

We All Inevitably Fall into the Abyss

Yifeng Yvonne Yuan



Composer's note

This piece is about the relentless flow of information, the constant demand for attention and productivity. It is about the void we feel after consuming millions gigabytes of data, the profound isolation we sense amidst the hyper-connectedness. It is about the sense of burning out.

Instrumentation

Fixed Media

Clarinet in Bb or Trumpet

Baritone Saxophone & Tenor Saxophone

Piano (prepared)

Violin

Cello

Performer's Note

Amplification

For the saxophone player, two microphones are preferred:

Place one microphone near the keys for sound capture.

Attach a contact microphone to the performer's throat to enhance the sound texture and capture the nuances.

Piano Preparation:

There are two ways of piano preparing depending on the access of materials.

1. Insert large paper clips in between strings Eb2, G2, B2 and Db3.

2. Place blu tack on the strings of Eb2, G2, B2 and Db3.

Note: the preparation will be removed midway through the piece. Please consider the ease and practicality of removal when setting up.

↑ 1/8 tone higher

↓ 1/8 tone lower

In the first section, adjust pitches to be 1/8 tone higher or lower as indicated. This is to create a beating effect that matches the intensity of the electronic track. The 1/8 tone measurement is an estimate; the primary goal is to achieve the desired beating effect.

• Breath marking

Guitar pick tremolo (for Violin)

The performer should hold the violin like a guitar, and strum with a guitar pick.

Click Track for Conductor or performer

A click track is provided to ensure perfect synchronization between the fixed track and the live performance.

This click track is intended for the conductor (if there is one) or one designated performer.

Metric Modulation

Be aware of several metric modulations throughout the piece.

Card on String knobs

The performer is required to slide on the metal knobs that hold the strings with a card.
This piece specifically calls for this effect in the mid to high register.

[Transposed]

We All Inevitably Fall into the Abyss

♩ = 55 - 56 Mechanically subdued, like a train's ghostly tread.

Yifeng Yvonne Yuan (2023-24)

High pitched sine tone beeping from distance;
Each beep equals to a half note.

Electronics

Two sine tones around Eb3
beating periodically.
Each beat equals to a quarter note in this section.

Baritone Saxophone

non vib.

ord. vibrato

Clarinet

non vib.

ord. vibrato

Piano

prepared piano
with blu tack on string
Eb2,G2,B2 and Db3

Violin

bow on bout, pitchless

ord. sul tasto III, IV non vib.

Cello

bow on bout, pitchless

ppp *p* *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *p* *mp simile*

p slightly (around 1/8 tone) higher than the written pitch by altering embouchure* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *p* *mp simile*

p slightly (around 1/8 tone) higher than the written pitch by altering embouchure* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

f *fff* *p* *n* *p* *mf*

f *fff* *p*

*In order to make a beating effect between Baritone Saxophone and Clarinet.

^In order to make a beating effect with violin and Cello.

12

→ reverb slowly decreasing

bubbly noise

Elec.

Bari. Sax.

p < *mf* *p* < *mf* simile

f

Clar.

p — *mf*

p < *mf* *p* < *mf* simile

f

Piano

Violin

free bowing

ord.

poco sul pont.

ord. vibrato

> *p*

mp

f

Cello

I, II

free bowing non vib.

ord. vibrato II III

○ circular bowing, medium speed

p < *mf* *p* subito

mf

17 **A**

Elec.

Bari. Sax.

Clar.

Piano

Violin

Cello

mp *f* *p* *p* *f*

ord. vibrato

p *f* *p* *ppp*

sul pont. *f* *mf* *mp*

I, II ord. *f* *mf* *ff* *mp*

○ circular bowing fast slow

multiphonics
13_457_A_c3

(keys and throat amplified)
key clicking only

Elec.

Bari.
Sax.

Clar.

Piano

Violin

Cello

improvized keyclicking

improvized keyclicking

prepared piano
with blu tack and three big paper clips set between Eb2 to Db4

sul tasto

*f**p**f**p**ppp**p**ppp*

24

Elec.

Bari. Sax.

Clar.

