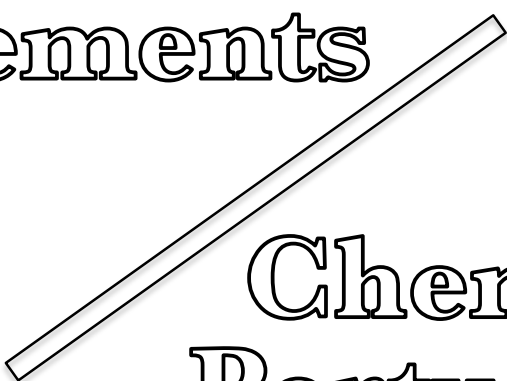


Scott Allen Miller

Punctuated
Movements



Chemins
Perturbés

for
solo violin

and
ensemble

Score in C

2021

Stonemill Art Publishing

Punctuated Movements / Chemins Perturbé

Program Note

Considered on its own, “Punctuated Movements” is a virtuosic and narrative work for solo violin. Three uninterrupted sections juxtapose jagged, uncertain rhythms with sustained—sometimes static—melodies. Lightweight music is at turns direct and allusive; weighty passages display degrees of forcefulness and gentleness. “Chemins Perturbé” (Disturbed Paths)—for flute, clarinet, guitar, mezzo-soprano, violin, and viola—takes the former work as its foundation, adding a layer of commentary to the unaccompanied violin music: the violin part for both pieces is identical (though occasionally re-notated).

The title and spirit of *Chemins Perturbé* pays homage to Luciano Berio’s *Chemins* series for variously sized ensembles which expand his solo *Sequenze*. I similarly treat the original solo work (composed with no thought to later adaptations or expansions) as a ‘text’ upon which the ensemble provides ‘commentary.’ Certain features of the violin’s music are highlighted, and new meaning is given to passages thrown into relief against contrasting material. Harmonic sonorities are extended, registral contrasts exaggerated, rhythmic patterns are reflected through canons, ascents rise higher, and descents dive lower. In some sense, *Chemins Perturbé* is an interpretation of “Punctuated Movements,” but like all interpretations it asserts itself as a new text in its own right. Sometimes the original violin part is heard clearly, like a quotation or paraphrase, and sometimes it is supported with clarifying, elucidating accompaniment. But just as often, the violin is a single voice among many, weaving into a fabric of ideas, or is buried in the texture, effectively expunged from the musical narrative.

Taken together, I hope *Punctuated Movements / Chemins Perturbé* will suggest new ways of listening and inspire us to think about the ambiguous space between interpretation and creation.

Contained (within):
Commentary on a Commentary

Chemins Perturbé contains two compositions in one. First is a work for solo violin, “Punctuated Movements,” upon which is composed *Chemins Perturbé*, a work of instrumental commentary in which the entire violin solo is just one of six ensemble parts. Both works are fully contained compositions, but the latter compliments, extends, and amplifies the solo piece, so that they may be performed separately or as a two-movement work: first the solo, then the ensemble.

“Punctuated Movements” was composed while reflecting on the musical relevance of Rudolph Laban’s movement analysis, specifically the “effort actions,” a system which attempts to describe physical movements on three continua: *time* (sudden-sustained); *space* (direct-indirect); and *weight*: (heavy-light)¹. The solo (originally conceived for viola) began as a preliminary sketch for choreographer Kathryn Alter; a collaborative exploration as we worked towards a larger project. I soon recognized “points for potential growth” in the piece that inspired me to compose *Chemins Perturbé* in the manner of Luciano Berio’s “musical commentary,” which David Osmond-Smith defines as “the use, as a compositional starting-point, of a complete and self-sufficient musical work”². In particular, the title and spirit of *Chemins Perturbé* is drawn from Berio’s *Chemins* series, which he based on the solo *Sequenze*, and as such should be understood as a (newly) self-contained work in which all ensemble members have an equal role to play.

