



KIAN RAVAEI

ECSTASIES

for solo flute and tape

ÆI edition

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(2022)

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Commissioned by Ben Smolen.

PROGRAM NOTE

Ecstasies represents my most ambitious attempt to synthesize the Dionysian soundscapes of electronic dance music with the technical innovations of contemporary Western art music and the distinctive expressive qualities of Iranian classical music. The meaning of the title is threefold: the feeling of ecstasy evoked by EDM, the transcendent and ecstatic character of *Dastgah Nava* (the mode of Iranian classical music used throughout the piece), and the rave drug Ecstasy.

The structure is a microcosm of a DJ set at a rave: a series of buildups and climaxes, exploring various grooves and genres while continuously growing in intensity. The flutist has the Herculean task of matching the dynamism of the electronics while shapeshifting between vastly different manners of playing.

To realize this piece, I needed to fully awaken my knowledge of EDM production, which had lain dormant for nearly ten years. I did it gladly at the behest of flutist Ben Smolen, whose dazzling musicianship and adventurous spirit made this work possible.

—Kian Ravaei

PERFORMANCE INSTRUCTIONS

The tape may be downloaded at kianravaei.com/downloads/ecstasies-tape.wav, and the click track at kianravaei.com/downloads/ecstasies-click.wav. Both audio files begin with a two-measure count-in.

The flute should be amplified using a clip-on microphone. The flutist should have an in-ear monitor to hear the tape and click track clearly. The amplified volume of the piece should be very loud, like a rave.

duration ca. 10'

to Ben Smolen

ECSTASIES

Kian Ravaei
(2022)

wide vib. à la Ney (sempre)
grace notes always before the beat

♩ = 150 (♩ = 75)

Flute

p molto espr., improvisatory

Tape

reverberant sine
p

synth pad
p

reverse cymbal
f

synth pluck
f

gliss.

cinematic impact

n

n

5 (quarter tone flat)

reverberant scream

mf

11

6

white noise riser

n

17 0:26

mf (*molto espr.*)