Piano

Violin

Cello

sul tasto

p

sul tasto

p

The musical score is written for six instruments: Electric guitar (Elec.), Baritone Saxophone (Bari. Sax.), Clarinet (Clar.), Piano, Violin, and Cello. The score covers measures 24, 25, and 26. Measure 24 begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Elec. part has a single note on the first line. The Bari. Sax. part has a complex melodic line with triplets and sixteenth notes. The Clar. part has a whole rest. The Piano part has a complex accompaniment with triplets and sixteenth notes. The Violin and Cello parts have whole rests. Measure 25 continues the Bari. Sax. and Piano parts. Measure 26 introduces the Violin and Cello parts with a 'sul tasto' instruction and a piano dynamic (*p*). The Violin part has a quarter note on the first line. The Cello part has a quarter note on the first line, followed by a triplet of eighth notes.

6
27

Elec.

Bari.
Sax.

Clar.

Piano

Violin

Cello

f

ff

fff

mf

f

fff

ff

ff

improvized keyclicking, very fast and loud

molto sul pont.
overpress

molto sul pont.
overpress

6
27

Elec.

Bari.
Sax.

Clar.

Piano

Violin

Cello

f

ff

fff

mf

f

fff

ff

ff

improvized keyclicking, very fast and loud

molto sul pont.
overpress

molto sul pont.
overpress

B

30 granulated beeping sound

Elec.

fast key clicking

Bari. Sax.

mp

tongue smacking, more air less pitch

Clar.

p *f* *p*

Piano

strike the low strings inside piano with palm (avoid prepared piano portion)

fff

B

pizz. guitar pick trem. on I and II

Violin

p *f* *mf* *fff*

arco ord. non vib.

subito *p* *ff*

arco sul pont. on I and II

Cello

p *f* *mf* *fff*

high pitched dense, micro grains emitting

f

8

34

Elec.

Two sine tones around Eb3 beating periodically. Each beat equals to a quarter note in this section.

field recording-chaotic city sound

Bari. Sax.

ord.

mp

f

ff > p

overblow

Clar.

ord.

p

Piano

f

Violin

pp

f

Cello

mp

38 $\text{♩} = 88$ playfully precise

Elec. mf

Bari. Sax. f

Clar. f p

Piano f

Violin $\text{♩} = 88$ Playfully precise p

Cello f

The musical score for measures 38-45 is as follows:

- Electric guitar:** Measure 38 has a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) marked mf . Measures 39-45 are rests.
- Baritone Saxophone:** Measure 38 has a melodic line starting on G4, marked f . Measures 39-45 have various melodic lines with accents.
- Clarinet:** Measure 38 has a melodic line starting on G4, marked f . Measures 39-45 are rests, marked p .
- Piano:** Measure 38 has a bass line starting on G3, marked f . Measures 39-45 have various bass lines.
- Violin:** Measure 38 has a melodic line starting on G4, marked p . Measures 39-45 are rests.
- Cello:** Measure 38 has a bass line starting on G3, marked f . Measures 39-45 are rests.

10
46

Elec.

Bari.
Sax.

Clar.

Piano

Violin

Cello

fluttered tongue

mp

p

The musical score is written for a 6/16 piece, consisting of 46 measures. The time signature is 6/16, and the key signature is one sharp (F#). The score is divided into six staves, each representing a different instrument: Electric guitar (Elec.), Baritone saxophone (Bari. Sax.), Clarinet (Clar.), Piano, Violin, and Cello. The Electric guitar part is in the treble clef and features a series of notes and rests, with a key signature change to one sharp (F#) in the second measure. The Baritone saxophone part is in the treble clef and features a series of notes and rests, with a key signature change to one sharp (F#) in the second measure. The Clarinet part is in the treble clef and features a series of notes and rests, with a key signature change to one sharp (F#) in the second measure. The Piano part is in the bass clef and features a series of notes and rests, with a key signature change to one sharp (F#) in the second measure. The Violin part is in the treble clef and features a series of notes and rests, with a key signature change to one sharp (F#) in the second measure. The Cello part is in the bass clef and features a series of notes and rests, with a key signature change to one sharp (F#) in the second measure. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The Electric guitar part is marked with a dynamic of *mp* (mezzo-piano) in the second measure. The Violin part is marked with a dynamic of *p* (piano) in the second measure. The Clarinet part is marked with a dynamic of *mp* (mezzo-piano) in the second measure. The Piano part is marked with a dynamic of *mp* (mezzo-piano) in the second measure. The Baritone saxophone part is marked with a dynamic of *mp* (mezzo-piano) in the second measure. The Cello part is marked with a dynamic of *mp* (mezzo-piano) in the second measure. The score also includes a "fluttered tongue" marking above the Clarinet part in the second measure.

