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## A Cajun Tale

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#### A Cajun Tale

#### A Thesis

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the University of New Orleans in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Music in Composition

by

Daniel D. Schultz B.M. Louisiana State University, 1970 M.M. Louisiana State University, 1972 M.M. Southeastern Louisiana University, 1974

May, 2020

## A Cajun Tale

## For Soprano, Tenor and String Quartet

## Dan Schultz

## Libretto by Bennett Kirshner

## 2020

1.	Ouverture	p. 3	2'52"
2.	La Présentation	p. 10	4'18''
3.	Carencro's Complainte	p. 24	3'45''
4.	Bonjour, Bonne Journée	p. 35	0'52"
5.	Ensommeillé et Faim (Duo d'Amour)	p. 39	<b>4'4</b> 7''
6.	À Votre Santé, Mme. Carencro	p. 48	2'29''
7.	Que Diable?	p. 59	3'03''
8.	La Grande Évasion	p. 72	3'07''
9.	Le Pointe Culminant	p. 83	4'41''
10.	Finale et Leçon	p. 104	3'11"
(11	. Sortie Le Marais de Rêve - Exit Music)	p. 114	2'27''

## A Cajun Tale

#### Singers and Instrumentation

Soprano - Madame Carencro Tenor - Compair Lapin and Narrator Violin I Violin 2 Viola Violoncello

As a chamber piece, this may be performed with or without a conductor. If with conductor, most of the instrumental and vocal cueing is superfluous..

#### The Story

This is the story of two Louisiana denizens and their challenges finding food, getting rest and raising families in the winter swamp. Madame Carencro is a red-headed buzzard whose husband abandoned the nest after Carencro hatched a brood of chicks. She's left to fend for herself and her family against odds. A neighbor of Carencro's, a shifty rabbit named Compair Lapin (accomplice Lapin)is a bit of a lazy moocher, content to sleep away the day.

The two carry on daily with cordial but cautionary regard for each other. Eventually Carencro comes to realize that the answer to her hunger problems might be living in the base of her tree. So she hatches (no pun intended) a plan.

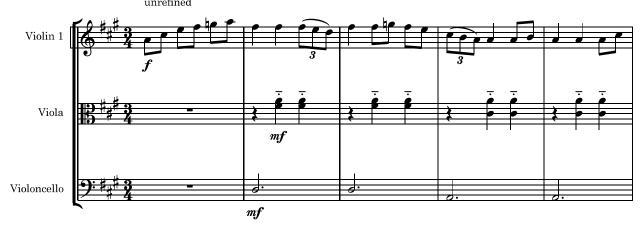
Unsuspecting Lapin is caught in her trap and must use all of his wit to escape - which he did - to his friend Bouki's (a turtle who loves to cook) house. After that Lapin gets his revenge.

#### Songs - French - English Translation

- 1. Ouverture Overture
- 2. La Présentation Introduction
- 3. Carencro's Complainte Carencro's Lament
- 4. Bonjour, Bonne Journée Hello, A Good Day to You
- 5. Ensommeillé et Faim (Duo d'Amour) Sleepy and Hungry (A Love Duet)
- 6. À Votre Santé, Mme. Carencro Congratulations, Madame Carencro
- 7. Que Diable? What the Devil?
- 8. La Grande Évasion The Great Escape
- 9. Le Pointe Culminant The Climax
- 10. Finale et Leçon The End and the Moral
- 11. Sortie Le Marais de Rêve Leaving the Sleepy Swamp

Note: The Cajun theme is "Jolie Blonde" (pretty blonde), a traditional Cajun waltz.

# Like a Cajun fiddler - unrefined







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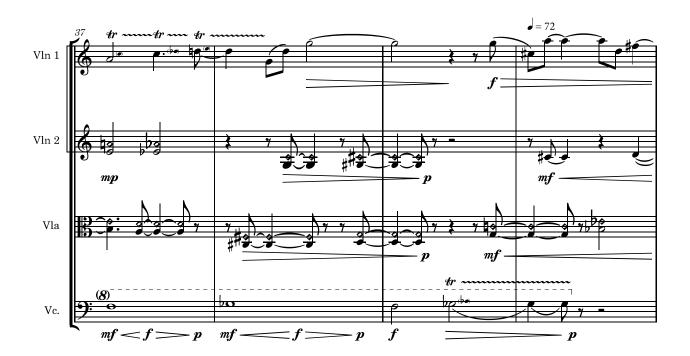




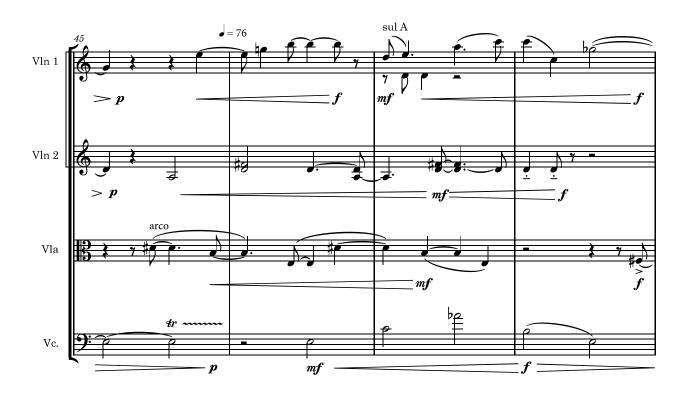


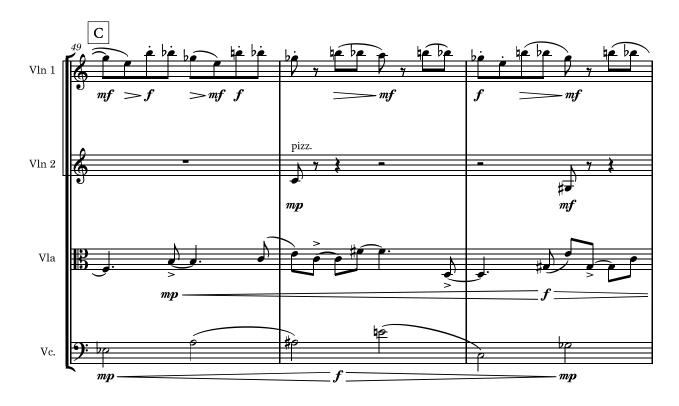


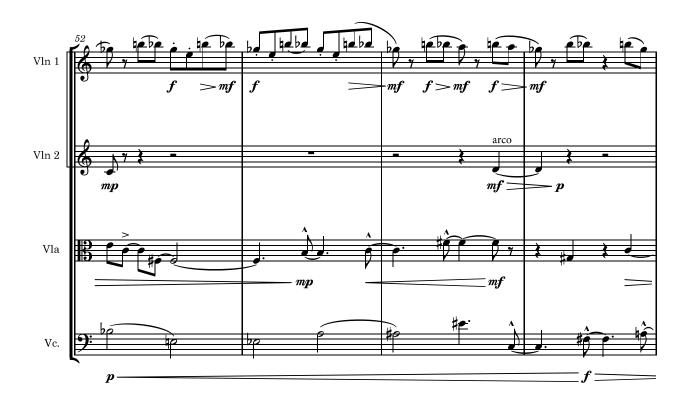
The singers make their way onto the stage and into positions.

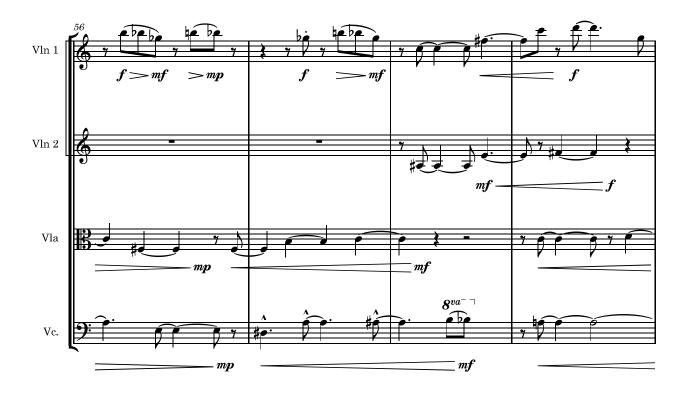




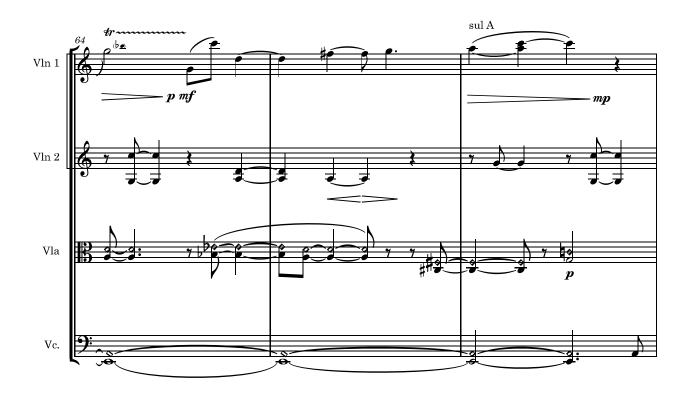


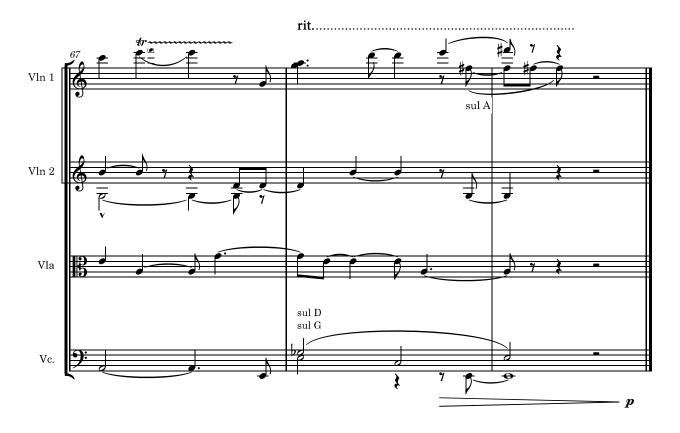














#### LAPIN / NARRATOR (Spoken over music):

(Waking up from a dream)

How dare you!

(Realizing he is on stage)

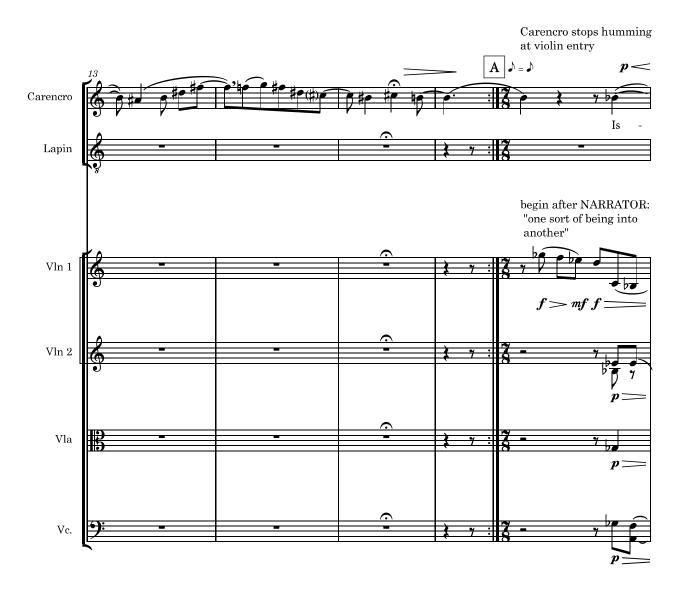
Huh? What? Oh! Oh, is it time already? Well...

