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INTERGRATED MASTER'S THESIS

Symbiosis of music and video art in the work Echoes of Solitude for orchestra and video

Marianna Chalampalaki

S.R.N. 1833

Supervisor: Dimitri Papageorgiou, associate professor

ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΕΙΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ ΣΧΟΛΗ ΚΑΛΩΝ ΤΕΧΝΩΝ ΤΜΗΜΑ ΜΟΥΣΙΚΩΝ ΣΠΟΥΔΩΝ

ΔΙΠΛΩΜΑΤΙΚΗ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑ

Η συμβίωση μουσικής και video art στο έργο Echoes of Solitude για ορχήστρα και βίντεο

Μαριάννα Χαλαμπαλάκη

A.E.M. 1833

Επιβλέπων Καθηγητής: Δημήτρης Παπαγεωργίου, αναπληρωτής καθηγητής

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Abstract

In recent years, academic discourse has raised questions about the field of integrated media. However, there has been little attention given to segregating the comparison of the branches of multimedia, transmedia, and intermedia. This dissertation focuses on intermedia art, with a particular emphasis on the fusion of music and visuals in the intermedia composition Echoes of Solitude. The aim of this paper is to examine the convergence of various artistic mediums and to extend the boundaries of music composition into intermedia art. The study employs a two-part approach, combining the theoretical exploration of multimedia, transmedia and intermedia arts with a practical analysis of Steen-Andersen's *Black Box Music*, in order to uncover the subtle yet profound differences between these art forms. The text explains how intermedia goes beyond mere juxtaposition and enables a profound interplay where sound and visuals enhance each other.

This integration results in an amplified and profound experience that transcends the individual components, challenging conventional boundaries and transforming artistic frameworks to enhance the immersivity of the artwork. The thesis *Echoes of Solitude* broadens artistic expression and transforms sensory perception by establishing the findings of the creative process. Its interdisciplinary approach enriches academic discourse surrounding media arts, offering fresh perspectives on the creation and reception of intermedia works and paving the way for future artistic and scholarly explorations.

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Introduction

The world of artistic expression is in a constant state of evolution, blending various mediums to create a synthesis of sensory experiences. This thesis explores intermedia art, where traditional art forms converge to form a tapestry of multisensory engagement. Additionally, it focuses on the research and creative process of crafting an artwork that combines orchestra and video art. *Echoes of Solitude* is designed to be performed live, transcending conventional categorization.

In the early stages of my artistic journey, I discovered a deep interest in the visual aspects of music performance. To explore this fascination, I began incorporating the visual element into my compositional process. This led me to question the possibility of extending this multisensory experience and integrating it into other artworks as a central component. This exploration brought me to the concept of immersivity, as defined by Melai (2019, 9) as "a feature of being able to immerse," and immersion, defined as "the act of immersing or the state of being immersed" ("immersion," Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary). In the context of art, immersivity involves adding dimensions to engage the senses more deeply in a particular environment or experience, resulting in a multisensory experience that goes beyond passive observation.

The subsequent phase of my artistic exploration involved delving into the integration of video art and orchestral elements. Rather than positioning them merely side by side, my objective was to intertwine them in a manner that would enhance and amplify each other's impact. I sought to comprehend the placement of such a synthesis within the broad spectrum of artistic expressions. Consequently, I explored both the technical and aesthetic dimensions of merging diverse mediums, delving

into the theoretical foundations that define and categorize such fusion. In pursuit of this understanding, my research extended beyond the practicalities of composition and visual design, encompassing an exploration of multimedia, transmedia, and intermedia arts.

My primary objective was to define the space where orchestral and video art could intimately merge, giving rise to a novel form through which I could articulate my ideas. Addressing this question would not only provide a framework for my creative process but also situate my work within the broader context of contemporary art forms, thereby serving as a catalyst for additional creative exploration.

As a component of my research, I directed my attention toward comprehending and defining the field of combining different mediums in art. During this exploration, I discerned that this field encompasses distinct subfields, namely intermedia, transmedia, and multimedia arts. Despite the frequent interchangeability of these terms, they bear specific meanings within the art world.

Multimedia art entails the combination of diverse artistic mediums, while transmedia extends narratives across different platforms. In contrast, intermedia signifies the convergence of these mediums to generate a novel, integrated form of art. Drawing these distinctions is crucial as it facilitates the classification and understanding of the live performance piece that constitutes the focal point of my thesis.

The research is structured into three parts. Initially, there is a discussion on the theoretical foundations of transmedia, multimedia, and intermedia art.

Subsequently, a case study analysis of Simon Steen-Andersen's *Black Box Music* intermedia piece will be conducted. Lastly, there will be a detailed examination of the creation of the central piece of this study.

Throughout this journey, the thesis aims to contribute to the comprehension of intermedia art, distinguishing it from transmedia and multimedia. Additionally, it offers a reflective analysis of the creative process involved in bringing forth such a complex and multifaceted artwork.

Chapter 1: The Convergence of Media

1.1 Multimedia: The Fusion of Artistic Mediums

To unravel the evolutionary process of art forms, we must delve into the complex worlds of transmedia, multimedia and intermedia arts. This exploration is not just an academic exercise, but an adventure that reveals the areas where different arts intersect and merge, generating new forms of expression. Modern art is characterised by various distinct approaches, providing different perspectives to comprehend the blend of artistic mediums. This section provides an expedition through transmedia, multimedia and intermedia arts, revealing their specificities and theoretical backgrounds. By the end of this section, I aim to place my creative practice within the framework of intermedia, identifying it as the appropriate term for this particular project.

The relationship between music and other forms of media has existed for a considerable period of time. This connection is evident in visual cues for live performances, text contained in program notes, and imagery used on record covers. Cook invites musicologists to engage in the idea that music is rarely enjoyed as a stand-alone medium. He stresses that this understanding of music depends on its association with these aspects, which implies that the relationship between music and other forms of media cannot be separated from how we experience it (Cook 2000, 121–22).

In Analysing Musical Multimedia, Cook questions whether it is possible to experience 'music alone'. He suggests that, contrary to some theorists' beliefs, music is never experienced in isolation. Cook's study aims to develop an analytical framework that accounts for the various ways in which music interacts with other

media. This framework is based on music theory principles rather than film theory and is constructed around the concept of divergence instead of similarity (Davison 2003, 341).

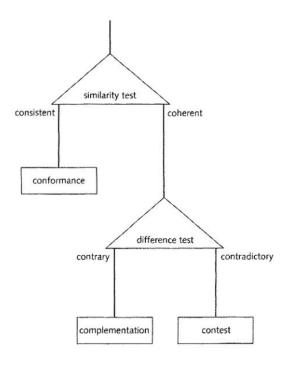


Figure 1 From Nicholas Cook, Analysing Musical Multimedia.

Multimediality refers to the simultaneous presence of different media types within a single piece, such as an opera, where they retain their distinct identities without blending. Critics also consider websites as examples of multimedia as they feature a combination of text and images, along with diverse content like news and entertainment, which may overlap and interact without altering each other's fundamental structures. This concept of multiple coexisting media forms complements Cook's ideas, suggesting that our multimedia environment enriches and complicates how we interpret music (Verstraete 2010, 10).

Cook identified three fundamental categories of media interaction:

'conformance,' 'contest,' and 'complementation.' 'Conformance' involves a consistent relationship between individual media that align and support each other. In contrast,

'contest' is characterized by contradictions between individual media, resulting in conflict or opposition among different elements, each seeking attention. Situated between the divergent characteristics of conformance and contest, the 'complementation' category represents a middle-ground relationship among media. In this context, the diverse media elements do not directly oppose each other nor attain complete alignment. Instead, their interaction facilitates mutual enrichment, enhancing overall comprehension and engagement (Davison 2003, 341–42).

When considering the relationship between two different media, it is important to avoid any preconceptions that might overvalue one medium over the other. (Davison 2003, 342) Each medium offers unique features that contribute to a richer experience. These distinct elements do not blend seamlessly, but instead, maintain their individual qualities. Although media can influence each other, they interact within clear boundaries (Vernallis 2001, 482–83).

Focusing on music, in the relationship between words and music, in Schumann's *Dichterliebe* offers a unique perspective on the interplay between these entities. Cook advises media analysts to focus on 'gaps' or spaces where closure is absent; such gaps may be intentional and meaningful. A gap in one medium can be filled by an element from another medium, leading to 'contextual complementation,' in which two media fill each other's gaps, creating an enhanced context (Davison 2003, 342).

1.2 Transmedia: Narrative Across Platforms

Expanding on the exploration of merging different media, we are approaching a crucial aspect of modern art that examines how narrative elements are spatially placed in various channels. The term 'transmedia' was coined by Marsha Kinder in

1991 to describe the dissemination of a single narrative across multiple platforms and formats. Thereafter, Henry Jenkins brought back the term 'transmedia' in 2006 in relation to digital changes by specifying the term 'transmedia storytelling' (Freeman and Rampazzo Gambarato 2019, 1). By that, we mean "a process where integral elements of a fiction get dispersed systematically across multiple delivery channels for the purpose of creating a unified and coordinated entertainment experience. Ideally, each medium makes its own unique contribution to the unfolding of the story" (Jenkins 2007). That term has become a key concept in understanding how entertainment circulates across multiple platforms, particularly in the digital and commercial realms. This term has gained prominence in the industry as it emphasizes the link between transmedia storytelling and the business of entertainment (Freeman and Rampazzo Gambarato 2019, 1). As Marie-Laure Ryan succinctly states, transmedia storytelling is essentially a strategy to encourage the consumption of multiple products. However, commercial transmedia storytelling is not the only aspect of transmediality (Freeman and Rampazzo Gambarato 2019, 1).

Beyond commercial conglomerates, transmediality has taken on new forms, such as brand development and the enhancement of traditional media through transmedia franchising systems. Additionally, as digital screen technologies have grown in popularity, transmediality has become increasingly relevant in the distribution of film and television through online transmedia practices, where content is integrated with social media and other online platforms (Freeman and Rampazzo Gambarato 2019, 2).

Whilst other terms such as 'multiplatform', 'cross-media' and 'second screening' have emerged, transmediality remains an important concept for comprehending the transformative effects of digital media technologies on media

industries and their audiences. Furthermore, transmediality has evolved into a distinct area of scholarly research, covering a wide range of studies in fields such as film, television, social media, gaming, marketing, literature, music, and journalism and more (Freeman and Rampazzo Gambarato 2019, 2).

Transmedia in the music industry can take various forms, such as experiencing a live concert on the big screen (The Flaming Lips, Justin Bieber, Kanye West), a live tour that transforms into a transmedia treasure hunt (Nine Inch Nails) or a virtual band that exists only in virtual reality (The Gorillaz). Therefore, there is no clear-cut definition for "transmedia music." The concept is multifaceted, requires an examination from multiple interrelated perspectives that consider both commercial and creative aspects. It is important to highlight the relationships and dynamics between the industry and culture (Freeman and Rampazzo Gambarato 2019, 83).

Just being available on multiple platforms does not make a song or album transmedia. According to Elizabeth Evans, transmediality is crucial in comprehending how new media technologies have generated novel business models, narrative forms, and audience engagement. This is achieved by utilising multiple media technologies to present information about a single fictional world through different forms of text(Freeman and Rampazzo Gambarato 2019, 83). This is in accordance with Henry Jenkins' well-known definition of transmedia storytelling (2007). To be considered transmedia, a music project must be able to be spread as a concept. The narrative should be revealed through streaming content that is fluid and can be used in a variety of strategic, production, and consumption contexts (Freeman and Rampazzo Gambarato 2019, 83).

