Håkon Thelin

Light

for double bass and violin

2009

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Composed with support from The Norwegian Artistic Research Fellowship Programme.

First performed by Håkon Thelin and Marco Rogliano at the Museum for Contemporary Art, Oslo, March 2010.

Released on the CD ”Light” (Atterklang, 2011).

Light

for violin and double bass

Håkon Thelin, 2008

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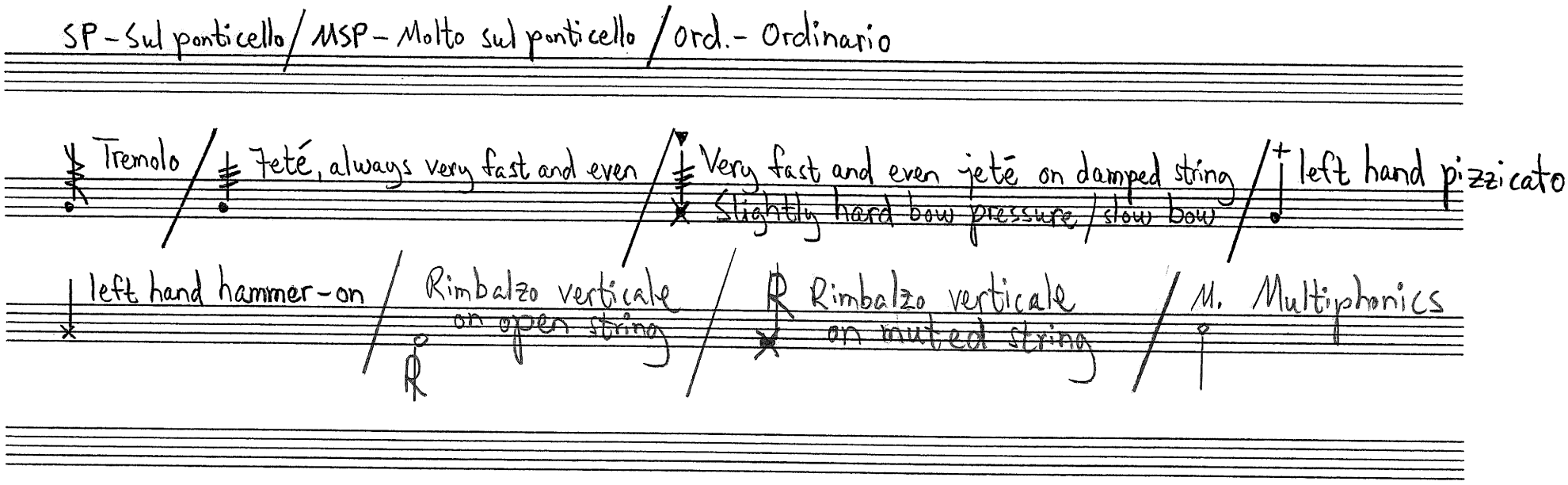
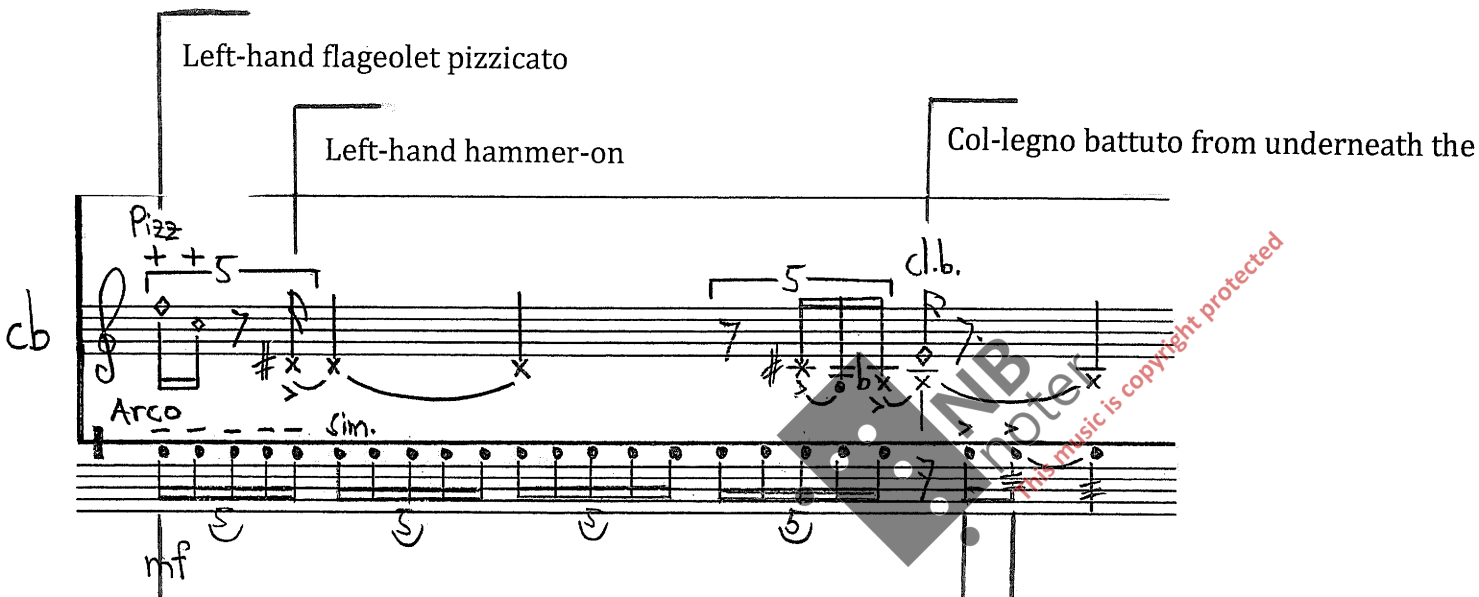
The original idea for *Light* appeared when I was planning a series of concerts in different lighthouses along the Norwegian coast. Evoking the image of a lighthouse, pulsating elements establish a sense of light and recognition - short melodic phrases sometimes suddenly appear in unison, like beams of light. The sound of harmonics shines through a diffused and misty atmosphere, and the untraditional playing techniques found and underline the temperament of the waves and of the wind. In *Light,* I borrowed a little ink from a score of Salvatore Sciarrino, to paint my picture of the sea and to blend the sounds of past and present. To let the double bass make colourful harmonic alterations in the (new) mix with the violin, to let the shadings meet and create interweaved, living figures in moments of virtuosity, to let them bounce together on the strings and on the body. As in Scodanibbio's duo for violin and double bass *Jardins d'Hamilcar*, where the traditional rhetorical dualism between the instruments has been obliterated and replaced with a singularity of sound and technique, I sought a homogeneous expression of sounds, which is made possible through the novel flageolet techniques. But previously 'unheard' sounds can also in themselves be alienating and thus create imaginary cracks in the perception of the uniform sounds. The work is technically demanding, but with a fleeting and subdued expression.

