

NATHANIEL BARTLETT

STAR_BIRTH
SOLO PERCUSSION

FOR JUSTIN ALEXANDER

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Guide to the Notation

Time

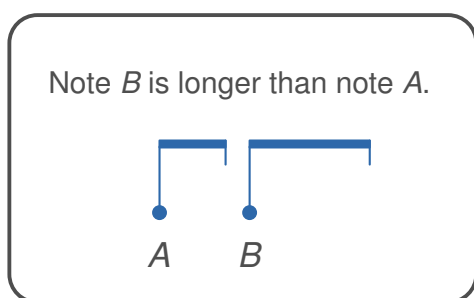
In this score, time is strictly graphically represented in the horizontal domain. Horizontal distances in the score are exactly proportional to duration. For example, a horizontal distance of 2cm represents a span of time twice as long as a horizontal distance of 1cm. The vertical gray dashed lines serve as a guide for the performer in orienting musical events in time. These dashed lines are different from conventional measure lines in that they represent specific points in time. However, the time span between two adjacent gray dashed lines will be referred to as a measure.

The time scale of the piece (tempo) is given in in T=beats_per_minute format at the beginning of the piece and wherever there is a change of time scale. Occasionally a new time scale will be started before the completion of a full measure. In this event, a light gray bracket indicating (with a minus sign) that the measure has been shortened appears above the measure (time is still strictly represented horizontally). Changes in time scale are also highlighted with a cautionary red barline.

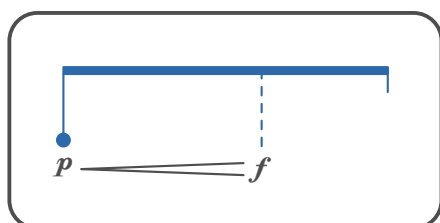
Notes

A "note" begins at the point in time designated by the horizontal position of a stem, which is attached to a circular note head. Three different colors are used to distinguish between notes with different metrical properties: ametric notes (blue), quasi-metric notes (green), and metric notes (dark gray). Metrical properties are the interpretive inflections (phrasing, accentuation, grouping, etc.) implied by conventional meter and notation.

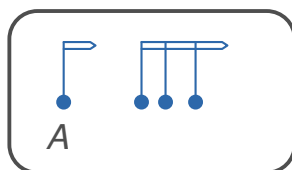
Ametric notes have no metrical properties. An ametric note's duration is graphically represented by the length of its beam. The termination of an ametric note is shown by the horizontal position of a final stem attached to the beam.



A headless dashed stem located between the first and final stems may be used to show a precise point in time, such as the exact temporal location of a dynamic marking.



Ametric notes which are *laissez vibrer* or that quickly decay naturally (for example, a single bongo strike with a snare drum stick) are depicted with a short, hollow, pointed beam and no terminal stem, like note A. In this abbreviated notation, the beam does not reflect duration. Such notes, if temporally close enough, will share a single beam.









Quasi-metric notes (green) retain all the implications of meter and conventional notation, but move freely in time. In other words, *accelerando*, *rallentando*, etc., can be represented graphically.

Dark gray notes are strictly metric. These notes retain all conventional metrical properties. Like blue and green notes stems, gray note stems also indicate the temporal location of the note, thus allowing ametric, quasi-metric, and metric notes to be used in the same passage.

Grace notes are notated with smaller note heads, narrower beams (w/ 45 degree hash mark), and thinner note stems. They are to be played very quickly, but also freely and smoothly according to the performer's taste. Grace notes are anchored to the principal note, which has a precise temporal location. Thus, the horizontal location of a grace note's stem does not necessarily correspond to its temporal location.