To explore these strategies, we examine the concept of 'total entertainment'. This term is used to describe the efforts of global media conglomerates to establish a comprehensive entertainment and communication environment in which they have a significant, if not total, control over ownership and control. Additionally, it can be perceived as a unique form or perspective of cultural and textual practice that emerges from the permeable boundaries and immersive features of commercial entertainment media(Grainge 2008, 54). "Total Entertainment" refers to the strategies employed by media conglomerates to maintain control over content distribution and share the risks of high-budget projects through corporate management, synergies, and partnerships. This trend is part of a broader movement towards immersive content and transforming experiences into products (Freeman and Rampazzo Gambarato 2019, 84). According to Frank Rose, this type of narrative is known as "deep media, "a new type of narrative is emerging, one that's told through many media at once in a way that's nonlinear, that's participatory and often gamelike, that's designed above all to be immersive. This is ""deep media": stories that are not just entertaining, but immersive, taking you deeper than an hour long" (Rose 2011, 3).

1.3 Intermedia: Blending Boundaries Between Mediums

"Much of the best work being produced today seems to fall between media. This is no accident. The concept of the separation between media arose in the Renaissance ... However, the social problems that characterise our time, as opposed to the political ones, no longer allow a compartmentalised approach."

(Higgins 2001, 49)

Intermedia refers to the phenomenon where different arts and media intersect and influence each other within a single object or work, creating a new form of art or communication. The interaction between different media leads to changes in those media and raises fundamental questions about the nature and essence of each. An example of this can be seen in Peter Greenaway's film called Prospero's books, where he explores the relationship between moving and static images by combining photography and digital imaging elements in his films (Verstraete 2010, 10).

The study of intermediality begins with an examination of the unique qualities and characteristics of each medium or media involved. This specificity is related to the independence of art and its ability to function on its own. However, this specificity is challenged and re-evaluated by the larger media landscape in which it exists.

The concept of intermediality poses the challenge of defining the terms 'medium' and 'mediality' in order to distinguish intermedia from them. The definitions of these terms vary greatly depending on the disciplinary perspective from which they are viewed. Sociologists of communication emphasise the social and commercial aspects of the transmission of messages through different media; for them, a medium is a means of communication or entertainment. On the other hand, philosophers who focus on aesthetic or ontological inquiries may view mediation through a post-Hegelian lens, seeing it as the formation of a third, critical space of the in-between. Finally, according to some critics, intermediality refers to the notion that each medium is inherently intertwined with others. Depending on the definition of medium and mediality, intermediality, as the interaction between and within media, raises questions about the functions of communication, representation, entertainment, mediation, expression, meaning, etc., as seen through a single

medium. This is where art transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary (Verstraete 2010, 8–9).

The discussion of intermediality is influenced by the specific discipline from which it is approached, and each perspective places different emphasis on certain aspects. Intermediality in the context of film studies raises questions about the impact of the incorporation of static photography generated by digital technology on the status of the moving image. On the other hand, intermediality in the context of art history focuses on the fluidity of art categories and the new meanings and possibilities this creates. There are also other factors to consider that do not fall solely along disciplinary lines. For instance, examining intermediality from the perspective of the producer and the context of production, as opposed to examining it from the perspective of the audience and the larger context of reception (Verstraete 2010, 9).

The different disciplinary perspectives also lead to different historiographies of intermedia - intermediality. Critics attempt to write the history of intermediality and its origins, but these differ depending on the perspective and definition. For example, a philosopher seeking to deconstruct representation might trace the roots of intermediality to Magritte's conceptual art, which fused words and images, while an art critic interested in the fusion of art and technology might look to the Fluxus movement of the 1960s (Verstraete 2010, 9). Because of the interest in this project, which examines the interrelationship between music, technology and moving image, we will concentrate on the latter historical variation.

In 1966, Dick Higgins, an artist involved in the Fluxus movement who was also a poet, writer, typographer, publisher, critic and mycologist, introduced the term "intermedia" to describe works that conceptually exist between media such as visual

poetry or action music, and between art and life media (Higgins 1998, 222). He used the term to describe the nature of the Fluxus experiments (Thompson 2011, 66). In particular, in his first article on intermedia, he characterised the art form known as the Happening,

"as an intermedium, an uncharted land that lies between collage, music, and theater. It is not governed by rules; each work determines its own medium and form according to its needs. The concept itself is better understood by what it is not, rather than by what it is.

Approaching it, we are pioneers again, and shall continue to be so [as] long as there's plenty of elbow room and no neighbors around for a few miles".

(Higgins 2001, 50)

In introducing the concept of intermedia, Dick Higgins acknowledged his debt to Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who first used the word. However, in his tribute to Higgins, Ken Friedman distinguishes between Coleridge's "intermedium" and Higgins' "intermedia". Coleridge used 'intermedium' in his Lecture Three 'On Spenser' to refer to a specific point between two meanings in an art medium. Meanwhile, for Higgins, "intermedia" referred to a movement in the arts that encompassed different art forms and an approach to the arts(Thompson 2011, 72).

The form of intermedia art is defined by the collision, exchange, and transformation of elements from different media such as painting, photography, film, video, and other electronic media. Intermedia is a formal category of exchange that aesthetically combines form and content. The content of intermedia art becomes formally significant by showcasing the structure of blending and collision and expressing the transformations that occur as a result of the blending of different

media forms, such as the collision between painting and film, film and electronic media, and so on. The aim of intermedia is to reveal the media forms themselves by making their media-specific elements visible through comparison and transformation, for example, through the use of intervals (Spielmann 2001, 59).

Intermedia is a concept-based term. Its primary usage should be to define a particular type of transformation across different media. In addition, it signifies the structure of a change that occurs through the combination of elements from different media, and serves as a recognisable aesthetic element in media art. "The term intermedia is useful then on three levels: as a transformation category, as a structural term, and as an aesthetic device" (Spielmann 2001, 61).

1.4 My Composition: An Intermedia Framework Application

As the exploration continues, it is crucial to position this project within the terms presented above. This will help to provide a framework for the creative process, place my work within the broader perspective of contemporary art forms and define the methods and practices employed. Briefly, transmedia is defined as the method of distributing a single story experience across multiple platforms and formats. Multimedia is defined as the layering of multiple forms of media, including text, sound, images, animation or video, in a single environment. Intermedia, on the other hand, is a fusion of media that transcends the boundaries between different forms of media, resulting in hybrid art forms that create new modes of expression.

The core concept of this thesis is the composition of a work of art that fuses orchestra and video art, not just juxtaposing them but intertwining them to intensify their effect. In order to increase immersivity, this work is intended to be performed

live. At the same time, the video is projected in the background, spanning the orchestral space and playing with a new form based on the concept of orchestra, video art and performance. This multisensory immersion allowed me to communicate my creative ideas about the blurred lines between reality and illusion in situations of abandonment.

After an in-depth analysis of the concept, it becomes clear that the art is intermedia. The fusion of music, video and performance in this work does more than coexist; it creates a unique experience where the boundaries between music and visual art are blurred. The interplay between the orchestra and the visual narrative in the video art is an essential element of the performance. They merge in terms of pacing, mood and thematic unity, amplifying each other's impact. This interactive relationship affects the audience's emotional and cognitive involvement, aiming for an immersive effect. In this project, a synthesis of music performance and video art results in a narrative and emotional landscape that neither medium could achieve alone. The result is a hybrid form that defies classification as either a concert or a film screening, defining its aesthetic criteria and shaping the audience experience.

However, while multimedia shares some characteristics with music and visuals that appeal to multiple senses, the project differs significantly in its methods of implementation and impact. In multimedia, different media are used in parallel and exist as separate entities, each conveying a distinct aspect. "Echoes of Solitude", however, combines music and video on a more profound level. Rather than simply accompanying each other, they are interdependent, creating a cohesive experience in which the boundaries between the media are blurred.

Intermedia is characterised by its inherent interactivity and reciprocity, which distinguishes it from other multimedia works that maintain their independence. In this

project, the auditory and visual elements do not simply coexist, but have been fused into a whole, with no boundaries separating the media.

Therefore, while *Echoes of Solitude* may share certain features with multimedia, its core and implementation are rooted in intermedia. This project transcends the typical multimedia experience by integrating all of its components into an interactive, cohesive whole, resulting in a new form of artistic expression that can be classified as intermedia art.

Chapter 2: Black Box Music (2012)

2.1 Introduction

The objective of this section is to analyse the intermedia composition *Black Box Music* (2012) by Simon Steen-Andersen. The work combines music, visual elements, and performance to demonstrate intermedia. It expands on the musical idea of orchestral performance to create intermedia art. Simon Steen-Andersen's works are exemplary of intermedia, emphasising the integration of sound to create a comprehensive and immersive sensory experience (Batog 2020, p.110). Furthermore, this work evolved from the musical idea of orchestral performance, extending it into intermedia art. The analysis highlights Steen-Andersen's innovative compositional techniques and the impact of integrating visual gestures within a musical context.

Black Box Music has been selected for its unique approach to concert performance and audience engagement, providing a rich field for examining the interaction between sound, visuality and performance. The chapter is structured in a way that first introduces Steen-Andersen's art, followed by a detailed analysis of the work that discusses its methodological basis and contribution to the discourse on intermedia art. This case study aims to broaden understanding of intermediality and its impact on modern art.

2.2 Composer Profile: Simon Steen-Andersen

Simon Steen-Andersen is an acclaimed Danish composer based in Berlin.

From 1998 to 2006 he studied composition under such esteemed mentors as

Rasmussen, Spahlinger, Valverde, and Sorensen. His educational journey took him to the renowned schools of Aarhus, Freiburg, Buenos Aires, and Copenhagen. Steen-Andersen has collaborated with leading contemporary music ensembles including Ensemble Intercontemporain, London Sinfonietta, Klangforum Wien, ICTUS, and Orkiestra Muzyki Nowej. In 2019, he received the SWR Orchestra Prize, followed by the Carl Prize in 2020. Some of his other noteworthy awards include the Mauricio Kagel Music Prize, the Siemens Composer Prize in 2017, the Carl Prize in 2015, the Nordic Council Music Prize in 2014, the SWR Orchestra Prize in 2014, the Carl Nielsen Honorary Award, the Kunstpreis of the Berlin Academy of the Arts in 2013, the 1st Prize of the International Rostrum of Composers and the DAAD Berlin Artist Residency in 2010, and the Kranichsteiner Music Award in 2008 (Steen-Andersen, n.d.).

It was only in 2017 that The Italian Classic Voice magazine ranked Simon Steen-Andersen's *Piano Concerto* as the second most important composition to be created after the year 2000 (Batog 2020, p.110).

2.3 Compositional Methodology and Innovations

Steen-Andersen is known for his innovative and multidisciplinary approach to musical performance and the concert setting. He skilfully integrates and explores the boundaries of music, performance, theatre, choreography, and film (Steen-Andersen, n.d.). A notable practice in his compositions is the combination of amplified acoustic instruments with a sampler and everyday objects. In addition, he often incorporates older sound modifiers, such as the 1982 version of the whammy pedal in *Study for String Instruments* #2 (2009) or a joystick controlling the split screen in *Run Time Error* (2009), evoking a nostalgic dimension. These two works,

composed between 2007 and 2010, mark the beginning of a direction "to use unconventional and distinctly specific means" (Batog 2020, 111). According to Steen-Andersen, his compositional approach involves initially generating ideas and, if necessary, searching for an appropriate medium, material, and technology (IRCAM 2018, 1'18"-1'35").

2.4 The Integration of Gestures and Audiovisuality in Performance

Another crucial aspect in understanding his compositions is the integration of gestures. The choreography of the sound production process provides a basis for investigating the notion of audiovisuality. In the context of a concert, the visual element plays a significant role in forming the composition and shaping the overall sensory experience (Batog 2020, 111). Steen-Andersen's technique stems from the exploration of the shared space between visual and audio elements, where the auditory and visual aspects are shaped in such a way that they influence each other and ultimately create a sense of unity (Steen-Andersen 2018).

