

MIGUEL ÁNGEL TORRES CONSTANTIKES

VHSTapes:

PUERTO RICO

1998



T 10'

FULL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

I. Instrumentation

Piccolo
2 Flutes
2 Oboes
Cor Anglais
2 Clarinets in B-flat
Bass Clarinet in B-flat
2 Bassoons
Contrabassoon

4 Horns in F
2 Trumpets in C
2 Tenor Trombones
1 Bass Trombone
1 Tuba

Timpani
3 Percussion
Harp
Piano

Strings

II. Percussion Requirements

1:	2:	3:
Bass Drum *	Bass Drum *	Tam-Tam + Friction Mallet
Crotales **	Sand Paper Blocks, large	High Snare + Brushes
Sizzle Cymbal	High & Low Snare Drum	Low Temple Block
Whip	Bongos	Marimba
High Timbal *	5 Temple Blocks	Congos
Puerto Rican Güiro *** †		Timbales * (no Cowbell)
		Kick Drum ****
		Brake Drum

- * Shared between players.
** Crotales should be placed next to the shared Bass Drum. In addition, a **bow** is used in several passages.
*** If necessary, amplification may be used for the Güiro only.
**** Kick Drum should be placed under the Timbales.

† A Puerto Rican Güiro should be used, or a very close approximation. Puerto Rican Güiros are made of an actual gourd and are typified by **extremely fine striations**. They are played using a **flat wire comb**, often made from piano wire. The resulting sound should be very close to white noise when scraped, with no clearly discernible individual “grains” or clicks.

III. Duration

~10’.

IV. General Performance Notes

The score is in C.

Accidentals carry through the measure.

Glissandi should begin immediately and last the full duration of the note(s) to which they’re attached.

If a *gliss.* occurs across slurred headless noteheads, no re-articulation occurs (e.g., mm. 16-17 of the Piccolo).
If a *gliss.* occurs across non-slurred headless noteheads, re-articulation *should* occur (e.g., mm. 38-39 of the Timpani).

All glissandi* should be performed as bend-like as possible. For instruments that typically cannot bend pitches across intervals larger than a semitone (all instruments except Strings, Trombone, and Timpani) a combination of embouchure manipulation and fingering may be used to “fake” bends across these larger intervals, when they rarely occur.

Trills are notated with a parenthetical pitch.

Tremoli and rolls are not tied.** No extra articulation should occur between notes. It should be played as a continuous roll or *tremolo*. (e.g., mm. 10-13 of the Double Bass).

All bass harmonics, including those in treble clef, sound down an octave.

Horn bass clef is in “new” notation (score is in C, parts sound a perfect fifth lower than written).

Extended techniques and nonstandard noteheads are explained in situ the first time they occur. They are also detailed below.

* The one exception is the glissando in m.117 of the Harp. This is played as a standard E-major Harp gliss.
** The exception is the circular bowing in the strings.

V. Explanation of Symbols and Special Techniques

General

Microtonal Pitches

Microtonality in horns is designated by a specific partial of a specific fundamental (see below). Otherwise, all microtonal pitches should be approximately **one quarter-tone away** from their equal-tempered relatives.

Microtonality may be achieved via alternate fingering or pitch bending at the musician’s discretion.

Associated Symbols:

Flat Sharp

♭ ♮ ♭ ♮ ♯ ♮ ♯ ♯ ×

Winds

Double Reed Multiphonics

All multiphonics in the double reeds are meant to be very noisy and gnarly, so each player may select a single beating multiphonic of their own choosing to use during these passages.

Associated Notehead: **stacked square noteheads**.



Bass Clarinet Multiphonic

The multiphonic in the Bass Clarinet at mm. 12-31 should produce a concert D (microtonally flat) and A. A higher E (notated parenthetically) may emerge as well. This pitch is not necessary, but it’s perfectly acceptable if it emerges.

