SWASH

for 2 tap dancers and 2 singers (high voice)

by Lois V Vierk and Anita Feldman with choreographic contributions by Rhonda Price

Swash was made with a New State Council on the Arts Composer Commission and a New York Sate Council on the Arts Company Grant. Special thanks to the Foundation for Contemporary Arts for additional support.

General Performing Instructions, and Information for the Sound Engineer

Swash is for two tap dancers on a high quality tap dance floor and two singers -- sopranos or mezzo sopranos, or one of each. Voice 1 is positioned stage right, Voice 2 is stage left, with the tap dancers performing in the space between them.

A high quality stereo sound system is required. Singers must be miked and amplified and panned left and right to match positions on stage. Tap dancers produce sounds with their feet and with their hands/bodies. Costumes are made from a vinyl fabric and dancers wear velcro pads as "instruments" on their hands. Brushing a hand with velcro "instrument" across the costume makes a clearly audible sound. There are also claps and body slaps. The entire performance space must be miked and amplified so that both foot and hand sounds will be heard clearly by the audience.

Singers' dynamics should match tap dynamics, and the general sound level should not fall below *mf*. The ending of the piece is the loudest part. Sound engineer should mix sound levels during the performance.

Swash can also be performed with 2 tap dancers plus a recording of the vocal parts. The recording begins with two notes in the first measure in the Voice 1 part. In live performance, Voice 1 rests in the first measure.

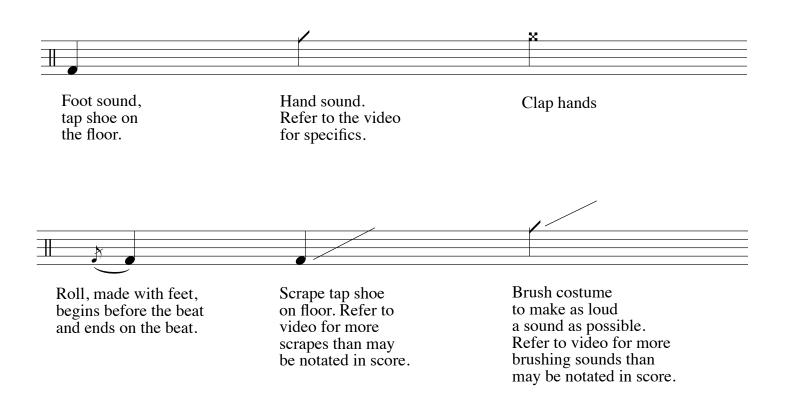
A recording of the vocal parts and a recording of the Zulu language demo are available from the composer.

Lois V Vierk www.loisvvierk.com Lyvyv@aol.com

P.O. Box 2652 Times Square Stn. New York, NY 10108

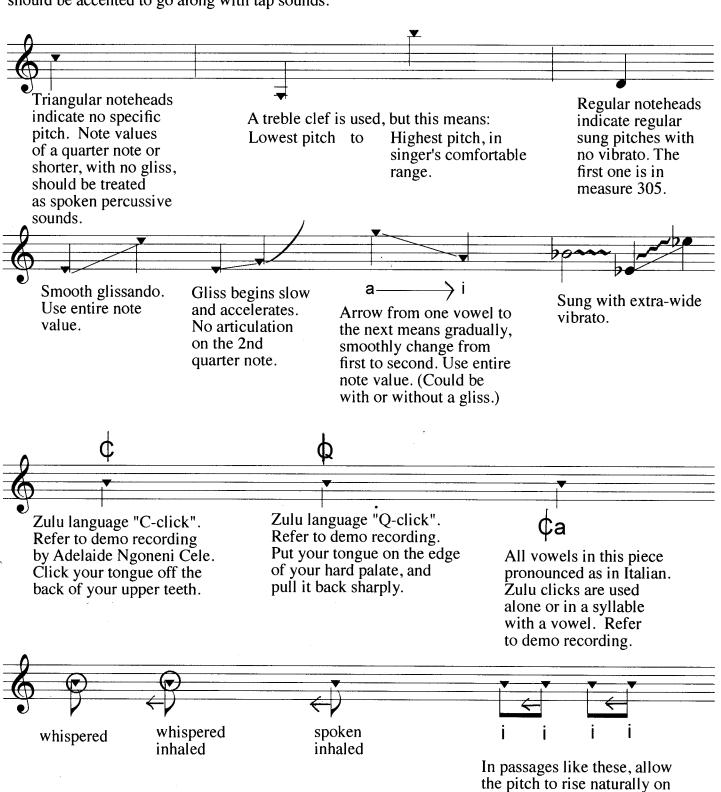
Tap Dance

Swash tap dancers produce sounds with their feet and with their hands/bodies. Costumes are made from a vinyl fabric and dancers wear velcro pads as "instruments" on their hands. Brushing a hand with velcro across the costume makes a clearly audible sound. There are also claps and body slaps. Refer to the video for specifics. The entire performance space must be miked so that both foot and hand sounds will be heard clearly by the audience.



Voices

Swash vocal parts are for two singers -- sopranos or mezzo sopranos, or one of each. One singer is positioned stage right, the other stage left, with the tap dancers performing in the space between them. Singers must be miked and amplified through a high-quality stereo sound system. Singers' dynamics should match tap dynamics and should not fall below *mf*. Ending of piece is loudest part. Singing style should be accented to go along with tap sounds.



the spoken inhale. Refer to audio recording. Relax vocal

chords, do not strain.

SWASH (1994)

by Lois V Vierk and Anita Feldman with choreographic contributions by Rhonda Price

Swash is one of six music/tap dance works co-created by tap dance choreographer Anita Feldman and composer Lois V Vierk during the 1980s and 90s. From the very beginning, choreographer and composer worked together on all major aspects of each piece. They have always felt that in their work, music and dance are one. It's impossible to say where one leaves off and the other begins. The piece was named for the movement of water splashing up from an ocean wave onto the sand of the beach. This concept of "swash" inspired a wide variety of visual and sound ideas in the creation of the work.

Besides the above, some of the movement/sound materials are influenced by Hambone, an African-American music and dance form that uses the whole body as a percussion instrument to be slapped, brushed, etc. with one's hands. Hambone was originally developed by enslaved Africans in the US, Guyana and the Caribbean. In the US, use of percussion instruments by slaves was banned in most places, starting in the mid 18th century. This was done out of fear that people would be able to transmit messages via drum patterns that would incite revolution against the system of slavery. Hence the body itself became the source of percussive sounds.

In *Swash* the slapping, clapping and sliding of the hands not only contributes to sound rhythms, but also propels the body's movements. As the piece progresses, the action of one foot hitting the other both contributes to the rhythms and propels the foot movements of the tap dancing in a similar way. The costumes in *Swash* were designed by Denise Mitchell. They were sewn from a vinyl type fabric, which permits hand slaps and brushes to be clearly audible. Dancers also wear hand "instruments" made of velcro to further augment the sound.

Some of the vocal sounds in *Swash* derive from the South African Zulu language, which is rich in musical slides and in a variety of tongue clicks. Adelaide Ngoneni Cele was the language consultant. The two singers in the piece, one on either side of the stage, are amplified, so that their percussive sounds blend with the dancers' taps and body slaps, and their sustained sounds and long glissandos can be heard flowing over the taps, enveloping the stage. The American folk form Eephing, a folk form that developed in the Appalachians during the 19th century, is also an influence in this piece. Eephing, incorporating both exhaled and inhaled sung syllables, was used to holler to farm animals. The last part of *Swash* brings out four women's names, American and Zulu: Anita (for Anita Feldman), Nokuthula (for Ms. Cele's mother), Nora (for the composer's mother) and Ngoneni (for Ngoneni Cele).

Swash was premiered at Woodpeckers Tap Dance Studio in New York City in 1994. Subsequent performances include Dance Theater Workshop (NYC), SUNY Albany, SUNY Buffalo and Columbia Festival of the Arts (MD). The tap parts have been performed by Anita Feldman, Rhonda Price and Sheri Laroche. Vocal parts have been performed by Dora Ohrenstein, Susan Botti and Lisa Bielawa.

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Zulu language clicks - demo tape by Adelaide Ngoneni Cele

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Q-click

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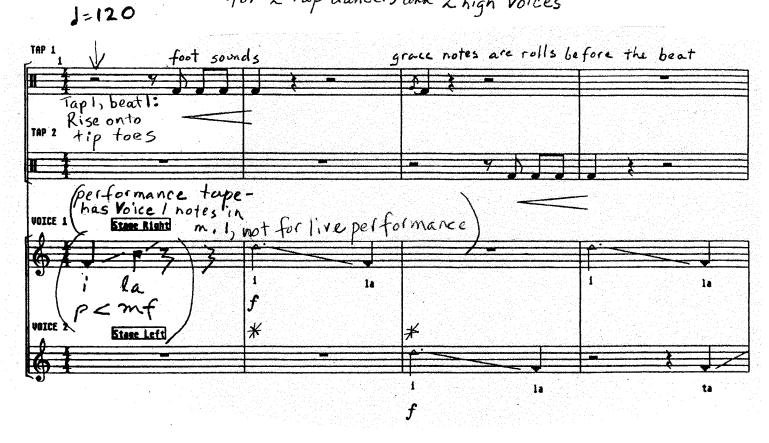
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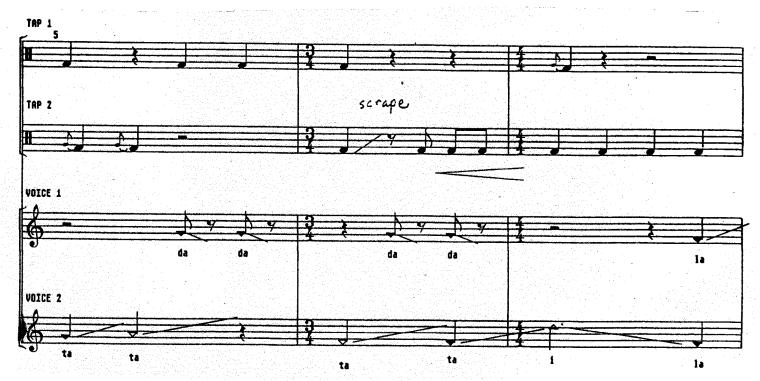
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Lois V Vierk and Anita Feldman

for 2 tap dancers and 2 high voices

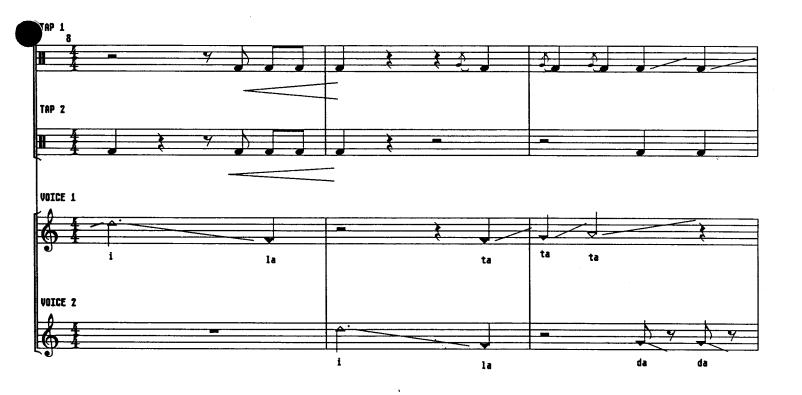


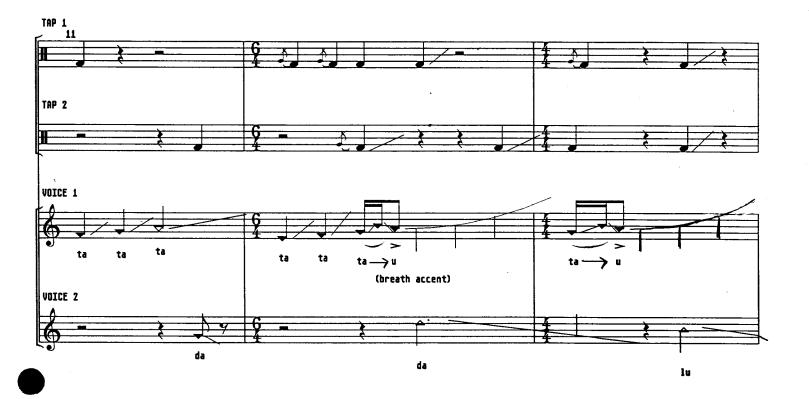


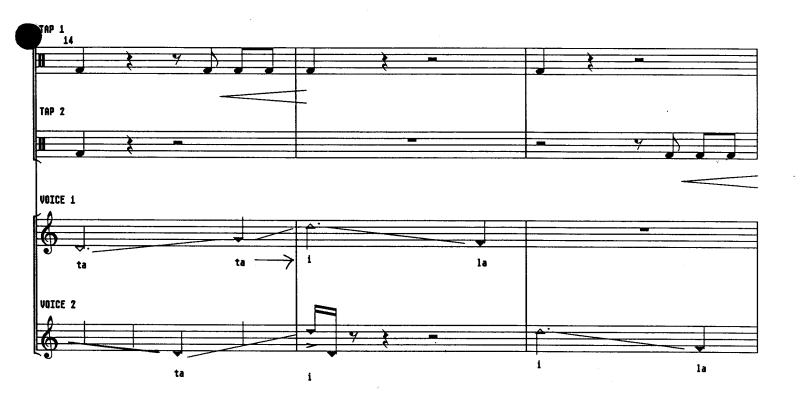
©1994 Lois V Vierk and Anita Feldman

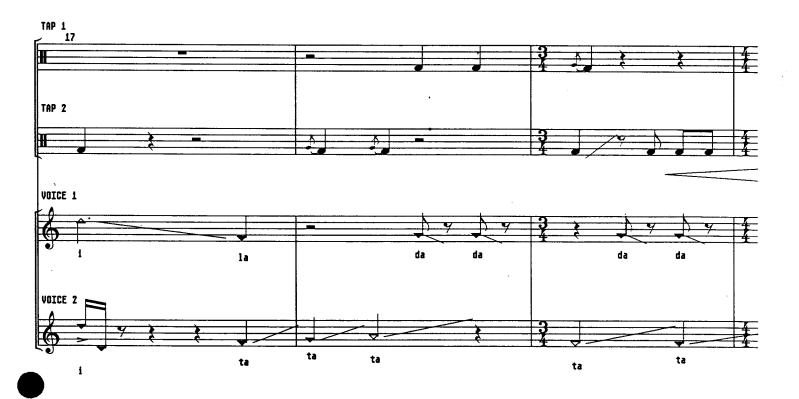
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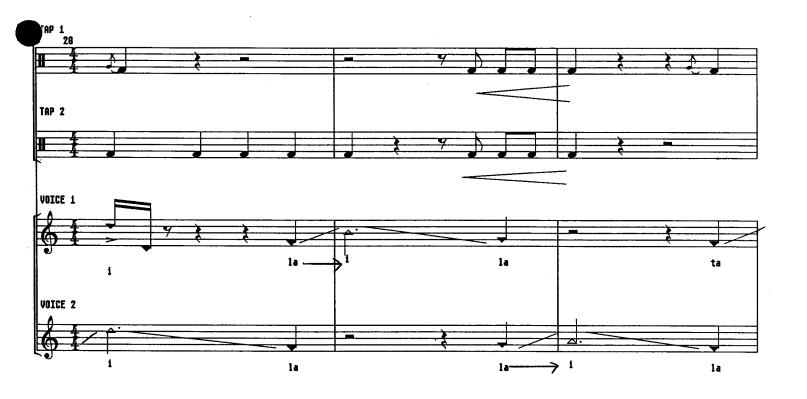
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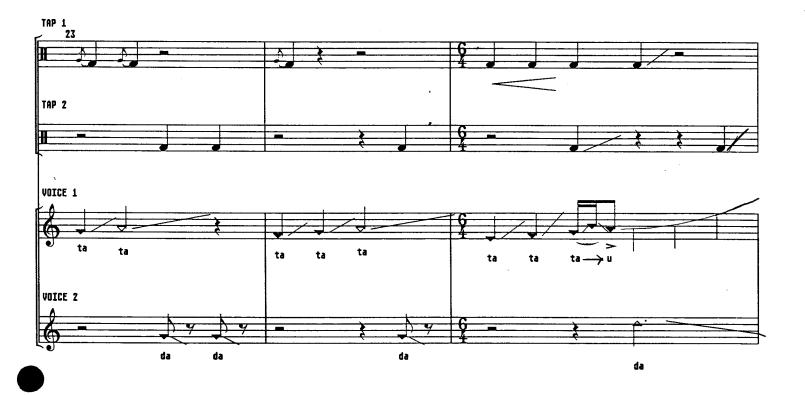