According to Steen-Andersen, the concert experience is inherently audiovisual as long as our eyes remain open. Movement is perceived solely as a means to achieve the goal of sound production due to our tendency to attribute a specific function to movements, such as the primary motion of the bow required for sound production. In this context, audiovisuality can be understood as a perceptual phenomenon that integrates auditory and visual elements or presents them from various perspectives (Batog 2020, 113).

This approach differs from instrumental music theatre, which typically emphasises spectacle and dramatic impact over purely musical ("Music Theatre | Grove Music," n.d.). In Steen-Andersen's case, the focus is on the mutual integration of both audio and visual aspects that influence each other. The cycle *Studies for String Instrument #1-3* (2007–2011) provides a notable illustration of the interconnection between sound and musical movement, with a particular focus on the glissando technique. The glissando inherently encompasses both an auditory movement, as the sound transitions between points, and a physical hand movement along the string, accompanied by the motion of the bow that produces the sound. To further enhance the visual perspective, the composer amplifies and differentiates the movement through repetition and by multiplying the number of instruments.

Composing requires the exploration of the possibilities within a given framework in a specific context and the gradual expansion of its scope (Batog 2020, 113).

2.5 "Black Box Music" as Intermedia Art

An excellent instance of intermedia art is *Black Box Music* (2012), which combines orchestral music, visual arts, and theatrical performance. Simon Steen-Andersen's composition transcends the conventional boundaries of multimedia by not only juxtaposing but fully integrating sound and visual elements to create a unified artistic expression.

Black Box Music is an audiovisual piece composed for percussion solo, amplified box, video, and a 15-instrument ensemble. The composition comprises of three sections: Ouverture, Slow middle movement, and Finale, with a total duration of 32 minutes. The ensemble consists of bass clarinet, horn, piano, three sets of

percussion instruments (including güiro, opera gong, sandpaper, balloon, PVC tube, clicker and slide whistle), double bass, baritone saxophone, trumpet, electric guitar, viola, bassoon, trombone, harp and cello.

The piece presents the composer's concept of the interconnection between the conducting and choreographic elements of the music. As stated by the composer in the introductory note of the score:

The starting point is the classical soloist-conductor, only in this case, the conducting and solo parts are one and the same. The setting is a traditional theatre stage with curtains, props, and light; only in this case, the stage is also an instrument. *Black Box Music* could be said to be a deconstruction of conducting and puppet theatre as well as an exploration and exploitation of the audio/visual relations inherent in conducting and staging (Simon Steen-Andersen 2012, sec. Intoduction).

Steen-Andersen inverts the traditional concert setup by rearranging the position of the orchestra and the conductor. The conductor is positioned on stage beside the black box, which is equipped with six microphones and a camera. This equipment is connected to four speakers and a projector, each operating independently. The speakers are placed in each corner of the room, while the projector displays the image of the black box behind the conductor. The black box features a small curtain and a set of lights, creating a visual presentation reminiscent of a puppet show. The orchestra is divided into three groups surrounding the audience, enabling Steen-Andersen to create a surround sound environment. This arrangement allows Steen-Andersen to create a surround sound environment, allowing him to interact with the moving sounds and create an immersive experience.

In this performance, the soloist takes on the role of both performer and conductor, making them the main visual element. A magnified image showing only the soloist's hands is projected onto the screen, enhancing the visual element and creating a surreal effect. Although the conductor's gestures may appear as a series of seemingly random movements, they significantly influence the sound produced by the orchestra (Batog 2020, 115–16). The main focus of *Black Box Music* is the immersion and interaction of its visual and sonic elements. The connection between music and the visual narrative is undeniable, creating a synergy that could not have been achieved by a piece of music or a visual performance in isolation. Furthermore, the role of the soloist can be considered a variation or evolution of classical conducting, as it incorporates traditional gestures such as beat patterns and indicates the downbeat of the time.

Black Box Music is a prime example of intermedia art. The combination of diverse mediums is profound and complex, creating something entirely new. The work does not simply juxtapose music, visuals, and performance; rather, it combines them in a way that merges them into each other. This contrast sets Steen-Andersen's piece apart from other multimedia works. The audience is incentivised to perceive the act of conducting not only as a functional music component but also as a powerful declaration in its own right. The conductor's movements exceed their practical purpose, creating a hand 'puppet show' that is equal to the other creative elements of the piece.

This section not only defines *Black Box Music* in an intermedia framework, but also demonstrates how this piece contributes to an understanding of music as both an audible and visual art. It highlights the capabilities of intermediality in terms of alterations that enhance creative expression. Fused elements from various art forms

combine to create new experiences, which are further expanded through medium segregation.

2.6 Decoding Gestures

The sound produced by the orchestra is significantly influenced by the conductor's gestures, despite appearing random to an untrained eye. The role of the soloist can be viewed as a variation or evolution of classical conducting, including traditional gestures like beat patterns that indicate the downbeat of the time.

However, there are also moments where the soloist diverges from the conventional conducting role, following their own solo path (Batog 2020, 115–16).

The concept of the *Black Box Music* is to merge the elements of sound and gesture through its distinctive audiovisual technique. The composition connects music with concrete gestures that hold profound cultural significance in Western culture. The score depicts gestures that can be classified as emblems, illustrative signs, and signs that represent individual letters used in sign language.

In this composition, emblems refer to non-verbal gestures that have specific meanings, such as the widely recognised thumbs up gesture, numbers or the victory sign formed by extending the index and middle fingers to create a V shape.

Illustrative signs are gestures that are closely tied to verbal communication. A widely recognised gesture utilised in sports to indicate a 'time-out' is the vertical positioning of the right hand, with the left hand placed horizontally on top of it.

Furthermore, the composition incorporates signs representing individual letters borrowed from sign language. These signs are accompanied by photographs in the introduction to the soloist's section. In this context, the conductor goes beyond the role of a visual interpreter who merely controls the sound; instead, they are

employed as a dynamic 'music object,' adding another layer to the performance (Batog 2020, 117).

2.7 Gesture and Sound Convergence

The opening section, known as the *Ouverture*, is a sequence of events that collectively constitute the performance. The curtain rises, the lights switch on, followed by a powerful tutti chord and a momentary pause. Eventually, the lights are turned off, and the curtains are drawn. This sequence is repeated and altered as new gestures are introduced. The composer's approach involves observing the natural consequence of a gesture and finding a corresponding sound for it (IRCAM 2018, 1'59"-1'59"). In this case, the subsequent gesture is chosen based on its visual similarity to the preceding one, as indicated in the score. For instance, after mimicking a phone call gesture by picking up the phone, the gesture of hanging up follows. Similarly, the transition from a thumbs-up gesture to a thumbs-down gesture is as simple as rotating the hand without moving the fingers (Batog 2020, 117).

In the beginning, by repeating a tutti chord indicated by the conductor, the composer sets the context for the audience. As the performance progresses, the connections between gestures become more evident, resulting in a more choreographic experience (Batog 2020, 119). The composer occasionally deviates from the established rules, as mentioned, to create a sense of logic, or as he states "repeat it so many times until you forget it in a way, and then start bending it." This deliberate use of consonance highlights moments of dissonance in the composition (Steen-Andersen 2018, 2 12'01"-2 12'03"). As the performance progresses, the composer gradually delays the orchestra's reaction, eventually leading to a section where the orchestra takes control and the situation is reversed. This intentional

deviation from established rules is a crucial aspect of the progression. Following a sequence of visually coherent and interconnected gestures, a set of unrelated gestures appears, redirecting the audience's focus back to the auditory elements. As a result, both the orchestral sections and the conductor dissolve, creating a concert scenario in which the conductor is noticeably unsynchronised with the orchestra.

The middle section, known as the *Slow Middle Movement*, is characterised by a slower tempo and tonal timbre. Various objects, including microtonal tuners, are introduced into the box during this section. These microtonal tuners produce vibrations when struck against the base and sides of the box or each other. The section's orchestration enables the ensemble to accurately recreate the sound of tuning forks through the careful application of articulations and dynamics, such as accents and crescendo dal niente. The calmer rhythmic pulsation in this movement relies on the tension established in the previous movement, leading to the next section (Batog 2020, 119). During the transition from the second to the third movements, Steen-Andersen incorporates the tuning act of the symphony orchestra, directing the musicians to tune their instruments until the conductor's baton appears on the screen.

In the third and final movement, the black box is transformed into a music box. The soloist experiments with the empty box's acoustic properties by tapping its base and sides. Then, the soloist constructs a sound installation by stretching rubber bands on hooks, forming a string instrument-like structure. Additional objects gradually enter the box, such as plastic cups, a fan, pieces of paper, a fabric strip, and a balloon, forming a unique 'music machine.' This machine stops producing sounds when a sufficient number of serpentines have been blown into the box. The final act of the performance is a pointless sound installation. The composer

describes the Finale as festive, characterised by a 'big anti-climax', as the excessive collection of objects eventually results in a collapse of the celebratory atmosphere (IRCAM 2018, 2 17'05"-2 17'16").

The composer considers the 'sound object' as a visual layer that is inseparable from the musical aspect and forms an integral part of the overall experience (Batog 2020, 123). Fascinatingly, the projection goes beyond our intuition, not only enhancing our causal listening, but also introducing an additional visual layer that obscures the true origin of the sound (Batog 2020, 124). Steen-Andersen argues that the integration of elements from different perceptual categories should not be limited to hearing and seeing, but can also extend to other senses (IRCAM 2018, 28'00").

Chapter 3: Echoes of Solitude (2023)

3.1 Introduction

The creative process is an intricate and demanding journey from conception to realization. This expedition becomes notably intricate and multifaceted, mirroring the complexity of the artwork itself, particularly when endeavoring to integrate multiple mediums and push the boundaries of artistic expression. The focus of this chapter is on the creative process behind the intermedia piece titled *Echoes of Solitude* (2023), designed for orchestra and video. This composition not only encapsulates the culmination of my artistic vision but also embodies a personal odyssey to extend the realm of music composition into intermedia and explore its expanses of visual arts.

The genesis of *Echoes of Solitude* can be traced back to my prior experiences in experimenting with the amalgamation of music and visual arts. This exploration led to the formulation of a deceptively simple yet profoundly significant question: How can the interplay between auditory and visual stimuli be so intricately woven that it gives rise to an entirely novel sensory experience?

In the ensuing pages, I will unravel the creative decisions, technical challenges, and compositional techniques that contributed to the realization of *Echoes of Solitude*.

3.2 Conceptualisation and Creative Process

Echoes of Solitude finds its inspiration in the captivating tension inherent in abandoned spaces, coupled with the intriguing psychological dynamics of isolation.

The composition adopts a collage format, mirroring the creative processes of the mind when adapting to existing information in the absence of novel inputs.

A pivotal decision in the early stages was the commitment to creating an immersive experience by seamlessly integrating musical and visual elements to mutually lead and intensify the overall experience. The live performance aspect was deemed essential to enhance the influence of the artwork.

During this phase, the primary concern was the seamless integration of these elements, aiming to practically align and synchronize a performable score with the visual collage. In essence, the development of *Echoes of Solitude* revolved around the thoughtful amalgamation of music and video to craft a powerful experience surrounding the theme of solitude.

The orchestral score was meticulously crafted to coalesce with the projected visuals, ensuring that both components carried equal narrative weight and significance. Simultaneously, the video art, edited by Filippos Tsemperis, was conceived as a narrative that served the concept of abandonment, expanding, challenging, and transforming the musical themes and motifs rather than serving merely as accompaniment.

