

Timothy Page

# The Center Cannot Hold

for six singers and ensemble  
(William Butler Yeats)

2011

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# The Center Cannot Hold

*fanfaari Klang! -konserttisarjan avajaisiin*

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## Instrumentation:

flute (doubling piccolo)

tenor trombone

percussion:

low tom tom

mid tom tom

crash cymbal

cowbell

xylophone

tubular bells

tam tam

piano

choir:

3 soprano

3 alto

1st violin

2nd violin

viola

cello

contrabass with C extension

## Text:

Turning and turning in the widening gyre,  
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;  
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold

(W.B. Yeatsin runosta "The Second Coming," 1920)

jokainen loppu on uusi alku

(säveltäjä)

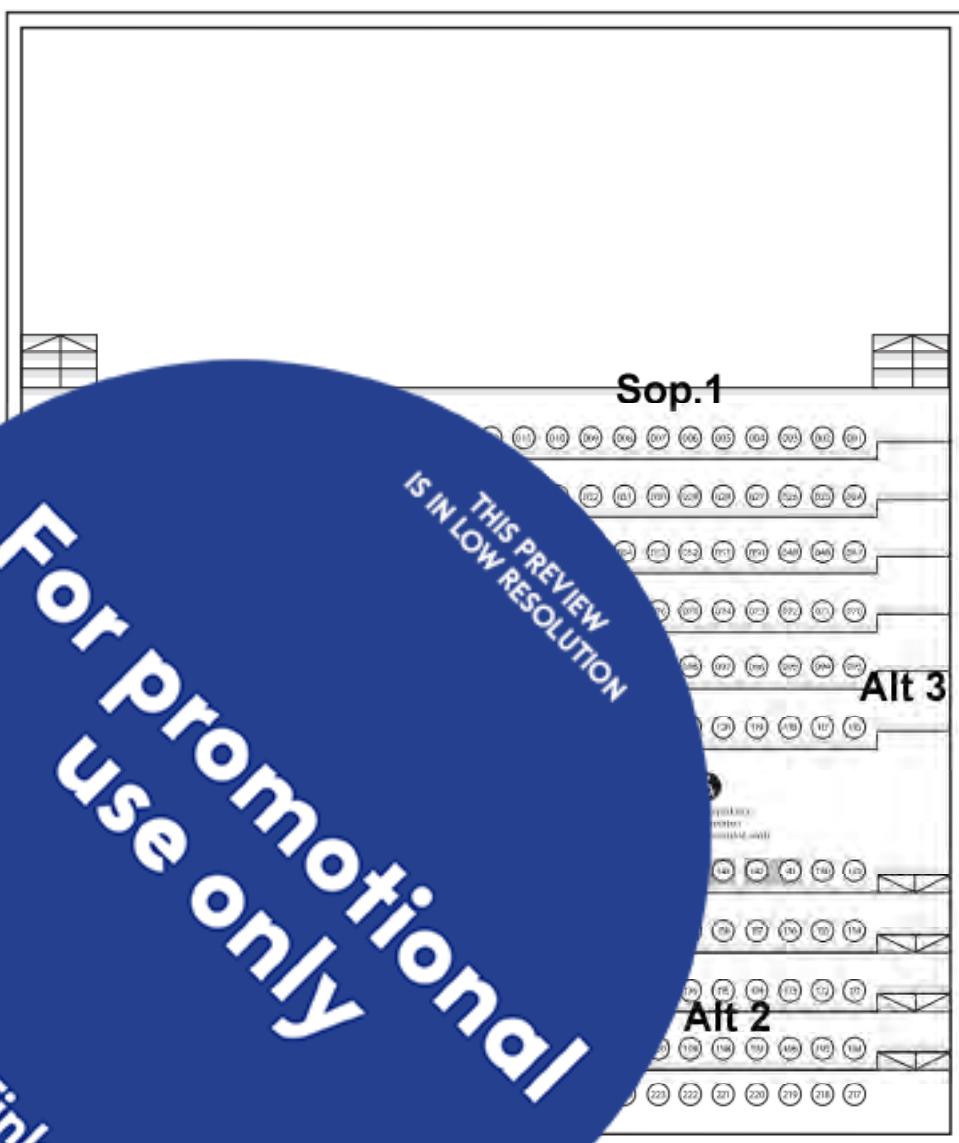
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world

(Yeats, *ibid.*)

NB: All broken syllables are to be pronounced as they would be  
in the complete word from which they are taken.

