

THE VERNACULAR WRIT

Christopher Walker

INSTRUMENTATION



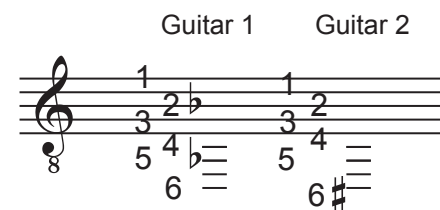
2 Classical Guitars, mic'd + amplified in house
Harpsichord, mic'd, processed through Pure Data + amplified in house
Double Bass, mic'd, processed through Pure Data + amplified in house
Electronics represented in Pure Data + amplified in house

PERFORMANCE NOTES

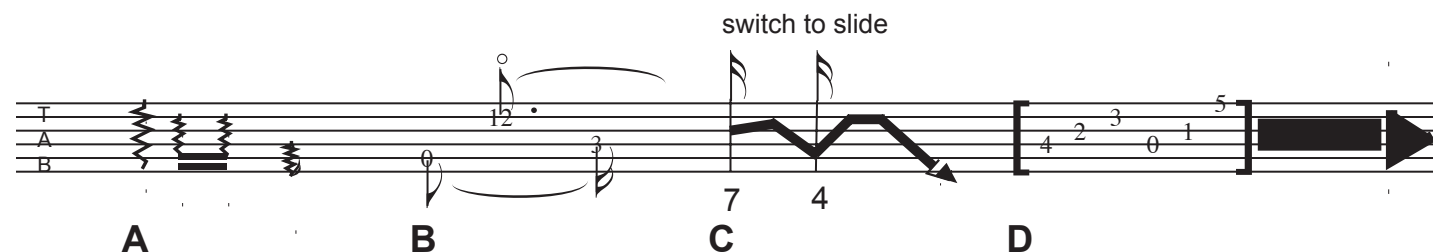
Classical Guitars 1 & 2 serve as the “pure” voicings in this work.

Each guitar is prepared by **scordatura** - a special tuning that in this work, will allow the instruments to create a crunchy texture when played openly together.

The two tunings are as follows:



The guitar parts are read in standard six-line tablature staves, but there are a number of non-standard notation used throughout. They are as follows, arranged in order of appearance:



A - This notation indicates a full, thumb stroke across open strings. The notehead and stem length indicate which strings to openly strum.

B - The standard notation; numbered noteheads indicate fretboard position on a particular string, slurs indicate the amount of time a note is left to resonate, harmonics are indicated by °.

C - This notation calls for the use of a slide appropriate to the instrument, adorned on the ring finger; a full thumb stroke across all open strings is made at the fretted position indicated by the number below, then the arrowed line indicates the motion of the slide in relative ‘up’ and ‘down’ motions across the fretboard.

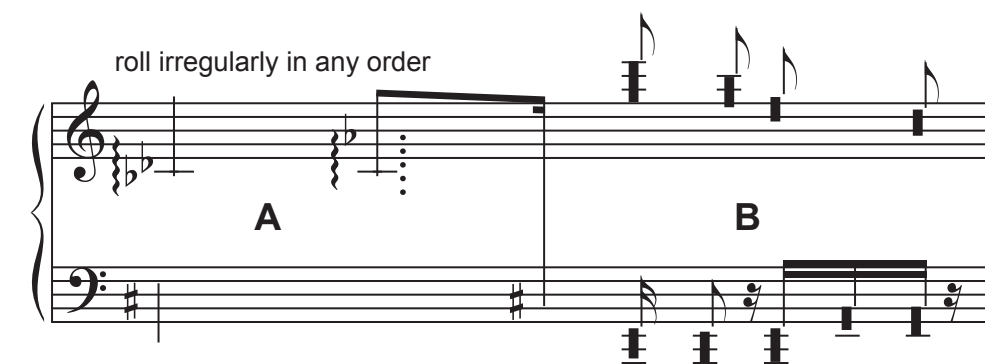
D - This notation denotes free aleatoric fingerings of the desired notes, for a duration as long as is indicated by the broad arrow in time.



