October in Galicia

for soprano and chamber ensemble, with tape

by

Karen J. Siegel

A composition submitted to the Graduate Faculty in Music in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, The City University of New York

2014

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This manuscript has been read and accepted for the Graduate Faculty in Music, in satisfaction of the dissertation requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Professor Jeffrey Nichols

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Professor Norman Carey

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Date	Executive Officer

Professor David Olan
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Abstract

October in Galicia
for soprano, chamber ensemble and tape

by

Karen J. Siegel

Adviser: Professor Tania León

October in Galicia is a setting of selections from the Czech poet Ewald Murrer's fantastical book, *The Diary of Mr. Pinke,* translated into English by Alicie Pišťková. The surreal day-to-day happenings of Mr. Pinke occur in a timeless group of villages revealed by a translator's note to be modeled on the historical region of Galicia (now part of Poland, Ukraine, and Russia). The tape part (or more accurately the digital audio files), which appears in "October 23rd," consists of an organ recording that has been manipulated electronically. The electronic manipulations are subtle enough that the original pitches are always recognizable; therefore, the tape part is notated as pitches in the score.

Instrumentation

soprano

flute

oboe

clarinet in B flat

bassoon

horn in F

percussion (1 player):

glockenspiel

tambourine

marimba

2 violins

viola

cello

double bass

organ, pre-recorded and electronically manipulated

Performance Note

To obtain the audio files and parts for performance, please email chestnutoak@gmail.com.

Text

October 1st

A cockcrow

in the day's din.

A wonderful rumor reached the village, even my ears. Apparently Mr. Fuks catches his unicorns here in our region. He cuts off their horns and sells them as talismans. The horn of a unicorn brings good luck (as does the unicorn). It is also medicinal, it cures evil spells, jinxes, thin blood, aches of the head as well as those of the soul.

The nature of a unicorn is to act as a sentry. The unicorn is the silent protector of secret knowledge. A taciturn scholar. A wise visionary.

Mr. Fuks sells the unicorn, whose horn he has cut off, as an unusual breed of horse. These horses do not remain with their buyers long, however, for they bolt at the first chance.

This animal can only be caught with the help of a virgin.

Mr. Fuks has a daughter, Abigail.

October 4th

The voices of dogs

beyond the mountains.

Early morning, a dream chased me from bed. A difficult dream. The white body of a unicorn flying above me. I could not breathe, I was sweating.

The unicorn's horn pierced the sky. Stars poured swiftly to the ground like fruit blossoms.

The Fuks' awoke around five in the morning. I do not exactly know the time, there is no clock in the house.

We rode donkeys in the cool dew.

We came to a stop in mysterious, fragrant marshes. Fuks slouched with his finger at his lips. Abigail whispered something into her hands.

In those places, it was as if there were no sunrise. Quite the opposite, the darkness thickened.

Silently, we waited.

And finally, from the distance, a unicorn was approaching.

Abigail closed her eyes and, for some time, did not open them. Fuks tinkered with something by the donkey. I stared mutely at the magnificent animal, that dream come to life.

Then it happened. Abigail cried out. My unicorn ran off. We returned empty-handed. Surreptitiously, they looked at me. Perhaps I was the cause of the failure.

Then silently, it drizzled. The landscape went damp.

October 23rd

Are you not the moon,
you have such a white face.
I saw you behind the hill
and you fled.

I read through bulky old books with the rabbi. The rabbi blew the dust off their spines.

Unicorns reveal themselves in dreams. In the rabbi's books, we discovered the ancient homeland of these animals.

Organ music from the heavens.
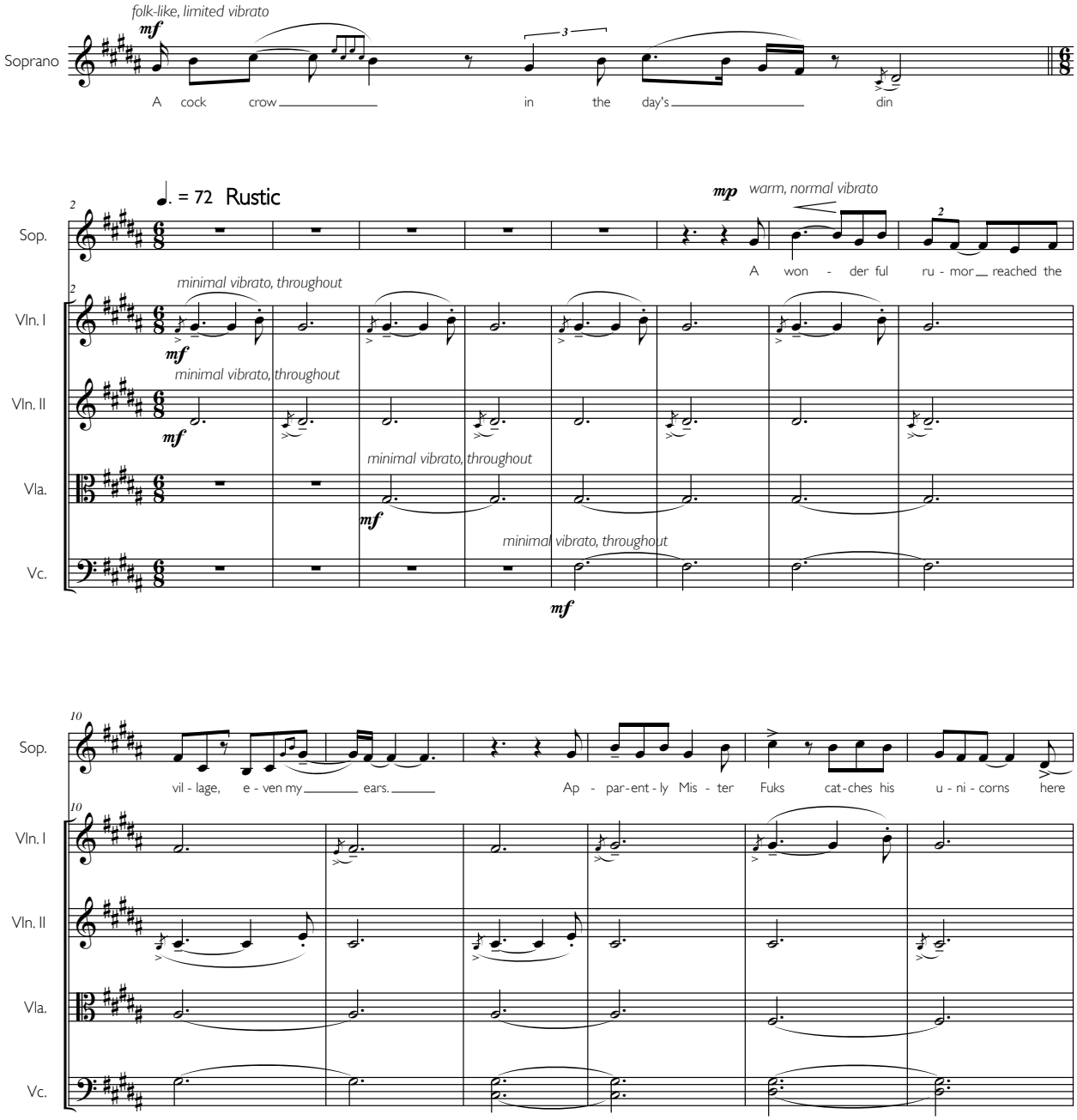
Score in C

October in Galicia
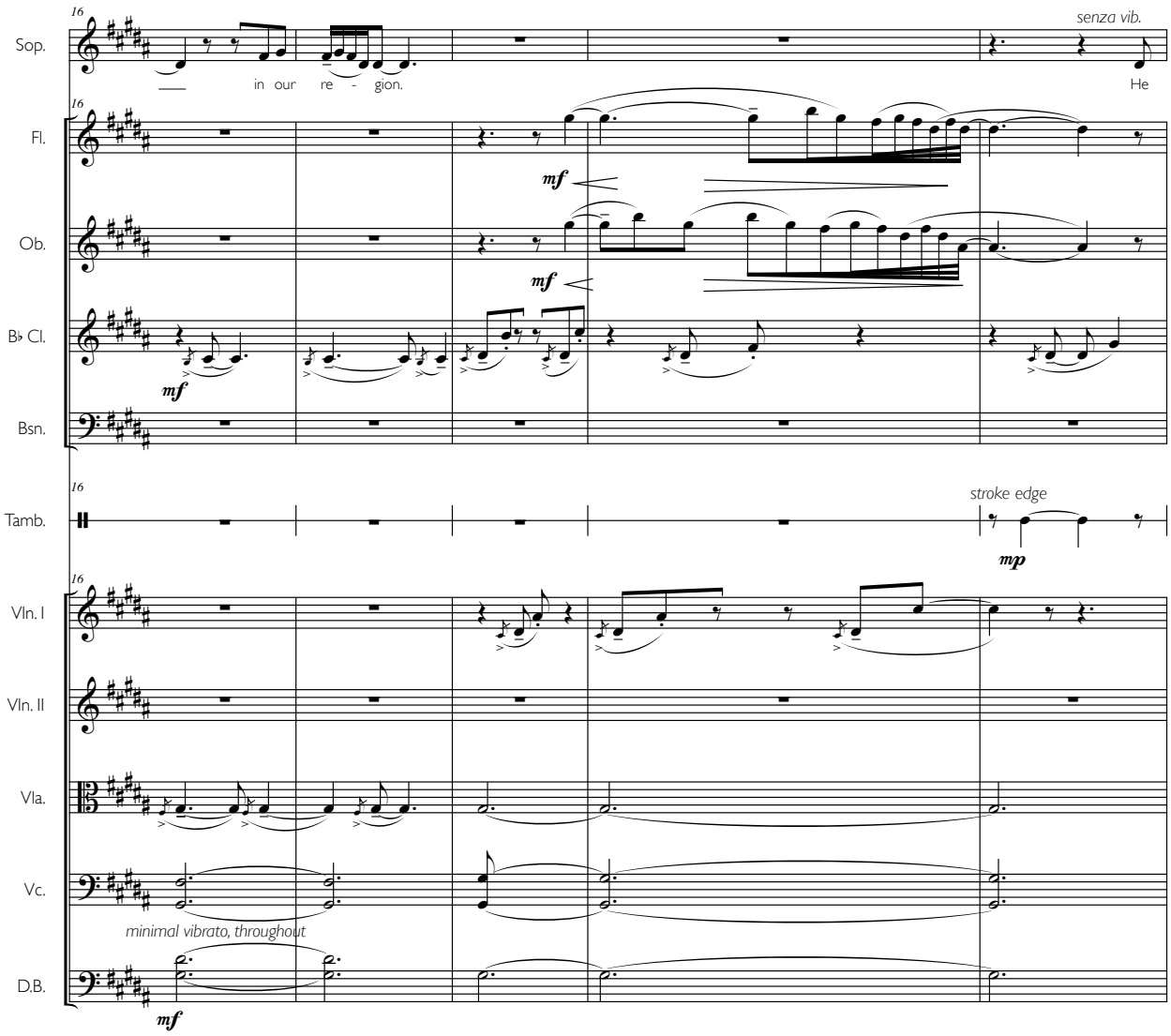
Ewald Murrer
Alicie Pišt'ková, translation
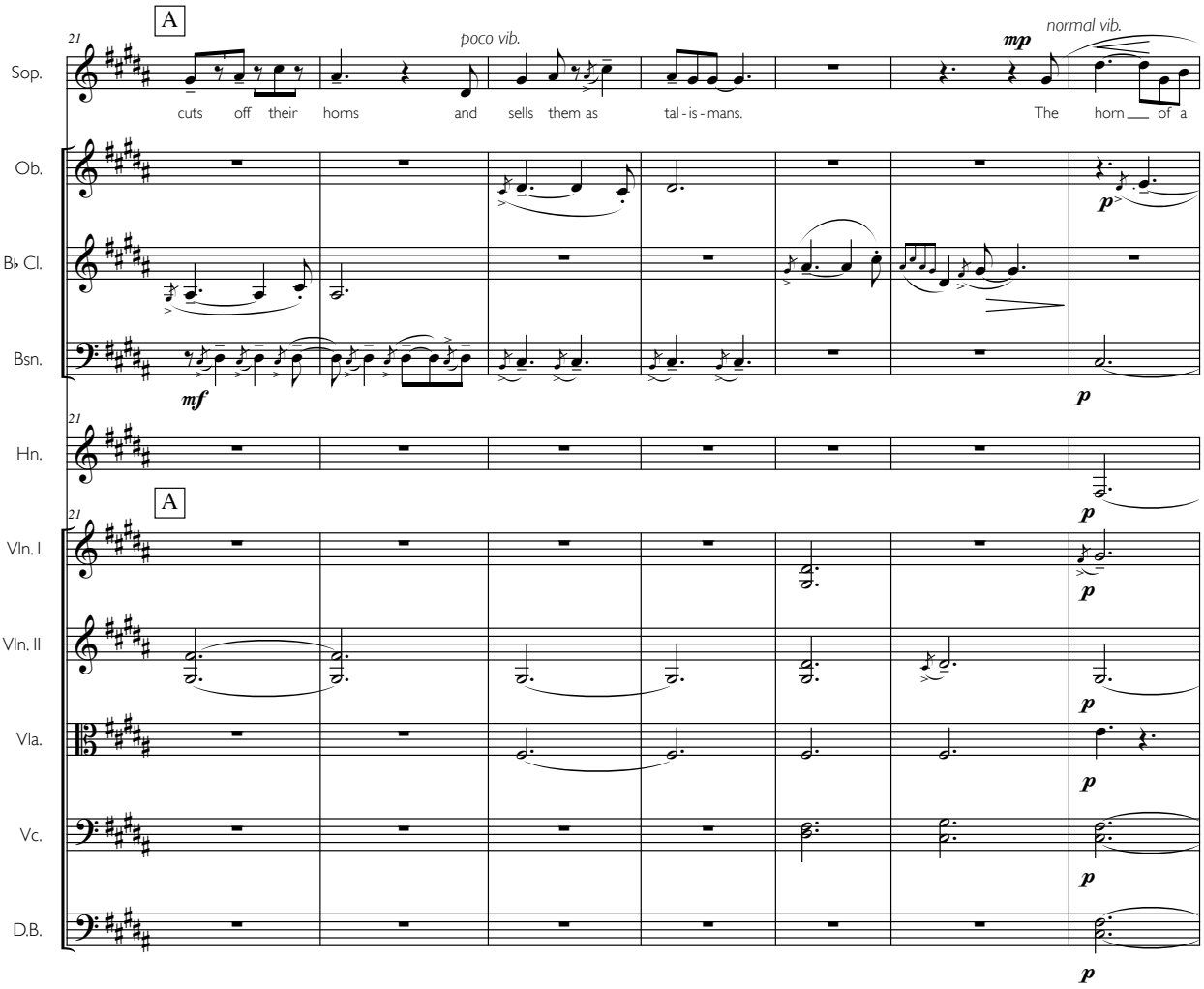
Karen Siegel
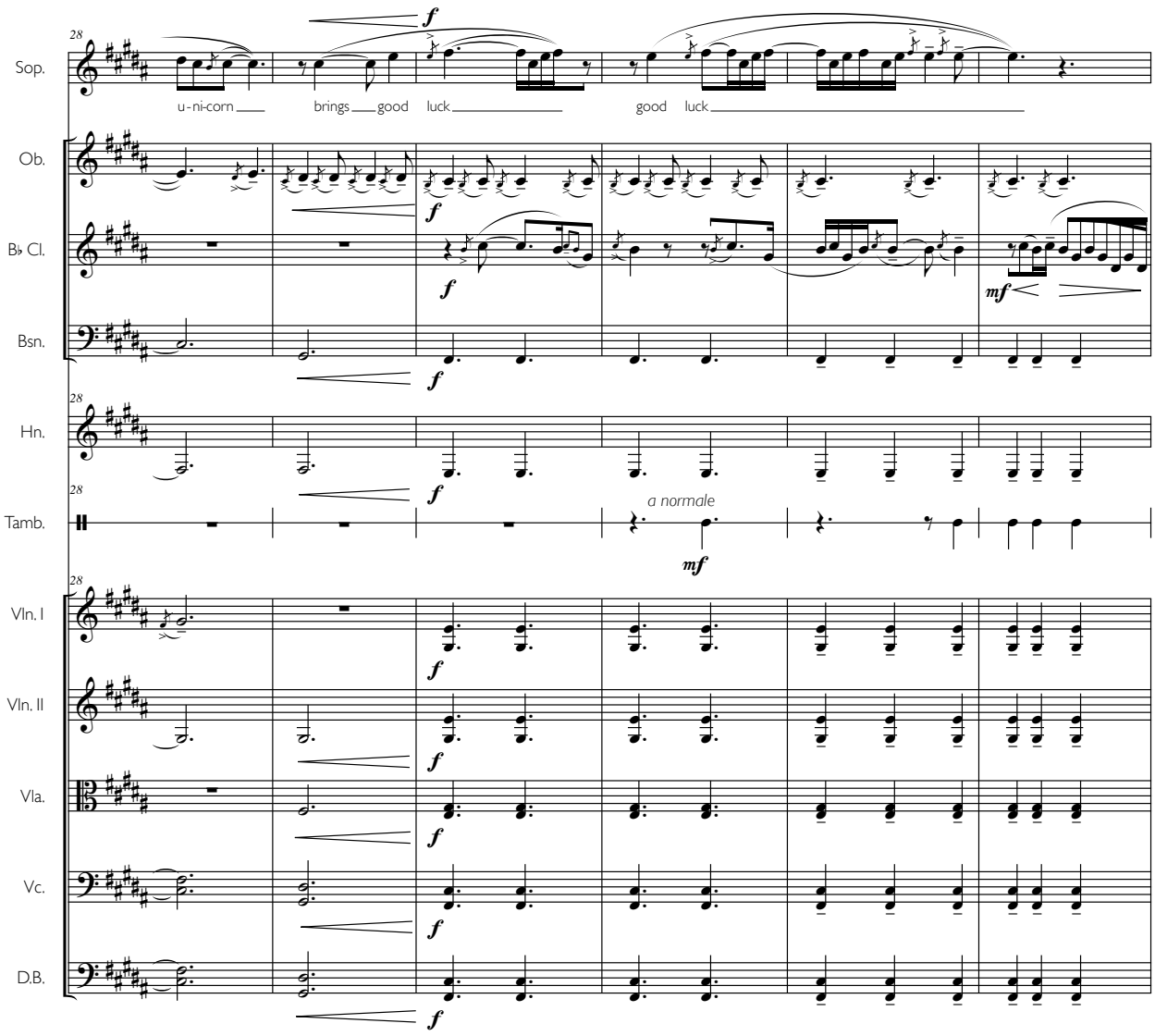
October 1st
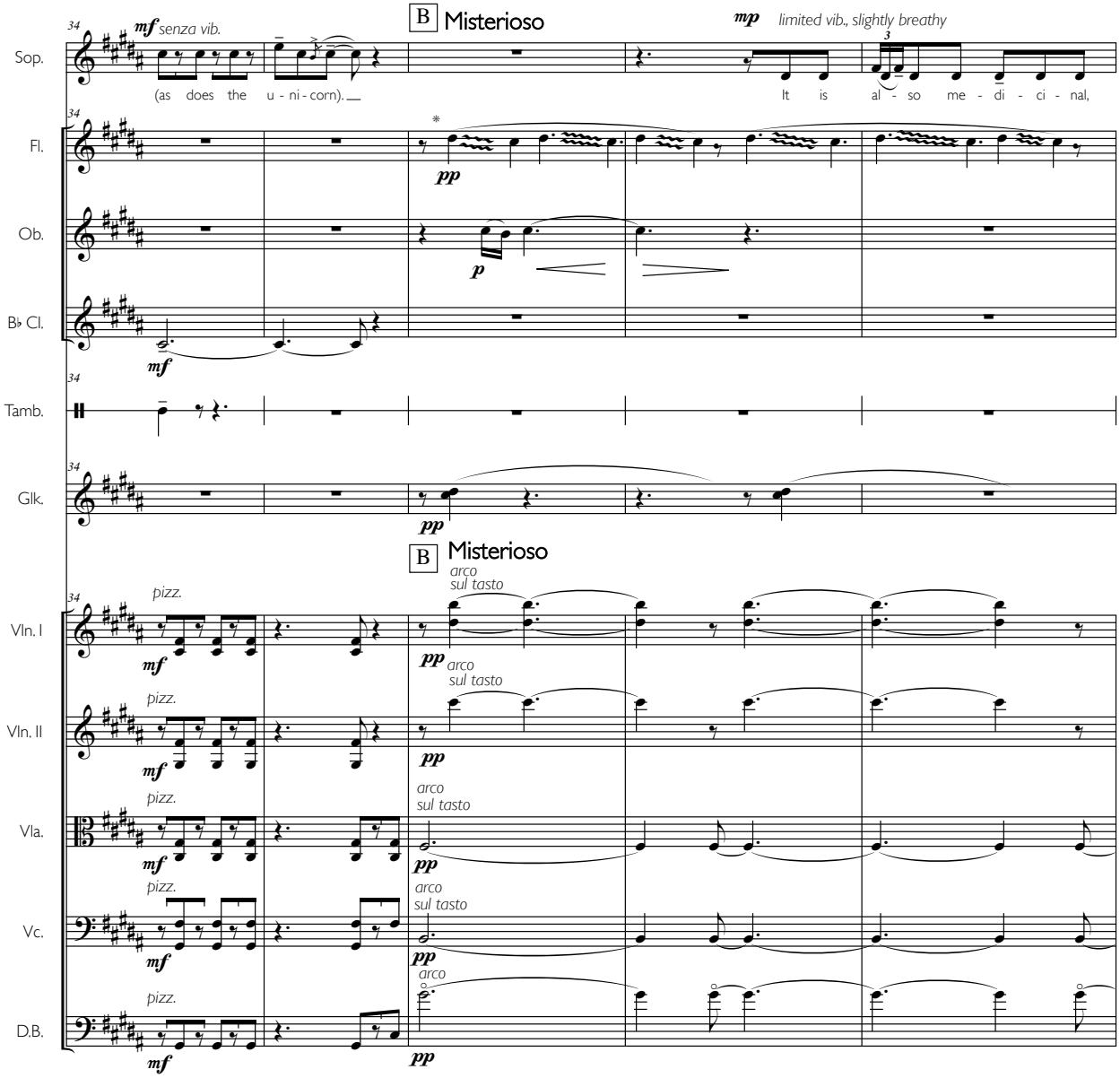


