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The **original scan** of this score can be found **here**:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XHi9DcpKThdqNdDoQN_g2CnGtXo7RTTF/view?usp=drive_link

THIRD PIANO CONCERTO

For piano solo, electronic medias and orchestra

This edition was prepared by Filip Gołdanowski
Digitalization of manuscript score, typesetting: Filip Goldanowski Digitalization of sketches: Konrad Jeliński
World premiere:
1991, Katowice Wielka Orkiestra Symfoniczna Polskiego Radia i Telewizji, Bogdan Olędzki (conductor)
Bogusław Schaeffer (piano solo), Marek Chołoniewski (electronic medias and computer)

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Preface

The term "piano concerto" almost automatically kindles associations of traditional sonata form and a duel between soloist and orchestra. Bogusław Schaeffer's *Third Piano Concerto*, however, departs radically from classical and romantic models. His earlier piano concertos are likewise noteworthy for their great originality and richness of invention, particularly the *Second Piano Concerto* (1967), the quintessence of his present-day innovations. Equally interesting are his concertos *Mare* (1971), in which the pianist also plays harpsichord and celesta, *Experimenta* (likewise 1971), the *First Piano Concerto/Quattro movimenti* (1957) and *Azione a due* (1961), which has been called one of the most original scores to emerge the 1960s. Schaeffer's output also includes concertos for two and four pianists.

The piece opens neither with a mighty orchestral tutti nor a solo interpolation from the piano, but rather with electronic and computer music – restrained in expression, gently and yet disquieting. The first movement, *Entrata*, is made up of an unusual set of variations based on the pitch C. Although devoid of rhythmic impetus, the music nevertheless conveys the relentless passage of time. Contrary to European transition, this is not music of action but rather of being, of contemplation. The pianist plays nothing but euphonious chord, all based on middle C, and all selected from the more than 200 types of sonorities that for years have constituted Schaeffer's harmonic language. The gloomy coloration of this music, brightened only by brilliant timbres in the ultra-high register, seems to conjure up an image of a bygone civilization. Beginning very slowly, the piece inexorably gains strength until, enriched by a piano cadenza, it reaches a climax in final fortissimo. *Entrata* is music of Brucknerian earnestness and grand – if subdued – passion.

In contrast, the second movement, *Tumultoso*, is a veritable explosion of musical passion, an eruption of vitality. The piano, treated as a percussion instrument, is accompanied by a strangely scored ensemble of trombones, cellos, double basses, harp and four drum sets. Dramatically shifting dynamics, aggressive articulation and, above all, the sweltering, machine-like, almost African rhythm – all combine to bring the second movement to a point of maximum tension. The appearance at this point of the motifs B-A-C-H and B-S-C-H (Schaeffer's musical monogram, made up of the pitches B flat, E flat, B and B natural in their German spelling) remains an enigma.

After a brief pause the third movement, *Drammatico*, opens with tender electronic sounds. In this fragment we can make out the rustling sound of the wind and the sea, even singing, creating an overall impression of eerie mystery at the sounds of Nature. This music is gently taken up by the orchestra, with frequently atonal, pastel-colored melodies in the winds. The urge to order inherent to traditional music (orchestral part) is contrasted with the capricious order of Nature (electronic music). The climax brings about a collision of these two opposites; the listener experiences the riveting thrust of natural forces, sensing their wild and exhilarating beauty.

The fourth movement, *Nostalgia*, arises from the juxtaposition of two contrasting planes. The first is an influx of light-footed sounds in clever rhythms. The composer plays the solo part with brilliant virtuosity (virtually a modern version of *jeu de perles*), accompanied by percussion instruments and their computerized counterparts. The truncated motifs fuse in an unbroken cascade of sounds, forming a peculiar counterpoint of rhythm and timbre. At the outset the composer gives us electronic media alone. Only then does he add the orchestra in a highly unusual scoring: oboes, clarinets, trombones, harp and fourteen violins. The woodwinds play multiphonics clearly related to electronic music, while the fourteen violin parts form three symbolically recurring motifs. The movement reaches its climax in the piano cadenza, enriched with computer-aided transmutations of the piano's timbres, and a coda brings the piece slowly to a close.

A chord announces the fifth movement, *Gaio*. Here, among other things, "third stream" jazz associations add the charming naivety of light music. This, however, is only a brief episode, for a new cadenza already hints at the five themes of the next movement. Following this anticipation the music abruptly changes mood: the composer develops a wide array of electronic sound-sheets derived from the work's predominant theme, the B-A-C-H motif. The slow narrative tempo and the prevalence of high-pitched, organ-like timbres give the music a sublime, almost religious aura.

This movement forms a prelude to *Fuga*, the sixth and central section of this eleven-piece cycle. Its formative elements are the themes introduced in the preceding section as well as three fixed counterpoints, four recurrent motifs, a counter-subject, and once again the musical monograms B-A-C-H and B-S-C-H/ The course of the fugue is enlivened with several strettos. Schaeffer's highly developed contrapuntal technique, while giving the fugue its individuality and formal density, is not an end in itself. The music takes its true character from its striking themes, accompanied by a lively percussion part in the manner of a countermelody. The fugue is expansive, impassioned, full of vibrant energy. We may assume that this centrepiece of the cycle is meant to superpose two opposing spheres of the human psyche: reason and emotion. Following the fugue Schaeffer, putting convention aside, turns to Polish romanticism in the seventh movement, *Notturno*. Here the electronic sounds that open the movement, permeating and smoothing its sonorities, evoke a feeling of twilight and night. The clearly isolated piano part reveals an inner unrest, even in its tender *fioriture*. It ends with the B-S-C-H motif slowly dissolving in the lower registers.

The eight movement is a changeable and capricious *Amoroso* in the style of a collage. The foreground is taken up by the electronic and computer media, or rather by the sounds they achieve. Recurring again and again, like in a strange refrain, we hear quite straightforward, tonal youthful improvisations in the piano with the evanescent charm of slightly mawkish *Gebrauchsmusik*. A similar touch can likewise be heard now and again in the orchestral part. The ingeniously manipulated B-A-C-H motif and an effective atonal piano cadenza further underscore the rich variety of this movement.

The next movement is a formally elaborate *Blues* notable for its dissonant and functionally ambiguous harmonies and its soft, delicate orchestration. The music flows slowly along, calming the listener and transporting him into a light-hearted mood, conveying a sense of satisfaction. In the coda, especially in its final bars with the recurring chimes, the music adopts that aura of melancholy so characteristic of jazz.

This is abruptly followed by the tenth movement, *Estasi*. The listener is bombarded with percussion passages, violent crescendo, bugle-call sonorities, explosions of piano figurations and a whirlwind of electronic and computer sounds. The music seems almost to lose itself in a mad, ageless and intoxicating dance. For Schaeffer, and unlike Skryabin, ecstasy is a state of utter excitement, bustle and elation.

Melancholy and darkening sounds usher in the final movement, *Finale*. Here Schaeffer makes use of a rich palette of expressive devices, exploring their potential to the utmost. Thanks to his rare combination of unlike media, the composer is able to generate a feeling of continuous tension, at times even a sense of dread. The solo part if brought to final fruition through electronic transmutation and modified piano timbres. In its earnestness the *Finale* resembles the *Entrata*; the fragment of its closing section, with its isolated b, can be linked with the c sonority with which the concerto opened to form a descending half-step motif. Thus, the work is framed by a motif used by Bach to express pain, a motif that resounds like an echo of his name and, at the same time, of the composer's own monogram. The B-A-C-H and B-S-C-H motifs permeate the finale even in its final bars. A stroke on the tam-tam, bringing the work to a close, stresses the expressive power and the contemplative character of this final section.

Bogusław Schaeffer's *Third Piano Concerto* is a monumental piece of music. In the variety of its idioms, media and styles it bears comparison with the late writing of Joyce. The composer has succeeded in achieving unity in variety. A sort of symmetry is imparted by the central position of the fugue and the parallels between movements 1 and 2 and movements 10 and 11, giving the entire piece a sense of order on a higher plane. The composer has applied his knowledge, craftsmanship and creative imagination in the immediate service of the aims of art and the metaphysics of music itself. It is precisely this element of transcendence – this "aureole of composition", as Sourian called it – that makes Schaeffer's *Third Piano Concerto* an outstanding work of art.

Barbara Buczek

 $\label{thm:condition} \mbox{Taken from liner notes of CD} \ \mbox{\it Boguslaw Schaeffer-III. Klavierkonzert} \ (\mbox{Edition Pro Nova})$

Instrumentation

Piano solo

Electronic and computer medias

2 flutes (2nd doubling piccolo)

2 oboes

2 clarinets in B flat

Basson

Soprano saxophone

3 horns

3 trumpets

2 trombones

4 percussion

Harp

14 violins

4 violas

4 cellos

2 double basses

```
Flauto 1 /anche Picc./ 1
Flauto 2
                                                                                                     25678901234567890
                                                          Violino 5
Oboe 1
Oboe 2
Clarinetto /B/ 1
Clarinetto /B/ 2
                                                          Violino 6
Cassofono Coprano
                                                          Violino 14
Tromba 1
                                                          Viola 1
                                                         Viola 2
Viola 3
Viola 4
Violoncello 1
Violoncello 3
Violoncello 4
Controlello 4
Tromba2
Tromba 3
                                            15 16 17 18
Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Patteria 1
Batteria 2
Batteria 3
Batteria 4
                                            19 20 -
                                                                                                     43
                                                         Contrabbasso 1
Contrabbasso 2
                                                                                                     44
Arpa
PIANOFORTE solo
Violino 1
Violino 2
Violino 3
                                            21
                                                                                                     45
```

Sketches

To Third Piano Concerto





Fehlerzeichen

A	=	Ausdruck
Bz	=	Beziehung
F		Form

f = falsch
G = Grammatik
L = lexikalischer Fehler
(falsches Wort)

