JUDITH SHATIN

Gregor's Dream

Amplified Piano Trio & Electronics

Program Note

Gregor's Dream was inspired by the anxious dream that Gregor Samsa (the protagonist in Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*) has before waking up as a horrible bug (*ungeheures Ungeziefer*). I interpreted this as a type of beetle, of which there are more than 400,000 species! The mood of the anxious dream, and the ominous world into which Gregor wakes, suffused my musical imaginings. The fear of the 'other' permeates the story, despite all belonging to the same family – a situation especially relevant to our tribalistic times. I am grateful to bioacoustican Martin Brandstetter (Austrian Institute for Forest Protection) for sharing his recordings of Asian Longhorn beetles, and to Jayne Yack and Amanda Lindeman (Carleton University, CA) for sharing their recordings of mountain pine beetles as source material for the electronics. *Gregor's Dream* was commissioned by the Jerusalem-based Atar Piano Trio for their *Dream Within a Dream* program and is dedicated to them.

Performance Notes

The trio should be lightly amplified and its sound mixed with that of the electronics. Note that with a few exceptions the exact electronics are not specified. The timing is in seconds.

Accidentals apply in register throughout the bar.

Strings

All pizzicato notes should be allowed to ring.

Crunch – extra pressure on a low note will create a crunching, beetle-like sound

Trills should be 1/2 step above, unless otherwise noted.

Feathered beams do not suggest the exact number of notes, just the duration of the entire group.

Piano

Mallet stick (such as medium yarn mallet) or other rattan drumstick

+ = mute string close to the peg unless otherwise noted

S = silently depress note

World Premiere
Atar Trio
Ramat Gan New Music Center
Ramat Gan, Israel
03/10/2015

Duration: 9:50

Commissioned by the Atar Piano Trio

Gregor's Dream

Judith Shatin

Mysterious

0:00 0:10 0:15 0:21 0:25

Cue 1

Violin

Cello

Piano

Electronics

Quasi-snap pizz., l.v.

Close to peg

loco

8vb

S

0:30 0:35 0:40

6

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Elec.

arco

Occasional beatle sounds

0:45 0:50 0:55 1:00

9

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1:05 1:10

13

Vln. sp. f sp.

Vc. f

Furious short bursts
Match piano and each other

Gliss from the quarter tone, expanding range gradually; increasingly wild, then contract back, while continuing to play the open string.

Pno.

Fast gliss with stick of yarn mallet on second brace of piano strings. Repeat irregularly, cueing vln and vcl

Pedal only with gliss, do not hold.

Gliss with mallet stick both vertically and horizontally moving up and down each string as well as across strings

Elec.

Cue 2 **Misty**

1:20 0:00 0:04 0:08

15

Vln. ord. p mp f mf

Vc. ord. p mp f mf

Pno. S f S S S f S S

One long, fast gliss with mallet stick

Cue 2 **Beatle sounds strengthen**

Elec.

0:12 0:16 0:20 0:24 0:28

19

Vln. p mp

Vc. p mp

Pno. S S p

Elec.