## Special instructions for performance:

In order to achieve the spacialization effects  
that have been written into the work, the singers  
are to be placed amongst the audience as indicated  
in the diagram below:



# The Center Cannot Hold

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## Andante Instabile

$\text{♩} = 96$

Flute

piccolo (sounding 8va) as "airy" a sound as possible

Trombone

Percussion L. Tom ff

Piano

## Andante Instabile

$\text{♩} = 96$

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Soprano 3

Alto 1

Alto 2

Alto 3

## Andante Instabile

$\text{♩} = 96$

Violin 1 sul pont II III III II

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oscillate as many times as possible, within the given note value, between notated positions on the fingerboard, with the finger touching the string as with a harmonic **fff**

oscillate as many times as possible, within the given note value, between notated positions on the fingerboard, with the finger touching the string as with a harmonic **fff**

5

Picc. *n f ff*

Tbn. *f*

Perc. Xyl (sounding 8va) *f*

Pno. *mp ppp*

S 1 *mf n ning*

S 2 *ur mf ning*

S 3 *tur mf p ning*

A 1 *Tur n*

A 2 *ur n ning*

A 3 *tur ning mf p*

Vln. 1 *n pp sord. esp. n*

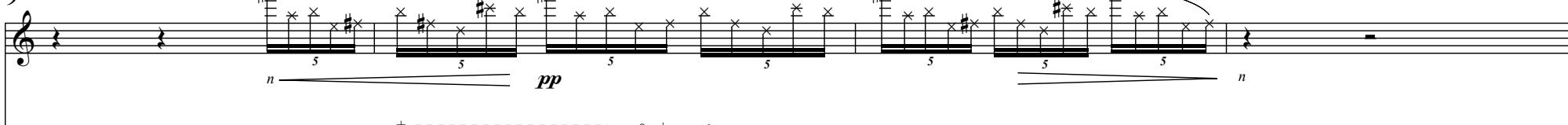
Vln. 2 *mf n sord. esp. n sord. esp. n*

Cb. *sord. esp. mf*

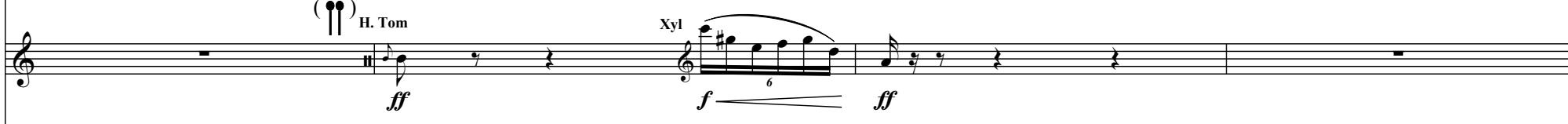
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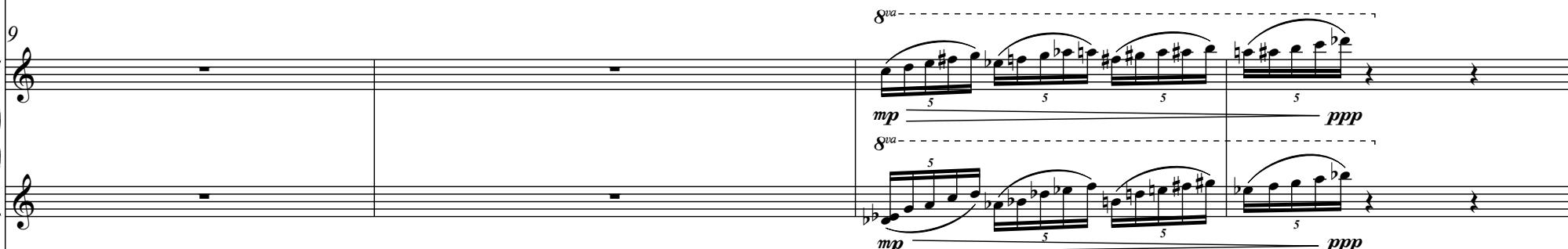
A

9

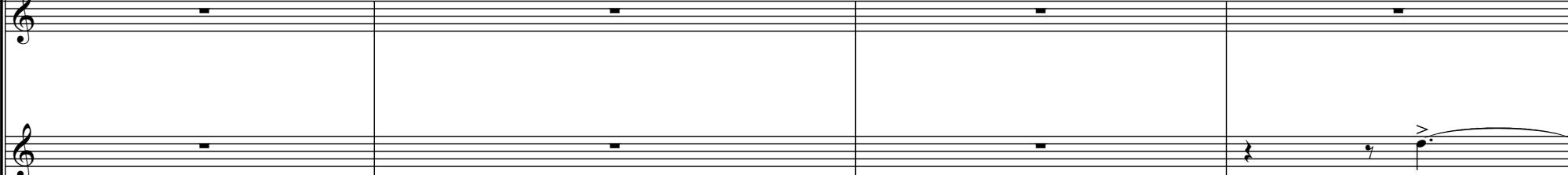
Picc. 