Fingering is provided *in situ*. If this multiphonic cannot be produced, a similar multiphonic may be substituted, with concert D and A being the most important pitches. It should couple with the Tam-tam and Timpani to produce a whale-like groan.

An excellent demonstration of this multiphonic as demonstrated by clarinetist Heather Roche, is available here, being the first multiphonic she demonstrates: https://youtu.be/R_WPp_8xbnI

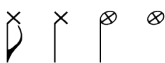
Brass

All Brass: Air Noise

Remove the mouthpiece, and turn it around so that the cup of the mouthpiece hovers over the receiver. Then blow into the back of the mouthpiece.

An excellent demonstration of this technique as demonstrated by hornist Maddy Tarantelli, is available here: <https://youtu.be/OTvqkTieMG4>.

Associated Notehead: **cross notehead**.



All Brass: Wha-wha Half Open

When a Wah-wah mute is used, slightly uncover the front of the Wah-wah mute to produce a sound somewhere between fully open and fully covered.

Associated symbol: ⊕

Note that this symbol is also used to denote half-stopped Horn. In that context, it is unrelated to this technique.

All Horns: Microtonality

Specific microtonal pitches are achieved though playing the naturally flat 7th and 11th partials of various overtone series on the horn.

In these passages, in addition to the written microtonal pitch (in C in the score, transposed in the parts), the sounding fundamental is provided along with the partial to be played. E.g., F#, 7th partial

First Horn: Contrabassoon Reed + Harmon Mute

In two short passages, the first horn uses a **Bass Trombone Harmon mute** (stem fully inserted, à la Wah-wah), as well as a **Contrabassoon reed** inserted into the horn’s receiver. Most Contrabassoon reeds should fit into the Horn’s receiver, but a regular Bassoon reed may be used if necessary.

The hornist may depress all triggers and blow to activate the reed on F# horn.

The resultant sound should be a very noisy “ring-mod-esque” sound with an unstable pitch.

An excellent **demonstration** of this technique (both with and without the mute), as demonstrated by hornist Jens McManama, is available here: <https://www.instagram.com/p/BkNpbLmHg3Z/>.

Associated Notehead: **cross notehead**.



Harp:

Tuning Key Gliss.

Only a **metal** tuning key is suitable for the following effect. Instead of a metal tuning key, a thick triangle beater may be used.

The metal part of the tuning key is held horizontally and pressed against the string with one hand. As the string is plucked with the other hand, the tuning key is moved up or down. A sliding sound is thus produced.

This technique should always be performed on **gut** strings. Parenthetical suggestions are sometimes given for the string on which to execute the gliss. The harpist may substitute any gut string at their discretion.

An excellent **demonstration** of this technique by harpist, Gunnhildur Einarsdótti, is available here:

<https://harpnotation.com/de/notation-manual/accessories/metal-tuning-key/tuning-key-slide/>.

Associated Symbol:



Strings

Abbreviation Key

s.p.: *sul ponticello* (play closer to the bridge)

m.s.p.: *molto sul ponticello* (essentially right next to the bridge, almost touching it with the bow hairs)

s.t.: *sul tasto* (play closer to the fingerboard)

m.s.t.: *molto sul tasto* (play way up over the fingerboard)

n.p.: normal pressure

poco o.p.: slight overpressure, creakiness in the sound, but still some discernible tone.

o.p.: overpressure, very creaky and scratchy virtually no tone.

ord.: cancels out *pont.* or *tasto* (bow position).

norm.: cancels out *col legno*, circular bowing, etc. (non-standard bow strokes).

Highest Possible Pitch

Play the highest possible pitch on the string you're on. At m. 5, this occurs as a non-harmonic note. Elsewhere it occurs as a harmonic.

Associated Notehead: **triangle notehead.**



Circular Bowing

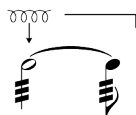
The bow moves in a circle from *sul tasto* to *sul ponticello* and back.

