Ce que le givre conserve d'une empreinte

for bass clarinet, viola and guitar

Tanguy Pocquet

written for Stephen Upshaw, Ausias Garrigos and Sam Cave

This piece was written for Stephen Upshaw, Ausias Garrigos and Sam Cave, all members of the Riot ensemble. It is a miniature made up of one very precise and idiomatic idea for each instrument.

The viola uses harmonic trills, playing a double-stopped harmonic and trilling one of the two natural harmonics with a third one on the same string, as well as halftone harmonics, a technique employed by Jürg Frey in his second string quartet, which results in a partially muted sound. The bass clarinet plays multiphonic trills, trilling between two overtones while sustaining the fundamental below them. These techniques have the common trait of creating quite a soft and cold sound, like a subdued version of the instrument's usual timbre, a trace of what the listener might be expecting, hence the piece's title.

On the repeat, the guitar begins playing a very quick and muted tremolo, played by quickly alternating fingers on the bottom two strings, and interrupted by a series of natural harmonics. This creates a whole new texture while the viola and bass clarinet parts remain unchanged. Listeners might vaguely remember hearing the material before, emphasising this sense of a lingering print, but because there is no easily identifiable event in the first repeat, it is hard to detect whether the material has changed.

This is a transposed score.

Bass Clarinet

Play multiphonic trills at a comfortable pace.

Make keyclicks audible when trilling.

Viola

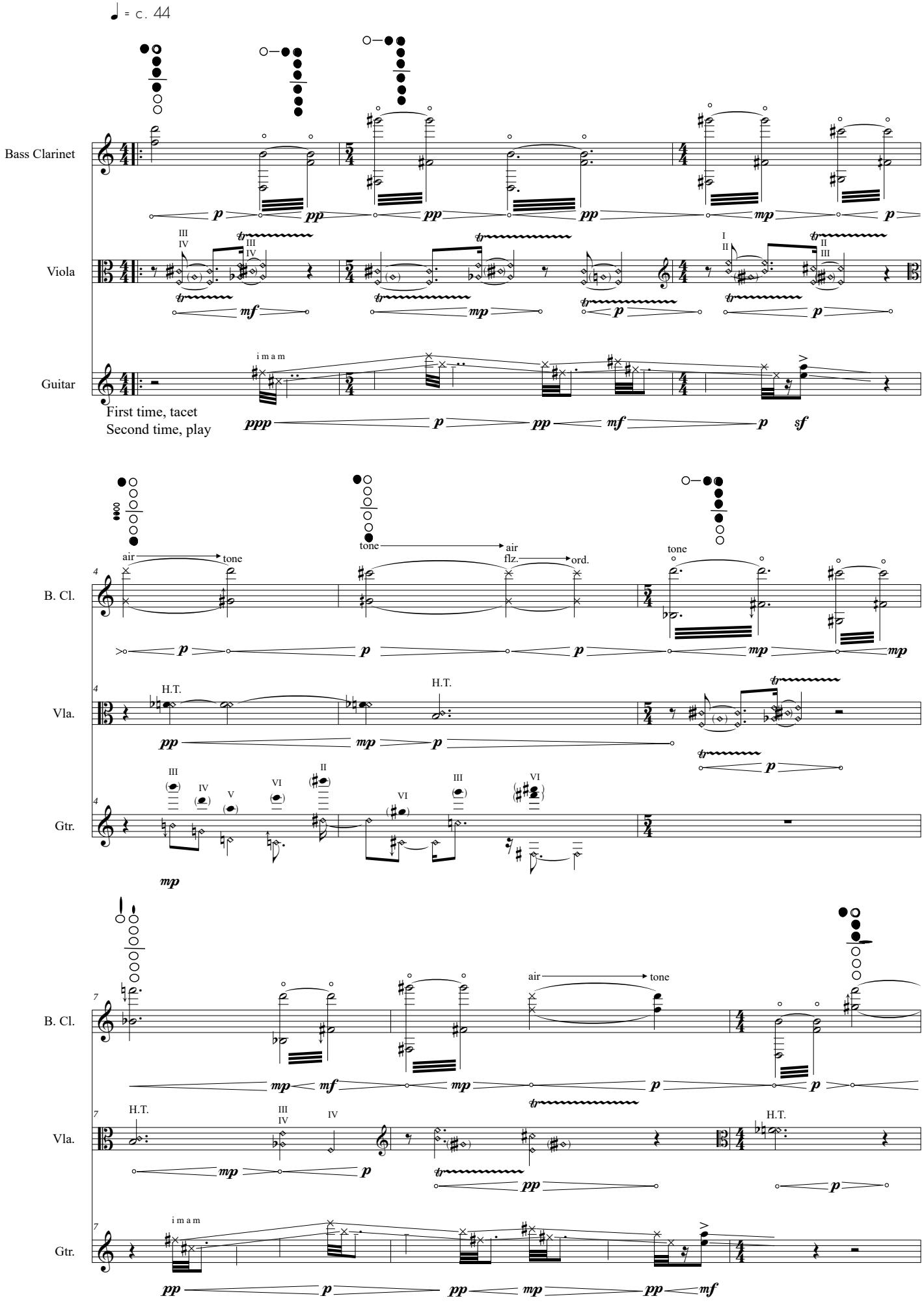
H.T.: Halftone harmonics – press the string at the note notated with a standard notehead, and lightly put a finger on the string a semitone higher, at the pitch indicated by a diamond notehead.