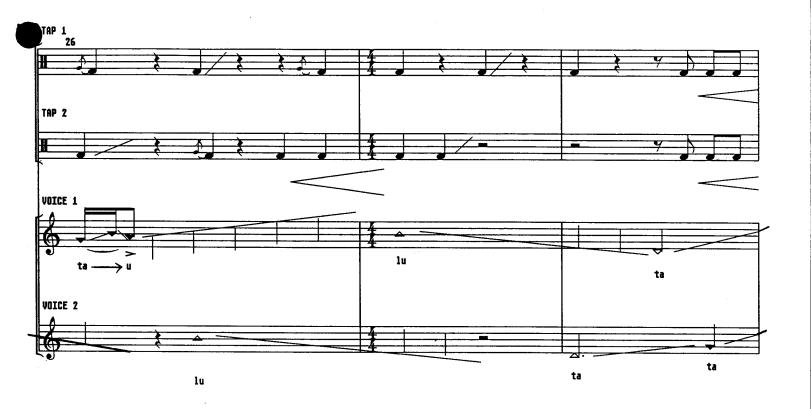




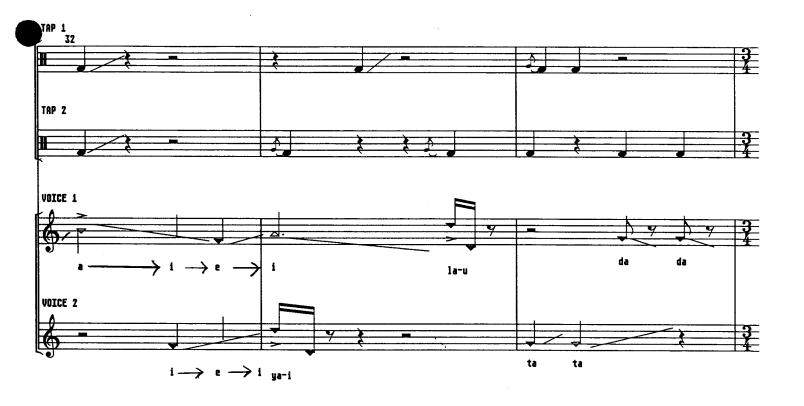


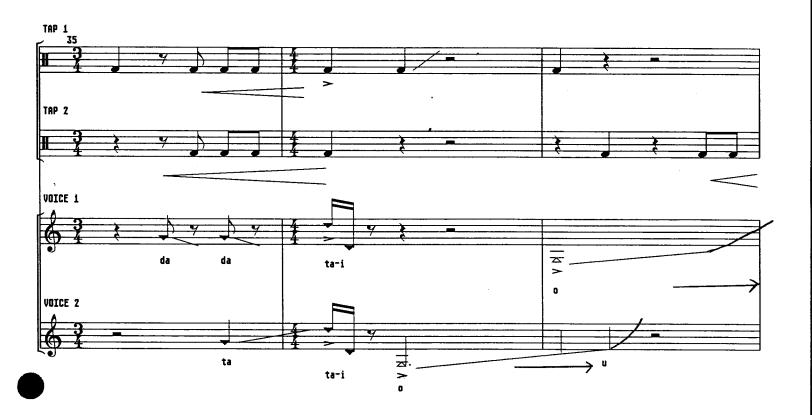


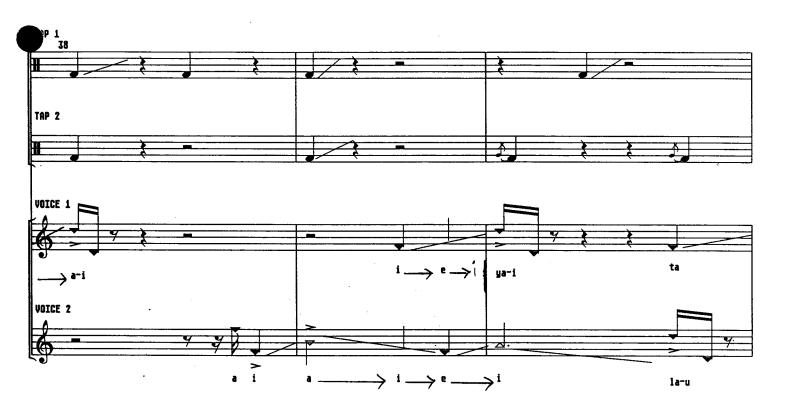


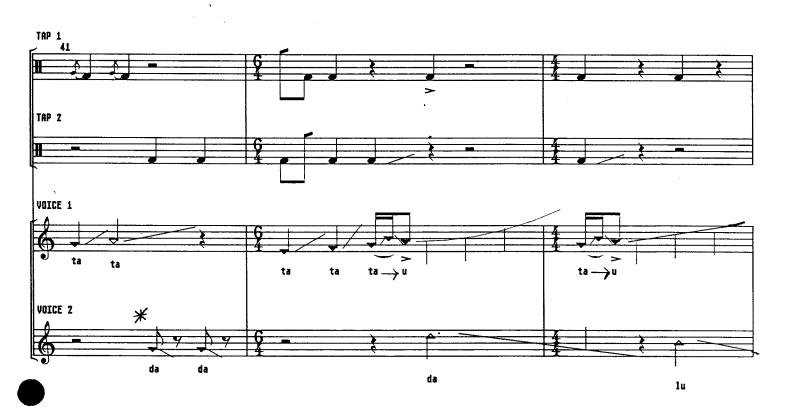




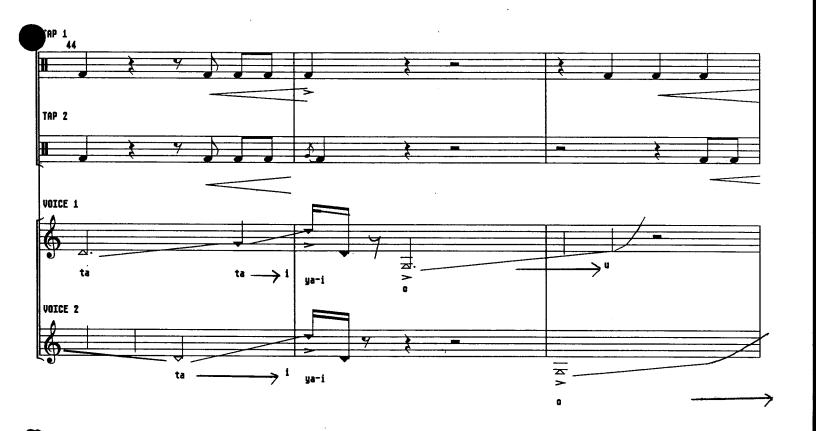


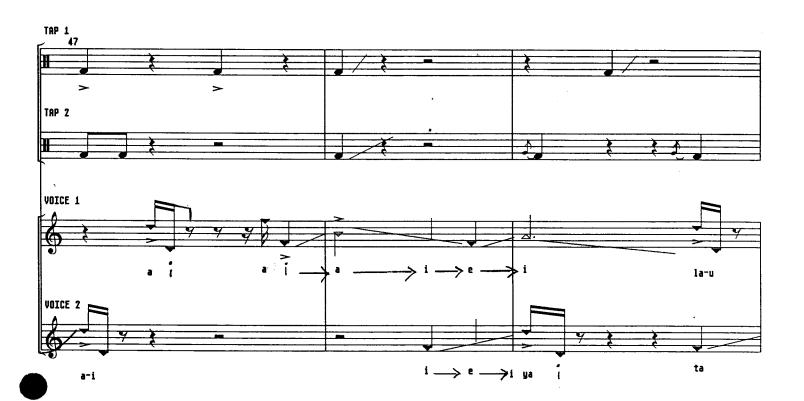


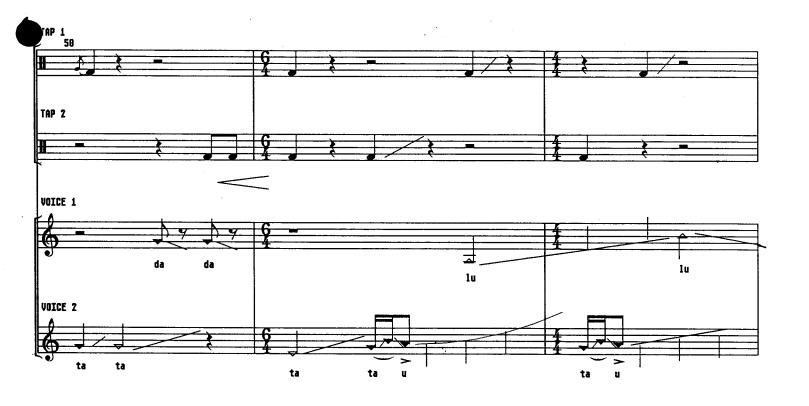


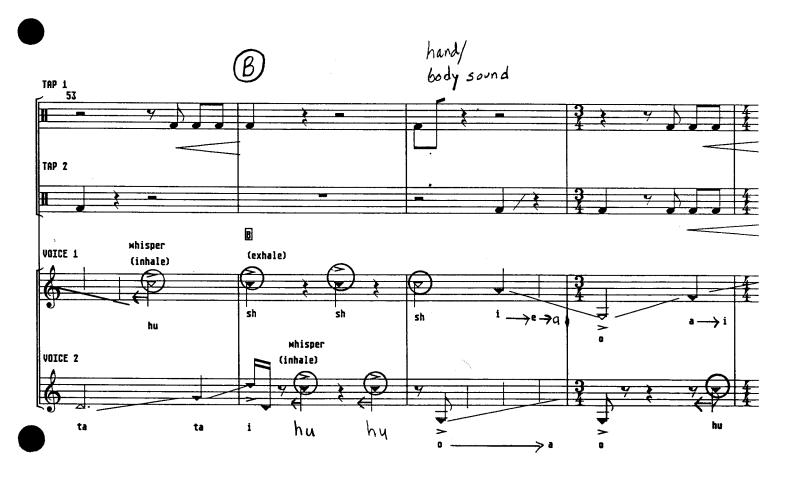


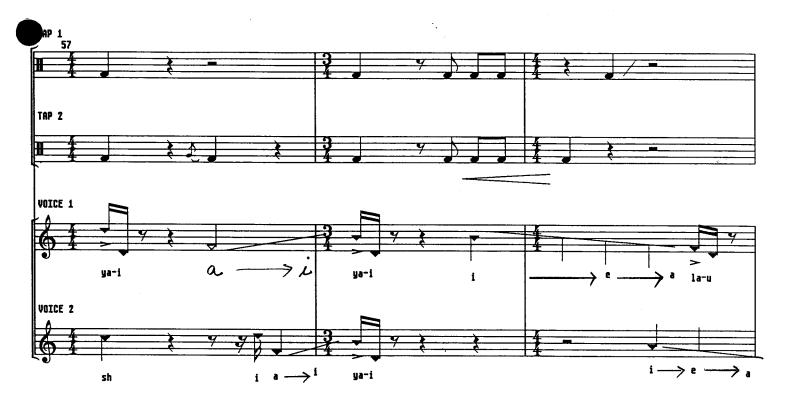
* Glottal release on each 8th note "da" syllable

