Juraj Kojs

At and Across

for Slovak sheep bells and cyberbells

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At and Across is a composition written for a set of physical Sheep bells from Slovakia and virtual bells programmed in the GENESIS software at the ACROE-ICA center in Grenoble, France. The composition situates the ancient folk instrument in the domain of cutting edge technology.

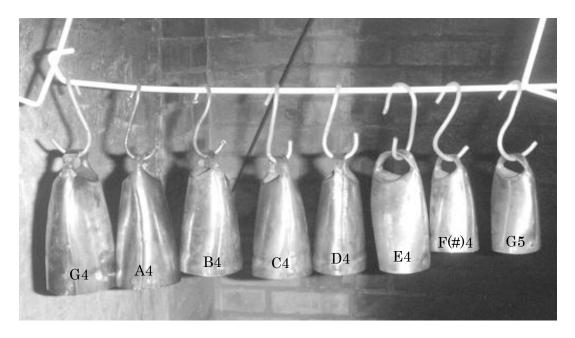
The sheep bells arrived in Slovakia during the shepherd colonization in the 13th century by the Wallachians of Romania. In the northern region Liptov, where I grew up, the sheep bell production has flourished since the 16th century. From my early childhood I remember the sounds of the clinging bells at my grand father's farm. All the bells were tuned to one common tone. This way the shepherds, who pastured and guarded the animals in the spring and summer, could identify their own sheep in case of they mingled with other herds. Consequently, it was important for the farmers to get a set of well-tuned bells. A resonant bell was often more valuable than the sheep itself.

Following the 20th century industrialization and disappearance of small farmers, the sheep culture and its sounds have been vanishing from the Slovak countryside. This project developed from the idea of digital excavation and preservation of the Slovak sheep bells. I used the GENESIS environment to create digital replicas of the sheep bells and, further, extend the properties of these replicas beyond the limitations of the physical reality. I also created cyberbell structures such as bells made of thin materials and cyberbell networks which do not exist in physical reality. The physical and cyberbells meet in MAX/MSP program, where their timbres blend.

Melodics of *At and Across* is derived from the Slovak folk song *Sadla muska na konarik (A little fly set on a branch)*. Harmonic and dynamic structures mirror and accentuate the spectral relationships between the eleven partials of J.C. Risset's additive synthesis bells. *At and Across* is composed for a single performer, a set of tuned physical bells and cyberbell structures. Duration: 12'

Performance requires:

1 percussionist performing on 8 bells with a wooden mallet, wooden stick, violin bow, and two plastic sticks.

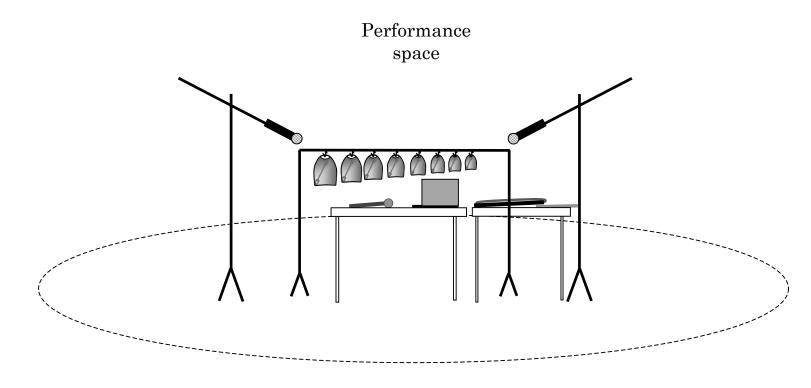


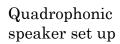
Technical requirements:

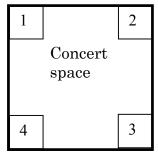
4-channel audio set up 2 microphones

1 apple computer running MAX/MSP

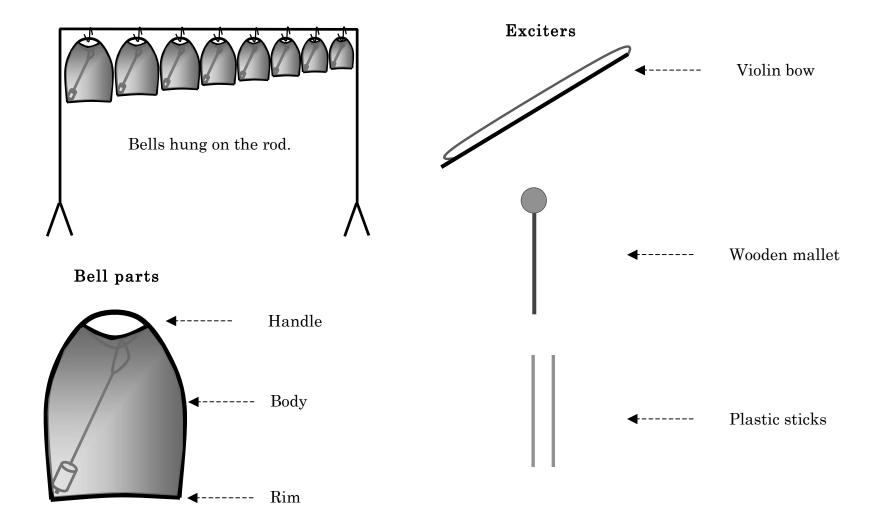
1 firewire interface such as MOTU 828 or Metric Halo



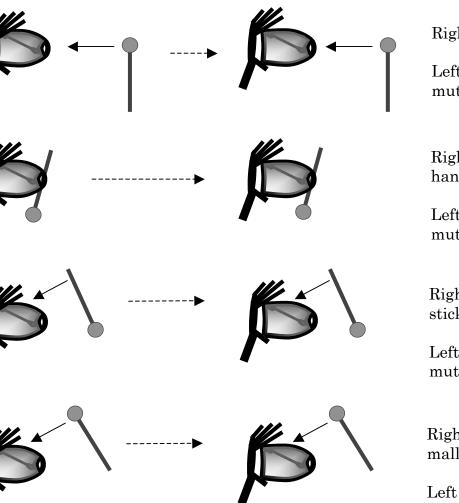




Legend



Performance modes



Right Hand: Hit the handle with a wooden mallet.

Left Hand: Hold the bell. Keep changing the palm muting.

Right Hand: Rattle with the wooden stick in the bell's handle.

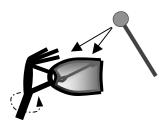
Left Hand: Hold the bell. Keep changing the palm muting.

Right Hand: Hit the bell's body with the wooden stick.

Left Hand: Hold the bell. Keep changing the palm muting.

Right Hand: Hit the bell's body with the wooden mallet.

Left Hand: Hold the bell. Keep changing the palm muting.

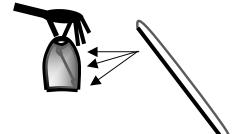


Right Hand: Hit the bell's body with the wooden mallet at a variety of places.

Left Hand: Hold the bell by its holder with fingers. Rotate your wrist to enable hitting at a various places.

Right Hand: Hit the bell's body on a side with the wooden mallet at a variety of places. Move up and down along the bells height.

Left Hand: Hold the bell by its holder with fingers in vertical position.



Right Hand: Hit the bell's body on a side with the violin bow at a variety of places. Move up and down along the bells height.

Left Hand: Hold the bell by its holder with fingers in vertical position.

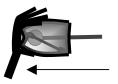


Right Hand: Bow the bell on the rim with the violin bow.

Left Hand: Hold the bell with the rim up by its holder with fingers in vertical position.

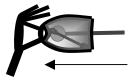


Left Hand: Shake one time to change the position of the inner bell beater.



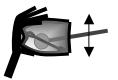
Right Hand: Hit the back of the bell's inside with a wooden mallet.

Left Hand: Hold the bell by its holder with fingers in vertical position. Mute the bell.



Right Hand: Hit the back of the bell's inside with a wooden mallet.

Left Hand: Hold the bell by its holder with fingers in vertical position. Unmute the bell.



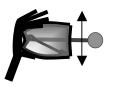
Right Hand: Hit the sides of the bell's inside with a wooden mallet.

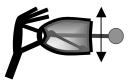
Left Hand: Hold the bell by its holder with fingers in vertical position. Mute the bell.

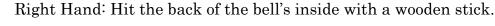


Right Hand: Hit the sides of the bell's inside with a wooden mallet.

Left Hand: Hold the bell by its holder with fingers in vertical position. Unmute the bell.







Left Hand: Hold the bell by its holder with fingers in vertical position. Mute the bell.

Right Hand: Hit the back of the bell's inside with a wooden stick.

Left Hand: Hold the bell by its holder with fingers in vertical position. Unmute the bell.



Right Hand: Hit around the bell's rim with a wooden mallet.

Left Hand: Hold the bell by its holder with fingers in vertical position. Mute the bell.



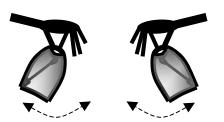
Right Hand: Hit around the bell's rim with a wooden mallet.

Left Hand: Hold the bell by its holder with fingers in vertical position. Unmute the bell.



Right Hand/Left Hand: Hold the bell by its holder with fingers.

Hit it with your thumb.

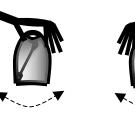


Right Hand/Left Hand: Hold the bell by its holder with fingers. Shake it.



Right Hand: Bow the bell on the rim with the violin bow.

Left Hand: Hold the bell with fingers in vertical position.



Right Hand/Left Hand: Hold the bell with fingers at the top of its body, thus half-muting it. Shake it.



Right Hand/Left Hand: Hold the bell with fingers in the middle of its body, thus full-muting it. Rotate your wrist to shake it.



Right Hand/Left Hand: Hold the bell with fingers in the middle of its body, thus full-muting it.

Rotate your wrist and rub the bell lightly against the palm of the other hand.



Hold the bell in both hands completely muted. Shake front and back as a cup of darts.



Left hand: Hold the bell. Alternate muting.

Right Hand: Create a shaft.

Blow air inside the bell through the shaft. Open and close the right hand slightly to produce a variety of colored noises and whistle tones.

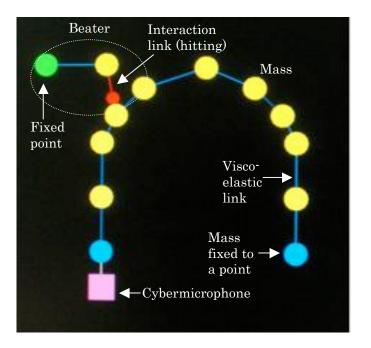


Right Hand: Bow the bell's body with the violin bow.

Left Hand: Hold the bell by its holder with fingers in vertical position.

Legend for Electronics

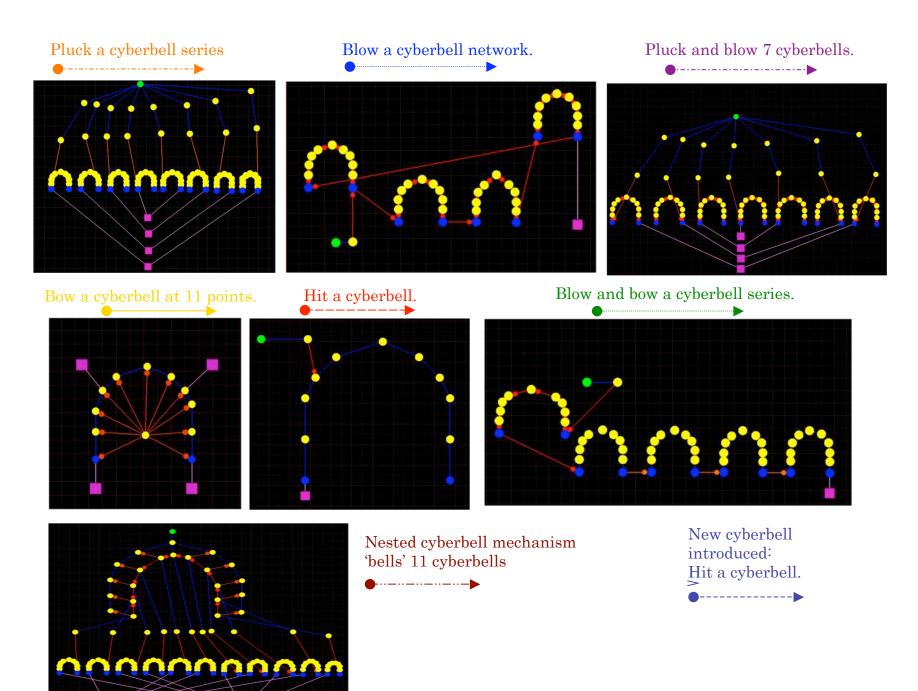
The 4-channel electronics present cyberbell structures created via physical modeling synthesis in GENESIS. The bells are identified by their structure indicated on the picture and action which excites them (color and line-type). The beginning of the gesture is marked with - and the end with -.

