

Towards a History of Contemporary Music in Portugal — Portuguese Women Composers —

If various circumstances indicated a delay in the practice of exploring sounds more in line with contemporary creation that was already spreading through several European centers, since the first compositions with a more prospective language appeared in Portugal, the role of the woman composer has gradually been affirmed. From a Constança Capdeville (1937-1992), perhaps the first avant-garde female composer in the country, to Clotilde Rosa (1930-2017), a career harpist with an exemplary path in the interpretation of contemporary music and who gradually leaned towards musical writing, Isabel Soveral (1961), Sara Carvalho (1970), Ângela da Ponte (1984) or, more recently, Mariana Vieira (1997), Portugal has remained fertile in works by women composers that are important to highlight. In this brief meeting, we will present, therefore, some of the female figures who have created/elaborate a creative work that is seen as an indelible mark for a history of contemporary music in Portugal.

^{*} Lecture by Pedro Junqueira Maia at Yerevan State Conservatory/Armenia, 2022, Oct, 19, in the scope of MBB/Erasmus+ Project, 2022-2024

Portuguese woman composers

First avant-guard composers in Portugal

- 1. Jorge Peixinho [1940-1995]
- 2. Armando Santiago [1932]
- 3. Filipe Pires [1934-2015]
- 4. CONSTANÇA CAPDEVILLE [1937-1992]
- 5. Álvaro Salazar [1938]
- 6. Cândido Lima [1939]
- 7. Emmanuel Nunes [1941-2012]
- 8. CLOTILDE ROSA [1920-2017]

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XXI

2000

Marta Domingues (2000) Eva Aguilar (2002)

Ema Ferreira [1999]



MUSICA

O GUE deve

caracterisar

a interpretação musical

por Francine Benoit

Era um velho casarão, isolado num E' que além de um efortissimo bem ermo descampado. Algum descuido ou al conduzido, de um epianiesimo que val guma vingança transforma o numa vas quasi ao imperceptivel, dos andamentos la fogueira, e lá arde, na luz crepuscular, vertiginoses em que no entanto não cai concentrando em si as trevas da noite nem uma nota, dos rgos exagerados que se aproxima e o vago rubor do poetr cujos valores interminavels se proton

DIAMIO DE LISBOA

Born in France in 1894, she came to Portugal around 12 years of age. Here, since the decade of 1920, she stood out as a composer, pedagogue and musical critic in the press, especially in Diário de Lisboa journal. Her critics educated musical taste for 40 years. This happened during a period when the Portuguese musical scene "was dominated by men" and "women who made music were associated with a private and amateur practice, which served mainly as a distraction" [Helena Lopes Braga (2013)]. She stood also in opposition to Salazar's dictatorship, next to names such as Maria Lamas, Irene Lisboa and Alice Ogando.

VERSOS

Pires Antunes

Nem eu sei bem o que sinto Ao escrever-te. Maria. Se trisieza, se ategria ...

Quando von p'ra te escrever

Mas se me lembro da eira. Do fiosinho da fonte, Ou des florinhas do monte, Do marulhar da ribeira,

Podes crer que não te minto. Que são sentidas troves Que sao sentidas trovas
De não sei que, que presinto,
Como não sei o que sinto
Ao escrever-te, Maria,
Se tristesa, se alegria ...

(Do livro no prelo «Trevas de F

Segredo

A minh'a'ma, cerrada da tristeza

Enchi o olhar de côr e de beleza. Bebi, a largos servos, a ventura No travo até... cheguei a achar docura. Tal era a chama na minh'alma scesa!

Mas eu vi-a speger-sel E a minha vida Voltou á somore, a luz esmorecida, Reflexo vago do fu'gôr d'outr'oral...

Brazido em cinzasi Fosta a chama ardentel Nio acases de to to Se ciamentel Dá-me ainda um clarão, mortico, emboral.

Maria de Carmo de Abreu Peixoto

TEATRO SAO LUIZ MARIA ANTONIETA

SORTE GRANDE

Teatro Politeama

HO; E - As 20,33

Ginema Condes *Pobre cigana!

Cinema Condes

CINEMA CONDES

MUSICA

a interpretação musical

por Francine Benoit

VERSOS

Marcelino Peres

errama no mundo amo errama no mundo amo luz!

Desce então do Ceu á Terra Como é louco seu sentir:

Modelo Ideal

Revela a propria essencia da beleza

Em preito às suns los pes designibrantes Teria de inventer se novo rito. Refletem Deus seus olhos triumfantes.

A conquistá-la vôam sões esrante Para louvá-la é pouco o Infinito.

Cruz Magathães

TEATRO NACIONAL

A SEVERA os reduzidos-Platelas 4840, 5860, 9850 e 125 protes : 20809, 35900 e 66800; galeria: 384

HOJE, em duns sesso s ás 8,45 e 10,4 A REVISTA TRIUNFANTE

RES-VES A Rapieca . As fetografias



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DIAMIU DE LISBUA

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Era um velho casarão, isolado num E' que além de um «fortissimo» bem

[* What should characterize musical interpretation, by Francine Benoit]





MARIA DE LOURDES MARTINS [1926-2009] Pianist, composer, teacher and pedagogue, studied at the National Conservatory, later going to Germany where she received lessons from Harald Genzmer in Munich, also attending the famous Darmstadt courses in which she came into contact with renowned figures such as Stockhausen and Bruno Maderna. Her activity extended to pedagogy, having played a central role in the introduction of Carl Orff's "Orff-Schulwerk" method in Portugal. Regarding the experience of the Darmstadt courses, she states that "that's when I saw another world, they were fantastic things (...) I saw good composers and others who might not, but creativity prevailed. I remember a work that consisted of climbing on a bench and a lamp with a stick that made a sound around it – and that was the work! In other words, we started composing from nothing."



