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## Prufrock: a Monodrama for Baritone and Electronics

Daniel Gardner, The University of Western Ontario

Supervisor: Daniel, Omar, The University of Western Ontario A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Music degree in Music

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## **Abstract**

*Prufrock* is a musical dramatization of T.S. Eliot's, *The love song of J. Alfred Prufrock* for solo baritone and electronics; a full performance of the work should take approximately forty (40) minutes.

The work uses text from both Eliot's original publication and a section removed from the text called *Prufrock's Pervigilium*—first published in Christopher Ricks's *Inventions of the March Hare*—and superimposes a narrative onto Eliot's monologue of a man whose internal experience differs wildly from reality. As such *Prufrock* emphasizes the psychodramatic elements of the original text, reflecting them through the use of "auditory illusions" (particularly those described by Diana Deutscher and Roger Shepard).

# Keywords

21stc Music, Baritone, Composition, Electroacoustics, Opera, Shepard Tones, The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock, T.S. Eliot, Max/MSP, Psychoacoustics

# Summary for Lay Audience

*Prufrock* is an operatic work for solo, low, male voice and electronics. The work takes T.S. Eliot's poem *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* as its text and superimposes a narrative of a man whose internal experience is wildly different from reality; the piece mixes elements from Eliot's original poem and a section removed from the poem which was later published by Christopher Ricks.

*Prufrock* emphasizes the internal experience expressed in Eliot's poem musically by exploiting cognitive and auditory quirks that aim to make listening experiences highly individualistic.

## Acknowledgments

Completing a work of this scale would not be possible without a significant amount of support. I have had the good fortune to be surrounded by people that have been extremely generous with their time and to them, I am profoundly grateful. Here—in far fewer words than are deserved—I would like to acknowledge the contribution of those without whom this work would not have been possible.

My many thanks to:

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John Johnson who kindly worked with me over several days to produce a recording of the solo part and provided feedback on my Italian text setting.

My parents, John and Tara, my sister Alysha, and my grandmother, Elizabeth whose support has been so ardent and varied that the space here is not sufficient express my gratitude towards them.

My partner Mélanie Cosman whose gentle—and sometimes less than gentle—nudging to "go do work" is surely the reason that this document has been finished at all, and whose consistent pursuit of excellence inspires me every day to do better than I did yesterday.

And lastly to those reading this document; thank you for your time and attention.

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a monodrama for baritone and electronics

Daniel Gardner

Text by T.S. Elliot

"The 'T.S.' stands for 'tough shit'. You read Eliot's The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock, what one English prof called 'the first poem of the modern movement,' and if you don't understand it, 'tough shit.' All I can say is that's some love song."- Robert Sward

#### An Introduction to the Text

It is difficult to frame *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* as briefly as I may want to here. It might be fair to say that it is a monologue of a man who has "an overwhelming question" (ln.10<sup>1</sup>); however, such reductions are ever so slightly incorrect, and could only ever be caricatures of the full text (even though this is roughly what one may surmise upon first reading). To understand the text—and thus be able to faithfully adapt the poem as a stage work—I have endeavored to take the poem on its own terms and doggedly pursue answers to the two main questions Eliot poses the reader at the outset of the poem: (1) who is Prufrock speaking to when he says "Let us go then, **you and I**" (ln. 7) (my emphasis), and (2) what is Prufrock's overwhelming question?

Before attempting to answer these questions, I should clarify that I am of the opinion that there is no definitive interpretation of the poem; when you emphasize one facet of it you necessarily minimize another<sup>2</sup>. Rather than providing an exhaustive analysis of the poem (which would be well beyond the scope of this document), I present only that which is essential to understanding the compositional, dramatic and structural decisions addressed below.

At the outset of the poem the reader is confronted with an epigraph:

S'io credesse che mia risposta fosse A persona che mai tornasse al mondo, Questa fiamma staria senza piu scosse. Ma percioche giammai di questo fondo Non torno vivo alcun, s'i'odo il vero, Senza tema d'infamia ti rispondo.(ln.1-6)

For the lay reader, without a functional understanding of Italian, this epigraph is incomprehensible and would likely be passed over. Of course, any modern reader could quickly find a translation, or resource on the poem that would reveal that the passage is a quotation from Dante's *Inferno*. The quote itself points towards the subterranean and the unseen,<sup>3</sup> but the fact that the text appears in its original Italian without attribution or reference guides the reader towards the idea that the text will be alienating without an understanding of specific, arcane knowledge. The epigraph translates as:

If I thought that my reply would be to someone who would ever return to earth, this flame would remain without further movement. But as no one has ever returned alive from this gulf, if what I hear is true, I can answer you with no fear of infamy<sup>4</sup>

In the above, the soul of Guido da Montafeltro is explaining to Dante that the only reason he will tell him why he is in hell is because Guido believes Dante to be a damned soul, like himself, who can never return to the corporeal world.

It seems to follow that since Eliot has framed the poem with this text, he intends the reader to consider it in their reading. Since the epigraph is proximal to the opening line of the poem, it seems

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Note: All line numbers reference the text given in the later sections of this document. This text has been significantly revised from published versions of the poem to more effectively serve as a libretto. See footnote 6 for further clarification.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Robert Sward, "On "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" by T.S. Eliot", in *Touch Stones: American Poets on a Favorite Poem* Ed. Robert Pack and Jay Parini, (Hanover, NH: Middlebury College Press, 1996), 57-59.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> John X. Cooper, *The Cambridge Introduction to T.S. Eliot*, (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2006), 51.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> B.C. Southam, A Student's Guide to The Selected Poems of T.S. Eliot, (London, Faber and Faber, 1990), 37.

idiomatic to conflate the two figures in the epigraph (Dante and Guido) with the two figures in the opening line (you and I). We naturally assume that the person speaking—the 'I' in the opening line—is our titular character, Prufrock. This positions him as the Guidonian character, speaking his mind to someone he assumes is incapable of repeating it to anyone else. This eliminates the possibility that Prufrock is speaking directly to the reader, as that would be the most public announcement of his thoughts. It is similarly unlikely that he is speaking to some unnamed third party, as it is established in stanza seven (ln. 40-51) that Prufrock is a man of many social anxieties, who—it appears—does not enjoy the company of others.

The interpretation that is most consistent with the evidence throughout the rest of the poem, is that Prufrock is speaking to some separate part of himself, a bifurcation of his personality. Further evidence of this can be seen in the line "[...] there will be time/ To prepare a face to meet the faces that you meet;" (ln. 31), and in the parenthetical lines in the seventh stanza which jeer at Prufrock. A 29-line section of the poem called the *Prufrock Pervigilium* was cut from the poem, which ends with the lines:

I fumbled to the window to experience the world And to hear my Madness singing... (A blind old drunken man who sings and mutters, With broken boot heels stained in many gutters) And as he sang the world began to fall apart... (ln. 81-85)

The fact that Prufrock identifies the parenthesized voice in this culled text, leaves little doubt that its earlier occurrence represents the same internal struggle.

This addresses the issues of the characters, which lead the reader to the "question" of plot; what is *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* actually about? While it might be easy to superimpose any number of narratives onto this text (which I will do later in this document) there is very little that is concrete for the reader to grasp onto in the text. The only constant seems to be the background pulse of Prufrock's "overwhelming question".

It is perhaps misleading to say that this question is Prufrock's; in the first stanza Prufrock tells us that even though the question is his own, he intends his companion to ask the question "To lead **you** to an overwhelming question .../Oh, do not ask, "What is it?"/Let us go and make our visit." (In. 16-18) Thus the reason that Prufrock is invoking this other aspect of himself is to ask a question that he cannot bring himself to ask. Prufrock, however, is equally unable to tell even himself what this question is. We might interpret this as Eliot demonstrating the extent of Prufrock's repression; however, there seems to be more textual evidence for Prufrock not actually knowing what the question is.

At the beginning of the poem this problem is set to us as "an overwhelming question". Over the body of the text Prufrock wonders how he might phrase his question; stanzas eight, nine, and ten (ln. 52-70) all end with some variation of "And should I then presume?/ And how should I begin?". This sends Prufrock into the long, rambling, monologue (*The Prufrock Pervigilium*) on the state of the world<sup>5</sup>. On the other side of this monologue Prufrock now refers to it as "[...] some overwhelming question" (ln. 103). This is reemphasized in the next stanza when Prufrock exclaims "It is impossible to say just what I mean!" (ln. 109). The fact of the matter is that the reader's question about the "overwhelming question" (what is it?) is unimportant; there is no strong textual support for any one interpretation.

3

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> This scene is reminiscent of a scene in Woody Allen's *Annie Hall* (1977) when a nine-year-old Alvy Singer is chastised by his mother in a therapy session for not doing his homework; when asked why, he responds that he's depressed about the eventual heat death of the universe and, when faced with the reality that the universe will cease to be, doing his homework is irrelevant.

The reasons why Prufrock is unable to formulate his question are truly what should be of interest to the reader. Prufrock moves in social circles where one must, "prepare a face to meet the faces that you meet". When he interacts with people he is guarded; Prufrock believes that the people that he meets do not know him because for each interaction he "murders" his old persona and "creates" a new one. In this way, Prufrock's invocation of the other self to ask his question is no different than the techniques that he has used to survive countless social interactions in the past. Prufrock's question remains unformulated because he fears judgement from those arounds him; he is incapable of comprehending how one can talk about themselves in a personal way "without fear of infamy".

In no way should one consider misconstrued the above as an exhaustive examination of the poem—such an examination could fill volumes if it were even possible—but I feel it is a sufficient primer for the reader to understand the narrative interpretation that this work adopts. I would highly encourage the interested reader to delve further into both the later works of Elliot (particularly *The Wasteland* and *Ol' Possum's Book of Practical Cats*) and the literature on *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* as such a study will enrich the reader's experience of the following work far more than such a brief could ever hope to.

## Scenes<sup>6</sup>

## 1. Chorus (2'30")

In Hell, Guido da Montefeltro describes to Dante Alighieri why he (Guido) will tell his story his story to Dante.

1	S'io credesse che mia risposta fosse	$1E_2$	If I thought that my reply
2	A persona che mai tornasse al mondo,	$2E_2$	would be to someone who would ever return to earth,
3	Questa fiamma staria senza piu scosse.	$3E_2$	this flame would remain without further movement.
4	Ma percioche giammai di questo fondo	$4E_2$	But as no one has ever
5	Non torno vivo alcun, s'i'odo il vero,	$5E_2$	returned alive from this gulf, if what I hear is true,
6	Senza tema d'infamia ti rispondo.	$6E_2$	I can answer you with no fear of infamy.

## 2. Invocation of a Muse (3'30")

Prufrock prepares to leave his home and go to a party. As he is preparing he addresses an unseen "person" and expresses his desire to ask an unstated question.

7	Let us go then, you and I,	1
8	When the evening is spread out against the sky	2
9	Like a patient etherized upon a table;	3
10	Let us go, through certain half-deserted streets,	4
11	The muttering retreats	5
12	Of restless nights in one-night cheap hotels	6
13	And sawdust restaurants with oyster-shells:	7
14	Streets that follow like a tedious argument	8
15	Of insidious intent	9
16	To lead you to an overwhelming question	10
17	Oh, do not ask, "What is it?"	11
18	Let us go and make our visit.	12

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The numbers down the left side of the text are the numbers referenced in the **Introduction to the Text**, the numbers down the right side are the line numbers from the original text. P-Text taken from Prufrock's Pervigilum E<sub>1</sub>-Text taken from the original epigraph of the poem, E<sub>2</sub>-Text taken from second—published—epigraph of the poem, \*- Lines that have add material to or omit material from the original text.

## 3. Prufrock Among the People (5'10")

Prufrock arrives at the party and is mocking his peers and their trite interests. He then proceeds to join them in their "trite" conversations, but quickly becomes distracted by thoughts of his questions, and then consumed by the idea that those around him are judging him in the same way he judges them).

19	In the room the people come and go	13
20	Talking of Michelangelo.	14
21	The yellow fog that rubs its back upon the window-panes,	15
22	The yellow smoke that rubs its muzzle on the window-panes,	16
23	Licked its tongue into the corners of the evening,	17
24	And seeing that it was a soft October night,	21
25	Curled once about the house, and fell asleep.	22
26	And indeed there will be time	23
27	For the yellow smoke that slides along the street,	24
28	Rubbing its back upon the window-panes;	25
29	There will be time, there will be time	26
30	There will be time to murder and create,	28
31	To prepare a face to meet the faces that you meet;	27
32	Time for you and time for me,	31
33	for a hundred indecisions,	32*
34	And visions and revisions,	33*
35	Before the taking of a toast and tea.	34
36	There will be time for all the works and days of hands	29*
37	That lift and drop a question on your plate;	30
38	In the room the people come and go	35
39	Talking of Michelangelo.	36
40	And indeed there will be time	37
41	To wonder, "Do I dare?" and, "Do I dare?"	38
42	Time to turn back and descend the stair,	39
43	With a bald spot in the middle of my hair —	40
44	(They will say: "How his hair is growing thin!")	41
45	My morning coat, my collar mounting firmly to the chin,	42
46	My necktie rich and modest, but asserted by a simple pin —	43
47	(They will say: "But how his arms and legs are thin!")	44
48	Do I dare	45
49	Disturb the universe?	46
50	In a minute there is time	47
51	For decisions and revisions which a minute will reverse.	48

## 4. Prufrock, Son of Minos, in Knossos (5'45")

Prufrock's becomes lost in his thoughts, walking aimlessly around his mind, reflecting on the mundanity of his life. He feels judged, as if he is a monster; unwanted and hidden away from society. As his thoughts continue to meander, they turn to the women in the parlor. He is simultaneously aroused by their perfume, and turned-off by their corporeality. He finds them pleasing... in theory.

52	I have known them all already, known them all:	49*
53	Known the evenings, the mornings, the afternoons,	50*
54	I have measured out my life with coffee spoons;	51
55	I have heard the voices dying with a dying fall	53
	So how should I presume?	
56	I have known the eyes	54*
57	that fix you in a formulated phrase,	55*
58	And when I am formulated, sprawling on a pin,	56
59	When I am pinned, wriggling on the wall,	57
60	Then how should I begin	58
61	To spit out all the butt-ends of my days and ways?	59
62	And how should I presume?	60
63	I have known the arms already, known them all—	61*
64	Arms, braceleted and bare	62*
65	(But in the light, downed with light brown hair!)	63
66	Is it perfume from a dress	64
67	That makes me so digress?	65
68	Arms that lie along a table, or wrap about a shawl.	66
69	And should I then presume?	67
70	And how should I begin?	68

## 5. Kotov Syndrome (6'00")

Prufrock continues to ruminate, and as he does his thoughts move outward from the parlor he is in, to the wider world; surely, he cannot ask his question when the world is in such a state. As he continues to reflect on the world he has a vision of his muse, singing to him, telling him exactly what everyone thinks of him.