synth pluck
f

cinematic impact
f

detuned saw

p

22

mf reverberant bleep

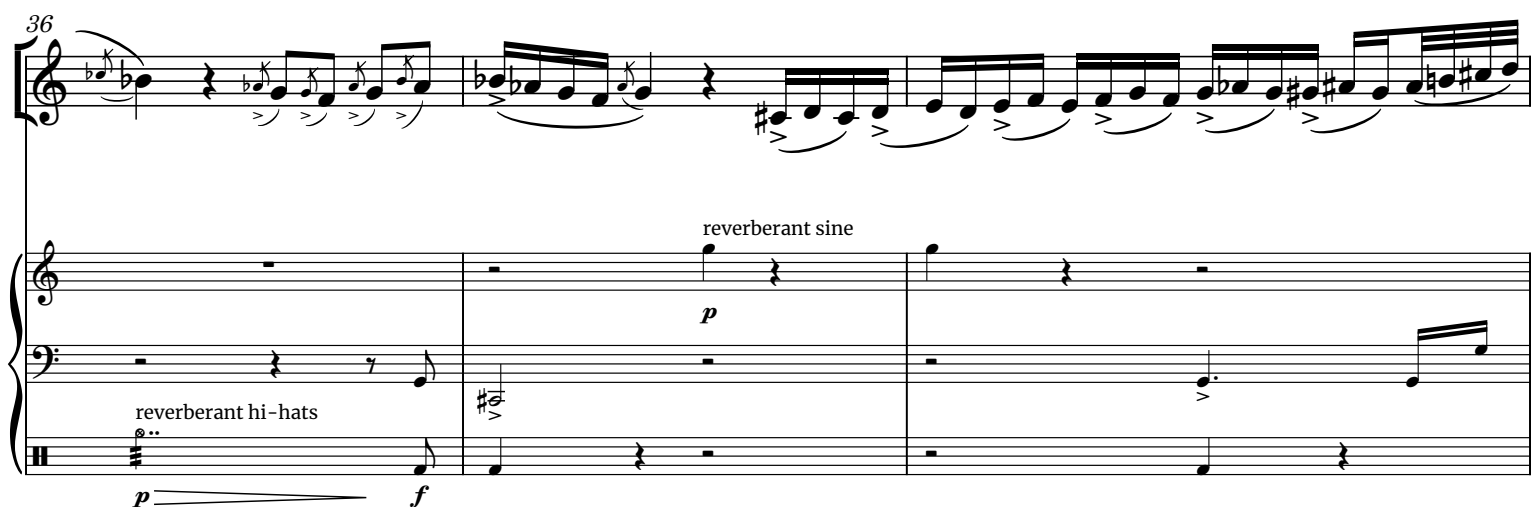
28

mf

33 **0:51**
ord.
f *vigoroso*
0:51
distorted 808 bass
f
kick drum
f



36
reverberant sine
p
reverberant hi-hats
p — *f*



39



1:04

41 *ff*

trap drums

f

43

45

Measures 47-48. The upper staff (treble clef) contains melodic lines with slurs and accents. The lower staff (bass clef) contains rhythmic patterns with triplets and sextuplets.

Measures 49-50. Measure 49 features a melodic line in the upper staff and a complex rhythmic pattern in the lower staff. Measure 50 continues the melodic line and includes the instruction *p dolce cantando*.

Measures 51-53. Measure 51 features a melodic line in the upper staff and a rhythmic pattern in the lower staff. Measure 52 includes the instruction *reverberant sine*. Measure 53 includes the instruction *white noise downer* and the instruction *synth keys*. The lower staff also includes the instruction *f* and *n*.

Measures 54-55. Measure 54 features a melodic line in the upper staff and a rhythmic pattern in the lower staff. Measure 55 includes the instruction *p*.

57

1:43

mf

1:43

mf
filtered supersaw
synth pad

p
detuned saw *gliss. poco a poco*

p

58

59

60

61

60

highpass filter poco a poco

61

62

63

64

62

63

64

65

66

64

64



67

2:06

f

(*f*)

2:06

tense ambience

mf

reverberant scream

hi-hat

ff

cinematic impact

mf



70

73

kick drum

ff *f*

76

sf *sf*

distorted stab bass

f clap

ff *f*

79

sf *sf*

distorted FX

82 2:28

sf *sf*

4 4

84

sf *sf*

4 4

87

5 5 5

growl bass

f

90

5 5 5

low cut filter poco a poco

2:47

93

ff *sf*

supersaw

reese bass

buzzsaw synth

f

ff

96

ff *sf*

ff *f* *ff*

99

ff

f *ff* *ff*

3:00

102

ff

10

10

10

clap

f

105

10

10

10

108

10

10

10

cresc.

111

114

ff

low cut poco a poco

116

3:27

Persian singer

p

possessed robot choir

Ec - sta - sies

3:27

f *ben* *articolato*

distorted FX

ff bitcrushed bass

dubstep drums *f*

120 (gradual pitch bend)

Musical score for measures 120-124. The score is written for a single melodic line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 120 features a gradual pitch bend on the melodic line. Measures 121-124 show a piano accompaniment with a forte (*ff*) dynamic. The piano part includes a bass line with eighth notes and a right hand with chords and a melodic line. A double bar line is present after measure 124.



125

Musical score for measures 125-129. The score is written for a single melodic line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 125 features a gradual pitch bend on the melodic line. Measures 126-129 show a piano accompaniment with a forte (*ff*) dynamic. The piano part includes a bass line with eighth notes and a right hand with chords and a melodic line. A double bar line is present after measure 129.



130

Musical score for measures 130-134. The score is written for a single melodic line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 130 features a gradual pitch bend on the melodic line. Measures 131-134 show a piano accompaniment with a forte (*ff*) dynamic. The piano part includes a bass line with eighth notes and a right hand with chords and a melodic line. A double bar line is present after measure 134.

135

(f) 10 10

swelling riser *gliss. poco a poco*

f clap

f kick drum

138

4:00

ff *(ff)*

granular bowed cymbal synth

bitcrushed bass

dubstep drums

141

poco dim.

granular bowed cymbal synth

distorted FX

ff *f*

gradually change

electro house bass

electro house drums

(f)

146

ff

distorted FX *ff* granular bowed cymbal synth *f* distorted FX *ff* granular bowed cymbal synth *f*

bitcrushed bass

dubstep drums

(*f*)

3 =

151

(♩ = 112.5)

gradually change → electro house bass *n*

electro house drums

(*f*)

154

4:29

f cantando

4:29

158

chiptune synth

163

f

166

f

169

f (ben artic.)

