

### Roumania, Bucarest

### About the artist

http://www.voxnovus.com/composer/Serban\_Nichifor.htm

Born: August 25, 1954, in Bucharest, Romania

Married to Liana Alexandra, composer: http://www.free-scores.com/partitions\_gratuites\_lianaalexandra.htm#

### Studies

National University of Music, Bucharest, Doctor in Musicology Theology Faculty, University of Bucharest International courses of composition at Darmstadt, Weimar, Breukelen and Munchen USIA Stipendium (USA)

### **Present Position**

Professor at the National University of Music, Bucharest (Chamber Music Department); Member of UCMR (Romania), SABAM (Belgium), ECPMN (Holland) Vice-president of the ROMANIA-BELGIUM Association Cellist of the Duo INTERMEDIA and co-director of the NUOVA MUSICA CONSONANTE-LIVING MUSIC FOUNDATION INC.(U.S.A) Festival, with Liana ALEXANDRA

Selected Works

OPERA, SYMPHONIC, VOCAL-SYMPHONIC AND CONCERTANTE MUSIC:

Constellations for Ord Symphony I Shadows Cantata Sources (197	s (1980)				
Cantata Gloria Heroum Holocausti (1978)					
	(libretto by Mircea ÉLIADE,1981 (more online)				
Qualification:	PROFESSOR DOCTOR IN COMPOSITION AND MUSICOLOGY				
Personal web:	http://romania-on-line.net/whoswho/NichiforSerban.htm				
Associate:	SABAM - IPI code of the artist : I-000391194-0				

### About the piece

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Title:	CHALLENGER - Dedicated To America's Space Heroes				
Composer:	Nichifor, Serban				
Licence:	Copyright © Serban Nichifor				
Publisher:	Nichifor, Serban				
Instrumentation:	Electroacoustic				
Style:	Modern classical				
Comment:	Music dedicated Dedicated to America's Space Heroes Christa McAuliffe, Judith Resnick, Michael Smith, Francis Scobee, Gregory Jarvis, Ronald McNair and Ellison Onizuka.				

http://www.free-scores.com/Download-PDF-Sheet-Music-serbannichifor.htm

- Contact the artist
- Write feedback comments
- Share your MP3 recording
   Web page and online audio access with QR Code :



Pour le Projet IMEB - 1999:

"Le Monde devenu musique à l'écoute du siècle"

<u>CHALLENGER</u> - présentation -

CHALLENGER est une oeuvre électroacoustique dédiée aux héros de l'espace interplanétaire, aux astronautes américains qui se sont sacrifiés le 28-I-1986 sur l'autel de la science du XX-ème siècle: Christa McAuliffe, Judith Resnick, Michael Smith, Francis Scobee, Gregory Jarvis, Ronald McNair et Ellison Onizuka IN MEMORIAM.

Dans la perspective du temps, leur formidable courage devant la mort-leur acte vraiment martyrique, déterminé exclusivement par leur profonde croyance dans le progrès de notre civilisation signifie aussi une superbe victoire de l'esprit humain contre un destin apparemment implacable.

La bande est basée sur le dialogue original entre le centre de contrôle et le commandant Scobee - y compris les dernières répliques: - Scobee: "Challenger... Control program !"

	NASA	-	"Watch	your	own,	Challenge	r !!!
--	------	---	--------	------	------	-----------	-------

- NASA : "Challenger, go at throttle up !" - Scobee: "Roger, go at throttle up..."

Bucarest, le 8-III-1999

Dr. Serban NICHIFOR Str.Principatele Unite 2 Vila I, Ap. 7 70.512 Bucarest, Roumanie For "Ancera" Chamber Ensemble

Serban NICHIFOR

### CHALLENGER

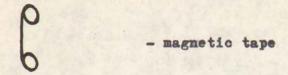
Libretto by Wictor MIRLADEANU

- C Flute + Piccele Flute + Medium Cymbal (essia Piccele Cymbal);
- Alto Saxophone (E b) + Great Cymbal (ossia Medium Cymbal);
- Trombone + Javanian tuned Gong in G (ossia Great Cymbal);
- Bass + Medium Triangle;
- Vibraphone + 4 Timpani (ad libitum) + Great Tam-tam (ossia Great Cymbal);

- Magnetic Tape.

Duration: cca 15'10"

### EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS



- within the given section, the rhythmic values need not be strictly observed (proportional section).

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- propertional writing (duration depends on the graphic distance).

- preportional writing



- the free repetition of musical sequence.



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# CHALLENGER

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And the second second

Librette: Victor BIRLADEANU Music: Serban MICHIFOR

Librette: Victor BIRLADEANU Music: Serban MICHIFOR

## CHALLENGER

The Players:

Francis SCOBEE (46, astronaut)
Michael SMITH (40, astronaut)
Renald MCNAIR (35, astronaut)
Judith RESNICK (37, astronaut)
Gregory JARVIS (41, astronaut)
Ellison ONIZUKA (39, astronaut)
Christa MCAULIFFE (37, astronaut)
Mrs. HALLEY (imaginary character)

NB - The voices of the players are to be prerecorded on magnetic tape (the tape should be mixed afterwards with the electronic music).

# TEXT "A" (~ 42") - Score: pages 3-5

SCOBEE (normal voice): I hope you've already fastened your belts, haven't you ? I don't want to lose you from the very beginning ! ONIZUKA (normal voice):Fuel tanks, ready, Dick ! CHRISTA (mormal voice): What a sensational feeling ! It's so different from the training room ! SMITH (normal voice): Flight imstruments working normally ! MCNAIR (normal voice): Astrophysical instruments in order, Dick ! JARVIS (normal voice): Checking the solid rocket boosters; they're all right. JUDITH (normal voice): Everything normal here, Dick ! SMITH (normal voice): Main engines ready. Do ve still have to wait, Dick ? SCOBEE (normal voice): Everything's all right, friends ! CHRISTA (normal voice): Let's take down some notes for the first lesson. The only joy of life is to start something. When this special feeling is missing, without knowing it, one is dying...

# INSERTION I (real sound track) - Score: page 5

NASA (voice from mission control): ... Four... three... twe... one...

# TEXT "A" (continuation - ~ 28") - Score: pages 6-7

ONIZUKA (normal voice): It's now ...

JARVIS (whispers): Time seems to be expanding so much during these seconds of waiting. Waiting for what, I wonder ? After all, time doesn't matter anymore up here, in space...

ONIZUKA (whispers): And this enermous cup we call the sky ! And these exquisite icicles we call stars !...

Mrs. HALLEY (whispers): You will all drown in this cup you admire so !

