Fear Is Their Alibi

an electroacoustic composition featuring soprano voice and bassoon

Malesha Jessie Taylor, voice
Clifton Joey Guidry, III, bassoon
Yvette Janine Jackson, composer, electronics
Jarita Davis, text
Zekkereya El-Megharbel, animation

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Fear Is Their Alibi
by Jarita Davis

They keep talking about fear
But when they start with fear, how will we end?

That fear is a fraud
Their fear is a weapon

To thrill in terror
and kill with cowardice

A punching fist of fright
or grip around a stranger's throat

They feel alive again
with each bullet shot

Keep pulling that trigger
until you feel something

Follow that dark man
until you fear for your life

Those wild with anger
need a survival strategy

After hatred has been discharged
fear is their alibi

Soprano

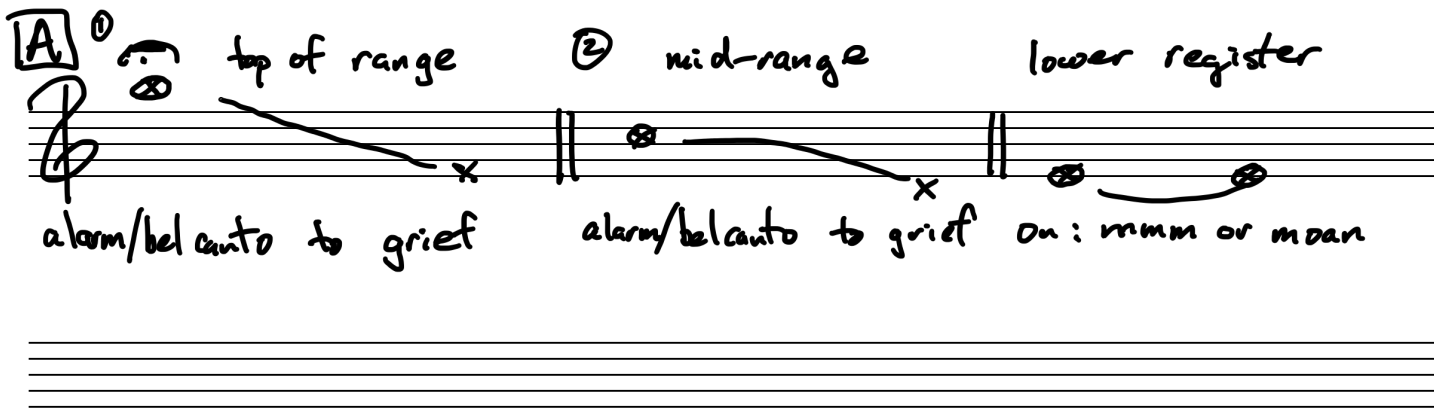
Composer Notes:

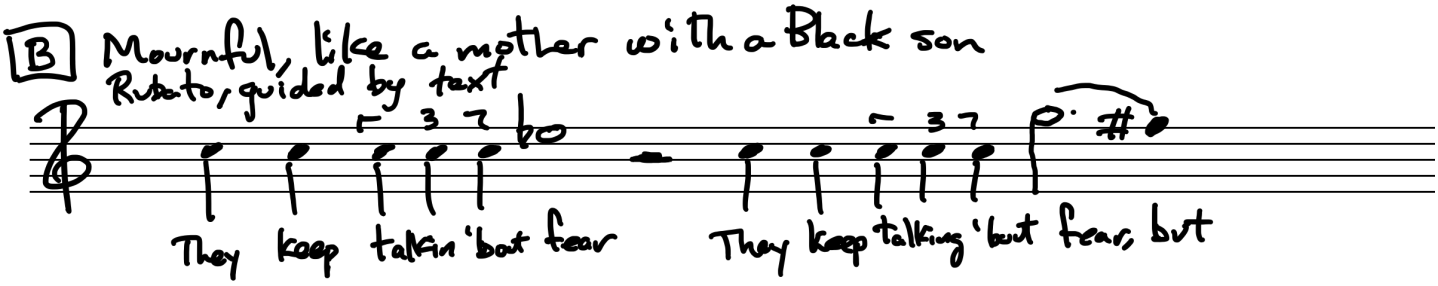
The phrases in the following pages will be incorporated into the electroacoustic composition.