(brushes himself off)

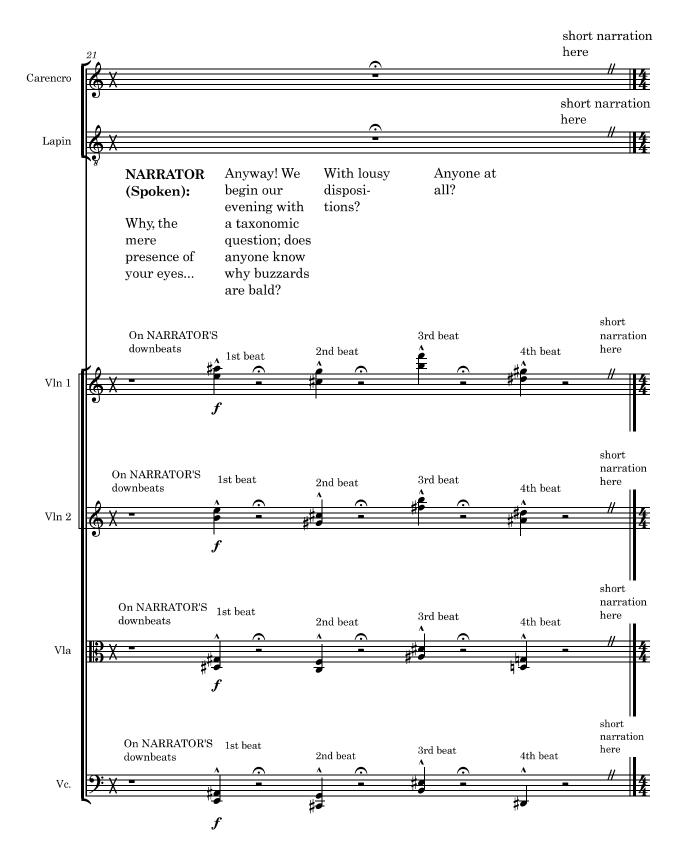
...good evening, folks. I didn't realize we started so soon! Haha! (He comes out of his hole, situates himself downstage

center, and changes some piece of clothing to indicate he has turned from LAPIN into NARRATOR)

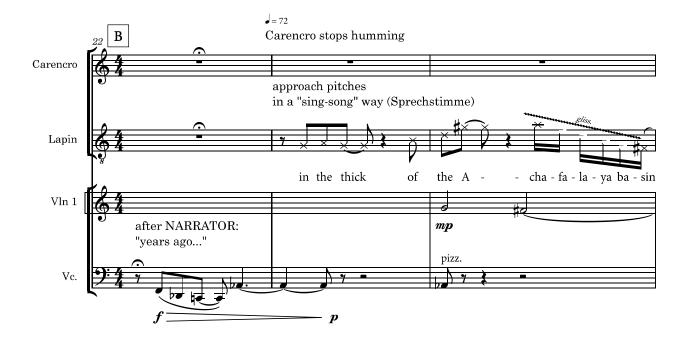
It's so strange, how one moment can change us from one sort of being to another...

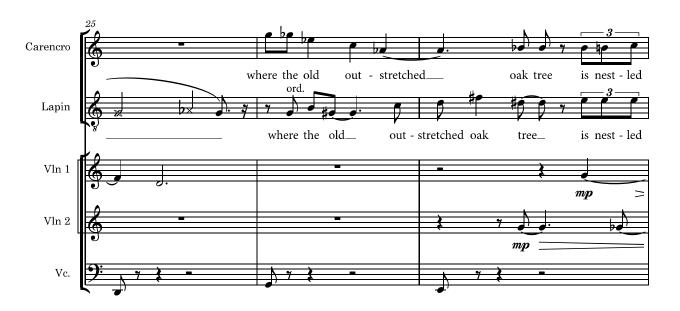






**Narrator (Spoken):** Tonight, to answer that question, we transport ourselves to many years ago.....





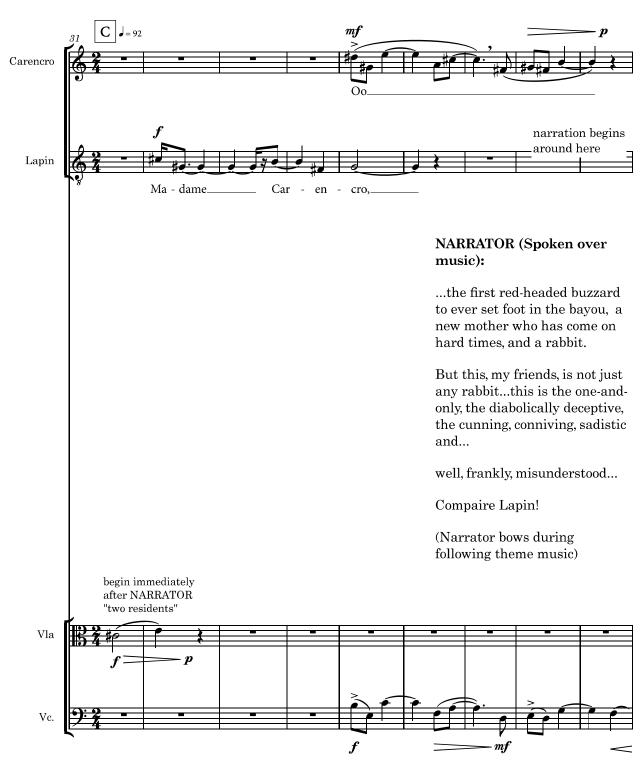


#### NARRATOR (Spoken):

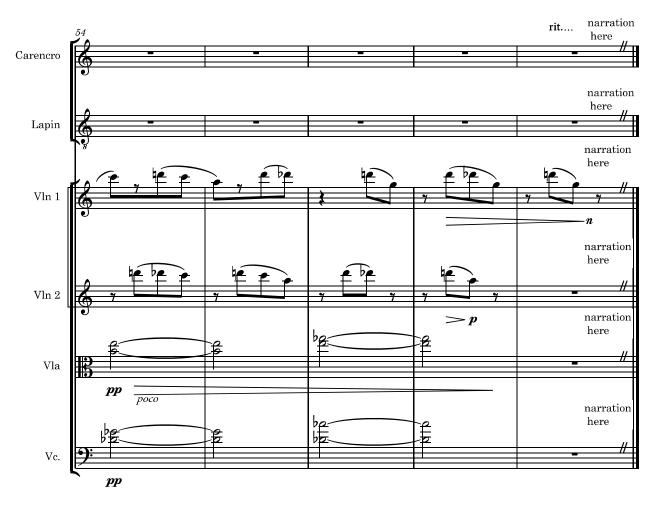
Many creatures have come to call this tree home – in fact, at this moment, two owls, four roseate spoonbills, a tricolored heron, and a medley of coypus and swamp rats have etched out homes for themselves.

But tonight's tale is not about them, nor the community they've fostered.

Instead, it's about two residents -







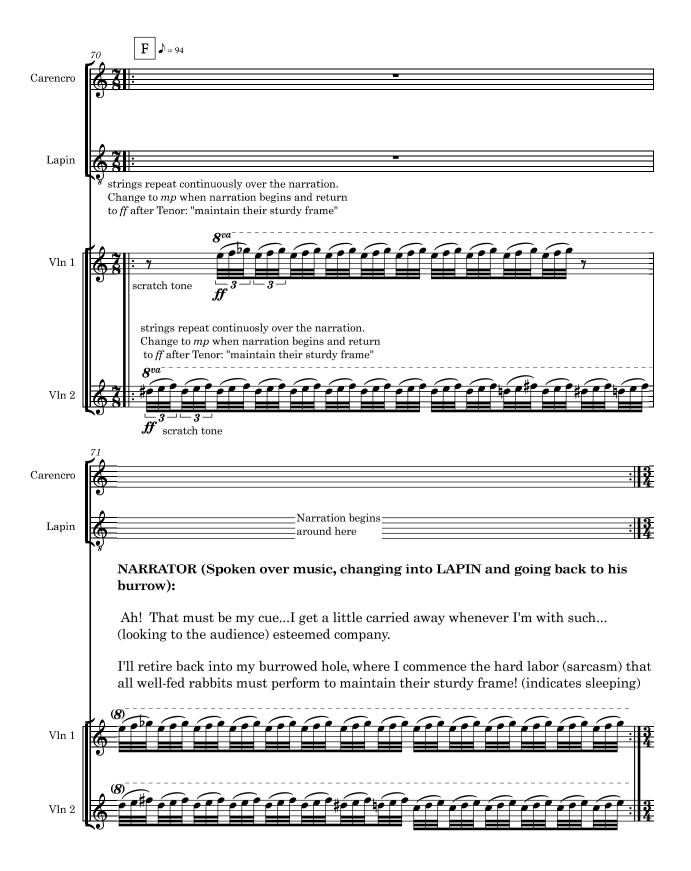
#### NARRATOR (Spoken):

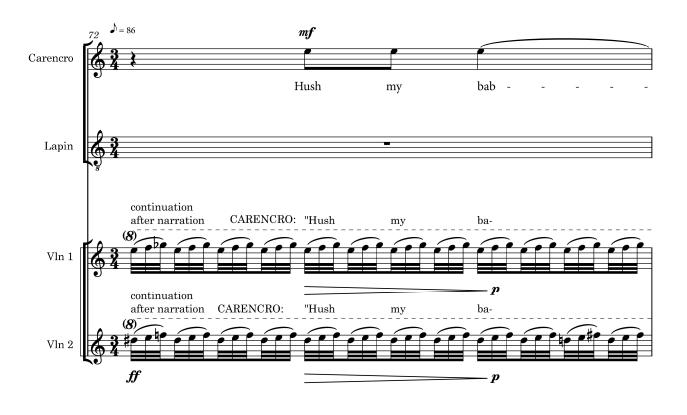
In any case, we begin our story on a quiet afternoon, shortly after a modest rainstorm, looking at the highest branch, where Carencro sits atop her nest, grooming her three hatchlings, wondering how she'll find the next meal for her family.

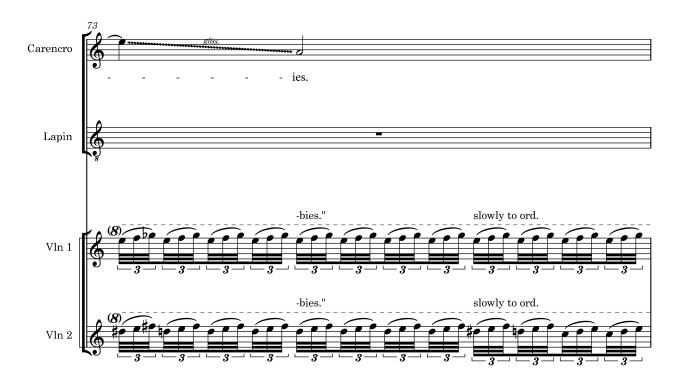
Her husband, you see, who should be scavenging for worms and carp, is around, but that's about all he is... around.

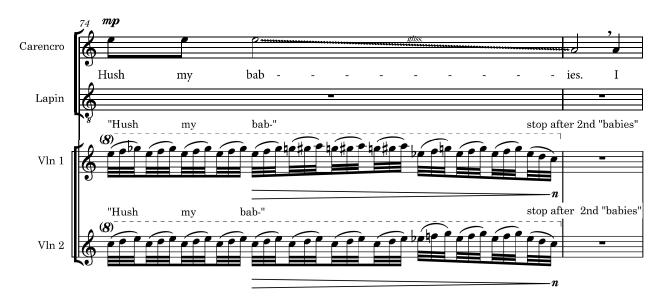
Oh, it breaks my heart! Carencro's first encounter with him had been so charmed – she was instantly smitten...

