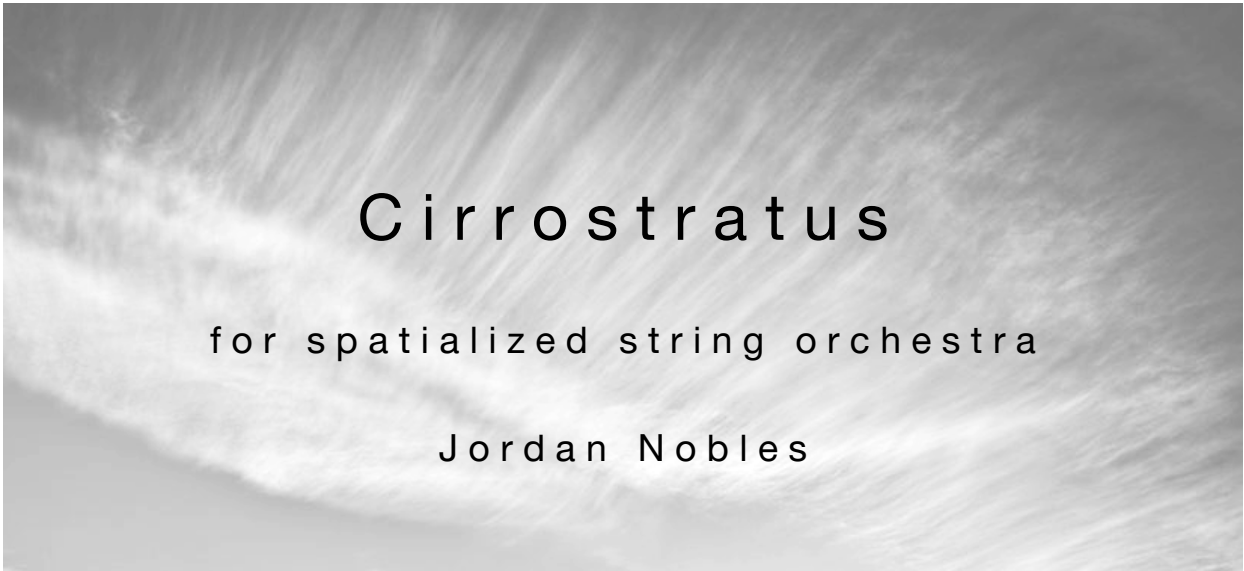




Cirrostratus

for spatialized string orchestra

Jordan Nobles

Cirrostratus

for spatialized string orchestra

Jordan Nobles

PROGRAM NOTE

Cirrostratus is the fourth piece in *Atmospherics* (2021), a series of works by Jordan Nobles for spatialized or isolated ensembles. Each composition draws inspiration from a different type of cloud, evoking the subtle beauty and ephemeral structures found in the skies above.

Cirrostratus focuses on cirrostratus clouds—thin, wispy sheets that veil the sky and often herald the arrival of weather changes. Written for a spatialized string orchestra, *Cirrostratus* explores delicate harmonic textures and gentle microtonal inflections, creating an atmosphere of suspended motion.

Cirrostratus is both a study in high-altitude serenity and a sonic mirage that shimmers at the edge of perception.

More about the series: redshiftmedia.org/cirrostratus

ABOUT THE PIECE

Commissioned by Arizona State University and premiered online by isolated musicians during the COVID Pandemic in spring of 2021 by the ASU Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Jeffery Meyer, and Jason Caslor. It was composed in early 2021 in Deep Cove, BC, Canada.

Cirrostratus is an open form work with **no score**, just a set of parts comprised of a series of cells. There is no collective tempo, or pulse; the musicians perform the cells at their own discretion.

As with the other pieces in the series—*Asperitas* (winds), *Cumulonimbus* (brass), and *Noctilucent* (percussion)—*Cirrostratus* is written for the players to be spatially spread about the performance space, preferably surrounding the audience. Balconies, lofts, etc. can also be utilized as well.

The exact layout will vary depending on the venue and is not important as long as they are evenly distributed throughout the space. Also, if possible, the sections should not stand together as would be the norm but instead should be separated so each violin I, etc. is in a different area of the space from the others.

DURATION

The duration is variable; it can float in the space as long as is desired.

FORM

The form of the piece is up to the discretion of the ensemble/conductor. It could start thin with only a few players and gradually get thicker as more players are cued in, or the reverse, or it can be totally free form.

SCORDATURI

All strings are retuned to various notes in the D harmonic overtone series. The exact tuning is important.

Tuning Tones for each string available [HERE](#) if desired.

PERFORMANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Proceed independently; play any cell in any order, always with a pause (5 or more seconds) before moving on, in your own time, to a new cell.

There is no order to the cells at all. You can jump around to play any cell on any page.

Cells can be repeated, or ignored, as desired.

Notes are written where they would be played if tuned normally, not how they would sound after the scordatura tuning.

Always perform SUL PONT, very light and delicately throughout. MUTES ON.

Players can and should pause at any time to breathe, to reflex, and to listen before proceeding.

	IV F#3	III C4	II A#4	I E#5
Violin Ia				
Cents dev.:	-14	-31	-49	+5
Violin Ib				
Cents dev.:	-14	-31	+2	0
Violin IIa				
Cents dev.:	-14	+4	+2	0
Violin IIb				
Cents dev.:	-14	0	+2	+4
Viola 1				
Cents dev.:	-31	-14	-31	-49
Viola 2				
Cents dev.:	-31	-14	0	+2
Violoncello 1				
Cents dev.:	-31	-14	-31	+2
Violoncello 2				
Cents dev.:	-31	-14	0	+2
Contrabass				
Cents dev.:	0	+2	0	-14

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Scordatura Tuning

	IV F#3	III C4	II A♭4	I E♭5
Cents dev.:	-14	-31	-49	+5

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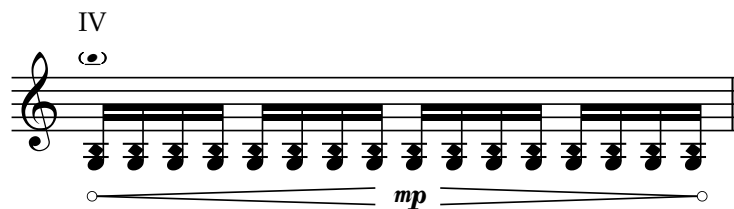
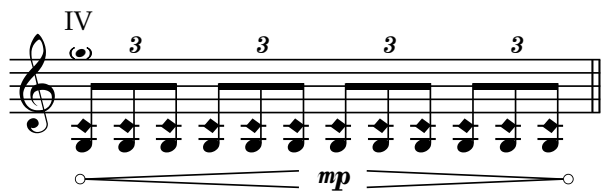
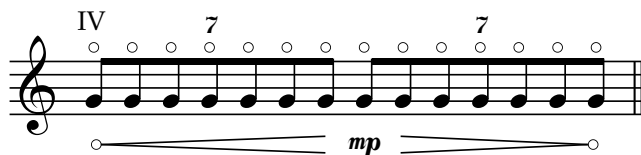
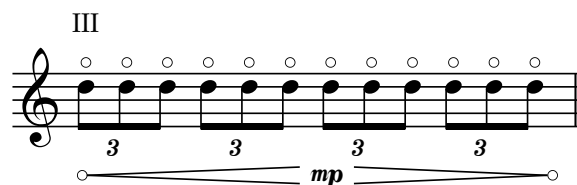
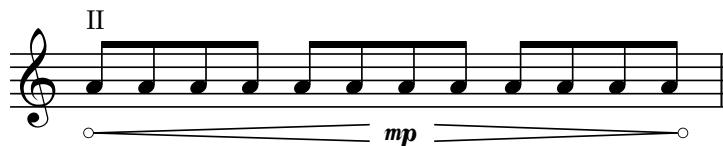
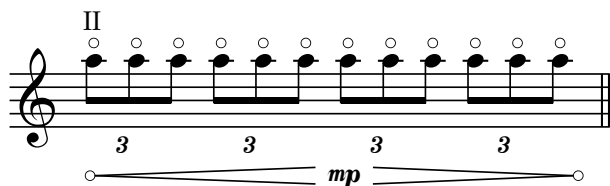
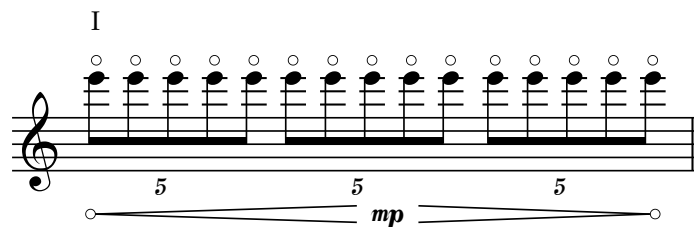
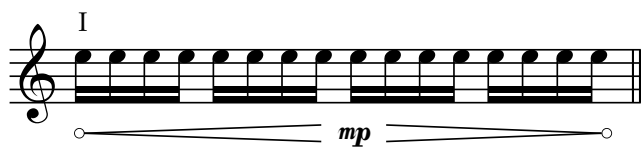
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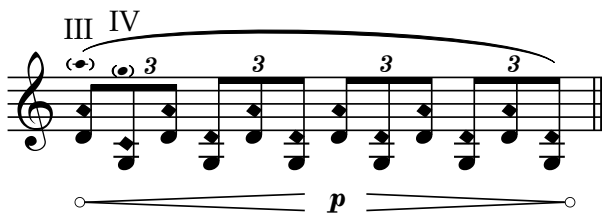
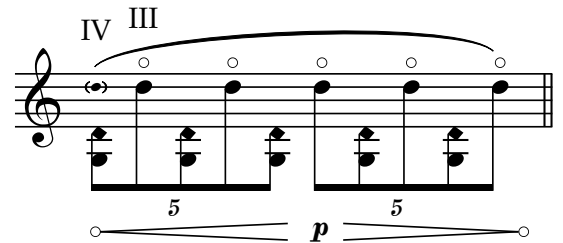
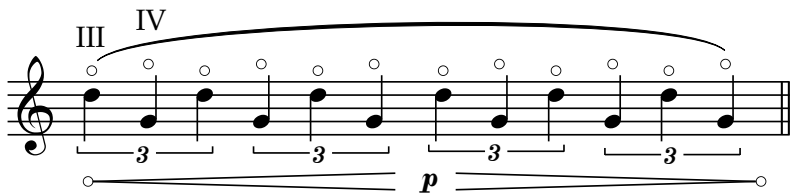
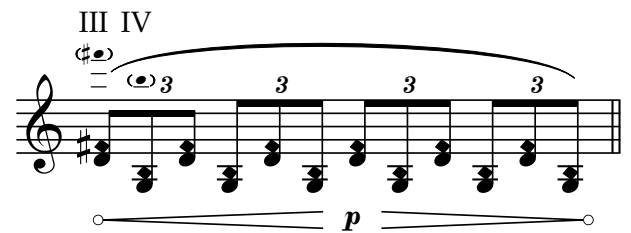
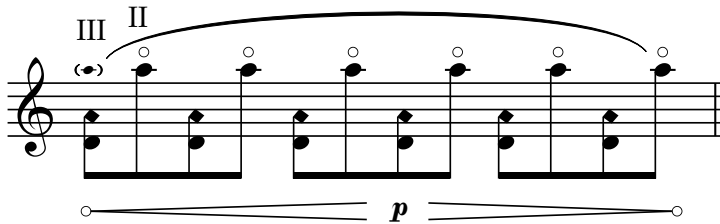
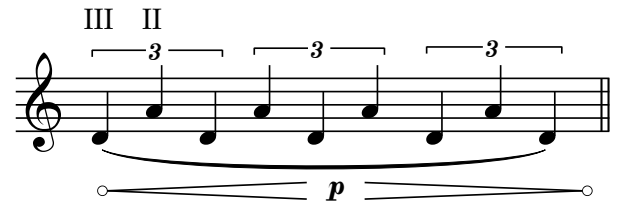
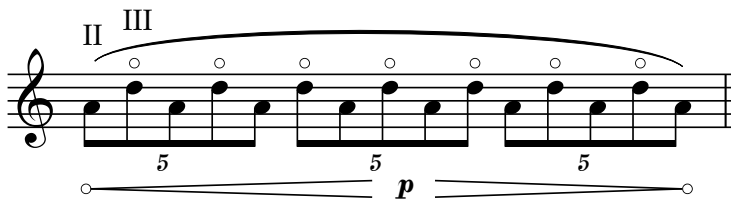
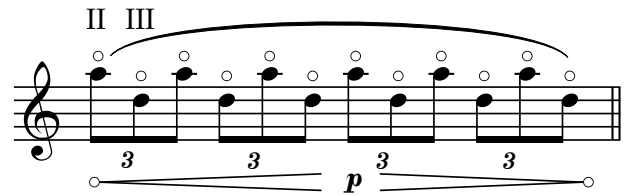
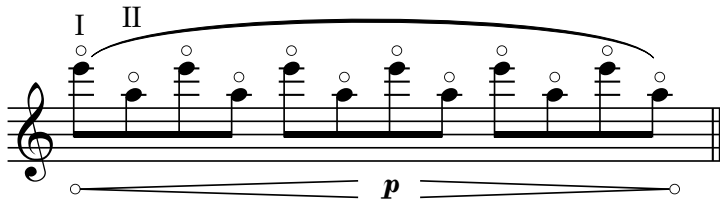
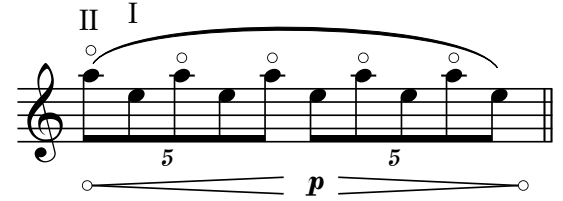
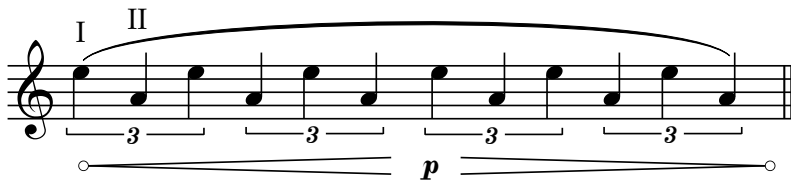
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PULSES (♩ = 120 approx, rubato feel, very sul pont)



