Janet Oates
2005

Vice

For solo trombone

Duration c. 8 minutes

Performance notes:

indicates slide vibrato

(p) Dynamics in brackets indicate approximate stage in a de/crescendo

indicates a 'falling-off' from the note into nothing-ness –
perhaps a gliss or a lip-gliss

Programme note

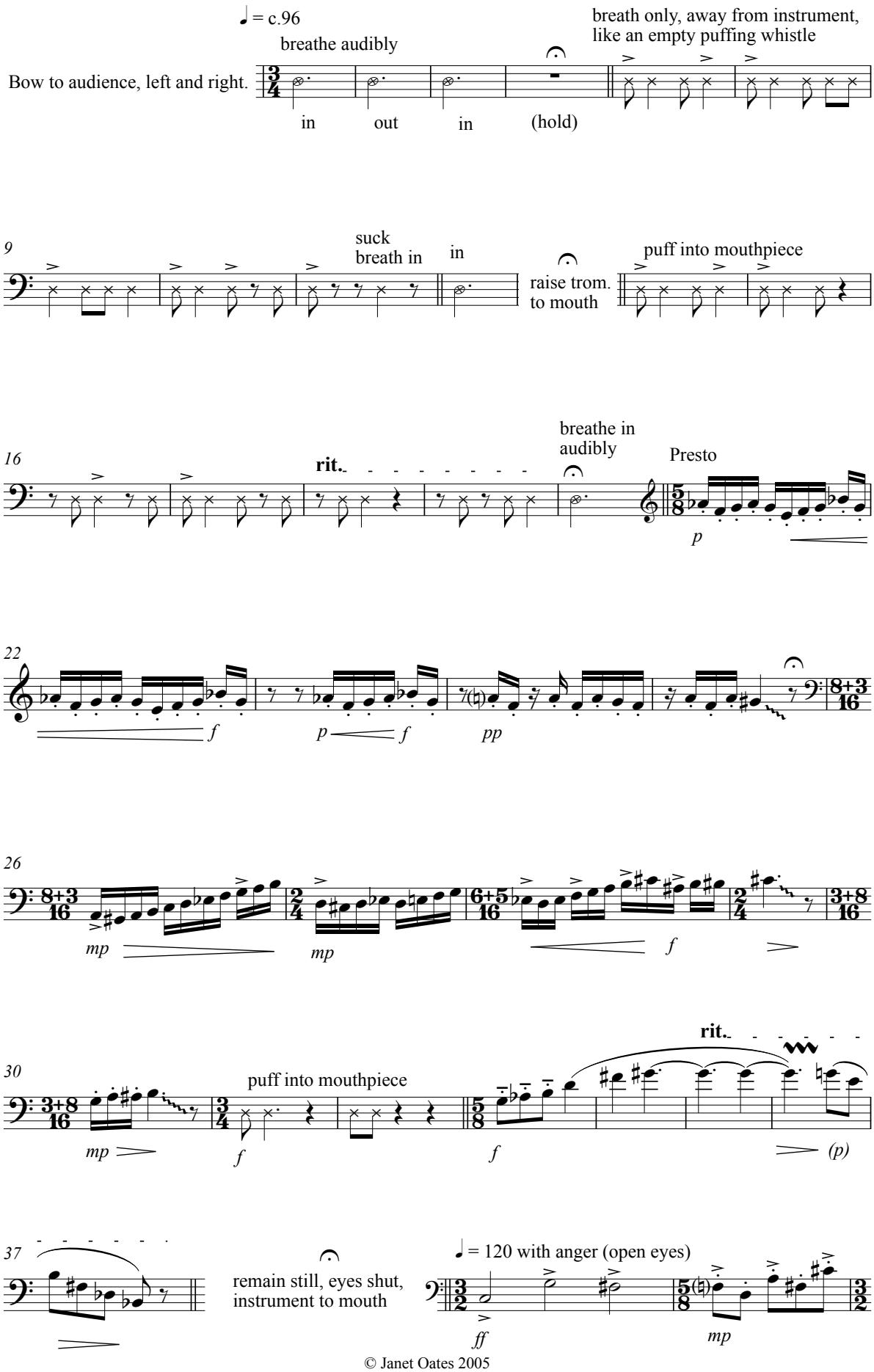
This piece involves the performer as theatrical being and as instrument; the physical activities involved in playing a brass instrument – the slide positions, the breathing, page-turning and so on – are brought to the fore rather than played down, drawing attention to the act of 'musicking' (in Christopher Small's rather useful term) and to the physicality and human-ness of performing.

