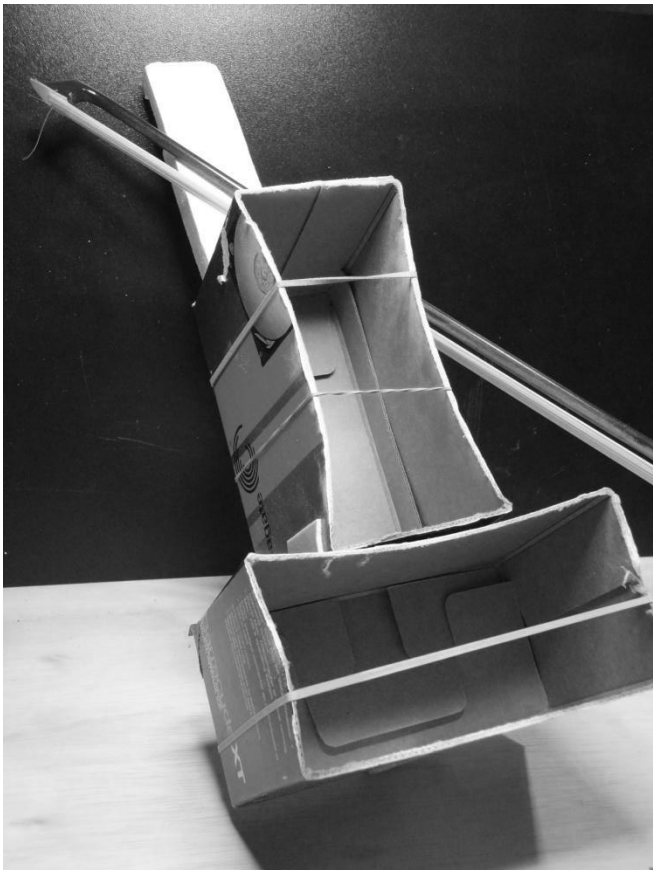
Study for Bowed Cardboard

(2011)

for scratch-o-lin and live electronics

duration: 8 minutes

Lou Bunk



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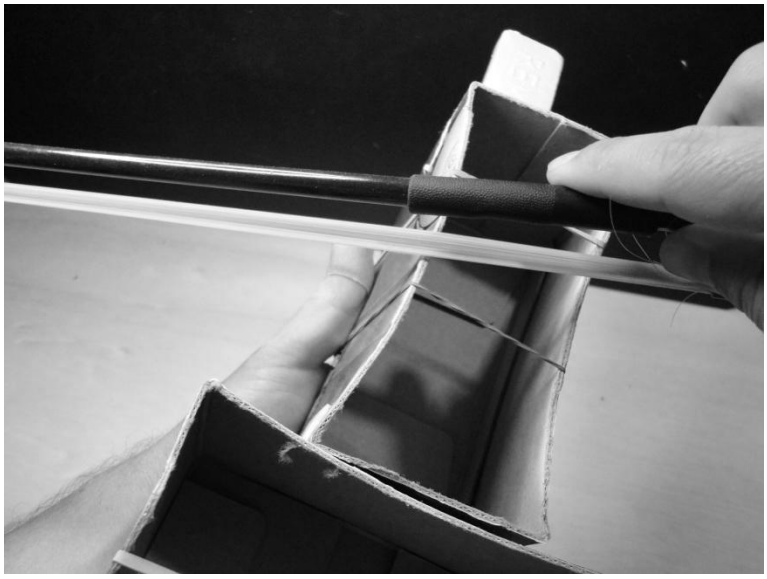


Notes

This study explores the sonic and expressive potential of bowed cardboard. It is performed on a scratch-o-lin (homemade instrument pictured above) accompanied by live electronics generated using Max/MSP.

Electronics

Three short samples of the scratch-o-lin are granulated using Max/MSP. The grains range from about 5 ms to 1 second in length, and remain unprocessed outside of being cut, spliced and re-arranged. In performance, I step through 25 cues, each altering the graining algorithm (in Max/MSP), which then produces the electronics part. The algorithm is stochastic in nature so that a unique electronics part is created for each performance.

