

Composer's Note

Travels in Hyperreality draws inspiration from an eponymous essay by novelist and semiotician Umberto Eco (1932-2016): there exists a phenomenon in which the boundary between reality and its representation is invisibly blurred, such that it becomes difficult or impossible to distinguish between the two. This state—in which the representation of reality becomes more real than reality itself—Eco called *hyperreality*, and it penetrates countless facets of our daily lives.

The work you are holding in your hands today explores *hyperreality* poetically through various manifestations of *illusory sound*—sounds that sound like a thing they are not—creating “false” hyperrealities that cyclically burgeon, effloresce, and decay across three continuous movements.

The first of these, *Holo*, is primarily concerned with creating a kind of illusory dimensionality, much like how a hologram encodes three-dimensional information on two-dimensional space. Here, a multidimensional sound-object is transformed in higher virtual dimensions and then projected down through the ensemble and into the hall.

By contrast, *impulse//response*, the second movement, investigates psychoacoustic phenomena surrounding how sound influences our perception of space in the physical world. Throughout the movement, the listener is immersed in an illusory space, born of false echoes and manufacted reverb.

VHS - [Iridescent Chaconne], the third movement, echolalically closes the work. As the meditative harmonies progress and fold onto themselves, they begin to lose meaning and the false veneer of *hyperreality* begins to peel away. Like an ancient cassette tape, the embedded reality degrades entirely into dust, allowing the listener to hear it for what it truly is.

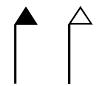
Cheers,

—MT

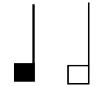
Explanation of Symbols



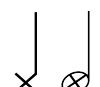
Harmonic pressure (darkened noteheads used to disambiguate rhythm).



Highest possible pitch.



Indicates bowed string, not the sounding pitch.



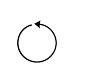
Muted playing as indicated, no tone.



Unmeasured tremolo.



Bow bridge, air sound, no tone.



Circular bowing.



Snap pizzicato.



Nail pizzicato.



Slap pizzicato. Pluck the highest string but continue moving the finger past the fingerboard, slapping it onto the body of the instrument. See *Demonstration of Techniques* for details.



Jeté, gettato, ricochet, etc.



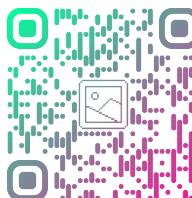
Denotes beats during improvised passage.



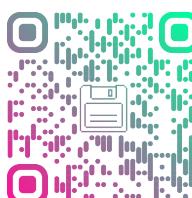
Crescendo/diminuendo, from/to silence.

Demonstration of Techniques

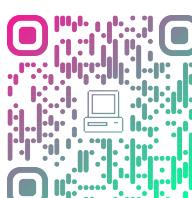
Scan QR Code or tap underlined text for video.



Slap pizzicato (Vl.1; mm. 81-93).



LH slap pizzicato (Vl.2; m. 110).

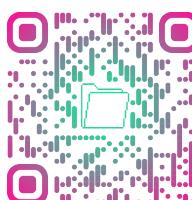


Quasi bisbigliando (Vl.2, Vla., Vc.; mm. 142-155).



Muted bisbigliando (Vl.2, Vla., Vc.; mm. 156-end).

Special Requirements



The very end of the final movement requires the use of a dowel instead of a bow for the lower three instruments. The composer recommends 1cm x 30cm (3/8in x 12 in) dowels. These will be provided by the composer for the premiere performance. Objects of similar dimensions can be substituted during rehearsal (e.g., a ruler, a long wooden spoon, a pencil, etc.).

The work should be performed with amplification.

If there are any questions regarding notation or performance, please feel free to reach out at miggytorres@gmail.com.

For Mivos.

For the Mivos Quartet

Travels in Hyperreality

for Amplified String Quartet

MIGGY TORRES

I. Holo

Coalescing from figments of a false light, $\lambda = 60$

(b) m.s.p. ord. 5

m.s.p. (I) II IV (II) III (m.s.p.)

Touch strings lightly at highest register, rapid gliss down.

6 f f pp fp pp fp f

norm. press. → overpressure n.p. (n.p.)

ord. s.t. poss. → s.t. → s.p. → ord.