The **Harpsichord** serves as the “distorted” voicing in this work.

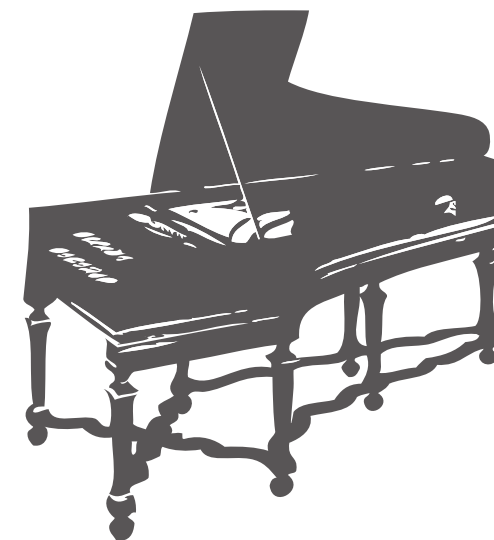
The part reads as any other keyboard instrument, but there are two clarifications to be made in notation.

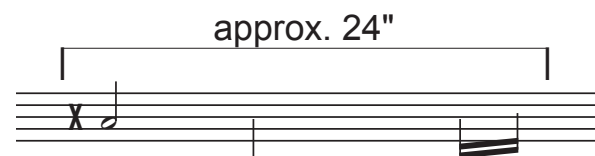
Again, as they appear in the score:



A - Whenever the standard rolled arpeggiation is used, it is to be performed irregularly, in any up or down order.

B - Whenever two noteheads with a bar between them are notated, this indicates a five-finger cluster note; the position of the notes show approximate hand placement on the keyboard.



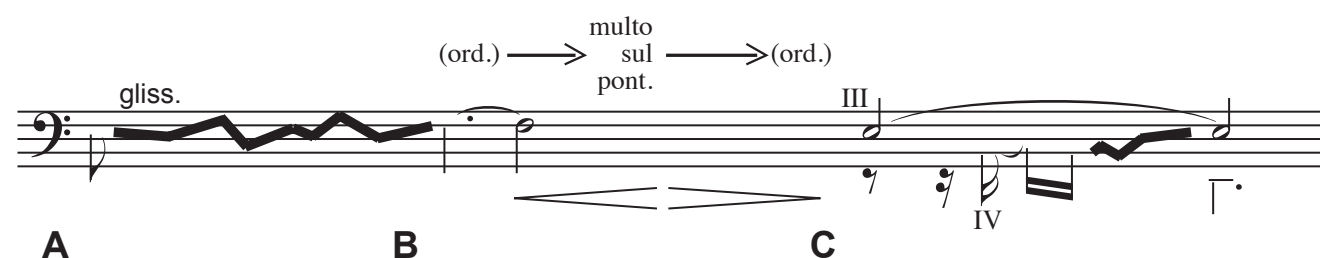


In general, whenever an “X” stands in place of a time signature, the piece is in free time, per the graphic notation sense of the term. The duration of these periods of free time are indicated in seconds above the staff. During these periods, a written note’s duration lasts at the performer’s own discretion; the white space in between indicates rests, also with the performer’s discretion. All written material must happen within the time stated above the staff.

These periods happen at the beginning of the work and during the Harpsichord’s “free cadenza”.

The **Double Bass**, along with the **Electronics**, represent the “evolving voices” of this work.