An excellent **demonstration** of this technique can be seen here, as demonstrated by violinist, Olivia De Prato:

https://youtu.be/KtXmBJo_NUo

This technique is indicated in the score using the symbol below, as well as a bracket that shows how long the circular bowing should last. Notes to be circular-bowed also bear tremolo slashes on their stems.

Associated Symbol:



String Wrappings

Bow the wrappings of the indicated strings behind the bridge with great overpressure. The result should be an extremely noisy, scratchy sound.

Associated Notehead: **square notehead.**



Violins mm. 49-59

During this section, the violins play *col legno battuto jeté*. The small notes under each staff are **only there to show where each new pitch change occurs in relation to the prevailing meter**. They are **only for reference**. The actual rhythmic location of each attack is performed *ad libitum*, improvised by players individually.

Composer's Note

I left Puerto Rico in the summer of 2005 at the age of 12, having lived there my entire life. As the plane lifted from the tarmac, within my heart there awoke a desire shared, perhaps, by all diasporic Puerto Ricans: an implacable urge to return to the island—a place that exists as the numinous centroid of the creation myth of my identity.

VHS Tapes: Puerto Rico, 1998 is a dreamlike work that makes audible this urge, its implacability, and the search for *home*—home as a place, but also as a time.

Just as leaving a busy street and entering a cathedral seems to transport one from *profane* space into *sacred* space. This work seeks to transport the listener from *profane* time into *sacred* time. And not just any sacred time, but *the* sacred time, when the mythical symbols that make up this part of the mosaic of my syncretic identity first exploded into being.

This desire to reinvoke a primordial past is keenly counterbalanced by the subjectivity of memory, its propensity for decay, and by the reality that one can never truly go back to a place that requires a past version of both the place and oneself to experience.

VHS Tapes: Puerto Rico, 1998 draws upon musical motifs from traditional Puerto Rican music, anthems recast as sacred invocations that effloresce, transform, and degrade in a mist of decaying memory. The result is a kind of Orchestral Vaporwave, stirring memories—both real and imagined—of a specific place and time that perhaps never existed to begin with, and yet is palpably ever-present within our hearts.

—MT

For my father, Mami Alba, Mami Tata, and Papi Chato.

May this work echo into generations past.

VHS Tapes: Puerto Rico, 1998

MIGUEL ÁNGEL TORRES CONSTANTIKES

[illegible]

23

accel. ♩ = 90

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

C. A.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 1
SIZZ. CYM.

Perc. 2
BASS DRUM

Perc. 3
TAM-TAM

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

32 Into another world, ♩ = 60

Picc. *f p ppp*

Fl. *f p ppp* 6. *mp p ppp* a2

Ob. 1 *f p ppp*

Ob. 2 *f p 5 ppp*

C. A. *f p ppp*

Cl. 1 *f p ppp* 3 *mp p ppp*

Cl. 2 *f p ppp* 3 *mp p ppp*

B. Cl. *mp p ppp*

Bsn. *f p 3 ppp* 5 *gliss. ppp p*

Cbsn. *f p pp*

Hn. *senza sord., insert mouthpiece as normal*

C Tpt. 1 *f p ppp* *mettere sord., wah-wah*

C Tpt. 2 *f p 3 ppp* *mettere sord., wah-wah*

Tbn. 1 *Wah-wah mute* *p gliss. ppp*

Tbn. 2 *Wah-wah mute* *ppp p ppp*

B. Tbn. *con sord.* *gliss. ppp p*

Tba. *ppp mp ppp* *gliss. mp ppp* *bend gliss. mp ppp*

Timp. *fp gliss. pp ppp* *mp ppp*

Perc. 1 *choke (sizzles may continue)* *SIZZ. CYM.*

Perc. 2 *mp* *SANDPAPER BLOCKS* *ppp*

Perc. 3 *HIGH SNARE, brushes* *ppp* *light fluttering, like a mechanical butterfly* *p*

32 Into another world, ♩ = 60

Vln. I *pp* *soft, like a loading screen* *gliss.*

Vln. II *pp* *soft, like a loading screen* *gliss.*

Vla. *pp* *soft, like a loading screen* *gliss.*

Vc. *pp* *soft, like a loading screen* *gliss.*

Db. *pp* *soft, like a loading screen* *gliss.*

37 38 39 40 41

* n.p. = normal pressure. o.p. = overpressure. "poco o.p." = creaky sound, still some tone.

