Solo Flute

FLOW

concerto for flute, percussion & wind ensemble

(2022)

David Dzubay

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concerto for flute, percussion & wind ensemble (2022)

I. Drips & Dropsx
II. Floating City of Lake Texcoco –
III. Aqueduct Run

Duration: 18 minutes

Program Note:

Composed for and dedicated to my good friend and long-time professional colleague, flautist Alejandro Escuer, FLOW is a concerto for flute, percussion and wind ensemble. One can imagine many things "flowing": air, creating the flute's sound; water traveling from here to there around this whole planet – giving us all life and a shared elemental experience; people, moving to and fro; and of course, music, especially music passing ideas back and forth among musicians or taking one or more motives on a journey across a piece of music lasting some 20 minutes, as in FLOW. Each of these examples of flow also involve transformation, in a process that might be circular, or perhaps never-ending.

While composing this concerto, I thought much about the flow of water, and even specifically, about the flow of and history of water in Mexico City, which of course was built upon a lake and continues to have challenges relating to water. Supplying fresh water to the population is not easy, and while extracting twice the amount of water as that replenishing the underground aquifers, the city continues to sink, such that the zócalo is now below the level of Lake Texcoco, which was the lowest point in the Valley of México.

The first movement is called "Drips & Drops." Over the course of about six minutes the music gradually transforms from the opening single short note played by the flute into short motives and then longer lines and gestures; many of these descend in the way of water following gravity, not unlike the Aztec's aqueducts. The slow central movement contemplates the shifting ground beneath the city afloat on the aquifers below lake Texcoco. Blocks of sound shift in relation to each other throughout, and the climax presents a large imposing structure arising and then sinking. The closing movement imagines water traveling the paths of the old aqueducts but is also inspired by the bustling activity and flow of people around the city.

For any theorists in the audience: some key melodic shapes are drawn from letters in Alejandro Escuer's name: AAEADD for his first name (L for the pitch A, or "La" in solfege; R for pitch D, or "Re"; I skipped over j and o). Escuer translates as EBCCED.

Premiere of the original version for orchestra:
November 9 & 10, 2019
Alejandro Escuer, solo flute; Iván Del Prado, conductor
Orquesta Filarmónica de la Ciudad de México
This performance has been released on CD and is available on Spotify, Apple Music, etc.

There is also a chamber version for flute, percussion & piano.

Cadenzas: In mvt. 1 there is a "duo cadenza" for perc. 3 and flute and mvt. 2 begins with a flute candenza. Both of these cadenzas may be improvised, as they were in the premiere peformances, but written versions are provided. If improvised, the soloists might use the written examples as a jumping off point. There is also a bit of guided improvisation for flute at the conclusion of mvt. 2, which the percussionist may also join in for.