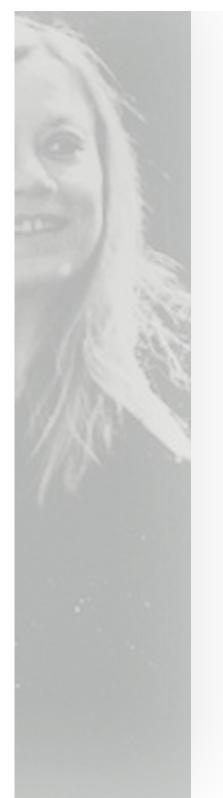
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Denotes from an early age an enormous interess in **GESTURE** and in **TEXT**

:: Visions d'enfant – Petite Suite pour piano (1958-1959) ::

IV mouvement – Maman, j'ai vu dans la lune ::

It's already possible to find the presages of the importance that the composer would assign later to both elements. The performer needs to recite the title text ("Maman, j'ai vu dans la lune") with different characters, among which: "implorez attention" / "timide" / "sous le poids du rêve". All these intentions are indicated by the composer in the score constituting an element as important as the musical text

"I wrote a series of piano works when I was (...) 15 or 16 years old. Some of them I do not deny today (...) One of them is a small piece called "Maman, j'ai vu dans la lune" in which the pianist has to speak, says a text, and the work is written with punctuation. Music has periods, commas, semicolons, etc. This was when I was 15 or 16 years old. Whenever I wrote a work, after that, I felt the need to...not to say, I'm going to add the gesture, I'm going to add the light, I'm going to add the movement. No, for me it's perfectly natural" (Constança Capdville, 1990)



Momento I (1970-71)

An encounter of "her own path, favoring a temporal emancipation, a timbrical research and an integration of movement in the musical work"

Constança Capdeville believed that **music** should be "translated to the audience in a different way and the **theater** also and the **poetry** also and the **movement** and **dance**, so now we are all working for the same"₍₁₎

The musicality of the word (2)

"Convergence and exploration of sound, music, words, light, gesture and movement in order to seek new connections and combinations between these different forms of expression"(3)

⁽¹⁾ Manuel Pedro Ferreira

⁽²⁾ Maria João Serrão

⁽³⁾ António de Sousa Dias



und Webern sprache... (1985)

INSTRUCTIONS

Black-out. Cigarette butt lit in the darkness. Shout of "HALT!"
 Light (with the knife)
 Strings are already in position for I and Maestro ready to start the first number.

2) Execution of the work according to the score for the instrumentalists.

The Maestro will conduct Webern's 5 Pieces Op. 10, from beginning to end, with the following marking:

I-II – facing the orchestra

III – facing the left side

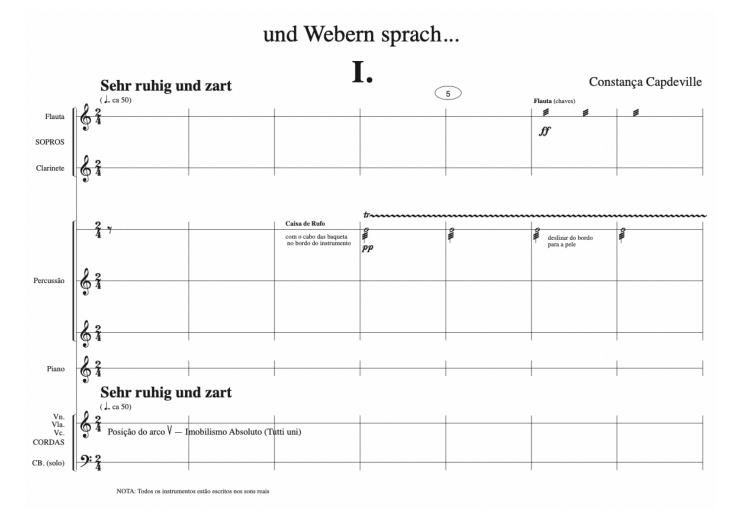
IV – facing the right side

V – facing the orchestra again

Webern, op. 10



Constança Capdevlle, und Webern sprach...





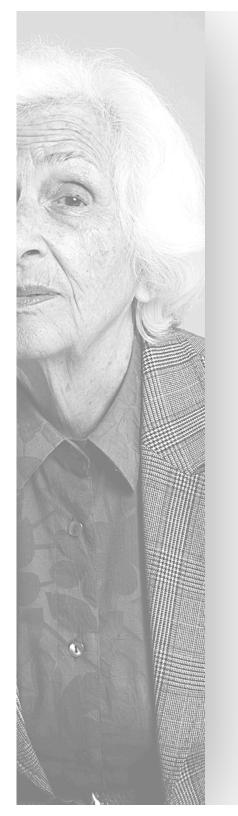


CLOTILDE ROSA [1930-2017] Waving (1992), piano solo

It goes beyond the technical conventional indicative of each instrument (particularly the piano).

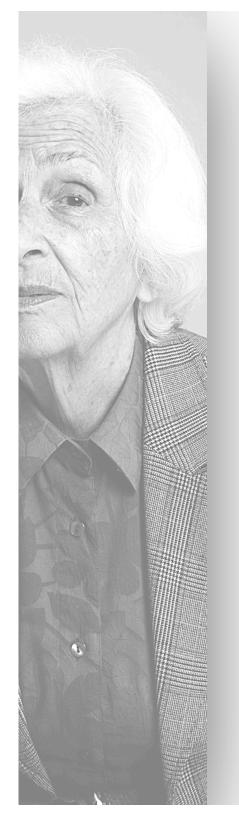
They present pianistic techniques and experimental notations, such as plucking over the strings, clusters in glissandi, the use of a brush over the strings, and include theatrical effects such as speaking or assuming certain poses.

