James Williamson

Twenty Mirrors I

(2016)

for two pianos and live electronics

The first performance was given by Kate Ledger and Mark Hutchinson (University of York Piano Ensemble) and Thomas James (sound engineer), in the Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall, University of York, 15 June, 2018

Duration ca. 14 minutes

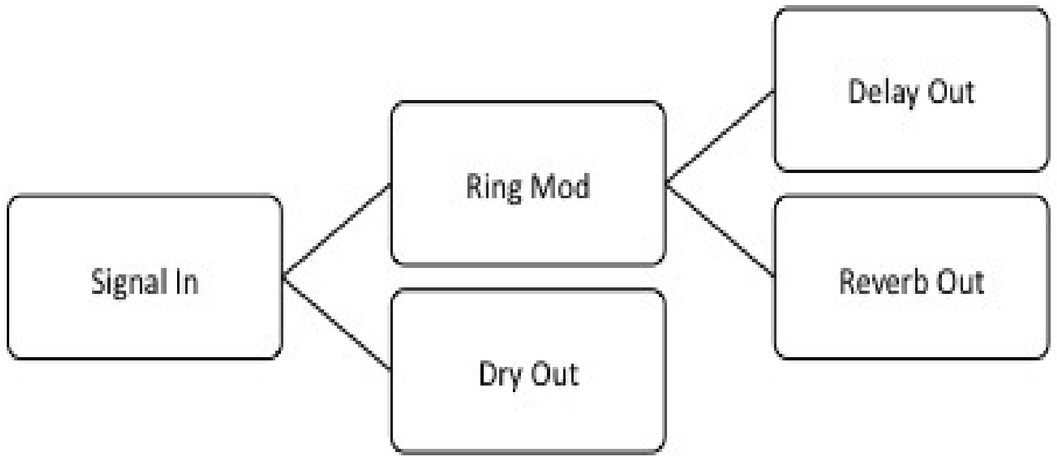
Twenty Mirrors Electronics

Parameters indicated on score:

Delay Time
Delay Feedback
Delay Volume
Reverb Time
Reverb Volume
Ring Mod Dry/Wet

Pianos to be mic'd up according the engineer's judgement, with care taken to minimize feedback. All effects are applied equally so separation is not a priority though a close miking technique is advised. The dry piano signal should be amplified only if necessary in the space. Surround speakers may be used if desired, for effects only.

Delay and reverb should be set to 100% wet in two parallel channels, with independent control over their volumes for modulation. Channel volumes should be used to turn effects on/off, with immediate effect unless stated otherwise (e.g fade out, crescendo etc). Parameter changes are intended as a guide only. Sympathetic and creative response to the performers take priority over exact effect settings.



An analog delay (hardware or software emulation) where real-time modulation of the time parameter produces pitch shifting should be used.

Reverb settings such as size/depth and pre-delay are left to the engineer's discretion, with the goal of achieving a dense sound with little high frequency content, appropriate for the acoustic space.

- Thomas James (Sound Engineeer)

Twenty Mirrors I

James Williamson

Piano I

Con spirito ca. ♪ = 160

PLAY 5x

fff

Senza misura

(pause until resonance has faded)

ff

secco

1st x c. 5"
2nd x c. 2"

Piano II

Con spirito ca. ♪ = 160

PLAY 5x

f secco

3

ff molto p

3

una corda

Senza misura

1st x c. 5"
2nd x c. 2"

Electronics

Delay off
Reverb off
Ring modulation off

5

Pno. I

A tempo ca. ♪ = 160

PLAY 11x

ff secco

pp

ff

3

ff secco

Pno. II

[pause until resonance has ended]

mf

mf

n

A tempo ca. ♪ = 160

PLAY 11x

ff

3

ff secco

Elec.

Feedback 50%
Delay - 400ms

Allow to fade

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Meno mosso

11

lilting...

Pno. I

p *mp*

Ped.

pp subito

Pno. II

pesante

ff

R.H.

L.H.

R.H. (F♯)

Meno mosso

pp

Delay off

Elec.

