

FOUR STILLS ON EVAPORATION
IN THIRTY-ONE FRAGMENTS

for string quartet

Aaron Gervais

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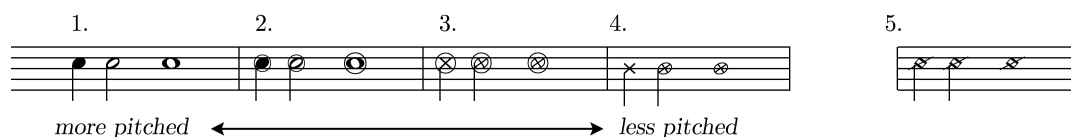
for string quartet
Duration: approx. 9'00

Aaron Gervais
December 2006

QUARTERTONE NOTATION:



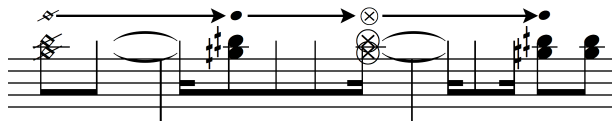
OTHER NOTATION:



1. Regular playing technique.
2. Increase bow pressure slightly in order to create a gritty tone, but without completely obscuring the pitch of the written note.
3. Increase bow pressure greatly in order to create a scratchy and largely non-pitched tone, with only the faintest hint of the written note.
4. A percussive non-pitched sound. For

each instance, the technique will be described directly in the score.

5. Touch the string as if playing a harmonic, but do not adjust bow or finger position to make the harmonic come out. In fact, it is preferable if the performer adjusts the bow and finger positions to *avoid* creating a pure harmonic sound. The result should be a muddled unstable sonority, or bow noise.



In the above example, the performer should change gradually from one technique to the other. The headless stems underneath the arrows represent a continuation of the same pitch while the technique is changing.

- **Dynamic markings** in quotations (e.g. “*fff*”) represent the effort to be exerted while employing a non-conventional technique. They do not give any indication of the volume of the sound.
- **Wavy lines** above the staff in mm.165–170 indicate changes in vibrato. The default mode of playing throughout is *senza vibrato*.
- **Sharp jagged lines** in the staff, moving up and down, are rapid unmeasured glissandos of approximately a sixth, played as quickly as possible. These should begin and end at the notated starting pitch(es), but the pitch(es) of the outer extremity need not be exact. Furthermore, as employed at mm.1–6 and 39–47, this technique is unlikely to produce a highly pitched sound. The performers should use the written noteheads as a kind of tablature for finger position instead of as an indication of the desired pitch.
- **ord.** – this refers *only* to the placement of the bow, and does not cancel techniques like *pizzicato* or *col legno*.
- **S.T.** – *sul tasto*
- **S.P.** – *sul ponticello*, fairly close to the bridge so that some of the upper partials become prominent.
- **p.S.P.** – *poco sul ponticello*, only somewhat sharper in tone than *ordinario*, without emphasizing the upper partials of the sound unduly.
- **C.L.T./C.L.B.** – *col legno tratto*, *col legno battuto*; canceled by the indication *crini*
- **C.+L.** – *crini e legno*; turn the bow sideways and play with both the hairs and the wood.

All other non-standard notation is explained in the score.

INTERPRETATIONAL ISSUES:

- **Page turning** has been used as a compositional element, and it is therefore important that the performers turn pages only where indicated. The individual sheets of the parts should not be bound; they should be slid from right to left on the stand, producing an audible noise.
- **Empty measures** containing text but no notes or rests are not in tempo and should be performed as quickly as possible, *attacca*. When an approximate time value in seconds is given over the measure, the measure should last approximately that length.
- **Foot shuffling** at several points in the piece should be performed by placing sheets of paper under the players’ feet, producing an audible rubbing noise. For the *forte* passages, the performers should slide both feet back and forth. For the *mezzo* passages, the performers should use a smaller foot motion, such as a twisting of the ankle.

Four Stills on Evaporation

in thirty-one fragments

Aaron Gervais

Fairly fast ♩ = 126

The musical score is divided into two systems, each containing four staves. The first system (measures 1-4) and the second system (measures 5-8) feature complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth-note runs. The score is marked with 'fff' (fortissimo) and 'p' (piano) dynamics, along with 'sempre senza vib.' (sempre senza vibrato) and 'shuffle feet' instructions. The tempo is indicated as 'Fairly fast ♩ = 126'. The score is written in 4/4 time and includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings.