"Lyrical and oneiric character, singular physical and sonorous gesture" (Ana Telles)



1-AMO A FLAMA O RIO+6- O ROSTO ESPELHO MOSTO+8-TARDE AMO-TE



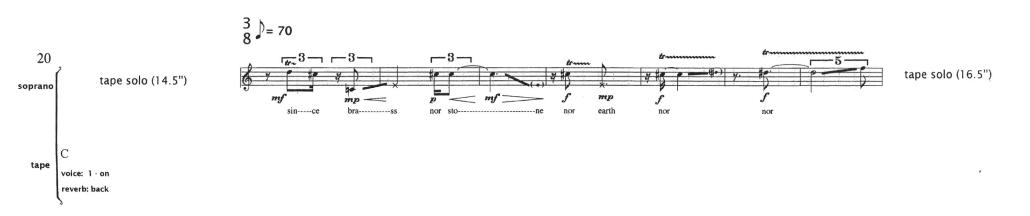


"As you can imagine, it was difficult for me to raise three children while having to perform so many concerts. There were occasions when I had to run on a taxi to Trindade because I had to perform an opereta there, and then run to São Carlos because I had other opera, and then run to Gulbenkian... So May was a scary month, I was always running everywhere! My children only lived with me and during these occasions I was a little bit absent. Fortunately they are formidable men. Anyway, sometimes I felt anguished and before going to bed I would read this beautiful poem [Poem to the Mother, by Eugénio de Andrade], which helped me a lot during my children's teenage years. I liked it almost until tears, and the end "(I go with the birds") moved me particularly." (Clotilde Rosa 2013)



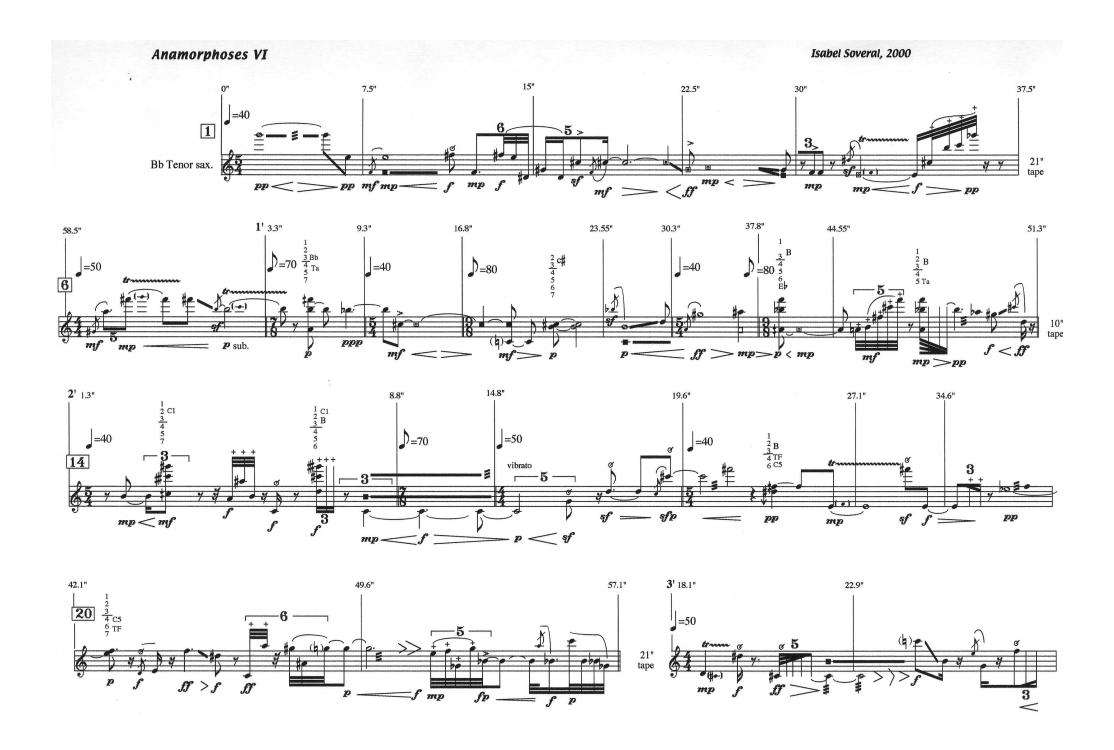
since brass nor stone





Work with a secret fascination by communication power and by the possibility of influencing. Conceives composition as an intemporal process when a transformation – a metamorphosis (*change in structure*) and its morphoses (*act of shaping or giving shape*). (There is in Isabel Soveral) a search for new sonorities and there is a timbrical exploration particularly recognizable. Isabel Soveral does not approach instrumental writing from the confort of who resumes the work of the previous day. (The) electronic is treated as an instrument or instrumental section. We don't find here a misguide from the instrumental subject. We see instead a prolongation of the musical idea previously elaborated, as Isabel Soveral takes advantage of possible ecoes created by the instruments (which in unconfortable registers become immensely expressive) (António Chagas Rosa)

One of the aspects that characterizes my creative process is the fertilization of what has already been exposed to create something new – a musical fabric in constant transfiguration. (...) In the construction of a work, there is always a process of morphosis that makes the potential of the sound material «infinite» (Isabel Soveral, 2021)



