ABSTRACT

Title of Dissertation: DISTANT LIGHT: SONGS ON TEXTS BY RICHARD BOADA

Robert Edward Collier, Doctor of Musical Arts, 2010

Dissertation directed by: Professor Mark E. Wilson
School of Music

Distant Light: Songs on Texts by Richard Boada is a collection of songs for baritone voice, piano, alto saxophone, and percussion (vibraphone and marimba). The texts do not present a continuous narrative, but they share common themes. Most are set in the rural South and deal with the conflict between nature and industrial development. This piece functions as a cohesive whole, but each song could be performed separately and would be effective out of the context of the entire work.

Distant Light is made up of eight songs and is approximately 23 minutes in duration.

DISTANT LIGHT:
SONGS ON TEXTS BY RICHARD BOADA

by

Robert Edward Collier

Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the
University of Maryland, College Park in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Musical Arts
2010

Advisory Committee:

Professor Mark E. Wilson, Chair
Professor Thomas DeLio
Professor Lawrence Moss
Professor Anne Warren
Professor Richard Wexler

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Instrumentation ……...ii

Distant Light: Songs on Texts by Richard Boada
1 – Cities of the Dead ……..1
2 – Modern Glow ……...14
3 – The Bell Ringer of Saint Louis Cathedral ……...30
4 – Exposed Veins ……50
5 – Red River Gorge ……..72
6 – Parkway Construction ……..84
7 – Falls of the Ohio ……...98
8 – Trappist, Kentucky ……106

INSTRUMENTATION

Alto Saxophone
Percussion (Vibraphone, Marimba)
Baritone
Piano

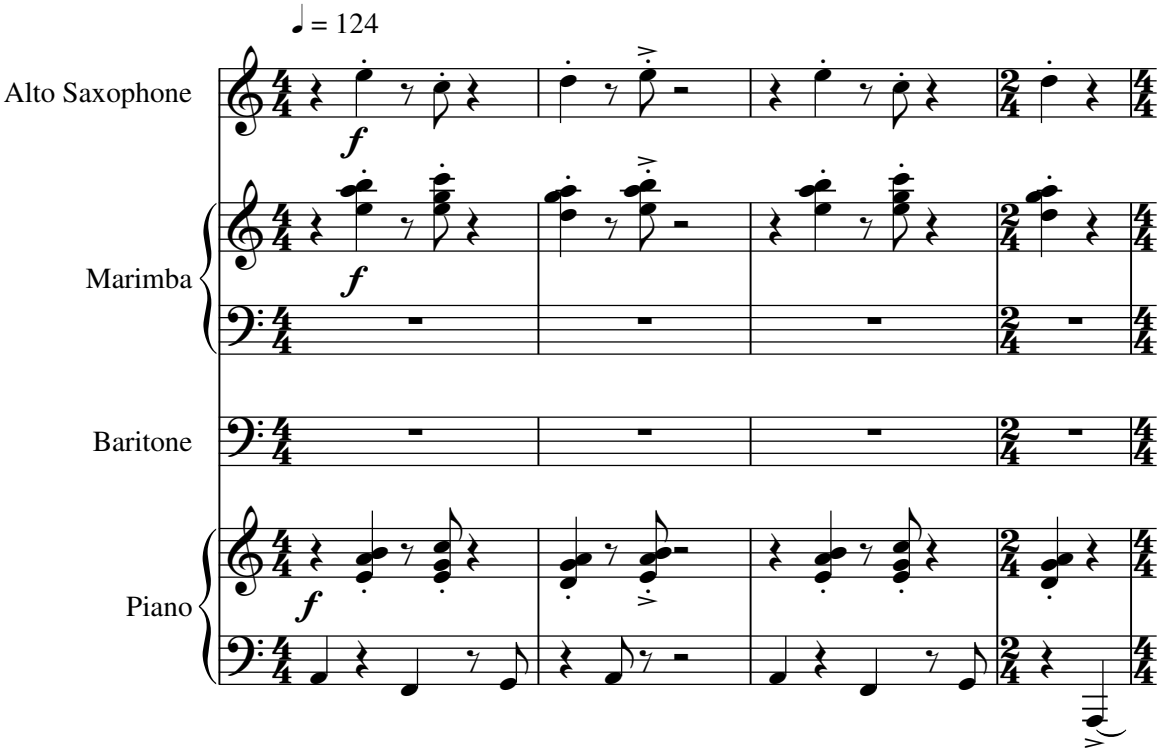
Vibraphone motor always off

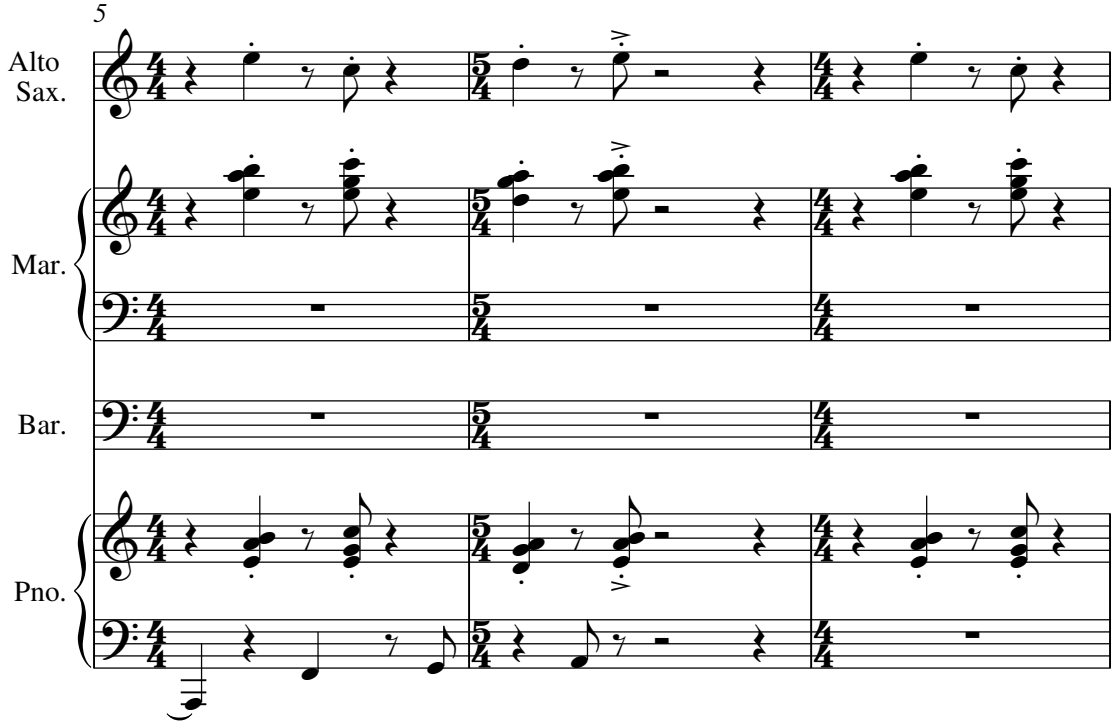
Score is at concert pitch

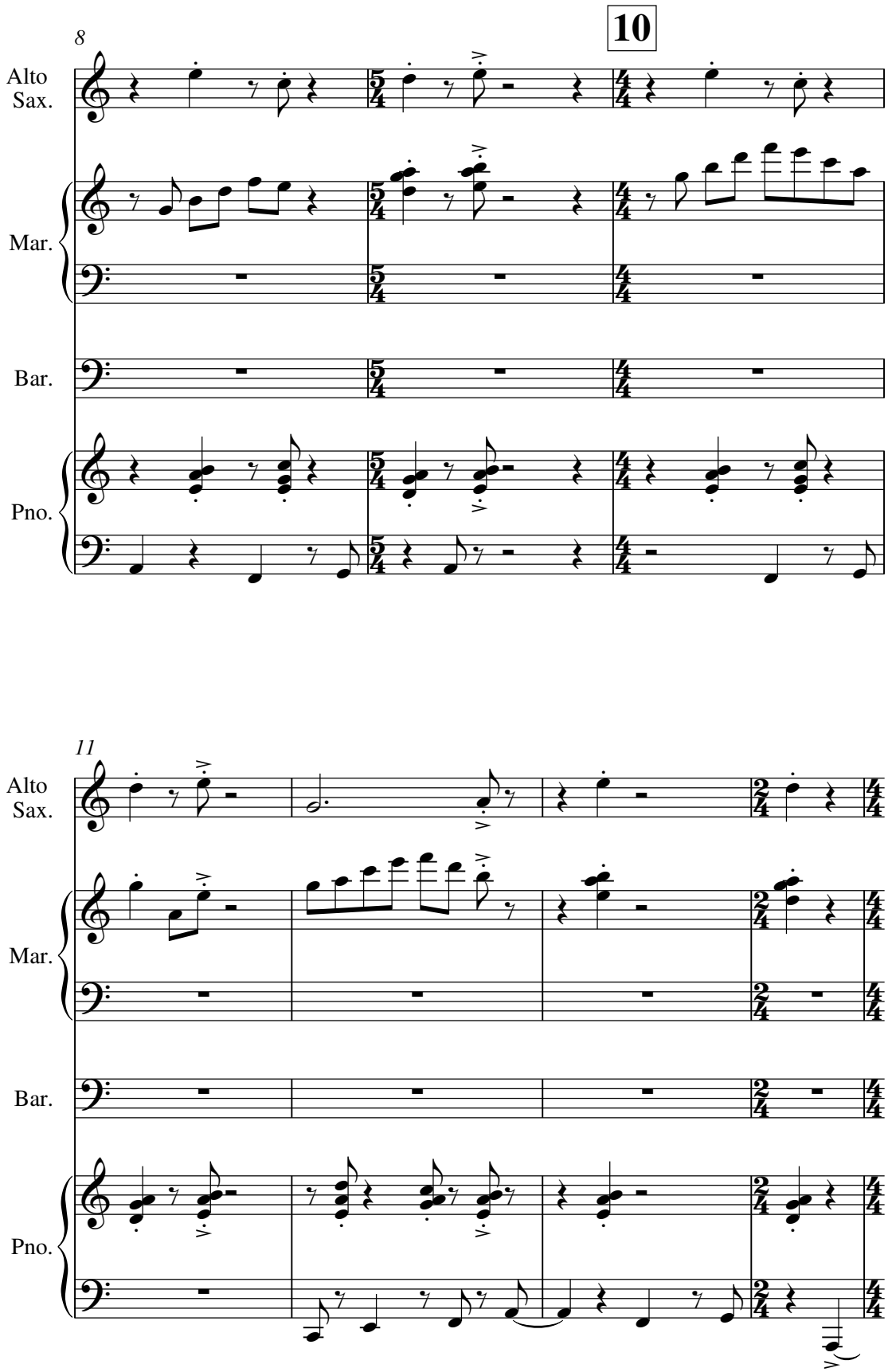
Duration: approximately 23 minutes

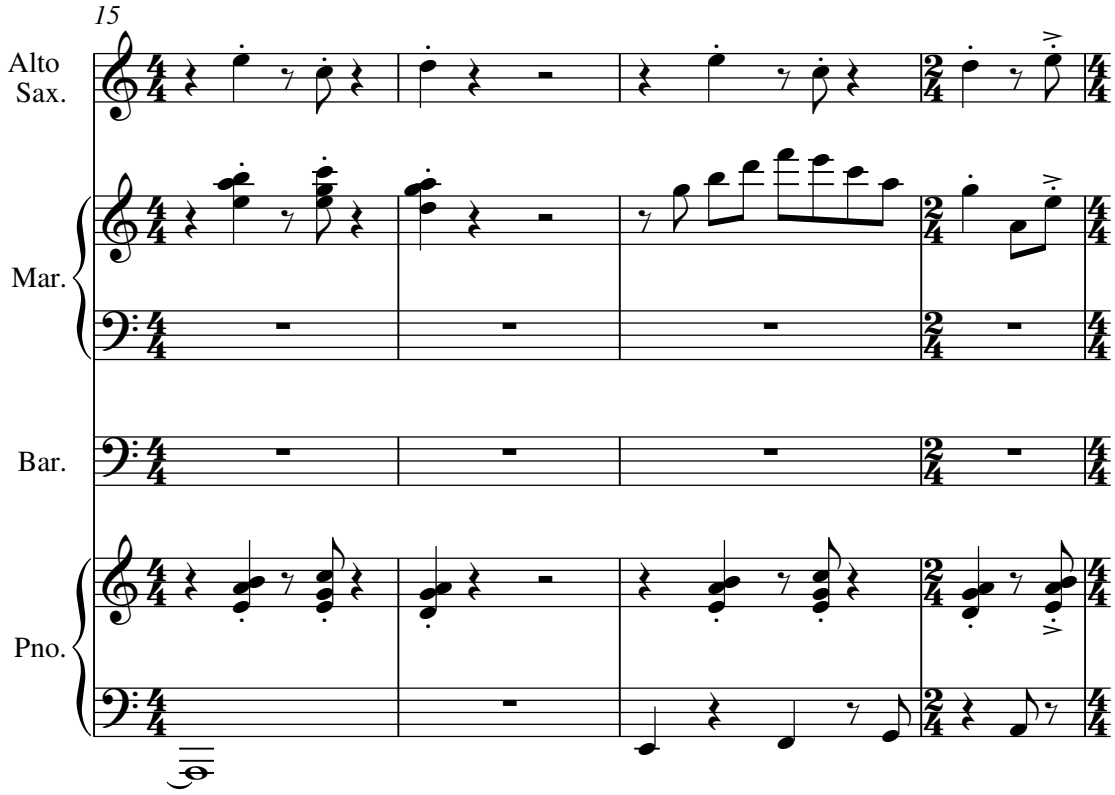
All texts by Richard Boada

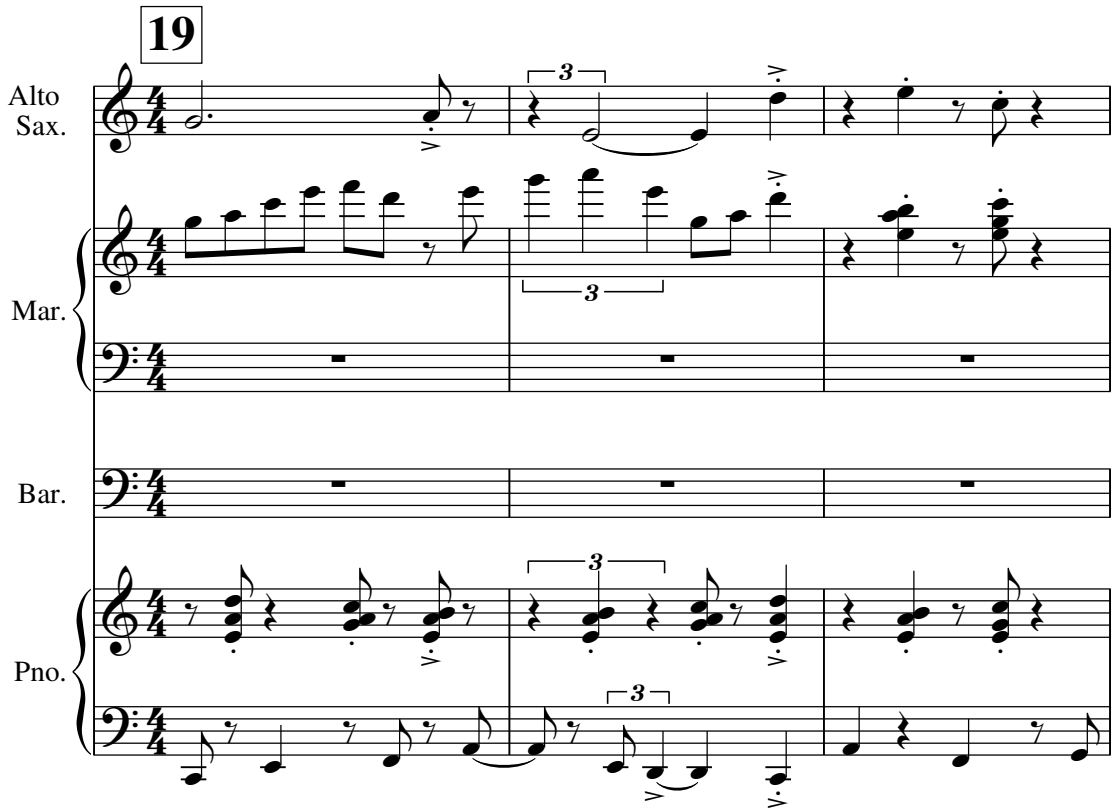
1 - Cities of the Dead

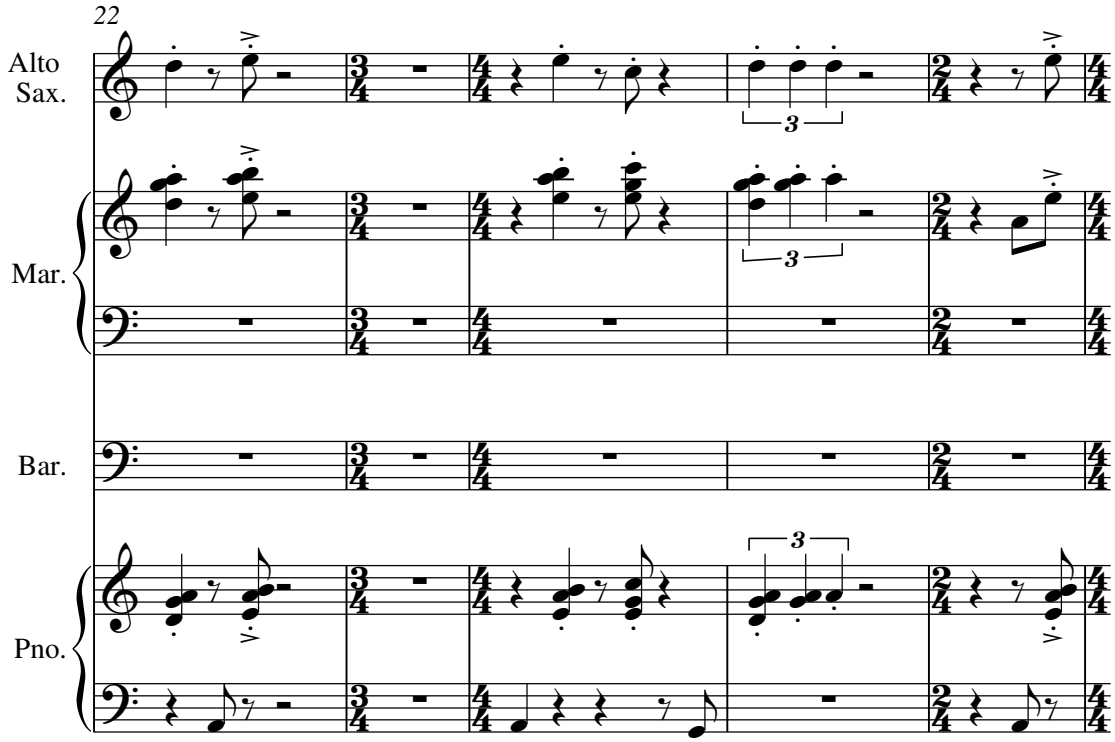


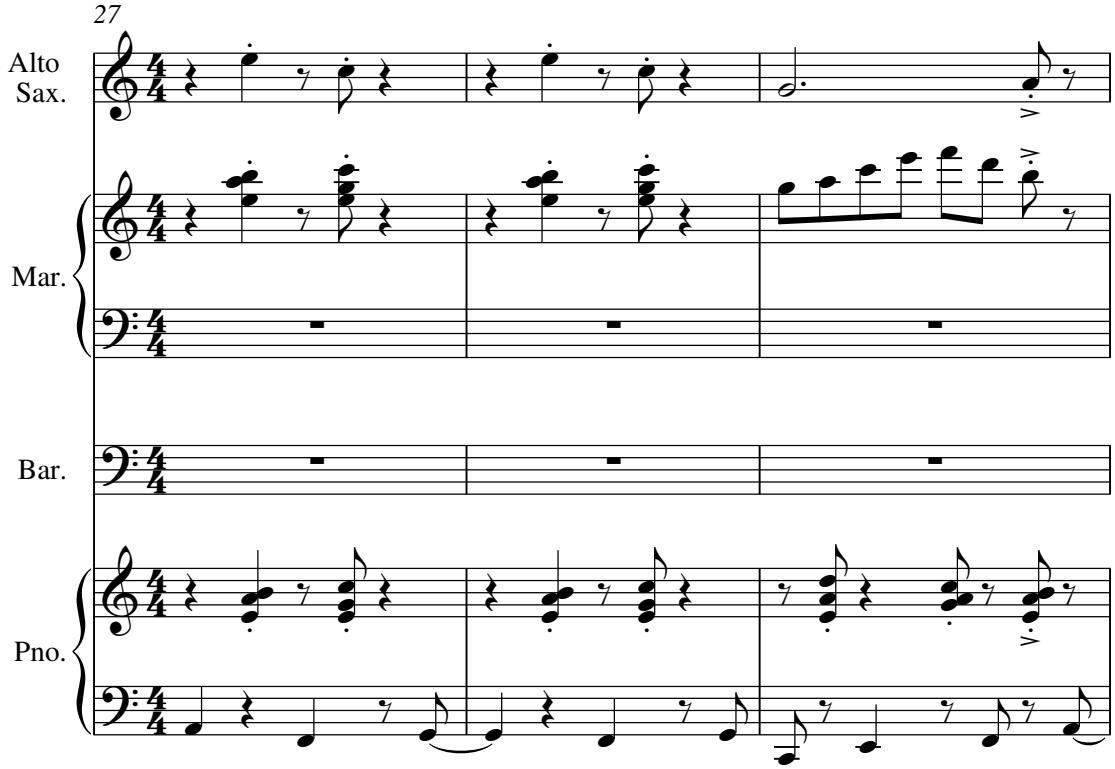


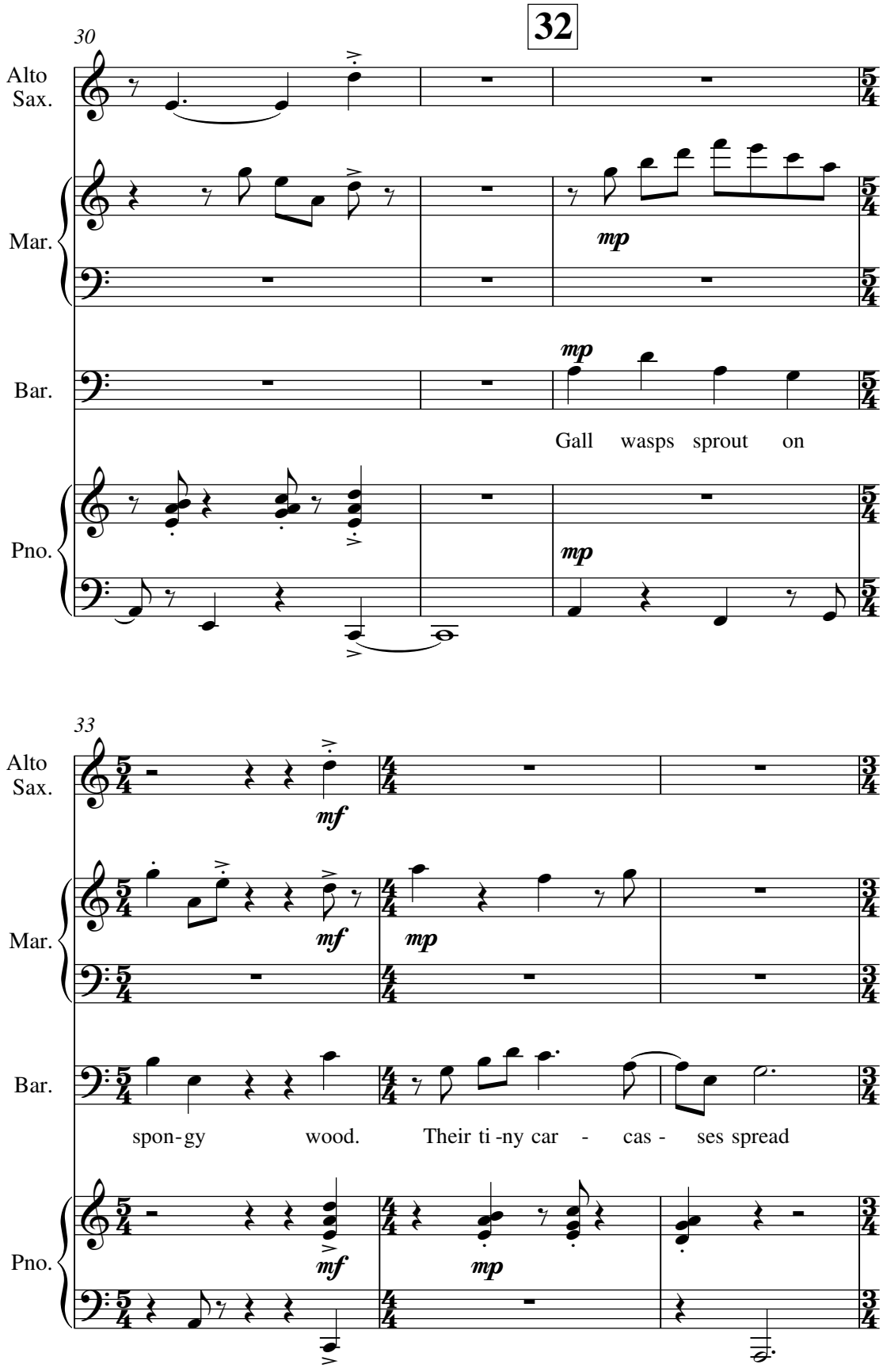

10
8
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
11
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.

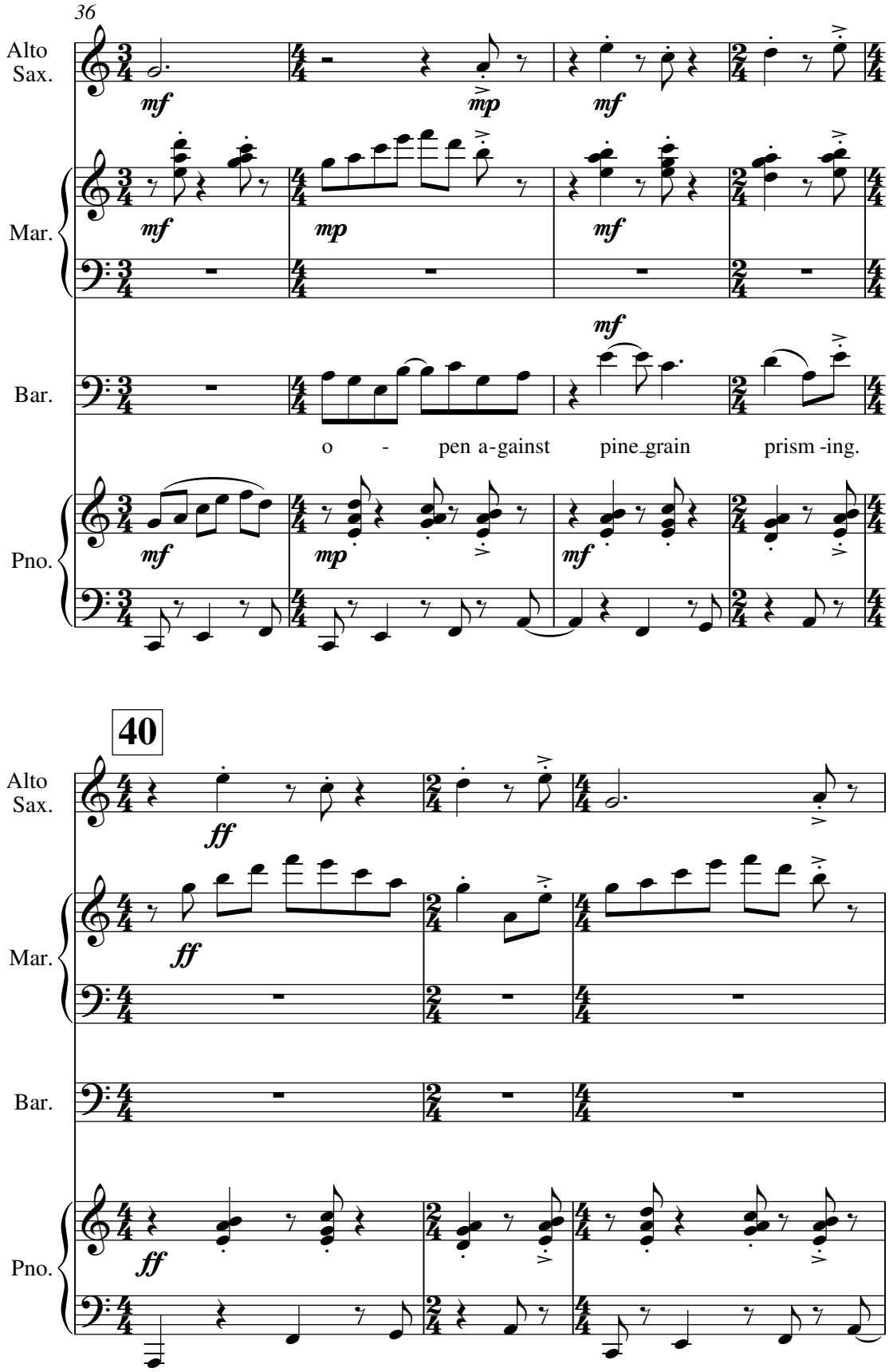

15
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.

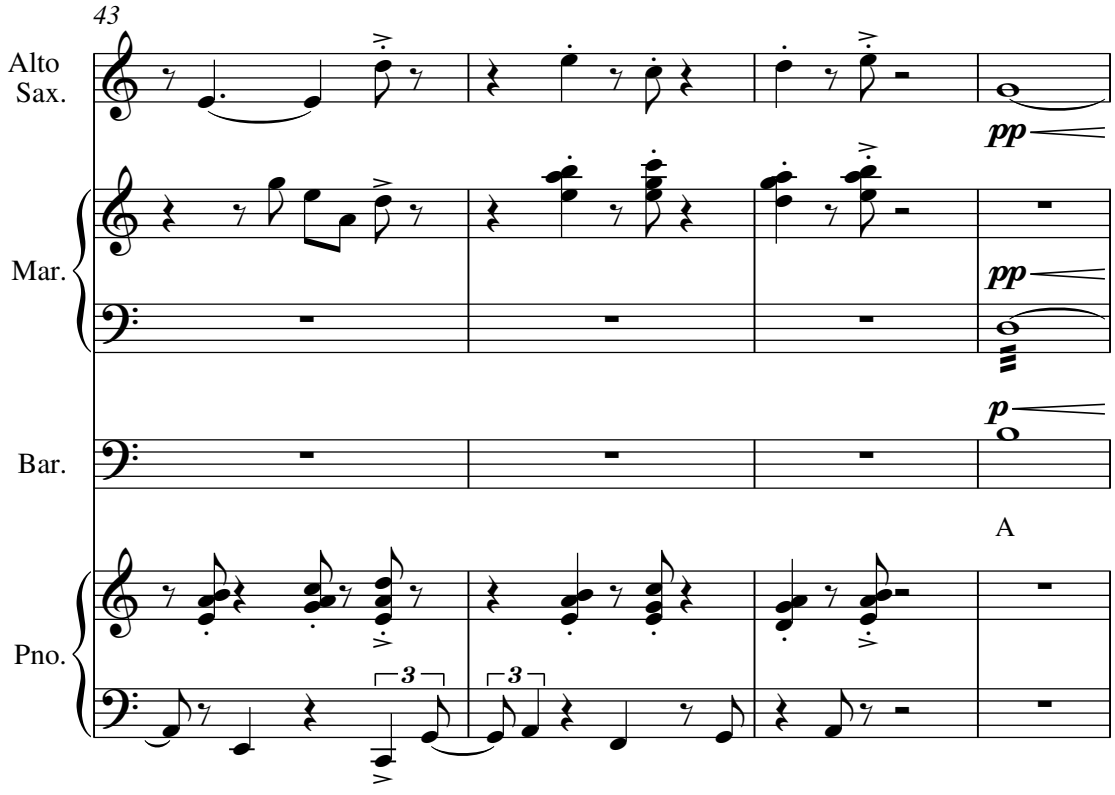

19
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
3
3
3
3

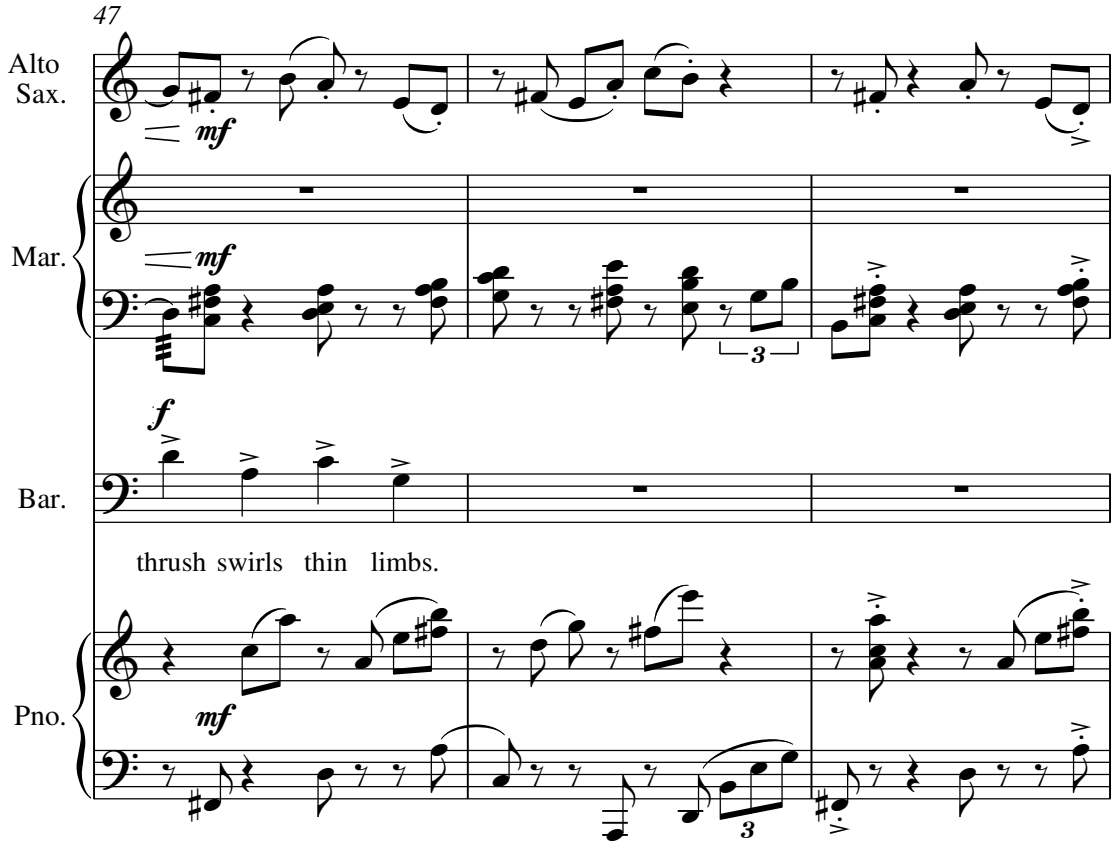

22
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.

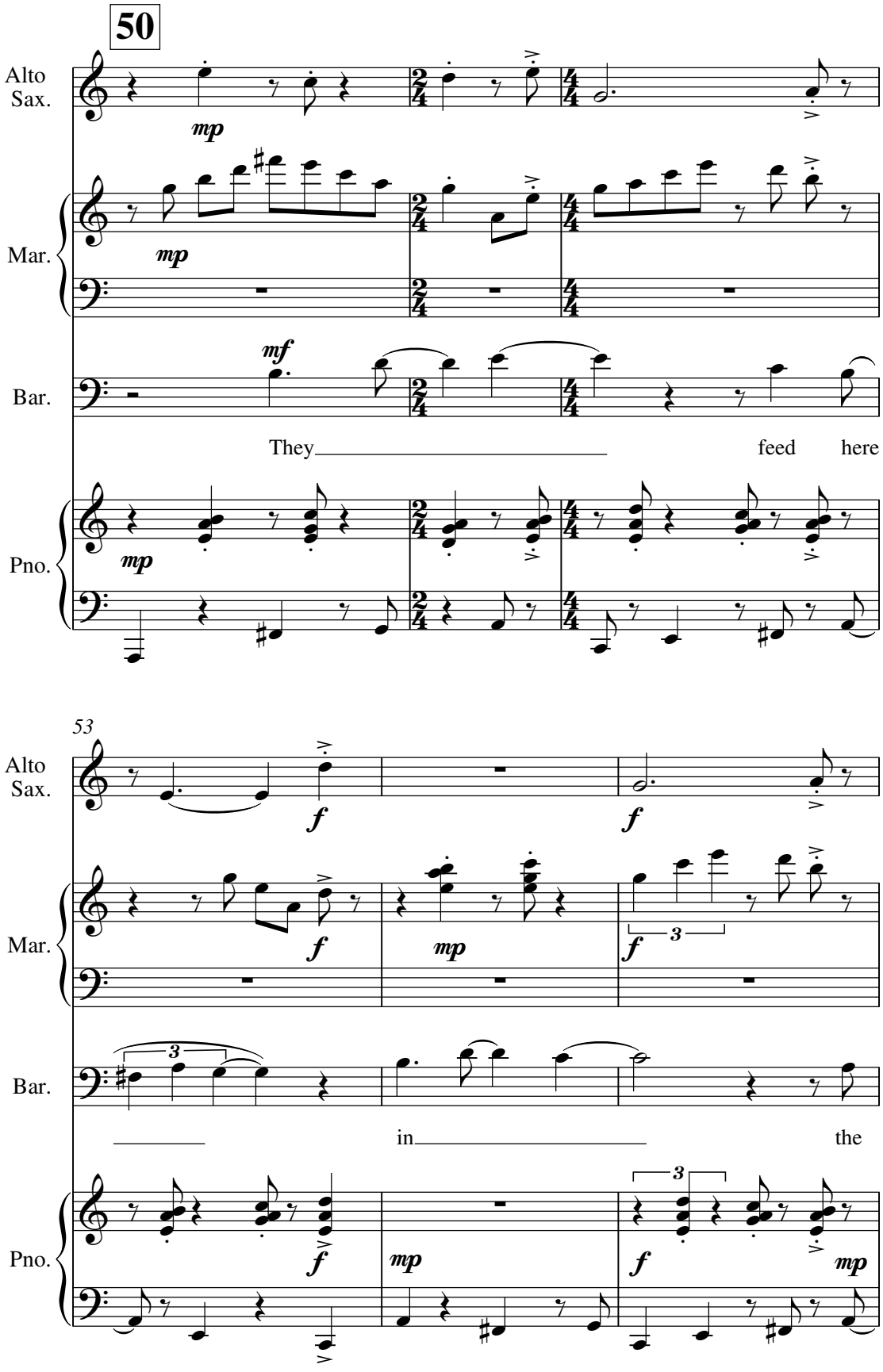

27
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.

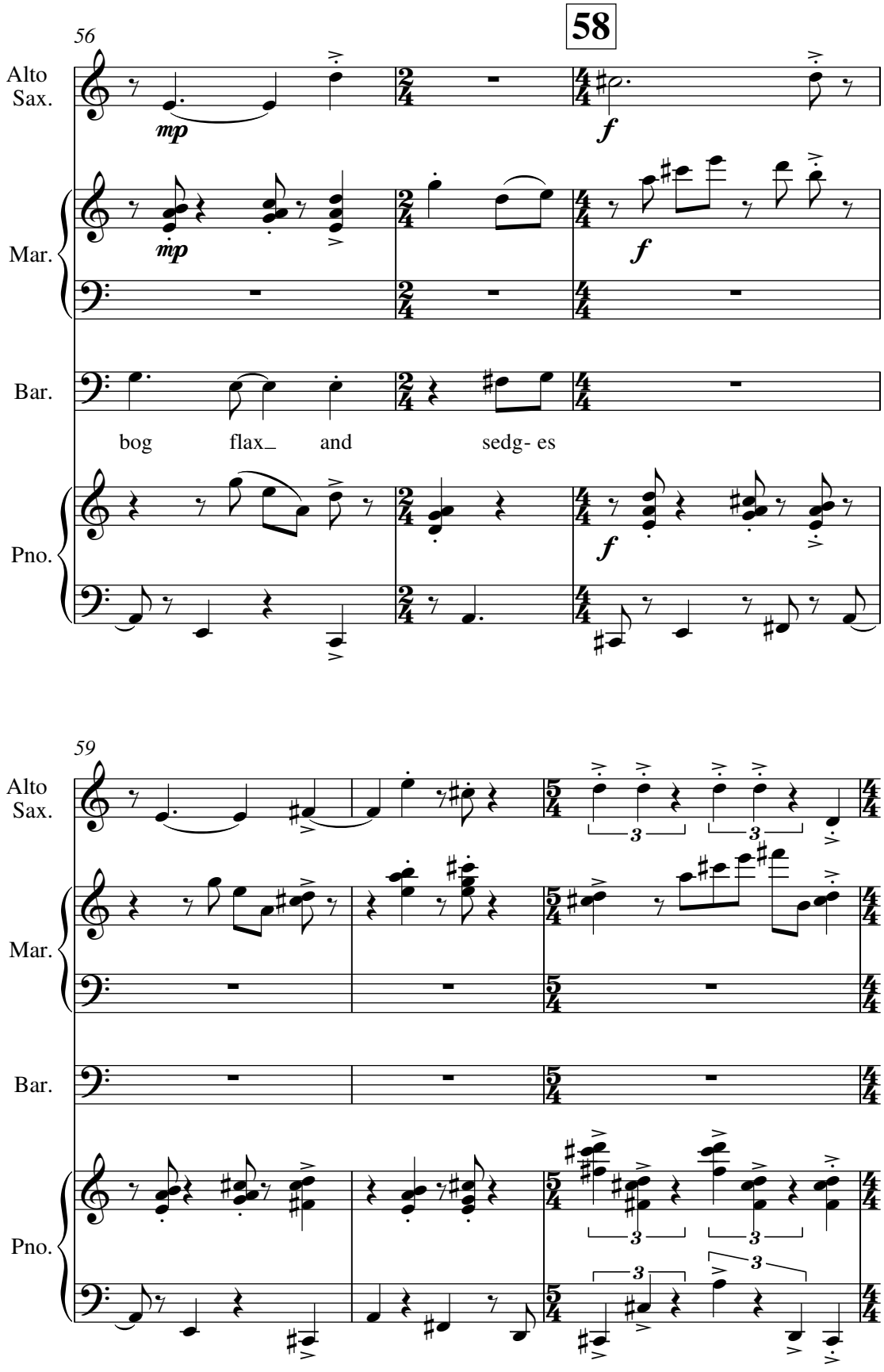

32
30
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
mp
Gall wasps sprout on
33
mf
spon-gy wood. Their ti-ny car - cas - ses spread

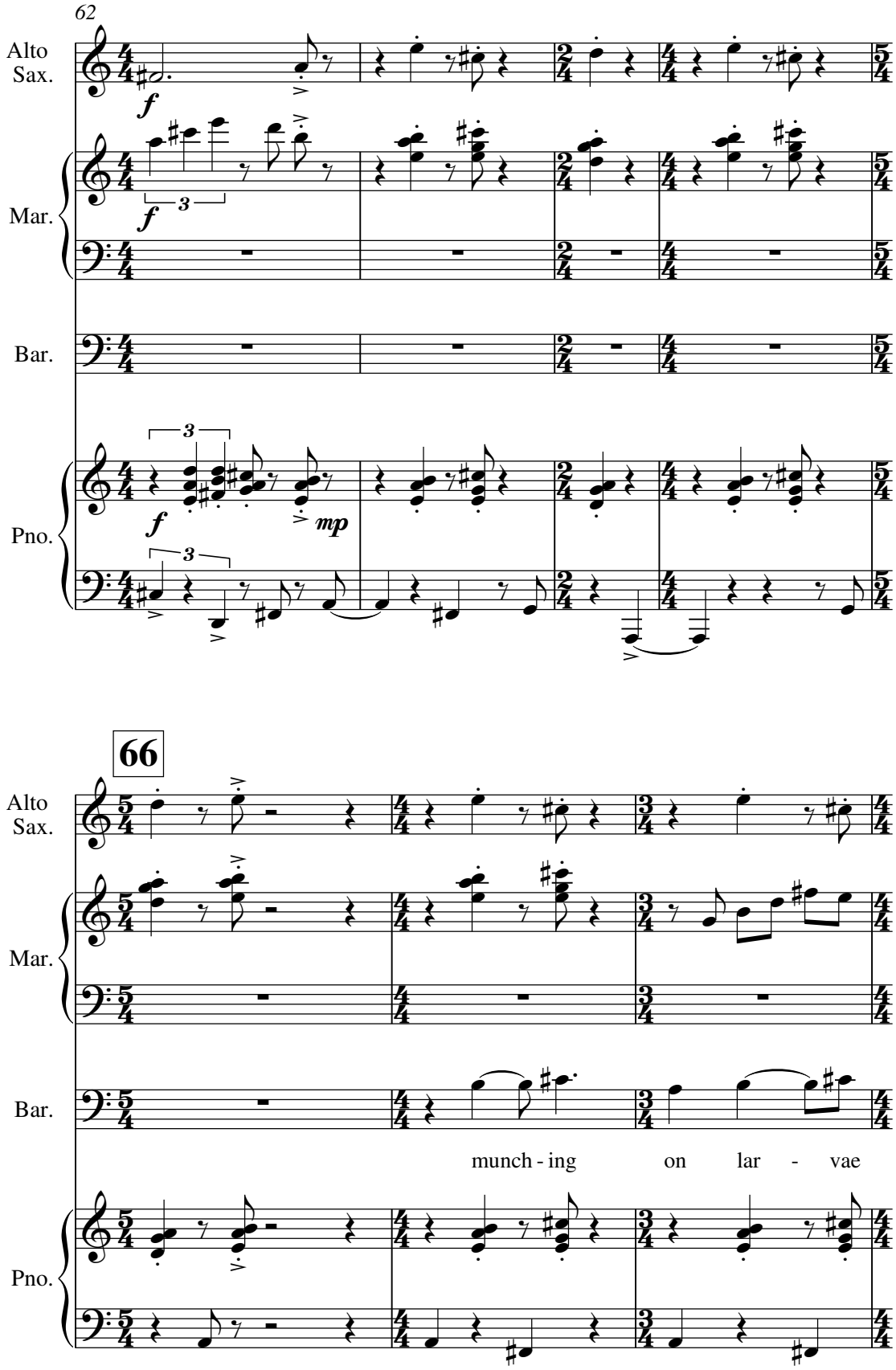

36
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
mf
mp
mf
o - pen a-gainst pine_grain prism -ing.
40
ff

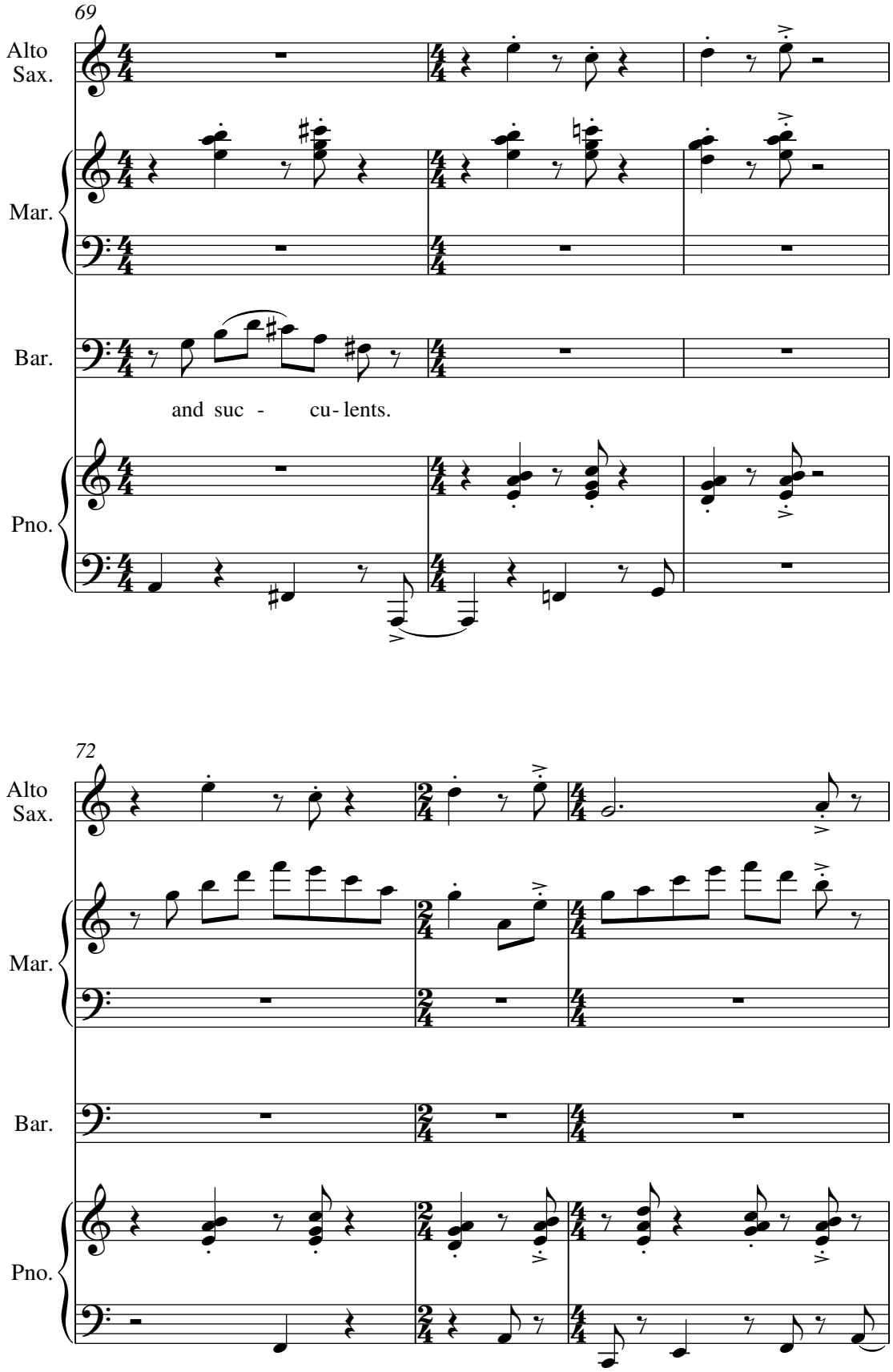

43
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
pp
pp
p
A
3
3

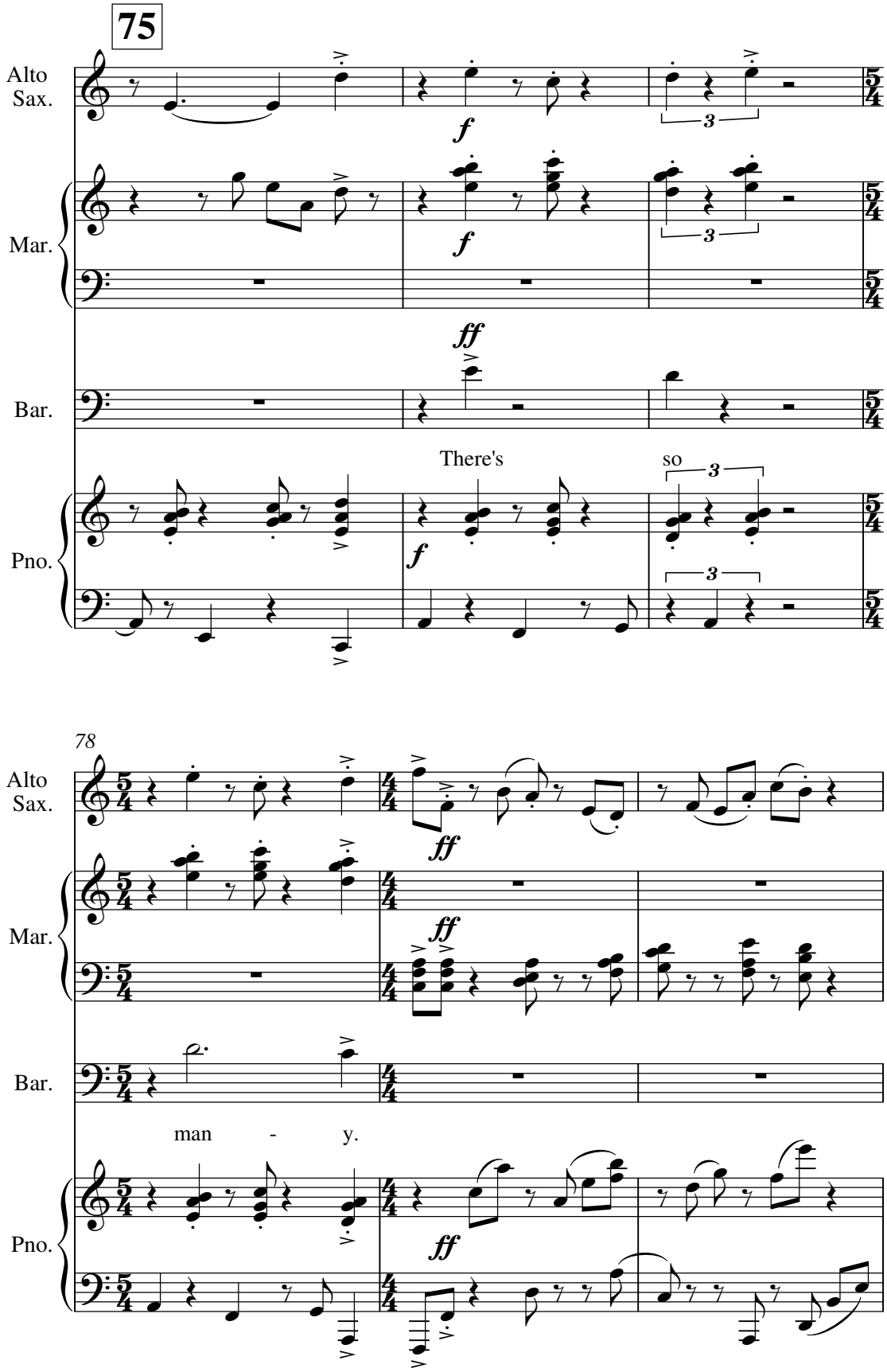

47
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
mf
mf
f
mf
thrush swirls thin limbs.
3
3

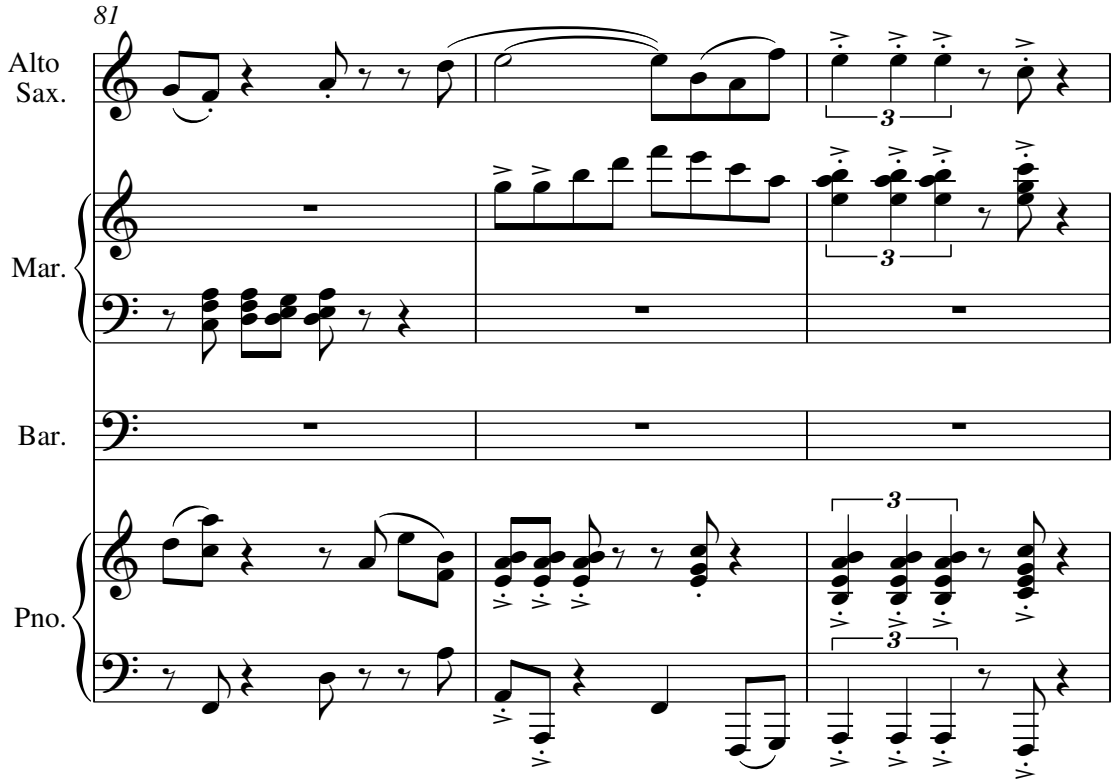

50
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
mp
mf
They
feed
here
53
f
in
the

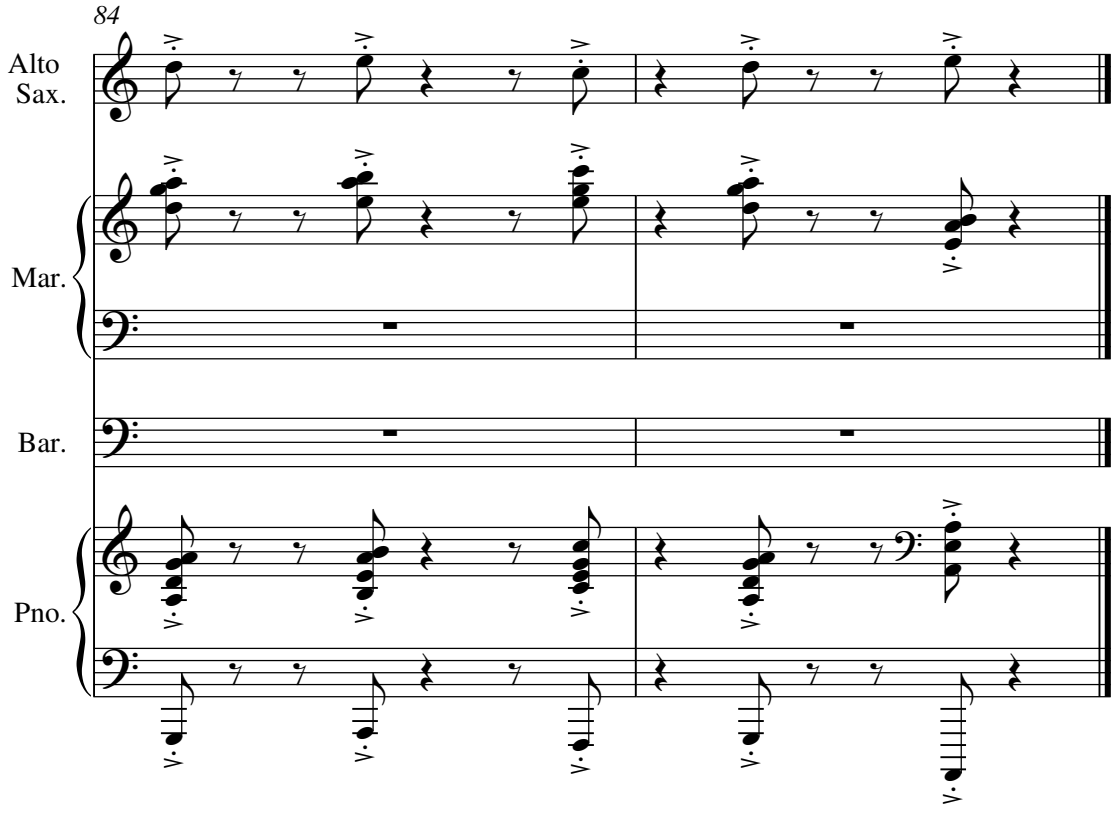

58
56
Alto Sax.
mp
f
Mar.
mp
f
Bar.
bog flax_ and sedg- es
Pno.
f
59
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.


62
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
f
mp
66
munch - ing on lar - vae

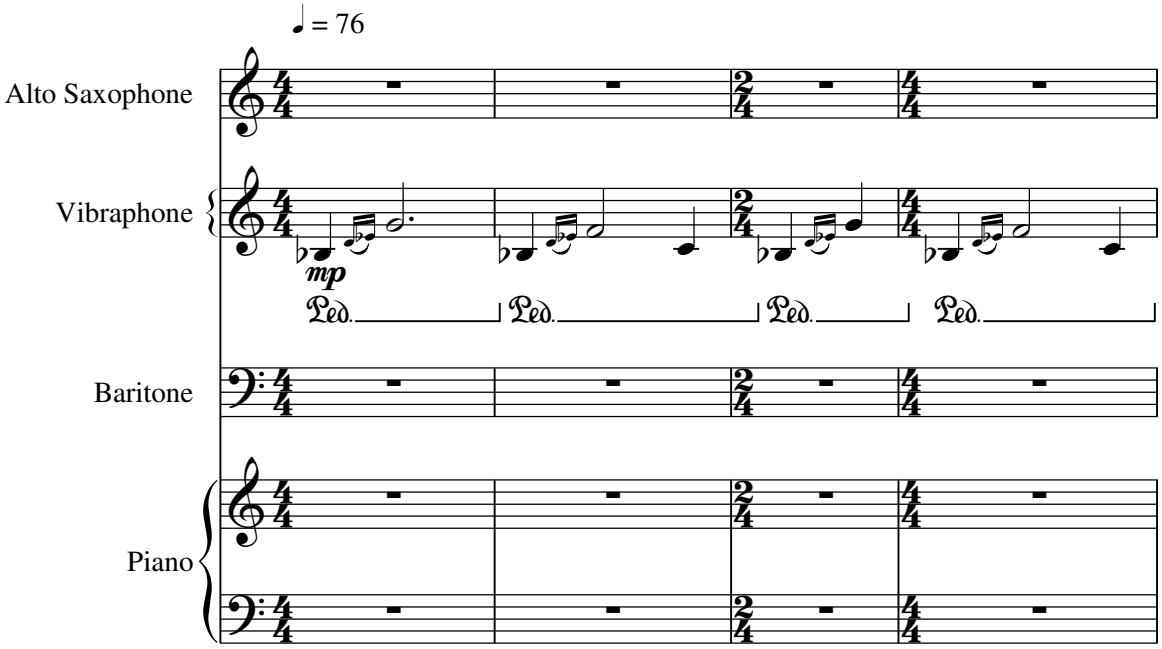

69
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
and suc - cu- lents.
Pno.
72
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.

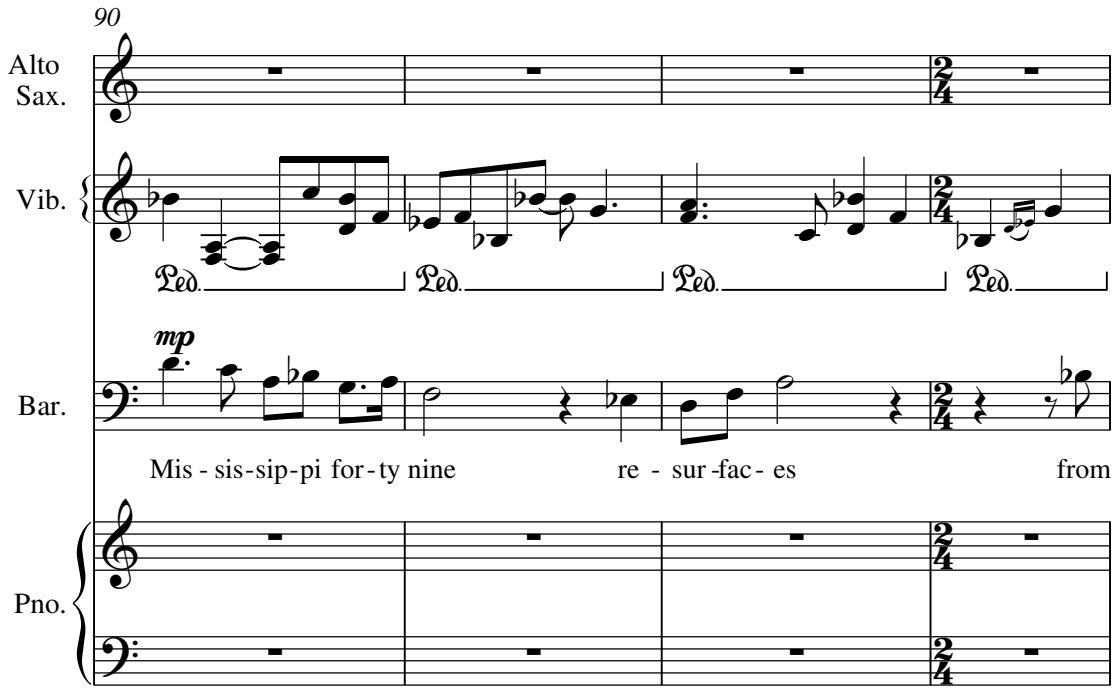

75
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
There's
so
78
man - y.

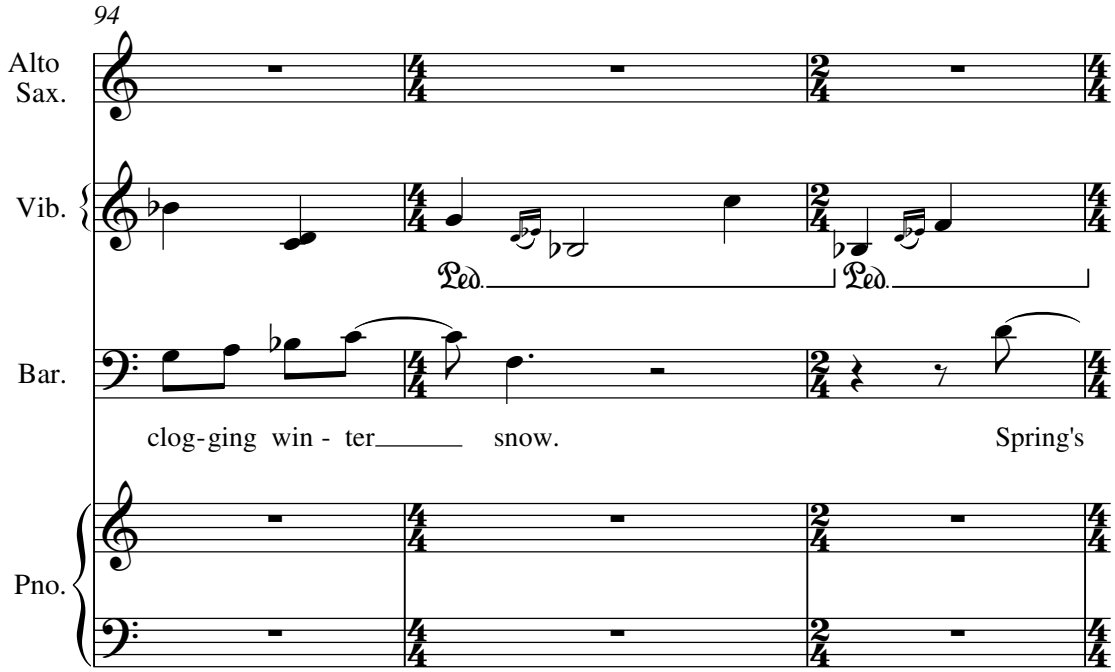

81
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
3
3
3
3

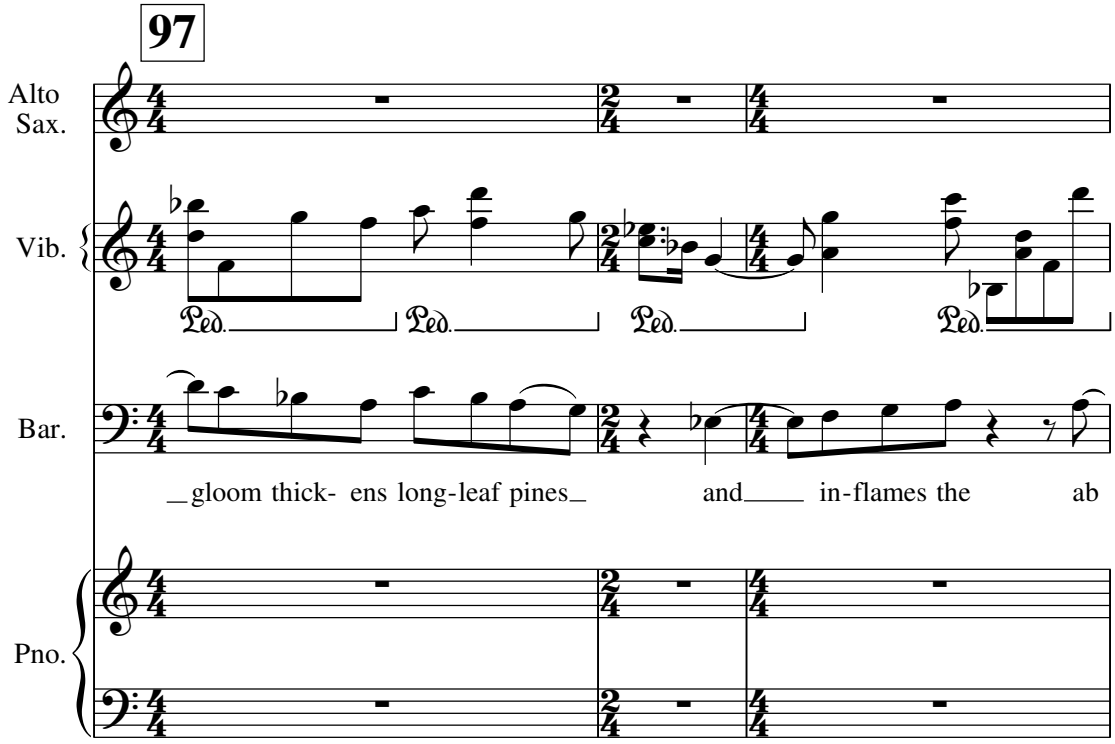

84
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.

