Children With Smart Phones

for New Music Ensemble

by
Joe Hills

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Children with Smart Phones

Children with Smart Phones is about technology's negative effect on the upcoming generation of kids. Everywhere I go, I see children so enthralled with a cell phone that they do not know how to socialize or act normally in society. Parents shove a smart phone in their kids' hands to distract them and keep them quiet instead of teaching them the values of being respectful and socially cognizant. Children would rather sit at home with their cell phones, texting, tweeting, and facebooking while their childhood is slipping away, than go outside and play with their friends or ride their bikes or find entertainment in the simplicity of life. Children are growing up fat, "happy," and distracted to the extent that they expect everything to be given to them, placed in their hands, at their fingertips, and they do not understand the value of hard work or physical labor.

Movement I: "Fat" encapsulates the evils of technology, luring us in with their enticing rhythms and groovy melodies, begging us to sit down and enjoy their complexity, completely shut off from the real world. Easy for a child to figure out, this movement is not surprisingly dissonant. There are a couple sections where it would seem the child is happy and nothing is wrong but the underlying dissonance always comes back to remind us that this fleeting joy will not last but perhaps it's negative effects will.

Movement II: "Happy" is the almost desperate attempt to maintain happiness. The beauty of a quiet child, intently playing with their smart phone can bring a sort of joy and reprieve to the stressed-out parent but this movement more asks,

"Are you really happy?" "Is this really the only way to maintain a respectful, quiet, behaved child?"

We trick ourselves into thinking that technology will give us happiness but something is missing, something just isn't quite right. The happiness is shallow and unrequited, leaving us wanting more.

Movement III: "Distracted" begins confused and indecisive. With so much going on in technology, we are conditioning our children to attempt to pay attention to everything at once while comprehension and the realization of the importance of human interaction and face-to-face communication goes by the wayside. This movement, however, evolves to come out triumphant over this evil that is inherent in technology because I maintain hope: hope that our children are not completely lost to this technological zombification; hope that a balance can be struck between humanity and technology; hope that we will not be the victims of our own carelessness but in the end come out better for the progress we have made and the creativity we have inspired. Although the evils are ever present, it is up to us to make the decision to rise above the temptation and take the control back from technology.

INSRUMENTATION

Flute/Piccolo
Clarinet in Bb

Violin
Cello

Mixed Percussion/Vibraphone
Piano

Score

Mvmt. I: Fat

Agitated ♩ = 152

Joe Hills

3+2 2+2+2 3+2

Flute

Clarinet in B♭

Violin

Violoncello

Percussion

Piano

sempre staccato

4

2+2+2 3+2 2+2+2

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

Kick Drum (head up)

Pno.

