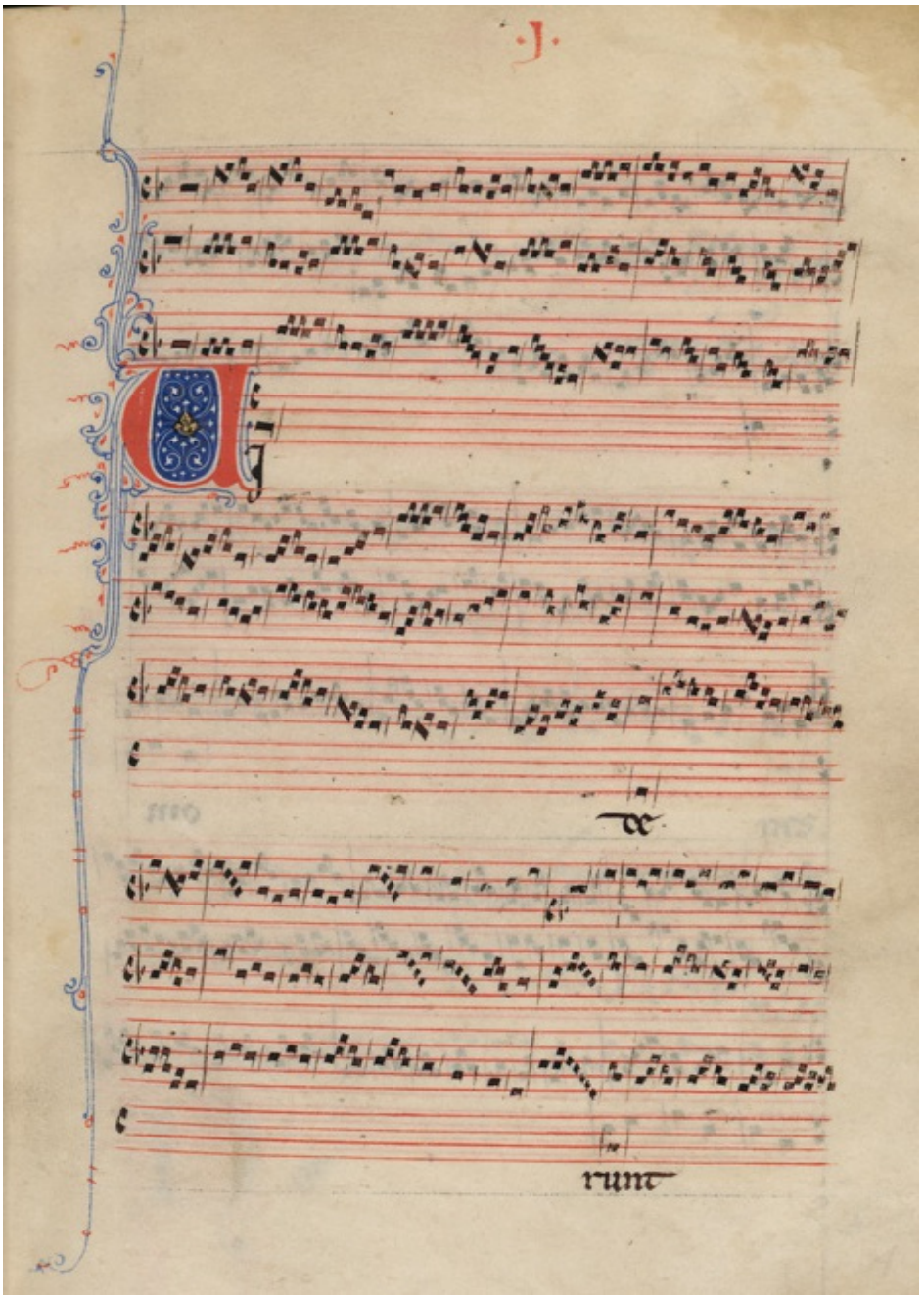
MATTHEW KANER

Organum

for ensemble and electronics



INSTRUMENTATION

Oboe (= Cor Anglais)
Soprano Saxophone (=Alto Saxophone)

Percussion (2 players)

Player 1: Triangle, Suspended Cymbal, Chinese Cymbal,
(wood sticks and brushes required), Marimba (medium sticks),
2 Cowbells, 3 Jamblocks

Player 2:
Vibraphone - motor always off (medium sticks normally,
softer sticks / bows where indicated), Hi-Hat, Splash Cymbal,
Kick Drum

Piano

Double Bass

Electronics
(triggered live a simple part for midi-keyboard with weighted keys
connected to the Max patch for the piece.)

Duration: 12 minutes ca.

The score is notated in C

PROGRAMME NOTE

The title and cover image make reference to the works of the great master composers of Organum from the Notre Dame school in the 12th and 13th centuries, Pérotin and Leonin. While getting to know these beautiful vocal works, I came across the remarkable recordings of David Munrow on his disc *Music of the Gothic Era*, in which the cantus firmus or plainchant of the organum is frequently doubled with bells.

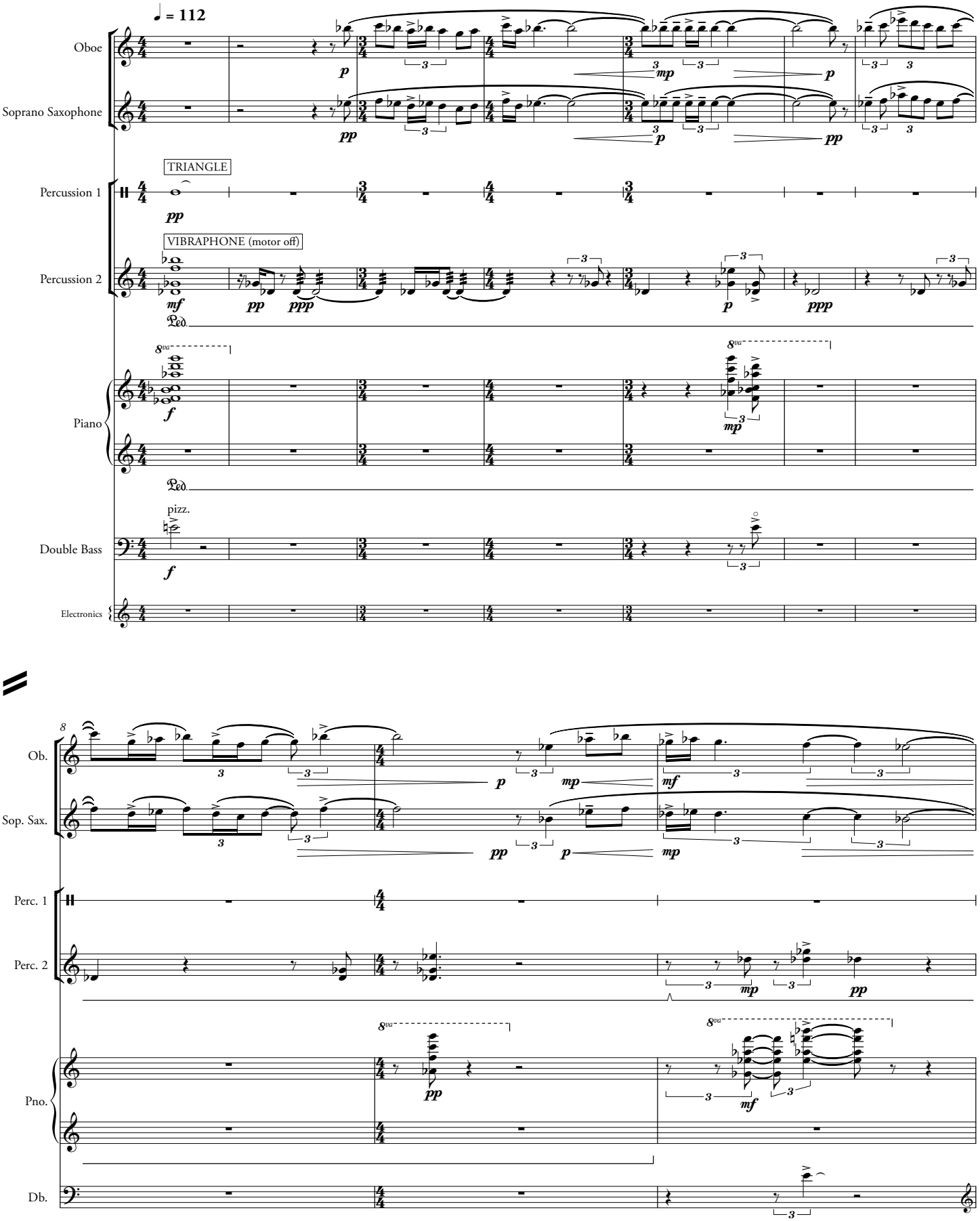
While this practice is now considered historically dubious, it was of great inspiration to me in composing this work: the ensemble frequently intones melodic fragments in rhythmic unison and in parallel (or near-parallel) harmony, as if coalescing into a set of bells. The electronics likewise explore this idea even further.

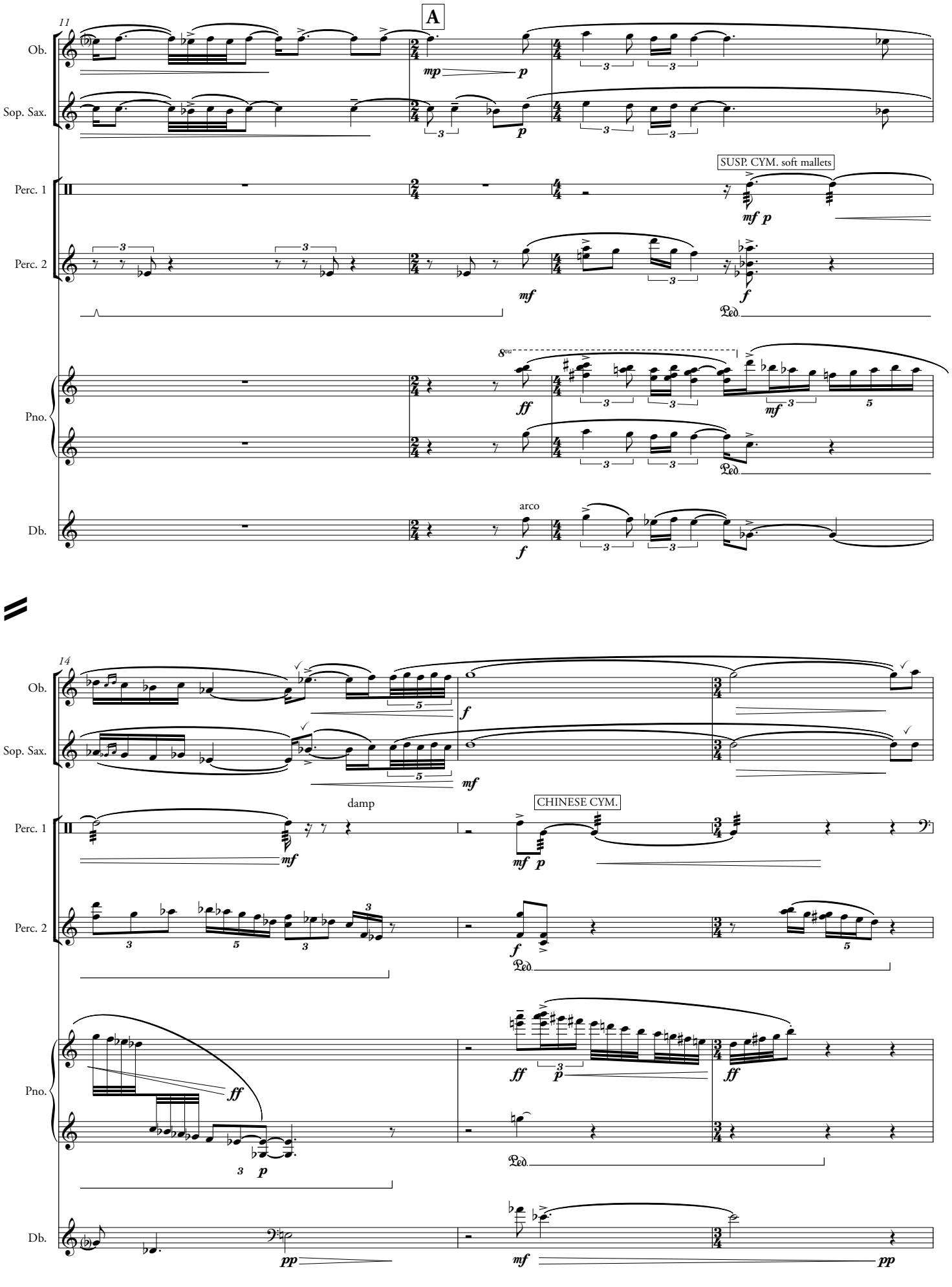
No literal quotation of either plainchant melody or the decorative upper voices of in Leonin and Perotin's organa occurs in this piece, but frequent reference to their melodic style and rhythmic modes may be heard throughout.

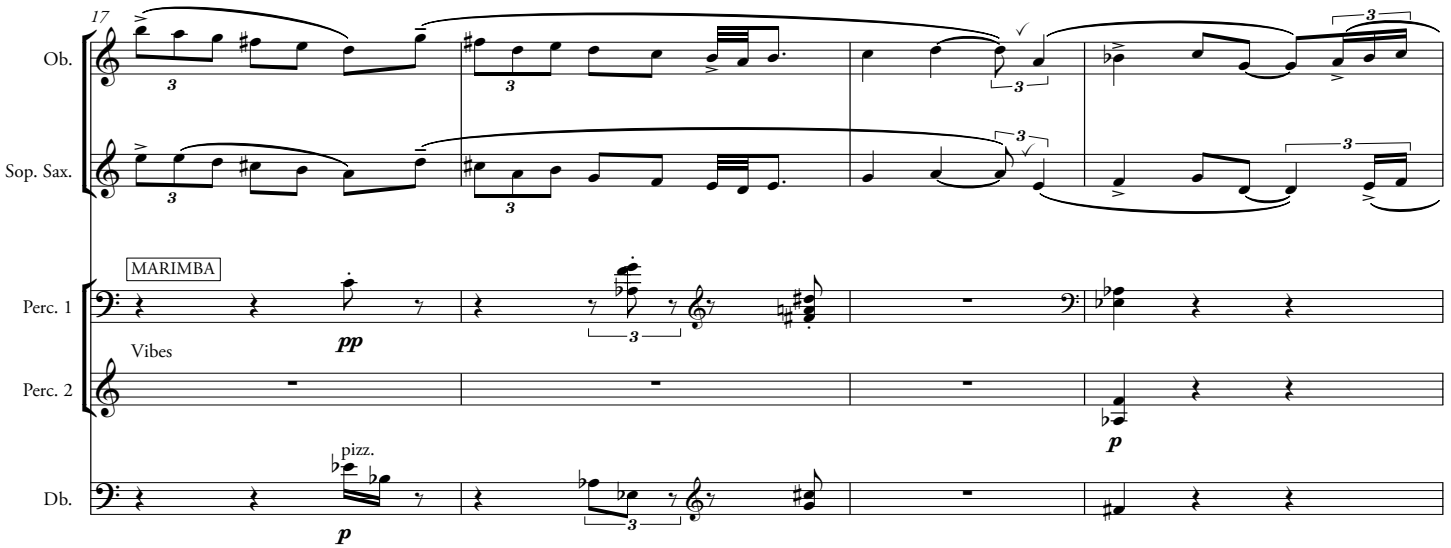
Organum was commissioned by the Workers Union Ensemble with support from the PRS for Music Foundation, and premiered in Southampton on October 28, 2013. The London Premiere was given by the ensemble at LSO St. Luke's on 9 November 2013.

