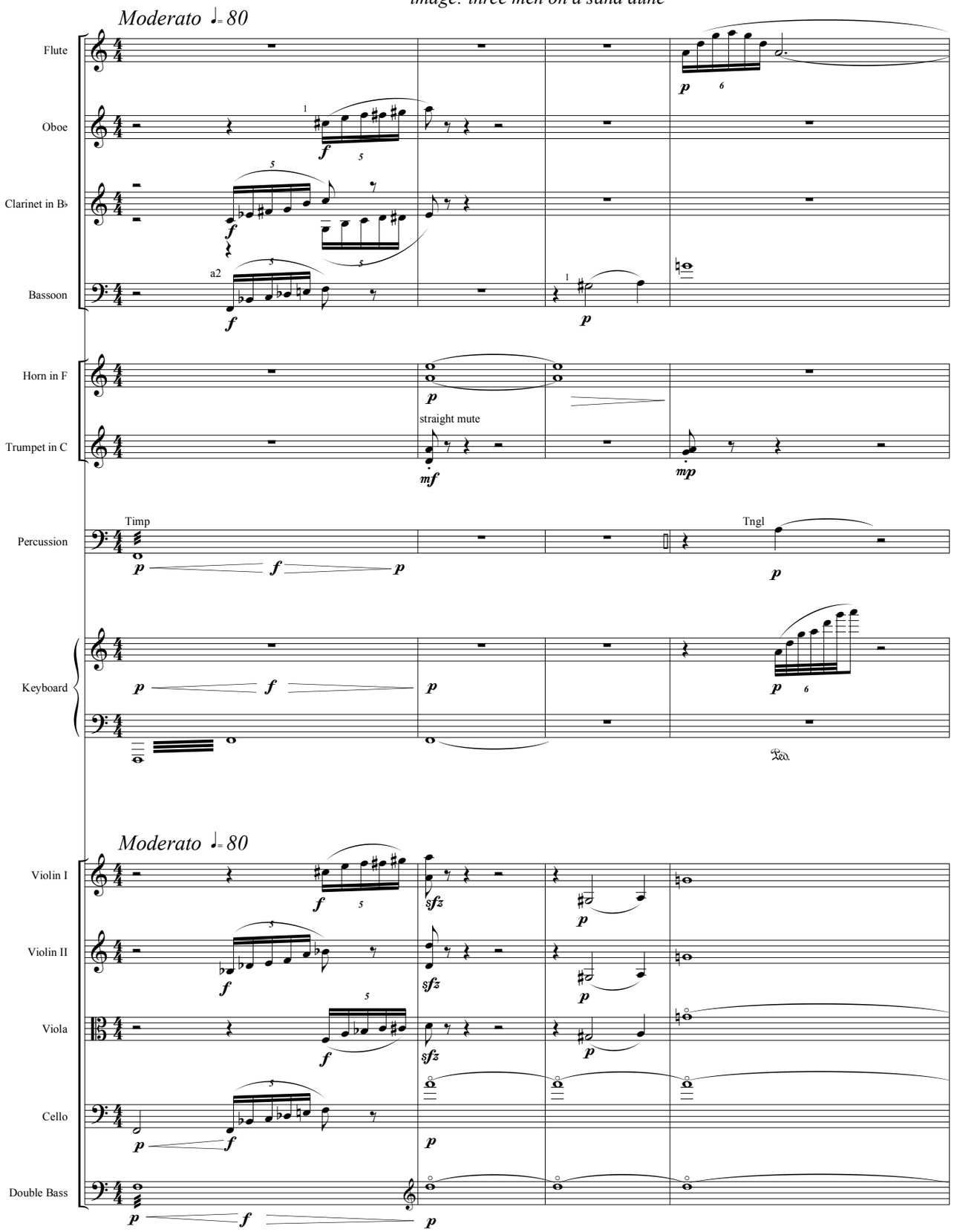
commissioned by the 2003 illuminations festival

Wright Flight

Perusal Score
please do not copy
www.composers.com

Lawrence Dillon

image: three men on a sand dune



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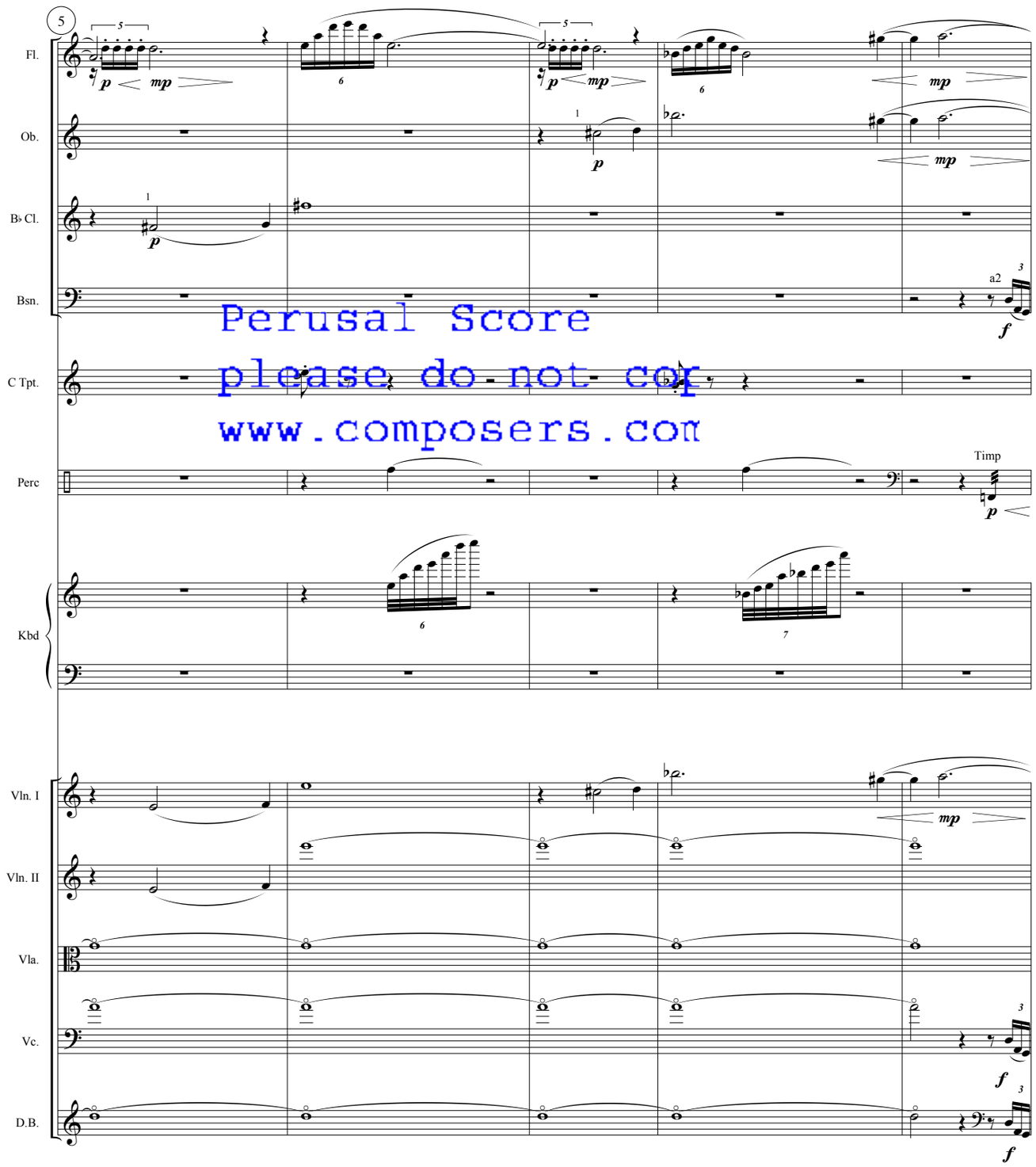
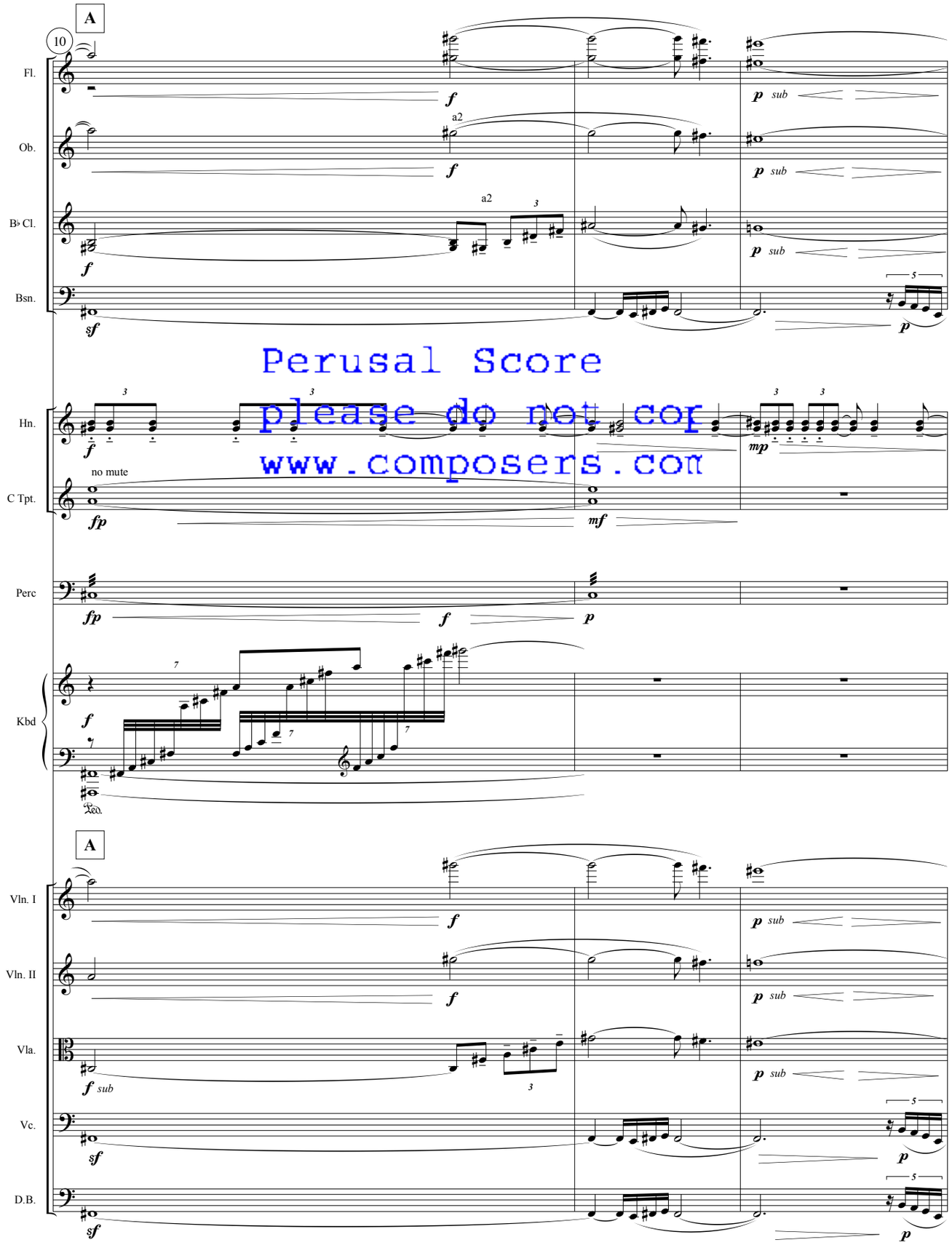
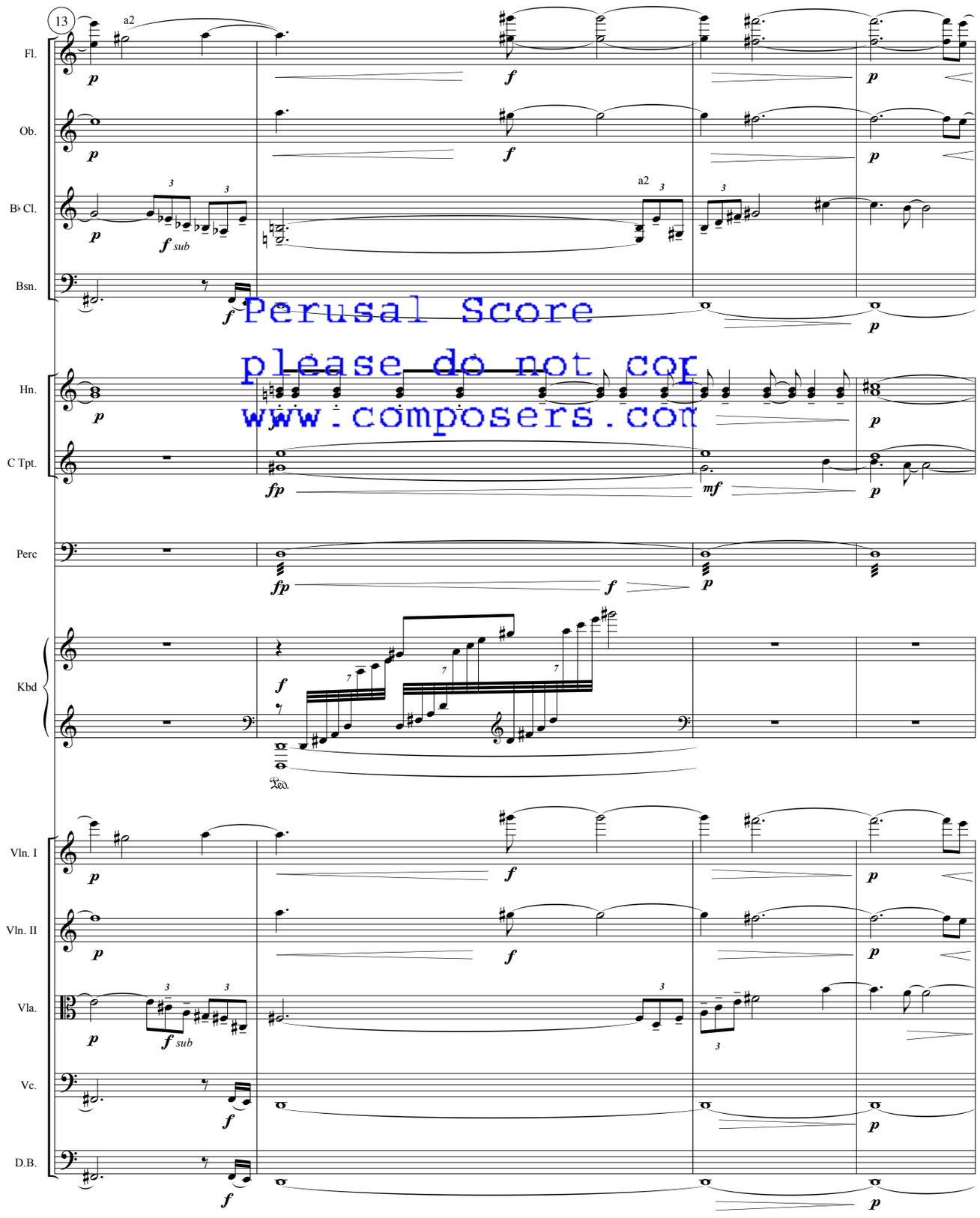
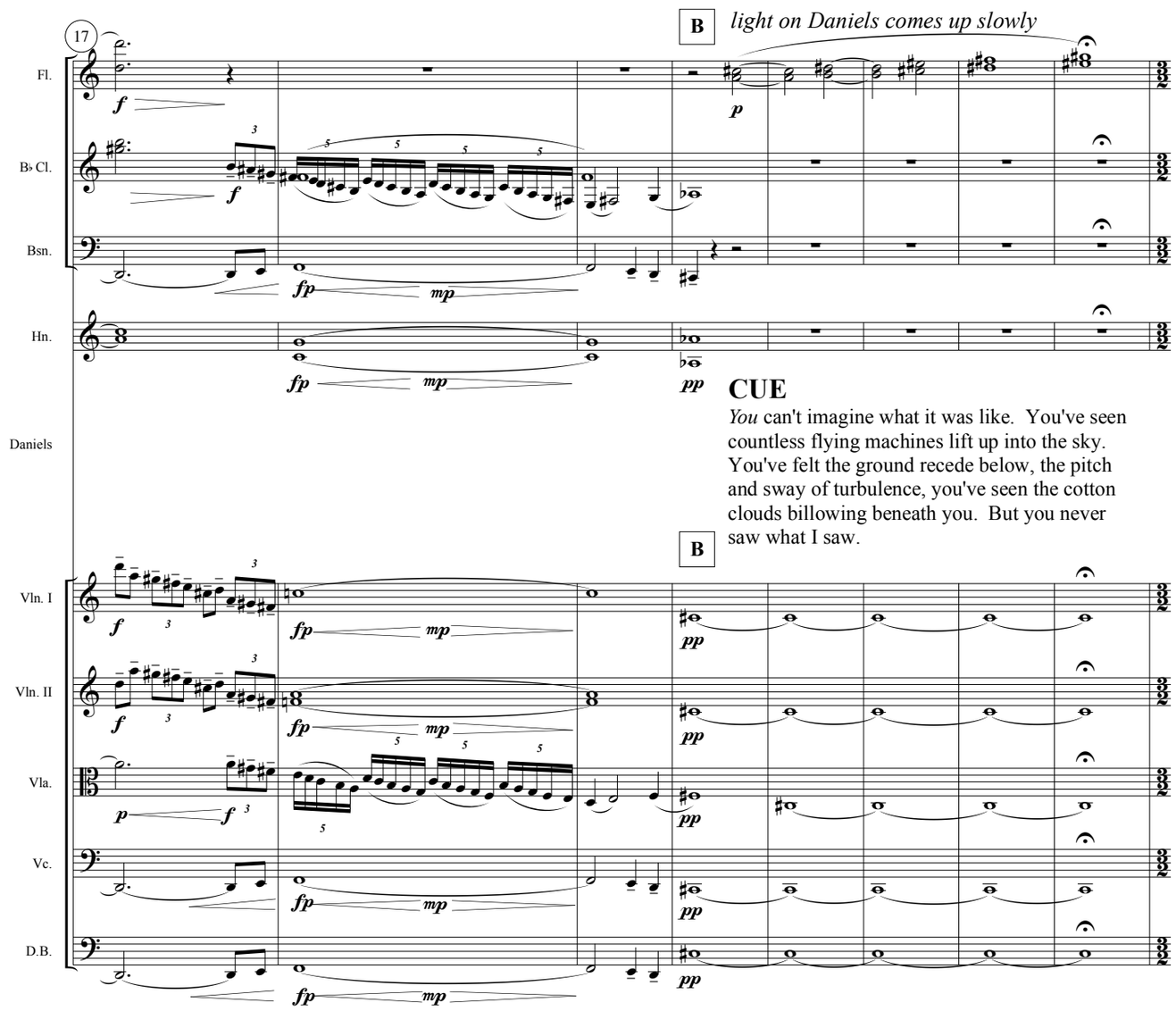
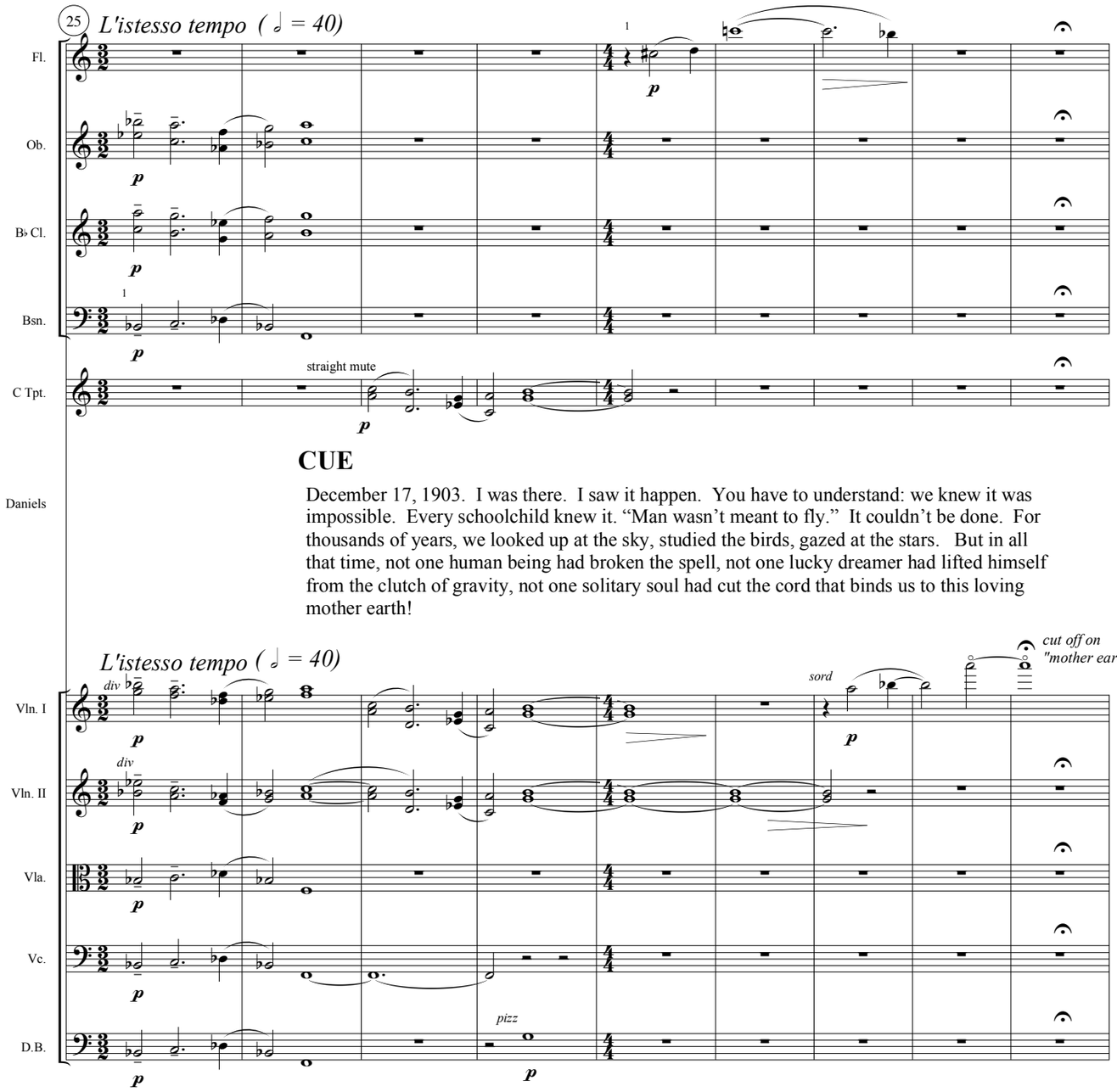

5
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
C Tpt.
Perc
Timp
Kbd
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
a2
Perusal Score
please do not cop
www.composers.com

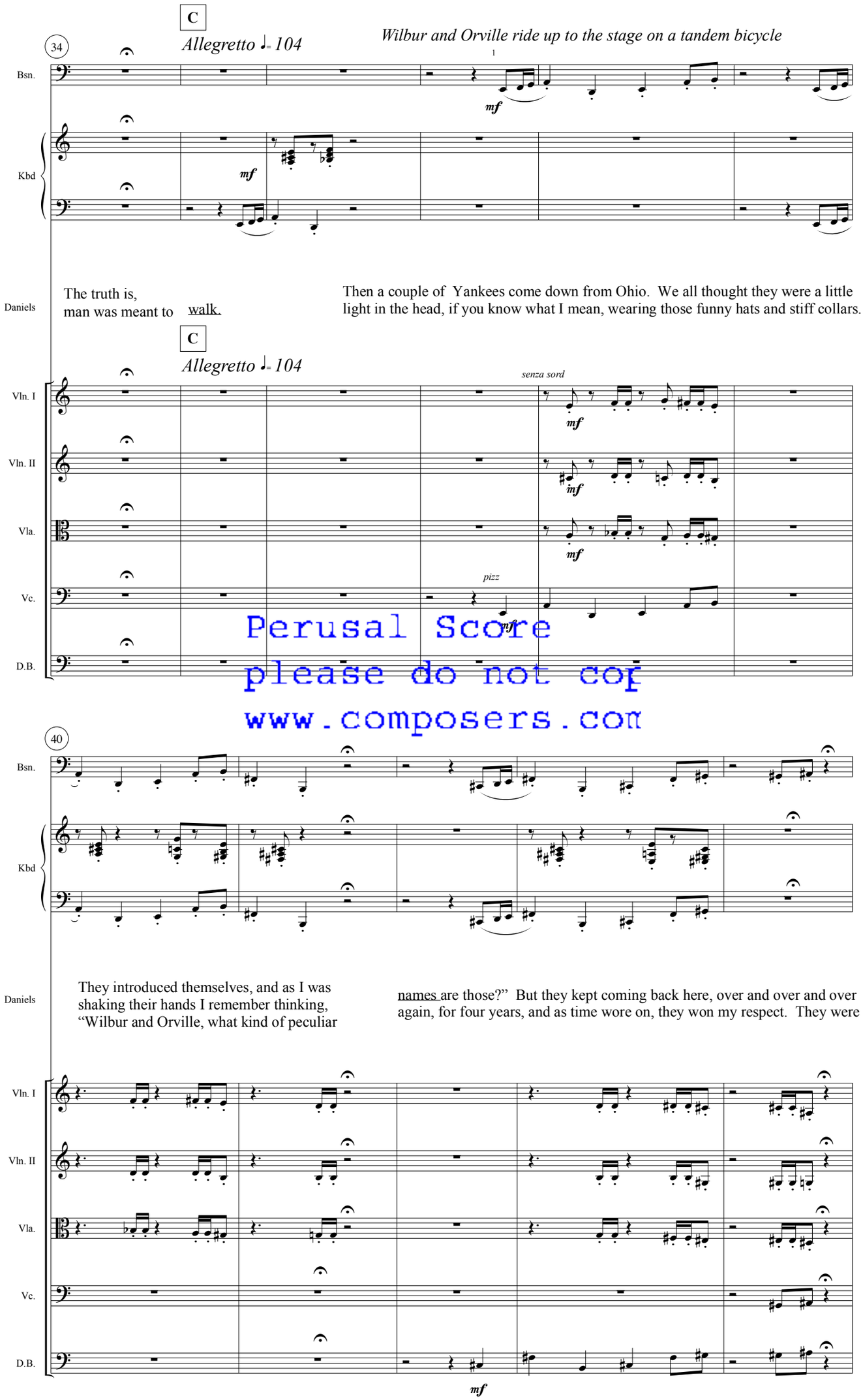
image: gradual zoom back to reveal a glider far overhead