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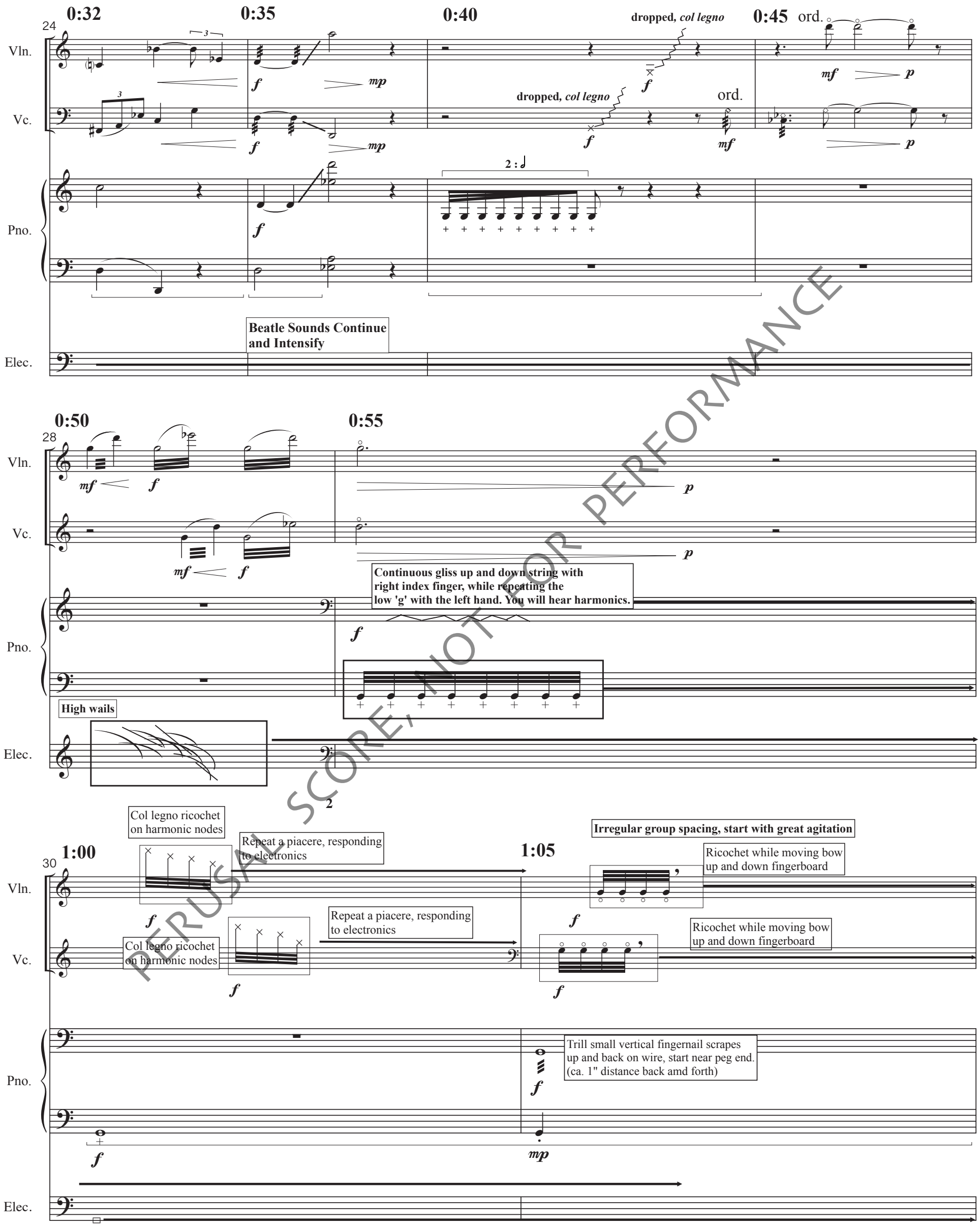

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32

1:10 1:15 1:20

Increasingly tense, louder, shorter pauses as you go; battle with cello

Increasingly tense, pauses shorter as you go; battle with violin

Vln. — mf — to pont — ff — rit. — to ord.

Vc. — mf — to pont — ff — to ord.

Pno. — Vertical fingernail gliss — f — Start towards peg Move about 3" back.

Elec. — Still more beetles

35

1:25 1:30 1:35 Cue 3 0:00

Vln. — mf — pizz. — f

Vc. — mf — pizz. — f — pizz. — mf — pizz. — f

Pno. — f — f

Elec. — Cue 3 — Calling beetles, intense to 0:34

39

0:05 0:10

Vln. — arco — pizz.

Vc. — arco — pizz.

Pno.

Elec.

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Pressing

41

0:15 0:20

Vln. arco *ff*

Vc. arco *ff*

Pno.

Elec.

0:25 **Dark Dance** 0:30

43

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Elec.

0:35 0:40

45

Vln. pizz.

Vc. pizz.

