Marc Sabat

Hairy Hippy Happy

music for 39 distinct trombone slide positions dividing the perfect fourth in one to fifteen equidistant parts in alternating directions set in rondo form
with freely composed horn and tuba pitches
chosen from various overtone series

for double horn, tenorbass trombone and 5-valve F-tuba

Plainsound Music Edition
HAIRY HIPPY HAPPY (2006/2010)
brass music for Trio Kobayashi, Los Angeles

music for 39 distinct trombone slide positions dividing the perfect fourth in one to fifteen equidistant parts in alternating directions set in rondo form with freely composed horn and tuba pitches chosen from various overtone series to form chords of tuneable intervals

This piece continues an ongoing series of works for brass instruments tuned in Just Intonation begun in 2005 with the work “Wonderful Scatter”, composed for 6-valve F Tuba and computer and premiered by Robin Hayward. It is a revised version of a piece originally composed at Hayward’s request for the trio Zinc and Copper Works, Berlin. The horn and tuba valve-slides are tuned in rational proportions, allowing the various combinations to be considered as part of an extended Just Intonation lattice. The tenorbass trombone joins the utonally-related harmonic series of the two valved instruments by considering various divisions of its slide into equidistant parts. The conception of these pieces came from examining the relationship between the two sides of trombone, suggested in a conversation with Wolfgang von Schweinitz in 2006. I imagine the counterpoint of structures based on tuneable intervals as a sequence of ‘consonances’ in the most generalized sense, as sonorities which may be precisely determined by ear.

The choice of melodic path between adjacent trombone slide positions is made to minimize harmonic distance (‘way of least resistance’) and generates friction with the complexity of the utonal pitch relationships presented by the slide divisions. The trombone’s melody is accompanied by composed pitches from various overtone series, based on the principle that in three-part structures two of the three intervals ought to be tuneable by ear. This rule is usually followed. In both pieces, the loudness of pitches is often inversely proportional to duration, and should be evenly matched between all three instruments to maximize the particular interference qualities of the intervals and chords.

The rhythm is notated as a sequence of shared and solo events against a common ictus, which may vary as precise tuning demands. The feeling of the quick passages might resemble a dancing bearish fellow, who then once again comes to rest in an odd pose. Generally, there might be a preference for even calmness in the tone, emphasizing at all times the resonances and beatings of the harmonies themselves.

The various titles are a fond nod to California, Satie and La Monte.
In learning to read HE accidentals, without having to rely on an electronic tuning device, it is important to be familiar with three things:

First, to keep in mind the natural tuning of intervals in a harmonic series, which deviate from the tempered system.

Second, to get to know how the accidentals refer to these overtone relationships.

Third, to observe that each written pitch may be related to many other pitches by natural intervals, and to tune it accordingly.

In most cases, this approach will allow the player to quickly and intuitively play just intonation (JI) pitches quite accurately. Any remaining adjustments can be made by ear, based on the specific sound of JI intervals.

Just intervals are readily learned because they are built up from simple, tuneable harmonic relationships. These are generally based on eliminating beating between common partials, finding common fundamentals and audible combination tones, and establishing a resonant, stable sonority which maximizes clarity: both of consonance and of dissonance.

A well-focussed JI sound is completely distinct from the irregular, fuzzy beating of tempered sounds. Just consonances, when marginally out of tune, beat slowly and sweetly and may be corrected with the most subtle adjustments of bowing or breath. Just dissonances produce a sharply pulsing regular rhythm and have very clear, distinct colors.

To become familiar with the notation and sounds of JI, the fundamental building blocks are prime number overtones 3, 5, 7, 11 and 13, each of which is associated with a specific pair of accidentals and a basic musical interval.

3 is associated with the signs flat, natural, sharp and refers to the series of untempered perfect fifths (Pythagorean intonation). Generally, A is taken as the tuning reference, and the central pitches C-G-D-A-E can be imagined as the normal tuning of the orchestral string instruments. The just C is rather lower than tempered tuning because of the pure fifths. The further this series is extended, the greater the deviation from tempered tuning: the flats are lower, the sharps higher.
5 is associated with arrows attached to the flat, natural, sharp signs and refers to the pure major third. These arrows correct the Pythagorean intervals by a Syntonic Comma, which is approximately 1/9 of a wholetone or 22 cents. So, for example, the note E-flat arrow-up is a just major third below G, and the note F-sharp arrow-down is a major third above D. In most music, flats are often raised by a comma and sharps are lowered. Because of the open string tuning, it is common to sometimes raise F and C (to match A and E) and to sometimes lower A and E (to match F and C). Corrections by one Syntonic Comma have been used throughout Western music history and are relatively familiar to the ear. However, traditionally these corrections have been hidden by players, for example in Meantone Temperament where fifths are mistuned narrow by 1/4 comma so that the third C-E ends up sounding pure. More recently, the currently prevailing Equal Temperament has made us accustomed to beating thirds, so at first the pure intervals may seem unfamiliar. To play the arrows accurately, one must carefully learn the sound of the consonant major and minor thirds and sixths, and learn to articulate comma differences clearly.

