James Williamson

Staten Crossing I-VII

for saxophone quartet

(2014)

Score

Instrumentation:

Saxophone Quartet (Soprano, Alto, tenor, baritone)

Performance directions:

Each player must be spacialised around the performance space e.g. two players at the front (on stage far-left and far-right) and two players at the back (behind the audience far-left and far right). The decision and logistics on where each player is to stand/sit, can be left up to the ensemble prior to performance. In some cases it may not be possible to seperate, there it is fine to be seated in the traditional formation.

Where a movement is indicated "Play independently"; this means that all entries are approximate and once one begins to play, play what is write to the end.

Where a movement is indicated "Synchronised"; this means that all players play together.

Repeats:

x2, for example, means that a whole selction of bars must be repeated twice.

SCORE IN C (all parts written at sounding pitch)

Duration ca. 9 minutes

Staten Crossing was premièred by the Delta Saxophone Quartet on 6th Sptember 2014 at the Late Music Concert Series, York, UK.
It was commisioned by Late Music Concert Series.

Inspired by a recent trip to New York, *Staten Crossing I-VIII* is an eight-movement piece and is essentially a set of miniature variations. Whilst I was in New York for a friends wedding, my wife and I did a few touristy things including taking the Staten Island Ferry for a chance to get a close up look of the Statue of Liberty. As we sailed away from Manhattan toward Staten Island, the one thing that really struck me, and a seemingly obvious occurrence, was that these huge dominating buildings, which we once stood amongst, became smaller but also grew in size at the same time. It was this sense of perspective that inspired the piece. I take a small melodic question and answer phrase, which for me has an essence of the jazz club below our Art Deco hotel, and use this as the basis for each movement. Sometimes the phrase is heard in full, sometimes fragmented. Sometimes each player will play independently from each other in a quasi-indeterminate way, sometimes they'll play together. I also ask in score for the quartet to be separated around the performance space (i.e. two players at the front and two preferably behind the audience), this is to try and give a sense of physical and audible space to the piece to try and emulate the structures, sights and sounds of New York and how I remember them.

- James Williamson

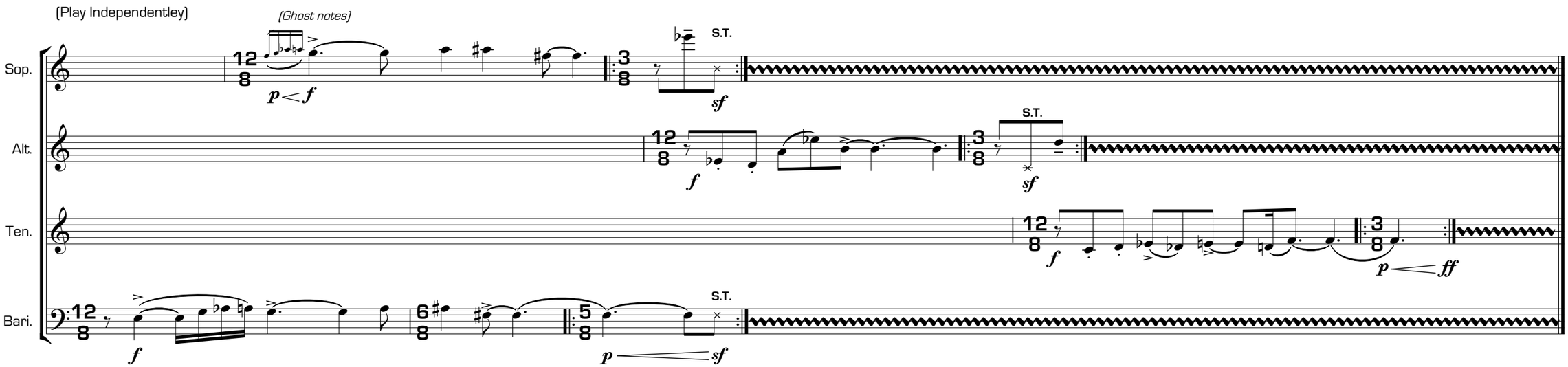
STATEN CROSSING I - VIII
for saxophone quartet
(2014)

James Williamson

I

Swing it, feel the back beat... ♩. = 112

(Play Independentley)



All repeat to end until one player signals to stop.

N.B. Players must try and avoid playing the last note simultaneously and to stop "naturally".