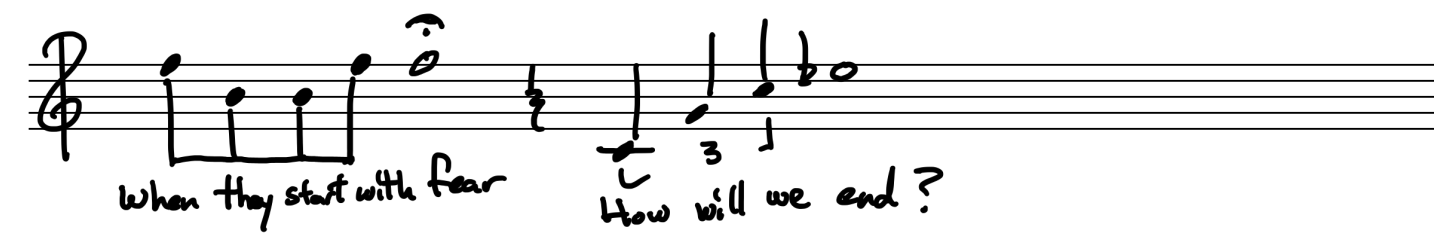
In section A, the circle with the x sustained pitches of your choice from your high, middle, and lower registers. The pitches do not need to be stable (i.e., in tune). Although rhythms in section B are sometimes notated, there is room for interpretation. Read Jarita's poem before playing sections C, D, and E.

