Choral Music of Karen P. Thomas

Ancient Souls

SATB and orchestra

Music by Karen P. Thomas

Text by Molly McGee

Published by Karen P Thomas Music
karenpthomas.com

Ancient Souls

Music by Karen P. Thomas
Text by Molly McGee

Ancient Souls was commissioned by the American Guild of Organists for the 2000 National Convention. The original version for chorus and organ was premiered at the convention with three performances by Seattle Pro Musica, Karen P. Thomas conductor, with James Holloway, organist.

This version for chorus and orchestra was commissioned and premiered in 2018 by the Mid-Columbia Symphony, Nicholas Wallin, conductor, and the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers, Justin Raffa, conductor.

The text, by Seattle poet Molly McGee, is a plea for human tolerance and inclusivity.

ANCIENT SOULS

The soul is an ancient town
where saints once walked, the vaulted
roofs resounded with mercy's
alchemy, God's inclusive voice.

Then the walls became high
with indifference. We were complex,
concordance in pantomime.
The squalid currency of fear
was passed from mind to mind
and our regrets, nocturnal,
assembled in silence.

Now, oh God, let your towering song be released.
Let compassion's hymn wake the town;
liberate the simple fountains
and the luminous bells of grace.

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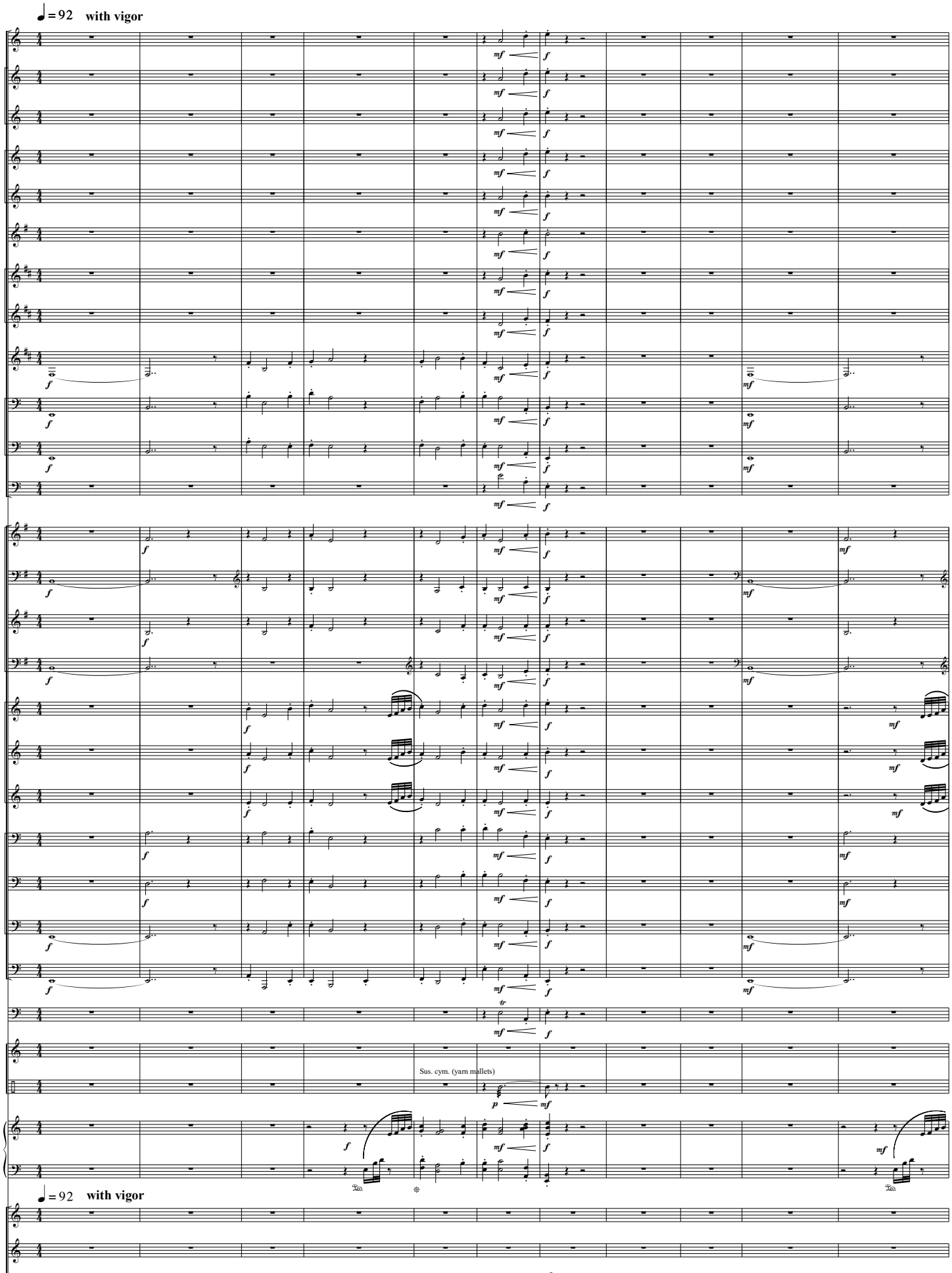
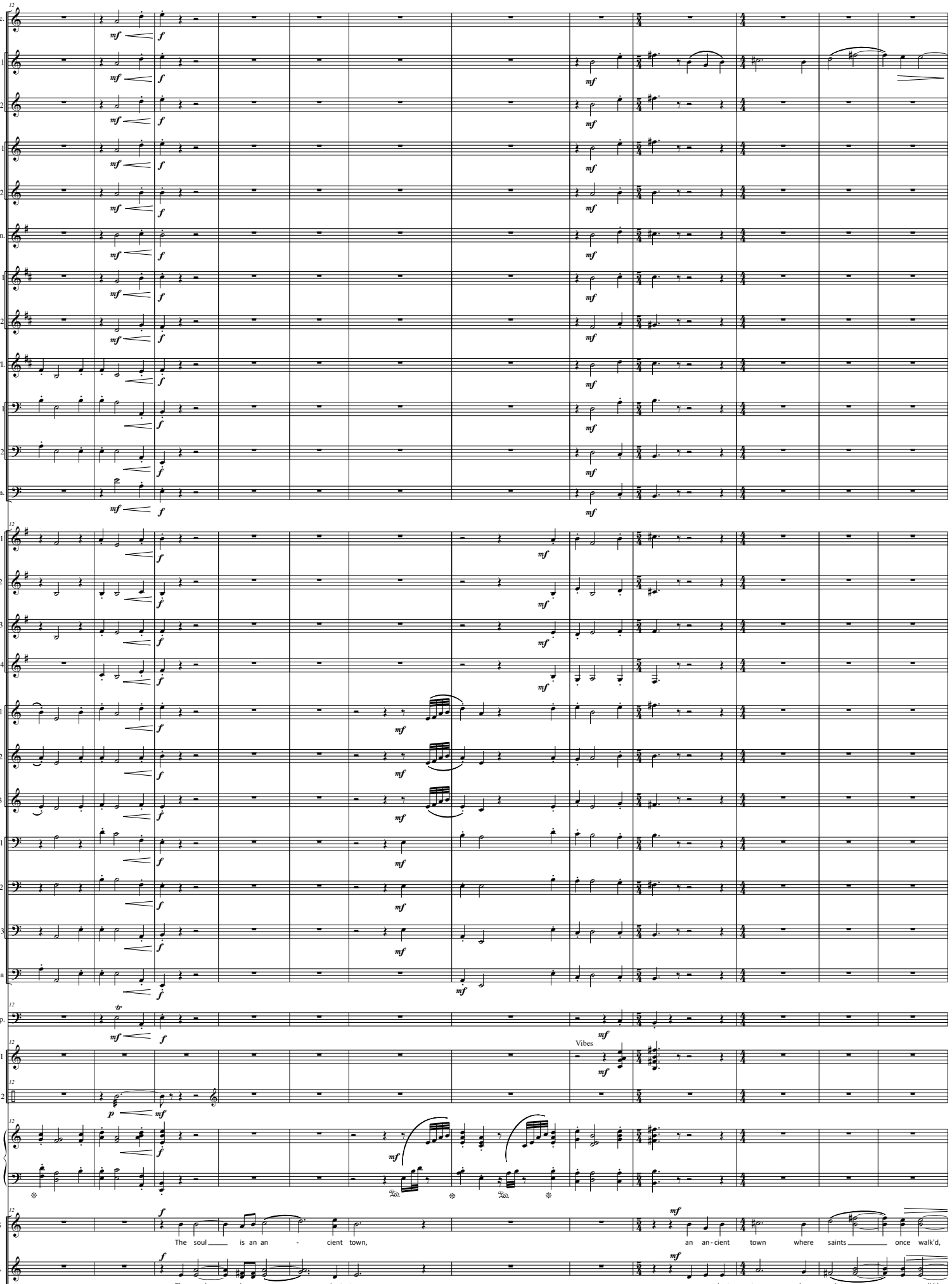
Ancient Souls