172

dim.

clap

kick drum

174

Tempo I (♩ = 150)

♩ = $\frac{3}{4}$ [5:11]

p

ff

[5:11]

intoxicated microtonal supersaw

ff

reese bass

ff

dubstep drums

ff

low cut filter poco a poco

176

10 10

178

10 10

180

10 10

182

10 10

184

11 11

186

10 10

187

10 10 10

189

10 10

192

5:47 (flz.)

f 6 5 3 *pp*

5:47

reverberant sine
p

white noise riser
n

synth pad
cinematic impact
f

ghostly Persian singer
p lontano

197 wide vib. à la Ney

p molto espr., improvisatory

f

synth pluck *f*

reverberant scream *f*

203

6 5 3

pp

ghostly Persian singer

p lontano

n

206 (wide vib. à la Ney)

p

6

5

white noise riser

n

6:12

210

f

6 5 3

(ghostly Persian singer)
p *sempre legato*

distorted 808 bass, detuned saw
f

trap drums

f


212

pp

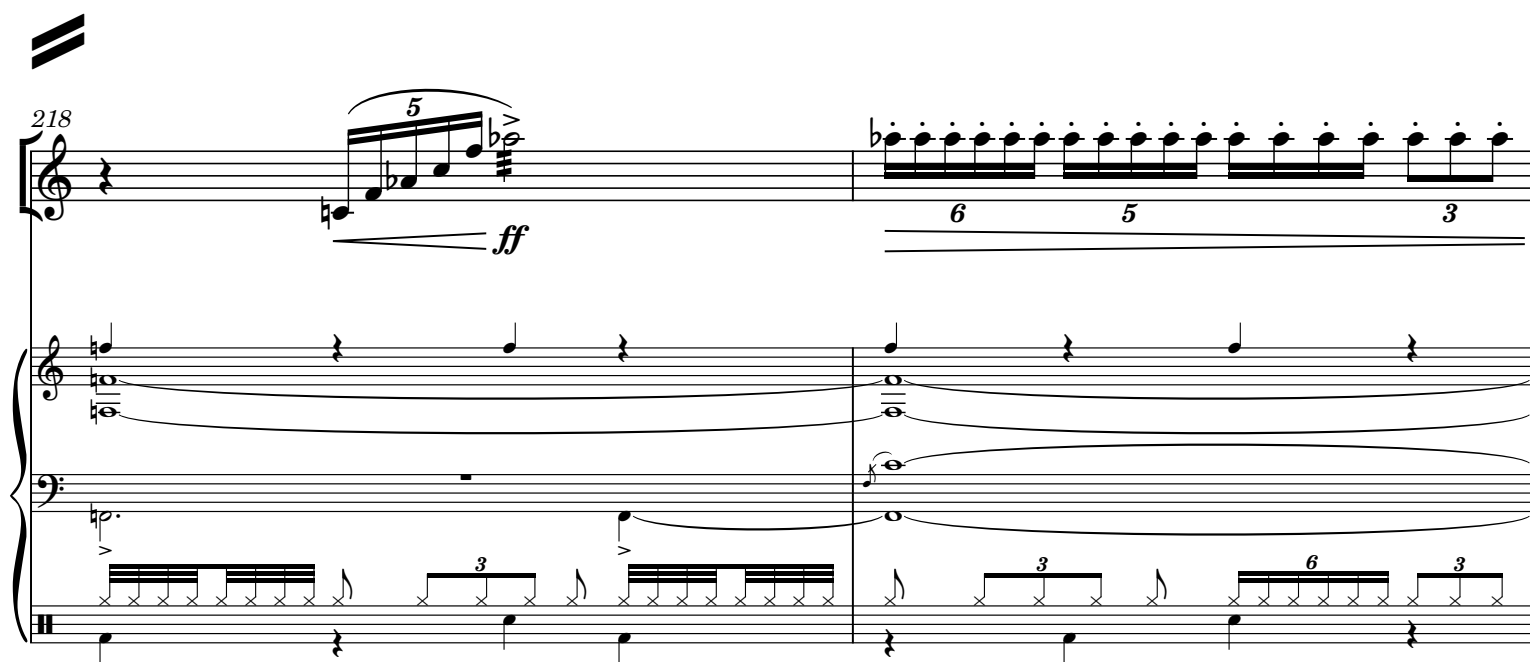
214

f (*molto espr.*)