Pno. S

Elec. **Silence** **Beetles return**

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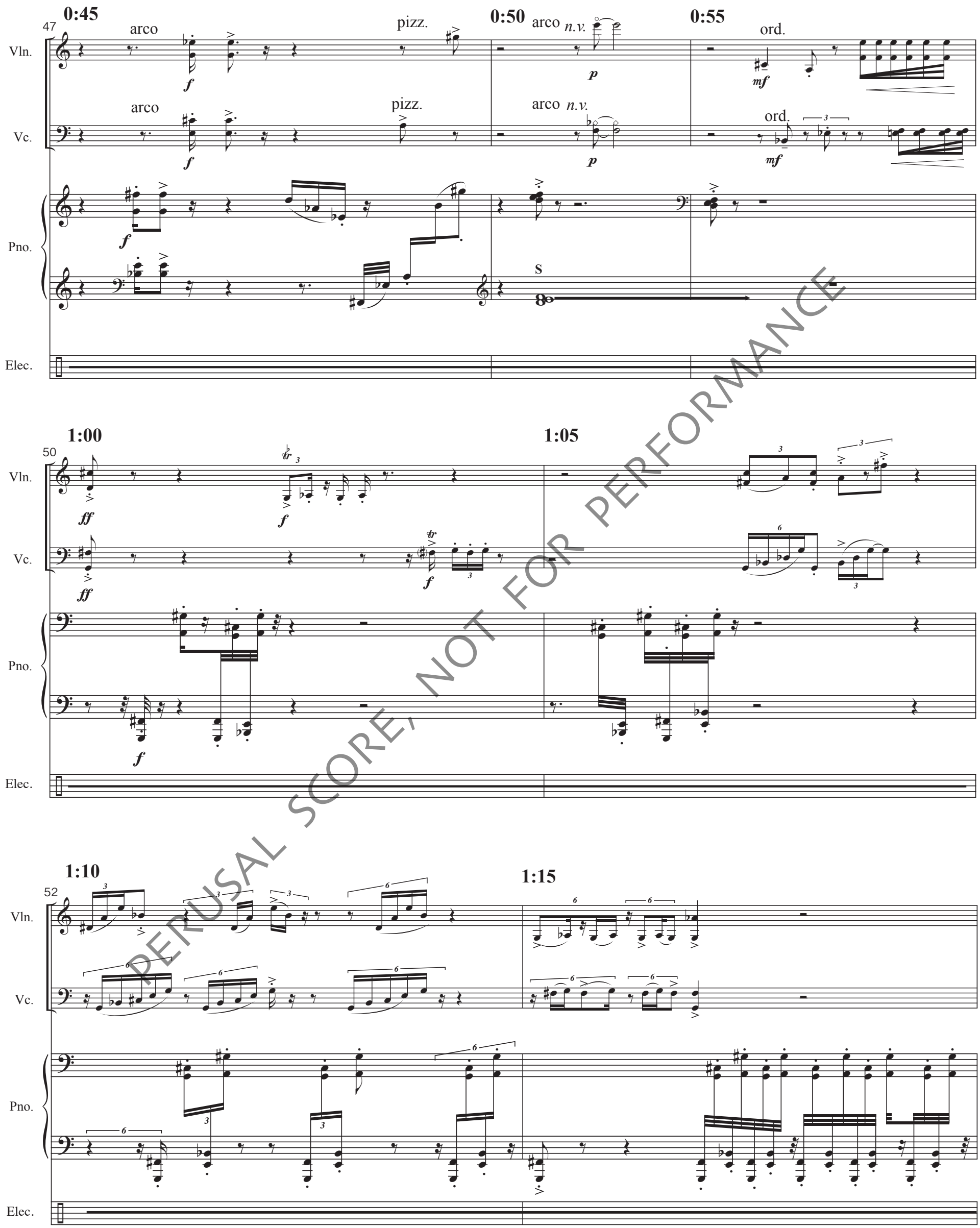

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54

1:20

Vln. sp. ord. sp. ord. sp. ord. sp. ord.

1:25

ff

Vc. sp. ord. sp. ord.

ff

Pno.

ff

Elec.

Suddenly loud, then flucturaing increase of beetle sounds.

56

1:30

Vln.

1:35 Urgent

f

Vc.

f

Pno.

f

Elec.

58

1:40

Vln.

1:45

Vc.

Pno.

Elec.

