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Eight Sacred Dances

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**EIGHT SACRED DANCES**  
for chamber orchestra, by J. Clay Gonzalez.



# **EIGHT SACRED DANCES**

**for chamber orchestra, no conductor**

**by J. Clay Gonzalez**

**36'00"**

Flute, Oboe, Two Clarinets (one doubling Baritone Saxophone or Bass Clarinet), Bassoon, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet, Two Horns, Trombone, Two Violins, Viola, Cello, Bass, Four Percussion, and One Electric Keyboard.

May be performed one-per-part, or with more than one-per-part, at the discretion of the performing ensemble.

Musicians may join the ensemble with entirely improvised parts, so long as the ratio between those with and those without parts does not dip below 3:1 and that all written parts are accounted for.

Movements may be omitted, rearranged, lengthened, or shortened to accommodate programming needs.


A note on this score:

Each movement consists of several overlapping loops of material, performed for a specified amount of time. Performers should "crossfade" between sections, taking about thirty seconds to fade from one bracket to the next. Each performer has one and only one bracket per section, some of which will be rests.

# EIGHT SACRED DANCES

## I.


### flute

0'30" {  } 4'20"

*ff*

loop the above gesture, varying pace and inflection while evoking a passionate and tumultuous affect. improvise, explore, and express. get lost in the sound. play the feeling of standing over a large dam.


### clarinet

0'30" {  } 4'30"

*f*

loop the above gesture, varying pace and inflection while evoking a passionate and tumultuous affect. improvise, explore, and express. get lost in the sound. play the feeling of standing over a large dam.


### bass clarinet

0'30" {  } 4'30"

*f*

loop the above gesture, varying pace and inflection while evoking a passionate and tumultuous affect. improvise, explore, and express. get lost in the sound. play the feeling of standing over a large dam.


### bassoon

0'30" {  } 4'40"

*f*

loop the above gesture, varying pace and inflection while evoking a passionate and tumultuous affect. improvise, explore, and express. get lost in the sound. play the feeling of standing over a large dam.


### alto saxophone

0'30" {  } 5'00"

*f*

loop the above gesture, varying pace and inflection while evoking a passionate and tumultuous affect. improvise, explore, and express. get lost in the sound. play the feeling of standing over a large dam.

### tenor saxophone


0'30" {  } 5'00"

*f*

loop the above gesture, varying pace and inflection while evoking a passionate and tumultuous affect. improvise, explore, and express. get lost in the sound. play the feeling of standing over a large dam.


### horn one

play the passage below slowly, lyrically, and expressively for the time indicated. play freely and out of time, completely independent of the other musicians.

0'30" {  } 5'00"

### horn two

play the passage below slowly, lyrically, and expressively for the time indicated. play freely and out of time, completely independent of the other musicians.

0'30" {  } 5'00"

trumpet

play the passage below slowly, lyrically, and expressively for the time indicated.  
play freely and out of time, completely independent of the other musicians.

0'30" } 5'00"

trombone

play the passage below slowly, lyrically, and expressively for the time indicated.  
play freely and out of time, completely independent of the other musicians.

0'30" } 5'00"

percussion one

low floor tom  
with drumstick

0'15" } 4'15"

loop the above gesture, with brief pauses between each iteration. as you play, allow feelings of tension, sorrow, and power to move through you. improvise, explore, and express. get lost in the sound. play the feeling of standing over a large dam. play the feeling of deep, slow breathing.

percussion two

low floor tom  
with drumstick

0'20" } 4'25"

loop the above gesture, with brief pauses between each iteration. as you play, allow feelings of tension, sorrow, and power to move through you. improvise, explore, and express. get lost in the sound. play the feeling of standing over a large dam. play the feeling of deep, slow breathing.

percussion three

low floor tom  
with drumstick

0'30" } 4'35"

loop the above gesture, with brief pauses between each iteration. as you play, allow feelings of tension, sorrow, and power to move through you. improvise, explore, and express. get lost in the sound. play the feeling of standing over a large dam. play the feeling of deep, slow breathing.

