

Josh Modney

WHALEFALL

2021

for soprano saxophone, violin, cello, and piano

for Ingrid Laubrock, Mariel Roberts, and Cory Smythe

First Performance:

April 6, 2021

Modney/Laubrock/Roberts/Smythe Quartet

"Tues@7", Presented by International Contemporary Ensemble, Brooklyn, NY

Performance Notes

Helmholtz-Ellis JI pitch notation is employed throughout the score to indicate just intonation relationships. Whole number ratios are also indicated above the first instance of each sonority.

$\sharp\flat$ = syntonic comma higher (1/8 tone) // \flat = septimal comma lower (1/6 tone) // $\flat\sharp$ = undecimal comma lower/higher (1/4 tone)

Saxophone:

Multiphonic fingerings are given from *The Techniques of Saxophone Playing* by Marcus Weiss and Giorgio Netti

Strings:

In Section E, the violin and cello perform noise techniques notated on unpitched staves.

Square noteheads – "duck" sound. Play with heavy pressure behind the bridge on the winding of the strings.

Circled X noteheads – "scratch" sound. Find three overpressure sounds on the strings pitched relatively from low to high.

X noteheads – "twist" sound. Twist the bow on the string with heavy pressure, producing a fibrous, high-pitched noise.

Piano:

The piano part is performed on a setup devised by Cory Smythe, and is notated on three staves. The bottom two staves represent the piano. Inside-piano techniques are explained in the score. The top staff represents the two auxiliary MIDI controller keyboards, indicated by "QT" (Quarter Tone) and "ROLI" (ROLI Seaboard Block). The auxiliary keyboards produce tone through a software patch which is routed to transducer speakers placed on the soundboard of the piano.

The QT keyboard produces Equal Tempered quarter tones. The sounding pitch is one quarter tone higher than the notated pitch.

The ROLI operates along a continuous pitch spectrum, and is notated at sounding pitch with Helmholtz-Ellis notation.

Whalefall

Josh Modney

A

♩ = ca. 100

SOP SAX



Staff with rests for Soprano Saxophone.

VIOLIN



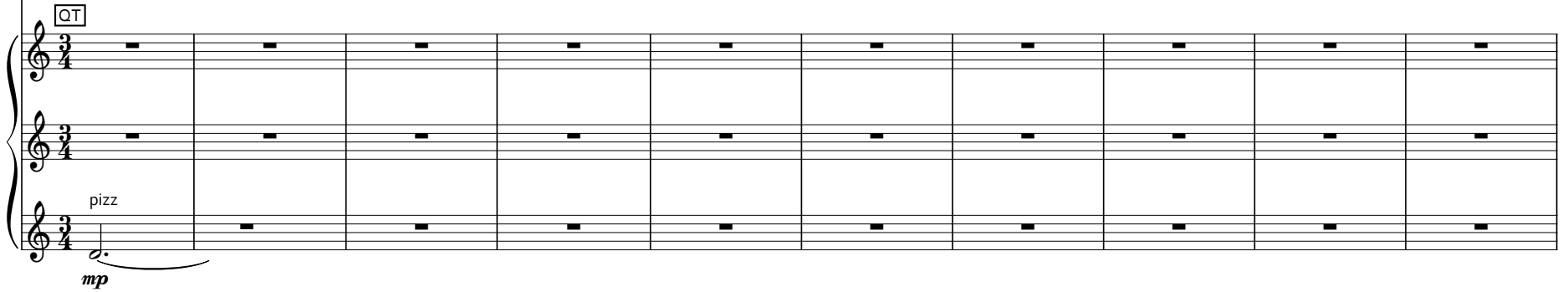
Violin staff with notes and dynamics. Includes markings: 7:4, mp, st, flaut, mst, 14:9.

CELLO



Cello staff with notes and dynamics. Includes markings: I/II °, mp, st, flaut, III - 7., II - 2.

PIANO



Piano staff with notes and dynamics. Includes markings: QT, pizz, mp.

11

S

V

C

P

quiet, active bow scrape improv (no pitch)

quiet, active bow scrape improv (no pitch)

plectrum on highest strings behind bridge

ord.

pizz

mp

f

pizz

mp

26

quiet, noisy active improv (with strings)

quiet, noisy active improv (with strings)

scrape improv

mst

mst

scrape improv

scrape improv

II - 2.

I/II \circ

III - 7.

II - 2.

III - 7.

I/II \circ

II - 2.

(QT)

plectrum on highest strings behind bridge

ord.

ord.

f

f

pizz

pizz

mp

mp

Red.

