

UCLA
Contemporary Music Score Collection

Title

sink delicately

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sink delicately

for sextet

sophie mathieu

notes on the work

This piece is a reflection on my mental state during the time that I composed it. In a way, it's a subtle commentary on the "soprano going crazy" trope from the operatic tradition. It's about feeling like you're at odds with your own mind, but somehow being okay with it at the end of the day.

instrumentation

singer (must be able to whistle)

violin

cello (mute required)

toy piano

piano

percussion (glockenspiel, marimba, wine glass filled halfway with water)

all instrumentalists have limited humming in their parts

performance notes

Aleatoric notation in the percussion and piano parts is meant to achieve a sense of shimmering, fluttering motion within the piece. Percussion patterns are notated as aleatoric trills, with 4-6 options of notes for players to use. The player is not required to use all the pitches in the box.

For example, a passage notated like this:



Might be performed as this:



you say that time escapes through holes in the floor
i find myself searching for patterns in long lines of stars

we set our world ablaze searching for the truth

it never comes, does it?

distorted slivers of memory sink delicately
far away from all that we know
to join the detritus at the bottom of the ocean

sink delicately

for sextet

music & text by sophie mathieu

serene but secretly concealing chaos ♩ = 40

whistle:
pp sempre
within the texture

pp sempre everything within the texture - nothing should emerge as a primary voice
con sord.
pizz.

pp sempre everything within the texture - nothing should emerge as a primary voice
trill between the following
itches in your own time
after striking vibraphone
sim.

pp sempre everything within the texture - nothing should emerge as a primary voice
→ (keep pedal down, let everything ring)

pp sempre everything within the texture - nothing should emerge as a primary voice
in your own time
(restrike as quickly
as is possible)

pp sempre everything within the texture - nothing should emerge as a primary voice
→ (keep pedal down, let everything ring)

A

mimic timbre of violin harmonics

S

breathe as needed!

mimic timbre of whistling

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

T. Pno.

Pno.

B


17

The musical score is arranged in a system with six staves. The top staff is for the Soprano (S), followed by Violin (Vln.), Violoncello (Vc.), Percussion (Perc.), Tenor Piano (T. Pno.), and Piano (Pno.).

- S:** Melodic line with a long note at the end of the phrase.
- Vln.:** Accompanying line with sustained notes.
- Vc.:** Bass line with dynamic markings: *(pizz.)*, *arco (ric.)*, *pizz.*, *arco*, *pizz.*, *arco*, *pizz.*, *arco*, *pizz.*, *arco*, *pizz.*, *arco*.
- Perc.:** Features a series of trills (tr) in a box, with a wavy line above indicating tremolo. The bottom staff shows drum notation.
- T. Pno.:** Accompanying line with sustained notes.
- Pno.:** Features a series of chords in a box, with markings for *8va* and *15ma* (15th harmonic) above the notes. The bottom staff shows piano accompaniment.

C

S



violin part out of time

Vln.

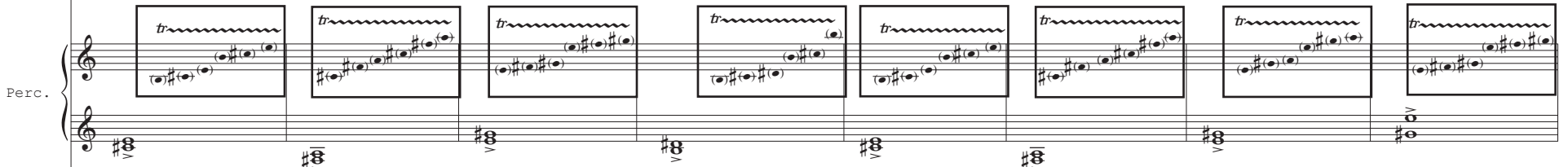


Vc.

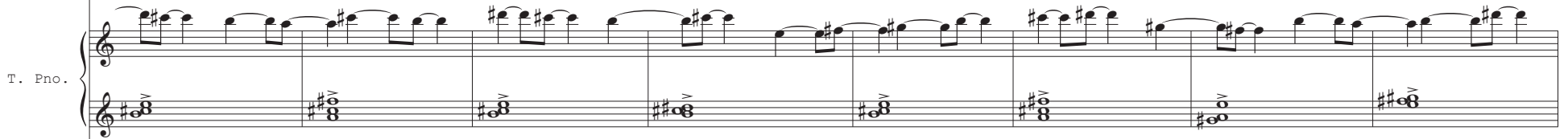
pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco



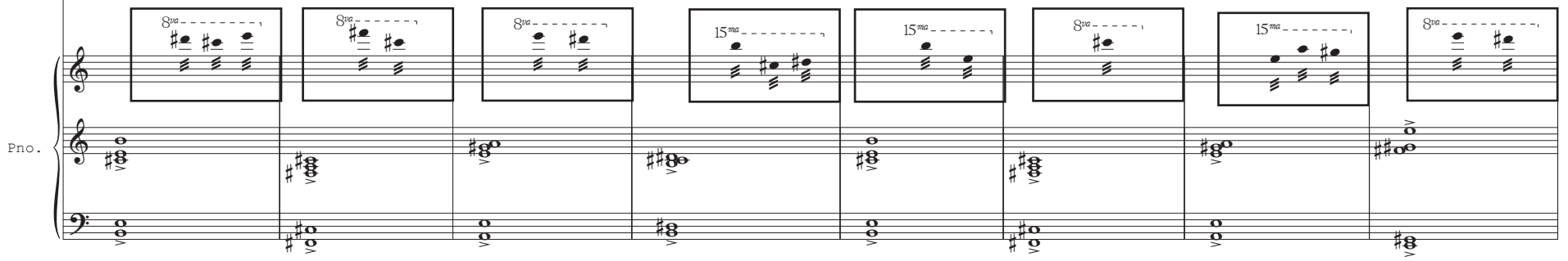
Perc.



