Serban NICHIFOR

CHALLENGER

Librette by Victor MIRLADEANU

- C Flute + Piccele Flute + Medium Cymbal (essia Piccele Cymbal);
- Alto Saxophone (E b) + Great Cymbal (ossia Medium Cymbal);
- Trombone + Javaniam tuned Geng in G (essia 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

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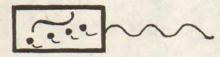
- magnetic tape

N

- within the given section, the rhythmic values need not be strictly observed (proportional section).
- e ee e
- proportional writing (duration depends on the graphic distance).



- prepertienal writing



- the free repetition of musical sequence.



- cluster

Scrisă la solicitarea ansamblului de muzică contemporană "Ancora" din Statela Unite ale Americii, unde urmează să fie prezentată în curînd, această muzică este inspirată de o tulburătoare piesă a poetului și dramaturgului Vivtor BIRLADEANU și reprezintă un omagiu adresat eroilor ce și-au dedicat viața progresului Umanității, în spiritul nobilelor idealuri de Pace și fraternitate universală.

Imbinînd sonoritățile tradiționale ale Flautului, Saxofonului,

Trombonului, Contrabasului și Percuției cu cele sintetizate electronic,
dar și cu vocea umană în ipostaza ei ebișnuită, parlando, lucrarea continuă
unele experimente electro-acustice pe care le inițiasem în opera
"Domnișoara Christina". Integrarea textului literar în evoluția fluxului
muzical propriu-zis are astfel semnificația unei Mierofanii, emisia
parlando a vocii revelînd noi perspective în contextul unei imagini muzicale
construite cu tehnica anamorfozei menexe pe care am utilizat-o în muzicale
majoritatea lucrărilor mele.

In realizarea poemului "PRO HUMANITATE", deosebit de important a fost si ajutorul acordat cu generozitate de Teatrul Mic condus de scriitorul Dinu SARARU, cu concursul projector actorilor Maria PLOAE, Rodica MIHAESCU, Nicolae ILTESCU, Florin MEDELENI, Florin CALINESCU, Constantin BARBULESCU și Petre MORARU.

Pentru mine, această muzică marchează încheierea unei etape componistice în sensul evoluției publice propriu-zise. De aceea, doreșc cu această ocazie să mulțumesc tuturor interpreților care m-au onorat cu ajutorul lor atît de prețios și în mod special membrilor formației "Musica Nova", acești minunați artiști care sînt: violonistul și dirijorul Mircea OPREANU, flautistul Gabriel ȚAPLIGA, saxofonistul Ion NEBELCIU, trombonistul Alexandru DANCI, contrabasistul Ion GHIȚA și percuștionista Viorica CIURILA.

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

Durée: ca 6'45" (AUDIOCASSETTE STEREO, PARTIE

A

Bucarest, le 8-III-1999

Dr. Serban NICHIFOR Str.Principatele Unite 2 Vila I, Ap. 7 70.512 Bucarest, Roumanie

CHALLENGER

Librette: Victor BIRLADEANU Music: Serban MICHIFOR

For "Ancera" Chamber Ensemble

Librette: Victor BIRLADEANU Music: Serban BICHIFOR

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 den't want to lose you from the very beginning !

ONIZUKA (normal voice): Fuel tanks, ready, Dick !

CHRISTA (normal 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 we still have to wait, Dick ?

SCOEEE (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 (veice frem missien centrel): ... Feur... three... twe... ene...

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

OBIZUKA (nermal veice): It's new ...

JARVIS (whispers): Time seems to be expanding so much during these seconds of waiting. Waiting for what, I wender ? After all, time doesn't matter anymere 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

SCOBER (nermal veice): Challenger... Centrel pregram :
NASA (veice from mission centrel): Watch your own, Challenger :

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

- JUDITH (whispers): When I was a little girl, my mether used to tell me a beautiful legend that her grandfather had heard from a famous rabbi in the small town in Remania. It said that our souls had come from the sky down a ladder: but then the ladder had been taken back and from these ancient times, we've been trying ever and ever 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 doesn't and will go on with this crasy race towards nowhere...
- 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 those 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. HALDEY (whispers) Right new, I'm your destiny !

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

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

SMITH (normal voice): Something must be wrong, Dick ! The sounds ...

SCOBER (normal voice): They say even heroes 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 lessem will remain unfinished. What a pity ! O Steve, Scott, Caroline ! Your mether will never be buried in Concord, her ashes will fleat endlessly among the stars...

JARVIS (normal veice): It's ebvious, Dick: there's no hope left for us. Beath isn'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 steps 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 ! SCOREE (normal voice): Reger, go at throttle up.

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

OMIZUMA (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

Gemin' for to carry me home !

I looked ever Jordan and what did I see.

Comin' for to carry my home !

A band of angels comin' after me.

Cemin' for to carry me home !

I'm semetimes up and semetimes dewn,

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 poet from that land where my grandparents came from
said once: "I never thought I'd learn to die !"

Adonai Eloheinu,
Adonai Ehad...

SCOBEE, SMITE, JARVIS, CHRISTA (whispers):

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in Reaven.

And fergive us our treepasses. As we fergive these who treespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil

And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil,

For Thine is the kingdom, And the power, and the glory for

ever and ever, Amen,

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

Only the strong fall from the heights...

SCOBER, SMITH, JARVIS, CHRISTA (whispers):

What hours are for eternity ...

