

Migrations

based on a poem by Eleonore Schönmaier

for narrator, clarinet, violin, and cello

commissioned by the Musings Ensemble for Jamie McLaren

Emily Doolittle, 2015

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based on a poem by Eleonore Schönmaier

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Instrumentation:

narrator (with frame drum)

clarinet (Bb and bass)

violin

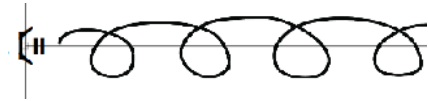
cello

duration: variable, approx. 8'00"

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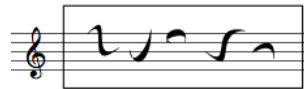
Performance notes:

Narrator/frame drum:



Play on a frame drum or other large-headed, open drum. Rub hand in a circular motion, to create a continuous, ebbing and flowing, wave-like white noise sound.

Bass clarinet:

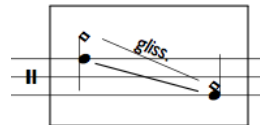


Lesser Black-backed Gull: Play seagull-like sounds on detached mouthpiece. Add voice to create a grittier sound if desired.



Motor Boat: Cover vent hole with adhesive putty. Clip a piece of cardstock over the end of the bell, so that it creates an unpitched rumbling/buzzing sound when (written) low C is played. (More details here: <http://heatherroche.net/2014/03/24/on-bass-clarinet-preparations/>)

Violin:



Lesser Black-backed Gull: Glissando from a higher pitch to a lower pitch. Lightly touch string with fourth finger to create an artificial harmonic. Keep fingers the same distance apart during the glissando to automatically create a repeatedly descending "seagull" sound. (Examples of this technique can be found in *Vox Balaenae* by George Crumb.)

Cello:



Lesser Black-backed Gull: Glissando from a higher pitch to a lower pitch. Lightly touch string with fourth finger to create an artificial harmonic. Keep fingers the same distance apart during the glissando to automatically create a repeatedly descending "seagull" sound. (Examples of this technique can be found in *Vox Balaenae* by George Crumb.)



Motor Boat: Loosely drape left hand fingers over the strings. Using lots of bow pressure, play a low, unpitched scratch-tone. (An example can be found here at 0'44": <http://www.moderncello.com/bow-techniques/pressure-techniques/non-pitched/>)

Clarinet in B \flat - Performance instructions - Willow warbler (part in B \flat)

Start at the beginning, and play through the song from left to right, choosing whichever version you want at each junction. Go from box to box without pausing. Feel free to vary slightly the number and tempo of notes in each box. Notes may scoop or bend a bit, and the pitch may descend slightly within a box. After the song, rest for approximately 8 seconds and repeat, making new choices about which path to follow.

Clarinet in B \flat

$\text{♩} = \text{approx. } 84$

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff. It begins with two boxes: the first contains two eighth notes, and the second contains a quintuplet of eighth notes. From the end of the second box, two arrows branch out. The upper branch leads to a box with a triplet of eighth notes, which then branches into two paths: one leading to a box with a triplet of eighth notes and another leading to a box with a quarter note. The lower branch leads to a box with a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a sequence of four boxes containing eighth notes. From the end of this sequence, two arrows branch out: one leading to a box with a quarter note and another leading to a box with a quarter note. At the end of the final box, the text "approx. 8'' rest" is written. Below the staff, a dynamic marking $mf < f$ is connected by a horizontal line to a p marking at the end of the piece.

approx. 8'' rest

$mf < f$ p

Violin - Performance instructions - Northern Wheatear

Choose whether to play the optional C. Then play one of the four songs. Rest for approximately the same duration as the song. Repeat, choosing each time whether to play the optional C and which song to play.

Violin

♩ = approx. 144

optional

mf — 3 — sfz — mf — mp

mf — 3 — f

mf — 3 — f — p

mf — 3 — sfz — p — f — mf

silence approx. same length as song

Cello – Performance instructions - Sardinian Warbler

Play through this song, more or less from left to right, but sometimes skipping or repeating motives and/or skipping to different parts of the song. Song length is highly variable – from 2 to 20 seconds. Stop abruptly, rest for a variable duration (also 2 to 20 seconds), and repeat, starting wherever you want in the song.