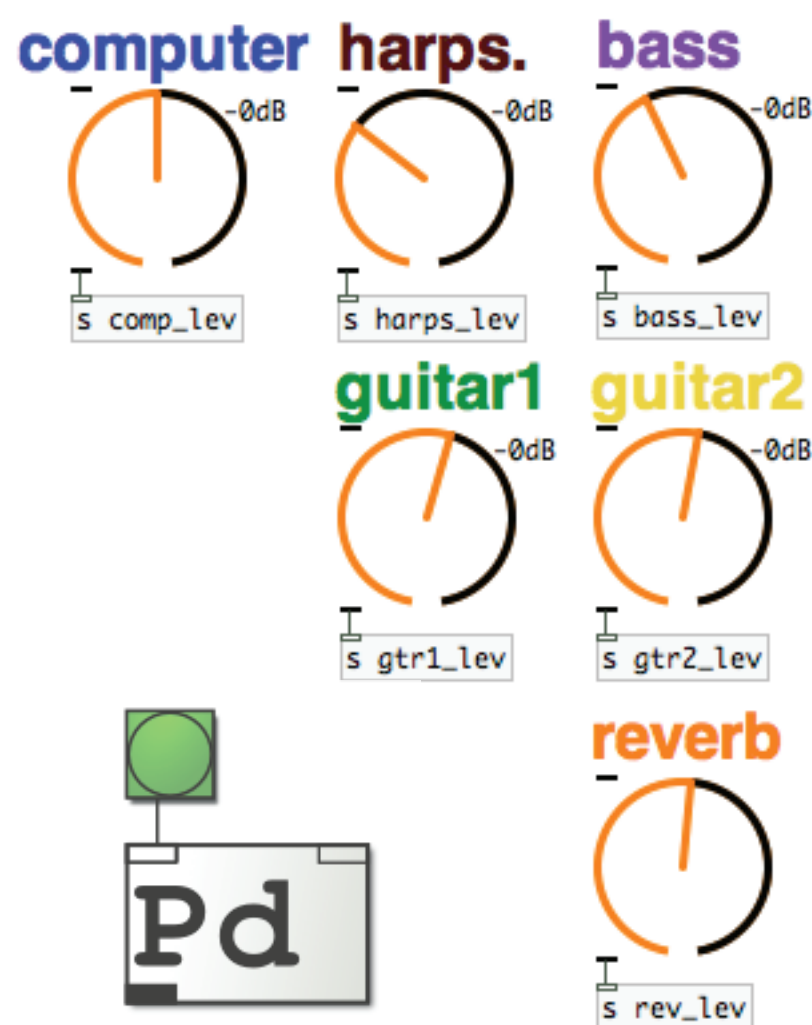
The Bass part is in standard notation, with some modifiers, listed in order of appearance:



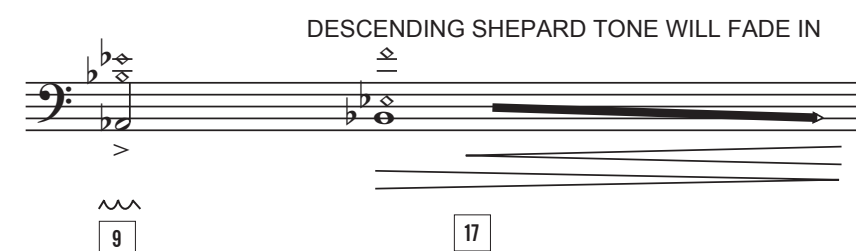
A - Glissandi are notated by the thick black lines, indicating total direction along the fingerboard.

B - This notation indicates a linear progression from ordinary playing to multo sul ponticello playing, and back again. At “msp”, it is desired for the bow to be nearly on top of the bridge. This gesture will be often accompanied by dynamics motion.

C - This notation shows an extension of the glissandi gestures, but in the inclusion of a double stop, with individual strings notated.

