

Score

# Distant Lights

Trio for Flute, Cello, and Piano

i: Signs

ii: Everything Must Go

iii: Disquietude

iv: Departure

v: Inquietude

vi: Distant Lights

2023

**Charles D. Norris**

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## Program Notes

Distant Lights follows the story of the exodus of a planet that is no longer habitable. Inspired by apocalyptic science fiction, *Distant Lights* takes place in a possible not-so-distant future of humanity, plagued by pollution and climate change so intense that Earth is no longer suitable to sustain life as we know it. Inspired by apocalyptic science fiction, *Distant Lights* takes place in a possible not-so-distant future of humanity

The first two movements, *Signs & Everything Must Go*, invoke the warning signs of a world out of control. In the midst of these revelations, chaos ensues and the existential feeling of dread overwhelms the population. *Disquietude* characterizes the state of the world as the realization settles that humanity must leave the Earth to survive, which creates a sense of unease and anxiety. In an attempt to escape the inevitable fate of the dying world, humanity departs from Earth to embark on a journey into the stars.

*Inquietude* attempts to portray the restlessness felt among the people for their new life in the unknown as they peer into the seeming emptiness of the vast ocean of space, not knowing where or when they will find a new home.

The final movement, *Distant Lights*, is a hopeful song of prayer and peace as humanity ventures off into the void, with distant lights guiding their way.

## **Performance notes**

### **Movement I:**

1. There is no set tempo or time, note durations are arbitrary and are meant to keep a flow not to specify specific spaces between notes.

Pianists should keep the pedal on full sustain unless both hands have simultaneous rests. This is to create an atmospheric sound that grows with the added sustain of the piano.

2. Slides/Glissandi in the cello should be as noticeable as possible.

### **Movement II:**

1. Eighth notes should stay consistent throughout the movement. There should be no variation in the tempo.
2. Starting m. 12, the flute has "Cha cha" sounds: These should be noticeable but not overbearing. flute and cello should match volume.
3. Cello has short grinding sounds starting m. 12: These should be separated and short, matching the style of the flute's "Cha cha."
4. "flz" in the flute means to flutter the tongue. If the player cannot flutter tongue, growling will also suffice.

5. In the piano (starting m. 123 and throughout the rest of the work), there are blocks of hand clusters. Each cluster should be slightly different in pitch and register content. Though some may look the same, they should vary slightly between them.

### **Movement III:**

1. There is no set tempo or time, note durations are arbitrary and are meant to keep a flow not to specify specific spaces between notes.
2. Slides/Glissandi should be long and noticeable. Take time to spread out these falls.

### **Movement IV:**

1. The flute, starting m. 84-95, has fast chromatic figures: these figures are mainly for effect. Though precise notes and evenness are preferred, the effect outweighs accuracy.

2. The flute in m. 96 has harmonic trills, these trills should be dirty and imprecise. The effect should sound alien in nature.

### **Movement V:**

1. The cello should continue its harmonic from the previous movement without breaking. Even if the flutist should need to readjust pages or whatnot, the harmonic sound should not stop.

2. In the flute, the "JW" stands for "Jet whistle:" an extended technique where the player's mouth covers the entire lip plate and the player forces as much air as possible through the instrument. The resulting sound should be loud and jet-like.

### **Movement VI:**

1. The piano and cello should begin at the tail end of the flute's flutter tongue in the end of movement 5.
2. Forte-pianos should be over-dramatized at the attack and explosive at the release.

All movements should be played attacca if possible.

The work should be performed under majenta spotlights on each player, casting gentle shadows behind the performers.

As we looked up in silence to those distant lights, we were reminded that it was a rare imagination which first taught that the stars are worlds, and had conferred a great benefit on mankind.

— Henry David Thoreau

# Distant Lights

Trio for Flute, Cello, & Piano

i:  
Signs

## For Perusal Use Only

No Time; Freely with space

Flute

Cello

Piano

*sfz* *mp* *p* *fp* *cresc.*

*tr* *8va*

*ped.* *Abrupt pedal release* *release pedal slowly, allow string to vibrate against the mute*

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Pno.

*8va*

*sfz* *mp* *p*

*ped.* *Leave pedal all the way down and release only on rests, throughout movement 1*

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Pno.