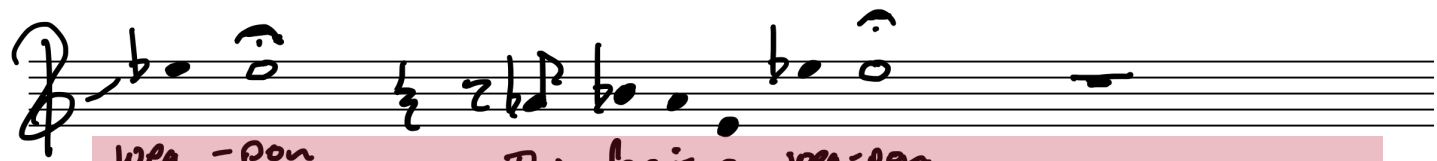
Fear Is Their Alibi

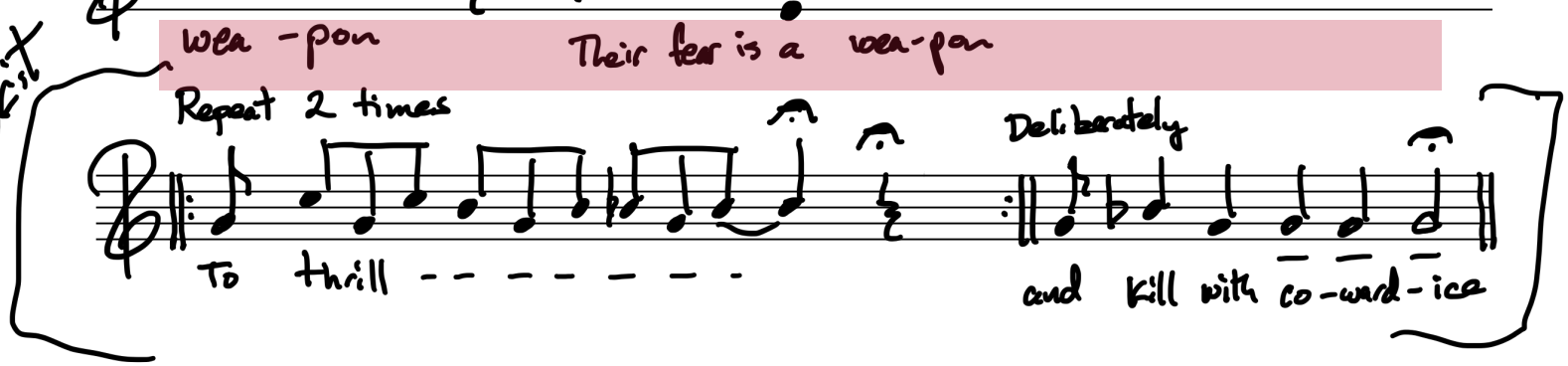
Soprano for Malesha Jessie Taylor

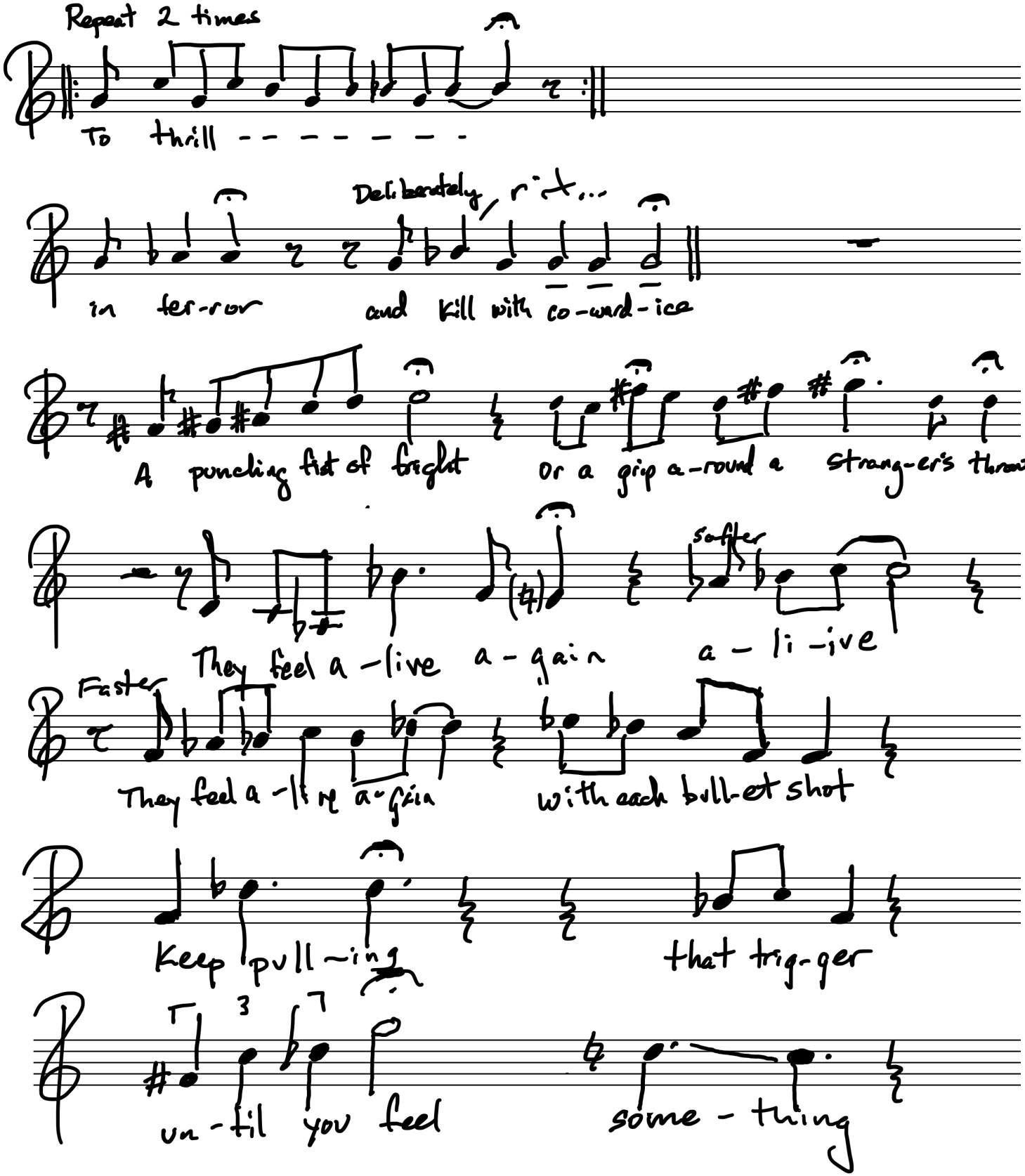


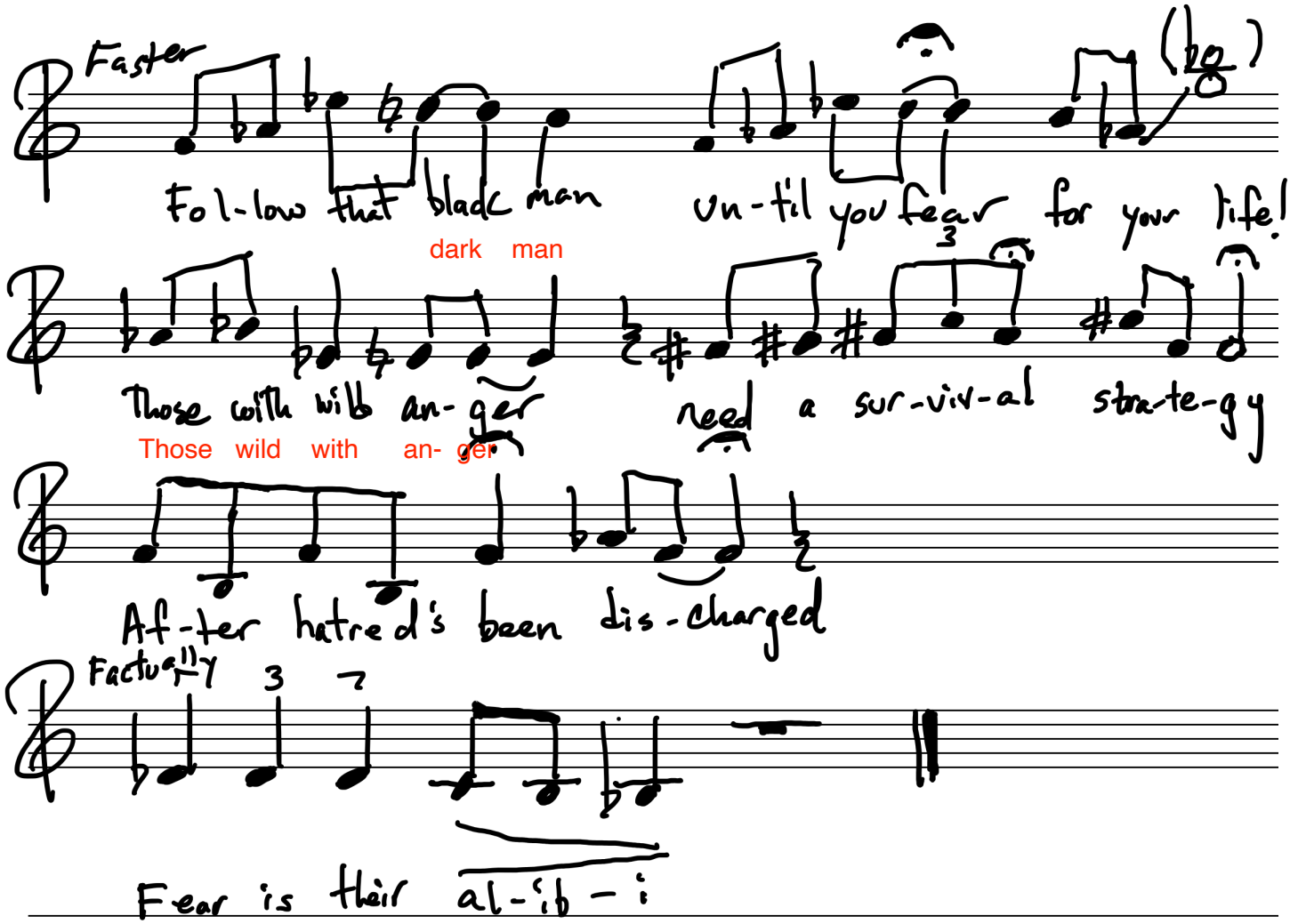









Repeat 2 times
To thrill - - - - - - - -
Deliberately, rit...
in ter-ror and kill with co-ward-ice
A punching fist of fright or a grip a-round a strang-er's throat
softer
They feel a-live a-gain a-li-ive
Faster
They feel a-live a-gain with each bull-et shot
Keep pull-ing that trig-ger
3
un-til you feel some-thing


Faster
Fol-low that black man
dark man
un-til you fear for your life!
Those with wild an-ger
Those wild with an-ger
need a sur-viv-al stra-te-gy
Af-ter hatred's been dis-charged
Factually
Fear is their al-ib-i

[C] On one breath, express a response to Jarita's text

[D] On one breath, express what <u>you</u> are feeling right now

[E] 30-60 seconds
Free improvisation

Bassoon

Composer Notes:

The phrases in the following pages will be incorporated into the electroacoustic composition.

In section A, the circle with the x in the treble clef indicates the highest sustained pitched you can produce on your instrument and, in the bass clef, the lowest pitch. It is assumed that this will be outside the standard tessitura of the instrument. The pitch does not need to be stable (i.e., in tune). Squiggly lines indicate contour. Multis can be those that feel most comfortable based on a low pitch. All phrases in A and B should be free and rubato unless otherwise indicated. Read Jarita's poem before playing sections C and D and E.

