Bog Bodies

Quintet (for Concorde)
Score transposed

Flute, Trumpet, Clarinet, Accordion, & Violoncello
Circa 12 minutes

Eoin Mulvany 2015

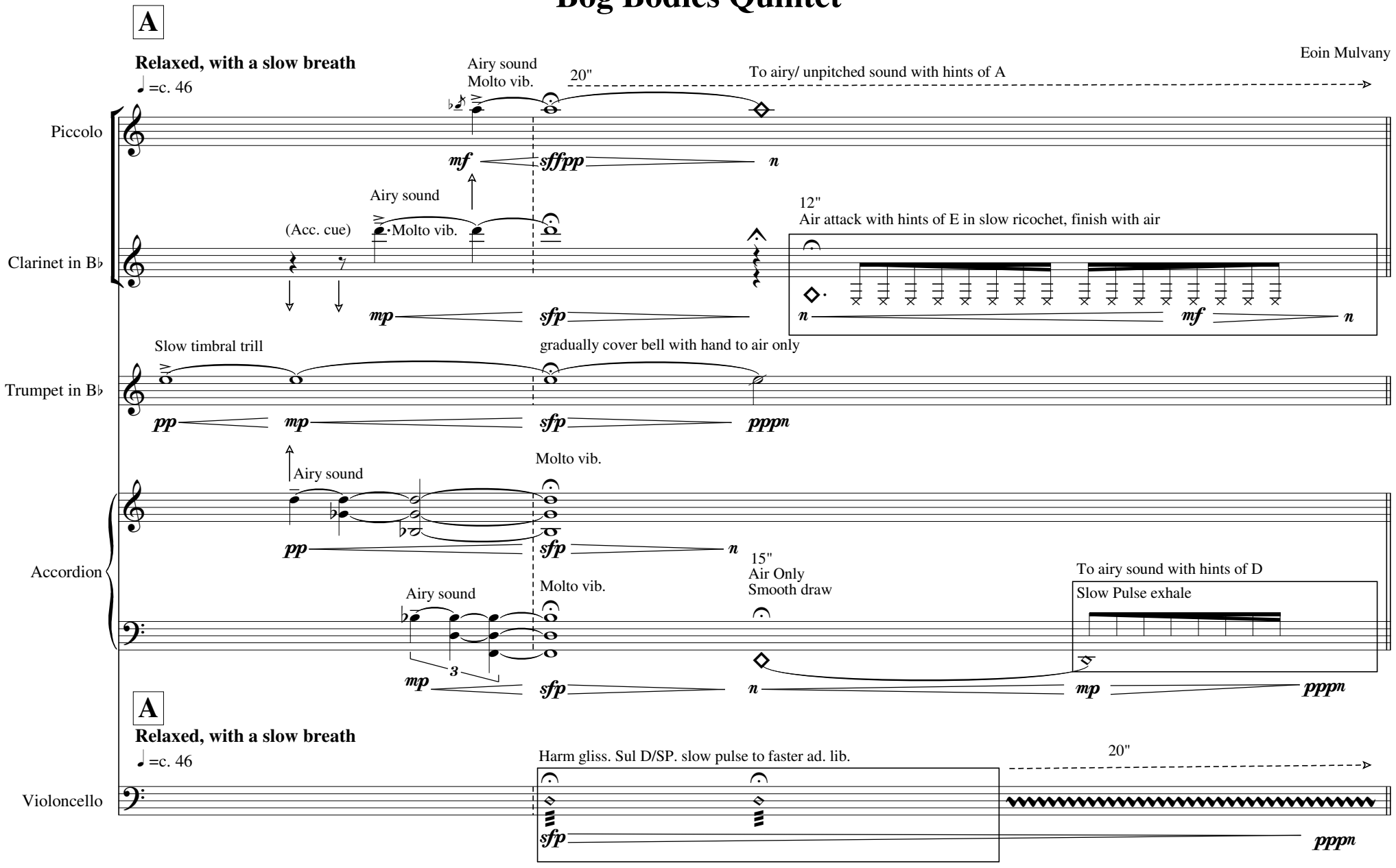
Instrumentation: Score Transposed

Piccolo/Flute
Clarinet in Bb/ Bass Clarinet in Bb
Trumpet in Bb
Accordion
Violoncello

This quintet, commissioned by *Concorde*, was performed in Dublin in April 2015.
It is an exploration of the five elements, water, fire, earth, air, and spirit, that shape the landscape of an Irish bog. Here, the elements are represented through each of the instruments (Flute as fire, Clarinet as air, Trumpet as spirit, accordion as earth (and wood), and 'Cello as water) and through the sections of the work as a whole, each element acting on the body (here represented by a melodic and harmonic idea).
Overall, the desired effect is the juxtaposition of the concept of decay and presevation exerted on the bodies, discovered in Irish bogs, of people thought to have been sacrificed by our pagan animist ancestors. These ideas are here imagined in sonic form.

There are various notational techniques employed, such as free interplay and sound cues to achieve the desired level of freedom of expression for the performers. Each required effect is described in the score, as this is judged the best way to communicate the ideas efficiently.

Bog Bodies Quintet



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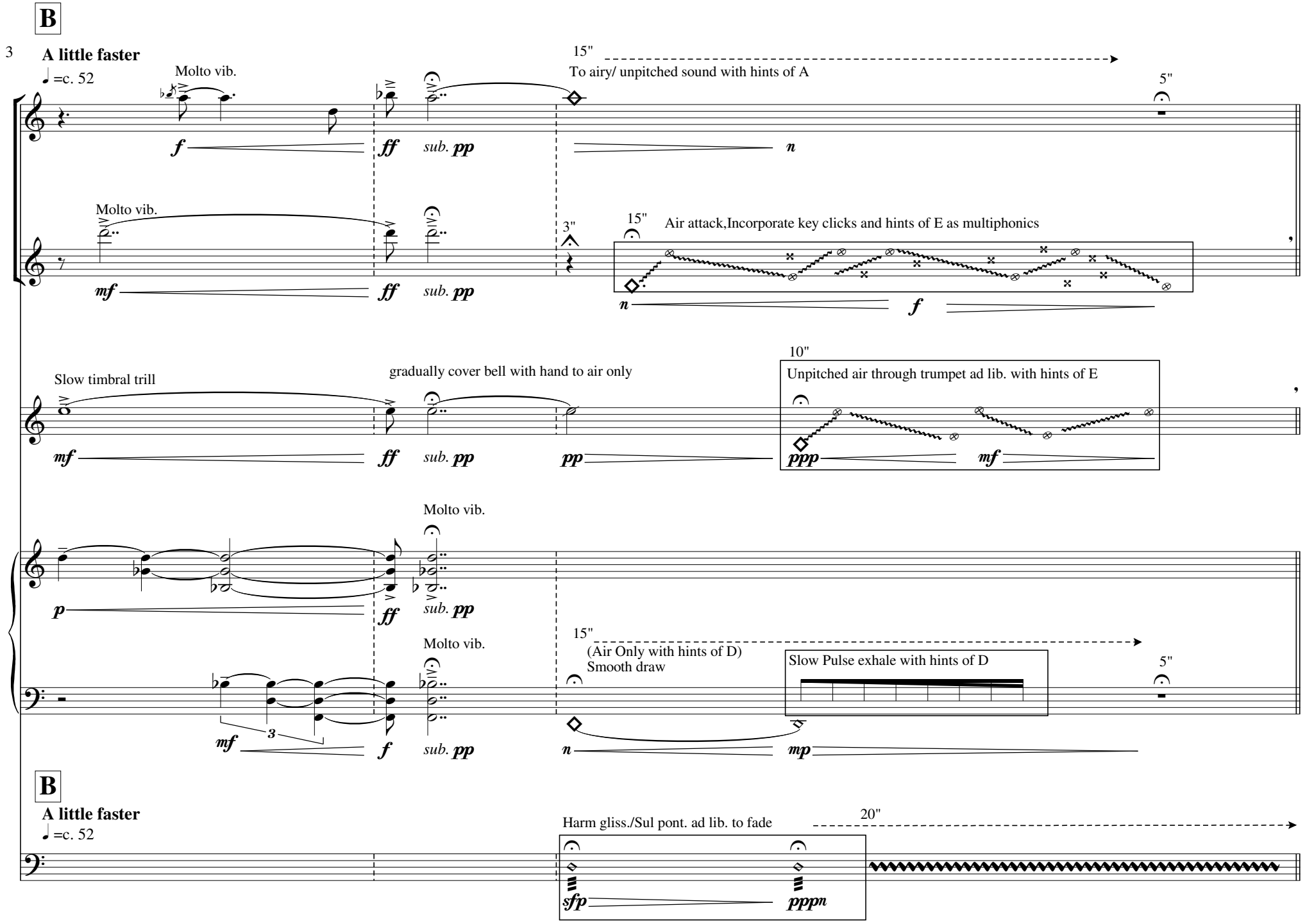

B
3
A little faster
=c. 52
Molto vib.
15"
To airy/ unpitched sound with hints of A
5"
f
ff
sub. pp
n
Molto vib.
3"
15"
Air attack,Incorporate key clicks and hints of E as multiphonics
mf
n
f
Slow timbral trill
gradually cover bell with hand to air only
10"
Unpitched air through trumpet ad lib. with hints of E
pp
ppp
Molto vib.
p
15"
(Air Only with hints of D)
Smooth draw
Slow Pulse exhale with hints of D
3
mp
B
A little faster
=c. 52
Harm gliss./Sul pont. ad lib. to fade
20"
sfp
pppn

C

Free

5"

Play around these pitches
with quickening rhythm

10"

Becoming more
agitated

10"

5"

Wide vib.

ppp *pp* *p* *ff* *molto* *n*

Key clicks and gentle tongue slap, with air connecting these pitches
Slowly with quickening rhythm

15"

becoming more defined
with slowing rhythm

10"

5"

pp *f* *n*

5"

15"

(As echo)

10"

5"

8va

ppp *sf* *pp* *ppp* *mf* *pp* *n*

15"

10"

5"

Slow Pulse exhale with chord

(Airy sound with hints of D)
Smooth draw

n *mf*

C

7"

12"

6"

5"