R = Rechtschreibung r = richtig St = Stellung

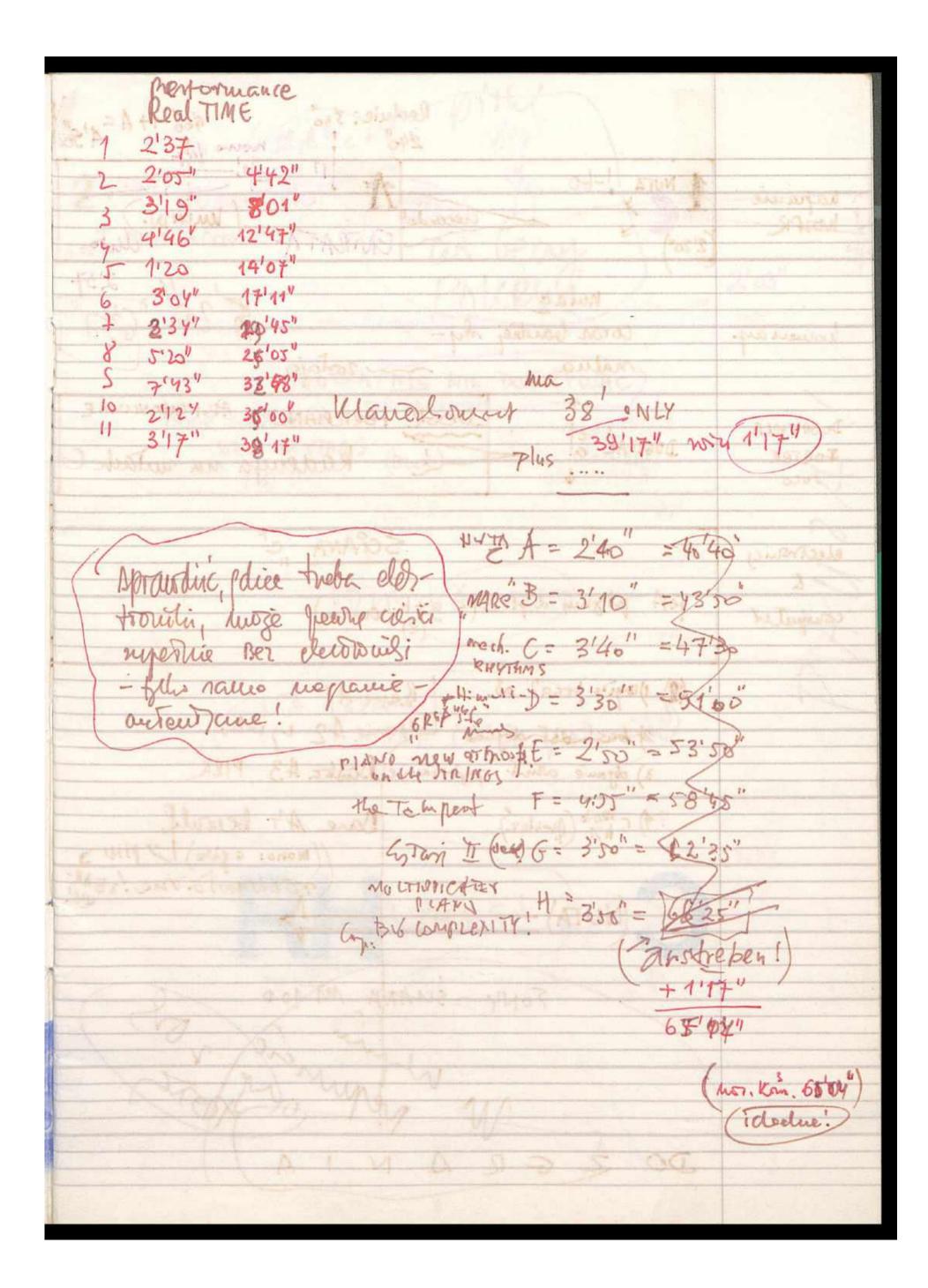
T = Zeit Z = Zeichensetzung □ = fehlendes Wort

