

a ras de los albores más tempranos

per
Violoncello solo

José Luis Torá

a ras de los albores más tempranos
violoncello solo (1996-97)

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Notation and performing techniques

---Scordatura



Tuning of the III and IV strings: the 4th harmonic of the III string has to be tuned as a pure unison to the 5th of the IV one:



Tuning of the I and II strings (these strings have only the function of resonating; they are never played): the 2nd harmonic of the I string has to be tuned as a pure unison to the 3rd of the II one, but a little higher than the ones of the III and IV strings mentioned above.



This microtonal alteration should be made slightly enough, so that the I and II strings resonate with the other ones, but perceptible enough to get a strong feeling of beating notes. It refers only to pages 8 and 9 and it's notated with an echo slur in parentheses.

The pitches in the score are always written transposed; this does not apply to the pitch indications of the upper staff, which indicates the actual resulting sound.

---Tuning of the normally stopped pitches

The notation of the microtonal alterations of a normally stopped pitch is always in relation with the natural harmonics of the open string on which they are to be played: in every stopped pitch it must be possible to play a natural harmonic by change of fingering pressure. Ex. on the IV string with the 10th harmonic:

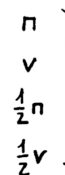


Accordingly to the following chart (only on the IV string):



Bow / Right hand

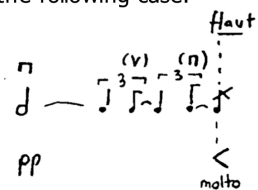
---Bowling speed and pressure



These signs mean always, not only the bowing direction, but also that the full length or half of the length of the bow is to be used by playing. In this way the bowing speed will be determined by the duration of the bar, and the bow pressure by the dynamic.

Dynamic in parentheses (e.g. bar 4 ff) indicates that those bars are to be played with the same bow pressure, so that the dynamic is only a result (approx.) of the variations of the bowing speed.

Change of bowing direction must be always imperceptible, except in the following case:



When a bow-rhythm is notated, this must be always distinctly perceptible. The first bow must use its full length, and the other ones in parentheses must keep the same speed and pressure as the first; therefore they will use only a part of the length of the bow. At the end of the bar the "remaining" bow must be played *flautando* and *crescendo molto poss.*

Change of bow direction *ad libitum*: imperceptible.

---Contact point of the bow

It's notated at the middle staff.



Precise contact point of the bow. The pitch is notated as a rectangular open note head; in normal playing, it would be stopped by the left hand. It represents always a node of a natural harmonic; to play with the bow on it will hinder the production of this one. By double-stops it's notated only on one string.

[MP]

Minimal presence of pitch (nearly at the limit of its no appearance). This contact point is always very close to a node of the corresponding harmonic.

[Ord]

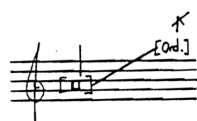
ordinario: it means always the contact point where the desired pitch (harmonic or stopped one) has his more stable and fullest presence.

[SP]

sul ponticello: with two variants *poco/molto*.

[VD]

vicino al dito: close to the finger of the left hand.



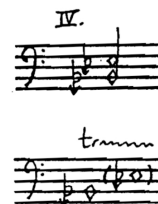
Gradual shift of the bow.

(s)

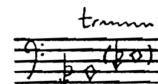
Very short rest of the bow; normally in order to reach a new contact point.

Left hand

It's notated at the lower staff.

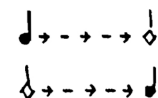


Double natural harmonic stop on only one string; this technique seeks after the stability and clearness of the pitch.



Trill with the harmonic stop in parentheses. If there is no one in parentheses, the trill must be played with nearly the same principle note, but a little higher.

The principle note of all trills must stay always stopped, even if the secondary one in parentheses is lower than the principal (e.g. bar 10 or bar 19).



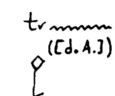
Transition from normally stopped pitch to harmonic stop and vice versa.



dietro al arco: finger behind the bow; it will sound only the part of the string that lies between finger and nut.



Double-stop on only one string: normal natural harmonic and finger behind the bow.

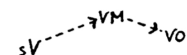


The same but played as trill.

If there is no indication, the piece is to be played throughout without *vibrato*.

SV
VO
VM

senza vibrato
vibrato ordinario
vibrato molto



Transition of *vibrato*.

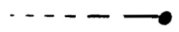
At the page 6 the indication *presto poss.* refers to the faster performance velocity of the vibrato transitions. The interpret must decide where is the speed limit of those transitions, in order to make them clearly perceptible.



Muting sign: to be executed by laying the hand lightly over the indicated string, avoiding it to resonate.

Resulting sound

It's notated at the upper staff (always actual sound).



Gradual appearance of the pitch.



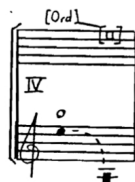
Gradual disappearance of the pitch.