71 72 73	Shall I say, I have gone through narrow streets at dusk Shall I say, I have watched the smoke rise from pipes Of lonely men in shirt-sleeves, hanging out of windows?	69 70* 71
74 75	And when the evening woke and stared into its blindness I heard the children whimpering in corners	1P 2P
76 77	Shall I say, when evening fought itself awake the world was peeling oranges and reading evening newspapers	7P 8P
78 79 80 81 82	Shall I say, when the dawn realized itself And turned with a sense of nausea, to see what it had stirred: The eyes and feet of men - I fumbled to the window to experience the world And to hear my Madness singing	22P* 23P 24P 25P 26P*
83 84	[A blind old drunken man who sings and mutters, With broken boot heels stained in many gutters]	27P 28P
85	And as he sang the world began to fall apart	29P
86 87	I should have been a pair of ragged claws Scuttling across the floors of silent seas.	72 73

## 6. Prufrock and His Friend, Montresor (5'45")

Prufrock comes to from his catatonic state to find himself sitting in a chair. He grabs the glass nearest to him and relieves it of its contents; it tastes like amontillado but the only bottle he can read says "sherry". Prufrock continues to drink, as if compelled by an unseen force, becoming increasingly distraught over his inability to formulate his question.

88	the afternoon, the evening, sleeps so peacefully!	74*
89	Smoothed by long fingers,	75
90	Asleep tired or it malingers,	76
91	Stretched on the floor, here beside you and me.	77
92	Should I, after cakes, and tea, and ices,	78
93	Have the strength to force the moment to its crisis?	79
94	I have seen my head (grown slightly bald) brought in upon a platter,	81*
95	I have seen the moment of my greatness flicker,	83
96	And in short, I was afraid.	85
97	And would it have been worth it, after all,	86
98	After the cups, the marmalade, the tea,	87
99	Among the porcelain, among some talk of you and me,	88
100	Would it have been worth while,	89
101	To have bitten off the matter with a smile,	90
102	To have squeezed the universe into a ball	91
103	To have rolled it towards some overwhelming question,	92
104	To say: "I am Lazarus, come from the dead,	93
105	Come back to tell you all, I shall tell you all"—	94
106	If one, settling a pillow by her head	95
107	Should say: "That is not what I meant at all;	96
108	That is not it, at all."	97
109	It is impossible to say just what I mean!	103

## 7. ...tones which Nature utters only in her wildest moods. (3'00")

Having drank far too much Prufrock begins to yell a borderline nonsensical stream of consciousness into the parlor. As Polonius puts it "Though this be madness, there is method in't".

110	No! I am not Prince Hamlet, nor was I meant to be;	110
111	I am an attendant lord, one that will do	111
112	To swell a progress, start a scene or two,	112
113	Advise the prince; no doubt, an easy tool,	113*
	[I'm a massive tool]	
114	Deferential, glad to be of use,	114
115	Politic, cautious, and meticulous;	115
116	Full of high sentence, but a bit obtuse;	116
117	At times, indeed, almost ridiculous—	117
118	Almost, at times, the Fool.	118
119	I grow old I grow old	119
120	I shall wear the bottoms of my trousers rolled	120

### 8. Prufrock is Beheaded by Thracian Maenads (3'00")

Prufrock, having failed in his quest, crumples to the floor, sings a melodramatic lament and then... is still there... awkwardly. Prufrock sits for a very long time, waiting for the story to end. When, still, nothing has happened, he stands, dusts himself off and walks off stage unceremoniously.

121	Shall I part my hair behind? Do I dare to eat a peach?	121
122	I shall wear white flannel trousers, and walk along the beach.	122
123	I have heard the mermaids singing, each to each.	123
124	I do not think that they will sing to me.	124
125	I have seen them riding seaward on the waves	125
126	When the wind blows the water white and black.	127
127	Combing the white hair of the waves blown back	126
128	We have lingered in the chambers of the sea	128
129	By sea-girls wreathed with seaweed	129
130	'Til human voices wake us, and we drown.	130

## 9. André Linoge's Inferno (2'00")

Dante recalls the words said to him by poet Arnaut Daniel as he followed Guido Guinizelli into the fires of purgatory.

- 142 'sovegna vos a temps de ma dolor'. 1E<sub>1</sub> "...At the appropriate time, recall my pain."
- Poi s'ascose nel foco che gli affina. 2E<sub>1</sub> Then he hid himself in the refining fire.

Total Time: Ca 36'40"

## **Technical Notes**

#### **Version History:**

## Version 1.1

This version of the monodrama is for voice and stereo-audio. In this version it is suggested that the performer work with a second party who will act as "conductor", cuing the performer and triggering the audio files. For this version the "conductor" should sit on stage, behind the partitioned mirror.

In this version vocal parts processed through the "Choralizer" should not be sung as they are present in the audio files. Similarly, the  $2^{nd}$ ,  $3^{rd}$ , and  $4^{th}$  entrances of the "Canonizer" in Scene 9 are fixed into the audio files.

A performance of this version of this work will require:

- A computer capable of playing stereo audio files
- At least two speakers (stereo)<sup>7</sup>

-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> It is possible to perform the work using a single speaker (mono) set up, however some elements of the electronics will be lost.

#### **Version 1.1 Features:**

- Individual, labeled triggers for each audio file.
- Playback timer for audio files.
- Mix console that allow for the attenuation of individual audio files.
- Audio device selection.

## **Future Updates:**

- Adjustable reverb on individual audio files.
- Remote triggering of audio files to replace the "conductor".
- Integrate live electronic elements for the Scene 1, "Choralizer" and Scene 9 "Canonizer" via Max/MSP.
- Replace some prerecorded elements with generated electronic elements to give the performer greater flexibility in their performance, particularly in "0" Time Signature sections.
- Integrate video via Jitter to supply the performer with a "virtual conductor".

Materials and updates can be found at: bit.ly/PrufrockOperaPatch (case so	ensitive)
Questions, comments or bugs can be sent to:	

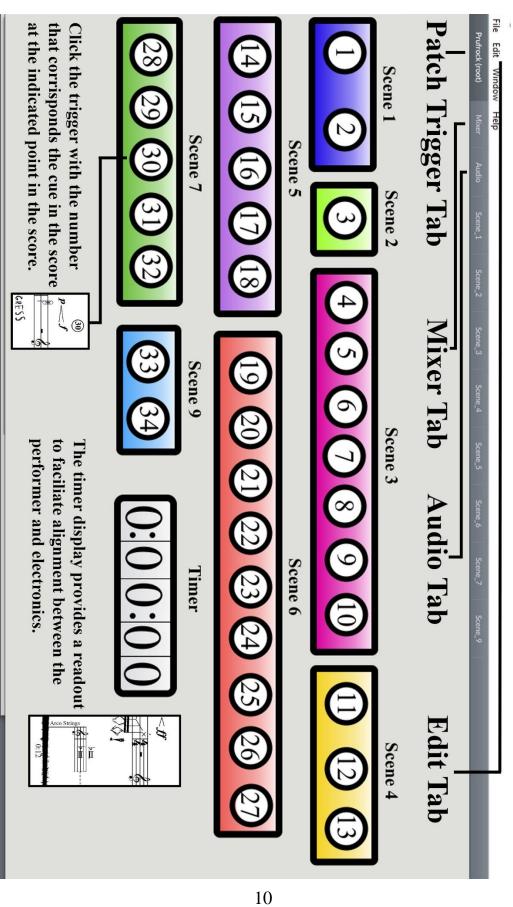


Fig. 1 Patch trigger tab; labeled.

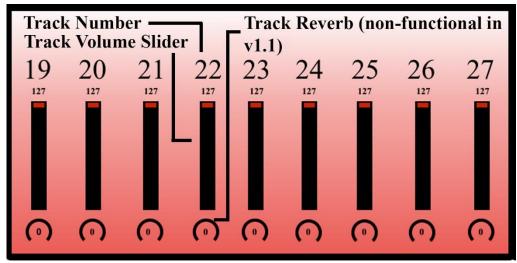


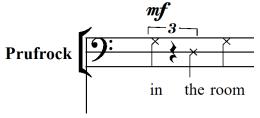
Fig. 2 Mixer tab functions; labeled

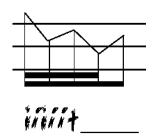
## Max/MSP Patch: Set Up

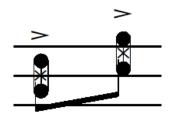
- 1. Download Max/MSP v7.3.5 (<a href="https://cycling74.com/downloads/older">https://cycling74.com/downloads/older</a>) from Cycling74's website. (Max/MSP is free to download with saving disabled).
- 2. Download the .7z file provided at the link above.
- 3. Unzip the file using Winzip, 7Zip, or another similar file compression program.
- 4. Attach desired audio driver/ audio output device.
- 5. Open Prufrock.exe.
- 6. Enter the "Audio" tab select you desired audio driver, turn audio on in the bottom right hand corner. If the audio driver does not appear, or you receive a red error message in the file log:
  - a. Exit the patch (crtl-q/cmmd-q)
  - b. Restart you machine with the device attached
  - c. Return to Step 5
- 7. Return the "Prufrock (root)" tab and attempt to play a track by clicking on of the track buttons.
- 8. If the audio does not playback and/or the timer does not run:
  - a. Enter the "Edit" tab.
  - b. Click "Overdrive"
  - c. Exit the patch (crtl-q/cmmd-q)
  - d. Return to step 5

## **Notation**











## **Sprechgesang:**

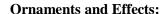
Sections notated on a three-line stave with "x" note heads should be sung in *Sprechstimme* (as in *Pierrot Lunaire*). The performer should take the vertical space between the two outer lines to represent the compass of their chest voice, notes written above the staff should be sung in a higher, head-voice.

## Glissando Sprechgesang:

Melismatic Sprechstimme passages should be sung with as a continuous glissando. This is represented by a gestural line between the stems of the rhythm; the performer should interpret these gestures as approximate.

## "Shrieking" Multiphonic:

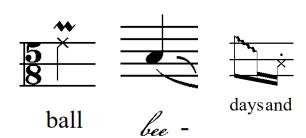
Notes marked with a "cluster-symbol" should be interpreted as unspecified multiphonics. The effect should be similar to the multiphonics found in Peter Maxwell Davies's *Eight Songs for a Mad King*, or the passage marked "shrieking" before **C** from the same score.

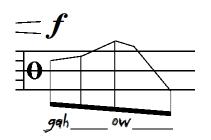


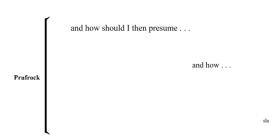
Any ornaments and effects should be interpreted conventionally\*; in places where pitches for an ornament are ambiguous the pitches used are at the discretion of the performer.

If ornaments occur on a three-line staff they should be garish approximations of the conventional interpretations of the symbols.

\*the exception to this is "wavy glissandi" should be performed as something halfway between and trill and a pitch shake.









## "0" Time-Signature:

Passages marked with a "0" Time-Signature have little to no sense of meter. In these passages the performer should take greater rhythmic freedoms (as if singing recitative). All rest in these passages are represented by quarter-rests with circatimings indicated (Note: in its current incarnation time stamps are provided, later updates will allow greater flexibility so that approximate timings can be used).

The indication of "No Meter" in 4. *Prufrock, Son of Minos, In Knossos* should be interpreted as having a defined pulse but no well-defined metrical hierarchy.

## **Spoken Text:**

Text not associated with staff material should be spoken in a dramatic fashion. Arrangement on the page should inform the performer's interpretation, however no specific interpretation is prescribed.

## **Stylized Text:**

Text stylizations contain no prescriptive information. The performer may use stylization as a guide when interpreting the material; many interpretations of the same material may be equally valid.

#### **Electronic Notation**

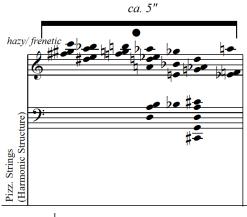


## **Long Tones:**

Two notations are employed for long tones:

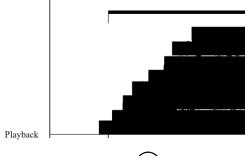
(Top) arrhythmic long tones are represented by a *brevis* followed by a dotted arrow—these occur when there is not other rhythmic material in the same staff group (eg. "Strings"). All long tones through "0" Time-signature sections use the arrhythmic notation.

(Bottom) rhythmic longs tones fill out the rest of the bar they are contained in and are followed by a tie-to-nothing. They are picked up again when pitches in the same staff group are added or change.



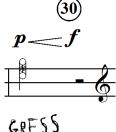
## **Square Fermatas:**

Square fermatas are used to indicate prolonged events that unfold over the indicated period. Circa timings above the fermata are rounded to the nearest second and are intended as an approximate reference for the performer (they do not necessarily reflect the exact elapsed time on the Max/MSP timer, for this see *Track Timings*).



## "Noise":

*Prufrock* employs a number of noise-based motives or motives where the pitch content—while discernable—can be ignored by the performer. Theses motive are represented by black boxes with white text inside them.



#### **Track Numbers:**

Numbers with a circular boarder indicate when to trigger which track in the Max/MSP track; for further clarification reference fig. 1.



## **Track Timings:**

Track Timings appear on top of or just below the playback staff at points where the performer may need to align with particular event, or when the track ends.

Track endings contain the *Track Number* and the word "Ends: followed by the final timecode. This final time code is not where the last note occurs, but where the track cuts off (usually about ten seconds after the last note to facilitate the decay of reverb.).

*Track Timings* reflect the timer position to the nearest second as it appears within the Max/MSP patch.

## **Performance Notes:**

## **Performers**

## **Staging**

The entire monodrama is performed with a single stage setup. Generally, the stage should be evocative of an early  $20^{th}$ c parlor; however, only four set pieces are directly referenced in the score: a room partition (example on the right)—that will hide the electronics/ "conductor" (referred to as a "partitioned mirror" or "mirror" throughout), a chair or couch (for Prufrock to sit on in Scene 4 and 6), a side table, and a glass (both for Scene 6).

While an ideal performance of the piece would feature these elements, the composer's chief concern is practicality, as such, if it is logistically impractical to use the partitioned mirror the performer should play off the exposed electronics set-up/ "conductor" instead.