T. Pno.



Pno.



33

S



Musical notation for the soprano part, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests.

watch for a cue from soprano
if not yet finished, jump to D

Vln.



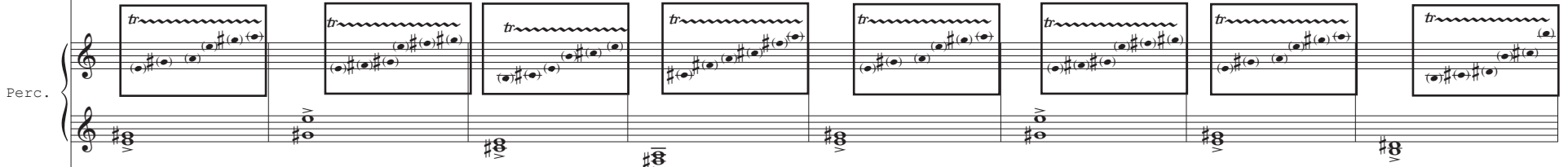
Musical notation for the violin part, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The part features a series of slurs over eighth and quarter notes.

Vc.



Musical notation for the violoncello part, starting with a bass clef and a key signature of two sharps. The part alternates between pizzicato (pizz.) and arco (arco) sections.

Perc.



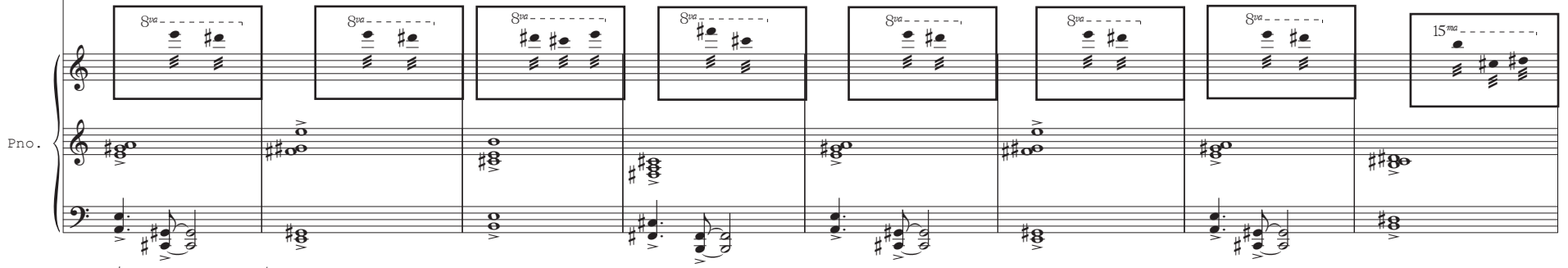
Musical notation for the percussion part, featuring a series of trills (tr) in the upper staff and a lower staff with rhythmic patterns. The trills are enclosed in boxes.

T. Pno.



Musical notation for the T. Piano part, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The part features a series of slurs over eighth and quarter notes.

Pno.



Musical notation for the Piano part, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The part features a series of slurs over eighth and quarter notes. The final measure is marked with a 15-measure rest (15^{ma} - - - - -).

deep, sonorous, resonant

D free tempo (singer leads)

sing: *mp*

41

S

you say that time es-capes through holes in the floor

Vln.

if done early, loop these 4

Vc.

pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco

Perc.

tr

begin to increase space between iterations

T. Pno.

Pno.

8va

49

E in tempo (established by singer)

S
I find my-self sear-ching for pat-terns in long lines of stars we set our world a-blaze sear-ching for the truth

Vln.
begin to increase space between iterations

Vc.
begin to increase space between iterations

Perc.
to wine glass

Voice
hum:

T. Pno.
3

Voice
hum:

Pno.
begin to increase space between iterations

57

S

it ne-ver comes does it? dis - tor - ted sli - vers of me - mo - ry sink de - li - cate - ly far a - way

Vln.

fade out

Voice

Vc.

fade out

wine glass

Perc.

bend pitch sim. p

Voice

T. Pno.

Voice

Pno.

fade out

65

S
from all that we know to join the de - tri - tus at the bot - tom of the

Vln.

Voice

Vc.

Perc.

Voice

T. Pno.

Voice

Pno.

let ring

p

p

Red.

*

sink delicately

F

loop figure at own pace,
gradually spacing out repetitions

whistle:

sing into piano:

(on a comfortable syllable)

o - cean

hum:
p

hum:
p

hum:
p

hum:
p

Perc.

T. Pno.
p

Pno.
p

loop figure continuously and without breaks, gradually slowing down and growing out of sync with piano

loop figure continuously and without breaks, gradually slowing down and growing out of sync with piano

(end 2 bars before toy piano)

The score consists of seven staves. The Soprano staff (S) begins with the lyrics 'o - cean' and includes a boxed section for 'sing into piano' with the instruction '(on a comfortable syllable)'. The three Voice staves feature 'hum' parts starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Percussion staff (Perc.) has a continuous wavy line representing a rhythmic pattern. The T. Pno. and Pno. staves both feature a boxed section for a 'loop figure' with the instruction 'loop figure continuously and without breaks, gradually slowing down and growing out of sync with piano'. The Pno. staff ends with the instruction '(end 2 bars before toy piano)'. A rehearsal mark 'F' is located at the top left.