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CHALLENGER

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... Swing Low. Sweet Chariot

Comin' 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,

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...Shma Israel,
Adonai Eloheinu,
Adonai Ehad...

SCOBEE, SMITH, JARVIS, CHRISTA (whispers):

... Our Father who art in Heav'n Hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it
is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our treepasses. As we forgive these who treespass 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

ever and ever, Amen.

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A.

...O. deer killed on the peaks !

Only the streng fall from the heights...

SCOBEE, SMITH, JARVIS, CHRISTA (whispers):

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Percussionist Martin Kluger

lepublican photo by Ruben Perez

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.

sounding around him.

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

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 note or more of the noise. Then you have to be able to do it by ear when the orchestra is playing.

when the orchestra is playing.
"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.

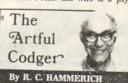
"Here's the kicker, though. You

"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 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 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.

7-28-86 à nichtor Serban Aichtor l'o euvre au sujet de Challenge Marty Dugg

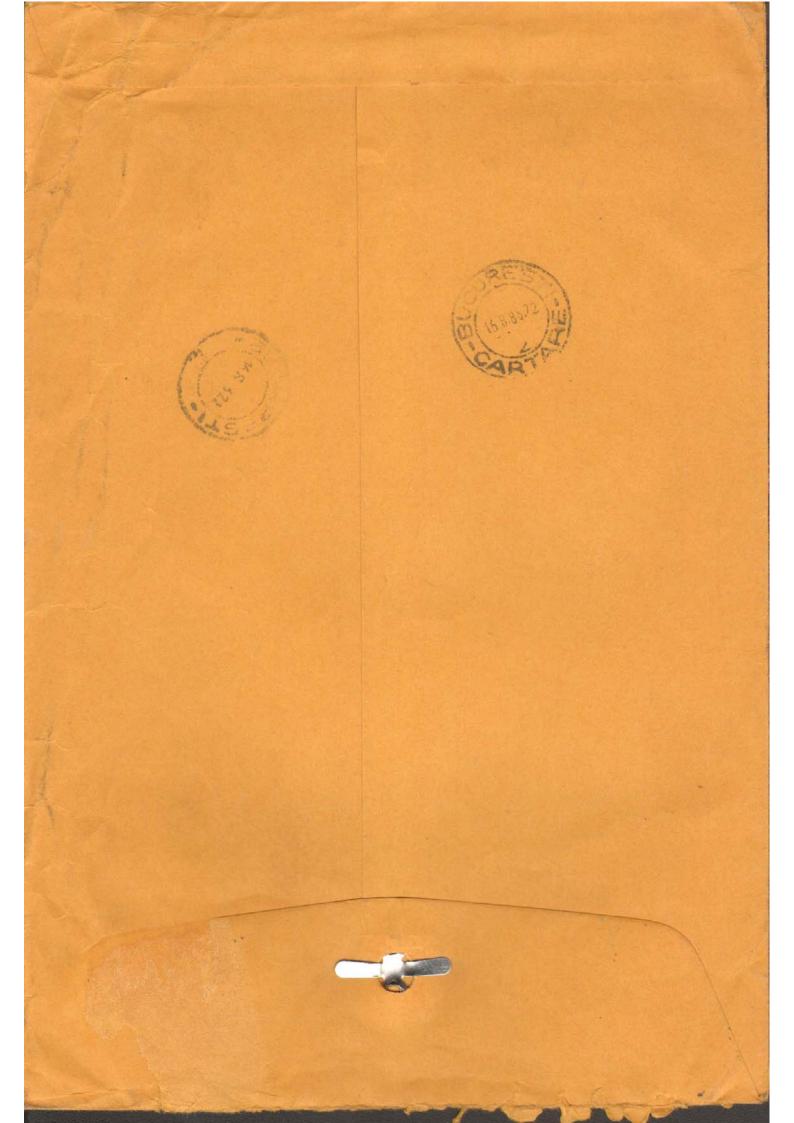
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Serban Nichifor Str. Principatele Unite 2 Vila I, Ap. 7 Vila I, Ap. 7 70.512 Bucarest

