the double bass

double bass

eva-maria houben

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the double bass

eva-maria houben

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for matt kline.

text: fragmente aus Patrick Süskinds *Der Kontrabass*. innerer monolog eines kontrabassisten. drei ebenen: secret melodies, voice, kontrabass-orgelpunkt(e). o : eher längere klänge.

secret melodies:

♦ : natürlicher teilton.

ziffer: ein bestimmter natürlicher teilton über bestimmtem bezugston (orgelpunkt).

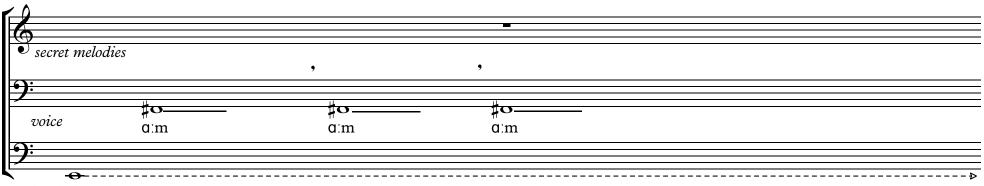
kontrabass-orgelpunkt(e):

- o und schwarzer pfeil: erklingender orgelpunkt, länger gehalten (deutlich länger als o).
- o und gestrichelter pfeil: länger gehaltener orgelpunkt, der auch diskontinuierlich auftreten kann (schwebend zwischen erscheinen und verschwinden).

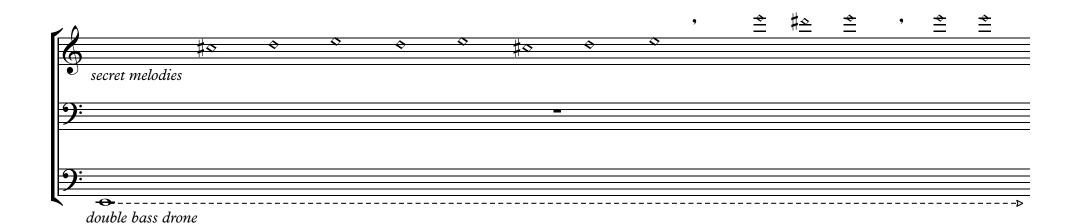
□ und gepunktete linie: der lange orgelpunkt erscheint nicht; der ton ist bezugspunkt für die teiltöne der secret melodies.

text:
fragments of Patrick Sueskind's The Double Bass.
inner monologue of the double bass player.
three levels: secret melodies, voice, double bass drone(s).
• : rather long(er) sounds.
secret melodies:
♦ : natural partial.
digit: a certain natural partial above a certain reference tone (drone).
double bass drone(s):
○ and a black arrow: sounding drone, long (significantly longer than ○).
\circ and a broken arrow: longer drone that can appear discontinuously (hovering between appearance and disappearance).
and a dotted line: the long drone does not appear; the tone is reference tone for the partials of the secret melodies.

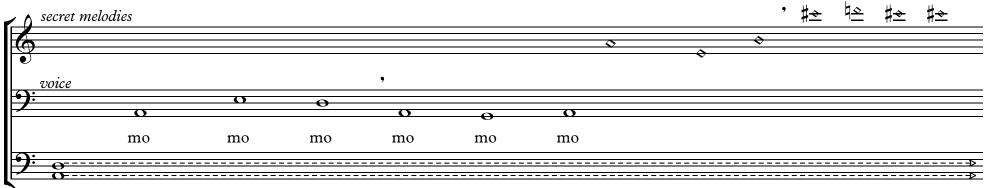
hang on... there... - now! hear that? there! now! did you hear it? ... here it comes... (5)



double bass drone



... the mother earth in which we all have our roots; the source of strength that nourishes every musical idea; the truly creative pole from whose loins... the musical seed flows forth... (8)



double bass drone

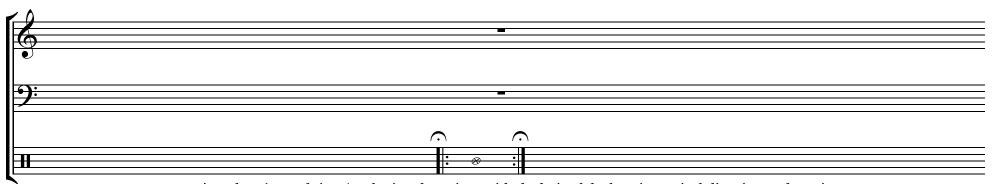
... the bass is the cornerstone on which the whole magnificent edifice is erected... (7)