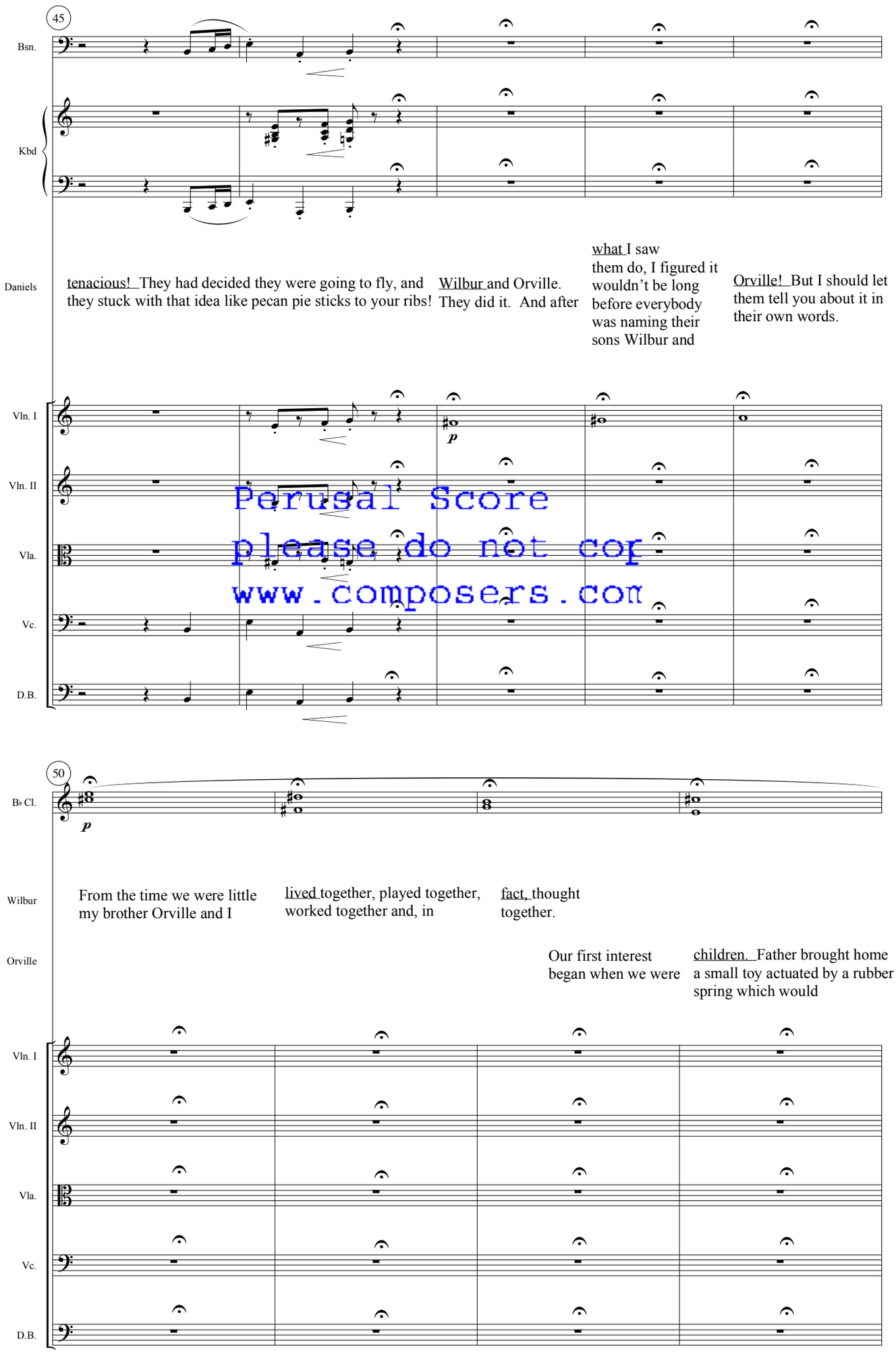


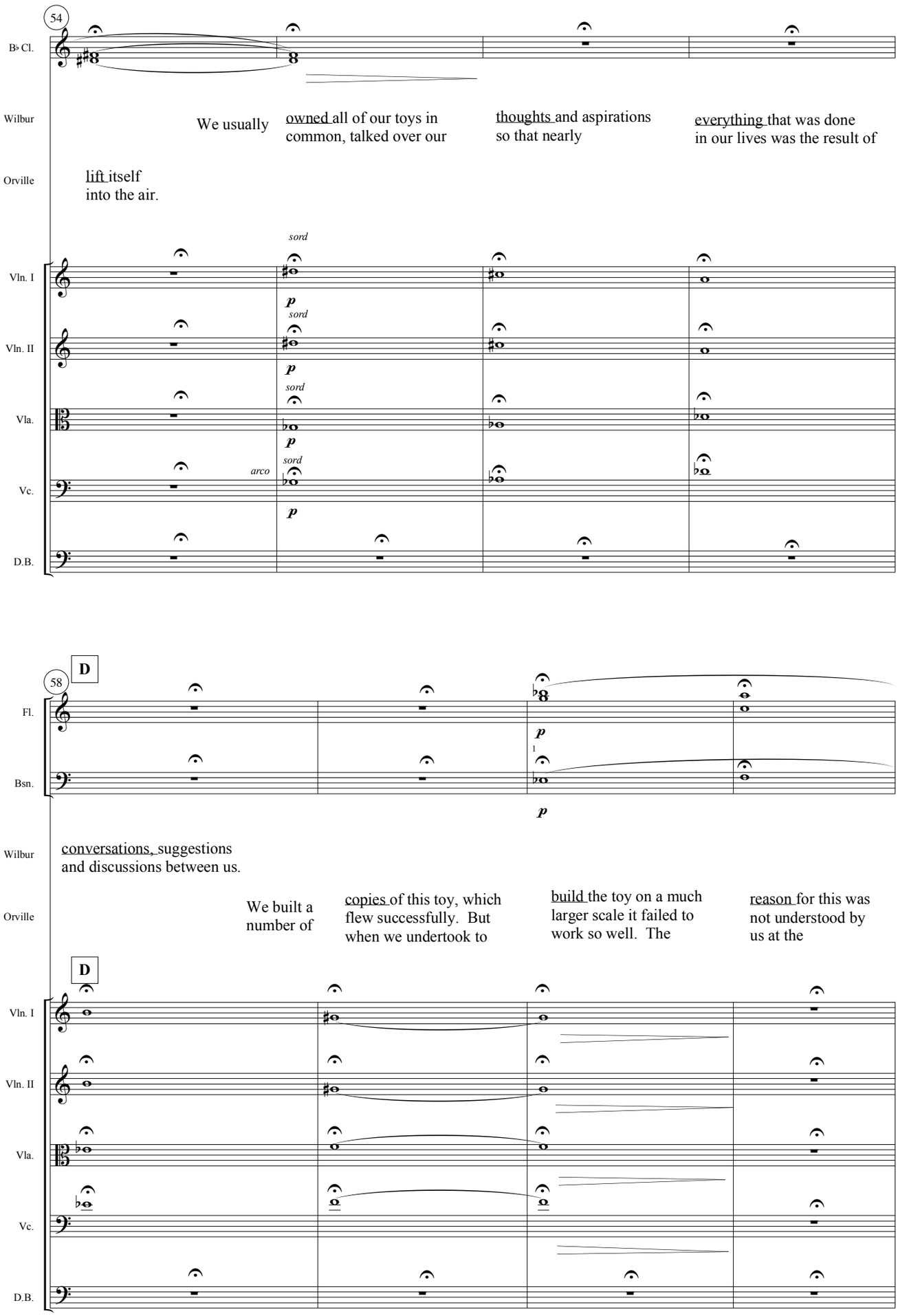

13
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
C Tpt.
Perc
Kbd
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
a2
sub
Perusal Score
please do not cop
www.composers.com

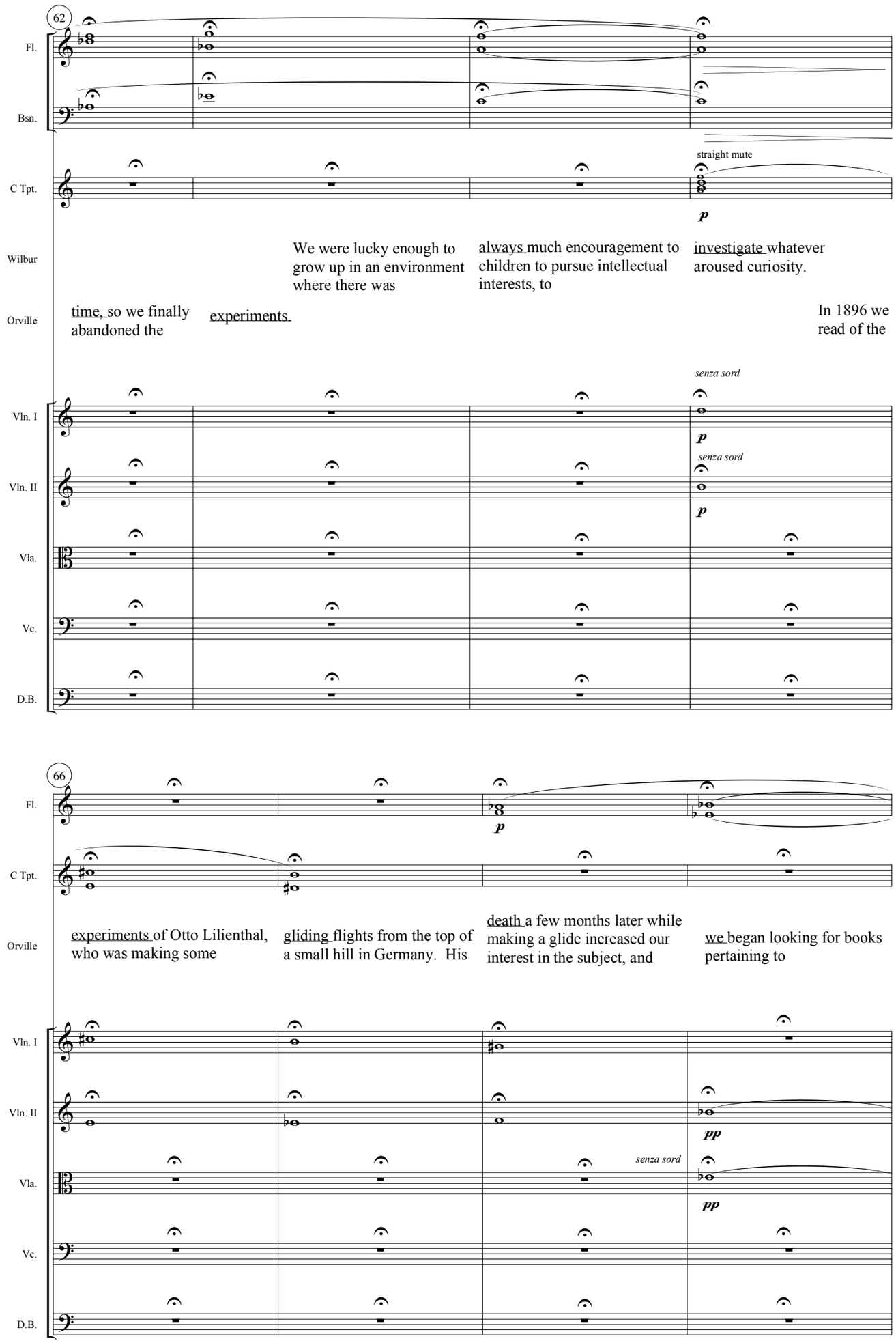

17
B
light on Daniels comes up slowly
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Daniels
CUE
You can't imagine what it was like. You've seen countless flying machines lift up into the sky. You've felt the ground recede below, the pitch and sway of turbulence, you've seen the cotton clouds billowing beneath you. But you never saw what I saw.
B
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

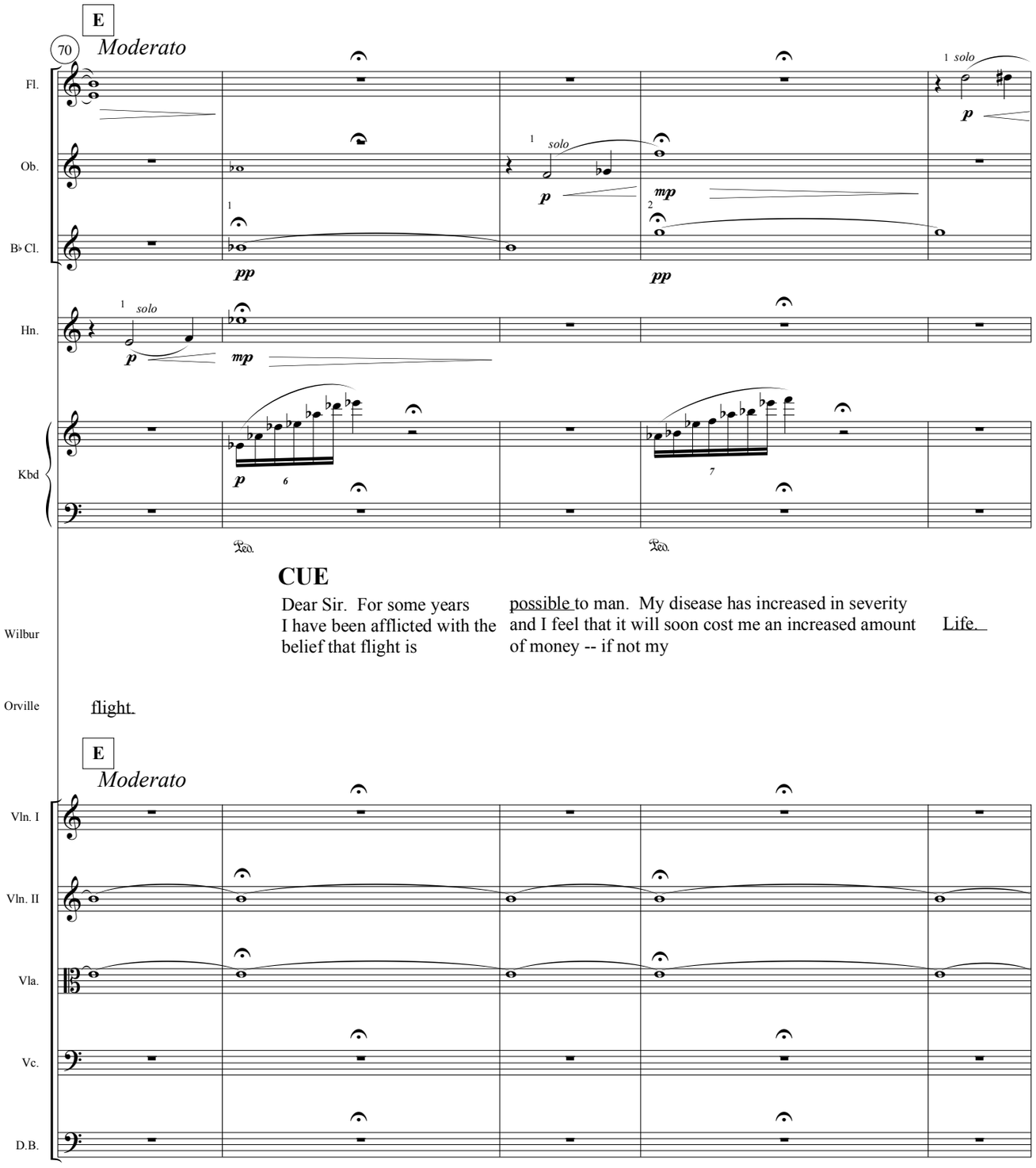

25
L'istesso tempo (𝅗𝅥 = 40)
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
C Tpt.
straight mute
CUE
Daniels
December 17, 1903. I was there. I saw it happen. You have to understand: we knew it was impossible. Every schoolchild knew it. "Man wasn't meant to fly." It couldn't be done. For thousands of years, we looked up at the sky, studied the birds, gazed at the stars. But in all that time, not one human being had broken the spell, not one lucky dreamer had lifted himself from the clutch of gravity, not one solitary soul had cut the cord that binds us to this loving mother earth!
L'istesso tempo (𝅗𝅥 = 40)
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
div
sord
cut off on "mother earth"
pizz

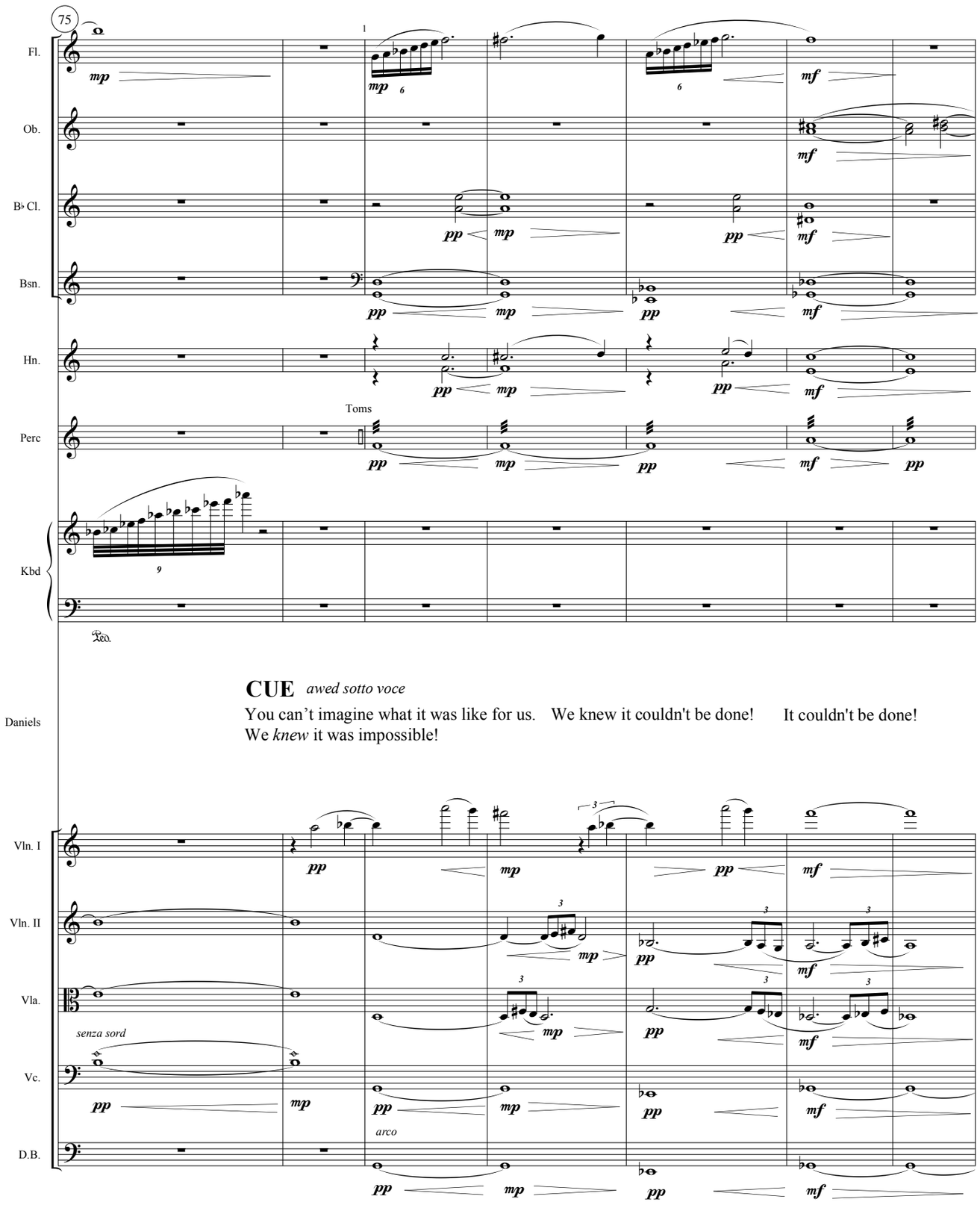

C
Allegretto ♩= 104
Wilbur and Orville ride up to the stage on a tandem bicycle
34
Bsn.
Kbd
mf
The truth is,
man was meant to walk.
Then a couple of Yankees come down from Ohio. We all thought they were a little light in the head, if you know what I mean, wearing those funny hats and stiff collars.
Daniels
C
Allegretto ♩= 104
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
senza sord
pizz
Perusal Score
please do not cop
www.composers.com
40
They introduced themselves, and as I was shaking their hands I remember thinking, "Wilbur and Orville, what kind of peculiar
names are those?" But they kept coming back here, over and over and over again, for four years, and as time wore on, they won my respect. They were

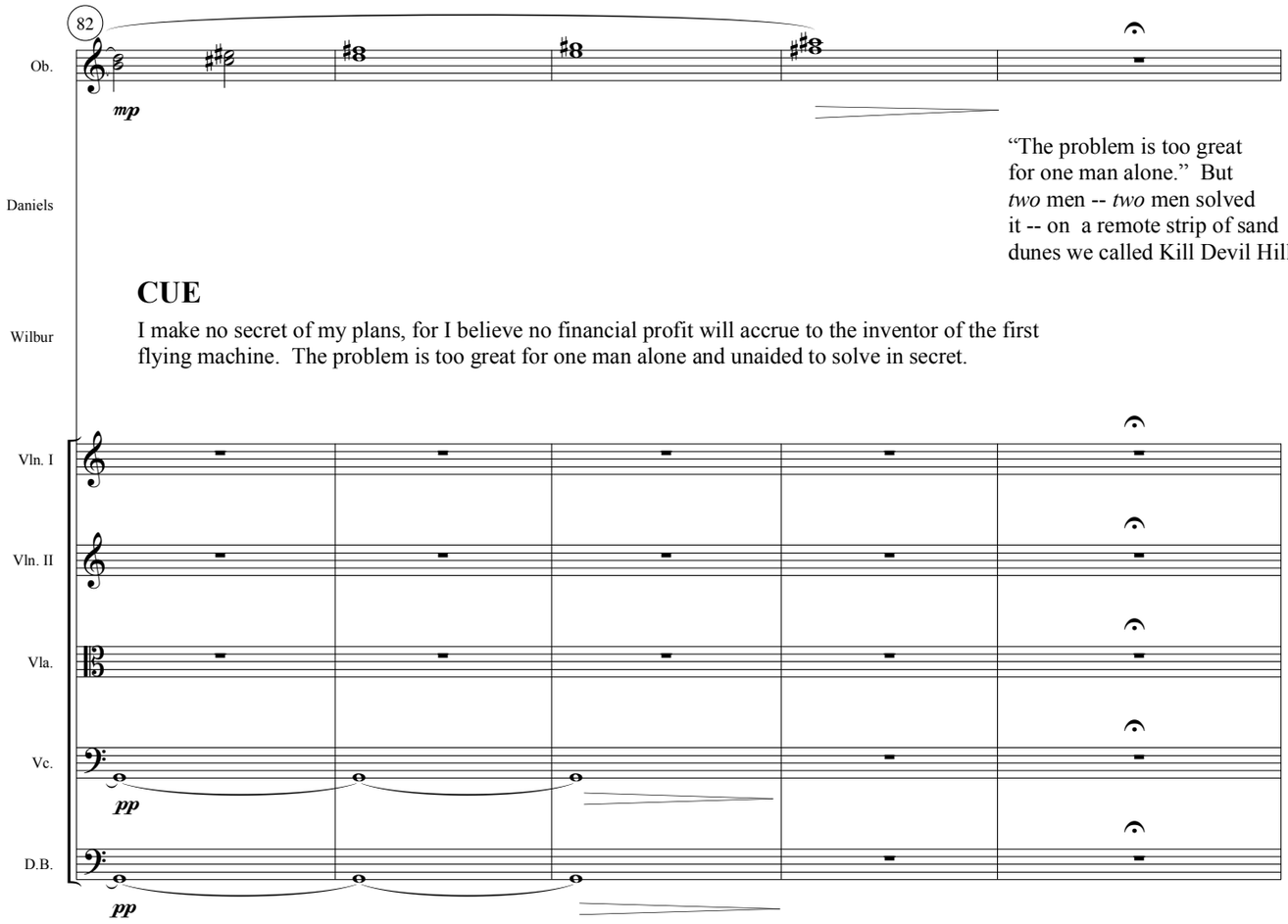

45
Bsn.
Kbd
Daniels
tenacious! They had decided they were going to fly, and they stuck with that idea like pecan pie sticks to your ribs!
Wilbur and Orville. They did it. And after
what I saw them do, I figured it wouldn't be long before everybody was naming their sons Wilbur and
Orville! But I should let them tell you about it in their own words.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
p
Perusal Score
please do not cop
www.composers.con
50
B♭ Cl.
p
Wilbur
From the time we were little my brother Orville and I
lived together, played together, worked together and, in
fact, thought together.
Orville
Our first interest began when we were
children. Father brought home a small toy actuated by a rubber spring which would
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.


54
B♭ Cl.
Wilbur
We usually
owned all of our toys in common, talked over our
thoughts and aspirations so that nearly
everything that was done in our lives was the result of
Orville
lift itself into the air.
sord
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
D.B.
58
D
Fl.
Bsn.
Wilbur
conversations, suggestions and discussions between us.
Orville
We built a number of
copies of this toy, which flew successfully. But when we undertook to
build the toy on a much larger scale it failed to work so well. The
reason for this was not understood by us at the
D
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.