Very fast, ♩ = approx. 252

The first staff of music is written in bass clef. It contains ten measures of music. The first measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The second measure has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. The third measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. The fourth measure has a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3. The fifth measure has a quarter note A3, a quarter note G3, and a quarter note F3. The sixth measure has a quarter note E3, a quarter note D3, and a quarter note C3. The seventh measure has a quarter note B2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note G2. The eighth measure has a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, and a quarter note D2. The ninth measure has a quarter note C2, a quarter note B1, and a quarter note A1. The tenth measure has a quarter note G1, a quarter note F1, and a quarter note E1.

mp-mf, but with urgent intensity

Cello

The second staff of music is written in bass clef. It contains ten measures of music. The first measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The second measure has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. The third measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. The fourth measure has a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3. The fifth measure has a quarter note A3, a quarter note G3, and a quarter note F3. The sixth measure has a quarter note E3, a quarter note D3, and a quarter note C3. The seventh measure has a quarter note B2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note G2. The eighth measure has a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, and a quarter note D2. The ninth measure has a quarter note C2, a quarter note B1, and a quarter note A1. The tenth measure has a quarter note G1, a quarter note F1, and a quarter note E1.

approx. 2-20" rest

The third staff of music is written in bass clef. It contains five measures of music. The first measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The second measure has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. The third measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. The fourth measure has a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3. The fifth measure has a quarter note A3, a quarter note G3, and a quarter note F3. The word "etc." is written at the end of the staff.

Migrations

commissioned by the Musings Ensemble
for Jamie McLaren
Score in C

Eleonore Schönmaier

Emily Doolittle, 2015

approx. 10-20" **approx. 30-40"**

Narrator

Frame drum

Clarinet in B \flat /
Bass Clarinet in B \flat

Violin

Violoncello

Rub hand in a circular motion on a frame drum or other large-headed, open drum to create a slowly ebbing and flowing white noise, *p* to *mf*.
Play continuously throughout the entire piece without any pauses

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL
Detach mouthpiece and play gull sounds. If desired, add voice to create a grittier sound.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL
Play on D string. Start on a medium high pitch and glissando to a medium low pitch, with fingers a medium distance apart.

Continue playing gull sounds, with a bit of silence between retakes. Gradually, and not entirely systematically, start glissandos higher and end lower.