KOMANIA





Serban Nichifor Str. Principatele Unite 2 Vila I, Ap. 7 70,512 Bucharest

ROMANIA

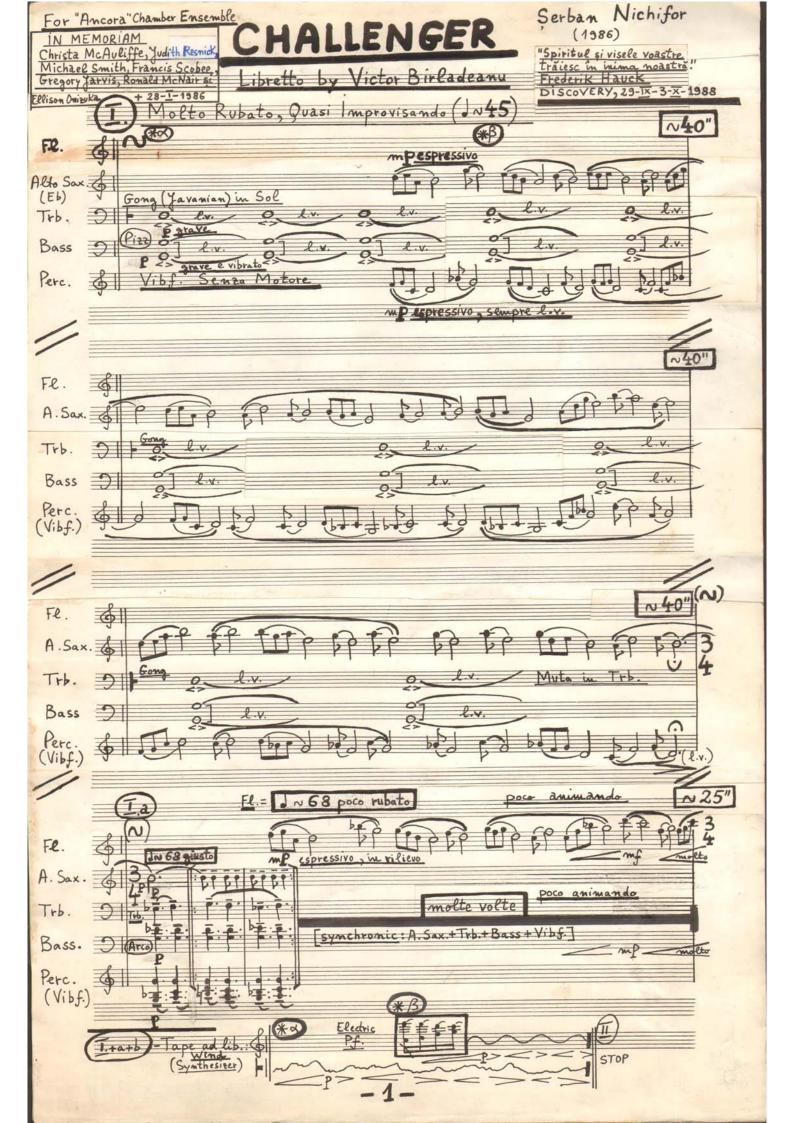
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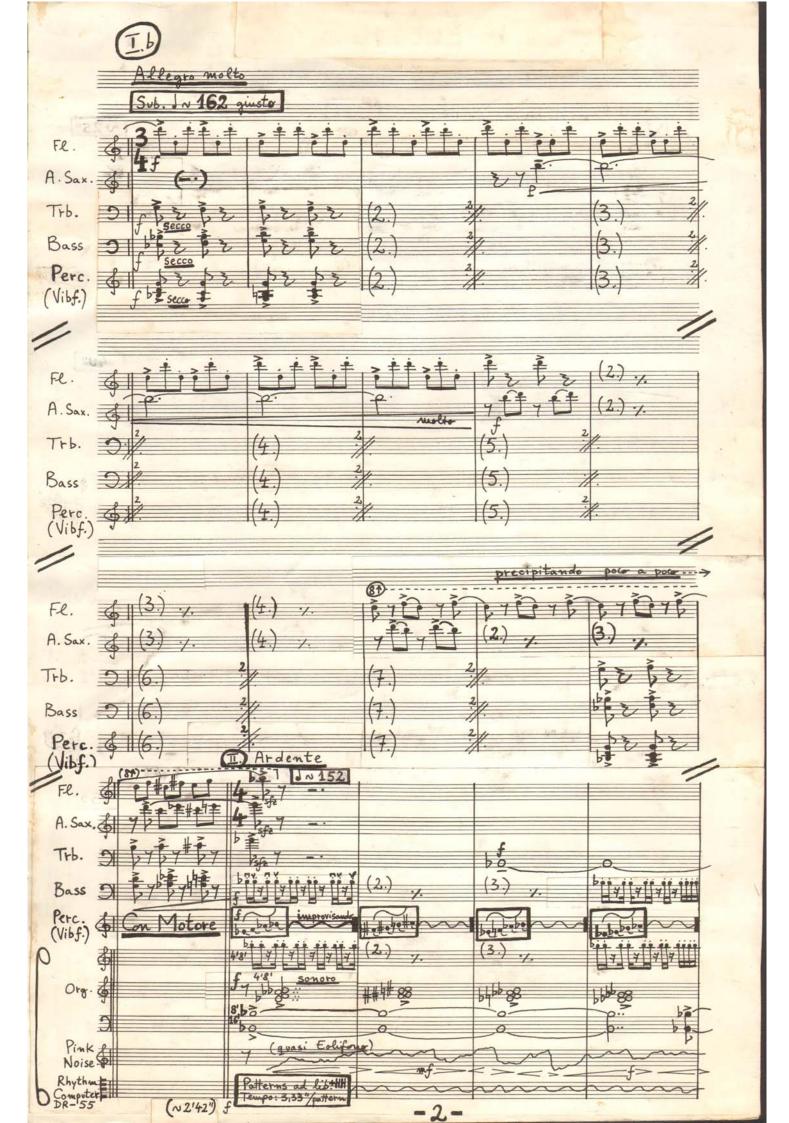




