David Heuser

Taxi of Midnight

for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, & percussion

2015
Duration approximately 15 minutes

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I. fluid, flowing, falling
II. of brine and mists and veils of midnight stars
III. on currents of strangeness

Program Notes:
Taxi of Midnight, was composed for AURA (the Moores School of Music Contemporary Ensemble), Rob Smith, director.

The piece is inspired by the poem *The Taxi of Midnight* by Olga Cabral (reproduced on the next page), whose poems I have set in a number of songs and choral works over the last 15 years; the three movement titles are all drawn from the poem. Cabral composed the poem after seeing Salvador Dali's surrealist assemblage, *The Rainy Taxi*. The music draws on the imagery of darkness, speed, and water, and speaks also of dark and uncertain journeys, both real and metaphorical, in my own life.

The Taxi of Midnight by Olga Cabral

– *on seeing Salvador Dali's surrealist assemblage*, The Rainy Taxi

Take me to the rain in the
taxi of midnight.
Speed me through boulevards
of brine and aquatic
streets
where the cold drops fall
in the lamplight
large as shining
sea-slugs or snails.
Through windshield of fog
we shall watch
the city sink into the sea
and spinning cliffs of obsidian
blur in veils of
midnight waters.
On currents of strangeness
drowned faces float by
under submerged streetlamps
and submarine buses
huge lighted aquariums
of glass
shoot the rapids
of darkness.

Il pluet – oh, il pluet!
Pale as squids in their
octopus caverns the
news vendors lurk
in a bottlegreen light.
Mirage in mirage the
lights bleed and blur
like wet paints spilled
on the transparent night
underfoot.
All is fluid, flowing, falling.
Il pluet - dans mon coeur
and everywhere.

Through my eyelids
it rains
through the roofs
it rains
through walls of glass and of stone and of brick
it rains
enveloping all with
the briny darkness
of naked and fluid
beginnings.

All is fluid, flowing falling:
cathedrals
of water
hang in the air
and cities
of stars with
bridges and bands of
electronic highways and
Milky Way freeways
of speeding electrons
dissolve
in bubbles and mist
like fountains destroyed
by air.

Heavier than sleep the
lapping darkness pours.
In the taxi
of midnight
the strange black
taxi
it is always:
Darkness.
Memory.
Rain.

From the book *Tape Found in a Bottle,* published 1971, reprinted in *Voice/Over – Selected Poems* (1993)
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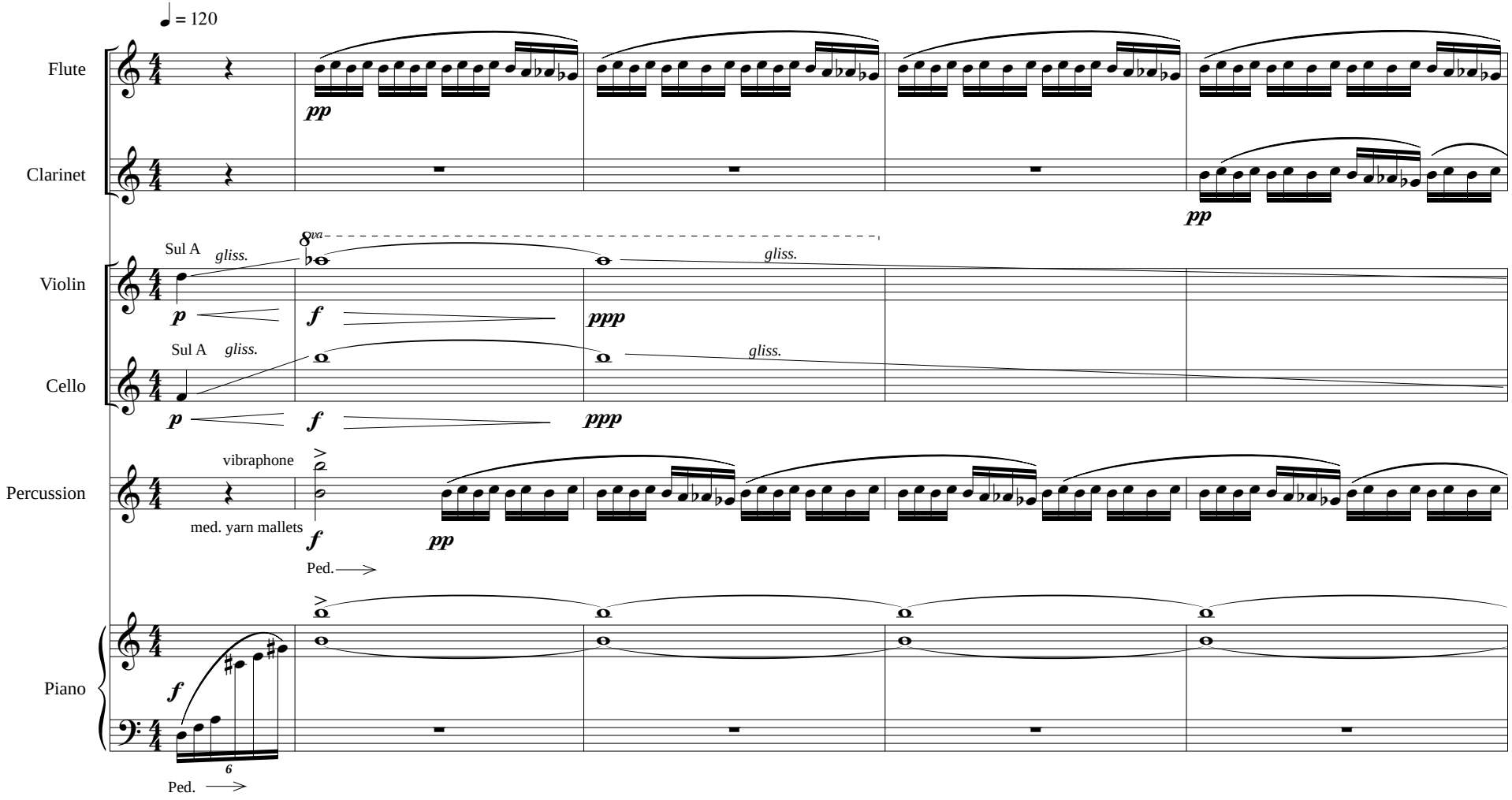
Score is in C

