Sid Richardson

Astrolabe

for Flute, Clarinet, Violin,
Cello, Piano, Percussion

2014, Rev. 2022

Astrolabe

Instrumentation:

Flute
Clarinet in Bb (doubling Bass Clarinet in Bb with "C" extension)
Violin
Violoncello
Percussion
Piano

Percussion List:

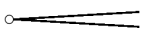
Vibraphone
Crotales (2 octaves)
Suspended Cymbals (3)
Brake Drums (2)
Small Gong (tam-tam or wind gong)
Cowbell
Snare Drum
Tom-tom
Bass Drum (with pedal)
Wood blocks (2)

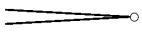
Duration: *10 minutes, 30 seconds*

Performance Notes:

All players are asked to use their voice in some capacity. If necessary, players may change the octave range of a passage to suit individual capability. Spoken passages should emphasize consonants instead of vowels. In whispered passages, lines enter approximately where they appear in the measure and cutoff in the same manner.

Amplification for all instruments and voices is suggested along with a small amount of reverb, between 20-30% in the mix, at the discretion of the sound technician. This should not be very loud, just enough to pick up and balance both instruments and voices.

 = Crescendo dal niente

 = Diminuendo al niente

= note raised 1/4 tone

= note raised 3/4 tone

= note lowered 1/4 tone

= note lowered 3/4 tone

Strings:

SP = Sul ponticello

ST = Sul tasto

N = Normale, ordinary bow placement

Winds:

Diamond noteheads with an open circle above indicate to use breath tone. Use the fingering needed to produce the marked pitch, however, do not produce the normal tone, just blow air through the instrument. A dotted line connecting the open circle to a filled-in circle above an ordinary notehead indicates to gradually shift from breath tone to normal tone, and vice versa.

Revised June 15, 2022.

Program Note:

The astrolabe is an astronomical device used to solve problems relating to time and the position of the celestial bodies in the sky. It was the primary astronomical education tool of ancient times, and as such astrolabes were fashioned by various cultures around the world for both scientific and astrological purposes. Aesthetically, the astrolabe was regarded as a symbol of the universe and as an object of great beauty. *Astrolabe* seeks to interpret the mystical and scientific properties of the device and to consider the implications of time and positioning in musical space. Over the course of the work, several disparate musical elements are combined in new ways, each time with shifts in texture and mood, in much the same way as the moving components of the astrolabe are manipulated to solve for solutions to astronomical problems. The mystical and supernatural properties of the astrolabe, which date back to its early history as an instrument of astrology and divination, are reflected in musical passages incorporating the players' voices. The text is compiled out of three sources: star names from constellations of the zodiac, excerpts from Geoffrey Chaucer's *Treatise on the Astrolabe*, and Walt Whitman's poem "Kosmos." Untrained voices and text are employed to convey the dramatic intensity of the symbolic forces represented by the astrolabe, and to further the expressive potential of the musical textures in which they interact.

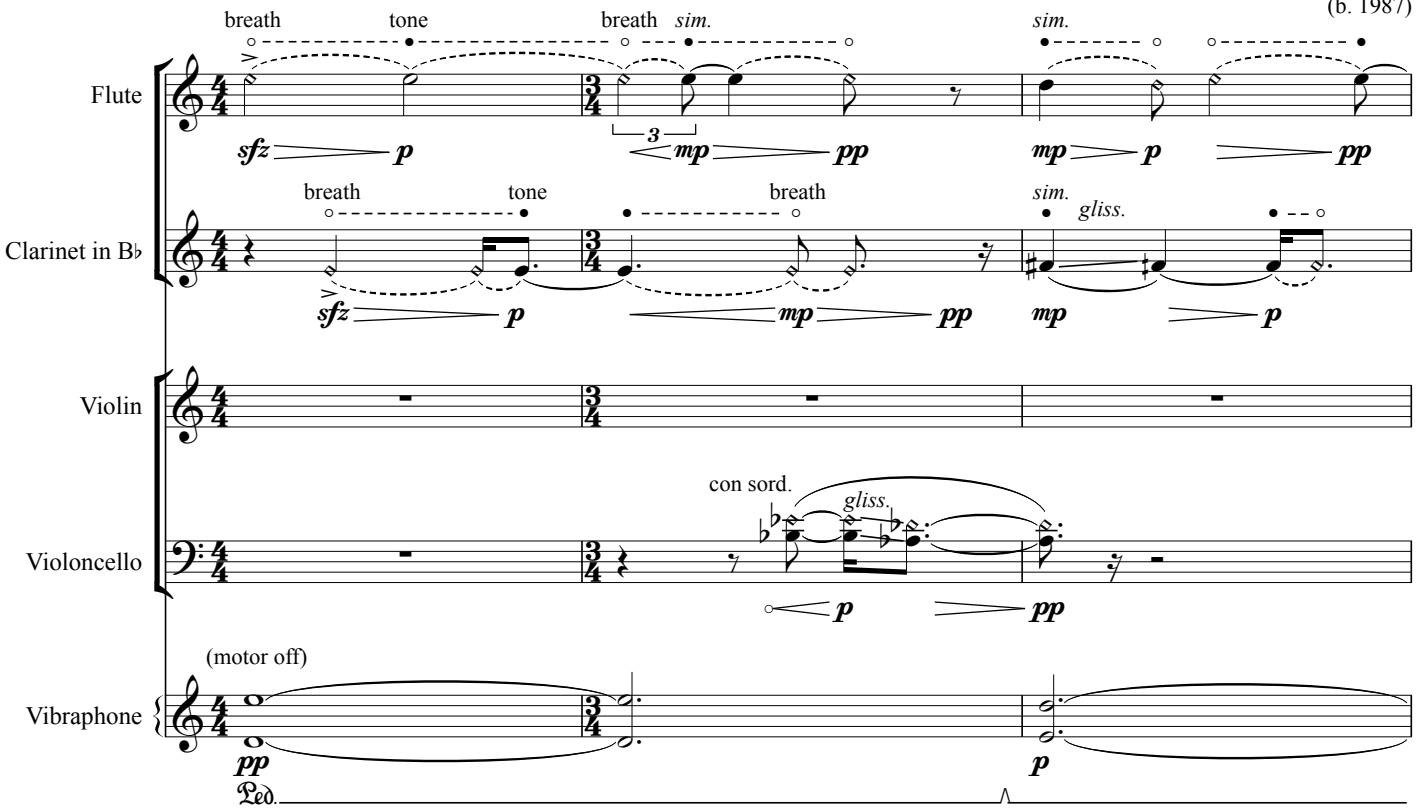
Astrolabe

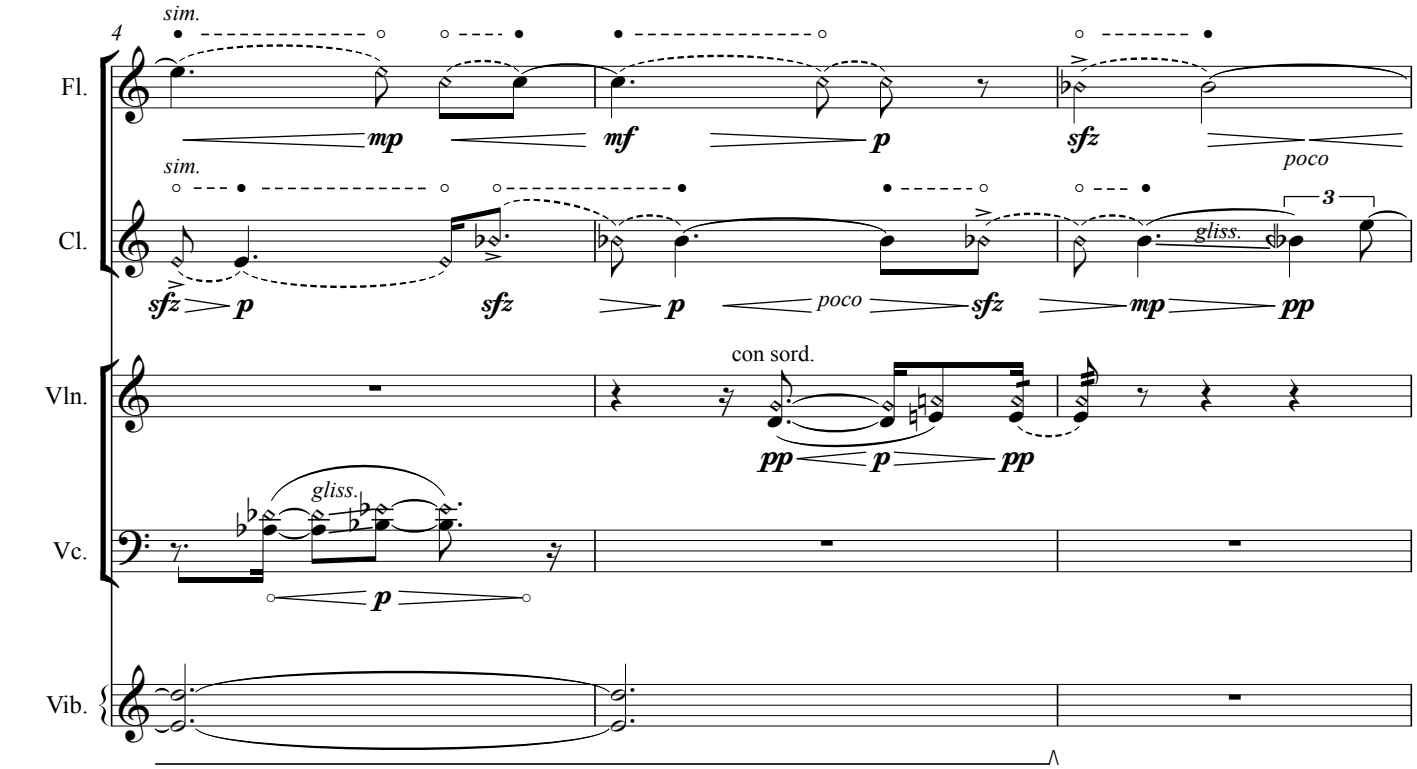
for the Da Capo Chamber Players

Transposed Score

SID RICHARDSON
(b. 1987)

