für Paul Sacher

Uraufführung: / First performance: Internationales Brucknerfest Linz, 24. September 1983 Heinrich Schiff, Violoncello

Capriccio

per violoncello solo













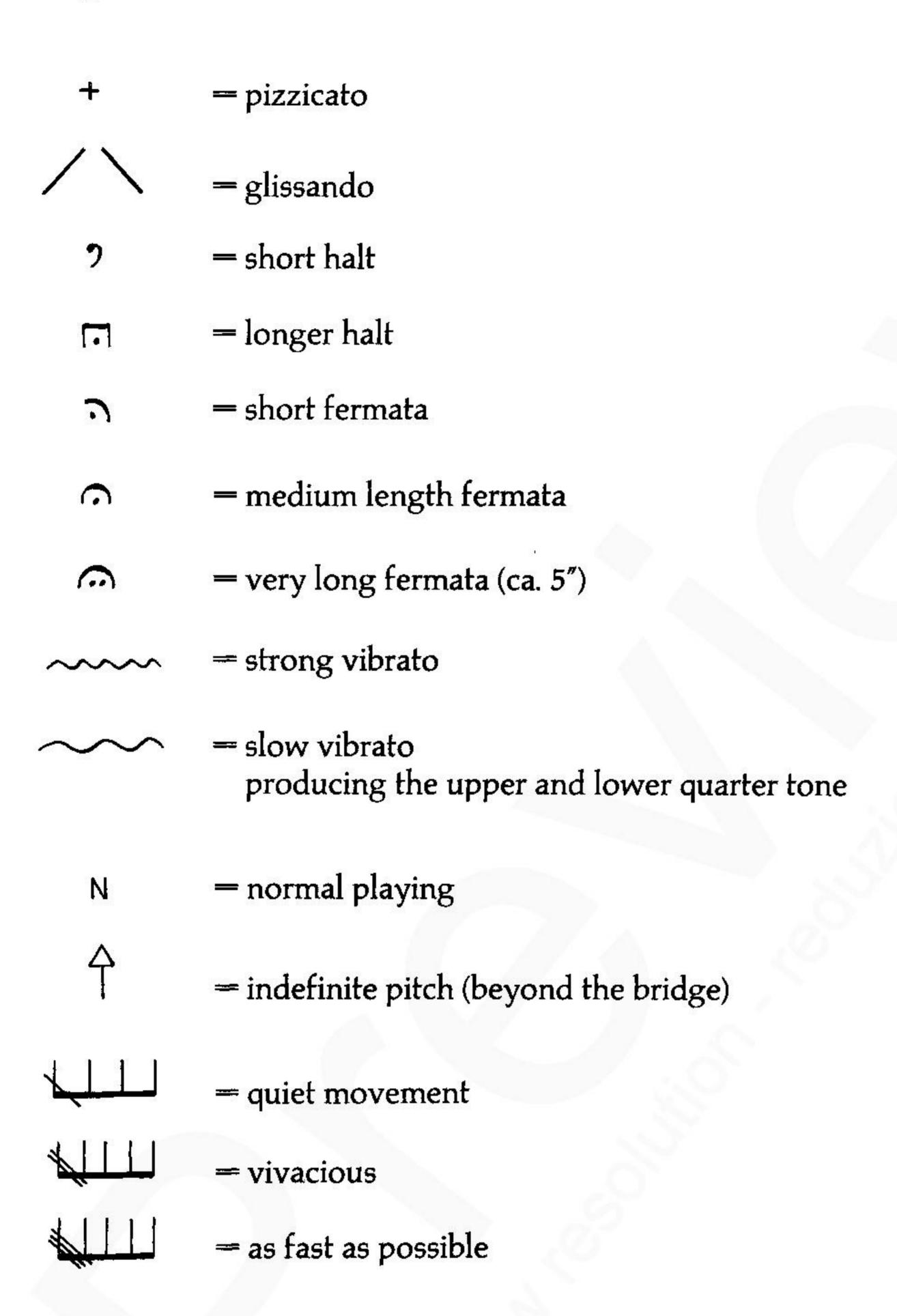




The form of this composition is clearly recognizable: The listener might here recall the ancient (French) overture with its slow introduction and fast middle section (largely fugal in the past), and even the calm opening appears again at the end, as if to serve at least as a reminiscence of the old form. A little scene from a play, a staged nocturne, now unfolds beneath this arch, beginning with a song-like pastorale of serenade; it is evening, surely, the guitars are busy, and so are the tenors and the lovers. The serenade merges into a violent speech dealing with various contrasting subjects, all jumbled up, shaken about in kaleidoscopic fashion; throughout the music is restless, excited, faun-like, dancing, gesticulating, walking the tightrope, and continually moving, apparently, towards yet another unforeseen goal. In the centre of the action are the notes EFLATACBE(R)- since E flat is Es of S, and B is H in German, the notes form the name SACHE(R). They are more or less recognizable as such and appear as they might in a rondo, manifesting themselves in the most varied forms and continually changing into different constellations. These notes are intended to remind us of Paul Sacher, the conductor and patron of the arts, and part of the Capriccio was written for his seventieth birthday on 28 April 1976. The present concert version is an elaborated form of the work.

Hans Werner Henze

Legend



The accidental applies to one note only, except for tied notes.