

Alex Temple

BLURRY LINE

(2022)

for four or more pitched instruments

Performance Instructions

Blurry Line is an exercise in heterophony. Each performer plays the same melodic line from the same score, but with rhythms of their choosing. (Rhythms do not have to be regular!) Phrases are marked by barlines; each phrase should begin in a staggered fashion, with all performers entering within a couple of seconds of each other. As the phrase continues, they can diverge further if they so choose. (You may want to make decisions as an ensemble about how much divergence you want to allow.)

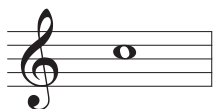
Tempo markings ("slow," "moderate" and "fast") are deliberately vague; don't try to coordinate a single tempo for all performers!

The piece can be played by any group of four or more pitched instruments. The score includes versions written in treble clef and bass/tenor clef; these are identical except for their range, and performers are welcome to use whichever one they prefer. If the range of the line moves outside the practical range of your instrument, feel free to switch octaves as necessary. The score also includes treble-clef versions in two common transpositions.

Expressive effects such as portamento, vibrato, fluttertongue, etc. are encouraged!



Play with any rhythm of your choice.
Don't synchronize with the other players.



Hold until every performer has arrived at this note, then all release together. When there are multiple whole notes in a row, begin each one with performers entering in a staggered fashion rather than simultaneously.



Hold until every performer has arrived at this note; then all continue holding *ad lib* before releasing together.



Play consistent note values in regular rhythm.
Don't synchronize your tempo with the other performers.

- all performers pause together briefly
- ” all performers pause together for a bit longer
- ”” all performers pause together for long enough to convey a break between major sections

BILUWRY LINE

Alex Temple

Slow

fff melancholy, like a neo-noir film score (think Chinatown or Taxi Driver) **ff** **f**

mf **mp** **p**

A **Moderate** **Fast**

pp **p** **pp** **mp** **ppp** delicate

Moderate

pp **mp** **pp** **mp**

Fast

ppp

B **Moderate**

pp **f** **p** sensual and lyrical

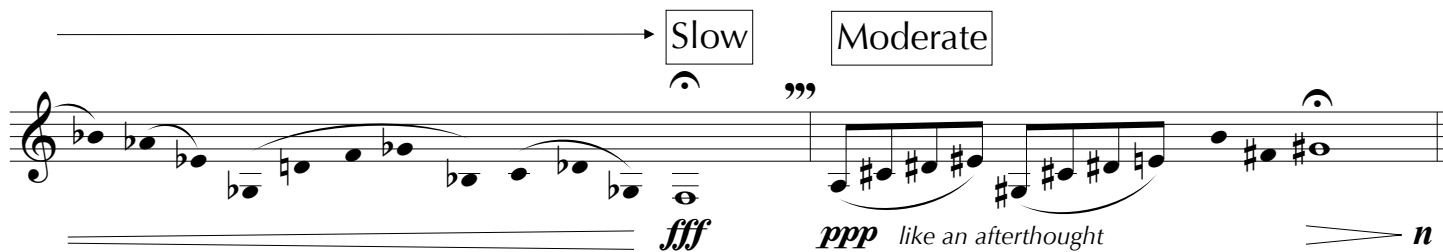
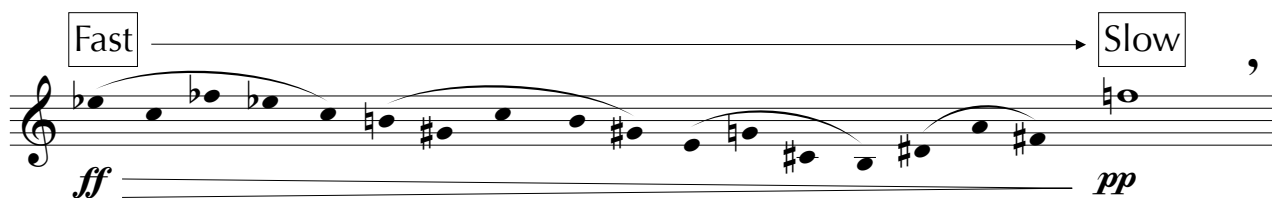
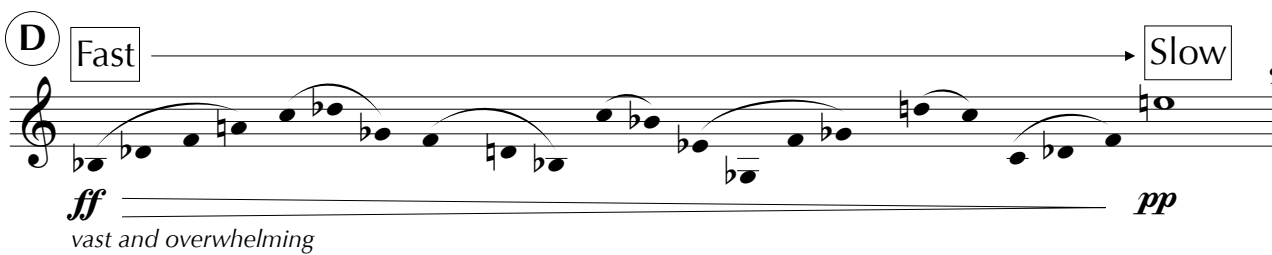
blurry line