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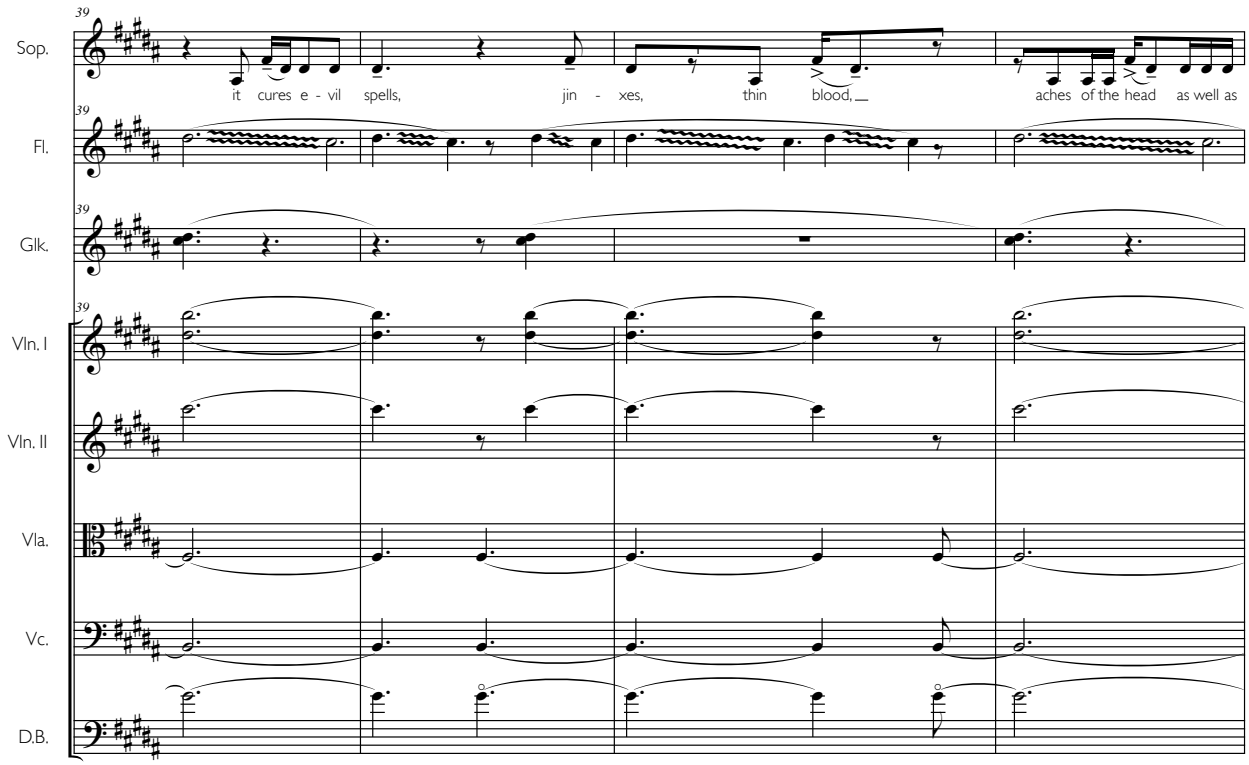

16
Sop.
in our re - gion.
senza vib.
He
Fl.
mf
Ob.
mf
B♭ Cl.
mf
Bsn.
Tamb.
stroke edge
mp
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
minimal vibrato, throughout
D.B.
mf
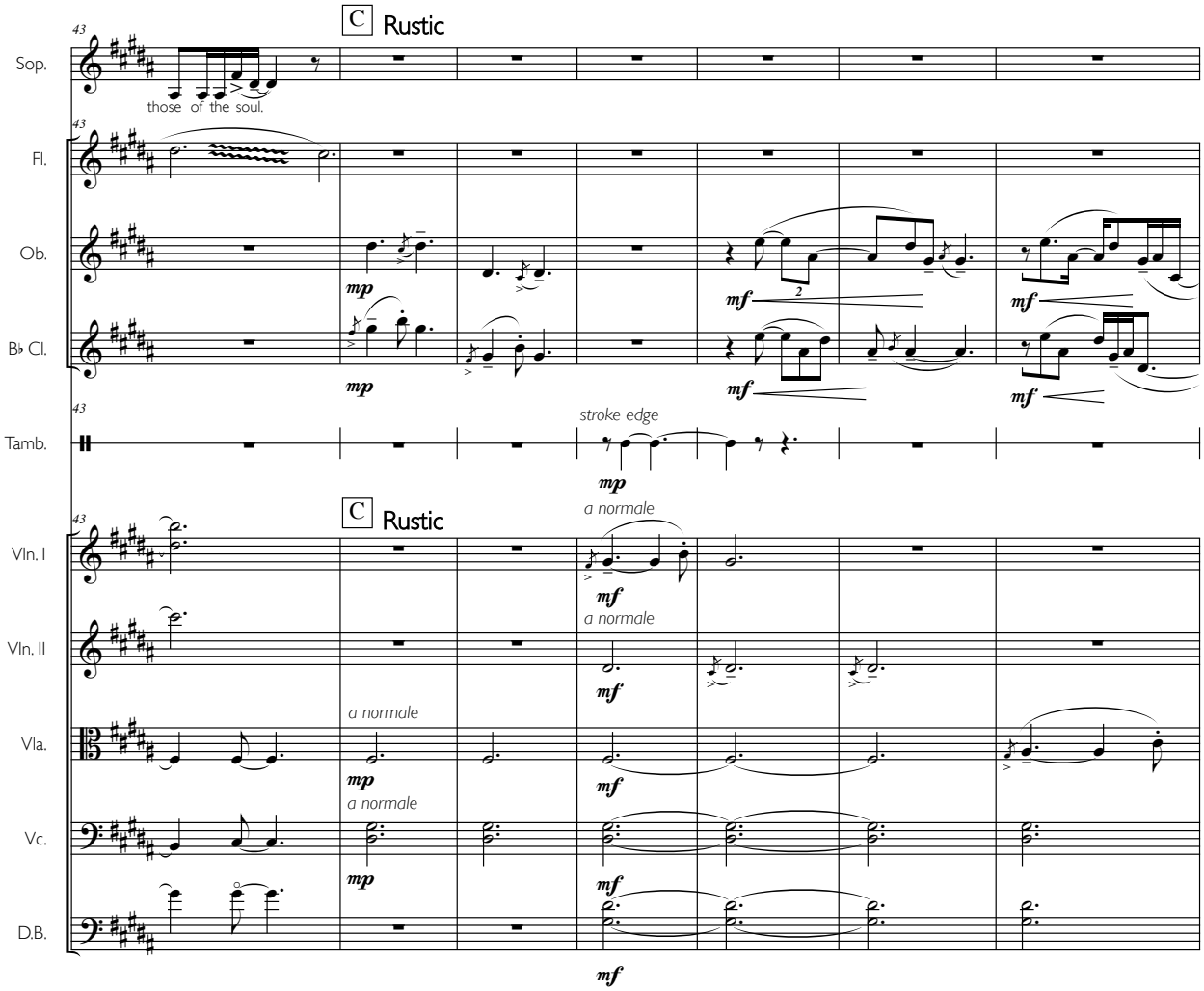

A
21
poco vib.
normal vib.
mp
Sop.
cuts off their horns and sells them as tal - is - mans. The horn ___ of a
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
mf
p
Hn.
A
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
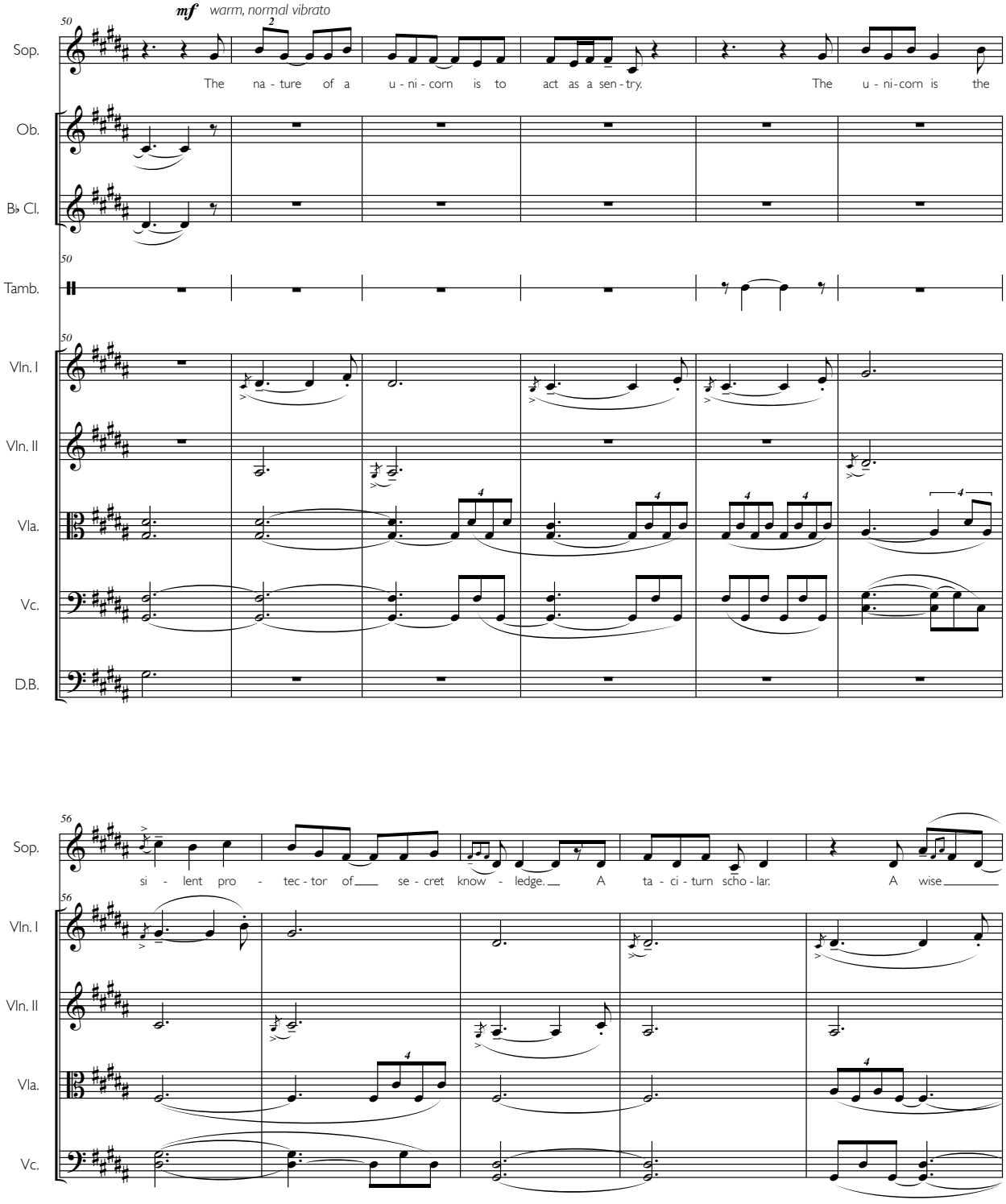

28
Sop.
u-ni-corn
brings
good
luck
good
luck
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Tamb.
a normale
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
f
mf
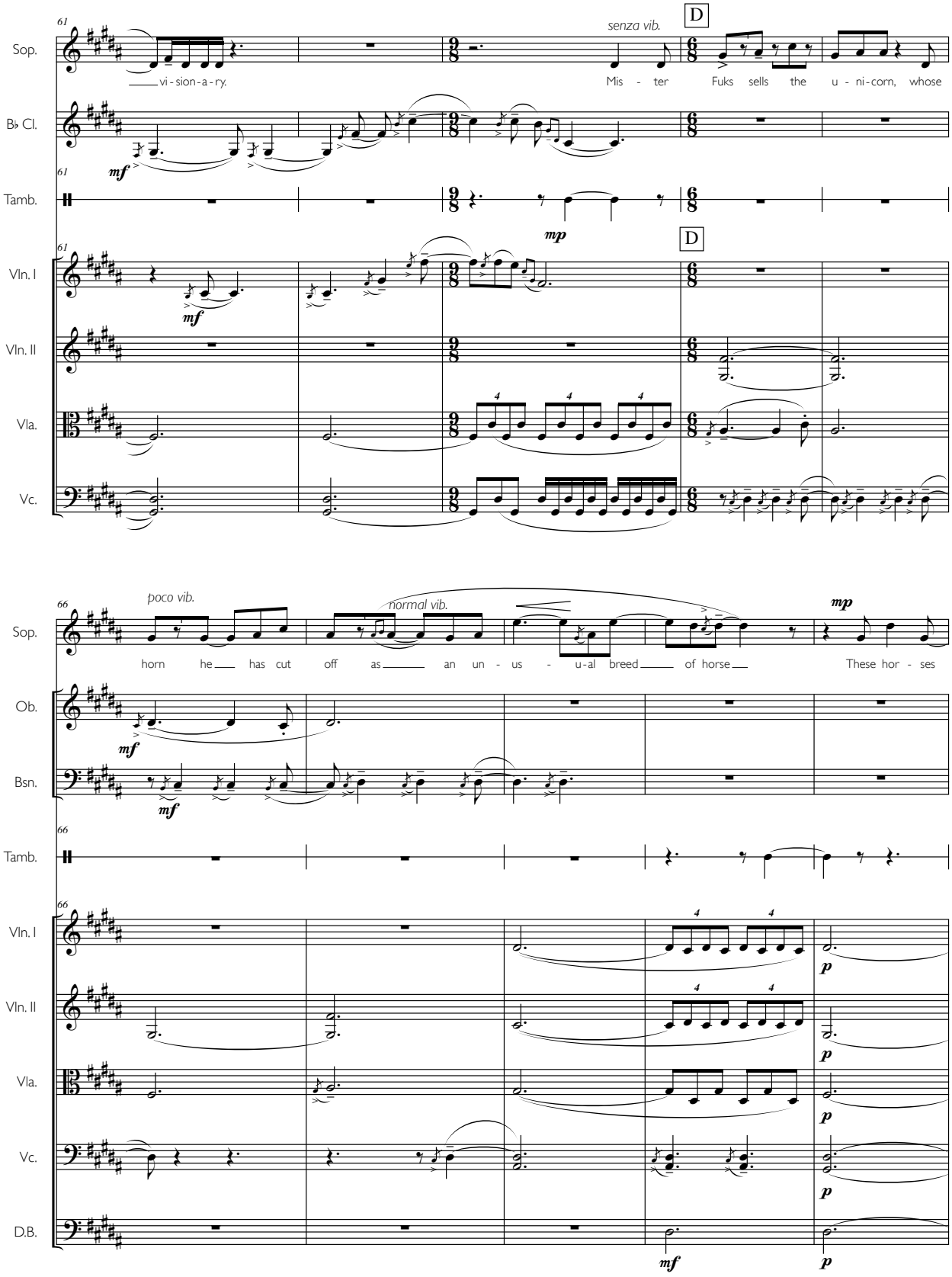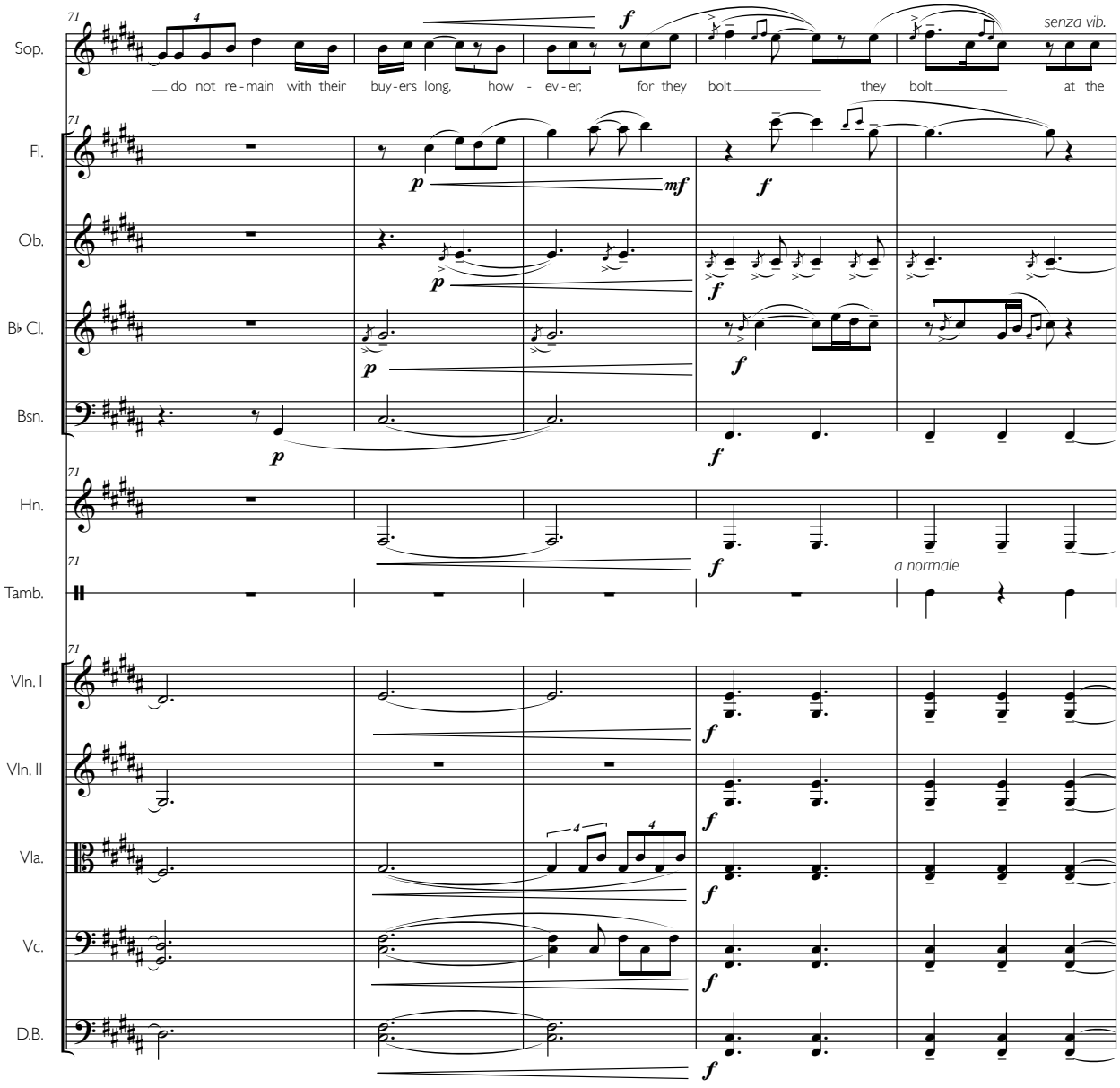


* *alternate between pitches at an indeterminate rhythm, avoiding metrical alignment*
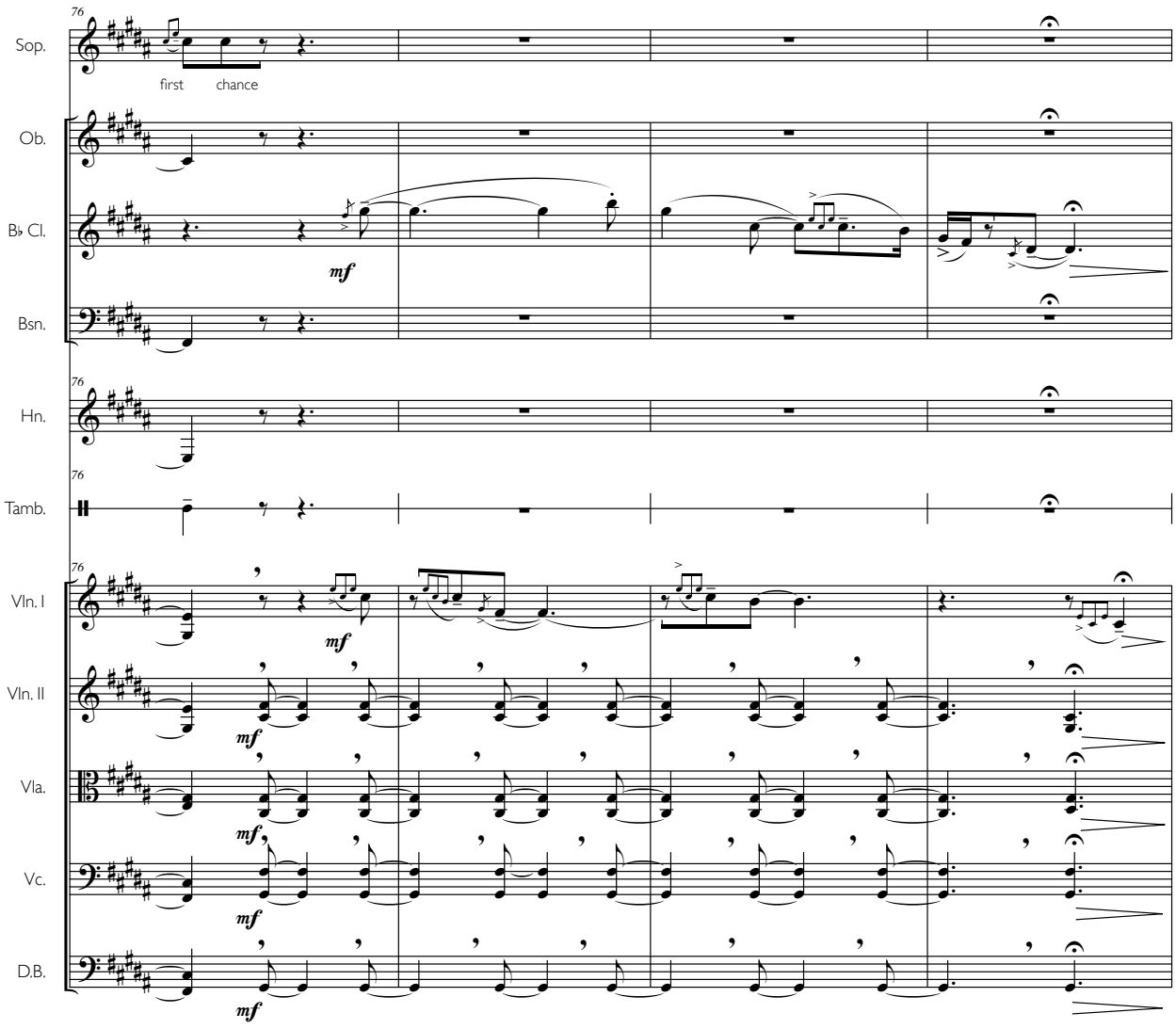