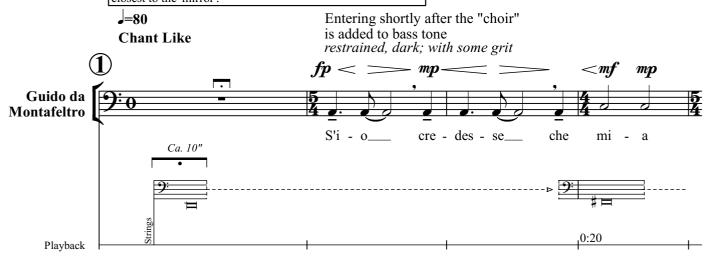
Fig 3. Partition/mirror reference

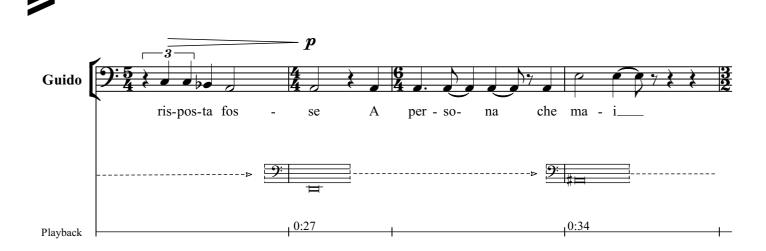
"Do you see what I mean when I say 'tough shit'?" - Robert Sward

## 1. Chorus (2'30")

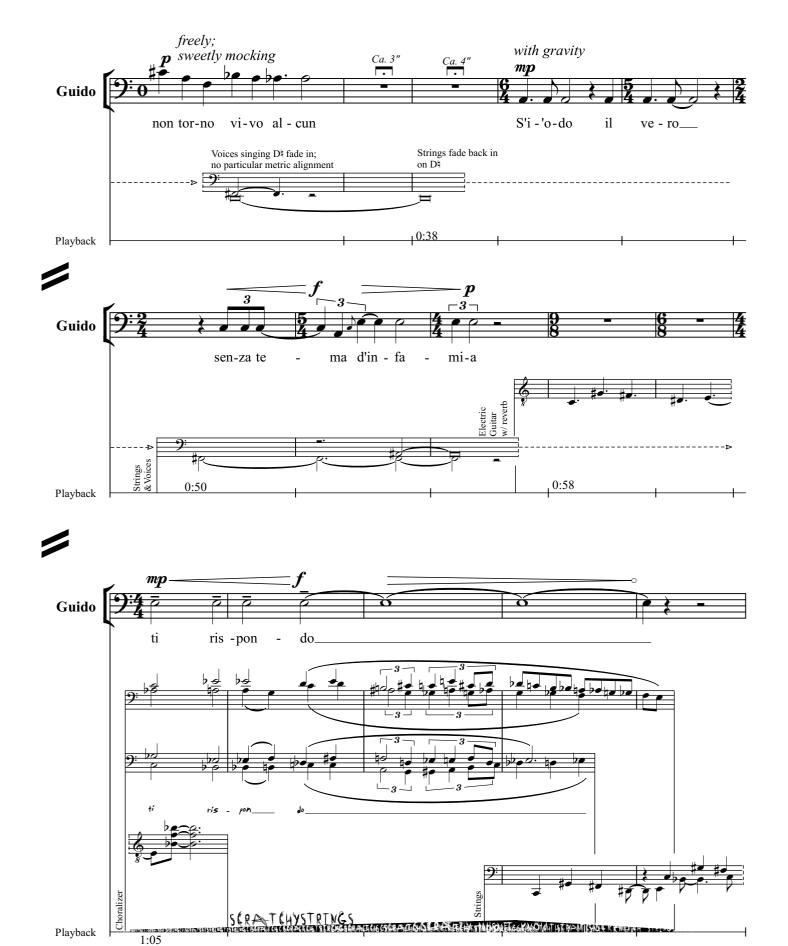
Scene Direction: The stage should be completely dark, the only light should come from the computer running the electronics; the light should appear to be an eerie glow come from behind the three-partition mirror that illuminates the face of the performer from below as they sing into the microphone. The perfomer may be partially or completely obstructed by the set piece, as such it would not be inappropriate in the scene for the performer to add some visual staging element (such as a video feed of their face projected against the back of the stage).

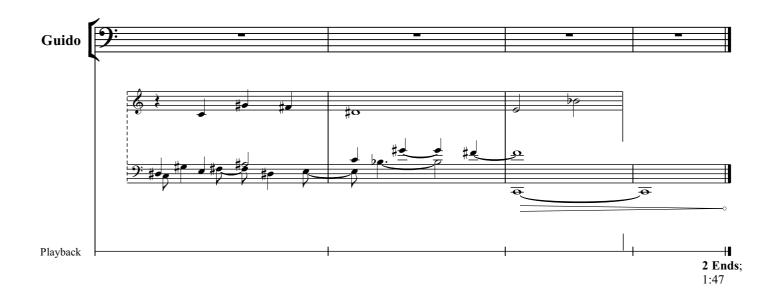
The first tone should be allowed to settle before the performer comes on stage; the performer should enter from the side closest to the 'mirror'.









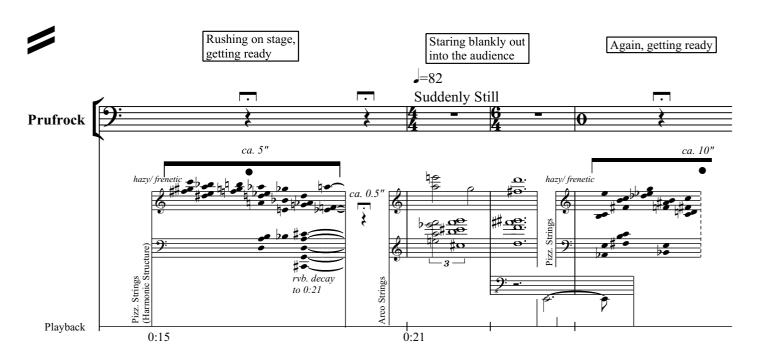


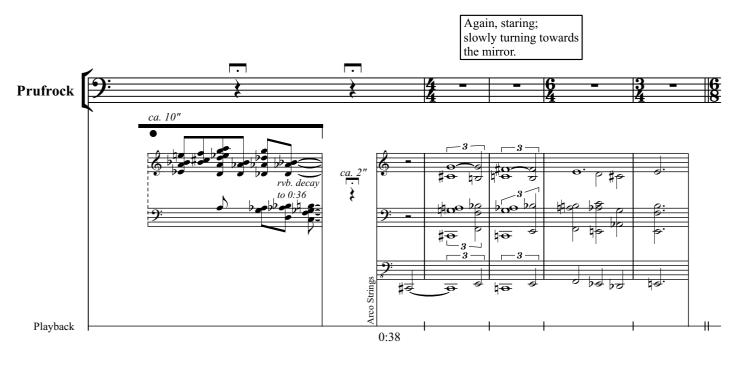
## 2. Invocation of the Muse (3'30")

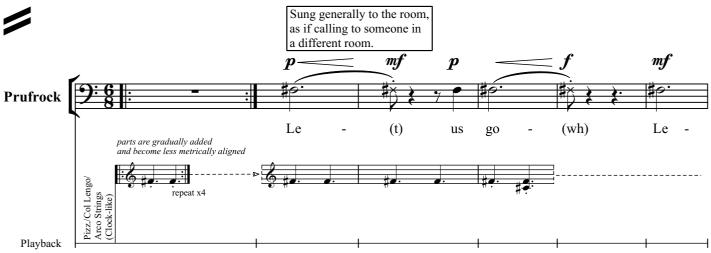
Prufrock is preparing to leave for an evening of quiet conversations, cucumber sandwiches, and tea in the parlor of a "close friend". As Prufrock prepares, he calls to an unseen companion to hurry up so they can go; these calls are, at first, shouted to the room, but become increasingly directed towards the "large mirror" in the room.

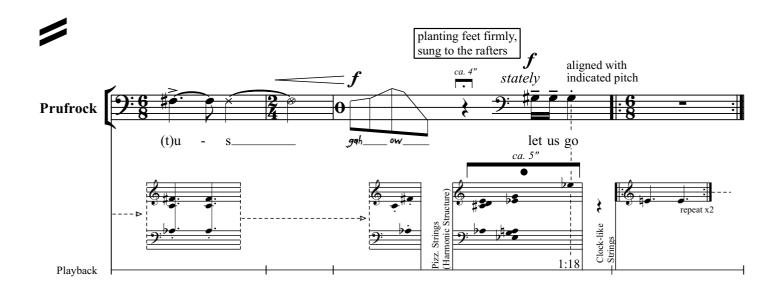
Over the course of the scene. Prufrock's growing anxiety over his "overwhelming question" leads to him to become increasingly aggitated.

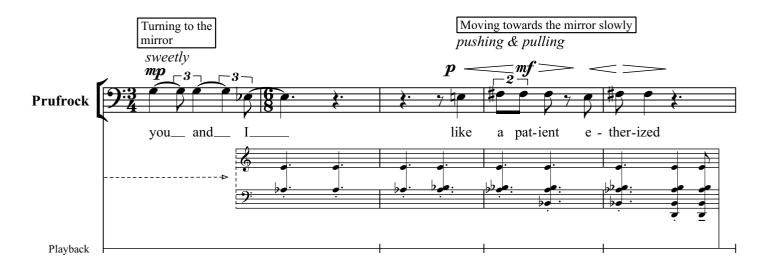


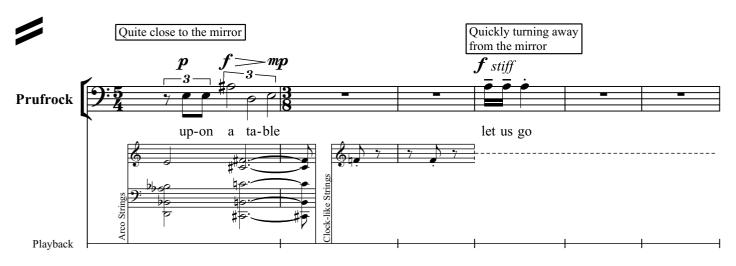


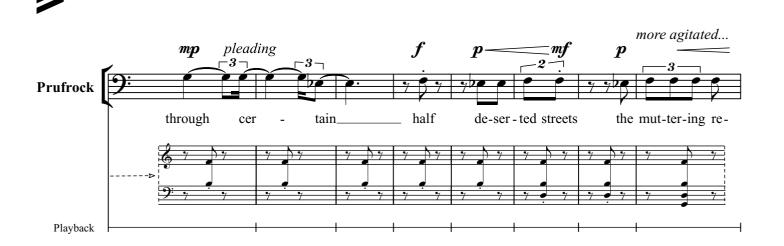




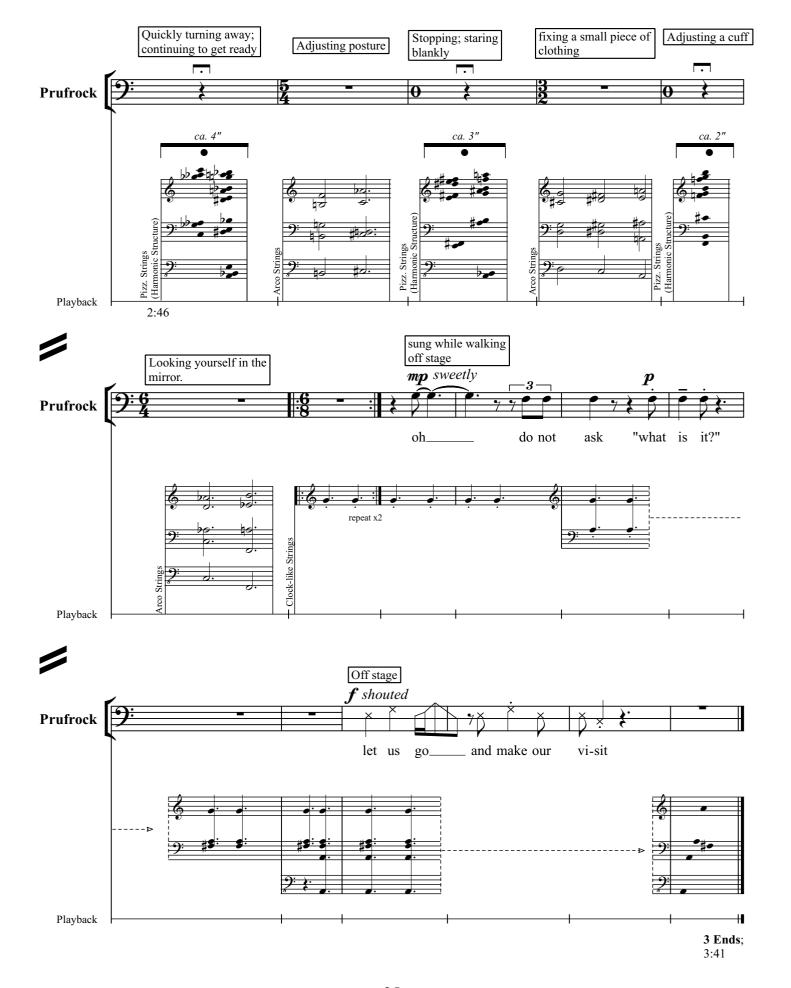










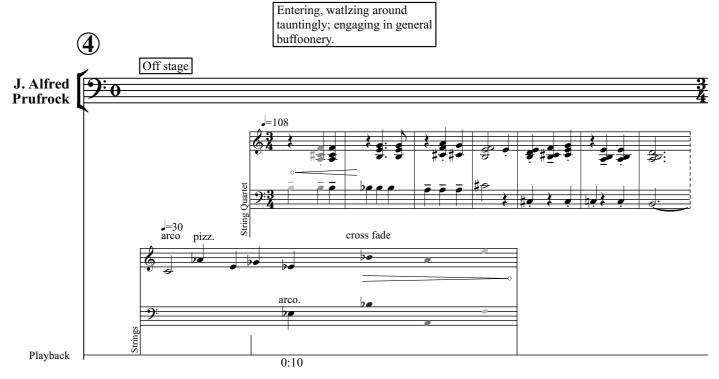


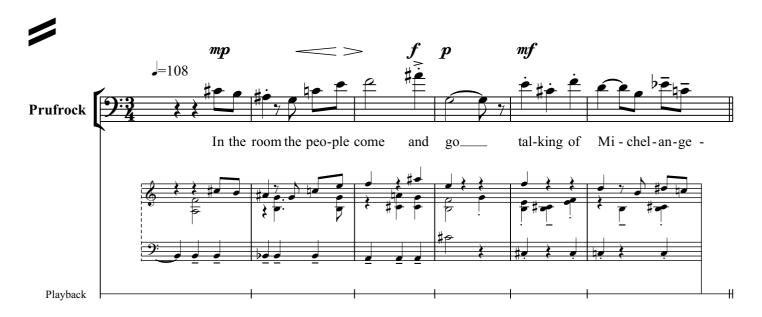
## 3. Prufrock Among the People (5'10")

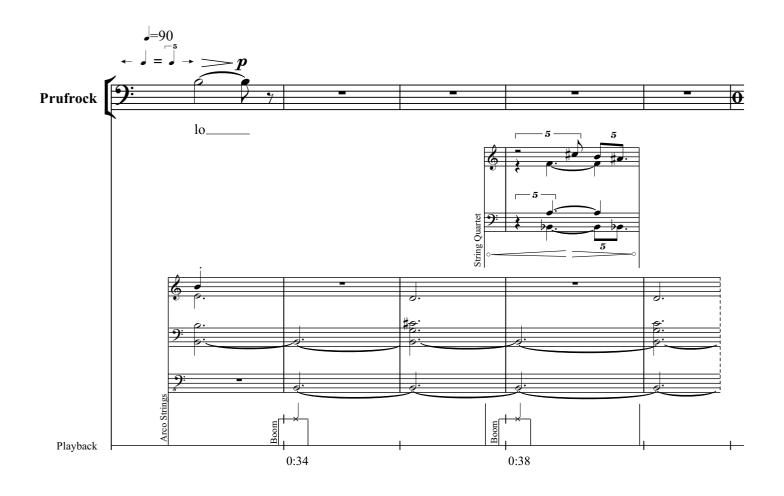
In the parlor of his "friend", Prufrock mills about from conversation to conversation, stopping to turn to the audience and make plain to them how trite he thinks the topics of conversation are.