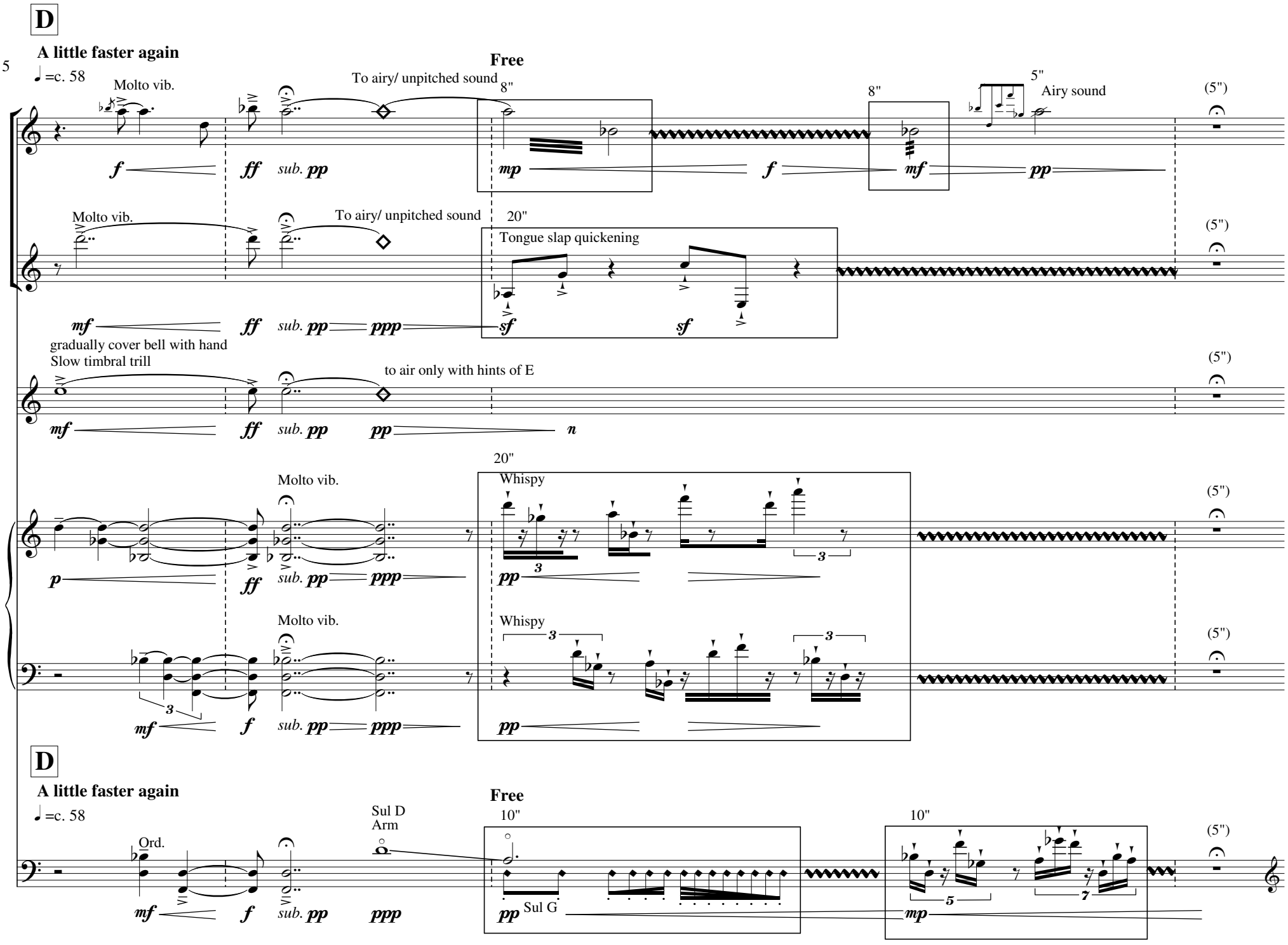
Free

Stirring bow/ no pitch

CL Batt. on A at bridge

Stirring bow/ hints of A

ppp *mf* *ppp*


D
A little faster again
5
♩=c. 58
Molto vib.
To airy/ unpitched sound
Free
8"
8"
5"
Airy sound
(5")
Molto vib.
To airy/ unpitched sound
20"
Tongue slap quickening
(5")
gradually cover bell with hand
Slow timbral trill
to air only with hints of E
(5")
20"
Molto vib.
Whispy
(5")
Molto vib.
Whispy
(5")
D
A little faster again
♩=c. 58
Ord.
Sul D
Arm
Free
10"
10"
(5")
Sul G

E

Slow, increasing tempo (independent)

10"

mf 6

(Cue)

5"
Hollow tone

sub. ***p***

F

medium, increasing tempo

12"

f 7

7"
Hollow tone

sub. ***pp***

G

4"

5"
Fast, decreasing tempo

ff 9

Slow, increasing tempo (independent)

10"

mp 7

(Cue)

5"
Hollow tone

sub. ***p***

medium, Increasing tempo

12"

f 6

7"
Hollow tone

sub. ***pp***

4"

8"
Fast, decreasing tempo

ff 7

(Winds cue)

5"
Airy tone

p

(Winds cue)

7"
Airy tone

p

(Winds cue)

5"
Light tone

pp

(Winds cue)

7"
Light tone

pp

E

(Winds cue)

5"
SP

pp

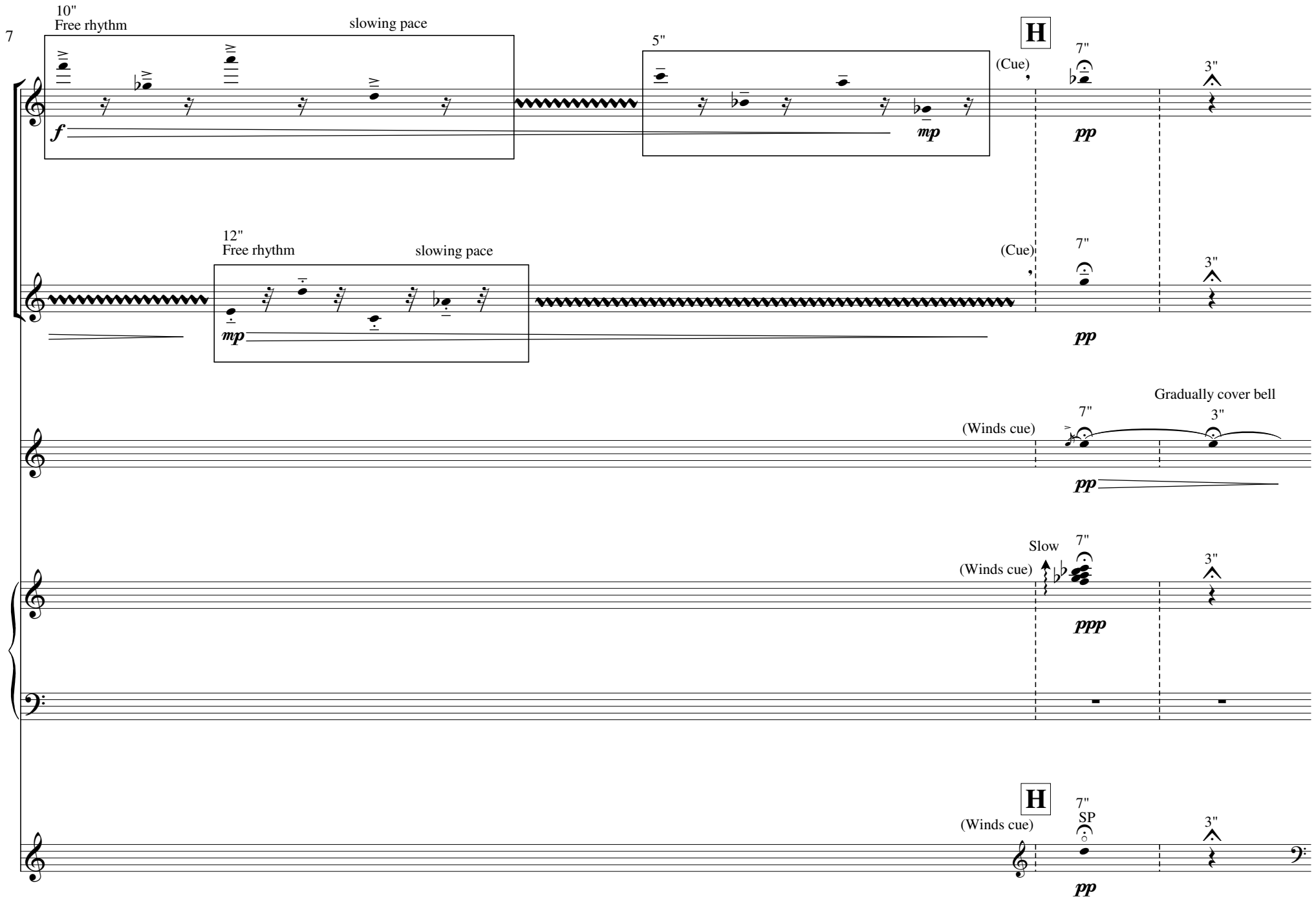
F

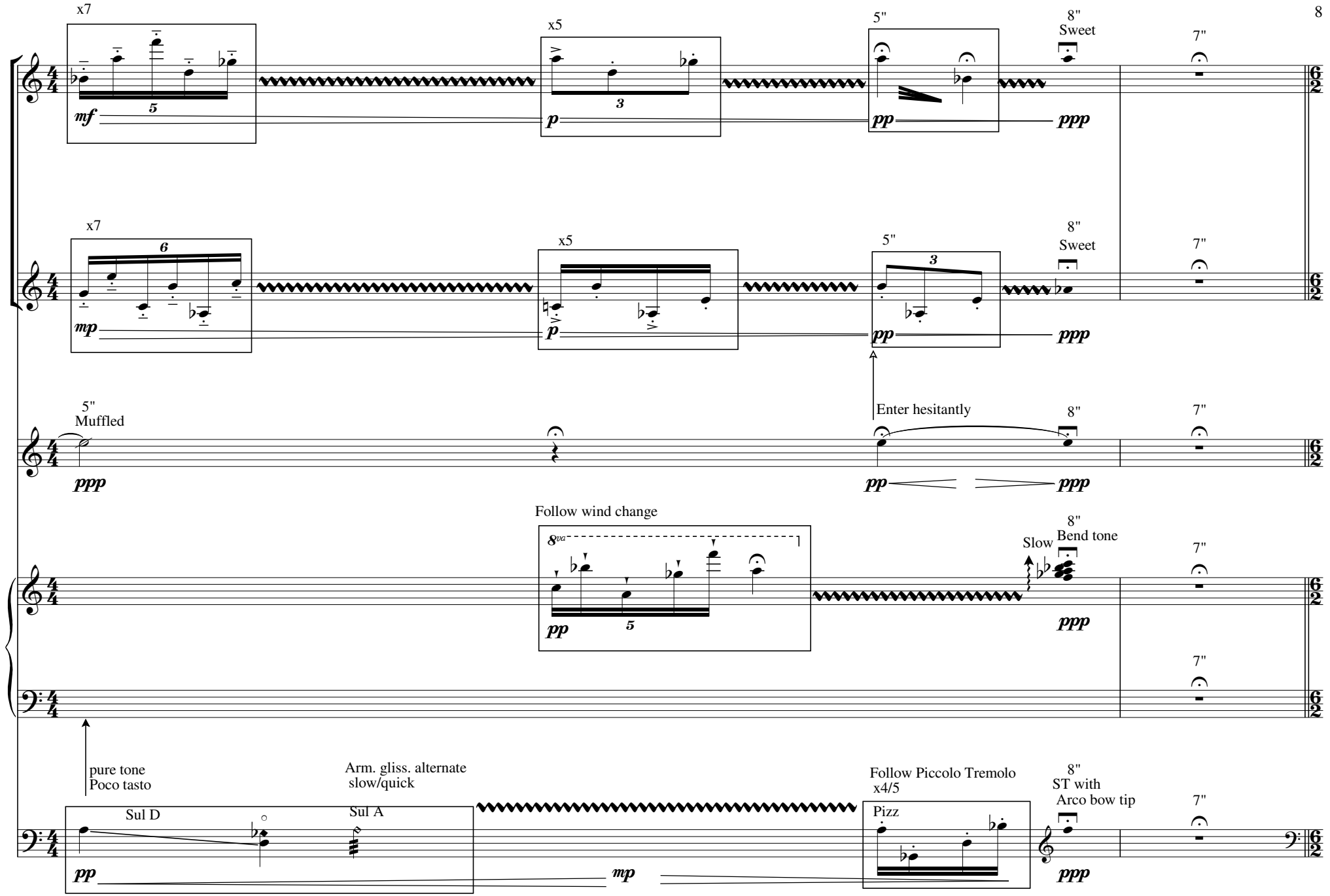
(Winds cue)