[illegible]

This page of the musical score, numbered 92, continues the orchestral arrangement. It features the following parts and markings:

- Woodwinds:** Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in A, Clarinet in Bb, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon 1, Bassoon 2, and Contrabassoon. The Oboe and Clarinet in A parts have a first ending marked "1." starting at measure 88.
- Brass:** Horns, Trumpets in C, Trombones (Tbn.), Baritone (B. Tbn.), and Tuba (Tba.). The Trombone part includes a "solo" section starting at measure 90, marked "senza sord." and "p", with a "gliss." instruction. The Tuba part has a "gliss." instruction at measure 92.
- Percussion:** Timpani (Timp.), Percussion 1 (Perc. 1, GUIRO), Percussion 2 (Perc. 2, BONGOS), and Percussion 3 (Perc. 3, CONGAS). The Percussion 1 part has a "solo" section starting at measure 90, marked "f" and "insistent".
- Strings:** Violins I and II, Viola, Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.). The Violins I and II parts have a "senza sord., m.s.p." instruction at measure 92. The Viola part has a "senza sord., m.s.p." instruction at measure 92. The Violoncello part has a "senza sord., m.s.p." instruction at measure 92. The Double Bass part has a "senza sord., m.s.p." instruction at measure 92.
- Other:** The page includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics (ppp, mp, f), and performance instructions like "senza sord." and "gliss.". The page is numbered 92 at the top and 92 at the bottom.

Picc. *ppp* *ghostly* *mf* solo

Fl. *p* *mf* *ppp*

Ob. (1.) *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

C. A. *mp* *ppp*

Cl. *p* *mf* *gliss.* *gliss.* *ppp*

B. Cl. *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

Bsn. 1 *ppp* *mp*

Bsn. 2 *ppp* *mp*

Cbsn. *ppp*

Hn. 1. + *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

C Tpt. (1.) *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

Tbn. (1.) *mp* *ppp* *mp*

B. Tbn. *slow wide vib.* *ppp* *mp* *gliss.* *gliss.* *mf*

Tba. *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

Timp. *ppp* *gliss.* *mf* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *ppp* *gliss.* *ppp*

Perc. 1 *GUIRO* *fp* *f* 3 3 3 3

Perc. 2 *BONGOS* *fp*

Perc. 3 *CONGAS* *fp* *ppp*

Hp.

Pno. *15^{mo}* *p* 3 3 *mf*

Vln. I (tr) *mf* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* (m.s.p.)

Vln. II (tr) *mf* *f* *pp* (m.s.p.)

Vla. (tr) *mf* *f* *pp* (m.s.p.) *ord.*

Vc. (tr) *mf* *f* *pp* (m.s.p.)