Prufrock should start the scene calm, becoming gradually more agitated as the "String Quartet" becomes more "distant".

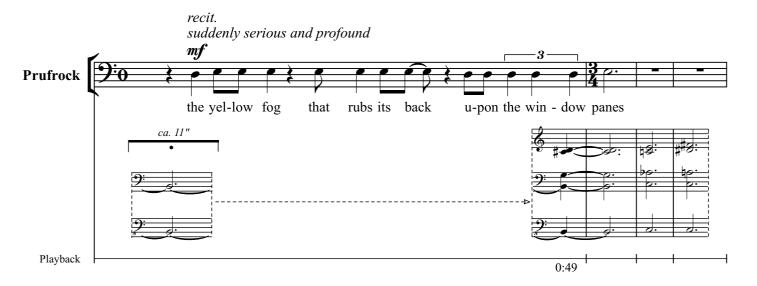
Staging should be identical to Prufrock's room from Scene 2.

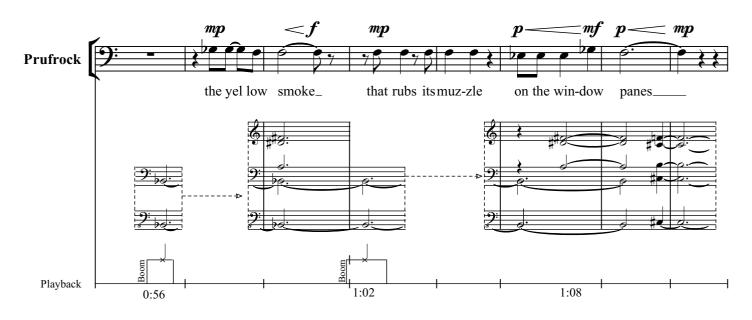


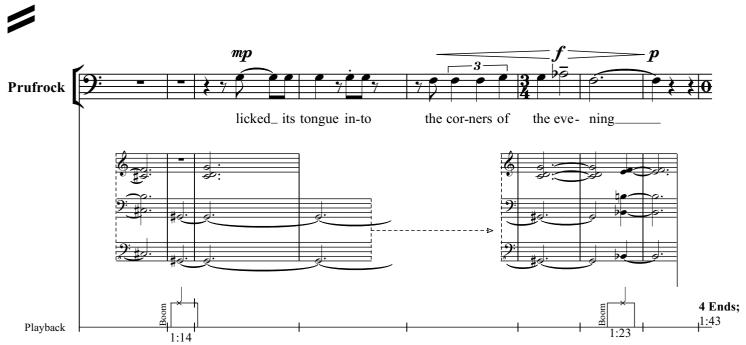






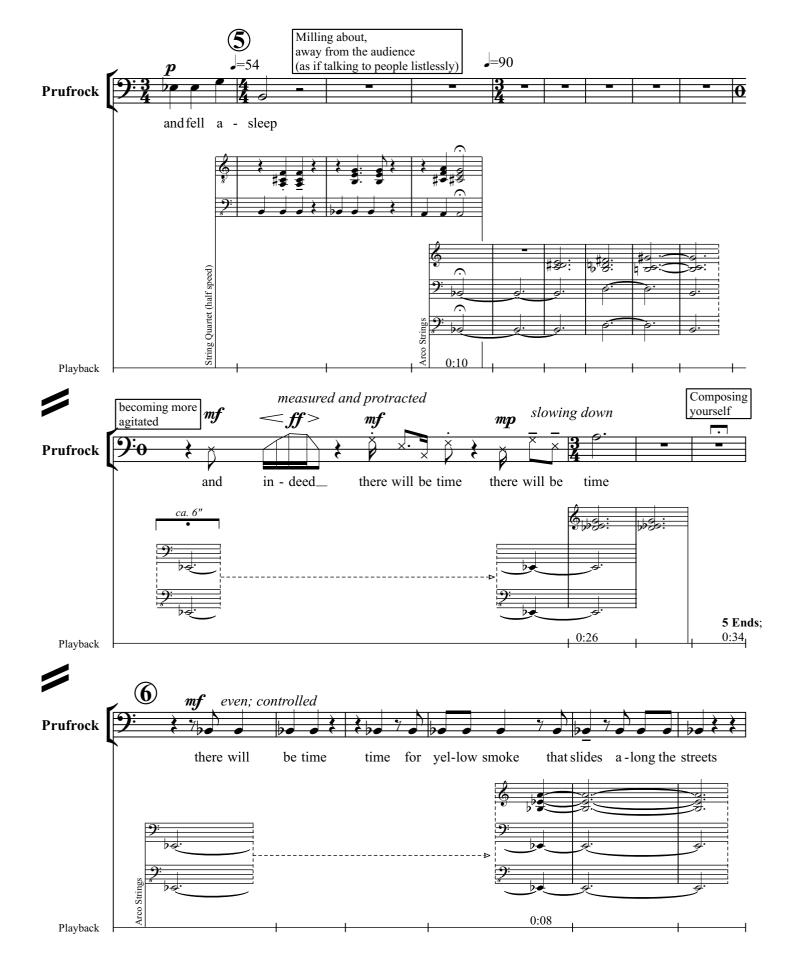




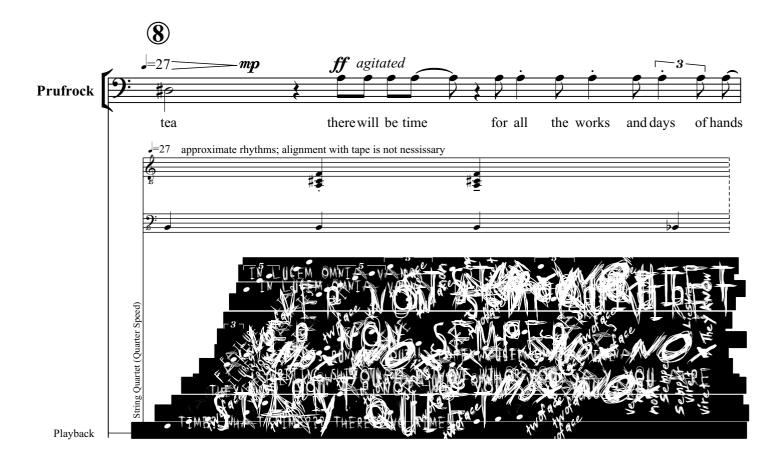


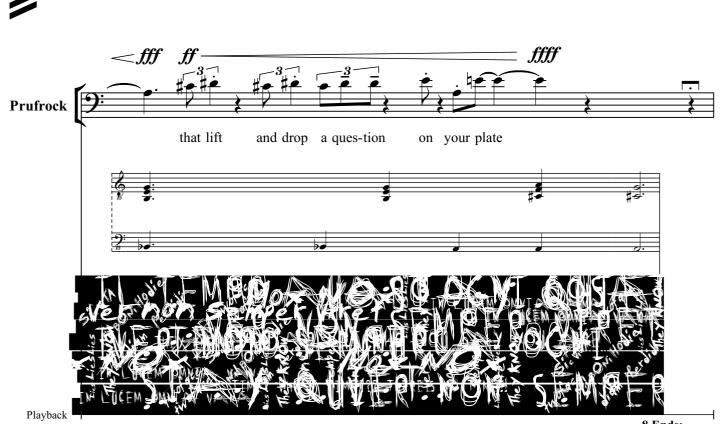


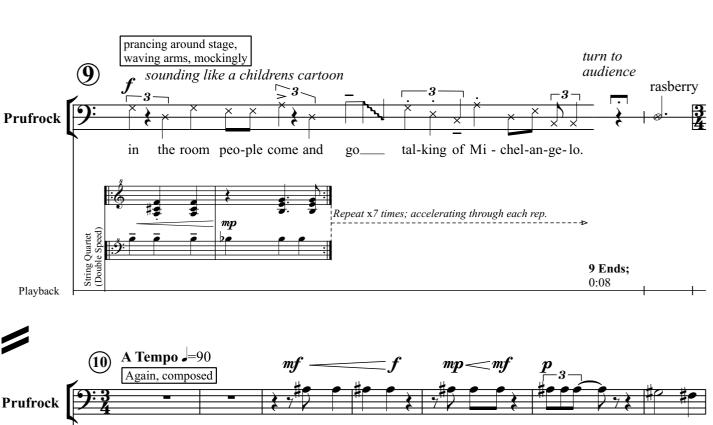
and see - ing it was a soft Oc-to - ber night curled once a-round the house

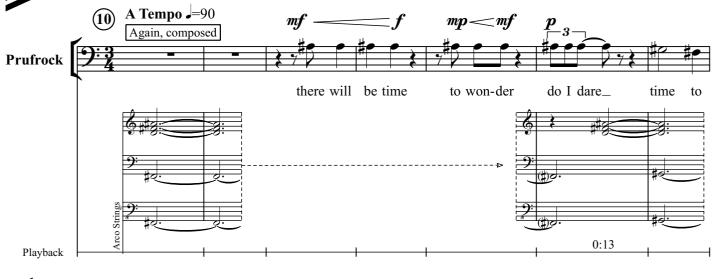


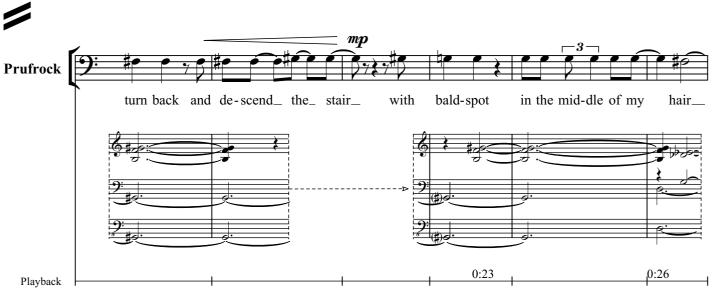


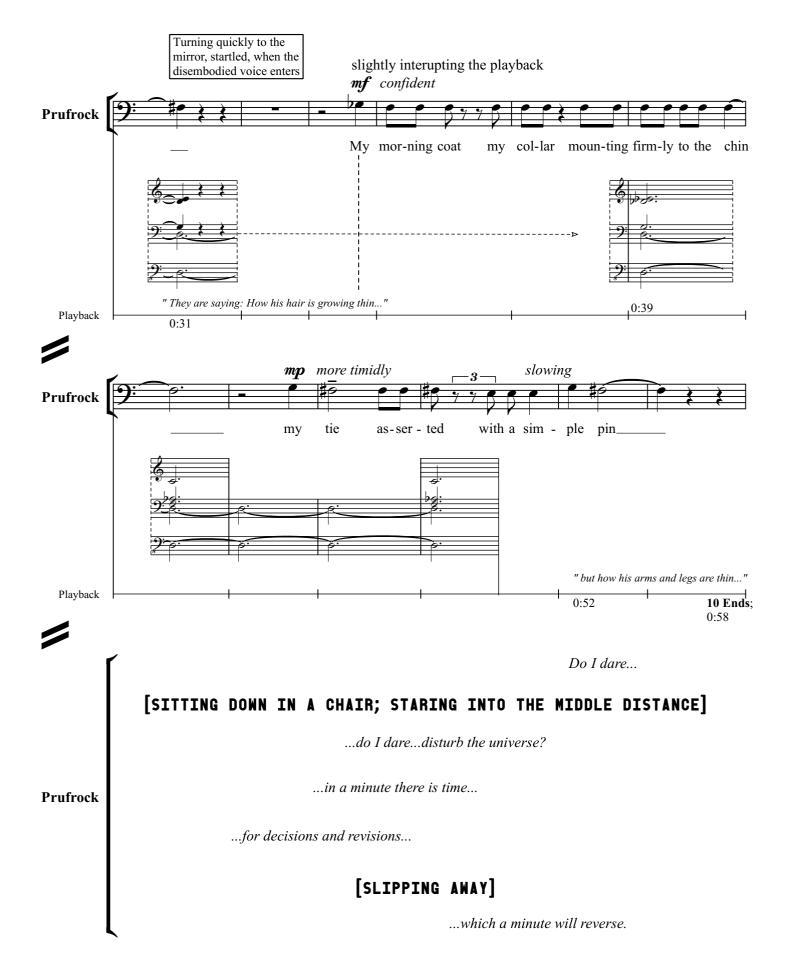








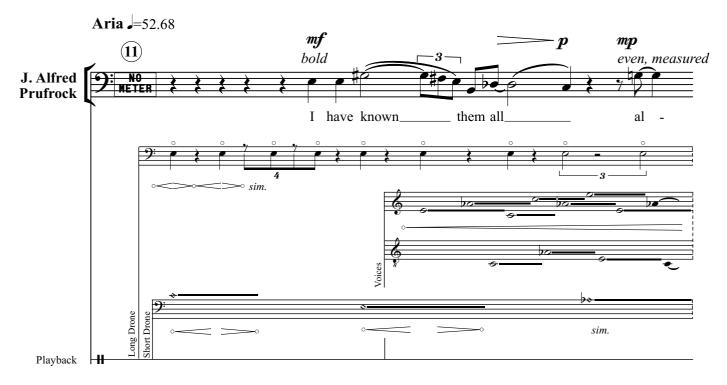




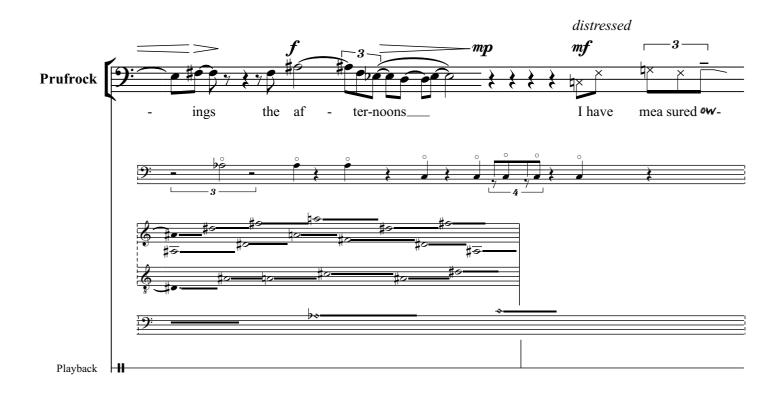
#### 4. Prufrock, Son of Minos, in Knossos (5'45")

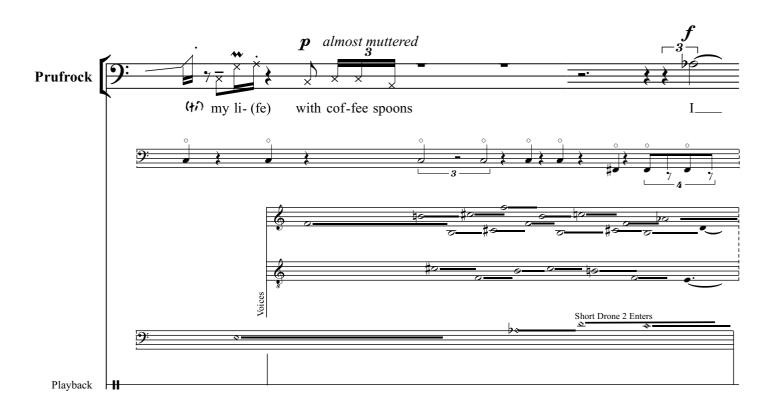
Sitting in a chair, Prufrocks thoughts turn inward. In his mind
Prufrock is a hero, confronting the deep existential troubles in his mind... in reality
he's that weird guy at the party that's not talking to anyone, staring into the middle distance.