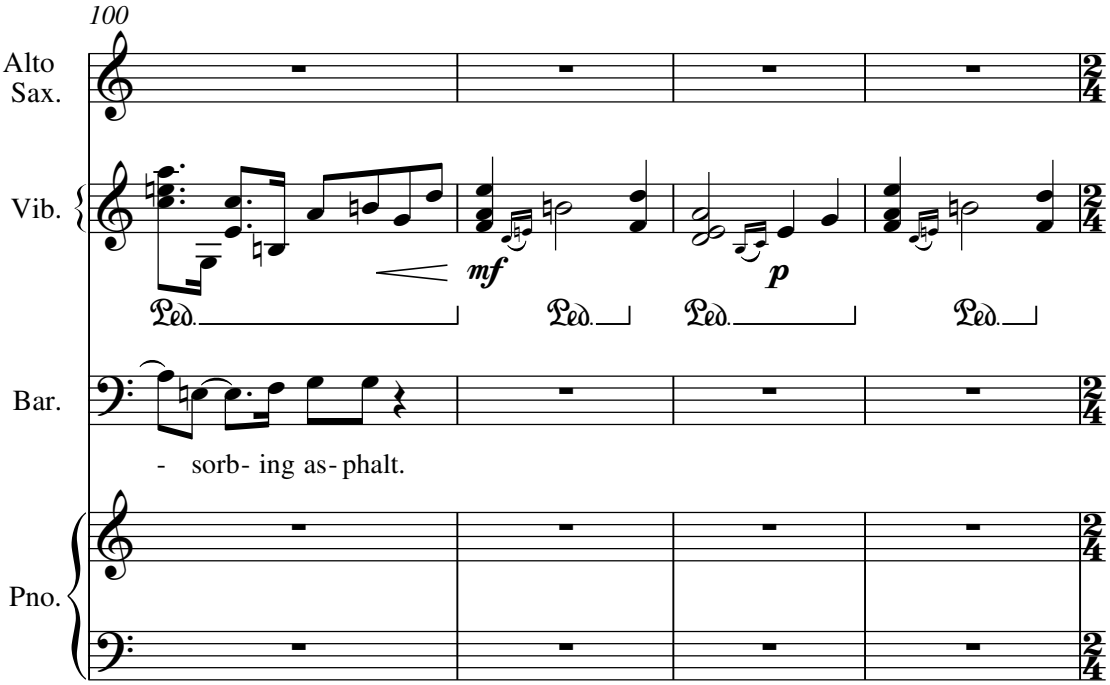
2 - Modern Glow

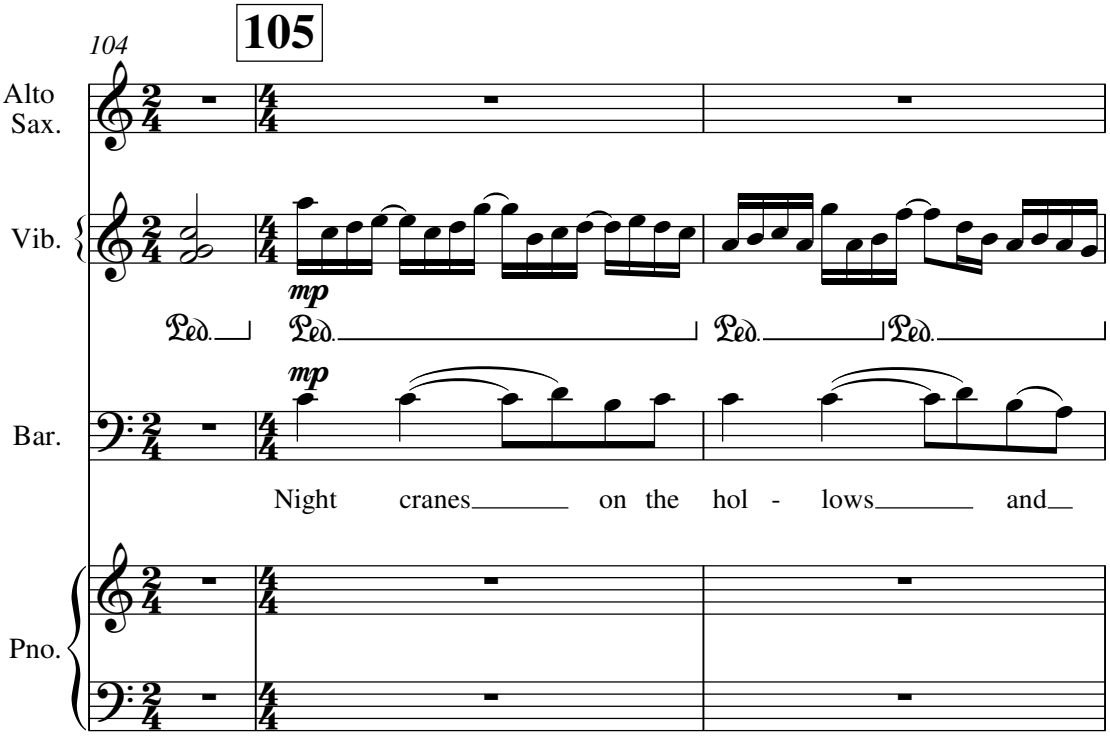


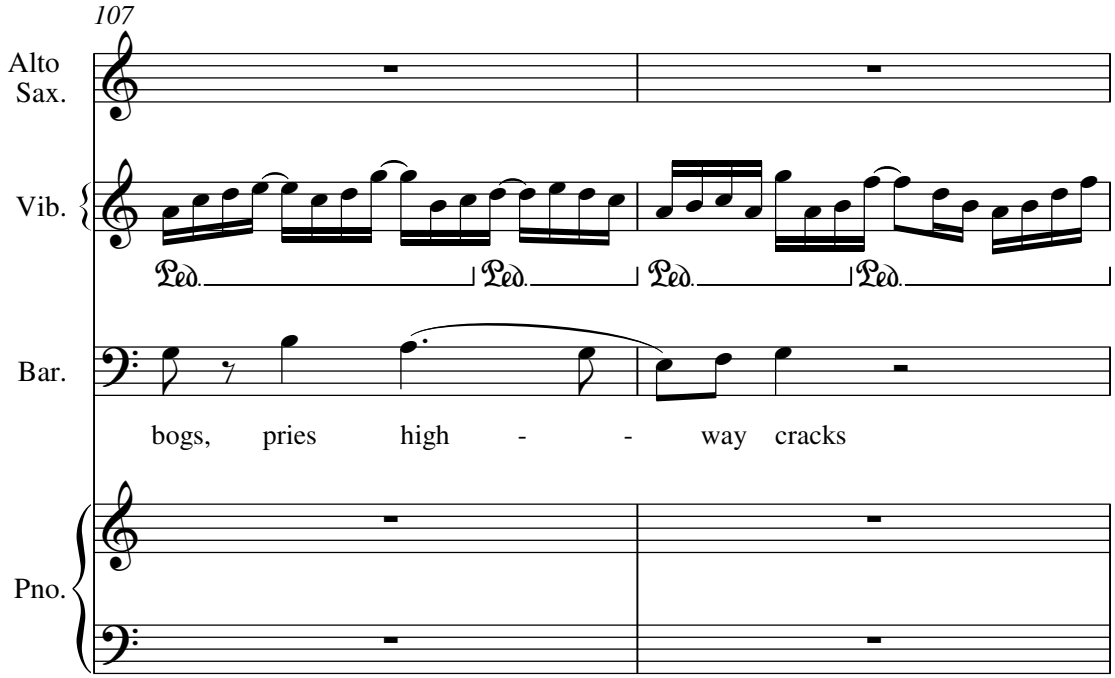


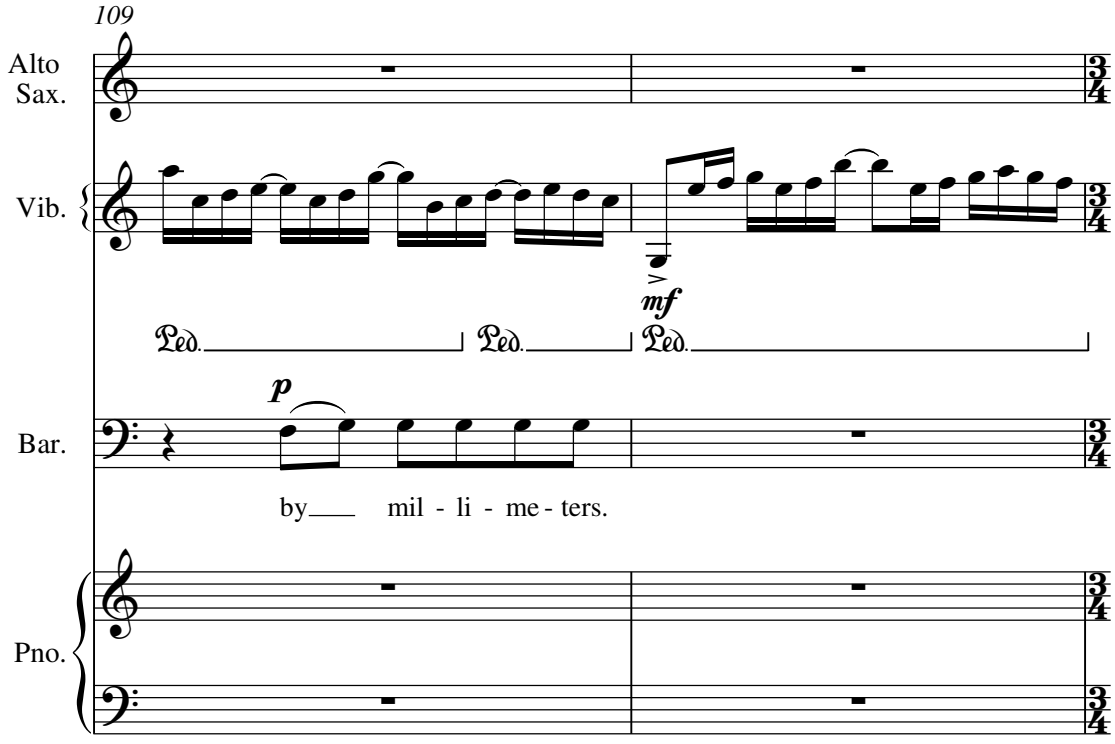

94
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
clog-ging win - ter snow. Spring's
Pno.

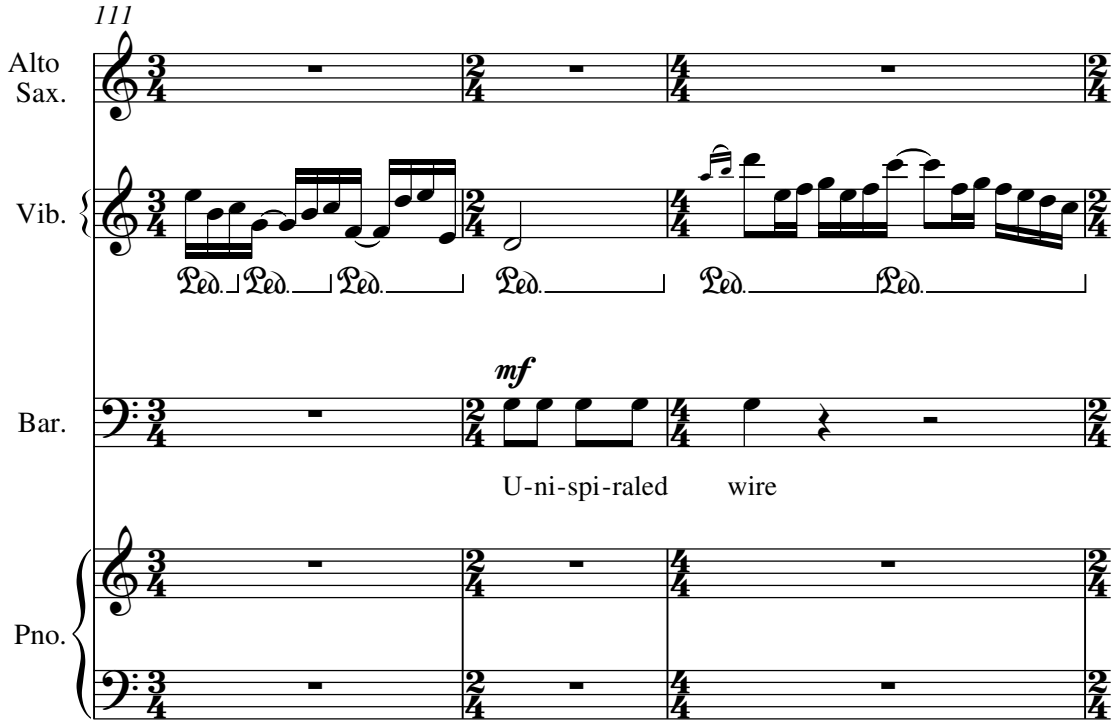

97
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
gloom thick- ens long-leaf pines and in-flames the ab
Pno.

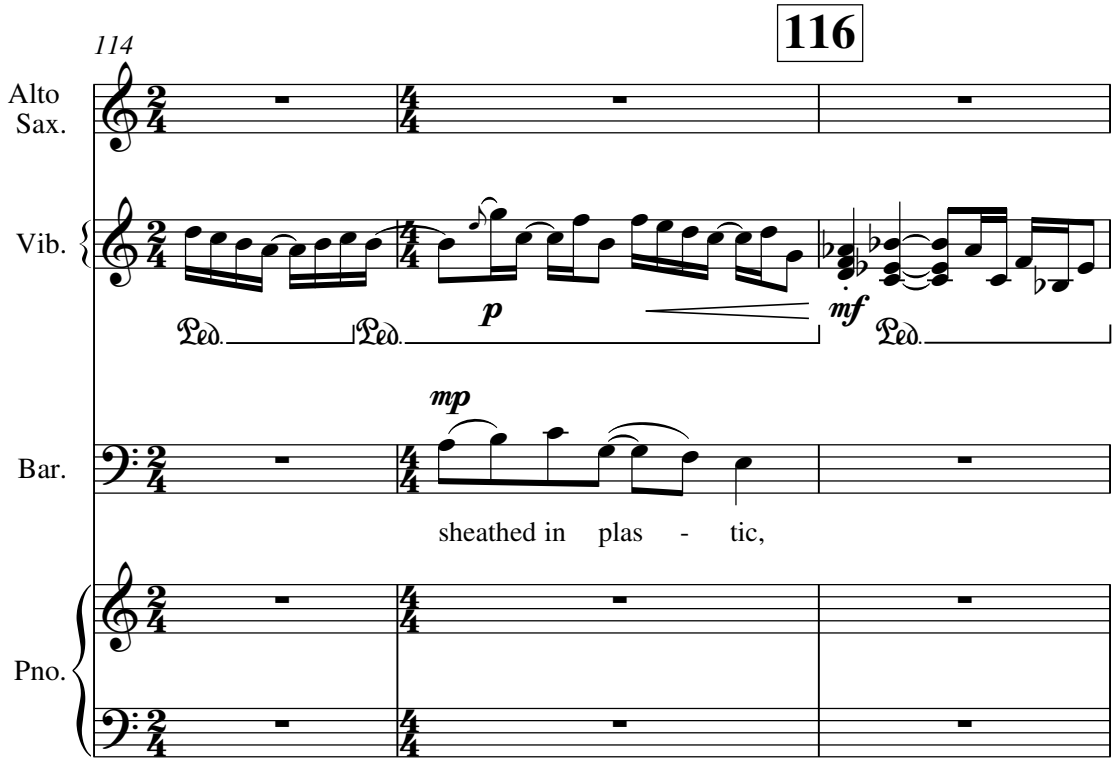

100
Alto Sax.
Vib.
mf
p
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Bar.
- sorb- ing as- phalt.
Pno.

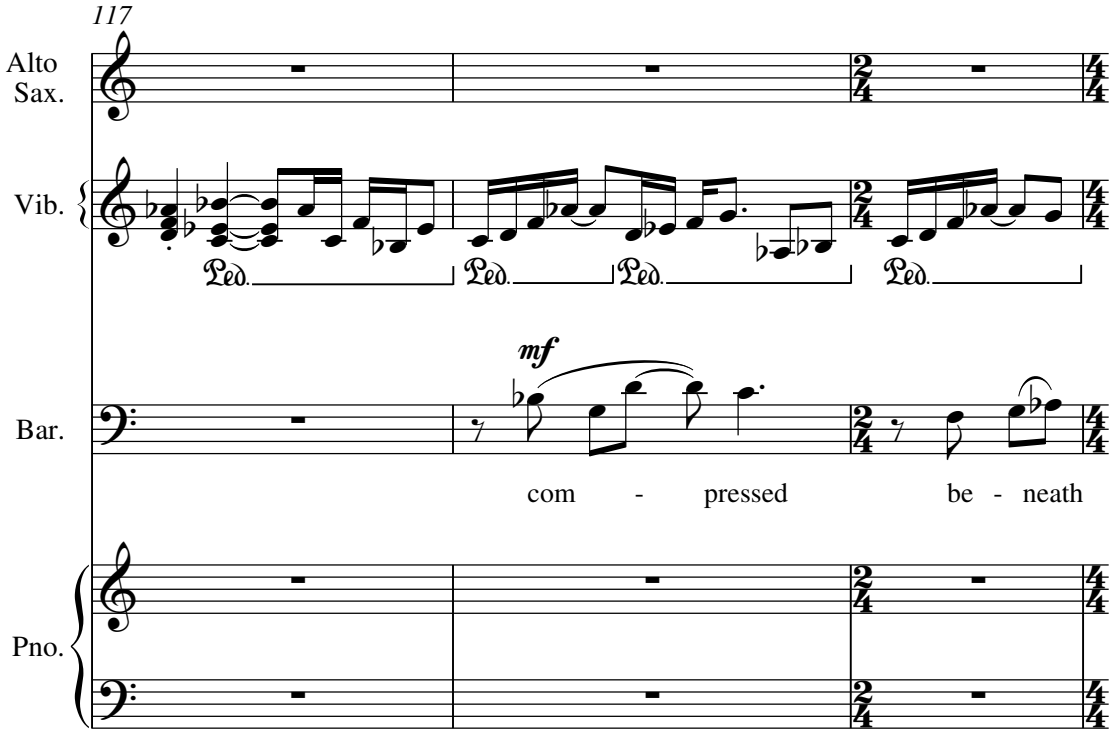

105
104
Alto Sax.
Vib.
mp
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Bar.
mp
Night cranes on the hol - lows and
Pno.

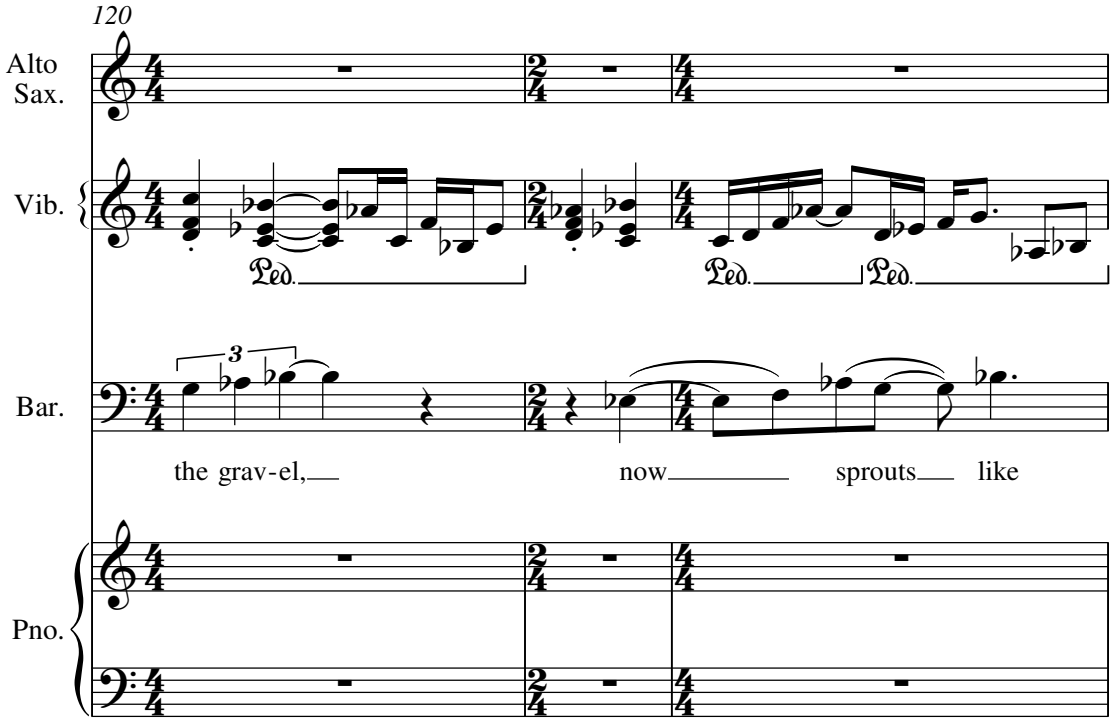

107
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.
Bar.
bogs, pries high - - way cracks
Pno.

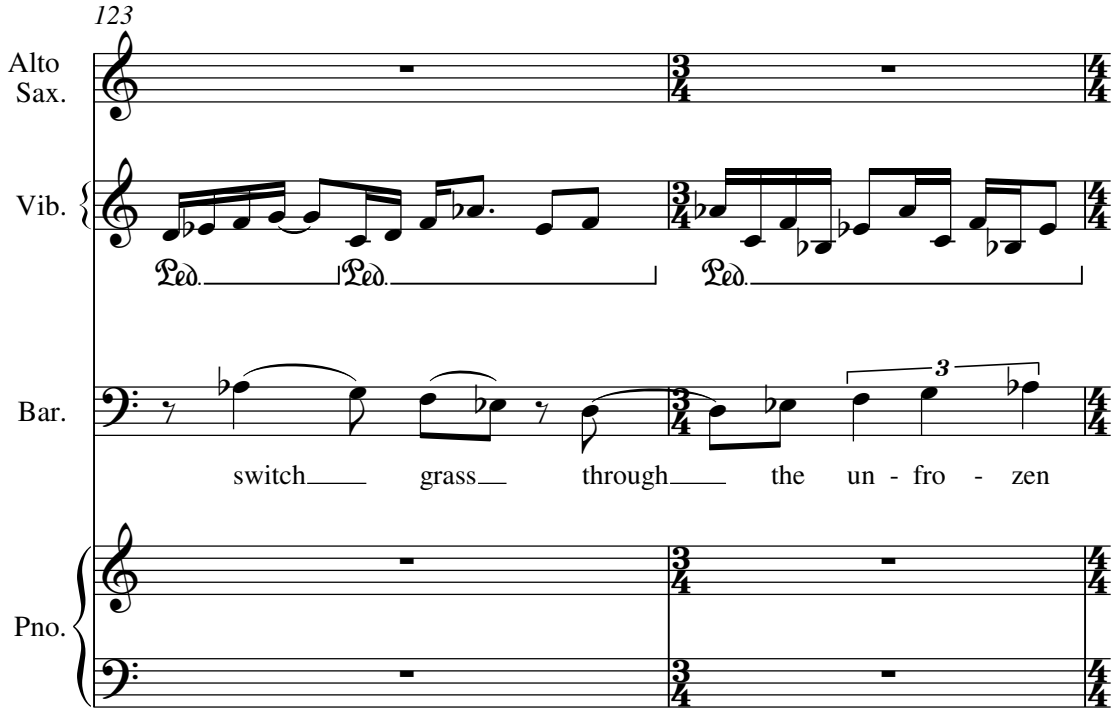

109
Alto Sax.
Vib.
mf
Ped. Ped. Ped.
p
Bar.
by mil - li - me - ters.
Pno.

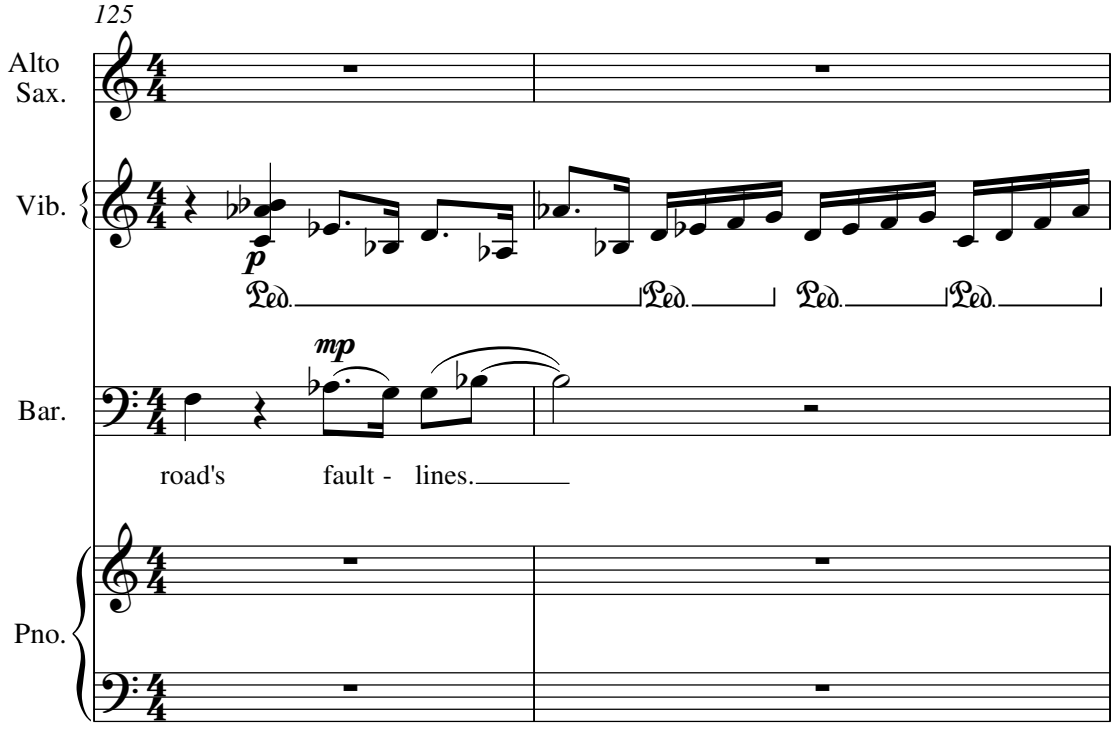

111
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.
mf
Bar.
U-ni-spi-raled wire
Pno.

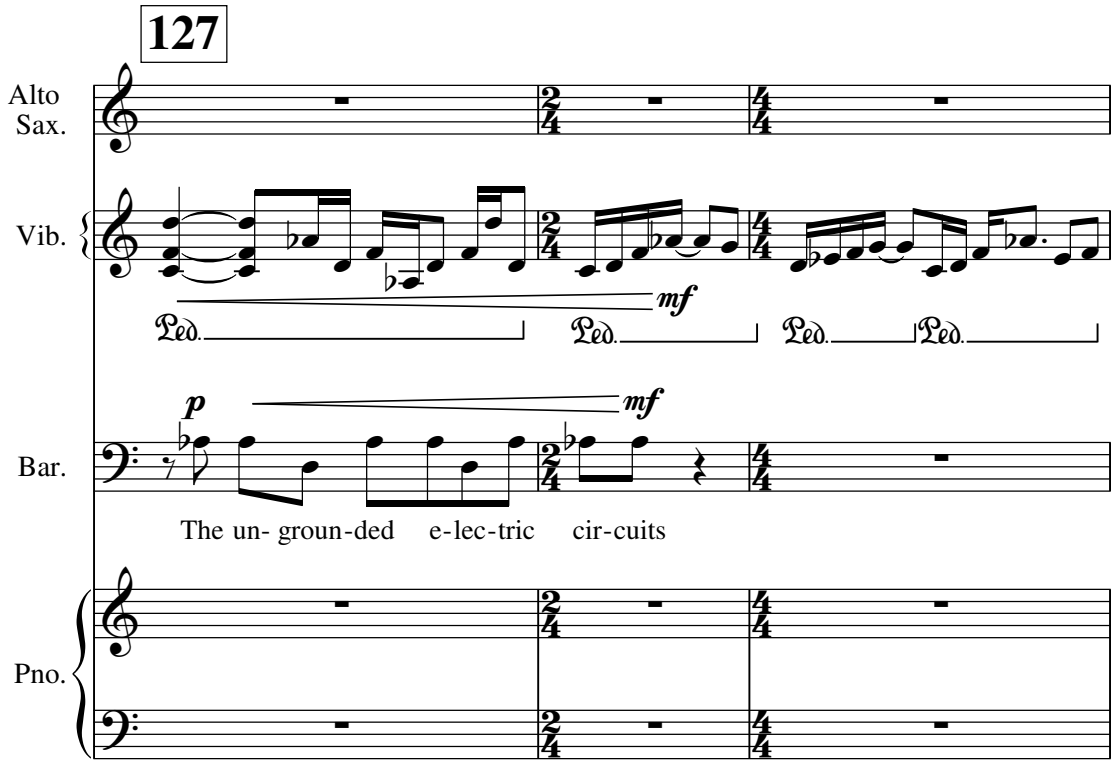

116
114
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Ped. Ped.
p
mf
Ped.
mp
Bar.
sheathed in plas - tic,
Pno.

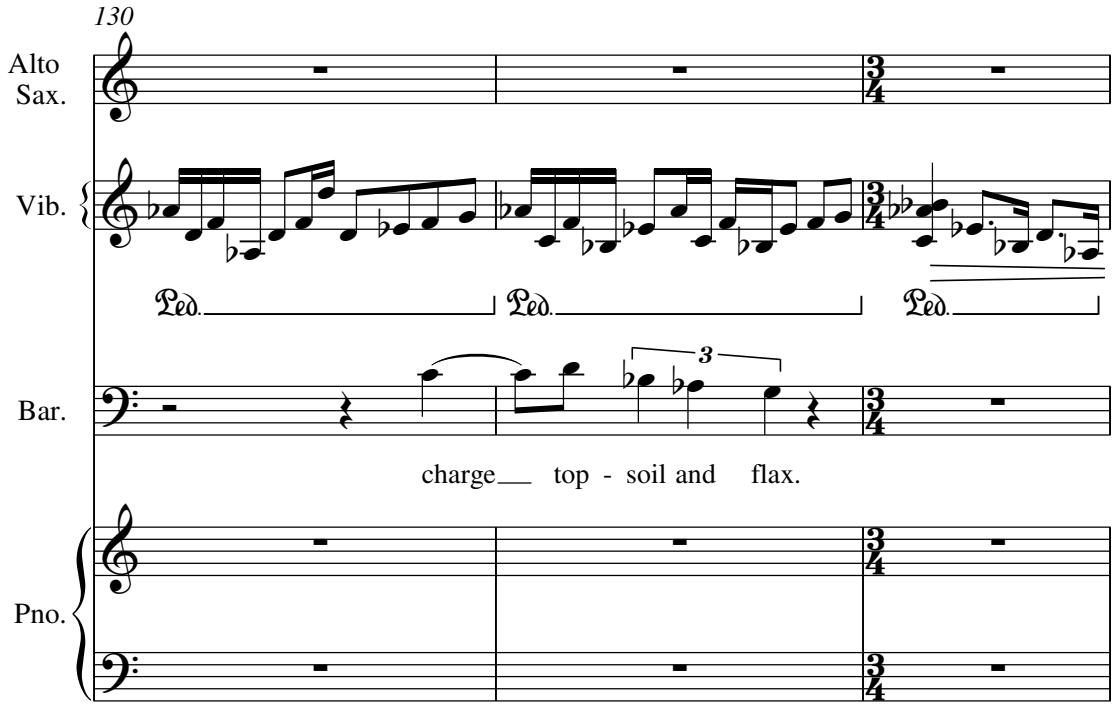

117
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
mf
Bar.
com - pressed be - neath
Pno.

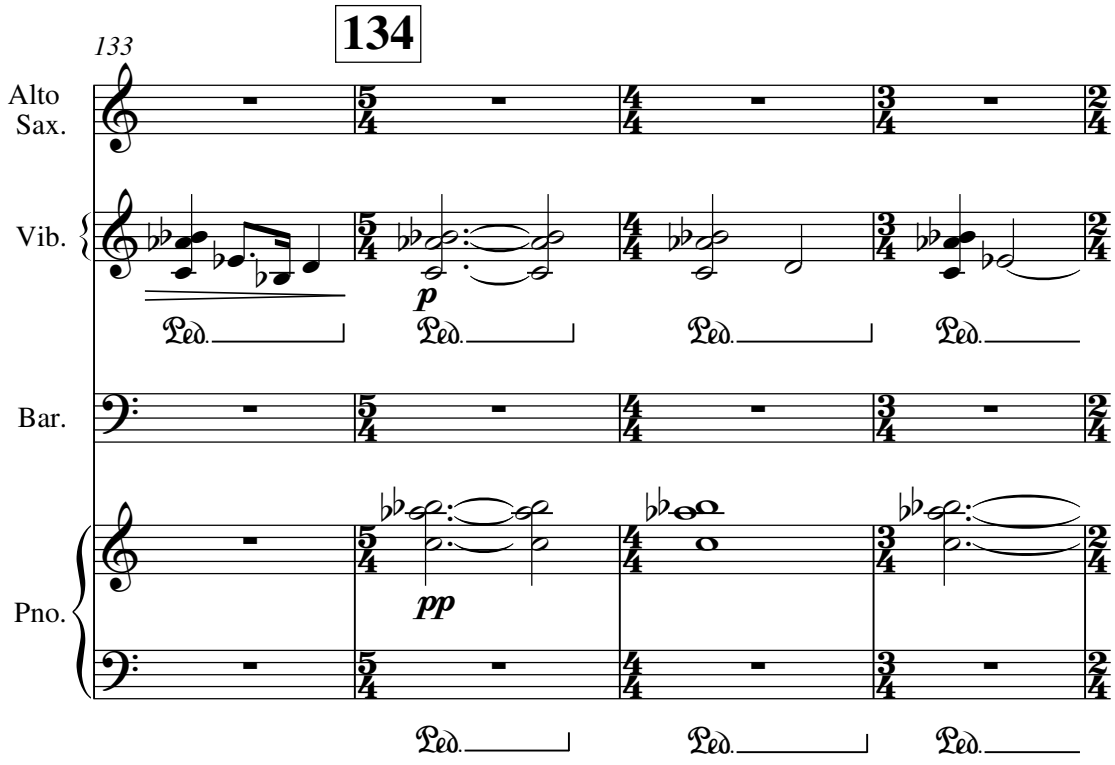

120
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
3
Bar.
the grav-el, now sprouts like
Pno.

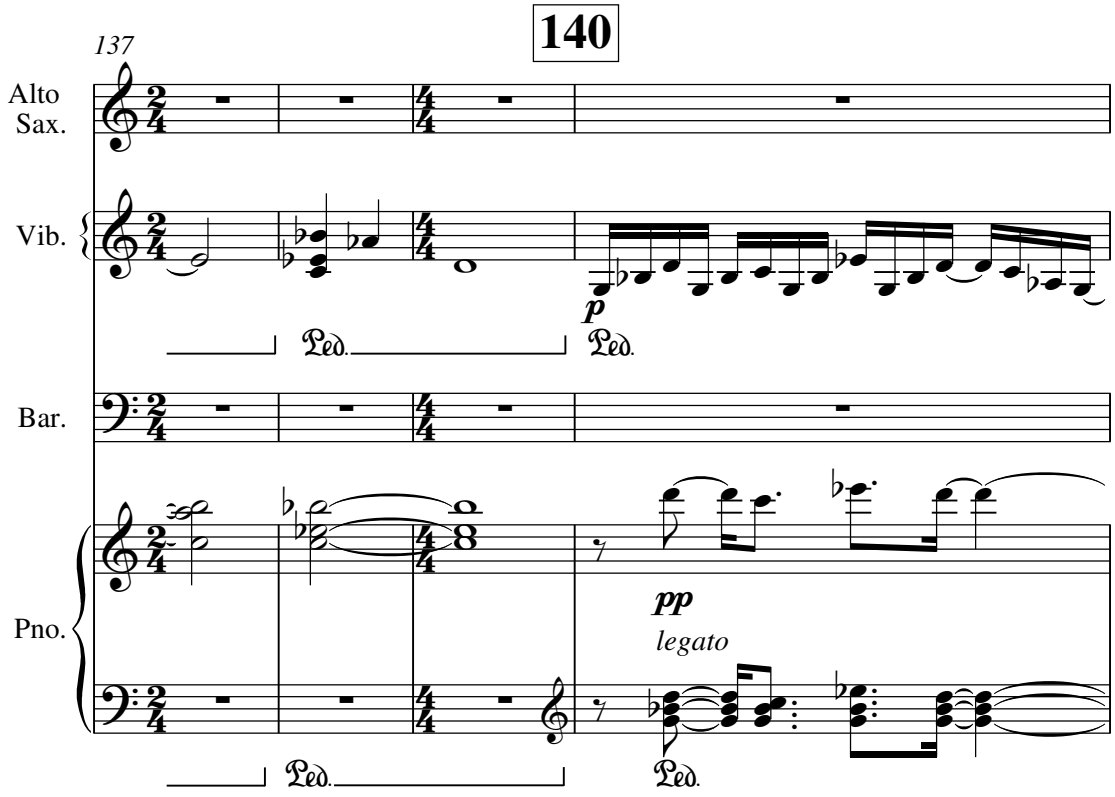

123
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
3
switch grass through the un - fro - zen

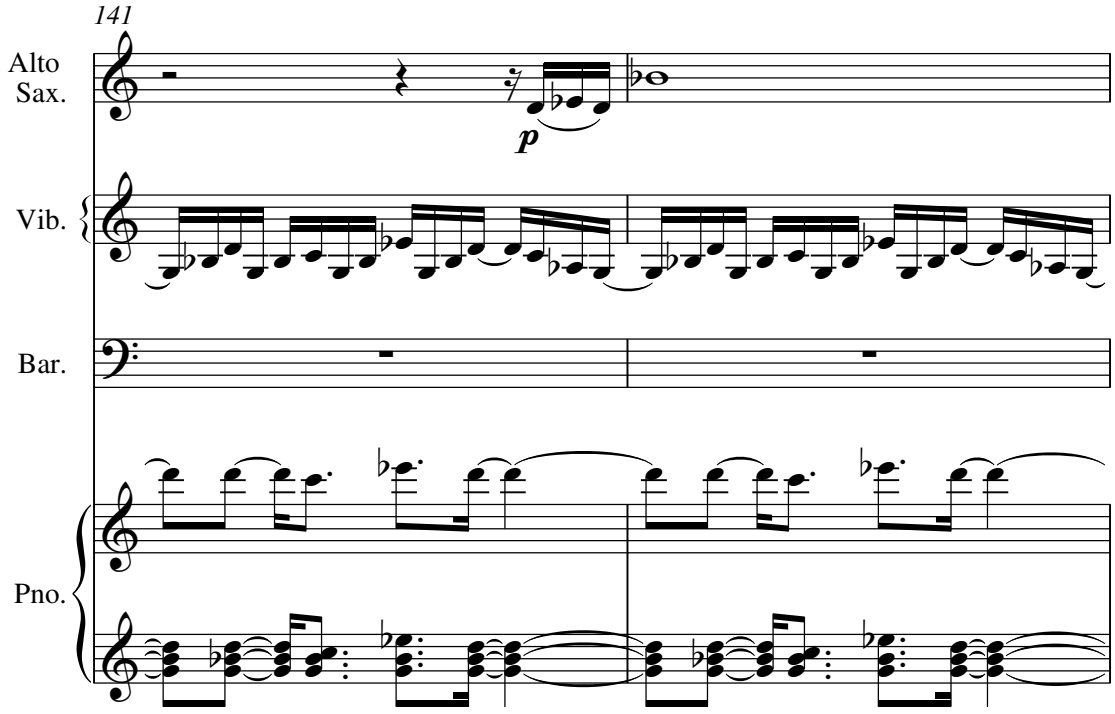

125
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
p
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
mp
road's fault - lines.

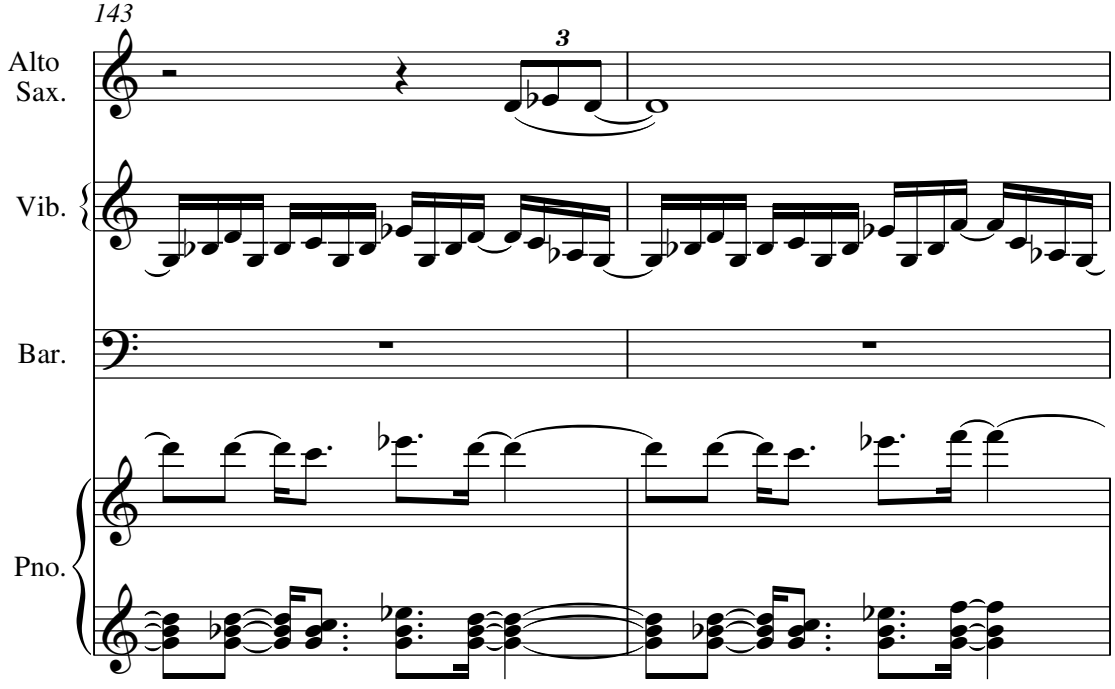

127
Alto Sax.
Vib.
mf
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
p
mf
Bar.
The un- groun-ded e-lec-tric cir-cuits
Pno.

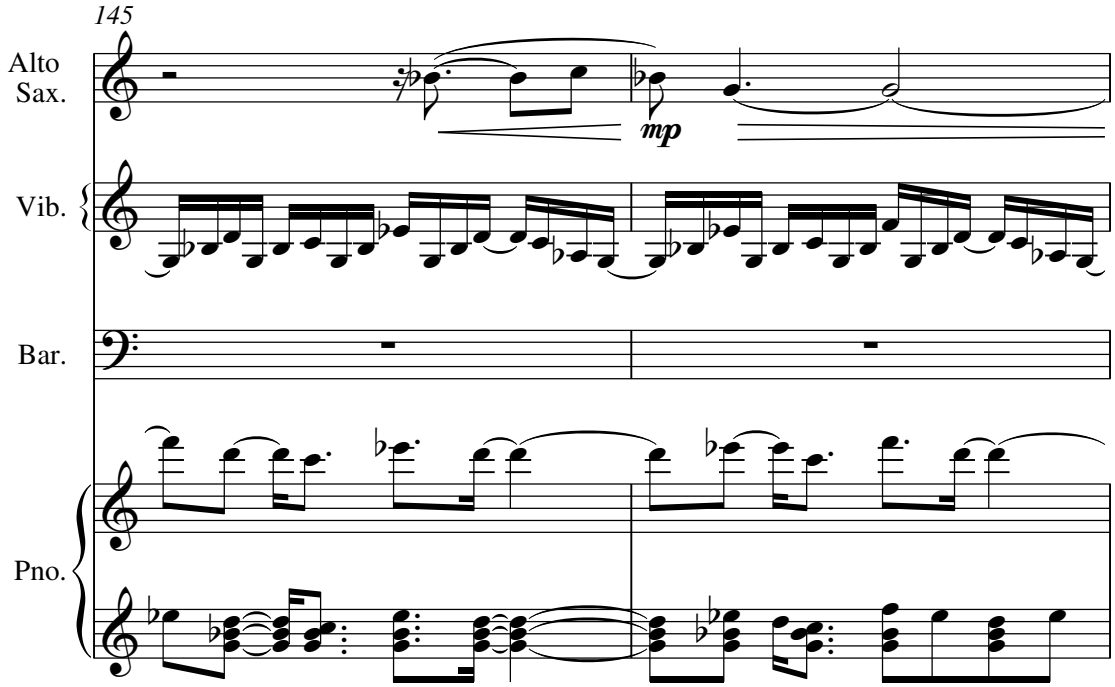

130
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
3
Bar.
charge top - soil and flax.
Pno.

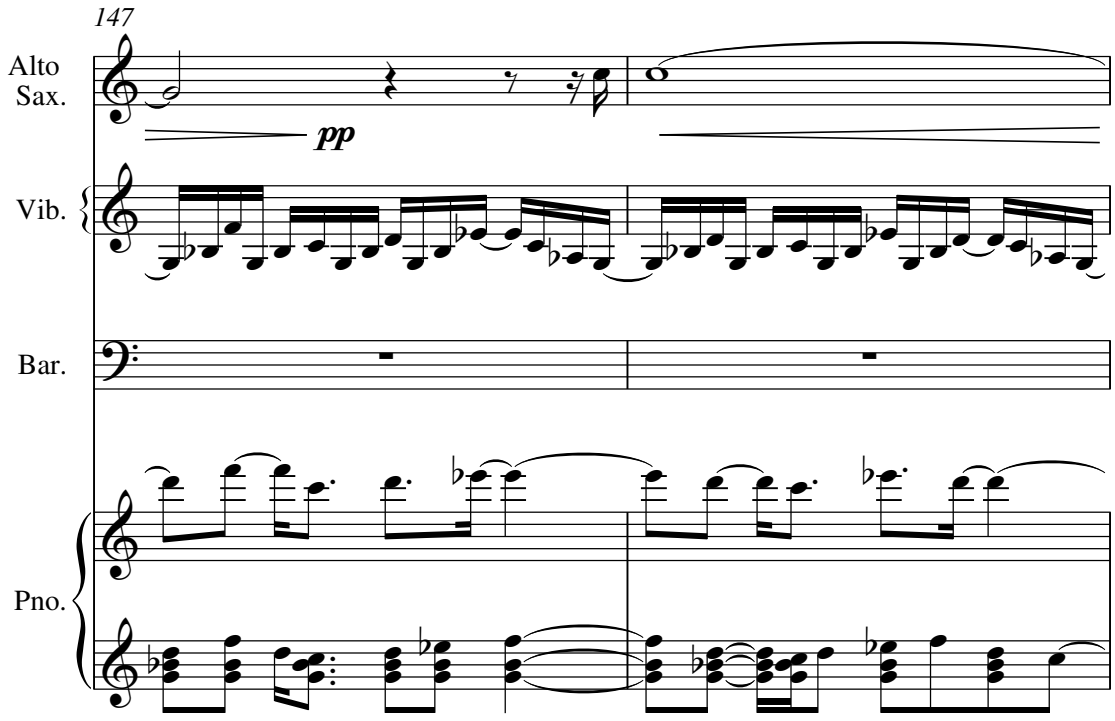

134
133
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
p
pp
Ped.

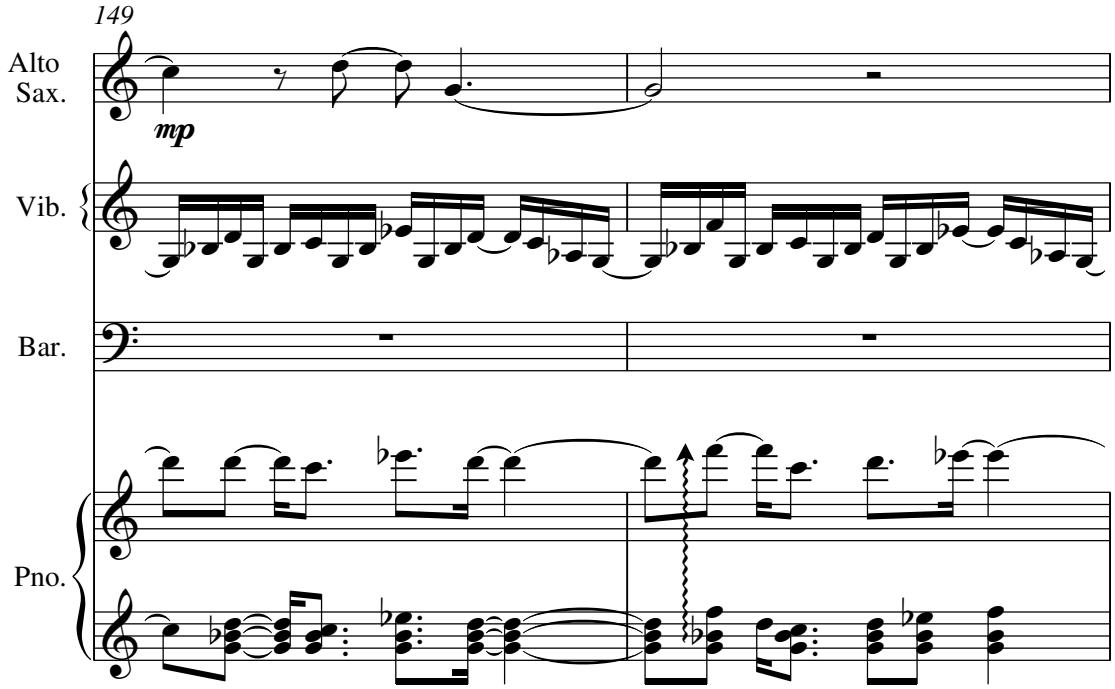

140
137
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
p
pp
legato
Ped.

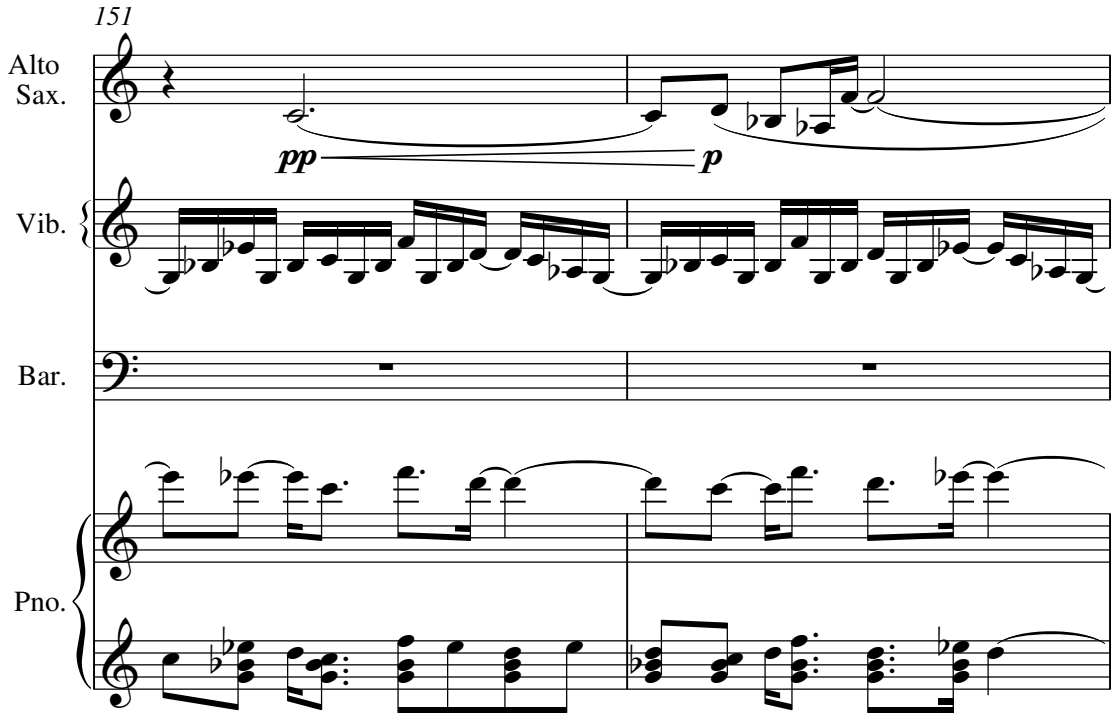

141
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
p

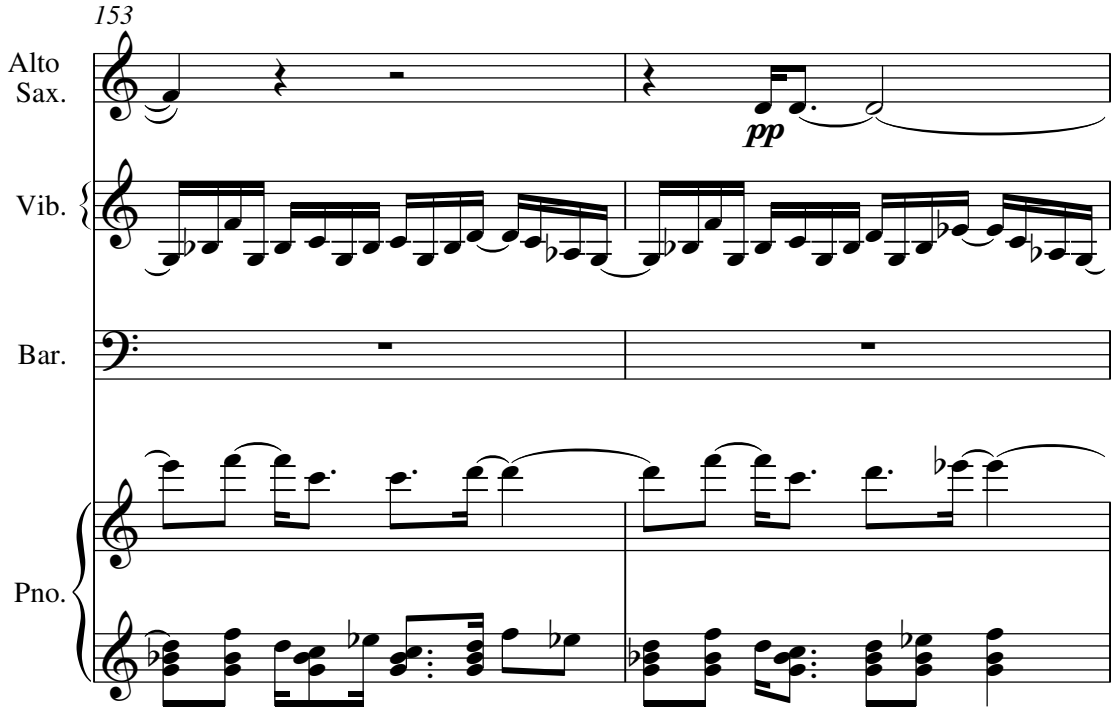

143
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
3

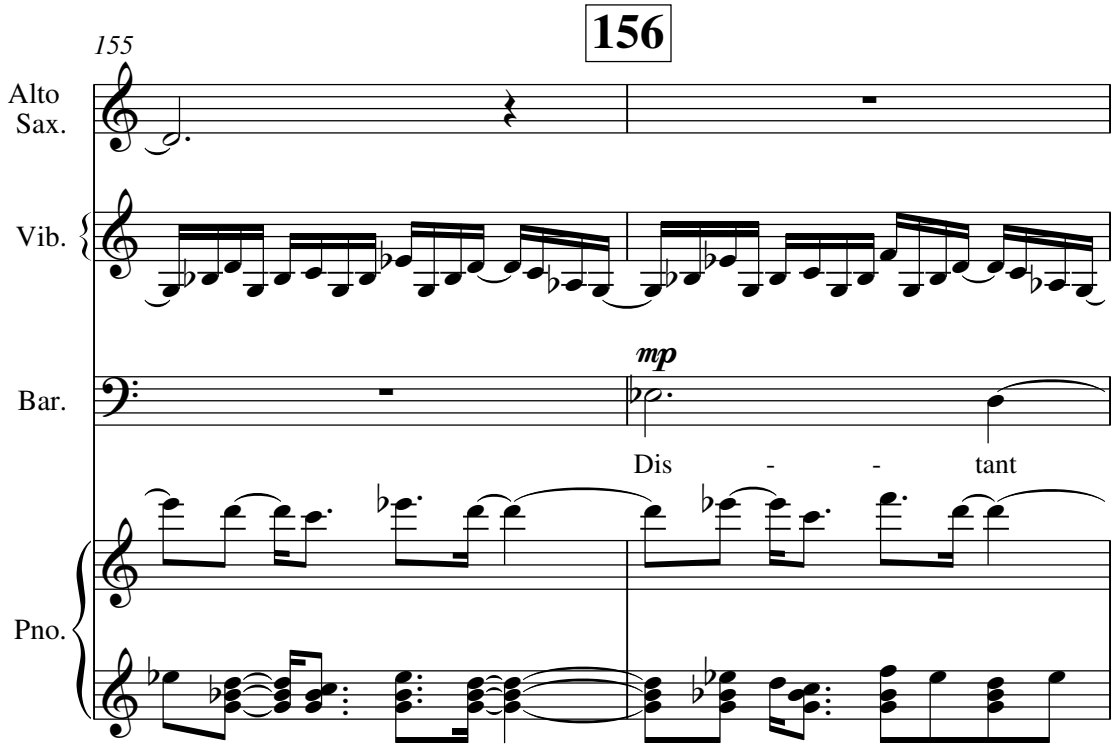

145
Alto Sax.
mp
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

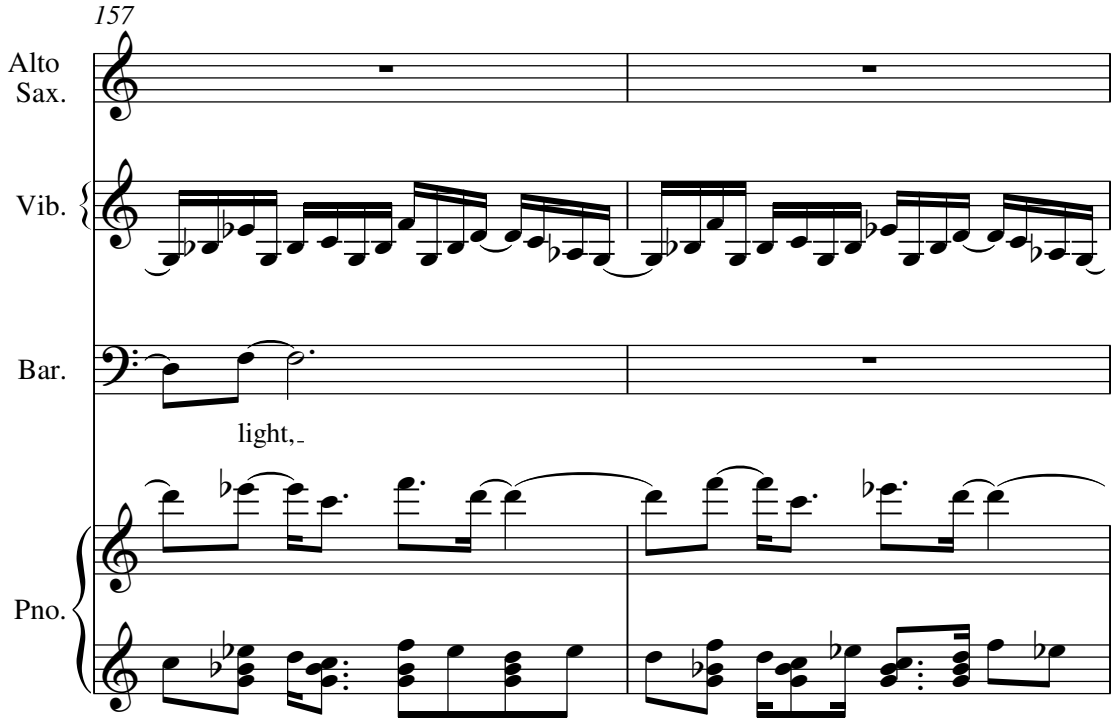

147
Alto Sax.
pp
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

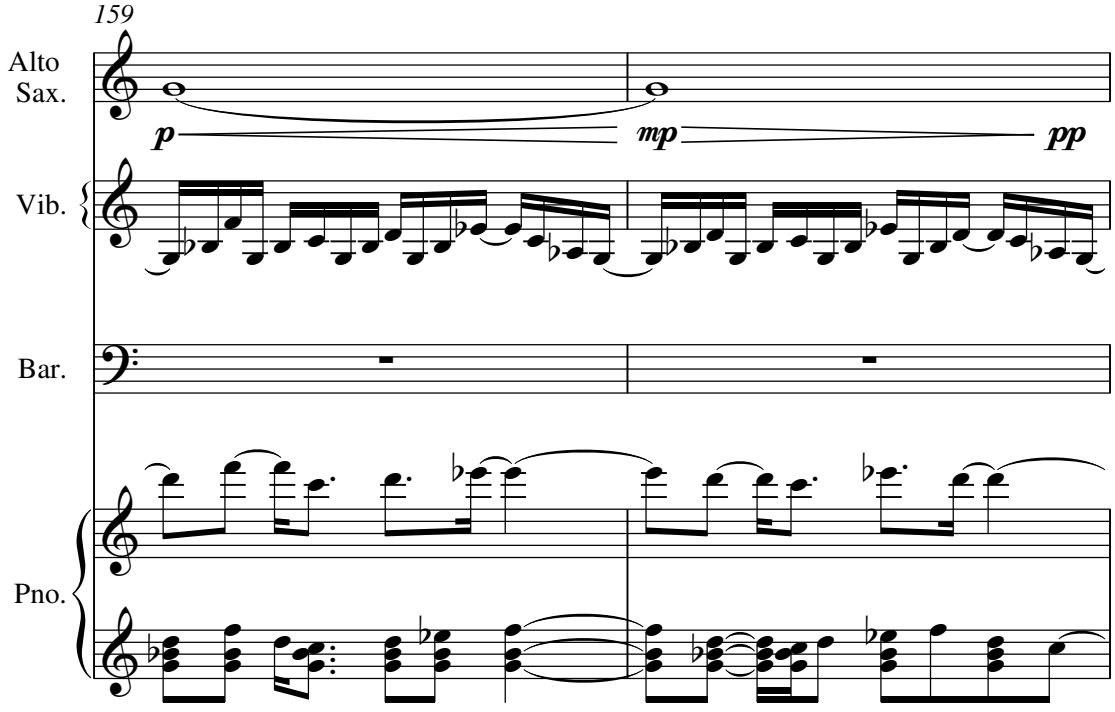

149
Alto Sax.
mp
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

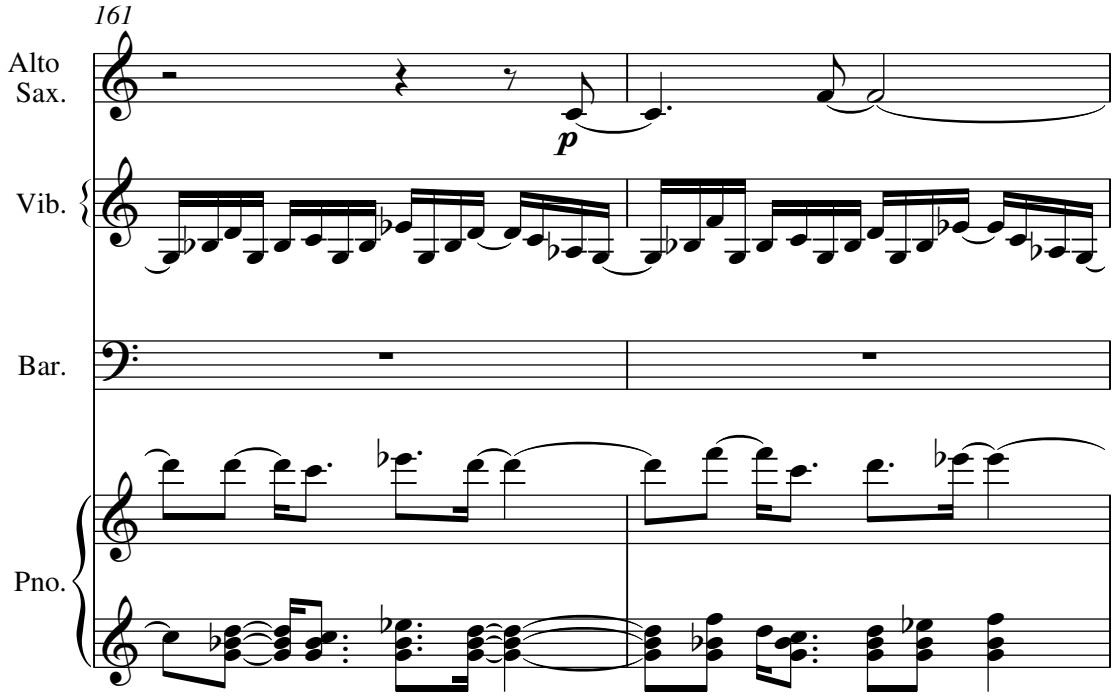

151
Alto Sax.
pp
p
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

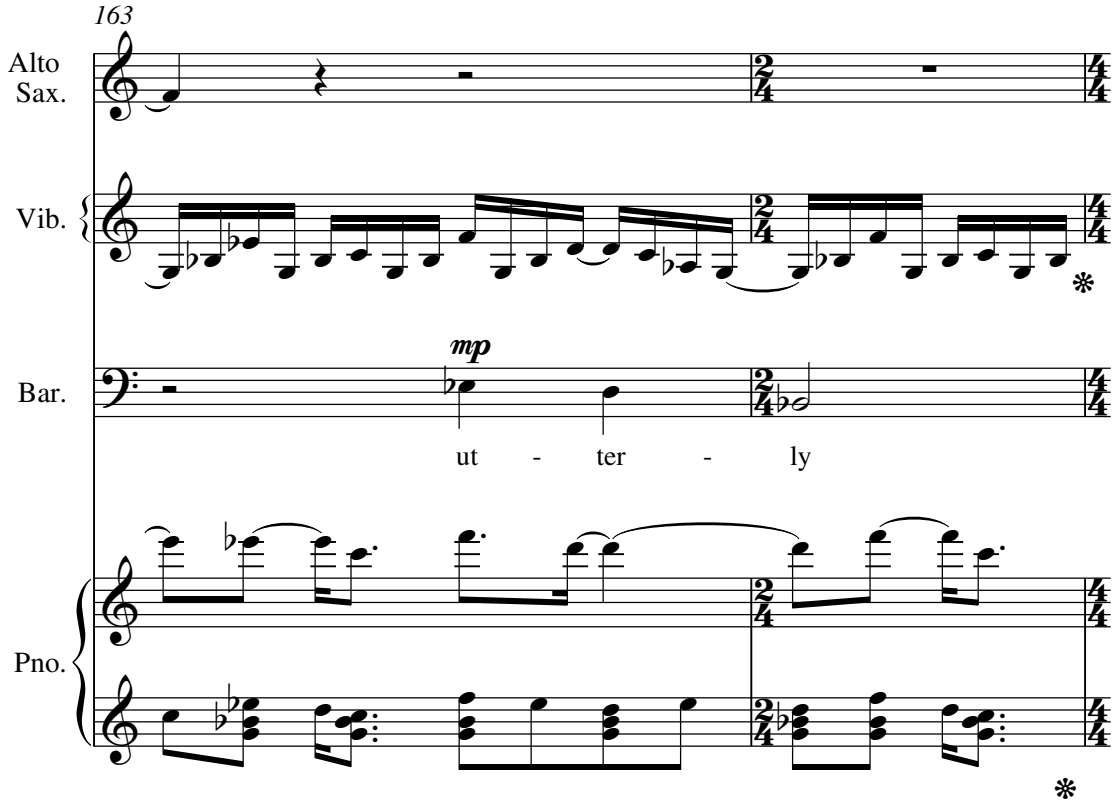

153
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
pp

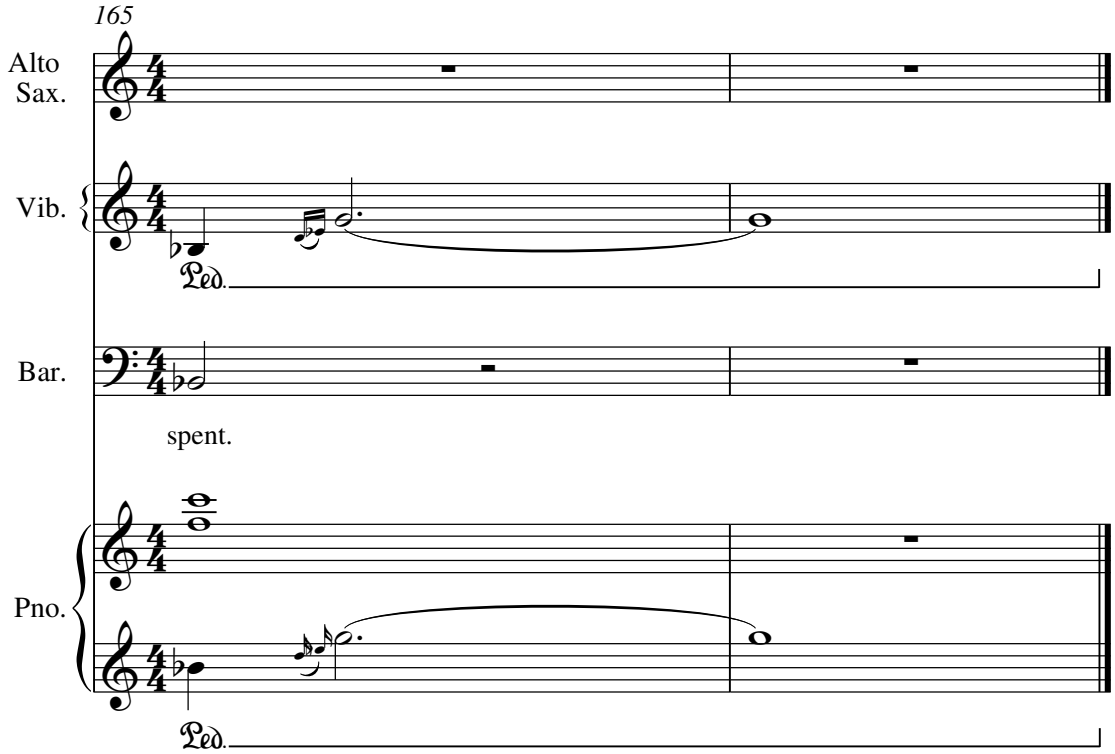

156
155
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
mp
Dis - - tant


157
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
light,
Pno.