[illegible]

rit.

— *ppp*

ppp.

p

$-p$

remove piano preparation

— *pp*

rit. *rit.*

 $\bar{p}$

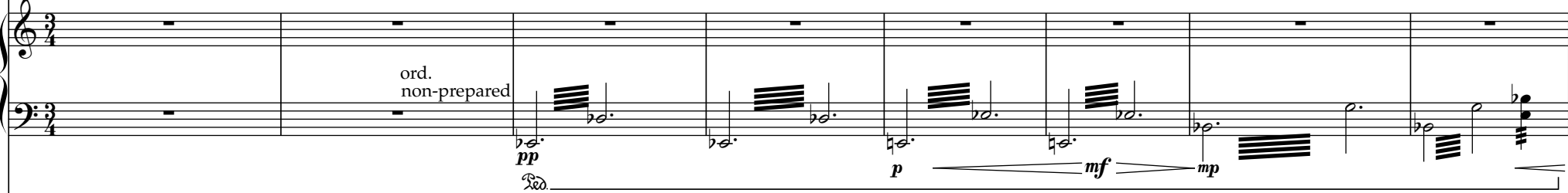
p

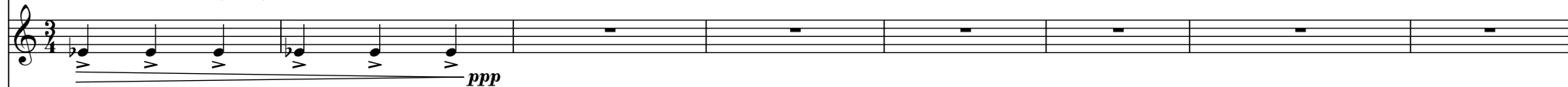
63 ♩ = 56 Subdued, languidly dark

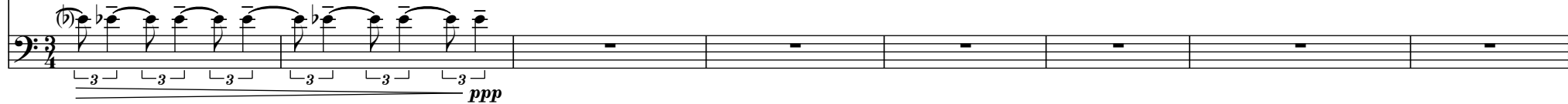
Elec. 

Bari. Sax. 

Clar. 

Piano 

Violin 

Cello 

14

71

Elec.

Bari.
Sax.

Clar.

Piano

Violin

Cello

Electronics (Elec.) part: A series of short horizontal lines on a single staff, indicating electronic effects or noise.

Bari. Sax. part: A single staff with rests throughout the measures.

Clarinet (Clar.) part: Features a melodic line starting in measure 14 with a triplet of eighth notes (Bb, A, G) and a quarter note (F). It includes dynamic markings of *mp*, *f*, *mp*, *f*, and *mp*. A slur covers measures 15-16, and another slur covers measures 17-18.

Piano part: Features a bass line with chords and single notes. Dynamic markings include *f*, *mp*, *mf*, and *p*. A slur covers measures 14-18. A triplet of eighth notes appears in measure 71.

Violin part: Features a melodic line with many sixteenth notes, often beamed in groups. It includes dynamic markings of *pp* and *p*. Slurs and fingerings (5 and 3) are indicated.

Cello part: Features a bass line with rests and chords. It includes the instruction "sul tasto" and dynamic markings of *mp*.

77

Elec.

accel.

Bari. Sax.

Clar.