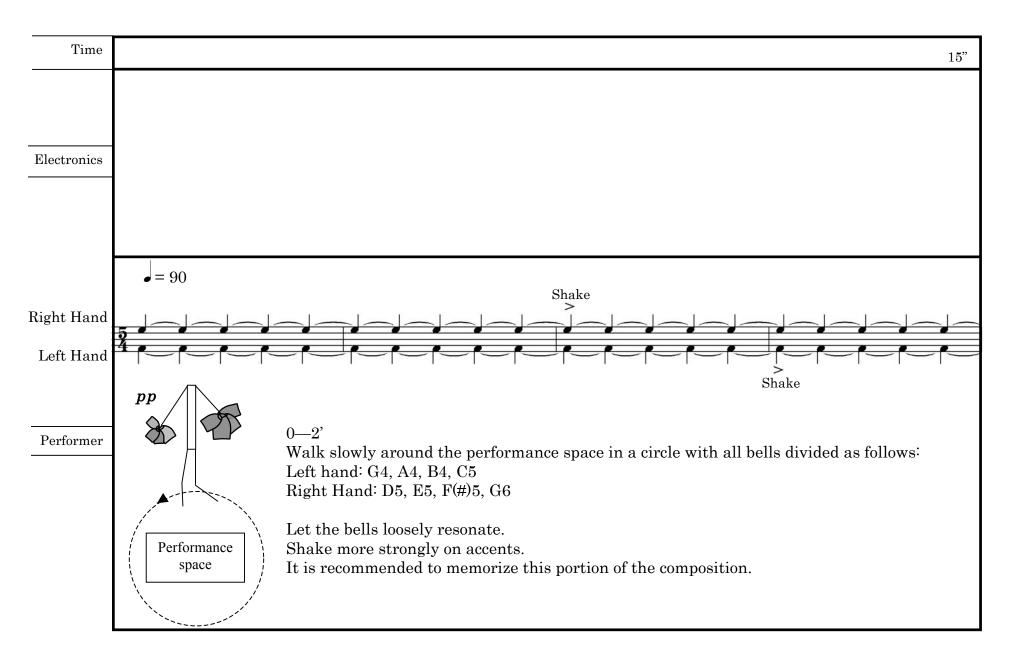


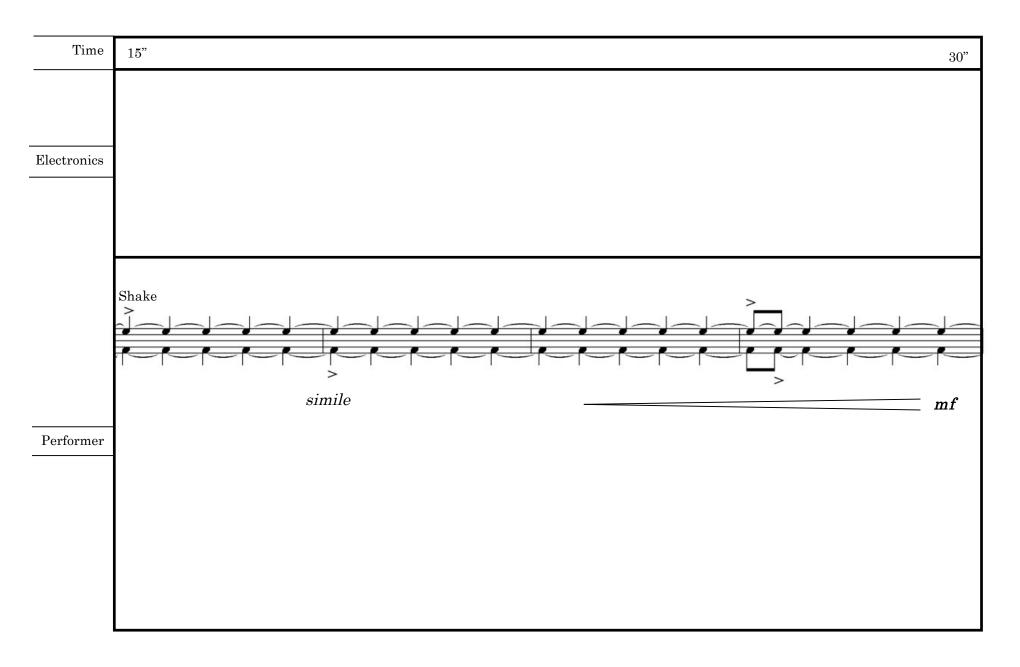
Basic cyberbell constructed of 11 masses (yellow dots) which are connected with the dampingstiffness links (blue lines). Blue dots are masses grounded to a fixed point.

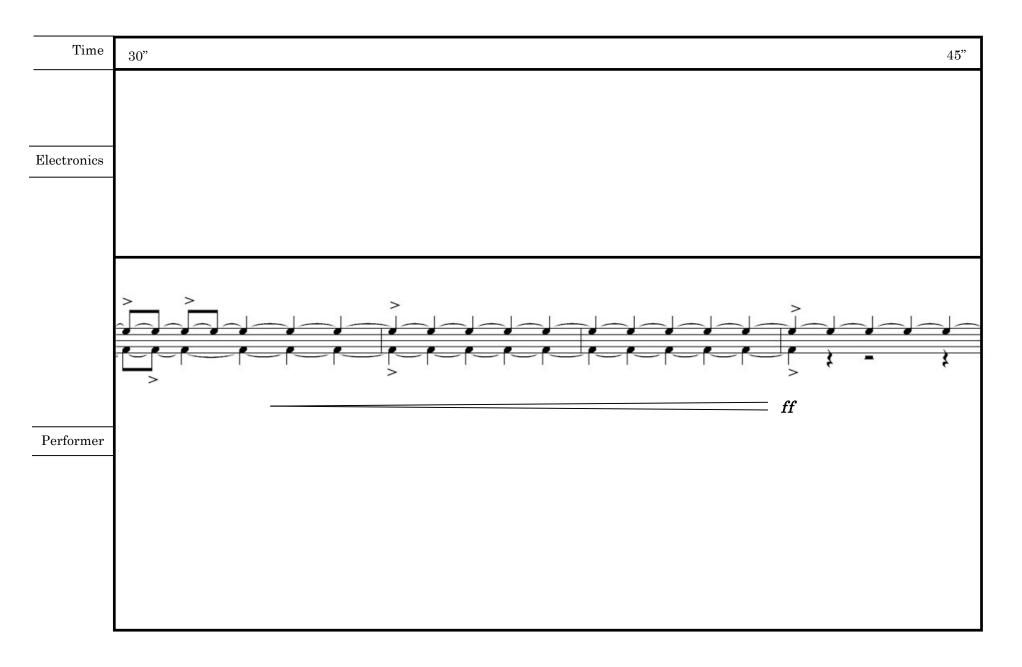
Pink square is a cybermicrophone module which enables us to hear the instrument.

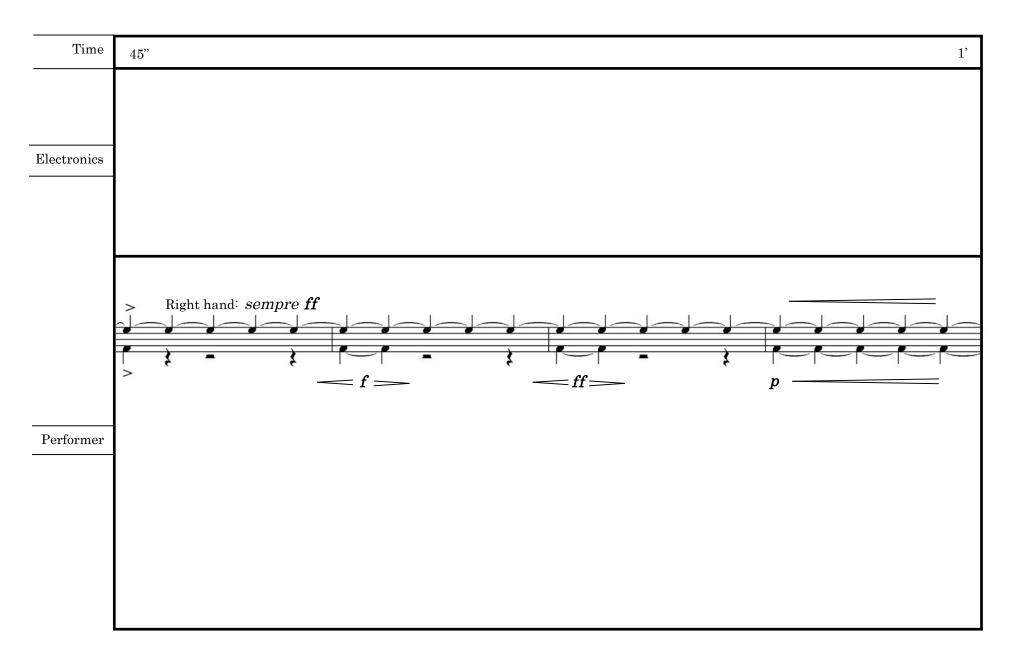
The beater consists of a fixed point (the green dot) connected to a mass. The nature of cyberaction between the beater and instrument such as blowing, bowing, hitting and plucking is defined by the connecting link. In this case, the red link and its parameters signify hitting.

