

Cuticles

for NEK03

**percussion duet
with live electronics**

2x snare, 2x floor tom, 1 cymbal

aulich / july 23

Performance notes

Introduction

'Cuticles' is a percussion duo focused around the concept of skin as a barrier between us and the world, and technologies of skin as both a way controlling and taming its outward appearance and a way of interfacing with consumer electronics. The piece fuses the live sounds of the percussionists with those harvested by an AI algorithm, which is trained to scour the internet for non-verbal bodily sounds, as well as the application of skincare products such as moisturiser. Cuticles functions as a commentary on our alienation from our own bodies, and way of offering glimpses at reconnection as we watch two bodies coordinating together in a room with the sounds of strange others being pulled in from the digital periphery.

Electronics

The electronics part is governed by a Max patch supplied by the author, together with either a bank of collected samples, or the sampling software itself depending on the preferences of the performers. The patch requires no intervention, but I recommend surveillance by an assistant because it is unpredictable, and levels may need to be occasionally tamed. You will need:

- A contact mic taped to the surface of each of the five instruments
- An audio interface with five independent inputs and two outputs
- A stereo PA.

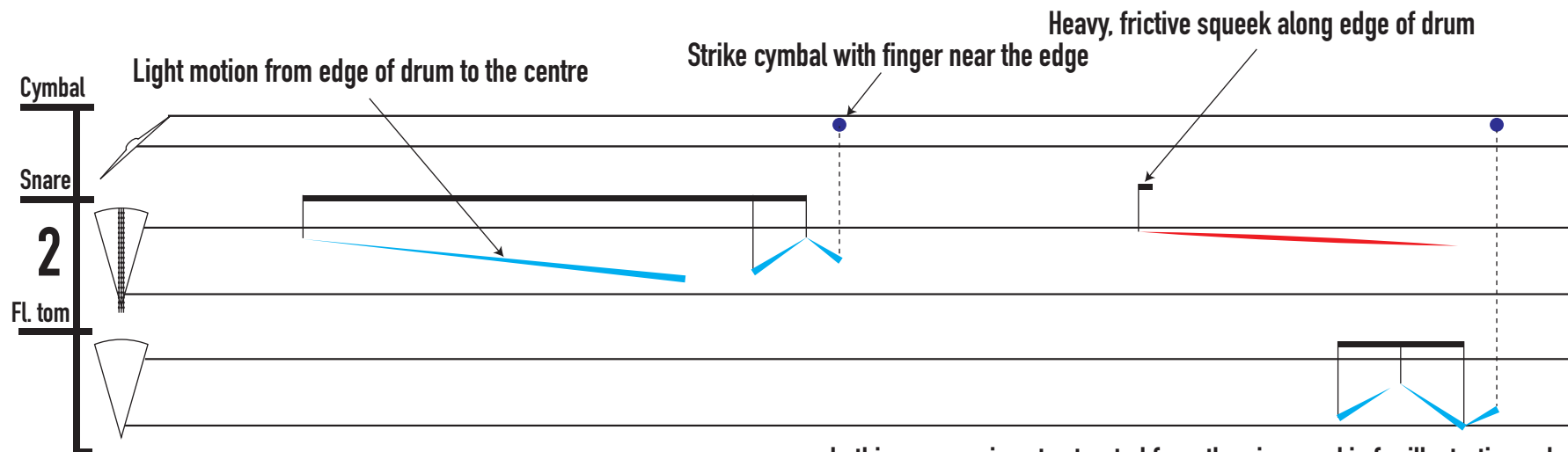
Graphic score

This piece is written in a loose time-space notation, where durations are more or less free-form with the expectation that local proportions within gestures are maintained. A 2" indication is given on the first page for reference.

The staves represent the physical location of playing, so that the graphics show movement from along the surface of the instrument or striking in a particular place.

The score is colour-coded according to different playing techniques or implements.

-  Blue - light and fast motion using the palms of hands
-  Red - highly frictive, should squeek. Ideally with fingertips but a friction mallet is also acceptable.
-  Purple - with the fingers



n.b. this passage is not extracted from the piece and is for illustration only.

