Durme, durme

for sextet and playback

José del Avellanal Carreño

2023

Composer's Note

The inspiration for this piece came to me at a record store in Madrid, where I came across a second hand vinyl from the 1960s, a collection of arrangements of Sephardic ballads sung by Yehoram Gaon, which I ended up buying. This album caught my attention since I knew very little of the Sephardic culture other than its history of diaspora and the fact that one of its languages, Judaeo-Spanish or Ladino (which was also the language of the songs in the album), derives from Old Spanish and is mostly intelligible by Spanish speakers.

I was very touched by the content of the songs in this album, ranging from love songs to laments to lullabies. Inspired by the theme of the night (which was the main theme of the concert for which this work was written) I made some experiments playing the lullabies of the album in a turntable with a particular fixation in the words 'Durme, durme' - meaning 'sleep, sleep'. Fragments of these experiments became the content of my electronic part, and its interactions with the ensemble aim to provide a reflection on cultural transmission through time, its resulting erasure and loss, and its constant reinvention and reactualisation.

Instrumentation

Alto Flute
Bass Clarinet in B♭
Percussion (bass drum, 2 crotales [high A, high A♯])
Piano
Violin
Violoncello

Performance Notes

It is recommended that the piece is performed with a conductor.

The playback consists of an Ableton Live file with a series of audios, to be triggered through locators at the moment specified in the score. This may be done by the conductor or by an assistant offstage. For the reproduction of the playback, a pair of speakers in stereo position should be positioned either on the sides or behind the ensemble.

When playing alongside the playback (or tape) the ensemble, unless indicated otherwise, should follow the tempo of the playback (indicated approximately between square brackets). If no additional tempo indication is given, the ensemble should keep the tempo of the playback after it stops.

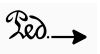
There are instances in which an player should play in a different tempo independent from the ensemble, this has been indicated through a smaller tempo indication and specific instructions in each specific stave.

Notation

: Quarter-tones

: Non-specific microtonal accidentals

[Piano] : Play note while firmly damping the string and the strings of surrounding notes with the palm of the hand

 [Piano] : Hold pedal, until a later indication to lift or until the sound dies away

[Piano] : Slam pedal

[Woodwinds] : In specific trills, there is no indication of the note to be trilled but, instead, the finger or key to trill (i.e. LH2, meaning left hand, 2nd finger)

Written in 2023 for the Nightshifts project, led by Andreas Bäuml and Cassandra Hutsteiner

Duration: c. 7'

Durme, durme

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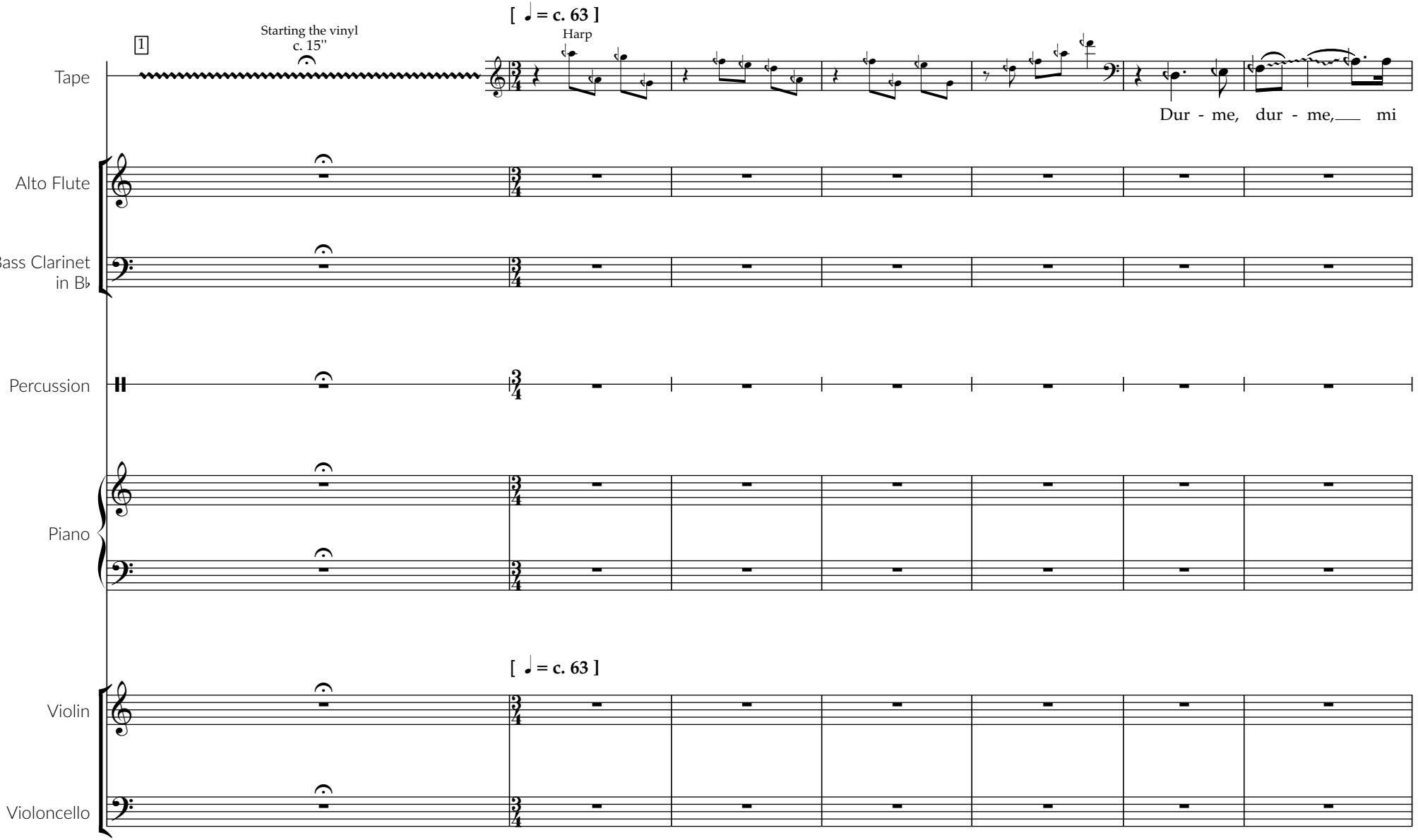