# INSERTION II (real sound track) - Score: page 7.

SCOBEE (normal voice): Challenger... Control program (: NASA (voice from mission control): Watch your own, Challenger :

### TEXT "B" (~ 75") - Score: pages 8-9

- JUDITH (whispers): When I was a little girl, my mother used to tell me a beautiful legend that her grandfather had heard from a famous rabbi in the small town in Romania. It said that our souls had come from the sky down a ladder: but then the ladder had been taken back and from those ancient times, we've been trying over and over to make another ladder like the one we had lost. Maybe that's what we, in our space flights, are doing: recreating the ladder.
- Mrs. HALLEY (whispers): Such a ladder can never be made again. Never, do you hear me ? But she deesn't and will go on with this crasy race towards newhere...
- MCNAIR (whispers): Every year, hundreds of stars blow up, sparkling for hours and days on end: their twinkle is much more vivid than usual, before vanishing into death and oblivion. Maybe our lives are just some supernovas meant to become black holes...
- Mrs. HALLEY (whispers): What feelish pride ! daring to compare himself to us, to these forming the immortal Universe. Had it been for nothing else, you would still have deserved the punishment that Universe and Chance together have prepared for you.
- ONIZUKA (whispers): Even if you try running faster and faster, your destinity is always on your trail. It's your own shadow...

Mrs. HALLEY (whispers) Right new, I'm your destiny !

## TEXT "C" (~ 52") - Seere: page 10-12

MCNAIR (normal voice): Hey, Dick, did you notice that pale light at the end of the fuel tanks ?

- 3 -

SNITH (normal voice): Something must be wrong, Dick ! The sounds... SCOBEE (normal voice): They say even herees are sometimes afraid. As a matter

- of fact, I've always preferred lucid fear to blind reasin... Mrs. HALLEY (whispers): It's coming near ! Didn't I tell you ? CHRISTA (normal voice) The lesson will remain unfinished. What a pity ! O Steve,
  - Scott, Caroline ! Your mother will never be buried in Concord, her ashes will fleat endlessly among the stars...
- JARVIS (normal voice): It's obvious, Dick: there's no hope left for us. Death ism't quite a merry thing, especially if it happens in space, where lately we've become accustomed to the triumph of life...
- Mrs. HALLEY (whispers): That triumph stops here... You've gone too far, you've tried to take my secrets away...

# INSERTION III (real sound track) - Score: page 12

NASA (voice from mission control): Challenger, go at throttle up : SCOMEE (normal voice): Roger, go at throttle up.

# TEXT "D" (~ 88") - Score: pages 13-16

ONIZURA (whispers): Si gu ru ru tu bi ni

Ire ia kasanaru...

... With every autumn rain

Grew the celeurs of life ....

MCNAIR (whispers): Our great-grandfather used to say: "Trust fire and the rest will be all right"... But what if fire itself burns you ?...

Swing Low. Sweet Chariot Gomin' for to carry me home ! I locked over Jordan and what did I see. Comin' for to carry my home ! A band of angels comin' after me. Comin' for to carry me home ! I'm sometimes up and sometimes down. Comin' for to carry me home !

But still my soul feels heavenly bound,

Comin' for to carry me home ;

JUDITE (whispers): Didn't I tell you ? I'll never die an old woman ! A wonderful post from that land where my grandparents came from said once: "I never thought I'd learn to die !"

....Shma Israel, Adonai Eleheinu, Adonai Ehad .... SCOBEE, SMITE, JARVIS, CHRISTA (whispers): ... Our Father whe art in Heav'n Halleved be Thy name, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in Meaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our treepasses. As we forgive these whe tresspass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil, For Thine is the kingdom. And the power, and the glory for

- 4 -

ever and ever. Amen.

NB - The underlined verses will be repeated and superposed until the explosion of the shuttle.



Percussionist Martin Kluger

# The man who's all alone with an ear to the drum

Before I started to ask Martin Kluger what kept him so busy, I wanted him to clarify a minor mystery.

I wanted to know exactly what he is doing when he puts his ear close to his kettledrum and taps the skin almost soundlessly without reference to the rhythm of the orchestra sounding around him. He lives in Somers, Conn., with his

He lives in Somers, Conn., with his wife Miriam and a large English sheepdog named Balley, and has been the timpanist for the Springfield Symphony Orchestra since 1979.

Of course, he is tuning the drum; everybody knows kettledrums don't just go boom, they play different pitches.

But how does he tune them while the orchestra is playing?

"It takes training to hear a good pitch out of the timpani," he said. "You have to concentrate. You have to know what to listen for because there are a lot of overtones, highs and lows, and there are even these things called non-harmonic overtones that are not pitches.

"There's noise in there, too, with the true pitches. Depending upon how you strike it, you get more of the noise or more of the noise. Then you have to be able to do it by ear when the orchestra is playing. "So if you know that the orchestra

"So if you know that the orchestra is playing in the key of C-major, for example, and you have to tune the notes B and F-sharp, you know that B is the note next to C and F-sharp is the note just below G, and you sort of hear C and G (in the orchestra) and make it (the drum) a half step lower.

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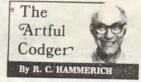
"You can get the pitch from the drum, too (if it's only one note away from the one you want), but it's better to get it from the orchestra because they're always changing the fine tuning. If the humidity changes, it affects the strings right away. Their pitch center is always changing. "Here's the kicker, though. You

have to do it and count rests at the same time.

"There's one thing you can never do, and that's rely on a conductor to point to you and say, 'Play now'." (The music on the stand has only the player's part; the rests are counted to know when to play again, and the conductor might be busy with someone else at that moment.)

"And you're all alone back there," he added. "If you make a mistake, everyone knows about it, and you can't turn to the second timpanist and say, "Where are we, Joe?"

Kluger is 29 with undergraduate and graduate degrees from Yale University, he also studied at the Juilliard School, Fontainebleau in France and Tanglewood, where he was winner of the C, D. Jackson Performance Prize. His wife is a psy-



chologist associated with Child and Family Services in Hartford, Conn.

Their home in Somers is about half way between Springfield (25 minutes) and Storrs, Conn., where he is on the faculty of the University of Connecticut.

Other faculties that engage his teaching skills are those at Springfield Community Music School, Westfield State College and Holyoke Community College.

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But sometimes his teaching schedule, crowded as it is, seems like moonlighting from his calendar of orchestra, recital and chamber music performances. And then there are the projects. He has just finished serving as one

He has just finished serving as one of the two instrumental members of the Springfield Orchestra's Music Director Search Committee and is deeply involved as organizer of the All New England Day of Percussion scheduled for April 27 from noon to 6:30 p.m. (plus a concert at 8) at Holyoke Community College.

The afternoon will be full of workshops for professional and student percussionists. Included will be sessions for jazz vibes, drum set, timpani, electronic drums (synthesizer), orchestral percussion, marching

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percussion (drum corps) and classical marimba.

Recently he was timpani soloist in a performance of a timpani concerto by the Holyoke College Civic Orchestra conducted by Peter Tanner.

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They played Georg Druschetzky's 18th-century "Partita in C for Six Timpani and Orchestra," a 10-minute, four-movement piece he says is "a little bit theatrical."