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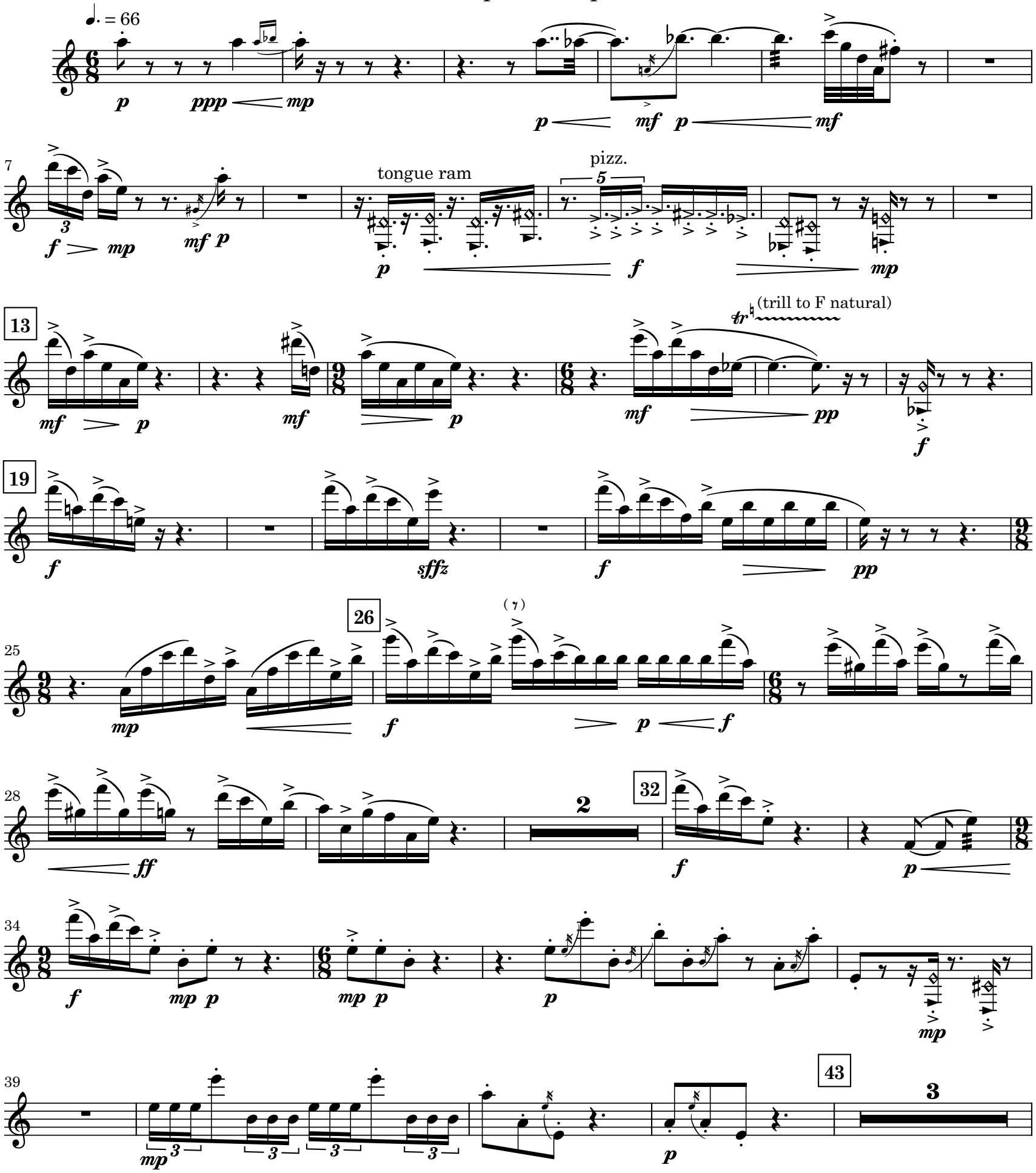
Solo Flute

Dedicated to Alejandro Escuer

FLOW | concerto for flute, percussion & wind ensemble

David Dzubay (b.1964)

I. Drips & Drops



2022-05-24

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46

49

51

52

55

jet whistle

60

67

69

73

77

78

(in 3)

ff

(in 2)

tr

pp

G.P.

88

92

mf

f

ff

96

mf

f

mp

f

100

f

3

4

9

104

3

3

ff

mf

110

ff

111

f

113

mf

cresc. poco a poco

117

3

3

3

ff

9

Duo Cadenza - unconducted until m. 135

121

very rough, breathy

ff *espressivo*

125

accents together

129

133

(𝅘𝅥𝅯 = 𝅘𝅥𝅯)

132

dim. poco a poco

135

poco rit

mf

p

137

𝅘𝅥𝅯. → 𝅘𝅥. = 120

9

146

147

mp

f

152

p

156

mp

158

mf

f

164

165

ff

ff

tongue ram

169

3

175

mf

f

mf

179

f

f

185

11

ff

poco accel.

190

♩. = 126

195

2

197

♩. = 116

ff

7:6

7:6

199

7:6

7:6

2

accel.

204

♩. = 120

ff

poco accel.

