

Surface Tension

open score for chamber ensemble

Jordan Nobles



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About the Piece

Surface Tension was premiered by the Aventa Ensemble, directed by Bill Linwood, on December 4, 2012.
The original Performance included *Quicken*, *Surface Tension* and *Rogue Waves* all played *attacca*.

Performance Notes

Surface Tension involves a suspended harmony of long tones and slow glissandi

- play any long tone, or glissando, in any order
- all cells can be played in any octave as long as the dynamics are observed
- what cells to play, and when to play them, should be decided by each musician independently as long as they are responsive to the other players. A good rule is to stop after completing a cell and listen for a moment before joining in again. Musicians in smaller ensembles can play more often but in larger ensembles should play less often to give space throughout the performance.
- there is no pulse or synchronization required or desired

Instrument Specific Notes

Winds & Brass: only play glisses that work well on your instrument, if none work then just play the long tones

Strings: use *sul ponticello* throughout

Percussion: do not worry about the glisses, just bow long tones on vibraphone, crotale and various cymbals

Guitar: use a volume pedal and an ebow for the swells, and bend strings or use a slide for the glisses

Surface Tension

Score in C

Jordan Nobles

Play any cells, in any order, in any octave

Long Tones - hold for 5-15 seconds or for the duration of a single breath or bow, no tremolo
- (Percussion: bow vibes, crotalines or cymbals; Strings: sul ponticello)

Glissandi - mostly play glisses slowly but vary the speed occasionally, only play glisses that work well on your instrument
- minor seconds

- minor thirds

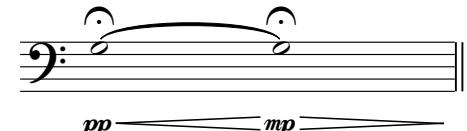
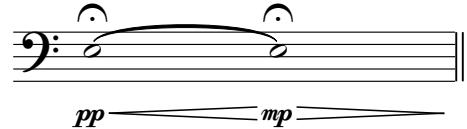
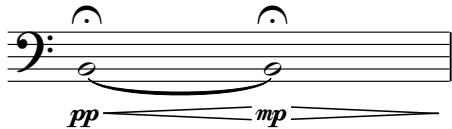
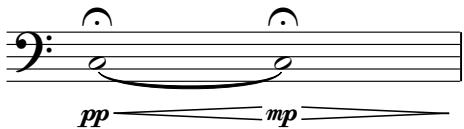
Surface Tension

Score in C - bass clef

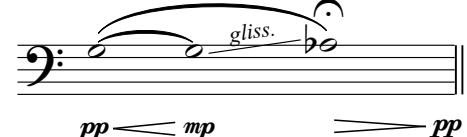
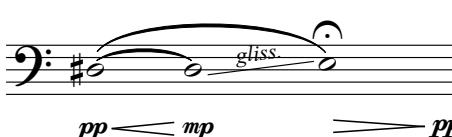
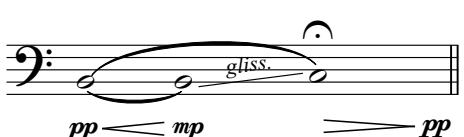
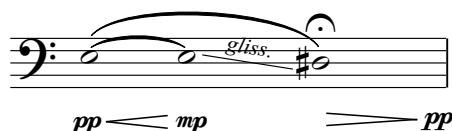
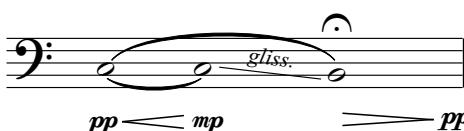
Jordan Nobles

