“O Zomer!”

Cassandra Miller
for the Asko Ensemble
2007

Performance Notes

Preparation:
The vibraphone and the crotales are to be prepared by taping a coin to each crotale and vibraphone bar used.

Scordatura: The individual parts are provided with tablature.
The cello strings are to be tuned down to the following pitches:
I – G; II – Bb; III stays as G; IV – Bb
The bass strings are to be tuned down to the following pitches:
I – Eb; II – C; III – Ab; IV – C

Tremolo Notation:
This piece uses tremolos which slow down and speed up, as notated above the staff.
Each instrument group should read the tremolos in a different way:

Vibraphone and Piano:
There are three basic tremolo speeds:
1. FASTEST – this denotes the fastest speed possible
2. MID – between "fastest" and "slow"
3. SLOW – not slower than ½ the speed of "fastest"

and there are other indications which appear rarely, being
EVEN FASTER – faster than "fastest" if at all possible
EVEN SLOWER – gradually slower than "slow"
4. SLOWEST – not slower than ½ the speed of "slow"

A deliberate attempt should be made to not make equal subdivisions of the beat. However, sudden changes, such as the change from "fastest" to "slow" must occur precisely on the beat as written.

At all times, both hands sound at the same time (not alternating.)

Bassoon: The speed of the tremolos is as that described above for the piano and vibraphone. The pitched tremolos and the articulated tremolos follow the same rules.

Strings:

The concept is basically the same as above, however the three speeds denote different bow speeds:

1. FASTEST – this denotes the fastest bow speed possible while using the ***entire length of the bow*** (as in flautando)
2. MID – between "fastest" and "slow"
3. SLOW – as slow as possible while still producing a warm resonant sound. This is not a tremolo at all, but rather a sustained pitch with as few bow changes as possible (this will be very much slower than the "slow" vibraphone or piano tremolos)

As above, a deliberate attempt should be made to not make equal subdivisions of the beat. However, sudden changes, such as the change from "fastest" to "slow" must occur precisely on the beat as written.

Noteheads:

Strings: square noteheads indicate that the left hand is placed loosely over the strings, so that no distinct pitch is heard.

At letter F:

Piano and strings – play the eight iterations of the tremolo as written, within the "tremolo speed" as indicated. For the piano, this means that the tremolo will sound as it would in the previous section, but that the first eight iterations contain the left hand pitches, while the right hand continues alone for the remainder of the bar. For the strings, this means that the tremolo will be played as it would in the previous section, but that only the first eight bow strokes contain pitch, where the remainder of the bar is played with the left hand placed loosely over the strings.

TOON TELLEGEN

In het begin was er tumult.
Iemand riep om stilte,
om ijver
en om liefde toen.

Een man stond op en zei:
“Hoe kan ik ooit duidelijk maken dat ik u eigenlijk,
eigenlijk . . . ”
“Wat?” riepen de mensen om hem heen. “Wat?”
“ . . . niet veracht?”

en die man kuste kinderen die uit de hemel vielen,
vrouwen die langs stroomden in trage modderstromen,
moeders in hun glinsterende cocons,

en onder de mensen barstte de eenzaamheid los,
als onweer in de zomer.
O zomer!

© 2001, Toon Tellegen
From: *Gedichten 1977-1999*
Publisher: Querido, Amsterdam, 2001

In the beginning there was tumult.
Someone called for silence,
for diligence
and then for love.

A man stood up and said:
“How can I ever make it clear that I really,
really . . . ”
“What?” the people around him cried. “What?”
“ . . . do not despise you?”

and that man kissed children falling from the sky,
women flowing past in slow muddy streams,
mothers in their glistening cocoons,

and among the people loneliness erupted,
like thunder in summer.
O summer!