Percussion Techniques

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>scrape instrument with beater for duration of the note</p>  | <p>scrape instrument with beater in a repeating circular motion for duration of the note</p>  | <p>scrape instrument with beater in a repeating back-and-forth motion for duration of the note</p>  |
| <p>single stroke tremolo</p>  | <p>double-stroke open tremolo</p>  | <p>rim shot</p>  |


Damping is represented by a hollow, red note head. The note head is placed in the staff and indicates which instrument is to be damped.



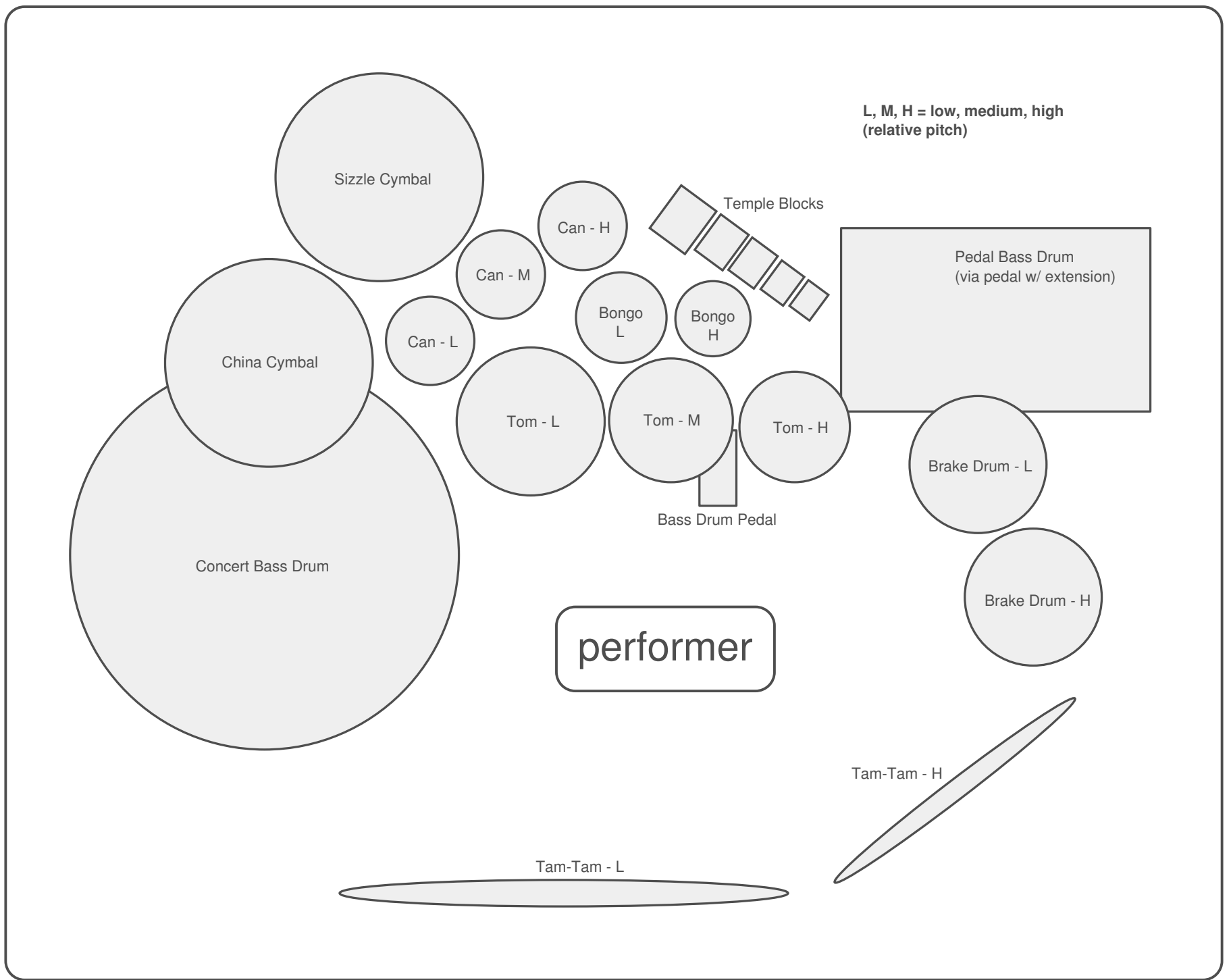
Mallet selection is notated with symbols.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| tam-tam mallet | felt timpani mallet | hard rubber mallet | snare drum stick | wire beater | wire brush |