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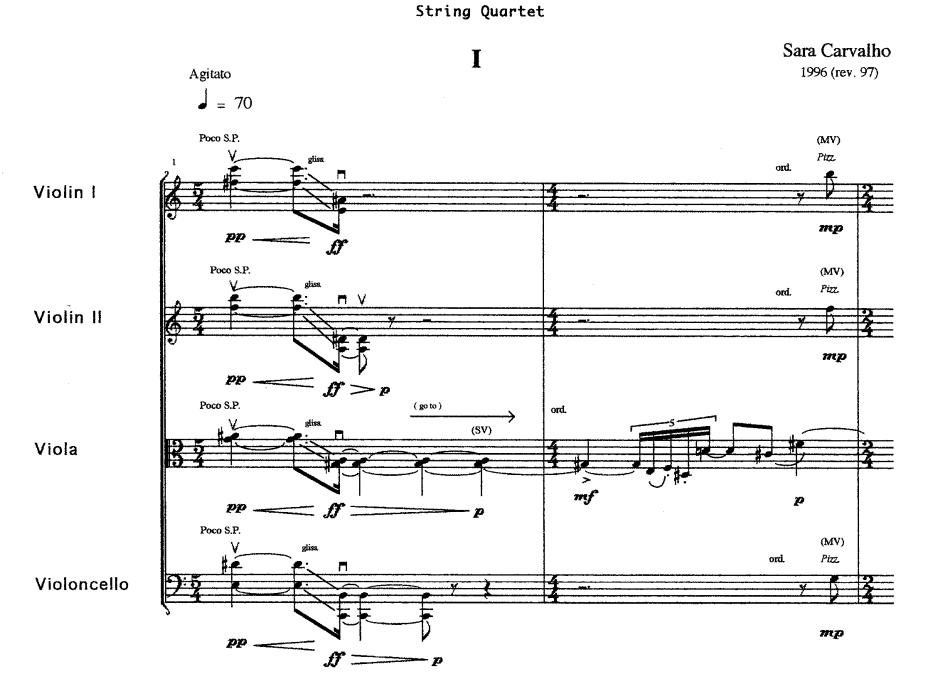
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Blows Hot and Cold



SARA CARVALHO [1970]

"The idea and conception of my works always have a very concrete starting point. ...initial stimulus can come from many sources: from literature, cinema, of the visual arts, of a landscape, of a detail or of an experience; is characterized by searching for a narrative that, in a way, treats musical writing as a process similar to writing a book."

(...)

"Looking back, I think that there are some works where small "turns" are felt more objectively, in other words, where the transformation of some ideas materializes more objectively, an example of this is the string quartet Blows Hot and Cold through the use of a rigorous interval structure..." (Sara Carvalho)



for Soprano

Sara Carvalho September 2000

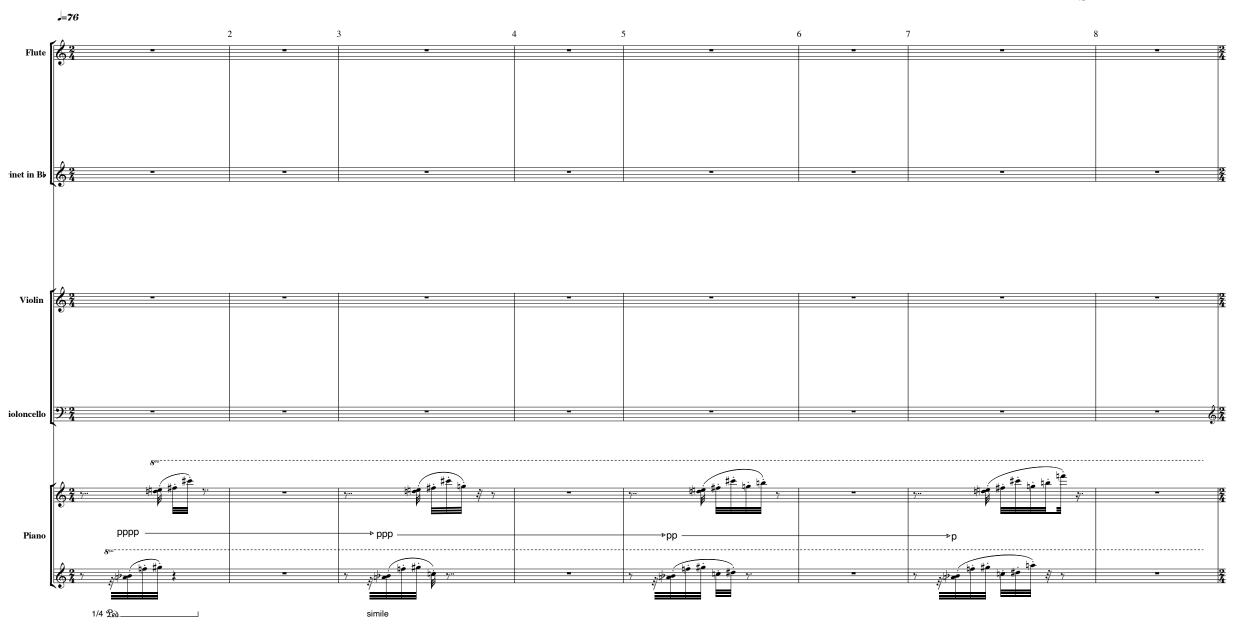
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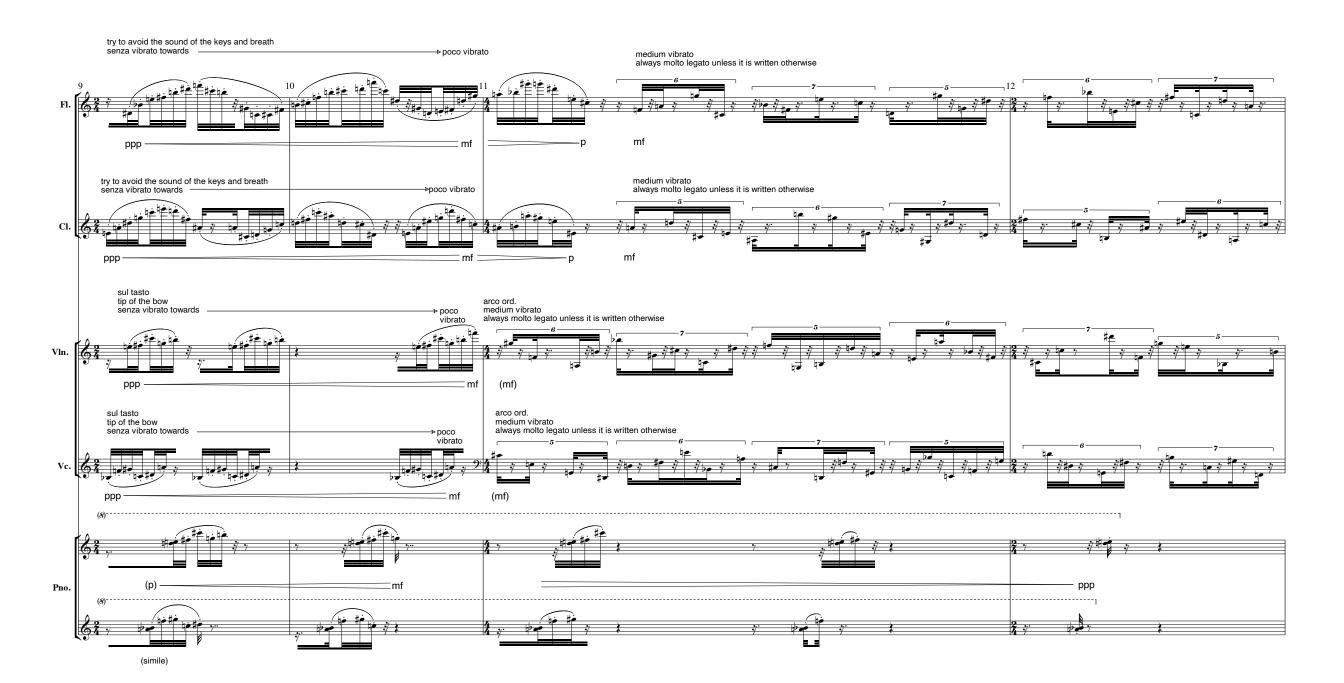




