

Punctum

for amplified bowed string instrument with wah-wah

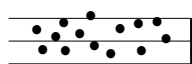
Bryan Holmes



INDICATIONS

- In this work the performer can be considered as a co-author and should contribute with his/her creativity, but, above all, with whatever he/she understands as "musicality". There is also a climactic improvisation section which must be inspired in already played events.
- The score can be read by any bowed string instrument, with at least 4 strings (because each open string suggests four approximate pitches).
- The performer needs a wah-wah kind of pedal, which will be included in the chain of an amplification system. A special lapel microphone or a custom pickup is preferable. Only in the case of a too "dry" auditorium, it can be added a little, natural sounding reverb (less high frequencies).
- There is a main staff in the score, then it appears a second staff for unisons and their simultaneous microtonal variations, and a third one for the wah-wah pedal.
- The 3 lines in the staves mean low, middle and high registers to be played on. Notes represent "fundamental" pitches, but they should not be read as a limited 12-tone division of the octave.
- The instrument must be tuned microtonally. Microtonal *scordatura* should be chosen by the performer for concealing his/her instrument's typical open sounding intervals. It is recommended, however, to select always the same *scordatura* for making easier unisons tuning.

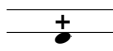
SYMBOLS



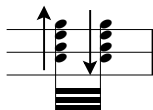
"Grainy" *pizzicati* indicating approximated register and density. When possible, it is desirable to be played without holding the bow.



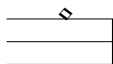
Pizzicato Alla Bartók indicating its register.



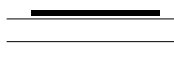
Left hand *pizzicato*.



Strumming with the hand.



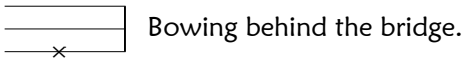
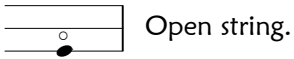
Harmonic of any kind (open or not). Sounding register.



Indicates continuation of the preceding event.



Glissando.



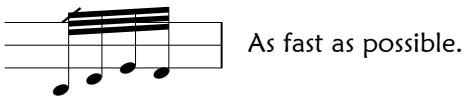
CLB *Col legno batuto.*

ord. Ordinary bowing.

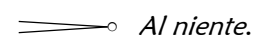
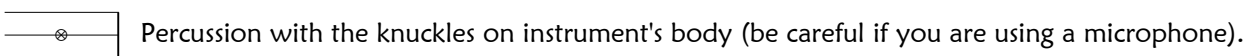
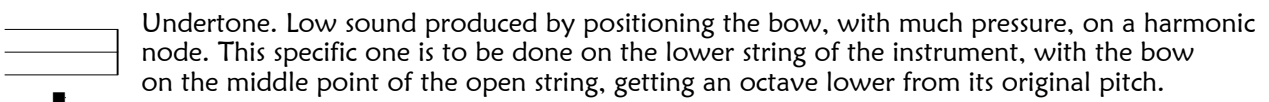
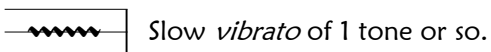
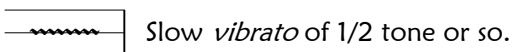
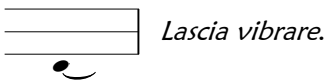
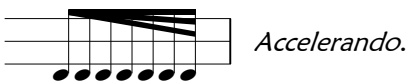
ST *Sul tasto.*

SP *Sul ponticello.*

XSP Extreme *sul ponticello* (bow literally on the bridge).



→ Passing smoothly from one bowing point to another.



dedicated to William Lane

Punctum

for amplified bowed string instrument with wah-wah
(2008)

Bryan Holmes
(Chile, 1981)

The score is written for a bowed string instrument with a wah-wah pedal. It consists of several systems of staves. The top system is labeled "freely" and includes dynamics *p*, *sffz*, *ppp*, *ff*, and *pp*. It features a "pizz." section and an "arco" section. The second system includes "legato" markings, an "accel." section, and dynamics *f*, *alla corda*, *f*, and *sffz*. It also contains performance instructions: "ord. → SP", "XSP → ST", "CLB", and "CLB". The third system includes "ST + V", "XSP", "ord.", and dynamics *fff*, *p*, and *ff*. The fourth system includes "legato" markings and dynamics *mp* and *ff*. A "Unison" section is marked with *ff* and *p*. The fifth system includes "legato" markings, "pizz.", "arco", and "flautato" markings, with dynamics *p* and *ff*. The sixth system includes "legato" markings and dynamics *ff* and *pp*. The bottom staff is a wah-wah pedal line, labeled "W-w", with "wah-wah on" and "w-w off" markings.

hard

f *fff* *p*

flautato - - - - |
XSP → ST

x 6

XSP → ST

w-w on

improvise

w-w off

freely

pizz.

f *p*

w-w on

w-w off

fierce

arco

ff

pizz.

arco

w-w on

legato - - - - - |

I II III IV

pizz. IV III II I

arco

SP

legato - - - - - |

calm

pizz.

arco

pp

fierce

ff

w-w off

freely

legato - - - - - |

p

sfz subito

unis.

p

w-w on

hard
ord.→SP

f < > *p* < > *ffff* *fff subito*

w-w off

x 6 x 3

get many harmonics-----

ppp *fff subito* *p*

x 4 x 9

freely

change bow position constantly

join next event

20" to 40" **ad libitum** (think about already played material, now much denser)

ffffz sempre

w-w- on

w-w off

improvise on wah-wah (not necessarily all the time)

staccato-----

rythmic

join next event

improvise with similar rythm and material during ca.15"

ff *pp*

long

ord. → slow bowing

→ ord.

ffff *f*

with decision

distant

legato-----

p *pppp*

w-w on

Rio de Janeiro, december 2008