

Prosodia Daseia

for trombone and voices

Christopher Fisher-Lochhead

Prosodia Daseia [2015] for trombone and voices for Will Lang and Ekmeles

The world of this piece was shaped by my experience as a runner. As a runner maintains control of her body in pursuit of a quantifiable goal while negotiating the vagaries of her physical condition, it is in how the performer handles the constant physical struggle of the trombone writing that determines how and if this piece comes off.

I like to think of this work less as a piece of music than as an “energetic sculpture”: an arrangement in time of qualities and intensities of the body; an interplay of strain, release, focus, tension, dissolution, and force. The title is from the Greek for “sign of rough breathing”, a term originally used to denote the aspirate sign in ancient Greek and later adopted as a means of musical notation, the so-called “Daseian” notation of the 9th and 10th centuries.

The trombonist and the singers occupy two entirely different, but tangential worlds. While the trombone part is volatile and chaotic, the writing for the vocal ensemble is restrained, orderly, and reliant on some traditional musical categories.

Prosodia Daseia was premiered by Will Lang and Ekmeles at the DiMenna Center in New York City on June 29th, 2015 as part of the Five Boroughs Music Festival.

The solo version was premiered by Will Lang at Spectrum in New York City on May 21st, 2016.

Duration: 12 minutes

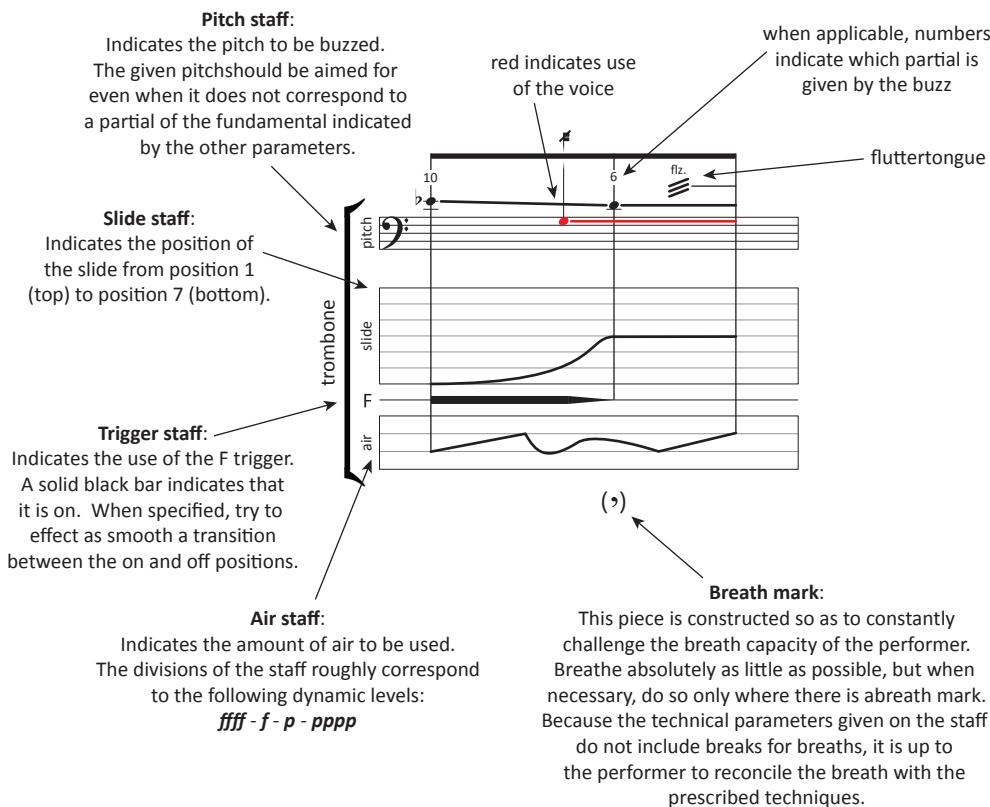
Notation

Rhythm/Sustain

All rhythmic information is provided in two “rhythm staffs” at the top of the trombone part in each system. The top staff indicates timing in seconds while the bottom staff indicates rational rhythms using quasi-traditional means. The horizontal spacing of the notation is exactly proportional to the indicated rhythms. The rational rhythms need only be strictly observed by the trombonist; singers should place their entrances using horizontal spacing and cues from the trombone part. If singers are getting a pitch from a cue in the trombone part, it is acceptable to enter slightly after the indicated cue.

Trombone Tablature Staffs/Symbols

The music is all notated using a decoupled tablature system. The techniques employed by the trombonist are split into four different parameters, each indicated on a separate staff. The interaction of these decoupled techniques should at times produce an unpredictable sonic result bearing no relation to the notation. No attempt should be made to correct for this unpredictability.



Non-Standard Accidentals

natural -31 cents	flat -31 cents	quarter-tone flat
natural +31 cents	sharp -31 cents	quarter-tone sharp

Phonemes

- [?] Vocal phonemes are indicated using standard IPA symbols. When accompanied by horizontal arrows, transitions between phonemes should be as smooth as possible.

for Will Lang and Ekmeles

Prosodia Daseia

Christopher Fisher-Lochhead

This musical score page contains two systems of music. The top system features staves for S1, S2, A, and a Trombone section. The Trombone section includes four staves labeled 'pitch', 'slide', 'F', and 'air'. The bottom system features staves for T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, and Bass. The score includes dynamic markings like *ppp*, *gliss*, and *fiz.*. Measure numbers 0:00, 0:21, 7, 8, 12, 10, 6, and parentheses indicating vocal entries are present. The score is titled "Prosodia Daseia" at the top center.

This musical score page contains two systems of music. The top system features staves for S1, S2, A, and a Trombone section. The Trombone section includes four staves labeled 'pitch', 'slide', 'F', and 'air'. The bottom system features staves for T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, and Bass. The score includes dynamic markings like *ppp*, *ppp*, *pp*, *pp*, *gliss*, *fiz.*, and *pppp*. Measure numbers 0:21, 0:37, 3, 16, 3, 8, 4:3, 5, 48, 3:2, 8:5, 13, and parentheses indicating vocal entries are present. The score is titled "Prosodia Daseia" at the top center.

Score for S1, S2, A, Trombone, T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass.