percussion four

with drumstick

0'25" } 4'45"

loop the above gesture, with brief pauses between each iteration. as you play, allow feelings of tension, sorrow, and power to move through you. improvise, explore, and express. get lost in the sound. play the feeling of standing over a large dam. play the feeling of deep, slow breathing.

electric keyboard

0'30" } 4'45"

Sustain on a dark organ sound, one octave below what is written. Fade out over the last minute.

violin one

0'30" } 4'45"

loop the above gesture, varying pace and inflection while evoking a passionate and tumultuous affect. improvise, explore, and express. get lost in the sound. play the feeling of standing over a large dam.

violin two

0'30" } 4'45"

loop the above gesture, varying pace and inflection while evoking a passionate and tumultuous affect. improvise, explore, and express. get lost in the sound. play the feeling of standing over a large dam.

viola

0'30" } 5'00"

loop the above gesture, varying pace and inflection while evoking a passionate and tumultuous affect. improvise, explore, and express. get lost in the sound. play the feeling of standing over a large dam.

cello

0'30" } 5'00"

loop the above gesture, varying pace and inflection while evoking a passionate and tumultuous affect. improvise, explore, and express. get lost in the sound. play the feeling of standing over a large dam.

double bass

0'30" } 5'00"

loop the above gesture, varying pace and inflection while evoking a passionate and tumultuous affect. improvise, explore, and express. get lost in the sound. play the feeling of standing over a large dam.

## II.

## flute

play the following rhythmic pattern, using the pitches given below. as you play, think of water—slow and quiet, but with great internal energy.

4'30" { } 9'30"

use these pitches for the white notes    use these pitches for the black notes

## clarinet one

play the following rhythmic pattern, using the pitches given below. as you play, think of water—slow and quiet, but with great internal energy.

4'40" { } 9'30"

use these pitches for the white notes    use these pitches for the black notes

## clarinet two

play the following rhythmic pattern, using the pitches given below. as you play, think of water—slow and quiet, but with great internal energy.

4'40" { } 9'30"

use these pitches for the white notes    use these pitches for the black notes

## bassoon

play the following rhythmic pattern, using the pitches given below. as you play, think of water—slow and quiet, but with great internal energy.

4'50" { } 9'15"

use these pitches for the white notes    use these pitches for the black notes

## percussion three

**crotales**  
with very soft rubber mallets

4'40" { } 8'55"

play the pitches written above randomly, like a wind chime. keep the sustain pedal down for the duration of the bracket. play with the frequency of about one pitch every two seconds or so.

## oboe

play very, romantically, with sorrow

5'00" { } 9'15"

*mp* < *f*

## violin one

play very, very slowly, romantically, with sorrow

5'00" { } 9'20"

*mp* < *f*

## percussion one

**vibraphone**  
with very soft mallets

4'30" { } 8'45"

*p*

play the pitches written above randomly, like a wind chime. keep the sustain pedal down for the duration of the bracket. play with the frequency of about one pitch every two seconds or so.

## percussion four

**crotales**  
with very soft rubber mallets

4'50" { } 9'05"

*p*

play the pitches written above randomly, like a wind chime. keep the sustain pedal down for the duration of the bracket. play with the frequency of about one pitch every two seconds or so.





# III.

## bass clarinet

Musical score for bass clarinet, measures 9'30'' to 13'30''. The score consists of seven staves. Dynamics include *f*, *mf*, and *ff*. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' and a bracket.

## bassoon

Musical score for bassoon, measures 9'30'' to 13'45''. The score consists of seven staves. Dynamics include *mf*, *f*, and *ff*. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' and a bracket.

## tenor saxophone

Musical score for tenor saxophone, measures 9'30'' to 13'30''. The score consists of seven staves. Dynamics include *f*, *mf*, and *ff*. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' and a bracket.

## horn one

Musical score for horn one, measures 9'20'' to 14'00''. The score consists of one staff. Dynamics include *fp*. Annotations include "st. mute (bell tone)" above the notes. Text below the staff reads: "bell tones, separated by twenty to thirty seconds of rest."