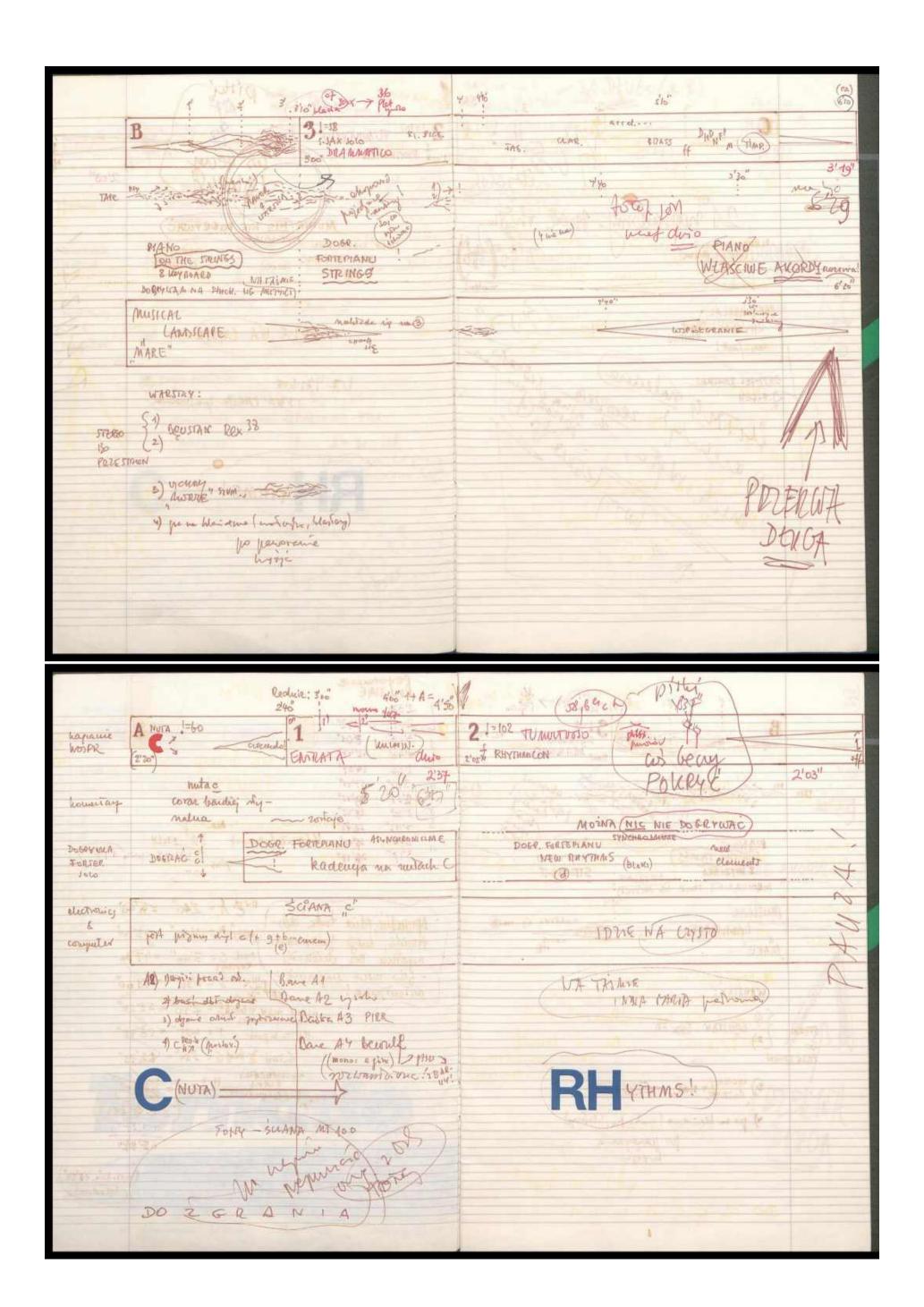
⋈ = ein Wort zuviel≀ = sachlich falsch

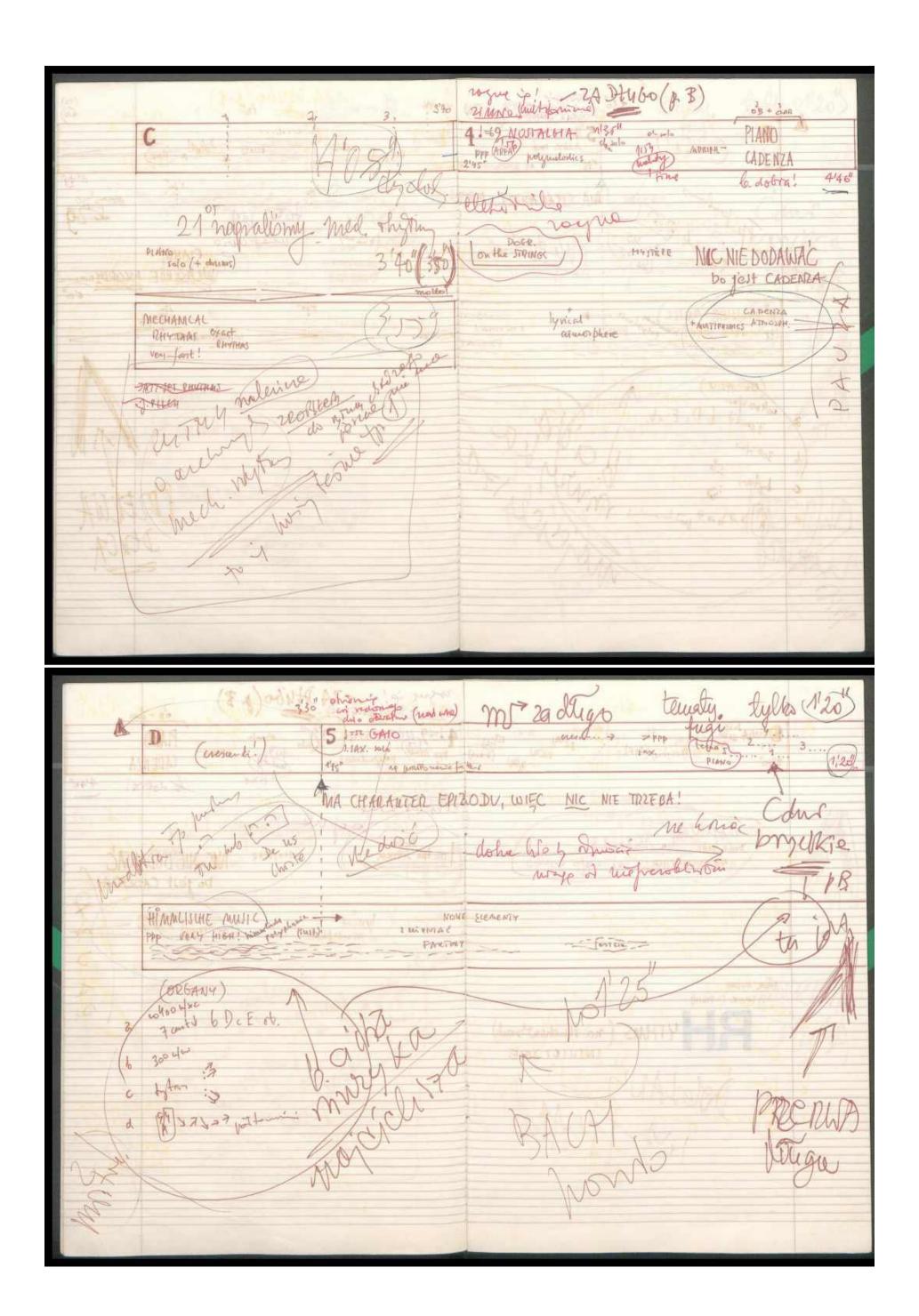
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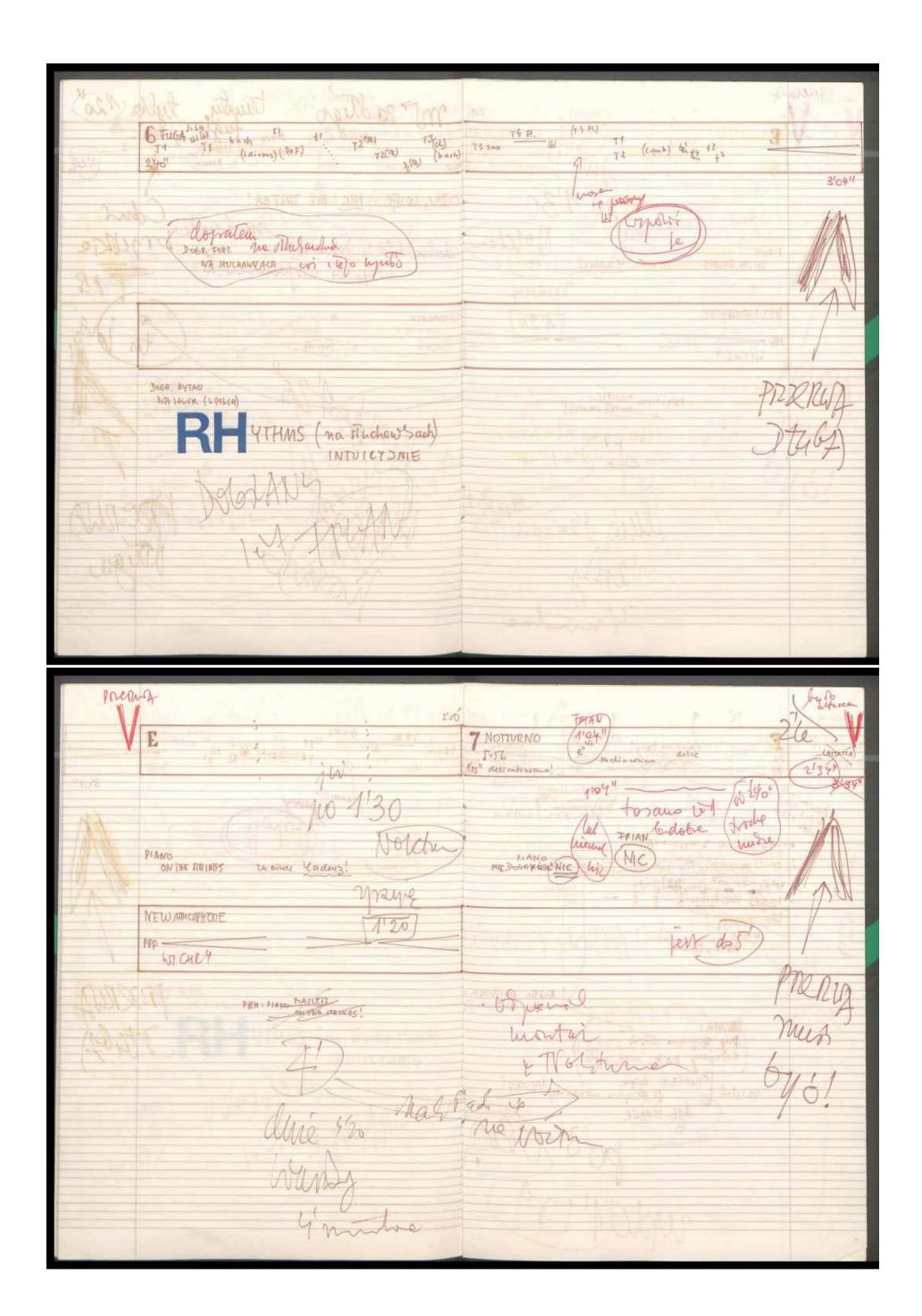
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9	ATTURN OF L. T. C. STING	
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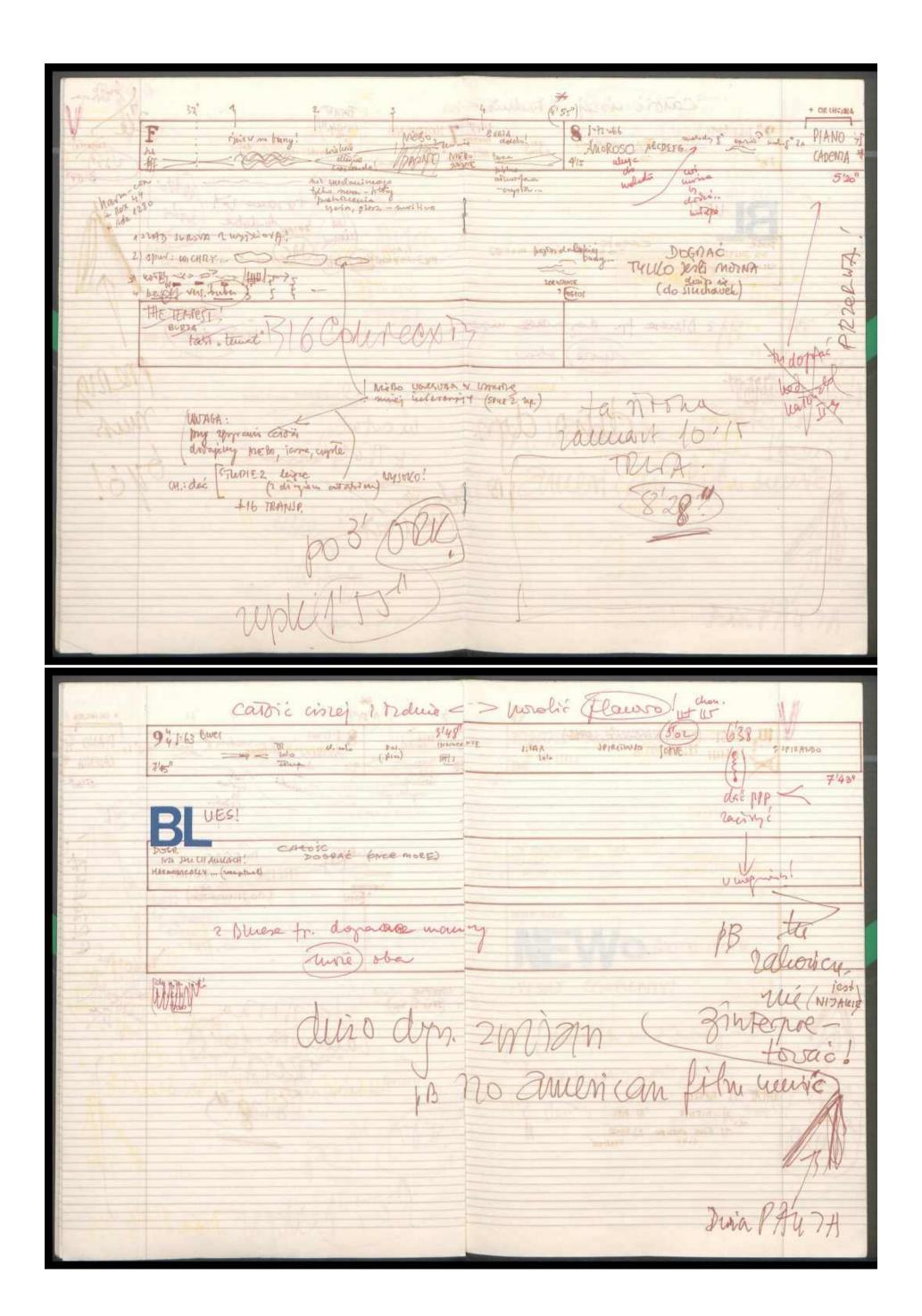