39

quiet, noisy active improv (with strings) improv improv improv improv

S

V scrape improv scrape improv scrape improv scrape improv scrape improv

C I/II II-2. scrape improv I/II scrape improv scrape improv II-2. I/II scrape improv I/II scrape improv

P

f *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

pizz pizz pizz pizz pizz pizz pizz pizz pizz pizz

mp *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

(red) red. red. red. red. red. red. red. red. red.

B

51 quiet, noisy active improv - continue to solo over string chords --->

The musical score consists of four staves: S (Soprano), V (Violin), C (Cello), and P (Piano).
 - **Staff S:** A vocal line starting at measure 51 with rests. Above the staff, the text "quiet, noisy active improv - continue to solo over string chords --->" is written.
 - **Staff V:** A violin line. It begins with a whole rest, followed by eighth-note chords. It includes markings for "mst" (muted) and "scrape improv" (indicated by a wavy line).
 - **Staff C:** A cello line. It features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with markings for "scrape improv" and "I/II" (first and second endings).
 - **Staff P:** A piano accompaniment. It shows chords and notes, with markings for "11. of G1" and dynamic markings "f" (forte). Below the piano staff, there are guitar chord diagrams for "11. of G1" and "I.v." (first inversion).

64

S

V

C

P

2x only: Strike low strings with palm

mp

mp

pp

f

mst

scrape improv

III - 5.

IV - 7.

V

I/II

(quiet noisy improv)

77

Sax/piano duo

C

OPEN

V

11:X

scrape improv

pp mp f mp

III - 5.
IV - 7.
V

II - 2.

15:8
I - 2. / II

scrape improv

II - 2.

I - 2. / II

(22:15)

V

OPEN

II - 2.

I - 2. / II

scrape improv

C

pp mp f mp

II - 2.

I - 2. / II

scrape improv

P

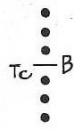
(hard cut to silence)

f

Duo with sax

OPEN

49) S/B-7 + Tc



87

S

V

C

P

mp

ff

mp

ff

mp

ff

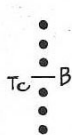
p

Senza misura

Cello solo ---->

ROLI

49) 5/B-7 + Tc



A tempo
noisy active improv

S
ff swell in and out, catch breaths as needed
OPEN improvisation --->

V
stay within Roli sound
p f
scrape improv
ff
OPEN scrape improv
f
scrape improv
4:3

C
scrape improv
f
ff
OPEN scrape improv
f
1-2. // 1-2. // 4:3
scrape improv

P
(beating with violin)
gliss.
gliss.
f
Roli stuff ad lib
OPEN
f
f
f

i.v.
ff

piano joins improv

S

V

C

11: X

scrape improv

scrape improv

II - 2.

I - 2. / II

I - 2. / II

II - 2.

I - 2. / II

scrape improv

II - 2.

I - 2. / II

7:4

Detailed description: This block contains the staves for Saxophone (S), Violin (V), and Cello (C). The Saxophone staff is mostly empty with slash marks. The Violin and Cello staves feature rhythmic patterns and improvisation. The Cello staff includes performance instructions like 'scrape improv' and 'II - 2.' along with rhythmic notation. The Violin staff includes a '11: X' marking and 'scrape improv' notation.

duo with sax

P

(ord.)

Strike low strings with palm

mf

f

mp

8

Detailed description: This block contains the Piano (P) staff. It shows a piano accompaniment with a 'duo with sax' section. The score includes dynamic markings such as 'mf' and 'f', and a specific instruction 'Strike low strings with palm' with a corresponding musical notation. There is also a 'mp' marking and a circled '8' at the bottom of the page.

121

S

V

C

P

11:X

11:6

26:15

7:4

III - 2.
II - open

7:4

III - 2.
II - open

OPEN

OPEN

OPEN

OPEN

scrape improv

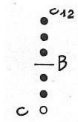
scrape improv

(15:14)

V

V

85 $S/B-6+C_{12}$



1x: wrap up improv
2x: multiphonic

135

S

V

C

P

26:15 3:2 scrape improv 26:15

7:4 3:2 scrape improv III - 2. II - open 7:4 11:8

(16:11)

f poss.

2X 2X 2X 2X 2X 2X

The musical score consists of four staves: S (Solo), V (Violin), C (Cello), and P (Piano). The S staff starts with a treble clef and contains a series of rests followed by a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *f* poss. The V and C staves start with a treble and bass clef respectively and contain complex rhythmic patterns with various time signatures (26:15, 3:2, 7:4, 11:8) and performance instructions like 'scrape improv'. The P staff consists of three staves (treble, middle, and bass clefs) and contains rests. There are several '2X' markings in boxes throughout the score, indicating repeat or multiphonic sections.