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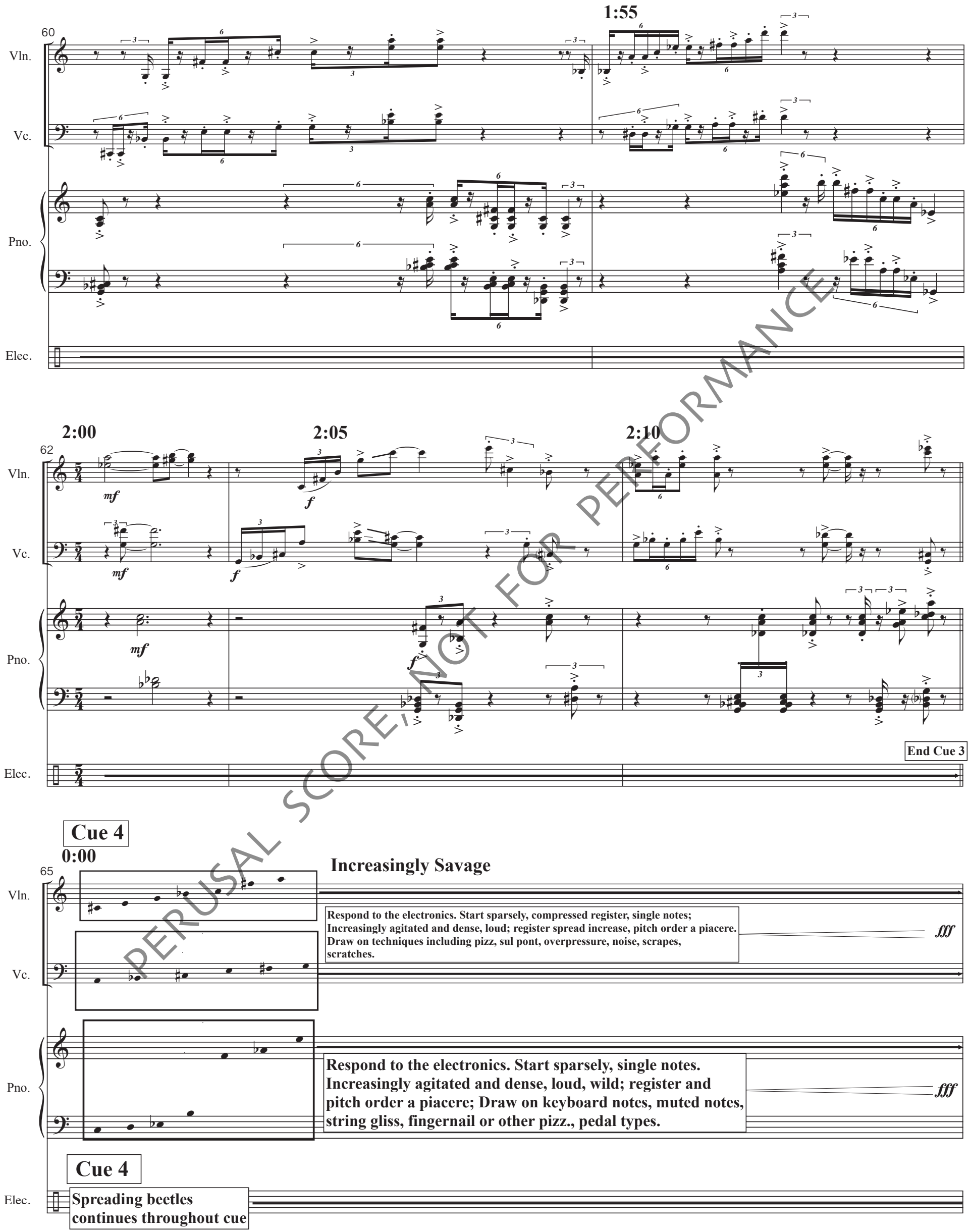

PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

Cue 5

0:20 0:40 0:00 Shimmering

66

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Elec.

Continue to respond to electronics. Gradually sparser, quieter, spread out register.

A niente

Continue to respond to electronics. Gradually sparser, quieter, spread out register.