Fixed pitch.



Extremely unsteady pitch produced by playing either with pressed bowing on a harmonic node but with soft dynamic, or with normal bowing on a harmonic node but with low dynamic.



Transition from natural harmonic to extremely unsteady pitch by shifting the bow. E.g.: second bar on page 8.



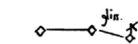
Pages 8 and 9 of the score: the natural harmonics in parentheses are the ones that could be produced between the two pitches of the *glissando*; nevertheless it is not intended that all of them must sound.

Some remarks on page 4

- Upper line: III string



The III string as open string.



Indeterminate natural harmonic stops on the III string in a compass of a major second (Bb - Ab)

- Lower line: IV string



E (unison to the open III string) as a normally stopped pitch on the IV string.



Indeterminate normally stopped pitches or natural harmonic stops on the IV string in a compass of a major second (F - Eb).

- Dynamic:



The same dynamic as in the former group.



Indeterminate new dynamic.



Louder dynamic as in the former group.

- Duration of each group:

The bowing speed must remain the same by each group, with the only exception of the last one.

The duration of the first group is determined by the combination of two indications: *arco presto poss.* and *pp poss.* It is the task of the interpret to look for an equilibrium and find a good balance between these two indications.

The first group can be considered as the starting point of a process with the following derivation rules:

a) By slowing down the bowing speed:

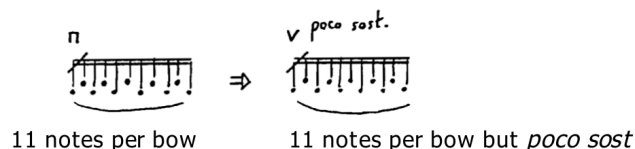
arco *arco* *arco*
poco sost. *sost.* *molto sost.*

This indication takes always into account the bowing speed of the former group and slows it down at the present one. The dynamic must remain the same as in the former one (with more bow pressure).

b) By slowing down the trill speed (notated with 1):

tr *tr* *tr*
poco sost. *sost.* *molto sost.*

This indication takes always into account the trill speed of the former group and slows it down at the present one. The number of notes per bow must remain the same as in the former one. E.g.:



Because of the slowing down of the trill speed with the same number of notes per bow, the bowing speed will be necessarily slower, but the bow pressure must remain the same as in the former group; so that the dynamic is only a result of the variation of the bowing speed and is indeterminate.

c) By increasing the dynamic:

The bow pressure must remain the same as in the former group. The increasing of the dynamic is to be produced only by a faster bowing speed (notated with 2)

- Duration of the rests of page 4:

The duration of the rests is determined by the duration of the bows of the groups that surround them.

A rest has the same duration of a bow of the former group but with a *rall.* or *accel.* in order to arrive to the bowing speed of the following group.

During the rests the bow must always stay motionless on both strings.

Translations

Page 7:

siempre la misma distancia entre los dedos
 always the same distance between the fingers

Page 9:

siempre la misma distancia entre los dedos
 always the same distance between the fingers

acento sólo con mayor presión
 accent only with bow pressure

José Luis Torá

This is a handwritten musical score for the piece "Lento" by Debussy, featuring a piano and celesta. The score is written on two staves. The piano part is in the upper staff, and the celesta part is in the lower staff. The tempo is marked "Lento" and the time signature is 4/8. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The score includes various performance markings such as dynamics (pp, ppp, mp, p, pp.s.v., molto), articulation (accents, staccato), and phrasing (brackets, slurs). There are also tempo changes indicated by "rall." and "più mosso". The score is divided into measures by bar lines, and some measures contain complex rhythmic figures or chords. The handwriting is in ink on a single sheet of paper.

Handwritten musical score for the first system, featuring two staves. The top staff contains notes with various markings including "gliss.", "sost.", "più mosso", "J=92-96 ca.", "poco più mosso", and "I°". The bottom staff contains notes with markings such as "III.", "V.", "N.", "3", "flut.", "IV.", "gliss.", "V.", "1/2 N.", "1/2 V.", "III.", "IV.", "3", and "IV.". Dynamic markings include *p*, *pp*, *mp*, *f*, *mf*, and *f* (f). The system concludes with a *f* marking.

Handwritten musical score for the second system, featuring two staves. The top staff contains notes with markings including "gliss.", "I°", "rall.", "J=40-42 ca.", "poco sost.", "poco più mosso", "sost.", "accel.", "più mosso", "rall.", "molto I°", "rall.", and "sost.". The bottom staff contains notes with markings such as "IV.", "III.", "V.", "N.", "tr.", "IV.", "col legno tratto", "III.", "IV.", "1/2 N.", "3", "III.", "V.", "3", and "III.". Dynamic markings include *f*, *pppp*, *(pppp)*, *(pppp)*, and *(pppp)*. The system concludes with a *(pppp)* marking.

