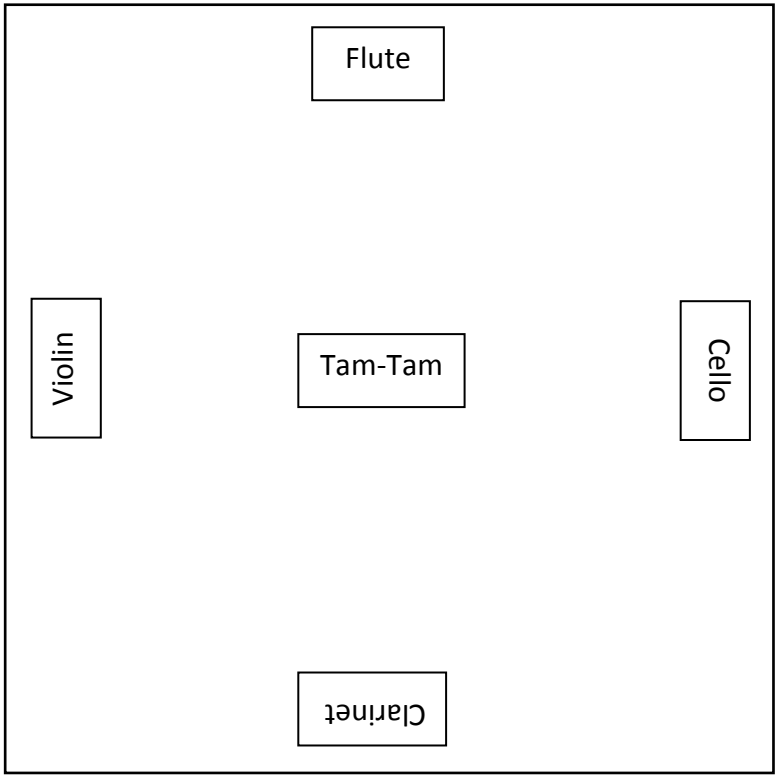
Continuum Sketch (2018)

By Sophie Stone

Duration: 6 minutes

Instrumentation: any flute, any clarinet, violin, cello and tam-tam for four performers

Performance set-up: the performers should sit in a square with the tam-tam in the centre facing the clarinet. The clarinet should be opposite the flute, and the violin opposite the cello (see diagram). The audience can then be immersed within the performance space on the floor or seated behind the clarinet.

