

Kory Reeder

Vespers

For at least 5 players

(2023)

Duration and Structure

Vespers is a 24-hour long piece, with a 3-minute introduction and a 12-minute conclusion (24 hours and 15 minutes total).

The piece contains 9 movements

- 1: Matins 3 hours, starting at 2AM
- 2: Lauds 1 Hour, starting at 5AM
- 3: Prime 3 hours, starting at 6AM
- 4: Terce 3 hours, starting at 9AM
- 5: Sext 3 hours, starting at Noon
- 6: None 3 hours, starting at 3PM
- 7: Vespers 1 hour, starting at 6PM
- 8: Compline 5 hours, starting at 7PM
- 9: Midnight 2 hours, starting at midnight

The 9 movements of *Vespers* are always played in this order, at these specific times, starting from the *beginning* of the movement. However, the piece can *begin* at with any movement that aligns with the selected performance time. For example, a concert that begins at Noon will start with *Sext* and end with *Terce*; a concert that begins at 7PM will start with *Compline* and conclude with *Vespers*. However, all performances must begin several minutes *prior* to the indicated time to allow for the 3-minute *Introduction* and will extend 12 minutes past the hour for the *Conclusion*.

Instrumentation

The instrumentation for *Vespers* is open to pitch-making instruments. Non-pitched percussion is limited to the bells ringing at midnight.

At least 5 players are needed to perform the entire work. There are movements which reduce this ensemble (*Vespers* is a solo movement, for example), but movements such as *Compline* require all 5 players.

Considering the extended duration of this piece, it is welcome that players cycle out in shifts or that the ensemble changes instrumentation throughout the performance. It is not required that the same people play the entire piece the entire time.

Interpretation

Vespers is a long, slow, often sparse meditation on time and the interaction of people. There are clues given throughout the score as to the interpretation of the piece, but in general the piece is contemplative and quiet, giving room for introspection. Some movements have explicit instructions, some have implicit and poetic instruction, some movements have no instruction, but in each movement there is room for interpretation, puzzles to be deciphered (individually or as an ensemble), and questions that need answered.

“Do we sing the text in *Matins*?” Perhaps. Perhaps it is a private space.

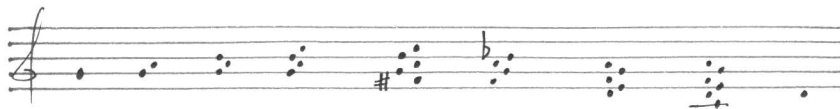
“Should we decide who the soloist for *Vespers* is?” Perhaps. What is a solo, anyway?

Introduction / Conclusion

3 minutes

To be played before the first
Movement

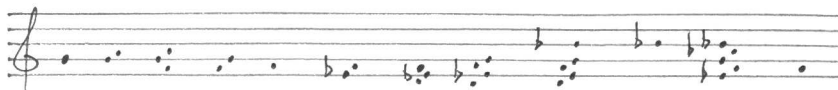
long tones spilling over each other



12 minutes

To be played at the end of the
whole piece

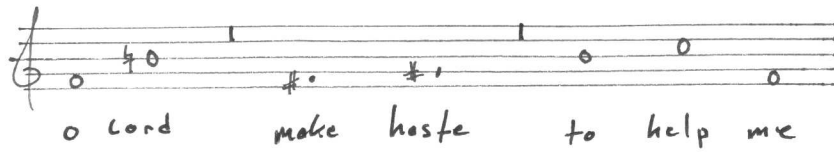
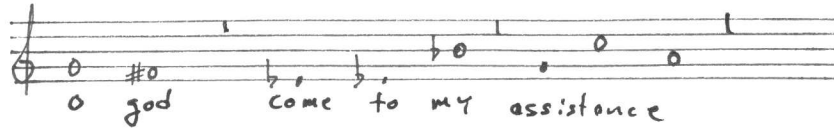
long tones spilling over each other



"Whatever is going to happen is already happening" - Ted Bergman

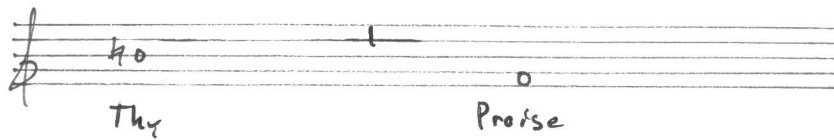
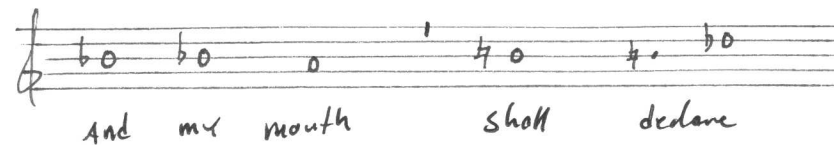
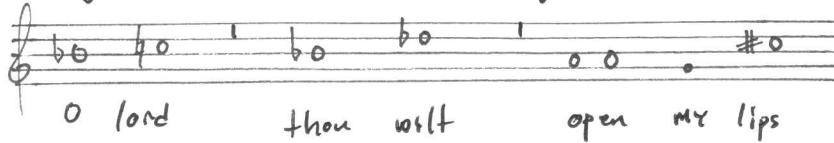
"What else is the Sonnets but a portrait of becoming, consisting of durations that are cross-sections, and containing much repetition" - Alice Notley in the preface to Ted Bergman's Sonnets.

Everyone for 20 minutes - At their own pace - once through.
 o = shorter oo = longer ' = pause



- pause -

Again - Everyone 3 times through 20 minutes total

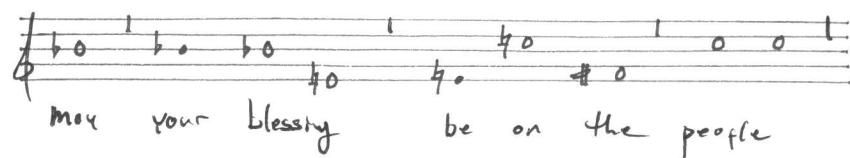
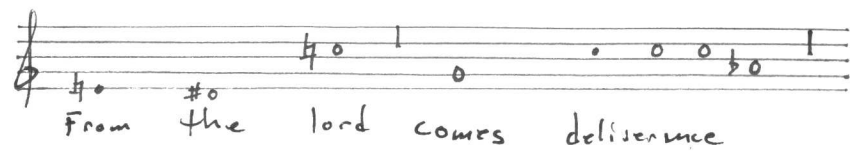
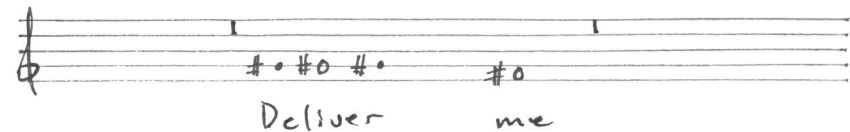
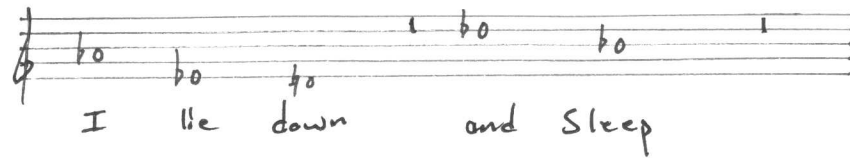
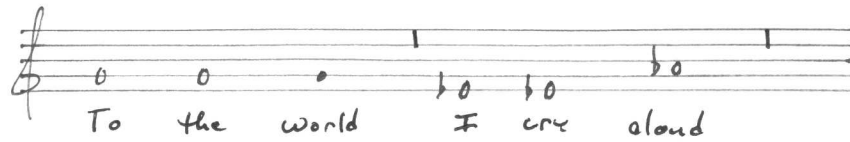


