Patrick Harrex

Passages X

for cello

revised version 2019



Passages X for cello

Composer's note

Passages X, completed in December 2013 and then slightly revised in 2019, is the latest in a series of short works for solo instruments or voice or small ensembles, the earliest of which date from my student days in Paris.

The generic title (originally French, but which can be read as the English word) was chosen because of its variety of meanings or nuances.

A 'passage' is, among other things, a journey, a process of moving forward in time, a narrow and perhaps confined or restricted alleyway or corridor, a channel, a process of transition from one state to another, a short extract from a literary or musical work. Each of these definitions presents ideas that may be developed in a piece of music.

There is also an interesting biological definition, given that a number of my Passages have been developed into other works, which relates to the process of propagating cells in host organisms so as to maintain or modify those cells and allow them to multiply. Passages I for solo violin grew into Conséquences for viola and piano. Conséquences in turn provided material for the third movement of my Duo for violin and piano and for Résonances, for viola and four instruments. Passages X will be developed into a short work for solo cello and small ensemble.

A common characteristic of my *Passages* is the use of short phrases which explore certain technical or physical aspects of the instrument(s) or voice(s). While these may be isolated, perhaps momentary, events, they connect together to take us on a journey around the subject instrument or voice – usually a small scale expedition rather than an intensive examination.

Patrick Harrex

Brighton 3 December 2013/ 9 August 2019

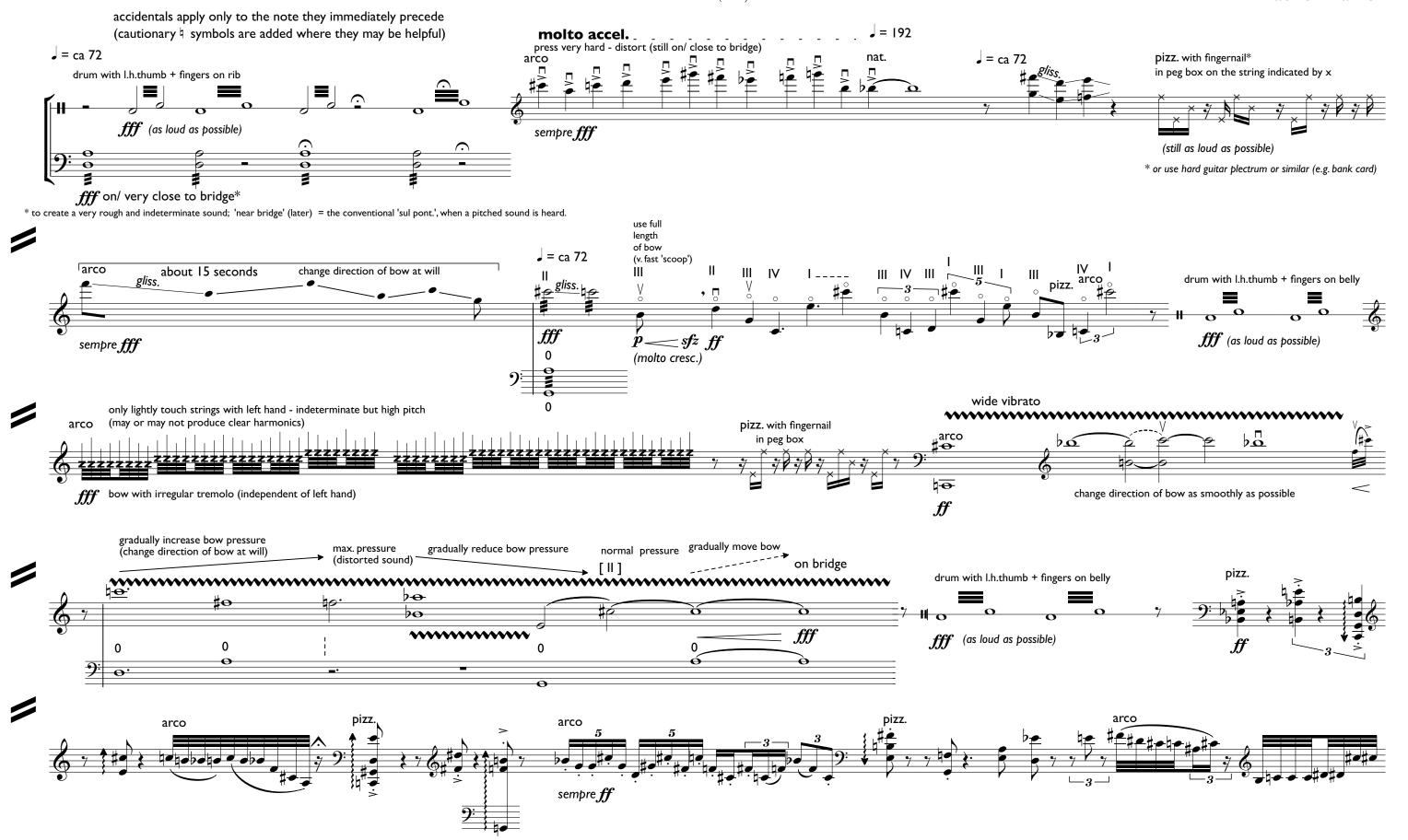
Duration: approx. 7'

