Ph'nglui mglw'nath Cthulhu R'lyeh wgah'nagl fhtagn

"In his house at R'lyeh dead Cthulhu waits dreaming"

for String Quartet

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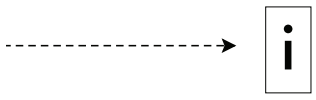
Written 11/11/11 for workshop by The Kreutzer Quartet on 5/12/11 at the University of York. It is an experimental piece and the idea is to “pronounce” the sentence “Ph'nglui mglw'nath Cthulhu R'lyeh wgah'nagl fhtagn” (a quote from H.P Lovecraft’s “The Call of Cthulhu”) using the sounds of the String Quartet.

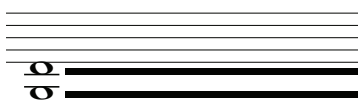
Premiered by the Chimera String Quartet, Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall, University of York 22/6/12.

Performance Notes

The piece is in time space notation except where indicated.



Structural Notation - indicates the syllable (of the H.P Lovecraft sentence) being performed. Arrow indicates gradual change.



Notes last roughly as long as this symbol represents relative to the space between the dashed barlines.

Longer notes.

Shorter notes.

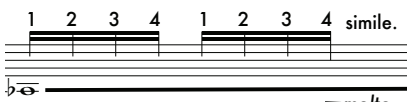
The length over which a time signature lasts (everything outside of this is timespace notation).

Play the wood of the bridge.

Play the tailpiece.

Play the side of the body, place indicated by the symbol. In this piece, always play the center of the right hand-side of the instrument (in normal playing position).

Highest note possible

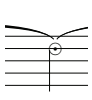


Change fingering rapidly, maintaining the same pitch.

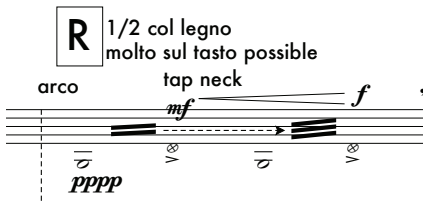
Tap body at the position indicated by the symbol

Add tremolo to the line already being performed.

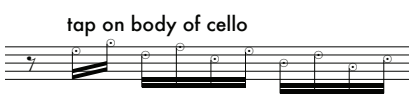
Place the hair of the bow against the body of the instrument under the neck, and scrape the wood of the bow over the hair, creating a rough scratchy sound.



Exhale vocally - blow with the mouth in an “O” shape, as if blowing out a candle.



As written (disambiguation: tap string and neck as if playing), very little pitch, should produce a rattling sound.



Tap on the body of the cello (alternate hands on both sides) - pitch indicates height on cello body.

N.B Harmonics are always written AT SOUNDING PITCH and are natural harmonics except where indicated.

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Edward Caine
H.P Lovecraft

Ph

n

weighty, dramatic, gothic, menacing, angular

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

flautando

flautando

ng

gl

u

i

III

IV

pizz.

arco

sul D harmonic gliss

gliss.

8va possible
little/no pitch
molto sul tasto
sul E

exhale vocally

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m gl w

pp
mf ff
pizz.
arco
non vib
pp
sfz
mp
pizz.
sfz
arco
non vib
mp
mp
pizz.
arco
gliss.
pp
pp

n ah

harmonic
gliss
norm. molto
sul pont
pp
mf
molto
molto
norm. sul pont
1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 etc.
p
gliss.
mf
molto
molto
norm. sul pont
tr
p
gliss.
mf
molto
molto
norm. sul pont
arco
sul G
gliss.
mf
molto
L.H
pizz.
sfp

th C th u

molto vib.
sfz p
f
fff
molto vib.
sfz p
mf f
fff
(audible beating)
tap
body
harmonic
gliss
molto vib.
sfz p
sffz
ppp
fff
muted
snap
arco
IV
harmonic
gliss
molto vib.
pizz.
sfz p
sffz
ppp
fff
(audible beating)

lh → u

IV gliss. molto vib.

mf molto ff molto p

IV gliss. molto vib.

mf molto ff molto p

(audible beating)

IV gliss. molto vib.

mf molto ff molto p

IV gliss. molto vib.

mf molto ff molto p

(audible beating)

4/4 col legno battuto — arco blow across bow

sfz 3

blow across bow

pp mf

pizz. completely muted (no pitch)

mp 5

pizz. completely muted (no pitch)

pp mf mp

arco

mp

mp

R 1/2 col legno molto sul tasto possible

arco tap neck mf f , norm. III gliss. II gliss.

mp pppp mp

1/2 col legno molto sul tasto possible

arco tap neck mf f , norm.

mp pppp mp

arco

mp gliss. gliss.

gliss.