Measure 1:

- S1: $\text{C} \# \text{D}$ (ppp)
- S2: $\text{E} \text{F}$ (m)
- A: $\text{G} \text{A}$ (ppp)
- Trombone: $\text{B} \text{C} \text{D} \text{E}$ (pitch), F (slide), G (air)
- T1: $\text{A} \text{B}$ (ppp)
- T2: $\text{C} \text{D}$ (m)
- Bar1: $\text{E} \text{F}$ (m)
- Bar2: $\text{G} \text{H}$ (m)
- Bass: $\text{B} \text{C} \text{D}$ (m)

Measure 2:

- S1: $\text{C} \# \text{D}$ (ppp)
- S2: $\text{E} \text{F}$ (m)
- A: $\text{G} \text{A}$ (ppp)
- Trombone: $\text{B} \text{C} \text{D} \text{E}$ (pitch), F (slide), G (air)
- T1: $\text{A} \text{B}$ (ppp)
- T2: $\text{C} \text{D}$ (m)
- Bar1: $\text{E} \text{F}$ (m)
- Bar2: $\text{G} \text{H}$ (m)
- Bass: $\text{B} \text{C} \text{D}$ (m)

Measure 3:

- S1: $\text{C} \# \text{D}$ (ppp)
- S2: $\text{E} \text{F}$ (m)
- A: $\text{G} \text{A}$ (ppp)
- Trombone: $\text{B} \text{C} \text{D} \text{E}$ (pitch), F (slide), G (air)
- T1: $\text{A} \text{B}$ (ppp)
- T2: $\text{C} \text{D}$ (m)
- Bar1: $\text{E} \text{F}$ (m)
- Bar2: $\text{G} \text{H}$ (m)
- Bass: $\text{B} \text{C} \text{D}$ (m)

Score for S1, S2, A, Trombone, T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass.

Measure 1:

- S1: $\text{C} \# \text{D}$ (pp)
- S2: $\text{E} \text{F}$ (n)
- A: $\text{G} \text{A}$ (p)
- Trombone: $\text{B} \text{C} \text{D} \text{E}$ (pitch), F (slide), G (air)
- T1: $\text{A} \text{B}$ (pp)
- T2: $\text{C} \text{D}$ (m)
- Bar1: $\text{E} \text{F}$ (m)
- Bar2: $\text{G} \text{H}$ (m)
- Bass: $\text{B} \text{C} \text{D}$ (m)

Measure 2:

- S1: $\text{C} \# \text{D}$ (p)
- S2: $\text{E} \text{F}$ (a)
- A: $\text{G} \text{A}$ (ppp)
- Trombone: $\text{B} \text{C} \text{D} \text{E}$ (pitch), F (slide), G (air)
- T1: $\text{A} \text{B}$ (pp)
- T2: $\text{C} \text{D}$ (m)
- Bar1: $\text{E} \text{F}$ (m)
- Bar2: $\text{G} \text{H}$ (m)
- Bass: $\text{B} \text{C} \text{D}$ (m)

Measure 3:

- S1: $\text{C} \# \text{D}$ (p)
- S2: $\text{E} \text{F}$ (a)
- A: $\text{G} \text{A}$ (ppp)
- Trombone: $\text{B} \text{C} \text{D} \text{E}$ (pitch), F (slide), G (air)
- T1: $\text{A} \text{B}$ (pp)
- T2: $\text{C} \text{D}$ (m)
- Bar1: $\text{E} \text{F}$ (m)
- Bar2: $\text{G} \text{H}$ (m)
- Bass: $\text{B} \text{C} \text{D}$ (m)

S1 S2 A

ppp

[m] [m]

ppp

[m]

1:13 1:30

2 10 3 8 2 15 15:8

13 14 10 11

pitch

slide

F

air

(,)

(,)

ppp

T1 T2

Bar1

Bar2

Bass

S1 S2 A

[m]

[n]

[m]

pp

[m]

1:30 1:46

$\boxed{P = 64}$

2 10 2 10 5:4 5:4 5:8

15:8 5:4 5:4 8:5 3:16 4:3 5:48 5:48 3:16 3:8 3:16 5:3

7 15 12 13 11 10 18 7 6 18 14 18

pitch

slide

F

air

(,)

(,)

(,)

(,)

pp

T1 T2

Bar1

Bar2

Bass

pp [n] p [n] p [n] 1:47 2:00 2:03

S1 S2 A

trombone

(s) (s) (s) (s)

T1 T2 Bar1 Bar2 Bass

pp [n] ppp mf ppp [a] 2:04 2:24

S1 S2 A

trombone

(s) (s) (s) (s)

T1 T2 Bar1 Bar2 Bass

[♩ = 84]

lower 8ve if possible

Musical score page 5. The top section shows parts S1, S2, and A. The middle section features a trombone part with detailed performance parameters like pitch, slide, and air. The bottom section shows parts T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, and Bass.

S1: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Dynamics: *ppp*, [n], *ppp*, [*m*], *pp*, [*m*]. Measure numbers: 5, 8, 4, 8, 3, 8, 2, 10, 5, 8, 3, 8, 1, 8, 5, 8, 7, 5, 3, 16.

Trombone: Bass clef, 4/4 time. Dynamics: [35], *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*. Measures are grouped by parentheses: (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6).

T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass: Bass clef, 4/4 time. Dynamics: *pp*, *p*, *pp*, [*m*], *pp*, *p*, *pp*, [*m*], *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *p*.

Continuation of musical score page 5. The top section shows parts S1, S2, and A. The middle section features a trombone part with detailed performance parameters like pitch, slide, and air. The bottom section shows parts T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, and Bass.

S1: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Dynamics: *p*, *pp*, *ppp*, [n], *p*, [*m*], *p*, *pp*, *ppp*, *p*, *pp*, *ppp*, [*m*]. Measure numbers: 2:46, 3:00, 3:07.

Trombone: Bass clef, 4/4 time. Dynamics: *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*. Measures are grouped by parentheses: (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7).

T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass: Bass clef, 4/4 time. Dynamics: *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *p*.

ppp

S1
S2
A

[3:08] [3:27]

trombone

pitch [57]
slide
F
air

(,) (,) (,) (,) (,) (,)

T1
T2
Bar1
Bar2
Bass

ppp

S1
S2
A

[3:28] [3:44]

trombone

pitch [67]
slide
F
air

(,) (,) (,) (,)

T1
T2
Bar1
Bar2
Bass

Score for S1, S2, A, Trombone, T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass.

Measure 1:

- S1: Dynamics: p , mp . Articulation: [m].
- S2: Dynamics: p . Articulation: [B].
- A: Dynamics: p . Articulation: [B].
- Trombone: Dynamics: p (pitch), p (slide), F , p (air). Articulation: [73], fz. Measures: 7/8, 1/8, 7/8, r 3:2, 5/8, 5/8, r 3:2, 8:5, 3/8, 4:3, 3/16, 17. Phrasing: (s), (s), (s).
- T1: Dynamics: p , mp . Articulation: [m].
- T2: Dynamics: p . Articulation: [B].
- Bar1: Dynamics: p . Articulation: [B].
- Bar2: Dynamics: p . Articulation: [B].
- Bass: Dynamics: p . Articulation: [B].

Measure 2:

- S1: Dynamics: pp .
- S2: Dynamics: mf .
- A: Dynamics: mp .
- Trombone: Dynamics: p (pitch), p (slide), F , p (air). Articulation: [80], fz. Measures: 5/8, 8:5, 2/10, 5:4, 3:2, 4/8, 2/10, 5:4, 16, 7/8, 10:7, 1/8, 3:2, 4/8, 3:2. Phrasing: (s), (s), (s), (s), (s).
- T1: Dynamics: p , mf , p , pp .
- T2: Dynamics: pp .
- Bar1: Dynamics: p , mf , p , pp .
- Bar2: Dynamics: p , mf , p , pp .
- Bass: Dynamics: p . Articulation: [B].