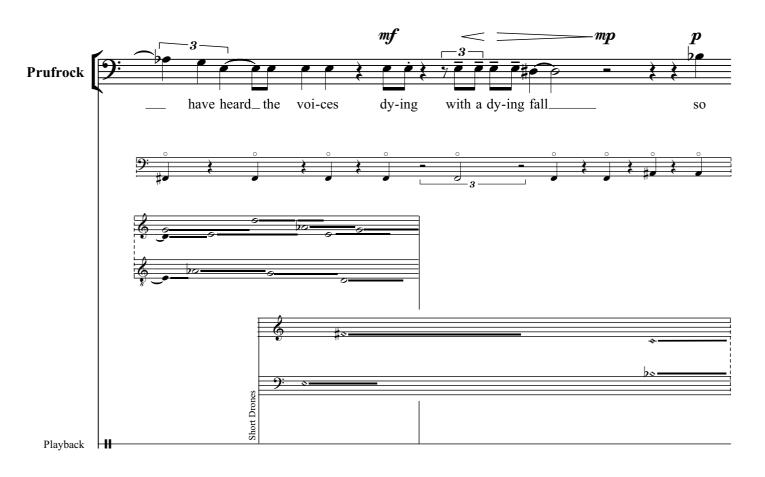
Lighting should focus in on only Prufrock's chair if possible. You should not leave the chair, but should express yourself through posture and expression alone.

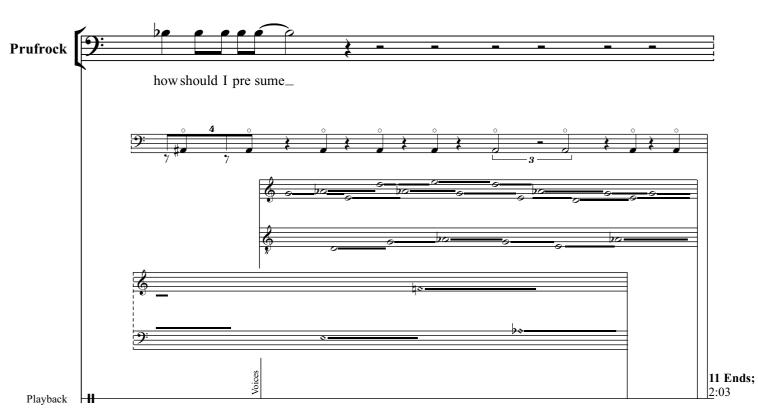


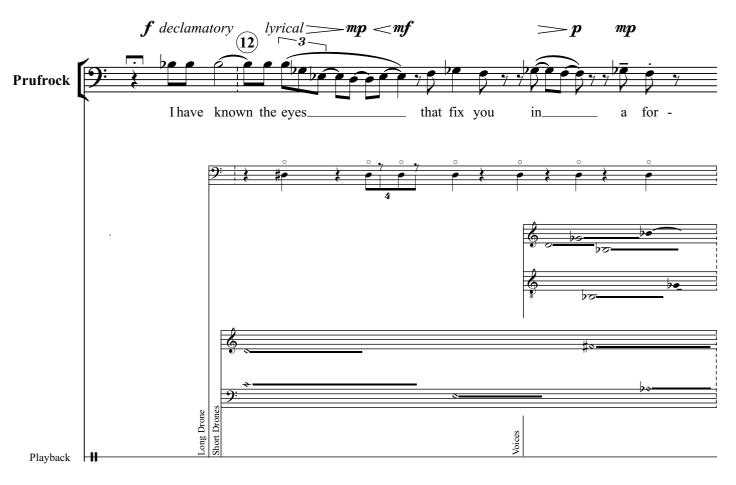


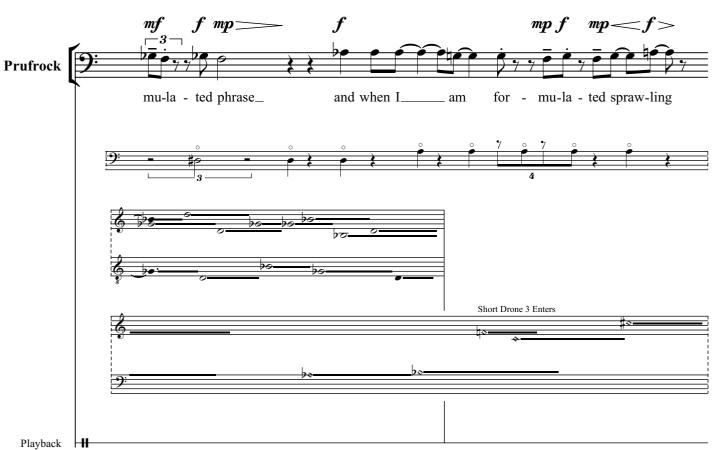


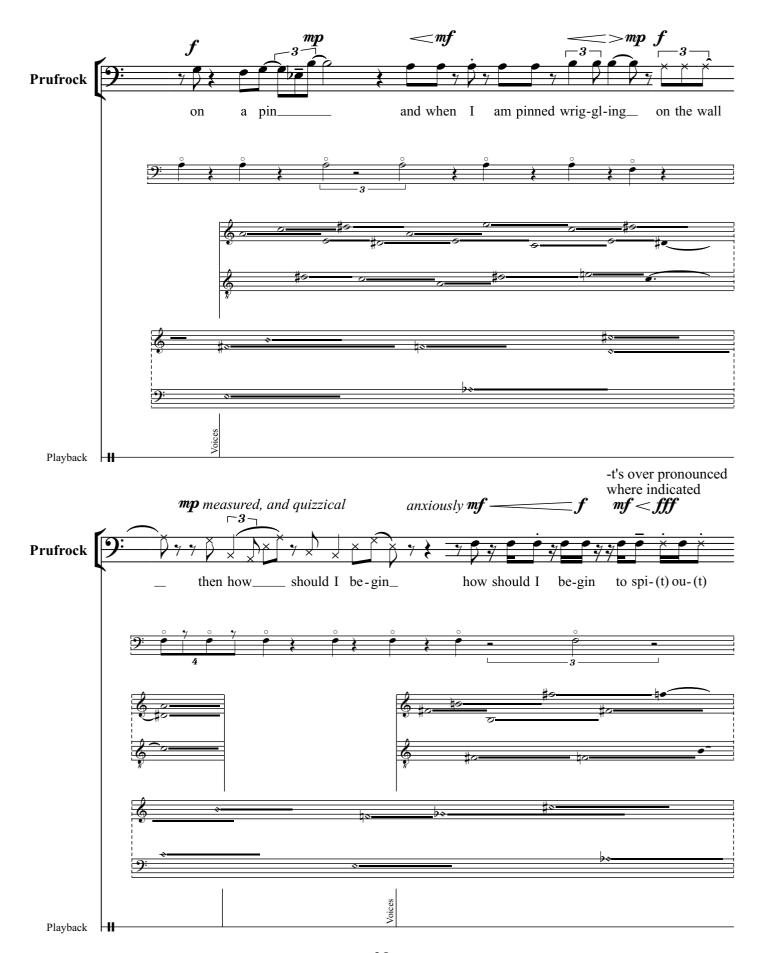


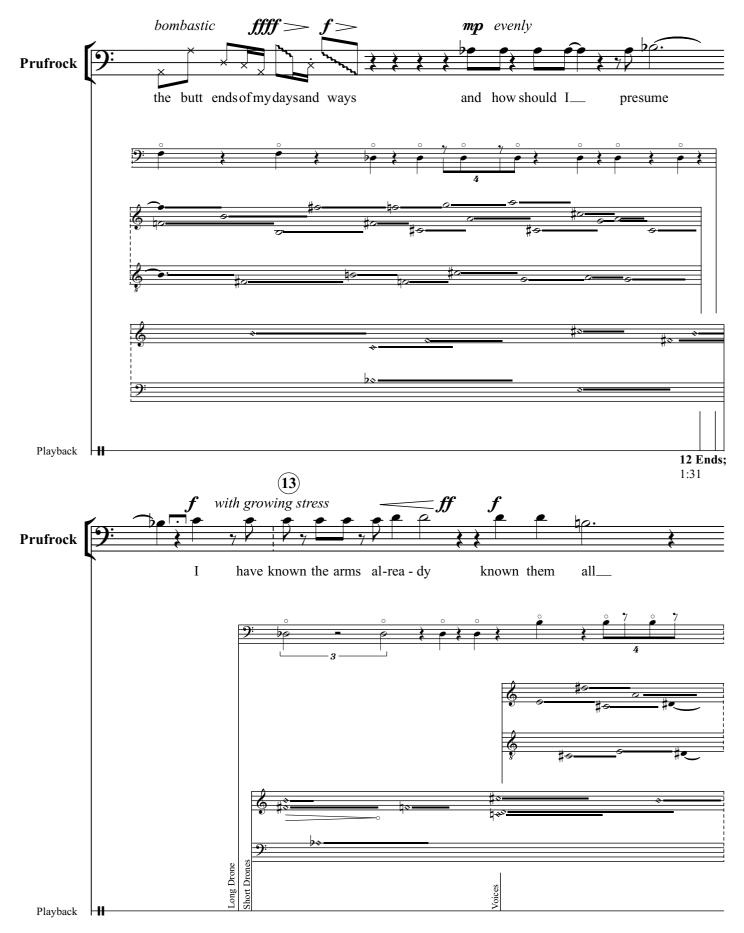


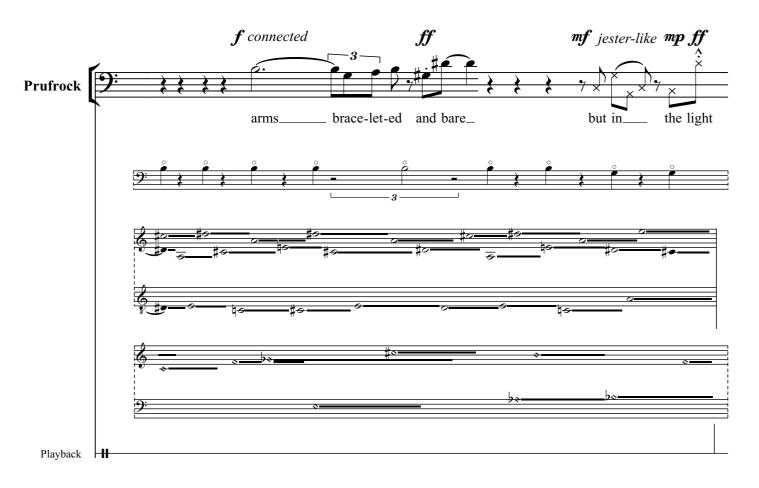


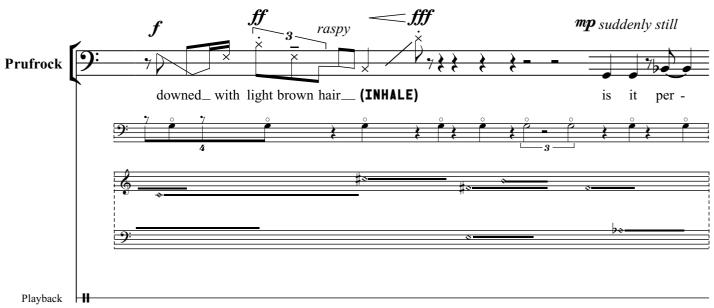


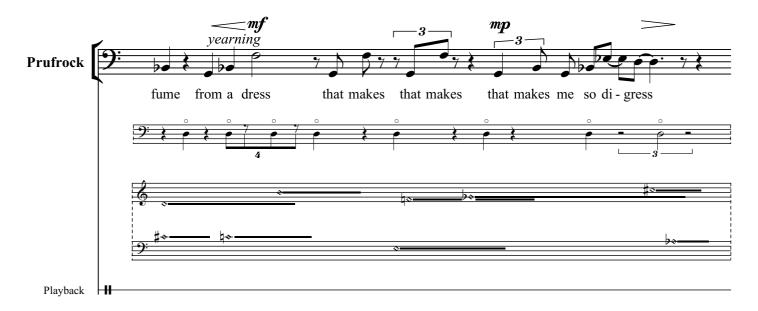


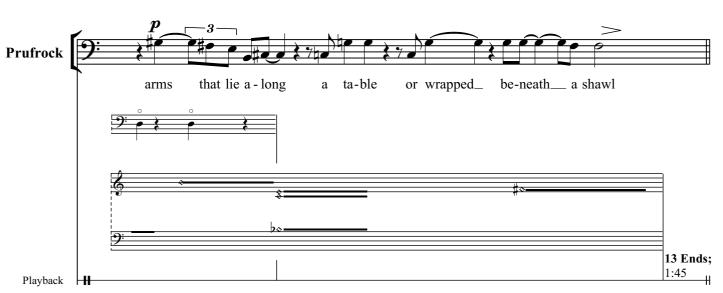


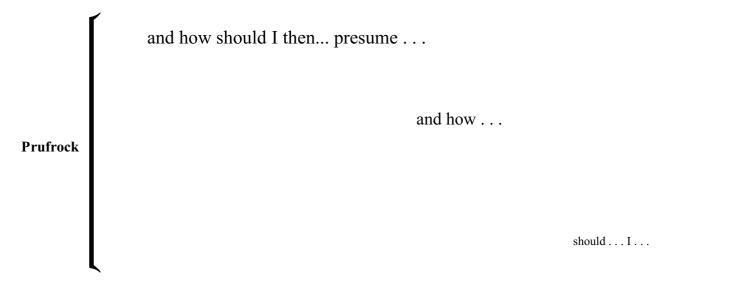












**Attacca: 5. Kotov syndrome** 

#### 5. Kotov Syndrome (6'00")

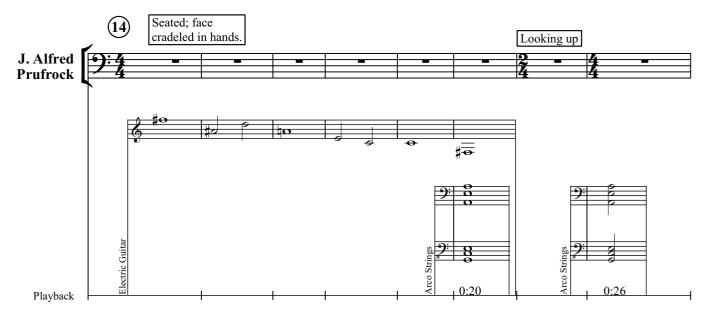
Prufrock, sitting in the chair, retreats into himself completely. Having reflected on his nature he finds himself wanting; turning his mind to the rest of the world he finds it wanting...