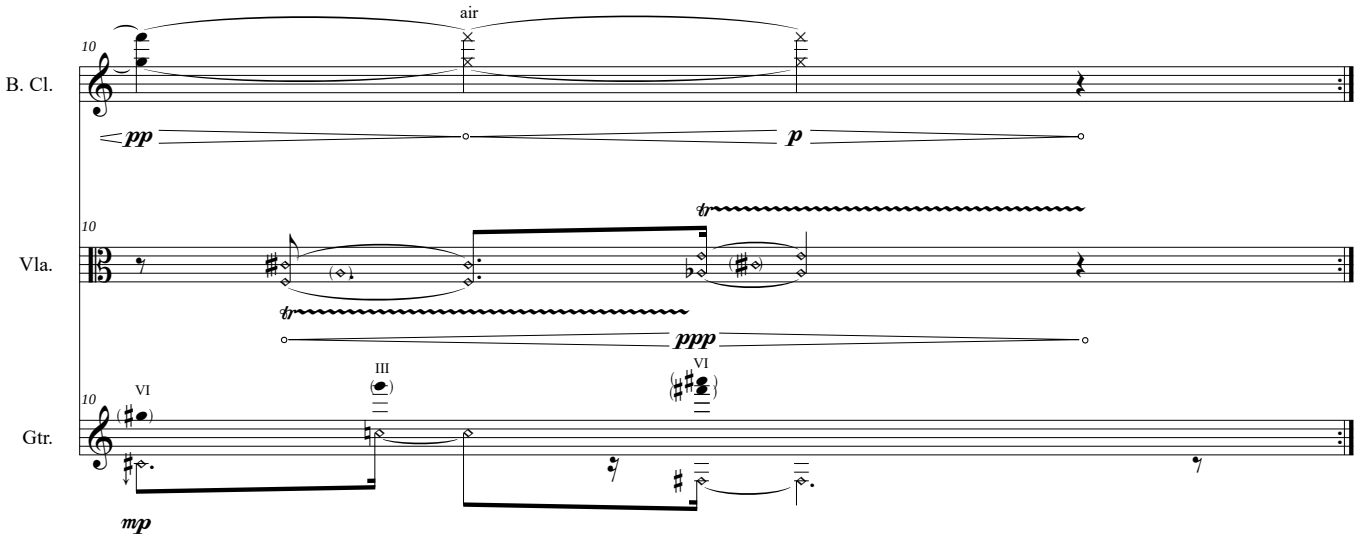
Harmonic trills: Play a double stop of natural harmonics, and trill one of those with the third natural harmonic indicated in brackets (if the trill line is over the staff, the higher string should be trilled, if it is under the staff, the lower string should be).

Guitar

This piece is played twice, the first time through, the guitar is tacet, the second time through, play normally.

i m a m: with your right hand, play a tremolo with fingers 1, 2, 3, 2, etc. , hitting both higher strings with each finger. Lightly place fingers of your left hand at the indicated pitches, without playing depressing the string.


♩ = c. 44
Bass Clarinet
Viola
Guitar
First time, tacet
Second time, play
B. Cl.
Vla.
Gtr.
air
tone
flz.
ord.
H.T.


air
B. Cl.
Vla.
Gtr.
10
pp
p
tr
ppp
VI
III
VI
mp