Performance and the Score

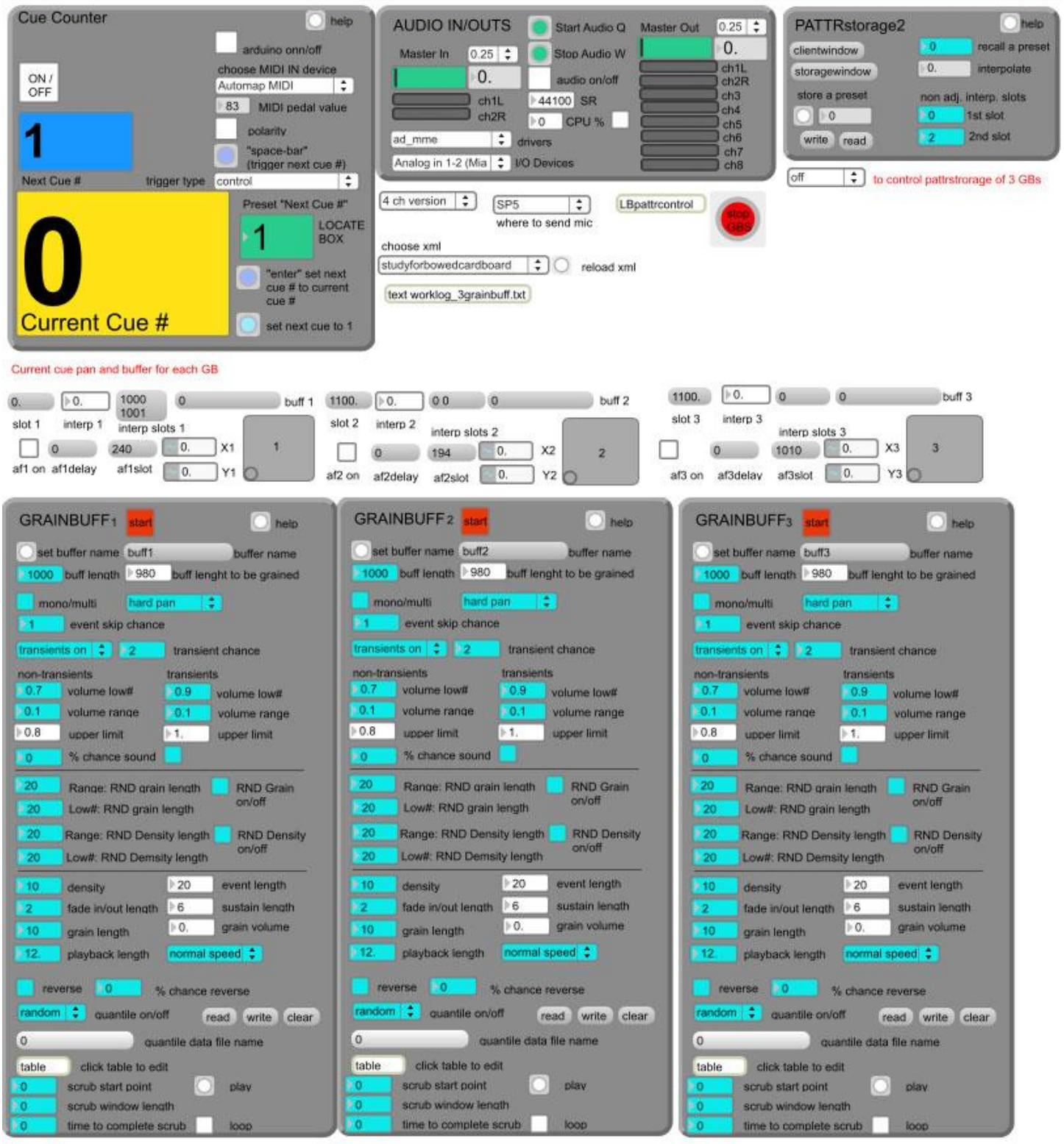
This piece is a structured improvisation lasting about 8 minutes. The score is bare-bones, intended only to help guide my own improvising, and is likely not detailed enough for another performer to play from. It shows the basic structures of the piece: timing of electronics cues, bowing and articulation, pauses, simple graphic representation, and basic proportions. The details and nuances of the scratch-o-lin part are improvised in performance.