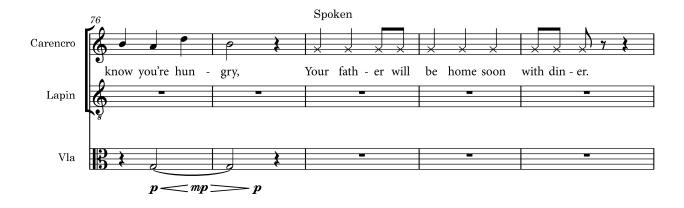




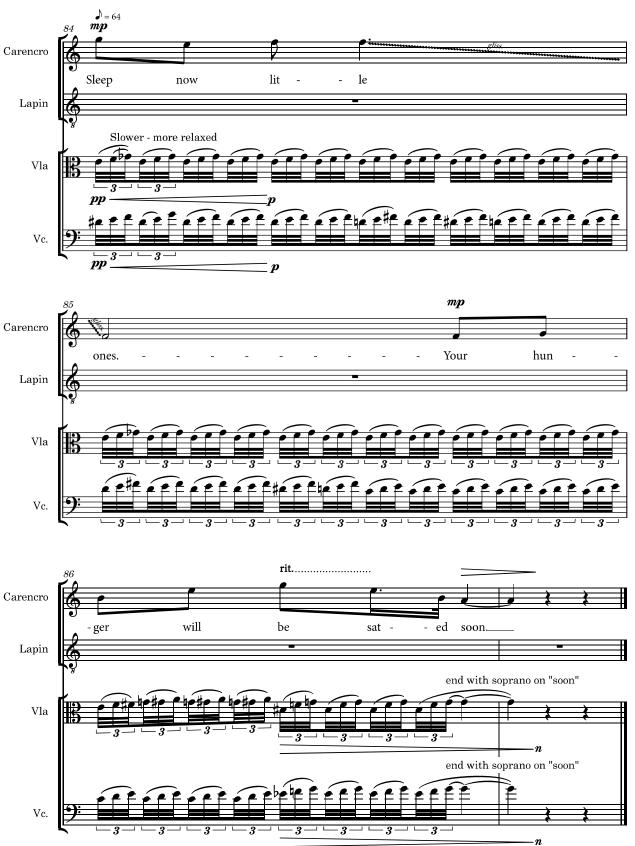




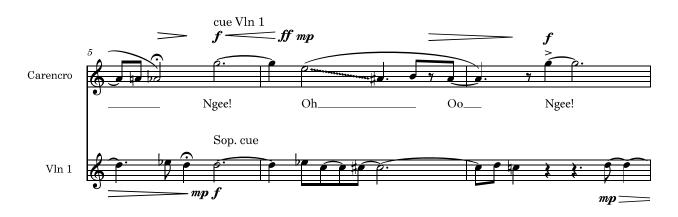


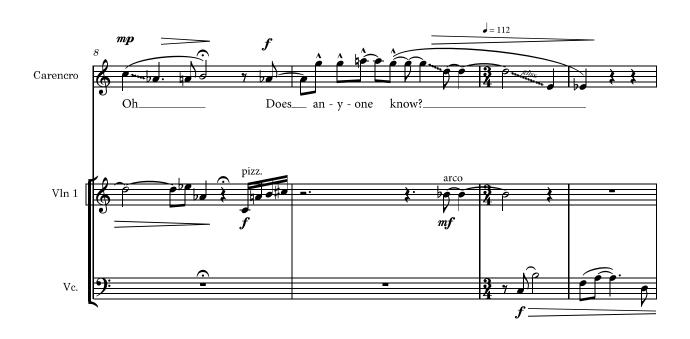




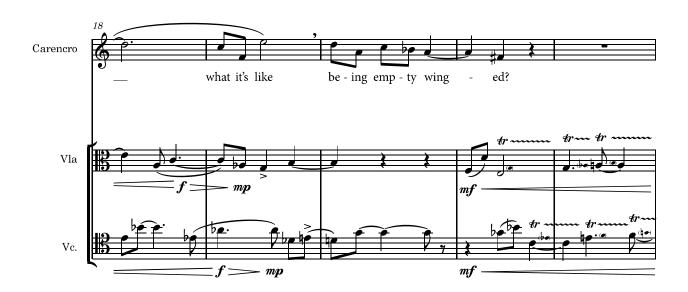




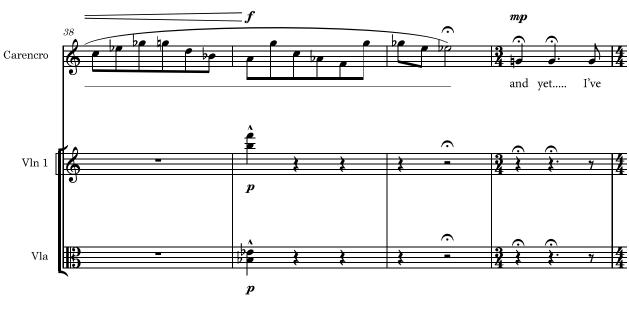




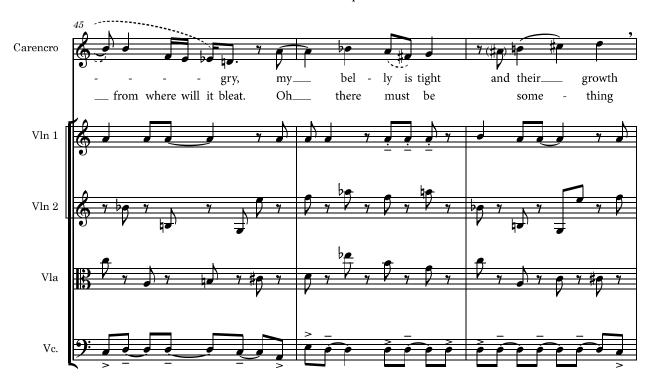




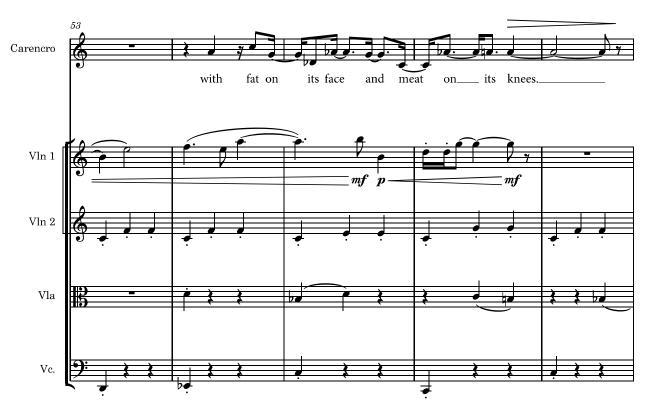




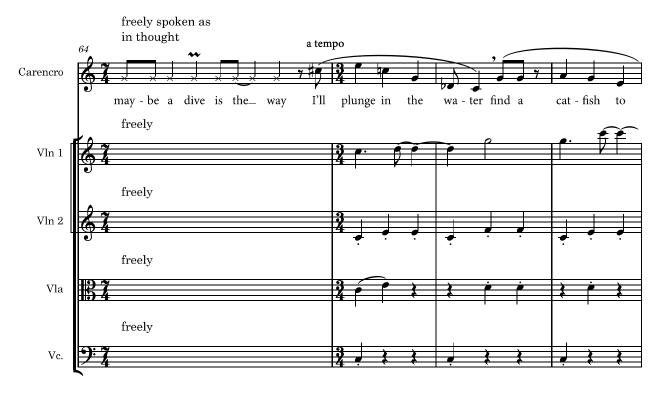


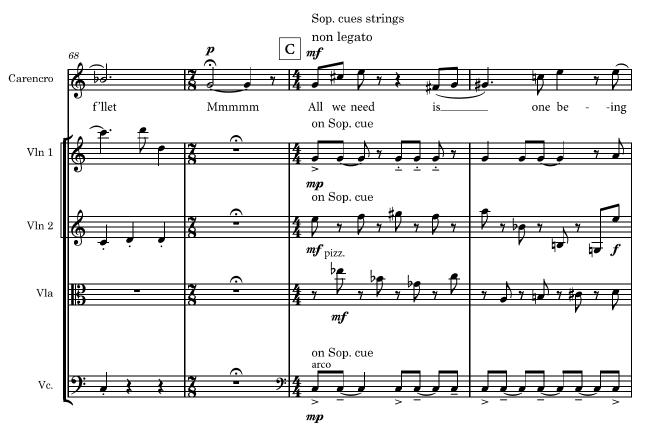






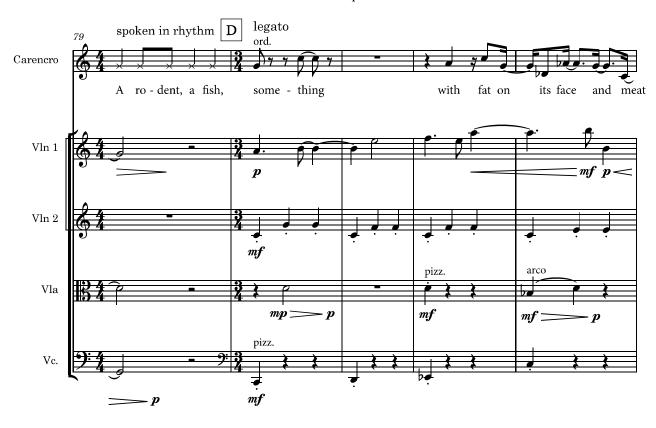


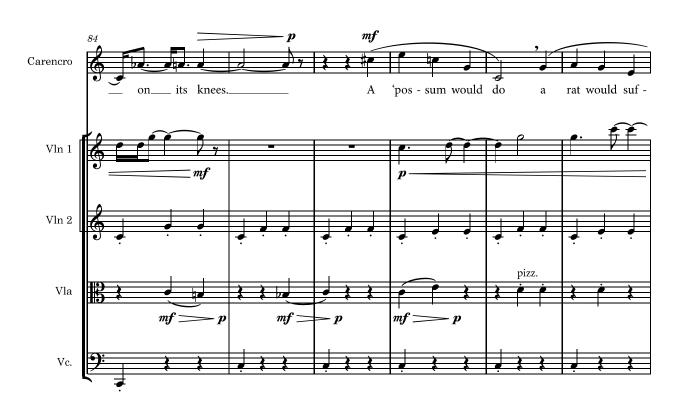


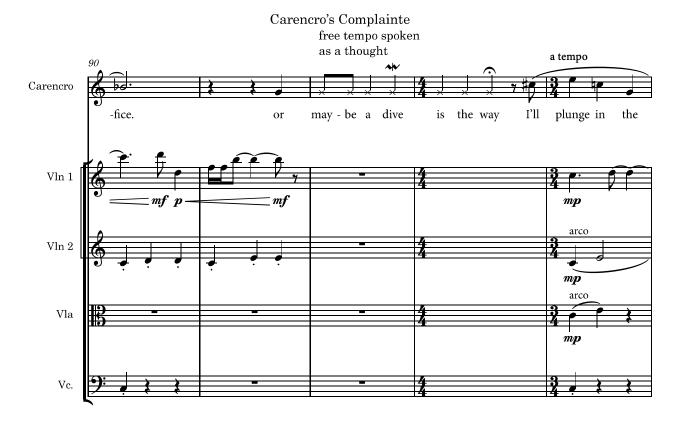


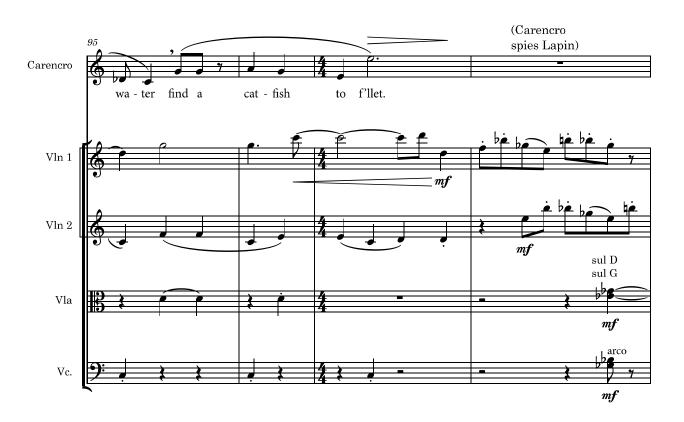


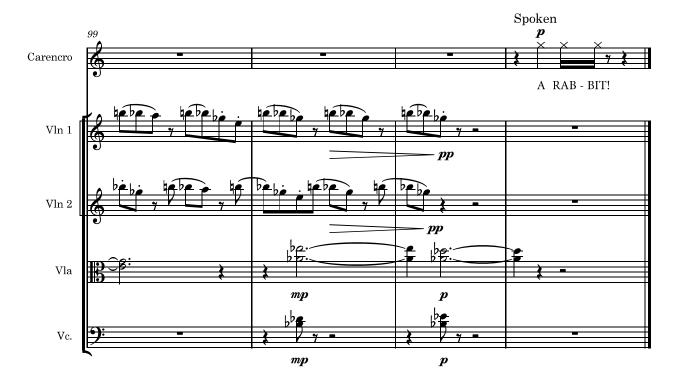








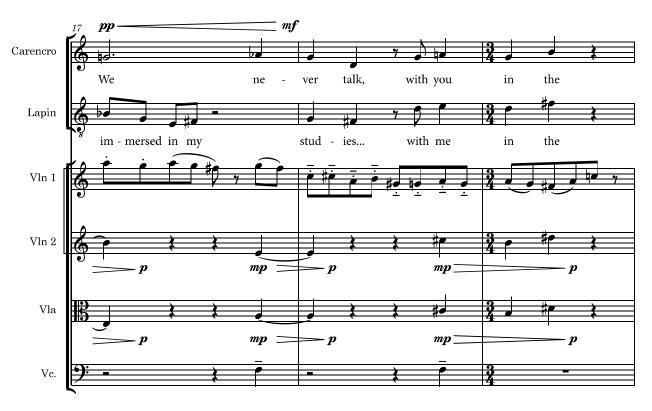


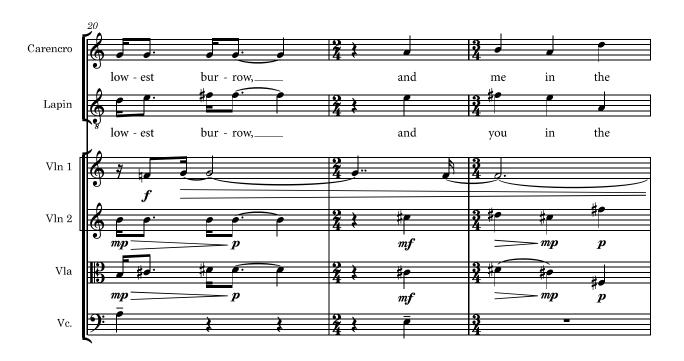




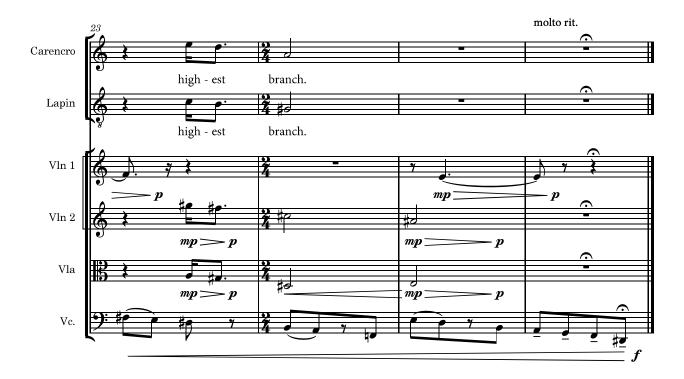


## Bonjour, Bonne Journée





### Bonjour, Bonne Journée



#### SPOKEN:

**CARENCRO**: It is funny that we never talk - you in the lowest burrow, me on the highest branch.

**LAPIN**: Oh, I wouldn't call it funny. I'd call it natural! After all, what reason would a rabbit have to talk to one of its most powerful pred......

**CARENCRO**: One of its most natural and powerful?.....

LAPIN: Pred...predicaments!