♩. = 126

210

♩. → ♩ = 126

fff

217

220

mp floating

f

p

mf

229

bend

p

f

232

mp

mp

p

mf

bend

f

241

242

mf

f

sffz

jet whistle

ff

pp

ff

251

254

f

p

266

f

mf

ff

274

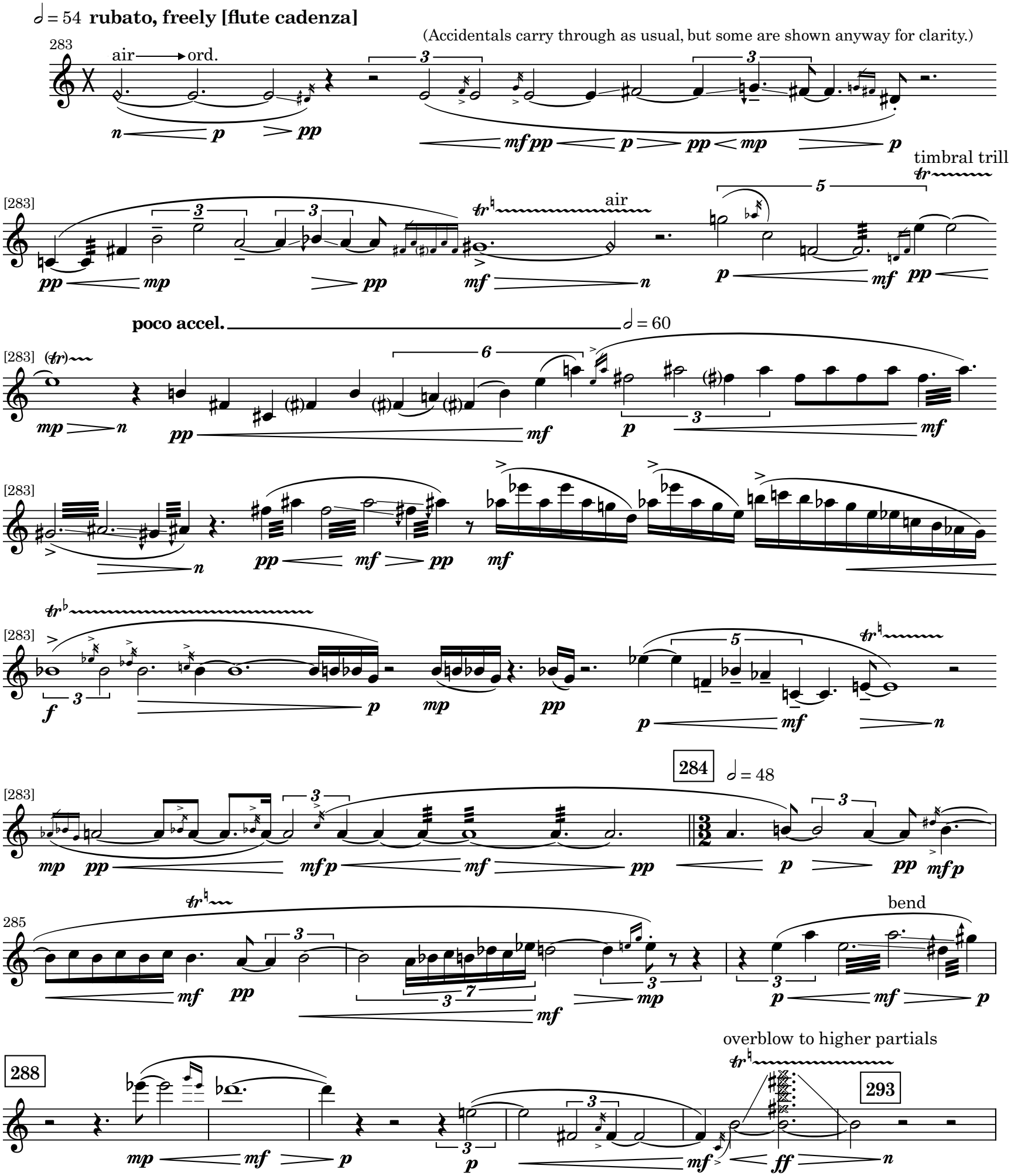
mp

p

II. Floating City of Texcoco

...possibly even completely improvised, but then still ending on held A4 leading to m.284 (cue conductor to begin).

floating, swaying, undulating...bend pitches, ad some ornamental grace-notes and/or noises (gasps?, clicks?, etc.)
Optional: the solo percussionist may improvise along with solo flute during the introduction and from m. 372-end., possibly using instruments other than just bongos/congas.



298

poco accel.

timbral trill

overblow to higher partials

294

4

p mf p mf pp mf p ff n

♩ = 60 **Poco più mosso**

overblow to higher partials

+ sing

304

306

very rough, breathy

p fff n fff 5 11 12

307

pizz.

tongue ram

ff f mf ff mf 6

310

313

yearning

p pp mf pp n

314

p mp 9 9 4:3 f ppp

316

f 5 10 10 10 10 p

318

322

mf 5 5 5 f 5 ff 12

324

12 mp f ff

328

mf

10

10

ff

9

12

overblow; trill/tremolo
on these pitches

330

12

3

mp

3

10

f

336

5

fff

337

♩ = 50 **Meno mosso**

ff

pp

2

343

346

ff

350

poco allarg.

356

(tr)

fff

tenuto

overblow to higher partials

360

♩ = 72 **Più mosso**

ff

6

6

fff

6

6

6

accel.