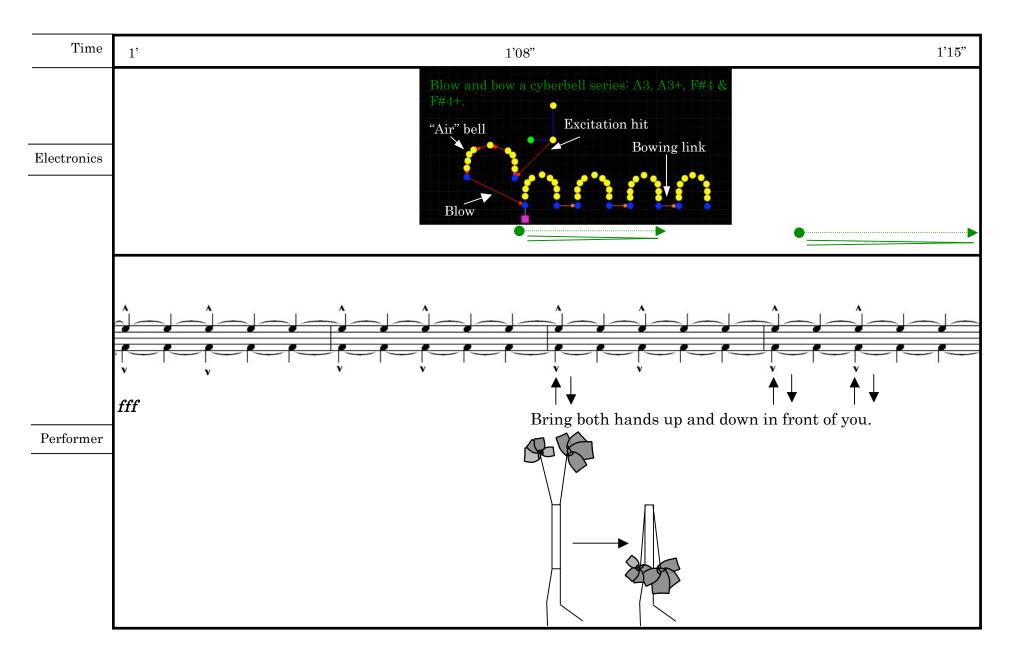


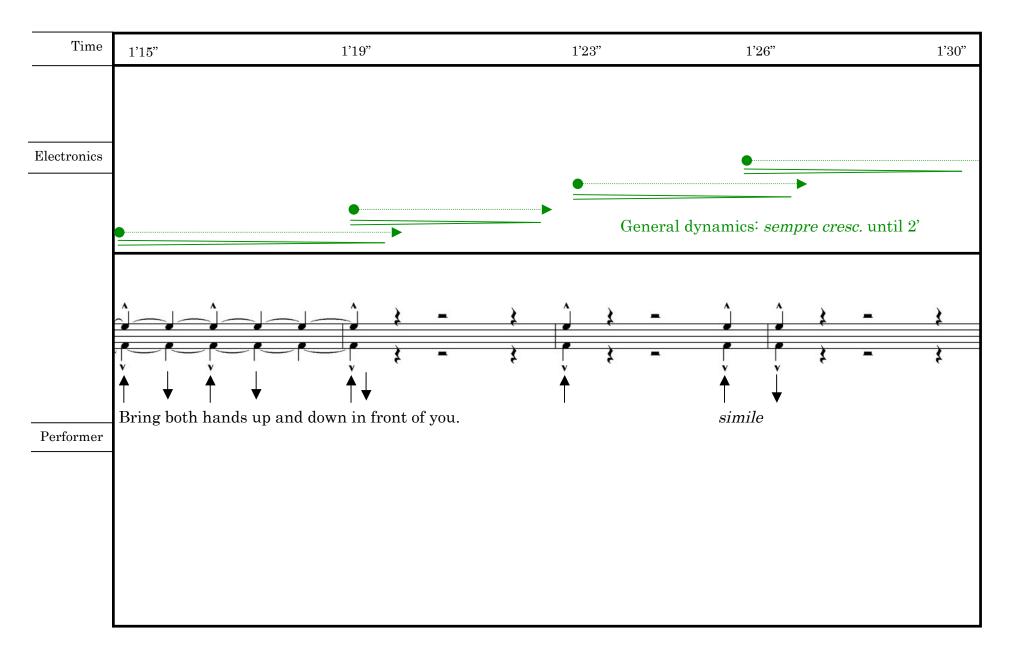


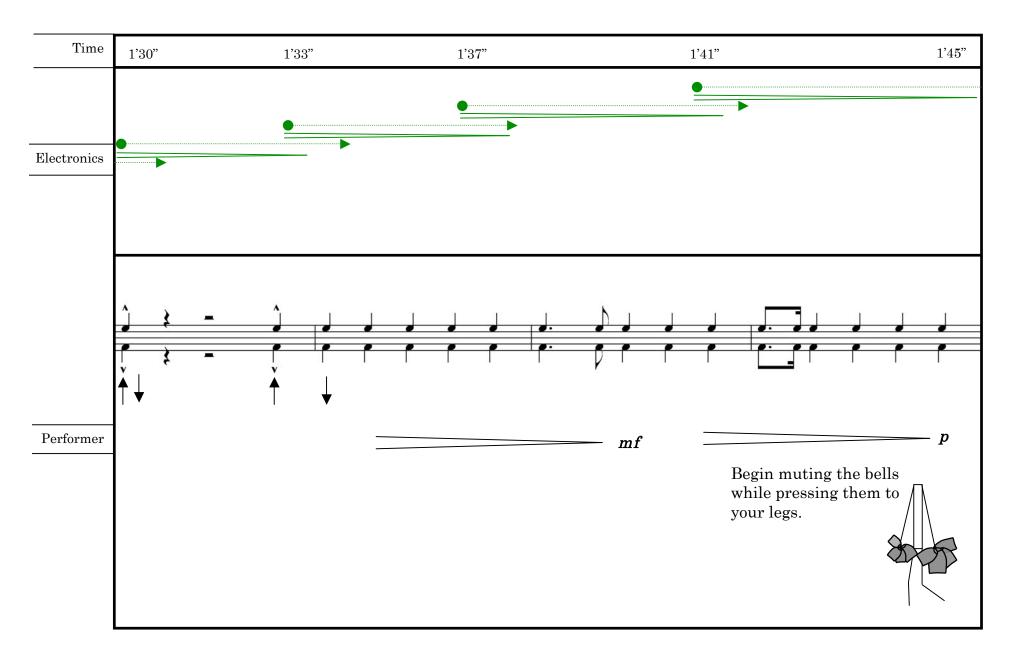


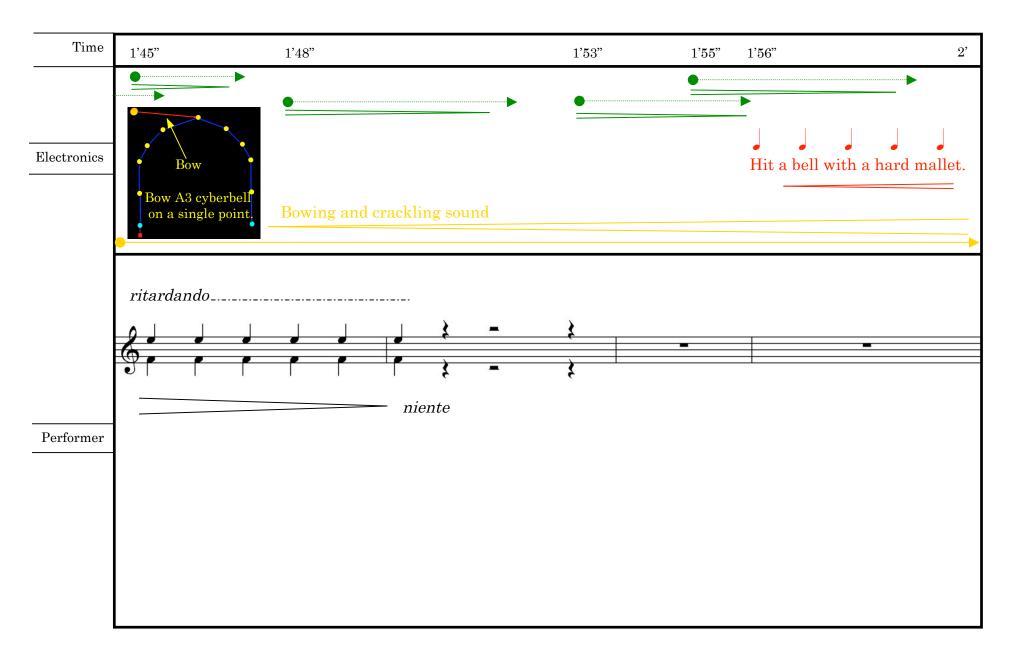


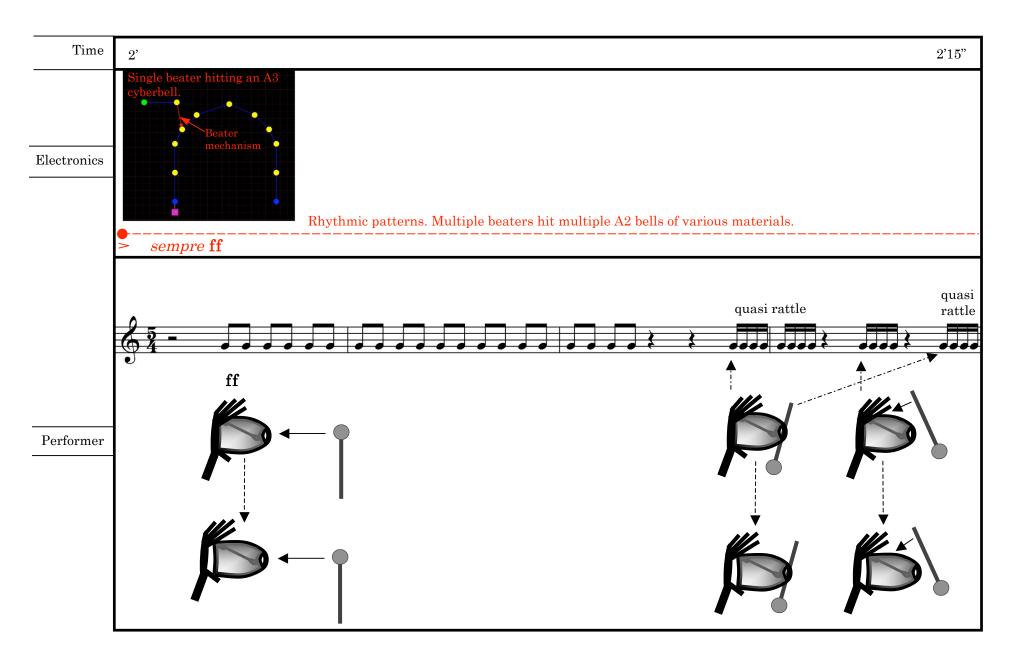


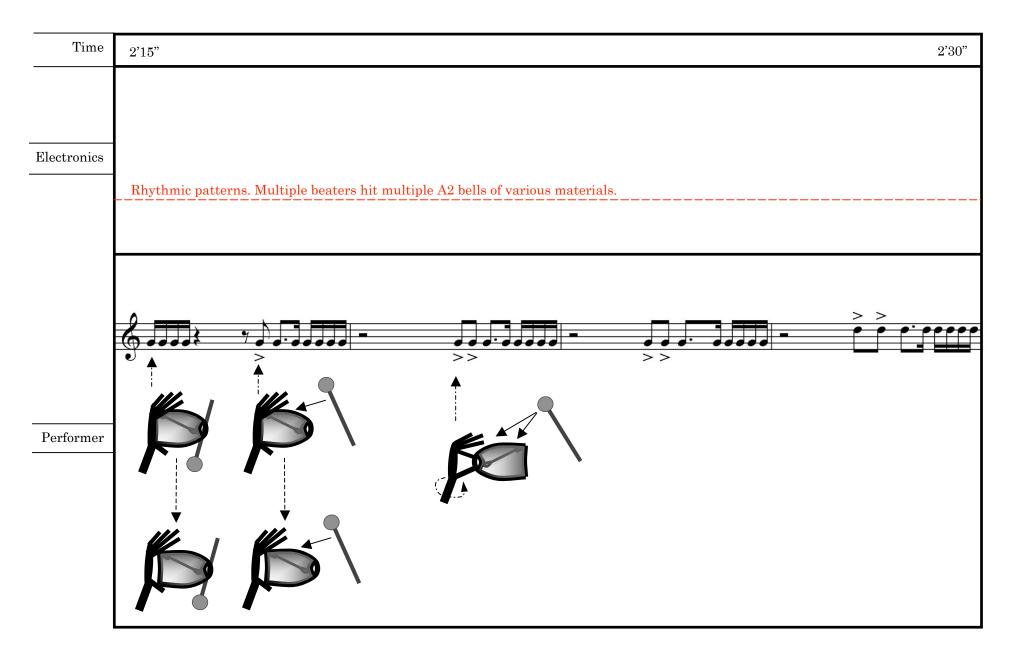


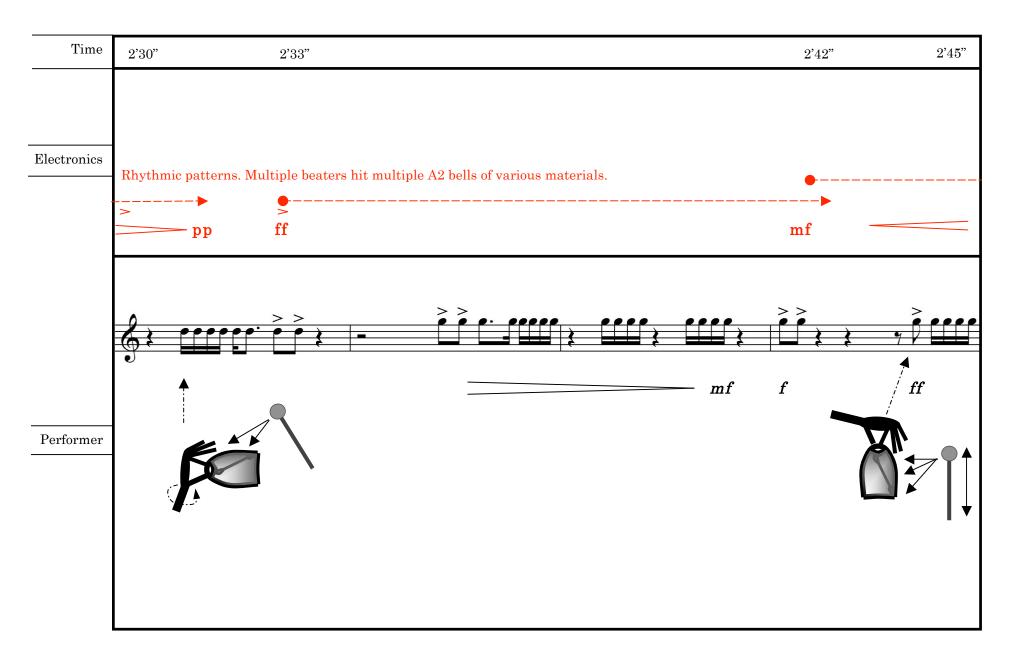


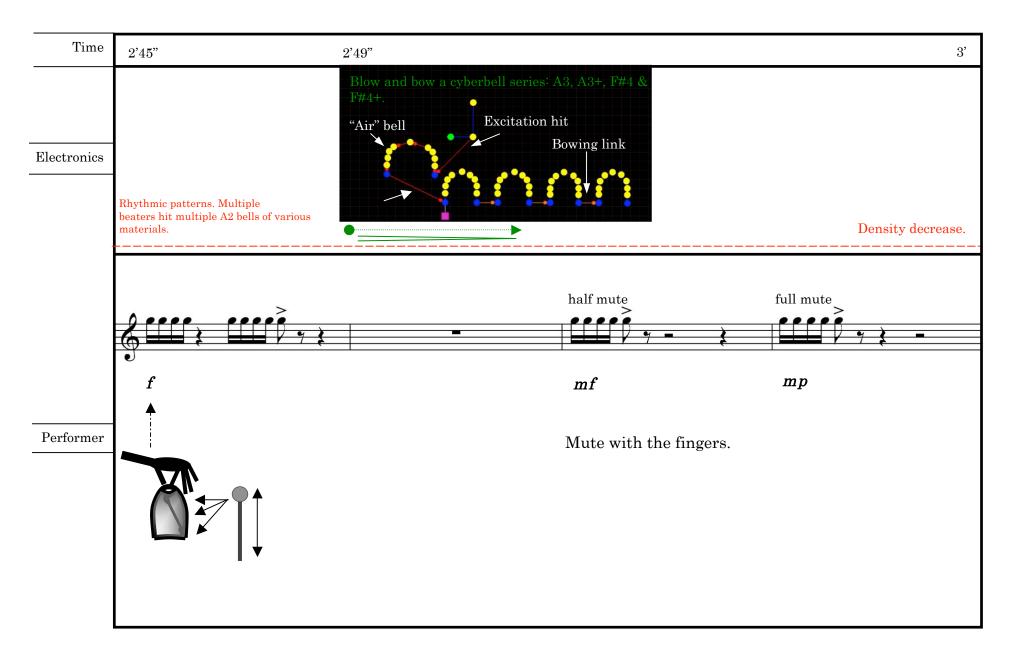


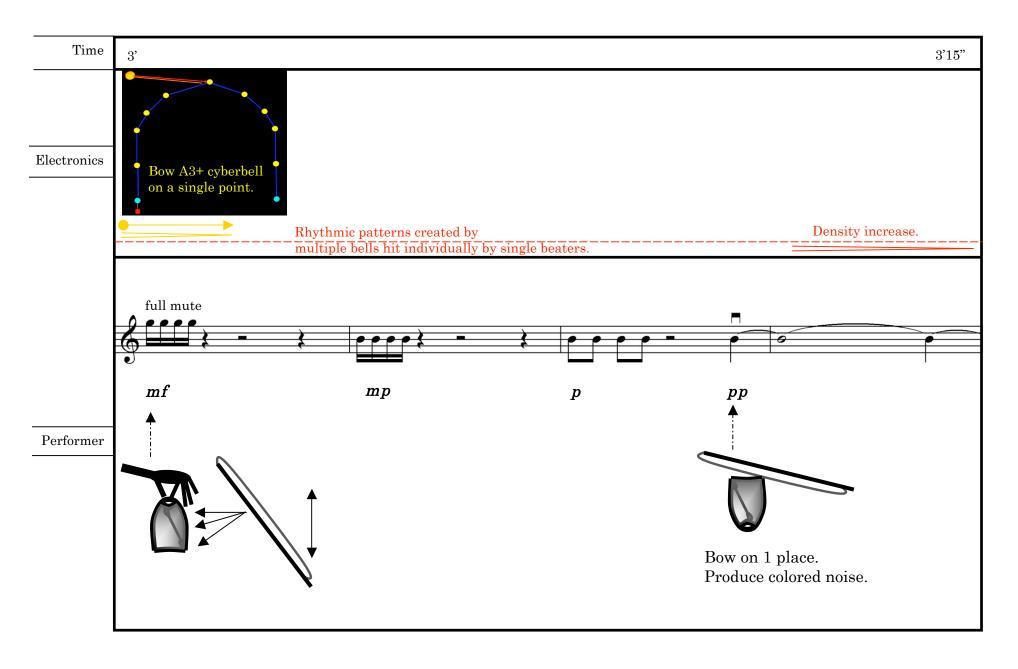