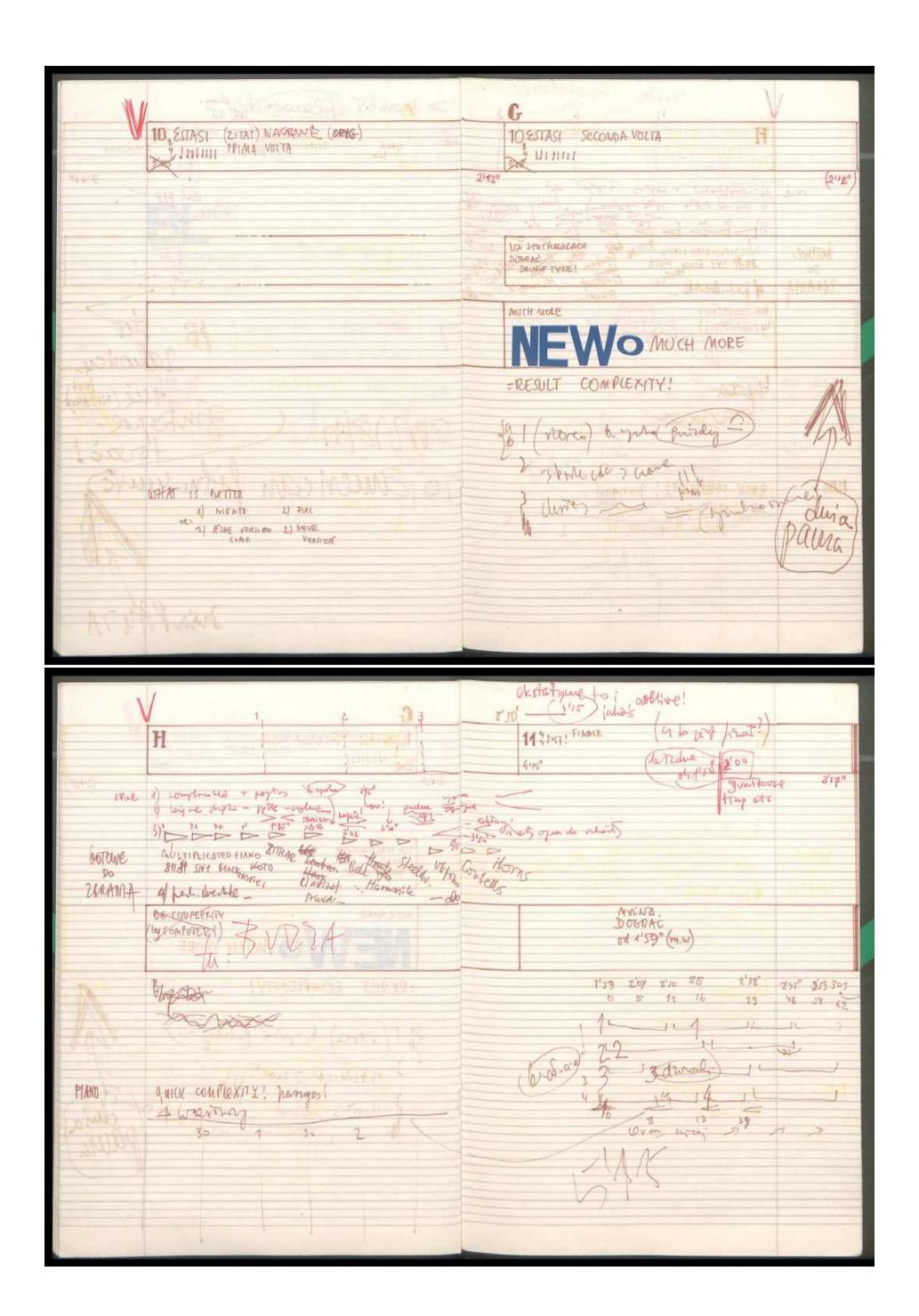


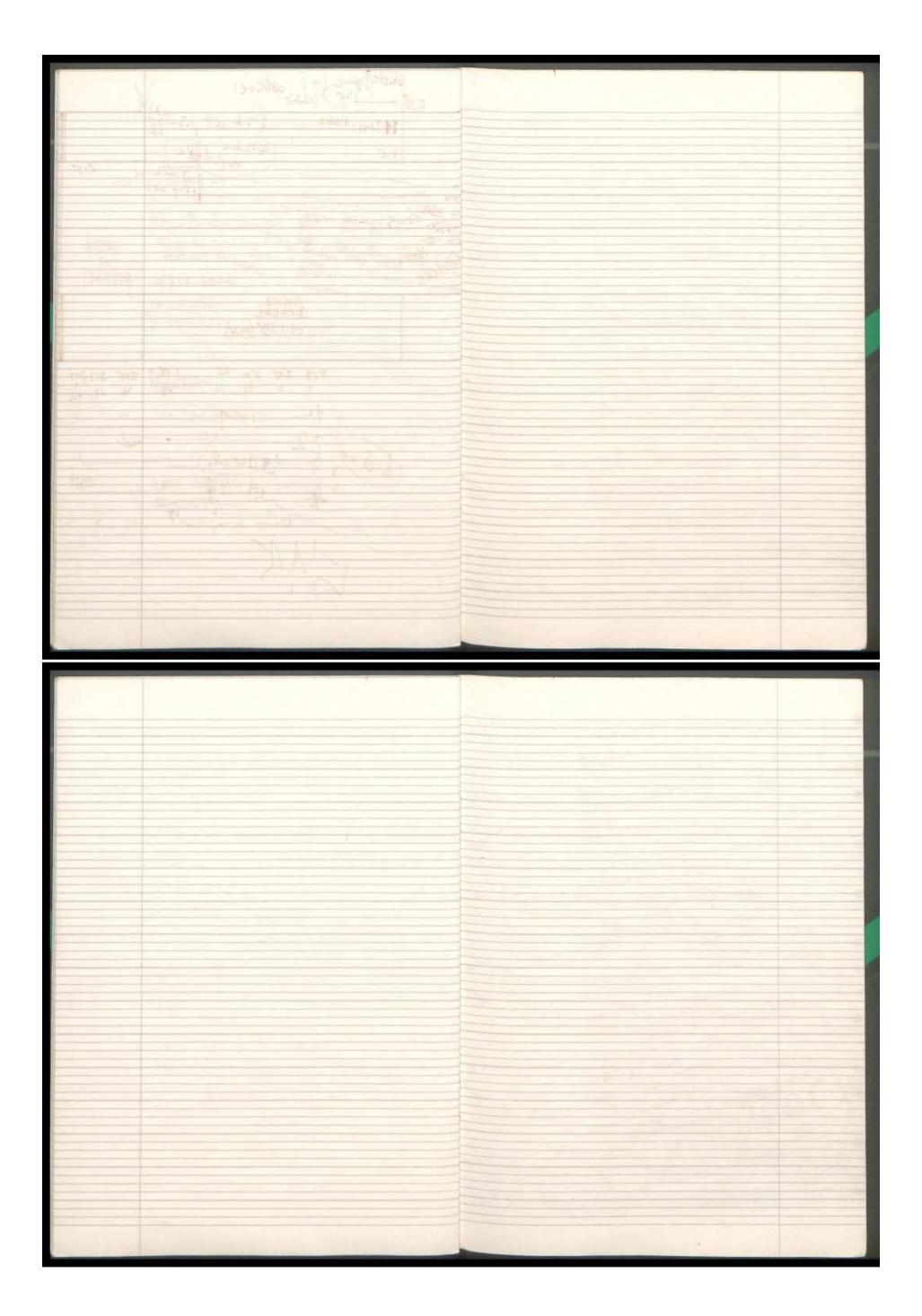


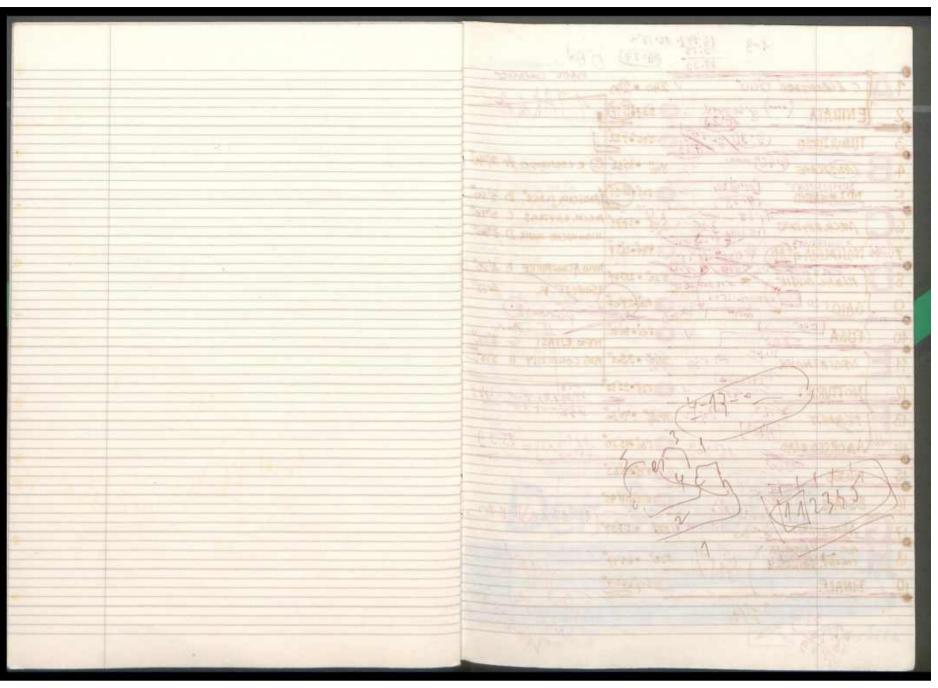


















Score











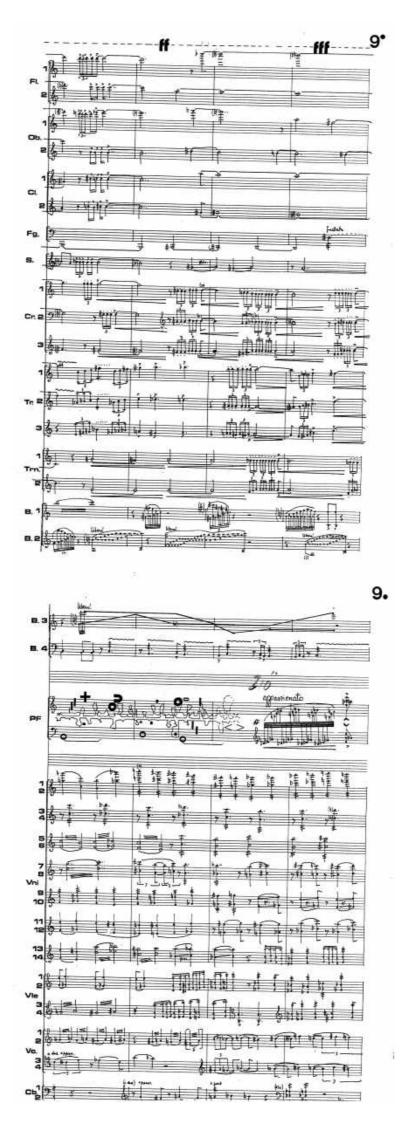






