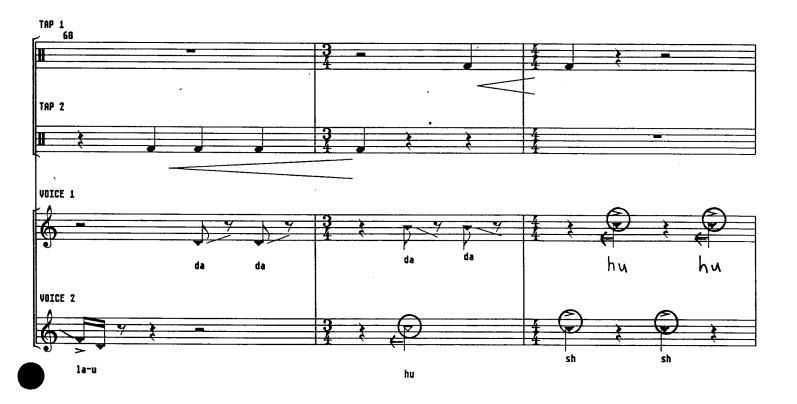


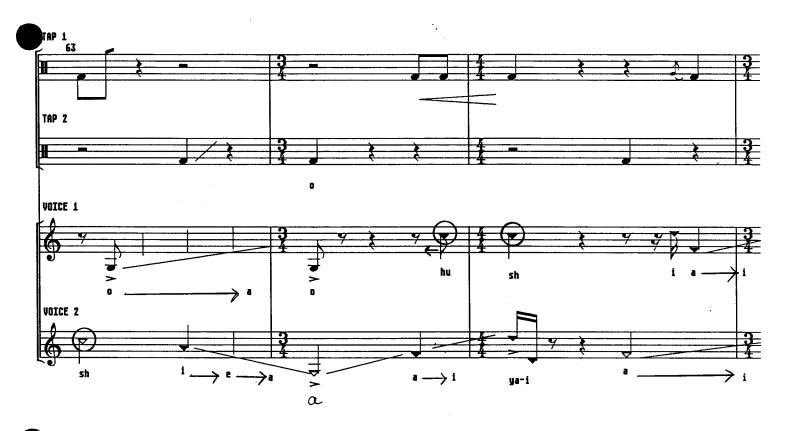


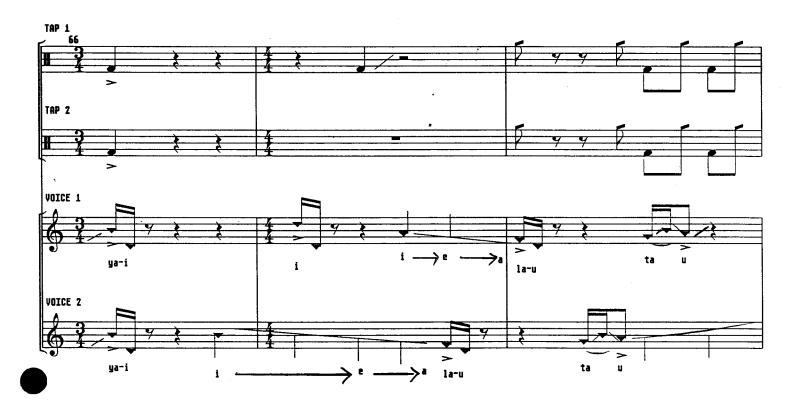


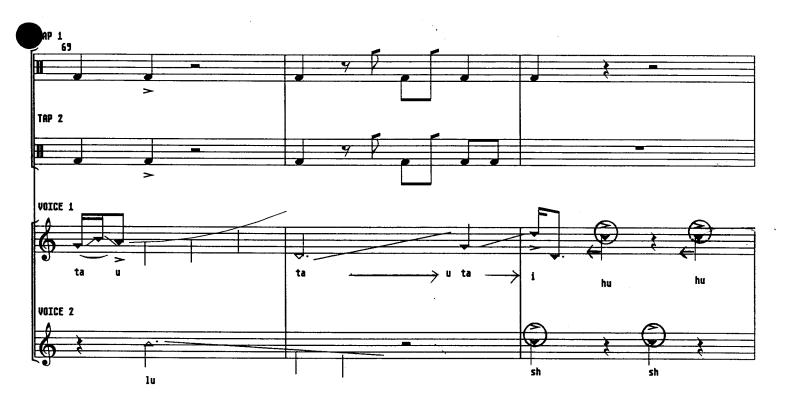


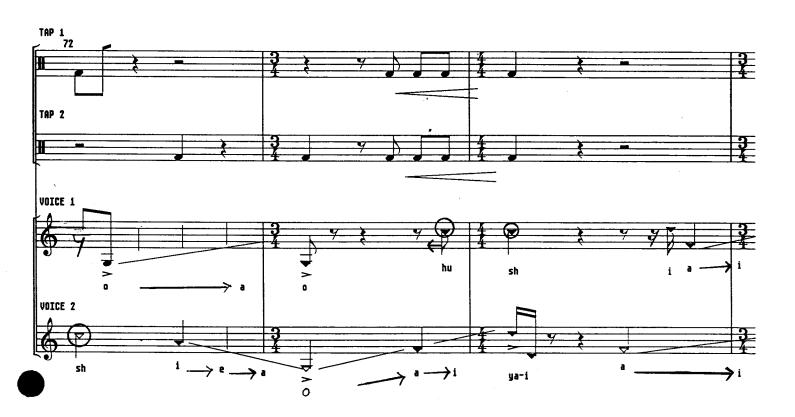




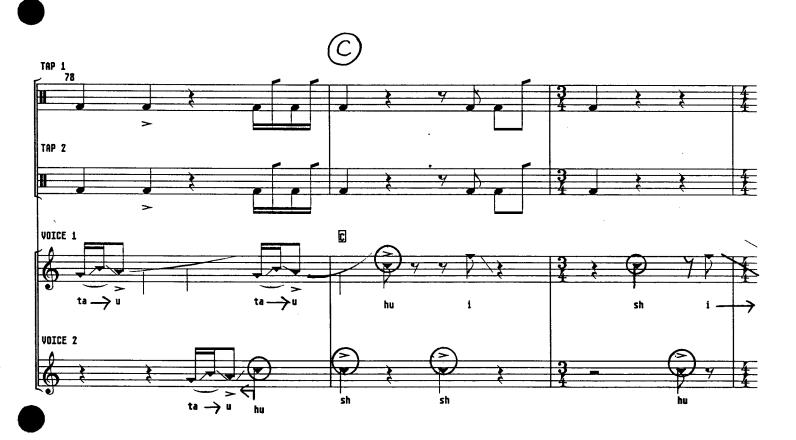




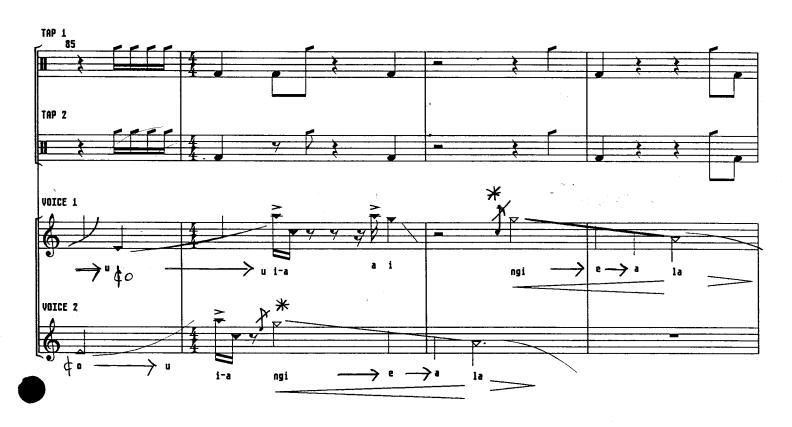




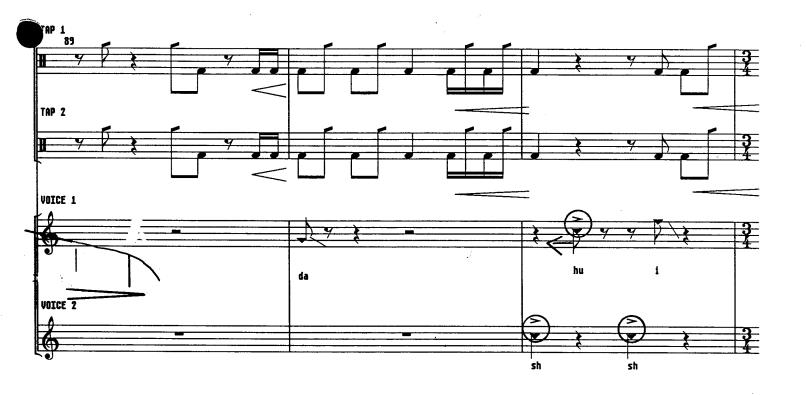


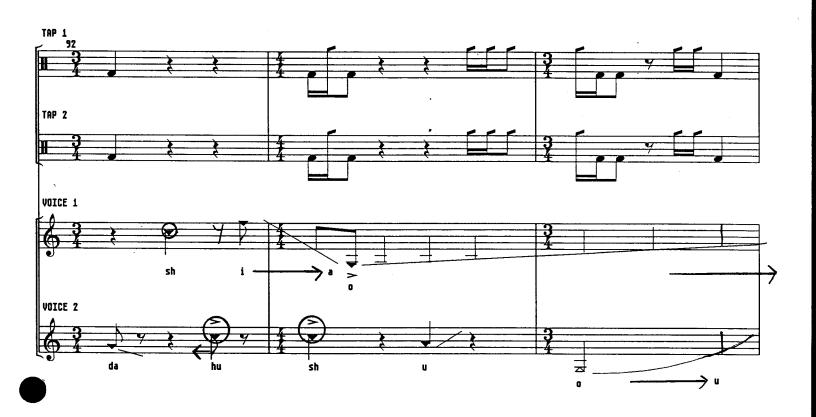


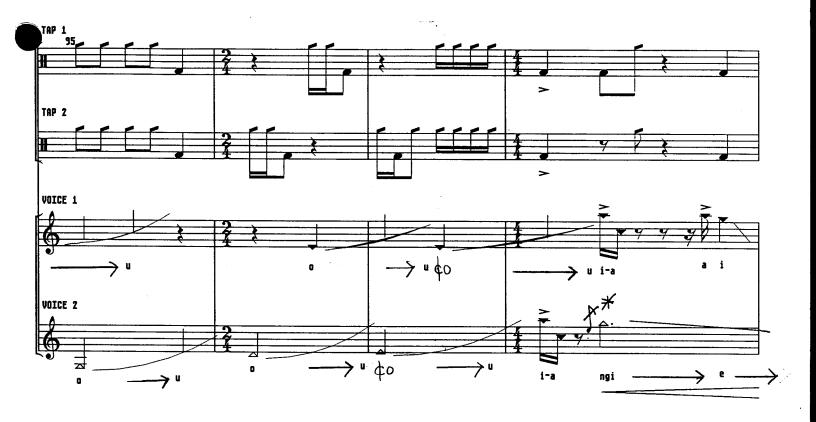


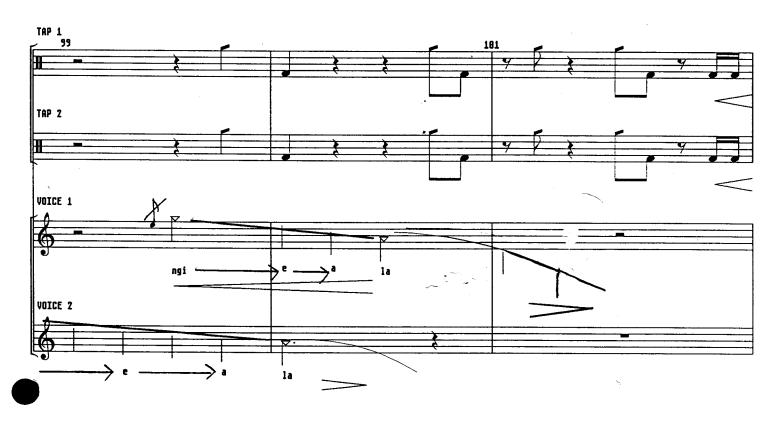


* Prounce "n" on the grace note.

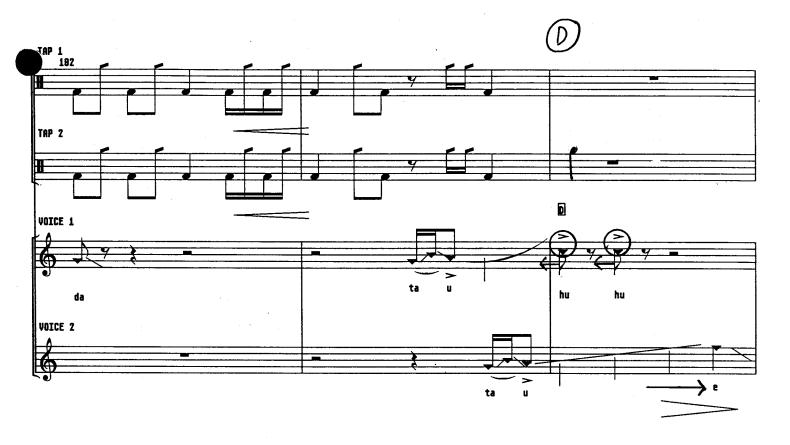


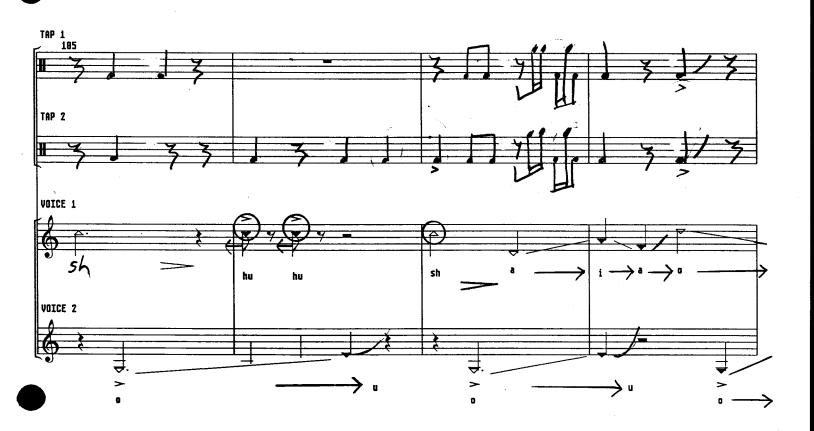




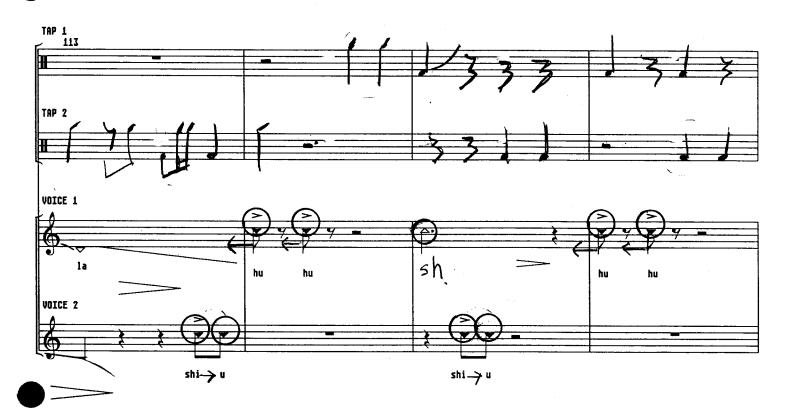


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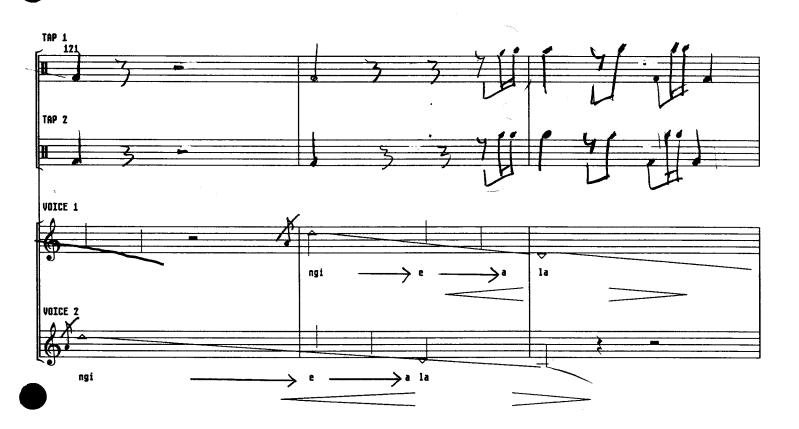






