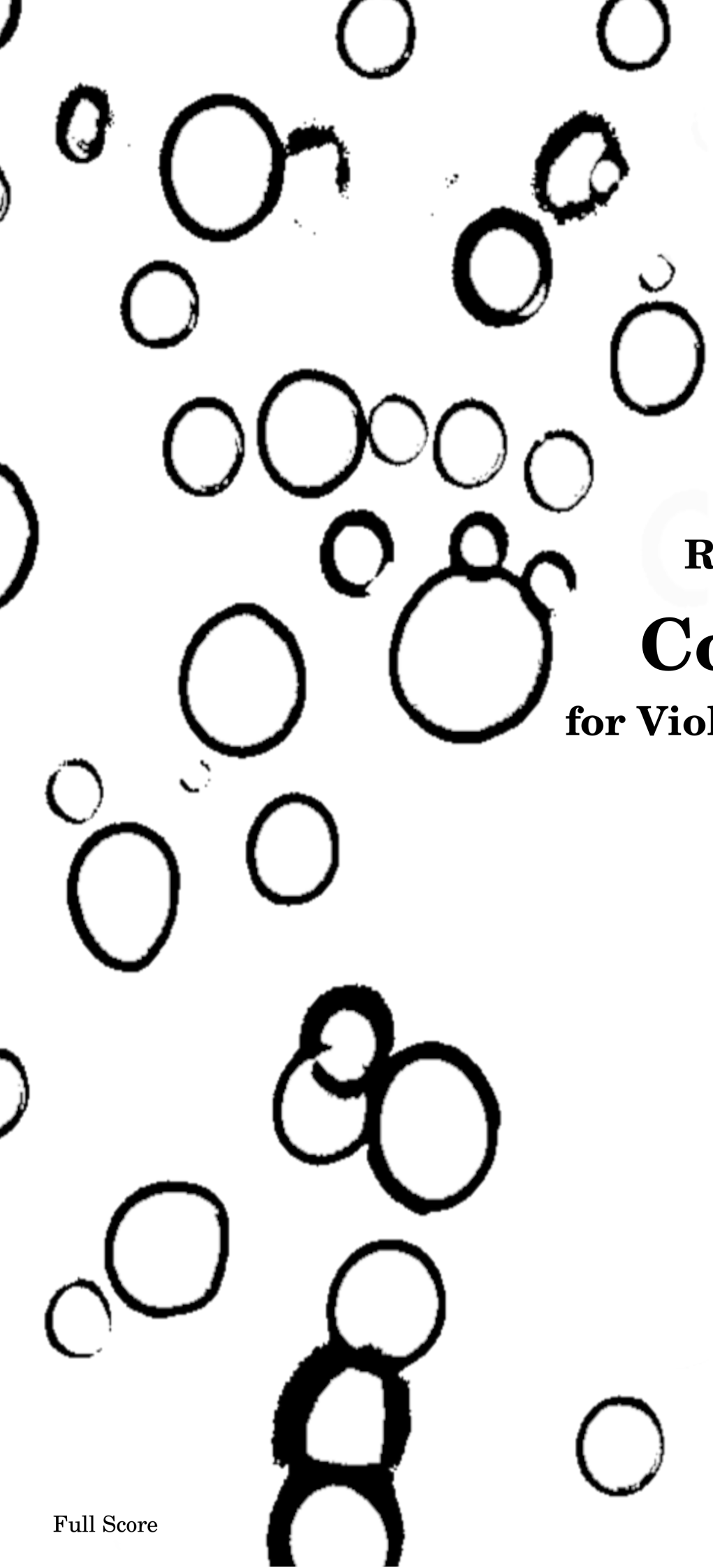

Rodney DuPlessis

Coacervate

for Violin & Electronics

Duration: 7 minutes

Full Score

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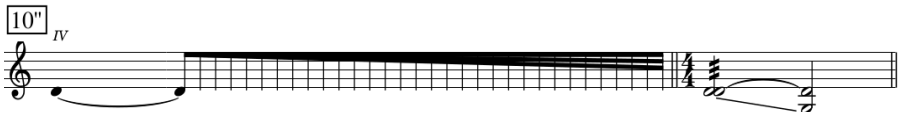
Program Notes

Certain mixtures of polyelectrolytes can spontaneously form dense liquid droplets (called "coacervates") suspended in water (dilute phase). These liquid droplets are often filled with complex molecules, proteins, polymers, and nucleic acids. Coacervate formation has been suggested as a possible mechanism through which the first simple cells formed on earth (Abiogenesis). In composing *Coacervate,* I worked closely with violinist and chemical engineer Chelsea Edwards to create a sonic narrative from this chemistry. Distinct musical motives are inserted into dilute textures where they compartmentalize, chain together like charged polymers, and erupt into the beginnings of life.

