

the song of a breathless body

for Hypercube

Accordion

Percussion

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Performance notes

General

The piece is in a spatialized tablature-style notation. Each tick mark along the top and bottom of each system represents roughly a second, but these reference marks should not be seen as a prevailing tempo or stopwatch timed. As such, timecodes are given for reference only and are not intended to be prescriptive.

The weight of wedges, circles and lines can be seen as analogous dynamics, but is more correctly the weight of force applied by the body to any given action. Therefore, a forceful hit on the cardboard box for example will not necessarily be louder than a moderate hit on the tam-tam. Performers should aim for a balance throughout. Accidentals apply only to the notes to which they are adjacent.

Ideally, the percussionist and accordionist should face each other at angle with a view to the audience. Special visual emphasis should be placed on the difference between the accordionist as a quivering statue, and the percussionist as an incessant fidgeter.

Percussion list

Tam-tam with appropriate beaters and bow.

Cooking pan or similar uneven metallic object with z-ball.

Small, flat cardboard box with contact mic.

Percussion

TAM-TAM

The staff space represents distance from centre to edge. The vertical position(s) of actions indicate where on this axis they take place.

-  Strike. Size indicates force.
-  Tremolo. Wedge indicates changes in force / speed.
-  Stop vibration with hand, or however is convenient.
-  Bow (on one line staff). Wedges represent pressure, stems are articulations. Groups of gracenotes are spicatto-like gestures.

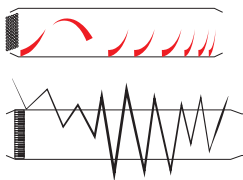
Accordion



Bellows action / dynamics - Wedges represent force of closing / opening mostly in crescendos and diminuendos. Green wedges involve pitch, while blue wedges are air-only. Shapes such as that shown on the top right depict sforzandi and similar gestures.



A tremor or shaking of the body that produces uneven tremolandi in the sound of the accordion. Can be whole-body (as in shivering) or just the knee (as in the common



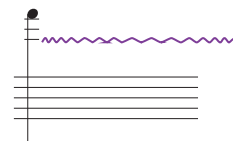
Left-hand gestures running the hand across the buttons loosely according to the gestures.
Right-hand guiro-like gestures on keys.



Run fingers on bellows.



Detune.

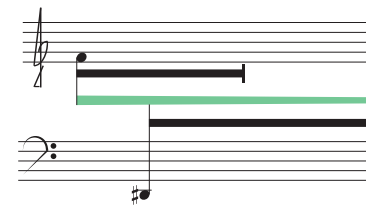


Finger vib (always uneven)



Registration key-clicks.
Above right-hand staff pertains to right hand, below left-hand staff pertains to left hand.

When left and right hands are independent rhythmically, and/or independent of bellows, thick 'beams' indicate duration that keys should be depressed.



BOX

The staff has two lines (one for each hand).

 Strike. Size indicates force. Always with palms or fingertips.

 Tremolo. Size indicates force. Always with palms or fingertips.

 Circular motions with multiple fingertips. Size of circle indicates size of motion.. Line weight indicates pressure (downward).

COOKING PAN



Circular motions with z-ball, size indicating downward pressure.



Little interruptions / bounces

The musical score for 'The Great Wall of China' by Tan Dun is presented in a multi-staff format. The top section, labeled 'acc.', includes staves for the Right Hand (RH), Bellows, and Left Hand (LH). The RH staff features a long, sustained note with a blue line above it, and a text instruction '[Gradually release keys in each hand]'. The Bellows staff shows a green wedge indicating a gradual increase in volume. The LH staff has a long, sustained note. The bottom section, labeled 'perc.', includes staves for Centre, Tam-tam, Edge, RH, and Box LH. The Centre staff has a red wedge indicating a gradual increase in volume. The Tam-tam staff has a red wedge indicating a gradual increase in volume. The Edge staff has a red wedge indicating a gradual increase in volume. The RH and Box LH staves have a series of notes. The score is divided into three measures, with durations of 41.5", 50.5", and 1'00.5" indicated at the top.

1'04.5" 1'10.5" 1'20.5" 0.5"

acc.

RH

KT

Bellows

LH

perc.

Centre

Tam-tam

Edge

0.5"

Switch to z-ball and cooking pan.