♩ = 50 Largo misterioso





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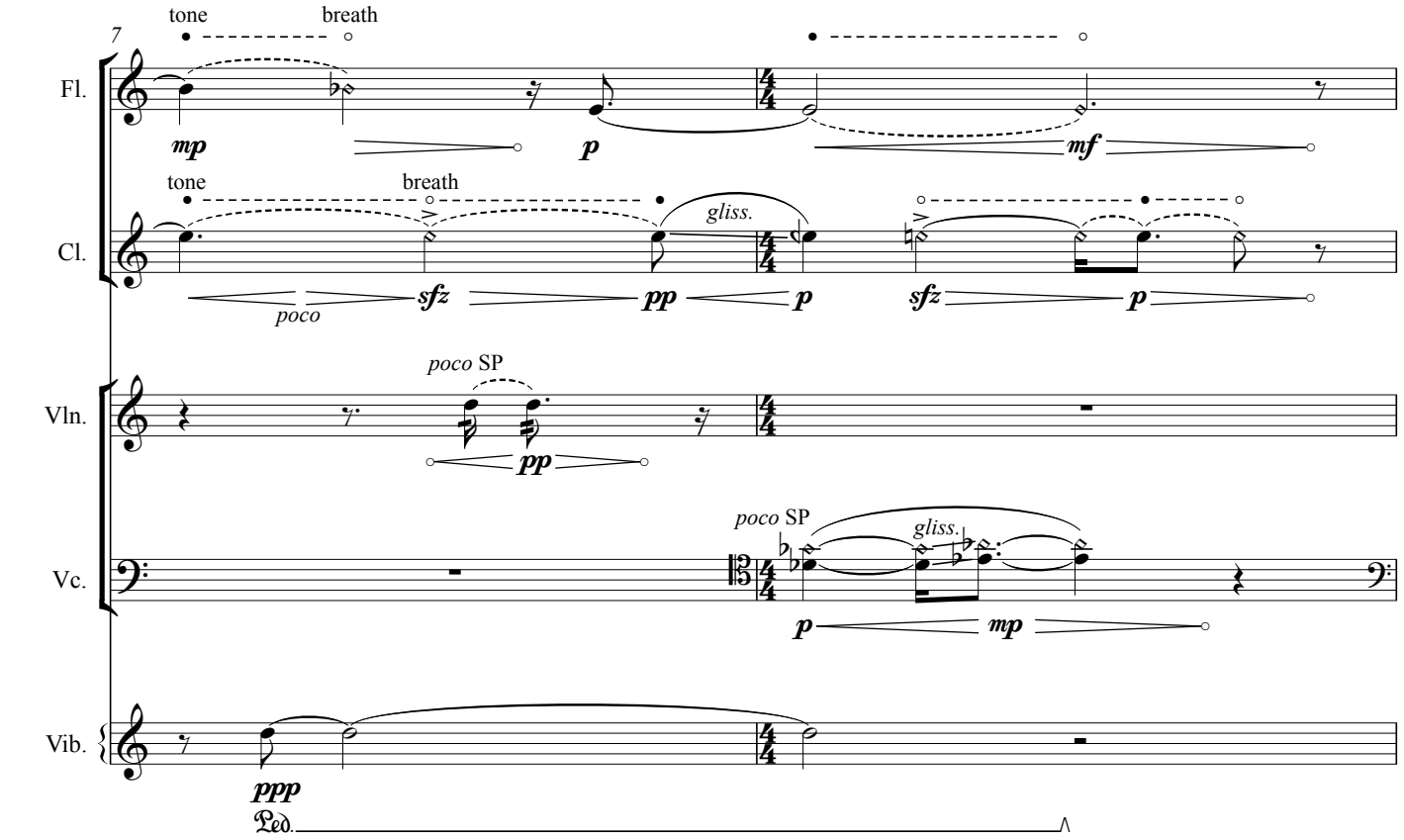
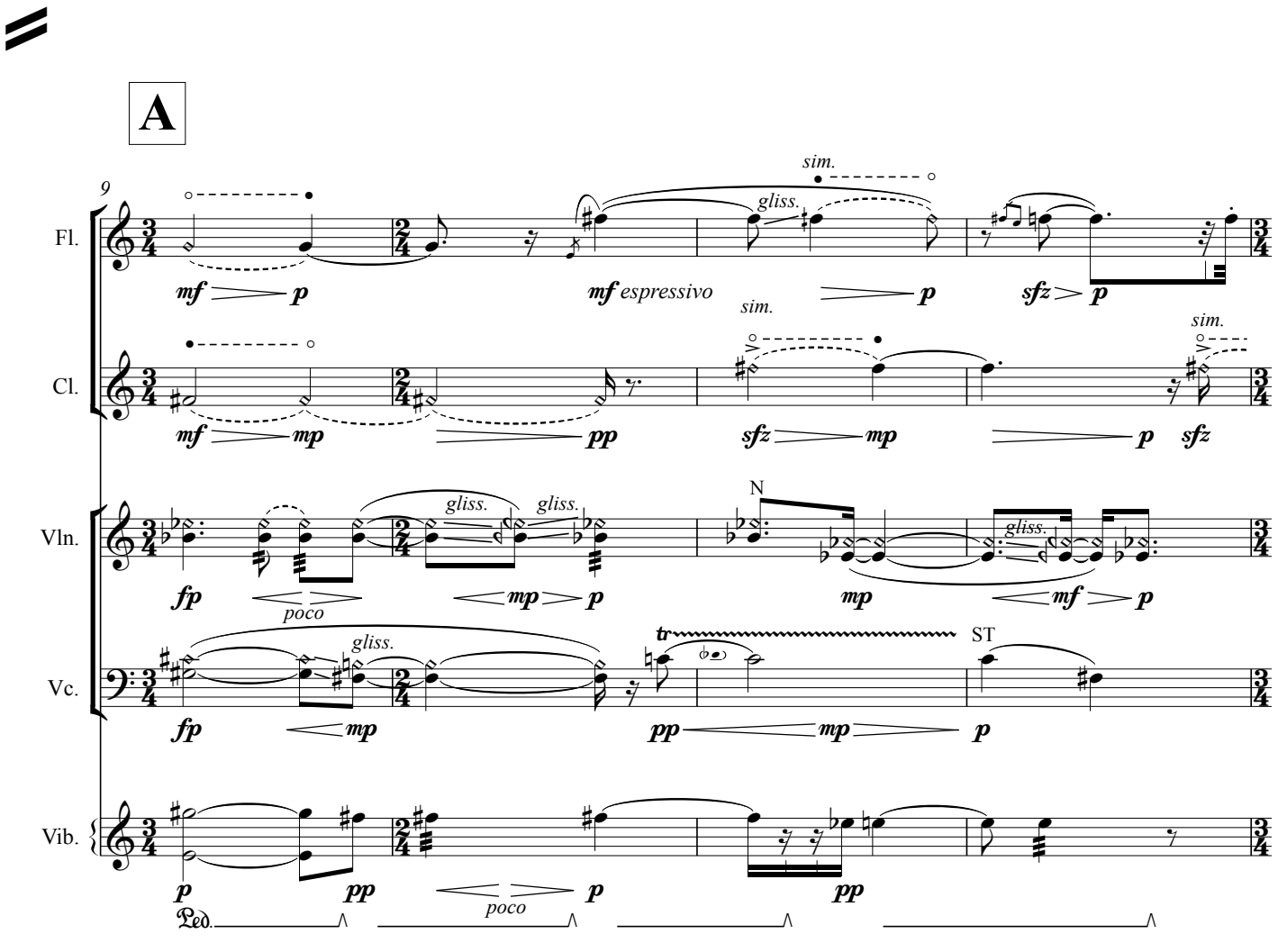