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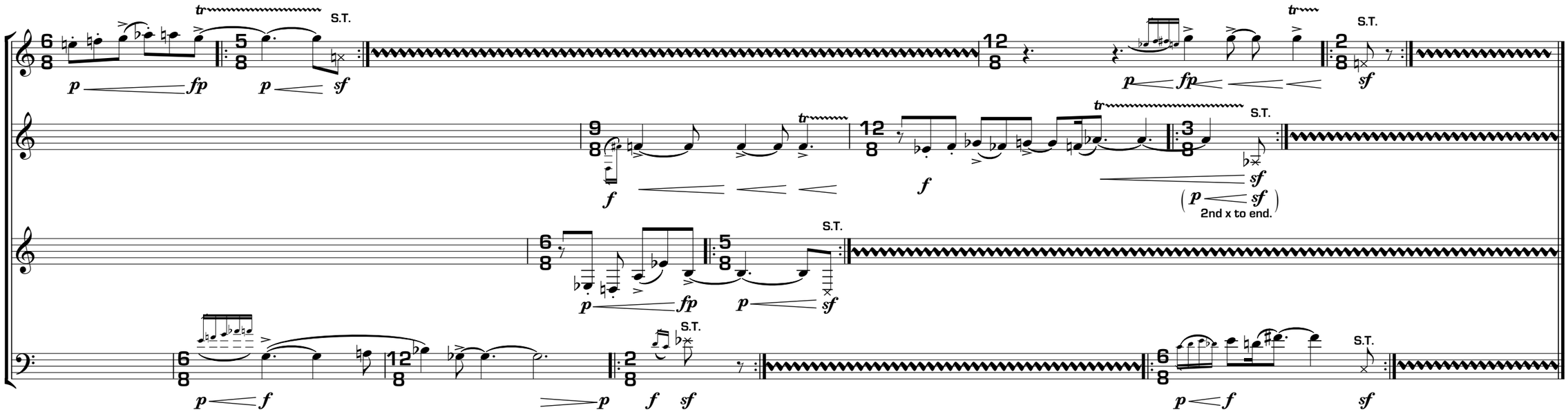
II

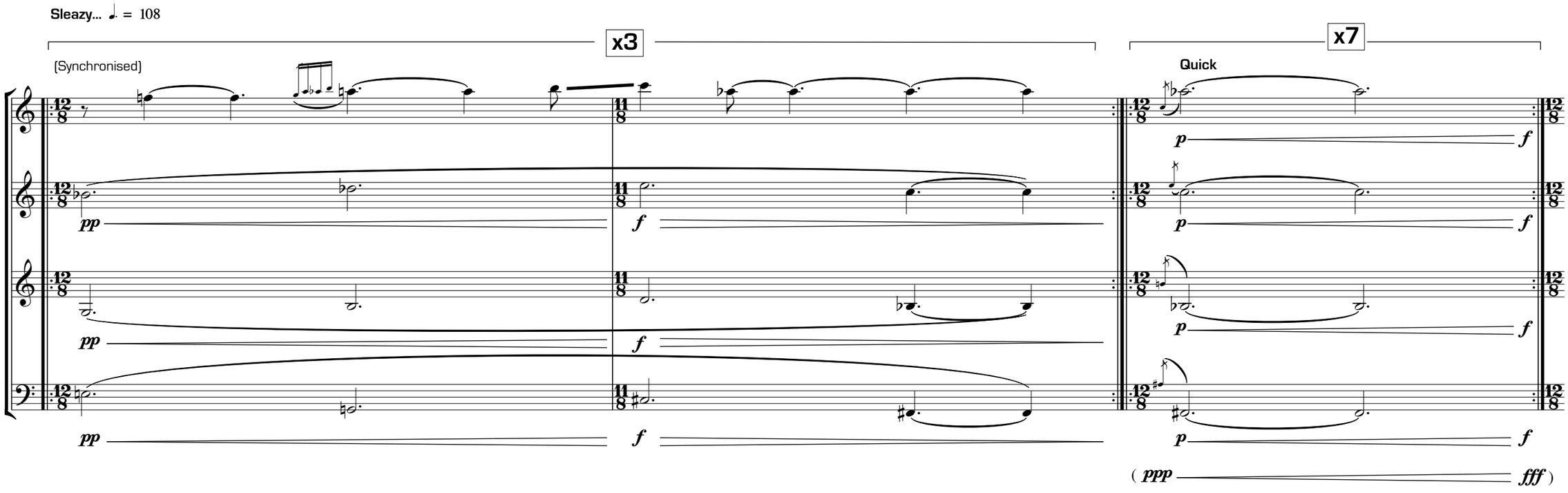
Perhaps, like a broken jazz record... ♩. = 120



All repeat to end until one player signals to stop.

