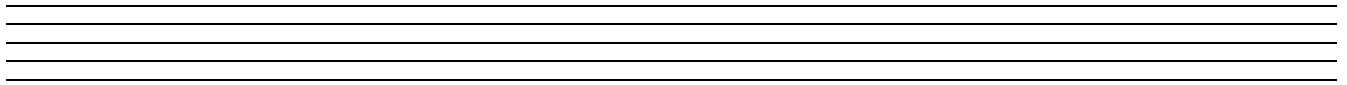


grace

open score for chamber ensemble

Dedicated to Ensemble Mujirushi

Jordan Nobles



grace

open score for chamber ensemble or string orchestra

Jordan Nobles

ABOUT THE PIECE

- *grace* was written for, dedicated to and premiered by Ensemble Mujirushi on their 2009 European tour

PERFORMANCE NOTES

- players proceed independently performing any cell in any order (all cells are in the treble clef)
- players can pause briefly between cells or proceed directly with a different one
- all notes should be soft and quiet throughout the piece
- each performer plays in his/her own time but conscious of, and responsive to, the other players
- avoid playing any recognizable pulse
- cells can be played in any octave as long as they can be played softly and quietly
- on polyphonic instruments notes should be allowed to ring as much as possible, for instance, on the piano, the sustain pedal should be down throughout

GRACE NOTES

- grace notes can be slow or fast
- the speed at which one plays a grace note should vary throughout the piece
- the grace notes should be performed as if they were bubbles breaking on the still surface of a pond

HELD NOTES

- each held note should only last as long as a single bow
- do not stop a held note abruptly but rather place a diminuendo at the end
- very little to no vibrato should be used at all, if used it should be very slow

DURATION

- the duration of the piece can be as long or as short as desired
- players can decide ahead of time how long to play and how to end; whether stopping all together or dropping out one at a time
- players can decide how many cells to play each and the stop playing when after performing them drop out one at a time

ALTERNATIVE PERFORMANCE SUGGESTIONS

- players can perform either together on stage or spatially separated throughout the performance space
- or players can enter unto the stage and begin playing one at a time. Also they can end the piece this way in reverse with each player gracefully exiting the stage after finishing
- if conducted then the conductor can choose, on the spot, who enters and when, by cueing musicians to start or stop playing

grace

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*any cell, in any octave, in any order
softly and quietly throughout*

The musical score consists of 20 staves of music, each containing a single melodic phrase. The phrases are arranged in a roughly descending order of pitch across the staves. The notation includes quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes, often grouped with slurs. A key signature of one flat (Bb) is indicated by a flat symbol on the first staff. The music is written in treble clef. The overall style is minimalist and focuses on melodic contour and phrasing.

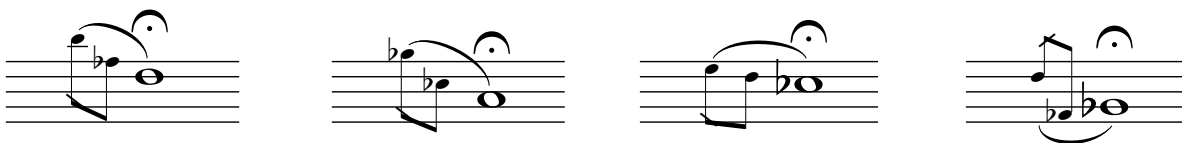
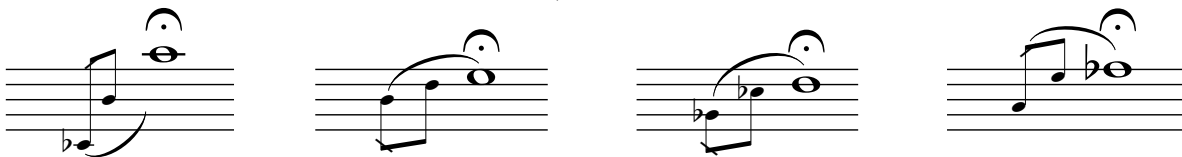
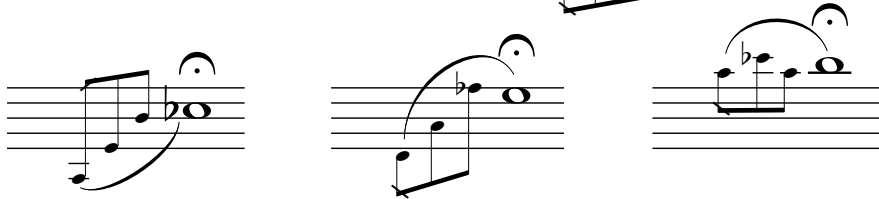
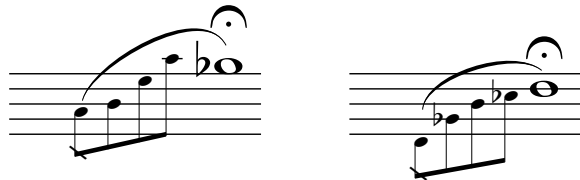
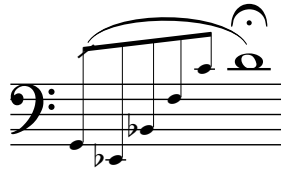
C Score (bass clef)