. •	5 - 6 - 7 - 6 - 5 - 6 - 5 - 6	8 - 9 - 10 - 9 - 10 - 9 - 10	•	12 - 13 - 14 - 13 - 14 - 15
secret melodies				
•) :				
9 :				
 				

double bass drone

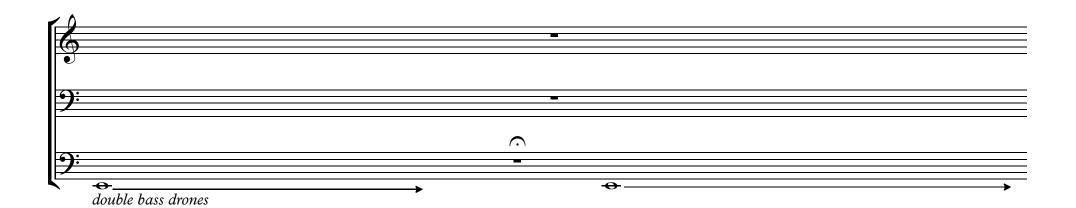
... you take out the bass, and you get pandemonium, a musical Babel, with nobody knowing what he's doing... (7)

J 1	$oldsymbol{\circ}$		8 - 9 - 10 ' 11 - 12 - 13 ' 12 - 13
	—		
9			
	secret songs		
:			
'			
		•	
9:			
	double bass drone		

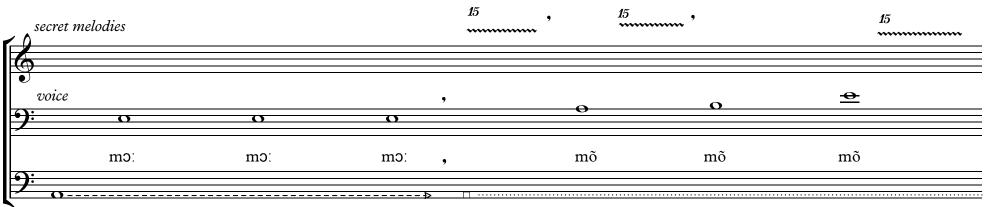


strong impulses (several times) - playing the strings with the hair of the bow in vertical direction to the strings.

... the double bass is the deepest of all the stringed instruments. it goes down as far as a bottom E. here, I'll play you one... hold on... (9)

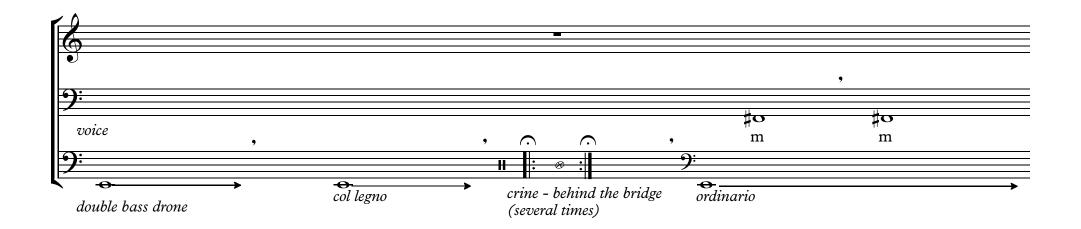


... the double bass... everything else is the opposite pole... (8)

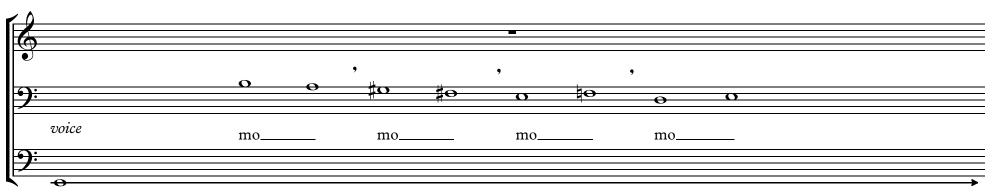


double bass drone

... by the way, the bow is the best thing about the whole instrument... (10)