Performing the compositions together presents the listener with the unique opportunity of hearing a complete musical work (“Punctuated Movements”) in a completely new context, an experience which blurs the line between a provisional and final piece. As Osmond-Smith writes, a work of musical commentary “question[s] the finality and internal inevitability so readily attributed to the individual work... It chooses rather to emphasize the degree to which a ‘finished’ piece may be so only by virtue of a partly arbitrary set of decisions on the composer’s part, for whose reversal the *Chemins* series allows ample opportunity.”³ Even though “Punctuated Movements” is complete (and remains so), it becomes provisional when *Chemins Perturbé* is heard; a self-contained work is revealed to contain within it the latent potential for completely new works. By recognizing these sounds as simultaneously finished and provisional, I hope this piece encourages a liminal mode of listening that finds meaning from both statuses.

Scott Allen Miller

¹ “NYU Movement Research Group.” Accessed January 28, 2022.

<https://nyumovement.org/projects/lma/intro.html>.

² Osmond-Smith, David. “Berio and the Art of Commentary.” *The Musical Times* 116, no. 1592 (1975): 871–72.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/959202>.

³ *Ibid.*, 872

Performance Notes for Chemins Perturbés

Winds



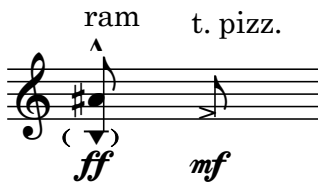
Winds: double and triple tongue / Strings: double and triple stroke
Articulate two or three short notes as fast as possible *on the beat*. Indicated with two and three staccato marks, respectively.

Flute



Multiphononic: pitches are approximate.
The player is free to make the necessary adjustments.
Reference: <http://flute.fingerings.info/fingering.php?fingering=41014&foot=B&splitE=both¬es=C%235%26G%235>

flute only: multiphononic (reh D) tongue ram, tongue pizz, harmonic



Tongue ram: "thunk" producing a sound a major 7th below the written note.
Tongue pizz.: (or "slap") sounding as written

Clarinet



Multiphononic: should produce a gentle 'pad' effect; pitches are approximate. The player is free to make the necessary adjustments.
Reference: #173 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGEISD-yUfU&list=PLmfneUUbbSoWymRUOtR4lYgoAoQxe66rh&index=3>

Viola



Viola: ricochet bowing: with bouncing bow, clearly articulate three, five, or seven notes, as indicated by staccato marks.

Punctuated Movements

I. Punctuated

Scott A. Miller

♩ = 66

Violin

f tenuto, heavily

p espressivo, richly

no vib. → fast vib.

mf *p* *mp* *pp*

II. Equilibrium

♩ = c.60 Unmetered

no vib. → fast, narrow → no vib.

pp sotto voce, delicatly

p *pp*

25 *mp* (louder) *pp* *f*

13:10 5:4 3:2 5:4

I II I I

II I II III II II

Metered ($\text{♩} = \text{c.60}$)

27 *pp* *sfz pp* (no cresc.)

13:10 5:4 5 7 3

III. Efference

30 $\text{♩} = 120$ Driving, intense ($\text{♩} = 180$)

ff sempre

36 ($\text{♩} = 120$) *f* *ff*

41 ($\text{♩} = 150$) ($\text{♩} = 120$) *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f*

48 *ff* *f*

53 *ff* *f* (detaché)

[illegible]