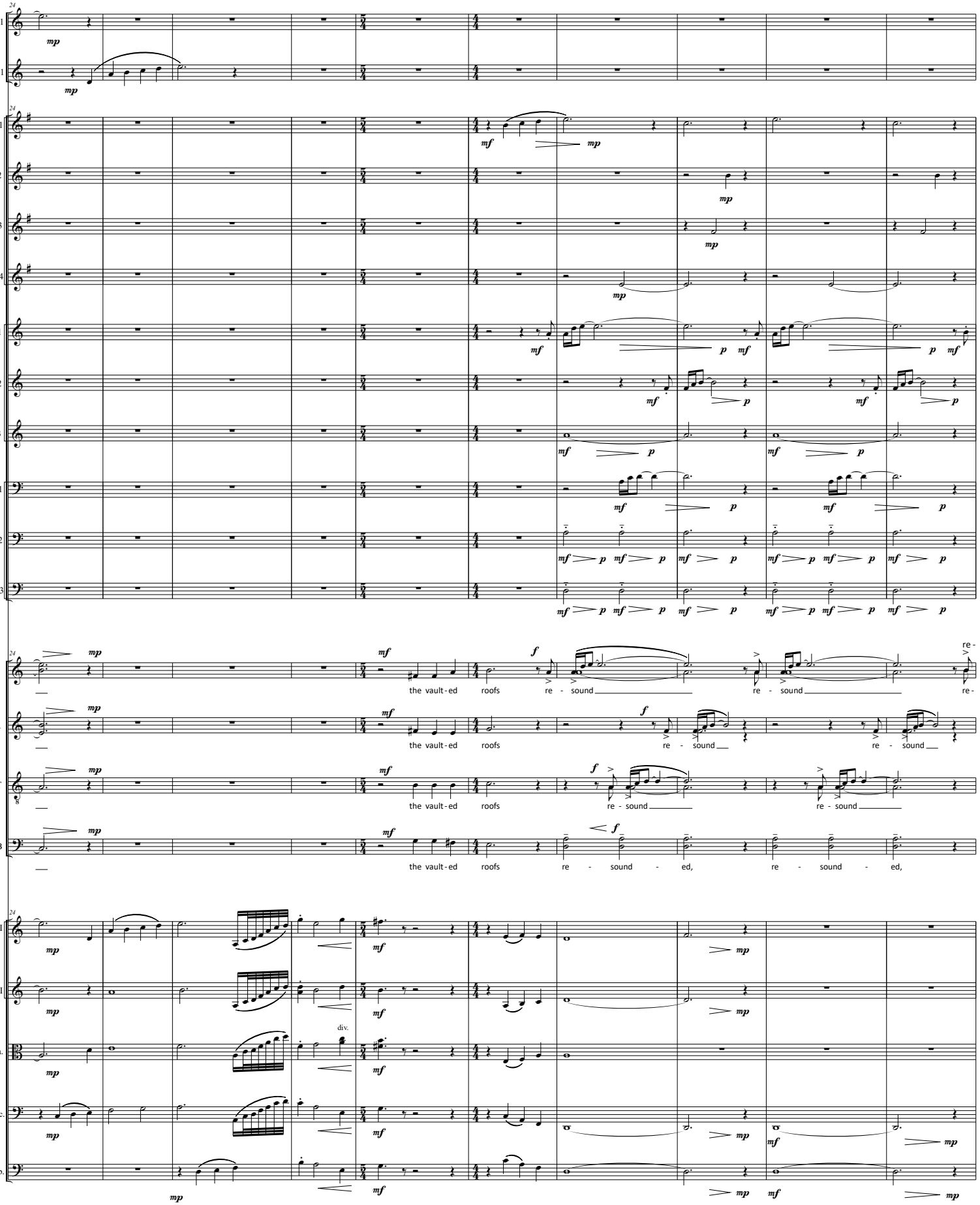
Karen P. Thomas

Orchestral version commissioned by Mid-Columbia Symphony and Mid-Columbia Mastersingers