CARENCRO (perplexed, considering): One of its natural and most powerful... predicaments?

**LAPIN**: Us rabbits and buzzards never get along. Your chirps are so obnoxious. So, yes, it is a predicament. Anyway, I must resume my studies. I'm in the middle of first-hand research into the somatic, sonic wavelengths that reverberate through the body when one achieves a deep state of relaxation.

**CARENCRO**: That sounds fascinating.

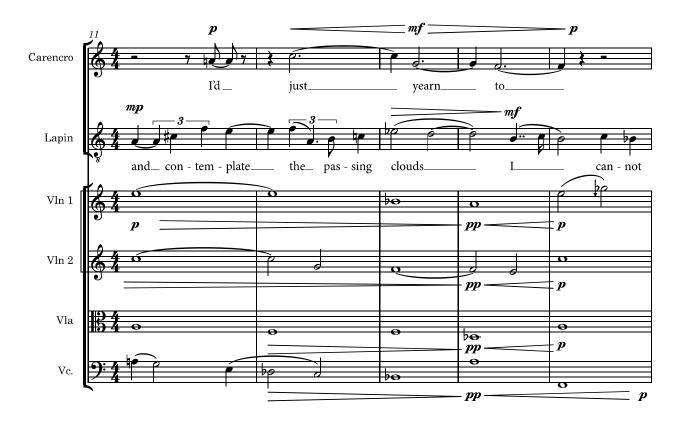
LAPIN: Certainly! Good morning.

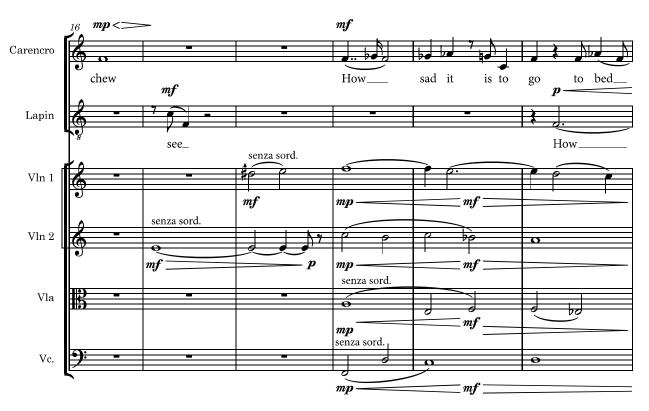
CARENCRO: You mean... good night.

# 5. Ensommeillé Et Faim (Duo d'Amour)



### Ensommeillé Et Faim (Duo d'Amour)





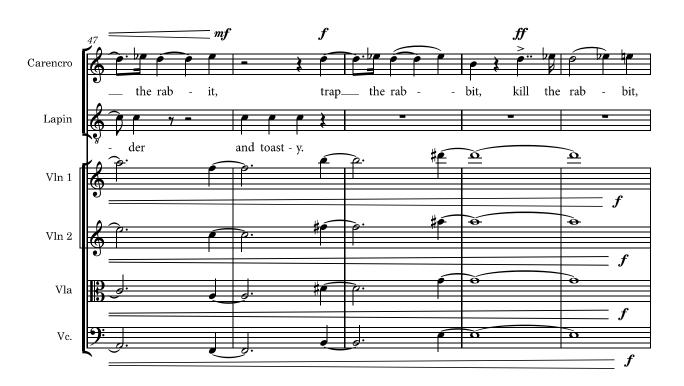
Ensommeillé Et Faim (Duo d'Amour)





Ensommeillé Et Faim (Duo d'Amour)

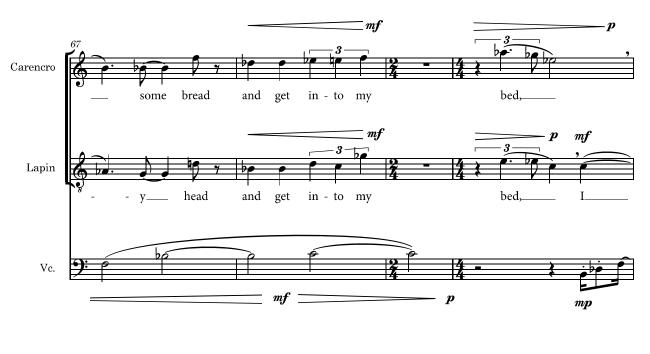


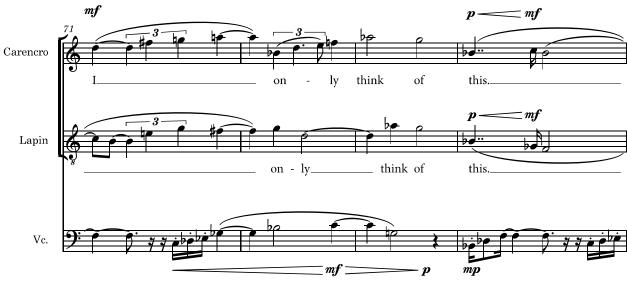


### Ensommeillé Et Faim (Duo d'Amour)



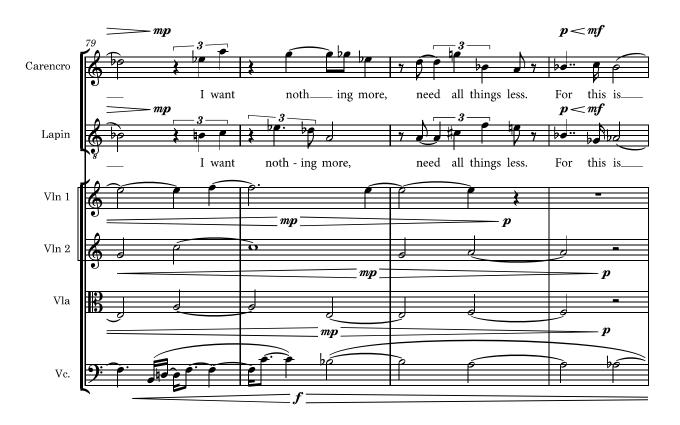
## Ensommeillé Et Faim (Duo d'Amour)





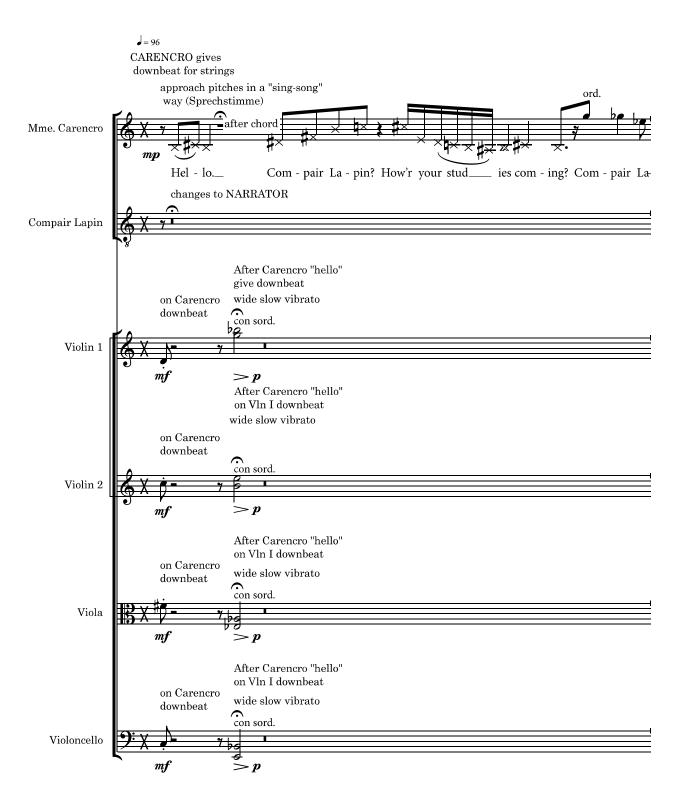
Ensommeillé Et Faim (Duo d'Amour)