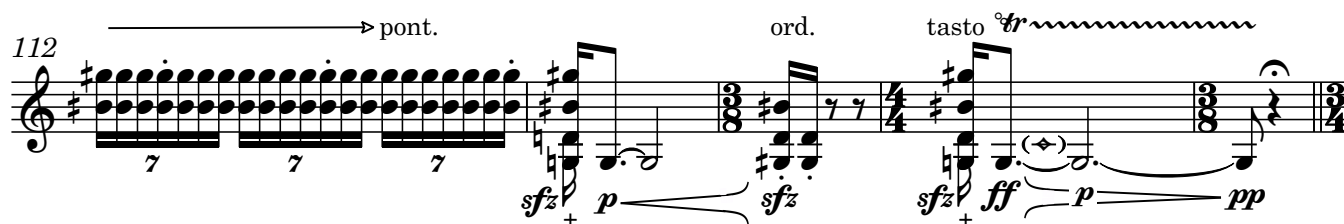
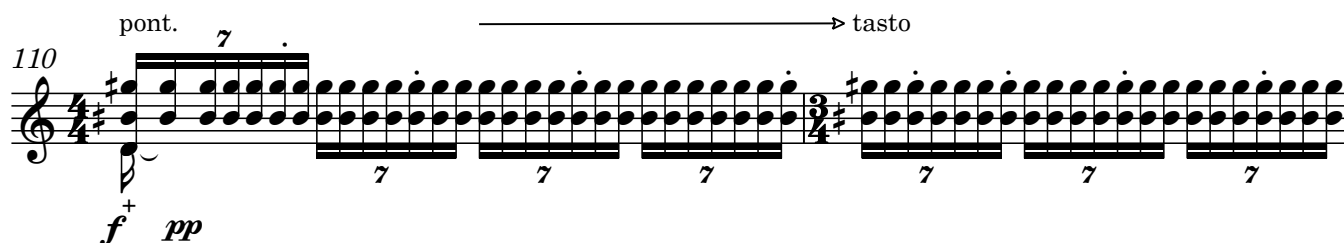
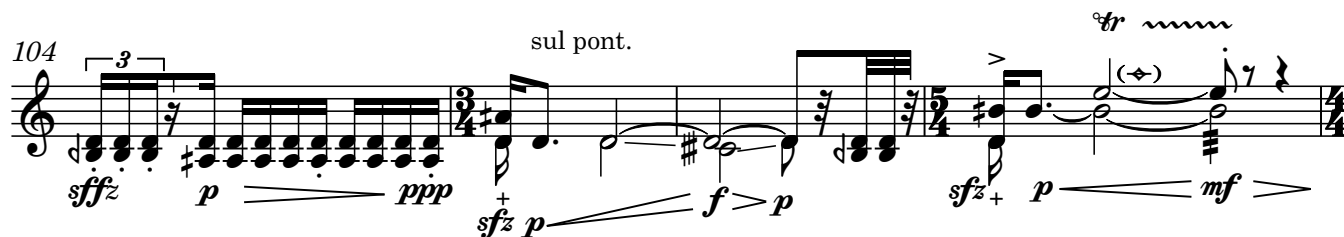
A Tempo
(♩ = 80) accel. (♩ = 140) (♩ = 80) 7



A Tempo
(♩ = 80) accel. (♩ = 140) (♩ = 80) 7



(♩ = c.60) ♩ = 80



♩ = 120

117 ord. *ff*

Musical staff 117-122. Key signature: one sharp (F#). Time signature: 2/4. The staff contains six measures. Measure 117 starts with a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 118 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest. Measure 119 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, with a triplet of eighth notes (F#4, G#4, A4) above it. Measure 120 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *f*. Measure 121 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest. Measure 122 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest.

123

(♩ = 150) (♩ = 120)

Musical staff 123-128. Key signature: one sharp (F#). Time signature: 2/4. The staff contains six measures. Measure 123 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 124 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 125 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 126 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 127 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 128 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*.

129

(♩ = 150) (♩ = 120) (♩ = 150)

Musical staff 129-133. Key signature: one sharp (F#). Time signature: 2/4. The staff contains five measures. Measure 129 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 130 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 131 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 132 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 133 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*.

134

(♩ = 120)

Musical staff 134-139. Key signature: one sharp (F#). Time signature: 2/4. The staff contains six measures. Measure 134 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 135 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 136 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 137 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 138 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 139 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*.

140

(♩ = 150)

f *ff*

Musical staff 140-144. Key signature: one sharp (F#). Time signature: 2/4. The staff contains five measures. Measure 140 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 141 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 142 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 143 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 144 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*.