Hold this tone for some time - at times solo/tutti

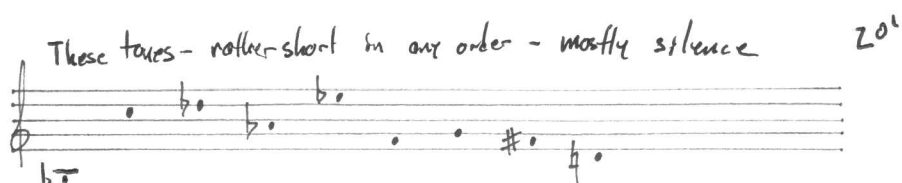
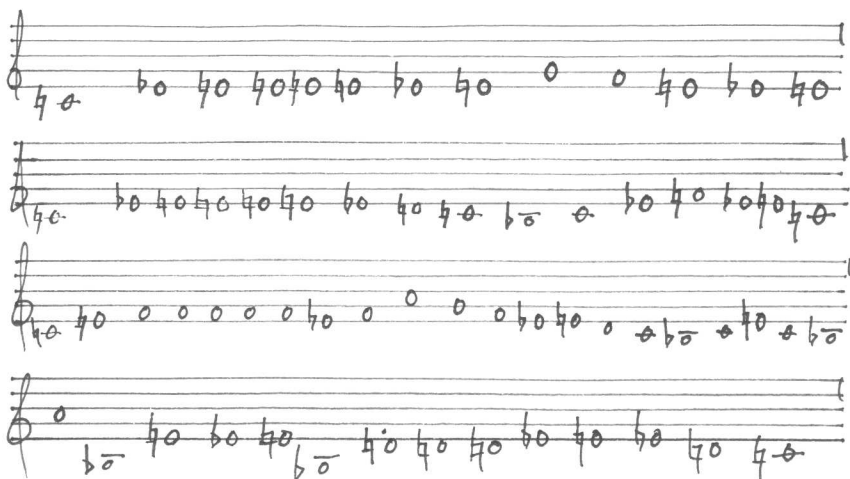


3 minutes

solo once through then full ensemble - start anywhere 20'

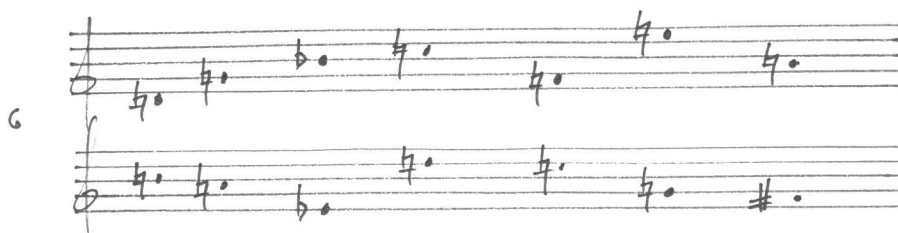
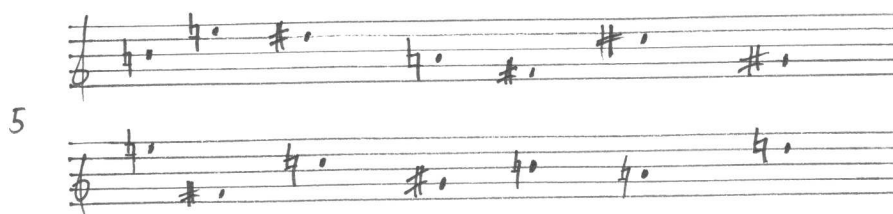
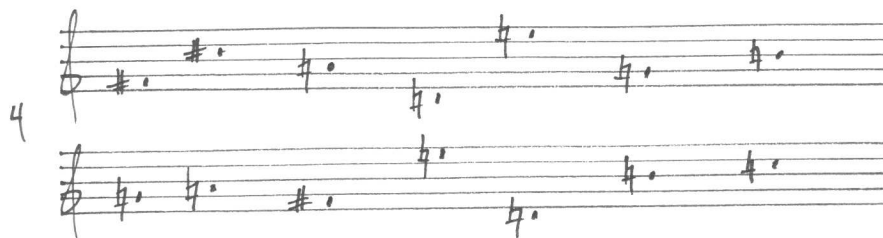


Begin as solo - Eventually everyone joins 20'



this page - 60 minutes
1 hour 43 minutes total

G Hums



End of Motus
 Beging of Lands
 5 am

"but nothing happens that
hasn't already happened"

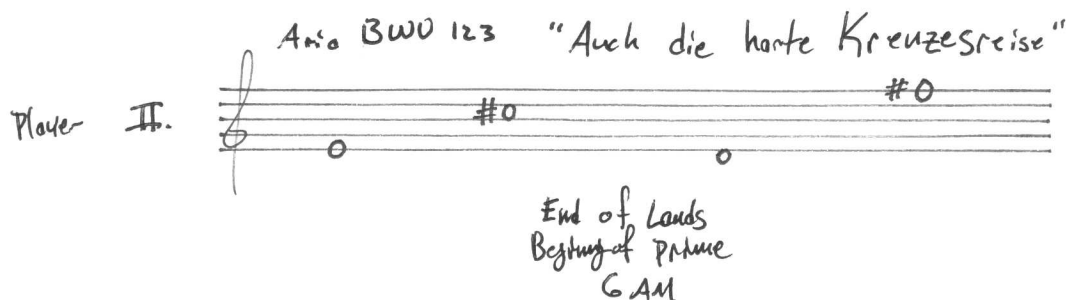
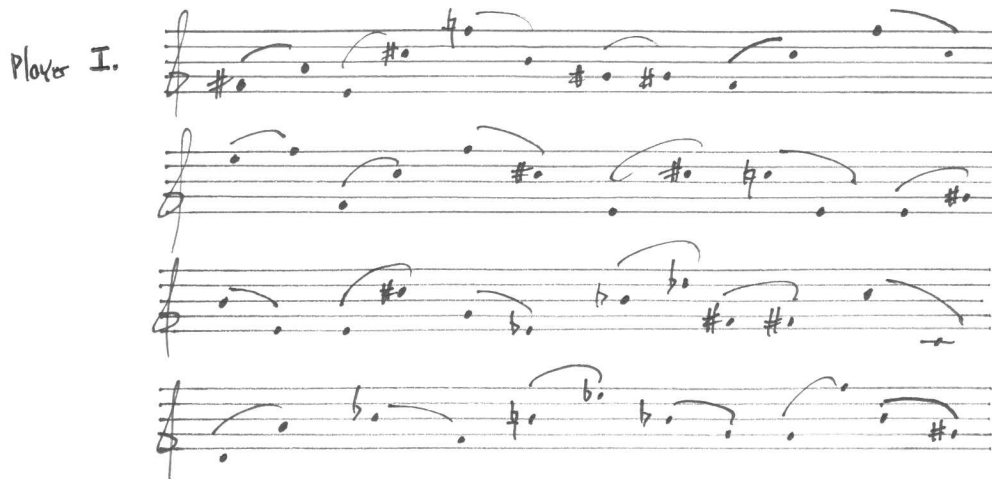
- Edmond JAMES

Duet - a morose psalm

Player I - Two-tone gestures: a tone, a pause,
the second tone.
And then silence.
The silence between gestures growing
longer and longer.
Until memory is annihilated

Player II - Playing a very long tone.