Suddenly slower ♩ = 96

The musical score for "Sounding Shower" by John Cage is presented in four staves. The notation is complex, featuring numerous triplets, quintuplets, and other rhythmic groupings. Dynamic markings such as *(fff)* (fortississimo) are used throughout. A "solo" section is indicated by a circled 'X' and an arrow. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines, and the overall structure is organized into systems.

11

Musical score for 'The Rose Tree' (No. 11). The score is written for four staves. The first two staves are in treble clef, and the last two are in bass clef. The music features a variety of note values, including eighth, sixteenth, and thirty-second notes, as well as rests. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above or below notes. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines.

[illegible]

Suddenly slower still ♩ = 69

19

f driving but less aggressive

f driving but less aggressive

solo p.s.p. ord.

f driving but less aggressive

driving but less aggressive *f* 3

23

S.T. *fff* sub.

S.T. *fff* sub.

S.T. *fff* sub.

S.T. *fff* sub.

26

Still slower $\text{♩} = 52$

28

p *fff* *measured, forceful* *S.P.* *ord.* *p.S.P.* *S.T.*

p *fff* *measured, forceful* *ord.* *S.P.* *7.* *ord.*

p *fff* *measured, forceful* *ord.* *S.T.* *S.P.* *S.T.*

p *fff* *measured, forceful* *S.T.* *ord.* *S.P.*

Slightly faster $\text{♩} = 60$

31

ord. *S.P.* *ord.* *S.T.* *5* *ord.* *II III IV* *II III IV* *sim.*

S.T. *S.P.* *p.S.P.* *ord.* *6* *S.T.* *3* *ord.* *II III IV* *II III IV* *sim.*

p.S.P. *ord.* *S.T.* *7* *ord.* *I II III* *I II III* *sim.*

pizz. *ord. arco* *S.T.* *3* *p.S.P.* *ord.* *S.T.* *ord.* *I II III* *I II III* *sim.*

35

7"-10"

Turn pages briskly... *mf* ...and then sit silently with-
out moving, ready to play.

Turn pages briskly... *mf* ...and then sit silently with-
out moving, ready to play.

Turn pages briskly... *mf* ...and then sit silently with-
out moving, ready to play.

Turn pages briskly... *mf* ...and then sit silently with-
out moving, ready to play.

Moderately fast ♩ = 69 / ♩ = 138

39

f light, energetic

f light, energetic

f light, energetic

f light, energetic

42

shuffle feet

ff shuffle feet

ff shuffle feet

ff shuffle feet

f

f

f

f

Slightly faster $\text{♩} = 76 / \text{♩} = 152$

46

5

3

3

7

3

5

3

5

6

3

(f) slightly staccato, on the string

slightly (f) staccato, on the string

(f) slightly staccato, on the string

(f) slightly staccato, on the string

50

molto accel. a tempo $\text{♩} = 76$

56

pp

f

pp

f

pp

f

pp

f

molto accel. **a tempo** ♩ = 76

62 *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f*

Slightly faster still ♩ = 84 / ♩ = 168

shuffle feet

68 *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

f tumbling, playful

74 *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

82

Even slightly faster ♩ = 92 / ♩ = 184

This musical score segment contains measures 82 through 86. It features four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as 'Even slightly faster' with a metronome indication of ♩ = 92 / ♩ = 184. The notation includes various musical elements:

- Measure 82:** Each staff begins with a half note chord (F#4, A4) followed by a quarter rest. Dynamics are *f* and *ff*.
- Measure 83:** Each staff contains a half note chord (F#4, A4) followed by a quarter rest. The text 'building energy' is written below the first two staves.
- Measure 84:** Each staff contains a half note chord (F#4, A4) followed by a quarter rest. Dynamics are *f* and *ff*.
- Measure 85:** Each staff contains a half note chord (F#4, A4) followed by a quarter rest. Dynamics are *f* and *ff*.
- Measure 86:** Each staff contains a half note chord (F#4, A4) followed by a quarter rest. Dynamics are *f* and *ff*.

accel.

87

ff *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f*

93 **Very fast** ♩ = 100 / ♪ = 200

mf playful, reckless

playful, reckless *mf*

playful, reckless *mf*

playful, reckless *mf*

col legno battuto *f* 8^{va}

col legno battuto *f* 8^{va}

f col legno battuto 8^{va}

col legno battuto *f* 8^{va}

99 (8)

pizz. C.L.B.

pizz. C.L.B.

104 (8)

Suddenly slower ♩ = 76
accel.

a tempo ♩ = 200

crini

f forceful, marcato

ff

crini

f forceful, marcato

ff

crini

f forceful, marcato

ff

crini

f forceful, marcato

ff

111

(8)

exhale through nose

mp

"*mf*" *ff*

sim. S.P.