The kettledrums are tuned to G, A, B, C, D and E, and he says the sound is "mainly melodic. It's a challenge for one person to get to the drums on time."

"It's sort of like the Ringling Brothers when you bring all the elephants into the ring at once."

Perhaps his living room looks a bit like that. It's where he stores seven timpani, five bass drums, three drum sets, two xylophones, a vibraphone, a 10-foot marimba and a large collection of side drums, cymbals and odd and exotic percussive instruments like wood blocks, gourds, bells, hollowed out bamboo and wooden spoons.

"I went shopping before I bought this house," he said, "specifically for the size of the doors."

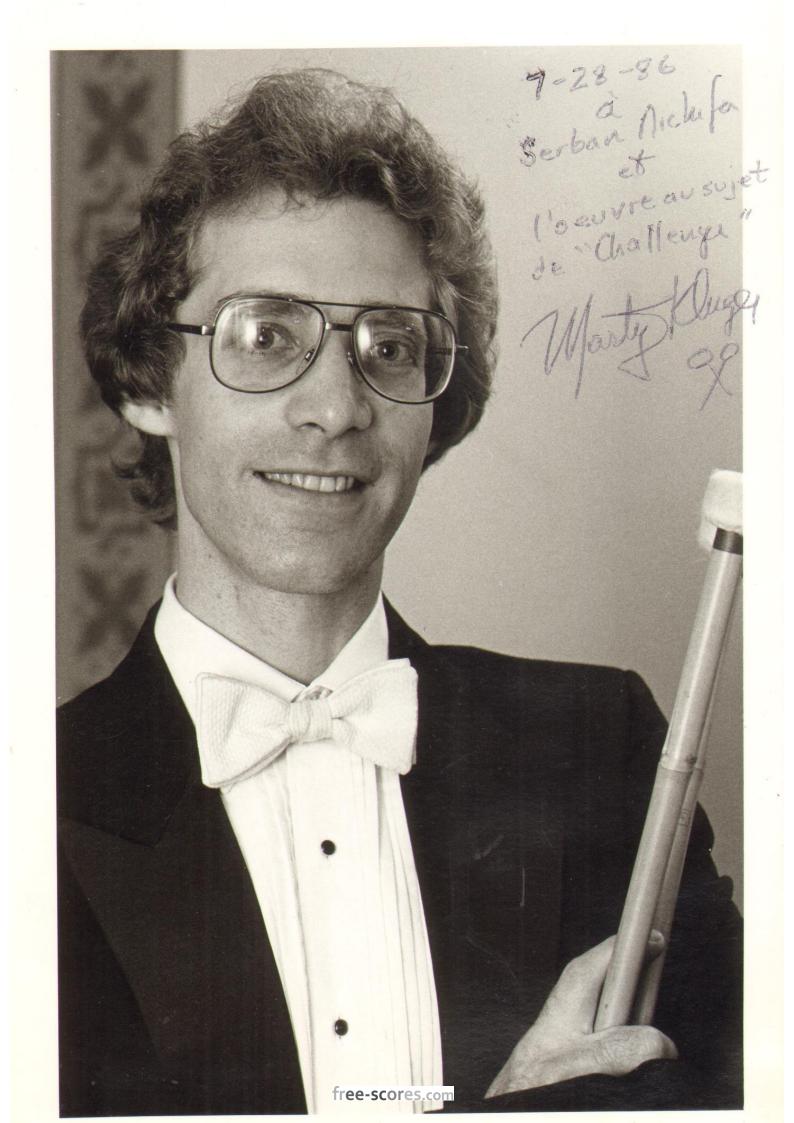
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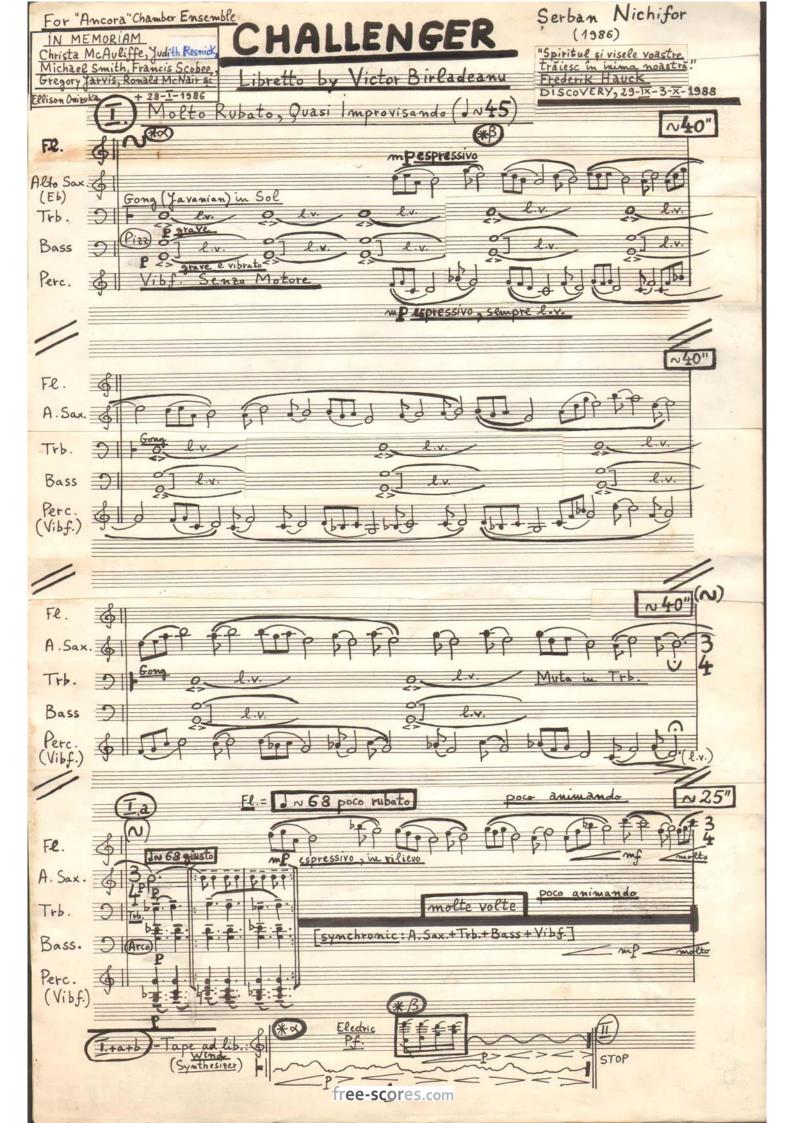
A contemporary music quintet, Ancora, of which he is a founding member, sometimes rehearses in his living room.