Quicker c. ♪=240

16

ff

tr

mf

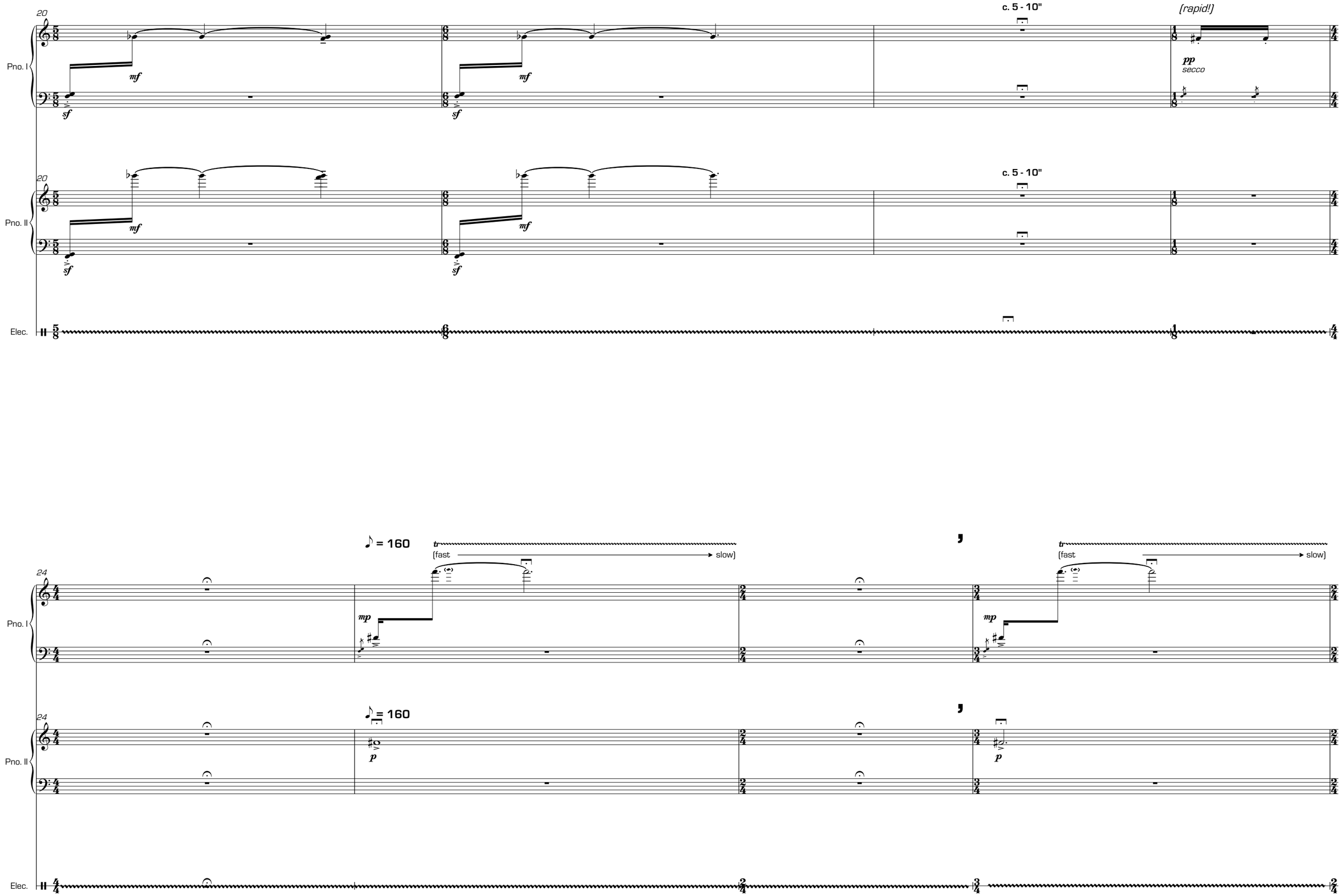
sf

PLAY 5x

Feedback 30%
Delay - 400ms

Delay off

Feedback 50%
Delay - 400ms


20
Pno. I
mf
sf
c. 5 - 10"
(rapid!)
pp
secco
Pno. II
Elec.
24
♪ = 160
tr
(fast
slow)
mp
p

28

Pno. I

ppp

molto ***f***

28

Pno. II

ppp

molto ***f***

Elec.

rall.