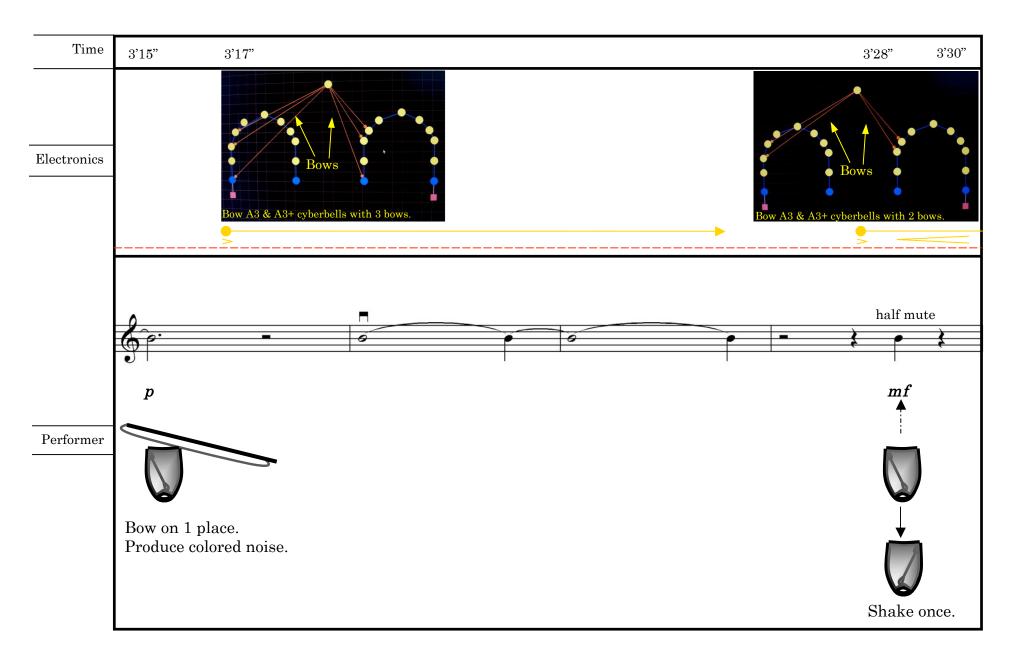


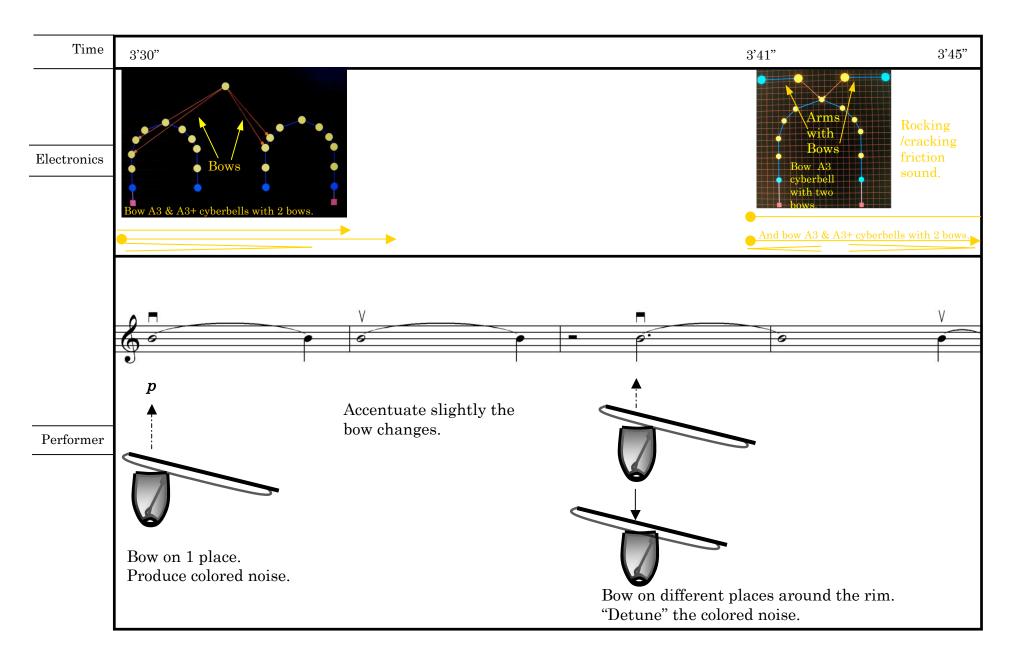


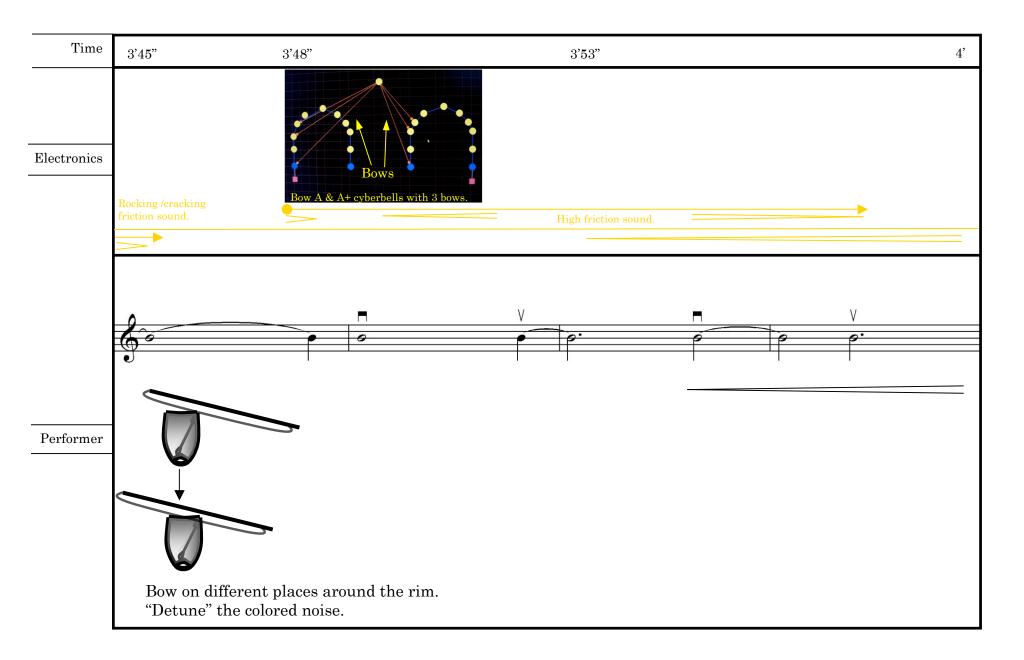


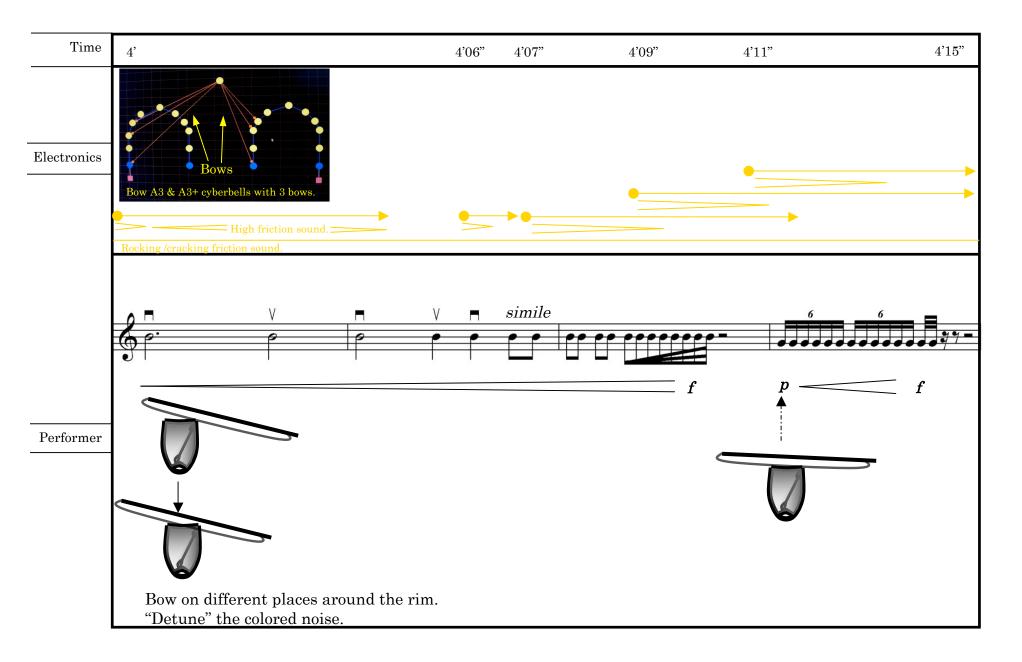


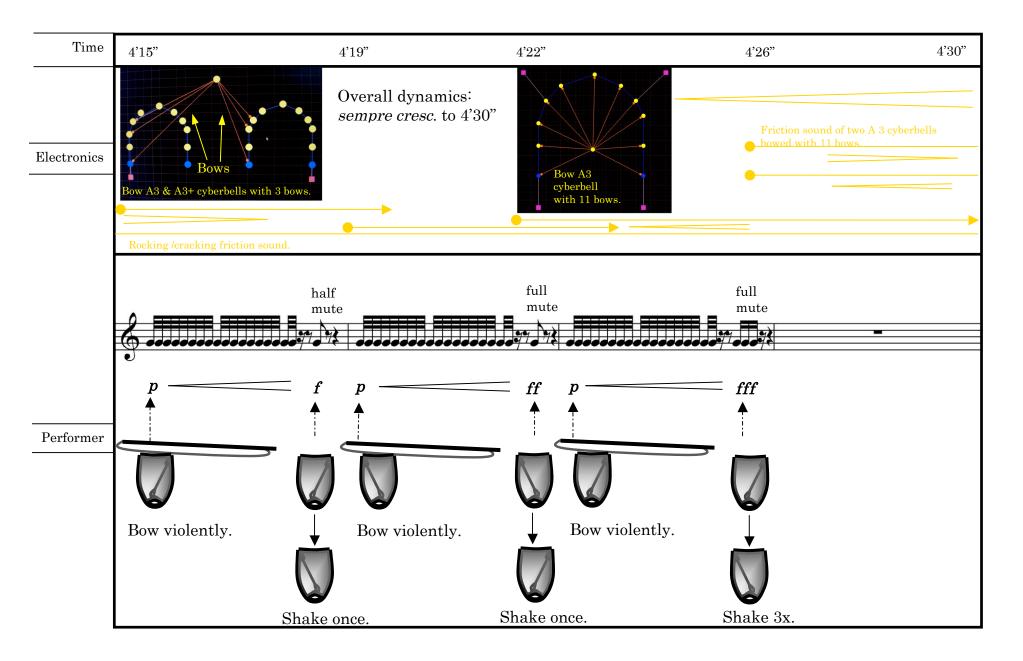


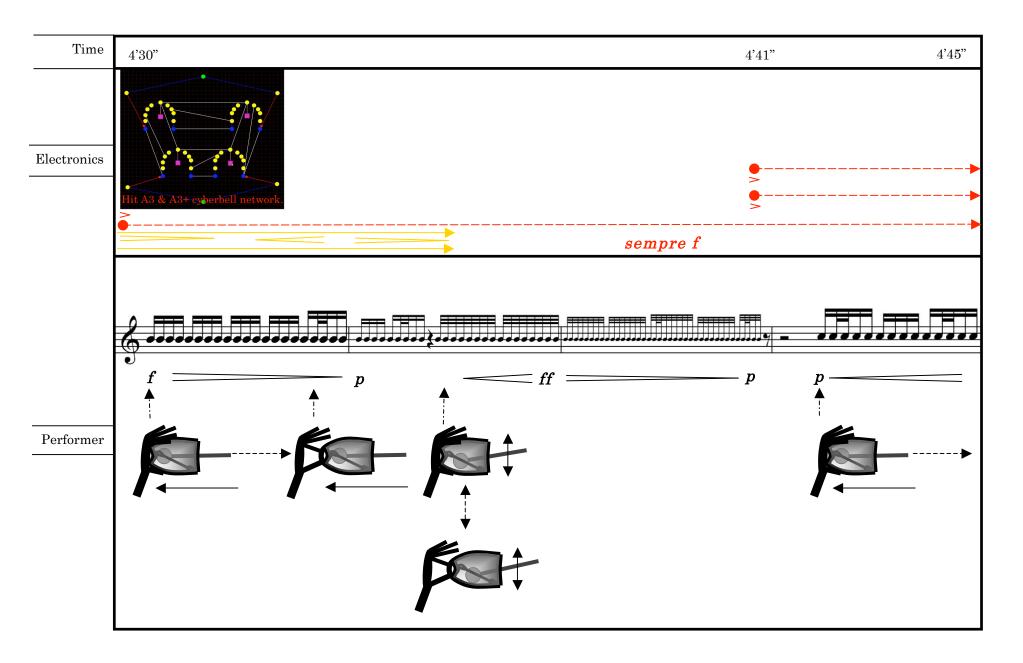


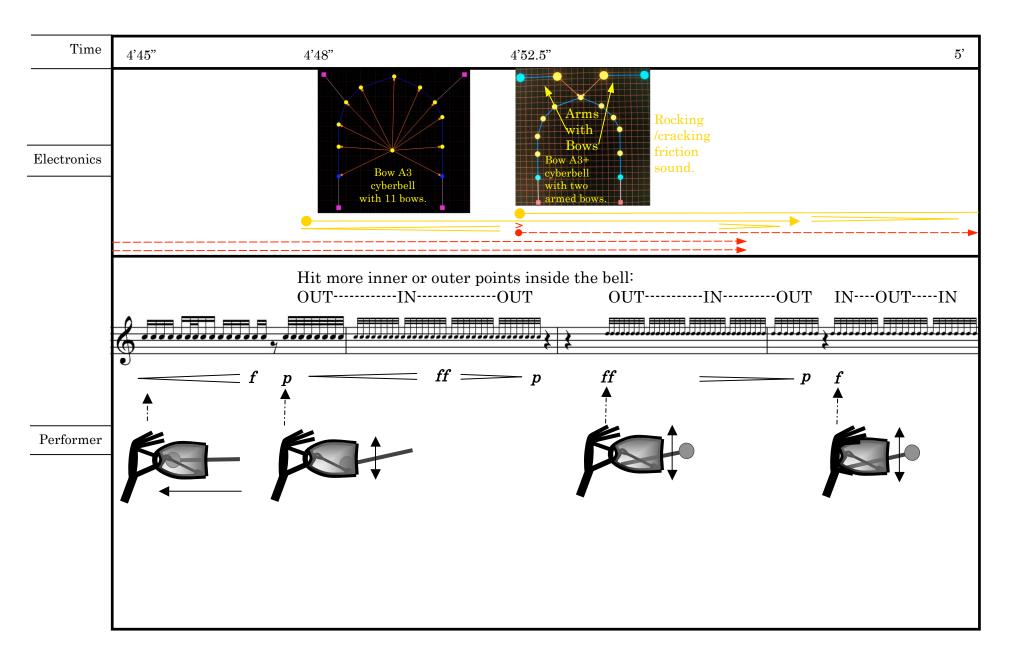


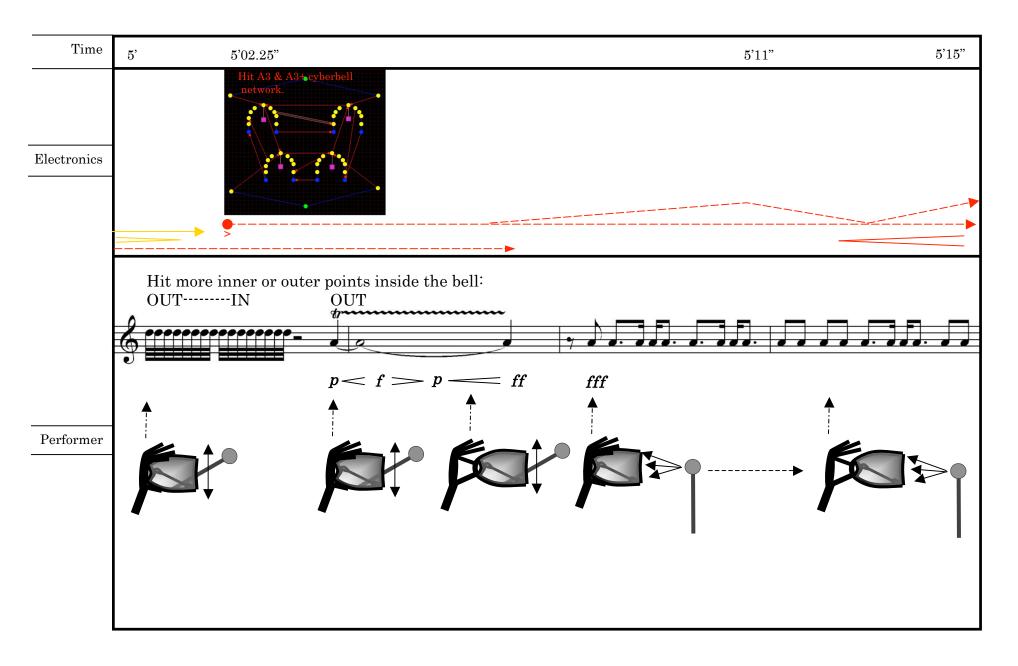