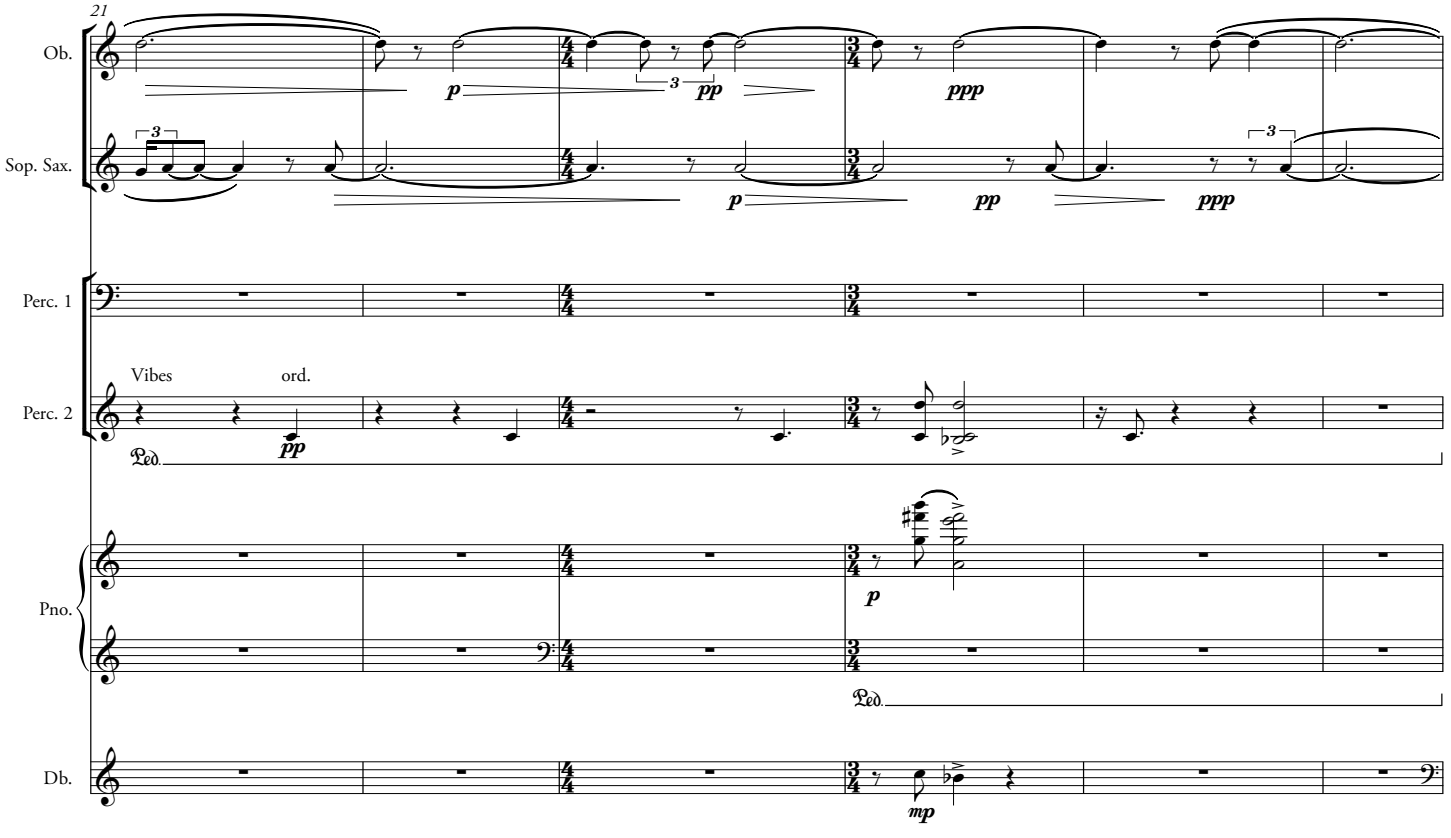
Organum

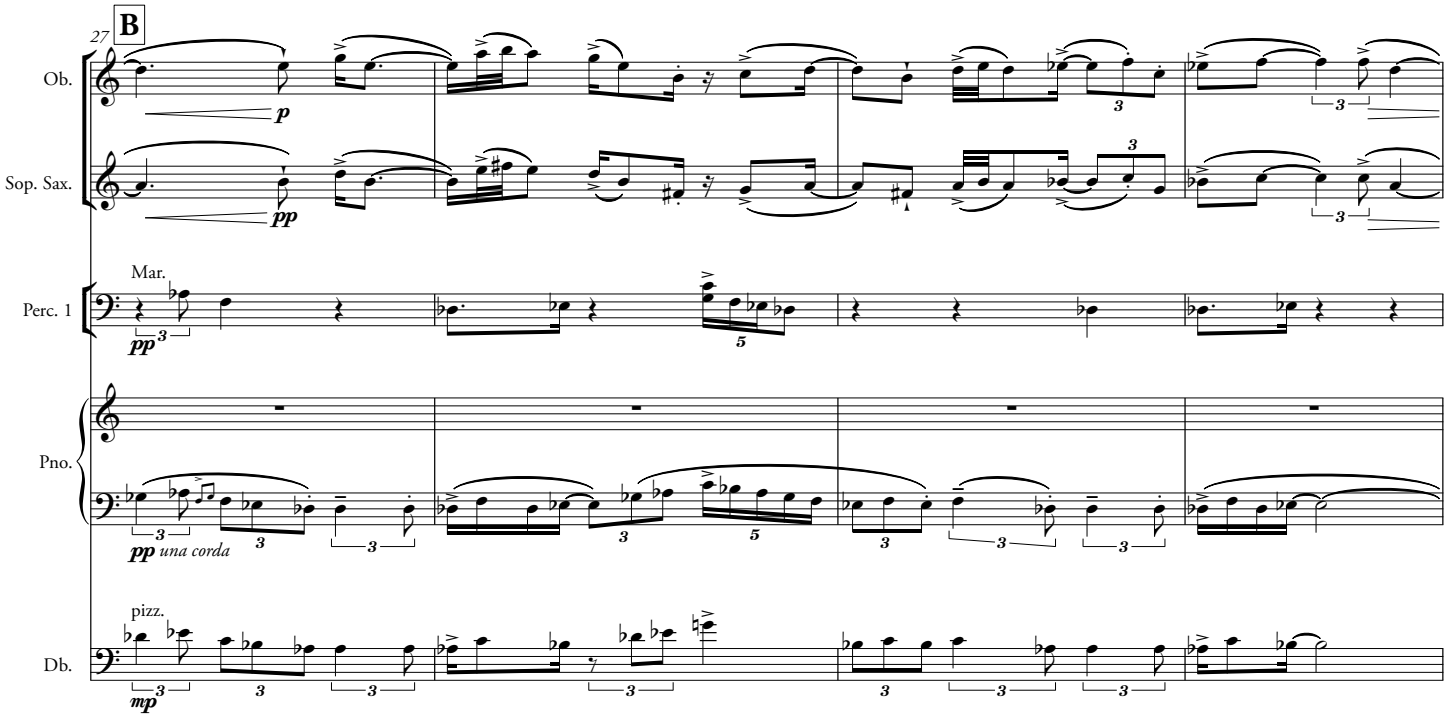
MATTHEW KANER

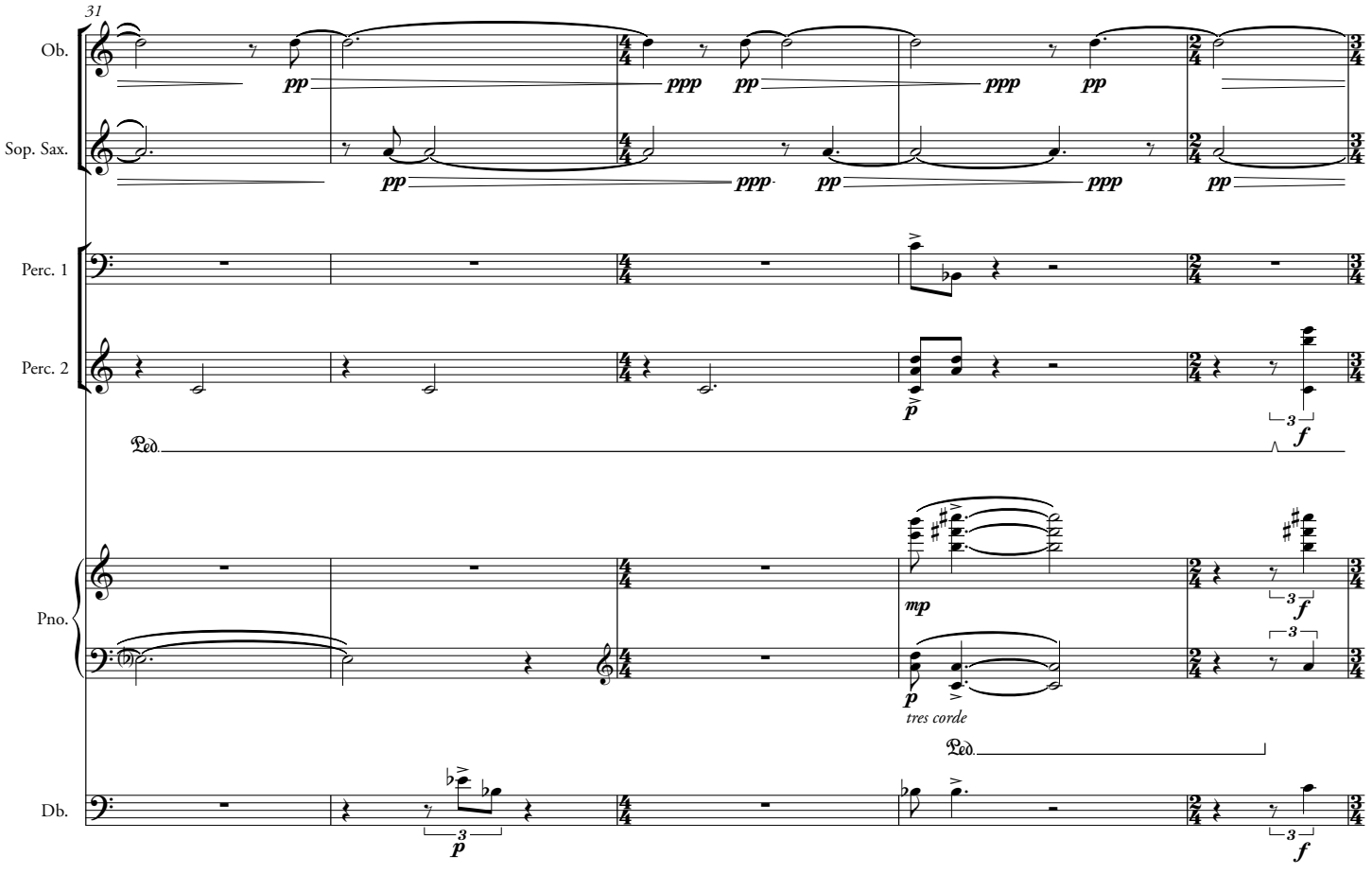


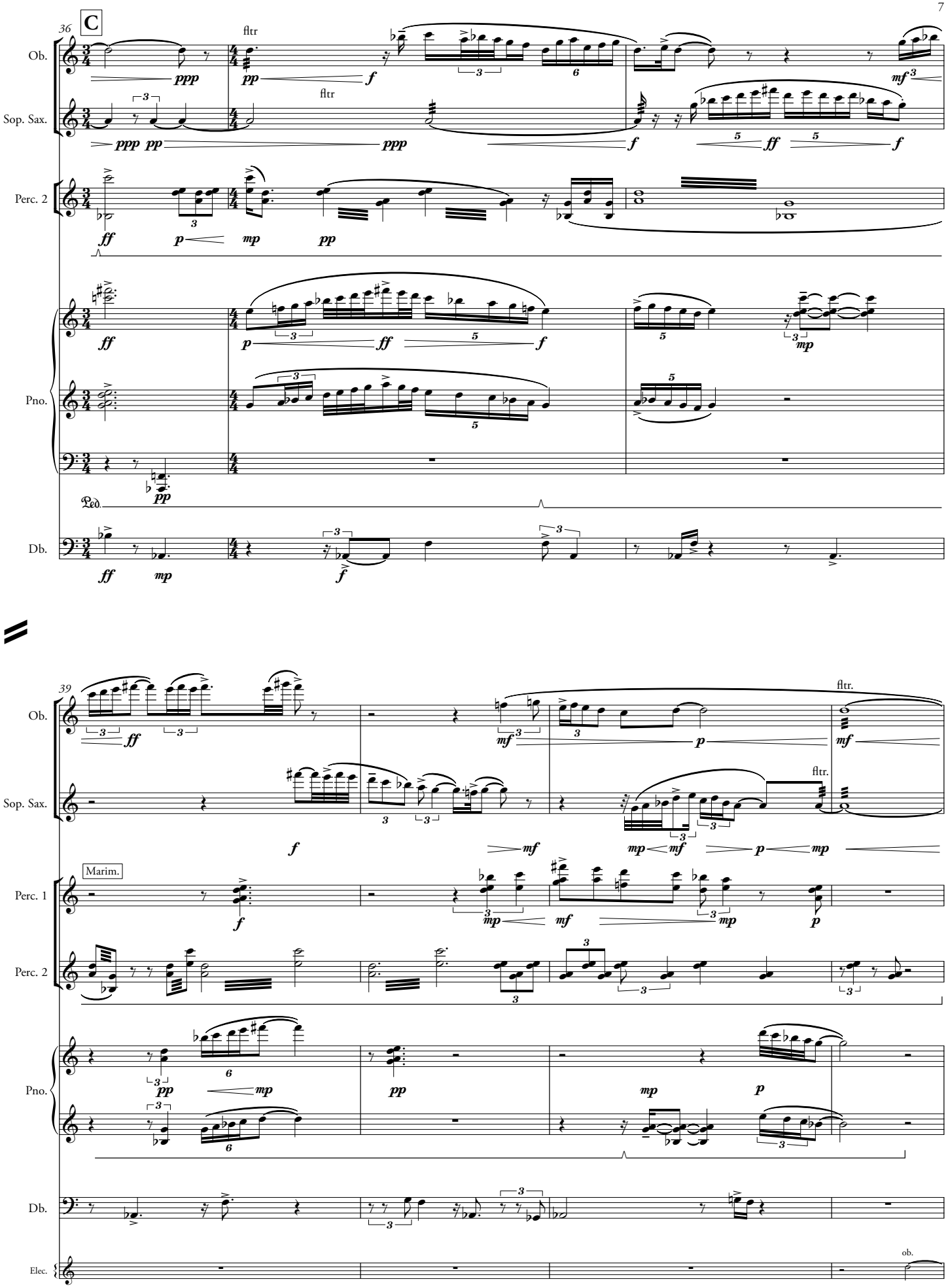

11
A
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Pno.
Db.
mp
p
SUSP. CYM. soft mallets
mf p
mf
f
Ped.
8va
ff
mf
arco
f
14
damp
CHINESE CYM.
pp

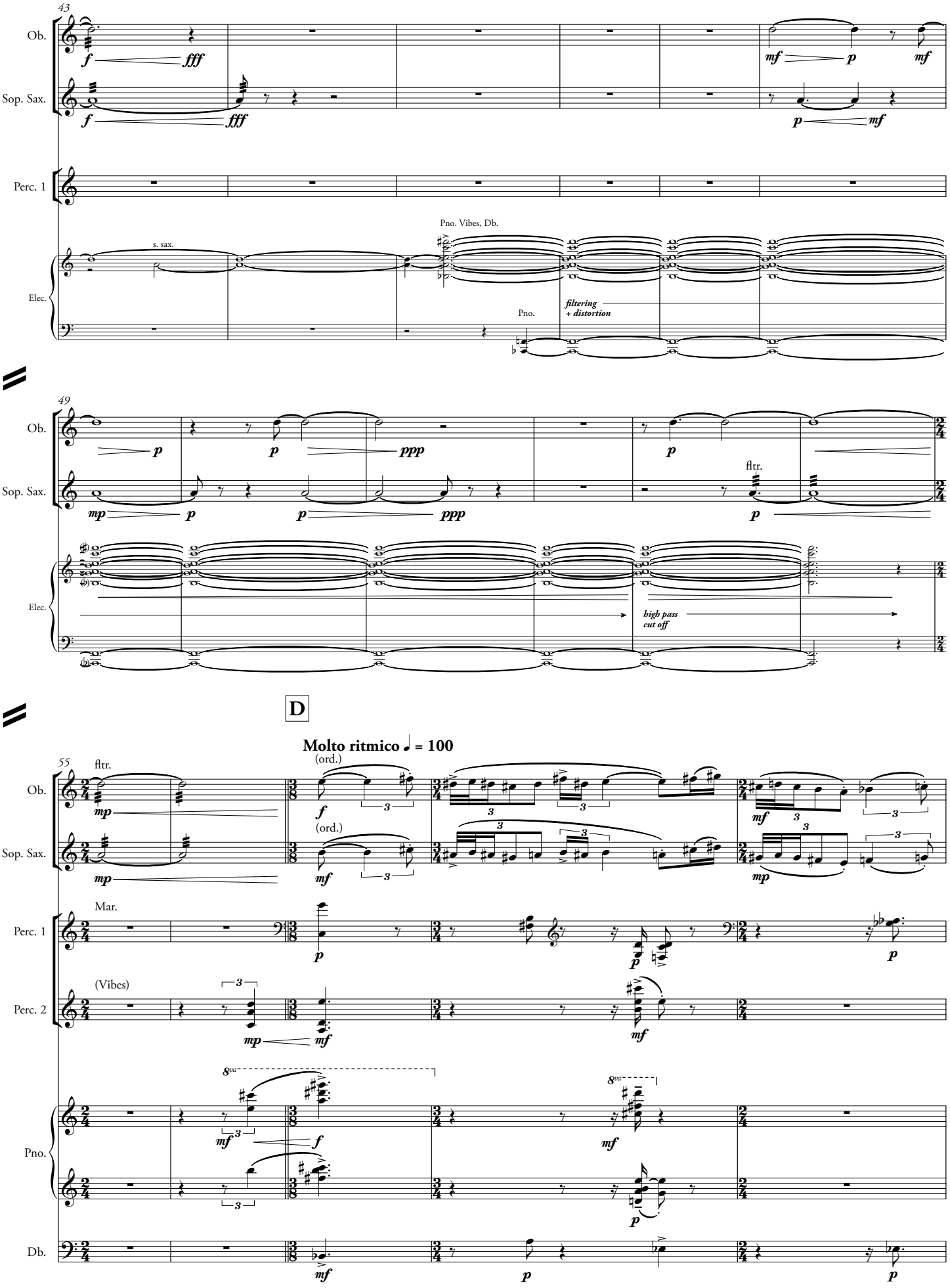

17
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
MARIMBA
Perc. 1
Vibes
Perc. 2
pizz.
Db.

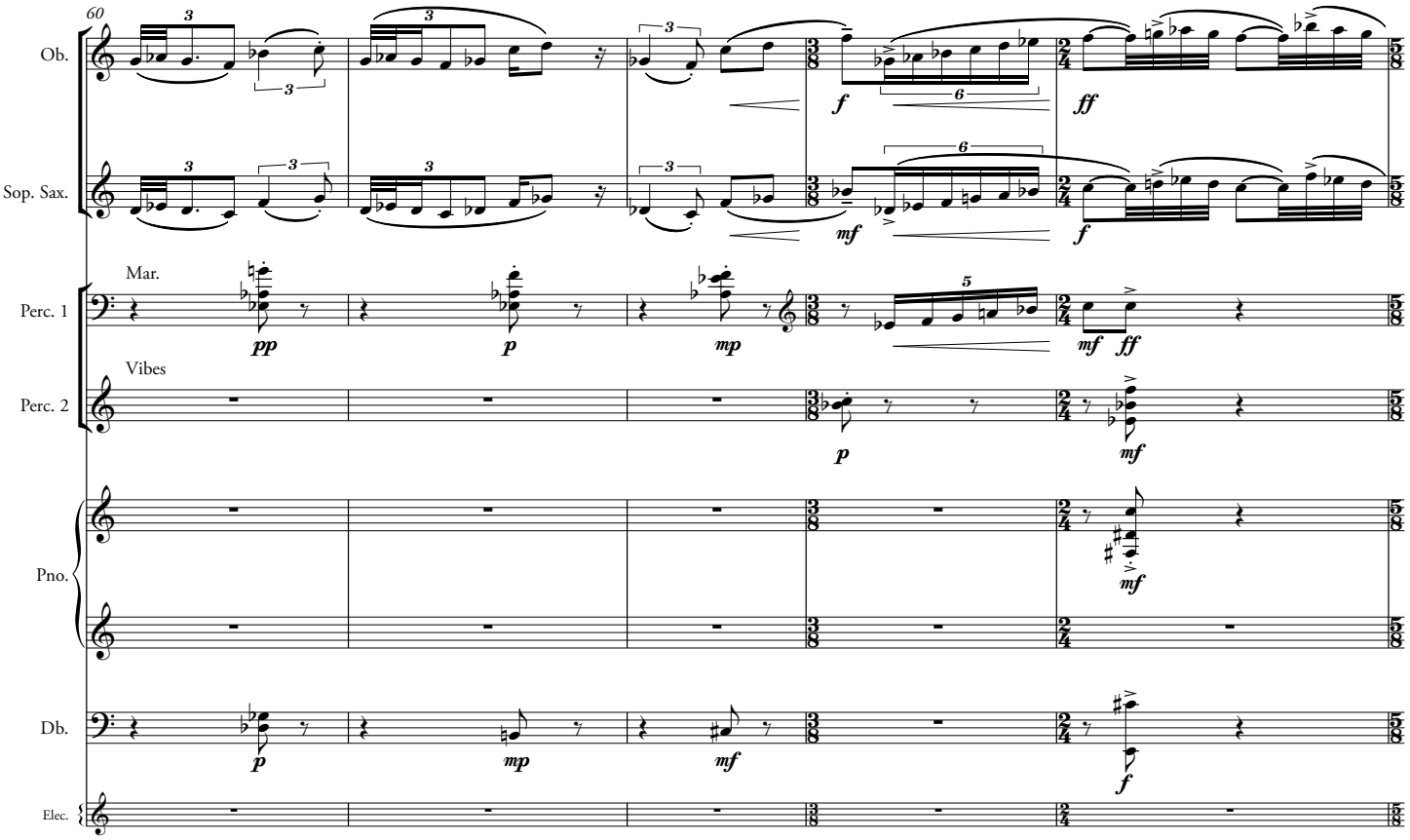

21
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
Perc. 1
Vibes
ord.
Perc. 2
Ped.
Pno.
Ped.
Db.