Perhaps much too long.
An extreme amount of time
between tones - perhaps forgotten
perhaps only 4 or 50 the entrenchments.
"A love supreme"
- John Coltrane



III - Prime - 6AM - 3 hours

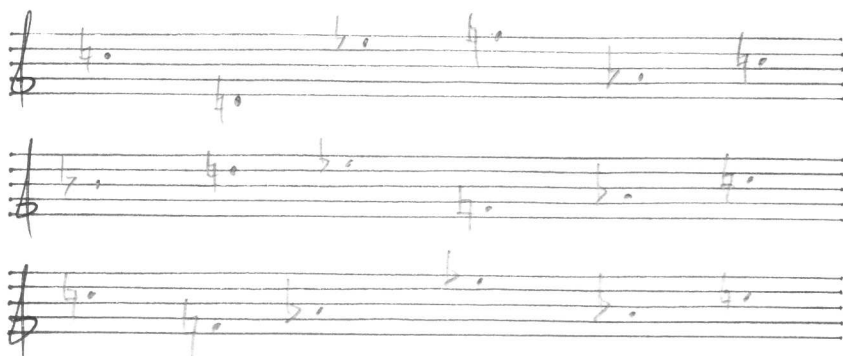
12 Signs Total
15 minutes Each

I. Aries
These pitches, in any order
30 of them



Breathlessness

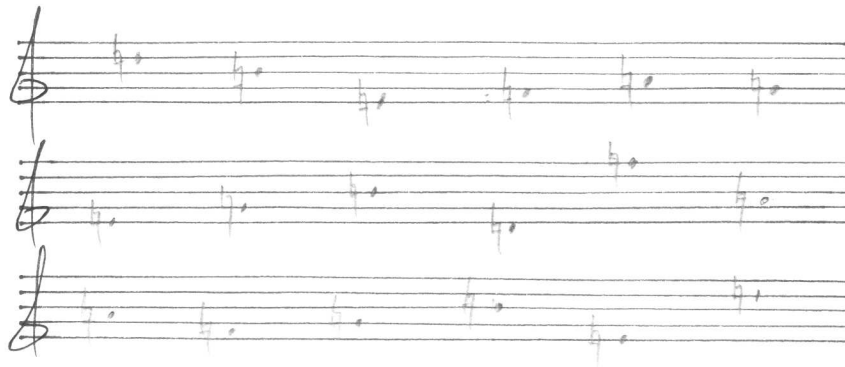
II. Taurus
These Pitches - in order
19 of them



Lifelessness

This Page - 30 minutes

III. Gemini
60 pitches total
Either in order - or not



Depthlessness

IV. Cancer
7 or 11 pitches or 11 of 7
in any order



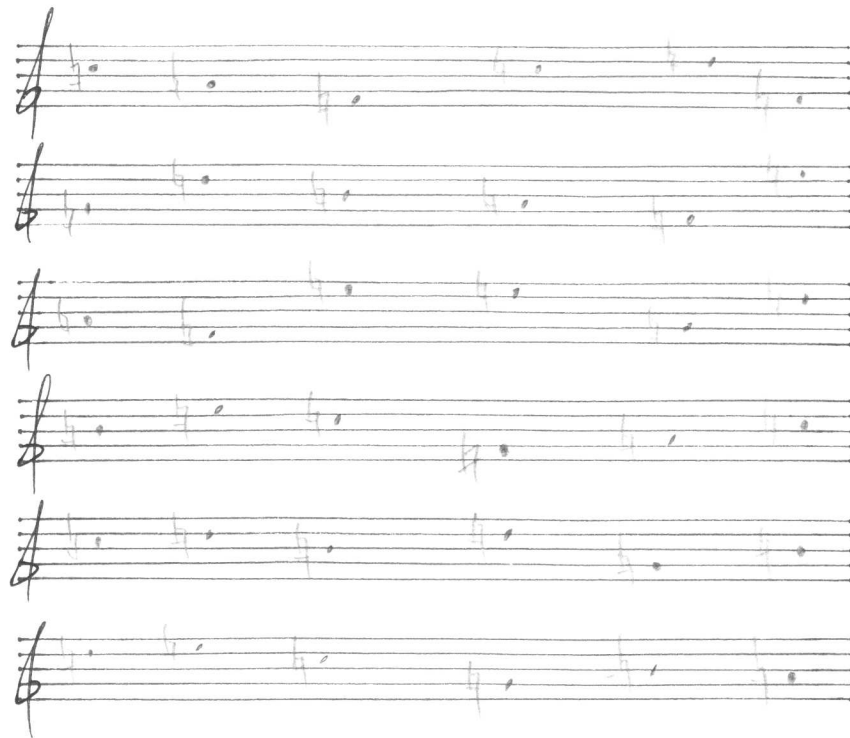
Timelessness

V. Leo
23 or 22 pitches
in this order



Formlessness

VI. Virgo
Some pitches
Either all or collections



Spacelessness

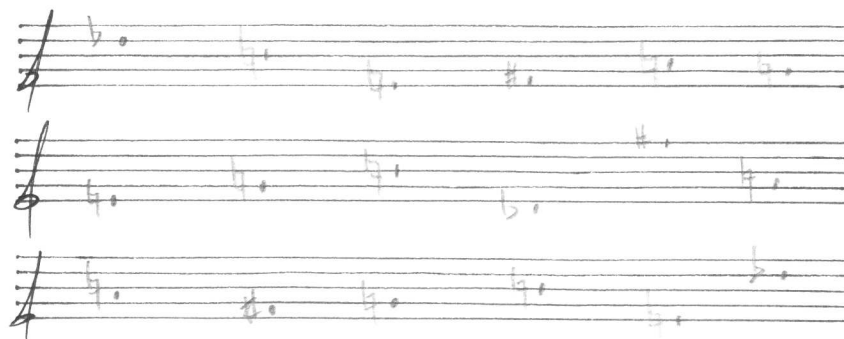
VII. Libra
Several pitches close together
in any order



Contentlessness

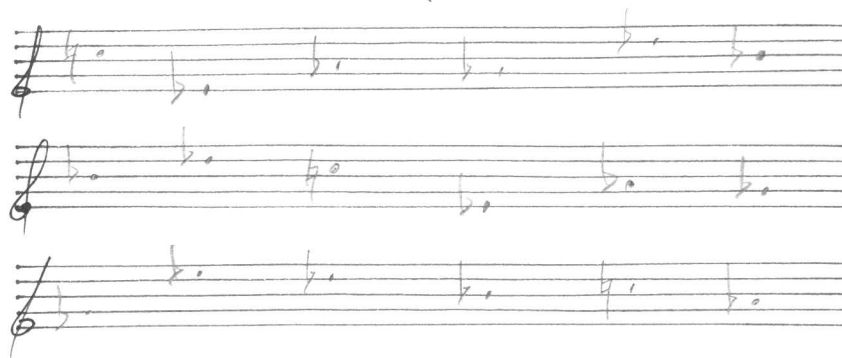
this page - 30 minutes

VIII Scorpio
60 pitches
in this order



Colorlessness

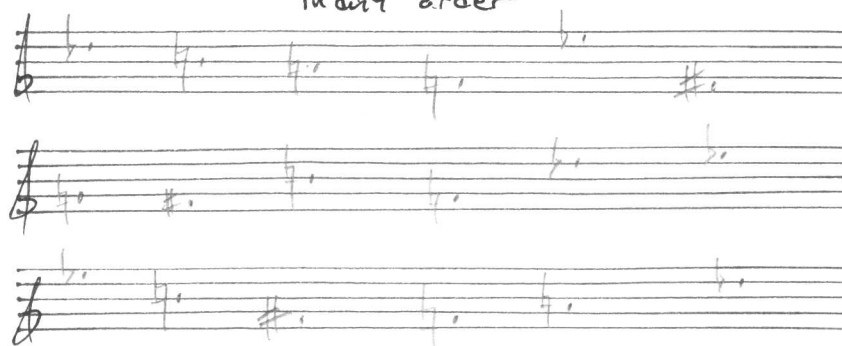
IX Sagittarius
Some or all the pitches
in any order