Taxi of Midnight

I. fluid, flowing, falling

David Heuser
2015



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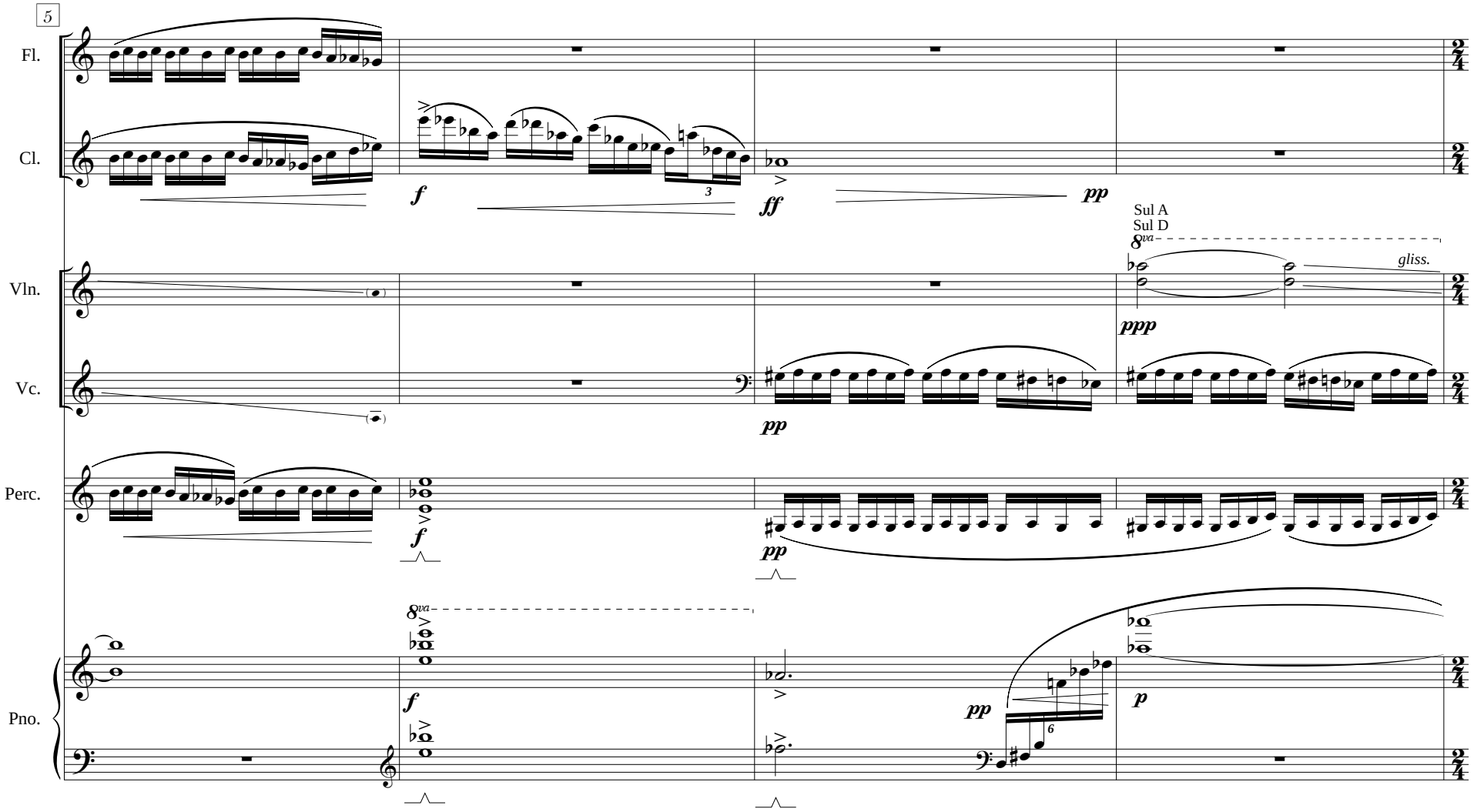
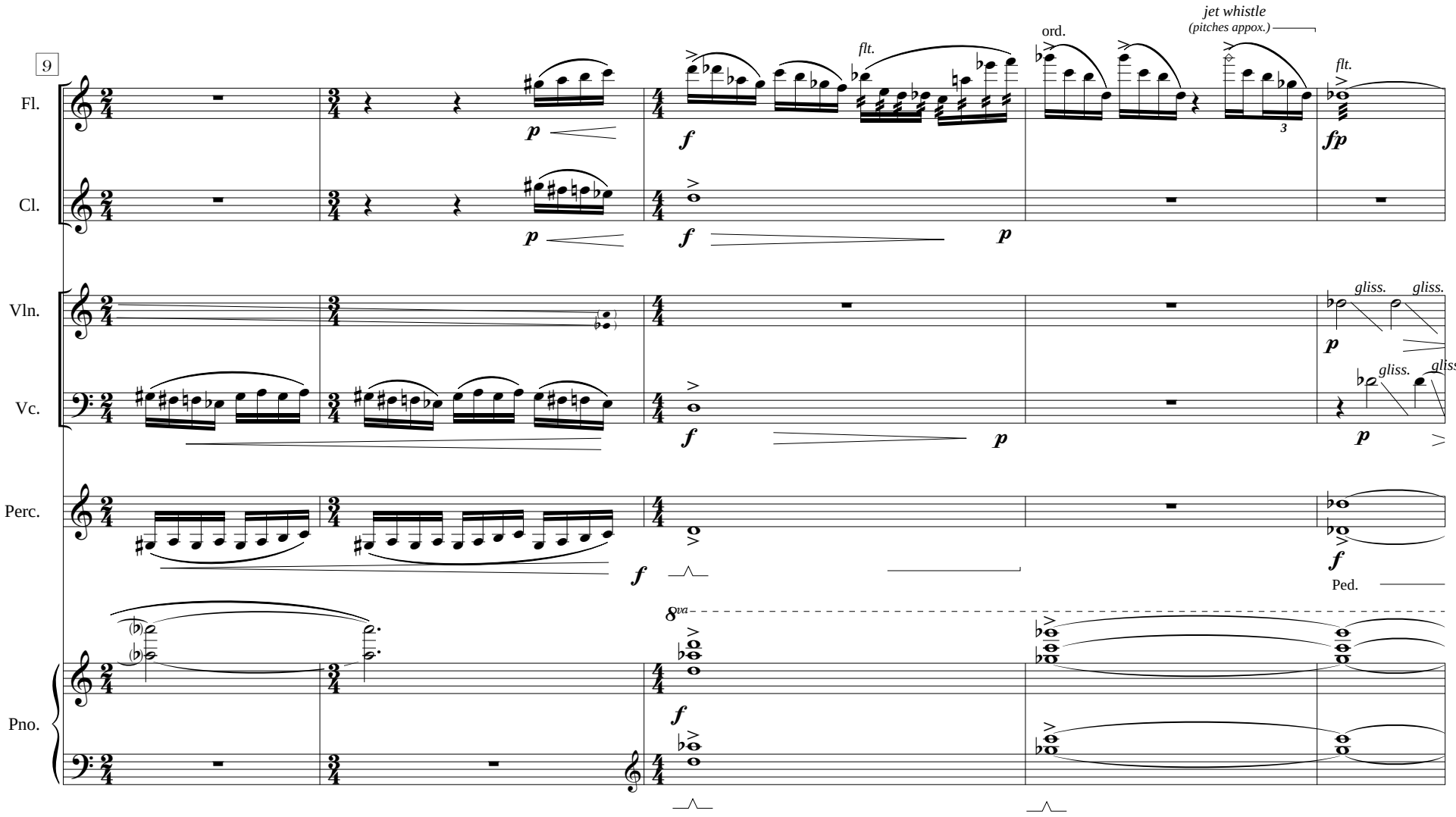