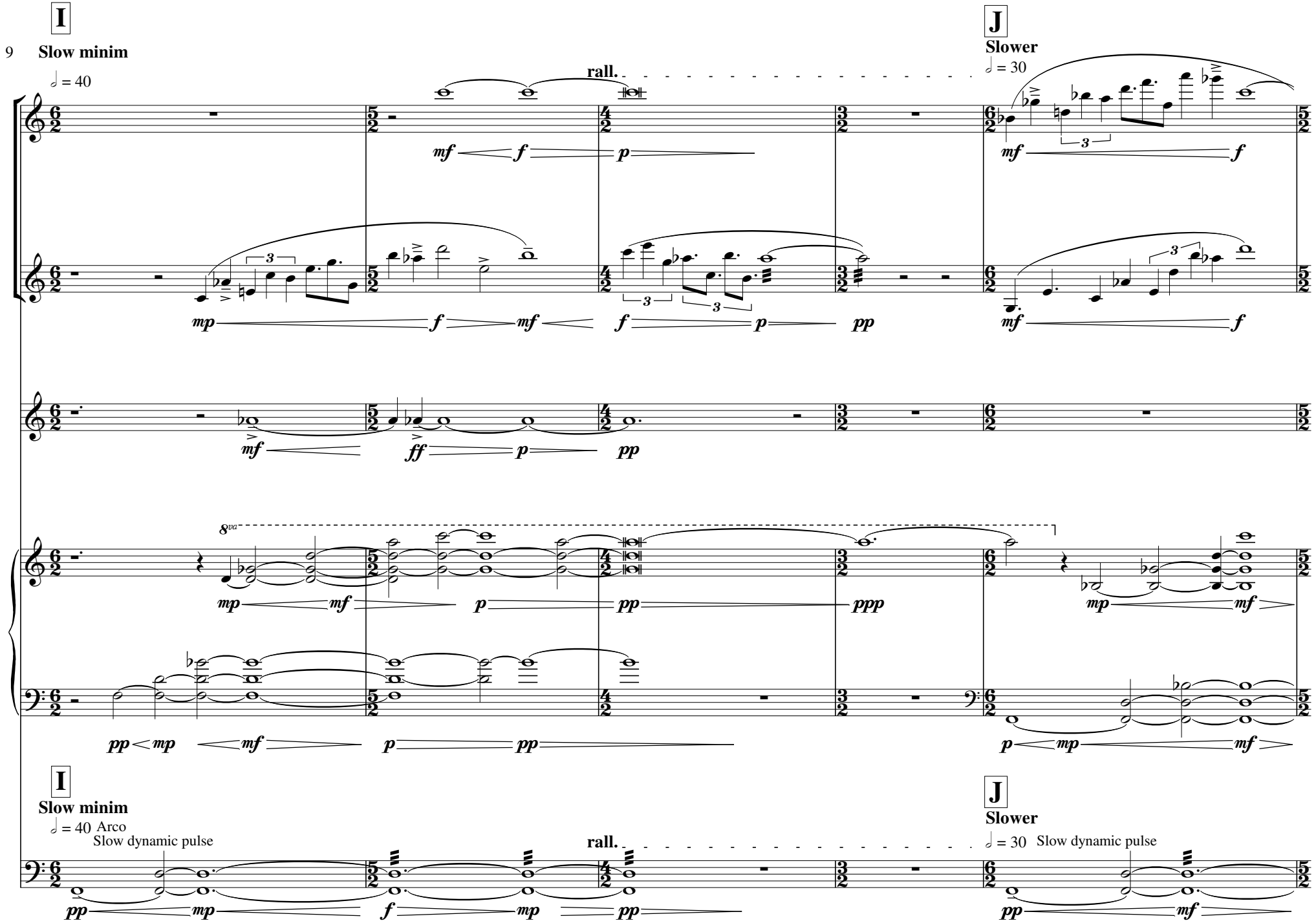
7"
Ord. vib.