Handwritten musical score for the third system, featuring two staves. The top staff contains notes with markings including "sost.", "accel.", "più mosso", "poco più mosso", "rall.", "sost.", "molto", "accel.", "I°", "più mosso", "rall.", and "I°". The bottom staff contains notes with markings such as "III.", "IV.", "1/2 V.", "Ripetere solo la prima volta", "III.", "1/2 V.", "1/2 N.", "IV.", "Ripetere solo la seconda volta", "III.", "IV.", and "III.". Dynamic markings include *(pppp)*, *ppp*, *ppp*, and *pppp*. The system concludes with a *(pppp)* marking.

Handwritten musical score for "L'Espresso" by Luciano Berio. The score is for a string quartet, with parts for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass. The tempo is marked "molto espress." and the time signature is 4/8. The score includes various performance instructions such as "poco più mosso", "poco fort.", "gliss.", and "Vibr. molto". The dynamics range from "p" (piano) to "f" (forte). The score is divided into measures, with some measures containing multiple notes and rests. The overall mood is expressive and dynamic.

[illegible]

Handwritten musical score for the first system. The top staff features a melodic line with various articulations and dynamics. The bottom staff contains a complex rhythmic pattern with fingerings and slurs. Dynamics include *ppp sub.*, *pp sub.*, *molto f*, *ppp sub.*, *molto ff*, and *pp*. Performance instructions such as *poco sost.*, *sost.*, *[MP]*, *[SP]*, *[V.D.]*, *[H.P.]*, *[Ord.]*, *[DA]*, and *[DAJ]* are present. Fingerings are indicated by numbers in parentheses, and slurs are used for phrasing.

Handwritten musical score for the second system. The top staff continues the melodic line with dynamics like *molto T³* and *[SP]*. The bottom staff features a section labeled *arco lentissimo* and *legno + crini*, followed by *crini* and *arco lentissimo*. Dynamics include *ppp*, *mp*, *pp sub.*, *mf*, and *pp sub.*. Performance instructions include *poco più mosso*, *più mosso*, *[V.D.]*, *[Ord.]*, *[DA]*, and *[DAJ]*. Fingerings and slurs are used throughout.

Handwritten musical score for the third system. The top staff includes a *molto accel.* section followed by *molto T³* and *[SP]*. The bottom staff features a section labeled *arco lentissimo col legno tratto*, followed by *legno + crini* and *crini (nv)*. Dynamics include *(pp)*, *mf*, *pp sub.*, *mf*, and *molto*. Performance instructions include *sost.*, *poco più mosso*, *[V.D.]*, *[Ord.]*, *[DA]*, and *[DAJ]*. Fingerings and slurs are used throughout.

At the bottom of the page, there is a note in Italian: *siempre la misma distancia entre los dedos* and its German translation: *immer der gleiche Abstand zwischen den Fingern*.

Handwritten musical score system 1. The system consists of three staves. The top staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/8. The middle staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/8. The bottom staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/8. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The first measure is marked "sost." and "4/8". The second measure is marked "più mosso" and "1/8". The third measure is marked "poco più mosso" and "2/8". The fourth measure is marked "V.O. ma intenso" and "4/8". The fifth measure is marked "gliss." and "2/8". The sixth measure is marked "più mosso" and "1/8". The seventh measure is marked "2/8". The eighth measure is marked "sost." and "1/8". The ninth measure is marked "2/8". The system ends with a double bar line.

Handwritten musical score system 2. The system consists of three staves. The top staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/8. The middle staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/8. The bottom staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/8. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The first measure is marked "accel." and "2/8". The second measure is marked "più mosso" and "1/8". The third measure is marked "2/8". The fourth measure is marked "4/8". The fifth measure is marked "gliss." and "2/8". The sixth measure is marked "poco a poco 'molto' pressione" and "2/8". The seventh measure is marked "V.O. ma intenso" and "4/8". The eighth measure is marked "2/8". The ninth measure is marked "più mosso" and "2/8". The tenth measure is marked "4/8". The system ends with a double bar line.

Handwritten musical score system 3. The system consists of three staves. The top staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/8. The middle staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/8. The bottom staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/8. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The first measure is marked "poco più mosso" and "4/8". The second measure is marked "poco sost." and "2/8". The third measure is marked "sost." and "2/8". The fourth measure is marked "gliss." and "4/8". The fifth measure is marked "più mosso" and "1/8". The sixth measure is marked "rall." and "1/8". The seventh measure is marked "poco sost." and "2/8". The eighth measure is marked "V.O. ma intenso" and "4/8". The ninth measure is marked "2/8". The tenth measure is marked "accel." and "1/8". The eleventh measure is marked "sost." and "1/8". The system ends with a double bar line.