7 is associated with a Tartini sign resembling the numeral. It corrects the Pythagorean intervals by a Septimal Comma, which is approximately 1/7 of a whole tone or 27 cents. When the Pythagorean minor third is lowered by this amount, it becomes a noticeably low third often heard in Blues music.

11 is associated with the quartertone signs (cross and backwards flat). The accidental is used to raise the perfect fourth by 53 cents, producing the exact tuning of the 11th partial in a harmonic series. The sound is most easily learned by playing one octave plus one fourth and raising it by a quartertone.

13 is associated with the thirdtone signs (cross and backwards flat, each with 2 verticals). The accidental is used to lower the Pythagorean major sixth by 65 cents, producing the exact tuning of the 13th partial in a harmonic series. The sound is most easily learned as a neutral-sounding sixth, one-third of the way between the just minor and just major sixths (closer to minor than to major).

The following table presents the accidentals together with their associated ratios and cents deviations. To calculate the cents deviation from Equal Temperament of a specific written pitch (if desired) the following shortcut may be used:

1.) Find the cents deviation of the Pythagorean pitch, by calculating how many fifths it is away from A, multiplying by 2, and using a plus sign if it is on the sharp side and a minus if it is on the flat side.

2.) For each microtonal accidental, add or subtract its approximate cents value (as given above), keeping in mind whether the accidental is raising or lowering the pitch.

The resulting value should be a cents deviation within 1 or 2 cents accuracy, which is an acceptable starting point for fine-tuning by ear.
**ACCIDENTALS**

*for Just Intonation*

designed by Marc Sabat and Wolfgang von Schweinitz

The exact intonation of each pitch may be written out by means of the following harmonically-defined signs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>D</code></td>
<td>Pythagorean series of fifths – the open strings (&lt;... c g d a e ...&gt;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>D</code></td>
<td>lowers / raises by a syntonic comma $81 : 80 = \text{circa } 21.5 \text{ cents}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>D</code></td>
<td>lowers / raises by two syntonic commas ( \text{circa } 43 \text{ cents} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>D</code></td>
<td>lowers / raises by a septimal comma $64 : 63 = \text{circa } 27.3 \text{ cents}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>D</code></td>
<td>lowers / raises by two septimal commas ( \text{circa } 54.3 \text{ cents} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>D</code></td>
<td>raises / lowers by an 11-limit undecimal quarter-tone $33 : 32 = \text{circa } 53.3 \text{ cents}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>D</code></td>
<td>lowers / raises by a 13-limit tridecimal third-tone $27 : 26 = \text{circa } 65.3 \text{ cents}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>D</code></td>
<td>lowers / raises by a 17-limit schisma $256 : 253 = \text{circa } 6.8 \text{ cents}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>D</code></td>
<td>raises / lowers by a 19-limit schisma $513 : 512 = \text{circa } 3.4 \text{ cents}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>D</code></td>
<td>raises / lowers by a 23-limit comma $736 : 729 = \text{circa } 16.5 \text{ cents}$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the harmonic definition of a pitch by means of its accidentals, it is also possible to indicate its absolute pitch-height as a cents-deviation from the respectively indicated chromatic pitch in the 12-tone system of Equal Temperament.

The attached arrows for alteration by a syntonic comma are transcriptions of the notation that Hermann von Helmholtz used in his book “Die Lehre von den Tonempfindungen als physiologische Grundlage für die Theorie der Musik” (1863). The annotated English translation “On the Sensations of Tone as a Physiological Basis for the Theory of Music” (1875/1885) is by Alexander J. Ellis, who refined the definition of pitch within the 12-tone system of Equal Temperament by introducing a division of the octave into 1200 cents. The sign for a septimal comma was devised by Giuseppe Tartini (1692-1770) – the composer, violinist and researcher who first studied the production of difference tones by means of double stops.
VORZEICHEN

für die natürliche Stimmung
konzipiert von Marc Sabat und Wolfgang von Schweinitz

Die Stimmung jedes Tons ist mit folgenden harmonisch definierten Vorzeichen ausnotiert:

Pythagoreische Quintenreihe der leeren Streicher-Saiten
(… c g d a e …)

Erniedrigung / Erhöhung um ein Syntonisches Terzkomma
81 : 80 = circa 21.5 cents

Erniedrigung / Erhöhung um zwei Syntonische Terzkommas
circa 43 cents

Erniedrigung / Erhöhung um ein Septimenkomma
64 : 63 = circa 27.3 cents

Erniedrigung / Erhöhung um zwei Septimenkommas
circa 54.5 cents

Erhöhung / Erniedrigung um den undezenten Viertelton der 11er-Relation
33 : 32 = circa 53.3 cents

Erniedrigung / Erhöhung um den tridezenten Drittelton der 13er-Relation
27 : 26 = circa 65.3 cents

Erniedrigung / Erhöhung um ein Siebzeher-Schisma
256 : 253 = circa 6.8 cents

Erhöhung / Erniedrigung um ein Neunzeher-Schisma
513 : 512 = circa 3.4 cents

Erhöhung / Erniedrigung um ein Dreidundzwanziger-Komma
736 : 729 = circa 16.5 cents

Zusätzlich zu der harmonischen Definition der Tonhöhe durch das Vorzeichen für jeden Ton ist auch der Cents-Wert der Abweichung der gewünschten Stimmung von der Tonhöhe des jeweils bezeichneten chromatischen Tons der gleichstufig temperierten Zwiölfton-Skala angegeben.