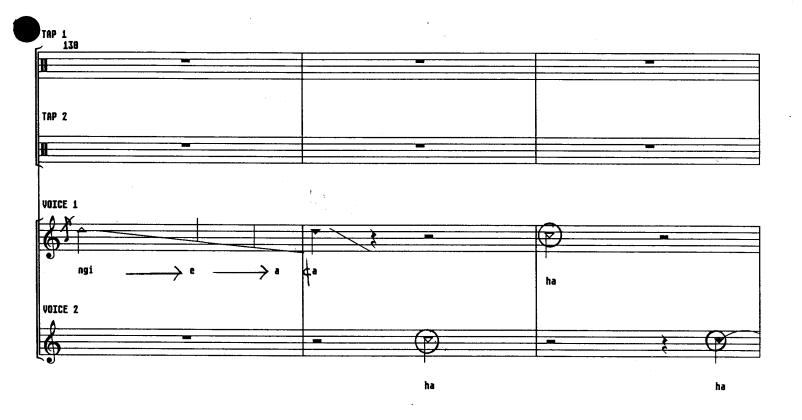


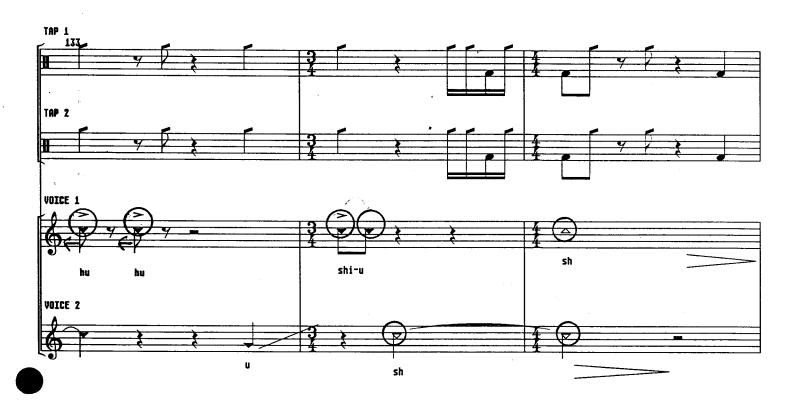


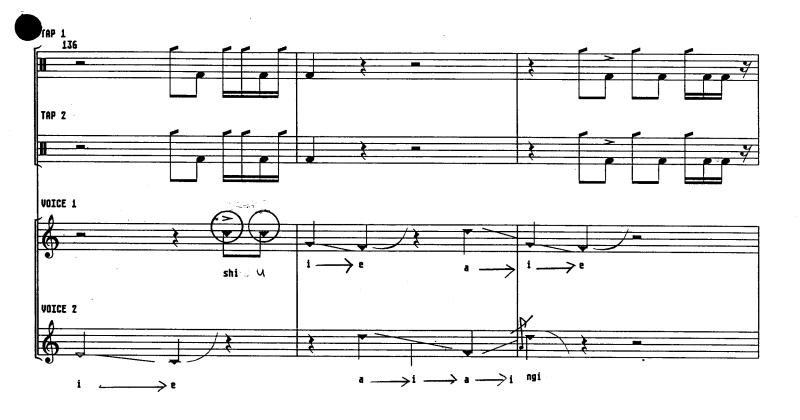


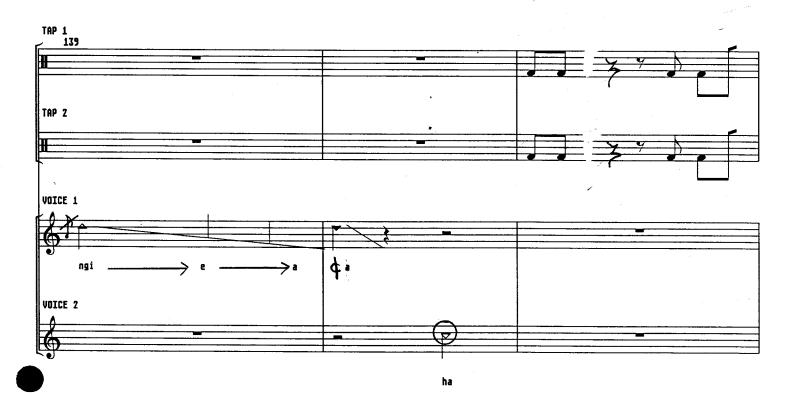






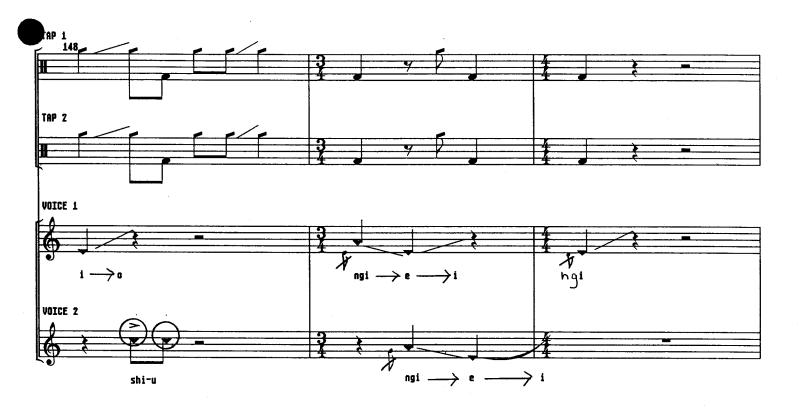




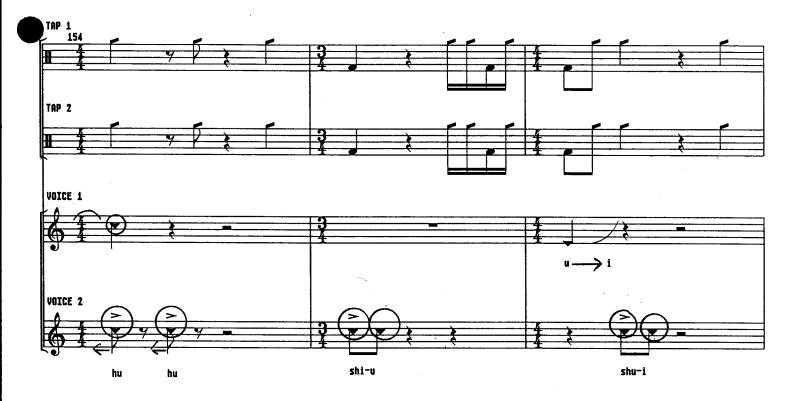


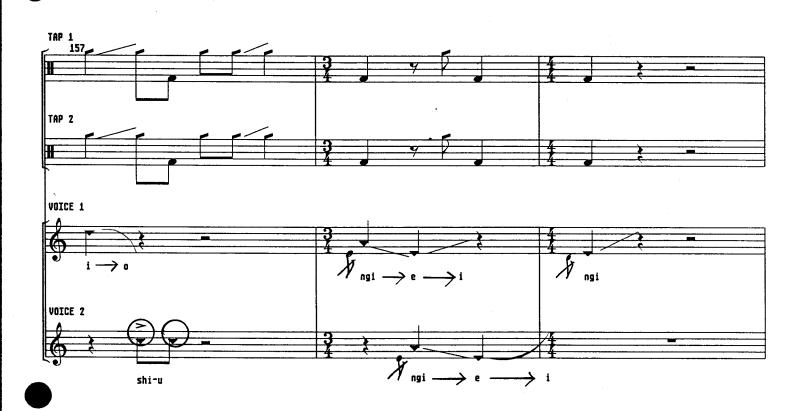




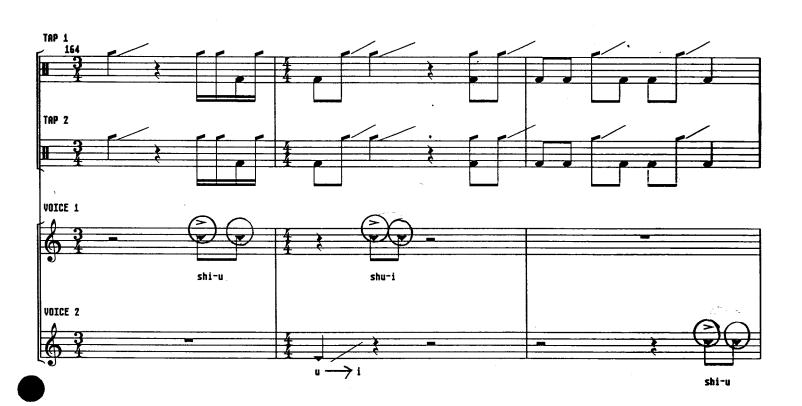


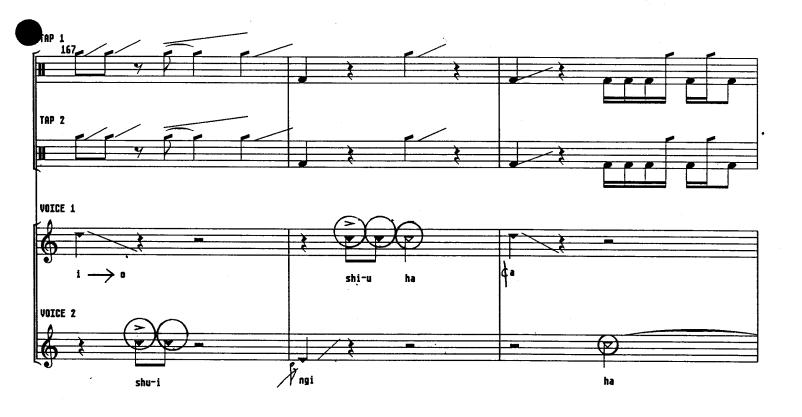


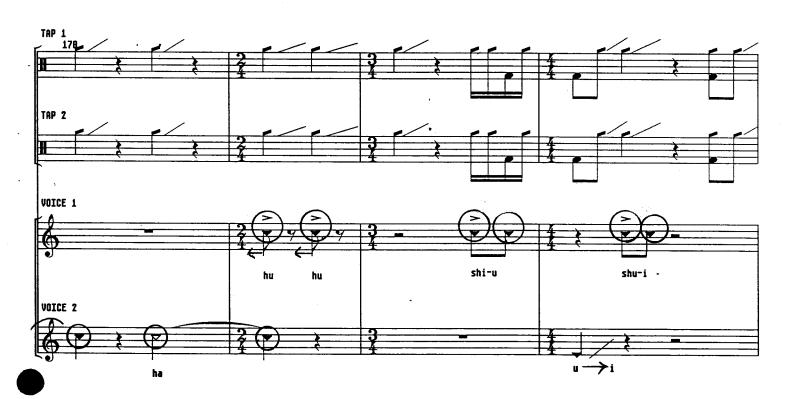


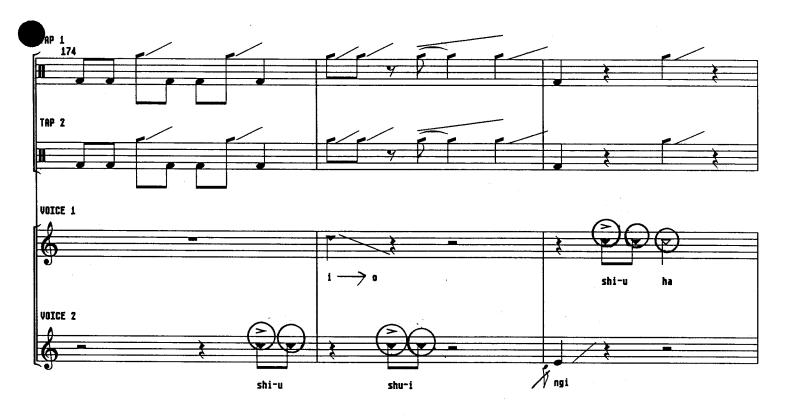


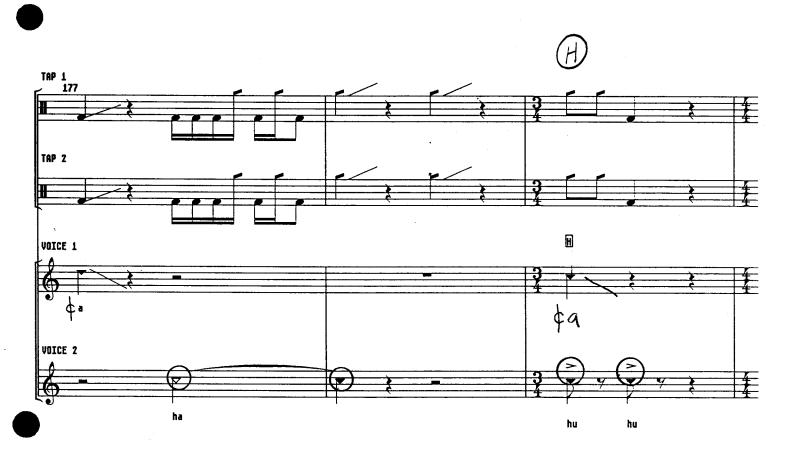


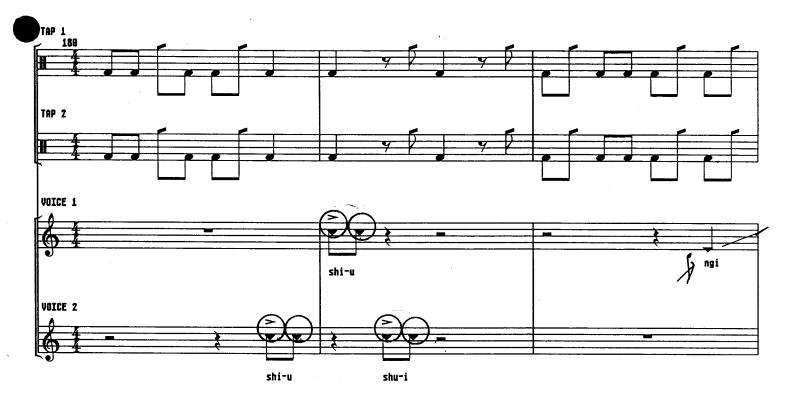


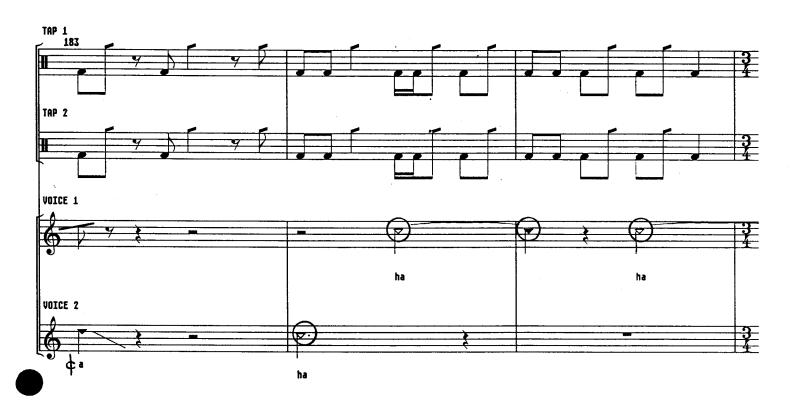


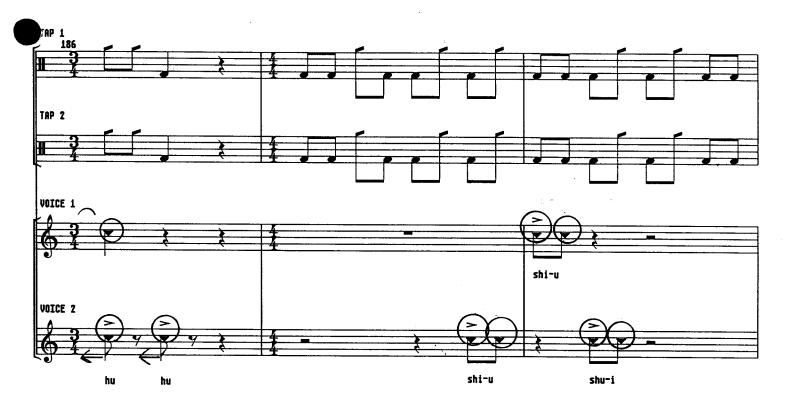


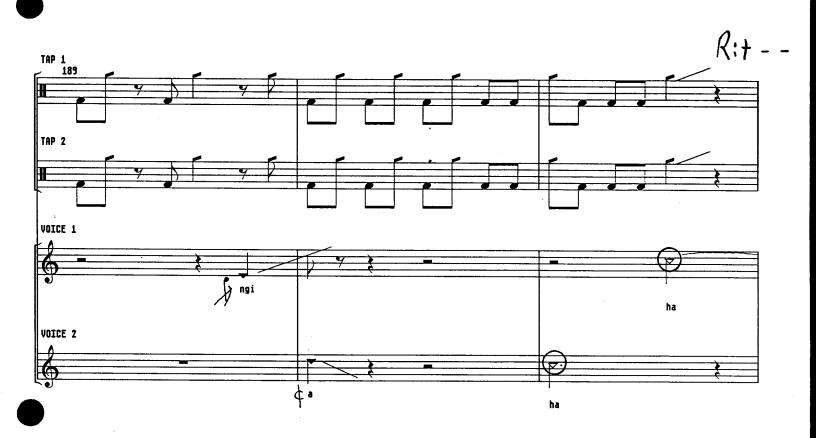










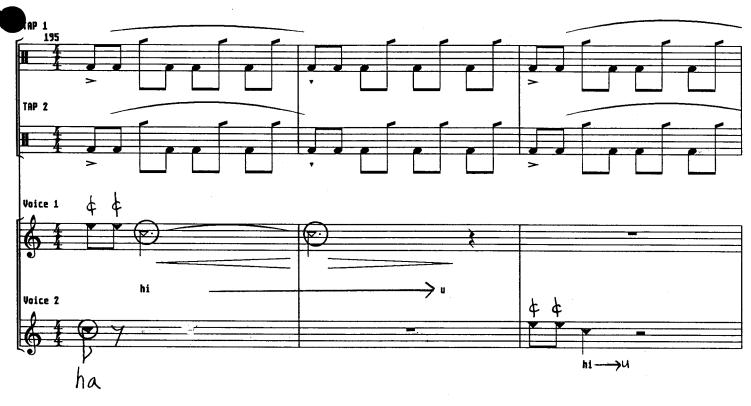


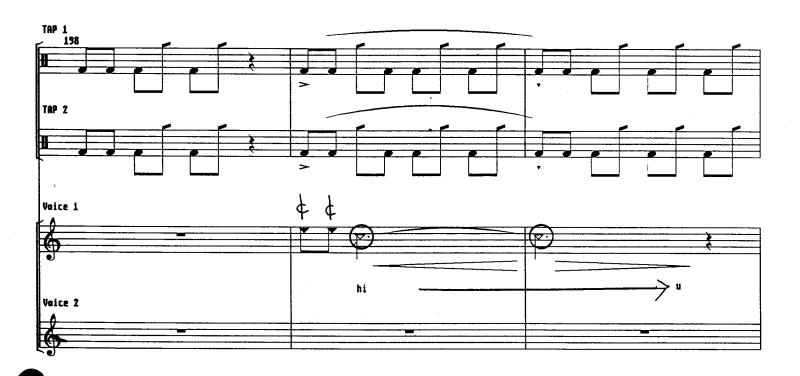


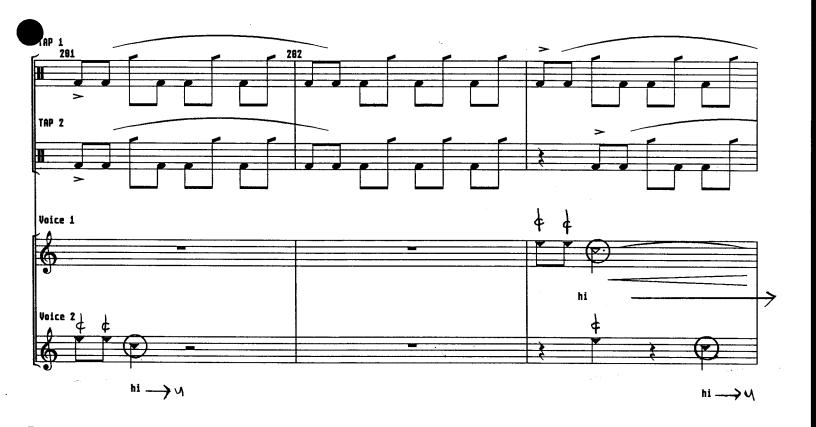


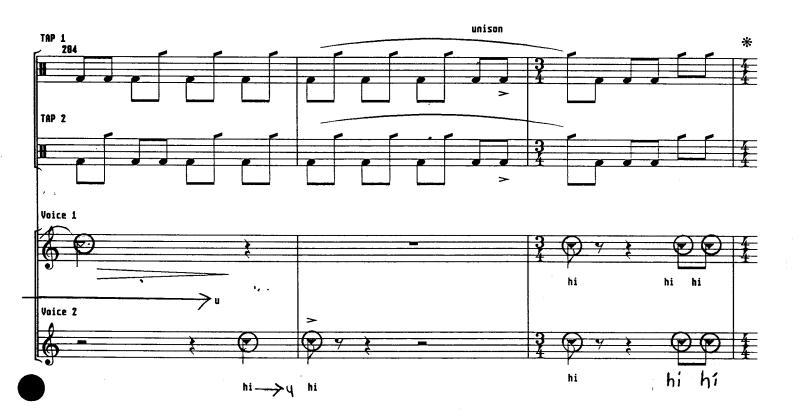
* Click only. No voiced sound.

