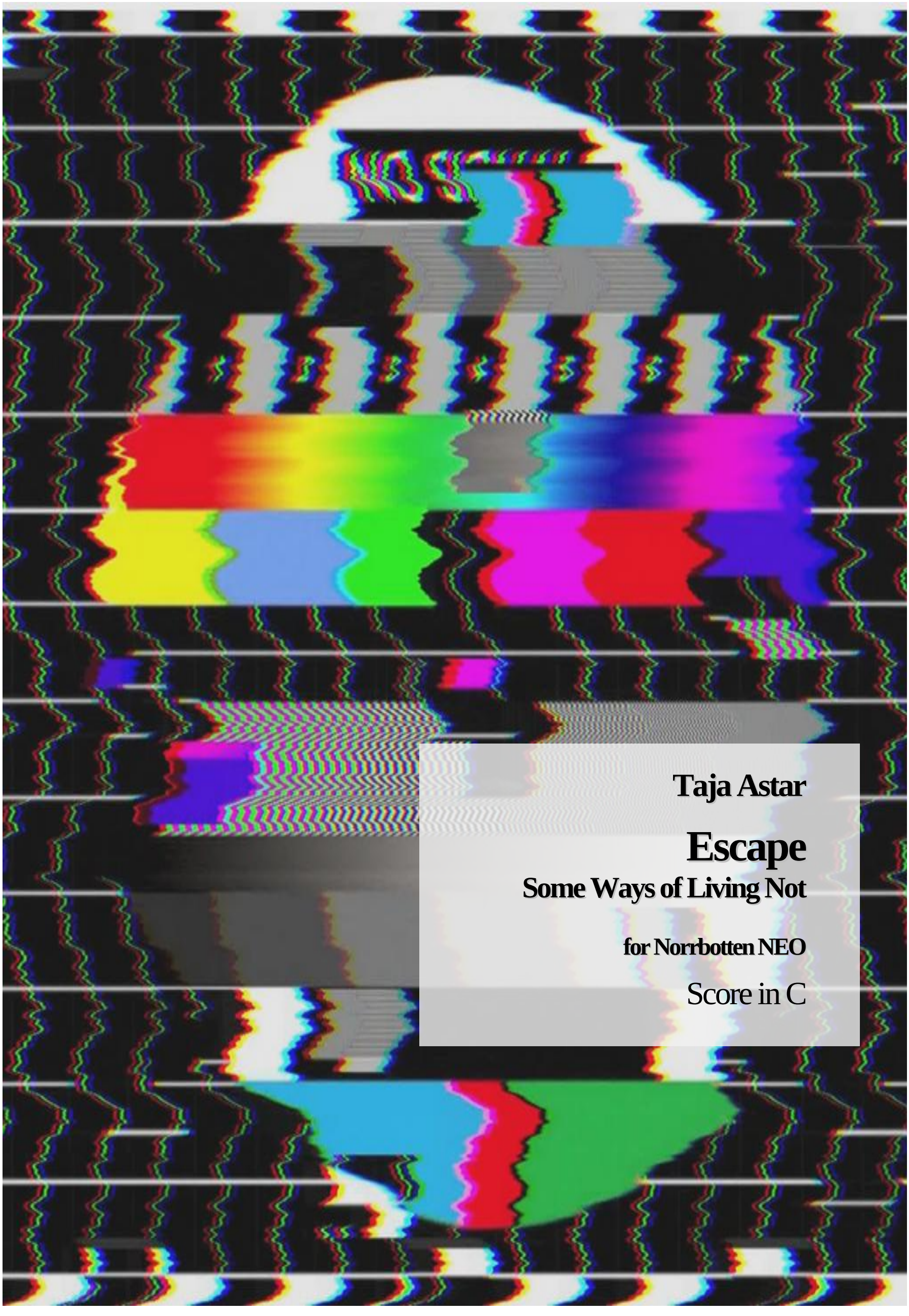


Taja Astar

Escape

Some Ways of Living Not

for Norrbotten NEO

Score in C

Escape. Some Ways of Living Not

for Norrbotten NEO
By Taja Astar
Score in C
dur. ~15 min.