Then he hears his muse singing to him... and suggests that it's probably still just him.

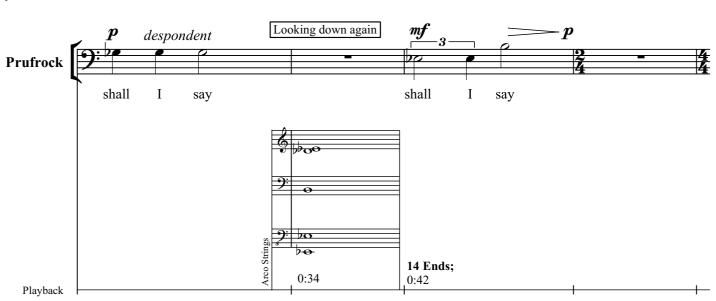
Lights should come up from Scene 4. Prufrock should move about the stage as though wondering "narrow streets" and seeing the sights he describes.

At the end of the scene lights should go down to nothing.

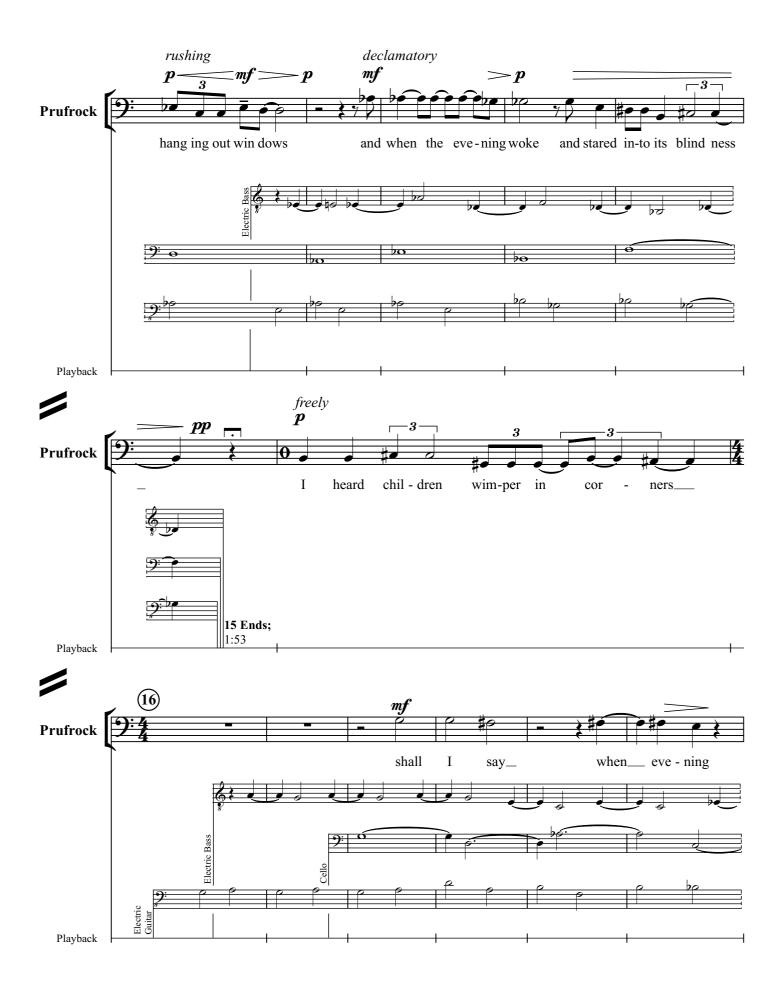
#### Distant, Cold =55

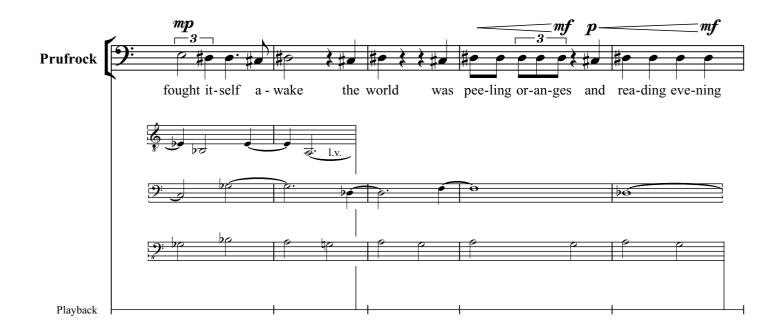


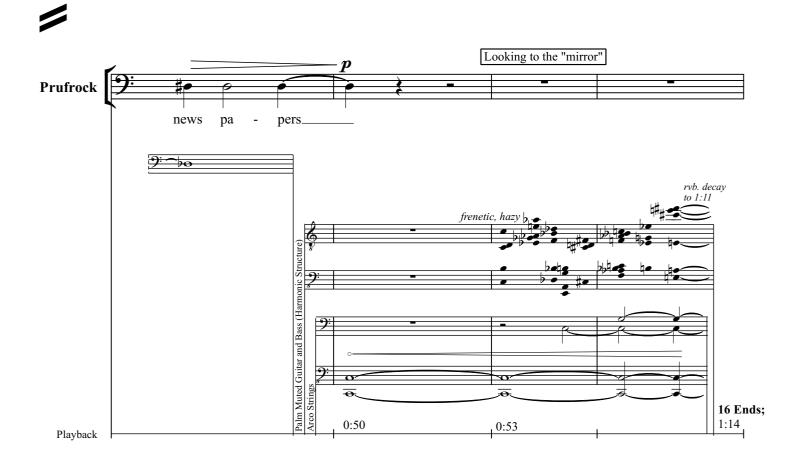


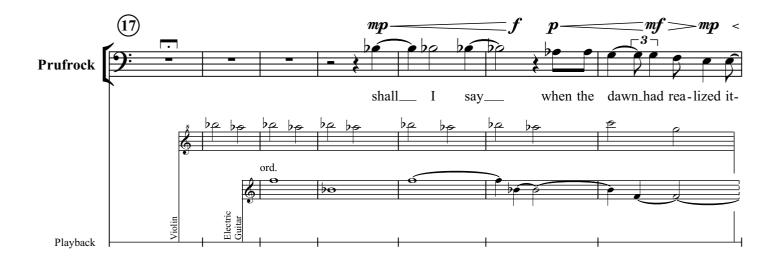




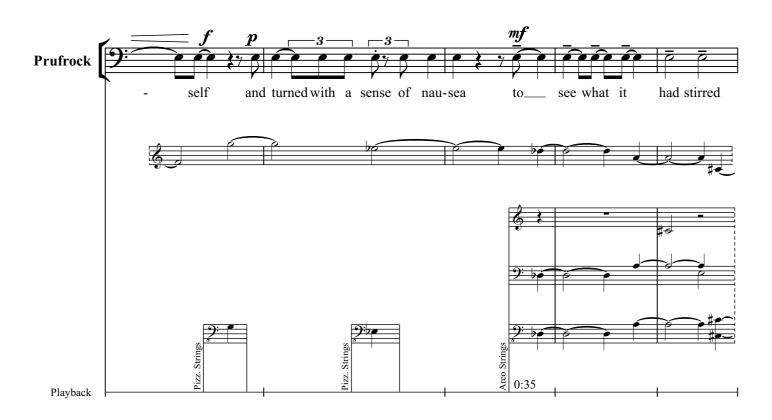




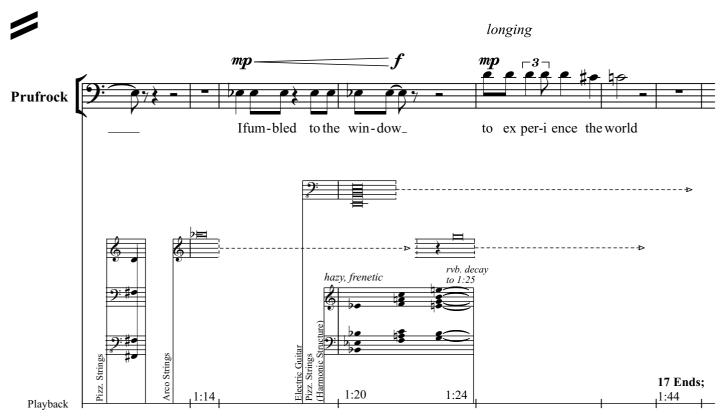




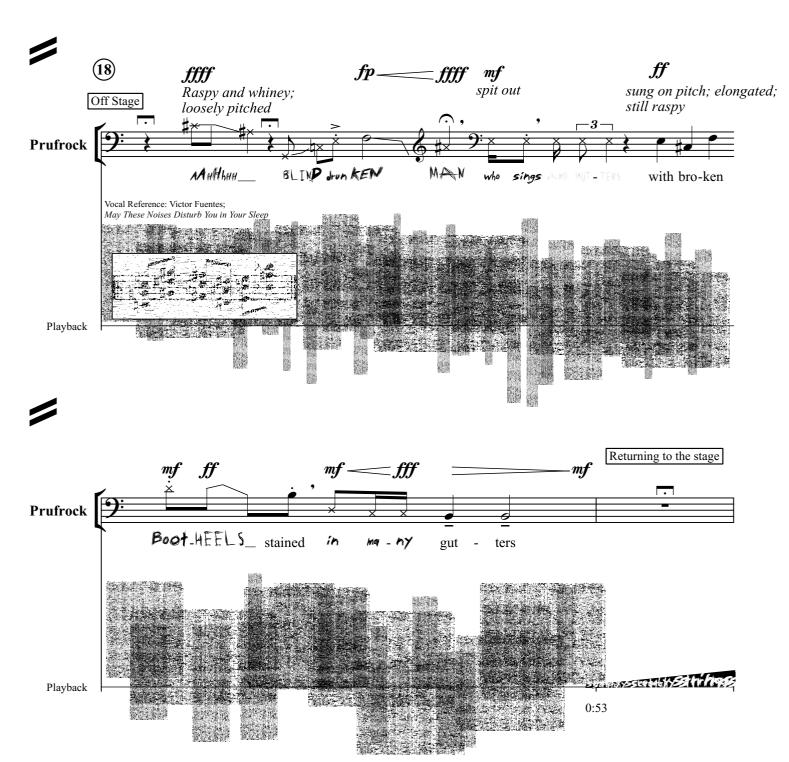












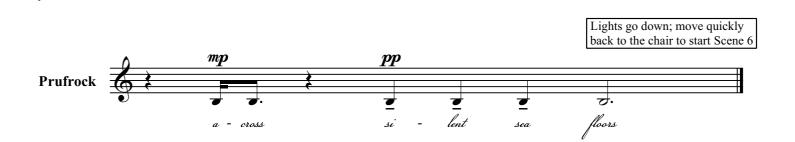
Staring straight ahead experssionless as if overwhelmed by emotion...

Falling to you knees; breathing in rhythmically as if sobbing

shrinking into the tape tack as it gets louder



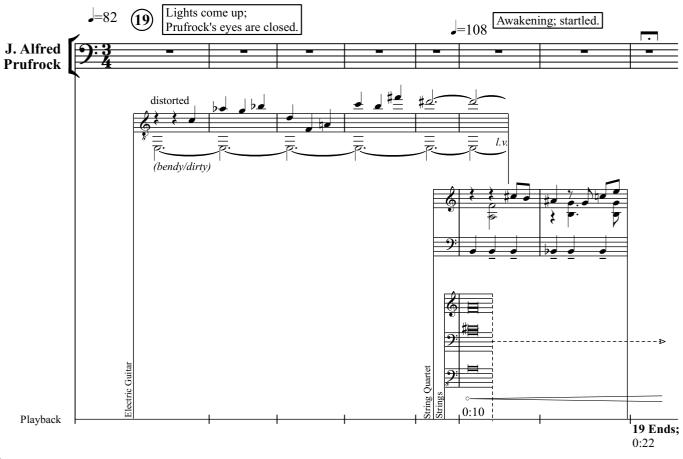


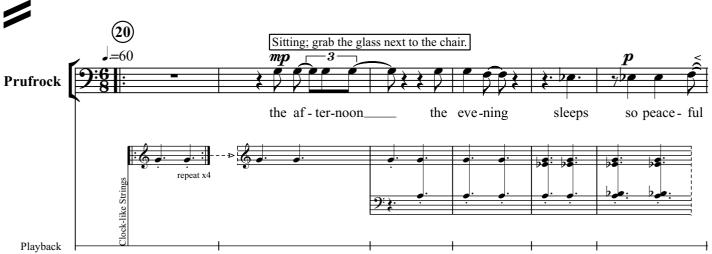


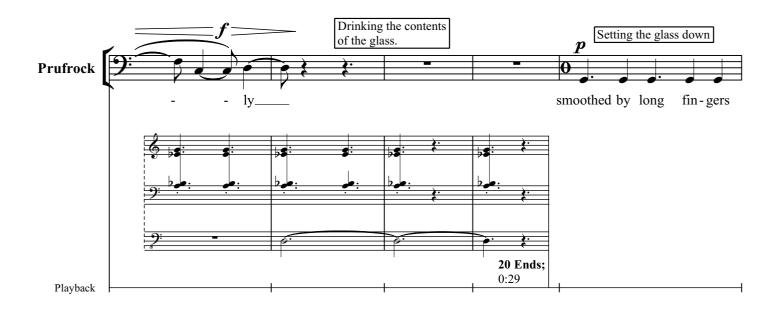
#### 6. Prufrock and His Friend, Montresor (5'45")

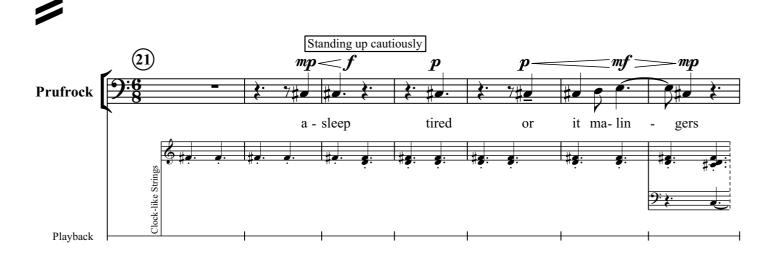
Prufrock awakens from his stupor and, disturbed by his visions, begins to imbibe everything within reach in an attempt to stop his racing thought; the results are predictable.

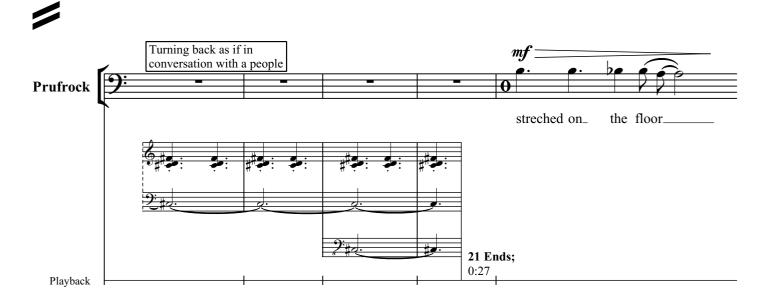
Staging/lighting should be the same as Scene 3.