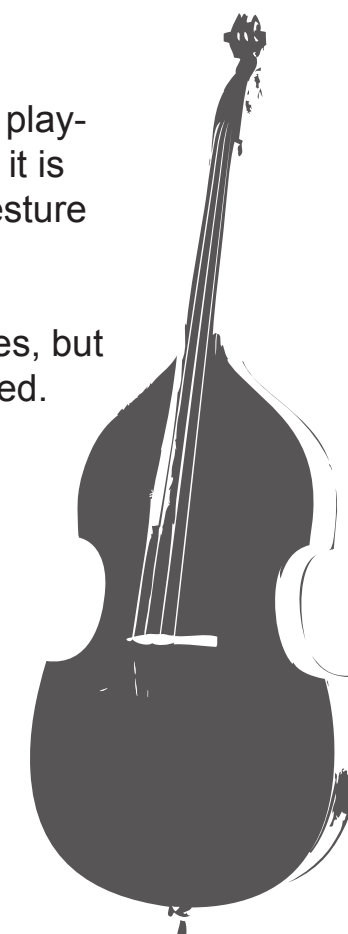


The **Electronics** are to be performed with **Pd-extended**, compiled against Pure Data version 0.42.5. All necessary files, libraries and extensions are to be found in the same folder as this PDF score. The main file is titled “_vernacular.pd”. Additionally, there is a separate “_vernacular Readme.txt” file included in the folder that has the full rundown on the PD file itself.



The Electronics consist of a multi-layered drone, a sound file of a descending Shepar-Risset tone, and the plug-ins to make the inputs from the Harpsichord, Double Bass and Drone distorted and reverberant.

The user at the computer simply has to have the “ready_to_cue” toggle on, then follow along in the score, clicking the space-bar whenever the next numbered cue (encapsulated in the score by squares) comes along in the performance. The “you_are_here” box should display the same cue as is present in the score.