STRING CROSSING (♩ = 120 approx, rubato feel, legato, sul pont, free bow)



Cirrostratus

for spatialized string orchestra

Jordan Nobles

Scordatura Tuning

	IV	III	II	I
F#3	C4	A4	D5	
Cents dev.:	-14	-31	+2	0

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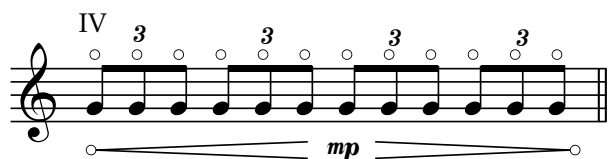
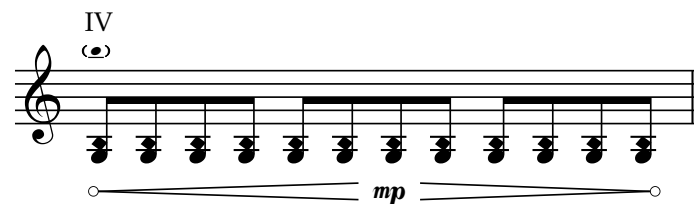
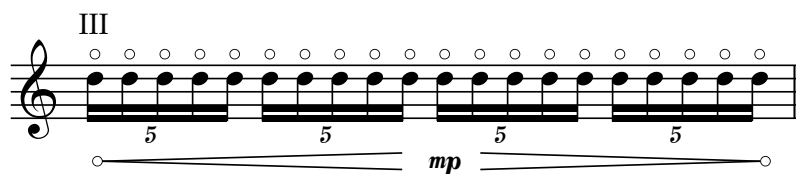
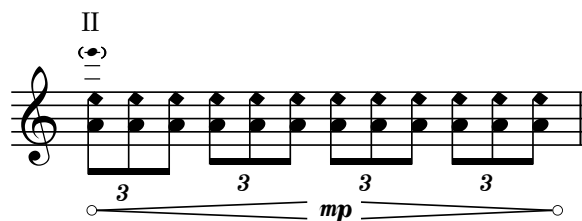
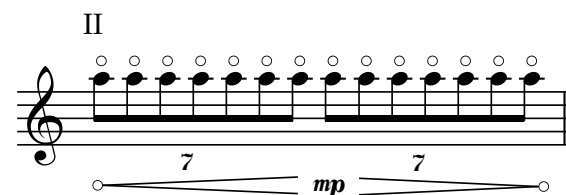
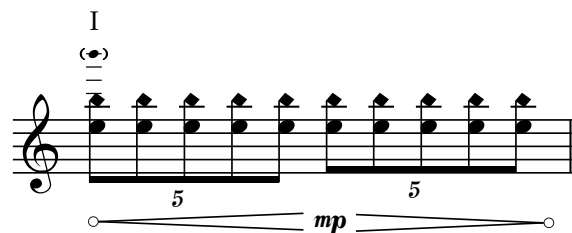
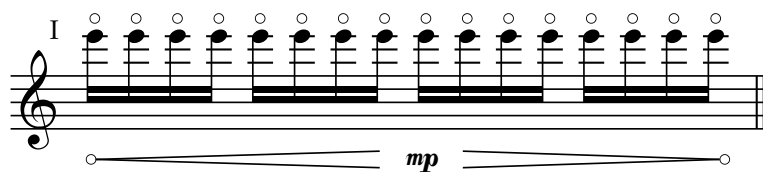
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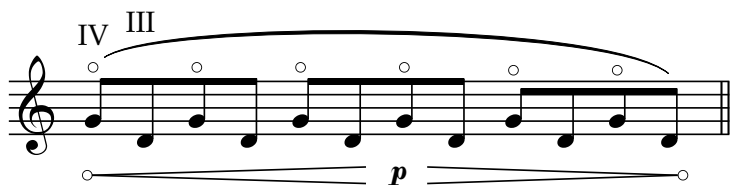
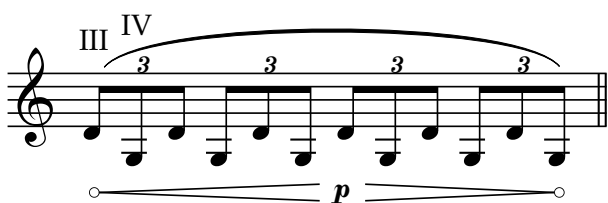
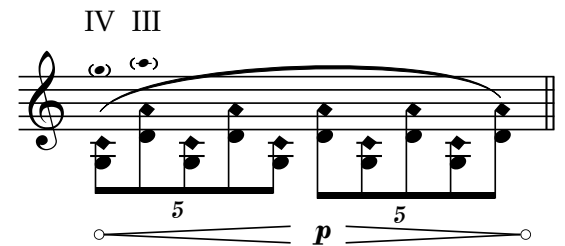
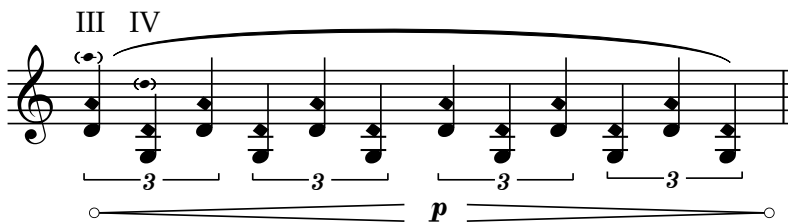
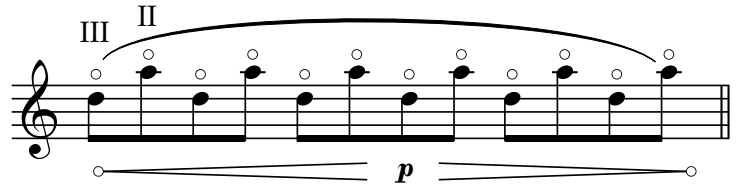
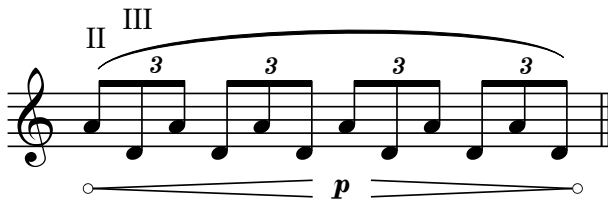
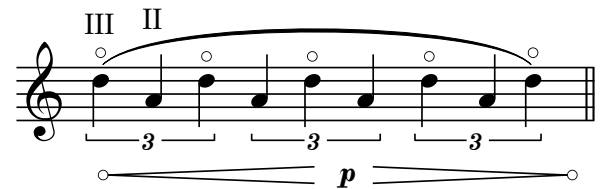
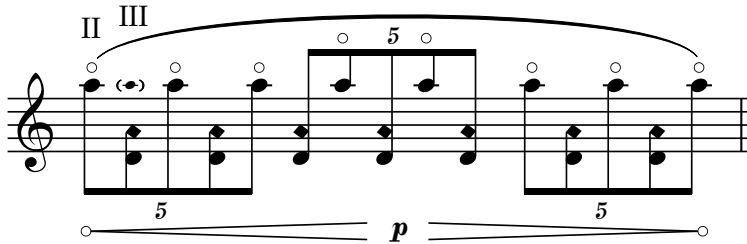
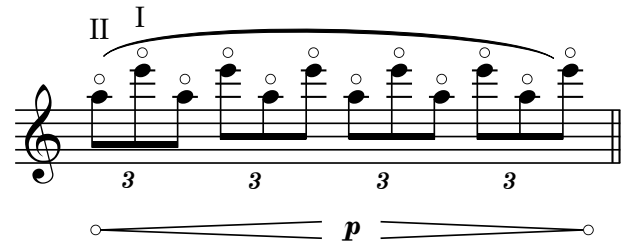
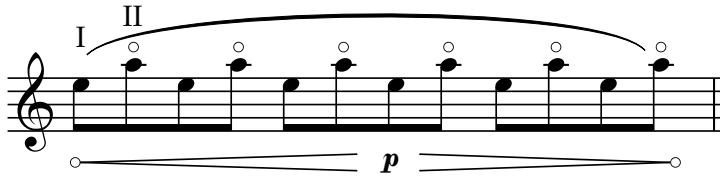
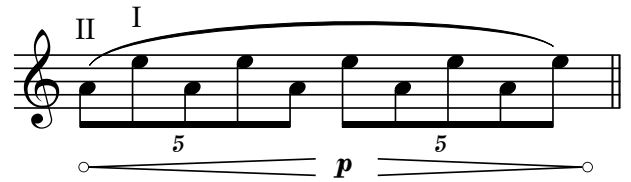
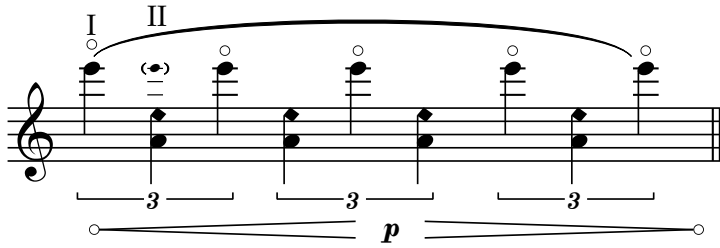
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Cirrostratus

