

# GOLDSMITHS Research Online

Composition

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piano\_prosthesis: indicative score

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**piano\_prosthesis**

Michael Young

Indicative Score

## Introduction

This score can be used as a creative starting point, as a open-form score that defines all materials you use, or ignored.

The overall aim is to establish clearly differentiated musical materials, characterised by pitch, loudness, density, rhythmic activity, sustained-ness and the degree of internal variation (within a timeframe of 10-20 sec.) Having decided upon materials, either in advance or during the performance, the improvisation should focus on recalling and varying these types. Silence is recognised as a material. As you introduce new materials or recall previous ones, you should hear complementary responses from the computer improviser, which should seem both reactive and proactive in its behaviour.

## Score Notation



A definitive pitch range should be established for each occurrence of a material type. The range can be small (one octave or less) or the maximum range of the keyboard, or any range in between. Two bass or treble symbols denote that only the lower or upper half of the full range should be used as a maximum range.

All other notations and instructions are open to interpretation ad lib.

M.Y. May 2009

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separates

A musical score for piano, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a brace on the left. The notation is sparse, featuring scattered dots representing notes across the staves. A dynamic marking  $\{pp/mp\}$  is placed in the treble staff. The score ends with a dashed vertical line on the right.

unphrased; slightly detached & uneven;  
wide pitch space; effortless

remembering

A musical score for piano, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a brace on the left. The notation is more dense than the first piece, with various note values, slurs, and ties. A dynamic marking  $\{p < > mp\}$  is placed below the staves. The score ends with a dashed vertical line on the right.

A continuation of the musical score for 'remembering', showing two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a brace on the left. The notation includes slurs and ties, indicating sustained notes. The score ends with a dashed vertical line on the right.

narrow pitch space; even rhythms with pauses;  
some notes sustained through;  
little phrases hint at each other; whistful

pulsing

A musical score for piano, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef). The music is characterized by a steady, rhythmic pulse. The notes are grouped in a way that creates a sense of forward motion. The dynamic marking is *{mf/p}*. The piece ends with a dashed vertical line on the right side of the staff.

reinvent fixed-pitch chords in new groupings;  
restrict pitch space; regular with short pauses now and then;  
mildly insistent;

locking

A musical score for piano, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef). The music is characterized by a series of repeated rhythmic patterns, often referred to as 'locking'. The notes are grouped in a way that creates a sense of forward motion. The dynamic marking is *f*. The piece ends with a double bar line on the right side of the staff.

vary repeats - sometimes don't repeat;  
alter tempo on repeats; pitch space is wide or narrow;  
well-articulated; emphatic, not aggressive

frantic

A musical score for a piece titled 'frantic'. It consists of two systems of piano accompaniment, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The first system begins with a dynamic marking of  $\{pp \ll \gg mf\}$ . The music is characterized by rapid, irregular patterns of notes, often with long stems and some notes that appear to be held or stretched. The second system continues this style, ending with a dashed vertical line on the right side.

mid-pitches stretch out to extremes;  
suddenly irregular; you can take a breath;  
not assertive, hesitant;

resist

A musical score for a piece titled 'resist'. It consists of a single system of piano accompaniment with a grand staff. The music features clusters of notes, some of which are held for long durations, and others that are released. The dynamic marking is  $\{ff/mp\}$ . The score ends with a dashed vertical line on the right side.

hold & release; very long or less long;  
clusters and sometimes far reaches;  
appearing to have purpose;

deep pluck

The musical score for 'deep pluck' consists of two systems, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The first system begins with a dynamic marking of *{f/mp}*. The notation features a prominent, thick horizontal line across the bass clef of both systems, indicating a sustained or heavily emphasized bass line. Above this line, various melodic fragments and chords are written, often with stems pointing downwards. The second system concludes with a dashed vertical line on the right side.