*rubato tranquillo*

*pp* *mild expression through this section, notes should be separate but flowing*

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*lightly*

*ppp*

# Distant Lights - Score

3

Pno.

musical notation for Piano (Pno.)

Vc.

long slide

short slide

*n* *p*

Pno.

let pedal ring through

musical notation for Violin (Vc.) and Piano (Pno.)

Fl.

pushing forward

*mf* *fp* *f* *sffz*

flz.

pushing forward

Vc.

*fp* *f* *sffz*

pushing forward

Pno.

*sfz* *dim.* *pp* *sffz*

musical notation for Flute (Fl.), Violin (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.)

Distant Lights - Score

Fl. *ffz* *flz.* *gracefully, with rubato* *n* *pp*

Vc. *p*

Pno. *ffz* *p* *ppp* *ppp*

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Pno. *leggero espressivo* *dim.* *rallentando* *lightly* *n*

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Pno. *morendo* *Separated, patient* *p* *ppp* *pppp* *attacca*

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Distant Lights - Score

ii:  
Everything Must Go

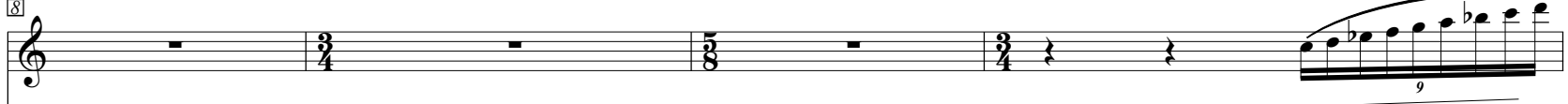
Presto (♩ = 248-264)

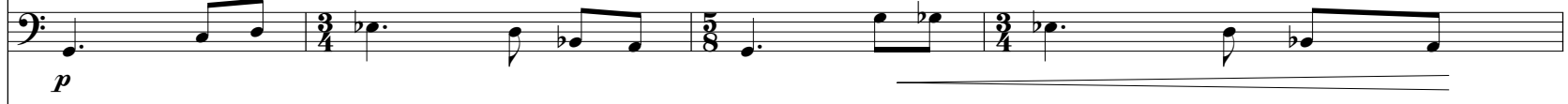
This system of music features three staves: Flute (Fl.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.). The Flute part begins with a dynamic marking of *f* and the instruction *scherzando*. The Vc. part also starts with *f* and *scherzando*. The Pno. part is marked *f* and *scherzando*. The music is in 3/4 time and consists of five measures. The Flute and Vc. parts have rests in the second, third, and fourth measures. The Pno. part has a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A double bar line with a repeat sign is located below the Pno. staff at the end of the first measure.


This system of music continues the piece with three staves: Flute (Fl.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.). The Flute part starts with a measure rest marked with a box containing the number 5. The Vc. part has a melodic line. The Pno. part has a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The music is in 3/4 time and consists of five measures. The Flute and Vc. parts have rests in the second, third, and fourth measures. The Pno. part has a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A double bar line with a repeat sign is located below the Pno. staff at the end of the first measure.



Distant Lights - Score

Fl. 

Vc. 

Pno. 

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Fl. 

Vc. 

Pno. 

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Fl. 

Vc. 

Pno. 

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# Distant Lights - Score

7

Musical score for measures 7-12. The score is for Flute (Fl.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.).

- Fl.:** Measures 7-12. Dynamics: *sfp*, *p*.
- Vc.:** Measures 7-12. Dynamics: *sfp*, *p*. Includes an *8va* marking.
- Pno.:** Measures 7-12. Dynamics: *sfp*, *p*. Includes an *8va* marking.



Musical score for measures 13-18. The score is for Flute (Fl.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.).

- Fl.:** Measures 13-18. Dynamics: *f*. Includes a *normal* marking.
- Vc.:** Measures 13-18. Dynamics: *f*, *p sub.*. Includes an *arco* marking.
- Pno.:** Measures 13-18. Dynamics: *f*. Includes an *8va* marking.



Musical score for measures 19-24. The score is for Flute (Fl.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.).

- Fl.:** Measures 19-24. Dynamics: *p*, *f*, *fz*.
- Vc.:** Measures 19-24. Dynamics: *f*, *fz*.
- Pno.:** Measures 19-24. Dynamics: *p*, *f*, *fz*.