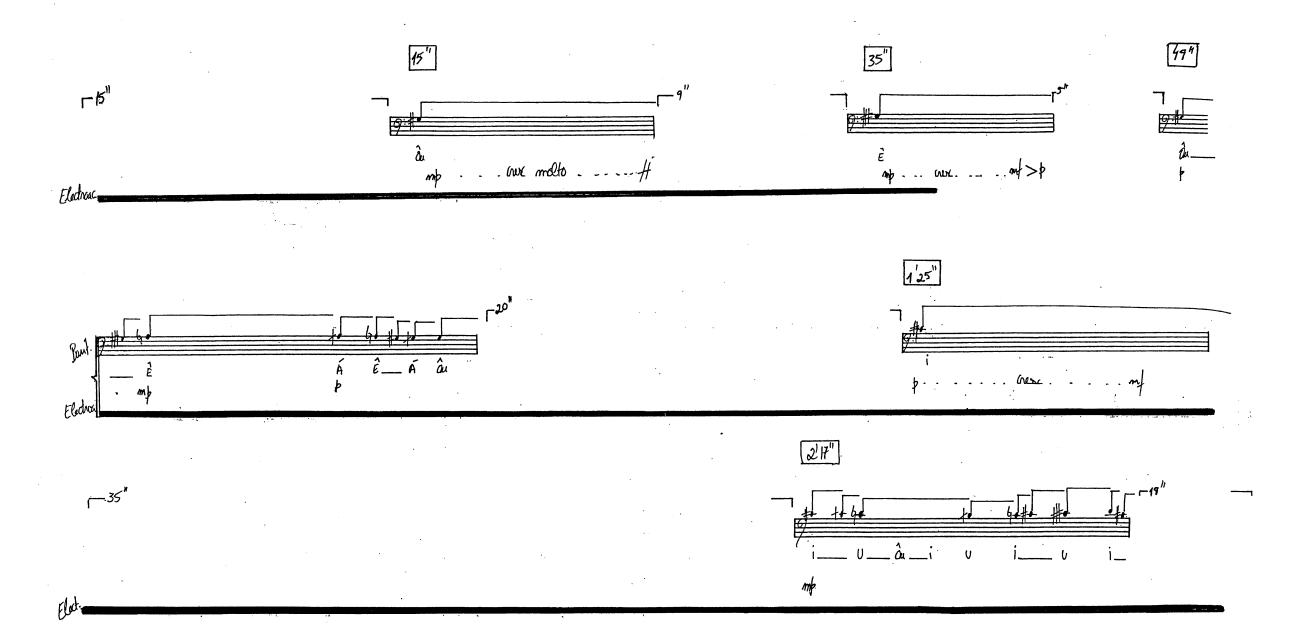
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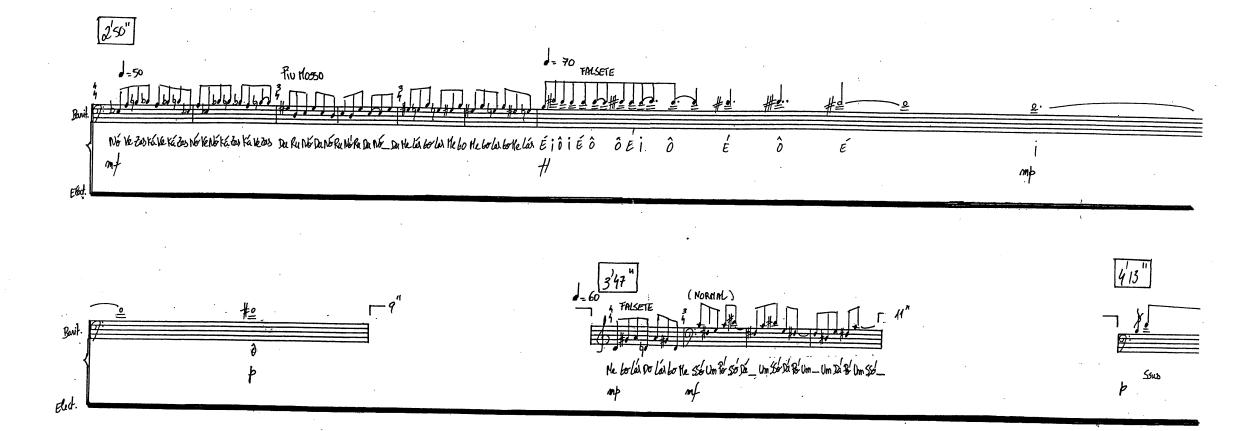
Patrícia Sucena de Almeida