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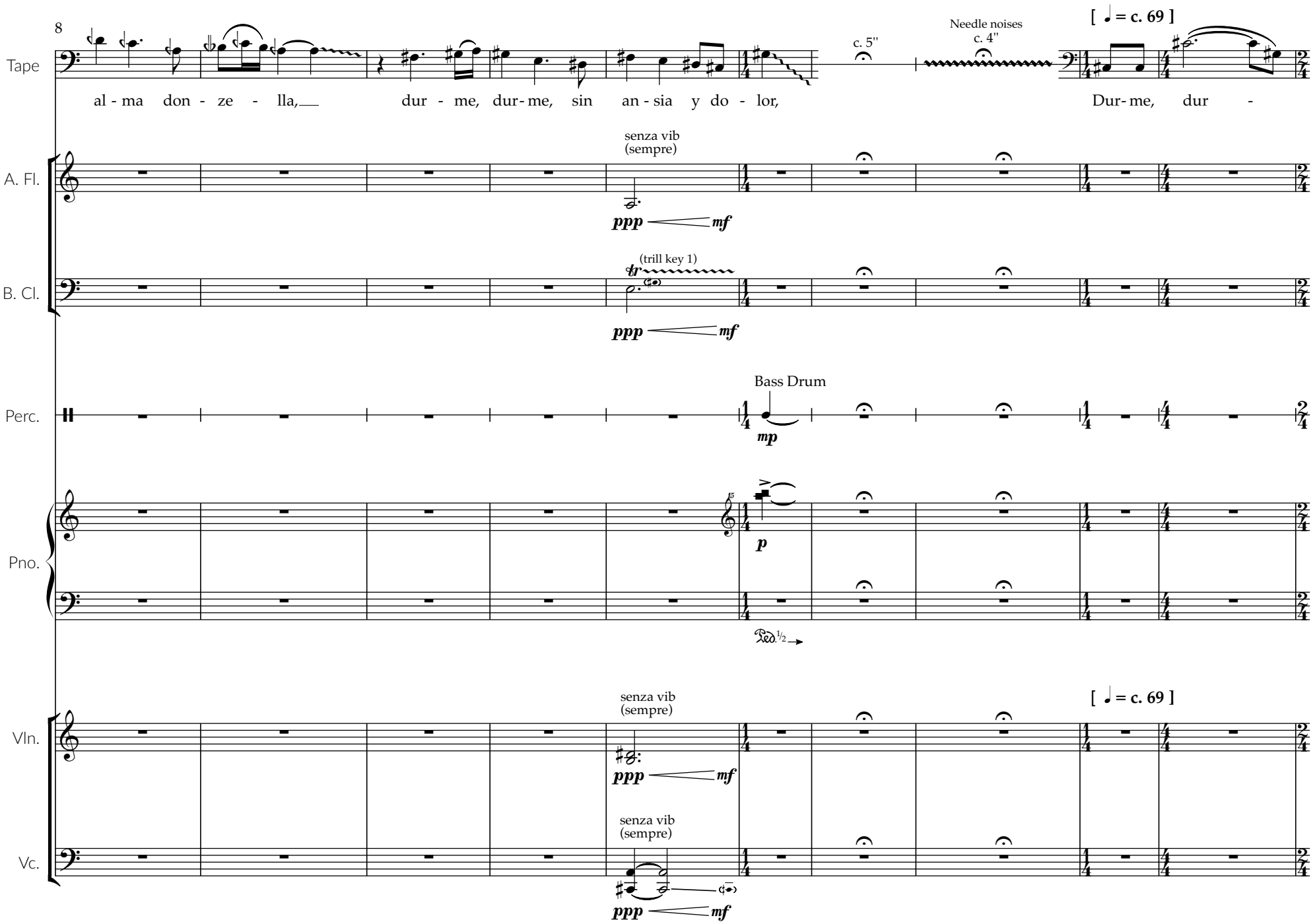
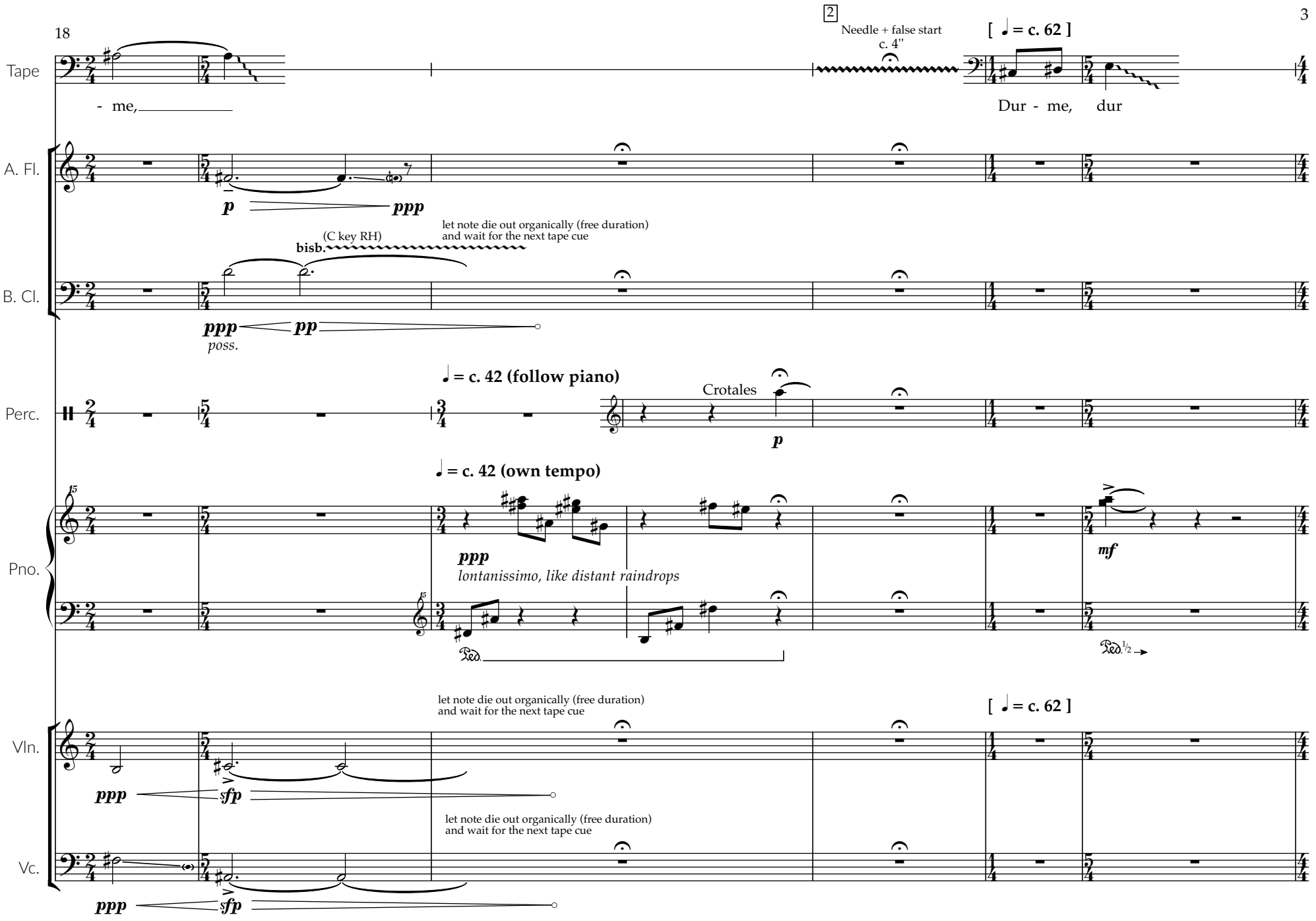
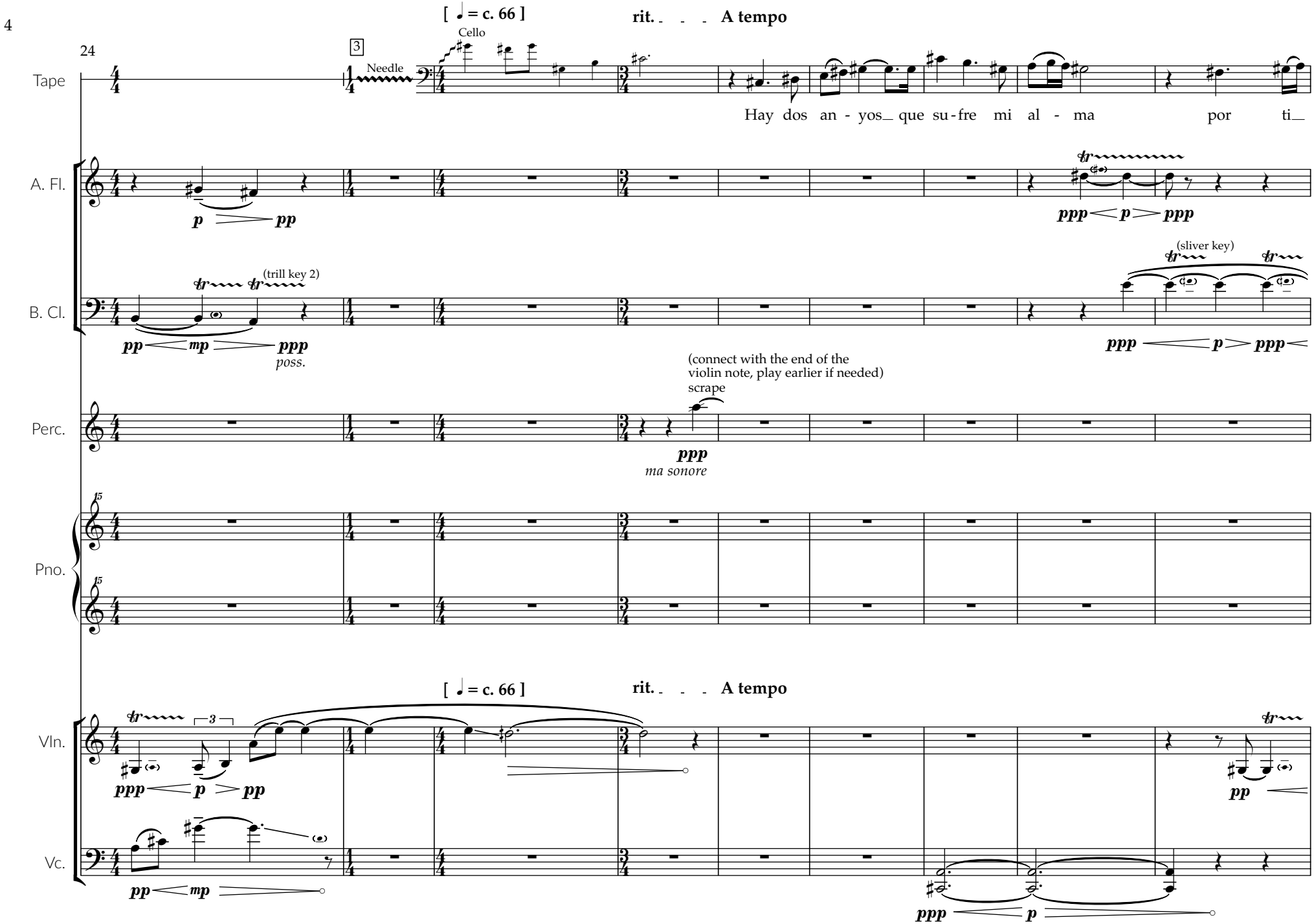