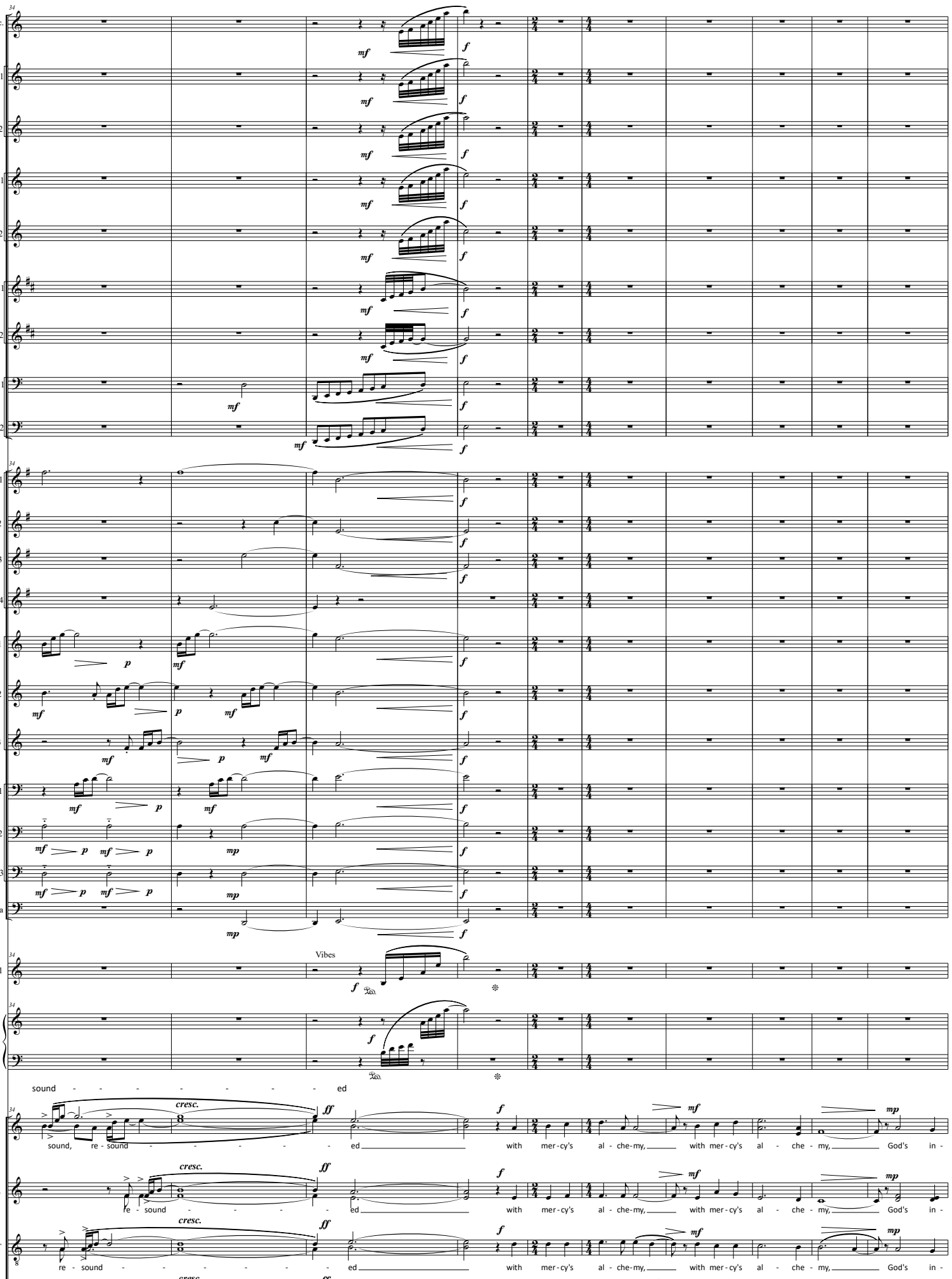


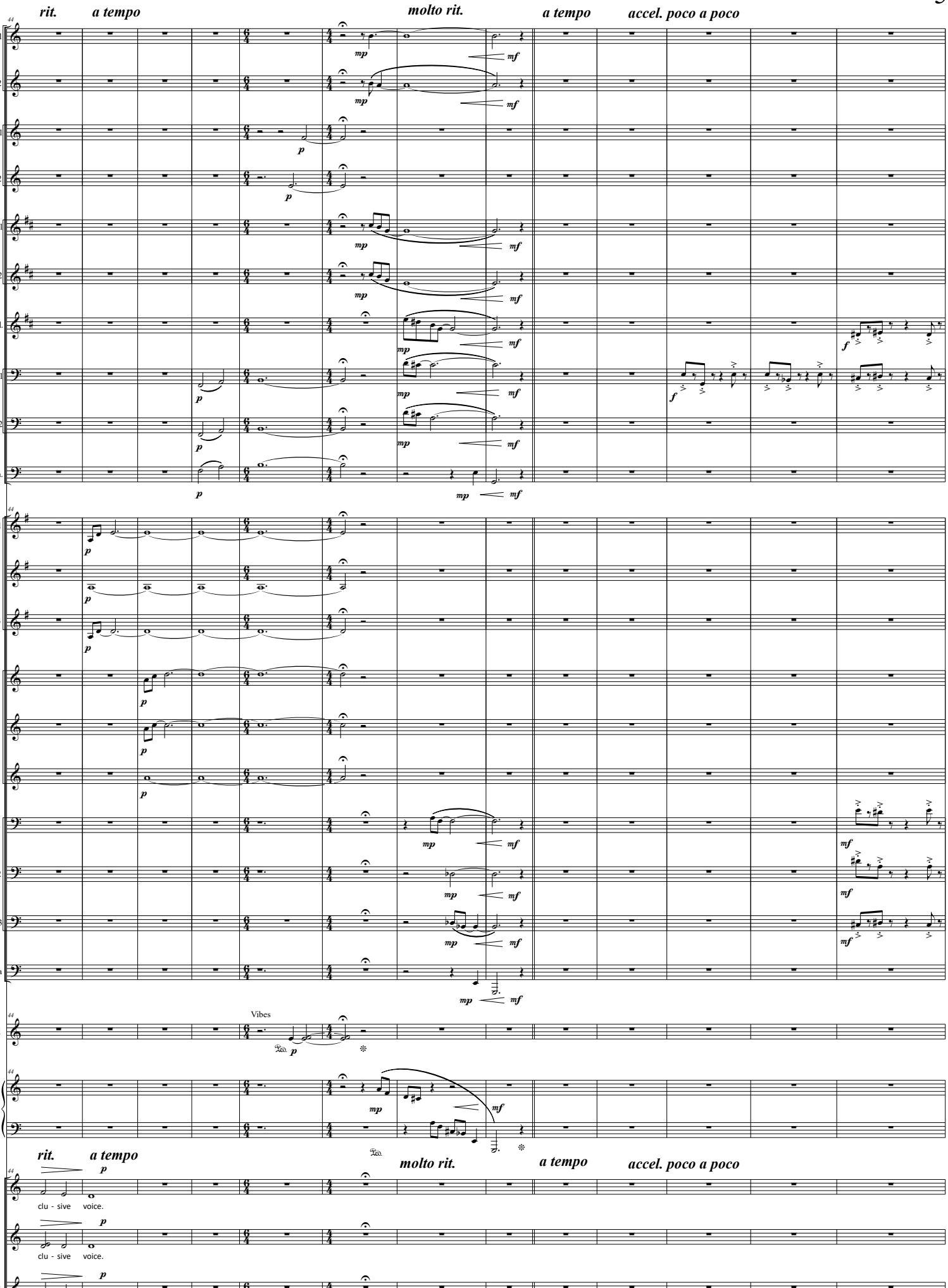
Ancient Souls

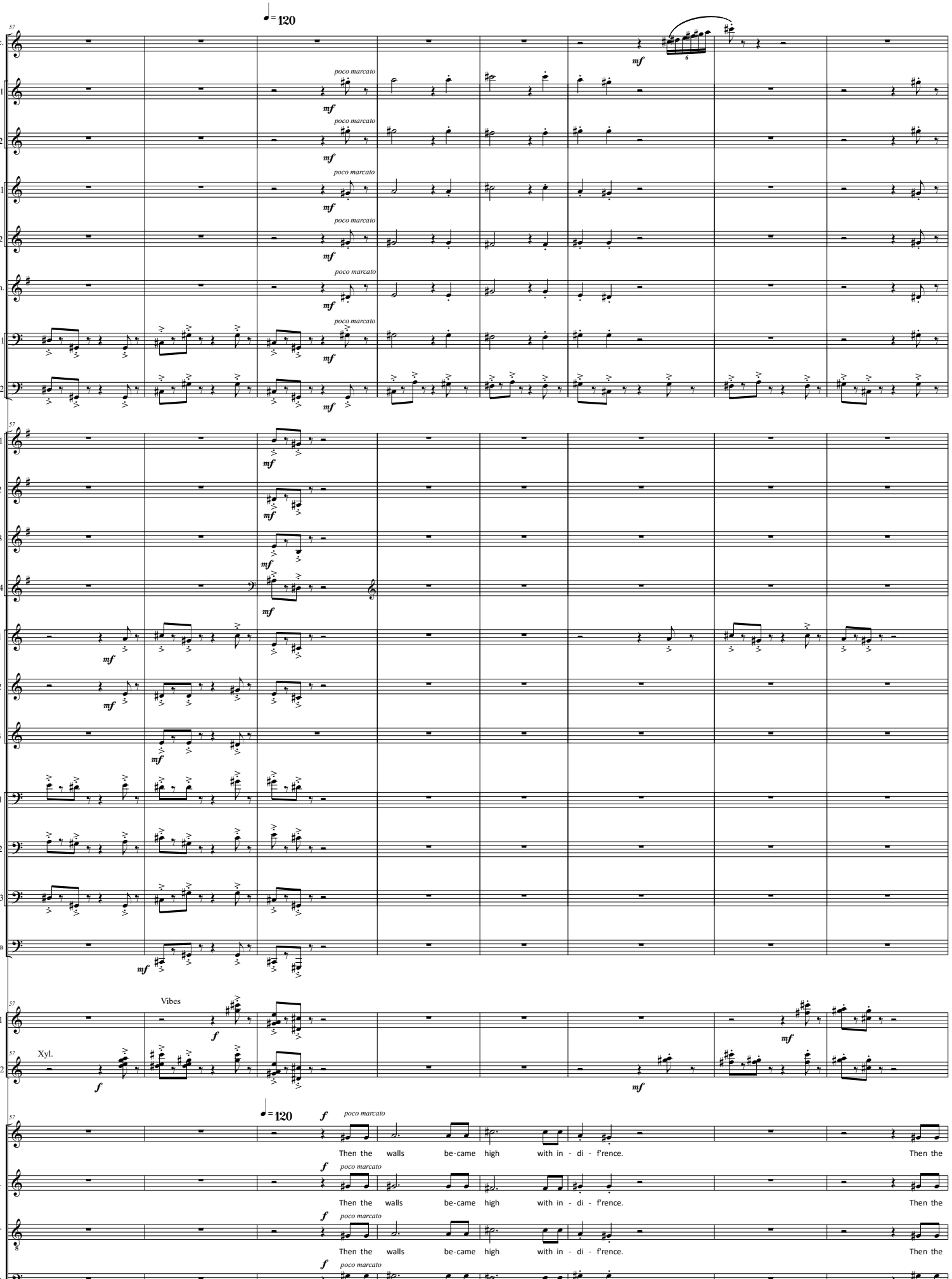


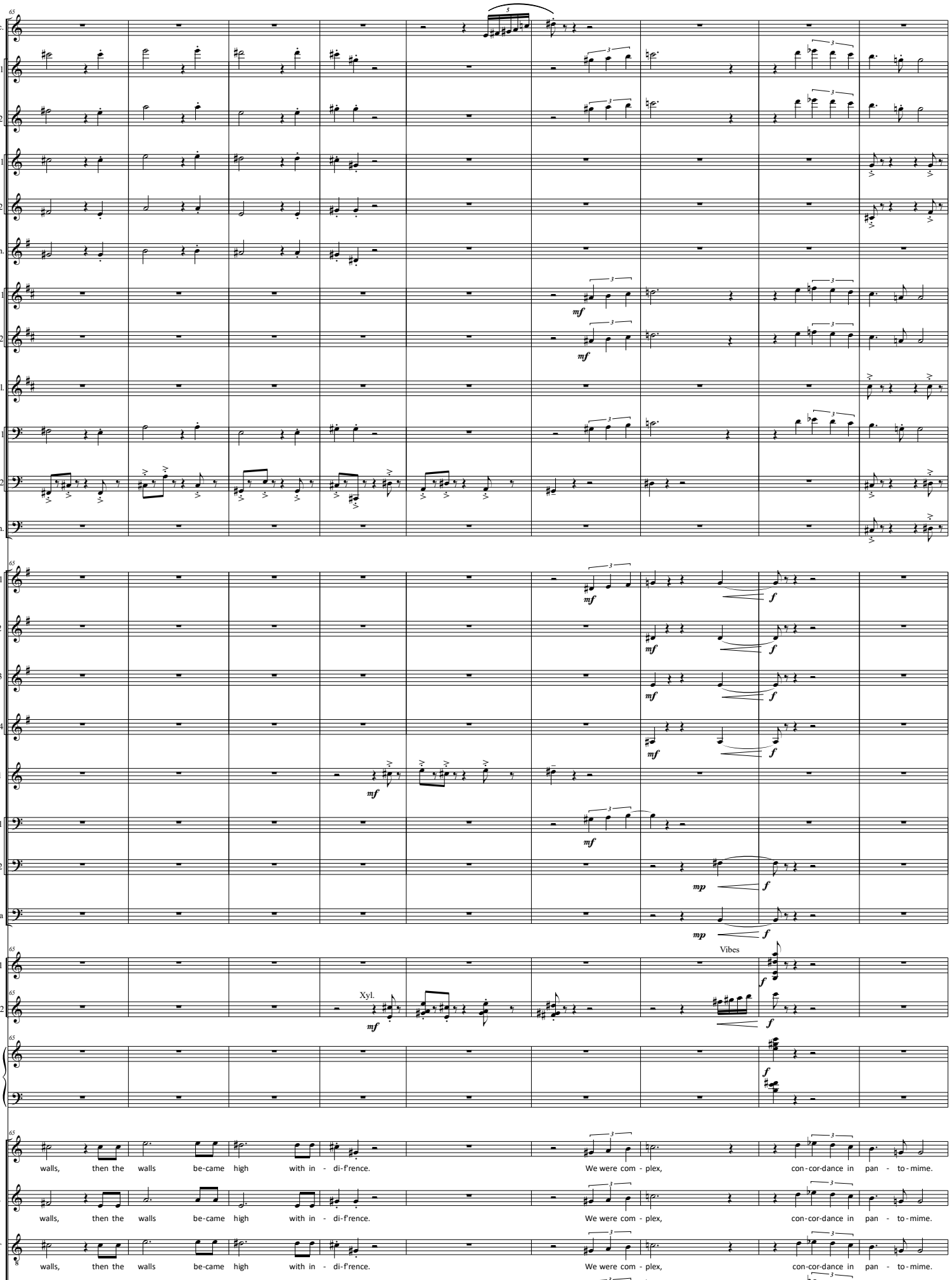

Fl. 1
Ob. 1
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
C Tpt. 1
C Tpt. 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
S
A
T
B
the vault-ed roofs re - sound re - sound re-
the vault-ed roofs re - sound re - sound
the vault-ed roofs re - sound re - sound
the vault-ed roofs re - sound - ed, re - sound - ed,
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
div.

