

Joseph Klein

Recombinant

(2019)

for clarinet, violin, and piano

To my friends in TrioPolis

duration: c.9:30

Symbols

	accelerando (duration indicated)		rapid upward/downward arpeggio
	ritardando (duration indicated)	<i>bisb.</i> 	clarinet: bisbigliando (uneven and sporadic timbral trill)
	fermata continuum (shortest to longest)		clarinet: multiphonic (see note below)
, ,	very short/short break in sound (in tempo)		clarinet: fluttertongue
	let the sound ring	+	clarinet: slap tongue; piano: muted string (see note below)
	unidirectional glissando		violin: snap pizzicato
	contoured glissando (quasi Sprechstimme)		piano: silently depress keys
	tremolo accelerando/ritardando		piano: pluck string with fingernail
			piano: harmonic (sounding 8va above struck pitch)

Performance Notes

Clarinet: The multiphonic within the Pointed sections may be chosen by the performer, with the following conditions: (a) the pitch spectrum should be primarily mid-range; (b) it must have a fairly high noise component; (c) it must be reliable to play and of consistent quality. The slap tongue should be short and percussive; clarinetists who cannot perform this technique may use an alternative technique that results in a percussive articulation.

Piano: A ball of putty (approximately the size of a raspberry or hazelnut) should be used to prepare the A♭2 strings prior to the start of the piece; alternately, a small rubber eraser with grooves cut into it may be used for this purpose. The putty/eraser should be pushed firmly into the strings near the pin block so that the resulting sound is muted, similar to pressing the strings firmly with the fingertips.

Violin: The col legno tratto gesture that first appears in m. 12 and recurs throughout the piece should consist primarily of friction sound with very diffuse pitch content. However, in order to adequately project the sound in some situations, it may be necessary to rotate the bow slightly so that the bow hair lightly activates the strings. In the bowed tremolo double stop that first appears in m. 96 and recurs throughout the piece, the half-step portamento occurs only on the stopped A string while the E string remains open.

The Hastening/Pointed passages in mm. 15-26 should sound like “false starts” to the more extended section beginning in m. 27; while the performers should not respond in an overtly theatrical manner, their playing should seem somewhat tentative with each start, becoming more resolute at m. 27.

All of the composite gestures within the Suspended sections should be organically unified, as if being played by a single instrument. There should be minimal movement throughout these sections—particularly in mm. 105-113

and 129-163—with the clarinetist and violinist remaining as motionless as possible during the silences. Any movement (e.g., shifting positions/fingerings or bow placement) should occur within the sounding measures whenever possible, rather than during the measures of rest. Because the pianist will need to shift positions in order to play inside the piano, all physical motions for the pianist should be as slow and subtle as possible. During the Suspended sections, it is suggested that the pianist play in a standing position, with one foot on the sostenuto pedal (sustaining the C#4 and Bb5 strings) and the left hand inside the piano. The middle finger of the left hand may remain on the second partial node of the C#4 string throughout, while the right hand may be used to pluck the Bb5 string (also inside the piano), as well as striking the C#4 and Ab2 keys on the keyboard.

Program Note

re•com•bi•nant /rē-kōm'bə-nənt/ *adj.*

Relating to or denoting an entity (e.g., gene, protein, cell, individual) produced by the combination of genetic material from multiple sources, resulting in sequences that would not otherwise be found in nature.

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In recent years, I have become intrigued by the idea of modularity, non-developmental processes, and non-linear forms—and consequently, in the juxtaposition of disparate recurring materials within a given composition, resulting in new ways of experiencing these musical elements. Taking this process a step further, I have begun appropriating and re-examining musical ideas from my own previous works, exploring their latent qualities within alternative musical environments. I have found this process of continuous recontextualization to be a fascinating and fruitful endeavor, as each new context elicits a deeper potential within the given musical materials.

Germinal material from several recent works of mine forms the basis of *Recombinant*: various permutations of the three instruments in the ensemble—individually, in pairs, and as a whole—allow for a variety of combinatorial possibilities in the exploration of these materials.

Recombinant was completed in December 2019 and composed for the members of TrioPolis—Kimberly Cole Luevano, Felix Olschofka, and Anatolia Ioannides—who first performed the work on 14 April 2021 at the University of North Texas.