Movementlessness

— pause for a moment —

X Capricorn
these pitches - think
in any order



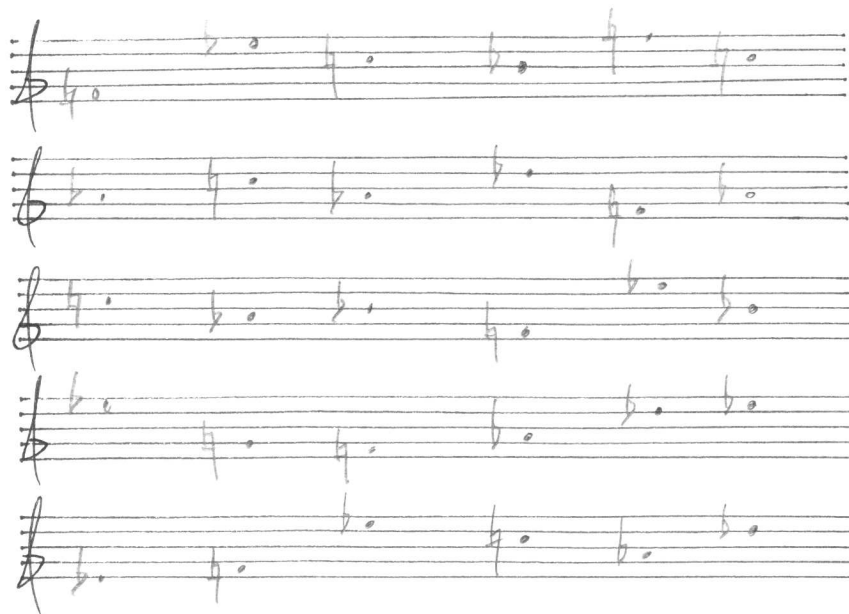
Objectlessness

XI. Aquarius
40 pitches
in this order



Subjectlessness

XII. Pisces
200 pitches
in some way



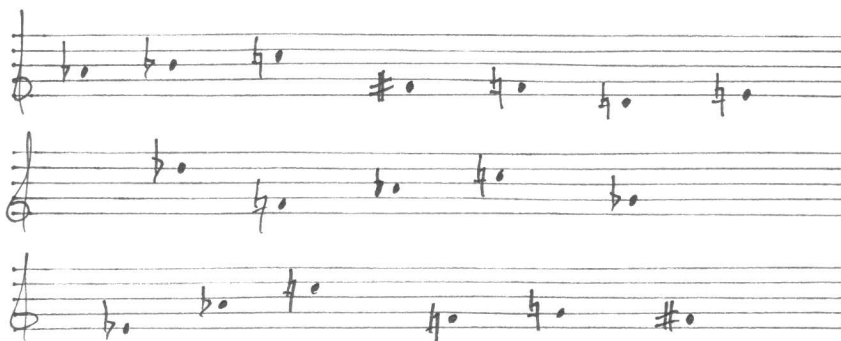
Significance

this page - 30 minutes
End of Prime
9AM

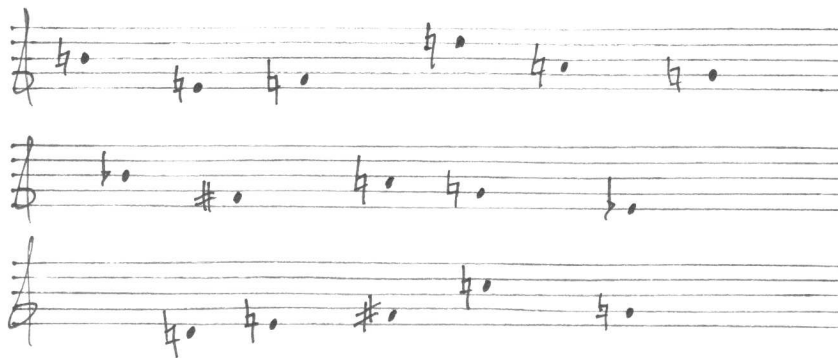
3 Psalms

20 minutes each

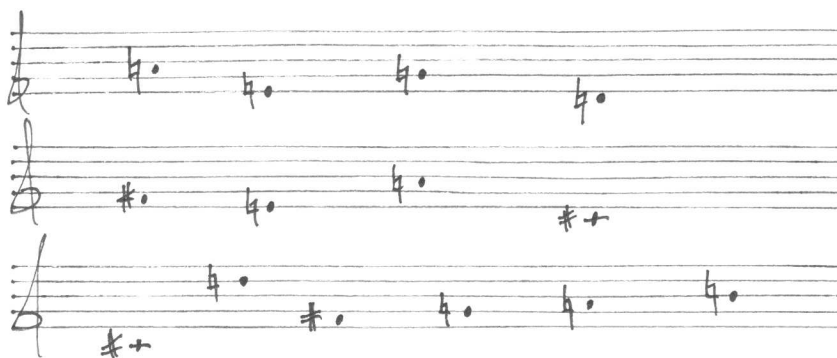
1.



2.

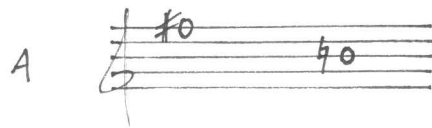


3.

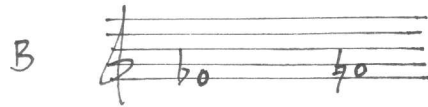


This page - 1 hour

"Entry into the Dark
We cannot see
Learn to trust
Enter the mysteries"



