 to 172.

Elec. ¹⁶³ *f* *mf* *f*

The Electric guitar staff is shown in a grand staff format (treble and bass clefs). It features dynamic markings *f*, *mf*, and *f*. The notation includes a complex rhythmic figure in the bass clef and a melodic line in the treble clef, with various articulations and slurs.

rhythmically free, un-conducted

norm. ----- s. p.

Cb. 173

sfz *sfz* *p* *mf*

should end with only bow noise

Detailed description: This staff contains the musical notation for the Cello. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The music starts at measure 173 with a half note G2, followed by a quarter note F2, and then a series of notes connected by a slur. There are two accents marked *sfz*. The dynamics change to *p* and then *mf*. The staff ends with a double bar line.

Perc. 1 173

Detailed description: This staff shows rhythmic notation for Percussion 1. It consists of a series of vertical stems (ticks) on a five-line staff, indicating the timing of percussive hits. The notation is consistent throughout the measures shown.

Perc. 2 173

Detailed description: This staff shows rhythmic notation for Percussion 2. It consists of a series of vertical stems (ticks) on a five-line staff, indicating the timing of percussive hits. The notation is consistent throughout the measures shown.

Elec. 173

f

Detailed description: This section contains the musical notation for the Electric guitar. It is written in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The upper staff has a treble clef and the lower staff has a bass clef. The music starts at measure 173 with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note F4, and then a series of notes connected by a slur. A large, solid black wedge-shaped graphic is positioned above the staff, starting at measure 173 and tapering off towards the end of the section. The dynamic *f* is written below the staff. The staff ends with a double bar line.