39
Sop.
it cures e - vil spells, jin - xes, thin blood, aches of the head as well as
Fl.
Glk.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
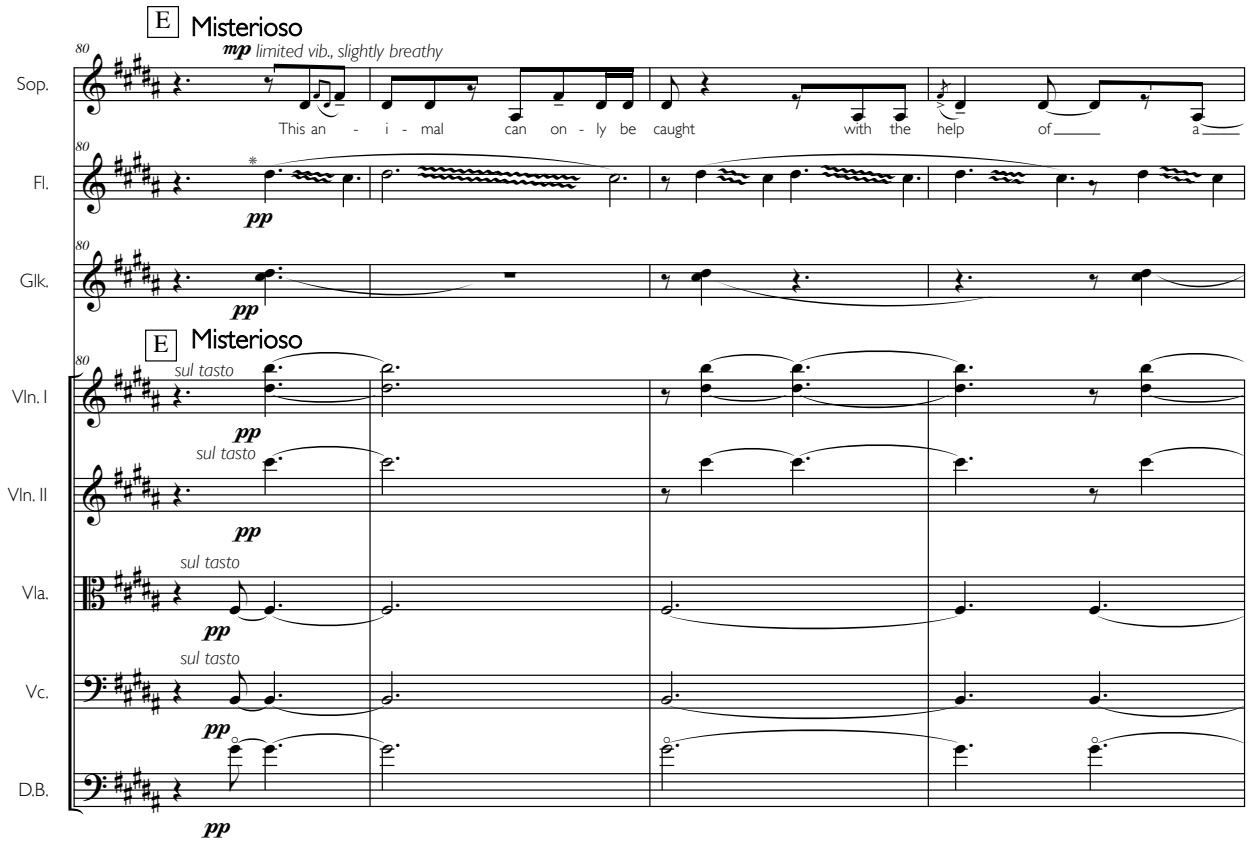

C Rustic
Sop.
those of the soul.
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Tamb.
stroke edge
C Rustic
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
a normale
mp
mf


mf warm, normal vibrato
Sop.
The na - ture of a u - ni - corn is to act as a sen - try. The u - ni-corn is the
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Tamb.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
si - lent pro - tec - tor of se - cret know - ledge. A ta - ci - turn scho - lar. A wise
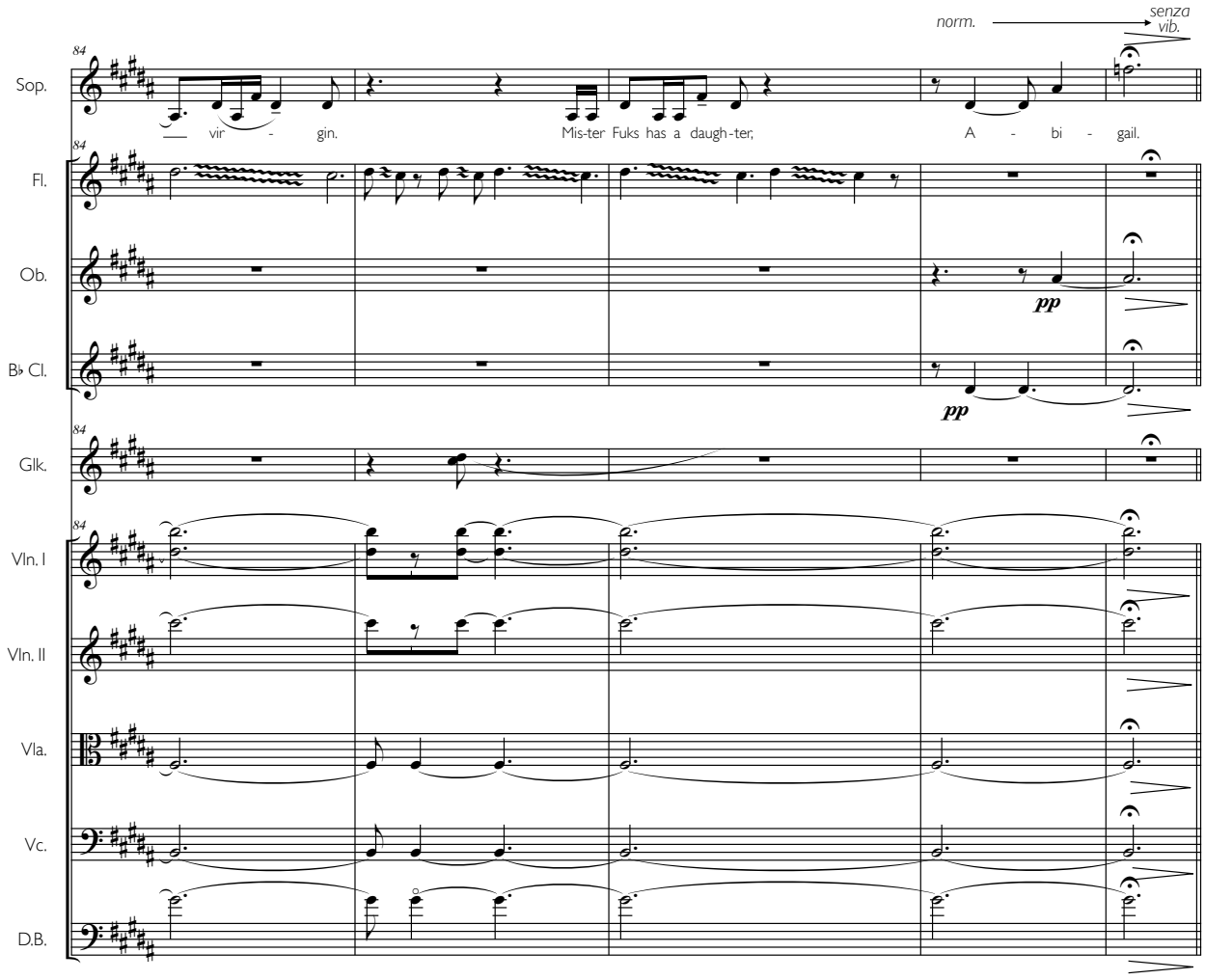

61
Sop.
vi - sion - a - ry.
senza vib.
D
Mis - ter Fuks sells the u - ni-corn, whose
B♭ Cl.
mf
Tamb.
mp
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
66
poco vib.
normal vib.
horn he has cut off as an un - us - u-al breed of horse These hor - ses
Ob.
Bsn.
D.B.
p


Sop.
do not re-main with their buy-ers long, how - ev-er, for they bolt they bolt at the
senza vib.
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Tamb.
a normale
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
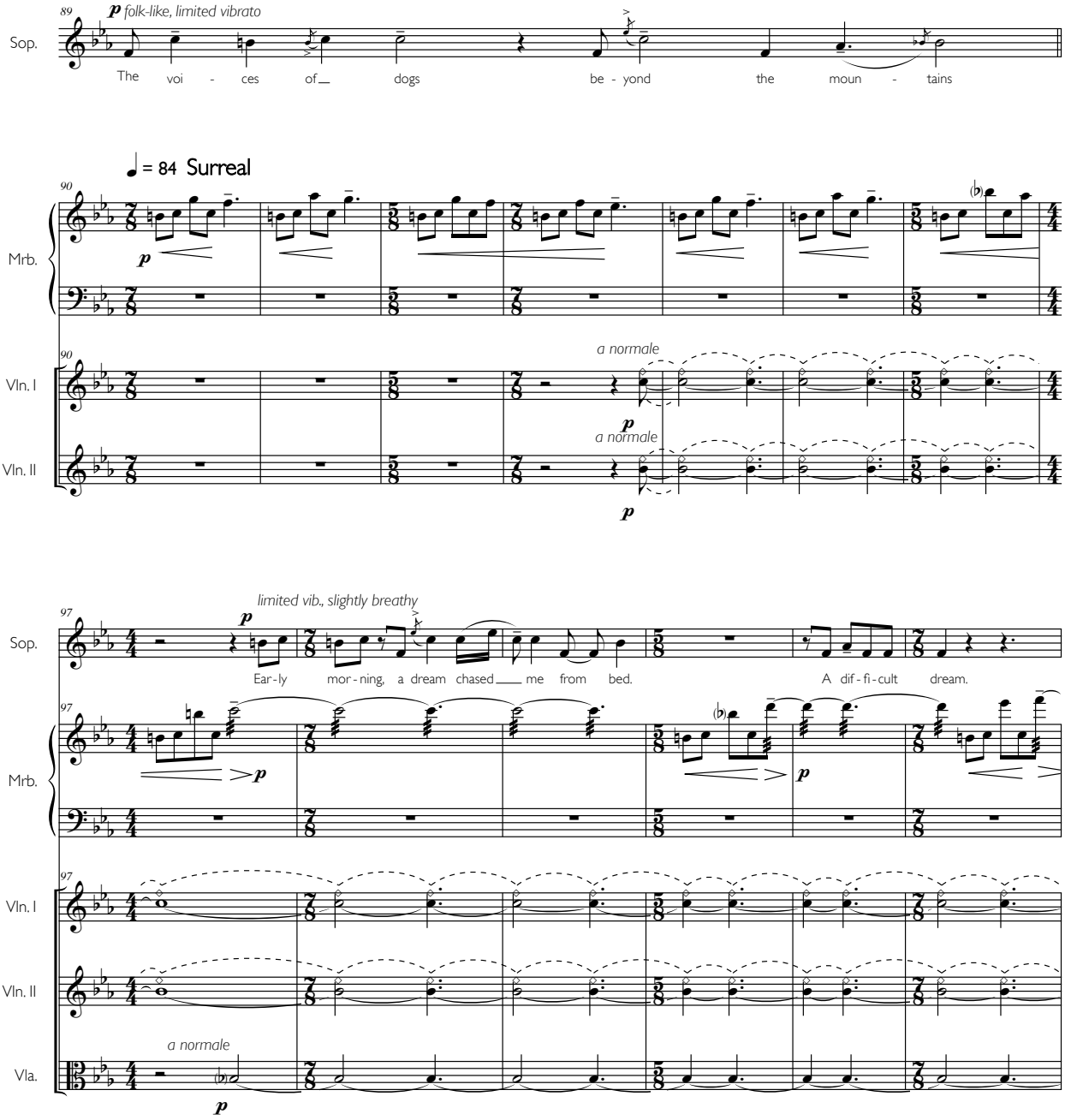

76
Sop.
first chance
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
mf
Bsn.
76
Hn.
76
Tamb.
76
Vln. I
mf
Vln. II
mf
Vla.
mf
Vc.
mf
D.B.
mf
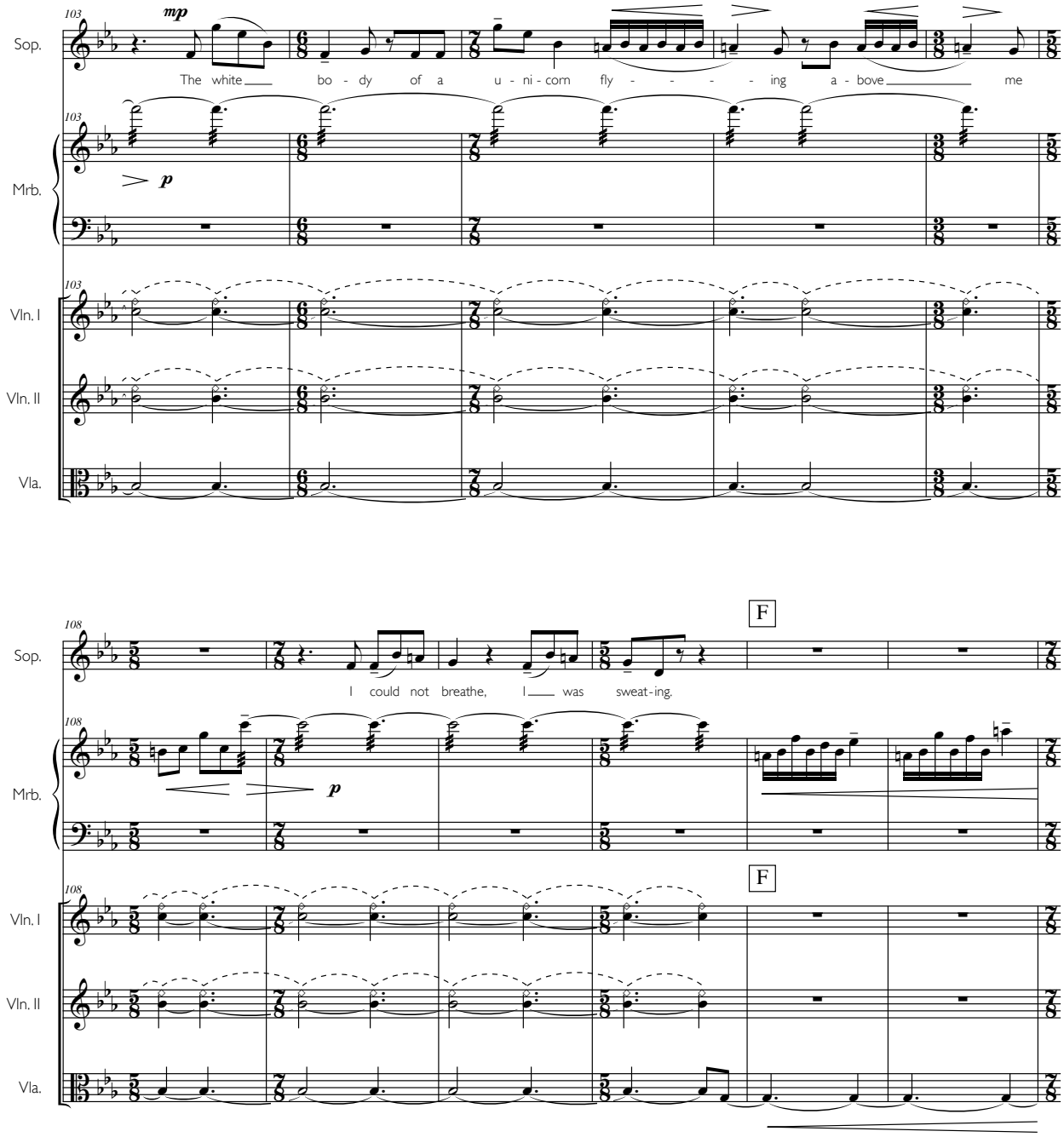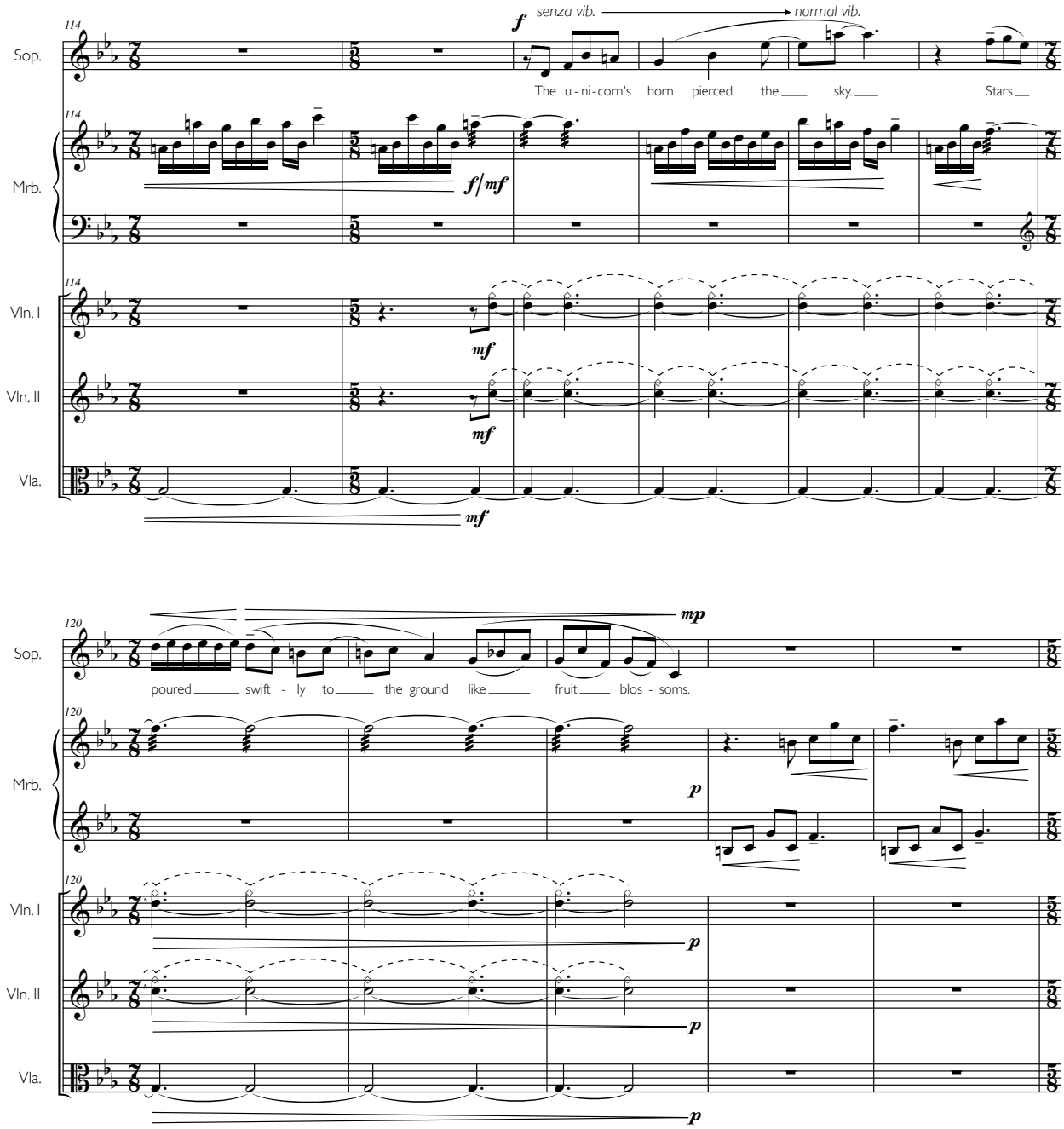