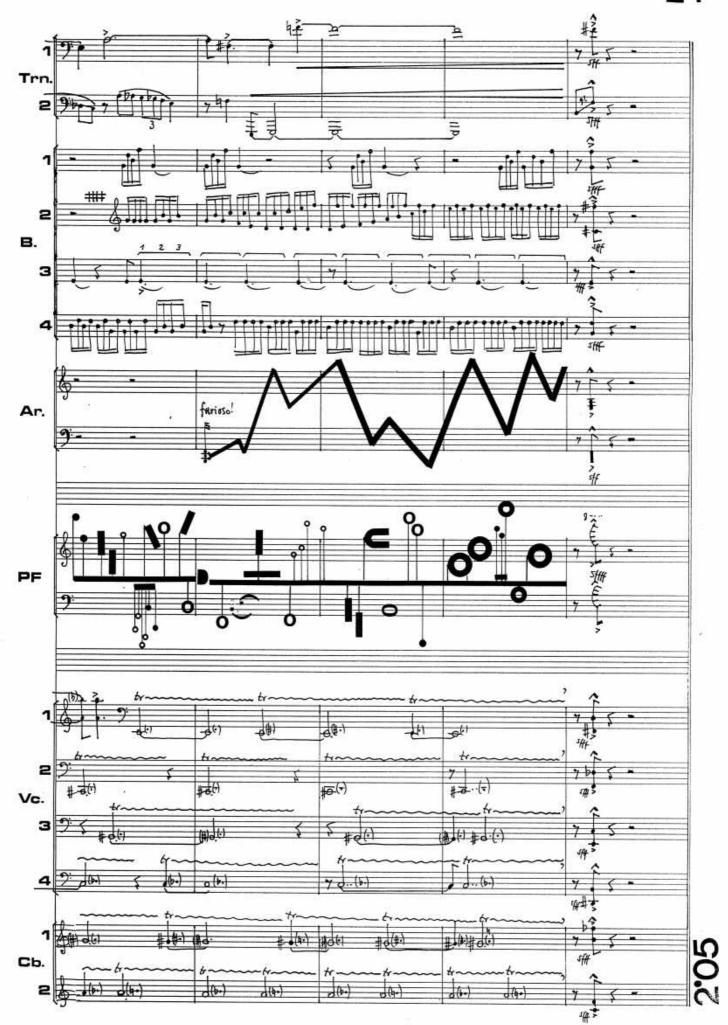


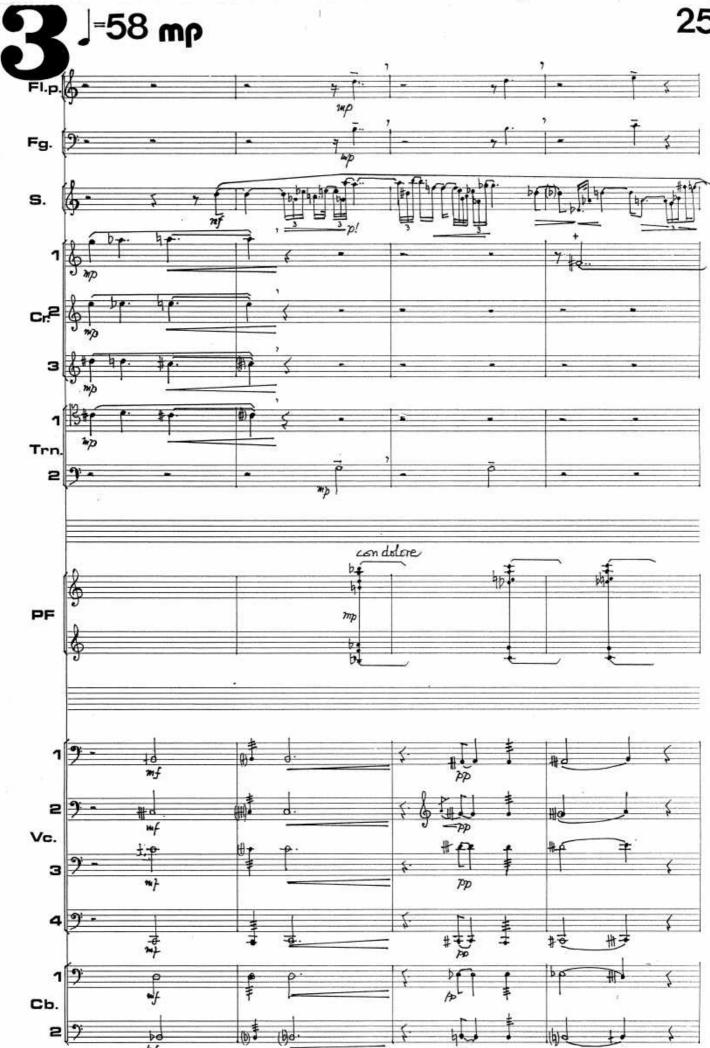




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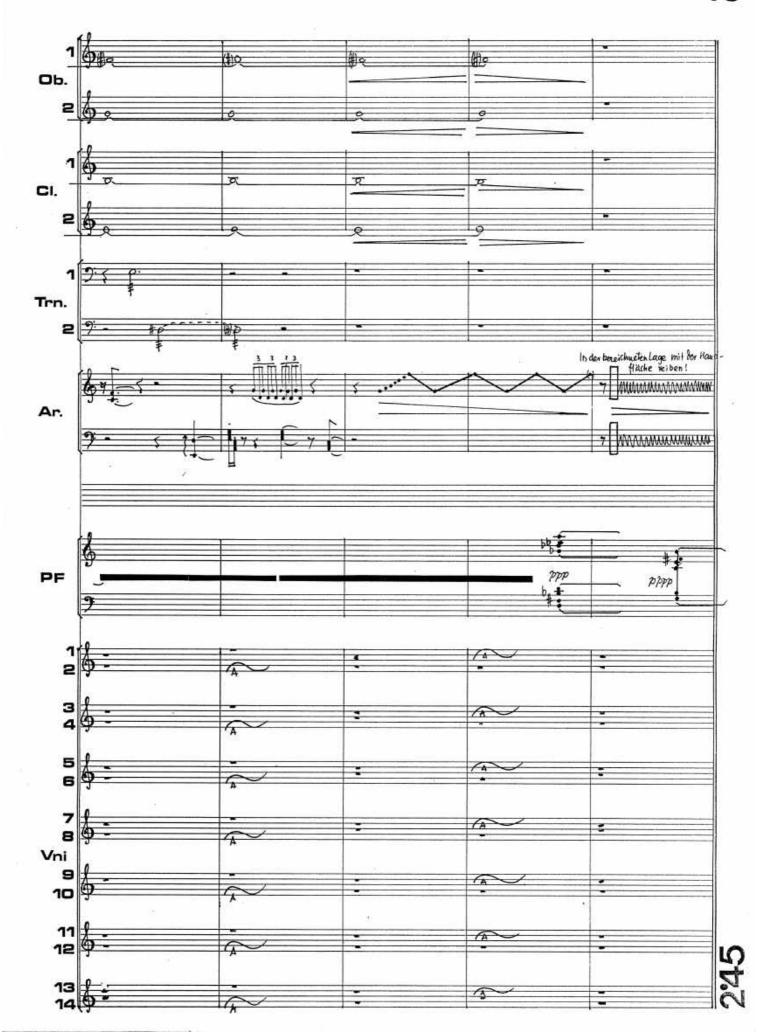




