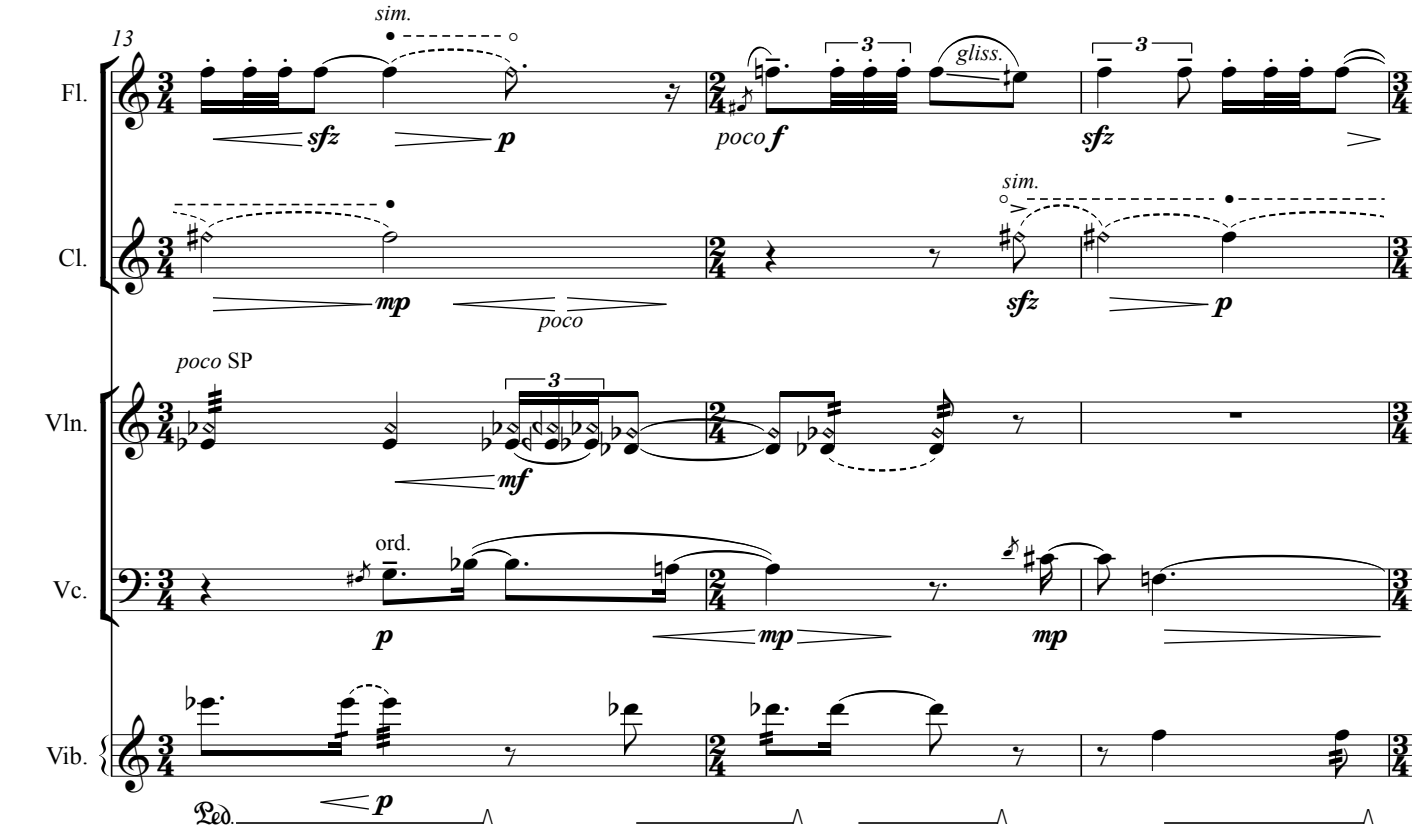
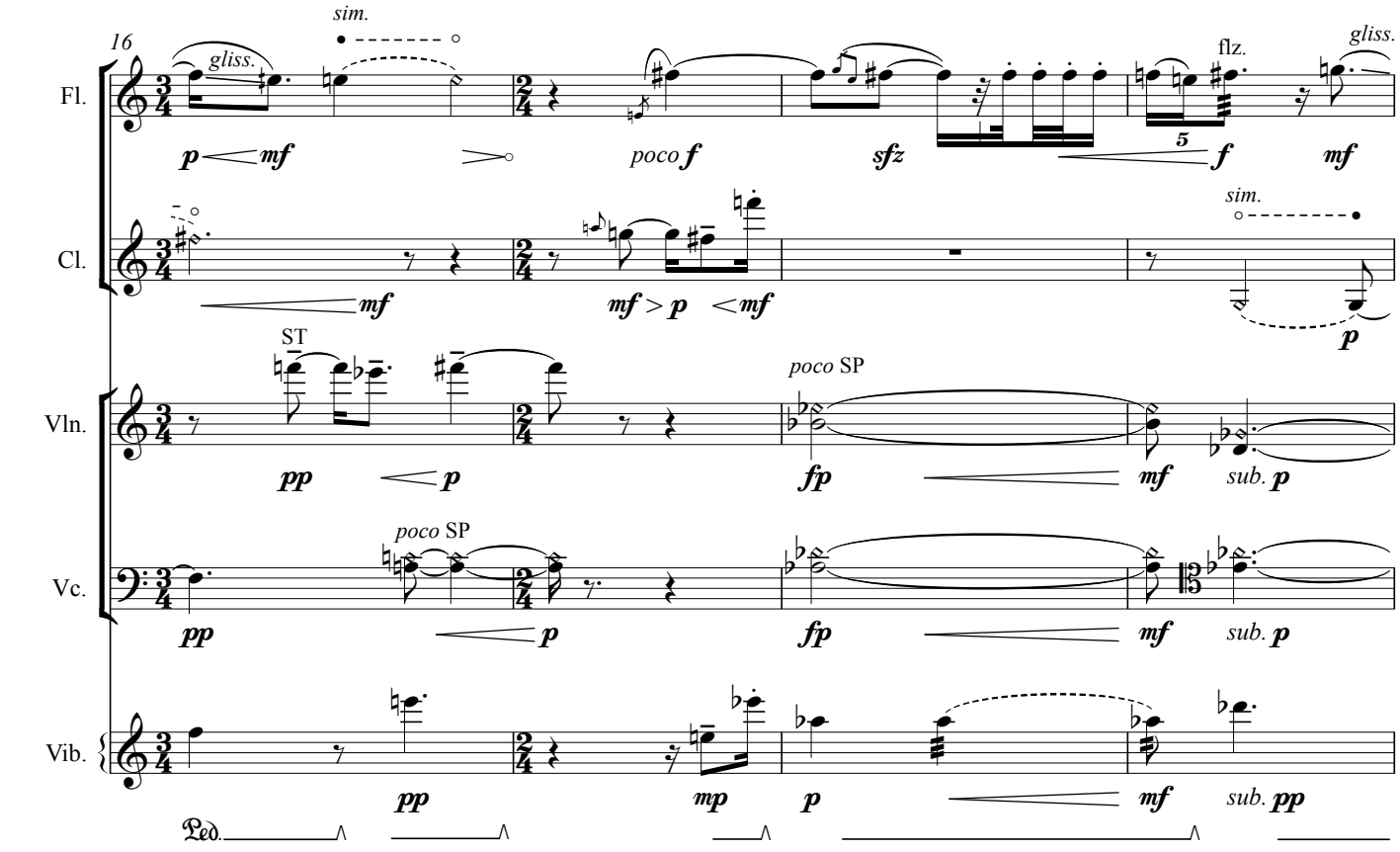
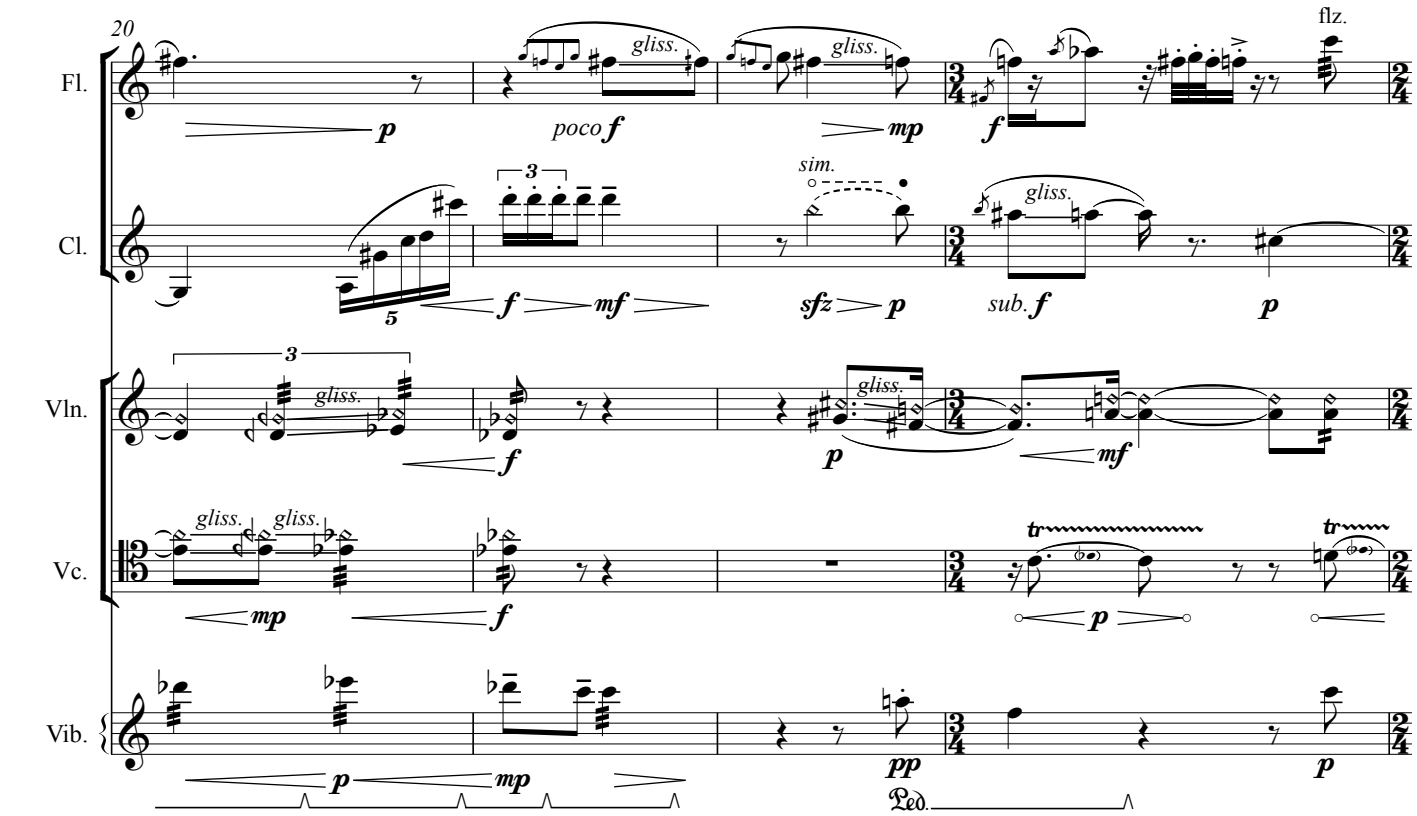
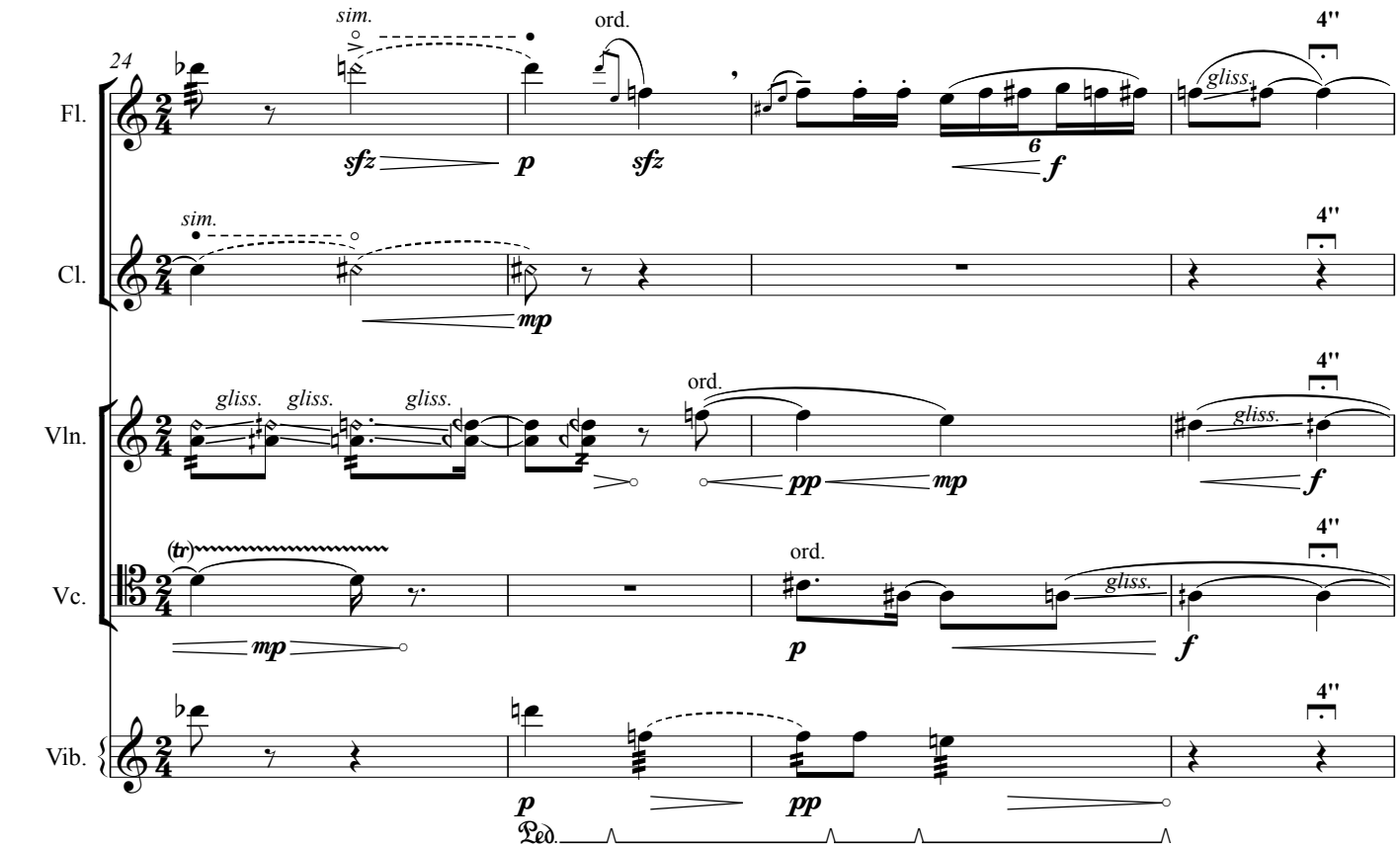