32

Pno. I

ppp*subito*

Ped.

rall.

32

Pno. II

ppp*subito*

Ped.

Elec.

Senza misura

ca. 2 minutes
[Allowing delays to build and dicipate]

35

Pno. I

like a pendulum...

{C A♯ E D♯ C A♯ E}

ad libitum.
NB Avoid playing in synchronicity.

Allow delays to finish,
then continue.

ff

Ped.

Senza misura

ca. 2 minutes
[Allowing delays to build and dicipate]

35

Pno. II

like a pendulum...

{C A♯ E D♯ C A♯ E}

ad libitum.
NB Avoid playing synchronicity.

Allow delays to finish,
then continue.

ff

Ped.

Elec.

**Feedback 70%
- 300ms**

**Once piano's stop,
fade out delays
gradually over 2-4secs**

A tempo ♪=132

37

Pno. I

PLAY 9x

PLAY 5x

rall.

p

p

pp

ff

secco

senza Ped.

f

f

p

Ped.

A tempo ♪=132

37

Pno. II

PLAY 9x

PLAY 5x

f

pp subito

ff

secco

rall.

senza Ped.

sf

Ped.

Elec.

Reverb 2 secs

10 secs

Reverb volume 0%

100%

Senza misura

43

Pno. I

ca. 6"

ca. 3"

ca. 4"

pp

ppp

Senza misura

43

Pno. II

ca. 6"

ca. 2"

ca. 4"

ppp

Elec.

Reverb cont.

A tempo ♪=132

44

Pno. I

p molto ff

PLAY 7x

pp

Silently depress keys. Cluster with forearms.

sost. (until bar 57, beat 1)

A tempo ♪=132

44

Pno. II

p molto ff

PLAY 7x

pp

Silently depress keys. Cluster with forearms.

n [To pp]

sost. (until bar 57, beat 1)

Elec.

Reverb off

Feedback 70%
Delay 400ms

Fade

49

Pno. I

PLAY 3x

f secco sempre

PLAY 4x

cresc. gradually through repeat

49

Pno. II

PLAY 3x

pp cresc.

ad lib.

PLAY 4x

cresc. gradually through repeat

Elec.

PLAY 4x

ca. 10 seconds

53

Pno. I

ff

ffff

[*sost.*]

Ped.

Gradually add sustain *ped.,* as crescendo grows, release when stop playing, but leave the *sost. ped.* down (wait for resonance to die).

ca. 10 seconds

53

Pno. II

p

ffff

[*sost.*]

Ped.

Gradually add sustain *ped.,* as crescendo grows, release when stop playing, but leave the *sost. ped.* down (wait for resonance to die).

Reverb 6 secs

Reverb Vol. 0%

Reverb 10 secs

Reverb Vol. 100% → 30% (in pause)

Elec.

Understated ca. ♩=84

56

Pno. I

ppp subito sempre

[*sost.*] *senza* Ped.

PLAY 3x

attacca

Understated ca. ♩=84

56

Pno. II

ppp *p*

[*sost.*] *senza* Ped.

PLAY 3x

Reverb 15 secs

Reverb Vol. 30% →60%

Reverb cont.

Elec.

PLAY 3x

attacca

*
- **Pitches can be displaced in any octave, ad libitum.**
- **The pitches of the dyad must be played simultaneously or as a grace note.**

Senza misura *(dripping/melting like a Dali painting...)*

Play independently

Start very slow, then accel. to as fast as possible, maintaining ppp.

ca. 2 minutes +

62

Pno. I

ppp *sempre*

Ped.

Senza misura *(dripping/melting like a Dali painting...)*

Play independently

Start very slow, then accel. to as fast as possible, maintaining ppp.

ca. 2 minutes +

62

Pno. II

ppp *sempre*

Ped.

Delay time

Smoothly change delay time at random to produce slight pitch shifted feeback (making use of full range over time).

Fade delay and reverb

Feedback 80%

Elec.

Reverb cont.