Score for S1, S2, A, Trombone, T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass.

Measure 3:

- S1: Dynamics: pp .
- S2: Dynamics: mf .
- A: Dynamics: mp .
- Trombone: Dynamics: p (pitch), p (slide), F , p (air). Articulation: [80], fz. Measures: 5/8, 8:5, 2/10, 5:4, 3:2, 4/8, 2/10, 5:4, 16, 7/8, 10:7, 1/8, 3:2, 4/8, 3:2. Phrasing: (s), (s), (s), (s), (s).
- T1: Dynamics: p , mf , p , pp .
- T2: Dynamics: pp .
- Bar1: Dynamics: p , mf , p , pp .
- Bar2: Dynamics: p , mf , p , pp .
- Bass: Dynamics: p . Articulation: [B].

Score for S1, S2, A, Trombone, T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass.

Measure 1:

- S1, S2, A:** Notes on treble clef staves. Dynamics: *pp*, [m]. Measure time: $\frac{4}{8}$.
- Trombone:** Shows pitch, slide, and air pressure. Key signature: F major. Measure time: $\frac{4}{8}$. Includes markings: [88], flz., (s), (s).
- T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass:** Notes on bass clef staves. Dynamics: *p*, *pp*, [m], [m], *pp*, [m]. Measure time: $\frac{4}{8}$.

Measure 2:

- S1, S2, A:** Notes on treble clef staves. Dynamics: *pp*, [m]. Measure time: $\frac{4}{8}$.
- Trombone:** Shows pitch, slide, and air pressure. Key signature: F major. Measure time: $\frac{4}{8}$. Includes markings: (s), (s), (s), (s).
- T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass:** Notes on bass clef staves. Dynamics: *pp*, [m]. Measure time: $\frac{4}{8}$.

Score for S1, S2, A, Trombone, T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass.

Measure 3:

- S1, S2, A:** Notes on treble clef staves. Dynamics: *pp*, [m], [m]. Measure time: $\frac{4}{8}$.
- Trombone:** Shows pitch, slide, and air pressure. Key signature: F major. Measure time: $\frac{4}{8}$. Includes markings: [♩ = 108], flz., (s), (s), (s), (s), (s).
- T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass:** Notes on bass clef staves. Dynamics: *pp*, [m]. Measure time: $\frac{4}{8}$.

S1
S2
A

[m] p [m] [m]

4:58 5:00 5:10

[5:10] semper

7 8 8:7 48 5 5 4 2 3 3 16

trombone

pitch slide air

F

(.) (.) (.)

T1
T2
Bar1
Bar2
Bass

p [m] [m] [m]

This page contains five staves. The first three staves (S1, S2, A) have treble clefs and measure times [m], p, and [m]. The fourth staff (trombone) has a bass clef and includes a pitch, slide, and air graph. The fifth staff (Bass) has a bass clef and measure times p, [m], [m]. Measure times 4:58, 5:00, and 5:10 are indicated above the staff. A bracket labeled [5:10] semper covers the end of the first section. The trombone staff features a red horizontal line indicating a sustained note. Measure times 7/8, 8:7, 48/5/5, 4/8, 5:4, 2/10, 3/8, and 3/16 are marked above the staff. The pitch, slide, and air graphs show the physical performance parameters for the sustained note.

S1
S2
A

poco a poco cresc. [5:10] semper

5:10 5:29

[P = 34.3]