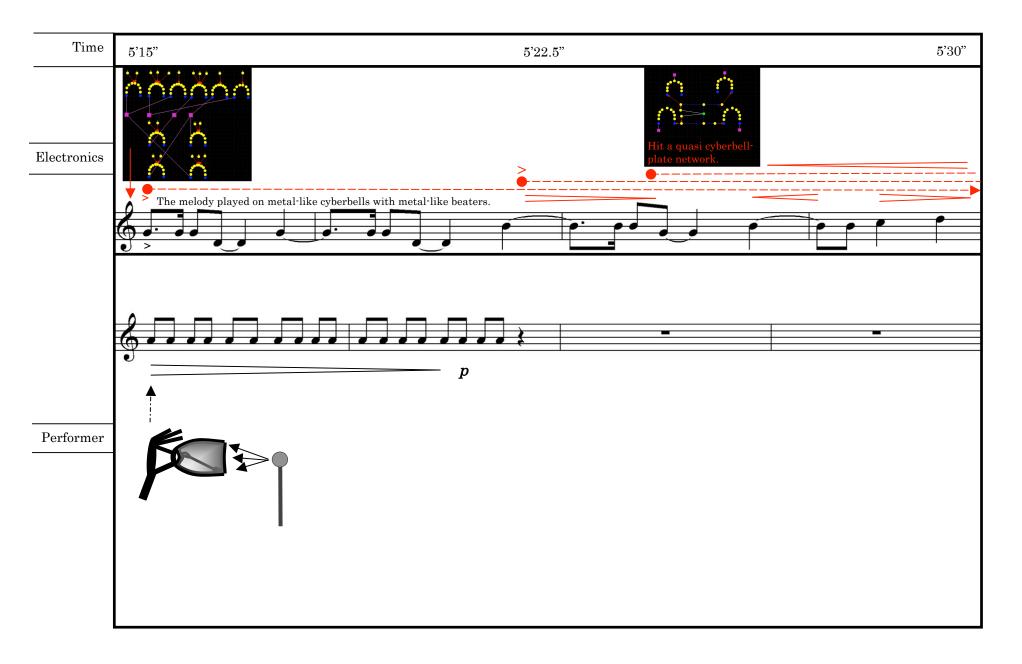


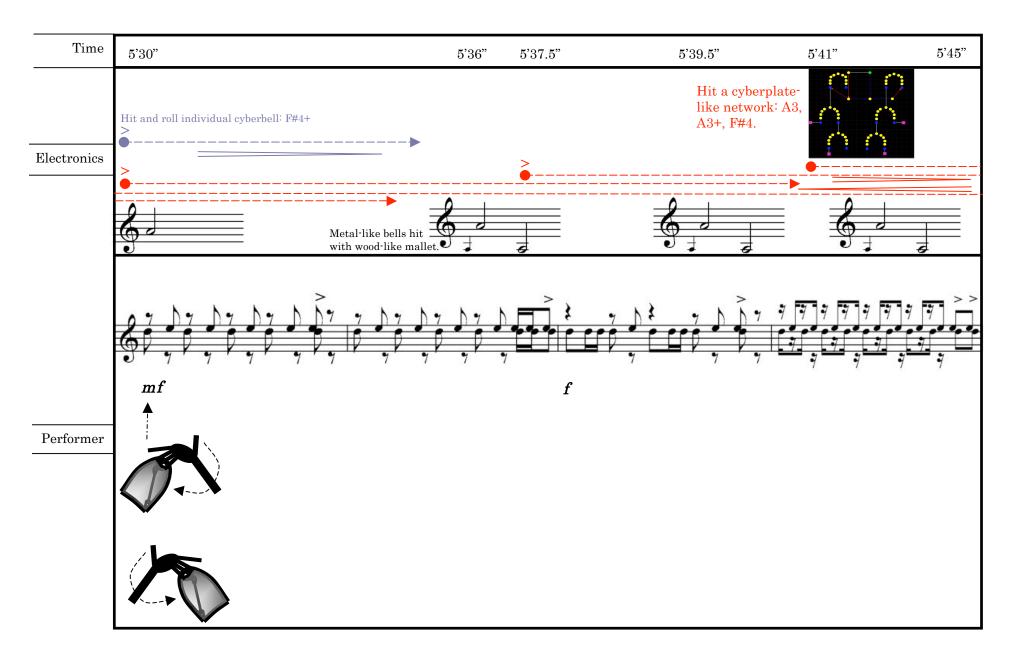


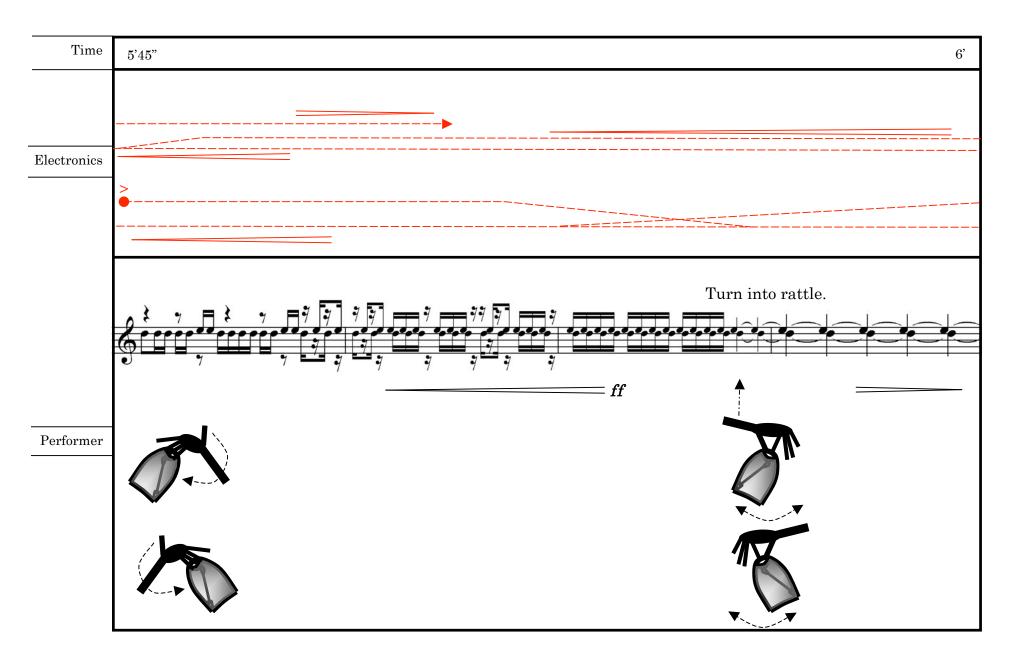


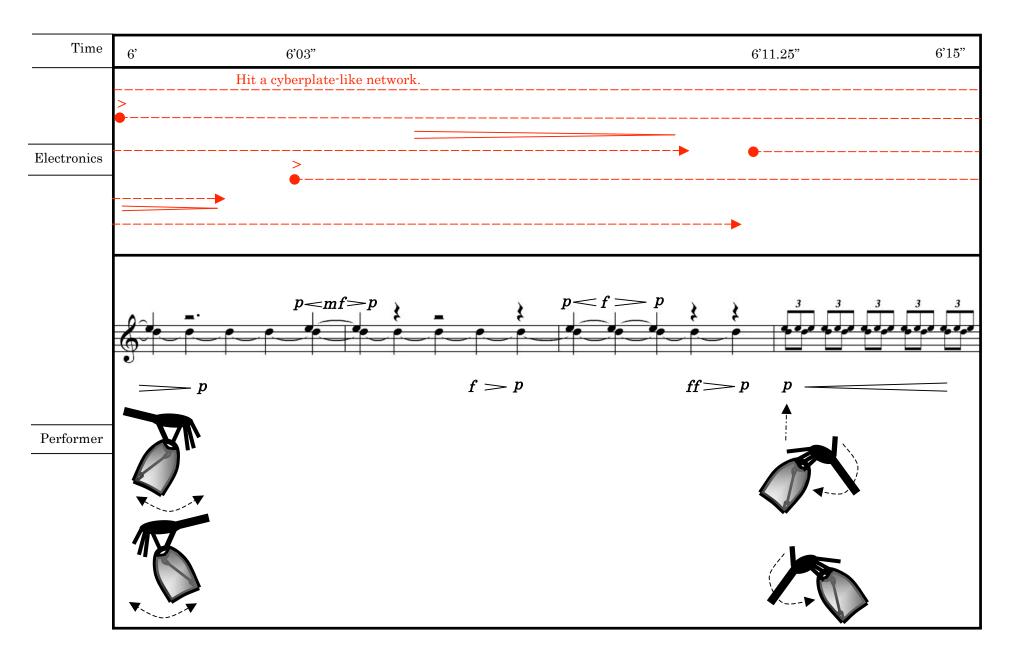


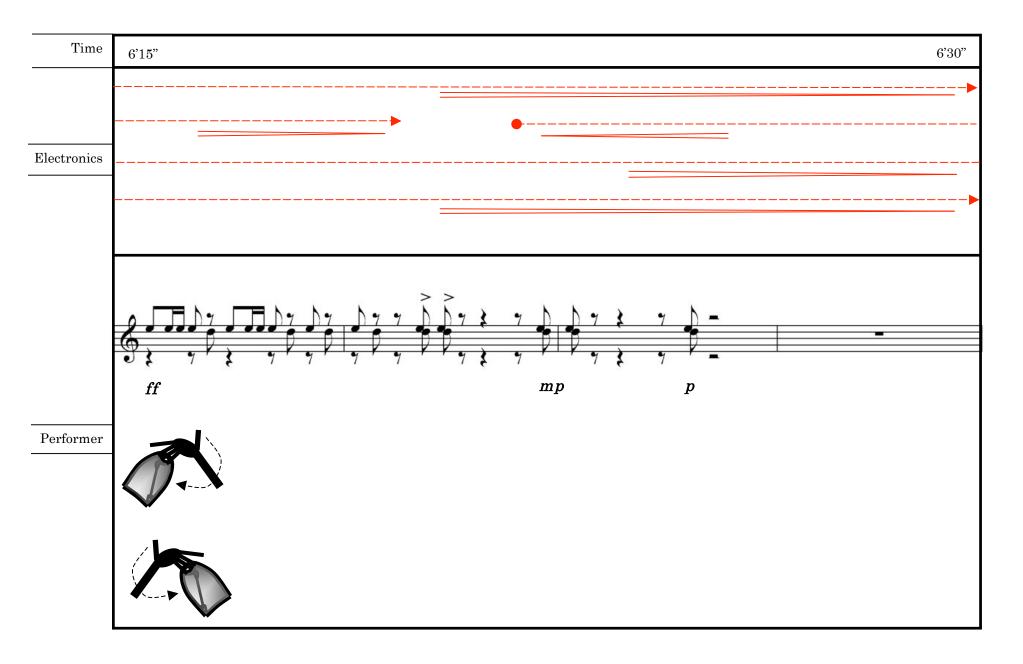


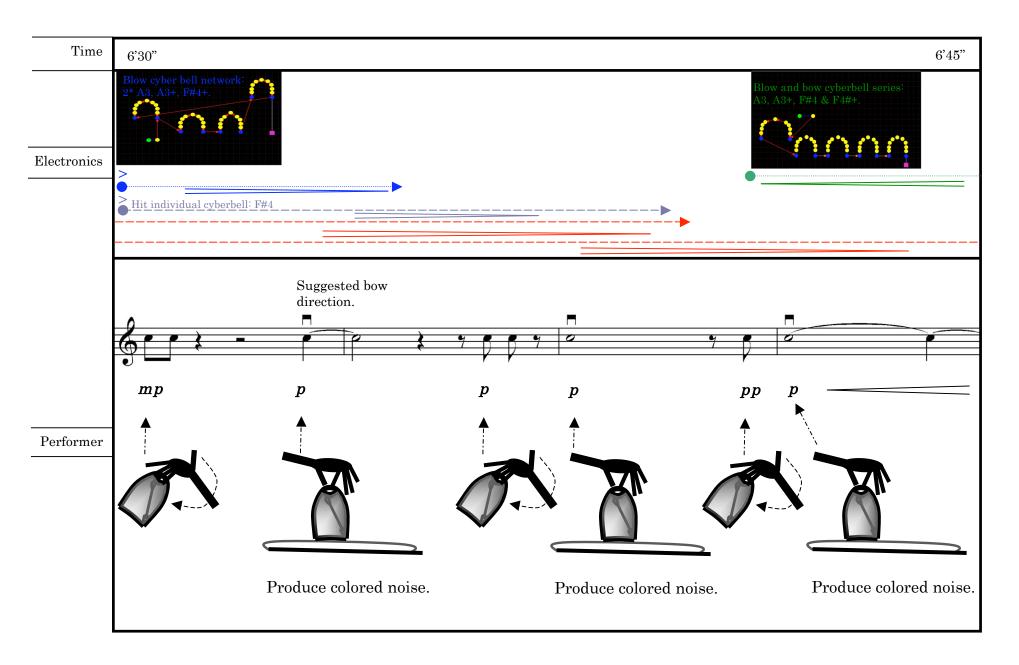


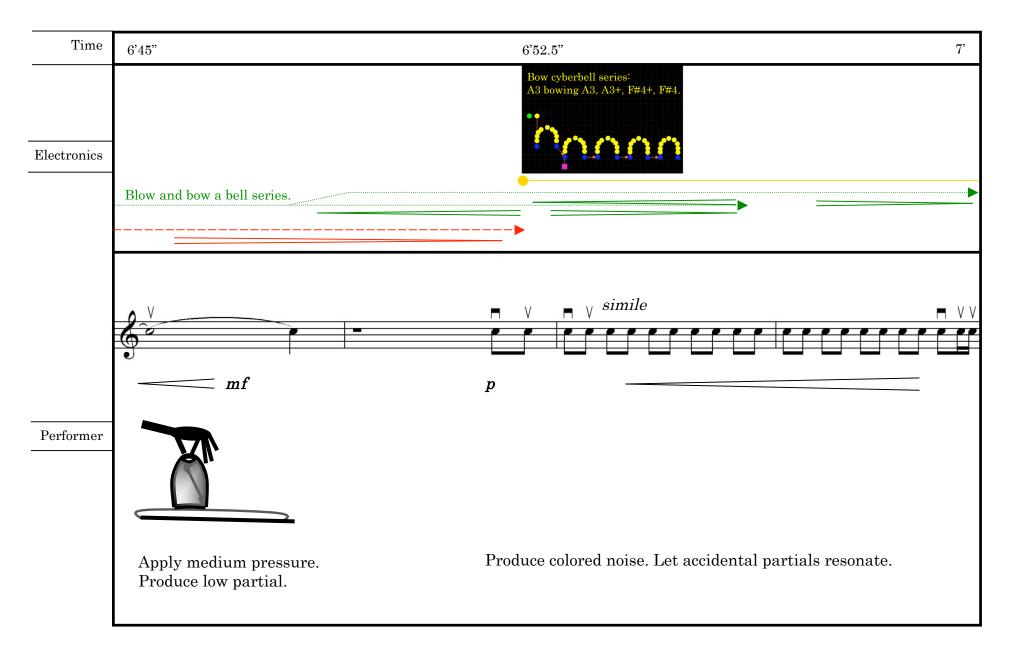


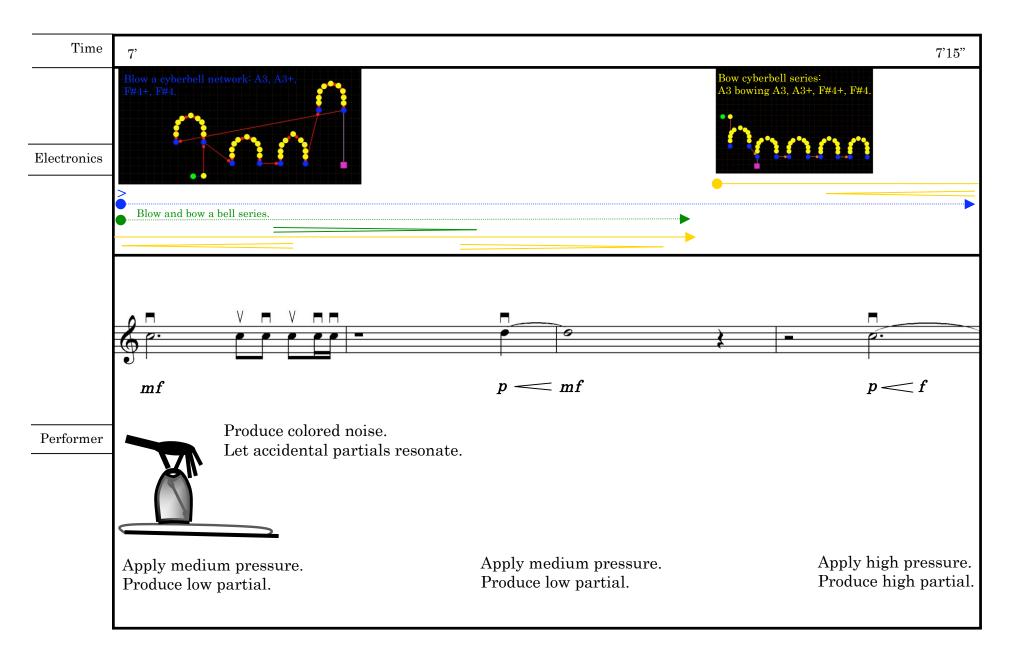


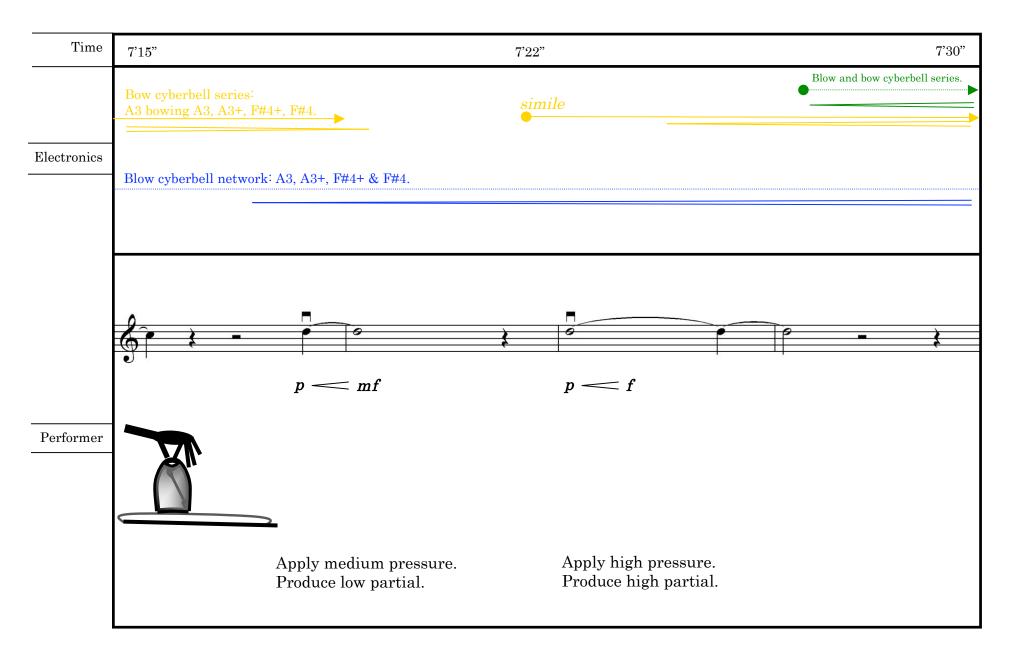




