

Tractions

For Harp Four Hands

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(2026)

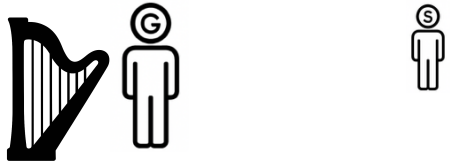
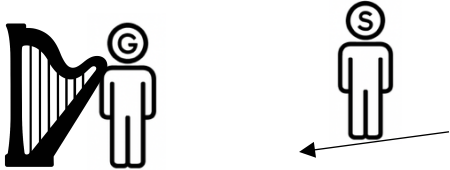

Preface:




This piece was written as a collaborative experimentation with Gunnhildur Einarsdóttir and Stef Van Vynckt during the Harp workshop at the 2025 Darmsdadt Ferienkurse. The piece is an improvisation based on a loose structure, so the score is only meant to be a visual reference to help performers navigate through cues and transitions in the structure. The title refers three layers of tensions that is explored in the co-compositional process. First, the various kinds and extends of physical tension that is exercised on the instrument during the sonic experimentation, and secondly, the musical tension where the two players changes from creating contrasting gestures to unifying sounds, and thirdly, the theatrical tension where the two players begin by playing very far apart, and finishes in a uncomfortably close playing position.

Set up:

- Pedals: D C# B E Fb G# A
- Tie rosined fishing line on the highest string, and another weaved around E4-G4.
- Place bow Hair between G6 and A6.
- E-bow should be given to Stef.
- Both players should have a cello bow placed within convenient reach.

(~10'00")

<p>1.</p>  <p>G: High bow hair: No pitch, Quiet, grainy, no pitch.</p> <p>S: High Fishing line: mysterious, staying in the background.</p>	<p>2.</p>  <p>G: High bow hair: pitch introduced</p> <p>S: High Fishing line: Start moving slowly, stop during silences.</p>	<p>3.</p>  <p>G: Fishing line: More contrast (slow/fast, accented gestures, grainy textures, silences, etc)</p> <p>S: High bow hair: no pitch, more energy.</p>
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<p>4.</p>  <p>G: Low bow hair: No pitch, build up with plucks and harmonics.</p> <p>S: High bow hair: One hand, building up plucks and harmonics:</p>	<p>5.</p>  <p>G: bow: pitched, try to get different harmonics</p> <p>S: bow: pitched, try to get different harmonics</p>	<p>6.</p>  <p>G: bow: Try to get different high harmonics, end with a harmonic close to the ebow's (if possible).</p> <p>S: E bow: sustained Fb3, try to get different harmonics.</p>
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