363

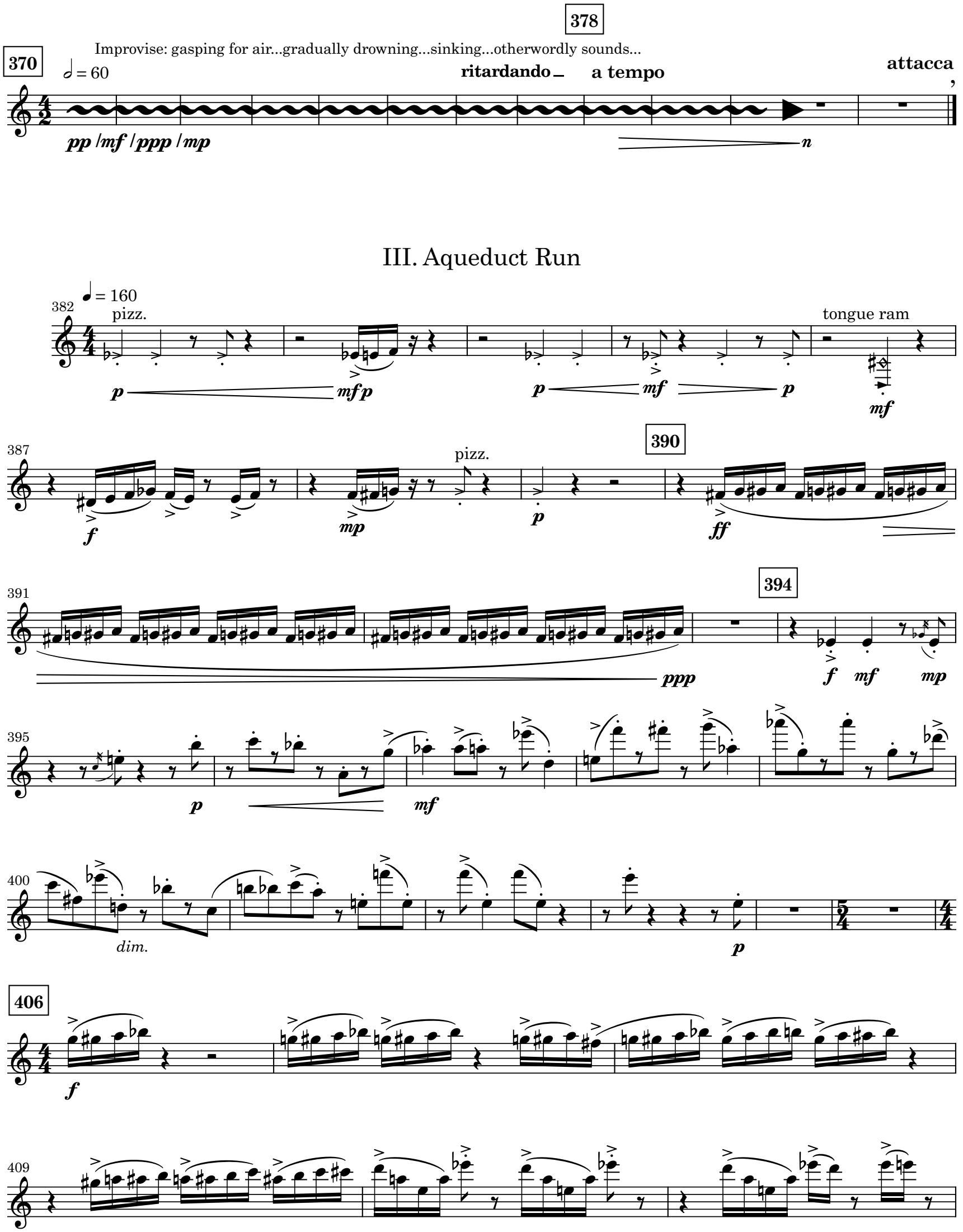
3

♩ = 108

3

rit.

G.P.


378
Improvise: gasping for air...gradually drowning...sinking...otherwordly sounds...
370
= 60
ritardando
a tempo
attacca
pp
mf
ppp
mp
n
III. Aqueduct Run
= 160
382
pizz.
tongue ram
p
mf p
p
mf
p
mf
387
390
pizz.
f
mp
p
ff
391
394
ppp
f
mf
mp
395
p
mf
400
dim.
p
406
f
409

412

414

p *mp* *ff*

416

ff

419

429

encountering some clogs in the aqueduct...

5

sing:

p *f* *p* *f*

430

fp *f* *f* *ff*

435

439

fp *ff* *p* *fff* *ff* *mf* *ff* *ff*

442

447

ff

448

453

+sing (bending down)

+sing (bending down)

mf *ff* *f* *fff*

462

ff

466

470

471

ff

476

478

481

490

♩ = 84 **poco piu mosso**

486

n

492

p *f* *pp* *mf* *pp*

504

mf *n* *mf* *f*

509 ♩ = 160 **Tempo I**

tr

pp *p* *mf* *f* *pp*

515

mf *ff* *ff* *p* *ff*

519

520

525

pp *mf*

529

f 7:4 5 3

532

5 3 3 *pp* *ff*

536

541

tr

ppp *ff* *f* *ff*

tongue ram