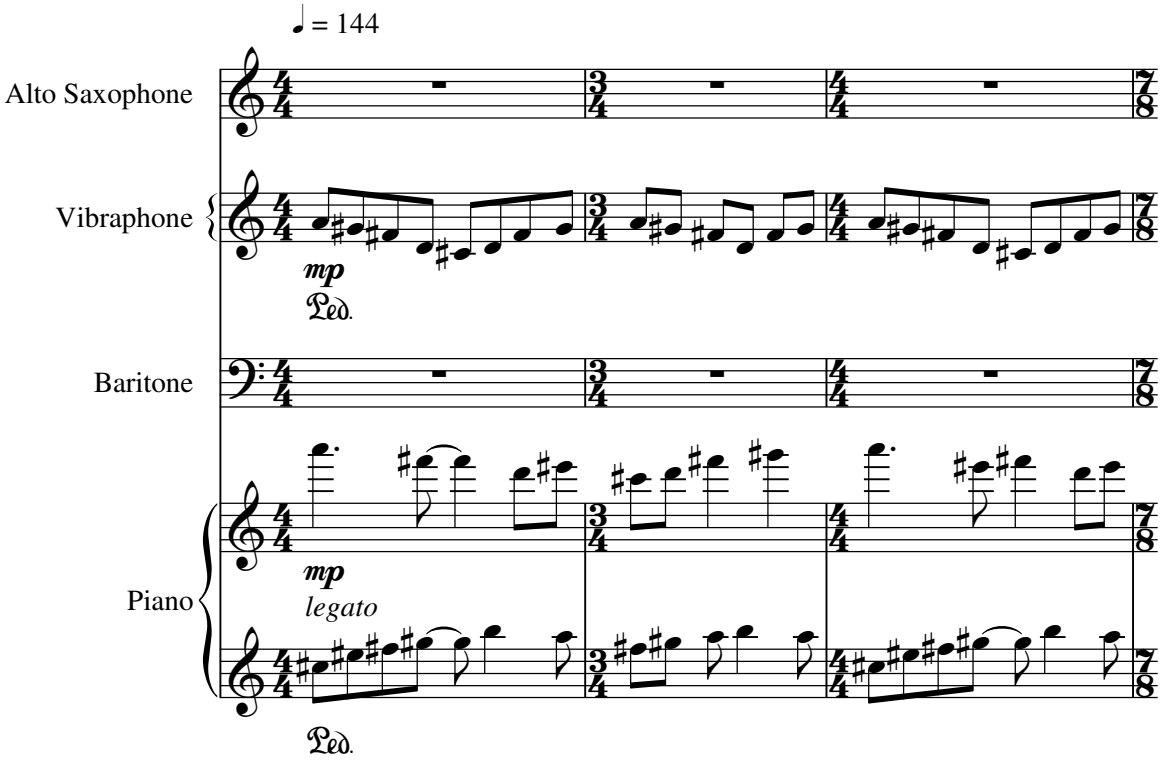

159
Alto Sax.
p
mp
pp
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

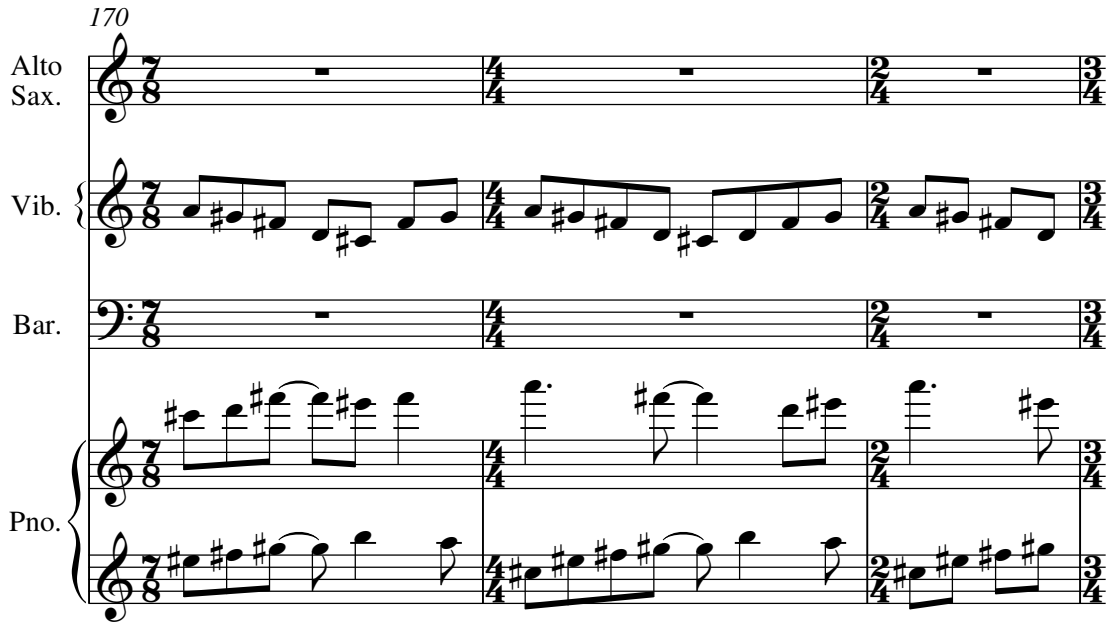

161
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
p

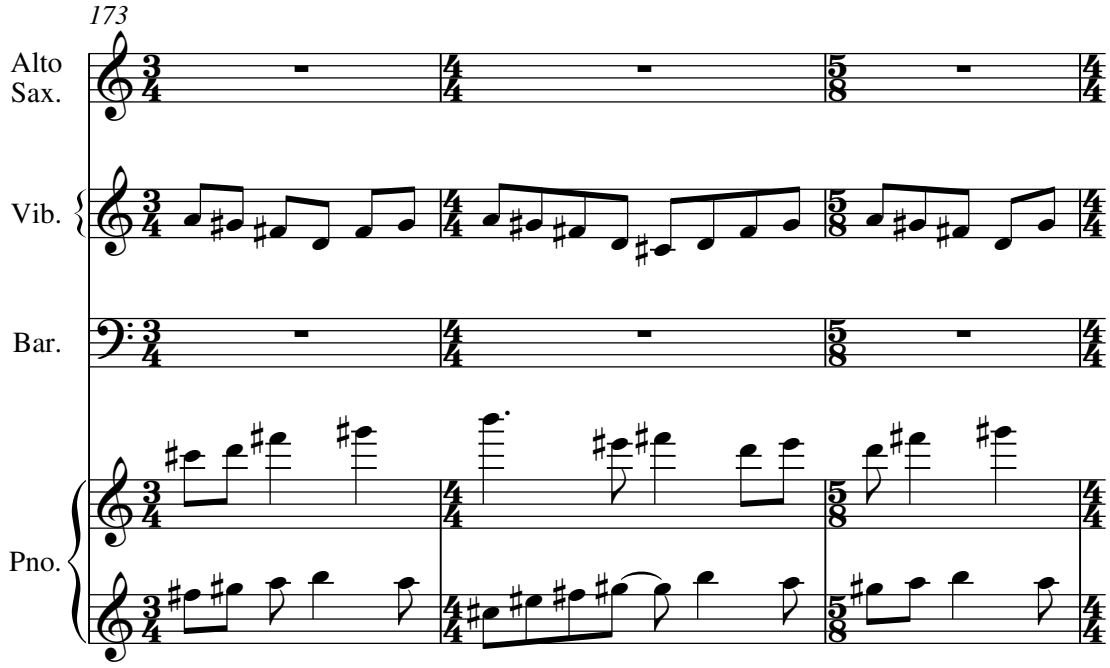

163
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
mp
ut - ter - ly

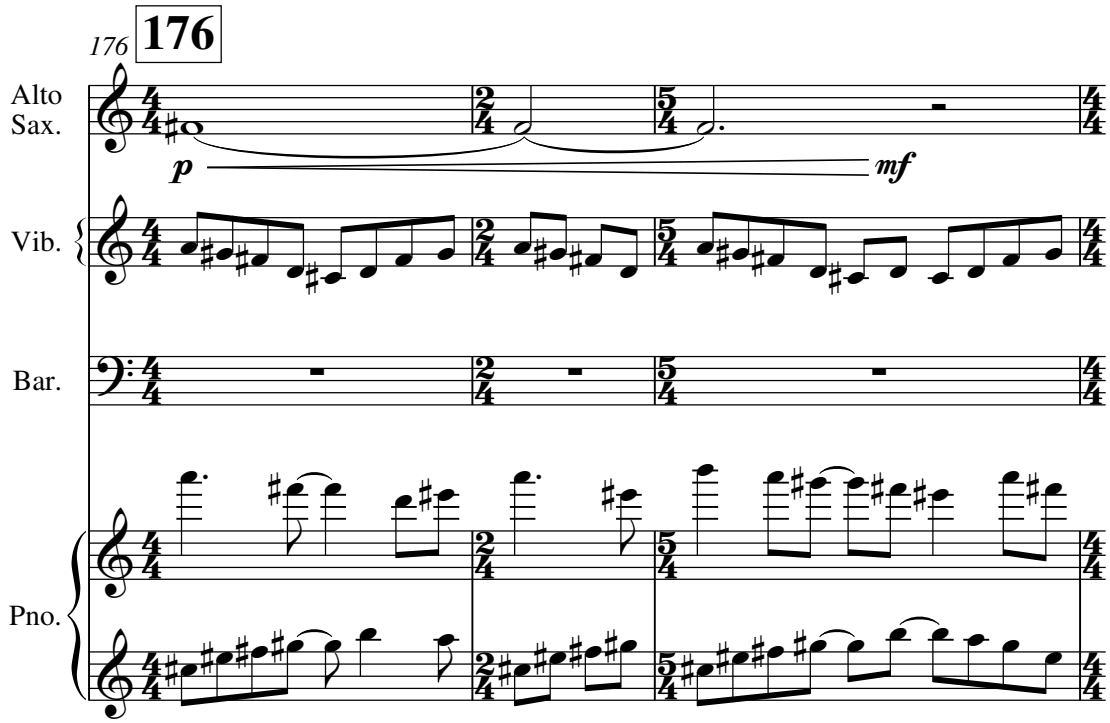

165
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Ped.
Bar.
spent.
Pno.
Ped.

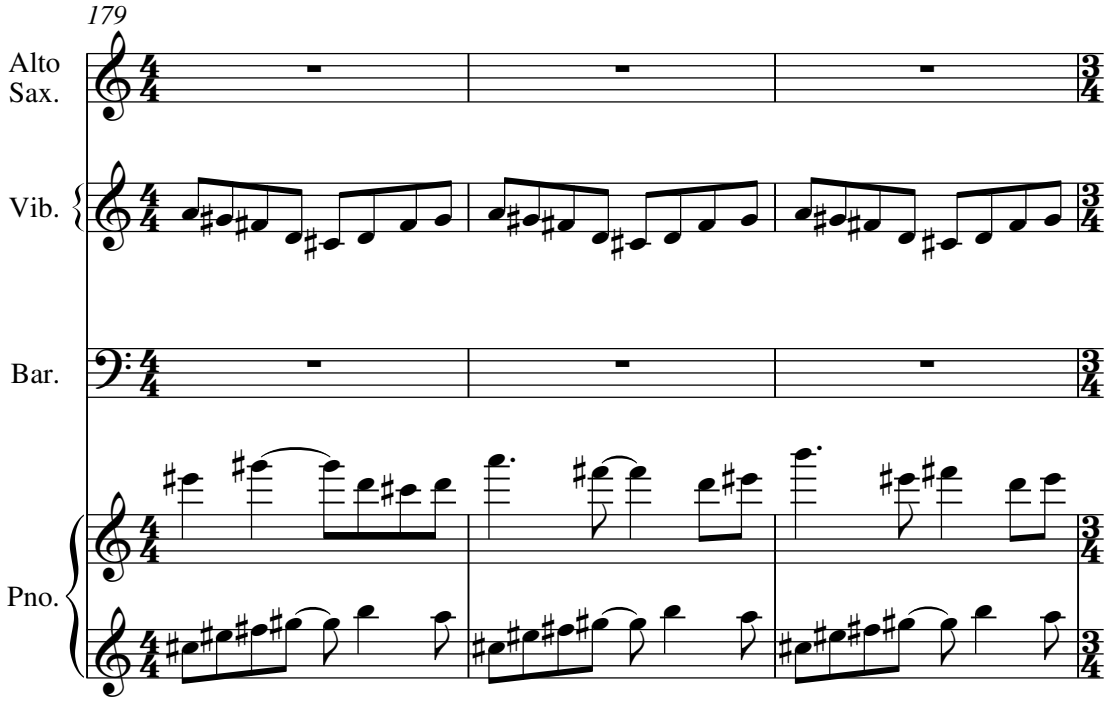
3 - The Bell Ringer of Saint Louis Cathedral

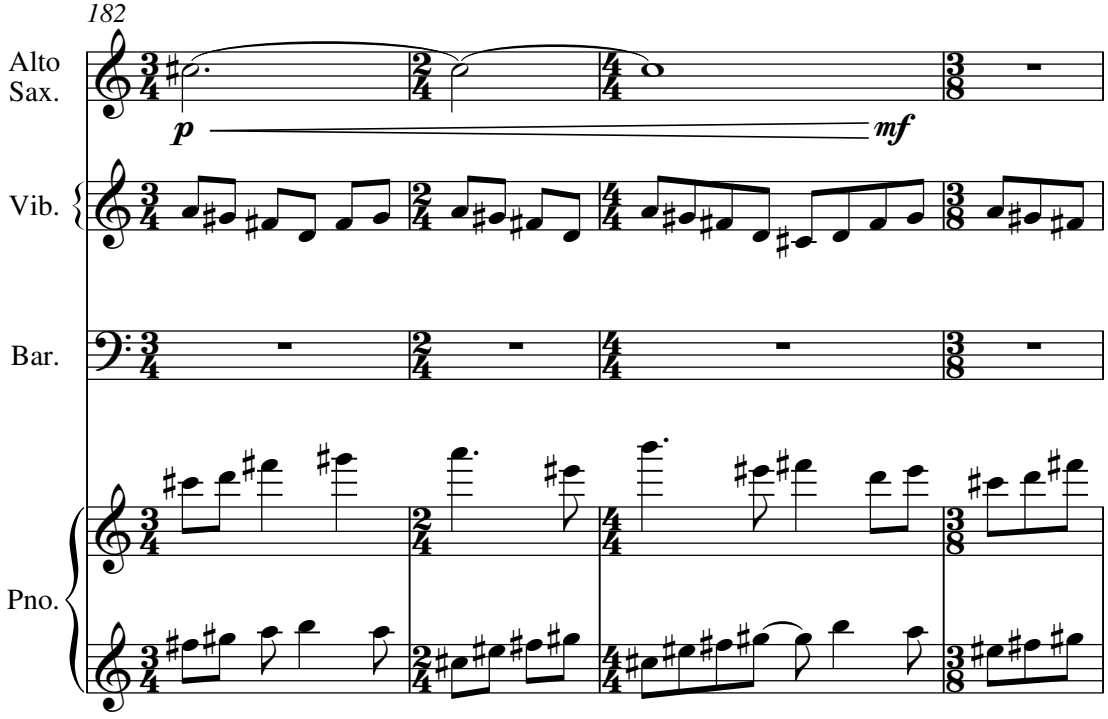


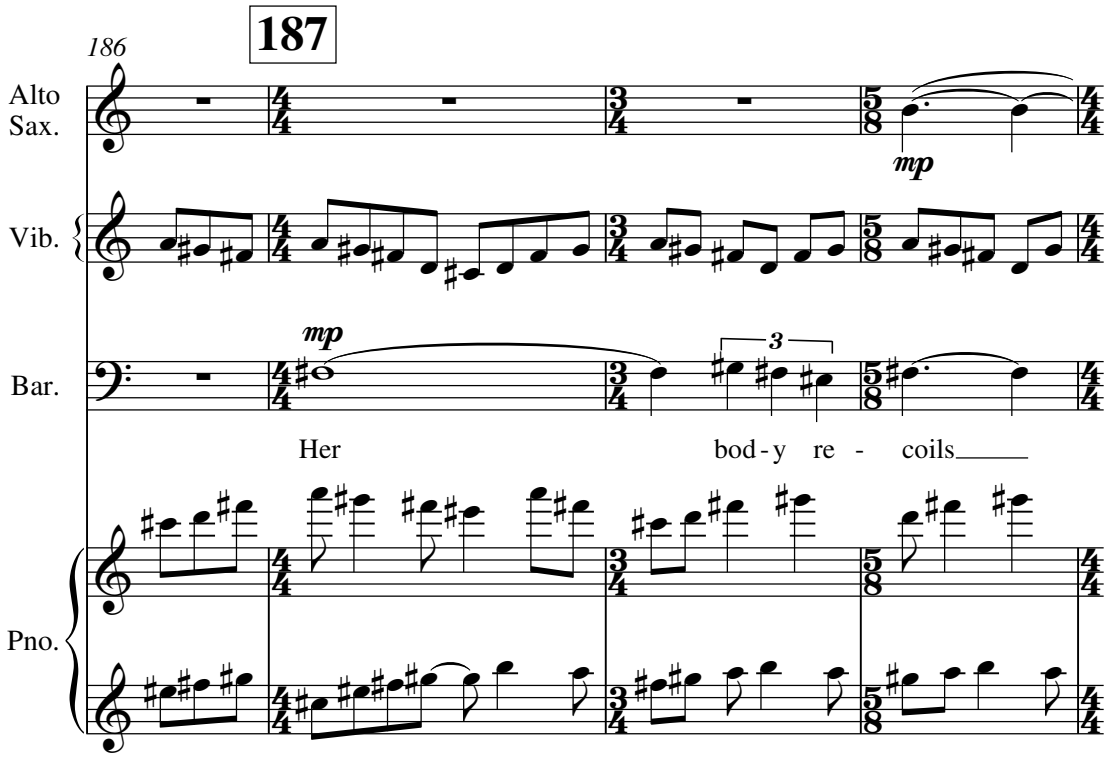


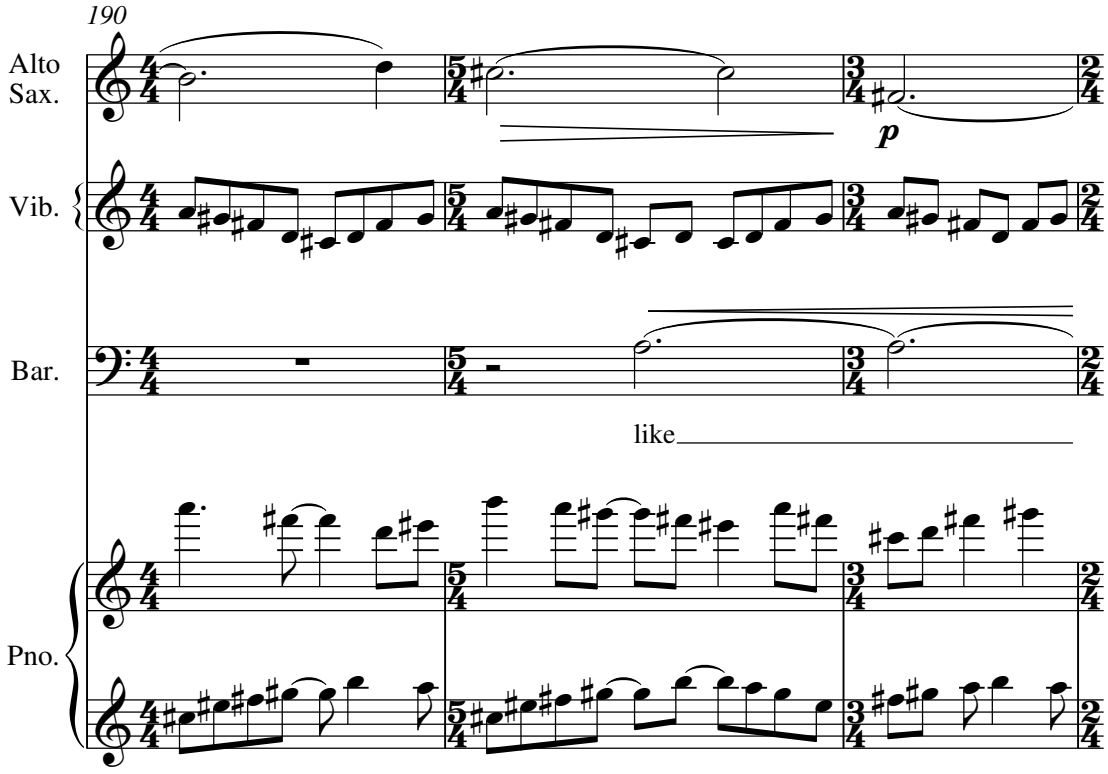

173
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

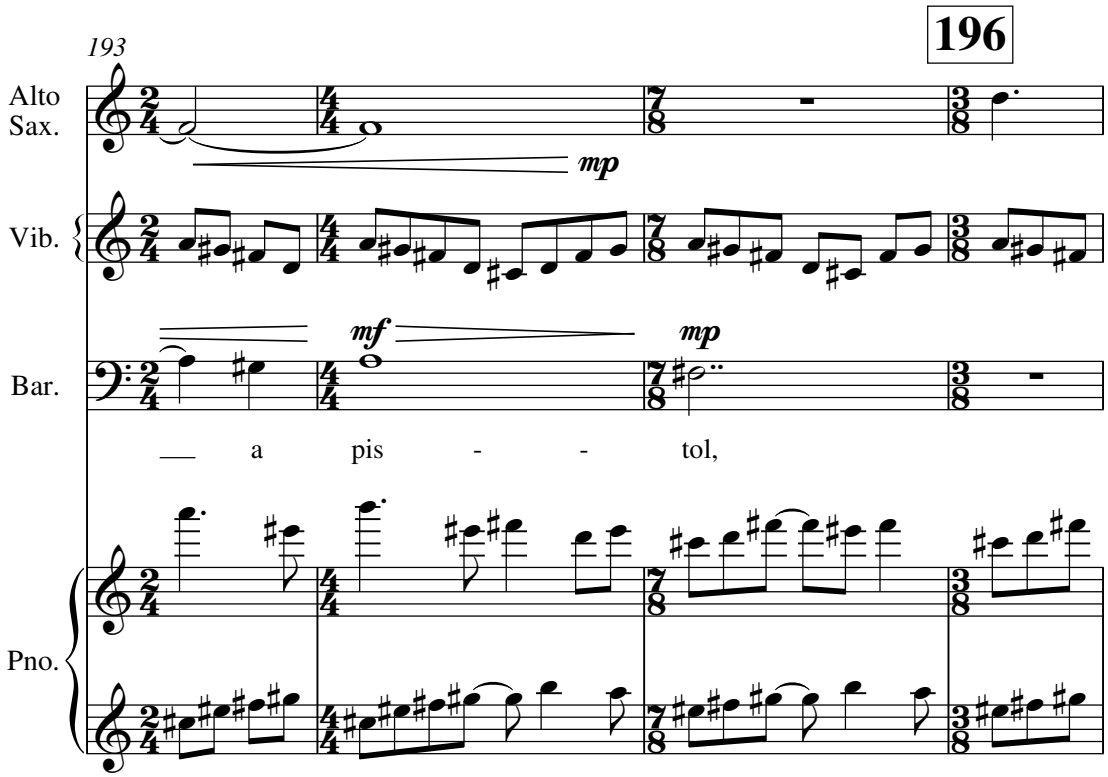

176
176
Alto Sax.
p
mf
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

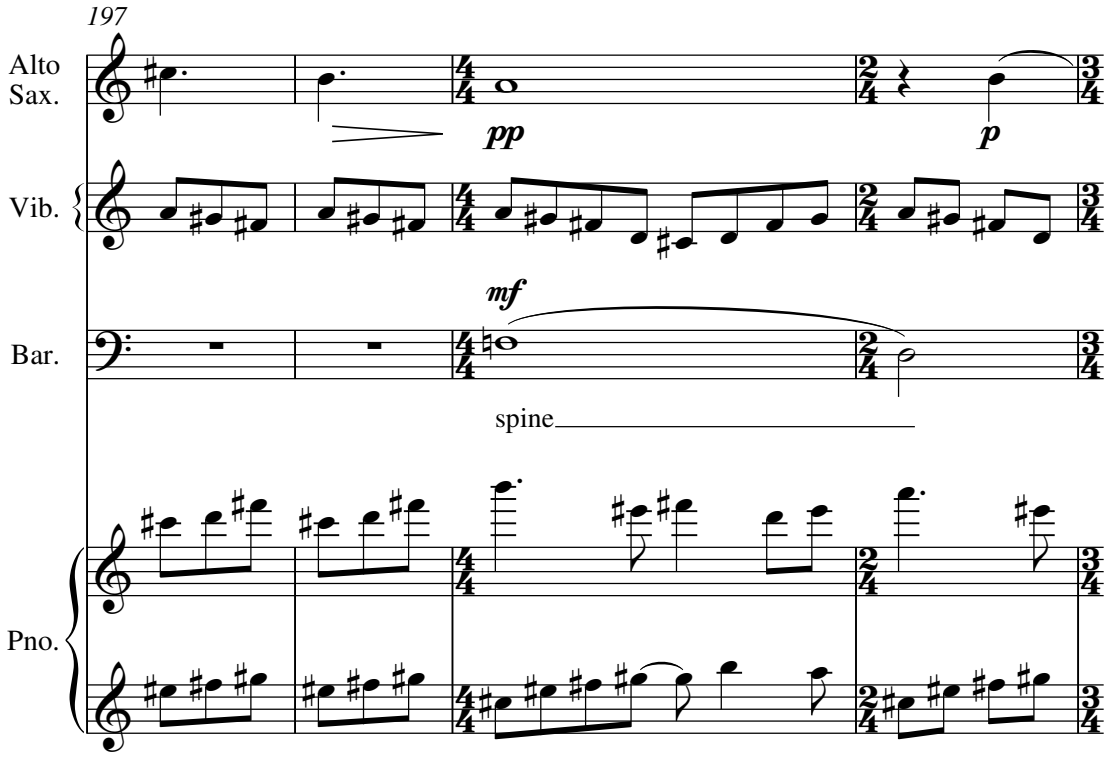

179
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

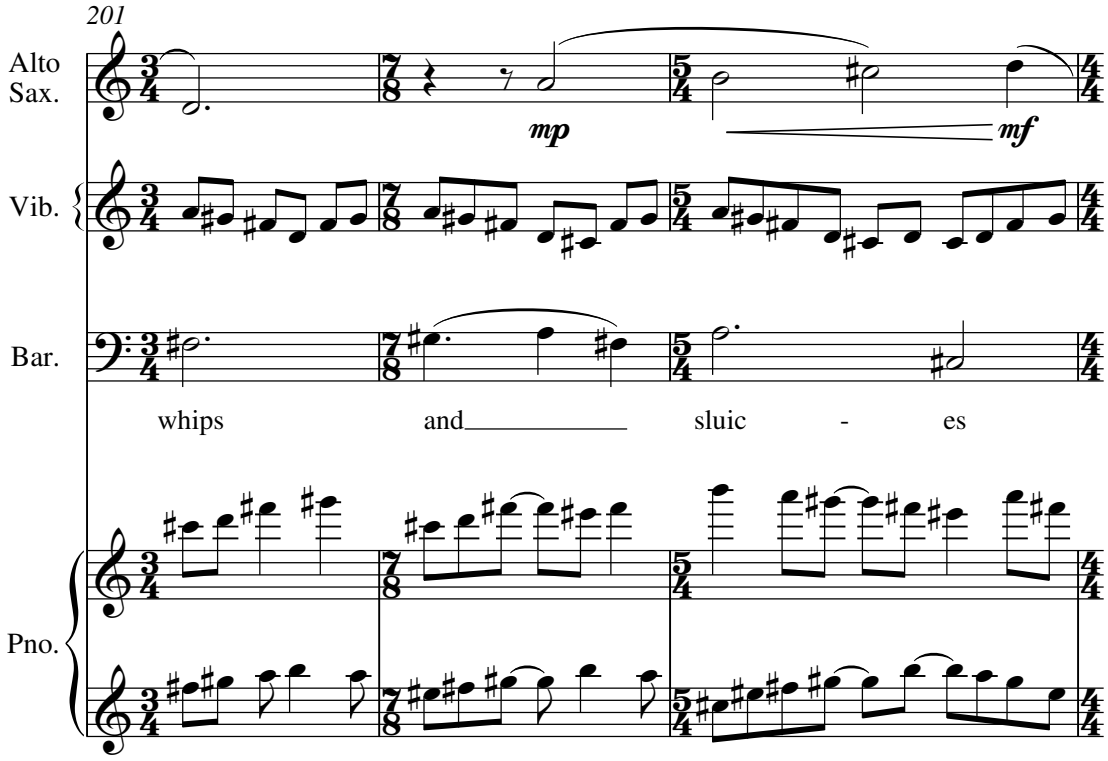

182
Alto Sax.
p
mf
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

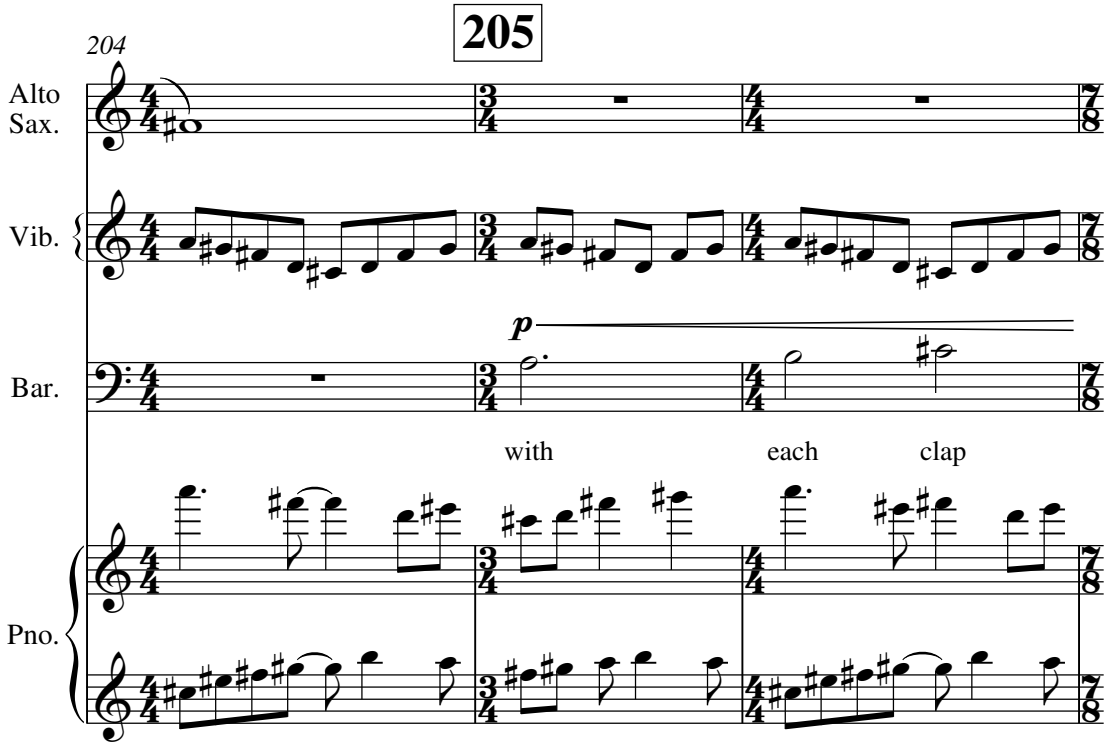

187
186
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
mp
mp
3
Her bod - y re - coils

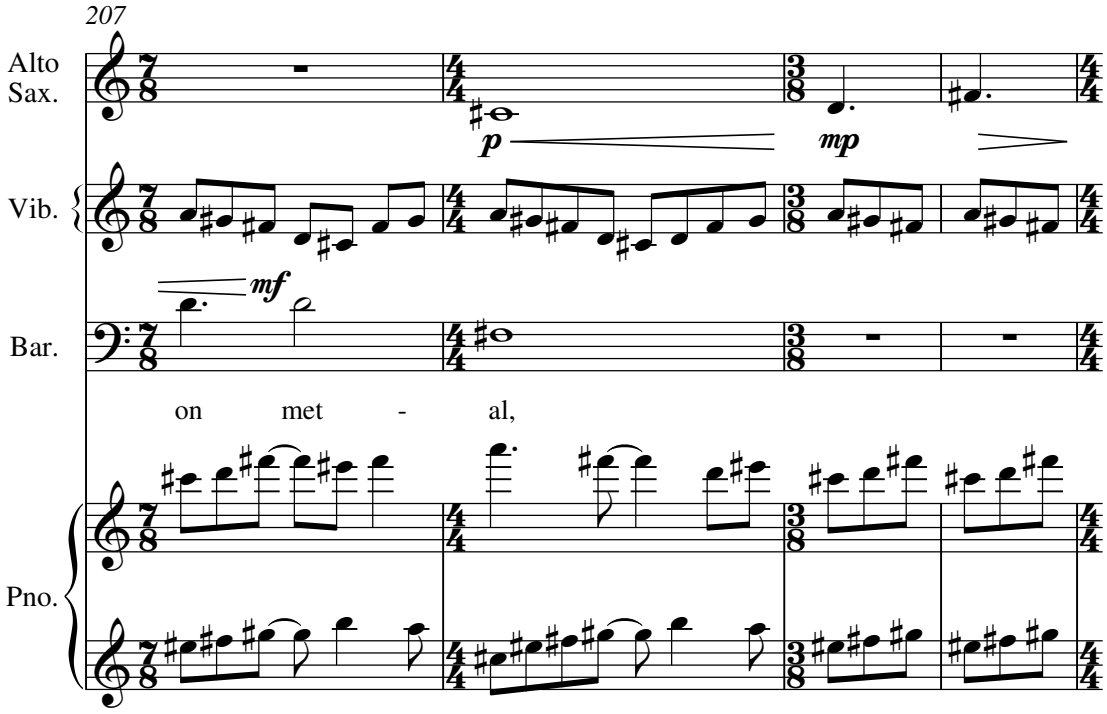

190
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
p
like

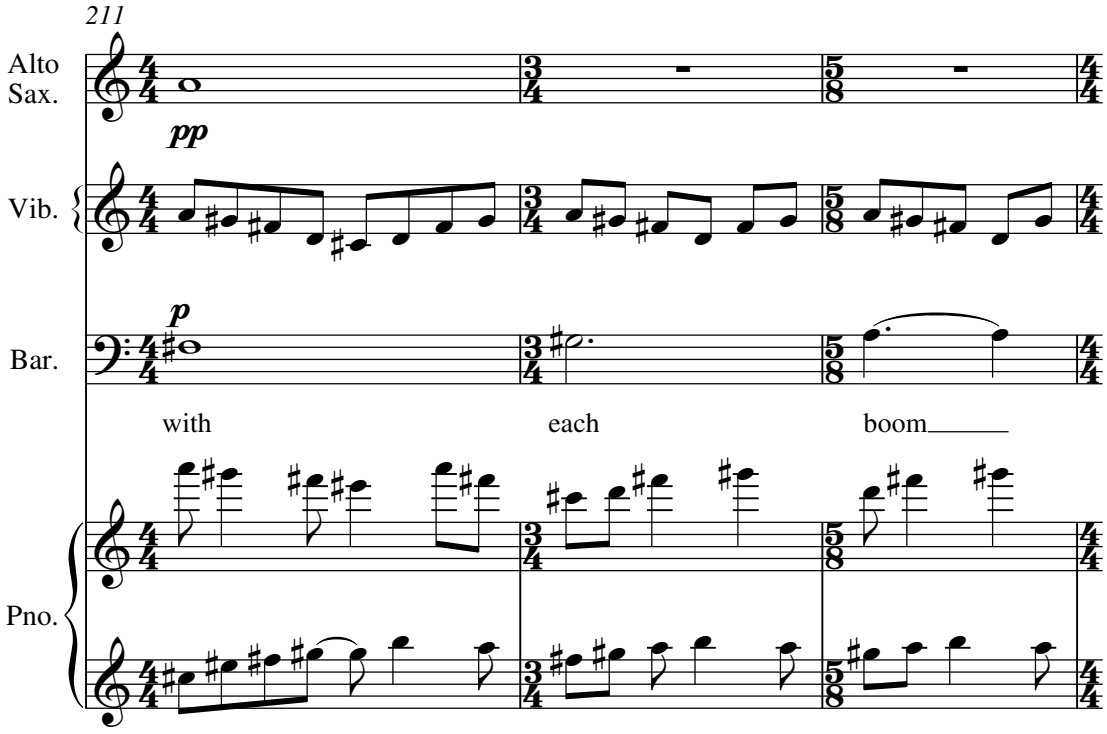

196
193
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
mp
mf
mp
a pis - - tol,

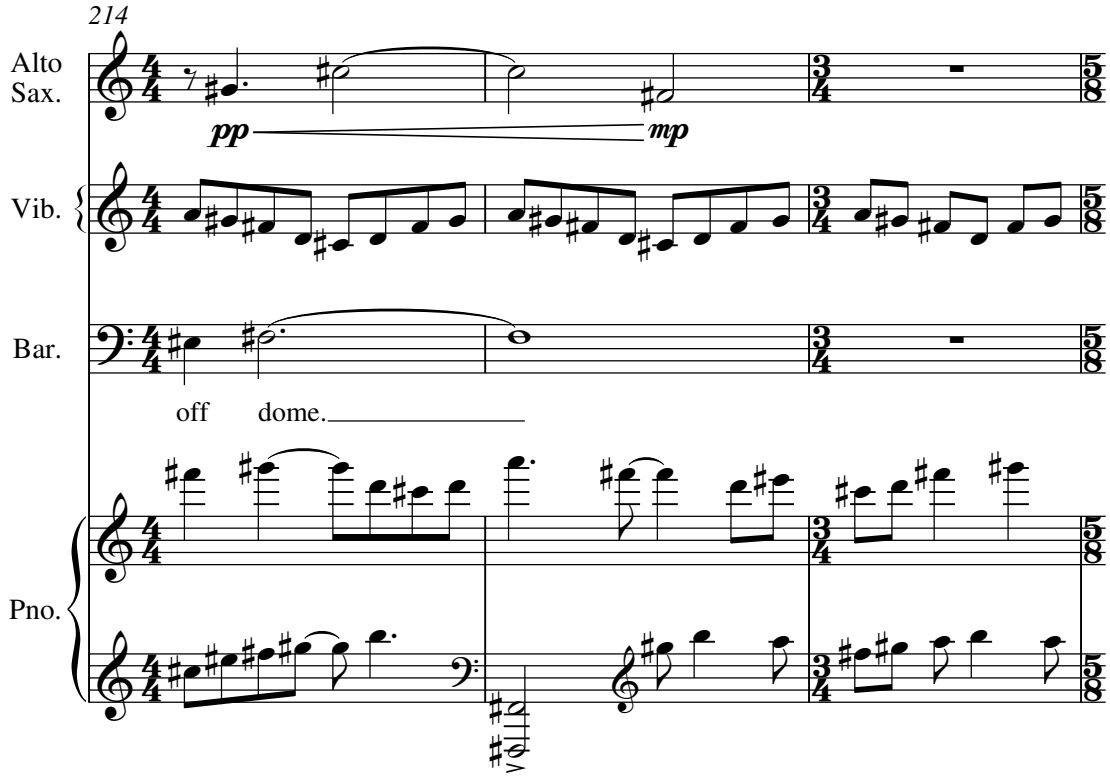

197
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
pp
p
mf
spine

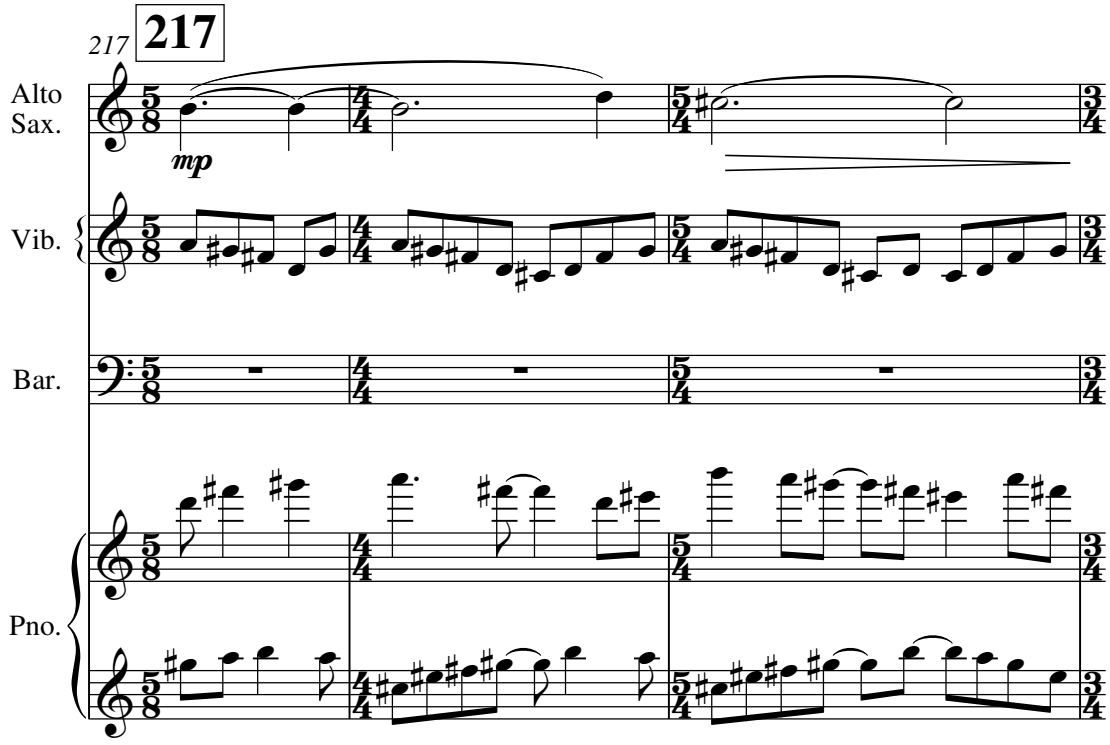

201
Alto Sax.
mp
mf
Vib.
Bar.
whips and sluic - es
Pno.

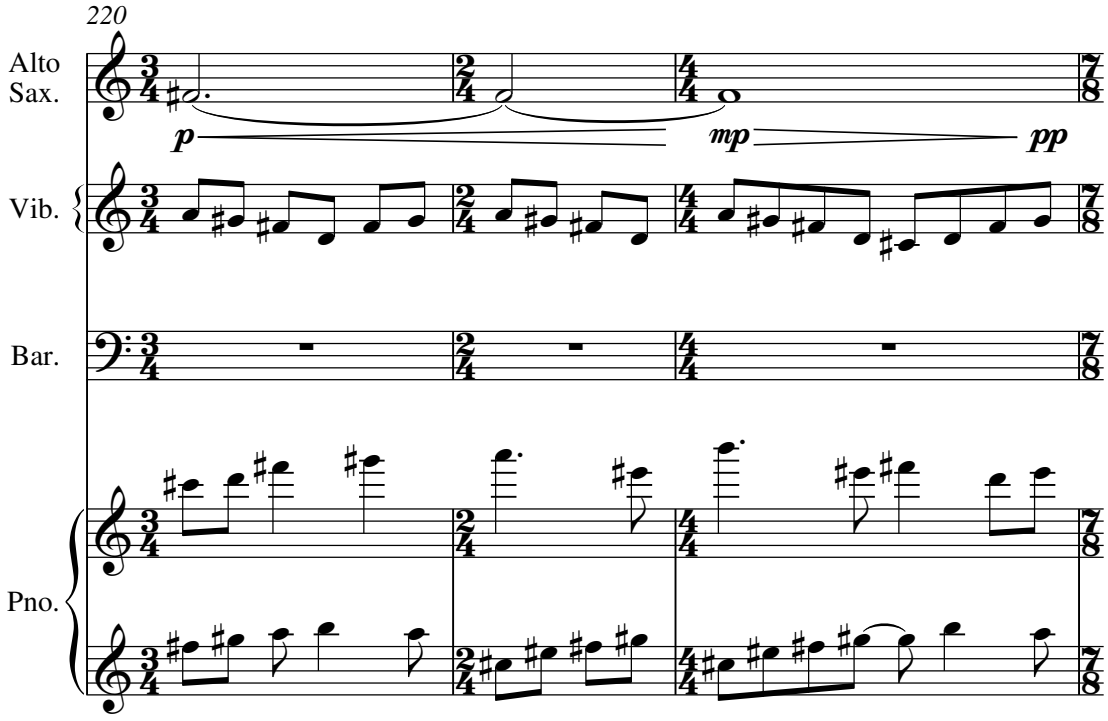

205
204
Alto Sax.
Vib.
p
Bar.
with each clap
Pno.

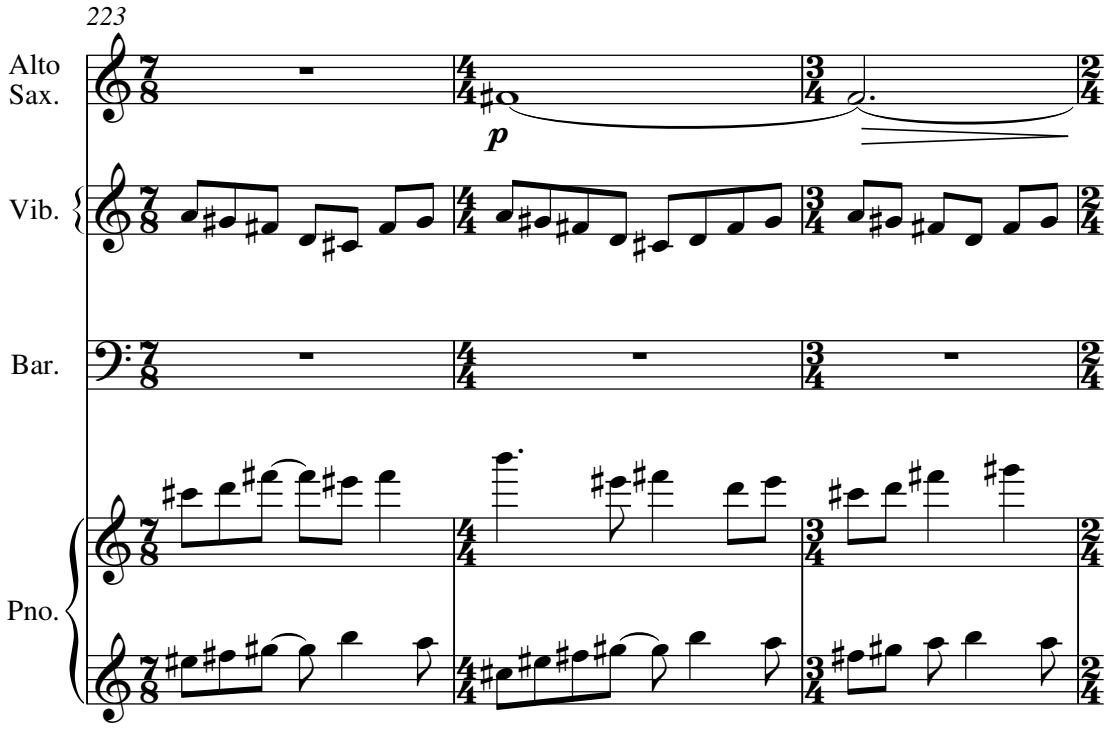

207
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
p
mp
mf
on met - al,

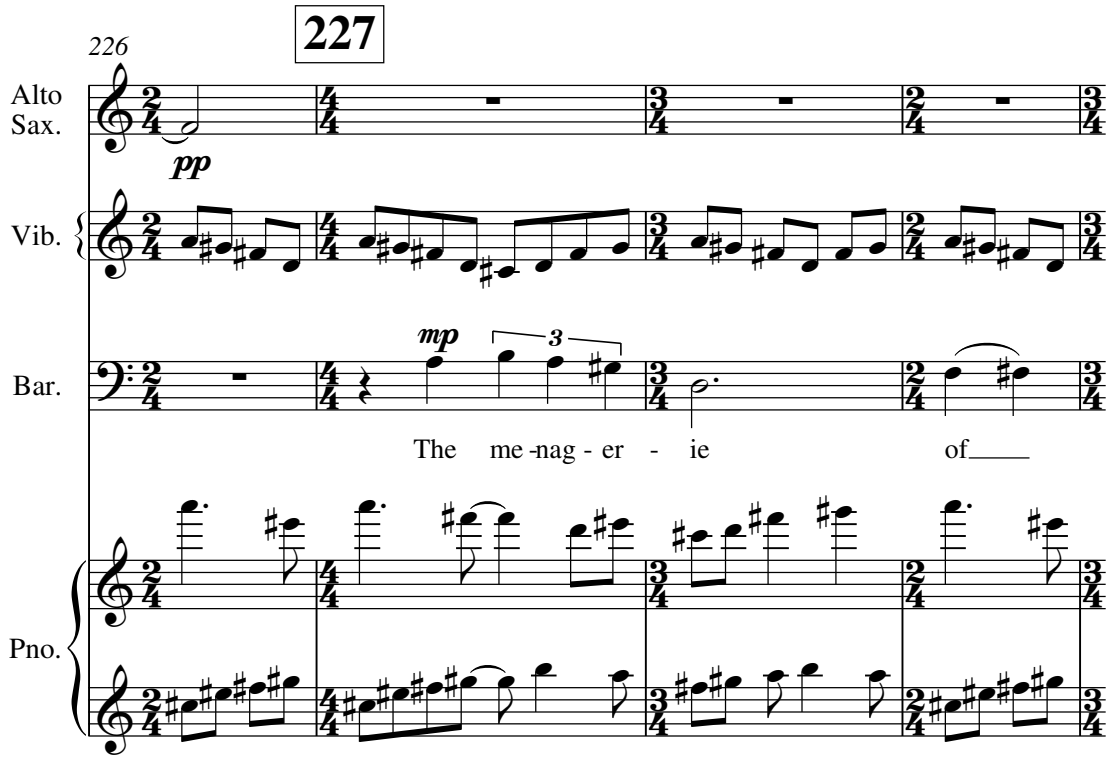

211
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
pp
p
with each boom

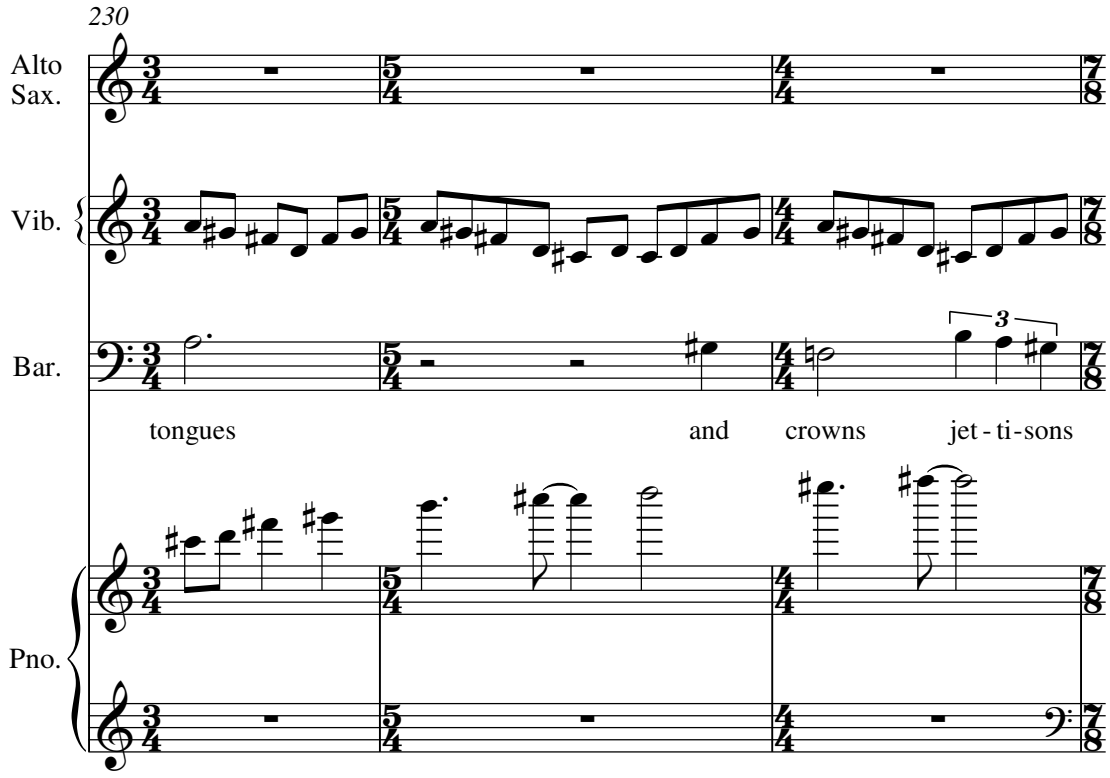

214
Alto Sax.
pp
mp
Vib.
Bar.
off dome.
Pno.

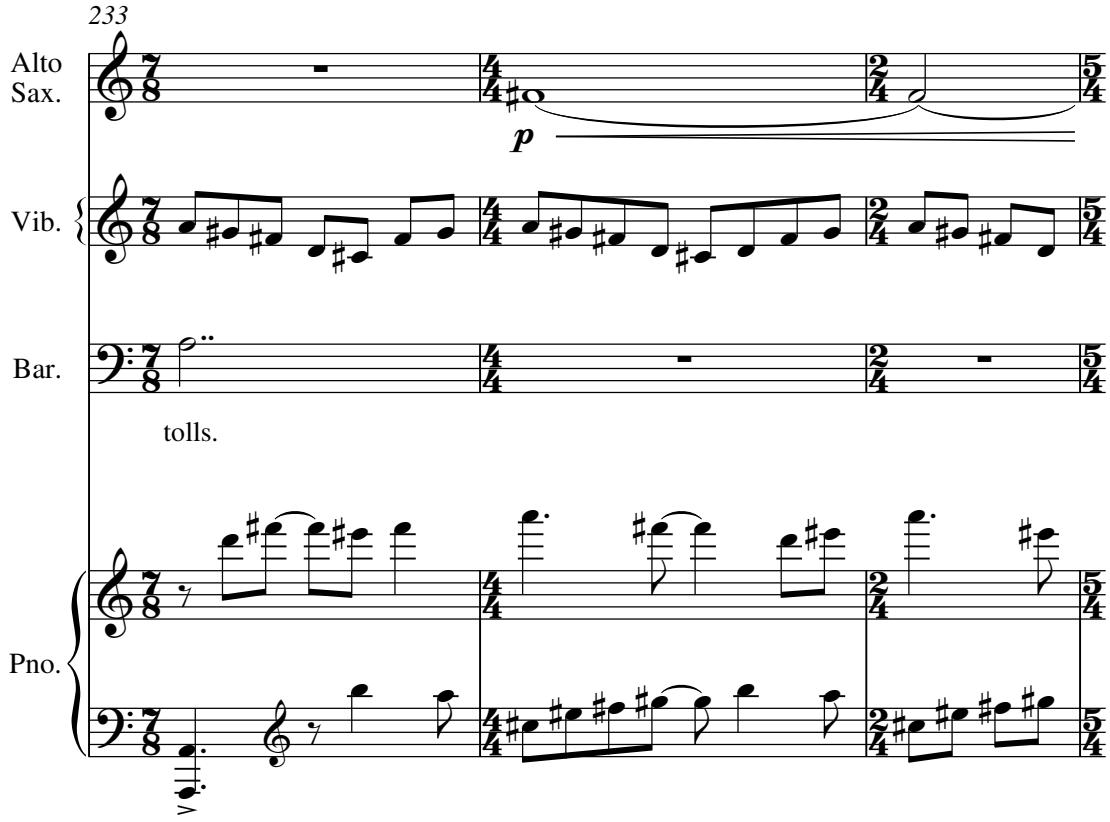

217
217
Alto Sax.
mp
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

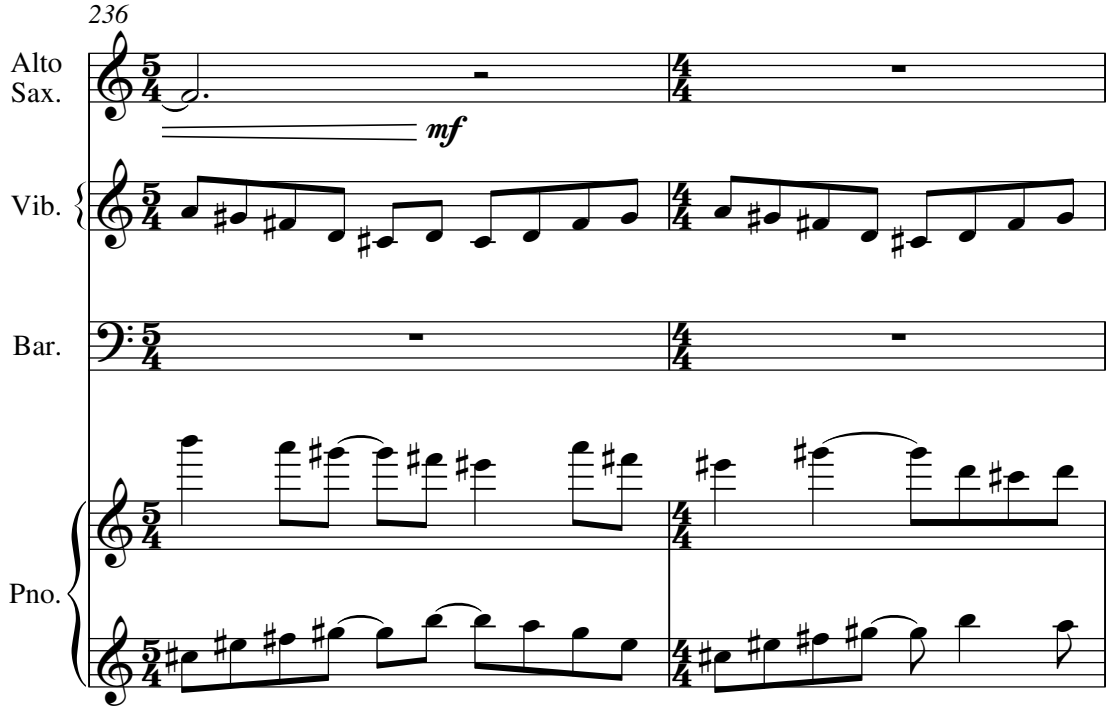

220
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
p
mp
pp

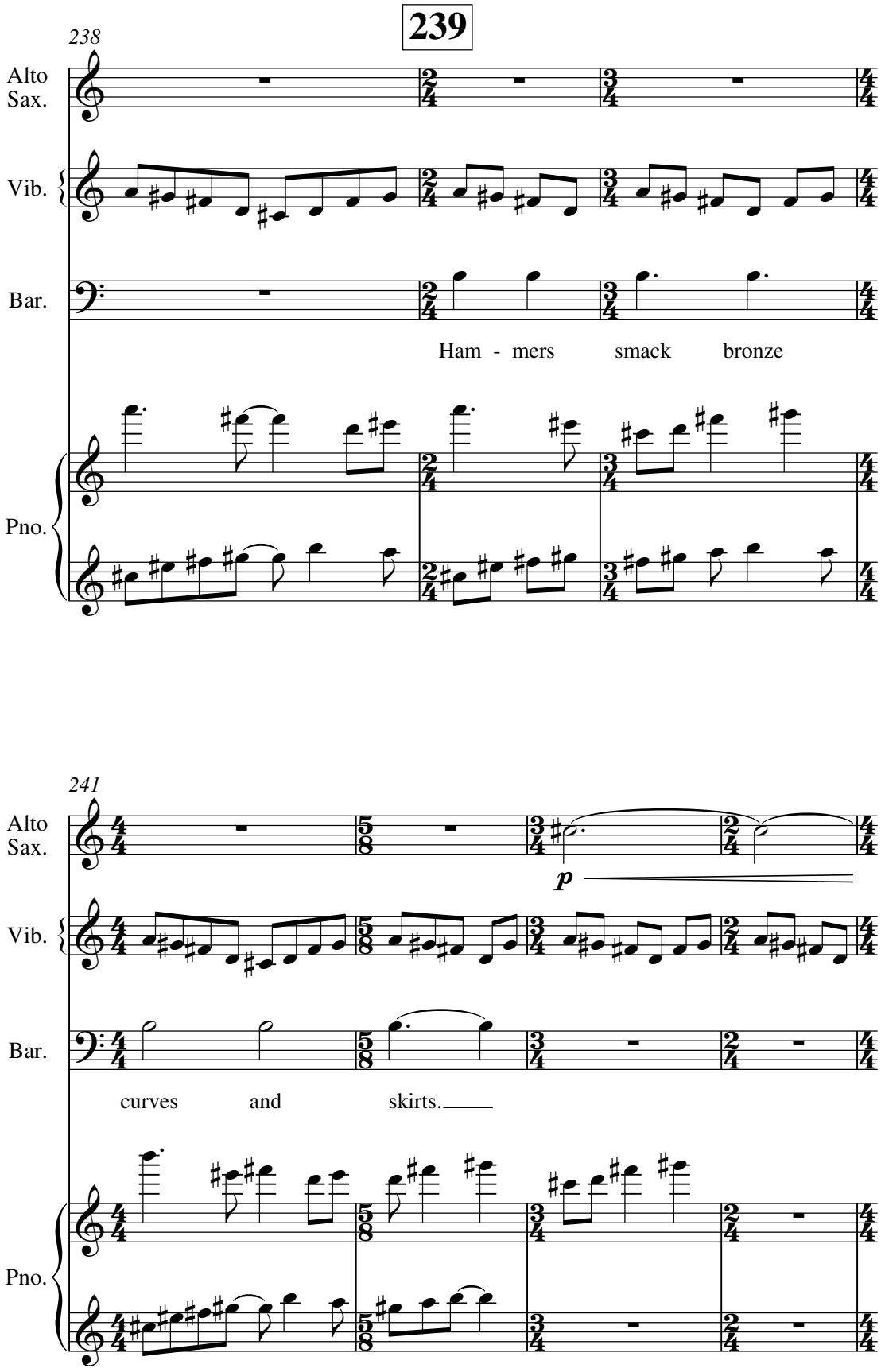

223
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
p

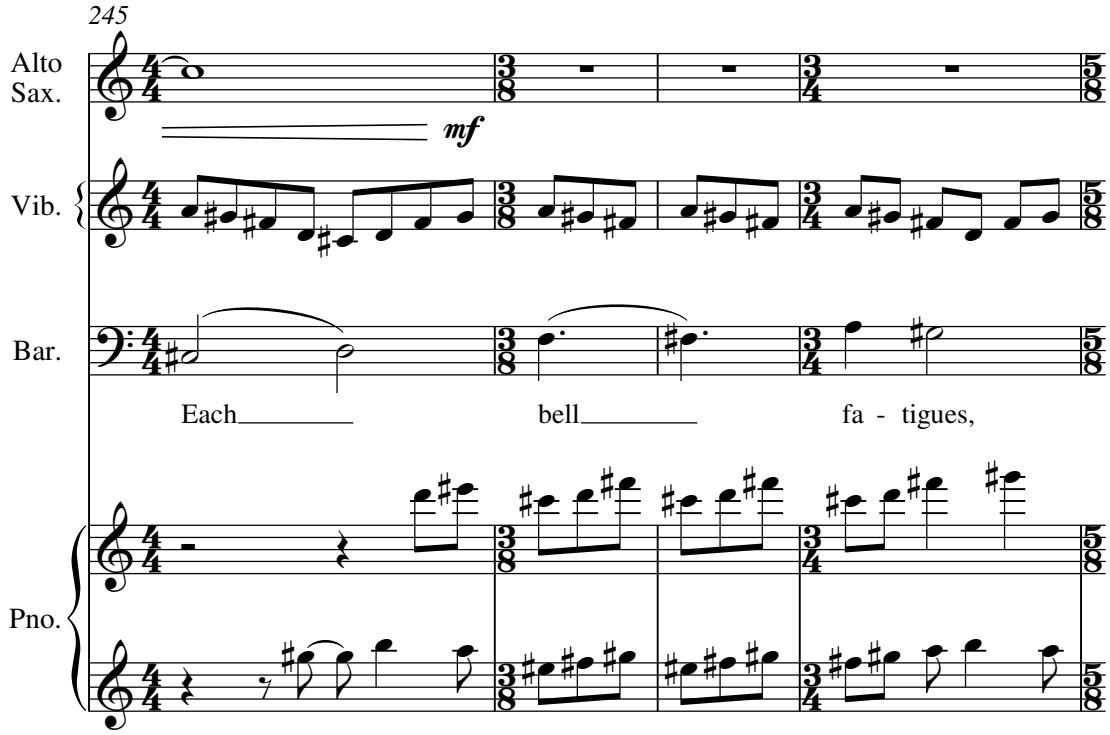

227
226
Alto Sax.
pp
Vib.
Bar.
mp
3
The me-nag-er-ie of
Pno.

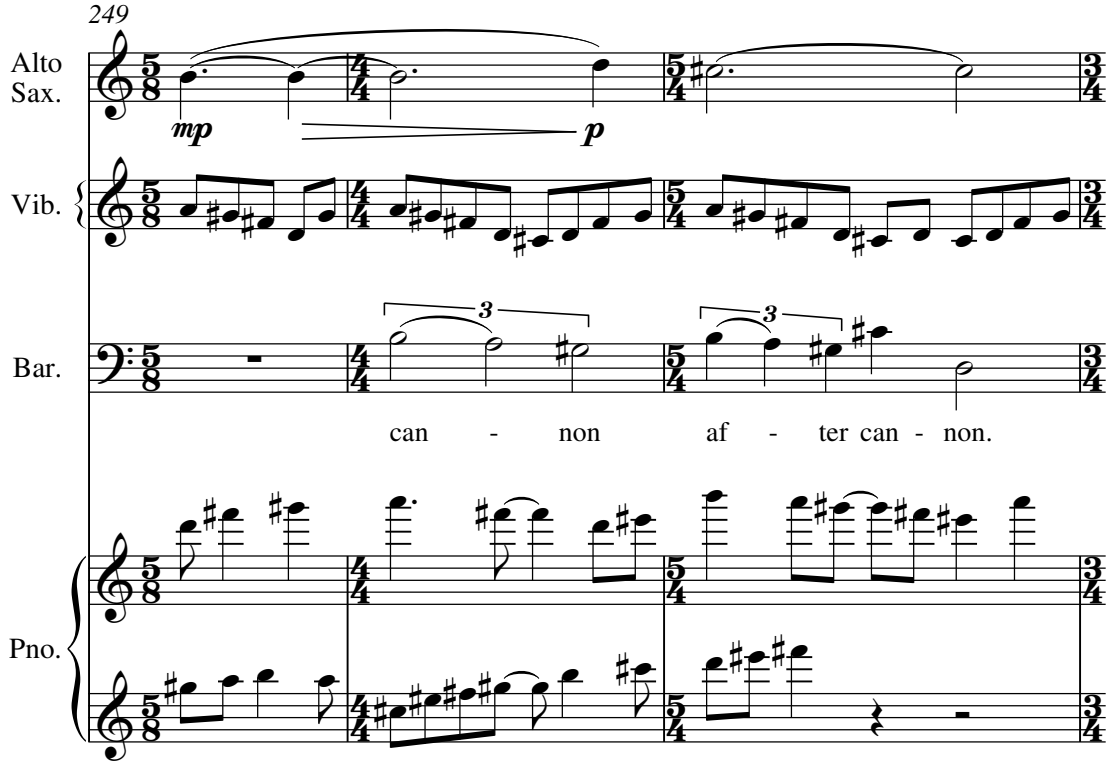

230
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
3
tongues and crowns jet-ti-sons
Pno.