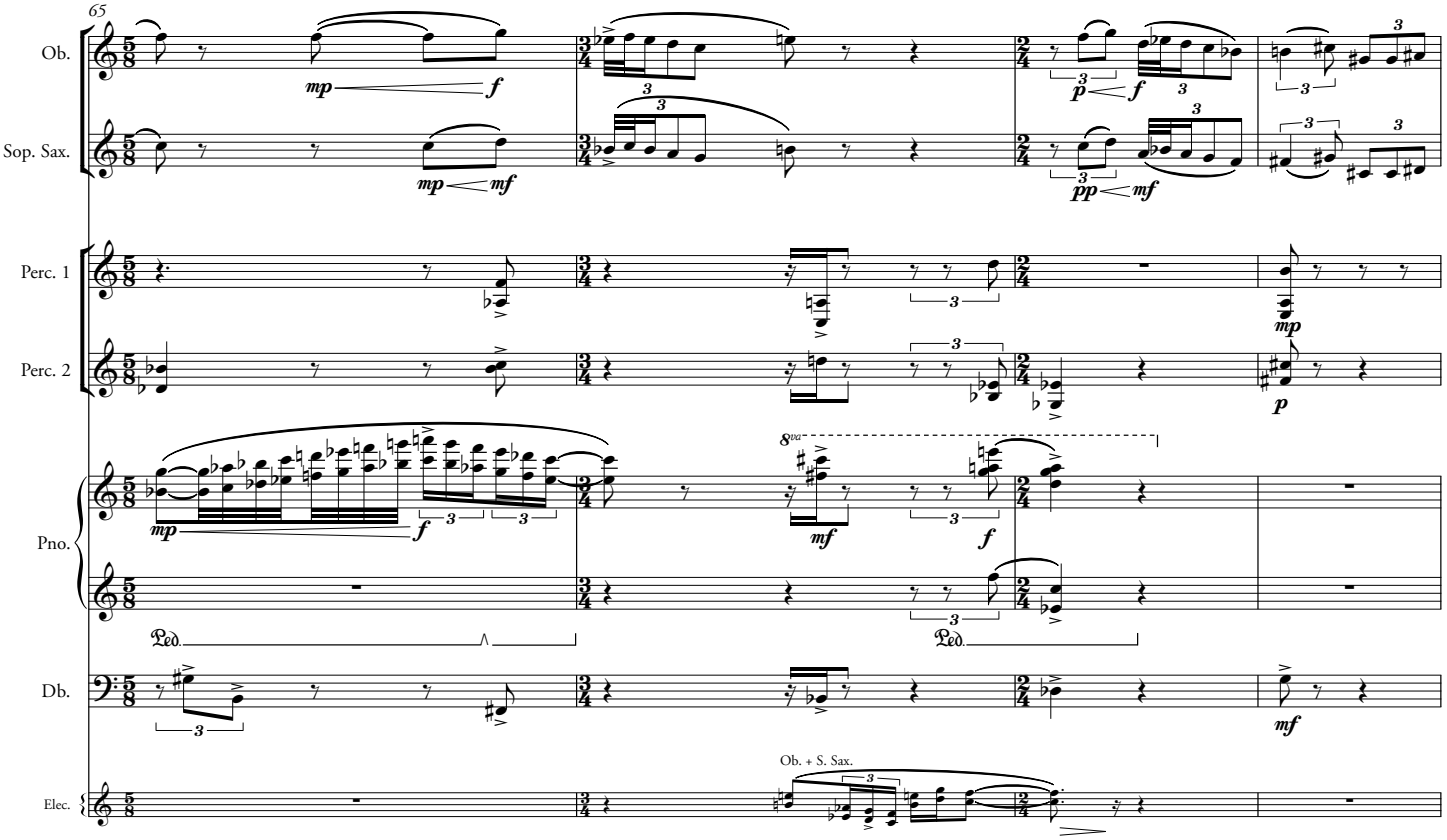

27
B
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
Perc. 1
Mar.
Pno.
pp una corda
pizz.
Db.

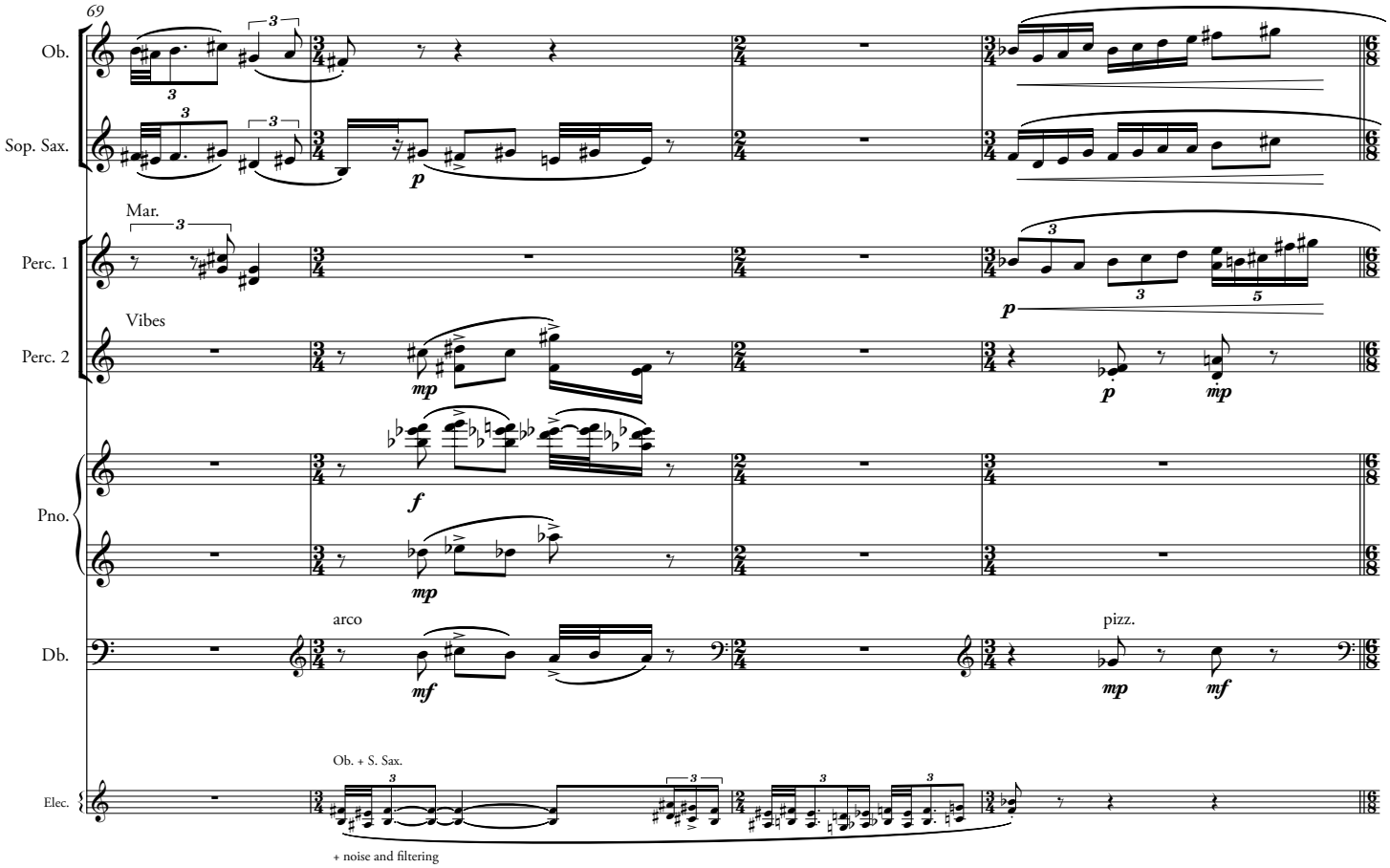

31
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Ped.
Pno.
tres corde
Db.

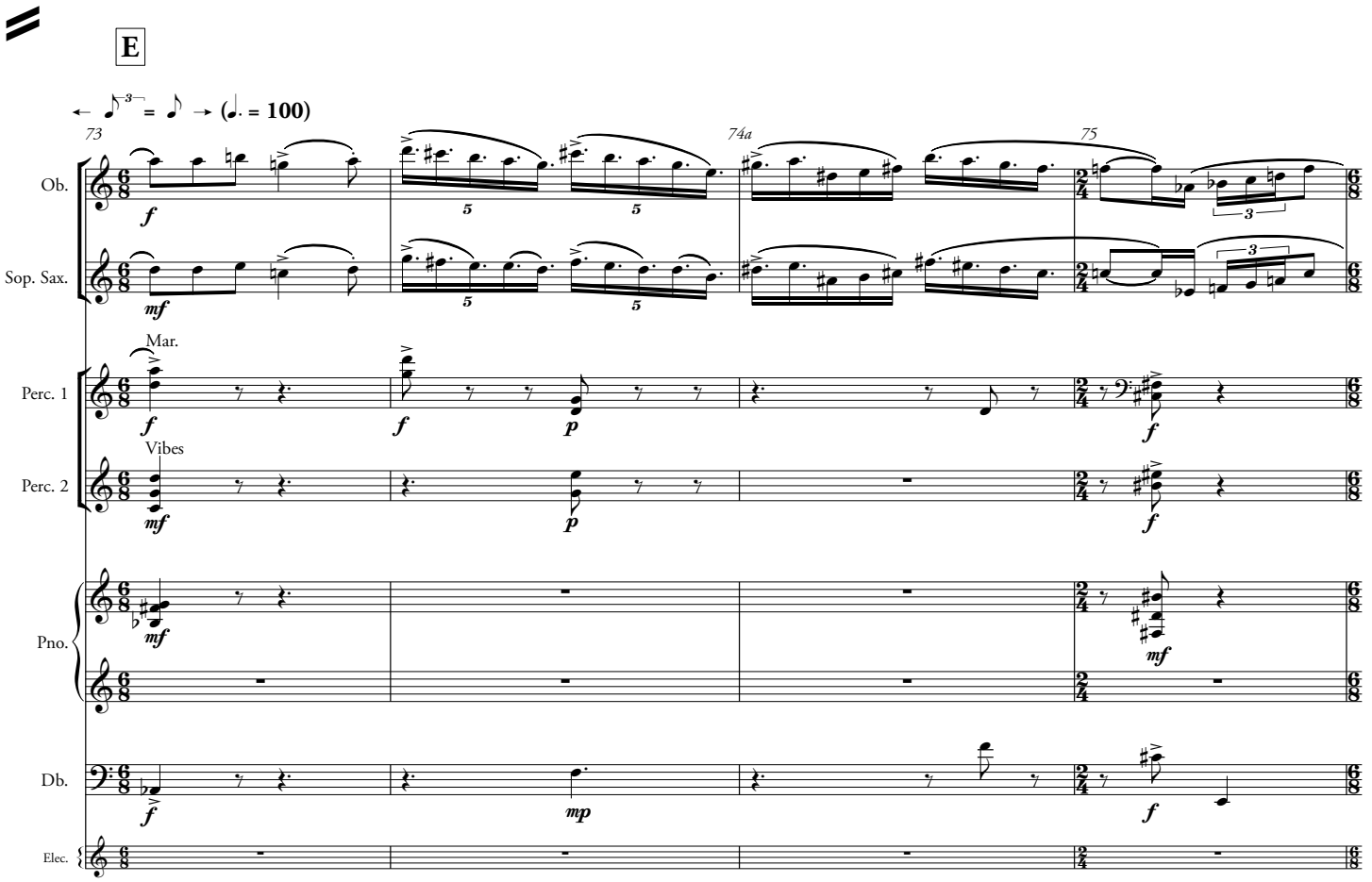

36
C
fltr
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
Perc. 2
Pno.
Ped.
Db.
39
fltr.
Marim.
Perc. 1
Elec.
ob.

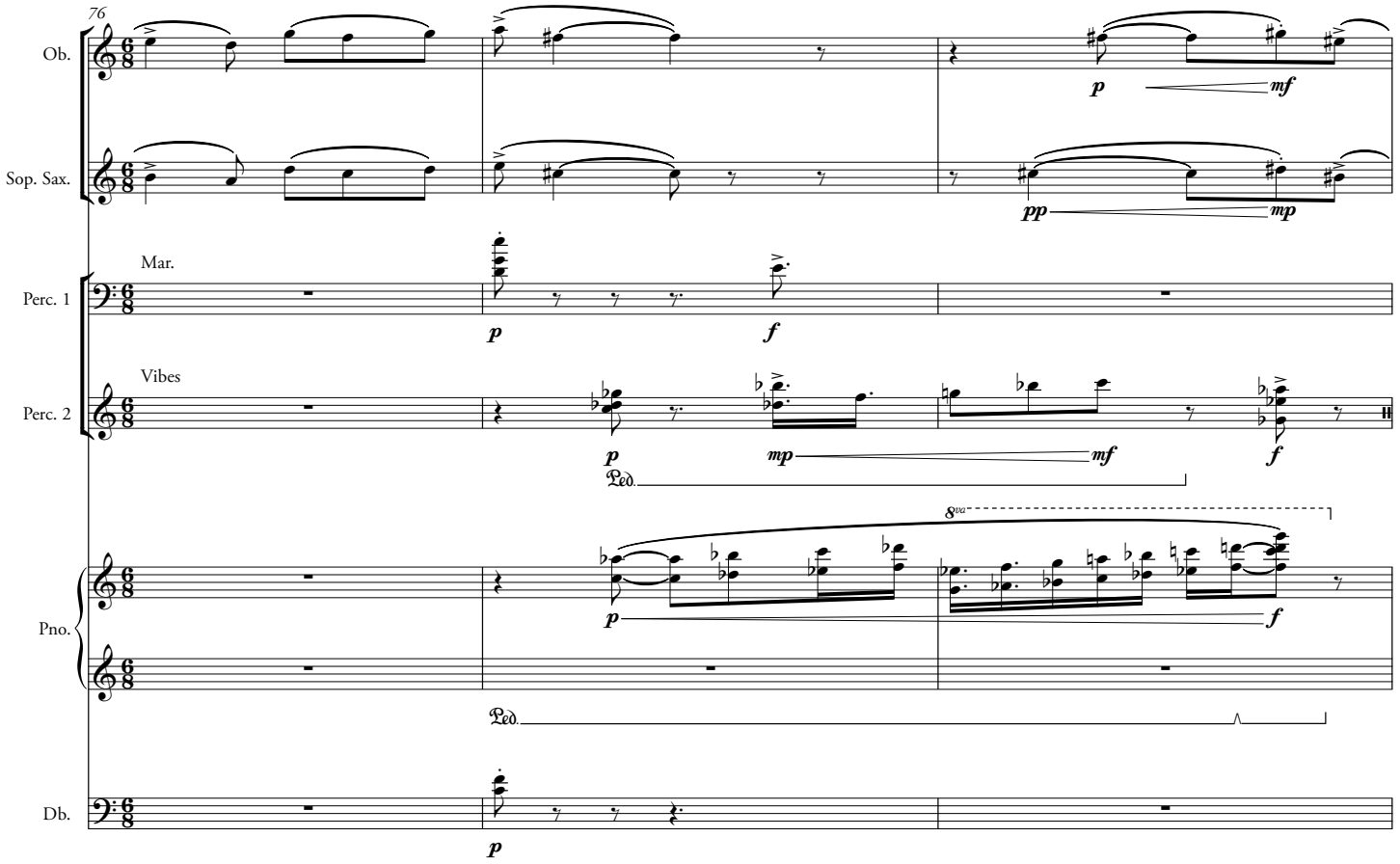

43
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
Perc. 1
Elec.
s. sax.
Pno. Vibes, Db.
Pno.
filtering
+ distortion
49
fltr.
high pass
cut off
D
Molto ritmico ♩ = 100
55
(ord.)
Mar.
(Vibes)
Perc. 2
Pno.
Db.

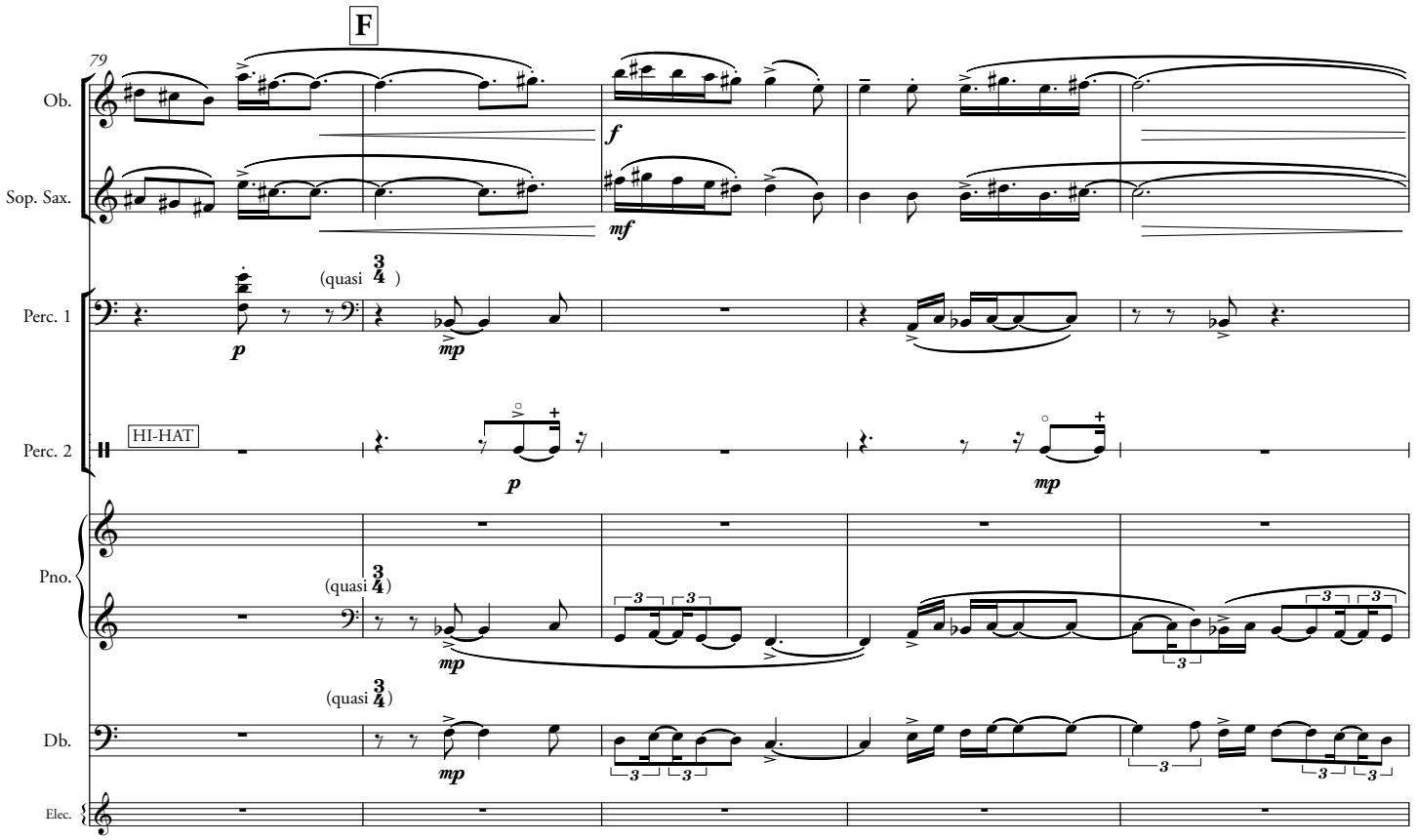

60
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
Mar.
Perc. 1
Vibes
Perc. 2
Pno.
Db.
Elec.

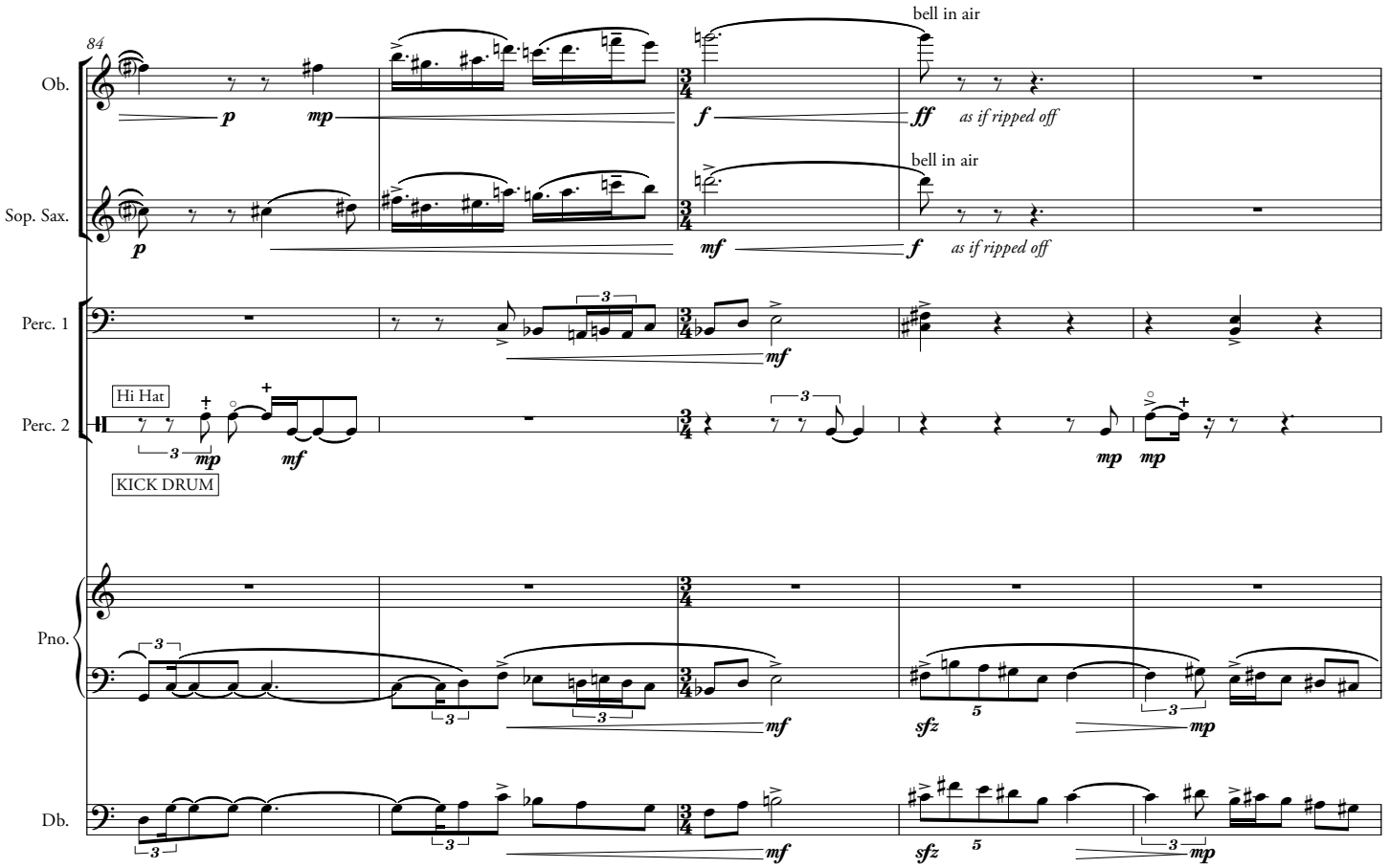

65
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Pno.
Db.
Elec.
Ped.
Ped.
Ob. + S. Sax.