62
Fl.
Bsn.
straight mute
C Tpt.
p
Wilbur
We were lucky enough to grow up in an environment where there was
always much encouragement to children to pursue intellectual interests, to
investigate whatever aroused curiosity.
Orville
time, so we finally abandoned the
experiments.
In 1896 we read of the
senza sord
Vln. I
p
senza sord
Vln. II
p
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
66
Fl.
p
C Tpt.
Orville
experiments of Otto Lilienthal, who was making some
gliding flights from the top of a small hill in Germany. His
death a few months later while making a glide increased our interest in the subject, and
we began looking for books pertaining to
Vln. I
Vln. II
pp
senza sord
Vla.
pp
Vc.
D.B.


E
70
Moderato
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Kbd
solo
pp
mp
p
6
7
Ped.
CUE
Dear Sir. For some years I have been afflicted with the belief that flight is possible to man. My disease has increased in severity and I feel that it will soon cost me an increased amount of money -- if not my Life.
Wilbur
Orville
flight.
E
Moderato
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.


75
1
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc
Toms
Kbd
Daniels
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
senza sord
arco
CUE awed sotto voce
You can't imagine what it was like for us. We knew it couldn't be done! It couldn't be done!
We knew it was impossible!


82
Ob.
mp
Daniels
"The problem is too great
for one man alone." But
two men -- two men solved
it -- on a remote strip of sand
dunes we called Kill Devil Hills.
CUE
Wilbur
I make no secret of my plans, for I believe no financial profit will accrue to the inventor of the first
flying machine. The problem is too great for one man alone and unaided to solve in secret.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pp
D.B.
pp

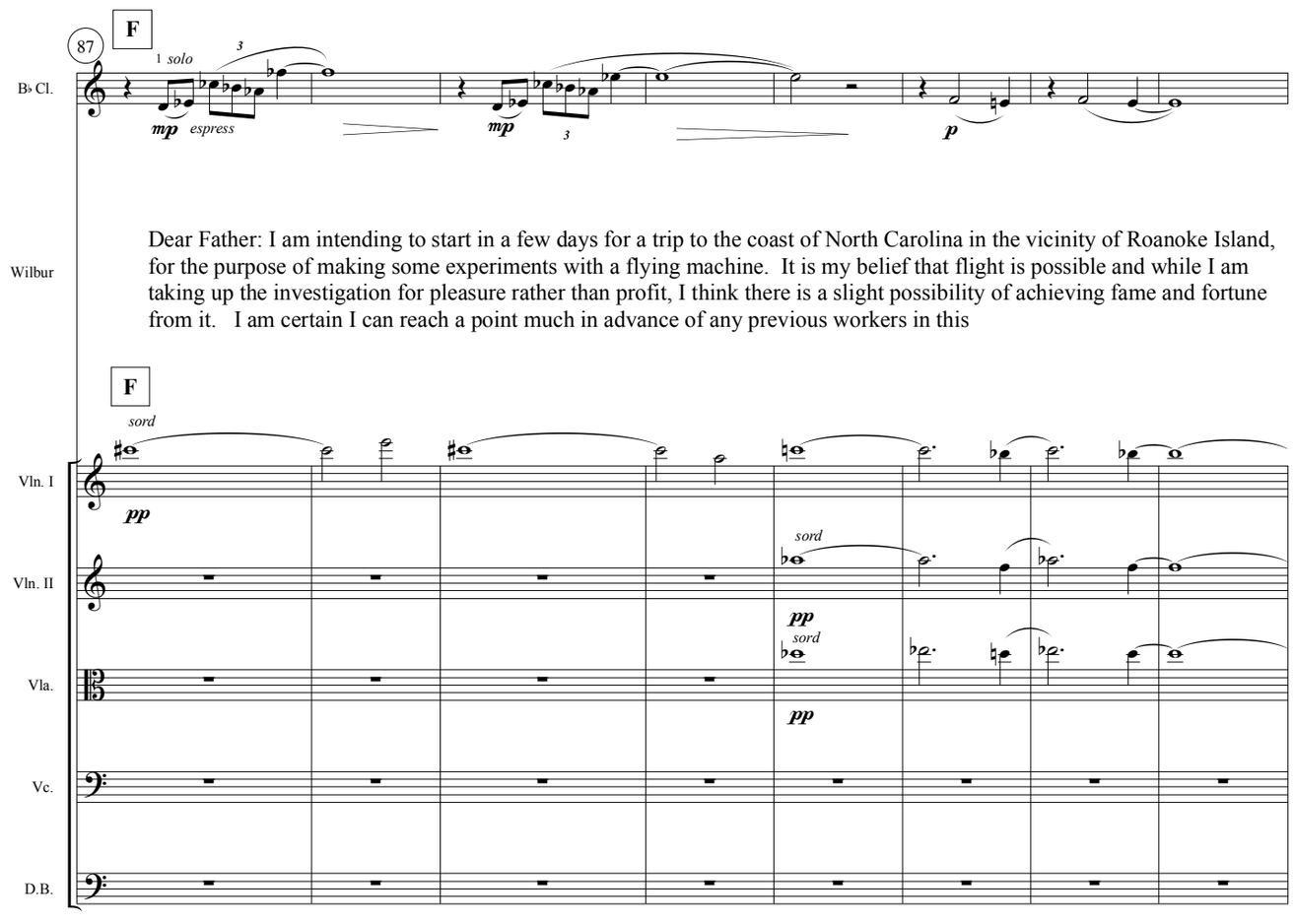

87
F
B♭ Cl.
1 solo
3
mp espress
mp
3
p
Wilbur
Dear Father: I am intending to start in a few days for a trip to the coast of North Carolina in the vicinity of Roanoke Island,
for the purpose of making some experiments with a flying machine. It is my belief that flight is possible and while I am
taking up the investigation for pleasure rather than profit, I think there is a slight possibility of achieving fame and fortune
from it. I am certain I can reach a point much in advance of any previous workers in this
F
sord
Vln. I
pp
sord
Vln. II
pp
sord
Vla.
pp
Vc.
D.B.

image: life station crew

95 *Allegretto*

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Daniels

They arrived the first time in September 1900, two bicycle mechanics on the 36-hour boat ride from Elizabeth City. I was working at the local Life Saving Station. That's me, John T. Daniels, on the right. You can see what a handsome young fellow I was.

Allegretto

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Perusal Score
please do not cop
www.composers.com

101 *Moderato*

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Daniels

We were just coming ashore from one of our practice sessions when these two strangers turned up in the boathouse. They said they were looking for wind, to help lift their machines. I told 'em, Yeah, we got wind. They said they were looking for sand, to provide a cushion for their falls. I told 'em, Yeah, we got sand. Wind and sand. I didn't tell 'em that was pretty much all we got!

Moderato

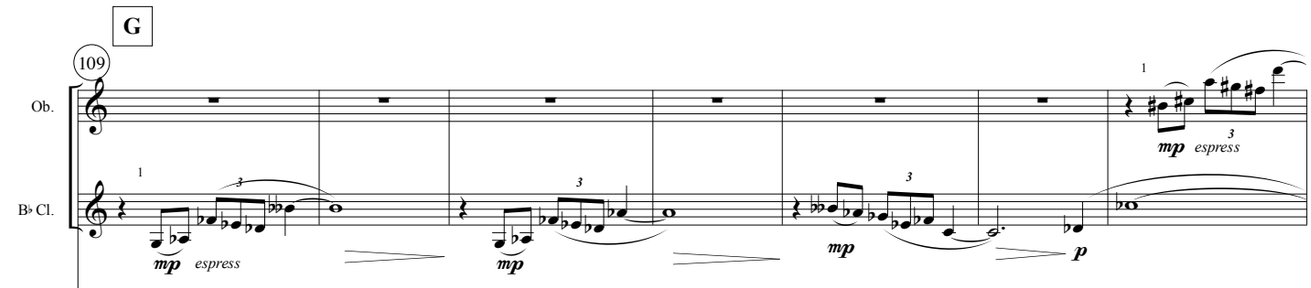
Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

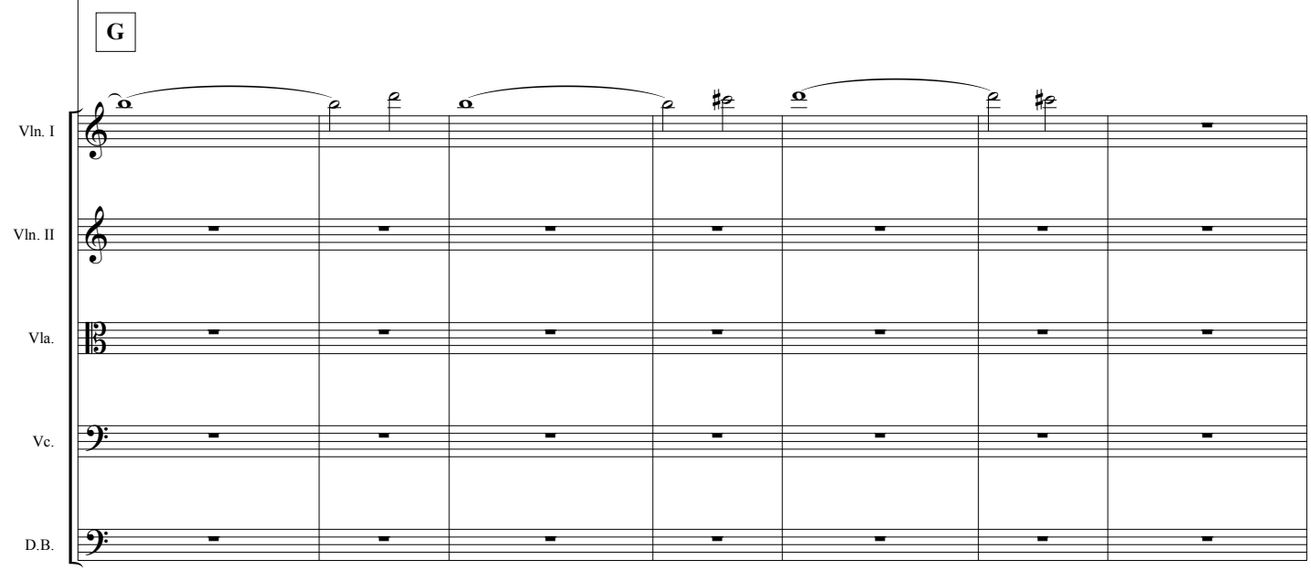
Vc.

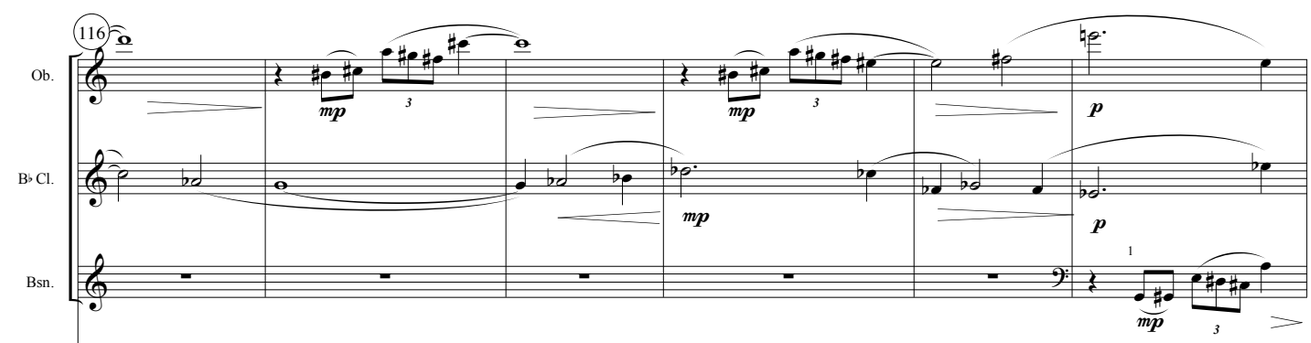
D.B.



Orville

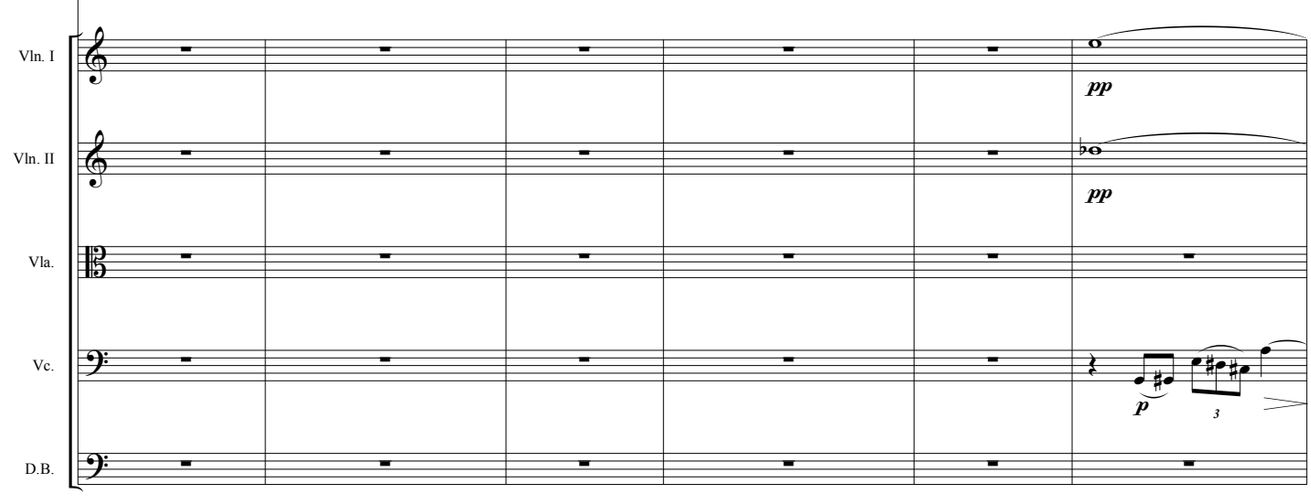
Dear Katharine: We came down here for wind and sand, and we have got them. We are living nearly the whole time on reduced rations. No one down here has any regular milk. The poor cows have such a hard time scraping up a living that they don't have any time for making it. You never saw such poor pitiable-looking creatures as the horses, hogs and cows are down here.





Orville

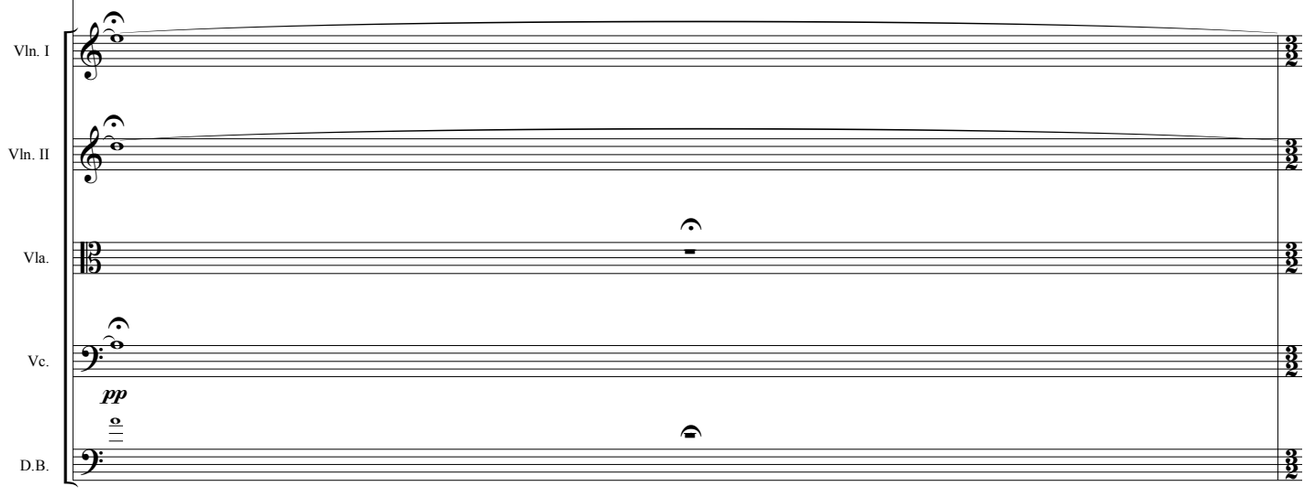
We have appointed the Kitty Hawk storekeeper our agent to buy us anything he can get hold of, in any quantities he can get, in the line of fish, eggs, wild geese or ducks. Unfortunately, the economics of this place were so nicely balanced before our arrival that everybody here could live and yet nothing be wasted. Our presence brought disaster to the whole arrangement. We, having more money than the natives, have been able to buy up the whole egg product of the town and about all the canned goods in the store. I fear some of them will have to suffer as a result.



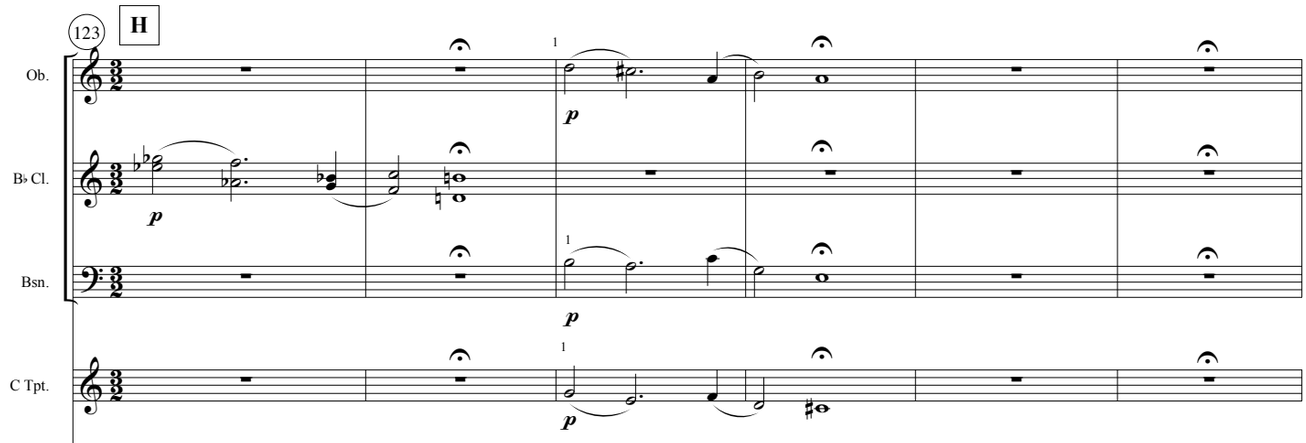
122

Daniels

No, we didn't have much in the way of money or supplies. What we had plenty of here was hospitality, Southern style. That and Nature, in all of her wondrous glory.



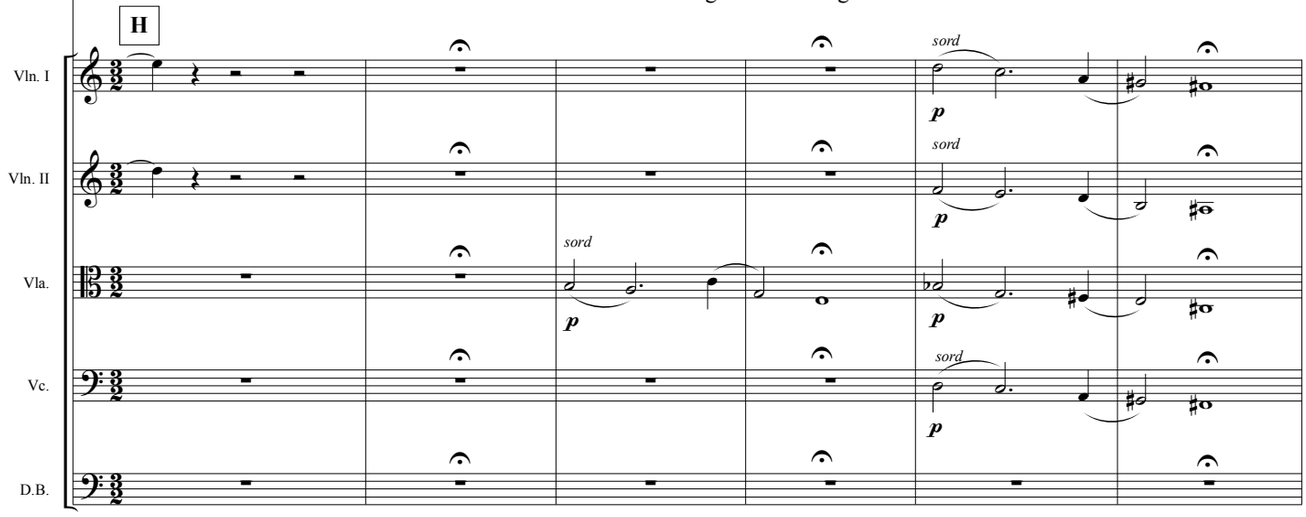
123 H

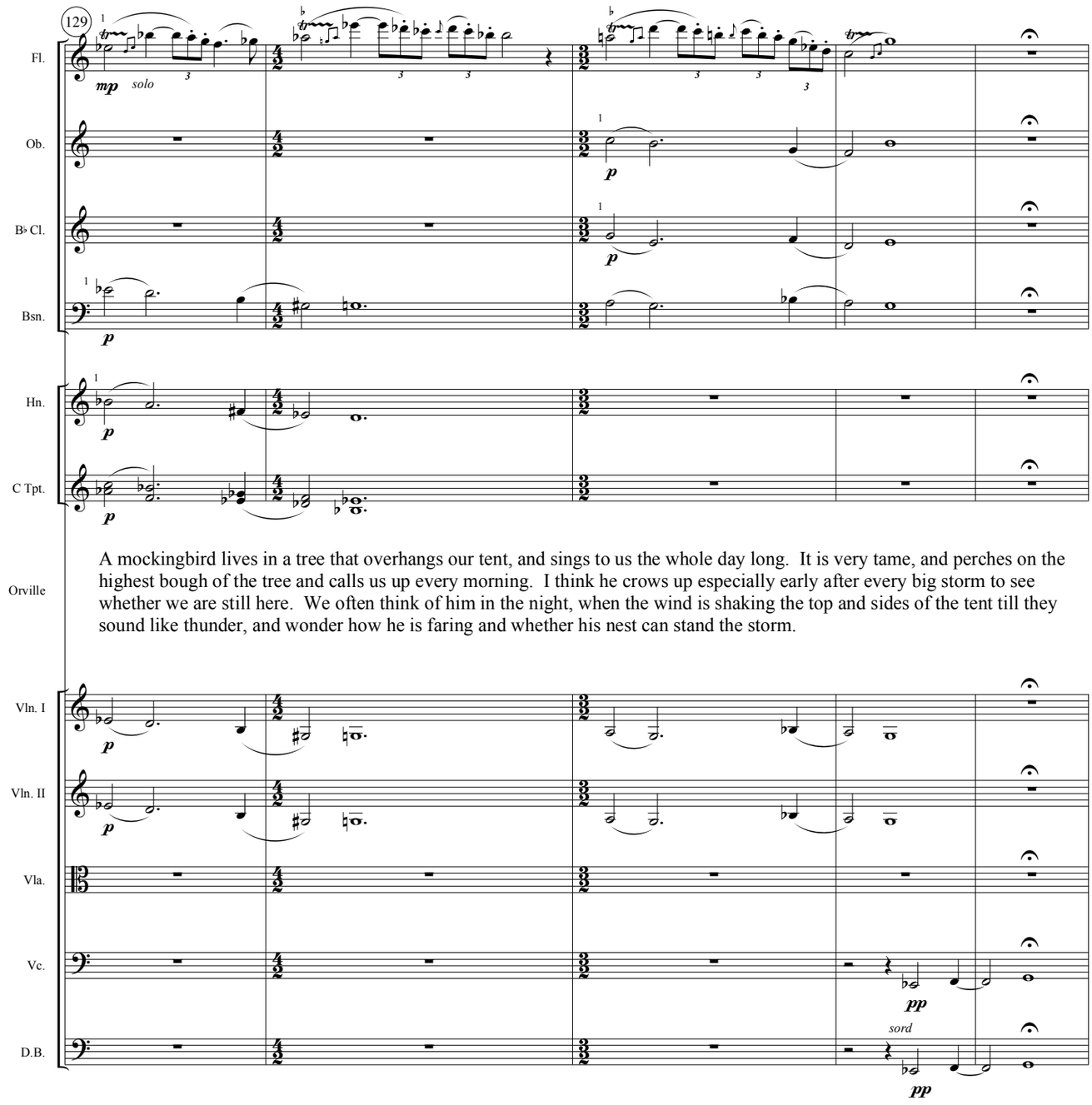


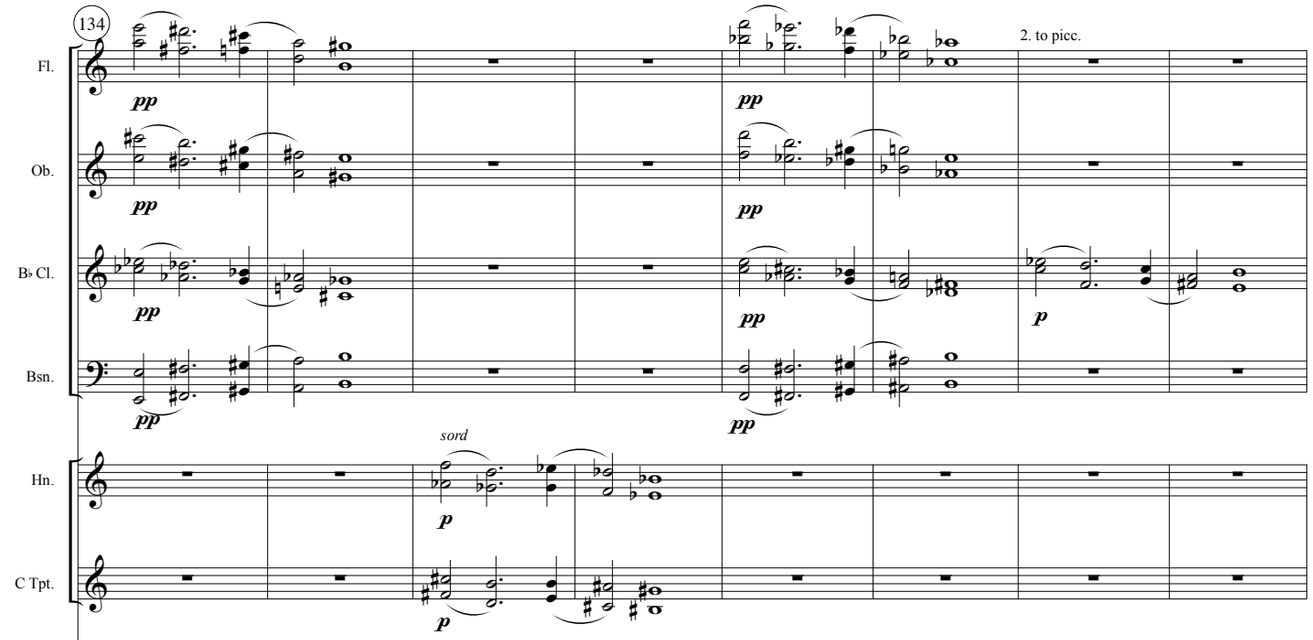
Orville

This is a great country for fishing and hunting. The fish are so thick you see dozens of them whenever you look down into the water. At any time we look out the tent door we can see an eagle flapping its way over head, buzzards by the dozen soaring over the hills and bay, hen hawks making a raid on nearby chicken yards, or a fish hawk hovering over the bay. Looking off the other way to the sea, we find the seagulls skimming the waves, and the little sea chickens hopping about, as on one foot, on the beach, picking up the small animals washed in by the surf.