1

Snare

1

rapidly w/ palms

FL. tom

Cymbal

Snare

2

FL. tom

c. 2"

Snare

1

Snare

2

Snare

1

Snare

2

Snare

1

Cymbal

Snare

2

w/finger tips

Snare

1

Cymbal

Snare

2

w/finger tips

The musical score is organized into six systems. Systems 1, 3, and 5 feature a Snare 1 part with sustained blue notes. Systems 2, 4, and 6 feature a Snare 2 part with rhythmic patterns of blue notes and beams. Systems 4 and 6 also include a Cymbal part with a single blue note. The text 'w/finger tips' appears below the Snare 2 parts in systems 4 and 6. The score ends with a double bar line in system 6.

Snare

1

Cymbal

Snare

2

This block contains two musical staves for a drum set. The first staff, labeled '1', has a 'Snare' part with a single blue wedge-shaped note spanning the entire duration. The second staff, labeled '2', has a 'Cymbal' part with a single blue dot on the top line and a 'Snare' part with a complex rhythmic pattern of blue dots and stems, some with blue wedge-shaped notes. Both staves end with a double slash indicating the end of the measure.

Snare

1

Cymbal

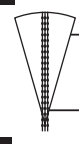
Snare

2

This block contains two musical staves for a drum set. The first staff, labeled '1', has a 'Snare' part with a single blue wedge-shaped note spanning the entire duration. The second staff, labeled '2', has a 'Cymbal' part with a series of blue dots on the top line and a 'Snare' part with a complex rhythmic pattern of blue dots and stems, some with blue wedge-shaped notes. Both staves end with a double slash indicating the end of the measure.

Snare

1

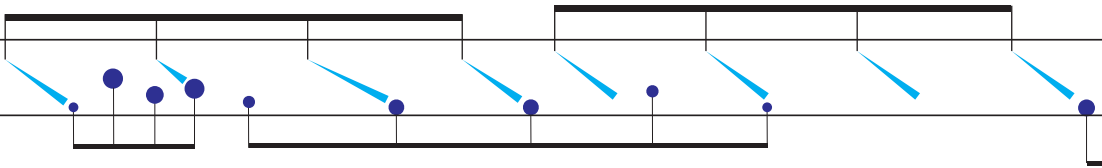
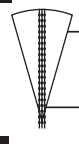


Cymbal



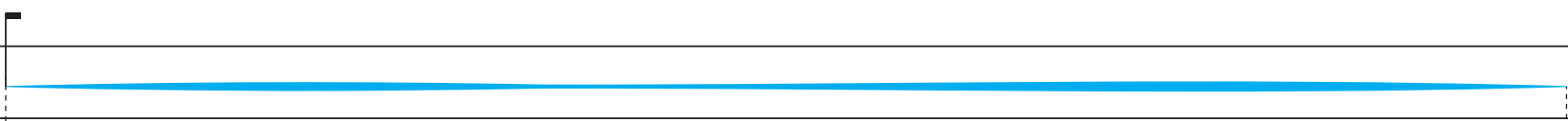
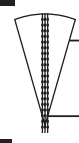
Snare

2



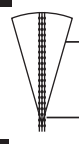
Snare

1



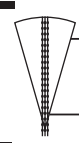
Snare

2



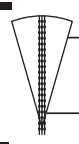
Snare

1



Snare

2



Snare

1

2

Drum notation for measures 1 and 2. Measure 1: Snare 1 and 2 both have a single blue wedge-shaped note. Measure 2: Snare 1 and 2 both have a single blue wedge-shaped note. The notation is on a five-line staff with a bracket on the left. A double bar line is at the end of measure 2.

Snare

1

2

Drum notation for measures 3 and 4. Measure 3: Snare 1 has a blue wedge-shaped note, Snare 2 has a blue wedge-shaped note. Measure 4: Snare 1 has a blue wedge-shaped note, Snare 2 has a blue wedge-shaped note. The notation is on a five-line staff with a bracket on the left. A double bar line is at the end of measure 4.