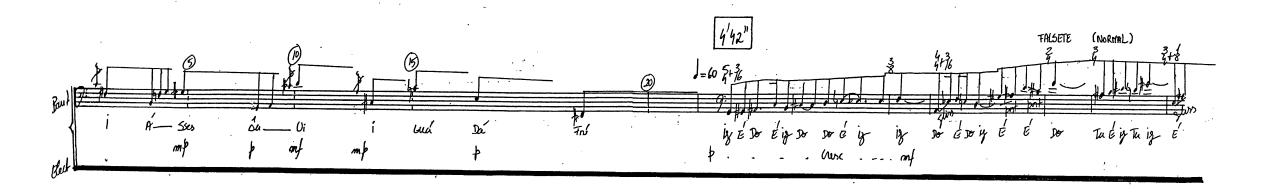


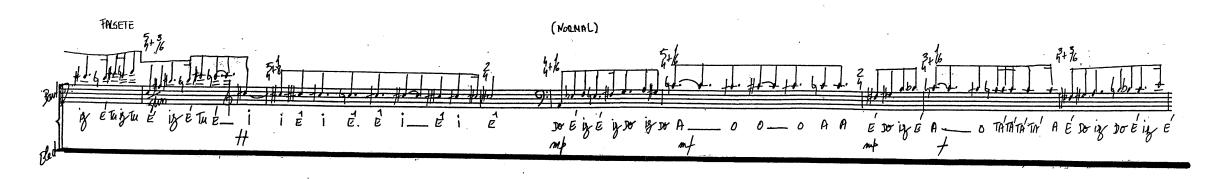












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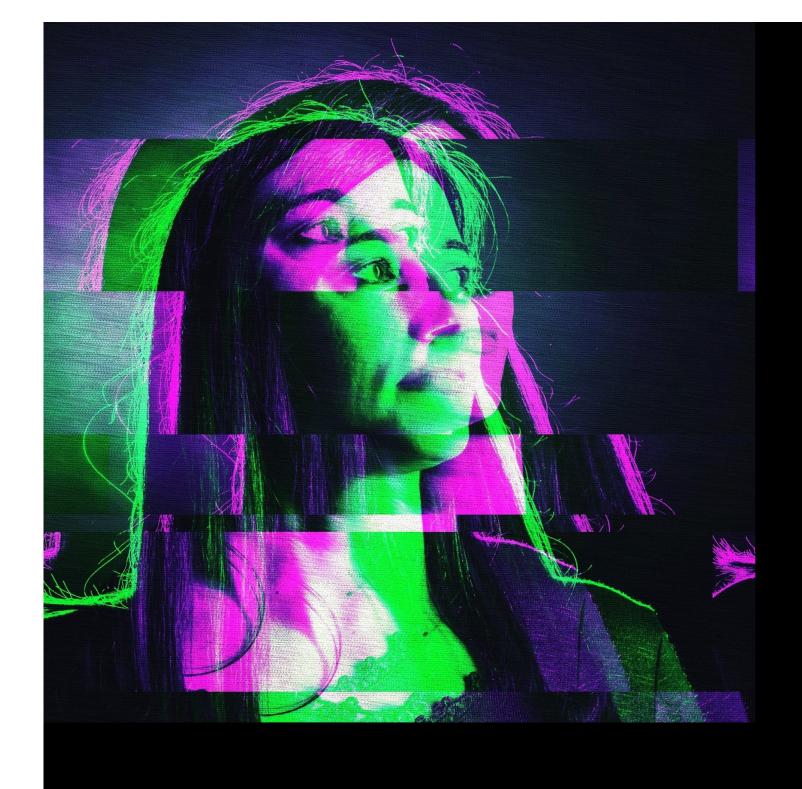
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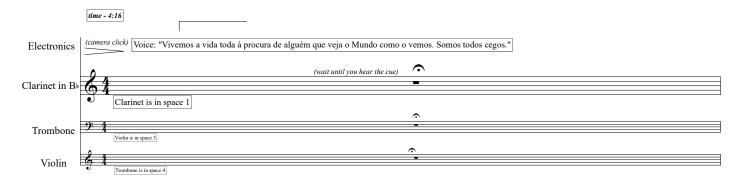


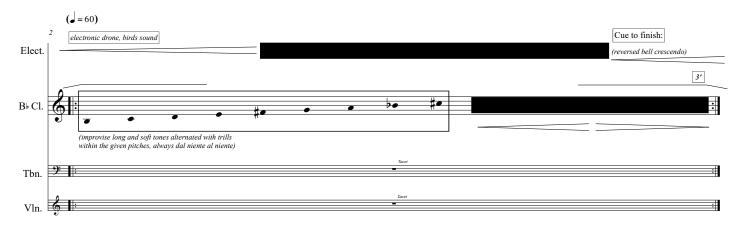
ÂNGELA DA PONTE [1994]

