Programme Note

Commissioned with funds provided by the Michael Tippett Foundation, and lasting around 12 minutes, *Senedd Sound* was first performed on 5 October 2006, on the steps of the Welsh Assembly Building (Senedd) Cardiff Bay by Music Theatre Wales conducted by Michael Rafferty, as part of the *Urban Legacies II: Another New Babylon* conference.

Reflecting the conference theme of the impact of art and architecture on contemporary urban regeneration, I planned a site-specific work, its form arising from the aesthetic of an audience of casual listeners able to engage with the piece at any point. The bold design of Richard Rogers' Senedd building itself, and its surrounding area, were also at the forefront of my mind when composing this piece, suggesting structural ideas and instrumental colours. For example, the shrill extremes of piccolo, clarinet and steel drums suggest glass, while the bass clarinet, trombone and horn provide the stable foundation.

Nonetheless, performance of this piece is not restricted to the location of the premiere. It may be realised in any suitable context where passers-by engage in an impromptu fashion with the music, caught unawares in a non-formal setting.

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Performance Note

Instrumentation:

Piccolo
Clarinet in E♭
Bass Clarinet in B♭
Horn in F
Percussion (1 or 2 players): Glockenspiel, Steel Pans, 2 Woodblocks, Suspended Cymbal, Bass Drum

Trumpet in C
Trombone

Score in C

References to positions 1, 2 and 3 occur at various points in the score. These identify separate areas of the performance space, which can be freely adapted to suit different venues.

Position 3
trumpet (bar 110)

Position 2
piccolo, E♭ clarinet, steel pans (bar 51)

Position 1
conductor, piccolo, E♭ clarinet, bass clarinet, horn, percussion, trumpet, trombone

From letter **F** all the music from the various positions is independently coordinated, but timed to ensure that position 1 (bass clarinet, horn, percussion and trombone) is last to finish. From letter **G** all the players except steel pans again play from the central position (1).

At letter **E** the conductor is requested to double as a percussionist. Alternatively, the main percussion part may be edited as appropriate, or the part may be played by a second percussion player.

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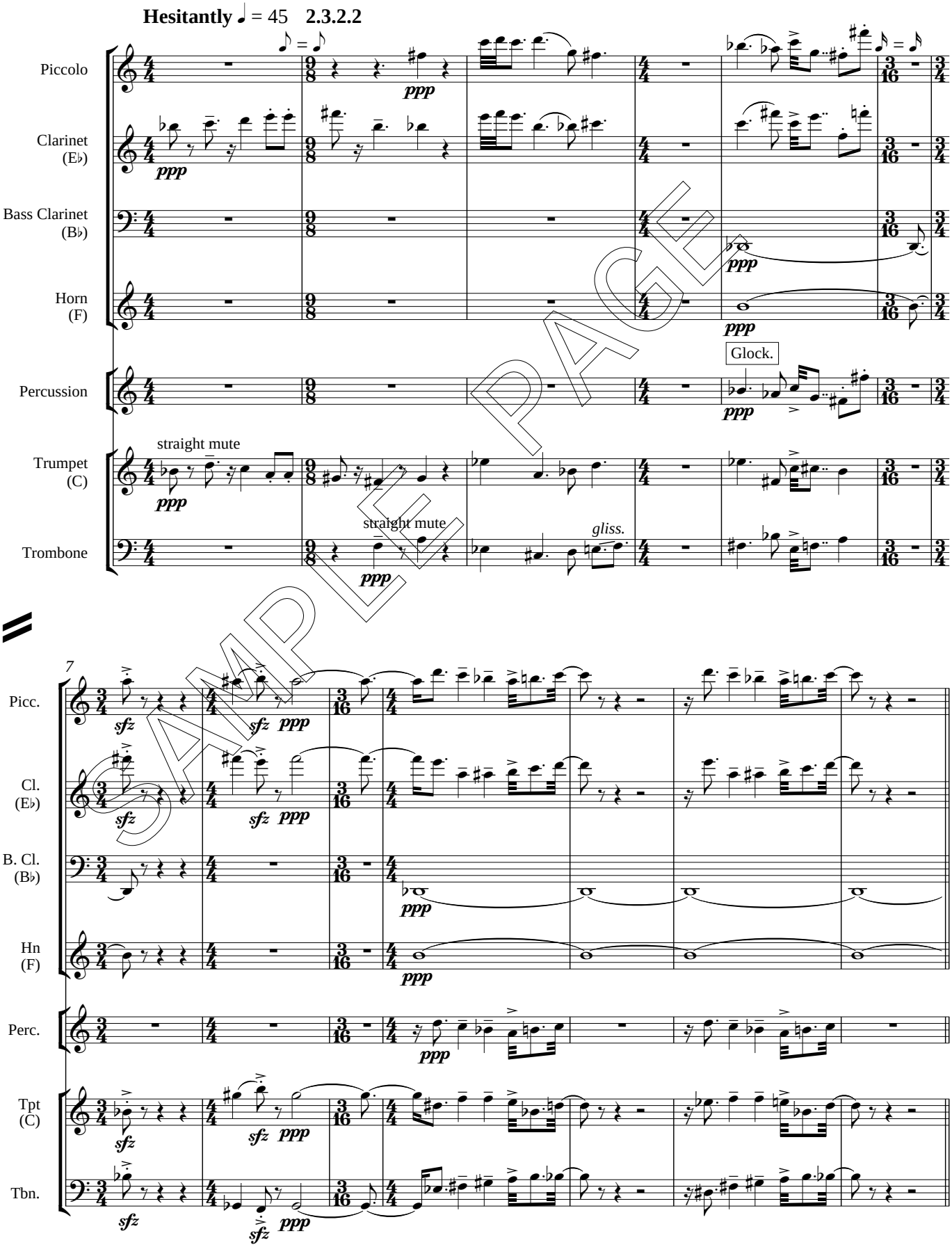
SENEDD SOUND