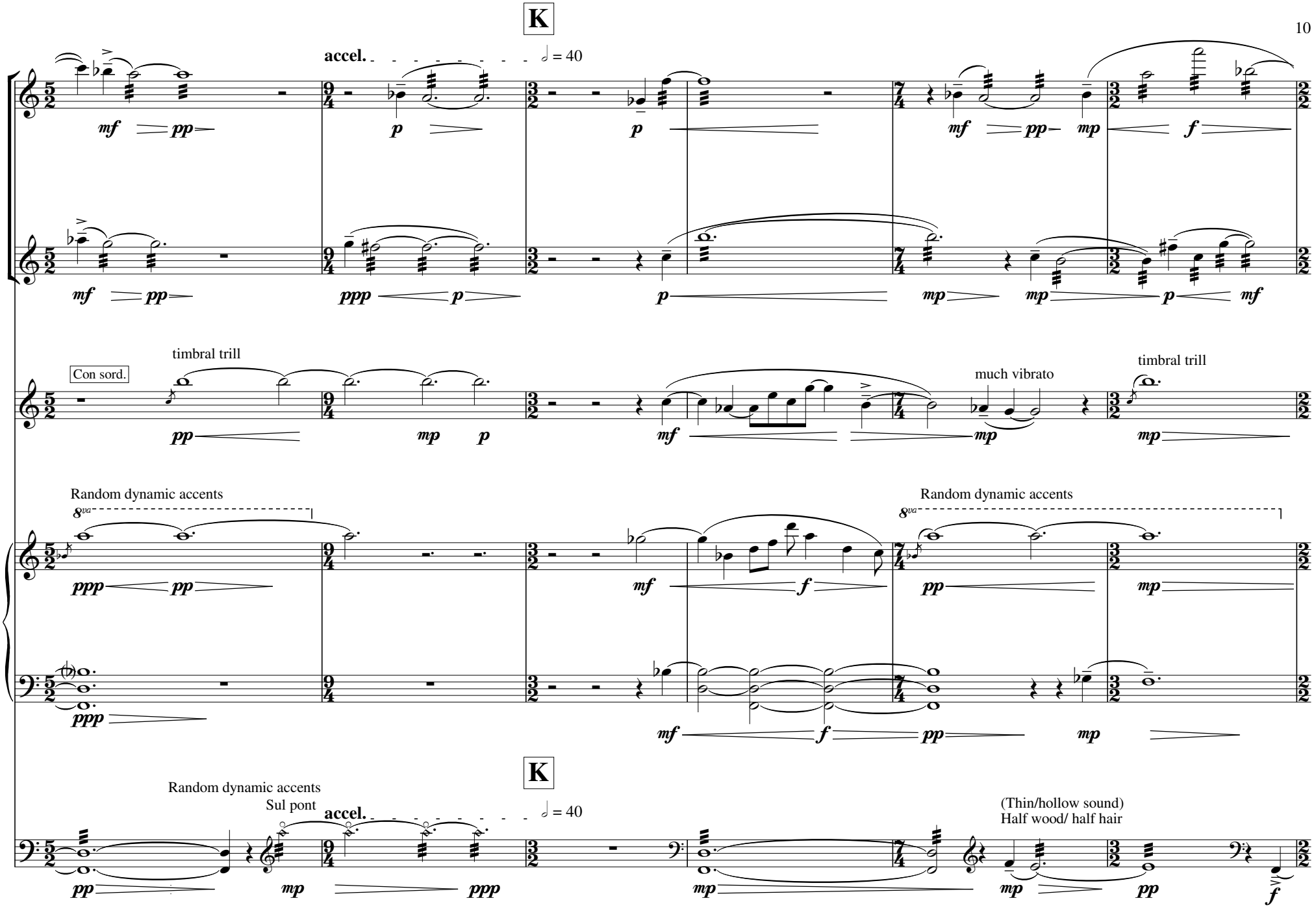
pp

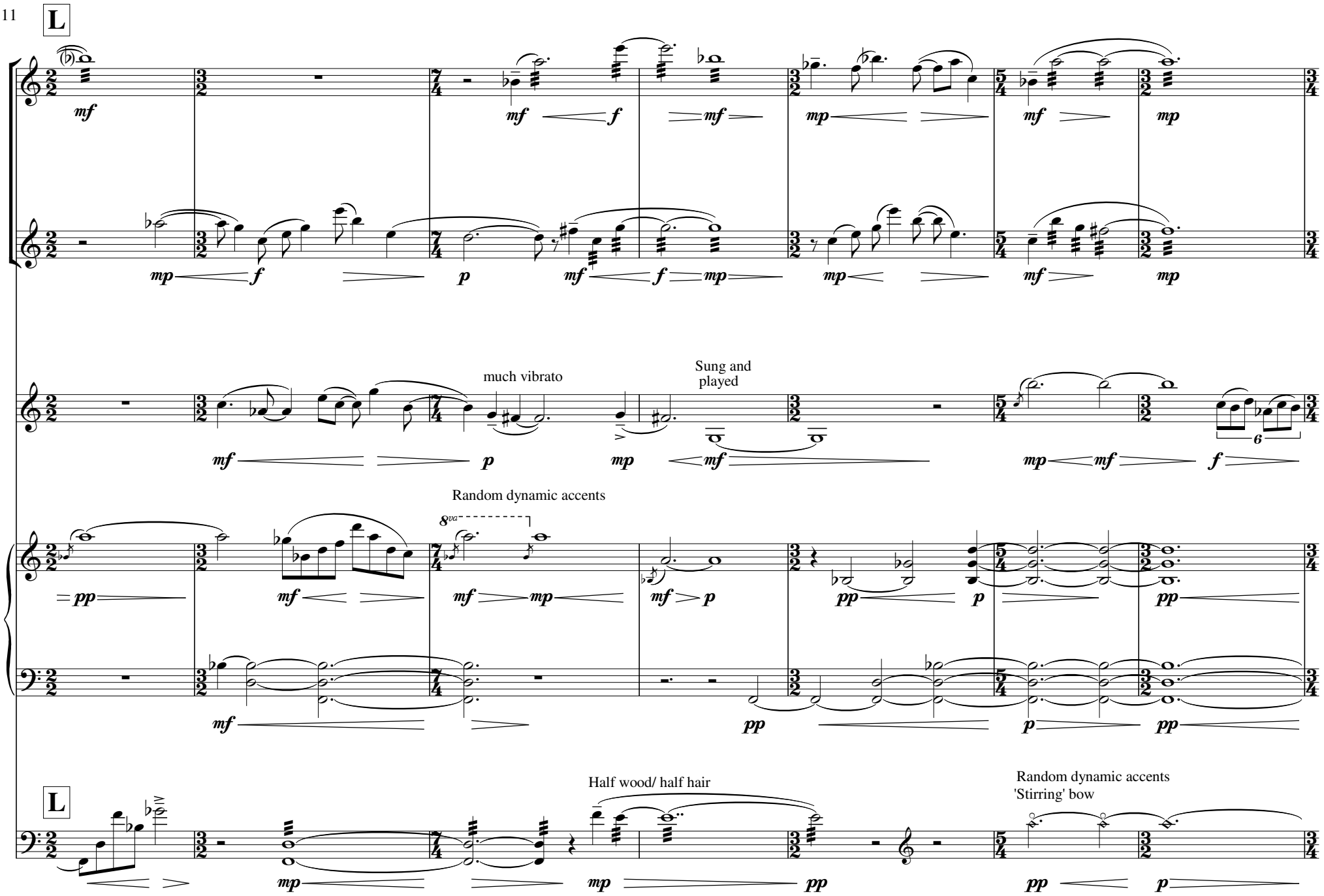
G

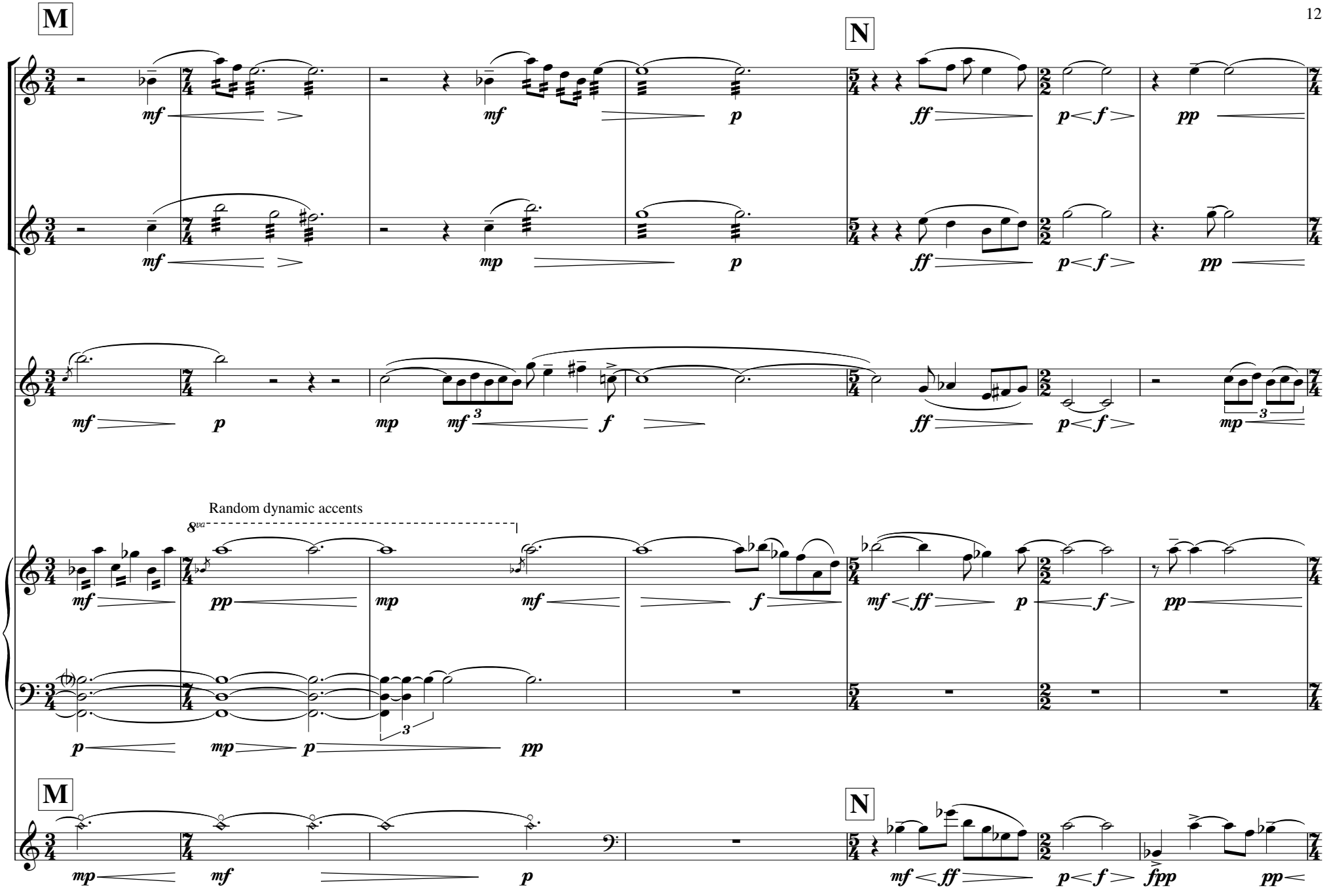

10"
Free rhythm
slowing pace
5"
H
(Cue)
7"
3"
f
mp
pp
12"
Free rhythm
slowing pace
(Cue)
7"
3"
mp
pp
Gradually cover bell
(Winds cue)
7"
3"
pp
Slow
(Winds cue)
7"
3"
ppp
H
(Winds cue)
7"
SP
3"
pp

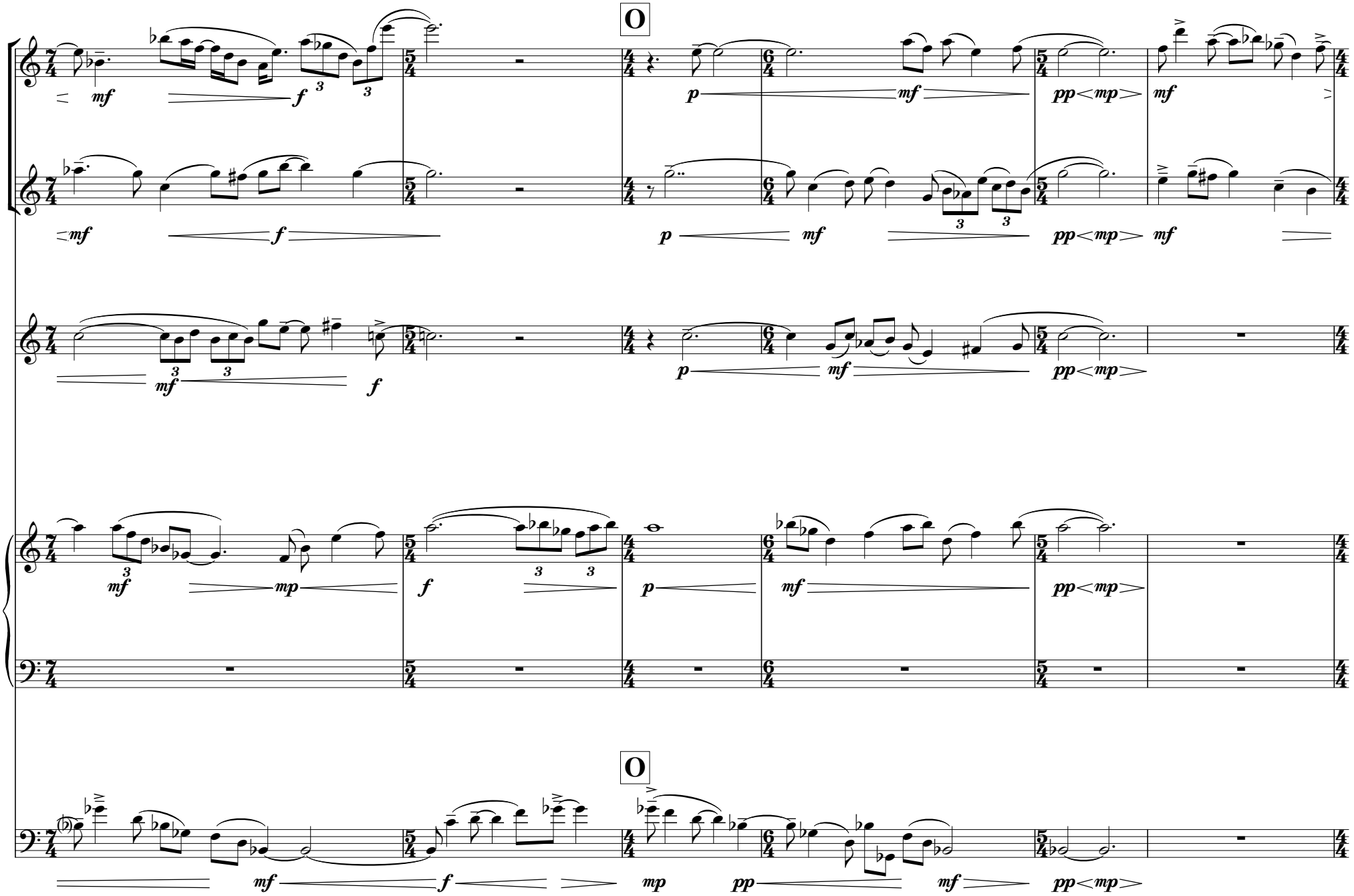

x7
mf
x5
p
5"
pp
8"
Sweet
ppp
7"
x7
mp
x5
p
5"
pp
8"
Sweet
ppp
7"
5"
Muffled
ppp
Enter hesitantly
pp
8"
ppp
7"
Follow wind change
8va
pp
Slow
8"
Bend tone
ppp
7"
7"
pure tone
Poco tasto
Arm. gliss. alternate
slow/quick
Sul D
Sul A
pp
mp
Follow Piccolo Tremolo
x4/5
Pizz
8"
ST with
Arco bow tip
ppp
7"