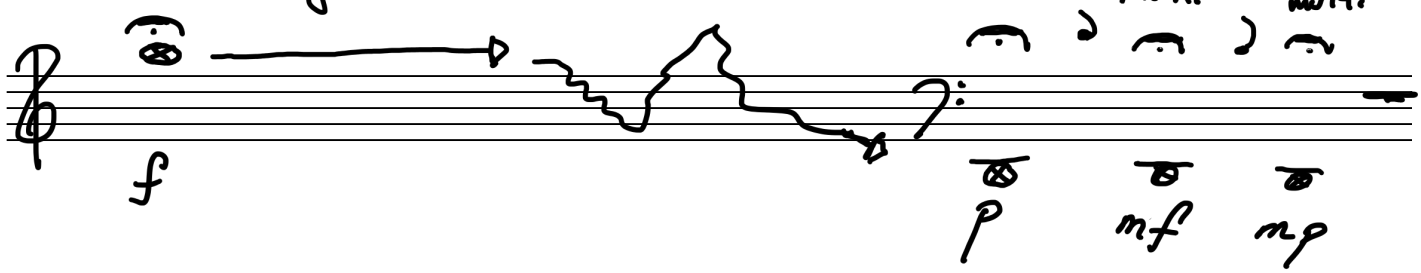
Fear Is Their Alibi

Bassoon

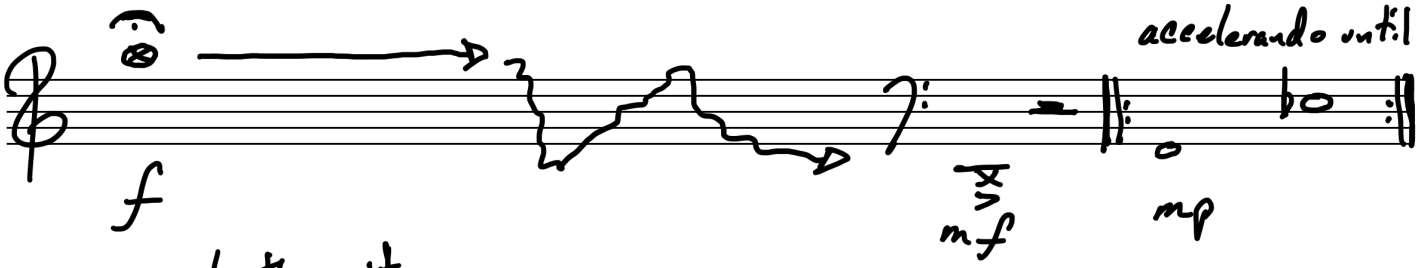
For Clifton Joey Guidry, III

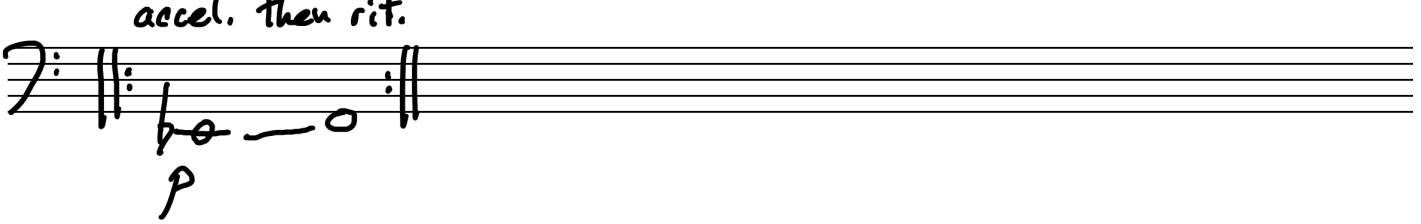
[A] Alarming and Exasperated

(1)