In section 4 the different sides of the audience will hear different dynamics: the L side will hear *ff* then *pp*, while the right side will hear *f* then *p*.
The slide positions in bars 136 to 156 been chosen not for naturalness and ease/economy but for the opposite – almost a parody of trombone playing.

These 'live' aspects – the parts of music not involving actual pitches – are very much part of the performance, in an idea I call 'paramusic'.

VICE

Janet Oates



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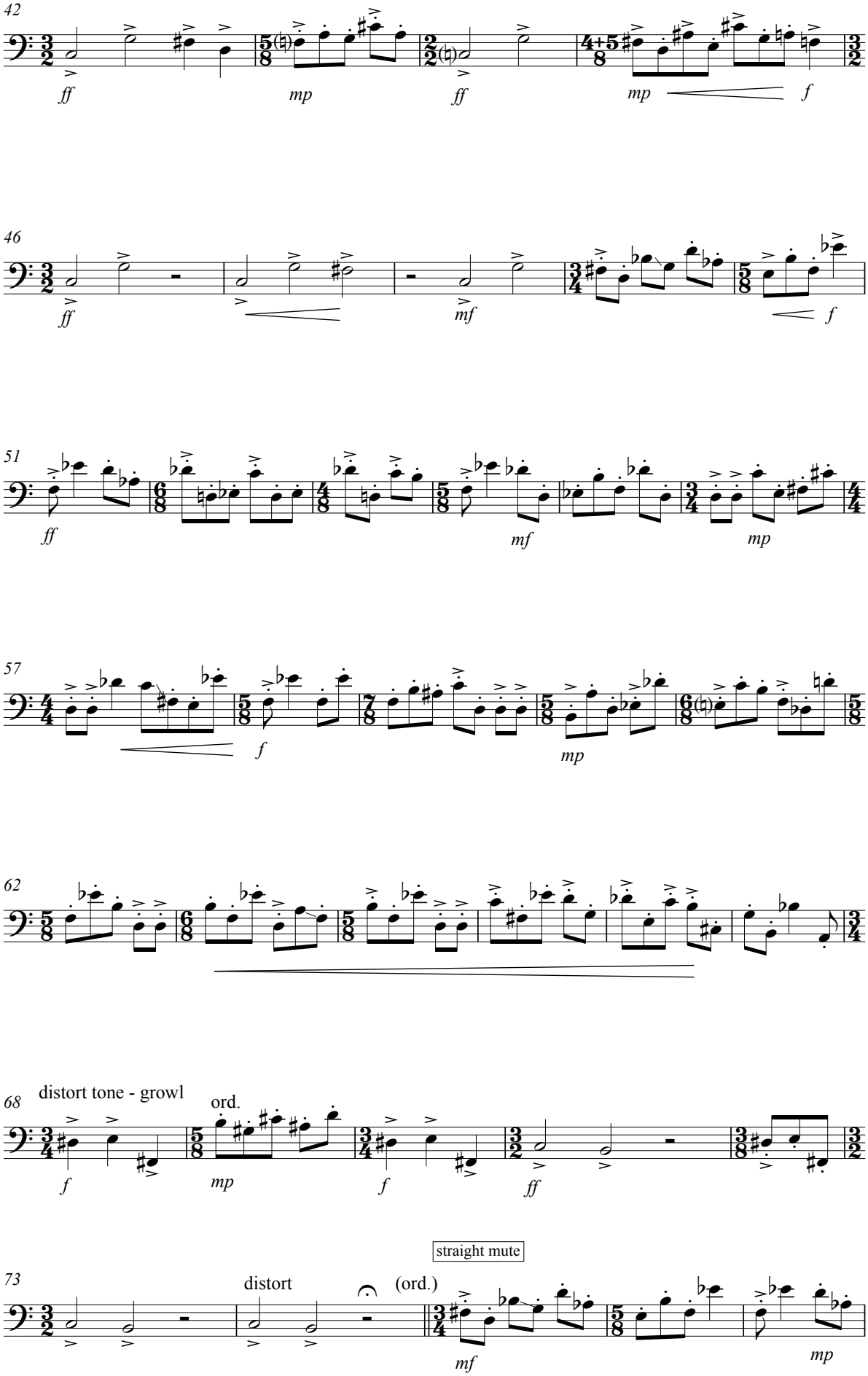
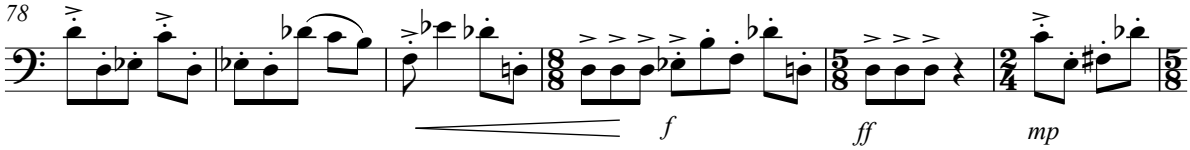
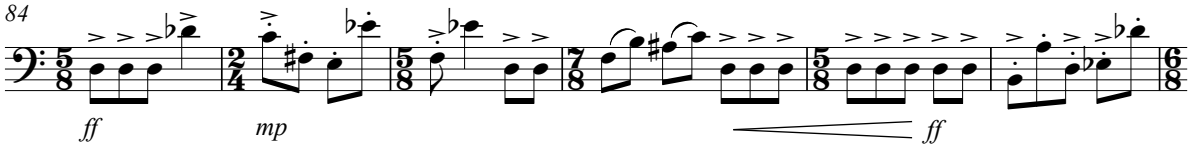
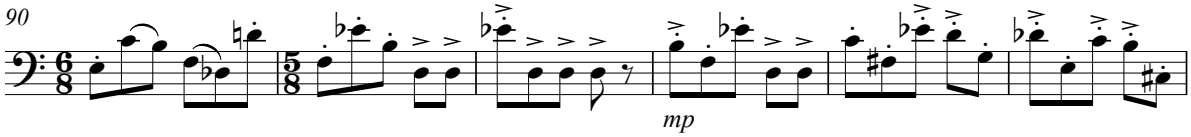
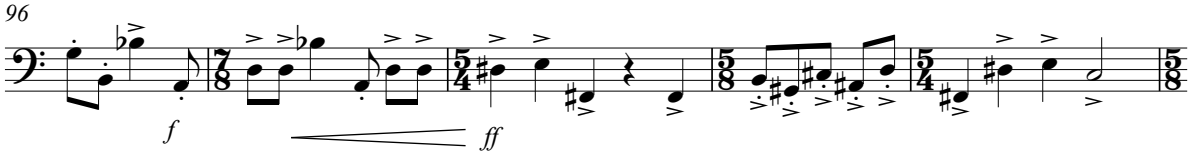
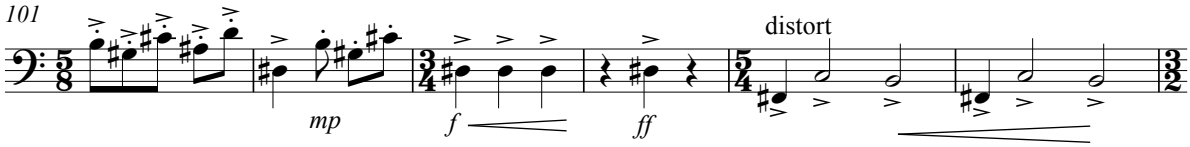

