[Taking the Side of Your Voice]

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Nicolás Arnáez - © 2014

for six musicians and conductor

Duration: Between 10 and 18 minutes

ENSEMBLE SPECIFICATIONS

Brass quartet

- trumpet (Bb)
- french horn (F)
- trombone
- tuba
- all performers use mute.

Grand piano

Piano performer has to have:

- a newspaper article of the day of the performance.
- a baby toy that produces sound (no electronics).

Percussion

Regular instruments (on the stage)

- bass drum.
- tam tam.
- timpani (32").
- crotales (one very high, one very low, any pitch).
- large windchimes.
- tambourine.
- tibetan bowl (biggest possible).
- two maracas.

Special instruments (on the hall, see "Staging" on pag. vi)

- one woodblock (any size).
- one jam block (any size).
- empty plastic bottle (2 liters or similar).
- ocarina.
- whistle.

Mallets:

- pair of timpani soft mallets.
- pair of hard timpani mallets.
- pair or drumsticks.
- pair of metal brushes.
- one contrabass bow.

INTRODUCTION

The narrative of *Tomando Partido por tu Voz* is an instant in politics, the traditional agitated moment of fight between leaders for collecting voters and supporters and all the reactions that are raised during this momentum. The phenomena of agreement and disagreement based in ideological empathy and apathy, associations and rivalry and decision-making take participants to constrain and relax permanently their relationships. The piece then, is a representation, a snapshot of the frantic journey engendered by the struggle that the desire of political power constantly sows in our agitated world.

The music, the score and the open concept of the composition have been thought to keep this principle present, exposed and shared with the auditor. To attain a successful performance, players engaged with the score and the concept, absorbed in their roles and principally concentrated in listening are required.

SCORE GENERAL LAYOUT

There is no overall score, each performer has individual sheet music to follow and conductor has a general score with most of the musical material of all instruments. The design of each is a mixture of three essential components: traditional, text and graphic notation.

Piano and Percussion are considerate two separated categories; each one has different sheet music in both format and content. Brasses belong to a third category, the first half of the piece they are forced to improvise based on listening, during the second part of the piece they read from a music sheet that is slightly different in format and equal in content to piano and percussion.

The musical material is organized by: numbered and lettered musical excerpts (freely controlled by conductor) and "impulses" (freely controlled by performers). Everything on the scores has been composed strategically to represent specific parts of the overall narrative, coded with a specific color, assigned to selected instruments as follows:

Representation	Color	Instruments	Controlled by
Main ideological position	Yellow	Piano, Percussion, Conductor	Conductor
Agreement	Green	Piano, Brasses, Conductor	Conductor
Disagreement	Red	Piano, Percussion, Conductor	Conductor
Musical Impulses	White	Piano, Percussion, Brasses	Each Performer
Sonic Impulses	Grey	Piano, Percussion	Each Performer
Theatrical Impulses	Blue	Piano, Percussion	Each Performer

Fig. 1 - Score's general characteristics

For all scores accidentals work equally: they affect same pitches on the line/space during all measure, new measure needs new accidentals. No accidentals shown means natural pitch.

ROLES AND SCORE DESIGN

General

Each category of instruments (piano, percussion and brasses) have a specific role during the storyline, to achieve a successful and efficient performance, each group has a specific score design that facilitates the interpretation of his individual role and narrative function.

Tomando partido por tu voz

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Piano

Role

It is the main political figure, the head and epicenter of the state. It can be thought as the political party that is on power at the moment. Because it is a large political party it suffers of internal divisions, some of them agree with the main ideological position, some others disagree with it.

There also exist "impulses", they represent the humanity out of the ideology; they are short, loud, suppressive and uncontrolled explosions of events not related with the main ideological position, nor agreements neither disagreements.

Score Design

Two pages with similar material and design. As a representation of the role assigned to piano in the storyline, left and right hands are conceptualized as two different "voices" that permanently agree and disagree one with the other. When one hand plays what is considered the party's main ideological position (yellow), the other will agree by playing some excerpt in the green area, or disagree by doing the same with an excerpt on the red area.

Characteristics

- Main ideological position (yellow):
 - Located on the top of page one (to be played with right hand) and in the bottom of page two (to be played with left hand)
 - 17 symmetrical upwards and downwards short musical gestures in permanent repetition (lettered A to Q).
 - Dynamically guiet and invariable.
 - Always with sostenuto pedal (E4-E3), if not possible, it must be played without any pedal.
 - Arrows show pitch movement in hand position (performer freely control this).
 - Ritardando and accelerando are encouraged but always a fast tempo is required.
 - Controlled and chosen only by conductor.

- Agreements (green):

- Located surrounding main ideological position.
- To be played with left hand on page one and right hand in page two.
- 20 musical phrases organized in four groups; each group contains related musical material.
- Dynamically slightly louder than main ideological position with eventual variations.
- Controlled and chosen only by conductor.

- Disagreements (red):

- Located away from the main ideological position.
- To be played with left hand on page one and right hand on page two.
- 19 musical phrases organized in four groups; each group contains related musical material.
- Dynamically slightly louder than main ideological position with eventual changes.
- Controlled and chosen only by conductor.

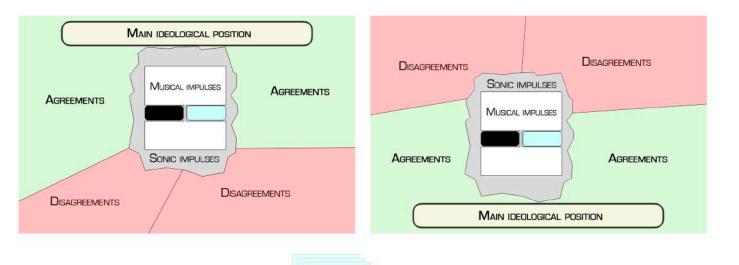
- Musical impulses (white):

- Located in the center of the score, both pages contain all the same impulses, they are repeated just for effectiveness of performance.
- To be played with left or right hand (decided by the performer). They interrupt abruptly the discourse, once they are finished the discourse is resumed from where stopped.
- 14 very short and loud musical excerpts.
- · Controlled and chosen only by performer.

- Sonic impulses (grey):
 - Located surrounding musical impulses.
 - They interrupt abruptly the discourse, once they are finished the discourse is resumed from where stopped.
 - 12 short and loud sonic events.
 - · Controlled and chosen only by performer.

- Theatrical impulses (blue):

- Located outside of the score, in cards to be freely spread and organized by performer.
- Require the performer to make a specific theatrical action, and then resume playing from where stopped.
- 8 different cards.
- · Controlled and chosen only by performer.



THEATRICAL

Percussion

Role

It is the piano's biggest political opponent and both are in permanent disagreement. Its main ideological position is to deny piano. This incessant discrepancy is shown by the content of his always-opposed musical statements. It has no internal divisions.

It also has "Impulses" that represent the same than in piano (the humanity out of the ideology) but unrelated.

Score Design

Two pages, one contains the principal ideology and the other all impulses: musical and sonic-theatrical.

Characteristics

- Main ideological position in permanent disagreement with pianos' (yellow/red):
 - Located on page one.
 - Organized in four quadrants, each quadrant contains one instrument with four different phrases to be played in a specific way. NOTE: guadrant 1 has a group of four instruments with one phrase per instrument.
 - 16 textural music excerpts in permanent repetition.
 - Dynamically mostly guiet and variable.
 - · Controlled and chosen only by conductor.
- Musical impulses (white):
 - Located on the center of page two.
 - They interrupt abruptly the discourse, once they are finished the discourse is resumed from where stopped.
 - 8 rhythmic and loud musical excerpts.
 - Undetermined instrumentation, performer chooses.
 - Controlled and chosen only by performer.
- Theatrical-sonic impulses (blue/grey):
 - · Located surrounding musical impulses.
 - They interrupt abruptly the discourse, once they are finished, the discourse is resumed from where stopped.
 - 10 theatrical and sonic indications to be performed in different "percussion positions". Each one of five positions has assigned one "special instrument", the action must be performed specifically with the instrument correspondent to that position. Positions and instruments set up are shown on "Staging" (pag. 6).
 - · Controlled and chosen only by performer.

Main ideological position in permanent disagreement with piano	Main Perm
Main ideological position in permanent disagreement with piano	Main Periv



Brasses

Role

Brasses represent people, the electors, the reason of piano and percussion's actions. For the first half, they listen and respond carefully (in agreement or disagreement) to the two main political parties' (piano and percussion) speeches. During the second half they will associate with one or the other, and they will proclaim their ideology, also at this point they can use "impulses" to show disagreement (if so) with the group they belong.

Score design

During the first half of the piece they have no score, they improvise from different position in the hall (see "Staging" - zone 1). During the second half of the piece they go up to the stage besides piano or percussion. In each area there will be a score that is in permanent agreement with the instrument they choose.

All scores uses the same design:

Characteristics

- Main ideological position in permanent agreement with the principal instrument of the group (green):
 - Two pages with four quadrants each. Each quadrant contains 4 musical excerpts to be played as an ensemble.
 - When besides piano:
 - o Musical phrases in unison with piano agreements and disagreements (some of them are transposed because of registry capability).
 - · When besides percussion:
 - o Mostly non-standard instrument indications aimed towards imitations of percussion's excerpts that wide the ensemble's texture.
 - Chosen and controlled only by conductor.

- Musical impulses (white):

- Located at the center of the score.
- They are no specified, they are improvised by the performer.
- · Chosen and controlled only by performer.

Conductor

Role

Conductor is the hidden real power, the one who really governs and controls everything on this political frenzy. He tells to both political parties what to do and how to do it. Besides his power, he has no jurisdiction on all impulses in general, or brasses' impulses reactions during the first half. Impulses are rebellions from the subordinated, is the only place where the rest of the participants can break free of his hidden dictatorship.

Score Design

The conductor has the same score than piano, percussion and brasses but without any kind of impulses. All the descriptions above (but the impulses) fit also here. Is very important to remember that conductor is in charge of everyone on the stage, he decides how and when the music is going to be played.

NOTE: When brasses associate with piano and percussion (zone 3) the conductor deals with two ensembles (piano plus brasses, percussion plus brasses), because brasses have free will to choose to whom they will associate, it is not known how these ensembles will be constituted, unless planned ahead on rehearsals.

Score Besides Piano

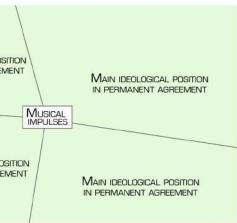
MAIN IDEOLOGICAL POSITION IN PERMANENT AGREEMENT

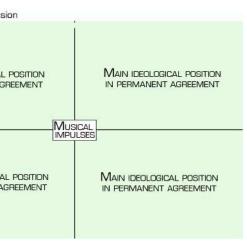
MAIN IDEOLOGICAL POSITION IN PERMANENT AGREEMENT

Score besides percussion

MAIN IDEOLOGICAL POSITION IN PERMANENT AGREEMENT

Main ideological position In permanent agreement





STAGING

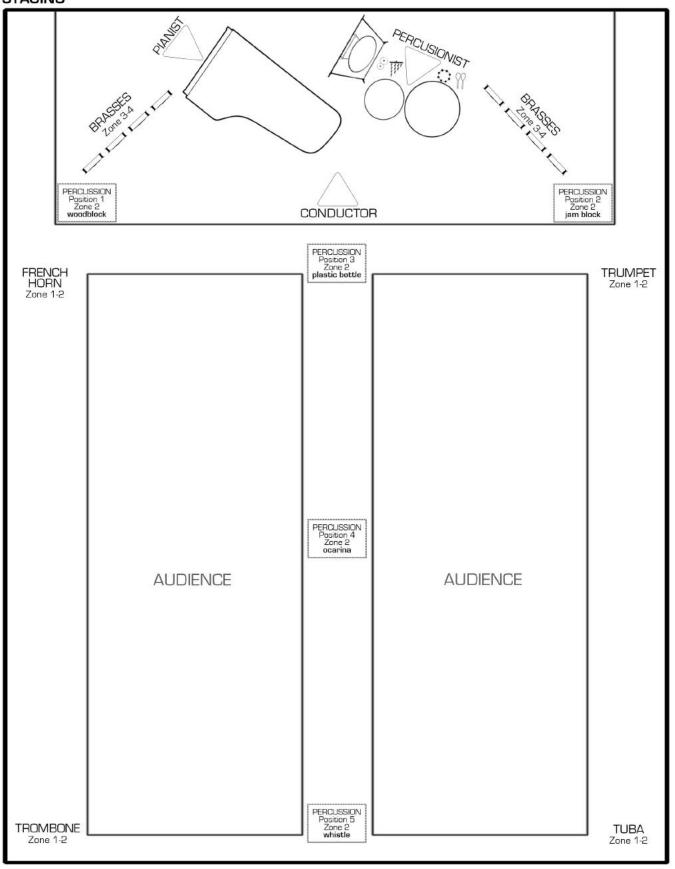


Fig. 2 - Instruments distribution, zones and percussion positions

PERFORMANCE

The piece is organized in 4 zones, each zone request different actions from performers and conductor (Fig. 3). Performers start situated in their initial position (Fig. 2 - Zone 1) Conductor communicate with piano and percussion by showing them the given "conductor cards": First: show the selected card to communicate which excerpt will be played. Second: cue him when to start (or change) the excerpts.

ZONE 1

"Proclamation of Opposed Statements" [1" to 2"] Characteristics

- Piano and percussion perform, brasses just listen.
- No impulses allowed.

