for bowed pno, fl headjoint, Bb clarinet headjoint, vln, vla, vc In memory of Robert Ian Winstin

# Megan Grace Beugger Fragility

"To be a good human being is to have a kind of openness to the world, an ability to trust uncertain things beyond your own control, that can lead you to be shattered in very extreme circumstances for which you were not to blame. That says something very important about the condition of the ethical life: that it is based on a trust in the uncertain and on a willingness to be exposed; it's based on being more like a plant than like a jewel, something rather fragile, but whose very particular beauty is inseparable from that fragility." Martha Nussbaum

Written in loving memory of my "music dad," Robert Ian Winstin. Thanks for the memories, the laughter, and most of all, the music.

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#### I. **General**

- 1. Time is not spatially represented in the score. The parts are broken into bars, each representing a physical movement. The amount of space a gesture takes up in the notation has no relation to its time. The piano should serve as the leader of the ensemble. All other ensemble members should fit their gestures within the piano gestures. When the piano is not playing, another player may lead. These bars dictate only a physical movement. Due to the physical nature of the piece, it is expected and encouraged that repetitive gestures are only a repetition of intention: not what is actually produced.
- 2. There are two kinds of time in this piece: resultant time, and dictated time.

#### RESULTANT TIME-

FOR WINDS- Speed is dictated in the mouth staff. The top of the staff indicates a maximum amount of inhaled air. It should be impossible to inhale **II.** For Bowed Piano any additional amount of air. The bottom line indicates that every bit of air**II.** For Bowed Piano has been exhaled. EX: pg. 1 bar 3- exhale a complete breath at a constant rate. The vertical lines and shading underneath the breath line indicates the speed according to the scale listed below.

FOR STRINGS- Speed is dictated in the bow location and speed staff. The top line indicates the tip of the bow and the bottom line indicates the frog. EX: pg. 10 bar 6- one complete bow movement from frog to tip at an even rate. The vertical lines and shading underneath the breath line indicates the speed according to the scale listed below.

FOR BOWED PNO- The pressure and speed staff works similarly to the strings' bow location and speed staff, with the top line being the left end of the fishing line bow and the bottom line the right end of the bow.

SPEED	SCALE: / /	=	slowest speed (about 30" for a complete breath or bow). Should be so slow that sound wavers between sounds and silence. average speed (about 2" for a complete breath or
		=	bow). fast speed (about .5" for a complete breath or bow).
		=	speed afap (as fast as possible)- less than .5" for a complete breath or bow. Action should be frazzled and faster than what can be controlled. no bow or air movement

DICTATED TIME- gestures that could theoretically last forever or do not suggest a relative duration are given either a specific duration or a metrical marking (ex. pq. 3 bar 4). These durations should be exact: a stop watch should be used. These durations are typically longer than what can be comfortably sustained. While the intension to create sound should remain the same throughout, the sound may naturally change to reflect changes in one's physical condition.

- still.
- 4.  $\stackrel{15''}{\frown}$  = tutti HPS for 15'' (written above the barline after the gesture preceding the HPS)
- if it may appear to visually align on the page)
- arrow to the instruction following the dashed arrow
- 7. No vib. unless otherwise noted.

8. SET-UP



- bow into thirds.
- 10. The sostenuto pedal should be weighted down to remain depressed.
- their line into that realization.
- allows.
- 13. Angles are notated in-between the two staffs. The first angle notates the 90°, the two hands should be placed together.

3. HPS= hold position still. Body should be motionless, and breath should be

5. Dotted lines going through all staffs indicates a tutti alignment. Dashed lines going through multiple staffs indicates an alignment between 2 or more parts. Any given spot in between two dotted lines, two dashed lines, or a dotted line and a dashed line which does not contain a line does not necessarily align (even

6. A dashed arrow mean to gradually move from the instruction preceding the dashed

9. The bowed piano is always played on the lowest G strings. They should be strung with a 29 inch rosined fishing line bow. Multiple bows should be strung and placed at the front of the piano so that when the rosin is worn off the original bow, the player only has to place the old bow at the back of the piano and grab a new bow from the front. One may find it helpful to use a marker to mark the