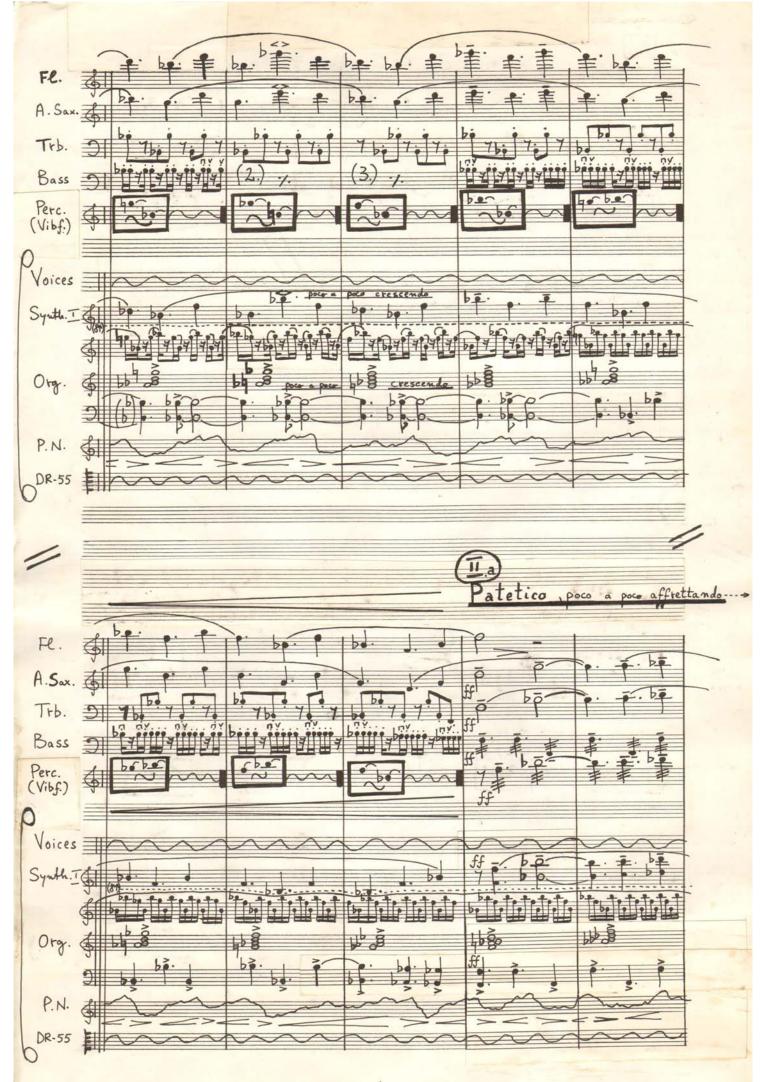
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70.512 Bucarest, Roumanie