C

Fast



Accel.



BILUWRY LINE

Alex Temple

Slow

fff melancholy, like a neo-noir film score (think Chinatown or Taxi Driver) *ff* *f*

mf *mp* *p*

A **Moderate** **Fast**

pp *p* *pp* *mp* *ppp* delicate

Moderate

pp *mp* *p* *mp*

Fast

ppp

B **Moderate**

pp *f* *p* sensuous and lyrical

Blurry Line

24

mp *mf* *f* *ff* *f*

C Fast

Accel.

repeat ad lib.

n

D Fast Slow

ff *pp*

vast and overwhelming

Fast Slow

ff *pp*

E Fast

fff *pp*

Slow Moderate

fff *ppp* like and afterthought *n*

Treble Clef Version

Transposed for instruments in B_♭

BILUWRY LINE

Alex Temple

Slow

fff melancholy, like a neo-noir film score (think Chinatown or Taxi Driver) *ff* *f*

The first system of music is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B $\flat$). It begins with a 'Slow' tempo marking. The notation features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, some beamed together, with a few half notes. There are dynamic markings *fff*, *ff*, and *f*. A descriptive note in italics reads: 'melancholy, like a neo-noir film score (think Chinatown or Taxi Driver)'.

mf *mp* *p*

The second system continues the melody. It includes dynamic markings *mf*, *mp*, and *p*. The notation shows a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some half notes and a final double bar line.

A Moderate Fast

pp *p* *pp* *mp* *ppp* delicate

The third system is marked with a circled 'A' and contains two tempo markings: 'Moderate' and 'Fast'. The notation transitions from a slower feel to a faster, more rhythmic pattern. Dynamic markings include *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *mp*, and *ppp* with the word 'delicate' in italics.

Moderate

pp *mp* *pp* *mp*

The fourth system is marked 'Moderate'. It features a melodic line with dynamic markings *pp*, *mp*, *pp*, and *mp*. The notation includes a double bar line.

Fast

ppp

The fifth system is marked 'Fast'. It consists of a continuous, rapid sequence of sixteenth notes. The dynamic marking is *ppp*.

