

Scored Earth

for concert or tenor ukulele

Stephen F. Lilly

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Written for and commissioned by Brian Ellis

Program Notes

By casting the ukulele in extremes, especially as it concerns range and scordatura, the instrument's sonic world is transformed from the typical twangy combination of banjo and mandolin into something more percussive, unpredictable, and full of buzzes and rattles. The piece begins in standard ukulele tuning, but with the performer on (and eventually over) the edge of the fretboard, where pitch is barely discernable. Meanwhile, the tempo jerks from hand position to hand position. After the performer flies off the fretboard, the tempo relaxes, and the detuning begins. Notated entirely in tablature, the connection between notation and pitch becomes more and more indeterminate as the strings lose their tension. Eventually, pitch entirely disappears into the clatter of loose nylon on wood, and the piece dissipates into silence.

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Play the systems on the first two pages sequentially.

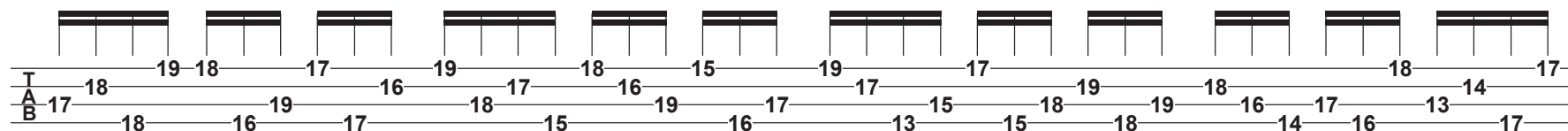
Each note grouping ( or ) is played at one tempo and dynamic level, but these levels should vary from grouping to grouping most of the time.

No silence between groupings.

Each grouping signifies a right-hand position; when possible, allow the notes to sustain until the right-hand position changes.


Approximate the location of notes beyond the end of the fretboard, continue as needed out over the soundhole.

 = varies in the range 280-400

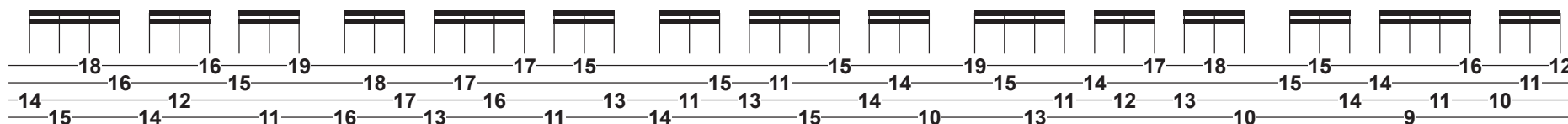


System 1: Three staves (T, A, B) with note groupings and fret numbers. The notes are: T (18, 19, 18, 17, 16, 19, 17, 18, 16, 15, 19, 17, 17, 19, 18, 18, 14, 17), A (17, 18, 19, 16, 18, 17, 16, 19, 17, 15, 18, 19, 18, 16, 17, 13, 14, 17), B (18, 16, 17, 15, 16, 13, 15, 18, 19, 14, 16, 13, 17).

ppp - mp

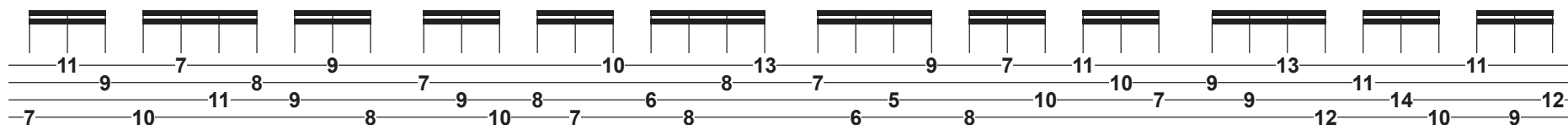


System 2: Three staves with note groupings and fret numbers. The notes are: T (18, 16, 15, 16, 14, 15, 14, 18, 17, 16, 19, 19), A (13, 16, 14, 13, 14, 14, 13, 18, 17, 17, 15, 16, 19, 19), B (16, 12, 14, 13-14, 12, 13, 14, 10, 13, 12, 11, 13, 16, 11, 15, 14, 15, 17, 17).