Db. *mf* *f* *pp* *pp*

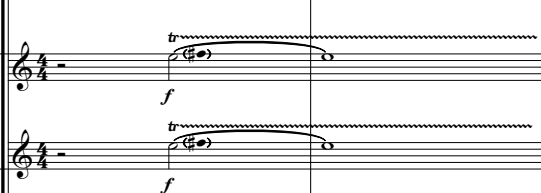
96 97 98 99 100 101 102

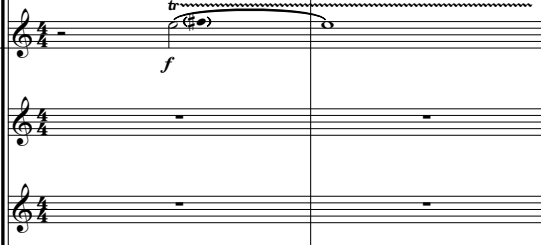
107

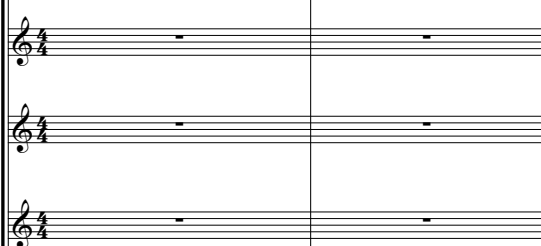
Violins I and II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass score, measures 103-109. The score includes dynamic markings (mf, p, f, fp, ppp), articulation (tr, gliss, ord, m.s.p.), and performance instructions (Bow bridge, air noise; Bow wrappings of I and II, behind bridge; Bow wrappings of III and IV, behind bridge; Bow wrappings of II and III, behind bridge). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 56.

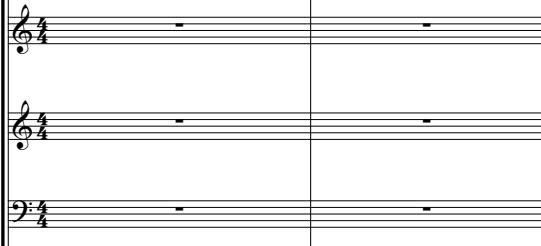
115 =112 Vivid Technicolor!

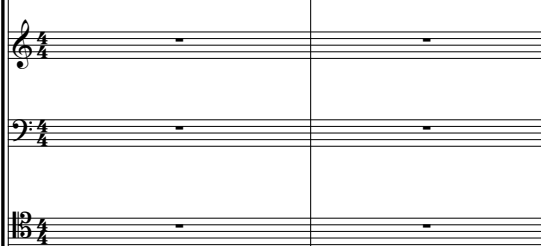
Picc. 

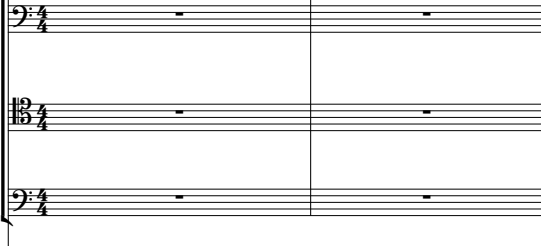
Fl. 1 

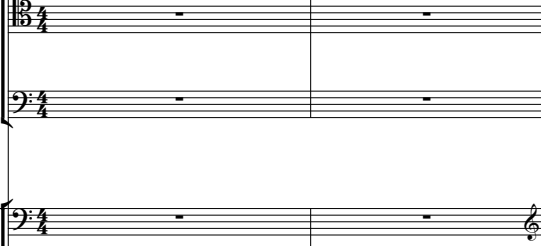
Fl. 2 

Ob. 

C. A. 

Cl. 

B. Cl. 

Bsn. 

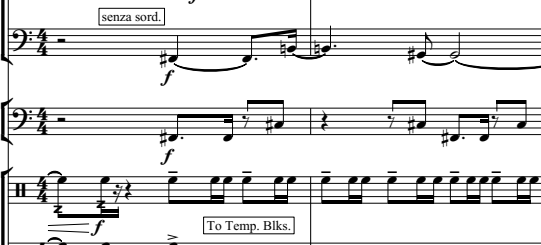
Cbsn. 

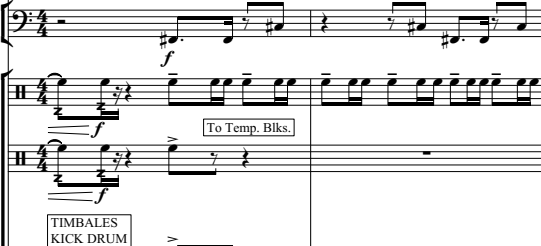
Hn. 

