

Scalpel (2023)

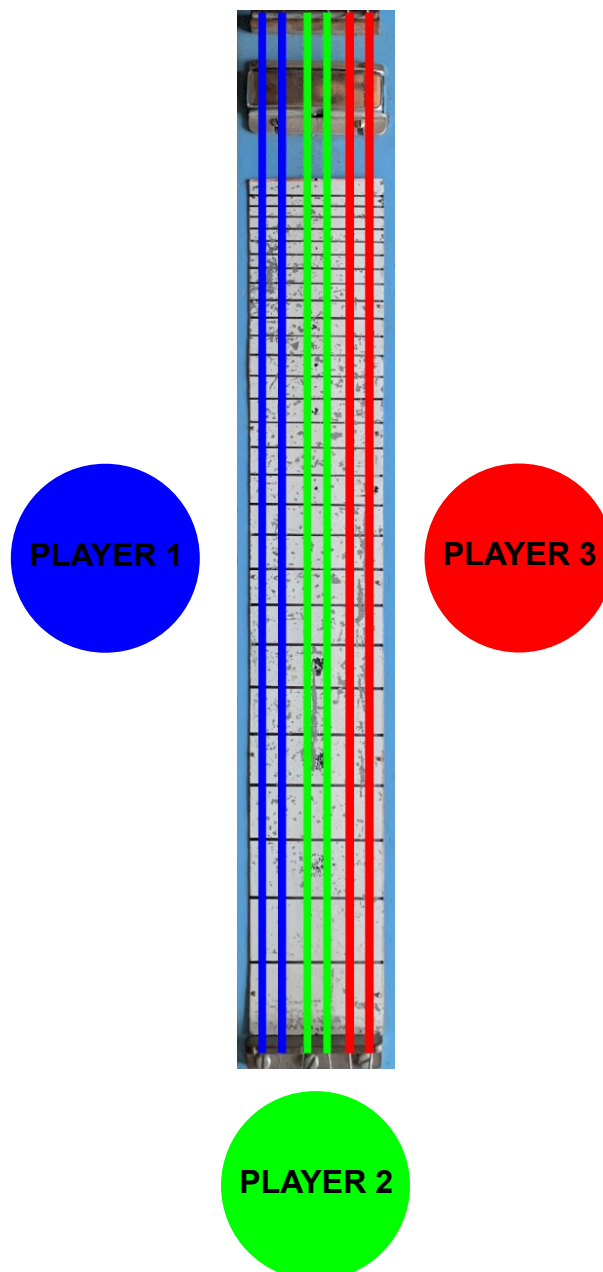
Dominic Flynn

Performance instructions:

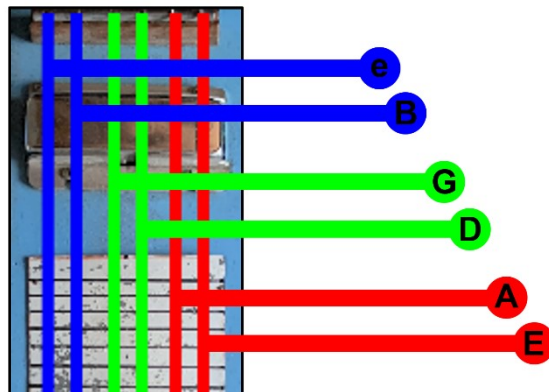
This piece is intended to be performed using the Decibel Score Player app for IOS. If this is unavailable, a video of the score can be used through this link:

<https://youtu.be/jEfNnnFR4dl>

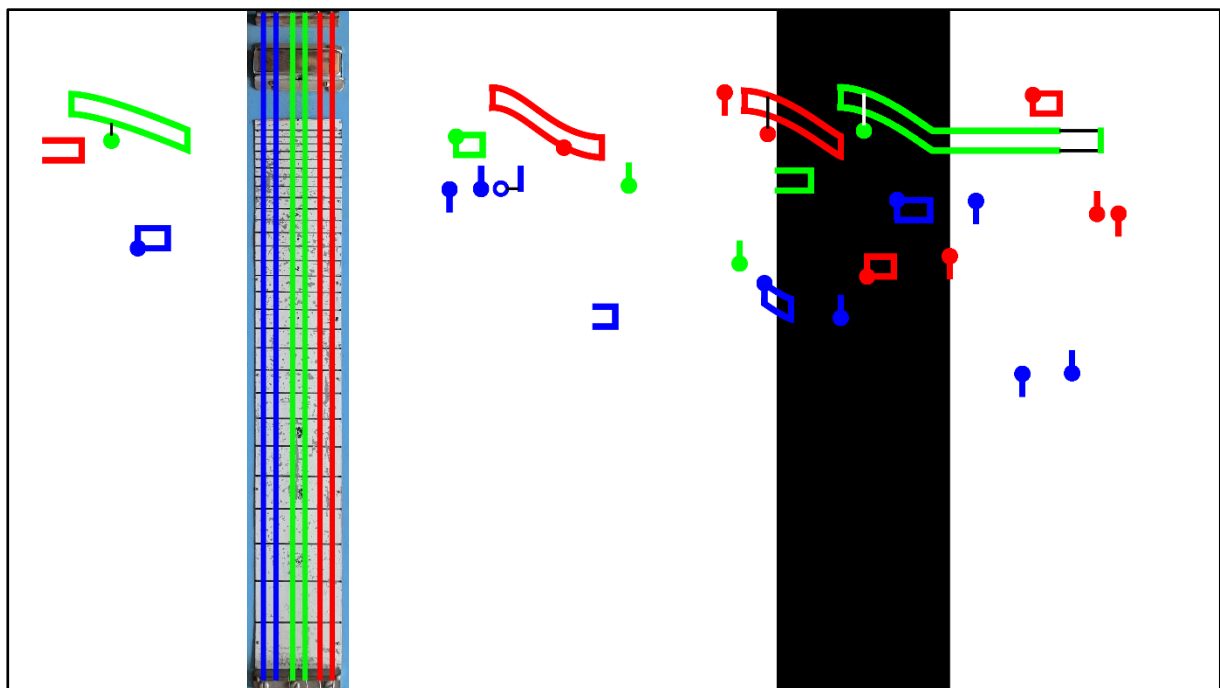
Scalpel is written for three players on a single lap-steel/slide guitar, with each being allocated two of the six guitar strings. The players should be situated around the instrument like so:



The assigned strings are ordered based on their orientation to the score and their relative pitch (not their orientation to each player), like below:

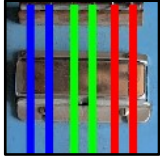


The notation consists of coloured contoured lines and dots, as well as an image of the lap-steel guitar neck, on a white or black backdrop.

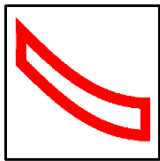




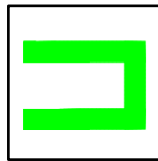
The coloured lines are choreographic, outlining the position and movement of each player's slide on their assigned strings.



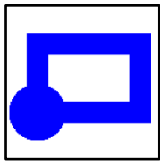
This aligns with the vertical image of the lap-steel guitar, with "higher" pitches at the top toward the pickup and bridge, and "lower" pitches at the bottom toward the nut. The guitar image also acts as a "tape head", aligning the players' movements in time.



Vertical coloured lines indicate to mute the string/s. Phrases can begin and/or end with muted strings.



If a phrase begins without a vertical line, the sound of the slide making initial contact with the strings should be audible. If a phrase ends without a vertical line, the sound of the slide being removed from the string should be audible (as an open string sound).



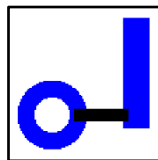
A dot on a line indicates to pluck the string as normal (on the side slide closer to the guitar's pickup).



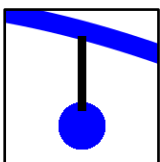
A dot below the slide position indicates to pluck the string behind the slide (on the other side to the guitar's pickup).



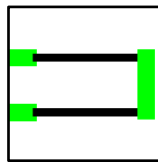
A dot on a vertical line indicates to pluck a muted string.



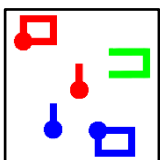
A hollow dot indicates to pluck an open string.



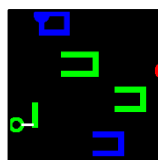
Vertical black (or white) lines indicate which string is to be plucked.



Horizontal black (or white) lines indicate how long open strings should ring out.



A white background indicates the tone of the guitar is to be metallic, and thin, with lots of treble and less bass.



A black background indicates the use of a guitar pedal to change the tone of the guitar.*

Players should mute their assigned strings when not playing.

*The guitar pedal should change the tone of the guitar to a highly amplified, distorted, unstable, dirty, noise-filled tone that is barely recognisable as guitar.