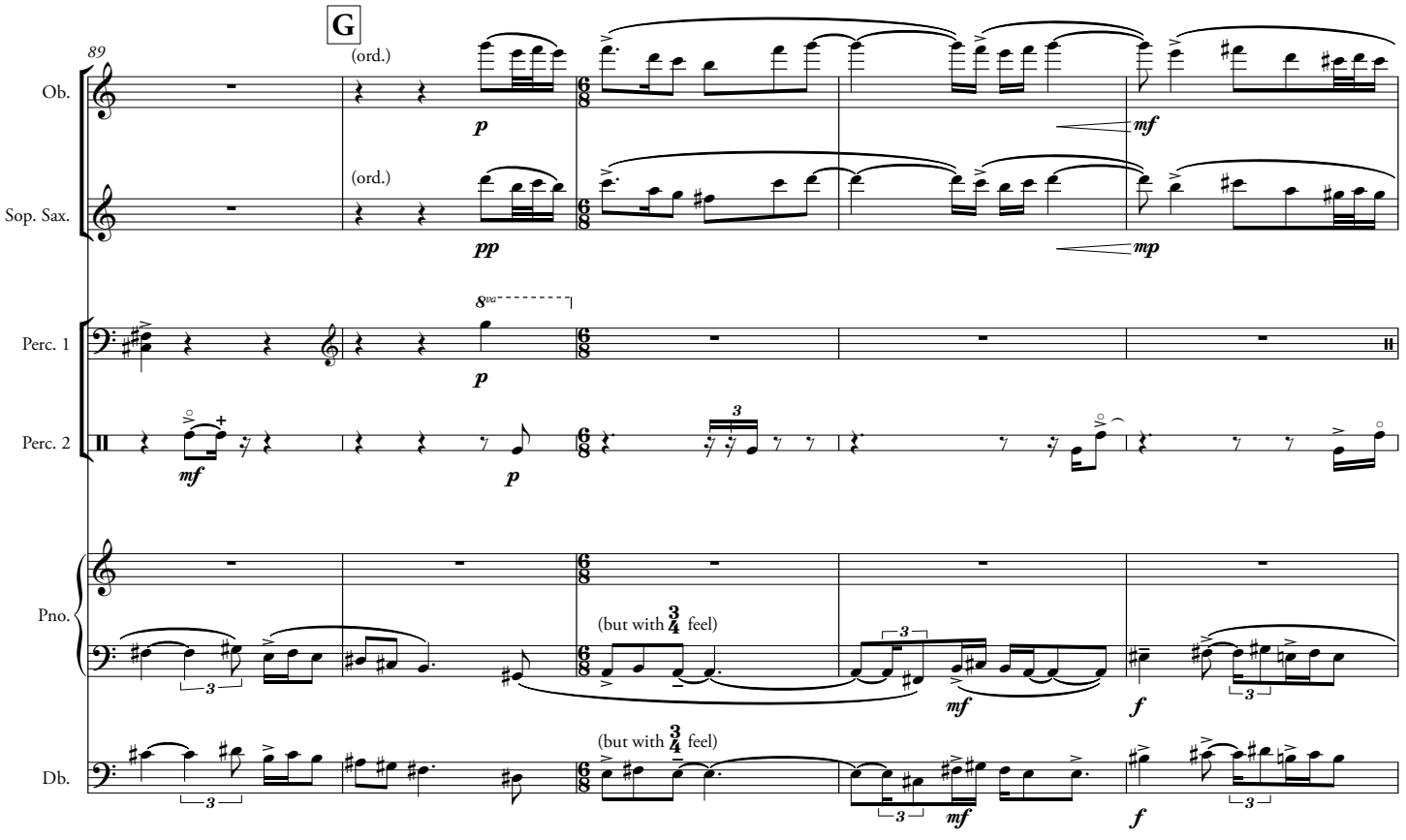

69
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
Mar.
Perc. 1
Vibes
Perc. 2
Pno.
Db.
arco
pizz.
Elec.
Ob. + S. Sax.
+ noise and filtering

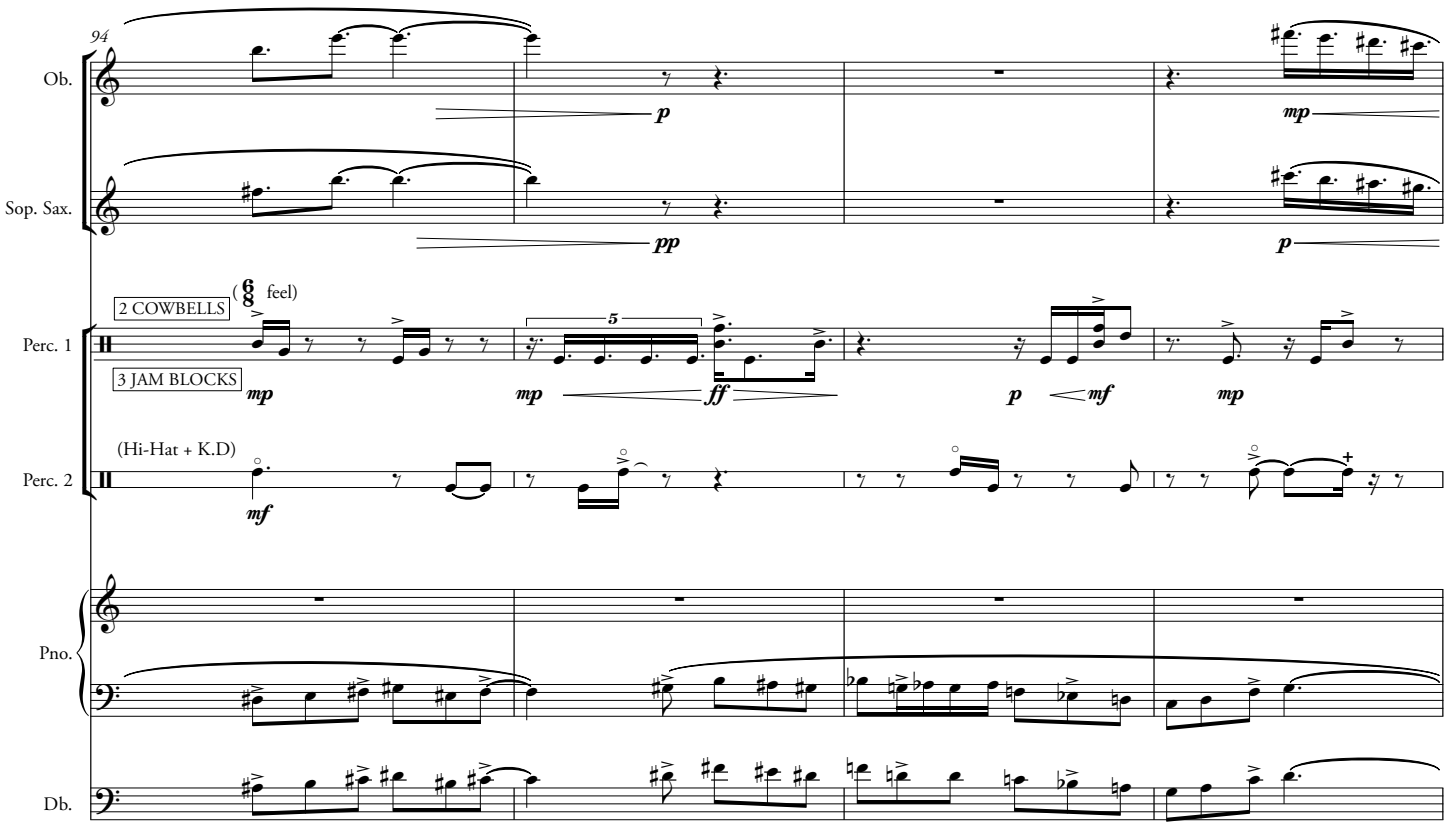

E
← 𝅘𝅥𝅮³ = 𝅘𝅥𝅮 → (𝅗𝅥. = 100)
73
74a
75
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
Mar.
Perc. 1
Vibes
Perc. 2
Pno.
Db.
Elec.

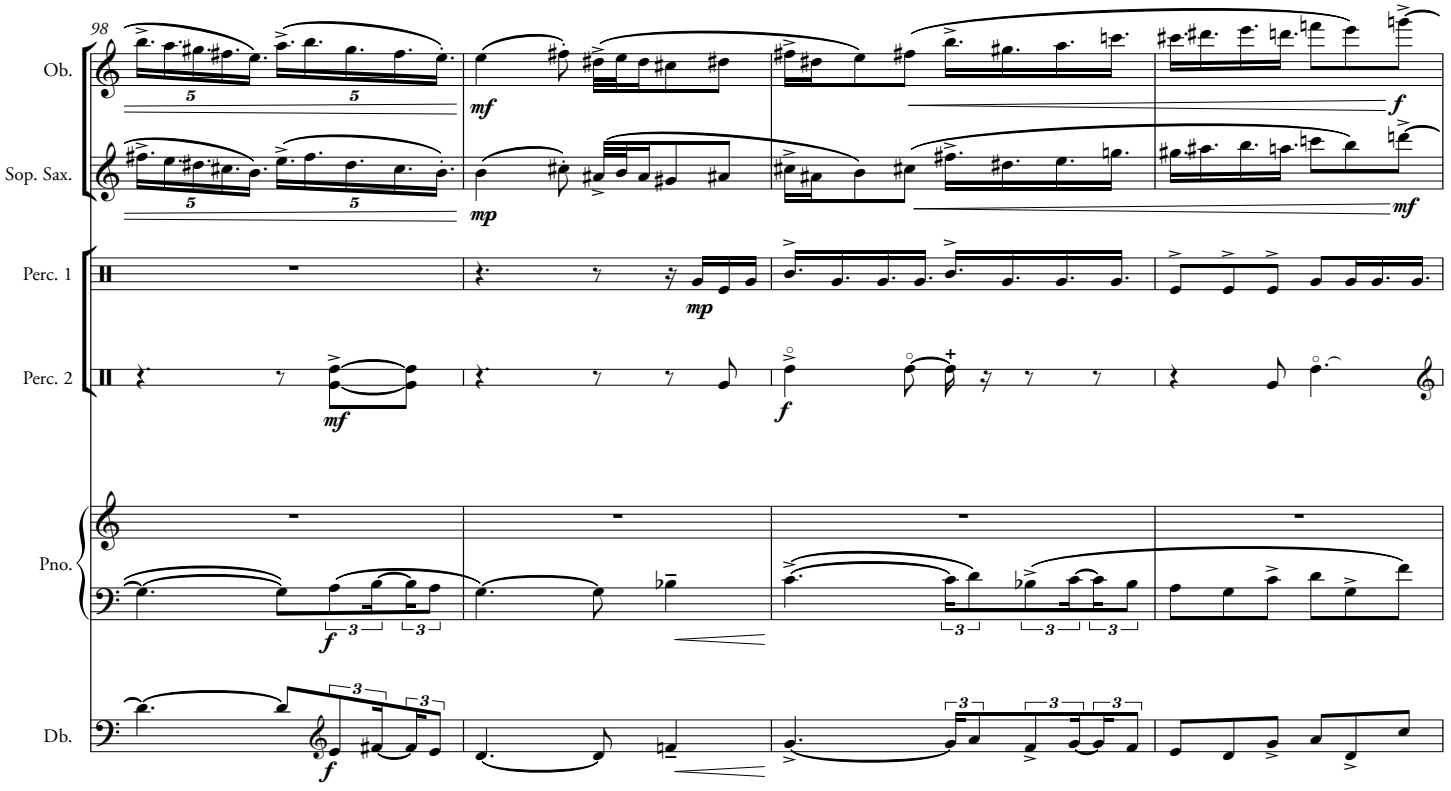

76
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
Mar.
Perc. 1
Vibes
Perc. 2
Pno.
Db.
p
mf
pp
mp
f
Ped.
8va

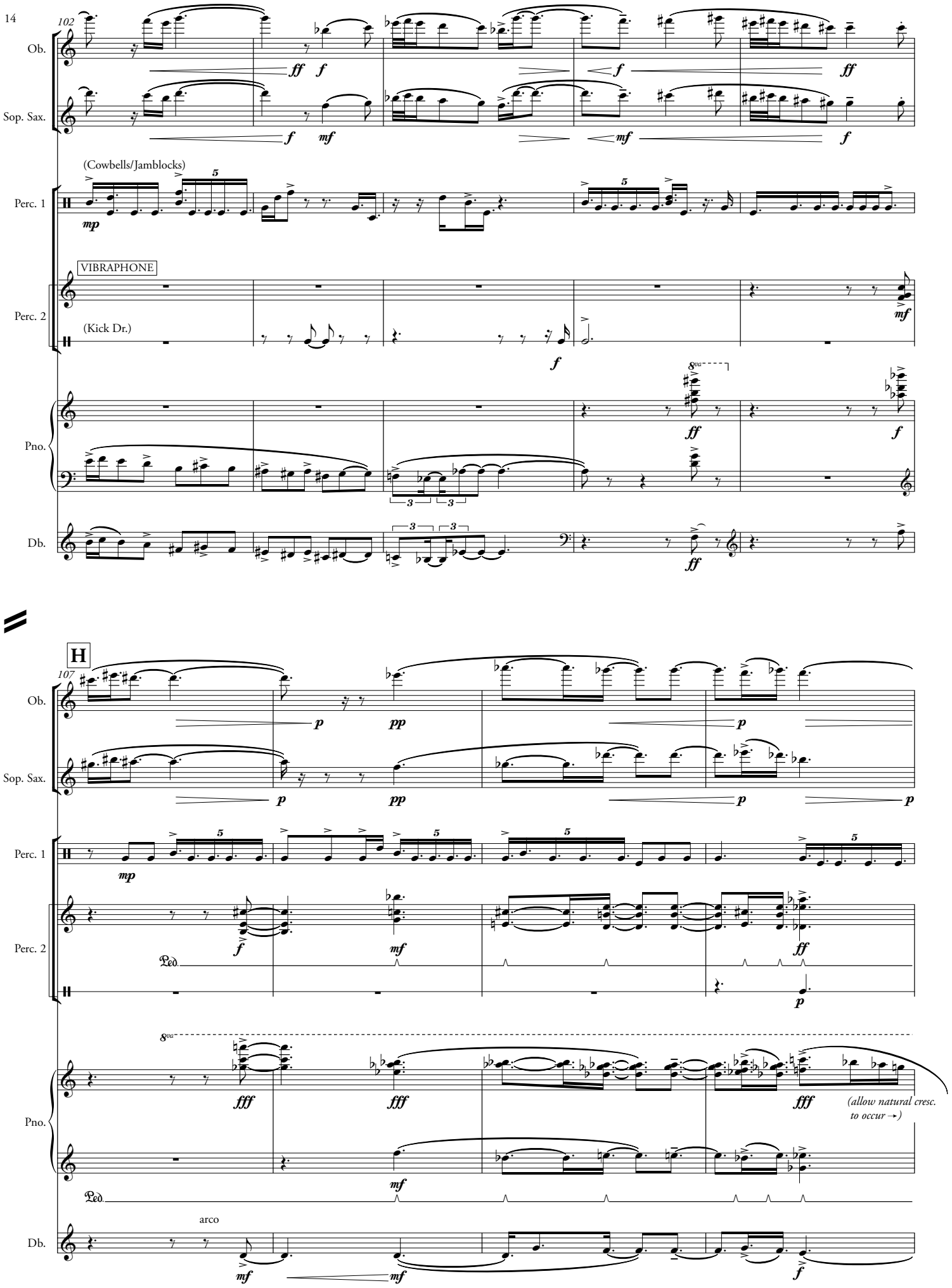

F
79
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
HI-HAT
Pno.
Db.
Elec.
(quasi 3/4)
p
mp
mf

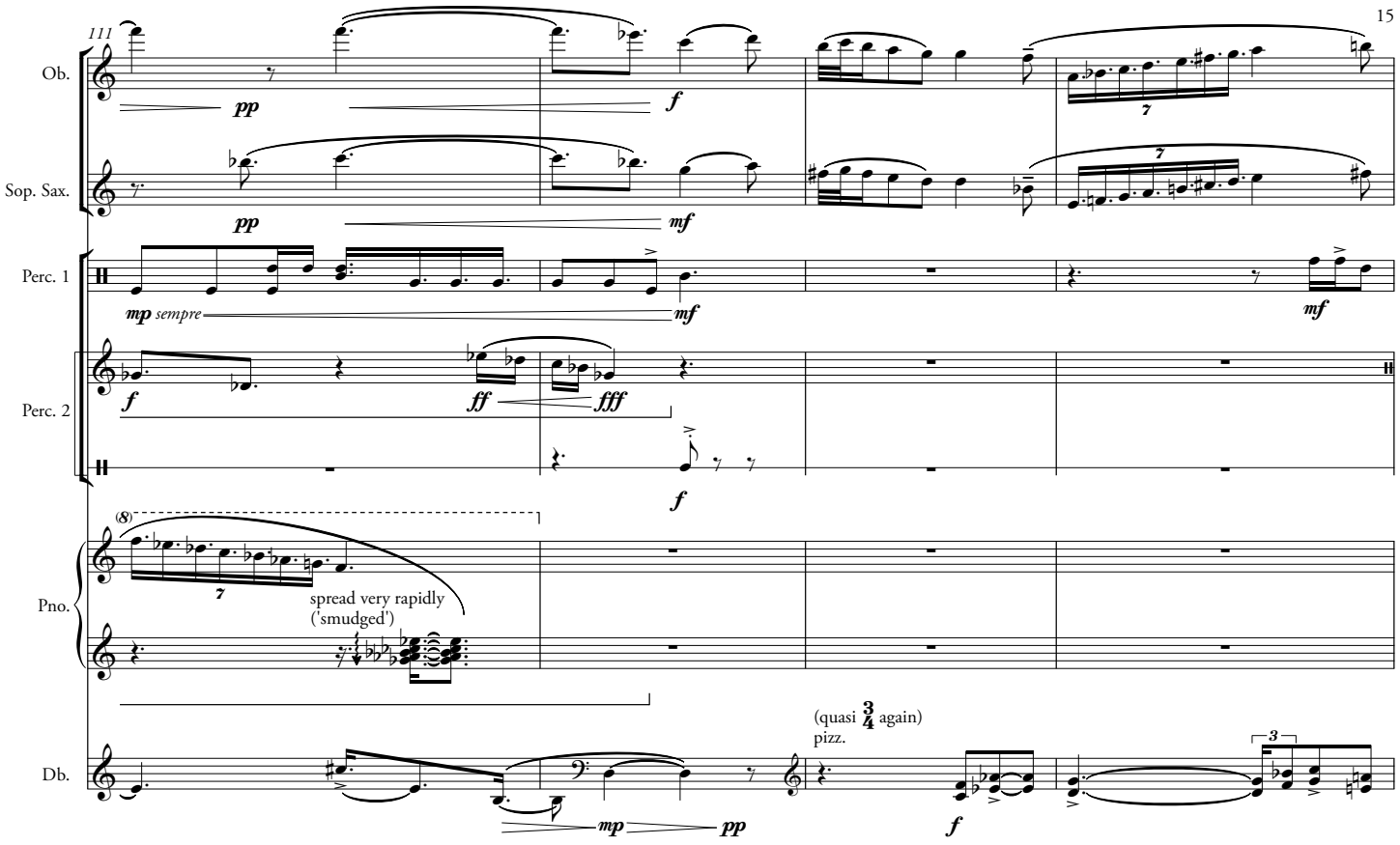

84
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Pno.
Db.
bell in air
as if ripped off
Hi Hat
KICK DRUM