B Moderate

pp *f* *p* sensuous and lyrical

The sixth system is marked with a circled 'B' and 'Moderate'. The notation shows a melodic line with dynamic markings *pp*, *f*, and *p*. A descriptive note in italics reads: 'sensuous and lyrical'.

blurry line

mp *mf* *f* *ff* *f* **Fast**

Accel. *repeat ad lib.* *n*

D **Fast** *ff* *vast and overwhelming* *pp* **Slow**

Fast *ff* *pp* **Slow**

E **Fast** *fff* *pp* **Slow** **Moderate** *fff* *ppp like an afterthought* *n*

Treble Clef Version
Transposed for instruments in F

BILUWRY LINE

Alex Temple

Slow

fff melancholy, like a neo-noir film score (think Chinatown or Taxi Driver) *ff* *f*

mf *mp* *p*

A **Moderate**

pp *p* *pp* *mp* **Fast** *ppp* delicate

Moderate

pp *mp* *pp* *mp*

Fast

ppp

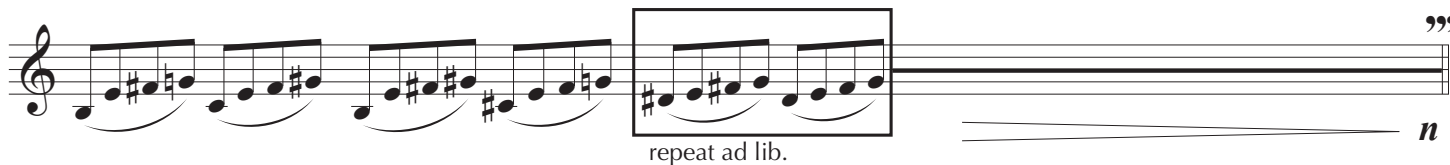
B **Moderate**

pp *f* *p* sensuous and lyrical

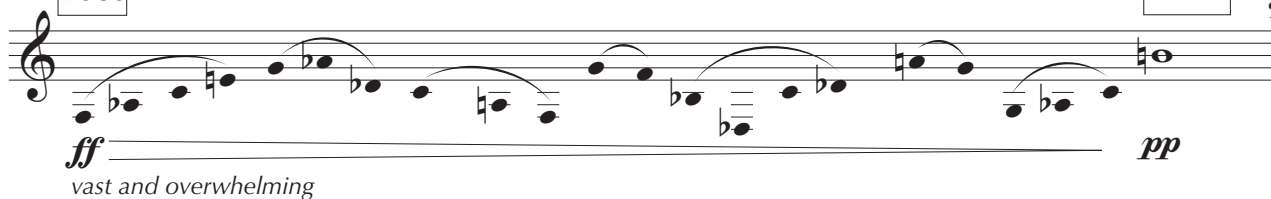
Ⓒ Fast



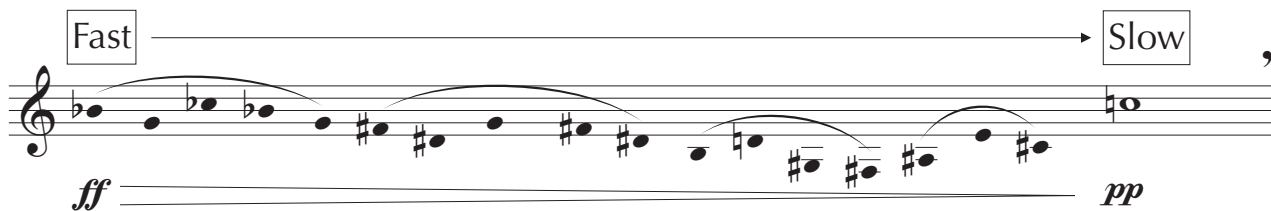
Accel. →



Ⓓ Fast



vast and overwhelming



Ⓔ Fast



→ Slow

Moderate



ppp like an afterthought

Treble Clef Version

Transposed for instruments in E_b

BILURRY LINE

Alex Temple

Slow

fff melancholy, like a neo-noir film score (think Chinatown or Taxi Driver) *ff* *f*