Steps

- 1. Conductor cues piano one main ideological position (yellow).
- 2. Conductor cues piano one agreement (green) or disagreement (red).
- 3. Conductor cues percussion one main ideological position (yellow/red).
- 4. From here to the end of the piece, conductor builds the narrative of the instruments on the stage by combining main ideological positions, agreements and disagreements as he wishes, every combination of these musical phrases is allowed. Silences are between excerpts are also allowed. 5. Move to Zone 2.

ZONE 2

"Public Awareness and Social Gathering" (5" to 8") Characteristics

- Conductor stays on step 4.
- Everybody plays.
- Impulses are requested. When a performer decides to play an impulse conductor have to wait until done to cue a new excerpt.

Steps

- 6. Conductor cues zone change to everybody.
- 7. Piano and Percussion add impulses; they decide when and how many of them will be performed during this zone (conductor does not have control over these). They must perform at least one impulse of each kind; there is no limit on how many of each they can play. Once they finish performing an impulse, they will resume what playing before.
- there are two options: to agree or disagree with them. If agree: imitate repeatedly for a moment what was heard. When the impulse has a:
 - the motive can be developed if desired.
 - Sonic content: copy what heard (clap, talk, shout, etcetera)
 - and react again.
- if brasses are responding to an earlier one.
- 9. Move to Zone 3.

8. Brass: keep listening to piano and percussion statements. Wait for impulses, when hear or see one,

- Musical content: no exact pitch is mandatory, imitating the sonic gesture is encouraged,

- Theatrical content: agree by copying what seen, once done, come back to the original place

If disagree: play something that sounds totally the opposite of what was heard: change the

dynamics, play in another registry, change the pitch intervals, invert melodic

direction, do something sonically dissonant, make an action different to what seen, etc.

There is the option of ignoring impulses, but just if more than one happens at the same time, or

ZONE 3

"Association by Ideological Empathy" [2" to 4"]

Characteristics

- Conductor stays on step 4.
- · Impulses are restricted.

Steps

10.Conductor cues zone change to everybody.

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11.Impulses are restricted, piano and percussion can play up to two music impulses, sonic and theatrical impulses are prohibited.

12.Brasses walk to the stage besides the player they agreed the most during Zone 2.

- 13.Piano and brasses and percussion and brasses work as two ensembles. Conductor indications are for each ensemble. Brasses follow numbers written on the score, they match with piano's and percussion's (When besides piano, brasses ignore capital lettered excerpts, just follow numbers categories)
- 14.Brasses can play up to two impulses. These impulses are not provided, they have to be improvised by them. Don't react to other players' impulses.

15.Move to Zone 4

ZONE 4

"Reconsideration and Judgment of the Association" (2" to 4") Characteristics

- · Conductor stops doing step 4.
- Impulses are not allowed.

Steps

- 16.Conductor cues zone change to everybody.
- 17.Conductor concludes the sounding area of the piece by slowly diminishing the activity of musical excerpts until none.
- 18.After three seconds of silence, conductor walks out of the stage.
- 19.Piano and percussion stand up and walk to the closest corner of the stage: piano stage right (will form
- group A), percussion stage left (will form group B). After in position, wait.
- expectations.
 - Brasses have three options:
 - the corner.
 - b.If they are not confortable with him, they can or i. Join to the opponent performer.
 - ii. Form a third group somewhere away of piano and percussion (group C).

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- 21.Each one of the two (or three) groups walks together out of the stage one by one. First A, second B and third C. If the stage
- if possible).

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22.Come back to the stage for final applause.

	ZONE 1 The Proclamation of Opposed Statements	ZONE 2 Public Awareness and Social Gathering	ZONE 3 Association by Ideological Empathy	ZONE 4 Reconsideration and Judgment of the Association
Brasses	Listen	React to Pno/Perc. impulses	Join Pno or Perc, follow Conductor	Go out stage
		Add Impulses freely	Just 2 impulses allowed	
Pno./Perc	Follow conductor			Go out stage
Conductor	Conduct Pno and Perc		Conduct Brasses	Go out stage
Steps		6 to 9	10 to 15	16 to 22
Length	1" to 2"	5" to 8"	2" to 4"	2" to 4"

PERFORMANCE DIAGRAM

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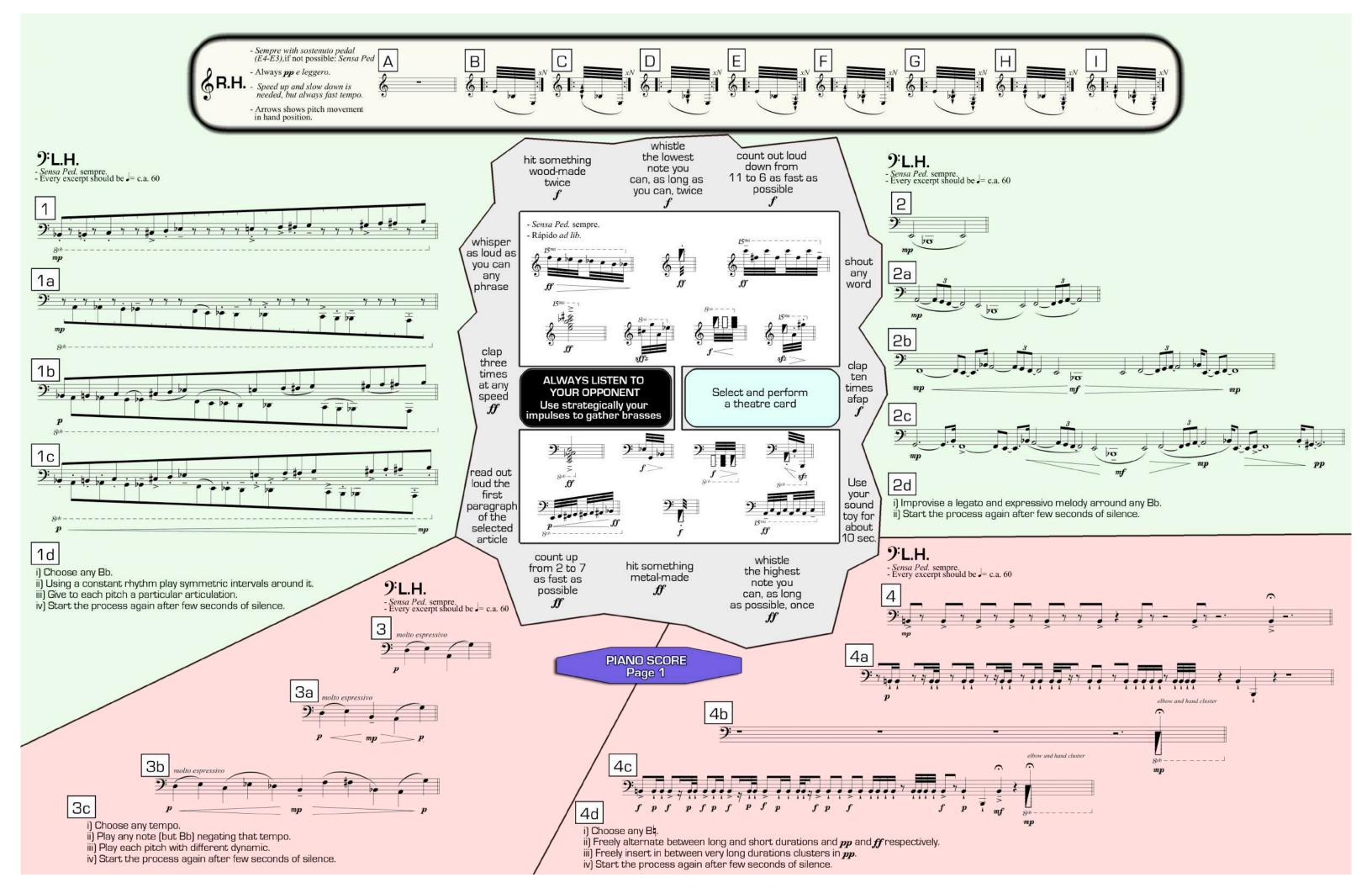
20. It is time for brasses to reconsider and judge if the main performer they joined was at the level of their

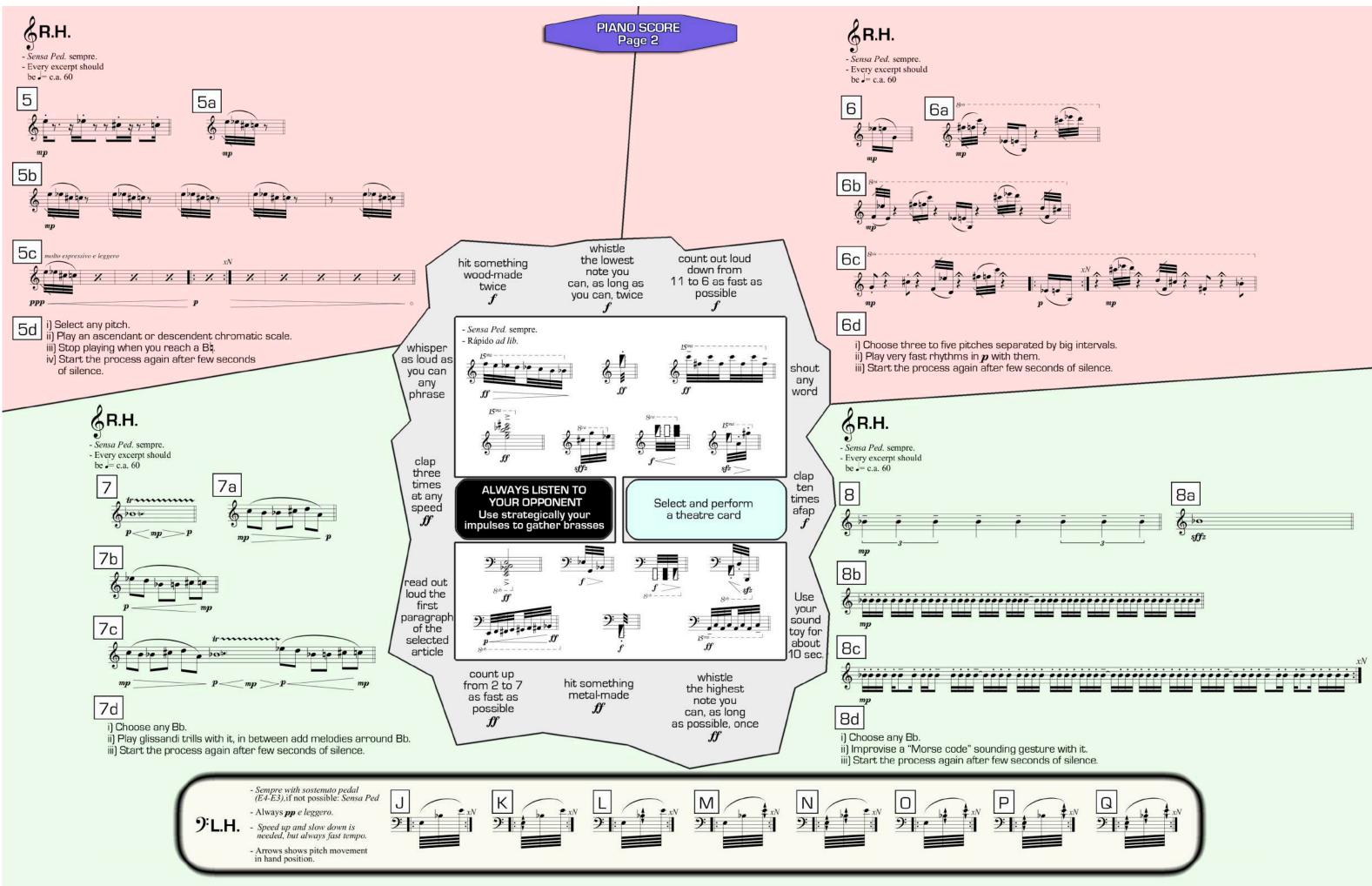
a.If they are confortable with the main performer's statements, they will walk towards him and join him on

layout allows it, each group walks out from different exits (nobody will use the exit that conductor used,

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Piano Cards

PIANO	PIANO	PIANO
Get up, go besides the percussionist and look at his score for few seconds (do not perform, just look at it). Then come back to the piano and resume playing from where you stopped.	Get up, walk towards some brass player, once besides him whisper anything to his ear. Then come back to the piano and resume playing from where you stopped.	Get up, walk once around the piano, sit again and resume playing from where you stopped.
PIANO	PIANO	PIANO
Pretend you are playing something very fast, <i>ff</i> and difficult without producing any sound, when you decide, resume playing normally from where you stopped.	Get up, close the piano lid, go to your bench and resume playing from where you stopped. After some time, get up again, open the piano lid, go back and resume playing from where you stopped.	Get up, sit backwards on your bench, when you decide return to normal position and resume playing from where you stopped.

PIANO

Stand up, keep standing up doing nothing for few seconds, then sit back and resume playing from where you stopped.

PIANO

Reject the conductor's indication by yelling "No!", wait for the next indication and play.