Piano

Violin

Cello

f

ff

ff

ff

The musical score for measures 77-81 is as follows:

- Measure 77:** Elec. (rest), Bari. Sax. (rest), Clar. (rest), Piano (triplet of eighth notes in RH, chord in LH), Violin (chord), Cello (chord).
- Measure 78:** Elec. (rest), Bari. Sax. (rest), Clar. (rest), Piano (triplet of eighth notes in RH, chord in LH), Violin (chord), Cello (chord).
- Measure 79:** Elec. (rest), Bari. Sax. (rest), Clar. (rest), Piano (triplet of eighth notes in RH, chord in LH), Violin (chord), Cello (chord).
- Measure 80:** Elec. (rest), Bari. Sax. (rest), Clar. (rest), Piano (triplet of eighth notes in RH, chord in LH), Violin (chord), Cello (chord).
- Measure 81:** Elec. (rest), Bari. Sax. (rest), Clar. (rest), Piano (triplet of eighth notes in RH, chord in LH), Violin (chord), Cello (chord).

16

82



♩ = 62

like a train running in the darkness

♩ = 77.5

Elec.

mf
High pitched sine tone beeping from distance;
Each beep equals to a half note.

low frequency drone
mf

Bari.
Sax.

fff

ff

Clar.

Piano

ff

ff

Violin

ff

f

spiccato

Cello

bartok pizz.

pizz.

ff

f

spiccato

87 $\text{♩} = 62$

Elec.

low frequency drone

Bari. Sax.

ord. trill

f mf mp

Clar.

f mp

Piano

ff mf mp

$\text{♩} = 62$

Violin

bartok pizz. ord. pizz. ff mf mp

Cello

bartok pizz. ord. pizz. ff mf mp

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 87 to 90. Measure 87 is in 4/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 62. The Electric guitar part has a low frequency drone. The Bari. Sax. part has a triplet pattern starting with a forte (f) dynamic. The Clar. part has a triplet pattern starting with a forte (f) dynamic. The Piano part has a Bartok pizzicato pattern starting with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic. The Violin part has a Bartok pizzicato pattern starting with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic. The Cello part has a Bartok pizzicato pattern starting with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic. Measures 88 and 89 are in 4/4 time. Measure 90 is in 2/4 time. The Bari. Sax. and Clar. parts continue their triplet patterns. The Piano, Violin, and Cello parts continue their Bartok pizzicato patterns. Dynamics change from f to mf and then to mp in measures 89 and 90.

This musical score is for the piece "The City" by John Adams, specifically the section "The City (The City of Dreadful Night)". The score is arranged for a chamber ensemble consisting of Electric, Bari. Sax., Clar., Piano, Violin, and Cello. The music is in 3/4 time and features a complex, rhythmic structure with frequent changes in meter and key signature. The score is divided into four measures, each with a different time signature: 3/4, 2/4, 9/16, and 3/4. The Electric and Bari. Sax. parts are marked with a forte (ff) dynamic. The Clar. part is marked with a fortissimo (fff) dynamic. The Piano part is marked with a fortissimo (fff) dynamic. The Violin and Cello parts are marked with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic. The Cello part includes a "jeté" marking, indicating a specific performance technique. The score is written in a standard musical notation with various dynamics, articulations, and performance instructions.

100

Elec.

Bari. Sax.

Clar.

Piano

Violin

Cello

overblow

mf

mp

f

p

jeté

103

Elec.

Bari. Sax.

keyclicking only

f

p

ff

growl

Clar.

p

5

mf

p

Piano

mf

p

mf

p

Violin

f

p

p

f

p

p

Cello

f

3

p

subito

f

p

to E natural

Score for measures 106 to 111, featuring the following instruments and parts:

- Elec.** (Electric Guitar): Sustained notes with a tremolo effect.
- Bari. Sax.** (Baritone Saxophone): Melodic line with dynamics *p*, *p*, *f*, and *ff*.
- Clar.** (Clarinet): Melodic line with dynamics *mf*, *mp*, *ff*, and *mp*. Includes a "fluttered tongue" technique.
- Piano**: Accompanying part with sustained notes and a tremolo effect.
- Violin**: Melodic line with dynamics *f* and *p*, including triplets.
- Cello**: Melodic line with dynamics *f* and *p*, including triplets.

The score is written for measures 106 to 111. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked "Allegro". The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics, and articulation marks.