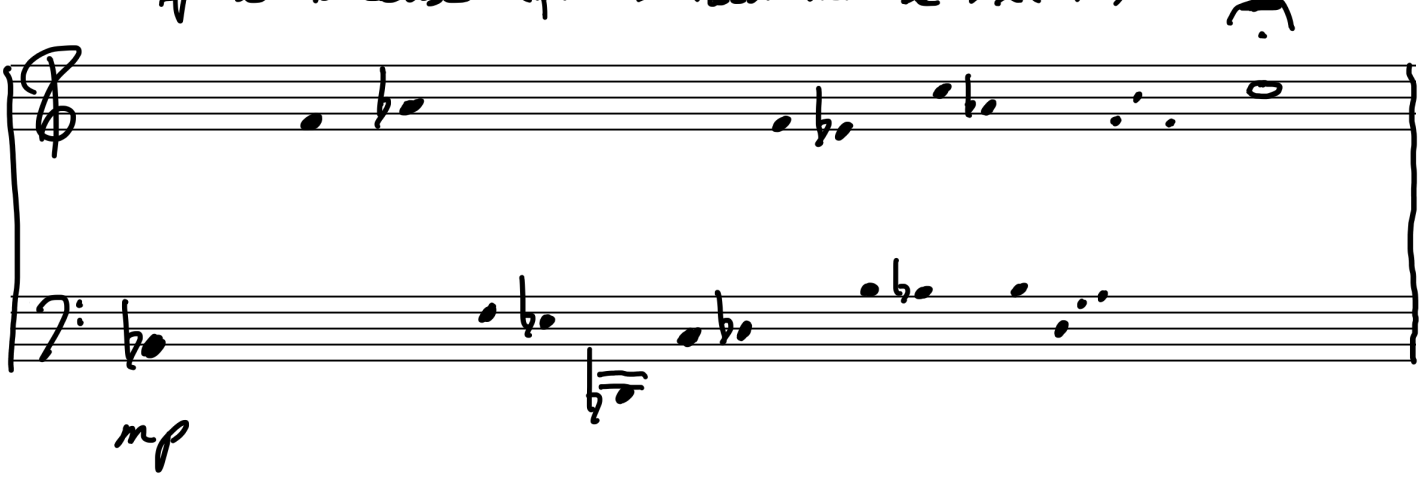


(2)