** alternate between pitches at an indeterminate rhythm, avoiding metrical alignment*

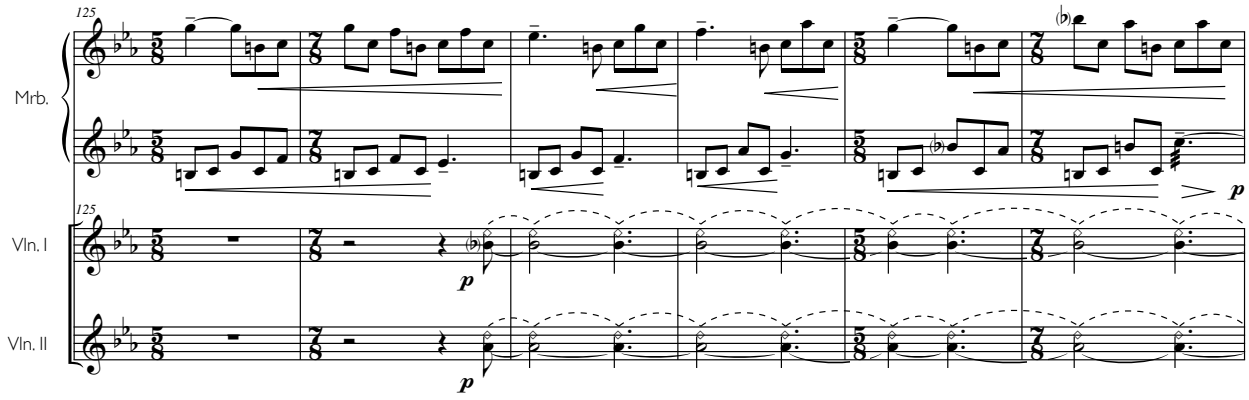

norm.
senza vib.
Sop.
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Glk.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
84
vir - gin.
Mis-ter Fuks has a daugh-ter,
A - bi - gail.
pp
pp

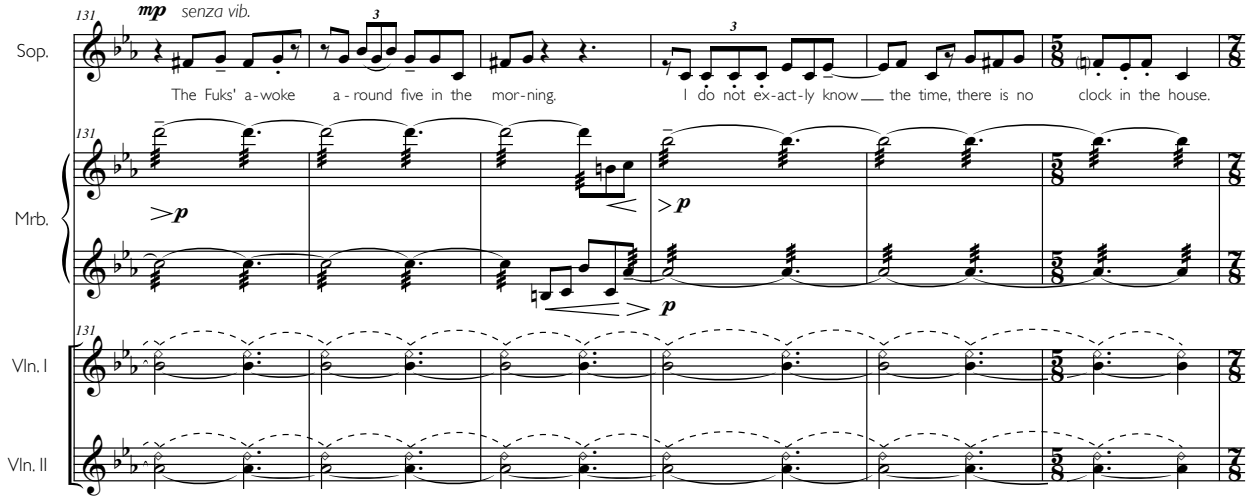
October 4th
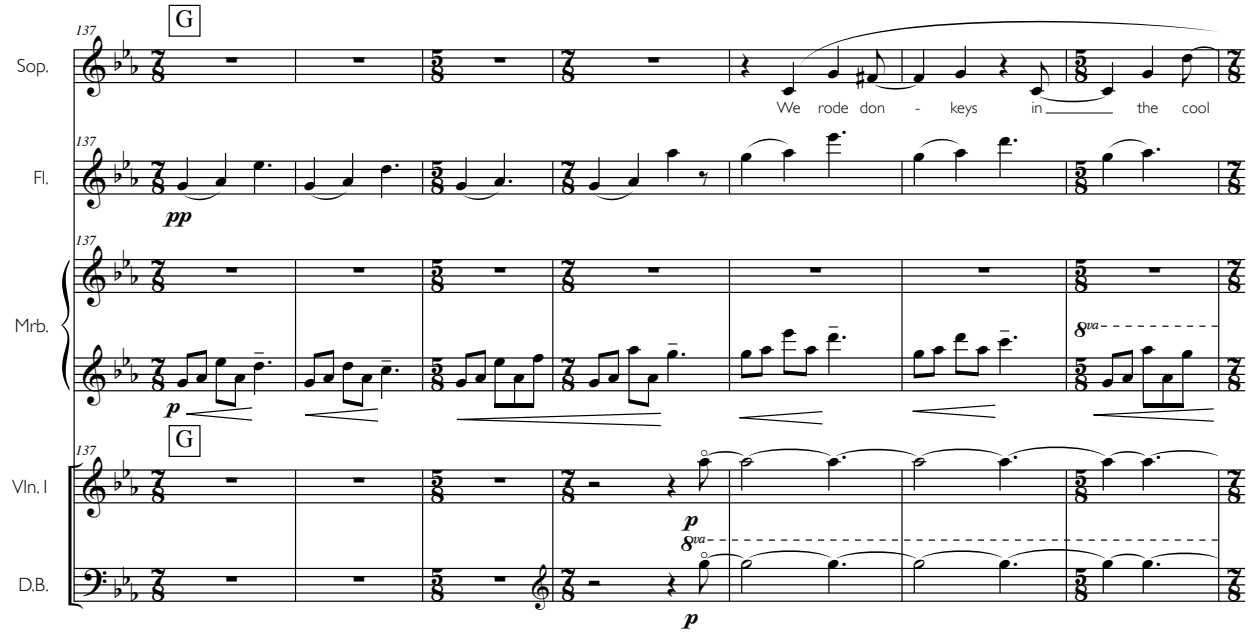

89
p folk-like, limited vibrato
Sop.
The voi - ces of dogs be - yond the moun - tains
♩ = 84 Surreal
90
Mrb.
Vln. I
Vln. II
a normale
97
limited vib., slightly breathy
Ear-ly mor-ning, a dream chased me from bed.
A dif-fi-cult dream.
Vla.
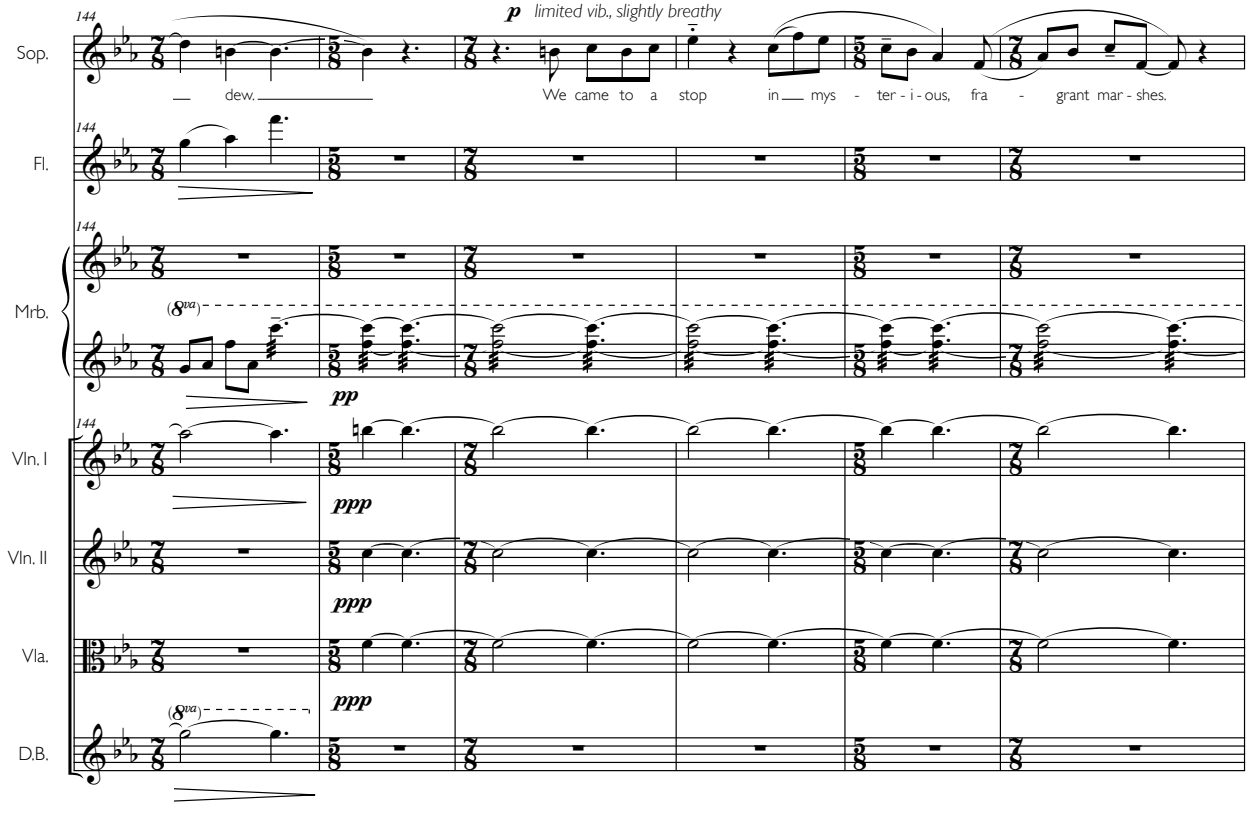

103
mp
Sop.
The white bo - dy of a u - ni - corn fly - - - - ing a - bove me
Mrb.
p
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
108
F
I could not breathe, I was sweat - ing.
Sop.
Mrb.
p
F
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
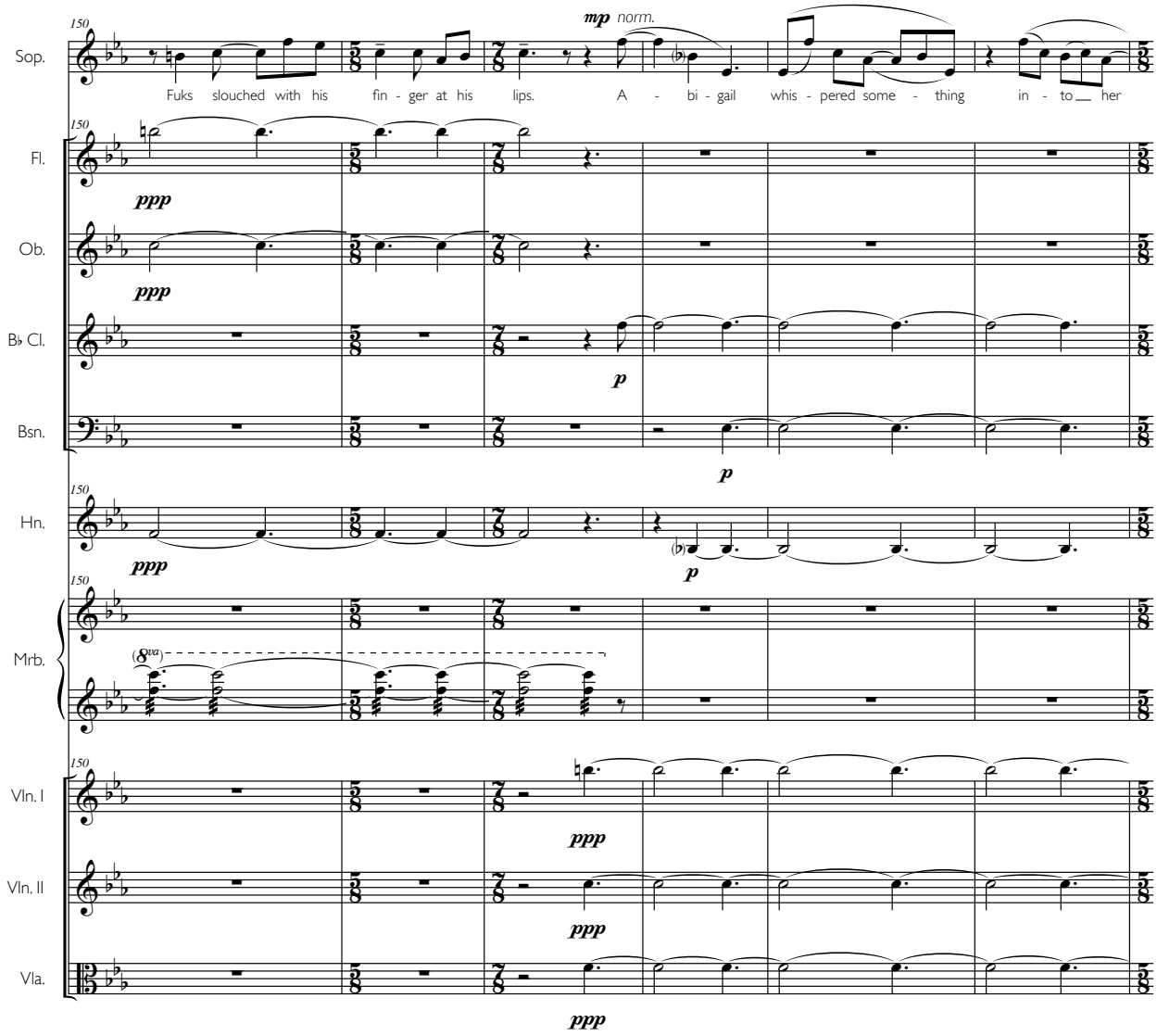

114
Sop.
f
senza vib.
normal vib.
The u - ni - corn's horn pierced the sky. Stars
Mrb.
f/mf
Vln. I
mf
Vln. II
mf
Vla.
mf
120
Sop.
mp
poured swift - ly to the ground like fruit blos - soms.
Mrb.
p
Vln. I
p
Vln. II
p
Vla.
p
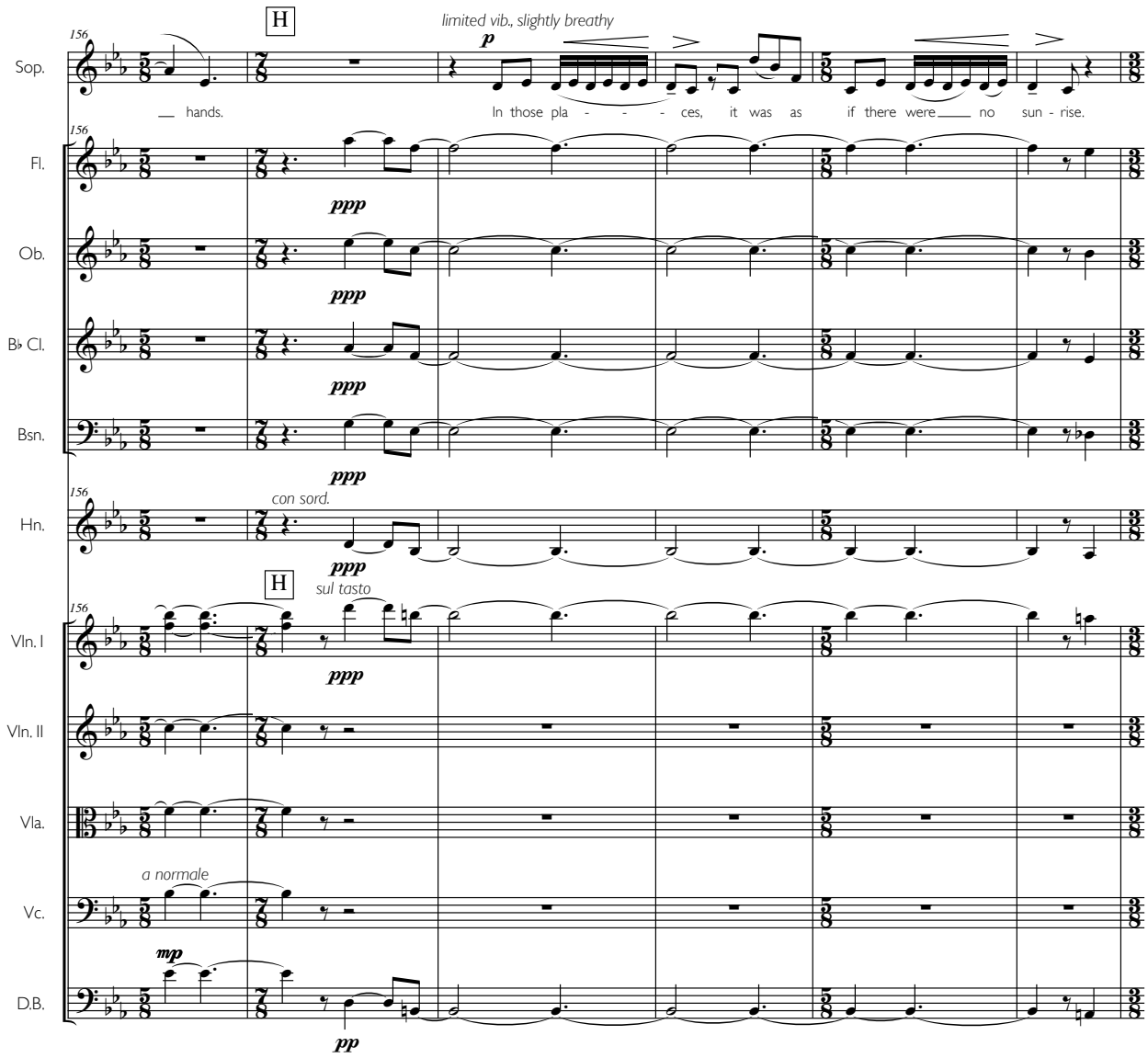

125
Mrb.
Vln. I
Vln. II
p
p
p
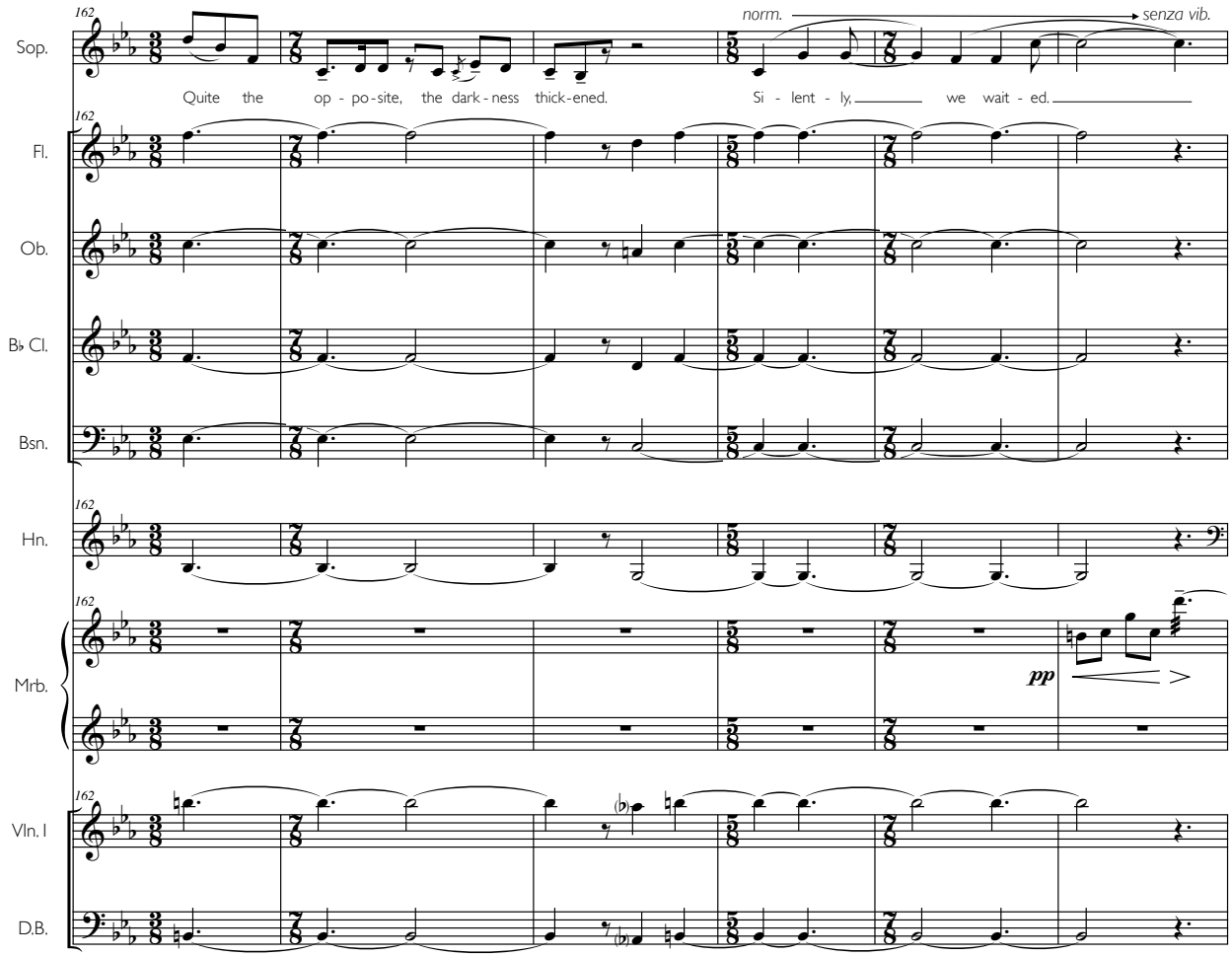

131
mp
senza vib.
Sop.
The Fuks' a-woke a-round five in the mor-ning.
I do not ex-act-ly know the time, there is no clock in the house.
Mrb.
Vln. I
Vln. II
p
p
p
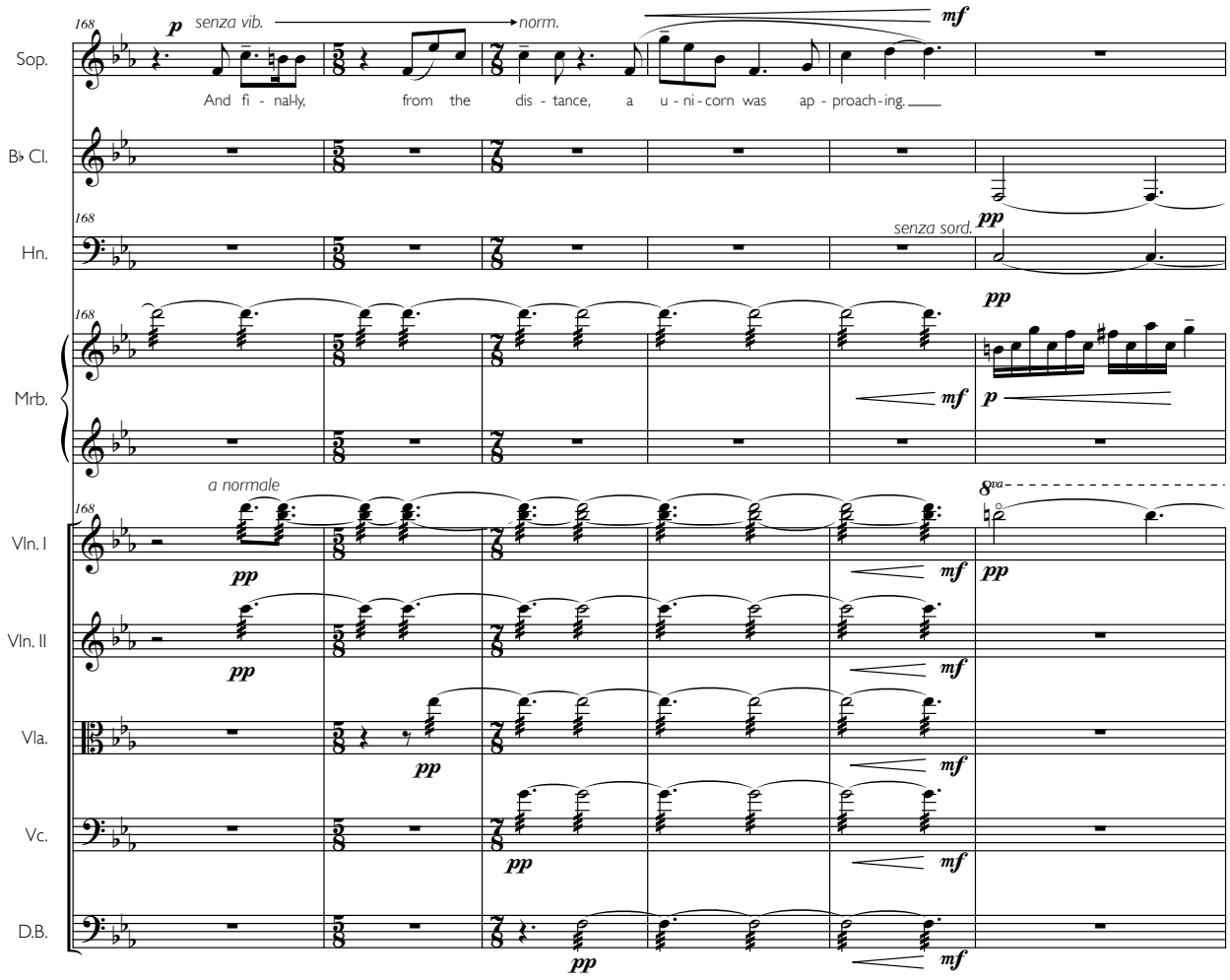