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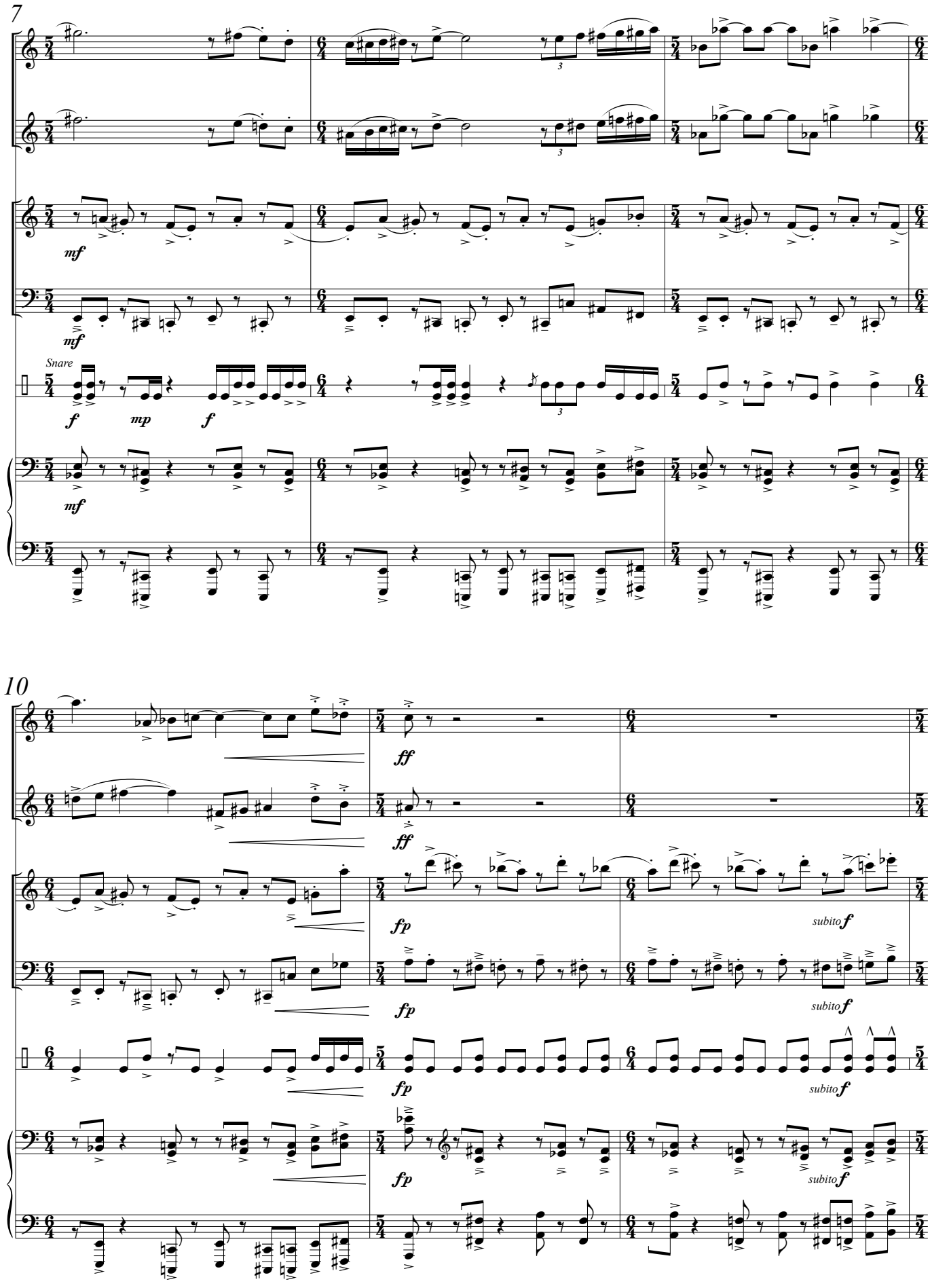
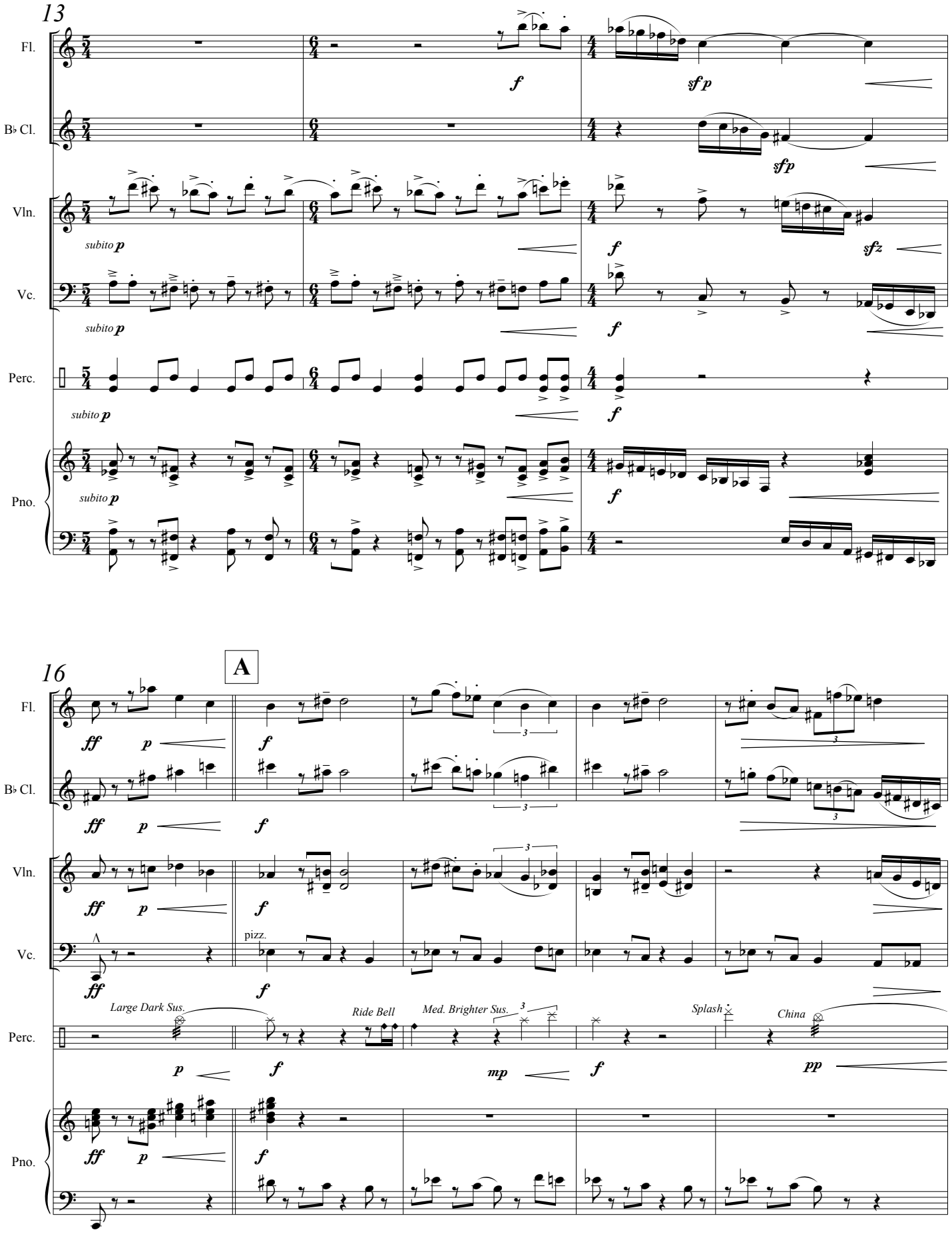
