PULSE | FRAY | SURFACE

for sextet

approx. 10'

ÖZKAN UMUTCAN BAPBACI

– 2025 –

Instrumentation

Piccolo / Bass Flute

Alto Saxophone

Piano

Accordion

Violin

Contrabass

Performance Notes

General Abbreviations and Symbols

The score is in C.

 : Decrescendo to silence

 : Crescendo from silence

 : Gradual transition from one phase towards another

 : quarter-tone sharp

 : three quarter-tone sharp

 : quarter-tone flat

Violin / Contrabass

SP / MSP : sul ponticello / molto sul ponticello

ST / MSP : sul tasto / molto sul tasto

ord / N : ordinario / normale

 : let vibrate, the sound should not be damped after the initial attack, but should be allowed to die away

 : tremolo, unmeasured

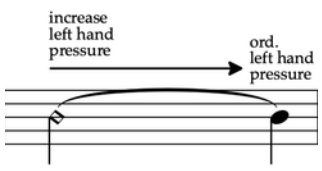
 : bartok pizzicato



: glissando without vibrato

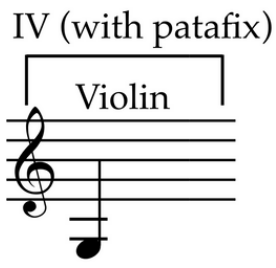
 : gradually increase pressure with bow to produce a loud and grating sound

 : gradually decrease pressure with bow to ordinary playing pressure



: gradually increase the left hand pressure, the resultant is a transition from harmonic to ordinario (vice-versa)

 : gradual transition from ordinary bow pressure to increased bow pressure (noisy with tone clearly present yet distorted) to complete scratch tone.

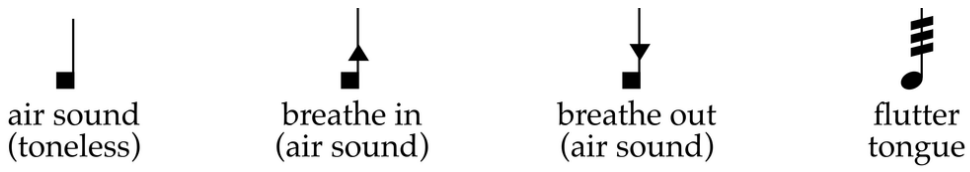


: The performer places a small chunk of patafix made up into a ball and places it on IV (pre-performance) somewhere roughly halfway between the end of the fingerboard and the bridge. Depending on the bowing position and pressure, the resultant is a ghastly, high register, rich and somewhat noisy tone."

For execution:

Bass Flute / Piccolo

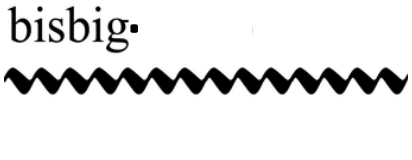
The score is in sounding pitches (indicated with the 8vb treble clef) for Bass Flute and (indicated with the 8va treble clef) for piccolo.
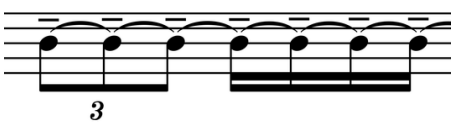


 : gradually go to full tone

 : gradually go to air sound

 : gradually go to half tone

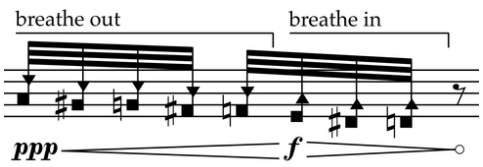


: bisbigliando/unmeasured. Follow the indications such as slow and fast to maintain a continuous transition between different rates of change between fingerings.



: bisbigliando/measured. Emphasize the given phrase by changing the fingering at each tenuto marked note.

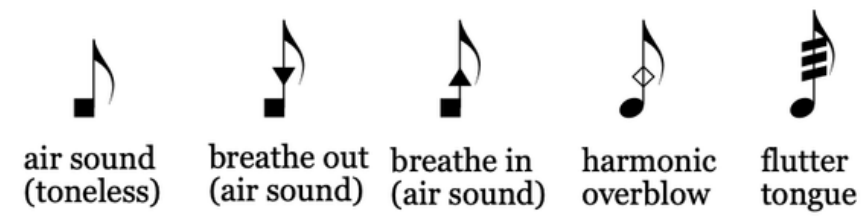
The performer may choose suitable fingerings for bisbigliando without restriction, considering the clear colour change and rhythmical impetus.