(E) pp fpp p 3 3

gliss. III ord. m.s.p. gliss. Vla. f pp fp pp pp f sub. p

Vc. m.s.p. A III IV ord. gliss. (s.p.) gliss. gliss. (s.p.)

f pp fp pp pp f pp fp f

$\text{♩} = \text{♪} = 120$

Measure 9: Instrument I starts with a sustained note (s.t.) followed by six eighth-note pairs. Dynamics: *pp*. Measure 10: Instrument I has six eighth-note pairs with dynamics *fp*, *fp*, and *fpp*. Instruments II, Vla., and Vc. play eighth-note pairs with dynamics *f*, *gliss.*, and *ppp* respectively. Measure 11: Instrument I has six eighth-note pairs with dynamics *s.p.*, *ord.*, *s.p.*, *ord.*, *s.p.*, and *ord.*. Instruments II, Vla., and Vc. play eighth-note pairs with dynamics *fp*, *fp*, and *fpp*. Measure 12: Instrument I has six eighth-note pairs with dynamics *m.s.p.*, *I*, *II*, and *s.p.*. Instruments II, Vla., and Vc. play eighth-note pairs with dynamics *fp*, *f*, and *p*. Measure 13: Instrument I has six eighth-note pairs with dynamics *pp*, *accents forte*, and *LH slow gliss.*. Instruments II, Vla., and Vc. play eighth-note pairs with dynamics *f*, *pp*, and *ppp*. Measure 14: Instrument I has six eighth-note pairs with dynamics *LH slow gliss.*, *III*, and *IV*. Instruments II, Vla., and Vc. play eighth-note pairs with dynamics *pp*, *accents forte*, and *LH slow gliss.*.

Measure 9: → s.t. *pp*

Measure 10: → o.p. → n.p. *f* *gliss.* (ord.) *fp* *fp* *fpp*

Measure 11: loci, jeté *fp* *fp* *fpp*

Measure 12: *ord.* *s.p.* *ord.* *s.p.* *ord.* *s.p.* *ord.* *m.s.p.* *I* *II* *s.p.* *fp* *f* *p* **12**

Measure 13: *LH slow gliss.* *III* *IV* *pp* accents forte *LH slow gliss.* *III* *IV* *pp* accents forte **13**

Measure 14: *LH slow gliss.* *III* *IV* *LH slow gliss.* *III* *IV* *LH slow gliss.* **14**

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 13, measures 13-18. The score includes parts for I (Violin I), II (Violin II), Vla. (Viola), and Vc. (Cello). The piano part is on the right. Measure 13 starts with a 13/16 time signature, followed by a 4/4 section. Measure 14 begins with a 13/16 section. Measure 15 starts with a 4/4 section. Measure 16 begins with a 13/16 section. Measure 17 starts with a 4/4 section. Measure 18 begins with a 13/16 section. Various dynamics and performance instructions are present, such as *p sub.*, *f*, *fpp*, *pizz.*, *8va*, and *8va arco*. Measure 18 concludes with a repeat sign and a double bar line, indicating a return to a previous section.

21

I

($\text{Dotted 16th Note} \text{ } \text{Dotted 16th Note} \text{ } \text{Dotted 16th Note}$)

$p \text{ sub.} \rightarrow f$

$\boxed{\text{I}} \rightarrow \text{II}$

(4 + 4 + 5)

(4 + 4 + 4 + 5) ($\text{Dotted 16th Note} \text{ } \text{Dotted 16th Note} \text{ } \text{Dotted 16th Note}$)

II

(8)

f

$pizz.$

8^{va}

arco

8^{va}

n.p. → o.p.

f

Vla.

$\boxed{\text{I}} \rightarrow \text{II}$

$p \text{ sub.} \rightarrow f$

$pp, \text{ accents forte}$

$\boxed{\text{I}} \rightarrow \text{II}$

$p \text{ sub.} \rightarrow f$

Vc.

