

For Vibraphone, Cello, and Bass (2011)

By Carl Testa

This piece uses the acceleration of the vibraphone's motor as an aesthetic framework for the whole piece. The speed of the motor is notated as a graph below the conventional notation for the vibraphone. The bottom of the graph denotes the slowest motor speed and the top of the graph denotes the fastest speed. If there is no line that means to leave the motor at its current speed. After an extended notated section, the vibraphone plays a solo melody and the cello and bass gradually enter the texture. The trio then moves into a collective contextual improvisation using the content of the piece as material for improvisation. The piece ends with a read through of the final notated material cued in by the vibraphonist.

For Vibraphone, Cello, and Bass

Carl Testa

cello

bass

vibes

motor

$\bullet = 60$

mf

f

off

on

on

The image shows a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It consists of three staves. The top two staves are in bass clef, and the bottom staff is in treble clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into three measures. The first measure contains a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes and a half note, and a treble line with a whole note chord. The second measure contains a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes and a half note, and a treble line with a whole note chord. The third measure contains a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes and a half note, and a treble line with a whole note chord. A double bar line is at the end of the first system.

7

6:4

5:4

4:4

4:4

4:4

off

on

0

3:2

6:4

3:2

3:2

7:8

II

14

The musical score consists of four staves. The first three staves are in bass clef, and the fourth is in treble clef. The time signature is 4/4. The first staff has a 3:2 ratio above the third measure. The second staff has a 3:2 ratio below the fourth measure. The third staff has a 3:2 ratio above the second measure and a 3:2 ratio below the fourth measure. The fourth staff has an 8: note in the third measure. The graphic staff at the bottom shows a series of wavy lines and a double bar line.

18

II on

22

Musical score for measures 22-25. The score is written for three staves: two bass staves and one treble staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 3/2. The first two staves contain melodic lines with various rhythmic values and accidentals. The third staff contains a complex rhythmic pattern with many beamed notes. The bottom staff shows a series of wavy lines representing a continuous sound, with the word "off" appearing above the line and "on" appearing below the line.

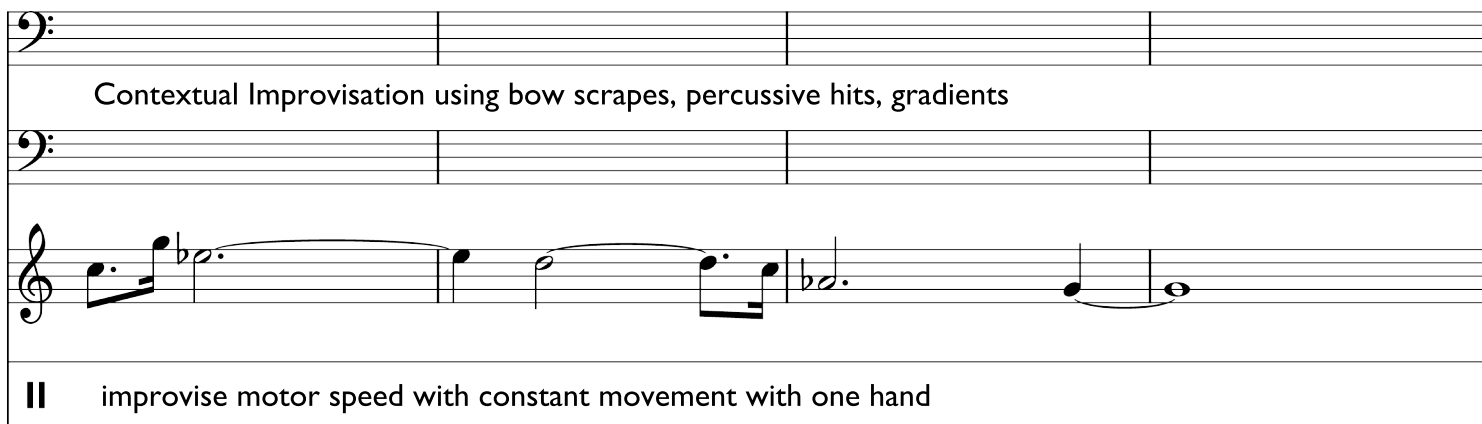
26

Musical score for measures 26-29. The score is written for three staves: two bass staves and one treble staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 3/2. The first two staves contain melodic lines with various rhythmic values and accidentals. The third staff contains a complex rhythmic pattern with many beamed notes. The bottom staff shows a series of wavy lines representing a continuous sound, with the word "off" appearing above the line.