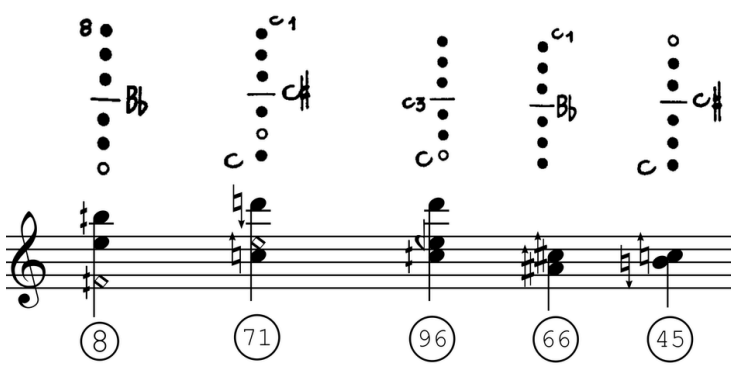
: a singular gesture achived by performing the given chromatic fingering while doing a continuous breathe out - breathe in at given points (arrow up/down)

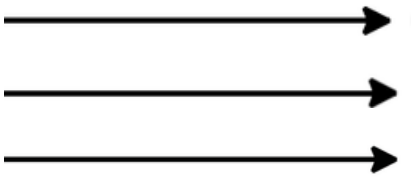
Alto Saxophone

The score is in sounding pitches.



Multiphonic Fingerings (Weiss)



 : gradually go to full tone

 : gradually go to air sound

 : gradually go to half tone



: bisbigliando/unmeasured. Follow the indications such as slow and fast to maintain a continuous transition between different rates of change between fingerings.

 : gradually from normal playing to overblow

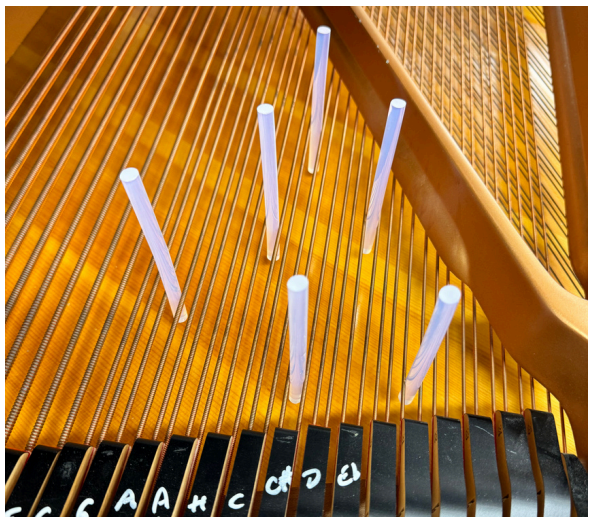
 : gradually from overblow to normal playing

Piano

Unless indicated otherwise, accidentals apply throughout the measures they are used. Also, the same pitch class in different octaves are individualy indicated for their accidentals.

The piano is prepared with the following materials:

Prepared with silicon sticks (G1 - Bb1 - C2): by inserting silicon stick in between the indicated strings for a bell-like sound. The approximate touch points should always be chosen in between clear partial nodes in order to create a bell-like indeterminate sonority.



For execution:

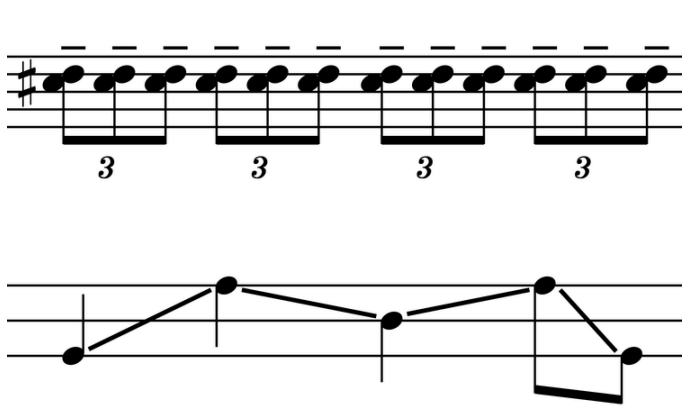
Prepared with duct tape (F5-F6 and F7-C8): by covering the indicated range with duct tape. There are various versions to achieve this effect, but the setup shown is recommended due to its characteristic reduction of the tone, while still capturing recognizable parts of it. The resultant should be quasi-woodblock sonority.