11. The piano is the leader of the ensemble and serves as a conductor of sorts. The piano should simply realize their part and the other parts should work to fit

12. The top staff is the location staff. The outer limits of where the string can be played may be adjusted, favoring the part of the string towards the bridge, if a bar of the frame makes it impossible for one piano bow to utilize the entire string. The height of the gesture on this staff shows which part of the string should be played. Gestures near the bottom line should be played towards the bridge of the piano, and gestures near the top should be played in the section of the piano closest to the hammers that the construction of the piano

angle formed between the fishing line bow and the piano strings while looking at the piano from the top. The middle angle (L) indicates the angle formed between the left half of the bow and the strings while looking at the piano from the side. The last angle (R) indicates the angle formed between the right half of the bow and the strings while looking at the piano from the side. The latter two angles only affect vertical hand movement. When both of these angles are at

Angle tremolo= an alternation between two angles as fast as possible (afap). This is notated by two angles slurred together with a  $\neq$  on top of each angle.

14. The bottom staff is the pressure and speed clef. The speed is indicated according to the instructions in the general section. The two light horizontal lines in the staff are visual marks which divides the bow into thirds. Pressure is notated by the quality of the line that rides on top of the vertical speed lines or fill. The scale is as following: nearest the top is the lowest pressure (should waver between sound and silence), with pressure progressively being added towards the bottom, which should be an overpressured scratch sound.

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

15. BOW ON BOW- On page 11, it asks you to bow the fishing line bow. Both ends of the fishing line should be held in one hand tautly, forming a 90° angle with the strings. Then, use a slightly loosened vln, vla, vc, or bass bow to bow the fishing line. The clef here changes to resemble the string players' staff, where the top line represents the tip and the bottom represents the froq. Angle markings indicate the angles formed between the static fishing line bow and the bow.

- jeté= throw bow onto the fishing line bow and let bounce naturally. This is represented by Xs. When a series of Xs is marked with a slur, let bow bounce until it comes completely to a stop. This may take more or less hits then the number of Xs printed.
- 16. Click= an attempt at one single coil click. In the metrical section it is expected that there is only an even beat of intension. Due to the difficulty of repeatedly making only one single coil click speak, what will result will be much more arrhythmic than one's intension to create sound. Do not slow down the tempo or play intensionally irregular to perfect the quality of the single clicks.
- 17. MT= Micro trem. A micro trem. is a tremolo in which the pressure is so high and the range of movement is so small that its result is colored silence.
- 18. Page 9 asks for harmonic bowing. This is achieved by lightly bowing on harmonic nodes to achieve the partial indicated.

#### III. For Winds

- right hand staff).
- the finger can be inserted to lower the pitch up to a fourth. no air can escape.
- your shoulders and sucking in your stomach.
- 22. Formants that should be articulated into the instrument are written below the mouth staff. ah- as in d**au**ghter u- as in h**ood** el- as in **el**evator le-as in **lay** oo- as in **o**ff pa- as in **papa** duration of the bar. 23. = flutter tongue for duration of slur
- 24. FOR FLUTE:
  - Embouchures are notated between the two staffs covering the embouchure hole respectively pressure, the instrument should resonate.
  - - $Ab \longrightarrow G=$  bend pitch with embouchure

Specific harmonics are indicated in the section starting on page 9. They should be achieved by over blowing.

19. This piece is scored for a soprano flute headjoint, along with a Bb clarinet mouthpiece attached to the barrel. Occasionally the clarinet is asked to hold the bell onto the end of the barrel (which is indicated by a barrel clef in the

20. The right hand staff indicates the pitch, which is controlled by inserting a finger into the end of the headjoint or barrel. When this staff is empty it indicates that the headjoint or mouthpiece and barrel should be played open. Each space that is filled in (from top down), indicates that the finger should be inserted farther, to lower the pitch an additional semitone. The open flute headjoint is pitched at a  $G_{\#}^{*}$ , and the finger can be inserted to lower the pitch up to a fifth. The open clarinet mouthpiece and headjoint is pitched at a D and ------ = completely cover the end of the headjoint or barrel with hand so that

 $\sim$  = cover the end of the headjoint or barrel with hand so that it blocks 99% of air from escaping through the end of the headjoint or barrel.  $\sim$  gradually remove hand from the end of the headjoint or barrel.