1'23" 1'30" 1'40"

acc.

RH

KT

Bellows

LH

perc.

Centre

Cooking pan

Edge

key vib

1'46" 1'50" 2"

acc.

RH

Bellows

LH

perc.

Centre

Cooking pan

Edge

[l.r.]

palmsft

palmsft

Box RH LH

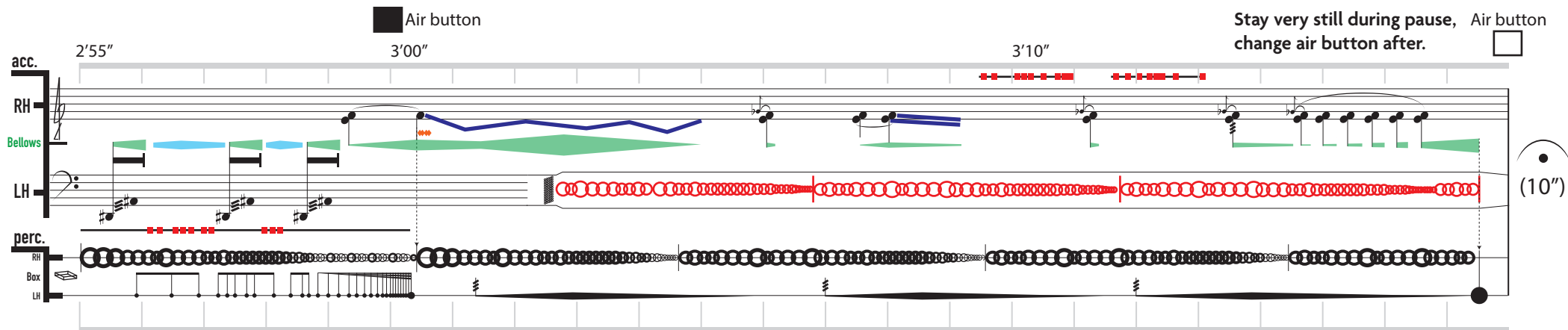
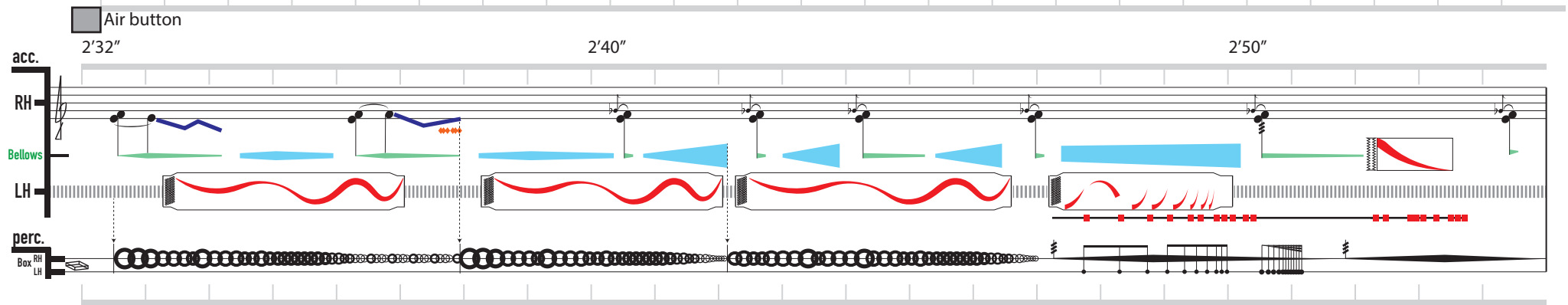
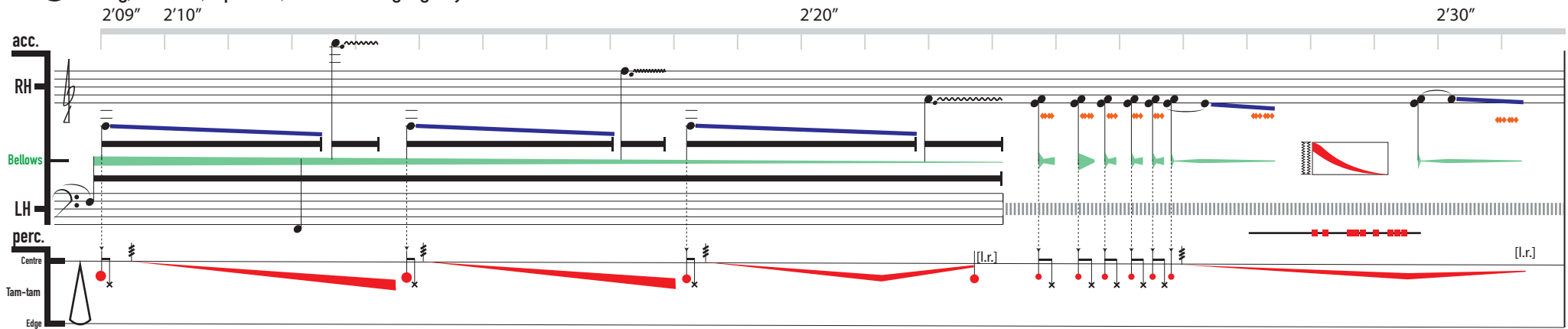
(w/ palm)