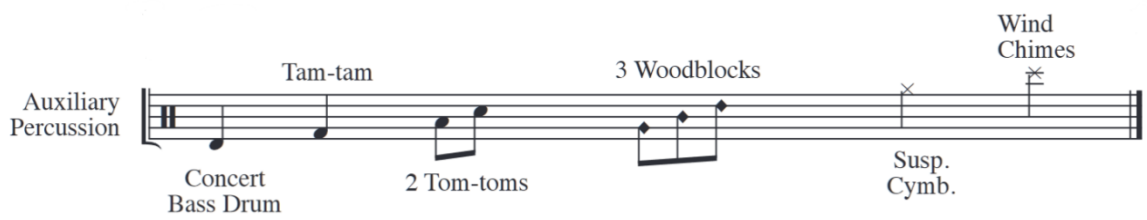
Instrumentation

- Flute
- Clarinet in B ♭
- Percussion (1)
  - Mallet Percussion:
    - Tubular Bells
    - Vibraphone
    - Orchestra Bells
  - Auxiliary Percussion:
    - Suspended Cymbal
    - Tom-Toms
    - Tam-Tam
    - Wind Chimes
    - Bass Drum
- Piano
- Violin
- Viola
- Violoncello

Performance notes

1. All trills are to be played to the closest diatonic pitch.
2. Dynamic hairpins without given resulting dynamic marks mean slight changes within given dynamics.
3. Piano: free usage of pedal in places when pedal is not specified.
4. Piano: in sections from bar 5 till bar 47 and from bar 85 till bar 108 the piano part can be played as written or improvised while maintaining the general pattern.

Notation for the auxiliary percussion:



Program note

This piece is my attempt to contemplate on the effect of cognitive dissonance and lack of meaning that force people to escape reality in some way. The work consists of six main sections flowing seamlessly one after another, of which one, Running, is recurring and serves as some sort of connecting link between the parts. *Escape* is to a great extent an intertextual work, referring to several famous tunes, as follows:

Church and **Art**: *Die Internationale*, the famous anthem of the international communist party. Its verse is used in the Church section, and its chorus in the Art section. I integrated the tunes into the musical texture to show how ideology can be hidden everywhere, and how both in religion and art one cannot stay apart from politics and how these both can be used as a weapon.

Drugs: Hector Berlioz' *Rakoczy March*. Berlioz was, probably, the first composer who attempted at describing the effect of drugs in his music. In *Escape*, his music is partly used to make a reference to this well-known picture of an unstable state of mind.

War: Beethoven's "Ode of Joy" from the *Ninth*. In the piano part, the motif is played in both hands, alternating with a semitone difference, creating an ugly dissonant sound as an image of a heated conflict, when both sides believe that they are on the right side, which results in a complete chaos.

Death: the *Happy Birthday* song. Many beliefs consider death as a new beginning. So, why not?

Parts of the work
(based on the poem by Anna Astar):

Some Ways of Living Not

Running ever faster, like from fleas,
in an attempt to flee the gnawing dissonance.

Church. Plunging into the tranquillizing absolute.
Piously, inhibiting, telling a fable of bliss.

Art. Playing the elite. The daintiness.
The gleam, like of a marble goldfish pond.

Drugs. Plucking the neon strings,
walking the fuzzy valleys. Glitchily.

War. With a furious glee. The ears shut.
Blasting away on a trumpet dripping blood.
Bull-mindedly.

Death. Not without sadness. With relief
and solemn plea. With a hope for future.

Score in C

Escape

Some Ways of Living Not

for Norrbotten NEO

Taja Astar, 2022

Running ever faster, like from fleas,
in an attempt to flee the gnawing dissonance.
♩ = c. 152

5

Flute
Alto Flute
Piccolo
Clarinet in B♭
Bass Clarinet in B♭
Tubular Bells
Vibrophone
Orchestra Bells
Tom-Tom
Tam-Tam
Wind Chimes
Bass Drum
Piano
Violin
Viola
Violoncello

l.v. sempre

throughout this section,
short random pedalization

8

Fl.
Cl.
Tub. B.
Aux. Perc.
Pno.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.

© Taja Astar

13

17

Fl.

Cl.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

mp

Pno.

mp

p

Vln.

pp

mp

Vla.

pp

mp

Vc.

3

3

p

mp

18

22

Fl.

pp

mp

pp

p

p

Cl.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

pp

Ped.

Vln.

pp

mp

pp

Vla.

pp

mp

pp

Vc.

3

3

p

mp

© Taja Astar

24

25

Fl.

Cl.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ff

f

30

© Taja Astar

35

39

Fl.