Snare

1

snare off

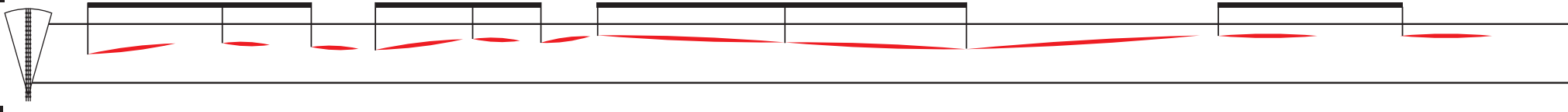
2

Fl. tom

Drum notation for measures 5 and 6. Measure 5: Snare 1 has a red wedge-shaped note, Snare 2 has a blue wedge-shaped note, Fl. tom has a blue wedge-shaped note. Measure 6: Snare 1 has a red wedge-shaped note, Snare 2 has a blue wedge-shaped note, Fl. tom has a blue wedge-shaped note. The notation is on a five-line staff with a bracket on the left. A double bar line is at the end of measure 6.

Snare

1



Drum notation for Snare 1. The staff shows a series of horizontal lines representing the drum head. A red line indicates the snare wire. The notation includes a series of horizontal lines with a red line underneath, indicating a snare drum pattern. The pattern consists of a series of horizontal lines with a red line underneath, indicating a snare drum pattern. The pattern consists of a series of horizontal lines with a red line underneath, indicating a snare drum pattern.

Snare

2

Fl. tom



Drum notation for Snare 2 and Fl. tom. The staff shows a series of horizontal lines representing the drum head. A red line indicates the snare wire. The notation includes a series of horizontal lines with a red line underneath, indicating a snare drum pattern. The pattern consists of a series of horizontal lines with a red line underneath, indicating a snare drum pattern. The pattern consists of a series of horizontal lines with a red line underneath, indicating a snare drum pattern.

Snare

1

Cymbal

Snare

2

Fl. tom



Drum notation for Snare 1, Cymbal, Snare 2, and Fl. tom. The staff shows a series of horizontal lines representing the drum head. A red line indicates the snare wire. The notation includes a series of horizontal lines with a red line underneath, indicating a snare drum pattern. The pattern consists of a series of horizontal lines with a red line underneath, indicating a snare drum pattern. The pattern consists of a series of horizontal lines with a red line underneath, indicating a snare drum pattern.

Snare

1

Cymbal

Snare

2

FL. tom

This block contains the first two measures of a drum score. Measure 1 features a snare drum hit on the first line of the staff, followed by a cymbal hit on the second line. Measure 2 features a snare drum hit on the first line, followed by a cymbal hit on the second line. The FL. tom is shown as a continuous line across both measures. The notation includes drumstick icons and blue dots indicating the timing of the hits.

Snare

1

FL. tom

Cymbal

Snare

2

FL. tom

This block contains the next two measures of the drum score. Measure 3 features a snare drum hit on the first line, followed by a cymbal hit on the second line. Measure 4 features a snare drum hit on the first line, followed by a cymbal hit on the second line. The FL. tom is shown as a continuous line across both measures. The notation includes drumstick icons and blue dots indicating the timing of the hits. A double bar line is present at the end of measure 4.

8

Snare

1

Fl. tom

Cymbal

Snare

2

Fl. tom

The image displays two measures of drum notation on a five-line staff system. Measure 1 is divided into three parts: Snare, Fl. tom, and Cymbal. The Snare part features a series of eighth-note patterns with blue wedges indicating dynamics. The Fl. tom part has a single blue dot on the second line. The Cymbal part shows a series of eighth-note patterns with red dots on the first line. Measure 2 is divided into two parts: Snare and Fl. tom. The Snare part features a series of eighth-note patterns with blue wedges. The Fl. tom part has a single blue dot on the second line. The notation uses various symbols like beams, dots, and wedges to represent drum sounds and timing.



9

Snare

1

FL. tom

Cymbal

Snare

2

FL. tom

Snare

1

FL. tom

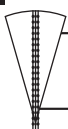
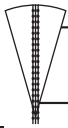
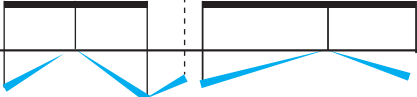
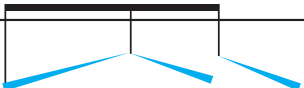
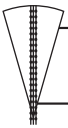
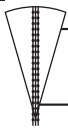
2

Snare

1

FL. tom

2



10

Snare

1

FL. tom

2

Drum notation for measures 1 and 2. Measure 1 shows a snare drum (1) and a floor tom (2) with a long, sustained note. Measure 2 shows the same instruments with a long, sustained note. A double bar line is at the end of measure 2.