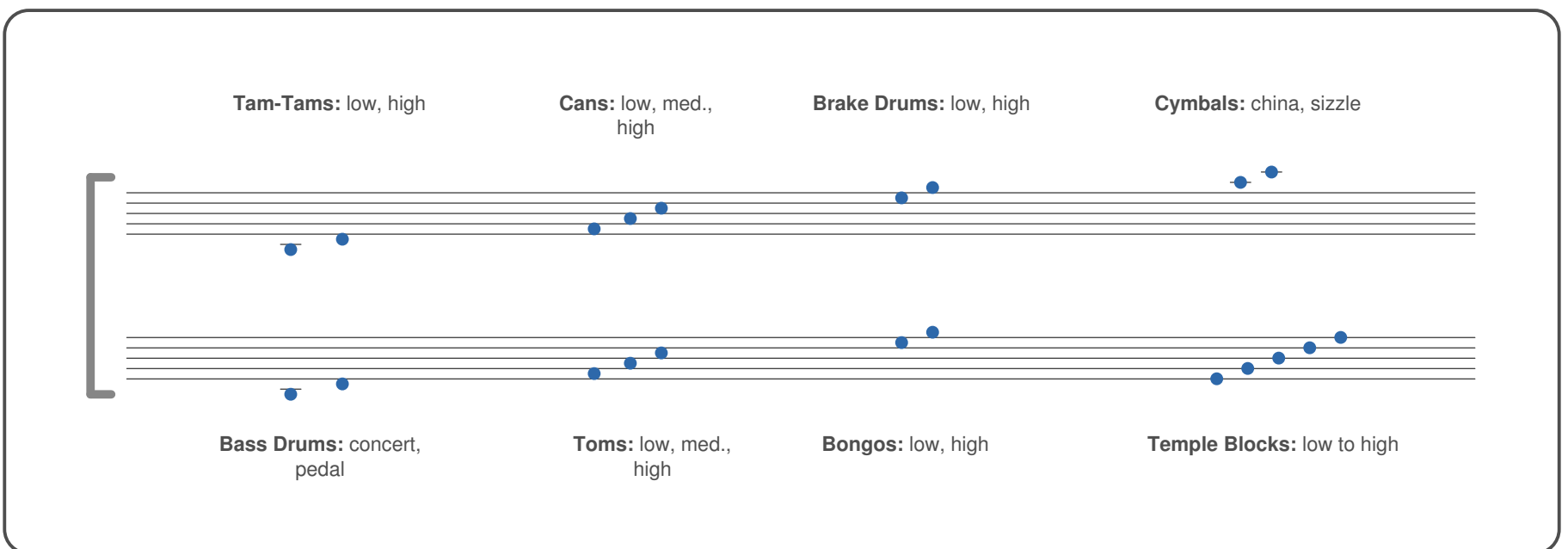
These symbols will be found in pairs of boxes. The left box represents the mallets in the left hand (and their relative position in the hand), and the right box represents the mallets in the right hand (and their relative position in the hand). Stems attached to the boxes depict the given mallet's correspondence to an up or down stem. An upwards-pointing stem means the mallet is used for upstem notes and a downward stem means the mallet is used for downstem notes. For example:

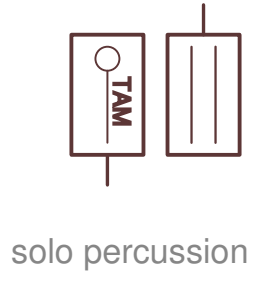
| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  | = | <p>left hand, outside: wire beater, upstem note</p> <p>left hand, inside: felt timpani mallet, downstem note</p> <p>right hand, outside: wire beater, upstem note</p> <p>right hand, inside: felt timpani mallet, downstem note</p> |
|---|---|---|

Setup Diagram



Notation Key





T=ca.45
2
4

mf p mf pp

ppp TAM

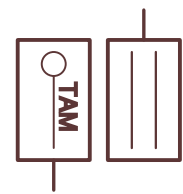
p mp p pp mf mf

p p pp p TAM TAM

mp mf p pp p

Musical staff system 1. The upper staff contains a single note with a stem. The lower staff contains a series of notes, starting with a *ppp* dynamic marking and a *mf* dynamic marking. A *p* dynamic marking is also present. A blue line connects the end of the upper staff to the beginning of the lower staff.

Musical staff system 2. The upper staff contains a series of notes, starting with a *p* dynamic marking. The lower staff contains a series of notes, starting with a *mf* dynamic marking, followed by a *p* dynamic marking, and ending with a *mp* dynamic marking. A blue line connects the end of the upper staff to the beginning of the lower staff.



Musical staff system 3. The upper staff contains a series of notes, starting with a *p* dynamic marking. The lower staff contains a series of notes, starting with a *ppp* dynamic marking. A blue line connects the end of the upper staff to the beginning of the lower staff.

Musical staff system 4. The upper staff contains a series of notes, starting with a *mf* dynamic marking, followed by a *p* dynamic marking, and ending with a *mp* dynamic marking. The lower staff contains a series of notes, starting with a *mf* dynamic marking. A blue line connects the end of the upper staff to the beginning of the lower staff.

Musical staff system 5. The upper staff contains a series of notes, starting with a *mp* dynamic marking, followed by a *mf* dynamic marking, and ending with a *p* dynamic marking. The lower staff contains a series of notes, starting with a *mp* dynamic marking. A blue line connects the end of the upper staff to the beginning of the lower staff.

Musical notation system 1: Two staves. The upper staff begins with a half note on G4 marked *mf*. The lower staff begins with a half note on G3 marked *p*. Vertical dashed lines indicate measure boundaries. The system concludes with a half note on G4 marked *mf* in the upper staff and a half note on G3 marked *mp* in the lower staff.

Musical notation system 2: Two staves. The upper staff features a half note on G4 marked *mf* with a *cresc.* (crescendo) hairpin leading to a half note on G4 marked *f*. The lower staff has a half note on G3 marked *p*. Vertical dashed lines indicate measure boundaries. The system concludes with a half note on G4 marked *p* in the upper staff and a half note on G3 marked *p* in the lower staff.

Musical notation system 3: Two staves. Above the staves are two rectangular boxes, each containing three vertical lines. The upper staff has a half note on G4 marked *ppp*. The lower staff has a half note on G3 marked *ppp*. Vertical dashed lines indicate measure boundaries. The system concludes with a half note on G4 in the upper staff and a half note on G3 in the lower staff.

Musical notation system 4: Two staves. The upper staff begins with a half note on G4 marked *ff* with an accent (>). The lower staff begins with a half note on G3 marked *p*. Vertical dashed lines indicate measure boundaries. The system concludes with a half note on G4 marked *ff* with an accent (>) in the upper staff and a half note on G3 in the lower staff.

Musical notation system 5: Two staves. The upper staff begins with a half note on G4 marked *pp*. The lower staff begins with a half note on G3 marked *pp*. Vertical dashed lines indicate measure boundaries. The system concludes with a half note on G4 marked *dim.* (decrescendo) in the upper staff and a half note on G3 in the lower staff.

(dim.) *p* *mf* *p*

p *f* *p*

mf *p* *f*

f dim.