Play any cells, in any order, in any octave

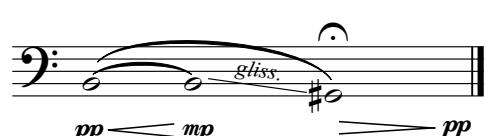
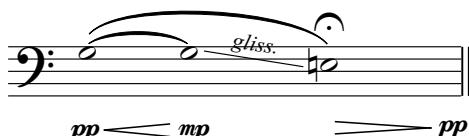
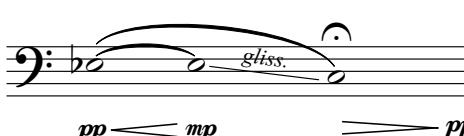
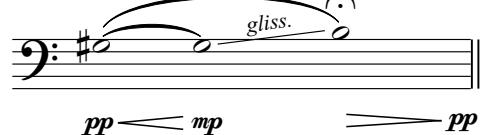
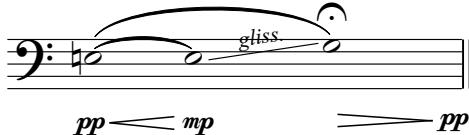
Long Tones - hold for 5-15 seconds or for the duration of a single breath or bow, no tremolo
- (Percussion: bow vibes, crotales or cymbals; Strings: sul ponticello)



Glissandi - mostly play glisses slowly but vary the speed, only play glisses that work well on your instrument
- minor seconds



- minor thirds



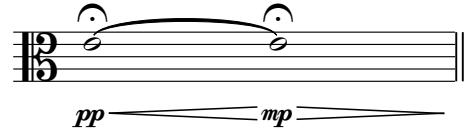
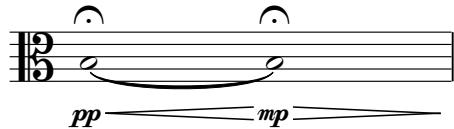
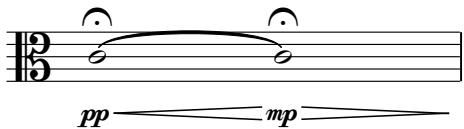
Surface Tension

Score in C - alto clef

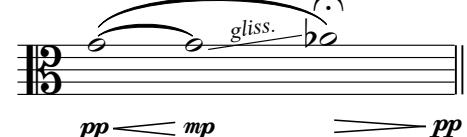
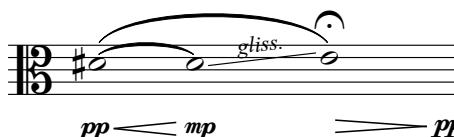
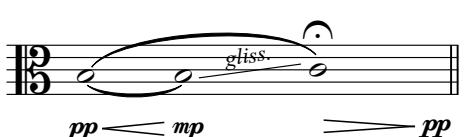
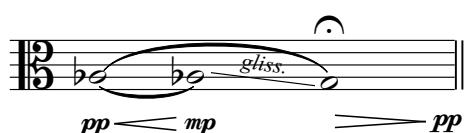
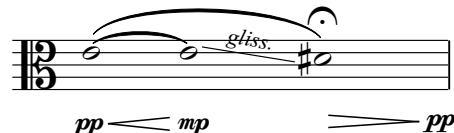
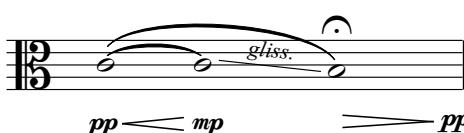
Jordan Nobles

Play any cells, in any order, in any octave

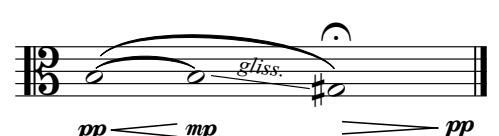
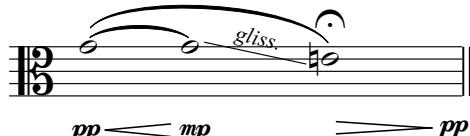
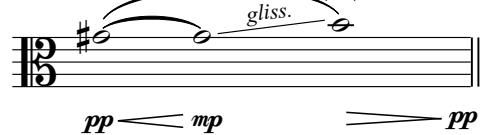
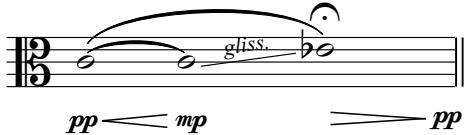
Long Tones - hold for 5-15 seconds or for the duration of a single breath or bow, no tremolo
(Percussion: bow vibes, crotalines or cymbals; Strings: sul ponticello)



