

Kari Väkevä

p(B)

for Violoncello and electronics

(2025)

Total duration: ca. 10'

p(B) is a concerto for Violoncello and electronics. The piece is based on material from earlier projects by adding a new soloist part for violoncello. The composition may also include an optional (improvised) solo cadenza at its marked place on the coda page of the score. Note that the total duration 10' is without solo cadenza.

The electronics part of the work *p(B)* is written with C++ and a synthesis software built by the author.


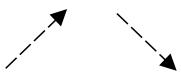

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PERFORMANCE

The entire cello part is written in the form of cadenza, with only few synchronization points with the electronics. The tempo and rhythm are very free (*senza misura*). Timbral freedom is encouraged.

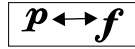
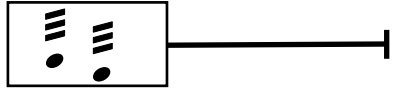


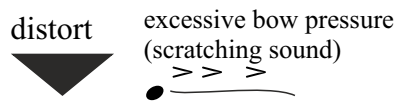
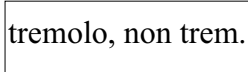

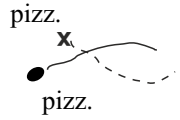
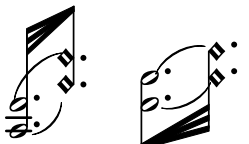
The expressive marks are scarce on purpose. The intention is to encourage the soloist to great freedom in the performance. Especially during the improvisation sections: In addition to repetition, use all kinds of variation - change of playing timbre (playing-technique), slowing down/speeding up, toward muted/unmuted, gradual change in dynamics/articulation/playing style, etc.

EXPLANATION OF NOTATION

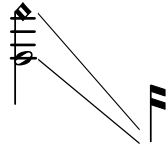
Accidentals affect only those notes which they immediately precede. Accidentals are not repeated on tied notes unless the tie goes from line to line or page to page. Accidentals are not repeated for repeated notes unless one or more different pitches intervene.

	Unmeasured pauses (in increasing time duration order)
	Cue from electronics to soloist / Cue from soloist to electronics
	Microtonal pitch which is quarter-tone lower than natural (i.e. half flat, or demiflat)

EXPLANATION OF NOTATION (CONTINUED)

	Fluctuating dynamics within the given range
	Improvise on the given material (stop at indicated time)
	Notes with indeterminate duration
	Left-hand pizzicato
	Add bow pressure to produce a scratching sound, in which the audible pitch is totally replaced by the noise
	Change bowing style freely between tremolo and non-tremolo
	Change bowing location freely between sul tasto and sul ponticello
	Pizzicato with multiple glissandi achieved by plucking both on the bridge side and on the nut side of the string stopping
	Slowing down/Speeding up trill tremolo, which alternates an open string and a harmonic on that string, played on two strings simultaneously as a chord

EXPLANATION OF NOTATION (CONTINUED)



Seagull effect: There are two ways to play seagull glissandos, and both of them end in the same result. In the first one the player stops the string as an artificial harmonic and slides up or down without changing the gap between stopping finger and “harmonic” finger. In the other way of doing this the player plays only harmonic notes with both of the fingers sliding up and down in the same manner. Both of these techniques work best with the cello.

0:00 1:50 ... 6:50

[2:00] [3:40] ... [7:30]

(electronics) The Tape’s time-stamp at the current time location. The full duration of the tape is 7’30”. The boxed times are to be synchronized with the cello part by the soloist. However, the time-stamps in square brackets are given just for reference, and do not need synchronization with the soloist part.

LINK TO THE TAPE PART FOR REHEARSING PURPOSES:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/j0v38ra5uj992x64iprp5/AMW3FY1tCG3R4evPNZV3-tE?rlkey=pvs9jukz53cxq0a6byyugsikm&dl=0>

p(B) for Violoncello and electronics


Kari Väkevä (2025)

Tempo *Ad Lib.*

*senza
misura*

gliss.

distort

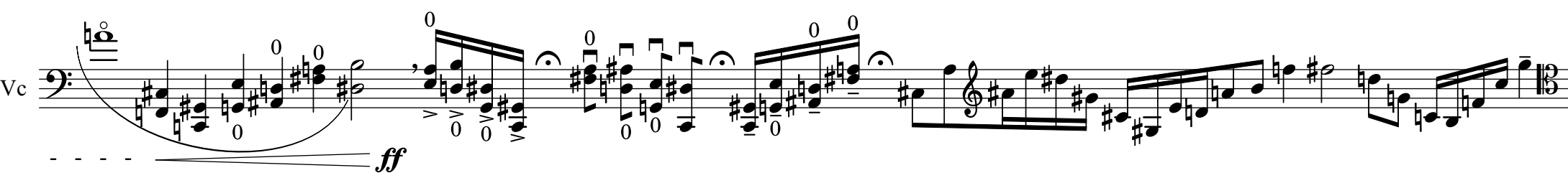
vib. 

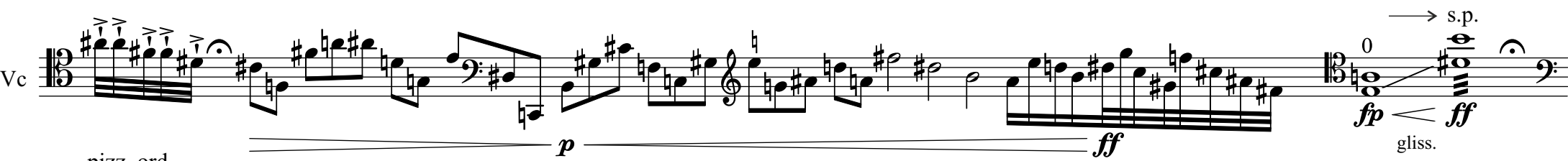
gliss.

(sul D)

Vc 

el. 

Vc 

Vc 

Vc 

Vc 

(pizz.)

arco (sul G)

trem. 30" → non trem.

gliss. distort 20"

0 0 0 0

f *p* *poco* *f* *poco* *fff*

Start the Tape

0:00

0:20

1:50

percussive sounds

sharp plucking sounds

20"

mf *p* *f*

tremolo, non trem. s.t. ↔ s.p.

0 0 0 0

0-2"

Stop at the Tape's shrill staccato

[2:00]

3:30

pizz.

shrill sounds

Vc *20"* arco ord. *ff* 0 0 *p* *f* *p*

Improvise on the given material (in any order)

		excessive bow pressure (scratching sound)

p ↔ f

Stop at the Tape's percussive "Fanfare"

[3:40]

el. *5:10* accented "Fanfare"

long airy sounds

Vc *20"* *p* *f*

Improvise pizz. multiple glissandi by plucking both on the bridge side and on the nut side of the string stopping.

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pizz. glissandi on bridge side (solid lines/heads)

pizz. glissandi on wrong side (dashed lines/x heads)

p ↔ f

Stop at the Tape's loud pizzicatos

arco s.p. 0 → ord. *pp* 0 0 *cresc.* *ff marc.* *dim.*

[5:20]

el. *6:50* pizzicato strokes

metallic slides

[7:30] End of Tape.

Vc

distort

mp

p ↔ f

(optional improvised violoncello solo cadenza, ad lib.)

Vc

mf

sf

sim.

sf

mp

sf

Vc

sf

p

sf

Vc

'Seagull'

Credits: This score document was written with LilyPond and edited with CorelDRAW. The audio track images captured from Audacity.