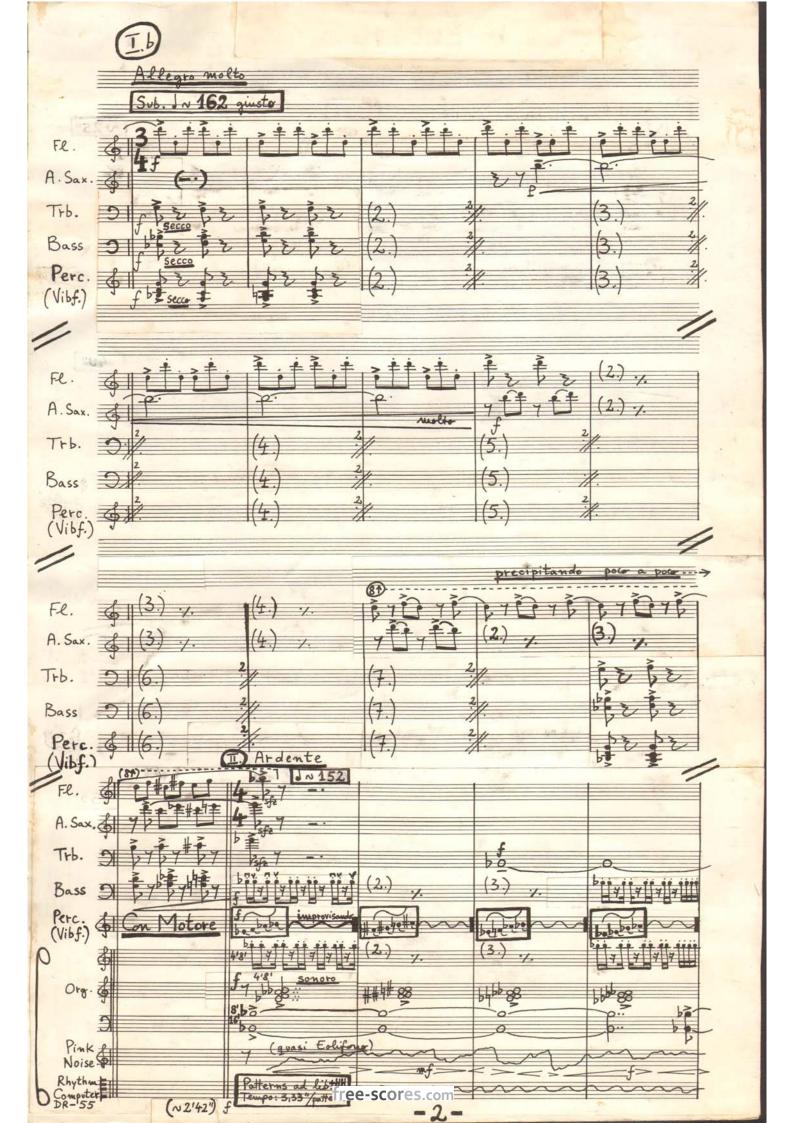
"We push the timpani to one side, and my wife goes into the bedroom with Bailey and won't come out until we're done — don't print that. The dog really wants to come out and meet everybody. She likes the music."

Recitals coming up soon on his performance calendar will be April 1 at the University of Connecticut and April 2 at Westfield State College, where he probably will be joined by Sal Macchia, a doublebass player also in Ancora and the Springfield orchestra.

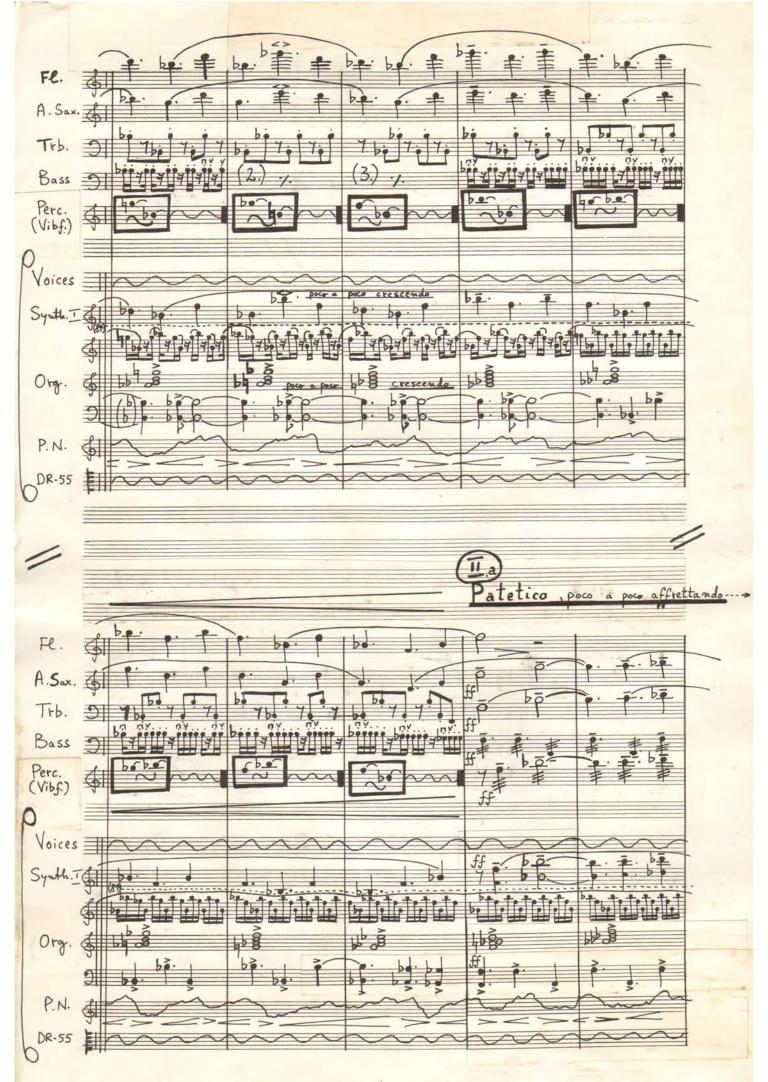
On April 8 he will participate in a performance that includes Bartok's Sonata for two pianos and percussion at Central Connecticut State College with members of the Hartt School of Music faculty.