Cl.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Tubular Bells

l.v. sempre

f

tr

3

40

42 **poco a poco rit.**

jet whistle

air tone

p

f

mf

pp

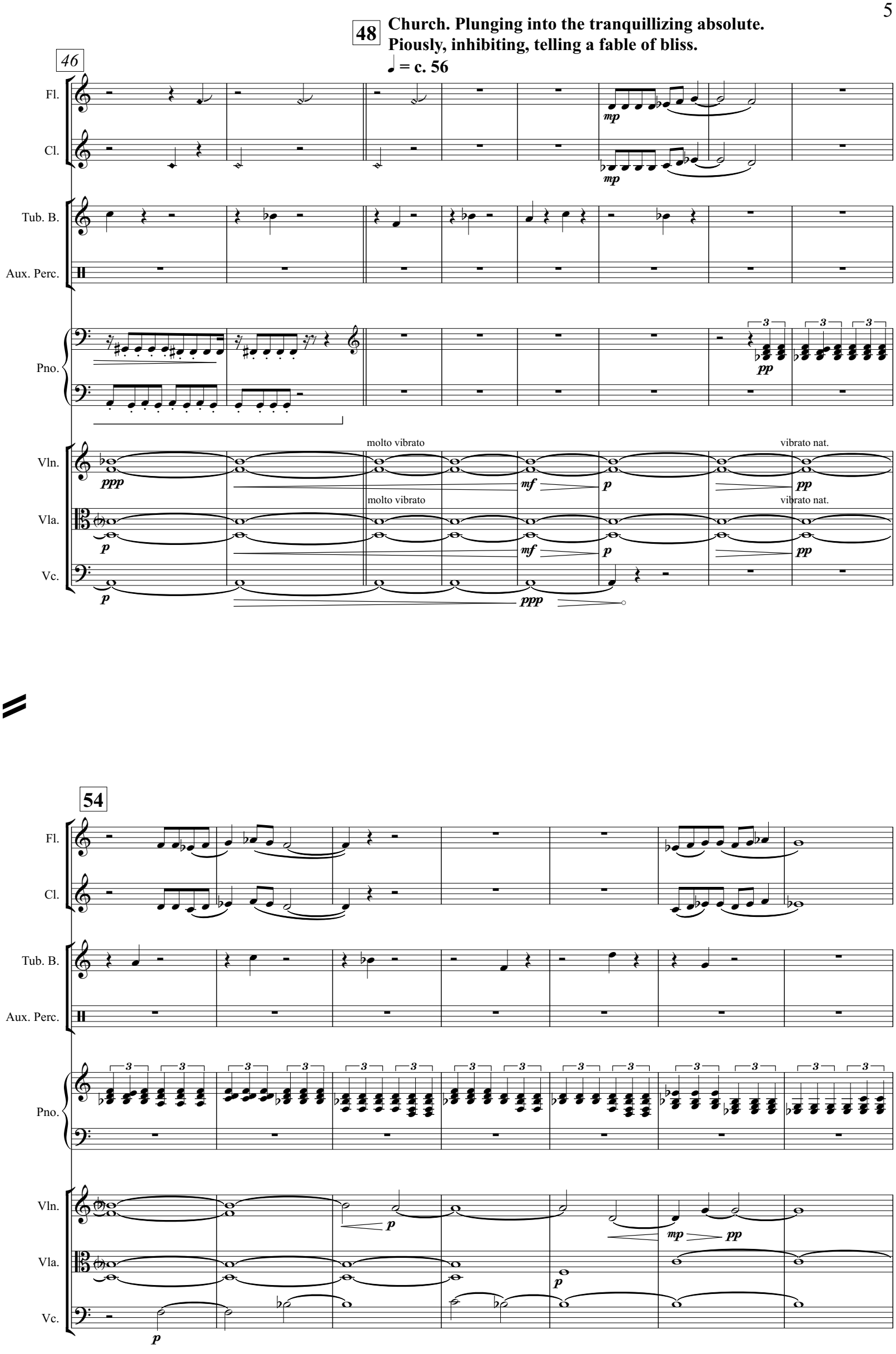
pedal held down until the sound dissapears

Ped.

ppp

ff

© Taja Astar


48
Church. Plunging into the tranquillizing absolute.
Piously, inhibiting, telling a fable of bliss.
♩ = c. 56
46
Fl.
Cl.
Tub. B.
Aux. Perc.
Pno.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
molto vibrato
vibrato nat.
54

© Taja Astar

61

68

Fl.

Cl.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

69

74

l.v.

© Taja Astar

76

80

Fl.

Cl.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

l.v.

l.v.

pedal held down until
the sound dissapears

8va

Pno.