Morgan Hayes



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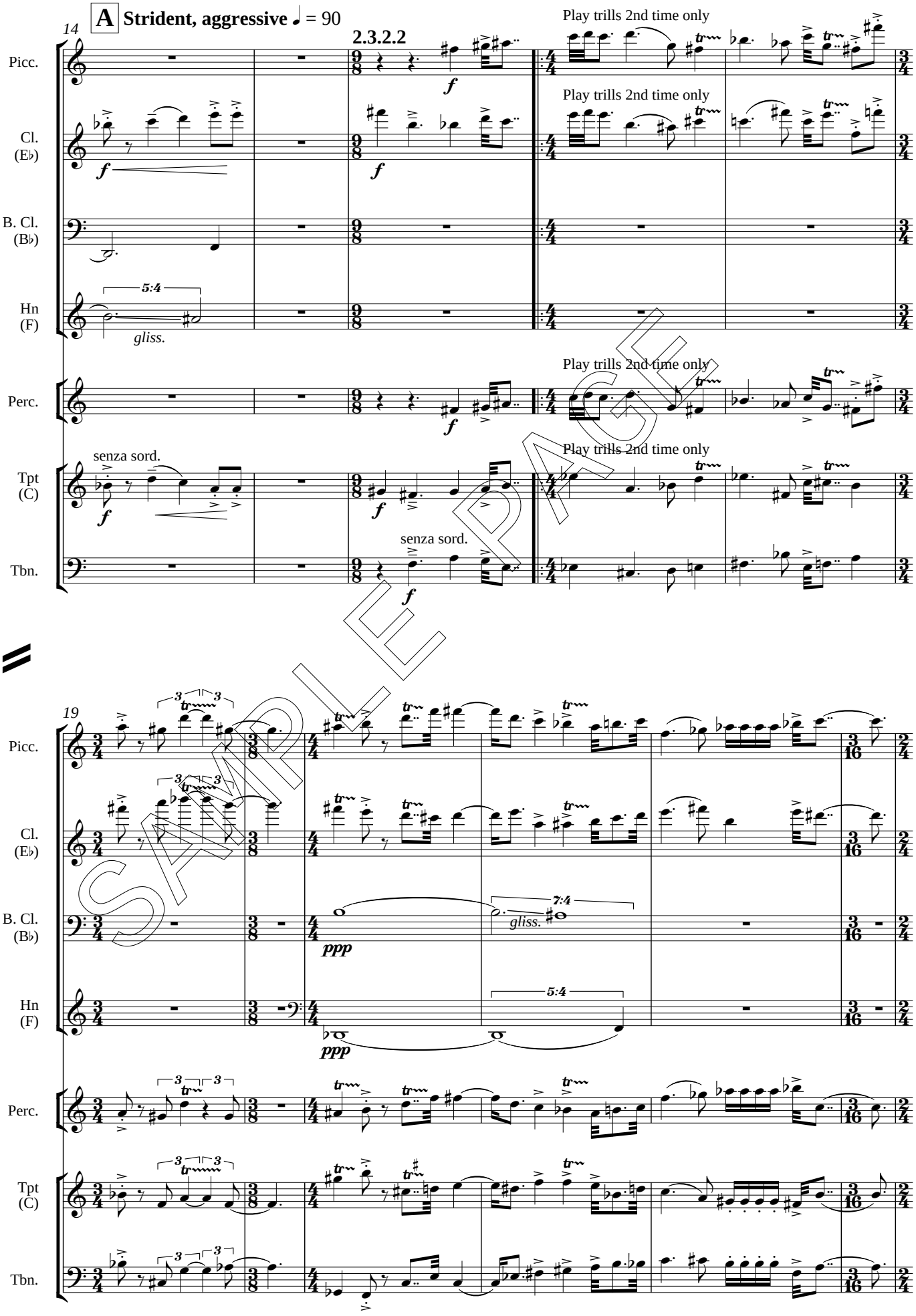

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