The Palindrome Triptychs – Part Two
(… Ultima Thule …)

For violin, B^b clarinet, violoncello and vibraphone

Score in C

Ian Percy

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(2017)

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For violin, B^b clarinet, violoncello and vibraphone

Three Movements

I. Hidden Meanings and False Prophets (false exits and hidden doorways)

II. In Pseudo-classique (a positive wave of calm after the storm)

III. In Pseudo-classique Development (the storm after the calm after the storm)

Approximate duration:
9-10 minutes

Composed for Ian Buckle and The Pixels Ensemble

The Palindrome Triptychs

This work was initially conceived in reaction to a commission from Royal Liverpool Philharmonic (RLPO) concert pianist Ian Buckle for *The Pixels Ensemble* on the premise that 'it would be good if the music could refer to the techniques of Olivier Messiaen and be suitable for a Remembrance Day Centenary recital featuring *Quatuor pour la fin du temps* (Quartet for the End of Time)'.

The Palindrome Triptychs is a series of three works in three movements (triptychs). Each piece in the series is approximately nine minutes in length and composed for the same instrumentation. The scores pay homage to the palindromic techniques of Messiaen in the macro-design of the series as a whole and through the distribution of form, rhythm and pitch organisation in each of the three triptychs: A triptych of triptychs. Messiaen's Modes of Limited Transposition (all symmetrical palindromes) were taken as a starting point for compositional planning:

Apart from the single note (unison), the interval (the space between two notes) is the smallest pitch palindrome. There are six interval-classes and when used in multiple, they all complete an equidistant palindromic cycle. Class 1 and 5 are notable in the fact they cycle through the total chromatic before they repeat any notes. Class 1 will result in a row of total dissonance (chromatic octave) and Class 5 results in twelve-tone consonance (cycle of fourths/fifths). Class 2 produces a six-note equidistant whole-tone scale, Class 3 results in a four-note equidistant diminished 7th chord, Class 4 results in a three-note equidistant augmented triad and Class 6 simply produces the two-note interval of a tritone.

The most succinct way of referring to all intervals, interval-classes and 'modes of limited transposition' was to compose with the two All-Interval Tetrachords (AIT) 4-z15 (0146/0256) and 4-z29 (0137/0467). Reminiscent of the Matroyshka Principle (traditional Russian nested dolls design), the composer followed this research strand, exploring palindromes within palindromes. The AIT are subsumed within the two All-Triad Hexachords (ATH) 6-z17 (012478) and 6-z17b (014678). The ATH in turn can be found in prime form within the Symmetrically Inverted All-Interval Twelve-Note (SI AITN) Chords: (Elliott Carter numbers) SI AITN 1, 3, 58 and 60. In addition (and for an alternate soundworld within the available palette), Dorian minor Mode (Heptachord 7-35) was used, as it is the only mode in the tonal system that inverts to itself: a tonal, or 'natural' palindrome. The Dorian minor Mode subsumes the Major Pentatonic Scale (Pentachord 5-35): another 'natural' palindrome.

The Palindrome Triptychs explore mirror reflections of rhythm and palindromic forms (Matroyshka Form) from the micro to the macro via pitch organisation also conceived from the micro to the macro: palindromes within palindromes, combinatorial cells within combinatorial rows.

