

# The Incantations & Invocatory Cantos

In 3 Movements

Tanka Fonta

for Orchestra

Instrumentation

2 Fl • 2 Ob • 2 Cl in B ♭ • 2 Bn • 2 Hn in F • 2 Tpt in B ♭ • 2 Tbn •  
Bass Tbn • 2 Perc • Vln I (5) / Vln II (4) • Vla (3) • Vc (2) • Db (1)

C SCORE

First Performance: The São Pedro Theater Orchestra at the 36th São Paulo Biennale, Brazil 2025

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## The Incantations & Invocatory Cantos

1. The Estuarine Cantos - 1st Movement
2. The Invocatory Call - 2nd Movement
3. The Transcendental Call - 3rd Movement

Orchestration & Instruments in Score:

- 1 - Flute 1+2
- 2 - Oboe 1+2
- 3 - Bb Clarinet 1+2
- 4 - Bassoon 1+2
- 5 - Horn 1+2
- 6 - Bb Trumpet 1+2
- 7 - Trombone 1+2
- 8 - Bass Trombone
- 9 - Timpani
- 10 - Bass Drum
- 11 - Suspended Cymbal
- 12 - Violin I 1 +2+3+4+5
- 13 - Violin II 1+2+3+4
- 14 - Viola 1+2+3
- 15 - Cello 1+2
- 16 - Double Bass

### Program Notes Summary

Incantations & Invocatory Cantos in Three Movements, commissioned for the 36th São Paulo Biennale under the curatorial theme "Not All Travelers Walk Roads", is a philosophical, aural and vibratory meditation on the interconnectedness of all life, interwoven languages that connect living things, and consciousness. Each compositional movement unfolds as a present-tense invocation—alive, awake, and resonant—seeking to reveal the unseen forces and sacred dimensions shaping our shared existence.

The first movement, "The Estuarine Cantos", opens as a contemplative aural space where time dissolves and ushers the listener within liminal worlds of estuaries—ecotones of merging waters and perpetual flux. Here, the Sun, Moon, gravity, photons, and microbial life and other living entities are engaged in an ongoing poetical and interlocking molecular dialogue. This movement calls for deep attentiveness to the intricate networks of being—spoken and unspoken, known and unknown—illuminating a cosmological movement beyond ordinary perception.

The second movement, "The Invocatory Call", unfolds as a mytho-poetic encounter in a living forest. A young human being, guided by human passions and necessities, meets variegated life forms in a heightened state of invocations, incantations and evocations, urging reverence over destruction. The forest becomes an awoken reverberatory choir and repository of wisdom, awakening within the visitor the consciousness of sacredness and our human responsibilities to the Earth. Cascading thematic motifs—woodwinds emulating the living, the call of the cellos, and exuberant strings—animate this vibrant dialogue, culminating in a call for gratitude, restraint, and reciprocity.

The third movement draws the listener into a transcendent space where all living beings reflect the incantatory flow of existence. Each life form bears the imprint of an ancient, ongoing history. From the unknown into the known, transformation unfolds. Here, the human spirit is invited via thematic dance motifs to re-enter the ocean of the eternal, where compassion, care, and participation become the pulse of the sacred.

Together, these three movements echo the Biennale's ethos—art as living practice, encounter, and reawakening. They celebrate existence beyond language, dissolve divisions between species, and rekindle our listening to the world's sacred intelligence. These cantos are aural and vibratory offerings—bridges between the known and unknown—invoking attentiveness and awareness, equally the shared responsibilities each living being carries within the universes of everything.

### Performance Notes

Bass Drum Player can alternate where appropriate to play suspended cymbals.

Timpani player also have full discretion to improvised in some measures where appropriate and inteprete also with some freedoms the rhythmic flow of the music.