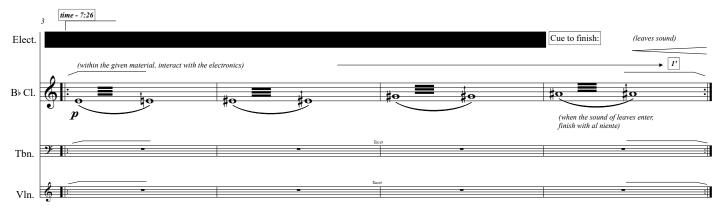
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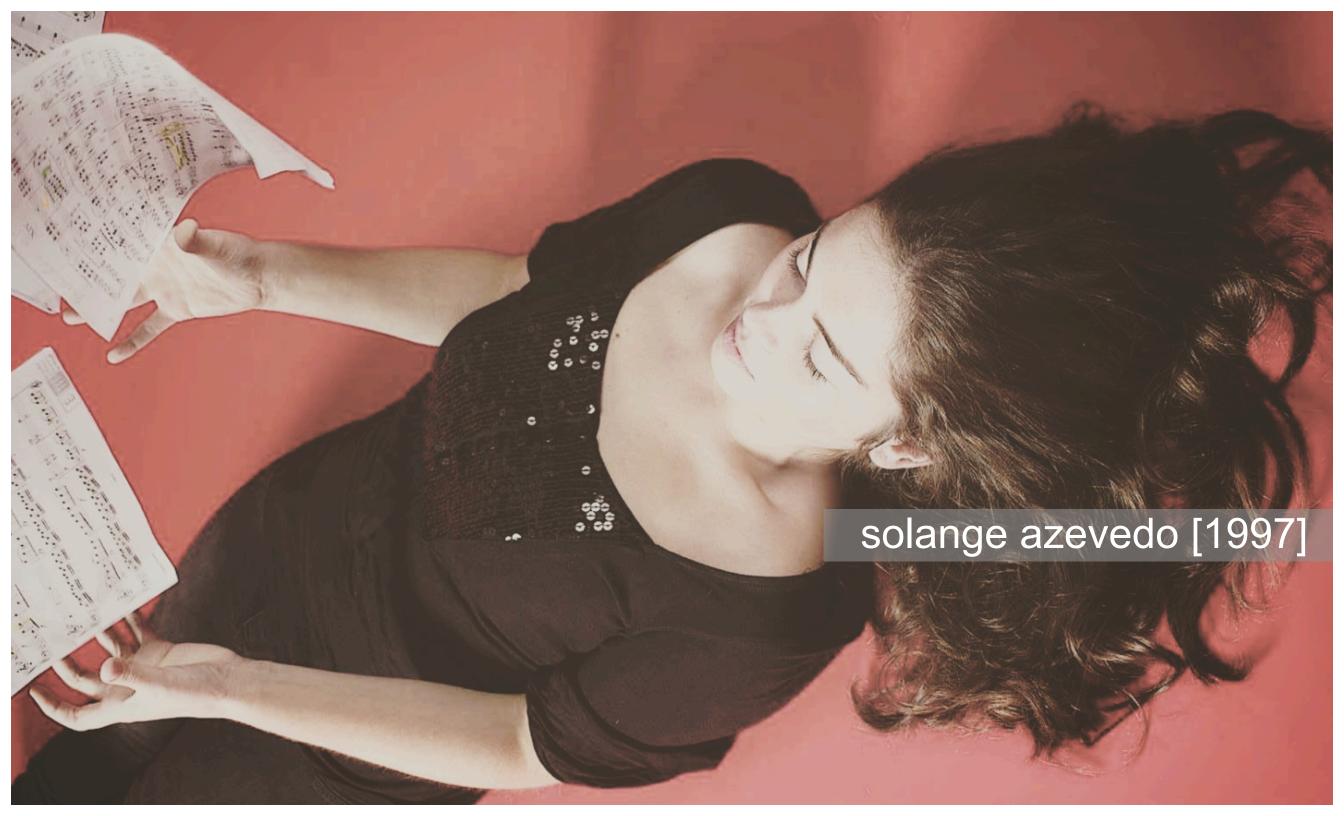
Cena 1 - Alfredo ca. 12'37"

