

ANNA THORVALDSDOTTIR

FIELD

Bass, Drumset, Percussion, Piano, Electric Guitar,
Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass & Live-recorded Files

Commissioned by the State Foundation Villa Music Rheinland-Pfalz
for the Bang on a Can All-Stars

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 **TÓNVERKAMIÐSTÖÐ**
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DEMO

ANNA THORVALDSDOTTIR

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DEMO

FIELDS

FOR BASS CLARINET, PERCUSSION, PIANO, ELECTRIC GUITAR, CELLO, DOUBLE BASS & PRE-RECORDED FILES

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**THE WORK WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE STATE FOUNDATION VILLA MUSICA RHEINLAND-PFALZ
FOR THE BANG ON A CAN ALL-STARS**

SCORE IN C

2016

FIELDS

PERFORMANCE NOTES

With expression and tranquility

Instruments need to be played with a certain performance

There are 2 pre-recorded files that are played for parts of the work as indicated in the score. The recordings should *not* be played through speakers as “electronics” but rather be a part of the instrumental texture, coming from an amplified instrumental source or a small device on stage. There are a few different options to play the recordings: The audio output/playing device (basic playing device, such as a mini player or even a phone) can be heard and played through the pickup of the guitar; A vibration speaker (such as Epishock or Rock-It 3.0 from OrigAudio) can be attached to a surface, such as a table, the bass drum or the gong to turn the surface into a speaker where the audio from the playing device plays through; Or played through a radio placed on stage.

There may be other ways to play the recordings - the desired outcome of the sound should feel as though coming from the overall instrumental performance

Performers decide together who is in charge of managing and performing the recordings

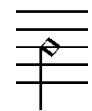
Lyrical material is generally played as much by sounds, gestures and nuances as by pitched material. Please approach effect sounds and the inclusion of “white noise” as lyrical material, both with respect to sounds and performance

TECHNIQUE

→ Former, technique/note etc., gradually becomes the following as indicated.

BASS CLARINET

When notes are slurred throughout extended period of time – with slurs over a few measures – breathe when necessary, preferably not breathing before the first beat of the measures.

 Air sounds, no pitch – written on the center line of the staff, indicates ‘no pitch’. When indicated with a slur above, articulates through the mouthpiece to get a sound imitating white noise.

mp (*relative*) The *relative* in brackets is indicated with airy effects and refers to the dynamics relative to the overall texture.

Abbreviations:

- wh. – white noise
- ord. – ordinary, taking back the indication of previous technique

PERCUSSION

Instruments:

Large Bass Drum, placed horizontally
A large Gong (bossed) – deep

Percussion is written on a five-line staff, as follows:

Edge of Bass Drum
Gong
Bass Drum, skin

Dynamics for sustained values:

p = relatively slow/short strokes
f = relatively fast/longer strokes
crescendo = gradually faster strokes
decrescendo = gradually slower strokes

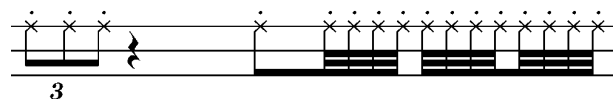
Abbreviations:

sust. – sustained
sim. – similar to previous technique

Do not dampen sound of instruments

Attacks, mallets hitting surface, are indicated with x note heads, sustained note values are indicated with ordinary note heads

When indicated to play at the center of Gong it refers to hitting the rounded boss at the center of the instrument for a soft deep resonating attack. Let the resonance live from the attacks on center of gong.



Performing on edge of bass drum refers to the metal rim surrounding the drum - these phrases should result in a sharp attack with a hint of deep resonance. The effect is written with hard yarn mallets, but please search for the best means to portray the desired sound.

Mallets:

-  2 big soft mallets (gong/bass drum mallet)
-  2 wire brushes
-  1 super ball
-  hard yarn mallets
-  hand/-s

When mallets such as wire brush and super ball are written to sustained note-values, move the mallets/hands over the instrument in sustained back and forth/circular strokes.


When indication of wire brush is written with tremolo on sustained note-values on bass drum: Quick tremolo back-and-forth strokes over the instrument, varying in location on the instrument for subtle variations in color of the sound.

When sustained tremolo is indicated with larger mallets (such as big soft mallet), play ordinary tremolo with two mallets.

PIANO

Please note that accidental for certain pitches appear in brackets - there is not a musical reason for this, it is merely caused by an issue in the computer program. The pitches should be performed with the accidentals applied.