233
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
tolls.
Pno.
p


236
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
mf


239
238
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Ham - mers smack bronze
Pno.
241
Alto Sax.
p
Vib.
Bar.
curves and skirts.
Pno.


245
Alto Sax.
mf
Vib.
Bar.
Each bell fa - tigues,
Pno.


249
Alto Sax.
mp
p
Vib.
3
3
Bar.
can - non af - ter can - non.
Pno.

253

252

Alto Sax.

Vib.

Bar.

Pno.

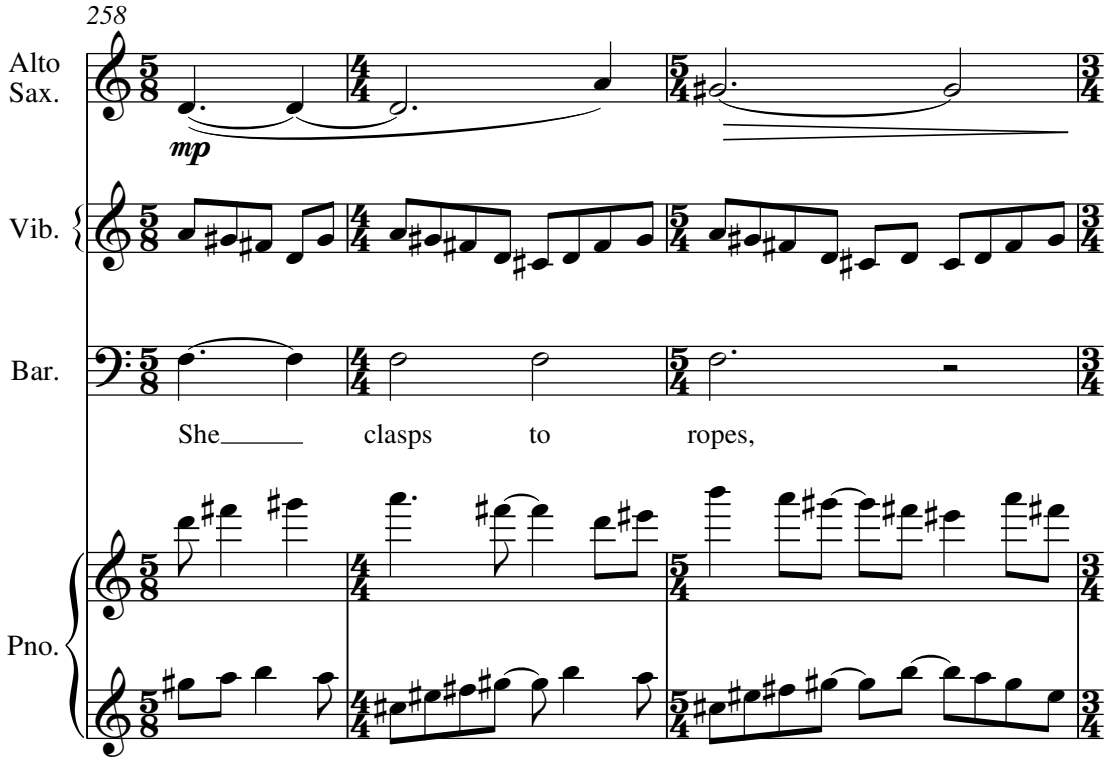
255

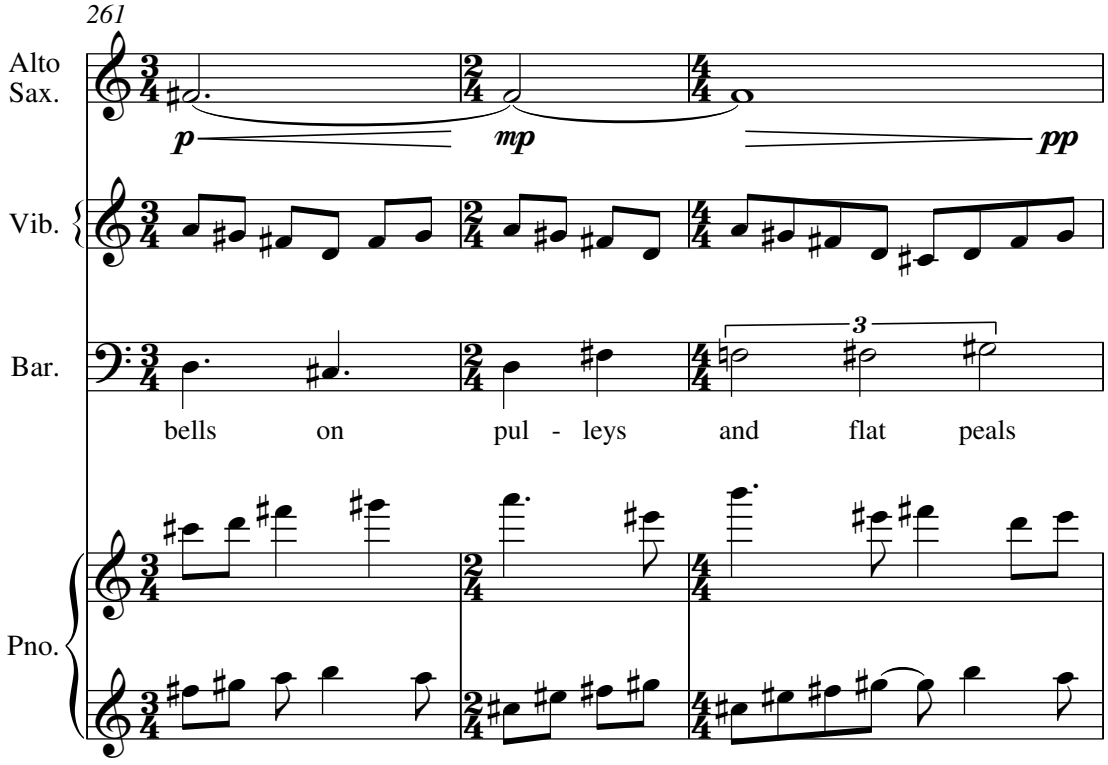
Alto Sax.

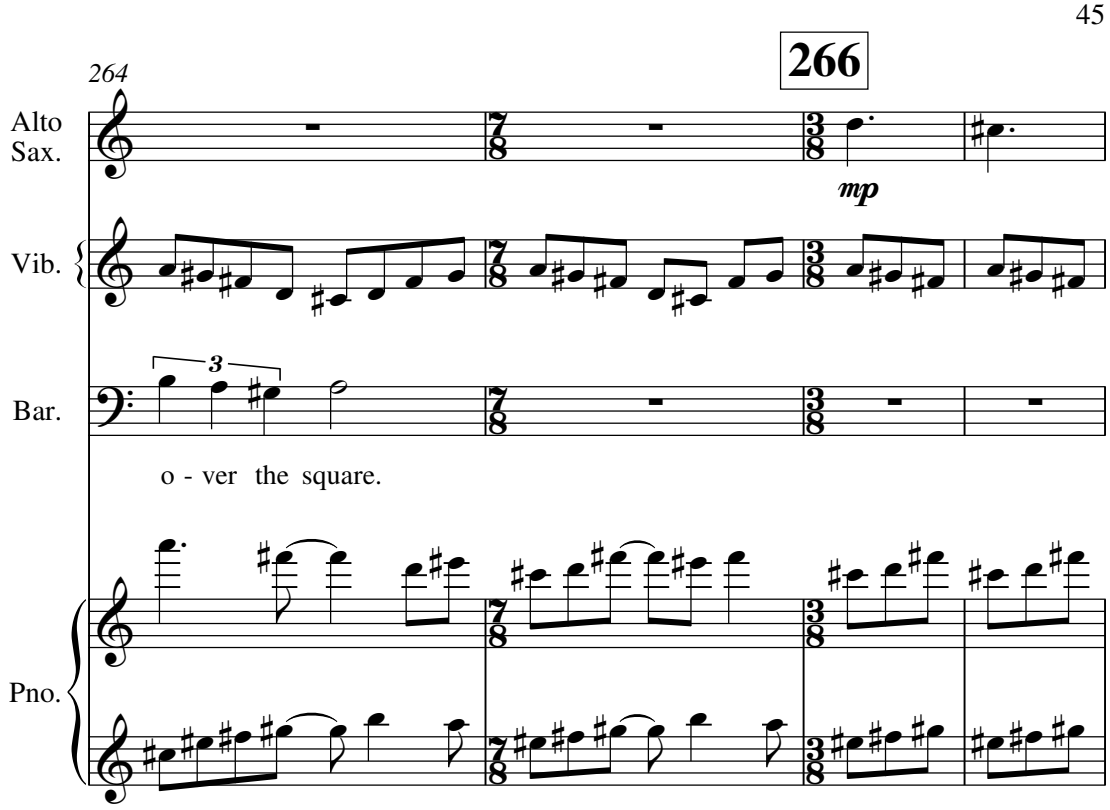
Vib.

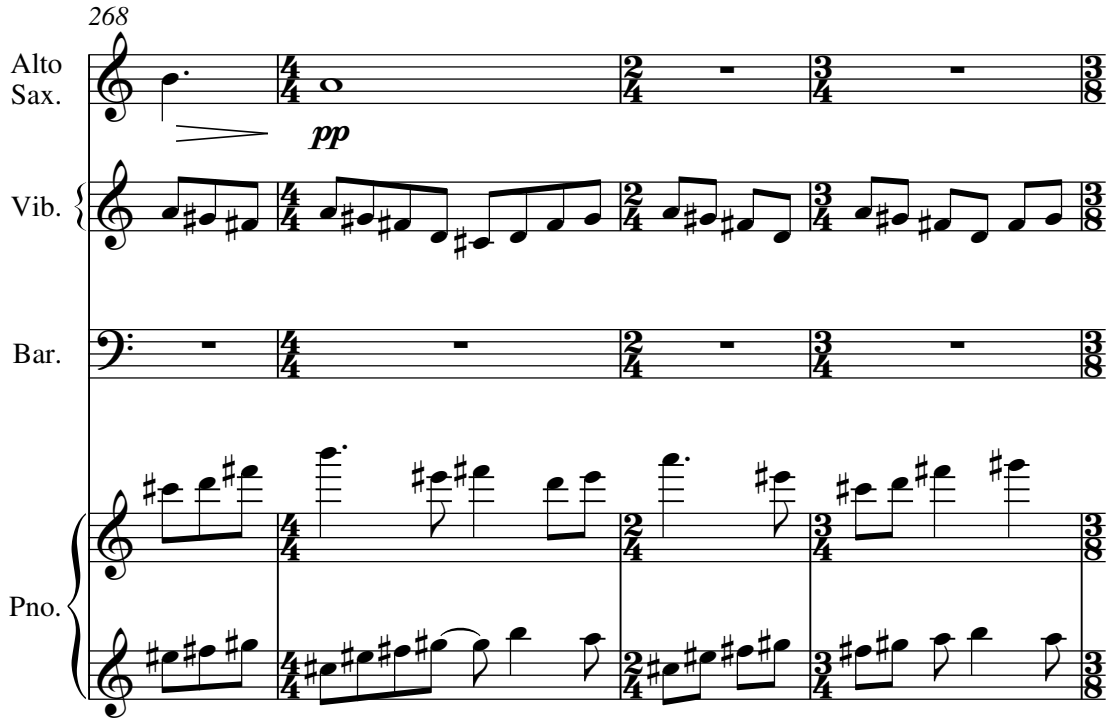
Bar.

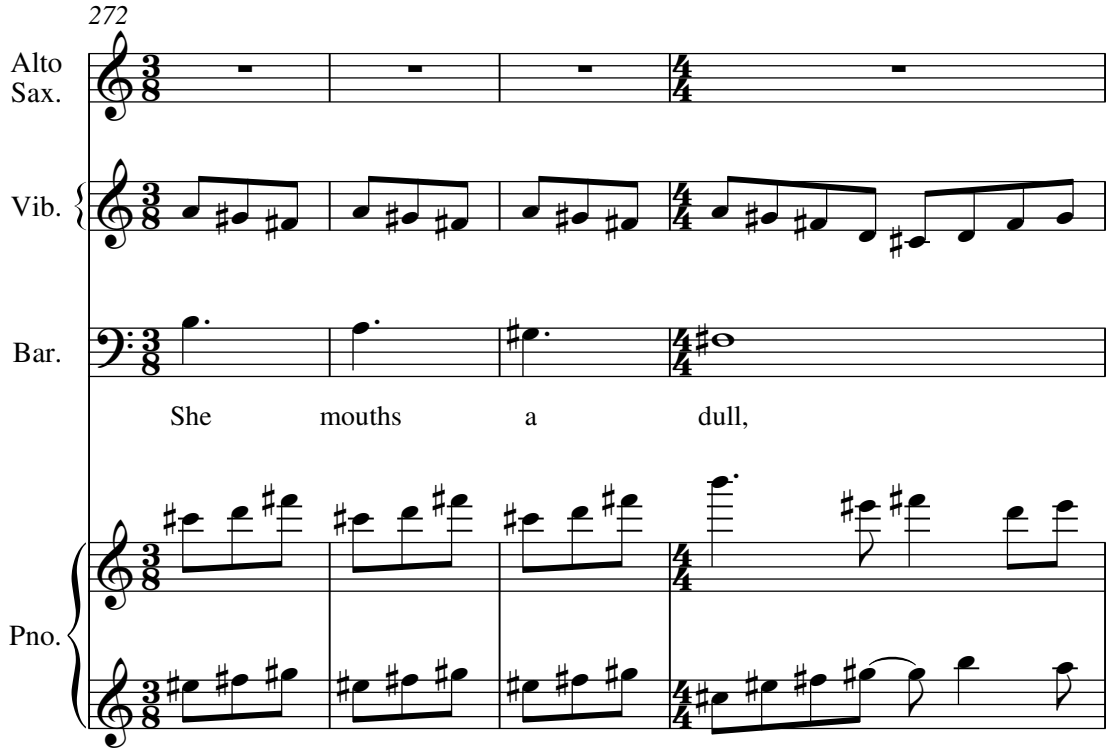
Pno.

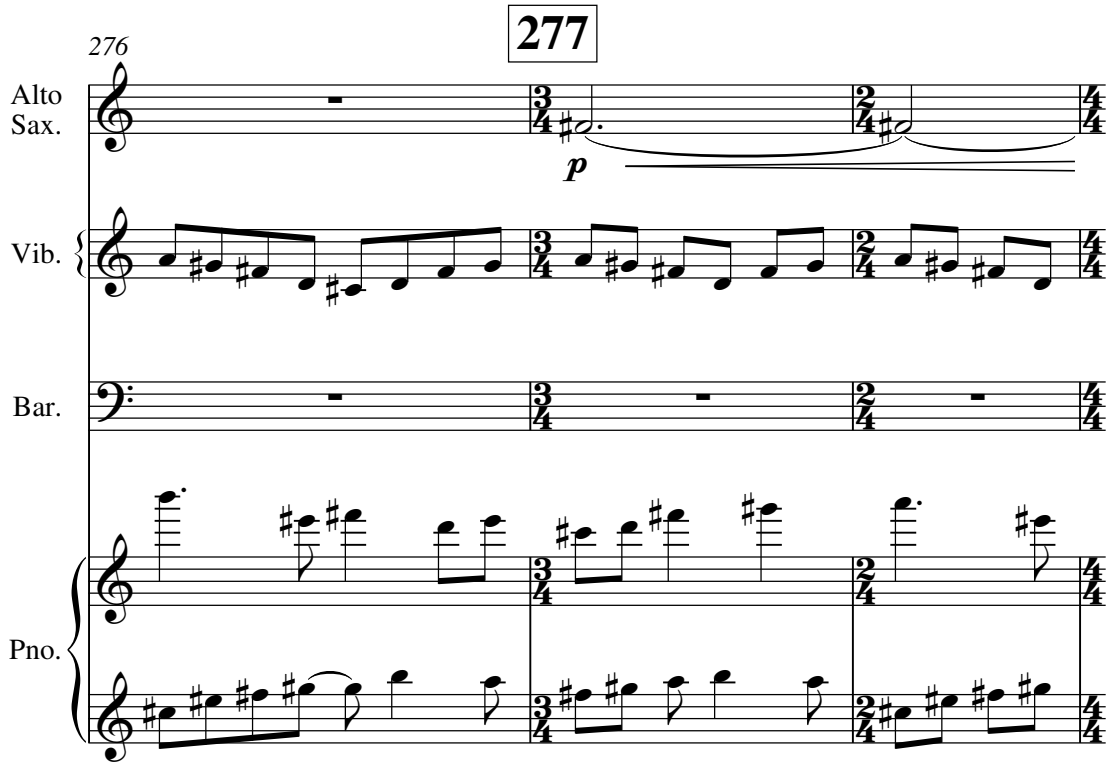

258
Alto Sax.
mp
Vib.
Bar.
She clasps to ropes,
Pno.

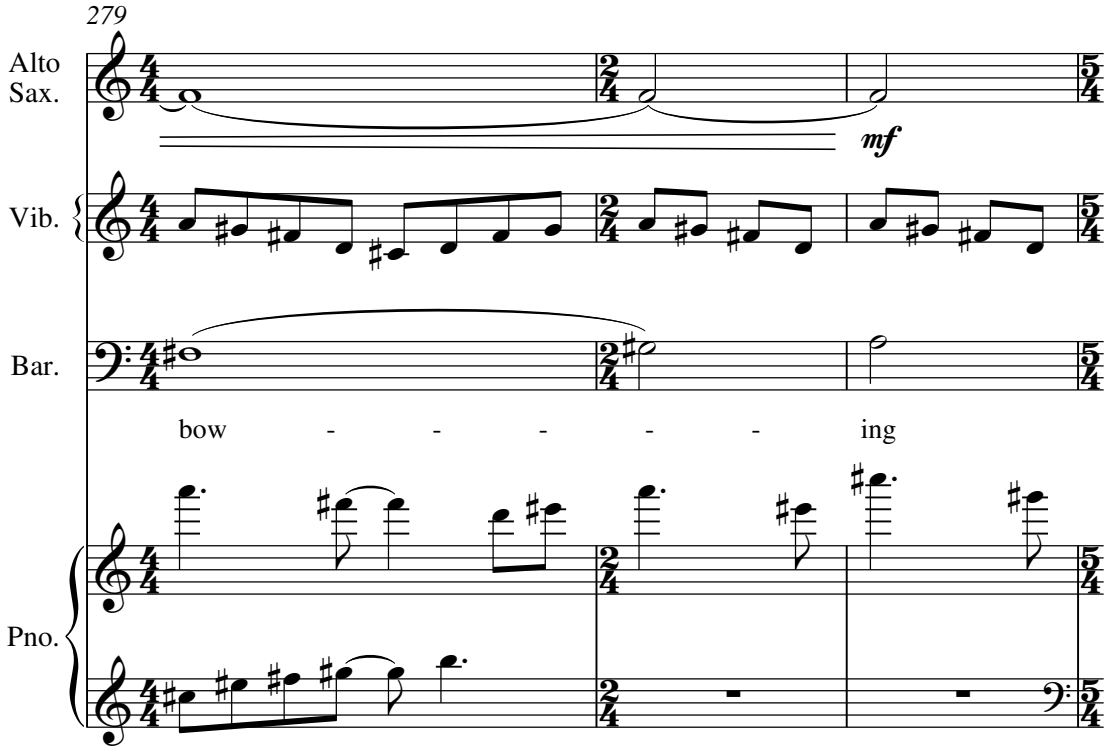

261
Alto Sax.
p
mp
pp
Vib.
3
Bar.
bells on pul - leys and flat peals
Pno.

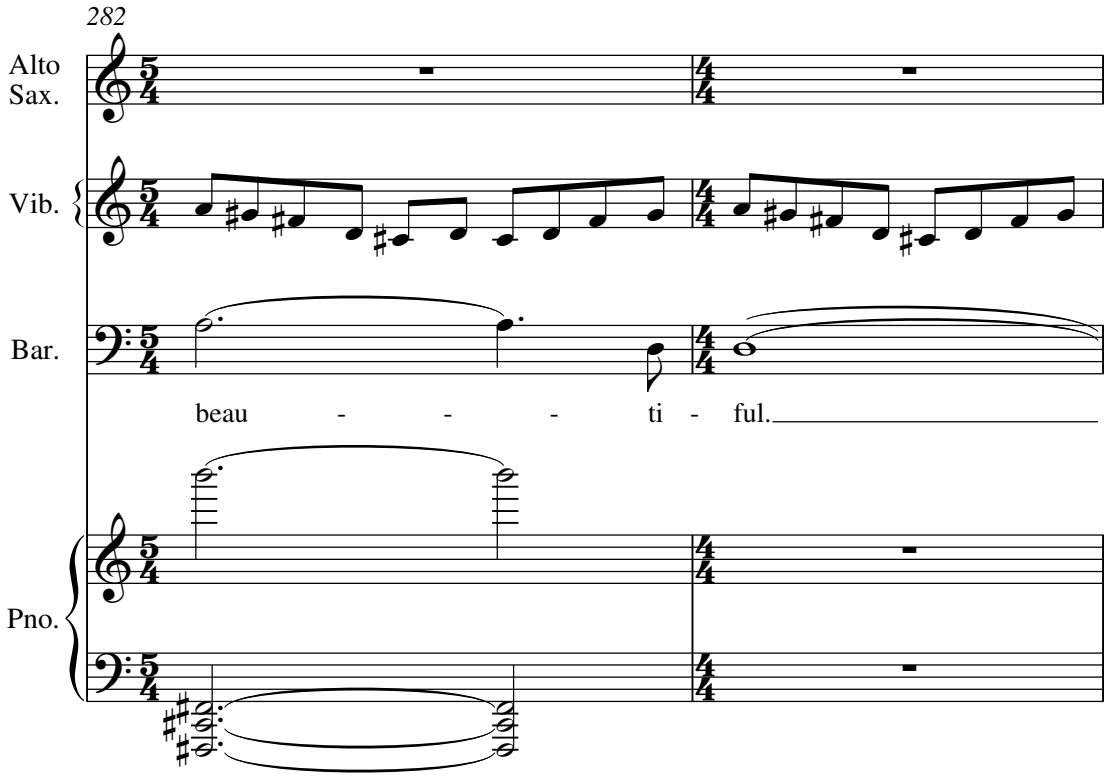

264
266
Alto Sax.
mp
Vib.
Bar.
3
o - ver the square.
Pno.

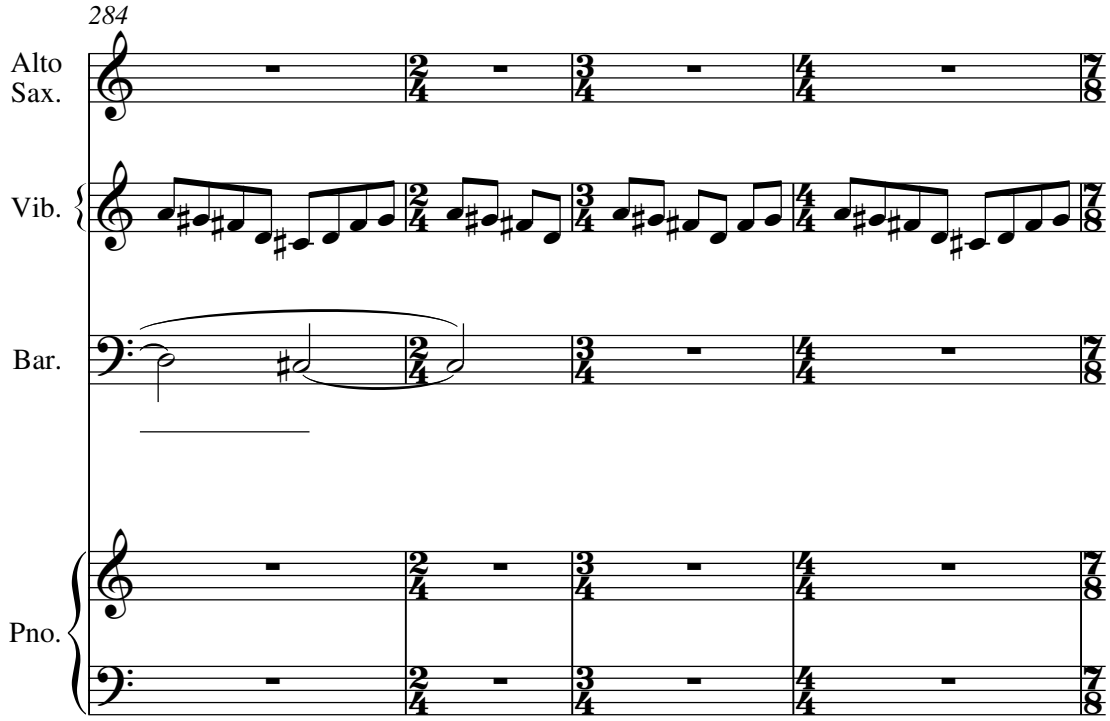

268
Alto Sax.
pp
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

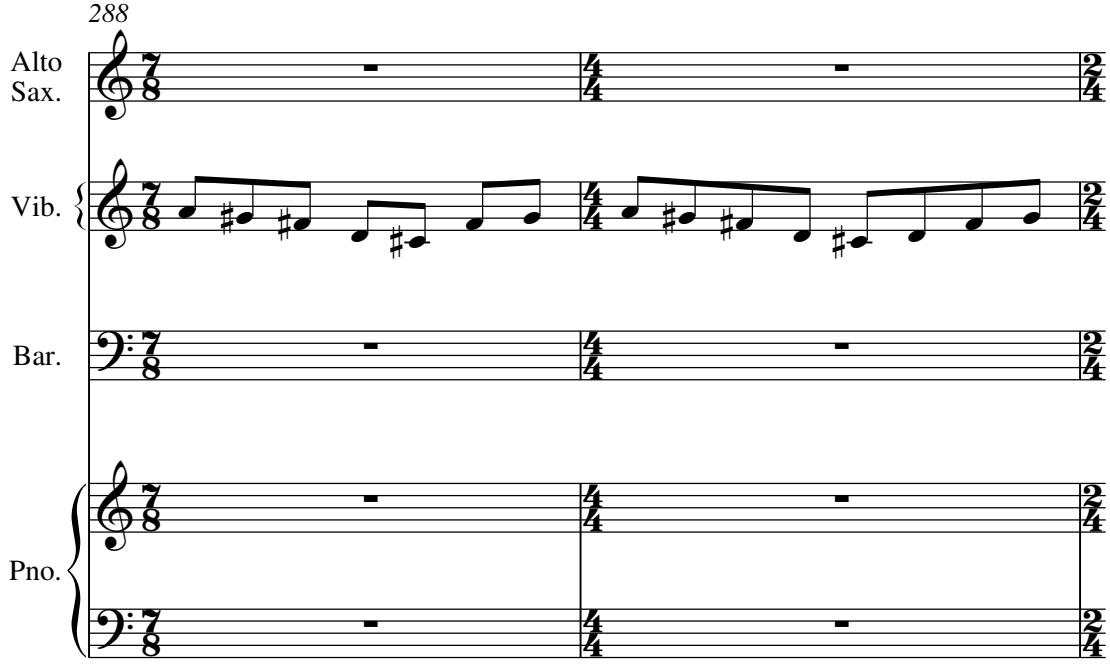

272
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
She mouths a dull,
Pno.

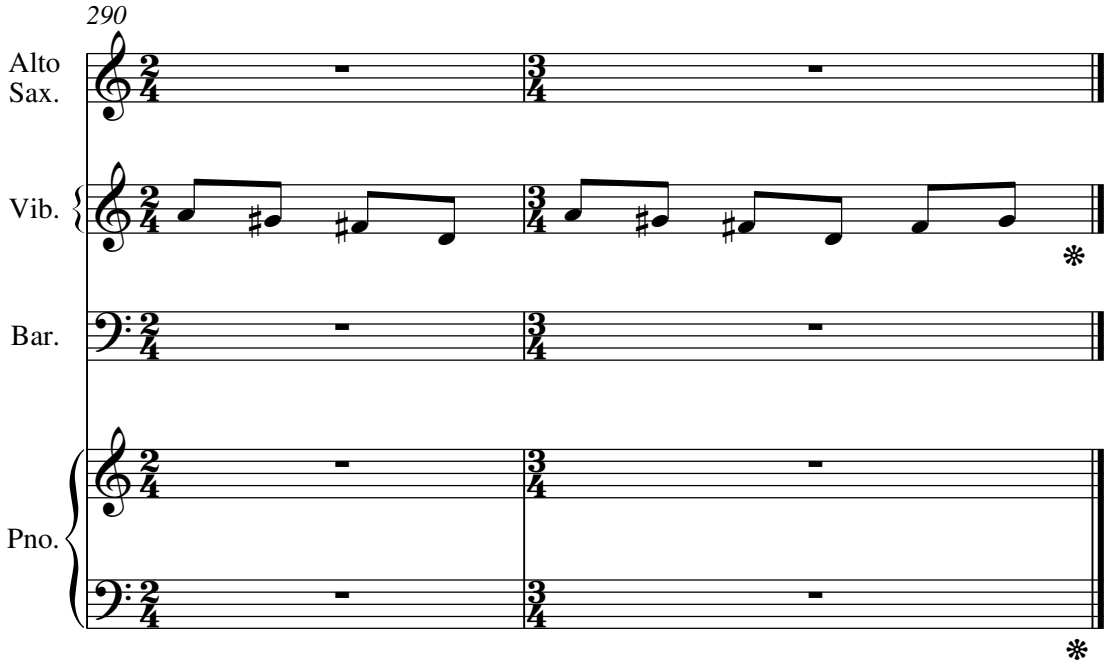

277
276
Alto Sax.
p
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.


279
Alto Sax.
mf
Vib.
Bar.
bow - - - - - ing
Pno.

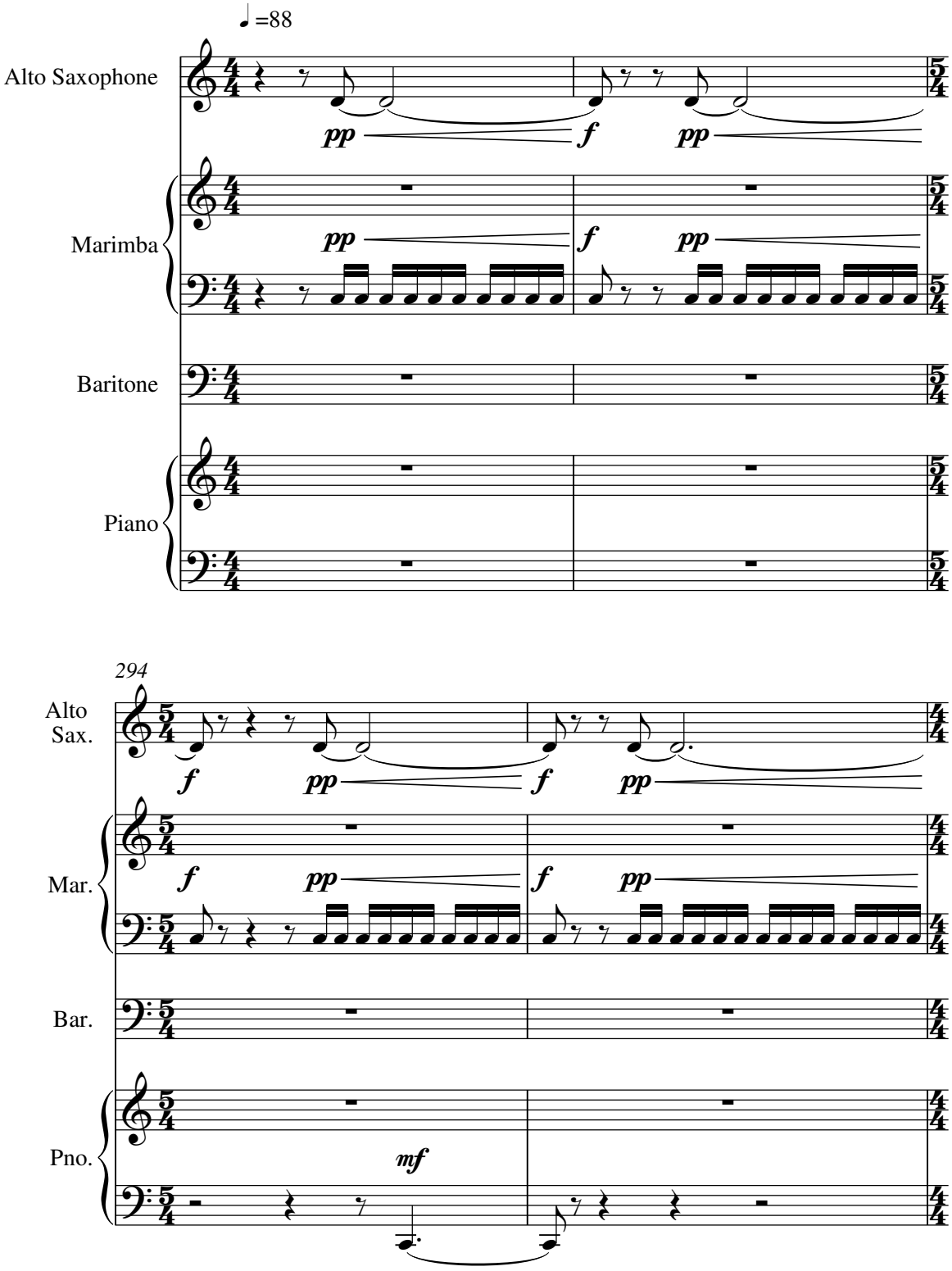

282
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
beau - - - ti - ful.
Pno.

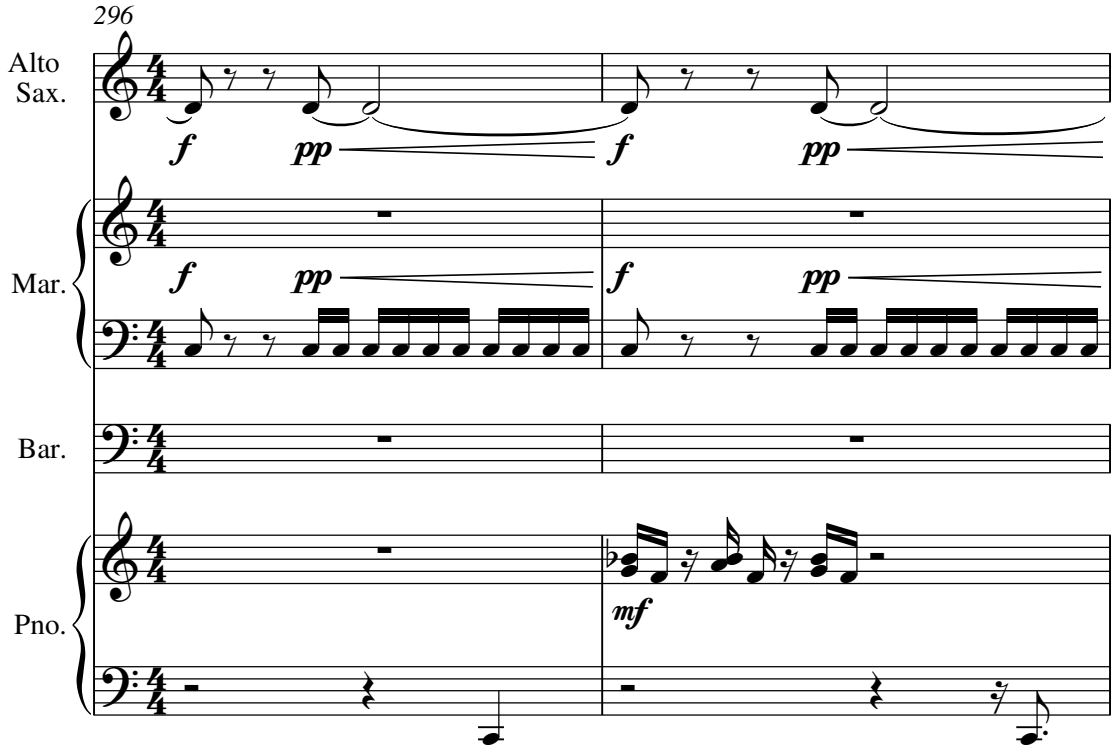

284
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

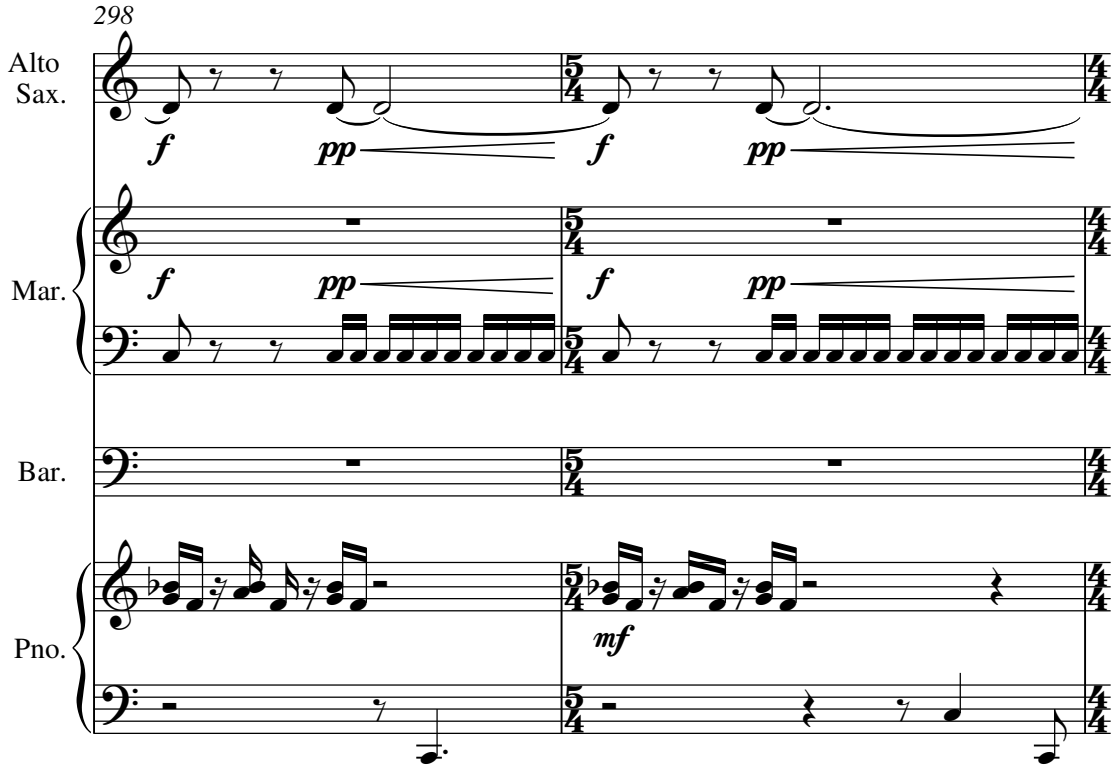

288
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

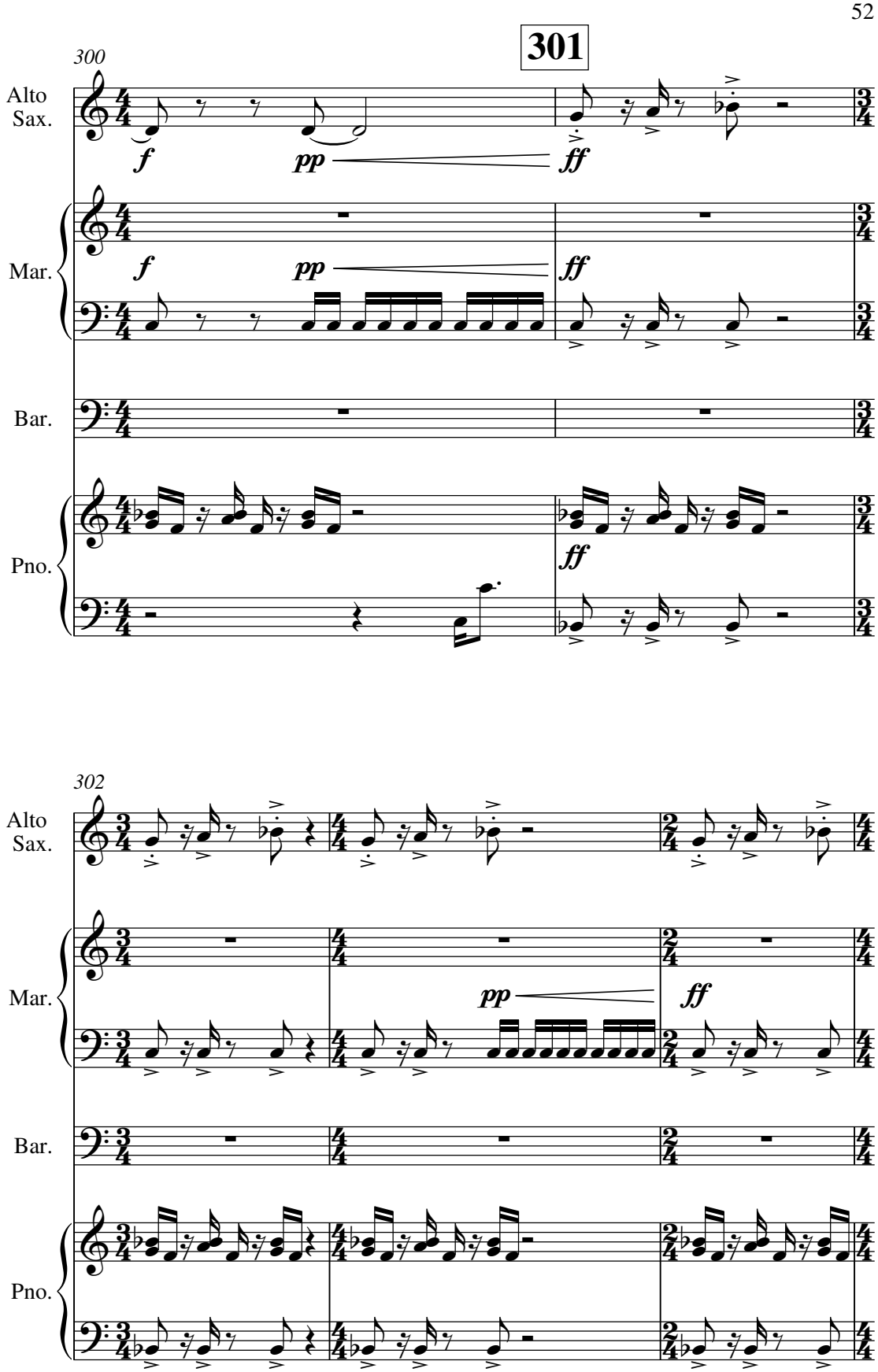

290
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

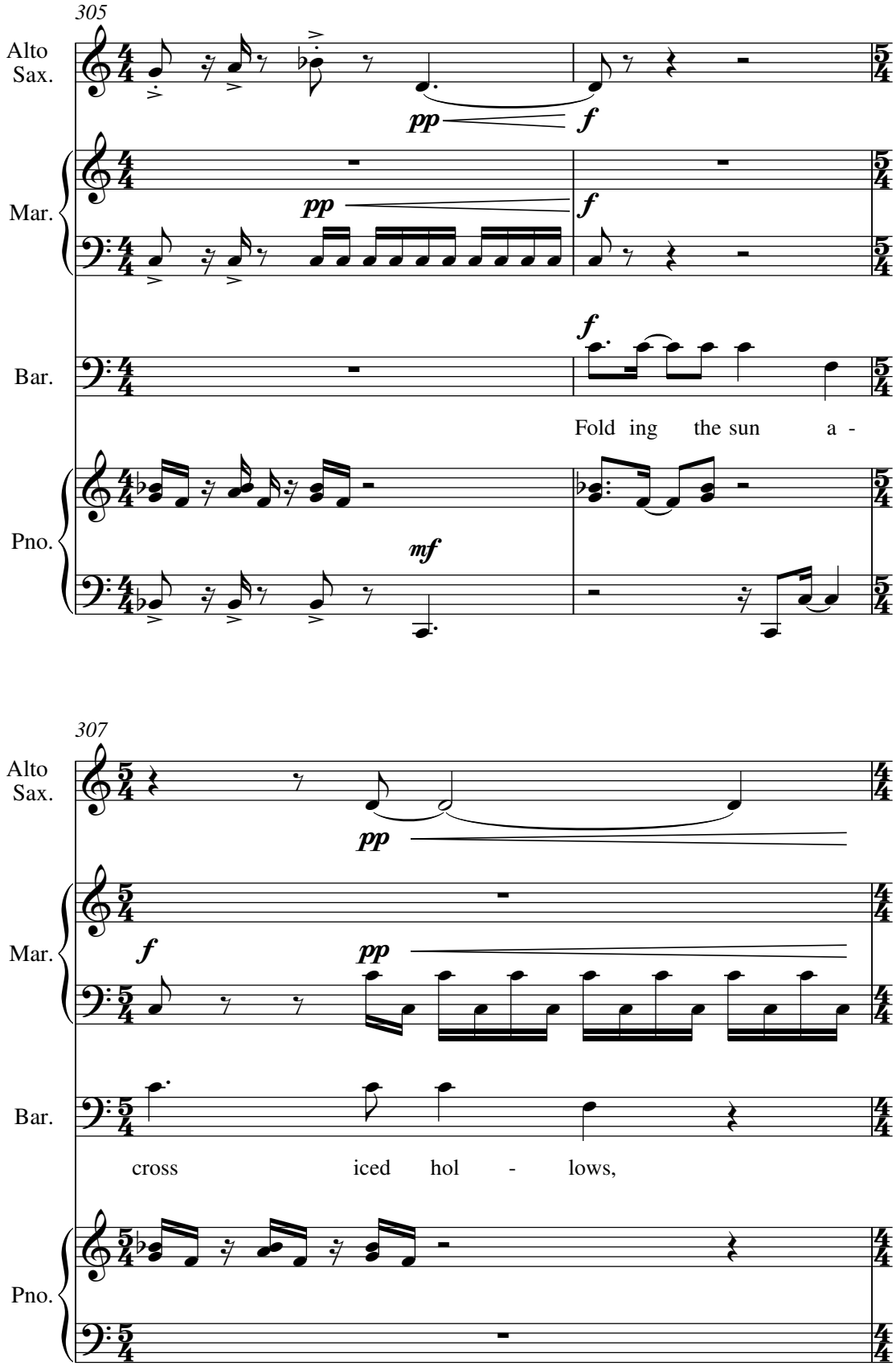
4 - Exposed Veins

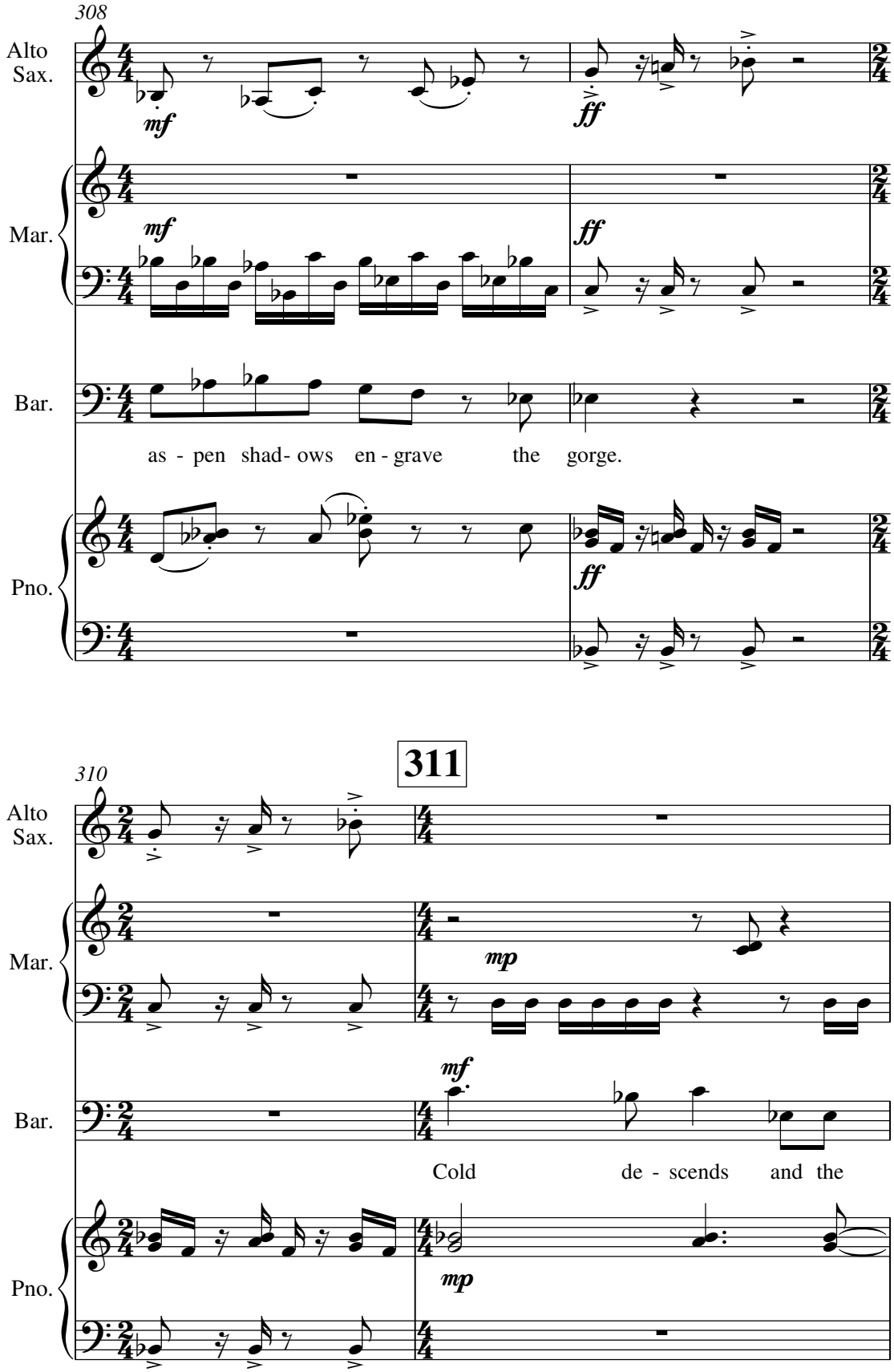


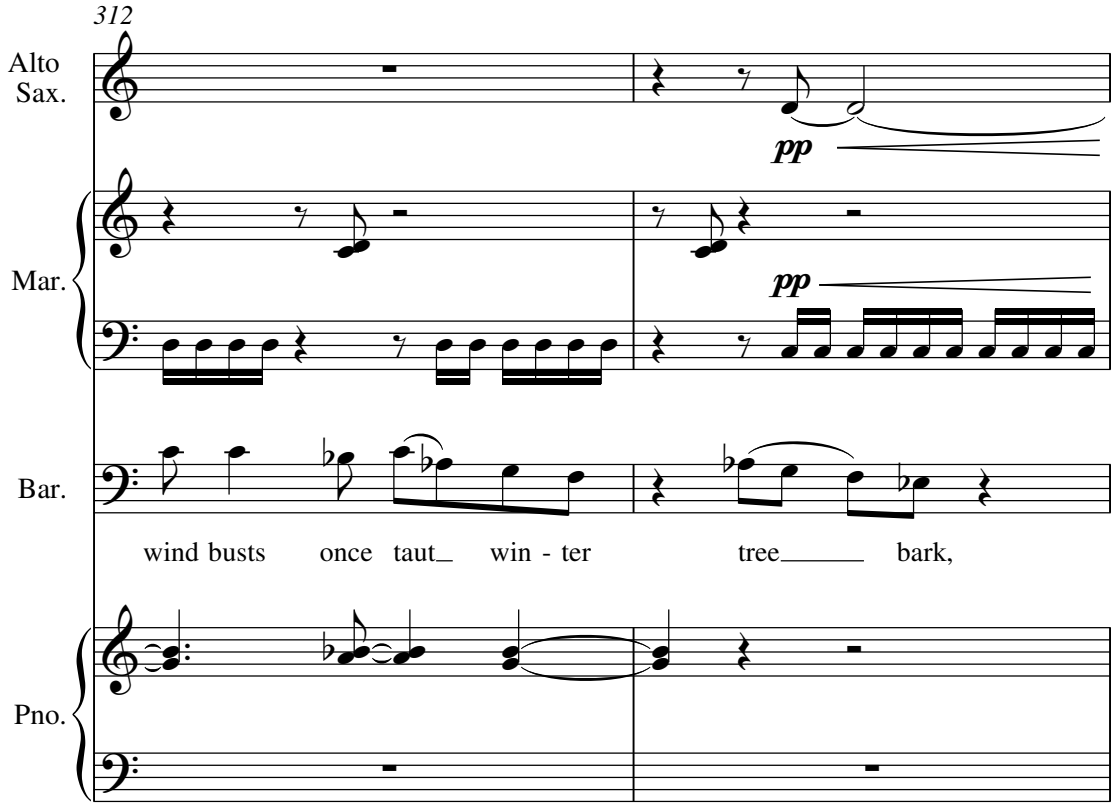

296
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
f
pp
mf

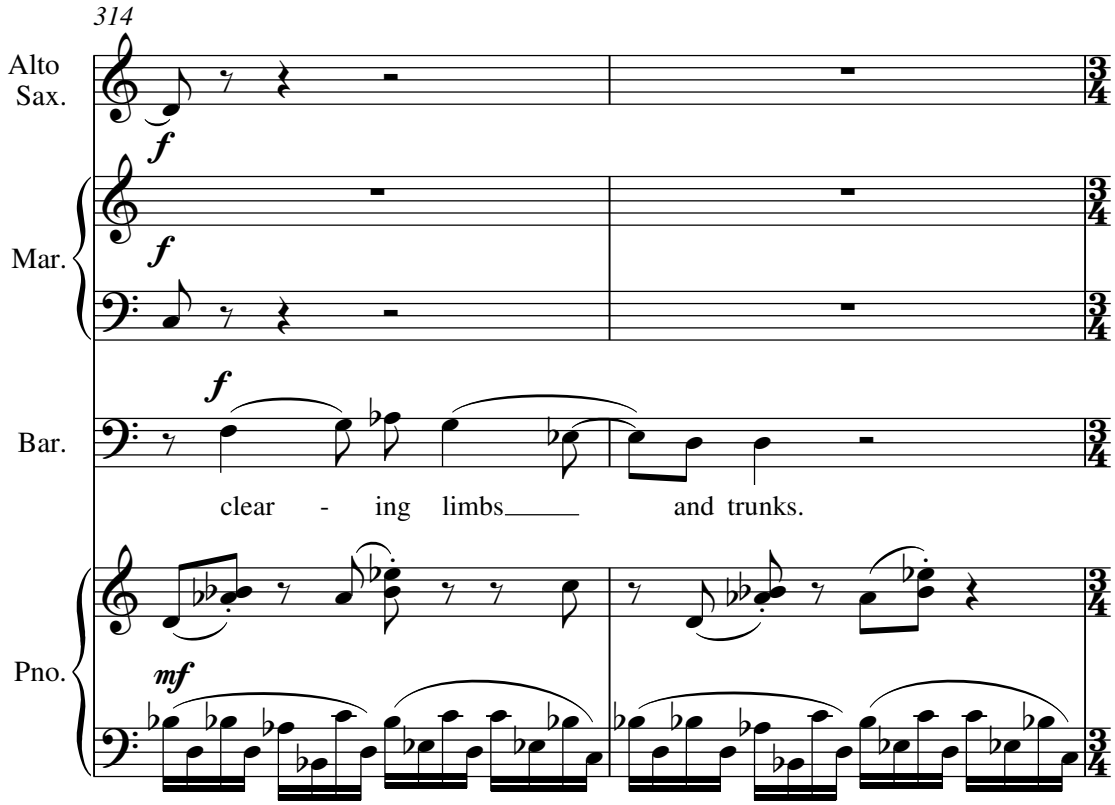

298
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
f
pp
mf


301
300
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
f
pp
ff
302


305
Alto Sax.
pp
f
Mar.
pp
f
Bar.
f
Fold ing the sun a -
Pno.
mf
307
Alto Sax.
pp
Mar.
f
pp
Bar.
cross iced hol - lows,
Pno.


308
Alto Sax.
mf
ff
Mar.
mf
ff
Bar.
as - pen shad- ows en - grave the gorge.
Pno.
ff
311
310
Alto Sax.
Mar.
mp
mf
Bar.
Cold de - scends and the
Pno.
mp


312
Alto Sax.
pp
Mar.
pp
Bar.
wind busts once taut win - ter tree bark,
Pno.


314
Alto Sax.
f
Mar.
f
Bar.
f
clear - ing limbs and trunks.
Pno.
mf

316

Alto Sax.

Mar.

Bar.

Pno.

ff fp p ff ff

318

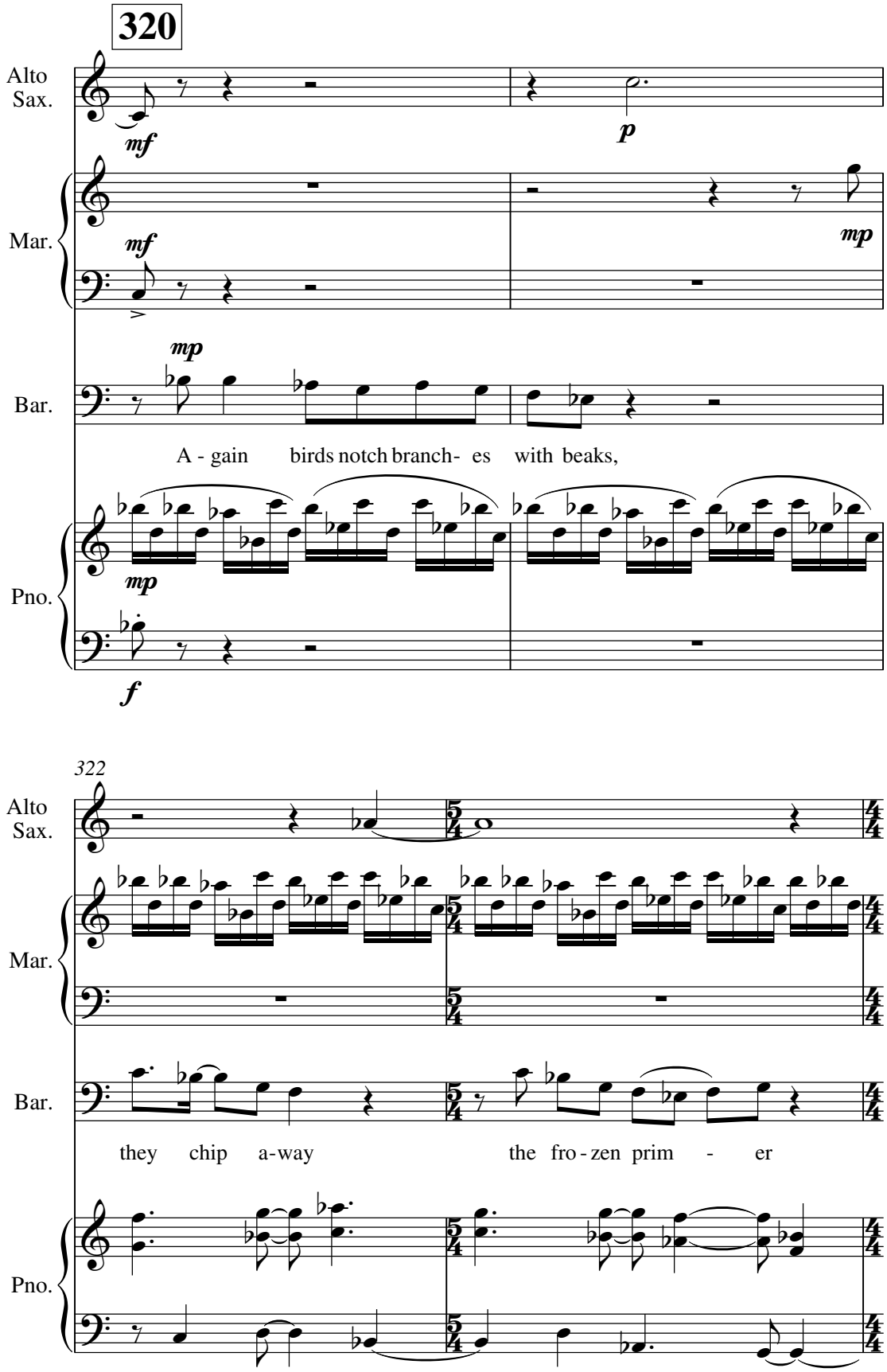
Alto Sax.

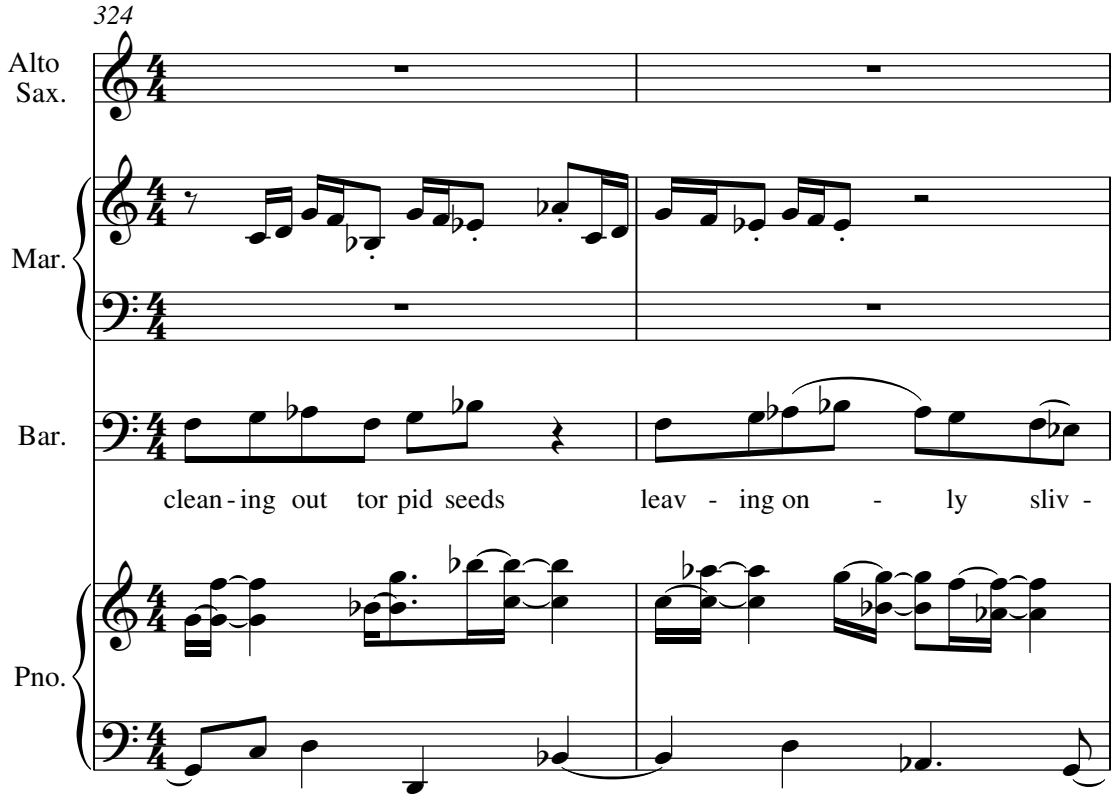
Mar.

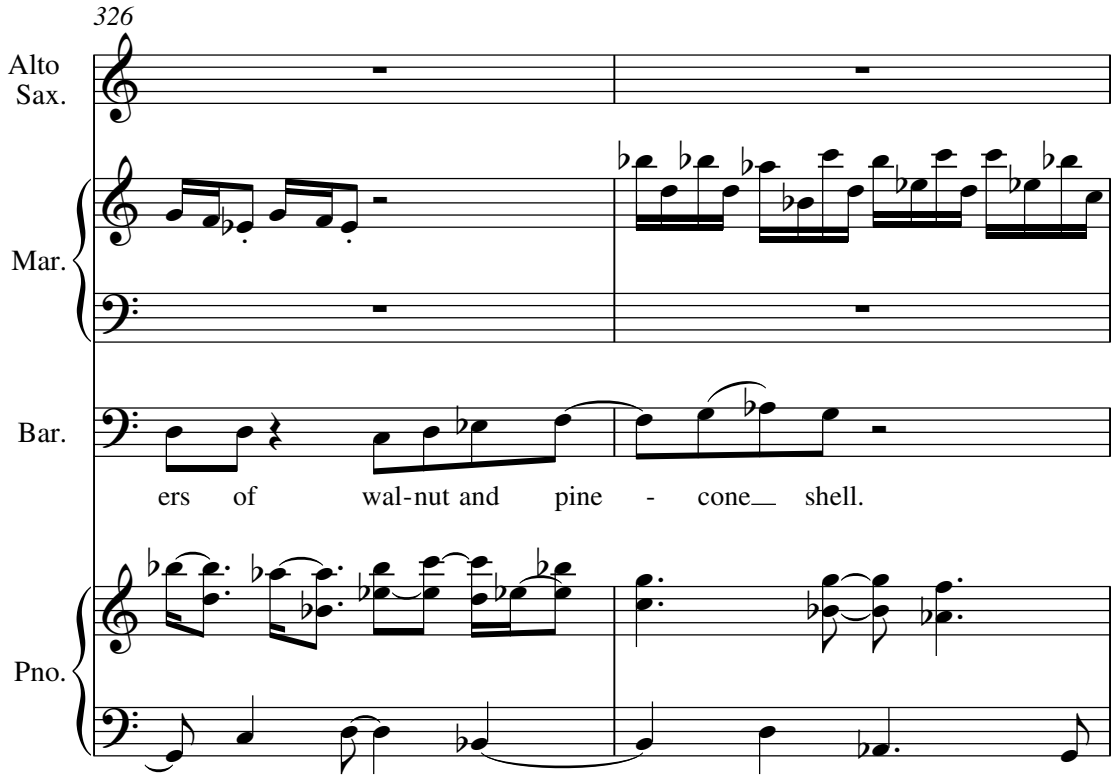
Bar.

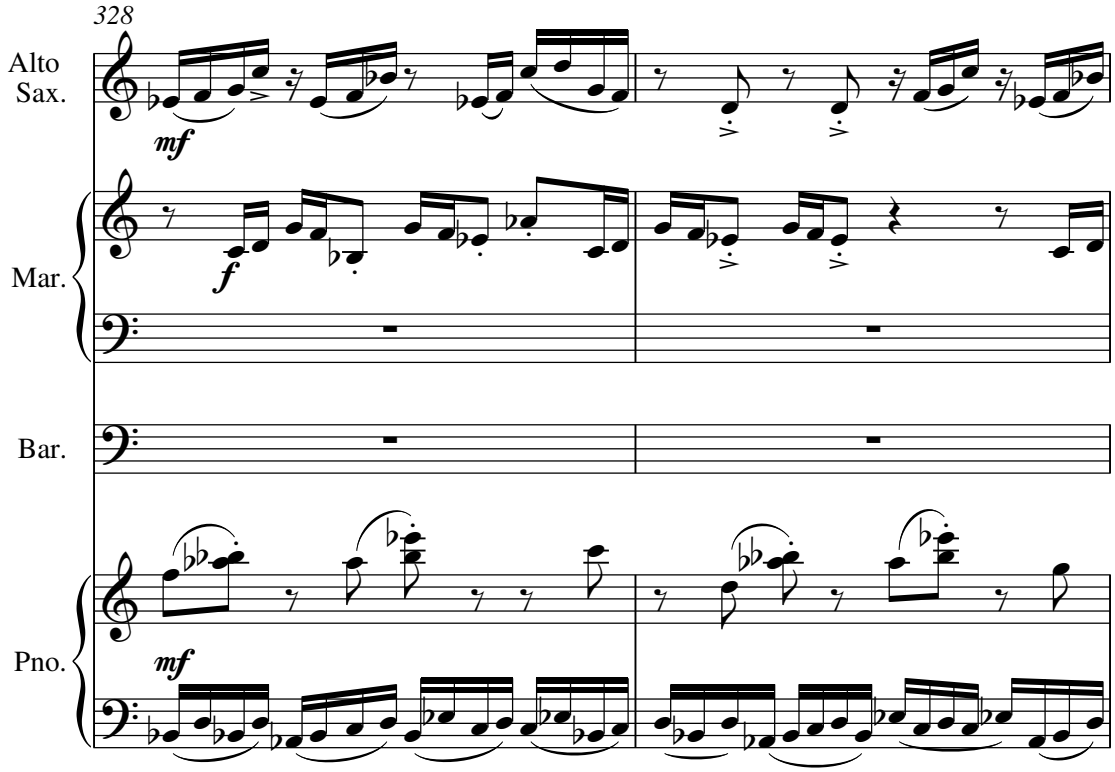
Pno.