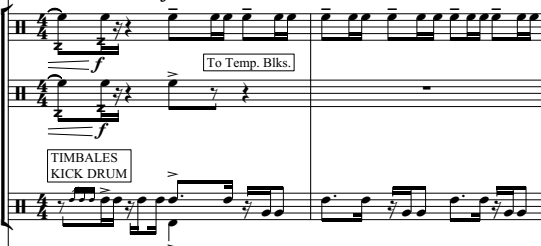
C Tpt. 

Tbn. 

B. Tbn. 

Tba. 

Timp. 

Perc. 1 

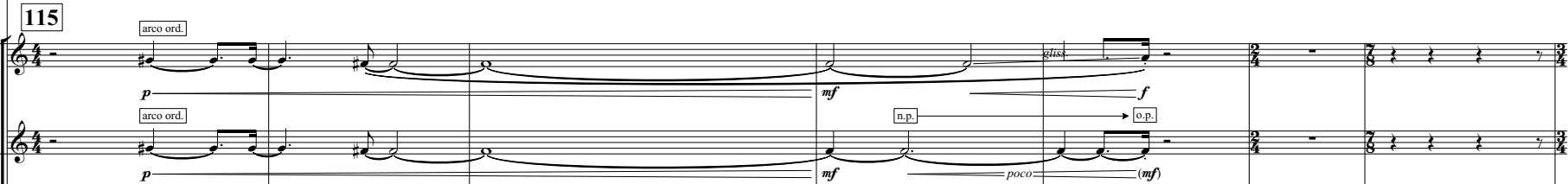
Perc. 2 

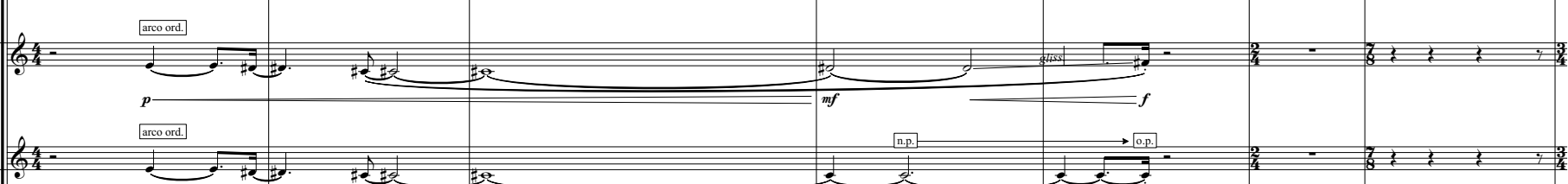
Perc. 3 

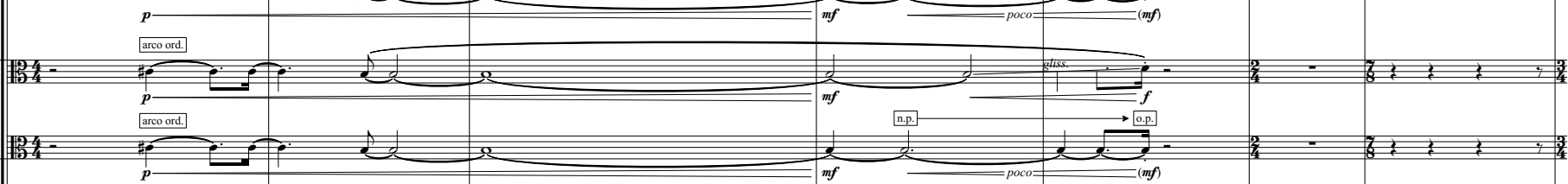
Hp. 

Pno. 

115 =112 Vivid Technicolor!

Vln. I 

Vln. II 

Vla. 

Vc. 

Db. 