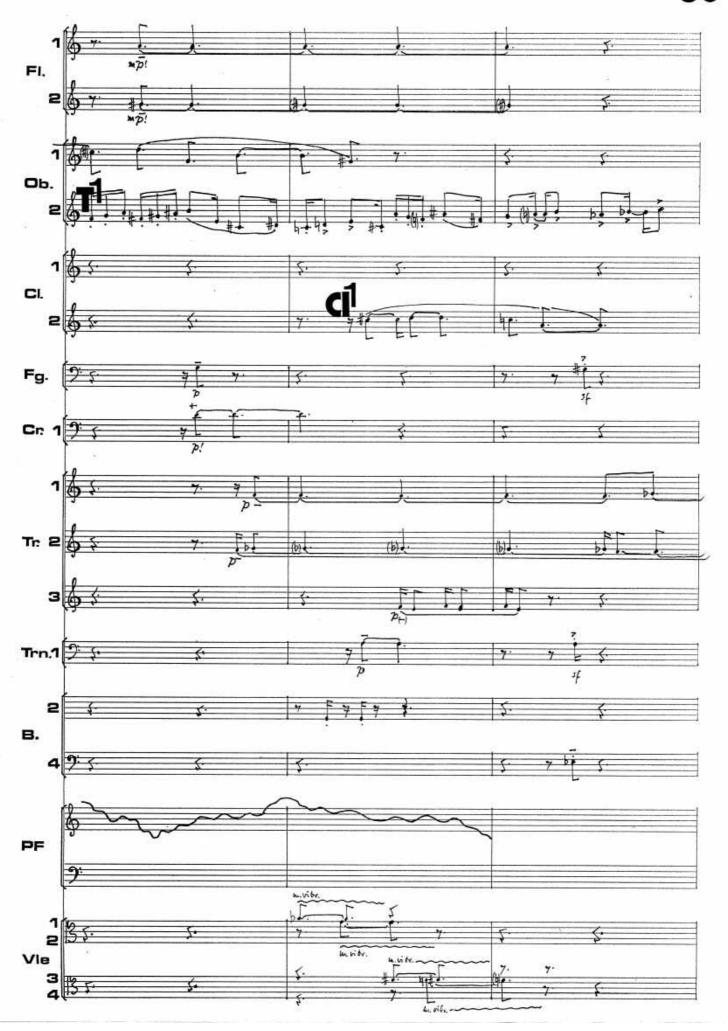
















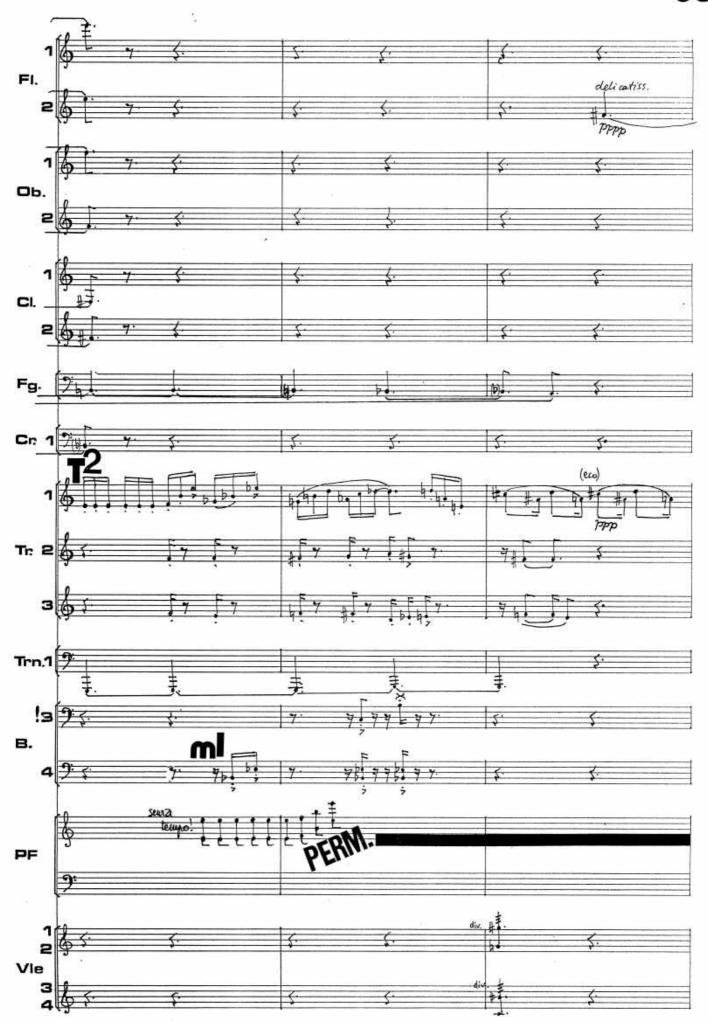




























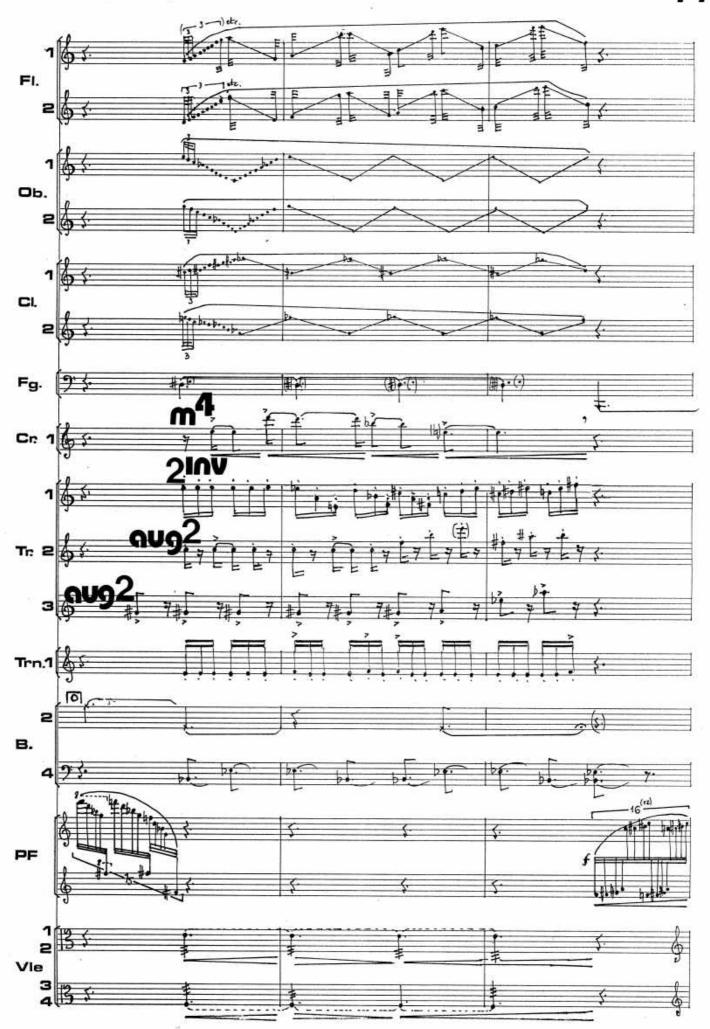






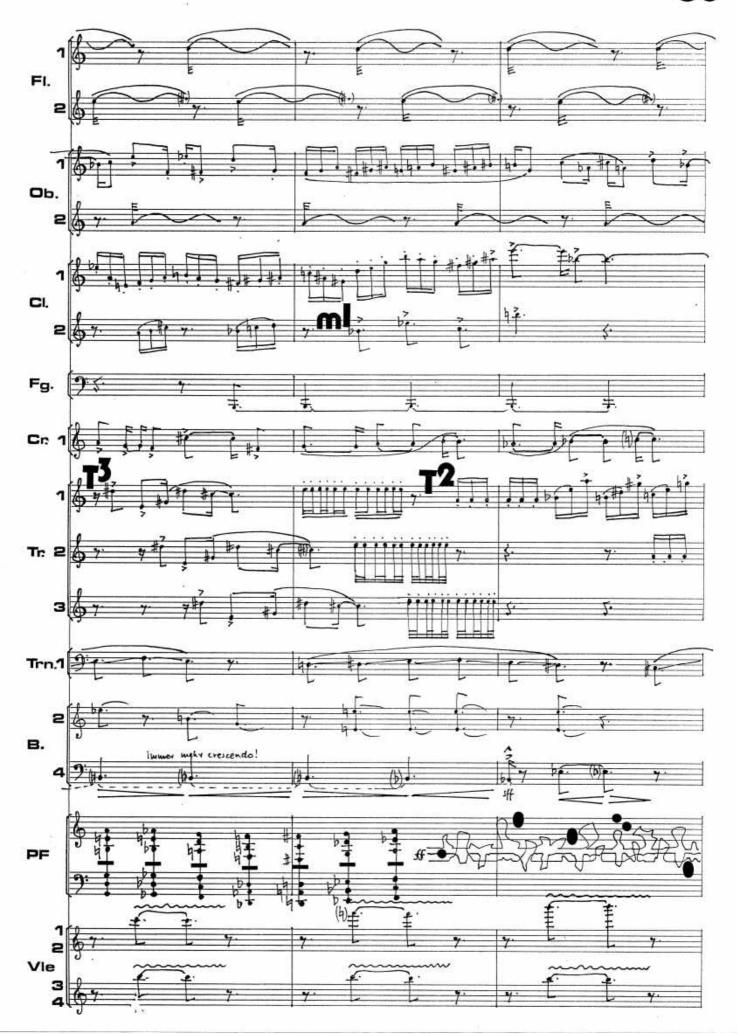




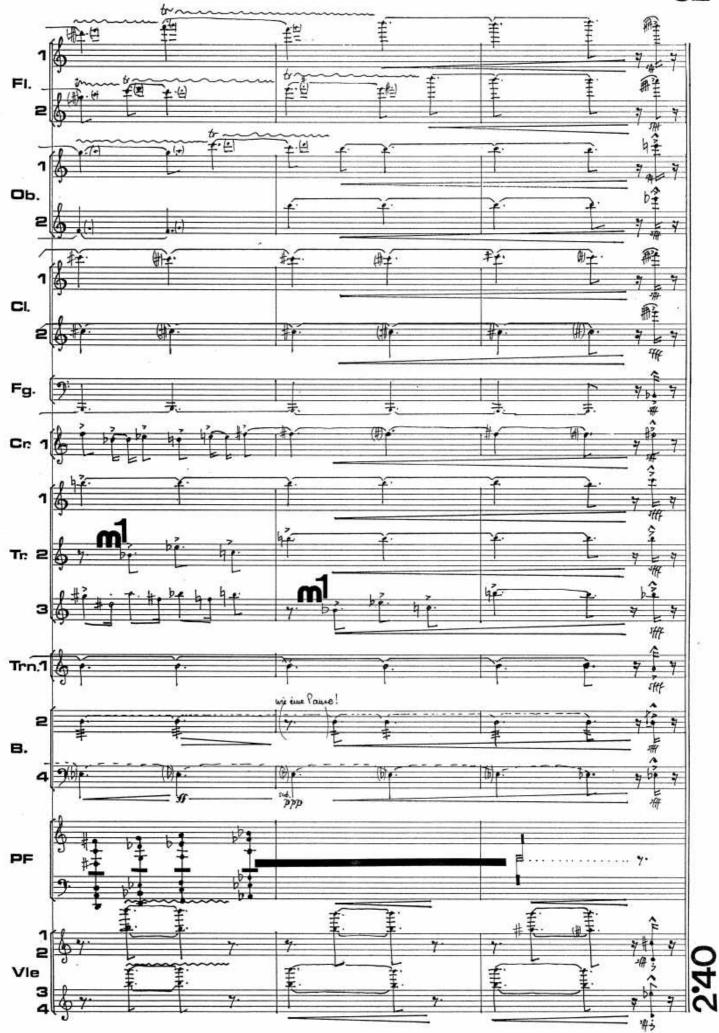


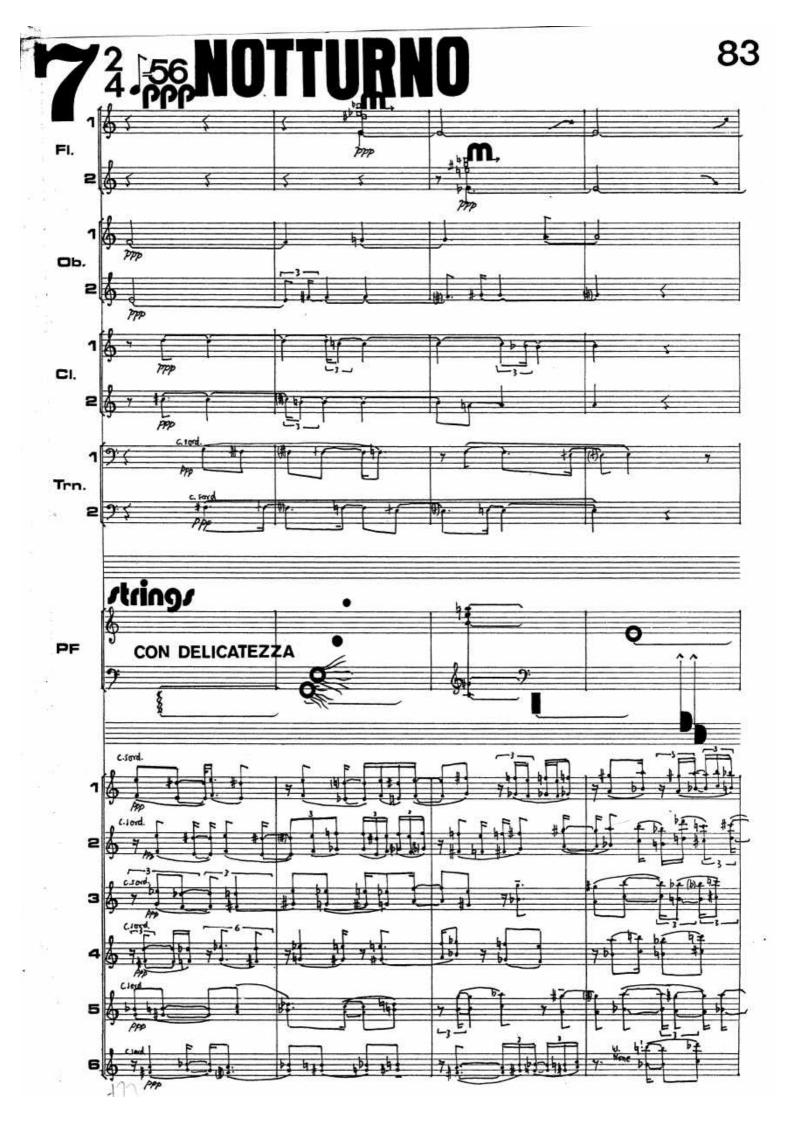










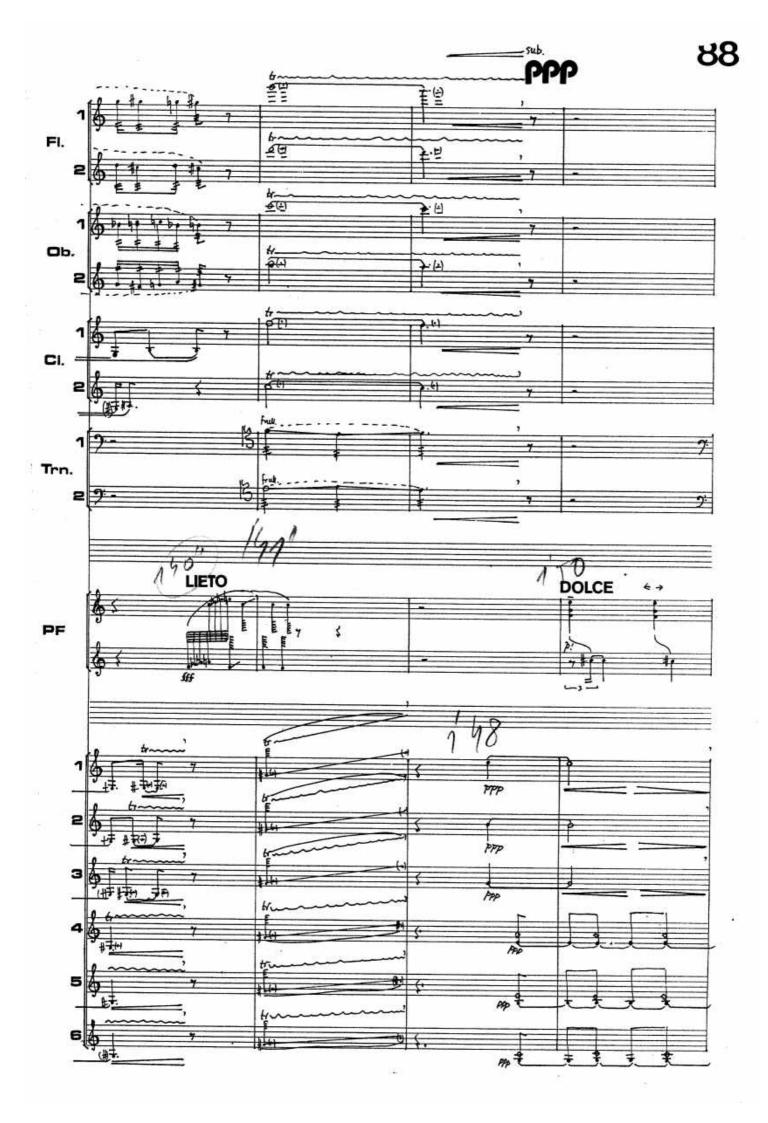




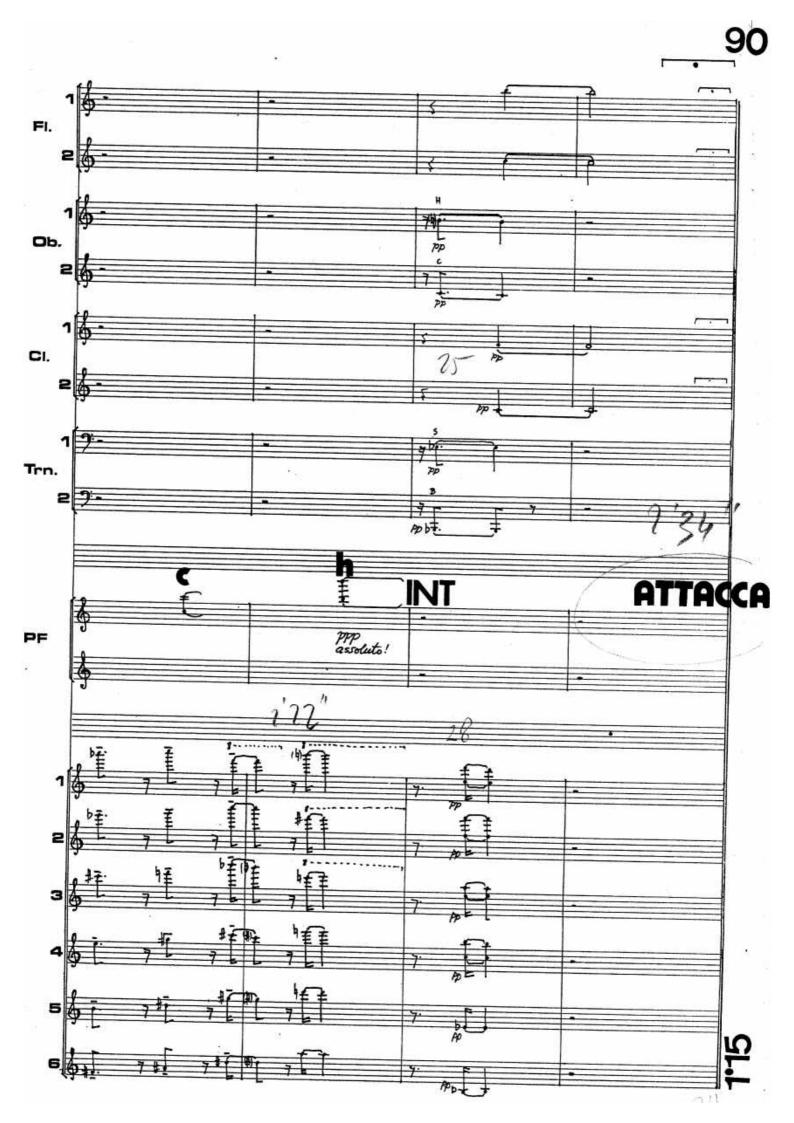








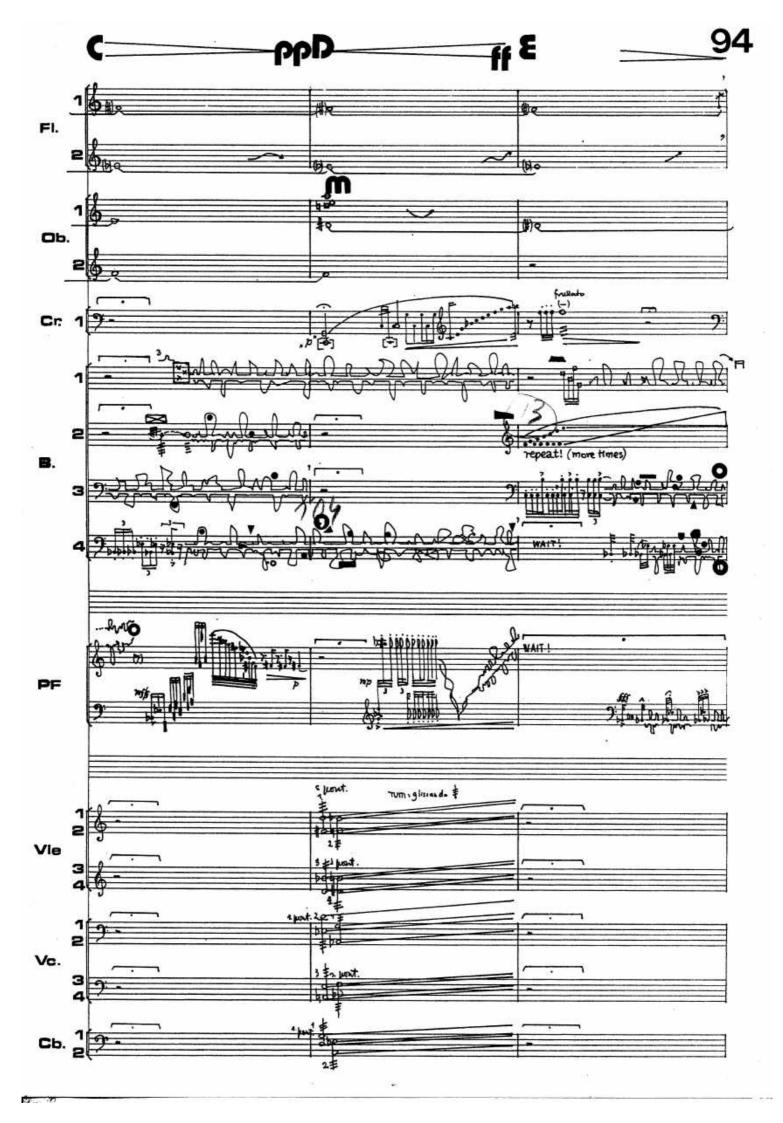












