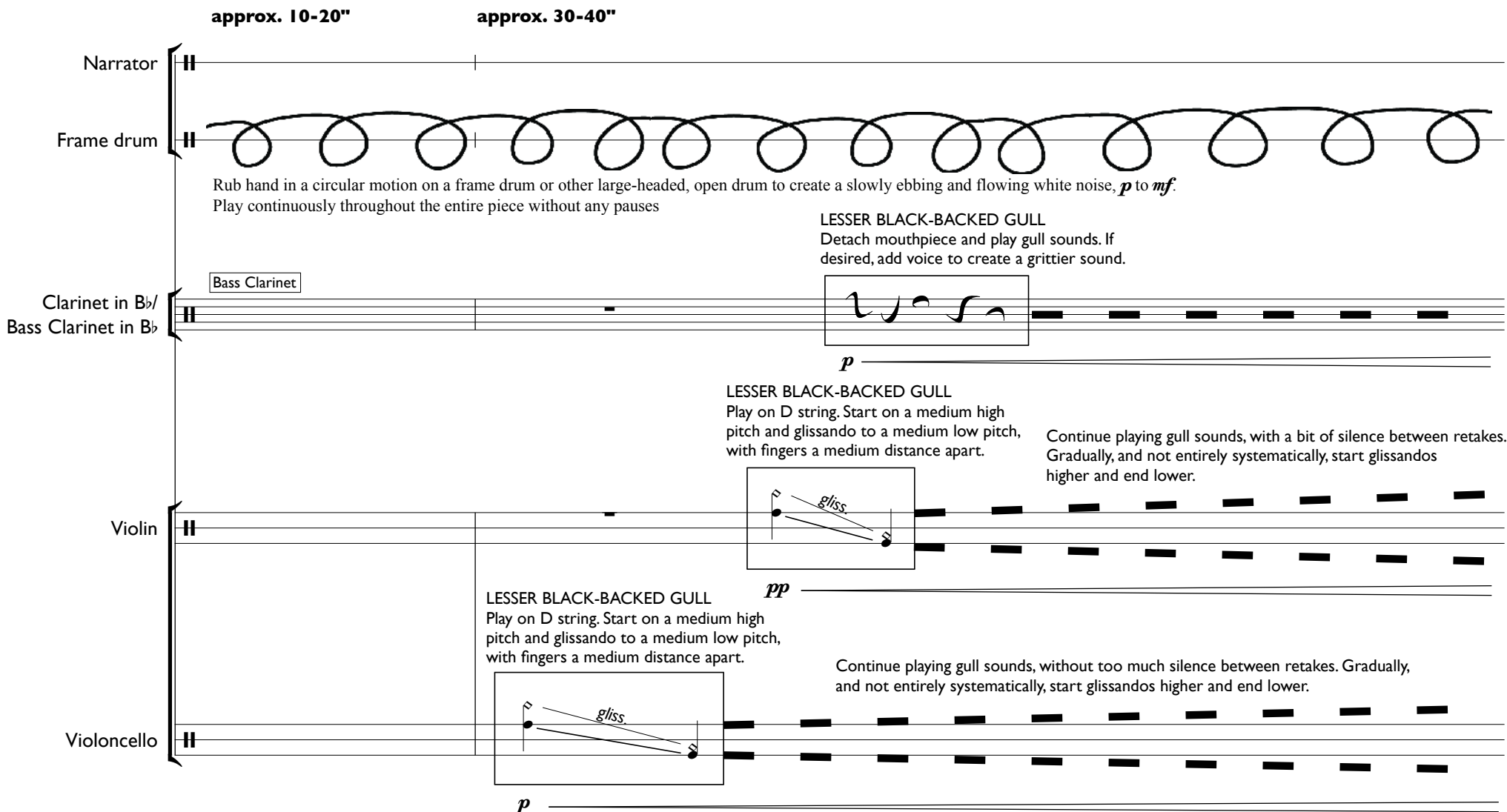
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL
Play on D string. Start on a medium high pitch and glissando to a medium low pitch, with fingers a medium distance apart.

Continue playing gull sounds, without too much silence between retakes. Gradually, and not entirely systematically, start glissandos higher and end lower.

p

pp


p

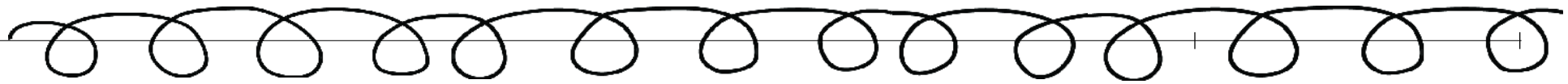


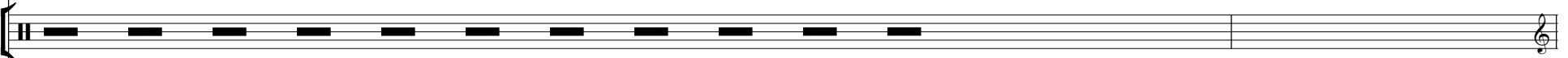

approx. 30-40"

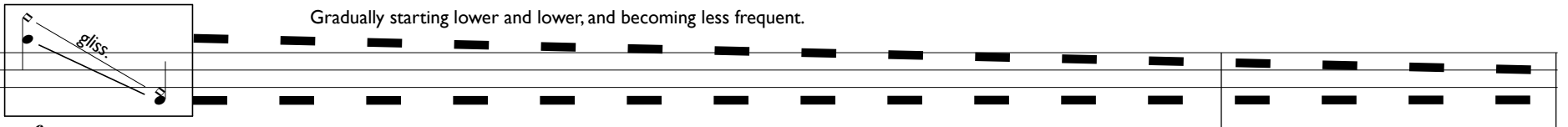

approx. 8"

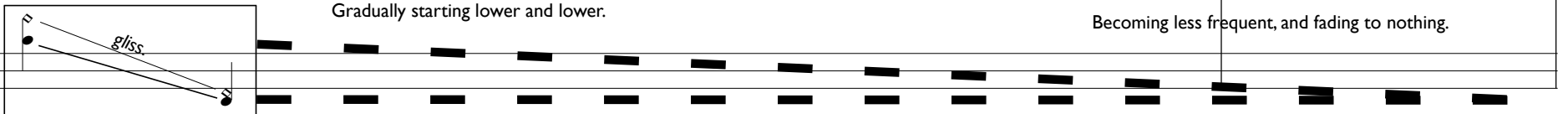
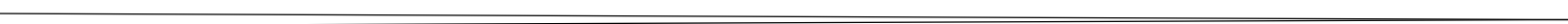
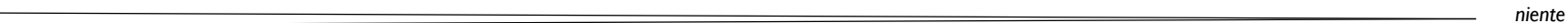
Line breaks indicate more space between words.