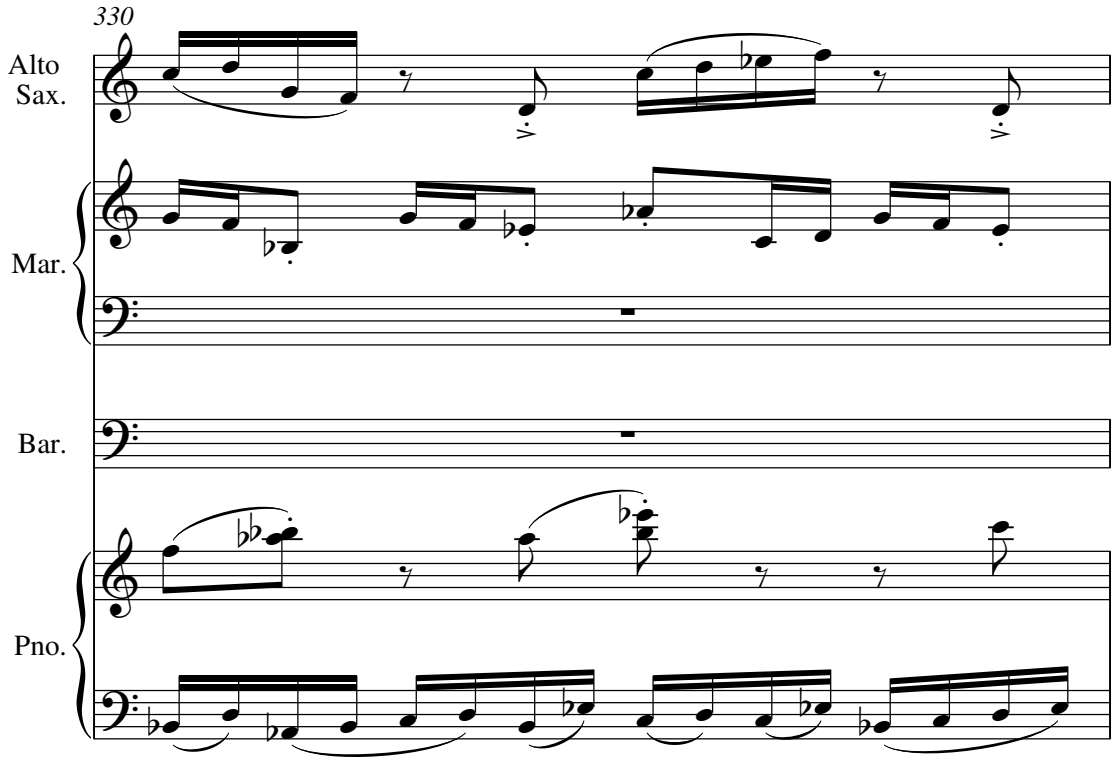
f p f p mf

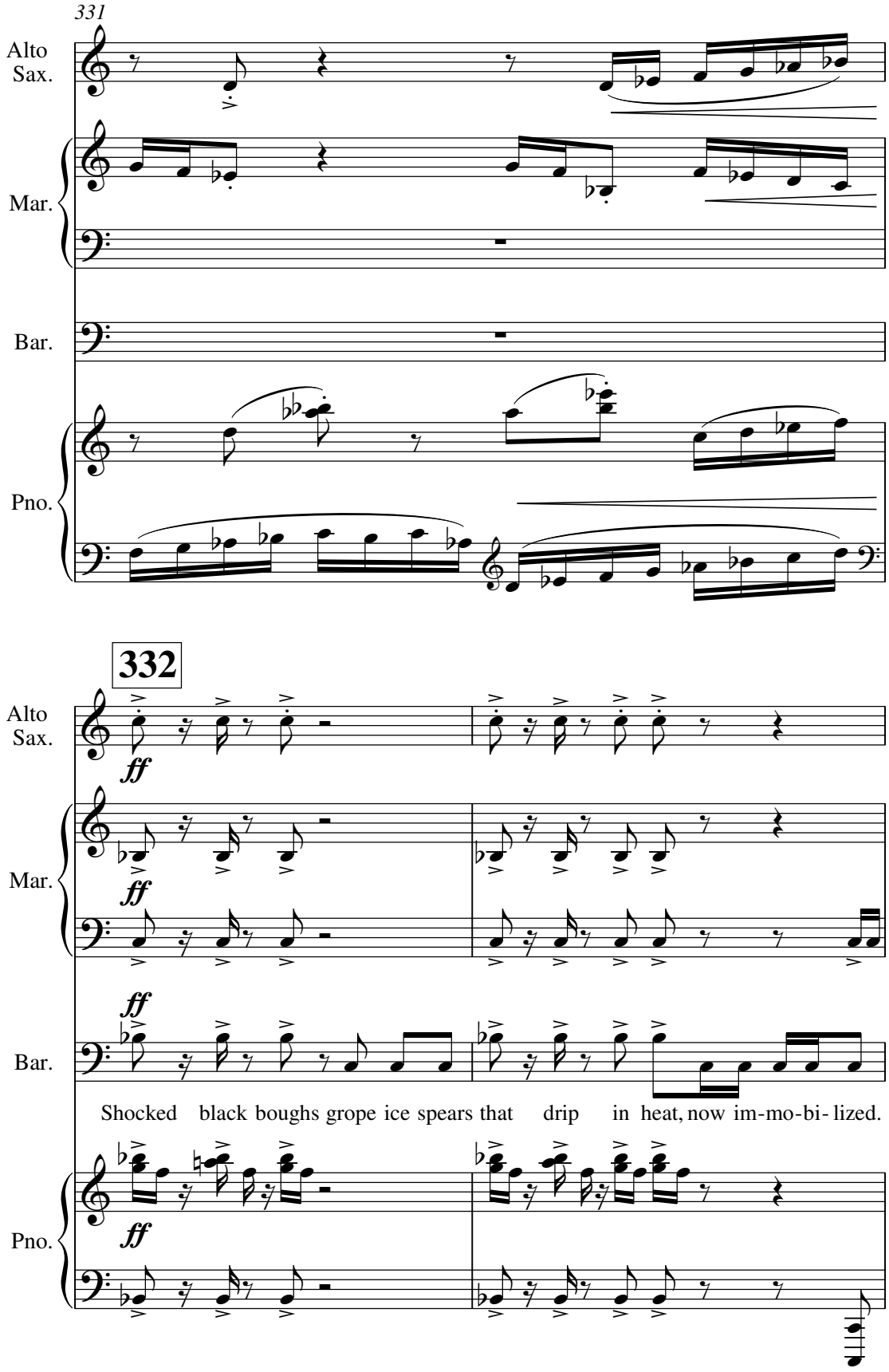

320
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
mf
p
mf
mp
mp
A - gain birds notch branch- es with beaks,
mp
f
322
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
they chip a-way the fro - zen prim - er

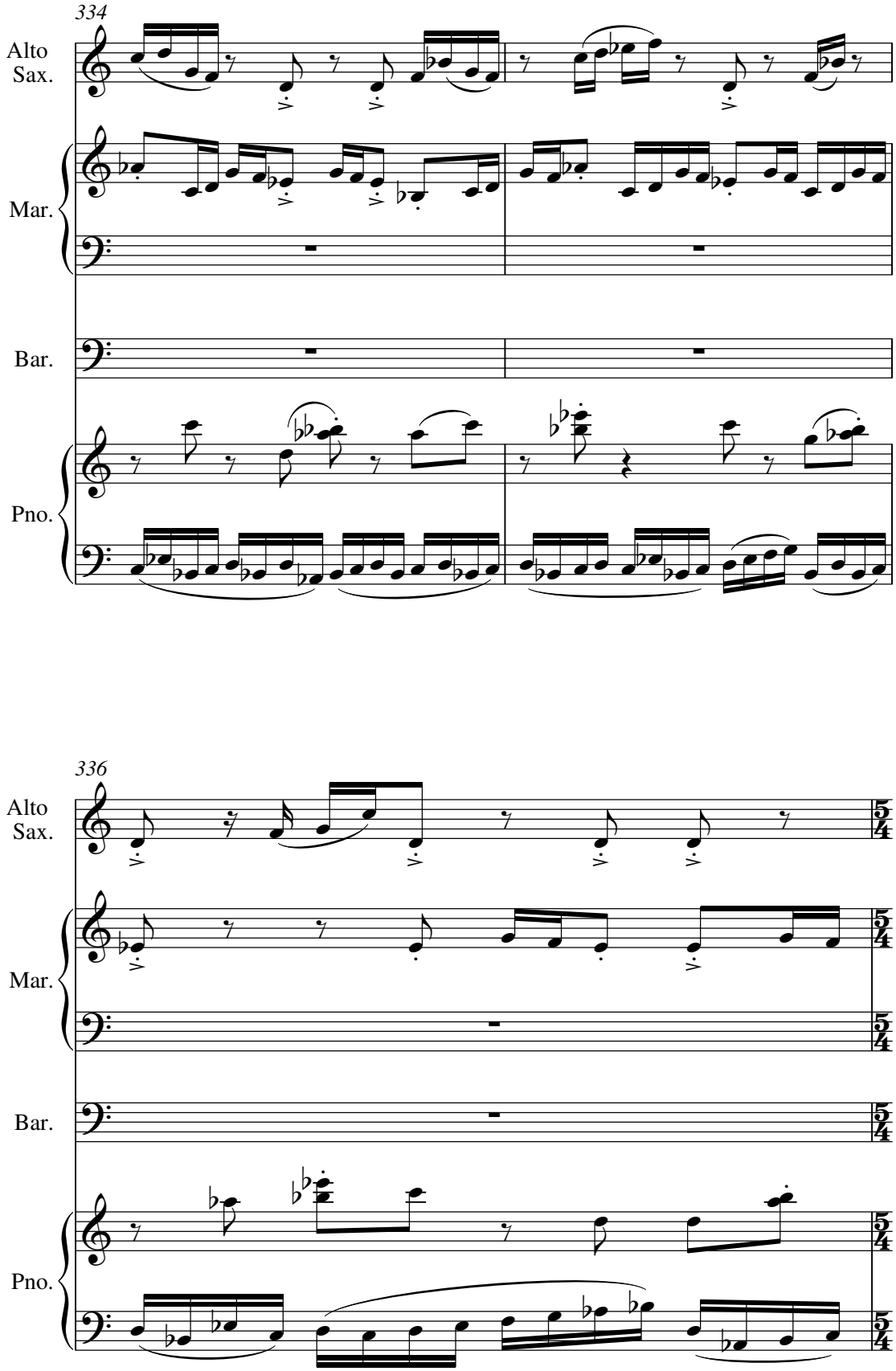

324
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
clean - ing out tor pid seeds leav - ing on - ly sliv -
Pno.

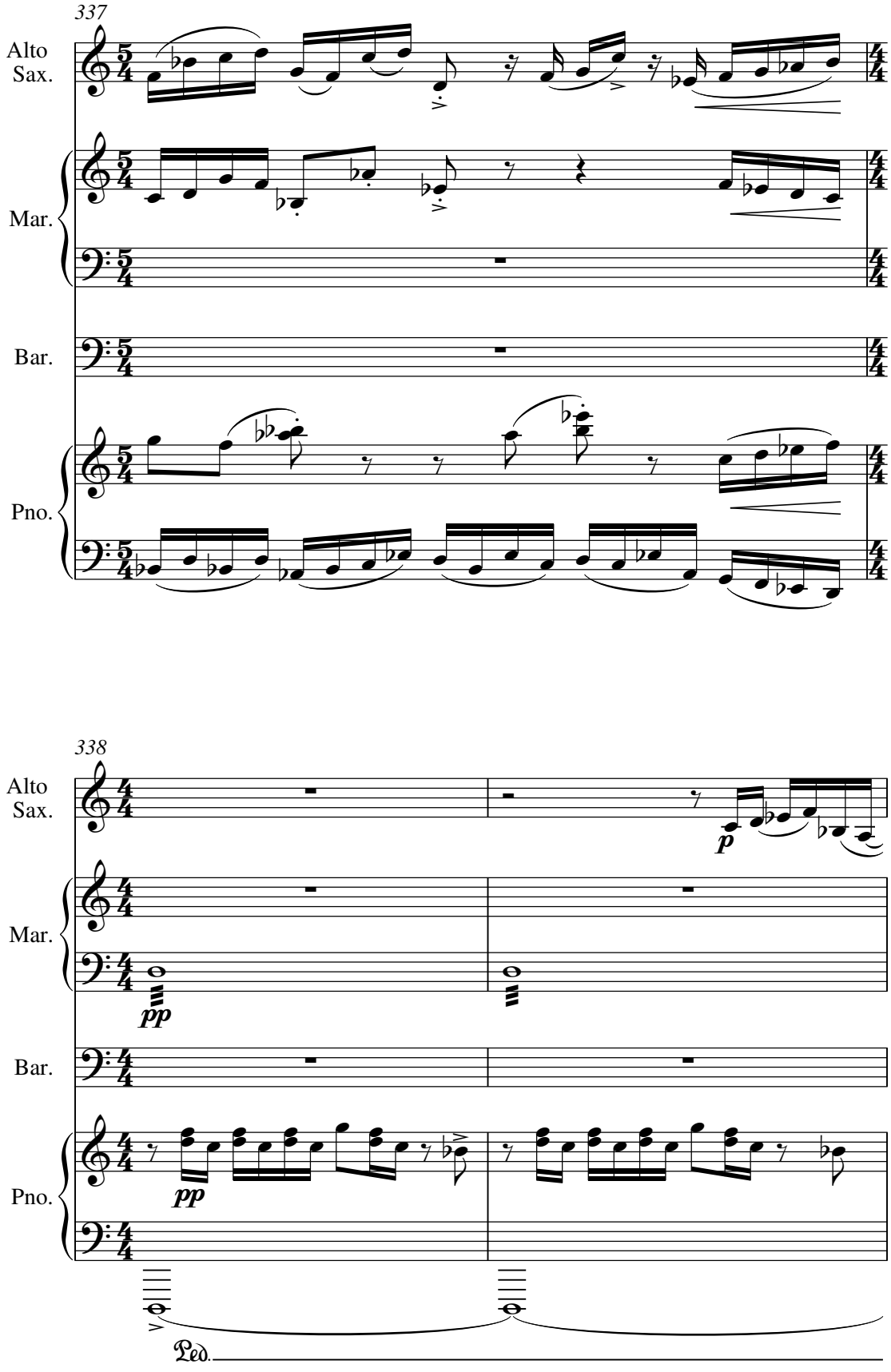

326
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
ers of wal-nut and pine - cone shell.
Pno.

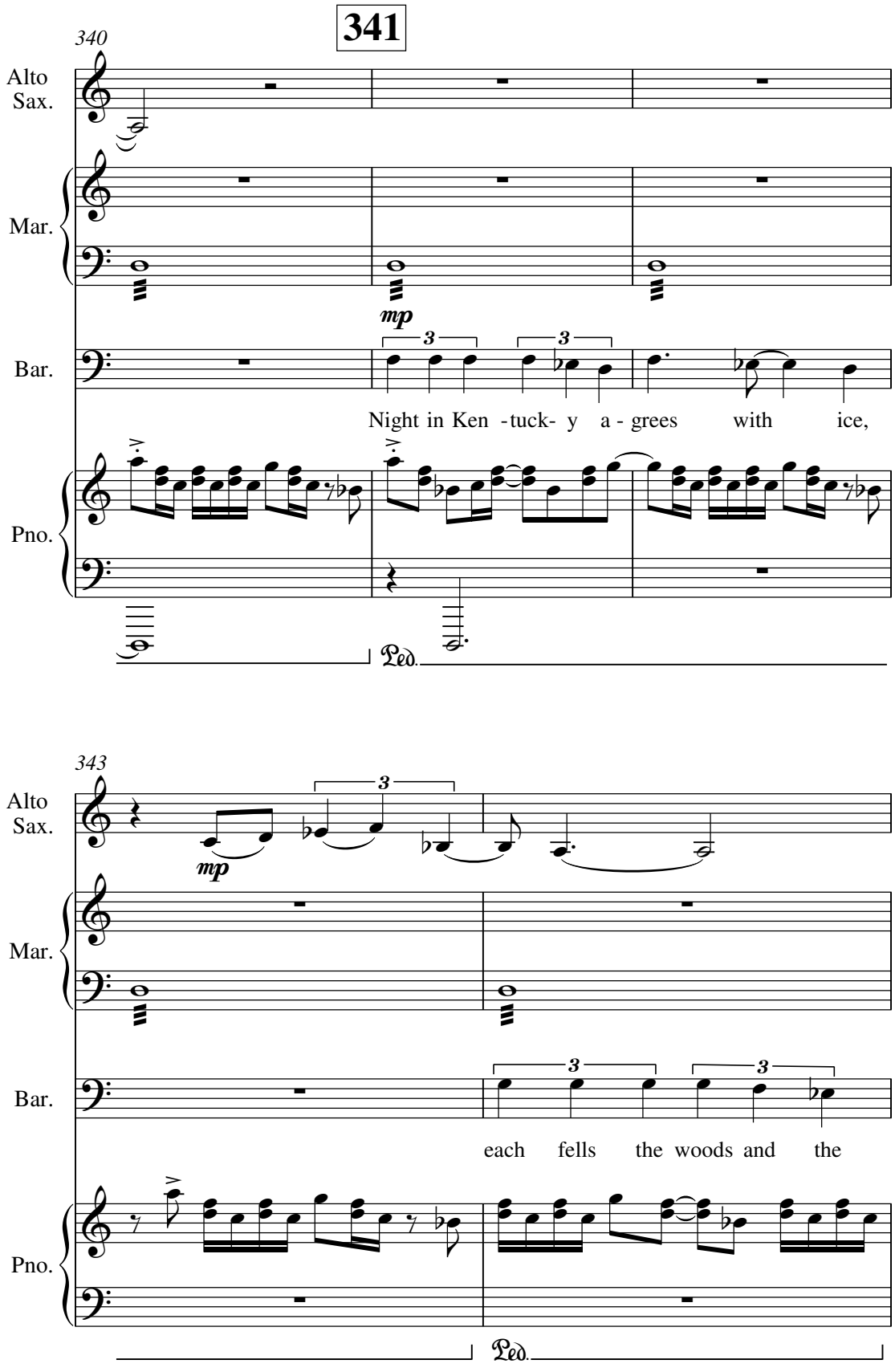

328
Alto Sax.
mf
Mar.
f
Bar.
Pno.
mf

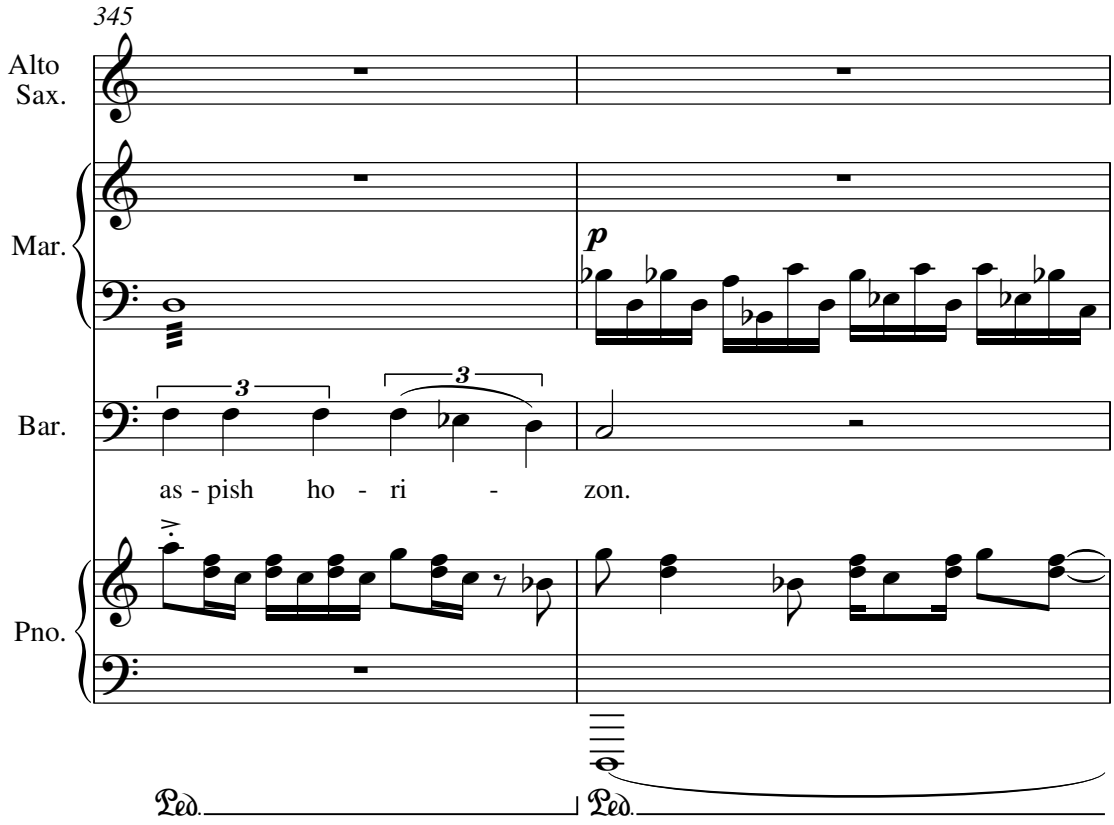

330
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.

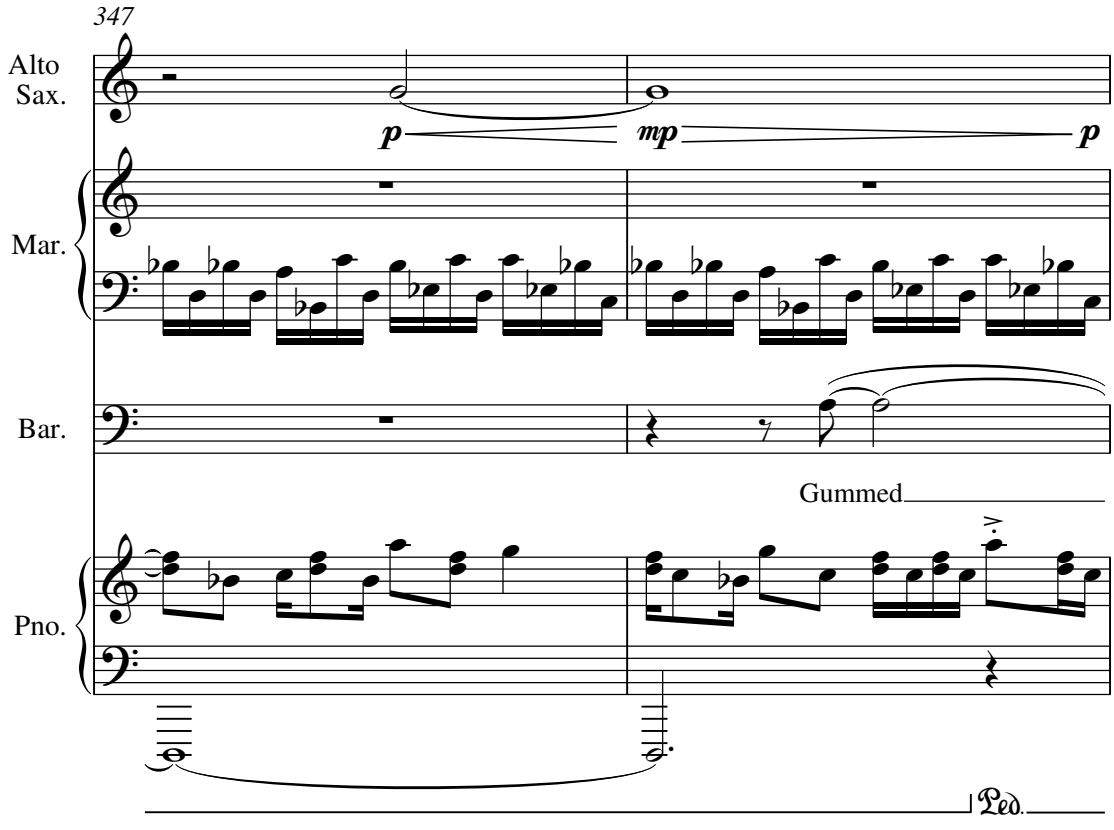

331
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
332
ff
Shocked black boughs grope ice spears that drip in heat, now im-mo-bi-lized.

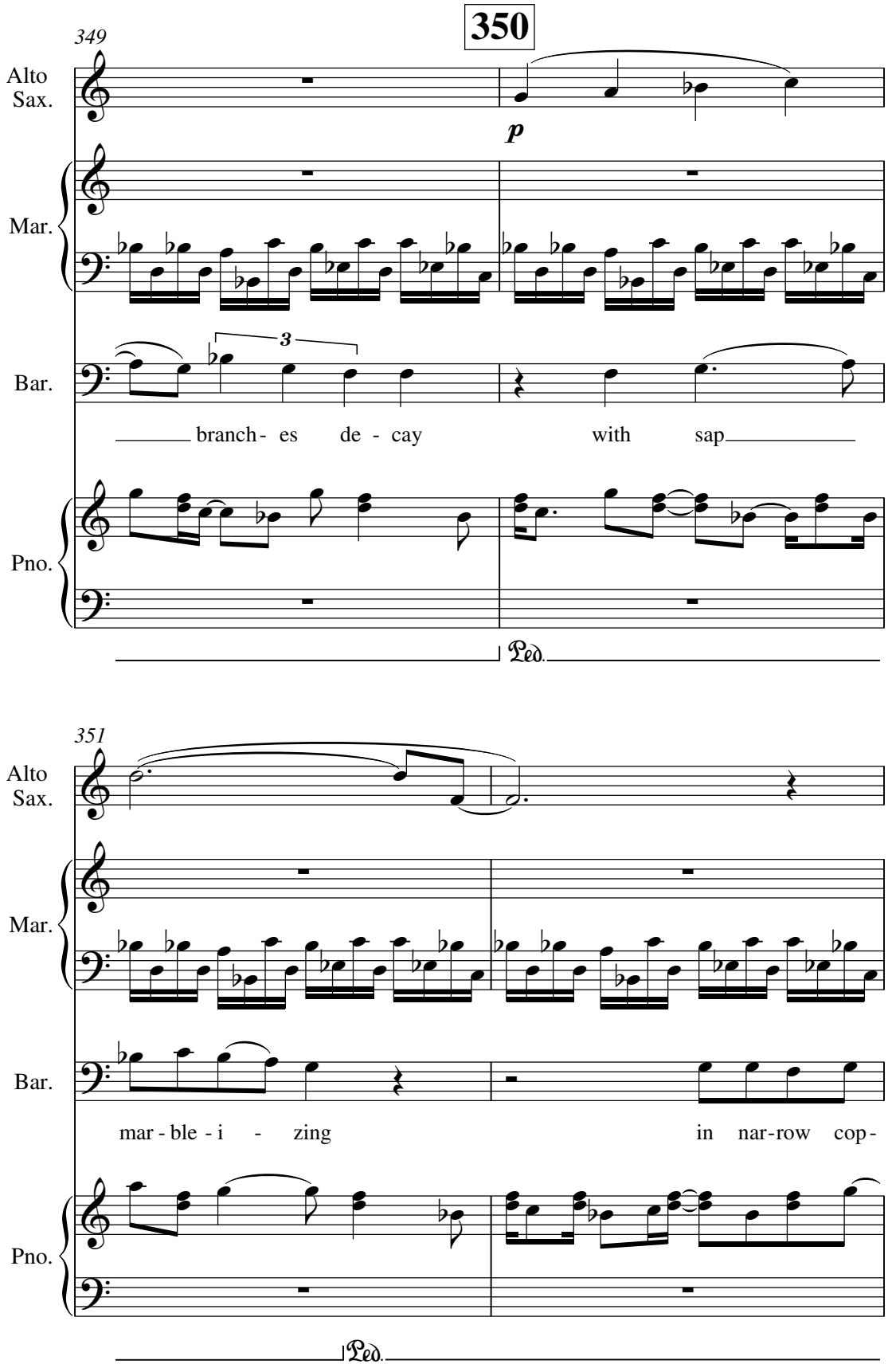

334
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
336
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
5/4

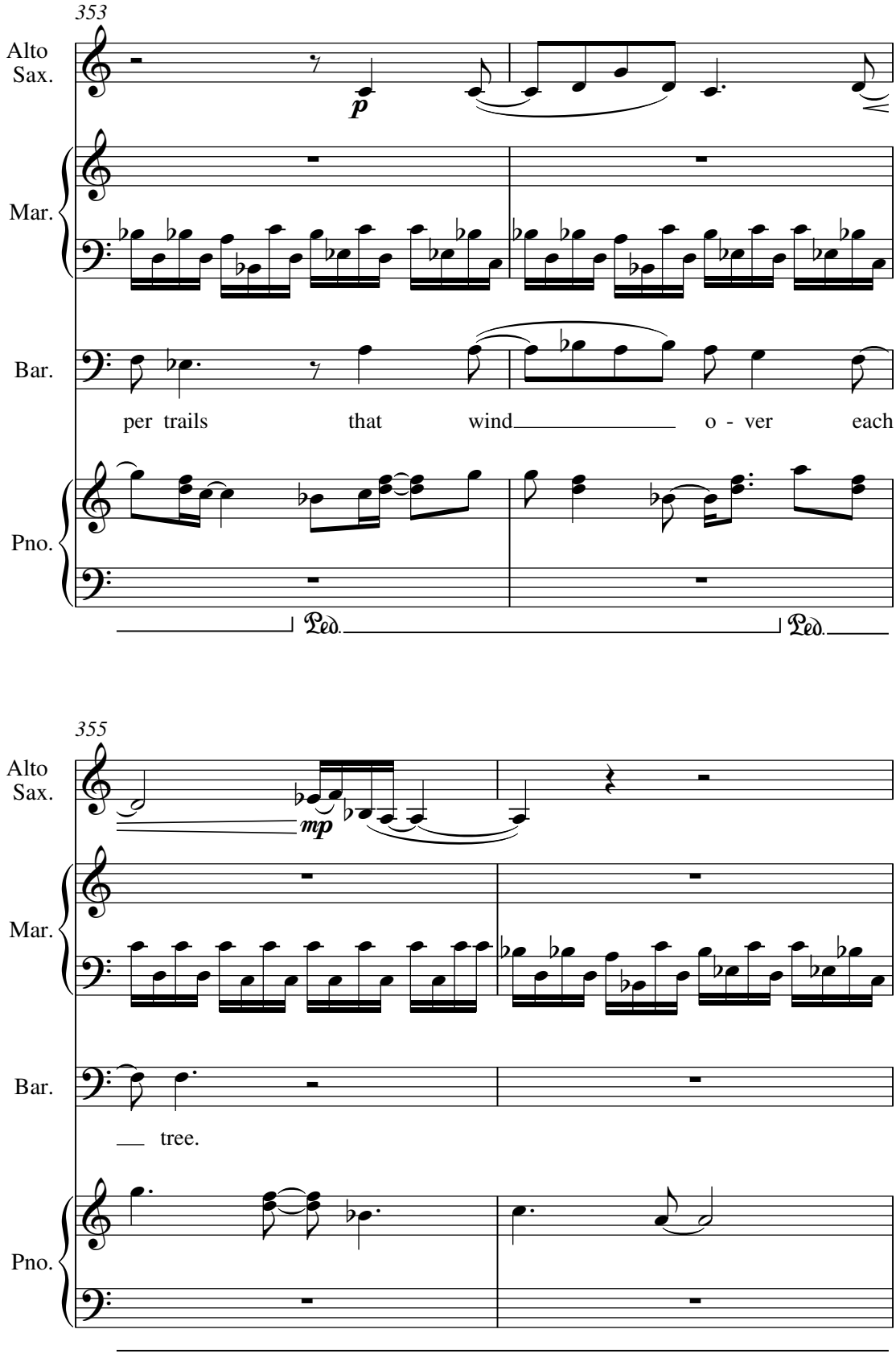

337
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
338
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
p
pp
pp
Ped.

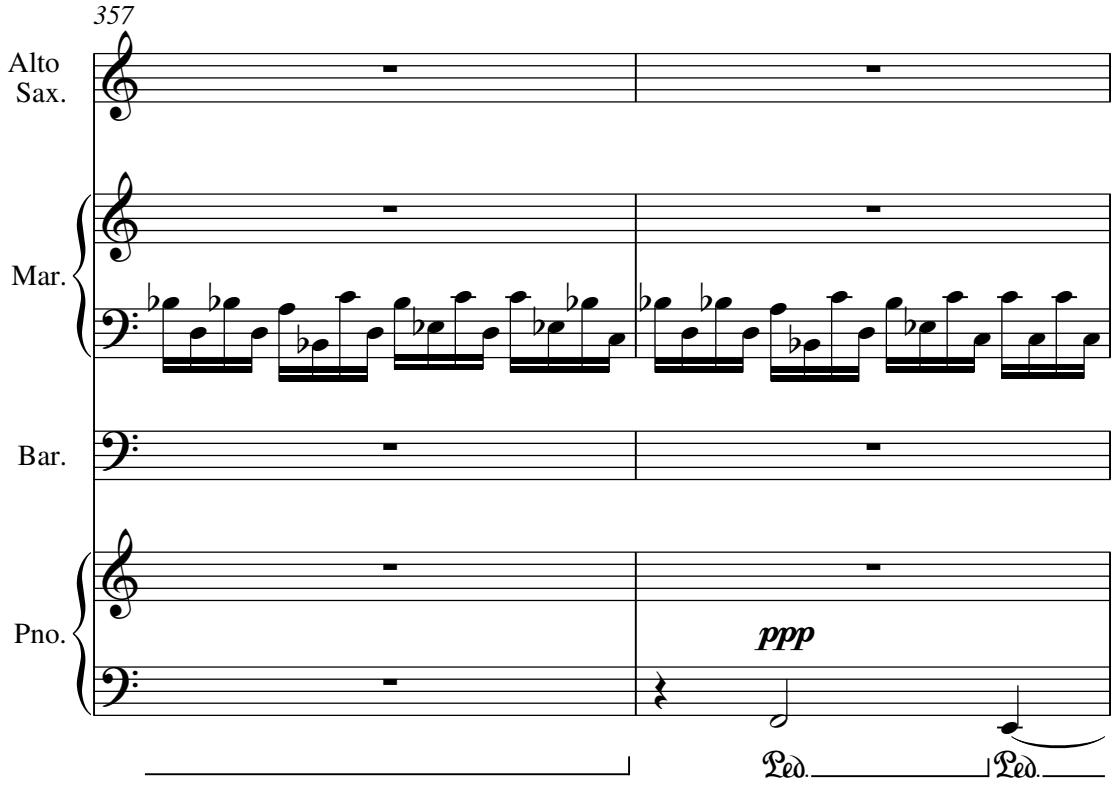

341
340
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
mp
Night in Ken - tuck- y a - grees with ice,
Ped.
343
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
mp
each fells the woods and the
Ped.

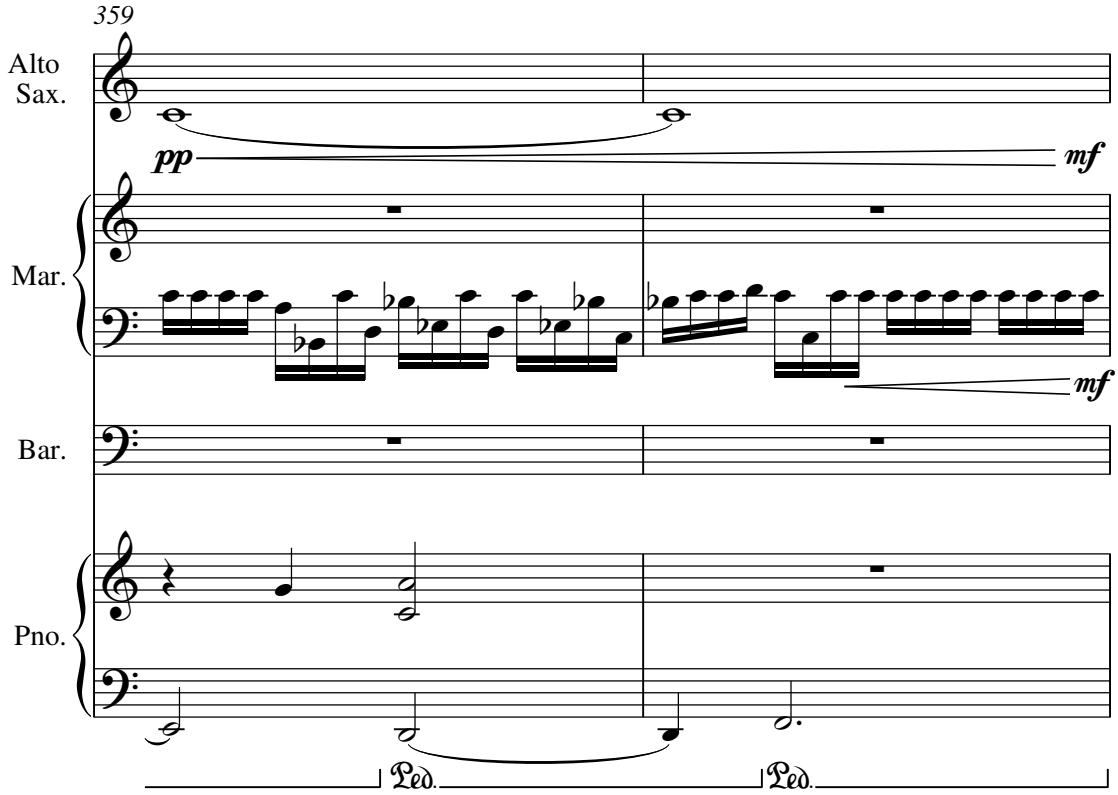

345
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
as - pish ho - ri - zon.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.

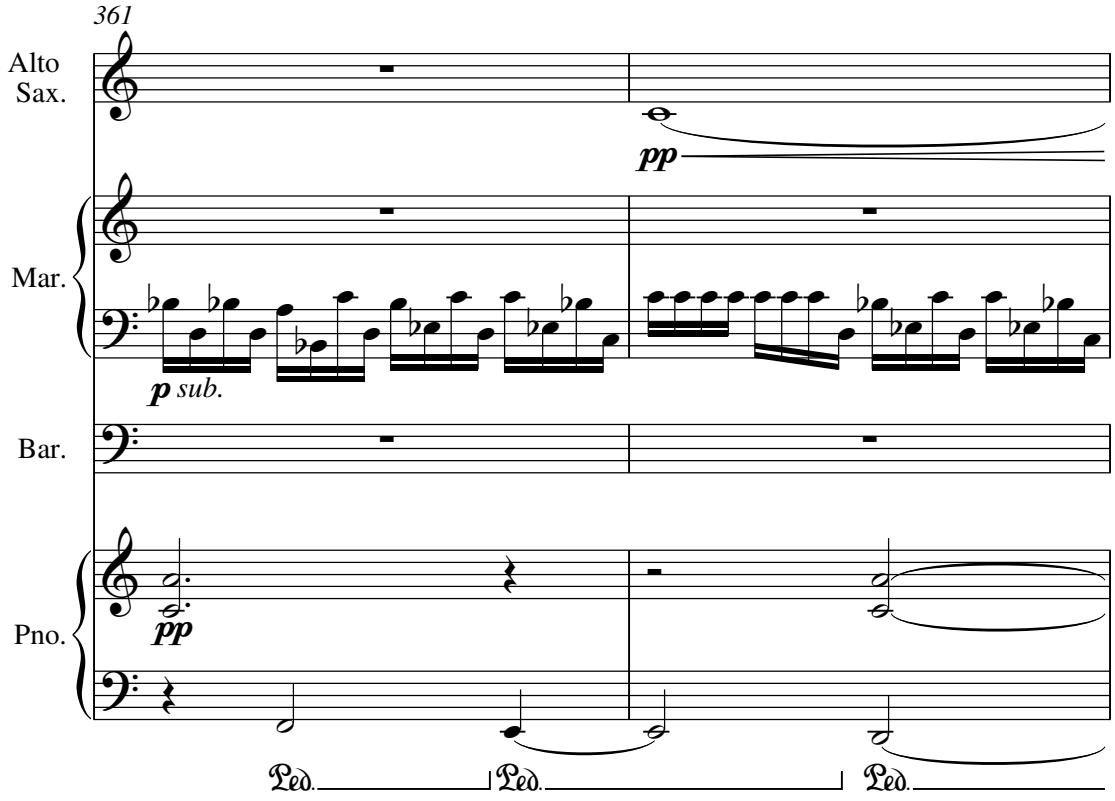

347
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Gummed
Pno.
Ped.

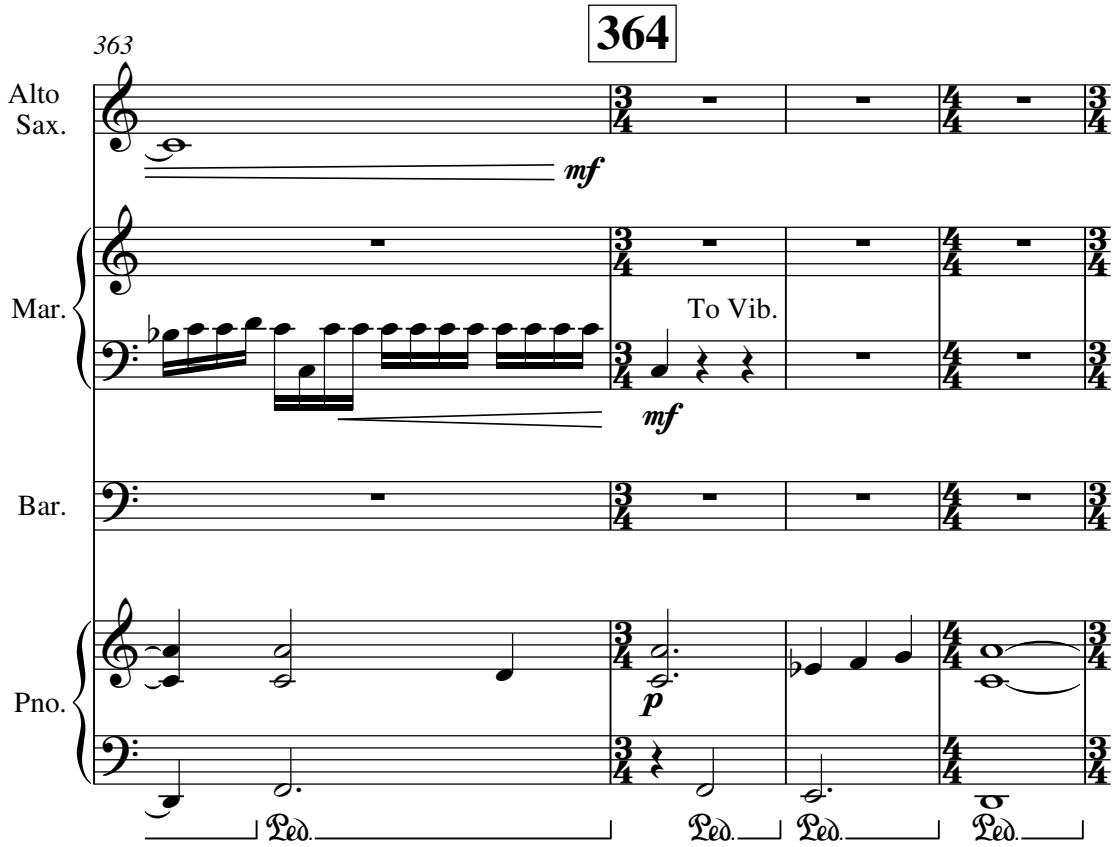

350
349
Alto Sax.
p
Mar.
Bar.
3
branch- es de - cay with sap
Pno.
Ped.
351
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
mar - ble - i - zing in nar-row cop-
Pno.
Ped.

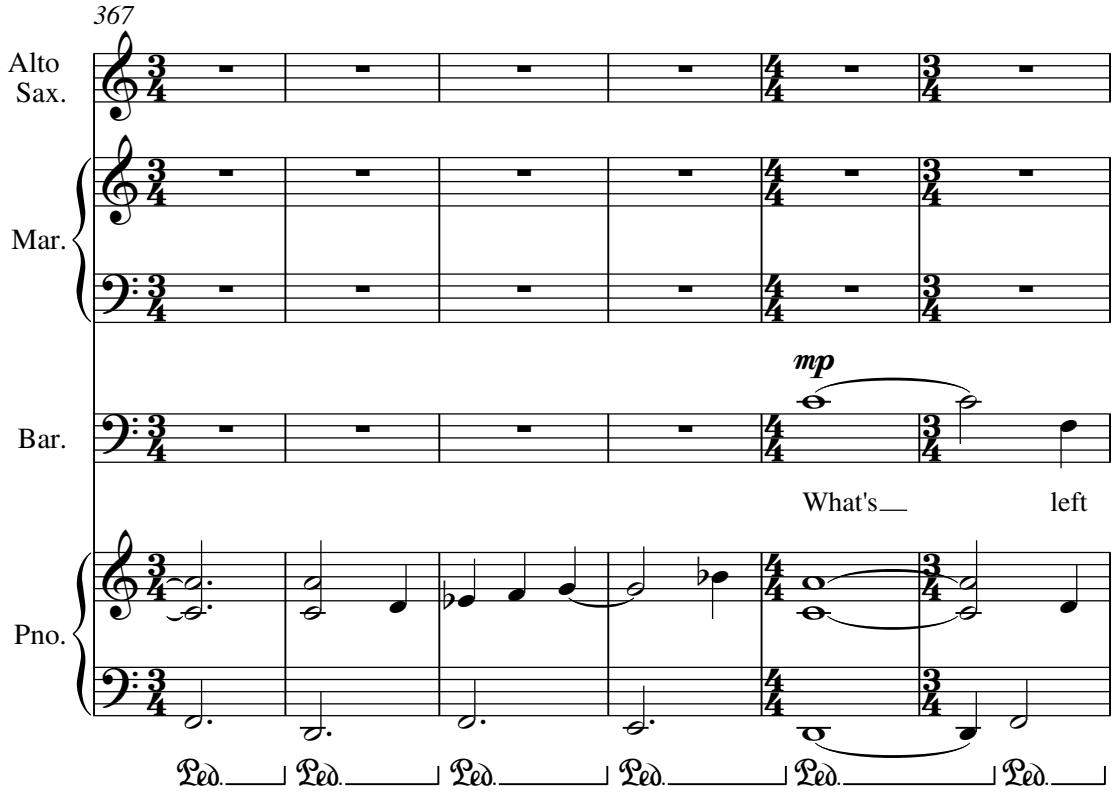

353
Alto Sax.
p
Mar.
Bar.
per trails that wind o - ver each
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
355
Alto Sax.
mp
Mar.
Bar.
tree.
Pno.

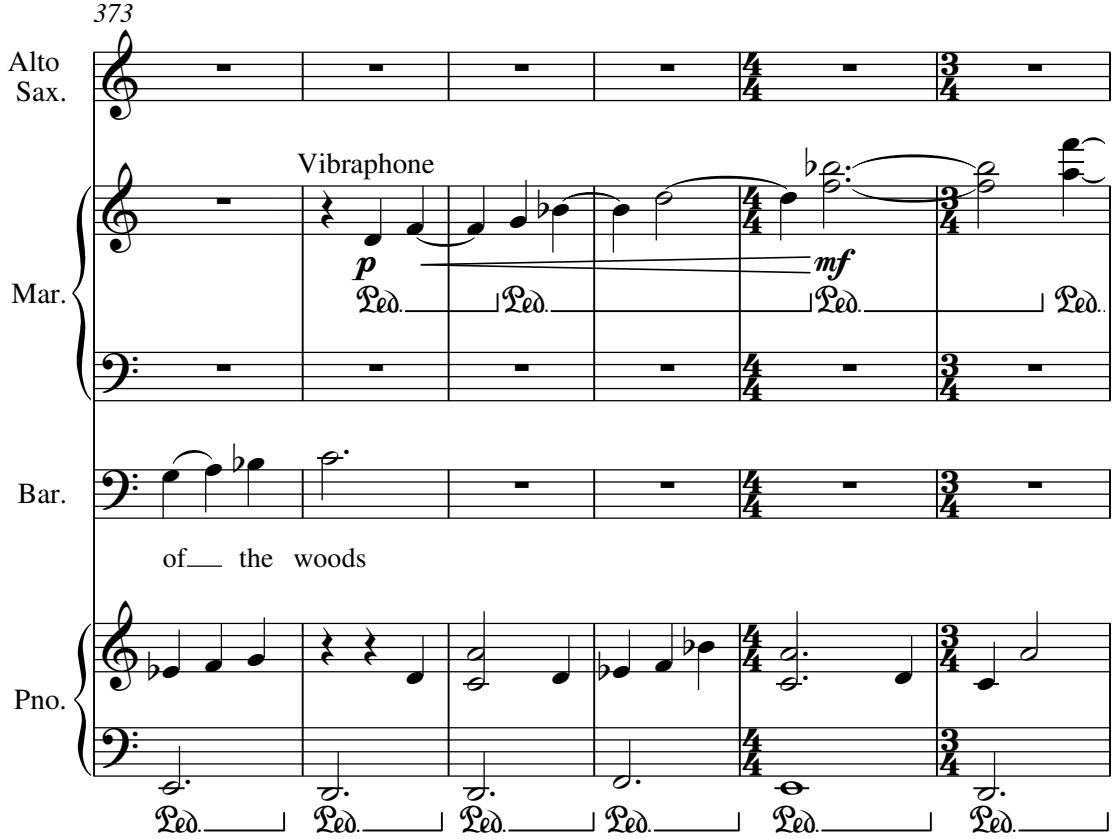

357
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
ppp
Ped.
Ped.

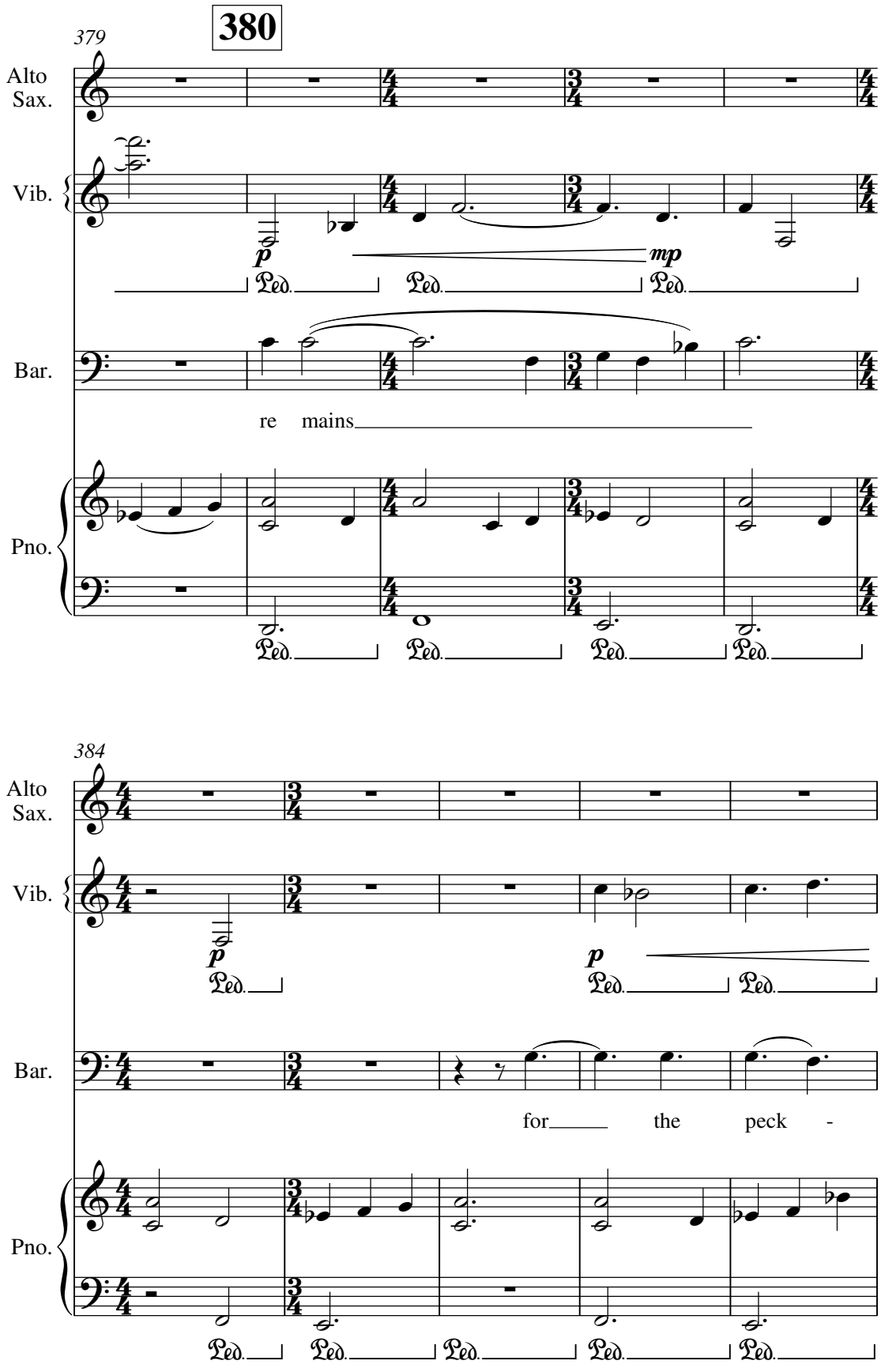

359
Alto Sax.
pp
mf
Mar.
mf
Bar.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.

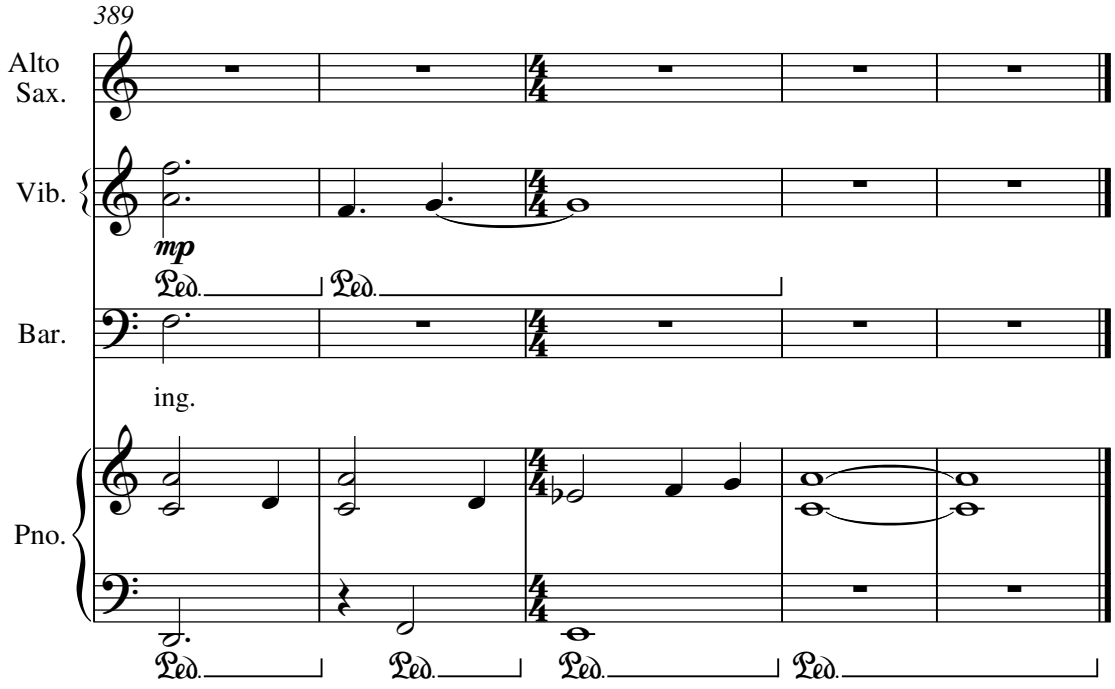

361
Alto Sax.
pp
Mar.
p sub.
Bar.
Pno.
pp
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.


364
363
Alto Sax.
mf
Mar.
To Vib.
mf
Bar.
Pno.
p
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

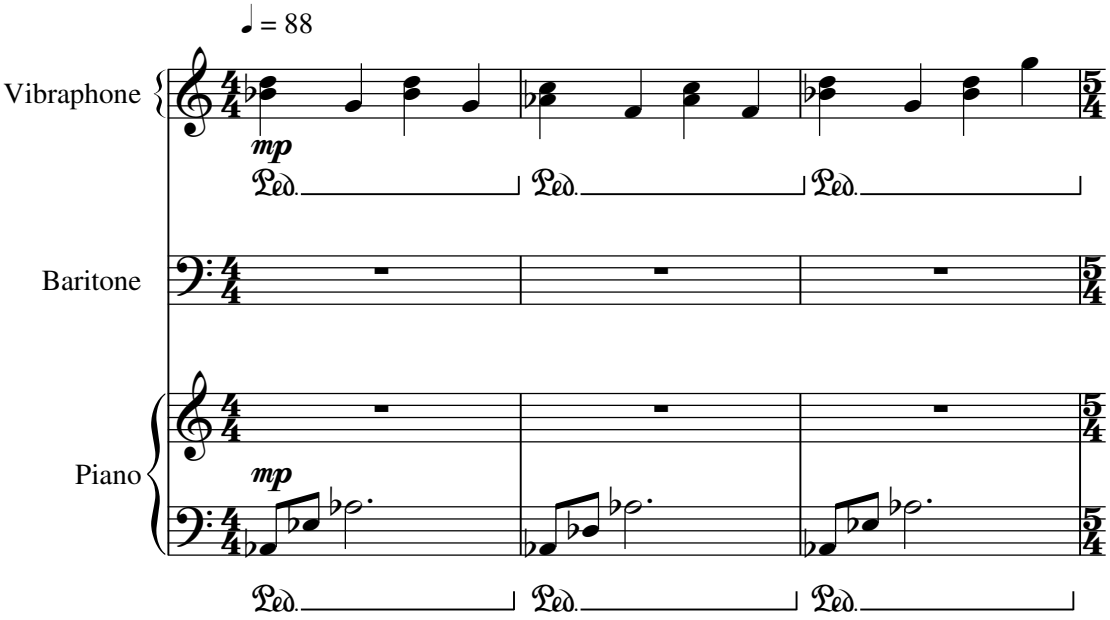

367
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
mp
What's left
Pno.
Ped.

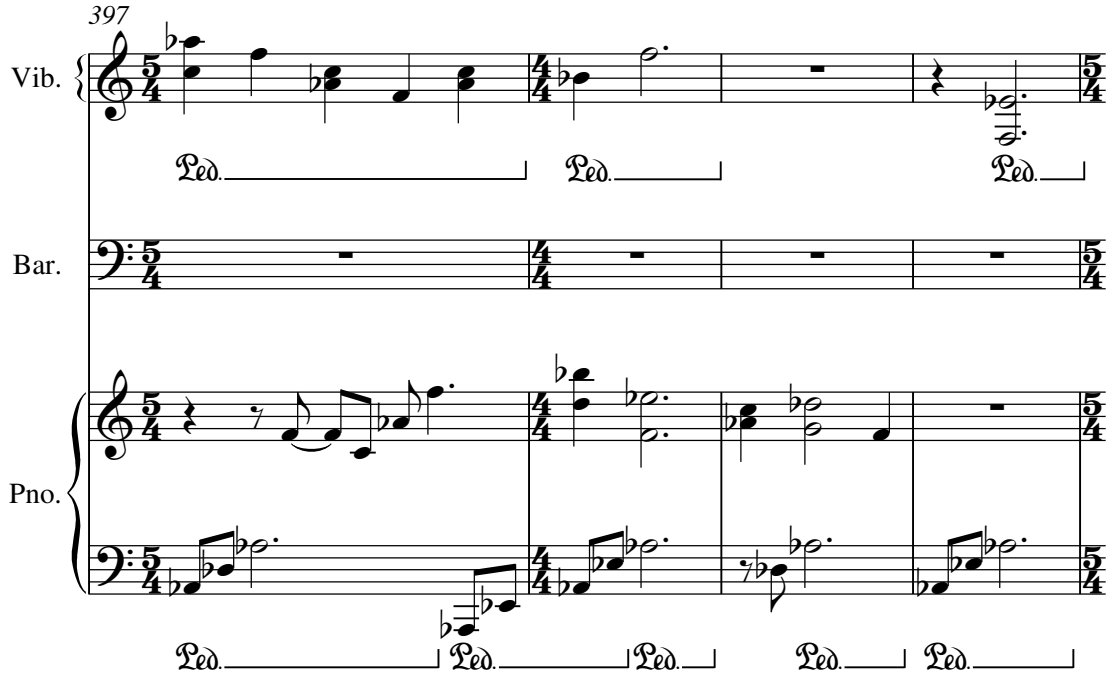

373
Alto Sax.
Vibraphone
p
mf
Mar.
Bar.
of the woods
Pno.
Ped.

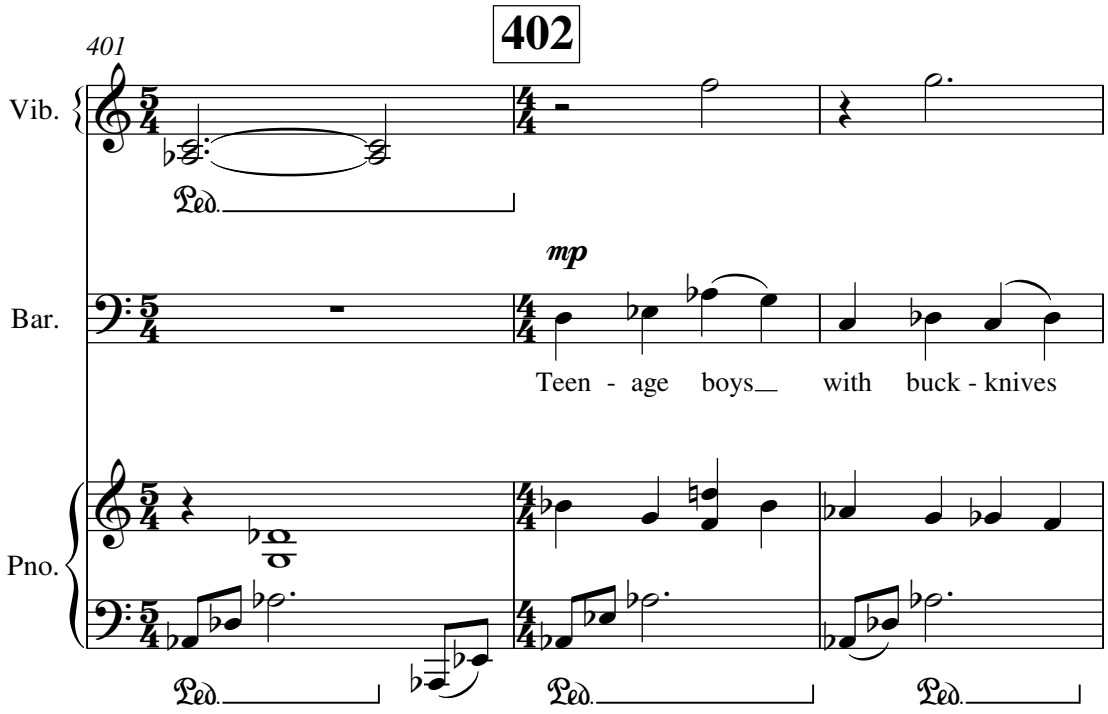

380
379
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
p
mp
Ped.
re mains
384
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
p
p
Ped.
for the peck -