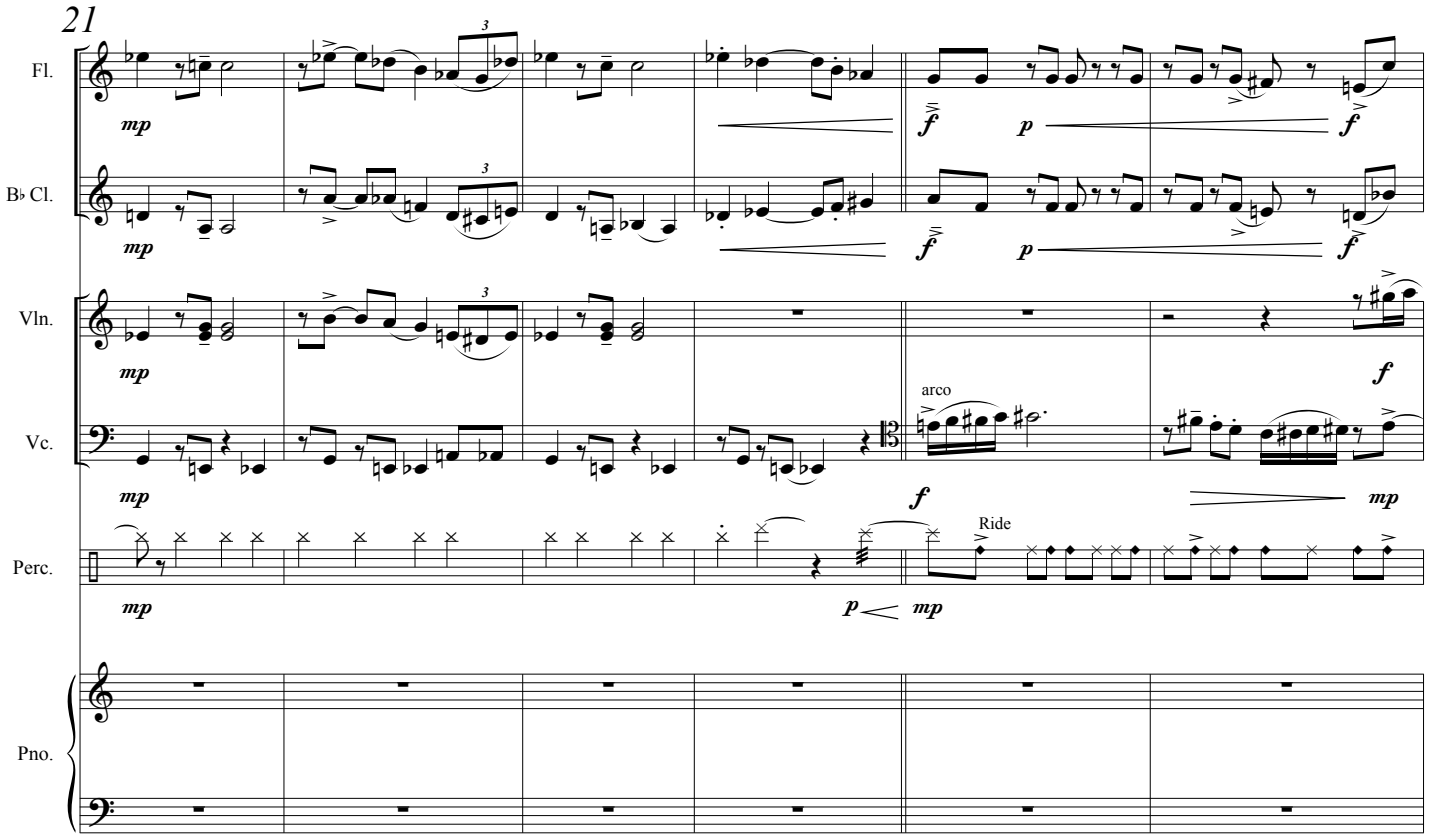
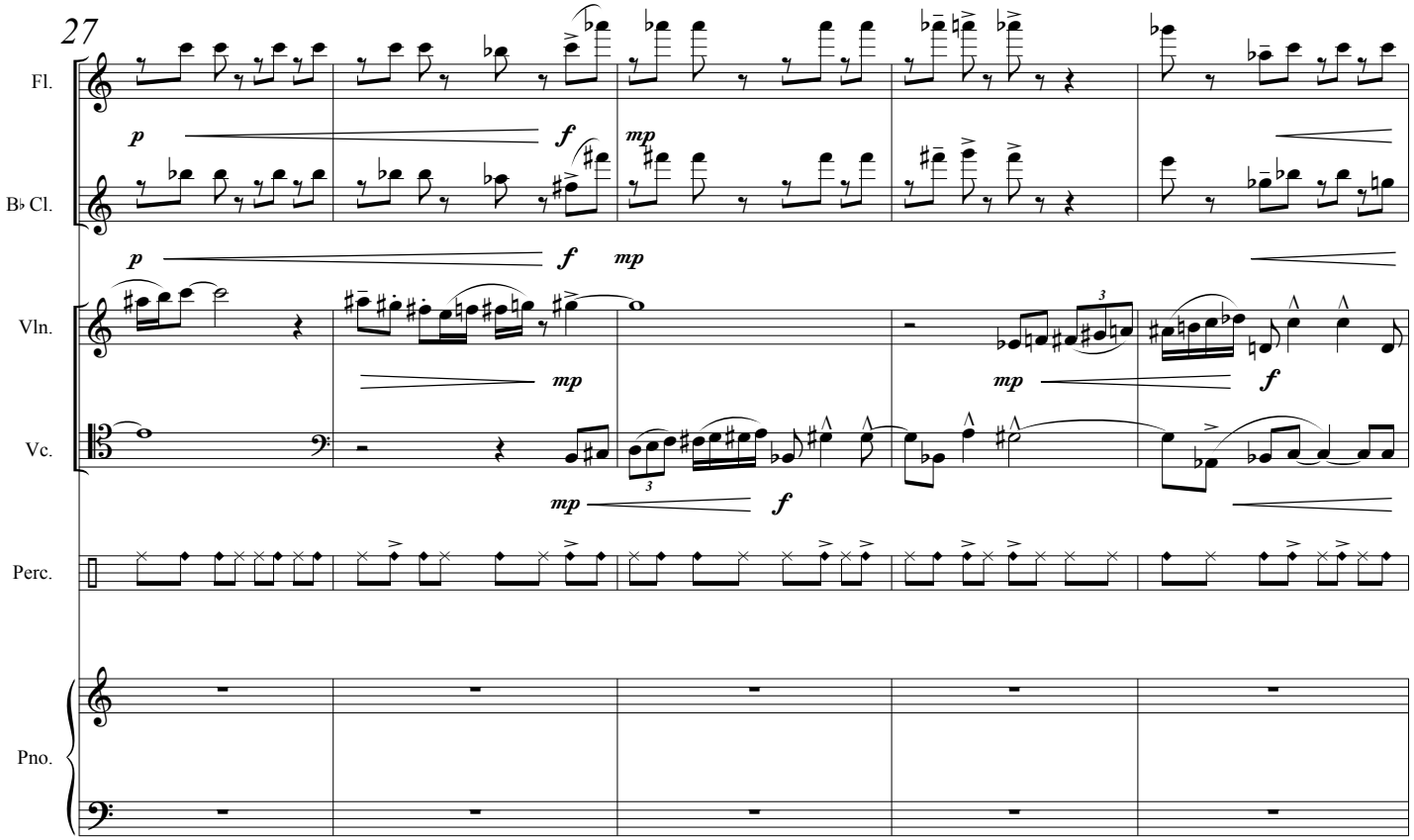
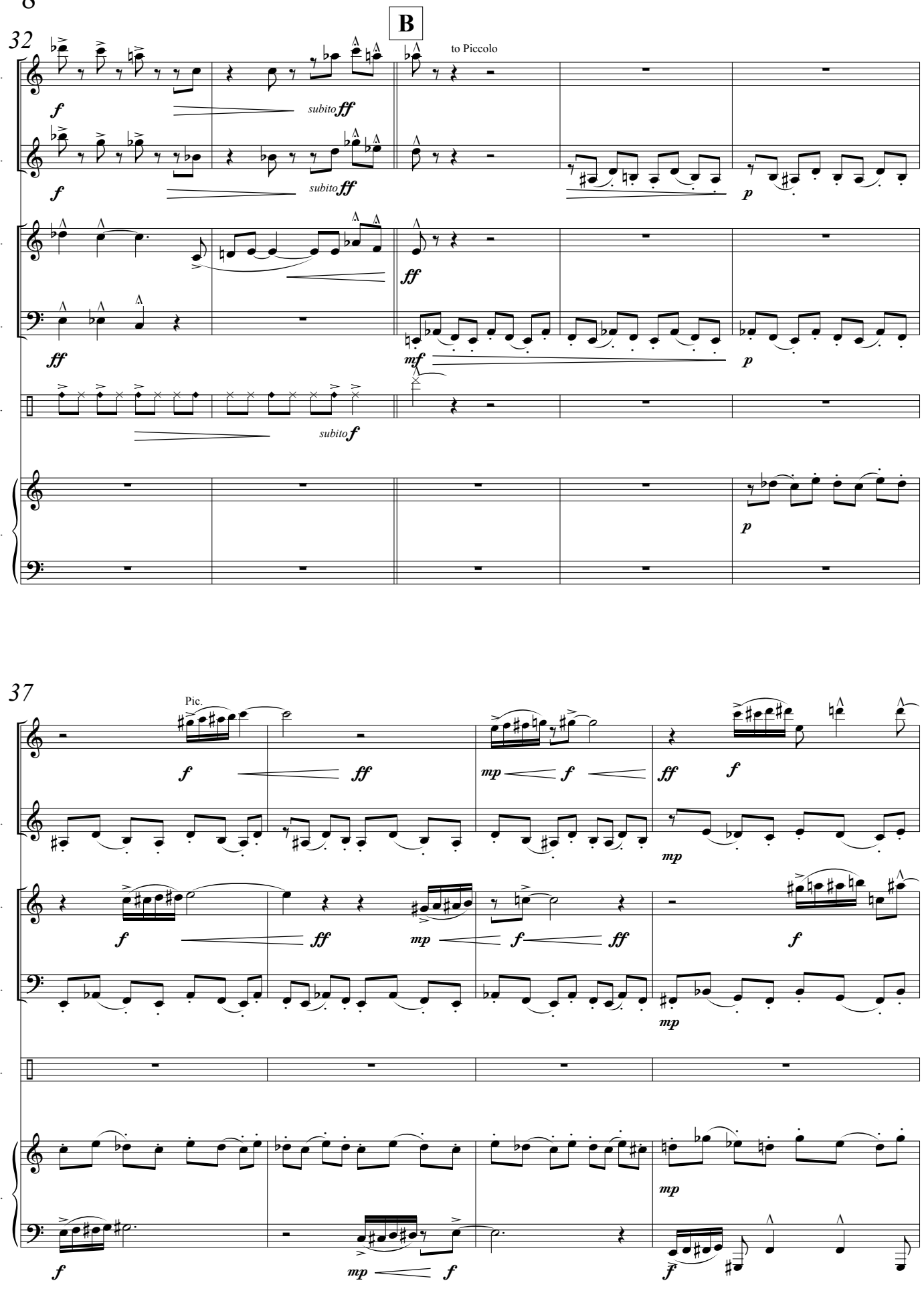
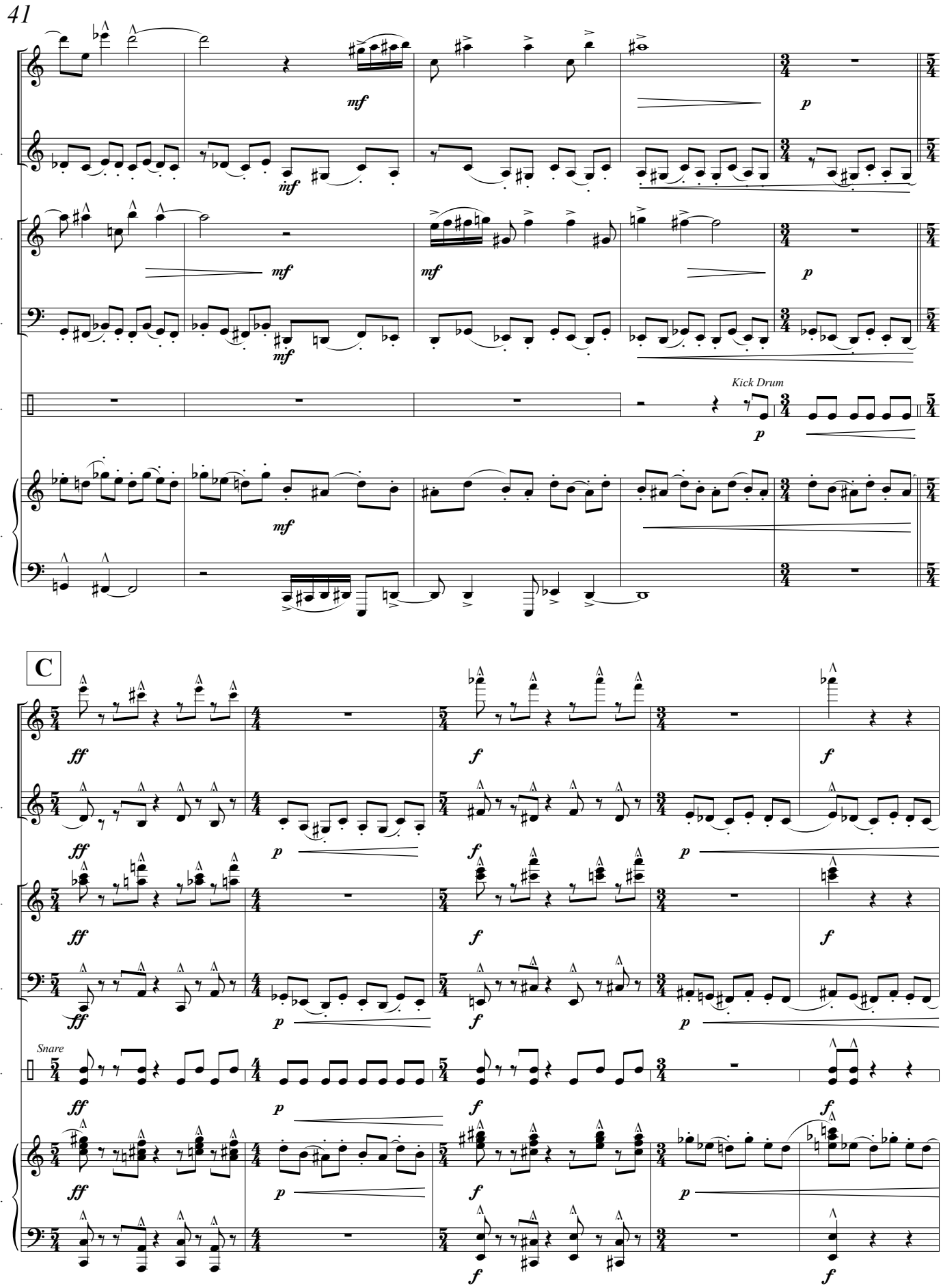