7
tone
breath
Fl.
mp
p
mf
tone
breath
gliss.
Cl.
poco
sfz
pp
p
sfz
p
poco SP
Vln.
pp
poco SP
gliss.
Vc.
p
mp
Vib.
ppp
Ped.


A
9
sim.
gliss.
Fl.
mf
p
mf espressivo
p
sfz
p
sim.
sim.
Cl.
mf
mp
pp
sfz
mp
p
sfz
N
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
Vln.
fp
poco
mp
p
mp
mf
p
gliss.
tr
ST
Vc.
fp
mp
pp
mp
p
Vib.
p
pp
poco
p
pp
Ped.


13
sim.
Fl.
sfz
p
poco f
gliss.
3
sfz
Cl.
mp
poco
sim.
sfz
p
poco SP
Vln.
3
mf
ord.
Vc.
p
mp
mp
Vib.
p
Ped.


16
sim.
gliss.
Fl.
p
mf
poco f
sfz
5
f
flz.
mf
gliss.
Cl.
mf
mf > p < mf
sim.
p
ST
Vln.
pp
p
poco SP
fp
mf
sub. p
poco SP
Vc.
pp
p
fp
mf
sub. p
Vib.
pp
mp
p
mf
sub. pp
Ped.


20
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Vib.
flz.
gliss.
poco f
mp
f
sim.
sfz
p
sub. f
mf
tr
pp
Ped.


24
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Vib.
sim.
ord.
sfz
p
mp
f
pp
4"
gliss.
(tr)
Ped.

B ♩ = 60 - 63 Adagio, Solemn

28

Fl. *mp* *mf* *f*

Cl. *f*

Vln. *p* *mf* *f*

Vc. *mp* *p* *mf* *f*

with vibraphone mallets

Perc. Gong l.v. *f* Suspended Cymbal l.v. *mf*

Pno. *f* *Ped.*

31

sim.