Distant Lights - Score

Fl. *f*

Vc. arco *f*

Pno. *f*

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Fl. *f*

Vc. *f*

Pno. *f*

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Fl. *sffz*

Vc. *sffz*

Pno. *p* *sffz*

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Distant Lights - Score

9

Fl. *sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz pp*

Vc. *sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz pp*

Pno. *sfz sfz sfz sfz p sfz*

13

Fl. *p*

Vc. *p*

Pno. *non-espressivo pp 8va 8va*

17

Fl. *p*

Vc. *p*

Pno. *8va 8va*

Fl.  **For Perusal Use Only**


Vc.  **For Perusal Use Only**

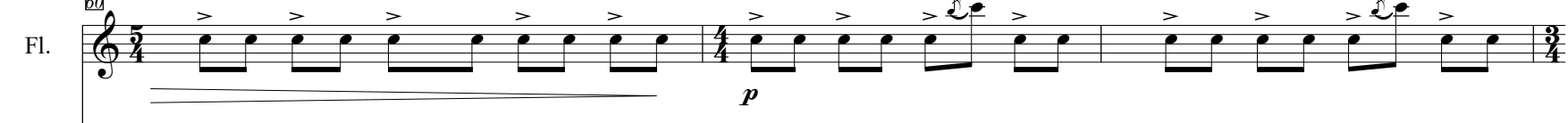
Pno.  **To Purchase, Visit [charlesnorrismusic.com](http://charlesnorrismusic.com)**

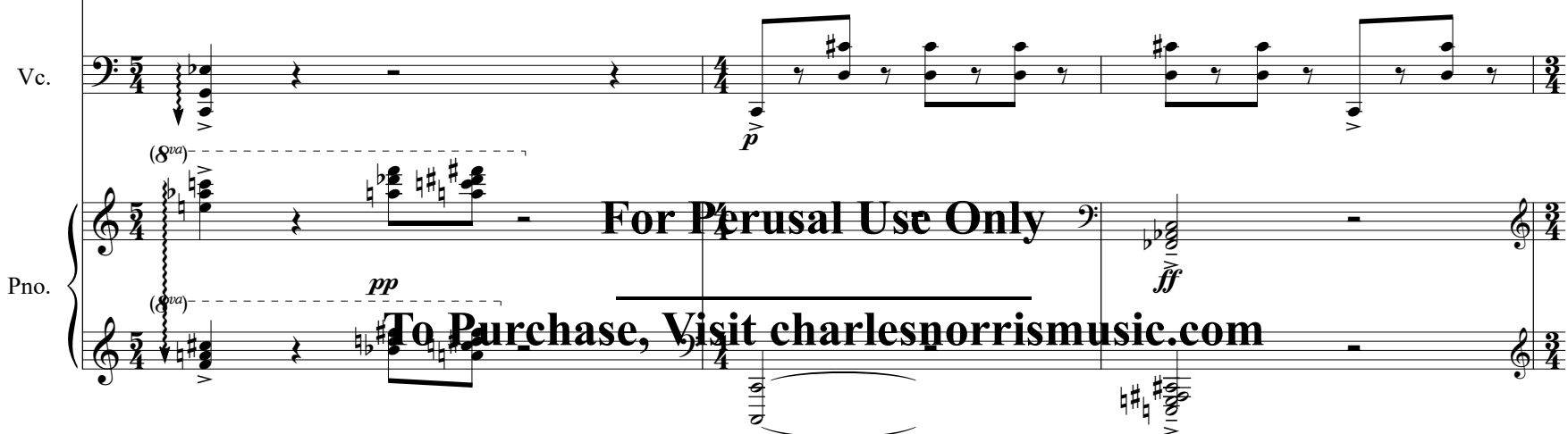
Fl.  **For Perusal Use Only**

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# Distant Lights - Score

11

63

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

*mp*

67

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

exact notes in right hand are preferred but not important.  
Clarity of gesture is important.

71

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

*pp*

Fl. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

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Fl. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

Pno. *ff*

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Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

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Distant Lights - Score

13

Fl. *pp* *flz.*

Vc. *pp*

Pno. *pp*

Fl. *f* *flz.*

Vc. *f*

Pno. *f*

Fl. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *mf*



Distant Lights - Score

Fl.   
Vc.   
Pno. 