© Translation: 2005, Judith Wilkinson
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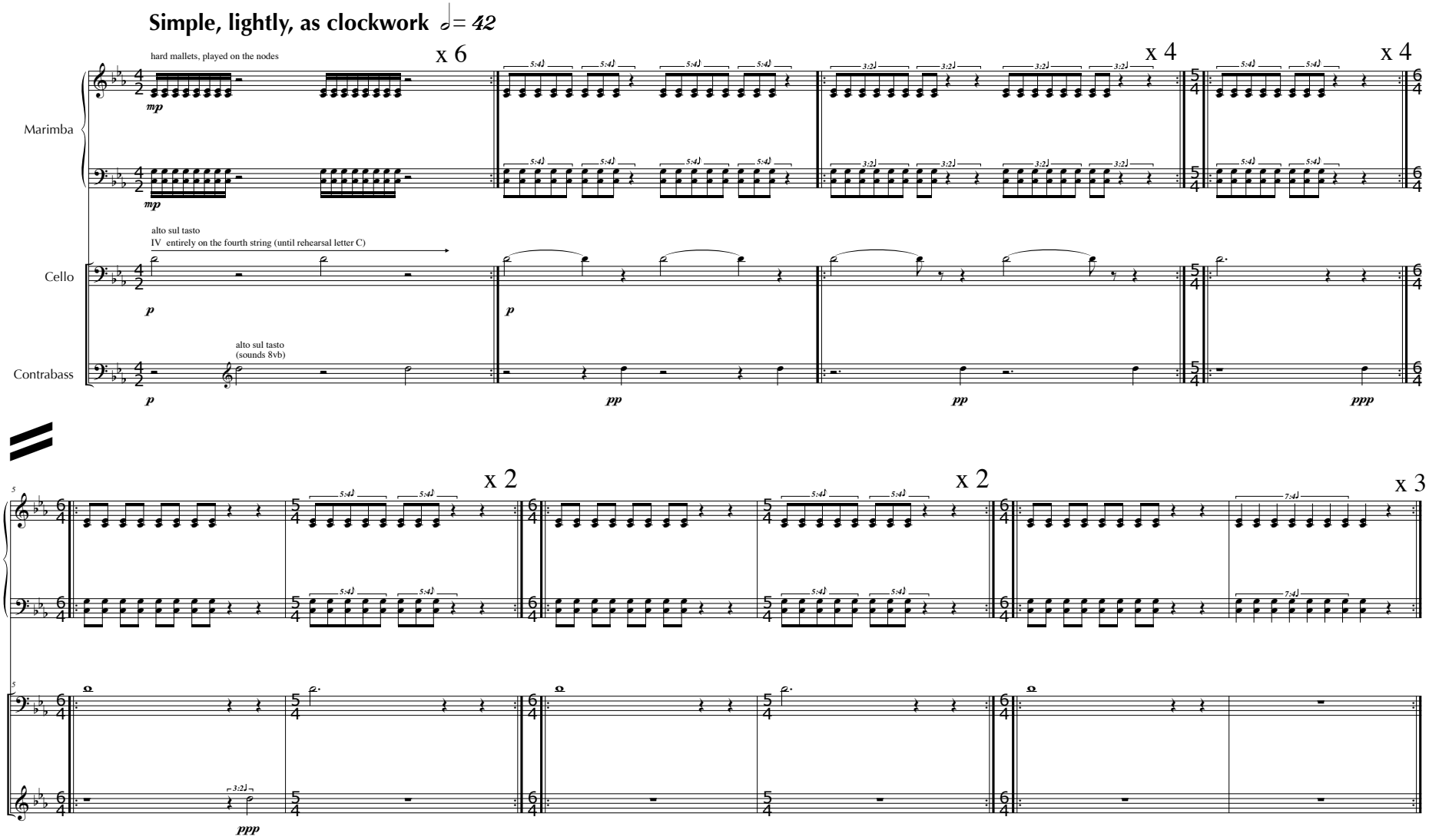
