

UNTER DEN LIDERN

Montage for off-stage amplified violin, viola, cello & bass with audio playback, light & video

by Niels Roensholdt

**Created specifically for the Plenarsaal at Akademie der Künste, Pariser Platz, Berlin
Commissioned by AdK to Kammerensemble Neue Musik Berlin**

Score 2007

Duration ca. 10'

INSTRUMENTS

The amplified violin, viola, cello and bass are placed outside the concert hall behind the back wall of glass. 3-4 (depending on size) large spotlights / floodlights are placed on the floor behind the musicians. Whenever these lights are turned on the amplification is off, thus the music is inaudible to the audience inside the concert hall: This music is merely to be regarded as a sort of choreography; fluttering silhouettes and giant shadows. It is important to consider this difference between the strongly amplified, very delicate PP-music and the 'silhouette coreography' of the ff-sections when rehearsing.



The flageolet notation does in this piece only refer to the position on the string and the light finger stop. It does not mean that a specific harmonic is called for. Whenever flageolet notation is used, the strings should be damped as much as possible with the left hand. Furthermore, it is advisable to use a bow with very little rosin on it, in order to create the intended 'dusty' / dry, pitchless sound.



Move the bow rapidly in the air (down / up)



'Jété' lengthwise (move the bow from *pont.* to *tasto* while it bounces on the string(s) - without bowing in the ordinary direction.



Let the bow bounce on the string without moving the bow.



On-beat grace note



Before-beat grace note



Repeat the same note(s)



Rub the string(s) as fast as possible back and forth lengthwise with the finger(s).



Tremolo as fast as possible

AMPLIFICATION & AUDIO PLAYBACK

All four string instruments are amplified. The amplification is turned on/off according to the score.

The stereo audio playback consists of three different 'ambients' (**AMB1**, **AMB2**, **AMB3**). They each vary throughout the piece. Few elements (whispering and breathing) which are timed with the live actions are played back manually from a computer.

Short descriptions:

AMB1: Very soft filtered pink noise chord, occasional text reading (very fast whispering (female voice)), breathing, sounds from moving lips, fluttering moth sounds, manipulated sounds of heavy doors slamming, female humming etc.

AMB2: Simulated (magnified) sounds of a fluorescent tube (high synthetic sounds, 'blinks' - *pp*)

AMB3: Very low sine tone chord (*pp*), simulation and recordings of large ventilation systems.

VISUALS [light & video]

LIGHT

The amplified violin, viola, cello and bass are placed outside the concert hall behind the back wall of glass. 3-4 (depending on size) large spotlights / floodlights are placed on the floor behind the musicians. The light must be controllable from inside the hall (light table) and is turned on/off according to the score

VIDEO

The video projection consists of three different movie files (all black and white) played back manually according to the score.

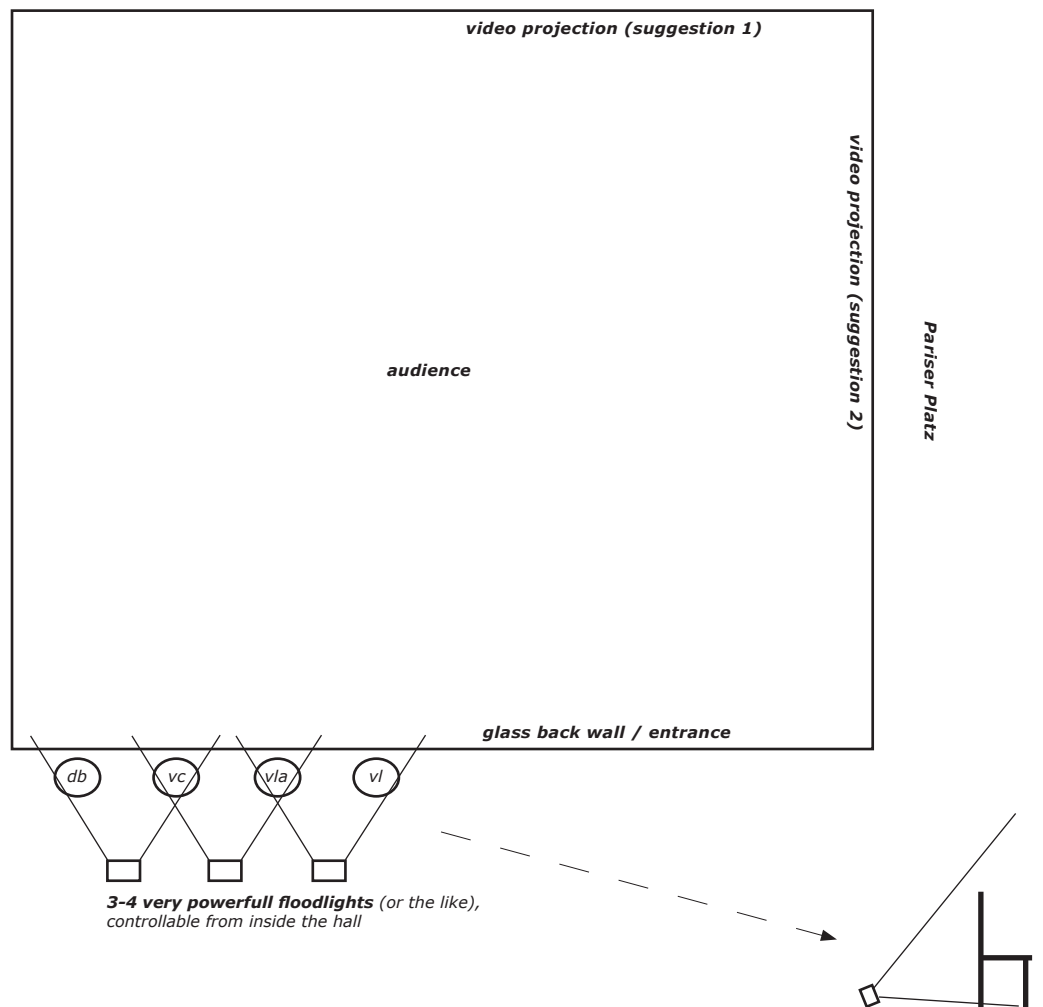
Short descriptions:

VID1: Female eyes close-up. Very fast play-back speed. Inverted black/white.

VID1: Female eyes close-up. Natural tempo, black/white (not inverted). The eyes closing is the cue for lights ON, which is the cue for string quartet (amplification off).

VID1: Painted hands, fluttering very fast like a trapped moth. Manipulated movie file.

Set-up draft
Plenarsaal, Akademie der Künste, Berlin



$\text{♩} = 60$

video VID1
lights ON
amplification OFF
playback AMB1 → AMB2 →

inhalation: ↑
f

$\text{♩} = 60$

vi
ff full bow
3:2
(n)
|| 4/8

via
ff full bow
3
|| 4/8

vc
ff full bow
|| 4/8

db
mf (molto)
|| 4/8

mf (molto)

video

lights

amplification **ON** →

playback **(AMB2)** →

vi

'rub'

pp

PPP

f.n.

vla

ppp

vc

pp

3:2

db

p

video

lights

amplification (ON) →

playback (AMB2) →

vi

vla

vc

db

[bounce]

PPP

(sim.)

arco

PPP

video

lights ON

amplification (ON) ON

playback (AMB2) AMB1

vi

vla

vc

db

(poco)

(poco)

(poco)

[Breathing]

f

ff full bow

ff full bow

ff full bow

pp (legato)

video

lights ON

amplification (ON)

playback (AMB1)

vi

vla (sim.)

vc

db

ff

pp

mf

3:2

II V (b4)

III V (b4)

II V (b4)

video

lights ON

amplification ON

playback (AMB1)

vi

Handwritten musical notation for violin (vi) in treble clef. It begins with a sharp sign (#) and a few notes, followed by rests. The time signature changes from 4/8 to 3/8 and back to 4/8.

vla

Handwritten musical notation for viola (vla) in treble clef. It features a complex rhythmic pattern with a 3:2 ratio, followed by notes with Roman numerals (II, V, III, II, V) and various accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals). Dynamics include *pp* and *p*.

vc

Handwritten musical notation for violoncello (vc) in bass clef. It starts with a sharp sign (#) and a few notes, followed by rests. The time signature changes from 4/8 to 3/8 and back to 4/8.

db

Handwritten musical notation for double bass (db) in bass clef. It includes a dynamic marking *mf* and a section with notes marked with downward arrows and a dynamic marking *ppp*. A handwritten instruction reads: "Tap lightly on the body of the instrument w. a finger".

video

lights ON ————— |

amplification (ON) ————— | ON ————— →

playback (AMBI) ————— →

vi

vla

vc

db

(Poco)

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a string quartet (violin I, viola, violin II, double bass) and includes technical directions for video, lights, amplification, and playback. The music is in 2/8 and 5/8 time signatures. The violin I part features a complex rhythmic pattern with a 3:2 ratio. The viola part has a melodic line with various ornaments and a *pp* dynamic marking. The violin II part includes a triplet and a *f* dynamic marking. The double bass part has a steady rhythmic accompaniment with a *f* dynamic marking and a *Poco* tempo instruction.