Playing instructions:

General signs:



Explanations with examples from the score:



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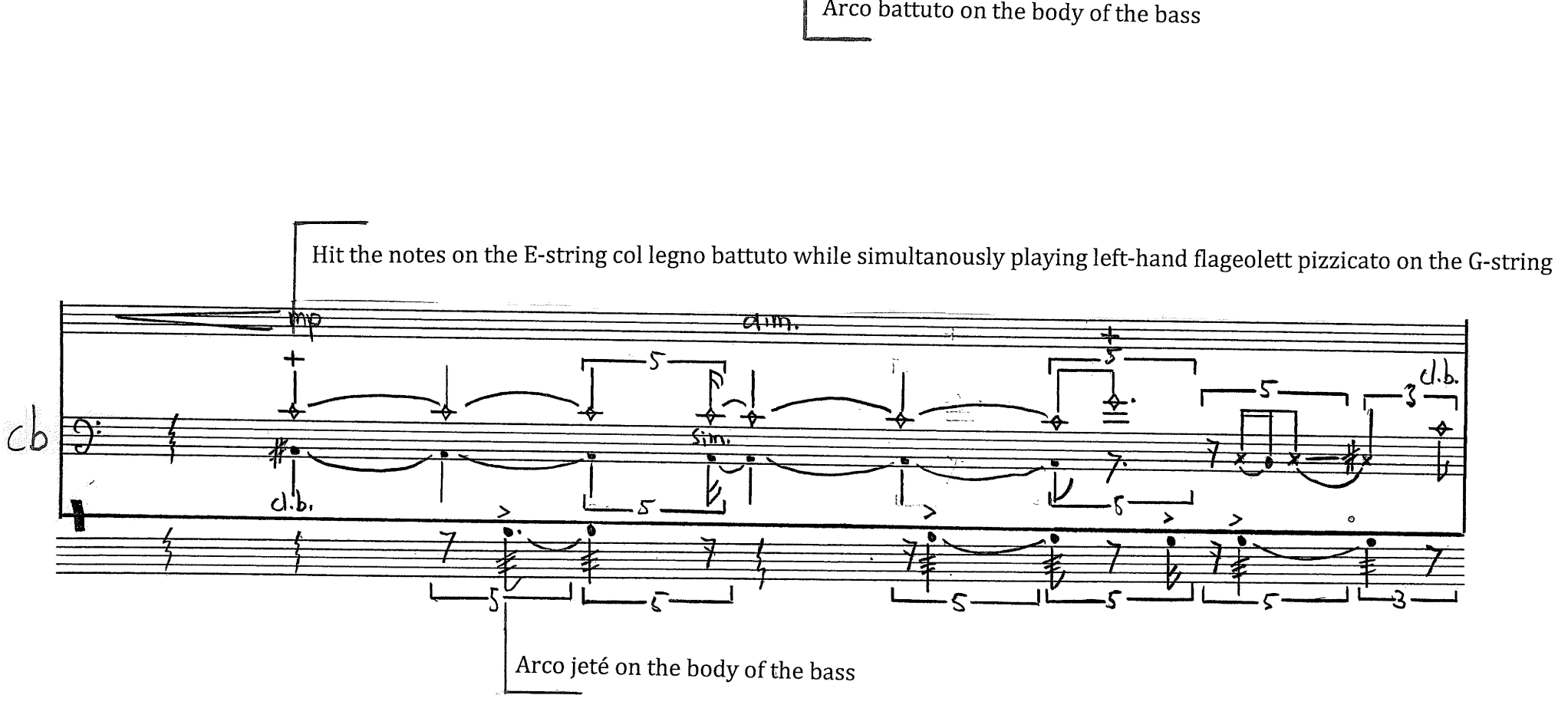
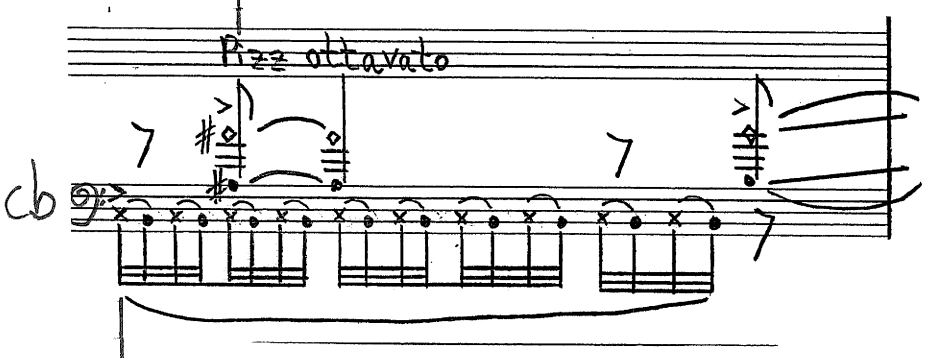
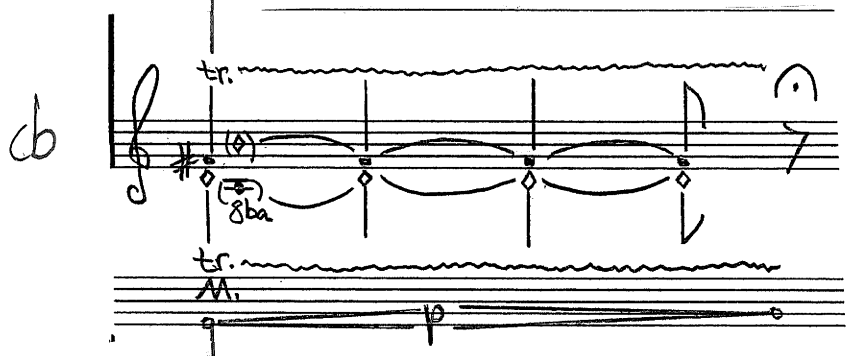