8
Tape
al - ma don - ze - lla, dur - me, dur - me, sin an - sia y do - lor,
c. 5''
Needle noises
c. 4''
[♩ = c. 69]
Dur - me, dur -
A. Fl.
senza vib
(sempre)
ppp
mf
B. Cl.
(trill key 1)
ppp
mf
Perc.
Bass Drum
mp
Pno.
p
Ped. 1/2
Vln.
senza vib
(sempre)
ppp
mf
[♩ = c. 69]
Vc.
senza vib
(sempre)
ppp
mf


18
2
Needle + false start
c. 4"
[♩ = c. 62]
Tape
- me,
Dur - me, dur
A. Fl.
p
ppp
let note die out organically (free duration)
and wait for the next tape cue
(C key RH)
bisb.
B. Cl.
ppp
pp
poss.
♩ = c. 42 (follow piano)
Crotales
Perc.
p
♩ = c. 42 (own tempo)
Pno.
ppp
lontanissimo, like distant raindrops
mf
Ped.
Ped. 1/2
let note die out organically (free duration)
and wait for the next tape cue
[♩ = c. 62]
Vln.
ppp
sfp
let note die out organically (free duration)
and wait for the next tape cue
Vc.
ppp
sfp


24
[♩ = c. 66]
rit.
A tempo
Cello
3
Needle
Tape
Hay dos an - yos_ que su - fre mi al - ma por ti_
A. Fl.
p
pp
ppp
p
ppp
B. Cl.
(trill key 2)
pp
mp
ppp
poss.
(sliver key)
ppp
p
ppp
Perc.
(connect with the end of the violin note, play earlier if needed)
scrape
ppp
ma sonore
Pno.
15
15
[♩ = c. 66]
rit.
A tempo
Vln.
3
ppp
p
pp
pp
Vc.
pp
mp
ppp
p

33

rit.

Tape

jo - ya, mi lin - da da - ma, por ti jo - ya, mi lin - da da - ma.

A. Fl.

c. 6"

A tempo (♩. = c. 66)

(tr)

pp

B. Cl.

c. 6"

(LH1)

bisb.

p ppp

pp

Perc.

Bass Drum
scrape, with finger

pp

c. 6"

Pno.

with depth, resonance
should last until the fermata!

pp mp pp

Ped.

c. 6"

Vln.

rit.

A tempo (♩. = c. 66)