Recombinant

for clarinet, violin, and piano

Transposed score

Joseph Klein
2019

~ to TrioPolis ~

Convulsive ♩. = 60

Convulsive $\text{d} = 60$

Clarinet in B \flat

Violin

Piano

Silently depress keys

Sost.
A \flat 2 string prepared
with putty

Volatile $\text{♩} = 90$ ($\leftarrow \text{♪} = \text{♪} \rightarrow$)

Suspended $\delta = 40$

Volatile $\downarrow = 90$

Suspended $d = 40$

Volatile $\text{♩} = 90$

Suspended $\text{♩} = 40$

CL: Measures 9-10. Dynamics: *ff*, *poco*. Articulation: *sul tasto*, *coll legno*, *tratto*.

VN: Measures 9-10. Dynamics: *ff*, *poco*.

PF: Measures 9-10. Dynamics: *ff*, *mf*. Articulation: *INSIDE*.

Measure 11: *fzmf*, *ssffz*, *Silently depress key and hold*, *Reo.*

Recombinant

13 *sub tone* 7

Hastening $\text{♩} = 108$

CL *pp* *poco* 2 7 16 3 6 16

VN 7 = 2 *pp* *poco* molto f

PF *mp* 2 5 16 7 3 6 16

Pointed $\text{♩} = 108$

CL 2 5 16 7 3 6 16

VN 2 5 16 7 3 6 16

PF 2 5 16 7 3 6 16

— (R&D) —

becoming tentative...

18

p

becoming tentative...

mp

becoming tentative...

mf

sfz (resolute)

sfz

sfz

sfz

=

24

p

{ becoming tentative...

p

gliss.

place mute

mf

sfz (resolute)

sfz

sfz

sfz

sfz

becoming tentative...

Recombinant

32

CL VN PF

p (furtive)

mute

p (furtive)

sfz

sfz

(sim.)

≡

39

CL VN PF

≡

46

CL VN PF

Suspended $\text{d} = 40$

bis.

poco

emerging out of piano resonance...

pp

molto

mf

ff

8vb

Sost.

Recombinant

Hastening ♩ = 108

CL flt.

n *mp* *n*

sul tasto
coll legno
tratto

f (resolute)

5:4

VN

mp *poco pp*

mute off

f (resolute)

5:3

Pointed $\text{♩} = 108$

PF

sfz

sfz

sfz

(Sost.)

(sim.)



Musical score for Clarinet (CL), Violin (VN), and Piano (PF) at measure 58. The score consists of three staves. The CL staff shows a melodic line with various time signatures (3/8, 2/8, 3/8, 2/8, 3/8, 2/8, 3/8) and dynamic markings like > and >. The VN staff follows a similar pattern with time signatures 5:3, 7:6, 5:4, and 7:6. The PF staff shows harmonic changes with time signatures 7:6, 5:4, 3, and 7:6, indicated by vertical bar lines and different key signatures.



Erratic $\pm 1/\sqrt{n} = 72$

Musical score for Clarinet (CL), Violin (VN), and Piano (PF). The score consists of three staves. The Clarinet (CL) staff starts with a melodic line in 2/8 time, followed by a section in 5:3 time, and ends with a section in 7:6 time. The Violin (VN) staff follows a similar pattern with its own melodic line. The Piano (PF) staff provides harmonic support with sustained notes and rhythmic patterns. Measure numbers 65, 12, and 15 are indicated above the staves. Various performance instructions like 'pizz.' and dynamics like 'sfz sempre' are included.

Recombinant

71

CL *mp* *poco* ("murmur") *(sim.)*

VN

PF *5* *3* *4* *5* *ff* ("shriek")

ff ("shriek")

74

CL *mp* *poco* *5* *5* *ff* *mp* *poco*

VN *sffz* ("pop")

PF *5* *5* *5* *5* *sffz sempre*

5 15 12 15

77

CL *sffz* *5* *4* *5* *ff*

VN *5* *3* *4* *5* *sffz*

PF *15* *12* *15*

Recombinant

80

CL VN PF

5 5 3 5+

sffz sffz

5 = 2 ↓

12 8 12 8



Elusive $\text{♩.} = 72\text{-}80$ (*tempo rubato*)

Erratic $\text{♩/♩.} = 72$ (*in strict tempo*)

83

CL VN PF

5 12 9 12 8

emerging out of piano resonance...

mp p f poco mf poco ff sub.

molto

12 8 9 4 12 8 12 8

sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz

ff 8^{vib} Sost. →



Elusive (*l'istesso, tempo rubato*)

87

CL VN PF

8 12 8 12 8 12 8

bisb. ~~~ ~ ~ ~

mp poco f sub.

m.vib. ♩

12 8 12 8 12 8 12 8

(Sost.)