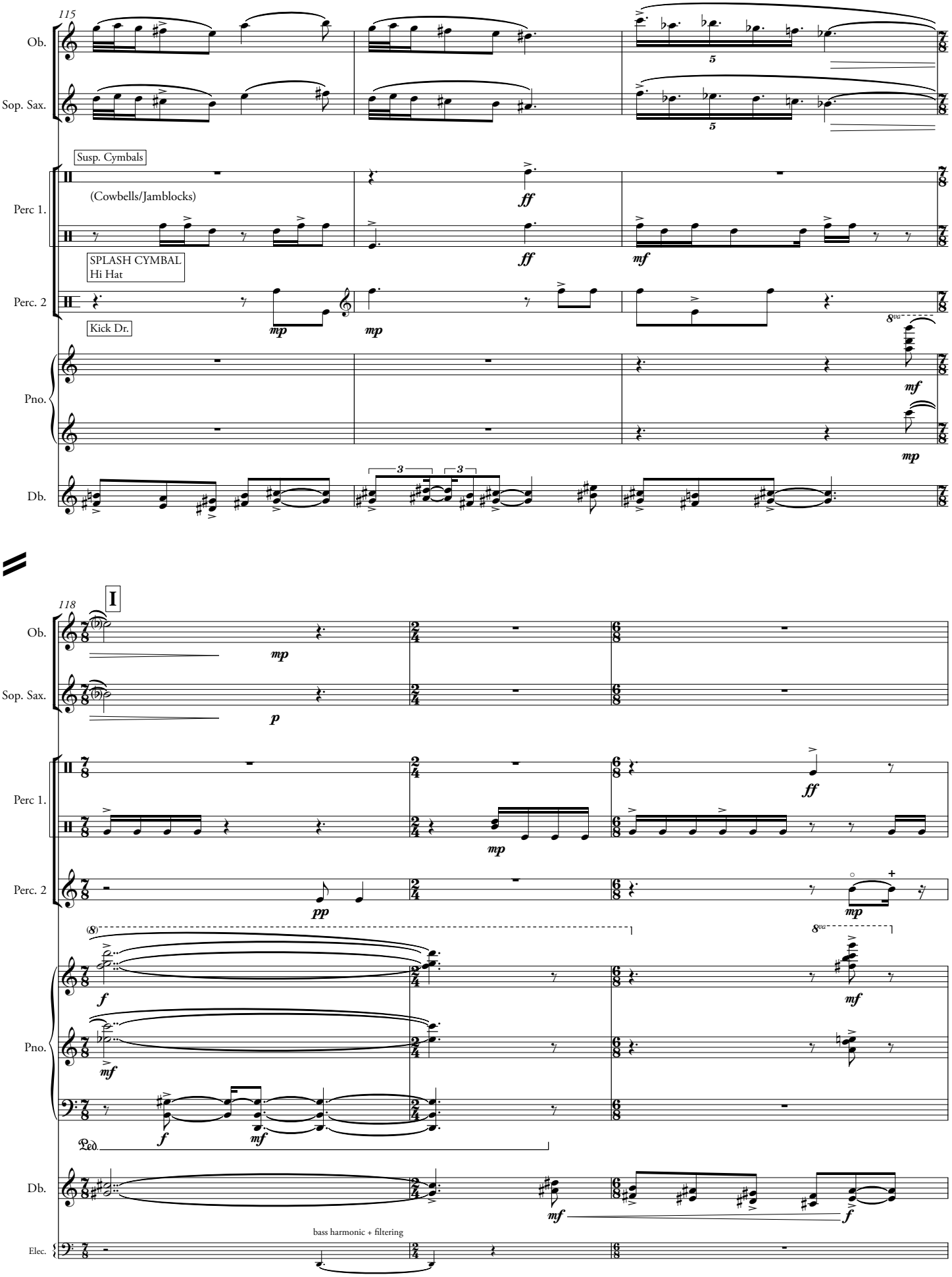

89
G
(ord.)
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Pno.
Db.
(but with 3/4 feel)

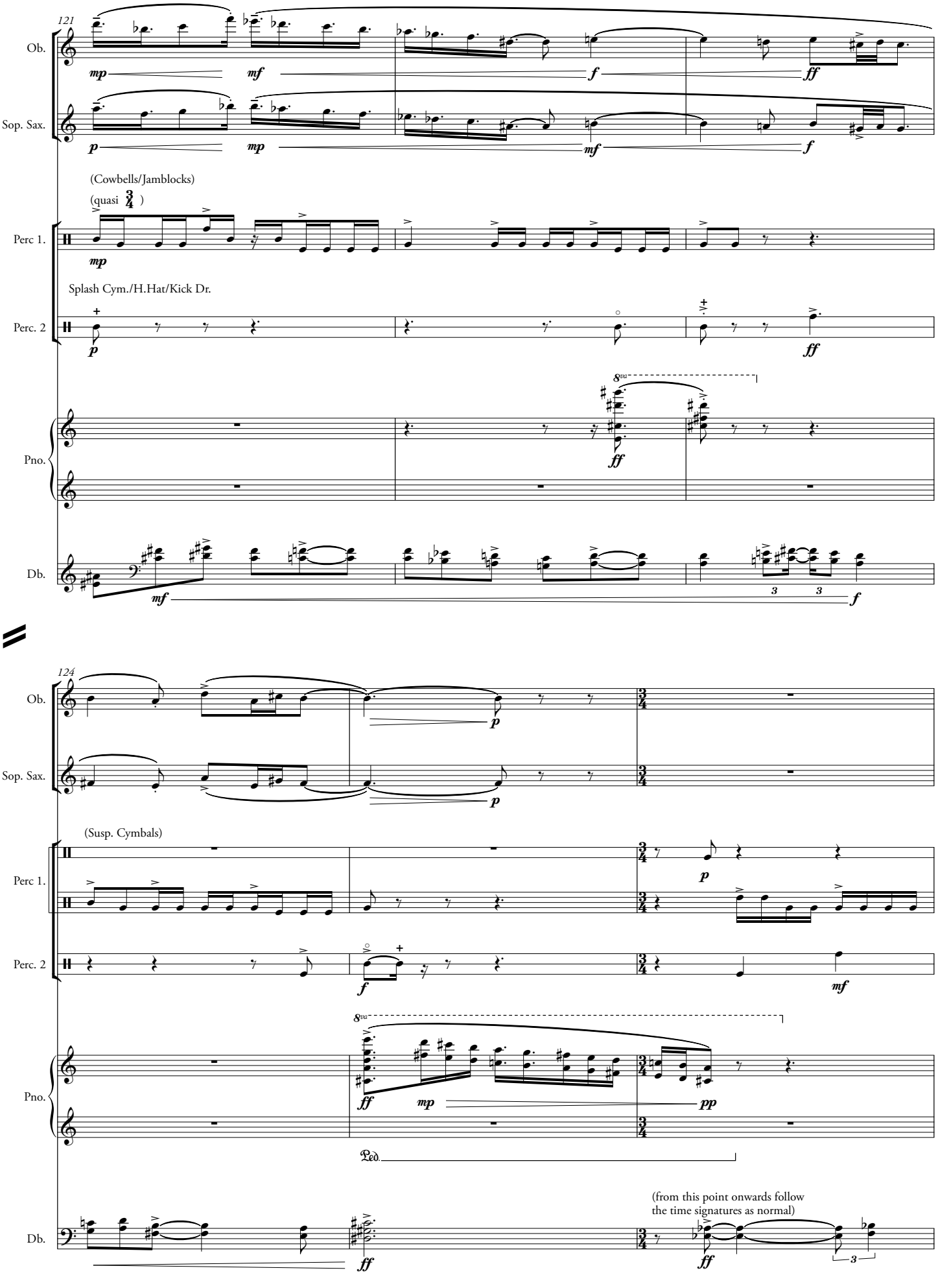

94
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Pno.
Db.
2 COWBELLS
(feel)
3 JAM BLOCKS
(Hi-Hat + K.D)
p
pp
mp
mf
ff

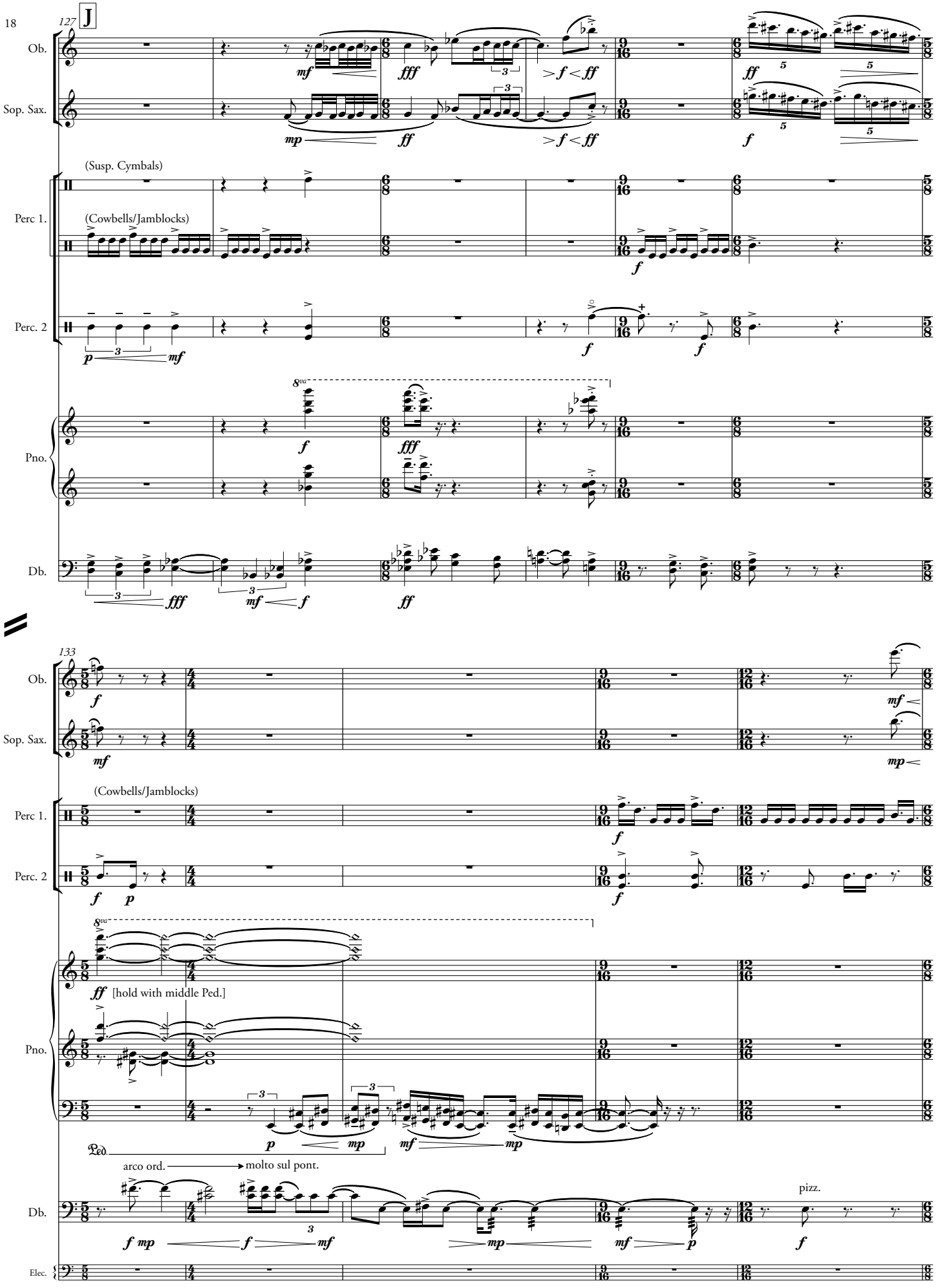

98
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Pno.
Db.
mp
mf
f

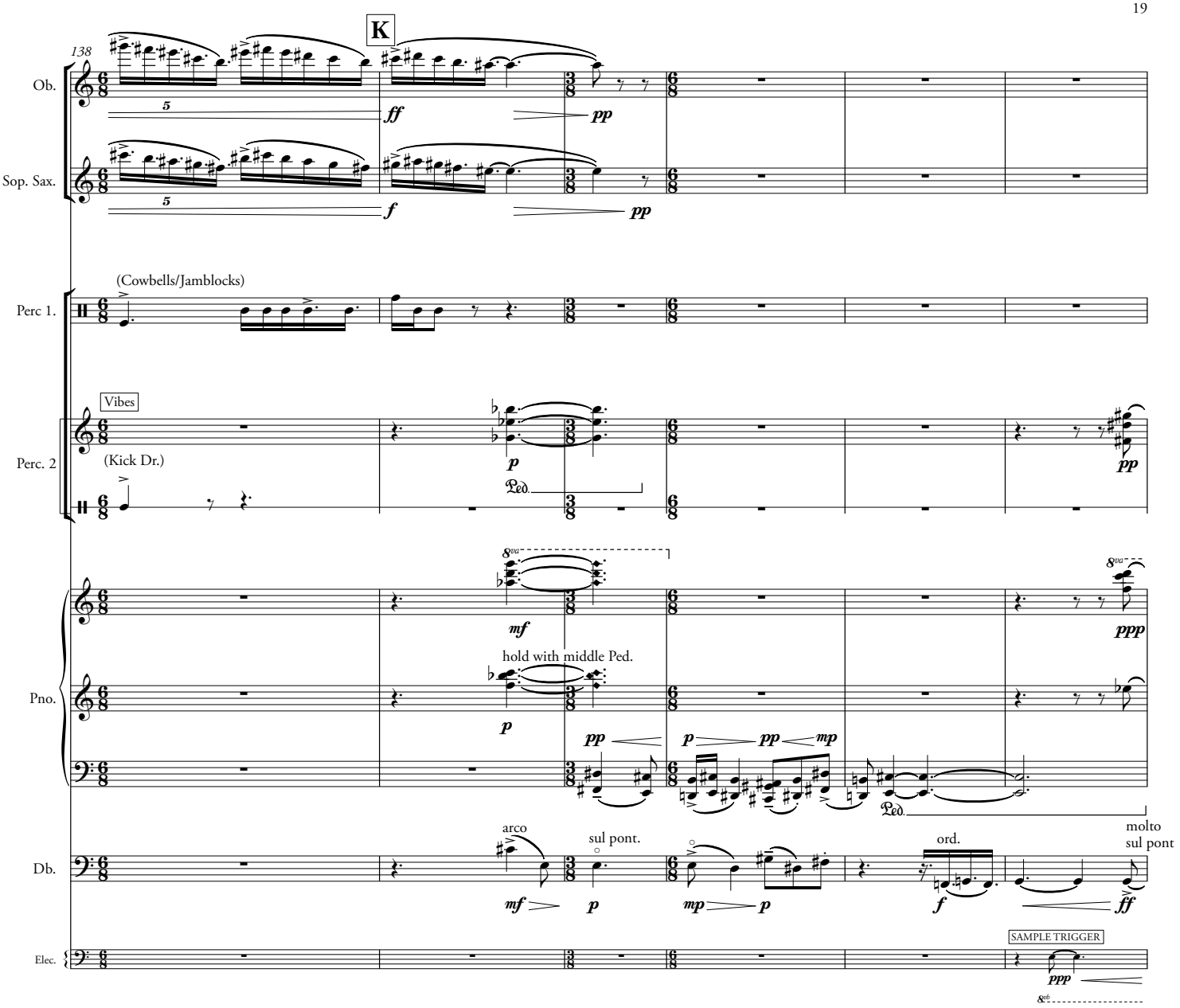

102
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
(Cowbells/Jamblocks)
Perc. 1
VIBRAPHONE
Perc. 2
(Kick Dr.)
Pno.
Db.
H
107
arco
(allow natural cresc. to occur →)

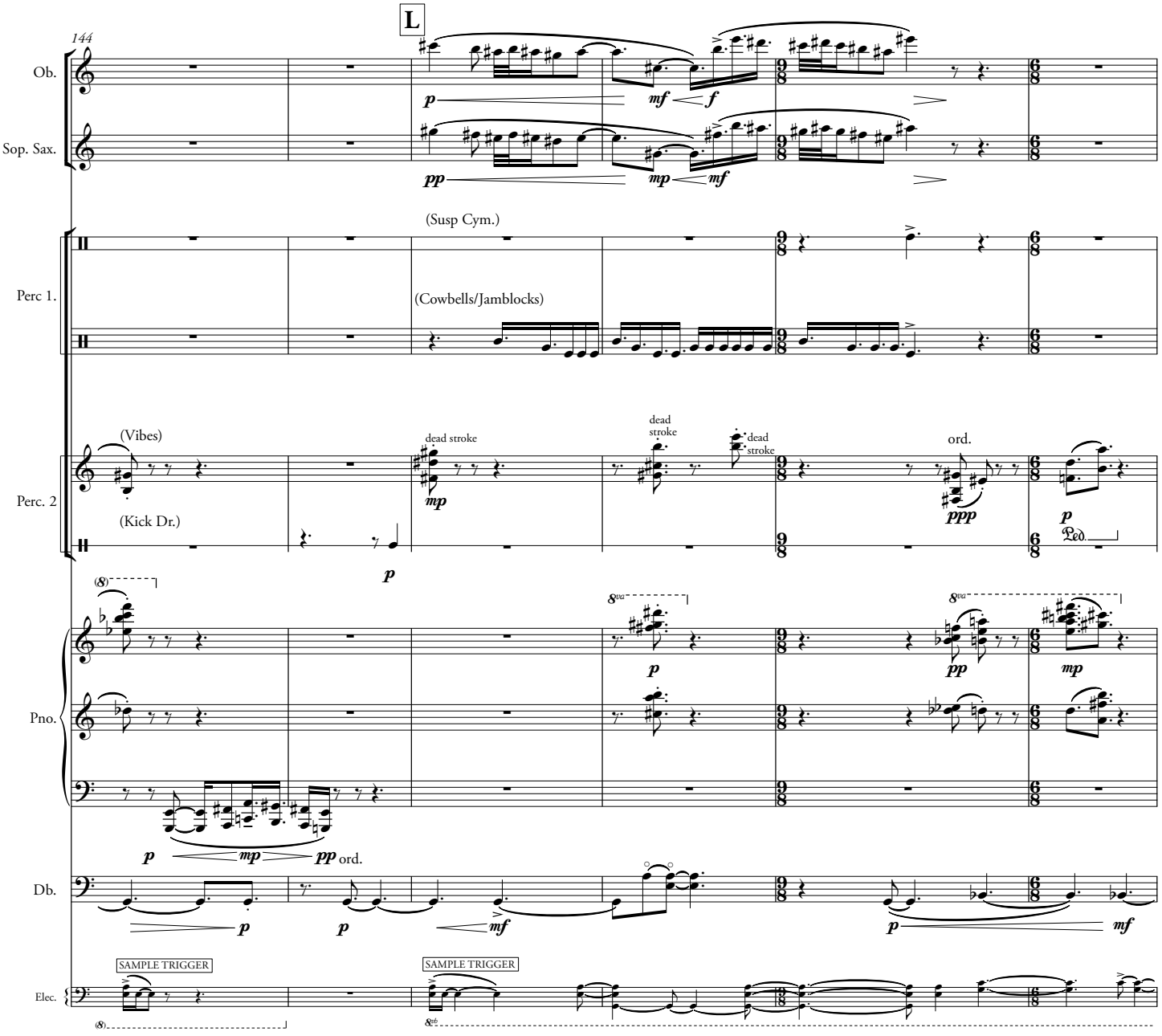

111
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Pno.
Db.
pp
f
mf
mp sempre
ff
fff
(8)
spread very rapidly
('smudged')
(quasi 3/4 again)
pizz.
mp