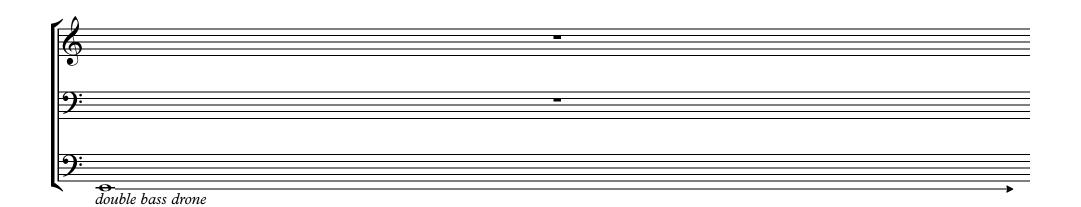


... now, listen carefully!... hear that? bottom E... (10)



double bass drone

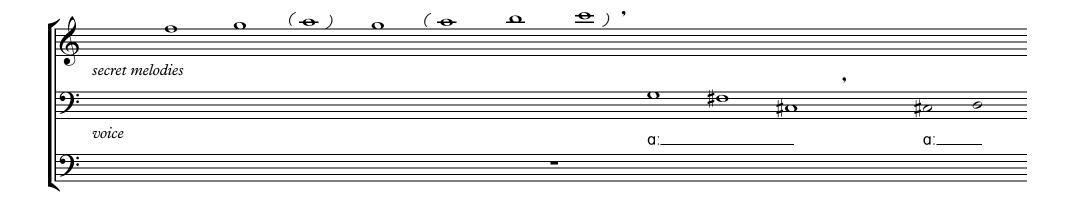
...bottom E... is more of a sawing than a note... (10)



... E...

~ ∧	<i>15</i>	, 	<i>15</i>	,	<i>15</i>
secret melodies					
9:					
9 :					
double bass drone					

..go right to the top of the finger-board...



... those are harmonics... the lightest of touches on a string...

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secret mel	lodies					
) :			-			
9 :			-			

... the lightest of touches on a string...

2-3-4-5-6-7-8-7	8 - 9 - 10 - 9 - 10 - 11 - 12 - 13 - 12 - 13 - 14 - 15 - 14 - 15 - 16
sacrat maladias	
secret melodies	
9 :	-
9 :	O>

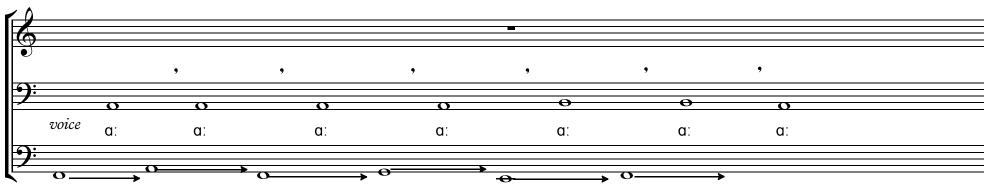
double bass drone

... an absolutely immeasurable potential... (12)

<u> </u>	<i>1</i> 5	•	<i>15</i>	•	15 perhaps (nearly) inaudible
		•	•		•
6					
ð	secret melodies				
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6):					
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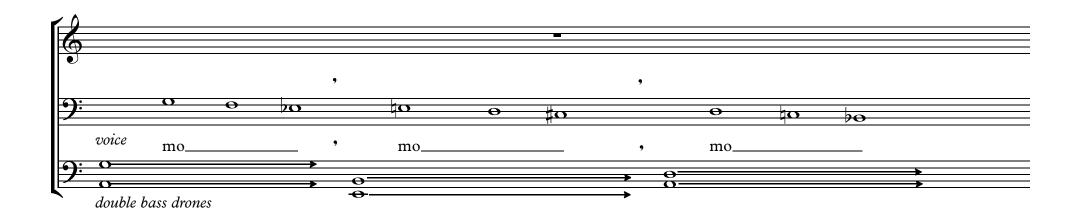
double bass drone

...let's say bottom F... - the bass has got body... (19)