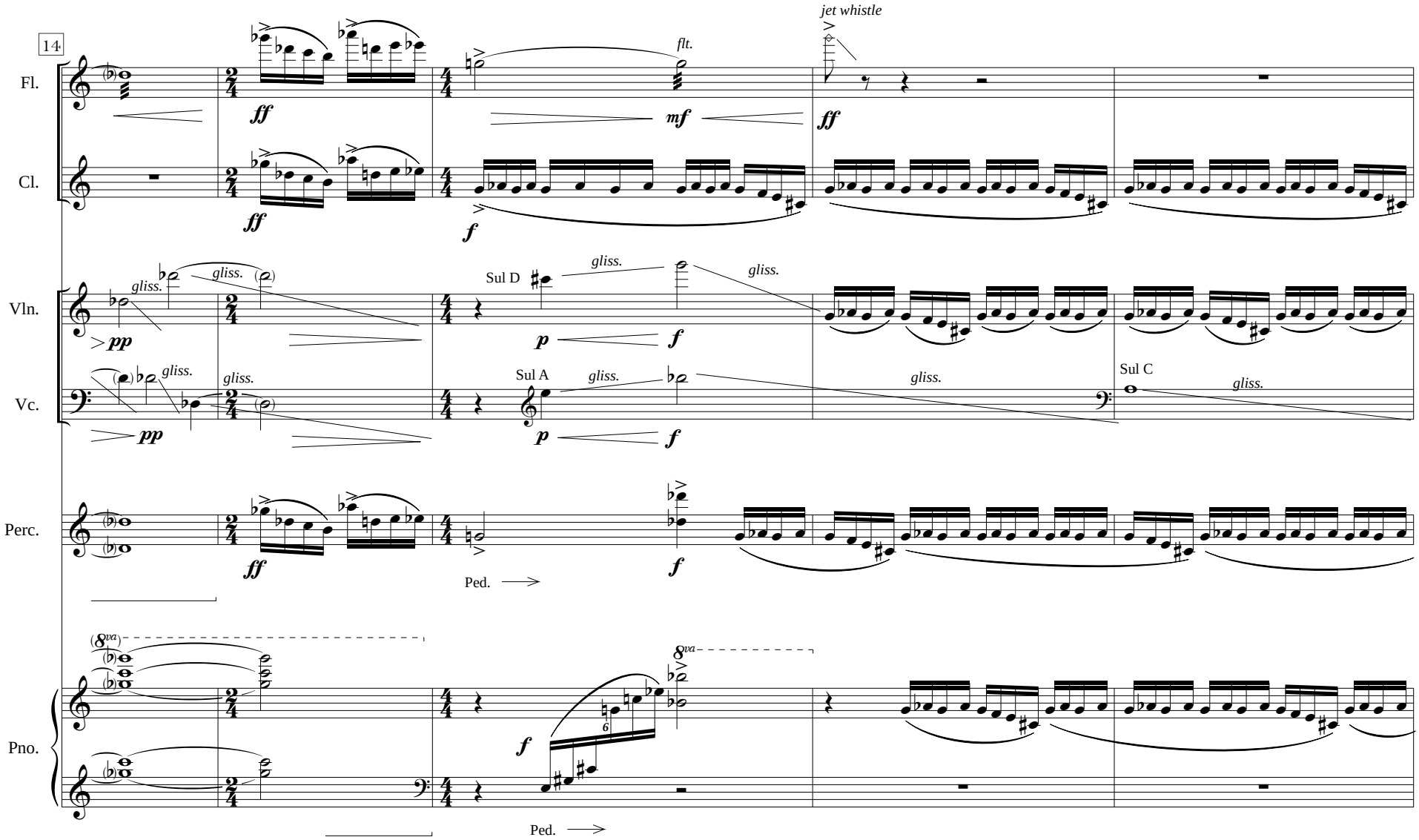
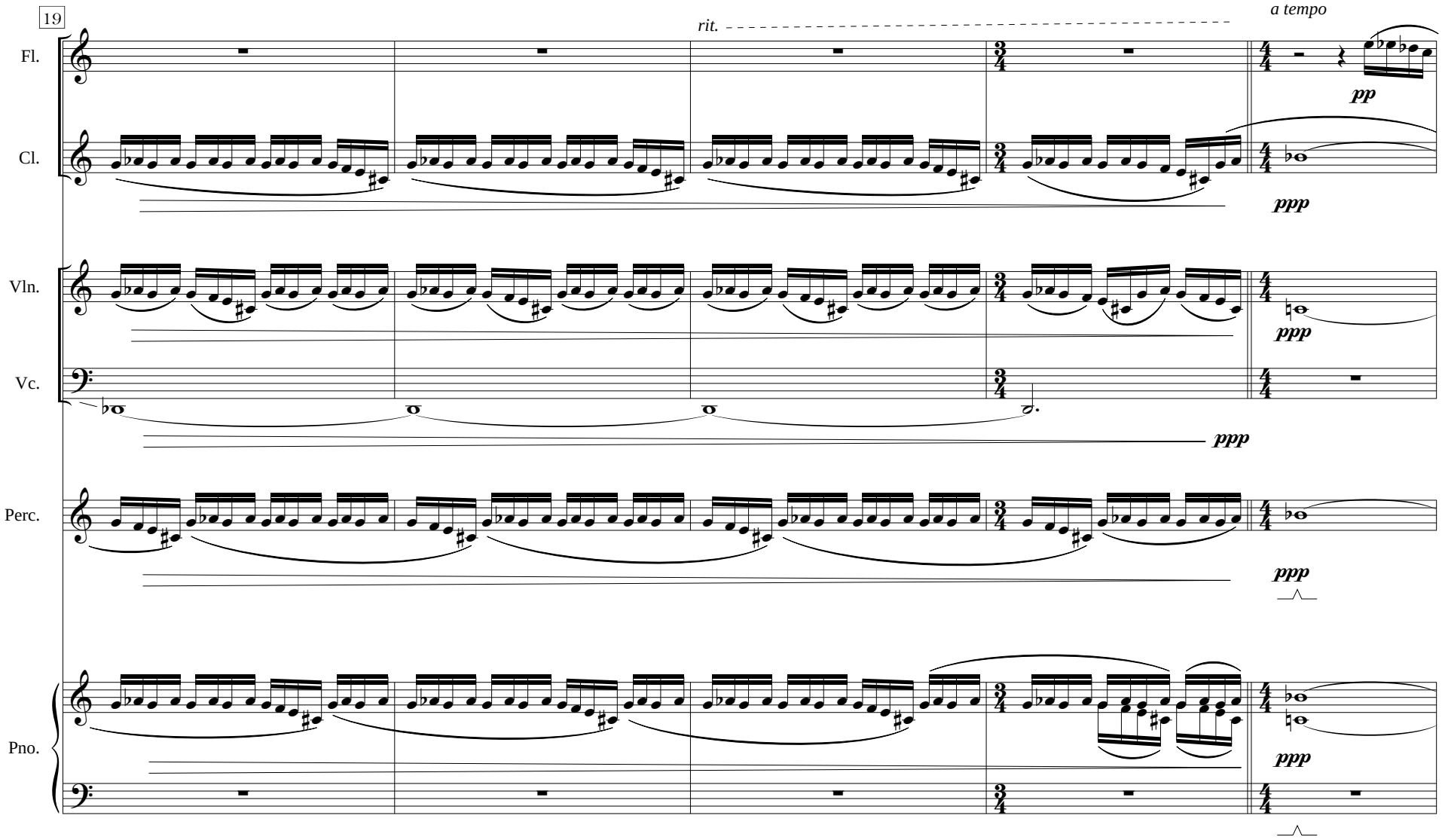