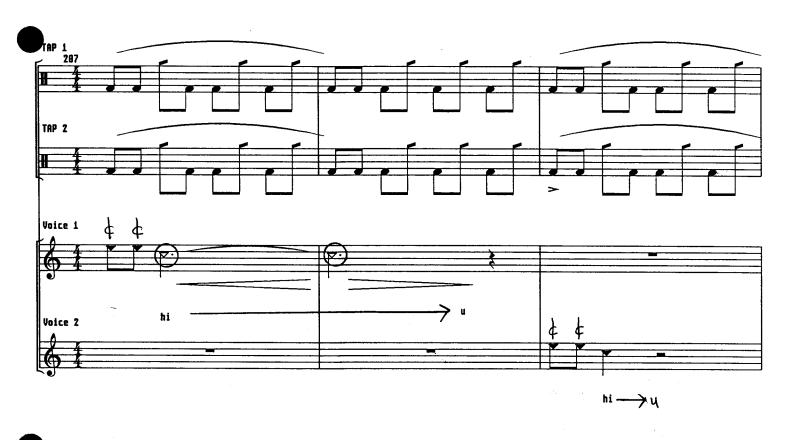


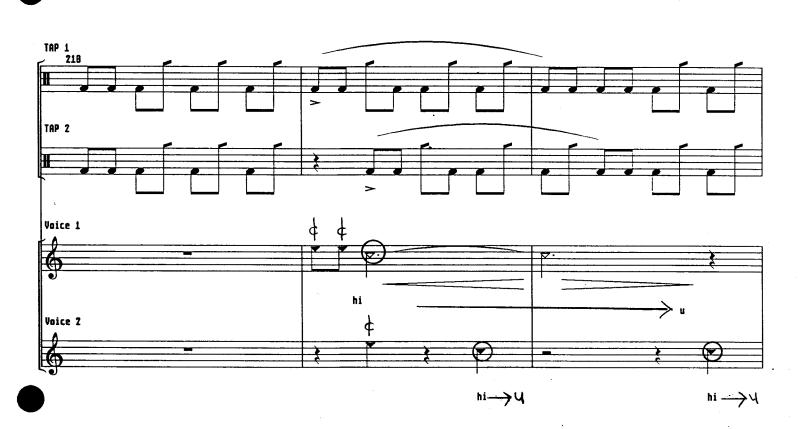


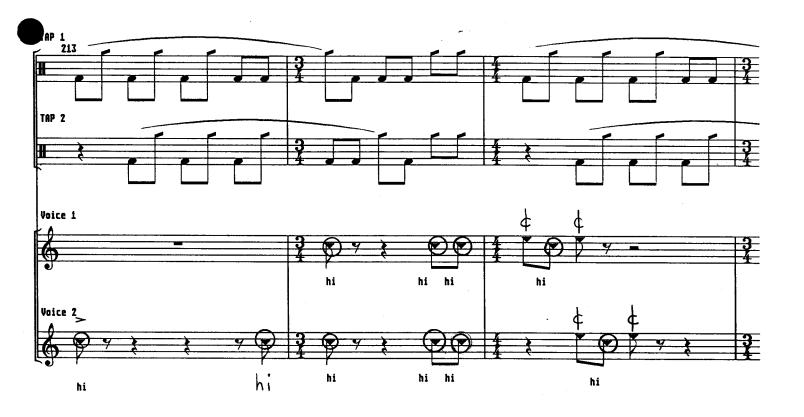


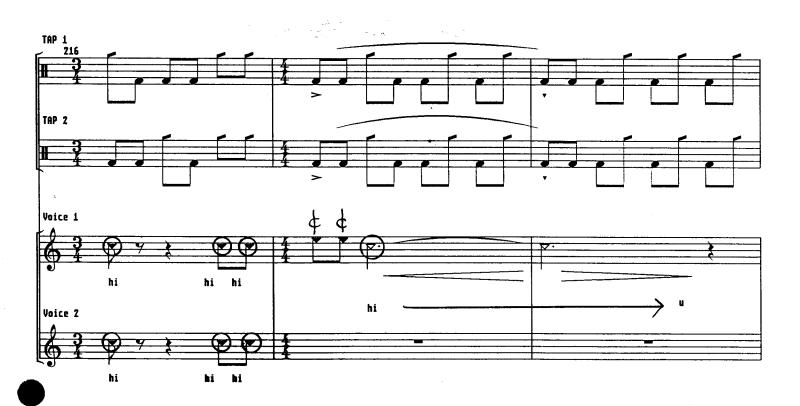


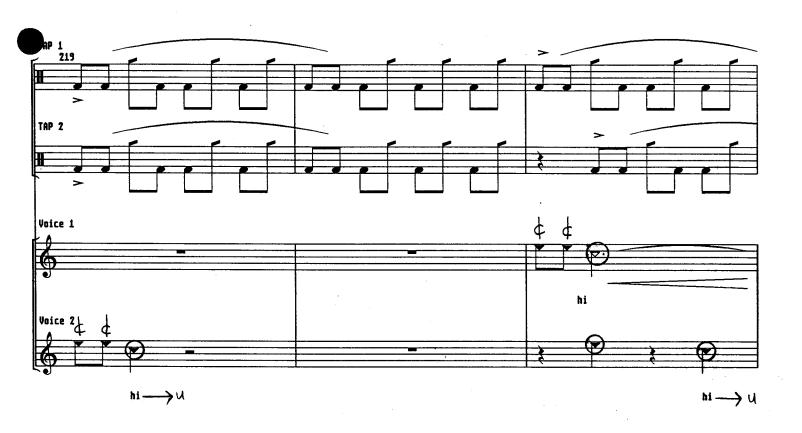


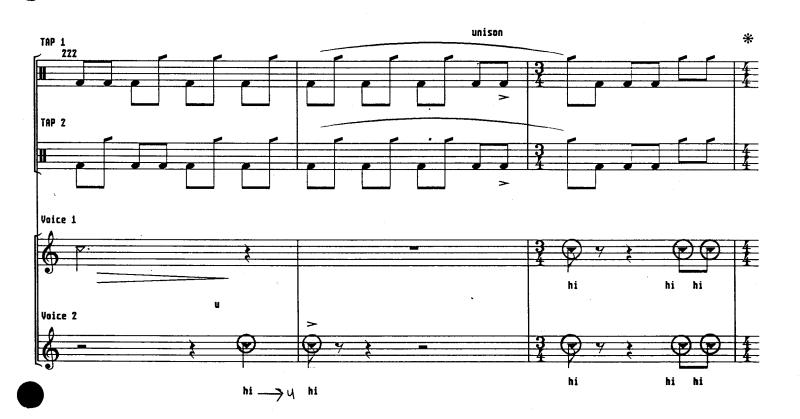


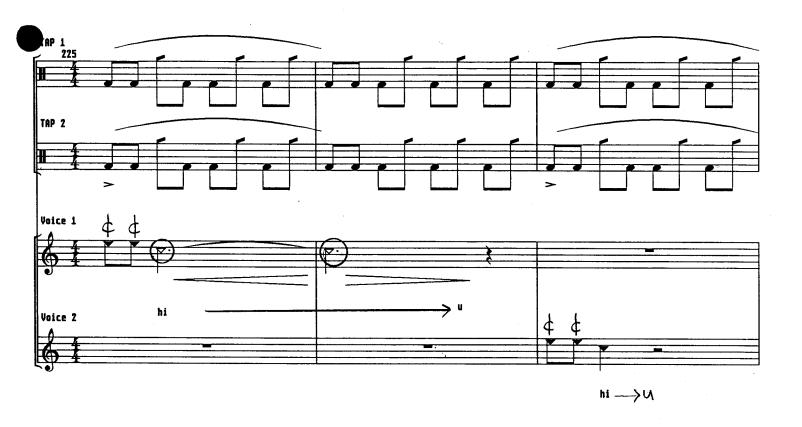


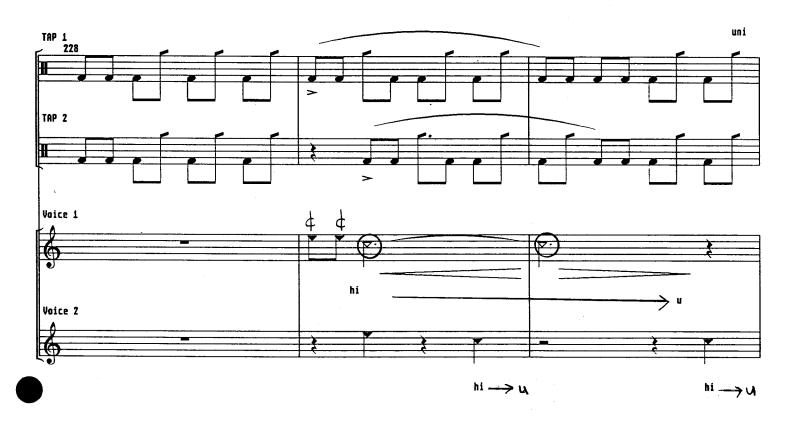


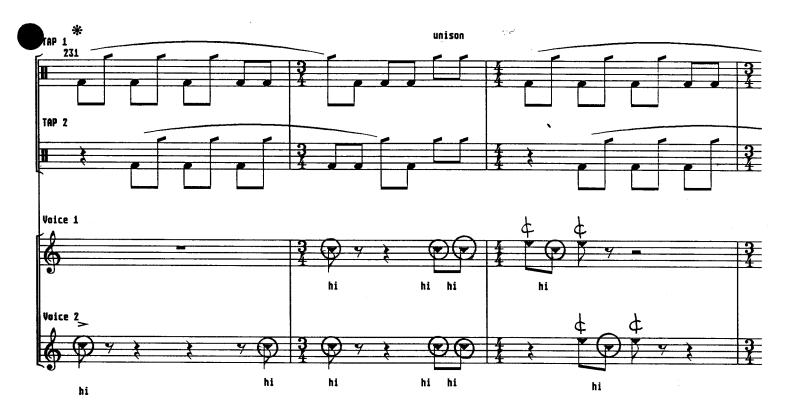


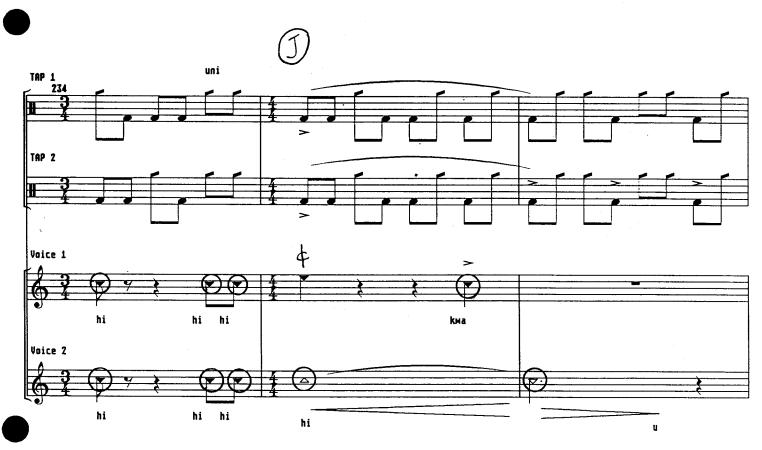


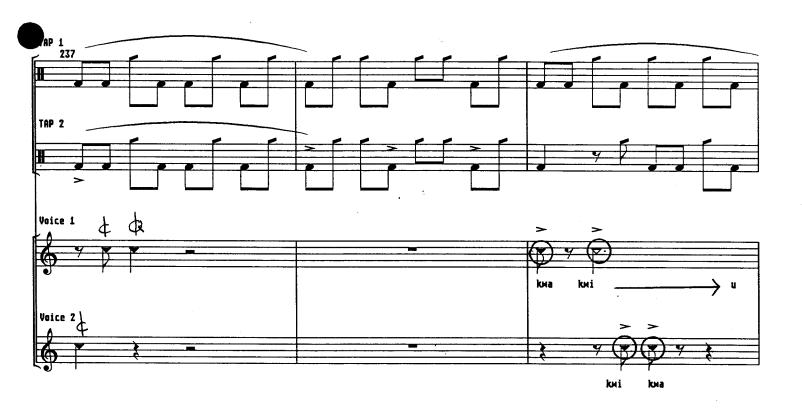


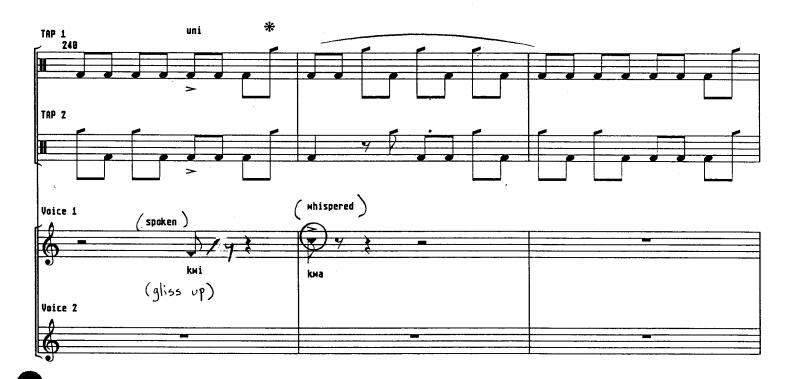


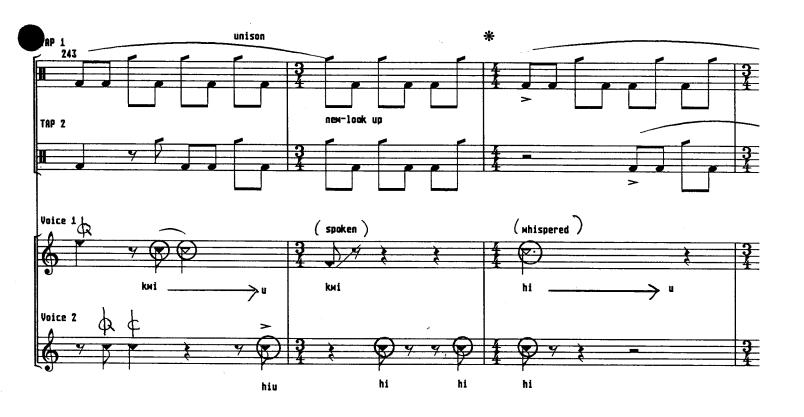


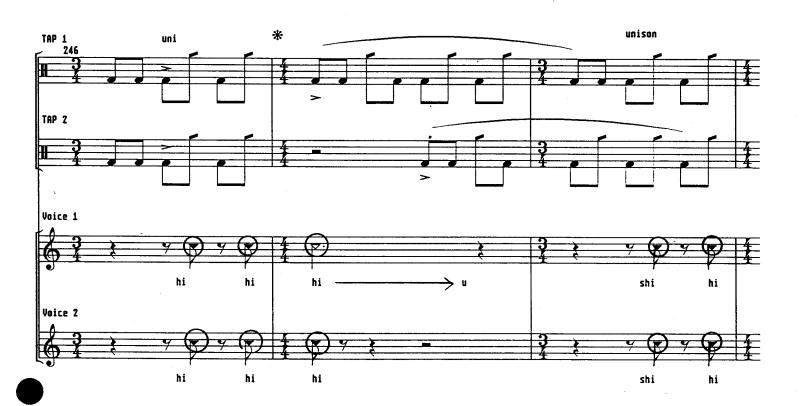


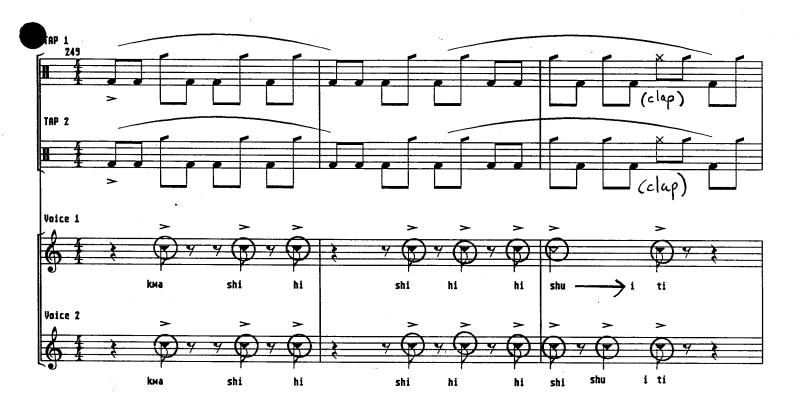


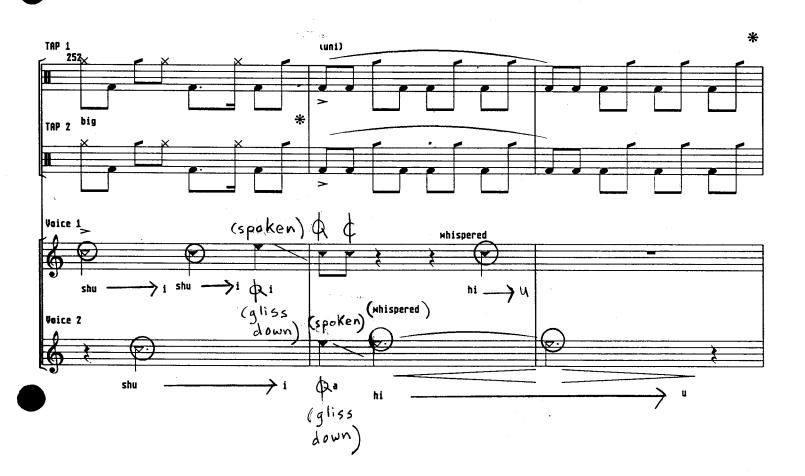


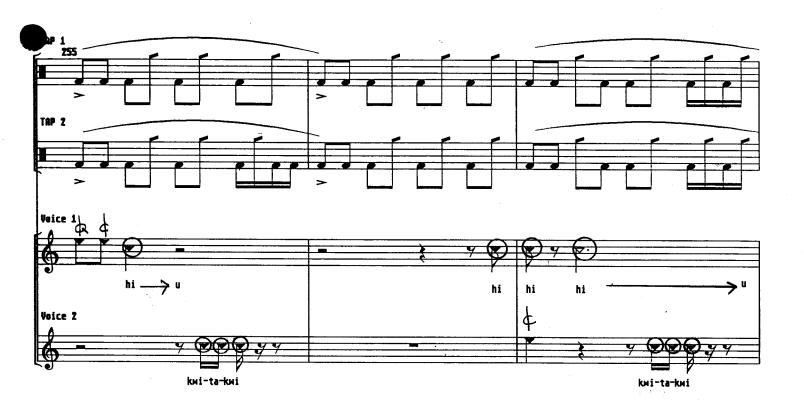


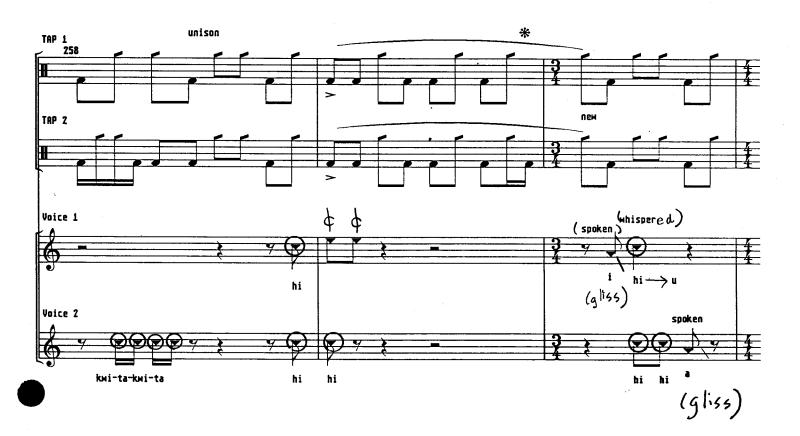


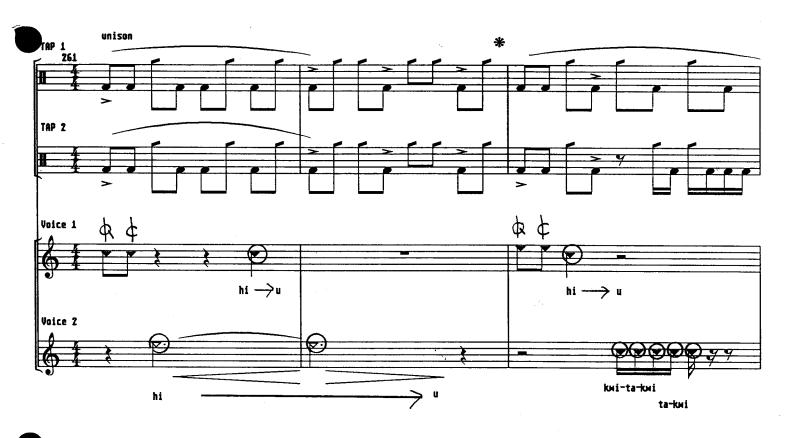