The video material, sourced from the archival footage of visual artist Erifili Doukeli, necessitated a practical categorization to align with the project's objectives. The footage was organized into seven characters, each featuring unique visuals and thematic sound/music elements. These characters include the Hallway, Curtain and Window Room, Green Room, Books Room, Window Room, Fan Room, and Washing Room, introduced in this specific order.

Each environment is accompanied by unique sounds and musical motifs, contributing to the overall immersive quality of the composition. The Hallway,

spanning bars 1-7, serves as a transitional space, immersing the audience in static harmonic sounds with timbral variations, enveloped by the full orchestra. This seamlessly transitions to the Curtain and Window Room, found in bars 8-14, where static and bending strings' long notes in the middle and high registers, accompanied by brass wah-wah effects, evoke a lingering sense of tension. The Green Room, from bars 17-26, stands out with its distinctive rhythmic combination. It fuses microtonal triplets and percussive quintuplets, utilizing saxophones and percussion over a steady middle-range pedal note. In contrast, the Books Room, spanning bars 29-35, presents a microtonal Bassoon motif in repetitive sixteenth notes, enriched by a clarinet timbral chord sequence with internal movement. Moving on to the Window Room in bars 38-44, it features saxophone high-register microtonal chords coupled with the resonating thunder sheet, a pedal note cello, and a saxophone flutter-tongue bass line, creating an enigmatic and expansive atmosphere. Meanwhile, the Fan Room, occupying bars 47-53, comprises an energetic blend of moving timbral pedal notes in the cello and double bass, with rhythmic patterns blending string timbres with percussion to evoke a continuous sense of motion. Finally, the Washing Room's use of multiphonics over a pedal note in bars 56-61 creates a rich, layered sonic texture, adding depth and complexity.

The development process maintained a philosophy of simultaneous development and refinement of both musical and visual components, fostering a dynamic and symbiotic relationship where changes in one could affect and reshape the other. Collaboration with video editor Filippos Tsemperis and other musicians and composers played a pivotal role in shaping the final outcome.

The synchronization of the orchestral score and video art was a meticulous process, crucial for achieving a cohesive and immersive experience. The objective

was to engage the audience in an audiovisual narrative that seamlessly transitions between senses, immersing them in the side effects of isolation. This narrative immersion underscores the strength of collaboration, where the interplay of sound and visual elements transcends mere layering, resulting in an artistic exploration of solitude that surpasses the sum of its parts.

3.3 Composition Techniques

In *Echoes of Solitude* (2023), the integration of auditory and visual components underwent a meticulous development rooted in a music compositional approach. The composition is organized around seven distinctive themes, each aligned with a unique character representing a specific environment. The initial sequence of appearances in the video introduces the following environments: Hallway, Curtain and Window Room, Green Room, Books Room, Window Room, Fan Room, and Washing Room. This thematic segmentation serves as a crucial foundation for the construction of the artwork, providing an audiovisual separation that enhances the overall impact.

Each theme is intricately linked to distinct sounds, rhythms, and images. The initial three minutes and forty-four seconds of the composition, are dedicated to the presentation of all materials that will subsequently undergo a transformative process throughout the remainder of the piece. This deliberate synchronization, initially established, undergoes shifts that mirror the psychological consequences of isolation. This deviation is not random but a calculated move to evoke a sense of paranoia and disorientation, which are crucial for portraying the side effects of isolation. These aligned themes are revisited in the final part of the piece, blurring the lines between hallucination and reality. The deliberate interplay of these

elements serves to immerse the audience in an experience where distinguishing between reality and illusion becomes challenging, ultimately enhancing the artistic narrative of solitude and its psychological implications.



Example 1 Interpretation of the Moving Door This image encapsulates the saxophones and clarinets' musical rendition, interpreting the motion of the door featured in the video between 00:12 and 00:18.



Example 2 Interpreting the Wind: This image captures the musical interpretation by trombones of the wind depicted in the video from 00:31 to 00:36. The use of wah-wah mutes mirrors the motion of the wind, enhancing the synchronicity between auditory and visual elements.

In the first part of the composition, an introductory section immerses the audience deeper into the experience, paving the way for the subsequent presentation of the visual and musical elements. Here, the synchronization of visual and auditory components achieves a sense of musical realism. A notable instance of this synchronization occurs from 00:12 to 00:18, where the saxophones and clarinets utilize the slap tongue technique to mimic the sound of a moving door, as

exemplified in example 1. Additionally, at 00:31-00:36, the trombones emulate the motion of the wind affecting the curtain through the manipulation of wah-wah mutes, as demonstrated in example 2.

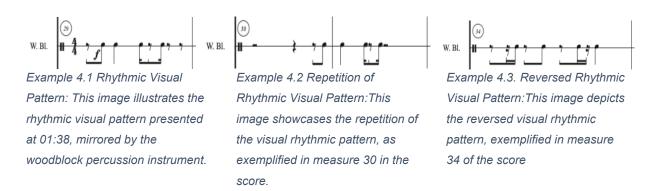


Example 3 Curtain's Conducting. This image shows the orchestral response on the moving curtain shown in the video in 00:44-00:52

The Hallway, featured prominently in this initial segment, serves as a crucial link connecting various rooms. However, as the audience becomes increasingly immersed, this connecting thread intentionally blurs. By the midpoint of the

composition, this link is deliberately severed, evoking a sense of disorientation in the audience and contributing to the emergence of paranoia and delusional effects. This intentional disruption enhances the overall artistic narrative, prompting the audience to navigate the evolving complexities of the audiovisual experience.

The interplay between the visual and auditory components is designed to establish a symbiotic unity, characterized by harmonious synchronization, a dialogic relationship, and parallel growth. This symbiotic connection plays a pivotal role in shaping the thematic essence of the composition, contributing significantly to its immersive quality as an artwork. This synchronization is notably evident when the movement of the curtain assumes the role of the conductor, dynamically increasing the sound of the trombones while simultaneously lowering the intensity of the rest of the orchestra. This orchestration emulates the effect of the wind causing the curtain's movement. This visual cue, observed between the time frame of 00:44-00:52 and reflected in measures 12-14 (example 3), establishes a dynamic interaction where the visual movement prompts an auditory response. This intentional link enhances the overall cohesion of the piece, creating a more profound and integrated sensory experience for the audience.



In measure 29 and at minute 01:38, a notable instance of synchronization unfolds, exemplified by the doubling of a rhythmic visual pattern with the sound of a woodblock (example 4.1). This particular example not only serves as a

demonstration of synchronization but also showcases how visuals can actively shape and influence the musical elements. Following this synchronization, the rhythmic pattern transitions into the musical sphere as shown by two subsequent cues at bars 30-31 and 34. These sections, seen in examples 4.2 and 4.3, involve the repetition of the rhythmic pattern and its reverse phrase, reflecting the initial visual sequence. This transformative shift illustrates the dynamic interplay between visual and auditory elements, highlighting the impact of visuals on the musical composition.

A similar influence is perceptible at 00:52, where the visual rhythmic pattern acts as a precursor, preparing the listener for the subsequent musical melodic pattern played in sixteenth notes from bars 29 to 35 (example 5). Furthermore, between 2:32-2:36, the rhythmic pattern reappears as a stretched visual rhythm composed of quarter notes, representing a progression from its earlier utilization. This intentional integration of visual and musical motifs enhances the overall thematic continuity and reinforces the collaborative nature of the composition.



Example 5 Melodic Pattern. This image shows the sixteenth notes musical pattern played by Bassoons in measures 29-33

In the Fan Room section, a more intricate and novel auditory-visual relationship is established, featuring a complex interaction between these elements. From bars 47-54 and 2:46-3:14, the rhythmic pizzicato sound (example 6) transcends its auditory domain, extending into the visual realm. Music attacks overlap with brief black glances, giving rise to a distinct visual rhythm derived from the sound material (example 7). This novel approach showcases a fresh method of intertwining sound and image, where the elements build upon each other, creating a



Example 6 Rhythmic Pizzicato Pattern: This image illustrates the initial rhythmic pizzicato pattern introduced in the "Fan Room" section, encompassing measures 47-53.7-53

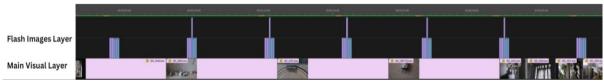
symbiotic relationship that enhances the overall effect and strengthens the connection between the two mediums. The fusion of music and visuals not only enriches the depth of the audience's experience but also underscores the multifaceted challenge of aligning these two mediums in a cohesive and impactful manner.



Example 7 from Violati Anytimi. The image chemoacoe a cognient of the Video timeline (c.e. 10 co.s.

where the newly created visual rhythm, influenced by the rhythmic pizzicato pattern, is demonstrated.

The middle segment of the composition unfolds in three distinctive subparts: collage (H), confusion (I), and diversion (J). In the collage segment (H), an audiovisual collage is presented, incorporating existing material in four different durations of the revised room sequence. Throughout this phase, a series of flash images punctuate the scene, symbolizing fleeting thoughts (example 8).



Example 8 Flash Images Sequence: This image shows a fragment of the flash images sequence in macro-level, 04:05-04:35

The visual rhythms, signaling the onset of these interactions, and the rhythms of the flashing images are both extended and shortened versions of the fundamental rhythm of the percussive sound from the "Fan Room" section. In this intricate

interplay, five rooms consistently intervene in the quick figure, despite the room sequence comprising six rooms. This is due to the absence of the main room, which is displayed during the intervention, as illustrated in example 9.



Example 9 Micro-level Flash Images Sequence: This image reveals the inner structure of a flashing image sequence, occurring from 04:14:20 to 04:16:05

In this section, a group of airy 16th notes, quintuplets, and triplets manifests in rapid figures, contributing to a general sense of blurring (example 10). These motifs, consistently played by woodwinds, undergo various adaptations and shifts in direction throughout the piece. This consistent use of motifs serves to unify and connect different elements, establishing a cohesive character for the entire composition. The deliberate incorporation of these figures contributes to the overall theme of blurring, aligning with and reinforcing the conceptual essence of the piece.



Example 10 Fast Figure: This image shows an example of the fast figures creating a blurring sense throughout the piece.

In the section designated as confusion (I), an accelerated and reversed room sequence takes center stage, accompanied by the insertion of six hallway visual rhythmic layers. This deliberate intervention results in visual confusion, achieved through the extension and inversion of the rhythmic patterns initially established in bars 47-53 (example 6).

In the following section, each edited image from the Hallway was assigned one of the developed rhythms, resulting in a complex vertigo effect as the images were reversed and rotated. While the music follows the core sequence underneath these interactions, the acceleration culminates in a fast 15-second visual sequence of rooms accompanied by the musical overtones of preceding themes. This rapid succession leads to a 13-second visual and musical rest, symbolizing the shutdown of an organism due to overstimulation, leaving only the echoes of this intense sensory experience.

During this interlude, the absence of both images and music is introduced as new elements, foreshadowed at the beginning of the artwork with the video starting from black. The earlier blackout glances (example 7) can be interpreted as a preparation for this moment and the subsequent developments. Here, it marks the first instance of a combined absence, symbolizing the absence of every stimulus.

Subsequently, the audience is guided through an extensive exposition of each room, featuring matching musical elements similar to the initial part of the piece but in a reversed room sequence, hinting at an altered reality. This suspicion proves valid as fast-moving music gestures return in measure 108, leading back into a state of delusion. Measures 118-122 introduce a repetitive sequence of synchronized music and images, with a different audiovisual room stimulus missing in each repetition.

The subsequent repetition is a revised room sequence showcases each room presenting frames capturing the essence of the space. In this section, audio elements are synchronized with the correct room but in a different orchestration. This audiovisual fusion represents an attempt to clear and reorganize environmental stimuli, yet the irregular rhythm in the footage processing maintains traces of the previous mindset. Bars 129-133 (8:48-9:18) introduce a comparable sequence of synchronized music and images as seen in measures 118-122. This time, however, the absent audio and visual components are deliberately desynchronized, using the void of music and image as equal yet distinct elements.