H

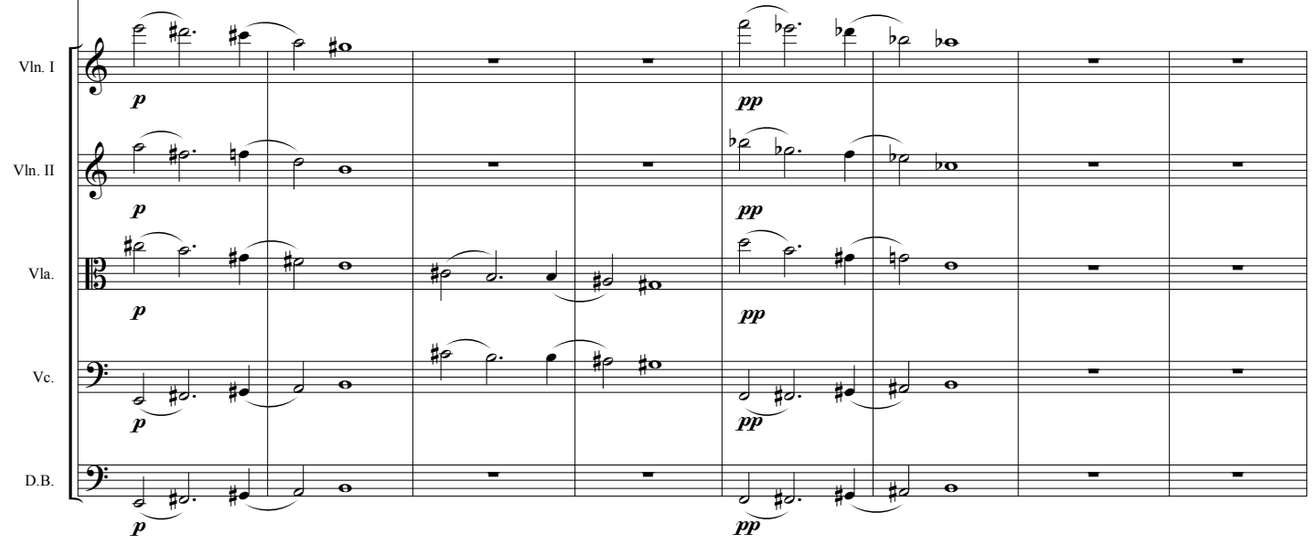



129
Fl.
mp
solo
Ob.
p
B♭ Cl.
p
Bsn.
p
Hn.
p
C Tpt.
p
Orville
A mockingbird lives in a tree that overhangs our tent, and sings to us the whole day long. It is very tame, and perches on the highest bough of the tree and calls us up every morning. I think he crows up especially early after every big storm to see whether we are still here. We often think of him in the night, when the wind is shaking the top and sides of the tent till they sound like thunder, and wonder how he is faring and whether his nest can stand the storm.
Vln. I
p
Vln. II
p
Vla.
Vc.
pp
D.B.
sord
pp



Orville

The sunsets here are the prettiest I have ever seen. The skies light up in all colors in the background, with deep blue clouds of various shapes fringed with gold before. The moon rises in much the same style, and lights up this pile of sand almost like day. I read my watch at all hours on moonless nights without the aid of any other light than that of the stars shining on the canvas of the tent.



142

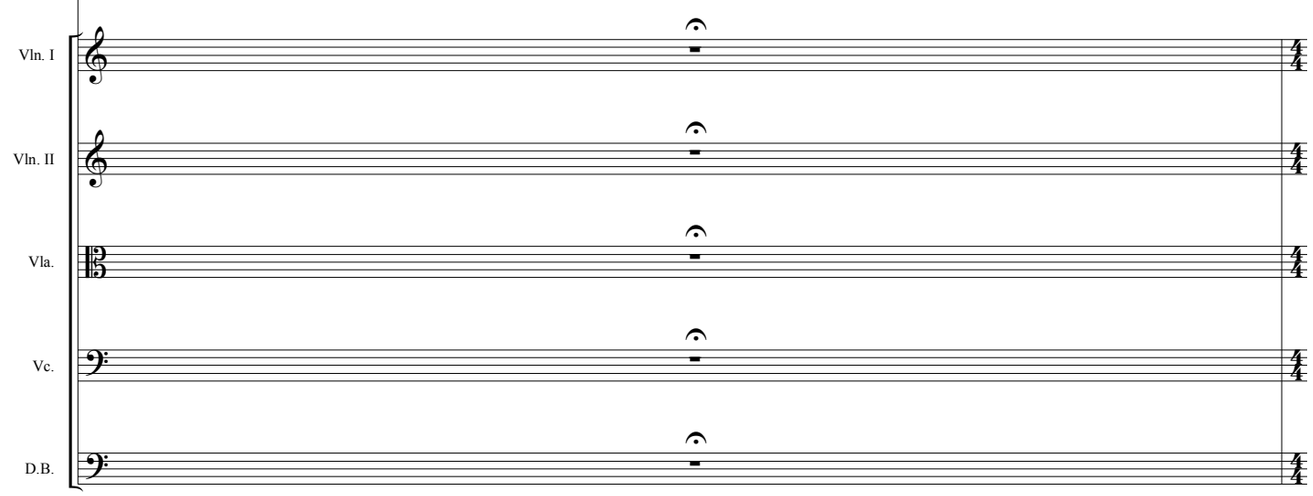
Daniels

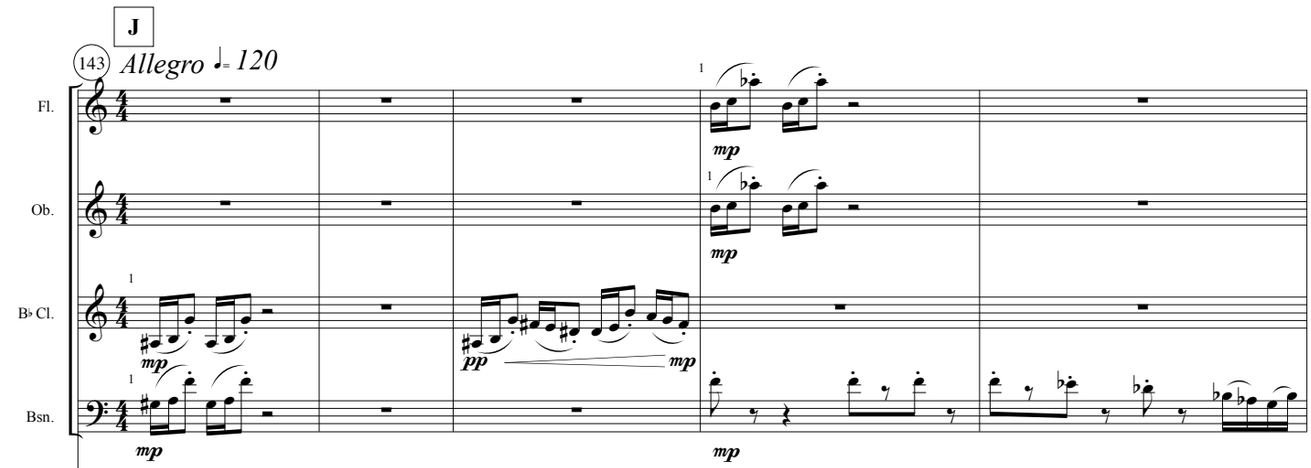
CUE

After treating those Yankees to a good dose of Nature's glory, we naturally couldn't wait to introduce them to Nature's darker side:

Orville

Dear Katherine:

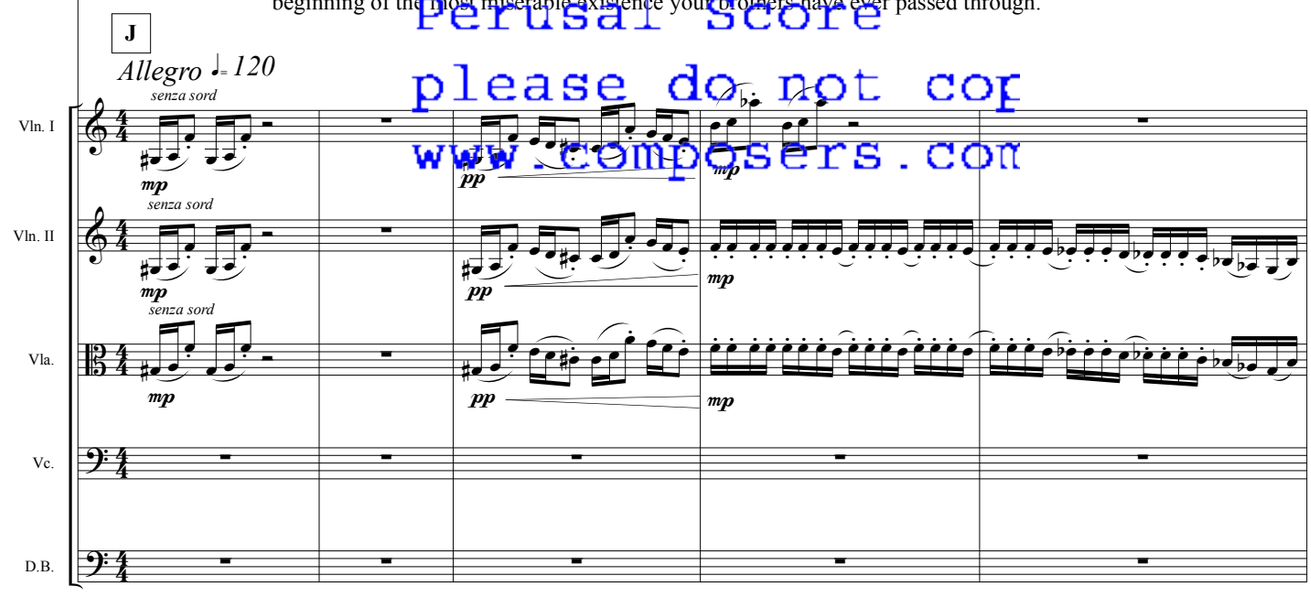


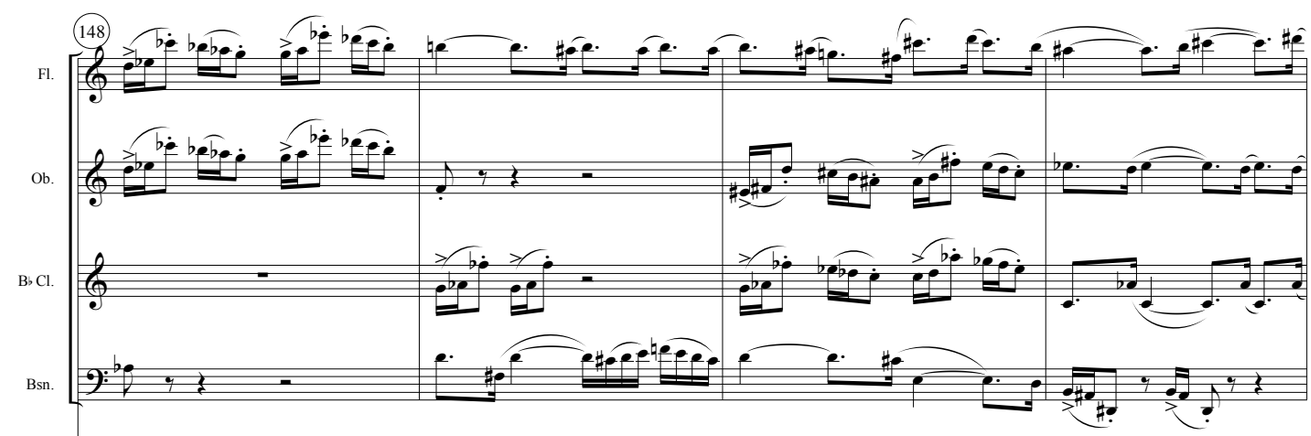


Orville

A swarm of mosquitoes came in a mighty cloud Thursday afternoon, almost darkening the sun. This was the beginning of the most miserable existence your brothers have ever passed through.

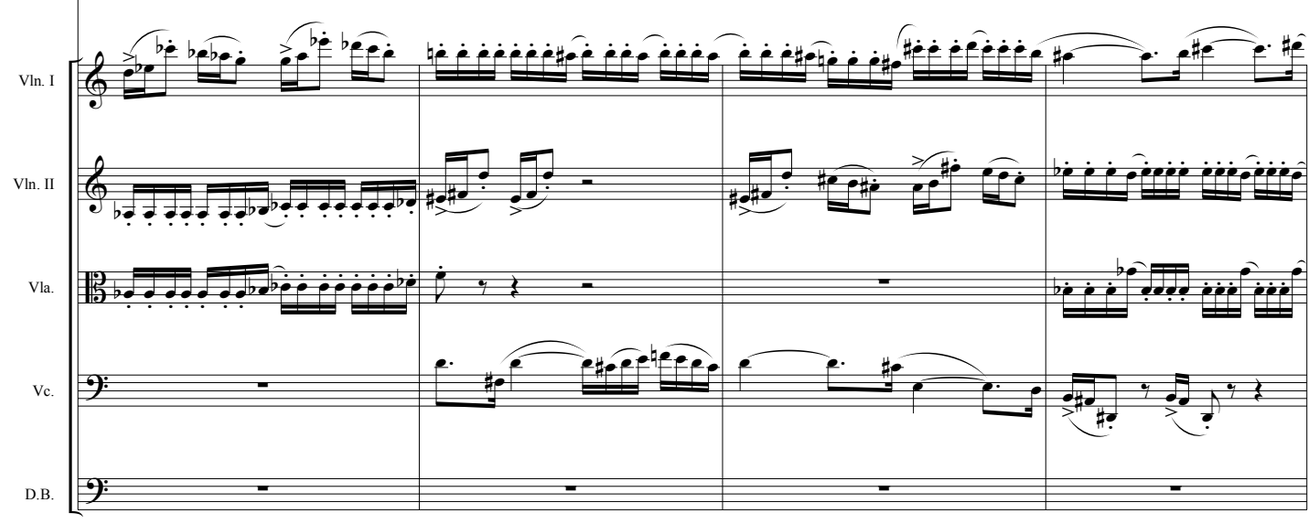
Perusal Score
please do not cop
www.composers.com

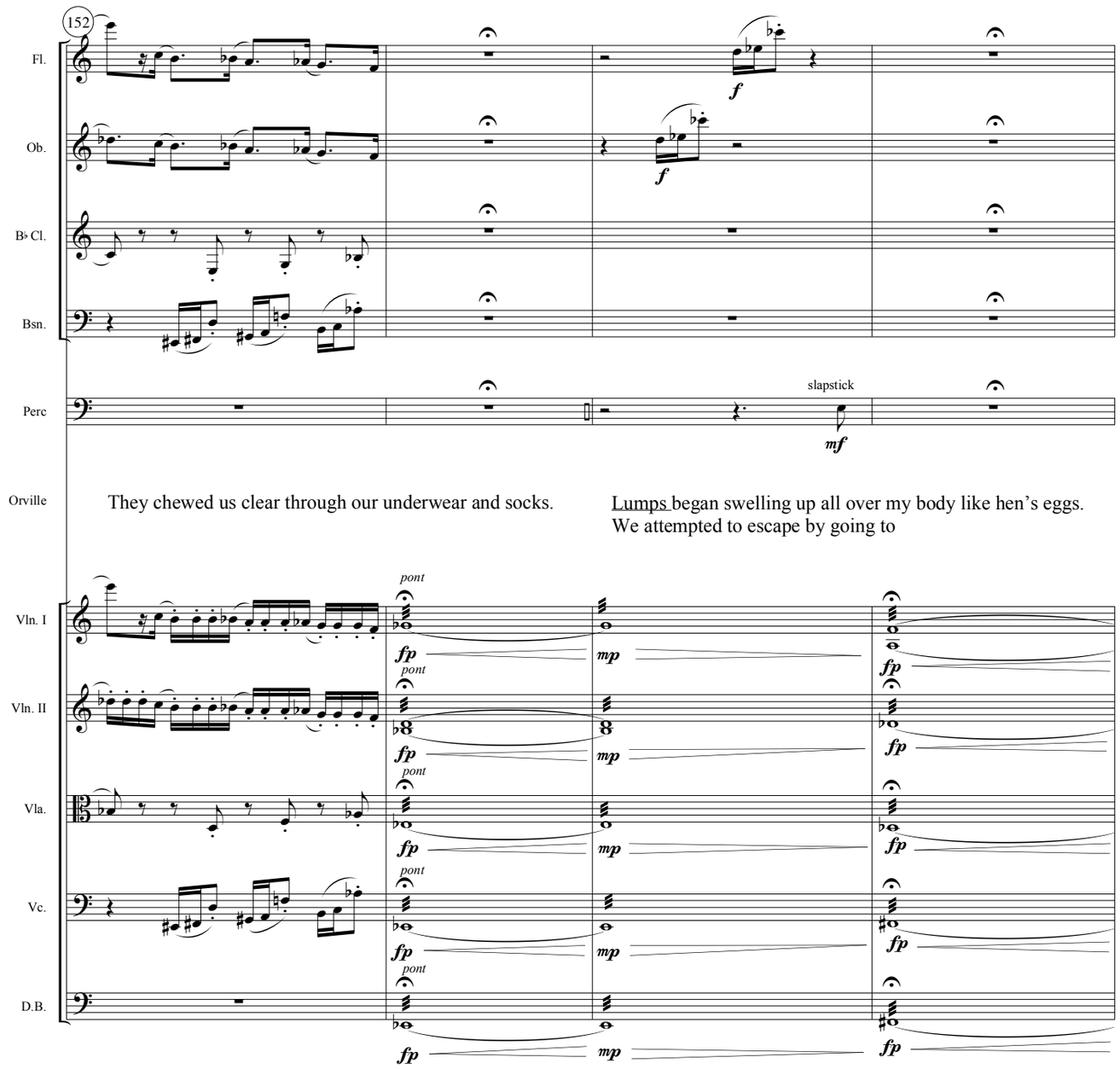


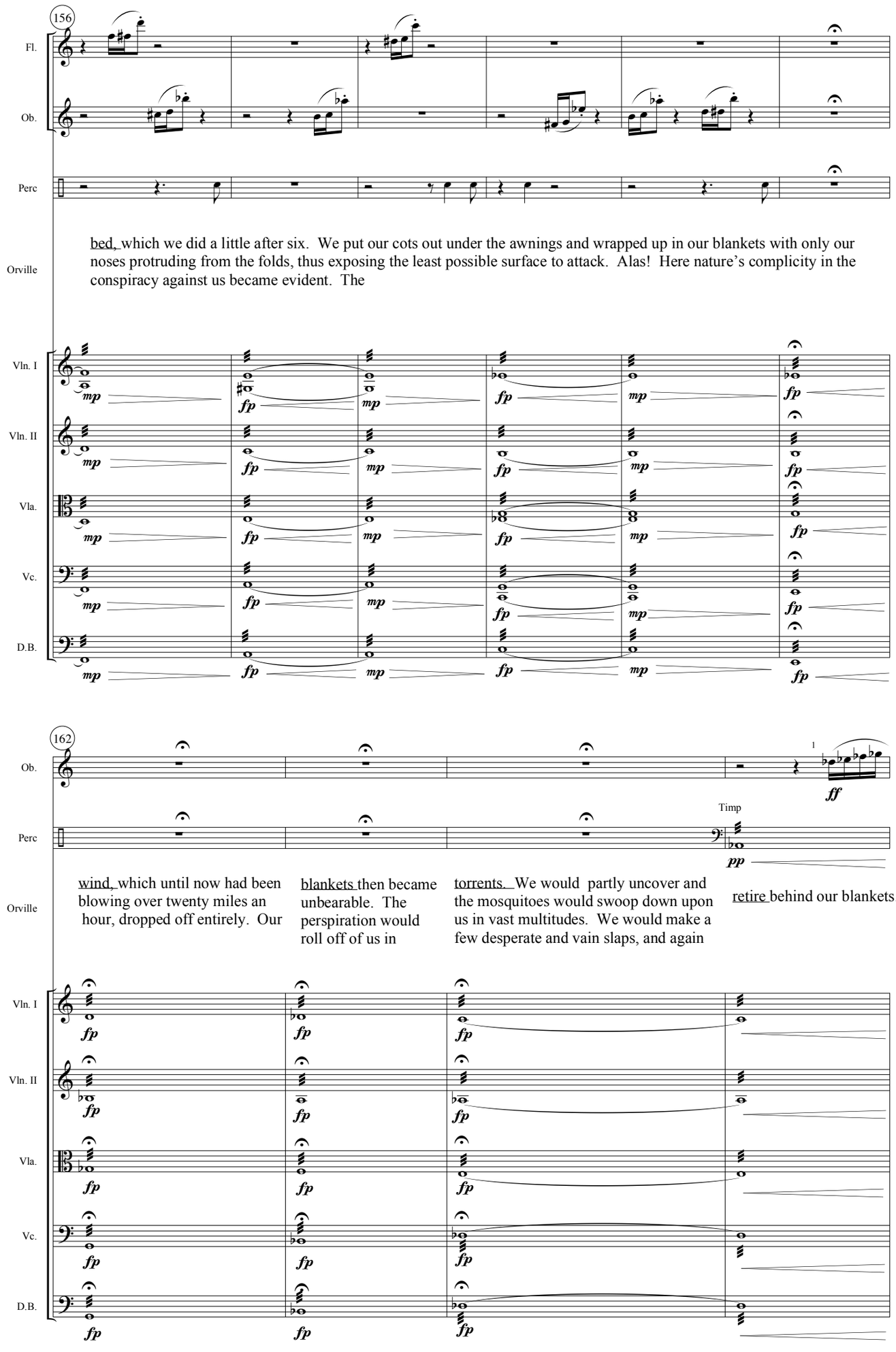


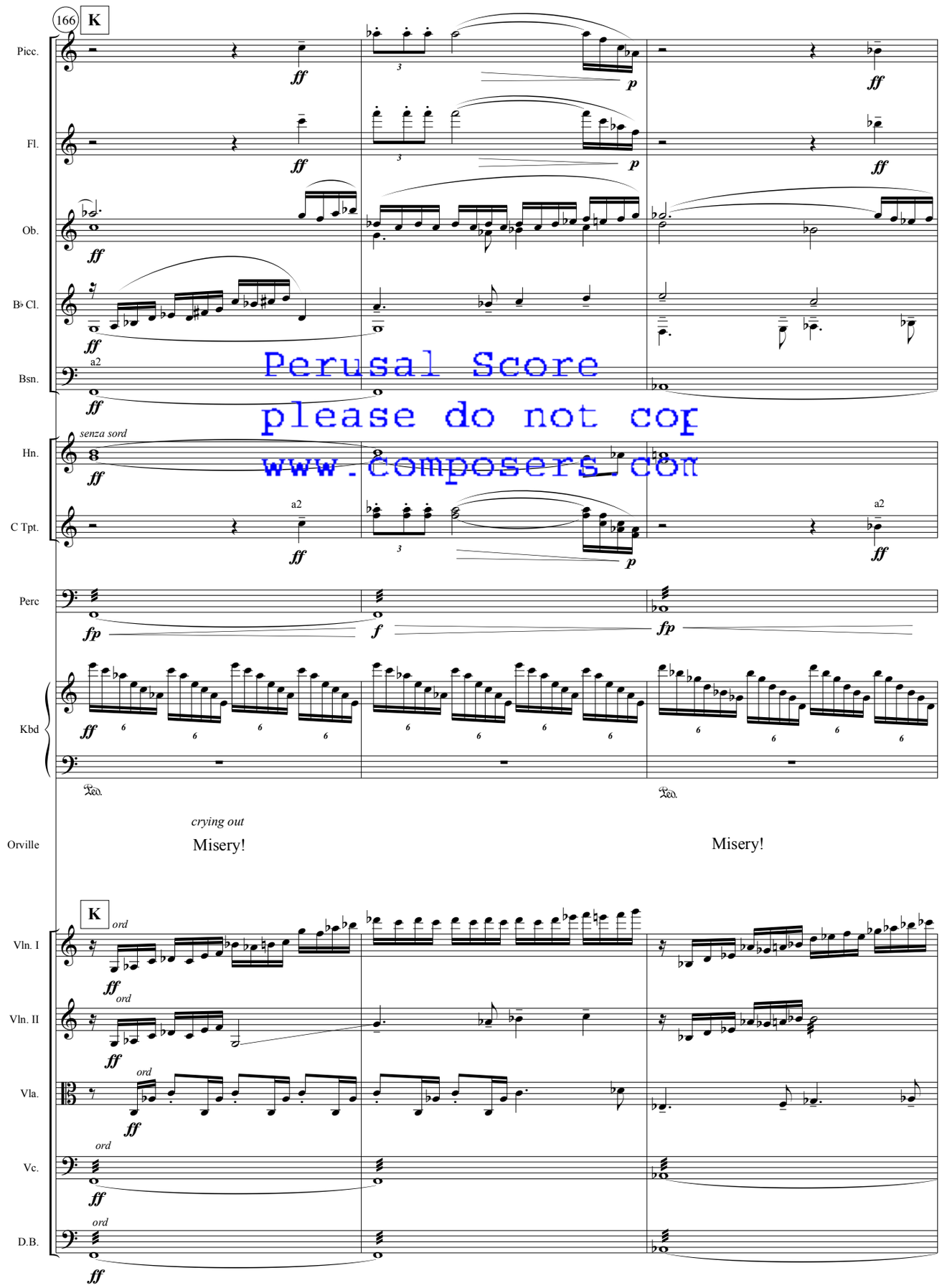
Orville

The agonies of typhoid fever are nothing in comparison! But there was no escape. The sand and grass and trees and hills and everything was fairly covered with them.