## horn two

Musical score for horn two, measures 9'10'' to 13'50''. The score consists of one staff. Dynamics include *fp*. Annotations include "st. mute (bell tone)" above the notes. Text below the staff reads: "bell tones, separated by twenty to thirty seconds of rest."

## trumpet

Musical score for trumpet, measures 9'30'' to 13'30''. The score consists of one staff. Dynamics include *fp*. Annotation includes "straight mute" above the notes. Text below the staff reads: "bell tones, separated by twenty to thirty seconds of rest."

## trombone

Musical score for trombone, measures 9'00'' to 13'40''. The score consists of one staff. Dynamics include *fp*. Annotation includes "straight mute" above the notes. Text below the staff reads: "bell tones, separated by twenty to thirty seconds of rest."

## percussion one

9'00'' **suspended cymbals**  
with rods and brushes  
create a pointilistic constellation of diverse sounds, all quiet, all high in energy. make sounds at irregular intervals, creating a sound every few seconds. explore the characters and colors inside your instrument(s); think of yourself as a participant in a vibrant sonic ecosystem. 13'40''

## percussion two

9'10'' **suspended cymbals**  
with rods and brushes  
create a pointilistic constellation of diverse sounds, all quiet, all high in energy. make sounds at irregular intervals, creating a sound every few seconds. explore the characters and colors inside your instrument(s); think of yourself as a participant in a vibrant sonic ecosystem. 13'30''

percussion three

9'20" { **suspended cymbals**  
with rods and brushes } 13'20"

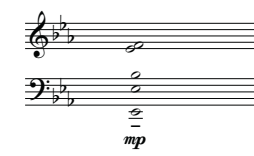
create a pointilistic constellation of diverse sounds, all quiet, all high in energy. make sounds at irregular intervals, creating a sound every few seconds. explore the characters and colors inside your instrument(s); think of yourself as a participant in a vibrant sonic ecosystem.

percussion four

9'30" { **suspended cymbals**  
with rods and brushes } 13'20"

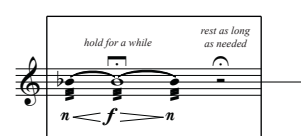
create a pointilistic constellation of diverse sounds, all quiet, all high in energy. make sounds at irregular intervals, creating a sound every few seconds. explore the characters and colors inside your instrument(s); think of yourself as a participant in a vibrant sonic ecosystem.

electric keyboard

9'20" {  } 13'10"

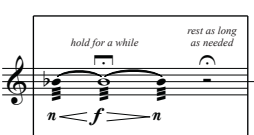
Sustain on a bright organ sound. First minute fading in, last minute fading out.

violin one

9'20" {  } 13'10"

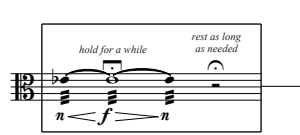
loop the figure above. play with shimmering ferocity. play more than you rest, but don't overdo it.

violin two

9'10" {  } 13'50"

loop the figure above. play with shimmering ferocity. play more than you rest, but don't overdo it.

viola

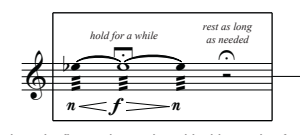
9'00" {  } 13'30"

loop the figure above. play with shimmering ferocity. play more than you rest, but don't overdo it.

cello

9'30" {  } 13'20"


double bass

9'30" {  } 13'40"

loop the figure above. play with shimmering ferocity. play more than you rest, but don't overdo it.

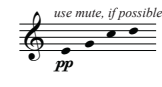
## IV.

## flute

13'30" {  } 18'00"


play the pitches above aleatorically, lyrically, calmly. play about two notes a second. imagine flying very, very high above the ground, in a state of electric calm.

## oboe

13'50" {  } 17'40"

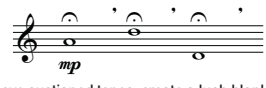
play the pitches above aleatorically, lyrically, calmly. play about two notes a second. imagine flying very, very high above the ground, in a state of electric calm.

