

Joseph Klein

**Against the gusts of blank repose,
a threshold that persists**

(2016/18)

for orchestra

To the memory of my son, Gabriel Paul Klein (1991-2015)

duration: c. 10'

Instrumentation

- piccolo
- 2 flutes
- 2 oboes
- English horn
- E♭ clarinet
- A clarinet
- B♭ bass clarinet
- 2 bassoons
- contrabassoon

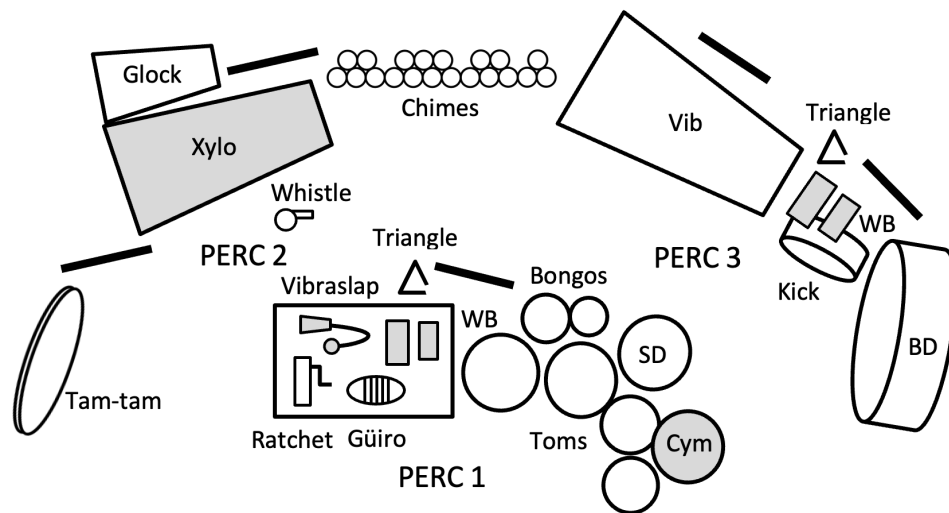
- A piccolo trumpet
- 2 C trumpets
- 4 F horns
- 2 tenor trombones
- bass trombone
- tuba

- timpani
- 3 percussion
- piano
- harp
- strings

Timpani: 4 drums (32", 30", 28", 25"), 2 cymbals (inverted and placed on timpani II & III). Striking implements: medium felt sticks, wood stick.

Percussion battery:

- Player 1: snare drum, bongo drum (low), 4 tom-toms, suspended cymbal, low tam-tam (w/player 2), 2 woodblocks (high, med-low), vibraslap (w/players 2 & 3), ratchet (w/player 2), triangle. Striking implements: hard rubber mallets, snare drum sticks, metal (triangle) beaters, tam-tam beater.
- Player 2: xylophone, glockenspiel, chimes, vibraphone (w/player 3), large tam-tam (w/player 1), ratchet (w/player 1), güiro, vibraslap (w/players 1 & 3), police whistle (worn around neck). Striking implements: medium rubber mallets, hard rubber mallets, medium yarn mallets, tam-tam beater, bass bow, chime hammers, güiro scraper.
- Player 3: vibraphone (w/player 2), bass drum, kick drum, 2 woodblocks (med-high, low), triangle, vibraslap (w/players 1 & 2). Striking implements: hard rubber mallets, metal (triangle) beaters, bass bow, bass drum beater.



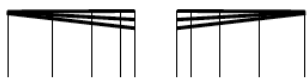
Performance Information



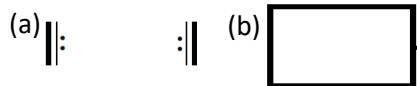
durational continuum within *senza misura* section: values arranged from shortest to longest (precise durations *ad libitum*).