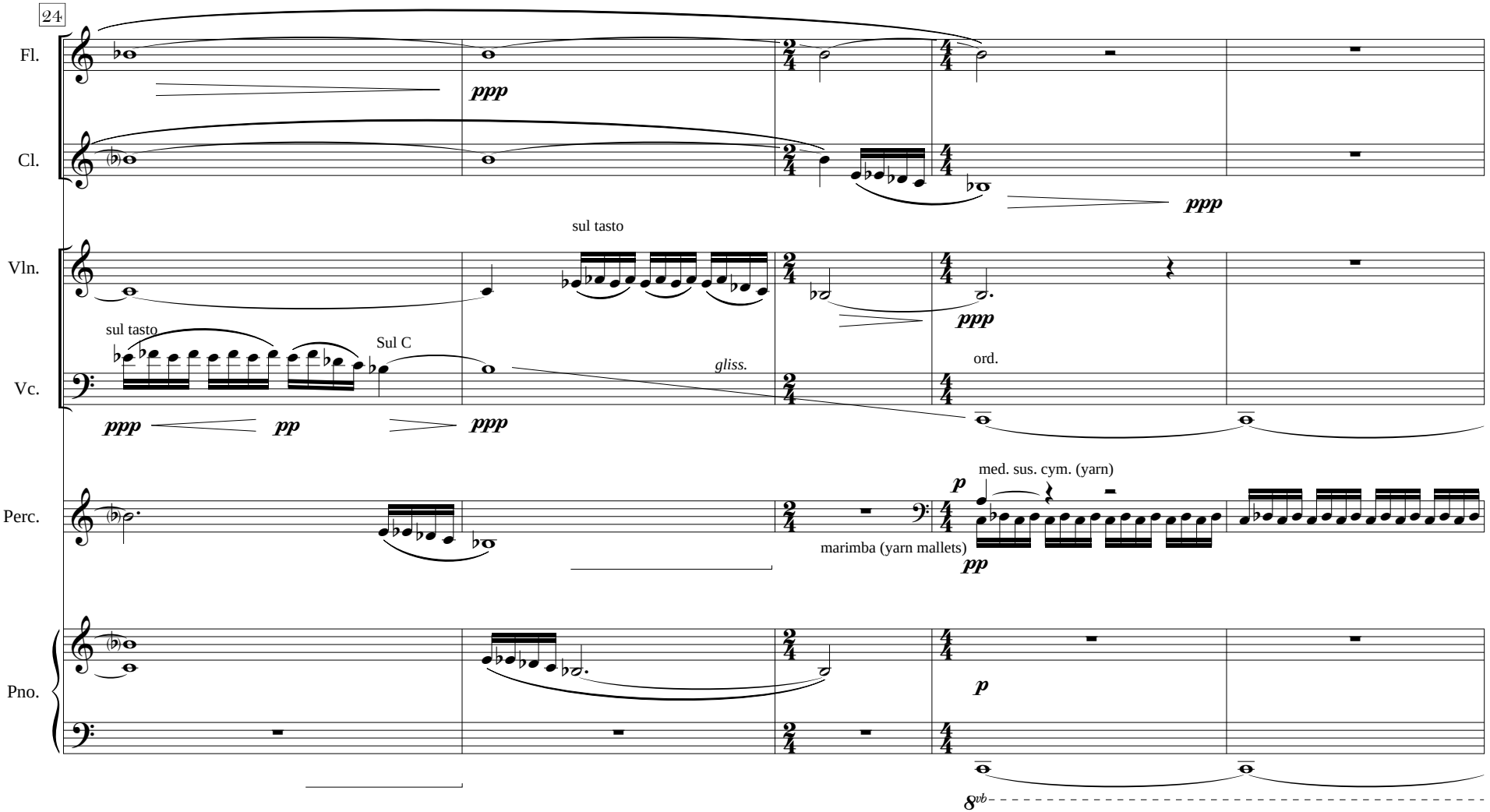
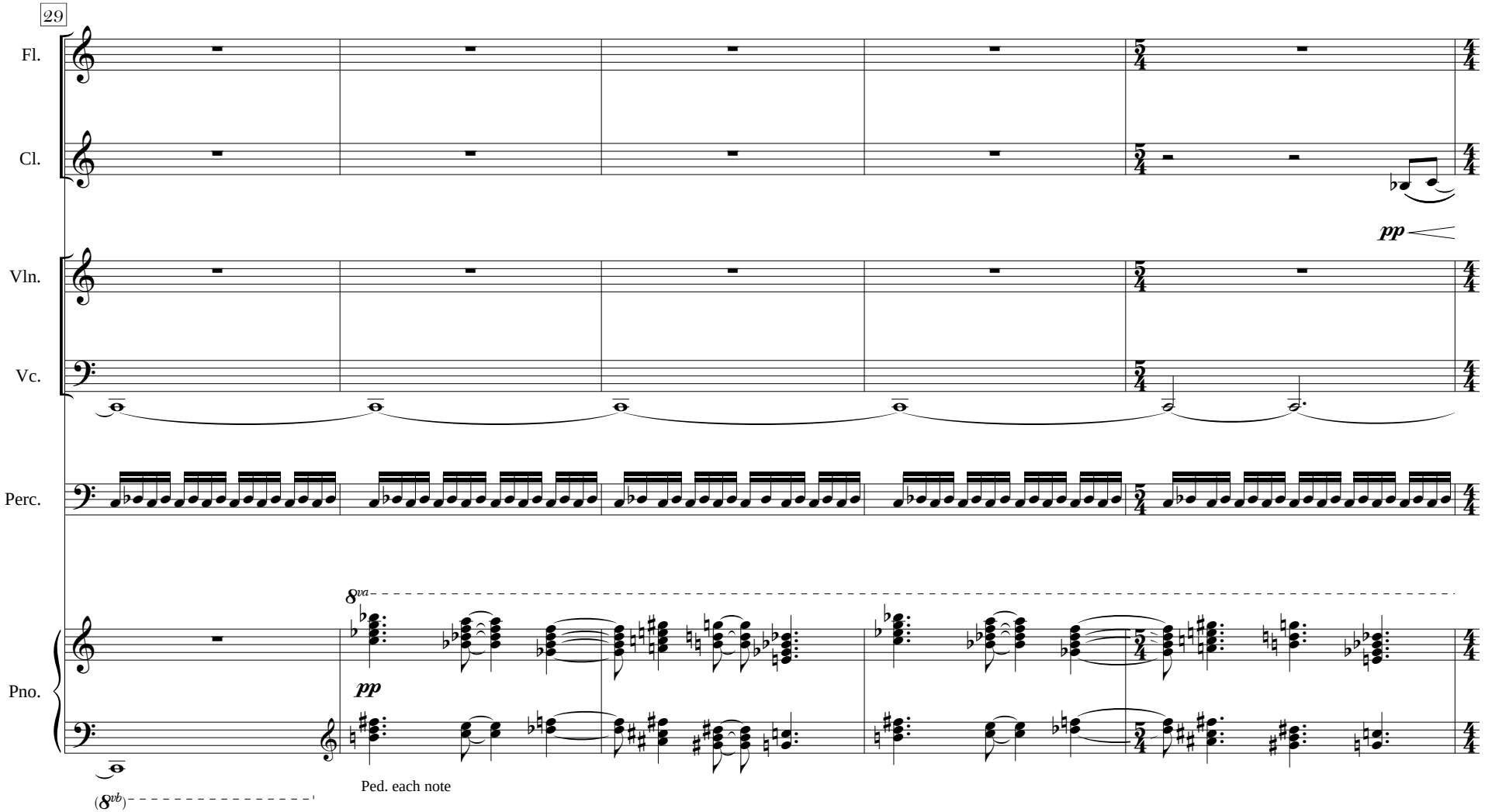