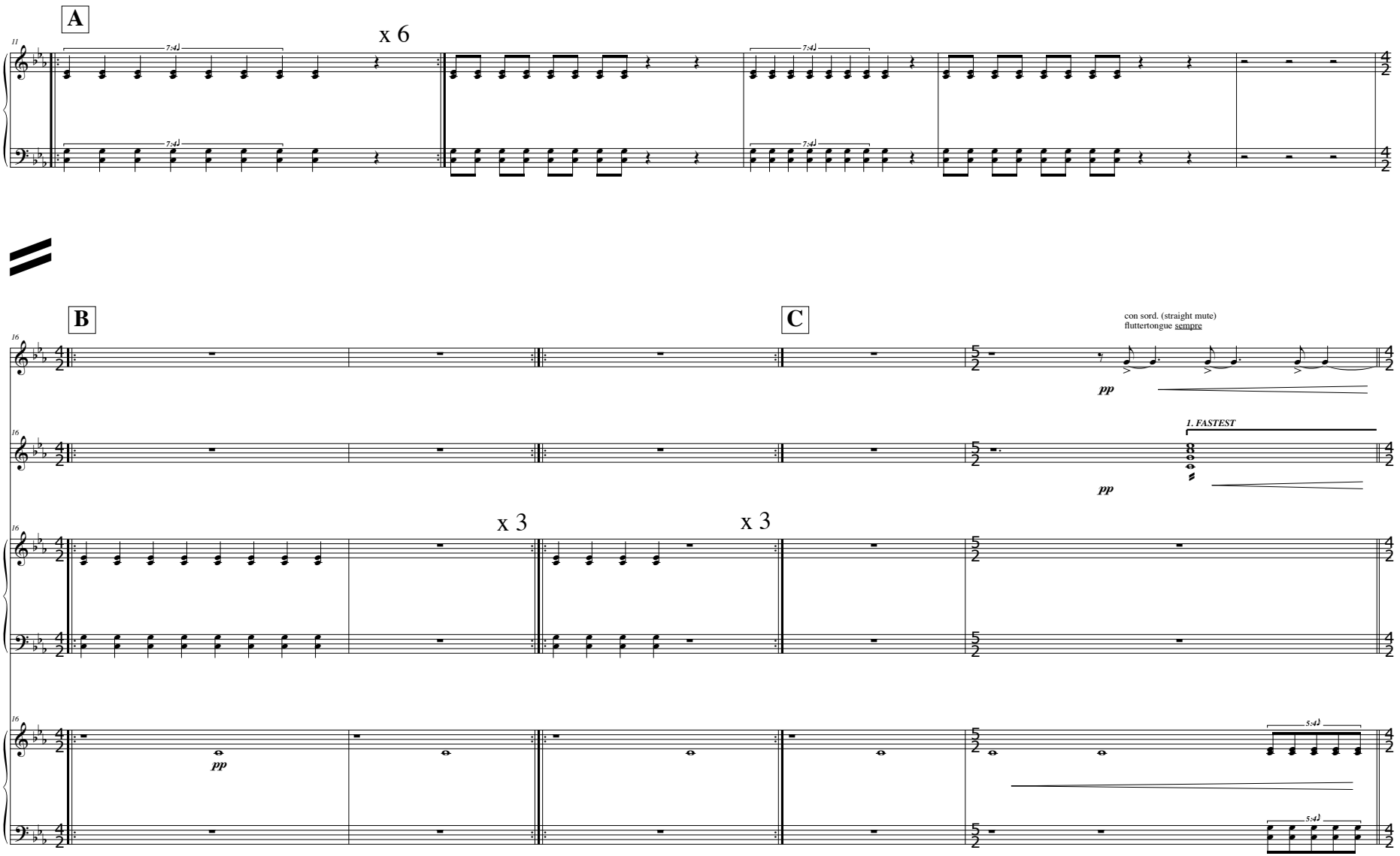
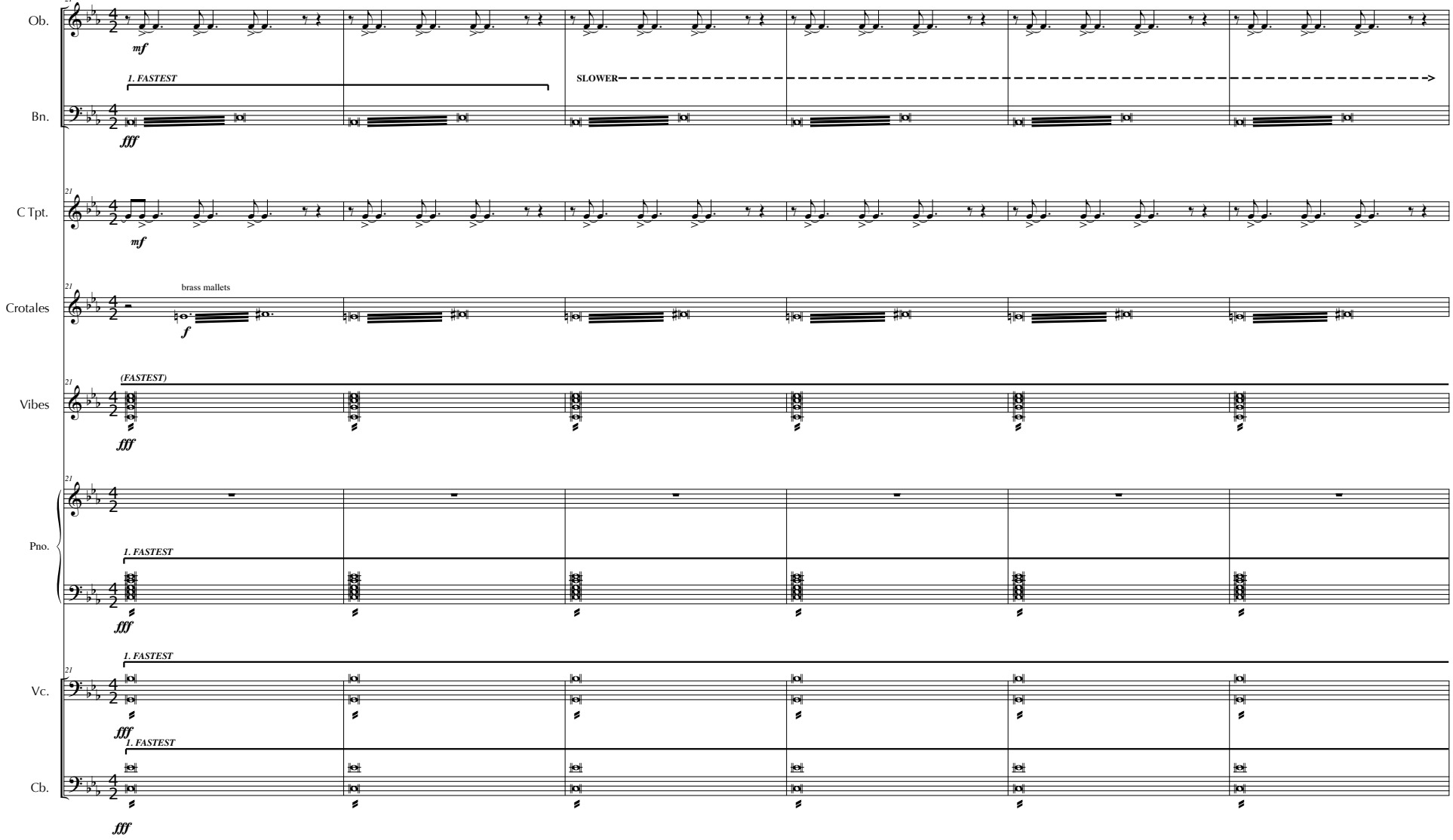
O Zomer!