## clarinet

13'40" {  } 17'50"

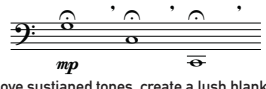
play the pitches above aleatorically, lyrically, calmly. play about two notes a second. imagine flying very, very high above the ground, in a state of electric calm.

## bass clarinet

13'40" {  } 18'20"

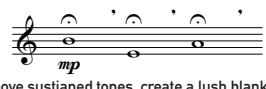
repeat the above sustained tones. create a lush blanket of sound. take breaks when you need.

## bassoon

14'00" {  } 17'50"


repeat the above sustained tones. create a lush blanket of sound. take breaks when you need.

## alto sax

13'50" {  } 18'10"

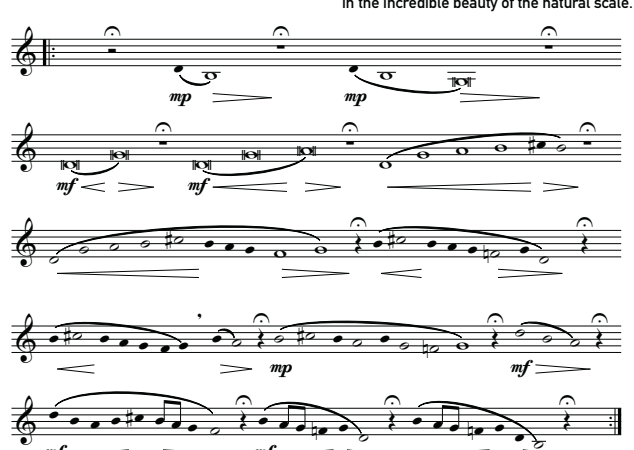
repeat the above sustained tones. create a lush blanket of sound. take breaks when you need.

## tenor sax

13'40" {  } 18'20"


repeat the above sustained tones. create a lush blanket of sound. take breaks when you need.

## horn one

14'00" {  } 18'15"

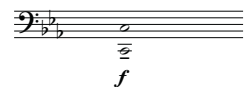
Play the passage below very slowly. All the pitches belong to the harmonic series of "C:" finger [1 - 3], and stay there for the whole excerpt. Change pitches by changing partials. Don't adjust tuning to the traditional scales... just let the pitches fall where they lie. Hitting all the notes without cracking will be difficult, but don't worry - just do your best, and soak in the incredible beauty of the natural scale.

## horn two

14'00" {  } 18'00"

Play the passage below very slowly. All the pitches belong to the harmonic series of "C:" finger [1 - 3], and stay there for the whole excerpt. Change pitches by changing partials. Don't adjust tuning to the traditional scales... just let the pitches fall where they lie. Hitting all the notes without cracking will be difficult, but don't worry - just do your best, and soak in the incredible beauty of the natural scale.

## electric keyboard

13'40" {  } 18'20"

Sustain on a bright organ sound, 8vb. First thirty seconds fading in, last thirty fading out.

trombone

Play the passage below very slowly. All the pitches belong to the harmonic series of "C," hold sixth position with the trigger down, and stay there for the whole excerpt. Change pitches by changing partials. Don't adjust tuning to the traditional scales... just let the pitches fall where they lie. Hitting all the notes without cracking will be difficult, but don't worry - just do your best, and soak in the incredible beauty of the natural scale.