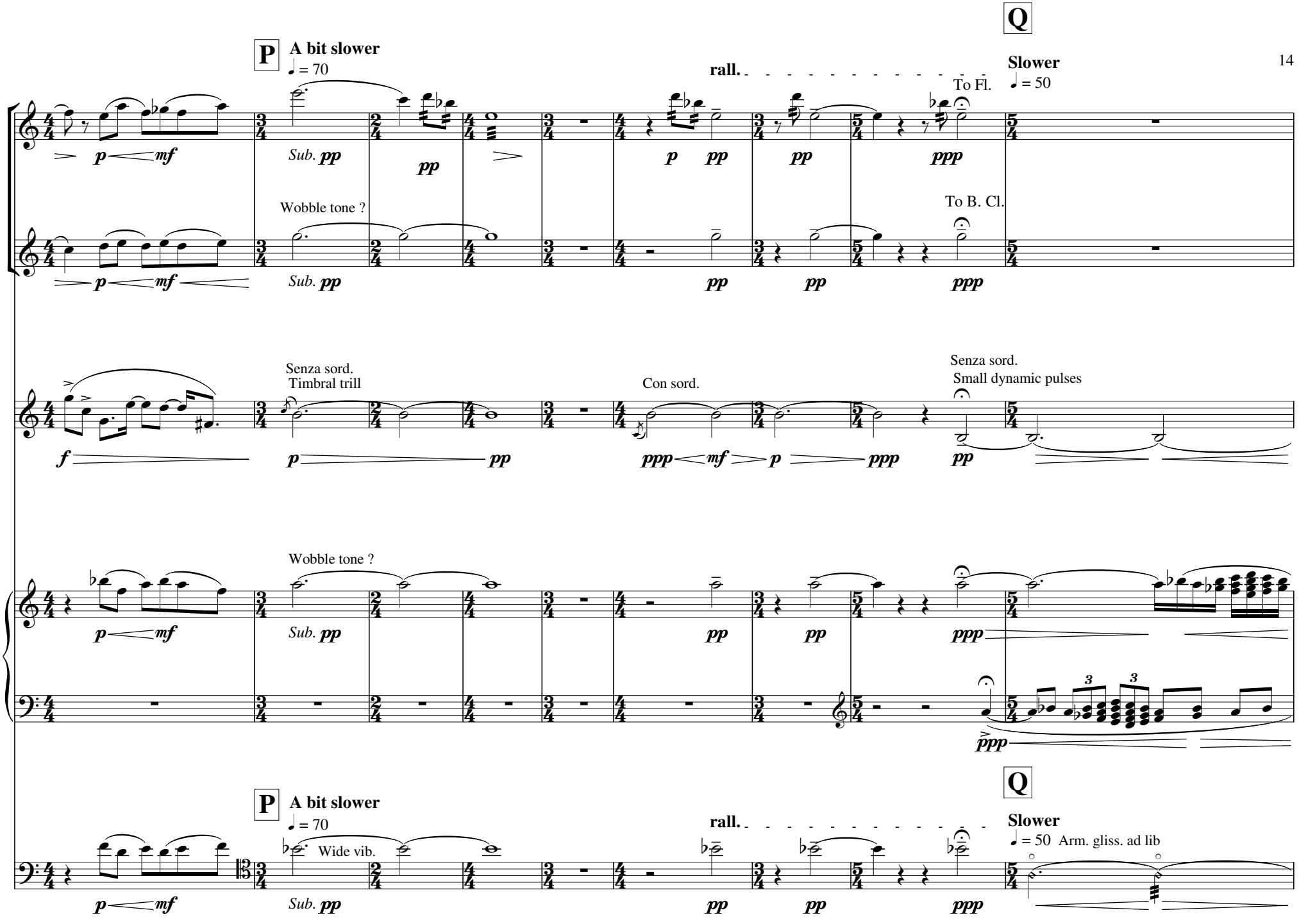

I
9
Slow minim
♩ = 40
rall.
J
Slower
♩ = 30
8va
I
Slow minim
♩ = 40
Arco
Slow dynamic pulse
rall.
J
Slower
♩ = 30
Slow dynamic pulse

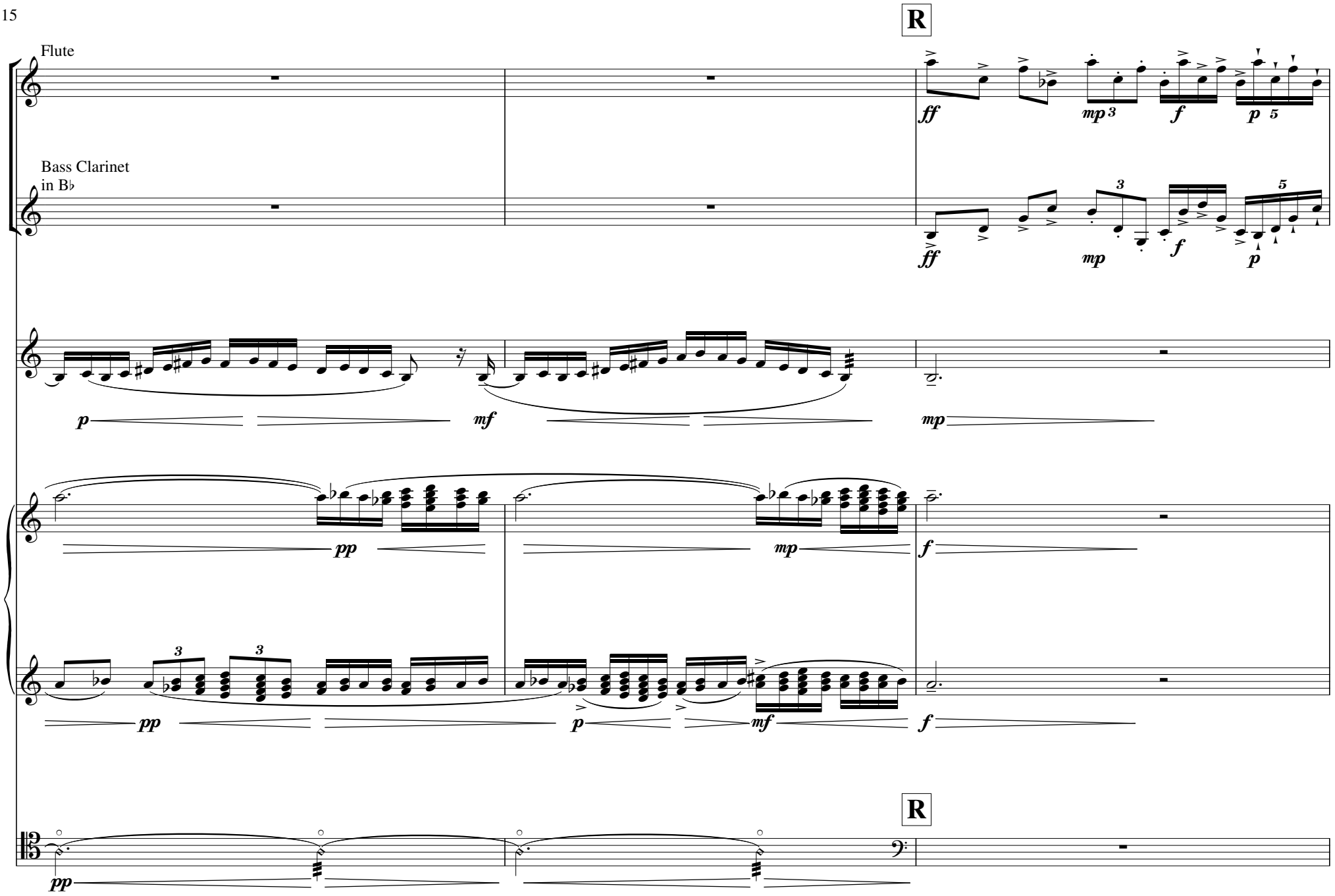

K
accel.
♩ = 40
mf pp
p
p
mf pp mp
f
mf pp
ppp p
p
mp
mp
p mf
Con sord.
timbral trill
pp
mp p
mf
much vibrato
mp
timbral trill
mp
Random dynamic accents
8va
ppp pp
mf
f
Random dynamic accents
8va
pp
mp
ppp
mf f pp mp
K
Random dynamic accents
Sul pont
accel.
♩ = 40
(Thin/hollow sound)
Half wood/ half hair
pp
mp
ppp
mp
mp
pp
f

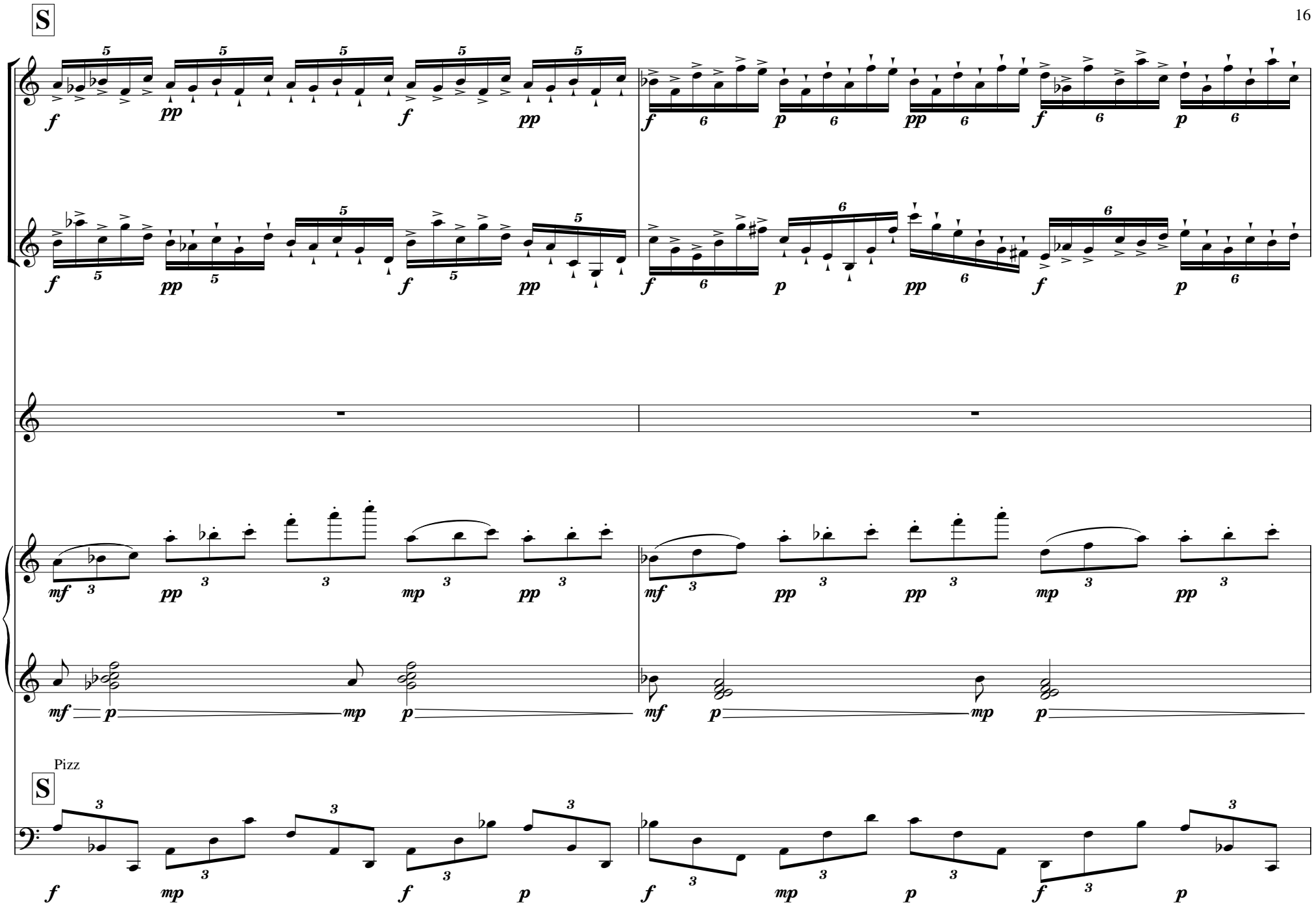

L
much vibrato
Sung and played
Random dynamic accents
8va
L
Half wood/ half hair
Random dynamic accents
'Stirring' bow