Glissandi - mostly play glisses slowly but vary the speed, only play glisses that work well on your instrument
- minor seconds



- minor thirds



Surface Tension

Score in B♭

Jordan Nobles

Play any cells, in any order, in any octave

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- (Percussion: bow vibes, crotalines or cymbals; Strings: sul ponticello)

Glissandi - mostly play glisses slowly but vary the speed, only play glisses that work well on your instrument
- minor seconds

- minor thirds

Surface Tension

Score in E♭

Jordan Nobles

Play any cells, in any order, in any octave

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- (Percussion: bow vibes, crotalines or cymbals; Strings: sul ponticello)

Glissandi - mostly play glissades slowly but vary the speed, only play glissades that work well on your instrument
- minor seconds

- minor thirds

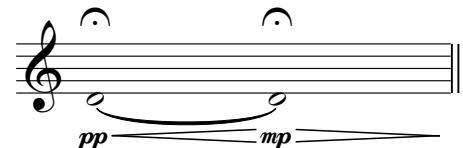
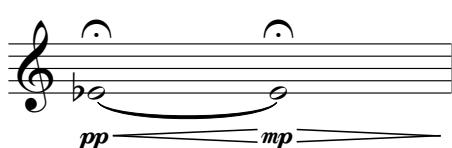
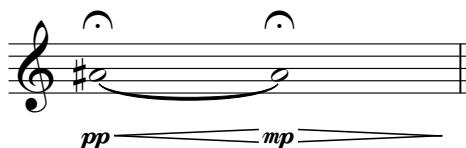
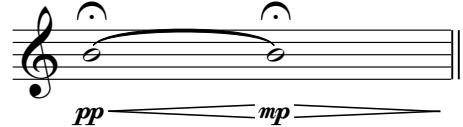
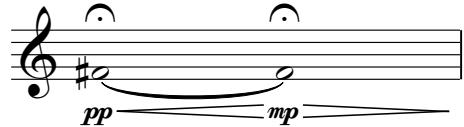
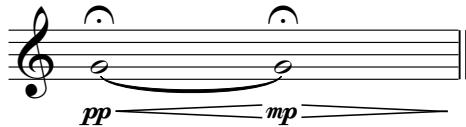
Surface Tension

Score in F

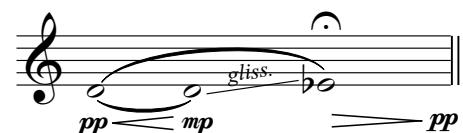
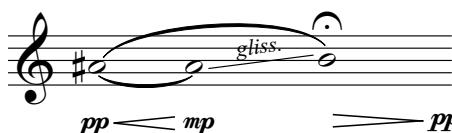
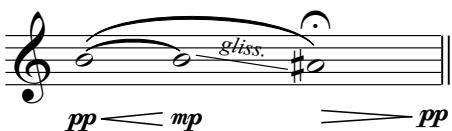
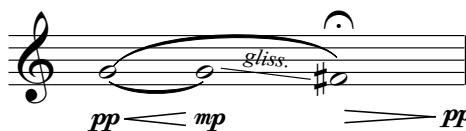
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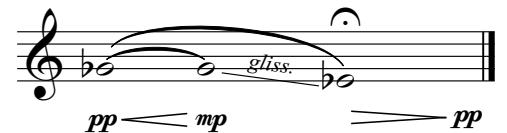
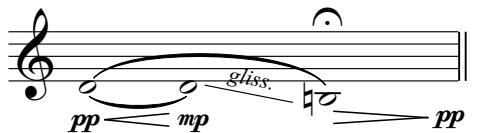
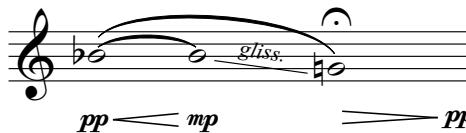
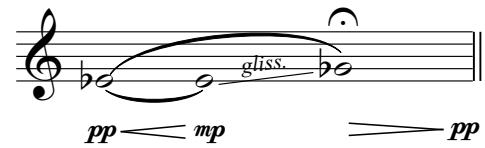
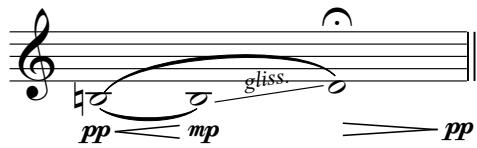
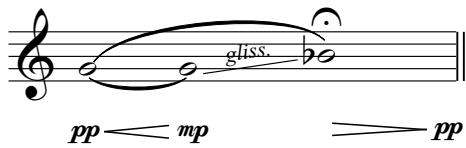
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- minor thirds