In the subsequent section titled Diversion (J), from bars 134 to 154 (9:18-11:18), a six-layer rhythmic pattern is incorporated into the musical elements of each room, similar to the initiation of the confusion part at bars 47-53. This technique crafts an audio collage that navigates through the audio parts of the rooms, while the visual aspect focuses on one image per room at a time. The rhythmic foundation for this audio collage is derived from the blackout glances rhythm between 2:46 and 3:14 (example 6), resulting in a more irregular rhythm that, nonetheless, maintains continuity throughout the piece.

The final part of the composition employs addition and subtraction techniques, building upon the preceding visual rhythm. Struggling to discern reality from delusion, the rooms are refreshed with matching music to consolidate information and clarify stimuli. This process is represented by exposing the rooms in a different order, with the music of each room adding up like a mental calculation. After this refresh and recollection, a search for a specific detail commences to confirm the correct perception of reality. This detailed exploration unveils a visual sequence

focusing on different musical and visual aspects, eliminating possibilities until a matched audiovisual stimulus is discovered.

3.4 Orchestration and Visual Aspects

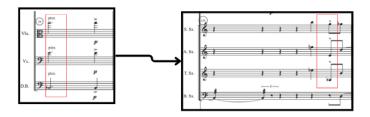
The orchestral arrangement employed in this piece deviates from traditional setups, employing a progressive approach to emphasise various timbre groups, organized like mini-ensembles within the orchestral framework. This instrumental selection was curated based on the timbral aesthetic requirements dictated by the footage and the overall concept of the project. Collectively, this setup yields an orchestral effect while spatially offering opportunities to explore specific timbres across nearly the entire acoustic range.

This strategic approach is evident from the initial pages of the score, where the original orchestral arrangement is showcased. The orchestra comprises two flutes, a double reed quartet, a clarinet quartet, a saxophone quartet, a brass quartet, percussion, and a strings section encompassing three violin groups, viola, cello, and double bass groups. Each section alternates between supporting and leading others, contributing to timbral unity. The intentional addition of a third group of violins was motivated by the need to achieve compositional goals without compromising the intended timbral qualities. This intentional choice underscores the equally leading and supportive role played by each instrument or group within the composition.

As referenced in the Conceptualization and Creative Process section, specific sound characteristics based on music material and orchestration distinguish each character in the composition. The Hallway is marked by a smooth and full orchestra sound with sustained notes. The Curtain and Window Room are characterized by a

static and bending sound, blending string and brass timbres. The Green Room features a distinctive rhythmic blend of microtonal triplets and percussive quintuplets, highlighting the saxophone timbre with the addition of a pedal note. The Book Room combines a melodic microtonal Bassoon with clarinets' timbre containing internal movement. The Window Room stands out for using a high saxophone register combined with an energetic bass line and a resonant thunder sheet. The Fan Room combines sonorous strings with a rhythmic pizzicato pattern, while The Washing Room's sound is characterized by a rich and complex texture of multiphonics.

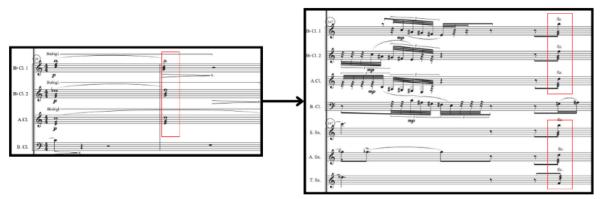
The repetitive nature of the artwork necessitated meticulous editing and orchestration development to sustain the audience's interest. The objective was to craft a diverse array of timbral palettes capable of distinguishing micro-level variations throughout the experience. The variations in orchestration were designed to preserve the transparency of each room's character while facilitating seamless transitions between instruments. This was accomplished through the use of imitation, transformation, and the transfer of relevant techniques.



Example 11 Imitation Technique

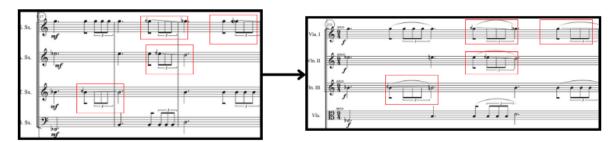
In the technique of imitation, specific instruments replicate the sound effect or quality using different playing techniques. For example, in measure 136, the saxophones imitate the sound quality of string pizzicato through the application of a slap tongue technique (example 11). While this distinctive sound may initially be

perplexing, when integrated with the broader musical elements, the recognizable character of the music prevails.



Example 12 Transformation Technique

Through transformation, the deviation of the original sound quality is achieved by introducing a variation. A notable instance of this is found in measure 147, on the third beat, where the saxophones and clarinets transform the initial bisbigliando technique observed in measure 29 into the flutter tongue technique (example 12). This transformation results in a sound that diverges from the initial one but maintains a discernible connection to the original idea.



Example 13 Transfer Technique

In contrast, transfer involves employing the same technique but applying it to a different instrument, thereby producing the same effect but with a distinct timbre. A demonstration of this can be observed in measure 123, where bending techniques are transferred to the three violins and viola, replacing the initial saxophone bend

(example 13). While the sound effect remains consistent in this case, the timbral quality differs due to the change in instruments.

The incorporation of these three techniques, coupled with the dynamic evolution of orchestration, contributes to a composition without orchestral repetition throughout the piece. This orchestration character experiences a deliberate break in measures 118-122, where intentional repetitions of the initial rooms' orchestration refresh the starting music material, signifying a moment of clarity within the delusion.

In this exploration, the use of extended techniques played a pivotal role in the creative process. While orchestral music traditionally is not associated with these techniques, their selection was motivated by the diverse sonic possibilities they offer to express artistic ideas. The distinctive and recognizable sonic elements defining the characters of the rooms were shaped through the application of these techniques. Additionally, achieving a non-repetitive orchestration necessitated the unconventional management of the sonic palette, employing techniques that emerged from the need to transform and imitate the initial sound material.

The visual component constitutes an integral part of the narrative, with seamless transitions between music and images. The video's structure is grounded in musical principles, taking a musical approach that expands on the project's initial musical foundation. In contrast, the selection of footage is guided by purely visual aesthetic criteria. This combination of approaches creates an interconnected outcome that expands the realms of music and visuals, facilitating alignment with the music score. The intentional interdependence of music and visuals was crucial in crafting a unified audiovisual result.

3.5 Integration and Synchronisation

The integration and synchronization of various elements posed both challenges and opportunities in the creation of *Echoes of Solitude*. The orchestral score went beyond serving as background music; it actively contributed to the narrative by interacting with and complementing the visual elements, shaping the desired environment. Similarly, the video was not a mere companion but a narrative palette that extended and completed the thematic idea.

The technical aspects of *Echoes of Solitude* required thorough consideration of the relationship between different media. The methods of composition, orchestration, and video production were intricately woven together to shape an intermedia artwork that stands distinctly apart from other art forms. This work serves as a testament to the possibilities revealed through the fusion of music, performance, and video art, offering space for the ongoing development of intermedia art in the future.

Conclusion

This thesis has attempted to explore the field of intermedia art, placing particular emphasis on the seamless integration of music and visuals in the composition titled *Echoes of Solitude* for orchestra and video art. The central purpose of this thesis was to analyse and comprehend the convergence of media, thus extending the traditional boundaries of music composition into the realm of intermedia art.

Chapter 1 discusses the theoretical and practical foundations of multimedia, transmedia, and intermedia arts to conduct a holistic analysis of their interrelation. The research shows that while these concepts have slight yet profound distinctions, they form the basis for the development of immersive experiences. In the broader sense of media integration, intermedia refers to the interweaving of different media. In multimedia, the media are juxtaposed and overlaid upon one another.

Transmedia, on the other hand, refers to an idea spread across various platforms. This framework clarifies the distinctions and connections among these forms, providing a solid foundation for future academic inquiry.

The analysis has demonstrated that *Echoes of Solitude* embodies an intermedia approach. It surpasses a mere combination of sound and vision, creating a synergy in which each medium complements and is complemented by the other. The case study of Simon Steen-Andersen's *Black Box Music* in Chapter 2 further illustrates the dynamic possibilities within intermedia compositions. This research highlights the importance of audiovisual elements in the concert setting, specifically the relationship between the conductor's movements and the sound produced by the

orchestra. It also emphasizes the significance of intermedia as a transformative artistic framework.

The thesis results had a significant impact on the perception of intermedia by revealing the fluidity of mediums and questioning conventional borders between them. It added a nuanced layer to the discourse on multimedia and transmedia arts, suggesting that intermedia art can serve as a bridge that fosters a deeper sensory immersion.

From a practical perspective, as demonstrated in Chapter 3's analysis, *Echoes of Solitude* serves as a blueprint for future artistic endeavors seeking to seamlessly merge diverse mediums into a unified artistic expression. It not only offers insights into the methods and techniques conducive to such integration but also stands as a valuable resource for artists and composers operating within the intermedia sphere. Moreover, it provides guidance for those endeavoring to push the boundaries of traditional art forms, aiming to craft a fresh and immersive experience. The collaborative aspect of the project, involving other artists and incorporating archival footage, further underscores the inherently cooperative nature of intermedia projects.

Researching and creating *Echoes of Solitude* has profoundly shaped both my personal and artistic development. This undertaking has enriched my practical knowledge and experience in navigating the technical intricacies and requisite resources for successfully executing a project of this nature. Additionally, it has expanded my theoretical understanding of the extensive array of integrated mediums, providing a more comprehensive perspective.

Furthermore, the project has broadened my horizons within the sphere of intermedia art, sparking new inspirations and ideas for future exploration. The

insights gained from this thesis have solidified my dedication to exploring the intersections between different artistic mediums. The thesis itself serves as a model for an interdisciplinary approach to research and creativity, seamlessly integrating theoretical exploration with practical application. This interdisciplinary approach not only enhances individual growth but also opens avenues for collaborative initiatives across various disciplines.

On the creative side, this thesis promotes heightened synergy among musicians, visual artists, and other creatives, fostering increased collaboration within the academic community. This collaborative spirit extends beyond the composition of *Echoes of Solitude* and encourages exploration of the potential of intermedia art in diverse contexts, such as interactive installations or digital media. The thesis proposes the idea that this collaboration is not limited to composers incorporating visual elements into music but can also involve powerful partnerships where visual artists utilize music or sound in a visual manner. Such integration has the potential to yield a more potent and unified outcome, immersing the audience in an entirely novel sensory experience.

On the theoretical side, this collaborative approach has the potential to inspire other scholars to pursue research that transcends traditional academic boundaries and explores the intersections of various mediums. Furthermore, studies could investigate the audience's reception and interpretive processes when engaging with intermedia, transmedia, and multimedia works, providing deeper insights into the impact of these compositions.

Echoes of Solitude and the research conducted in this thesis underscore the transformative potential of intermedia art. By challenging our sensory perceptions and offering a more immersive experience, intermedia art bridges gaps between

mediums, encouraging us to explore creative expression in a holistic manner. As artistic mediums become increasingly intertwined, intermedia art serves as a poignant reminder of the boundless potential inherent in creative expression.