7
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
Snare
mf
f
mp
f
mf
mf
10
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
ff
ff
fp
fp
fp
fp
subito f
subito f
subito f
subito f

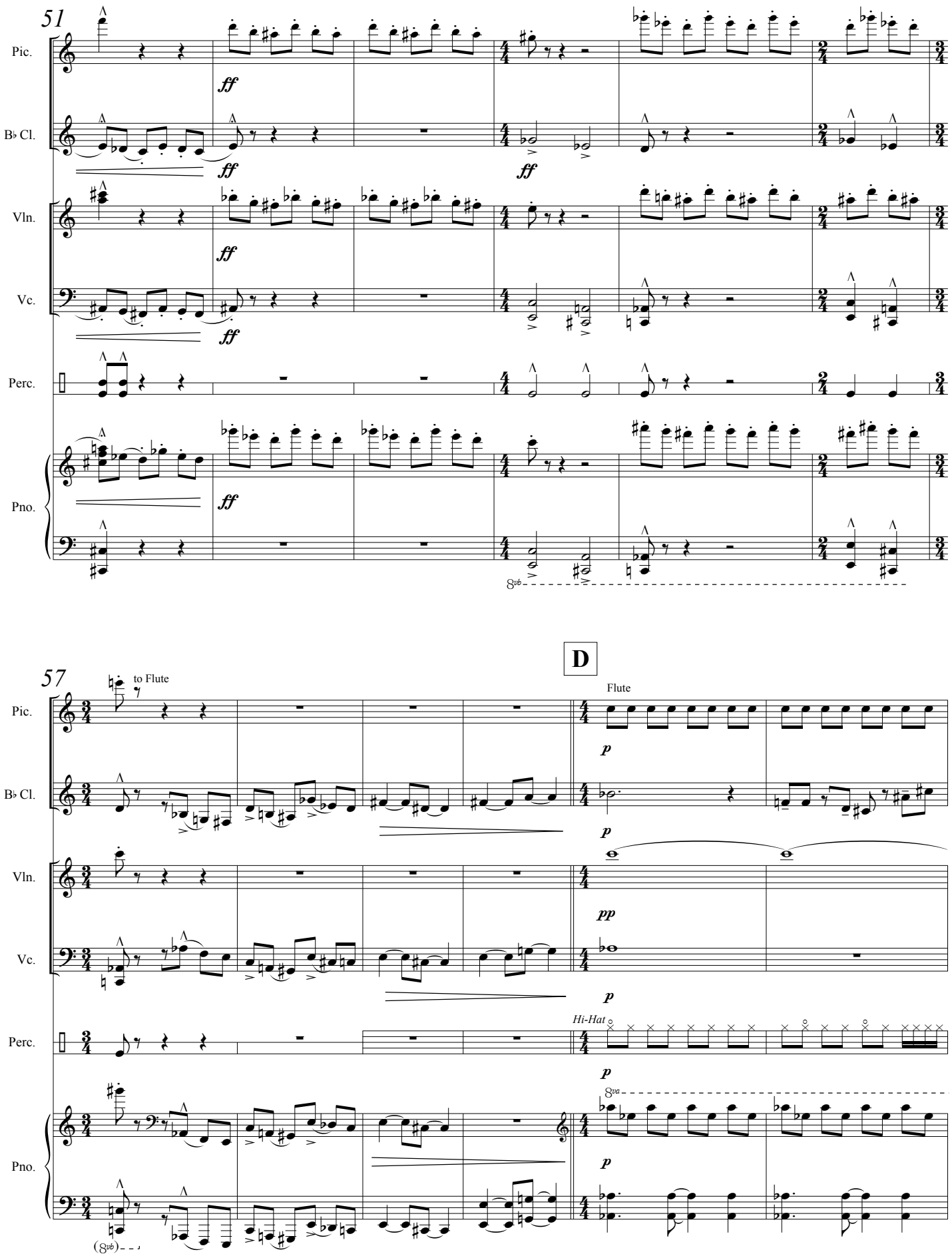

13
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
subito p
f
sfp
sfz
16
A
ff
p
pizz.
Large Dark Sus.
Ride Bell
Med. Brighter Sus.
Splash
China
mp
pp