video

lights

amplification

playback

ON

(ON)

ON

(AMB1)

vi

vla

vc

db

3

ff

3:Z

pp

(b₂)

(slow)

(b₂)

(b₂)

3:Z

ff

f

f

ff

video

lights

amplification

playback

ON

(ON)

ON

(AMB1)

vi

via

vc

db

video

lights

amplification (ON) →

playback (AMB1) →

vi

vla

vc

db

PPP

III →

video

lights ON

amplification (ON) ON

playback (AMB1)

vi

Handwritten musical notation for violin (vi). It begins with a treble clef and a 3/8 time signature. The first measure contains a few notes. The second measure is a whole rest. The third measure changes to a 4/8 time signature and features a series of notes with a forte (*ff*) dynamic marking. The fourth measure contains a triplet of notes. The fifth measure contains a quintuplet of notes. The sixth measure contains a 3:2 ratio marking. The seventh measure is a whole rest. The eighth measure changes to a 2/8 time signature and contains a whole note. The piece ends with a double bar line.

vla

Handwritten musical notation for viola (vla). It begins with a treble clef and a 3/8 time signature. The first measure contains a few notes. The second measure is a whole rest. The third measure changes to a 4/8 time signature and features a series of notes with a forte (*ff*) dynamic marking and a 3:2 ratio marking. The fourth measure contains a few notes with a flat key signature. The fifth measure contains a few notes with a 6:4 ratio marking. The sixth measure contains a few notes with a flat key signature. The seventh measure is a whole rest. The eighth measure changes to a 2/8 time signature and contains a whole note. The piece ends with a double bar line.

vc

Handwritten musical notation for violoncello (vc). It begins with a treble clef and a 3/8 time signature. The first measure contains a few notes. The second measure is a whole rest. The third measure changes to a 4/8 time signature and features a series of notes with a forte (*ff*) dynamic marking. The fourth measure contains a few notes. The fifth measure contains a few notes. The sixth measure contains a few notes. The seventh measure contains a few notes with a 3:2 ratio marking. The eighth measure is a whole rest. The ninth measure changes to a 2/8 time signature and contains a whole note. The piece ends with a double bar line.

db

poco rit. . . . A tpo

Handwritten musical notation for double bass (db). It begins with a bass clef and a 3/8 time signature. The first measure contains a series of notes with a 3:2 ratio marking. The second measure contains a series of notes with a 3/8 time signature. The third measure is a whole rest. The fourth measure contains a few notes with a forte (*ff*) dynamic marking and a 3:2 ratio marking. The fifth measure contains a few notes with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking. The sixth measure contains a few notes with a forte (*ff*) dynamic marking. The seventh measure contains a few notes with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking. The eighth measure contains a few notes with a 3:2 ratio marking. The ninth measure is a whole rest. The tenth measure changes to a 2/8 time signature and contains a whole note. The piece ends with a double bar line.

video VID2 →
 (fades in)
 eyes open (o)

lights

amplification (ON) →

playback AMB2 → AMB3 →

vi

pp

(arco)

vla

pp

6

6

3

vc

pp

III

db

H

arco

pp

tap on bass body (two fingers)

video (VIDZ) →

lights →

amplification (ON) →

playback (AMB3) →

vi

espr.

PPP

via

pizz., sul pont.

P secco poss.

vc

pizz., sul pont.

P secco poss.

db

video

lights

amplification (ON)

playback (AMB3)

vi

Musical notation for the violin part, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piece is in 6/8 time. The notation includes a series of eighth notes with slurs, some marked with a 'V' and others with '(sin)'. There are also some dynamic markings like 'mf' and 'f'. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

vla

Musical notation for the viola part, featuring a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation consists of a series of quarter notes with stems pointing down, some with slurs. There are some dynamic markings like 'H' and 'mf'. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

vc

Musical notation for the cello part, featuring a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes a series of eighth notes with stems pointing up, some with slurs and some with circled numbers (1, 2, 3). There are some dynamic markings like 'H' and 'mf'. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

db

Musical notation for the double bass part, featuring a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation consists of a series of quarter notes with stems pointing up, some with slurs. There are some dynamic markings like 'H'. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

video VID3
 follows string : amplitude

lights

amplification (ON)

playback (AMB3)

vi

[molto vibrato sempre]
PPP (poco)

vla

[molto vibrato sempre]
PPP (poco)

vc

[molto vibrato]
PPP (poco)

db

video (VIP3) _____

lights _____

amplification (ON) _____

playback _____ AMBZ _____

vi

Handwritten musical notation for Violin I (vi). The staff begins with a treble clef and a 7/8 time signature. It features several measures with notes, including a first measure with a 'v' and a dot above it. A slur covers measures 2-4, with 'part.' written above the notes in measures 3 and 4. A '8va' marking with an arrow points to a note in measure 4. Measure 5 has a 'pp' dynamic marking. Measure 6 has a '3' above it. Measure 7 has a '3' above it. Measure 8 has a '6' below it and a 'u' above it with a dotted line.

