

snow constellation

Guitar Duo

Henry McPherson

2017/19

This piece was commissioned by the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and first performed at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in May 2017 by Samrat Majumder and Tommaso Giroto.

Under the night sky

snow

The only sound

my boat rocking

Preparation

The second guitar (marked scor.) should be detuned by a semi-tone across all 6 strings. The resulting pitches (from the lowest string) are therefore Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, Bb, Eb. The score is transposing, so a written E in the second guitar part will sound at a concert Eb.

Both players should read from the score (there are no parts).

Players should sit facing each other, as close as possible to each other without negatively affecting playing technique.

Notation/Reading the score

String numbers are shown by circled numbers above noteheads.

Fingerings, denoted by numbers to the right-hand side of noteheads, are suggestions only.

The piece is written in free rhythm, with an approximate underlying "crotchet" pulse of approximately 145bpm. The players may accel./dim. freely, but approximate timings (minutes/seconds) are given at the end of each page. The players should aim to fit the material into the time given on each page. To an extent, bar lengths and phrase lengths are therefore to be decided by the players, reading from the full score, and looking at the other player's line to determine how fast/slow to play. Players can, of course, use rubato, but the general feel of the piece should be one of constant motion.

It doesn't matter if sometimes the players play notes at the same time. The most important thing is that the piece continues in constant motion. There should be no vibrato used for the entire piece, except at the very end, in the second guitar part.

Harmonics are used specifically for colour in the piece, and should be strictly adhered to.

Notes with larger noteheads should be emphasised within each bar.

Dotted lines indicate melody lines, in voices shared between the guitars.

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Peaceful - gently rocking
● = c.145

Guitar I
ppp (cresc.)

Guitar II (Scor.)
ppp (cresc.)

pp (cresc.)

p (cresc.)

mp *p* *mf*

mp *p* *mf*

A

mf

c.1'30"

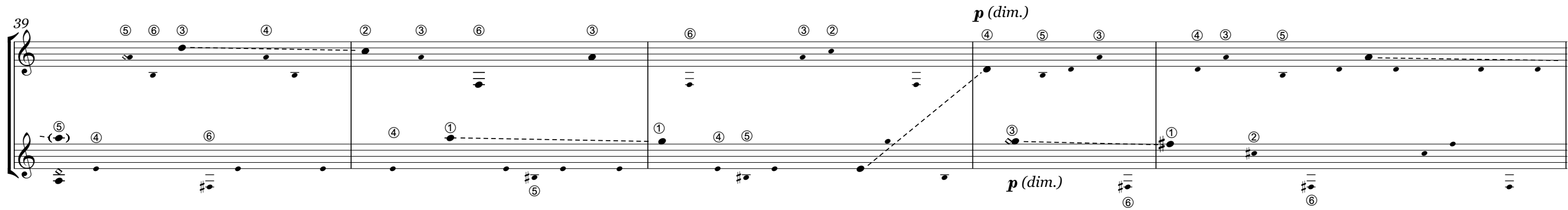
18 *p* (*cresc.*) *mp* (*cresc.*)

23 *mf* (*dim.*) *p* *r.h.* (*cresc.*)

28

34 **B** *mf* (*dim.*) *mf* (*dim.*) *r.h.* *r.h.* c.2'40"

39

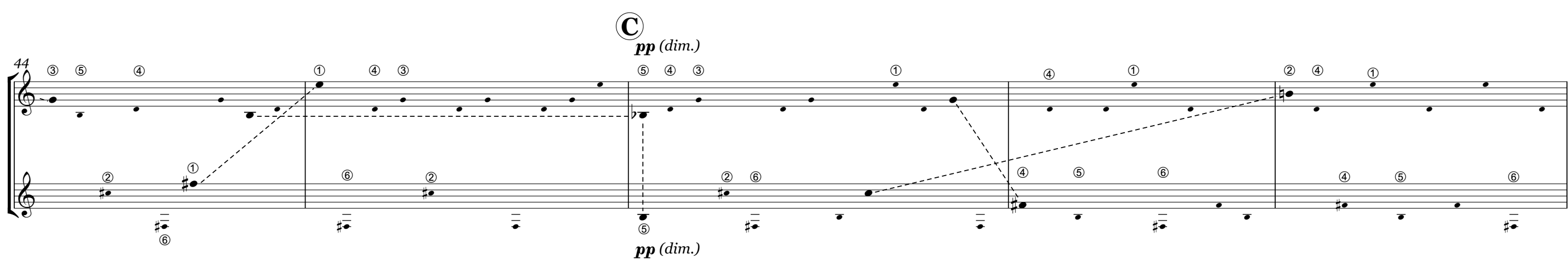


p (dim.)

p (dim.)

44

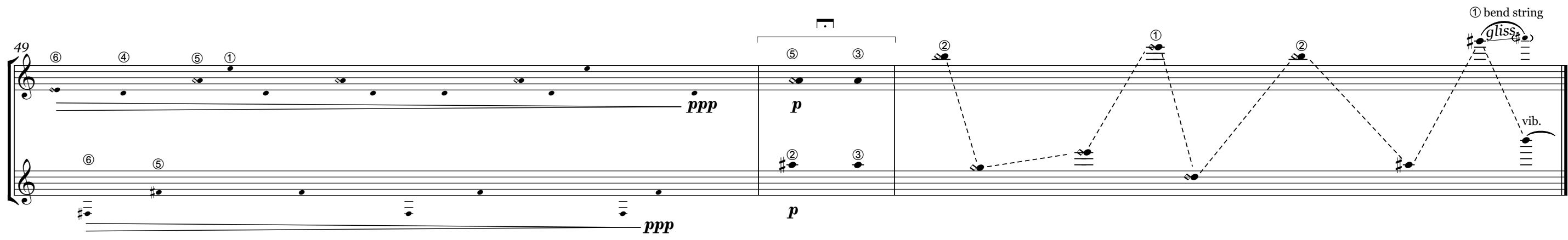
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pp (dim.)

pp (dim.)

49



ppp

p

① bend string

gliss.

vib.

c.4'00''

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