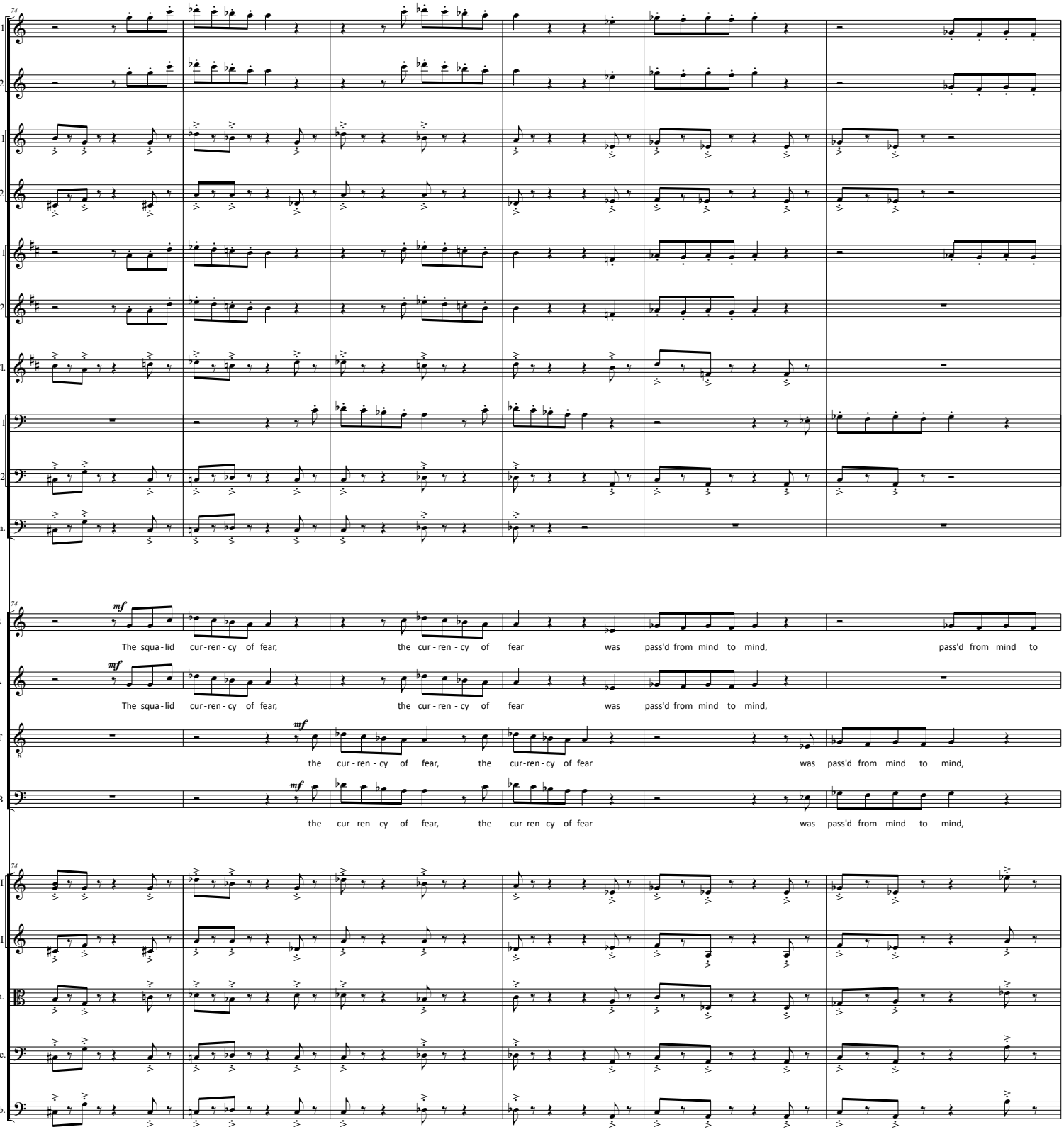
Ancient Souls

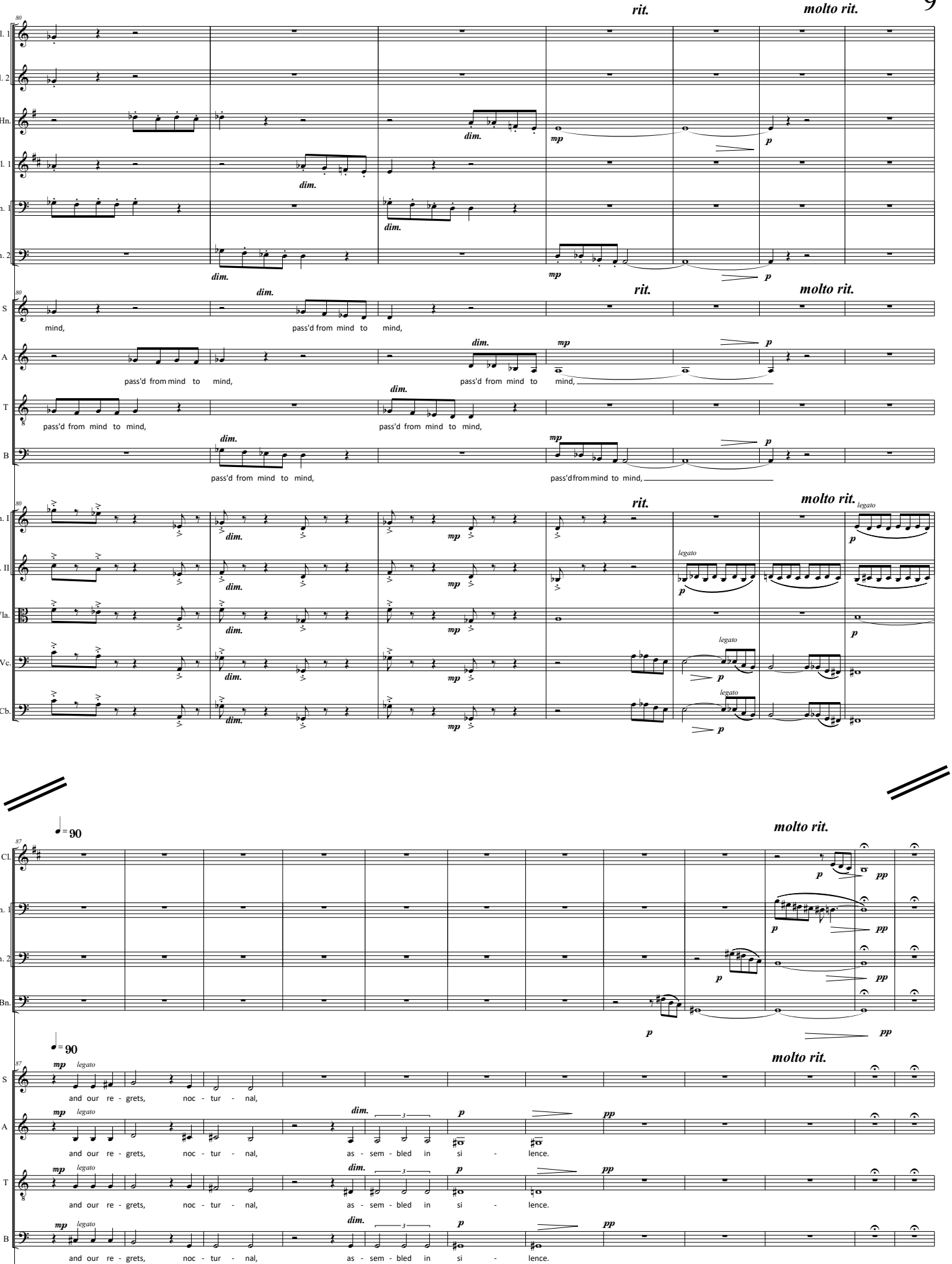


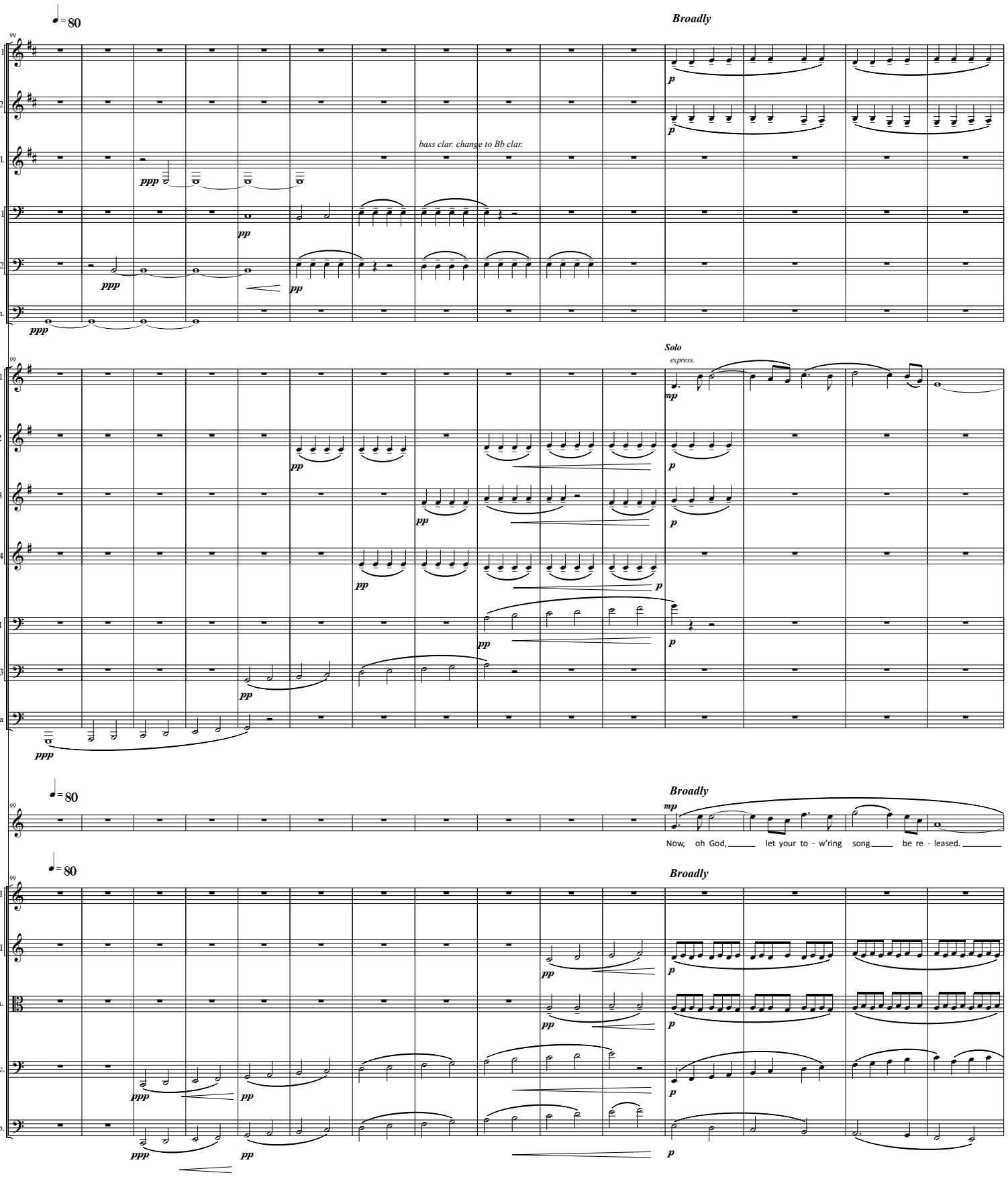

rit.
a tempo
molto rit.
a tempo
accel. poco a poco
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
C Tpt. 1
C Tpt. 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
Tuba
Vibes
Perc 1
Hp.
S
A
T
clu - sive voice.
clu - sive voice.