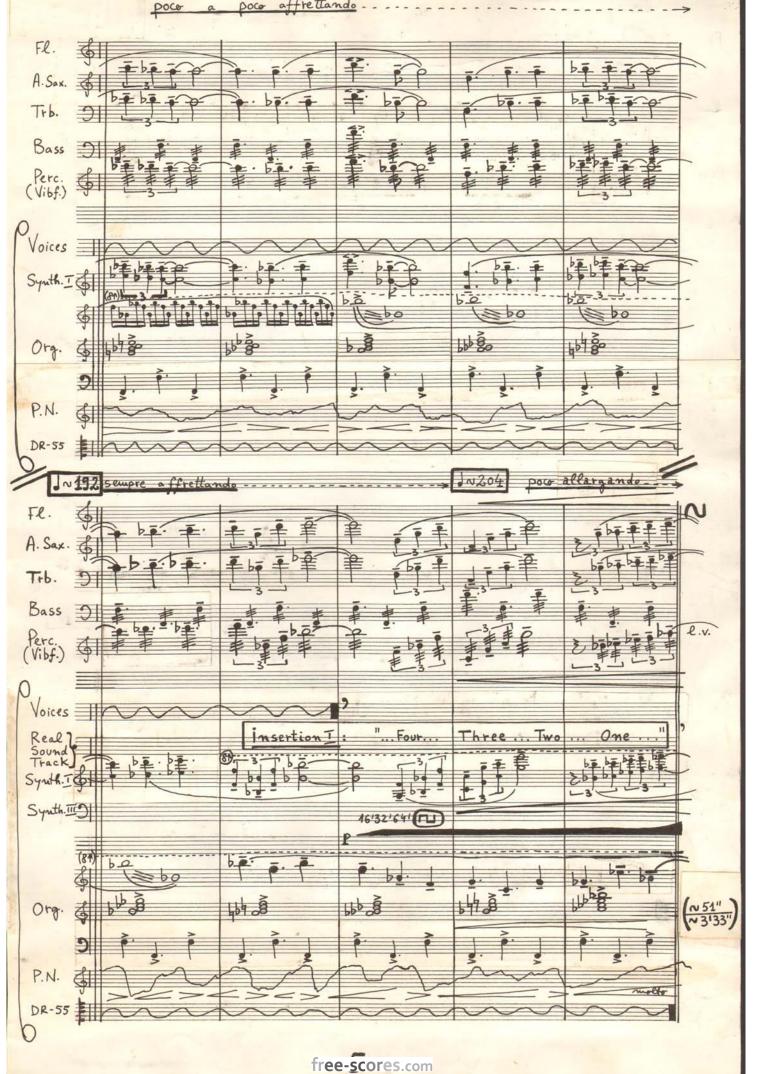






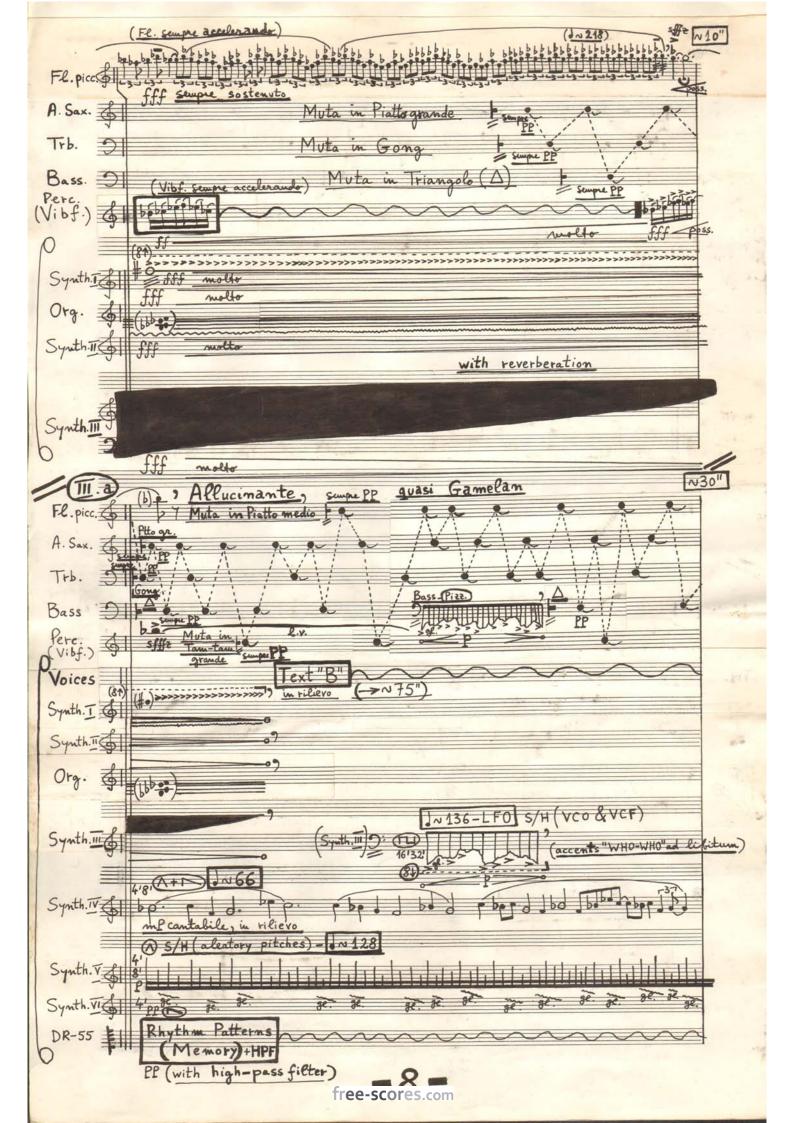


poco affrettando

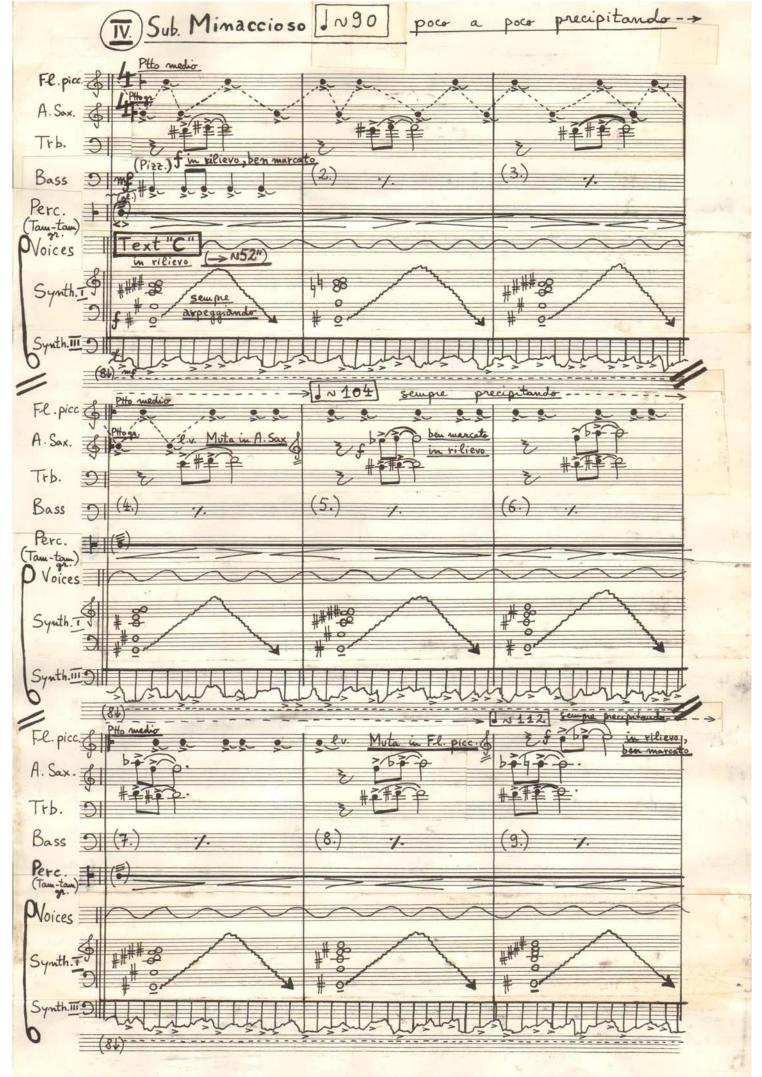


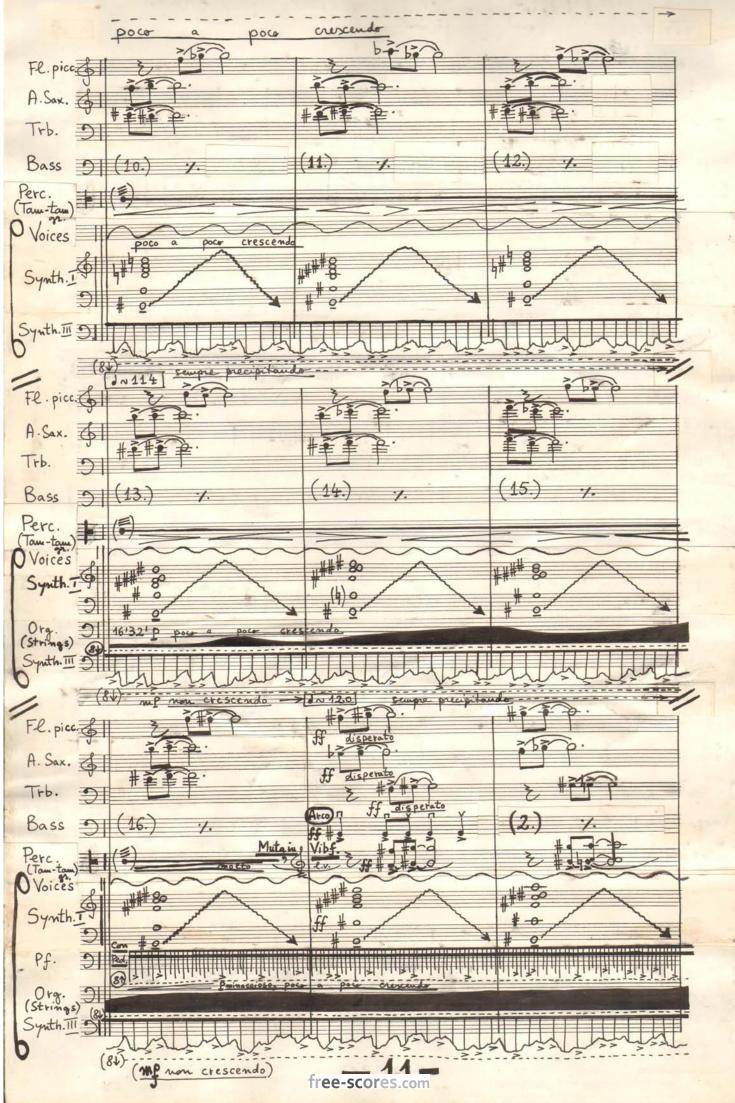
Sonoro 111. 1.78 N10" Poppop Muta in Fl. piccolo Fe. 6 tranquill contabile A. Sax. molto e D'bebeber Trb. 9 Lmpant Minaccioso (JN 96) 2\*(b.) - 76. \* (b.) 2 b b b 76 2 (60) Bass. Perc. (ibf. ossia (ibf. ossia) sterioso sub.ff ben mP fluido Text "A" (continuation) Voices 105 With reverberation >~28" Synth.It (quasi grido) pour a pro perdendosi Sffz p<ste>p crescendo pocer poce 0 6 Synth.III (81)--DA with reverberation sffz (quasi grido) Speed = ~ 10"/sine wafe ( CD ) Shift 61814121-Phase Org. 9 660 JP subito 9 sffe poco perdendos P.N. 0 with reverberation 4 ~ 10" (6)-F.e. pice. A. Sax. crescendo Doce a Poter Trb.