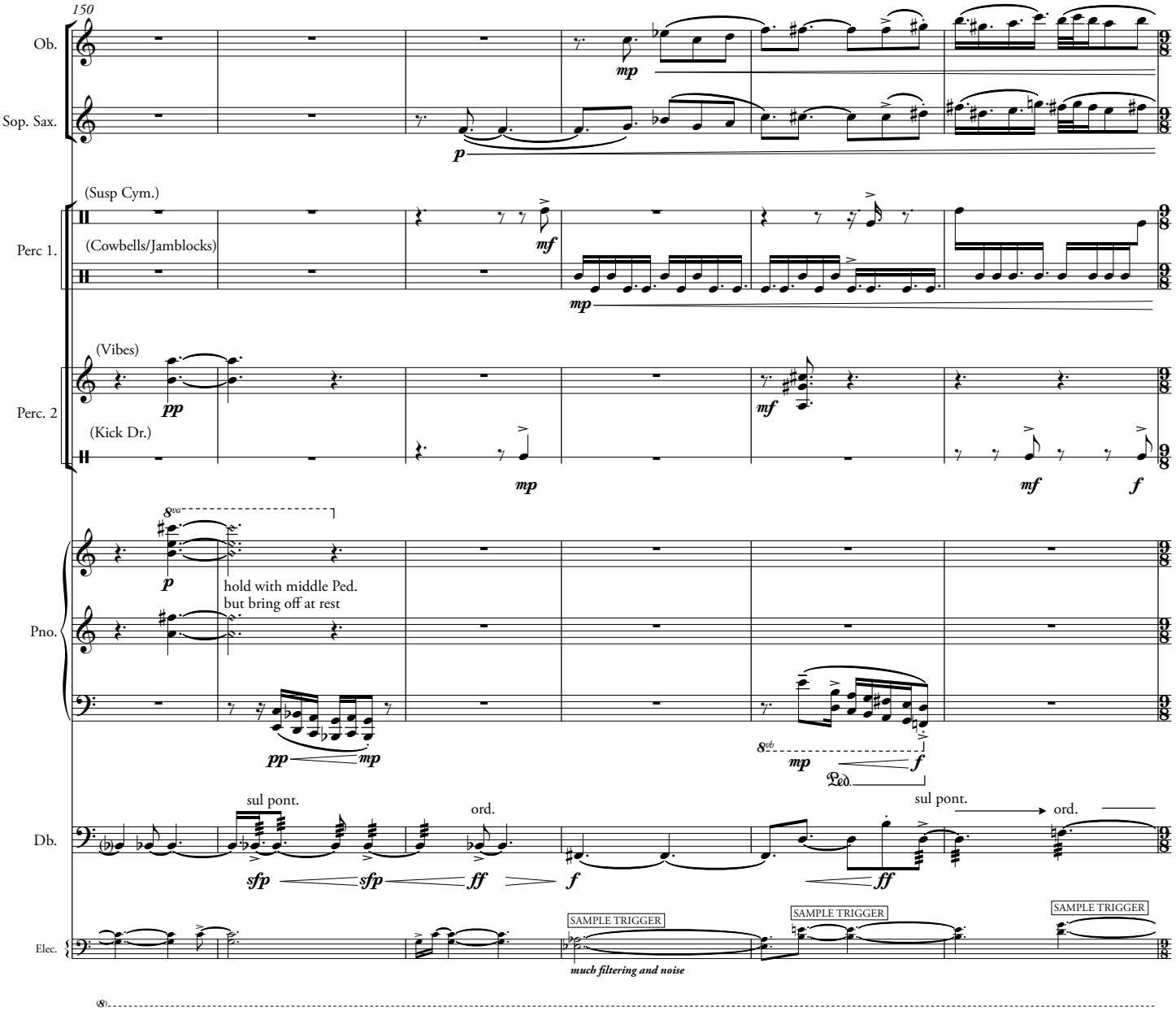

115
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
Susp. Cymbals
(Cowbells/Jamblocks)
Perc 1.
SPLASH CYMBAL
Hi Hat
Perc. 2
Kick Dr.
Pno.
Db.
118
I
Elec.
bass harmonic + filtering

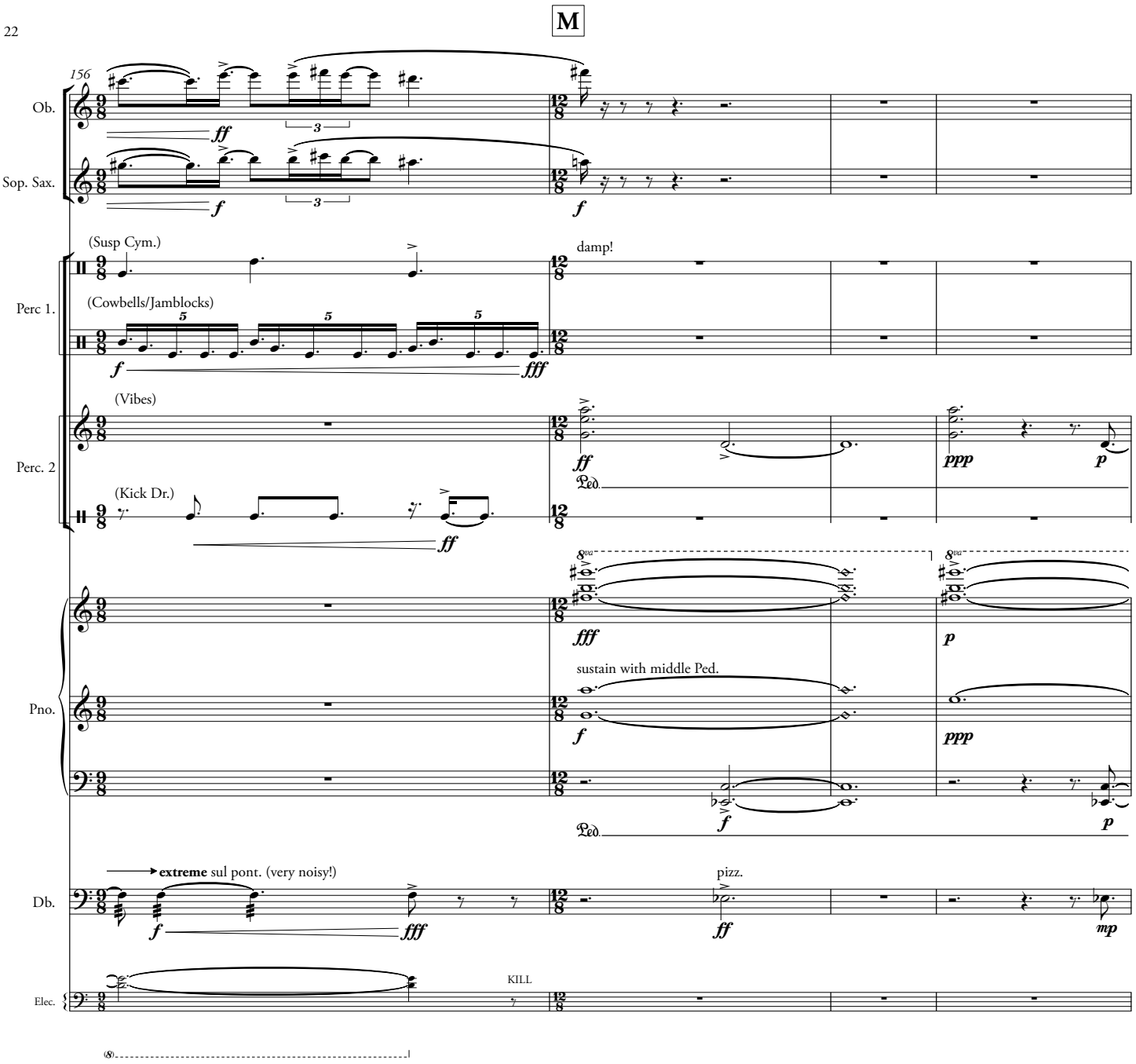

121
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
(Cowbells/Jamblocks)
(quasi 3/4)
Perc 1.
Splash Cym./H.Hat/Kick Dr.
Perc. 2
Pno.
Db.
124
(Susp. Cymbals)
(from this point onwards follow
the time signatures as normal)

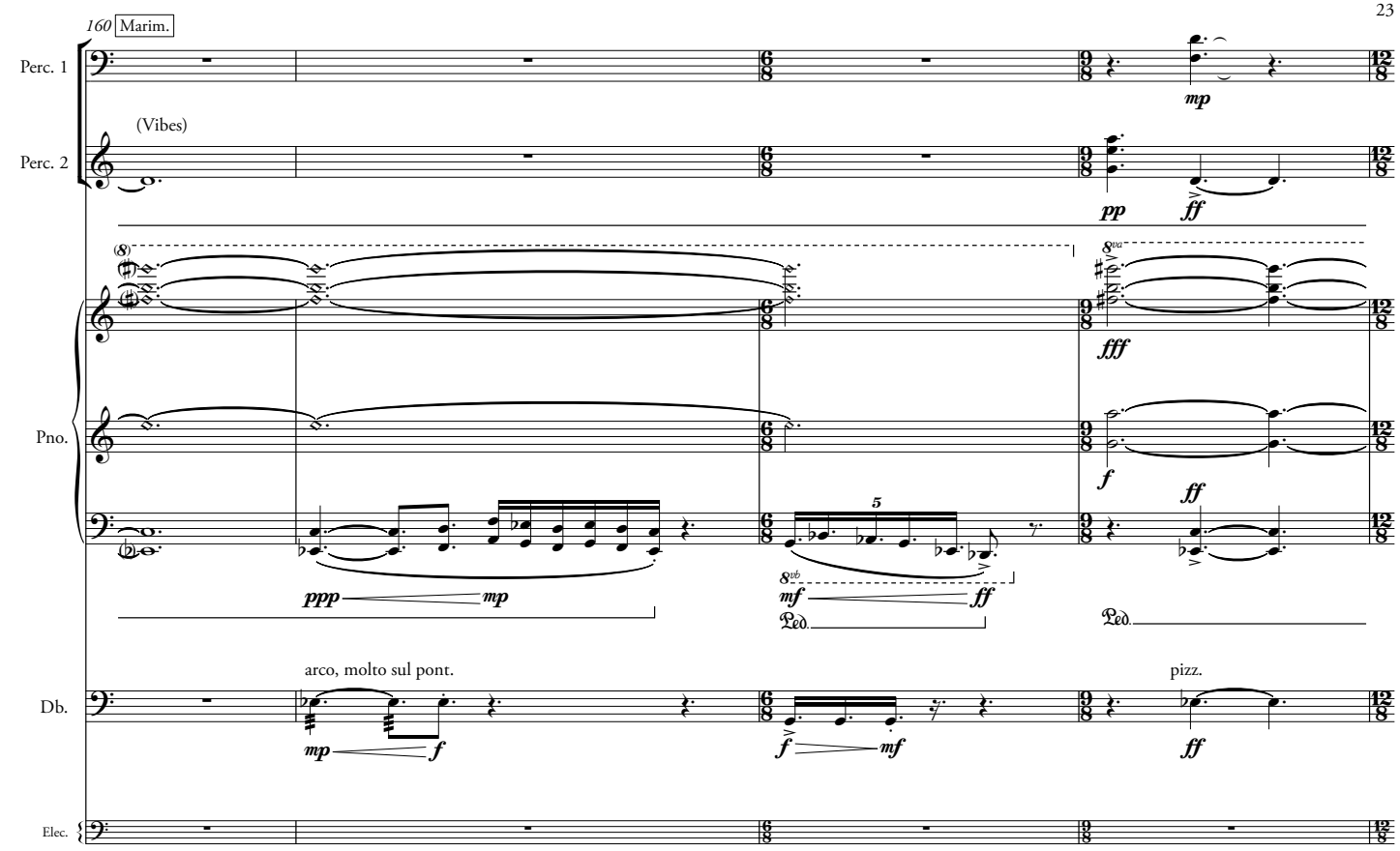

127
J
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
(Susp. Cymbals)
Perc 1.
(Cowbells/Jamblocks)
Perc. 2
Pno.
Db.
133
[hold with middle Ped.]
arco ord.
molto sul pont.
pizz.
Elec.

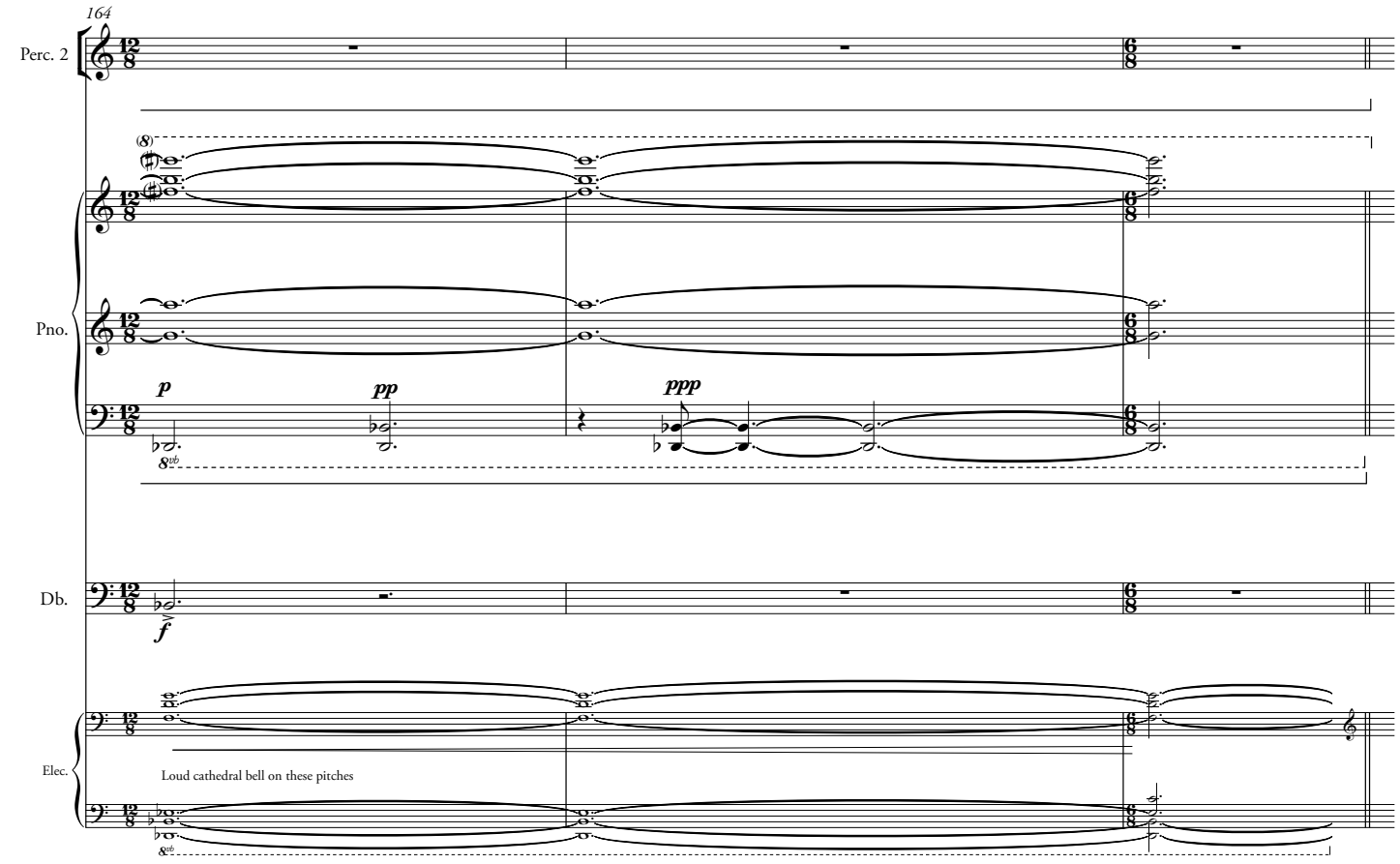

K
138
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
Perc 1.
(Cowbells/Jamblocks)
Vibes
Perc. 2
(Kick Dr.)
Pno.
hold with middle Ped.
Db.
arco
sul pont.
ord.
molto
sul pont
Elec.
SAMPLE TRIGGER

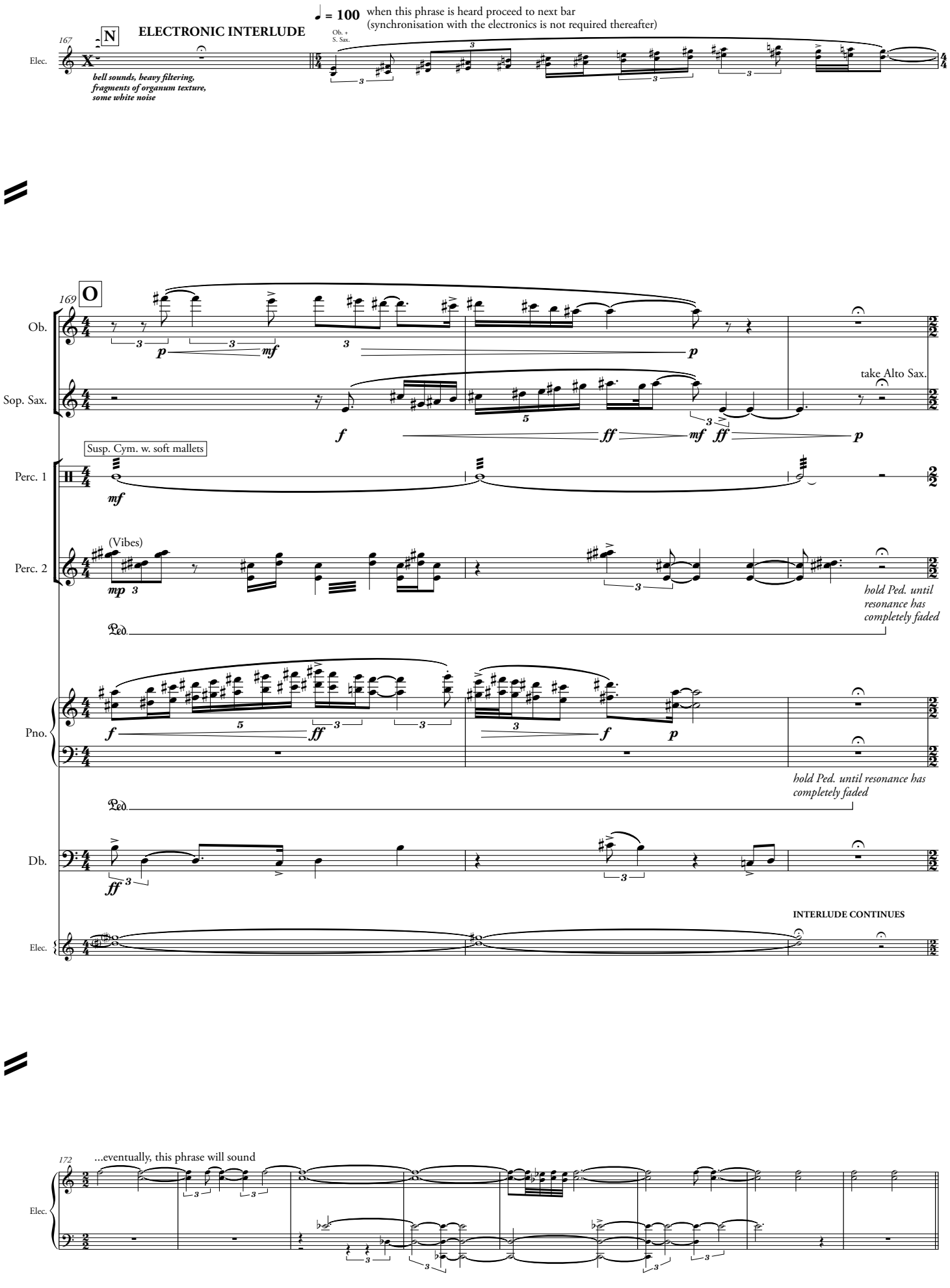

L
144
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
(Susp Cym.)
Perc 1.
(Cowbells/Jamblocks)
(Vibes)
(Kick Dr.)
Perc. 2
dead stroke
dead stroke
dead stroke
ord.
Pno.
ord.
Db.
SAMPLE TRIGGER
SAMPLE TRIGGER
Elec.

