

# ACO MUSIC & ART

## Lesson Seven: Notation

Additional Notes for teachers, parents and students

### Traditional Music Notation

Traditional music notation is essentially a universal language, used by musicians all over the globe. It generally consists of dots, or “note heads” placed on different parts of a set of horizontal lines called a “stave” and is always read left-right like a book. Each line, dot and word having a very specific meaning. This is advantageous, because it allows composers to be very specific with what they would like the musicians to play. See below some examples of “traditional” notation.

#### L.V. Beethoven – Rondo Capriccio for Piano

170

RONDO A CAPRICCIO

Edited by Moritz Moszkowski

LUDWIG van BEETHOVEN, Op. 129 (1793-1827)

Allegro vivace

PIANO

#### G. Mahler – Symphony No. 1, “The Titan”

SYMPHONIE N<sup>o</sup>. 1

I. Gustav Mahler

Langsam, Schleppehd. Wie ein Nibelung. Più mosso

1. 2. Flöte

Piccolo (a. Flöte)

1. Oboe

Engl. Horn (a. O.)

1. Clarinette in B

2. Clarinette in B

Bassclarinette in B (a. Clar.)

1. 2. Fagott

1. Violine

2. Violine

Viola

Violoncello

in drei

gleichen Theilen

Contrabasse

in drei

gleichen Theilen

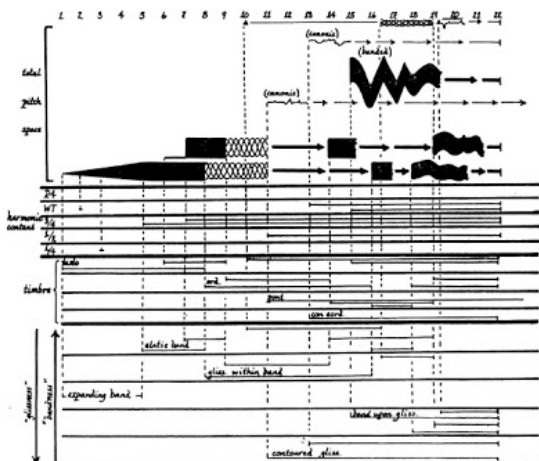
Langsam, Schleppehd. Più mosso

Anmerkung für den Dirigenten: Diese Zeichen er muss sehr deutlich wahrnehmbar gemacht werden.

## Graphic Notation

Graphic notation (also known as “aleatoric” notation) first emerged in the 1950s, pioneered by renowned 20th century composer John Cage. It is a much less rigid form of notation and is very subjective. As you have done with your own score, most graphic scores come with a “key” as a direction for the musicians performing. Some graphic scores are heavily influenced by traditional notation. For example:

K. Penderecki – “Threnody to the Victims of Hiroshima” for an orchestra of 50 string players (listen here)

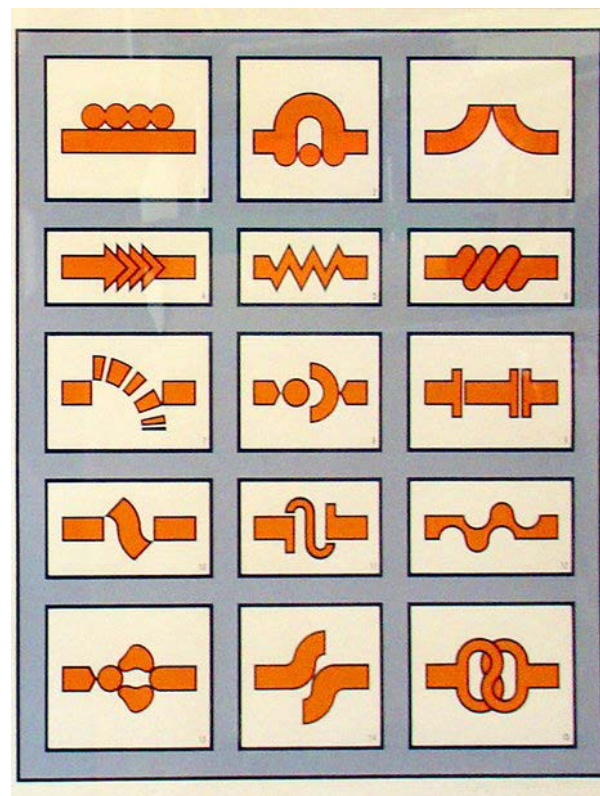


Graphic scores vary greatly as there is no right or wrong way to create a graphic score. Here are some more examples:

McQueen – “Picnic” for violin, oboe and bass guitar



Phillips – “Ornamentik” for trombone(s)



[Click here](#) to view some examples of some graphic scores created by other students who have completed this course.