for spatialized string orchestra

Jordan Nobles

Scordatura Tuning

	IV	III	II	I
F#3	D4	A4	D5	
Cents dev.:	-14	0	+2	0

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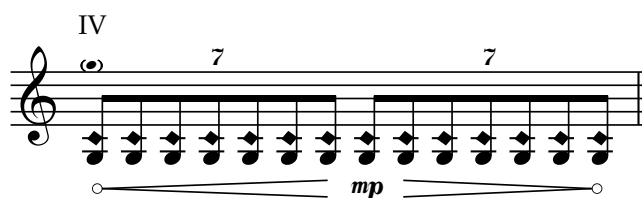
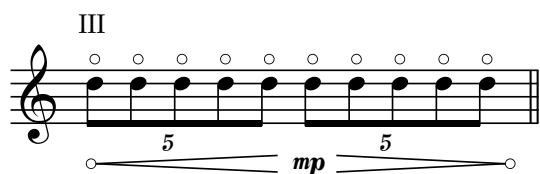
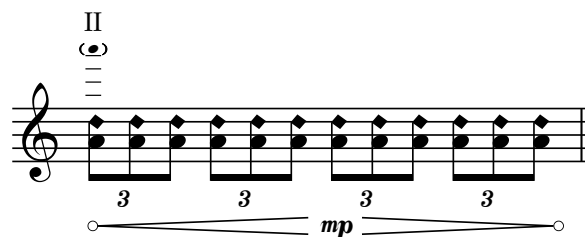
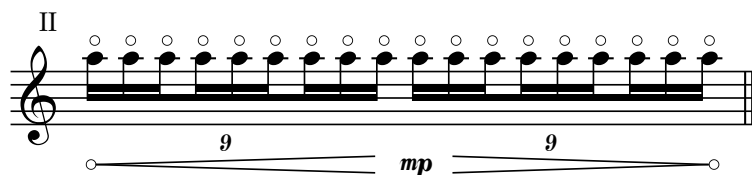
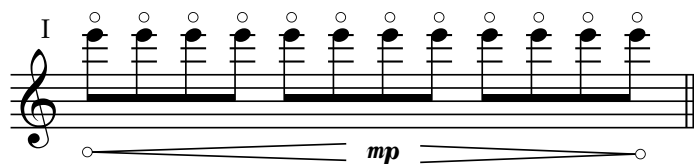
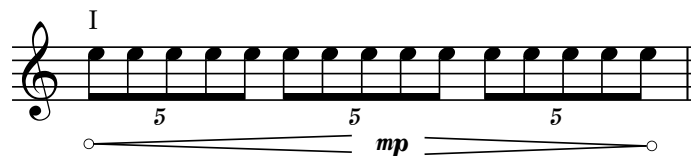
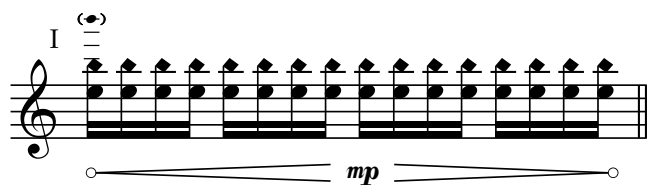
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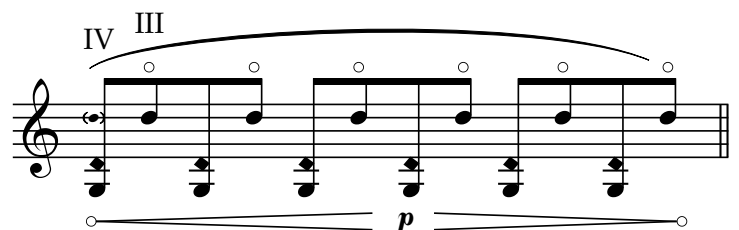
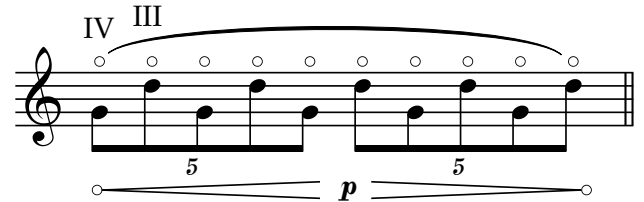
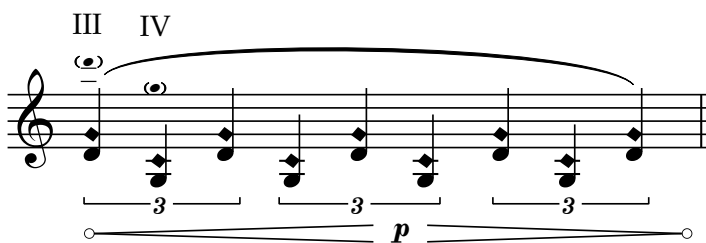
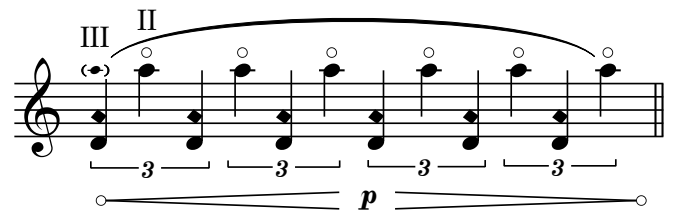
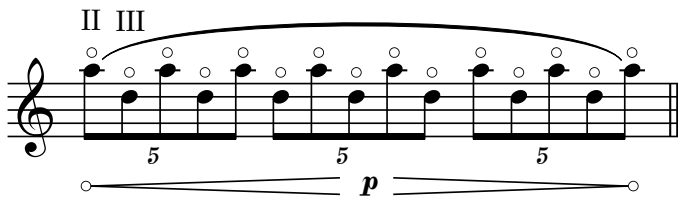
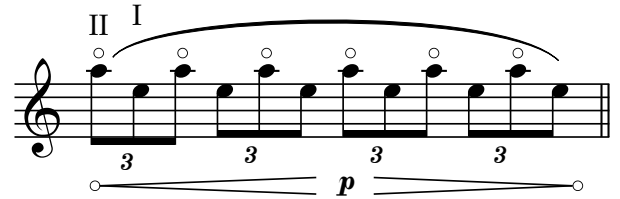
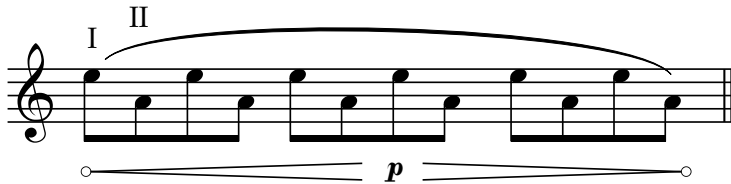
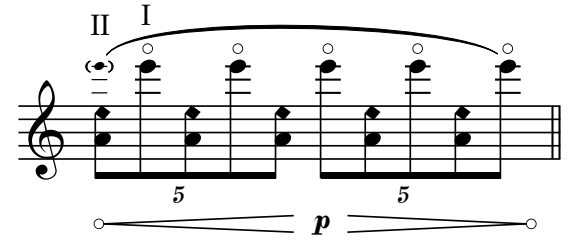
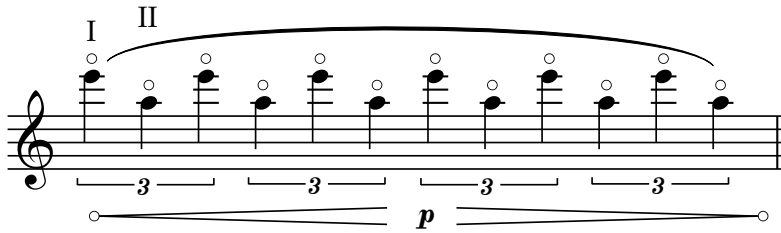
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Cirrostratus