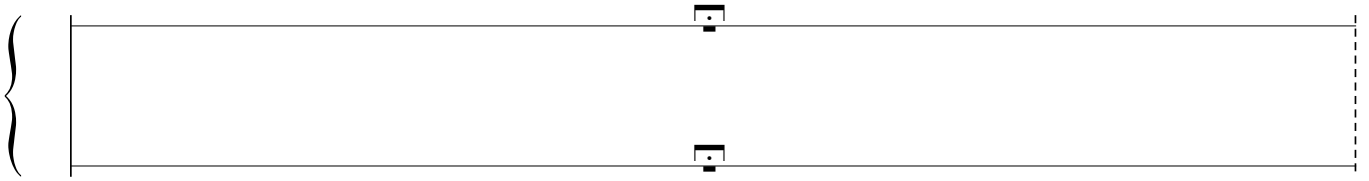
nail or thumb; find harmonics, or not;  
easy or forceful;  
allow some to resonate; animate

morse

The musical score for 'morse' features a grand staff with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The upper staff is filled with a series of rhythmic patterns, each consisting of a cluster of notes (chords) with stems pointing upwards, resembling Morse code. The lower staff contains sparse, individual notes with stems pointing downwards, corresponding to the rhythmic patterns above. The score ends with a dashed vertical line on the right.

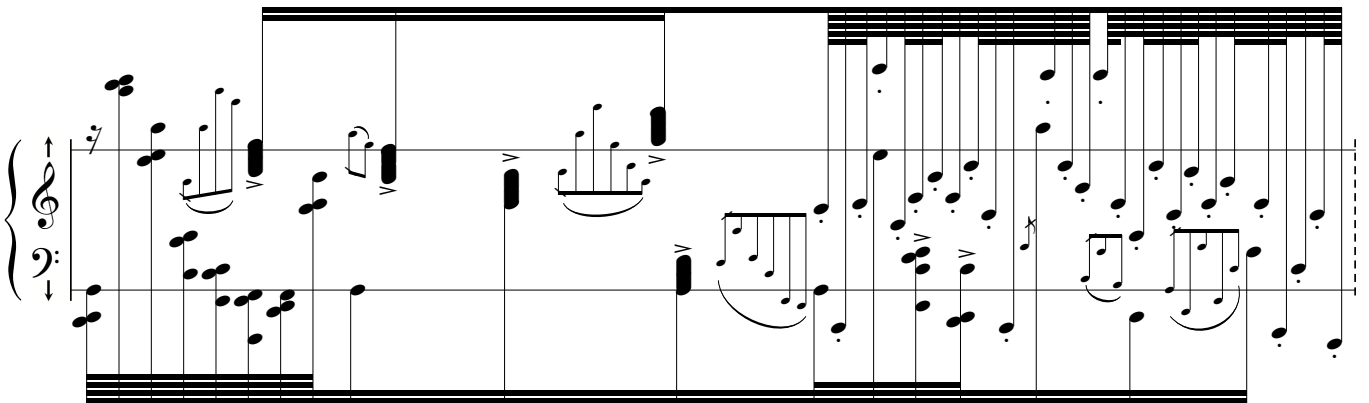
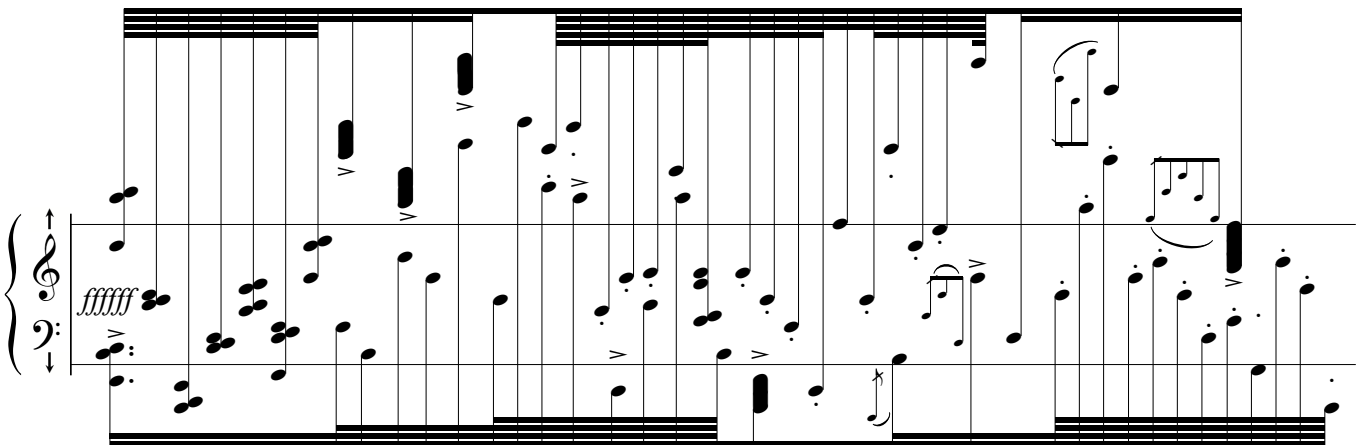
regular, a little; tap it out, detached;  
articulate below;  
as if there's something to say;