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Fl.   
Vc.   
Pno. 

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Vc.   
Pno. 

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Distant Lights - Score

15

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

17

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

18

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

*p*

*p*

*p*

Fl. *flz.*  
*fp*  $\rightarrow$  *sfz*  $\rightarrow$  *f*

Vc. *fp*  $\rightarrow$  *sfz*

Pno. *fp*  $\rightarrow$  *sfz*  $\rightarrow$  *f*

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Fl. *flz.*  
*fp*  $\leftarrow$  *sfz*  $\leftarrow$  *n*  $\leftarrow$  *sfz*

Vc. *fp*  $\leftarrow$  *sfz*  $\leftarrow$  *n*  $\leftarrow$  *sfz*

Pno. *fp*  $\leftarrow$  *sfz*  $\leftarrow$  *n*  $\leftarrow$  *sfz*

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*attacca*

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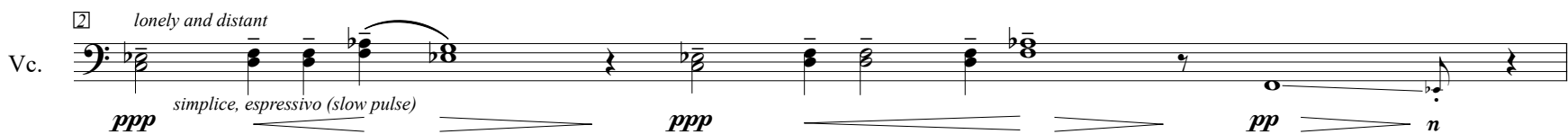
Distant Lights - Score

iii:  
Disquietude

Freely, like a wandering soul

Vc. 



Vc. 

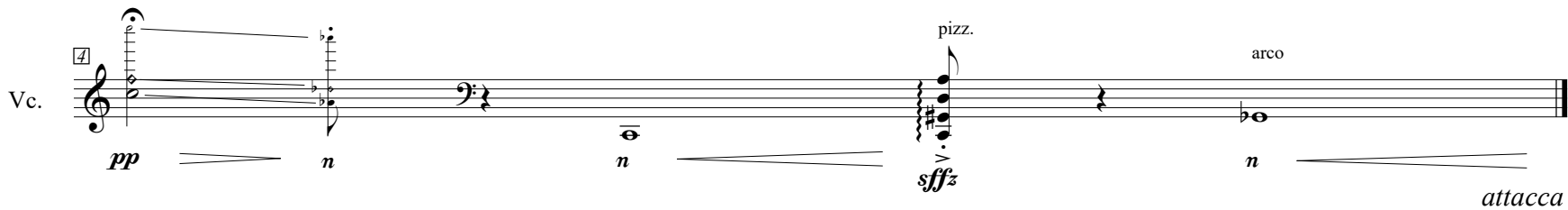


Vc. 



Vc. 



Vc. 

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Departure

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Fl.  $\text{♩} = 104$

Vc. *pizz.* *sfz* *pp* *arco* *pp* *8va*

Pno. *pp* *p* *pp*

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8va



Fl. *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *ff* *acc.* **Furioso** ( $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 126 - 138$ )

Vc. *pizz.* *arco* *ppp* *lontano* *ff*

Pno. *pp* *ppp* *f*

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8vb

Distant Lights - Score

19

Fl. *f* 9

Vc.

Pno. *p* *f* *loco* *8va* *loco* *8vb* *p*

Fl. *snappy* *fp*


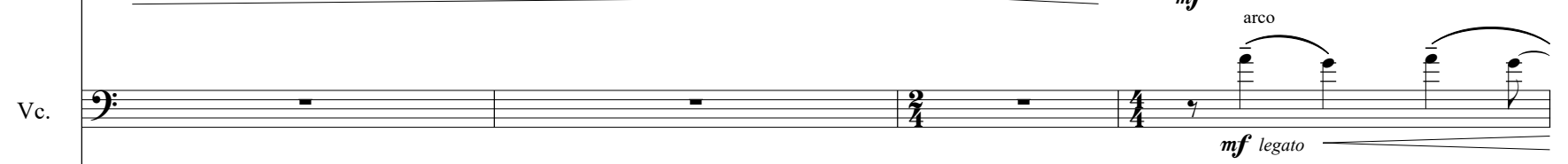
Vc. *pizz.* *p*

Pno. *pp*

Fl. *fp* *mf*

Vc.