or



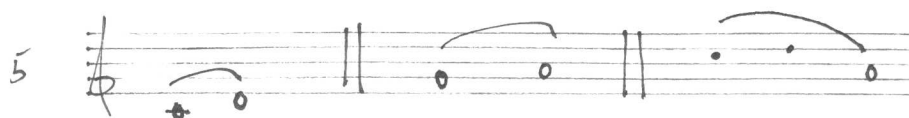
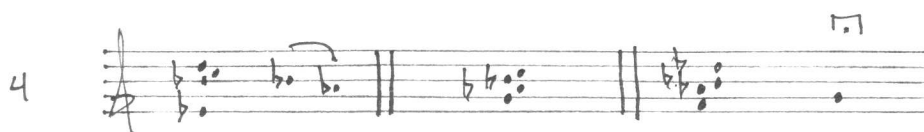
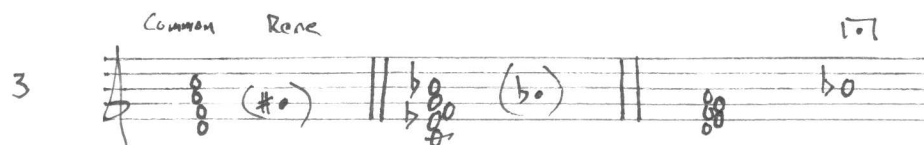
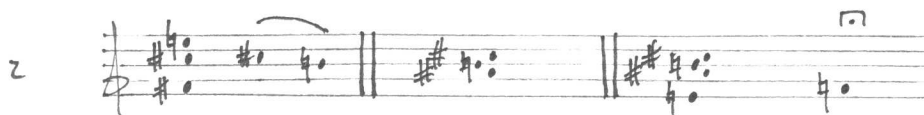
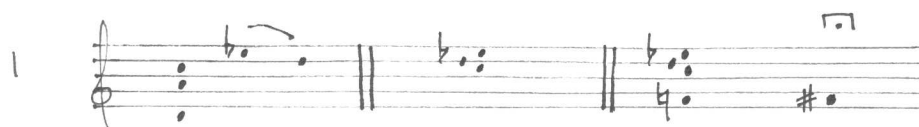
[time - silence]

[3 tones]

Repeat (x9)

this page - 1 hour

"Sometimes it's good to
fall into emptiness"
- Jones Melles



this page - 1 hour
End of Terce
Beginning of Sext
Noon

3 Psalms
20 minutes each

1.

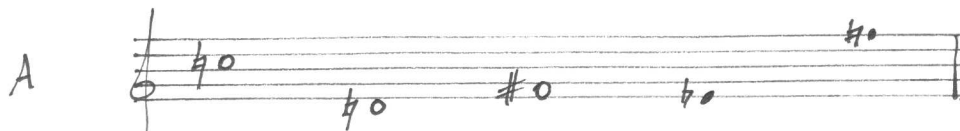
Handwritten musical notation for Psalm 1, consisting of three staves. The first staff has four quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, and A4. The second staff has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G4. The third staff has four quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, and A4.

2.

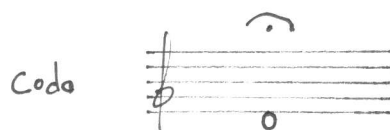
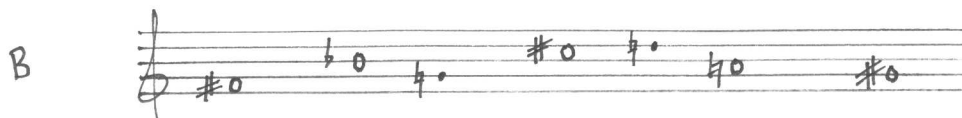
Handwritten musical notation for Psalm 2, consisting of three staves. The first staff has a quarter rest followed by three quarter notes: G4, A4, and B4. The second staff has four quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, and A4. The third staff has four quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, and A4, followed by a circled quarter rest.

3.

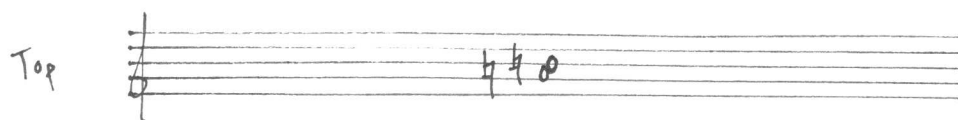
Handwritten musical notation for Psalm 3, consisting of three staves. The first staff has five quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, A4, and G4. The second staff has four quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, and A4. The third staff has four quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, and A4, followed by a quarter note G4.



The first tone of A, and then all of B or C, and then D. Then the second tone of A, and then all of B or C, and then D. Etc. repeat process until the end of A. You may begin B or C on any tone, but play all tones before moving to D. Pause between movements.



3 layers: Top (1) is always the same 2 things
 Middle (2) slow gestures and then silence
 Bottom (3) very quietly connects the silences.] someone signals the progression



Middle Bottom

this page - 1 hour
 End of Sext
 Beginning of None
 3pm

3 Psalms
20 minutes each

1.

Handwritten musical notation for Psalm 1, consisting of three staves. The first staff has a treble clef and contains a half note G4, a whole rest, a half note A4, and a half note G4. The second staff has a treble clef and contains a half note F#4, a half note E4, a half note D4, and a half note C4. The third staff has a treble clef and contains a half note B3, a half note A3, a half note G3, and a half note F#3.

2.

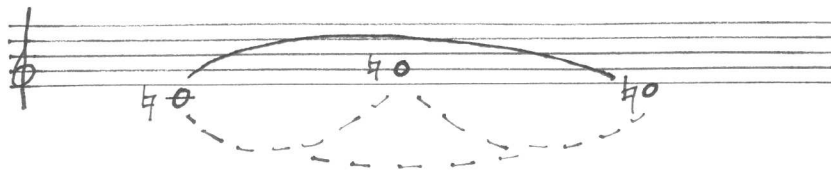
Handwritten musical notation for Psalm 2, consisting of three staves. The first staff has a treble clef and contains a half note G4, a half note F#4, a half note E4, and a half note D4. The second staff has a treble clef and contains a half note C4, a half note B3, a half note A3, and a half note G3. The third staff has a treble clef and contains a half note F#3, a half note E3, a half note D3, and a half note C3.

3.

Handwritten musical notation for Psalm 3, consisting of three staves. The first staff has a treble clef and contains a half note G4, a half note F#4, and a half note E4. The second staff has a treble clef and contains a half note D4, a half note C4, and a half note B3. The third staff has a treble clef and contains a half note A3, a half note G3, and a half note F#3.

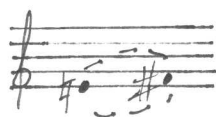
Investigation, imagination, trust, a thing of wonder
 Searching again and again.

Common
Tones



6:5:14

Rare
Tones

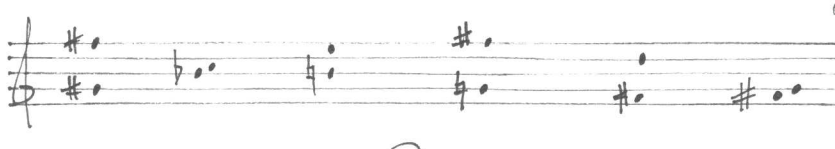


4:3

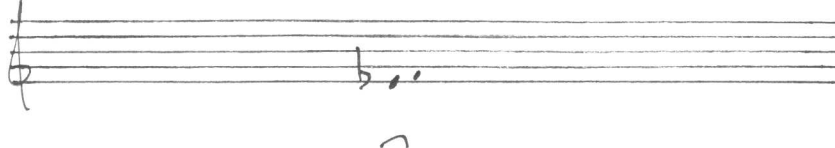
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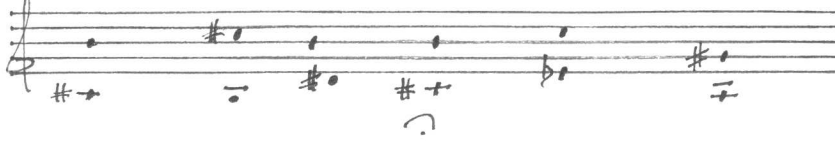
this page - 1 hour

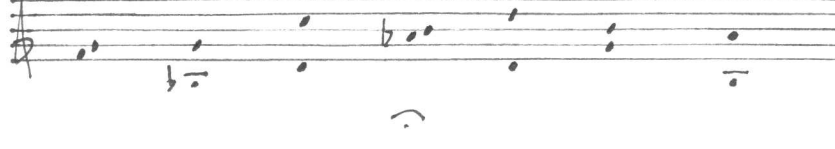
Duet: Bass voice plays a tone
then High voice harmonizes it
And then Silence for some time
1 - 2 - 0

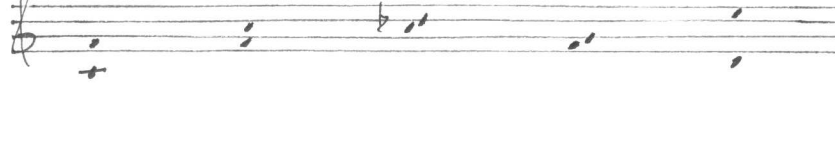
1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

6. 