3 5 8:5 16 4:3 3 8 2 10 5:4

trombone

pitch slide air

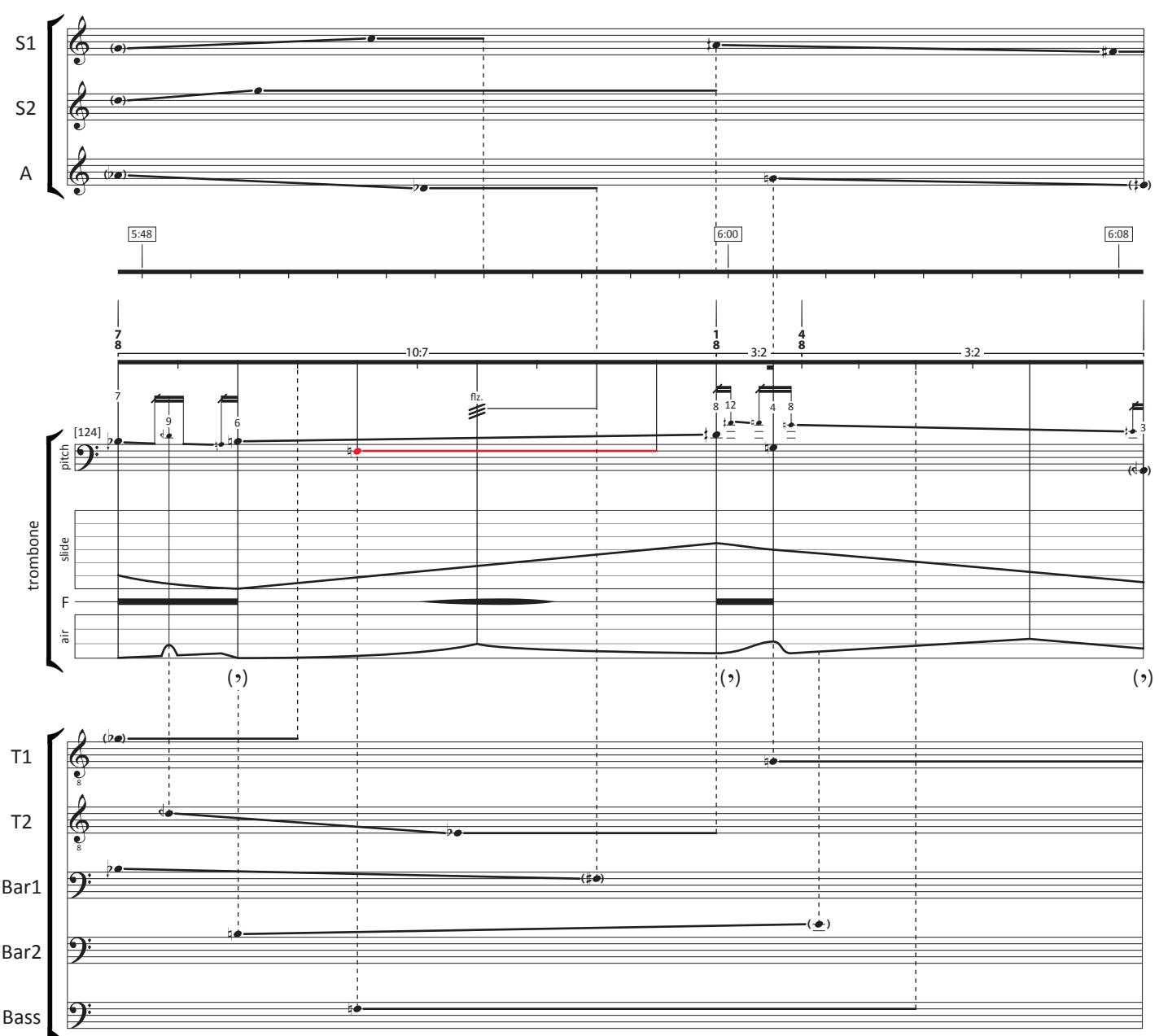
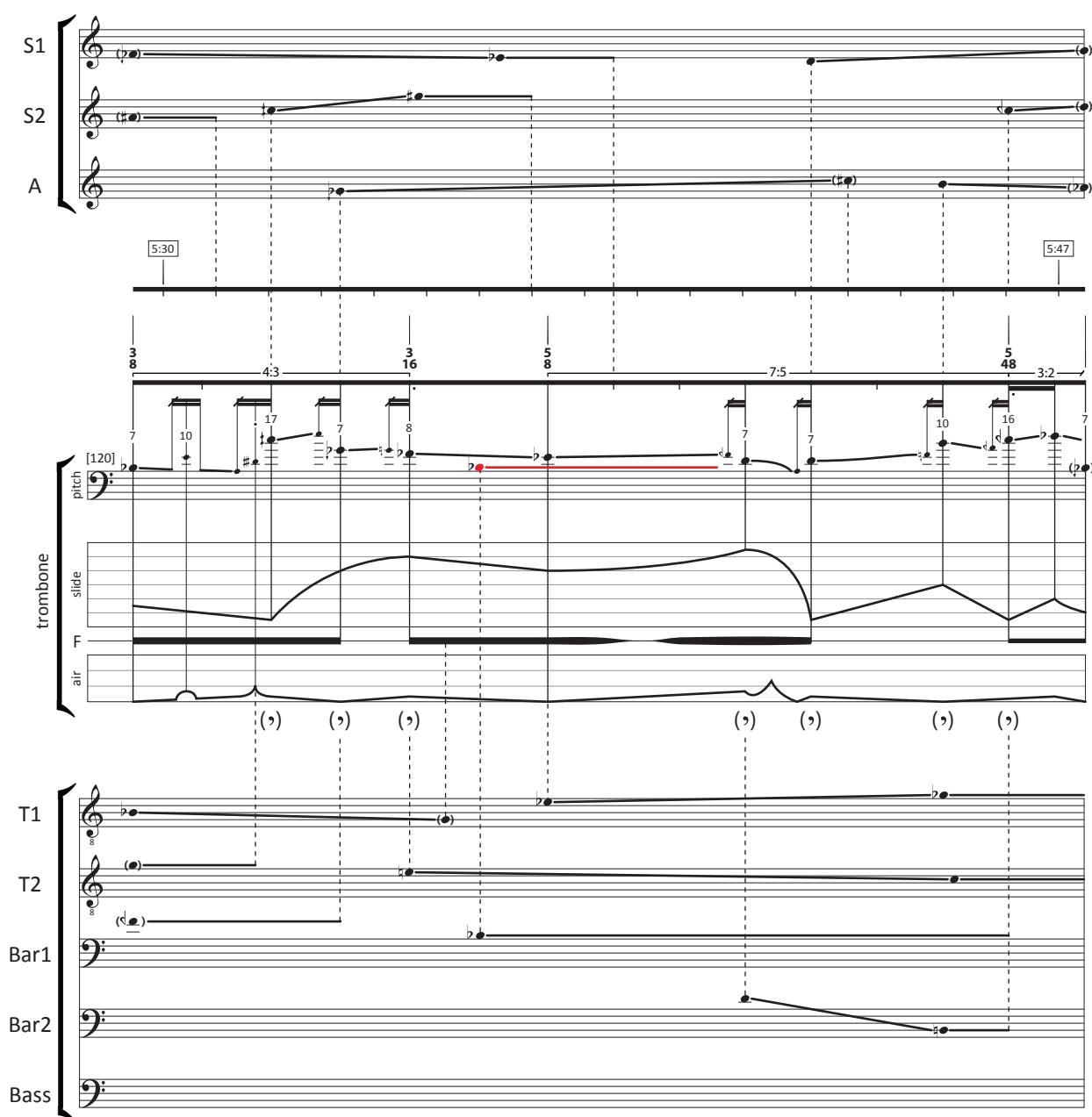
F

