

flow

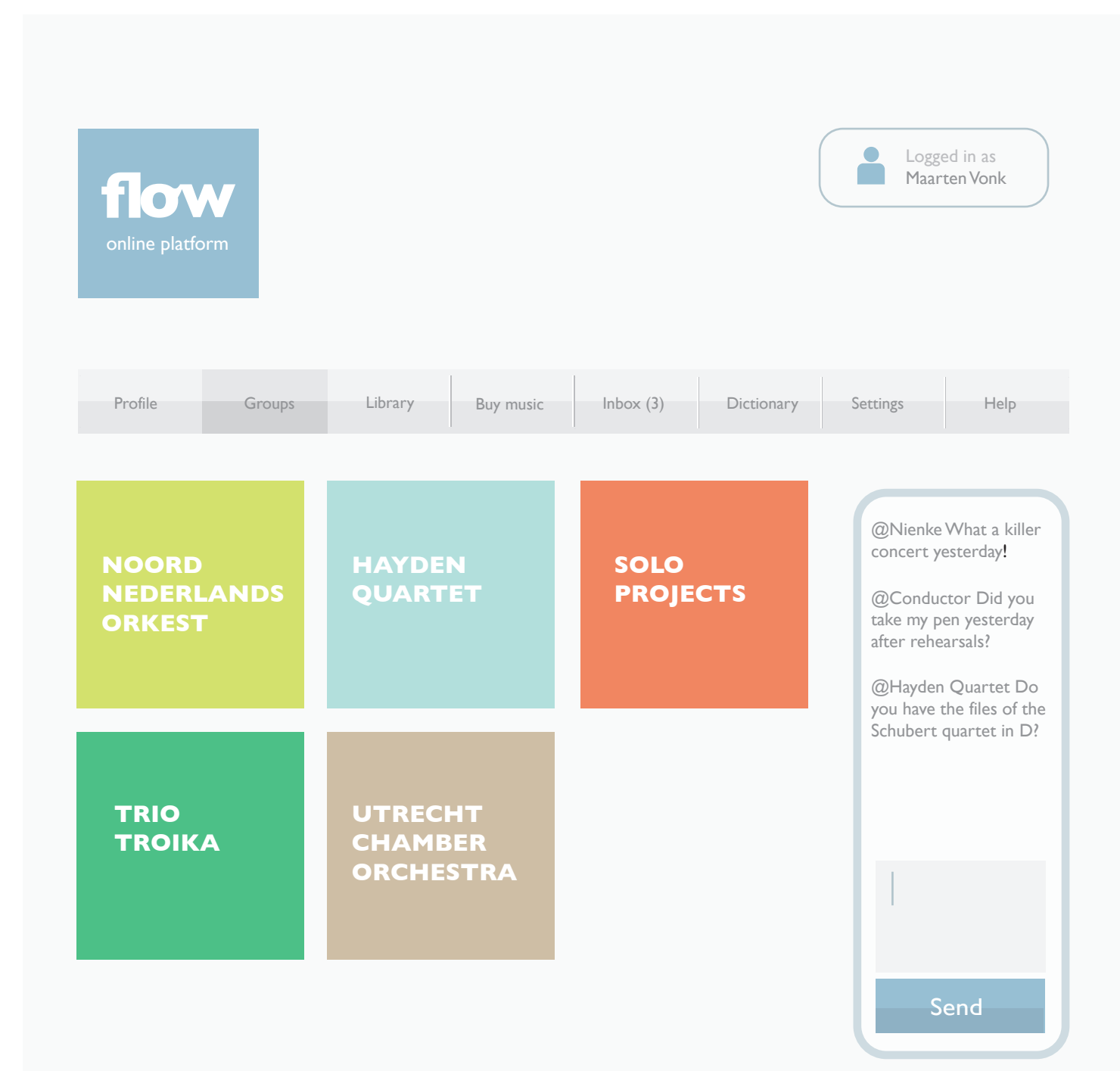