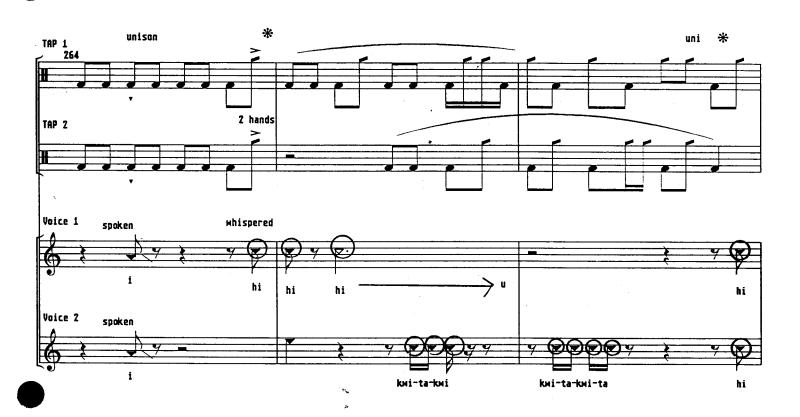


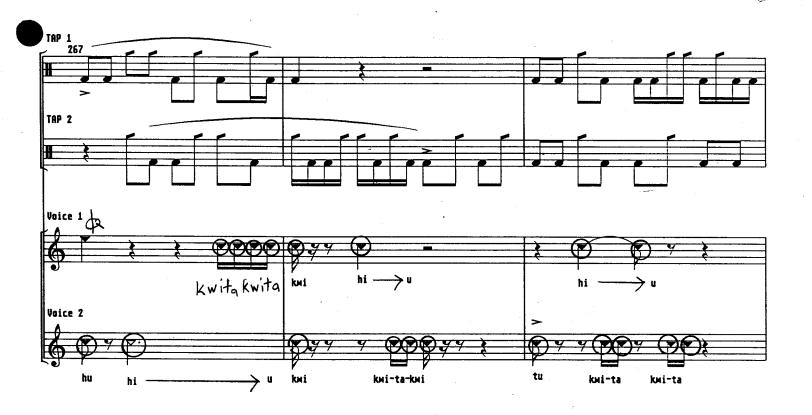


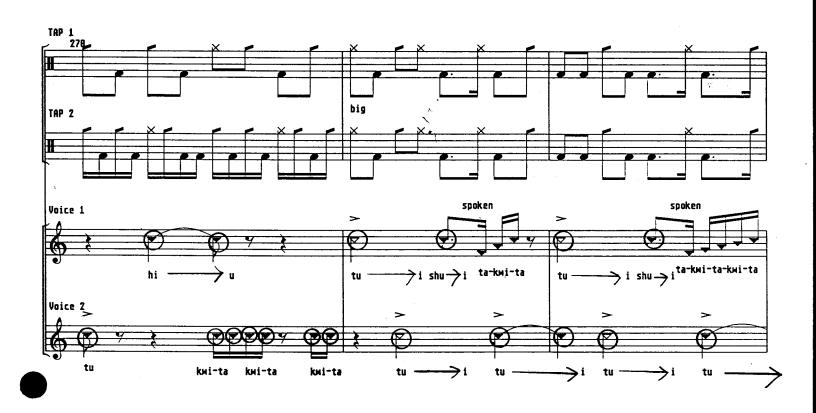


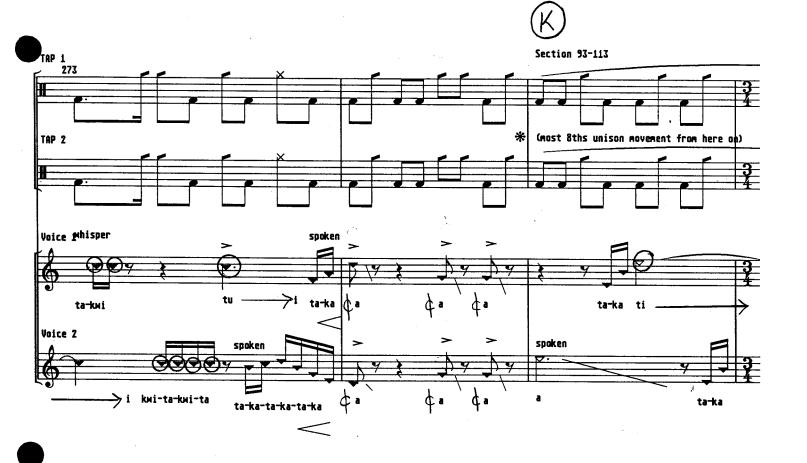


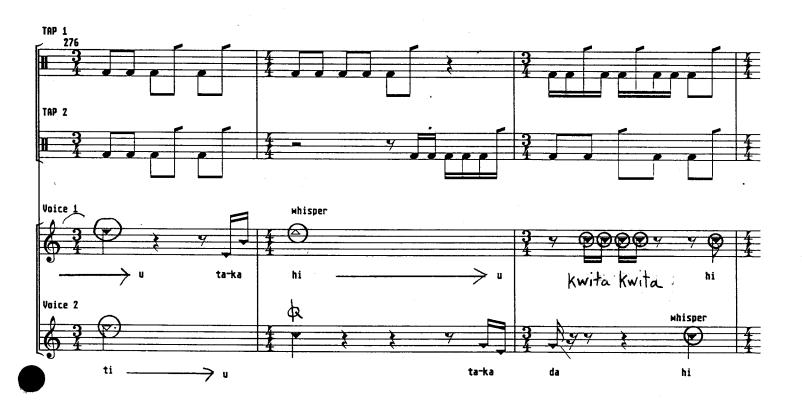


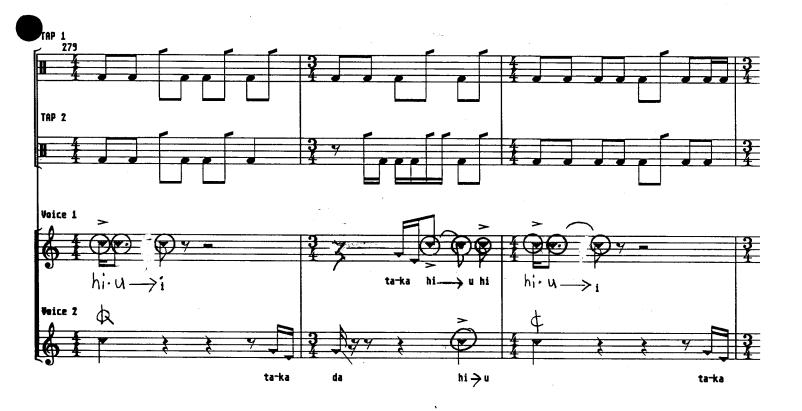


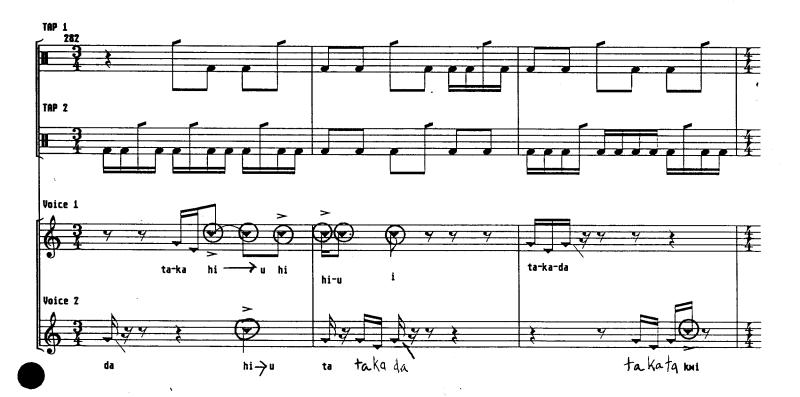


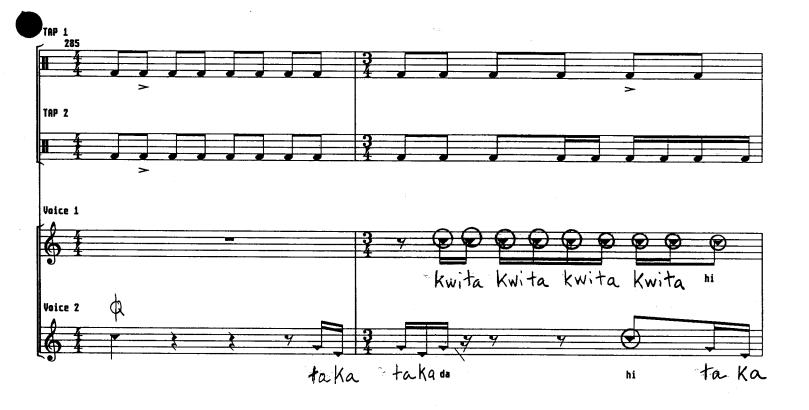


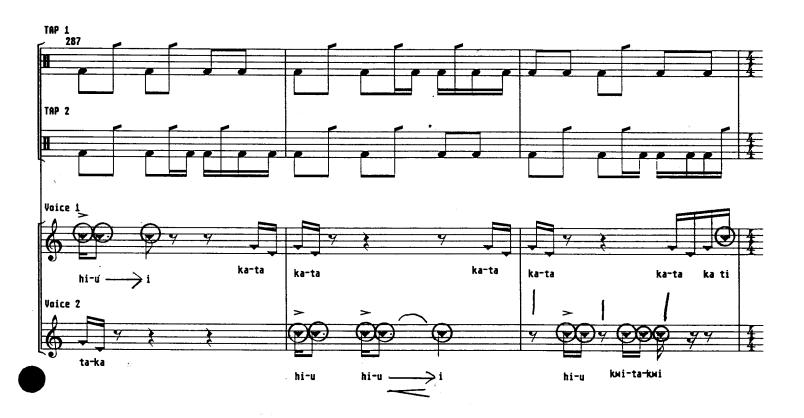


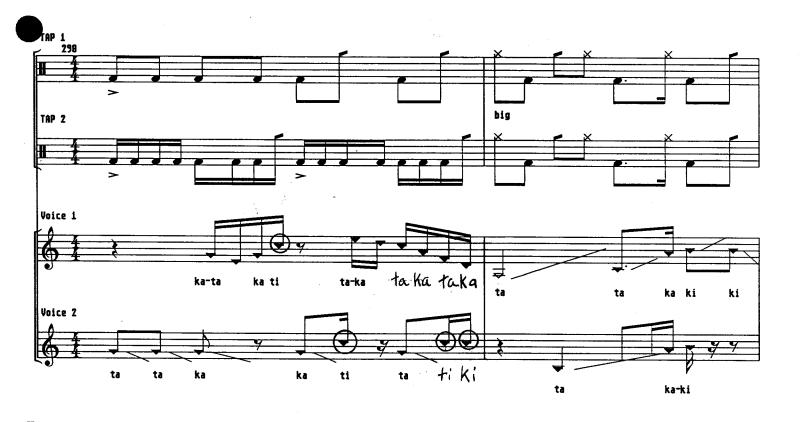


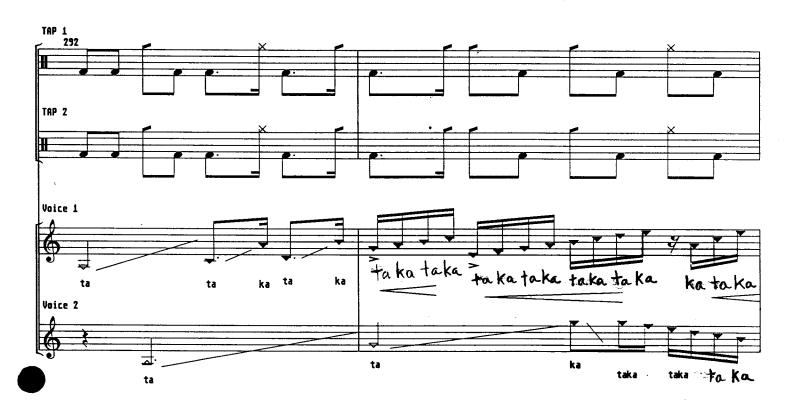


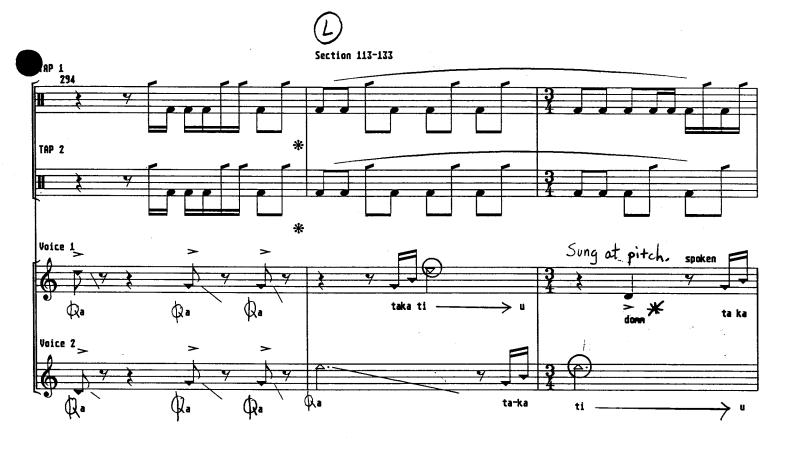


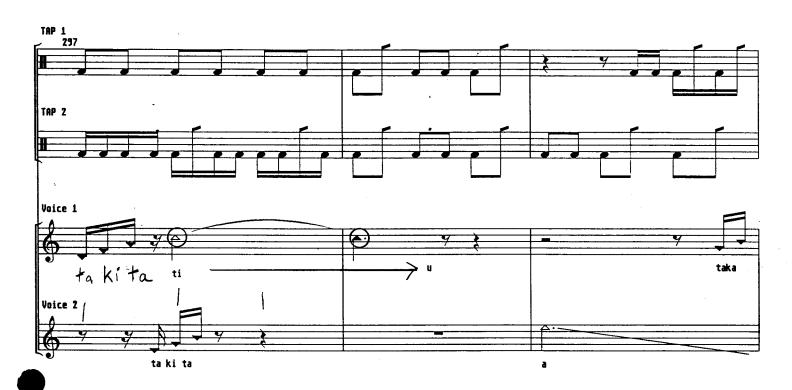




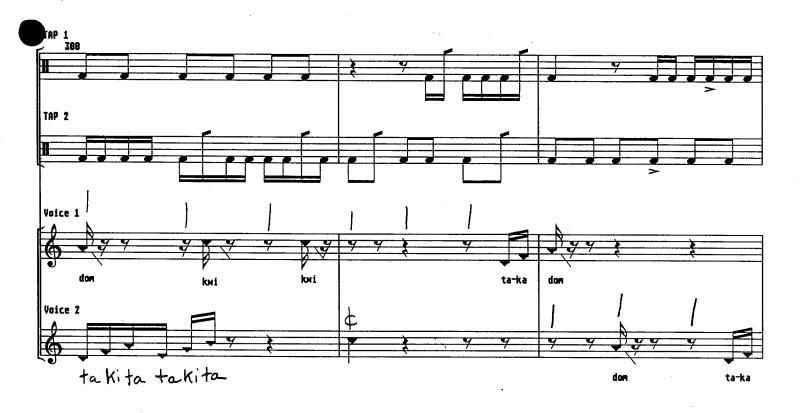


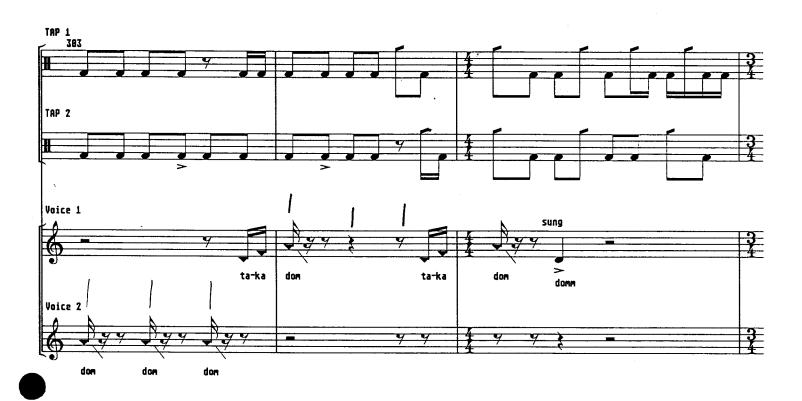


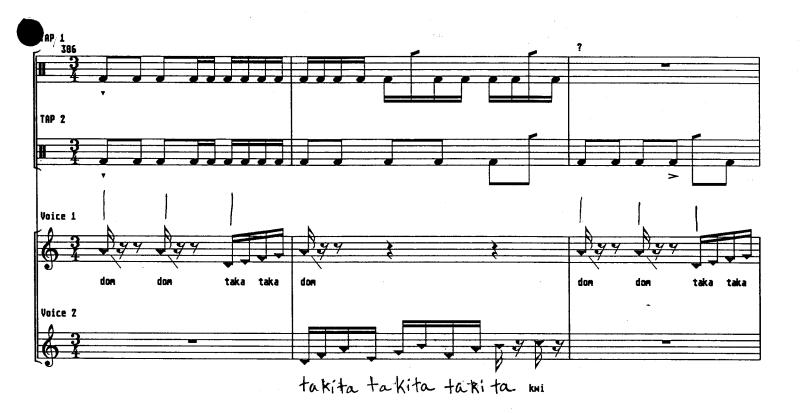


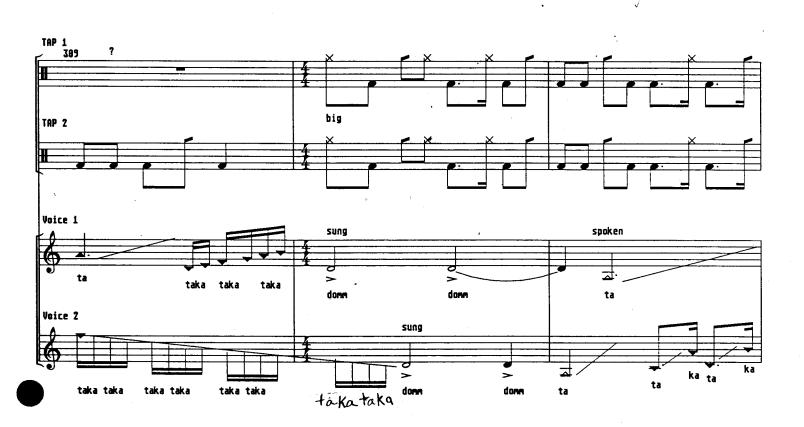


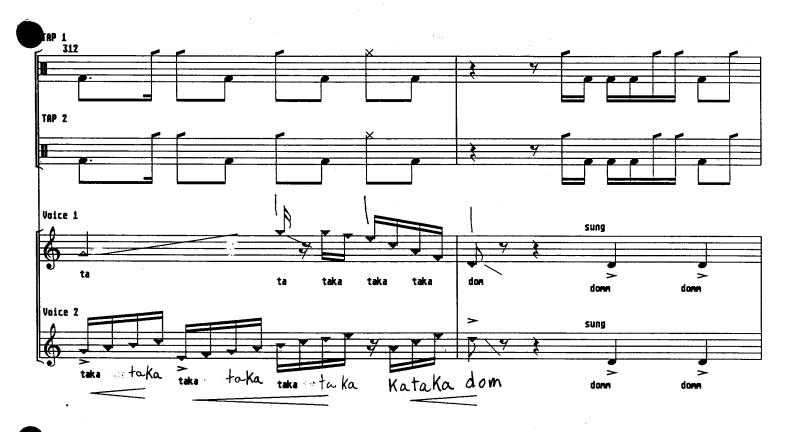
* For each "domm" sung syllable, make vowel short, then hum the pitch.

