

# Three Orbits

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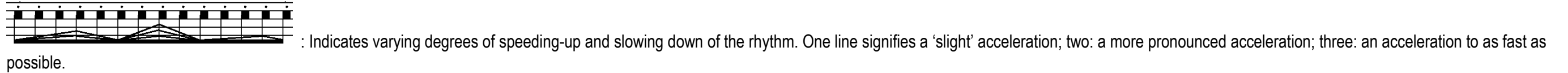
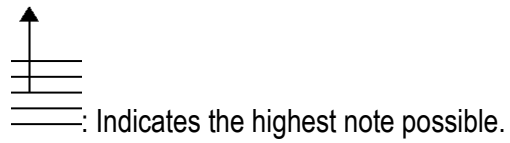
*for*

Flute, Viola and Cello

### Three Orbits- Performance Notes.

Three Orbits is based on the idea of cyclical patterns that converge and move apart at different time intervals. Each instrument plays for seven beats (occasionally these seven beat cells contain rests) and is given a set number of beats rest before playing again. The flute plays every thirteen beats, the viola plays every nine beats and the cello plays every eleven beats. In this way throughout the piece two instruments will sometimes play in sync with each other and more importantly all three parts converge on two occasions; once near the beginning at bar 3 and once near the end at bar 75.

### Instrumental Techniques (all instruments)



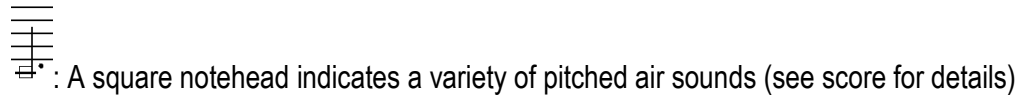
### Flute Techniques

U : Play normally

↘ : Play with mouthpiece angled away from mouth

↙ : Play with mouthpiece angled towards mouth

**flz**: fluttertongue





Where the more common harmonics are concerned the conventional pitches are to be heard so that, for example the following notated harmonics:



should sound the following pitches:



As well as this, there are a number of instances where a specific pitch is called for. These occur in:

**Bars 13-16** - Cello: A harmonic sounding C# is called for on the A string.

**Bars 17-18** - Viola: A harmonic sounding G is called for on the G string.

**Bars 23-24** - Viola: a harmonic sounding C# is called for on the A string.







55

Sing  
F. air --- note --- air

Whistle Tones. Irregular, ad lib

Gliss to highest harmonic possible

Mostly air. A hint of pitch ord. --- flz --- ord.

Vla. S.T --- S.P --- S.T

Wide trem. Con legno S.P --- S.T --- S.P

V. light bow pressure. All overtones. Edge of bow. Ord. --- S.P --- Ord. --- S.P

Full bow length. V swift, V. Light bow pressure

V.S.P S.T

Vc. Arco  $\delta^{12}$  Ord. S.T

Wide trem. Con legno

Trem. Con legno S.P (Slow wide vibrato) S.T

*mf* *mp* *mf*

*pp* *mp* *f* *mp*

62

F. U

Whistle Tone A sustained mid-range pitch if possible.

Lip Vib. slow --- fast --- slow

Vla. Rapid harmonic trill

Long bow length. V swift. V. Light bow pressure.

Gliss from end of fingerboard to midway to bridge.

S.P

ord. --- S.P --- S.T --- ord.

S.P --- S.T

Vc. Norm Bow Pressure --- Heavy B.P

Half on bridge and half on string

Half on bridge and half on string

*ff* *p* *mf* *mp* *f*

68

F. Fundamental slowly emerges and disappears

(Trem) (fast --- slow --- fast)

Vla. trill

Vc. *mf* *p* *pp*



Mid-range whistle tone.  
Hold as steadily as possible  
for duration

Musical score for measures 71-74. The Flute (F.) part begins at measure 71 with a *p* dynamic and a diamond-shaped breath mark. It features a mid-range whistle tone that is held steadily. The Viola (Vla.) and Violin (Vc.) parts provide accompaniment. The Viola part includes markings for *S.P.* (Sordano Pizzicato) and *mp* dynamics. The Violin part includes markings for *S.P.* and *S.T.* (Sordano Tremolo) and *mp* dynamics. The score shows a series of notes with slurs and accents, indicating a melodic line.

Musical score for measures 75-78. The Flute (F.) part starts at measure 75 with a *mf* dynamic and a *Half-air* marking. It features a whistle tone that is held steadily. The Viola (Vla.) and Violin (Vc.) parts provide accompaniment. The Viola part includes markings for *ord.* (Ordinato) and *S.T.* (Sordano Tremolo) and *mf* dynamics. The Violin part includes markings for *ord.* and *S.T.* and *mf* dynamics. The score shows a series of notes with slurs and accents, indicating a melodic line. The Flute part has a *p* dynamic marking at the end of the section.