Insomniana

for cello and metronome

Thomas Little

Performance Notes

Insomniana plays off of the metronome's steady rhythmic structure by presenting freely flowing musical material in the cello, which goes in and out of time with the pulse. The cellist should play their part while paying as little attention to the metronome as possible (save for certain indicated bars.)

The metronome's sound should imitate the tick-tock of an analog clock. If a metronome with a clock-like sound is unavailable, the metronome part should be replaced with that of an amplified clock. Under no circumstances should the metronome part be played by a metronome with a distinctly electronic timbre.

The cello's C string should be tuned to the B a semitone below, as shown to the right. All pitches are notated at sounding pitch; fingerings for notes played on the lowest string must be adjusted accordingly.



Microtones are indicated by the following accidentals:



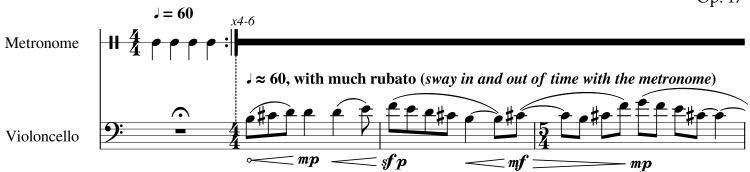
The "underbow" technique involves flipping the bow around and placing it underneath the usual playing area (in the gap between the bridge, body, and fingerboard) in order to bow the outer two strings simultaneously. Passages which utilize this technique are notated on a grand staff.

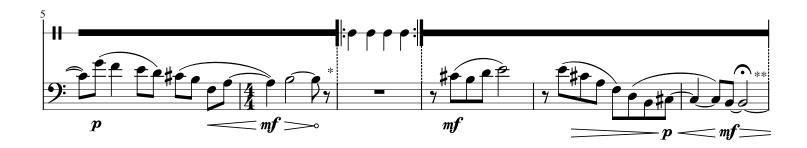
In free time, accidentals only apply to the notes that they precede.

Crescendos and diminuendos *al niente* are indicated by circled tips on the hairpins.

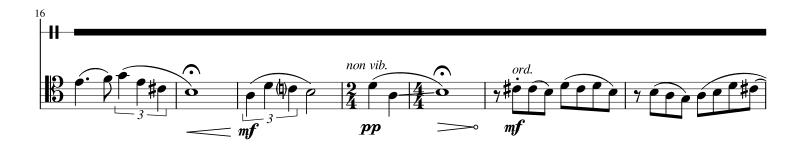
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Thomas Little (b. 1996) Op. 17







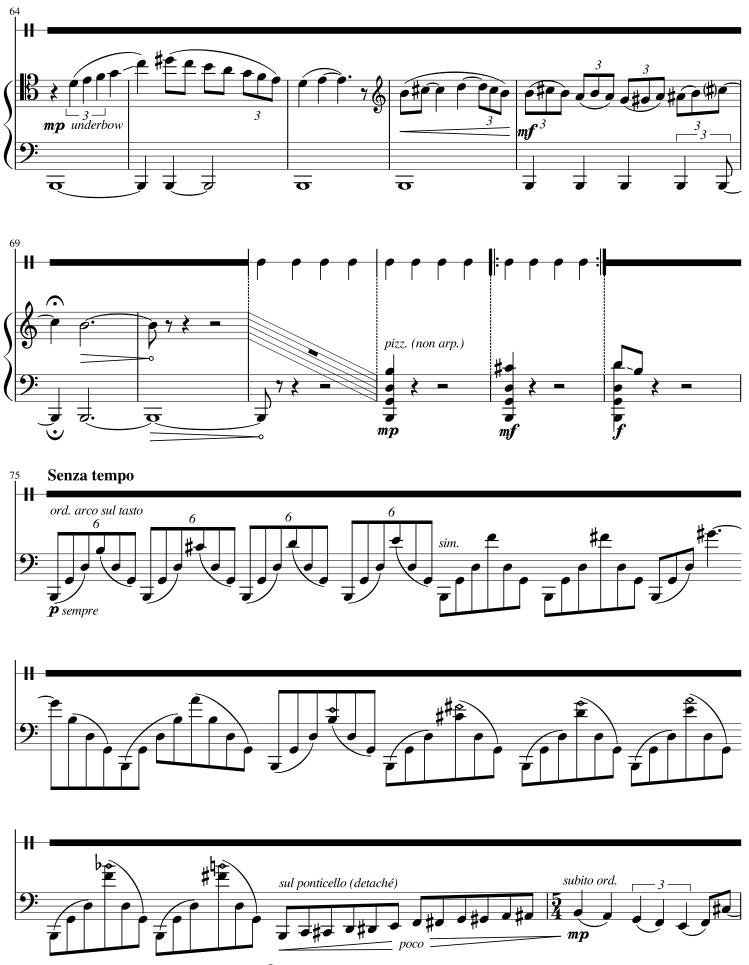




^{*} if off slightly, begin four-beat rest on next metronome tick.
** if necessary, use fermata to extend into third metronome tick that occurs after note begins.



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*** as the cellist bows the final octave, an assistant (the metronomist) should silently come onstage, take the metronome, and leave the stage. If the metronome part is taken by an amplified clock, then the amplification should be slowly removed over an amount of time long enough so that the de-amplification is barely perceptible. The cellist should continue playing until either the metronome is removed from the stage or the amplification has been totally removed from the clock.