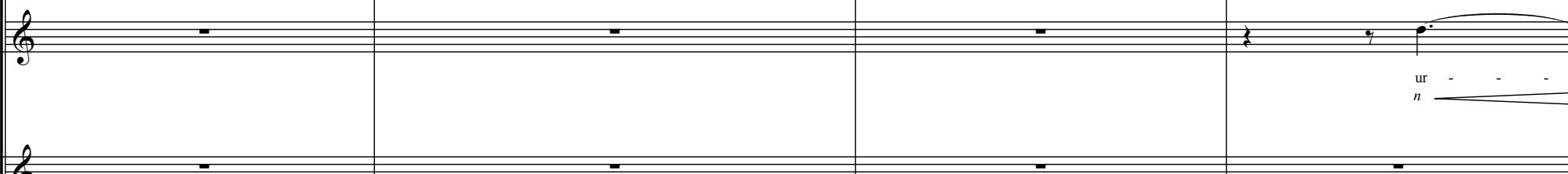
Tbn. 

Perc. 

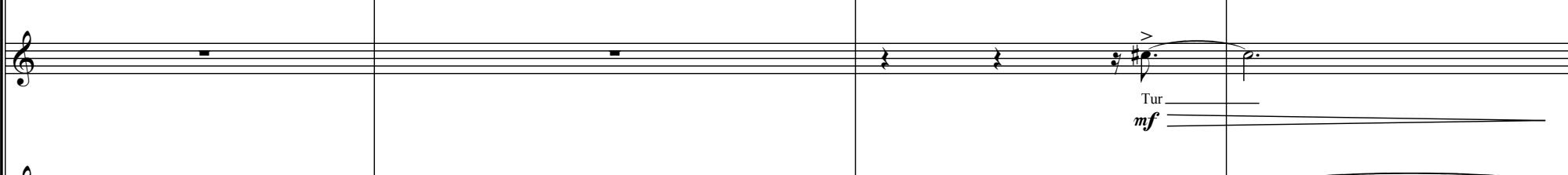
Pno. 