p

y

eh

8va

harmonic gliss.

mff molto mp

gliss. gliss.

mff molto mp

gliss.

mff molto mp

gliss. gliss.

mp mff molto mp

w

g

ah

8va

harmonic gliss

pizz.

arco

mp sffz mp

1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 etc.

sfz pp mp

tr

mp sfz pp mp

pizz. gliss. arco

tr

pp sffz pp

n

ah

harmonic gliss

arco

p mp

IV 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 etc.

gliss.

fp sfz pp

tr

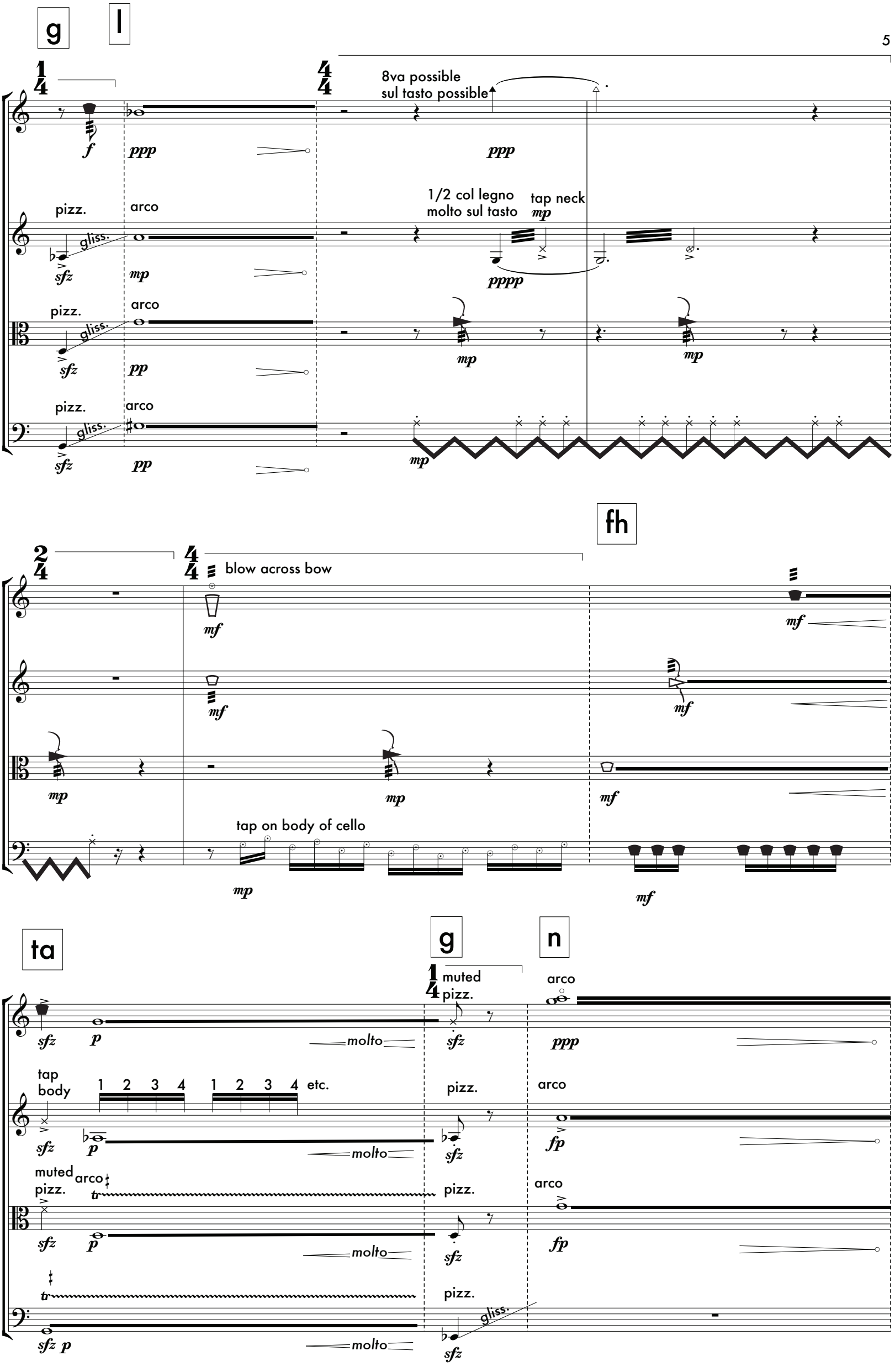
IV

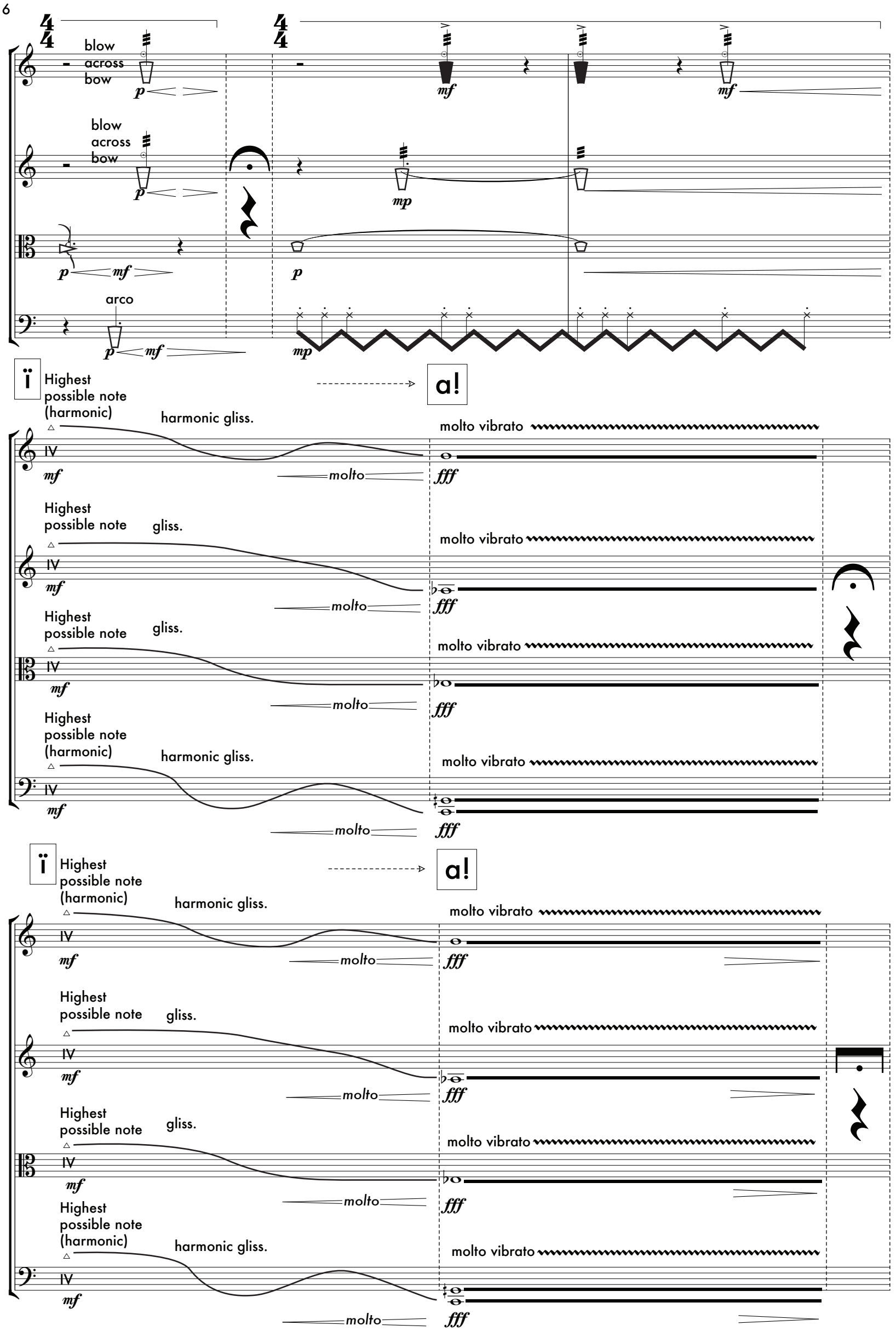
gliss.

fp sfz pp

tr

pp


g
l
8va possible
sul tasto possible
pizz.
arco
gliss.
1/2 col legno
molto sul tasto
tap neck
fh
blow across bow
tap on body of cello
ta
g
n
muted
pizz.
arco
tap
body
1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 etc.
molto
gliss.


blow across bow
p
mf
blow across bow
p
mp
p
mf
arco
p
mf
mp
ï
Highest possible note (harmonic)
harmonic gliss.
IV
mf
molto
fff
molto vibrato
Highest possible note
gliss.
IV
mf
molto
fff
molto vibrato
Highest possible note
gliss.
IV
mf
molto
fff
molto vibrato
Highest possible note (harmonic)
harmonic gliss.
IV
mf
molto
fff
molto vibrato
a!
ï
Highest possible note (harmonic)
harmonic gliss.
IV
mf
molto
fff
molto vibrato
Highest possible note
gliss.
IV
mf
molto
fff
molto vibrato
Highest possible note
gliss.
IV
mf
molto
fff
molto vibrato
Highest possible note (harmonic)
harmonic gliss.
IV
mf
molto
fff
molto vibrato
a!