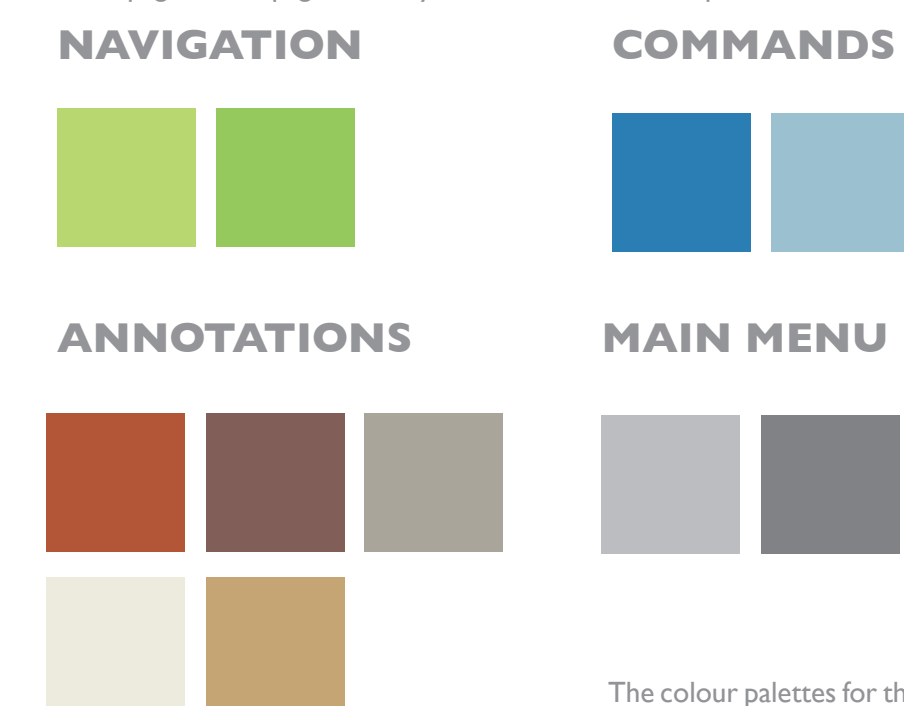
music reader