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Jordan Nobles

Scordatura Tuning

	IV	III	II	I
F#3	D4	A4	E5	
Cents dev.:	-14	0	+2	+4

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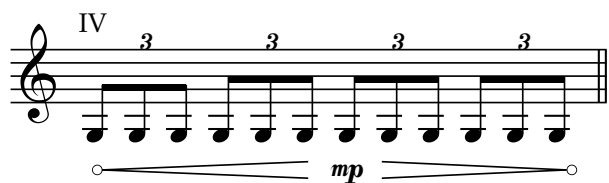
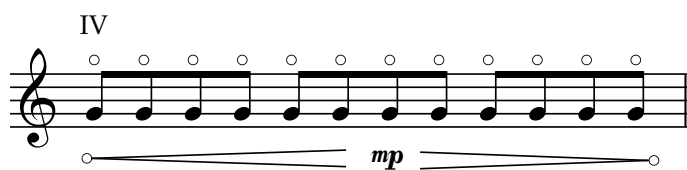
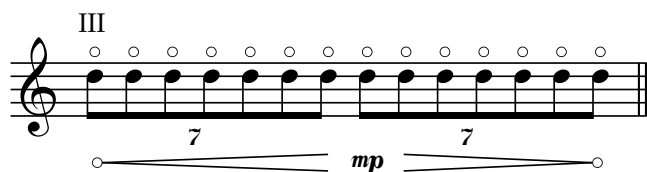
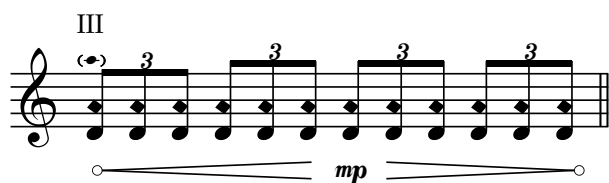
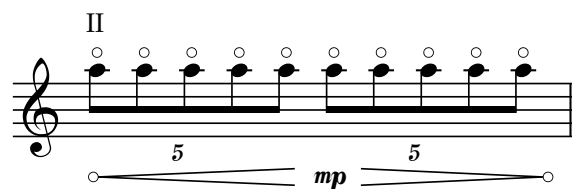
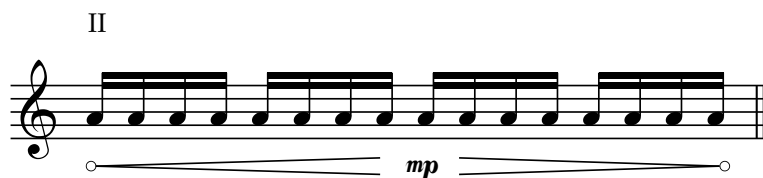
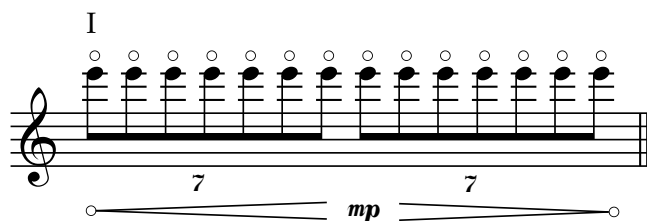
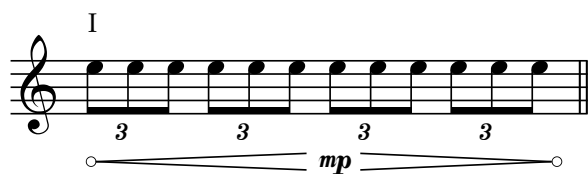
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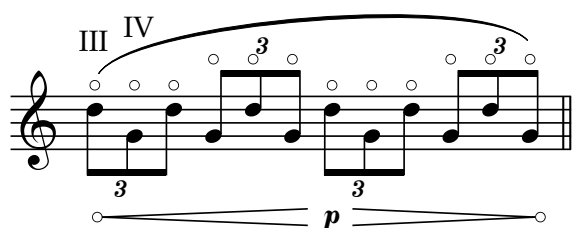
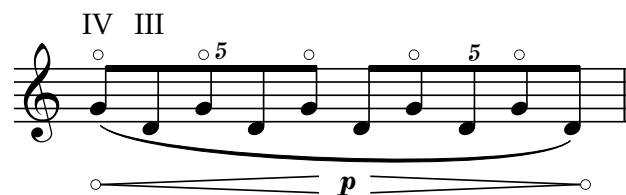
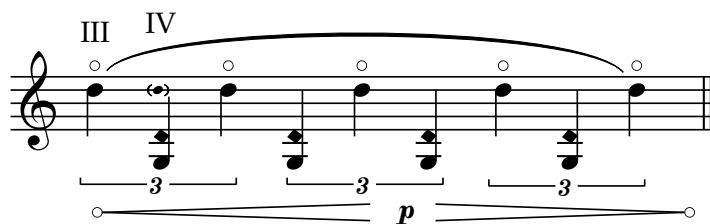
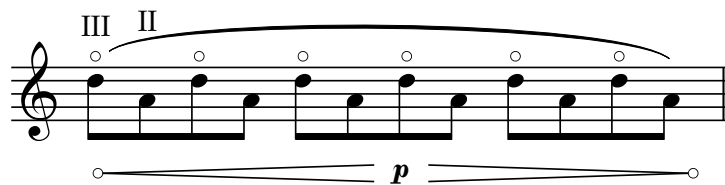
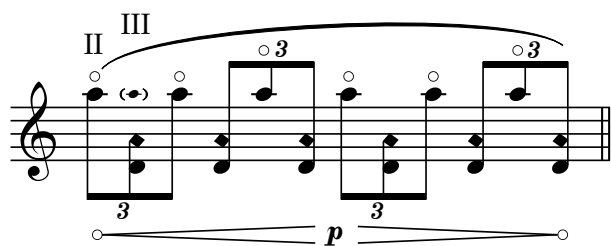
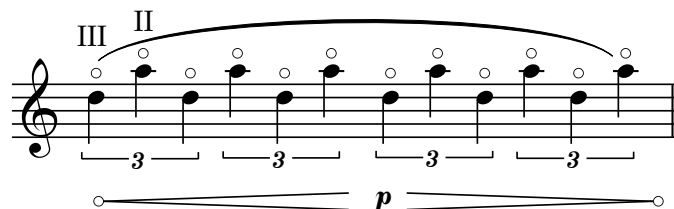
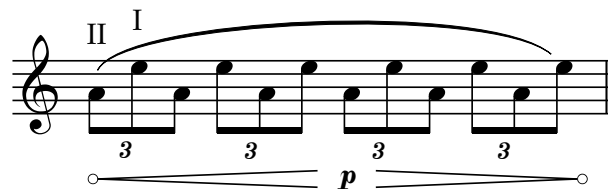
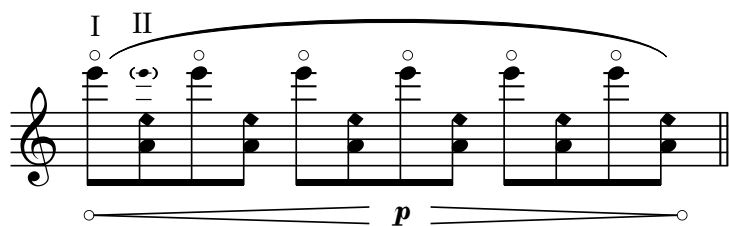
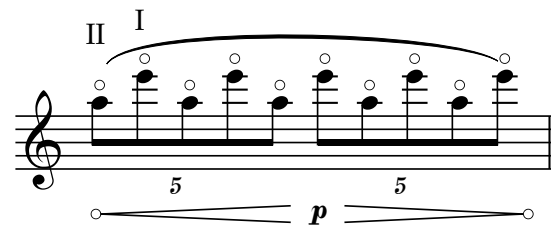
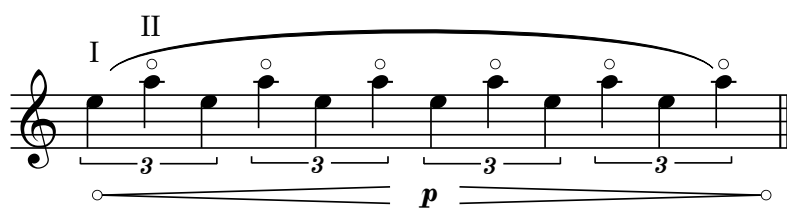
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Viola 1

Cirrostratus

for spatialized string orchestra

Jordan Nobles

IV III II II
C3 F#3 C4 A♭4

Scordatura Tuning

Cents dev.: -31 -14 -31 -49

Play any cell in any order, always with a long pause (5-10 seconds) before moving on, in your own time, to a new cell.

Cells can be repeated if desired (after the pause). Use only open strings and NATURAL harmonics.