21. The mouth staff indicates air direction and speed (as indicated in the general section), and air quality. When the line above the vertical air speed lines or fill is solid, breath quality should be normal. When the line is a serrated railroad track, the diaphragm should be constricted. This is done by shrugging

|:ut tu:| = alternate between two syllabus as fast as possible for the

 $\circ, \bullet =$  regular embouchure size: regular and with the lips completely °, •= tiny embouchure size: open and with the lips completely covering the embouchure hole respectively. When open, sound should be a tiny, high. buzzy air sound. When closed and played with a lot of air  $\bigcirc$ ,  $\bigcirc$  = very large embouchure size: open and with the lips completely covering the embouchure hole respectively. When open, the timbre should range from an air sound to a very airy tone. |:•○:|\_\_\_\_\_= alternate between embouchures as fast as possible --- --- --- or a closed embouchure to an open one

#### 25. FOR CLARINET:

Embouchures are notated between the two staffs ) = air sound. Breathing outside the instrument

, = regular embouchure, and regular embouchure placement with teeth biting on reed respectively

Put entire mouthpiece in mouth and bite on reed

= put very tip of mouthpiece in mouth, and put tip of mouthpiece in mouth and bite on reed respectively

### **IV.** For Strings

- 26. All strings should be retuned as indicated at the beginning of the score. All gestures should be played on the open second string. Other strings will be hit as the bow moves towards the scroll. Strings I, III, and IV should not be attempted to be hit nor avoided. All gestures should be focused towards the second string.
- 27. Slightly loosen bow hairs.

- 28. The vln. and vla. should be played between the legs (like the cello) so that each string player's instrument is parallel to the body.
- 29. The top staff is the bow location, pressure, and speed staff. The speed and bow location is indicated as explained in the general section. The two light horizontal lines in the staff are visual marks which divides the bow into thirds. Pressure is notated by the quality of the line that rides on top of the vertical speed lines or fill. The scale is as following: nearest the top is the lowest pressure (should waver between sound and silence), with pressure progressively being added towards the bottom, which should be an overpressured scratch sound.



30. The string location staff indicates the place on the string that should be played. The height of each gesture on the staff indicates its placement on the instrument, which corresponds to the picture of the instrument at the start of the staff.

- bow location staff.
  - 90° = bow should be perpendicular to the strings
  - the ceiling
  - the floor
  - for the duration of the slur.
- II required.
- 34. A click is a single pulse of an overpressured stroke.
- not released, dampening the string from resonating.
- 37. Starting on page 10, there are bow harmonic indications. To achieve a bow indicated.
- 38. FOR CELLO:

Towards the end of the piece there is a bow vibrato indication. Bow vibrato is a baroque technique in which a fast alternation of dynamics creates a vibrato effect on an open string.

Towards the end of the piece, the cello gradually takes over the role of leadership from the piano, and utilizes a fishing line bow. The fishing line bow should be roughly the same length as a regular cello bow. It should be strung onto string II prior to the start of the piece. It should simply hang down off the string. Wooden sticks may be added to the ends of the fishing line to serve as a better grip and to weight the fishing line bow down. When you are ready to use the fishing line bow, simply put down your regular bow and pick up the fishing line bow.