This page - I have
End of None
Beginny of Vespers
6pm

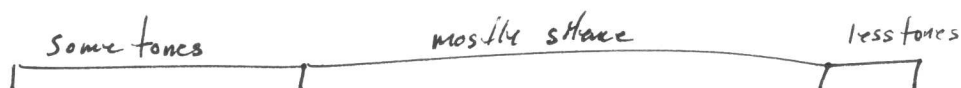
For one hour - A style player - Alan

"The focus of emptiness and silence
I feel

is absolutely connected
to the idea of solo music.

Today... I would say
that the content of the solo
is the void"

- Antoine Beuger

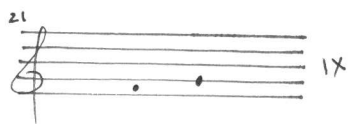
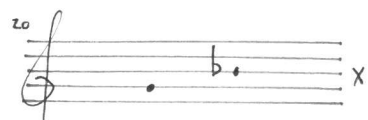
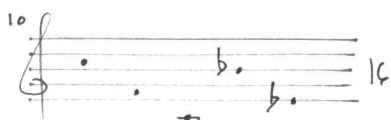
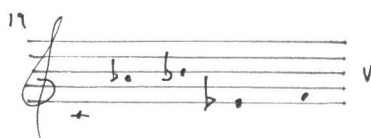
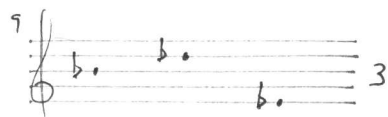
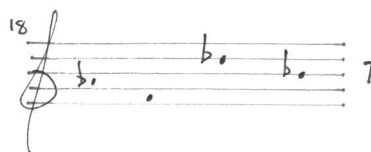
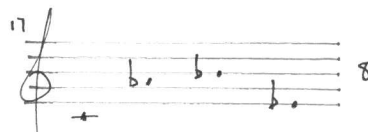
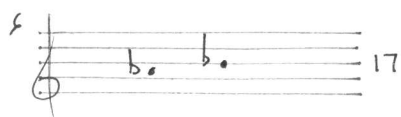
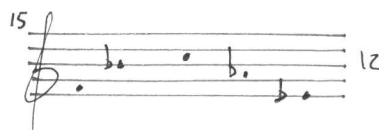
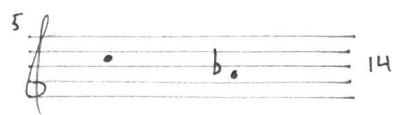
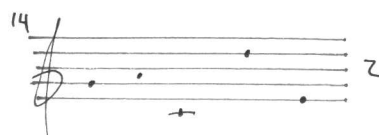
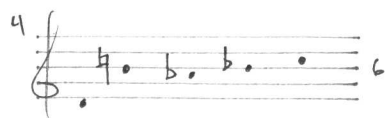
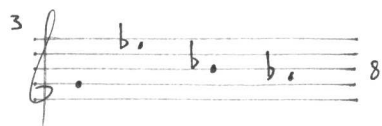
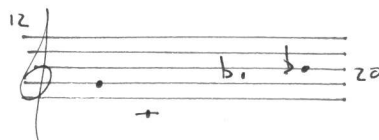
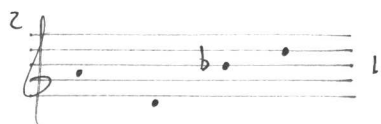
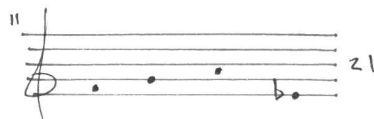


End of vespers.
Beginning of Compline
7pm

In some way
it is the act of dropping

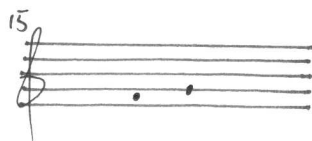
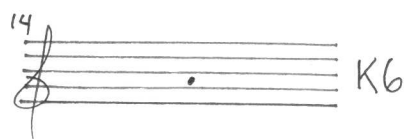
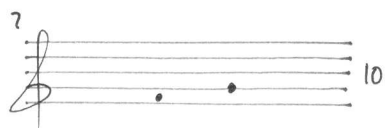
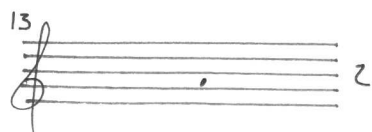
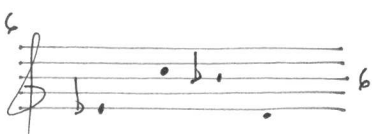
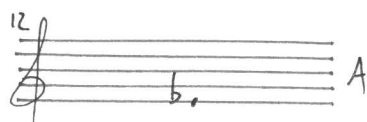
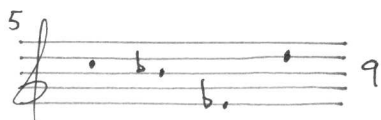
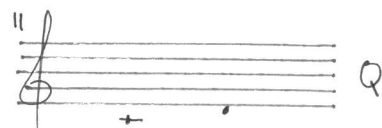
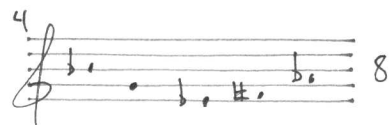
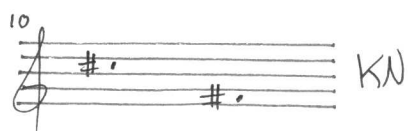
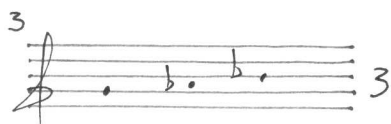
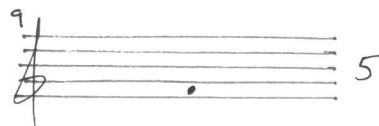
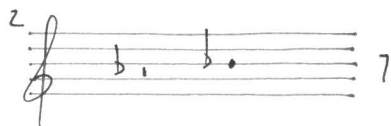
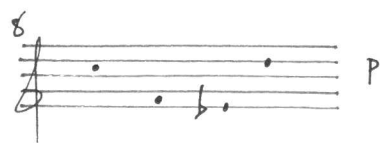
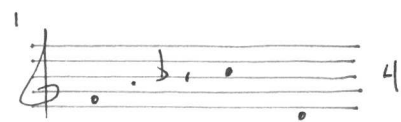
Each page is 1 hour - At your own speed but
consistent from system to system.