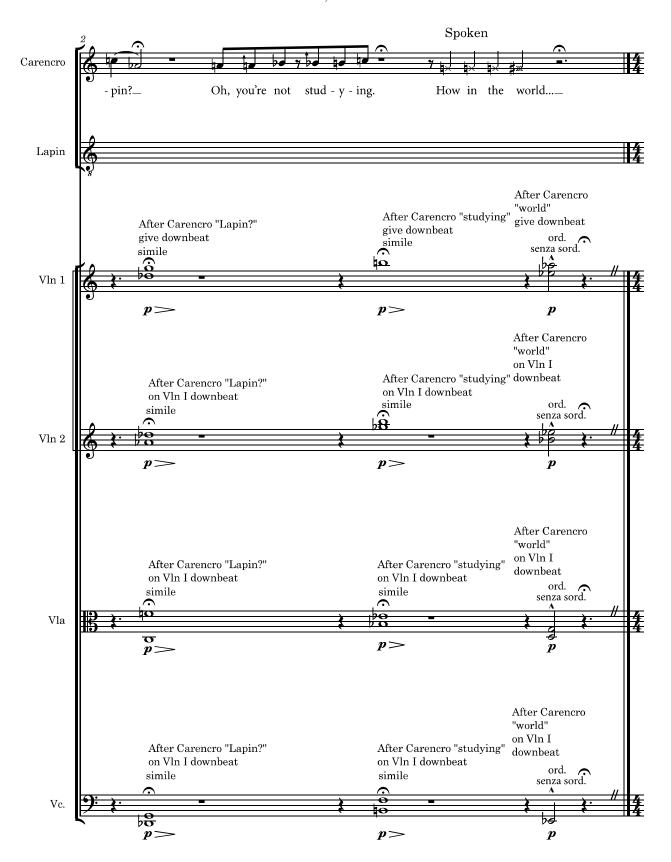






# 6. Â Votre Santé, Mme. Carencro



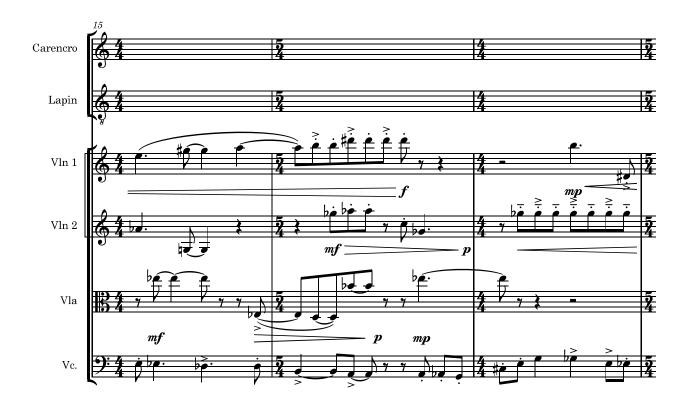


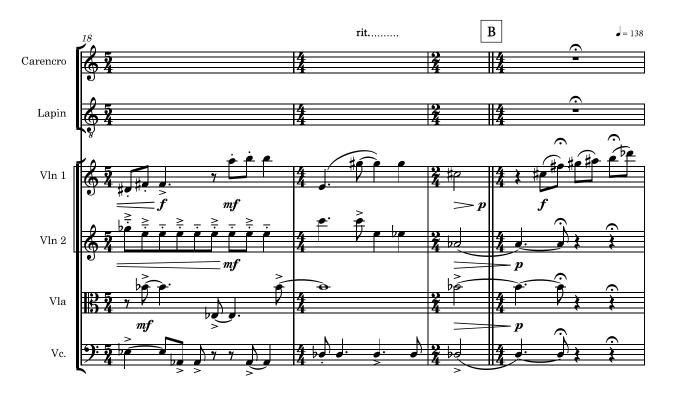
### Votre Santé, Mme. Carencro



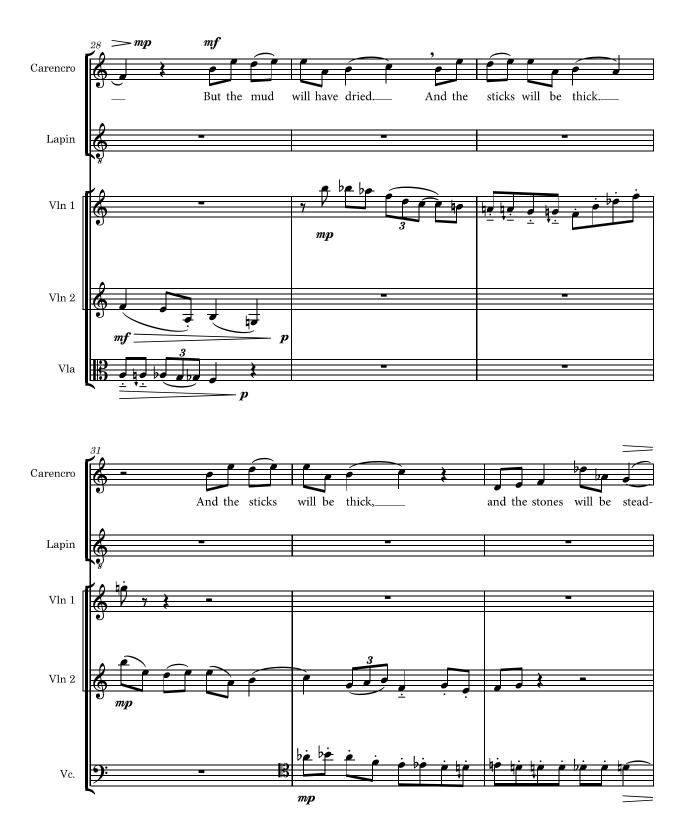




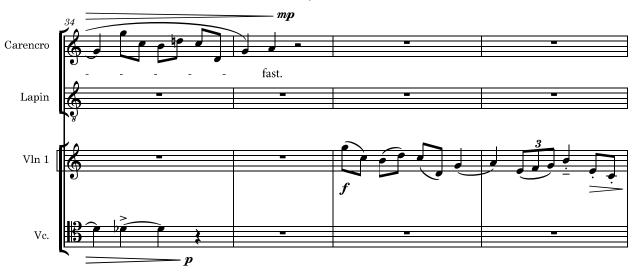


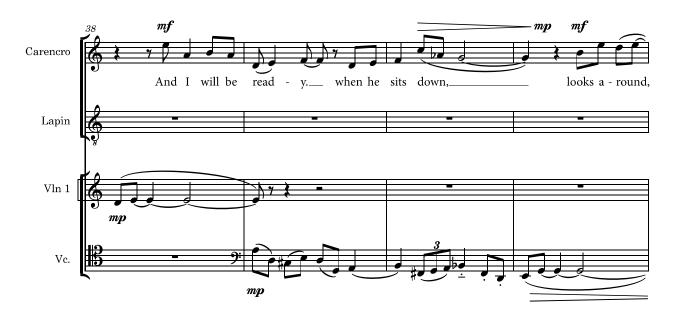






## Votre Santé, Mme. Carencro











### LAPIN (Spoken, yawning):

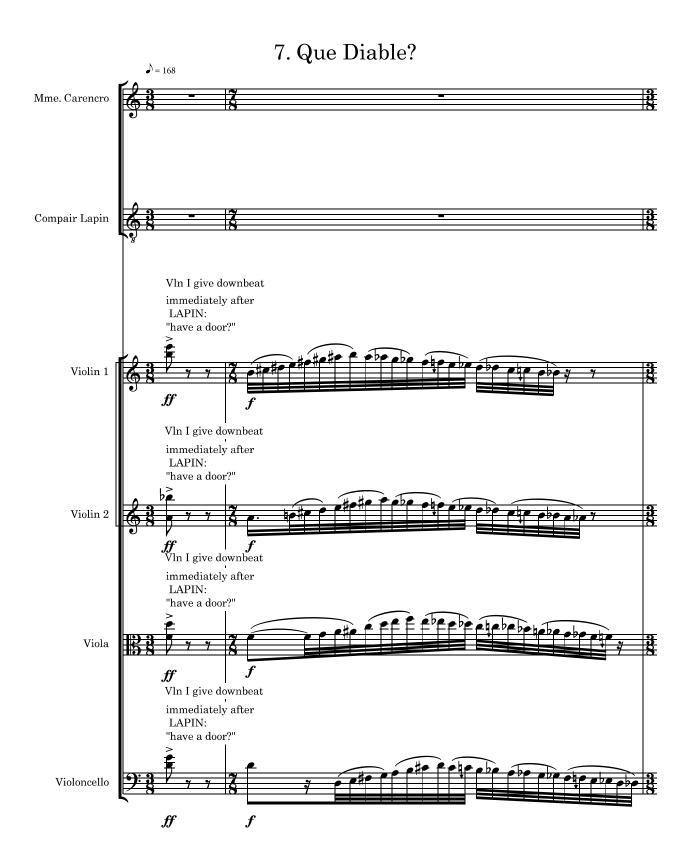
Ah, another productive research session.

Well, time for me to nibble on some flowers in the meadow...if I can just open this damn door...hmmm.

I don't remember shutting the door. I don't recall the door being made of caked mud.

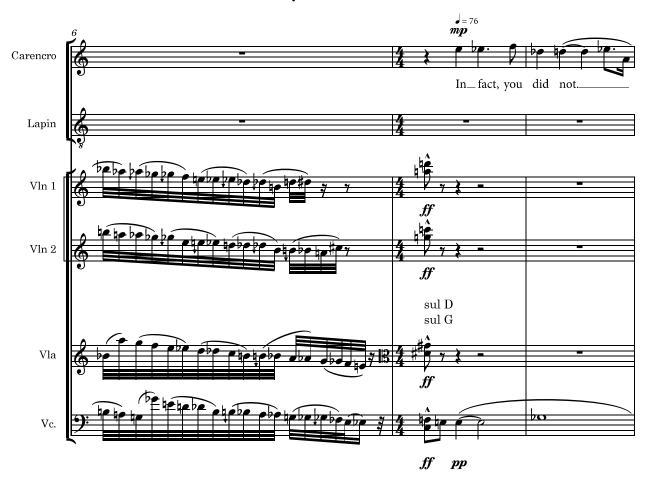
Hold on...did I even have a door?

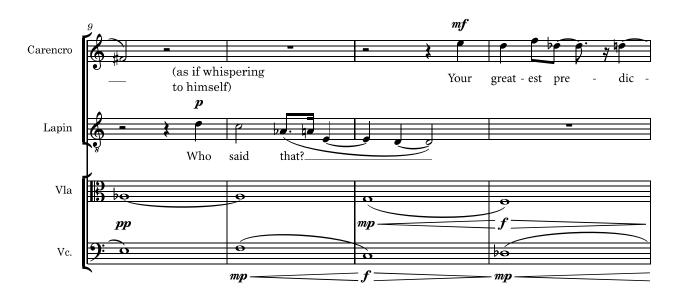




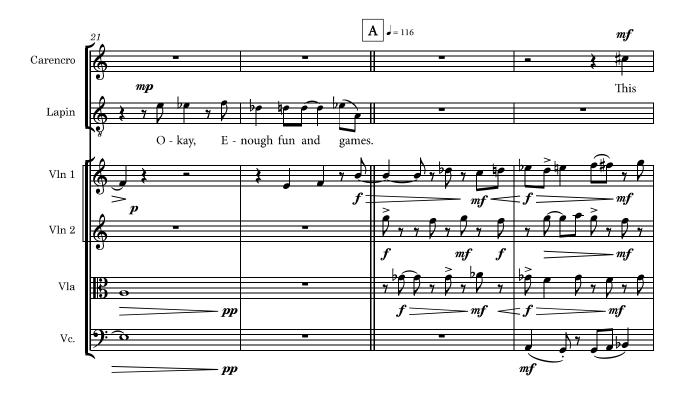


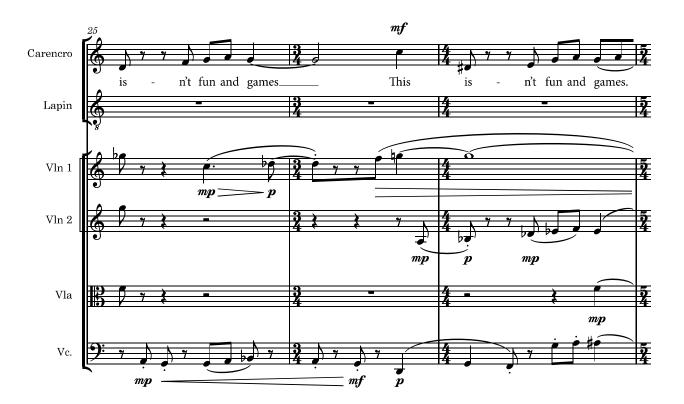
# Que Diable?