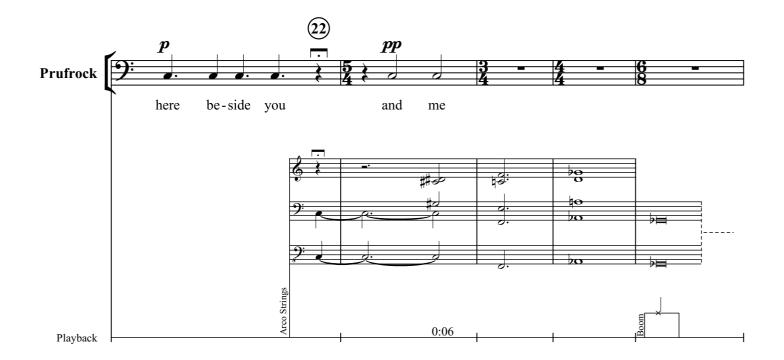


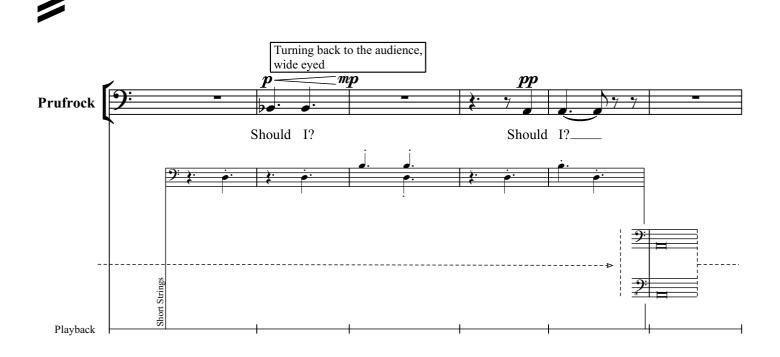


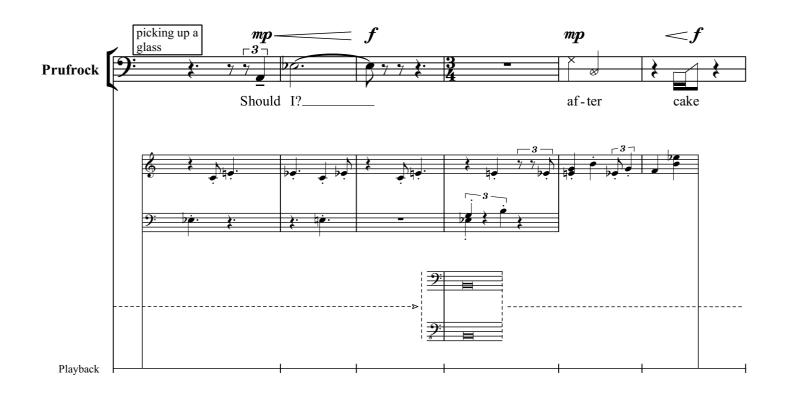


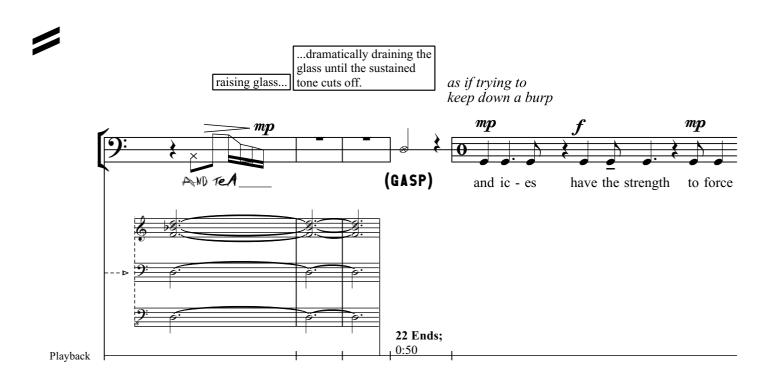


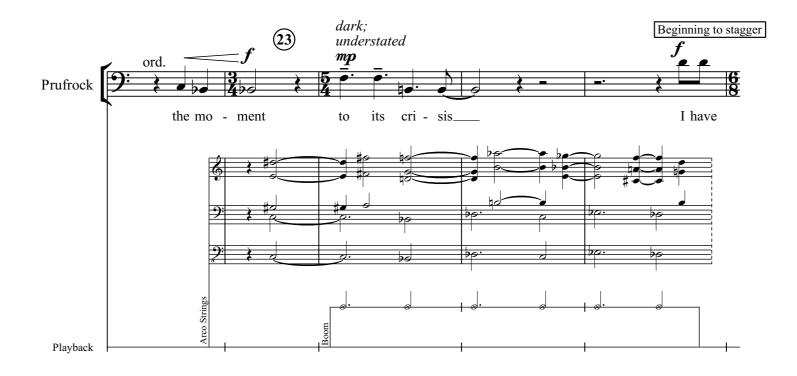


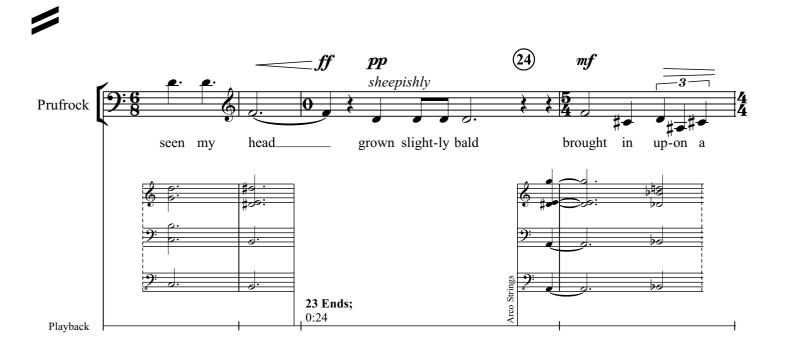


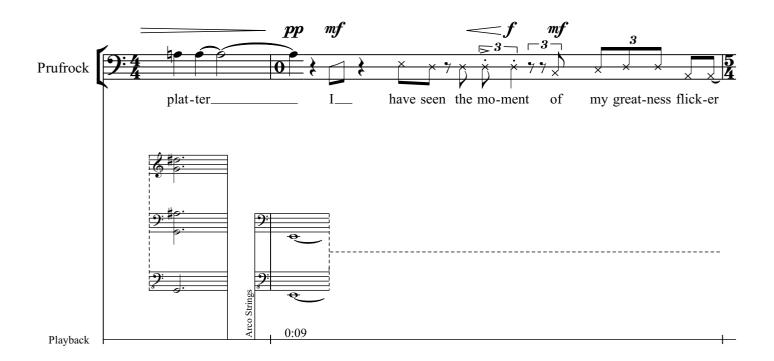




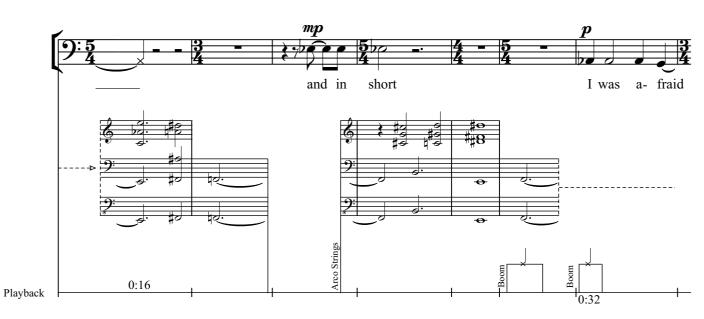




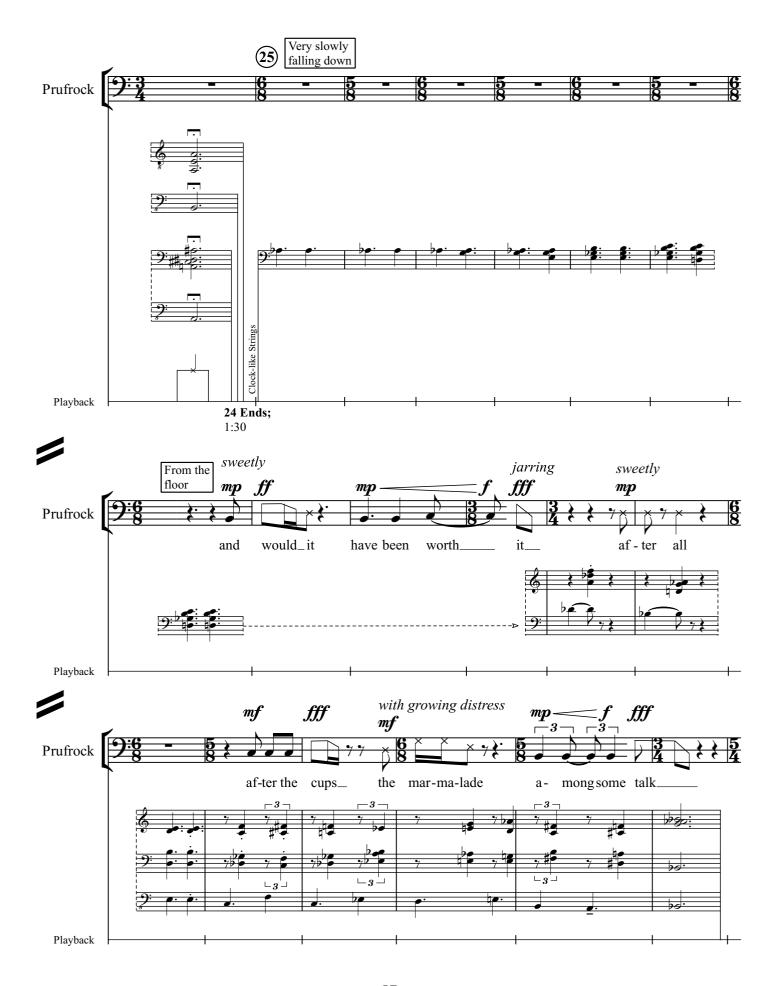


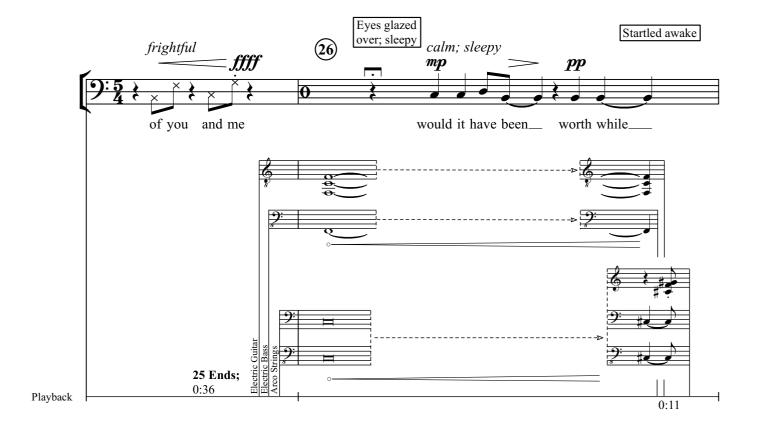


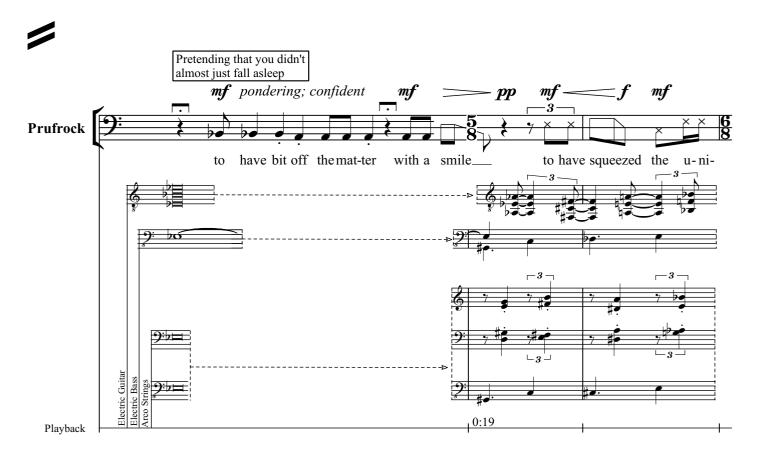






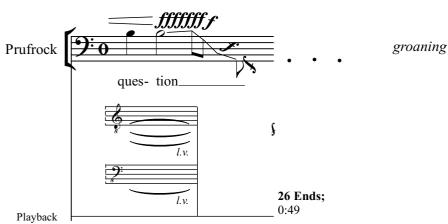










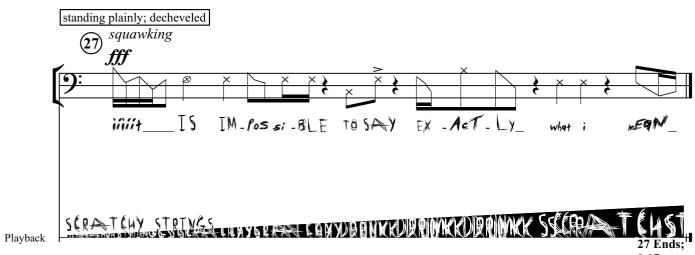


# [DRUNKENLY STAGGERING LIKE THE] HOTTEST MESS YOU'VE EVER SEEN]

slurring, stuttering...

Tou	, ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
	"I am LAZARUS come from the JEEAGGAGD
	Come back to tell you all
	[SHAKING HEAD]
	If one settling a pillow by her head
Show	ld saaaay
"THA	ISSSS <b>hO</b> T
	[SHAKING FINGER]
	<b>NOT</b> what I meant at all
	S NOT ITS AT ALL!"

Text: To say: "I am Lazarus, come from the dead, Come back to tell you all, I shall tell you all"— If one, settling a pillow by her head Should say: "That is not what I meant at all; That is not it, at all."



0:17 Attacca Scene 7: **Prufrock Completely Pissed** 

#### 7. ...tones which Nature utters only in her wildest moods... (3'00")

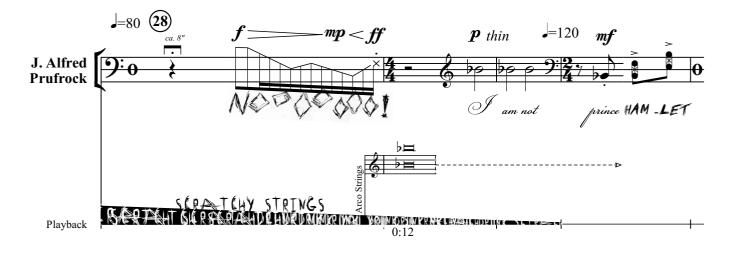
Prufrock, now completely pissed, prowels the room shouting wildly about things that probably make a lot of sense to a drunk man, but not so much to everyone around him.