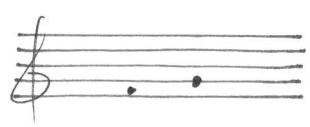
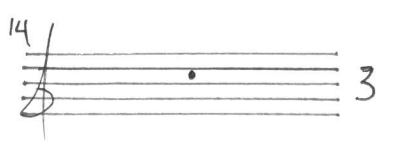
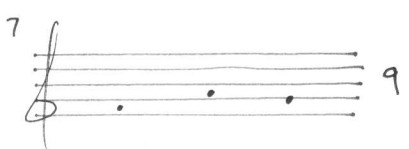
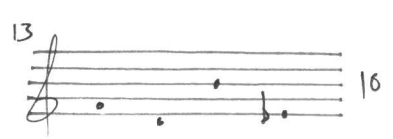
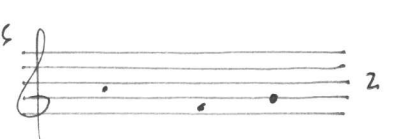
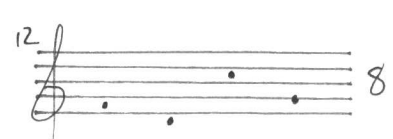
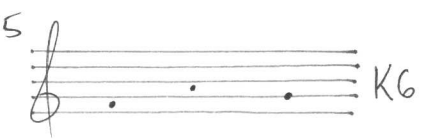
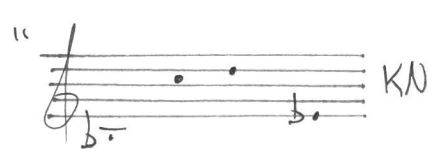
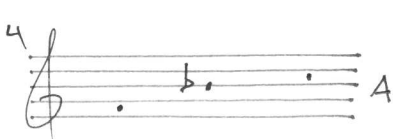
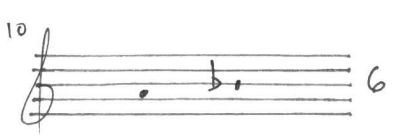
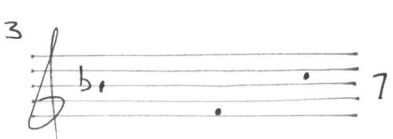
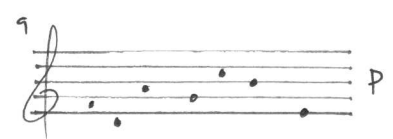
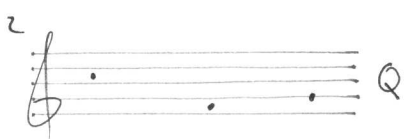
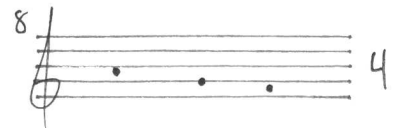
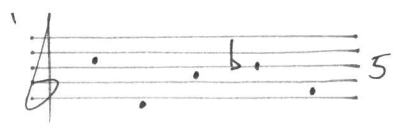
These pages - in any order. Do not repeat
Everyone starts on their own page
Pitches in any order and octave.



VIII - Compline 7pm 5 hours

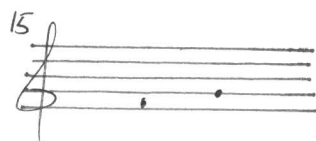
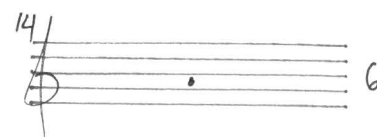
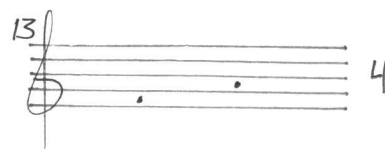
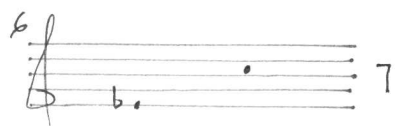
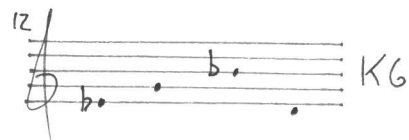
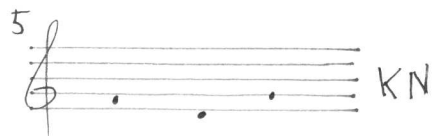
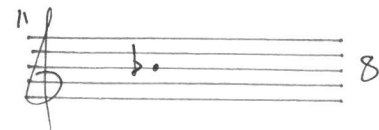
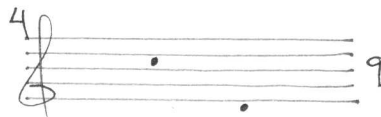
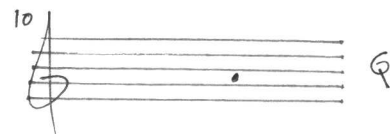
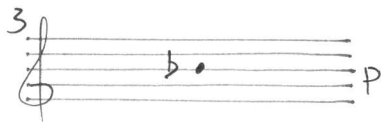
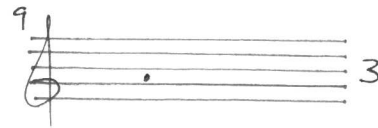
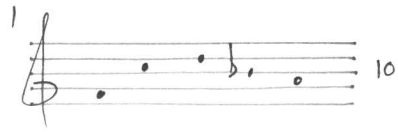
21/22/23/24/25

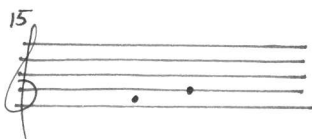
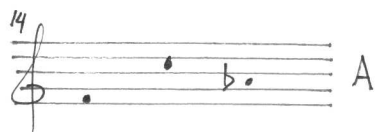
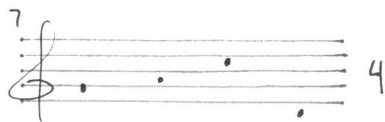
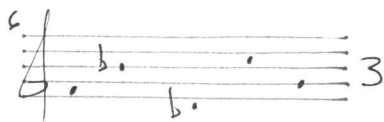
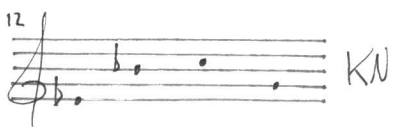
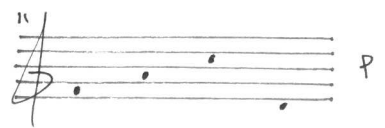
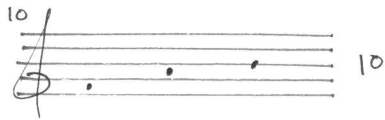
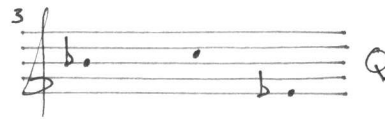
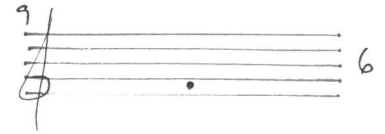
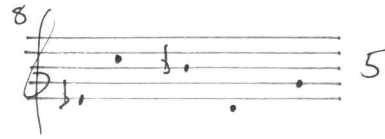




VII - Compline 7pm 5 hours

21/22/23/24/25

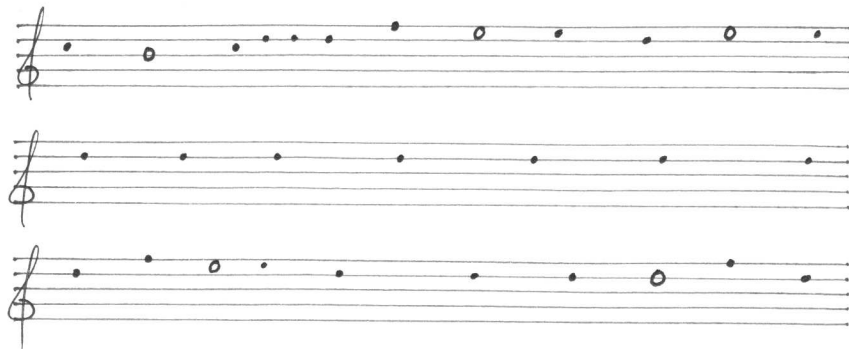




IX - Midnight - Midnight - 2 hours

5 minutes before Midnight until
5 minutes after Midnight, ring
Bells.