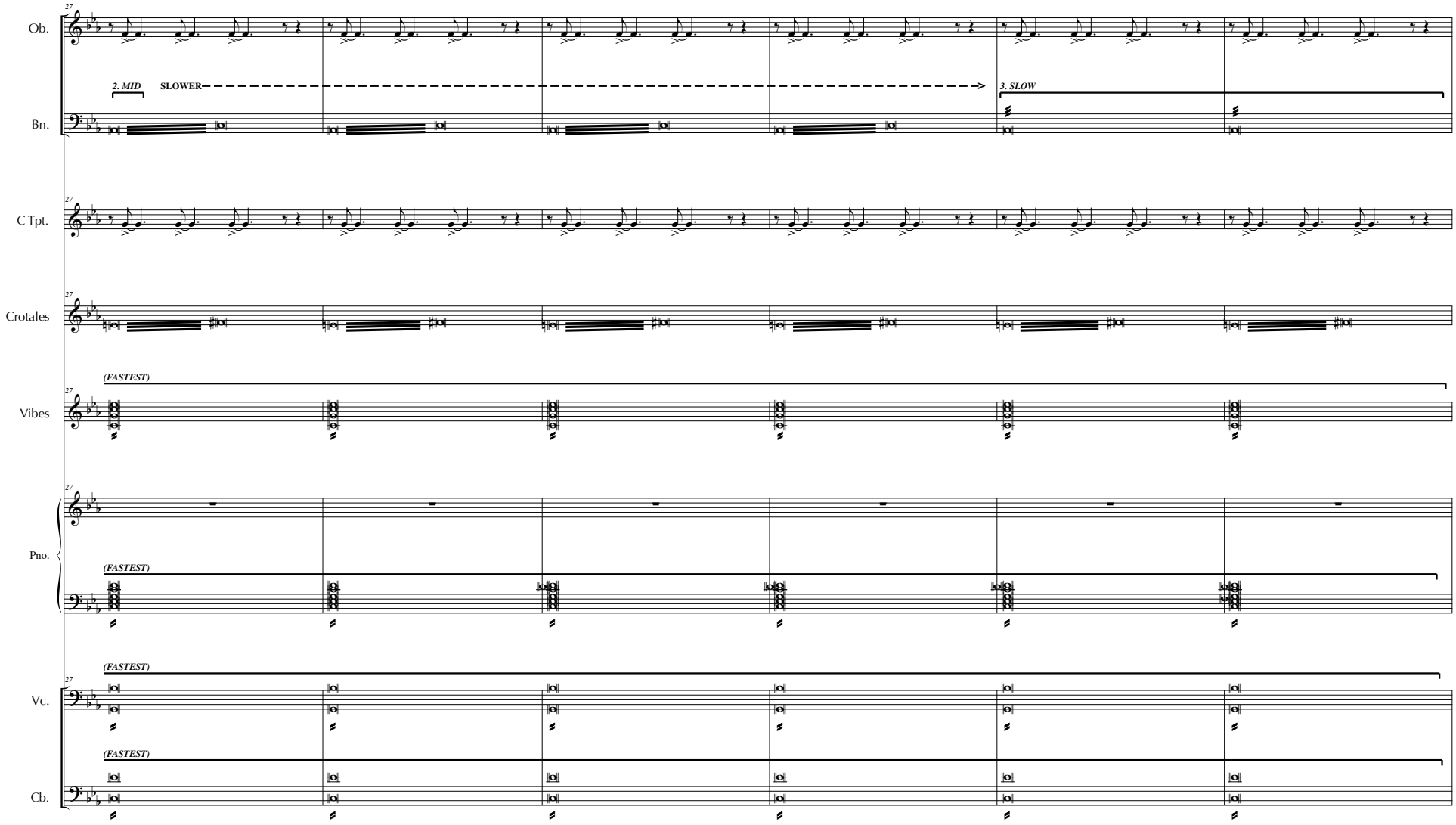
Cassandra Miller



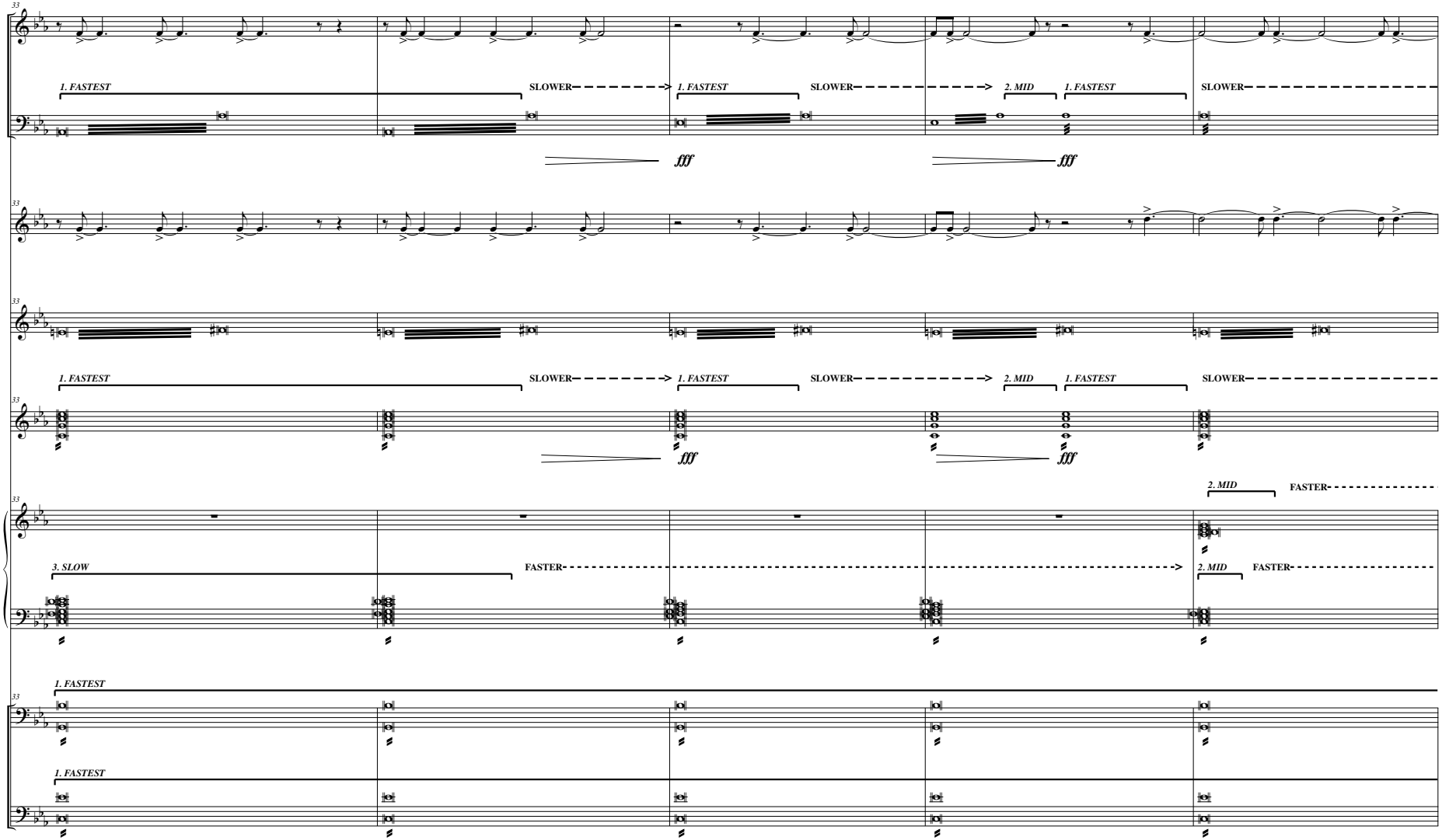

A
x 6
Mrb.
B
C
C Tpt.
con sord. (straight mute)
fluttertongue sempre
pp
Vibes
1. FASTEST
pp
x 3
x 3
Mrb.
Pno.
pp