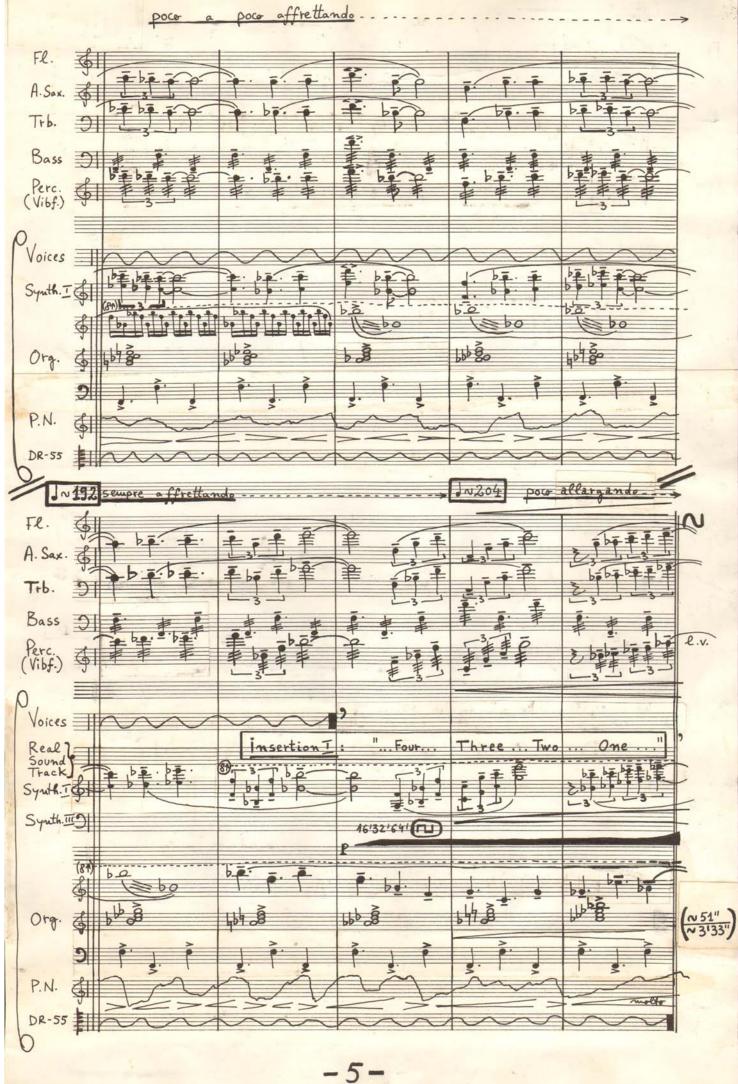


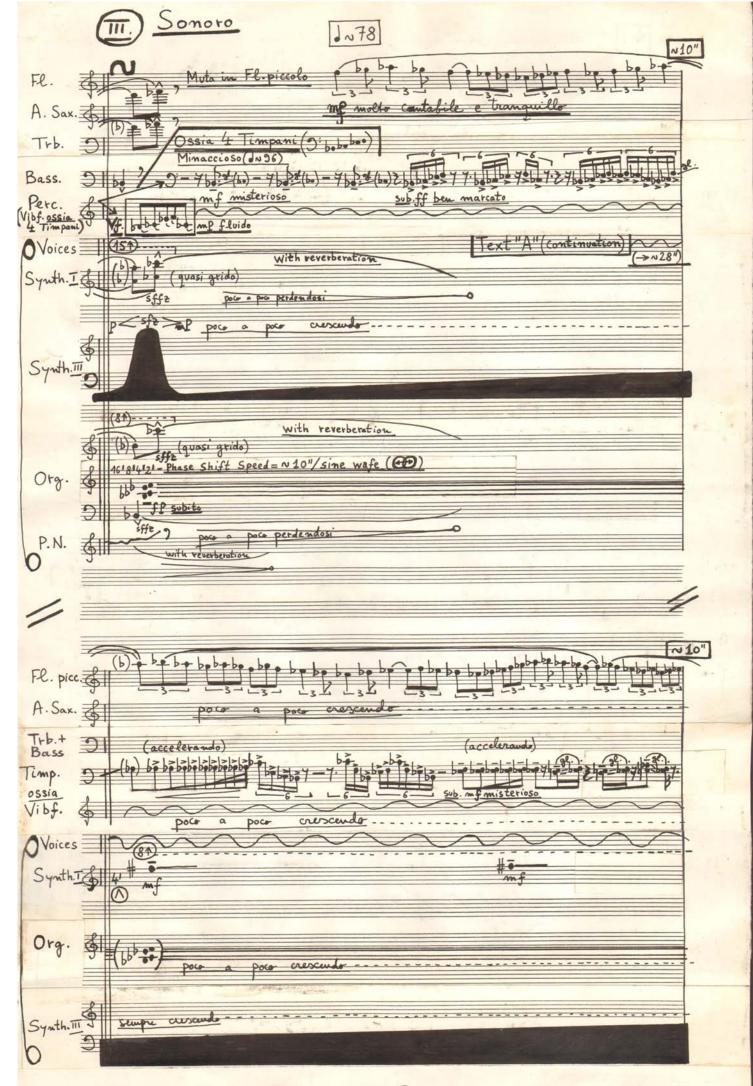


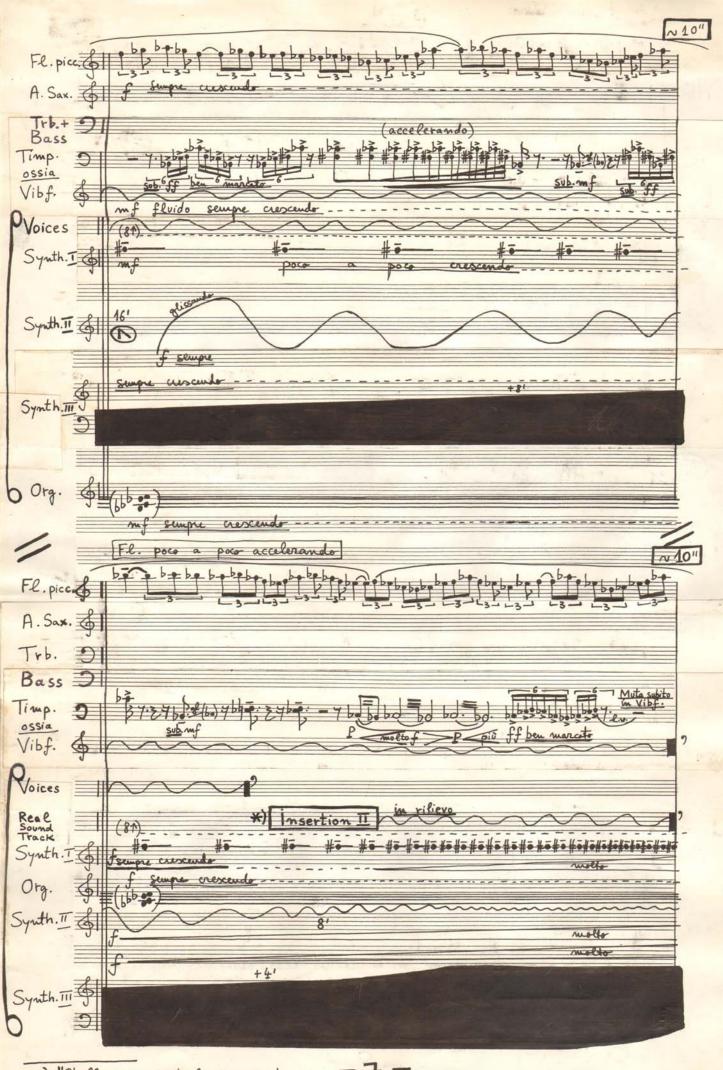