Ped.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p

pp

mp

f

ff

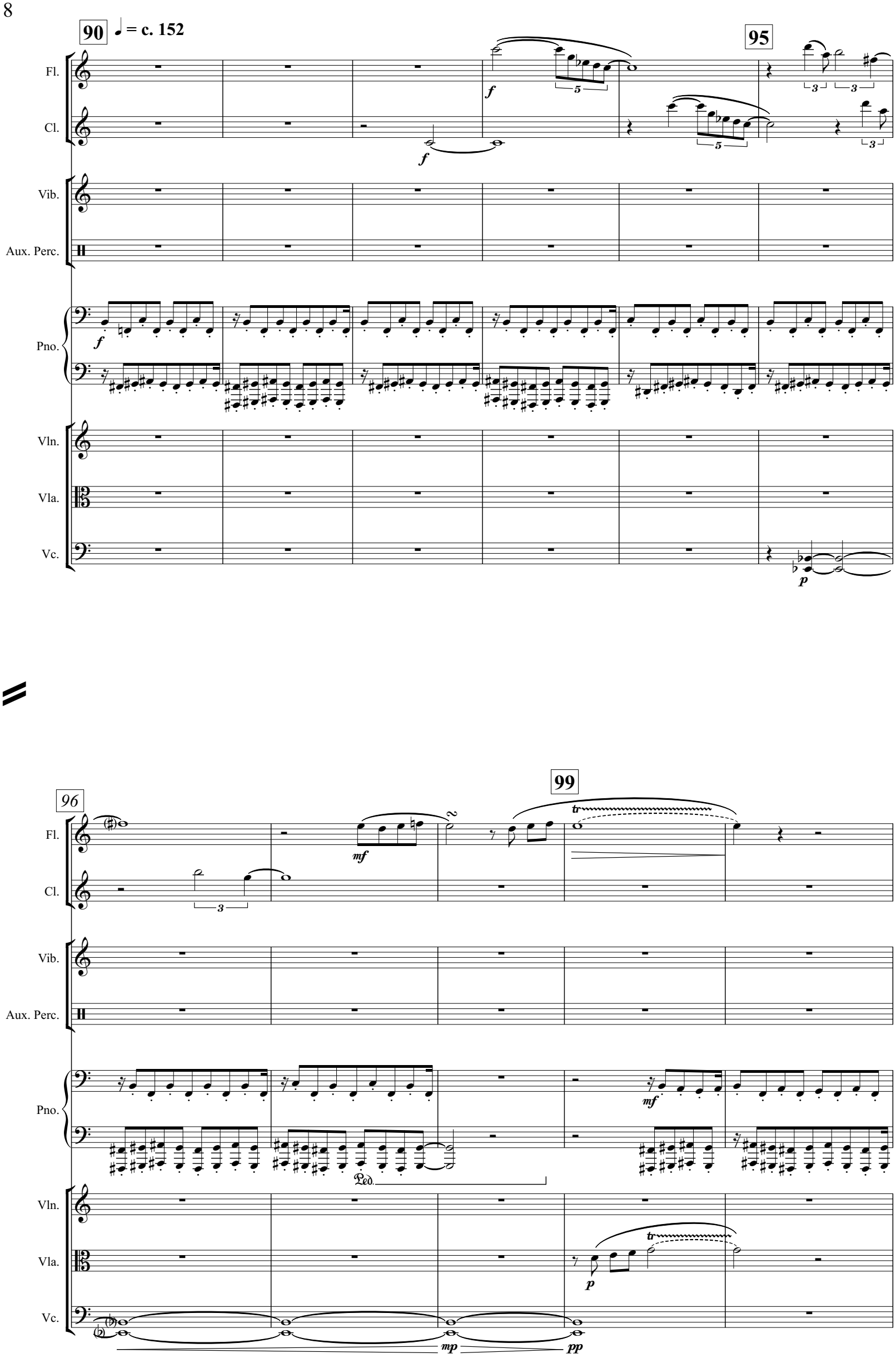
accel.

84

To Vib.

throughout this section,
short random pedalization

© Taja Astar



© Taja Astar

101

Fl.

Cl.

Vib.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

tr

mp

tr

mp

mp

tr

p

106 **poco a poco rit.**

jet whistle

air tone

p

pp

Ped.

© Taja Astar

112 **Art. Playing the elite. The daintiness.**
The gleam, like of a marble goldfish pond.
♩ = c. 116

Fl.
Cl.
Vib.
Aux. Perc.
Pno.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.

118 **120**

© Taja Astar

125

129

Fl.