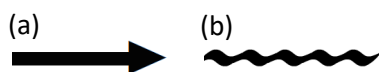
fermata continuum: arranged from shortest to longest.



accelerando/ritardando; duration indicated in metered sections.



repeating mobiles: (a) ordered material; (b) unordered material.



repeat material for the duration of the wavy line: (a) as written; (b) freely, *ad libitum*.



senza misura; top number indicates the number of cues within the measure



cue (within *senza misura* sections)



brief pause/break in sound



fluttersong/tremolo/roll/bisbigliando



erratic, uneven tremolo/bisbigliando



let ring/blend into next section



sneak entrance/blend with previous section



pitch bend/glissando



rapid downward glissando (harp)



slow upward glissando (harp, piano)



silently depress all keys within range (piano)



mute strings with hand (piano)



dead stroke (percussion)



snap pizzicato (strings)



play between bridge and tailpiece (strings)

Performance Information (cont.)

- This is a transposed score.
- Accidentals apply only to pitches they immediately precede, with the exception of repeated pitches.
- All horns require mutes. All trumpets require straight mutes; additionally, trumpets 2-3 require cup mutes. All trombones require straight mutes; additionally, tenor trombone 2 requires cup mute.
- The chimes and vibraphone require the pedal to be depressed at all times. It is recommended that a weight be used to depress the pedals on these instruments throughout.
- The muted piano passages (Rehearsal G and Rehearsal J) are to be played by pressing the side of the hand against the strings on the far side of the dampers while playing the pitches on the keyboard.
- Harp harmonics sound an octave higher than written; string harmonics are notated at sounding pitch.

Program Note

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists is dedicated to the memory of my son, Gabriel Paul Klein, who took his life in September 2015 at the age of 23. The work's title is derived from two lines in Alice Fulton's poem "Silencer," from the collection *Powers of Congress* (1990)—a poem that itself deals with the subject of suicide—and is an allusion to the persistent struggle with that boundary between life and death ("blank repose").

The work is characterized by sharp juxtapositions of contrasting—often conflicting—musical elements, including sections of restless energy, obsessive ostinato figures, and intrusive interjections, occasionally relieved by stretches of placid, suspended music. The disjunct, fragmentary structure that results, combined with the inherently static, non-developmental nature of the material itself, is intended to subvert the typical linear narrative. An important unifying element of the work is the pitch cell G-A-B \flat -E, which is the basis of a repeating interval sequence used to generate the symmetrical, non-octave-repeating scale that is used pervasively throughout the work. This scale is most clearly presented in the ascending quasi-ostinato bass line that first occurs after the slow introductory section. Prime numbers and rhythmic patterns based on Morse Code are also used as unifying structural elements.

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists, originally composed for wind orchestra, was completed in September 2016. The work was revised and transcribed for orchestra in June 2018, and first performed on 27 February 2019 by the University of North Texas Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Clay Couturiaux.

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

to the memory of my son, Gabriel Paul Klein (1991-2015)

Joseph Klein

2015-16

for orchestra

Anxious ♩ = 48; ♩ = 72

c. 25"

PICCOLO *ff* *p*

FLUTE 1,2 *ff* *p*

OBOE 1,2 *ff* *p*

ENGLISH HORN *ff* *p*

CLARINET in Eb *ff* *p*

CLARINET in A *ff*

BASS CLARINET in Bb *ff* *p*

BASSOON 1,2 *ff* *p*

CONTRABASSOON *ff* *p*

HORN in F 1,3 *ff* *p* 1. mute

HORN in F 2,4 *ff* *p* 3. mute

PICCOLO TRUMPET in A *ff* *p* 2. cup mute

TRUMPET in C 2,3 *ff* *p* 3. cup mute

TENOR TROMBONE 1,2

BASS TROMBONE

TUBA

TIMPANI place cymbals on Timp II & III
I: F; IV: E

PERCUSSION 1 VIBRASLAP *sfz* *n* *mf* WOODBLOCKS w/hard rubber ♩ = 60

PERCUSSION 2 POLICE WHISTLE RATCHET *ff* (fast) WOODBLOCKS w/hard rubber ♩ = 50

PERCUSSION 3 *ff* (fast) WOODBLOCKS w/hard rubber *mf*

PIANO *mp*

HARP *mp*

VIOLIN I *ff* *pizz.* *sfz*

VIOLIN II *ff* *pizz.* *sfz*

VIOLA *ff* *pizz.* *sfz*

VIOLONCELLO *ff* *pizz.* *sfz*

CONTRABASS *ff* *pizz.* *sfz*

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

A

♩ = 72

PC
FL 1,2
OB 1,2
EH
Eb CL
A CL
BS CL
BN 1,2
CBN

5"
3"