Recombinant

CL bisb. poco allargando... a tempo
 91 (ord.) → → m.vib. ord.
ff *mf sub.* *poco* *f* *poco* *mp* *molto* *f*
 VN
 PF Silently depress keys
 9 12 9 8
 9 12 9 8
 9 12 9 8
 9 12 9 8
 pp molto f pp
 Sost. →
 ♫
 CL poco rit. a tempo ord.
 95 12 9 8
 mp molto mp > p (sub tone)
 VN sul pont. I II
 mp poco
 PF Slowly lower music desk and stand in place (through m.112).
 12 9 8
 12 9 8
 12 9 8
 12 9 8
 —(Sost.)—→
 ♫
 CL bisb.
 99 poco f sub. p sub. mf mp
 VN
 PF A
 12 9 8
 12 9 8
 12 9 8
 12 9 8
 —(Sost.)—→

Recombinant

Suspended $\text{♩} = 40^*$

104 flt.

CL

VN

PF

108 sub tone

CL

VN

PF

Erratic $\text{♩} / \text{♩} = 72$

113

CL

VN

PF

* Throughout this section, all three players should remain as motionless as possible during the rests.

Recombinant

116

CL

VN

PF

Impulsive $\text{d} = 84\pm$; $\text{d}. = 56\pm$
(*tempo rubato*)

119

CL

VN

PF

(l'istesso, d = 42)

quasi Sprechstimme

sul pont. I

123 (*l'istesso, tempo rubato*)