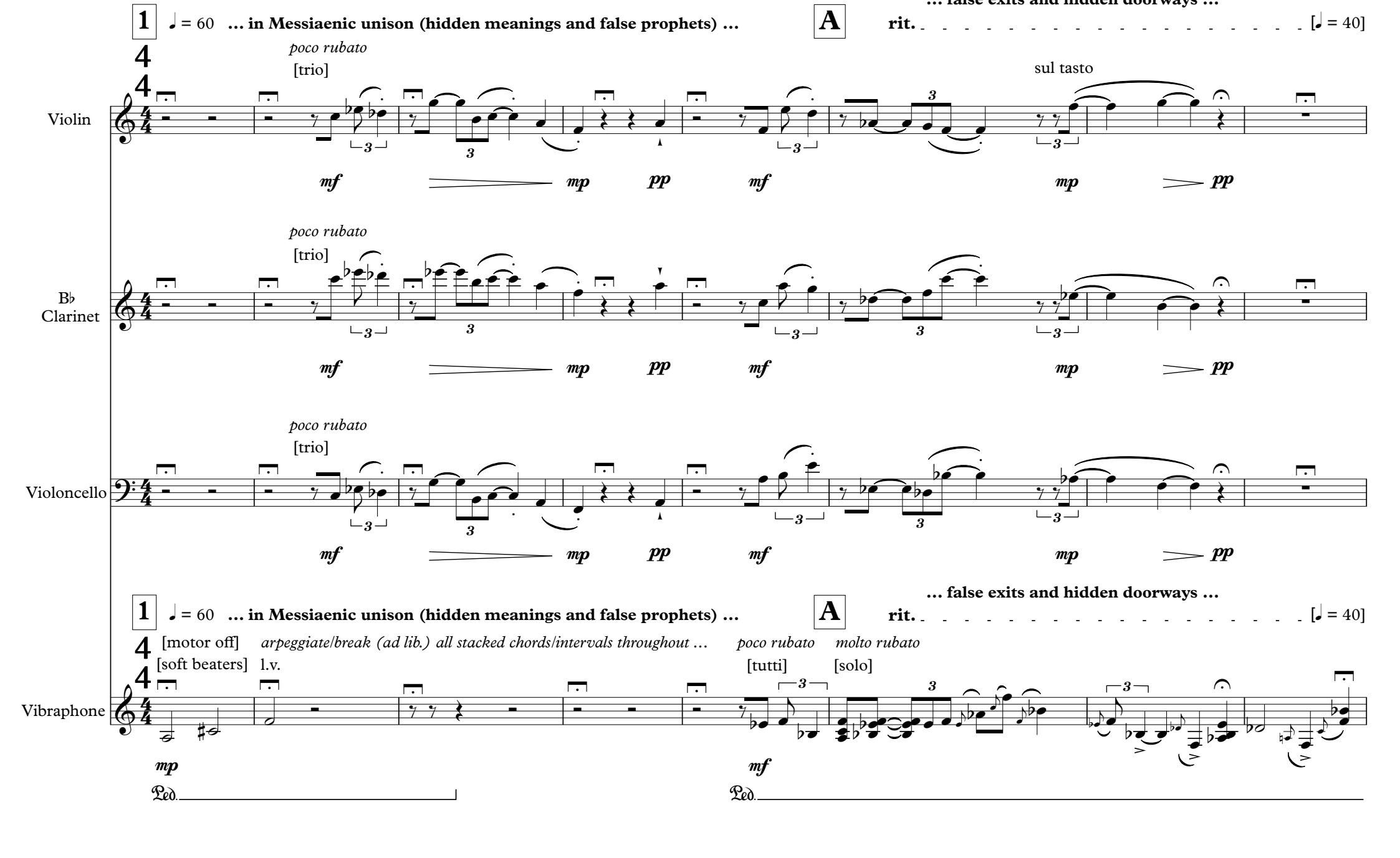
The Palindrome Triptychs [Part Two]

(... ultima thule ...)

B♭ clarinet, violin, violoncello and percussion

Ian Percy

Score in C



… a relaxed and confident virtuosic landscape …

B ♩ = 56 **poco rit.** [♩ = 50]

… and there will always be time for play …

C ♩ = 50 **rit.** [♩ = 40]

9

Vln.

poco rubato molto espress.
[solo] sul tasto — sul pont. — [duo] sul tasto — ord.
f — *mf* — *mp* — *sfz* — *mf* — *f*

Cl.

poco rubato [duo] — *poco rubato molto espress.* [soli]
mp — *sfz* — *mp* — *f* — *ff*

Vc.

lyrical poco rubato [duo] — *aggressive* sul pont. — *molto espress. rubato* [solo] ord. — *poco rubato molto espress.* [soli]
mp — *sfz* — *pp* — *f* — *mf* — *f*

… a relaxed and confident virtuosic landscape …

B ♩ = 56 **poco rit.** [♩ = 50]

… and there will always be time for play …

C ♩ = 50 **rit.** [♩ = 40]

Vib.

poco rubato l.v. — *arpeggiate/break (ad lib.) all stacked chords and intervals throughout …*
[duo]
mf — *mp* — *pp* — *mf* — *f*

Ped. — Ped. — Ped.

… and impulsive independent fires …

D ♩ = 56 **… cohesive symbiotic fluids …**

E ♩ = 60 **rit.** [♩ = 40]

16

Vln.

poco rubato
[trio]
mf

[duo]
mf
sul tasto
ord.
f

Cl.

poco rubato
[trio]
mf

[duo]
mf
f

Vc.

poco rubato
[trio]
mf

molto espressive rubato
[solo]
mf *f*

very aggressive …
ff

… and impulsive independent fires …

D ♩ = 56 **… cohesive symbiotic fluids …**

E ♩ = 60 **rit.** [♩ = 40]

Vib.

poco rubato
mf
l.v.
Ped.

molto espressive rubato
[solo]
mf *f*
l.v.
ff
Ped.

F ♩ = 60 **… in Messiaenic harmony (with energy) …**

G **… in unified resolution (searching for the exits) …**

rit. [♩ = 40] **rit.**

22

Vln.

poco rubato

[trio]

f *f* *mf*

Cl.

poco rubato

[trio]

f *f* *mf*

Vc.

poco rubato

[trio]

ff *f* *f* *mf*

F ♩ = 60 **… in Messiaenic harmony (with energy) …**

G **… in unified resolution (searching for the exits) …**

rit. [♩ = 40] **rit.**

Vib.

arpeggiate/break (ad lib.) all stacked chords and intervals throughout …

poco rubato

[tutti]

molto rubato

[solo]

f

Ped.