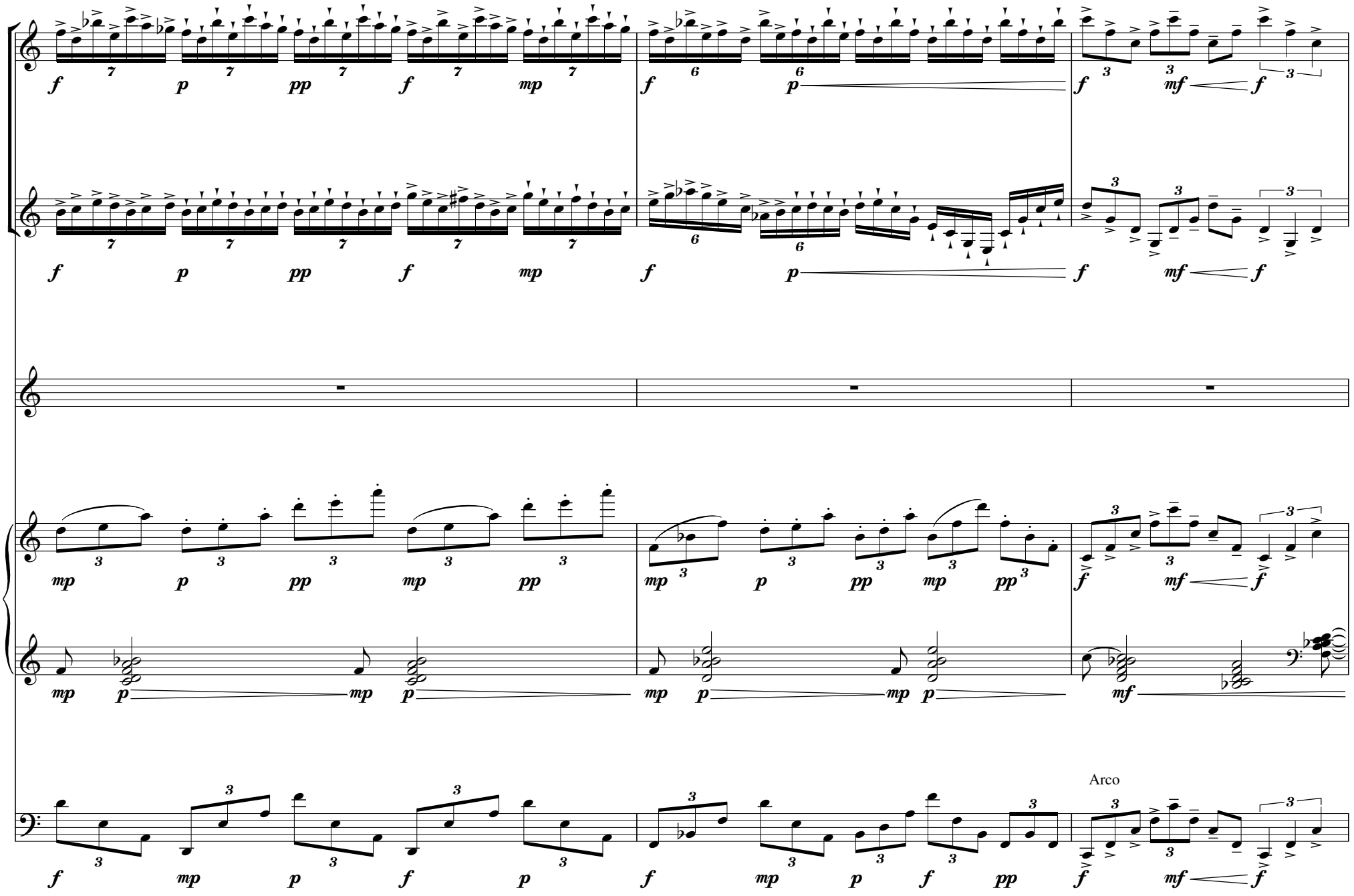

M
N
Random dynamic accents
8va
M
N

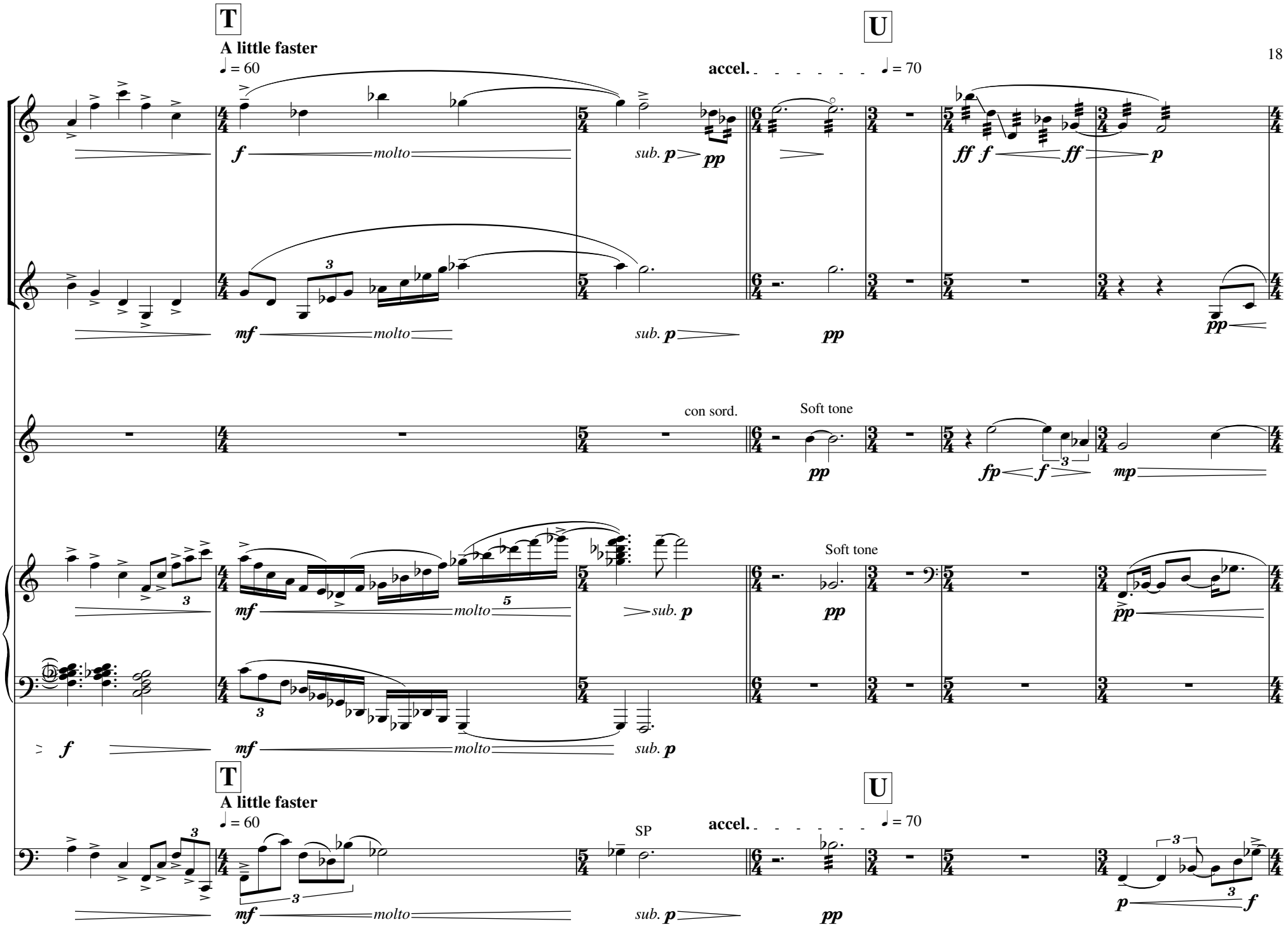

O
O

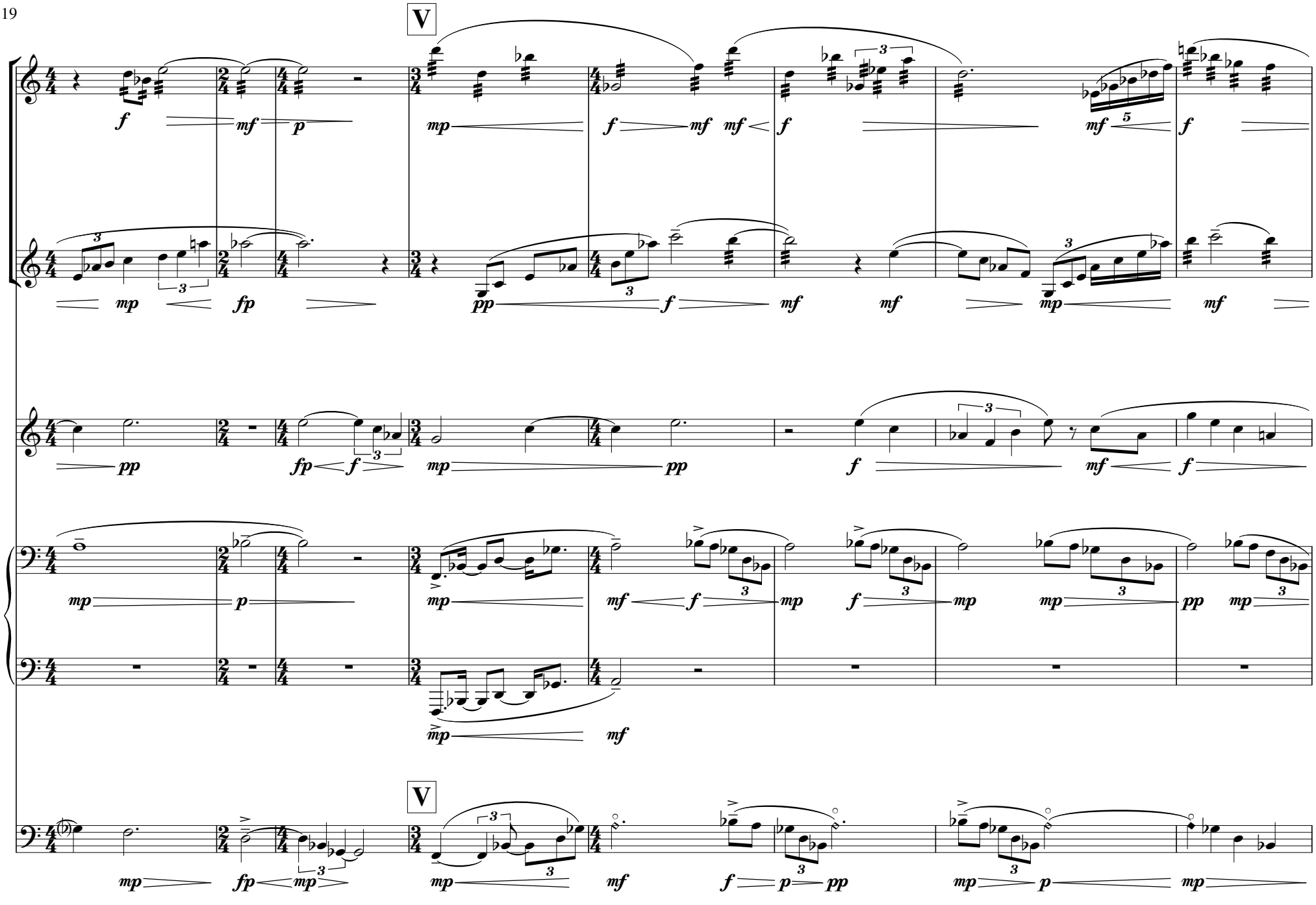

P
A bit slower
♩ = 70
rall.
Q
Slower
♩ = 50
To Fl.
To B. Cl.
Wobble tone ?
Senza sord.
Timbral trill
Con sord.
Senza sord.
Small dynamic pulses
Wide vib.
Arm. gliss. ad lib
Sub. pp
p
mf
pp
ppp
f