+ DI Bass accelerande (accelerando) 62 bababababababa Timp. 9. ossia \$ Vibf. crescendo Poce a Voices = Synth. Total \$ (bb Org. Poto Synth. III Sempre cusando -0 free-scores.com

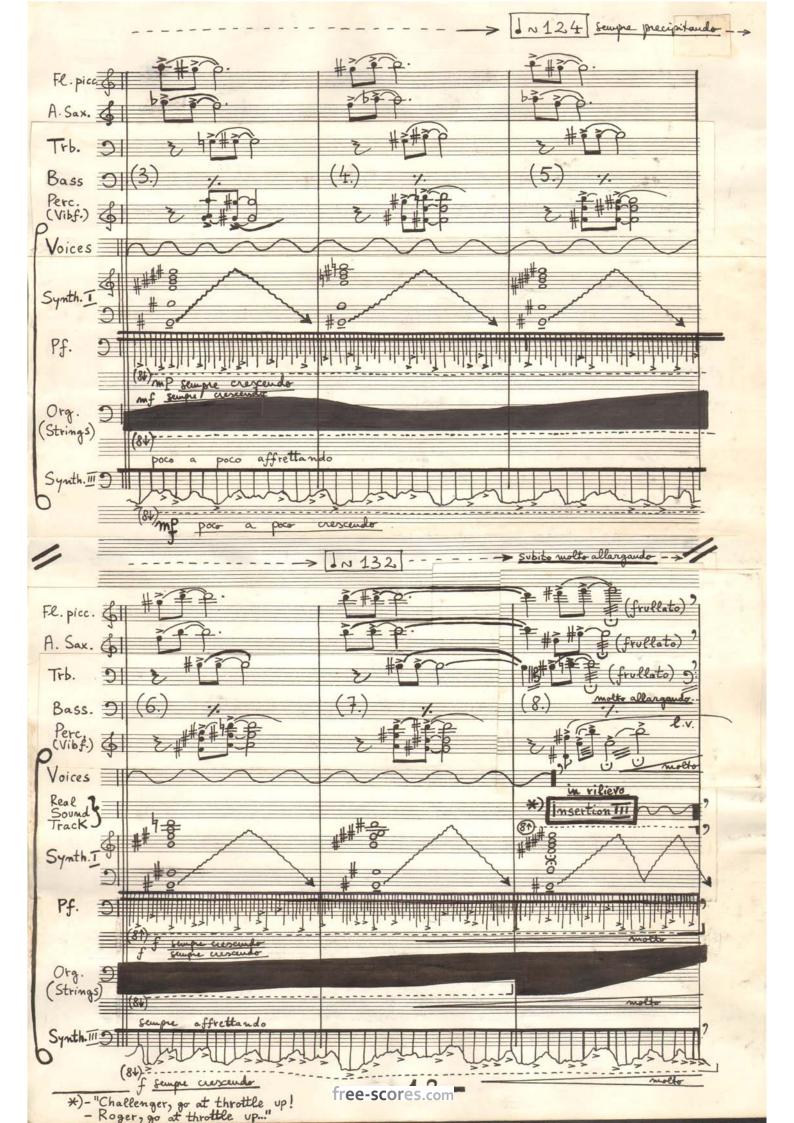
~ 10" bebe · b · · b · b · b · b · b · be be be be Fl. pice. A. Sax. ACTU Trb.+ 9 accelerando bà bà bà bà Timp. 2 ossia Sub.m Vibf. \$ fluido sempre cresce m Voices (81) .... Synth. I mf Pou DOL lisse 16' Synth. II of 6 sempre uscude Sump + 21 Synth.III J C Org. **9** O 660 ... crescendo summe m Fe. poor accelerando poco a ~ 10" b- be beb Fl. picc A. Sax. 9 Trb. Bass D Muta subito 63 T Timp. 9 ossia sub.mf ff ben marcato Diù P Vibf. 2 6 Voices Real Sound Track Insertion **X**) Π (81) Synth. IG crescure melt Org. 6600 Synth.TT 6 81 molto molto +4' Synth. TI 5 -\*)-"Challenger ... Control program! free-scores.com - Watch your own, Challenger !"