… frenetic transitions and connectives (parallels for modern life) …

H ♩ = 56 **poco accel.** ♩ = 60

… ambiguously atmospheric and awkwardly lyrical …

I **rit.** [♩ = 40] **rit.** [♪ = 60]

29

Vln.

molto espressive rubato *very aggressive …* *molto espressive rubato* [solo] *molto vib. ord.* *lyrical*

f *ff* *f* *mp* *pp*

Cl.

molto espressive rubato [solo] *very aggressive …* *poco rubato* [breathy]

f *ff* *f* *ff* *mp* *pp*

Vc.

molto espressive rubato *very aggressive …* *molto rubato* [solo] *poco rubato*

f *ff* *fff* *ff* *fff* *f* *p* *pp*

… frenetic transitions and connectives (parallels for modern life) …

H ♩ = 56 **poco accel.** ♩ = 60

… ambiguously atmospheric and awkwardly lyrical …

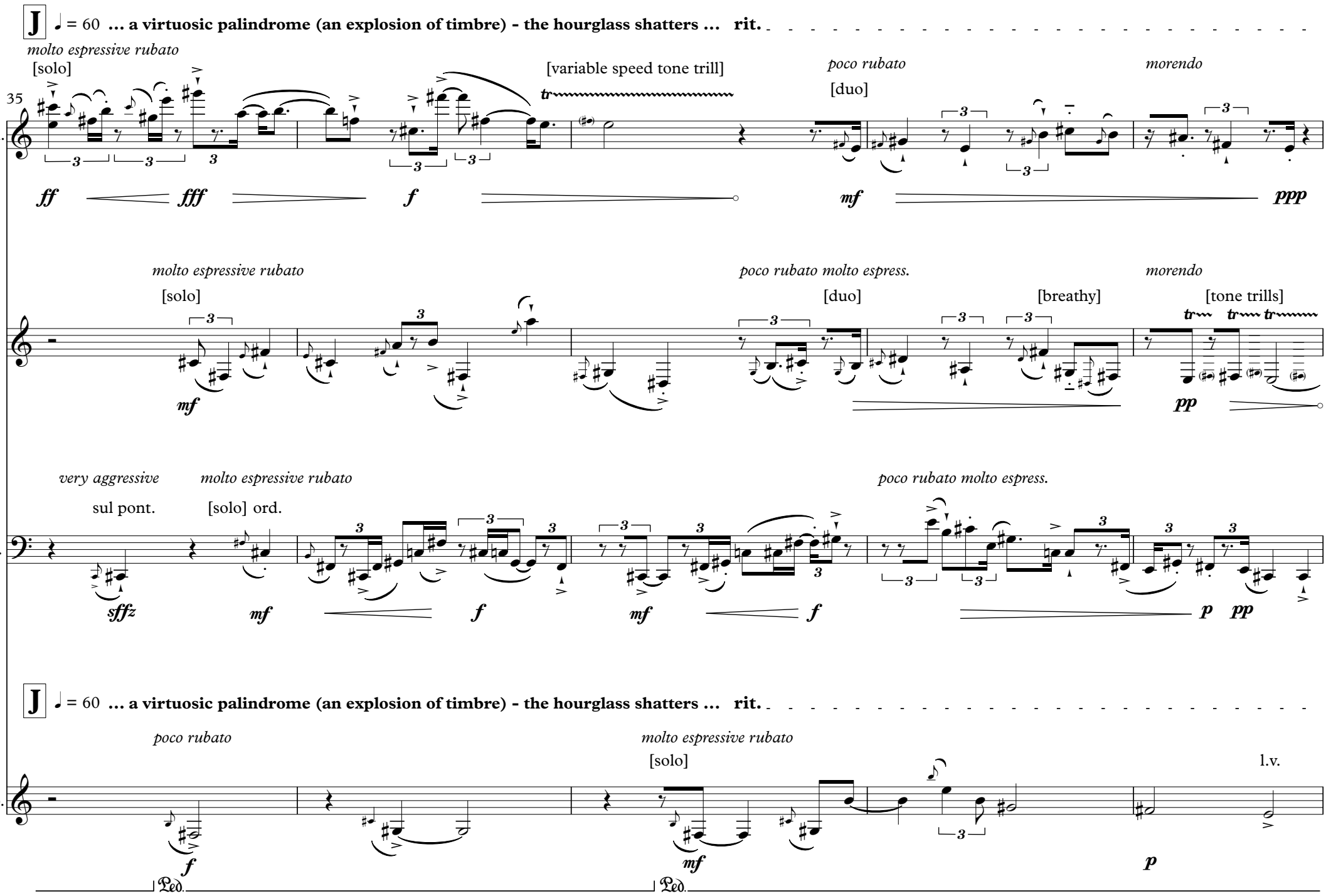
I **rit.** [♩ = 40] **rit.** [♪ = 60]

Vib.

molto rubato *poco rubato* l.v. l.v.

ff *fff* *mf* *mp*

Ped. Ped.


J = 60 ... a virtuosic palindrome (an explosion of timbre) - the hourglass shatters ... rit.
molto espressive rubato
[solo]
35
[variable speed tone trill]
poco rubato
[duo]
morendo
Vln.
ff
fff
f
mf
ppp
molto espressive rubato
[solo]
poco rubato molto espress.
[duo]
[breathy]
morendo
[tone trills]
Cl.
mf
pp
very aggressive
sul pont.
molto espressive rubato
[solo] ord.
poco rubato molto espress.
Vc.
sffz
mf
f
mf
f
p
pp
J = 60 ... a virtuosic palindrome (an explosion of timbre) - the hourglass shatters ... rit.
poco rubato
molto espressive rubato
[solo]
l.v.
Vib.
f
mf
p
Ped.
Ped.