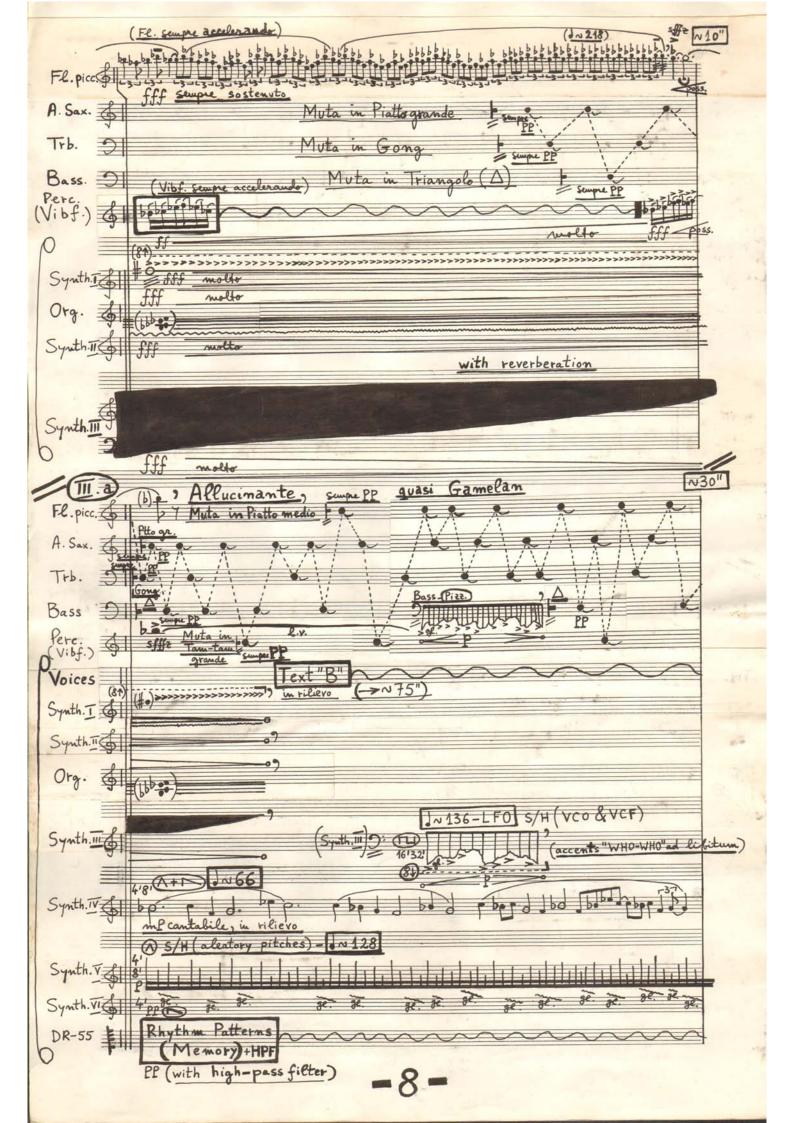




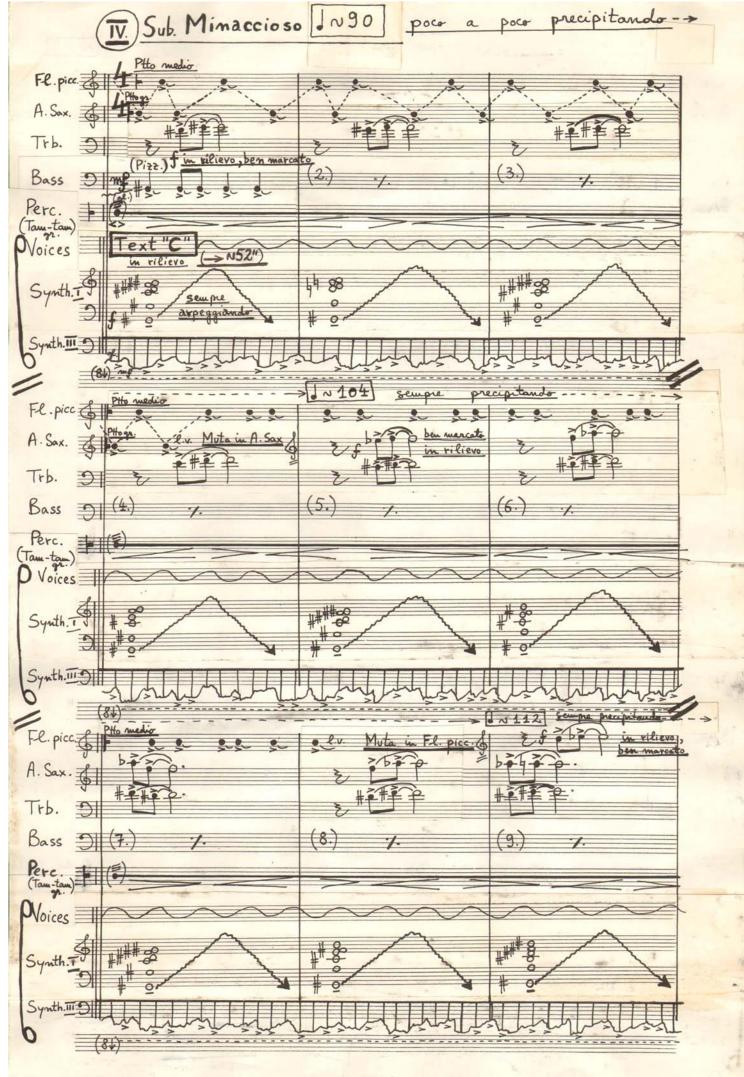


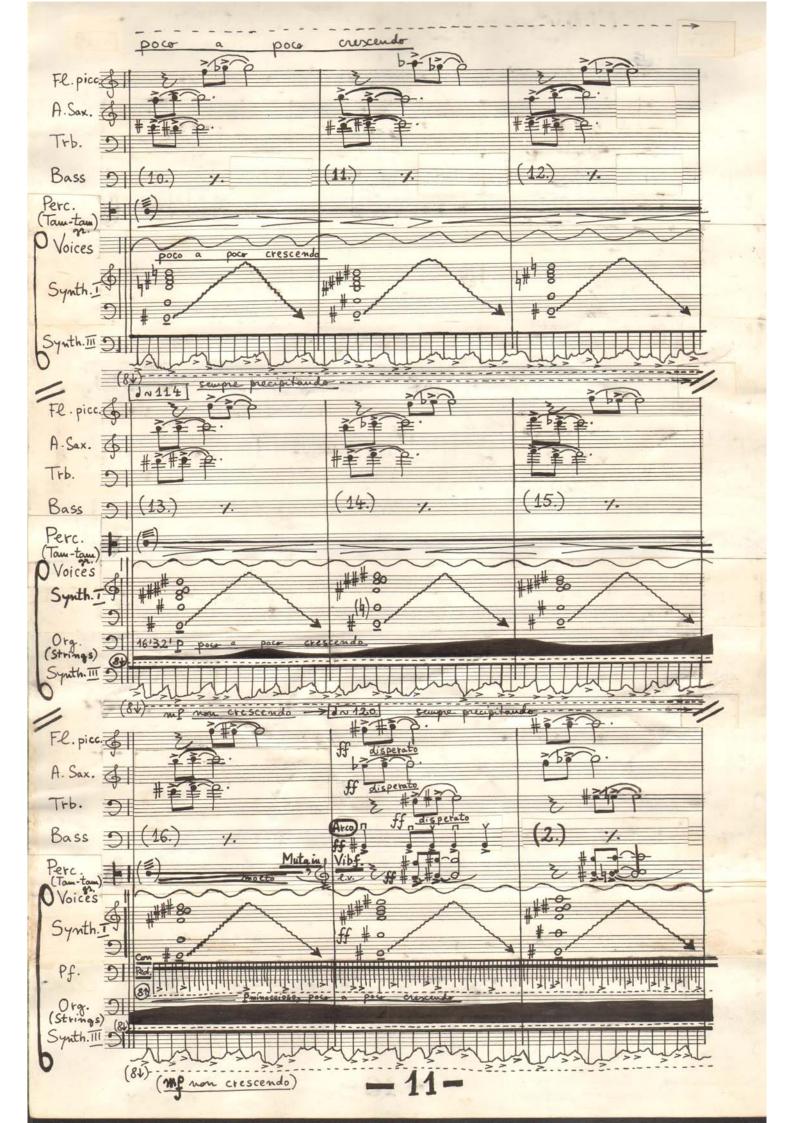


