

Alex Temple

BIRKEN LINE

(2026)

for three or more keyboard instruments

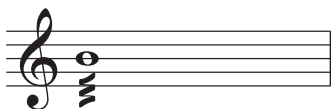
PERFORMANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Broken Line is scored for three or more keyboard instruments. Ideally the instruments should be as different as possible in timbre. All performers play from the same score.

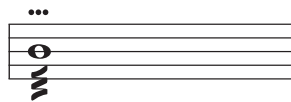
Almost all the notes in the piece are marked with an irregular tremolo symbol (see below). This should be realized by repeating the note (or chord) rapidly and without any repeating patterns — think Morse Code. Try to avoid syncing your note-repetitions with those of the other performers.

Double barlines indicate phrase boundaries. If you're playing an instrument that allows for a lot of timbral variation (e.g. organ, synthesizer), feel free to switch up the settings at any double barline. If you're playing an instrument with a small range (e.g. toy piano), feel free to switch octaves as needed, preferably at a double barline.

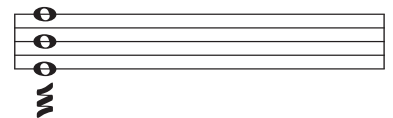
Broken Line was written for Andrew Campbell, Deanna Rusnock and Tigran Buniatyan.



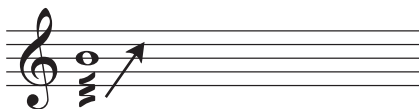
repeat note irregularly,
always tenuto



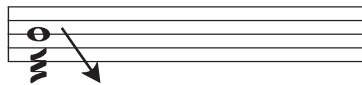
repeat note irregularly,
always staccato



repeat entire chord irregularly
(don't tremolo or arpeggiate)



repeat note irregularly,
starting slow and accelerating



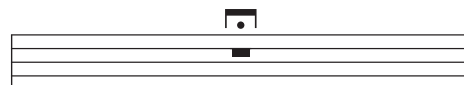
repeat note irregularly,
starting fast and decelerating



hold slightly longer than written



hold somewhat longer than written



hold *much* longer than written (c. 15")

BIRKEN LINE

♩ = 94

ff lyrical

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 94. The piece begins with a forte (*ff*) and lyrical instruction. The melody is characterized by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, creating a flowing, melodic line. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 in the middle of the piece. The score concludes with a final note marked with a fermata.

11

mf

23

f intense

28

B

32 *8va*

ff

40

ppp *fff*

C

47 (high instruments may choose to sit out mm. 47–56)

p *mp*

erie

52

mf

57

Exercise 57

62

D ,

f

mf

f

ff

63

Example 1

68

(an unbroken line!)

ppp

Andante

8vb

Tempe, AZ
1.14.26