… butterfly wings and mirror reflections - the hourglass reassembles …

K ♩ = 40 **accel.**

L ♩ = 60 **… sometimes the answer simply must be no …** **attacca**

40

Vln.

poco rubato molto espress.

molto espressive rubato

[solo][variable speed tone trill]

very aggressive …

ppp ***mf*** ***f*** ***ff*** ***fff***

Cl.

poco rubato molto espress.

[tone trills] [breathy] [ord.]

molto espressive rubato

[solo]

pp ***mf*** ***f*** ***ff***

Vc.

molto espressive rubato

[solo]

very aggressive

sul pont.

pp ***p*** ***mf*** ***f*** ***ff*** ***fff***

… butterfly wings and mirror reflections - the hourglass reassembles …

K ♩ = 40 **accel.**

L ♩ = 60 **… sometimes the answer simply must be no …** **attacca**

Vib.

molto espressive rubato

[solo]

arpeggiate/break (ad lib.) all stacked chords and intervals throughout …

l.v.

mp ***mf*** ***f*** ***ff***

Ped.

2 ♩ = 56 **… in pseudo-classique (a positive wave of calm after the storm) …** **poco accel.** [♩ = 60]

4 *poco rubato molto espress.*

45

Vln.

mf *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

poco rubato molto espress.

Cl.

mf *f* *mf*

poco rubato molto espress.

ord.

Vc.

mf *f* *mf*

2 ♩ = 56 **… in pseudo-classique (a positive wave of calm after the storm) …** **poco accel.** [♩ = 60]

4 *poco rubato* *molto rubato*

l.v. l.v.

Vib.

mf

Ped. Ped.

M ♩ = 60 **… there is always room for charm and personality …** **poco rit.** **… with vibrant energy …** **N** ♩ = 56 **poco accel.** [♩ = 60]

51

Vln.

mf *f*

Cl.

molto rubato molto espress.

mf *mp* *mf* *f*

Vc.

f

M ♩ = 60 **… there is always room for charm and personality …** **poco rit.** **… with vibrant energy …** **N** ♩ = 56 **poco accel.** [♩ = 60]

Vib.

poco rubato *molto rubato*

l.v. l.v.

mf

Ped. Ped.

O ♩ = 50 **… and the simple pleasures of life …** **poco accel.** ♩ = 56 **P** **… with a hint of regret …**

57

Vln.

molto espressive rubato *poco rubato molto espress.* *molto espressive rubato*

mf ***mp***

Cl.

poco rubato *poco rubato molto espress.*

mf ***mp***

Vc.

molto espressive rubato *dolce* *poco rubato molto espress.* pizz. arco *molto espressive rubato*

mf ***mp*** ***mf*** ***mp***

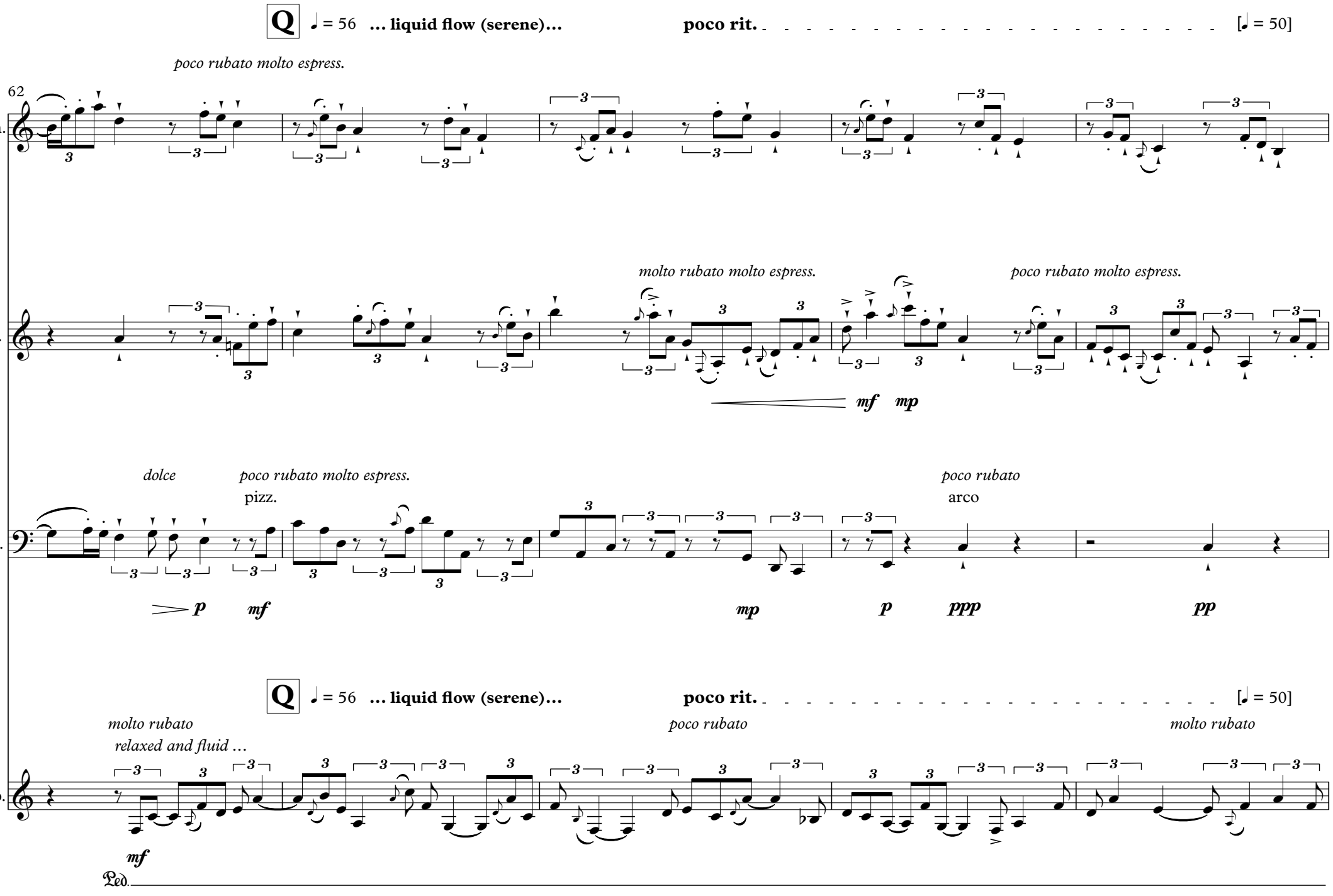
O ♩ = 50 **… and the simple pleasures of life …** **poco accel.** ♩ = 56 **P** **… with a hint of regret …**