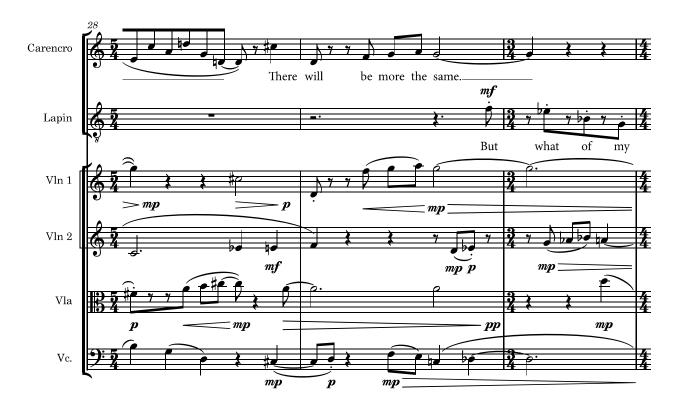


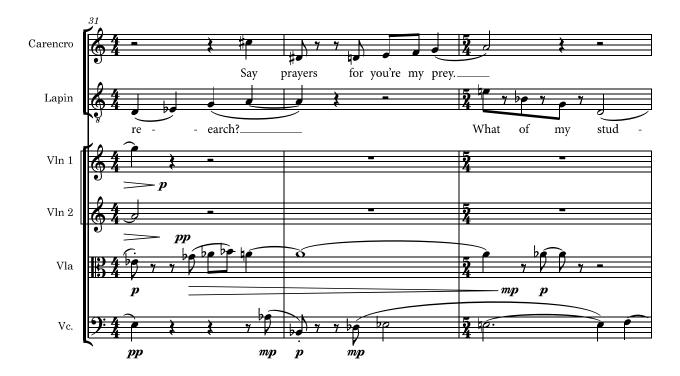


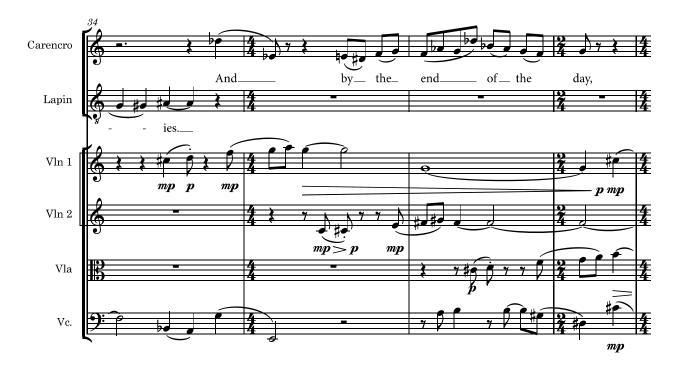


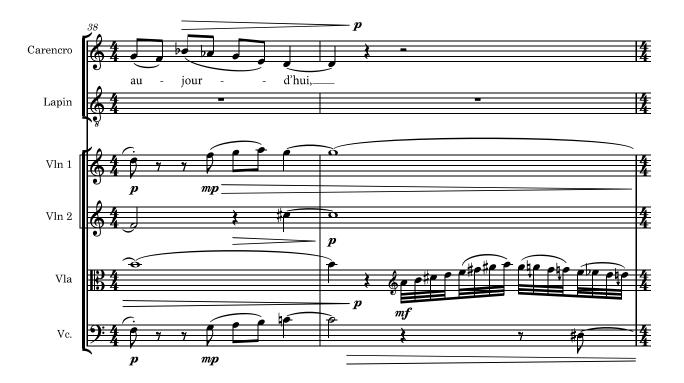




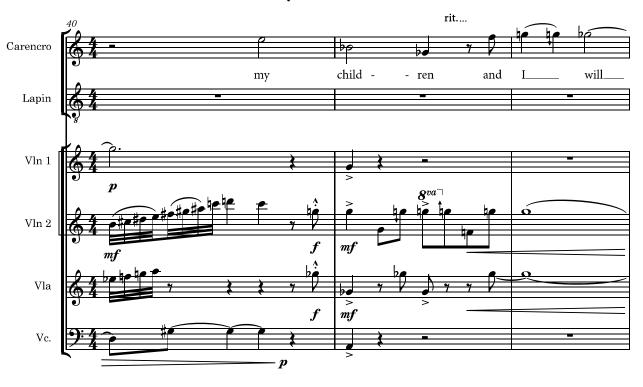






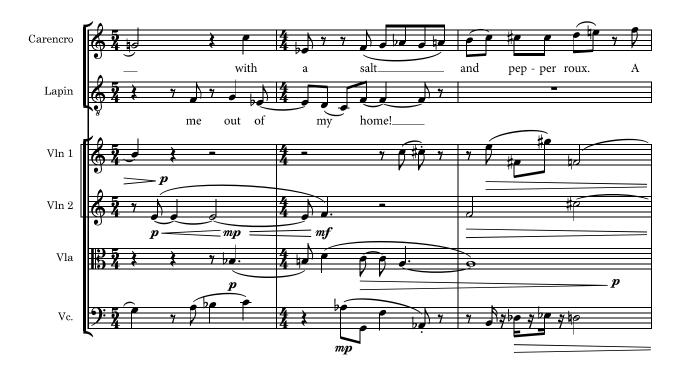


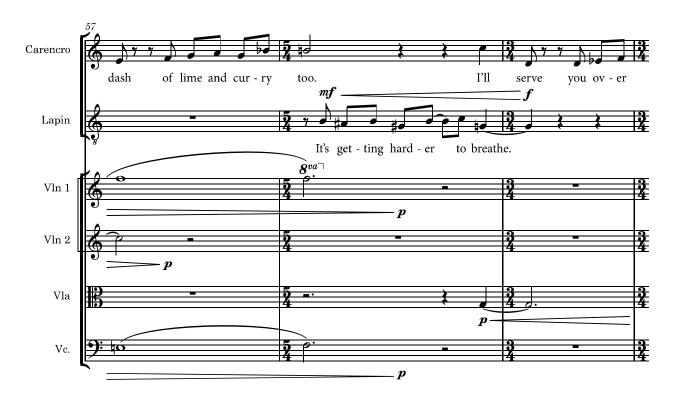
# Que Diable?







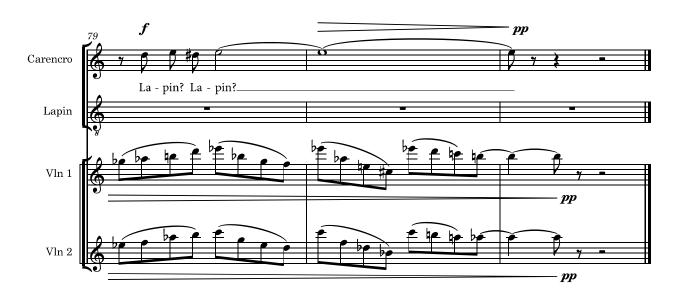








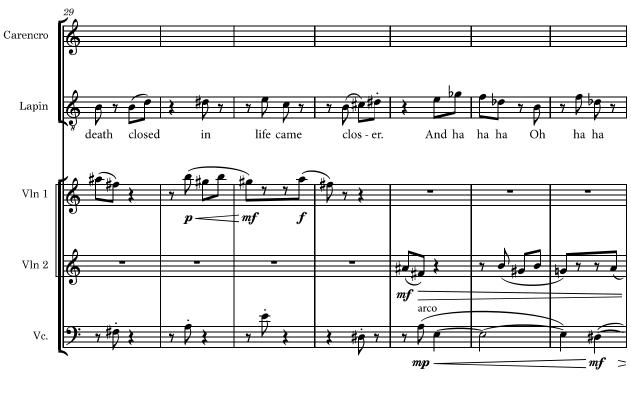
## Que Diable?

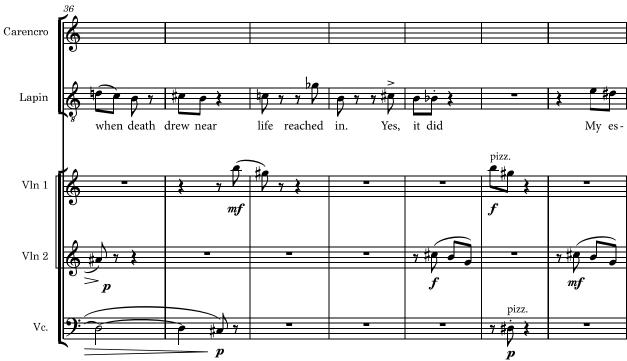


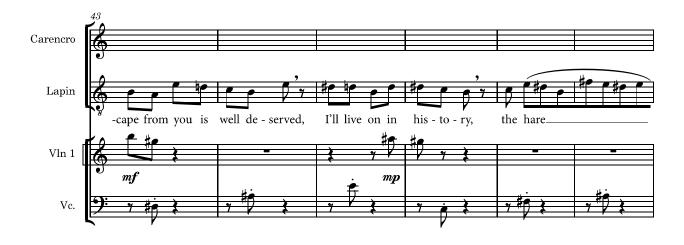


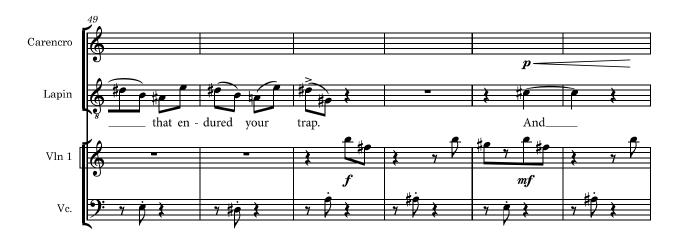










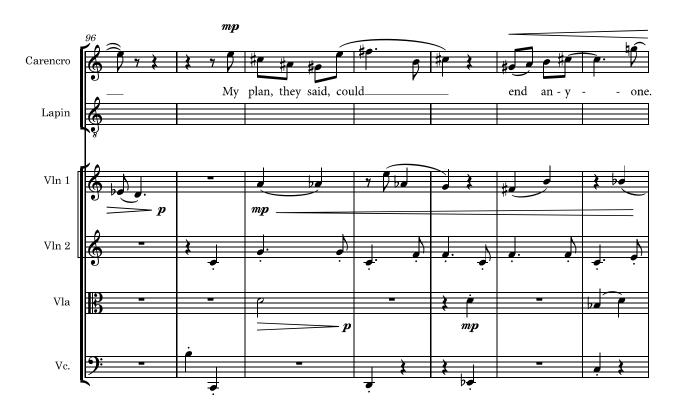








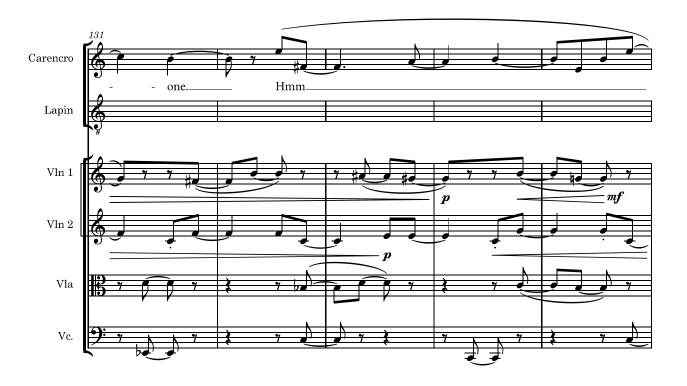


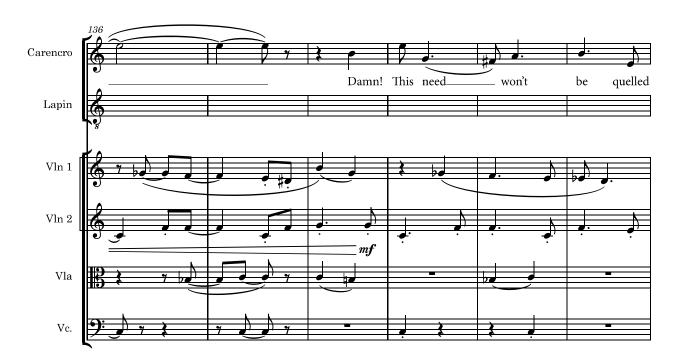














#### LAPIN (Spoken):

I have escaped the clutches of the desperate buzzard.