Cl.

Vib.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

131

rit.

© Taja Astar

137

Un poco meno mosso

Fl.

Cl.

Vib.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

141

© Taja Astar

146

Fl.

Cl.

Vib.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ff

f

150

rit.

To A. Fl.

To B. Cl.

mp

© Taja Astar

155 **Drugs. Plucking the neon strings, walking the fuzzy valleys. Glitchily.**

♩ = c. 100

A. Fl.

B. Cl.

Vib.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Alto Flute

Bass Clarinet in B♭

161

© Taja Astar

166

A. Fl.

B. Cl.

Vib.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

tr

mf

Vibraphone

f

Ped.

mp

3

8va

p

mf

171

172

Meno mosso

♩. = c. 80

fl.t.

f

Orch. Bells

l.v.

pp

8vb

© Taja Astar

175

rit.

177

Meno mosso

♩. = c. 42

A. Fl.

B. Cl.

(tr)

p

Orch. Bells

Aux. Perc.

f

if possible

p

Pno.

ff

p

8va

pp

(8)

Ped.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

f

pp

178

A. Fl.

B. Cl.

tr

p

Orch. Bells

Orchestral Bells

mf

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

(8)

Ped.

Vln.

molto vibrato

p *dolce*

Vla.

Vc.

© Taja Astar

181

A. Fl.

B. Cl.

(tr)

mf

Orch. Bells

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

pp

Ped.

8vb

Ped.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p

184 ♩ = c. 66

A. Fl.

B. Cl.

p

p

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

(8)

Vln.

pizz.

mf

Vla.

pizz.

mf

Vc.

pizz.

mf

© Taja Astar

187

191

To Picc.

A. Fl.

fl. t.

B. Cl.

fl. t.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

mp

Vln.

arco

p

mf

Vla.

Vc.

accel.

196

199

♩ = c. 80

Piccolo

A. Fl.

f

B. Cl.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

ppp

p

Pno.

Vln.

f

p

arco

Vla.

p

Vc.

© Taja Astar

203

Picc.

B. Cl.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p

ff

Ped.

poco a poco accel.

208

fl. t.

mp

mf

© Taja Astar

213

Picc.

B. Cl.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

f *ff*

f

ff

Ped.

War. With a ferocious glee. The ears shut.
Blasting away on a trumpet dripping blood. Bull-mindedly.
♩ = c. 126

219 **221**

fl. t.

ff

mp

© Taja Astar

223

225

Picc.

B. Cl.

fl. t.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

3

3

Pno.

ff

Ped.

Ped.

Vln.

mf

f

arco

Vla.

mf

f

arco

gliss. sempre

Vc.

mf

f

227

Picc.

B. Cl.

tr

ff

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

3

3

3

Pno.

Ped.

Ped.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ff

© Taja Astar

231

233

Picc.

B. Cl.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ff

fl. t.

fff

3

Ped.

236

238

tr

© Taja Astar

241

242

Picc.

To Cl.

B. Cl.

fl. t.

fff

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

l.v. sempre

mf

Pno.

Ped.

Ped.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

246

To Fl.

poco a poco rit.

Picc.

Cl.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

ff

Pno.

Vln.

pp

Vla.

pp

p

Vc.

ppp

© Taja Astar

253 **Death. Not without sadness. With relief and solemn plea. With a hope for future.**

♩ = c. 52

Fl.

Cl.

Tub. B.

Tubular Bells

l.v. sempre

mf

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

pp

Ped.

Ped.

Vln.

mp

pp

Vla.

mp

pp

Vc.

pp

259

262

Fl.

Cl.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

p

Vln.

pp

Vla.

p

Vc.

mf

© Taja Astar

264

267

Fl.

Cl.

Clarinet in B♭

mf

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

mf

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

268

Fl.

mf

Cl.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

f

Ped.

Vln.

f

Vla.

f

Vc.

f

© Taja Astar

272

Fl.

Cl.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

275

Fl.

Cl.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

© Taja Astar

280

Fl.

Cl.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

mp

l.v.

ff

284

282

as piano as possible

as piano as possible

Tubular Bells

l.v. sempre

f

p

p

p

p

© Taja Astar

286

291 **Poco piu mosso**
short piano solo
(not conducted)

accel. molto

Fl.

Cl.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

sfz

sfz

mp

pedal held on

3 3 3 3

pp

Ped.

pp

pp

rit.

293

Fl.

Cl.

Tub. B.

Aux. Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ppp

Ped.

© Taja Astar