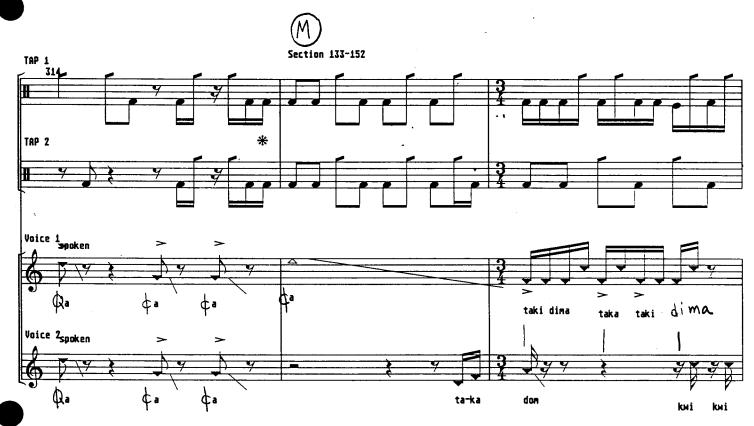




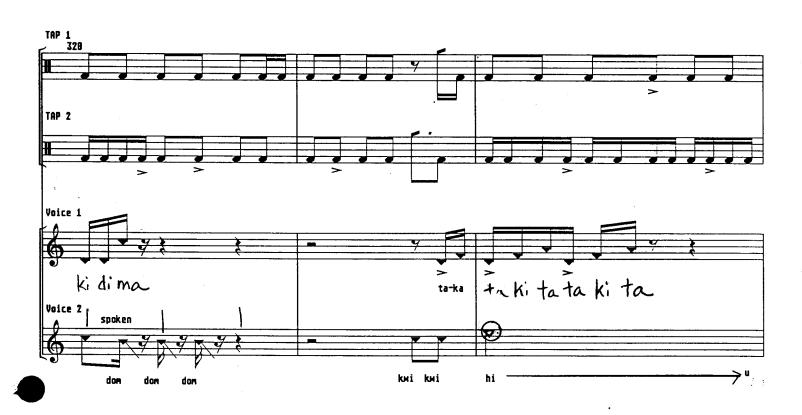


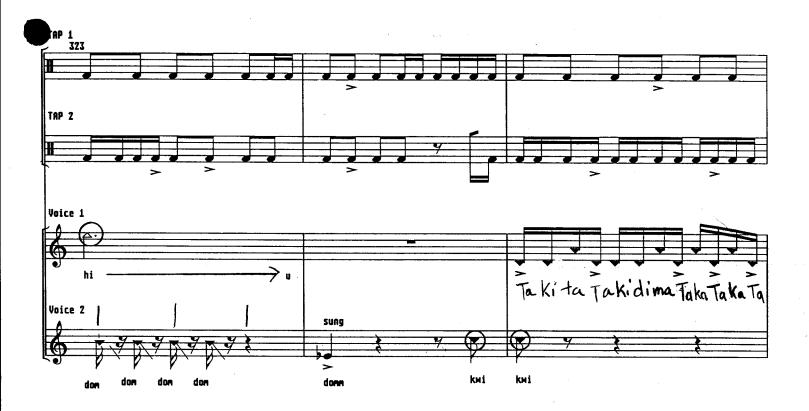


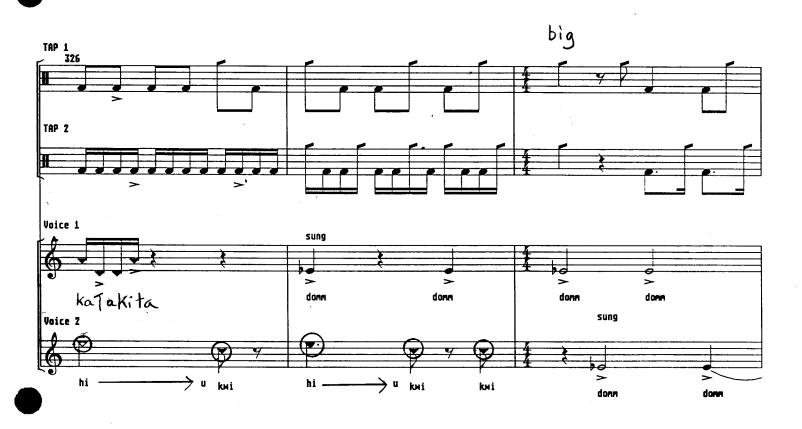




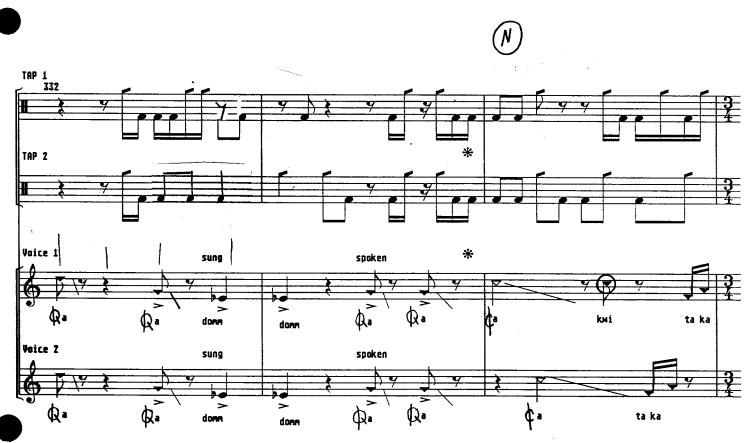


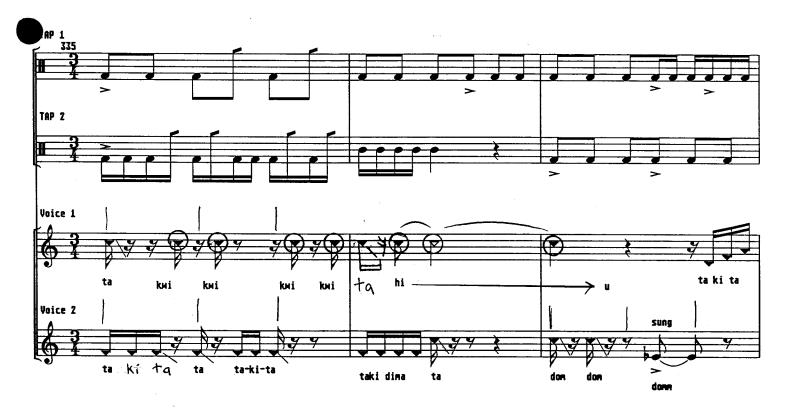


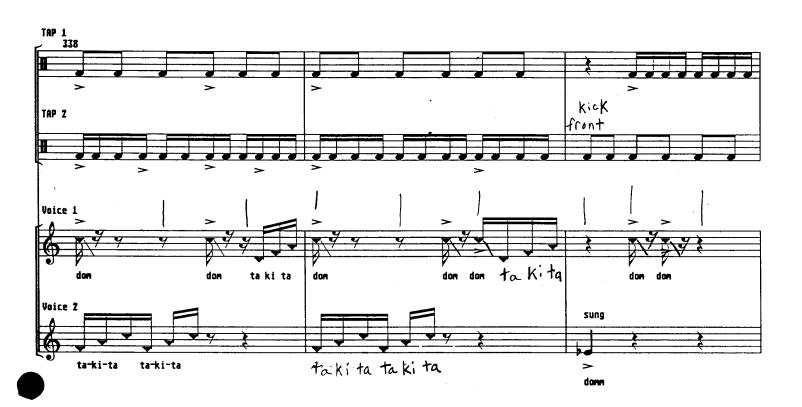


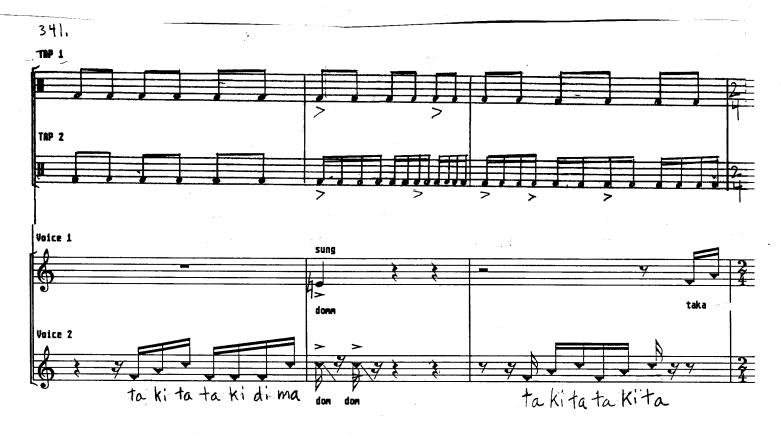










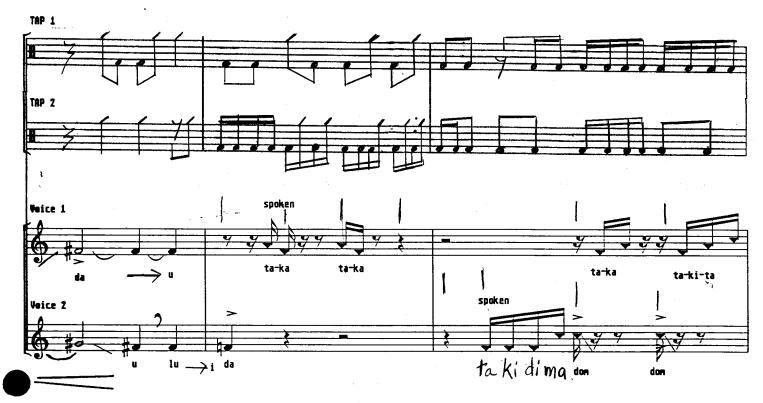


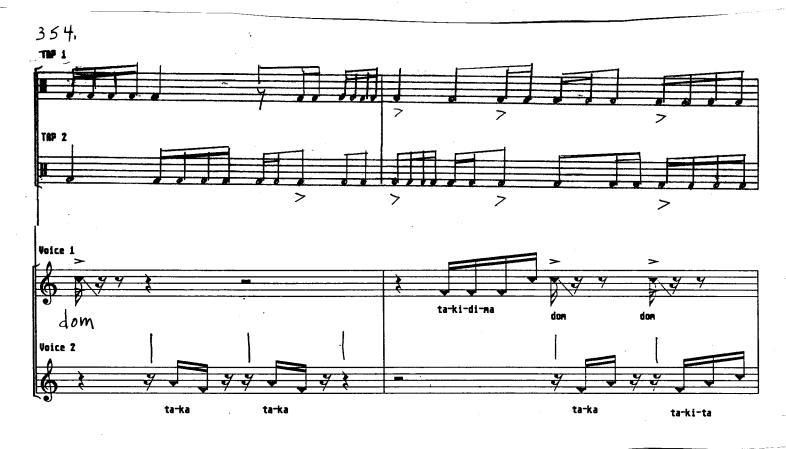


348.



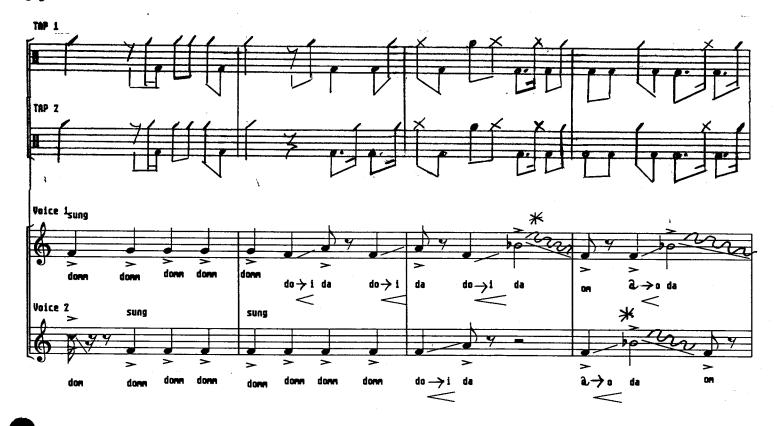
351.











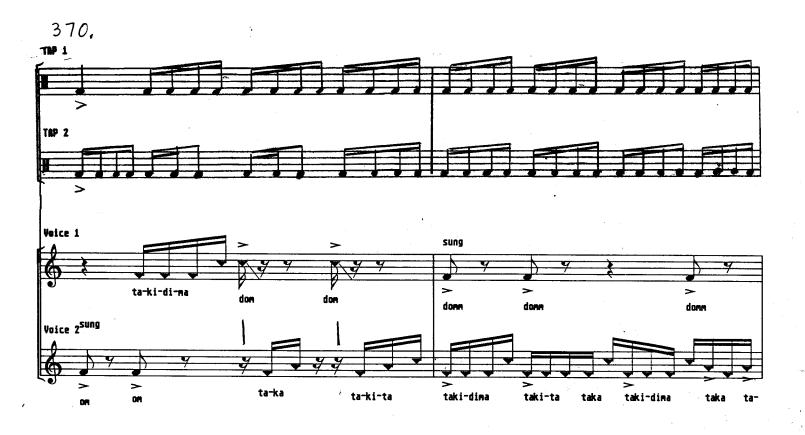


*extremely wide vibrato







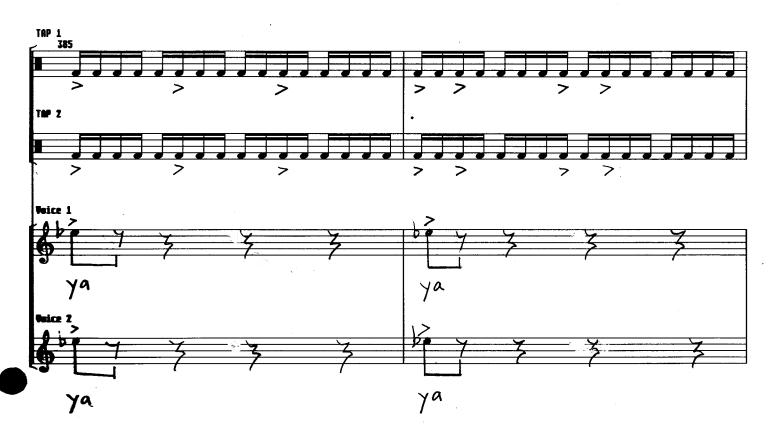






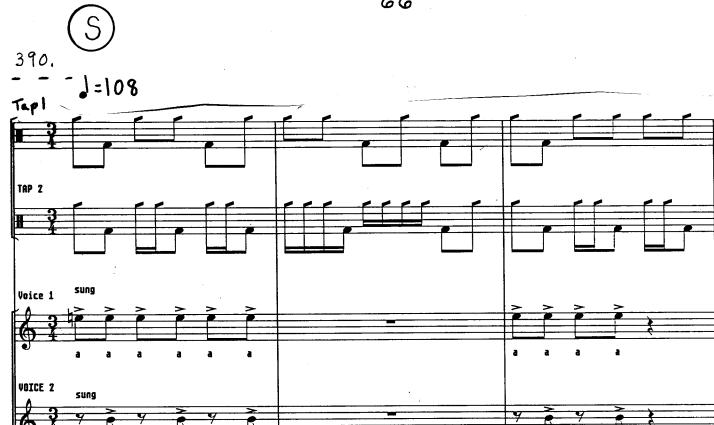


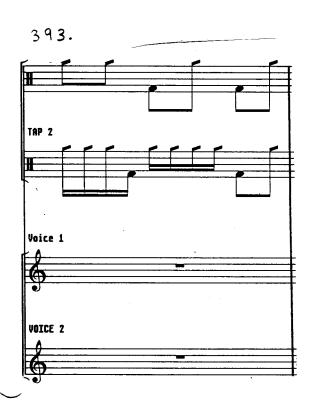




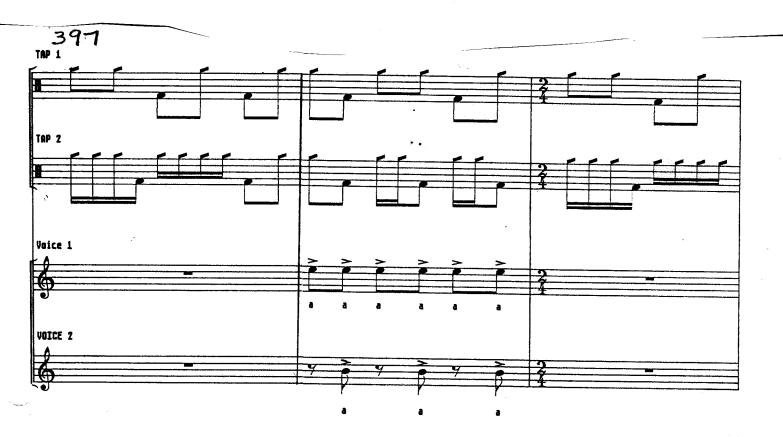
387.