Vib.

molto rubato *relaxed and fluid …* l.v.

mf

Ped.


Q
♩ = 56 … liquid flow (serene)…
poco rit.
[♩ = 50]
poco rubato molto espress.
62
Vln.
molto rubato molto espress.
poco rubato molto espress.
Cl.
mf mp
dolce
poco rubato molto espress.
pizz.
poco rubato
arco
Vc.
p mf mp p ppp pp
Q
♩ = 56 … liquid flow (serene)…
poco rit.
[♩ = 50]
molto rubato
relaxed and fluid …
poco rubato
molto rubato
Vib.
mf
Ped.

… with vibrant and enthusiastic energy …

R **poco accel.** [♩ = 56]

… and a tangible sense of promise … attacca

S **poco accel.** [♩ = 60]

67

Vln.

mf *f* *ff*

Cl.

mf *f* *ff*

poco rubato molto espress.

Vc.

p *mp* *mf* *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *fff*

… with vibrant and enthusiastic energy …

R **poco accel.** [♩ = 56]

… and a tangible sense of promise … attacca

S **poco accel.** [♩ = 60]

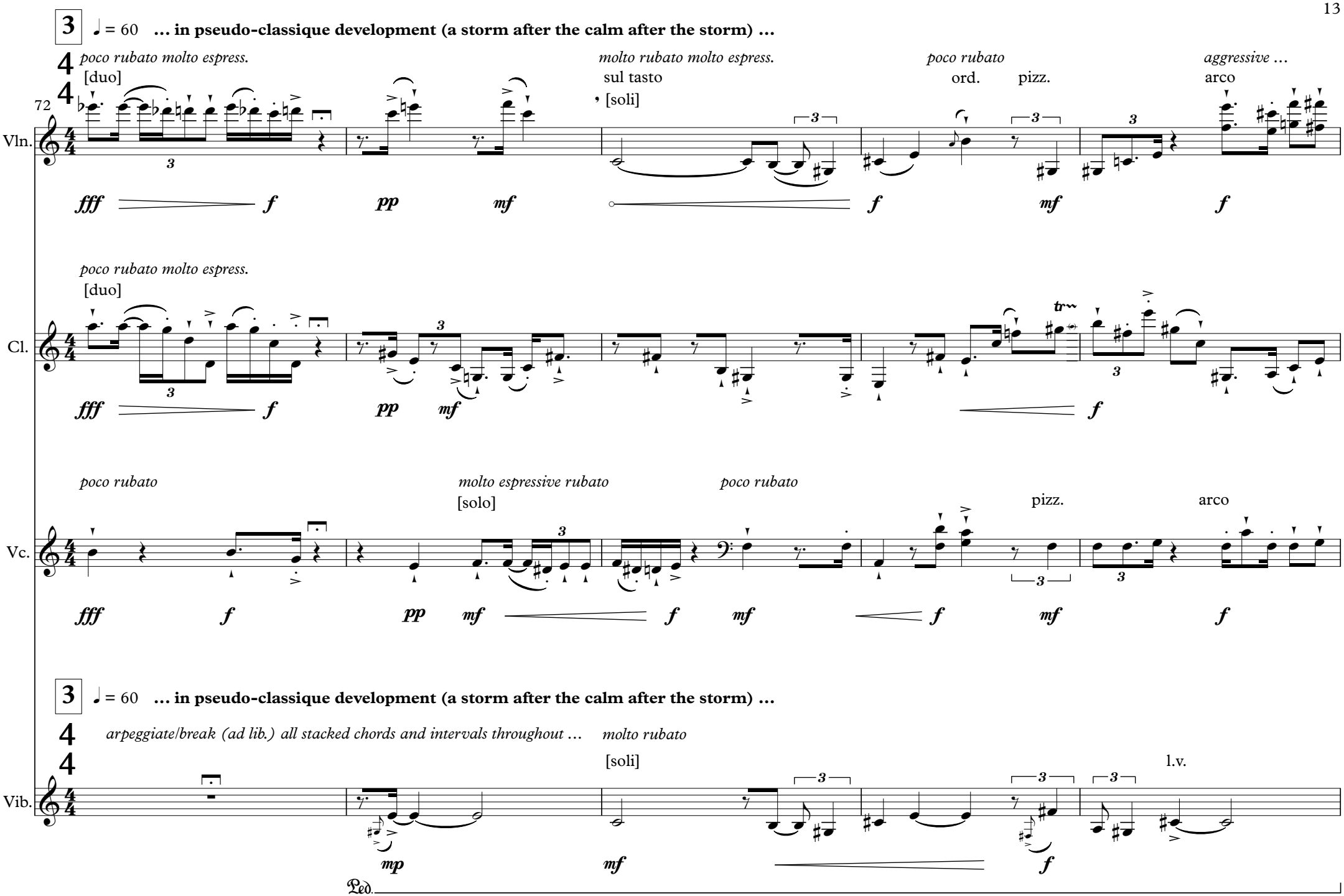
poco rubato

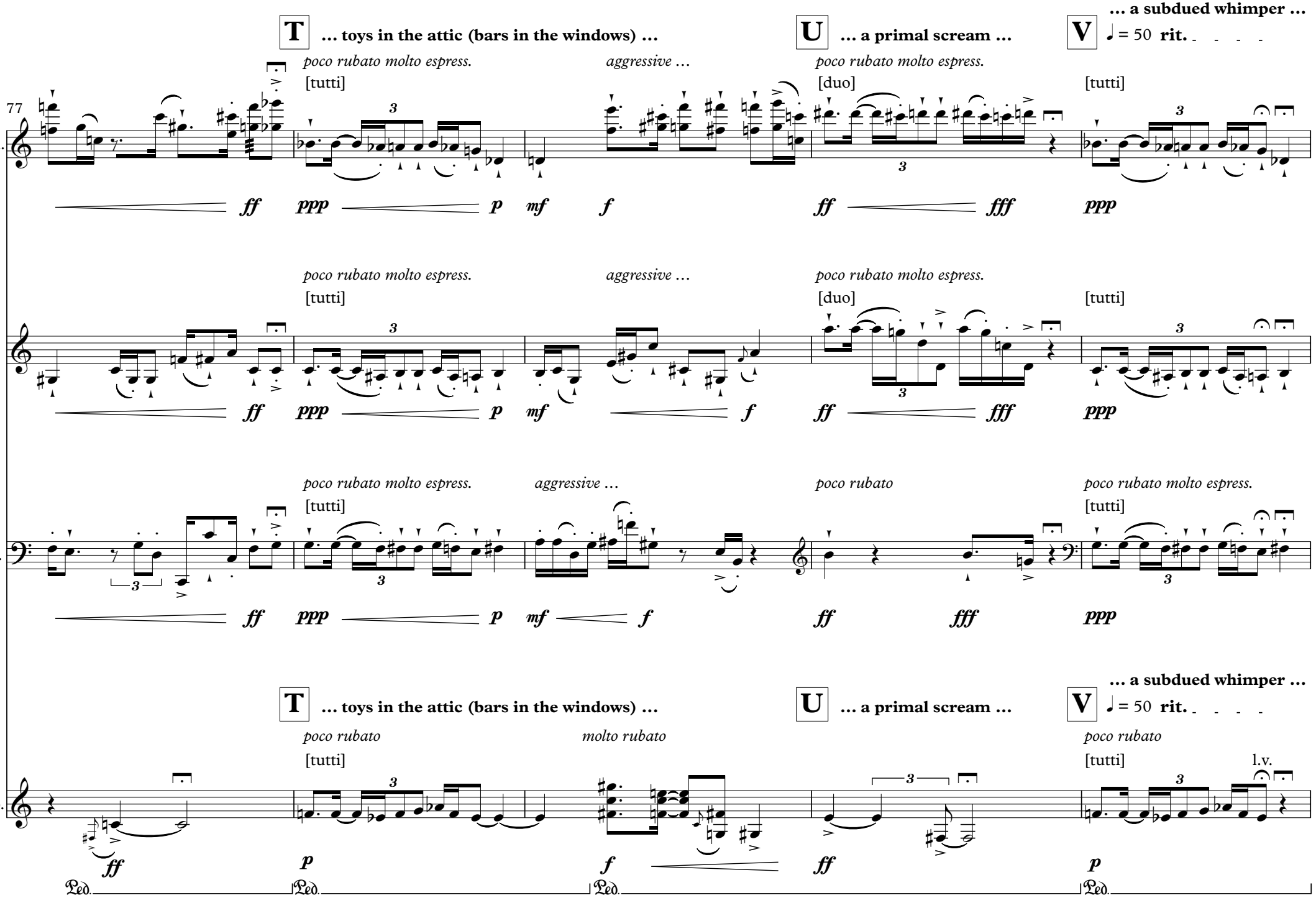
Vib.

l.v. l.v.

f *ff* *f* *ff*

Ped.