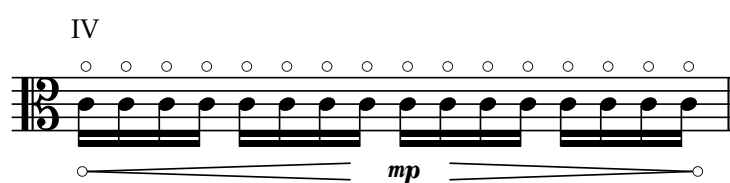
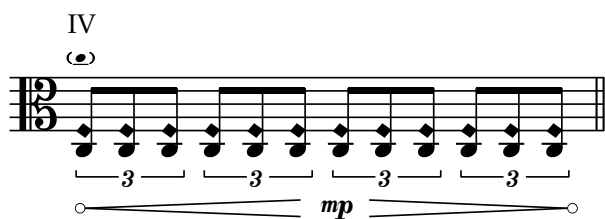
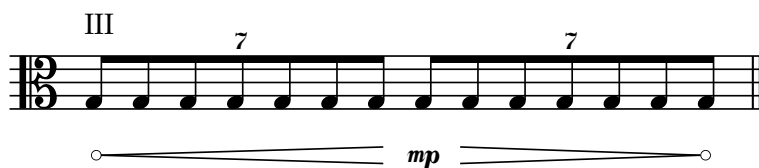
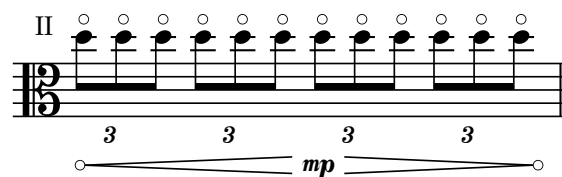
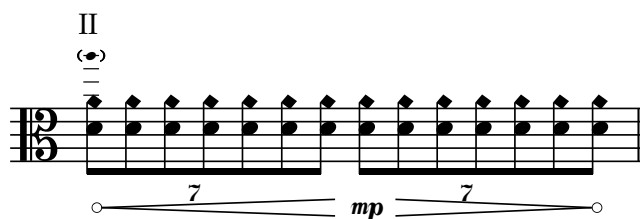
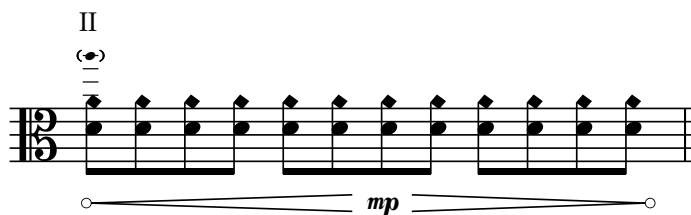
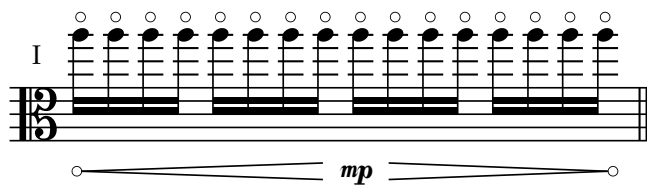
Notes are written where they would be played if tuned normally, not how they would sound.

Always perform SUL PONT, very light and delicately throughout. Mutes on.

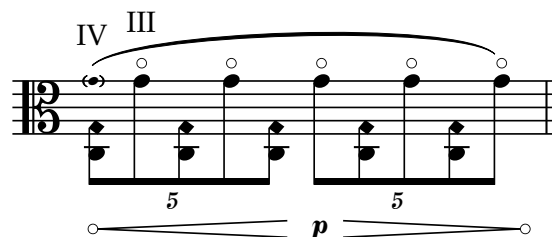
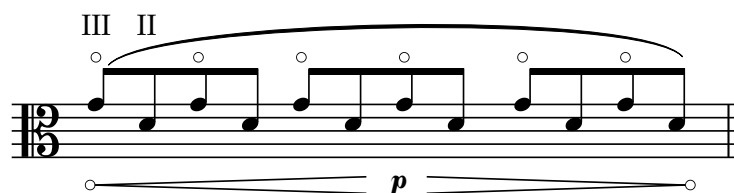
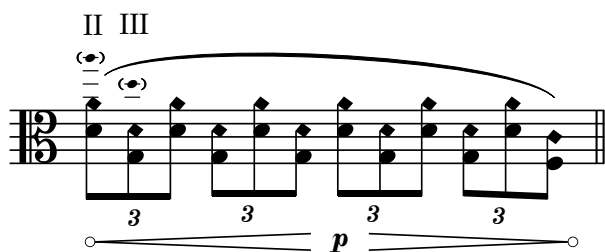
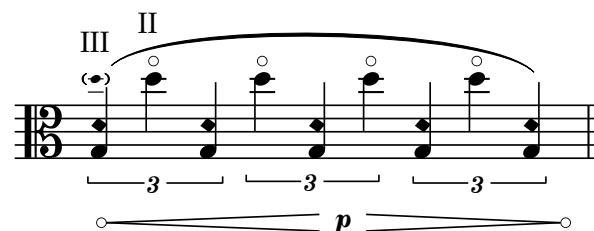
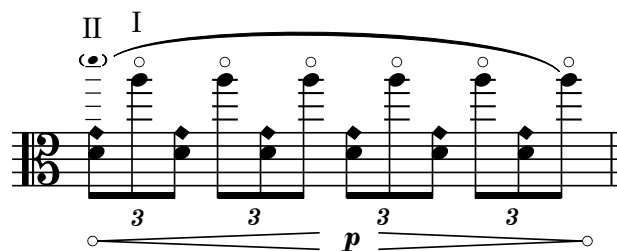
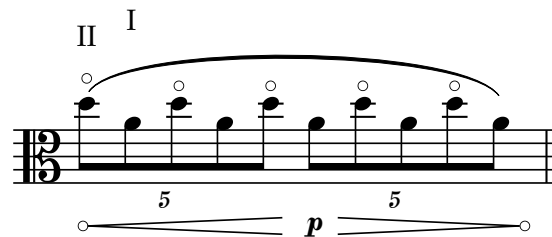
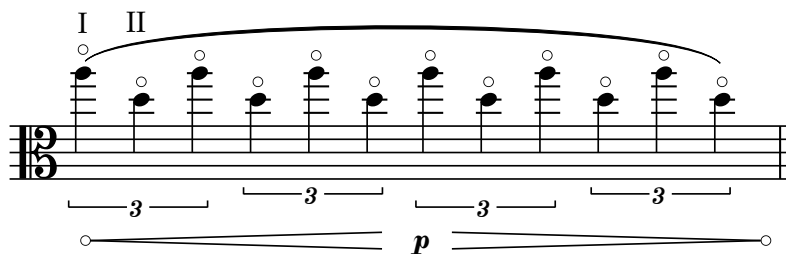
LONG TONES (approx. 3-5 seconds each, one bow stroke only)

HARMONIC THEN OPEN STRING (5 or more seconds, lift harmonic gently to slowly reveal the open string, one bow only)

PULSES (♩ = 120 approx, rubato feel, very sul pont)



STRING CROSSING (♩ = 120 approx, rubato feel, legato, sul pont, free bow)



Viola 2

Cirrostratus

for spatialized string orchestra

Jordan Nobles

	IV	III	II	I
	C3	F#3	D4	A4
Scordatura				
Tuning				
Cents dev.:	-31	-14	0	+2

Play any cell in any order, always with a long pause (5-10 seconds) before moving on, in your own time, to a new cell.

Cells can be repeated if desired (after the pause). Use only open strings and NATURAL harmonics.

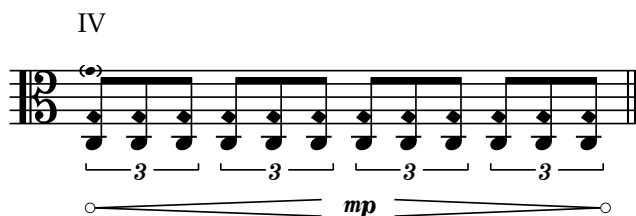
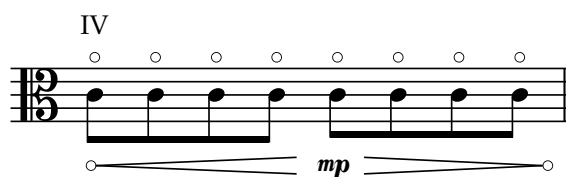
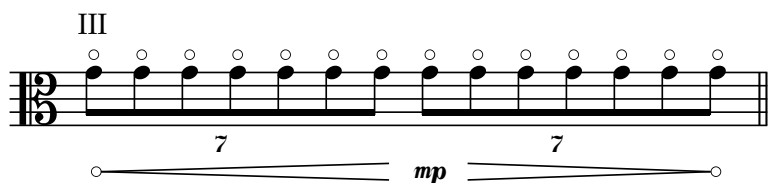
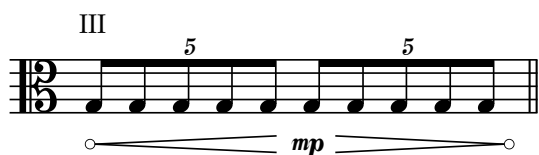
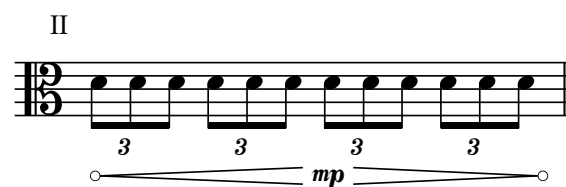
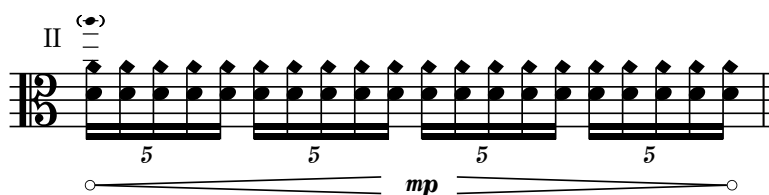
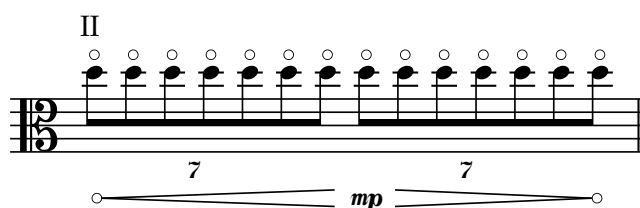
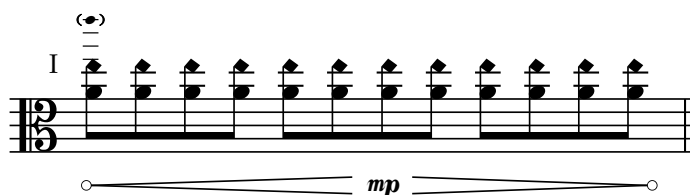
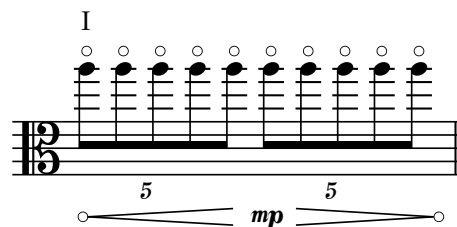
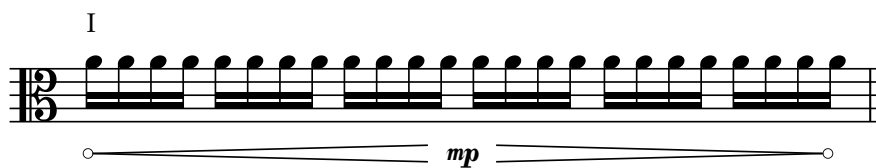
Notes are written where they would be played if tuned normally, not how they would sound.