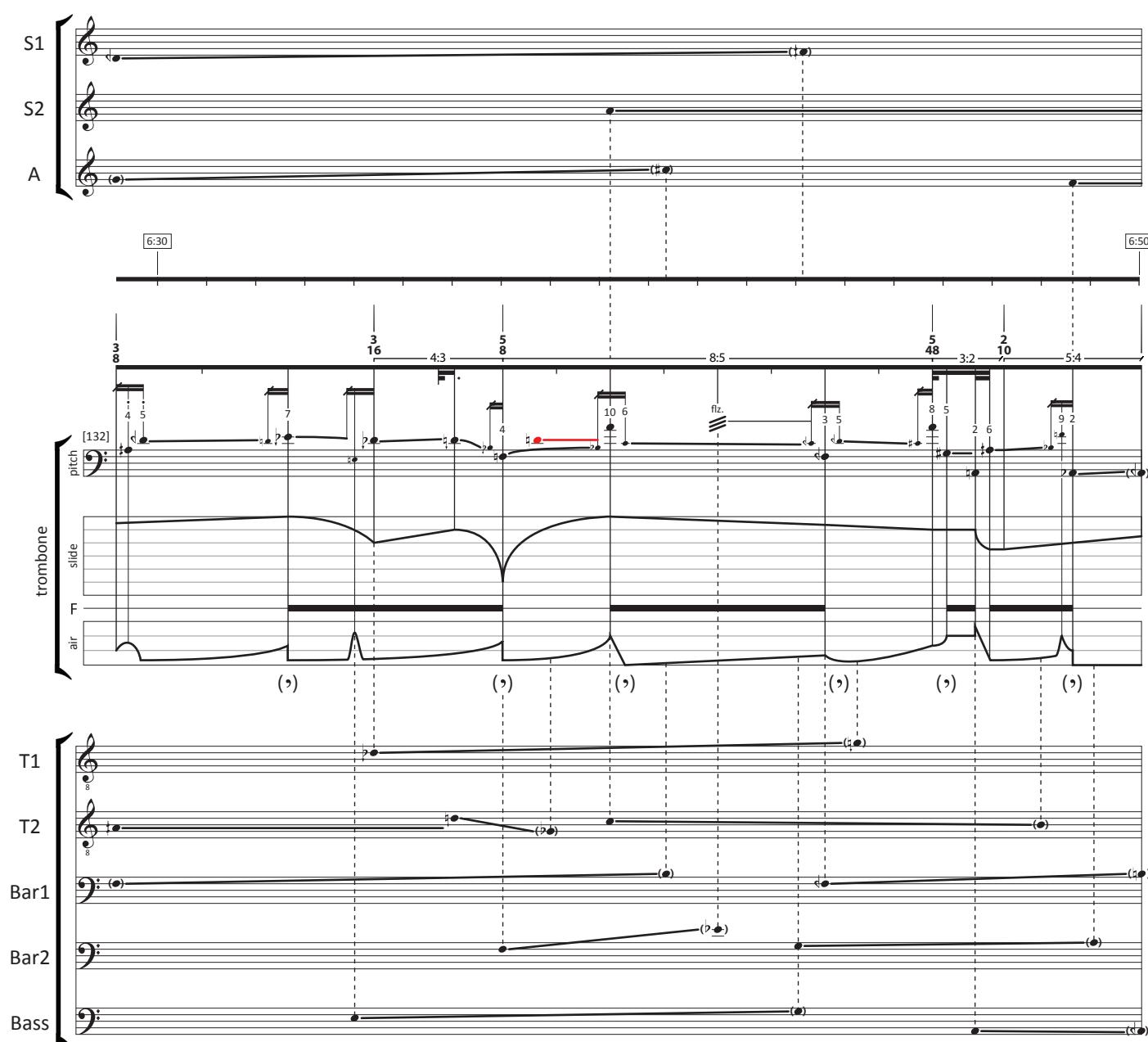
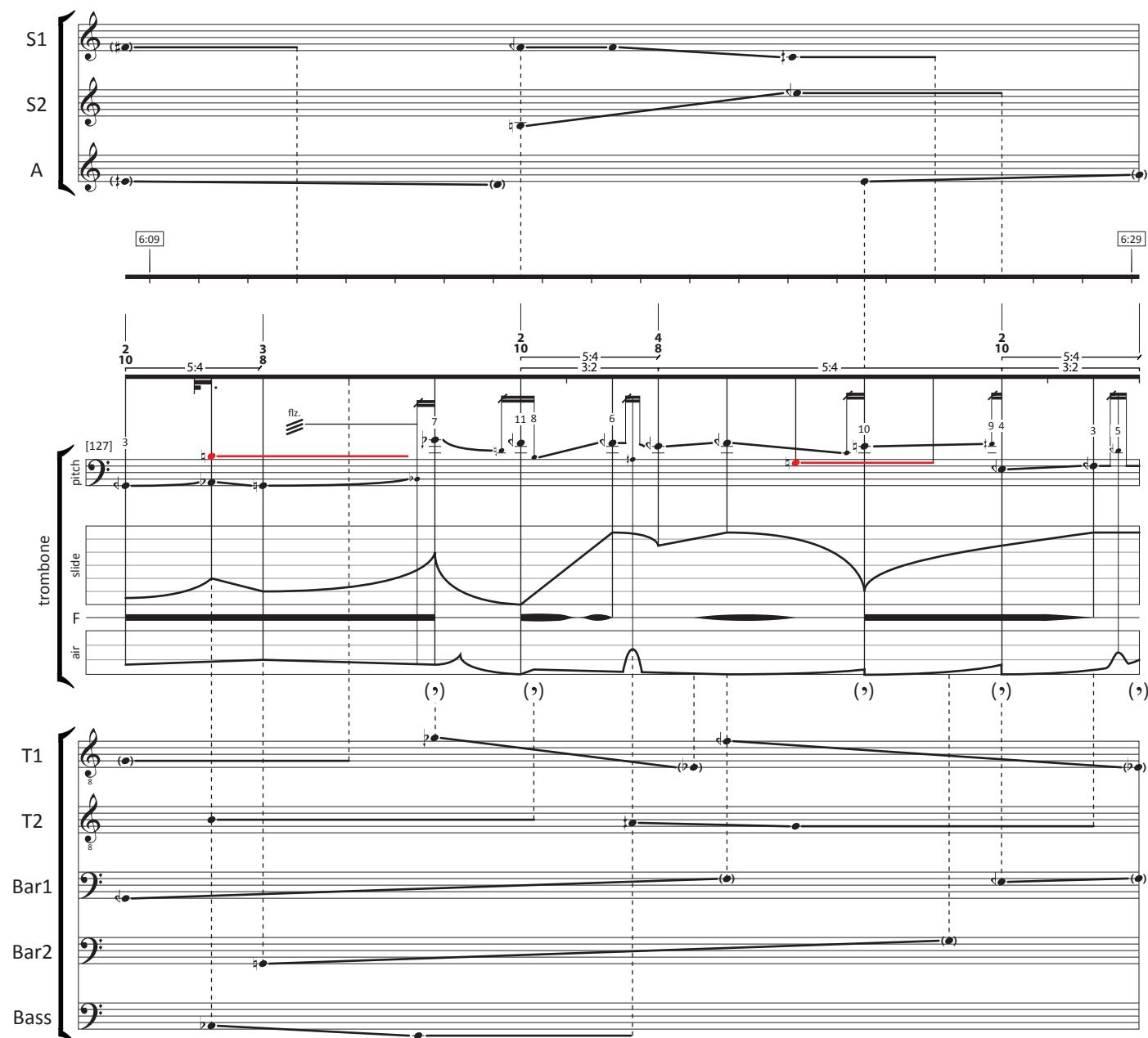
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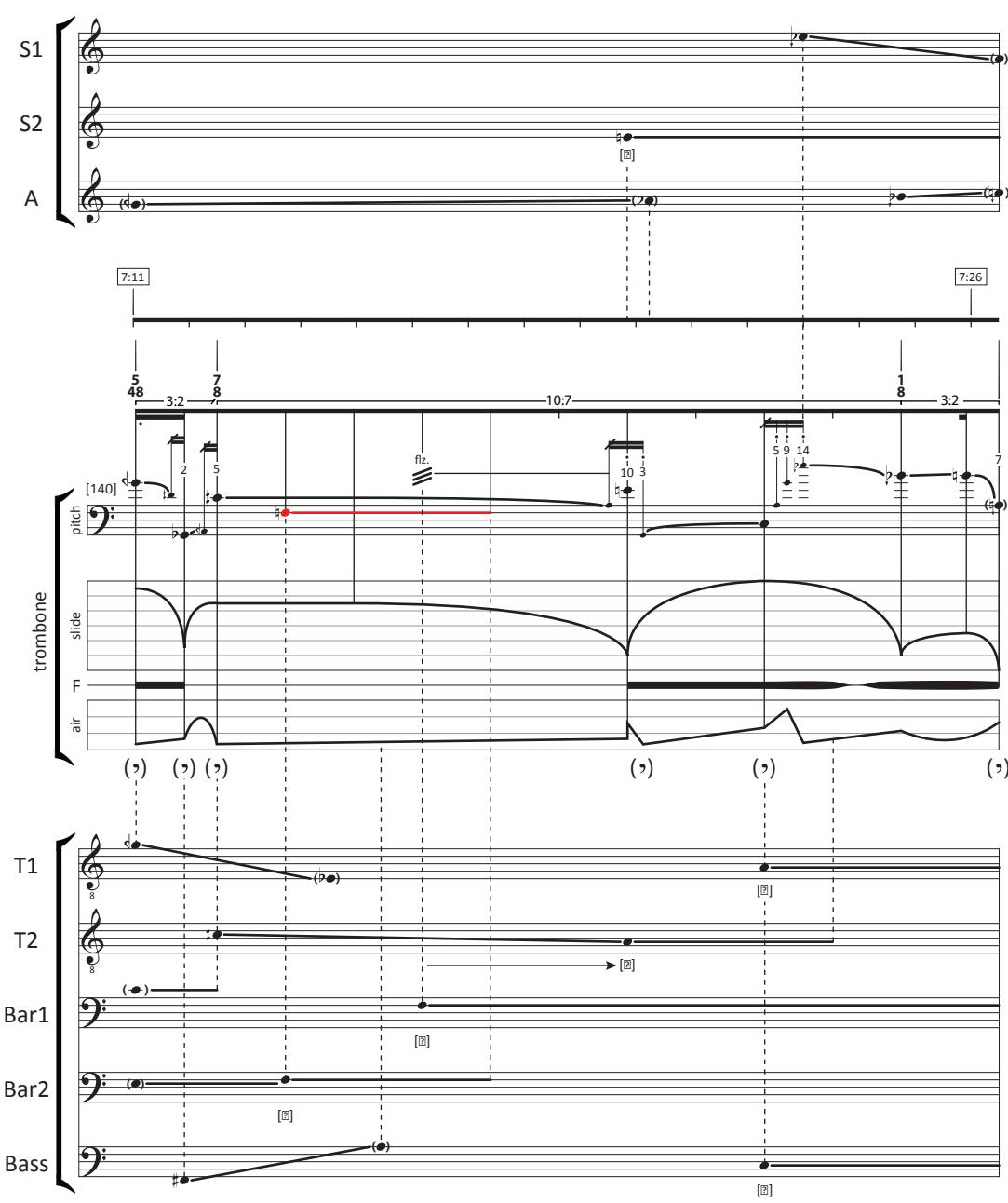
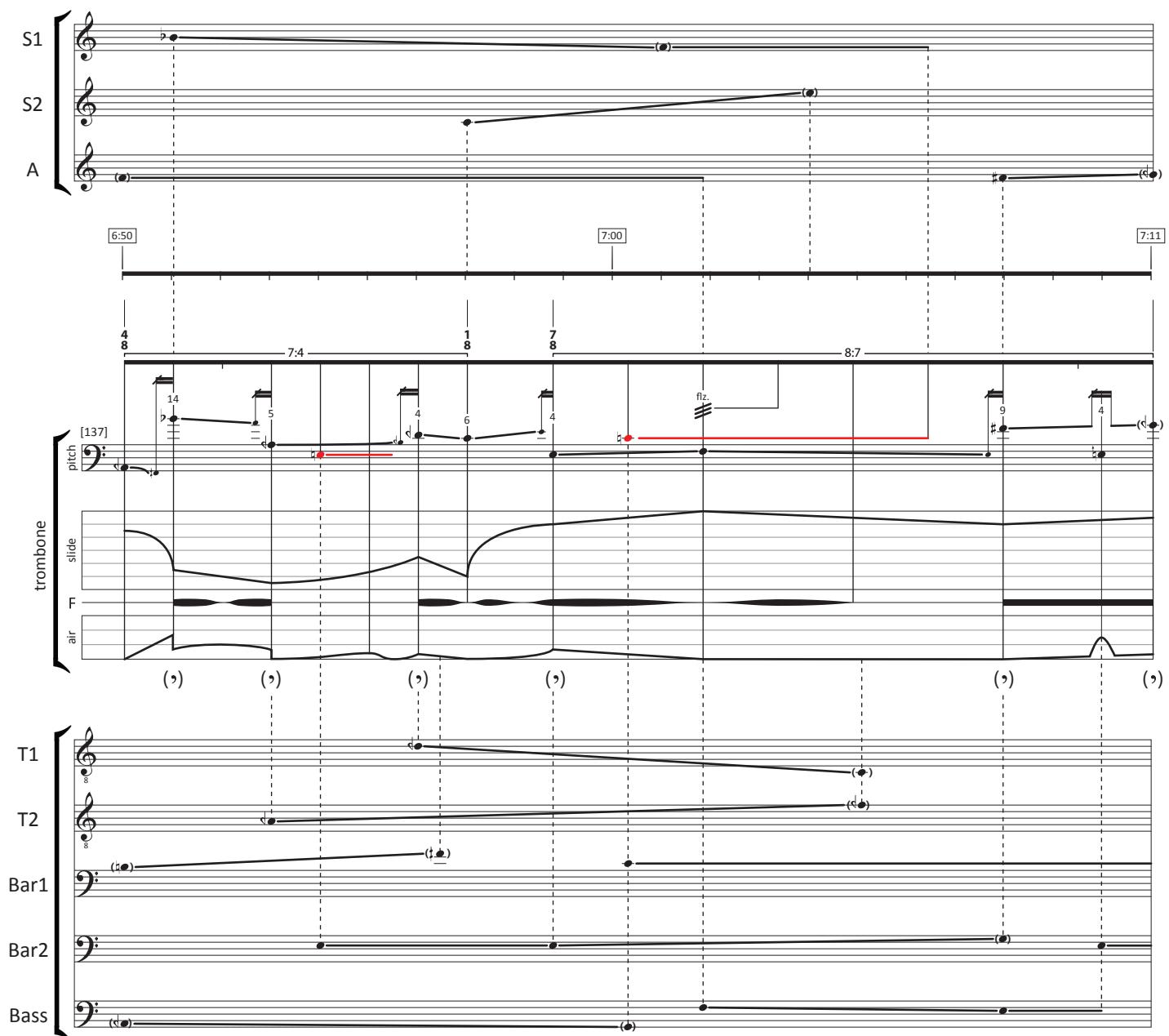
T1
T2
Bar1
Bar2
Bass