(dim.) *pp* *p*

pp *p* *mp* *p*

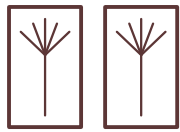
Musical notation system 1. It consists of two staves. The upper staff has two notes with dynamic markings *p* and *mf*. The lower staff has a series of notes and chords, with dynamic markings *(p)*, *v*, and *fp*. A thick blue line is drawn across the lower staff.

Musical notation system 2. It consists of two staves. The upper staff has a series of notes with dynamic markings *mf* and *f*. The lower staff has a series of notes and chords, with dynamic markings *v* and *p cresc. f*. A thick blue line is drawn across the lower staff.

Musical notation system 3. It consists of two staves. The upper staff has a series of notes with dynamic markings *mf* and *dim. - -*. The lower staff has a series of notes and chords.

Musical notation system 4. It consists of two staves. The upper staff has a series of notes with dynamic markings *(dim.)* and *p*. The lower staff has a series of notes and chords.

Musical notation system 5. It consists of two staves. The upper staff has a series of notes and chords, with a dynamic marking *p*. The lower staff has a series of notes and chords. A box with the word "TAM" and a symbol is located in the upper right area of the system.



Musical staff system 1. The upper staff contains a blue horizontal line with a blue chord of three notes at the end, marked *ppp*. The lower staff contains a blue note with a stem and a flag, marked *mp*. Vertical dashed lines indicate measure boundaries.

Musical staff system 2. The upper staff contains a blue horizontal line with a blue chord of three notes at the beginning, marked *p*. The lower staff contains a series of blue notes with stems and flags, marked *p*. Vertical dashed lines indicate measure boundaries.

Musical staff system 3. The upper staff contains a blue horizontal line with a blue chord of three notes at the beginning, marked *pp*. The lower staff contains a series of blue notes with stems and flags, marked *mp*. Vertical dashed lines indicate measure boundaries.

Musical staff system 4. The upper staff contains a blue horizontal line with a blue chord of three notes at the beginning, marked *(dim.)*. The lower staff contains a series of blue notes with stems and flags, marked *p*. Vertical dashed lines indicate measure boundaries.

Musical staff system 5. The upper staff contains a blue horizontal line with a blue chord of three notes at the beginning, marked *mf*. The lower staff contains a series of blue notes with stems and flags, marked *p*. Vertical dashed lines indicate measure boundaries.

pp dim. -----

Musical notation for the first system, featuring a piano with tremolos and dynamic markings. The notation includes a piano with tremolos in the upper register and a piano with tremolos in the lower register. Dynamic markings include *pp dim.* and *pp*. There are also some circular symbols above the notes.

-----(*dim.*)-----*n*

Musical notation for the second system, showing a piano with a tremolo and a TAM symbol. The notation includes a piano with a tremolo in the upper register. A TAM symbol is present above the piano. Dynamic markings include *(dim.)* and *n*.

Musical notation for the third system, featuring a piano with a single note and dynamic marking. The notation includes a piano with a single note in the upper register. Dynamic marking is *f*. There are two TAM symbols above the piano.

Musical notation for the fourth system, featuring a piano with multiple notes and dynamic markings. The notation includes a piano with multiple notes in the upper register. Dynamic markings include *<f*, *ff*, *f*, *mf*, and *p*. There are also some circular symbols above the notes.

Musical notation for the fifth system, featuring a piano with multiple notes and dynamic markings. The notation includes a piano with multiple notes in the upper register. Dynamic markings include *mf*, *mp*, and *p*.

Musical notation system 1, consisting of two staves. The upper staff contains a sequence of notes with stems pointing right, followed by a measure with a note marked *mf*, and a final measure with a note marked *p*. The lower staff contains a sequence of notes with stems pointing right, followed by a measure with a note marked *mf*, and a final measure with a note marked *p*. A horizontal line connects the *p* dynamic markings in both staves.