108

Score for measures 108 and 109, featuring the following instruments and parts:

- Elec.** (Electric Guitar): Sustained high notes with a tremolo effect, indicated by a series of arrows.
- Bari. Sax.** (Baritone Saxophone):
 - Measure 108: *mf* (mezzo-forte), playing a single note (F#).
 - Measure 109: *ff* (fortissimo), playing a rapid sixteenth-note triplet pattern (F#-G-A) with a 3:2 ratio.
- Clar.** (Clarinet):
 - Measure 108: Rest.
 - Measure 109: *f* (forte), playing a single note (F#).
- Piano**:
 - Measure 108: *f* (forte), playing a rapid sixteenth-note triplet pattern (F#-G-A) with a 7:6 ratio.
 - Measure 109: *p* (piano), playing a single note (F#).
- Violin**:
 - Measure 108: *p* (piano), playing a triplet of eighth notes (F#-G-A).
 - Measure 109: Rest.
- Cello**:
 - Measure 108: *f* (forte), playing a single note (F#).
 - Measure 109: *p* (piano), playing a single note (F#).

Elect. *rit.* *ppp* *ppp*

Bari. Sax. *pp* change to Tenor Sax

Clar.

Piano *mf* *p* *p*

Violin *p* *mf* *p* *rit.*

Cello *p* *mf* *p*

E ♩ = 52

115

Elec.

Tenor Sax.

key click, on high register

mp *f* *p*

Clar.

air sound (more air, less pitch)

mp *mf*

ord. *mf* fluttered tongue

Piano

credit card on string knobs mid to high register

slow fast slow

p *mf* *p* *ord.* *p* *mf* *pp*

Violin

E ♩ = 52

sul tasto *ord.*

p *mf* *p* molto sul tasto *p* *mp* *p*

Cello

jeté *ord.*

mf *p* *mf* *p*

26

120

Elec.

Tenor
Sax.

slap tongue, mostly air

*p**p < mf**mf*

slap tongue, half air

Clar.

*p**p < mf**mf*

Piano



8va

*p**mf**p**p**mf**p*

(half step trill)

Violin



jeté

*mf**p**mf**mf*

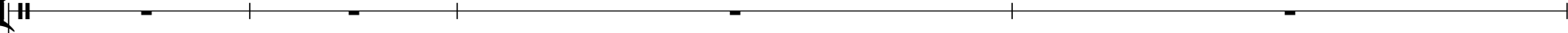
jeté

Cello

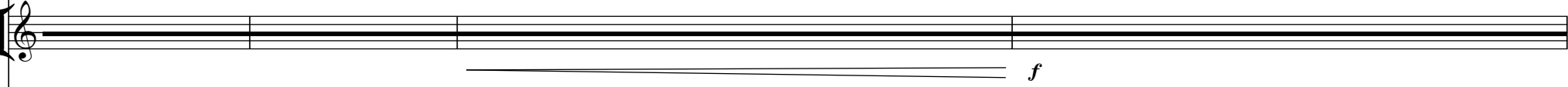
*mf**p**mf**p**f**mf*

124

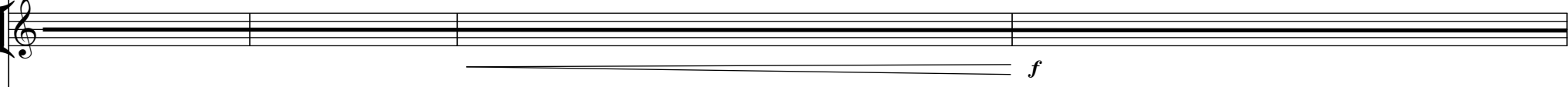
Elec.



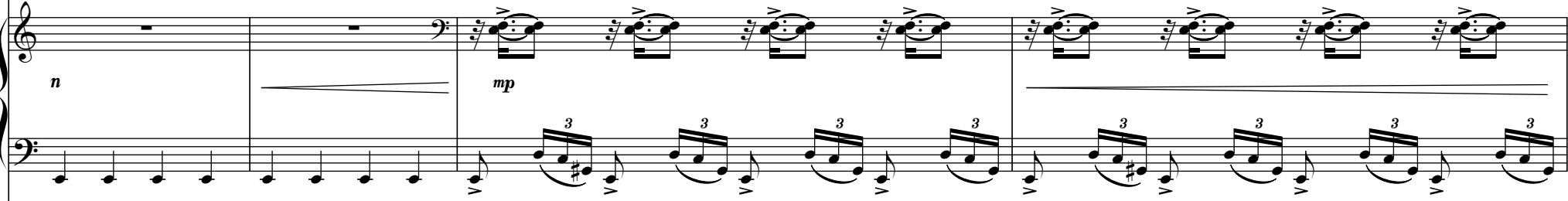
Tenor Sax.