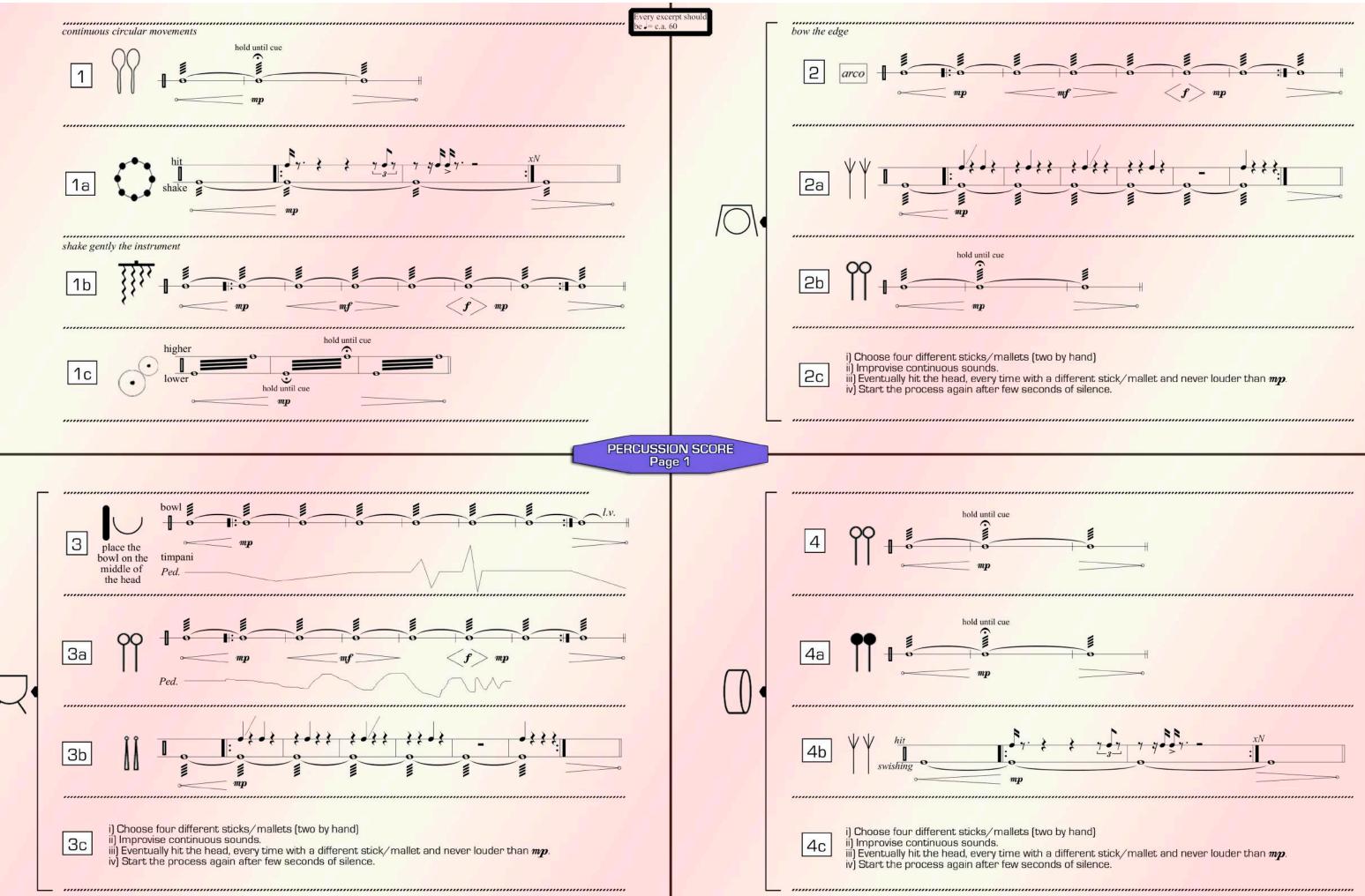
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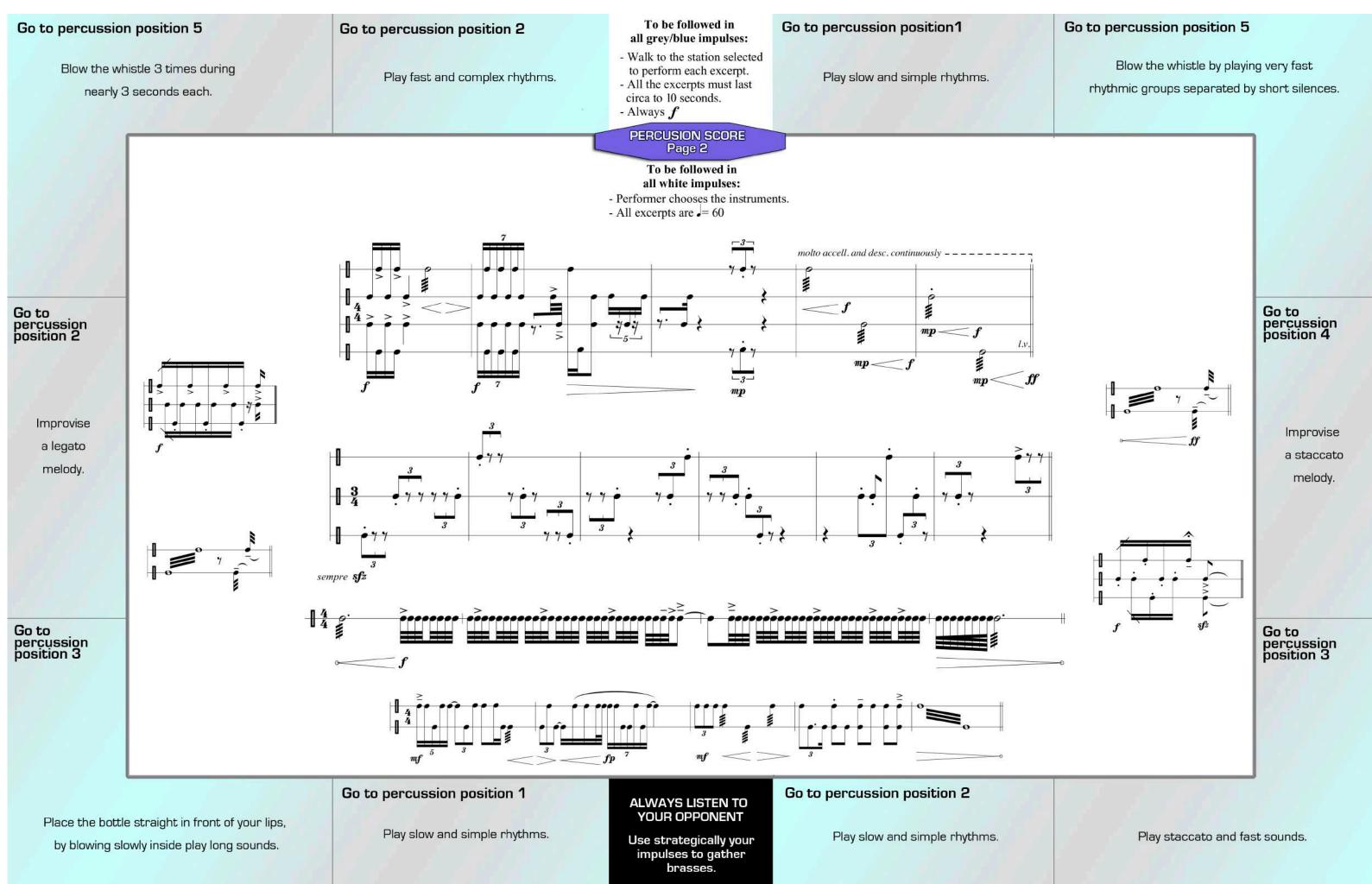
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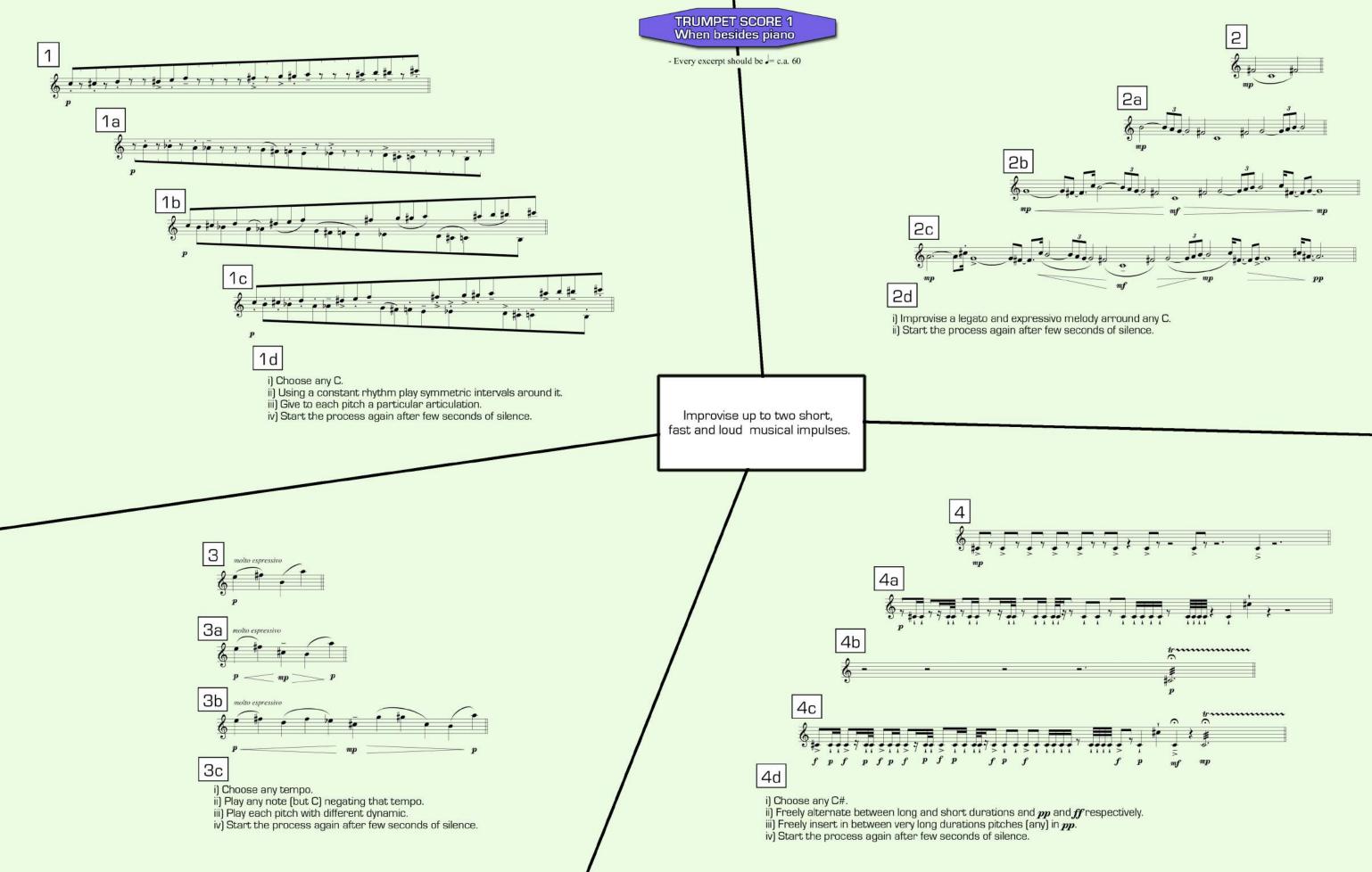
PERCUSSION