vla

Handwritten musical notation for Violin II (vla). The staff begins with a treble clef and a 7/8 time signature. It features several measures with notes, including a first measure with a 'v' and a dot above it. A slur covers measures 2-4, with 'u' above the notes in measures 3 and 4. Measure 5 has a 'pp' dynamic marking and a '6' below it. Measure 6 has a '6' below it. Measure 7 has a '3' above it. Measure 8 has a '3' above it and a 'u' above it with a dotted line.

vc

Handwritten musical notation for Violoncello (vc). The staff begins with a treble clef and a 7/8 time signature. It features several measures with notes, including a first measure with a 'v' and a dot above it. Measure 5 has a 'pp' dynamic marking. Measure 6 has a '3' above it. Measure 7 has a '3' above it. Measure 8 has a '3' above it.

db

Handwritten musical notation for Double Bass (db). The staff begins with a bass clef and a 7/8 time signature. It features several measures with notes, including a first measure with a 'v' and a dot above it. Measure 5 has a 'ppp' dynamic marking. Measure 6 has 'arco' written above it. Measure 7 has a '3' above it. Measure 8 has a '(I)' above it and '[bounce]' above it with a dotted line.

video VID1 VID1

lights ON ON

amplification (ON)

playback (AMB2) AMB1

↑
f

vi U U 3:2 # ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑

vla 3 # 3:2

vc (poco) # # 2

db (sim.) 3 # (IV) #

f < >

video VID1 _____ vib 1 _____ VID1 _____

lights ON _____ ON _____ ON _____

amplification _____

playback (AMB1) _____

vi

vla

vc

db

The musical score consists of four staves for string instruments: violin I (vi), viola (vla), violin C (vc), and double bass (db). The score is written in treble clef for the upper parts and bass clef for the double bass. It features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth-note runs. Performance markings include bowing directions (up and down bows), breath marks (v), and dynamic markings. Rehearsal marks are present, with '3:2' indicating specific rhythmic or phrasing points. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines, with some measures containing rests.

video VID1

lights ON

amplification

playback (AMB1)

vi

vla

vc

db

The score is a handwritten musical score for a video production. It consists of several staves:

- video:** Three segments labeled "VID1" with horizontal lines indicating their duration.
- lights:** Three segments labeled "ON" with horizontal lines indicating their duration.
- amplification:** A blank staff.
- playback:** A staff labeled "(AMB1)".
- vi (Violin):** A staff with musical notation, including a 17-measure phrase, a triplet, and a 6-measure phrase.
- vla (Viola):** A staff with musical notation, including a 3:2 ratio, a triplet, and a 6-measure phrase.
- vc (Violin):** A staff with musical notation, including a 3-measure phrase, a 3:2 ratio, and a 5-measure phrase.
- db (Double Bass):** A staff with musical notation, including a 3-measure phrase, a 3:2 ratio, and a 5-measure phrase.

video (VID2) → + o → + o → + o

lights

amplification (ON)

playback (AMB3)

vi

vla

vc

db

video (VID2) → + 0 → + 0

lights

amplification (ON)

playback (AMB3)

vi

Musical notation for violin (vi) in treble clef. The staff contains a sequence of notes with stems pointing up and down, indicating a melodic line. There are several accidentals (sharps and flats) and dynamic markings (accents) throughout the piece.

vla

Musical notation for viola (vla) in treble clef. The staff shows a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with stems pointing up and down. There are two distinct sections of notes, with accidentals and dynamic markings (accents) below the staff.

vc

Musical notation for violoncello (vc) in bass clef. The staff shows a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with stems pointing up and down. There are two distinct sections of notes, with accidentals and dynamic markings (accents) below the staff.

db

Musical notation for double bass (db) in bass clef. The staff shows a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with stems pointing down, indicating a steady bass line.

video (VID2) → +

lights

amplification (ON)

playback (AMB3) → AMB2 - - - - -

vi

vla

vc

db

8

(b₂)

(\cap)

(\ast)

espr.

PPP

PPP

pizz

f

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

Phil K...

07