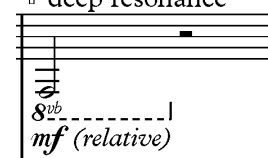
Two staff systems for the piano

One staff line:  Material written on the designated staff should be performed on the inside of the instrument. When a specific texture should be performed, rather than pitches on particular strings, the note head is placed at the center of the staff with an indication of the desired effect and register.

Ordinary staff - keyboard: Material written on the ordinary staff lines (in treble and bass clef) should be performed on the keyboard.

Notation:

draw superball
mallet over string
deep resonance

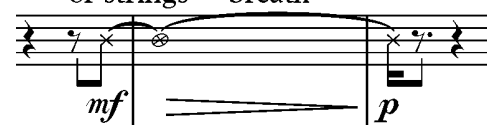


8^{vb}
mf (relative)

Draw superball mallet over string inside the piano, the mallet should be pressed down on the string resulting in a deep resonating droning sound.

Where indicated to "lightly" draw mallet over wood or string (without a pitch specification) and with the indication of "white noise", draw the mallet without pressing it into the wood/string, the resulting sound should be similar to white noise. Please search for the best means to portray the white noise sound for this effect.

draw fingers over
surface of wood
or strings - "breath"



mf *p*

Draw fingers over surface of wood or strings resulting in an airy sound, similar to the expression/imitation of breath without pitch. Please search for the best means to portray the sound of breath for this effect.

press base of string, hold
and release on played note
on keyboard



8^{vb}
f

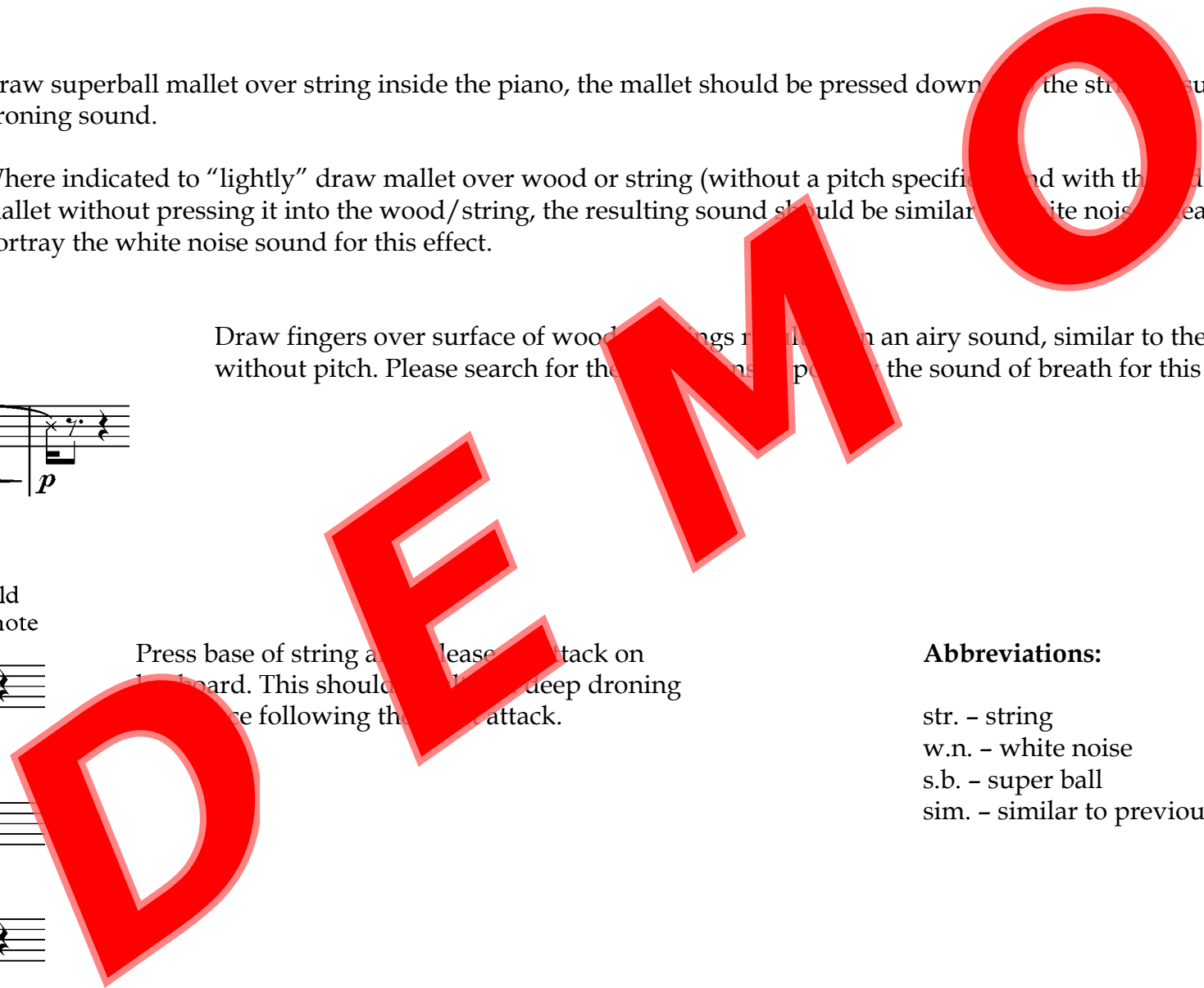
Press base of string and release attack on keyboard. This should result in a deep droning sound following the attack.