Nar. 

Dr. 

B. Cl. 
mf  niente

Vln. 
 High pitch to low pitch. *mf* 
 Gradually starting lower and lower, and becoming less frequent.

Vc. 
 High pitch to low pitch. *f* 
 Gradually starting lower and lower.  Becoming less frequent, and fading to nothing. niente

The police squint
 into the glare on the water
 looking
 for small

mf (normal, clear speaking voice, easily audible above the instruments)

approx. 40-50"

Nar. boats.

Dr.

MOTOR BOAT
Unpitched paper rumbling sound (as described in beginning of score). Swells last approximately 8-12", with a few seconds of silence between them. Play in overlapping alternation with the cello.

B. Cl. *pp* *mf* niente *p* *f* niente *p* *mf*

Vln. Medium pitch to lower pitch. *pp* niente

MOTOR BOAT
Unpitched scratch tone on lower string, with left hand fingers loosely draped across strings (as described in beginning of score). Swells last approximately 8-12", with a few seconds of silence between them. Play in overlapping alternation with the bass clarinet.

Vc. *pp* *mf* niente *p* *f* niente

The score consists of five staves. The Nar. staff has a single bar with a double bar line and the word 'boats.'. The Dr. staff has a series of overlapping loops. The B. Cl. staff has three dynamic swells: *pp* to *mf* to niente, *p* to *f* to niente, and *p* to *mf*. The Vln. staff has a box containing a gliss. from a medium pitch to a lower pitch, followed by a series of black bars and the dynamic *pp* to niente. The Vc. staff has two dynamic swells: *pp* to *mf* to niente, and *p* to *f* to niente. The 'MOTOR BOAT' text is placed between the B. Cl. and Vc. staves.

4 $\text{♩} = 108$ $(\text{♩} = \text{♩})$

Nar. 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2

On a clear day the lightkeeper sees all the way to Algeria.

Dr. 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2

B. Cl. 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2

Vln. 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2

Vc. 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2

niente
pizz.

p

pizz.

p

p

13

Nar. 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2

Dr. 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2

B. Cl. 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2

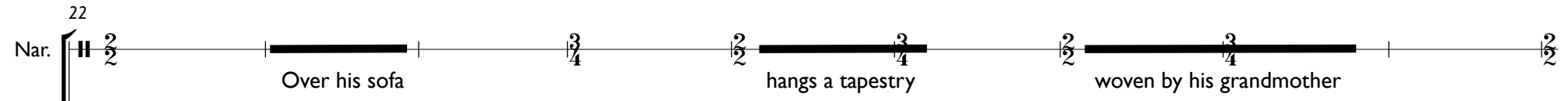
Vln. 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2

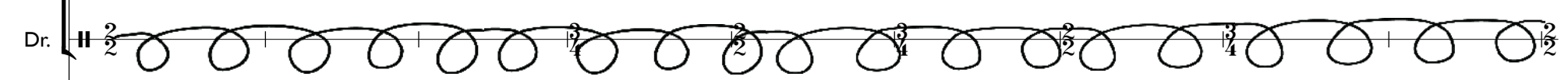
Vc. 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2 3/4 2/2

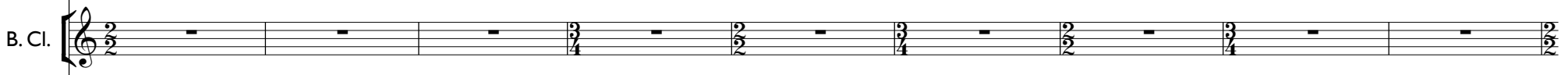
mp


mp


22

Nar. 