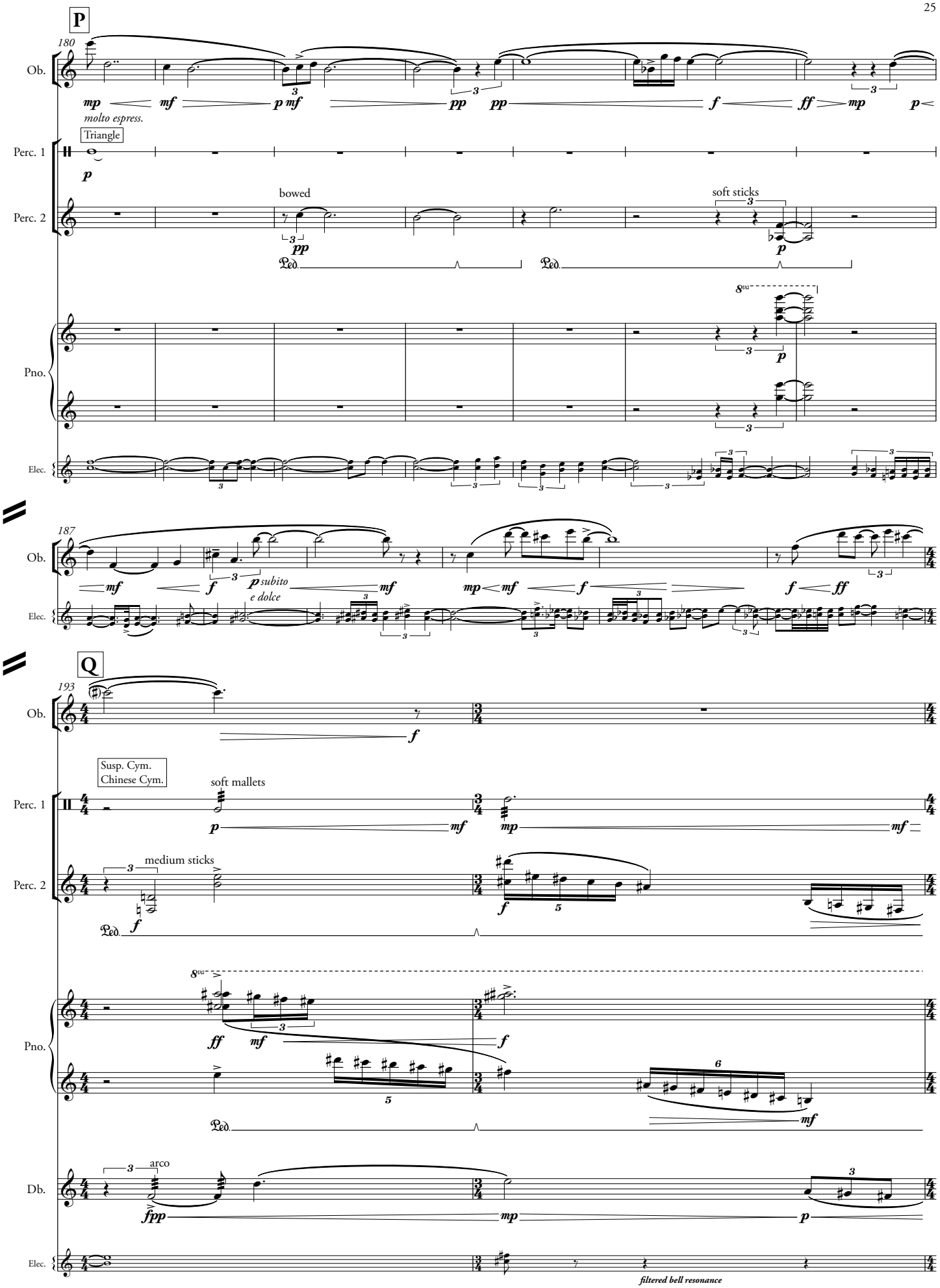

150
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
(Susp Cym.)
Perc 1.
(Cowbells/Jamblocks)
(Vibes)
Perc. 2
(Kick Dr.)
Pno.
hold with middle Ped.
but bring off at rest
Db.
sul pont.
ord.
sul pont.
ord.
Elec.
SAMPLE TRIGGER
SAMPLE TRIGGER
SAMPLE TRIGGER
much filtering and noise

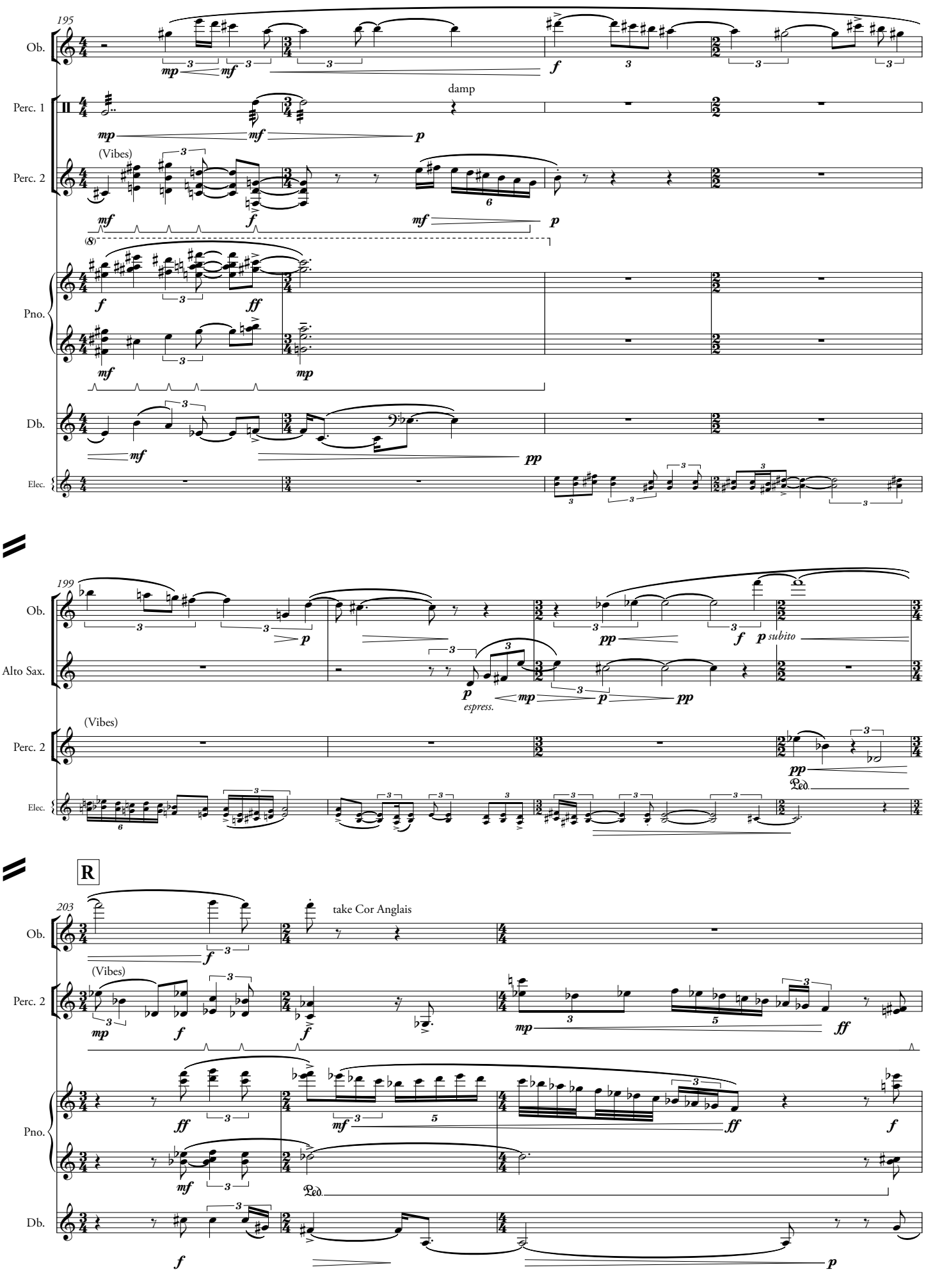

M
156
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
(Susp Cym.)
damp!
Perc 1.
(Cowbells/Jamblocks)
Perc. 2
(Vibes)
(Kick Dr.)
Pno.
sustain with middle Ped.
Db.
extreme sul pont. (very noisy!)
pizz.
Elec.
KILL

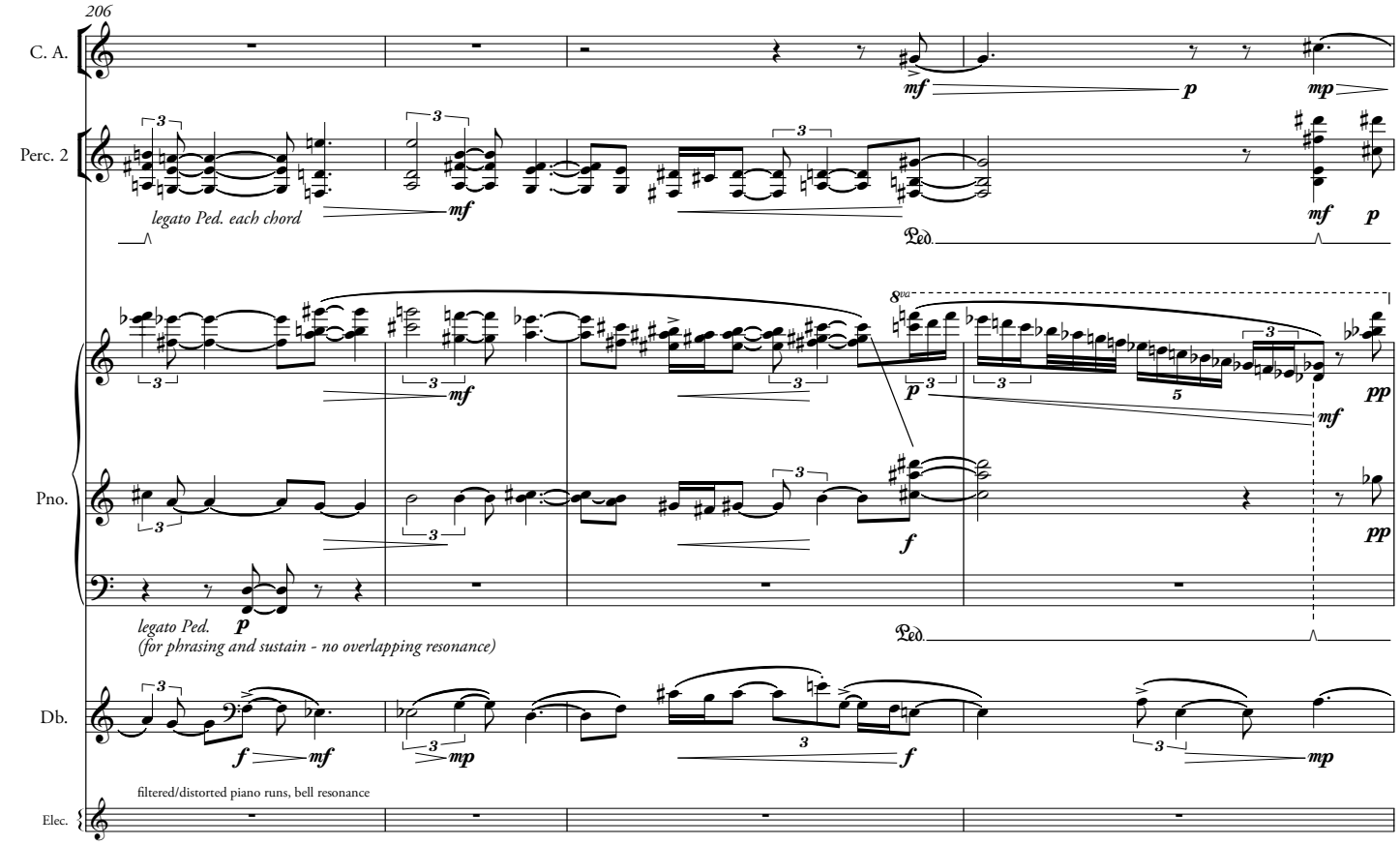

160
Marim.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
(Vibes)
Pno.
Db.
Elec.
arco, molto sul pont.
pizz.
Ped.

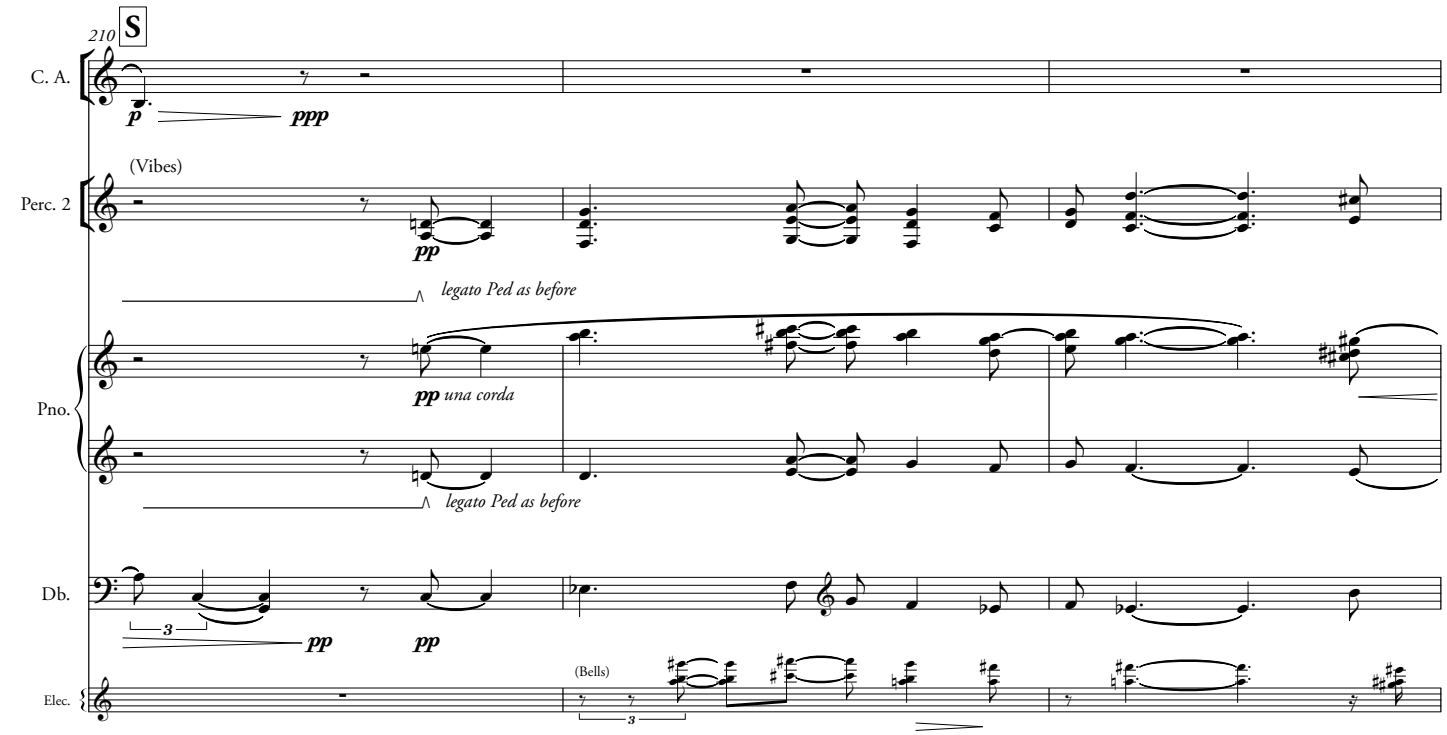

164
Perc. 2
Pno.
Db.
Elec.
Loud cathedral bell on these pitches

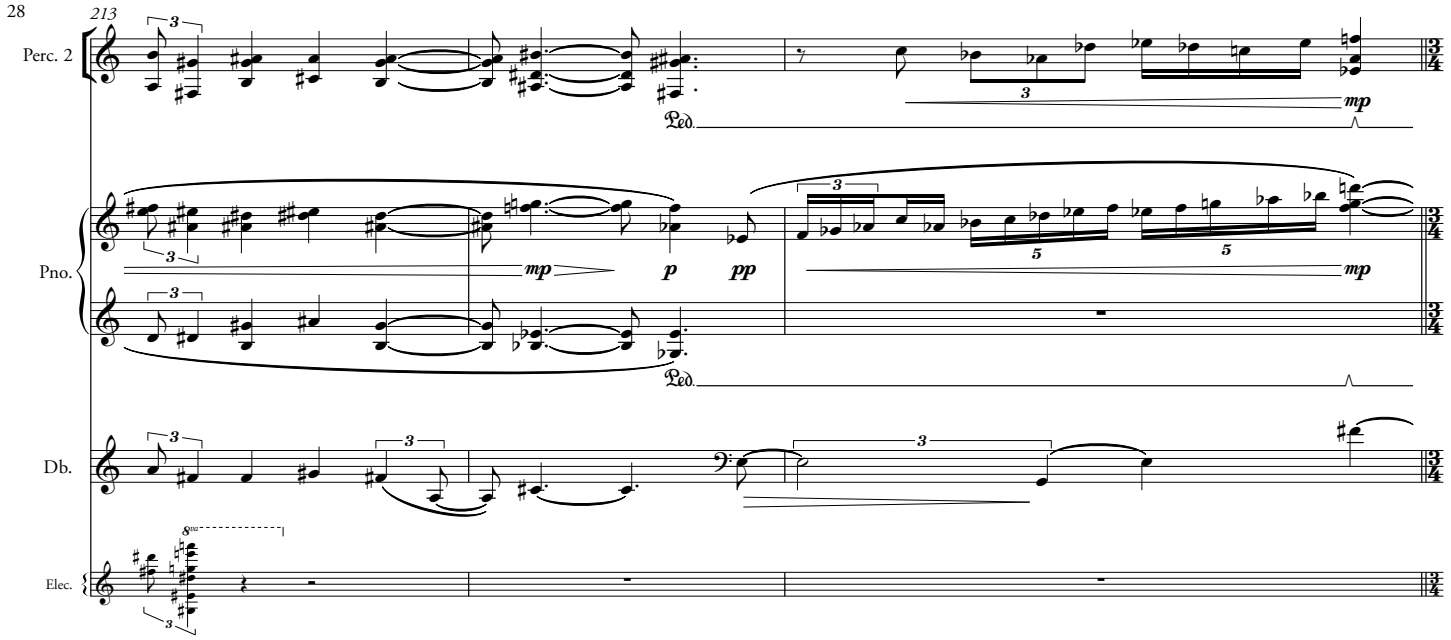

167
N
ELECTRONIC INTERLUDE
♩ = 100
when this phrase is heard proceed to next bar
(synchronisation with the electronics is not required thereafter)
Ob. + S. Sax.
Elec.
bell sounds, heavy filtering, fragments of organum texture, some white noise
169
O
Ob.
Sop. Sax.
take Alto Sax.
Susp. Cym. w. soft mallets
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
(Vibes)
hold Ped. until resonance has completely faded
Pno.
Ped.
Db.
INTERLUDE CONTINUES
Elec.
172
...eventually, this phrase will sound
Elec.