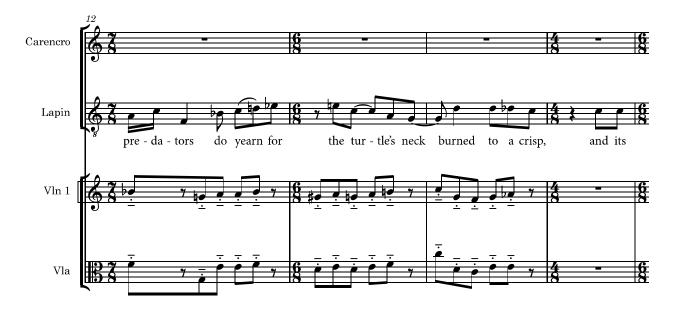
I absconded through the brackish bayou, laughing all the way to the home of my dear friend, Bouki.

Bouki has a small hovel on the outskirts of the neighborhood where I knew the poor buzzard would never track me down.

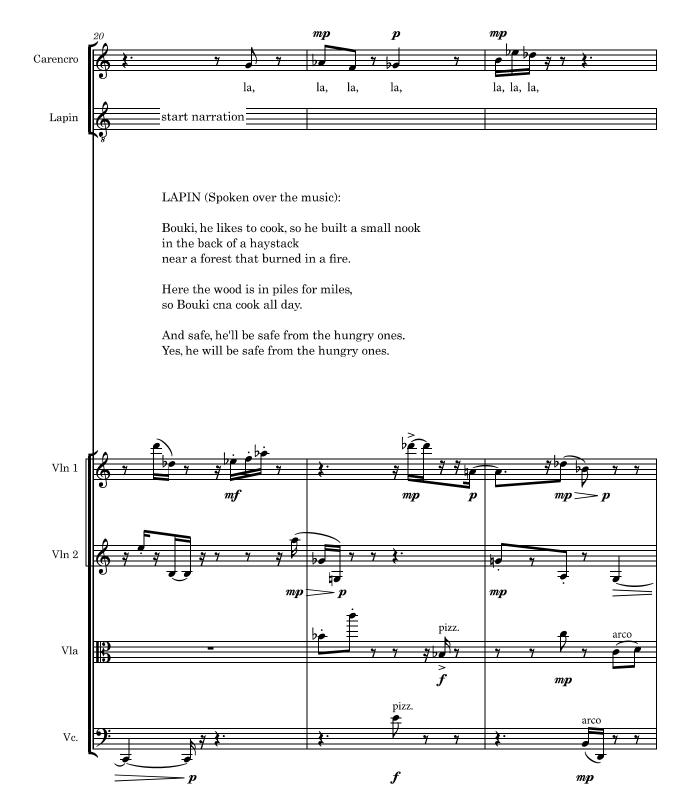
Who, after all, would think to seek a rabbit in the home of a TURTLE?

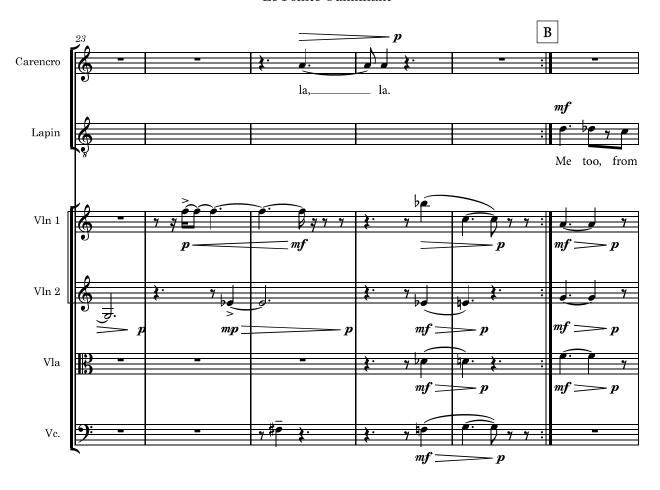


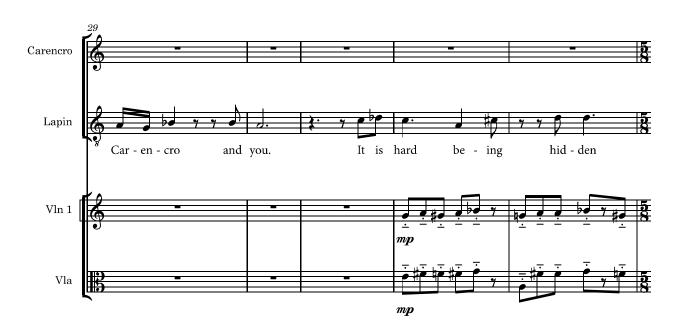














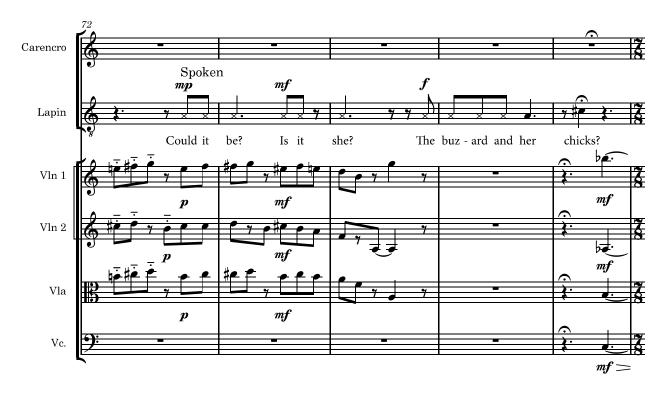


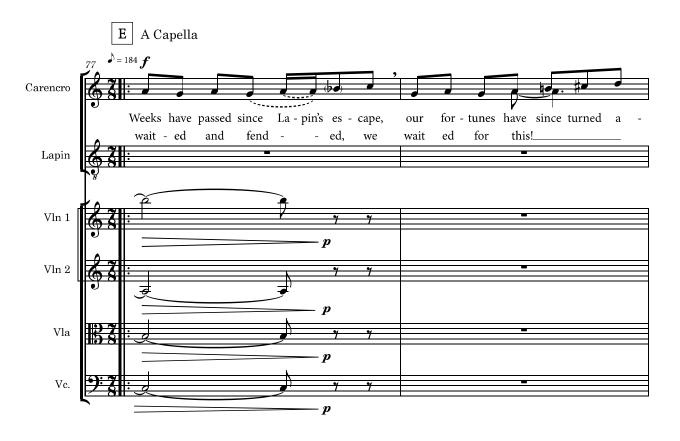


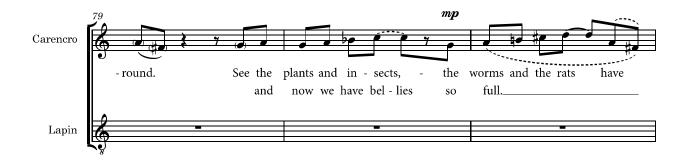


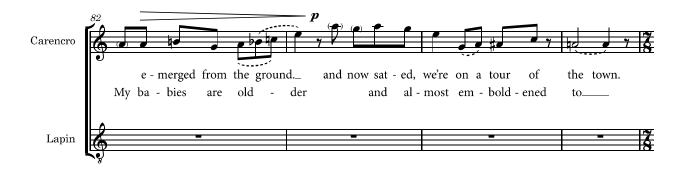






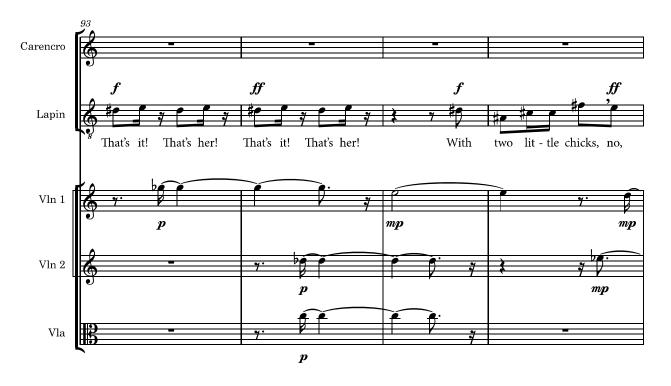


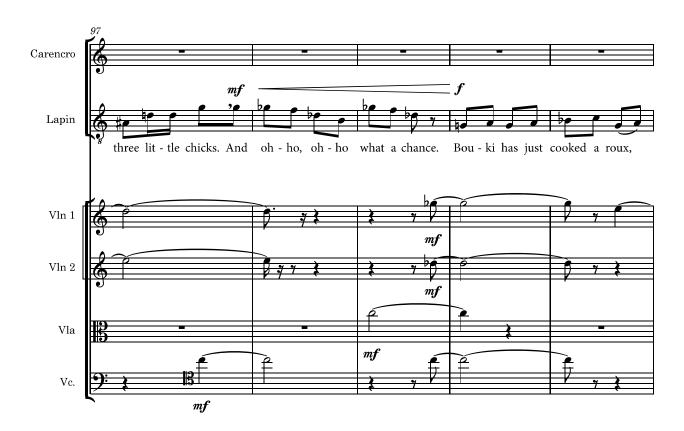




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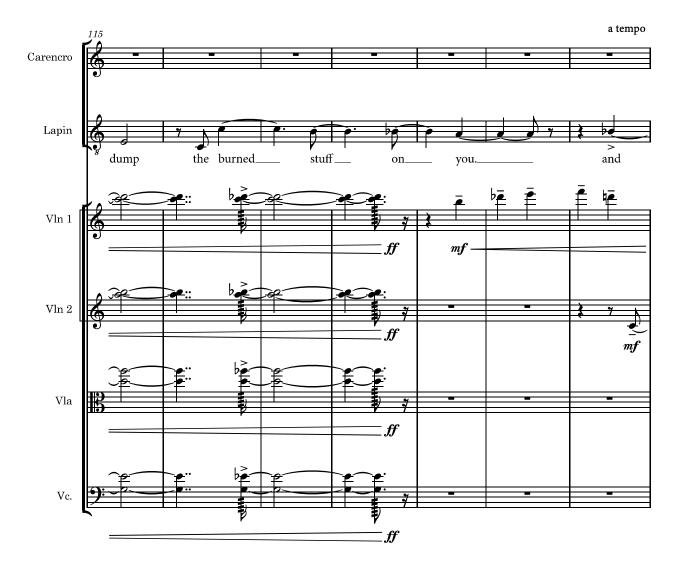