mp poco a poco cresc. [5:10] semper mp poco a poco cresc. [5:10] semper mp poco a poco cresc. [5:10] semper mp poco a poco cresc. [5:10] semper

This page continues the musical score. It features the same five staves as the top half. The first three staves (S1, S2, A) now have measure times mp poco a poco cresc. and [5:10] semper. The fourth staff (trombone) has a bass clef and includes a pitch, slide, and air graph. The fifth staff (Bass) has a bass clef and measure times mp poco a poco cresc., [5:10] semper, mp poco a poco cresc., [5:10] semper, mp poco a poco cresc., [5:10] semper. Measure times 3/5, 8/5, 16/4:3, 3/8, 2/10, and 5/4 are marked above the staff. The pitch, slide, and air graphs show the physical performance parameters for the sustained notes. A tempo marking [P = 34.3] is present above the staff.







Score for S1, S2, A, Trombone, T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass.

Measure 7:27 - Measure 7:45

Trombone:

- Measure 7:27: [143] pitch: 7/8, slide: F, air: (s)
- Measure 7:30: 10, 6 10, 12, flz., 5, 5, 11, 5
- Measure 7:35: (s), (s), (s), (s), (s), (s)

Trombone Control:

- Slide: F
- Air: (s), (s), (s), (s), (s), (s)

Other Instruments:

- S1, S2, A, T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass play sustained notes.
- Bar1 starts at 7:35.
- Bar2 starts at 7:45.

Score for S1, S2, A, Trombone, T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass.