CL

VN

PF

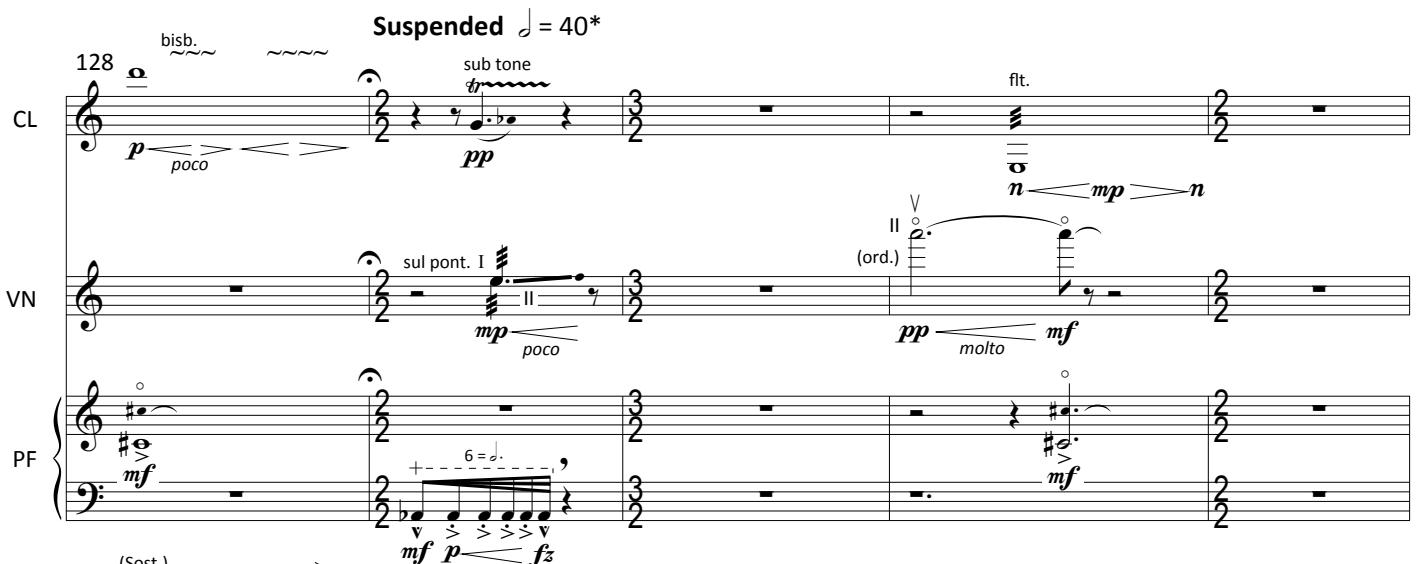
quasi Sprechstimme

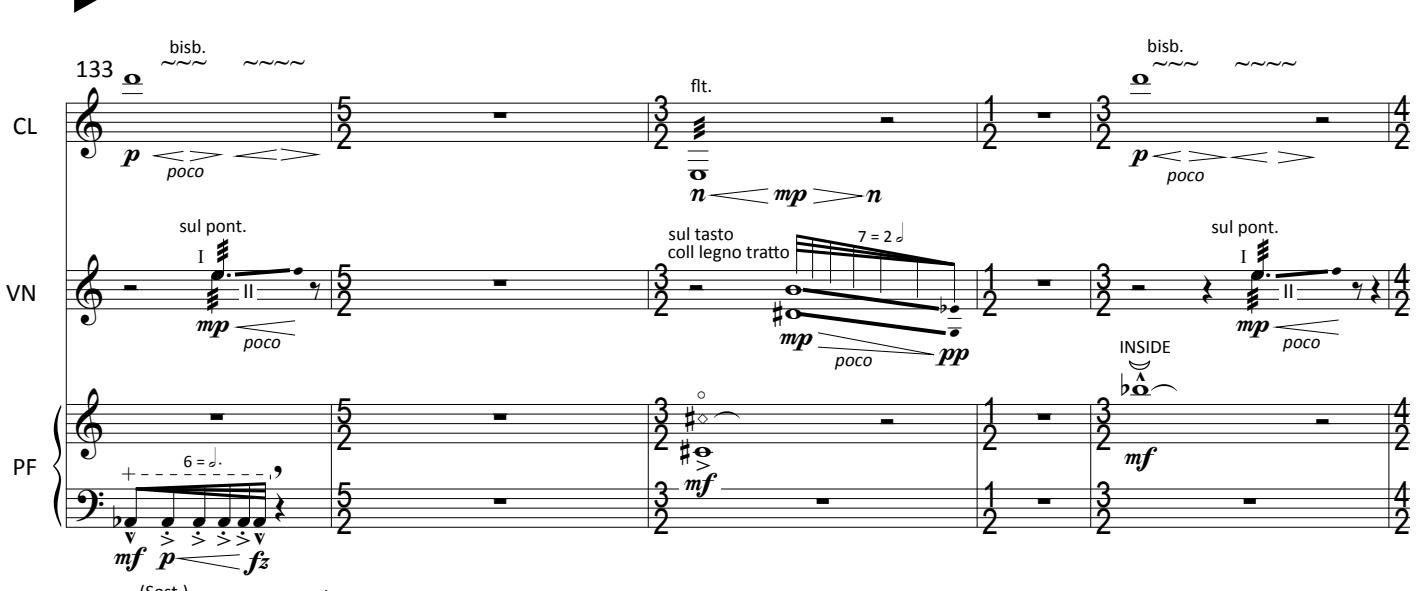
Silently depress keys

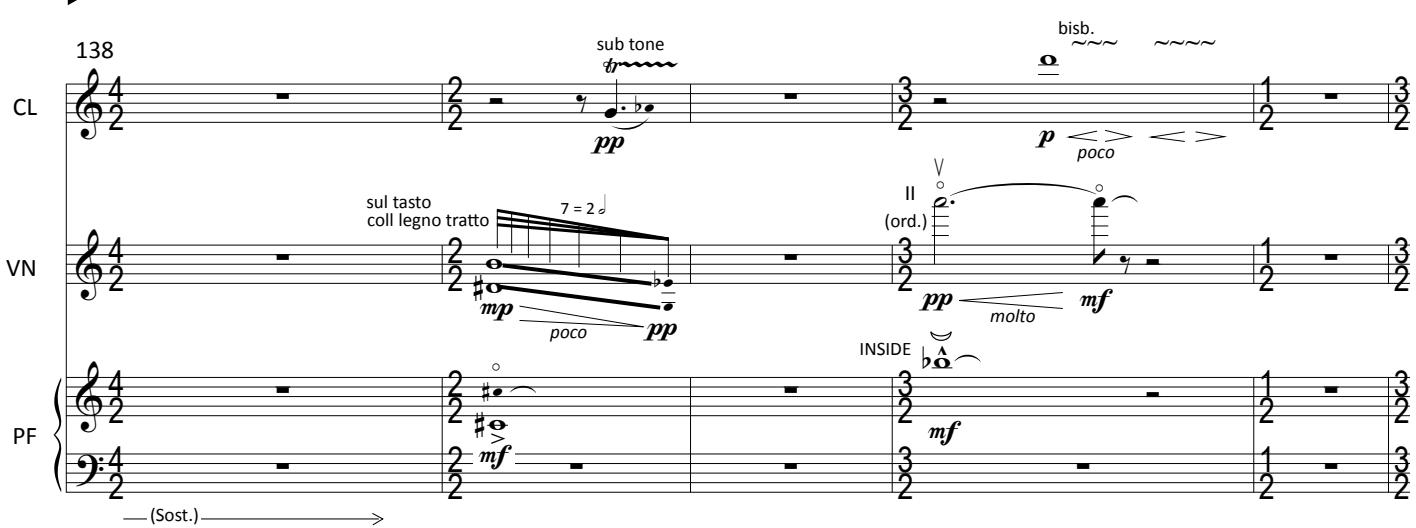
Sost.

Recombinant

Suspended $\text{d} = 40^*$

128 

133 

138 

* As before, remain as motionless as possible during rests.

Recombinant

143 sub tone flt. bisb. ~~~~

CL *pp* — *p* *poco* *<>*

VN sul tasto 7 = 2 *d* flt. bisb. ~~~~

VN coll legno tratto *mp* *poco* *pp* (ord.) *n <> mp > n*

PF *mf* *p* *fz* — *mf* *molto* *mf* sul tasto 7 = 2 *d*

PF *mf* *p* *fz* — *mf* *poco* *pp*

INSIDE *b* *a* —

— (Sost.) ——————>

147 sub tone flt. bisb. ~~~~

CL *pp* — *p* *poco* *<>*

VN sul pont. I flt. bisb. ~~~~

VN *mp* *poco* (ord.) *pp* *molto* *mf*

PF INSIDE *b* *a* *mf* — *mf* *#* *mf*

PF — *mf* — *mf* *#* *mf*

— (Sost.) ——————>

152 flt. bisb. ~~~~

CL — *p* *poco* *<>*

VN sul tasto 7 = 2 *d* flt. bisb. ~~~~

VN coll legno tratto *mp* *poco* *pp* sul pont. *I* flt.

PF INSIDE *b* *a* *mf* — *n <> mp > n*

PF — *mf* *#* *mf* — *n <> mp > n*

— (Sost.) ——————>

Recombinant

157

CL sub tone flt.