145

p *ff* *pp*

Musical staff 145-147. Key signature: one sharp (F#). Time signature: 2/4. The staff contains three measures. Measure 145 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *p*. Measure 146 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 147 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *pp*.

148

ff *p* *f*

Musical staff 148-151. Key signature: one sharp (F#). Time signature: 2/4. The staff contains four measures. Measure 148 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *ff*. Measure 149 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *p*. Measure 150 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *f*. Measure 151 has a half note F#4 and a quarter rest, marked *f*.

B

10

Fl. *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *pp* *p*

Cl. *ff* *mf* *pp* *p pos.* *gently* *mf* *p pos.*

Gtr. *mf* *ppp*

M-S. *pp* *mf* *pp* *p* *p*
[u] [o] [u]

B

Vln. *p* *p espressivo, richly*

Vla. *ff* *mf* *p* *overpressure "crunch"* *tasto* *pont.* *mf* *ppp*

16

Fl. *mf*

Cl. *f* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *f* *p* *mf*

Gtr. *mf* *f*

M-S. *p* *mf subito* *p* *mf*
[a] [o] [a] [u] [e]

Vln. *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*
no fast
(ord. vib.) vib. vib.

Vla. *ff* *mf* *ppp* *ff* *ff* *mf* *ppp*
o.p. "crunch" *tasto* *pont.* *o.p.* *pont.* *tasto* *mute off*

23 **C** ♩ = c.60 Unmetered

Fl. *f* wait for cue from viola 50% air *pp* wait for cue from viola 50% air *ppp*

Cl. *f* wait for cue from viola 50% air *pppp* wait for cue from viola 50% air *ppp*

Gtr. *f*

M-S. *f* wait for winds; enter imperceptibly *p pos.* [m]

Vln. **C** ♩ = c.60 Unmetered
no vib. *pp sotto voce, delicatly* fast, narrow vib.

Vla. *sul pont. V* *pppp airy* 3 *sul tasto, flautando pont. V (detaché)* *ppp* *ppp airy* 3 *ric.* *tasto, flaut.* *pp*

24 wait for cue from viola 50% air *pp* wait for cue from viola 50% air *pp* *ppp* *p* faster, with Cl. ♩ = c.80

Cl. *pp* wait for cue from viola 50% air *pp* *ppp* *p* faster, with Fl. ♩ = c.80

Gtr. *pp* *ppp* *p*

M-S. follow viola; rhythms are approximations *pp* *pp* *ppp* *p* *pp*
[ð] [m] [m] [ð] [m] [z] [m] [ə] [ð] [v] [z] [v] [ə]

Vln. fast, wide vib. no vib.

Vla. *pont.* *tasto flaut.* *pont.* *tasto flaut.* *pont.* *pont.* *tasto* *pont.*
pp airy 3 *p* *pp* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p*

D $\text{♩} = \text{c.60}$

25

Fl. *mf* *mp* *p pos.* *pp* *p lyrical*

Cl. *mf* *mp* *pp* *p* *pp* *mf p*

Gtr. *mf*

M-S. *mf*

D $\text{♩} = \text{c.60}$
warm vib.

Vln. *pp* *p* *pp*

Vla. *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *mp > pp* *mp > pp*

tongue pizz. *3*

multiphonic:
Th 1 2 3 | tr2 D#

tasto molto vib.

ord.

13:10¹ 5:4¹

II I

29

Fl. *mf* *mf* *fp* *mp* *pp* *mf* *mf*

Cl. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p*

Gtr. *p* *pp* *pp* *p* *pp* *pp* *mf* *mp*

M-S. *pp* *p* *3* *3* *3* *pp* *p* *3* *3* *3* *pp*

[ə] [i] [y] [i] [y] [i] [y] [i] [ə] [i] [y] [i] [y] [i] [y] [i] [c]

Vln. *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *mp (louder)*

Vla. *sfz pp* *ord.* *pont.* *ord.* *pont.* *sfz pp*

III I

pont.

ord.

pont.

ord.

pont.

ram 3

37

Fl. *ff* *f* *ppp* *pppp* *(pppp)*

Cl. *f* *pp* 90% air

Gtr. *f* *ff*

M.S. *pp* [m]

Vln. *sfz pp* *ff sempre* (no cresc.)