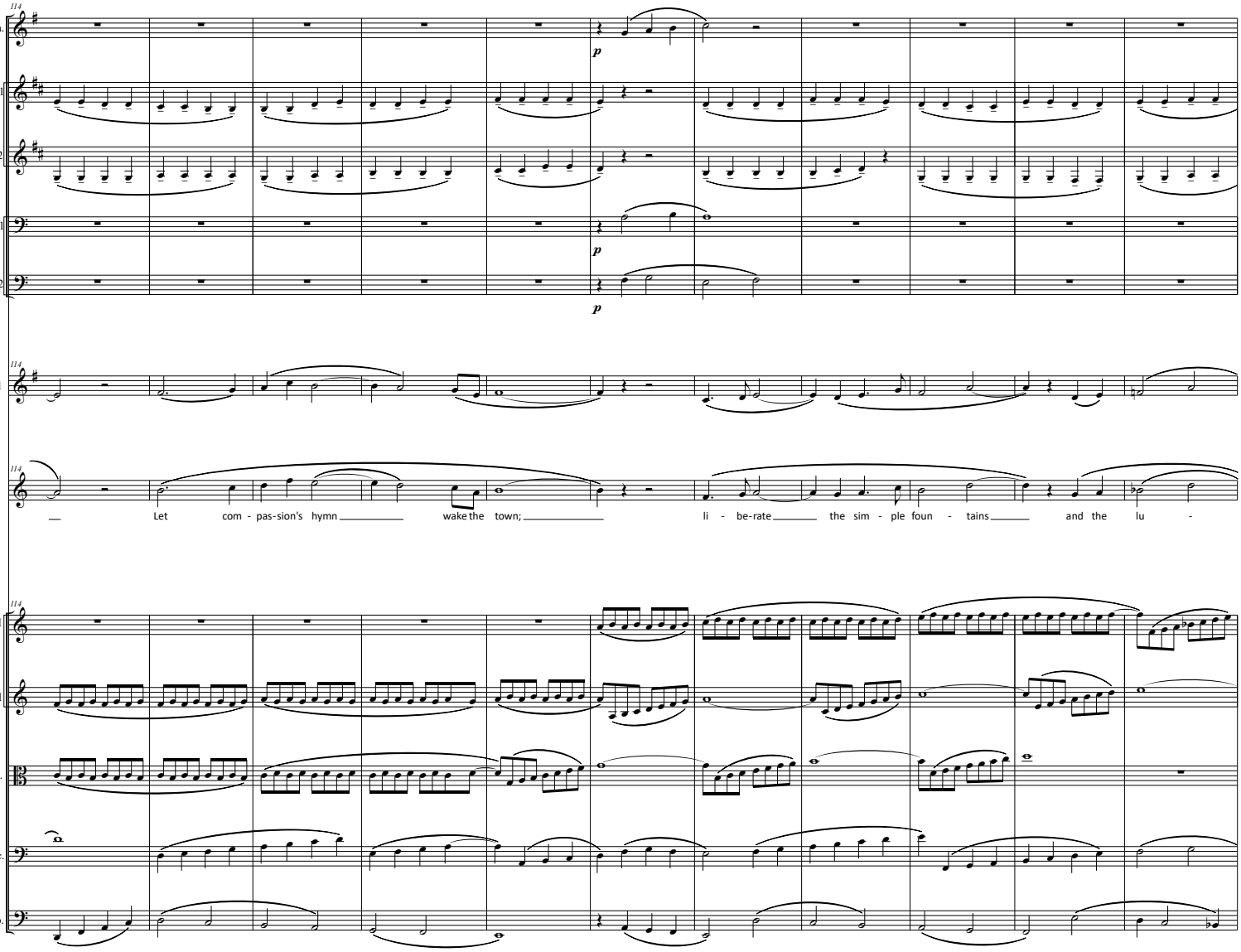

♩= 120
Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. Hn.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
C Tpt. 1
C Tpt. 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
Tuba
Perc 1
Perc 2
Vibes
Xyl.
S
A
T
B
poco marcato
mf
f
Then the walls be-came high with in - di - f'rence. Then the

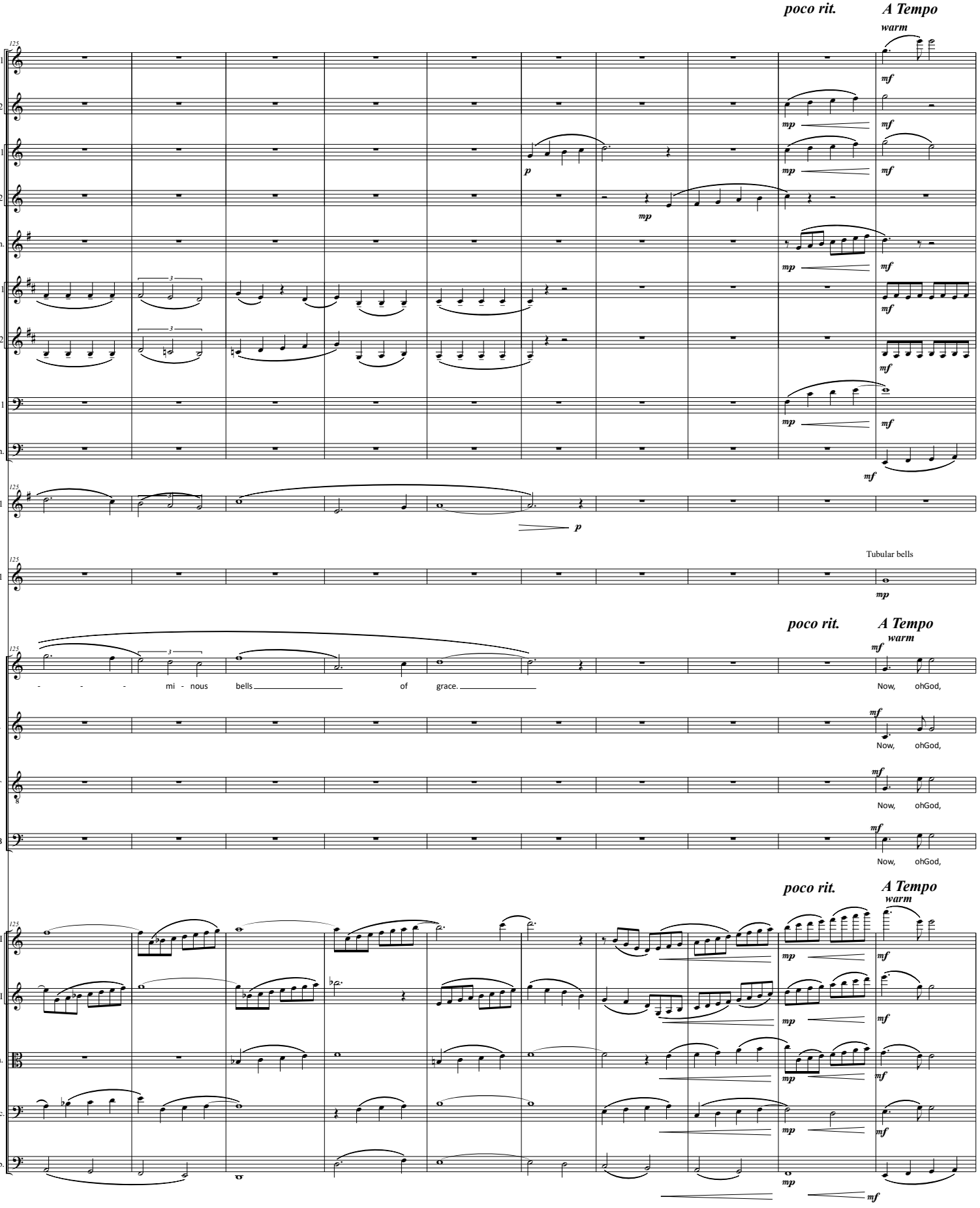

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
C Tpt. 1
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tuba
Perc 1
Perc 2
Xyl.
Vibes
Hp.
S
A
T
walls, then the walls be-came high with in - di-f'rence.
We were com - plex, con-cor-dance in pan - to-mime.


74
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
74
S
mf
The squa - lid cur - ren - cy of fear, the cur - ren - cy of fear was pass'd from mind to mind, pass'd from mind to
A
mf
The squa - lid cur - ren - cy of fear, the cur - ren - cy of fear was pass'd from mind to mind,
T
mf
the cur - ren - cy of fear, the cur - ren - cy of fear was pass'd from mind to mind,
B
mf
the cur - ren - cy of fear, the cur - ren - cy of fear was pass'd from mind to mind,
74
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.


rit.
molto rit.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl. 1
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
S
A
T
B
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mind, pass'd from mind to mind,
pass'd from mind to mind,
pass'd from mind to mind,
pass'd from mind to mind,
pass'd from mind to mind,
pass'd from mind to mind,
legato
♩= 90
B. Cl.
C. Bn.
and our re - grets, noc - tur - nal,
and our re - grets, noc - tur - nal, as - sem - bled in si - lence.


♩= 80
Broadly
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
bass clar. change to Bb clar.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
Solo
espress.
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 3
Tuba
S
Now, oh God, let your to - w'ring song be re - leased.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.