p ppp

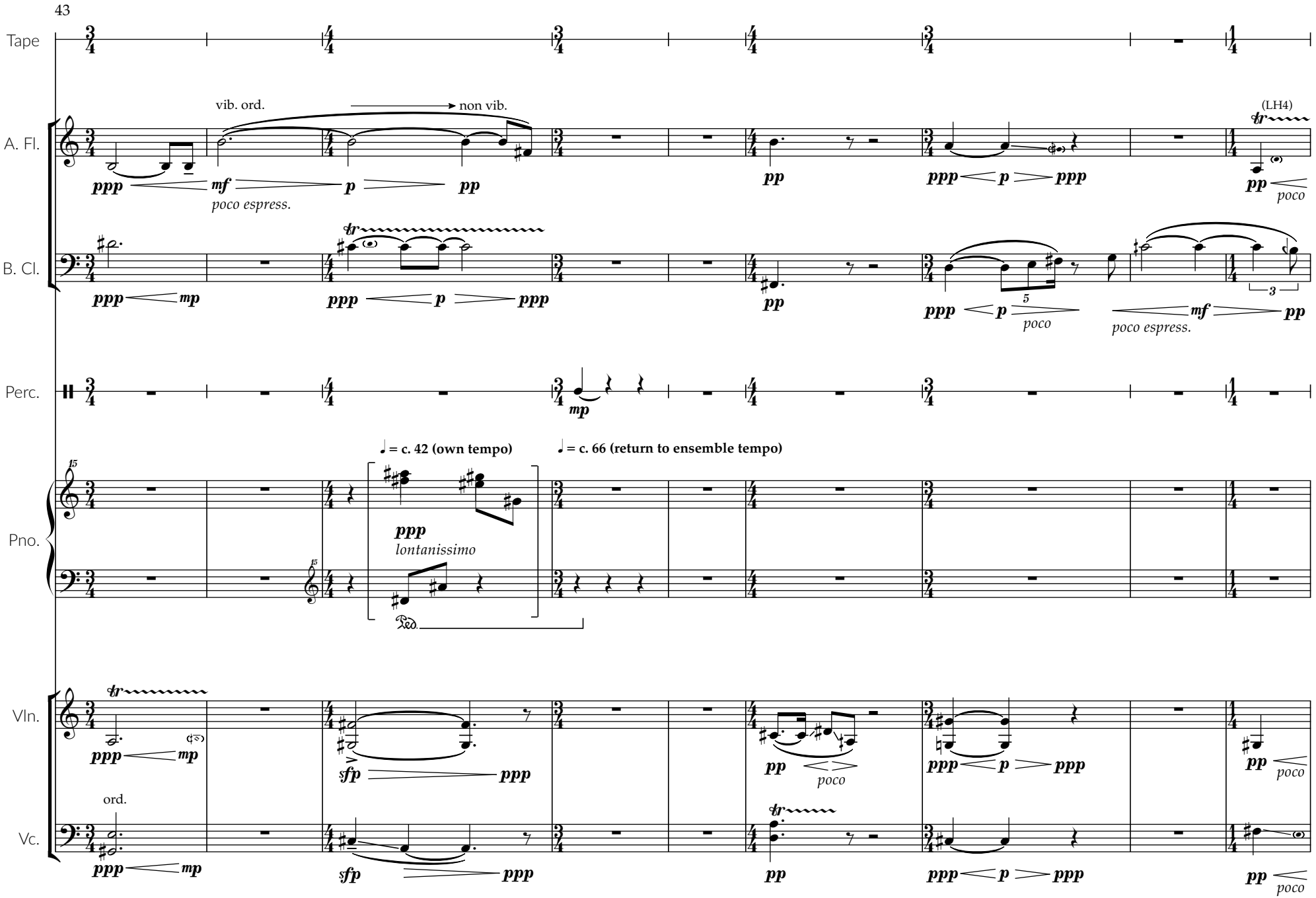
pp

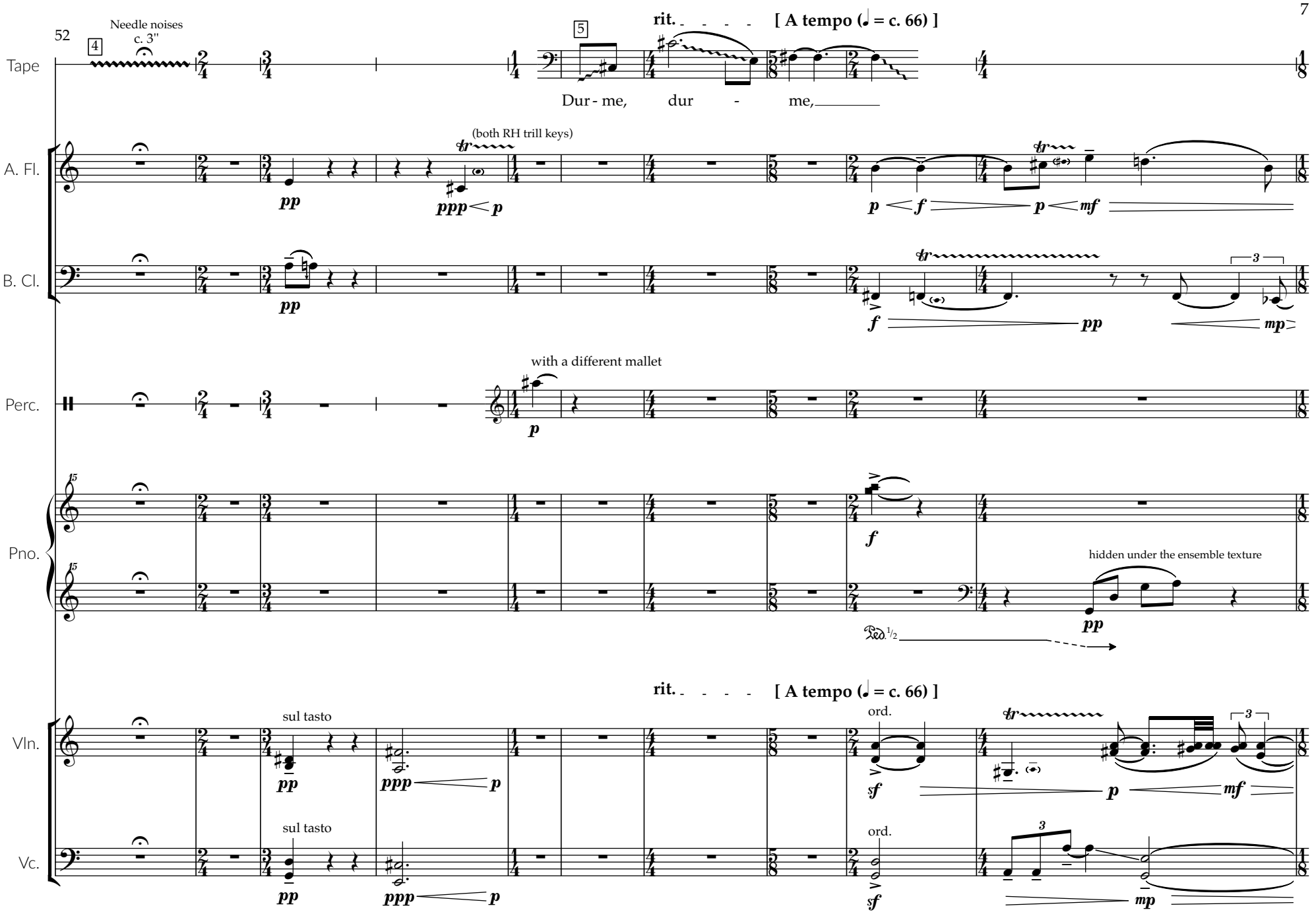
c. 6"