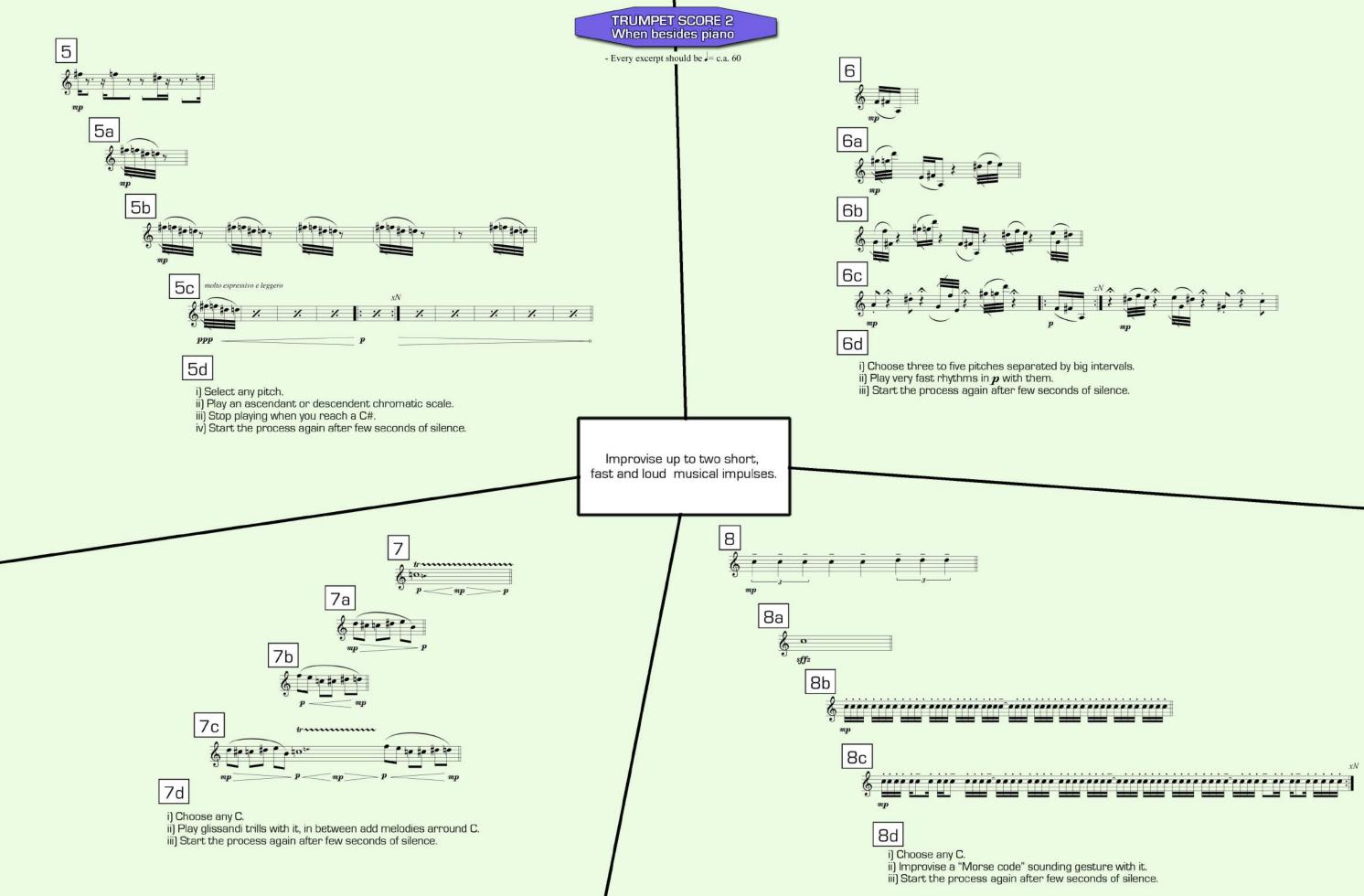


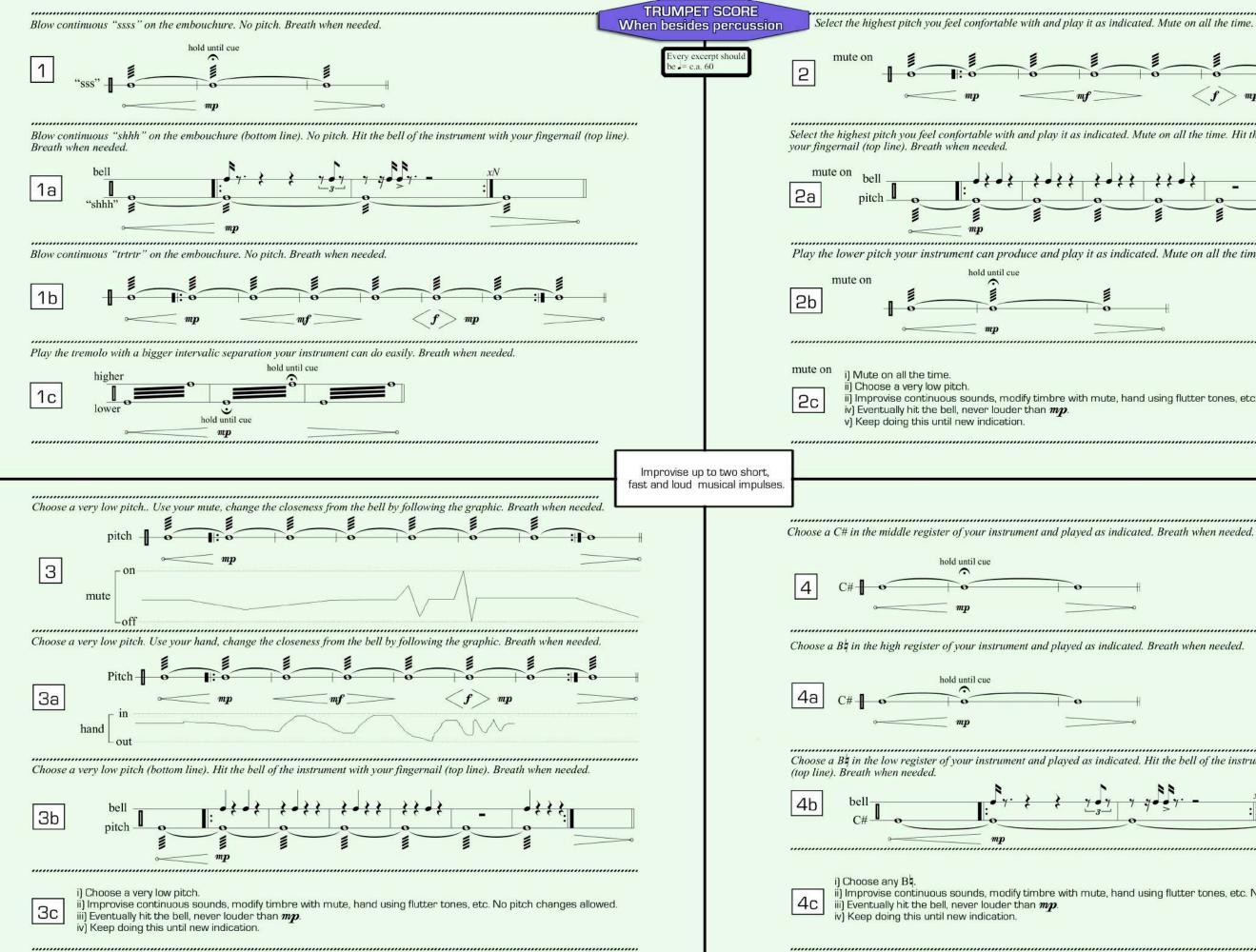


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TRUMPET



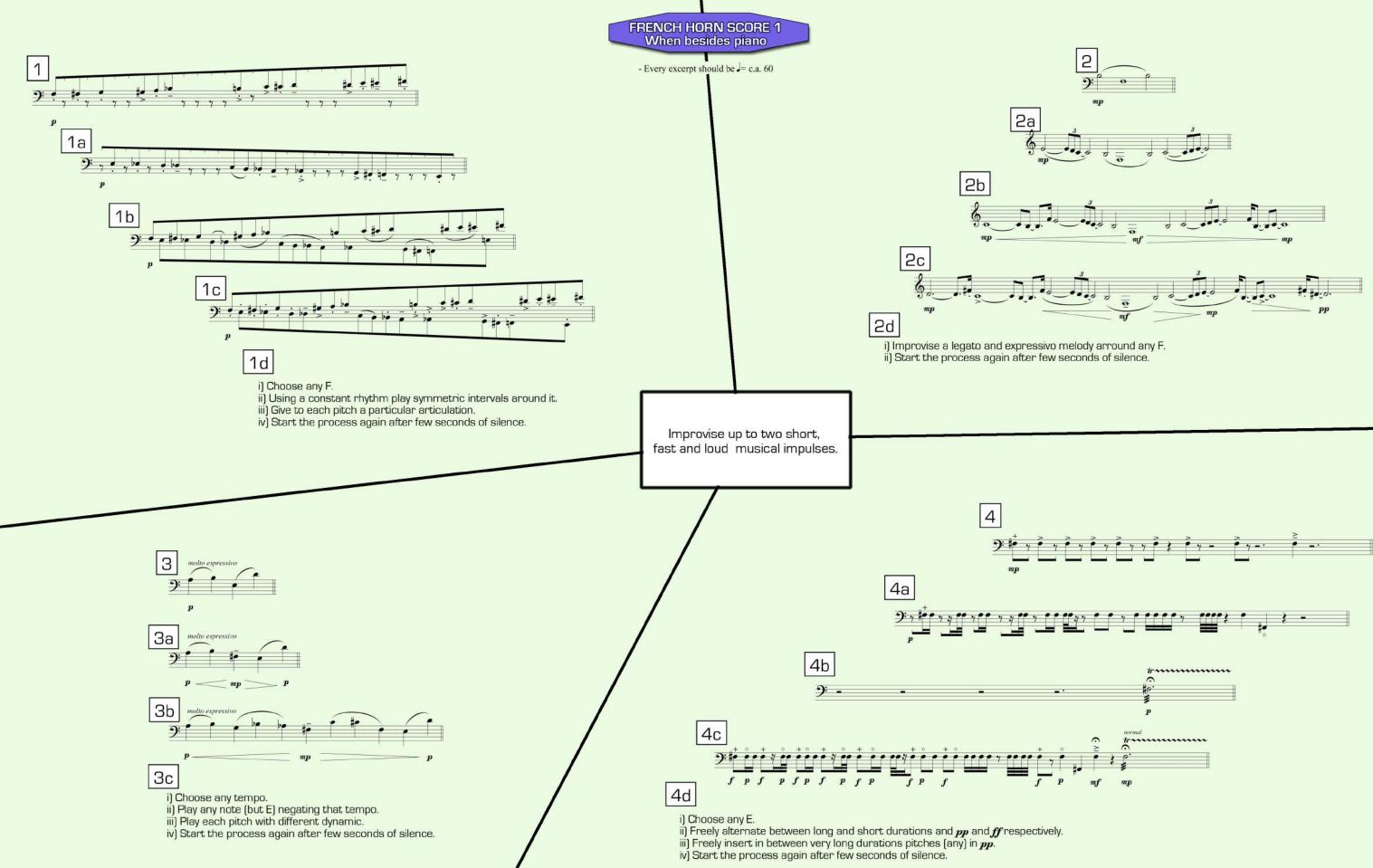


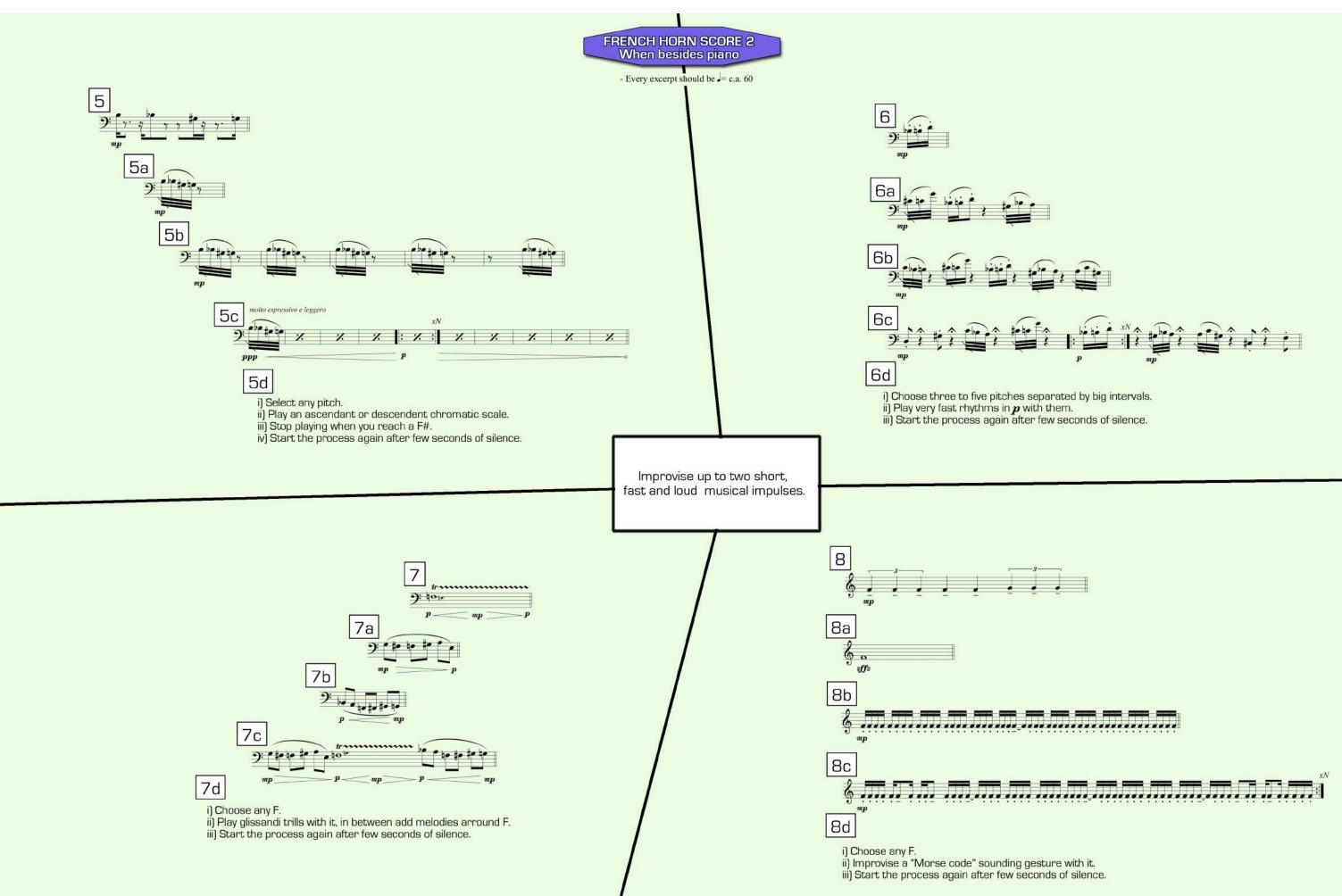


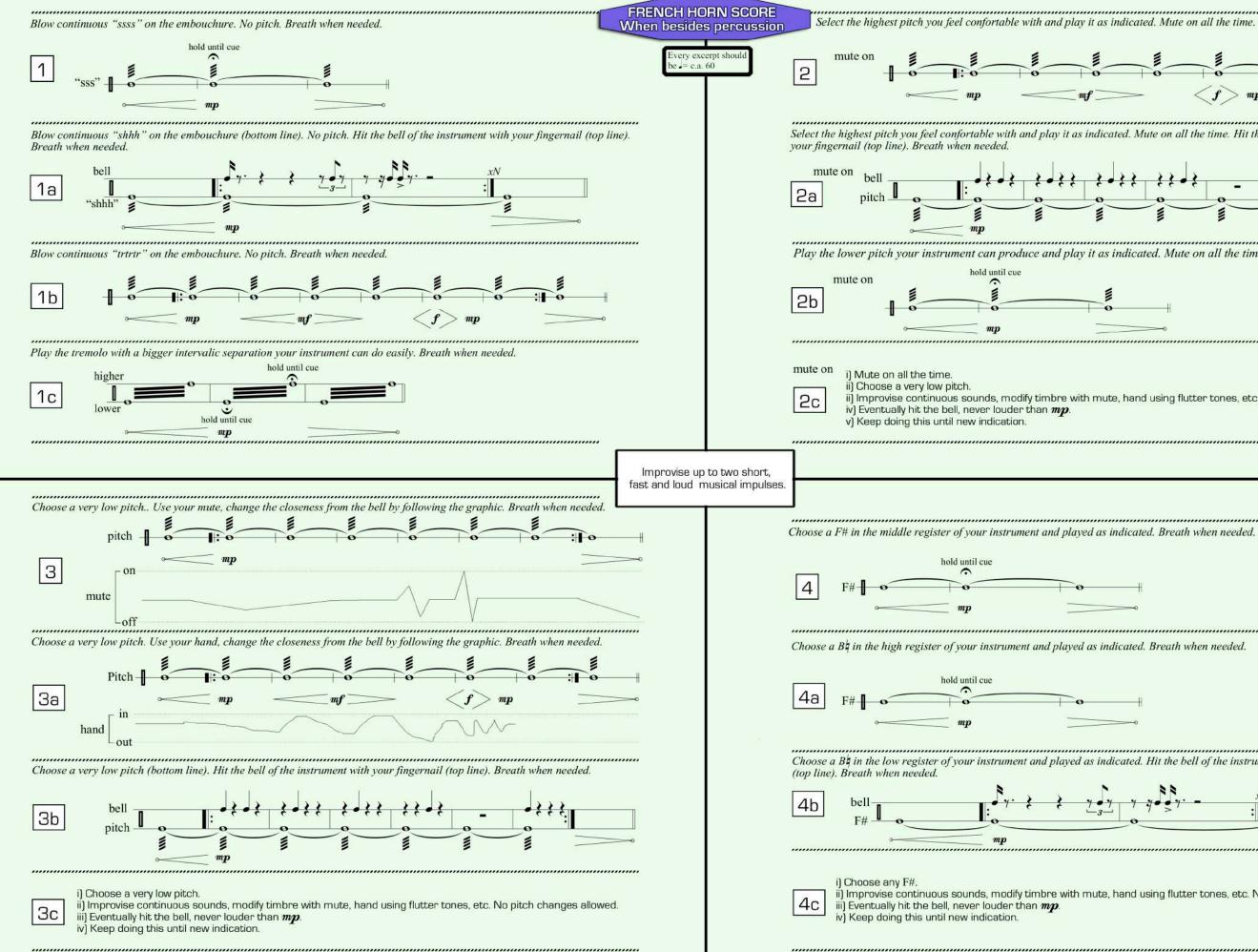
Select the highest pitch you feel confortable with and play it as indicated. Mute on all the time, Breath when needed. Select the highest pitch you feel confortable with and play it as indicated. Mute on all the time. Hit the bell of the instrument with Play the lower pitch your instrument can produce and play it as indicated. Mute on all the time. Breath