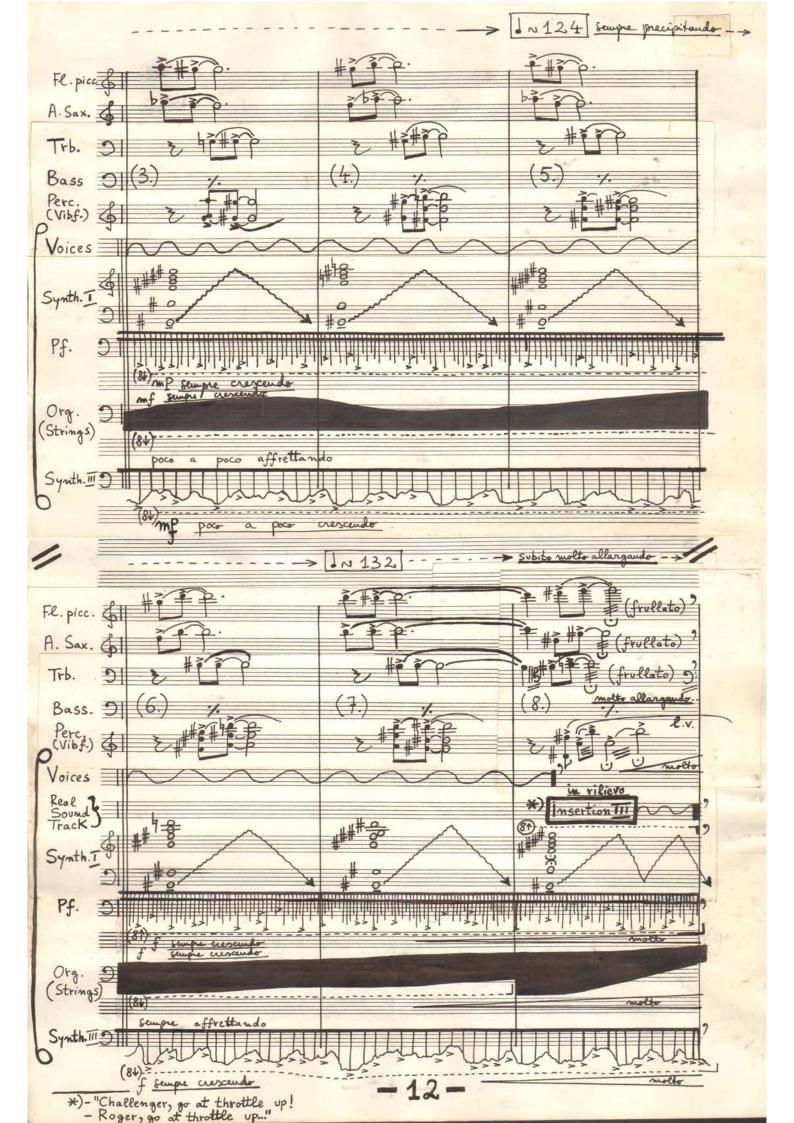
^{*)-&}quot;Challenger... Control program!
- Watch your own, Challenger!"