3
♩ = 60 ... in pseudo-classique development (a storm after the calm after the storm) ...
poco rubato molto espress.
[duo]
molto rubato molto espress.
sul tasto
[soli]
poco rubato
ord.
pizz.
aggressive ...
arco
72
Vln.
fff
f
pp
mf
f
mf
f
poco rubato molto espress.
[duo]
Cl.
fff
f
pp
mf
f
poco rubato
molto espressive rubato
[solo]
poco rubato
pizz.
arco
Vc.
fff
f
pp
mf
f
mf
f
mf
f
3
♩ = 60 ... in pseudo-classique development (a storm after the calm after the storm) ...
arpeggiate/break (ad lib.) all stacked chords and intervals throughout ...
molto rubato
[soli]
l.v.
Vib.
mp
mf
f
Ped.


T
... toys in the attic (bars in the windows) ...
U
... a primal scream ...
V
... a subdued whimper ...
♩ = 50 rit.
77
Vln.
Cl.
Vc.
Vib.
poco rubato molto espress.
aggressive ...
poco rubato
molto rubato
[tutti]
[duo]
l.v.
ff
ppp
p
mf
f
fff
Ped.

W ♩ = 60 **... playing with the dark arts (truly gone fishing) ...**

... awkwardly atmospheric & ambiguously lyrical ...

X **rit.** [♩ = 40] **rit.** [♪ = 60]

82

Vln.

poco rubato molto espress. [duo] *very aggressive ...* *poco rubato* *molto espressive rubato* [solo] *molto vib* *ord.* *lyrical*

ff *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *mp* *pp*

Cl.

poco rubato molto espress. [duo] *very aggressive ...* *poco rubato*

ff *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *mp*

Vc.

molto espressive rubato [solo] *very aggressive ...* *poco rubato*

ff *fff* *f* *ff* *fff* *ff* *fff* *f* *mp* *p*

W ♩ = 60 **... playing with the dark arts (truly gone fishing) ...**

... awkwardly atmospheric & ambiguously lyrical ...

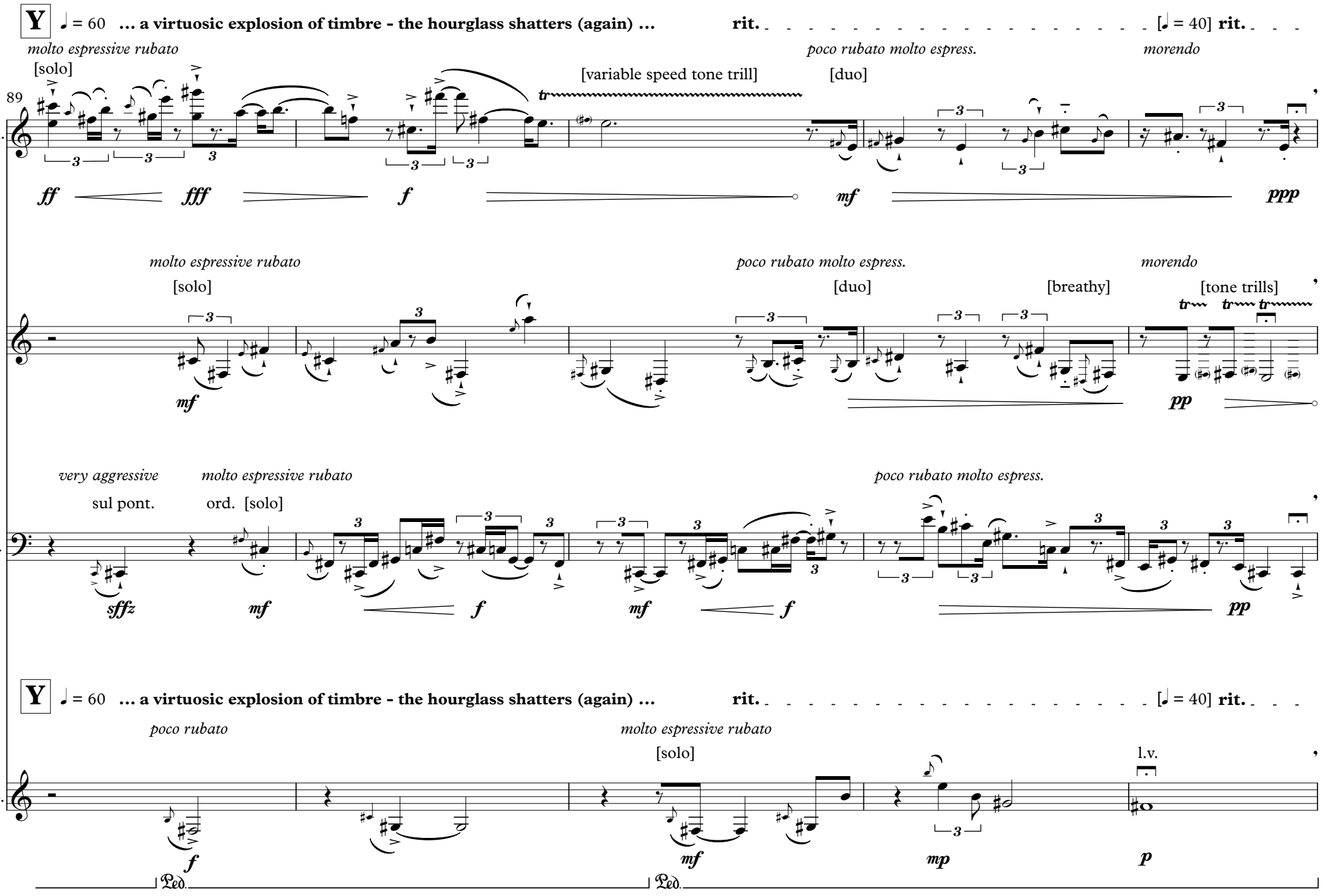
X **rit.** [♩ = 40] **rit.** [♪ = 60]