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Duration: 13:31

# The Incantations & Invocatory Cantos

## The Estuarine Cantos 1st Movement

**1** Tempo (♩ = 94)      **2**      **3** *gentle.*      **4**

The score is divided into four measures, each marked with a boxed number (1, 2, 3, 4). Measure 1 is marked 'Tempo (♩ = 94)'. Measure 3 is marked '*gentle.*'. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Flute 1+2**: Rests in all measures.
- Oboe 1+2**: Rests in all measures.
- B♭ Clarinet 1+2**: Rests in all measures.
- Bassoon 1+2**: Rests in all measures.
- Horn 1+2**: Rests in all measures.
- B♭ Trumpet 1+2**: Rests in all measures.
- Trombone 1+2**: Rests in all measures.
- Bass Trombone**: Rests in all measures.
- Timpani**: Measure 1: *mp* (half note), *p* (half note). Measure 2: *p* (half note), *sfz* (half note). Measure 3: *sfz* (half note). Measure 4: Rest.
- Bass Drum**: Measure 1: Rest. Measure 2: Rest. Measure 3: *mp* (half note), *mp* (half note). Measure 4: *p* (half note), *p* (half note).
- Suspended Cymbal**: Measure 1: Rest. Measure 2: Rest. Measure 3: Rest. Measure 4: *mp* (quarter note), *mp* (quarter note), *p* (quarter note), *p* (quarter note).
- Violin I 1+2+3+4+5**: Rests in all measures.
- Violin II 1+2+3+4**: Rests in all measures.
- Viola 1+2+3**: Rests in all measures.
- Cello 1+2**: Rests in all measures.
- Double Bass**: Rests in all measures.

5

6

7

8

This musical score page covers measures 5 through 8. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Flute (Fl.):** Measures 5-6: *mf*. Measure 7: *mp* to *p*. Measure 8: *f*.
- Oboe (Ob.):** Measures 5-6: *mf*. Measure 7: *mp* to *p*. Measure 8: *f*.
- Clarinet (Cl.):** Measures 5-6: *mf*. Measure 7: *mp* to *p*. Measure 8: *f*.
- Bassoon (Bsn.):** Measures 5-6: *mf*. Measure 7: *mp* to *p*. Measure 8: *f*.
- Horn (Hn.):** Rested in all measures.
- Trumpet (Tpt.):** Rested in all measures.
- Trombone (Tbn.):** Rested in all measures.
- Bass Trombone (B.Tbn.):** Rested in all measures.
- Timpani (Timp.):** Rested in measures 5-7. Measure 8: *mp* with a roll.
- Bass Drum (B. D.):** *sfz* in measure 5, then rests.
- Suspended Cymbal (Sus. Cym.):** *sfz* in measure 5, then rests.
- Violin I (Vln. I):** Measures 5-6: *mf*. Measure 7: *mp* to *p*. Measure 8: *f*.
- Violin II (Vln. II):** Measures 5-6: *mf*. Measure 7: *mp* to *p*. Measure 8: *f*.
- Viola (Vla.):** Measures 5-6: *mf*. Measure 7: *mp*. Measure 8: *f*.
- Violoncello (Vc.):** Measures 5-6: *mf*. Measure 7: *mp*. Measure 8: *f*.
- Double Bass (Db.):** Measures 5-6: *mf*. Measure 7: *mp*. Measure 8: *f*.

9

10

11

12

This musical score page covers measures 9 through 12. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Flute (Fl.):** Measures 9-10 play a melodic line with *mf* dynamics. In measure 11, it is silent. In measure 12, it plays a more active line with *mf* and *sfz* dynamics.
- Oboe (Ob.):** Similar to the flute, playing a melodic line with *mf* in measures 9-10 and *mf* and *sfz* in measure 12.
- Clarinet (Cl.):** Similar to the flute, playing a melodic line with *mf* in measures 9-10 and *mf* and *sfz* in measure 12.
- Bassoon (Bsn.):** Similar to the flute, playing a melodic line with *mf* in measures 9-10 and *mf* and *sfz* in measure 12.
- Horn (Hn.):** Silent in measures 9-10, then plays a sustained chord in measure 11 with *mp* dynamics.
- Trumpet (Tpt.):** Silent in measures 9-10, then plays a sustained chord in measure 11 with *mp* dynamics.
- Trombone (Tbn.):** Silent in measures 9-10, then plays a sustained chord in measure 11 with *mp* dynamics.
- Bass Trombone (B.Tbn.):** Silent in measures 9-10, then plays a sustained chord in measure 11 with *mp* dynamics.
- Timpani (Timp.):** Silent in measures 9-10, then plays a roll in measure 11 with *p* dynamics, and a single note in measure 12 with *sfz* dynamics.
- Bass Drum (B. D.):** Silent in measures 9-10, then plays a single note in measure 11 with *mp* dynamics, a roll in measure 12 with *p* dynamics, and a single note in measure 13 with *sfz* dynamics.
- Suspended Cymbal (Sus. Cym.):** Silent in measures 9-10, then plays a roll in measure 11 with *mp* dynamics, a roll in measure 12 with *p* dynamics, and a single note in measure 13 with *sfz* dynamics.
- Violin I (Vln. I):** Measures 9-10 play a melodic line with *mp* dynamics. In measure 11, it is silent. In measure 12, it plays a more active line with *mf* and *sfz* dynamics.
- Violin II (Vln. II):** Similar to Violin I, playing a melodic line with *mp* in measures 9-10 and *mf* and *sfz* in measure 12.
- Viola (Vla.):** Measures 9-10 play a melodic line with *mp* dynamics. In measure 11, it is silent. In measure 12, it plays a more active line with *mf* and *sfz* dynamics.
- Violoncello (Vc.):** Measures 9-10 play a melodic line with *mp* dynamics. In measure 11, it is silent. In measure 12, it plays a more active line with *mf* and *sfz* dynamics.
- Double Bass (Db.):** Measures 9-10 play a melodic line with *mp* dynamics. In measure 11, it is silent. In measure 12, it plays a more active line with *mf* and *sfz* dynamics.