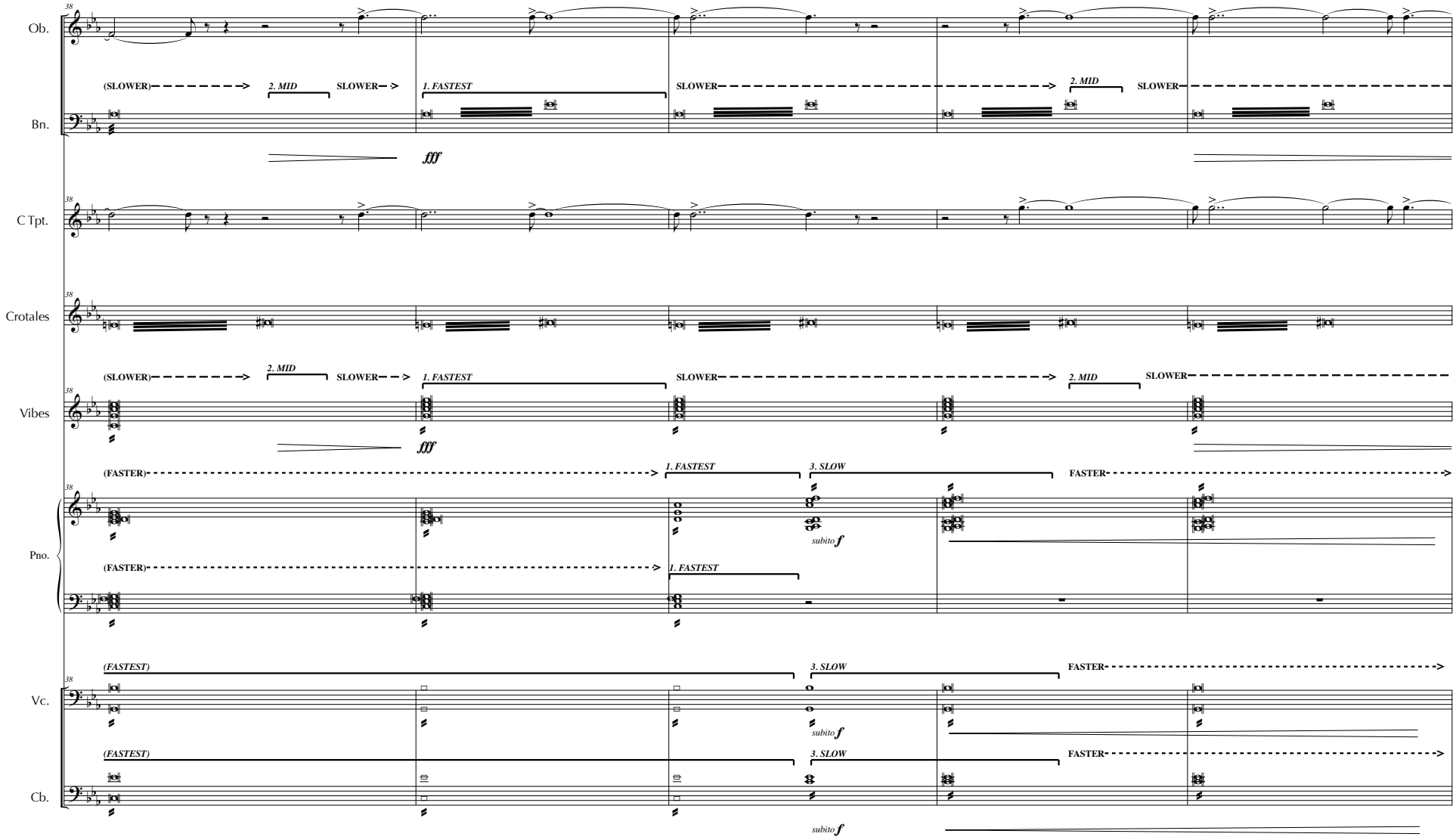
Relentless, forceful, angrily, fierce

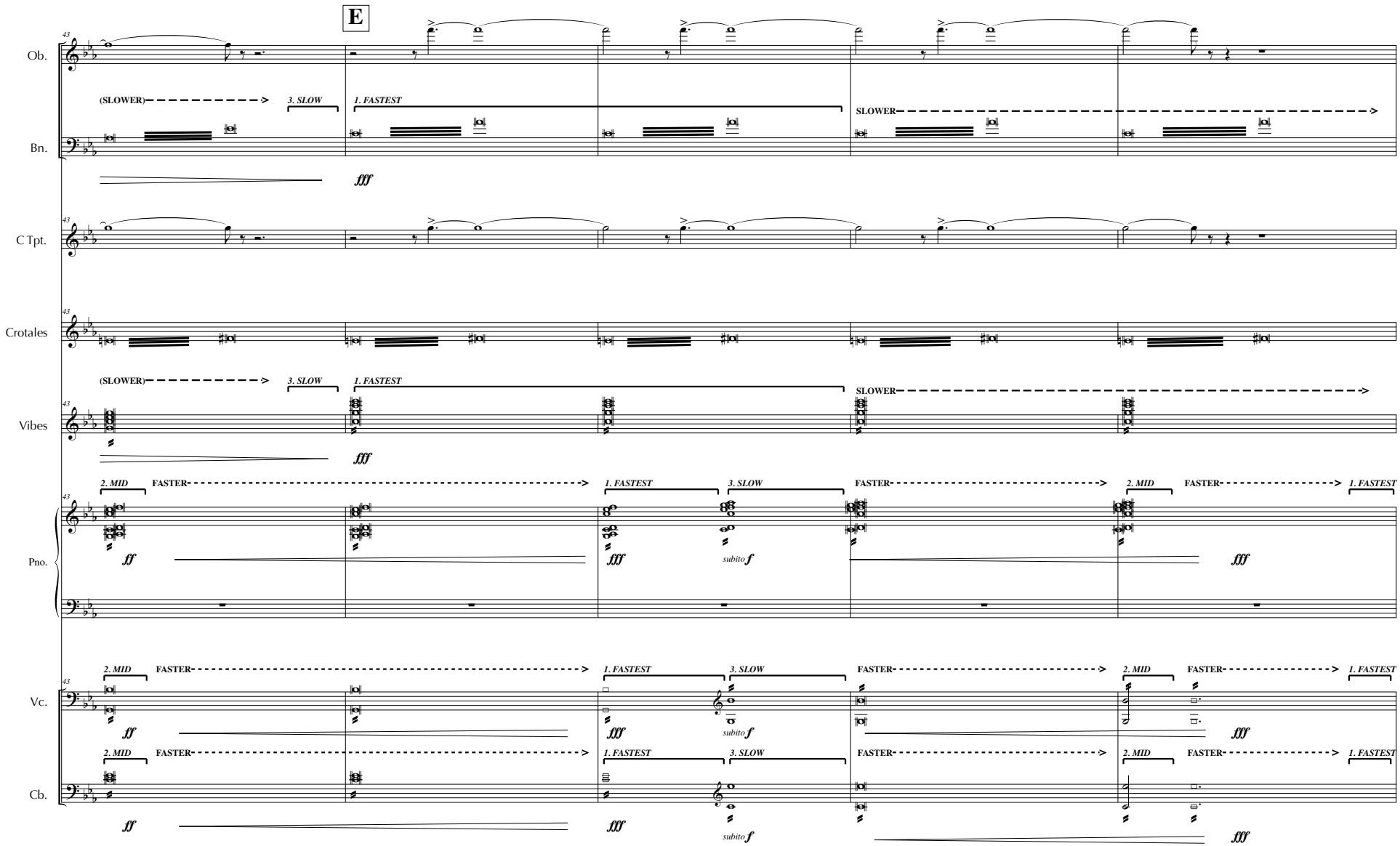