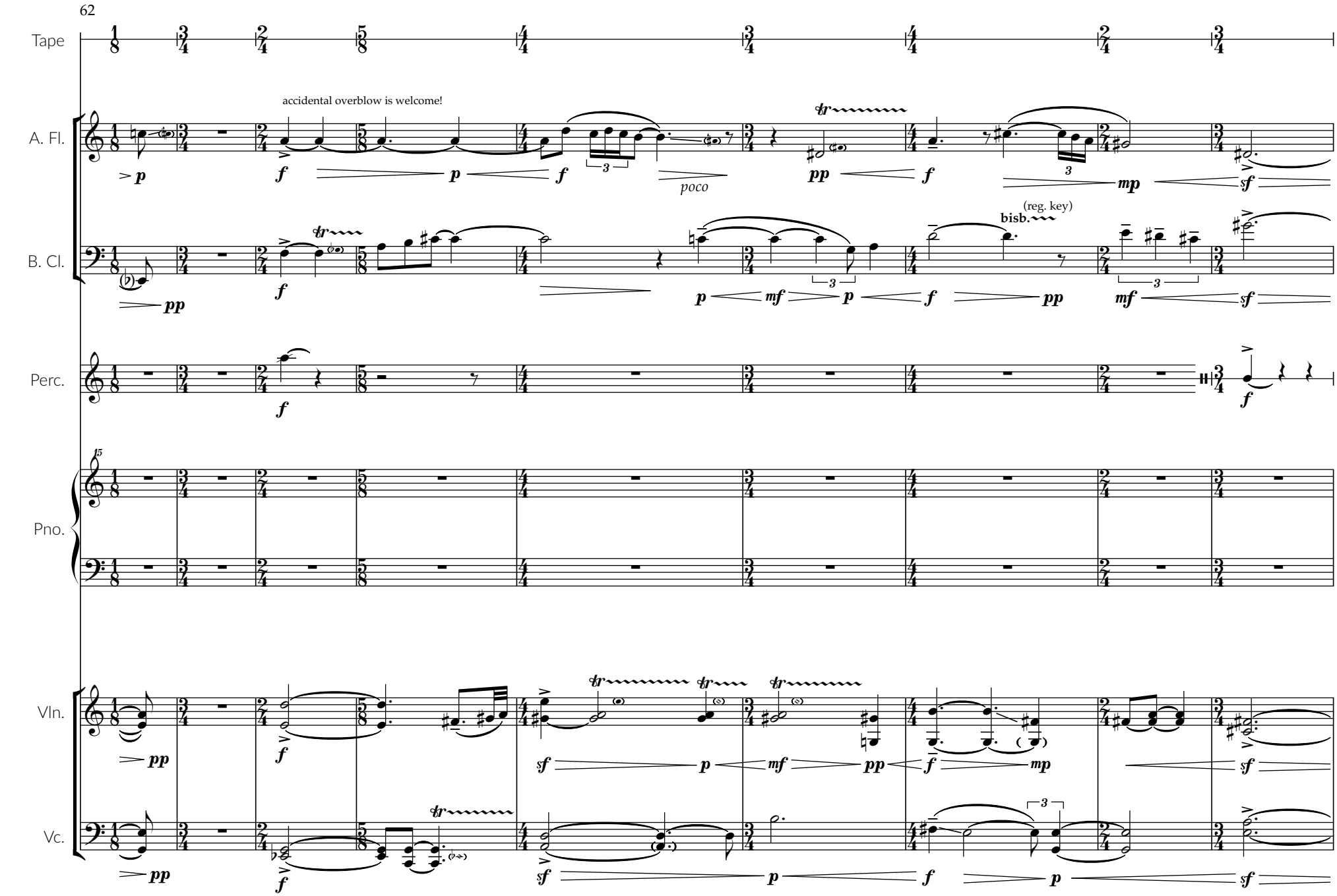
Vc.