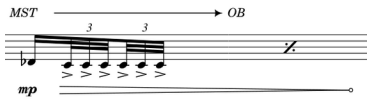
Performance Notes

This piece has measured and unmeasured sections. The boundaries between these sections are demarcated by double bar lines. All measured sections are taken at 60 bpm and are indicated with a time signature at the beginning of the first bar of the measured section. Unmeasured sections are indicated with their length in seconds in a box at the beginning of the bar, and the notes within are stemless (except for accelerandi, which have stems for the feathered beams). The timing within unmeasured sections is free.

Unmeasured Measured

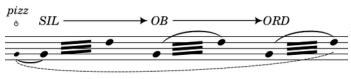


Simile marks



Repeat the figure preceding the simile mark for the duration of the bar while altering articulation and dynamics as indicated.

Phrasing and Dynamics



A dotted slur indicates that the contained music should be interpreted as a single, continuous gesture without pause.

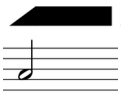
Arrows indicate to change gradually from one playing technique to another. For example, from ordinario bow position to sul ponticello or from silent fingering to bowed.

Diminuendo al niente

Crescendo da niente

Bowing

ST → *sul tasto*
MST → *molto sul tasto (bow where you would finger if you were playing one octave above the current note)*
SP → *sul ponticello*
OB → *on bridge (whispy, white noise effect, no pitch)*
ORD → *ordinario*
SIL → *silent fingering (finger the indicated pitches without bowing)*



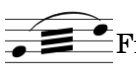
A black rectangle above the staff indicates to bow with extreme pressure, creating a rough scratch sound. A ramp at the beginning or end indicates a gradual transition in bow pressure.

Tremolo

All tremolos should be rapid and unmeasured with high energy.

Bowed tremolo on double-/triple-/quadruple-stop.

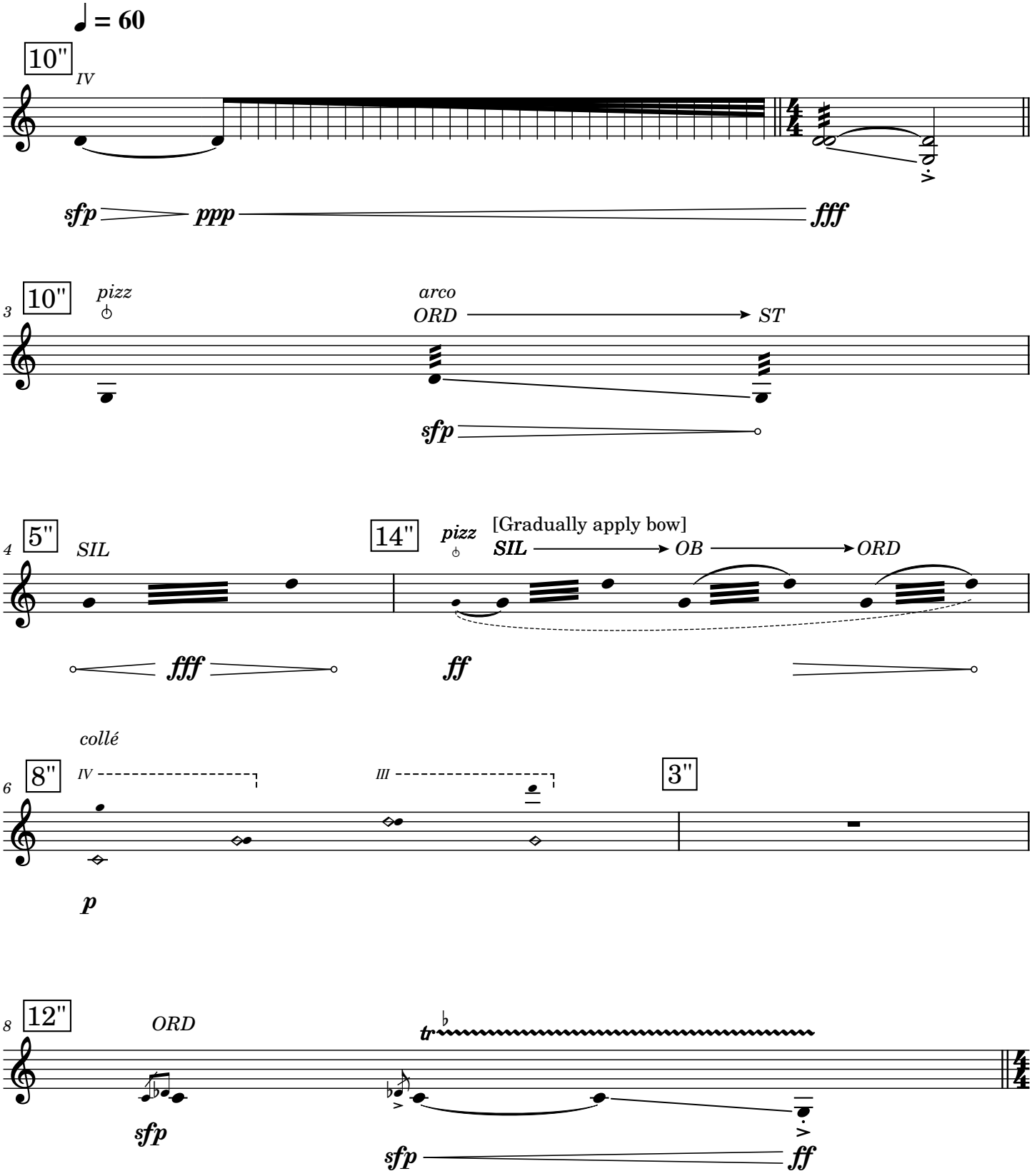
Bowed and fingered tremolo. Alternate the notes and tremolo with bow.