137
G
Sop.
We rode don - keys in the cool
Fl.
pp
Mrb.
p
8va
Vln. I
D.B.
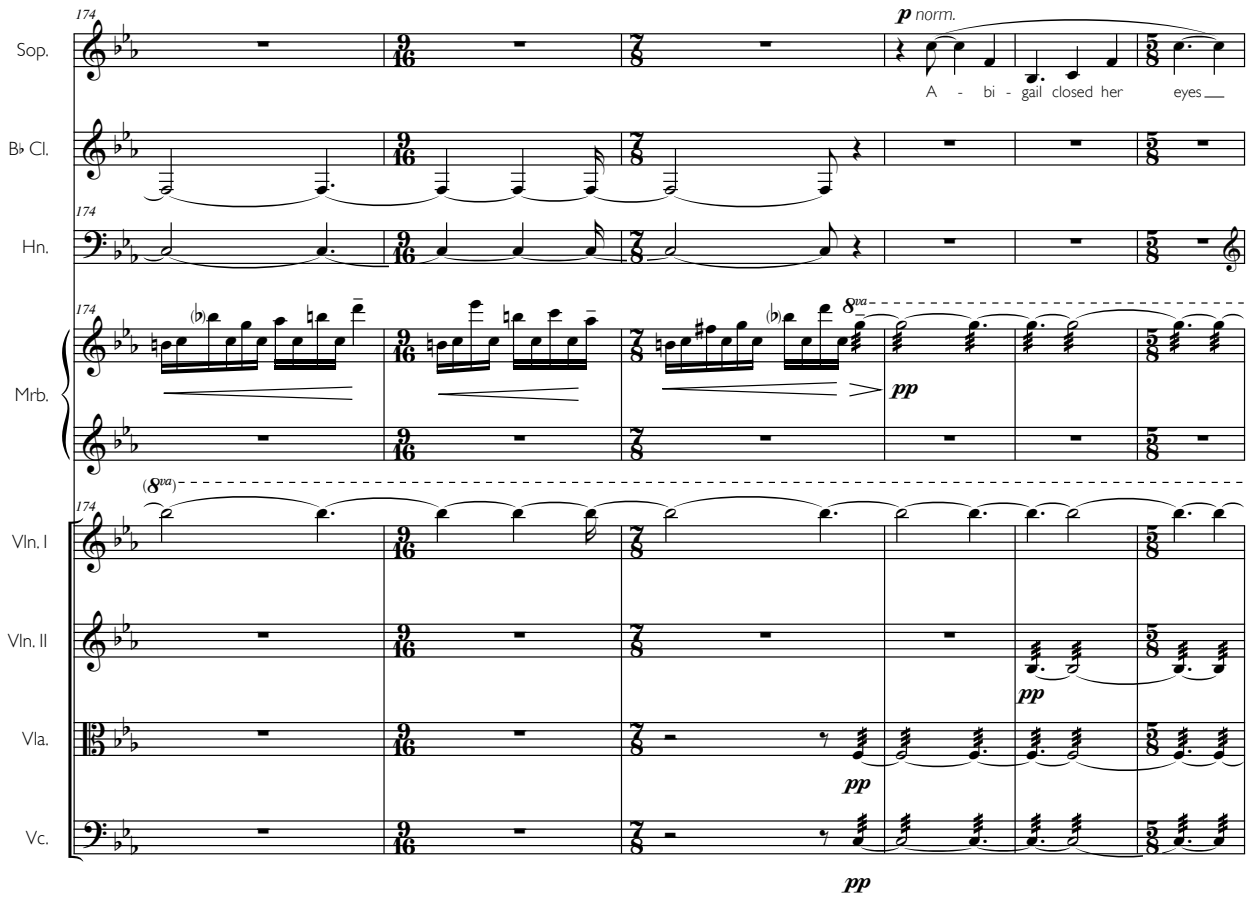

144
p limited vib., slightly breathy
Sop.
dew.
We came to a stop in mys - ter - i - ous, fra - grant mar - shes.
Fl.
Mrb.
(8va)
pp
Vln. I
ppp
Vln. II
Vla.
D.B.
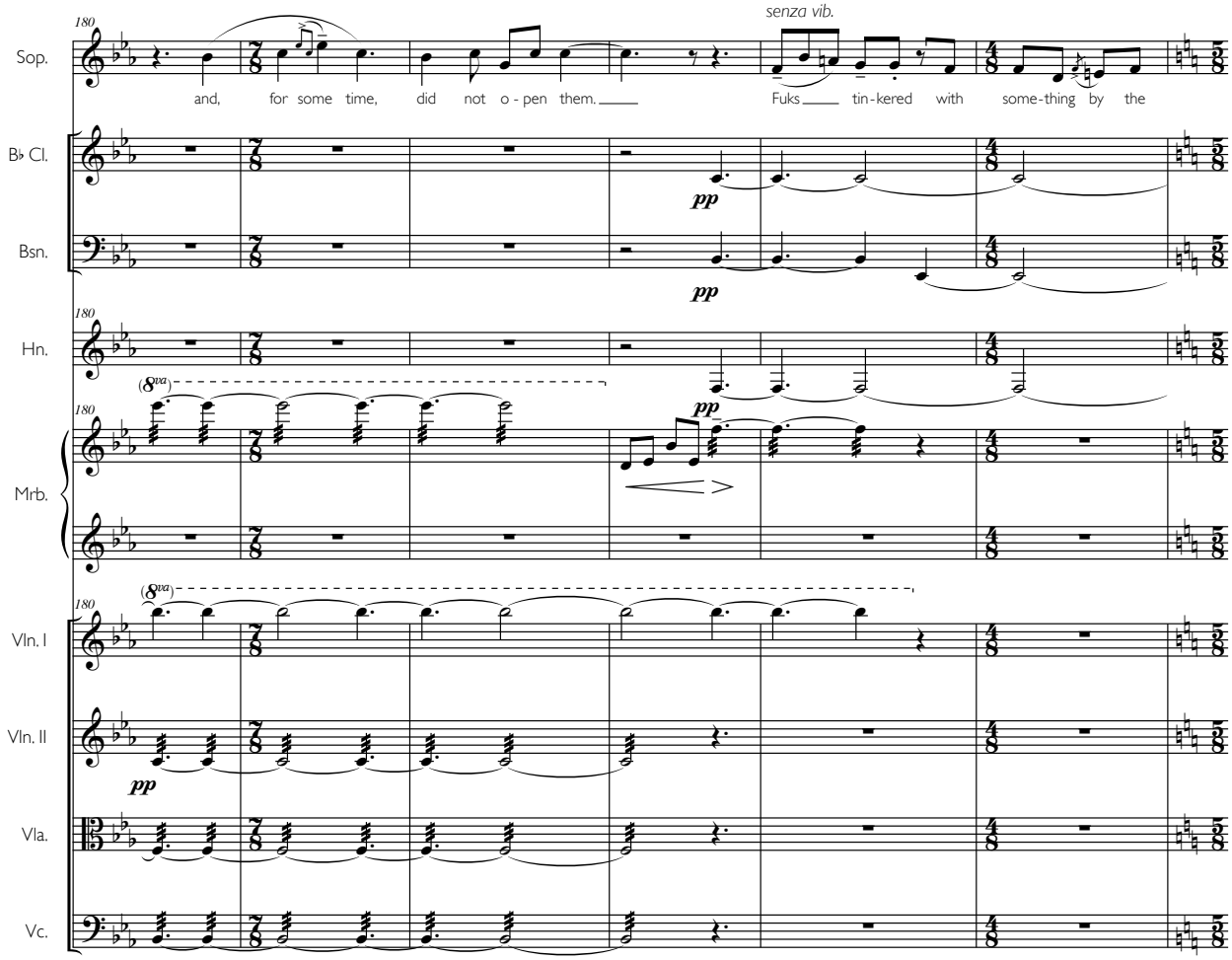

150
Sop.
mp norm.
Fuks slouched with his fin - ger at his lips. A - bi - gail whis - pered some - thing in - to her
Fl.
ppp
Ob.
ppp
B♭ Cl.
p
Bsn.
p
Hn.
ppp
p
Mrb.
(8va)
Vln. I
ppp
Vln. II
ppp
Vla.
ppp
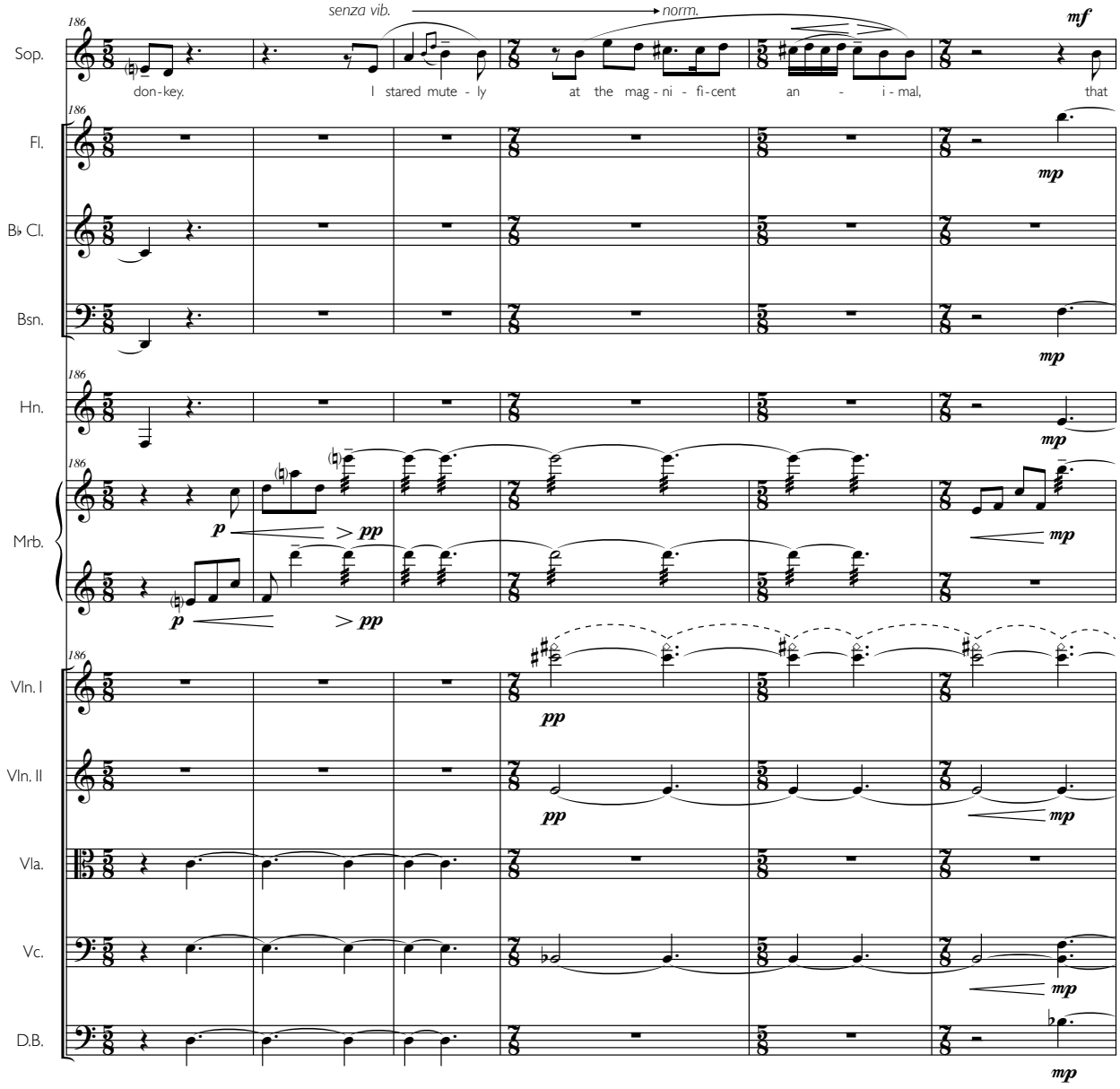

H
limited vib., slightly breathy
Sop.
hands.
In those pla - - - ces, it was as if there were no sun - rise.
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
con sord.
Vln. I
sul tasto
Vln. II
Vla.
a normale
Vc.
D.B.
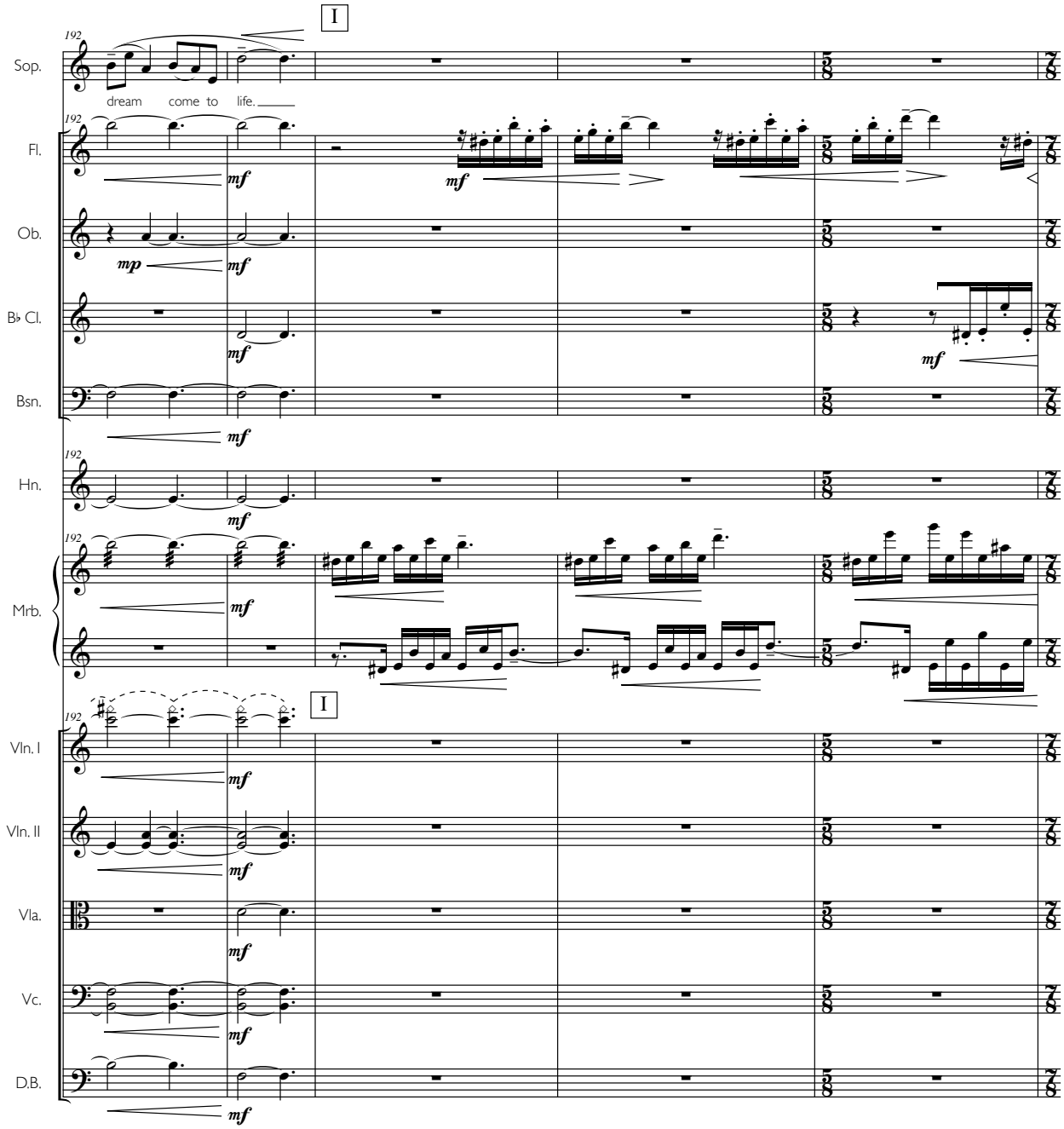

Sop.
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Mrb.
Vln. I
D.B.
162
norm.
senza vib.
Quite the op - po - site, the dark - ness thick - ened.
Si - lent - ly, we wait - ed.
pp
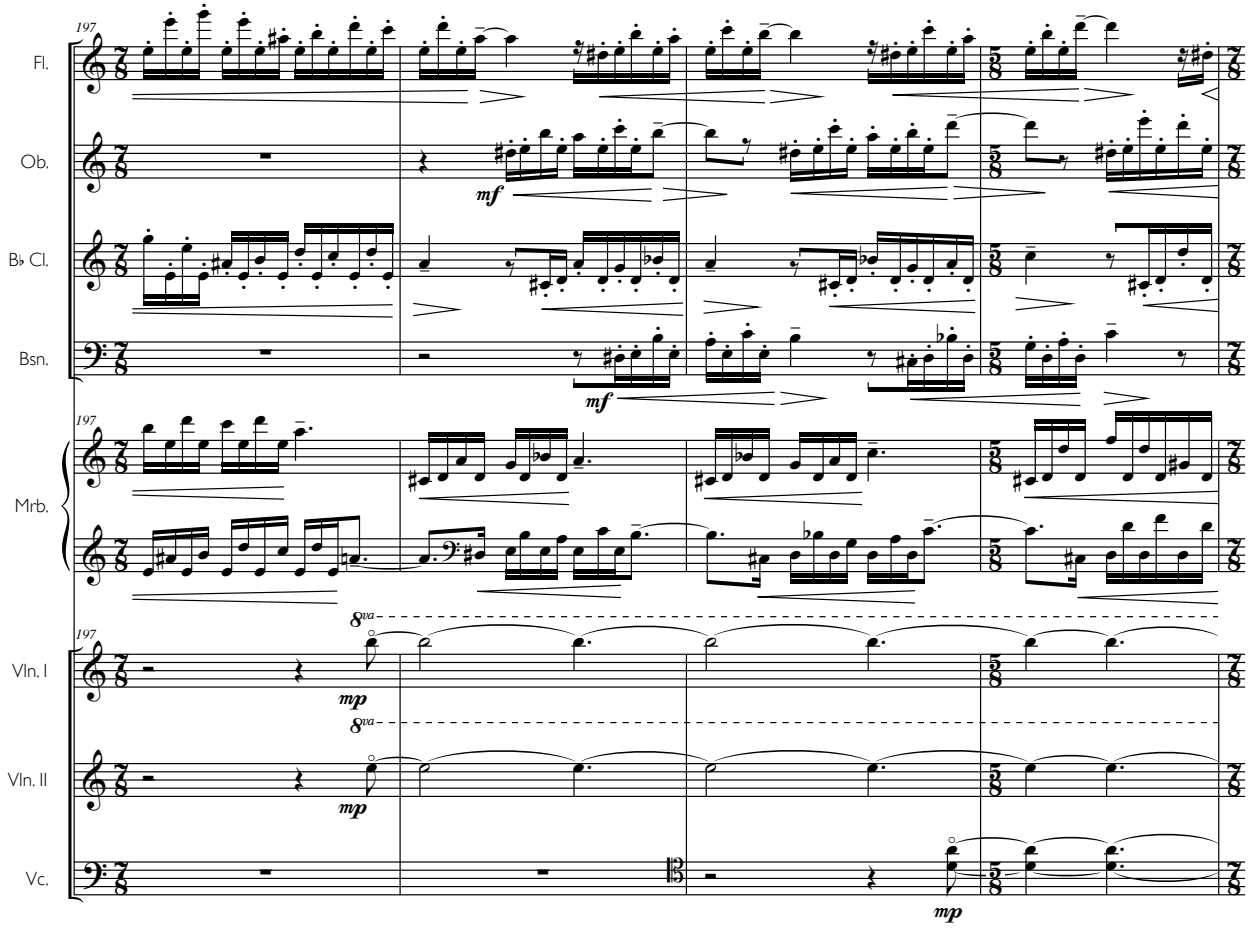