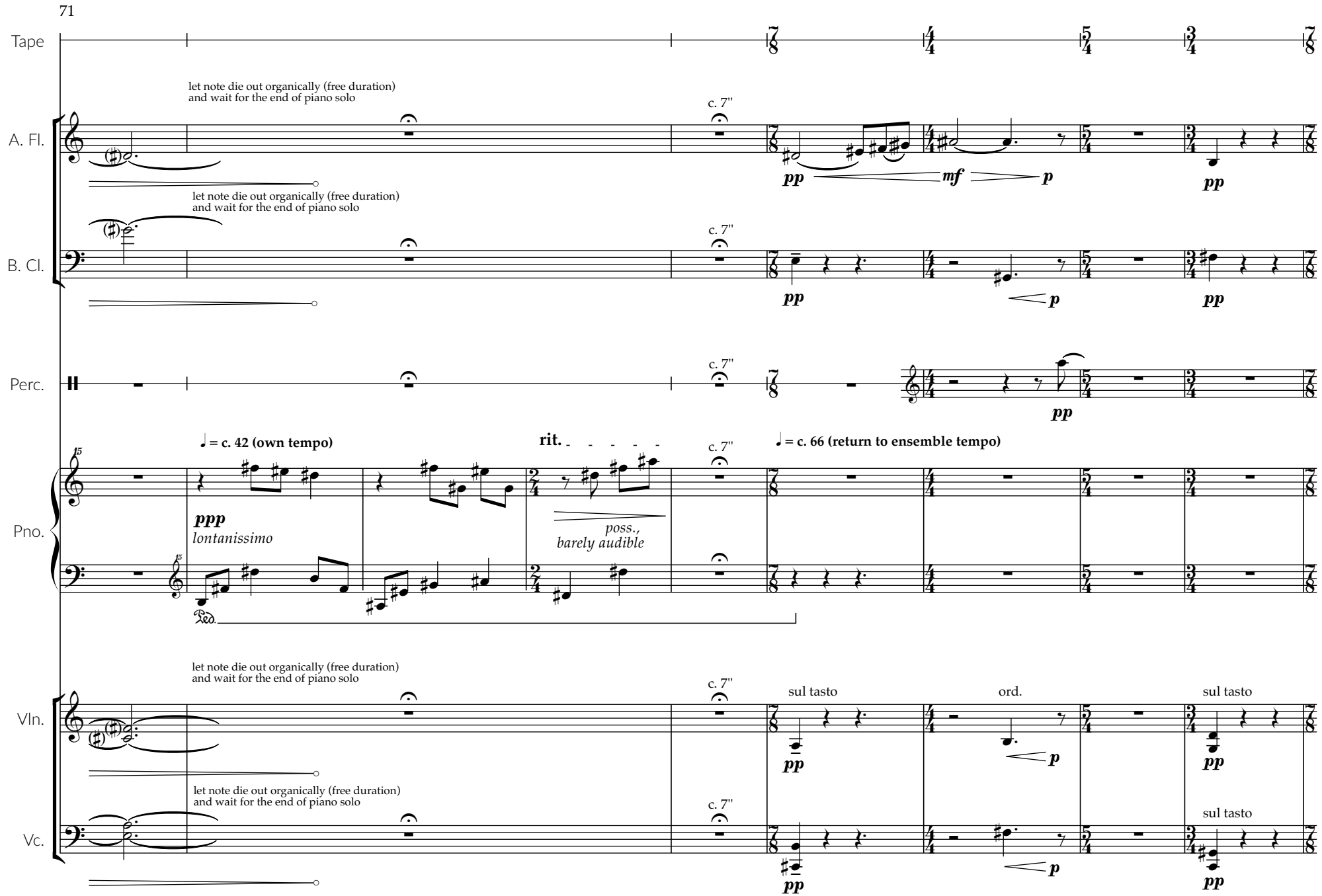
sul tasto

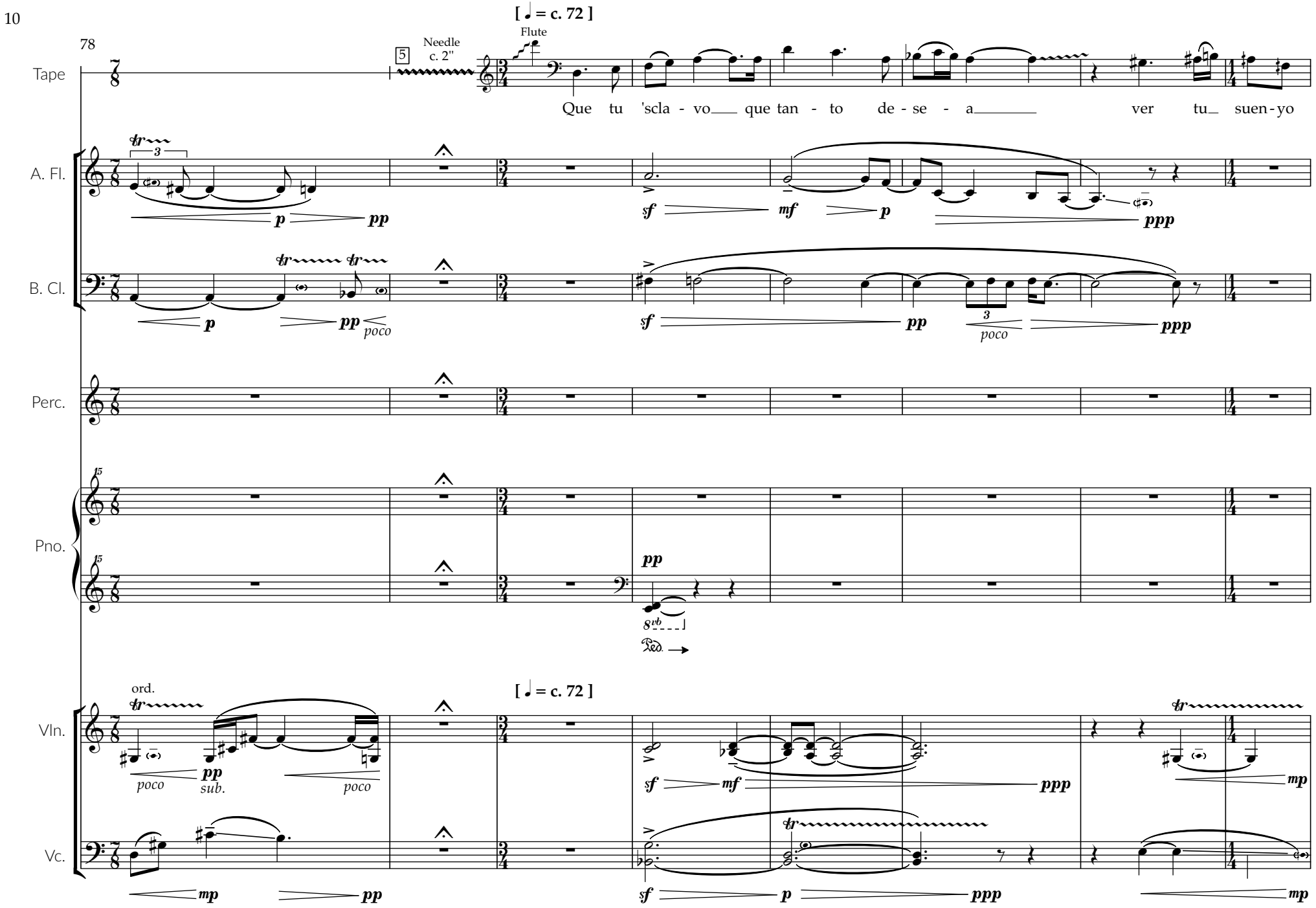
pp

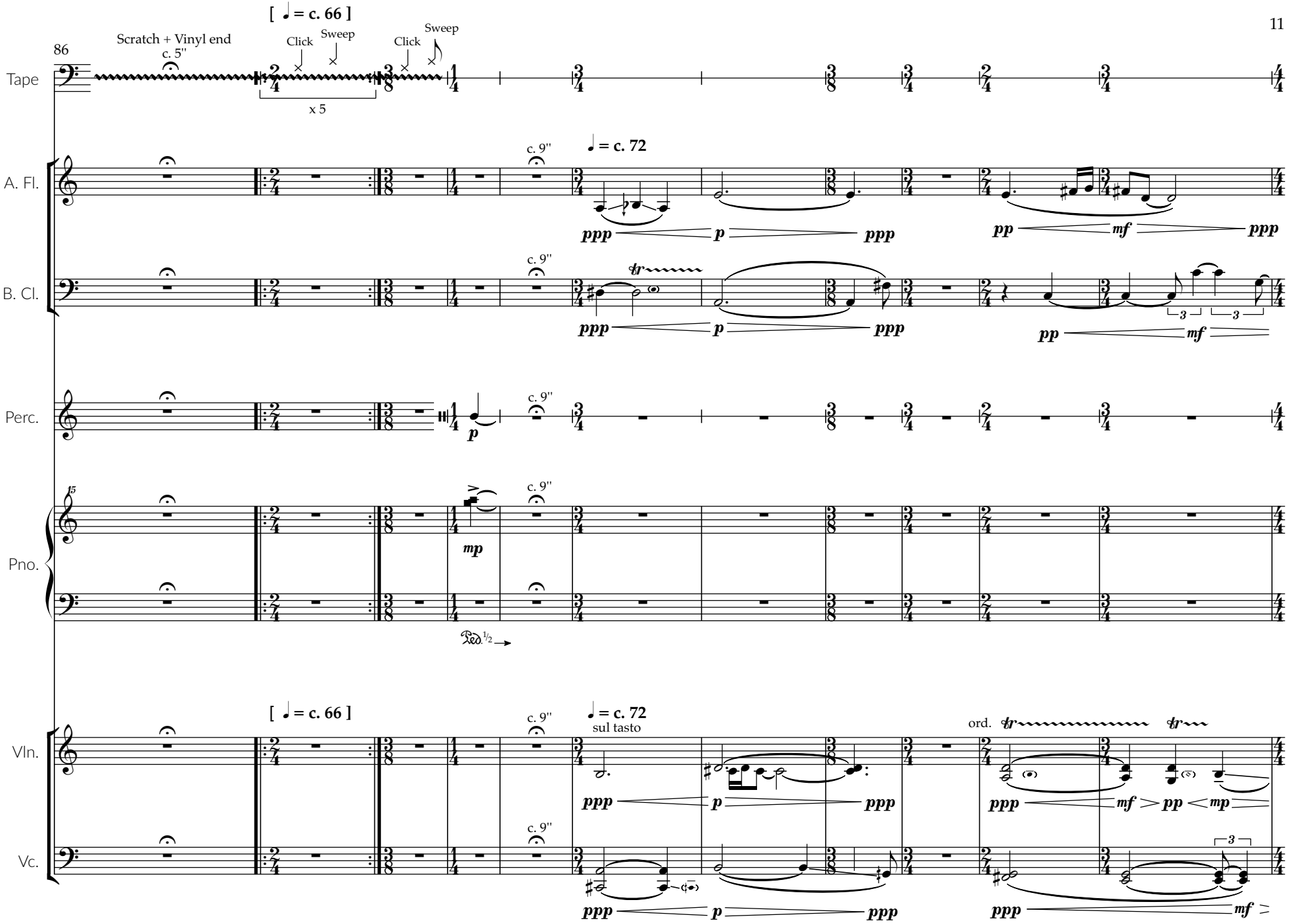

43
Tape
A. Fl.
vib. ord.
non vib.
poco espress.
(LH4)
poco
B. Cl.
poco
poco espress.
Perc.
Pno.
♩ = c. 42 (own tempo)
♩ = c. 66 (return to ensemble tempo)
lontanissimo
Vln.
poco
Vc.
ord.
poco