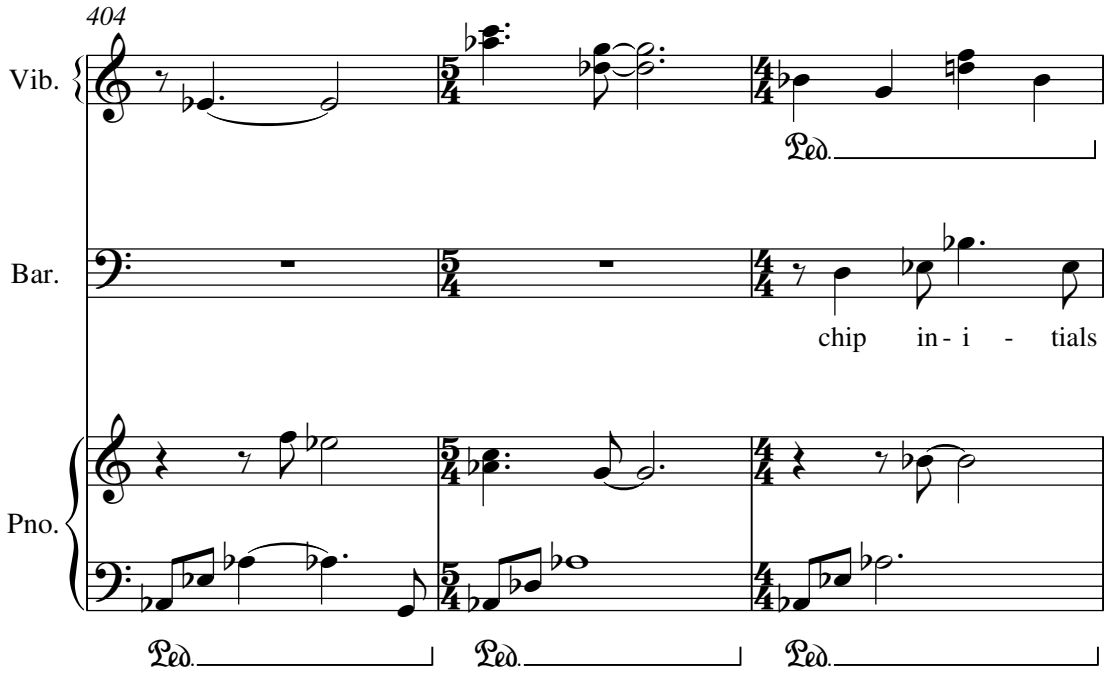

389
Alto Sax.
Vib.
mp
Ped.
Ped.
Bar.
ing.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

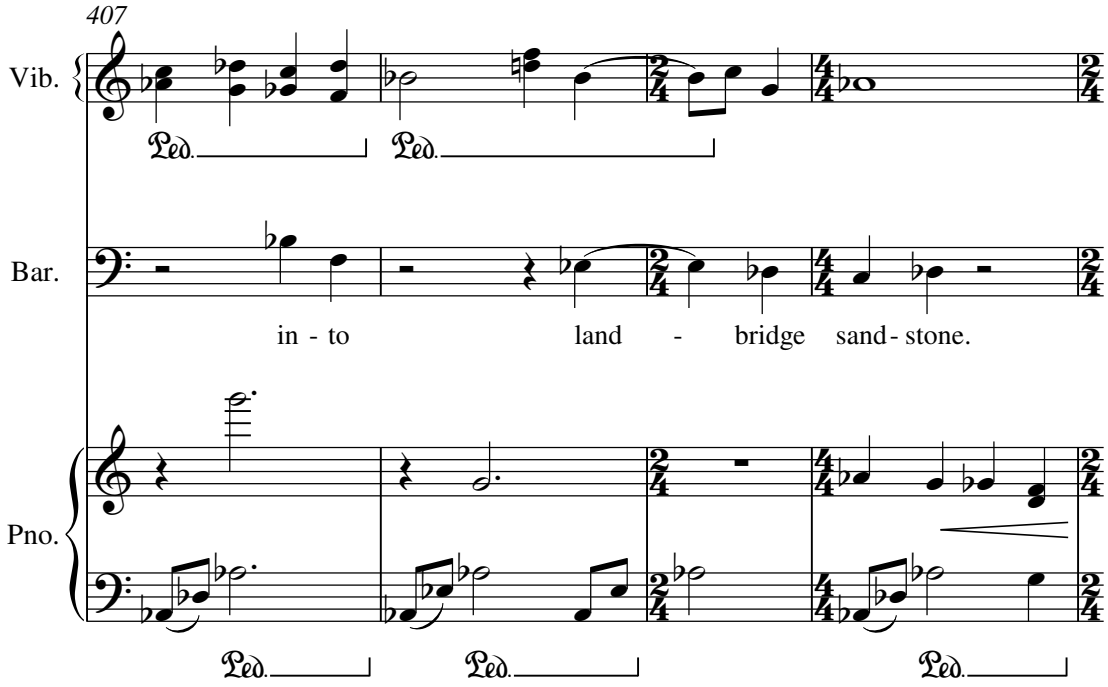
5 - Red River Gorge

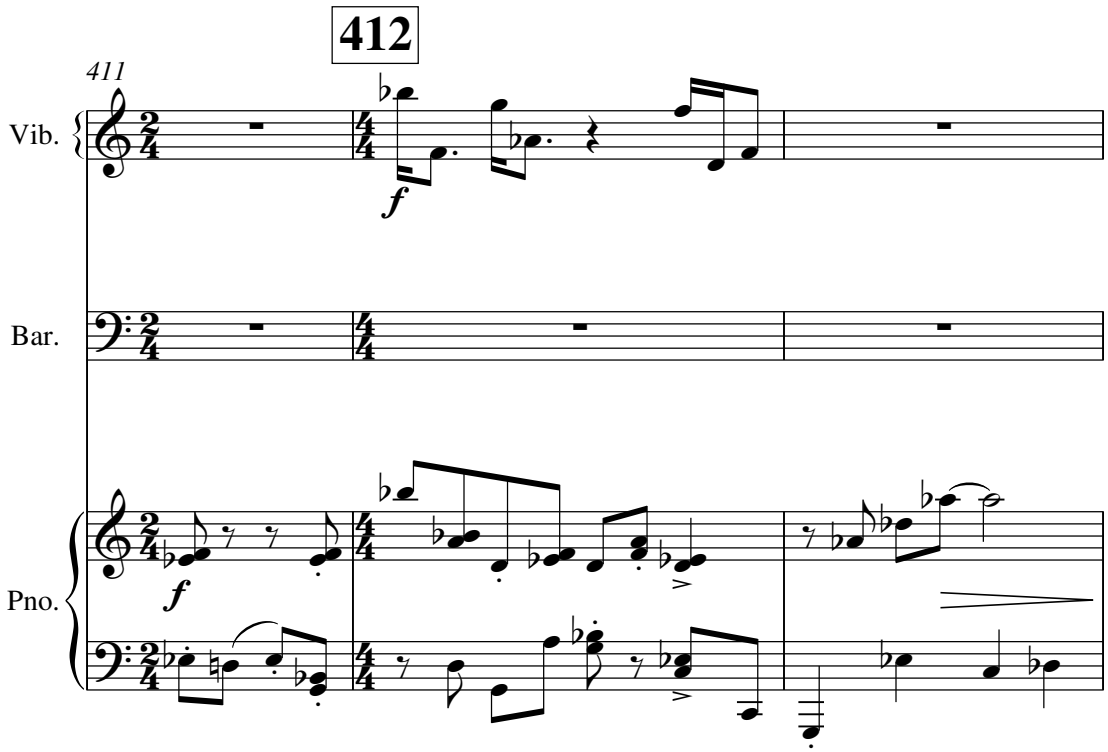


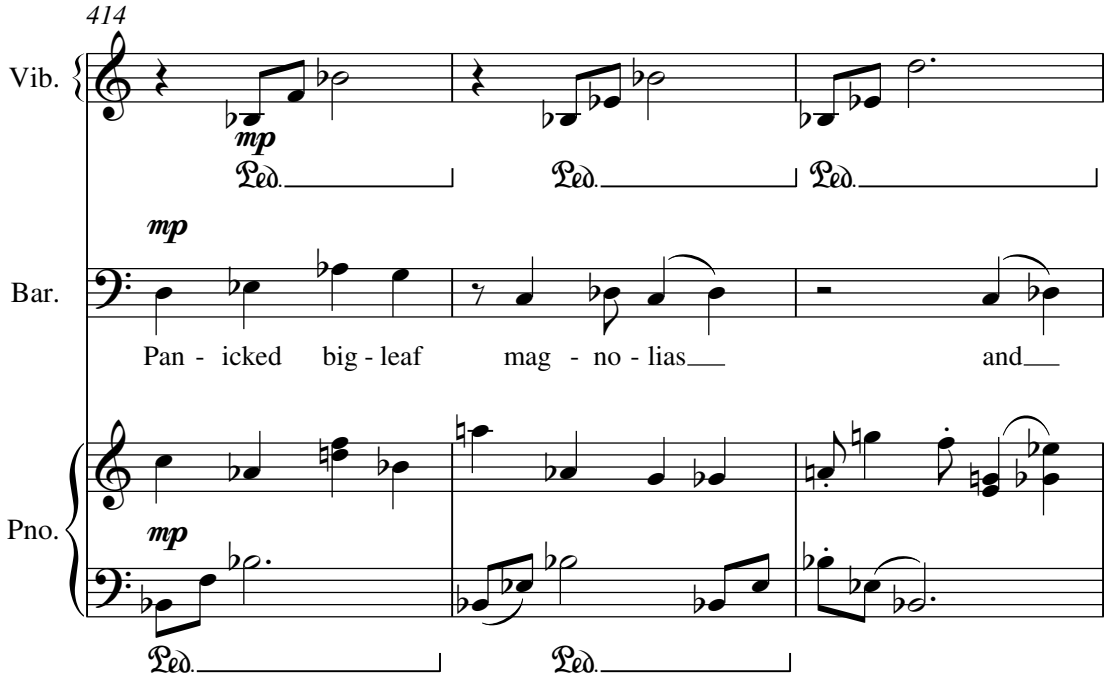


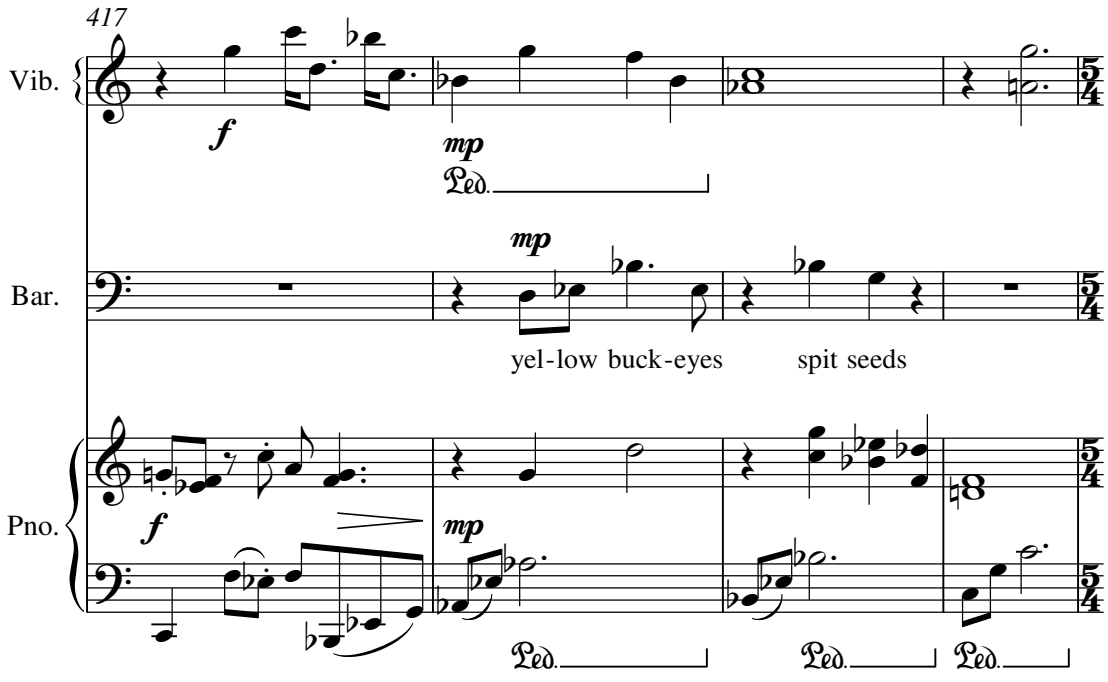

402
401
Vib.
Bar.
mp
Teen - age boys with buck - knives
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

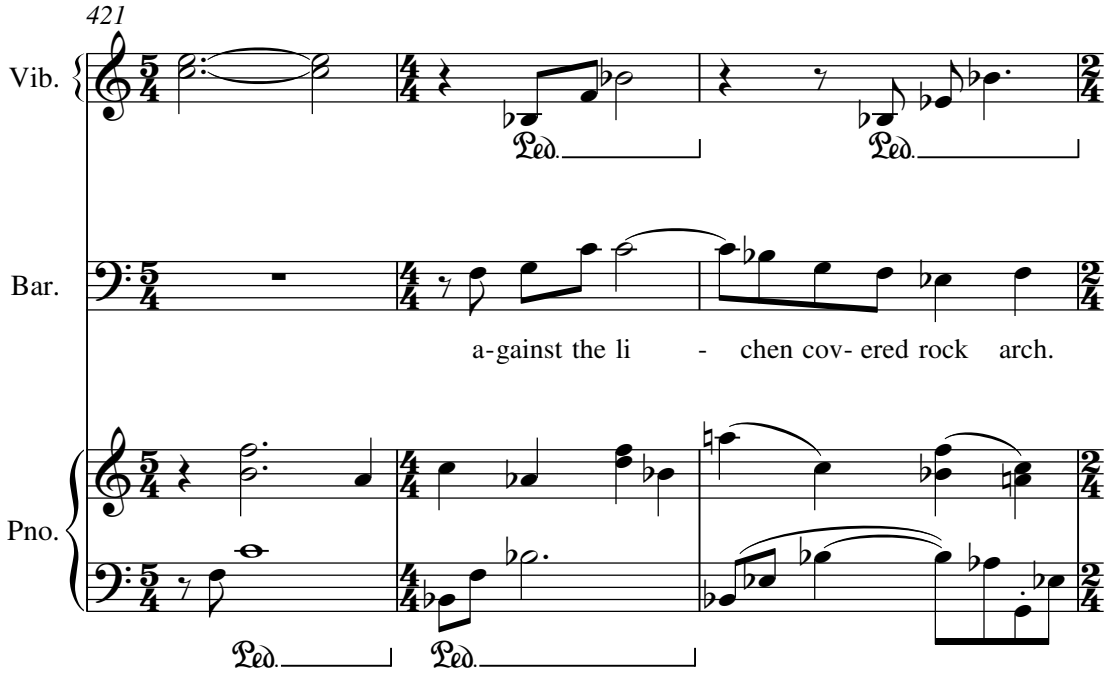

404
Vib.
Bar.
chip in - i - tials
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.


407
Vib.
Bar.
in - to land - bridge sand - stone.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

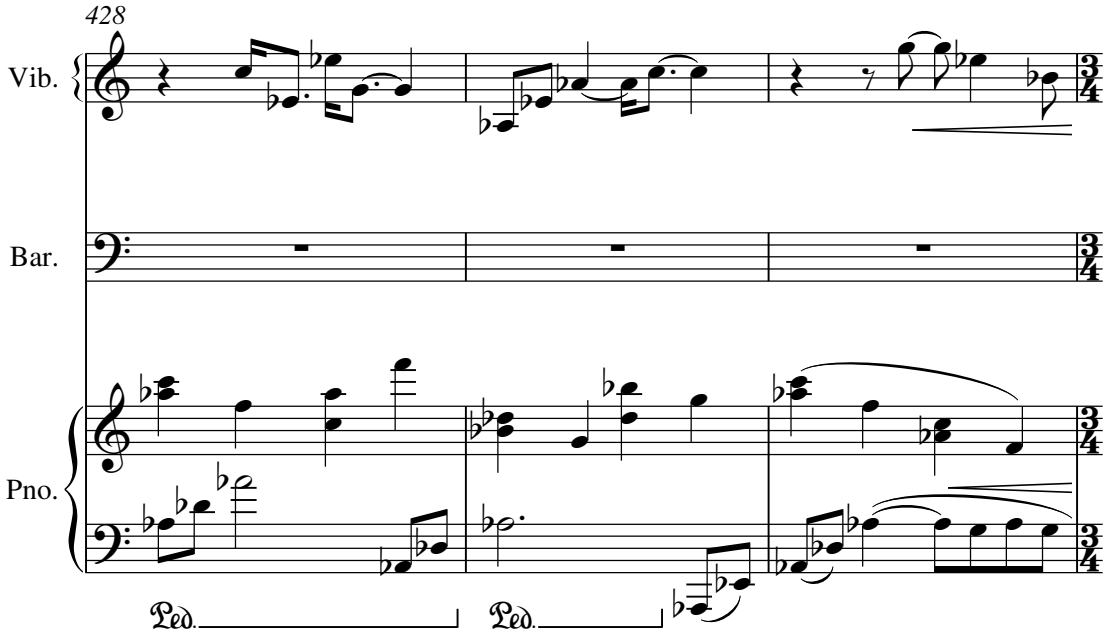

412
411
Vib.
f
Bar.
Pno.
f

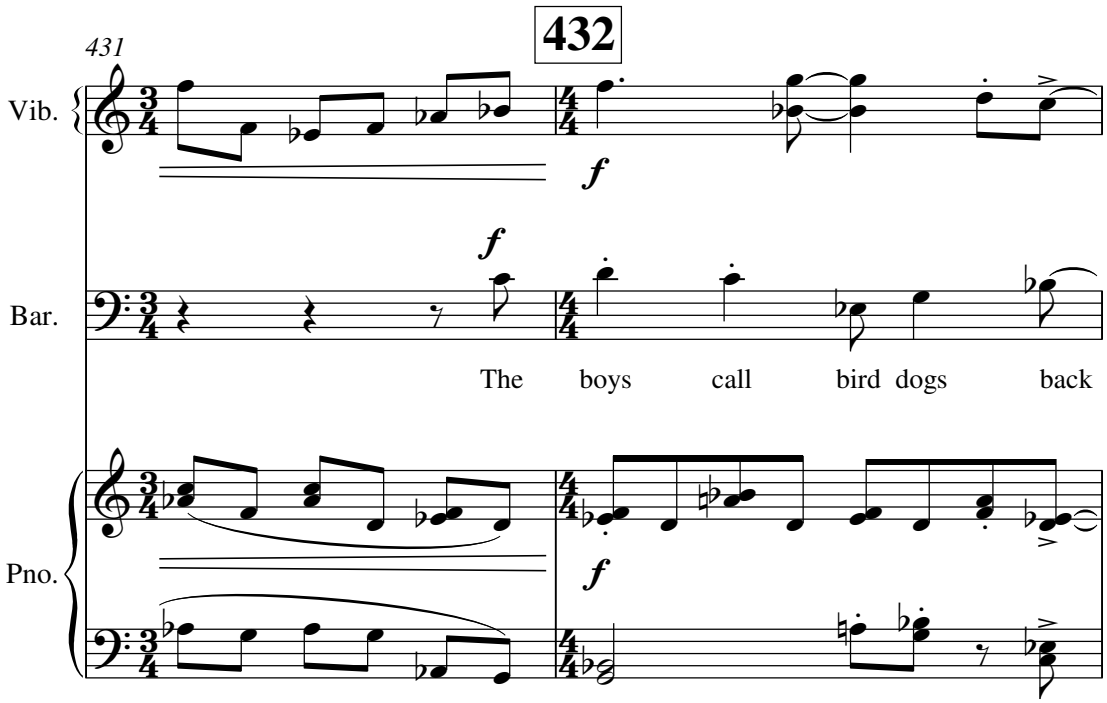

414
Vib.
mp
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Bar.
mp
Pan - icked big - leaf mag - no - lias and
Pno.
mp
Ped.
Ped.

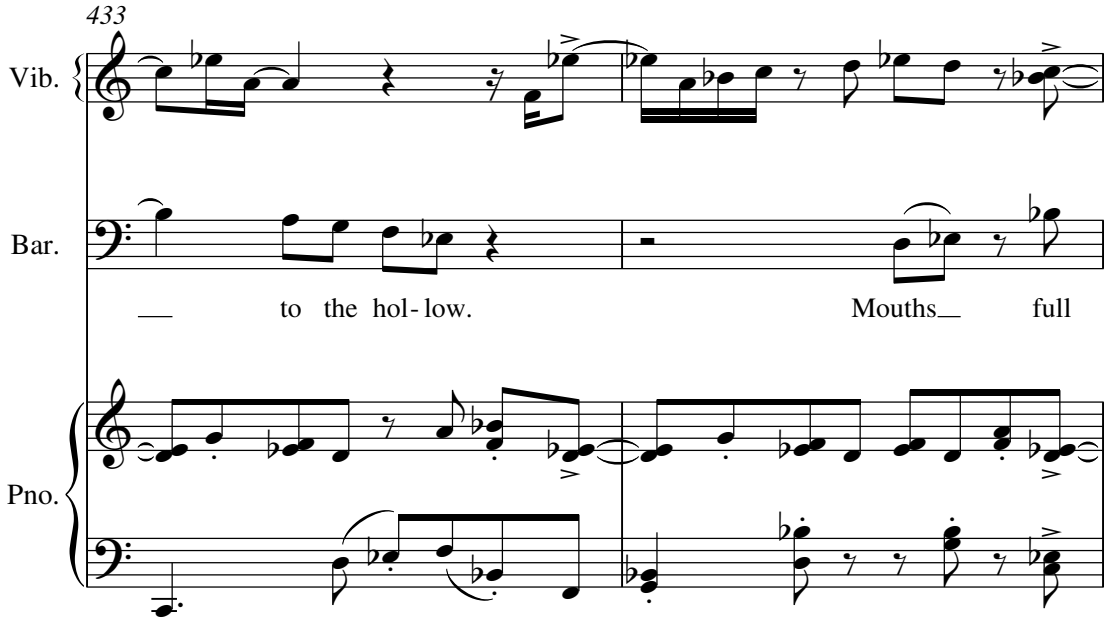

417
Vib.
f
mp
Ped.
Bar.
mp
yel-low buck-eyes spit seeds
Pno.
f
mp
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

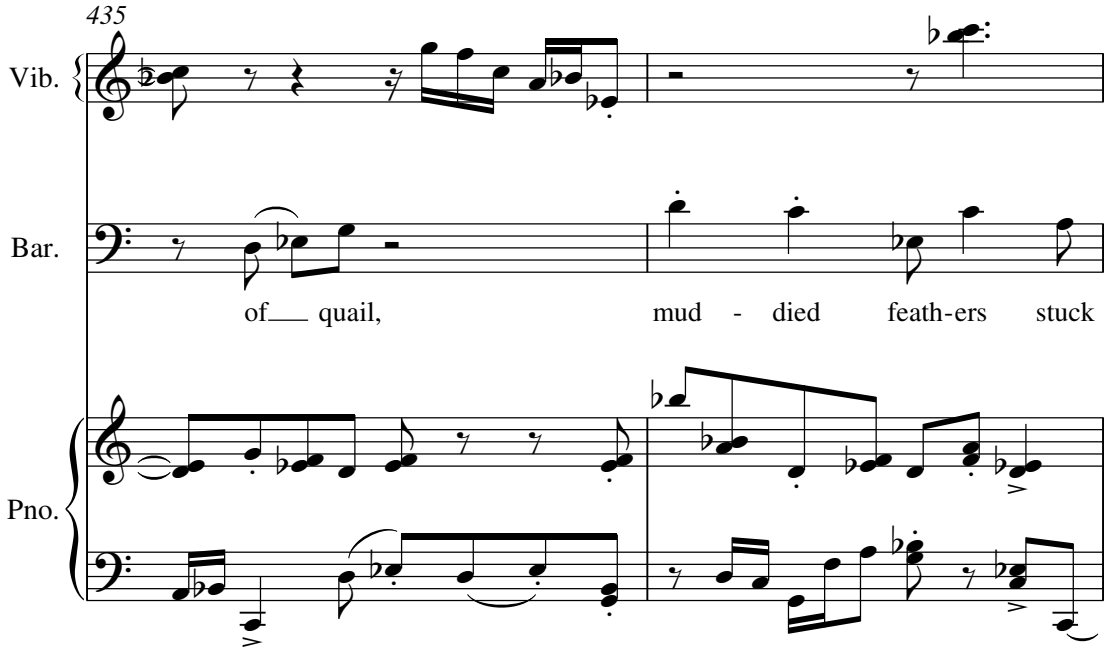

421
Vib.
Bar.
a-gainst the li - chen cov- ered rock arch.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

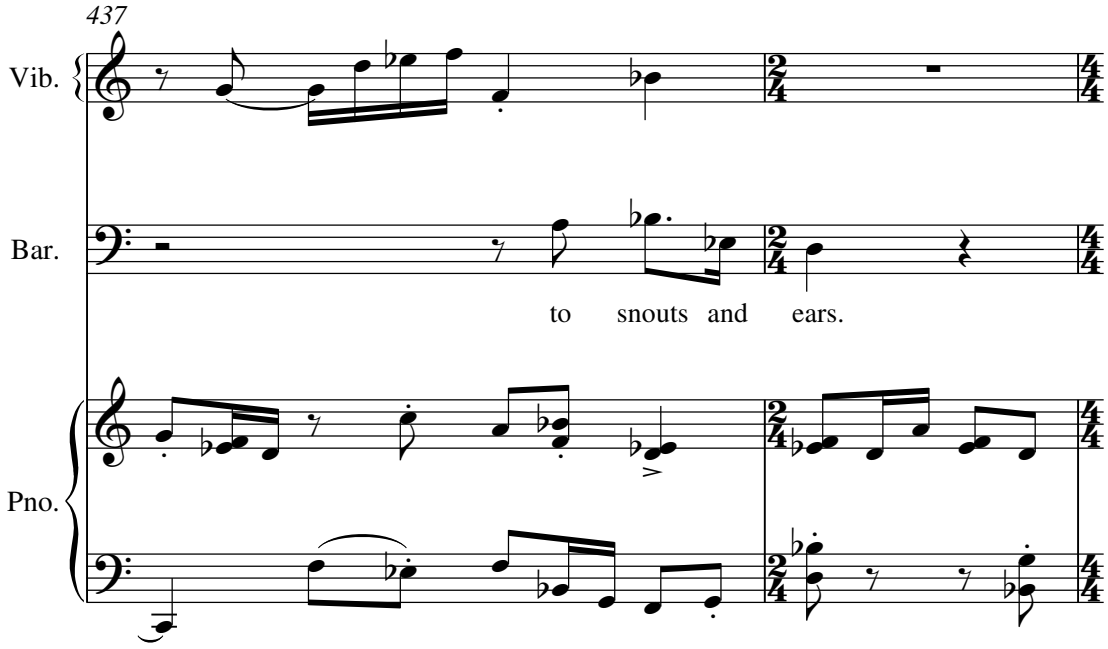
425
424
Vib.
mp
Bar.
mp
Ken-tuck y au-gite gouged.
Pno.
p
mp
Ped.

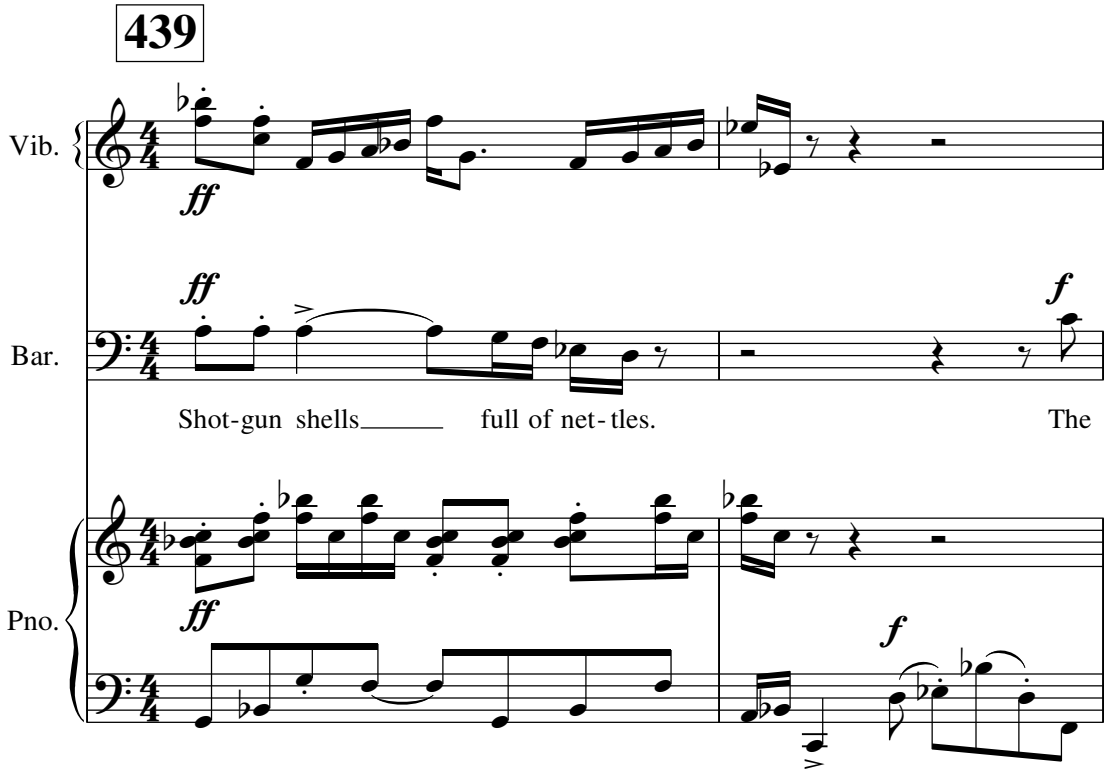

428
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.

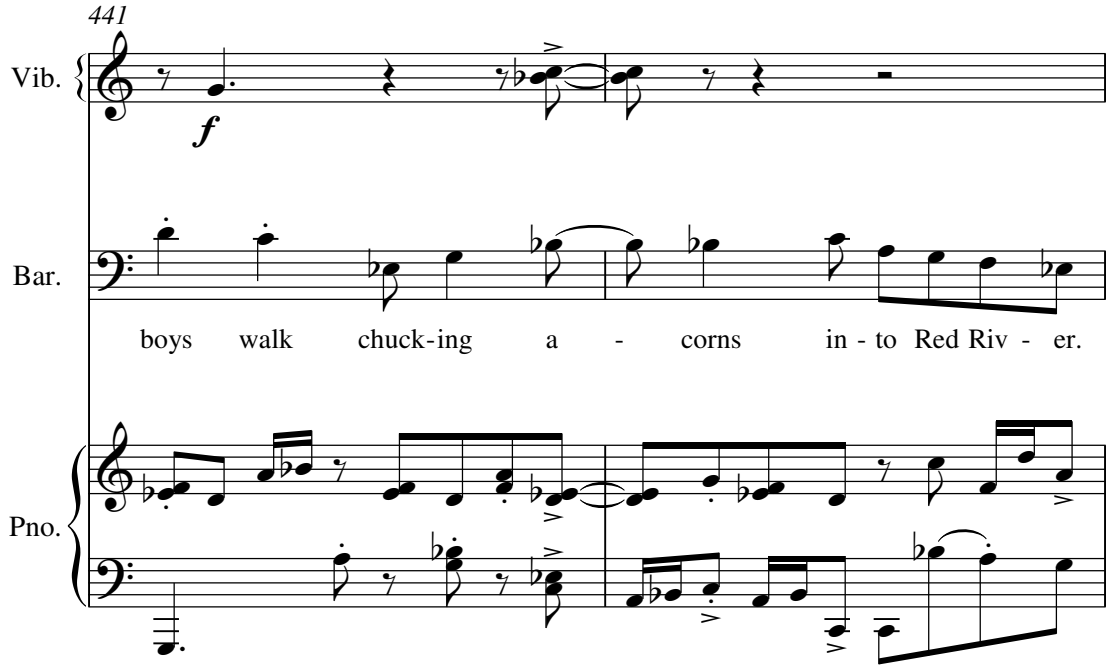

431
432
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
f
f
f
The boys call bird dogs back

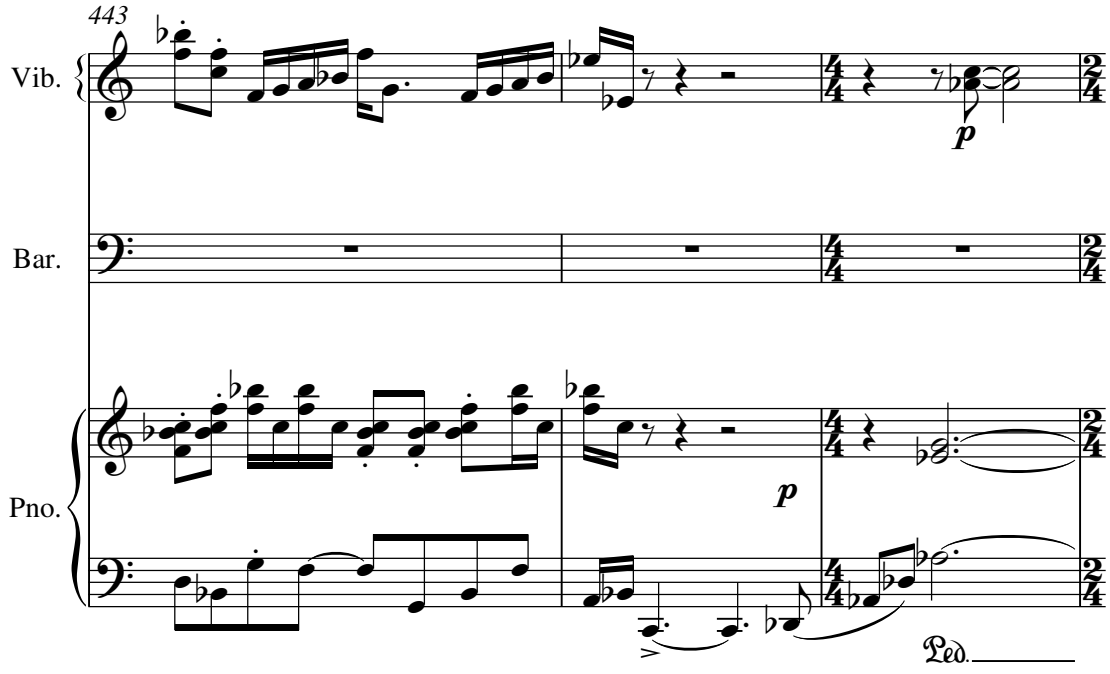

433
Vib.
Bar.
to the hol- low.
Mouths
full
Pno.

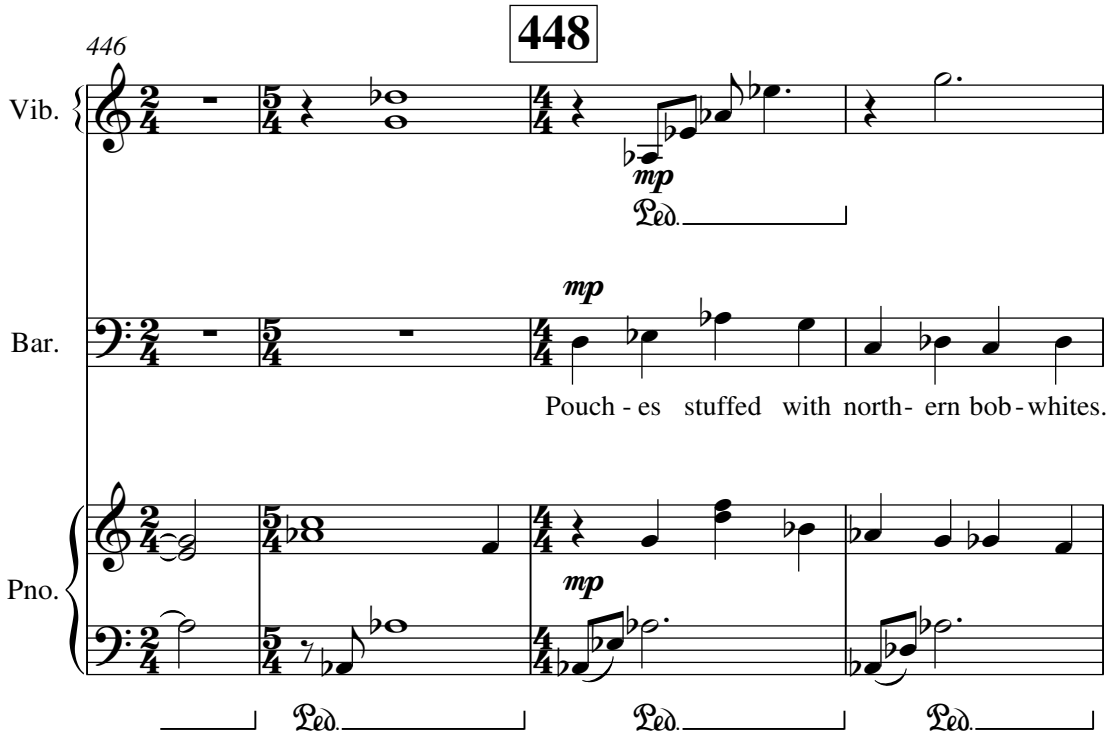

435
Vib.
Bar.
of quail,
mud - died feath-ers stuck
Pno.

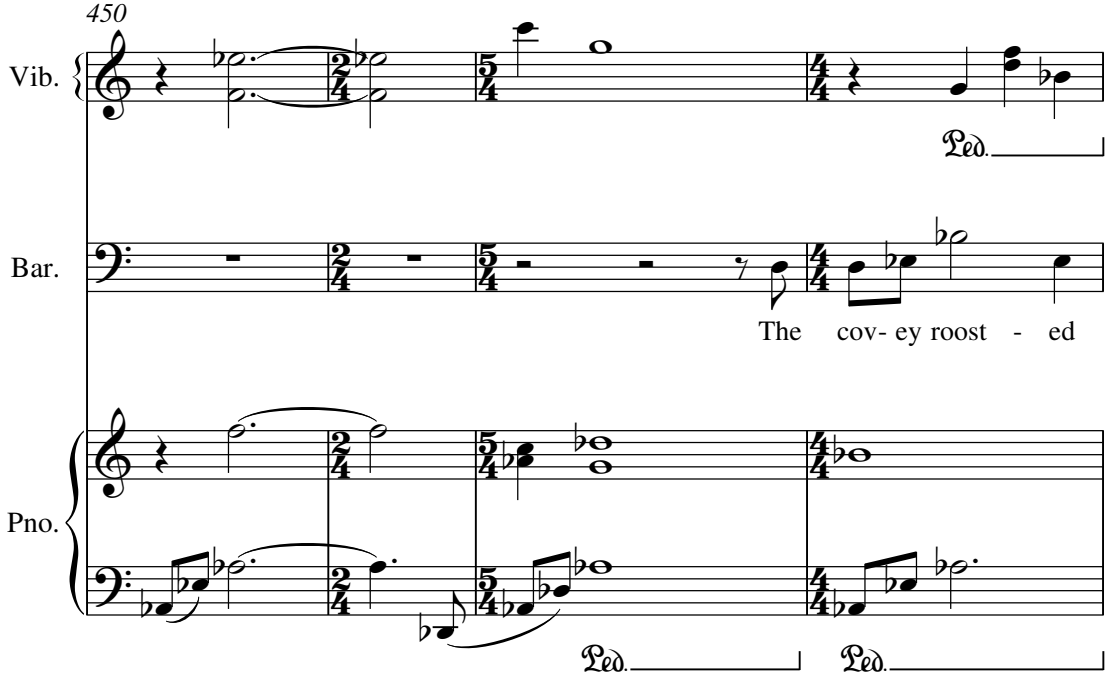

437
Vib.
Bar.
to snouts and ears.
Pno.

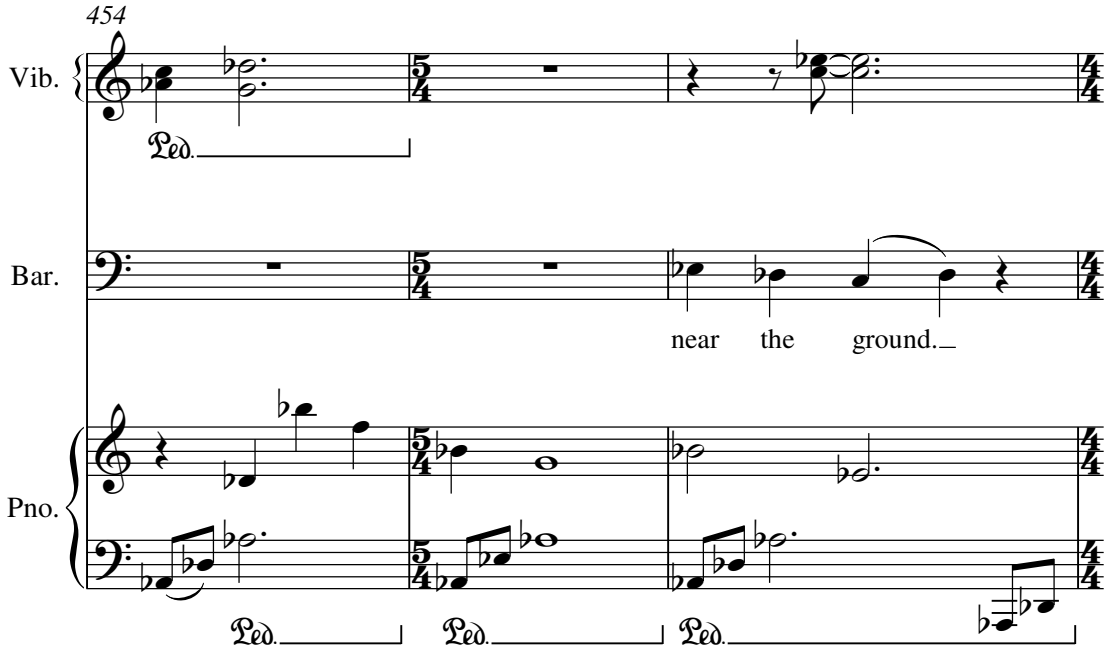

439
Vib.
ff
Bar.
ff
f
Shot-gun shells full of net-tles. The
Pno.
ff
f

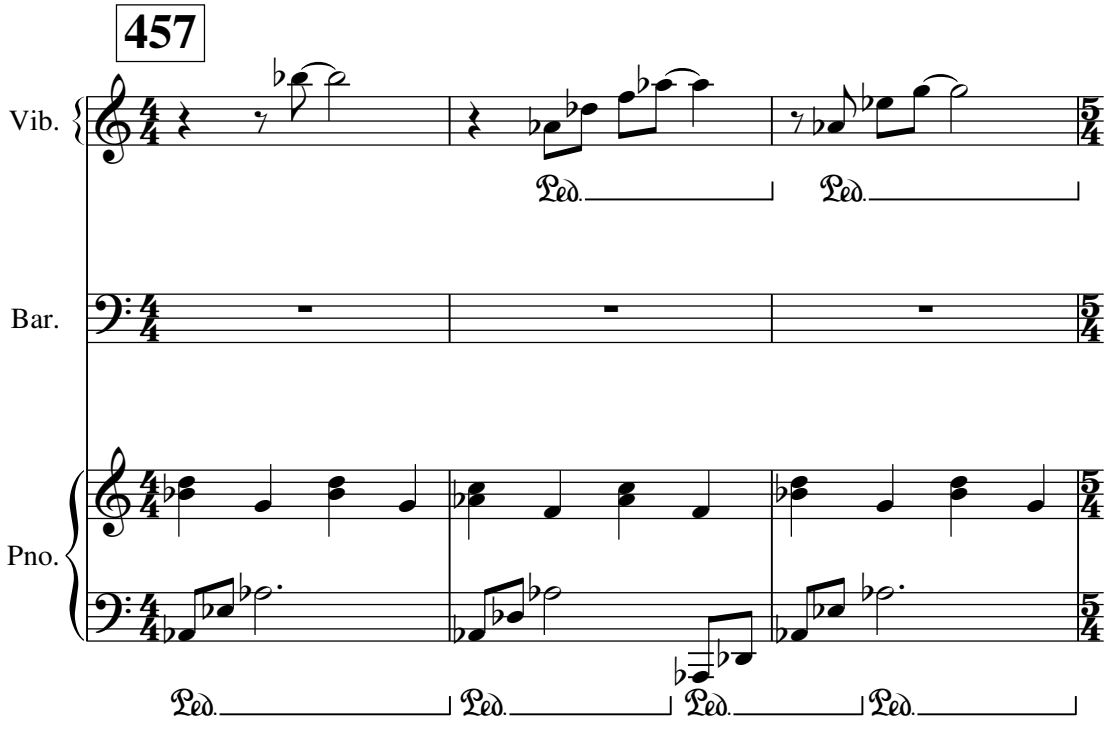

441
Vib.
f
Bar.
boys walk chuck-ing a - corns in - to Red Riv - er.
Pno.

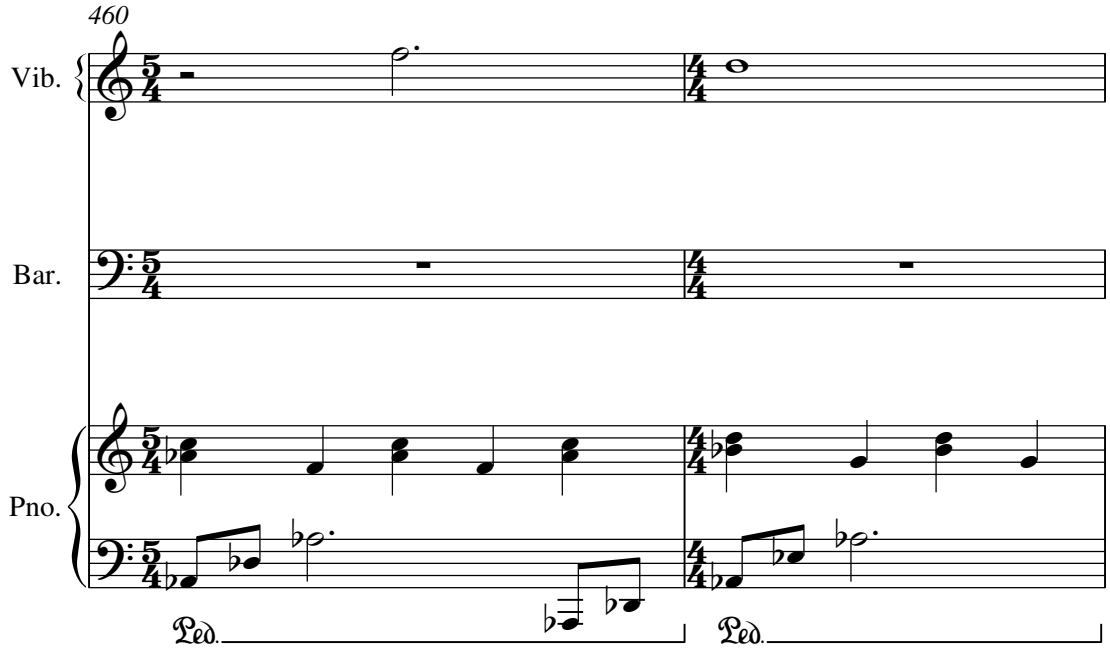

443
Vib.
p
Bar.
Pno.
p
Ped.

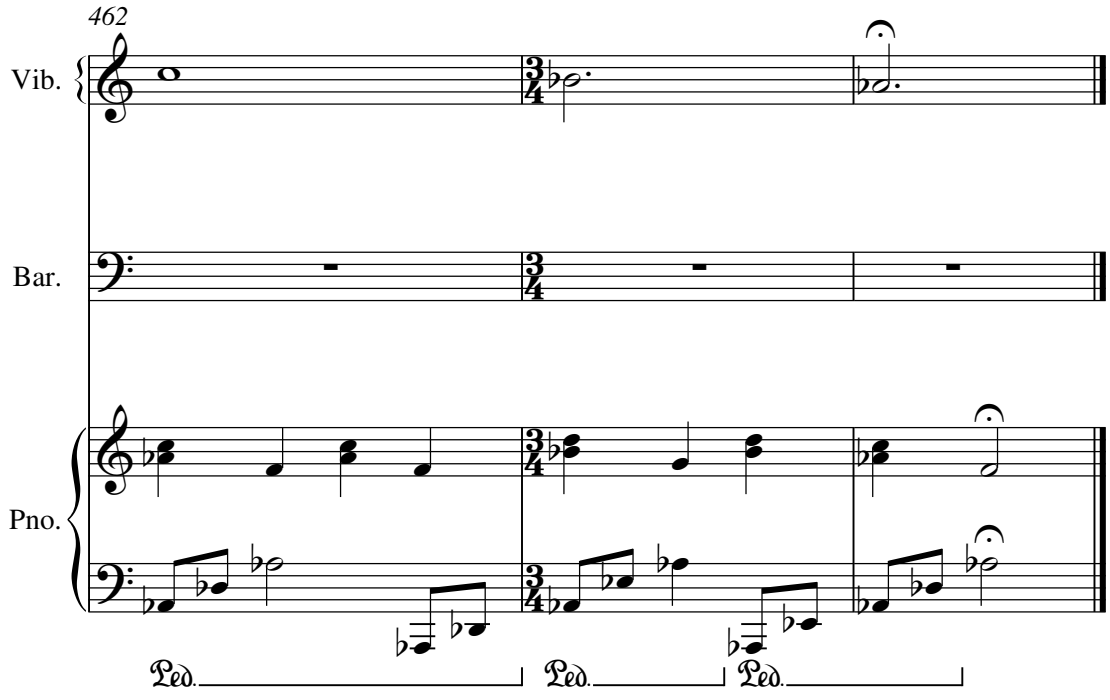

448
446
Vib.
mp
Ped.
Bar.
mp
Pouch - es stuffed with north- ern bob - whites.
Pno.
mp
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.


450
Vib.
Ped.
Bar.
The cov- ey roost - ed
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.

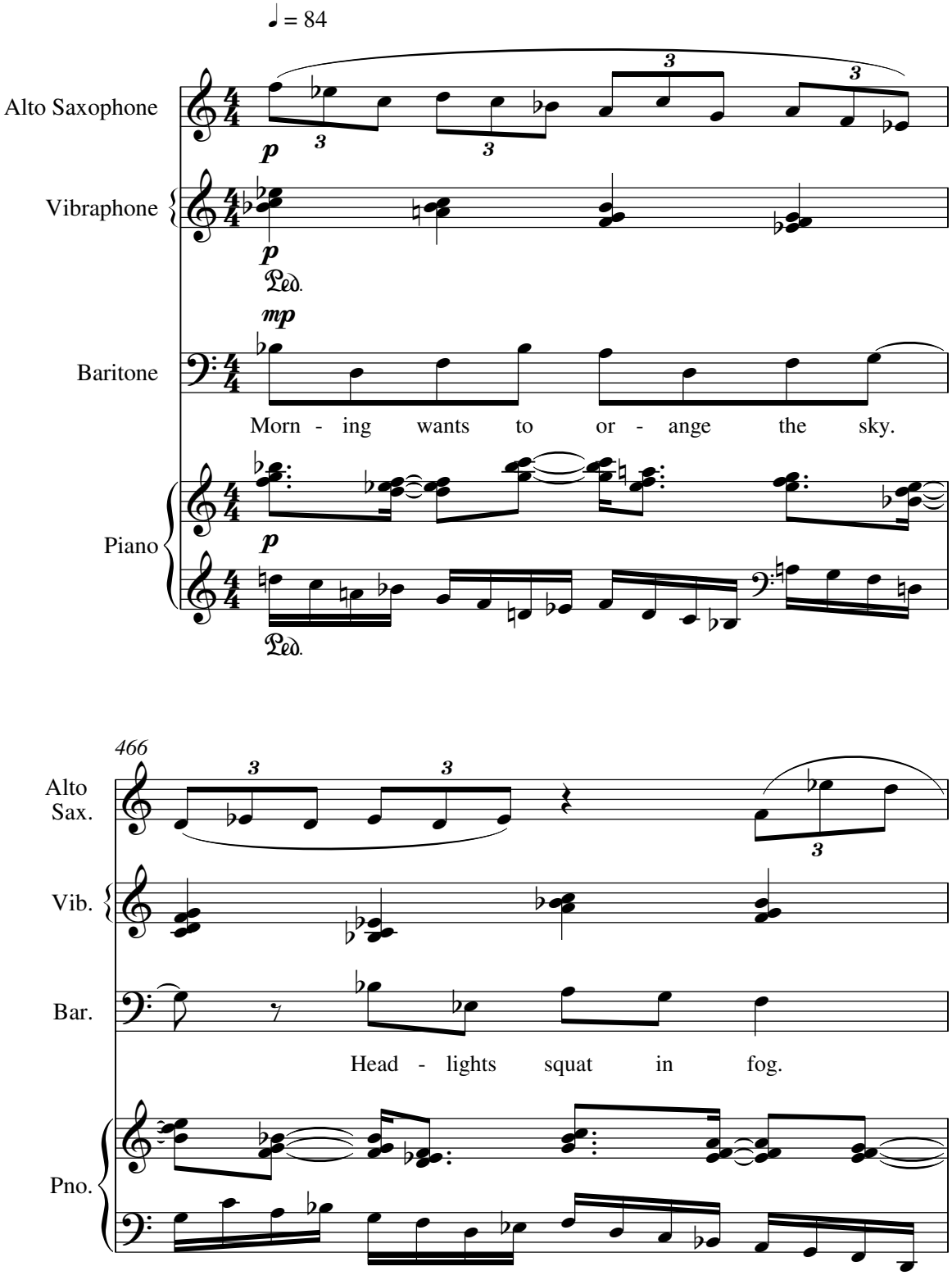

454
Vib.
Bar.
near the ground.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

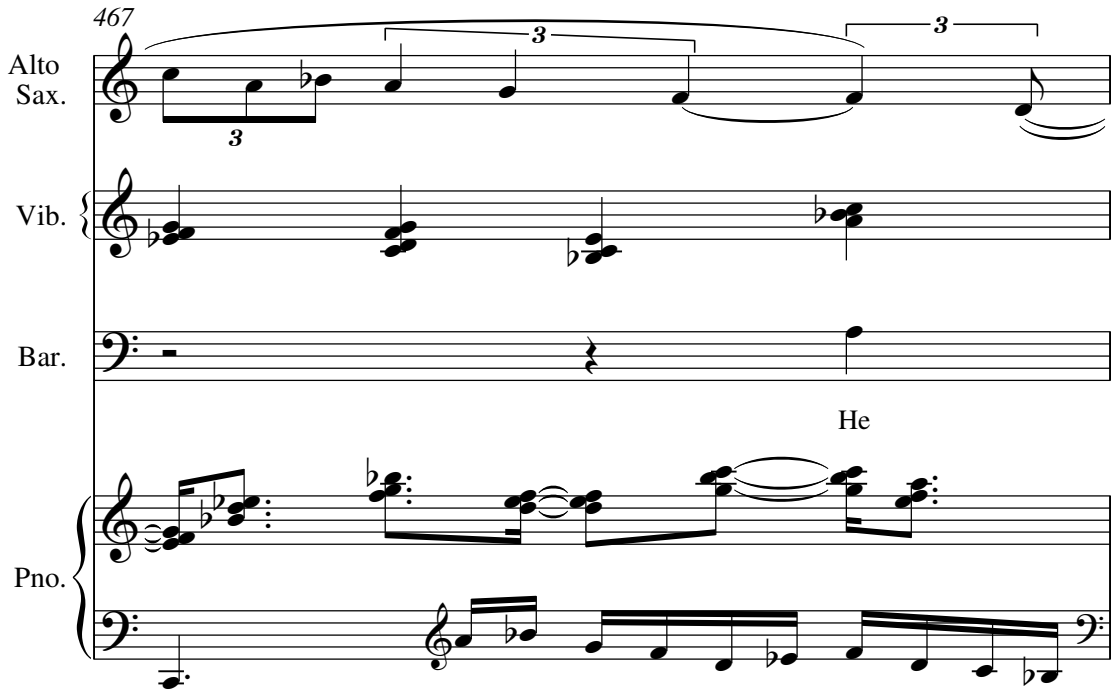

457
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

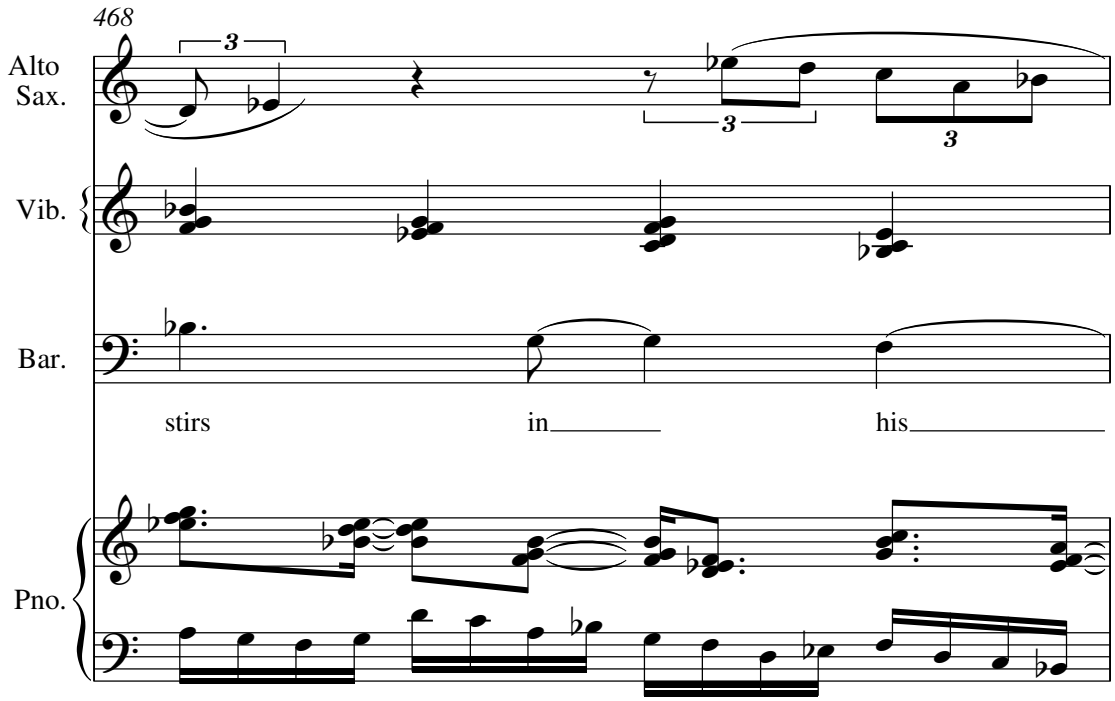

460
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.

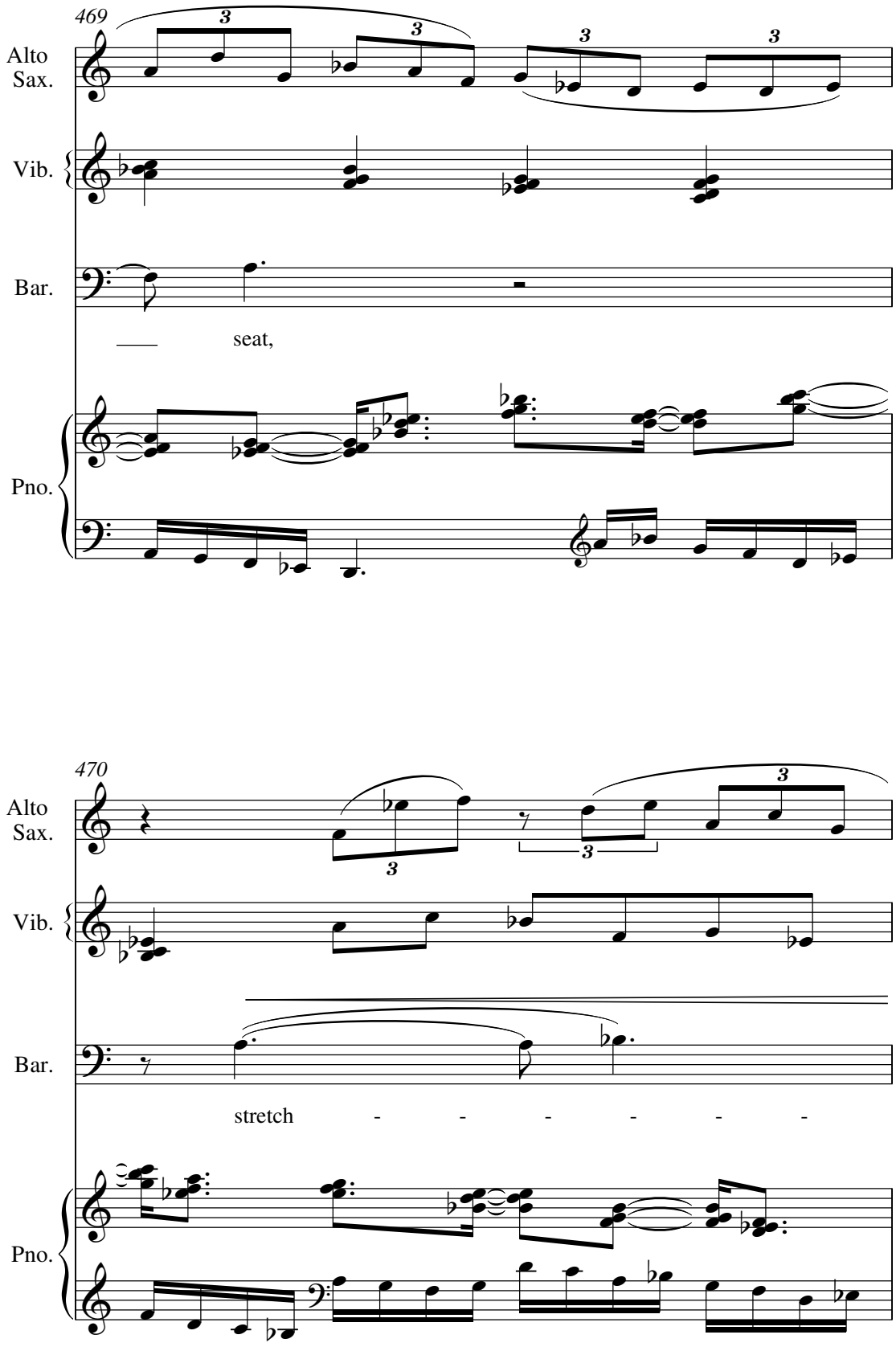

462
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

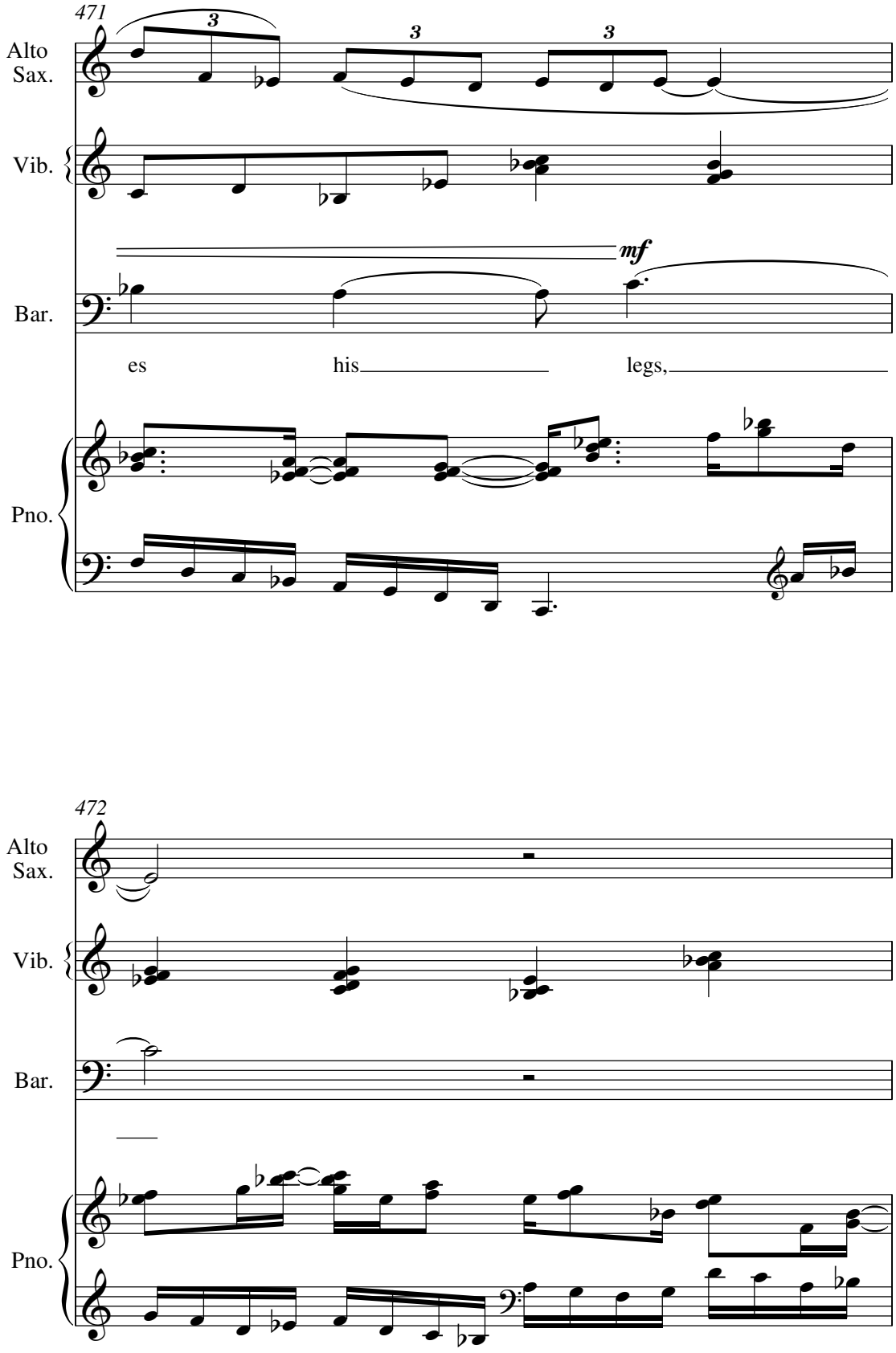
6 - Parkway Construction

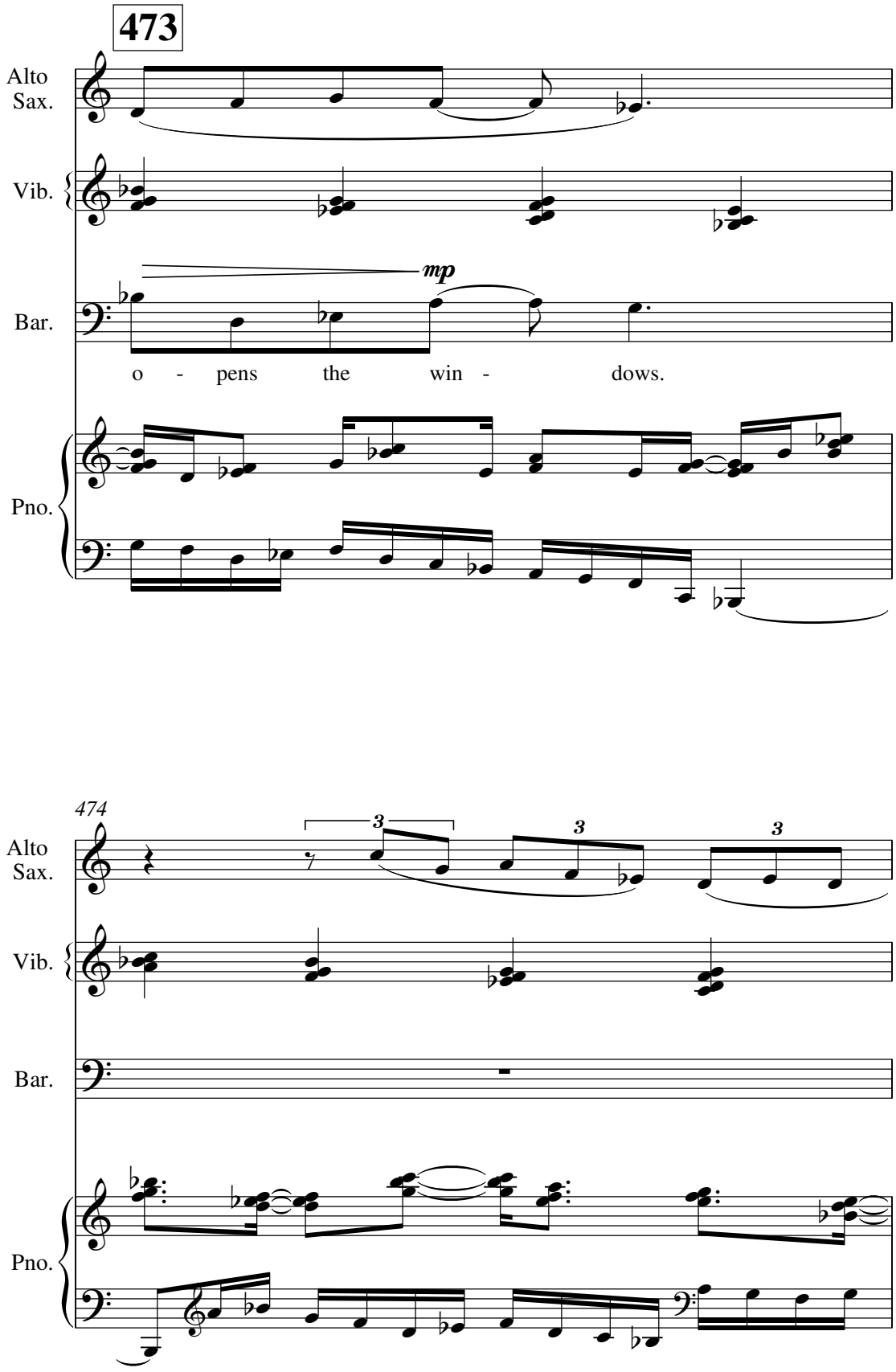


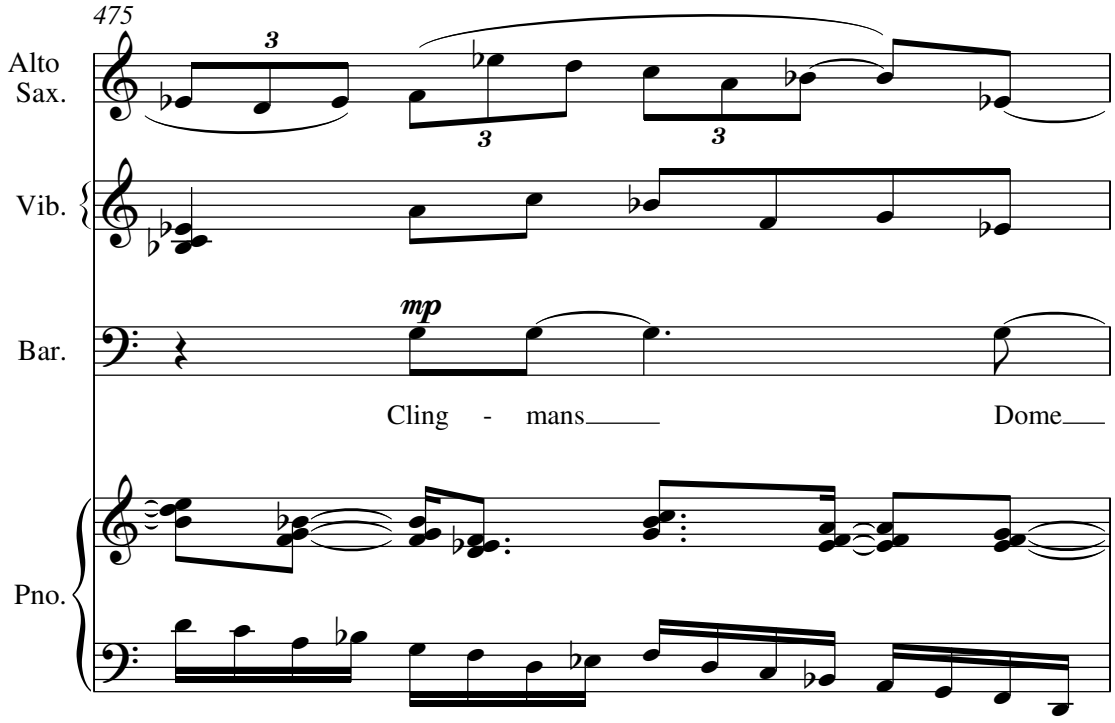

467
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
He
Pno.

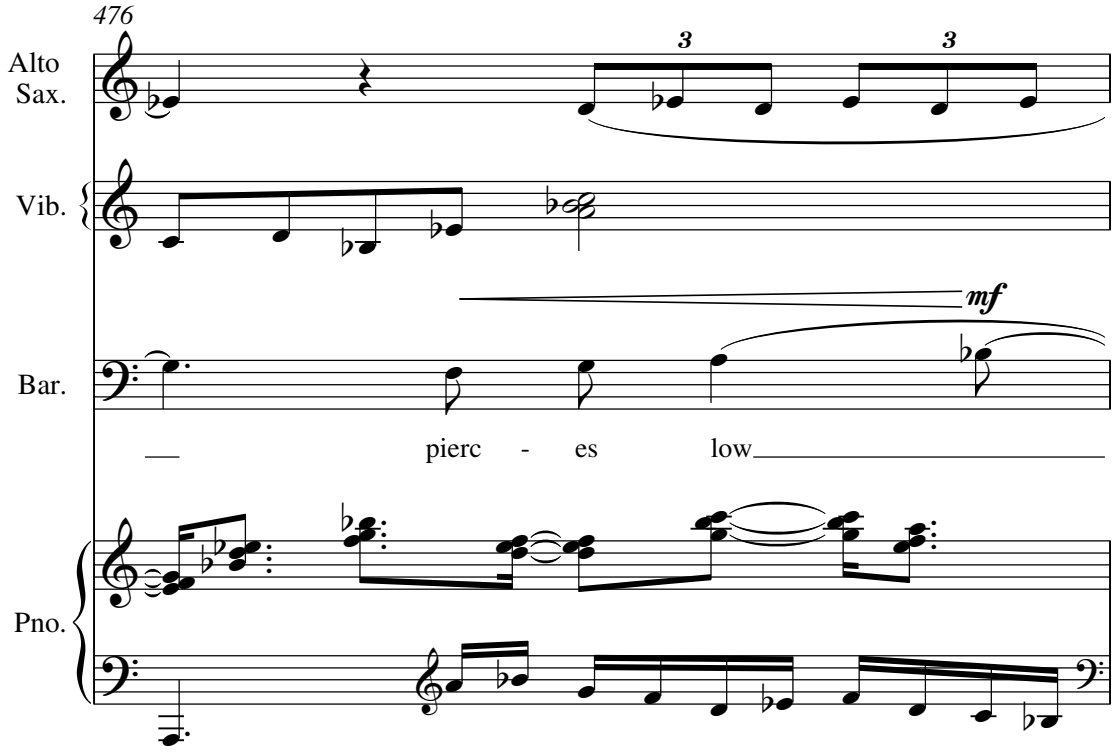

468
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
stirs in his
Pno.

