

Umbilical

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For Solo Guitar

2022/23

Duration Approx – 16 minutes

Composer's Note:

Umbilical was developed from improvisations and should be approached with an improvisational mindset. The written material serves as a guide, but is intended to be shaped and developed by the performer in the moment.

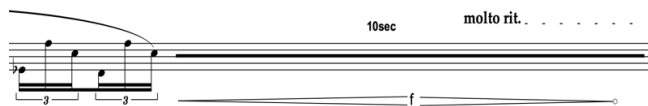
Where symbols indicating the development of specific figures appear, no fixed time frame is provided. The performer is encouraged to interpret and explore these figures freely.

Tempo and dynamic markings in the score are based on a version of the piece as I performed it. These are not to be followed rigidly; the performer is encouraged to take liberties and interpret these elements creatively.

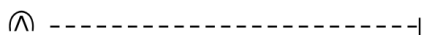
The work should be seen as a launchpad for improvisation and personal expression. The title refers to the idea of material feeding and generating new ideas.

Umbilical can be performed on Acoustic or Electric Guitar. In my own performances of the piece on electric guitar, I used loopers to create drones and sonic beds, which served as a foundation for improvisation using material from the piece. You are encouraged to experiment freely with this approach!

Notation Key –



Continue to play figure for duration of the line. Follow dynamics throughout duration of the line.



Scrape thumb nail of picking hand on string to sound note. Continue technique for duration of dotted line



Scrape thumb nail 12 frets above given note to sound harmonic



Bottom note is fingered with the left hand. Perform a mirror harmonic with the right hand at the pitch indicated by the diamond-headed note to produce the harmonic sound.



Move from ponticello to normal tone.

♩ = 80 Freely, Improvised

1

mf

3

molto rit. XII XIII A.H XVII

p

A tempo

5

mf *mp* *mf*

7

11

mp 10sec *molto rit.* *f*

let notes ring

Play as written, then repeat ad libitum, varying freely.

16 **A tempo**

mp *mf* *f*

4 P → N P → N P → N

20 **A tempo**

p *f*

10sec rit.

23 **A tempo**

mp *f*

pick note by scraping thumbnail along string.
Move thumb across string in a random motion, allowing the harmonics to emerge freely.

6 P → N P → N P → N

26

mf *f*

7

rit.

28

f *molto rit.*

P → N P → N

A tempo

30 8 *mp* XII XII 3 3 XII XII 3

Musical staff 30-33: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measure 30 starts with a box containing the number 8. The staff contains a melodic line with various fret numbers (XII, XII, XII, XII, XII, XII, XII, XII) and a bass line with triplets (3, 3). Dynamics include *mp*.

34 VII VII VII *mf*

Musical staff 34-36: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measure 34 has a long note with a fermata and a fret number VII. Measure 35 has a bass line with a triplet and a dynamic marking *mf*. Measure 36 has a long note with a fermata and a fret number VII.

37 9 VII 3 XII 3 XII 5 **Play once as written then start to improvise on this material**

Musical staff 37-41: Treble clef, 3/4 time. Measure 37 starts with a box containing the number 9. The staff contains a melodic line with fret numbers (VII, XII, XII, XII, XII) and a bass line with triplets (3, 3) and a quintuplet (5). A text box contains the instruction: "Play once as written then start to improvise on this material".

42 VII XII VII *mp* *mf*

Musical staff 42-43: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measure 42 has a long note with a fermata and a fret number VII. Measure 43 has a melodic line with fret numbers (XII, XII, XII, XII) and a dynamic marking *mp*. Measure 44 has a long note with a fermata and a fret number VII, with a dynamic marking *mf*.

44 VII XIII XVI *mp* **molto rit.**

Musical staff 44-45: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Measure 44 has a long note with a fermata and a fret number VII. Measure 45 has a long note with a fermata and fret numbers (XIII, XVI). Dynamics include *mp* and **molto rit.**

A tempo

46 [10] *mf*

let notes ring

48 *p* *f*

10sec *molto rit.*

51 *mp*

let notes ring

56 [11] *mp* *f*

15sec *rit.*

Continue playing arpeggiated figures, interspersing at random points with these notes.

60 **A tempo** rit.

Continue playing arpeggiated figures, interspersing at random points with these notes

15sec

mf *f*

64 **A tempo**

p

sustain notes as chords

66 12 **slow**

mp

XII IX XII

68 13

72

75

3

XII

IV

VII

XII

79

14 ♩ = 80

mf

5

5

81

molto rit.