13

14

15

16

Musical score for measures 13-16. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Trombone (Tbn.), Bass Trombone (B.Tbn.), Timpani (Timp.), Bass Drum (B. D.), Suspended Cymbal (Sus. Cym.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.).

Measures 13-14: Flute, Violin I, Viola, and Double Bass play a melodic line starting with a half note G4 (F#4 in the key signature) and a half note A4. The dynamic is *mf*.

Measure 15: Flute, Violin I, and Double Bass play a melodic line starting with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The dynamic is *mf*.

Measure 16: Flute, Violin I, and Double Bass play a melodic line starting with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The dynamic is *mf*.

17

18

19

20

This musical score page contains measures 17 through 20. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Flute (Fl.):** Measures 17-18 are marked *f* and feature a triplet. Measures 19-20 are marked *mf*.
- Oboe (Ob.):** Measures 19-20 are marked *mf*.
- Clarinet (Cl.):** Measures 19-20 are marked *mf*.
- Bassoon (Bsn.):** Measures 19-20 are marked *mf*.
- Horn (Hn.):** Rests throughout.
- Trumpet (Tpt.):** Rests throughout.
- Trombone (Tbn.):** Rests throughout.
- Bass Trombone (B.Tbn.):** Rests throughout.
- Timpani (Timp.):** Rests throughout.
- Bass Drum (B. D.):** Rests throughout.
- Suspended Cymbal (Sus. Cym.):** Rests throughout.
- Violin I (Vln. I):** Measures 17-18 are marked *mp* and feature a triplet. Measures 19-20 are marked *mf*.
- Violin II (Vln. II):** Measures 19-20 are marked *mf*.
- Viola (Vla.):** Measures 17-18 are marked *mp* and feature a triplet. Measures 19-20 are marked *mf*.
- Violoncello (Vc.):** Measures 17-18 are marked *mp* and feature a triplet. Measures 19-20 are marked *mf*.
- Double Bass (Db.):** Measures 19-20 are marked *mp* and *mf*.



25

26

27

28

This musical score page contains measures 25 through 28. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Flute (Fl.):** Measures 25-26 play a melodic line with a dynamic of *f*. Measures 27-28 are silent.
- Oboe (Ob.):** Measures 25-26 play a melodic line with a dynamic of *f*. Measures 27-28 are silent.
- Clarinet (Cl.):** Silent throughout.
- Bassoon (Bsn.):** Silent throughout.
- Horn (Hn.):** Silent throughout.
- Trumpet (Tpt.):** Silent throughout.
- Trombone (Tbn.):** Silent throughout.
- Baritone Trombone (B.Tbn.):** Silent throughout.
- Timpani (Timp):** Measures 25-26 play a rhythmic pattern with dynamics *mf* and *mp*. Measures 27-28 are silent.
- Bass Drum (B. D.):** Measures 25-26 play a single note with dynamic *sfz*. Measures 27-28 are silent.
- Suspended Cymbal (Sus. Cym.):** Silent throughout.
- Violin I (Vln. I):** Measures 25-26 play a melodic line with dynamic *f*. Measures 27-28 feature a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and a sextuplet, with dynamic *f*.
- Violin II (Vln. II):** Measures 25-26 play a melodic line with dynamic *f*. Measures 27-28 play a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamic *f*.
- Viola (Vla.):** Measures 25-26 play a melodic line with dynamic *f*. Measures 27-28 play a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamic *f*.
- Violoncello (Vc.):** Measures 25-26 play a melodic line with dynamic *f*. Measures 27-28 play a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamic *f*.
- Double Bass (Db.):** Silent throughout.