31. Angles are notated between the bow location, pressure, and speed staff and the

 $\sim$  = bow should form a 45° with the strings so that the tip is pointed towards r' = bow should form a 45° with the strings so that the tip is pointed towards f = angle tremolo. Alternate between the two given angles as fast as possible

32. String II should be retuned throughout the piece within a sixth as indicated in the tension staff. When this staff is empty, the string should be tuned at its highest tension in the given gamut (D for vla, and vc; A for vln). As the staff gets filled in (from top down) the string should be loosened. When the staff is completely filled, the string should be tuned at its lowest tension (F for vla, and vc; C for vln). These tensions are only approximate, and it is expected that due to the large amount of retuning, the peg might slip out of place when trying to sustain tension. This is an indeterminate feature of the piece. Only when a specific pitch is indicated is a specific tuning of string

33. An X indicates some type of battuto. When jeté is written, the bow should be thrown on the string and allowed to bounce naturally. A slurred jeté gesture is a complete jeté. Bow should be allowed to bounce until it comes to a complete stop. This may take more or less bounces than the number of Xs indicated on the score. A jeté without a slur is an incomplete jeté. The number of Xs should be exact, after which, the bow should be stopped from further motion.

35. DS= dead stroke. The bow should be placed on string to attack the gesture, but

36. MT= Micro trem. A micro trem, is a tremolo in which the pressure is so high and the range of movement is so small that its result is colored silence.

harmonic, one should lightly bow over a harmonic node to achieve the partial

- V. **Examples-** The following are specific examples from the score that help to further explain the previously stated points. The number at the beginning of an example or group of examples correlates to the point previously stated in the performance notes that the example is attempting to help clarify.
  - 2. Pg. 1, bar 3, bowed piano- at a constant rate, bow an entire bow from right to left over the course of 2"
    - Pg. 1, bar 3, winds- at a constant rate, fully exhale over the course of 2"
    - Pg. 2, bar 1, strings- at a constant rate, bow an entire bow from tip to frog as fast as possible
    - Pg. 13, bar 4, cello- start in middle of the bow and pull towards the tip at a medium fast speed (ca .5-1")
    - Pg. 15, bar 9, viola- gradually accelerate
    - Pg. 17. bar 9, winds- exhale remaining air at slowest possible speed
  - 12. Pg. 1, bar 1- bow near the hammers (or as close to the hammers as the construction of the piano allows).
    - Pg. 3, bar 8-9- coil scratch across the entire playable length of the string, starting towards the hammer and moving towards the bridge, then move back towards the hammers: repeat
    - Pg. 8, bar 4- start tremolo near the hammers and gradually move towards the bridge, then back towards the hammers
  - 14. Pg. 1, bar 2- highest/ overpressure
    - Pg. 2, bar 1- lightest pressure. Tone should be inconsistent.
    - Pg. 8, bar 5- start at lightest pressure and gradually increase to highest pressure
    - Pg. 18, bar 3- regular pressure
  - 20. Pg. 1, bar 1, clarinet- cover the end of the headjoint or barrel with hand so that it blocks 99% of air from escaping through the end of the headjoint or barrel.
    - Pg. 1, bar 11, flute- start with the open headjoint. Over the course of the motion, gradually insert the finger into the end of the headjoint to lower the pitch a fifth.
    - Pg. 4, bar 1, winds- fully insert finger into end of headjoint or barrel. Afap, repeatedly move finger slightly out and back in the end of the headjoint or barrel. This should produce rapid glissandi in the range of a semitone.
    - Pg. 9, bar 6, winds- insert finger slightly into the end of the headjoint or barrel to lower the pitch a semitone.
  - 29. Pg. 15, bar 8, viola- no pressure. Retake bow.
  - 30. Pg. 1, bar 3, strings- play on the bridge Pg. 2, bar 9, strings- sul tasto Pg. 10, bar 1, cello- start in regular playing location and move bow to the center of the fingerboard (over the harmonic node).
  - 32. Pg. 1, bar 1, strings- lowest tension on string II Pg. 7, bar 1, strings- afap, turn peg slightly back and forth to create fast glissandi in the range of about a semitone.
  - 33. Pg. 9, bar 9, viola- complete jeté. Allow bow to bounce until it loses all momentum.

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	CLICK (then HPS)		
		HPS	HPS
	CLICK (then HPS)	HPS	HPS







@ slightly adjusts speeds and pressures to produce harmonic tones



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![](_page_21_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Figure_1.jpeg)

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![](_page_25_Figure_1.jpeg)

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- BUFFALO, NY- 2011-August, 2012
- STUTTGART, GERMANY- 2011
- ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL- 2011
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