C th u lh

molto vib. IV gliss.

f fff mf molto

molto vib. IV gliss.

mf f fff mf molto

(audible beating)

tap body harmonic gliss molto vib. IV gliss.

sffz ppp fff mf molto

muted snap arco IV harmonic gliss molto vib. IV gliss.

sffz ppp fff mf molto

(audible beating)

u fh ta

molto vib.

ff molto p mf sfz p molto

molto vib. tap body 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 etc.

ff molto p mf sfz p molto

(audible beating)

molto vib. muted pizz. arco

ff molto p mf sfz p molto

molto vib.

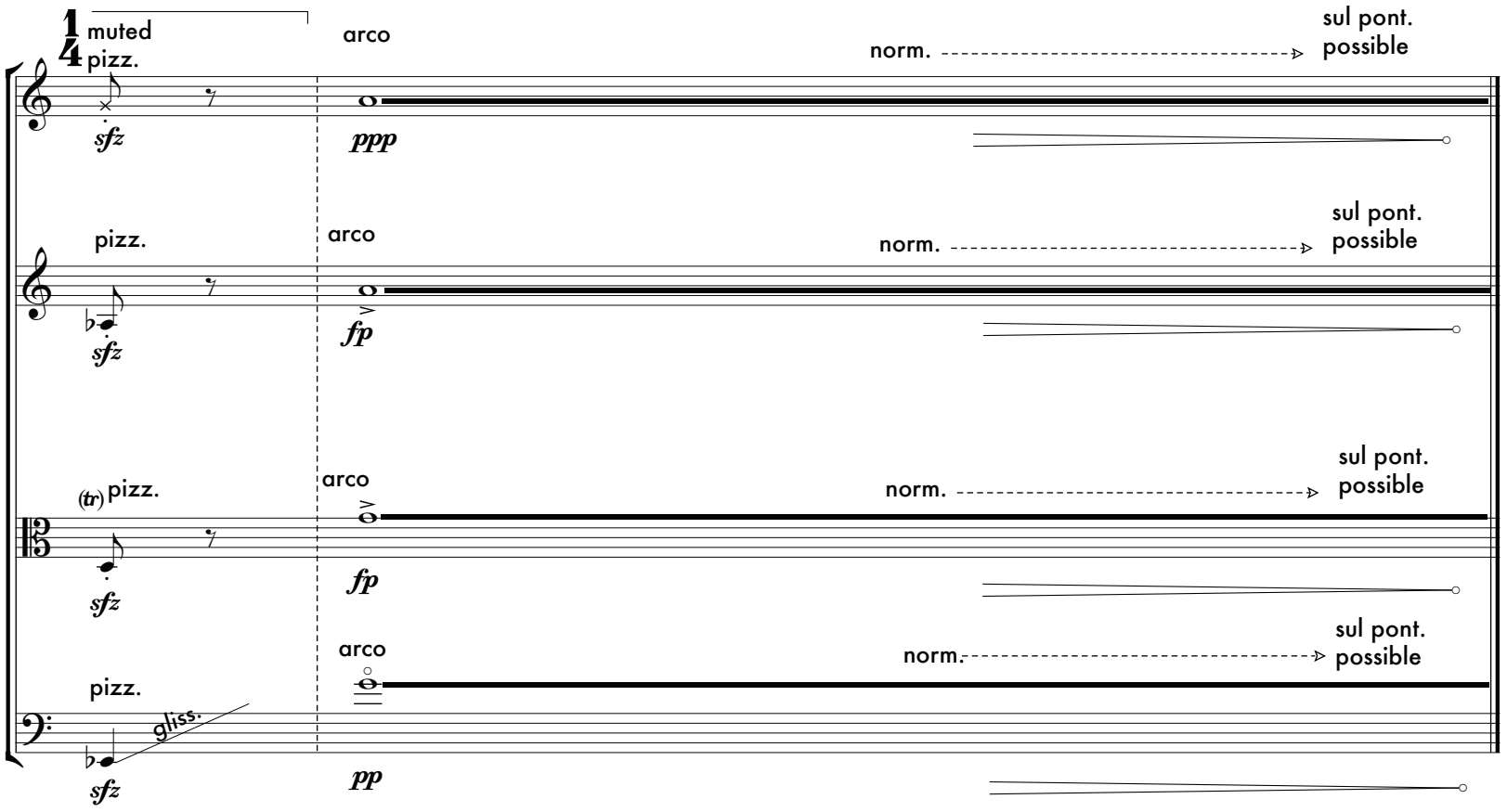
ff molto p mf sfz p molto

(audible beating)

8

g

n



EJC 11/11/11