when needed. ii) Improvise continuous sounds, modify timbre with mute, hand using flutter tones, etc. No pitch changes allowed. Choose a B⁴ in the low register of your instrument and played as indicated. Hit the bell of the instrument with your fingernail ii) Improvise continuous sounds, modify timbre with mute, hand using flutter tones, etc. No pitch changes allowed.

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FRENCH HORN



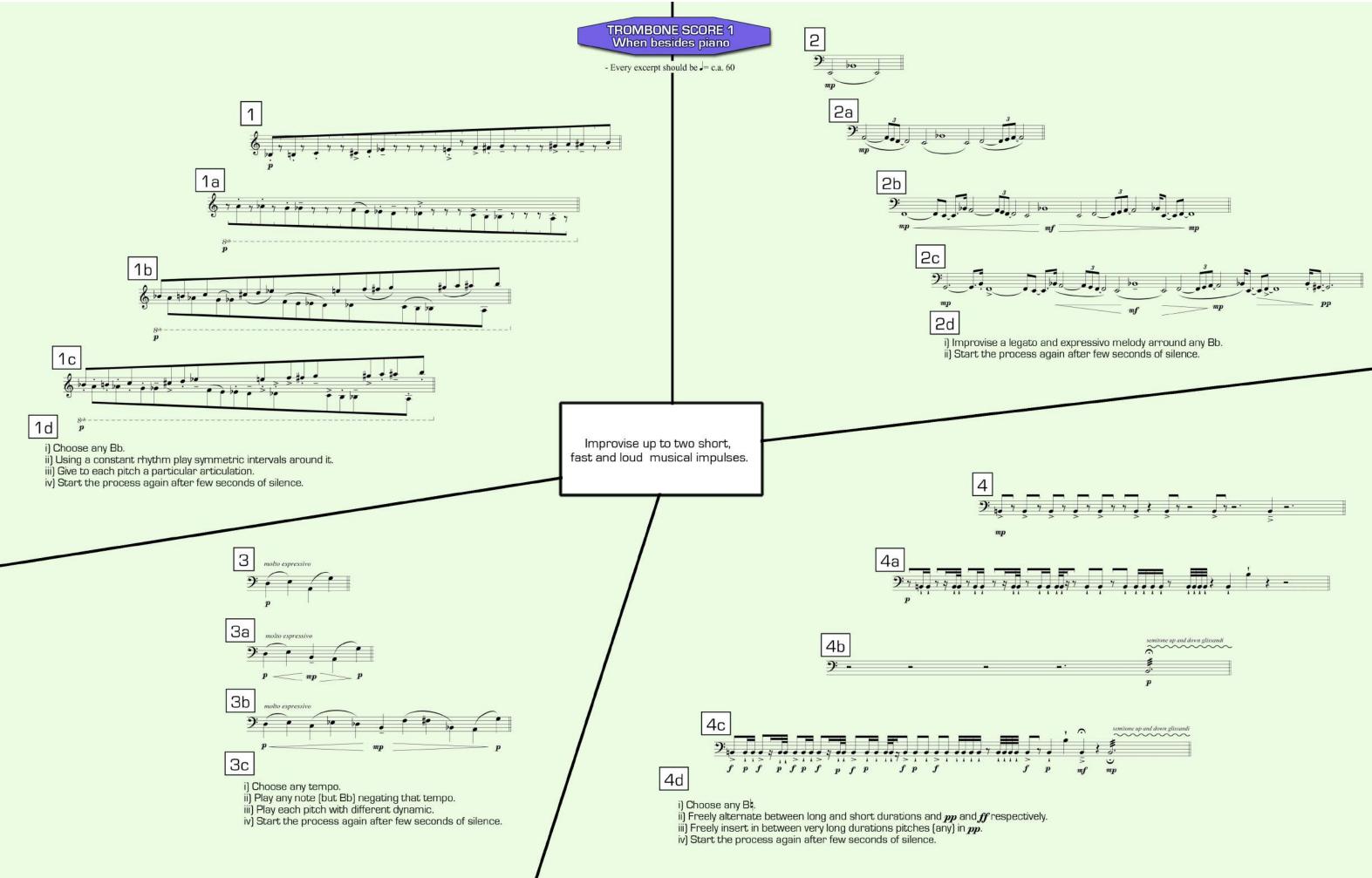


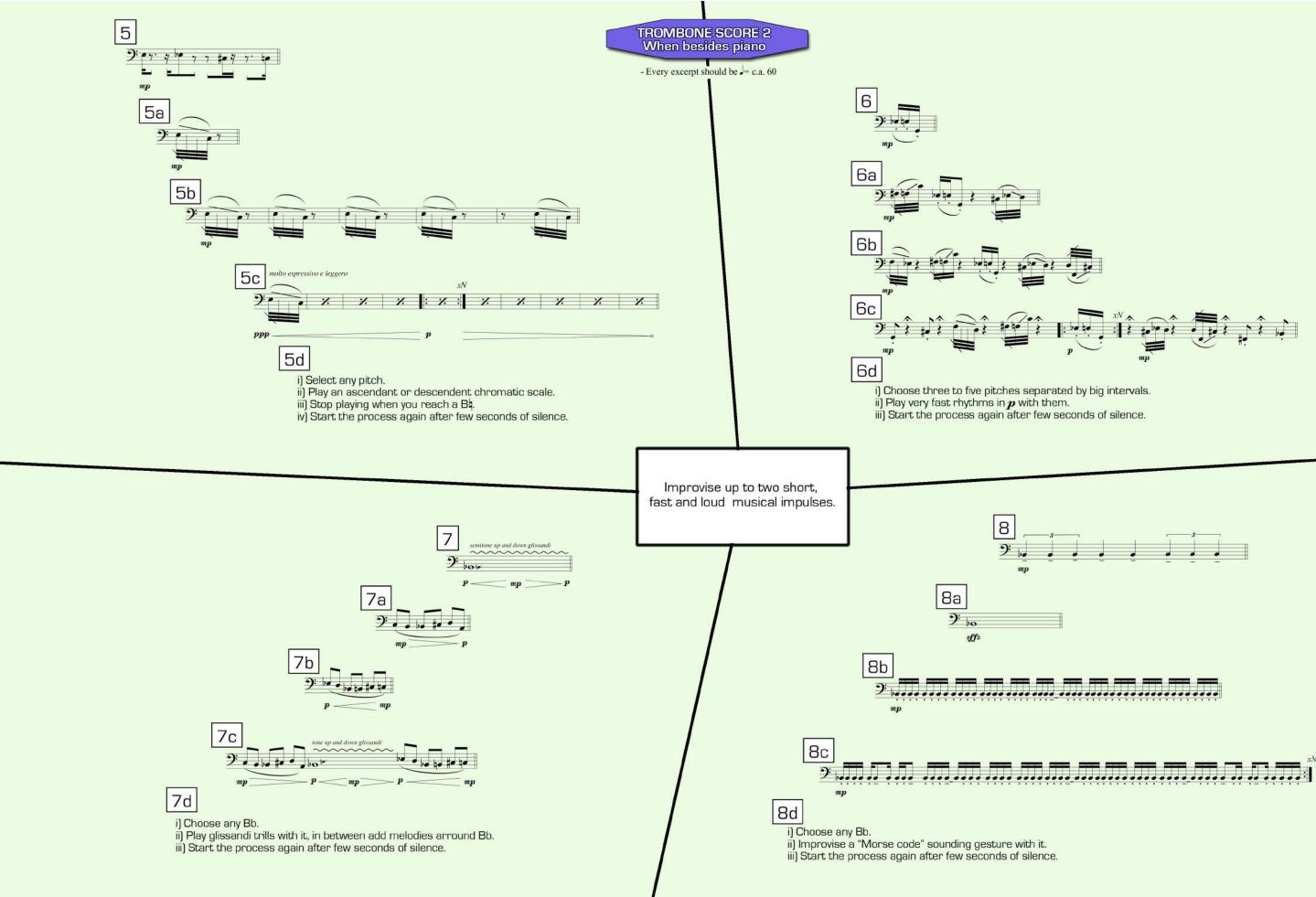


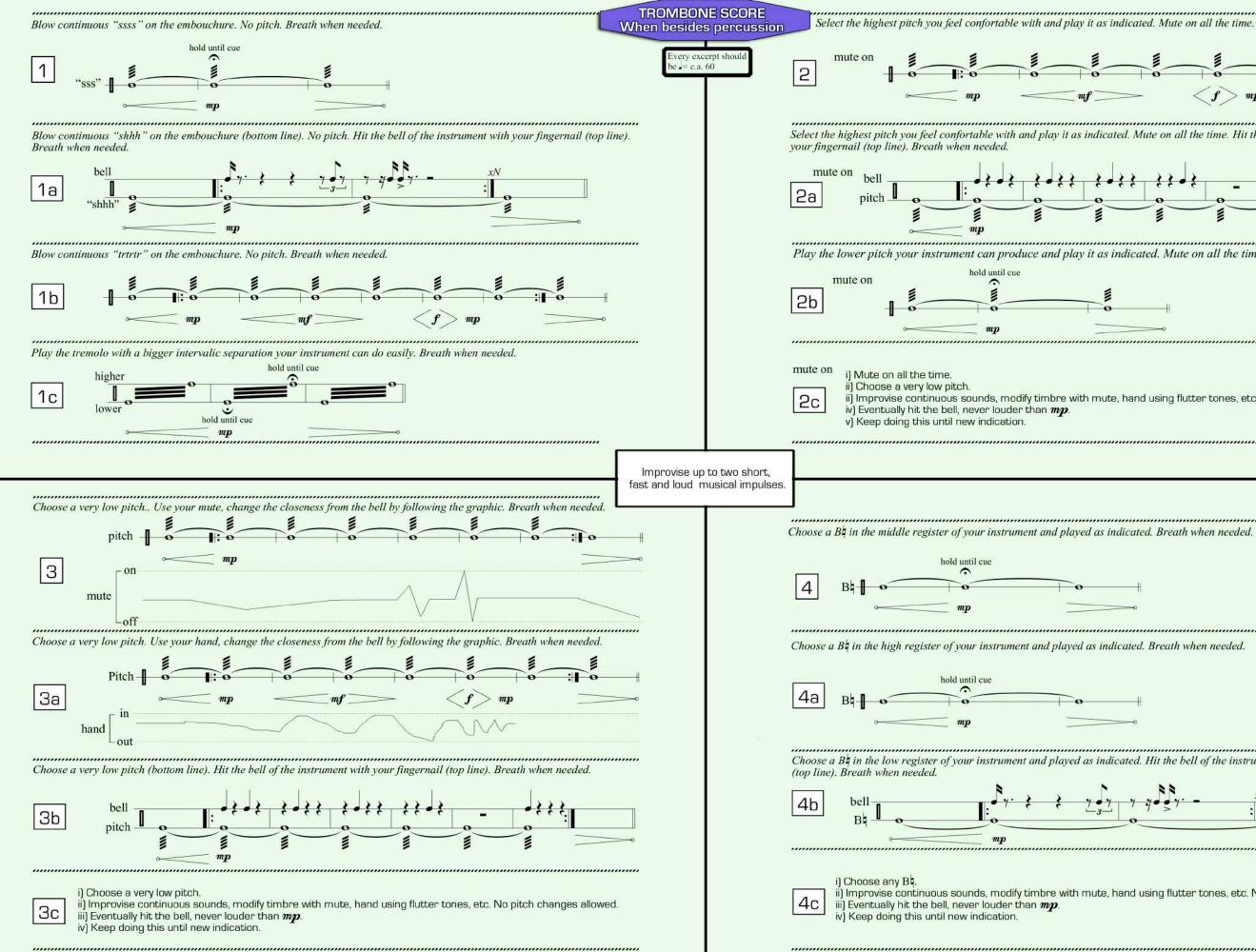
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TROMBONE