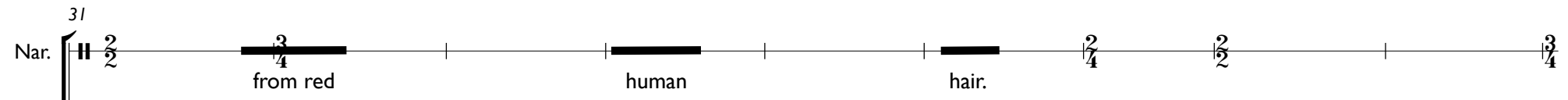
Dr. 

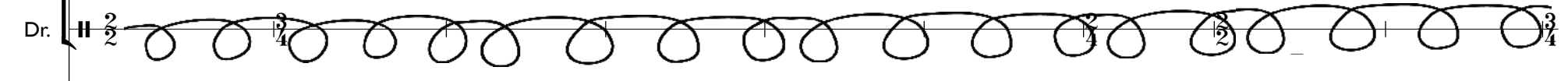
B. Cl. 


Vln. 


Vc. 


31

Nar. 

Dr. 

B. Cl. 

Vln. 

Vc. 

40

Nar. $\text{H } \frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{9}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{2}$

Dr. $\text{H } \frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{9}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{2}$

B. Cl. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{9}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{2}$

Vln. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{9}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{2}$

Vc. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{9}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{2}$

f

48

Nar. $\text{H } \frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$

Dr. $\text{H } \frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$

B. Cl. $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$

Vln. $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$

Vc. $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$

più f

più f

57

Nar. $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{7}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

Only the birds travel without papers. Though

Dr. $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{7}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

B. Cl. $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{7}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

Vln. $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{7}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

Vc. $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{7}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

66

Nar. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

often now their tiny legs when they perch on the lighthouse railings are colour

Dr. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

B. Cl. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

Vln. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

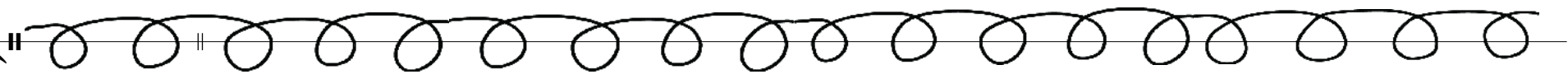
Vc. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

ff

76

approx. 30-40"

Nar. **banded.**

Dr. 