A niente

Cue 5

Beetles + Beetles sing

0:05 0:10 0:15 0:20

69

sp.

pizz.

arco

pizz.

arco

Intermittent beetles & silence to 30"

0:25 0:30 0:35

73

Beetles+Pitch

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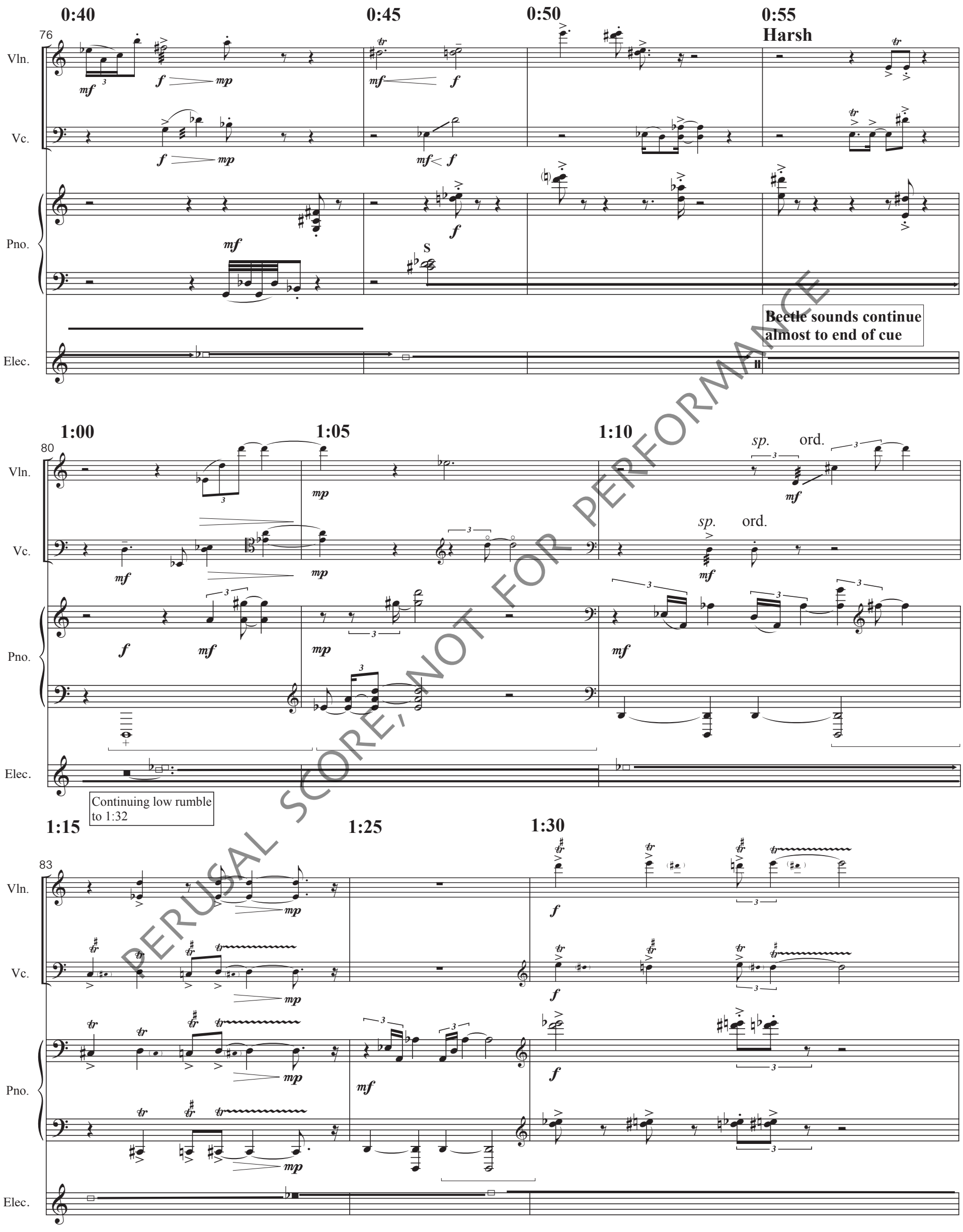

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1:30 1:35 1:40 1:45

Angry

Crunch (over-pressure)

Crunch (over-pressure)

Irregular rhythm, Respond to electronics

86

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Elec.

Yearning

Cue 6

1:50 1:55 2:00 0:00 0:05

90

ord. pizz. arco pizz. pizz. arco

Beetle sounds end

0:10 0:15 0:20

95

PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

0:25 0:30 0:35 0:40

98

Vln.

Vc.

On string, vertigal gliss on each note (rh).