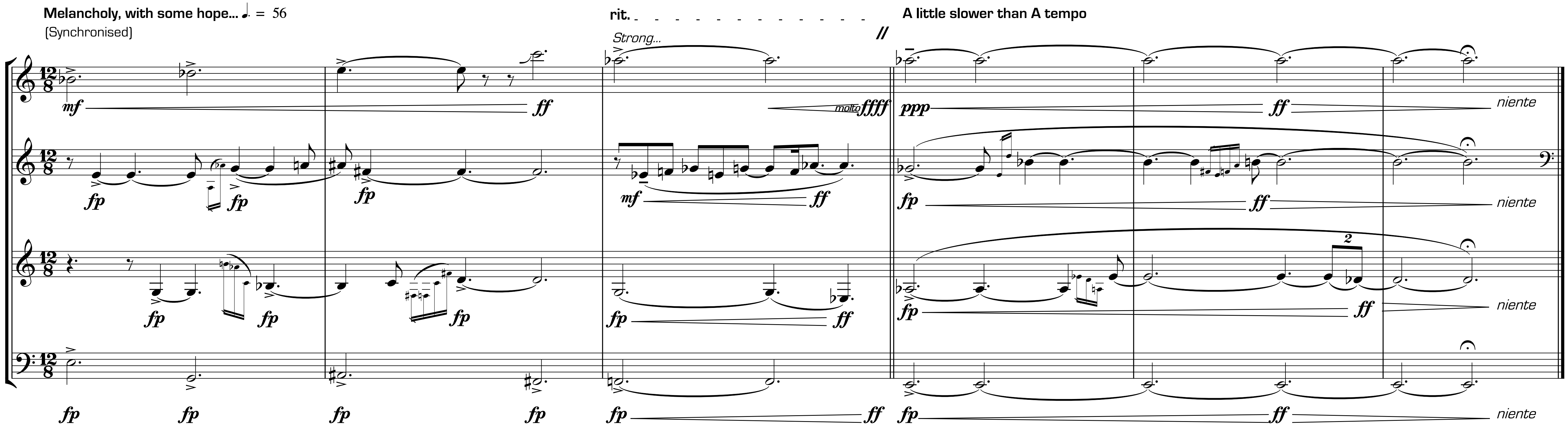
N.B. Players must try and avoid playing the last note simultaneously and to stop "naturally".

III



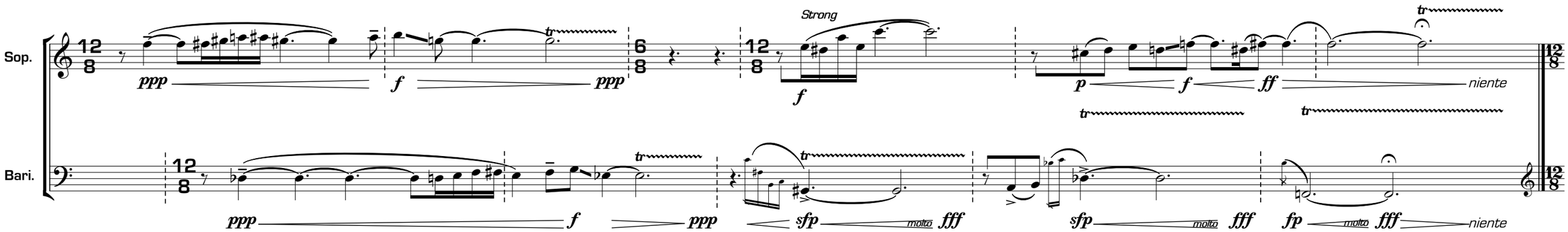
* As well as the internal dynamic as marked, the overall dynamic throughout the x7 repeat should gradually get louder from quiet to very loud.

IV


Melancholy, with some hope... ♩. = 56
(Synchronised)
rit.
Strong...
A little slower than A tempo
mf
ff
molto ffff
ppp
niente
fp
mf
2

V

Laid back, dragging dirge... ♩. = 58
(Play Independently)



Finish together, with prominent key rattles with no pitch as "niente" is reached.