29

30

31

32

This musical score page contains measures 29 through 32. The instruments are arranged as follows:

- Woodwinds:** Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Trombone (Tbn.), and Bass Trombone (B.Tbn.).
- Brass:** Trombone (Tbn.) and Bass Trombone (B.Tbn.).
- Percussion:** Timpani (Timp.), Bass Drum (B. D.), and Suspended Cymbal (Sus. Cym.).
- Strings:** Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.).

Measure 29: Most instruments are silent. The Bassoon (Bsn.) has a whole rest. The Violin I (Vln. I) and Violoncello (Vc.) parts begin with a half note G2.

Measure 30: The Bassoon (Bsn.) has a whole rest. The Violin I (Vln. I) and Violoncello (Vc.) parts continue with a half note A2. The Violin II (Vln. II) and Viola (Vla.) parts enter with a half note G2. Dynamics include *mf* for Vln. I and *sfz* for Vln. II and Vla.

Measure 31: The Bassoon (Bsn.) has a whole rest. The Violin I (Vln. I) and Violoncello (Vc.) parts continue with a half note B2. The Violin II (Vln. II) and Viola (Vla.) parts continue with a half note G2. Dynamics include *mf* for Vln. I and *sfz* for Vln. II and Vla.

Measure 32: The Bassoon (Bsn.) has a whole rest. The Violin I (Vln. I) and Violoncello (Vc.) parts continue with a half note C3. The Violin II (Vln. II) and Viola (Vla.) parts continue with a half note G2. Dynamics include *f* for Vln. I and *f* for Vln. II and Vla. The Bassoon (Bsn.) part in measure 32 is marked *f*.

33

34

35

36

This musical score page contains measures 33 through 36. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Flute (Fl.):** Measures 33-34: *f* (first half), *sfz* (second half). Measure 35: *mp*. Measure 36: *f*.
- Oboe (Ob.):** Measures 33-34: *f* (first half), *sfz* (second half). Measure 35: *mp*. Measure 36: *f*.
- Clarinet (Cl.):** Measures 33-34: *f* (first half), *sfz* (second half). Measure 35: *mp*. Measure 36: *f*.
- Bassoon (Bsn.):** Measures 33-34: *sfz*. Measure 35: *mp*. Measure 36: *f*.
- Horn (Hn.):** Rested throughout.
- Trumpet (Tpt.):** Rested throughout.
- Trombone (Tbn.):** Rested throughout.
- Baritone Trombone (B.Tbn.):** Rested throughout.
- Timpani (Timp):** Rested throughout.
- Bass Drum (B. D.):** Rested throughout.
- Suspended Cymbal (Sus. Cym.):** Rested throughout.
- Violin I (Vln. I):** Measures 33-34: *sfz*. Measure 35: *mp*. Measure 36: *f* (triplets).
- Violin II (Vln. II):** Measures 33-34: *sfz*. Measure 35: Rested. Measure 36: *f* (chords).
- Viola (Vla.):** Measures 33-34: *sfz*. Measure 35: Rested. Measure 36: *f* (triplets).
- Violoncello (Vc.):** Measures 33-34: *sfz*. Measure 35: Rested. Measure 36: *f* (triplets).
- Double Bass (Db.):** Measures 33-34: *sfz*. Measure 35: Rested. Measure 36: *f* (triplets).