Fingered tremolo. Bowing is legato, although not necessarily in one bow stroke.

Coacervate

Rodney DuPlessis
2020



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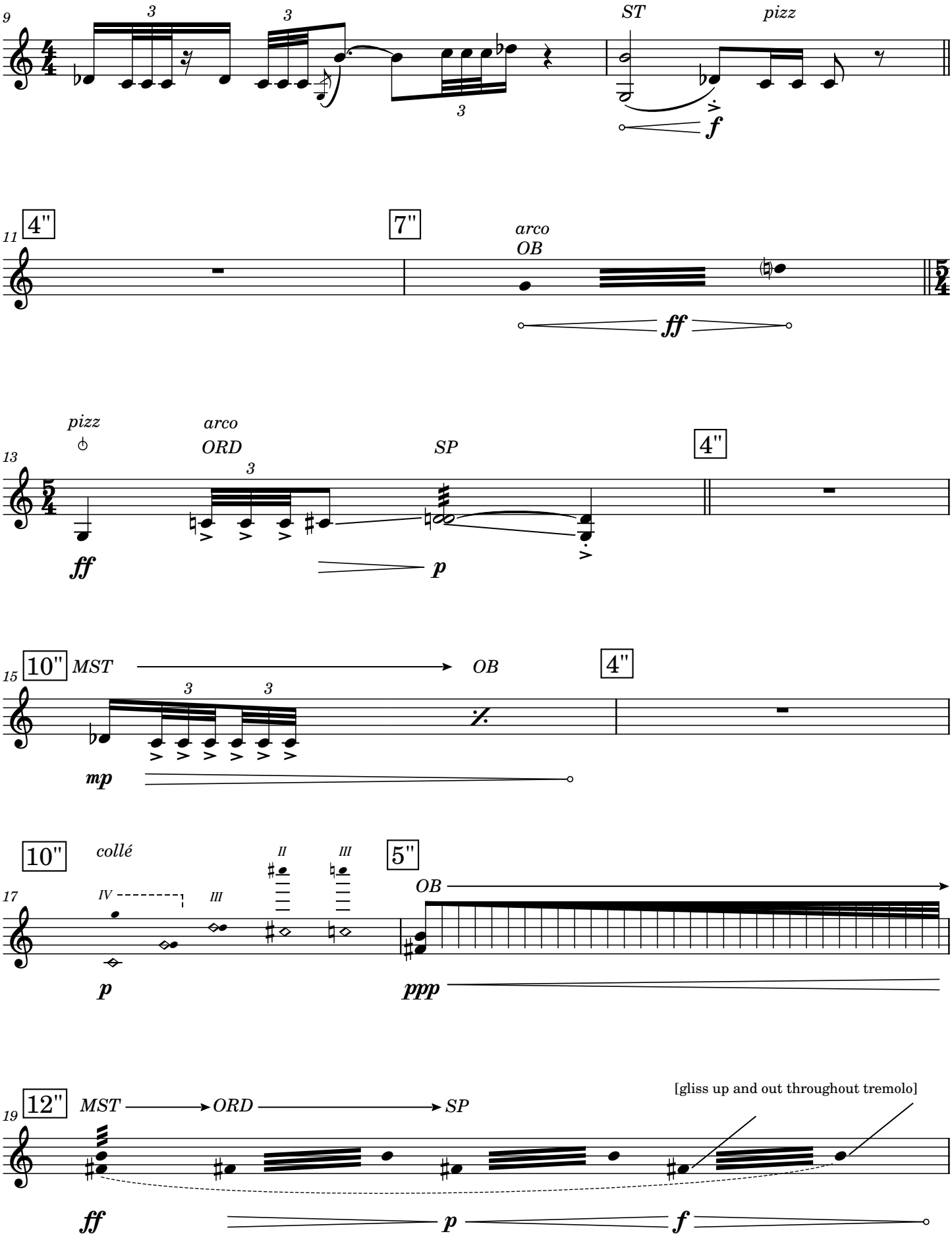
9
3
3
3
ST
pizz
f
11
4"
7"
arco
OB
ff
13
pizz
arco
ORD
3
SP
4"
ff
p
15
10"
MST
OB
4"
3
3
mp
10"
collé
II
III
5"
17
IV
III
OB
p
ppp
19
12"
MST
ORD
SP
[gliss up and out throughout tremolo]
ff
p
f