Technical Requirements

Equipment: a laptop running Max/MSP, audio card with 4 audio outs, MIDI sustain pedal for cuing Max/MSP, small diaphragm condenser microphone, quad playback (stereo could work),

I will need the laptop/audio interface/MIDI pedal with me on stage to monitor the cuing (of the electronics) as I perform the scratch-o-lin part.

Screenshot of Max/MSP Patch



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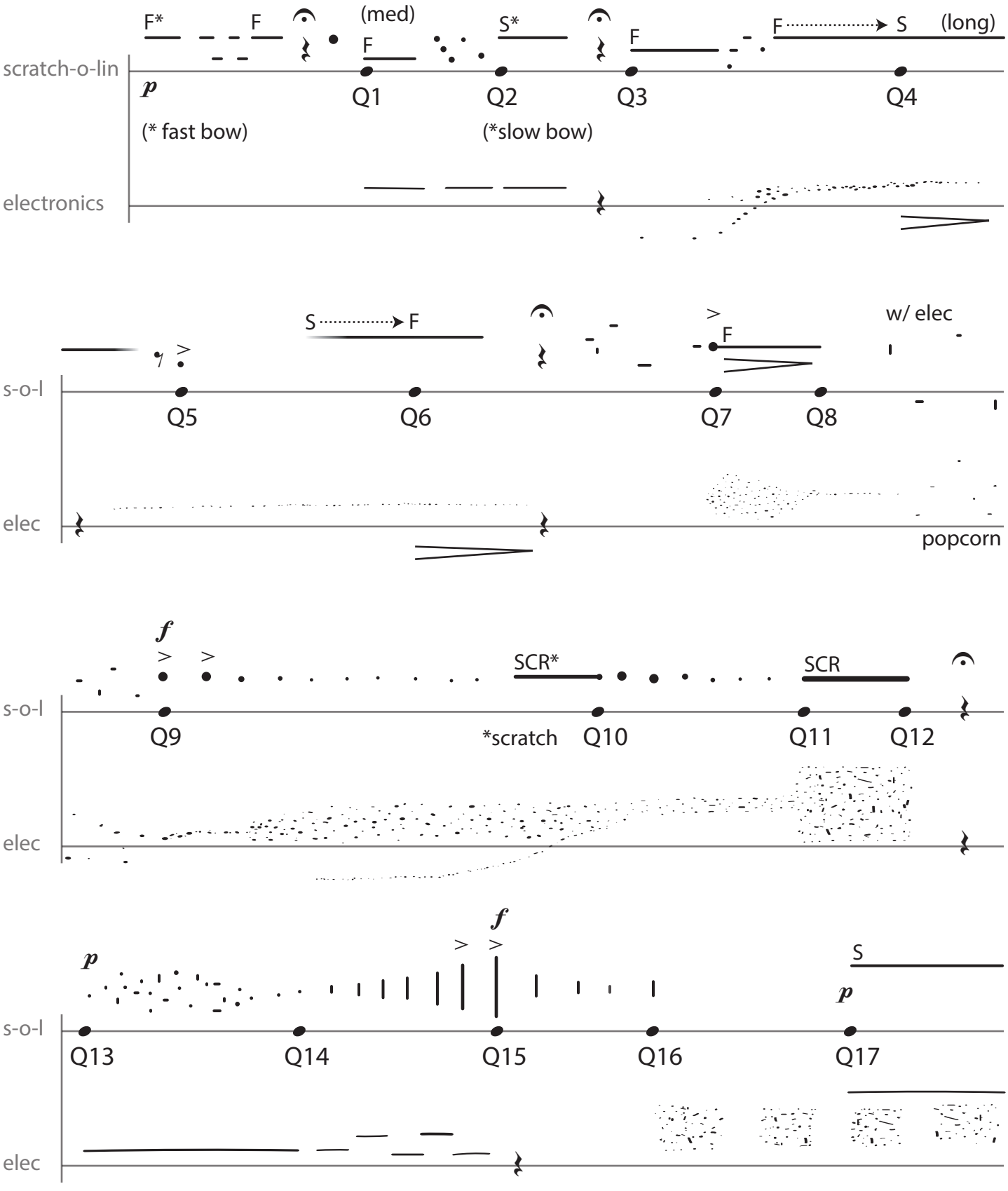