Pno. *p* *pp*

Fl.   
Vc. 

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Fl.   
Vc. 

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Fl.   
Vc. 

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Distant Lights - Score

21

Fl. *mf* *mp*

Vc. *mf* *mp*

Pno.



Fl. *mf*

Vc. ord.

Pno.



Fl. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Pno. *mf*



Distant Lights - Score

Fl. *p*

Vc. *p*

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Pno. *p*

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Fl. *f* *mp* *f* *pp*

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Vc. *mf* *fp*

Pno. *f* *p* *mf* *mf*

*8va*

*8vb*

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Fl. *f*

Vc. *p* *spicc.* *f*

*arco*

Pno. *p* *f*

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Distant Lights - Score

23

Fl. *f*

Vc. *f*

Pno. *f*

Fl. *sffz* *p* *cresc.*

Vc. *spicc.* *fp* *cresc.*

Pno. *sffz* *p* *cresc.*

Fl. *f*

Vc. *f*

Pno. *f*

Fl. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

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Pno. *ff*

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8va  
Ped.

Fl.

Vc.

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8va  
Ped.

Fl.

Vc.

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8va  
Ped.

Distant Lights - Score

83

Fl. *f* *fff*

Vc. *f* *fff*

Pno.

*8<sub>bb</sub>*  
*Loc.*

86

Fl. *f* *fff*

Vc. *f* *fff*

Pno. *ff* *loco*

*8<sub>bb</sub>*  
*\**

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Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

loco

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inaccurately alternate between these two fingerings

air tones

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

pp

ppp

sfz

attacca

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Distant Lights - Score

v:

Inquietude

Fl. *freely, unmeasured*  
*over blow, with tone and air*

Vc. *continue holding harmonic*

Fl. *explosive!*  
*brief silence*

Fl. *Prestissimo* ( $\text{♩} = \text{circa. } 180\text{-}200$ )

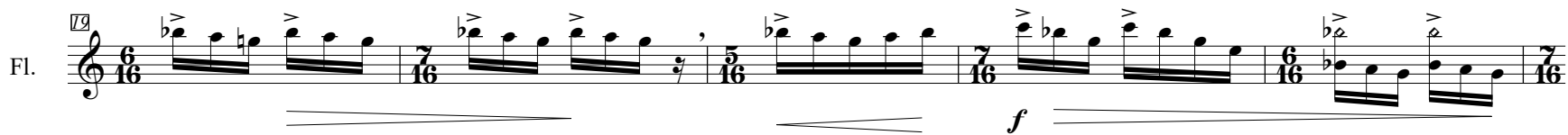
Fl. *brief silence*

*pp* *f* *pp* *sffz* *pp* *sffz*

*pp* *sffz* *pp* *sffz* *ff* *n*

*f* *f sub* *f sub* *p*

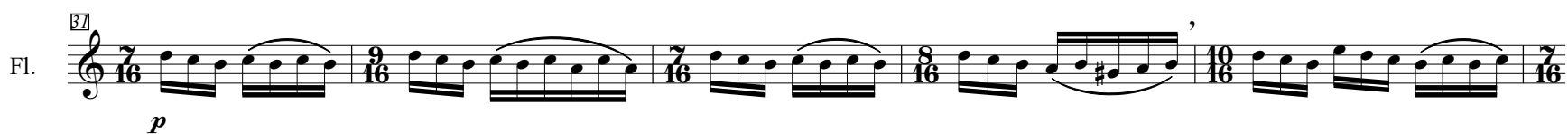
*f*

Fl. 

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Fl. 

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Fl. 

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Fl. 

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Distant Lights - Score

Fl. Musical notation for Flute 1, measures 57-61. The piece is in 7/16 time. It features a melodic line with slurs and accents. Dynamics include *p sub.* and *f*. There are *flz.* markings above the notes in measures 60 and 61.