37

38

39

40

This musical score page covers measures 37 through 40. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Flute (Fl.):** Rests in measures 37-39; enters in measure 40 with a sixteenth-note pattern, marked *mf*.
- Oboe (Ob.):** Rests in measures 37-39; enters in measure 40 with a sixteenth-note pattern, marked *mf*.
- Clarinet (Cl.):** Rests in measures 37-39; enters in measure 40 with a sixteenth-note pattern, marked *mf*.
- Bassoon (Bsn.):** Rests in measures 37-39; enters in measure 40 with a sixteenth-note pattern, marked *mf*.
- Horn (Hn.):** Rests in measure 37; enters in measure 38 with a melodic line, marked *mf*; continues in measure 40, marked *mp*.
- Trumpet (Tpt.):** Rests in measure 37; enters in measure 38 with a melodic line, marked *mf*; continues in measure 40, marked *mp*.
- Trombone (Tbn.):** Rests in measure 37; enters in measure 38 with a melodic line, marked *mf*; continues in measure 40, marked *mp*.
- Bass Trombone (B.Tbn.):** Rests in measure 37; enters in measure 38 with a melodic line, marked *mf*; continues in measure 40, marked *mp*.
- Timpani (Timp.):** Rests in measures 37-40.
- Bass Drum (B. D.):** Rests in measures 37-40.
- Suspended Cymbal (Sus. Cym.):** Rests in measures 37-40.
- Violin I (Vln. I):** Features a sixteenth-note pattern with triplets and sextuplets in measure 37, marked *mf*; continues in measure 40, marked *mp*.
- Violin II (Vln. II):** Rests in measure 37; enters in measure 38 with a sixteenth-note pattern, marked *mf*; continues in measure 40, marked *mp*.
- Viola (Vla.):** Rests in measure 37; enters in measure 38 with a sixteenth-note pattern, marked *mf*; continues in measure 40, marked *mp*.
- Violoncello (Vc.):** Rests in measure 37; enters in measure 38 with a sixteenth-note pattern, marked *mf*; continues in measure 40, marked *mp*.
- Double Bass (Db.):** Rests in measure 37; enters in measure 38 with a sixteenth-note pattern, marked *mf*; continues in measure 40, marked *mp*.

41

42

43

44

This musical score page contains measures 41 through 44. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Flute (Fl.):** Measures 42-43 feature a melodic line starting with a half note G4, followed by eighth notes. Measure 44 has a half note G4. Dynamics include *mp*.
- Oboe (Ob.):** Rests in measures 42-44. Dynamics include *mp*.
- Clarinet (Cl.):** Rests in measures 42-44. Dynamics include *mp*.
- Bassoon (Bsn.):** Rests in measures 42-44. Dynamics include *mp*.
- Horn (Hn.):** Rests in measures 42-44.
- Trumpet (Tpt.):** Rests in measures 42-44.
- Trombone (Tbn.):** Rests in measures 42-44.
- Bass Trombone (B.Tbn.):** Rests in measures 42-44.
- Timpani (Timp.):** Rests in measures 42-44.
- Bass Drum (B. D.):** Rests in measures 42-44.
- Suspended Cymbal (Sus. Cym.):** Measures 42-43 have four eighth notes (G4, A4, B4, C5) with dynamics *mp* and *p*. Measure 44 has a cymbal roll with dynamic *sfz*.
- Violin I (Vln. I):** Measures 42-43 have a melodic line with dynamics *mf* and *mp*. Measure 44 has a half note G4 with dynamic *f*.
- Violin II (Vln. II):** Measures 42-43 have a melodic line with dynamics *mp* and *f*. Measure 44 has a half note G4 with dynamic *f*.
- Viola (Vla.):** Measures 42-43 have a melodic line with dynamics *mp* and *f*. Measure 44 has a half note G4 with dynamic *f*.
- Violoncello (Vc.):** Measures 42-43 have a melodic line with dynamics *mp* and *f*. Measure 44 has a half note G4 with dynamic *f*.
- Double Bass (Db.):** Measures 42-43 have a melodic line with dynamics *mp* and *f*. Measure 44 has a half note G4 with dynamic *f*.

45

46

47

48

This musical score page contains measures 45 through 48. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Flute (Fl.):** Measures 46-48, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic and ending with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.
- Oboe (Ob.):** Measures 46-48, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic and ending with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.
- Clarinet (Cl.):** Measures 46-48, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic and ending with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.
- Bassoon (Bsn.):** Measures 46-48, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic and ending with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.
- Horn (Hn.):** Measures 46-48, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic and ending with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.
- Trumpet (Tpt.):** Measures 46-48, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic and ending with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.
- Trombone (Tbn.):** Measures 46-48, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic and ending with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.
- Bass Trombone (B.Tbn.):** Measures 46-48, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic and ending with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.
- Timpani (Timp):** Measures 46-48, with notes marked *mp* and *p*.
- Bass Drum (B. D.):** Measures 46-48, no notes.
- Suspended Cymbal (Sus. Cym.):** Measures 46-48, notes marked *mp* and *p*.
- Violin I (Vln. I):** Measures 45-48, starting with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and ending with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.
- Violin II (Vln. II):** Measures 45-48, starting with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and ending with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.
- Viola (Vla.):** Measures 45-48, starting with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and ending with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.
- Violoncello (Vc.):** Measures 45-48, starting with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and ending with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.
- Double Bass (Db.):** Measures 45-48, starting with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and ending with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.