Switch to tam-tam

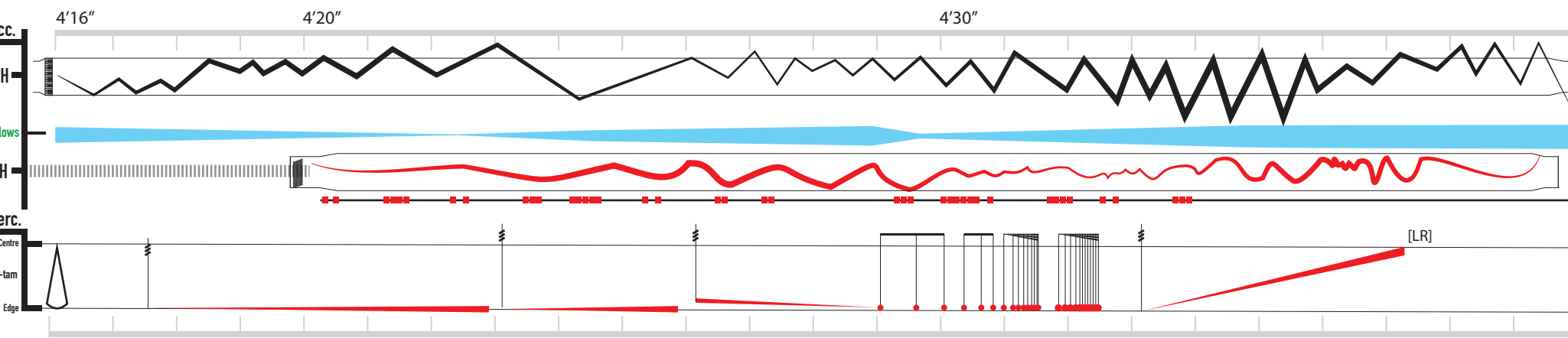
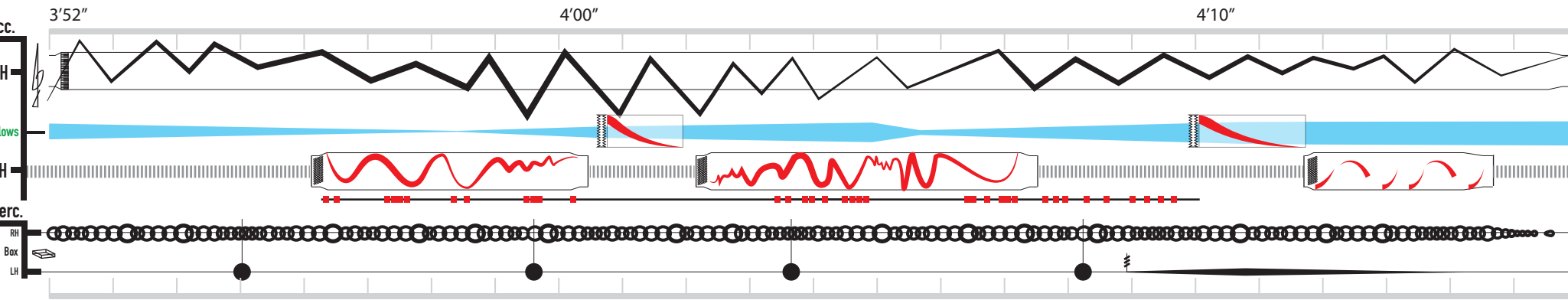
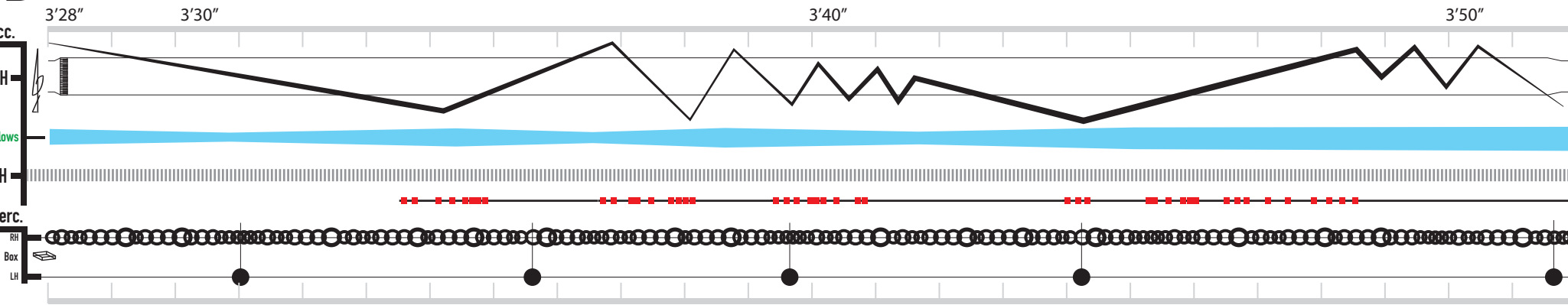
The musical score is divided into three systems. The first system (1'04.5" to 1'20.5") features a right hand (RH) with a treble clef and a left hand (LH) with a bass clef. The RH part includes a wavy line at the top, a series of notes with wavy lines, and a final wavy line. The LH part includes a series of notes with wavy lines. The percussion part (perc.) includes a series of notes with wavy lines. The second system (1'23" to 1'40") features a right hand (RH) with a treble clef and a left hand (LH) with a bass clef. The RH part includes a wavy line at the top, a series of notes with wavy lines, and a final wavy line. The LH part includes a series of notes with wavy lines. The percussion part (perc.) includes a series of notes with wavy lines. The third system (1'46" to 2") features a right hand (RH) with a treble clef and a left hand (LH) with a bass clef. The RH part includes a wavy line at the top, a series of notes with wavy lines, and a final wavy line. The LH part includes a series of notes with wavy lines. The percussion part (perc.) includes a series of notes with wavy lines. The score also includes a section for 'Box RH LH' and a section for 'palmsft'.