42
ff
mp
ff
mp
f
46
ff
mf
f
51
ff
mf
mp
57
f
mp
62
68
distort tone - growl
ord.
f
mp
f
ff
straight mute
73
distort
(ord.)
mf
mp

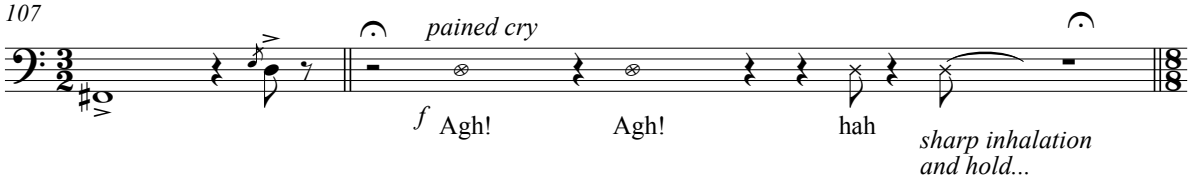

78
f
ff
mp

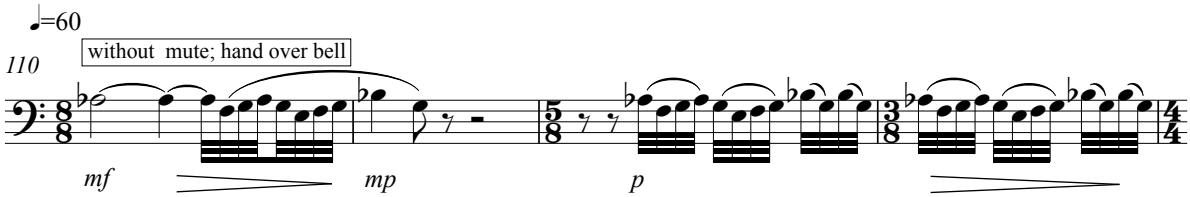

84
ff
mp
ff

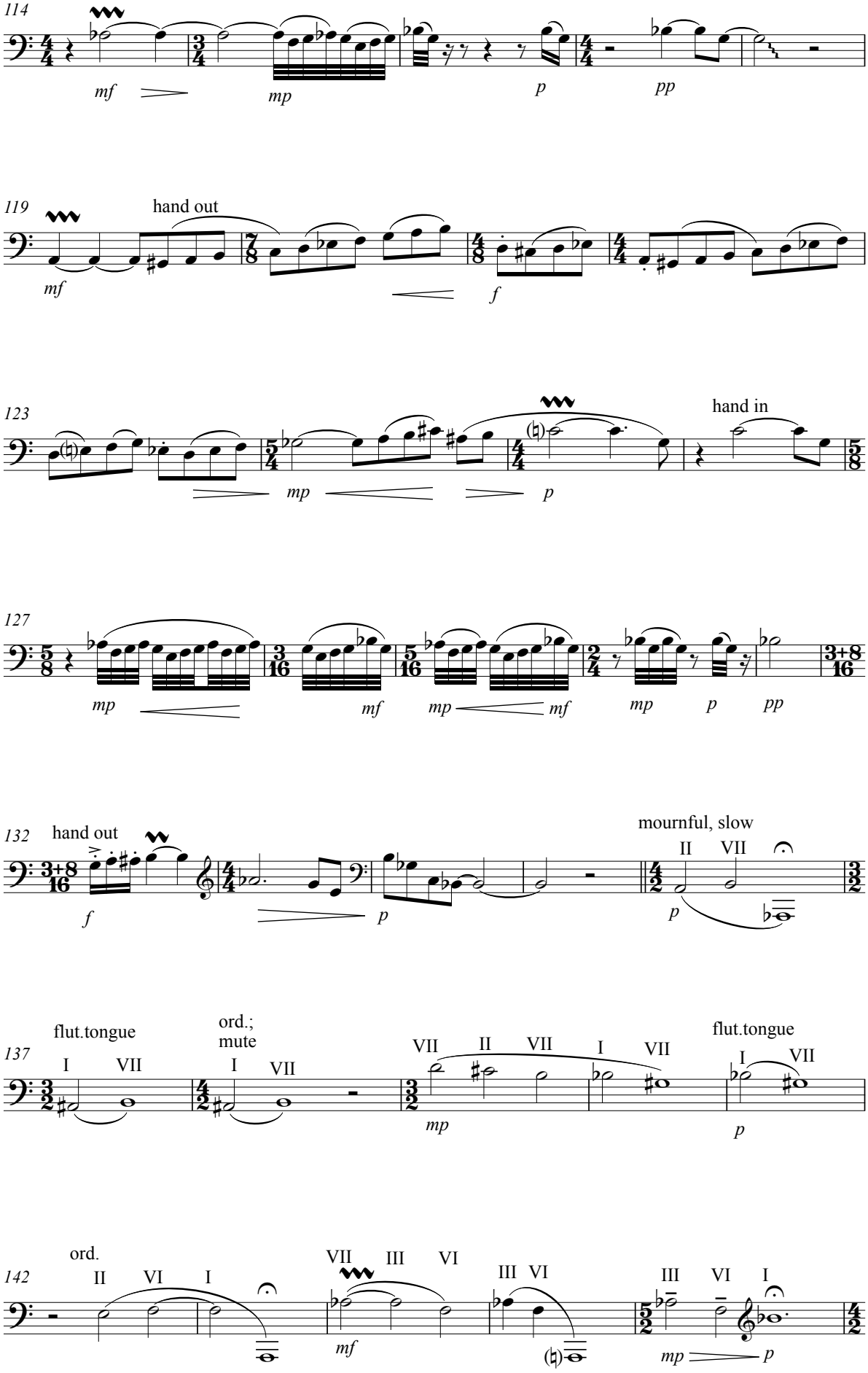

90
mp

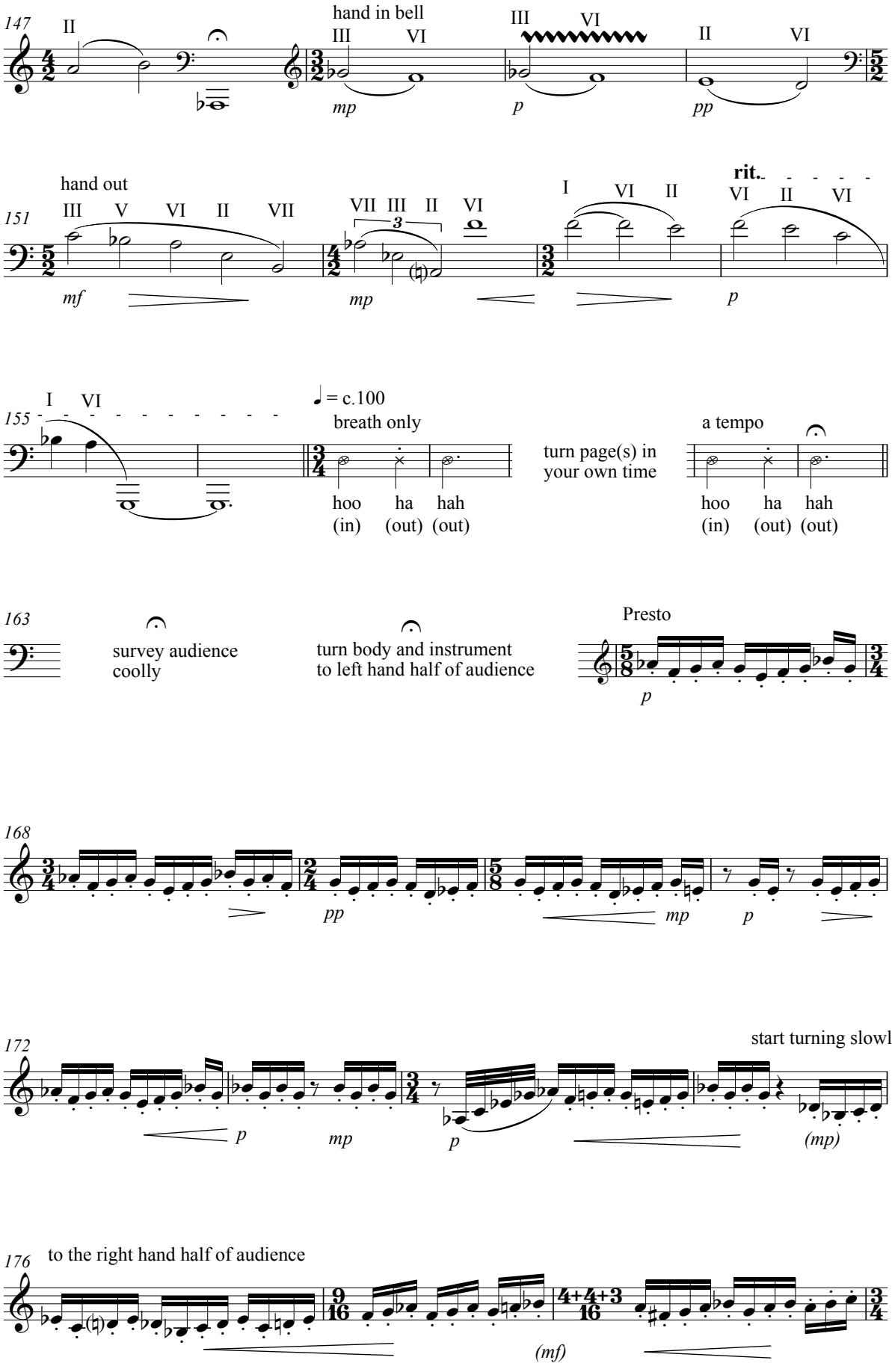

96
f
