MORE NOTES FOR PERFORMERS ON THE SCORE, **TWO THRUSHES**:

The score is in concert pitch. Tempo is not given in the score. A metronomic tempo is not appropriate. The birds do have a sense of tempo, however, and the eighth note equaling about mm.96, though a little slower than the half-speed tape, is still a good tempo for a performance. A little faster or slower may be tried. A sense of resonance as in the woods can happen if the concert hall has a reasonable reverberation.. Otherwise, spatial separation of the two players will be the only way the audience can experience to some degree that wonderful sound of birds resounding in a naturally reverant space. Players should rehearse at least once in the concert space to find the best placements for their performance. The upper (1st) part played by the flute has the notation, "moves further away" (on page 2) and "very distant" a few bars later. The player must have at least one playing set-up in a new more distant position from the audience, and maybe a second one for the "very distant" even further away.

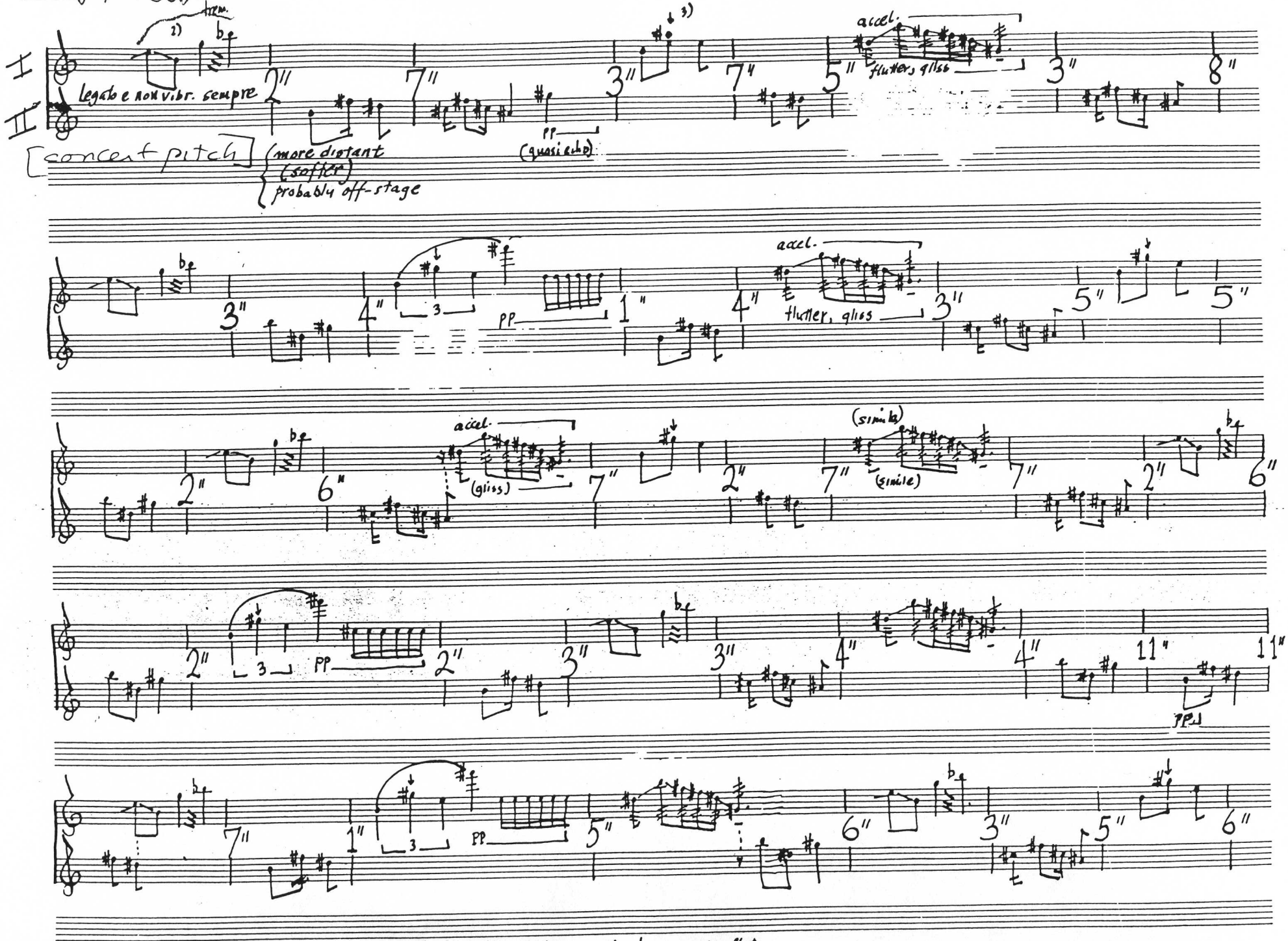
The time in seconds noted between phrases should be counted mentally by each player. No timing device needs to be used.

Once having found the right phrasing for each different phrase of the part, repetitions of it should be essentially the same, perhaps with little variations of internal loudness that would be almost involuntary, or the result of slight changes in muscular tension, not musical intention.