p erratic
a2
(play independently):
p erratic
a2
p erratic

2
1

HN 1,3
HN 2,4
PC TP
TP 2,3
TN 1,2
B TN
TB

a2 (mutes)
quasi adagio
pp lontano
sim., ad libitum
(play independently)

a2 (mutes)
quasi adagio
pp lontano
sim., ad libitum

2
1

TIMP
PRC 1
PRC 2
PRC 3
PF
HP

TAM TAM
mp

(*scd.*)
BASS DRUM
mp

INSIDE w/fingertips
mp gently

8^{sub}
mp gently

VIBRAPHONE w/bow
n
molto
poco *f*

2
1

A

♩ = 72

VN I
VN II
VA
VC
CB

5"
3"

(outside):
(III)

mp
col legno battuto
(play independently):
mp erratic

2
1
(div.)
mf
gliss.
n

(div.)
mf
gliss.
n

(non div.)
mp gently

7 8 9 10 11 12

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

Musical score for various instruments including PC, FL 1,2, OB 1,2, EH, Eb CL, A CL, BS CL, BN 1,2, CBN, HN 1,3, HN 2,4, PC TP, TP 2,3, TN 1,2, B TN, TB, TIMP, PRC 1, PRC 2, PRC 3, PF, HP, VN I, VN II, VA, VC, and CB.

The score is divided into measures 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17. It includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *p*, *pp*, *mf*, *mp*, *sfz*, and *pp* *lontano*. Performance instructions include *quasi adagio*, *lontano*, *straight mute*, *erratic bisb.*, *inside, pizz.*, *pizz. (unis.)*, and *(non div.)*.

Percussion parts include WOODBLOCKS w/hard rubber, VIBRASLAP, TAM TAM, CHIMES, and BASS DRUM. The score also features various time signatures (9/8, 4/4) and tempo markings (♩ = 48; ♩ = 72).

The score includes repeat signs and first/second endings. A large 'X' is placed over the first ending of several parts. A boxed section in the CHIMES part shows a specific rhythmic pattern for RH and LH.

13

14

15

16

17

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

PC
FL 1,2
OB 1,2
EH
Eb CL
A CL
BS CL
BN 1,2
CBN
HN 1,3
HN 2,4
PC TP
TP 2,3
TN 1,2
B TN
TB
TIMP
PRC 1
PRC 2
PRC 3
PF
HP
VN I
VN II
VA
VC
CB

4 4 3 4 3 3 3
8 4 8 4 4 8 4

(open) *poco f*
poco f

LO BONGO (TOMS) (LO BONGO) (TOMS) (LO BONGO)
poco f *mf* *poco f* *mf* *mp* *mf* *sfs* *sfs* *sfs*

poco f *poco f*

arco *poco f*
arco (div.) *poco f* (unis.)

28 29 30 31 32 33

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

D

PC
FL 1,2
OB 1,2
EH
Eb CL
A CL
BS CL
BN 1,2
CBN
HN 1,3
HN 2,4
PC TP
TP 2,3
TN 1,2
B TN
TB
TIMP
PRC 1 (TOMS) (GÜIRO) (XYLOPHONE w/hard plastic) (CYMBAL (w/wood)) (LO BONGO) (SNARE)
PRC 2
PRC 3
PF
HP
VN I (non div.) (non div.)
VN II (non div.)
VA
VC
CB

49 50 51 52 53 54

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

This page of a musical score contains measures 55 through 60. The instruments listed on the left are:

- PC (Piccolo)
- FL 1,2 (Flutes)
- OB 1,2 (Oboes)
- EH (English Horn)
- Eb CL (E-flat Clarinet)
- A CL (Alto Clarinet)
- BS CL (Bass Clarinet)
- BN 1,2 (Bassoons)
- CBN (Contrabassoon)
- HN 1,3 (Horn 1)
- HN 2,4 (Horn 2)
- PC TP (Piccolo Trumpet)
- TP 2,3 (Trumpets 2 & 3)
- TN 1,2 (Trumpets 1 & 2)
- B TN (Bass Trumpet)
- TB (Tuba)
- TIMP (Timpani)
- PRC 1 (Percussion 1)
- PRC 2 (Percussion 2)
- PRC 3 (Percussion 3)
- PF (Piano)
- HP (Harpsichord)
- VN I (Violin I)
- VN II (Violin II)
- VA (Viola)
- VC (Violoncello)
- CB (Contrabass)

The score features complex rhythmic patterns with frequent changes in meter (5/8, 3/8, 4/8, 5/4). Dynamics range from *sfz* (fortississimo) to *mp* (mezzo-piano). Performance techniques such as *pizz.* (pizzicato), *arco* (arco), and *(non div.)* (non-diviso) are indicated. Percussion parts include Tomms, Bongos, Snare, and a Guiro. The harpsichord part includes a chord change from D₄ to C₄. Measure numbers 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, and 60 are boxed at the bottom of the page.

E

Musical score for orchestra and percussion, measures 61-66. The score includes parts for PC, FL 1,2, OB 1,2, EH, Eb CL, A CL, BS CL, BN 1,2, CBN, HN 1,3, HN 2,4, PC TP, TP 2,3, TN 1,2, B TN, TB, TIMP, PRC 1, PRC 2, PRC 3, PF, HP, VN I, VN II, VA, VC, and CB. The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including 5/8, 3/8, and 4/8 time signatures, and dynamic markings such as *cresc.*, *mf*, *poco f*, *f*, and *poco*. Percussion parts include snare, hi bongo, and tom-toms. The score is marked with a large 'E' in a box at the top right and bottom right.

61

62

63

64

65

66

This page contains a musical score for orchestra and percussion, spanning measures 67 to 74. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves for each instrument family. The instruments listed on the left are: PC (Piccolo), FL 1,2 (Flutes), OB 1,2 (Oboes), EH (English Horn), Eb CL (E-flat Clarinet), A CL (Alto Clarinet), BS CL (Bass Clarinet), BN 1,2 (Bassoons), CBN (Contrabassoon), HN 1,3 (Horn), HN 2,4 (Horn), PC TP (Piccolo Trumpet), TP 2,3 (Trumpets), TN 1,2 (Trombones), B TN (Baritone Trombone), TB (Tuba), TIMP (Timpani), PRC 1 (Snare), PRC 2 (Toms), PRC 3 (Kick Drum), PF (Piano), HP (Harp), VN I (Violin I), VN II (Violin II), VA (Viola), VC (Violoncello), and CB (Contrabass). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics (e.g., *mf*, *ff*, *poco*, *più f*, *sfz*), articulation (e.g., *pizz. (div.)*, *arco*), and performance instructions (e.g., *w/wood*, *w/felt*). Time signatures change throughout the piece, including 3/8, 4/8, 3/8, 5/8, 3/8, and 4/8. The page is numbered 67 through 74 at the bottom.

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

This page of a musical score contains measures 75 through 83. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout with multiple staves for each instrument family. The woodwind section includes Piccolo (PC), Flute 1 & 2 (FL 1,2), Oboe 1 & 2 (OB 1,2), English Horn (EH), E-flat Clarinet (Eb CL), A Clarinet (A CL), Bass Clarinet (BS CL), Bassoon 1 & 2 (BN 1,2), and Contrabassoon (CBN). The brass section includes Horns 1, 3 (HN 1,3) and Horns 2, 4 (HN 2,4), Trumpets 1, 2, 3 (TP 2,3), Trombones 1, 2 (TN 1,2), Bass Trombone (B TN), and Tuba (TB). The percussion section includes Snare Drum (PRC 1), Xylophone (PRC 2), Triangle (PRC 3), Tom-toms (TOMS), Cymbal (CYMBAL), and Glockenspiel (GLOCK). The string section includes Violin I (VN I), Violin II (VN II), Viola (VA), Violoncello (VC), and Contrabass (CB). The score features various dynamic markings such as *ff*, *mf*, *poco f*, *cresc.*, *(sffz)*, and *p*. It also includes performance instructions like *a2*, *mf cresc.*, *poco*, *(sub.)*, *2.*, *4. (mute)*, *f.*, *mf sub.*, *(non div.)*, *div.*, and *pizz.*. Time signatures of 4/8 and 3/8 are used throughout. Measure numbers 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, and 83 are printed at the bottom of the page.