Snare

1

FL. tom

Cymbal

Snare

2

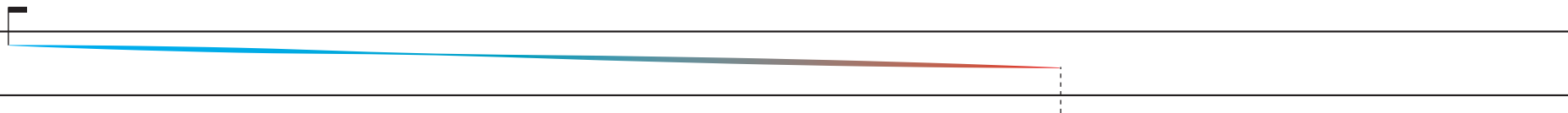
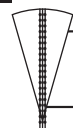
FL. tom

Drum notation for measures 3 and 4. Measure 3 shows a snare drum (1) and a floor tom (2) with a long, sustained note. A cymbal is also shown. Measure 4 shows a snare drum (1) and a floor tom (2) with a long, sustained note. A cymbal is also shown. A double bar line is at the end of measure 4.

11

Snare

1



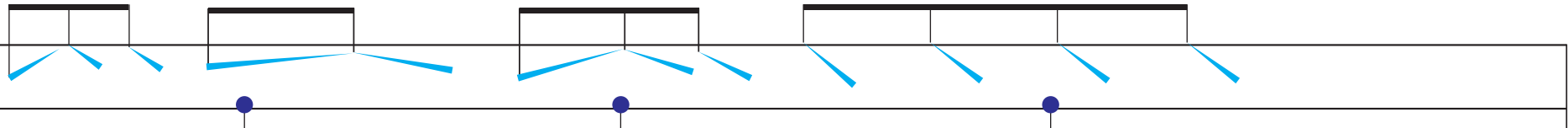
Fl. tom

2

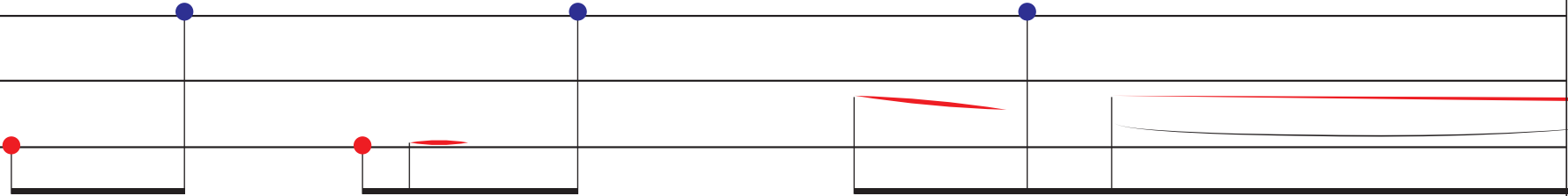


Snare

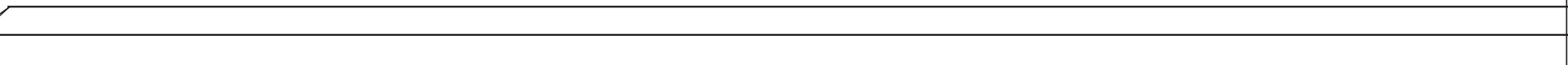
1



Fl. tom

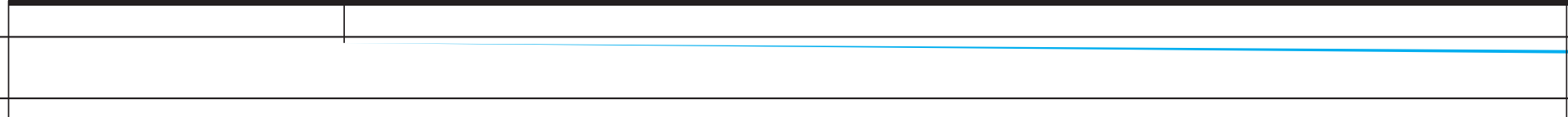
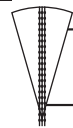