$pp, \text{ accents forte}$

$\boxed{\text{I}} \rightarrow \text{II}$

$p \text{ sub.} \rightarrow f$

$p \text{ sub.} \rightarrow f$

38 random strings; LH harm. pressure gliss.
s.t., flaut. m.s.p., norm.
I arco, m.s.p. (↑) (↑)
3 pp
II arco ord. (↑) (↑)
m.s.p. (↑) (↑)
3 ord. 3
random strings; LH harm. pressure gliss.
III arco, m.s.p. (↑) (↑)
3 fpp
Vla. 8va pizz. (↑) (↑)
f 3 fpp
random strings; LH harm. pressure gliss.
loco, arco, m.s.p. (↑) (↑)
II ord. I (↑) (↑)
m.s.p. (↑) (↑)
III ord. I (↑) (↑)
m.s.p. (↑) (↑)
IV ord. 3
Vc. m.s.p. (↑) (↑)
3
random strings; LH harm. pressure gliss.
m.s.p. (↑) (↑)
3
f

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 46, measures 1-10. The score includes parts for Violin I (I), Violin II (II), Cello (Vcl), Double Bass (Vc), and Piano. The piano part features complex rhythmic patterns with sixteenth-note figures and grace notes. The strings provide harmonic support with sustained notes and rhythmic patterns. Measure 1 starts with a forte dynamic (f) for the piano. Measures 2-3 show eighth-note patterns in the piano and sustained notes in the strings. Measures 4-5 continue with eighth-note patterns and sustained notes. Measures 6-7 feature sixteenth-note figures in the piano and sustained notes in the strings. Measures 8-9 show eighth-note patterns and sustained notes. Measure 10 concludes with a sustained note in the piano and sustained notes in the strings.

53

I m.s.p. () ord. *ppp* *fp* *f* m.s.p. () *fp* *f* *ff* I attacca II

II () ord. m.s.p. () *sfp* *f* *p* *3* ord. m.s.p. () *3* ord. (ord.) m.s.p. () *mp* *f* *ff*

Vla. () ord. *sfp* *f* m.s.p. () *fp* *f* (ord.) m.s.p. () *mp* *f* *ff*

() ord. m.s.p. () *p* *3* ord. m.s.p. () *3* *f* *ppp* *3* *p* *f* *ff* I II

Reverberating in illusory space, $\downarrow = 60$

II. impulse//response

62 pizz.

I

LH stop string w nail →

II

(parethetical upper voice denotes metre only)
ord., c.l.b.,
approx. number of notes

Vla.

Vc.

72

I

II

Vla.

Vc.

(ord.) jeté → m.s.p.

ord. (c.l.) tratto → m.s.p. → s.t.poss.

f poss., w/ grainy tone

into tonlessness

L.H. stop string w/ pad of finger

bow bridge, white noise, no tone

ord., legno + crini, battuto approx. number of notes

LH stop w nail

(ord.) jété, legno senza crini (c.l.) tratto

grainy tone

s.t. poss.

ord. → m.s.p. → s.t. poss.

f poss.

fp

ppp

m.s.p.

ppp

p

I

78

f

II

Vla.

Vc.

crini batt., s.p.

1: crini battuto; jeté; ord. or sul pont.
2: crini battuto; ord. or sul pont; **p** or **f**
3: acro; pont.
4: arco, ord or sul pont.
Improvise by randomly concatenating the indicated figures. No more than one 16th-note rest between each figure.
Should sound spasmodic, glitchy, frantic, granulated.

quickly mute w/ finger

:pizz., slap finger past the fingerboard and onto the body of the instrument (see notes for detailed explanation).

stop suddenly w/ Vln I pizz.

Continue improvisation, as before.

stop suddenly w/ Vln I pizz.

1: crini battuto; jeté; ord. or sul pont.
2: crini battuto; ord. or sul pont; **p** or **f**.
3: acro; pont.
4: arco, rapid circular bowing
Improvise by randomly concatenating the indicated figures. No more than one 16th-note rest between each figure.
Should sound spasmodic, glitchy, frantic, granulated.

m.s.p

p non dim.

f poss.

bow bridge, white noise, no tone

f poss.

stop suddenly w/ Vln I pizz.

I 85

II

Vla.

1: crini battuto; jeté; randomly change between sul tasto, ord., or sul pont.
 2: crini battuto; randomly change between sul tasto, ord., or sul pont.; **p** or **f**
 3, 4: acro; molto sul pont.

Improvise by randomly concatenating the indicated figures. No more than one 16th-note rest between each figure.

Should sound spasmodic, glitchy, frantic, granulated.

Continue improvisation, as before.

overall dynamic **p**

Continue improvisation, as before.

overall dynamic **p**

Continue improvisation, change pitch only.

overall dynamic **p**

Continue improvisation, change pitch only.

overall dynamic **p**

102

I poco *n sub.* *ppp*

II *pizz., LH stop w nail, l.v.* *f*

Vla. *pizz., LH stop w nail, l.v.* *f*

Vc. *n sub* *ppp*

keep trilling
touch-4 harmonic
during gliss.