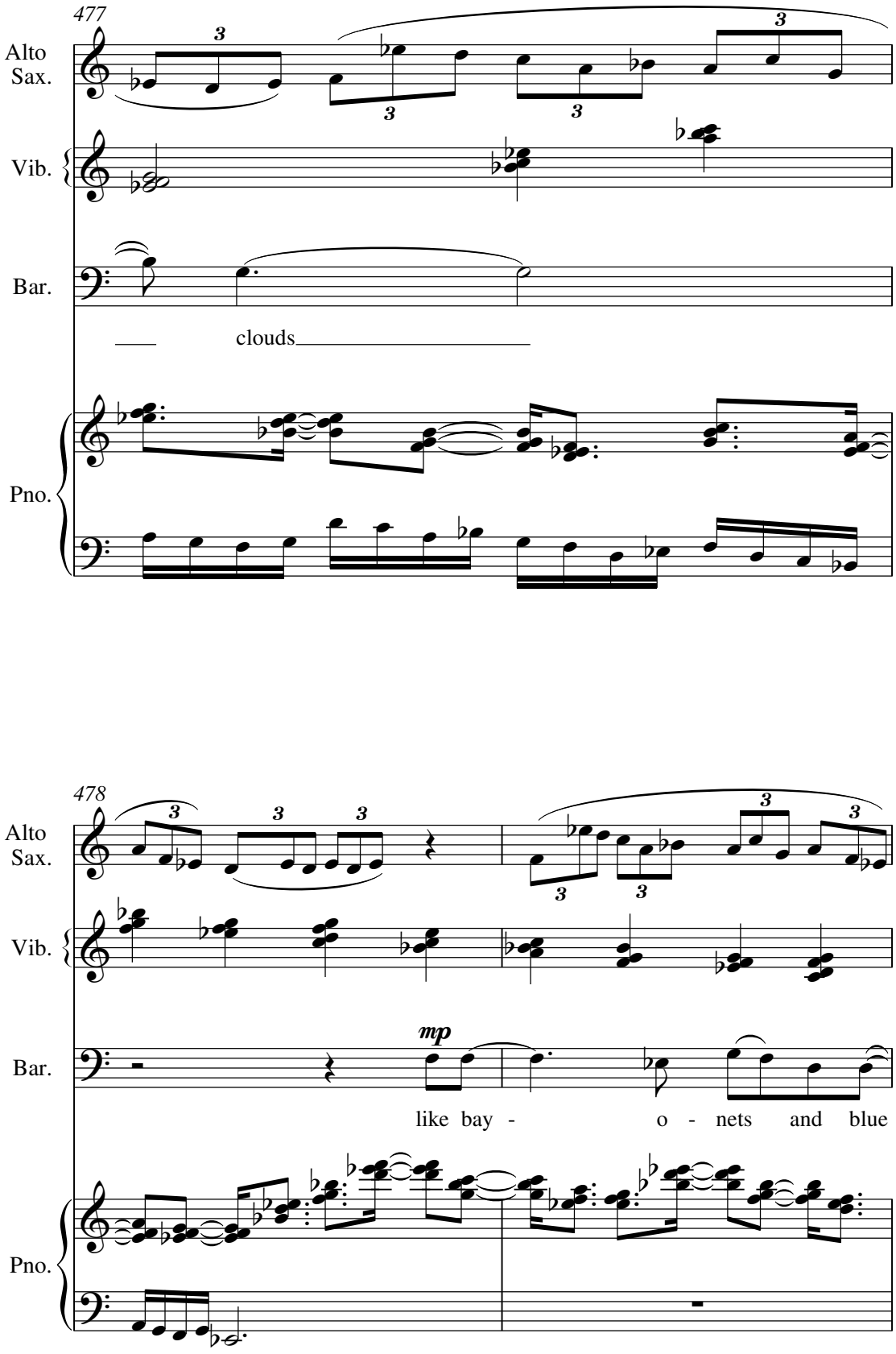

469
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
seat,
Pno.
470
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
stretch - - - - - -
Pno.

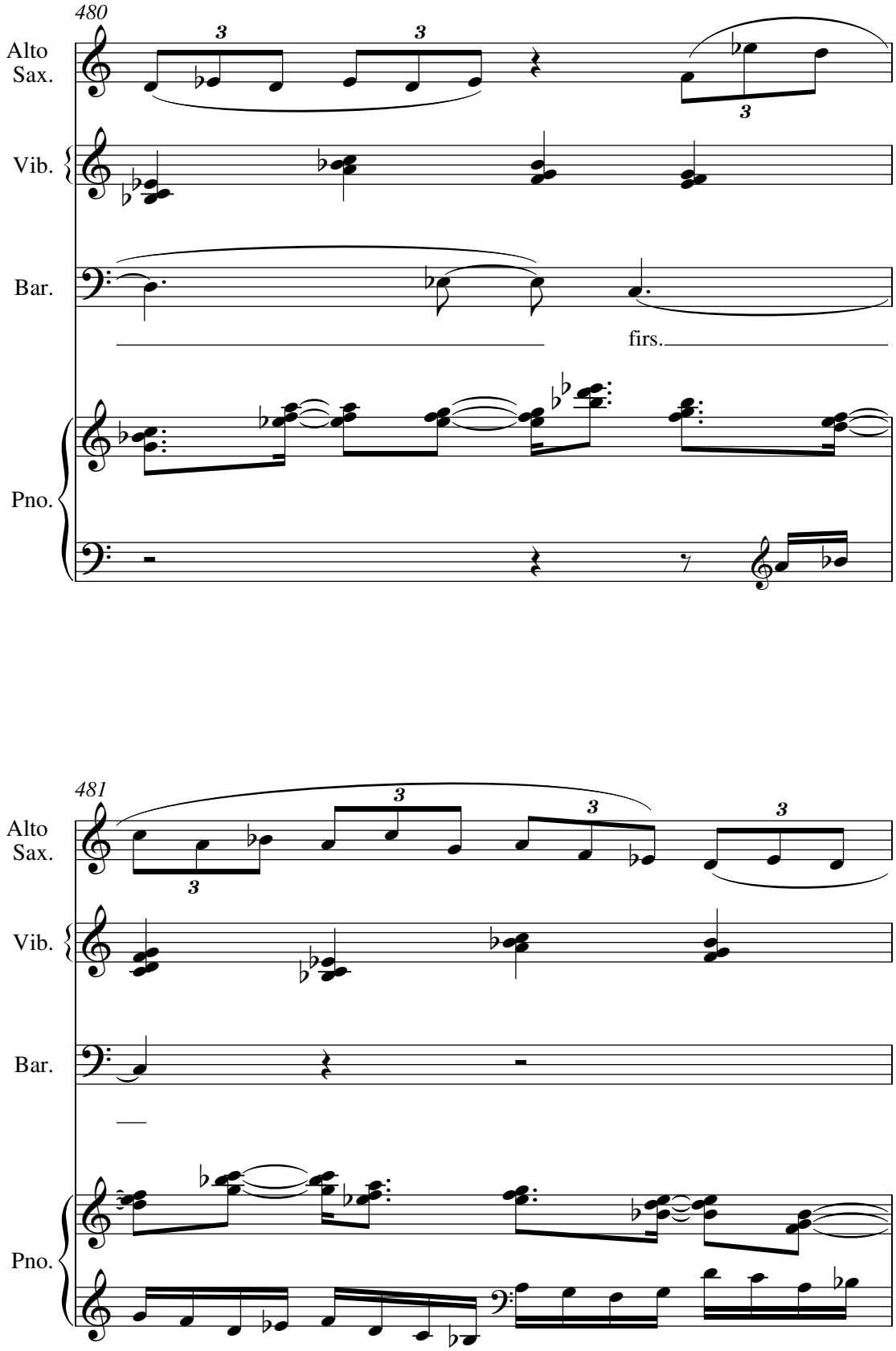

471
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
mf
es his legs,
Pno.
472
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

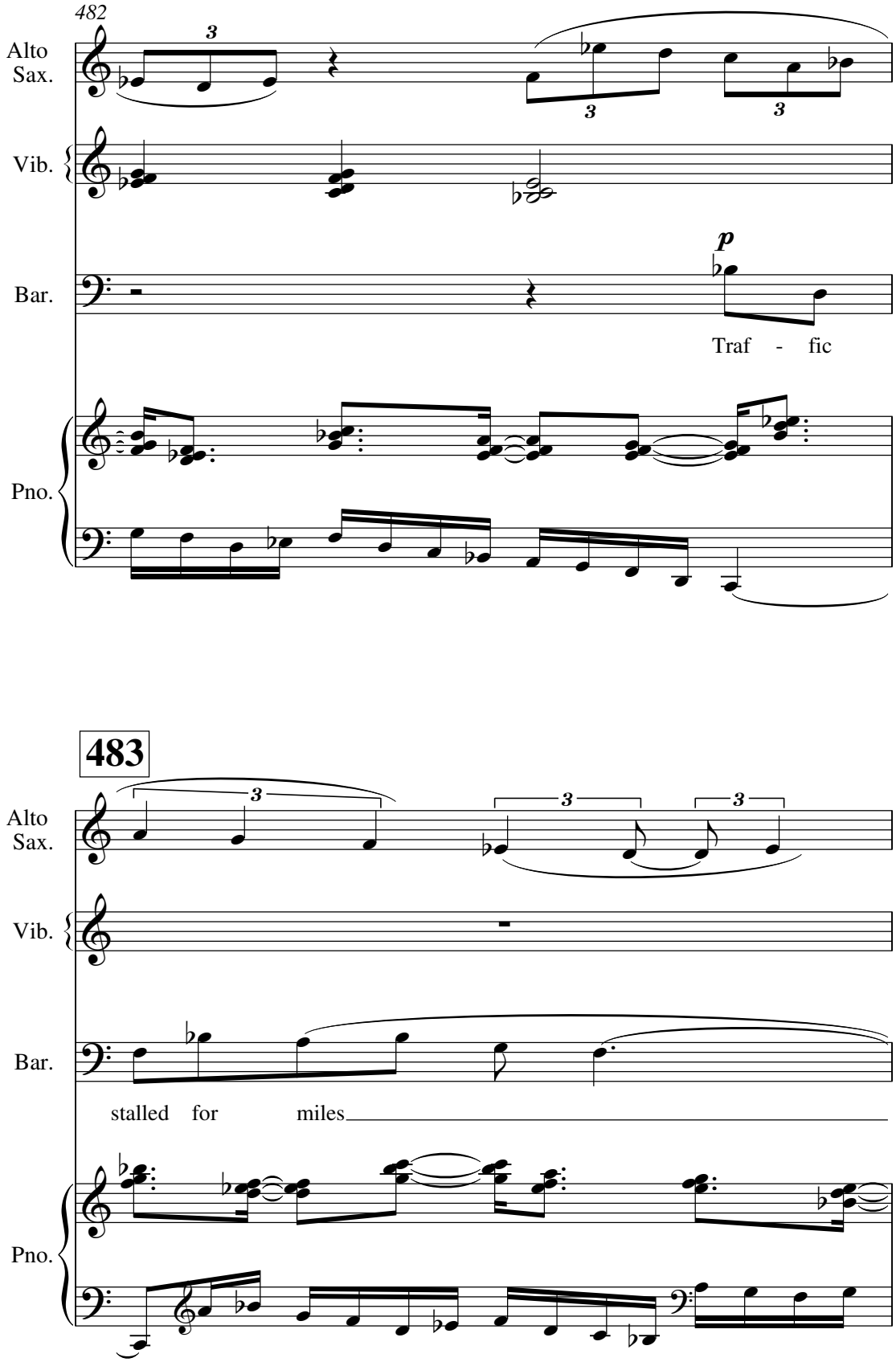

473
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
mp
o - pens the win - dows.
Pno.
474
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

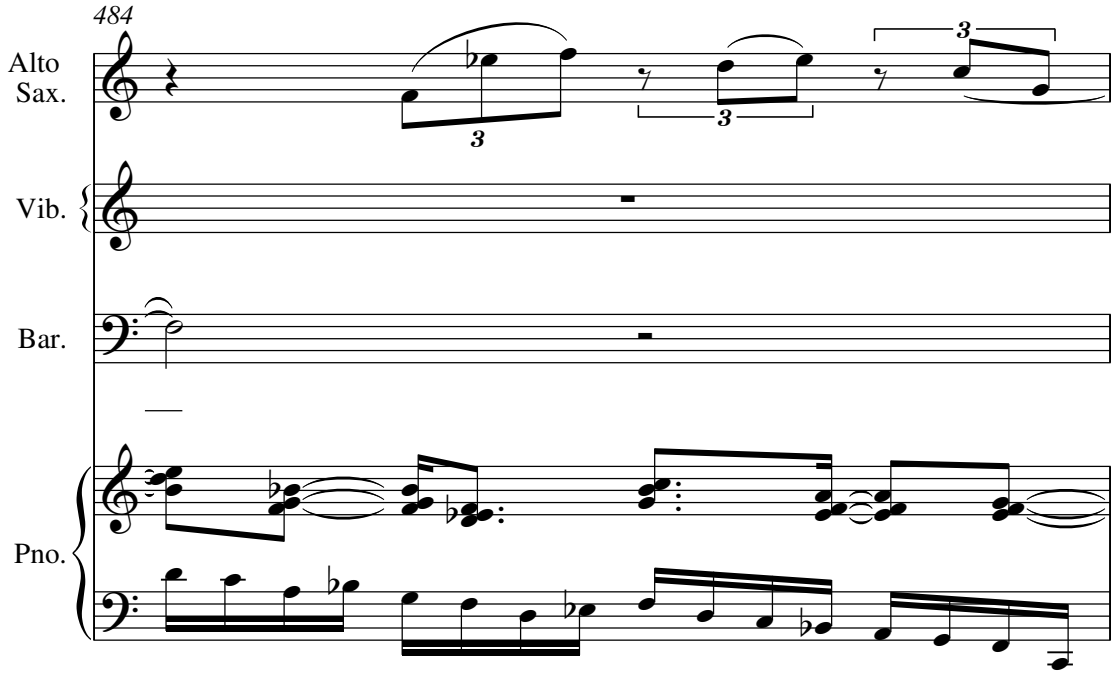

475
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
mp
Cling - mans Dome
Pno.

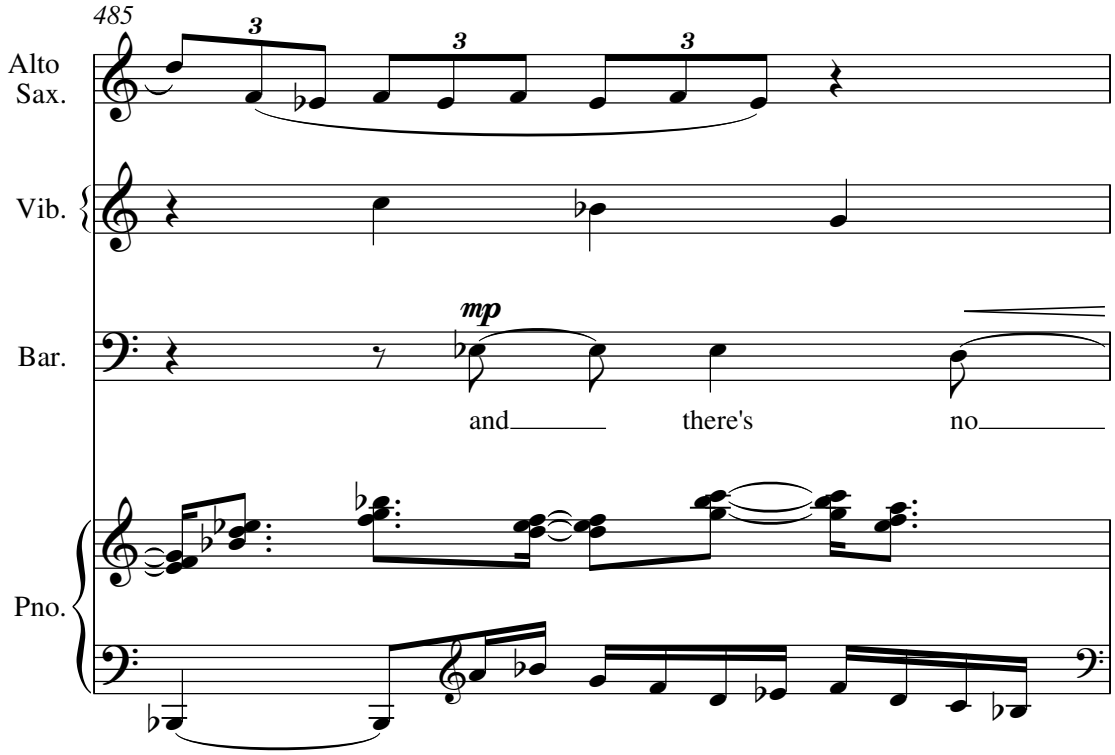

476
Alto Sax.
Vib.
mf
Bar.
pierc - es low
Pno.

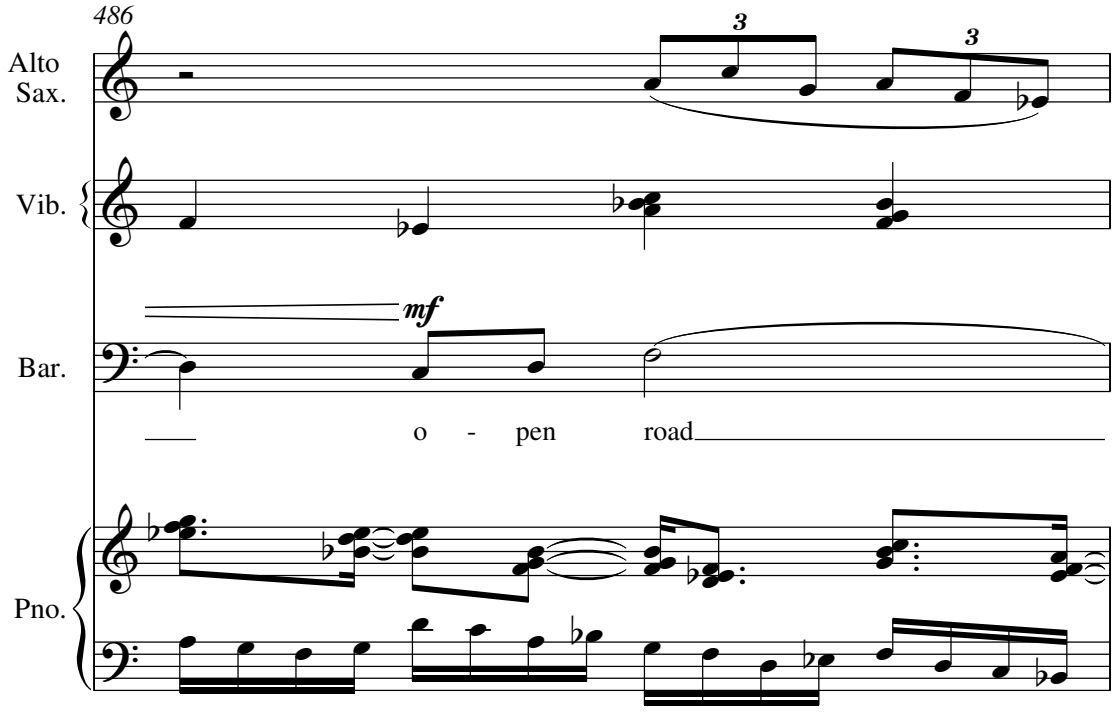

477
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
clouds
Pno.
478
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
mp
like bay - o - nets and blue
Pno.

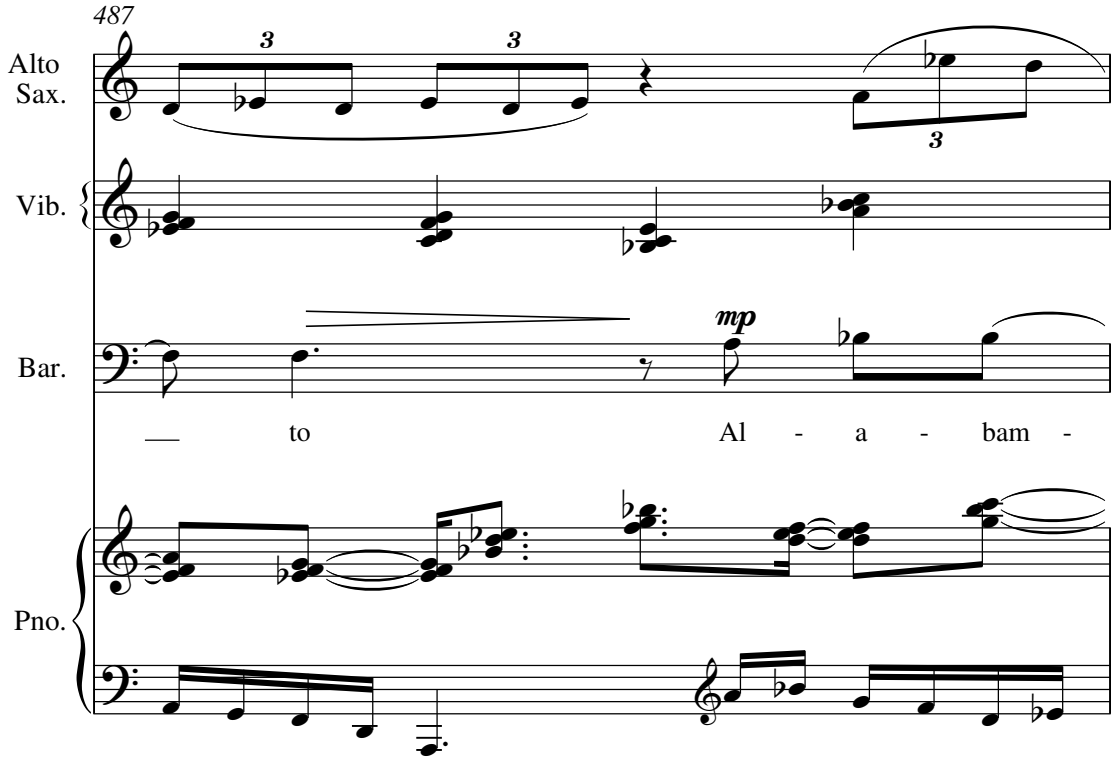

480
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
firs.
Pno.
481
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

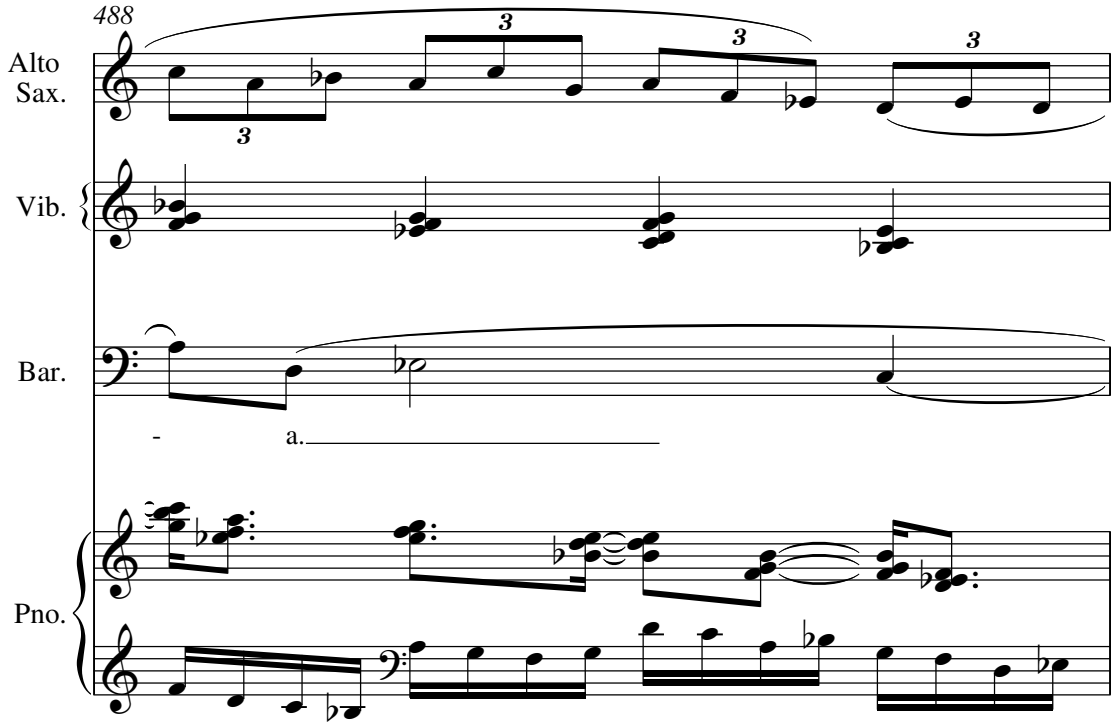

482
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
p
Traf - fic
Pno.
483
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
stalled for miles
Pno.

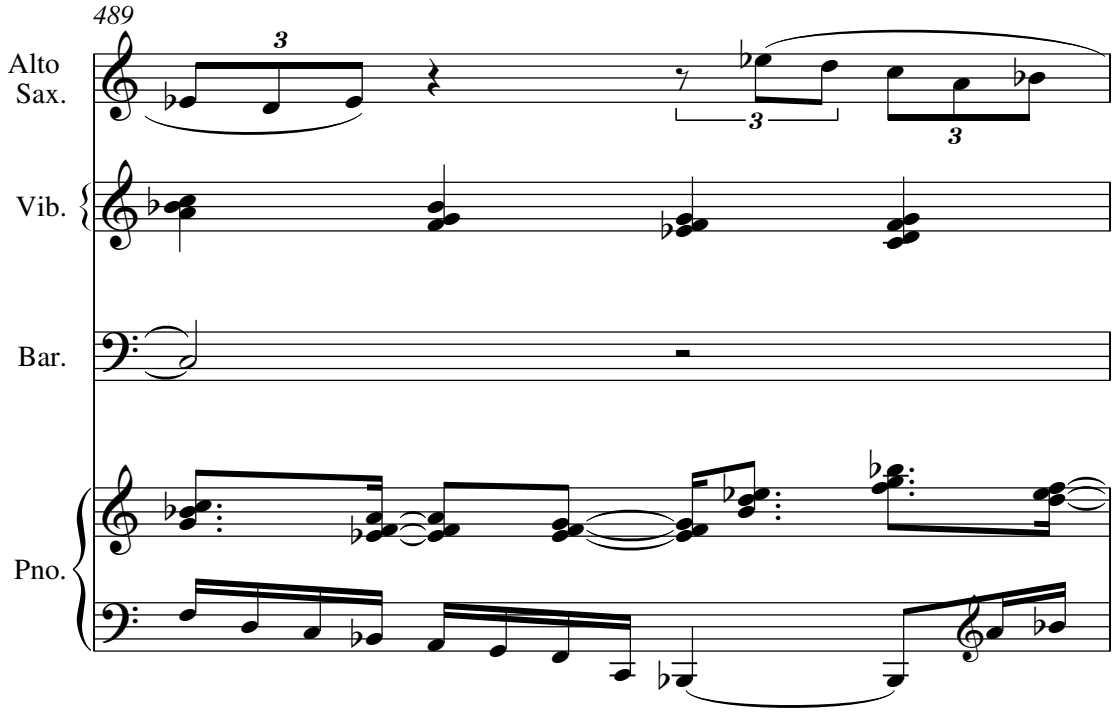

484
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

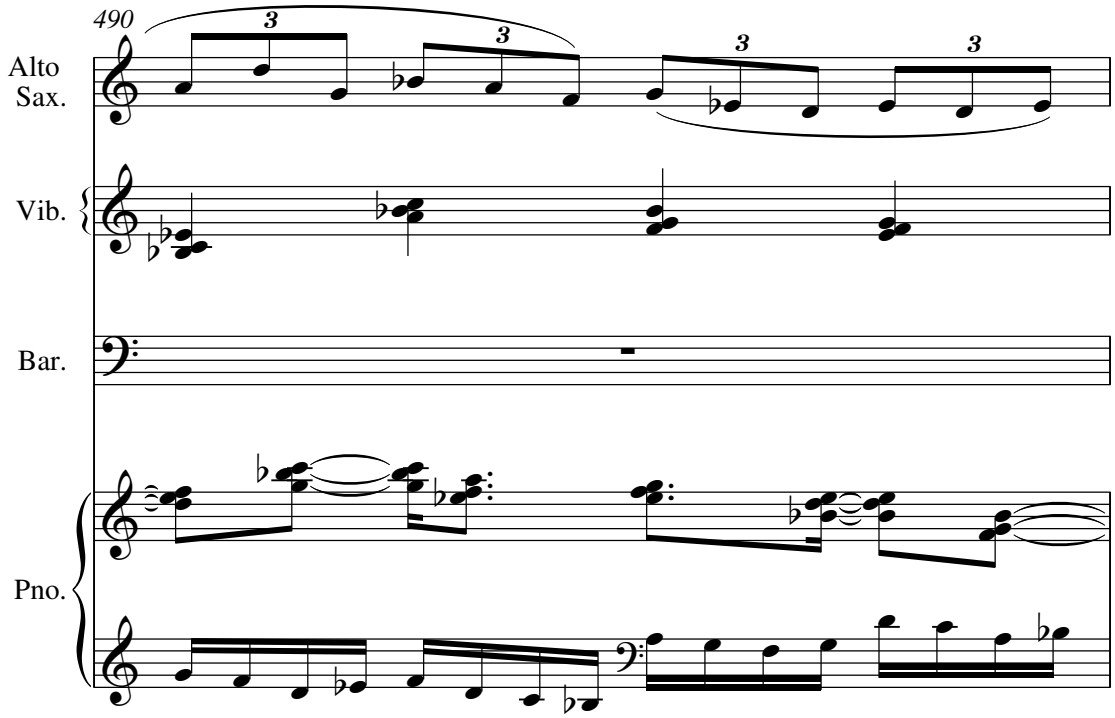

485
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
mp
and there's no
Pno.

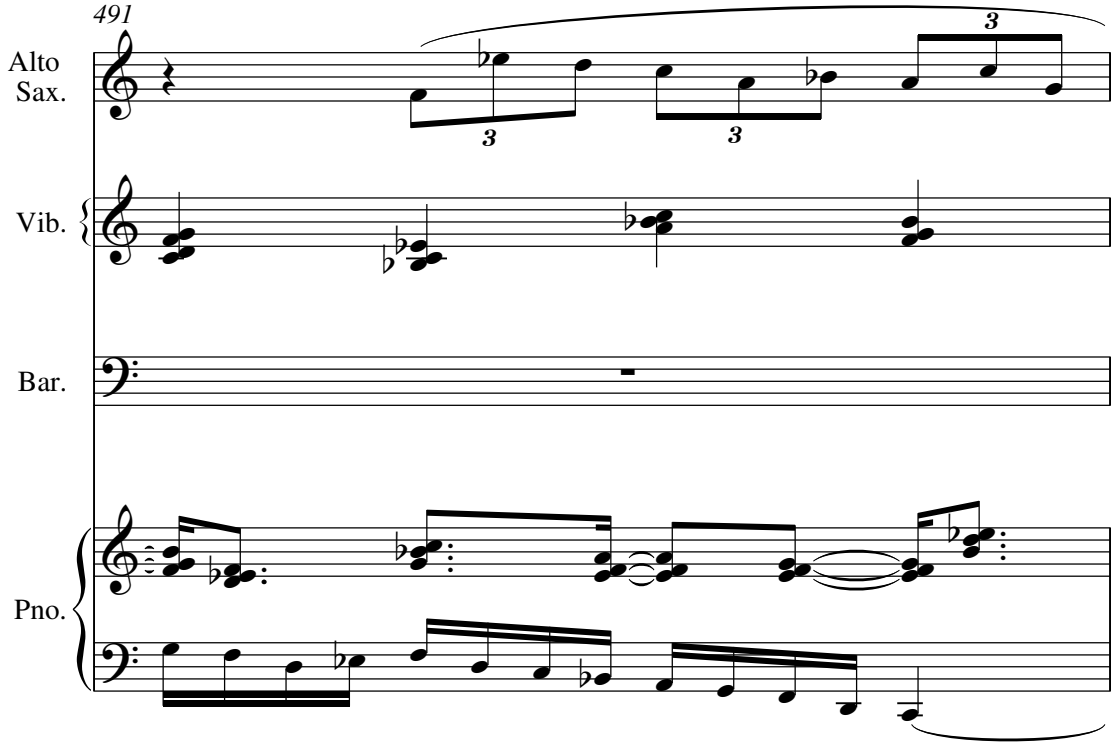

486
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
mf
o - pen road

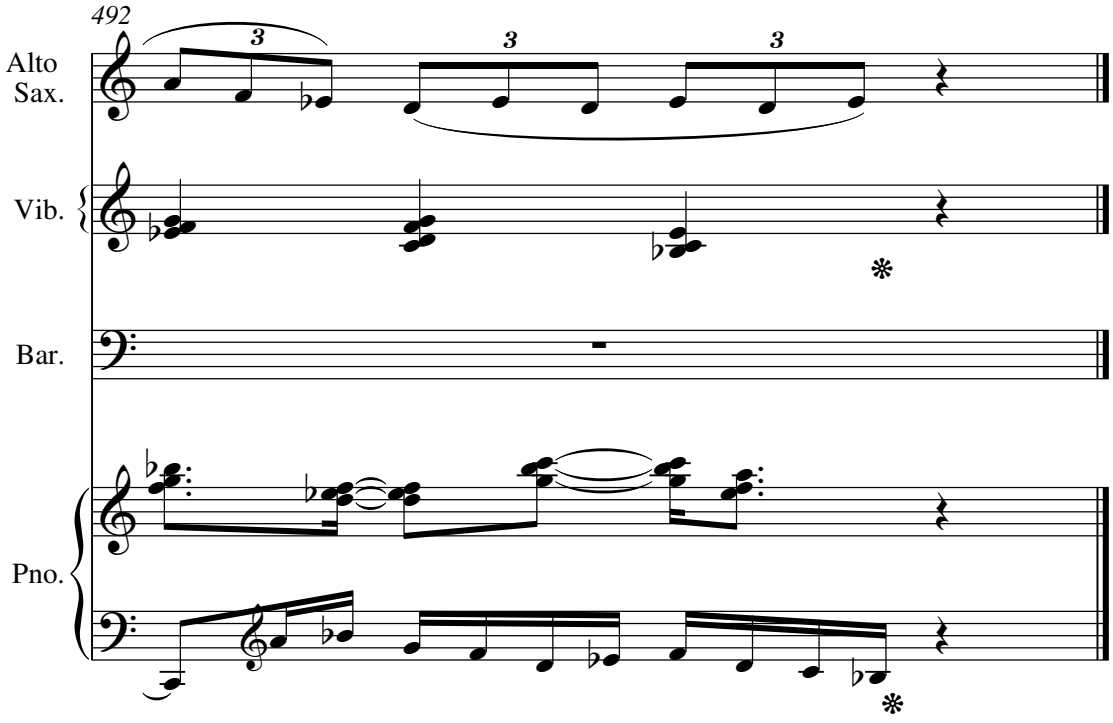

487
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.
mp
to Al - a - bam -


488
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
a.
Pno.

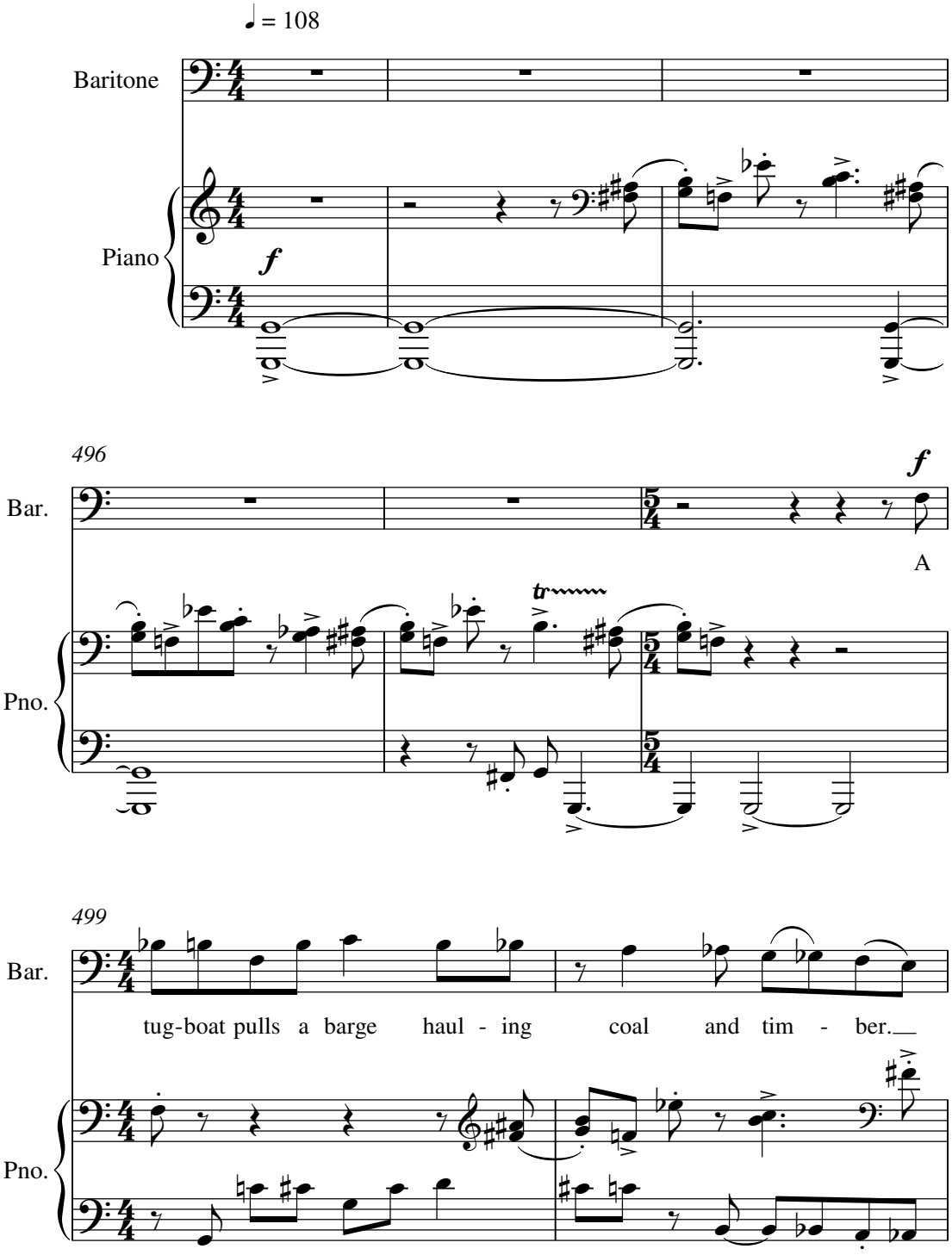

489
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

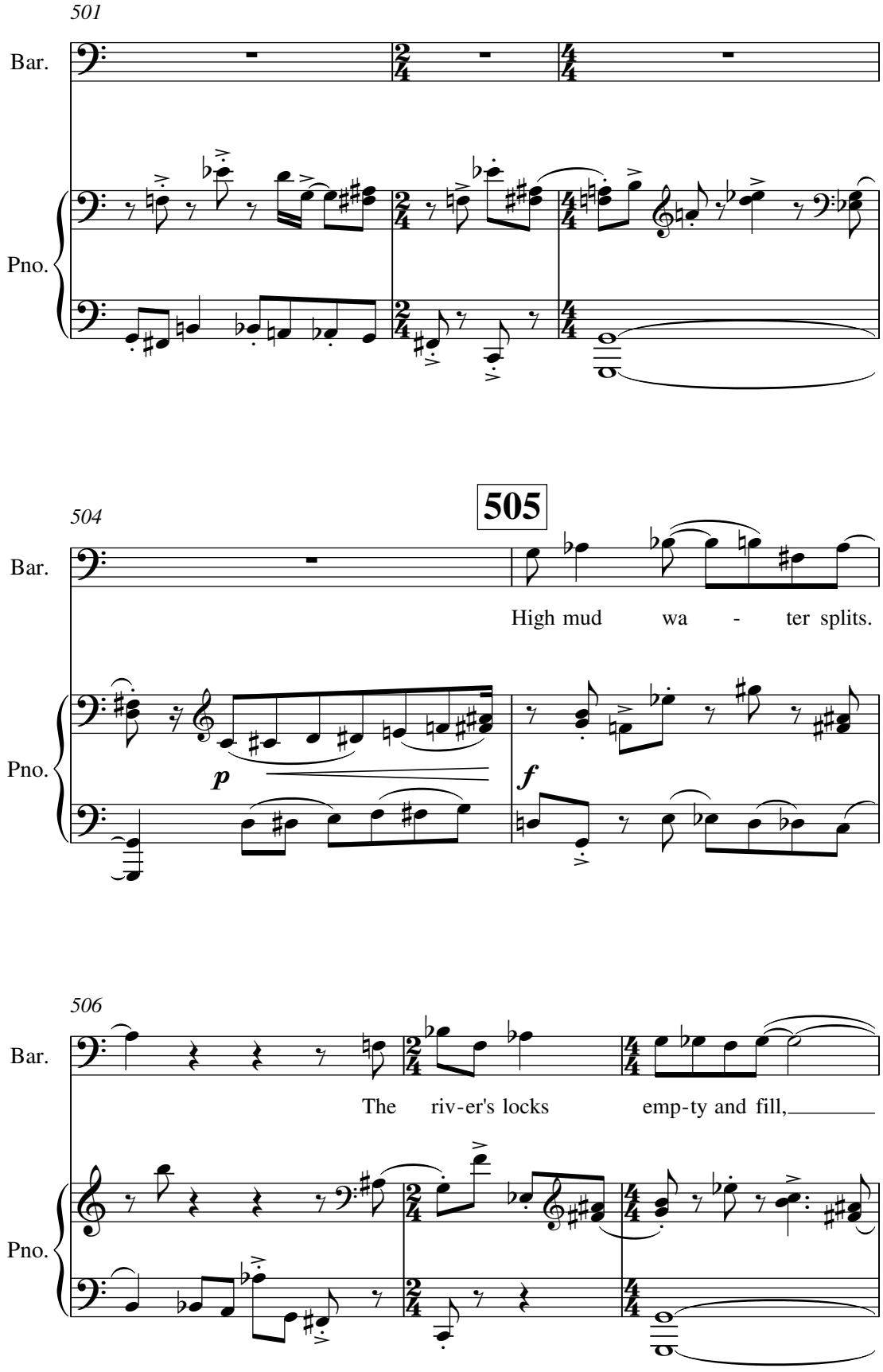

490
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

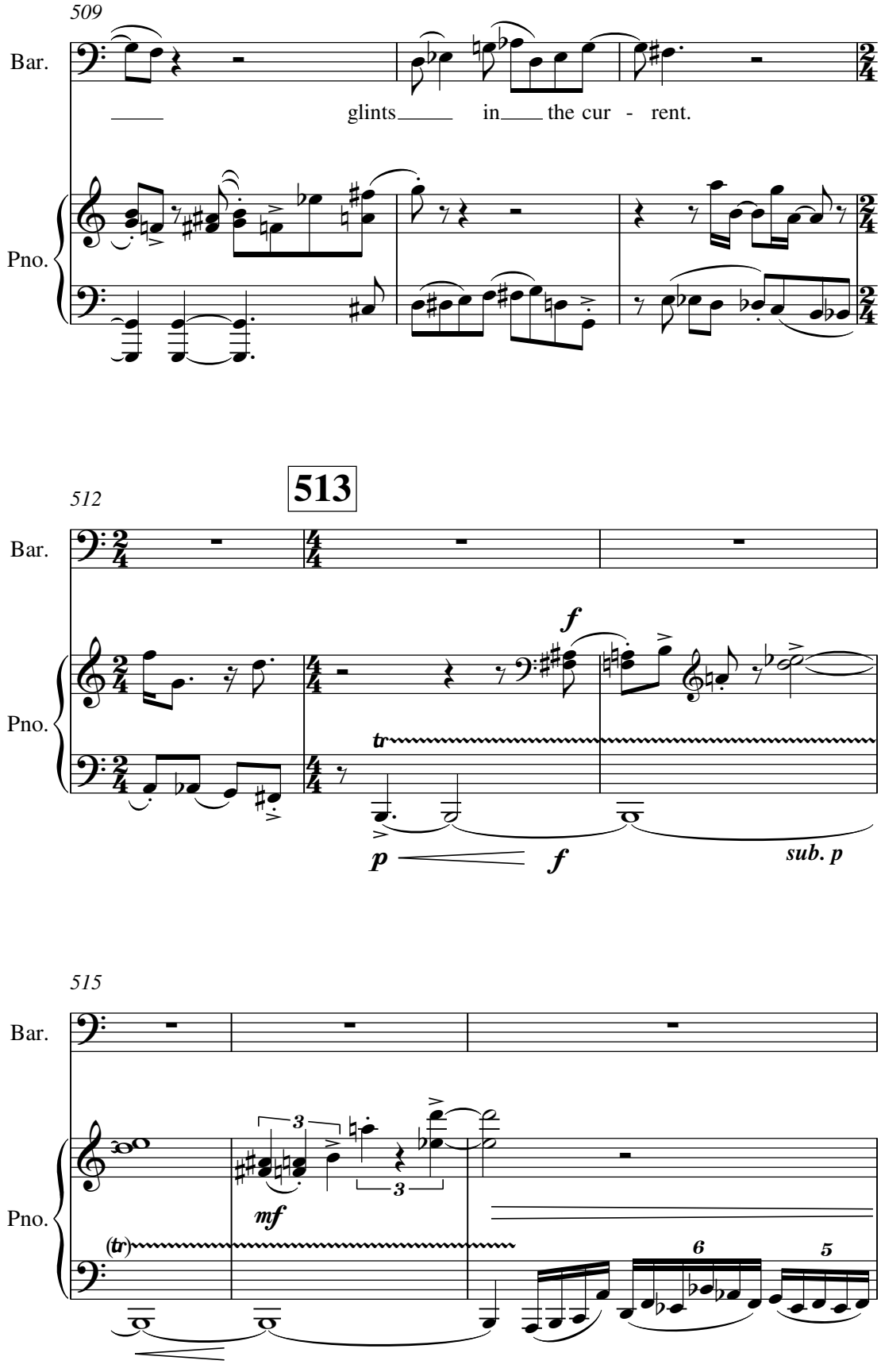

491
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

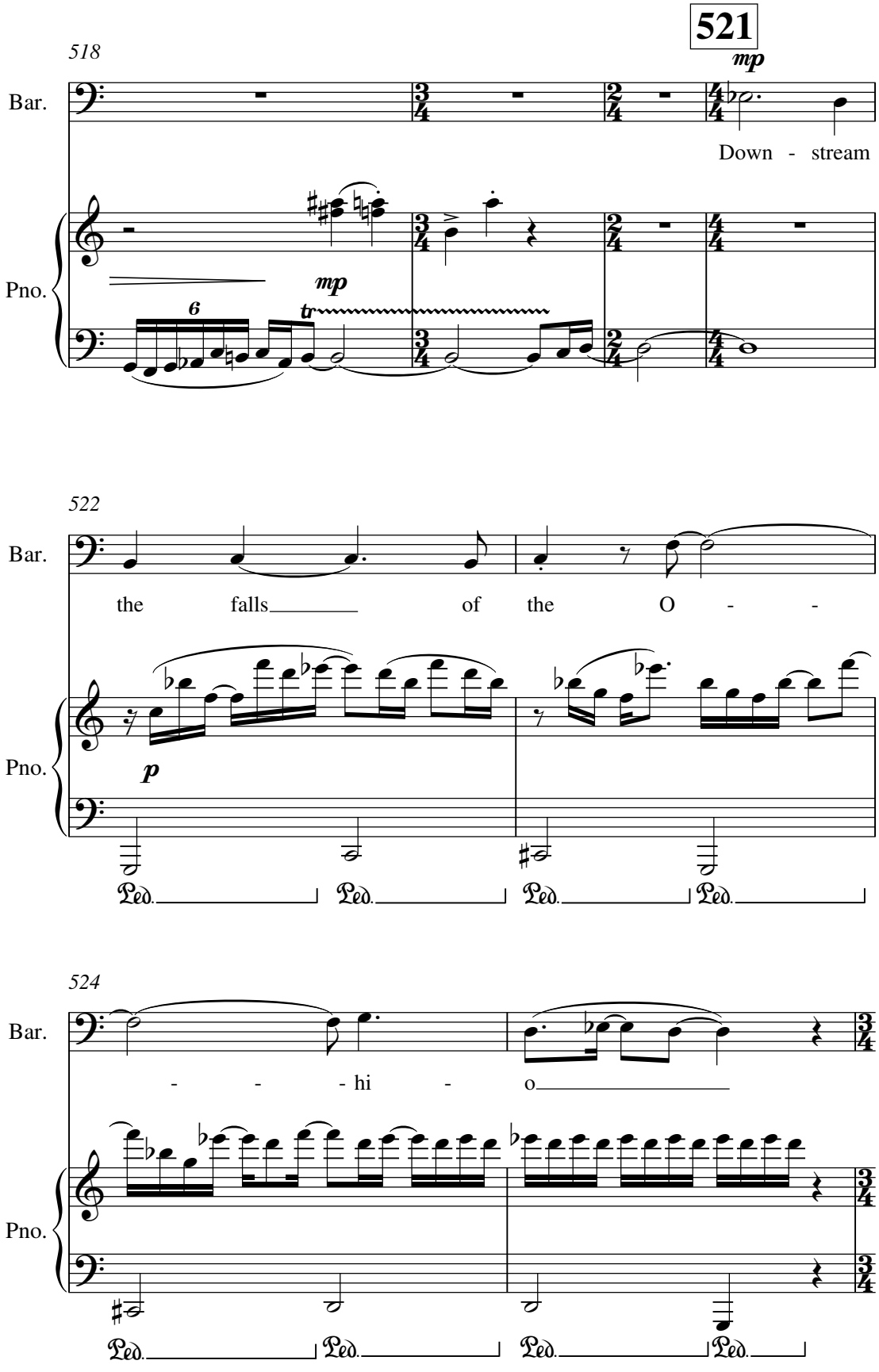

492
Alto Sax.
Vib.
Bar.
Pno.

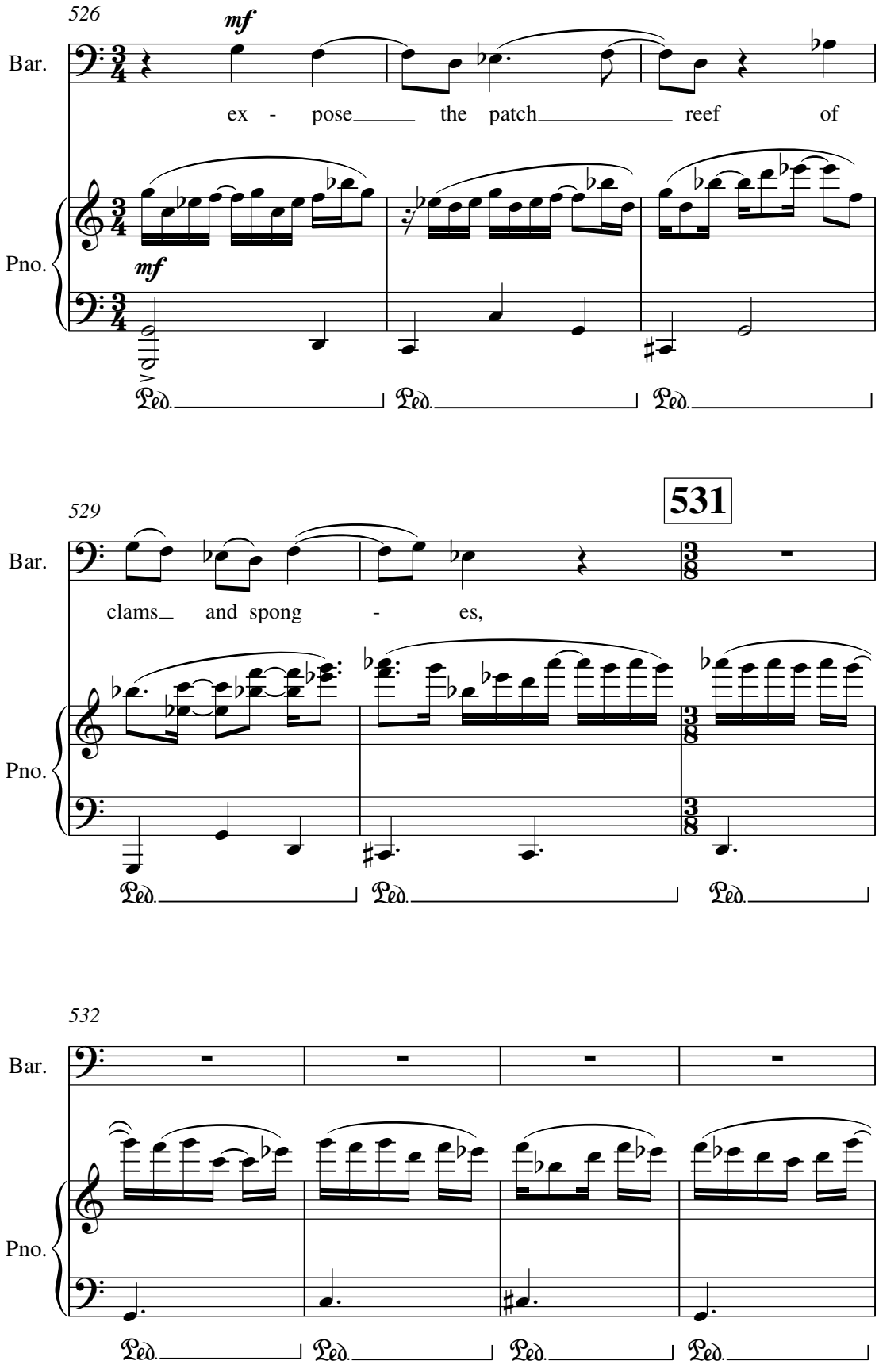
7 - Falls of the Ohio

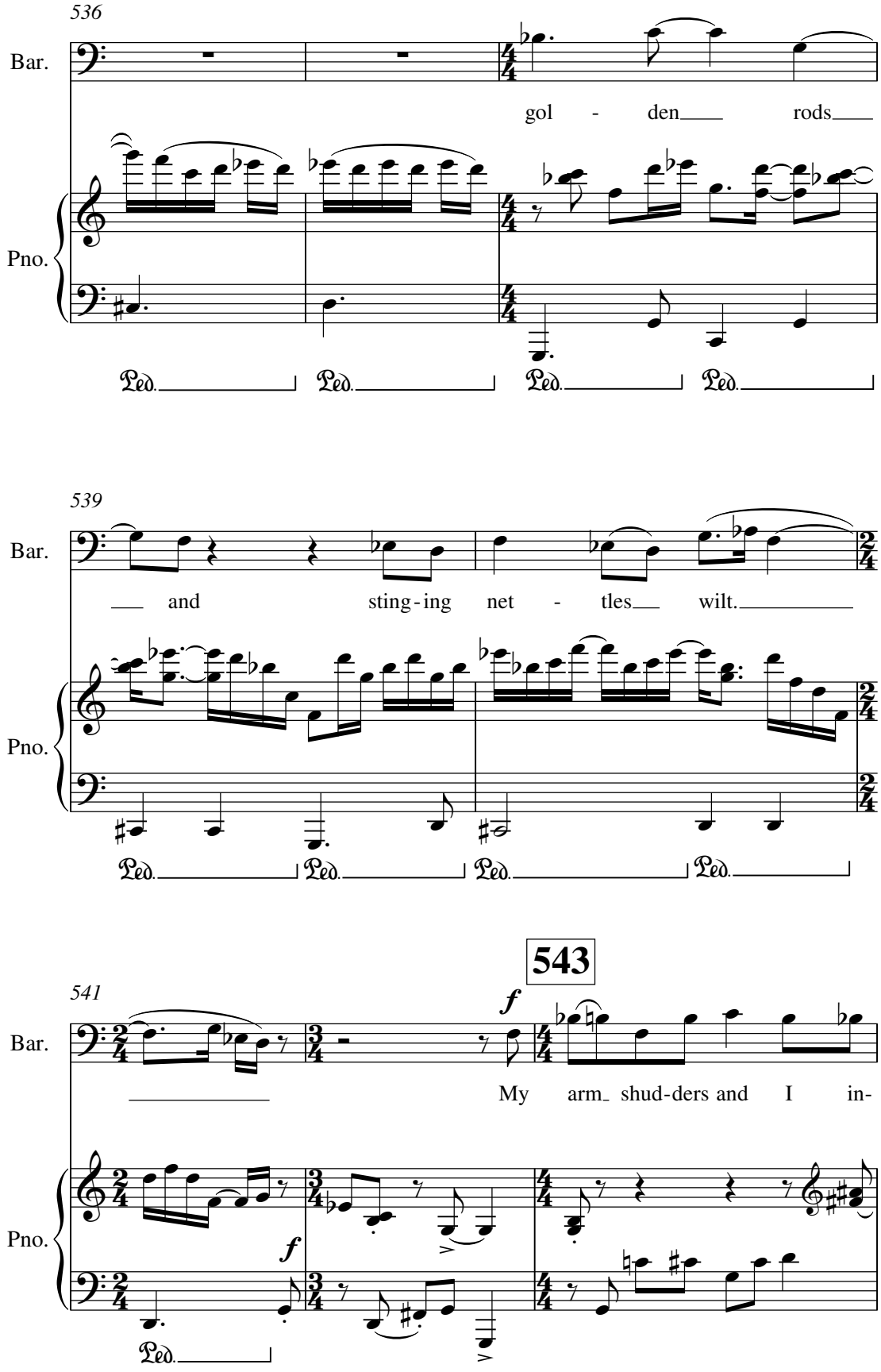


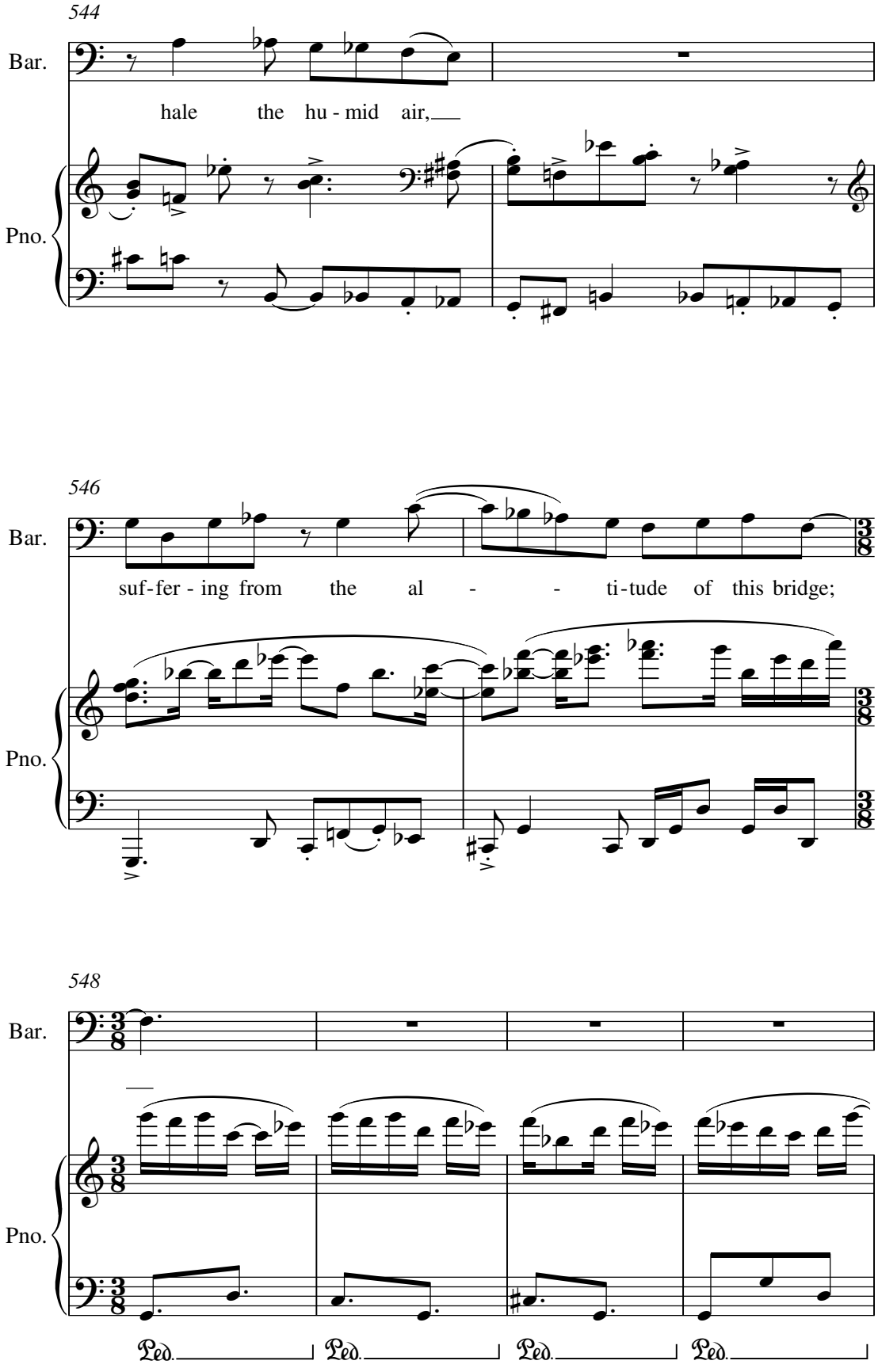

501
Bar.
Pno.
504
505
Bar.
High mud wa - ter splits.
Pno.
p
f
506
Bar.
The riv-er's locks emp-ty and fill,
Pno.

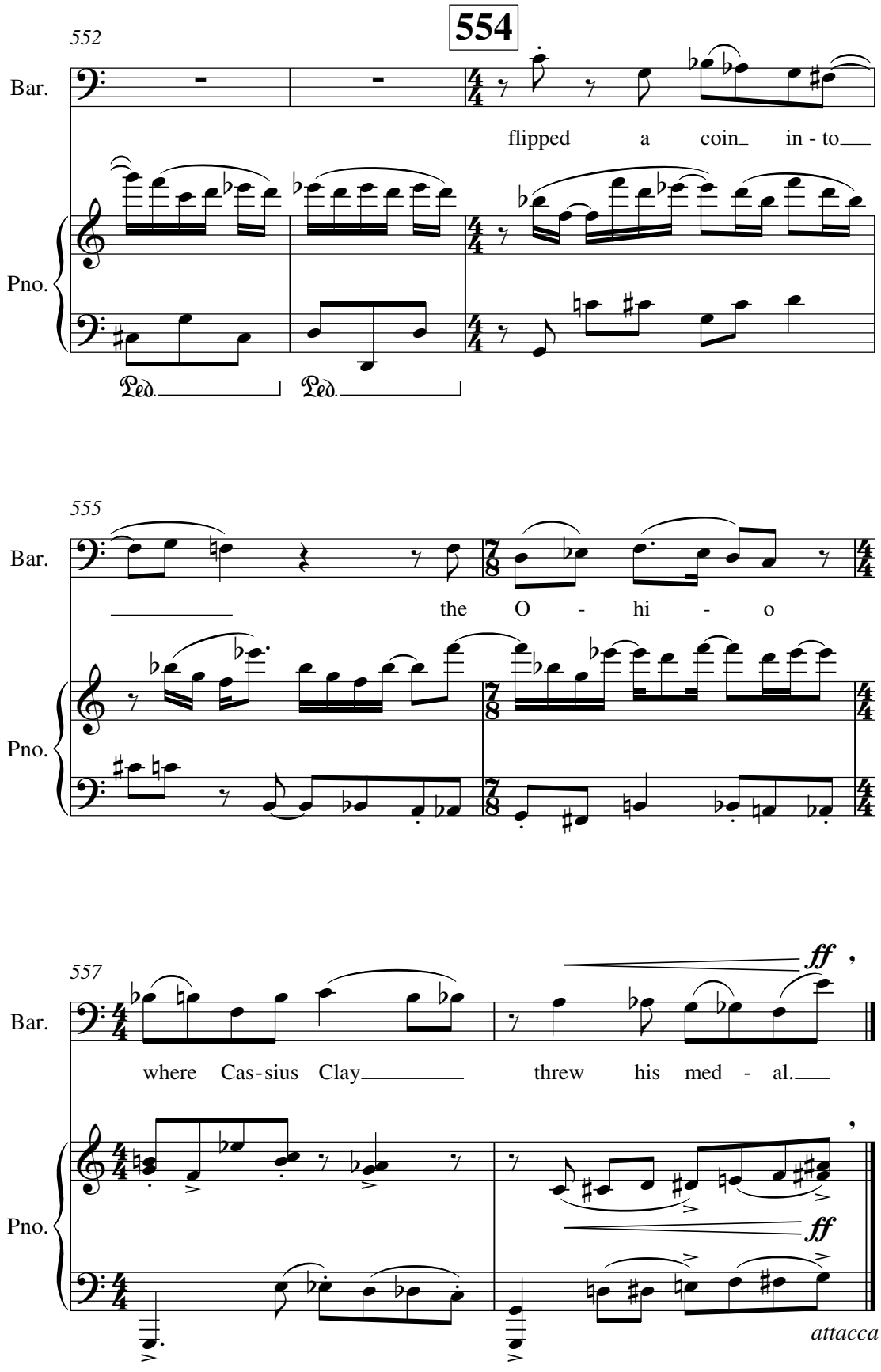

509
Bar.
glints in the cur - rent.
Pno.
512
513
Bar.
f
Pno.
tr
p
f
sub. p
515
Bar.
3
3
mf
Pno.
(tr)
6
5


518
521
mp
Bar.
Down - stream
Pno.
mp
6
tr
522
Bar.
the falls of the O - -
Pno.
p
Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.
524
Bar.
- - - hi - o
Pno.
Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

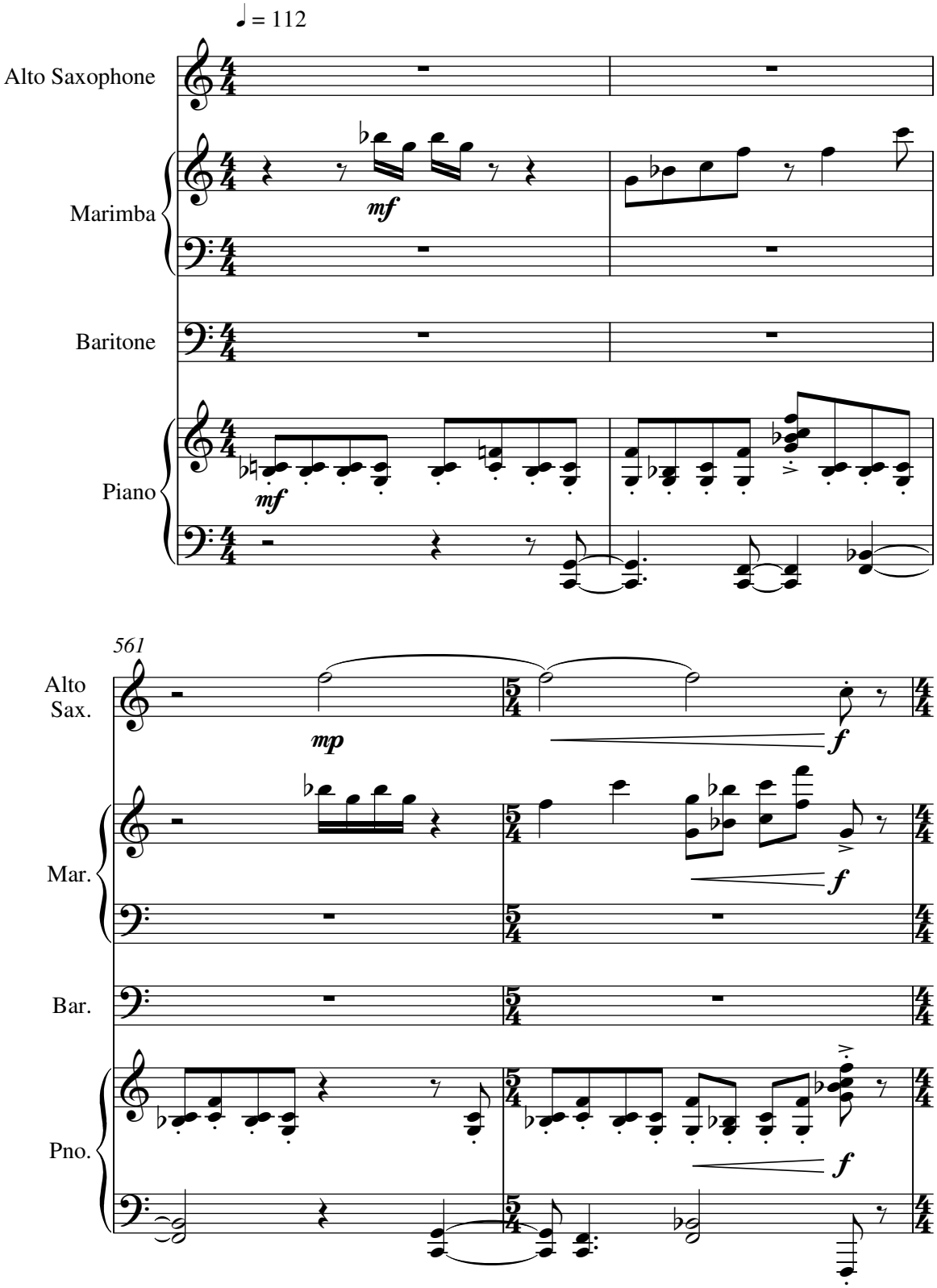

526
mf
Bar.
ex - pose the patch reef of
Pno.
mf
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
529
531
Bar.
clams and spong - es,
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
532
Bar.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

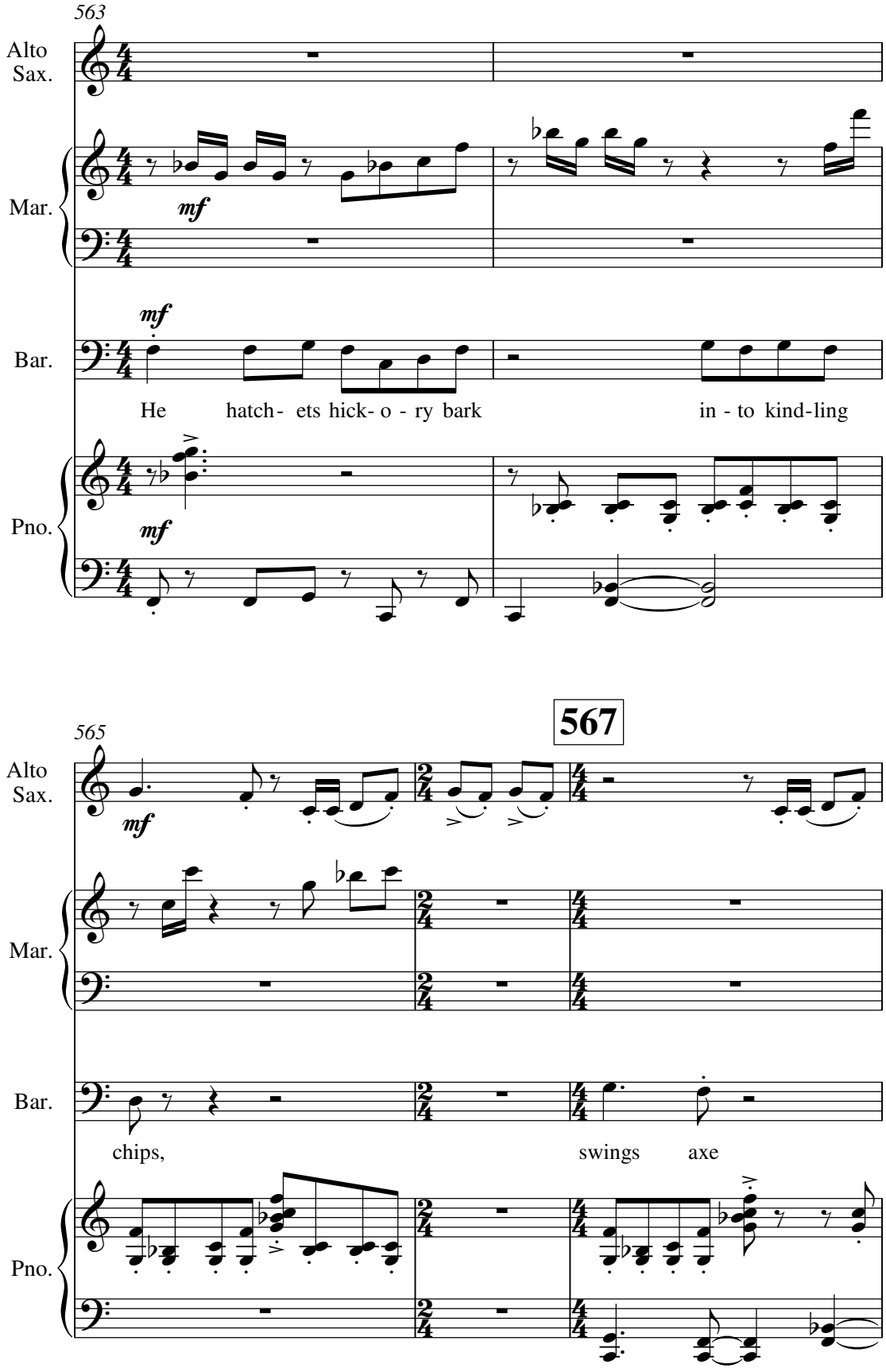

536
Bar.
gol - den rods
Pno.
Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.
539
Bar.
and sting-ing net - tles wilt.
Pno.
Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.
543
541
f
Bar.
My arm shud-ders and I in-
f
Pno.
Ped.