ff

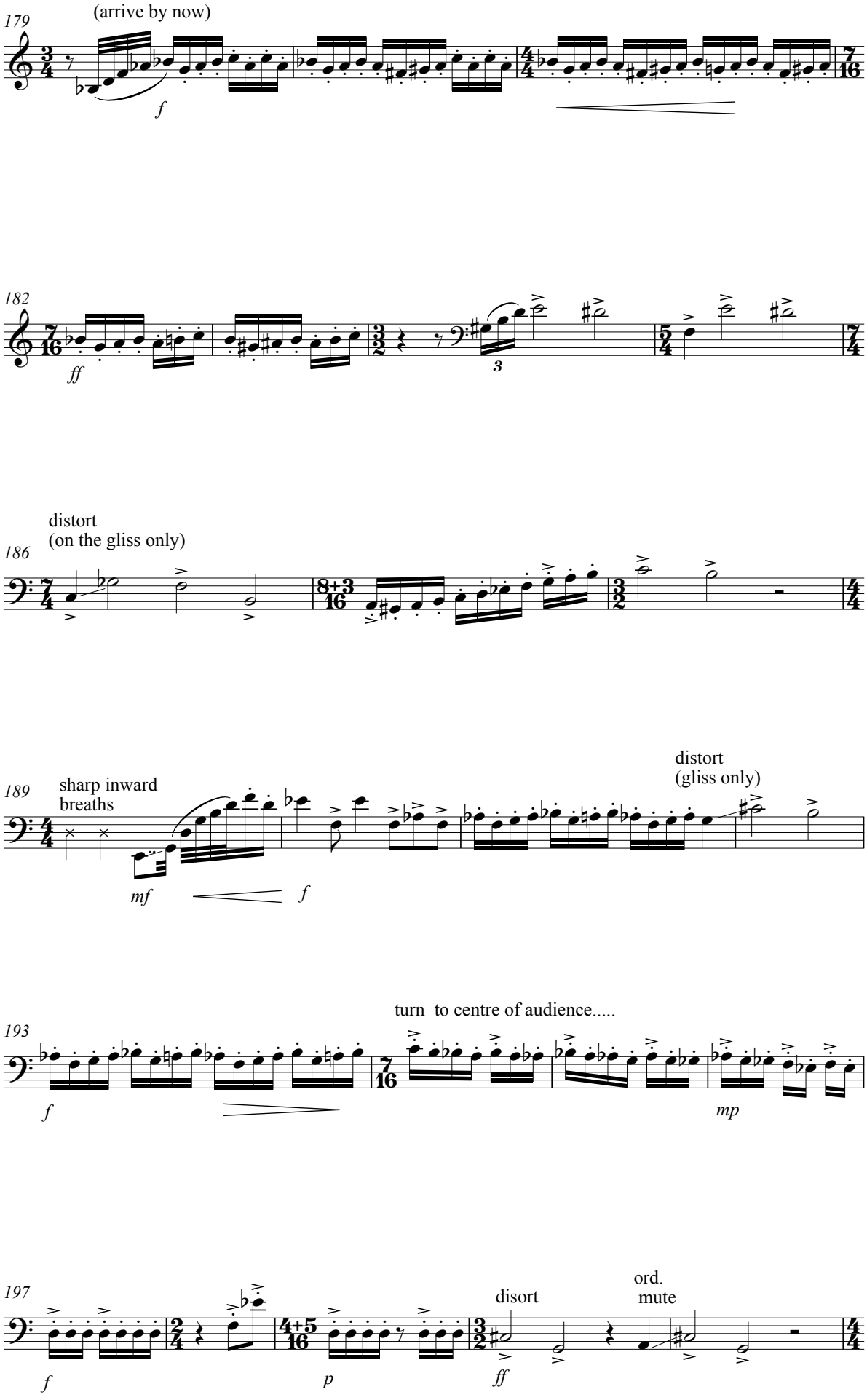

101
mp
f
ff
distort

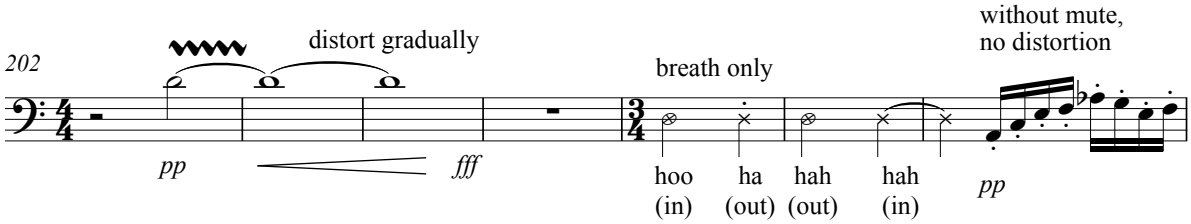

107
pained cry
f
Agh!
Agh!
hah
sharp inhalation
and hold...