106

I *norm. press.* → *overpressure* *attacca*

II *pp* *tr.* *tr.* *tr.* *tr.* *fp*

Vla. *III* *II* *III* *II* *III* *II* *tr.* *pp* *f*

Vc. *tr.* *ff* *pp* *fp* *f*

Keep bow on string to damp

*: Use LH to pluck string I while snapping finger past the fingerboard and onto the body of the instrument.

III. VHS - [Iridescent Chaconne]

Like a dream deteriorating ($\downarrow = 60$)

111

LH

II

Vla.

Vc.

loco, n.p. s.t. c.l.b., jeté tratto, circular bowing speed up
RH; square noteheads indicate played strings

ord. s.t.

ord. s.t.

ord. s.t.

121

131

I 127 A \sharp

D

II c.l.b., jeté arco crini

Vla. arco crini, ord.

Vc. s.t. → s.p. s.t.

131

ord. → s.p. jeté, s.t. (s.t.) → ord. → s.t. → s.p. → s.t. L.H. stop string w/ nail, l.v.

tr (φΔ) harmonic pressure trill on II; one semitone above fingered pitch

ord. → s.t. ff pp

harmonic pressure trill on I jeté

pizz. I II pizz. II I II I II arco jeté

137

I

II

Vla.

Vc.

Detailed description: This is a page from a musical score for string quartet. It features four staves: I (top), II (second violin), Vla. (bassoon), and Vc. (cello). The music is in common time. Measure 137 starts with a dynamic of *f*. The first violin (I) has a sustained note with a grace note. The second violin (II) has a sixteenth-note pattern. The bassoon (Vla.) has a sixteenth-note pattern with dynamics *p*, *mp*, *f*, and *mf*. The cello (Vc.) has a sixteenth-note pattern with dynamics *mp*, *f*, and *p*. Measures 138-139 show various techniques: *pizz.*, *arco s.p.*, *(s.p.) → ord.*, *jeté*, *arco*, *pizz.*, *c.l.b.*, *jeté*, *arco s.p.*, *crini jeté*, *pizz.*, *jeté*, *III II*, *III II*, *II*, *c.l.b.*, *arco*, *ord. → s.p.*, *pizz.*, *trill*, *s.t.*, *Trill I only*, *c.l.b. jeté*, *pizz.*, *arco s.p.*, *pizz.*, *I II I*, *II I*, *I II*, *arco ord. → s.p. → s.t.*, *pizz.*, *trill*.

141

I

lengo, senza crini (beat 3)

II

pizz. c.l.b. jeté tratto

L.H. stop string w nail

pizz., 2-3 fingers, quasi bisbigliando (see notes for detailed explanation)

ord. → m.s.p.
arco jeté
Put down bow, pick up dowel

quasi bisbig.

Vla.

1 l.v.
ff → pp 5 f 5 p

c.l.b. pizz. III II II III

5 pizz. III II III II III arco, s.p.

c.l.b. jeté s.t. → m.s.p. pizz.

Vc.

arco m.s.p.

Finger I and II to begin gliss., but pizz. II only

pizz. II I II I Put down bow, pick up dowel

ppp with the occasional f

L.H. stop string w nail

pizz., I & II, 2-3 fingers, quasi bisbigliando (see notes for detailed explanation).

ppp with the occasional f

152

I

bow bridge, no tone

pp f pp f pp f pp f pp f pp f mp

II

dowel, batt., jeté

sf

ppp +f

mute II & III

mute I & II

Muted bisbig. Mute strings, use back of nails to "pluck" II & III (See notes for more details).

I II

Bisbig. behind bridge, all strings

ppp sempre (senza f sporadici)

Vla.

mute III & IV

II III

III IV

Bisbig. behind bridge, all strings

ppp sempre (senza f sporadici)

Muted bisbig. Mute strings, use back of nails to "pluck" II & III (See notes for more details.)

Vc.

III IV

s.t. → m.s.p.

bisbig.

muted c.l.b., jeté

ppp (+f)

mute III & IV

II III

Muted bisbig. Mute strings, use back of nails to "pluck" III & IV (See notes for more details).

nail pizz. III, muted, percussive, no tone

III IV

Bisbig. behind bridge, all strings

ppp sempre (senza f sporadici)

sf

ppp (+f)