30

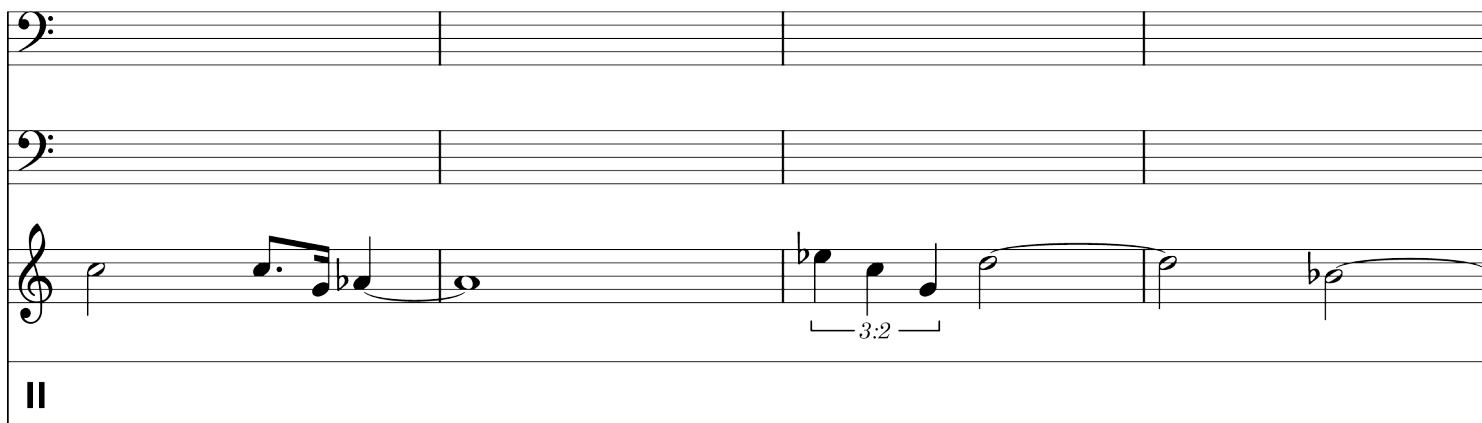
Musical score for measures 30-33. The score is written for three staves: two bass staves and one treble staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 3/2. The first two staves contain melodic lines with various rhythmic values and accidentals. The third staff contains a complex rhythmic pattern with many beamed notes. The bottom staff shows a series of wavy lines representing a continuous sound, with the word "on" appearing above the line.

Contextual Improvisation using bow scrapes, percussive hits, gradients



|| improvise motor speed with constant movement with one hand

This exercise is written on a grand staff with two bass staves and one treble staff. The treble staff contains a single melodic line with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notation includes a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, some beamed together, and a few longer notes. The exercise is marked with a double bar line and the instruction 'improvise motor speed with constant movement with one hand'.



||

This exercise is written on a grand staff with two bass staves and one treble staff. The treble staff contains a single melodic line with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notation includes a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, some beamed together, and a few longer notes. A 3:2 ratio is indicated under a group of notes. The exercise is marked with a double bar line.



||

This exercise is written on a grand staff with two bass staves and one treble staff. The treble staff contains a single melodic line with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notation includes a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, some beamed together, and a few longer notes. A 3:2 ratio is indicated under a group of notes. The exercise is marked with a double bar line.



||

This exercise is written on a grand staff with two bass staves and one treble staff. The treble staff contains a single melodic line with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notation includes a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, some beamed together, and a few longer notes. The exercise is marked with a double bar line.

50

54

58

62

Join cello and bass in extended contextual improvisation

motor on fastest setting

Musical score for measures 67-71. The score is written for three staves: two bass staves and one treble staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The first two staves (bass) show a sequence of notes, with a 2/4 time signature change indicated in the fourth measure. The third staff (treble) shows a sequence of chords and notes, with a 2/4 time signature change indicated in the fourth measure. The score ends with a double bar line and a fermata.

Musical score for measures 72-75. The score is written for three staves: two bass staves and one treble staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The first two staves (bass) show a sequence of notes, with 3:2 ratios indicated above the notes in measures 72, 73, and 74. The third staff (treble) shows a sequence of chords and notes, with a 3:2 ratio indicated above the notes in measure 72. The score ends with a double bar line and a fermata.

Musical score for measures 76-79. The score is written for three staves: two bass staves and one treble staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The first two staves (bass) show a sequence of notes, with 5:4 ratios indicated above the notes in measures 76 and 77. The third staff (treble) shows a sequence of chords and notes, with a 5:4 ratio indicated above the notes in measure 76. The score ends with a double bar line and a fermata. The text "out of time" is written above the final measure of each staff.