Vib.

molto rubato *poco rubato* l.v. l.v.

f *ff* *fff* *f* *mf* *mp*

Ped. Ped. Ped.


Y
♩ = 60 ... a virtuosic explosion of timbre - the hourglass shatters (again) ... rit.
[♩ = 40] rit.
89
Vln.
molto espressive rubato
[solo]
[variable speed tone trill]
poco rubato molto espress.
[duo]
morendo
ff
fff
f
mf
ppp
Cl.
molto espressive rubato
[solo]
poco rubato molto espress.
[duo]
[breathy]
morendo
[tone trills]
mf
pp
Vc.
very aggressive
sul pont.
molto espressive rubato
ord. [solo]
poco rubato molto espress.
sffz
mf
f
mf
f
pp
Y
♩ = 60 ... a virtuosic explosion of timbre - the hourglass shatters (again) ... rit.
[♩ = 40] rit.
Vib.
poco rubato
molto espressive rubato
[solo]
l.v.
f
mf
mp
p
Ped.
Ped.

… a melody for the Gods (picking up the pieces after the rains) …

Z ♩ = 40 **accel.** ♩ = 50 **poco accel.** [♩ = 56]

94

poco rubato molto espress.

[solo] *lyrical*

[duo]

Vln.

p *mp* *mf* *f*

poco rubato

poco rubato molto espress.

[duo] *lyrical*

Cl.

p *p* *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

poco rubato

pizz.

poco rubato molto espress.

arco

poco rubato

pizz.

Vc.

pp *p* *mf*

… a melody for the Gods (picking up the pieces after the rains) …

Z ♩ = 40 **accel.** ♩ = 50 **poco accel.** [♩ = 56]

molto rubato

arpeggiate/break (ad lib.) all stacked chords and intervals throughout …

l.v.

Vib.

p *mp* *mf* *f*

Ped.

AA ♩ = 60 **… finding reasons to smile …** **BB** ♩ = 56 **… in all the right places …** **CC** ♩ = 60 **rit.** [♩ = 50] **… resigned to the whims of fate (life goes on) …**

101

Vln.

[trio]

mf *mp* *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

Cl.

[trio]

mf *mp* *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

Vc.

poco rubato molto espress.

arco [trio] *lyrical* [duo]

mp *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

AA ♩ = 60 **… finding reasons to smile …** **BB** ♩ = 56 **… in all the right places …** **CC** ♩ = 60 **rit.** [♩ = 50] **… resigned to the whims of fate (life goes on) …**

Vib.

poco rubato *molto rubato* *poco rubato* [duo]

mf *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Ped.

… murmurs and mutterings (in the minds of the gods) …

DD ♩ = 50 **rit.** [♩ = 40] **rit.** [♪ = 60]

… in pensive tranquility …

EE ♩ = 40 **rit.** [♪ = 60] **rit.**

107

Vln.

molto rubato pizz. [solo] *poco rubato* arco *morendo*

mp *pp* *p* *pp*

Cl.

poco rubato *molto rubato* [solo] *poco rubato* *morendo*

mp *pp* *p* *p* *pp*

Vc.

poco rubato *molto rubato* *morendo*

f *mp* *pp* *ppp*

… murmurs and mutterings (in the minds of the gods) …

DD ♩ = 50 **rit.** [♩ = 40] **rit.** [♪ = 60]

… in pensive tranquility …

EE ♩ = 40 **rit.** [♪ = 60] **rit.**

Vib.

molto rubato [solo] l.v.

f *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Ped.

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(… Ultima Thule …)

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