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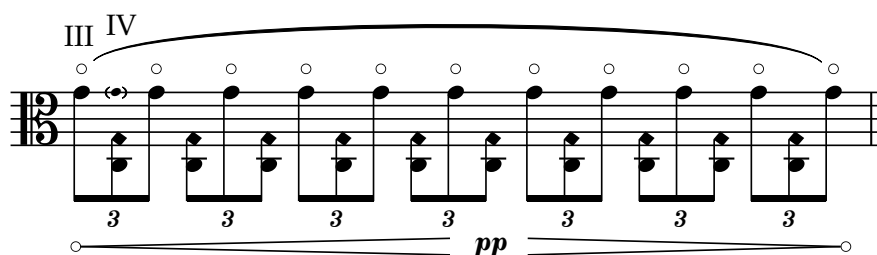
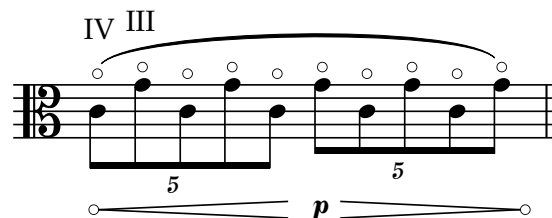
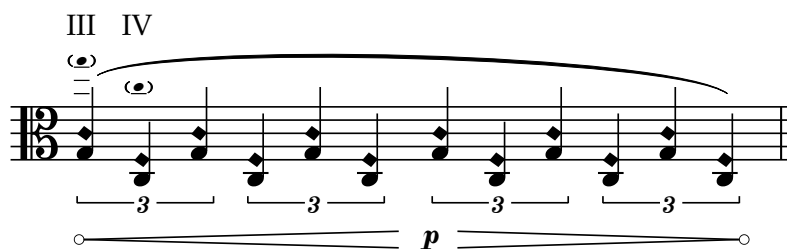
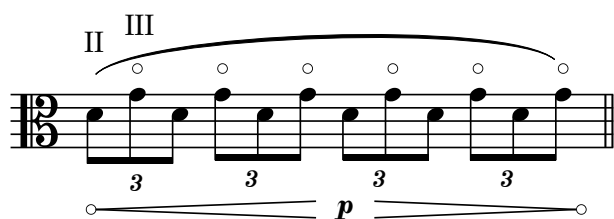
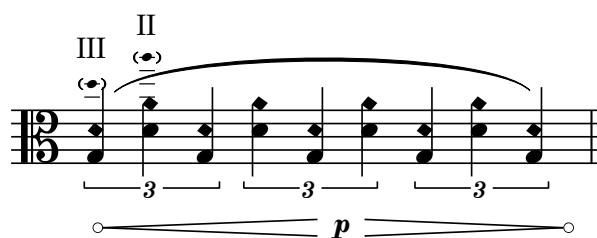
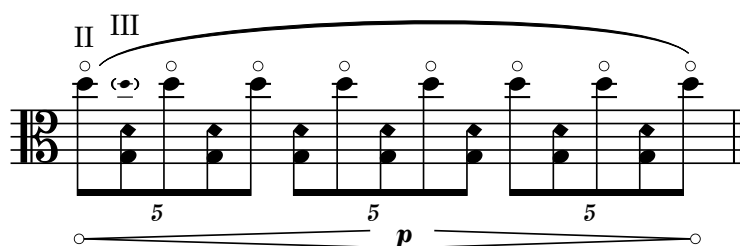
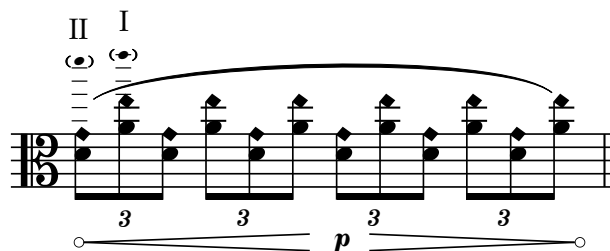
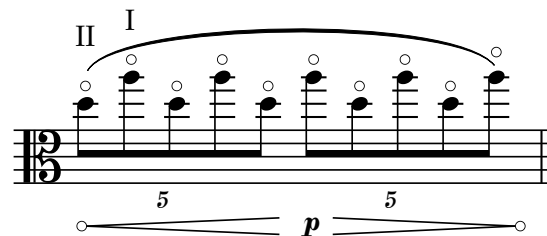
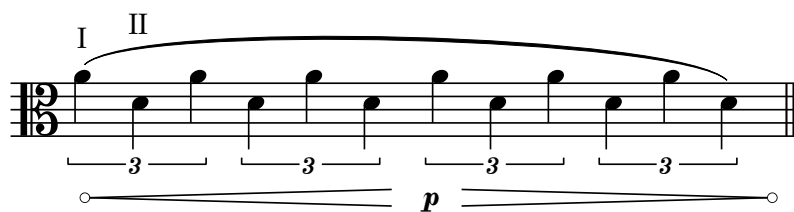
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HARMONIC THEN OPEN STRING (5 or more seconds, lift harmonic gently to slowly reveal the open string, one bow only)

PULSES (♩ = 120 approx, rubato feel, very sul pont)



STRING CROSSING (♩ = 120 approx, rubato feel, legato, sul pont, free bow)



Violoncello 1

Cirrostratus

for spatialized string orchestra

Jordan Nobles

Scordatura Tuning

	IV	III	II	I
	C2	F#2	C3	A3
Cents dev.:	-31	-14	-31	+2

Play any cell in any order, always with a long pause (5-10 seconds) before moving on, in your own time, to a new cell.

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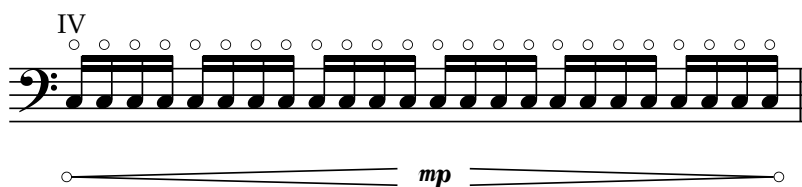
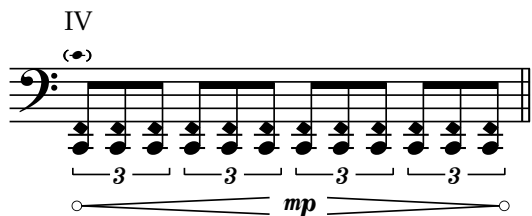
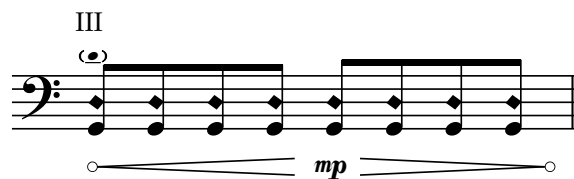
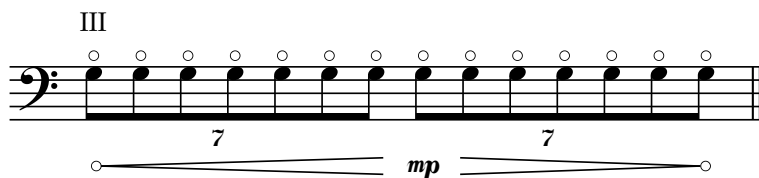
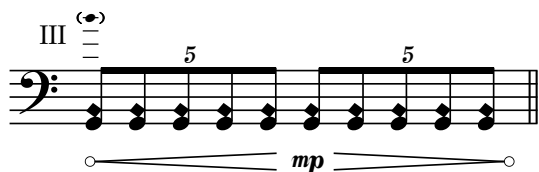
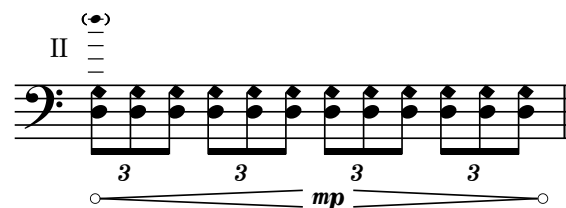
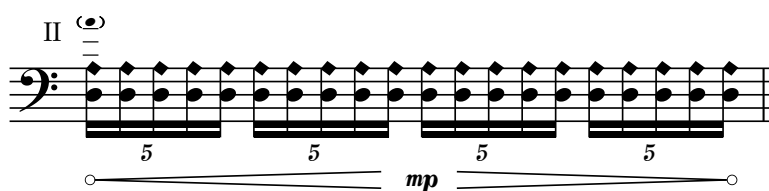
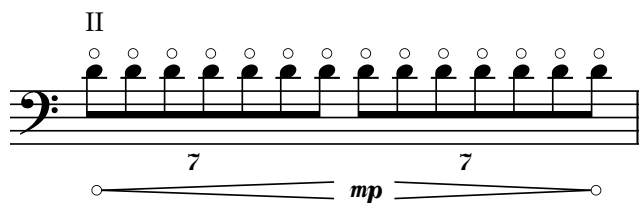
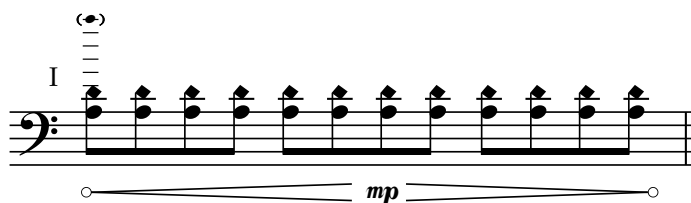
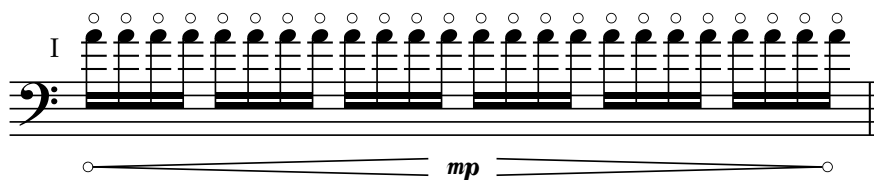
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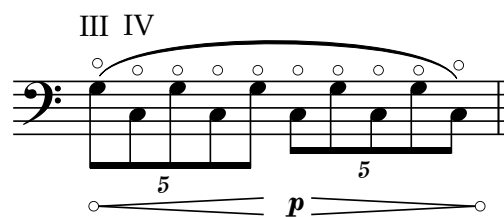
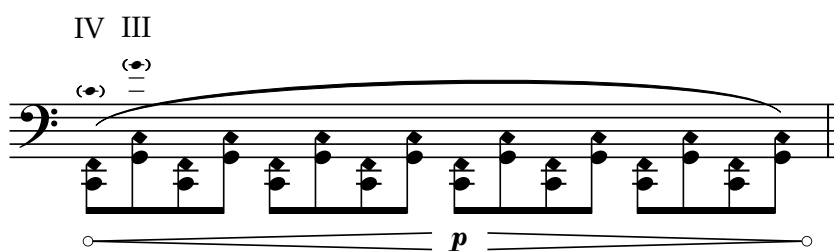
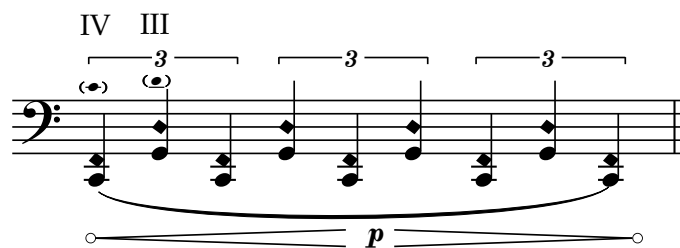
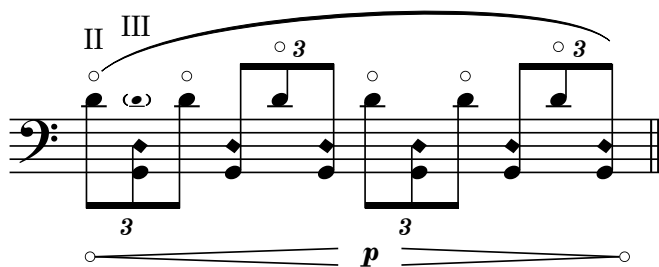
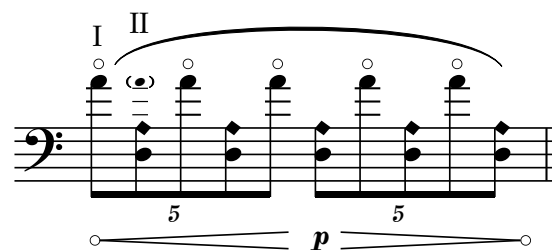
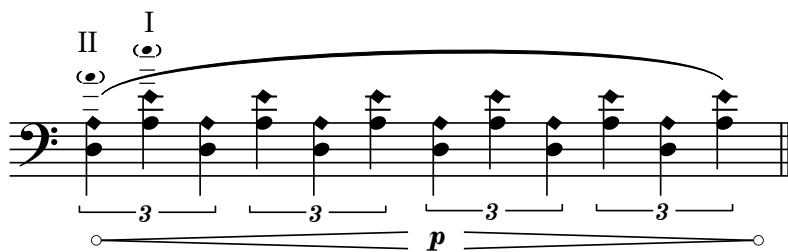
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PULSES (♩ = 120 approx, rubato feel, very sul pont)