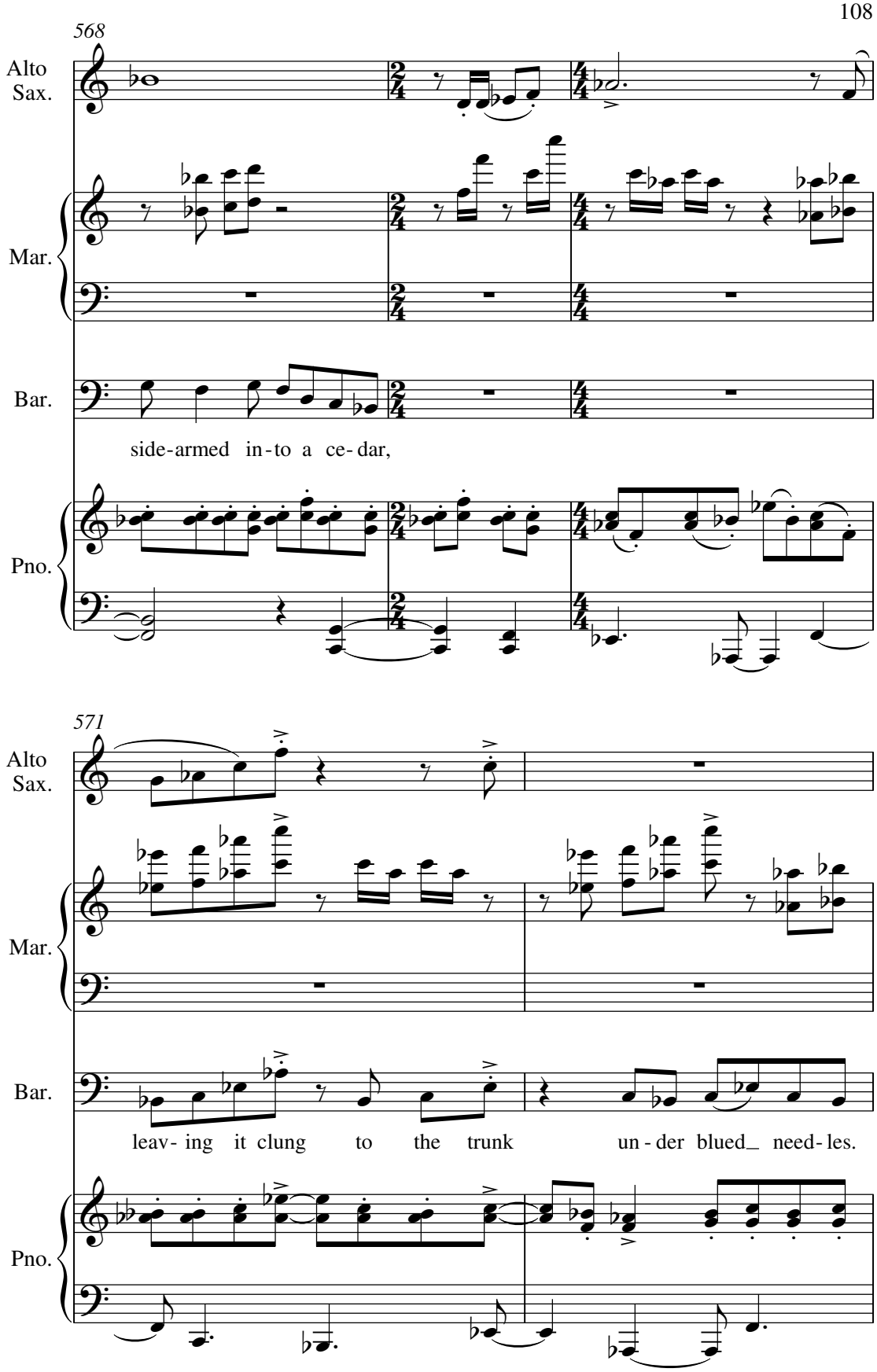

544
Bar.
hale the hu - mid air,
Pno.
546
Bar.
suf-fer - ing from the al - - ti-tude of this bridge;
Pno.
548
Bar.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

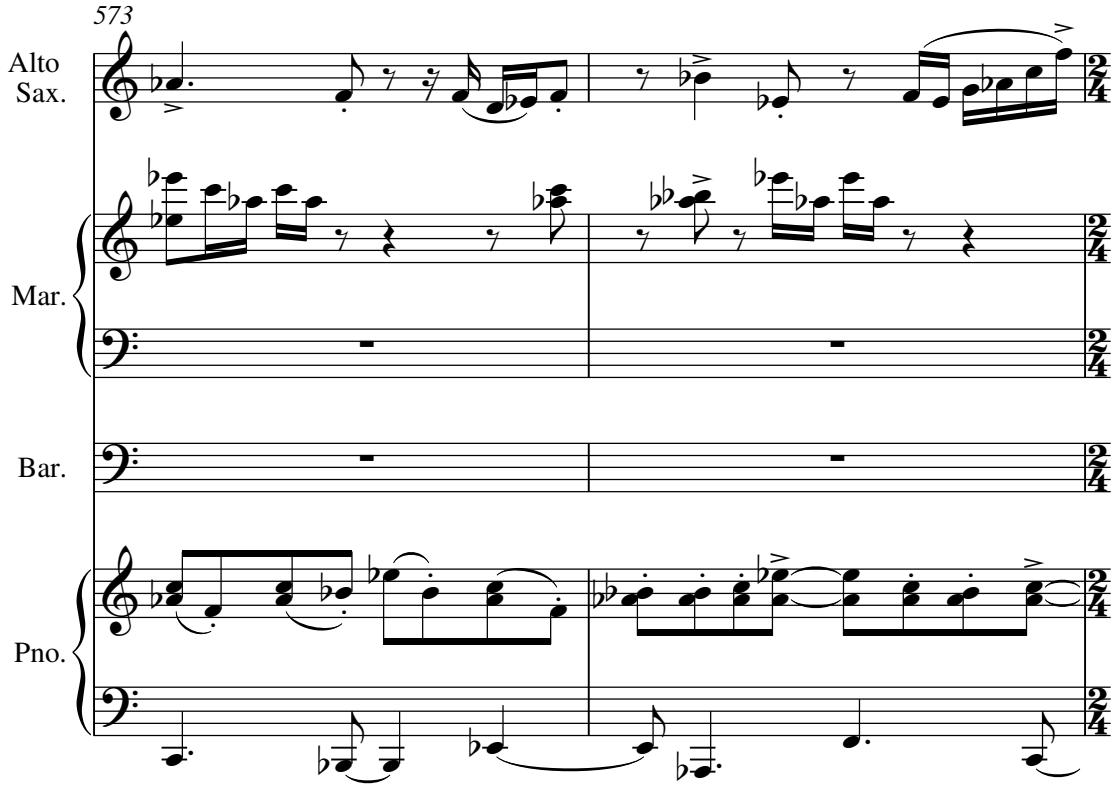

554
552
Bar.
Pno.
flipped a coin_ in - to___
Ped.
Ped.
555
Bar.
Pno.
the O - hi - o
557
Bar.
Pno.
ff
where Cas-sius Clay_____ threw his med - al.___
ff
attacca

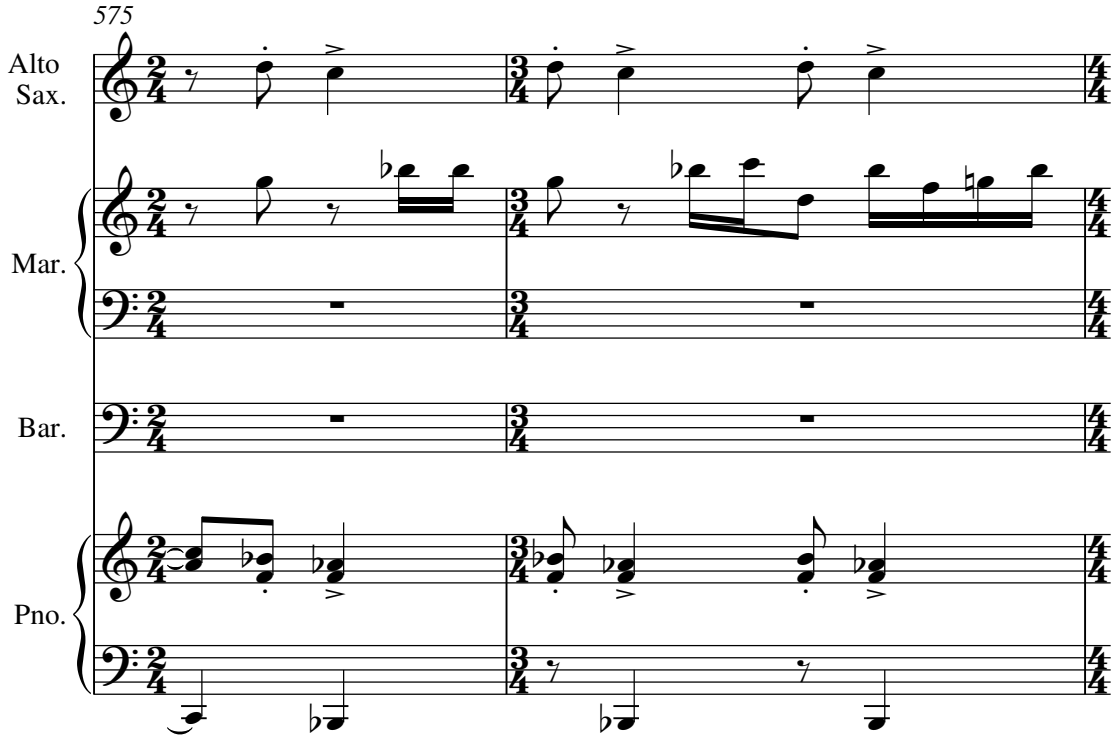
8 - Trappist, Kentucky

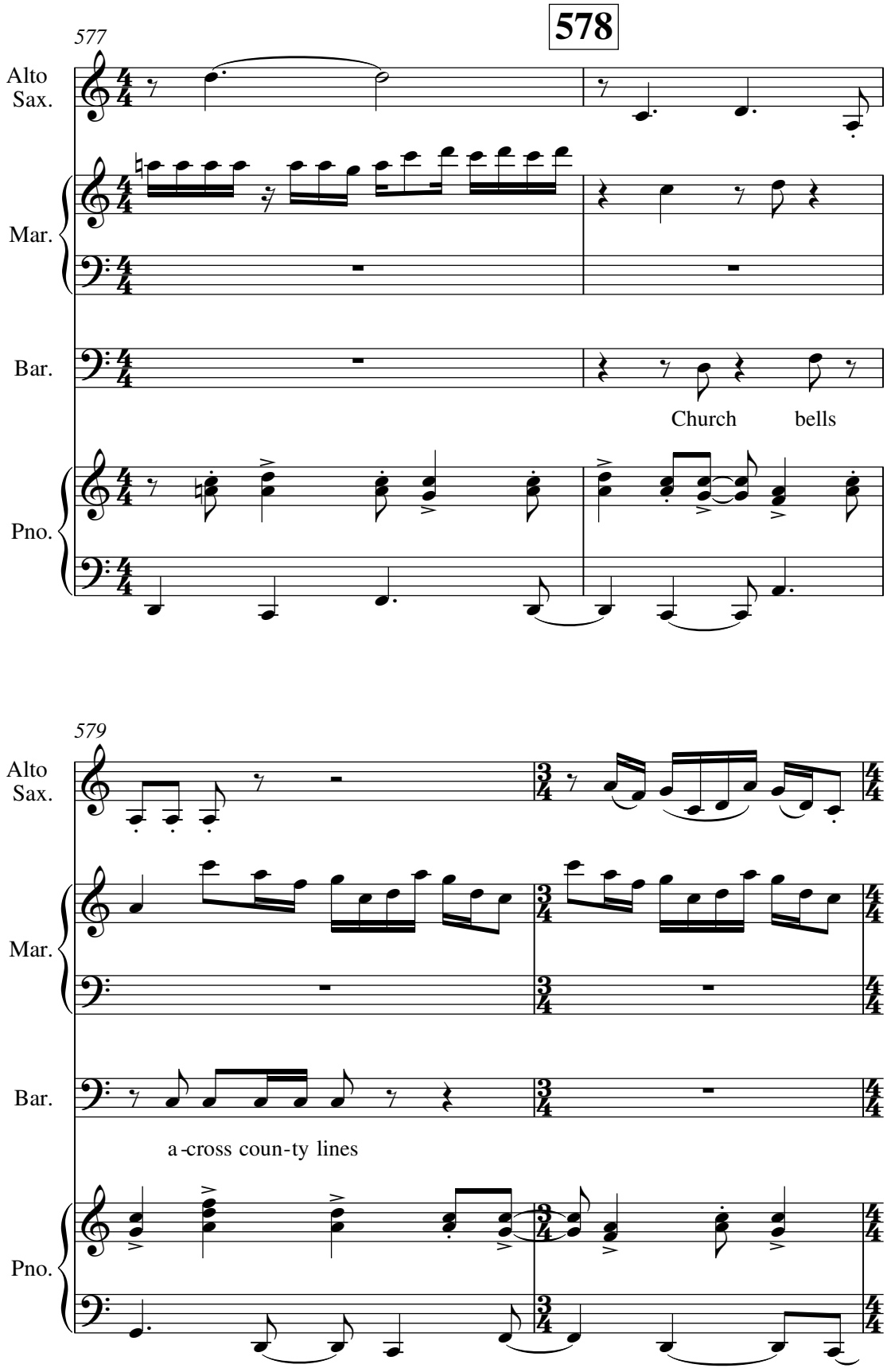


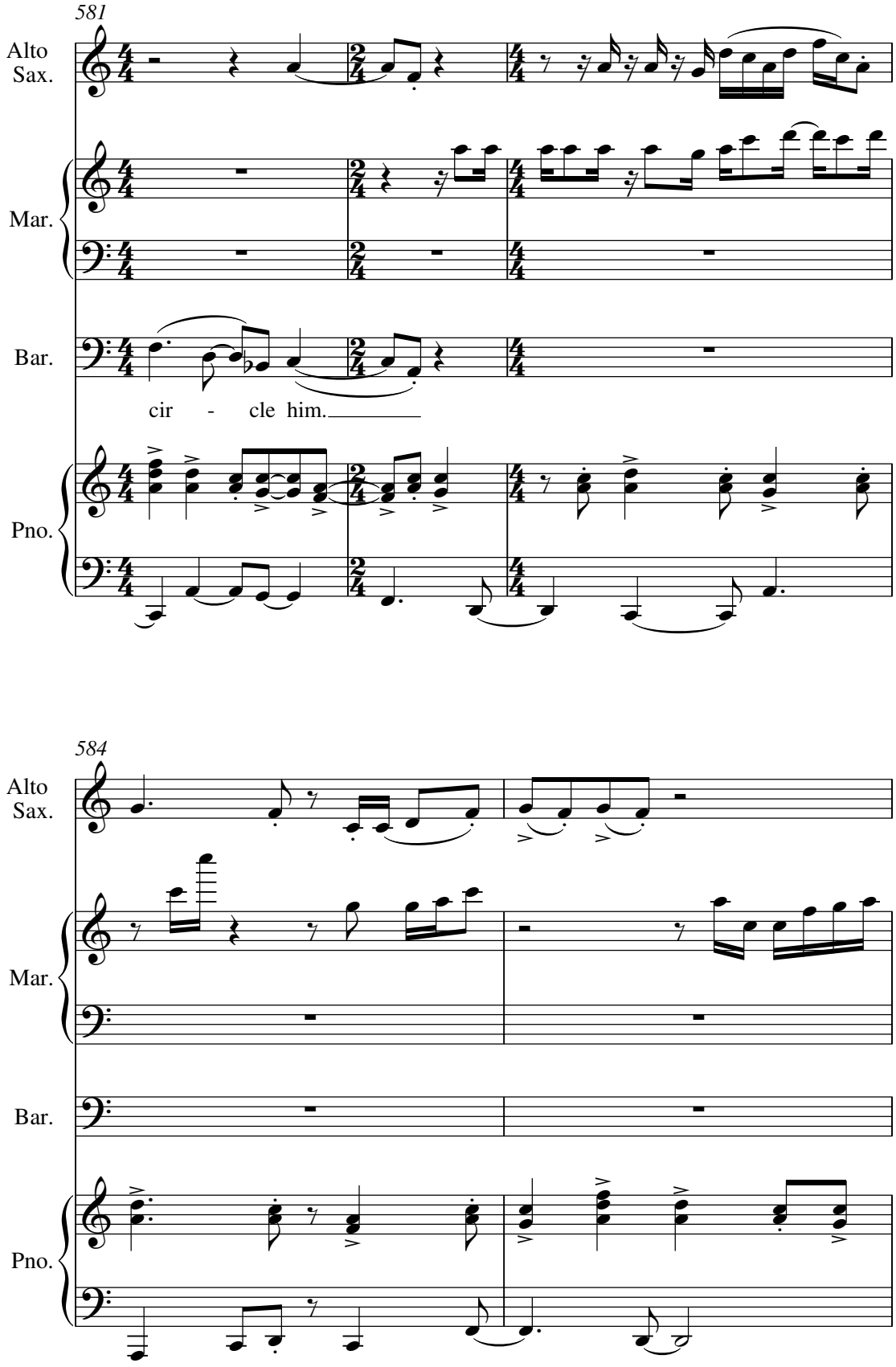

563
Alto Sax.
Mar.
mf
Bar.
mf
He hatch- ets hick- o - ry bark in - to kind-ling
Pno.
mf
567
565
Alto Sax.
mf
Mar.
Bar.
chips, swings axe
Pno.

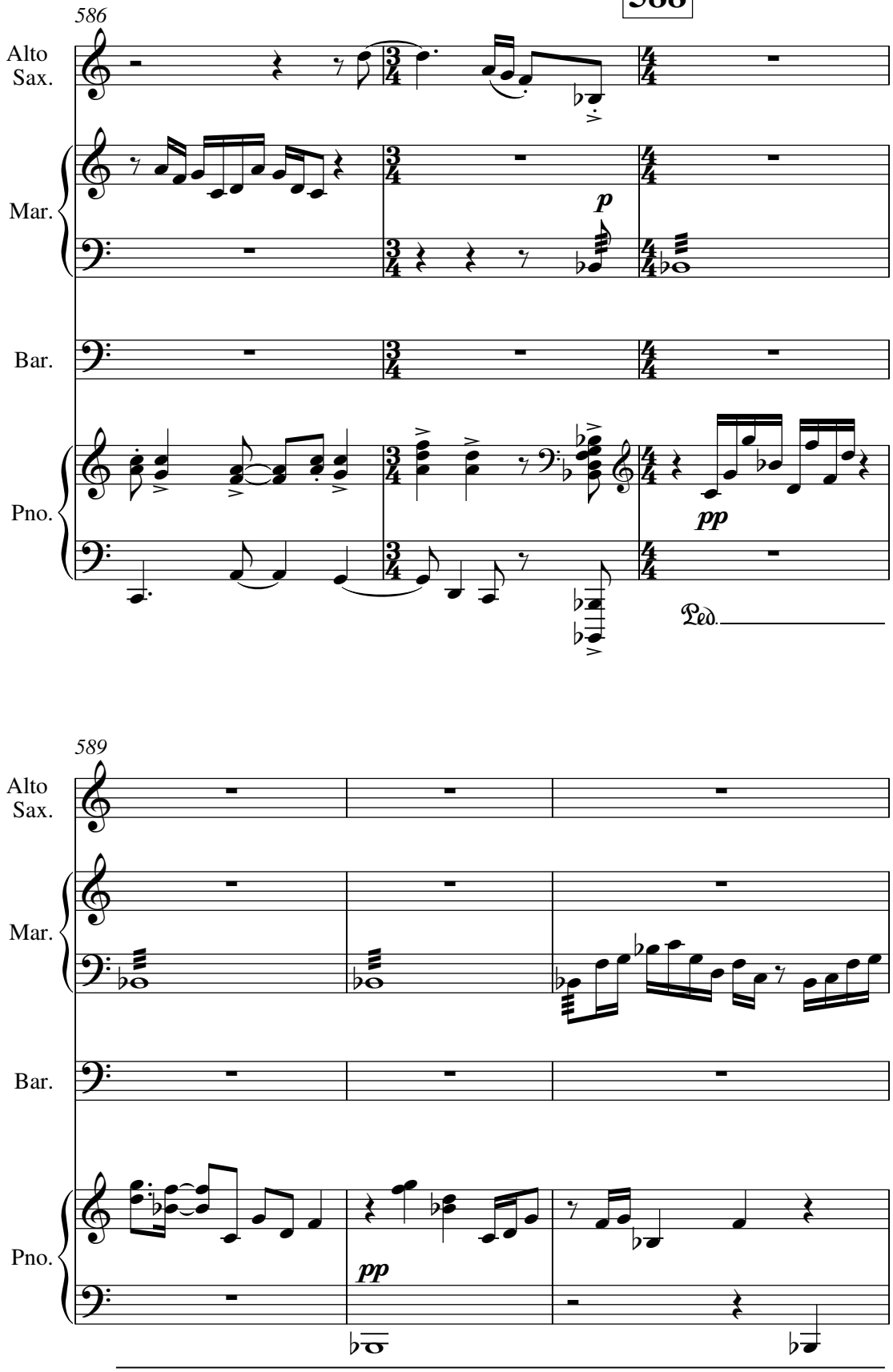

568
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
side-armed in-to a ce-dar,
Pno.
571
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
leav- ing it clung to the trunk un-der blued_ need-les.
Pno.

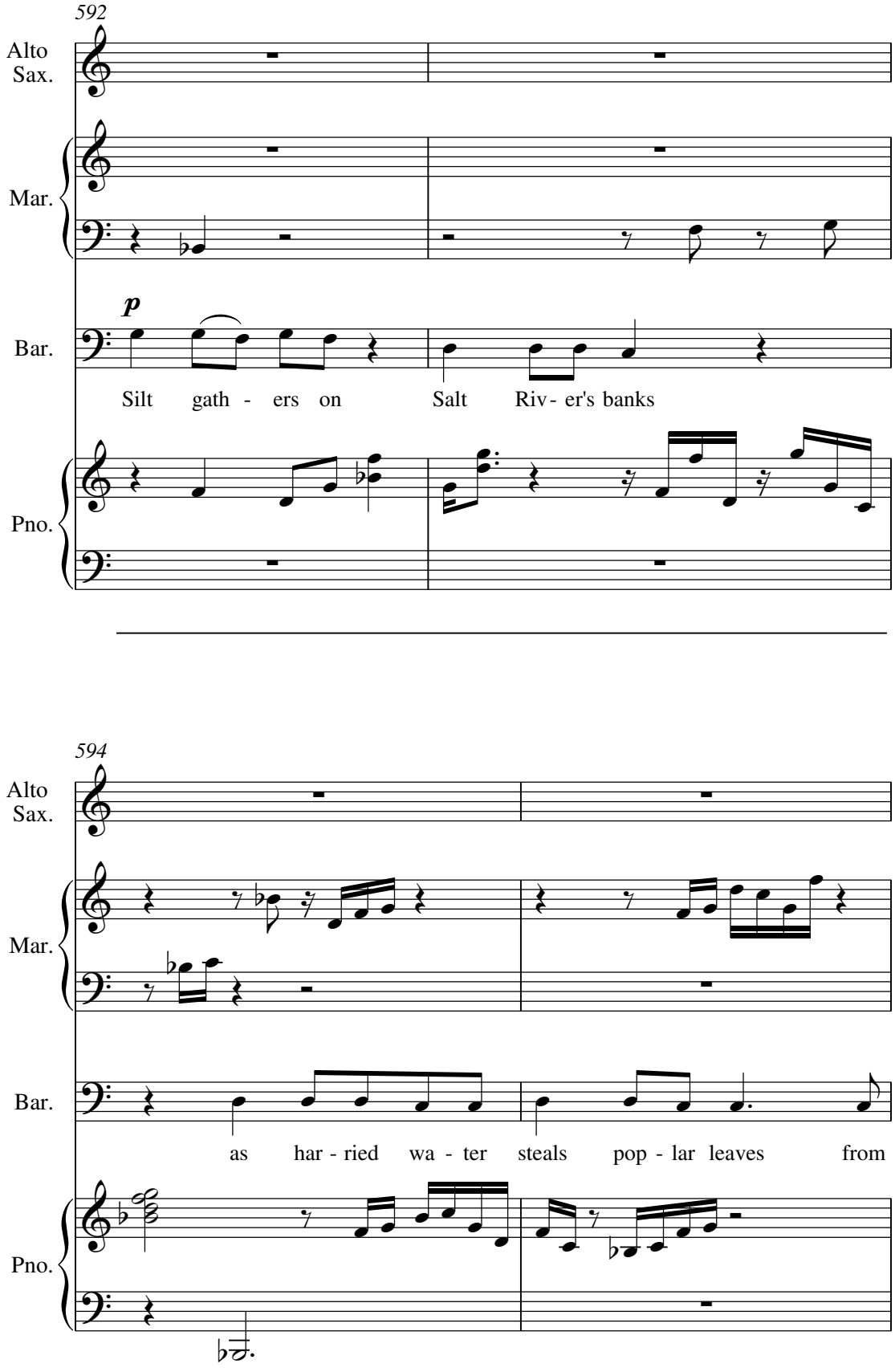

573
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.

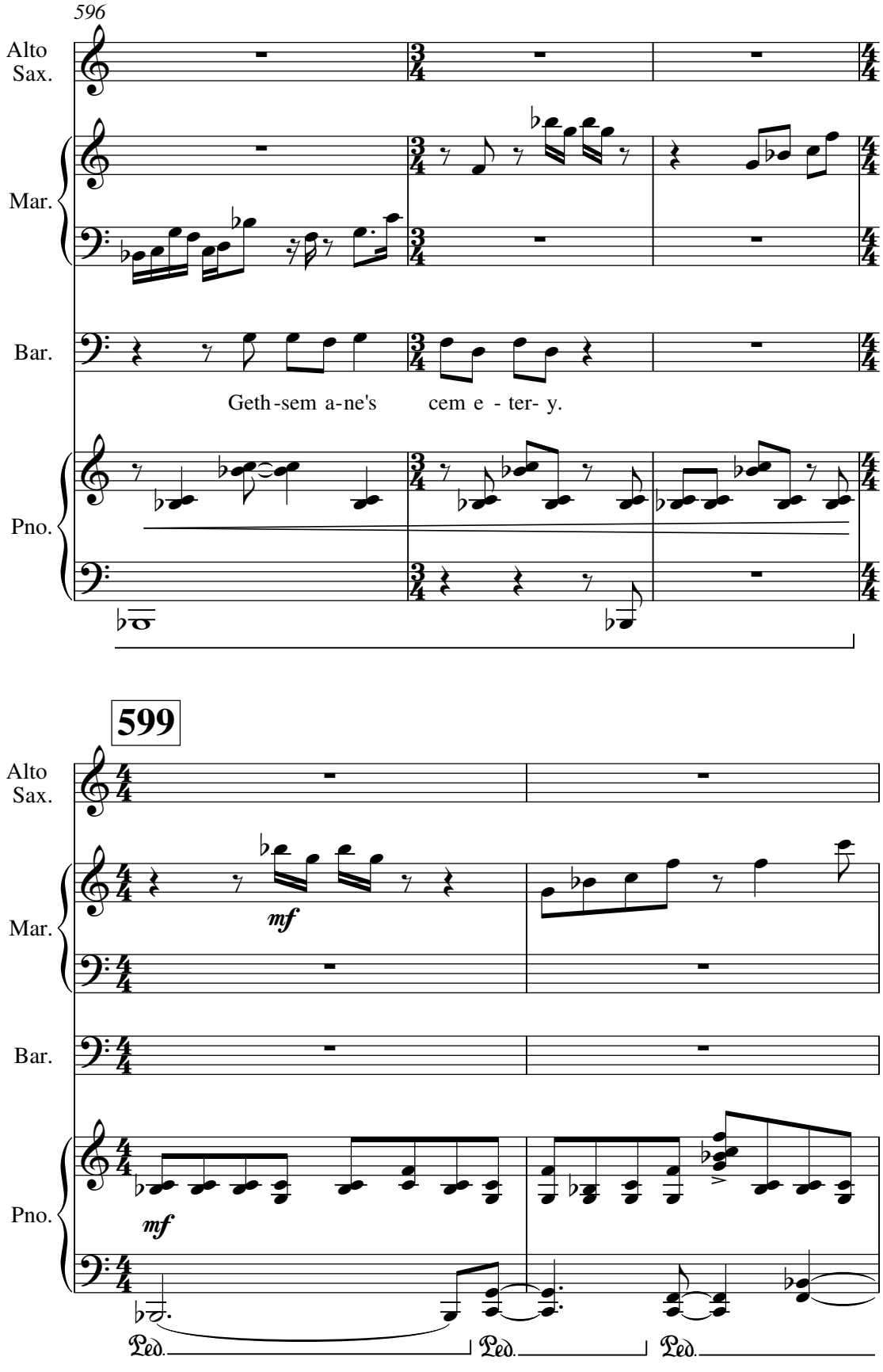

575
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.

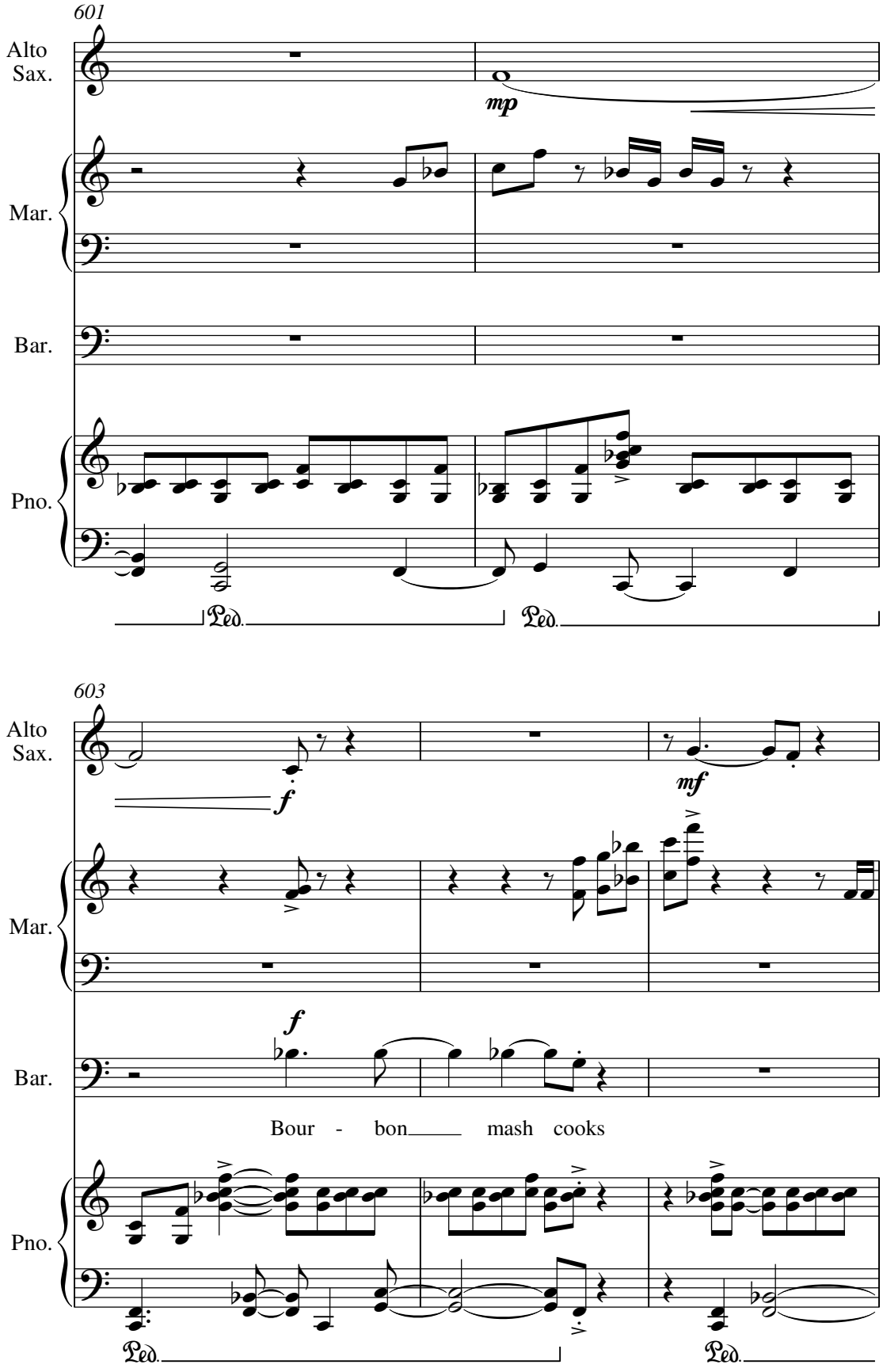

578
577
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Church bells
Pno.
579
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
a-cross coun-ty lines
Pno.

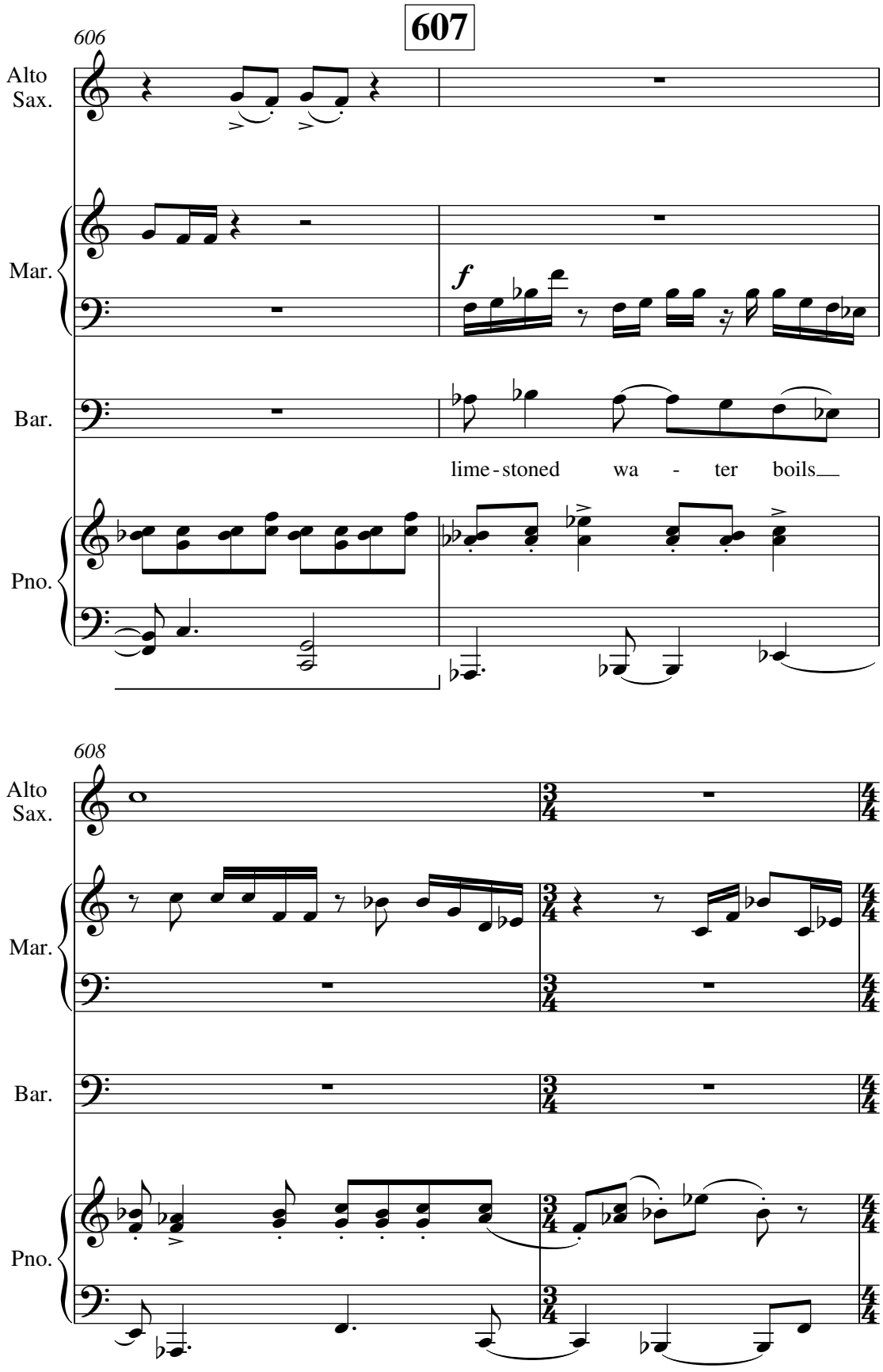

581
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
cir - cle him.
Pno.
584
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.

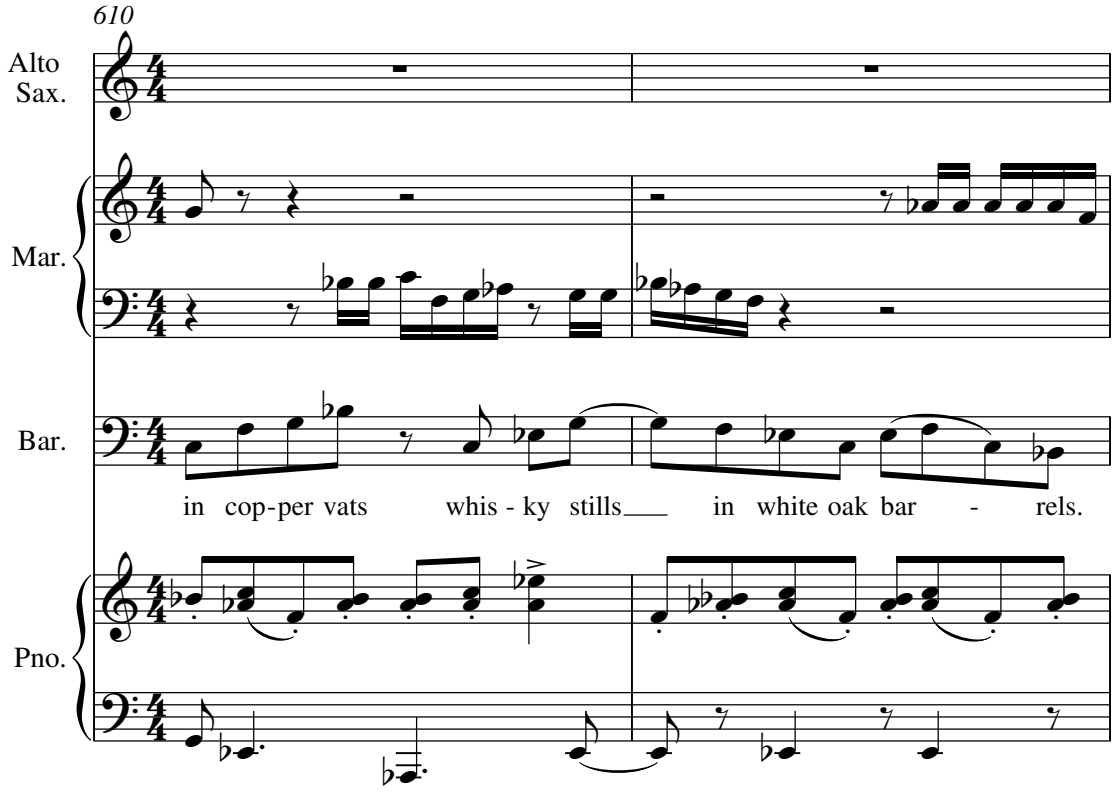

586
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
p
pp
Ped.
589
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
pp

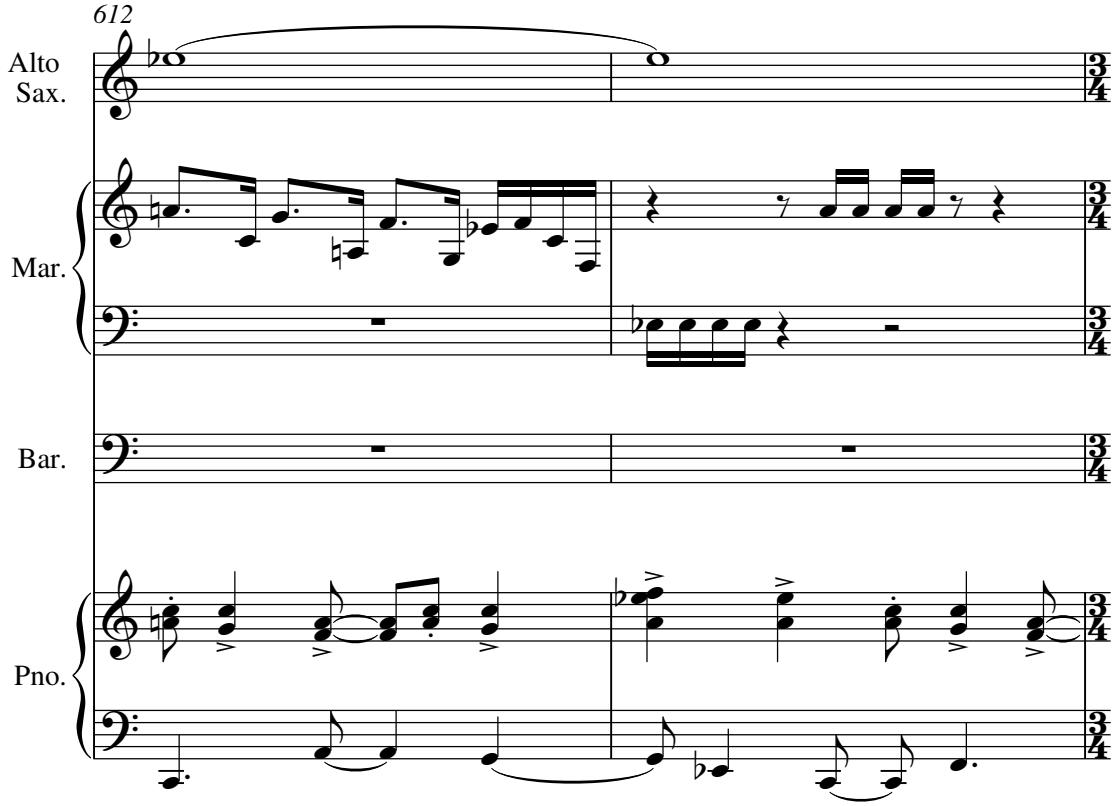

592
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
p
Silt gath - ers on Salt Riv- er's banks
Pno.
594
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
as har - ried wa - ter steals pop - lar leaves from
Pno.

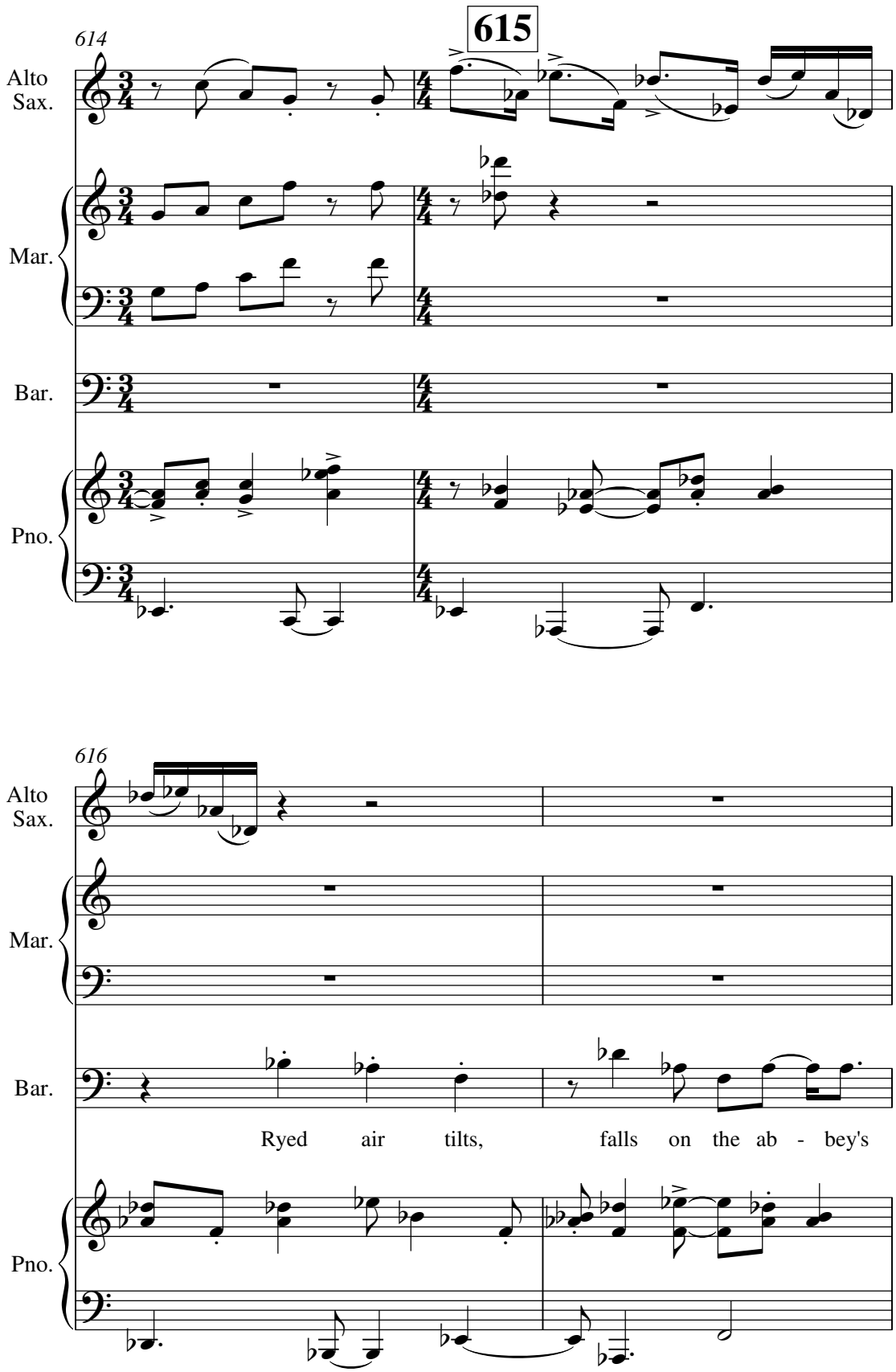

596
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Geth-sem a-ne's cem e - ter- y.
Pno.
599
Alto Sax.
mf
Mar.
Bar.
mf
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

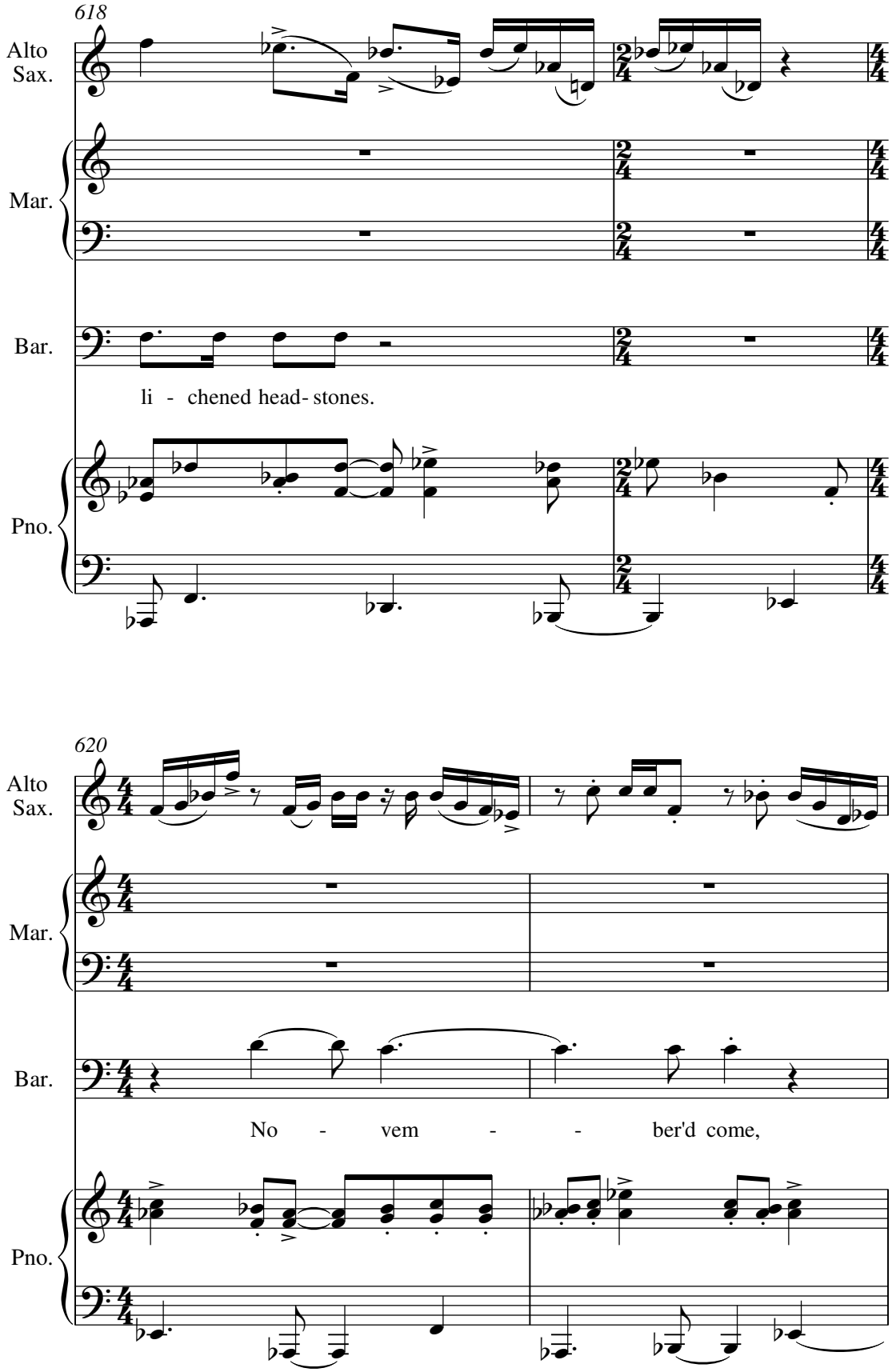

601
Alto Sax.
mp
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
603
Alto Sax.
f
mf
Mar.
f
Bar.
Bour - bon mash cooks
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.

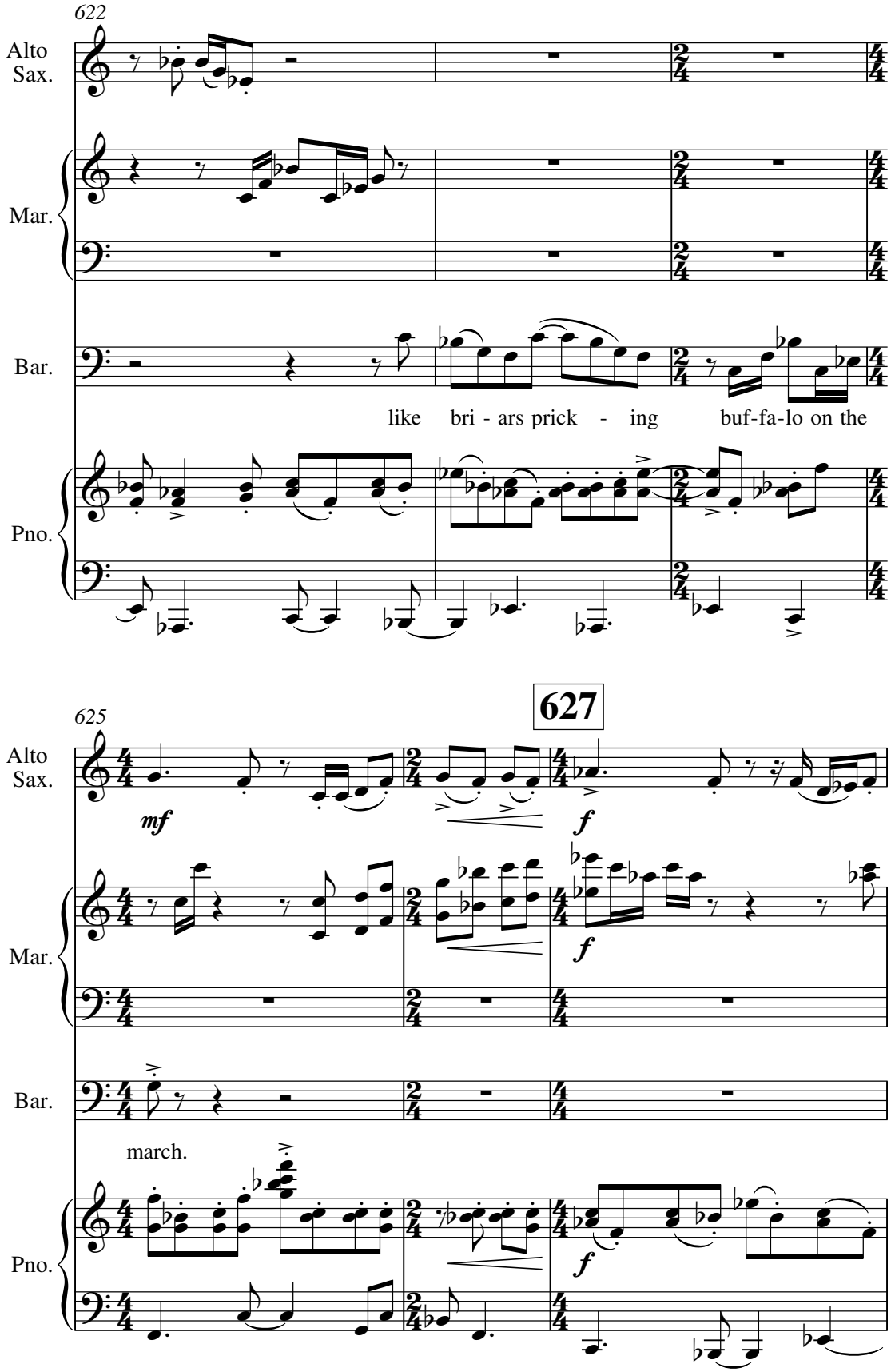

607
606
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
f
lime - stoned wa - ter boils
608
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.

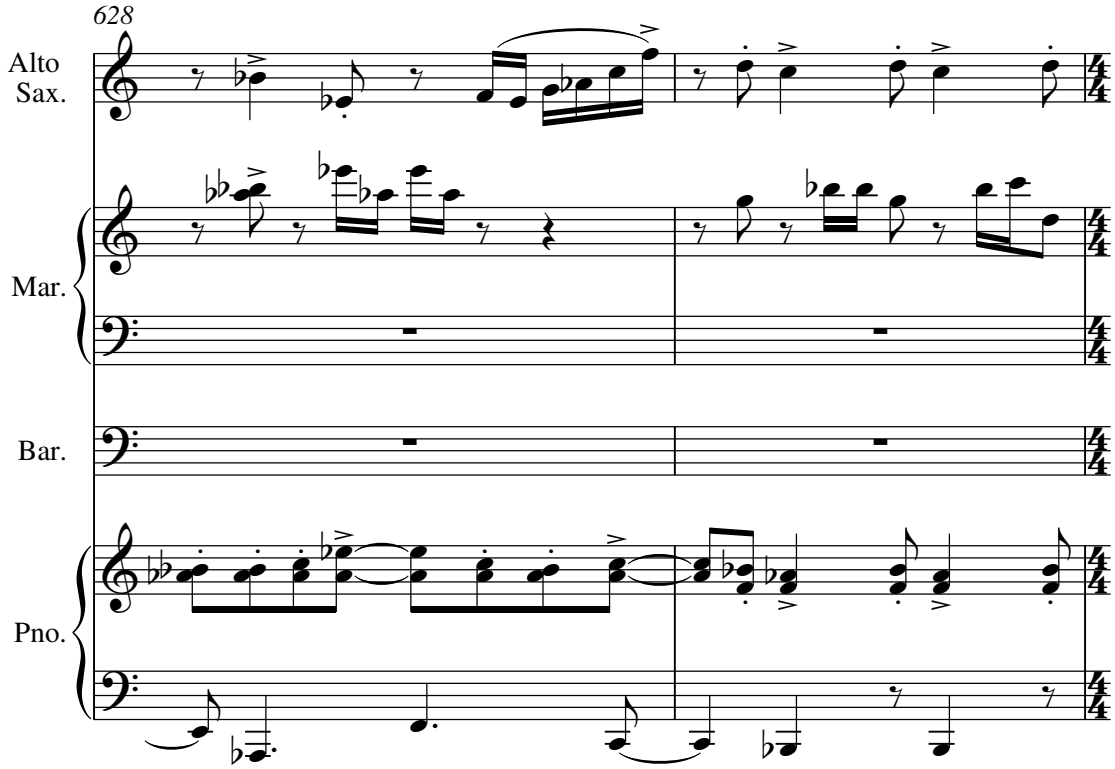

610
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
in cop-per vats whis - ky stills in white oak bar - rels.
Pno.

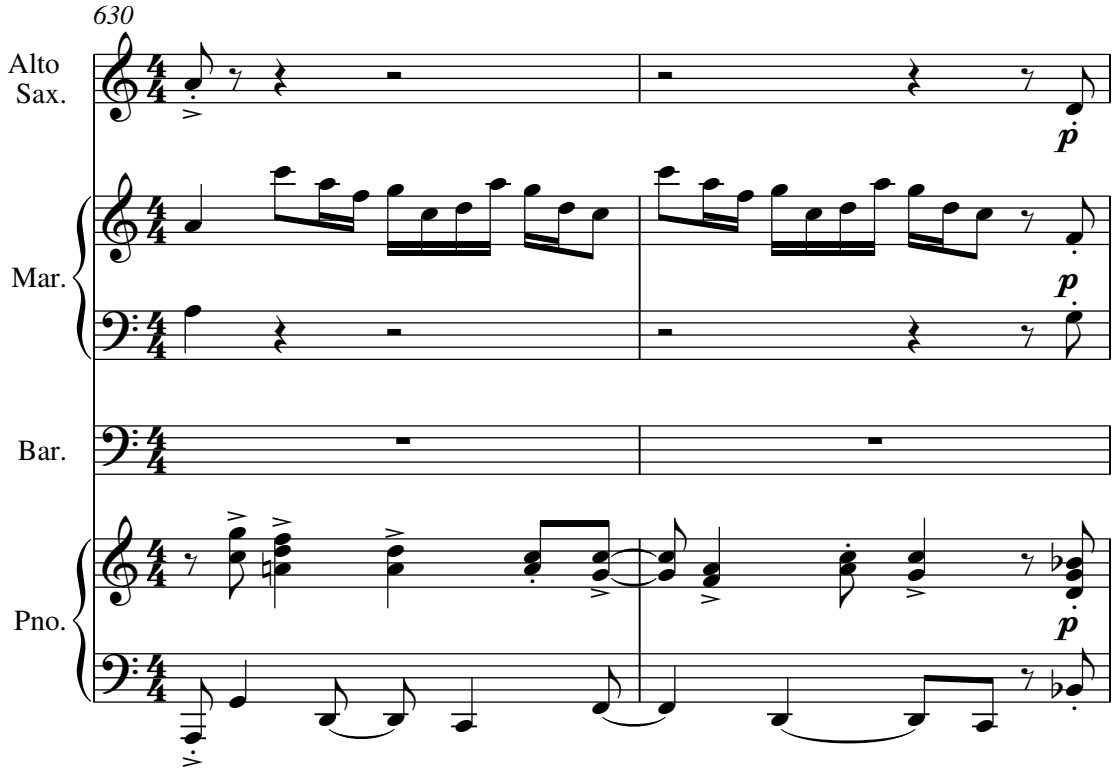

612
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.

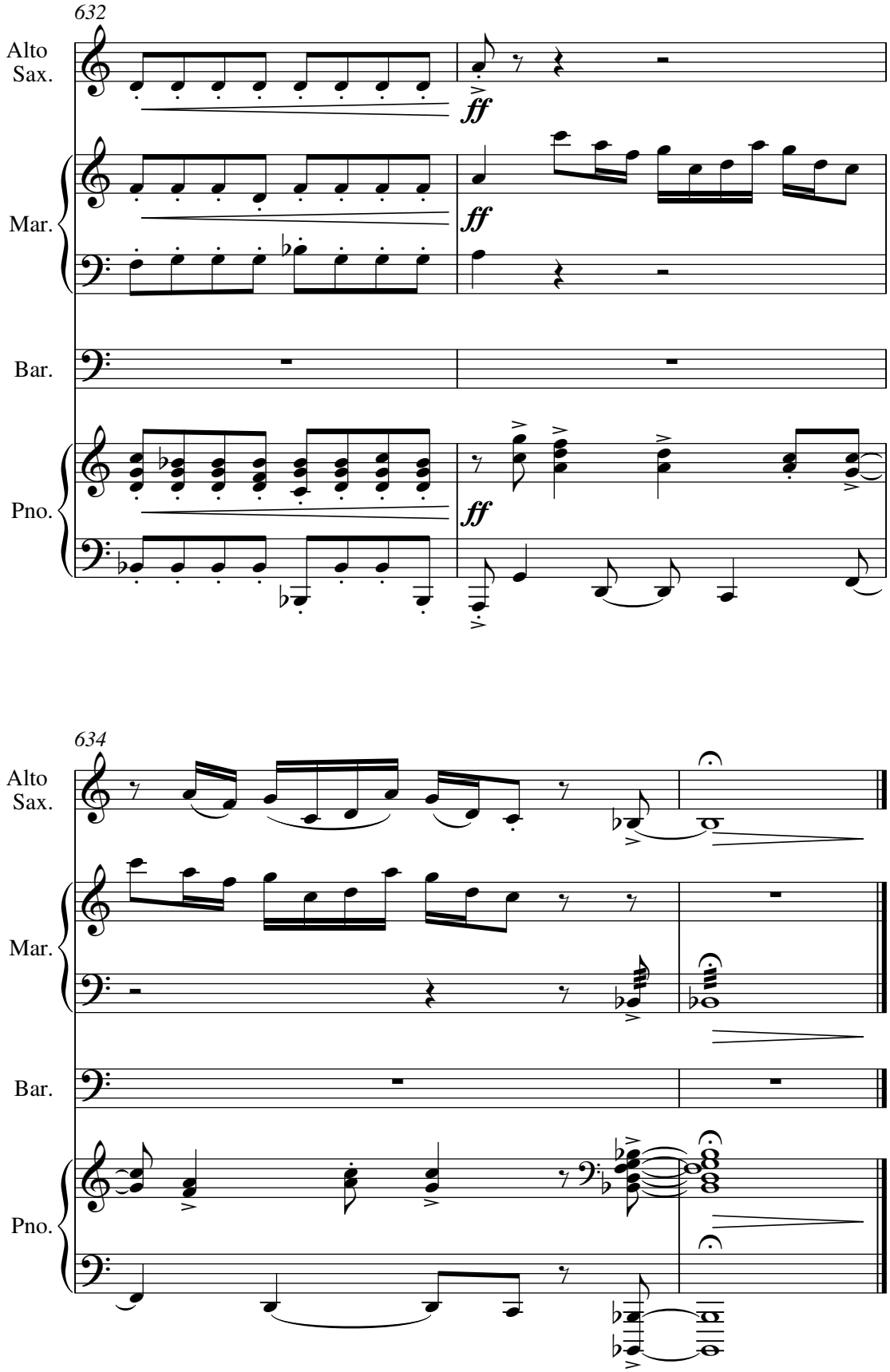

614
615
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
616
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Ryed air tilts, falls on the ab - bey's
Pno.


618
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
li - chened head- stones.
Pno.
620
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
No - vem - - ber'd come,
Pno.


622
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
like bri - ars prick - ing buf-fa-lo on the
Pno.
627
625
Alto Sax.
mf
f
Mar.
f
Bar.
march.
Pno.
f


628
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.


630
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
p
p
p


632
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.
ff
634
Alto Sax.
Mar.
Bar.
Pno.