For execution:

Place the E-bows on Bb3 - E4 before the performance. The desired effect is to maintain a continuous resonance of these tones without buzzing.

Metal slide on strings: with the left hand, swipe the metal slide lengthwise on the indicated string(s), while pressing the keys with the right hand. The three-line staff indicates the sliding motion with the lowest staff being immediately in front of the dampers and the highest line being the furthest away from it, approximately. The player should apply significant pressure to eliminate buzzing to maintain a continuous glissando effect.

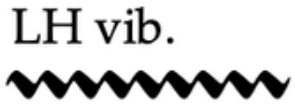


For execution:

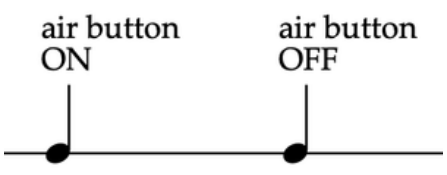
Accordion



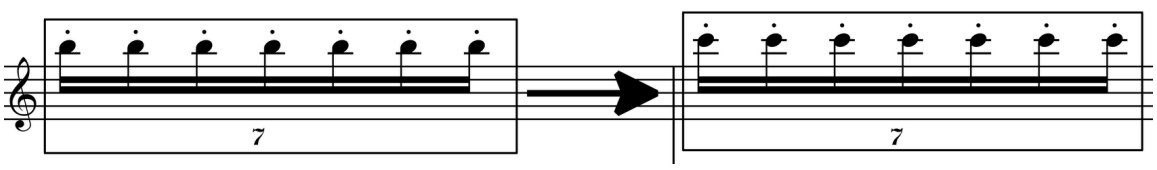
: outward/inward bellow movement, respectively.



: left hand vibrato. In accordance with the score, it can be slow or fast.



: turn on/off the air button (the middle staff is used for bellow-related actions, including the air button), the performer should immediately perform ON/OFF actions following the notated beat through the piece.



The boxed material followed by an arrow indicates that this material should be continued until a new box appears. One of this piece’s central aspects is the “signal-like” pointed repetition in the accordion, which is designated by this boxed material. Therefore, the performer must maintain a machine-like/static repetition as strictly as possible, providing a pulsation that guides the overall work.

Composer's Notes

The intention in this work is to sonically investigate three domains and their dramaturgical characteristics through the idea of pulsation, physical and sonic effect of wearing off and creating textural surfaces through timbral elements. Thus, the listener is presented with strictly preserved pulsating material, emitted as a “signal-like” repetition from the accordion and its constant interruptions. The contradicting domain of a stretched-out sonic surface and its eventual worn-off state, reached through being frayed, is presented in juxtaposition to this ever-lasting pulsation.

As part of investigating these three domains, not only the continuation of this pulsation but also its disappearance presents a psychoacoustical phenomenon, by which a pseudo-pulsation derived from the sonic residue that is imagined, a central side effect of the work.

The piece is written for and dedicated to Schallfeld Ensemble, as part of their residency at Mozarteum University Salzburg in November 2025.

Özkan Umutcan Bapbacı
Salzburg, 2025

Score in C

written for Schallfeld Ensemble
as part of their residency at Mozarteum University

PULSE | FRAY | SURFACE

for sextet

Özkan Umutcan Bapbacı
(*1996)

A ♩ = 72

Piccolo

Alto Saxophone

Piano
place e-bows on indicated strings
w/patafix
quasi-woodblock
Ped.

Accordion
air button
bellow movement

Violin
scordatura
on V

Contrabass
secco pizz.
I, N, flaut. (per sempre)
(-14, 10th) bow freely
yet imperceptibly

per sempre
as stable and mechanic as possible

per sempre, subtle, shadowing

5

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

sub.

8

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

pp

mf

mf

f

Ped.

mf

f

simile (-14)

ppp

p

(unmeasured, very subtle)

ppp

sub.