Ângela da Ponte



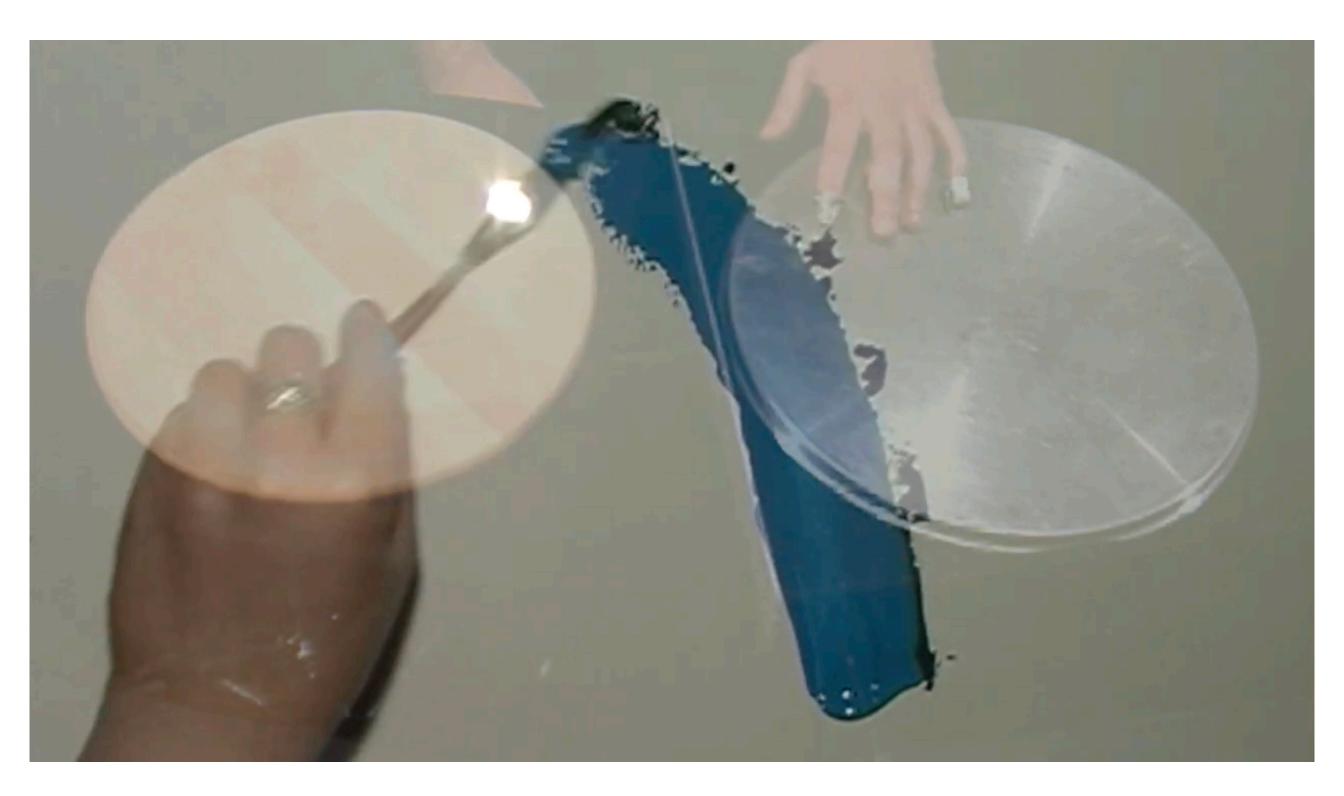






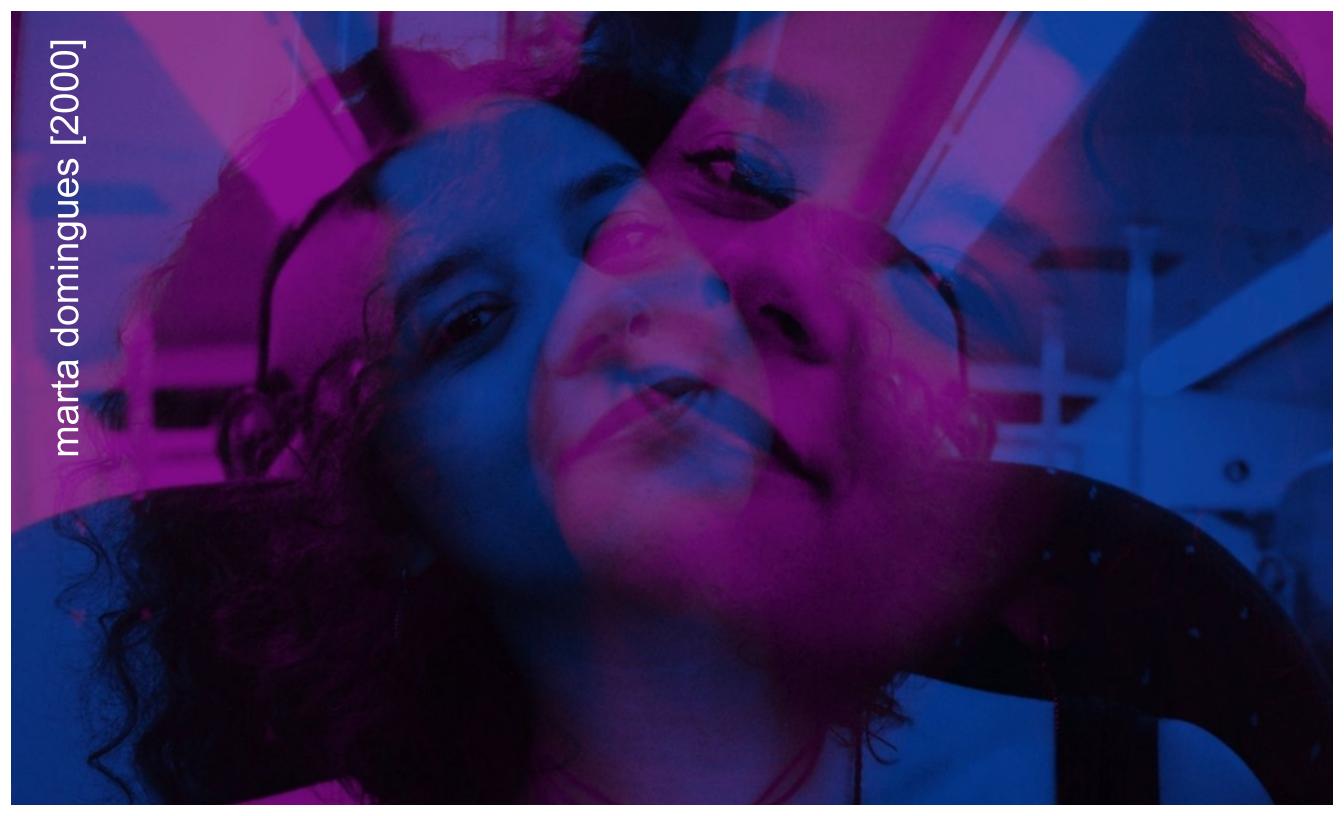
PARA PERCUSSÃO E PINTURA EM TEMPO REAL MINIATURA ENTRE DOIS PÓLOS

SOLANGE AZEVEDO









Aspen Tree

For Accordion and Electronics

Marta Domingues



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