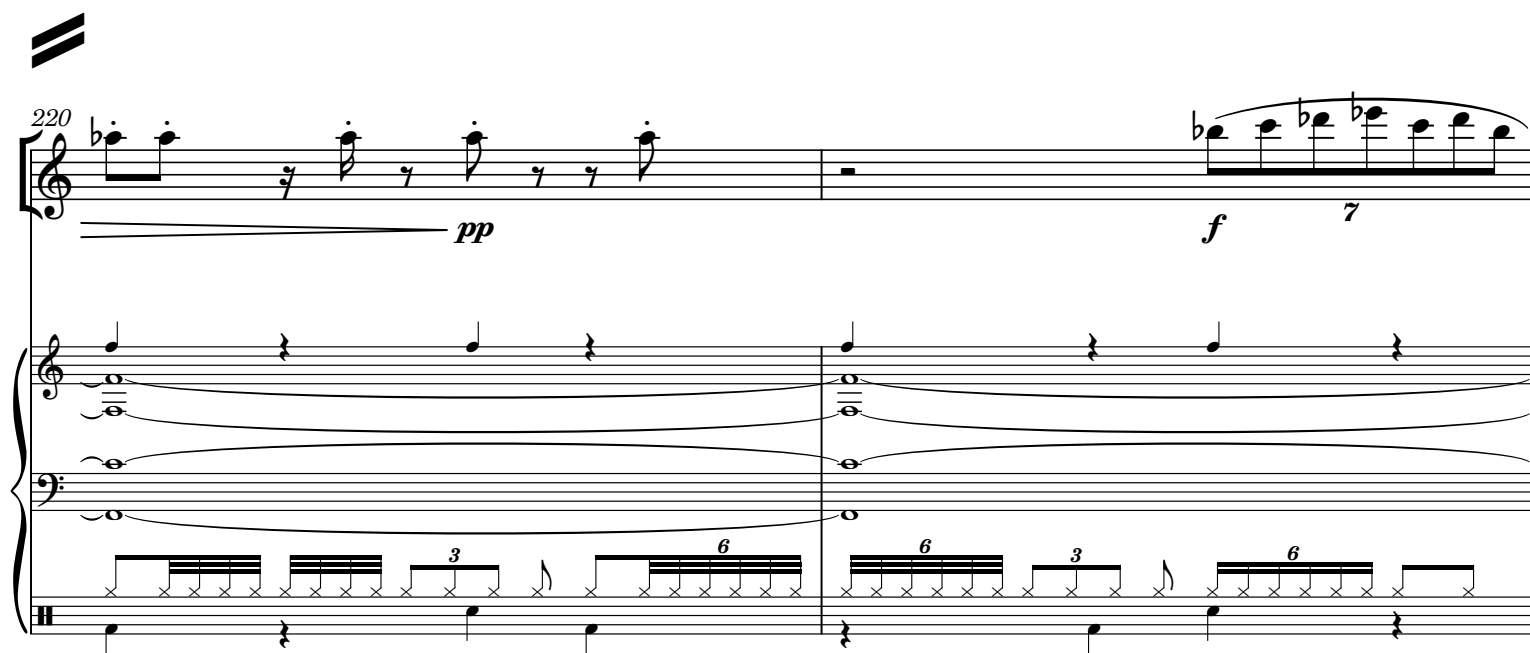
216



218



220



222

223

224

225

6:36 ord.

(f)

6:36 tense ambience

mf reverberant scream

hi-hat

ff cinematic impact

mf

ff

mf

228

kick drum

f

231

sf

clap

distorted stab bass

distorted FX

4

233

sf

4

236

ff

6:56

(♩ = 100)

f ben artic.