5
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
f
ff
pp
ppp
p
Sul A
Sul D
8va
gliss.
3
6

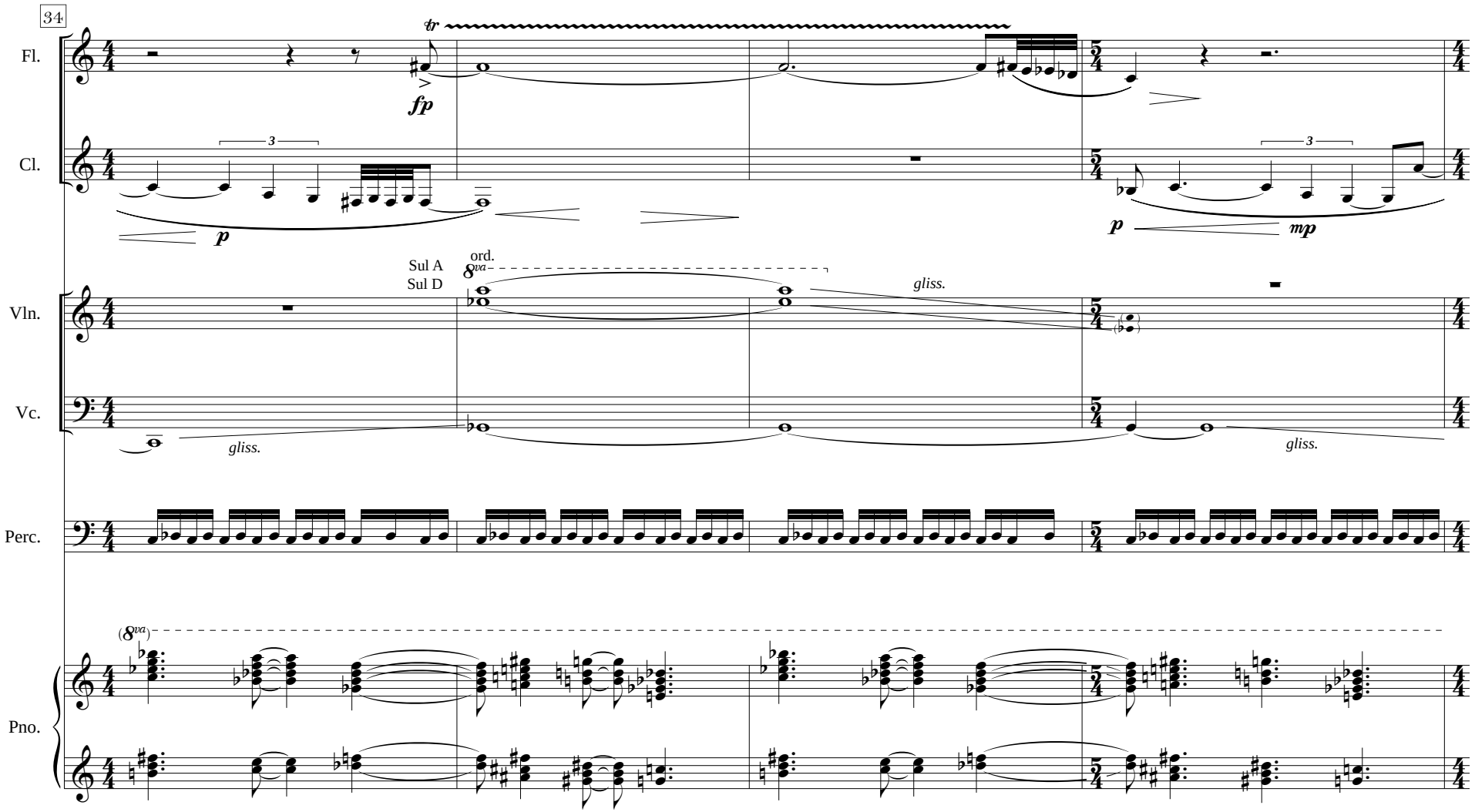

9
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
flt.
ord.
jet whistle
(pitches appox.)
flt.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
Ped.
8va

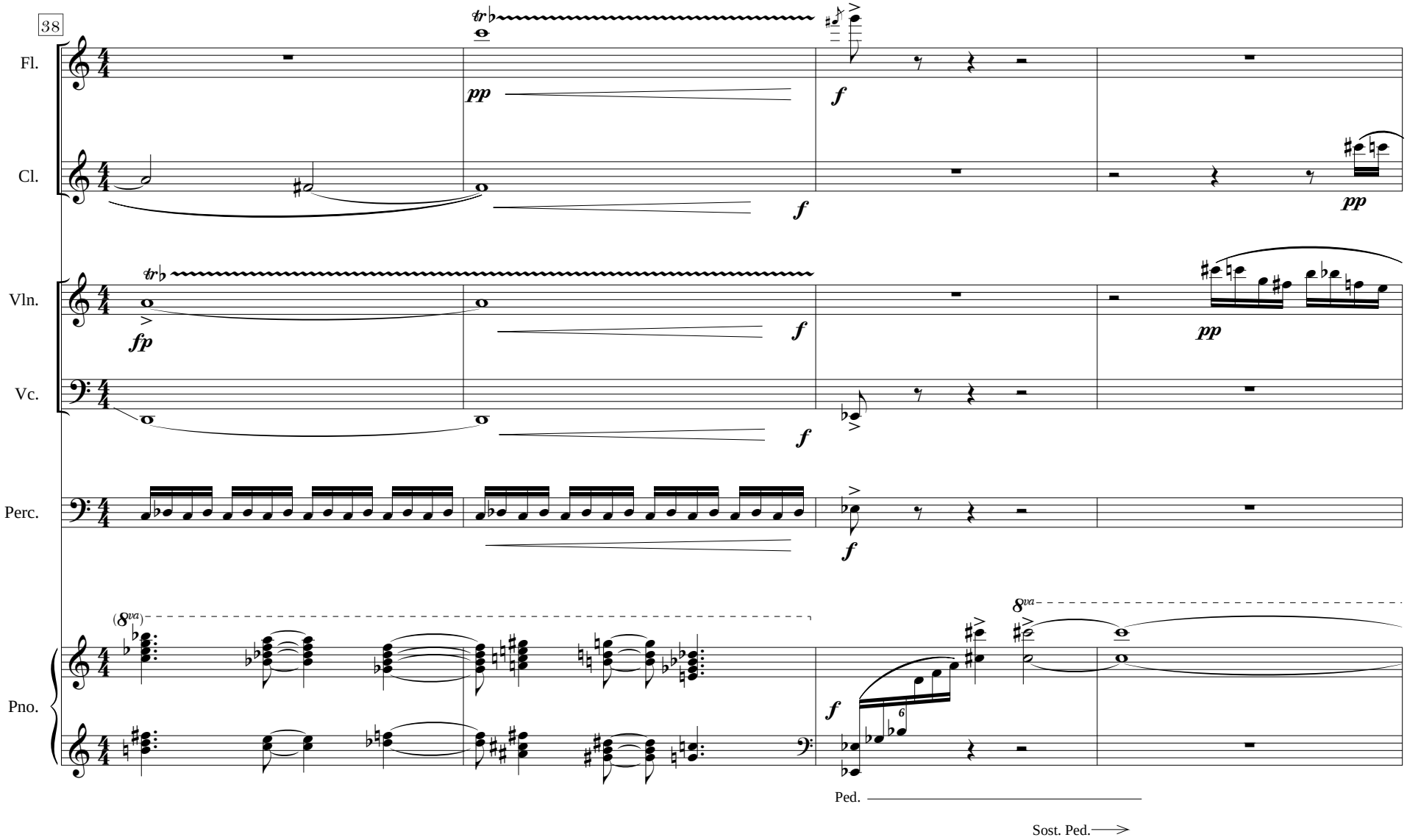

14
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
jet whistle
flt.
ff
mf
f
pp
p
gliss.
Sul D
Sul A
Sul C
Ped.
8va