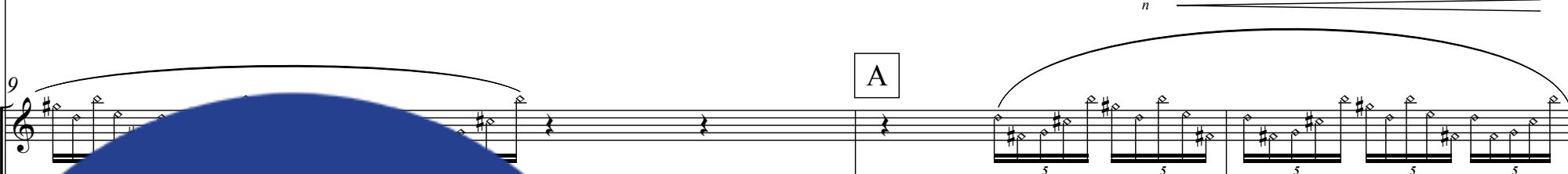
S 1

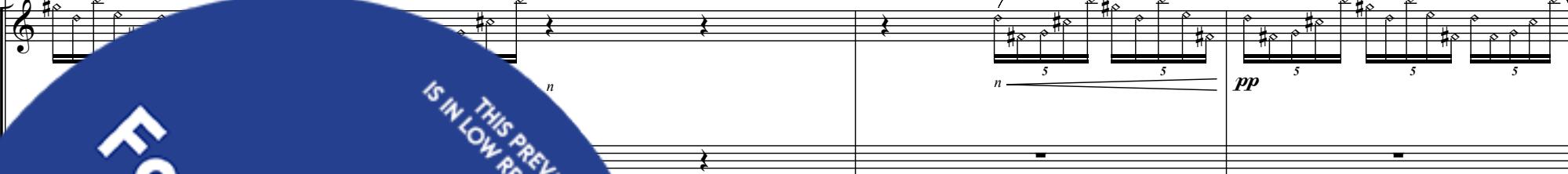
S 2 

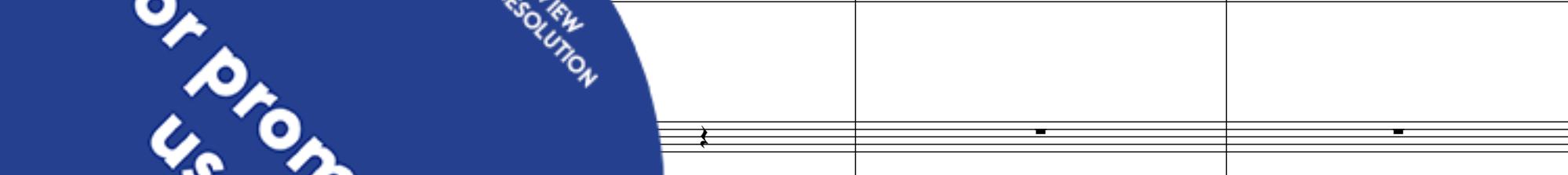
S 3 

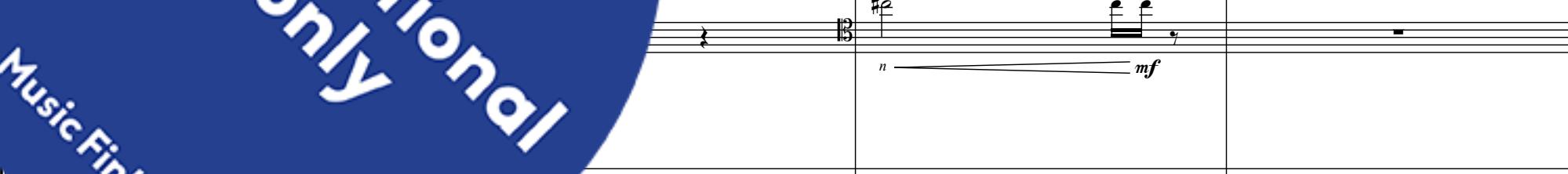
A 1

A 2 

A 3 

Vln. 1 

Vln. 2 

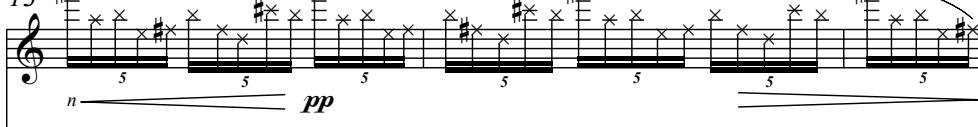
Cb. 

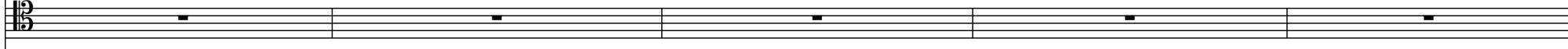
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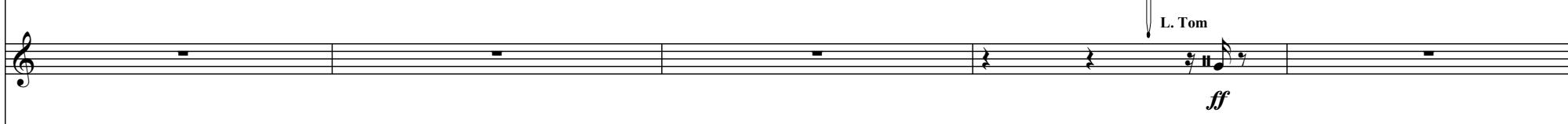
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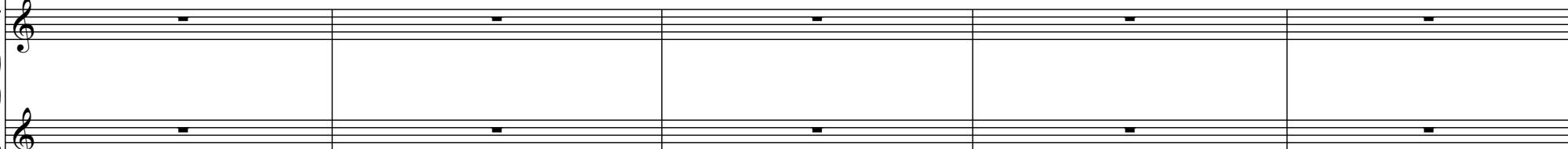
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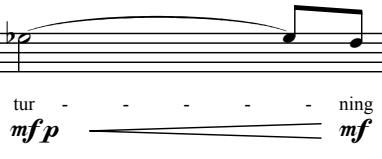
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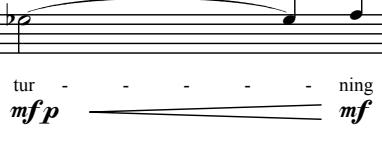
Picc. 