Fl. *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *f*

Cl. *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

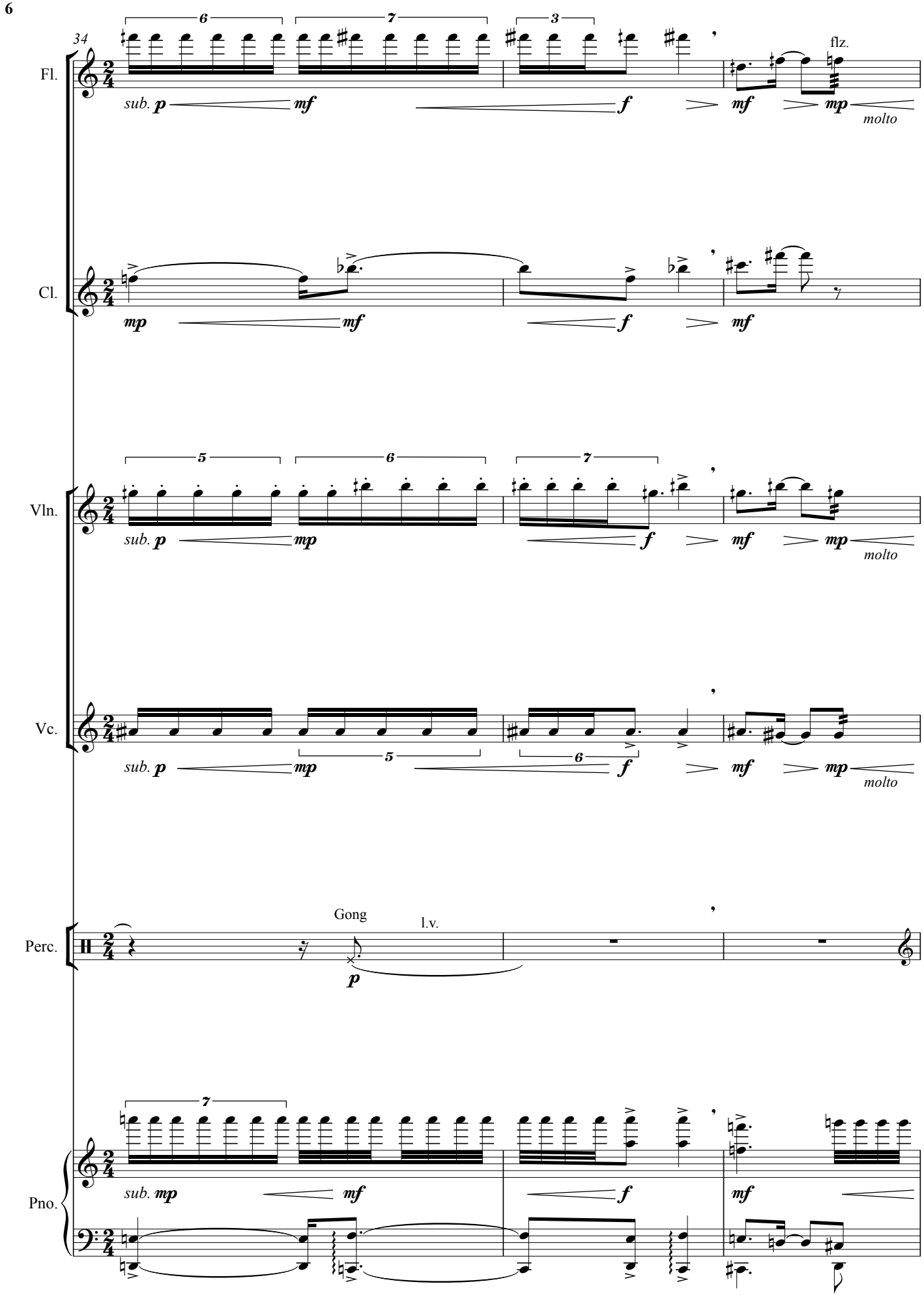
Vln. *mp* *mf* *mp* 5 6

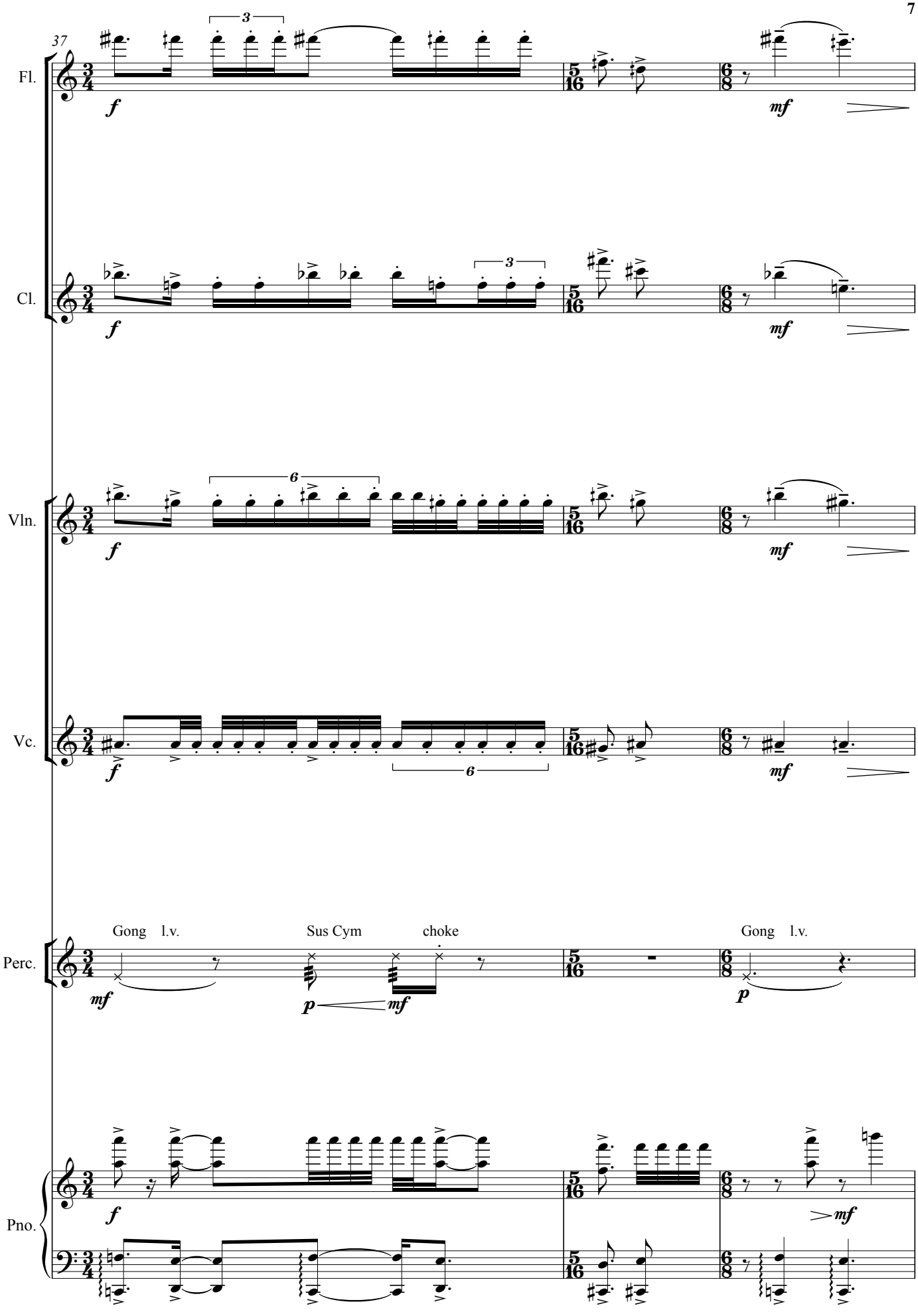
Vc. *mp* *mf* *mp*

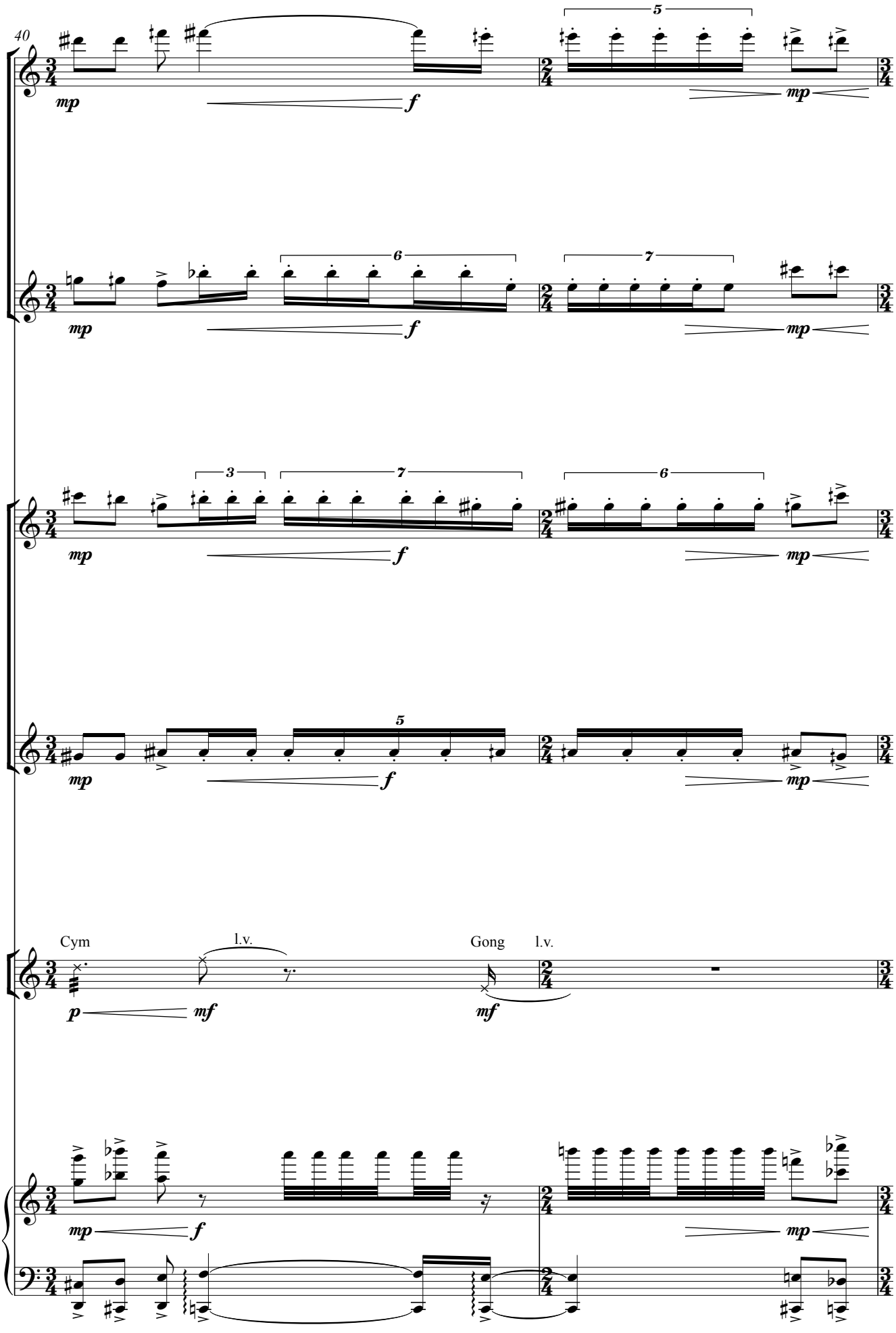
Perc. Sus Cym *p* Gong l.v. *p* Sus Cym l.v. *mp* *p*

Pno. *mf* *f*

(Pedaled)


34
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
sub. p
mf
f
mp
flz.
molto
Gong
l.v.