Measure 7:46 - Measure 7:55

Trombone:

- Measure 7:46: [145] pitch: 5/48, slide: F, air: (s)
- Measure 7:48: 5, 3:2, 5/8, 8:5, flz., 7, 2
- Measure 7:50: (s), (s)

Trombone Control:

- Slide: F
- Air: (s), (s)

Other Instruments:

- S1, S2, A, T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass play sustained notes.
- Bar1 starts at 7:46.
- Bar2 starts at 7:55.

S1 *p* [2] → [m]

S2 (e) [2]

A (e) [2] pp [m]

[7:56] 8:00 [8:16]

$\frac{7}{8}$ 7:4 $\frac{1}{8}$ 7:4 $\frac{1}{8}$ 8 $\frac{3}{8}$ 4:3

trombone [147]
 pitch
 slide
 F
 air

T1 p [2] → [m]

T2 [m]

Bar1 pp [m]

Bar2 (2) [2]

Bass [2]

8:17 8:30

$\frac{3}{16}$ 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ 2

trombone [151]
 pitch
 slide
 F
 air

8:31 8:48

$\frac{17}{24}$ 3:2 32:17 $\frac{1}{6}$ 3:2 $\frac{3}{16}$ 3:16 $\frac{3}{16}$ 4:3

[♩ = 50]

trombone [154]
 pitch
 slide
 F
 air

Score for S1, S2, A, and Trombone.

Top Staves: S1, S2, A play sustained notes at dynamic *ppp*. Measures are marked with [m]. Time signature changes: 8:49, 9:00, 9:10.

Trombone Panel:

- pitch:** Shows note heads with numbers (e.g., 9, 12, 6, 3, 15, 14, 13, 12, 2, 1, 13, 7) and a tempo marking [159].
- slide:** Shows the movement of the slide, with horizontal bars indicating the distance between notes.
- F:** Shows the position of the slide when the instrument is in the F position.
- air:** Shows the air pressure or volume envelope.

Performance Cues: Measures are marked with (s).

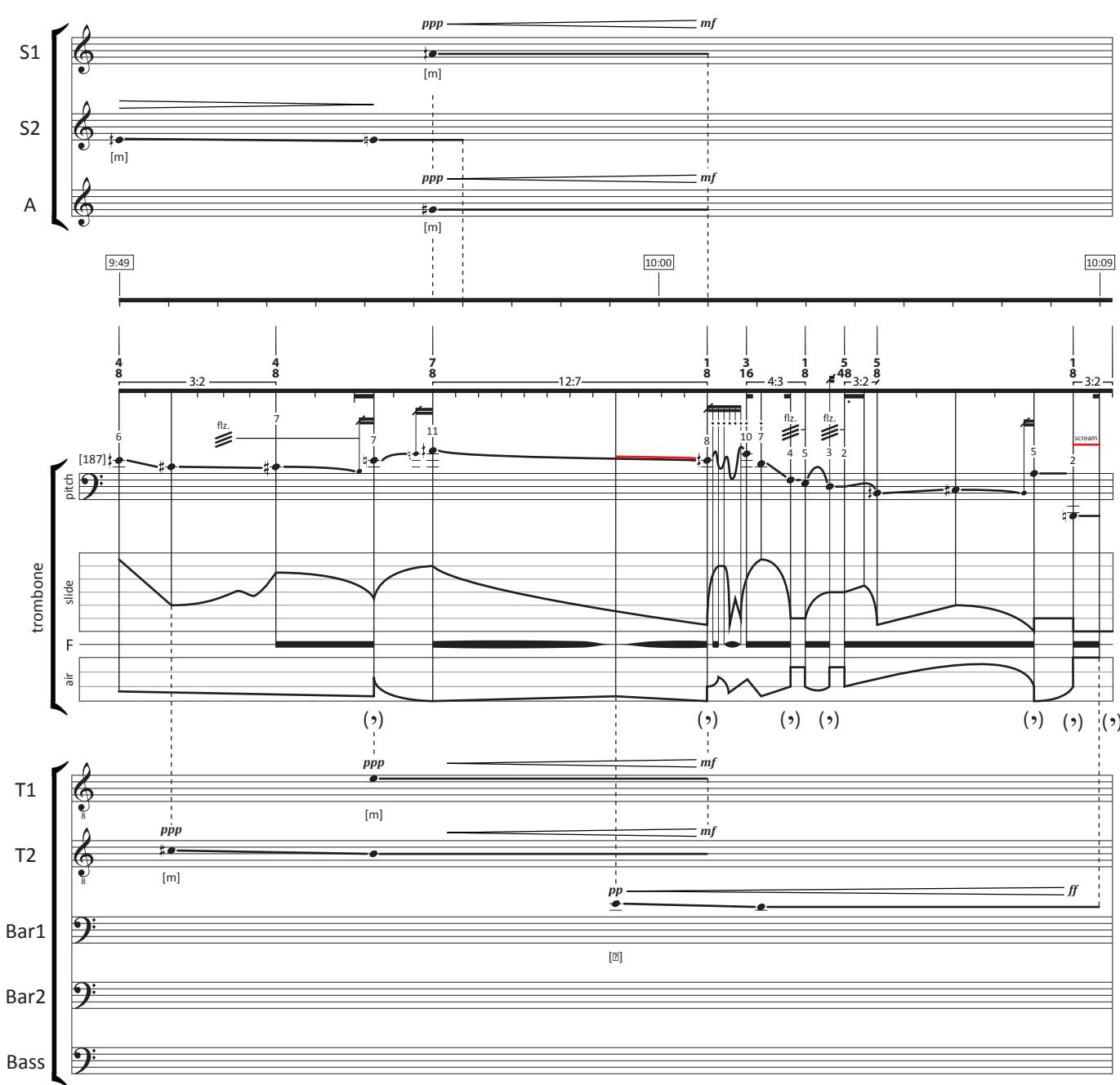
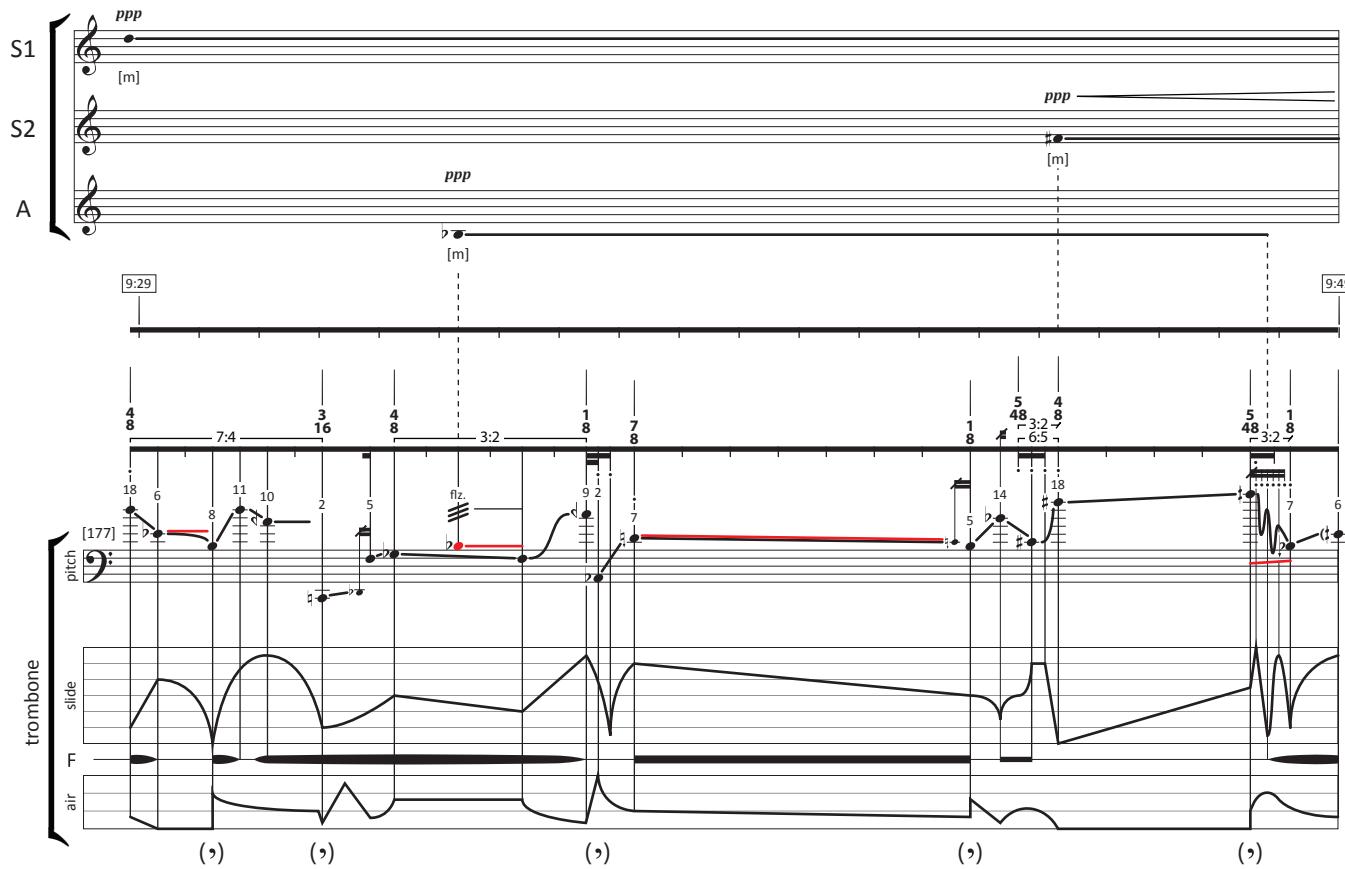
Score for S1, S2, A, Trombone, T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, and Bass.