Tbn. 

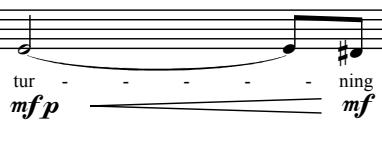
Perc. 

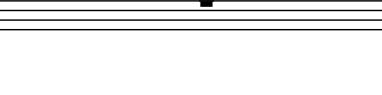
Pno. 

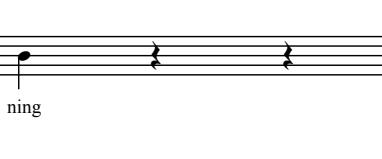
S 1 

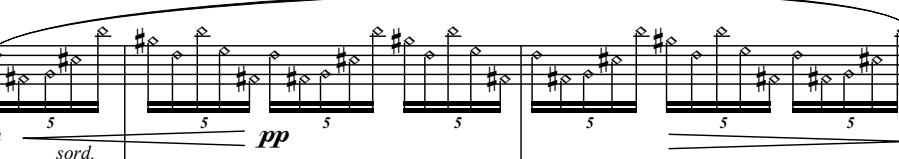
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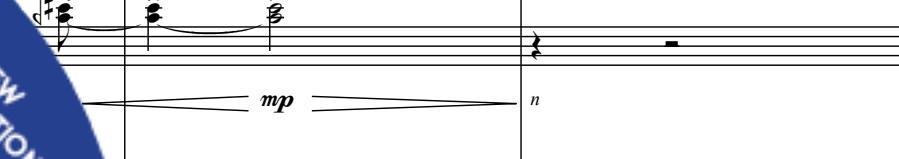
S 3 

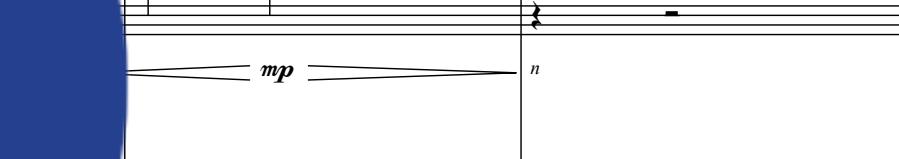
A 1 

A 2 

A 3 

Vln. 1 

Vln. 2 

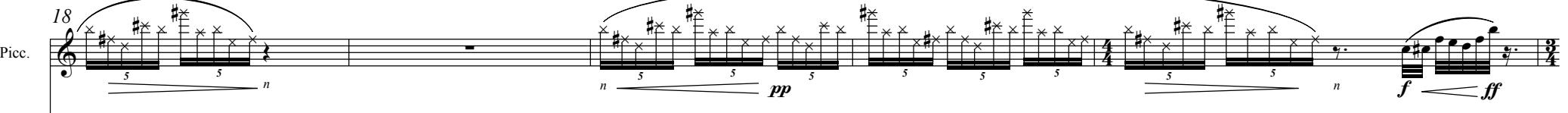
Cb. 