Musical notation system 2, consisting of two staves. The upper staff contains a sequence of notes with stems pointing right, followed by a measure with a note marked *mp*. The lower staff is mostly empty, with a final measure containing a chord marked *pp*.

Musical notation system 3, consisting of two staves. The upper staff contains a sequence of notes with stems pointing right. The lower staff contains a sequence of notes with stems pointing right, followed by a measure with a note marked *f dim.* and a dotted line extending to the right.

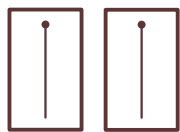
Musical notation system 4, consisting of two staves. The upper staff contains a sequence of notes with stems pointing right, followed by a measure with a note marked *mp*, and a final measure with a note marked *mf*. The lower staff contains a sequence of notes with stems pointing right, followed by a measure with a note marked *mf*, and a final measure with a note marked *mf*. A horizontal line connects the *mf* dynamic markings in both staves.

Musical notation system 5, consisting of two staves. The upper staff contains a sequence of notes with stems pointing right, followed by a measure with a note marked *pp*. The lower staff contains a sequence of notes with stems pointing right, followed by a measure with a note marked *pp*, and a final measure with a note marked *pp*.

Staff system 1: A two-staff system. The upper staff contains a single note with a fermata. The lower staff contains a series of notes with dynamic markings: *f*, *ff*, and *p*. Vertical dashed lines indicate measure boundaries.

Staff system 2: A two-staff system. The upper staff is mostly empty. The lower staff contains notes with dynamic markings: *p*, *f*, *ff*, *p*, and *ff*. Vertical dashed lines indicate measure boundaries.

Staff system 3: A two-staff system. The upper staff contains notes with dynamic markings: *p* and *pp*. The lower staff contains notes with dynamic markings: *p* and *ff*. Vertical dashed lines indicate measure boundaries.



Staff system 4: A two-staff system. The upper staff contains a single note with a fermata. The lower staff contains a long horizontal line with a dynamic marking of *pp cresc.* and a dashed line extending to the right. Vertical dashed lines indicate measure boundaries.

Staff system 5: A two-staff system. The upper staff is empty. The lower staff contains a long horizontal line with a dynamic marking of *(cresc.)* and a dashed line extending to the right, ending with a dynamic marking of *ff*. To the right of the staff, there are three notes with accents and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The text "(T=ca.70)" is located above the staff. Vertical dashed lines indicate measure boundaries.

Musical notation system 1. The upper staff contains five blue notes with stems pointing down, marked *pp*. The lower staff contains a sequence of notes, some with stems pointing up and some with stems pointing down, marked *ff*. A crescendo hairpin is shown below the lower staff, leading to a *mf* dynamic.

T=ca.198

Musical notation system 2. The upper staff contains a sequence of notes, some with stems pointing up and some with stems pointing down, marked *mf*. The lower staff contains a sequence of notes, some with stems pointing up and some with stems pointing down, marked *ff*. A *p cresc.* hairpin is shown below the lower staff, leading to the *ff* dynamic.

5
4

Musical notation system 3. The upper staff contains a sequence of notes, some with stems pointing up and some with stems pointing down, marked *p*. The lower staff contains a sequence of notes, some with stems pointing up and some with stems pointing down, marked *mf*.

4
4

Musical notation system 4. The upper staff contains a sequence of notes, some with stems pointing up and some with stems pointing down, marked *p*. The lower staff contains a sequence of notes, some with stems pointing up and some with stems pointing down, marked *f*. A *f* hairpin is shown below the lower staff.

T=ca.45

2
4

Musical notation system 5. The upper staff contains a sequence of notes, some with stems pointing up and some with stems pointing down, marked *f*. The lower staff contains a sequence of notes, some with stems pointing up and some with stems pointing down, marked *pp*. A *dim.* hairpin is shown below the lower staff, leading to the *pp* dynamic.

The last two pages of the score are not included in this PDF.
To acquire a score for performance, please email me:

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