12

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

p

p

f *p*

f *ff*

pp

sub.

mf

sub.

ppp

f *p*

pp

(+2, 6th)

ppp

15

B

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

stop the bow dead on the string

(-14, 10th)

sub. (simile)

18

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

III

(-14, 10th)

21

C

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

mf

ff

f

pp

sub.

mf

ff

stop the bow dead on the string

p

24

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

p

ff

mf

p

f

ppp

sub.

27

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

mf 3 pp mf 3

ff 3 p 3 f f 3 p

sub.

I
(+4, 9th)
bow freely, yet imperceptibly

pppp
simile

29

p 3 mf f 3 ff 3 p

mf f 5 ff 3 p f 3 p

ppp
sub.

f ff 3 mf f p

stop the bow dead on the string

31

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

p 3

p

p 3

mf

f

15

ppp
sub.

7

f

ppp

34

D

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

mf 3 pp
sub.

mf

ff

f

p
sub.

7

f

pp
sub.

7

ff

f 3

stop the bow dead on the string

p

36

Picc.

flz.

ord.

flz.

p

mf *sub.* *mf*

p

f *sub.* *mf*

Alto Sax.

ppp

Pno.

ff

f

f

Accord.

mf

pp *sub.*

mf

Vln.

ff

Cb.

(8th)

pp *p*

(8th)

pp *p*

38

Picc.

ord.

mf *p* *sub.*

mf

Alto Sax.

ppp

Pno.

f

ff *p*

Accord.

f

pp *sub.*

Vln.

mf

f

Cb.

(7th)

ppp

p

40

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

pp ppp mf

ff p

f

p sub.

ff

IV
SP
6.

gliss.

7.

ppp p ppp mf

♩ = 48

43

E

To Bass Flute

Bass Flute

bisbig.
(slow)

(fast)

air sound

ff p mf

ff ppp f p mf

w/silicon
stick (quasi-bell)
let vib.

per sempre

air button ON

LH vib.
slow

fast

slow

pp sub.

very fast

I
SP, airy, flaut
(unstable harmonic)

arco

47

B. Fl.

Alto Sax.

ff p mf p

ff p mf p f

15

Pno.

3

8

Accord.

f sub. p f sub. pp sub.

mf sub.

3

p f sub. p mf

LH vib.
fast

air button
OFF

Vln.

pp

3

ppp

tr

Cb.

50

B. Fl.

bisbig.
(fast)

Alto Sax.

ff p mf p f mf

15

Pno.

3

no vib.

8

Accord.

ppp

MSP

Vln.

pp

3

p ppp

tr

Cb.

p

53

B. Fl.

completely cover the emb.
air sound, breathe out
bisbig. (fast)

bisbig. (slow)

p mf mf pp

bisbig.
(slow)

Alto Sax.

gliss.

ff p mf pp

15

Pno.

take metal slide

Accord.

pp ppp p

Vln.

I
SP

gliss.

p

Cb.

(tr)

ppp p

55

B. Fl.

(fast)

no bisbig.

mf f ff p mf ppp

bisbig. (slow)

(fast)

Alto Sax.

ppp ff p f pp ppp p

Pno.

pp p ppp

gradually swipe the metal slide lenghtwise on the indicated string (C5)
start immediately in front of the dampers
follow the indicated motion
apply significant pressure to eliminate buzzing
maintain a continuous glissando effect

Ped.

LH vib.
(very subtle)

Accord.

ppp

MSP

I
SP

MSP
III

Vln.

ppp mp p mf f

(tr)

III

Cb.

mp mf p pp ppp

59

B. Fl.

bisbig.
slow

fast

Alto Sax.

slow

no
bisbig.

Pno.

Accord.

no vib.

III
SP

IV (w/patafix)
bow near patafix
III-IV

increase pressure

Vln.

Cb.

gliss.

63

bisbig. (measured)

B. Fl.

bisbig.
slow

fast

no
bisbig.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

sub.

sub.

simile

sub.

Accord.

MSP
II

IV (w/patafix)
bow near patafix
flaut. (grainy, airy)

Vln.

SP
slow bow, grainy

Cb.

66

B. Fl.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

pp mf f

bisbig. (fast)

ppp p mf ff sub. p mf pp

5 5 5 5 5 5

air button ON V

f pp

I SP (unstable harm.) gliss. MSP

IV (w/patafix) bow near patafix

p ppp

N ST simile N IV-V

mf pp p

70

B. Fl.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

p

ppp

5 5 5 5 5 5

air button ON V

LH vib. (fast)

3

f

(p) gliss. gliss.

p mf

gliss.

mf p

72

B. Fl.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

mf f p mf f ppp sub. mf pp pp

bisbig. (fast)

LH vib. slow

p sub.