152
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Perc
slapstick
Orville
They chewed us clear through our underwear and socks.
Lumps began swelling up all over my body like hen's eggs.
We attempted to escape by going to
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
pont


156
Fl.
Ob.
Perc
bed, which we did a little after six. We put our cots out under the awnings and wrapped up in our blankets with only our noses protruding from the folds, thus exposing the least possible surface to attack. Alas! Here nature's complicity in the conspiracy against us became evident. The
Orville
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
mp
fp
162
Ob.
Perc
Timp
ff
pp
wind, which until now had been blowing over twenty miles an hour, dropped off entirely. Our
blankets then became unbearable. The perspiration would roll off of us in
torrents. We would partly uncover and the mosquitoes would swoop down upon us in vast multitudes. We would make a few desperate and vain slaps, and again
retire behind our blankets.
Orville
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
fp



Perusal Score
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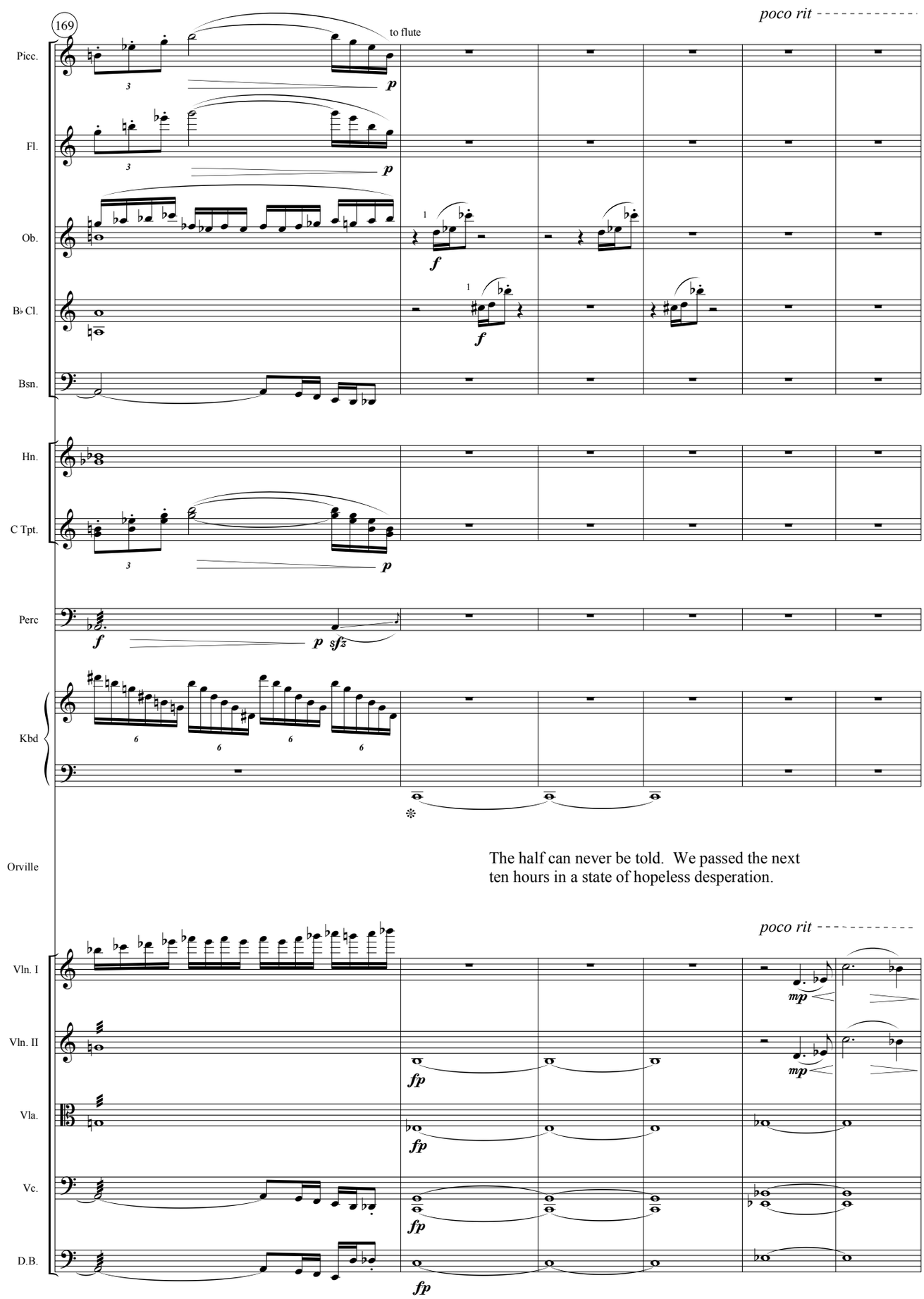
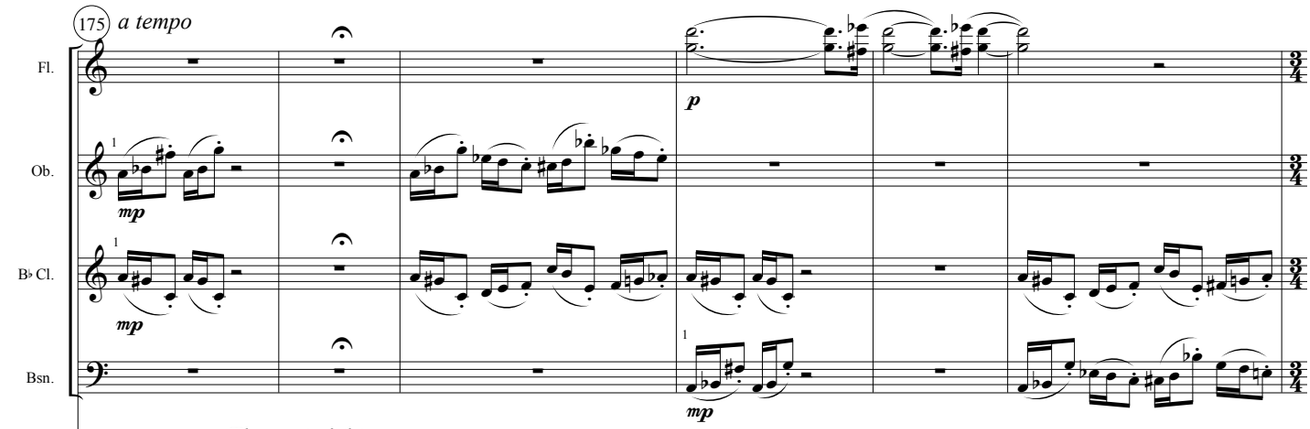
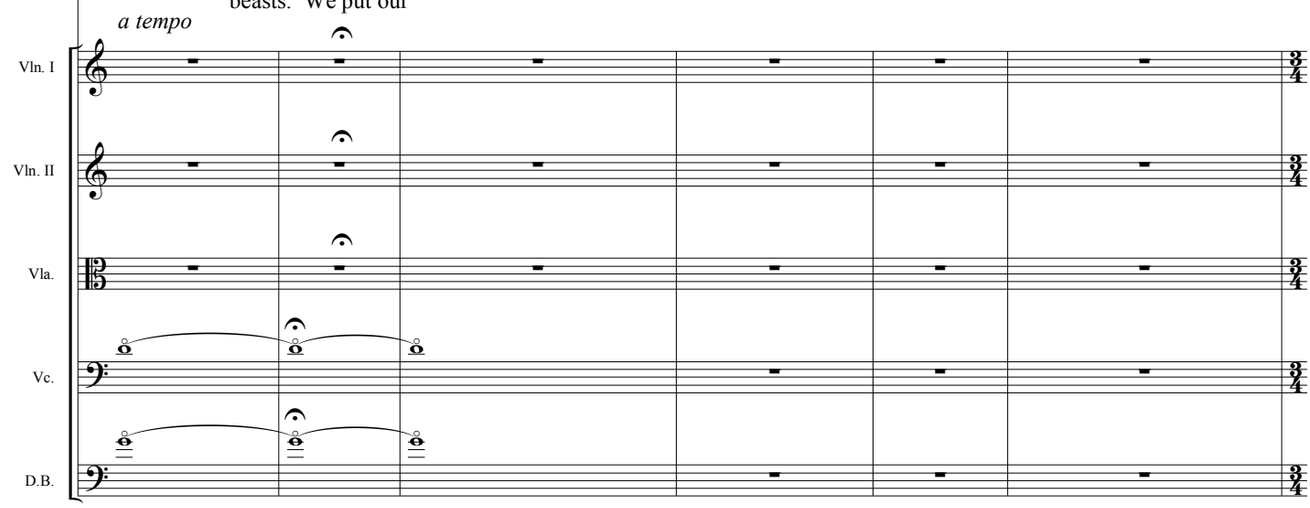
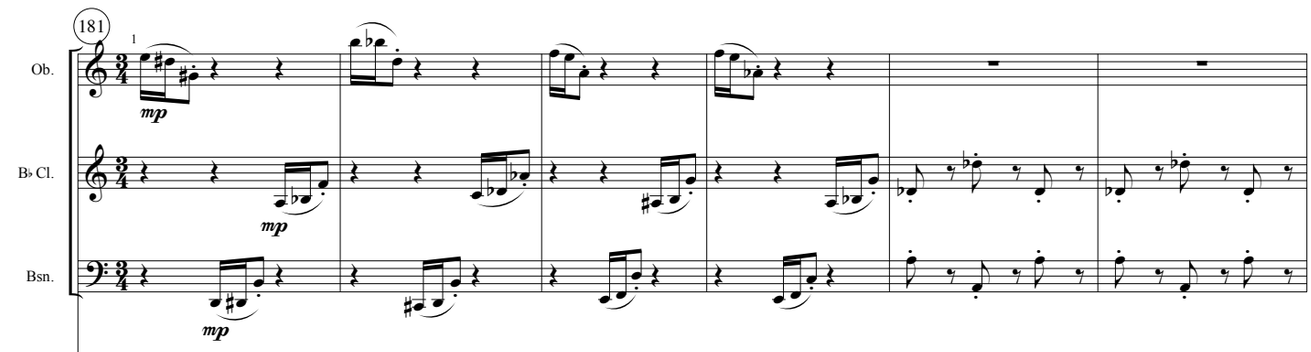

poco rit
169
to flute
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
C Tpt.
Perc
Kbd
Orville
The half can never be told. We passed the next ten hours in a state of hopeless desperation.
poco rit
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.



Orville

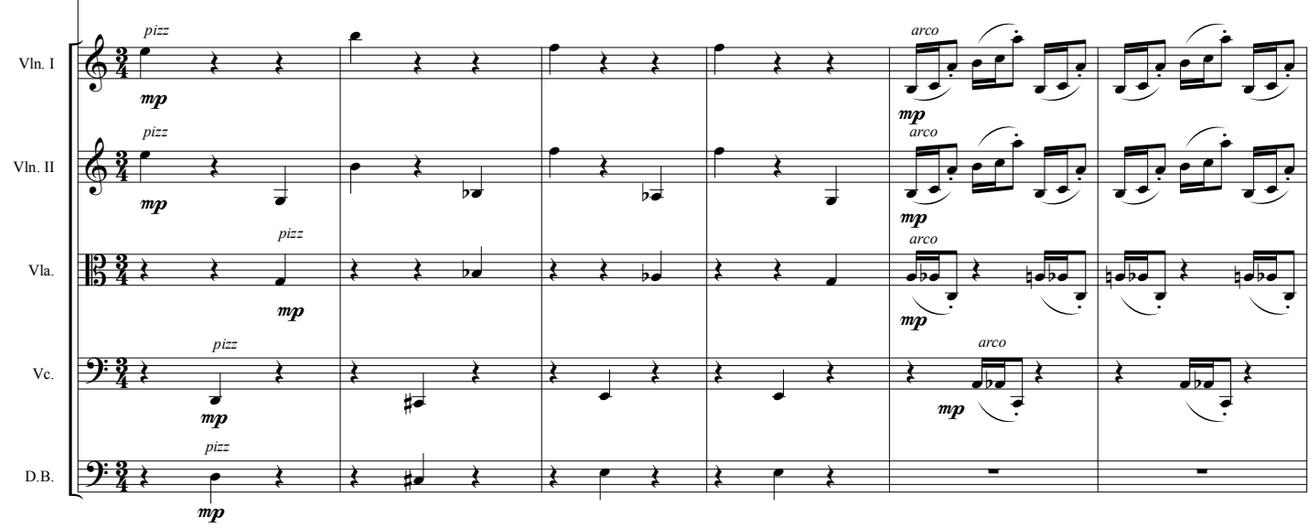
The next night we constructed mosquito frames and nets over our cots, thinking in our childish error we could fix the bloody beasts. We put our cots out on the sand twenty or thirty feet from the tent and house, and crawled in under the netting and bedclothes, and lay there on our backs

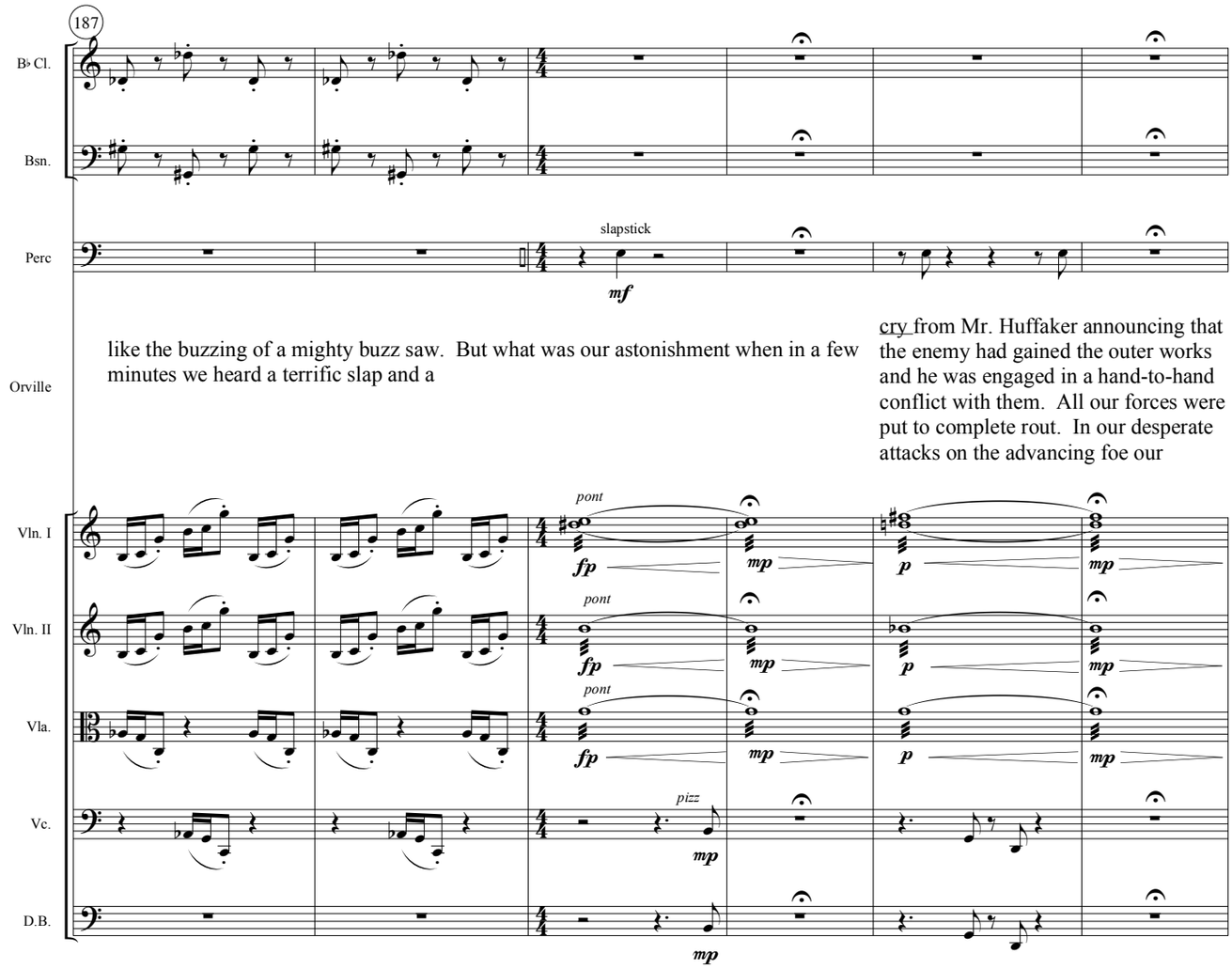


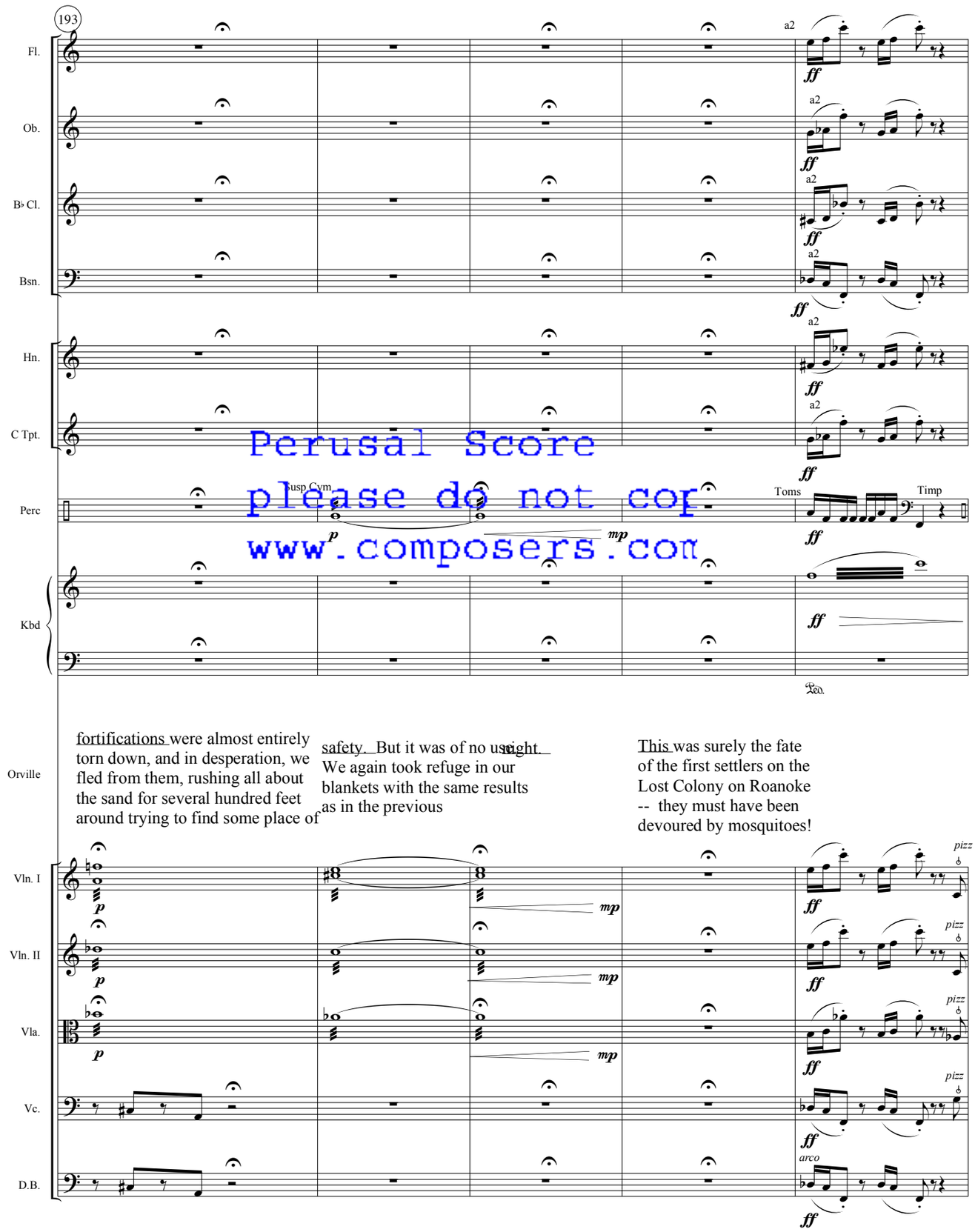


Orville

smiling at the way in which we had got the best of them. The tops of the canopies were covered with mosquitoes till there was hardly standing room for another one; the buzzing was




187
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Perc
slapstick
mf
like the buzzing of a mighty buzz saw. But what was our astonishment when in a few minutes we heard a terrific slap and a
Orville
cry from Mr. Huffaker announcing that the enemy had gained the outer works and he was engaged in a hand-to-hand conflict with them. All our forces were put to complete rout. In our desperate attacks on the advancing foe our
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
pont
fp
mp
p
pizz



Perusal Score
please do not cop
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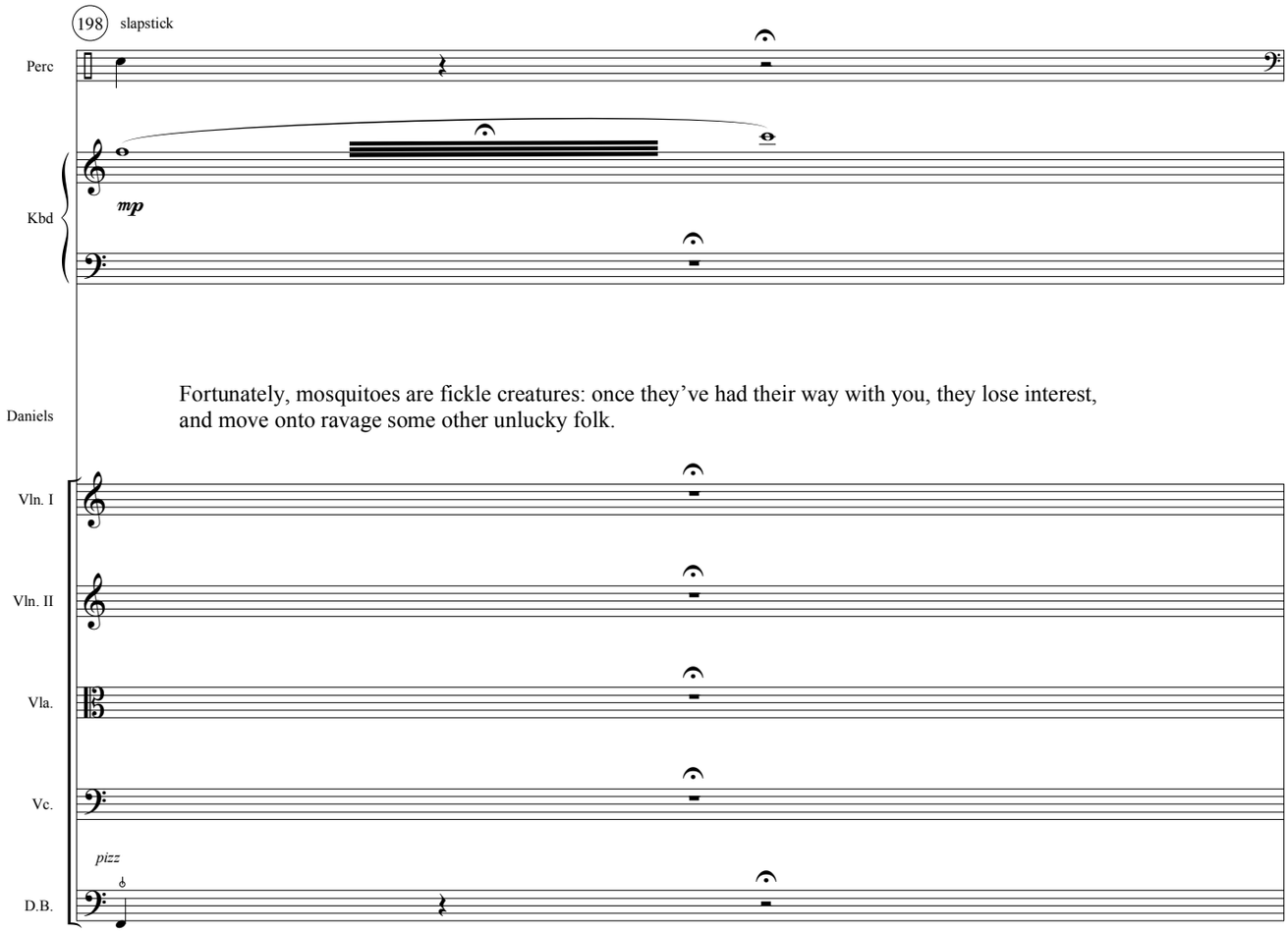
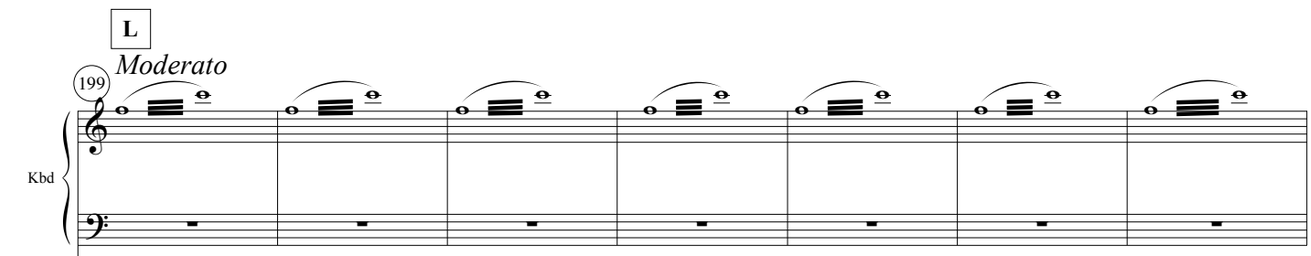