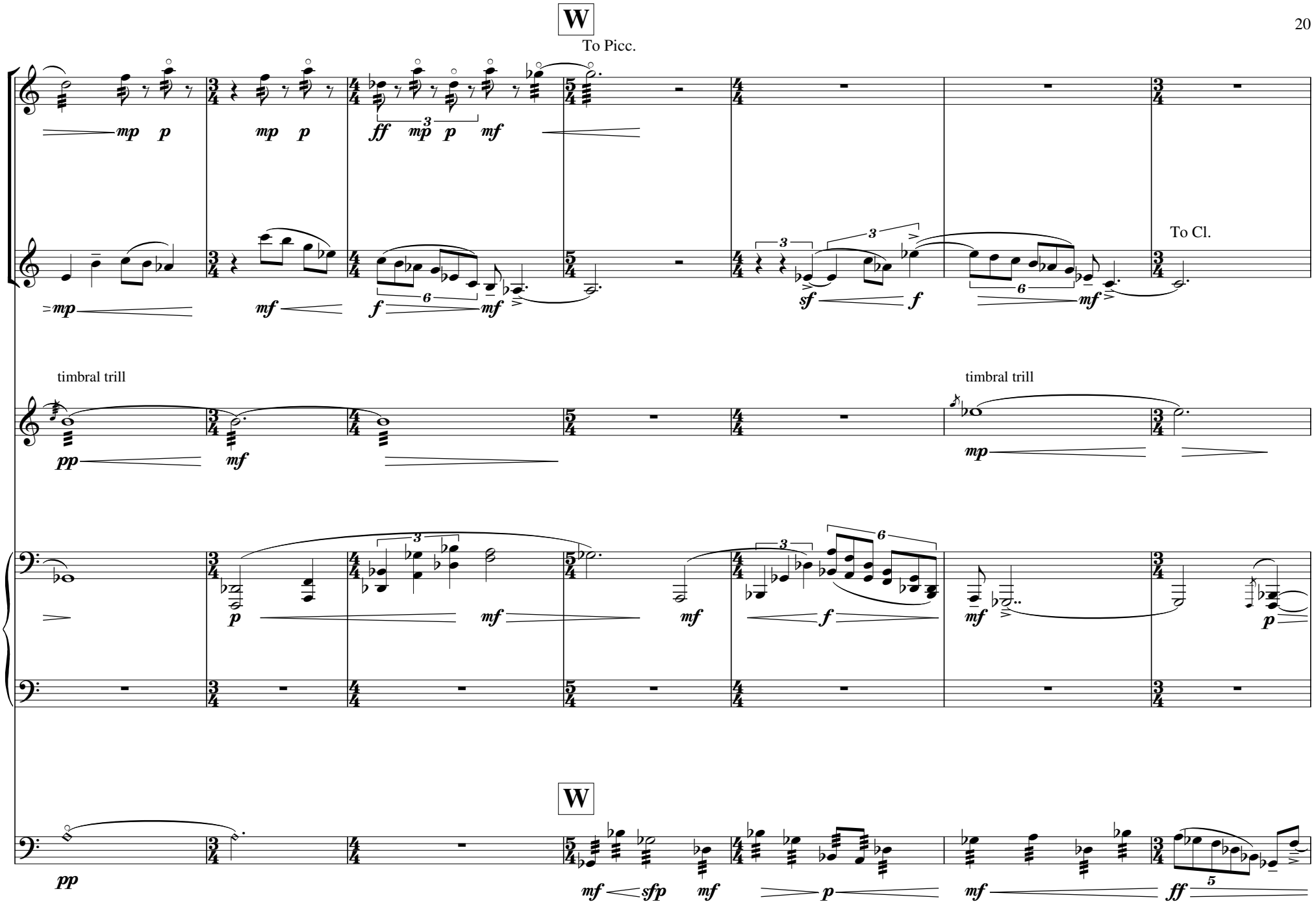

R
Flute
Bass Clarinet
in B♭
ff
mp
3
f
p
5
mf
pp
R

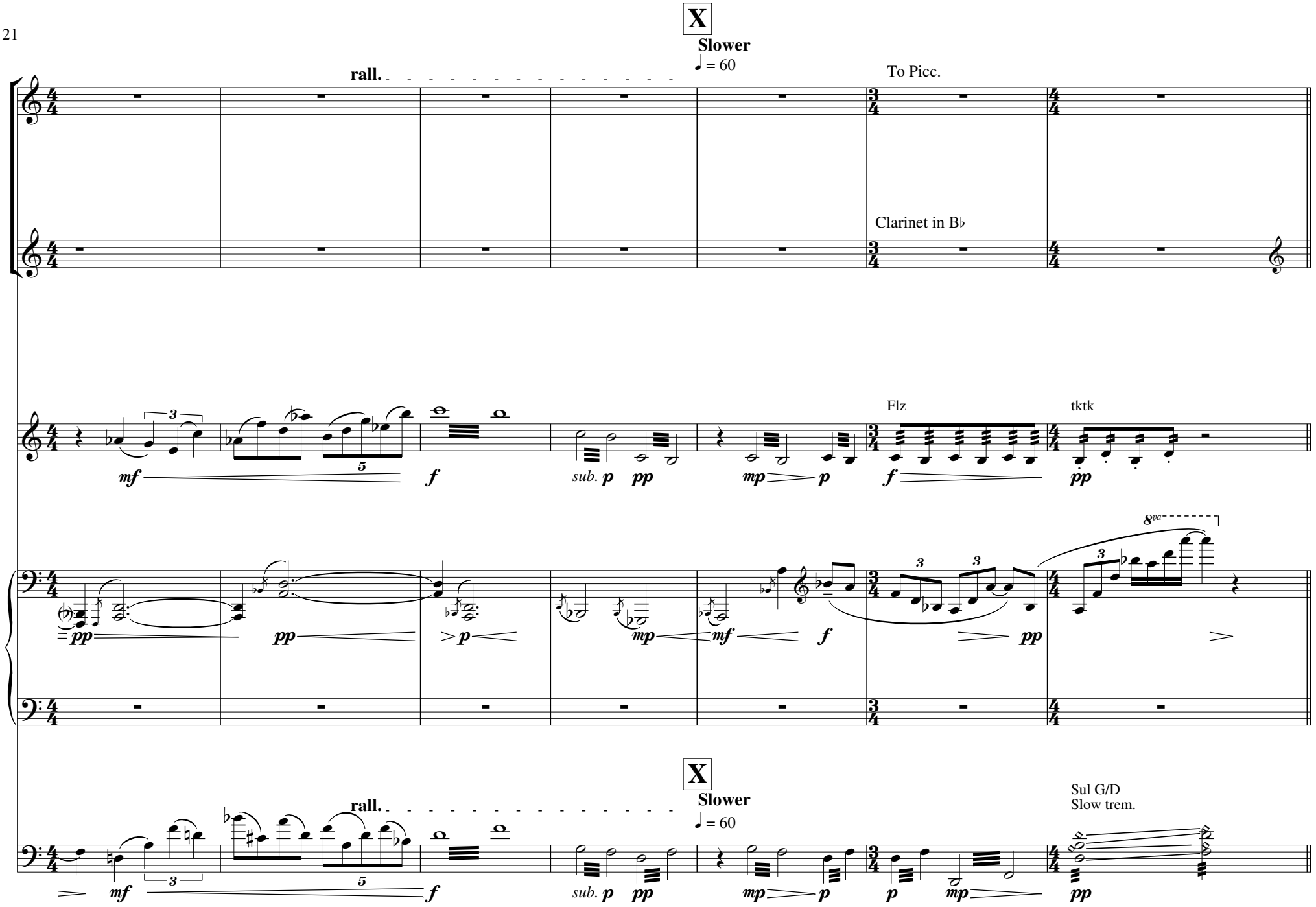

S
Pizz
S

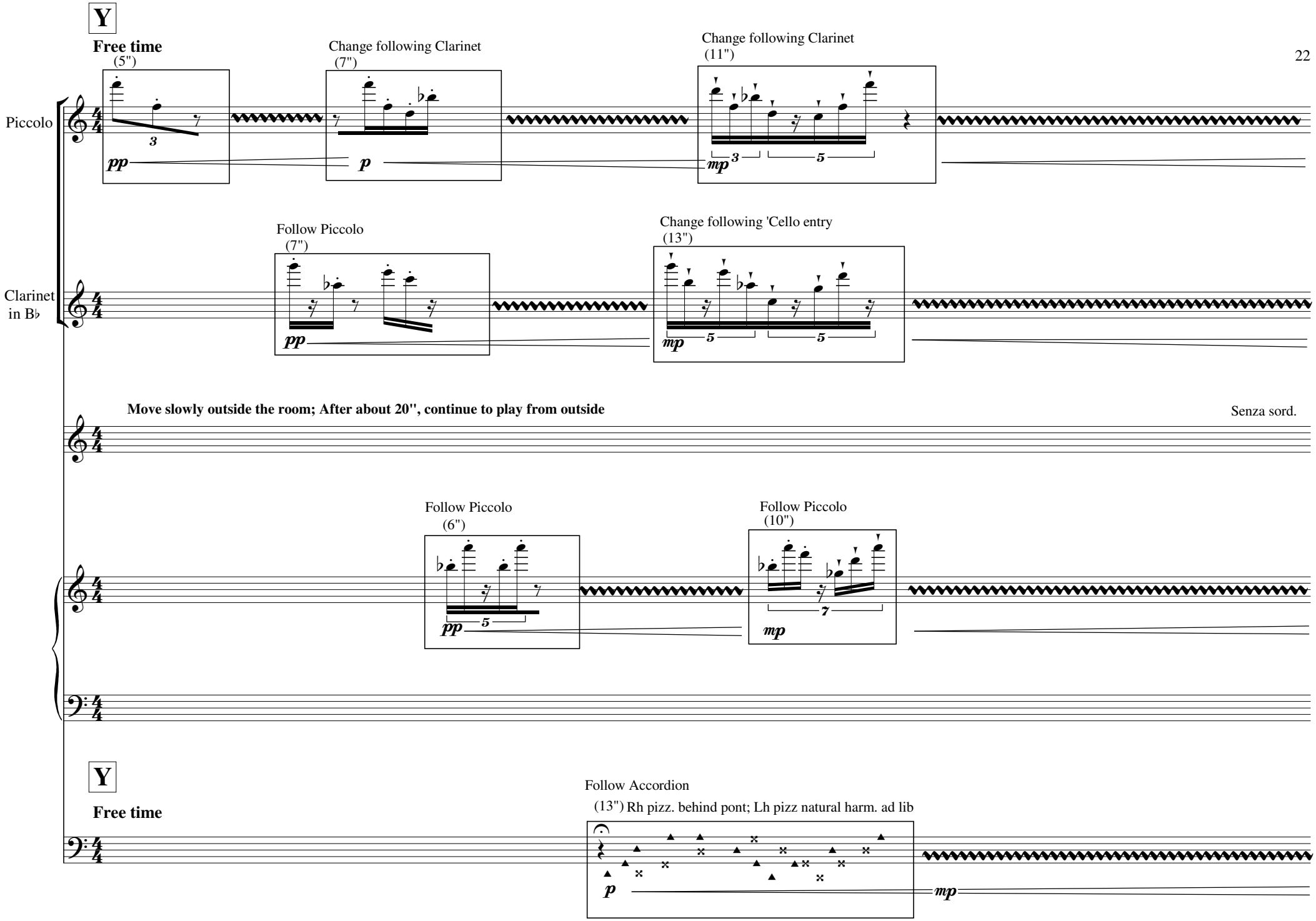

Arco

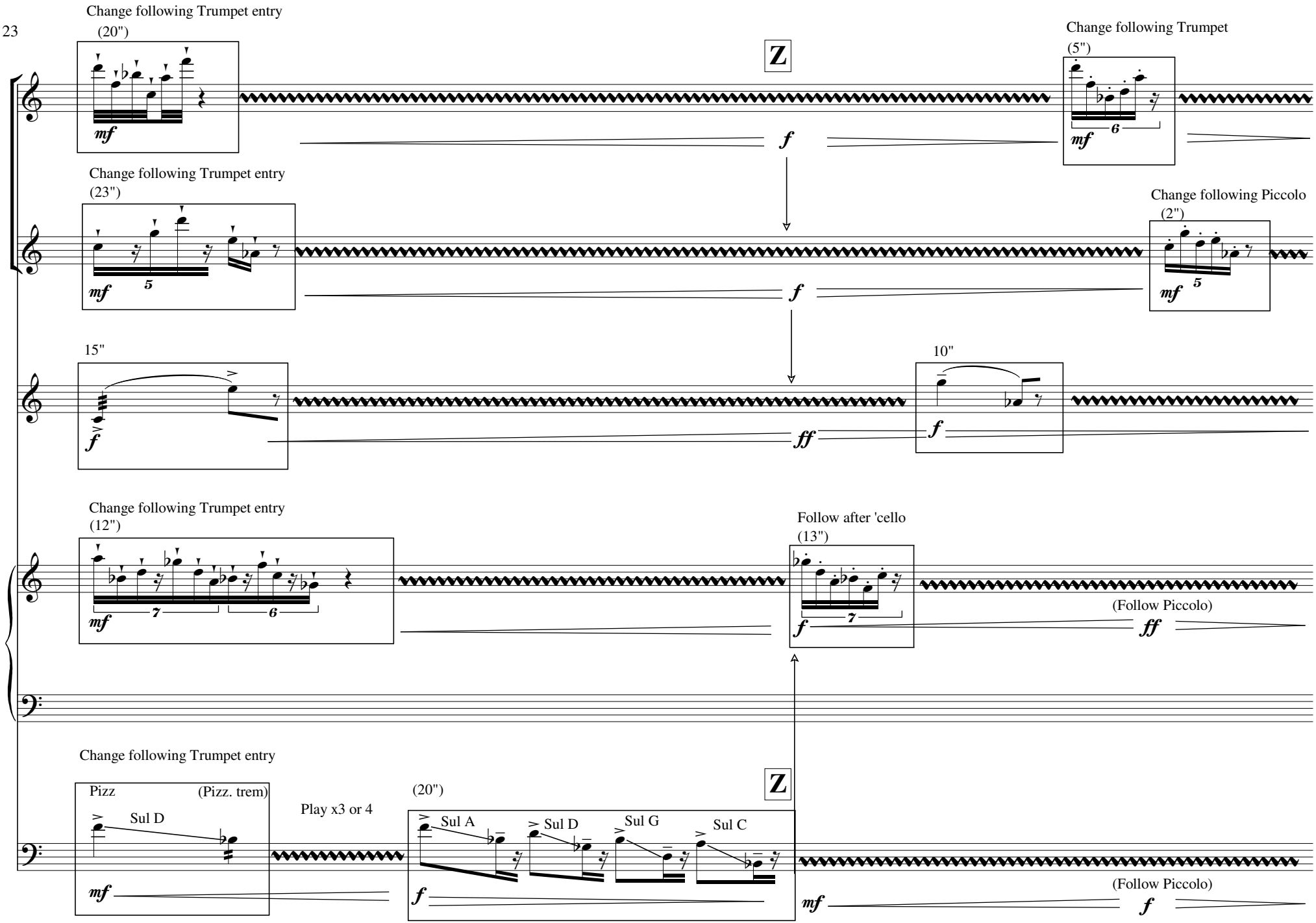

T
A little faster
♩ = 60
U
accel.
♩ = 70
f molto
sub. p
pp
ff f ff p
mf molto
sub. p
pp
pp
con sord.
Soft tone
pp
fp f
mp
mf molto
sub. p
Soft tone
pp
pp
f
mf molto
sub. p
T
A little faster
♩ = 60
SP
U
accel.
♩ = 70
mf molto
sub. p
pp
p f


V
V


W
To Picc.
To Cl.
timbral trill
timbral trill
W


X
Slower
♩ = 60
rall.
To Picc.
Clarinet in B♭
Flz
tktk
8va
X
Slower
♩ = 60
rall.
Sul G/D
Slow trem.


Y
Free time
(5")
Change following Clarinet
(7")
Change following Clarinet
(11")
Piccolo
pp
p
mp
Follow Piccolo
(7")
Change following 'Cello entry
(13")
Clarinet
in B♭
Move slowly outside the room; After about 20", continue to play from outside
Senza sord.
Follow Piccolo
(6")
Follow Piccolo
(10")
Y
Free time
Follow Accordion
(13") Rh pizz. behind pont; Lh pizz natural harm. ad lib


Change following Trumpet entry
(20")
Z
Change following Trumpet
(5")
Change following Trumpet entry
(23")
Change following Piccolo
(2")
15"
10"
Change following Trumpet entry
(12")
Follow after 'cello