VI

♩. = 126 **Groove, swing and make it dirty...**

(Synchronised)

ff

2nd time only

ff

2nd time only

x3

Sleazy...

fp *molto.* *f* *ff* *fp* *molto.* *ff*

Sleazy... *Ghost note* *ord.* *Ghost note* *ord.*

ff *fp* *molto.* *ff* *fp* *molto.* *ff*

mf *poco.* *f* *mf* *poco.* *ff*

mf *poco.* *f* *mf* *poco.* *ff*

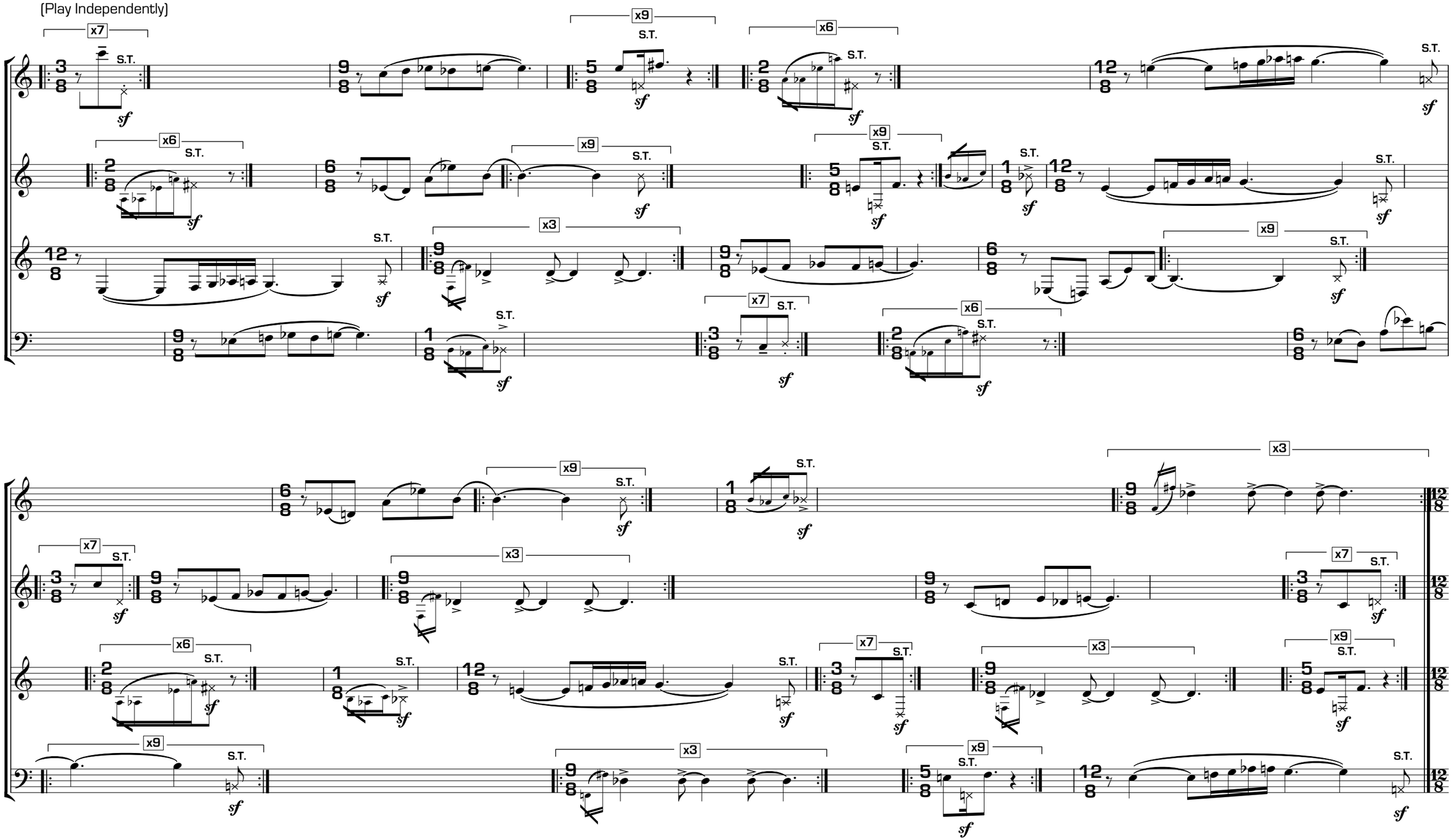
VII

*The silences between each fragment should be between 1 - 5 seconds. e.g. The smaller silences could be 1 second, the larger silences 5 seconds.

**All as quiet as audibly possible
(unless otherwise stated, if a not is marked with a dynamic, it only applies to that note only)

♩. = 112 **Scattered, flickering, distant**

(Play Independently)



VIII

(Synchronised)
♩. = c.96

x3

S.T.

(fp 2 & 3 x only)

x2

A little slower

A tempo

2nd x 8va

1st only

Slow Groove...
(feeling slightly behind the beat)

x10

As fast as possible!

***NB Gradual crescendo over the x10 repeats**