A tempo ca. ♩=72

64

Pno. I

Pno. II

Elec.

[C A♯ E D♯ C A♯ E]

PLAY 5x

Like bells gently ringing, becoming heavier/closer...

67

ff sempre

ppp cresc.

accel.

Ped. sempre

Delay

Feedback 50%
- 300ms

Ring Modulation 5%
- 800 Hz

72

Pno. I

molto

fff

72

Pno. II

molto

fff

Reverb Vol. 0%

Reverb 4 secs

Reverb 8 secs

Reverb Vol. 100%

Fade delay

Elec.

A tempo ca. ♩=72

75

Pno. I

PLAY 3x

PLAY 4x

PLAY 5x

mf f

3

(last time)

A tempo ca. ♩=72

75

Pno. II

PLAY 3x

PLAY 4x

PLAY 5x

mf f

(last time)

Reverb cont.

Delay 0 - 100%
400 - 500ms

Elec.

Pesante ca. ♩=80 (remain in strict time)

Pno. I

L.H.

ossia

p subito

ossia

senza ped.

ff

Pesante ca. ♩=80 (remain in strict time)

Pno. II

p subito

senza ped.

ff

[senza ped. sempre]

Elec.

Reverb 8 secs

Delay off

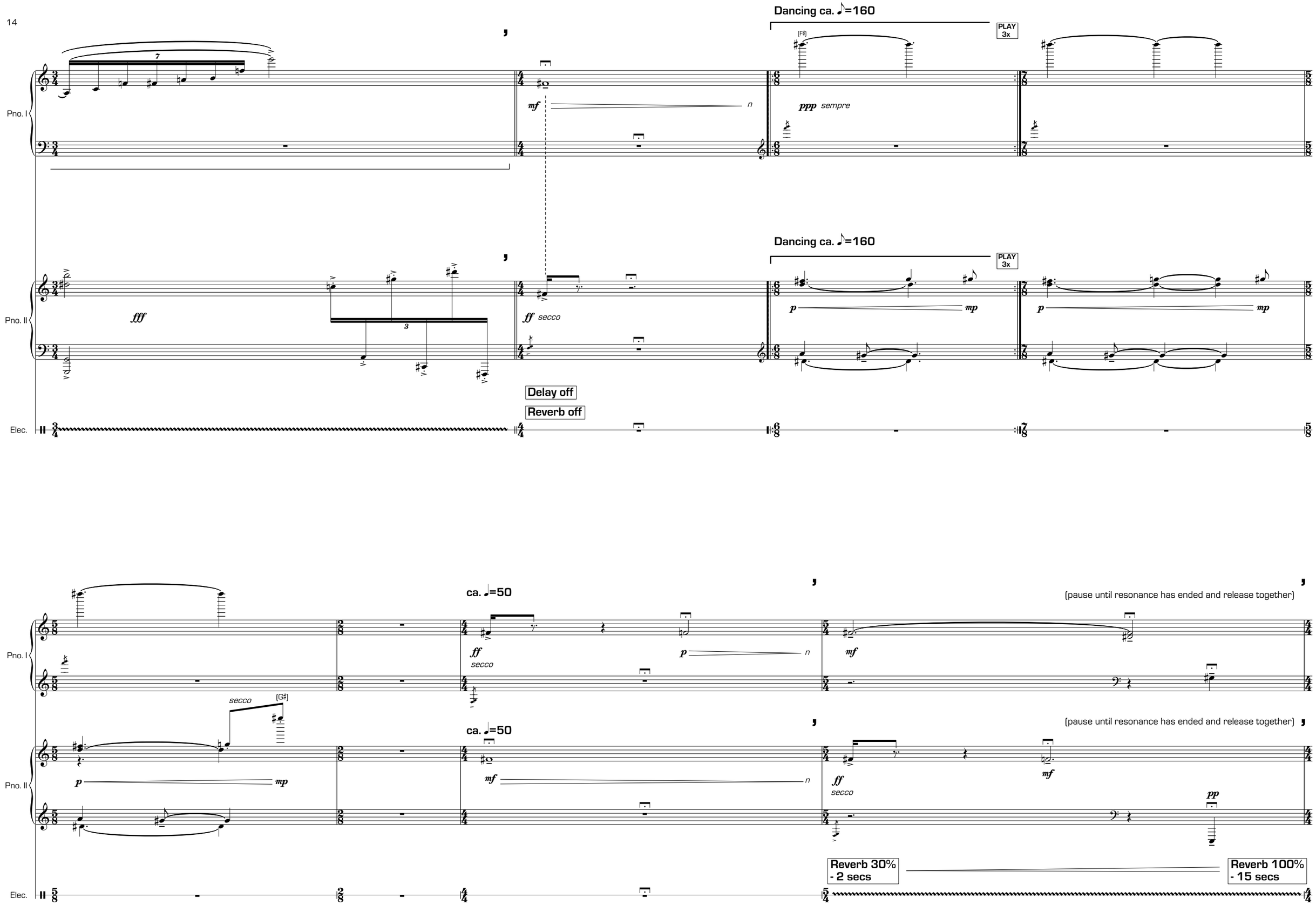
Reverb 15 secs

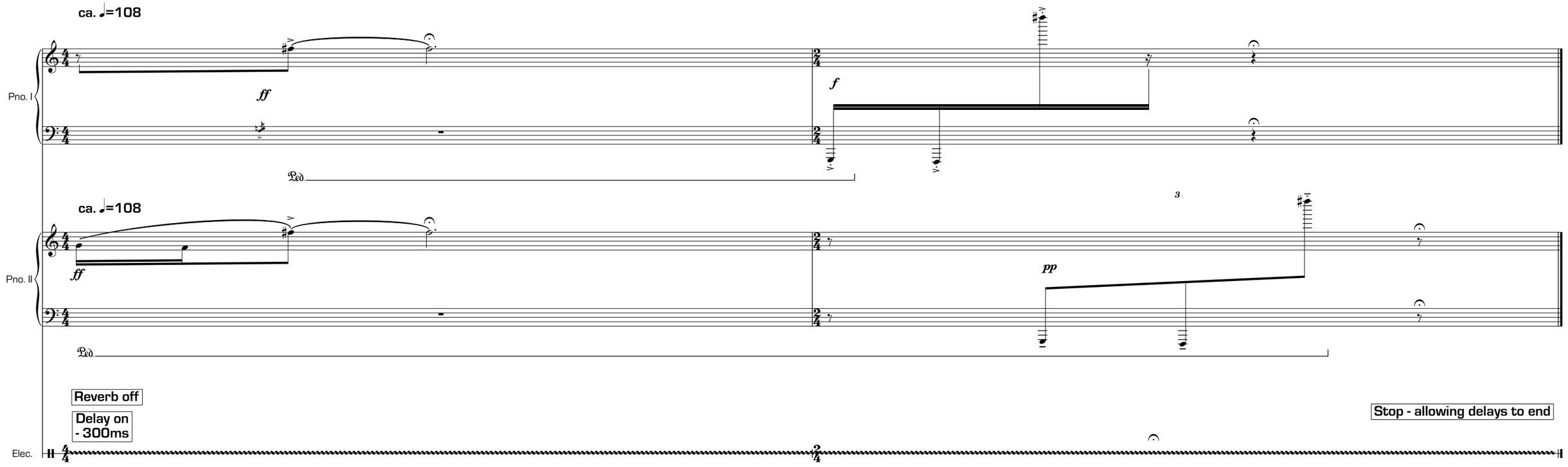
Pno. I

Pno. II

Elec.

Reverb cont.


Dancing ca. ♪=160
PLAY 3x
Pno. I
Pno. II
Elec.
mf
n
ppp sempre
fff
ff secco
p
mp
Delay off
Reverb off
ca. ♩=50
(pause until resonance has ended and release together)
secco
(G♯)
pp
Reverb 30% - 2 secs
Reverb 100% - 15 secs


ca. ♩=108
Pno. I
ff
f
Ped.
ca. ♩=108
Pno. II
ff
3
pp
Ped.
Reverb off
Delay on
- 300ms
Stop - allowing delays to end
Elec.