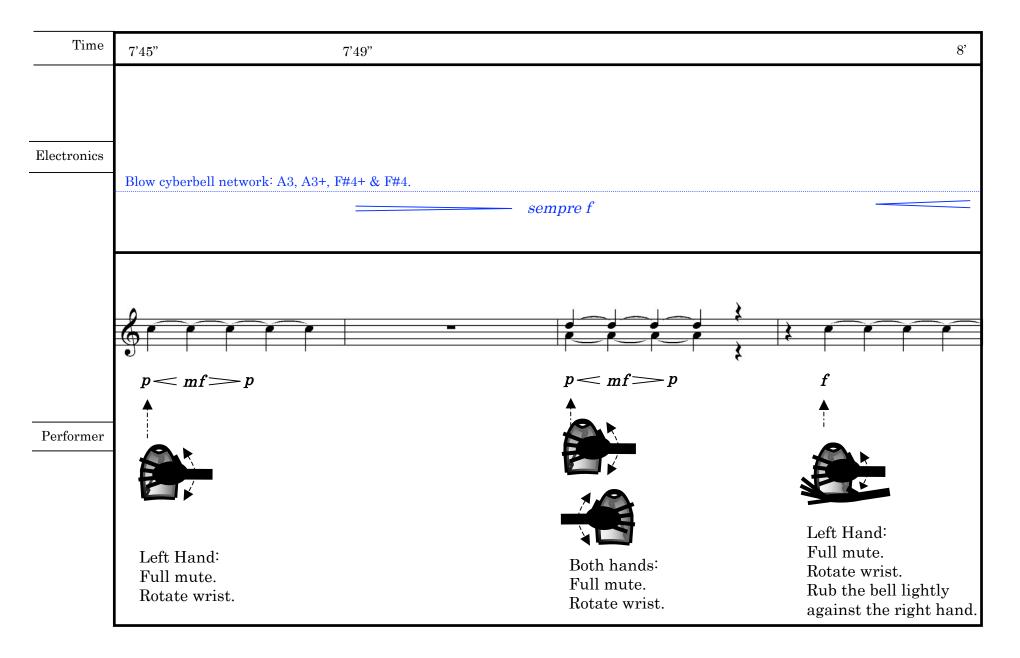


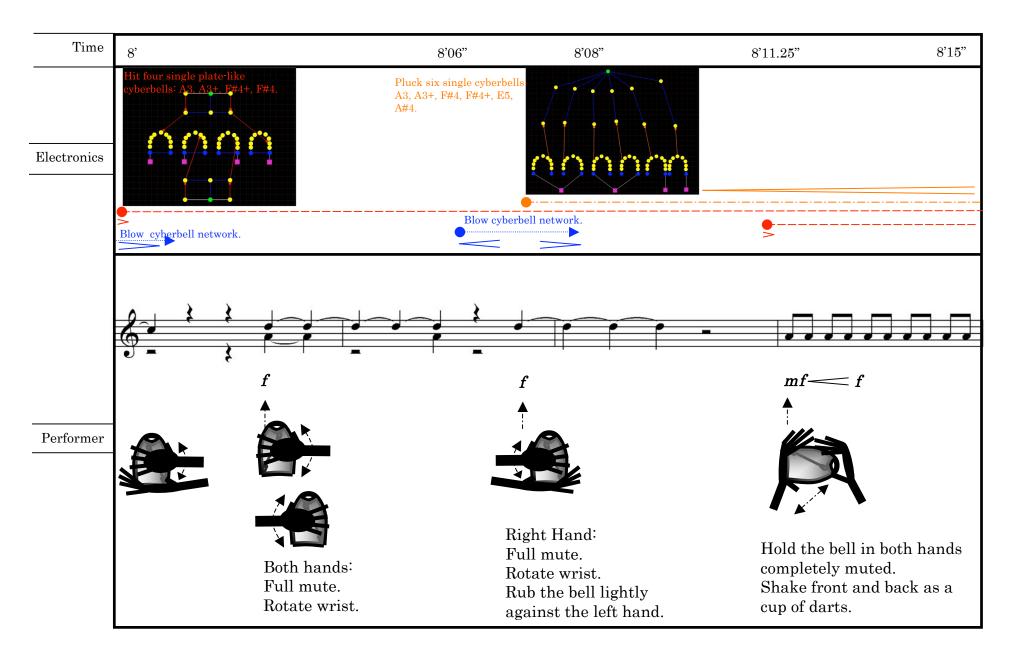


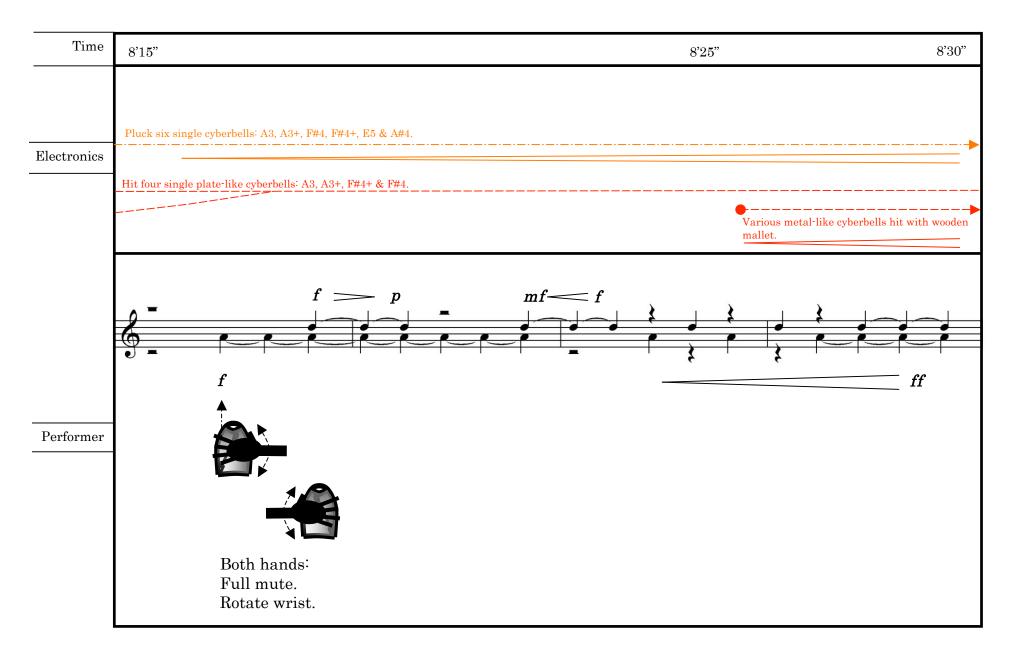


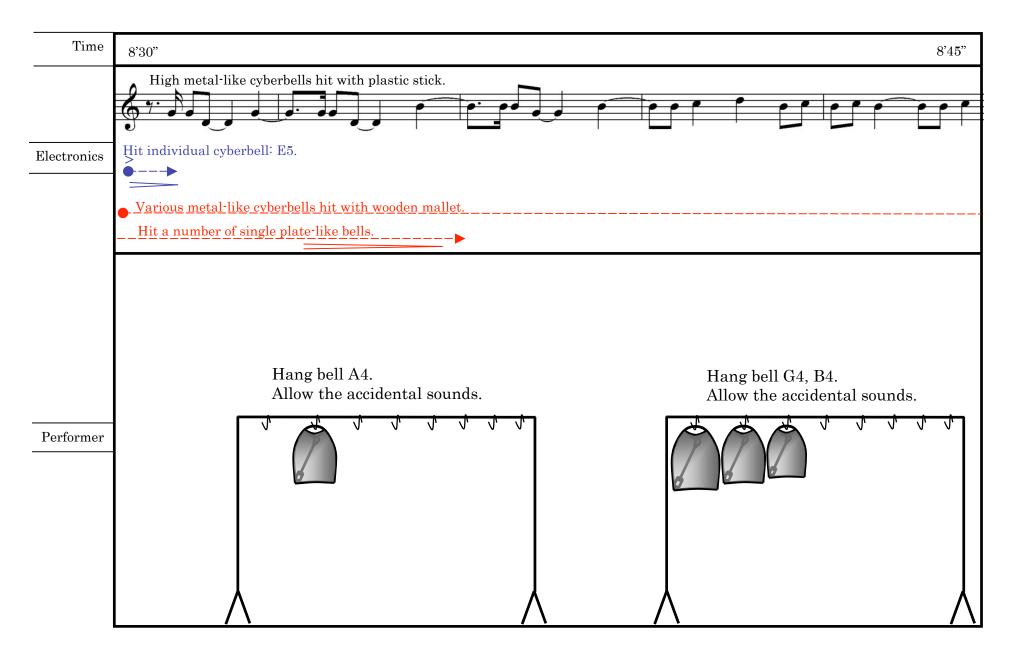


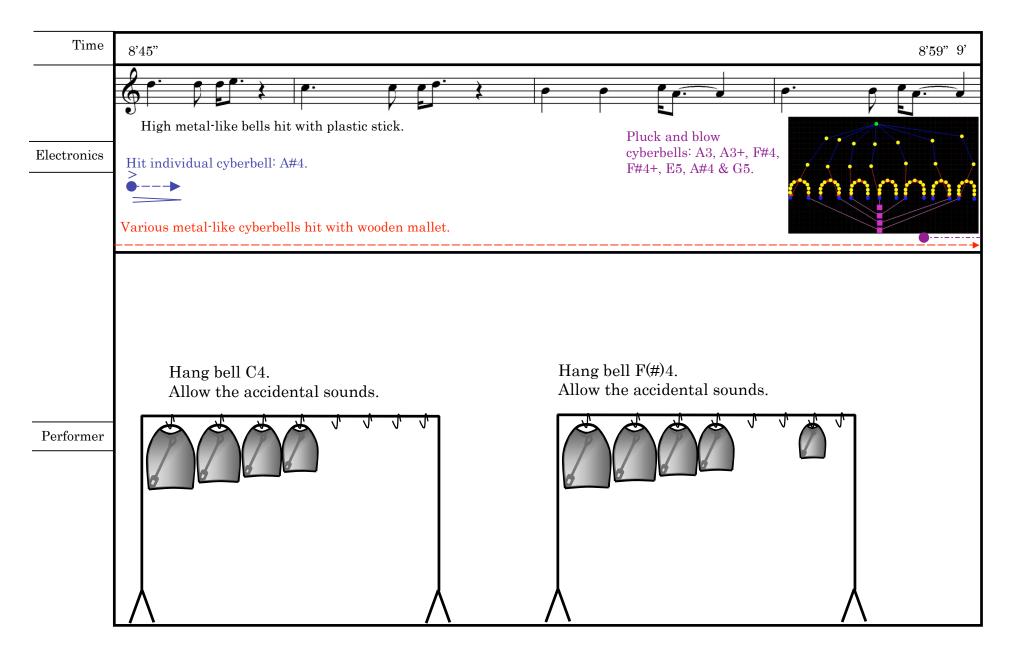
Time	7'30"		7'36"		7'45"
	Bow cyberbell series.				
Electronics					
	Blow cyberbell network: A3, A3+,				
	sempre f			sempre f	
			_		_
			+		