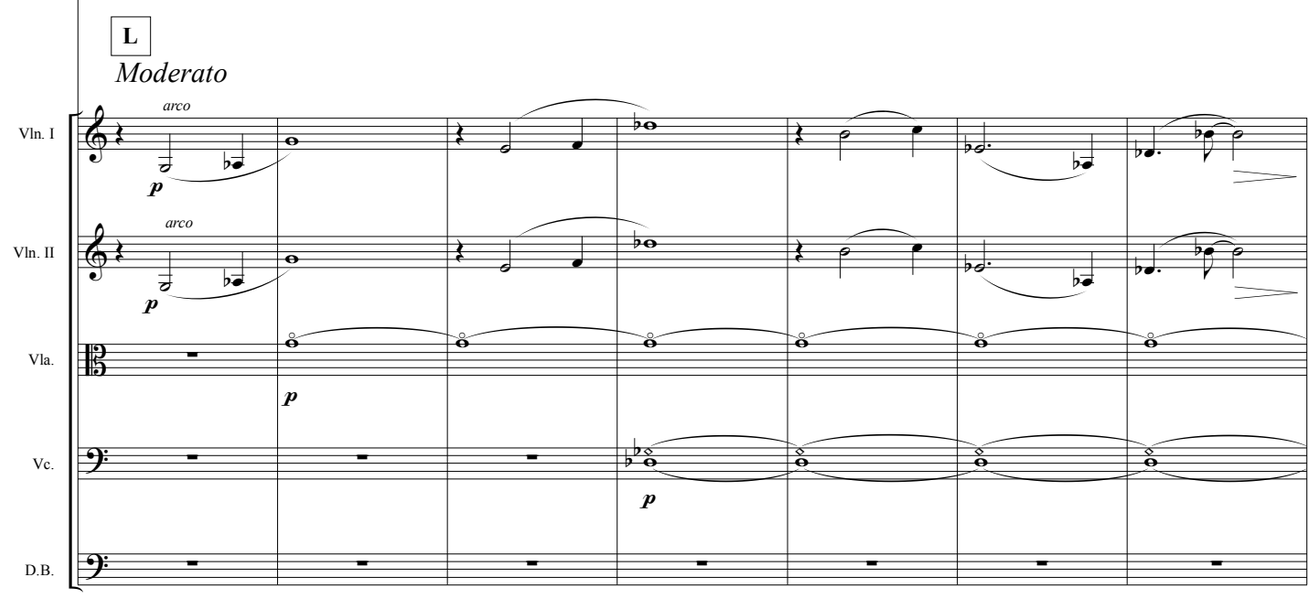
Daniels

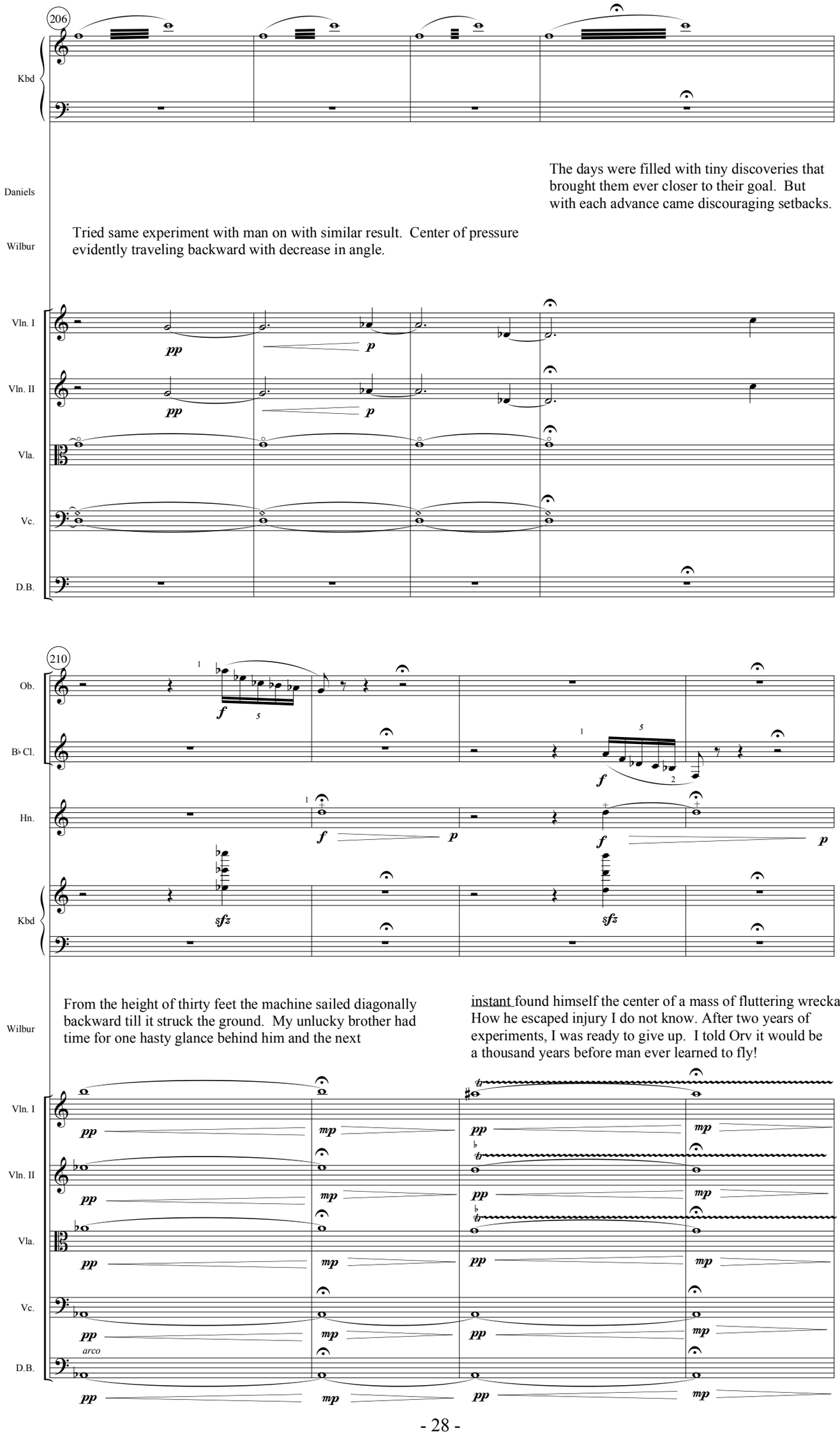
Fortunately, mosquitoes are fickle creatures: once they've had their way with you, they lose interest, and move onto ravage some other unlucky folk.

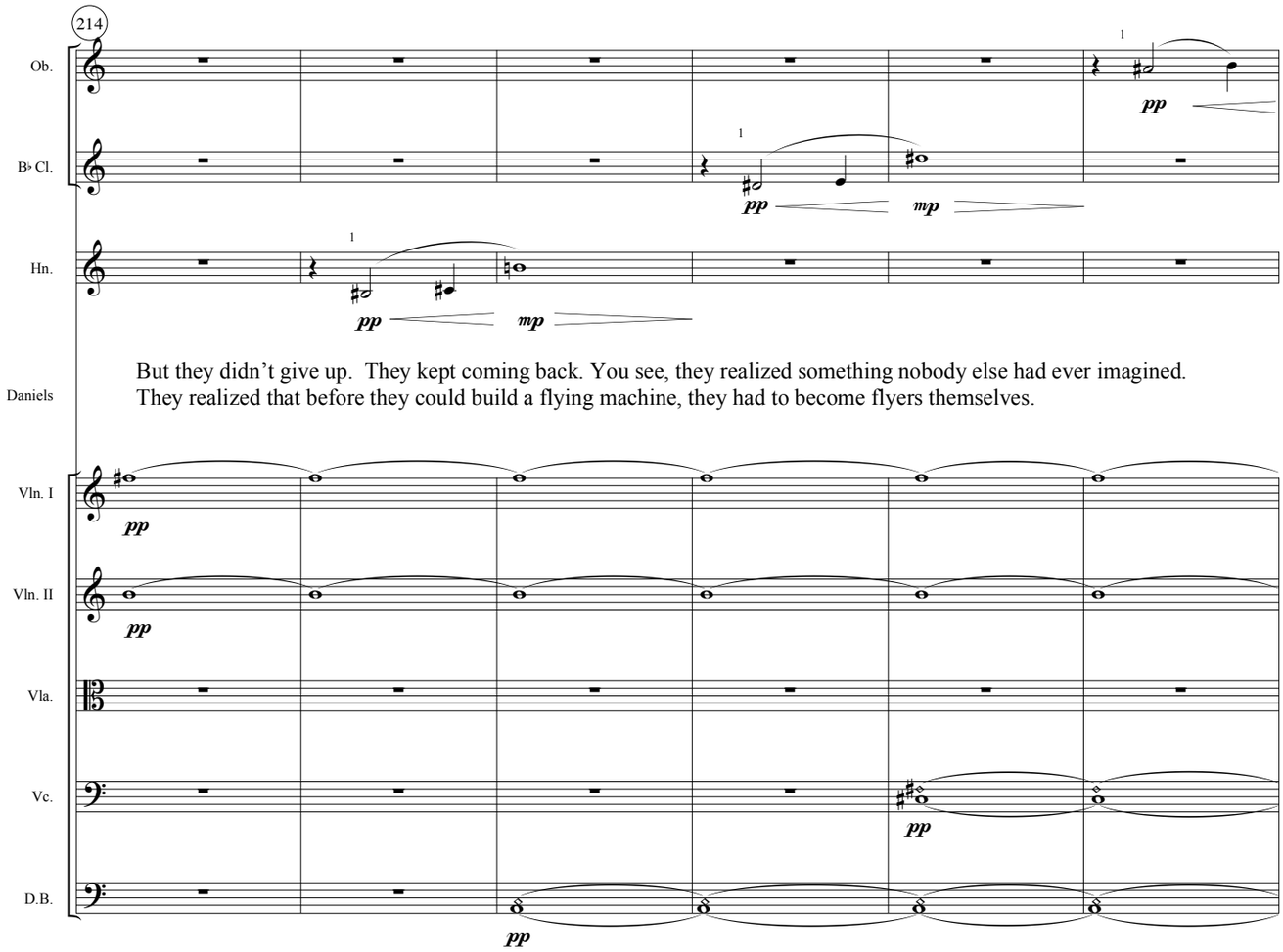


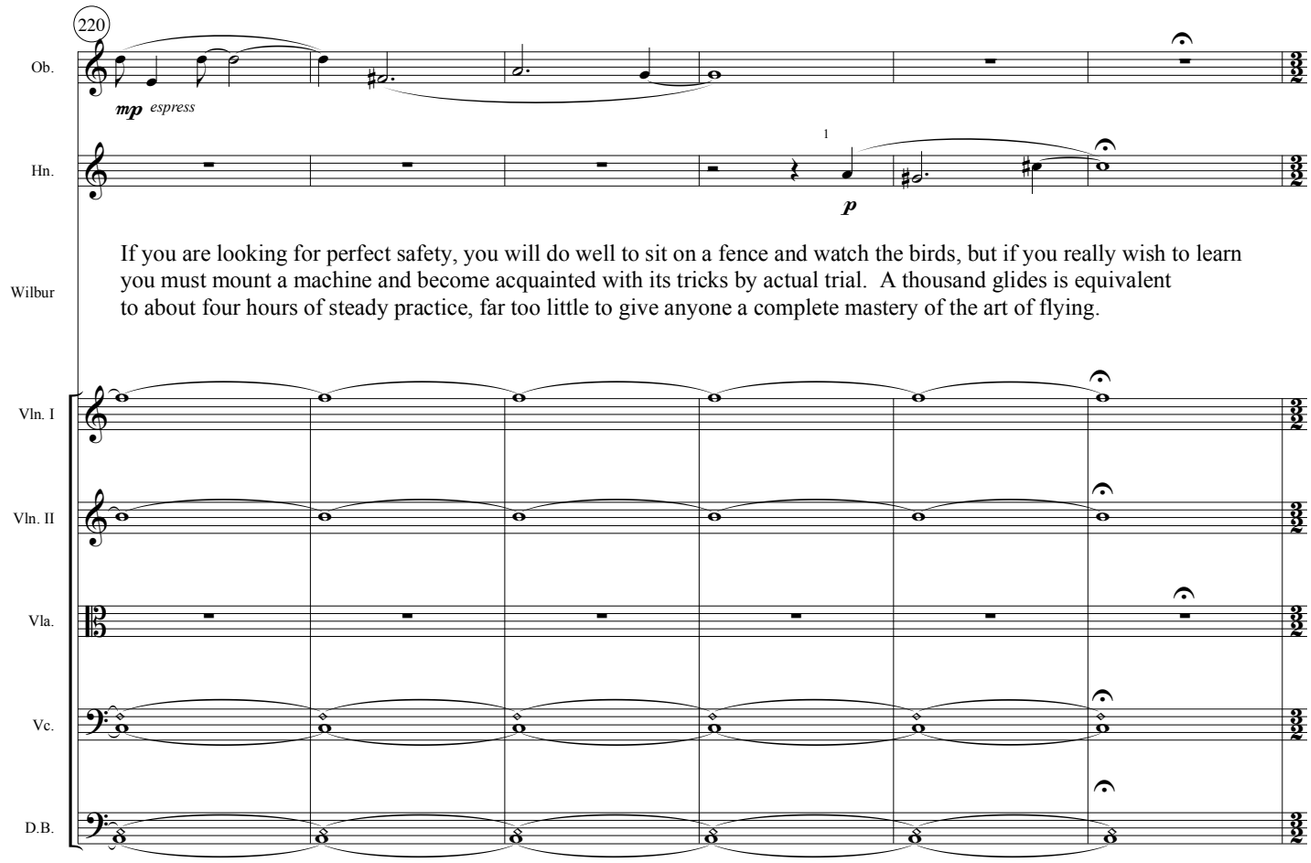
Wilbur

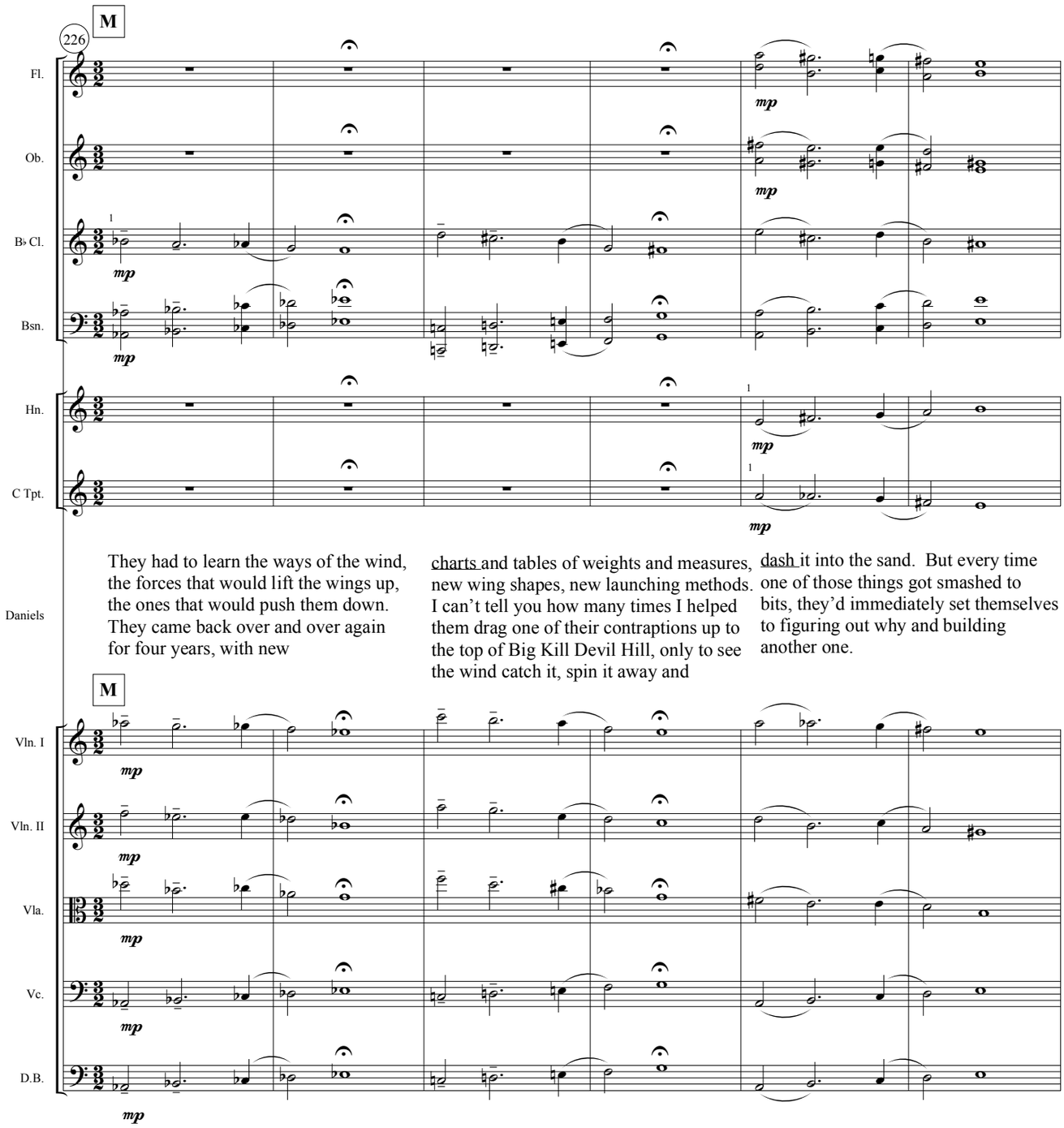
Afternoon spent on kite tests. Found lift of machine much less than tables would indicate, reaching only about a third as much. Found that machine at 100 pounds would not glide at 3 degrees or 4 degrees on wind of less than about 23 to 25 miles per hour. Tried flying machine as kite at edge of slope of one in one-and-a-half and induced it to fly in front of rope with strong upward pull.




206
Kbd
Daniels
The days were filled with tiny discoveries that brought them ever closer to their goal. But with each advance came discouraging setbacks.
Wilbur
Tried same experiment with man on with similar result. Center of pressure evidently traveling backward with decrease in angle.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
pp
p
210
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Kbd
f
sfz
Wilbur
From the height of thirty feet the machine sailed diagonally backward till it struck the ground. My unlucky brother had time for one hasty glance behind him and the next
instant found himself the center of a mass of fluttering wreckage. How he escaped injury I do not know. After two years of experiments, I was ready to give up. I told Orv it would be a thousand years before man ever learned to fly!
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
pp
mp
arco

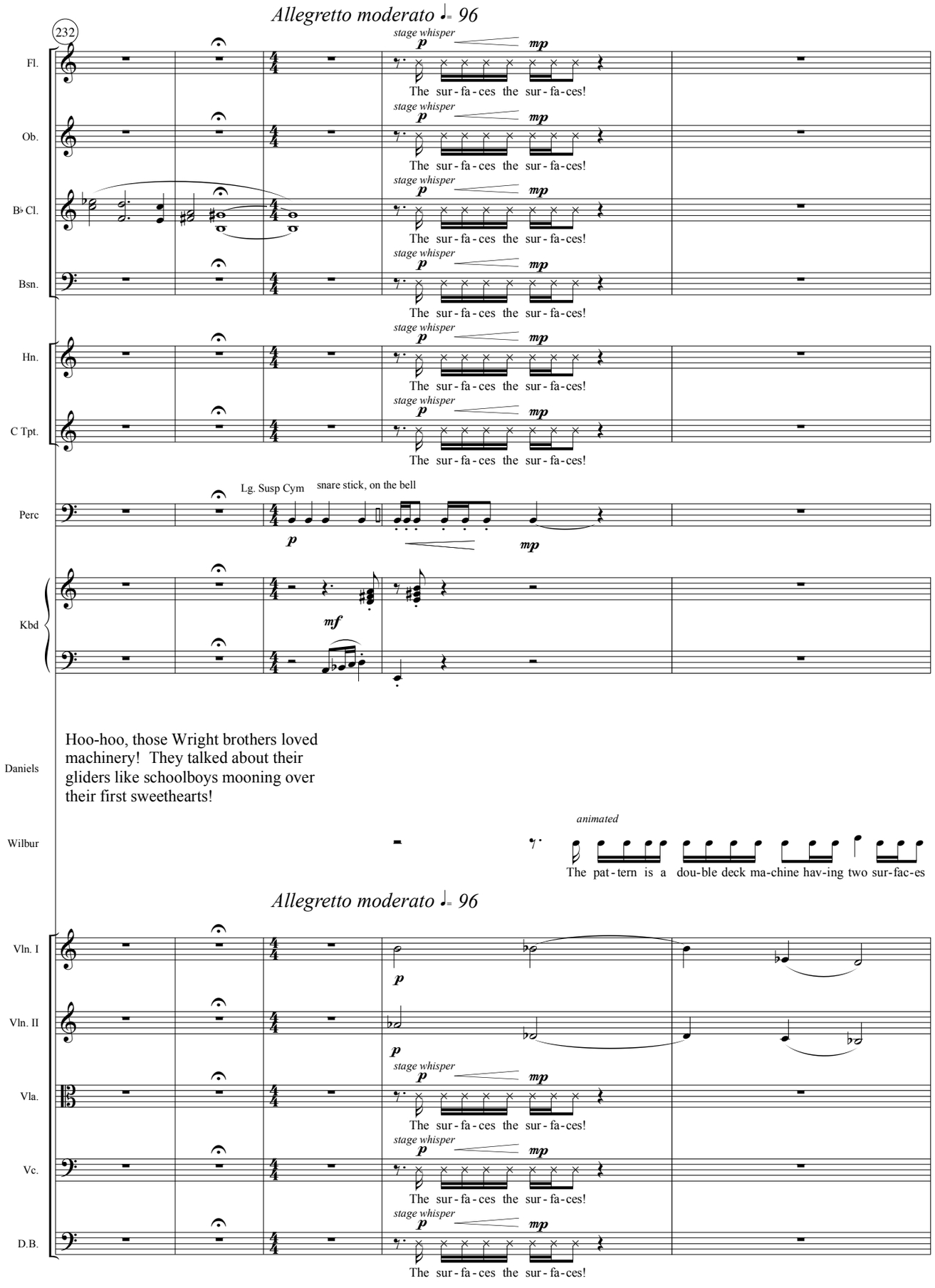

214
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
pp
mp
But they didn't give up. They kept coming back. You see, they realized something nobody else had ever imagined.
They realized that before they could build a flying machine, they had to become flyers themselves.
Daniels
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

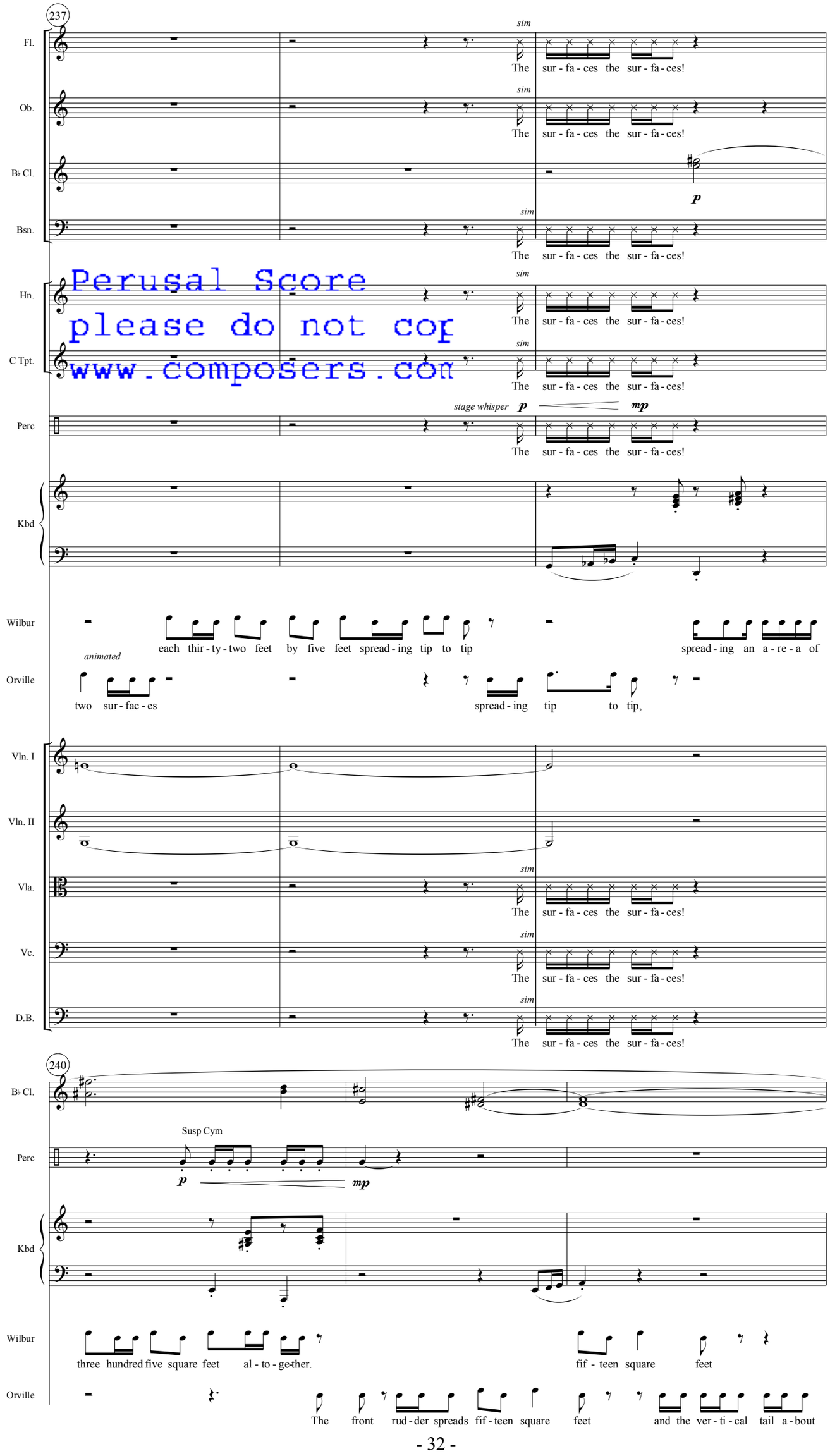

220
Ob.
mp espress
Hn.
p
If you are looking for perfect safety, you will do well to sit on a fence and watch the birds, but if you really wish to learn
you must mount a machine and become acquainted with its tricks by actual trial. A thousand glides is equivalent
to about four hours of steady practice, far too little to give anyone a complete mastery of the art of flying.
Wilbur
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.