B. Cl. **MOTOR BOAT**

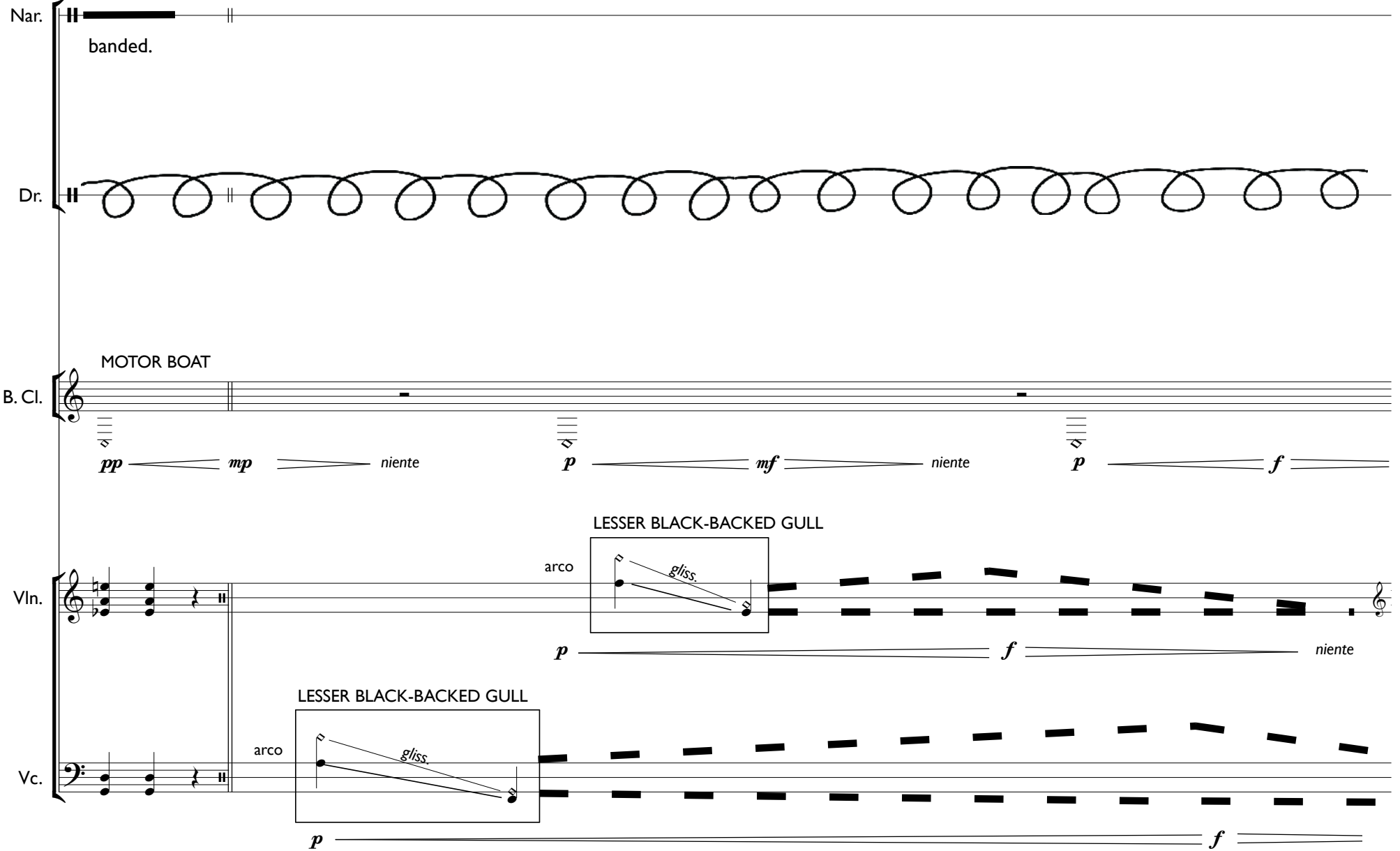
pp \rightarrow *mp* \rightarrow niente *p* \rightarrow *mf* \rightarrow niente *p* \rightarrow *f*

Vln. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**

arco *gliss.* *p* \rightarrow *f* \rightarrow niente

Vc. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**

arco *gliss.* *p* \rightarrow *f*



approx. 30-40"

78

Nar.

Dr.

B. Cl.

To B \flat Cl.

niente *p* *mp* *niente*

NORTHERN WHEATEAR
Performance directions
at beginning of score.
♩ = approx. 144

tap

pitch bend down

portamento

mf *sfz* *mf* *mp*

optional

mf *f*

portamento

mf *f* *p*

pitch bend down

portamento

mf *sfz* *p* *f* *mf*

Continue Northern Wheatear song, choosing each time which version to sing.
Alternate with silences of approximately the same length as the song.

Vln.

Vc.

Continue Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Getting lower in pitch, becoming less frequent.

approx. 30-40"

Nar.

Dr.

B \flat Clarinet

WILLOW WARBLER
 Performance directions
 at beginning of score.
 ♩ = approx. 84

Continue Willow Warbler song, choosing song path anew each time. Alternate with approx. 8-10" of silence.

B. Cl.

mf < *f* *p*

Continue Northern Wheatear (song and silences).


Vln.

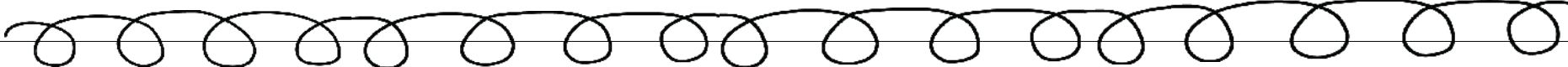
Continue Lesser Black-backed Gull. Becoming less frequent and fading to nothing.

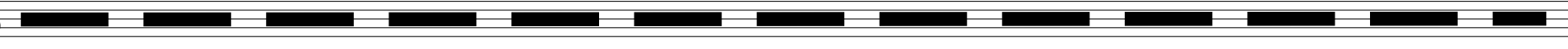
Vc.

niente

any duration (30" or longer)

Nar. 

Dr. 