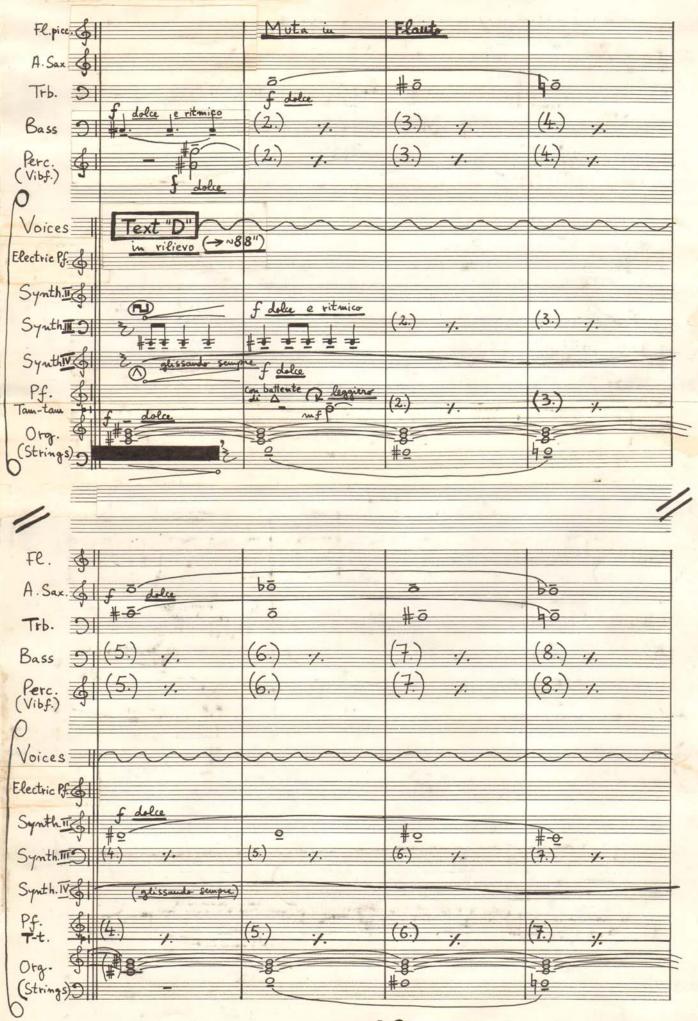








IVa) Sub. Pioso(JN84)





poce in rilievo f #++++ F.e. 511# 6 A. Sax. 50 5 50 #ō ō 50 -0 Trb. 9 11.) (12.) (10.) Bass 9 (9) 11.) Perc. \$ (12) (9. (10.) Voices Electric Pf. # #\*# -1.0 -6 Synth. II \$1 # 0 eco # 2 #-0 0 (10.) (11)Synth. III ) T-t. + (8. (8.) 9.) 1. % 1 (9) 1. 1 Synth. W (glissando scorpre) to in rilievot 4 Pf. E 1 S (#1)8 8 Org. 8 18 #0 10 2 (Strings) #1 #**ē**# É#P 6 Fe. 6 .6. 50 A. Sax. 50 #-0 #ō õ 10 Trb. DI Bass 3 (13.) 15. 16.) 14. Perc. \$ 16. Voices Electric Pf. Synth. II & #0 #0 0 #-9 Synth. III) (12. T-t. + (12. Synth. IV (13.) (13.) (<u>14.</u>) (<u>14.</u>) Į. 15.) 1/. 115. 1 % glissando sempre ¥=#= Pf. \$ 6 9 8 8 Org. 8 #0 40 0 (Strings)