Daniels

They had to learn the ways of the wind, the forces that would lift the wings up, the ones that would push them down. They came back over and over again for four years, with new charts and tables of weights and measures, new wing shapes, new launching methods. I can't tell you how many times I helped them drag one of their contraptions up to the top of Big Kill Devil Hill, only to see the wind catch it, spin it away and dash it into the sand. But every time one of those things got smashed to bits, they'd immediately set themselves to figuring out why and building another one.


Allegretto moderato ♩= 96
232
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
C Tpt.
Perc
Kbd
Daniels
Wilbur
stage whisper
p
mp
The sur - fa - ces the sur - fa - ces!
Lg. Susp Cym
snare stick, on the bell
mf
Hoo-hoo, those Wright brothers loved machinery! They talked about their gliders like schoolboys mooning over their first sweethearts!
animated
The pat - tern is a dou-ble deck ma-chine hav-ing two sur-fac-es
Allegretto moderato ♩= 96
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.



Perusal Score
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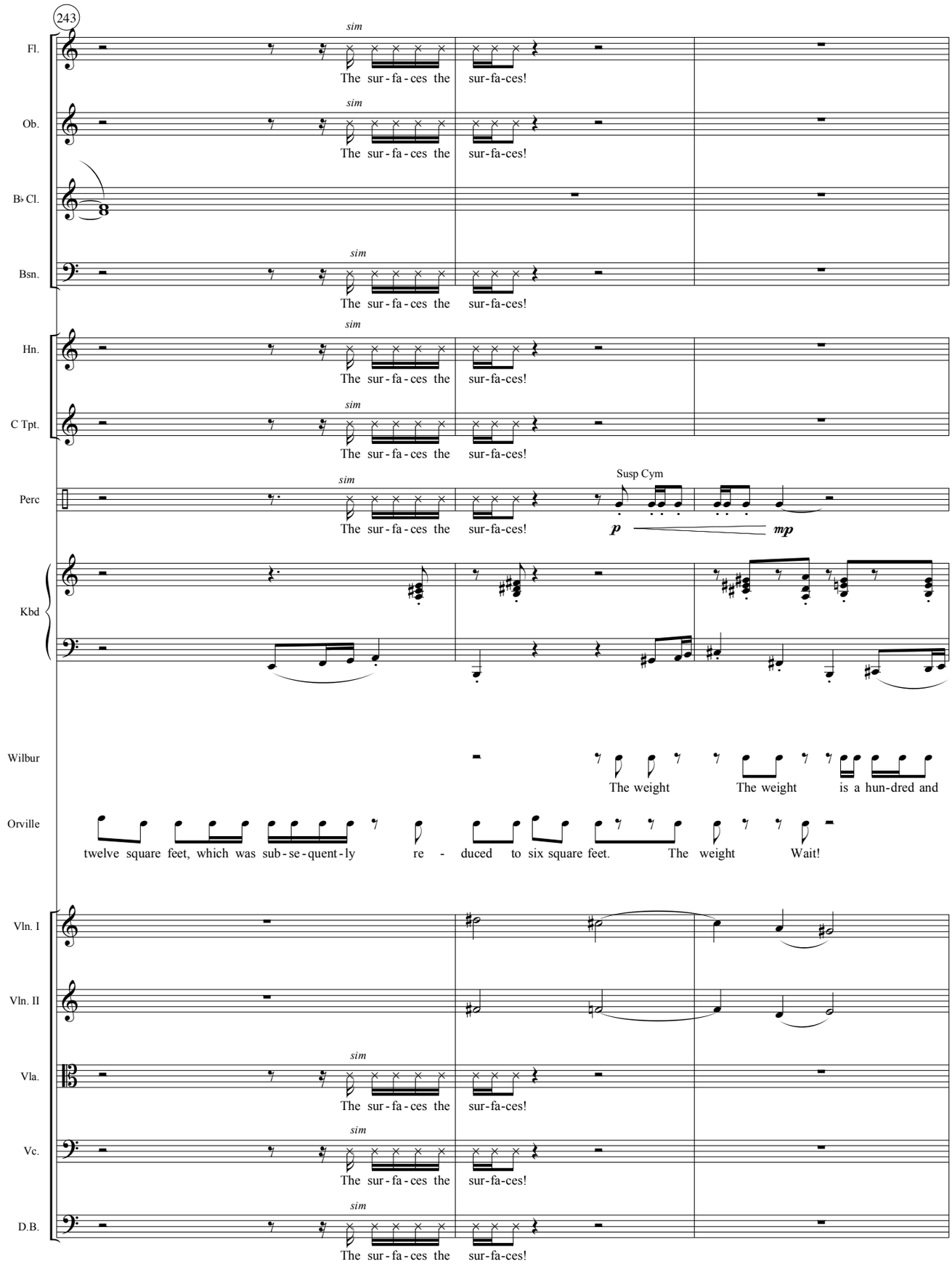
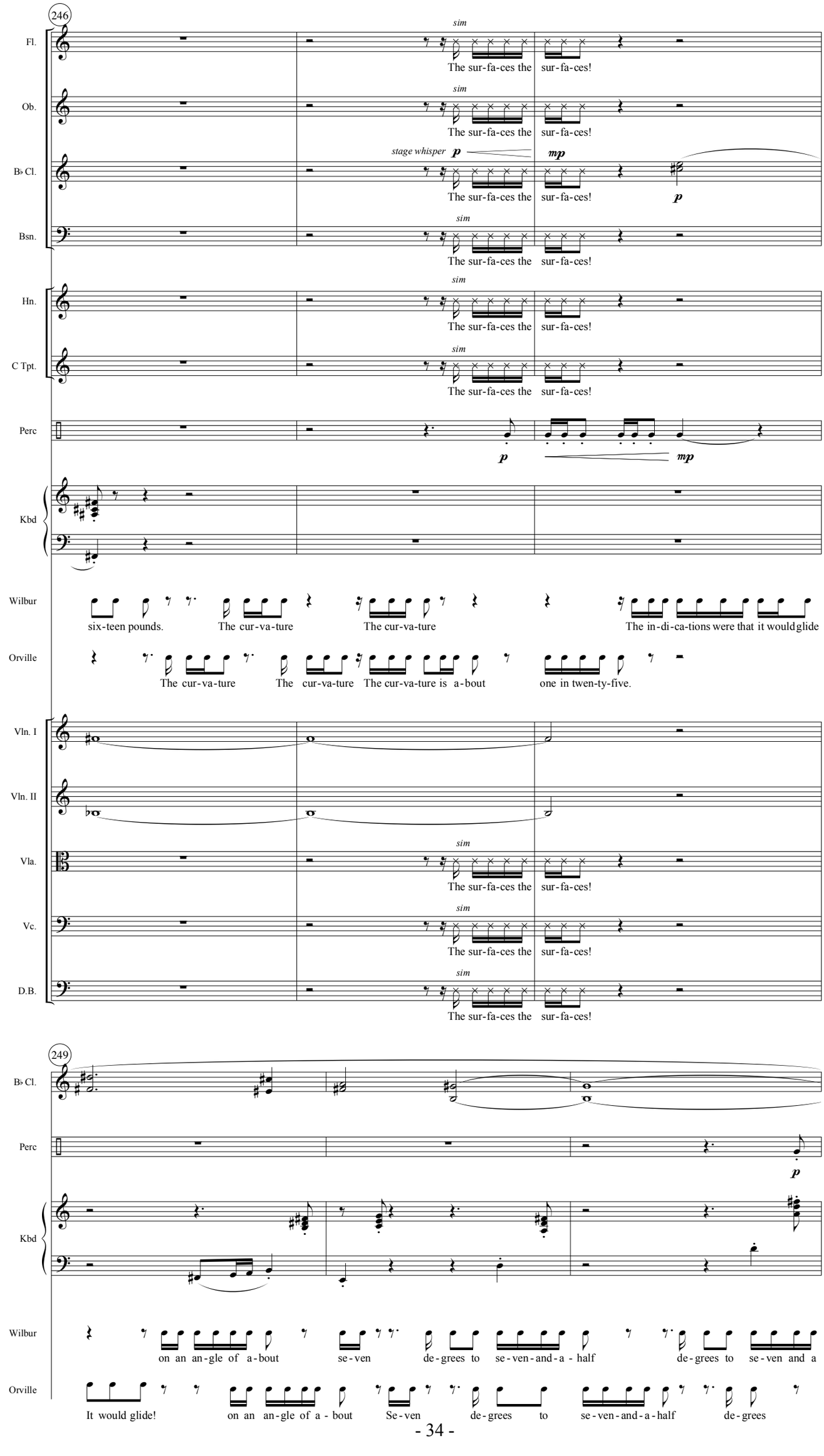
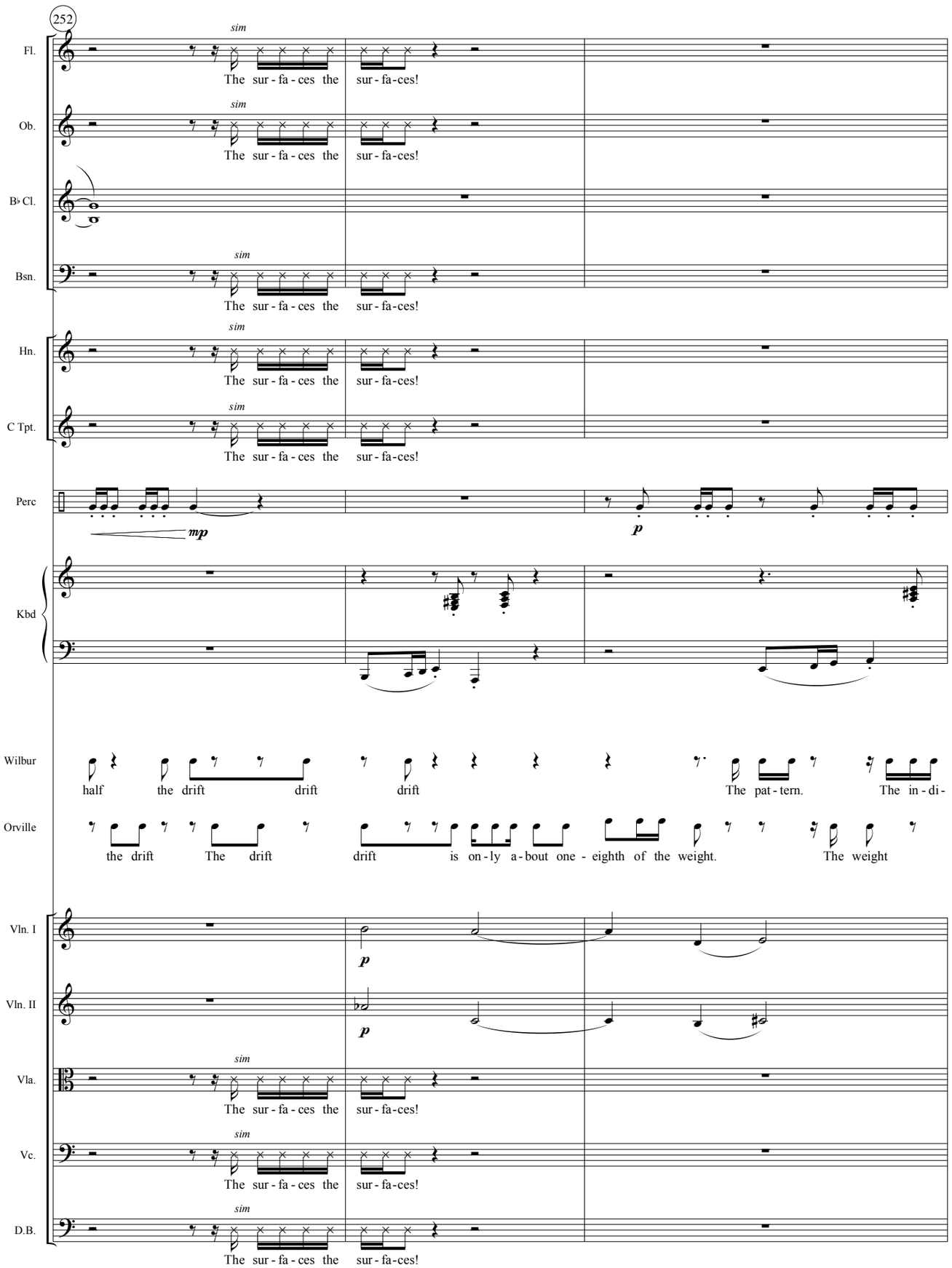
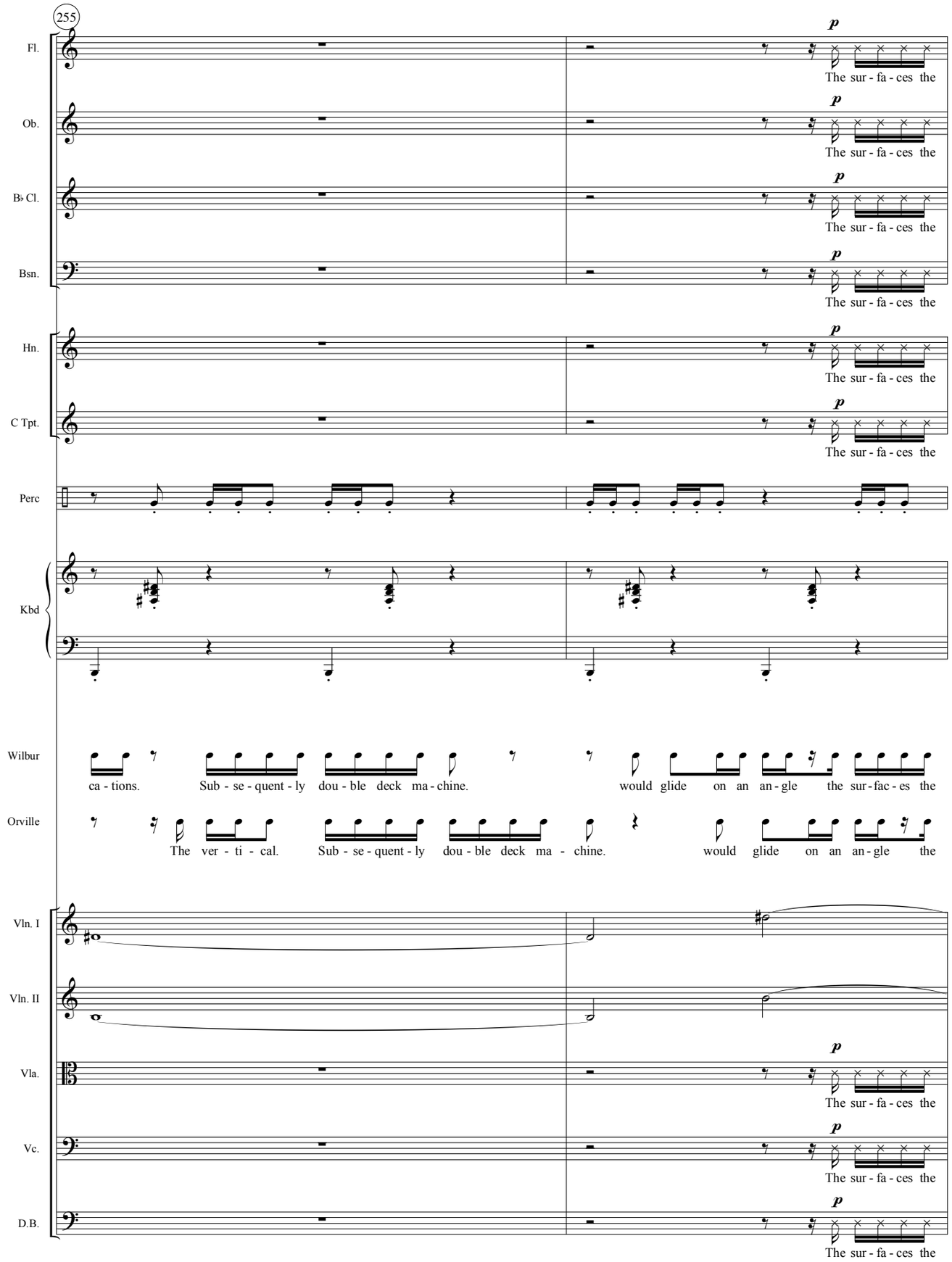
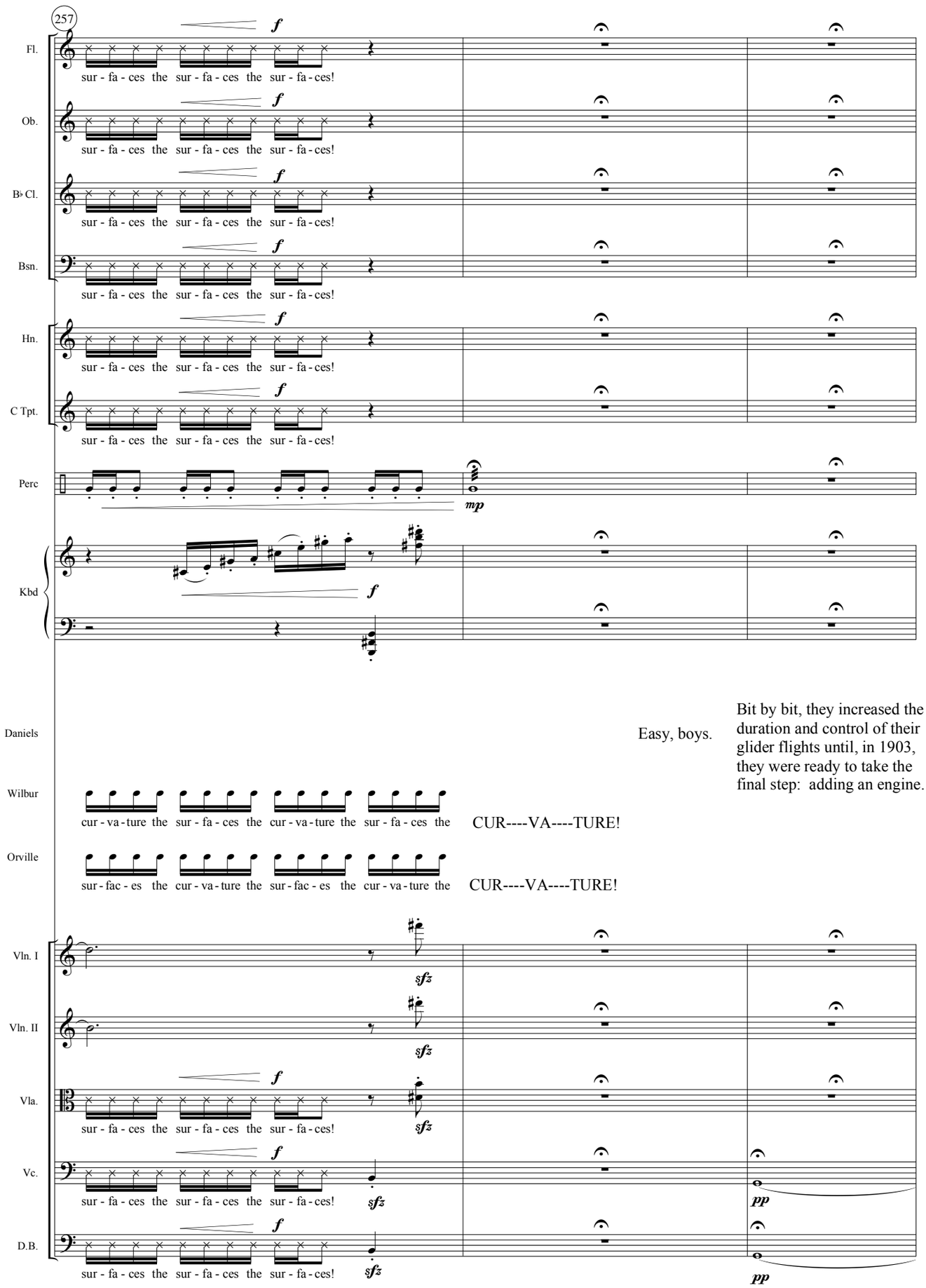
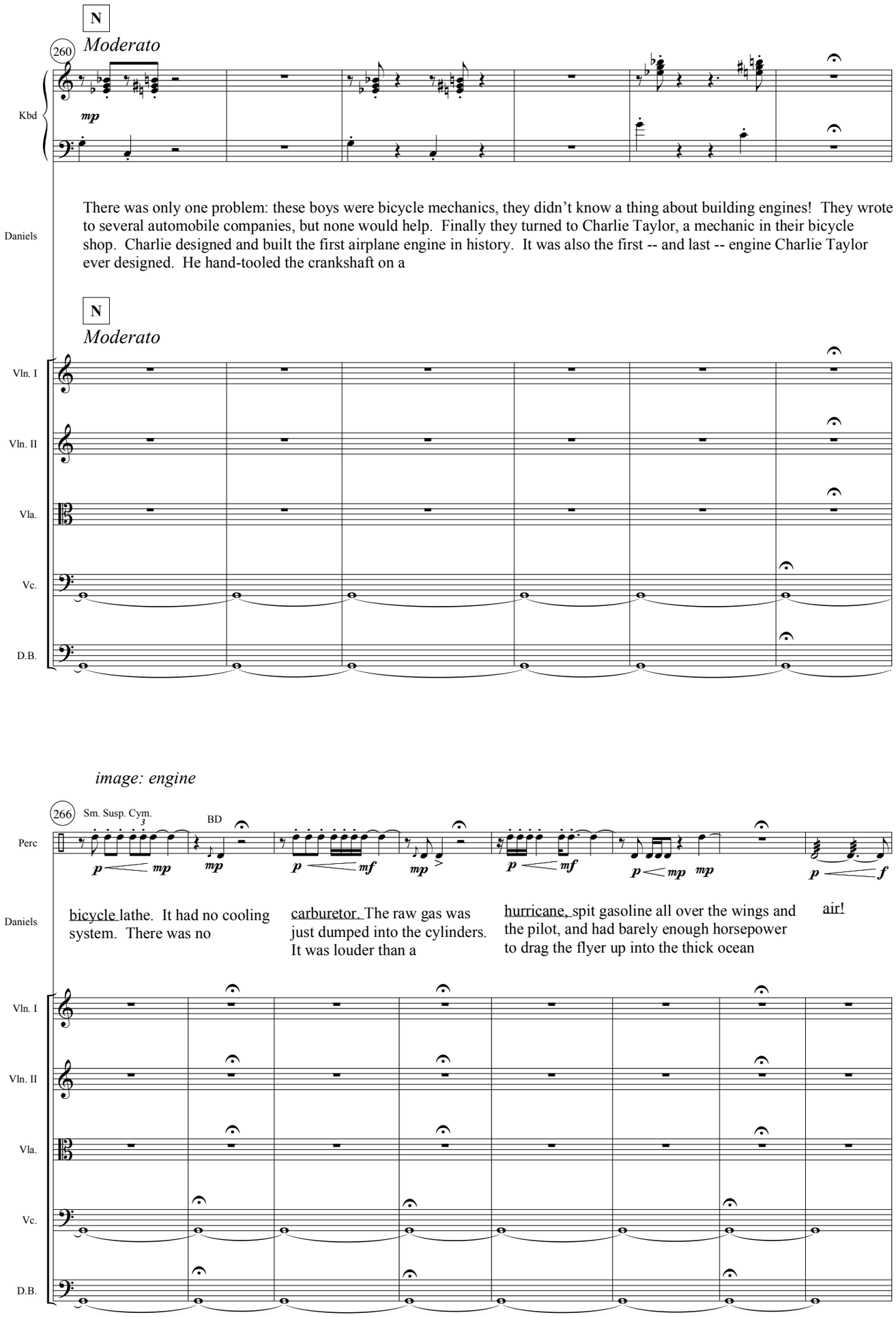

243
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
C Tpt.
Perc
Kbd
Wilbur
Orville
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
sim
The sur - fa - ces the sur-fa-ces!
Susp Cym
p
mp
The weight The weight is a hun-dred and
twelve square feet, which was sub - se - quent - ly re - duced to six square feet. The weight Wait!