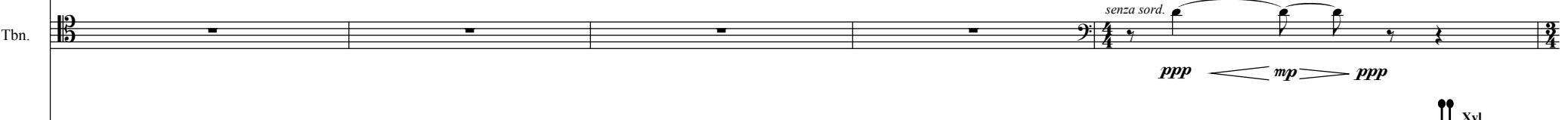
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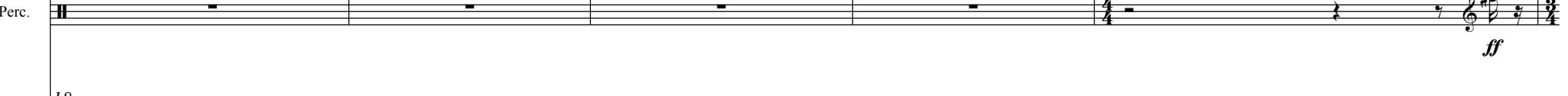
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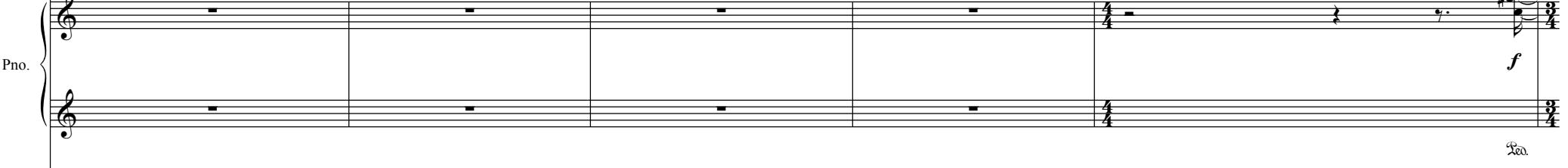
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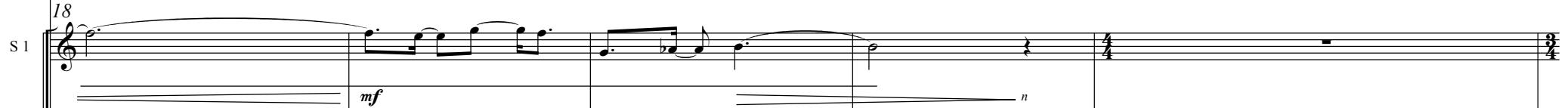
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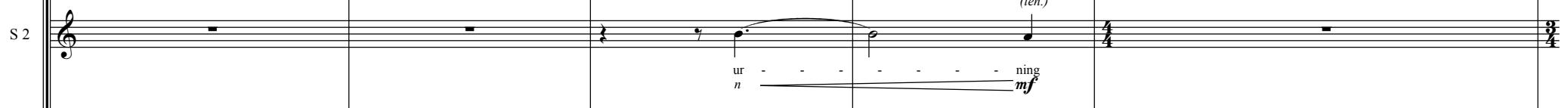
Picc. 

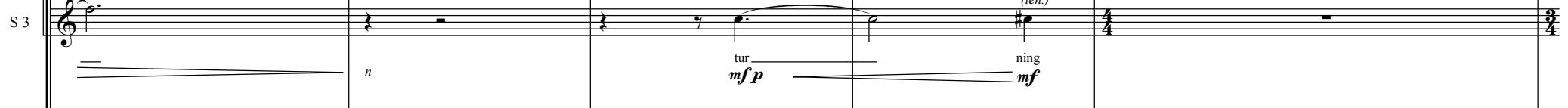
Tbn. 

Perc. 

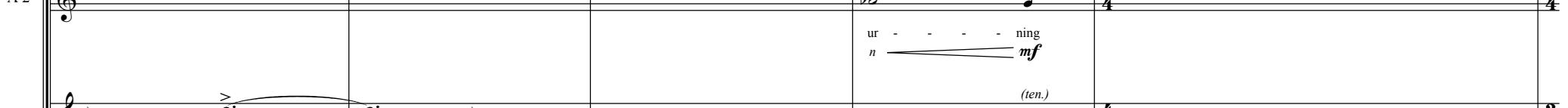
Pno. 

S 1 

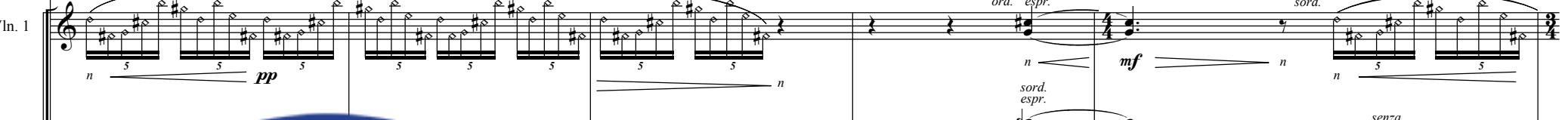
S 2 

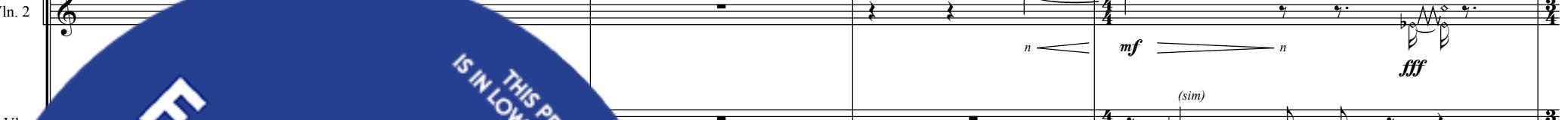
S 3 

A 1 

A 2 

A 3 

Vln. 1 

Vln. 2 

Vla. 