Cymbal

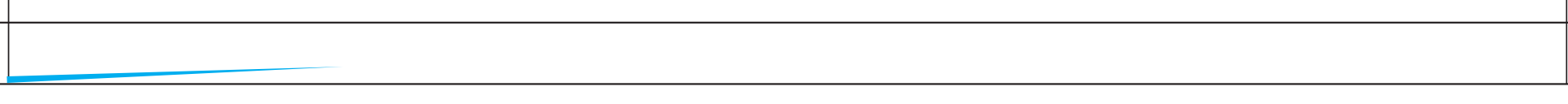


Snare

2



Fl. tom



12

Snare

1

FL. tom

Cymbal

2

Snare

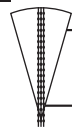
FL. tom

The image displays two measures of drum notation, labeled 1 and 2. Each measure is represented by a set of three staves: Snare, FL. tom, and Cymbal. Measure 1 features a Snare drum with a series of eighth notes, a FL. tom with a long red line indicating a sustained sound, and a Cymbal with a single eighth note. Measure 2 features a Snare drum with a series of eighth notes, a FL. tom with a long blue line indicating a sustained sound, and a Cymbal with a single eighth note. The notation includes various symbols such as beams, flags, and dots to indicate specific drumming techniques and timing.

13

Snare

1



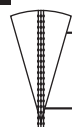
Fl. tom

2



Snare

1



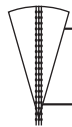
Fl. tom



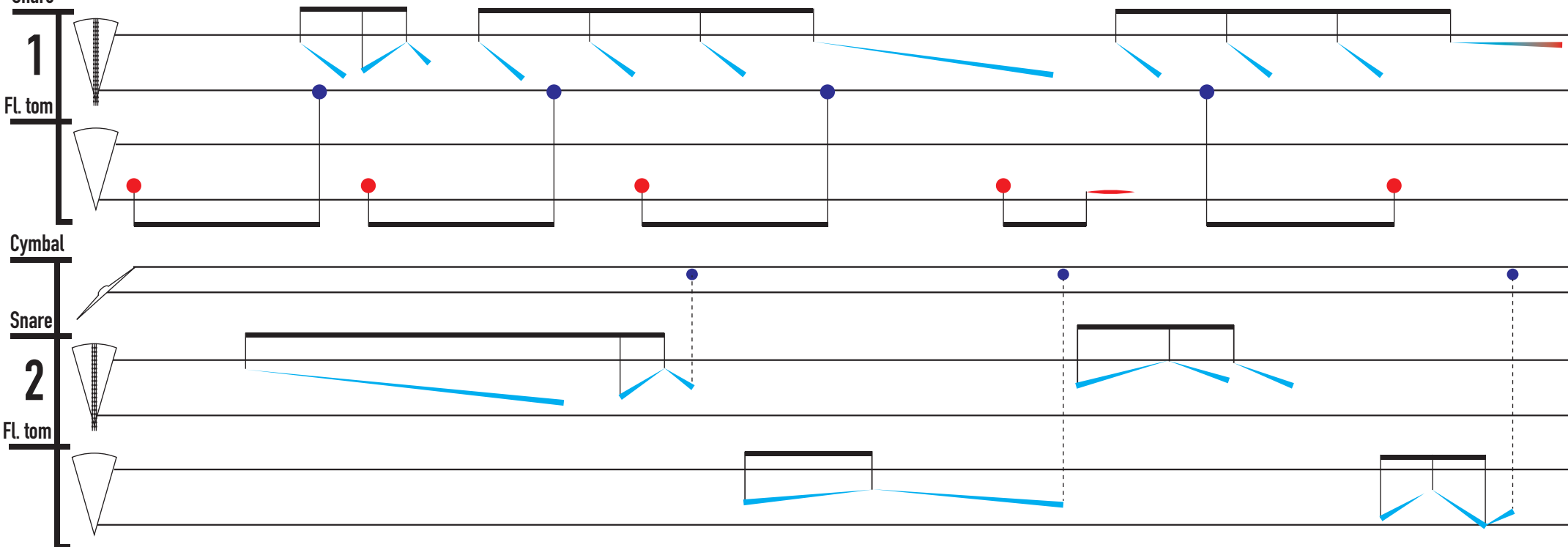
Cymbal

Snare

2

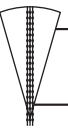


Fl. tom



Snare

1





Fl. tom

2