Vla. *sffz* *mp* *pp* *p* *pp* *arco, ord.*

E (♩ = c.60) **F** ♩ = 120 Driving, intense

43

(♩ = 180) (♩ = 120)

G (double tongue)

Fl. *ff* *pp* *fff* *p no vib.* *ff p*

Cl. *mf* (balance with flute) *f* (double tongue) *ff*

Gtr. *p* *f* XII

M-S. *p* *mp* *p* *f* *p*
[m] [n] [œ] [n]

Vln. *f* **G**

Vla. (ord.) → pont. ord. → pont. ord. → pont. ord. →
mf pp *mf pp* *f* *pp*

50

(♩ = 150) (♩ = 120)

Fl. flutter flutter *f* *p* *mp*

Cl. *pp* *sfz* *p* *mf airy* *pp subito* *ff* *f* *p* *mp*

Gtr. VII IX IX *f pos.* *f* *f pos.* *ff* *f*

M-S. *f (p)* *f* *mp*
[œ] [n] [œ] [œ] [ε] [ε]

Vln. *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f*

Vla. pont. ord. → pont. ord. *f pp* *f*

58

H

Fl.

Cl.

Gtr.

M.S.

Vln.

Vla.

pp

f

f

p

f

p

mp

ffp

f pos.

mf

ff

mf

f

f

mf

ff

mp dolce

ff

f

ff

[α]

[c]

[δ]

[δ]

[c]

[α]

74 $\text{♩} = 120$ $\text{♩} = 80$ **J** no vib. (subito)

Fl. *mf* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *poco cresc.*

Cl. *mf* *p* *pp* airy *mf* (match voice)

Gtr. *f* *p* *mf* *f* *mp*

M-S. *p* *mf* (match clarinet)

Vln. $\text{♩} = 120$ $\text{♩} = 80$ **J** ord.

Vla. *pp* *no cresc.* *mf* *pp* *f* *mf*

81

Fl. *fp* *f* *pp* *f*

Cl. *mf* *f* *fp*

Gtr. *f* *mp* *f*

M-S. *p* *f*

Vln. *7* *7* *7* *7* *7*

Vla. (ord.) *f* *mf* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *ord.*

[o] [u] [e]

[illegible]

(no vib.)

normal warm vibrato

L

97

Fl.

Cl.

Gtr.

M-S.

Vln.

Vla.

pp *p pos.* *f* *p* *fp* *f* *mp* *fp*

f *ppp* *f* *mp* *f*

[u] → [o] [to] [to] [tu] [v] [e]

ord. 7 7 7 7

f (detaché)

ord.

pont.

p *pp* *f* *sffz* *fp* *mp* *sffz* *fp* (pont.)

103

Fl.

Cl.

Gtr.

M-S.

Vln.

Vla.

f *fp* *mf* *ff* *mf* *mp* *pp* *f* *f*

f *mf* *mp* *pp* *f*

[ki] [e] [v] [v] [v] [v] [f]

accel. asynchronously with ensemble

with ensemble (in time ♩ = 80)

accel. asynch.

ord.

f *fp*

no vib. (subito)

116

Fl.

Cl.

Gtr.

M.S.

Vln.

Vla.

f

p sub.

acc. asynch.

7

molto rit. with violin

molto rit. with flute

fff

Repeat in tempo ($\text{♩} = 80$) with guitar and voice. Do not slow down with violin and flute.

Repeat in tempo ($\text{♩} = 80$) with clarinet and voice. Do not slow down with violin and flute.