6:56

distorted FX

ff bitcrushed bass

f drums, clicky

low cut filter poco a poco

f

240

5 7

granular cymbal scrape synth

ff *f*

244

9 6 6

sf

distorted FX granular cymbal scrape synth swelling riser

f

clap

f kick drum

247

6 6

sf

(♩ = 150)

249

ff

ff cantando

7:26

supersaw, chiptune synth

ff

electro house bass

ff

dubstep drums

toms

f

ff

252

257

p

10

261

10 5 9

265

11 10

269

7:58

11

f *ben artic.*

7:58

distorted FX

ff club drums

f

273

277

swelling riser

granular cymbal scrape synth

f

(distorted FX)

ff

club drums

clap

f

kick drum

279

rit. poco a poco

reverse swelling riser

n *mf*

dim. poco a poco al niente

(rit.).....

281

dim. poco a poco

(dim.)

(rit.)..... (♩ = 112.5).....

283

8:25

p *mf*

8:25

pp cresc. poco a poco

clap

n

(dim.)

(rit.).....

285

lowpass filter poco a poco

(cresc.)

(rit.)

287

(cresc.) *mf*

288

$\text{♩} = 75$ accel.

290

(molto accel.) $\text{♩} = 172$

ff

kick drum
lowpass filter poco a poco

293

8:47

f

8:47

distorted 808 bass

f

drum and bass drums

f

296

reese bass

f

reverberant distorted FX

ff

wooden synth drums

n

299

mf

n

301

reverberant distorted FX

ff

304

b₂

306

ff

wooden synth drums

n

mf

n

309

312

reverberant distorted FX

ff

315

accel. poco a poco.....

9:16

(ff sempre)

9:16

mf

(accel.).....

318

319

320

(accel.).....

321

322

323

 $\text{♩} = 125$

accel. poco a poco.....

324

325

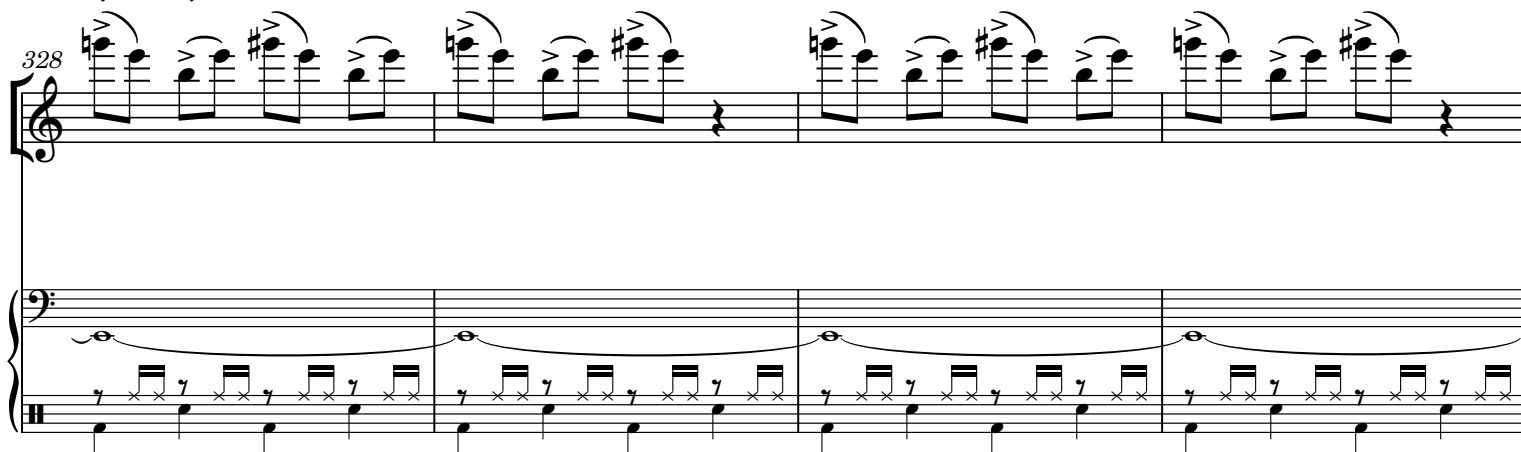
326

327

36

(accel.).....

328



♩ = 172 ed accel.....

9:33

332

9:33

low cut filter poco a poco



(accel.).....

336



(accel.)

340

(ff sempre)

dim. poco a poco

dim. poco a poco

(accel.)

344

(dim.)

(dim.)

348 $\text{♩} = 125$

f *sff*

reverberant sine

p

possessed robot choir

Ec - - - sta - sies

reverberant hi-hats

p

muted explosion

mf

kick drum

mf