mf *mp* *p*

A **Moderate** **Fast**

pp *p* *pp* *mp* *ppp* delicate

Moderate

pp *mp* *pp* *mp*

Fast

ppp

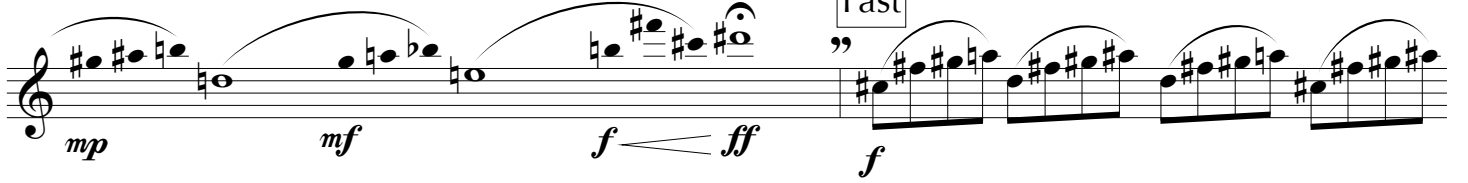
B **Moderate**

pp *f* *p* sensuous and lyrical

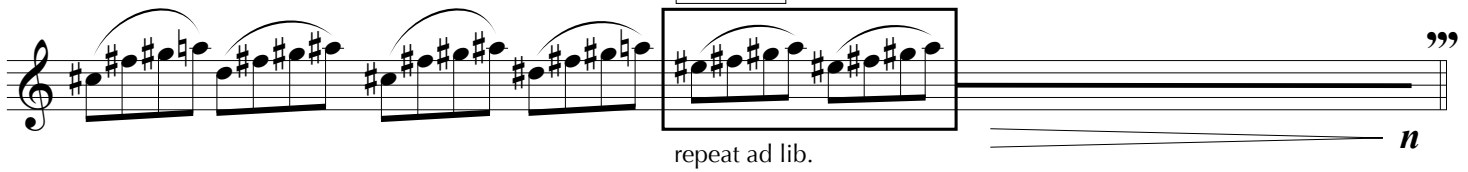
blurry line

C

Fast



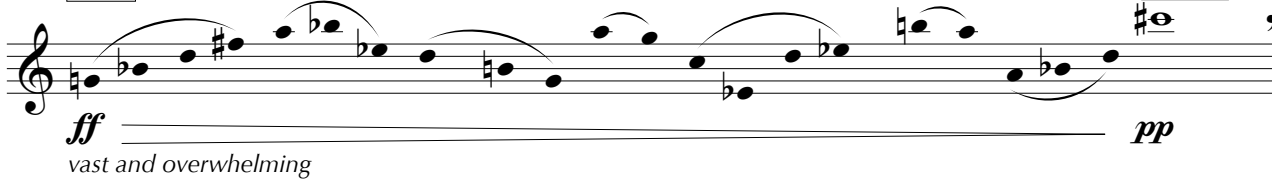
Accel.



D

Fast

Slow



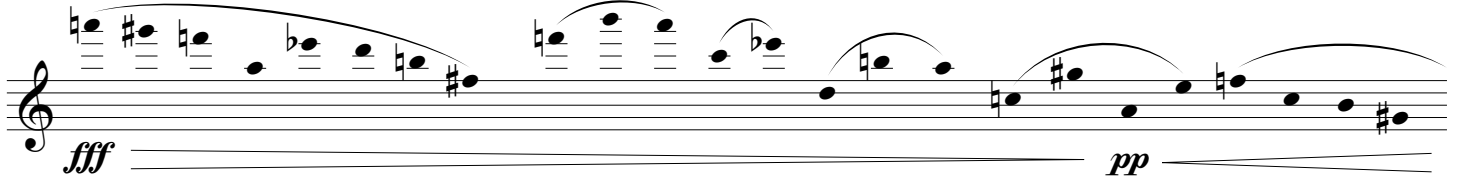
Fast

Slow



E

Fast



Slow

Moderate