Fl. Musical notation for Flute 1, measures 62-66. The piece is in 7/16 time. It features a melodic line with slurs and accents. Dynamics include *ff* and *p sub.*

Fl. Musical notation for Flute 1, measures 67-71. The piece is in 7/16 time. It features a melodic line with slurs and accents. Dynamics include *p sub.*

Fl. Musical notation for Flute 1, measures 72-76. The piece is in 7/16 time. It features a melodic line with slurs and accents. Dynamics include *f*. There is a *flz.* marking above the notes in measure 76.

Fl. Musical notation for Flute 1, measures 77-82. The piece is in 7/16 time. It features a melodic line with slurs and accents. Dynamics include *pp*, *sffz*, *f*, and *fff*. There is a *tr* marking above the notes in measure 77.

Fl. Musical notation for Flute 1, measures 83-87. The piece is in 7/16 time. It features a melodic line with slurs and accents. Dynamics include *pp*.

Fl. Musical notation for Flute 1, measures 88-92. The piece is in 7/16 time. It features a melodic line with slurs and accents. Dynamics include *mf*.

Fl. Musical notation for Flute 1, measures 93-97. The piece is in 7/16 time. It features a melodic line with slurs and accents. Dynamics include *pp*, *f*, *p sub.*, and *attacca*. There is a *flz.* marking above the notes in measure 97.



vi:

Distant Lights

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freely (ca. ♩ = 52) *rubato* *molto rit.* *a tempo* *molto rit.*

Fl. *ffz* *p* *n*

Vc. *ppp* *p* *n*

Pno. *ppp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

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*a tempo* *molto rit.*

Fl. *n* *p* *n* *mp*

Vc. *n* *p* *n* *mp*

Pno. *For Perusal Use Only*

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Distant Lights - Score

31 *a tempo* *molto rit.* *a tempo* *molto rit.*

Fl. *p* *ppp* *p*

Vc. *p* *ppp* *p*

Pno. *p*

**with more vibrance (♩ = 82)**

Fl. *n*

Vc. *n*

Pno. *ppp* *mp*

Fl.

Vc.

Pno. *f* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

Distant Lights - Score

Fl. *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

Vc. *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

Pno. *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

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Fl. *ppp* *mp* *pp* *sffz*

Vc. *ppp* *mp* *pp* *sffz*

Pno. *pp* *sffz*

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Fl. *p sub.* *ppp* *pp* *mf*

Vc. *p sub.* *ppp* *pp* *mf*

Pno. *p sub.* *mp*

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Distant Lights - Score

33

Fl. *f*

Vc. *f* *mp con fuoco* spicc.

Pno. *f* *p*

Fl.

Vc. *cresc.*

Pno. *cresc.*

Fl. *mp*

Vc. *f*

Pno. *f*

Distant Lights - Score

Fl. *f* *mp* *f*

Vc. arco *fp* *sffz* *fp* *sffz* *fp* *sffz*

Pno. *fp* *fp* *fp*

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Fl. **For Perusal Use Only**

Vc. **To Purchase, Visit [charlesnorrismusic.com](http://charlesnorrismusic.com)** *fp* *sffz* *f*

Pno. *fp* *f*

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Fl.

Vc.

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Distant Lights - Score

35

Fl. *ff* *p sub.*

Vc. *ff* *p sub.* spicc.

Pno. *ff* *p* light pedal.

8vb



Fl.

Vc.

Pno. light pedal.



Fl. *p*

Vc.

Pno.

Distant Lights - Score

Fl.   
Vc.   
Pno.   
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Fl.   
Vc.   
Pno.   
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Fl.   
Vc.   
Pno.   
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# Distant Lights - Score

37

Fl. *f* *ff*

Vc. *f* *ff*

Pno. *f* *ff*

Fl. *ff*

Vc. *ff* *ppp* barely noticable

Pno. *fff* let clusters ring, pedal all the way down

*non-ritardando*

Fl.

Vc. *8va*

Pno. *ppp* *p* *ppp*



*molto rit.*

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

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**freely (ca. ♩ = 52)**

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

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Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

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# Distant Lights - Score

39

*accel. poco a poco*

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

**With more passion, slightly faster (♩ = 64)**

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

Fl.

Vc.

Pno.

Distant Lights - Score

Fl. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

Pno. *ff*

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Fl. *ff*

Vc. *fff*

Pno. *fff*

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Fl. *poco rit.* *mf* *ppp*

Vc. *mf* *ppp*

Pno. *mf* *ppp*

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