D Tempo held back, resistant

148

S

V
ff

C
ff

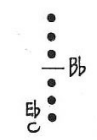
Piano: let all pitches ring, regardless of marked duration

P
ff *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

8

The musical score is arranged in four systems. The first system contains the vocal parts: Soprano (S), Violin (V), and Cello (C). The second system contains the Piano (P) part. The Soprano part consists of rests across all measures. The Violin and Cello parts feature complex rhythmic patterns with various time signatures (4/4, 5/4, 2/4, 3/4) and articulations such as slurs, triplets, and sextuplets. The Piano part includes dynamic markings like *ff* and *f sempre*, along with slurs and accents. The score concludes with a fermata over a final chord in the piano part.

② 5/ Bb + Eb



Senza misura

swell in and out on this multiphonic with space in between

163

S

V

C

(let the D chord settle for a sec in VN/Roli, then launch into your solo)

P

ROLI

mp (cello solo)

169

S

V

Cello solo

C

P

QT

Solo. Robotic.

E

Faster. In 1.

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 37 \text{ (♩} = 110)$

mf cantabile (sax always in unison with piano)

Duck (III) twist Duck twist twist

Duck (I) Duck scratch

scratch

mf

Piano has two layers --
 1) Cantabile line, unison with sax
 2) Robotic interjections, which should generally be staccato, contrasting with the main line

377

S

V

C

P

twist

8

15

8

8

S

V

C

P

Duck IV

Duck IV

(loco) 6

8

15

15

8

The musical score consists of four staves: Soprano (S), Violin (V), Cello (C), and Piano (P). The S staff features a melodic line with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. The V and C staves are in 2/4 time and include guitar-specific notation such as 'x' for muted strings and 'Duck IV' for a specific technique. The P staff is in 2/4 time and includes fingering numbers (3, 8, 15, 6) and a '(loco)' marking. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines, with some measures containing rests for certain instruments.

The musical score consists of four staves: Soprano (S), Violin (V), Cello (C), and Piano (P). The Soprano part is a single melodic line with a few notes. The Violin and Cello parts feature complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and a 'Duck IV' marking. The Piano part is more complex, with a '15' marking and a 'loco' marking. The score is in 2/4, 3/4, and 2/4 time signatures.

*Overtone chords enter here, adding a third layer. They are indicated by accents/tenudos and l.v. markings. These should be richer and more sonorous than the other materials.

Soprano (S) line: Treble clef, notes with slurs and ties.

Violin (V) line: Treble clef, notes with 'x' marks, slurs, and triplets. Includes the instruction "Duck IV".

Cello (C) line: Bass clef, notes with 'x' marks, slurs, and triplets. Includes the instruction "Duck IV".

Piano (P) line: Grand staff (treble and bass clefs), notes with dynamic markings "15" and "8", and fingering numbers "15" and "IV".

S

V

C

P

Duck IV

Duck IV

Duck IV

15

(loco)

6

Detailed description: This musical score page contains four staves. The Soprano (S) staff has a melodic line with a half note, a quarter note, and a dotted half note. The Violin (V) and Cello (C) staves play a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and triplets, marked with 'x' for mutes. The Piano (P) part features a complex accompaniment with triplets, a sixteenth-note run of 15 notes, and a 'loco' section. The piece is titled 'Duck IV' and is in 2/4 time.

F

Senza misura

All bars quasi-fermata. ROLI leads.

The score consists of three staves: Violin (V), Cello (C), and ROLI (R).
Violin (V): Starts with a whole note rest. Later, it plays a glissando from a whole note to a half note, then a half note with a glissando to a quarter note. A box highlights a section with notes marked 'IV' and '8', with the instruction '(s.p.) emphasize pp high partials'. The piece ends with a whole note marked '8va' and a fermata.
Cello (C): Starts with a whole note rest. Later, it plays a half note with a glissando to a quarter note, then a half note with a glissando to a quarter note, and finally a whole note with a glissando to a quarter note. Dynamics include *ff*, *p*, *dim.*, and *pp*. A section is marked '(detune IV.)' with a fermata.
ROLI (R): Features a series of chords with ratios: 14:9:6, 14:X:9:6, 22:15:10, 4:3:2, 32:15:14, 11:8:X, 8:7:6:4, 11:8:6, 13:6:5:4, 7:4:3, and 9:7:6. The instruction 'ROLI solo. Spend time with each sonority, allowing the intonation to come in and out of focus.' is written above. A note is marked 'Switch to lower octave (during string swell)'. The piece ends with a whole note marked '(Ossia: leave out F)' and a fermata.

♯♭ = syntonic comma higher (1/8 tone) // ♭ = septimal comma lower (1/6 tone) // ♯♯ = undecimal comma lower/higher (1/4 tone)