74

F

no bisbig.

ppp p p mf

fast slow

f p

SP gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss.

pp 3 p

ppp)

N IV (

ppp

76

accel.

B. Fl.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

pp

ff

Accord.

5

f

LH vib.
fast

p

Vln.

pp

Cb.

gliss.

mf

77

G = 72

B. Fl.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

pp
sub.

Ped.

Accord.

f

ff

Vln.

Cb.

gliss.

f

mf

79

B. Fl.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

mf *f*

Accord.

simile

mf *f* *ff*

3

pp

Vln.

Cb.

gliss. gliss.

ff *f* *ff* *f* *fff* *fff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

83

to Piccolo

♩ = 54

Piccolo

B. Fl.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

ff *fff*

Accord.

follow contrabass

f *ff*

Vln.

Cb.

N MSP N

gliss.

f *ff* *fff* *p*

86 **H** ♩ = 72

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

pizz.

gliss.

88

con sord.
secco pizz.

92

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

III
MSP

N

gliss.

sub.

94

SP

96

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

weak, airy

71

MSP

98

ord. touch

100

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

102 ♩ = 60

weak, airy

96

III

III
SP
nv.

lightly
touch

III-IV

104

I ♩ = 48

Picc.
flz.
weak, airy
p
ord. (no flz.)
airy, weak
ppp

Alto Sax.
pp
pp

Pno.
15
ff
3
p
(unmeasured trem. by repeatedly pressing on the key)
ppp
pp

Accord.
mf
f
pp

Vln.
arco
(IV w/patafix)
III-IV
3
ff
p
mf
ppp

Cb.
gliss.
IV
f
ff
pp
sub.
ppp

106

Picc.
vib.
very slow, narrow
no vib.
airy,
weak
pp
p
mf
airy, weak

Alto Sax.
p
mf
3
ppp

Pno.
15
p
3
pp
p
3
pp
mf
p
p

Accord.
fluctuating through dynamics,
very subtle never above p
ppp
3

Vln.
II
SP
gliss.
gliss.
ppp
p

Cb.
gliss.
p
mf

109

Picc.

vib.
slow, wide

fast,
narrow

no vib.
emb.gliss.
emb.gliss.

ppp
mf
p

Alto Sax.

pp

Pno.

take metal slide

pp
mf
pp

LH vib.
fast

Accord.

p
ppp
pp

MSP
gliss.
gliss.

Vln.

pp
p

Cb.

p

111

Picc.

flz.

pp
mf

Alto Sax.

p
pp
p
pp
p
pp

Pno.

p

LH vib.
slow

fast
slow

LH vib.
slow

Accord.

p
sub.
f
p
p
sub.

SP
N
gliss.
gliss.

Vln.

ppp
p
ppp

MSP
N
gliss.

Cb.

ppp
p
ppp

114

Picc.

ord.(no flz.)
airy, weak

ppp p pp

Alto Sax.

p pp p pp mf p pp

Pno.

mf

15

Accord.

fast slow

f p

LH vib.
slow

p
sub.

fast slow

f p

Vln.

gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss. gliss.

mp ppp mf pp ppp

Cb.

gliss.

mp ppp mf ppp

118

Picc.

mf ppp p pp mf

Alto Sax.

p pp p pp p mf p f p f pp
sub.

Pno.

f

15

Accord.

LH vib.
slow

fast slow

p
sub.

f p

LH vib.
slow

fast
bellow shake
sub.

p
sub.

f ff

Vln.

MSP N increase pressure

p f p

Cb.

MSP N increase pressure

p f p

J

123

= 72

Picc.

mf

mf

Alto Sax.

harsh
quasi-slap with clear tone

ff

f

ff

fff

Pno.

Accord.

ff

ord. (no bellow shake)

Vln.

fff

III-IV (art. harm. on III)

Cb.

fff

124

Picc.

f

f

Alto Sax.

ff

f

ff

Pno.

ff

ff

p

mf

fff

f

ff

Accord.

p

f

Vln.

mf

p

p

mf

Cb.

fff

p

ff

fff

126

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

mf harsh
quasi-slap with clear tone

sub.