14'00" { 18'50"

percussion one

suspended cymbals  
with very soft mallets

18'30" { 22'50"

gentle swells on sustained cymbal, each lasting between ten to twenty seconds.

percussion two

suspended cymbals  
with very soft mallets

13'40" { 18'30"

gentle swells on sustained cymbal, each lasting between ten to twenty seconds.

percussion three

suspended cymbals  
with very soft mallets

13'30" { 18'30"

gentle swells on sustained cymbal, each lasting between ten to twenty seconds.

percussion four

tam-tam  
with very soft mallets

13'30" { 18'30"

gentle swells on instrument, each lasting between twenty to thirty seconds.

violin one

13'20" { 18'30"

sustain the above tone. create a lush blanket of sound. take breaks when you need.

violin two

13'50" { 18'30"

sustain the above tone. create a lush blanket of sound. take breaks when you need.

viola

13'40" { 18'30"

repeat the above sustained tones. create a lush blanket of sound. take breaks when you need.

cello

13'30" { 18'30"

sustain the above tone. create a lush blanket of sound. take breaks when you need.

double bass

13'50" { 18'30"

sustain the above tone. create a lush blanket of sound. take breaks when you need.

# V.

## flute

Loop the passage below slowly, calmly, and at your own pace.  
Be modest, humble, and sincere. Play conservatively, but expressively.

## oboe

Play the passage below slowly, calmly, and at your own pace.  
Be modest, humble, and sincere. Play conservatively, but expressively.

## clarinet

Play the passage below slowly, calmly, and at your own pace.  
Be modest, humble, and sincere. Play conservatively, but expressively.

## bassoon

Play the passage below very slowly, calmly, and at your own pace.  
Be modest, humble, and sincere. Play conservatively, but expressively.

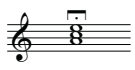
## horn one

Play the passage below slowly, calmly, and at your own pace.  
Be modest, humble, and sincere. Play conservatively, but expressively.


‡

## VI.

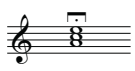
## flute

23'30" {  28'00" }  
sing a note in this chord on a relaxed, quiet 'oh'. when you inhale, inhale slowly, and calmly, you can use your instrument to find this pitch (written in concert pitch.) take breaks when needed. sing whatever octave is most comfortable.


## oboe

23'30" {  28'00" }  
sing a note in this chord on a relaxed, quiet 'oh'. when you inhale, inhale slowly, and calmly, you can use your instrument to find this pitch (written in concert pitch.) take breaks when needed. sing whatever octave is most comfortable.

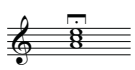
## clarinet

23'30" {  28'00" }  
sing a note in this chord on a relaxed, quiet 'oh'. when you inhale, inhale slowly, and calmly, you can use your instrument to find this pitch (written in concert pitch.) take breaks when needed. sing whatever octave is most comfortable.


## bass clarinet

23'30" { *sung:*  28'00" }  
sing a note in this chord on a relaxed, quiet 'oh'. when you inhale, inhale slowly, and calmly, you can use your instrument to find this pitch (written in concert pitch.) take breaks when needed. sing whatever octave is most comfortable.

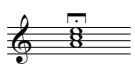
## bassoon

23'30" {  28'00" }  
sing a note in this chord on a relaxed, quiet 'oh'. when you inhale, inhale slowly, and calmly, you can use your instrument to find this pitch (written in concert pitch.) take breaks when needed. sing whatever octave is most comfortable.


## alto saxophone

23'00" {  27'40" }  
sing a note in this chord on a relaxed, quiet 'oh'. when you inhale, inhale slowly, and calmly, you can use your instrument to find this pitch (written in concert pitch.) take breaks when needed. sing whatever octave is most comfortable.

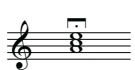
## tenor saxophone

23'00" {  27'40" }  
sing a note in this chord on a relaxed, quiet 'oh'. when you inhale, inhale slowly, and calmly, you can use your instrument to find this pitch (written in concert pitch.) take breaks when needed. sing whatever octave is most comfortable.


## horn one

23'20" {  28'00" }  
sing a note in this chord on a relaxed, quiet 'oh'. when you inhale, inhale slowly, and calmly, you can use your instrument to find this pitch (written in concert pitch.) take breaks when needed. sing whatever octave is most comfortable.

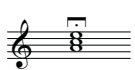
## horn two

23'20" {  28'00" }  
sing a note in this chord on a relaxed, quiet 'oh'. when you inhale, inhale slowly, and calmly, you can use your instrument to find this pitch (written in concert pitch.) take breaks when needed. sing whatever octave is most comfortable.