XII

A.H.

XIII

A.H.

XVII

p

15 sustain notes as chords

83 *very slow and free*

p

VII

XII

IX

86

pp

xii

IV

A.H
xii

A.H
xvi

8va

The image shows a musical score for guitar, specifically measure 86. The notation is on a single staff with a treble clef. A long, curved line above the staff indicates a sustained note. The note is fretted at various positions: xii, IV, A.H xii, A.H xvi, and 8va. The dynamic marking *pp* is written below the staff. The notation includes a sharp sign (#) and a flat sign (b) for some fretting positions. The measure ends with a double bar line.

Vary the texture of the pedal note.
(ponticello, molto vib, scraping with the thumb nail etc.
Vary dynamics freely. This is a general rule throughout.

||

freely, Improvised

Let the chord sustain throughout the measure.
This is a general rule for the entire piece.

1 ♩ = 65

mp mf mp mf mp

4 mf mp mf mp *molto rit.* mf

7 **2** A tempo mf p mp

10 mf mp mf mp mf mp

13 *molto rit.* A tempo mf

16 3 rit. , b \flat VII IV vii \flat VII IV

mf mp

Detailed description: This staff contains measures 16 through 19. Measure 16 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a melodic line of eighth notes and a bass line of eighth notes. A wavy line under the bass line indicates a tremolo. Measure 17 has a 'rit.' marking and a dotted line. Measure 18 has a 'mf' dynamic and a slur over a half note. Measure 19 has a 'mp' dynamic and a slur over a half note. Chord symbols VII, IV, vii \flat , and VII IV are placed above the notes.

20 **Repeat and improvise on this figure freely.**

Detailed description: This staff contains measures 20 through 22. Measure 20 has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It features a half note chord. Measure 21 has a repeat sign. Measure 22 has a slur over a half note with a '3' above it, indicating a triplet. A '0' is written above the final note.

23 0 0 0 0 **molto rit.**

mf pp

Detailed description: This staff contains measures 23 through 26. Measures 23-25 have a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. Each measure has a slur over a half note with a '0' above it. Measure 26 has a 'molto rit.' marking and a slur over a half note. Dynamics 'mf' and 'pp' are indicated.

27 4 0 5 0 5 A.H. XIII

mf pp mf pp

Detailed description: This staff contains measures 27 through 30. Measures 27-28 have a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. Measure 27 has a slur over a half note with '0' and '5' above it. Measure 28 has a slur over a half note with '5' above it. Measures 29-30 have a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. Measure 29 has a slur over a half note with '5' above it. Measure 30 has a slur over a half note with 'A.H. XIII' above it. Dynamics 'mf' and 'pp' are indicated. A dashed line with a wedge symbol is below measures 28 and 30.

29 5 5 10

mf pp mf

Detailed description: This staff contains measures 29 through 31. Measures 29-30 have a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. Measure 29 has a slur over a half note with '5' above it. Measure 30 has a slur over a half note with '5' above it. Measure 31 has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It has a slur over a half note with '10' above it. Dynamics 'mf' and 'pp' are indicated. A dashed line with a wedge symbol is below measure 30.

freely, slow

Improvise freely on this figure.

If using a loop pedal, loop the figure and allow it to sustain for the improvisation.

31 5 A.H.
xiii

p

32 6 slow and free

mp

38

III

♩ -70
Freely, Improvised

1 *f* XII
Let ring *mp*
Bend pitch by applying pressure on neck XII *mf*
Bend pitch by applying pressure on neck XII *mp*

6 2 *mf* VII IV VII XII *mp* *mf*

9 3 XII XII *f*

12 4 *mp* 3 3 3
Play twice as written, then improvise with the material.

15 5 *p*
Vary the rhythm for each iteration of the chord

2

19 6

Musical notation for guitar, measures 19-24. The notation is written on a single staff with a treble clef. Measure 19 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter). A box around the number 6 indicates the 6th fret. A 'Sul A' marking is placed below the staff. Measure 20: F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter). Measure 21: F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter). Measure 22: F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter). A 'Sul G' marking is placed below the staff. Measure 23: F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter). Measure 24: F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter). A double bar line is at the end of the staff. Fret numbers 'xii', 'xii', 'vii', and 'vii' are placed above the staff at the beginning of measures 22, 23, 24, and 25 respectively.