37
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
Gong l.v.
Sus Cym
choke
Gong l.v.


40
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
Cym
l.v.
Gong
l.v.
mp
f
mf
p

C ♩ = 80 Ritualistic

42

Fl.

Cl.

Voice

Spoken

ki

Vln.

Voice

Spoken

Ruk - bat Nun ki

Vc.

Voice

Spoken

Ruk - bat Nun ki

Crotales l.v. Wood block Cowbell Snare Drum WB

Perc.

Voice

Spoken

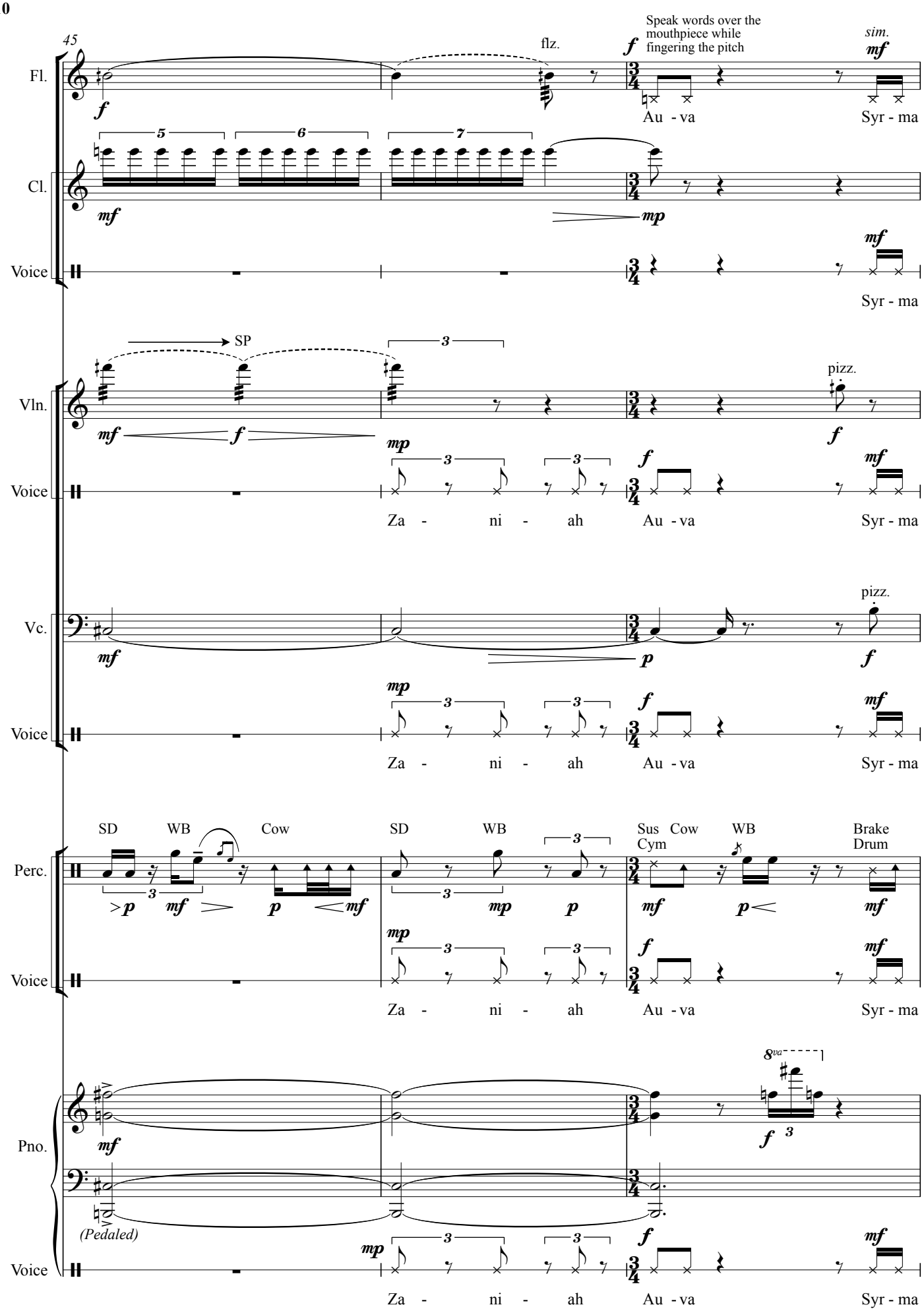
Ruk - bat Nun ki

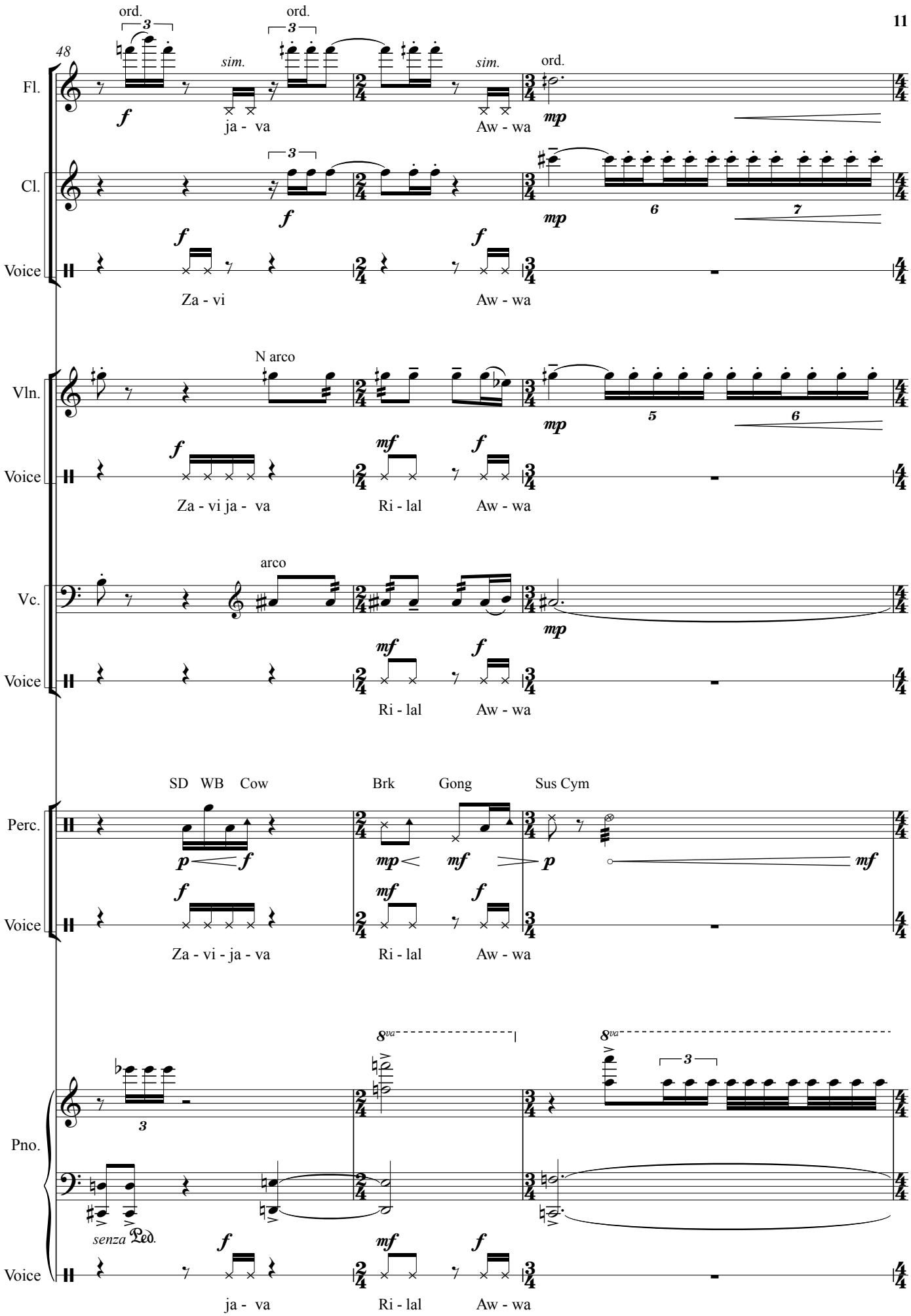
Pno.