For the Dutch company Leoné Music Reader, a new interface for a digital music reader was developed for use in a symphony orchestra.

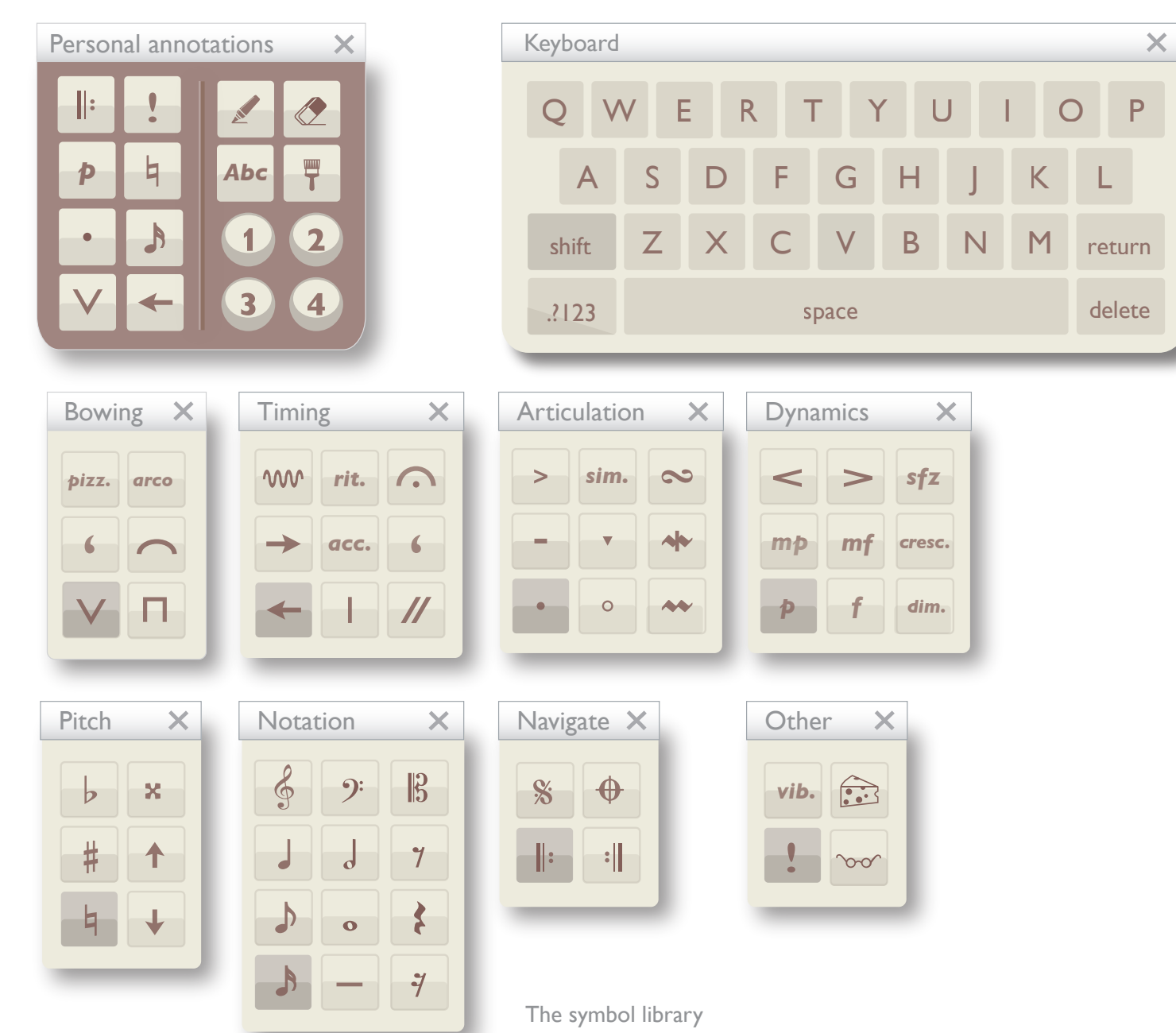
The vision behind the concept was to help musicians stay in the flow of what they love the most: making music. With the ViP-method, a future scenario and context was created using conclusions and input from an extensive literature research, user research and state of the art orientation about the developments on social and technological level. The focus area of the concept has been the interface of a reader application to be used on a touch tablet, but design implications were made for a whole service for the orchestra. This includes a digital FLOW platform where musicians can communicate during early practice before the first rehearsal, consult the orchestra wiki, listen to recordings and look up digital annotation files of other musicians.

The main concept of the FLOW music reader is the use of flexible menus at the edges of the tablet, which slides out for easy accessibility during use, instead of one static menu. All these menus are colour coded for clear interaction. The navigation side bar on the left can be slid out by swiping the screen when needed. The same principle applies to the main menu on the top edge. By double clicking the screen, the annotation hotbox appears, with separate layers for group annotations and personal annotations. Annotations can easily be copied and shared with the whole instrument group in one click. Today, the orchestra librarian has to copy the pencil annotations by hand, which is a very time consuming task. The annotation hotbox is customized to fit the different instrument needs and preferences of the musician, and he or she can choose between using symbols from a new designed symbol library, highlighting areas of the music, typing or using the free hand input. Furthermore, a communication system with commands from the conductor and group leader was designed.

Finally, a new way of page turning, flow navigation, was designed through extensive user testing: While the musician is playing at the end of the page, a new page is slowly rolled out from the top.



Impression of the FLOW online platform



The symbol library



The design of the FLOW music reader

Kine Handlykken
FLOW: Developing the new music reader
22 November 2012
Design for Interaction

Committee H. de Ridder
F. van Maurik

Company Leone Music Reader