168
p
senza vib.
norm.
mf
Sop.
And fi - nal-ly, from the dis - tance, a u - ni - corn was ap - proach - ing.
B♭ Cl.
pp
Hn.
senza sord.
Mrb.
a normale
8va
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
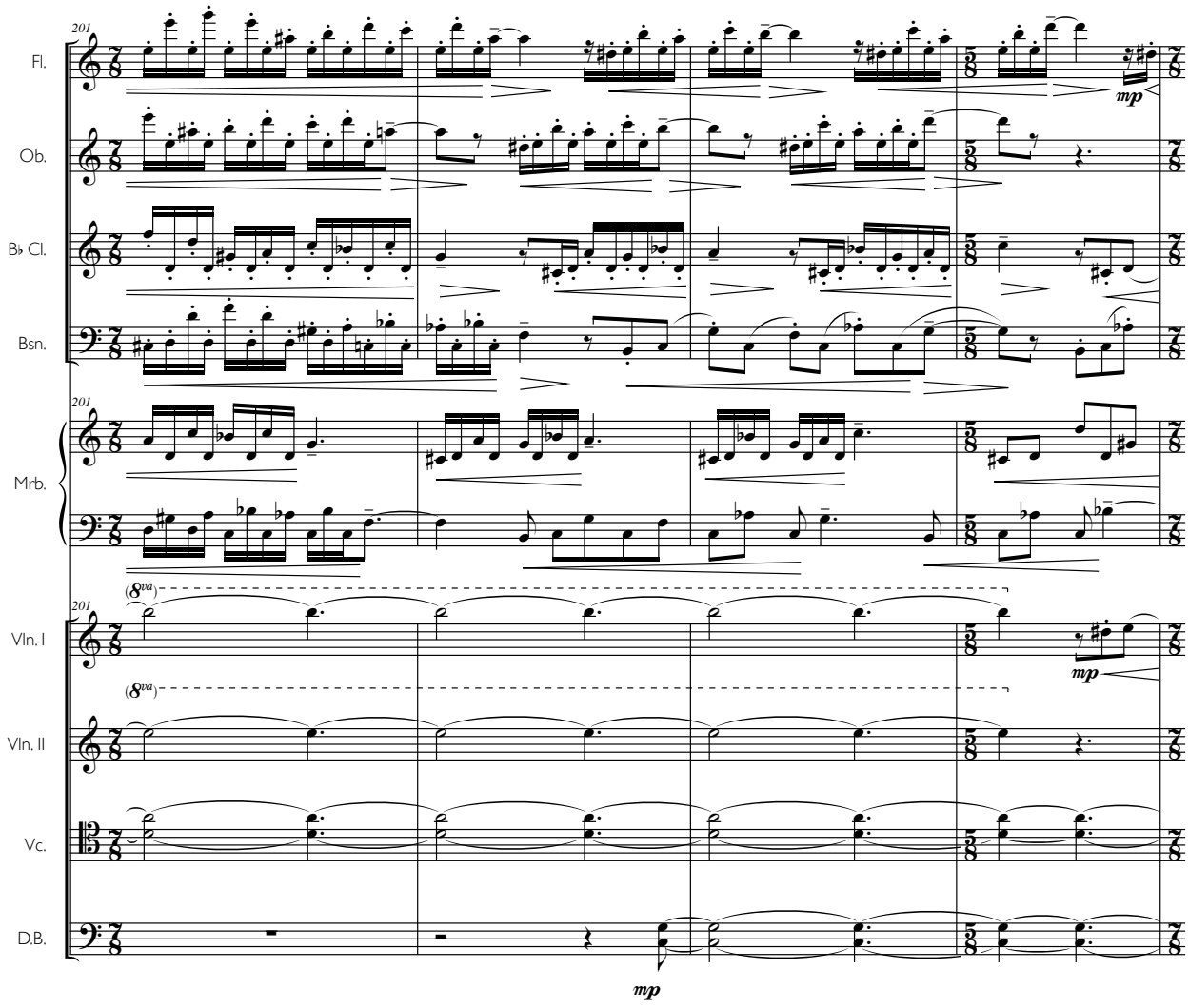

174
Sop.
p norm.
A - bi - gail closed her eyes
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Mrb.
8va
pp
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
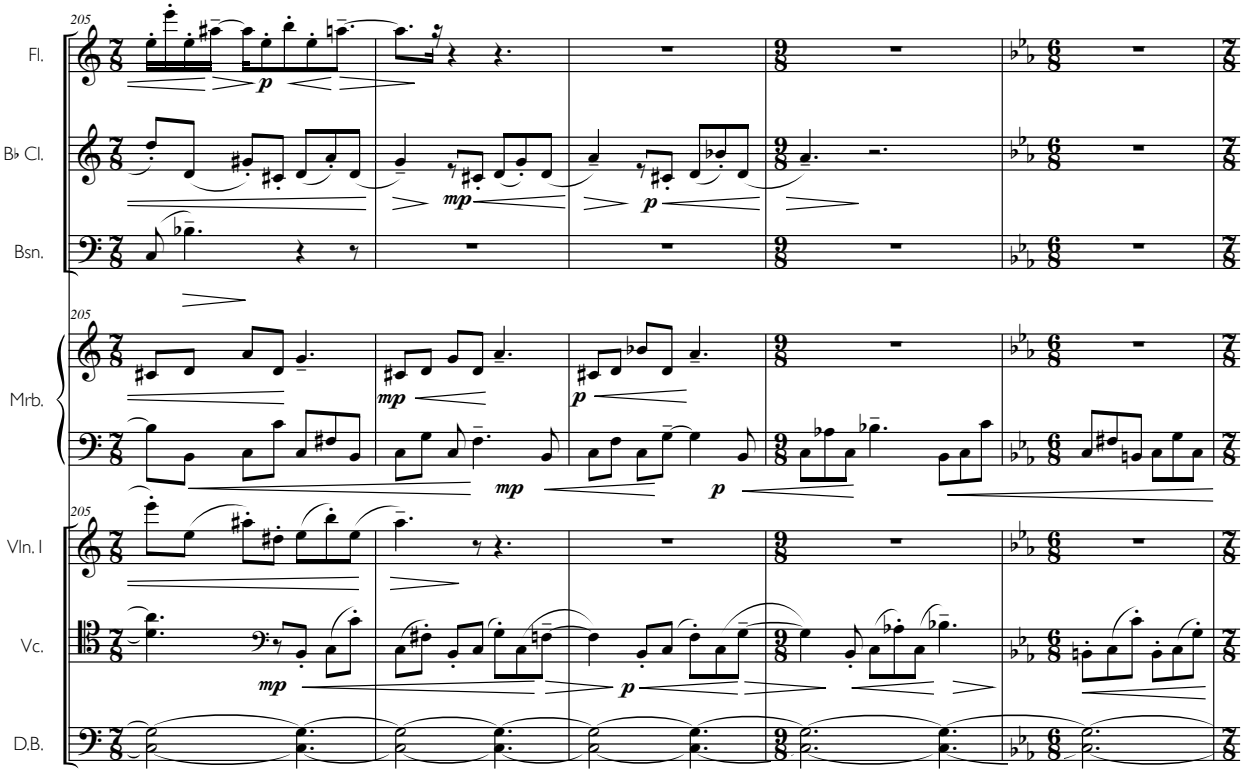

180
Sop.
senza vib.
and, for some time, did not o - pen them. Fuks tin - kered with some - thing by the
B♭ Cl.
pp
Bsn.
pp
180
Hn.
pp
180
Mrb.
(8va)
180
Vln. I
(8va)
Vln. II
pp
Vla.
Vc.
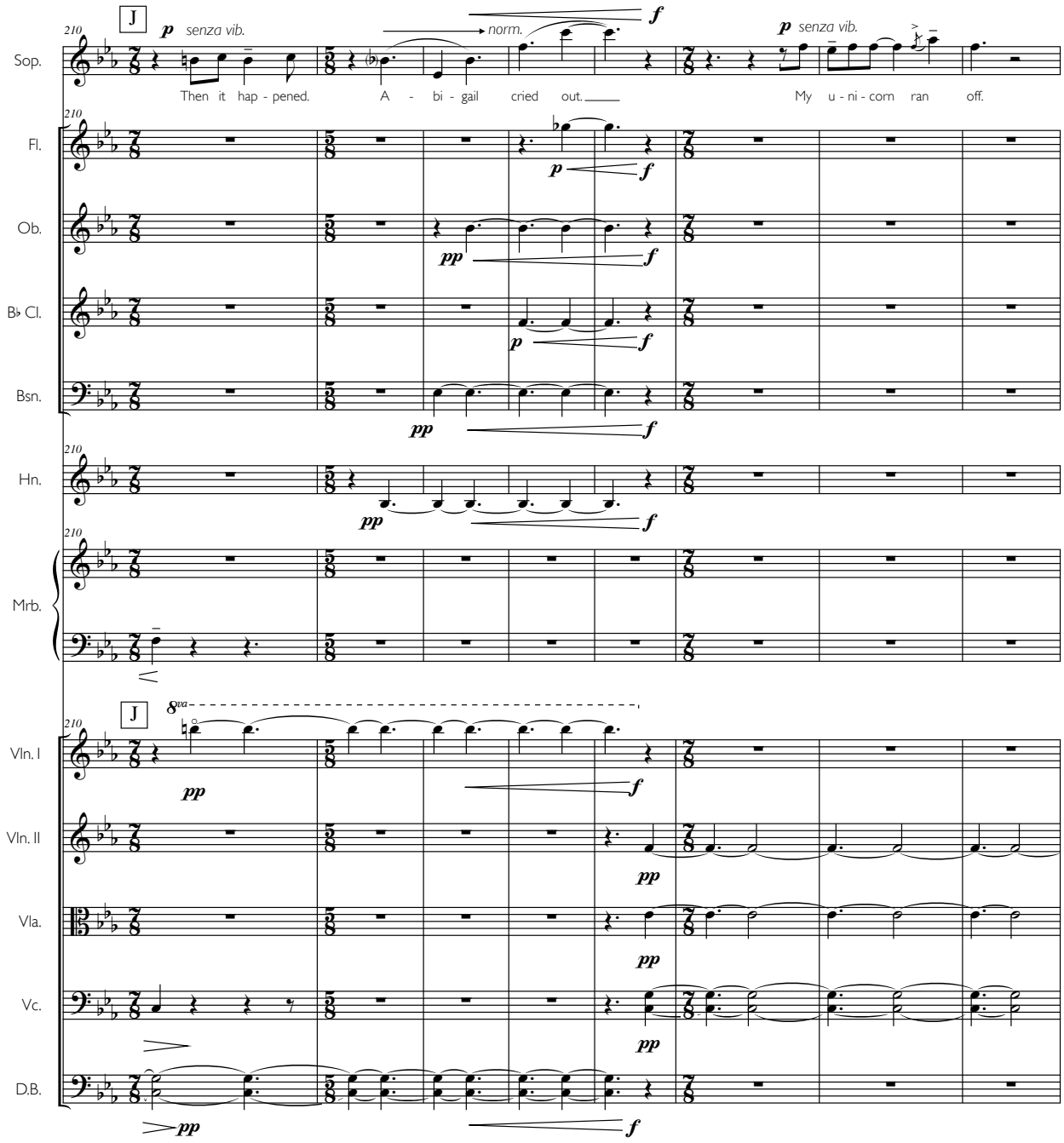

186
Sop.
senza vib.
norm.
mf
don-key.
I stared mute - ly
at the mag - ni - fi-cent
an - i - mal,
that
Fl.
mp
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
mp
Hn.
mp
Mrb.
p
> pp
mp
Vln. I
pp
Vln. II
pp
mp
Vla.
Vc.
mp
D.B.
mp
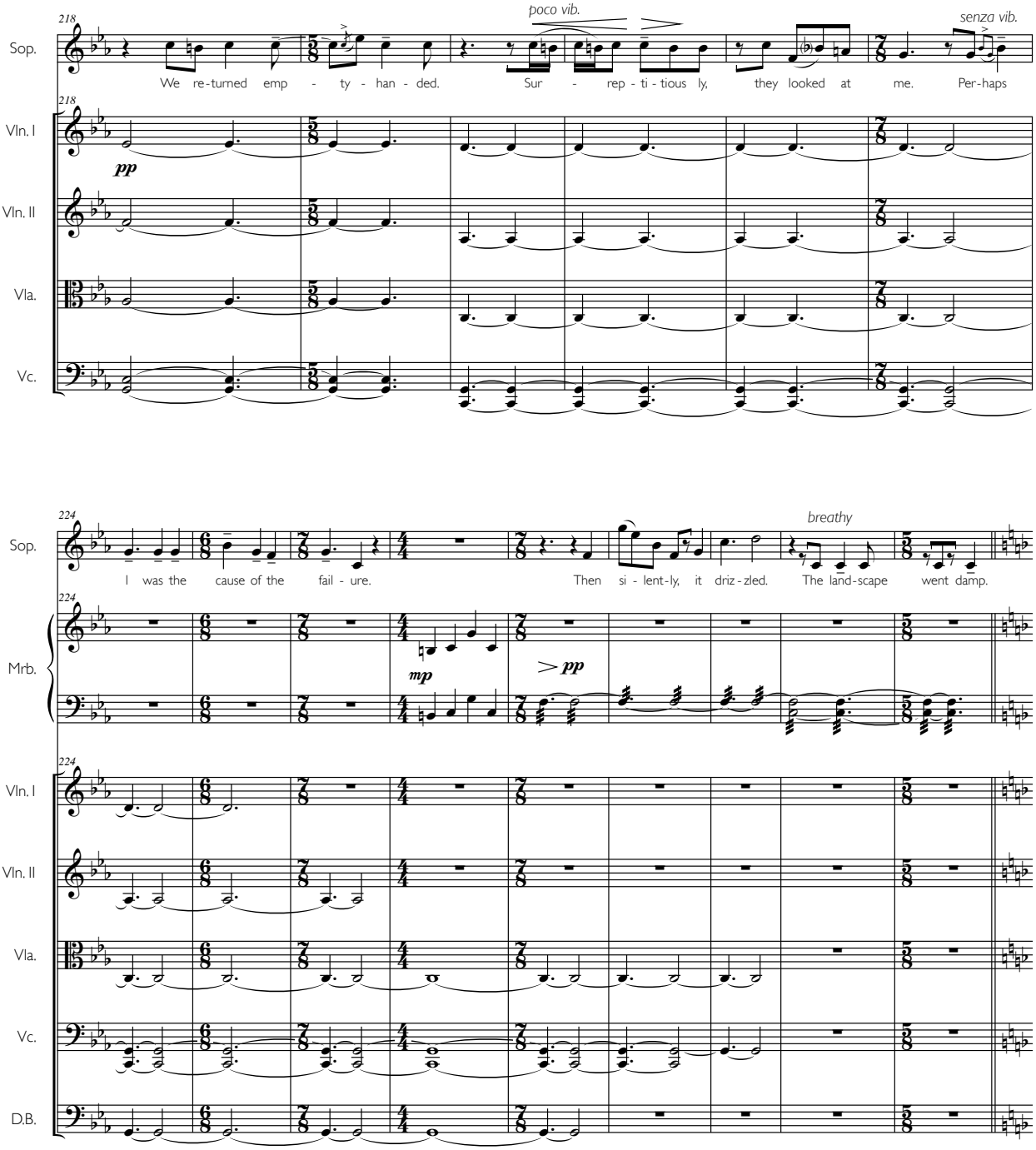

I
192
Sop.
dream come to life.
Fl.
mf
mp
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Mrb.
I
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.


197
Fl.
Ob.
mf
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
mf
197
Mrb.
197
8va
Vln. I
mp
8va
Vln. II
mp
Vc.
mp
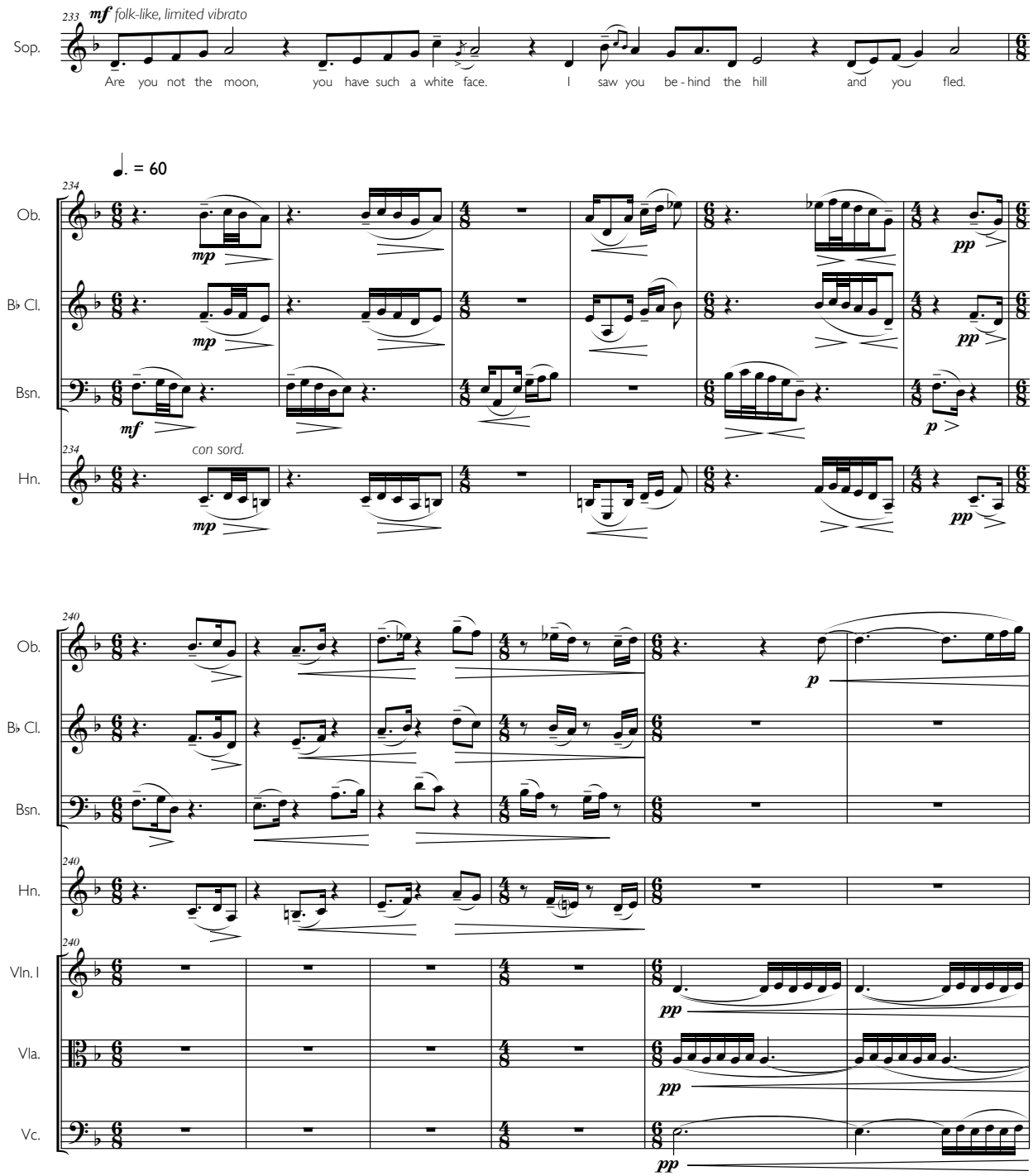