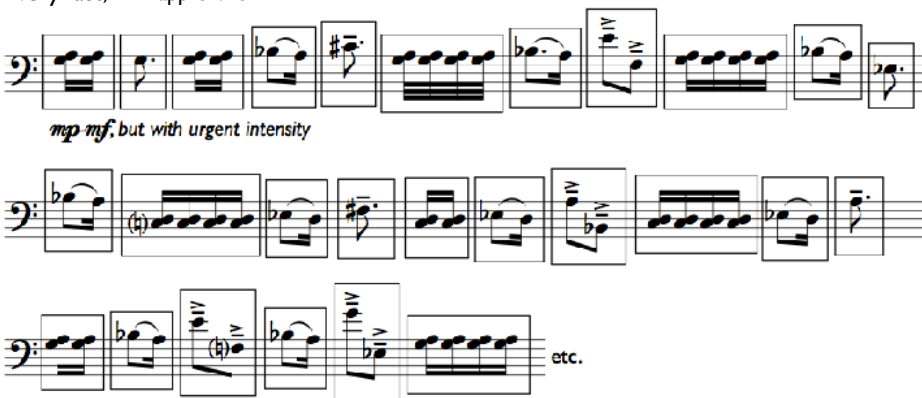
Cl. in B \flat  Continue Willow Warbler (song and silences).

Vln.  Continue Northern Wheatear (song and silences).

SARDINIAN WARBLER

Performance directions at beginning of score.

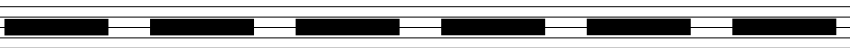
very fast, ♩ = approx. 252



mp mf, but with urgent intensity

etc.

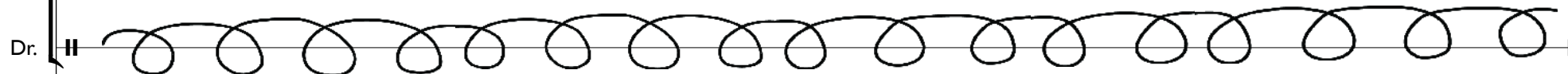
Continue Sardinian Warbler, alternating irregular lengths of song (2-20") with irregular periods of rest (2-20")

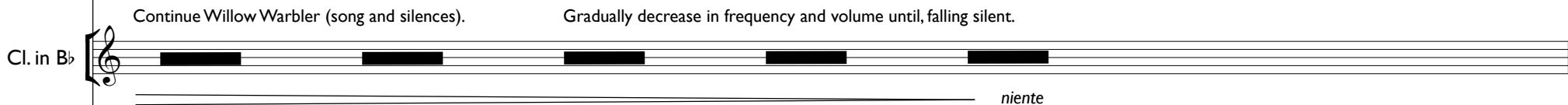


Vc. 

any duration (30" or longer)

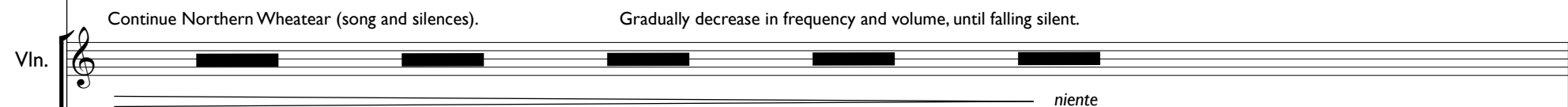
Nar. 

Dr. 

Cl. in B♭ 

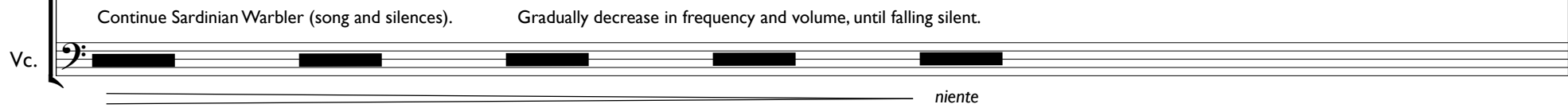
Continue Willow Warbler (song and silences). Gradually decrease in frequency and volume until, falling silent.

niente

Vln. 

Continue Northern Wheatear (song and silences). Gradually decrease in frequency and volume, until falling silent.

niente

Vc. 

Continue Sardinian Warbler (song and silences). Gradually decrease in frequency and volume, until falling silent.

niente