grace

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*any cell, in any octave, in any order
softly and quietly throughout*



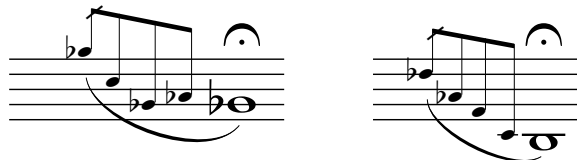
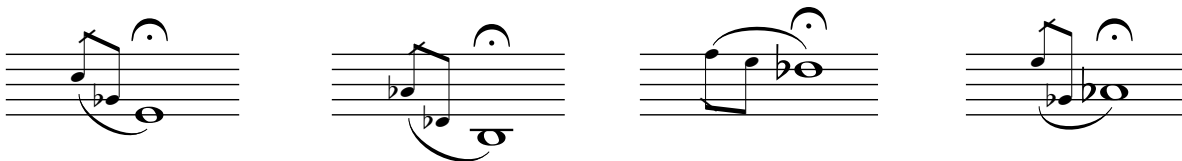
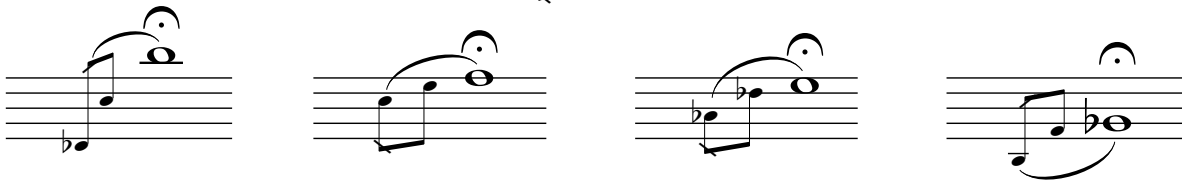
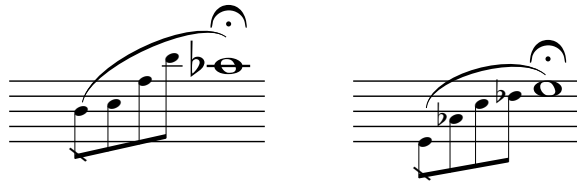
C Score (alto clef)

grace

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*any cell, in any octave, in any order
softly and quietly throughout*



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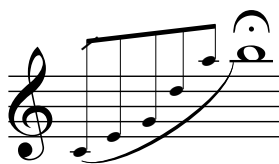
The musical score consists of 18 individual melodic phrases arranged in a roughly triangular shape. Each phrase is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The phrases vary in length and complexity, often featuring slurs and ties. The notes are primarily eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases including a flat (B♭) or a sharp (F♯). The overall style is minimalist and focuses on the quality of the individual notes and their relationships.

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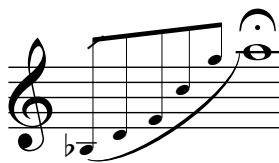
A collection of musical notation examples for the 'grace' exercise. The examples are arranged in a grid-like fashion, showing various rhythmic and melodic variations of the five-note scale on different staves. The variations include different note values (quarter, eighth, sixteenth notes), rests, and slurs. The staves are arranged in a roughly rectangular pattern, with some staves having multiple examples. The examples show the scale in different positions on the staff, demonstrating its flexibility in any octave and in any order.

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softly and quietly throughout*



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softly and quietly throughout*

The musical score consists of 25 individual musical phrases arranged in a roughly rectangular grid. Each phrase is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The notes are primarily eighth and quarter notes, often beamed together. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The phrases vary in length and melodic contour, but all are marked with a fermata-like symbol above the final note, indicating a sustained or held note. The phrases are distributed across the staves as follows:

- Row 1: 1 phrase
- Row 2: 2 phrases
- Row 3: 3 phrases
- Row 4: 4 phrases
- Row 5: 5 phrases
- Row 6: 4 phrases
- Row 7: 3 phrases
- Row 8: 2 phrases
- Row 9: 1 phrase