201
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Mrb.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vc.
D.B.
mp
(8va)
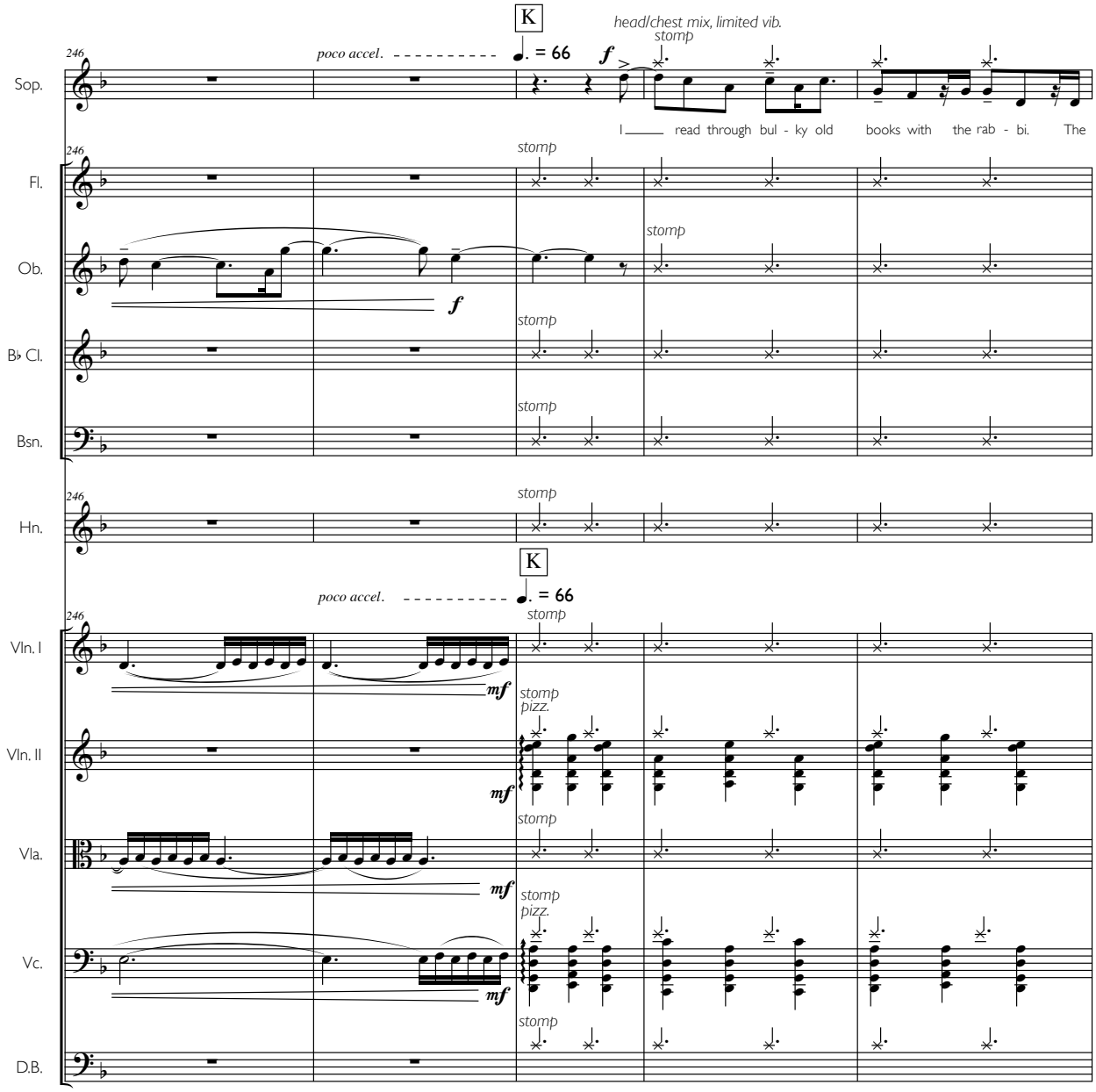

205
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Mrb.
Vln. I
Vc.
D.B.
p
mp
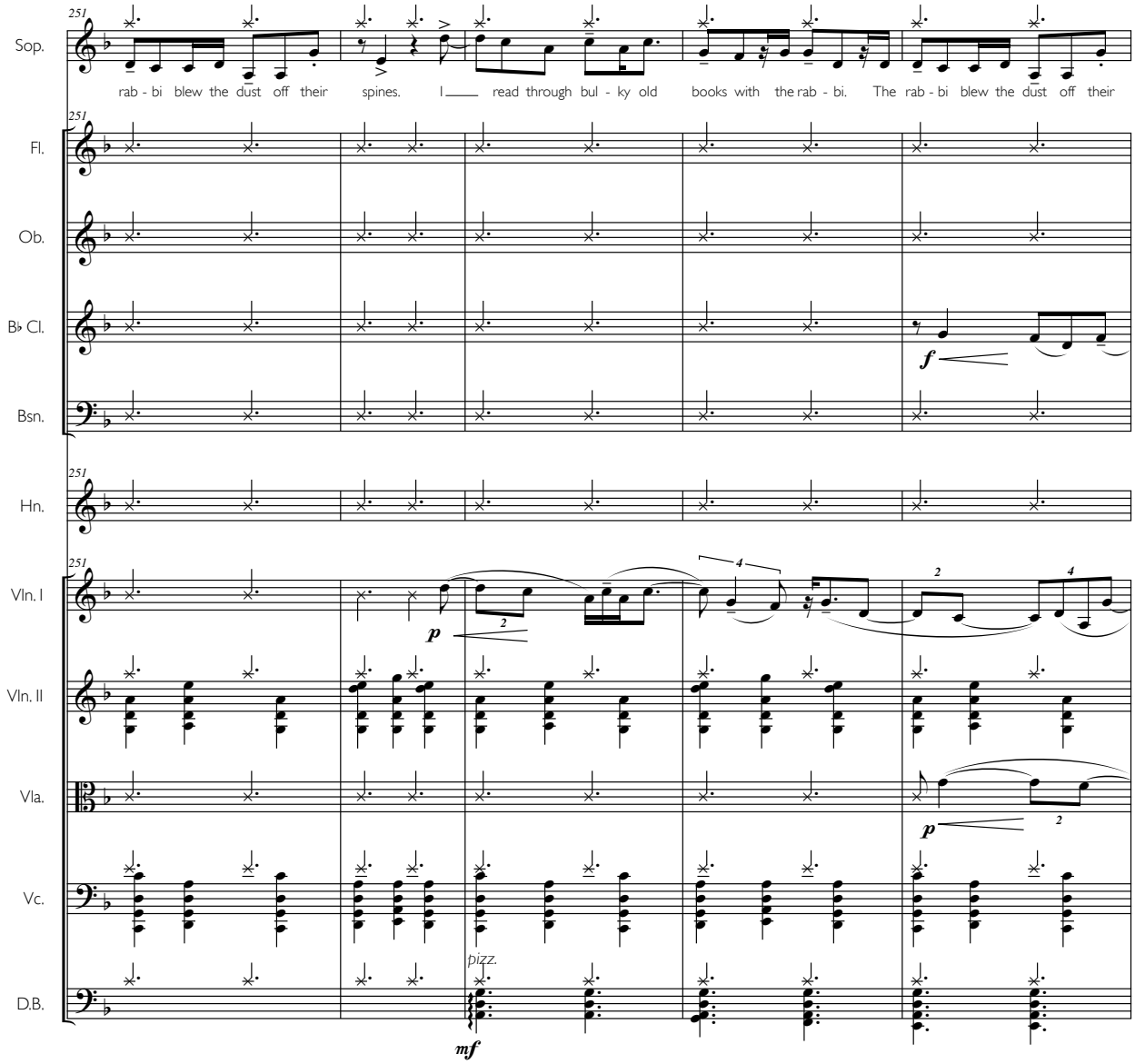

J
p senza vib.
norm.
f
p senza vib.
Then it hap - pened. A - bi - gail cried out. My u - ni - corn ran off.
Sop.
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Mrb.
J
8va
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
pp
f
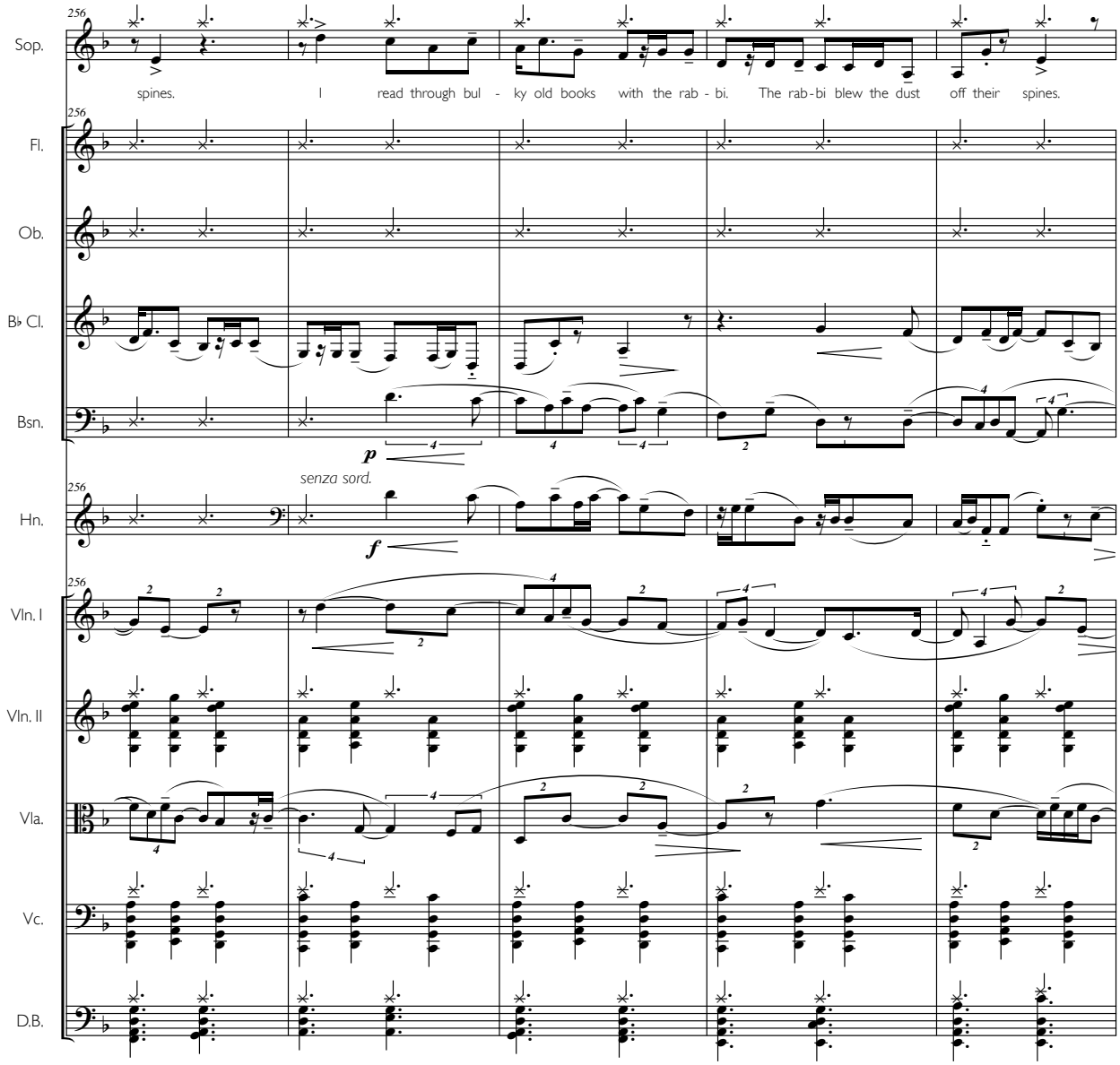

218
Sop.
poco vib.
senza vib.
We re-turned emp - ty - han - ded. Sur - rep - ti - tious ly, they looked at me. Per-haps
Vln. I
pp
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
224
Sop.
breathy
I was the cause of the fail - ure. Then si - lent-ly, it driz-zled. The land-scape went damp.
Mrb.
mp
pp
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
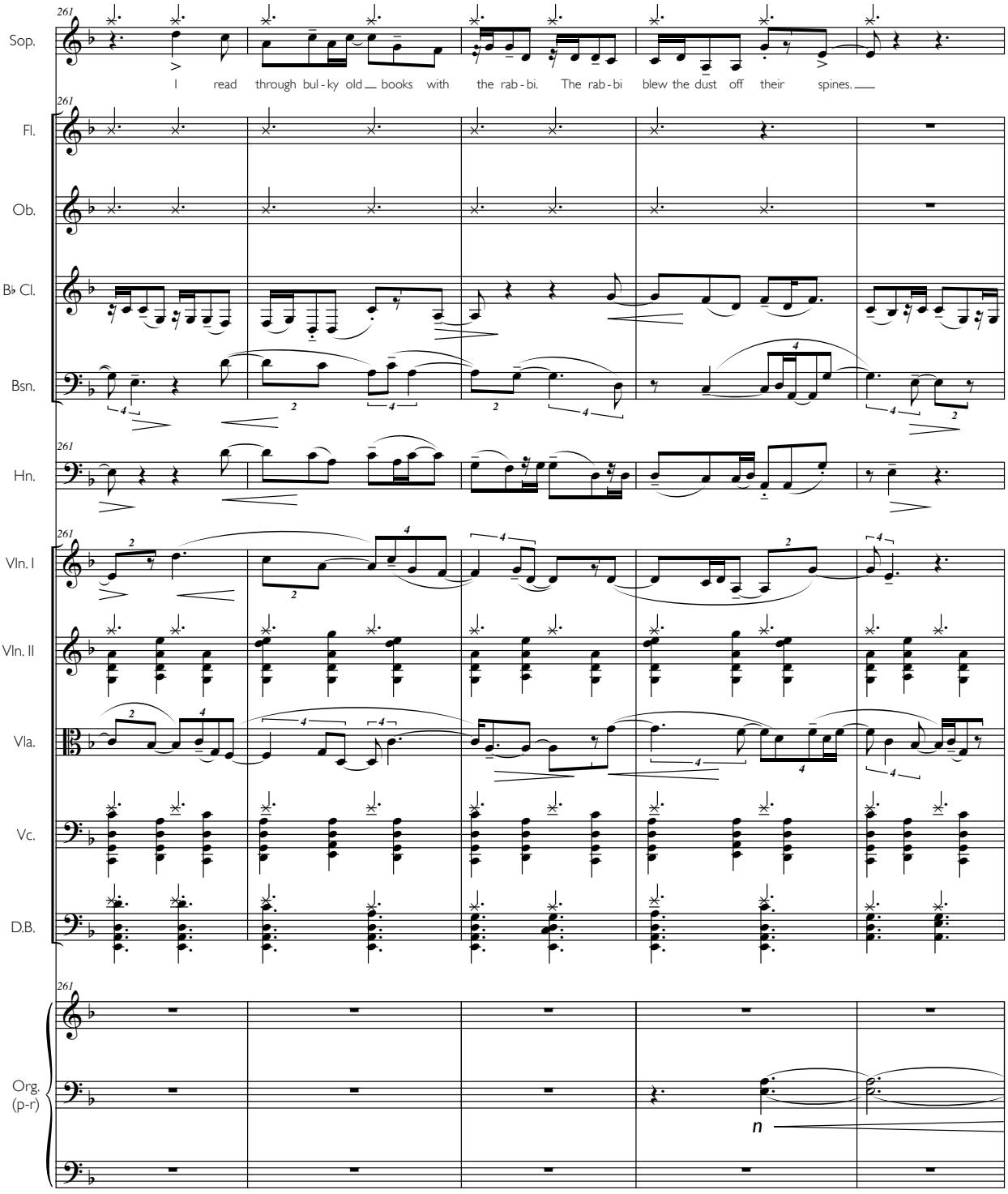
October 23rd
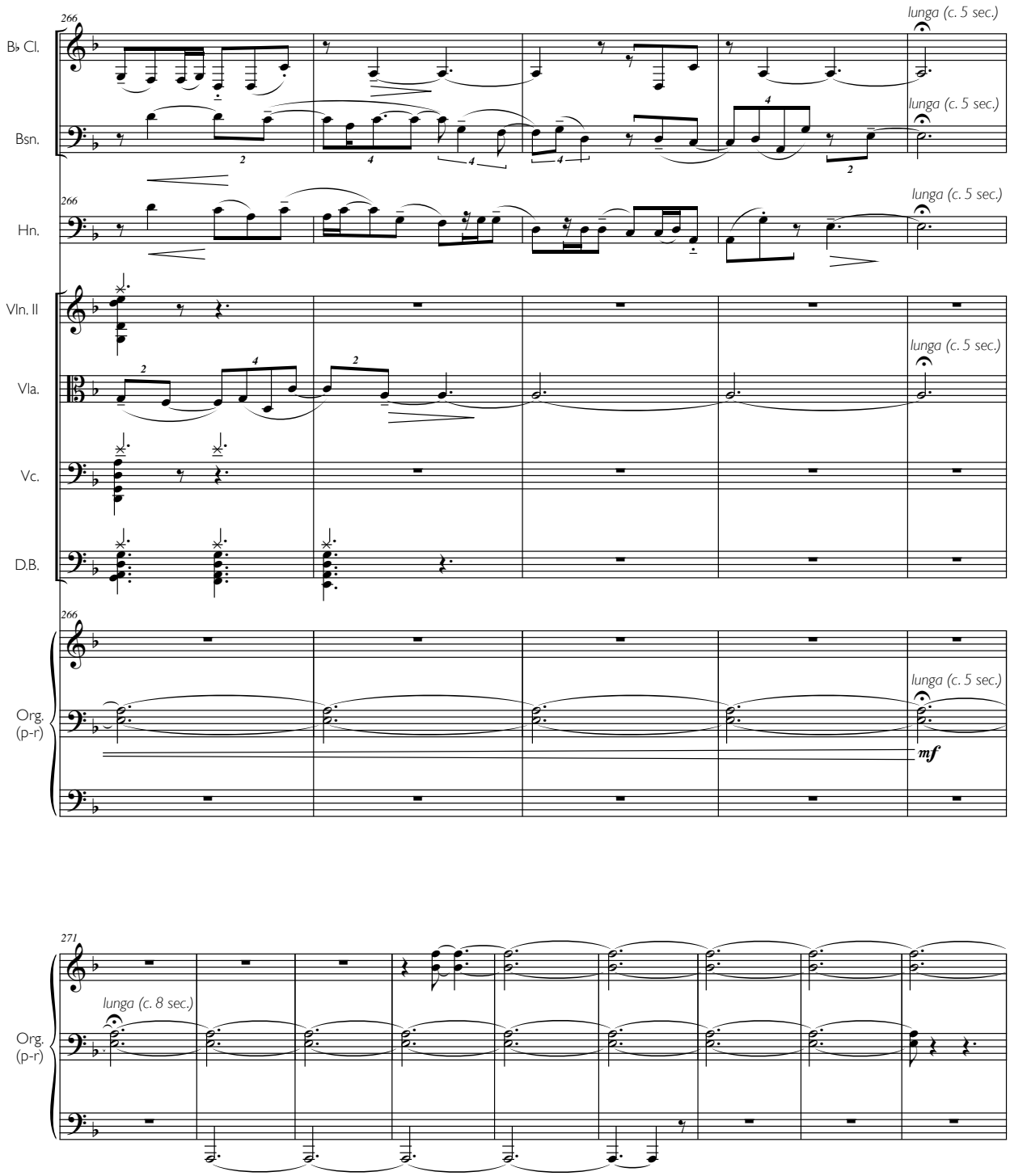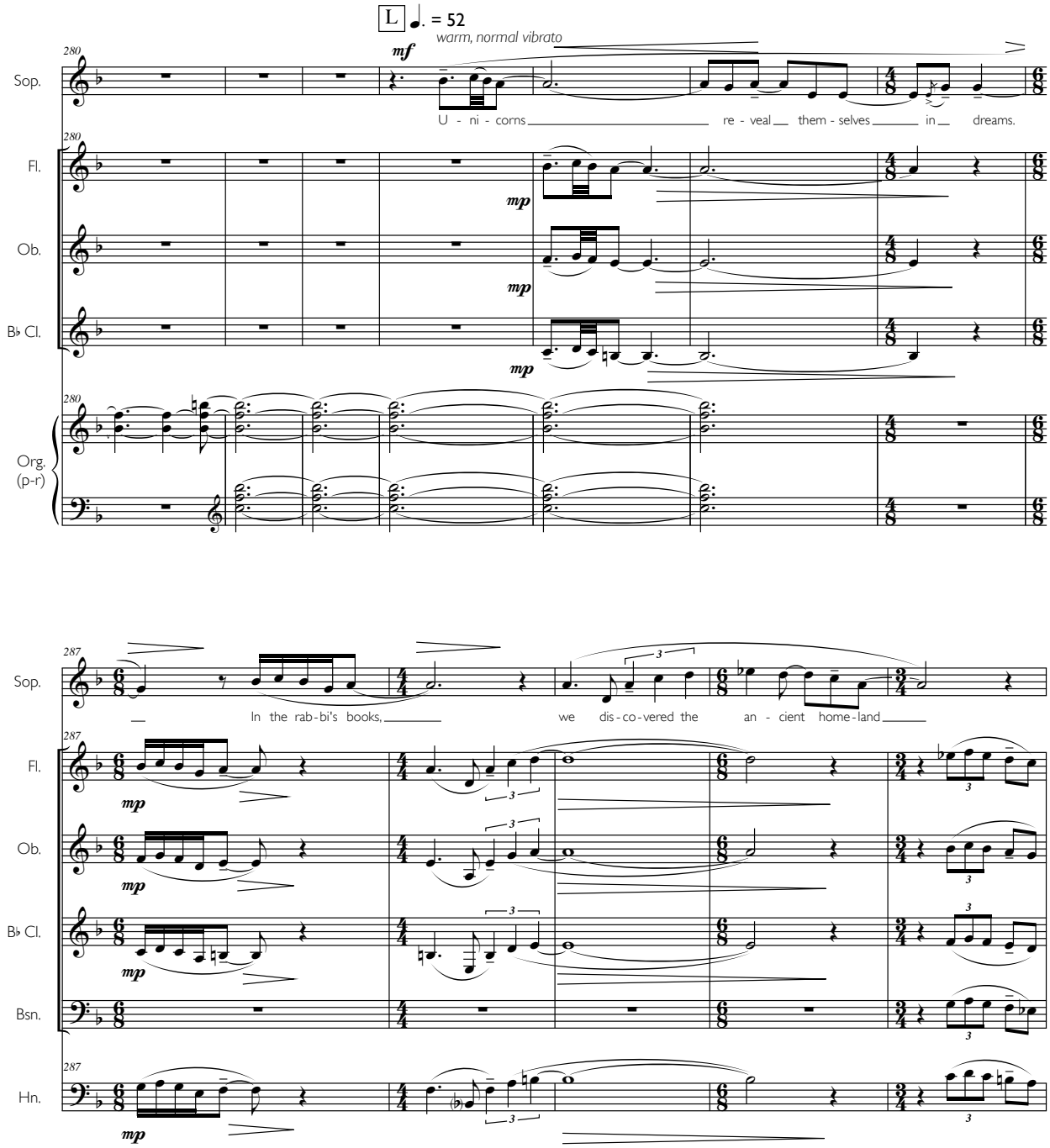