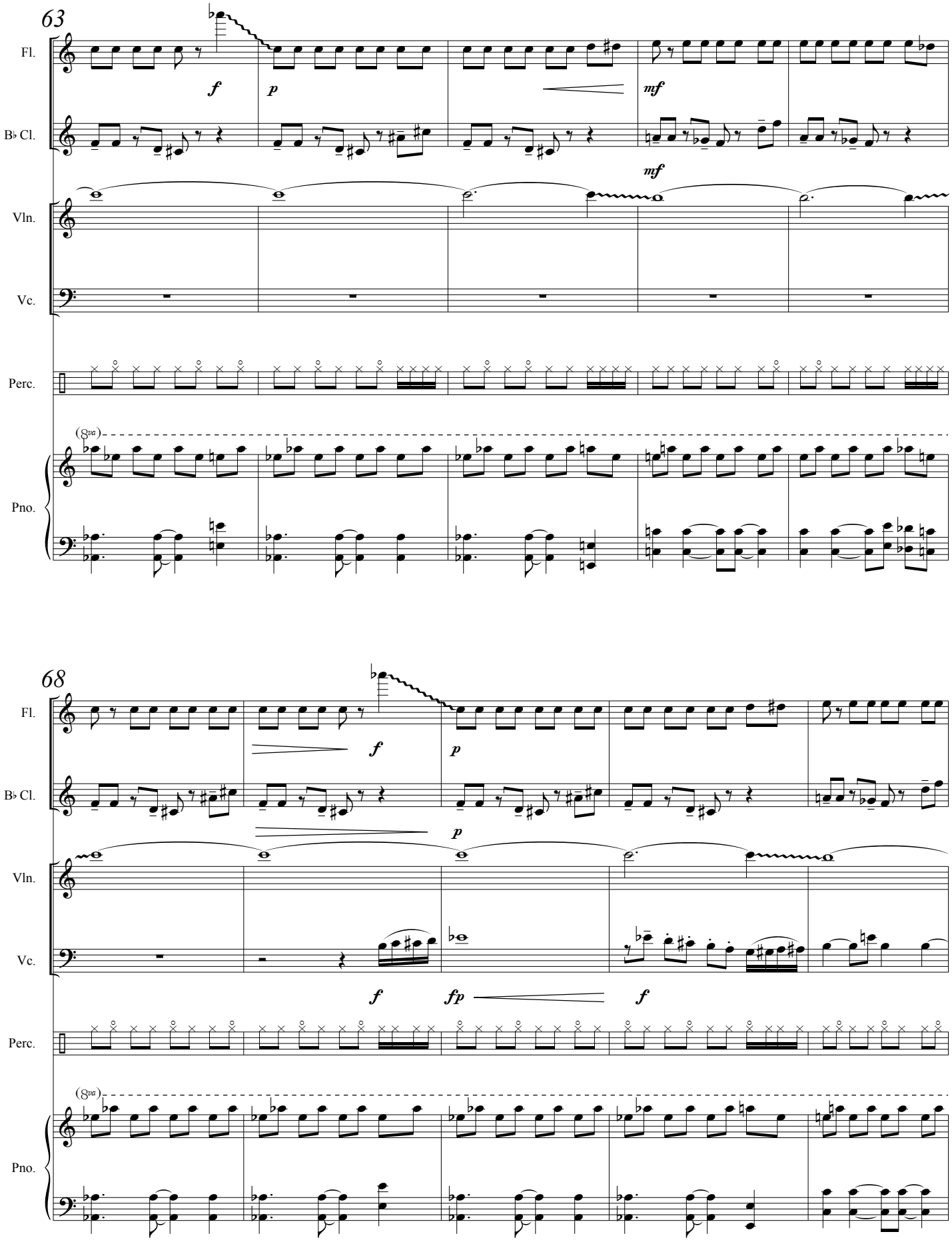

21
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
arco
Ride

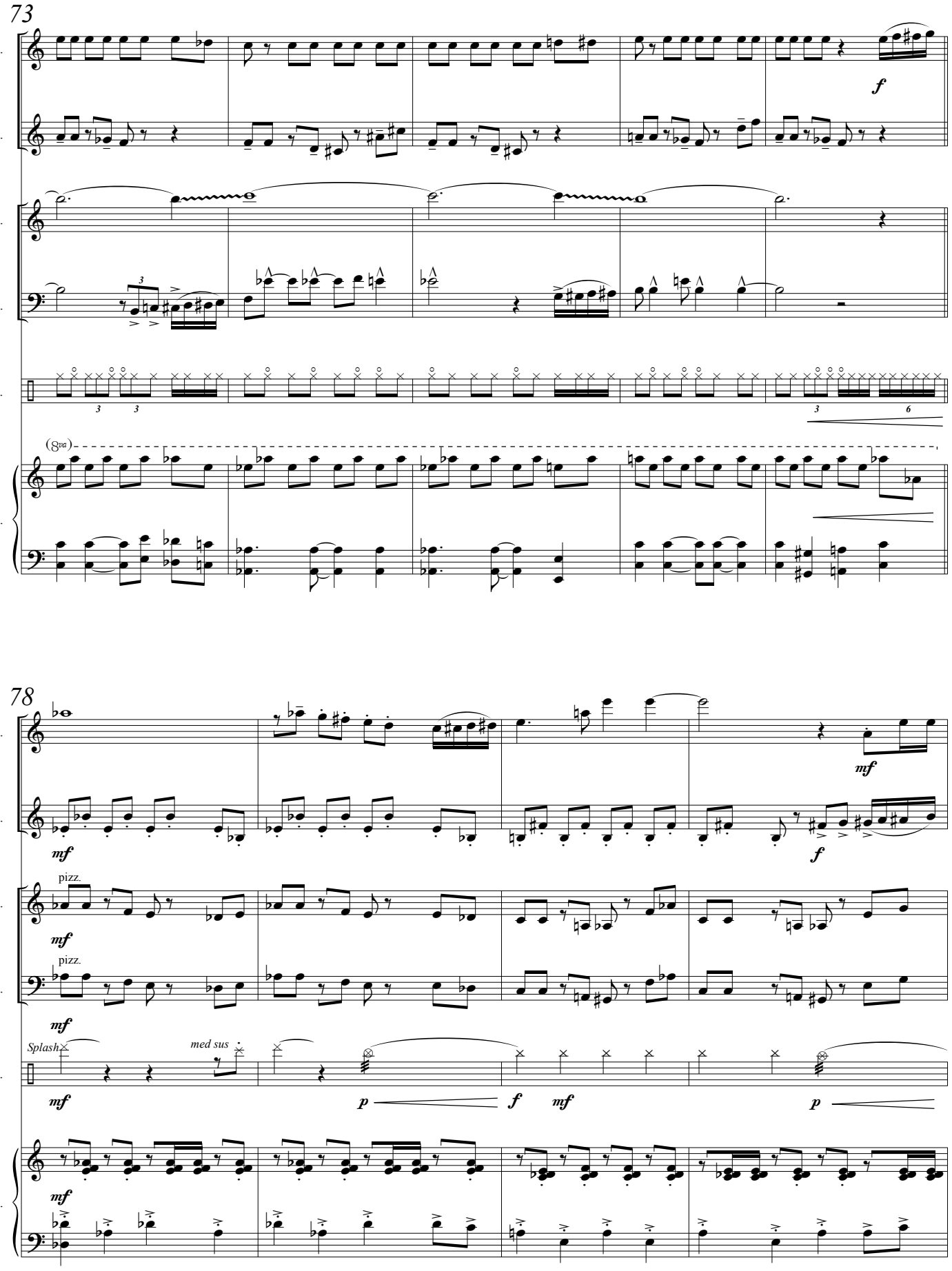

27
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.

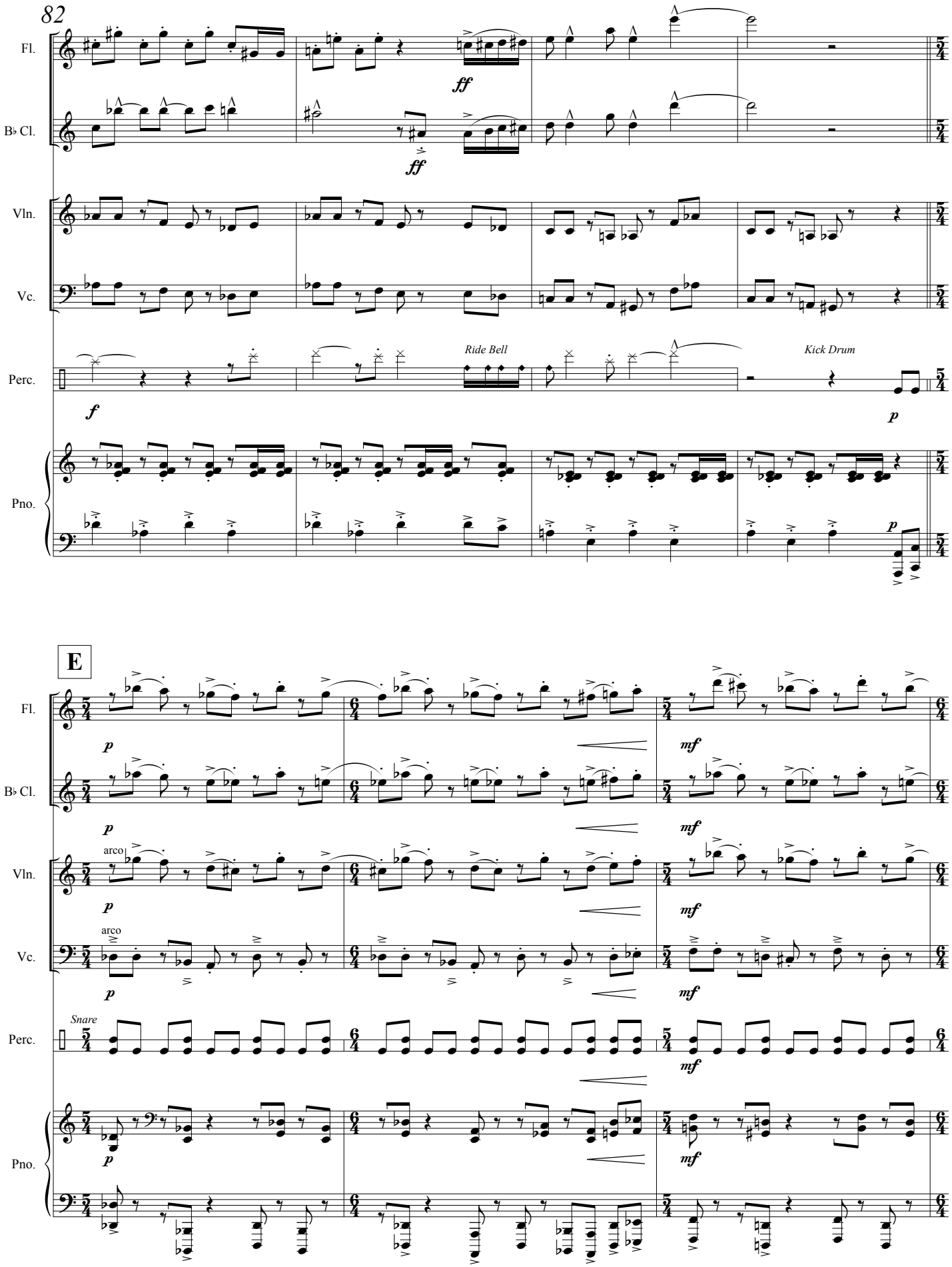

B
32
to Piccolo
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
subito ff
subito f
37
Pic.