System 3: Three staves with note groupings and fret numbers. The notes are: T (18, 16, 16, 19, 18, 17, 17, 15, 15, 11, 15, 14, 19, 17, 18, 15, 16, 11, 12), A (14, 16, 12, 15, 18, 17, 17, 16, 11, 13, 14, 11, 13, 11, 14, 12, 13, 15, 14, 14, 11, 10, 11), B (15, 14, 12, 11, 16, 13, 16, 11, 13, 14, 11, 13, 15, 14, 10, 13, 11, 12, 13, 10, 14, 9, 11, 10, 11).

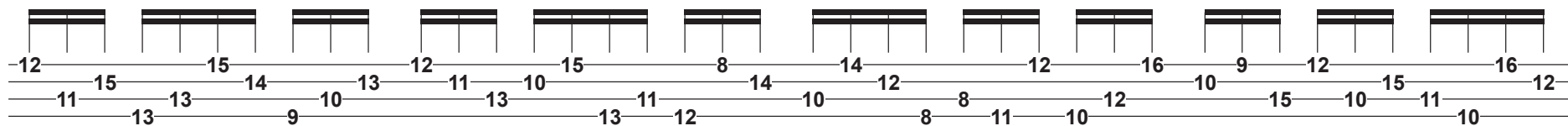
 = varies in the range 200-320



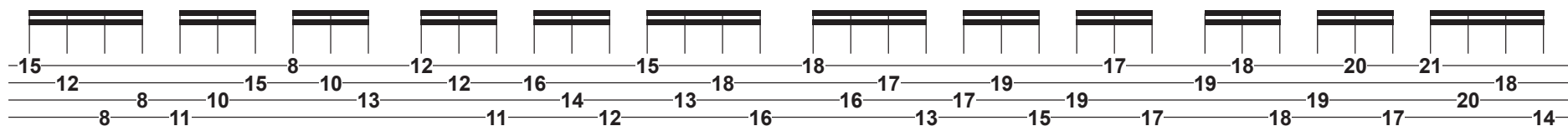
System 4: Three staves with note groupings and fret numbers. The notes are: T (11, 7, 9, 10, 8, 13, 9, 7, 11, 10, 13, 11, 11), A (9, 11, 8, 9, 7, 9, 8, 10, 6, 8, 13, 7, 5, 8, 10, 10, 7, 9, 9, 13, 11, 14, 10, 9, 12), B (7, 10, 11, 9, 8, 9, 10, 7, 6, 8, 6, 5, 8, 10, 10, 7, 9, 9, 12, 14, 10, 9, 12).

mf - fff

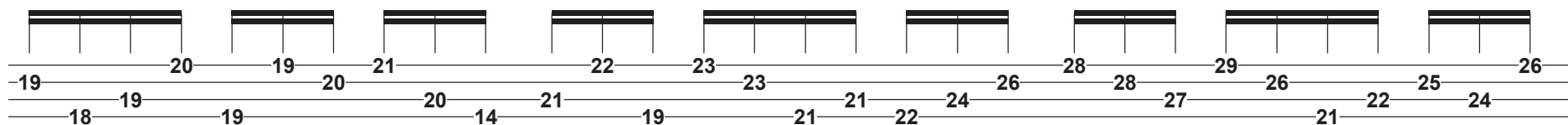
Scored Earth



♪ = varies in the range 360-480



p-f



Each system should be 10-20 seconds in duration, excepting the final system.

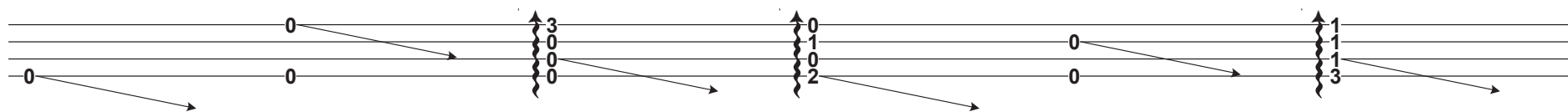
Straight lines with arrows indicate where a string is detuned, detuning until sustain stops (adding maybe half a turn more).

After detuning, briefly pause, if desired, or immediately proceed to the next event.

Wavy lines with arrows indicate a single strum, in the direction of the arrow

(i.e., up-arrows indicate strumming from the G-string to the A-string with thumb, whereas down-arrows indicate strumming in the opposite direction with index finger).