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Picc. switch to flute

Tbn.

Perc.

Pno.

S 1

S 2

S 3

A 1

A 2

A 3

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Cb.

**B**

*mp* — *n*

*ppp* — *mf*

*Tam Tam*

*p*

*dolce molto legato*

*poco*

*(sim...)*

*8vb - 1*

*Sos. - - -*

**B**

*poco*

*(sim...)*

*ff sub tacet*

*mp*

*gy*

*mp*

*in the*

*mf*

*de ning*

*ff sub tacet*

*mp*

*gy*

*mp*

*in the*

*mf*

*de ning*

*ff sub tacet*

*mp*

*gy*

*mp*

*in the*

*mf*

*de ning*

*ff sub tacet*

*mp*

*gy*

*mp*

*in the*

*mf*

*de ning*

*ff sub tacet*

*mp*

*gy*

*mp*

*in the*

*mf*

*de ning*

*ff sub tacet*

*mp*

*gy*

*mp*

**B**

*f*

*sub mp*

*n*

*senza sord.*

*f*

*sub mp*

*n*

*senza sord.*

*f*

*sub mp*

*n*

*senza sord.*

*f*

*sub mp*

*n*

*mp*

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28

Fl.

Tbn.

Perc.

Pno.

S 1

S 2

S 3

A 1

A 2

A 3

Vln. 1

Cb.

senza sord.  
poco  
(sim...)

p  
mp  
pp

p  
mf  
p  
3 (Sos.)\*

poco  
(sim...)

(y)re

poco  
(sim...)

(y)re  
gy

poco  
(sim...)

gy  
mp

poco  
(sim...)

gy  
mp

poco  
(sim...)

gy  
mf

leggiero  
p

leggiero  
p

leggiero  
p

leggiero  
p

Fl. *mf*

Tbn. *f*

Perc. *H. Tom* *Xyl* *L. Tom* *Xyl*

(non troppo) *f* *f* (non troppo) *f*

*ppp*

S 1 ea - - - - (r) *mf* hea - - - - (r) *n*

S 2 the - fal - - - con (ten.) can - (nn) sub tacet can - (nn) sub tacet the *f*

S 3 hea - - - *mf* ea - - - (r) *n*

A 1 ea - - - - (r) *mf* not *sffz* hea - - - (r) *n*

A 2 not *sffz* not *sffz*

A 3 not *sffz* hea - - - *n* ea - - - (r) *n*

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Cb. *mf*

*leggiero* *mf*

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Fl.

Tbn.

Perc.

Pno. *f*  
*b3*  
*zoo.*

S 1 fal - - - con - er  
sub. *f*

S 2 fal - - - con - er

S 3 fal - - - con - er  
*f*

A 1 fal - - - con - er  
*f*

A 2 fal - - - con - er  
*f*

A 3 fal - - - con - er  
*f*

Vln. 1 *scorrevole*  
sub.

Vln. 2

Cb.

37

Fl.

Tbn.

Perc.

Pno.

S 1

S 2

S 3

A 1

A 2

A 3

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Cb.

**C**

*non vib.*

*(sim...)*

*Crash.*

(dampen immediately before beat)

*f*

*p*

*poco >*

*somewhat mechanically*

*Things fall a(p) - 3 -*

*p cresc poco a poco - - -*

*somewhat mechanically*

*Things fall a(p) - 3 -*

*p cresc poco a poco - - -*

*somewhat mechanically*

*Things fall a part the*

*p cresc poco a poco - - -*

*somewhat mechanically*

*Things fall a part*

*p cresc poco a poco - - -*

*somewhat mechanically*

*the*

*p cresc poco a poco*

*pizz. arco non vib.*

*pizz. arco (sim...)*

*almost overpressure poco sul pont*

*fff*

*mp n ————— p mp n —————*

*pizz. arco non vib.*

*pizz. arco (sim...)*

*non vib. pizz. (sim...) arco*

*n ————— p mp n —————*

*pizz. arco non vib.*

*pizz. arco (sim...)*

*fff*

*mp n ————— p p mp*

*pizz.*

*mp*



Fl. 44 *mp* n *mp* n *mp* n *mp* n *mp* n *mp*

Tbn.

Perc.