♩ = ♪ Like a skipping CD

Picc. *ppp*

Fl. 1 *ppp*

Fl. 2 *ppp*

Ob. 1 *ppp*

Ob. 2 *ppp*

C. A. *ppp*

Cl. 1 *ppp*

Cl. 2 *ppp*

B. Cl. *ppp*

Bsn. 1 *ppp*

Bsn. 2 *ppp*

Cbsn. *ppp*

Hn. *ppp*

C Tpt. *ppp*

Tbn. *ppp*

B. Tbn. *ppp*

Tba. *ppp*

Timp. *ppp*

Perc. 1 (GHIRO) *ppp*

Perc. 2 (BONGOS) *ppp*

Perc. 3 (TIMBALES) *ppp*

Hp. *ppp*

Pno. *ppp*

Vln. I *ppp*

Vln. II *ppp*

Vla. *ppp*

Vc. *ppp*

Db. *ppp*

122 123 124 125 126 127 128

D → D#
E → E
F → F#
G → G
A → A
B → B
C → C#
D → D

This page of a musical score is a comprehensive orchestral arrangement. It begins with a Piccolo part featuring a solo and a triplet. The woodwind section, including Flutes 1 and 2, Oboes 1 and 2, Clarinets, Bass Clarinet, Bassoons 1 and 2, and Contrabassoon, has various melodic and harmonic parts with dynamic markings like *mf*, *mp*, *ppp*, and *pp*. The brass section, consisting of Horns, Trumpets 1 and 2, Trombones 1 and 2, Baritone, and Tuba, provides harmonic support and melodic lines. The percussion section includes Whips, Guiros, Temples, and various drums like the Bass Drum and Cymbals. The Harp and Piano parts are also present. The string section, including Violins I and II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass, has complex parts with glissandos, triplets, and dynamic markings. The score is written in 4/4 time and includes various performance instructions and articulation marks.

157 $\text{♩} = 36$, Fragile, delicate, sweet

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

C. A.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 1
CROTALES

Perc. 2
BASS DRUM

Perc. 3
BRAKE DRUM

Hp.

Pno.

mettere wah-wah

mettere Wah-wah

via sord.

CROTALES, bowed

choke!

GUIRO, flat wire brush

To Crotales & Bass Drum
(One of each beater in each hand)

TAM-TAM, friction mallet, circular motion

sololo

$\text{♩} = 36$, Fragile, delicate, sweet

157 $\text{♩} = 36$, Fragile, delicate, sweet

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

tutti div.

tutti

col legno batt., jeté
re-strike string throughout

pp like raindrops

tutti

col legno batt., jeté
re-strike string throughout

pp like raindrops

tutti

air noise, bow bridge

air noise, bow bridge

156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163

♩ = 60, The myth of eternal return

170

♩ = 60, The myth of eternal return

Violin I: *PPP* *sing!*

Violin II: *mp*

Viola: *mp*

Cello: *mp*

Double Bass: *mp*

Picc. *blow air*
ppp *f* *niente*

Fl. *a2* *blow air*
ppp *f* *niente*

Ob. *blow air*
ppp *f* *niente*

C. A. *remove reed*
ppp *blow air*
ppp *f* *niente*

Cl. *remove reed*
ppp *a2* *blow air through mouthpiece, very loose embouchure*
ppp *f* *niente*

B. Cl. *air sound*
ppp *f* *niente*

Bsn. *ppp*

Cbsn. *ppp* *pp* *p*

Hn. *ppp* *pp* *p*

C Tpt. *ppp* *pp* *p*

Tbn. *gliss.* *gliss.* *ppp*

B. Tbn. *pp* *ppp* *pp* *p*

Tba. *pp* *ppp* *pp* *p*

Timp. L.v. *mf*

Perc. 1 *B.D.* *B.D. + CROT.* *mf* *f* *mp*

Perc. 2 *SUS. CYMB.*

Perc. 3 *TAM-TAM*

Hp. *f* *p*

Pno. *mf* *p*

Vln. I *> pp* *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

Db. *p*

182 183 184 185 186 187 188