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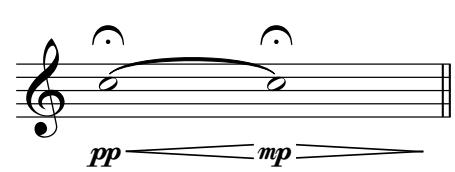
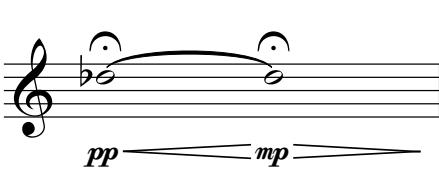
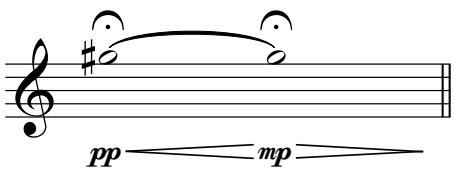
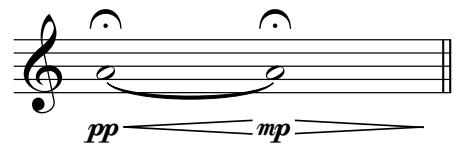
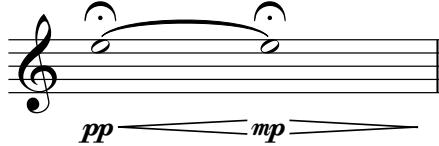
Score in G

Jordan Nobles

Play any cells, in any order, in any octave

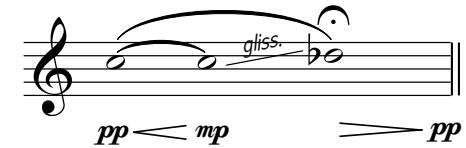
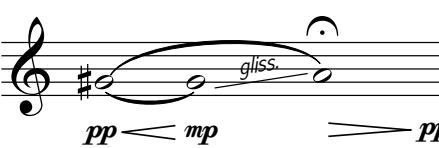
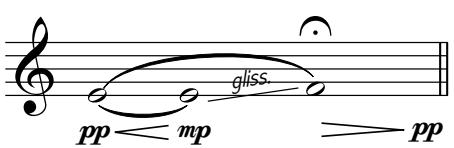
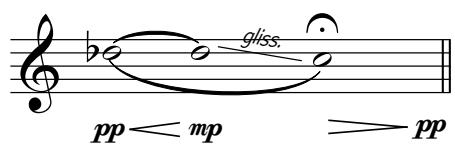
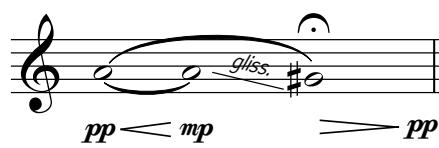
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