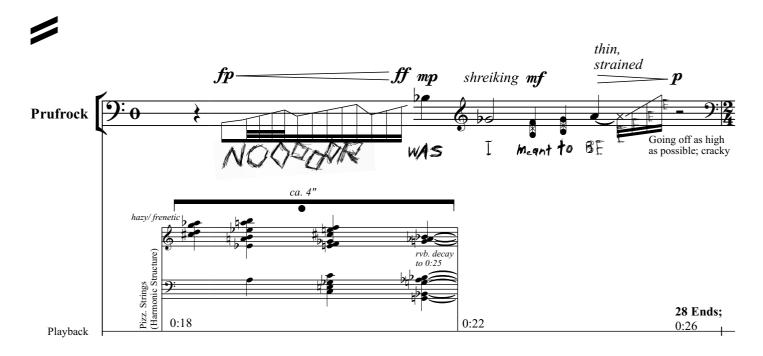
The words of Polonious ring in Prufrock's ears as he rants and raves:

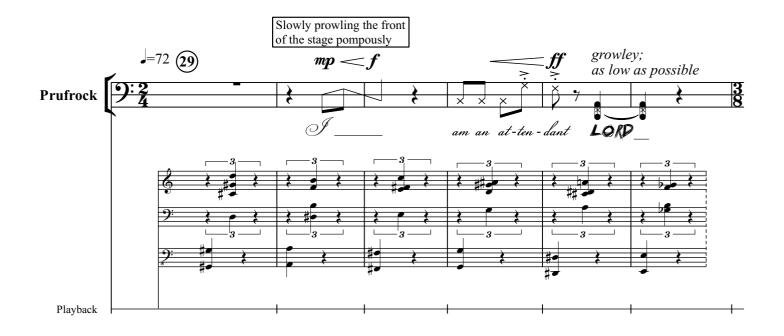
"this be madness, yet there is method in't".

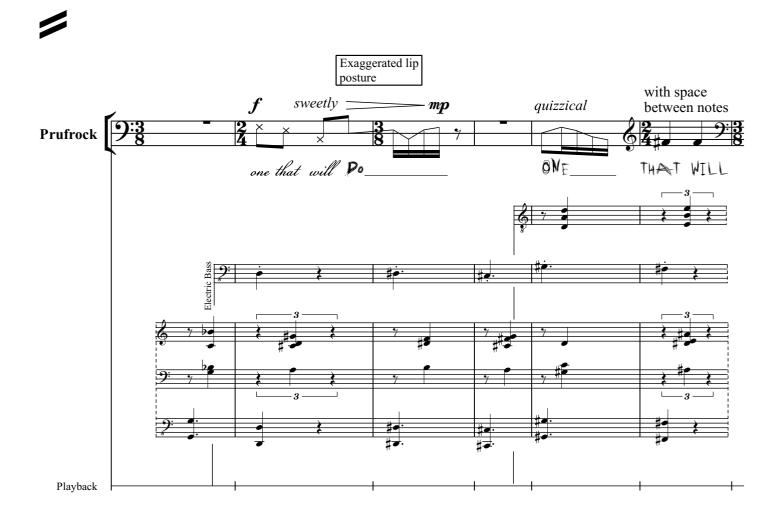
No scene change.

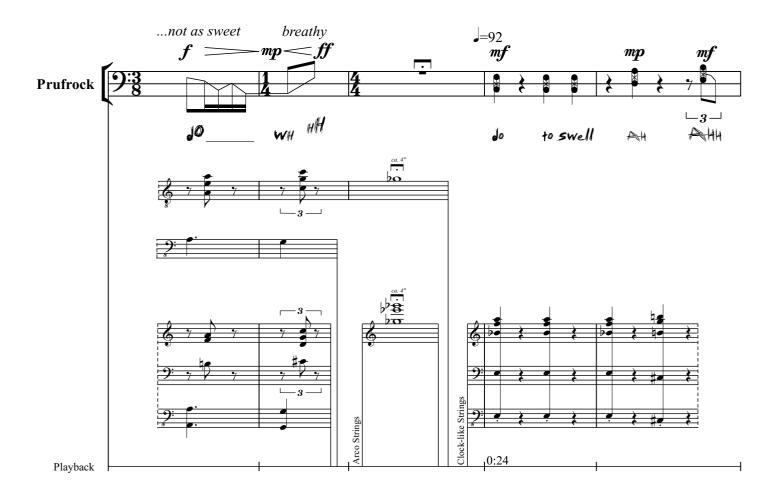
Acting reference: Kennith Bragnah: Hamlet (1996)- Act 2; Scene 2

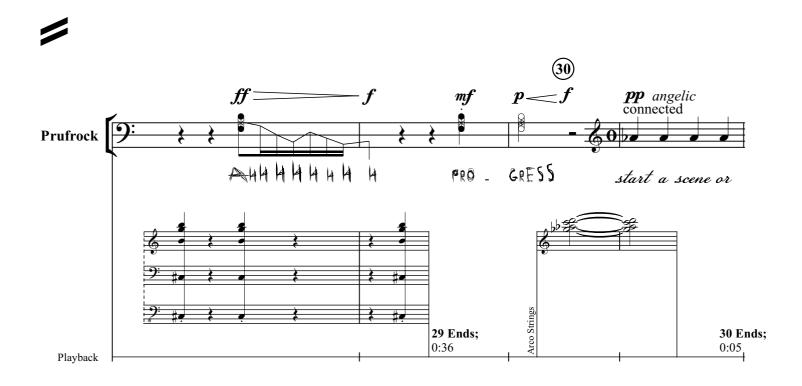


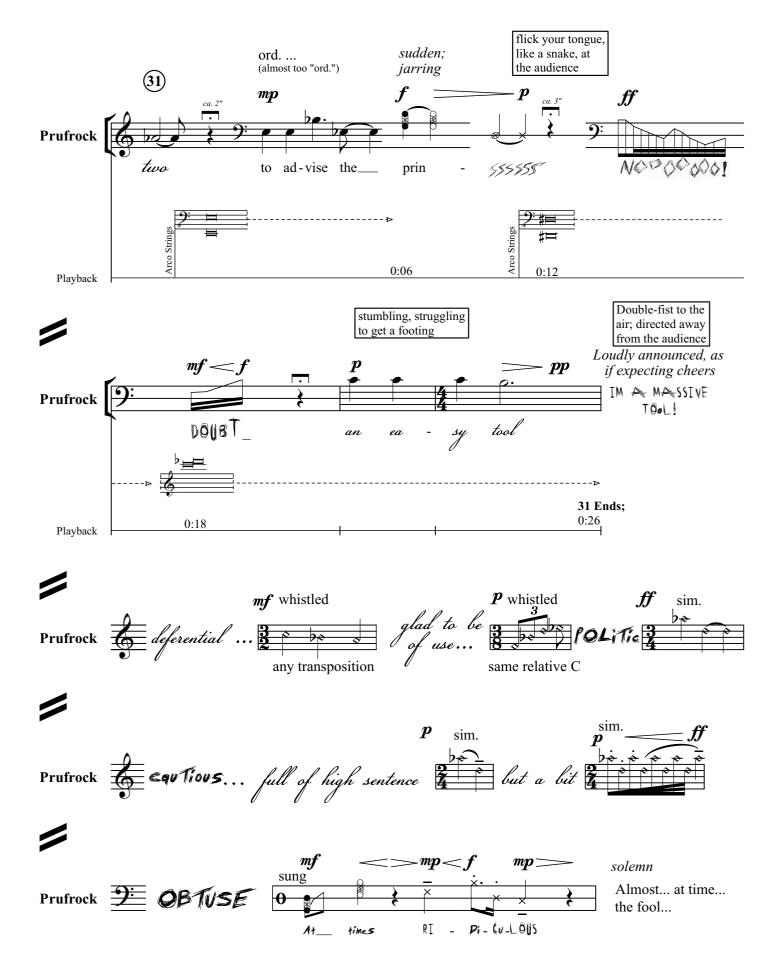












I grow old . . .

Playback

[KNEES WOBBLING; Staring Straight Ahead]

## I grow old . . .

## [FALLING DOWN]

I grow old, I grow old
I grow old, I grow old growold grow

#### 8. Prufrock is Beheaded by Thracian Maenads (3'00")

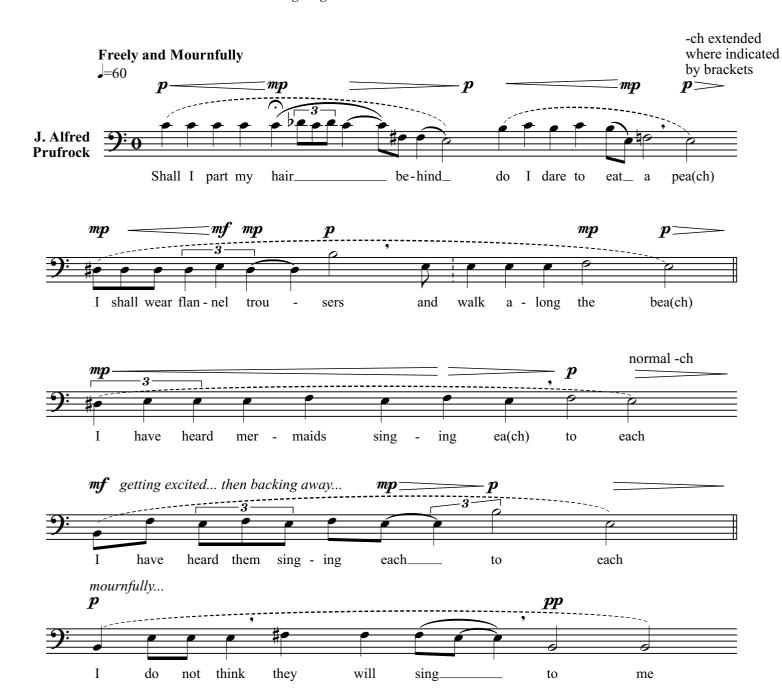
Prufrock, having throughly embarassed himself, falls to the floor an utter wreck. As he wails, he vacillates from writhing on the floor, to a disturbing stillness.

He waits to die... he doesn't, of course...

Describing this pitiful display as 'melodramatic' would be a gross understatment.

Dramatic Reference: Mink Stole in 'Female Trouble' (Cha Cha Heels Scene)

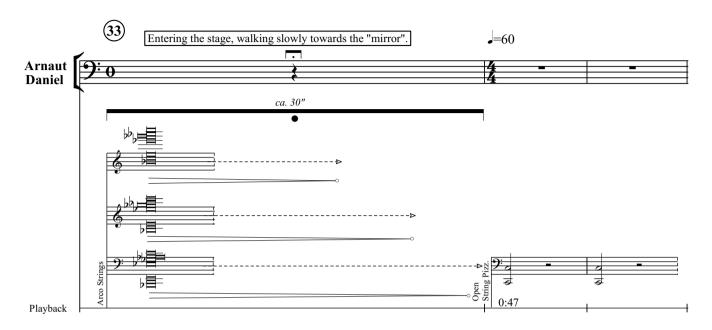
Lighting should be similar to Scene 4.



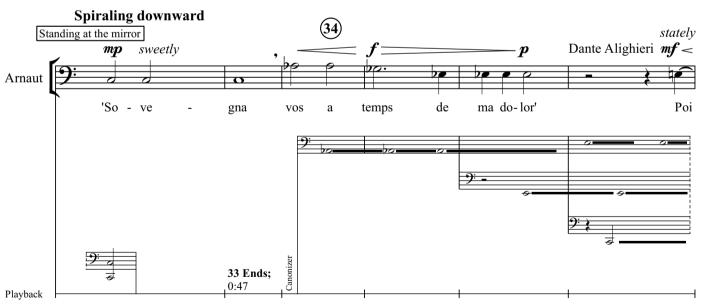


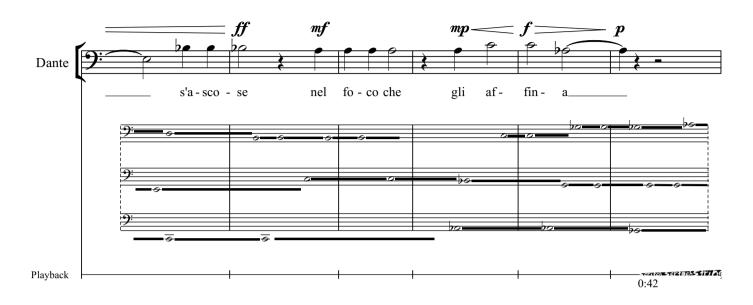
9. Epilogue: André Linoge's Inferno (2'00")

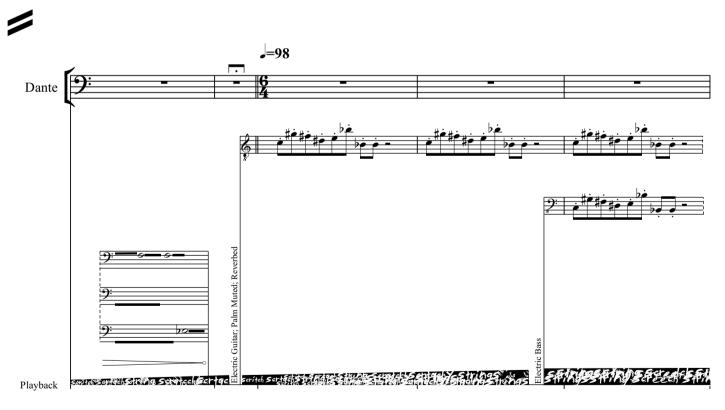
Staging should be the same as Scene 1





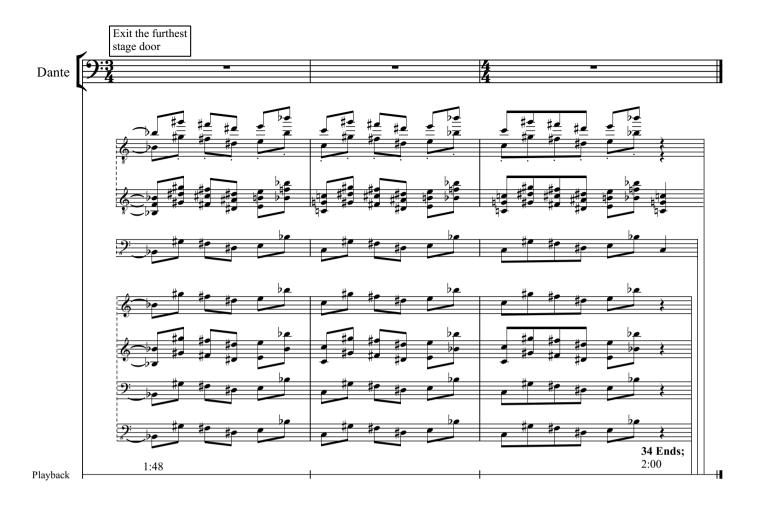








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#### Curriculum Vitae

Name: Daniel Gardner

**Post-Secondary Education** Western University- M.Mus. (2017-2019)

London, ON, Canada

Western University- Special Student (2016-2017)

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Mount Allison University- B.Mus. (2012-2016)

Sackville, NB, Canada

**Professional Development** and Certifications

Tuckamore Young Composers Workshop (2019)

Memorial University; St. John's, NL

Advanced Teaching Program (2018) Western University; London, ON

Teaching Mentorship Program (2018) Western University; London, ON

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**Related Work Experience** Co-Investigator- Soundscape Composition Project (2019)

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