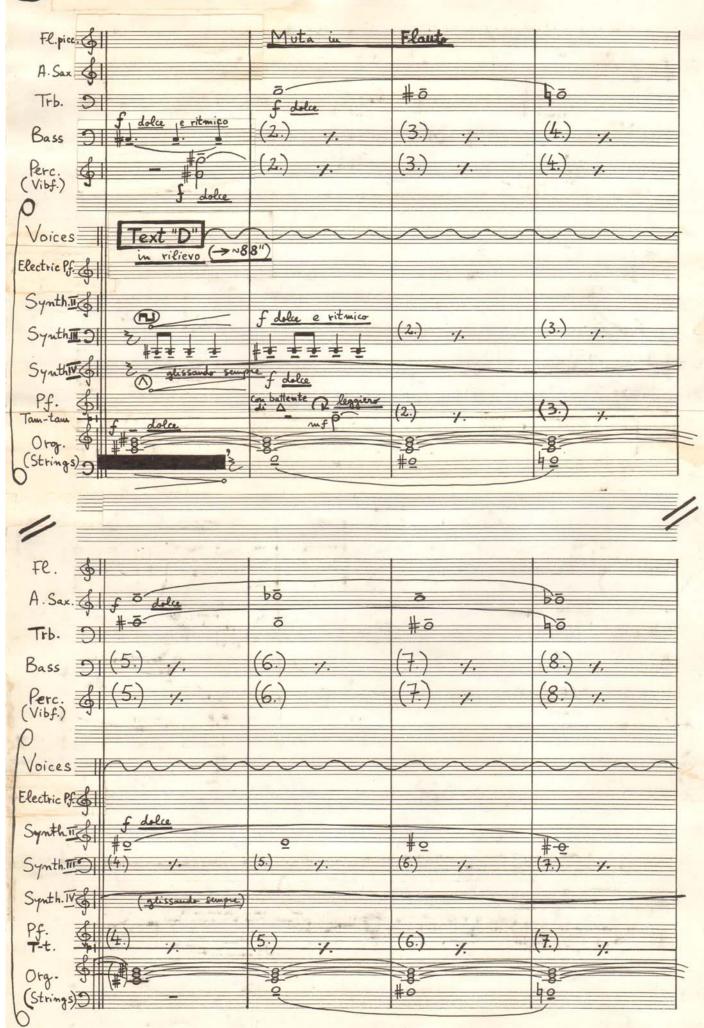




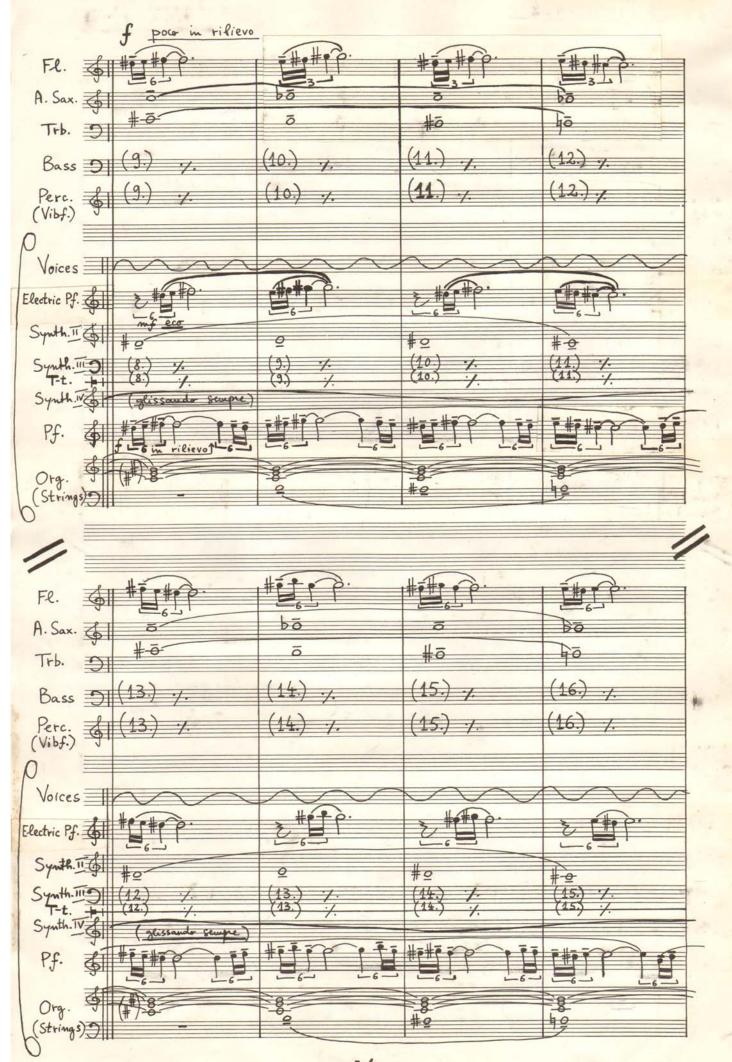








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-14-