## trumpet

23'30" {  28'00" }  
sing a note in this chord on a relaxed, quiet 'oh'. when you inhale, inhale slowly, and calmly, you can use your instrument to find this pitch (written in concert pitch.) take breaks when needed. sing whatever octave is most comfortable.


## trombone

23'00" {  28'00" }  
sing a note in this chord on a relaxed, quiet 'oh'. when you inhale, inhale slowly, and calmly, you can use your instrument to find this pitch (written in concert pitch.) take breaks when needed. sing whatever octave is most comfortable.

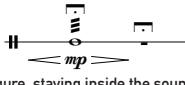
## double bass

23'00" {  27'10" }  
sing a note in this chord on a relaxed, quiet 'oh'. when you inhale, inhale slowly, and calmly, you can use your instrument to find this pitch (written in concert pitch.) take breaks when needed. sing whatever octave is most comfortable.

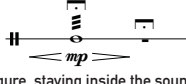
electric keyboard

22'50" {  } 27'30"  
 Sustain on a flute or sin wave organ sound.  
 First thirty seconds fading in, last thirty fading out.

percussion two

22'50" {  } 27'15"  
 tom-tom  
 with very soft mallets  
 loop the above figure, staying inside the sound of the orchestra.  
 rest about as much as you play, join in singing with the gorup if you are comfortable.

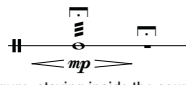
percussion one

22'50" {  } 27'30"  
 tom-tom  
 with very soft mallets  
 loop the above figure, staying inside the sound of the orchestra.  
 rest about as much as you play, join in singing with the gorup if you are comfortable.

percussion four


22'50" {  } 27'00"  
 tom-tom  
 with very soft mallets  
 loop the above figure, staying inside the sound of the orchestra.  
 rest about as much as you play, join in singing with the gorup if you are comfortable.

percussion three

22'50" {  } 27'00"  
 tom-tom  
 with very soft mallets  
 loop the above figure, staying inside the sound of the orchestra.  
 rest about as much as you play, join in singing with the gorup if you are comfortable.

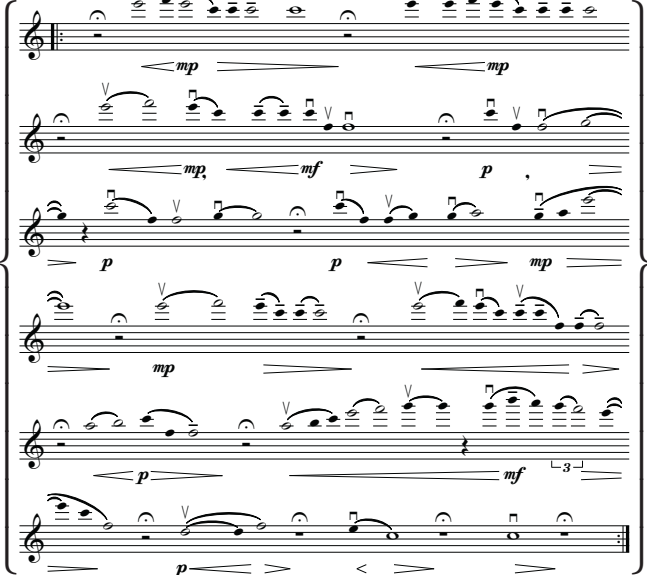
violin two

very slowly, sweetly, tenderly

23'30" {  } 27'10"