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

PC *p*

FL 1,2 (1.) *p*

OB 1,2

EH *p*

Eb CL *p*

A CL *p*

BS CL *p*

BN 1,2 1. *p* 2. *p*

CBN *p*

HN 1,3 1. mute *p* 2. (open) *p*

HN 2,4 *p*

PC TP (st. mute) *p*

TP 2,3 2. cup mute *p*

TN 1,2 1. straight mute *p*

B TN

TB

TIMP

PRC 1

PRC 2 *vio*

PRC 3 *vio*

PF *vio*

HP *vio*

VN I *p*

VN II *arco* *p*

VA *arco, mutes* *p* *div. >* *mf* *n* (unis.) *p*

VC *div. >* *mf* *n*

CB *pizz. (mutes)* *mp* *III arco* *p*

89 90 91 92 93 94

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

11"

G Intense, Frenetic ♩ = 108

PC
FL 1,2
OB 1,2
EH
Eb CL
A CL
BS CL
BN 1,2
CBN
HN 1,3
HN 2,4
PC TP
TP 2,3
TN 1,2
B TN
TB

TIMP
PRC 1
PRC 2
PRC 3
PF
HP

CYMBALS (on Timp II & III) w/med. felt
WOODBLOCKS w/hard rubber
VIBRASLAP
CHIMES
TRIANGLE w/metal beaters
VIBRAPHONE w/hard rubber

D: C# Bb
Eb F# Gb Ab

11"

G Intense, Frenetic ♩ = 108

VN I
VN II
VA
VC
CB

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

PC
FL 1,2
OB 1,2
EH
Eb CL
A CL
BS CL
BN 1,2
CBN
HN 1,3
HN 2,4
PC TP
TP 2,3
TN 1,2
B TN
TB
TIMP
PRC 1
PRC 2
PRC 3
PF
HP
VN I
VN II
VA
VC
CB

remove cymbal from Timp III
III: → C#
XYLOPHONE w/med. rubber
VIBRAPHONE w/bow
muted w/hand
2 soli
2 soli

ff, mf, f, ff, mp, f(sub.), p, pp, molto

straight mute
f → p

p → molto → f

(l.v.)

3/4, 4/4

This page contains a musical score for measures 105 through 110. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves for each instrument family. The instruments listed on the left are: PC (Piccolo), FL 1,2 (Flute), OB 1,2 (Oboe), EH (English Horn), Eb CL (E-flat Clarinet), A CL (Alto Clarinet), BS CL (Bass Clarinet), BN 1,2 (Bassoon), CBN (Contrabassoon), HN 1,3 (Horn), HN 2,4 (Horn), PC TP (Piccolo Trumpet), TP 2,3 (Trumpet), TN 1,2 (Trombone), B TN (Baritone Trombone), TB (Tuba), TIMP (Timpani), PRC 1 (Percussion 1), PRC 2 (Percussion 2), PRC 3 (Percussion 3), PF (Piano), HP (Harp), VN I (Violin I), VN II (Violin II), VA (Viola), VC (Violoncello), and CB (Contrabass). The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (mp, ff, mf, f, p, molto), articulation (accents, slurs), and performance instructions (pizz., div., gliss., secco, l.v.). Time signatures of 4/4 and 3/4 are used throughout. Measure numbers 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, and 110 are printed at the bottom of the page.