(13")
(Follow Piccolo)
Change following Trumpet entry
Pizz
(Pizz. trem)
Sul D
Play x3 or 4
(20")
Sul A
Sul D
Sul G
Sul C
(Follow Piccolo)

AA

Change following Trumpet
Play x5

(12")

Follow Trumpet
(20")

to fade

Slowing

Change following Trumpet
(12")

Follow Piccolo
(12")

Follow 'cello
(15")

to fade

Slowing

20"

20"

to fade

Slowing

Change following Trumpet
(14")

Follow Clarinet
(25")

to fade

Slowing

(19")

to fade

AA

Change following Trumpet
(12")

Sul G

Sul C

Follow Piccolo
(10")

Sul G

Sul C

Follow Piccolo
(9")

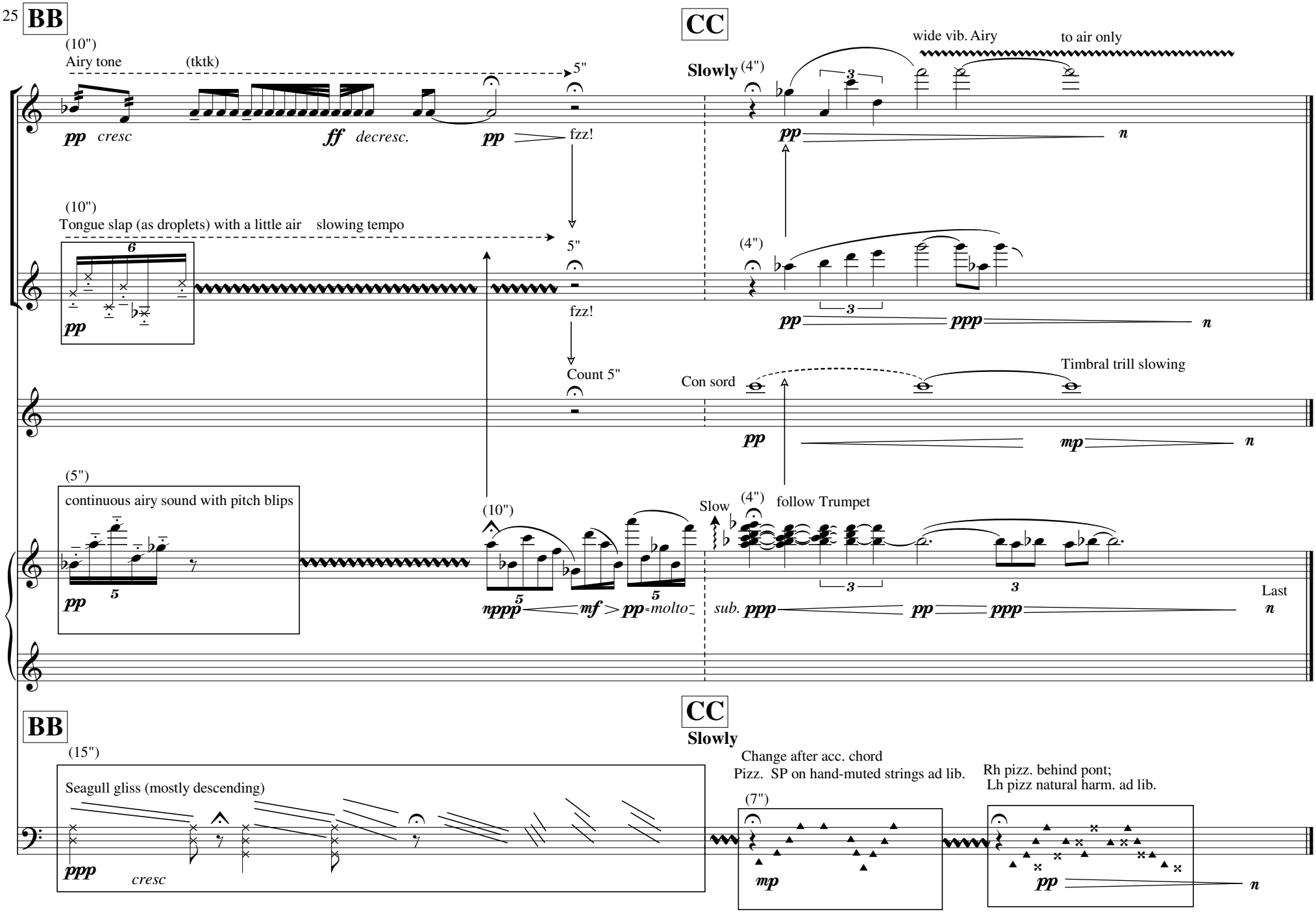
Sul C

Follow Clarinet
(8")

Slowing with lighter touch

Arco

to segue


BB
(10")
Airy tone
(tktk)
5"
pp cresc
ff decresc.
pp
fzz!
CC
Slowly (4")
wide vib. Airy
to air only
pp
n
(10")
Tongue slap (as droplets) with a little air
slowing tempo
6
pp
5"
fzz!
(4")
3
pp
ppp
n
Count 5"
Con sord
Timbral trill slowing
pp
mp
n
(5")
continuous airy sound with pitch blips
pp
5
(10")
5
nppp
mf
pp
molto
Slow
(4")
follow Trumpet
3
3
sub. ppp
pp
ppp
Last
n
BB
(15")
Seagull gliss (mostly descending)
ppp
cresc
CC
Slowly
Change after acc. chord
Pizz. SP on hand-muted strings ad lib.
Rh pizz. behind pont;
Lh pizz natural harm. ad lib.
(7")
mp
pp
n