Octave pizzicato – place right-hand thumb on octave harmonic and pluck with index finger

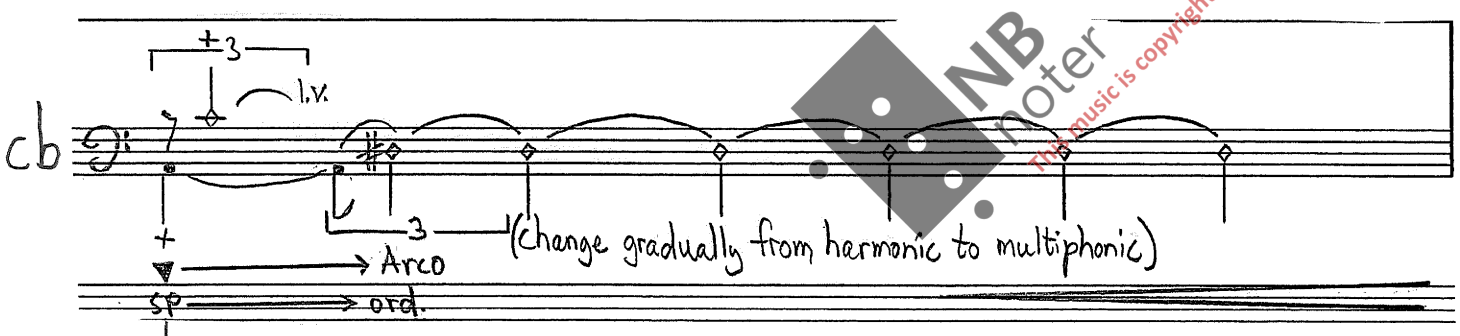


Left-hand hammer-on and pull-off

Thumb on f♯ on the D-string and trill on the B harmonic.



Multiphonic sound with trill on the open A-string



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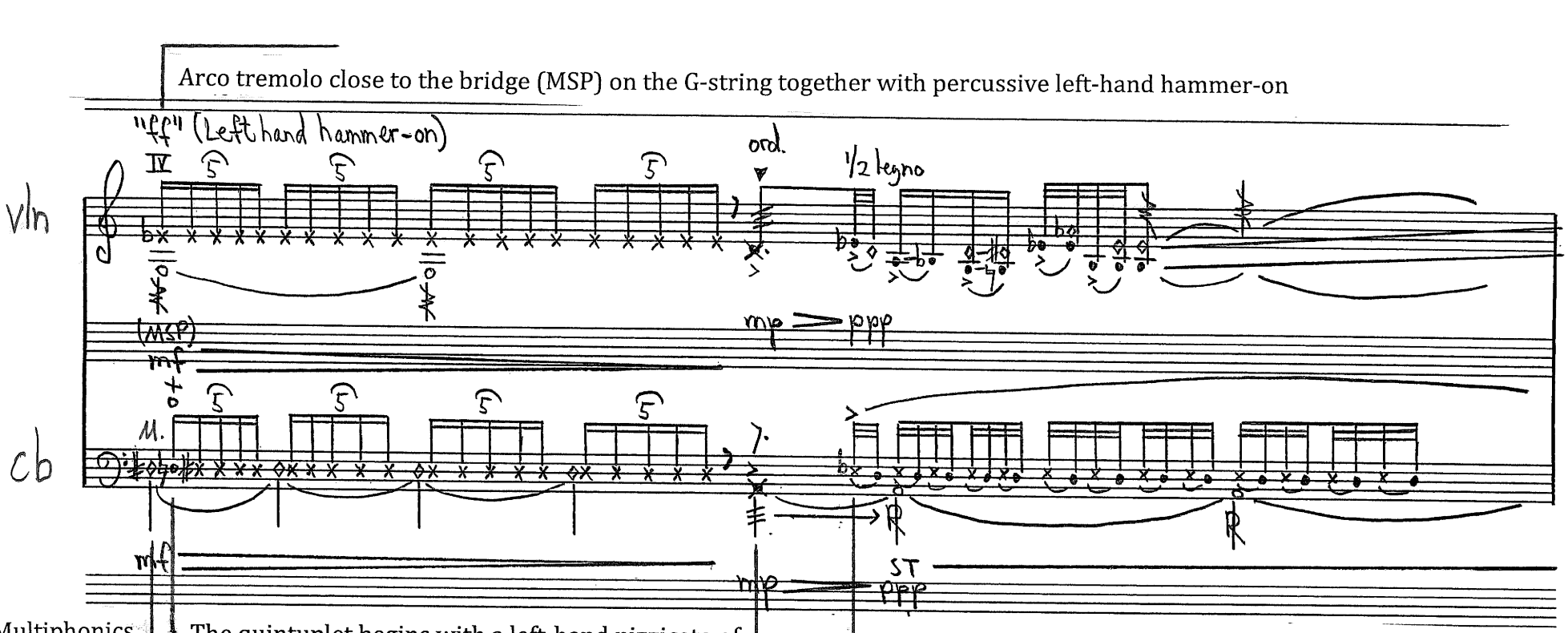
Left-hand pizzicato on the open A-string while the ebony on the tip of the bow rest on the string close to the bridge (SP). Move the bow in a gentle sweep towards normal position (ord.) while the string bounces againt the tip. Move to bow gradually towards arco and, when the harmonic is established, change gradually to multiphonic sound