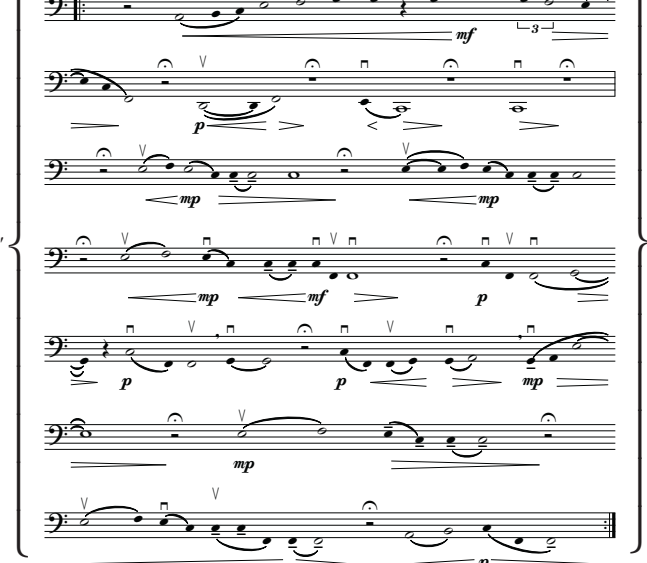
violin one

very slowly, sweetly, tenderly

23'10" {  } 27'40"

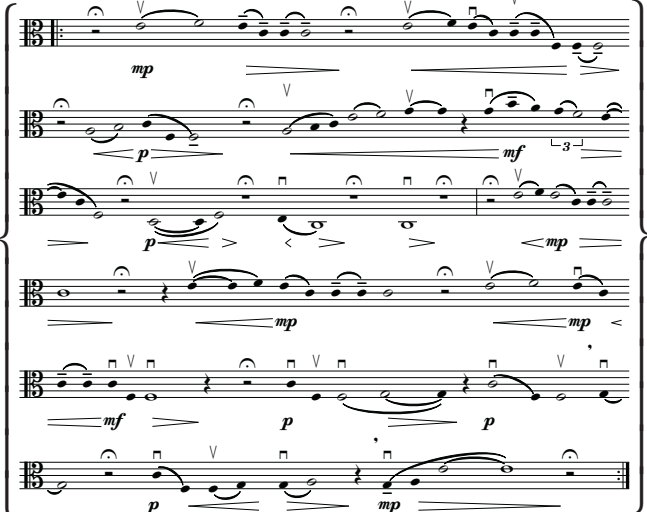
cello

sweetly, tenderly

23'30" {  } 27'20"

viola

sweetly, tenderly

23'20" {  } 27'30"



# VII.

## alto saxophone

## percussion one

27'45" { triangle quietly strike the tringle about every five seconds. do not fall into a regular pattern. } 31'45"

## percussion two


27'30" { triangle quietly strike the tringle about every five seconds. do not fall into a regular pattern. } 32'00"

## tenor saxophone

## percussion three

27'15" { triangle quietly strike the tringle about every five seconds. do not fall into a regular pattern. } 32'30"

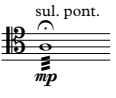
## violin one

27'50" {  } 32'30"

## percussion four

27'15" { triangle quietly strike the tringle about every five seconds. do not fall into a regular pattern. } 31'45"


## viola

27'50" {  } 32'30"

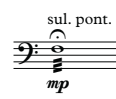
## violin two

27'30" {  } 32'30"

## double bass

27'30" {  } 32'20"

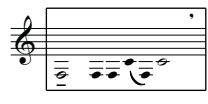
## cello

27'40" {  } 32'30"

# VIII.

## flute

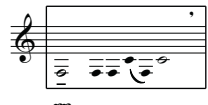
## percussion one

32'00" { **vibraphone**  
with very soft mallets  } 36'00"

*pp*

loop the above gesture, varying pace and inflection while remaining subdued and conservative. improvise, explore, and express.


## percussion two

32'15" { **glockenspiel**  
with very soft mallets  } 36'00"

*pp*

loop the above gesture, varying pace and inflection while remaining subdued and conservative. improvise, explore, and express.

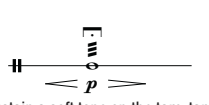
## percussion three

32'40" { **glockenspiel**  
with very soft mallets  } 36'00"

*pp*

loop the above gesture, varying pace and inflection while remaining subdued and conservative. improvise, explore, and express.

## percussion four

32'00" { **tam-tam**  
with very soft mallets  } 36'00"

*p*

sustain a soft tone on the tam-tam