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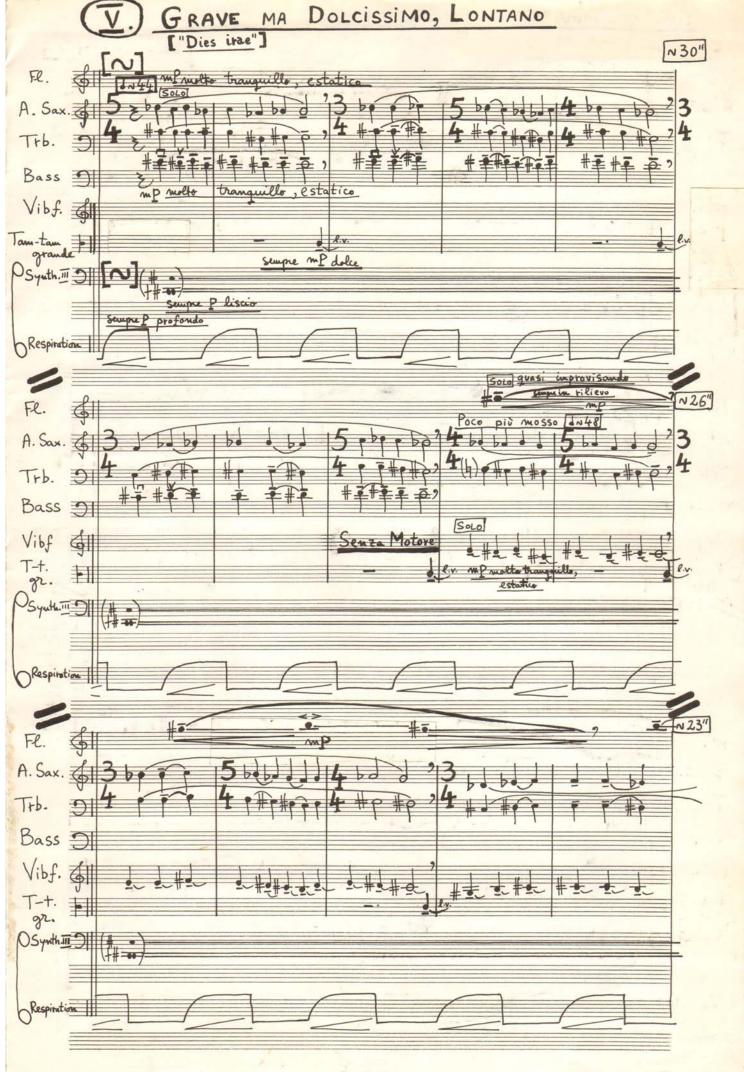
Solenne a tempo (JN 84) poco slentando ... #<u>ē</u> · #= #== \$1 # E. P Fe. ō bō A. Sax. bi 60 # p -0 #-#-P Trb. 31 Bass DI # .. #0 l.v. Perc. St 18.) 0 (17.) 1. Voices Electric Pf. -6 #p: 5 # 1 Synth. T # 0 #0 #-#-0 #= -0. 0 Synth. III ) #. \*\* \*\* . ++ #+ \* \* \* + # ?> Synth. IV ST. (glissando sempre) # 0 # # 0. EF. \* Pf. 6 26 ###\$\$ #10 ## # 9 5 **I** # 9 #P8 #-2 Org. #P # p (18.) (Strings) 0 (16.) (17.) % 1. 1. (--)# = #0 #==== #= 6 Fl. 重 bē \$ ŧ P bē A. Sax. #= #-P #==== (#)? #-0-O Trb. DI 5.) Bass 9 (2.) (4.)(3.)7. 1 7. #0 #=== # # ō-Perc. (Vibf.) l.v. l.v. l.v. lv. Voices = # Electric Pf. 6 D. Ð Synthing #0 (#) 0 #0 #-0 -0 (4.) 7. (5.) 3. (2. Synth. III) 1. # 5 # 0 Synth. IV #0 0 # 20 # 50 11年金 事圣 Ş Pf. 0 ## 4 CO ### 88 ### 80 \$ # # # Org. # 50 3 (Strings)



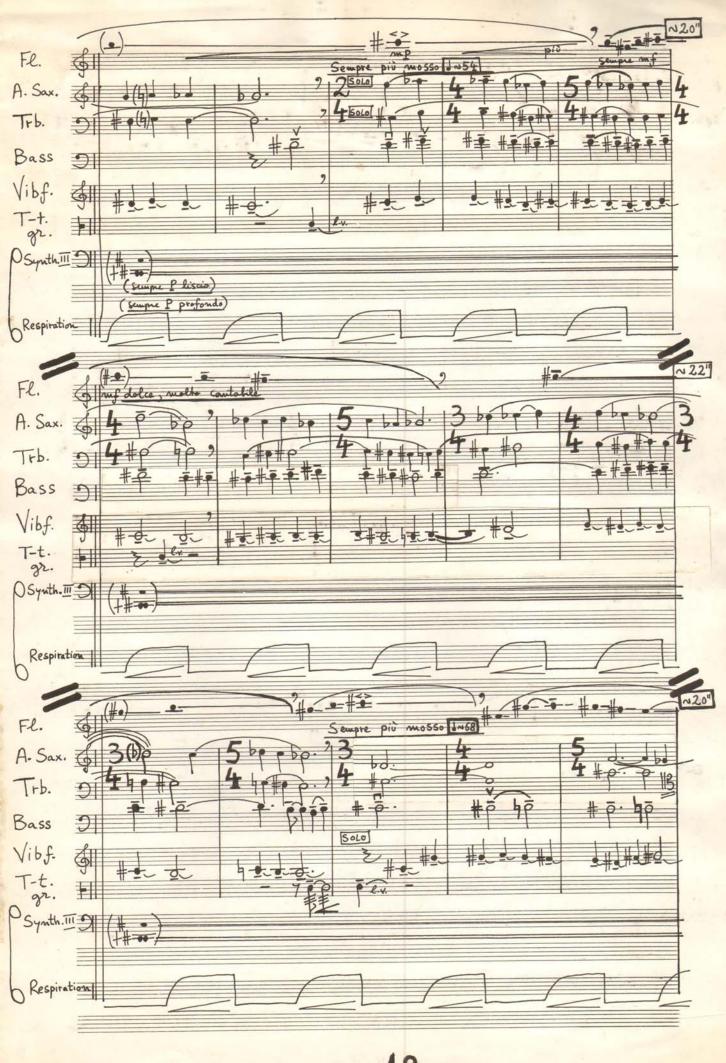
Frank to al #= iğill Fe. <u>#ē</u> #<u></u> り手 Ê f P 1 b-ōé A. Sax. #= += P #-P-1 (#)p P Trb. 🗩 (9) (8.) Bass (6.) (7) % # 0 #0 ō #ō Perc. l.v. l.v. l.v. R.v. 0 0. Voices I #0 ā #p. #p Electric Pf. (#)6 D. 0 # p. ## 8 = 8 ##8 Synth. T ## 8 8 ## 8 00 8 Synth. T #0 #0 #0 (#)-0 (8.)(7.) (9.) Synth. III ) (6. 1. #8 52 Synth. TV 10 #0 Pf. #100 # vqlo HA O 1000 V (Strings) ¥## 88 188 A # 4 2 #-0-#= ÷ GI Fe. bā-(6)-0 P 0 A. Sax. # 7 #-ō--0-Trb. 3 Bass 3 (10.) (11.)#. #0 #-ō Perc. e.v. l.v. Muta in Tam-tam Voices # #=== -0-P R.v. Electric Pf. 0 0 0 Synth. T & ## 8. ## 8. ## 8. = 8 8 8 Synth. II #p (11.)12.) Synth. 11 (10.) 1. 1. Synth.iv 10 0 ₽°∂ -0l.v. Pf. 4 0 0 0 Org. #-0--0-(Strings)

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~19" # -- -= #= \$TO 9 +. #0 Fl. -۶. b-0 - 60 Sola A.Sax. 5 bd 4 13 Soca # Trb. -0 -0-Bass 9 Vibf. SOLO \$ #-0-+. +-+ #0 ŧ 1= 0 T-t. gr. 1 OSynth III D ( Sempre P liscio) (Sempre P profondo) Respiration N19" -#---#+ (#-6 Fl. 4 A. Sax. 4 TFb. 9 V Bass D Vibf. ₫ SOLO #0 40 #. # \* 4 # #= -0: ----T-t. OSyuthum SI (# -Respiration N21" #\_\_\_ #= -Fe. 6 allargando A. Sax. 3 Ttb. # Bass D Vibf. -+ + - - + + -0 0. 0 0 T-t. 重 Osynth. Respiration

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