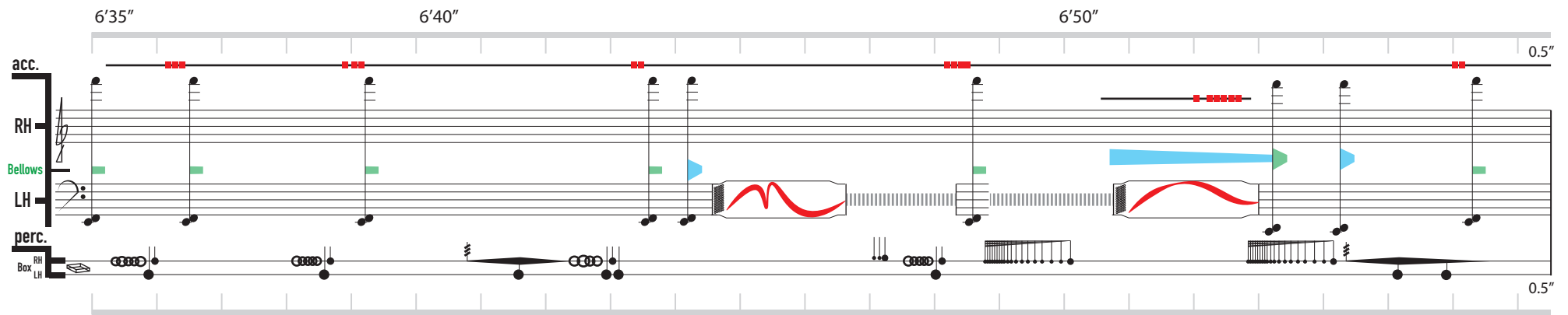
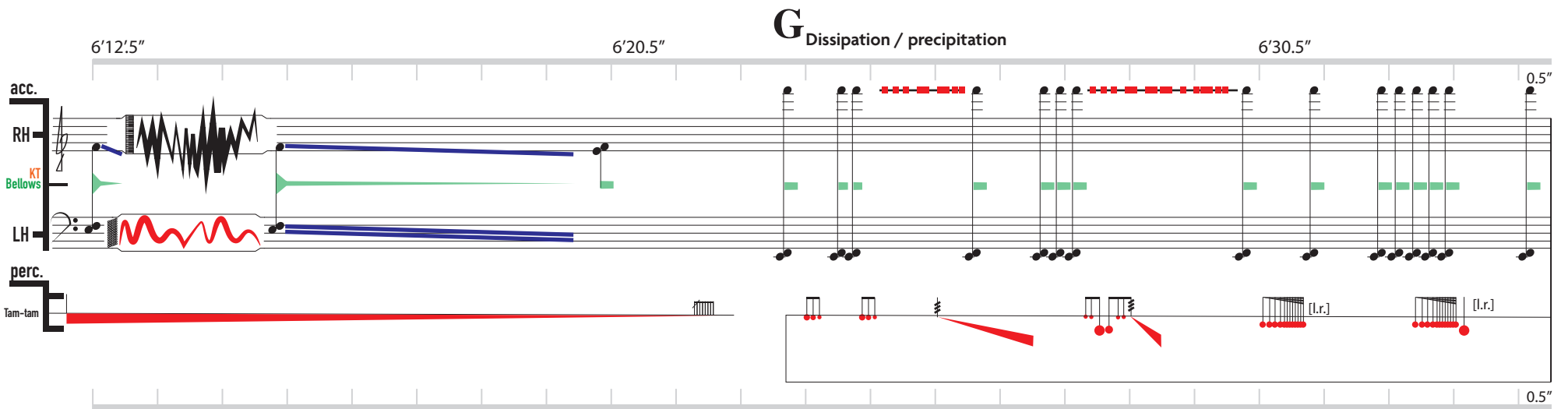
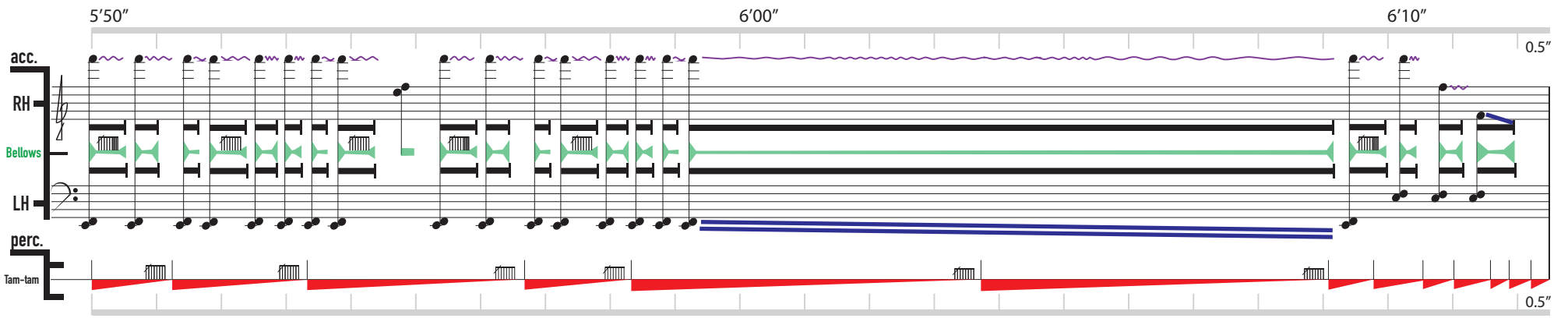
Cleaning, awkward, lop-sided, with increasing urgency

3



Stay very still during pause.





H

Stain

6'57.5"

acc.

RH

Bel lows

LH

perc.

RH

Box

LH