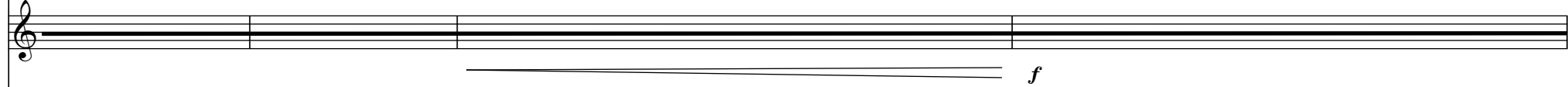
Clar.



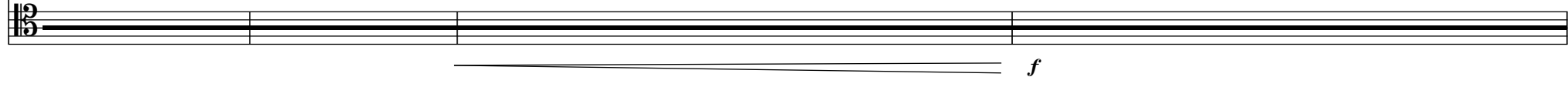
Piano



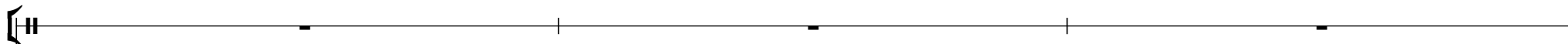
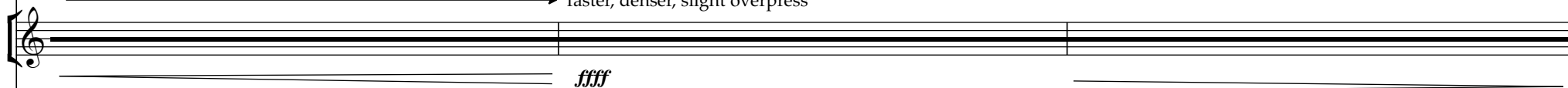
Violin



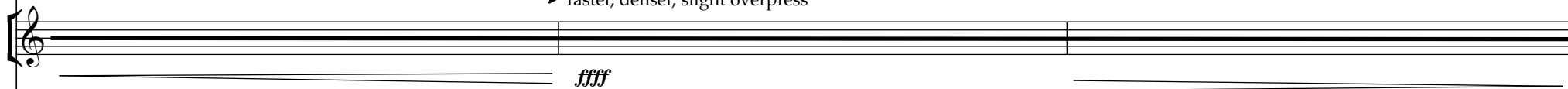
Cello



Elec.

Alto
Sax.

Clar.



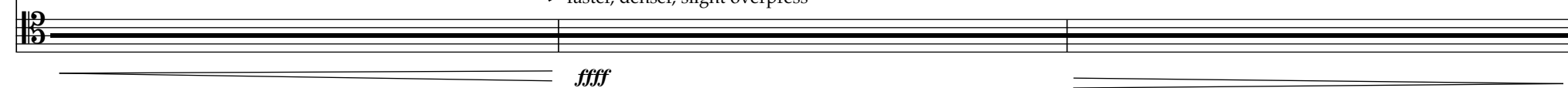
Piano



Violin



Cello



131 *accel.*

Elec.

Alto Sax. *slower, more space in between boxes*
p

Clar. *slower, more space in between boxes*
p

Piano

Violin *accel.*
slower, more space in between boxes
p

Cello *slower, more space in between boxes*
p

The musical score for measures 131 and 132 is as follows:

- Electric guitar:** A single note on the high E string in measure 131, followed by a whole rest in measure 132.
- Alto Saxophone:** A whole rest in measure 131, followed by a whole rest in measure 132.
- Clarinet:** A whole rest in measure 131, followed by a whole rest in measure 132.
- Piano:** A complex rhythmic pattern in measure 131, featuring a triplet of eighth notes on the right hand and a triplet of eighth notes on the left hand. This pattern continues in measure 132.
- Violin:** A whole rest in measure 131, followed by a whole rest in measure 132.
- Cello:** A whole rest in measure 131, followed by a whole rest in measure 132.