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Appendix

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Faculty of Fine Arts School of Music Studies

Echoes of Solitude

For Orchestra

Full Score in C

Marianna Chalampalaki 2023

Title: Echoes of Solitude

Composer: Marianna Chalampalaki Videographer: Erifili Doukeli

Visual Artist: Filippos

Orchestra: Flutes (2), Oboe, Cor Anglais, Bassoons (2), Bb Clarinets (2), Alto Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Soprano Sax., Alto Sax., Tenor Sax., Baritone Sax., Trumpet I, French Horn, Trombones (2), Percussion(Timpani(32", 26"), Woodblocks(high tone, medium tone), Vibraphone, Shakers, Snare Drum, Cymbal (ride), Gong (medium), Shekere), Violins I (8), Violins II (8), Violins III (8), Violas (6), Cellos (6), Double Basses (4)

Score in C

To the conductor and Musicians:

"Echoes of Solitude" is an intermedia collage artwork combining orchestral music with video footage of an abandoned hospital. It explores the interactivety between image and sound while expressing the blurring of the line between reality and perception in conditions of abandonment and isolation. This piece demands technical precision and a profound emotional engagement with the thematic material.

The piece is divided into seven sections: introduction (A), presentation (B-G), collage (H), confusion (I), diversion (J), layering (K), and focus (L). The piece consists of five hospital rooms and a hallway, each with its own characteristic music and footage, presented in the presentation section.

The synchronisation between the orchestra and video is critical. The conductor will use a click tracker to align with the video.

This composition delves into the emotional landscape of solitude. Musicians are encouraged to explore their instruments' dynamic and expressive range, reflecting the piece's haunting and introspective nature.

It is essential to emphasise phrasing and articulation, especially during transitions and when music interacts with visuals, to create the desired atmosphere.

Silence and space are just as important as the notes themselves. Be mindful of the rests and pauses, as they are integral to creating the piece's atmosphere.

The video is a crucial component of the performance, and musicians must be mindful of the critical visual moments and how they correspond with the musical score.

Transitions aren't always rhythmic; intentional misalignment allows for greater expressive range.

Notation:

= quarter sharp

#= three-quarter sharp

 \mathbf{q} = quarter flat

 ϕ = three-quarter flat

+ = slap tongue

"i", "e", "a", and "o" = change the embrasure like pronouncing each letter

n. = niente, make the sound start or end from or to nothing

ST= Sul Tasto

ord. = Ordinary

SP= Sul Ponticello

MSP= Molto Sul Ponticello

MST=Molto Sul Tasto

+--> 0 = In the brass section this movement represents the movement of the wow mute. French horn can imitate this technique with the hand inside the bell

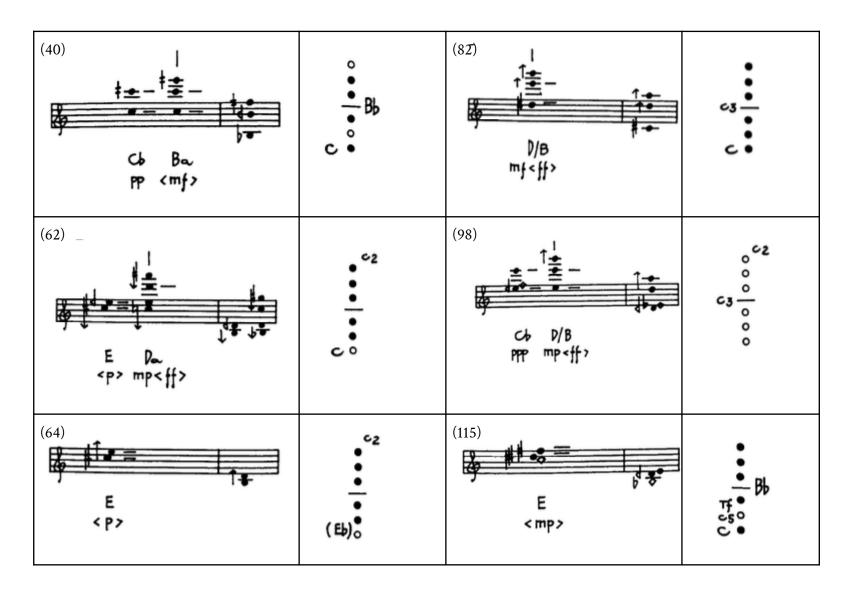
♥ =Brush sticks

flz. = Flutter tongue

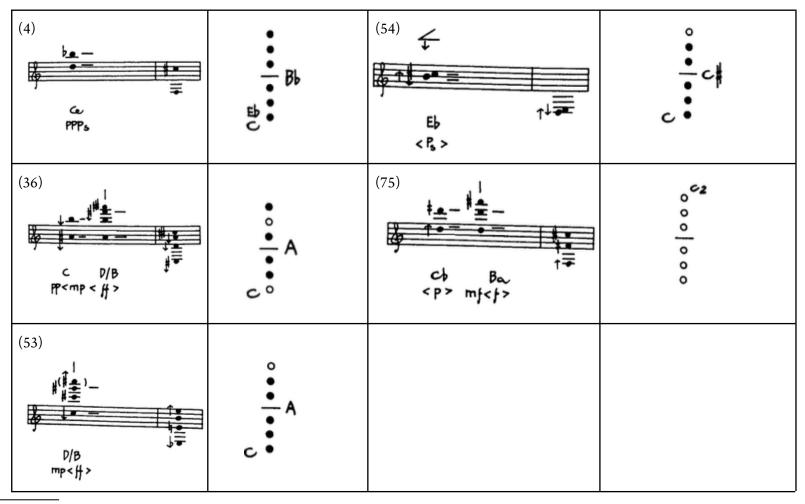
bat. = Col Legno Battuto

Multiphonics: The multiphonics used were chosen from Marcus Weiss and Giorgio Netti's "*The Techniques of Saxophone Playing*" and Alex Roberts and Nicholas Moroz's "Bass Clarinet Multiphonics²". The microtonal notation has been simplified to a quarter tones system for all used multiphonics. For more guidance, you may refer to the documents mentioned.

Tenor Sax.:



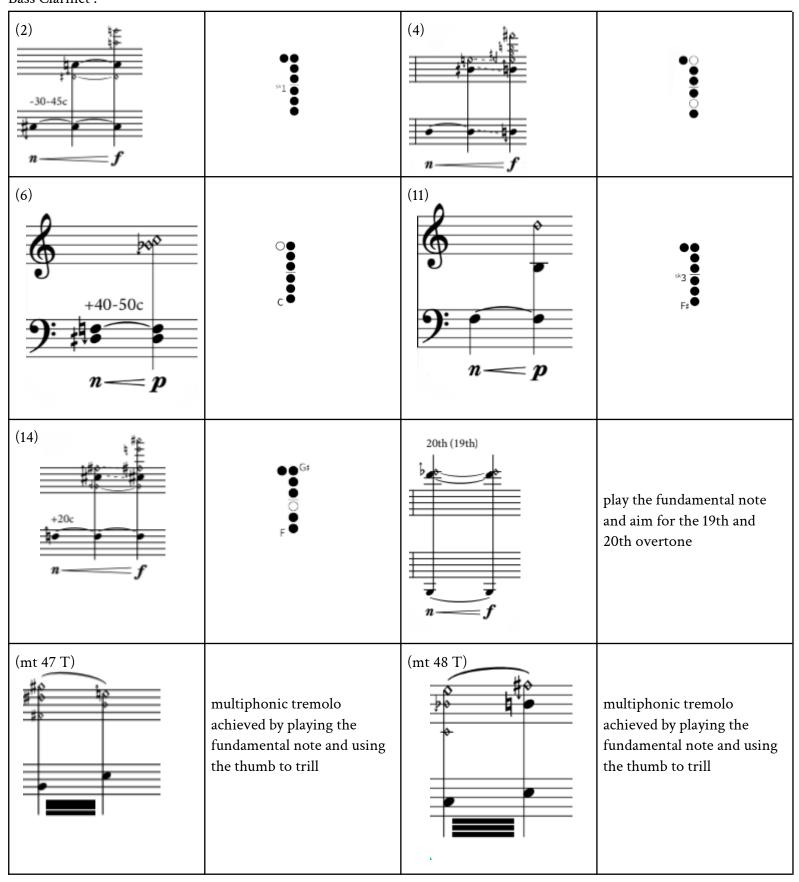
Baritone Sax. :



¹ Marcus Weiss and Giorgio Netti, *The Techniques of Saxophone Playing* (Kassel: Bärenreiter, 2010)

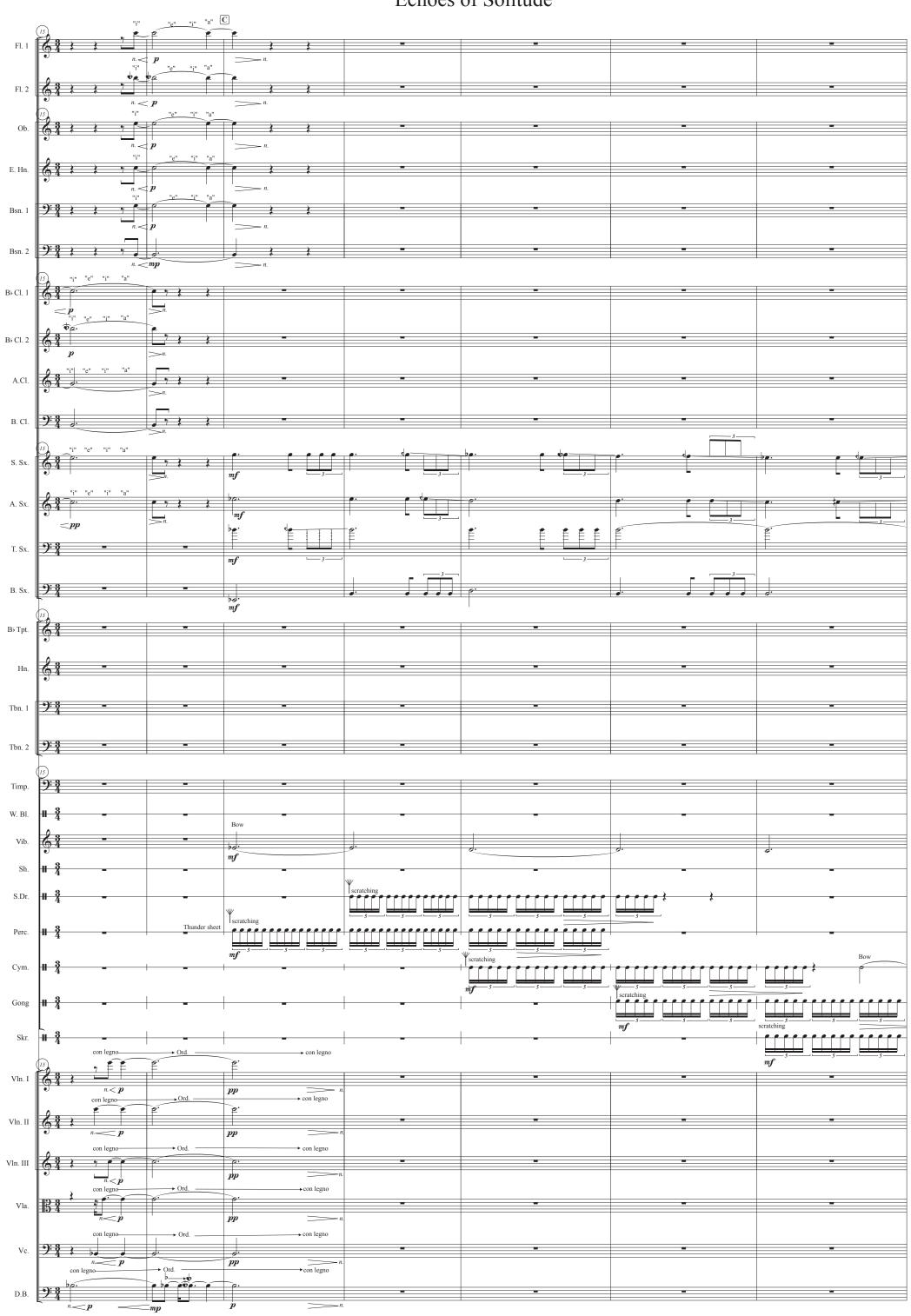
² Alex Roberts and Nicholas Moroz, "Bass Clarinet Multiphonics," Explore Ensemble, 2021, https://explore-ensemble.com/bass-clarinet-multiphonics