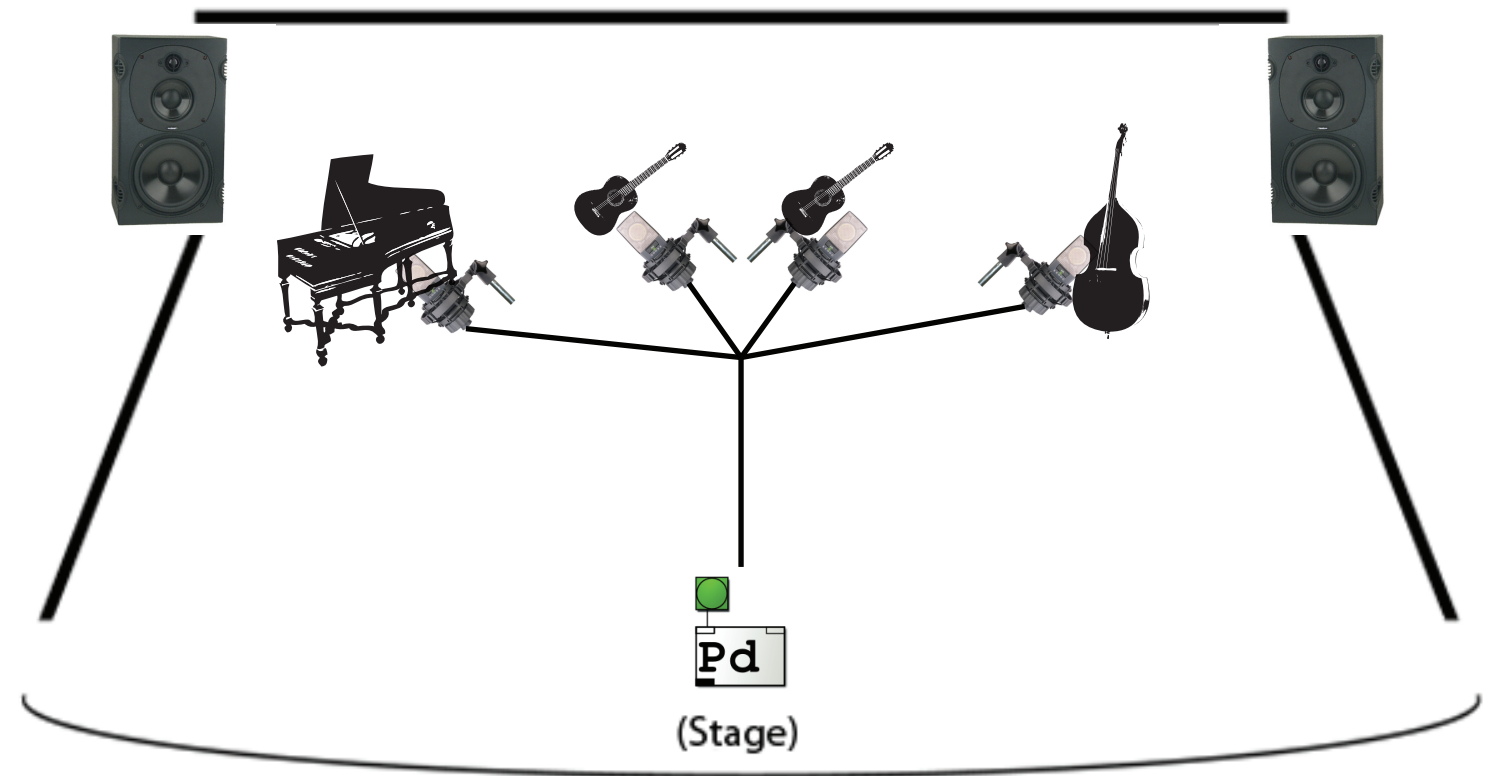
THE VERNACULAR WRIT

PERFORMANCE NOTES (CONT.)

The performance space should be set up in the manner displayed to the right.

The computer running Pd-extended must have at least stereo outputs available. Four-channel output is preferred.

Again, please refer to the “_vernacular ReadMe.txt” file for a full explanation on set-up procedures.



PROGRAM NOTE

This piece was created from the thoughts of “What if?”

What if Western notation as we know it today was something forced upon instrumentation?

What if instruments had their own unique “vernacular”; a dialect distinctly separate from both each other and their written history?

What if the idiomatic usage of instruments was nowhere near its true vernacular? The Harpsichord a racuous judge, a Double Bass the subtle commentator.

What if a group of like races, say stringed-instruments for instance, had a societal plight against them, an issue to rally under, a strife that demands justice and retribution?

What if a legal writ was established in response?

THE VERNACULAR WRIT

Christopher Walker

Score

1. Casus belli

approx. 40"

Guitar 1

Scordatura 1

Guitar 2

Scordatura 2

Harpichord

Double Bass

Electronics

0

Steadfast ♩ = 80

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Hpschd.

D.B.

Elec.

the vernacular writ

22

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Hpschd.

D.B.

Elec.

mf

(ord.) → multo sul pont. → (ord.)

pppp *cresc.*

22



2. jurit nova curia

32

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Hpschd.

D.B.

Elec.

mf

(ord.) → multo sul pont. → (ord.)

ppp *f*

32

1

2

the vernacular writ

41

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Hpschd.

D.B.

Elec.

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

simile

mp

simile

mp

bowing:

f

III

IV

3



50

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Hpschd.

D.B.

Elec.

switch to slide

switch to slide

roll irregularly in any order

ff

fff

pp

mp

f

4 3 12 7

the vernacular writ

The musical score is divided into four systems, each with a staff for a different instrument:

- Gtr. 1:** Features a complex melodic line with many accidentals and dynamic markings. It includes a *p* (piano) marking and a *mf* (mezzo-forte) marking. The staff is numbered 57 at the beginning.
- Gtr. 2:** Features a complex melodic line with many accidentals and dynamic markings. It includes a *p* (piano) marking and a *mf* (mezzo-forte) marking. The staff is numbered 57 at the beginning.
- Hpschd.:** Features a complex melodic line with many accidentals and dynamic markings. It includes a *p* (piano) marking and a *mf* (mezzo-forte) marking. The staff is numbered 57 at the beginning.
- D.B.:** Features a complex melodic line with many accidentals and dynamic markings. It includes a *p* (piano) marking and a *mf* (mezzo-forte) marking. The staff is numbered 57 at the beginning.
- Elec.:** Features a complex melodic line with many accidentals and dynamic markings. It includes a *p* (piano) marking and a *mf* (mezzo-forte) marking. The staff is numbered 57 at the beginning.