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

← ♩ = ♩ → (♩ = 72) ← ♩ = ♩ → (♩ = 108)

PC
FL 1,2
OB 1,2
EH
Eb CL
A CL
BS CL
BN 1,2
CBN

HN 1,3
HN 2,4
PC TP
TP 2,3
TN 1,2
BTN
TB
TIMP

PRC 1
PRC 2
PRC 3
PF
HP

VNI
VNI
VA
VC
CB

111 112 113 114 115 116

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

Tempestuous $\text{♩} = 120$

H Suspended $\leftarrow \text{♩} = \text{♩} \rightarrow (\text{♩} = 40)$

PC
FL 1,2
OB 1,2
EH
Eb CL
A CL
BS CL
BN 1,2
CBN
HN 1,3
HN 2,4
PC TP
TP 2,3
TN 1,2
B TN
TB
TIMP
PRC 1
PRC 2
PRC 3
PF
HP
VN I
VN II
VA
VC
CB

117 118 119 120 121 122

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

PC
FL 1,2
OB 1,2
EH
Eb CL
A CL
BS CL
BN 1,2
CBN

HN 1,3
HN 2,4
PC TP
TP 2,3
TN 1,2
B TN
TB

st. mute
ff intrusive

Trumpets and Trombones: Play exuberant, fanfare-like bursts freely within duration indicated, independently of other players.

PRC 1
PRC 2
PRC 3
PF
HP

VN I
VN II
VA
VC
CB

mutes off

div. gliss. mf n

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

Tempestuous $\text{♩} = 120$

This page contains the musical score for measures 139 through 144. The score is for a full orchestra and a large percussion section. The instruments listed on the left are: PC (Piccolo), FL 1,2 (Flutes), OB 1,2 (Oboes), EH (English Horn), Eb CL (E-flat Clarinet), A CL (Alto Clarinet), BS CL (Bass Clarinet), BN 1,2 (Bassoons), CBN (Contrabassoon), HN 1,3 (Horn), HN 2,4 (Horn), PC TP (Piccolo Trumpet), TP 2,3 (Trumpets), TN 1,2 (Trombones), B TN (Baritone Trombone), TB (Tuba), TIMP (Timpani), PRC 1 (Percussion 1), PRC 2 (Percussion 2), PRC 3 (Percussion 3), PF (Piano/Forte), HP (Harp), VN I (Violin I), VN II (Violin II), VA (Viola), VC (Violoncello), and CB (Contrabass). The score features complex rhythmic patterns with frequent changes in meter (4/8, 3/8, 4/8, 5/8) and dynamic markings such as *mf*, *poco*, *sfz*, *p sub.*, *f*, and *mp*. A 7-measure repeat sign is present at the top and bottom of the page. The tempo is marked as *Tempestuous* with a metronome marking of $\text{♩} = 120$. Measure numbers 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, and 144 are indicated at the bottom of the page.

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

3" Tempestuous ♩ = 120 5" Tempestuous ♩ = 120

PC
FL 1,2
OB 1,2
EH
Eb CL
A CL
BS CL
BN 1,2
CBN
HN 1,3
HN 2,4
PC TP
TP 2,3
TN 1,2
B TN
TB
TIMP
PRC 1
PRC 2
PRC 3
PF
HP
VN I
VN II
VA
VC
CB

145 146 147 148 149 150

Musical score for orchestra and percussion, measures 156-159. The score includes parts for PC, FL 1,2, OB 1,2, EH, Eb CL, A CL, BS CL, BN 1,2, CBN, HN 1,3, HN 2,4, PC TP, TP 2,3, TN 1,2, B TN, TB, TIMP, PRC 1, PRC 2, PRC 3, PF, HP, VN I, VN II, VA, VC, and CB. The score features various dynamics (ff, f, mp, mf, fff), articulations (pizz., st. mute), and performance instructions (l.v., secco). Large numbers 3 and 4 indicate changes in the woodwind and percussion sections. A large '1 X' is marked at the end of the section.

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

Anxious

K 11" 7" 3" 5" 7"

CYMBALS (on Timp II & III)
w/med. felt

WOODBLOCKS w/hard rubber
♩ = 60

VIBRASLAP

CHIMES

VIBRAPHONE w/bow

CHIMES

Anxious

K 11" 7" 3" 5" 7"

pizz. (tutti)

pizz. (tutti)

pizz. (tutti)

pizz. (tutti)

pizz. (tutti)