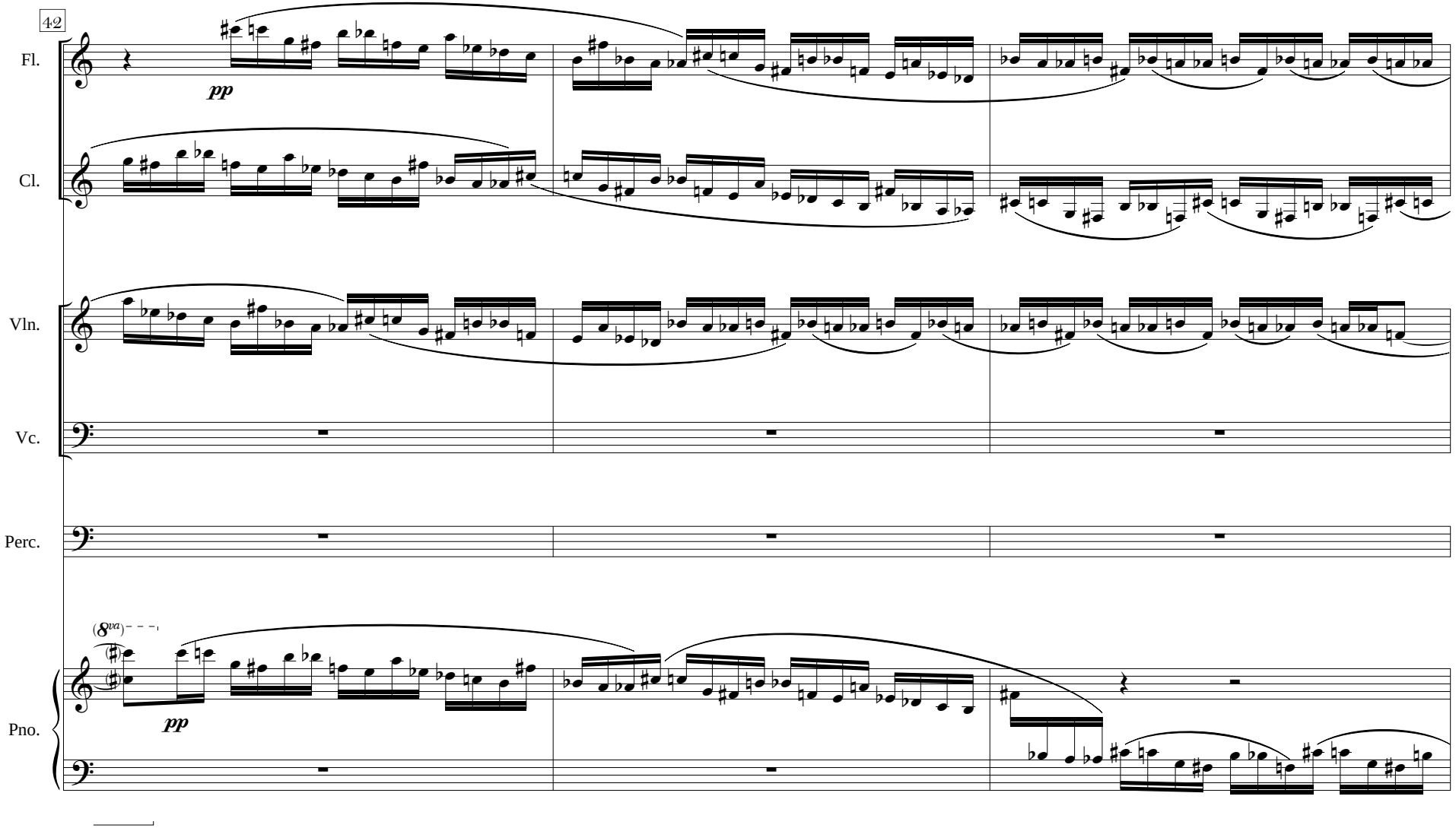

19
rit.
a tempo
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
pp
ppp
ppp
ppp
ppp
ppp