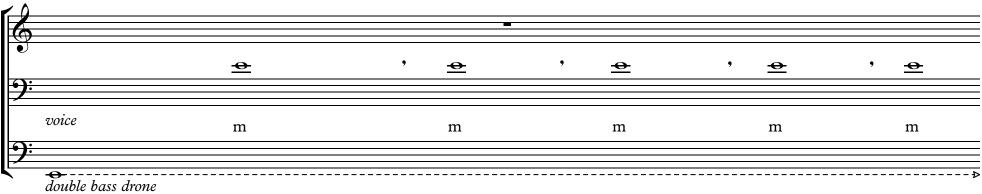


double bass drones

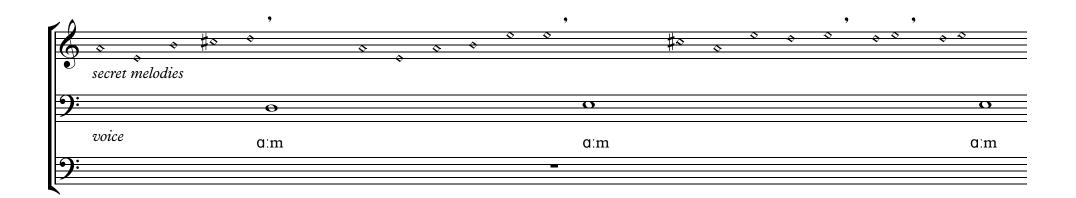
...body... (19)

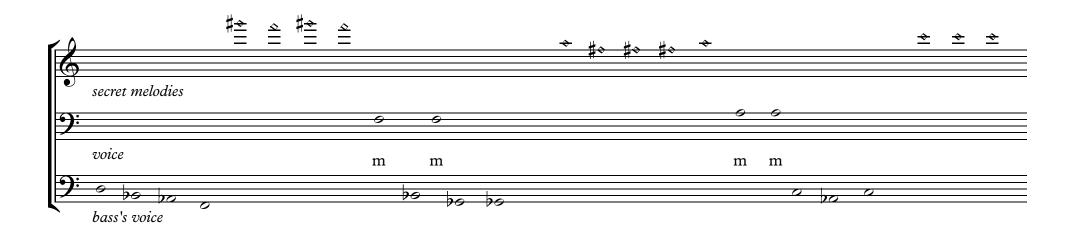


... it stands around the whole time, you know... there was this uncle of mine who was always ill, and he always complained there was no one looking after him. the double bass is just like that... (21)



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I I(O) -		
	secret melodies	
9 :		
9:		
I - /:	70 0	
	double bass (drones)	O



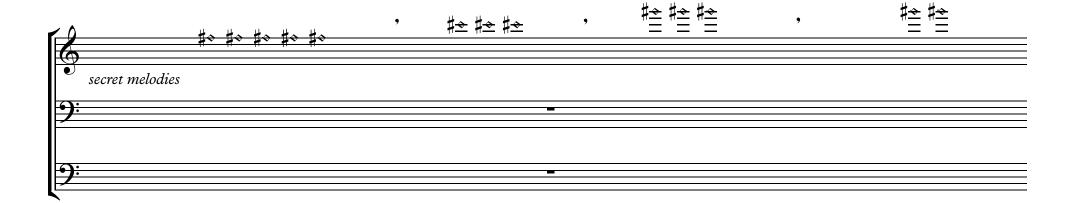


... music is a great mystery... the more you know about it, the less you are able to say anything about it at all... (38)

	2-3-4-5-6-7-8-7	6 - 7 - 8 - 7	•	8 - 9 - 10 - 11 - 12 - 13 - 14 - 15 - 14 - 15	13 - 14 - 15 - 14 - 15
$\int_{0}^{\infty} s$	ecret melodies				
9 :				-	
) :	3		o-		

double bass drones

... an instrument that's a constant handicap... (41)



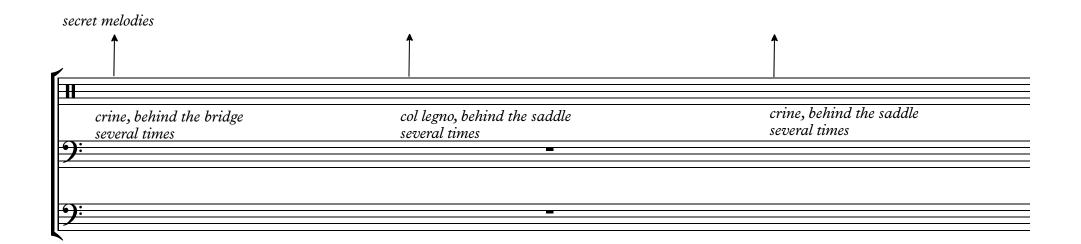
... standing right in front of me, very close, where my bass is now... and I just have to put my arms round... like this... like this and this and this... (50)

secret melody

long circular motion col legno and crine on the edge of the bass's body

:
-

...there's just enough for me to be able to scrape around...(51)



... we all do what we can as well as we can... (53)