The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, accidentals, and dynamic markings. It also includes a section labeled "multo sul pont." (much on the bridge) and a section labeled "(ord.)" (order). The score is written in a style that suggests a complex, possibly experimental, musical piece.

This musical score is for the song "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel. It is arranged for a four-piece band: two guitars (Gtr. 1 and Gtr. 2), a harmonica (Hpschd.), a double bass (D.B.), and an electric bass (Elec.).

Instrumentation and Parts:

- Gtr. 1:** Features a melodic line with various fret numbers (e.g., 14, 9, 7, 12) and dynamic markings like *mf* and *mp*. It includes a tremolo effect in the final measure.
- Gtr. 2:** Provides a rhythmic accompaniment with fret numbers (e.g., 12, 7, 4, 1, 8, 4, 6, 3, 15, 12, 5) and dynamic markings like *mf* and *mp*. It also features a tremolo effect in the final measure.
- Hpschd.:** The harmonica part is mostly silent, with a few notes appearing in the final measure, marked with a *ff* dynamic.
- D.B.:** The double bass part starts with a *f* dynamic, followed by a *mp* section, and ends with a *f* dynamic. It includes a tremolo effect in the final measure.
- Elec.:** The electric bass part is marked with a *mf* dynamic and includes a tremolo effect in the final measure.

Score Structure:

- The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines.
- Measure numbers 68 and 69 are indicated at the beginning of the first and second staves, respectively.
- Dynamic markings (*f*, *mf*, *mp*, *ff*) are placed below the notes to indicate volume changes.
- Fret numbers are written above the notes for the guitar parts.
- The final measure of the score is marked with a *ff* dynamic and a tremolo effect.

3. leges humanae nascuntur, vivunt, moriuntur

78

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Hpschd.

D.B.

Elec.

sffz

sffz

sfz

(ord.)

multo sul pont.

(ord.)

remove slide

remove slide

f

8

sfz

9

4. All hail he, who without fail, shall render a verdict true

86

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Hpschd.

D.B.

Elec.

free cadenza

approx. 24"

pp

sfz

mp

f

mp

mf

fp

f

p

mf

subito pp

mp

mp

p

sfz

p

f

10

11

12

the vernacular writ

103

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

approx. 32"

Hpschd.

pp

cresc.

(mf)

approx. 6"

D.B.

Elec.

13

14

114

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

approx. 32"

Hpschd.

(f)

sfz

mp

sfz

mf

p

3

D.B.

Elec.

15

the vernacular writ

125

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Hpschd.

D.B.

Elec.

mp

cresc. into a stupor

approx. 8"

approx. 24"

DESCENDING SHEPARD TONE WILL FADE IN

mf

16

17

132

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Hpschd.

D.B.

Elec.

f

ff

mp

18

19

11

the vernacular writ

140

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Hpschd.

D.B.

Elec.

mf

150

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Hpschd.

D.B.

Elec.

ritard

$\text{♩} = 80$

20

21

5. Amicus curiae

the vernacular writ

repeat in aleatory rhythm, though tenuto throughout

159

Gtr. 1

p

mf

ff

Gtr. 2

pp

f

Hpschd.

pp

D.B.

Elec.

22

169

Gtr. 1

pp

mf

f

Gtr. 2

(f)

f

Hpschd.

ppp

D.B.

Elec.

as even as possible

the vernacular writ

6. Straw poll

182

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Hpschd.

D.B.

Elec.

mf

mf

ff

ff

mp

ppp

195

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Hpschd.

D.B.

Elec.

mf

pp

pp

cresc.

f

cresc.

mf

still cresc.

f

the vernacular writ

207

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Hpschd.

D.B.

Elec.

(ord.) multo sul pont. (ord.)

mf

mp

23

216

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Hpschd.

D.B.

Elec.

ppp

ppp

f *decresc.* *mf*

cresc. *f*

24

7. The vernacular writ

16

27