Arco tremolo close to the bridge (MSP) on the G-string together with percussive left-hand hammer-on



Multiphonics.

The quintuplet begins with a left-hand pizzicato of the open D-string and continues with left-hand hammer-on on the d♯ on the A-string, the same tone/position as the multiphonics is played. The result is a sound mixture of the multiphonics, the percussive attacks and the ordinary tone.

Left-hand hammer-on and pull-off on the A-string

Arco jeté on damped A-string which change into rimbalzo verticale

Light (for violin & contrabass)

Håkon Thelin

♩=50

vln

cb

mf

Pizz.

Arco

sim.

gliss.

1/2 Legno (with clear pitches)

mp

cl.b.

ord.

sub. mf

Pizz ottavato

sp → ord.

tr.

1/2 Legno

R.h.

sfz

ppp

(fetté)

p

dim.

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vln

cb

Arco

mf

p

sfz

mp

=70

tr.

M.

gba

=50

SP → ord.

f

cl.b.

Arco SP →

Ord.

ppp

NB noter
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vln

cb

NB noter
this music is copyright protected

vln

cb

mp

rit.

Atpo

pp

mf

tr.

8ba

M.

pp cresc.

Rit.

f

ff

mf

p

sfz

I

II

Cresc.

mp

(p)

5

3

IV

III

II

I