Abbreviations:

- str. - string
- w.n. - white noise
- s.b. - super ball
- sim. - similar to previous technique

mp (relative)

The *relative* in brackets is indicated for some effects and refers to the dynamics relative to the overall texture.



GUITAR

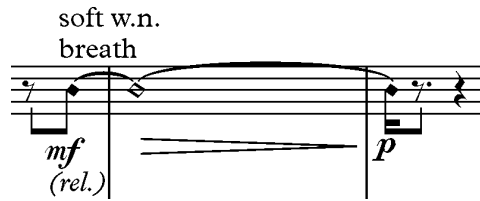
A sustain pedal, or means to sustain pitches, is needed for performance

Means to generate a sound of subtle "white noise" is needed for performance – this can be, but does not need to be, done with pedals

white
noise



When "white noise" is indicated the sound should be played for the duration of the note value and should resemble the sound of white noise as best possible. Please search for the best means to portray the white noise sound with this effect. The desired sound should be as "clean" and subtle as possible and not have a dominating pitch.



When "soft white noise" is indicated, it refers to an airy sound, or a breathing sound. The effect should portray a rather actual sound of breath indicated with "breath". The effect can perhaps also be achieved by sliding the hand over the strings with the fingers for an artificial sound of air. It may be possible to achieve the airy sound by other means, but the desired effect should feel as close to breath/air as possible and not have a dominating pitch.

White noise is always written on the center line of the staff and should not have a pitch

mp (relative) The *relative* in *mp* refers to the dynamics indicated with white noise effects and refers to the dynamics of the overall texture.

Abbreviations:

w.n. – white noise sounds
ord. – ordinary

CELLO & DOUBLE BASS

When there are long legato slurs for phrases and harmony progression – with slurs over a few measures – inconspicuously change bow when necessary, preferably not for the first beat of the slurred measure.

mp (*relative*) The *relative* in brackets is indicated with airy effects and refers to the dynamics relative to the airy sounds.

Abbreviations:

- b.pr. – much bow pressure
- l.b.pr. – ordinary bow pressure
- sul pont
- relative

NOTE HEADS



Place left hand (not only one finger) lightly on the string, *around* given pitch area, not on harmonic. Fingers are not to be placed on exact pitches. This produces an un-pitched airy sound. The lower small note head indicates the open string, the upper note head indicates the approximate position of the hand. When indicated to play with much bow pressure on air – apply a bit more (than ordinary) bow pressure to the string for a subtle atmospheric sustained vibration sound.

Fields

Anna Thorvaldsdottir

♩ = 60

Recording I on

20 seconds

Bass Clarinet in B \flat (4/4):
- 20 seconds
- on air no pitch
- *mf* (relative)
- on air - on "s" - white noise

Percussion (4/4):
- sustained stroke on skin
- *mf*
- sim.

Inside Piano (4/4):
- draw superball mallet over string deep resonance
- *mf* (relative)
- 8^{vb}

Piano (4/4):
- press base of string, hold and release on attack on keyboard
- 8^{vb}
- *f*

Electric Guitar (4/4):
- white noise
- *mp* (relative)
- Ped.