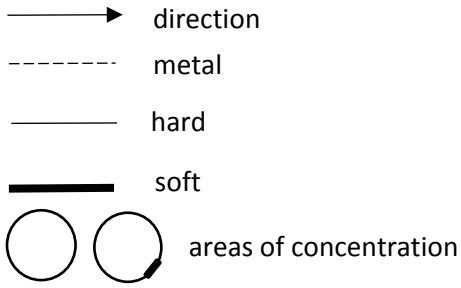


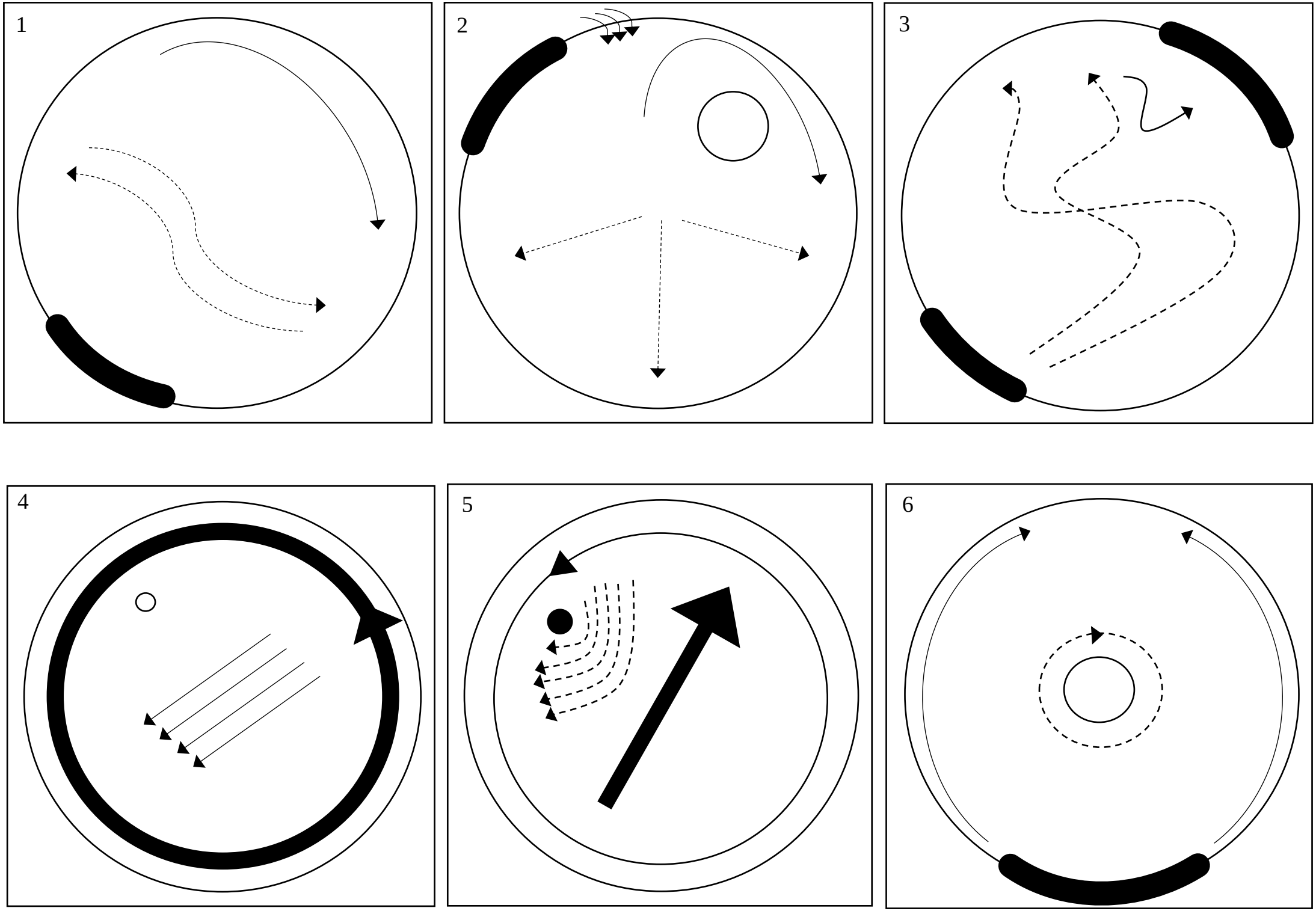
Performance instructions: the performers must each use a stopwatch to start the piece (lead by the flute).

The score gives bracketed timeframes in which certain performers may play. The performers do not have to play for the whole duration of the timeframe and they may pause during the timeframe to then start performing again. Each performer can interpret their instructions in their own way.

When there is a section with more than one sound instruction, the performers can choose to perform as many as they wish (one minimum), in any order and they can be repeated. Performers may use the instrumental technique fully, intermittently, or not at all.

Tam-Tam: only one performer can use the tam-tam at one time. Each instruction for the tam-tam has its own graphic score which is interpreted by the performer. If a performer has an instruction for the tam-tam and their instrument, they may choose to perform both instructions, or one. The graphic score includes different lines for metal, hard and soft mallets. These can include traditional mallets or other objects, e.g. knitting needles and paint brushes.