Dynamics may fluxuate within the given range.



ppp-mp

Systems on this page may be played in any order, with each system lasting 10-20 seconds. Pages 4, 5, and 6 are played in the same manner. When crafting shorter performances, not every system needs to be played before moving on to the next page. For longer performances, systems may be returned to, but not immediately repeated, before moving on to the next page.

Sixteenth-note groupings vary as before but in the range ♪ = 280-480.

Eighth-notes groupings are less strictly in tempo, with the eighth note varying in the range ♪ = 100-200.

Notes without stems are the least strict and may be played at any rhythm/tempo within the constraint of the 10-20 second system.

Musical notation system 1. It consists of two staves. The top staff has notes with stems and fingerings: 0, 0, 4, 2, 5, 4, 8, 6, 4, 10, 7. The bottom staff has notes with stems and fingerings: 0, 1, 3, 2, 5, 4, 10. There are three groups of notes with stems and fingerings above the top staff: a group of four notes (0, 0, 4, 2), a group of four notes (5, 4, 8, 6), and a group of two notes (4, 10). The dynamic marking *mf - fff* is written below the first staff.

Musical notation system 2. It consists of two staves. The top staff has notes with stems and fingerings: 2, 3, 4, 3, 6, 4, 2, 1. The bottom staff has notes with stems and fingerings: 0, 5, 2, 5, 1. There are three groups of notes with stems and fingerings above the top staff: a group of three notes (2, 3, 4), a group of three notes (4, 3, 6), and a group of two notes (6, 4). The dynamic marking *mf - fff* is written to the left of the first staff.

Musical notation system 3. It consists of two staves. The top staff has notes with stems and fingerings: 1, 3, 3, 4, 0, 6, 9, 0. The bottom staff has notes with stems and fingerings: 4, 2, 1, 2, 3, 5, 0, 7. There are three groups of notes with stems and fingerings above the top staff: a group of four notes (3, 4, 0, 6), a group of three notes (3, 4, 0), and a group of three notes (3, 5, 6). The dynamic marking *mf - fff* is written to the left of the first staff.

Musical notation system 4. It consists of two staves. The top staff has notes with stems and fingerings: 11, 14, 9, 7, 11, 9, 0, 0. The bottom staff has notes with stems and fingerings: 9, 10, 11, 8, 6, 0, 1. There are two groups of notes with stems and fingerings above the top staff: a group of four notes (11, 14, 9, 7) and a group of four notes (11, 9, 0, 0). The dynamic marking *mf - fff* is written to the left of the first staff.

Musical notation system 5. It consists of two staves. The top staff has notes with stems and fingerings: 2, 0, 1, 2, 5, 2, 0, 3. The bottom staff has notes with stems and fingerings: 3, 0, 1, 2, 6, 3, 2, 0. There are four groups of notes with stems and fingerings above the top staff: a group of three notes (2, 0, 1), a group of three notes (0, 1, 2), a group of three notes (2, 5, 2), and a group of three notes (0, 3, 0). The dynamic marking *mf - fff* is written to the left of the first staff.

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Musical staff with notes and beams. The notes are: 18, 16, 19, 18, 16, 18, 15, 13, 0, 12, 10, 13. There are beams above the first three notes, the fourth and fifth notes, the sixth and seventh notes, and the last three notes. Arrows point from the 16th, 18th, 15th, and 13th notes to the right.

pp-mf

Musical staff with notes and beams. The notes are: 4, 2, 4, 2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 4, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 5, 2, 6, 0, 6, 8, 7, 10. There are beams above the first four notes, the fifth and sixth notes, the seventh and eighth notes, and the ninth and tenth notes. Arrows point from the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd notes to the right.

Musical staff with notes and beams. The notes are: 17, 16, 14, 13, 0, 8, 6, 5, 7, 6, 7, 5, 4, 4, 0. There is a beam above the first three notes. Arrows point from the 14th, 13th, 0th, 8th, 6th, 5th, 7th, 6th, 7th, 5th, 4th, 4th, and 0th notes to the right.

Musical staff with notes and beams. The notes are: 2, 3, 2, 1, 0, 0, 0, 3, 2, 1, 3, 1, 0, 7, 6, 5, 6, 3, 0, 3, 4, 2, 1, 0, 4, 5, 3, 5. There are beams above the first two notes, the third and fourth notes, and the fifth and sixth notes. Arrows point from the 0th, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th notes to the right.