Pno. 44 (sim...) *p* *mp* 6 6

S 1 44 cen - - 3 ter 3 can - - not hold things fall > 3 a(p) part

S 2 cen - - 3 ter 3 can - - not hold the cen - - 3 ter

S 3 things fall > 3 a(p) part the cen - - 3 ter

A 1 things fall a - part the cen - - ter can - not hold the cen - - ter can -

A 2 can - not hold things fall a - part things fall a - part the cen - - ter can -

A 3 can - not hold the cen - - ter can - not hold things fall a - part

Vln. 1 44 pizz. arco 3 pizz. arco n *mp* n *mp* n *mp* 6 3 *mp* p n

Vln. 2 pizz. arco 3 pizz. arco n *mp* 6 *mp* n *mp* 5 p n

Cb. mp

Fl. 48 *mp* *mf* *mf* *mf* *f*

Tbn.

Perc.

Pno. 48 *p* *mf* *mp* *f*

S 1 48 things fall a(p) part the cen

S 2 *poco* can not hold things fall the cen part

S 3 *poco* can not hold things fall the cen part

A 1 not hold things fall a part things fall a part

A 2 not hold things fall the cen center can not hold things fall

A 3 things fall a part the cen center can not hold a part

Vln. 1 48 arco *mf* pizz. *p* arco *pizz.* *mf* *f* *mf* *pizz.* *mf*

Vln. 2 arco *mf* *pizz.* *mf* *p* arco *pizz.* *mf* *f* *mf* *pizz.* *mf*

Cb. *f*

Fl. 51 **D** 8va (end frullato) *con sord.* (end frullato)

Tbn. ff f mf

Perc. tubular bells ff

Pno. 51 mf f ff pp fl

S 1 51 ter can - - 3 - not - ho - - - - (ld) can - - - not -  
S 2 ter can - - 3 - not - ho - - - - (ld) can - - - not -  
S 3 ter can - - 3 - not - ho - - - - (ld) can - - - not -  
A 1 — the cen - ter can - not ho - - - - (ld) the cen - ter can - not  
A 2 — the cen - ter can - not ho - - - - (ld) the cen - ter can - not  
A 3 — the cen - ter can - not ho - - - - (ld) the cen - ter can - not

Vln. 1 51 6 arco ff f mf n

Vln. 2 approximate pitch (rhythm more important) (etc...) ff

Cb. approximate pitch (rhythm more important) (etc...) ff

**D**

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Fl. 54 8va (end frullato) ff f mf

Tbn. con sord. (end frullato) ff f mf

Perc. tubular bells ff tam tam ○○ n ffff

Pno. 54 ff pp fl

S 1 ho - - - - (ld) can - - - - not ff sub tacet

S 2 ho - - - - (ld) can - - - - not ff sub tacet

S 3 ho - - - - (ld) can - - - - not ff sub tacet

A 1 ho - - - - (ld) the cen - ter can - not ff sub tacet

A 2 ho - - - - (ld) the cen - ter can - not ff sub tacet

A 3 ho - - - - (ld) the cen - ter can - not ff sub tacet

Vln. 1 54 f mf n

Vln. 2 mf n

(etc...) 3 3 5 ff

(etc...) 3 3 5 ff

Cb. f mf n







acc (x2) -----

76

Fl.

Tbn.

Perc.

Pno.

(i.e same duration as 16th notes  
prior to accelerando)

8va

*mf*

8va

*mf*

*f*

*f*

acc (x2) -----

S 1

S 2

poco

ku

ai

*f cresc* -----

pu on

S 3

uu - si al ---

jo

*f*

k(a)

*sffz*

nen

lop

A 1

al ---

jo

*f*

k(a)

*sffz*

lop

A 2

A 3

Vln. 1

76

*f*

acc (x2) -----

Vln. 2

Cb.

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Fl.

Tbn.

Perc.

Pno.

S 1

S 2

S 3

A 1

A 2

A 3

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Cb.

while playing with one hand,  
use the other to press the butt  
of one of the sticks on the  
drumhead, adjusting pressure  
to create the approximate melodic  
pattern indicated.  
**H. Tom**

*pp* *pppp*

91

Whisper

tacet

Spoken *3*

an - ar - chy

**p**

Spoken

mere

**p**

Whisper

tacet

Spoken

is

**p**

loosed

Spoken *3*

an - ar - chy

**p**

Whisper

tacet

Spoken *3*

u

**p**

upon

Whisper

tacet

Spoken *3*

the

**p**

world

91 (8<sup>va</sup>)

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*ppp*

*sub tacet*