1
2
3
4
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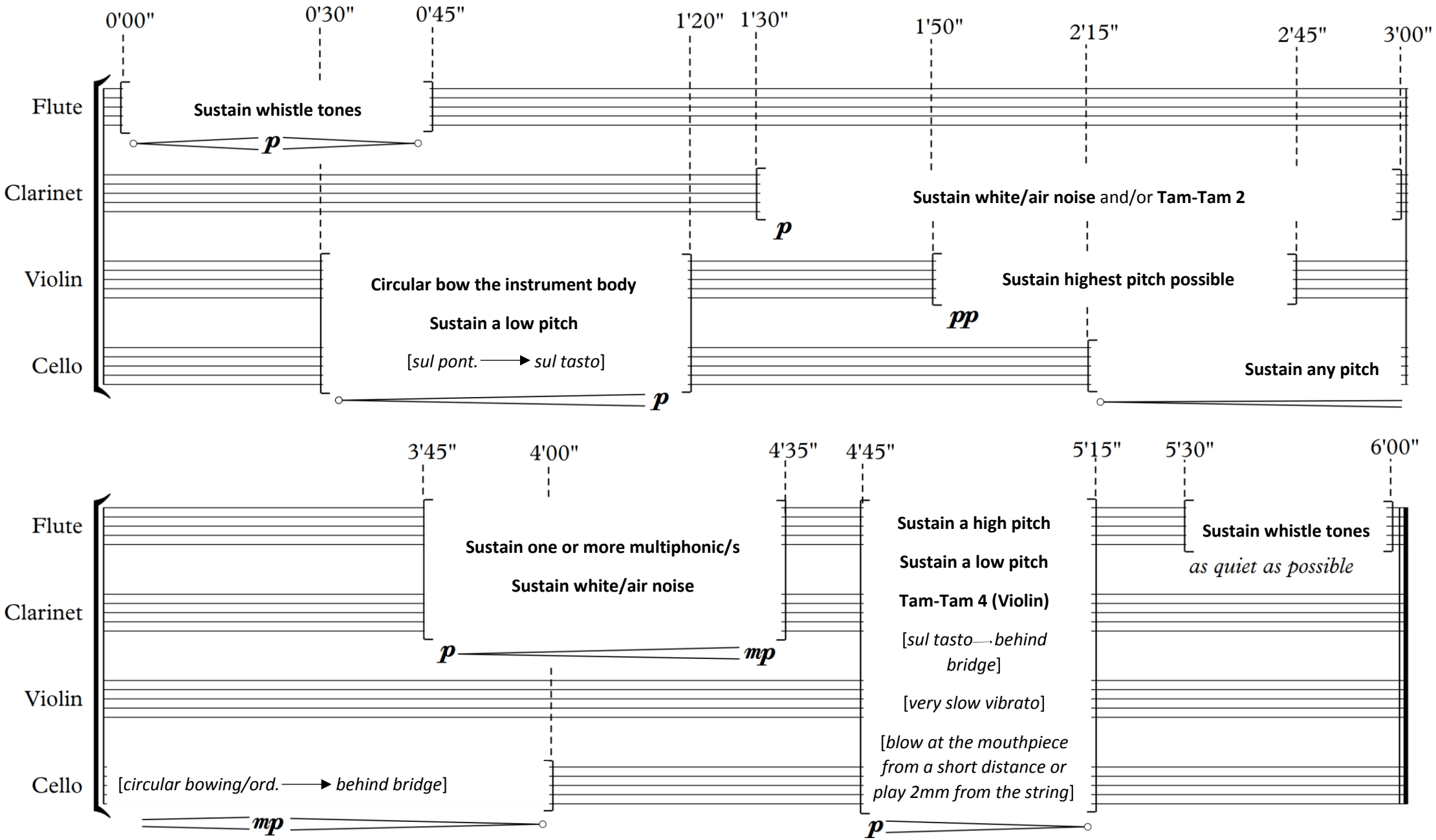
0'00"
0'30"
0'45"
1'20"
1'30"
1'50"
2'15"
2'45"
3'00"
Flute
Clarinet
Violin
Cello
Sustain whistle tones
p
Sustain white/air noise and/or Tam-Tam 2
p
Circular bow the instrument body
Sustain a low pitch
[sul pont. → sul tasto]
p
Sustain highest pitch possible
pp
Sustain any pitch
3'45"
4'00"
4'35"
4'45"
5'15"
5'30"
6'00"
Sustain one or more multiphonic/s
Sustain white/air noise
p
mp
Sustain a high pitch
Sustain a low pitch
Tam-Tam 4 (Violin)
[sul tasto → behind bridge]
[very slow vibrato]
[blow at the mouthpiece from a short distance or play 2mm from the string]
p
Sustain whistle tones
as quiet as possible
[circular bowing/ord. → behind bridge]
mp