(8)

exhale through nose

mp

"*mf*" *ff*

sim. S.P.

(8)

exhale through nose

mp

"*mf*" *ff*

sim. S.P.

(8)

exhale through nose

mp

"*mf*" *ff*

sim. S.P.

Suddenly slower ♩ = 76

116

pizz.

arco S.T.

nose

feet

Turn pages briskly...

mf

...and then sit silently without moving, ready to play.

7"-10"

pizz.

arco S.T.

nose

feet

Turn pages briskly...

mf

...and then sit silently without moving, ready to play.

pizz.

arco S.T.

nose

feet

Turn pages briskly...

mf

...and then sit silently without moving, ready to play.

pizz.

arco S.T.

nose

feet

Turn pages briskly...

mf

...and then sit silently without moving, ready to play.

Moderate ♩ = 84

121

sul tasto, flautando

mp legato, flowing

sul tasto, flautando

mp legato, flowing

sul tasto, flautando

mp legato, flowing

sul tasto, flautando

mp legato, flowing

[illegible]

133

Faster, a tempo ♩ = 84

p.S.P.

S.T. flaut.

mp (non-dim.)
flowing
S.T. flaut.

p.S.P.

mp (non-dim.)
flowing
S.T. flaut.

p.S.P.

mp (non-dim.)
flowing
S.T. flaut.

p.S.P.

mp (non-dim.)
flowing
S.T. flaut.

sim.

137

141

144 **Slower** ♩ = 72

steady *p*

p steady

p steady

p steady

ord.

ord.

ord. p.S.P.

S.P.

147

p.S.P. ord. S.T. S.T. → S.P.

S.T. S.T. → S.P.

ord. S.T. S.T. → S.P.

ord. S.T. S.T. → S.P.

Even slower ♩ = 63 Slightly faster ♩ = 72

151

S.T. legato, reflective *mp* S.T. *mp* *p*

legato, reflective *mp* *mp* *p*

S.T. *mp* legato, reflective S.T. *mp* 5 *p*

legato, reflective *mp* *mp* *p*

Slightly faster still ♩ = 84 shuffle feet *mp* *mf* *mp* Even faster ♩ = 96 poco accel. ord. *mp*

156

mp shuffle feet *mf* *mp* *p*

mp shuffle feet *mf* *mp* *p*

mp shuffle feet *mf* *mp* *p*

mp shuffle feet *mf* *mp* *p*

161

7"-10"

Turn pages briskly and put on mute... *mf* ...and then sit silently without moving, ready to play.

Turn pages briskly and put on mute... *mf* ...and then sit silently without moving, ready to play.

Turn pages briskly and put on mute... *mf* ...and then sit silently without moving, ready to play.

Turn pages briskly and put on mute... *mf* ...and then sit silently without moving, ready to play.

Fairly Slow ♩ = 60

con sord. 165 solo *sfz pp* *espres.*

con sord. distant 3 *ppp* *pp* 3 *ppp* 3 *ppp*

con sord. distant 3 *ppp* *pp* 5 *ppp* *ppp*

con sord. distant 3 *ppp* *pp* *ppp* 5 *ppp*

* Hold the sonority of each normal-sized notehead for a split second before proceeding with the glissando. Use the small noteheads only as markers for when to change direction. The aural effect should be that of a series of sonorities in quarter notes, but with a glissando trailing each sonority.

Slower, a tempo ♩ = 60

178

**

"f" delicate

**

"f" delicate

**

delicate "f"

**

delicate "f"

183

attacca **Faster ♩ = 79**

pick up bow swiftly and silently

"p" calm

bow on the wood

pick up bow swiftly and silently

"p" calm

bow on the wood

pick up bow swiftly and silently

"p" calm

bow on the wood

pick up bow swiftly and silently

"p" calm

bow on the wood

** Rapidly tap all four strings, one at a time, with the fingers of the right hand near the end of the fingerboard. Tap in random patterns, as quickly and arrhythmically as possible. The left hand slowly glissandos downward, changing the pitch. Try to maintain tuning approximately, but perfect intonation is not necessary for the effect.

188

solo (l.v.) C.L.T. crini C.L.T. crini

pppp (wood) "p" pppp "p"

*** 10"-15"

move pages on stand as if preparing to play another section

p

move pages on stand as if preparing to play another section

p

move pages on stand as if preparing to play another section

p

move pages on stand as if preparing to play another section

p

*** Try to make the sound of the page turns as normal as possible. Over the course of the 10"-15", gradually decrease the frequency and speed of the page turns, as if the sheets were almost in place for an imaginary next section. This "diminuendo" continues until silence.