129

bisbiq.
slow/wide

131

Picc.

Alto Sax.

fast/narrow

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

K = 84

forceful

133

Picc.

no bisbig.

OVERBLOWN

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

bow,
high pressure,
quasi-scratch

simile

Cb.

L ♩ = 54

135

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

sounding

damp immediately in front of the damper

IV (w/patafix)
bow near patafix
III-IV

increase pressure

IV-V
SP
N
SP
N

gliss.

sub.

M ♩ = 84

137

bow,
high pressure,
quasi-scratch

simile

simile

simile

simile

simile

IV-V

gliss.

141

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

mf

f

pp

fff

ppp

ff

145

N

sounding

damp immediately in
front of the damper

pppp

148

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

ppp pp ppp

measured bisbig.

3 3 5 5 3 3

ppp

>p ff sub. >p mf sub. mf p pp

take metal slide

p

pp ppp

pp

ff f f p p p mf mf p p p pp pp

= 72 = 54

152

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

p pp

no bisbig.

3

ppp mf f sub. p

mf

p

f

p

p mf

p pp

pp pp

gliss.

pp pp fff p

156

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

66

mf *pp* *sub.* *mf* *pp*

f *mf* *p* *pp*

p *ppp* *ppp*

p *pp* *ppp*

gliss. *mf* *pp*

159

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

ppp *p* *pp*

mp *pp*

mf *f*

mf *f* *fff*

pp *f* *pp*

f *p*

162 **P** ♩ = 72

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

pizz.

164

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

166

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

168

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

170

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

I-II
art. harm. on II

173 ♩ = 72

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

pizz.

Vln.

Cb.

176

Picc.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

180

to Bass Flute

184

R

♩ = 48

B. Fl.

breathe out

breathe in

10

p

ff

Alto Sax.

Pno.

sounding

damp immediately in
front of the damper

wait until the resonance
becomes quite weak

Ped.

f

Accord.

fff

air button
ON

mf

p

pp

Vln.

MSP
flaut. airy

arco

3

pppp

ppp

Cb.

188

S

B. Fl.

breathe out

breathe in

10

ppp

f

Alto Sax.

Pno.

simile

Ped.

f

Accord.

simile

3

p

mf

5

f

pp

Vln.

MSP
flaut. airy

3

pppp

ppp

Cb.

pppp

p

T

191

completely cover the emb.
air sound, breathe out

air sound,
breathe in,
quasi-gasping

B. Fl.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

keep pedal on,
let the strings resonate

Accord.

Vln.

gliss.

Cb.

194

breathe out

breathe in

B. Fl.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

simile

Ped.

Accord.

very little
bellow movement

sub.

Vln.

Cb.

197 U

B. Fl.

Alto Sax.

air sound
flz.

C C# 45

f *pp*

pppp

Pno.

15

p

Accord.

Ped.

pp
sub.

7

Vln.

SP

pp 3 *p* *pp*

slow bow
MSP → SP

N IV

ppp)

Cb.

ppp *p*

ppp

202 no flz. flz. no flz.

♩ = 72

breathe out breathe in

B. Fl.

mf
sub.

p *ppp*

p *ff*

Alto Sax.

ppp *pp*

ppp

15

Pno.

3

mf

p

pp

7

Accord.

SP
per sempre

gliss.

Vln.

3

ppp

SP
per sempre

Cb.

pp

206

B. Fl.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

breathe out

breathe in

gliss.

gliss.

210

V

214

B. Fl.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

breathe out

breathe in

breathe out

p ff p

ppp pp

ppp

pp

mf

ppp p

ppp p

ppp p mf

217

breathe in

breathe out

breathe in

ff p ff

f p

LH vib. (very subtle)

LH vib. (very subtle)

gliss.

gliss.

MSP

mf pp pp mf mf

221

B. Fl.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

mf

LH vib. (very subtle)

ppp

pp

ppp

p

224

breathe out

breathe in

p

ff

p

air button ON

ppp

p

MSP

p

pp

p

ppp

pp

ppp

pppp

pppp

230

B. Fl.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

breathe out

breathe in

p ff

ppp p

ST

pppp pppp ppp ppp

234

B. Fl.

Alto Sax.

Pno.

Accord.

Vln.

Cb.

ppp pp

ppp ppp