K
poco accel.
♩. = 66
head/chest mix, limited vib.
stomp
Sop.
I read through bul - ky old books with the rab - bi. The
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
stomp
pizz.
246
f
mf
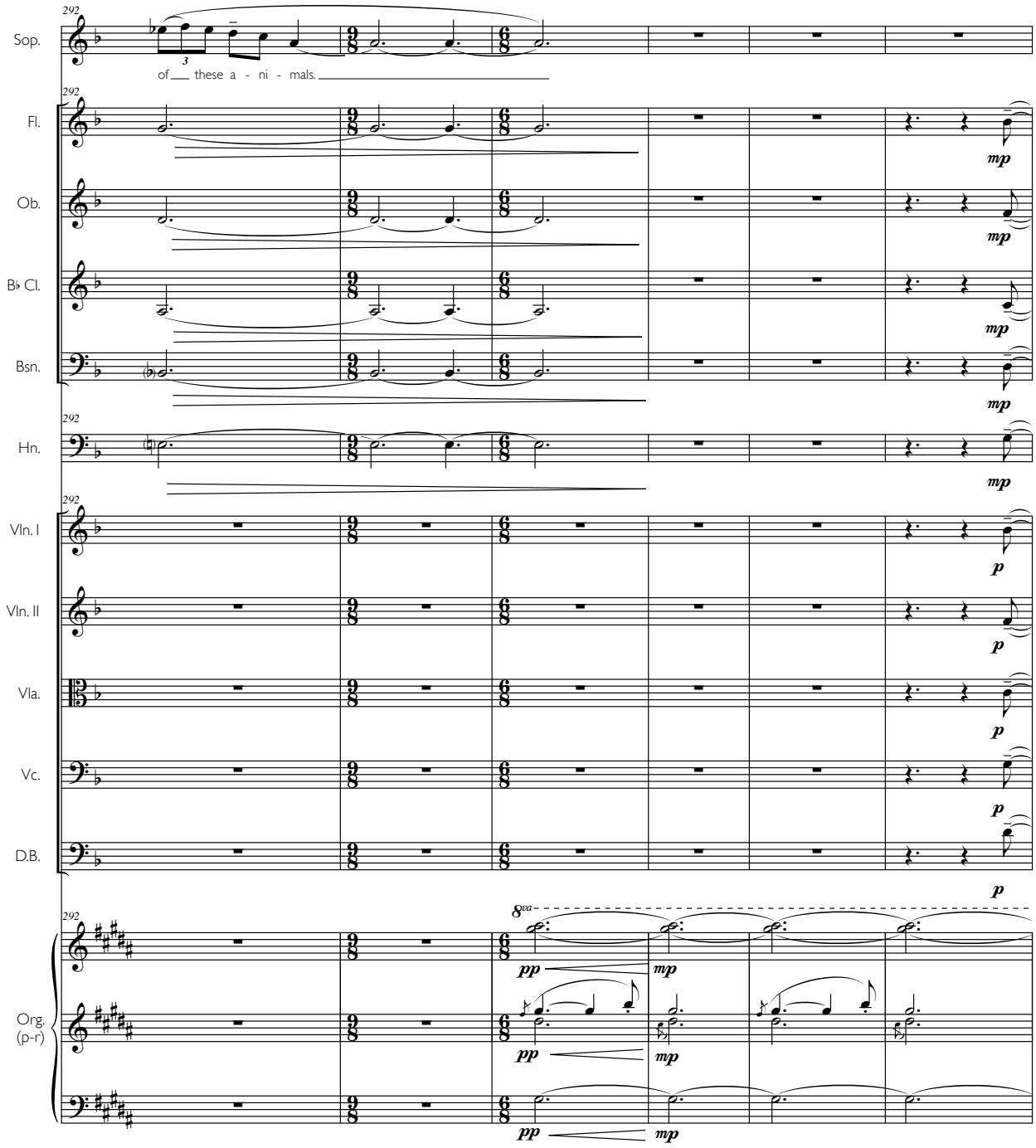

251
Sop.
rab - bi blew the dust off their spines. I read through bul - ky old books with the rab - bi. The rab - bi blew the dust off their
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
f
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. I
p
Vln. II
Vla.
p
Vc.
pizz.
D.B.
mf
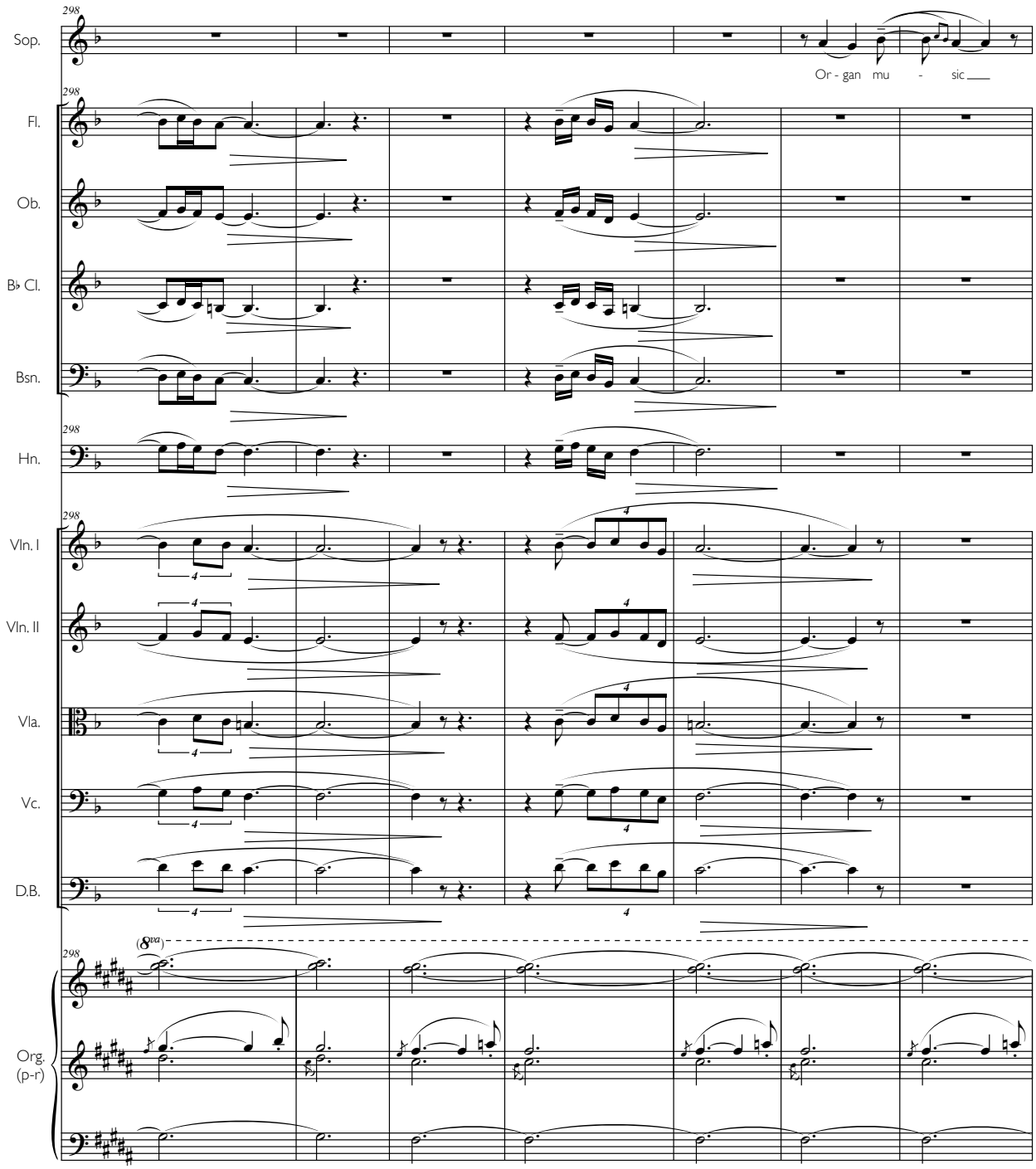

Sop.
spines. I read through bul - ky old books with the rab - bi. The rab-bi blew the dust off their spines.
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
p
senza sord.
Hn.
f
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
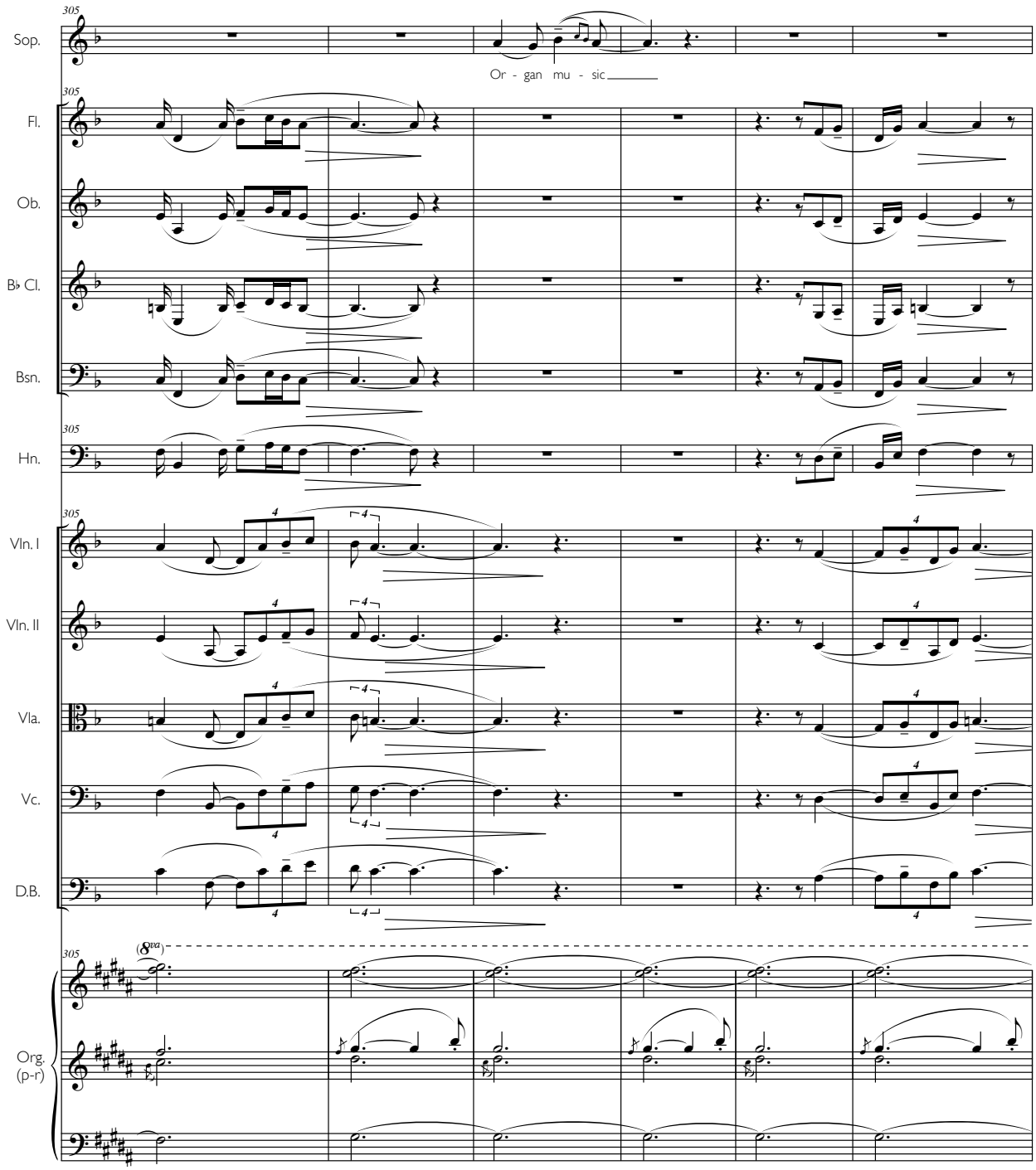

261
Sop.
I read through bul - ky old books with the rab - bi. The rab - bi blew the dust off their spines.
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
Org. (p-r)
n
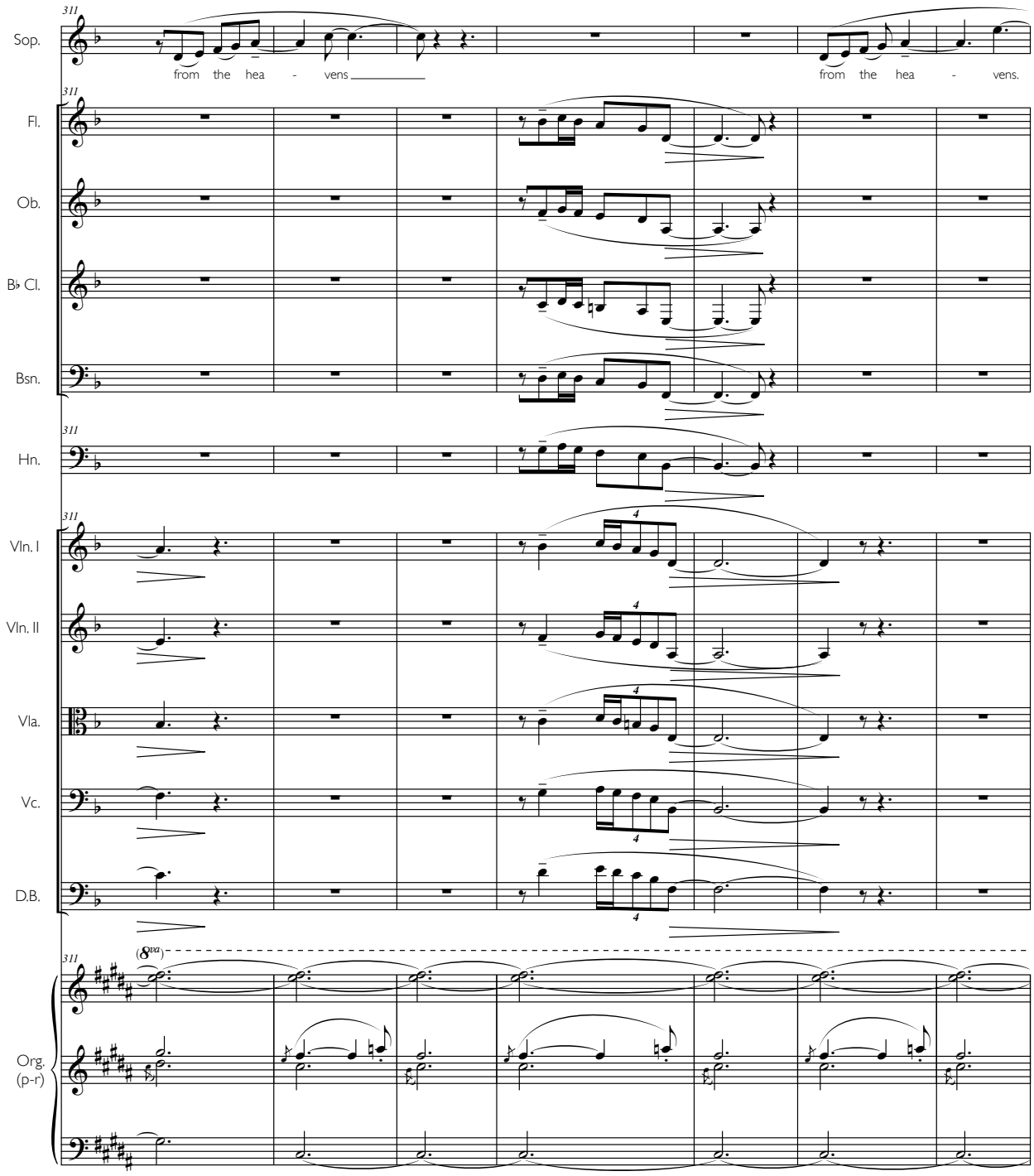

266
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
Org. (p-r)
lunga (c. 5 sec.)
mf
271
lunga (c. 8 sec.)
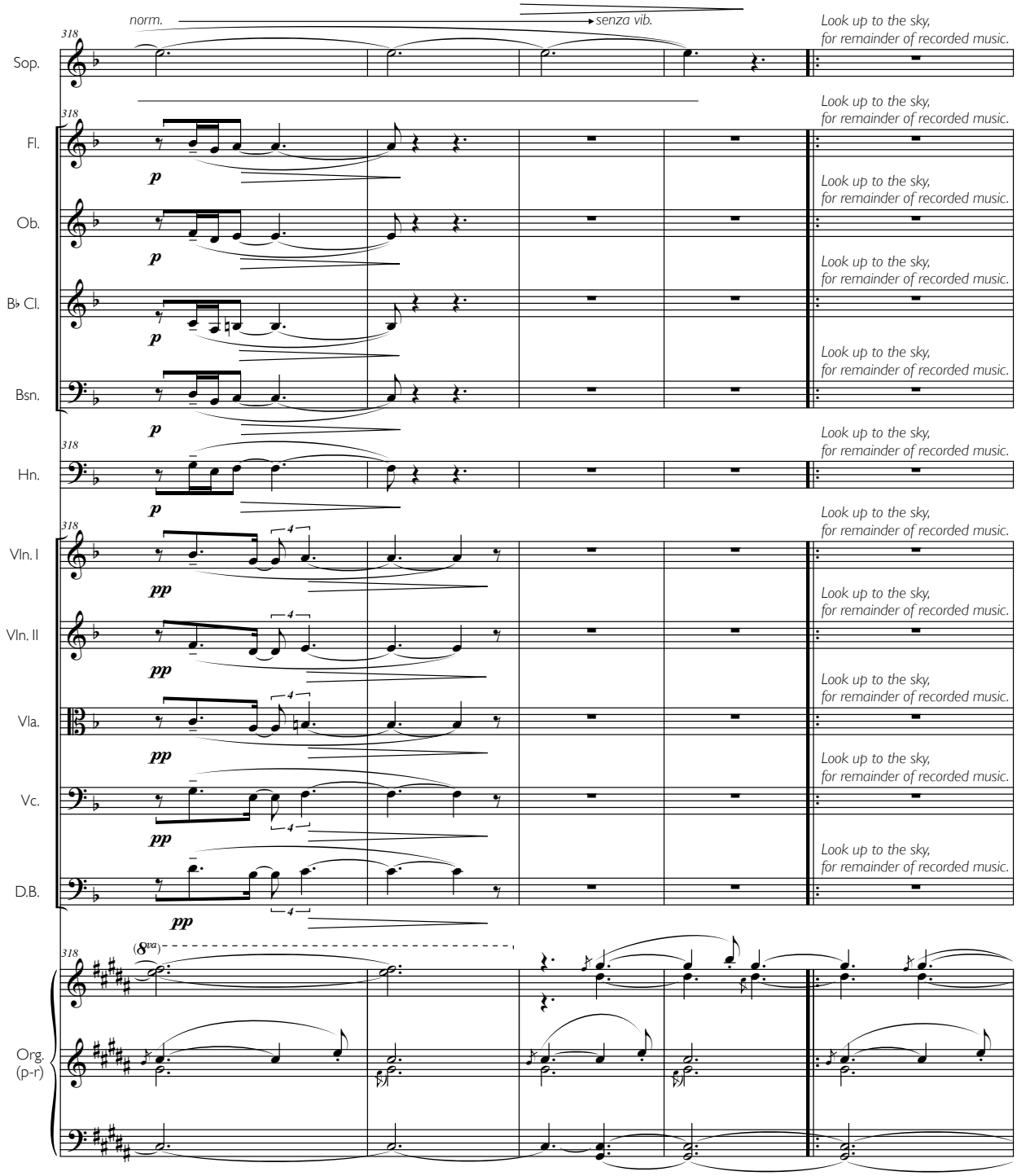

L ♩. = 52
warm, normal vibrato
mf
280
Sop.
U - ni - corns re - veal them - selves in dreams.
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Org. (p-r)
mp
287
In the rab-bi's books, we dis-co-vered the an - cient home-land
Bsn.
Hn.


292
Sop.
of these a - ni - mals.
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
Org. (p-r)
mp
p
pp
8va

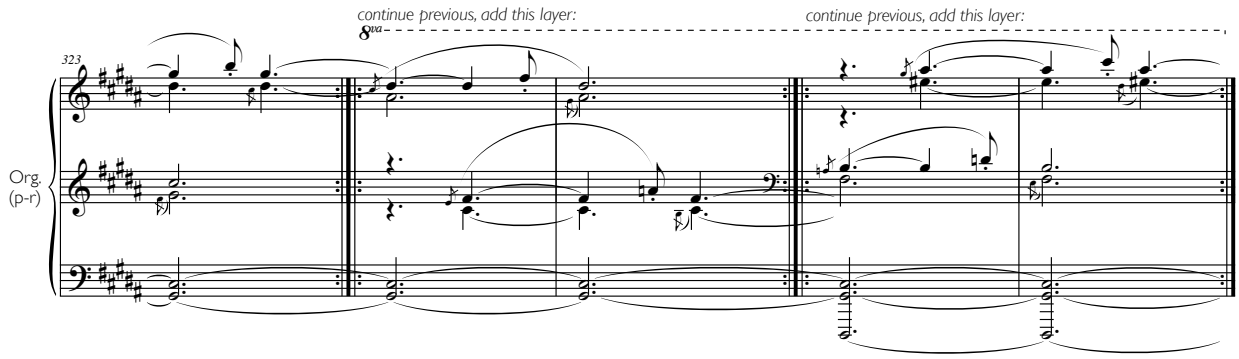

298
Sop.
Or - gan mu - sic
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
(8va)
Org.
(p-r)


305
Sop.
Or - gan mu - sic
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
(8va)
Org.
(p-r)


311
Sop.
from the hea - vens
from the hea - vens.
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
(8va)
Org.
(p-r)


norm.
senza vib.
Look up to the sky, for remainder of recorded music.
318
Sop.
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
Org. (p-r)
p
pp
4
(8va)

October in Galicia



March 2009, Astoria, NY
Duration: ca. 13 min.