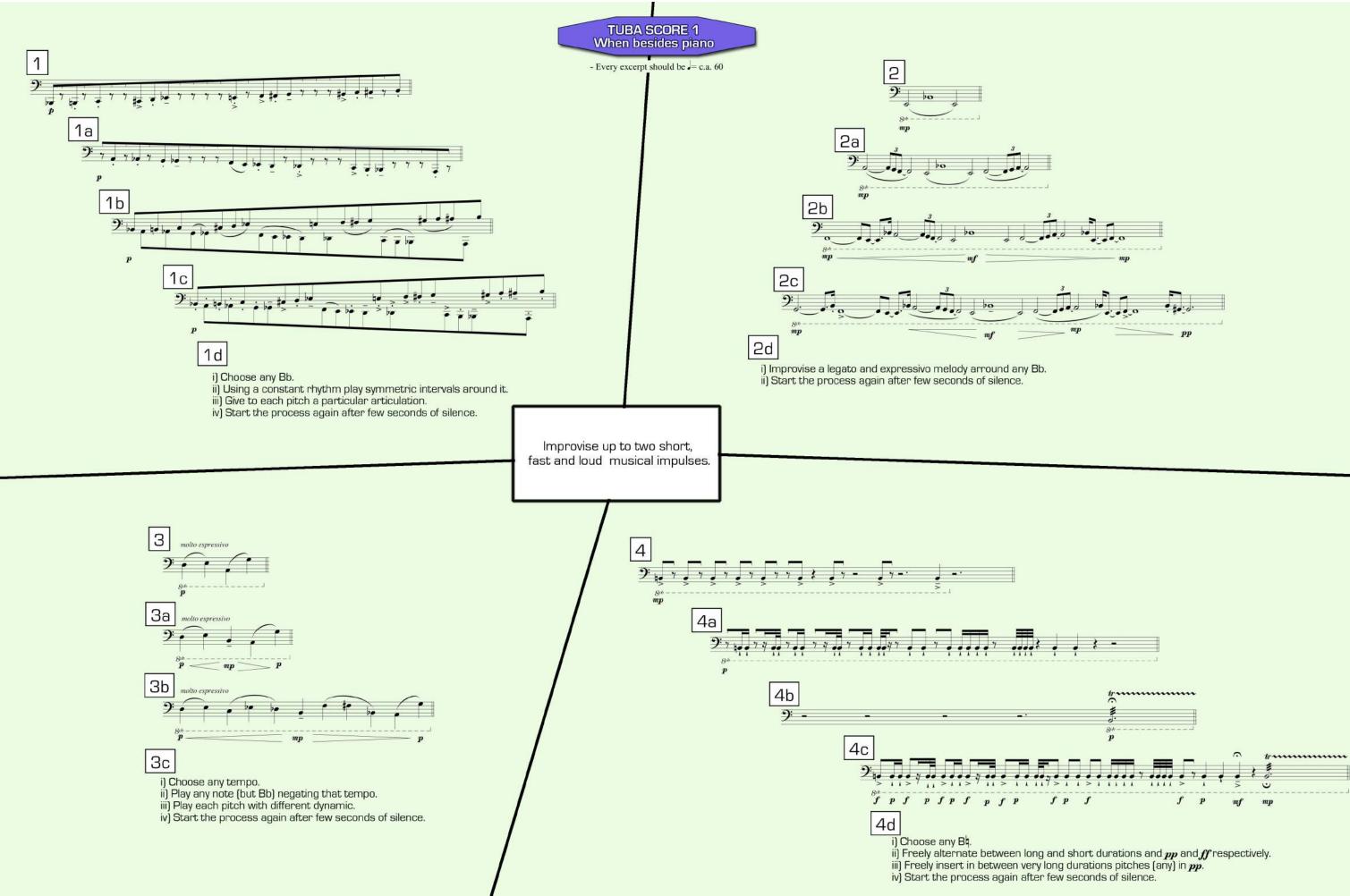


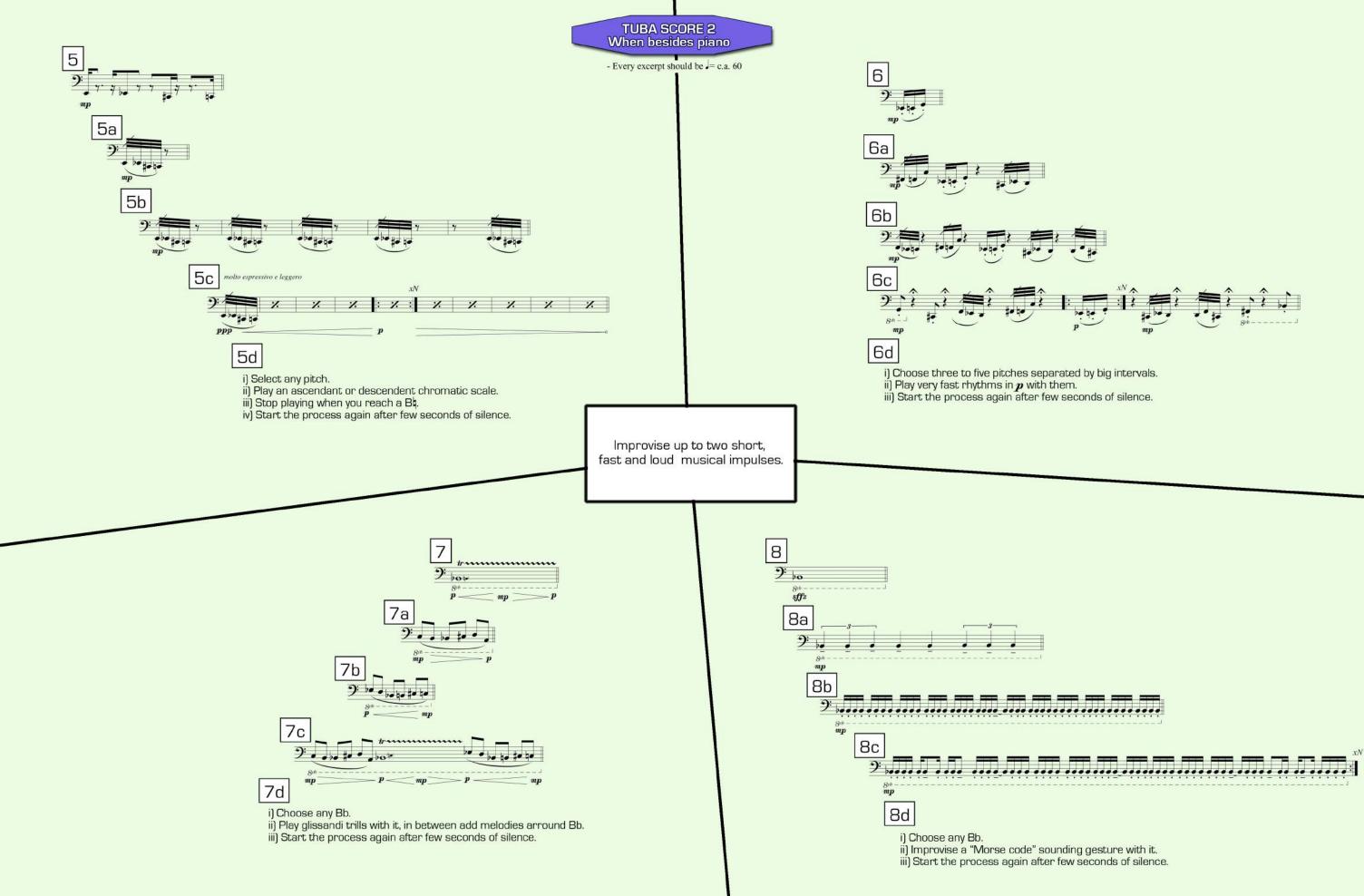


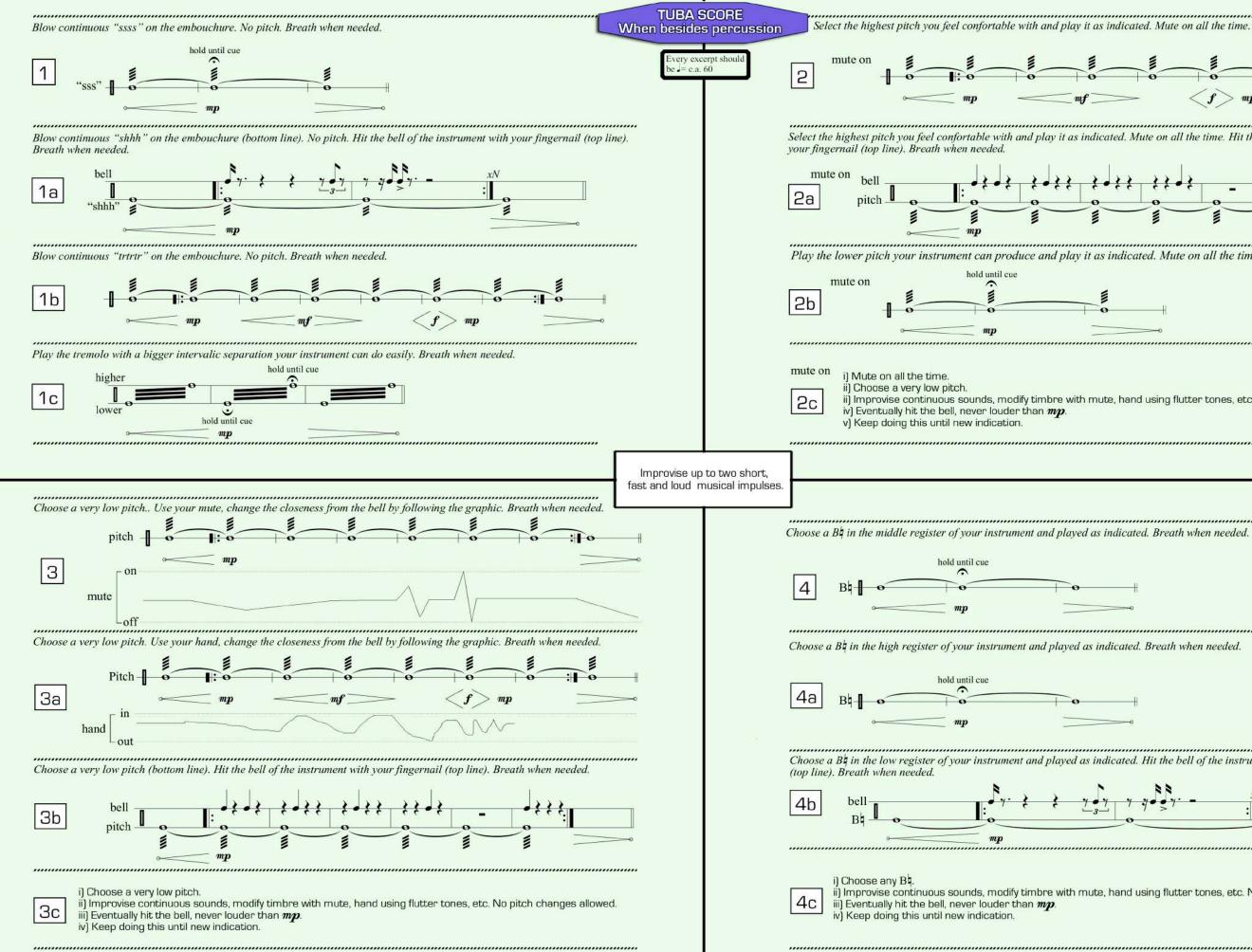
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CONDUCTOR

ZONE 1

"Proclamation of Opposed Statements" (1" to 2")

- 1. Cue piano one main ideological position (yellow), use your cards.
- 2. Cue piano one agreement (green) or disagreement (red), use your cards.
- 3. Cue percussion one main ideological position (yellow/red), use your cards.
- 4. Combine main ideological positions, agreements and disagreements as desired, every
- combination of these musical phrases is allowed. Silences are between excerpts are also allowed. Use cards
- 5. Move to Zone 2.

ZONE 2

"Public Awareness and Social Gathering" (5" to 8")

- 6. Cue zone change to everybody.
- 7. Piano and Percussion add impulses.
- 8. Brasses react to impulses.
- 9. Move to Zone 3.

ZONE 3

"Association by Ideological Empathy" (2" to 4")

- 10. Cue zone change to everybody.
- 11. Impulses are restricted (just two each intrument).
- 12. Brasses walk to the stage and join piano or percussion.
- 13. Piano and brasses / Percussion and brasses work as two ensembles. Indications are for each ensemble.
- 14. Brasses can play up to two impulses.
- 15. Move to Zone 4.

ZONE 4

"Reconsideration and Judgment of the Association" (2" to 4")

- 16. Cue zone change to everybody.
- 17. Conclude the sounding area of the piece by slowly diminishing the activity of musical excerpts until none.
- 18. After three seconds of silence, Walks out of the stage.