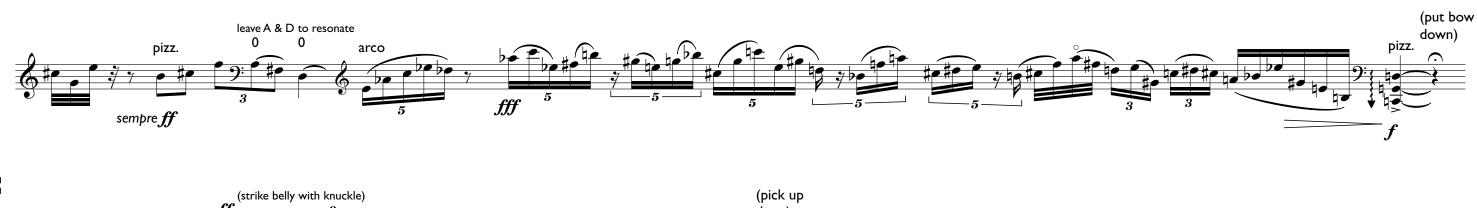
Passages X

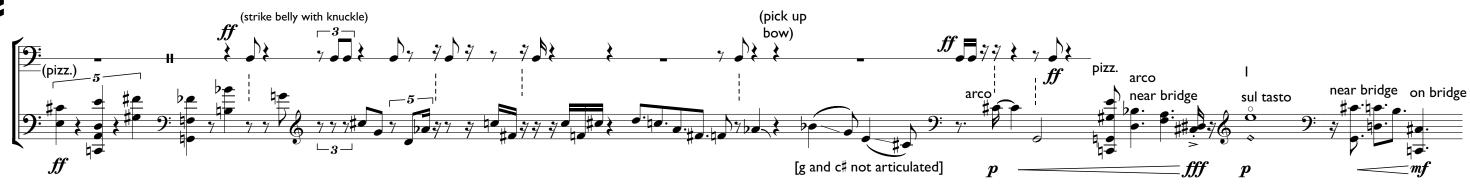
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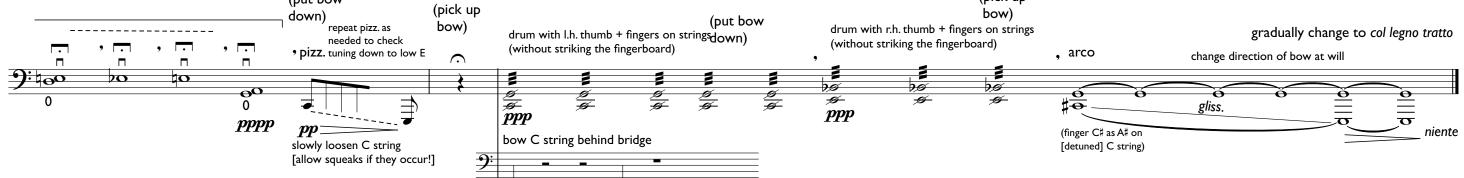












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