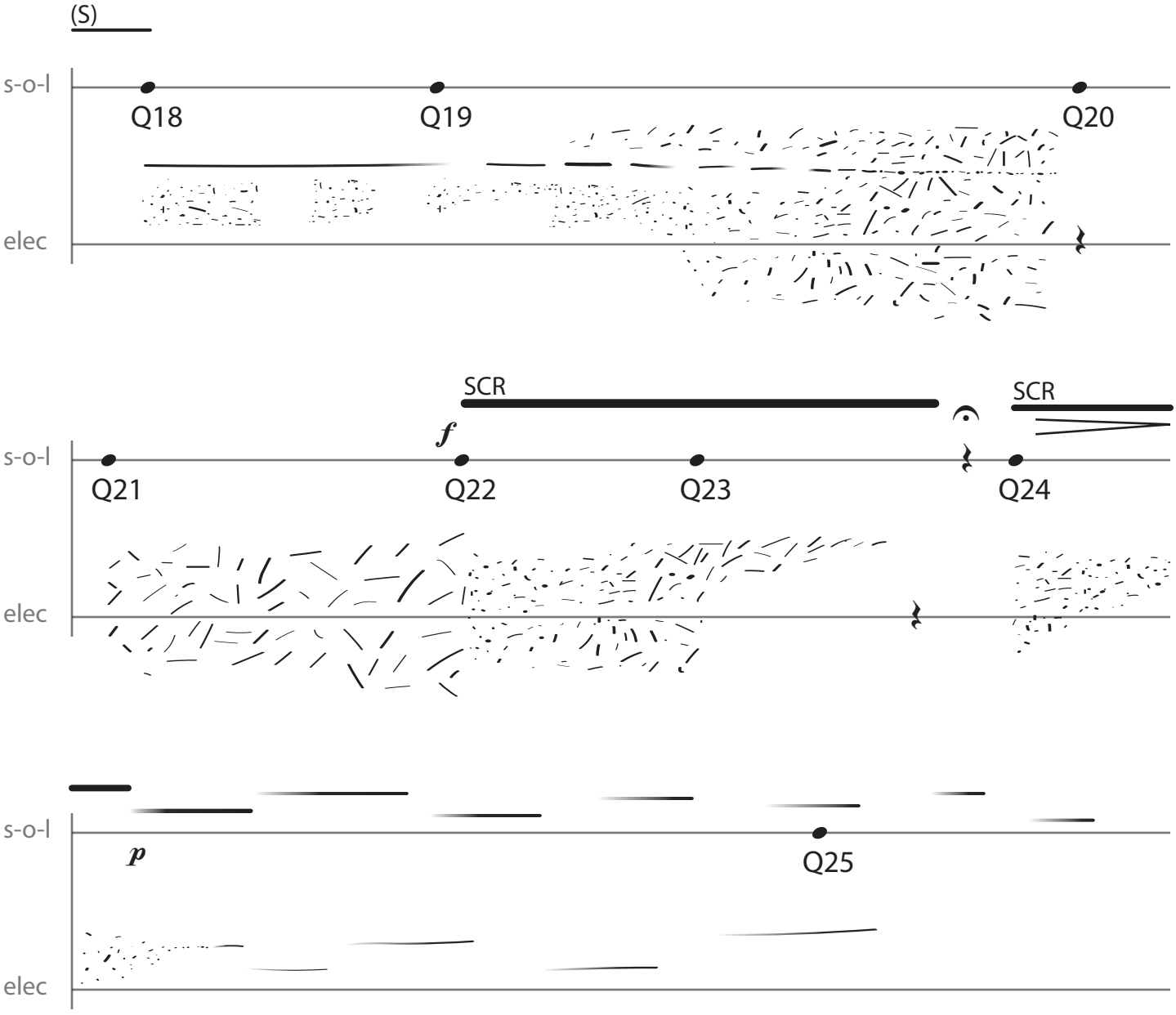
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