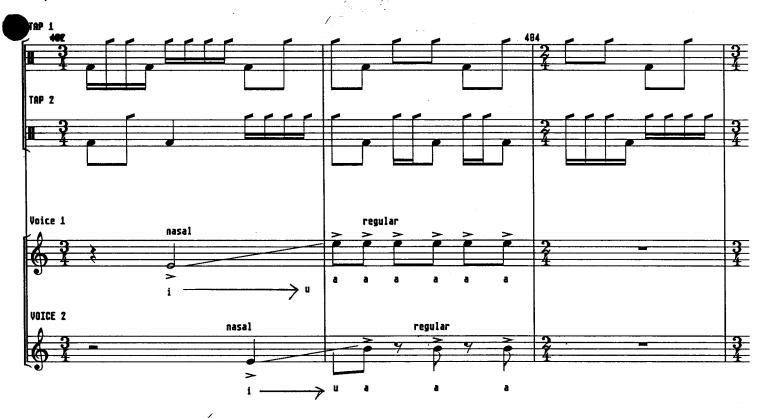


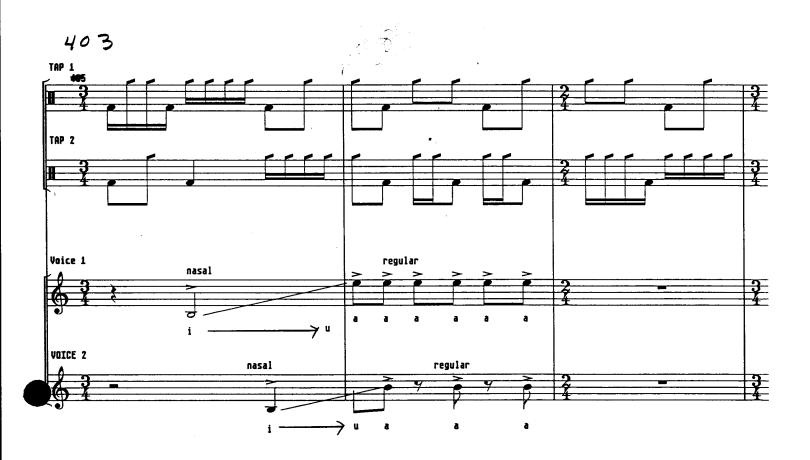


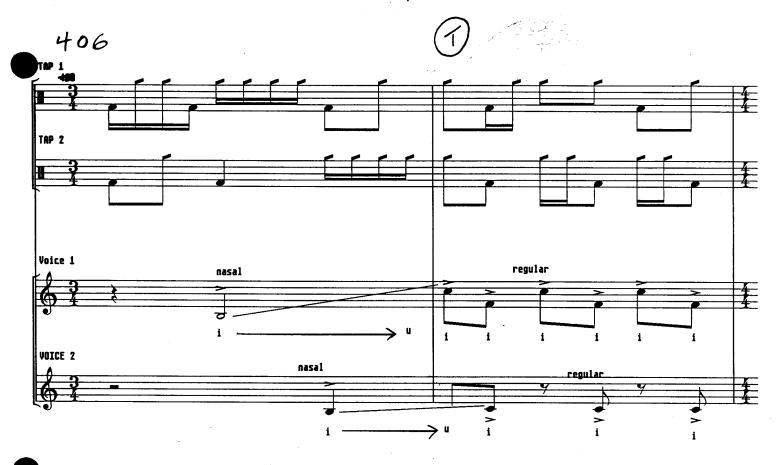


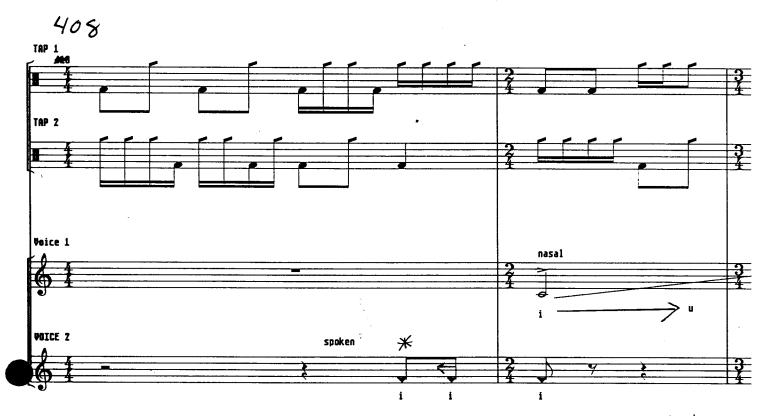




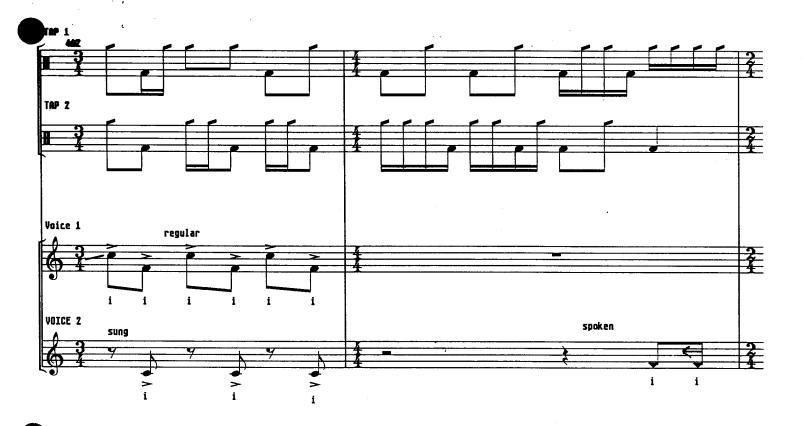


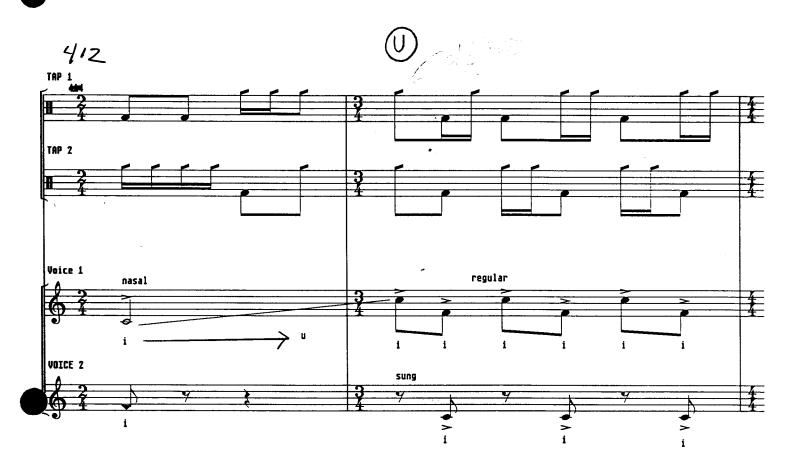




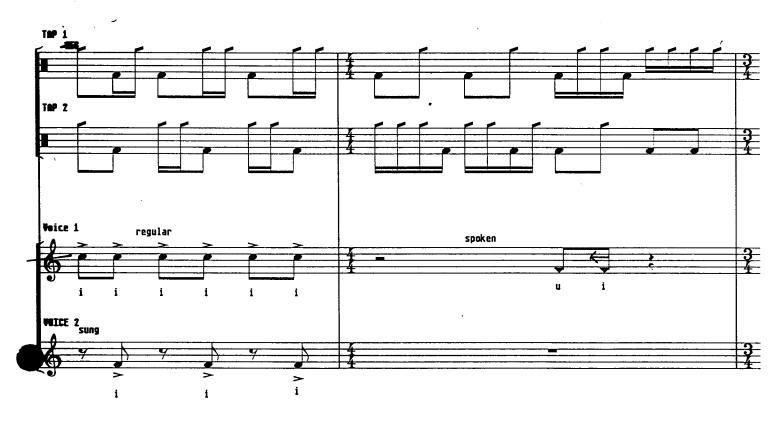


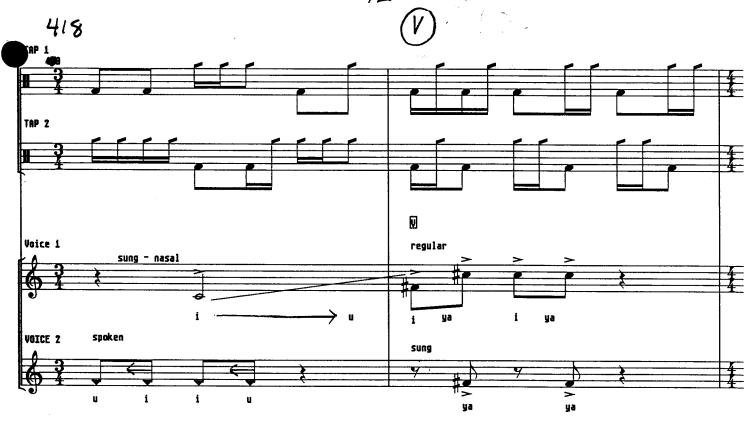
*(Unspecified pitches.) Allow pitch to rise naturally on the inhale.

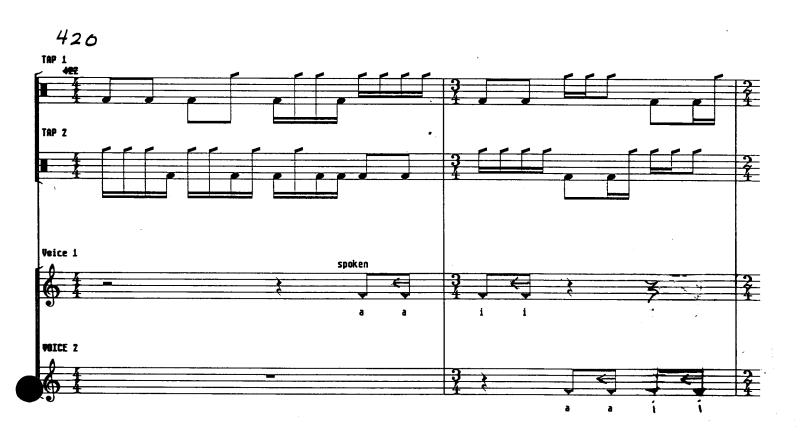




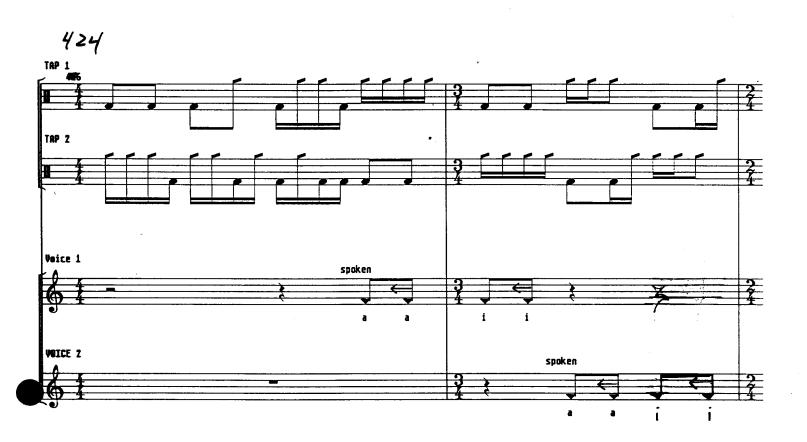


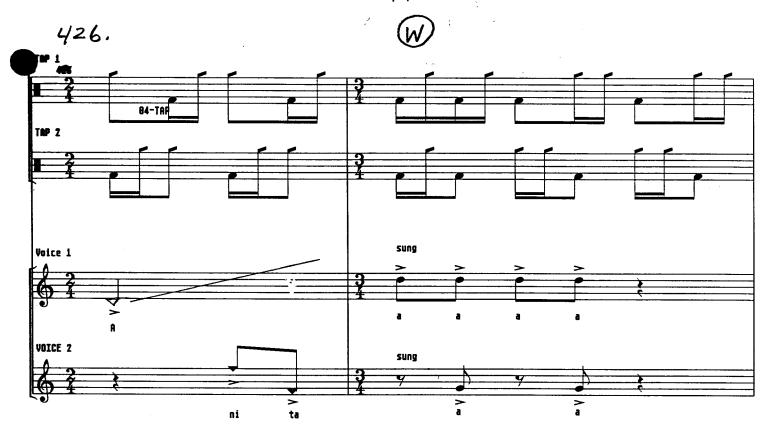


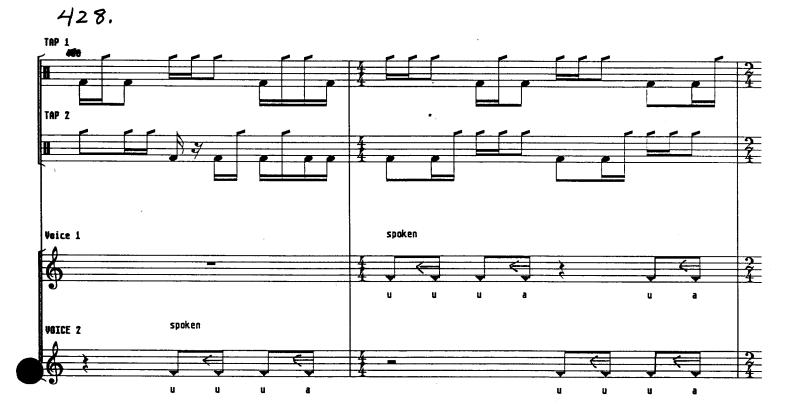


















No-

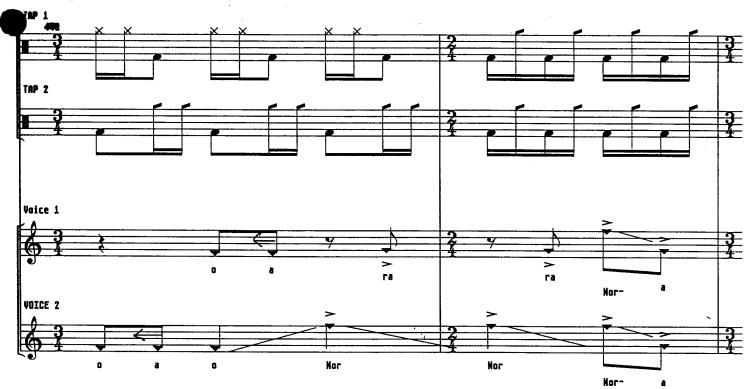
gu-

tu-

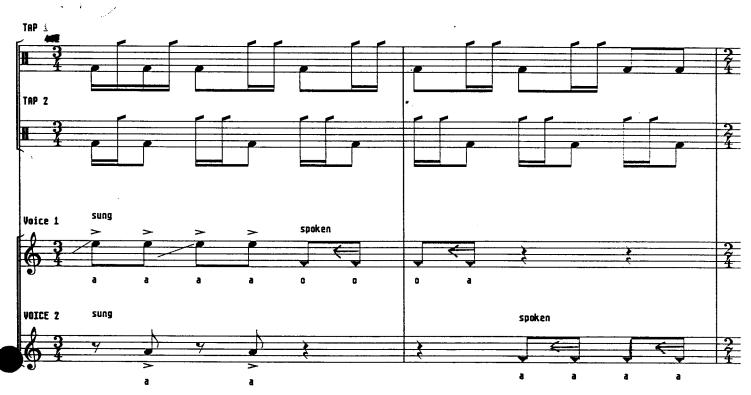
la



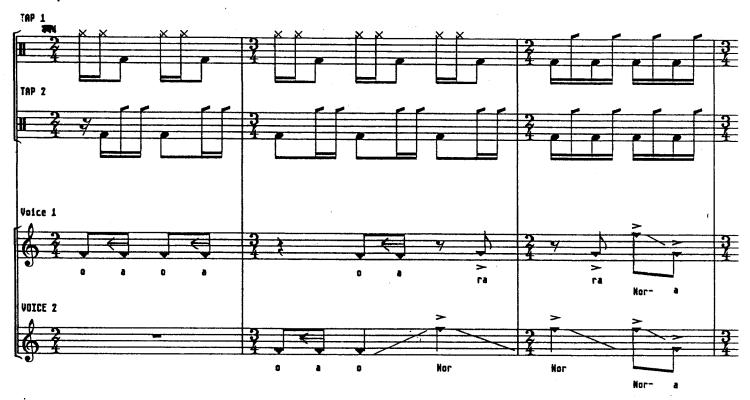


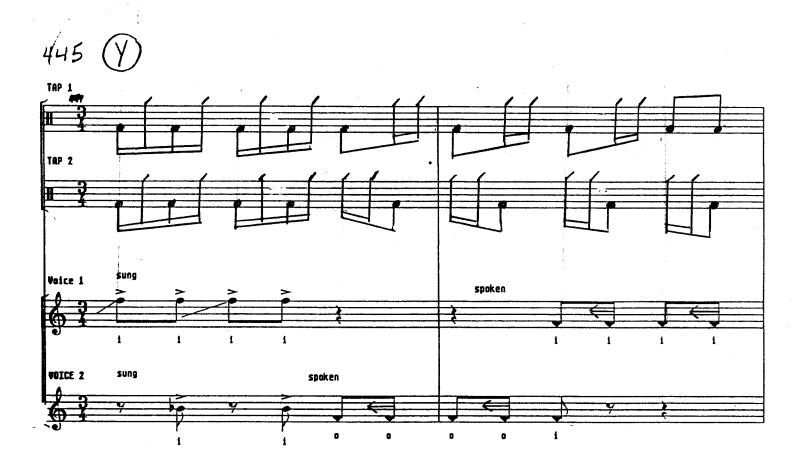




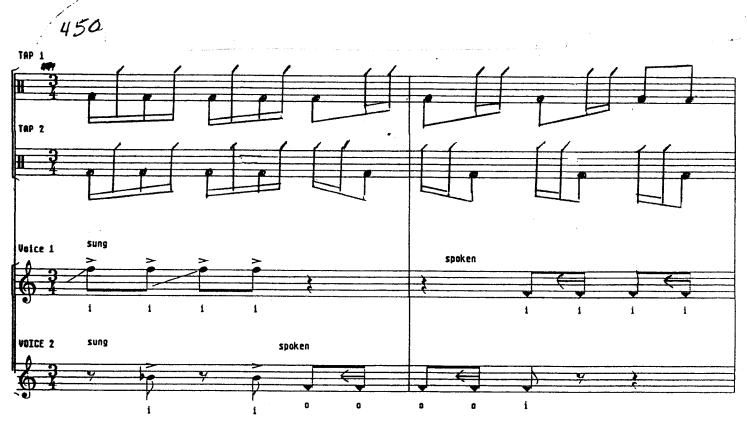






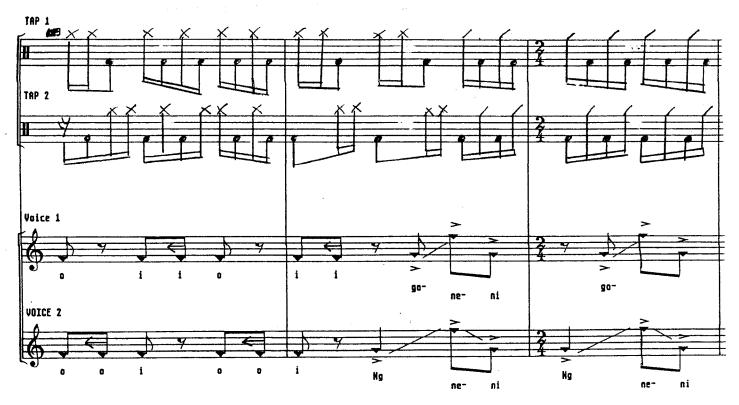


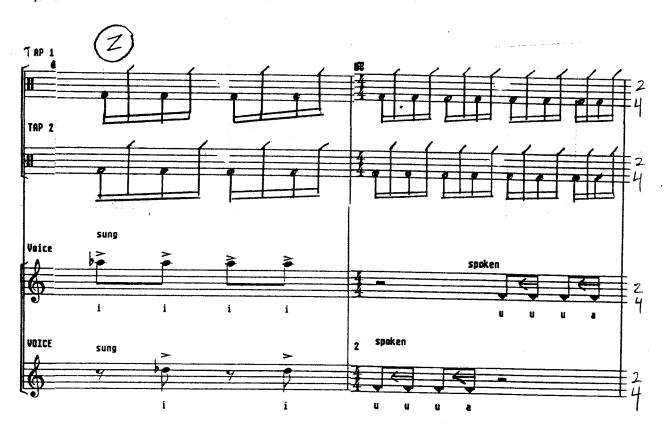




* No grace note. "Ng" is right on the beat,

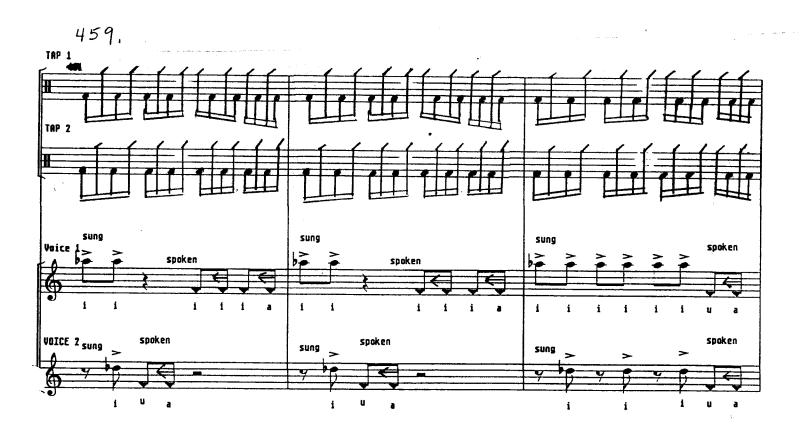












462.