VN (ord.) II I

PF pp molto mf sul pont. poco

INSIDE (Sost.) >

Volatile $\text{♩} = 144; \text{♪} = 72$

162 bisb.

CL p poco <>

VN sul tasto 7 = 2 ♩

PF coll legno tratto mp poco pp

Remove putty from A♭2 string; slowly and subtly raise music desk and resume seated position.

(Sost.) >

(*I'istesso*, ♫ = 36)

166

CL sub tone pp

VN sul pont. I

PF mp poco

6 = 4 ♪

Silently depress keys

Sust. (until m. 206) ff (explosive)

- (ff) disintegrating... molto mp

ffzmp >

Recombinant

Exuberant (l'istesso tempo)

170

CL VN PF

(Sust.) *(Sust.)* *(Sust.)*

175

CL VN PF

(Sust.) *(Sust.)* *(Sust.)*

181

CL VN PF

(Sust.) *(Sust.)* *(Sust.)*

Recombinant

187

CL
VN
PF

(Rœ.) *(Sost.)*

193

CL
VN
PF

(Rœ.) *(Sost.)*

198

CL
VN
PF

Volatile $\text{♩} = 60; \text{♪} = 90$

Rœ. *(Sost.)*

Resonance from Sost.
pedal continues...

Recombinant

Erratic ♩/♩. = 72

Suspended $d = 40$

Suspended $\delta = 40$

CL 205 **VN** **PF**

5 FREEZE in place sub tone

FREEZE in place arco pp
molto mf

INSIDE mf

Slowly and subtly stand in place... ...then resume seated position

(Sost.)

Volatile ♩ = 90