E. Hn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
S
Let com - pas-sion's hymn wake the town; li - be-rate the sim - ple foun - tains and the lu -
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.


poco rit.
A Tempo
warm
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
C. Bn.
Hn. 1
Perc 1
Tubular bells
S
A
T
B
- - - mi - nous bells of grace.
Now, ohGod,
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

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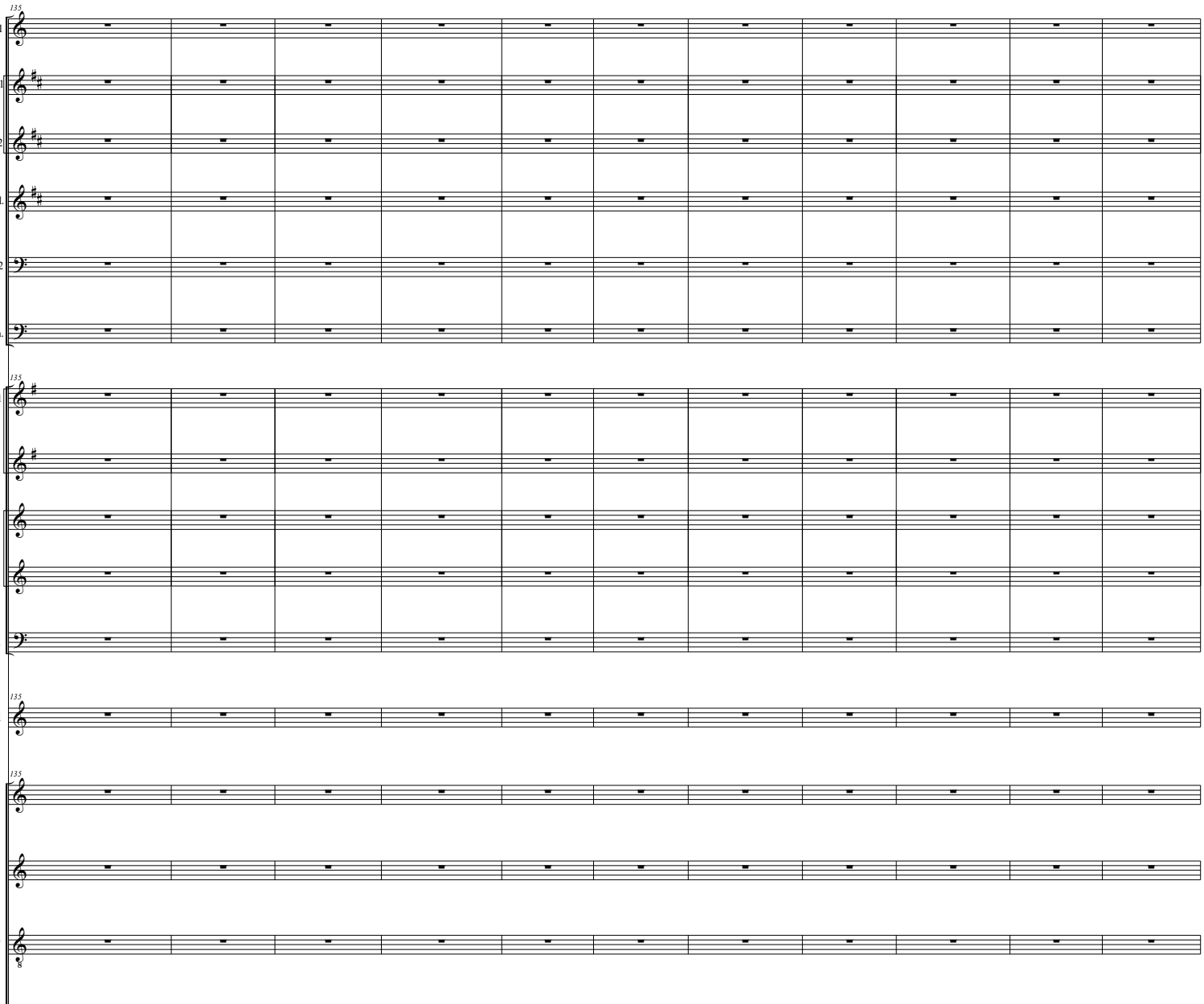
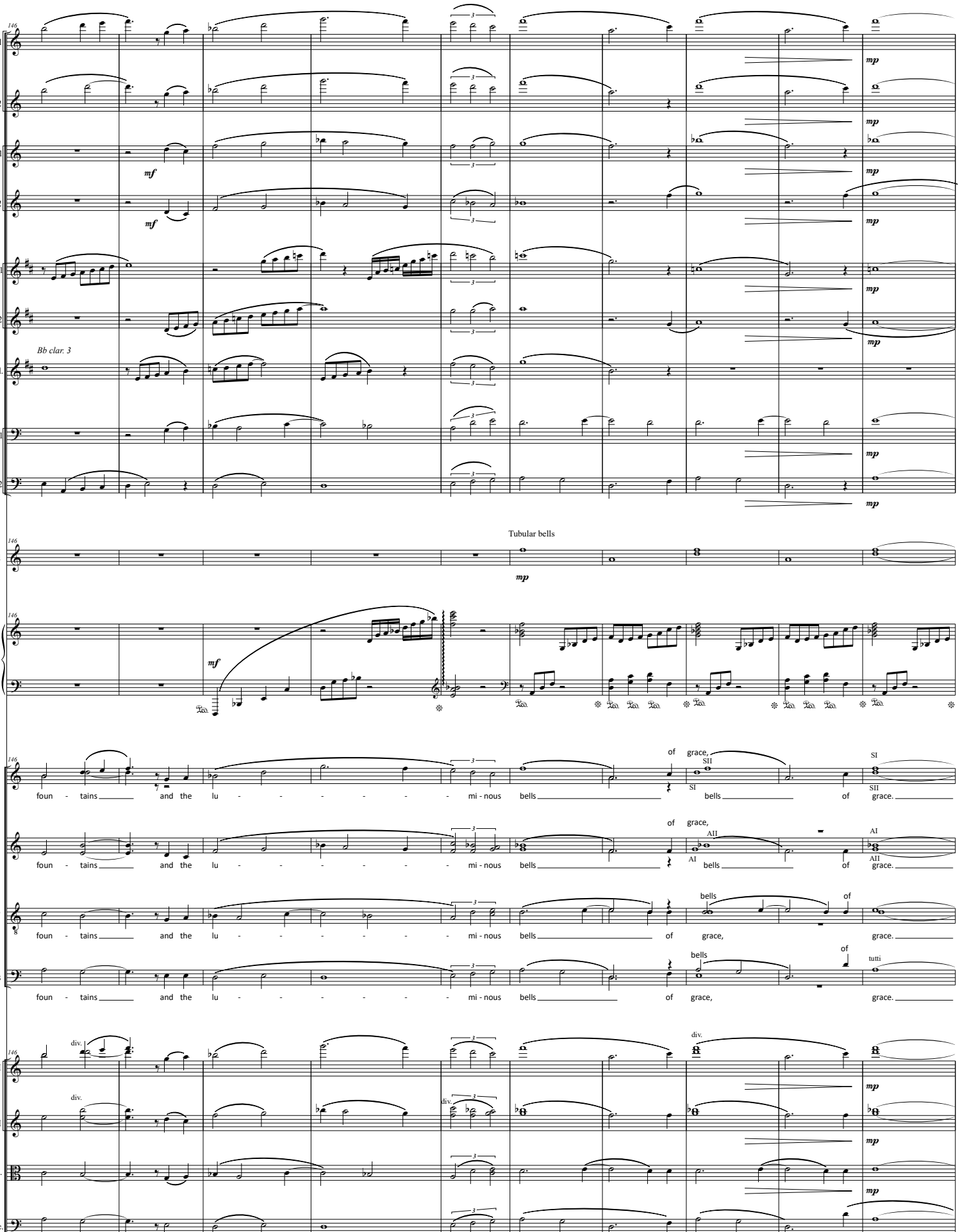
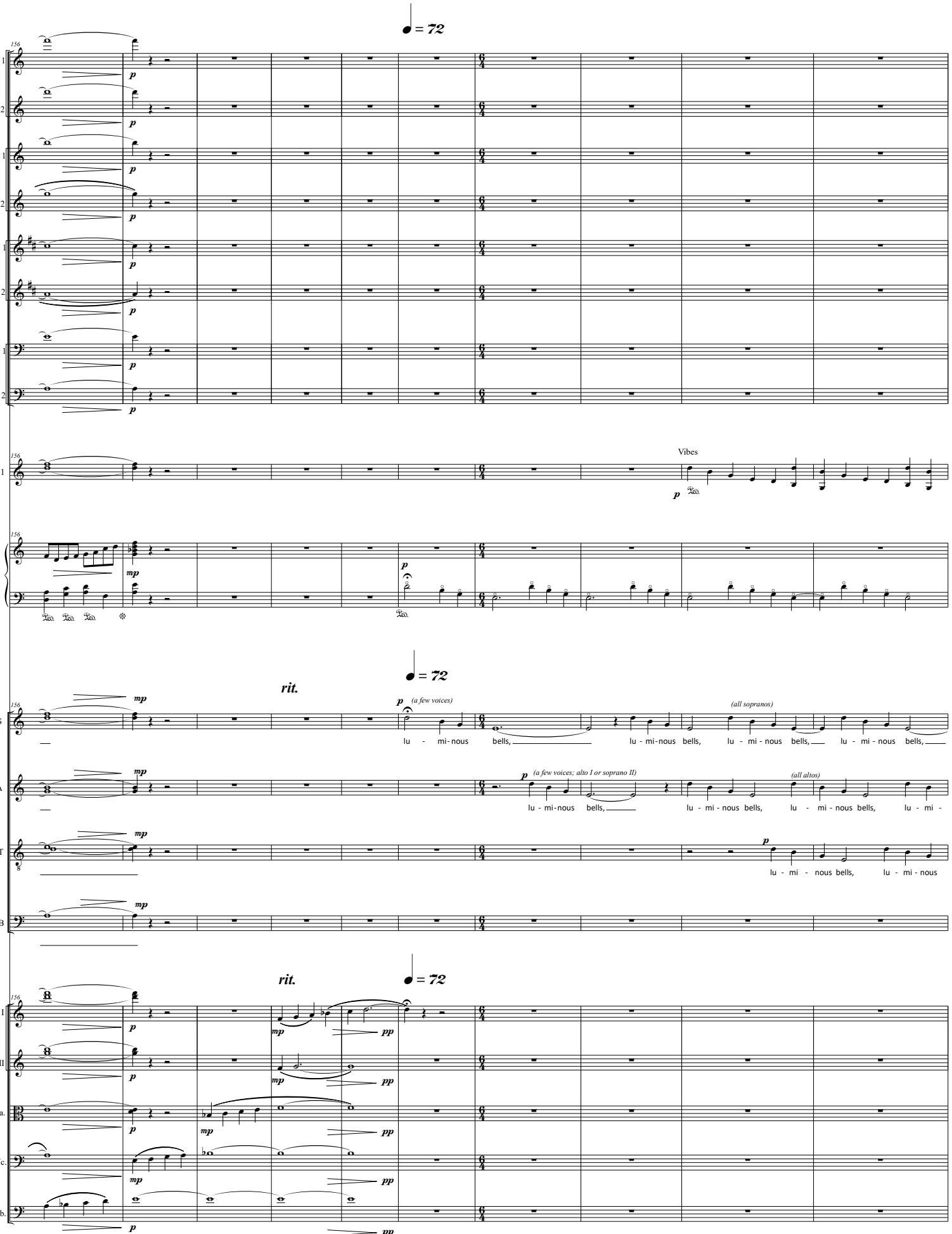
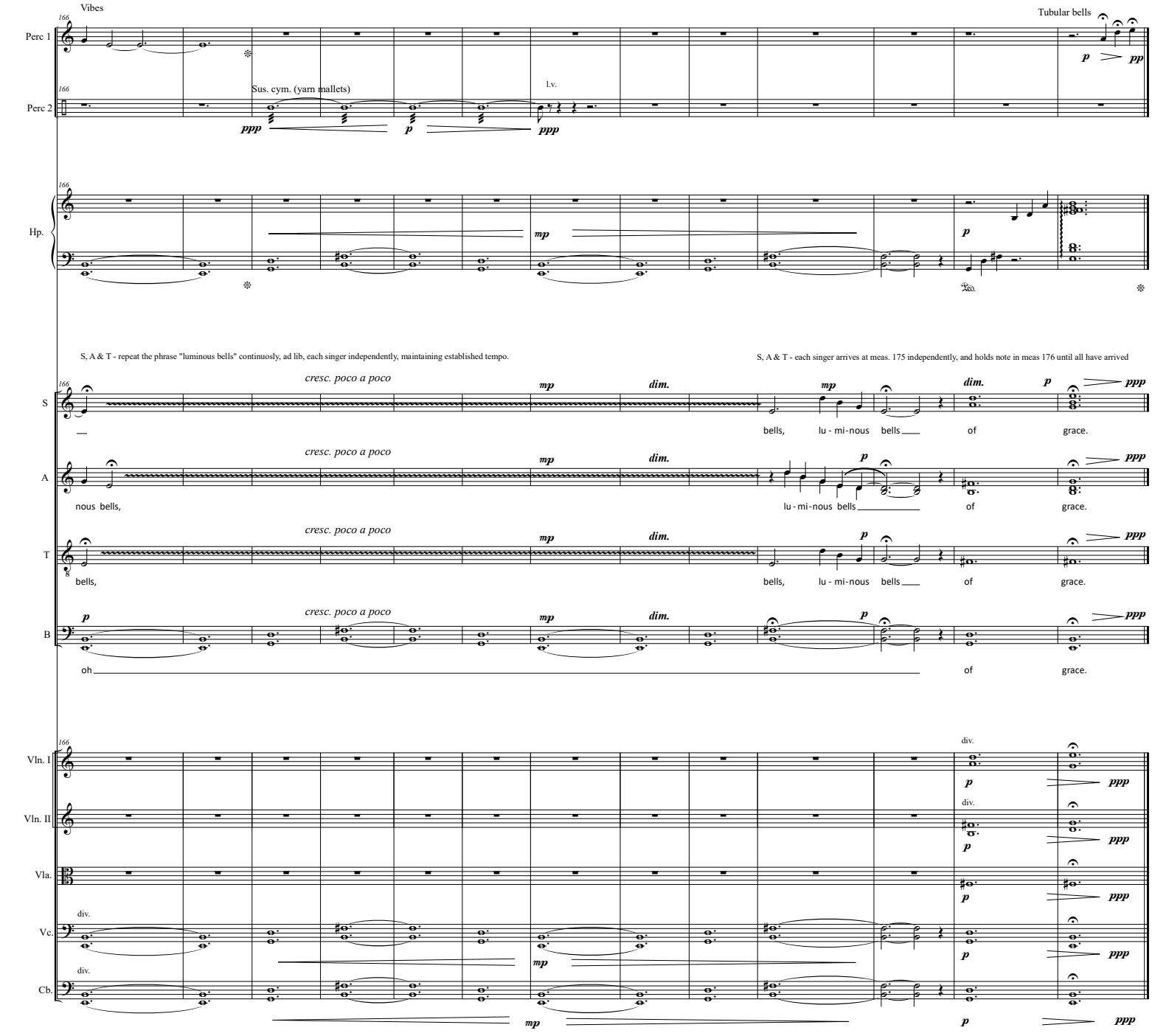
Thank you for your understanding.




146
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Bb clar. 3
mf
mp
Tubular bells
Perc 1
Hp.
S
A
T
B
foun - tains and the lu - - - - - - - mi - nous bells of grace, bells of grace.
SI
SII
AI
AII
tutti
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
div.


♩ = 72
156
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Perc 1
Vibes
Hp.
rit.
♩ = 72
S
(a few voices)
(all sopranos)
lu - mi-nous bells, lu - mi-nous bells, lu - mi - nous bells, lu - mi - nous bells,
A
(a few voices; alto I or soprano II)
(all altos)
lu - mi-nous bells, lu - mi - nous bells, lu - mi - nous bells, lu - mi -
T
lu - mi - nous bells, lu - mi - nous
B
rit.
♩ = 72
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

Ancient Souls



S, A & T - repeat the phrase "luminous bells" continuosly, ad lib, each singer independently, maintaining established tempo.
S, A & T - each singer arrives at meas. 175 independently, and holds note in meas 176 until all have arrived