Repeat in tempo ($\text{♩} = 80$) with clarinet and guitar. Do not slow down with violin and flute.

stop abruptly on violin's last note

stop abruptly on violin's last note

stop abruptly on violin's last note

($\text{♩} = \text{c.}40$)

[v] [v] [v] [v] [v] [v]

[ð] [ə] [ð] [ə]

with ensemble (in time $\text{♩} = 80$)

M ♩ = 80 Mechanically

122

Fl. Fluidly

Cl. *f-p-* gently *p pos.* *mf*

Gtr. *f* *mf*

M-S. *pp* *mf* *p* *pp* *mf p* *f* *f p* *mp*

[z] t p t k t [ð] k p t k t [ə] [z] t p t [v] t f k [ð] [ə] [n] → [ə] → [n] [ə] [n] → [ə]

M ♩ = 80 Mechanically

Vln. *pp* *sfz* *p* *ppp* *sfz* *p* *f* *p* *sfz* *p* *mf*

pizz. *pp* *sfz* *p* *sfz* *sfz*

sul pont. Fluidly

Vla. *pp* *sfz* *p* *sfz* *sfz*

127

N Mechanically

Fl. *mf* *p* *ff* *pp*

Cl. *p pos.* *p* *mp*

Gtr. *f pos.* *p* ③ palm mute

M-S. *ff* *pp*

[e] [z] t p t [v] k f t [ð] p t f k [θ] t [ə]

N Mechanically

ord. 11:7 (ord.) 11:7

Vln. *pp*

arco *p* *ff* *p* *pizz.* *p* *arco* *p*

Vla. *p* *ff* *p* *pizz.* *p* *arco* *p*

131

Fl. *pp* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf*

Cl. *mp* *pp* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf*

Gtr. palm mute *p* *mp* *p* *f*

M-S.

Vln. *f* *pp* *tasto* *ord.* *p* *mp* *p* *f*

Vla. *ff* *pp* *ord.* *p* *mp* *p* *f*

134

jet whistle

Fl. *sfz* *jet* *pp* *mf* *gently*

Cl. *f* *f > pp* *f* *p pos.* *mf* *p* *gently*

Gtr.

M-S. *f* *p* *mp* *f* *mf*

[a] [n] → [a] [e] [o]

Vln. *ord.* *tasto* *sfz* *p* *sfz* *ff* *p* *pp*

Vla. *pizz.* *ff* *pp* *arco, tasto* *f* *ppp* *mp* *fp < f* *sfz* *f > mf* *sfz* *f*

o.p. "crunch" *ord.* *o.p.* *ord.* *mf*

141 $\text{♩} = 120$

Fl. *pp* *mf* *p* *f* *p* *f* *gently* *mf*

Cl. *mf* *p pos.* *mf*

Gtr. *ff* *f*

M-S. *mf* *f* *mf* *ff* 5

[u] [o] [o] [z] t p [v] k

148 $\text{♩} = 120$

ord. *ff* *f* *ff* *f*

Vln. *ff* *f* *ff* *f*

Vla. *f* *ff* *f*

148 $\text{♩} = 150$ $\text{♩} = 120$ $\text{♩} = 150$

Fl. *p* *mf*

Cl. *p pos.* *mf*

Gtr. *mf*

M-S. *mf* *ff* 5

[ð] p t [z] t p [v] k [ð] [o] [z] t p [v] k [ð] p t

Vln. *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

155 (♩ = 120) (♩ = 150) (♩ = 120)

Fl. *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Cl. *mf* *f*

Gtr. *ff* *f*

M.S. [z] t p [v] k [ò] p f t [z] t p [v] k [ò] [o]

Vln. *pont.* *ord.* *pont.* *ord.*

Vla. *mf* *p* *f* *ff* *mf* *fz* *f*

162

Fl. *mf* *ff* *f* *ff*

Cl. *mf* *ff* *f* *ff*

Gtr. *ff* *f* *p* *f* *ff*

M.S. [e]

Vln. *pont.* *ord.*

Vla. *mf* *ff* *mf* *f*