Top Staves: S1, S2, A play sustained notes at dynamic *ppp*. Measures are marked with [m]. Time signature changes: 9:10, 9:28.

Trombone Panel:

- pitch:** Shows note heads with numbers (e.g., 8, 24, 2, 10, 1, 8, 4, 2, 10, 3, 16, 3, 8, 2, 10, 1, 8, 4, 2, 10, 5, 4, 18) and a tempo marking [75] and [166].
- slide:** Shows the movement of the slide.
- F:** Shows the position of the slide when the instrument is in the F position.
- air:** Shows the air pressure or volume envelope.

Bottom Staves: T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass play sustained notes at dynamic *ppp*. Measures are marked with [m].



Score for S1, S2, A, Trombone, T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass.

Top System: Measures 10:10 to 10:29. Instruments S1, S2, A play sustained notes. Trombone has a complex pitch, slide, and air line. Measures are indicated by vertical dashed lines.

Middle System: Measures 10:10 to 10:29. Trombone section with detailed parameters: pitch (196), slide, and air. Measures are indicated by vertical dashed lines.

Bottom System: Measures 10:10 to 10:29. Instruments T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass play sustained notes. Measures are indicated by vertical dashed lines.

Score for S1, S2, A, Trombone, T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass.

Top System: Measures 10:30 to 10:46. Instruments S1, S2, A play sustained notes. Trombone has a complex pitch, slide, and air line. Measures are indicated by vertical dashed lines.

Middle System: Measures 10:30 to 10:46. Trombone section with detailed parameters: pitch (204), slide, and air. Measures are indicated by vertical dashed lines.

Bottom System: Measures 10:30 to 10:46. Instruments T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass play sustained notes. Measures are indicated by vertical dashed lines.

Score for S1, S2, A, Trombone, T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass.

Measure 1 (10:47 - 11:07):

- S1:** pp
- S2:** pp [B]
- A:** pp
- Trombone:** pitch, slide, air. Measures show complex pitch contours with red highlights at various points.
- T1:** pp
- T2:** pp [B]
- Bar1:** p
- Bar2:** mp
- Bass:** ppp

Measure 2 (11:07 - 11:26):

- S1:** mf
- S2:** pp
- A:** pp
- Trombone:** pitch, slide, air. Measures show complex pitch contours with red highlights at various points.
- T1:** pp
- T2:** mp
- Bar1:** mp
- Bar2:** ppp
- Bass:** ppp [B]

Score for S1, S2, A, Trombone, T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass.

Measure 1 (11:08 - 11:26):

- S1:** pp
- S2:** pp [B]
- A:** pp
- Trombone:** pitch, slide, air. Measures show complex pitch contours with red highlights at various points.
- T1:** pp
- T2:** pp [B]
- Bar1:** p
- Bar2:** pp
- Bass:** pp [B]

Measure 2 ($\text{P} = 112.5$):

- S1:** pp
- S2:** pp [B]
- A:** pp
- Trombone:** pitch, slide, air. Measures show complex pitch contours with red highlights at various points.
- T1:** p
- T2:** pp
- Bar1:** pp
- Bar2:** pp
- Bass:** pp [B]

Score for S1, S2, A, Trombone, T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass.

Trombone Panel:

- [228] pitch, slide, F, air
- (,) (,) (,) (,)

Metronome Markings:

- 5/8, 4/8, 3:2, 16/5:3, 8:5, 8:5, 16/3, 48/3:2, 10/5:4, 8/5, 12:7, 5/8

Performance Instructions:

- S1, S2, A: p → mf
- Trombone: flz. (at 11:47)
- T1, T2: mp → ff
- Bar1: f → ff
- Bar2: ff
- Bass: pp → ff

Time markers: 11:27, 11:47

Score for S1, S2, A, Trombone, T1, T2, Bar1, Bar2, Bass.

Trombone Panel:

- [240] pitch, slide, F, air
- (,) (,)

Metronome Markings:

- 3/8, 2/10, 4/8, 4/8, 3:2, 15/10, 7/8, 8/3:2

Performance Instructions:

- S1, S2, A: ppp → [m]
- Trombone: flz. (at 11:47)
- T1, T2: ppp
- Bar1: [m]
- Bar2: ppp
- Bass: [m]

Time marker: 11:47

Text: Chicago, May-June 2015