Musical staff with notes and beams. The notes are: 8, 7, 4, 6, 0, 0, 0, 2, 5, 6, 4, 2, 1, 2, 3, 3, 0. There are beams above the first four notes, the fifth and sixth notes, the seventh and eighth notes, and the ninth and tenth notes. Arrows point from the 6th, 0th, 0th, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 4th, 2nd, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 3rd, and 0th notes to the right.

A musical staff with five lines. Notes are placed on the lines and spaces, with arrows indicating slurs. The notes are: 4 (top line), 5 (top space), 4 (top line), 6 (top space), 3 (top line), 3 (top line), 2 (top line), 3 (top line), 5 (top space), 6 (top space), 4 (top line), 4 (top line), 7 (top space), 7 (top space).

pp - mf

A musical staff with five lines. Notes are placed on the lines and spaces, with arrows indicating slurs. The notes are: 16 (top line), 15 (top space), 18 (top space), 0 (top line), 5 (top line), 1 (top line), 0 (top line), 1 (top line), 3 (top line), 2 (top space), 7 (top space), 4 (top line), 0 (top line), 1 (top line), 3 (top line).

For this system, play as legato as possible, and allow the rhythm to ebb and flow as suggested by the ligatures.

A musical staff with five lines. Notes are placed on the lines and spaces, with arrows indicating slurs. The notes are: 1 (top line), 2 (top space), 3 (top space), 5 (top space), 0 (top line), 1 (top line), 4 (top line), 4 (top line), 0 (top line), 2 (top line), 5 (top space), 2 (top space), 5 (top space), 0 (top line), 1 (top line), 6 (top space), 3 (top space), 4 (top space), 1 (top line), 4 (top space), 6 (top space).

A musical staff with five lines. Notes are placed on the lines and spaces, with arrows indicating slurs. The notes are: 3 (top line), 4 (top line), 3 (top line), 1 (top line), 2 (top space), 4 (top space), 0 (top line), 3 (top line), 0 (top line), 1 (top line), 0 (top line), 3 (top line), 0 (top line), 2 (top space), 1 (top line), 4 (top space), 4 (top space), 5 (top space), 5 (top space), 6 (top space), 0 (top line), 8 (top space), 0 (top line), 7 (top space), 12 (top space), 9 (top space), 9 (top space), 9 (top space), 11 (top space).

A musical staff with five lines. Notes are placed on the lines and spaces, with arrows indicating slurs. The notes are: 16 (top line), 13 (top space), 10 (top space), 14 (top space), 17 (top space), 10 (top space), 13 (top space), 11 (top space), 12 (top space), 12 (top space), 14 (top space), 11 (top space), 12 (top space), 10 (top space), 10 (top space), 8 (top space), 9 (top space), 8 (top space), 6 (top space), 10 (top space), 7 (top space), 5 (top space), 8 (top space), 3 (top space), 6 (top space), 5 (top space).

Scored Earth

Musical staff with notes: 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 11, 10, 8, 7, 4, 5, 7, 9, 0, 11, 12, 12, 0, 6, 3, 6, 7, 9, 12, 11, 12, 0, 6. Includes a beamed eighth-note group above the staff.

ppp - mp

Musical staff with notes: 7, 11, 13, 10, 12, 0, 11, 0, 12, 0, 12.

Musical staff with notes: 0, 3, 5, 4, 0, 3, 7, 6, 4, 7, 9, 0, 0, 2, 3, 4, 4, 3, 5, 4, 6, 7, 9. Includes five beamed eighth-note groups above the staff.

Musical staff with notes: 16, 18, 15, 14, 15, 0, 12, 8, 9, 9, 8, 16, 15, 13, 0, 12, 11, 8, 9, 10, 8, 7, 0. Includes four beamed eighth-note groups above the staff.

Musical staff with notes: 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0. Includes two beamed eighth-note groups above the staff.

Plucking of open strings by right hand should be independent of detuning by left hand.
 Continue plucking open strings and detuning until the strings are quiet and unpitched.
 Duration is unfixed.

The musical notation consists of three staves. The top two staves represent the guitar strings. The first staff shows a sequence of plucking marks (horizontal bars) above the strings, with some marks spanning multiple strings. Below these marks are circles containing the number '0', representing open strings. The second staff shows a series of circles with '0' and arrows pointing downwards, indicating the detuning of the strings. The bottom staff is a single line with the dynamic marking *mp* at the beginning and a long horizontal line extending across the staff, representing a sustained pluck or detuning action.