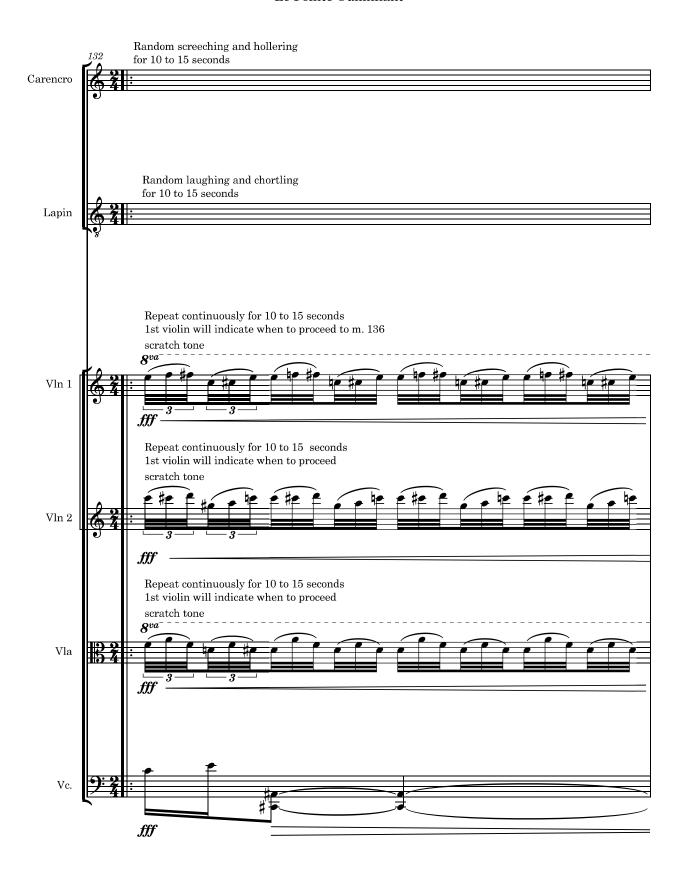


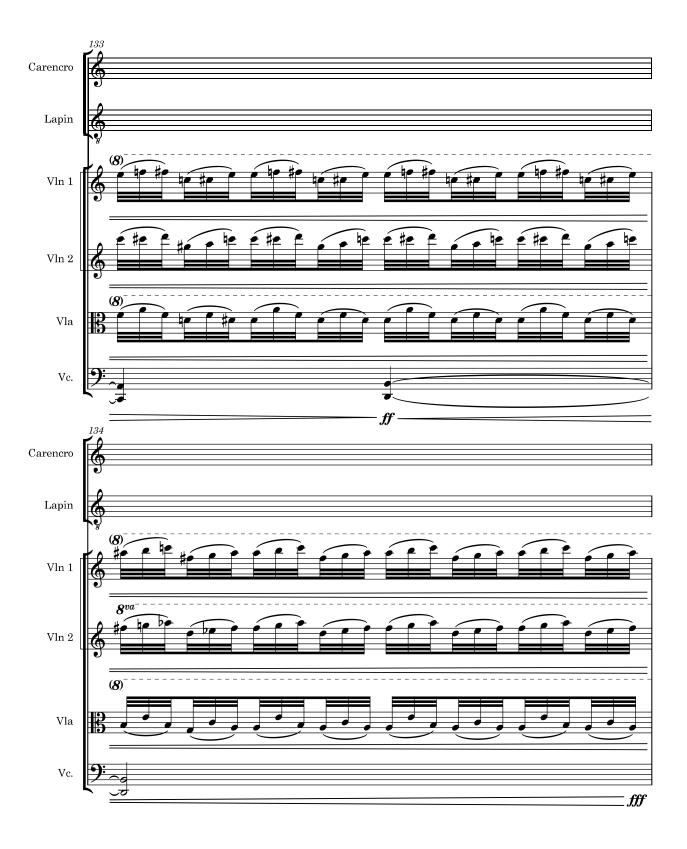


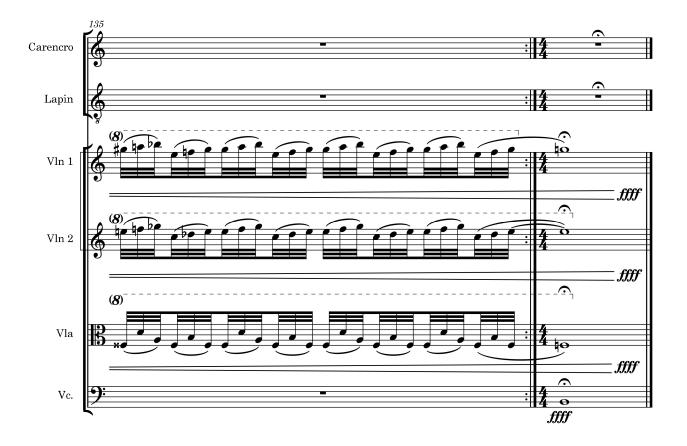












# 10. Finale et Le Leçon



Finale et Le Leçon

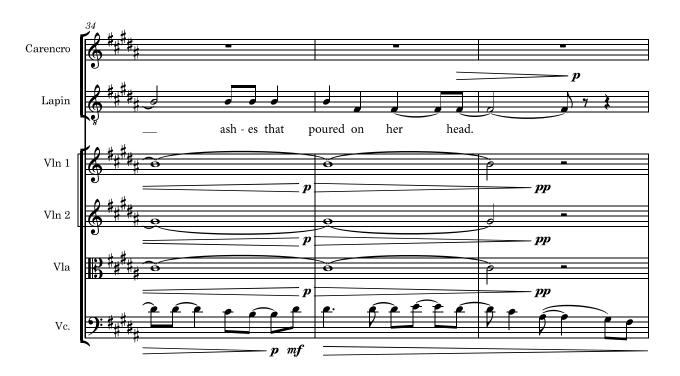


Finale et Le Leçon

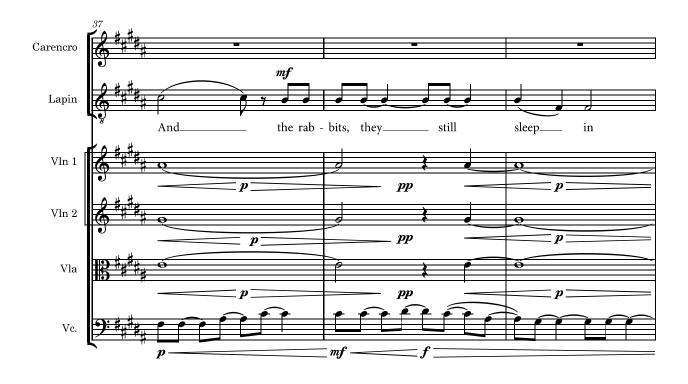


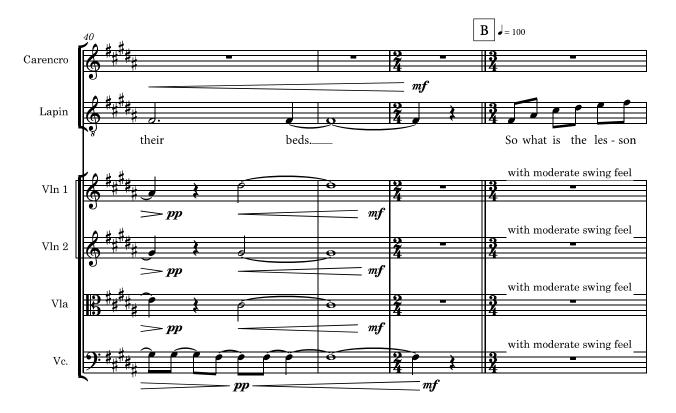
Finale et Le Leçon



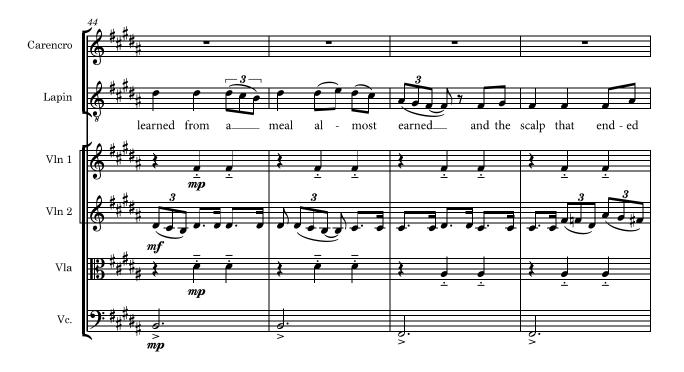


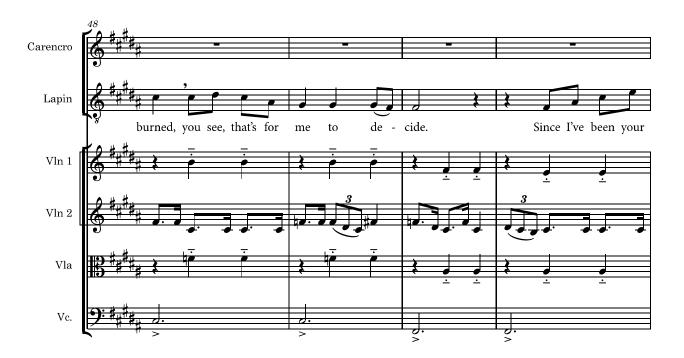
Finale et Le Leçon





Finale et Le Leçon



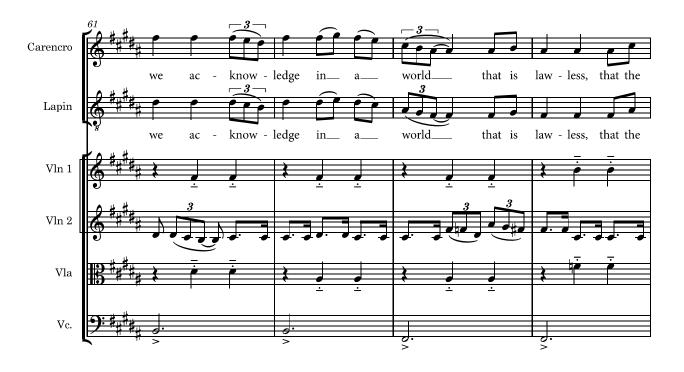


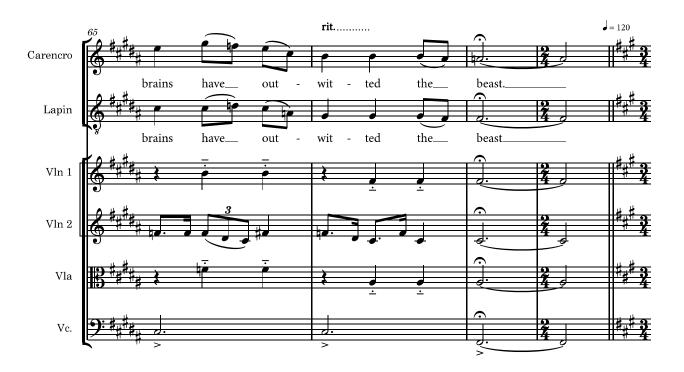
Finale et Le Leçon



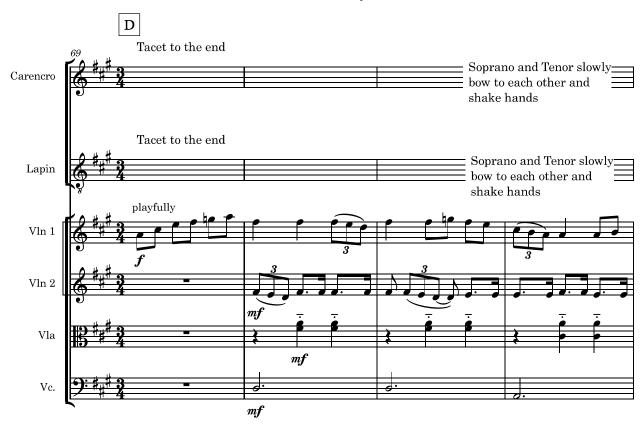


Finale et Le Leçon





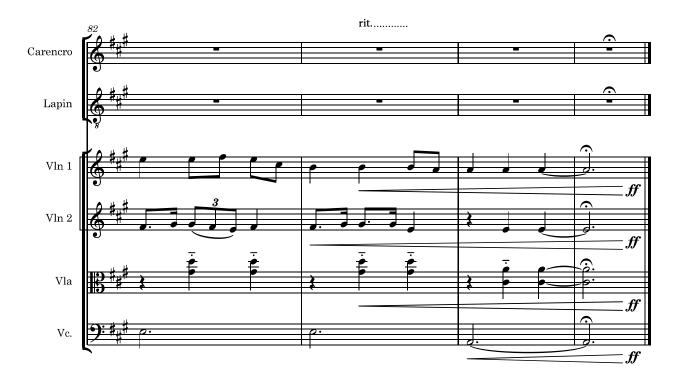
Finale et Le Leçon





Finale et Le Leçon





## 11. Sortie, Le Marais de Rêve





Sortie, Le Marais de Rêve





## **VITA**

The composer, born in Wilmington, Delaware, obtained his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He subsequently obtained a second Master of Music degree from Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, Louisiana. He entered the business world in 1977 and spent the next thirty-five years in the field of banking technology. Upon retirement, he returned to school to earn another Master of Music degree from The University of New Orleans.