	$p \longrightarrow f$		$p \longrightarrow f$	p < mf > p	p ← mf
		▲	▲	A	▲
Performer					
	XII.		Xn		Xn
	Apply high pressure.	Left Hand:	Apply medium	Left Hand:	Apply high pressure.
	Produce high partial.	Half mute.	pressure.	Full mute.	Produce high partial.
		Shake.	Produce low partial.	Rotate wrist.	

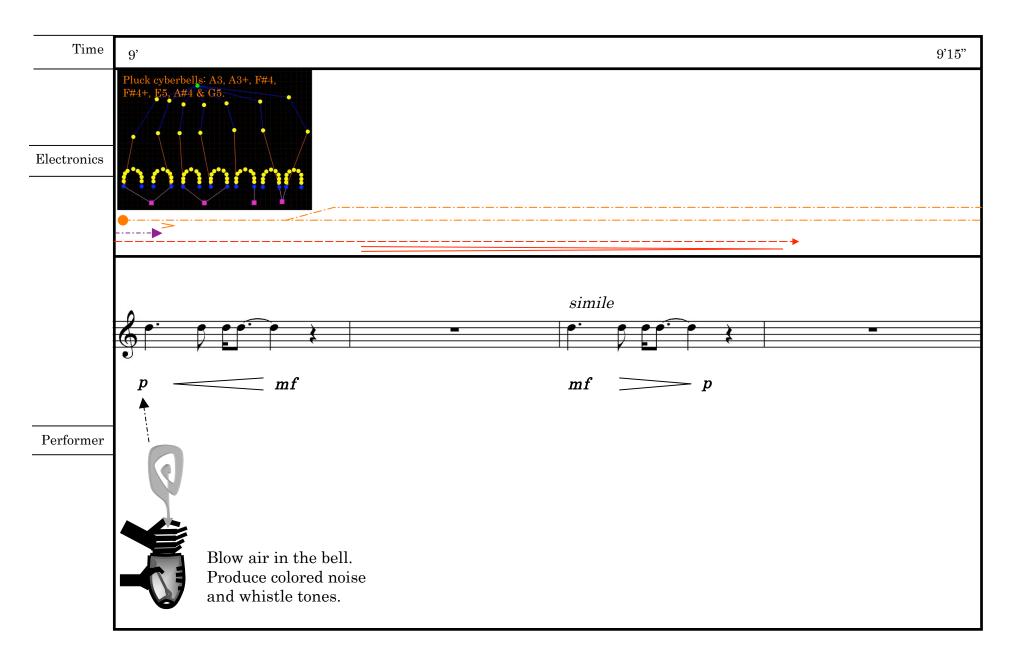


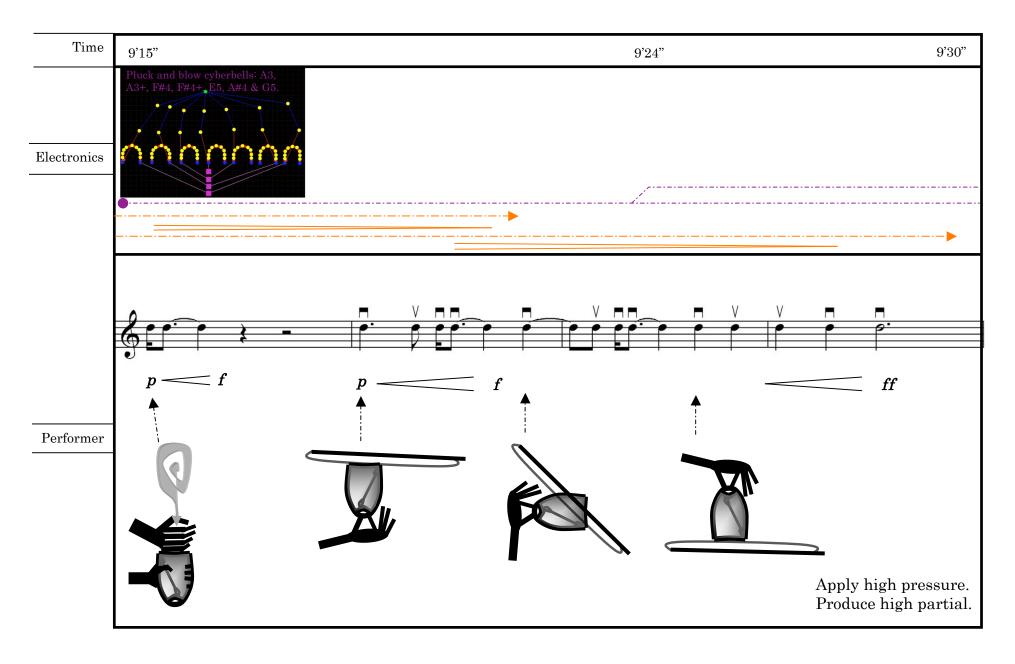


