

BEN ARAUJO

Catharsis

for bowed electric guitar and live electronics
(2025)

Timing

Play each bar freely and control the speed of each gesture in proportion to the duration of each bar, the amount of musical material contained within, and the duration of the pauses at the end (placed above).

Bow position

Bow position can be freely changed by the player between sul tasto on one extreme, and sul ponticello on the other, depending on the gesture being played.

Repeats

In bars that repeat, the material contained within should be repeated over the course of the duration of the bar, the number of repeats always being two.

Symbols (with score examples)



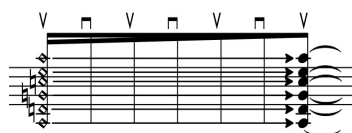
accelerando to a slightly faster speed



ritardando (reverse of the above)



stemless notation: repeat the same note



transition from harmonics to normal stopped notes by increasing finger pressure on the strings

Tablature

The tablature staff underneath the normal staff serves to assist the player as to which string(s) to play to produce a particular pitch..

Live electronics

The live electronics can be achieved in the following two ways:

1. Only a guitar amplifier, preferably one with settings for delay and reverb
2. The above, plus a laptop with a program open in Logic Pro consisting of two tracks with the plugin Valhalla Supermassive, the first with an eighth note looped delay and the second with a reverb setting which can be chosen to the player's preference.

Live electronics (cont.)

In addition to this, an audio interface must be used in order to connect the laptop to the speakers of whichever performance space is used.

Instructions in the score enclosed in brackets are for when the second setup is used. In order to turn on/off the eighth note looper effect in Logic wherever indicated, do so by pressing the "Record" button (R).

Scordatura (optional)

If the guitarist wishes to do so, they may use the following scordatura, whose pitches are derived from overtones of a low E (20 Hz) fundamental, that is, one octave below the lowest E on a piano. Numbers above the middle four pitches indicate how many cents they deviate from equal temperament. Despite this, the score is written in fingered pitch in order to demonstrate finger position as if playing in standard tuning.



PROGRAM NOTE

After listening to the Icelandic rock band Sigur Rós for the first time in 2024, I was left with a feeling of sheer bewilderment, as I had never heard music like theirs in my life beforehand, which I am still a fan of to this day. Much of the band's music gives the listener a feeling of walking in a dream, contributed in large part by the main singer and guitarist, Jónsi, using a cello bow on his guitar, alongside heavy use of reverb pedals. The inspiration for me to write my own piece for bowed electric guitar came several months later, mainly inspired by the intense release of emotions I often experienced whenever I listened to Sigur Rós' music, hence the title "Catharsis", meaning "the process of releasing, and thereby providing relief from, strong or repressed emotions".

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for Tom Bradbury

Catharsis

for bowed electric guitar and live electronics

Senza misura

BEN ARAUJO (2025)

0:00 0:15 (0:30)

Electric Guitar

pp
sul VI

Electronics: [eighth note looper delay + reverb]

0:30 0:45 (1:00)

3

p

1:00 (1:15)

5

p

6 1:15 (1:30) c. 4"

TAB
7 7 7 5 5 5 9 9 9 9 9 9 7 7 7 7

7 1:30 (1:45) c. 4"

TAB
0 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9

8 1:45 (2:00) c. 4"

TAB
0 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 19 19 19 19 19 5 9 9 9 9 9 9

2:00 c. 3" 2:15 c. 3" (2:30)

(f)

Electronics: [turn eighth note looper off]

2:30 2:45 transition from harmonics to normal stopped notes (gradually increase finger pressure) (3:00) c. 5"

(f)

3:00 (3:15) c. 4"

(f)

3:15 (3:30)

ff

c. 4"

3:30 (3:45)

f

c. 5"

3:45 (4:00)

f

c. 6"

4:00 (4:15)

f

TAB

12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 7 7 7 7 7 7 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 5 5 5 5

4:15 (4:30)

mf

TAB

12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 19 19 19 19 0

4:30 (4:45)

p

TAB

19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 12 12 12 12 12 12 9 9 9 9 9 7 7 7 7 5 5 5 0 4 4 4 4

Electronics: [turn eighth note loopers on]

4:45 5:00 5:15

p

c. 3" c. 4"

TAB

4	5	7	9	12	19	5	6	7	5	4	7	9	14	19	15	12
4	5	7	9	12	19	5	6	7	5	4	7	9	14	19	15	12
4	5	7	9	12	19	5	6	7	5	4	7	9	14	19	15	12
4	5	7	9	12	19	5	6	7	5	4	7	9	14	19	15	13
0						0										

5:15 5:30 5:45

c. 4" c. 4"

TAB

5	5	5	4	5	6	7	8	10	12	13	17	19	15	12	9	5	5	7	13	19	14	9	10	12	9	4
5	5	5	4	5	6	7	9	10	12	13	17	19	15	12	9	5	5	7	13	19	14	9	10	12	9	4
5	5	5	4	5	6	7	9	11	12	14	17	19	16	13	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0																0										

5:45 6:00 6:15 6:30

24

c. 3" sul I

pp

TAB

19	12	9	7	5	4	0	0	0	0	4
0						0	0	0	0	0
0						0	0	0	0	0
0						0	0	0	0	0

6:30 6:45 7:00

27

ppp

TAB

5	4	5	7	9	7	9	12	19