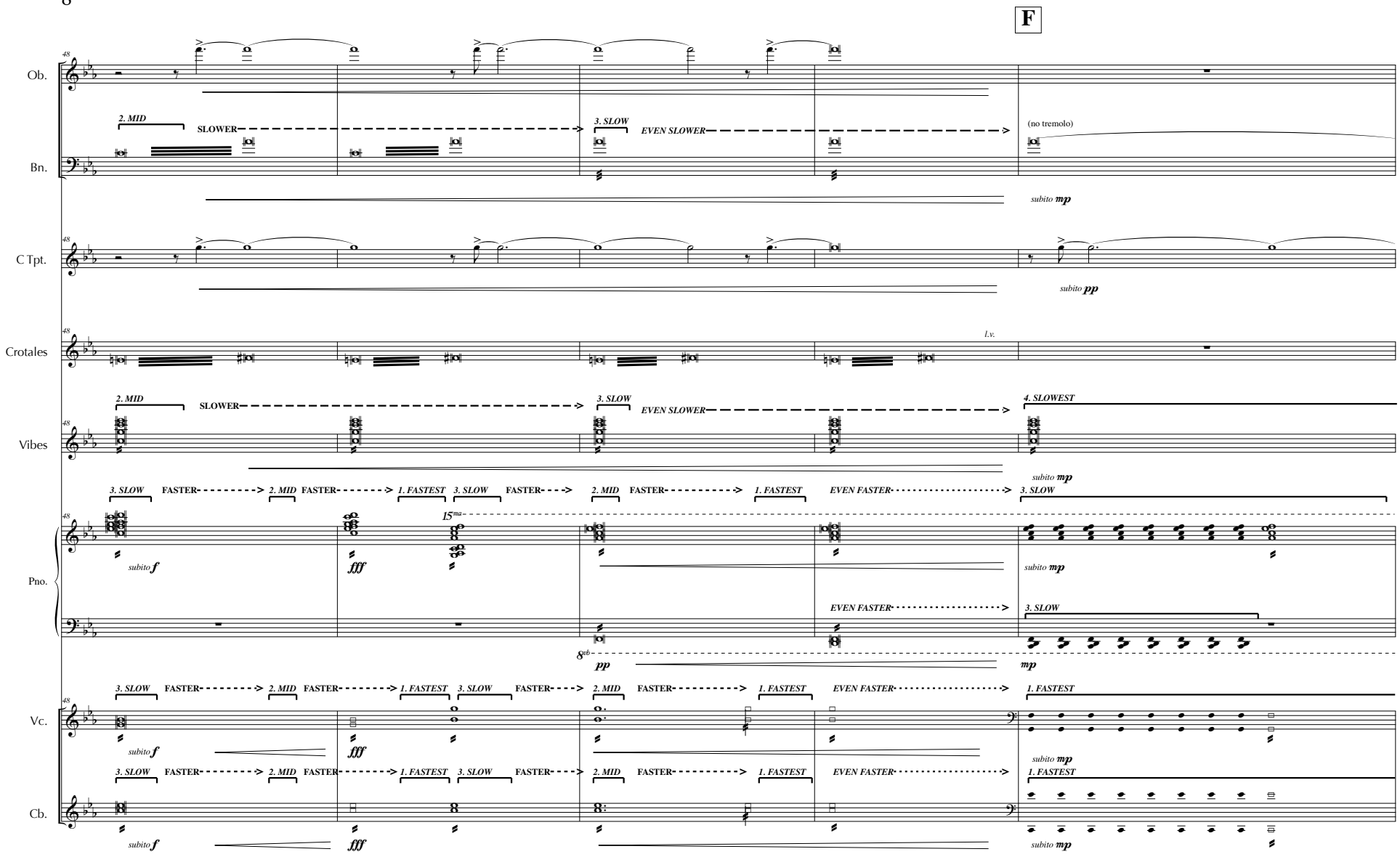

Ob.
Bn.
C Tpt.
Crotales
Vibes
Pno.
Vc.
Cb.
27
2. MID
SLOWER
3. SLOW
(FASTEST)