listen



as if something is being said;

monster



almost in control; excessively loud & unremitting;  
mechanical maniacal;



roundabout

The musical score for 'roundabout' consists of two systems. The first system begins with a repeat sign and a bracket labeled 'X n', indicating a repeated section. The piano part features a complex, repetitive melodic line with many notes, while the bass line has a steady, rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamic markings include *{f/mp}*. The second system continues the piece, ending with a dashed line.

even, well-articulated; not forceful;  
always in-and-out of repeats to vary in length & number;  
flighty;

sweet

The musical score for 'sweet' consists of two systems. The piano part features a sparse, melodic line with few notes, while the bass line has a steady, rhythmic accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present. The score ends with a dashed line.

try to sound out-of-tune; favour clusters;  
explore similar groups with slight changes;  
sickly;

aurora

Musical score for 'aurora' in G major, 3/4 time. The score consists of two staves, Treble and Bass clef. The dynamic marking is  $\{mf/ff\}$ . The piece features a series of chords and melodic lines with various articulations, including accents and slurs. A 'Ped.' (pedal) line is indicated below the staves. The score ends with a dashed vertical line on the right.

plucked or swept; experiment; dampen or harsh; ring, finger or nail on string; resonant;

pianism

Musical score for 'pianism' in G major, 3/4 time. The score consists of two systems, each with Treble and Bass clef staves. The dynamic marking is  $\{pp/mp - f\}$ . The piece is characterized by rapid changes in articulation and dynamics, including many slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. The score ends with a dashed vertical line on the right.

constant change; lightly, mildly percussive; vary hammer & pluck; caprice no consequence;

expansive

Musical score for 'expansive' featuring two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system includes a dynamic marking of  $\{mp/f - ppppp\}$ . The notation is spread across a wide range of the piano keyboard, with notes extending to the extreme high and low registers. The music consists of various chordal textures and melodic lines, with some notes appearing as floating circles above the staff lines.

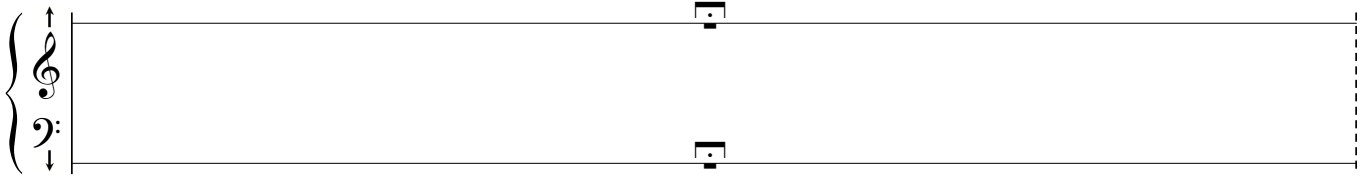
full range with a far reach; chordal in extremis;  
pondering but aimless;

notwalking

Musical score for 'notwalking' featuring two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system includes a dynamic marking of  $\{p < mf\}$ . The notation is characterized by a dense, continuous texture of notes, with a thick block of notes in the lower register and a more sparse, flowing line in the upper register. A large, sweeping slur encompasses the entire piece.

fluid and gently on top;  
breathing with pause;

listen again



as something might yet is said;