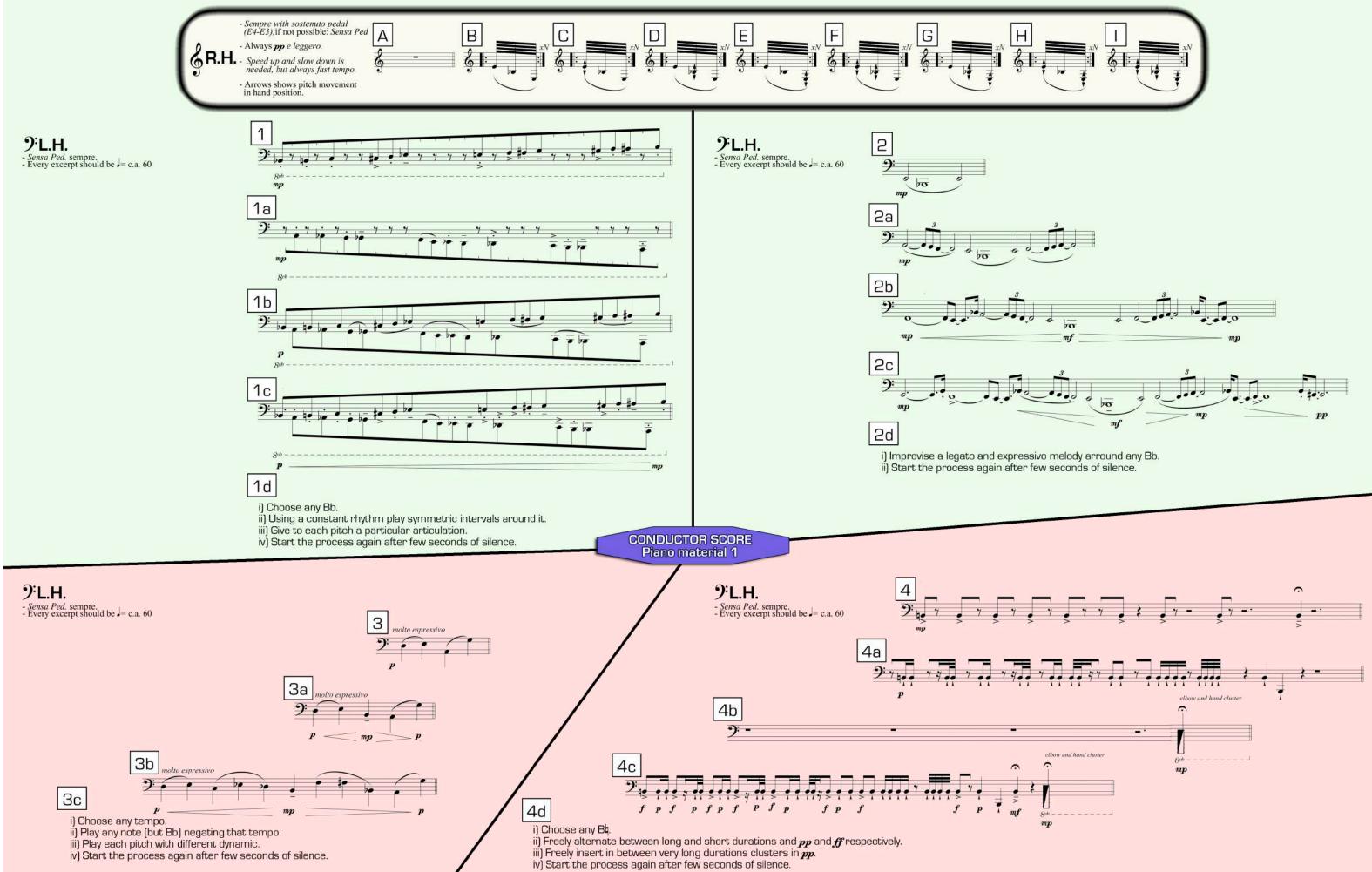
Without conductor:

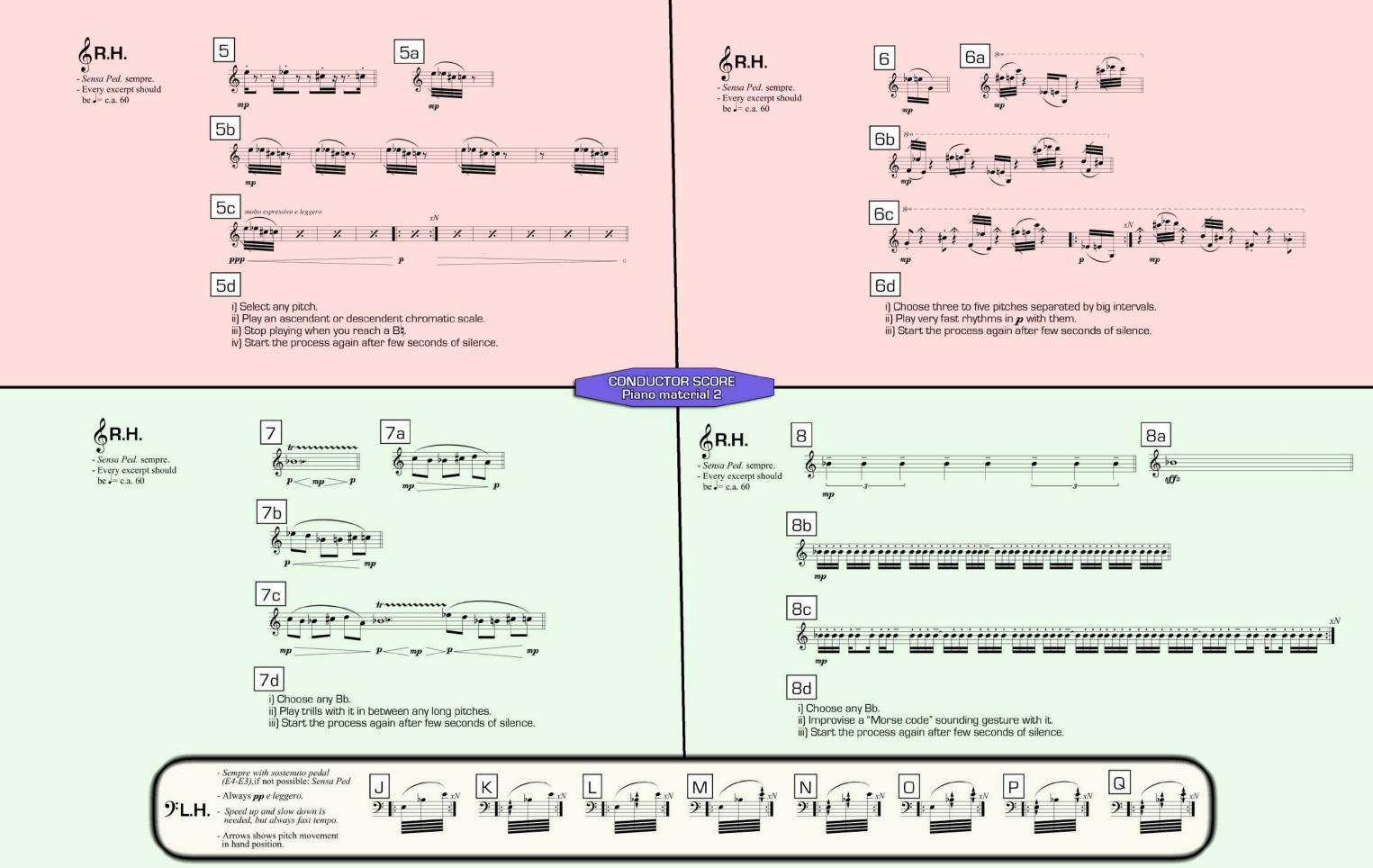
- 19. Piano and percussion stand up and walk to the closest corner of the stage: piano stage right (will form group A), percussion stage left (will form group B). After in position, wait.
- 20. Brasses have three options:
 - a. If they are confortable with the main performer's statements, they will walk towards him and join him on the corner.
 - b.If they are not confortable with him, they can or
 - i. Join to the opponent performer.
 - ii. Form a third group somewhere away of piano and percussion (group C).
- 21. Each one of the two (or three) groups walks together out of the stage one by one. First A, second B and third C. If the stage

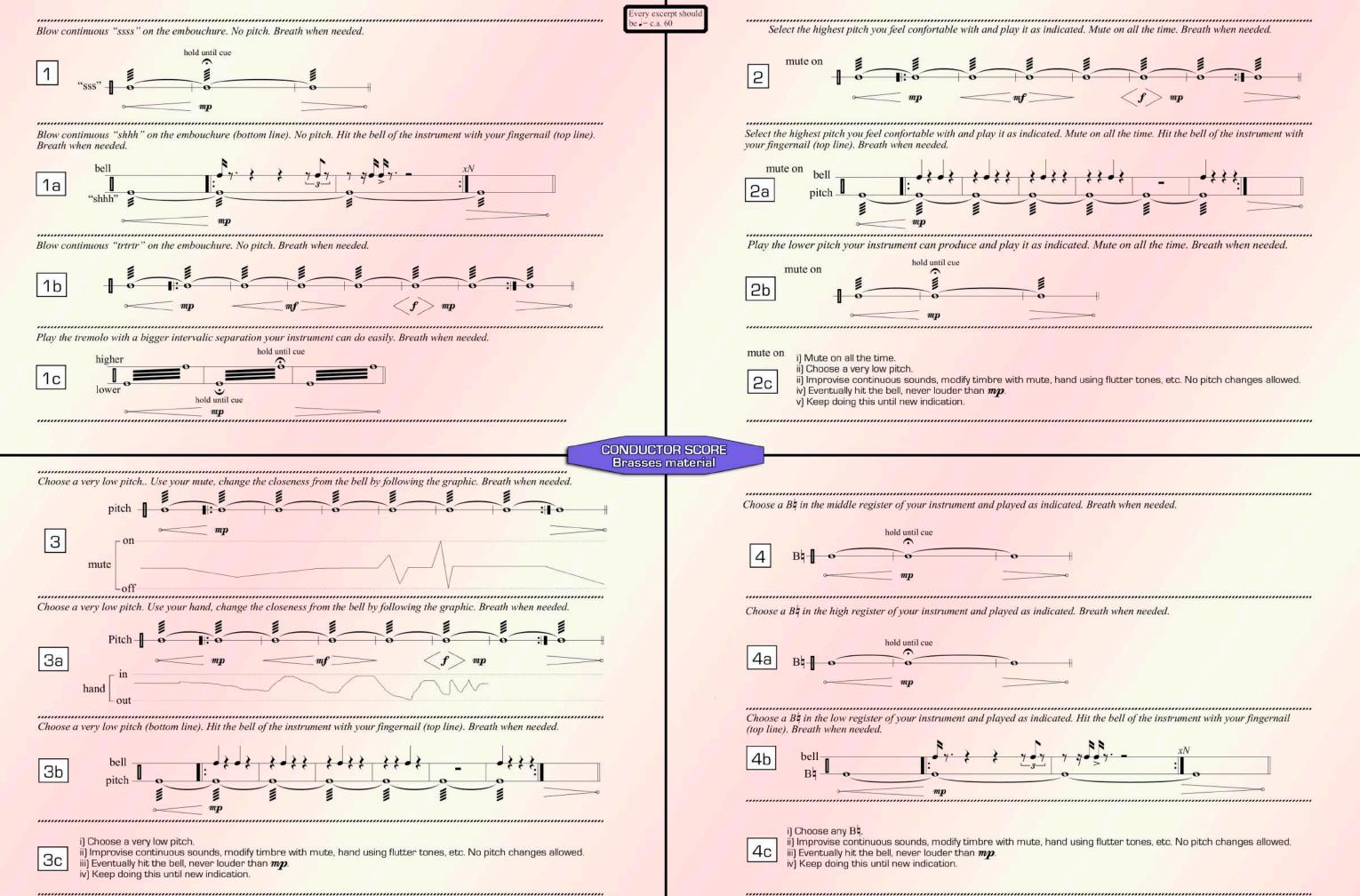
layout allows it, each group walks out from different exits (nobody will use the exit that conductor used, if possible).