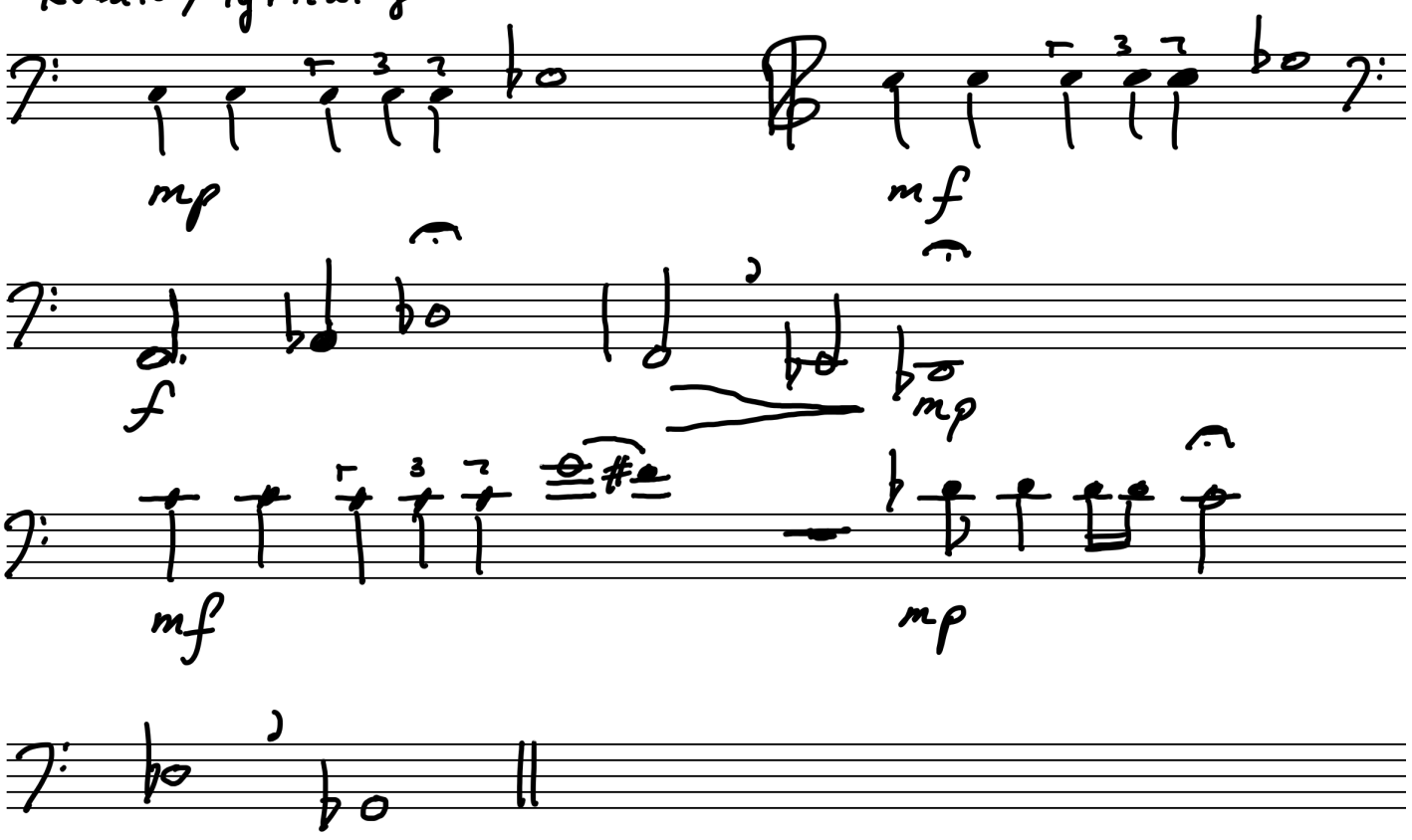


(3) From sparse to dense (pitches need not be exact)