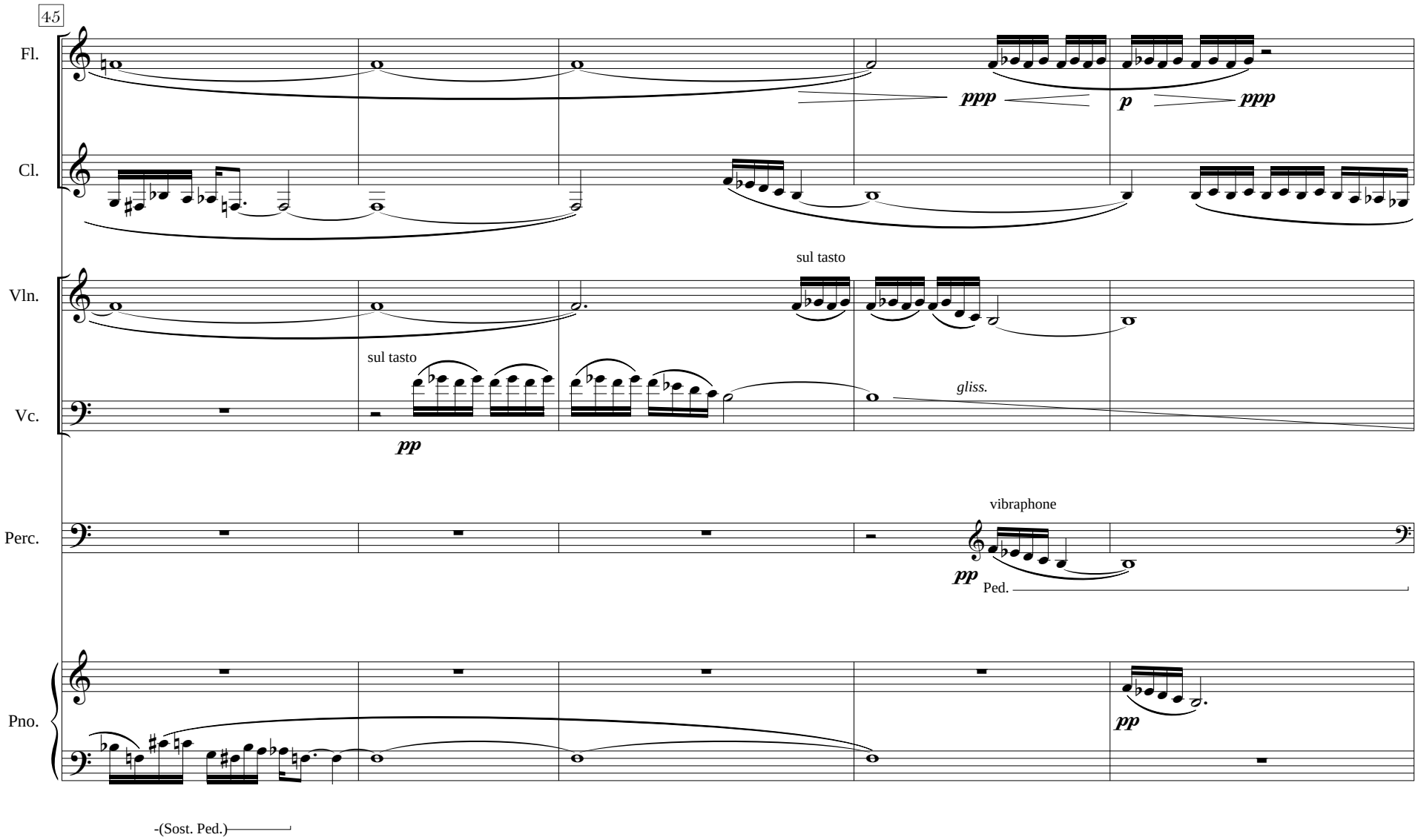

24
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
ppp
ppp
sul tasto
ppp
sul tasto
Sul C
gliss.
ord.
ppp
pp
ppp
med. sus. cym. (yarn)
p
marimba (yarn mallets)
pp
p
8vb

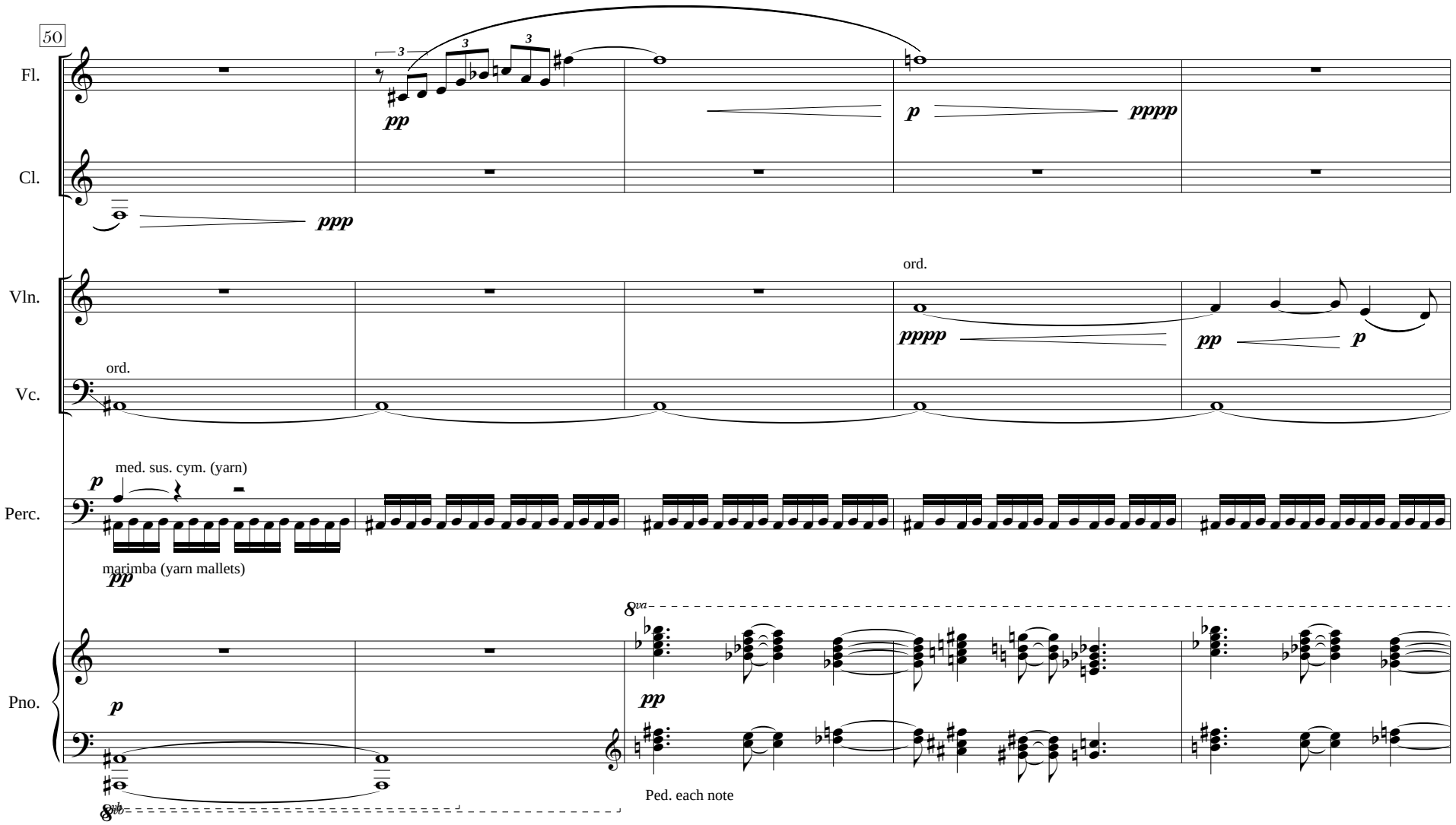

29
Fl.
Cl.
pp
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
8va
pp
Pno.
Ped. each note
(8vb)


34
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
tr
fp
p
mp
3
Sul A
Sul D
ord.
8va
gliss.
(8va)


38
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
pp
f
fp
8va
Ped.
Sost. Ped.


42
Fl.
pp
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
(8va)
Pno.
pp


45
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
ppp
p
ppp
sul tasto
sul tasto
pp
gliss.
vibraphone
pp
Ped.
pp
-(Sost. Ped.)


50
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Perc.
Pno.
pp
ppp
p
pppp
ord.
med. sus. cym. (yarn)
marimba (yarn mallets)
8va
Ped. each note