Die attacheden Pfeile für die Alteration um ein Syntonisches Terzkomma sind eine bloße Transkription der Notation, die Hermann von Helmholtz in seinem Buch “Die Lehre von den Tonempfindungen als physiologische Grundlage für die Theorie der Musik” (1863) verwendet hat. Die kommentierte englische Übersetzung “On the Sensations of Tone as a Physiological Basis for the Theory of Music” (1875/1885) stammt von Alexander J. Ellis, der auch eine enorme Verfeinerung der Tonhöhendefinition innerhalb des Zwölftonsystems der gleichstufig temperierten Stimmung durch die Unterteilung der Oktave in 1200 Cents eingeführt hat. – Das Vorzeichen für die Alteration um ein Septimenkomma wurde von Giuseppe Tartini (1692-1770) erfunden, der als Komponist, Geiger und Wissenschaftler die durch Doppelgriffe erzeugten Differenztöne untersucht hat.
HORN: The valve slides 1, 2, and 3 are tuned to the rational proportions 2:15, 1:15 and 3:15 of the open horn's length (in B-flat and F respectively), producing, in various combinations, two utonal series of fundamental pitches a perfect fourth apart with vibrational time periods in the proportions 15:16:17:18:19:20:21.


TENORBASS-TROMBONE: The F-valve is tuned to lower the tenor trombone by an exact perfect fourth when the slide is fully in, producing, on the tenor trombone, a comma-raised B-flat (a pure major third below D) and, on the bass trombone, a comma-raised F (a pure major third below A).

Note: the “double” horn switches between two horns (in B-flat and in F) tuned a perfect fourth apart (4:5). The trombone's F-valve and tuba's 4th valve add a fixed tube length producing an interval of varying size. In this table, Bb-horn and tenor trombone descend in unison, as do F-horn and tuba without valve 4. Bass trombone and tuba with valve 4 remain a perfect fourth apart.
Transposing Score
(Horn written in F)

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for Trio Kobayashi, Los Angeles

Music for 39 distinct trombone slide positions dividing the perfect fourth in one to fifteen equidistant parts in alternating directions set in rondo form with freely composed horn and tuba pitches chosen from various overtone series to form chords of tuneable intervals

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1. Tempo and rhythms a piacere, ictus ca. 52-66, take time as precise tuning requires
dynamics are to be very evenly matched, and interpreted as variations of loudness only:
the music should remain calm and cool at all times, even when marked ff cres. and dim. only where indicated, otherwise a soft “subito” change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tempo and rhythms a piacere, ictus ca. 52-66, take time as precise tuning requires</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Horn</strong> <em>(F)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Tenor Bass**
| **Trombone** |
| **Tuba** *(5 Valve)* |

2. *Each system = a new slide position:*
the distance between 1st and 6th positions is divided into equidistant parts and indicated as a fraction;
the two fundamentals which may be produced by using the trigger valve are given with their cents deviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Horn</strong> <em>(F)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Tenor Bass**
| **Trombone** |
| **Tuba** *(5 Valve)* |

3. **Horn** *(F)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Horn</strong> <em>(F)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Tenor Bass**
| **Trombone** |
| **Tuba** *(5 Valve)* |
10

Hrn (F)

1/4
pos. Bb = A - 27
pos. F = E + 9

Tbn

1/4
pos. Bb = Bb + 12
pos. F = F + 14

Tba

11

Hrn (F)

101

Tbn

12

Hrn (F)

111

Tbn

beating with horn
bend down by 5¢
16

Hrn (F)

pos. Bb = F + 14
pos. F = Db + 27

Tbn

Tba

beating horn against trombone

17

bend down by 10 cents

Hrn (F)

pos. Bb = Gb - 11

Tbn

Tba

beating tuba against trombone

18

Hrn (F)

pos. Bb = G - 36
pos. F = D + 47

Tbn

Tba

bend up by 5 cents
19

Hrn (F)

181

\( \text{beating horn against trombone} \)

\( \text{beating tuba against trombone} \)

Tbn

\( \text{match horn} \)

Tba

20

Hrn (F)

191

Tbn

Tba

21

Hrn (F)

201
25

Hrn (F)

Tbn

Tba

26

Hrn (F)

Tbn

Tba

27

Hrn (F)

Tbn

Tba
28

29

30
37

38

39
bend down
by 5c
Meno mosso, a piacere, solo
slowly let out the slide, changing speed as gradually and continuously as possible
to reach positions where indicated, all pitches approximate and always subtly sliding downward

Valencia, California / Berlin
October 16, 2006 / 19 August 2010