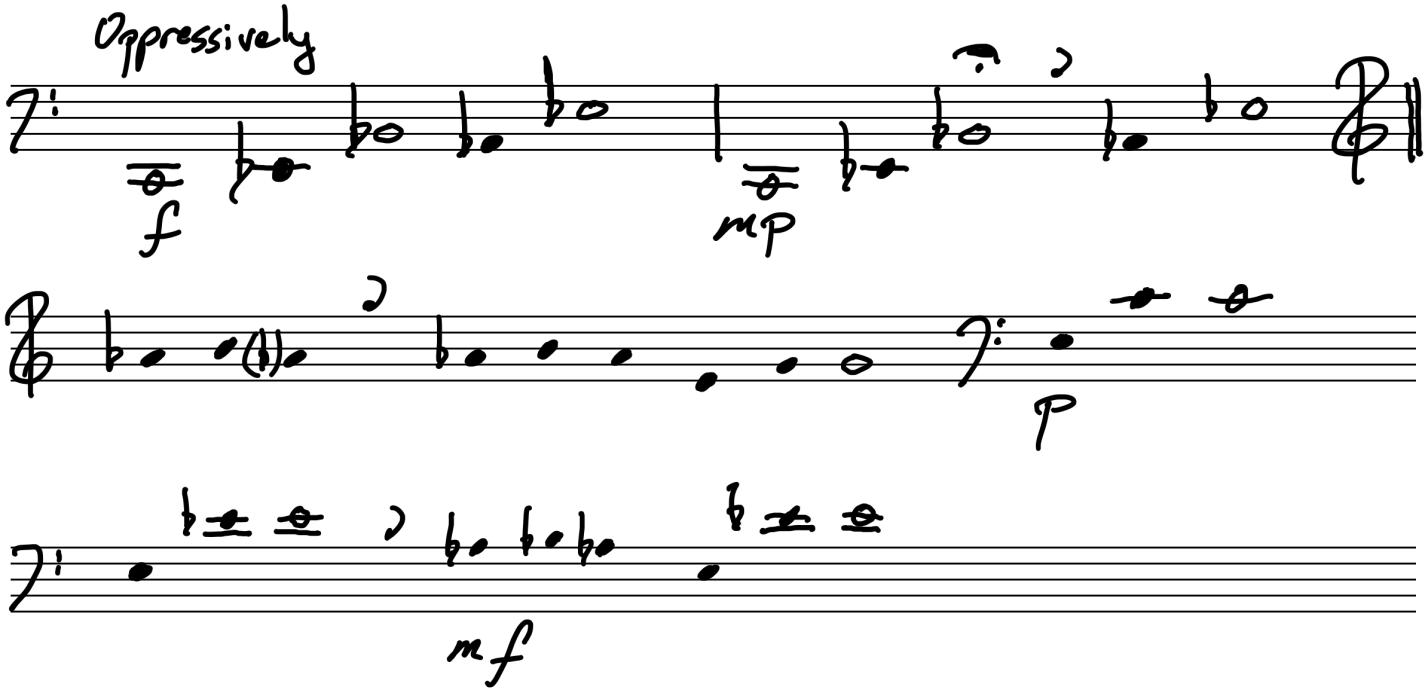


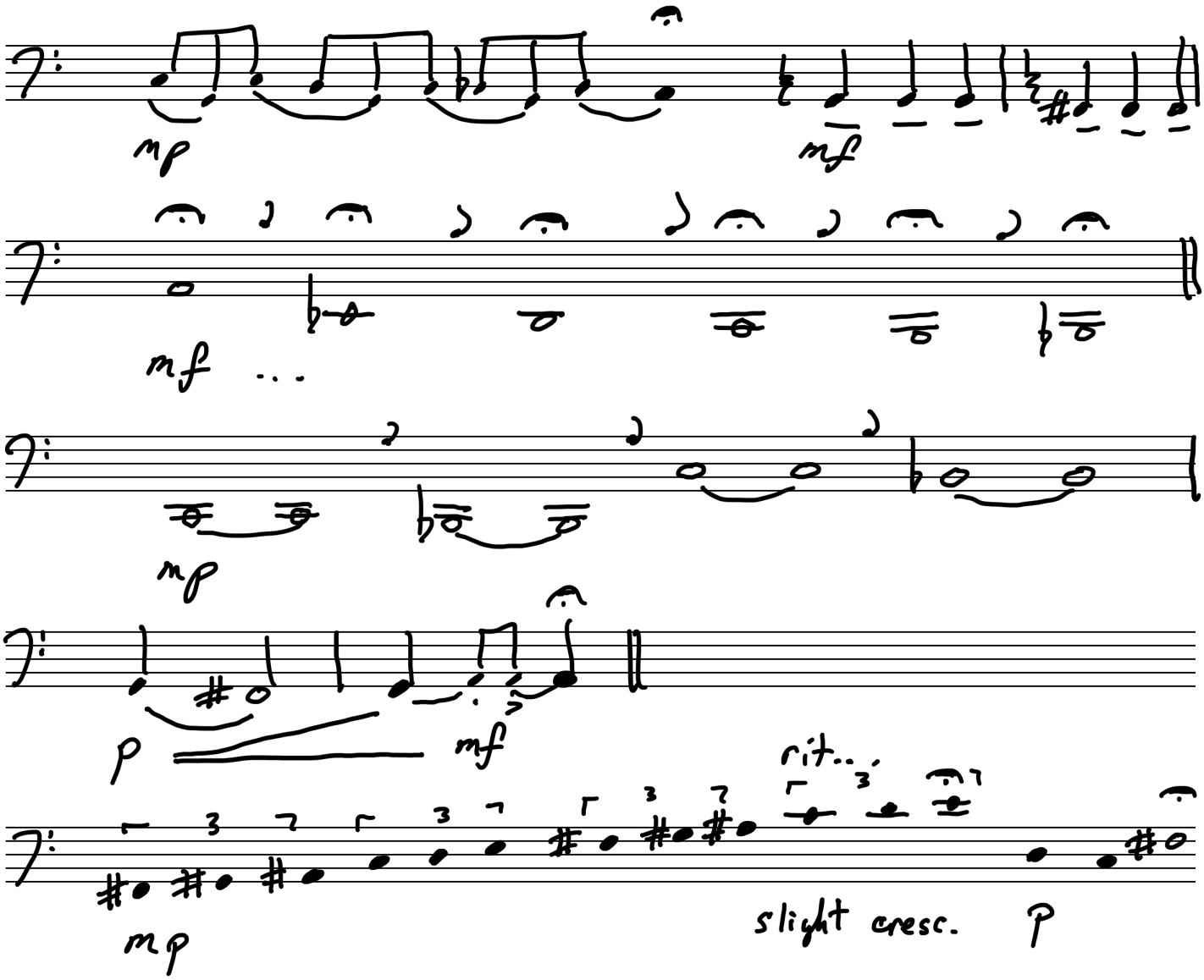
B Mournful, like a mother with a Black son

Rubato, lyrically



Oppressively




mp
mf
mf ...
mp
p
mf
rit...
mp
slight cresc.
p

[C] On one breath, express a response to Jarita's text

[D] On one breath, express what <u>you</u> are feeling right now

[E] 30-60 seconds
Free improvisation