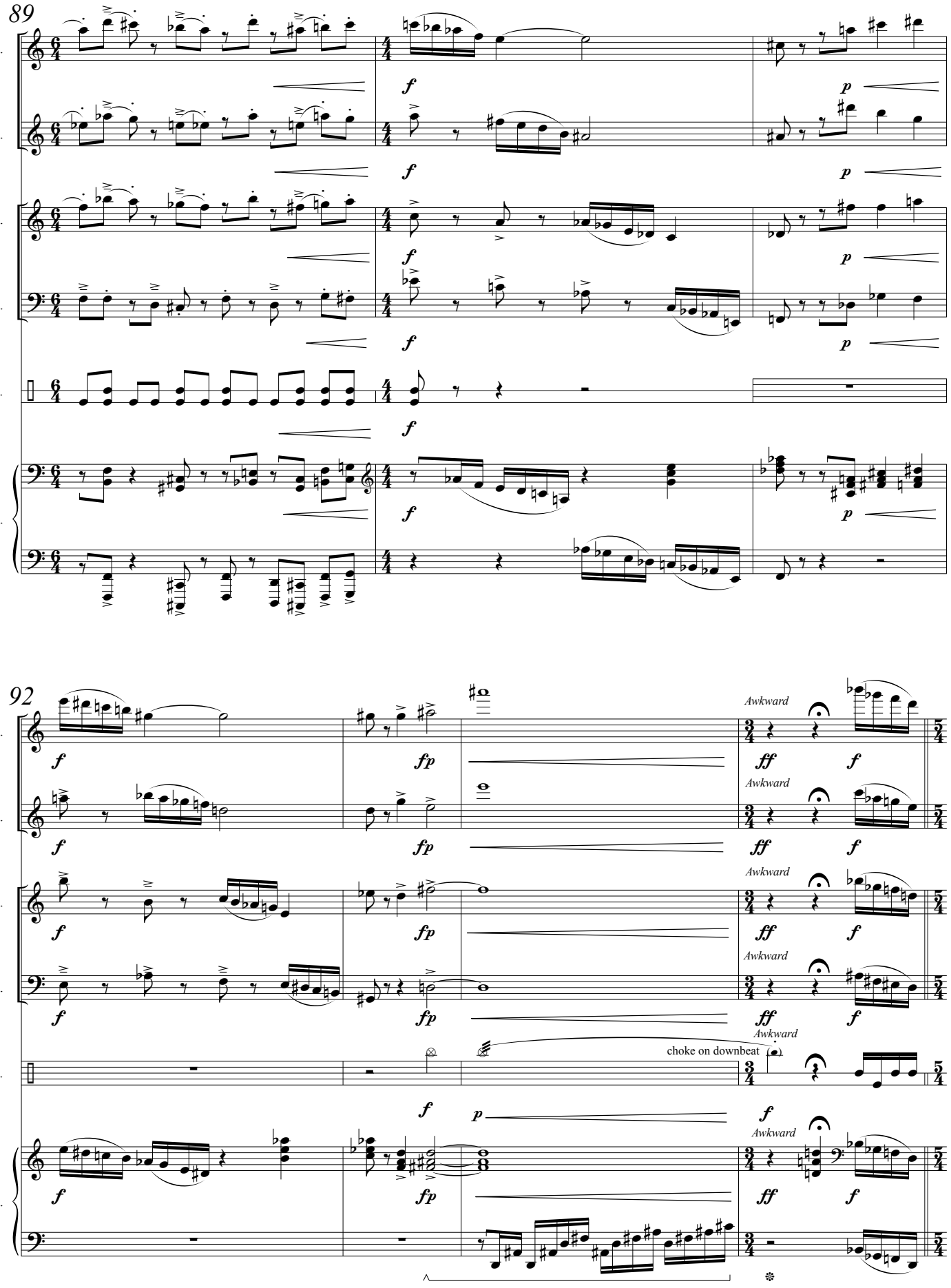

41
Pic.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
Kick Drum
C
Snare

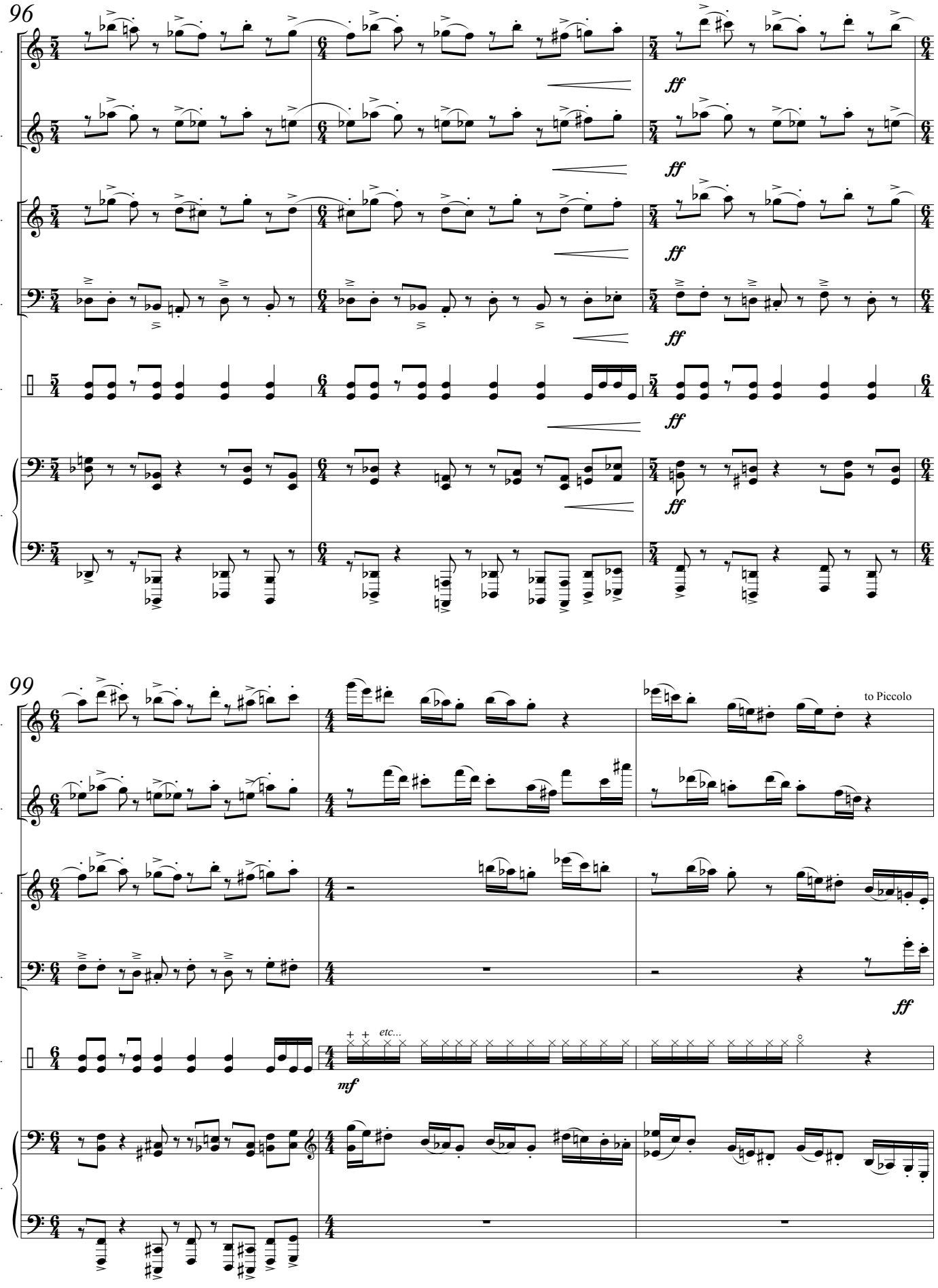

51
Pic.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
ff
8vb
D
57
to Flute
Flute
p
pp
Hi-Hat
8va
(8vb)


63
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
f
p
mf
mf
(8va)
68
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
f
p
p
f
fp
f
(8va)