Pno.

Elec.

0:45 0:50 0:55 0:00

Cue 7

102

Vln.

Vc.

ord.

Pno.

Cue 7

Elec.

Beetle sounds, intermittent to end

0:05 0:10 0:15 0:20

106

Vln.

pizz.

arco

Vc.

pizz.

arco

Pno.

Elec.

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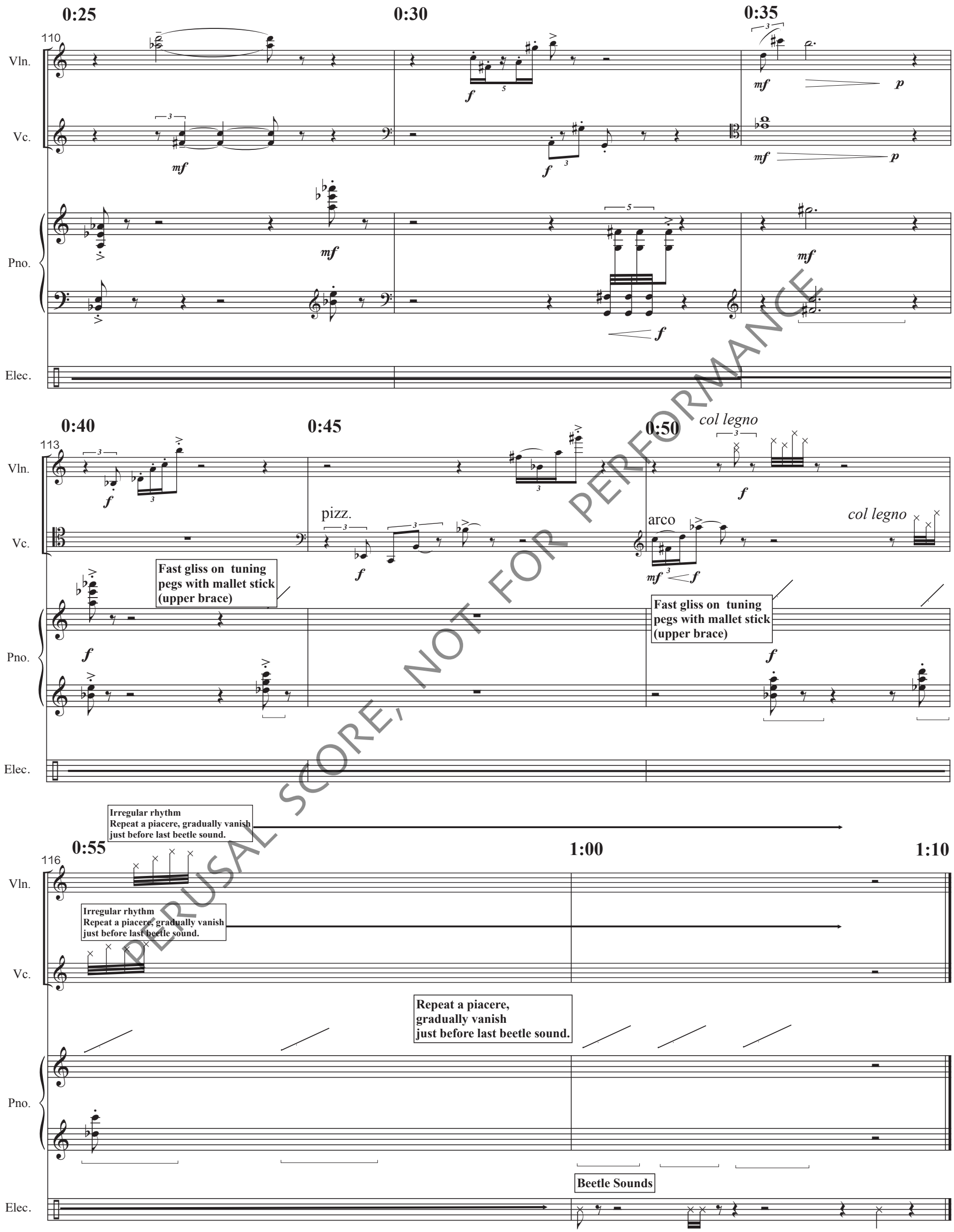

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