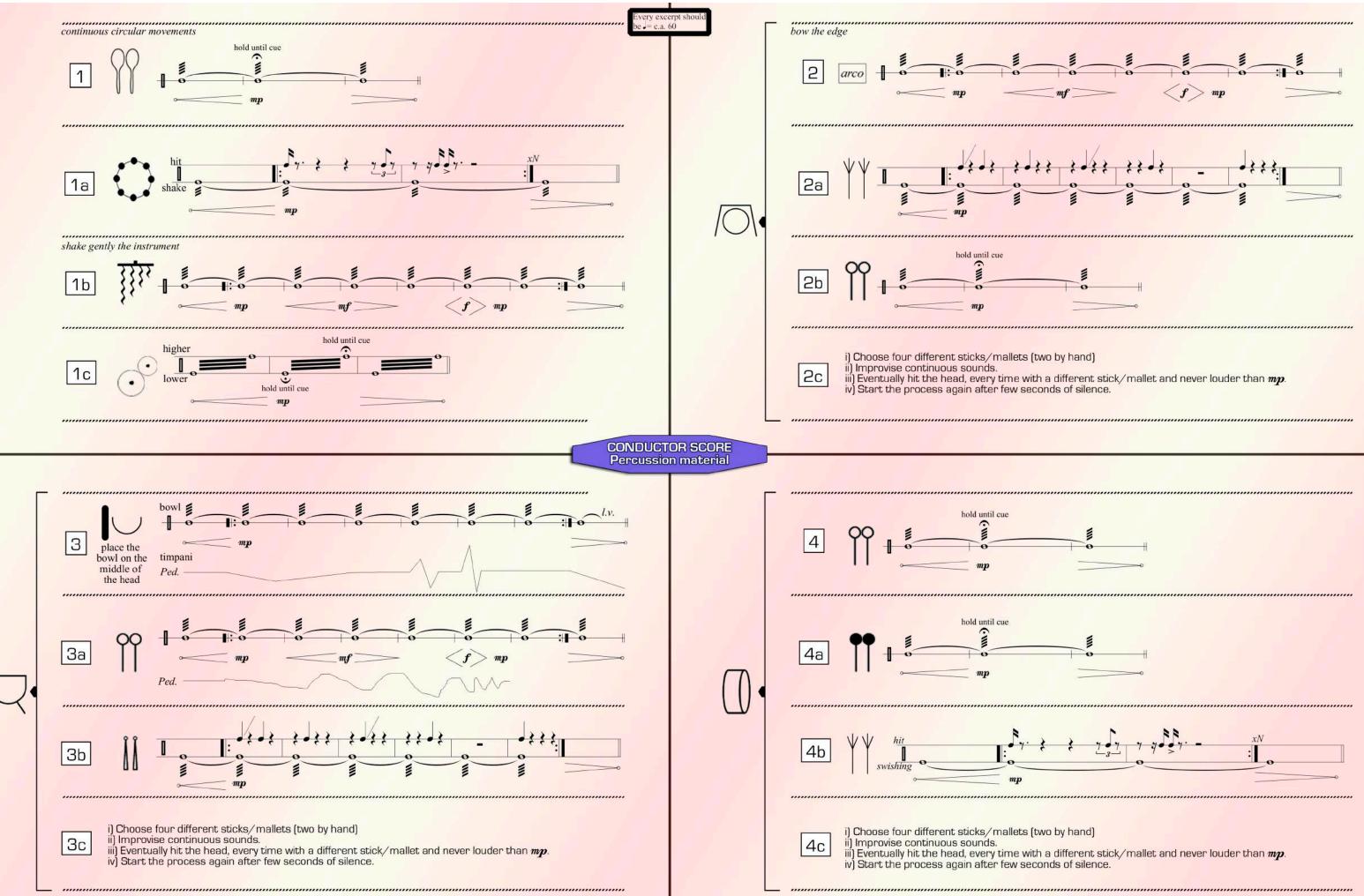
22. Everybody come back to the stage for final applause.

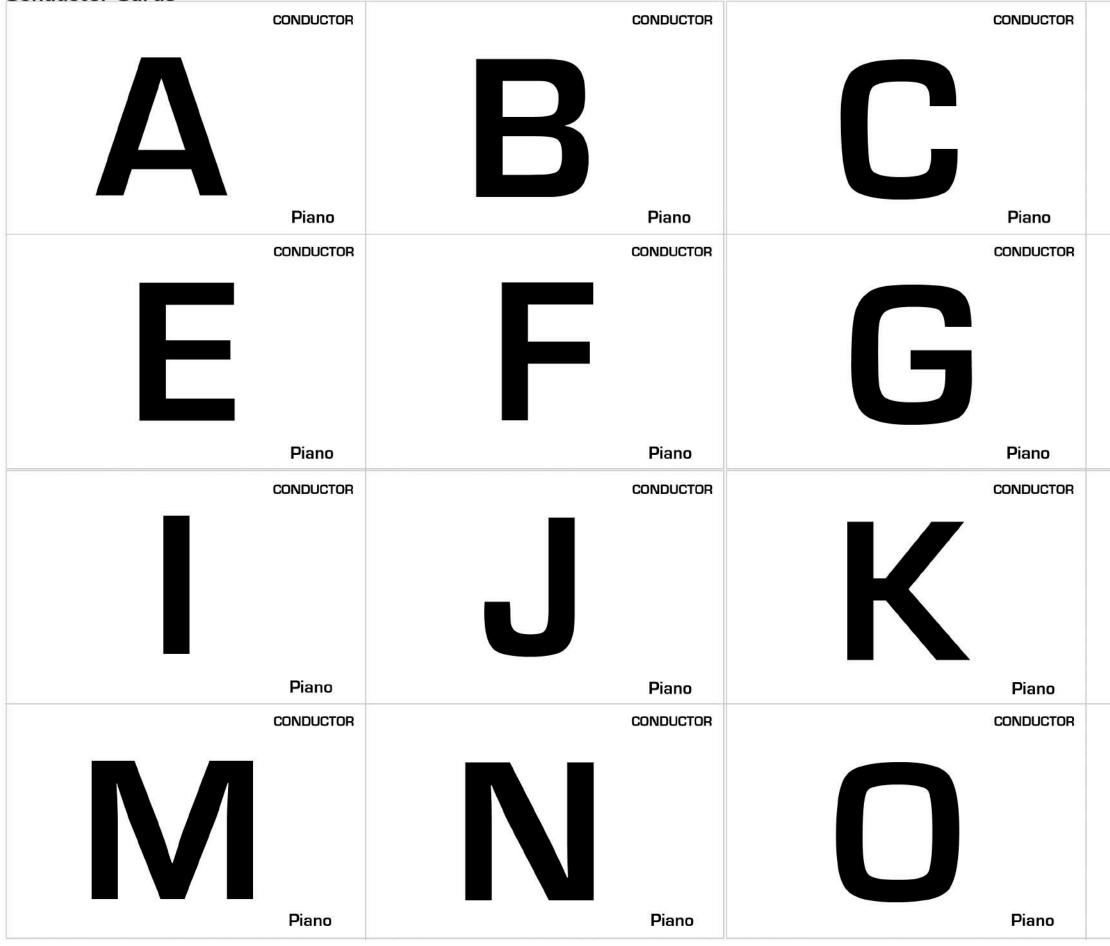
CONDUCTOR PERFORMANCE SCORE Zones/Steps

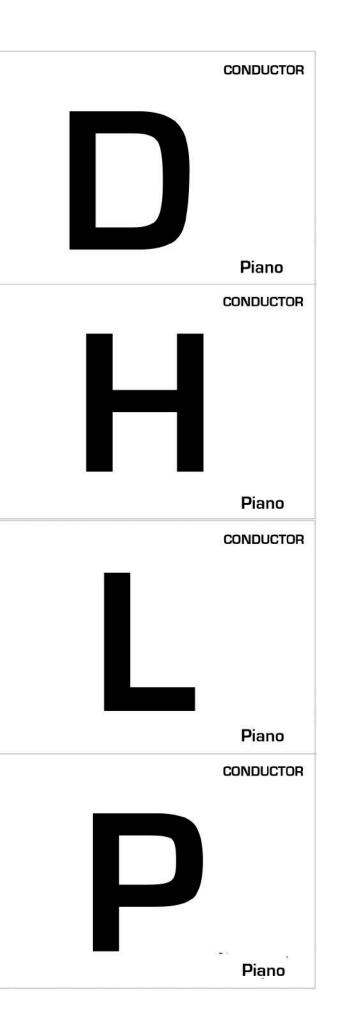


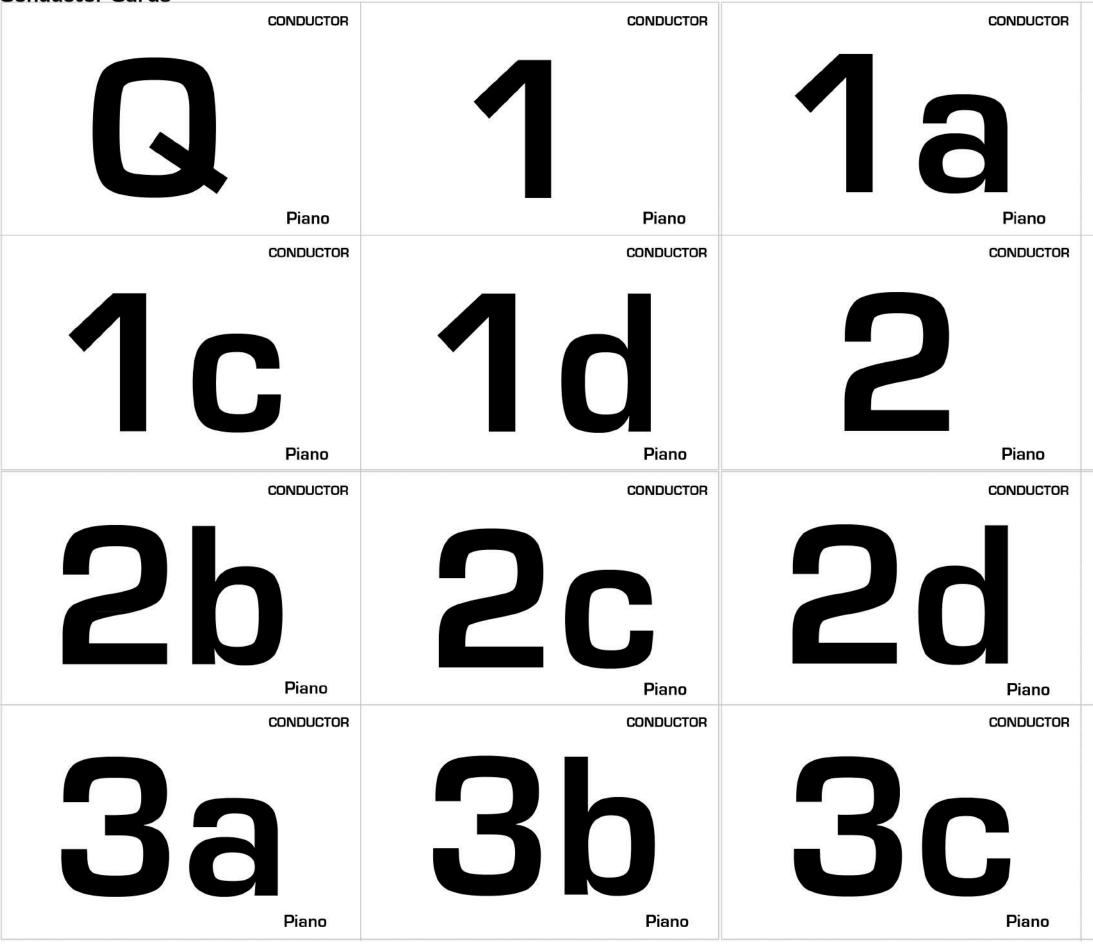


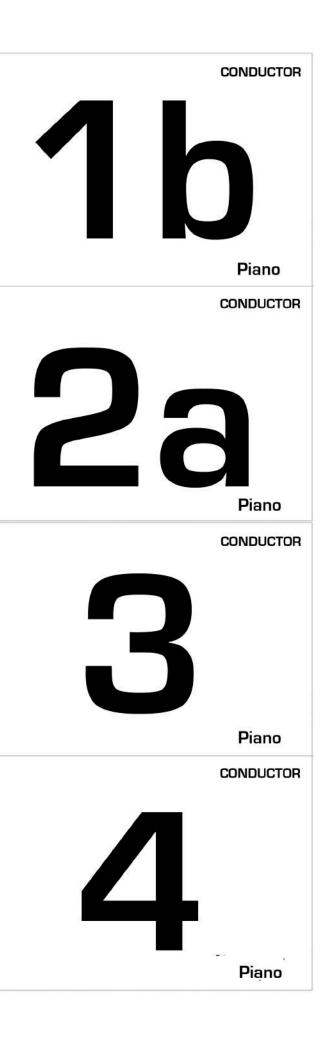




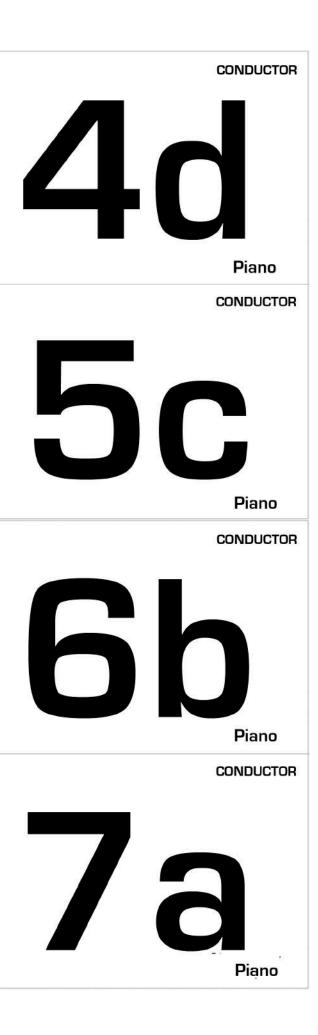




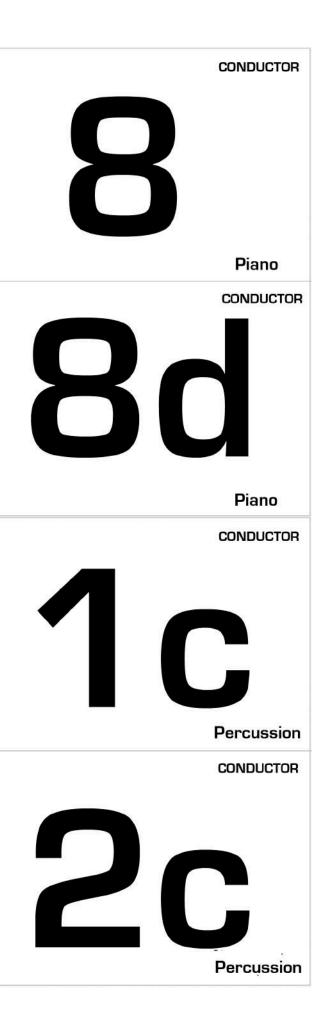




Lonductor Lards		
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