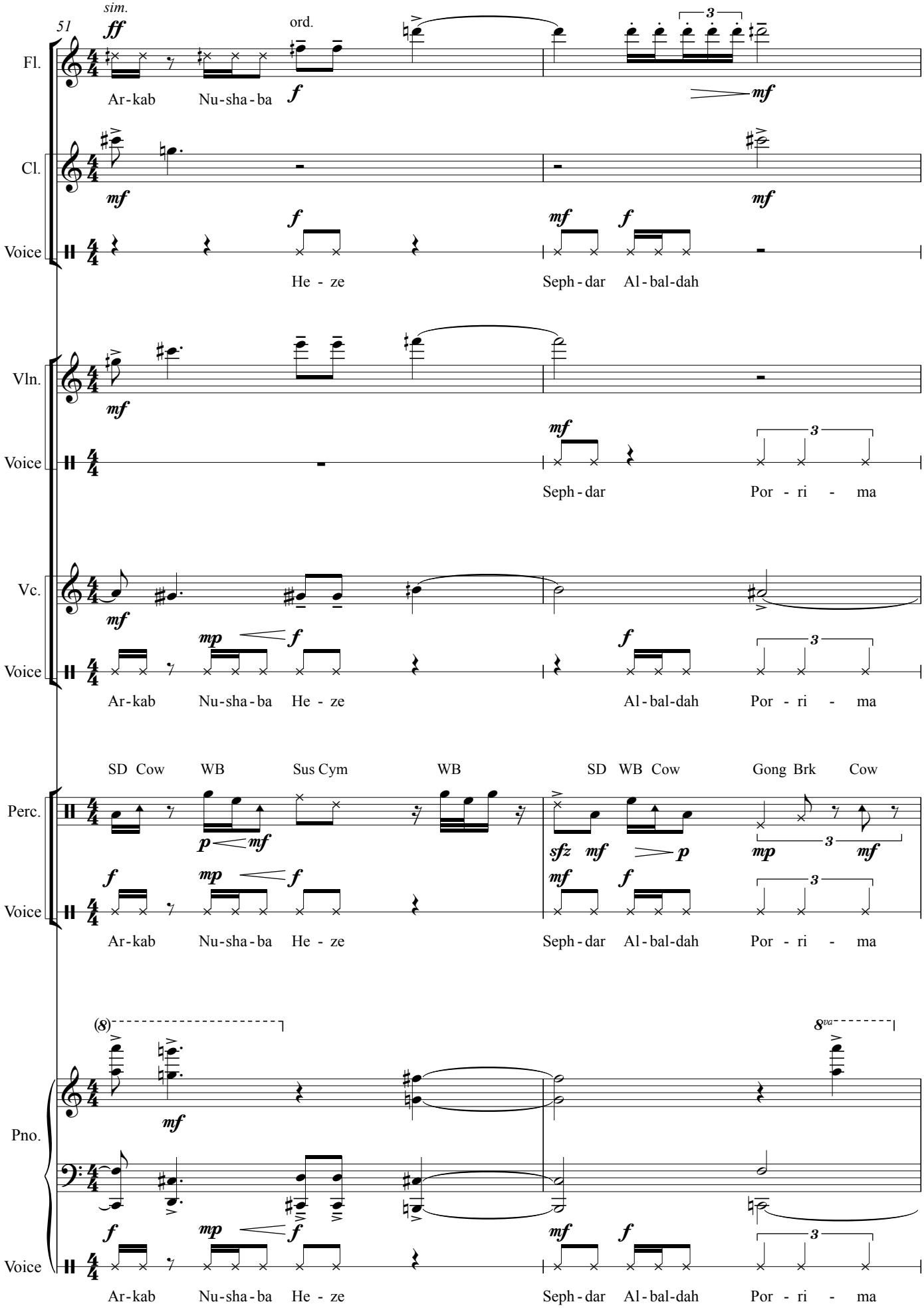
Voice

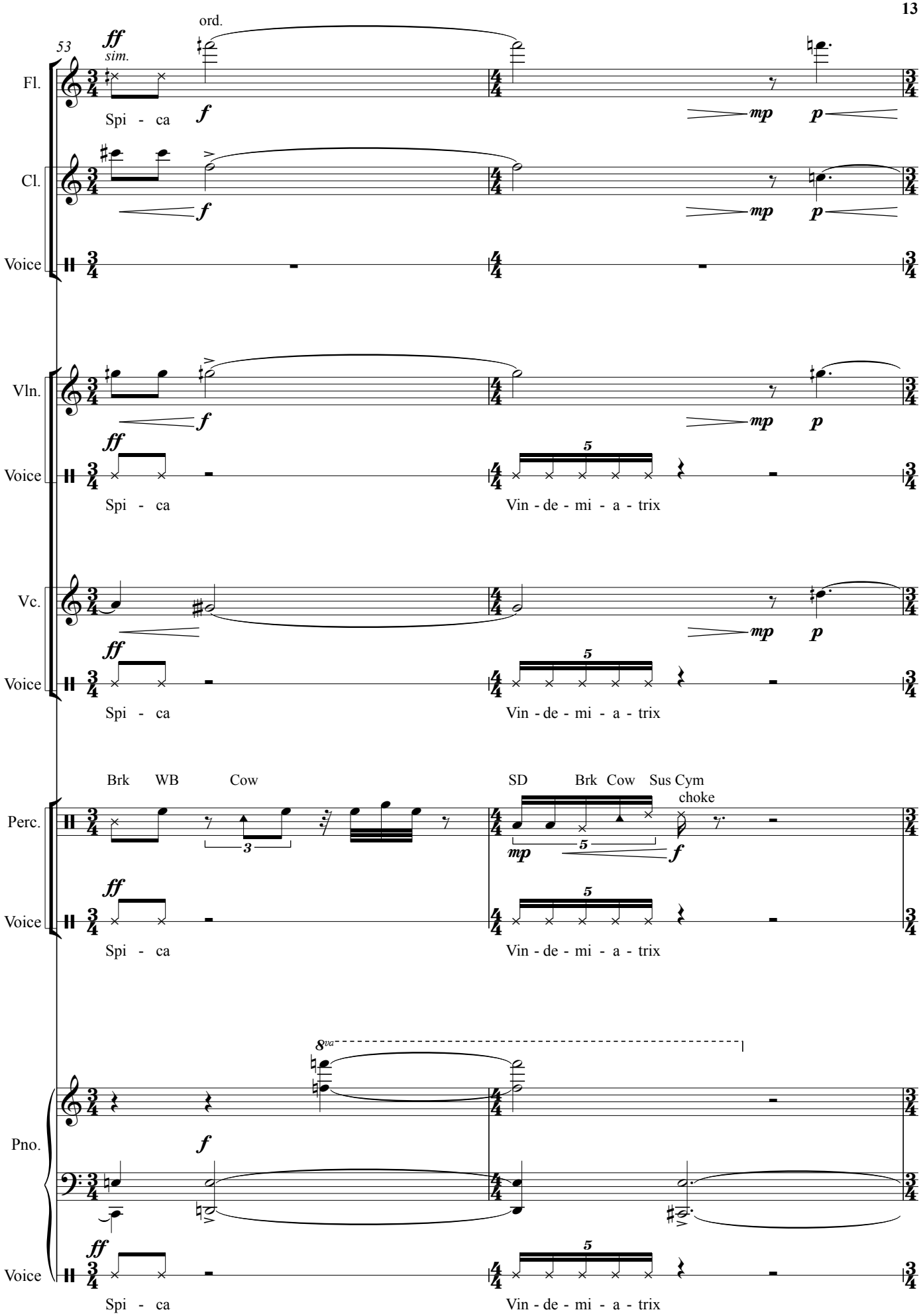
Spoken

Ruk - bat Nun ki


45
Fl.
flz.
Speak words over the mouthpiece while fingering the pitch
sim.
Au - va
Syr - ma
Cl.
Voice
Syr - ma
Vln.
SP
pizz.
Za - ni - ah
Au - va
Syr - ma
Vc.
pizz.
Za - ni - ah
Au - va
Syr - ma
Perc.
SD
WB
Cow
Sus Cym
Brake Drum
Za - ni - ah
Au - va
Syr - ma
Pno.
(Pedaled)
Za - ni - ah
Au - va
Syr - ma


48
Fl.
ord.
sim.
ja - va
ord.
sim.
Aw - wa
ord.
Cl.
Voice
Za - vi
Aw - wa
Vln.
N arco
Za - vi ja - va
Ri - lal
Aw - wa
Vc.
arco
Ri - lal
Aw - wa
Perc.
SD WB Cow
Brk
Gong
Sus Cym
Za - vi - ja - va
Ri - lal
Aw - wa
Pno.
8va
senza Ped.
ja - va
Ri - lal
Aw - wa


51
sim.
ff
ord.
f
mf
Fl.
Cl.
Voice
Ar-kab Nu-sha-ba
He - ze
Seph-dar Al-bal-dah
Vln.
Seph-dar Por - ri - ma
Vc.
Ar-kab Nu-sha-ba He - ze Al-bal-dah Por - ri - ma
SD Cow WB Sus Cym WB SD WB Cow Gong Brk Cow
Perc.
p
sfz
mp
Pno.
(8)
8va


53
ord.
ff
sim.
Fl.
Spi - ca
f
mp
p
Cl.
Vln.
Voice
Spi - ca
Vin - de - mi - a - trix
Vc.
Brk WB Cow
SD Brk Cow Sus Cym
choke
Perc.
8va
Pno.