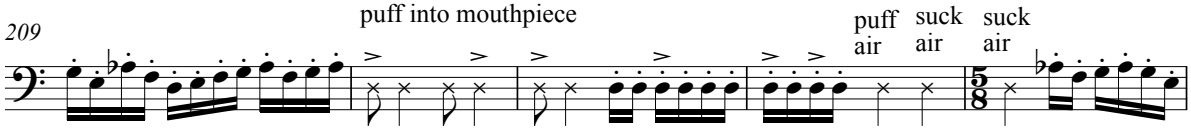

♩=60
without mute; hand over bell
110
mf
mp
p

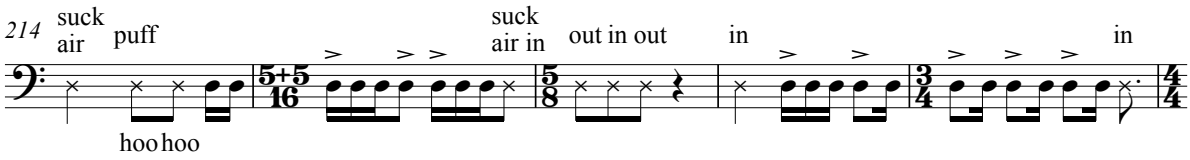

114
mf
mp
p
pp
119
hand out
mf
f
123
hand in
mp
p
127
mp
mf
mp
mf
mp
p
pp
132
hand out
f
p
mournful, slow
II
VII
p
137
flut.tongue
I
VII
ord.;
mute
I
VII
VII
II
VII
I
VII
mp
flut.tongue
I
VII
p
142
ord.
II
VI
I
VII
III
VI
mf
III
VI
III
VI
I
mp
p

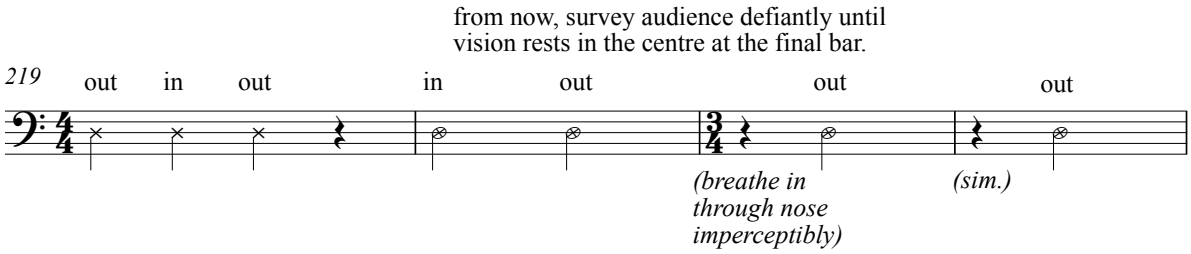

147
II
hand in bell
III VI
III VI
II VI
mp
p
pp
151
hand out
III V VI II VII
VII III II VI
3
I VI II
VI II VI
rit.
mf
mp
p
155
I VI
♩ = c.100
breath only
hoo ha hah
(in) (out) (out)
turn page(s) in
your own time
a tempo
hoo ha hah
(in) (out) (out)
163
survey audience
coolly
turn body and instrument
to left hand half of audience
Presto
p
168
pp
mp
p
172
start turning slowly
p
mp
p
(mp)
176
to the right hand half of audience
(mf)

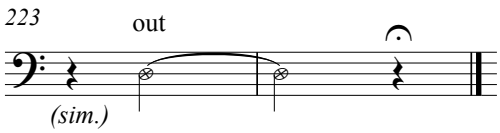

179
(arrive by now)
f
182
ff
3
186
distort
(on the gliss only)
189
sharp inward
breaths
mf
f
distort
(gliss only)
193
f
turn to centre of audience.....
mp
197
f
p
ff
disort
ord.
mute











take the music from the stand and slowly drop it on the floor behind you, still eyeing the audience.