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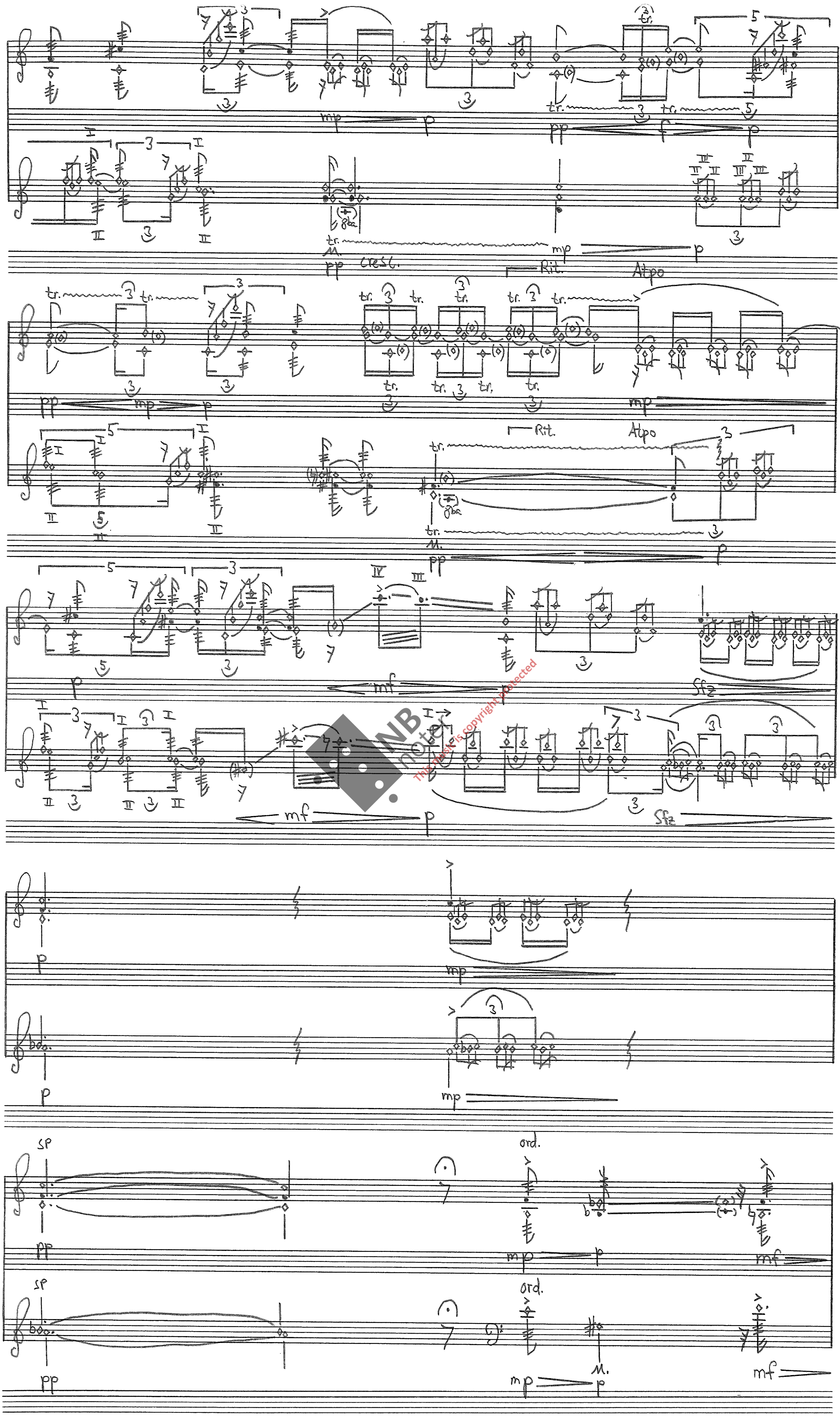

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vln

cb

♩=50

sub. mf

cl.b.

Arco

sim.

mf

Sfz mp

Sfz p mp

Arco

cl.b.

SP → ord.

Sfz

Sfz mp

Arco

Sfz mp

Arco

SP → ord.

Sfz

mf

mp

Arco

(tic)

SP → ord.

Sfz p

sim.

mp

SP → ord.

Sfz p

mp

mf p

mf

Arco

Sfz mp

mp

mp

cl.b.

III

mp

Arco

mp

PNB noter
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vln

cb

Sim.

f p cresc. f dim.

Sim.

cl.b.

dyn. ad lib →

p cresc. f dim. p cresc.

f dim. p cresc.

f dim. p cresc. f dim.

mp

f dim. p cresc.

NB noter
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vln

cb

p cresc.

cl.b. cl.b. cl.

sim.

cl.b.

f dim. mp

cl.b. cl.

cresc.

f dim.

l.v.

sim.

cl.b.

p

SP → ord.

III

tr.

Sfz p

Sfz

mp

ff pp

cl.b.

Arco SP → ord.

(8va)

M.

NB noter
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Vln

mp ppp

Cb

l.v.

Arco

(change gradually from harmonic to multiphonic)

sp ord.

"fff" (Left hand hammer-on)

ord. ½ legno

(MSP) mf

mp ppp

mf

ST

mp ppp

Arco Ord.

Gradually dissappear

mf p

sub. mp

Gradually dissappear

sp

mp

Arco

(IX) sp ord.