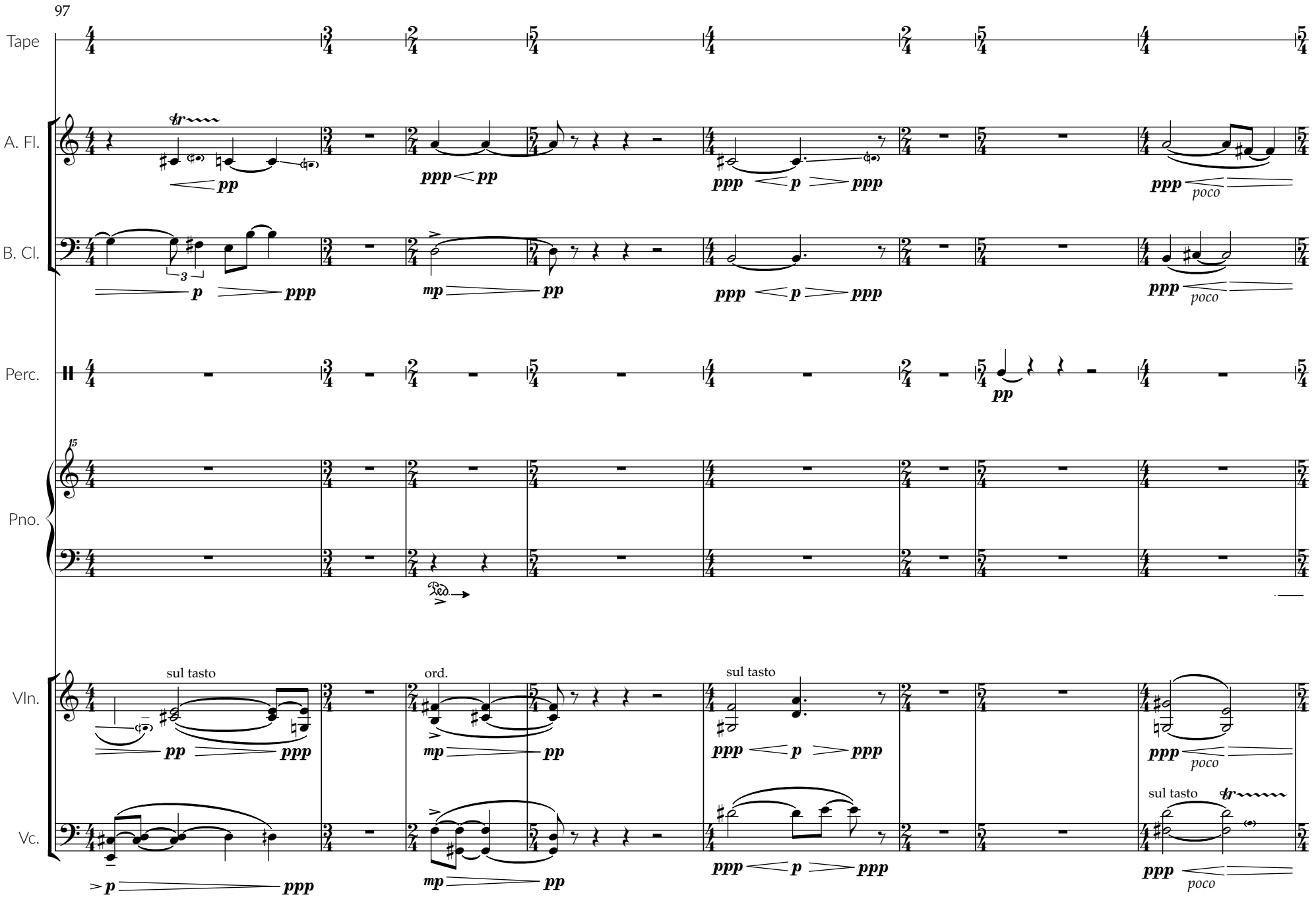

52
4
Needle noises
c. 3''
5
rit.
[A tempo (♩ = c. 66)]
Tape
Dur - me, dur - me,
A. Fl.
(both RH trill keys)
pp
ppp
p
p
f
p
mf
B. Cl.
pp
f
pp
mp
Perc.
with a different mallet
p
Pno.
f
hidden under the ensemble texture
pp
rit.
[A tempo (♩ = c. 66)]
Vln.
sul tasto
pp
ppp
p
ord.
sf
p
mf
Vc.
sul tasto
pp
ppp
p
ord.
sf
mp