73
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
f
(8va)
78
mf
pizz.
Splash
med sus
p
f


82
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
ff
ff
Ride Bell
Kick Drum
f
p
p
E
p
mf
arco
Snare


89
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
92
Awkward
choke on downbeat


96
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
ff
99
to Piccolo
etc...
mf
ff

102 *molto rit.*

F **a tempo** (♩ = 152)

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

sf *mf*

sf *mf*

p *mf* *f*

106

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

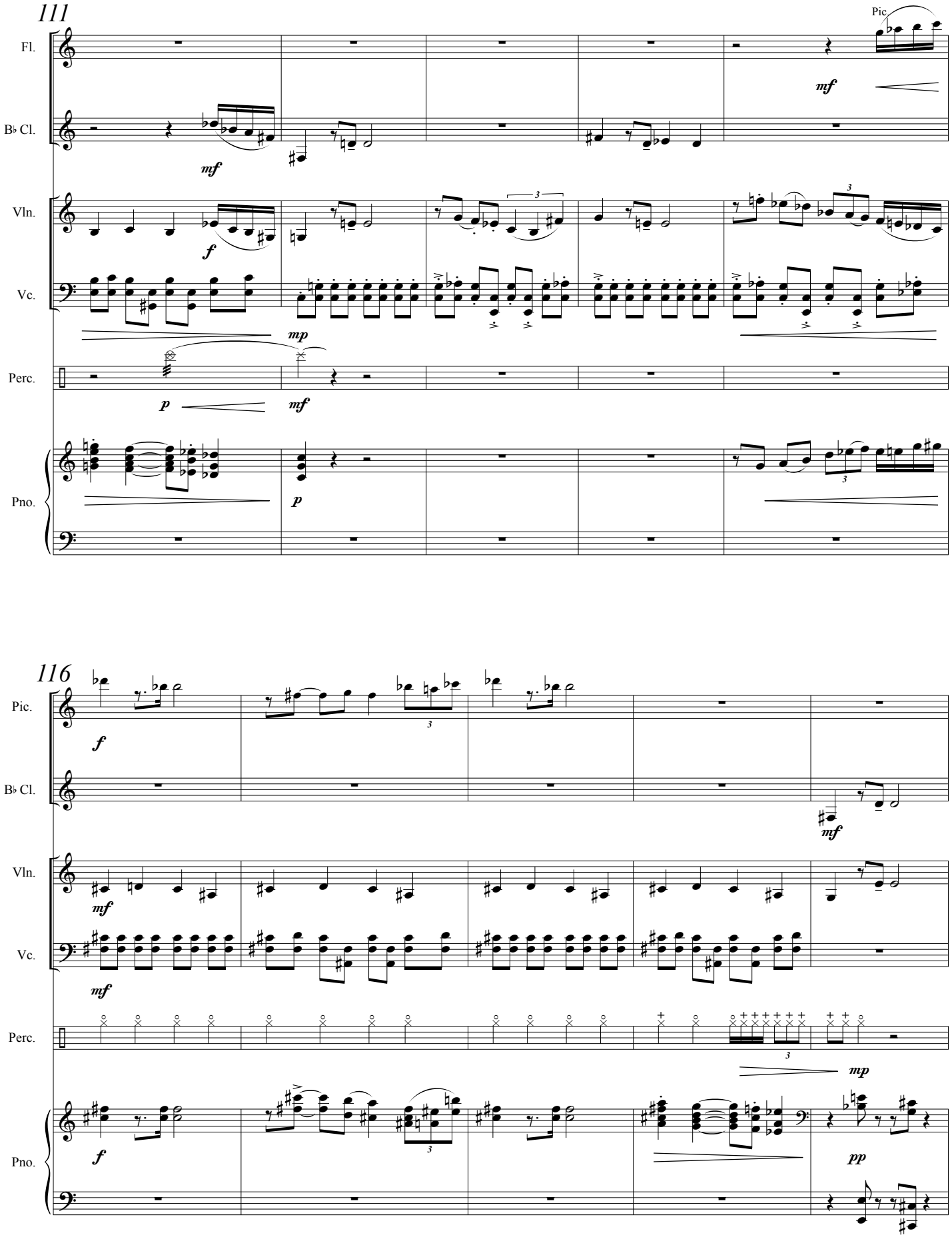
Perc.

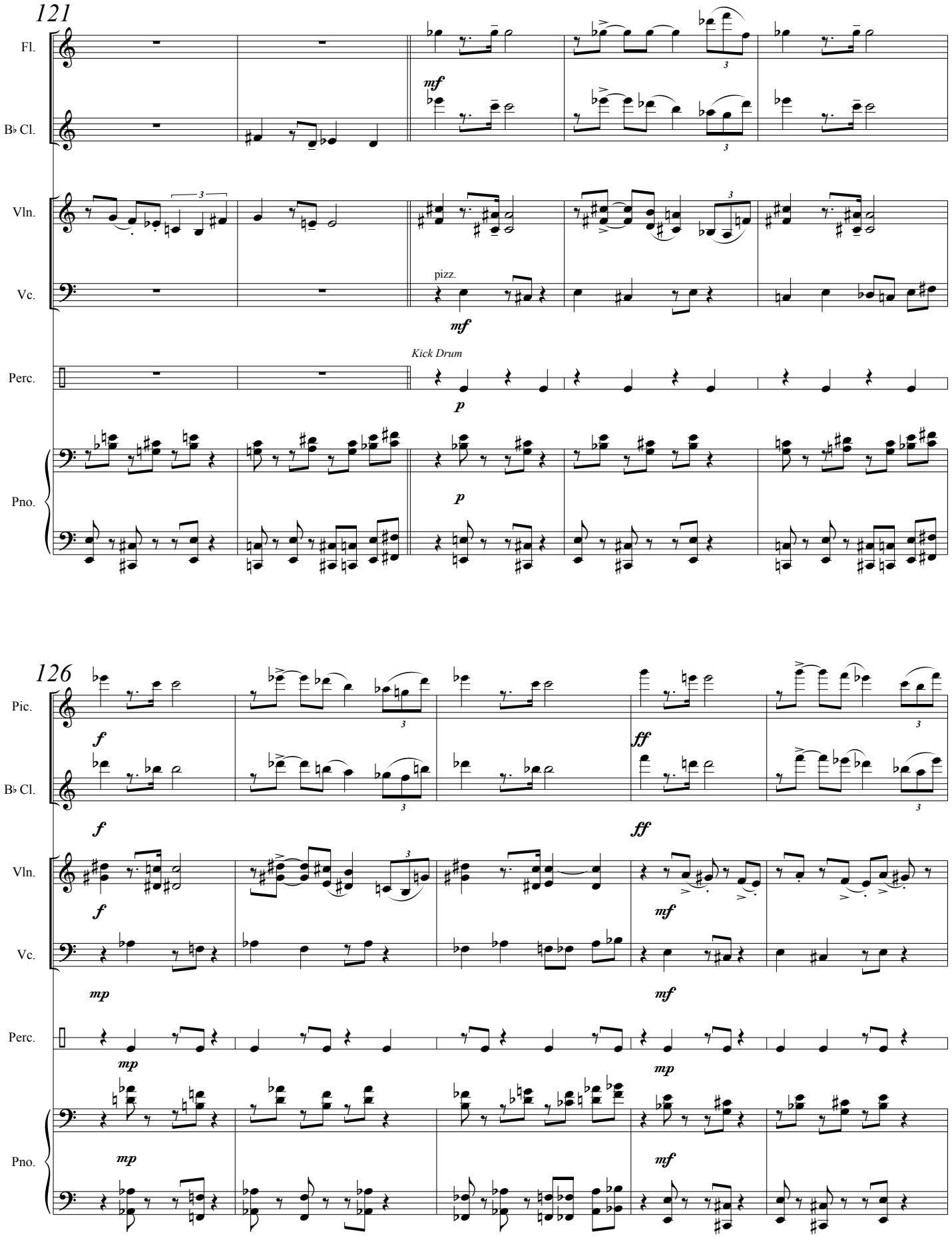
Pno.