Part 1: Chant - About 20 minutes
Play pitches, slowly, in order
Then, choosing pitches ad lib

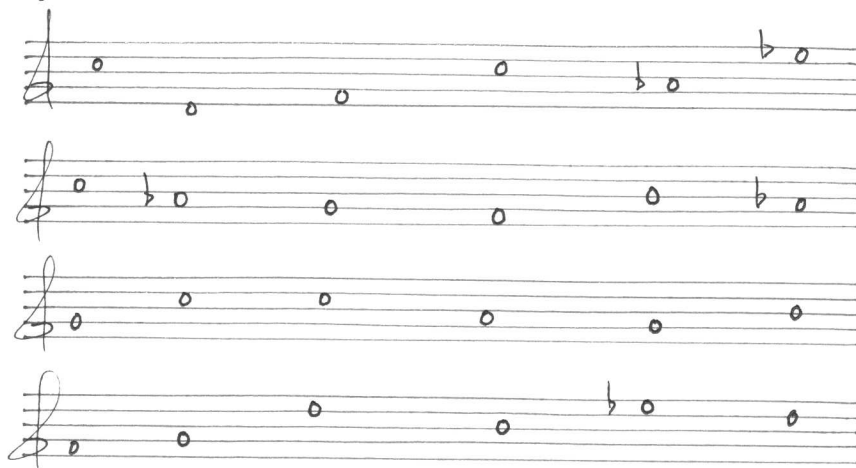


Part 2: Grids - about 20 minutes each

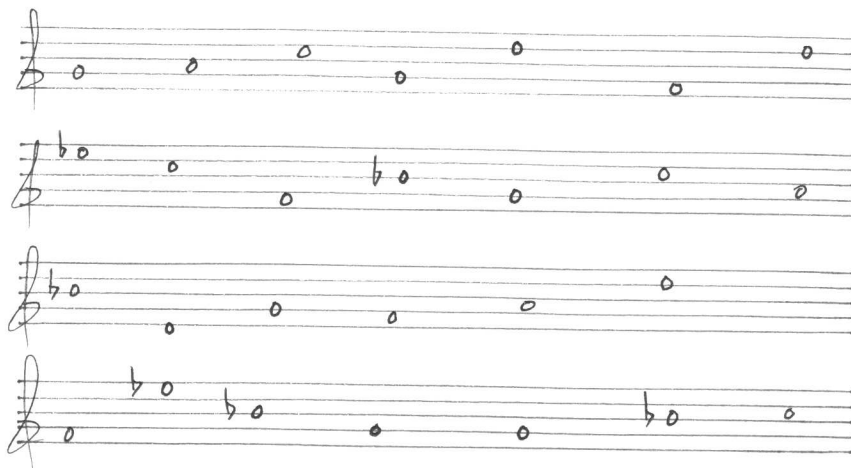
Each player plays every grid in any order

Choose a pitch, move up or down, left to right or vice versa - create paths through the grid.

1: Long tones with short pauses



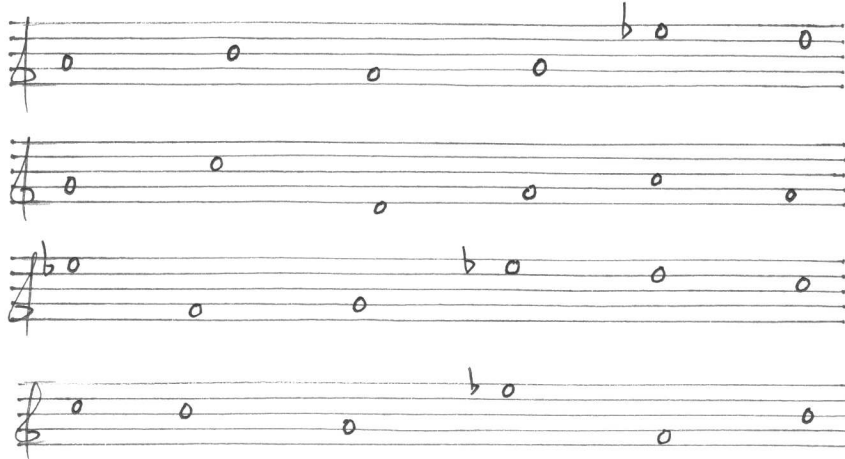
2: Long tones with long pauses



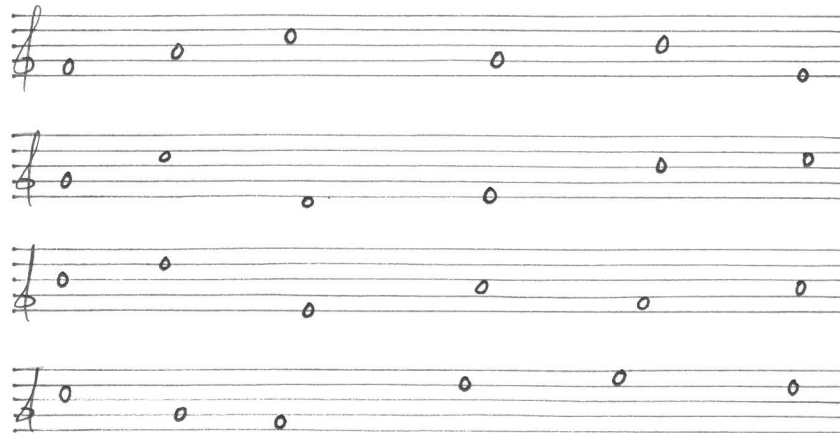
This page - about an hour

IX - Midnight - Midnight - 2 hours

3: Short tones with long pauses



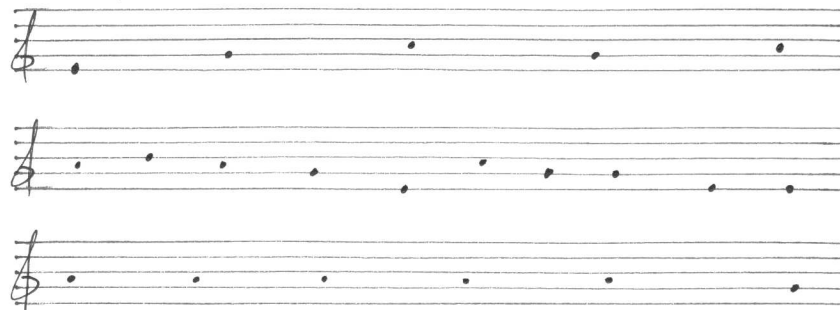
4: Short gestures, fragments of chants/melodies, very long pauses between them



Part 3: chant - about 20 minutes

Play pitches, slowly, in order

Then, chaotic pitches ad lib



This page - about 1 hour - end of midnight, Beginning of Motus