Violoncello (4/4):
- on air no pitch
- *mf* (relative)

Double Bass (4/4):
- on air no pitch
- *mf* (relative)

6 Recording I faded out

B. Cl. on air
no pitch on air - on "s"
w.n.

Perc. slow sust.
strokes sust.
strokes
on skin
mf

Ins. Pno. sim. press base of str.
and release on attack draw s.b. lig
of w... is... ngs draw s.b. over str.
deep resonance press base
of str. and
release on
attack

Pno. *8^{vb}* *mp* relative *8^{vb}* *mp*
(rel.)

E. Gtr. on air
m.b.pr on air
ord.b.pr. sim. sim.
w.n. sim.

Vc. *mp* (relative) *mf* (relative) *mf*
(relative)

Db. sim. on air
m.b.pr *mf* (relative)

DEMO

11

B. Cl. *mf* *p* *sim.* *p* *mp* *mf (rel.)*

on air no pitch

sim. ord. on air

Perc. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *sim.* *mp* *mf*

center of gong let resonance live

one continuous sust. stroke on skin - "breath"

center

Ins. Pno. *mf* *p*

draw fingers over surface of wood or strings - "breath"

Pno. *f*

E. Gtr. *ord.* 6 5 6 *soft w.n. "breath"* *p (rel.)*

ord. pitch

Vc. *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf*

ord.b.pr. - pitch

Db. *p* *mp* *mf*

18

B. Cl. *ord.* *on air*

Perc. *one continuous sust. stroke on skin - "breath"*

Ins. Pno. *sim.*

Pno.

E. Gtr. *soft w.n. breath* *ord. 5 6*

Vc.

Db.

p mp mf (rel.) p

mf p

mf p

mf (rel.) p

mp

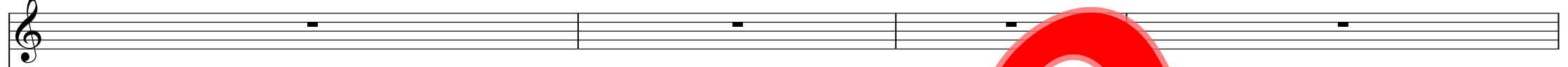
mp

mp

mp

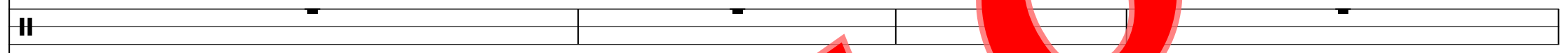
25

B. Cl.



Musical staff for B. Cl. containing three measures of whole rests.

Perc.



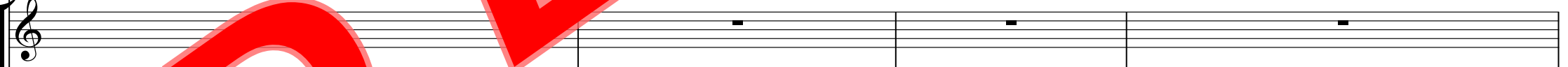
Musical staff for Percussion containing three measures of whole rests.

Pno.



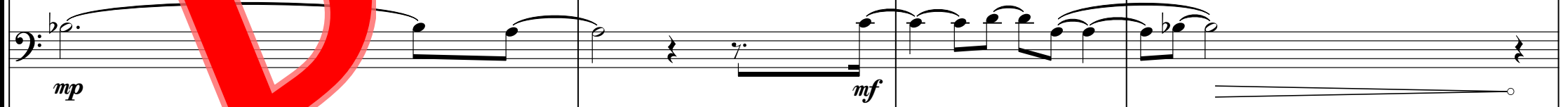
Musical staff for Piano with two staves. The upper staff has a melodic line starting with a whole note chord (Bb, D, F, Ab) and a slur over the next two notes. The lower staff has a bass line with chords and a 7th fret barre. Dynamics include *p* and *ord.* with a slur. A tempo marking *Red. ad lib. →* is present.

E. Gtr.



Musical staff for Electric Guitar containing three measures of whole rests.

Vc.



Musical staff for Violoncello with a melodic line. Dynamics include *mp* and *mf*.

Db.



Musical staff for Double Bass with a melodic line.



29 ord.

B. Cl. *mf* *mf* *mp*

Perc. center *mf* *mp* 3 3

Pno. *p* 7 7 5 5

E. Gtr. *p* 5 w.n. *mp* (relative) w.n.

Vc. *mf*

Db.