STRING CROSSING (♩ = 120 approx, rubato feel, sul pont, free bow)



Violoncello 2

Cirrostratus

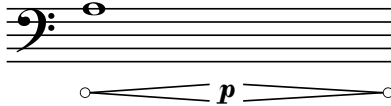
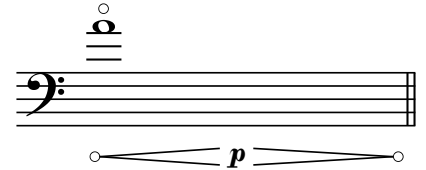
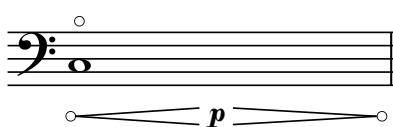
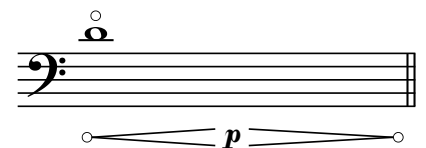
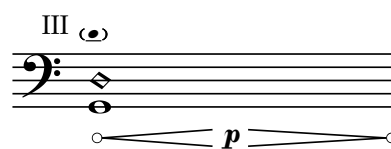
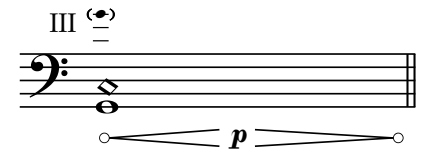
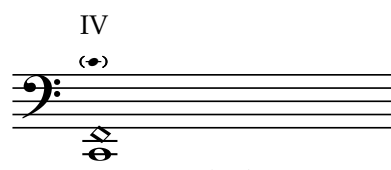
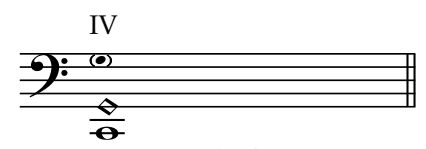
for spatialized string orchestra

Jordan Nobles

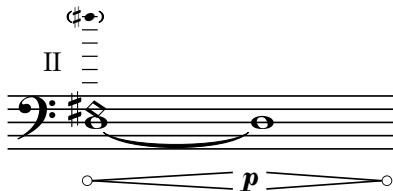
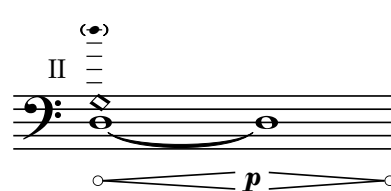
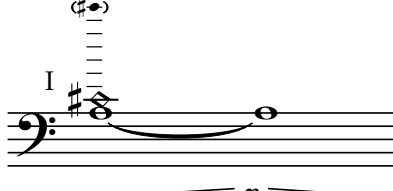
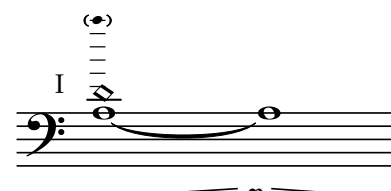
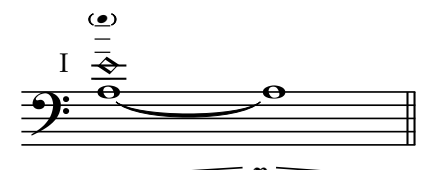
	IV	III	II	I
	C2	F#2	D3	A3
Scordatura Tuning				
	Cents dev.: -31	-14	0	+2

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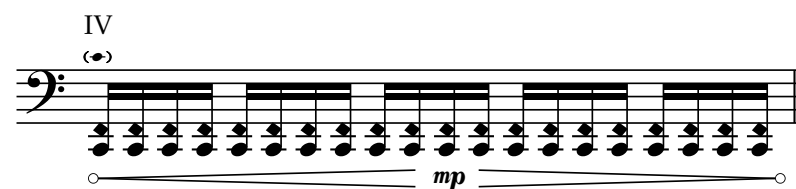
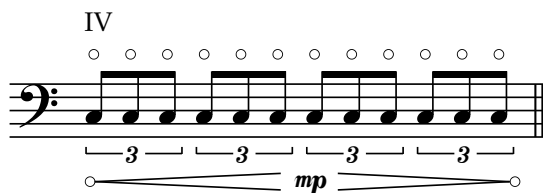
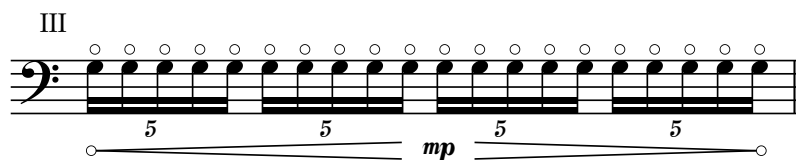
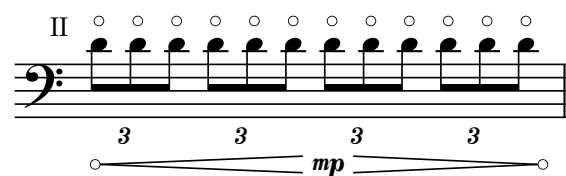
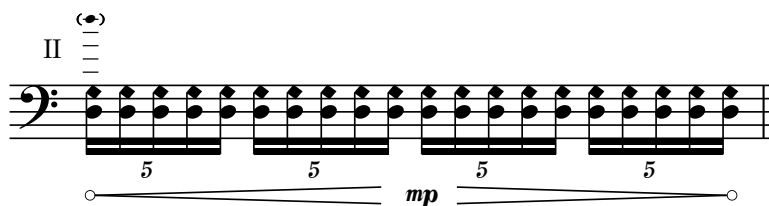
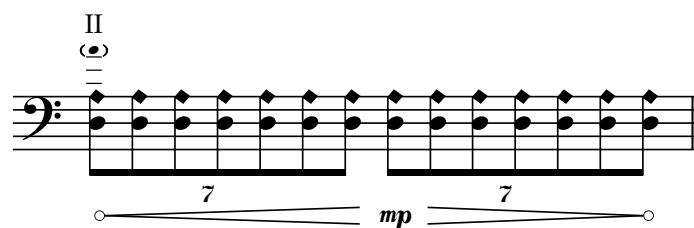
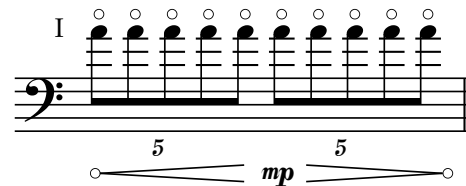
LONG TONES (approx. 5 seconds each, one bow stroke only)