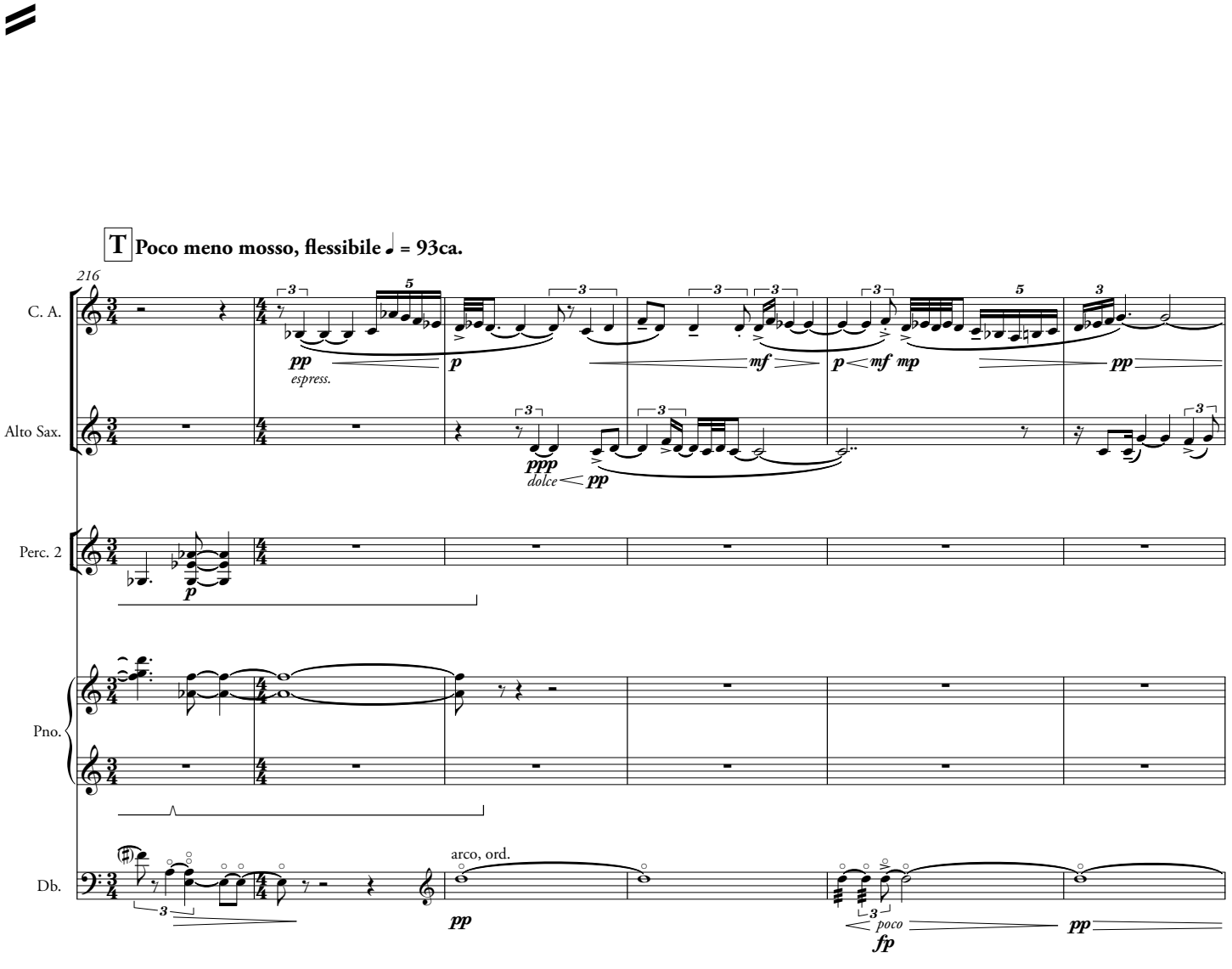

P
180
Ob.
mp mf p mf pp pp f ff mp p
molto espress.
Triangle
Perc. 1
p
Perc. 2
bowed
pp
soft sticks
p
Ped.
Ped.
8va
Pno.
p
Elec.
187
Ob.
mf f p subito e dolce mf mp mf f f ff
Elec.
Q
193
Ob.
f
Susp. Cym.
Chinese Cym.
Perc. 1
soft mallets
p mf mp mf
Perc. 2
medium sticks
f
Ped.
8va
ff mf f
Pno.
mf
Ped.
Db.
arco
fpp mp p
Elec.
filtered bell resonance

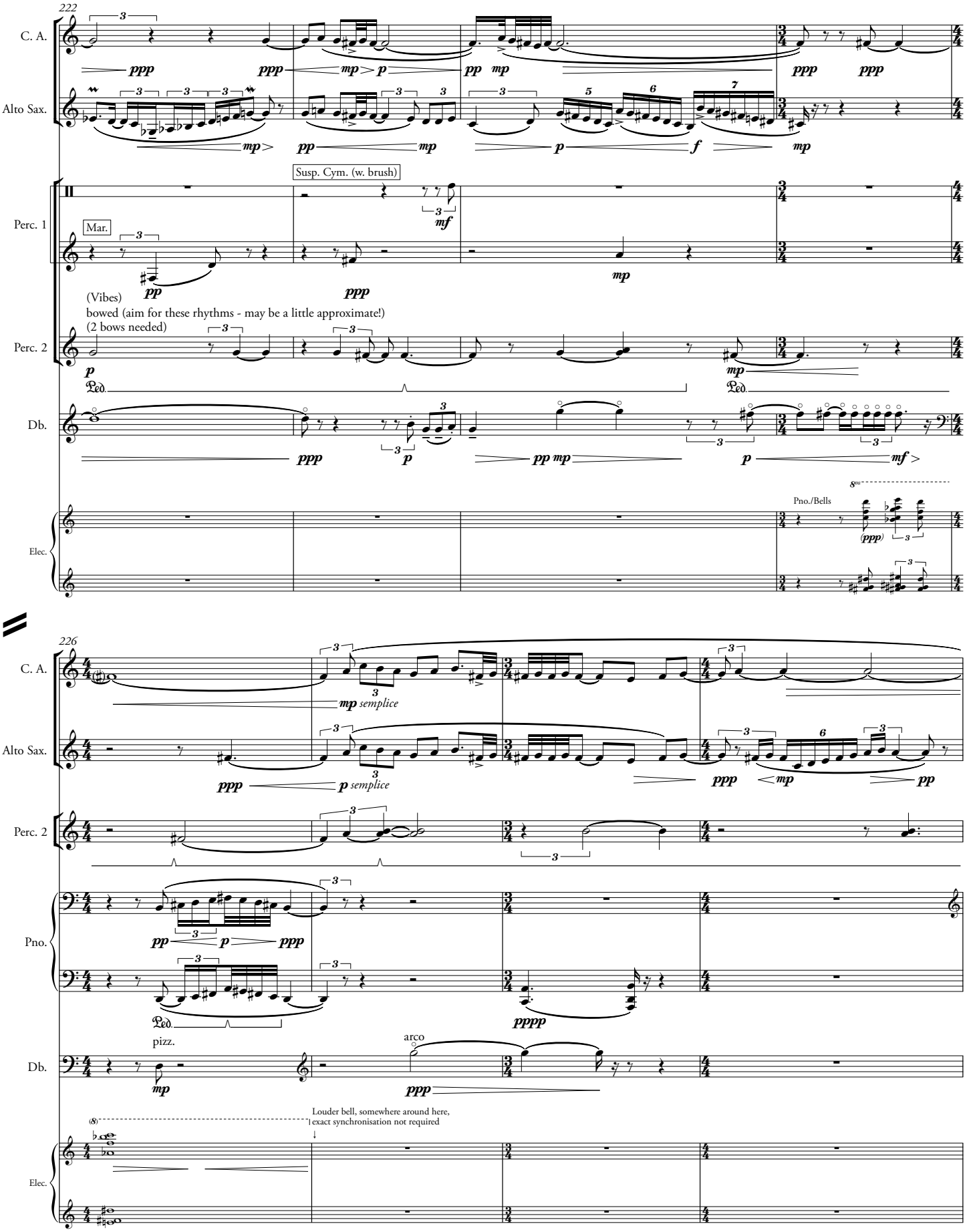

195
Ob.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
(Vibes)
damp
Pno.
Db.
Elec.
199
Alto Sax.
espress.
subito
203
R
take Cor Anglais

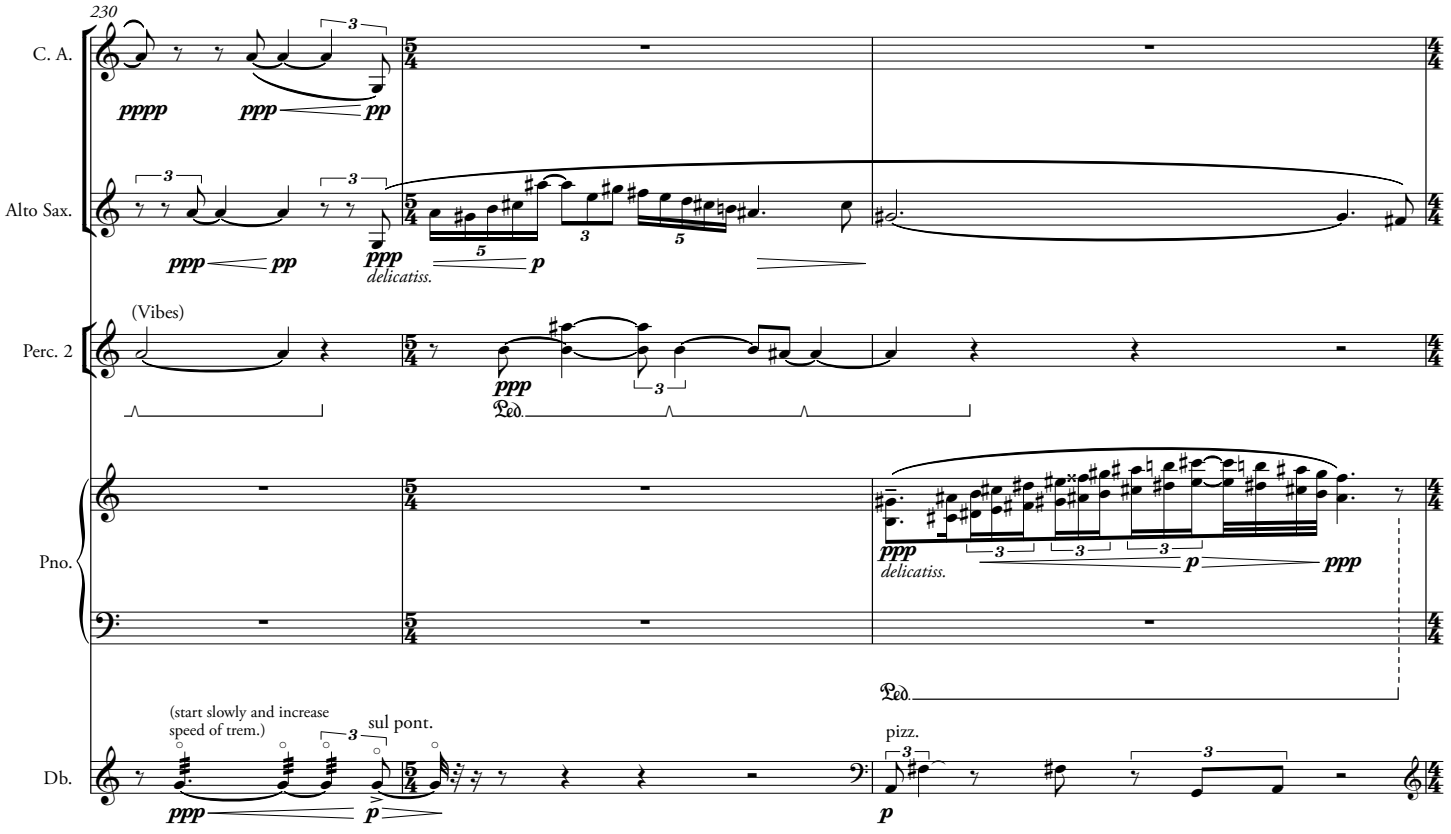

206
C. A.
Perc. 2
legato Ped. each chord
Pno.
legato Ped.
(for phrasing and sustain - no overlapping resonance)
Db.
filtered/distorted piano runs, bell resonance
Elec.

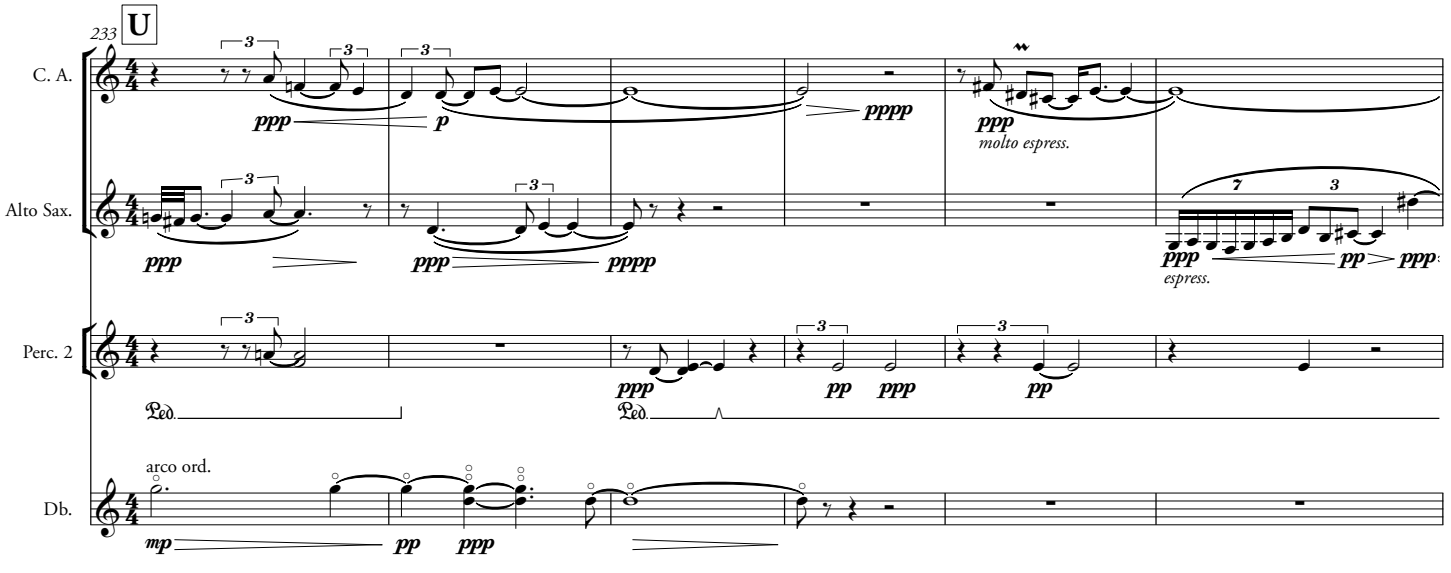

210
S
C. A.
Perc. 2
(Vibes)
legato Ped as before
Pno.
una corda
legato Ped as before
Db.
Elec.
(Bells)

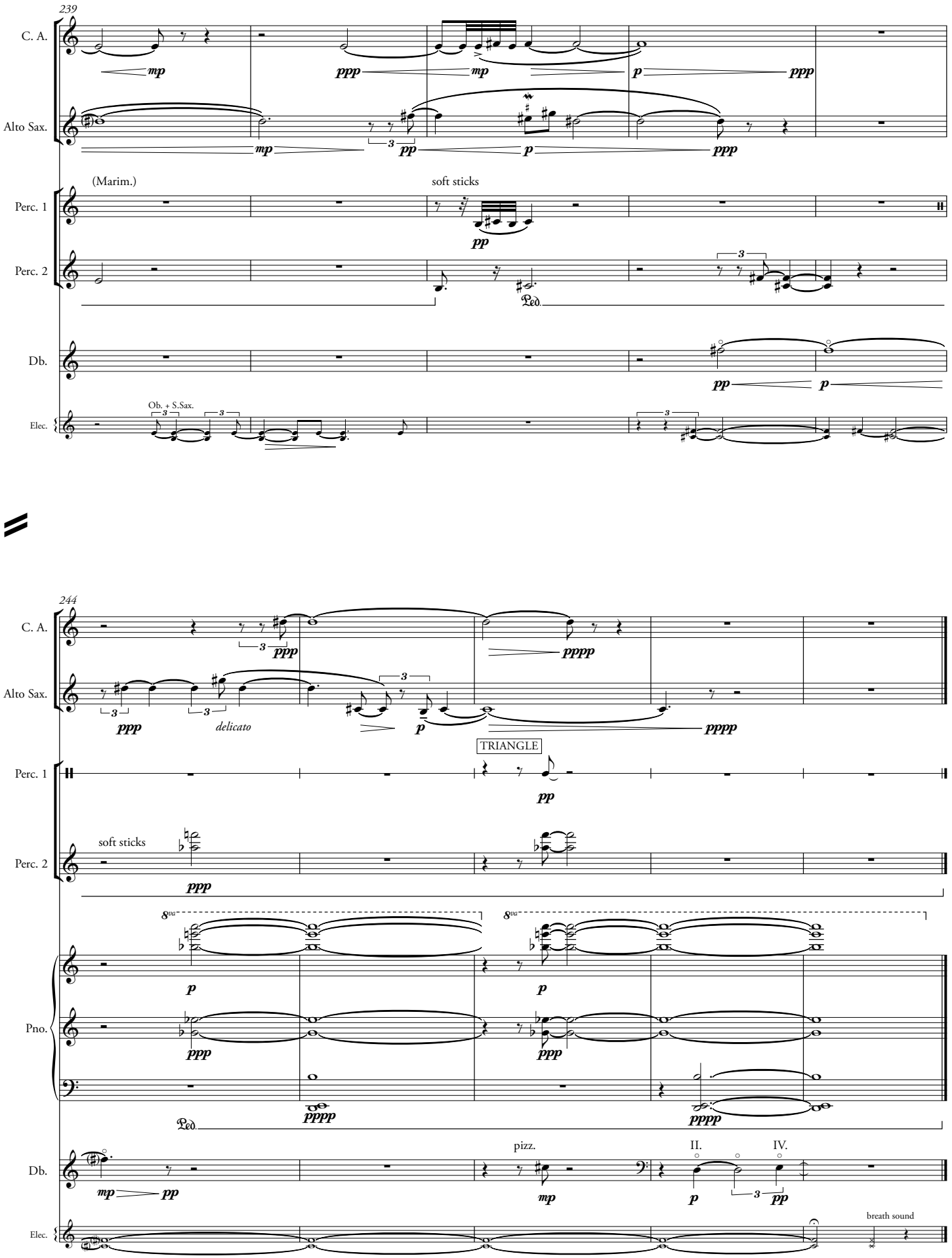

213
Perc. 2
Pno.
Db.
Elec.
mp
p
pp
Ped.


T Poco meno mosso, flessibile ♩ = 93ca.
216
C. A.
Alto Sax.
Perc. 2
Pno.
Db.
pp
espress.
p
mf
mp
ppp
dolce
arco, ord.
poco
fp


222
C. A.
Alto Sax.
Susp. Cym. (w. brush)
Perc. 1
Mar.
(Vibes)
bowed (aim for these rhythms - may be a little approximate!)
(2 bows needed)
Perc. 2
Db.
Pno./Bells
Elec.
226
C. A.
Alto Sax.
semplice
Perc. 2
Pno.
pizz.
arco
Db.
Louder bell, somewhere around here,
exact synchronisation not required
Elec.


230
C. A.
Alto Sax.
Perc. 2
(Vibes)
Pno.
Db.
(start slowly and increase speed of trem.)
sul pont.
pizz.
delicatiss.
molto espress.
espress.
arco ord.


233
U
C. A.
Alto Sax.
Perc. 2
Db.
molto espress.
espress.
arco ord.


239
C. A.
Alto Sax.
(Marim.)
soft sticks
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Db.
Ob. + S.Sax.
Elec.
244
TRIANGLE
delicato
Pno.
pizz.
II.
IV.
breath sound