33

B. Cl. *mf* *< f* *> mf* *> mp* *mp*

Perc. 3 *mf mp* 3 *mf mp*

Pno. *p* 5 5 5

E. Gtr. *p*

Vc. *mf*

Db.

Sustain each measure through m. 38.

37

B. Cl.

Perc.

Pno.

E. Gtr.

Vc.

Db.

mf

mf (rel.)

p

on "air"

on air - on "s"
w.n.

mf (rel.)

one continuous sust.
stroke on skin - "breath"

40

B. Cl.

Perc.

Ins. Pno.

Pno.

E. Gtr.

Vc.

Db.

p

draw s.b. lightly over wood or strings - white noise sound

mp (relative)

p

mf (rel.)

p

mp

no pedal

ord. 3

w.n.

mp (relative)

on "air"

mf (rel.)

p

sim.

mf

Recording II on

43 ord.

B. Cl. *mf*

Perc. *mf* *mp*³ *mf*

Ins. Pno. *mf (rel.)* *p*

Pno. *mf* *p*

E. Gtr. *p* ord.5 5

Vc. *p* *mf* *p* ord.

Db. *mf*

draw fingers over wood or strings - "breath"

mp *ped. ad lib. →*

47

B. Cl.

Perc.

Pno.

sustain the pi for
each measur
2nd beat of m

E. Gtr.

Vc.

Db.



Recording II faded out

50

B. Cl.

Bass clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a long melodic line starting with a half note, followed by eighth notes, and ending with a quarter note. Dynamic markings include *f* and *mp*.

Perc.

Percussion staff with a double bar line. It shows rhythmic patterns of eighth notes with dynamic marking *mp* and triplet markings (*3*).

Ins. Pno.

Two staves for the inner piano. The upper staff contains a few notes with dynamic marking *mp* and a slur. The lower staff is mostly empty with some notes.

Pno.

Two staves for the outer piano. The upper staff has notes with dynamic marking *mp* and a slur. The lower staff has notes with dynamic marking *mp*.

E. Gtr.

Treble clef staff with notes and dynamic markings including *mp (rel.)*, *sustain*, and *w.n.*

Vc.

Bass clef staff with notes and a long slur across the measures.

Db.

Bass clef staff with notes and a triplet marking (*3*) at the end.



55

B. Cl.

Perc.

Pno.

E. Gtr.

Vc.

Db.



59

B. Cl.

Perc.

Ins. Pno.

Pno.

E. Gtr.

Vc.

Db.

mf *p* *p* *mp* *p*

draw s.b. lightly over wood or strings - w.n.

mf (rel.)

sim.

ord. *pp* 7

mp 5

62

on air - on "s"
w.n.

B. Cl.

mf (relative)

Perc.

Pno.

E. Gtr.

Vc.

Db.



65 on air - on "s"
w.n.

ord.

B. Cl.

B. Cl. staff with notes and dynamics: *mf* (rel.), *mp*

Perc.

Perc. staff with dynamics: *mp*, *mp*, *p* 3, 3, *mp*, *p*, 3

Ins. Pno.

Ins. Pno. staff with dynamics: *mp* (rel.), *mp* (rel.)

Pno.

Pno. staff with dynamics: *f*, *f*

E. Gtr.

E. Gtr. staff with dynamics: *mp* (rel.), *pp*, *mp* (rel.)

Vc.

Vc. staff with notes and dynamics

Db.

Db. staff with notes and dynamics: 3



Recording I on

70

on air - on "s"
w.n.

B. Cl.

Bass clef staff with notes and a large red watermark 'O'.

mf (rel.)

Perc.

mp p

center

mp

p

mp p

3

3

Ins. Pno.

sim.

8^{vb}

Pno.

8^{vb}

mf

E. Gtr.

pp

or

7

6

5

5

w.n.

mp (rel.)

Vc.

Db.



on air - on "s"
w.n.

Recording I faded out'

B. Cl. *mf* (rel.)

Perc. *mp p* *p* 3 3 *mp* sust. tremolo strokes on skin

Ins. Pno. draw s.b. lightly over wood or strings - w.n. *mp* (rel.) *Red.*

E. Gtr. ord. 5 6 5 5 w.n. *mp* (rel.) *ppp* 5 5 w.n. *mp* (rel.)

Vc. *mp* *pp* on "air" *mf* (rel.) on air on "air"

Db. *p* *pp* *ppp* *mp* (rel.)