Sim.

sfz p

mfz>p

sp ord.

sfz p

mfz>p

mfz>p

mfz

mfz>p

mfz>p

mfz>p

mfz>p

p

mfz>p

mfz>p

mfz>p

mfz>p

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vln

cb

tr. tr. 3 3 tr.

pp p

SP → ord.

mfz p → M.

tr. 3 3 tr. 3 tr.

pp mp pp mf

SP → ord. SP → ord.

mfz p → M. mfz p → M.

tr. tr. tr. tr.

p pp f ff

tr. 8va tr. 8va

M. pp mf M. f

1/2 Legno (with clear pitches)

Sim.

p sempre

Arco

M.

p sempre

Arco Arco

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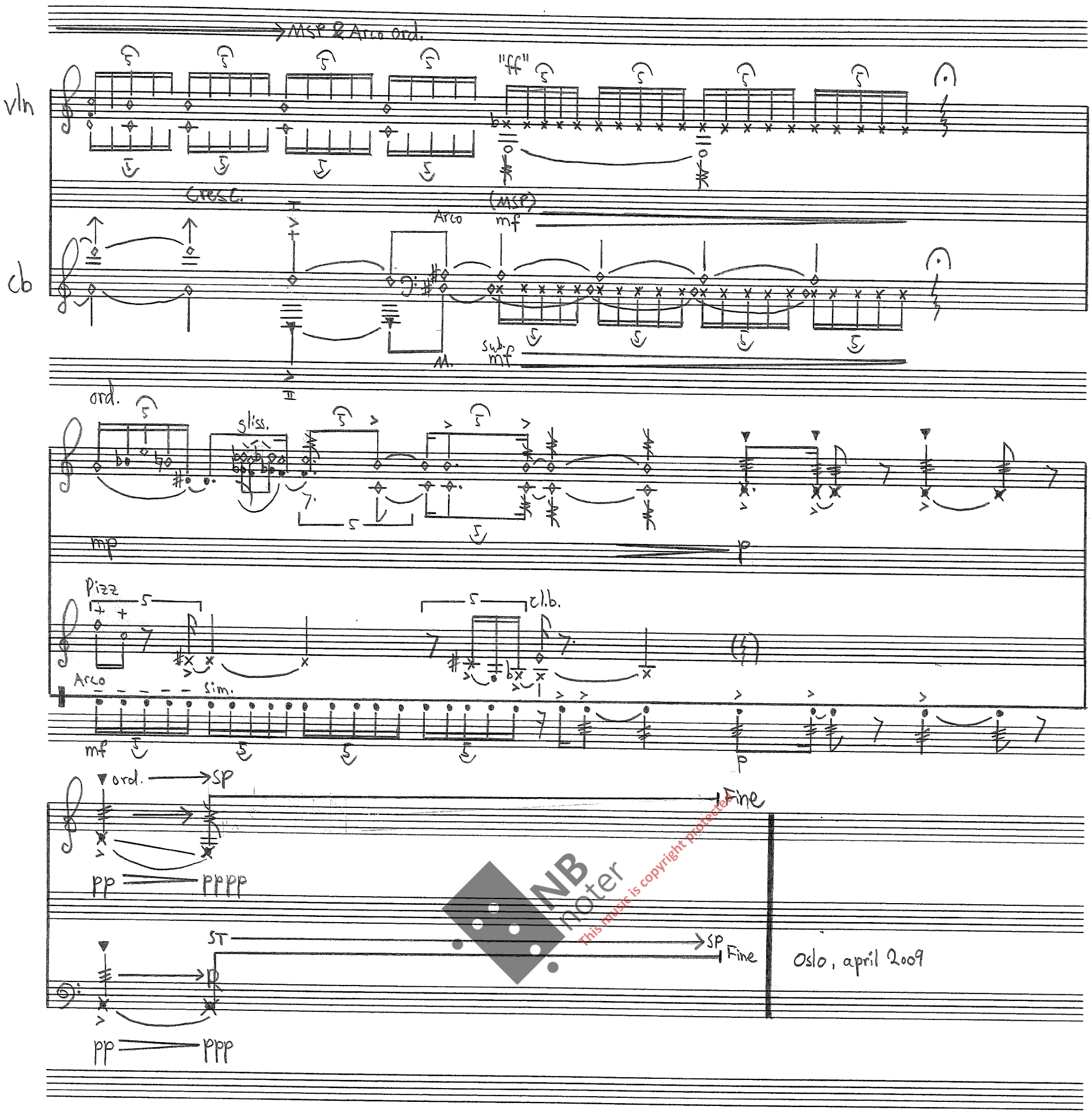

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