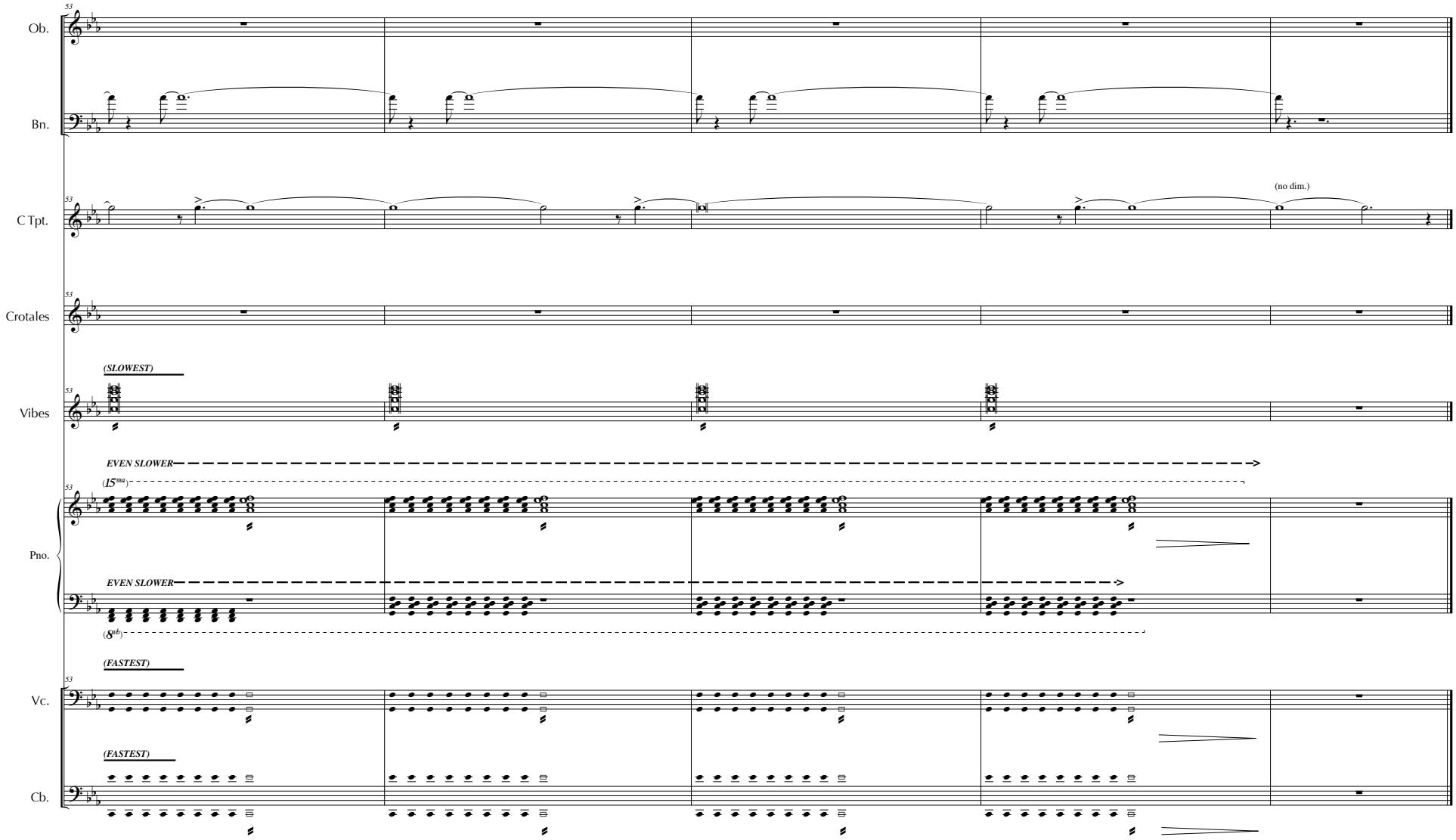
D


Ob.
Bn.
C Tpt.
Crotales
Vibes
Pno.
Vc.
Cb.
1. FASTEST
SLOWER
2. MID
3. SLOW
FASTER
fff


Ob.
Bn.
C Tpt.
Crotales
Vibes
Pno.
Vc.
Cb.
38
(SLOWER)
2. MID
SLOWER
1. FASTEST
SLOWER
2. MID
SLOWER
fff
(FASTER)
1. FASTEST
3. SLOW
FASTER
subito f
(FASTEST)
3. SLOW
FASTER
subito f


E
Ob.
Bn.
C Tpt.
Crotales
Vibes
Pno.
Vc.
Cb.
(SLOWER)
3. SLOW
1. FASTEST
SLOWER
fff
2. MID
FASTER
ff
subito f


F
Ob.
Bn.
C Tpt.
Crotales
Vibes
Pno.
Vc.
Cb.
2. MID
SLOWER
3. SLOW
EVEN SLOWER
(no tremolo)
subito mp
subito pp
l.v.
4. SLOWEST
FASTER
1. FASTEST
EVEN FASTER
15ma
8vb
subito f
fff
pp
mp


Ob.
Bn.
C Tpt.
(no dim.)
Crotales
(SLOWEST)
Vibes
EVEN SLOWER
(15ma)
Pno.
EVEN SLOWER
(8vb)
(FASTEST)
Vc.
(FASTEST)
Cb.