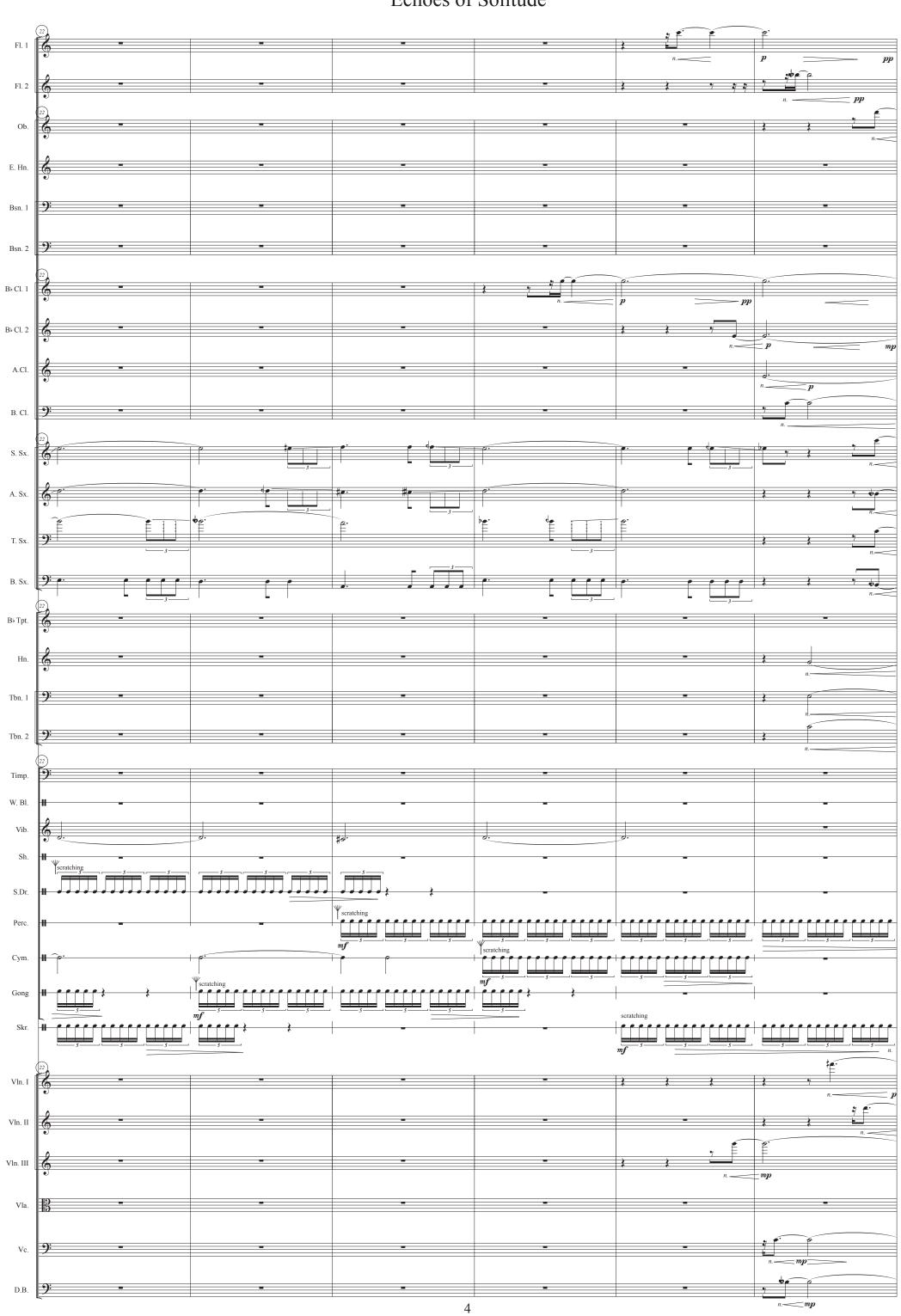
Bass Clarinet:

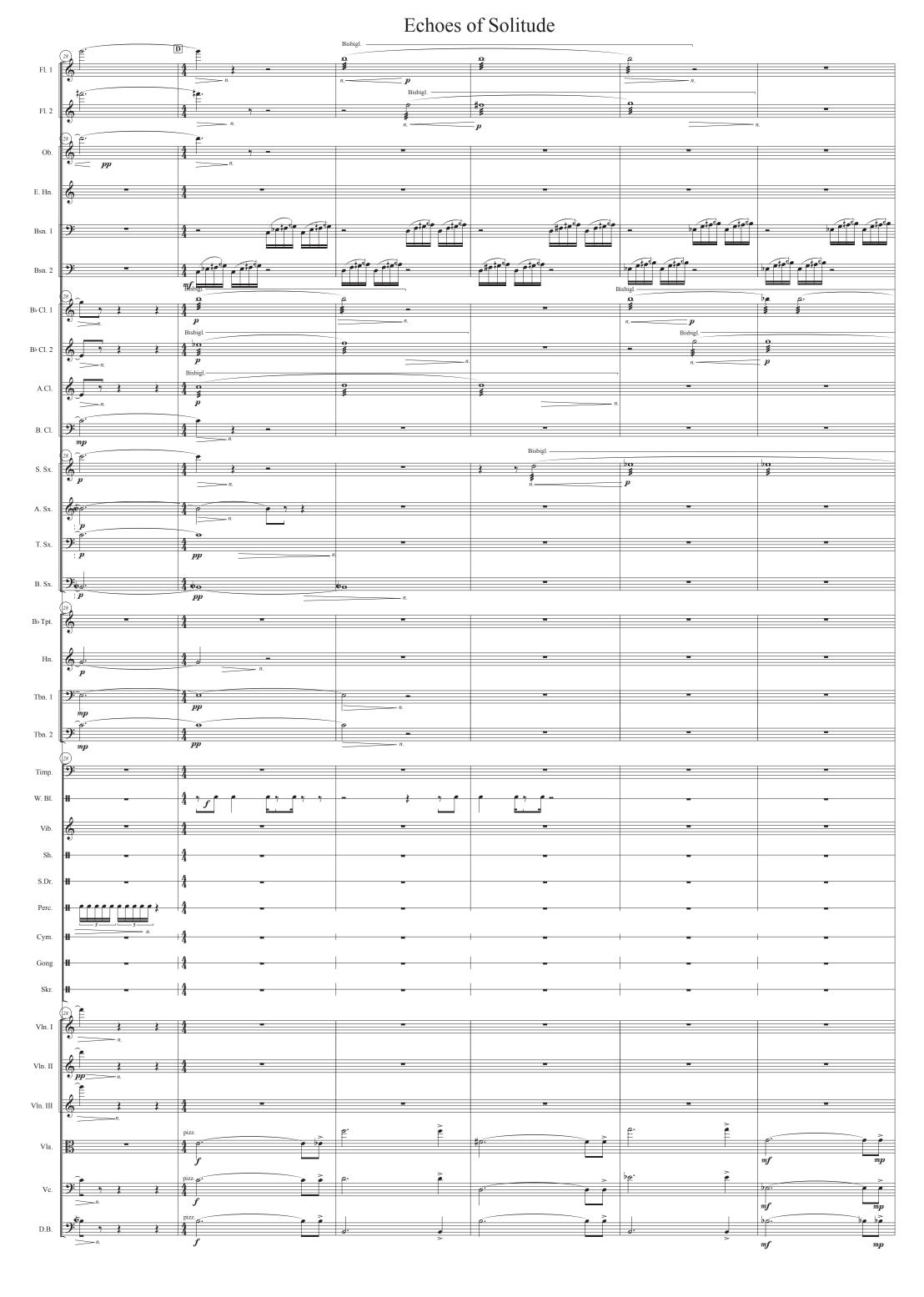


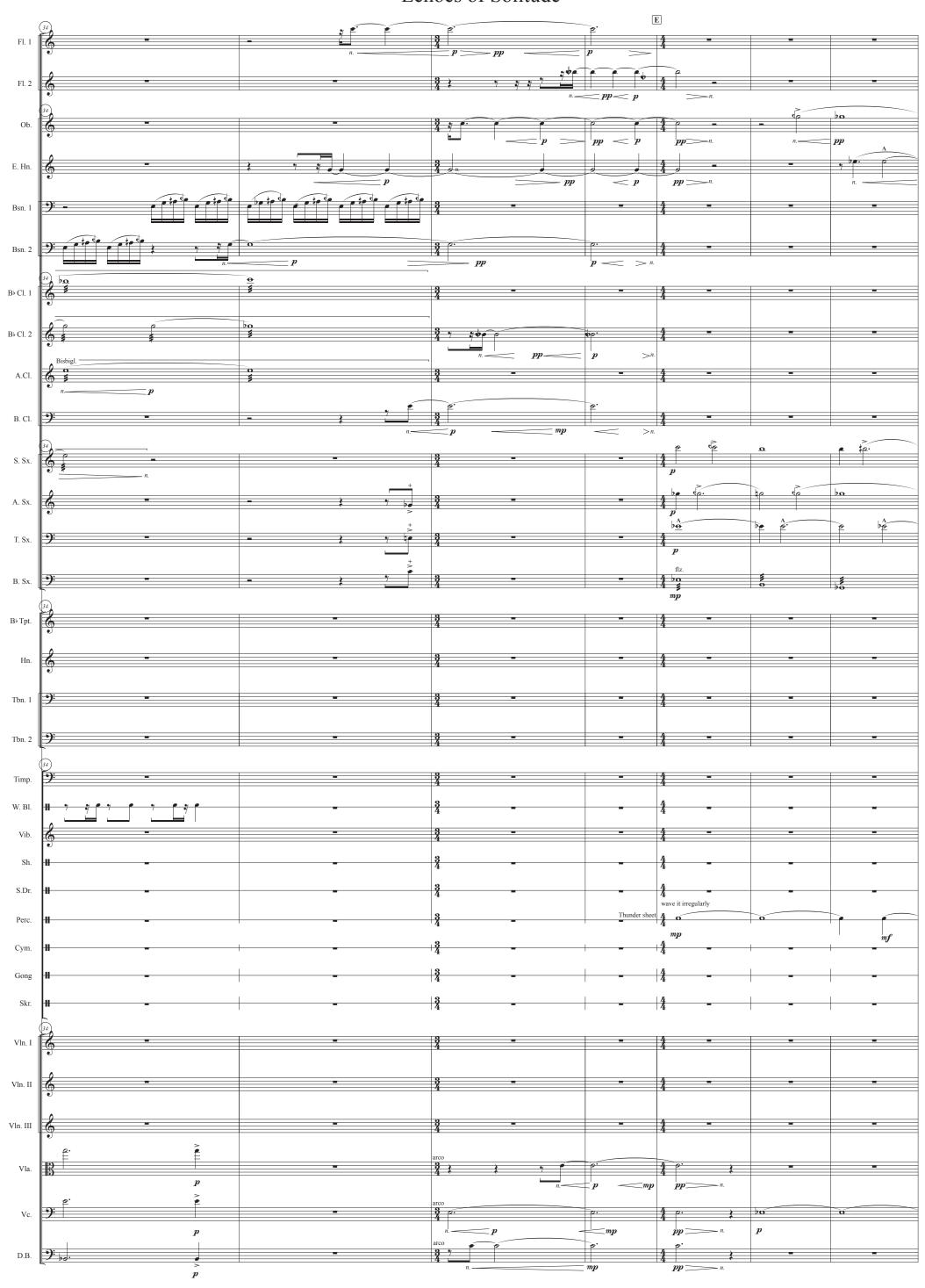


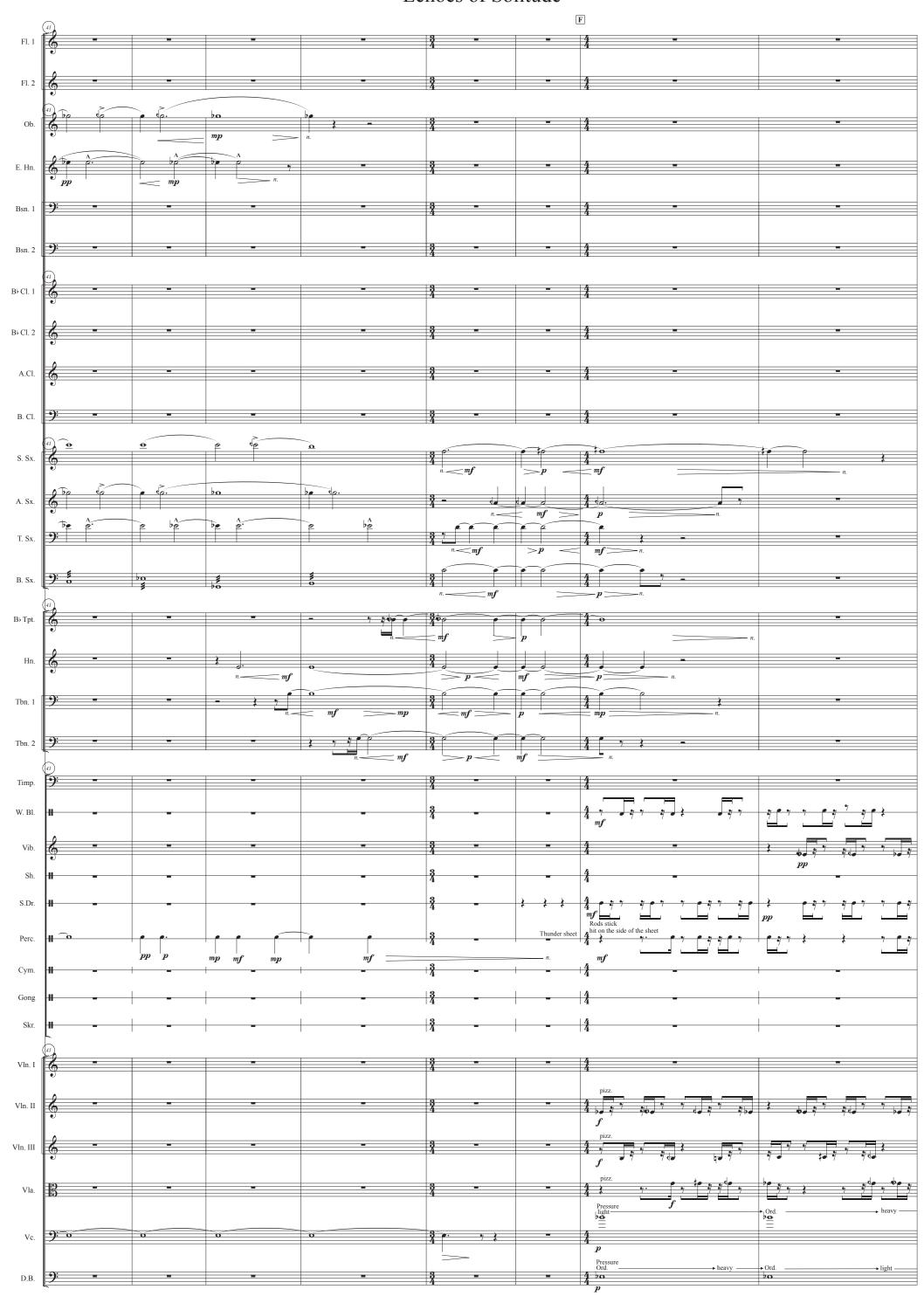


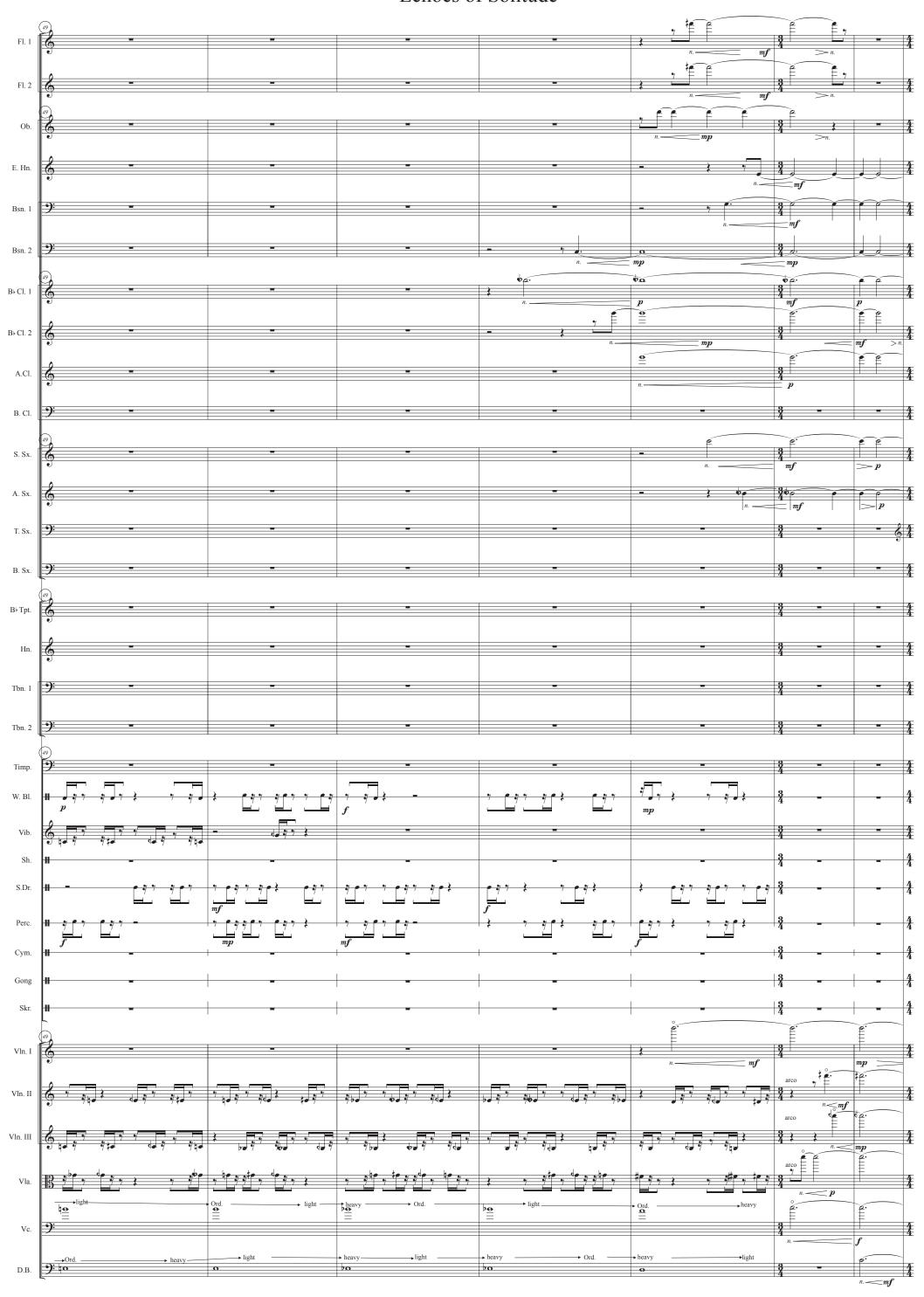






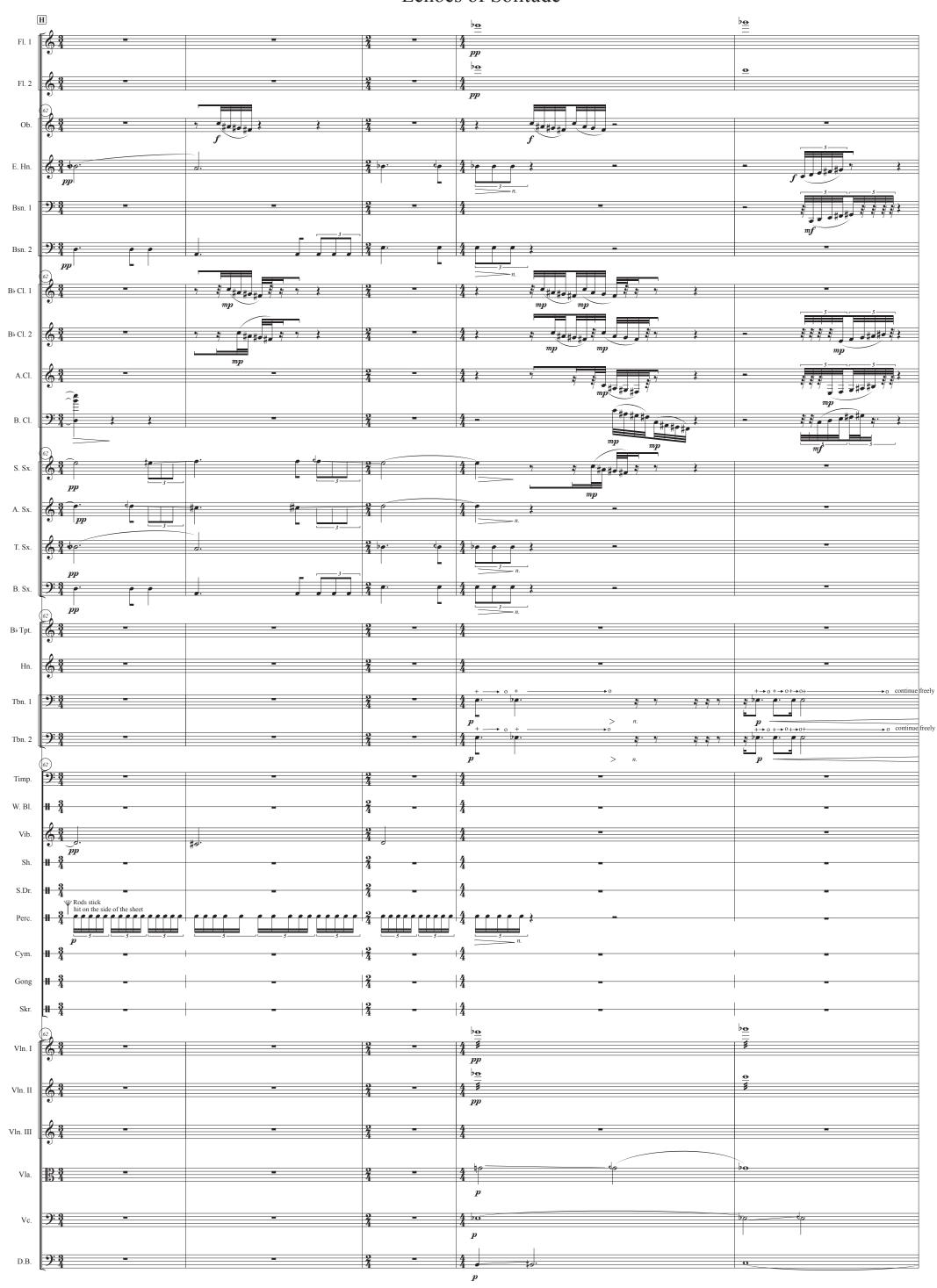








Echoes of Solitude



Echoes of Solitude







Echoes of Solitude