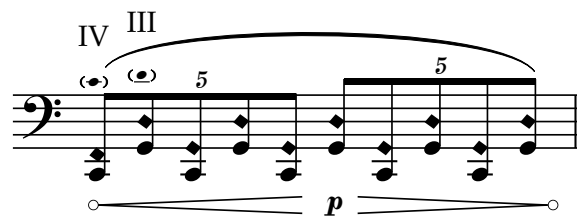
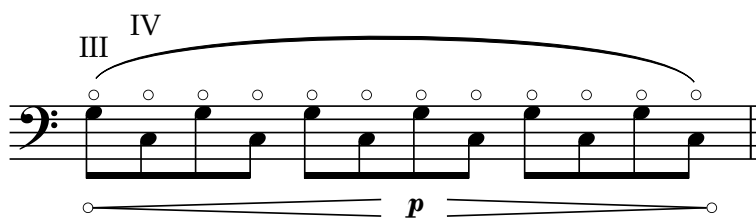
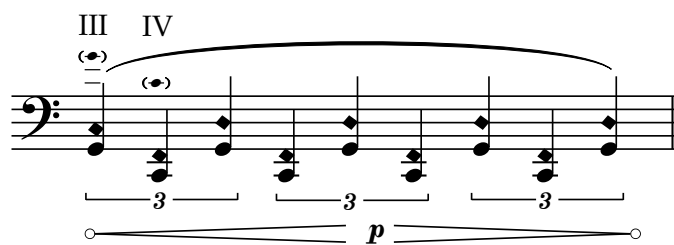
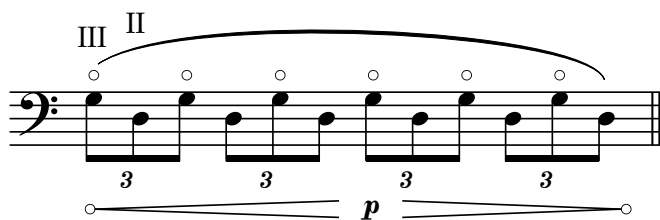
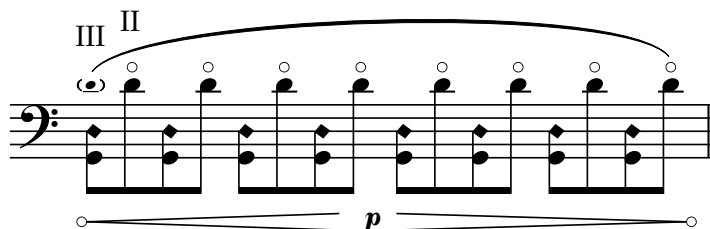
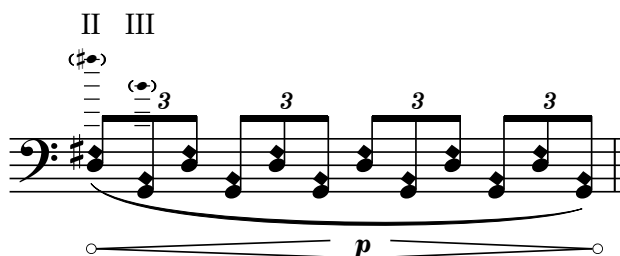
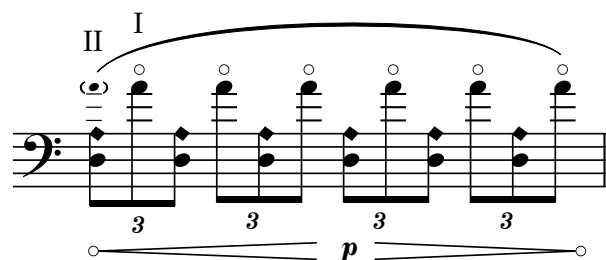
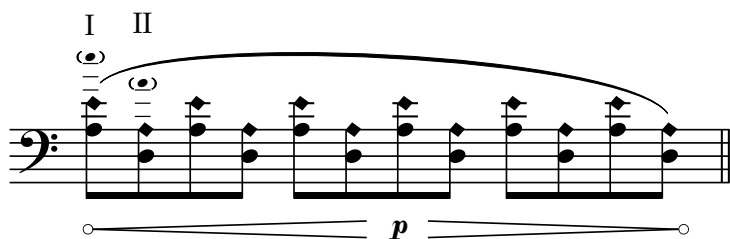
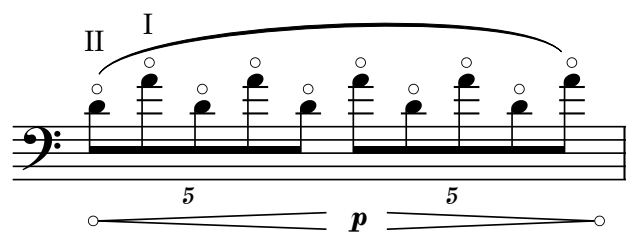
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PULSES (♩ = 120 approx, rubato feel, very sul pont)



STRING CROSSING (♩ = 120 approx, rubato feel, sul pont, free bow)



Contrabass

Cirrostratus

for spatialized string ensemble

Jordan Nobles

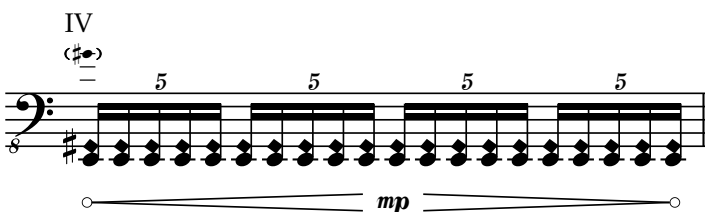
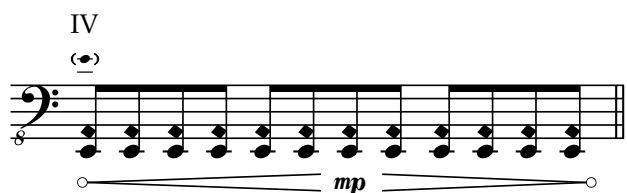
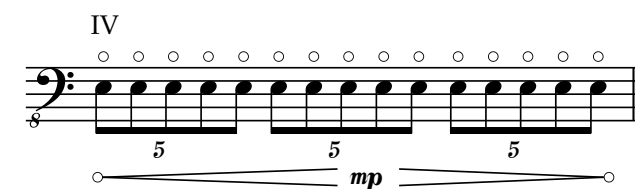
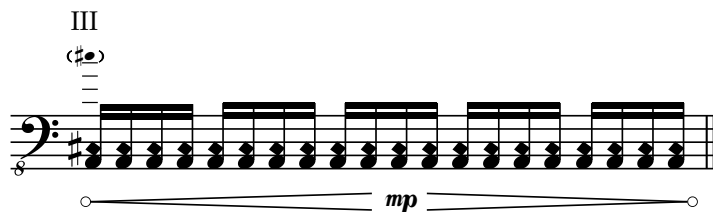
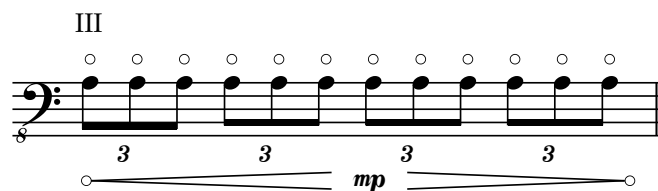
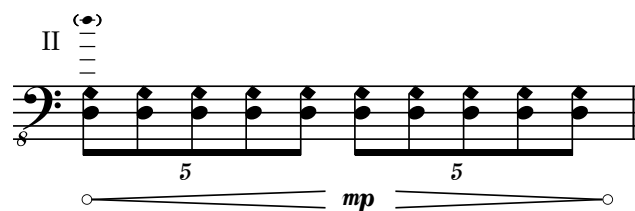
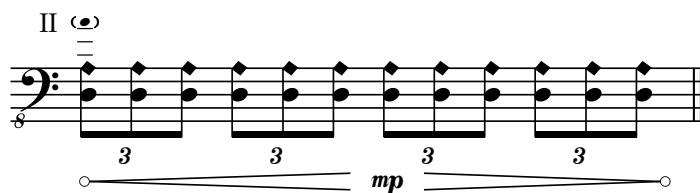
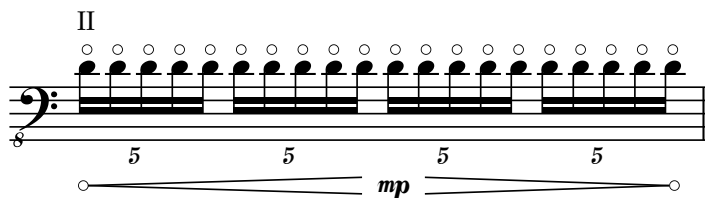
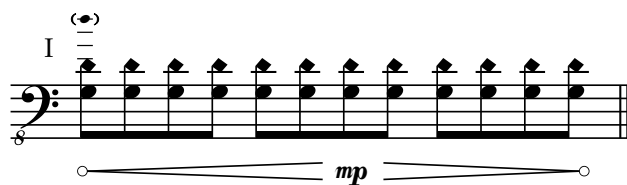
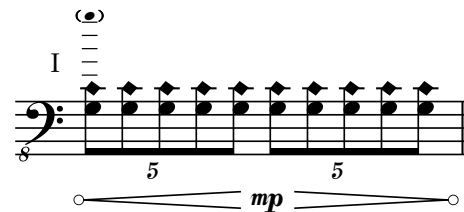
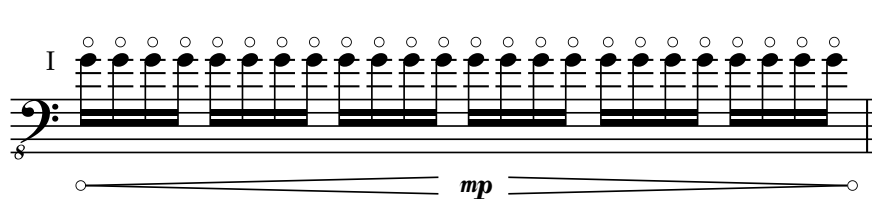
	IV	III	II	I
	D1	A1	D2	F#2
Scordatura				
Tuning				
	Cents dev.: 0	+2	0	-14

Play any cell in any order, always with a long pause before moving on to a new one (5-10 seconds). Cells can be repeated. Notes are written where they would be played if tuned normally, not how they would sound, except of course all pitches will also sound an octave lower as per usual contrabass notation. Use only open strings and NATURAL harmonics. Perform always SUL PONT, very light and delicately throughout. Mutes on.

LONG TONES (approx. 5 seconds each, one bow stroke only)

HARMONIC THEN OPEN STRING (5 or more seconds, lift harmonic gently to slowly reveal the open string, one bow only)

PULSES (♩ = 120 approx, rubato feel, very sul pont)



STRING CROSSINGS (♩ = 120 approx, legato, rubato feel, very sul pont, free bow)