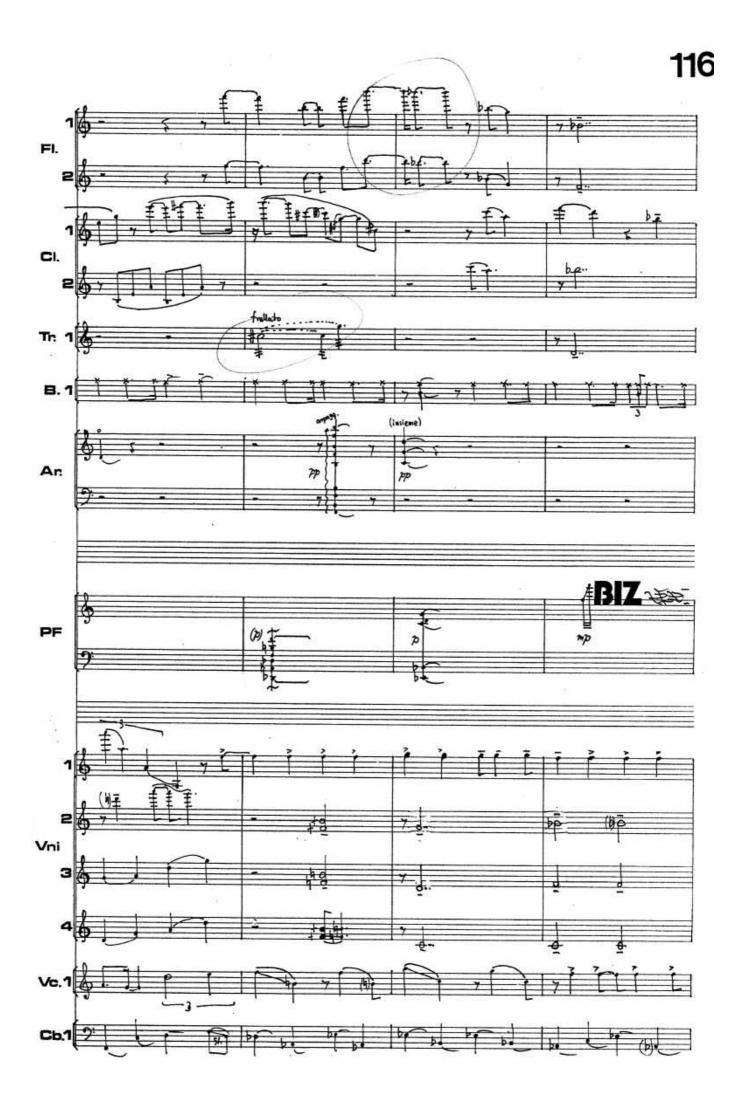






























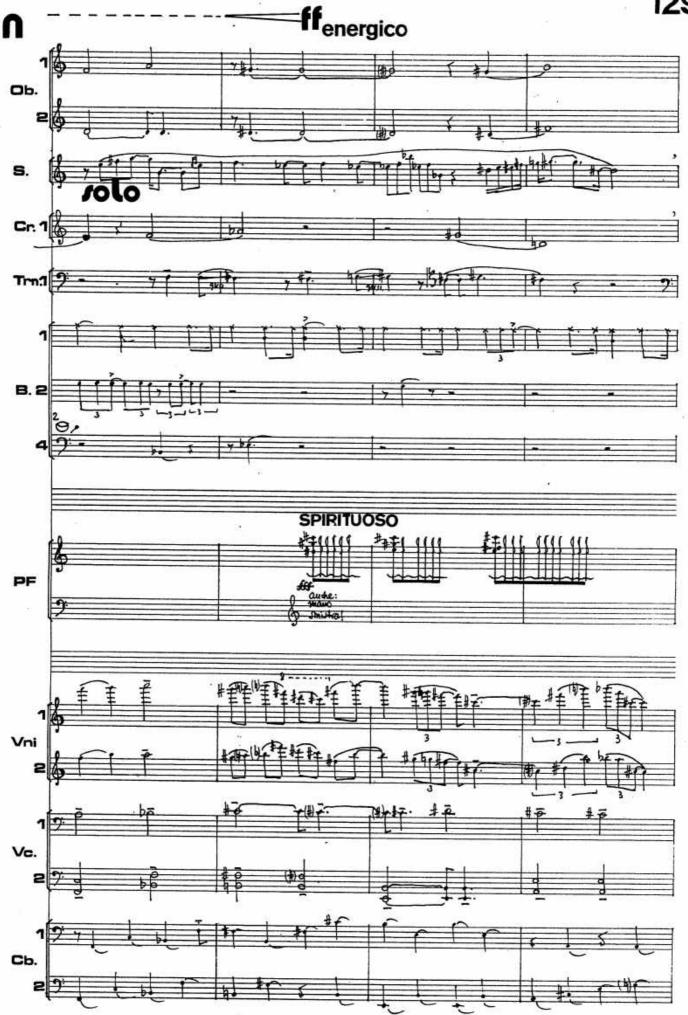














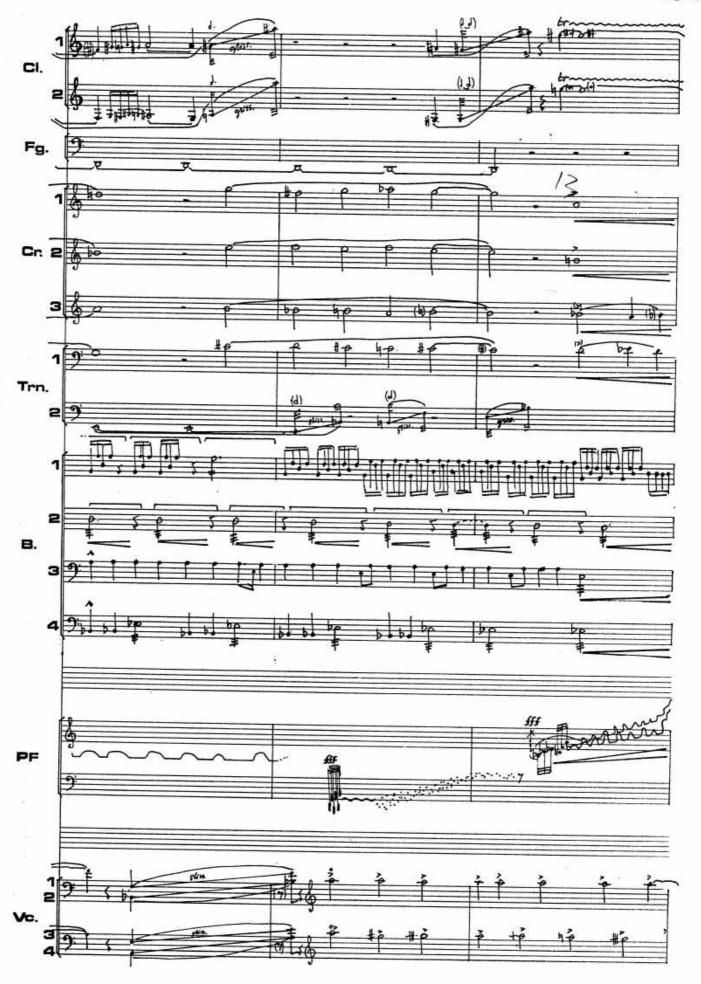






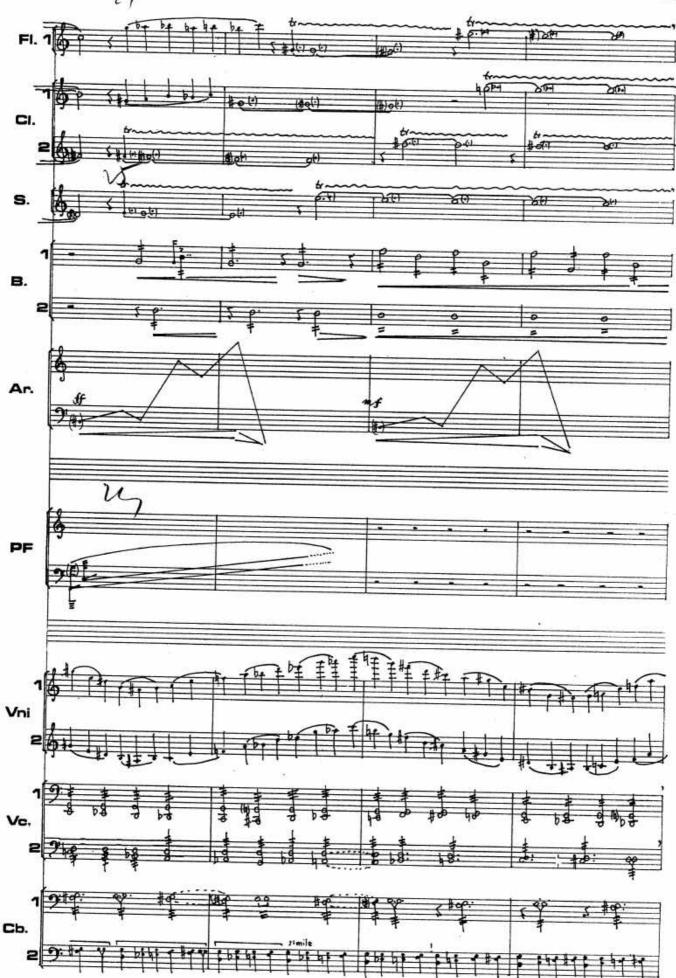






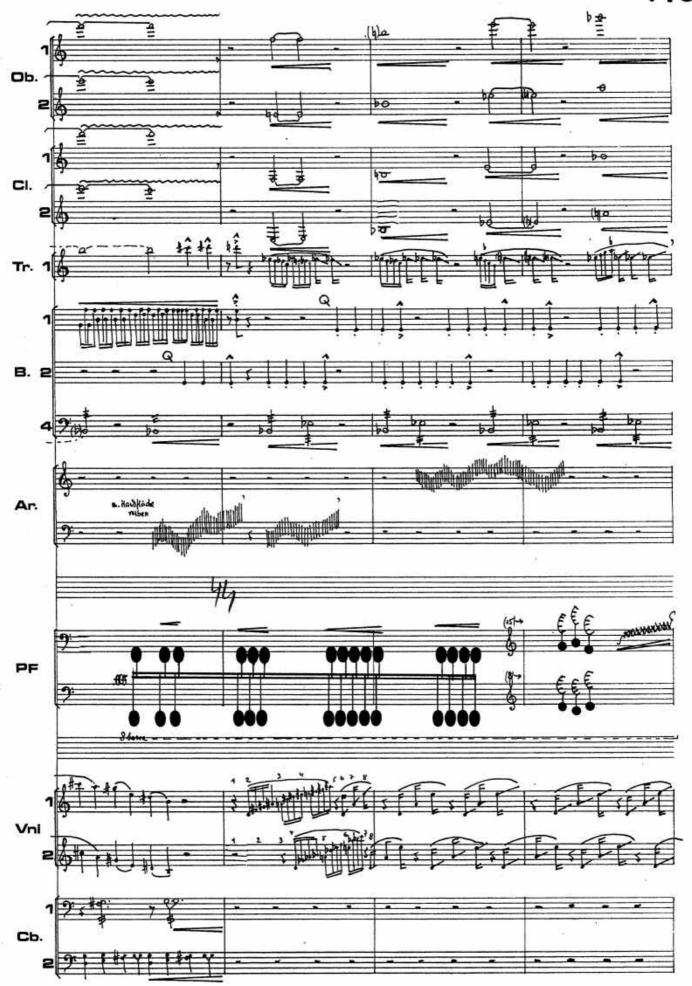














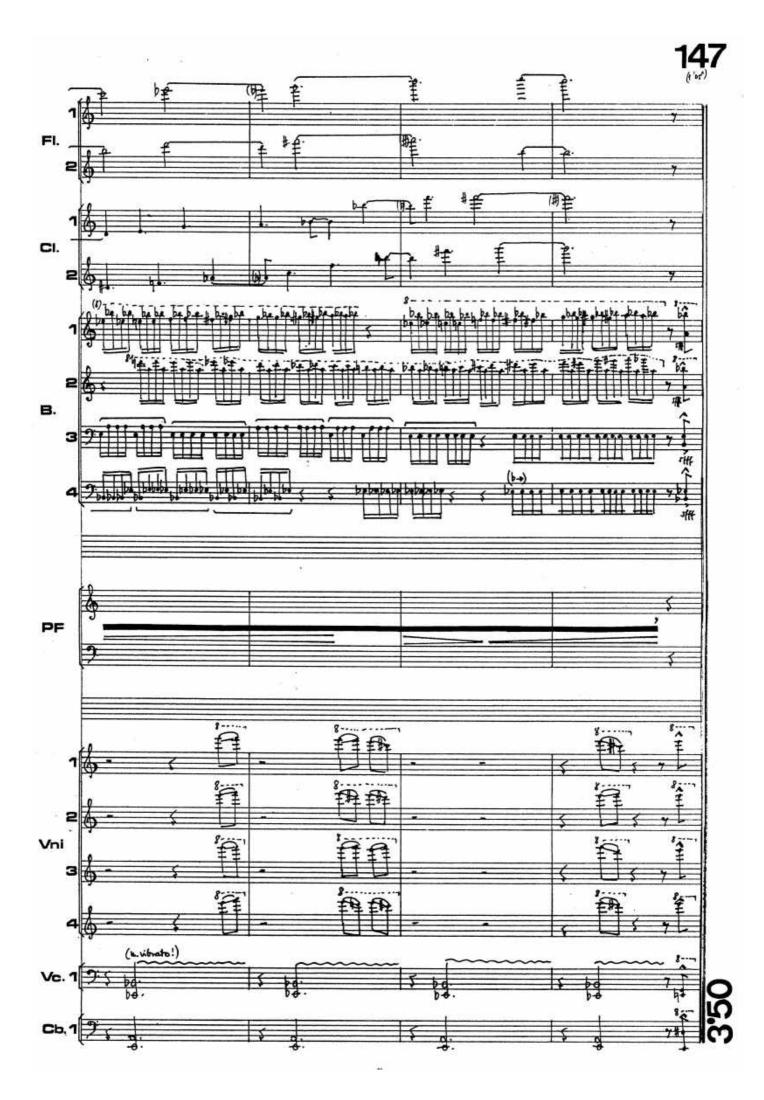






















Appendix 1

Piano solo cadenzas



Cadenza 1 (page 44, part 4 – **Nostalgia**) ↑
Cadenza 2 (page 102, part 8 – **Amoroso**) →



CADENZA A [7] PIANO & COMPUTER

SINGLE

PSEUDOHAR MONIES

PASSAGES IN THE MIDDLE

ECHORDS

BASS-NOKES

HIGH CHORDS

PASSAGES (ALL RES,)

SINGLE (ORNAMENTED)

Cadenza A & B (tape intermezzo before part 7 – **Notturno**)

CADENZA B Thouse PIANO & COMPUTER

SINGLE DONAMENTED

PASSAGES (ALL REG.S)

HIGH CHORDS

BASS MOTEES & to fundal along

E-MORDS

DACIACES IN THE HIDDE

PLEUDO HARMOMES

SIN GLE

Appendix 2

Tape diagrams