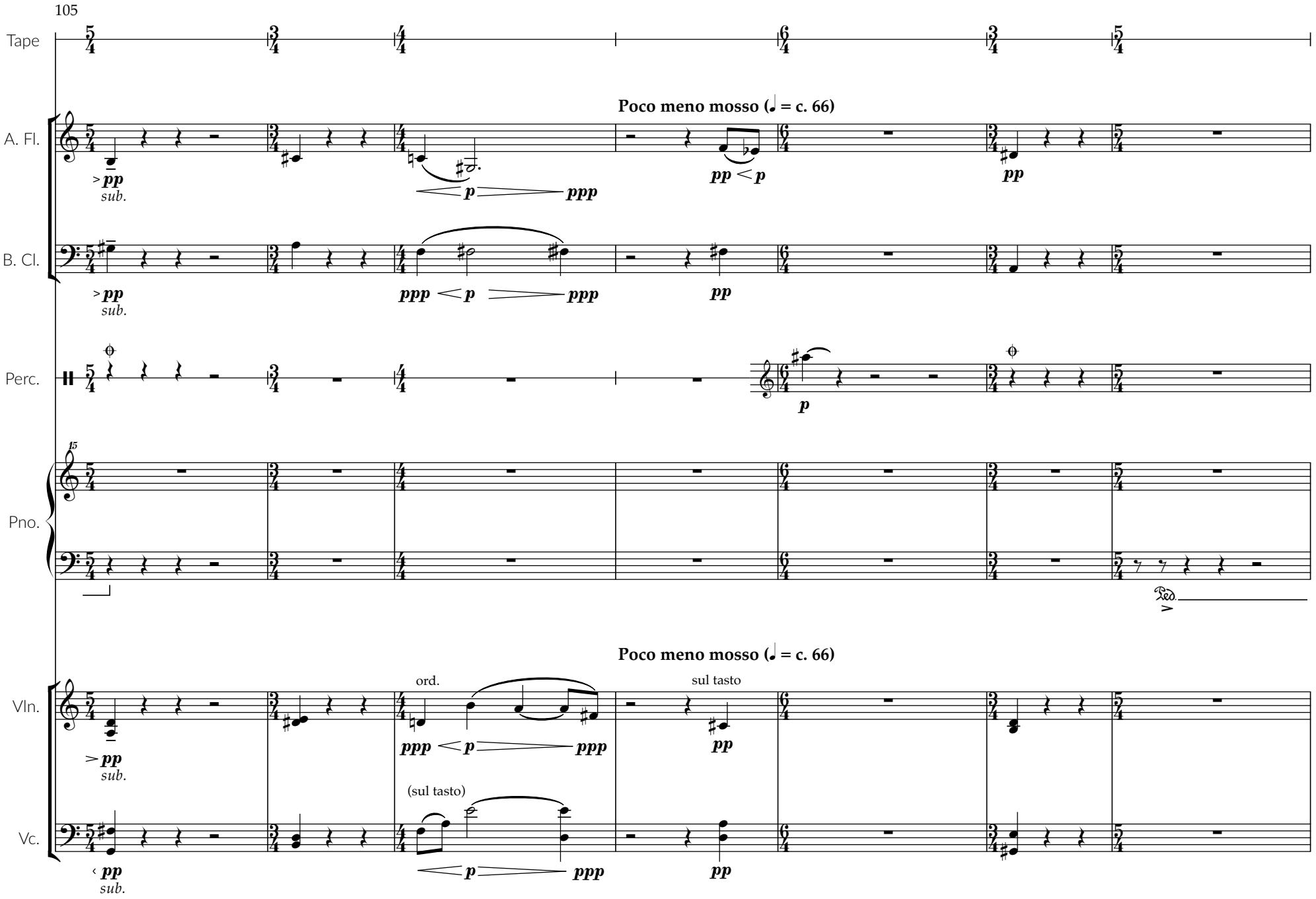

62
Tape
A. Fl.
accidental overblow is welcome!
poco
B. Cl.
(reg. key)
bisb.
Perc.
15
Pno.
Vln.
Vc.

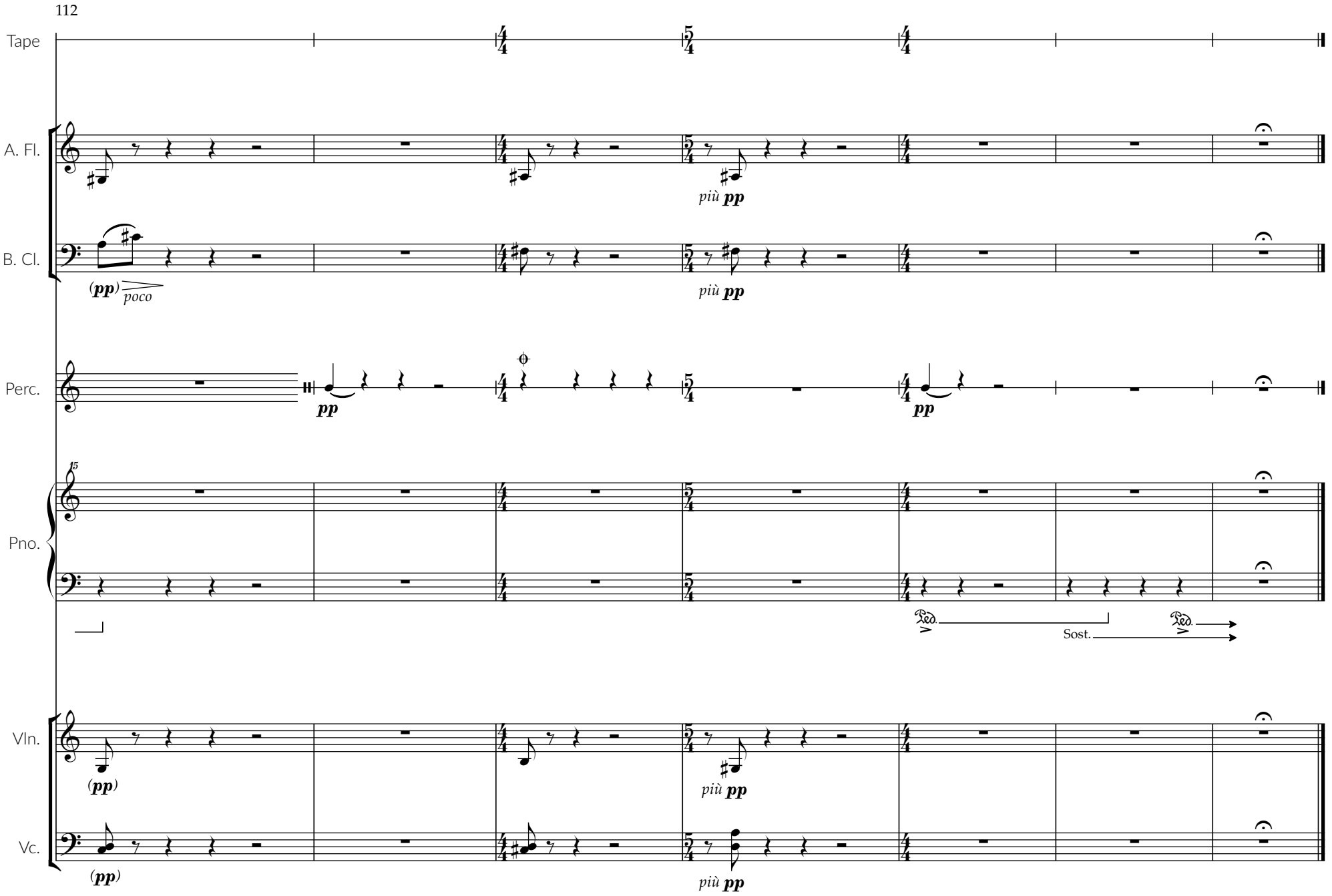

71
Tape
let note die out organically (free duration)
and wait for the end of piano solo
A. Fl.
c. 7"
pp
mf
p
pp
let note die out organically (free duration)
and wait for the end of piano solo
B. Cl.
c. 7"
pp
p
pp
Perc.
c. 7"
pp
Pno.
♩ = c. 42 (own tempo)
rit.
c. 7"
♩ = c. 66 (return to ensemble tempo)
ppp
lontanissimo
poss.,
barely audible
Ped.
let note die out organically (free duration)
and wait for the end of piano solo
Vln.
c. 7"
sul tasto
ord.
sul tasto
pp
p
pp
let note die out organically (free duration)
and wait for the end of piano solo
Vc.
c. 7"
sul tasto
pp
p
pp


78
[♩ = c. 72]
Flute
5
Needle
c. 2"
Tape
Que tu 'scla - vo que tan - to de - se - a ver tu suen - yo
A. Fl.
B. Cl.
Perc.
Pno.
8vb
Ped.
ord.
Vln.
Vc.
sub.
poco


86
Tape
Scratch + Vinyl end
c. 5"
[♩ = c. 66]
Click
Sweep
Click
Sweep
x 5
A. Fl.
B. Cl.
Perc.
Pno.
Vln.
Vc.
c. 9"
♩ = c. 72
sul tasto
ord.
ppp
p
pp
mf
mp
ppp


97
Tape
A. Fl.
B. Cl.
Perc.
Pno.
Vln.
Vc.
sul tasto
ord.
sul tasto
sul tasto
poco


105
Tape
A. Fl.
B. Cl.
Perc.
Pno.
Vln.
Vc.
Poco meno mosso (♩. = c. 66)
Poco meno mosso (♩. = c. 66)
sub.
ord.
sul tasto
(sul tasto)
Ped.


112
Tape
A. Fl.
B. Cl.
Perc.
Pno.
Vln.
Vc.
(pp)
poco
più pp
pp
Ped.
Sost.