D ♩ = 60 - 63 Adagio misterioso

55

Fl.

poco ***f*** ***mp*** ***f*** ***p*** *poco* ***f*** ***sfz***

gliss. *gliss.* flz. *gliss.*

Cl.

mf ***mp***

Voice

mf

hum (any octave)

Vln.

mp

Voice

mf

hum (any octave)

Vc.

mp

Voice

mf

hum (any octave)

Crotales

Crotales l.v.

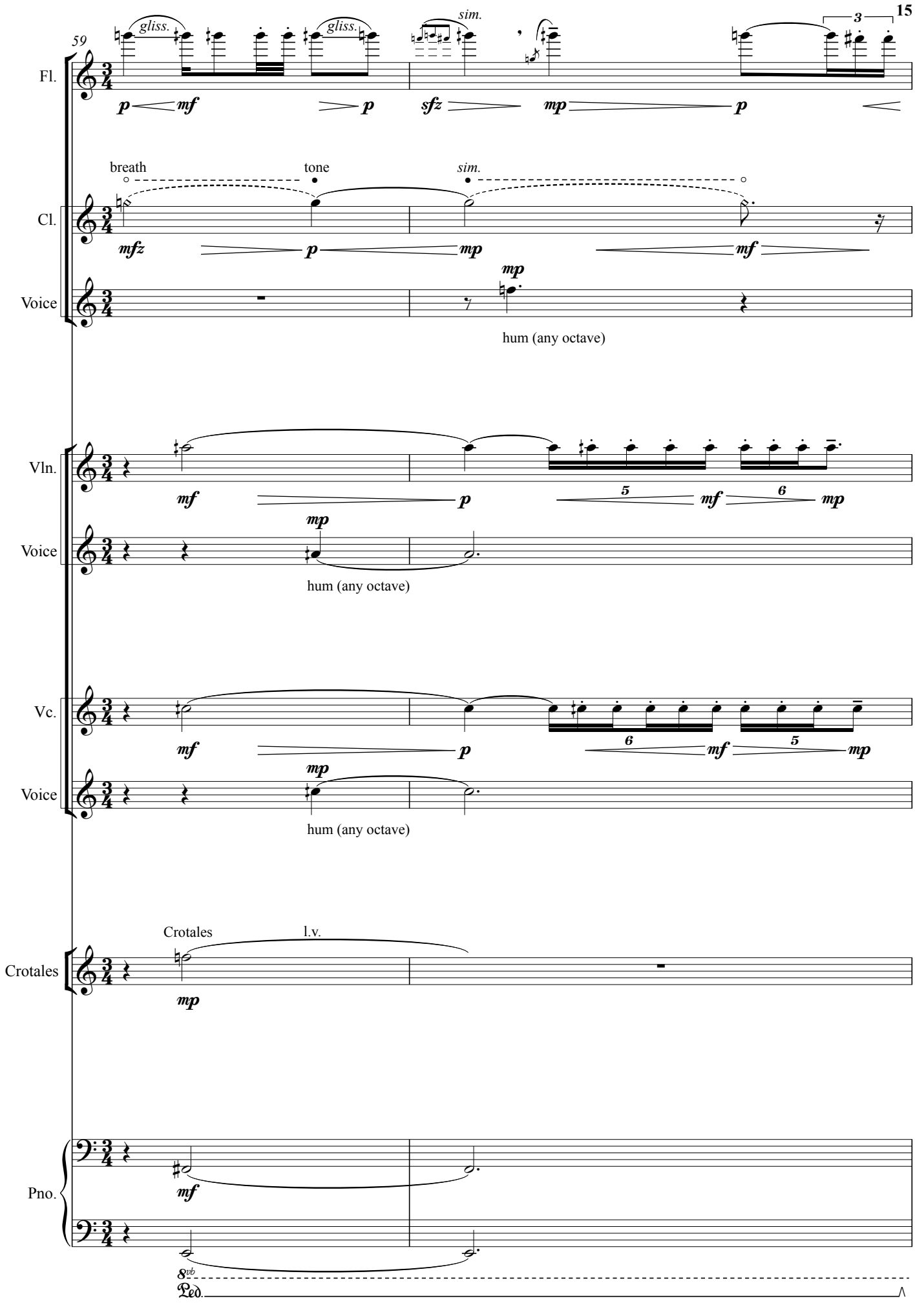
mp

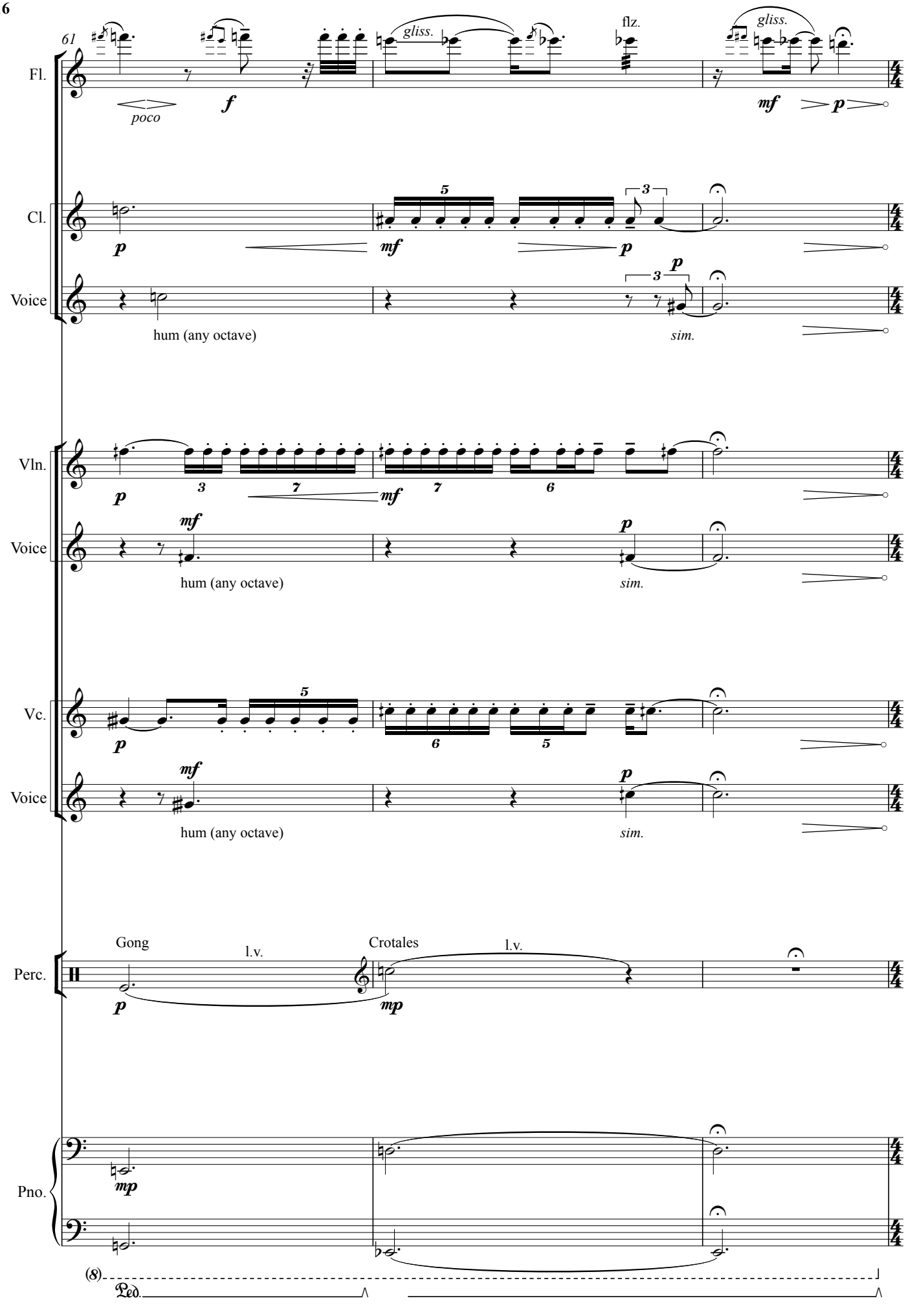
Pno.

mp

8vb

Ped.


59
Fl.
gliss.
gliss.
sim.
3
p
mf
p
sfz
mp
p
Cl.
breath
tone
sim.
mfz
p
mp
mf
Voice
mp
hum (any octave)
Vln.
mf
p
5
mf
6
mp
Voice
mp
hum (any octave)
Vc.
mf
p
6
mf
5
mp
Voice
mp
hum (any octave)
Crotales
Crotales
l.v.
mp
Pno.
mf
8vb
Ped.


61
Fl.
gliss.
flz.
gliss.
poco
f
mf
p
Cl.
p
mf
p
Voice
hum (any octave)
sim.
Vln.
mf
Voice
hum (any octave)
sim.
Vc.
Voice
hum (any octave)
sim.
Perc.
Gong
l.v.
Crotales
l.v.
mp
Pno.
mp
(8)
Ped.