The flutist should try different methods for the portamento (and for the glissando). Certainly rotating the mouthpiece slightly while attacking the note is one way. The flutter-tongue/glissando phrase is quite difficult. It should be quite noise-filled, but not really louder than the other phrases. Breath noise might be introduced into it. Experiment ! The oboe part is much simpler in pitch structure, but must not sound either mechanical or "musical" in the Mozartean sense of phrasing. Play smoothly, but in a matter-of-fact sort of way: Like walking or any common every-day activity.

TWO THRUSHES - for 2 Woodwinds

Daniel Goode



1) flutes, piccolos, oboes, clarinets, recorders, mixed if in same register

2) ↑↓ = portamento unless marked "gliss."

3) ↓ = ca. ¼ flat

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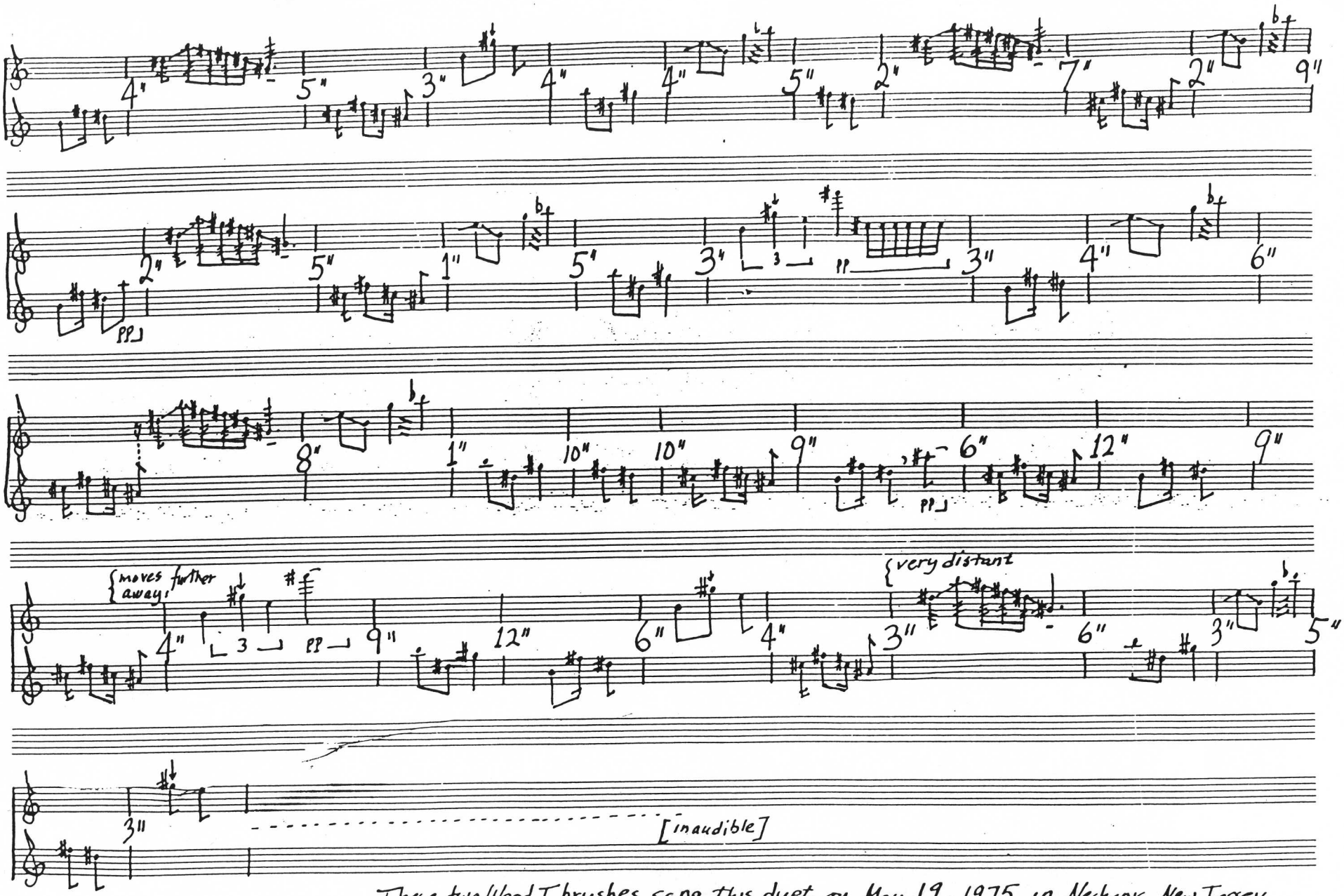

These two Wood Thrushes sang this duet on May 19, 1975 in Neshanic, New Jersey.

I transcribed it from the tape recording at half-speed and two octaves lower than the original.

—W.B.

Further suggestions for performance: (1) Top part—out of sight if not actually off stage. (2) Slight variations in phrasing and dynamics of repeated phrases, but not to exceed the thrushes own limits of variation.