This piece uses a scheme of 36 pitches, 24 note values, 12 attacks, and 7 dynamic levels. It is written entirely according to the scheme.

Attacks: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

(with the neutral, unsigned attack, this makes 12.)

Dynamics: *ppp* *pp* *p* *mf* *f* *ff* *fff*
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Tones: The scheme comprises 3 Divisions, or melodic groupings of 12 tones, each extending through several octaves, with overlaps. Tones of the same name differ in pitch, duration and loudness.

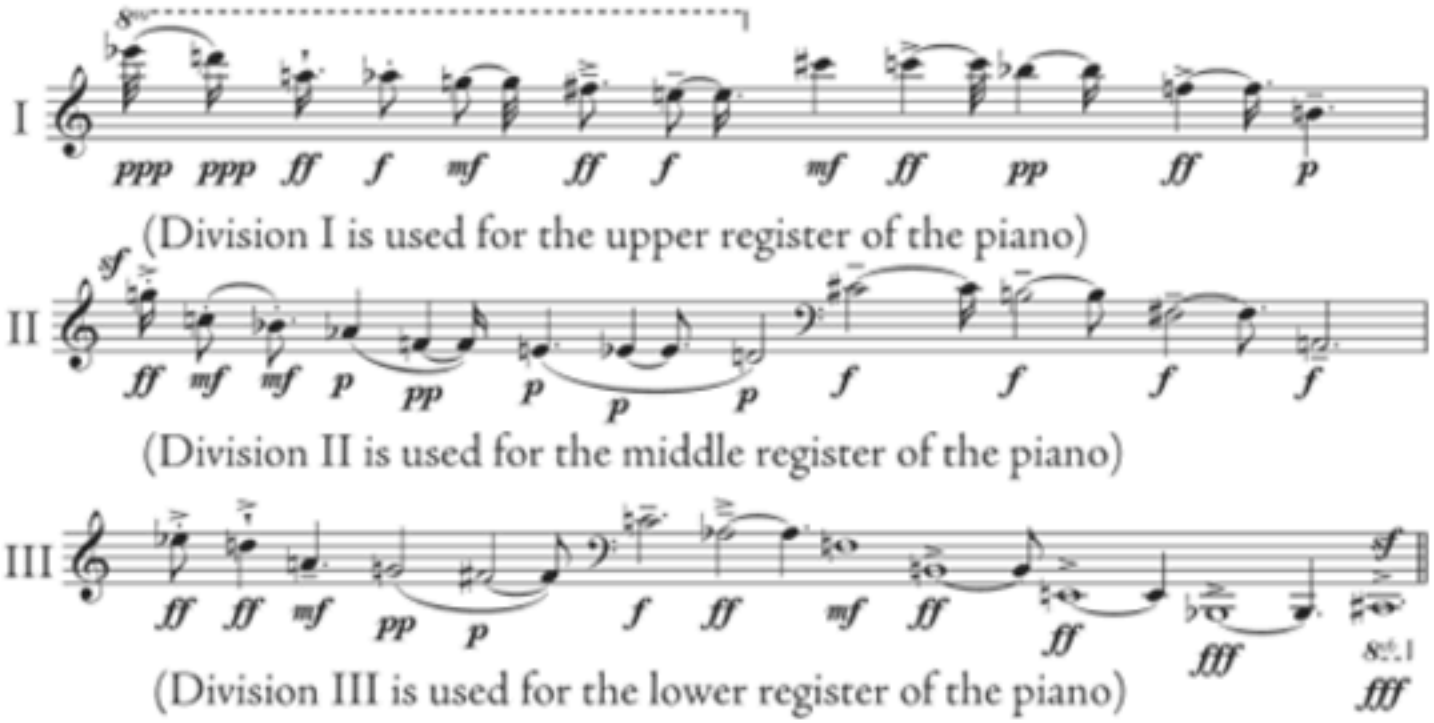
Division I: chromatic degrees from 1 to 12 (etc.)

Division II: chromatic degrees from 1 to 12 (etc.)

Division III: chromatic degrees from 1 to 12 (etc.)

24 durations in all:
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Here is the scheme:



ex. 1-3 Olivier Messiaen, *Mode de valeurs et d'intensités*, prefatory table