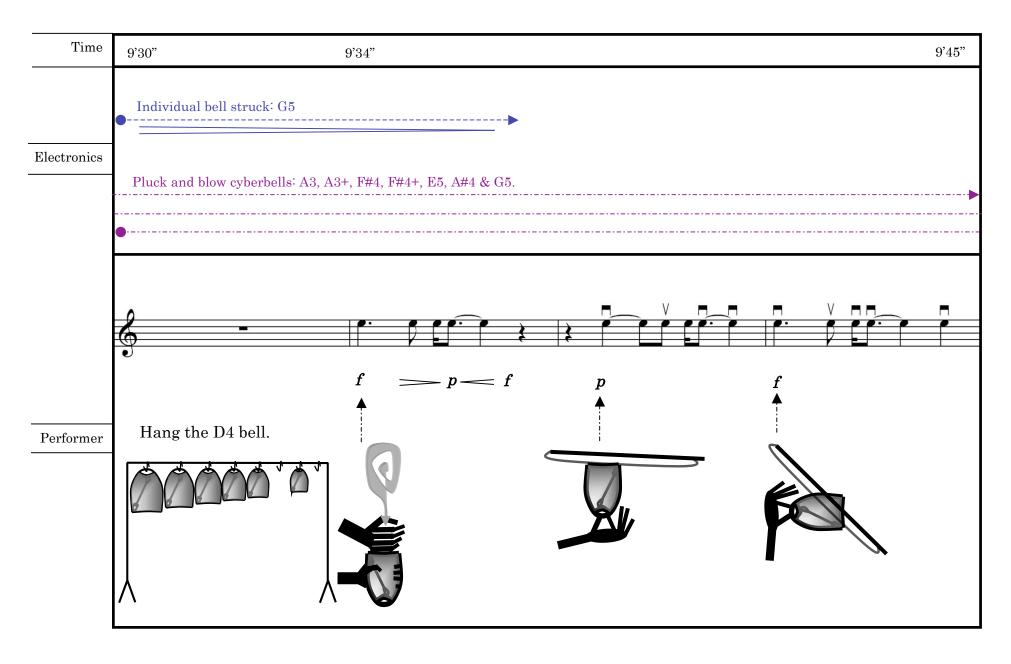


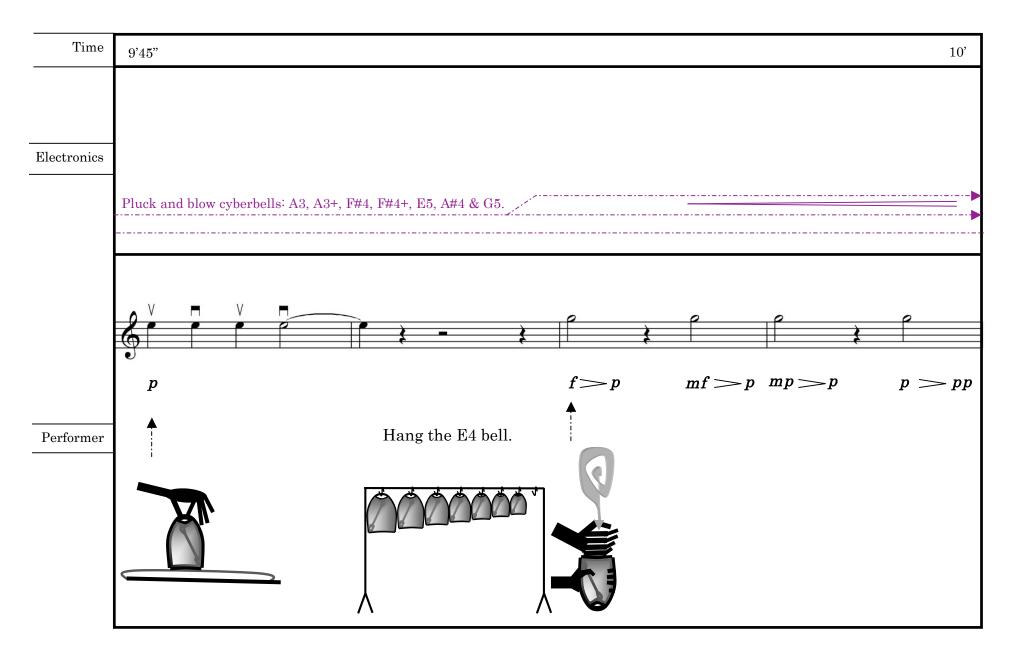












Time	10'	10'14.25" 10'15"
Electronics	Individual cyberbell struck: C6. Pulse.	Single cyberbell strikes nine cyberbells: A3, A3+, F#4, F#4+, E5, A#4, G5, C6 & D6.
	Pluck and blow cyberbells: A3, A3+, F#4, F#4+, E5, A#4 & G5.	>
		•
Performer	Hang the G5 bell.	