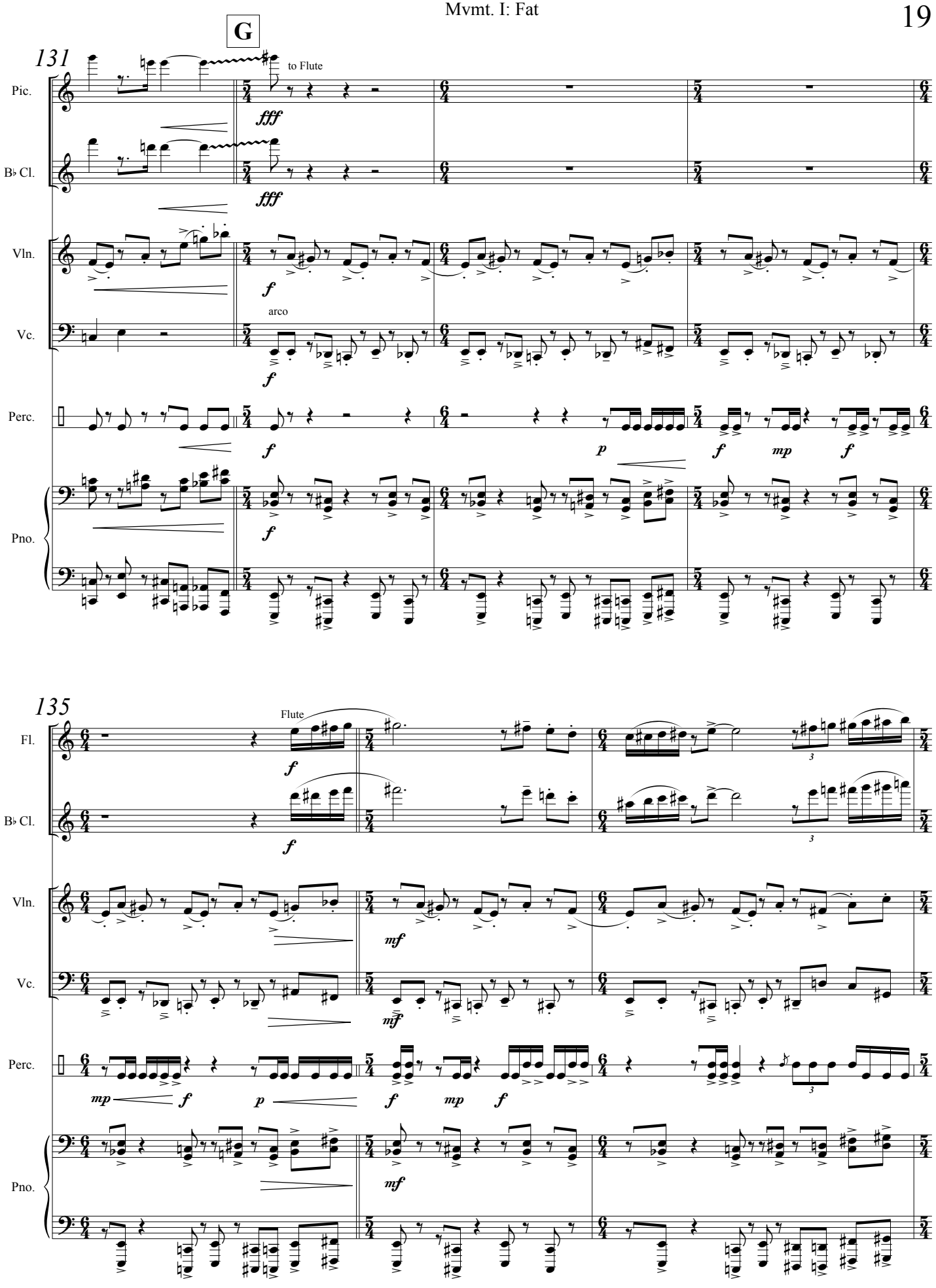
mf

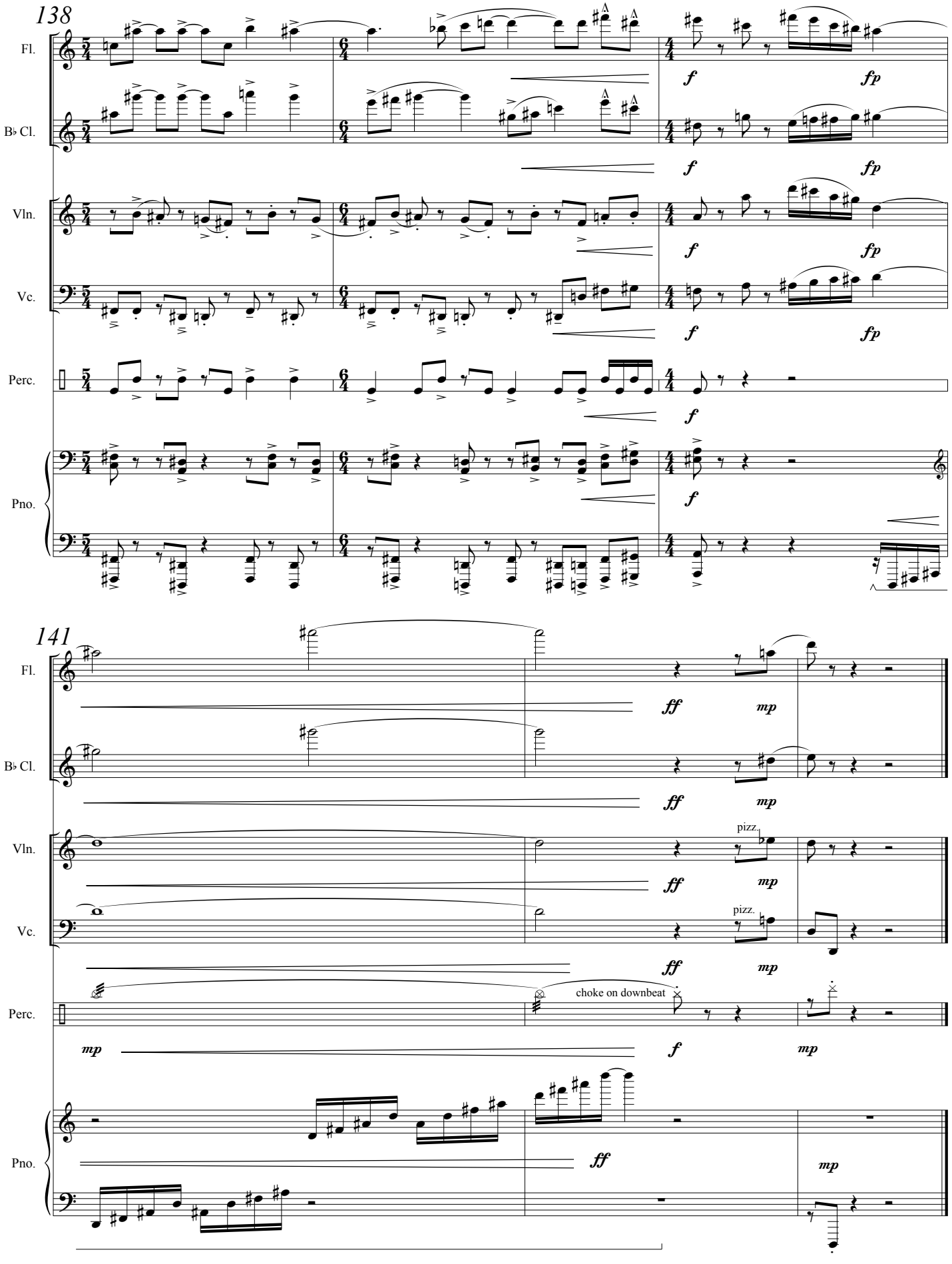
f *mf*

mf *f*


111
Pic
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
mf
mf
f
mp
p
mf
p
116
Pic.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
f
mf
mf
mf
mp
f
pp


121
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
mf
pizz.
mf
Kick Drum
p
p
126
Pic.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
f
f
ff
ff
f
mf
mp
mf
mp
mf
mp
mf


G
131
to Flute
Pic.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
arco
135
Flute
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.


138
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
f
fp
141
ff
mp
pizz.
choke on downbeat