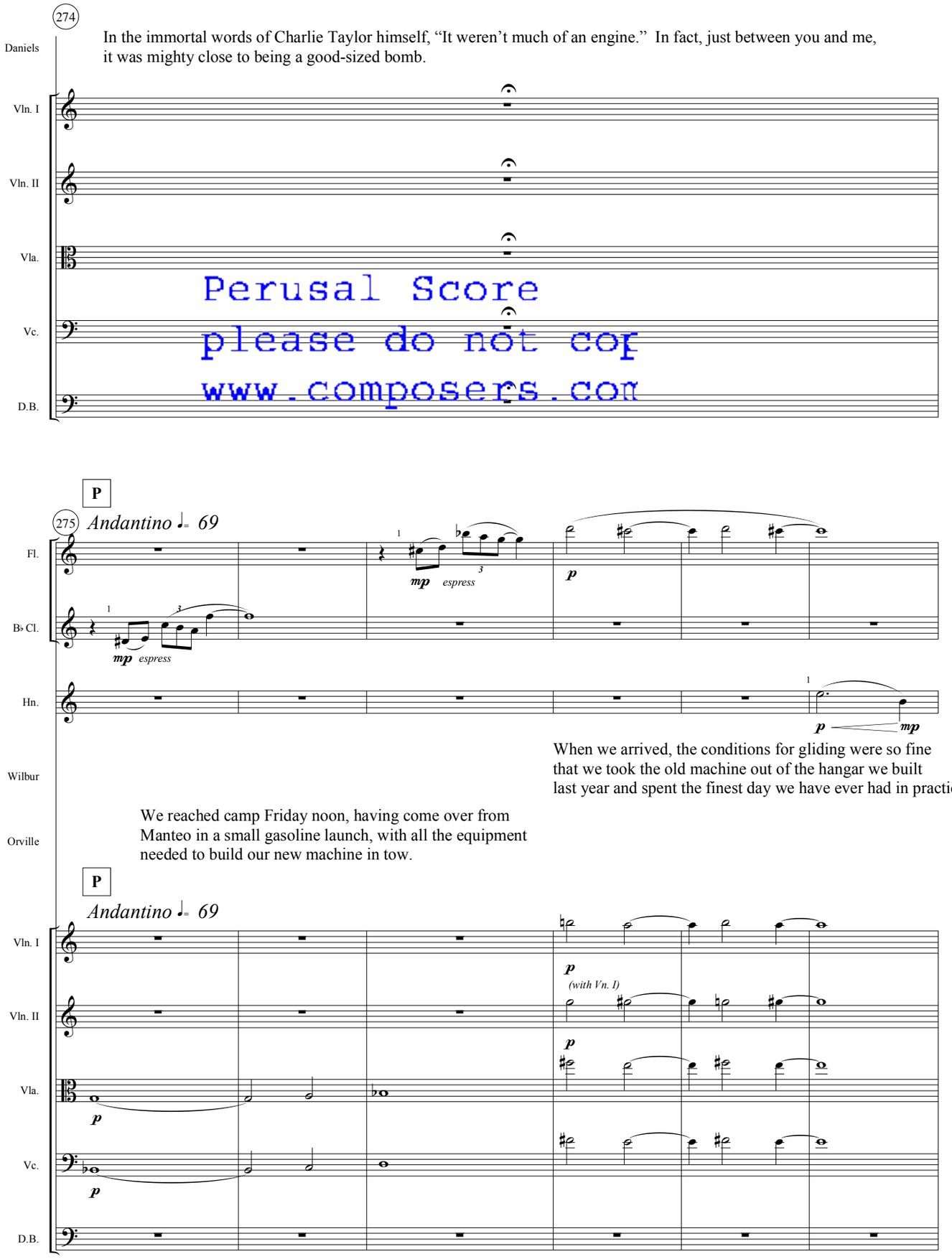

246
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
C Tpt.
Perc
Kbd
Wilbur
Orville
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
sim
The sur-fa-ces the sur-fa-ces!
stage whisper
p
mp
six-teen pounds. The cur-va-ture The cur-va-ture The in-di-ca-tions were that it would glide
The cur-va-ture The cur-va-ture The cur-va-ture is a-bout one in twen-ty-five.
249
on an an-gle of a-bout se-ven de-grees to se-ven-and-a - half de-grees to se-ven and a
It would glide! on an an-gle of a - bout Se-ven de-grees to se-ven-and-a-half de-grees

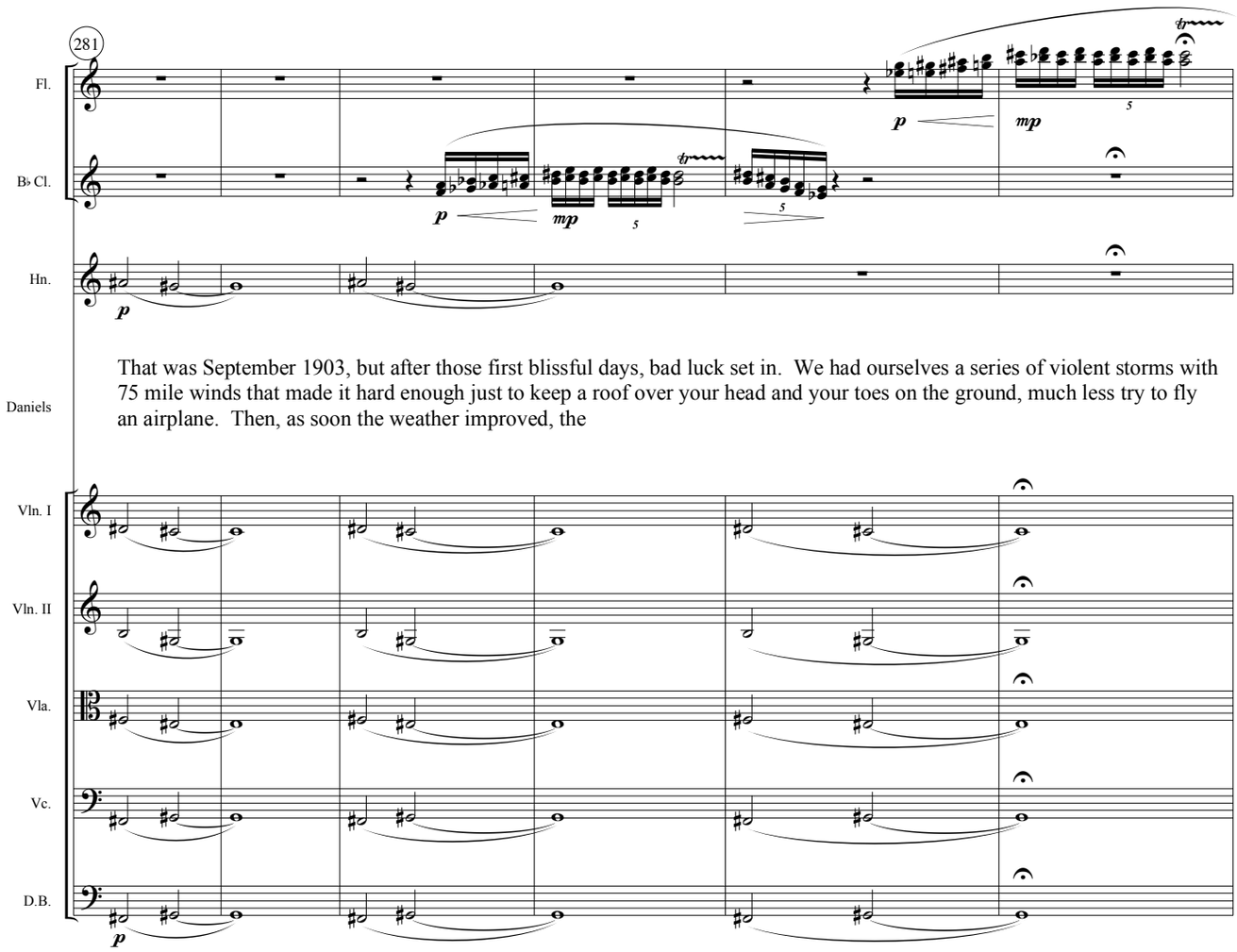

252
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
C Tpt.
Perc
Kbd
Wilbur
Orville
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
sim
The sur - fa - ces the sur - fa-ces!
mp
p
half the drift drift drift The pat - tern. The in - di -
the drift The drift drift is on - ly a - bout one - eighth of the weight. The weight

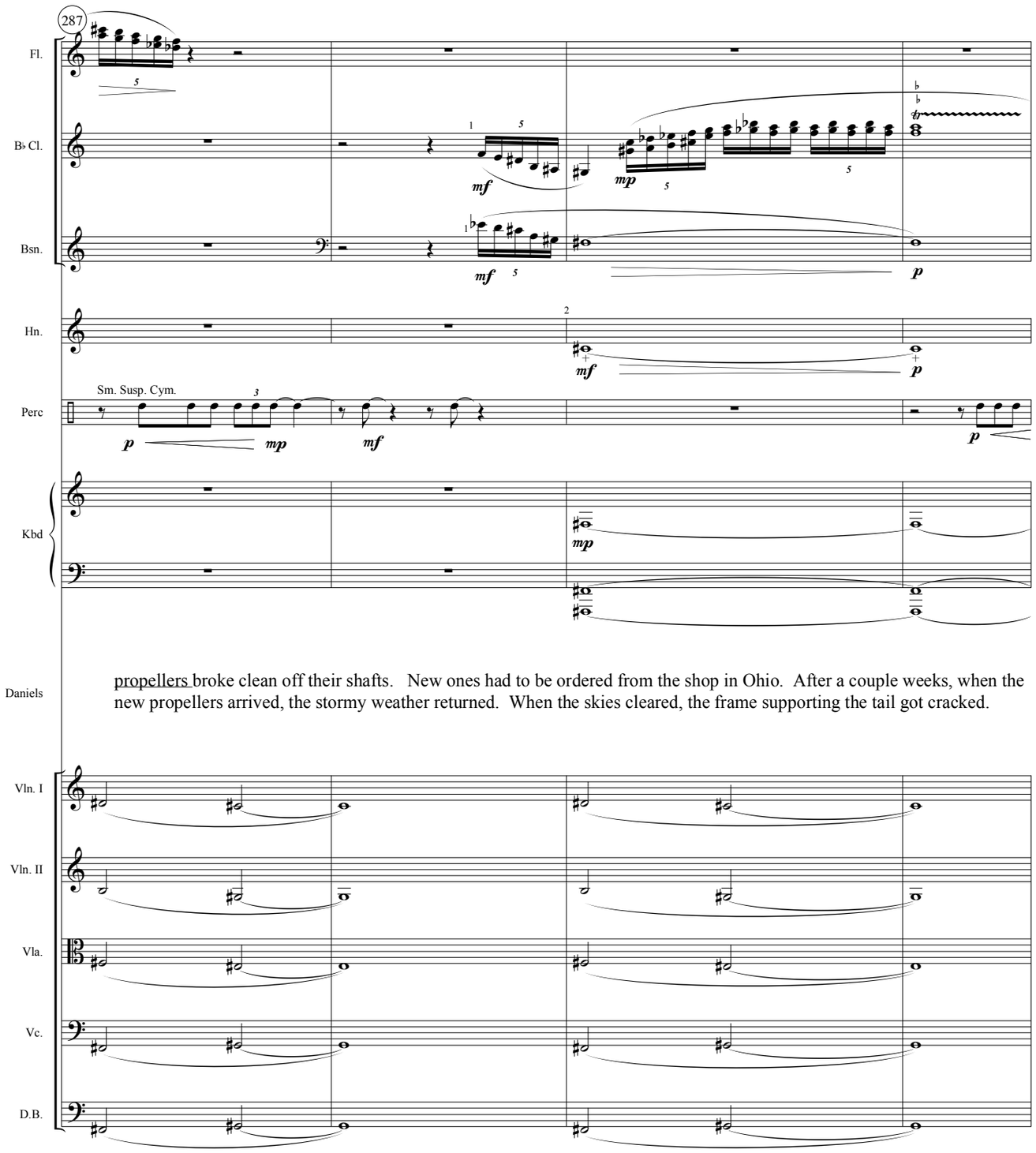

255
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
C Tpt.
Perc
Kbd
Wilbur
Orville
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
p
The sur - fa - ces the
ca - tions. Sub - se - quent - ly dou - ble deck ma - chine. would glide on an an - gle the sur - fac - es the
The ver - ti - cal. Sub - se - quent - ly dou - ble deck ma - chine. would glide on an an - gle the

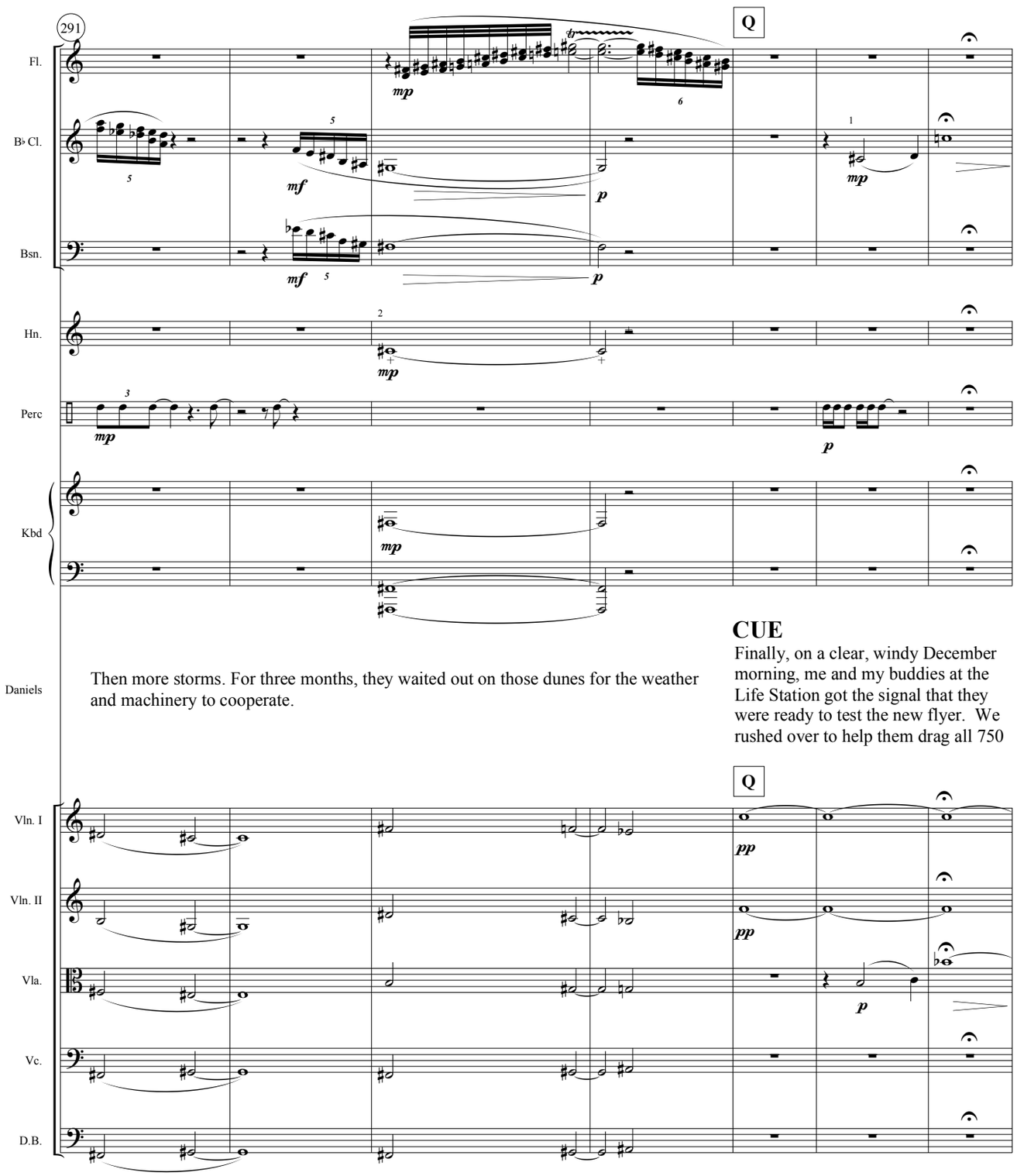

257
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
C Tpt.
Perc
Kbd
Daniels
Wilbur
Orville
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
sur - fa - ces the sur - fa - ces the sur - fa - ces!
f
mp
sfz
pp
Easy, boys.
Bit by bit, they increased the duration and control of their glider flights until, in 1903, they were ready to take the final step: adding an engine.
cur - va - ture the sur - fa - ces the cur - va - ture the sur - fa - ces the
CUR----VA----TURE!
sur - fac - es the cur - va - ture the sur - fac - es the cur - va - ture the
CUR----VA----TURE!

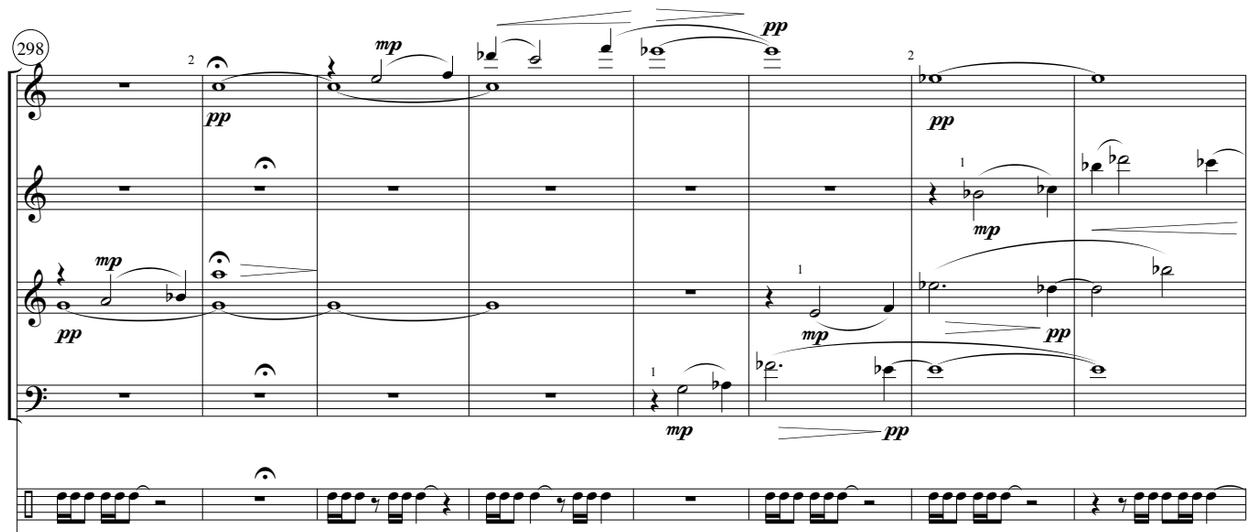

N
Moderato
260
Kbd
mp
There was only one problem: these boys were bicycle mechanics, they didn't know a thing about building engines! They wrote to several automobile companies, but none would help. Finally they turned to Charlie Taylor, a mechanic in their bicycle shop. Charlie designed and built the first airplane engine in history. It was also the first -- and last -- engine Charlie Taylor ever designed. He hand-tooled the crankshaft on a
Daniels
N
Moderato
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
image: engine
266
Sm. Susp. Cym.
BD
Perc
p mp
mp
p mf
mp
p mf
p mp mp
p f
bicycle lathe. It had no cooling system. There was no
carburetor. The raw gas was just dumped into the cylinders. It was louder than a
hurricane, spit gasoline all over the wings and the pilot, and had barely enough horsepower to drag the flyer up into the thick ocean
air!
Daniels
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.


274
Daniels
In the immortal words of Charlie Taylor himself, “It weren’t much of an engine.” In fact, just between you and me, it was mighty close to being a good-sized bomb.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
Perusal Score
please do not cop
www.composers.com
P
275
Andantino ♩= 69
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
mp espress
p
mp
When we arrived, the conditions for gliding were so fine that we took the old machine out of the hangar we built last year and spent the finest day we have ever had in practice.
Wilbur
We reached camp Friday noon, having come over from Manteo in a small gasoline launch, with all the equipment needed to build our new machine in tow.
Orville
P
Andantino ♩= 69
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
p
(with Vn. I)


281
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Daniels
That was September 1903, but after those first blissful days, bad luck set in. We had ourselves a series of violent storms with 75 mile winds that made it hard enough just to keep a roof over your head and your toes on the ground, much less try to fly an airplane. Then, as soon the weather improved, the
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

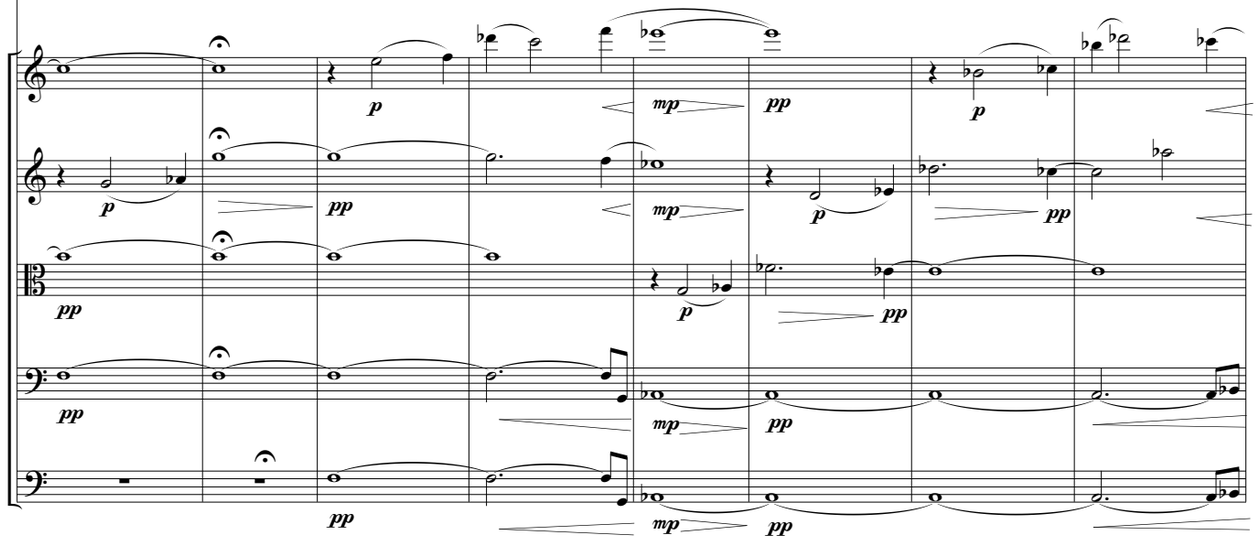

287
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc
Sm. Susp. Cym.
Kbd
Daniels
propellers broke clean off their shafts. New ones had to be ordered from the shop in Ohio. After a couple weeks, when the new propellers arrived, the stormy weather returned. When the skies cleared, the frame supporting the tail got cracked.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

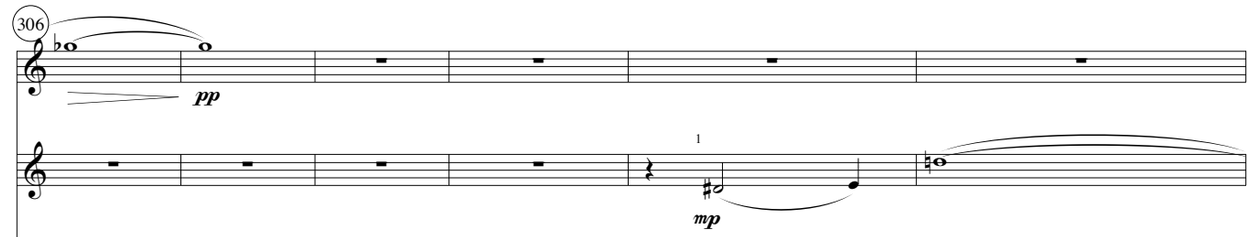

291
Q
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc
Kbd
Daniels
Then more storms. For three months, they waited out on those dunes for the weather and machinery to cooperate.
CUE
Finally, on a clear, windy December morning, me and my buddies at the Life Station got the signal that they were ready to test the new flyer. We rushed over to help them drag all 750
Q
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.



Daniels

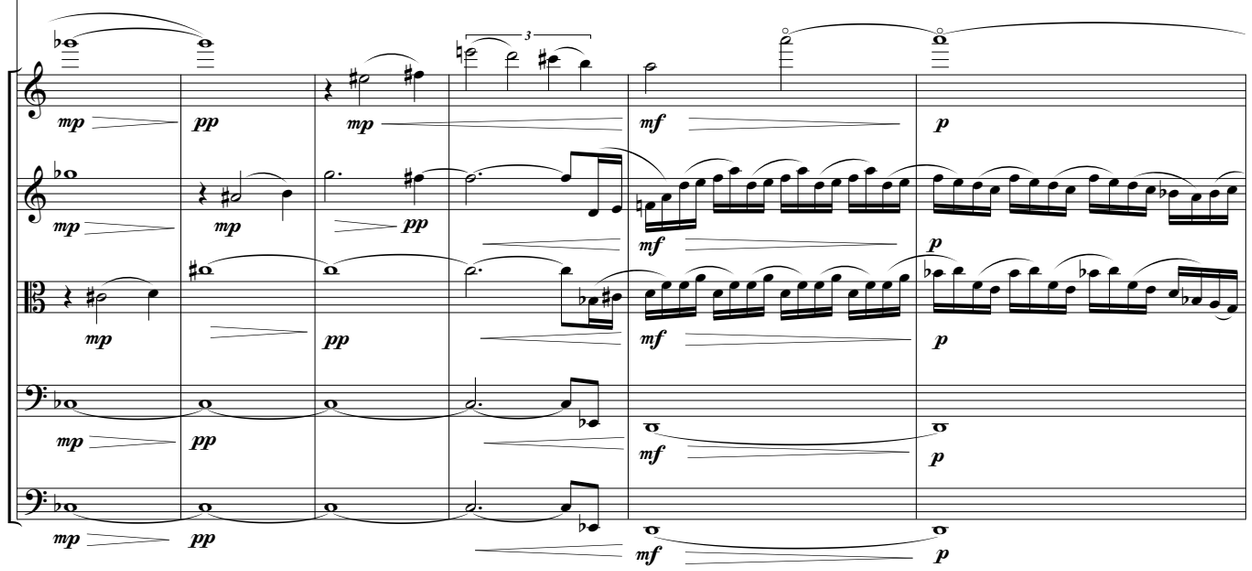
pounds of it up the hill, a quarter mile away. They flipped a coin, and Orville was chosen to pilot the first flight. Before he did, he set up his camera on a tripod. He handed me the shutter, and told me to pull it just as the plane took off. At 10:35 a.m. he climbed on board, and they rolled the plane down the track. The engine was making such an infernal racket some of the boys who were hanging around to see what was going on hightailed it for home for fear of getting blown to pieces.

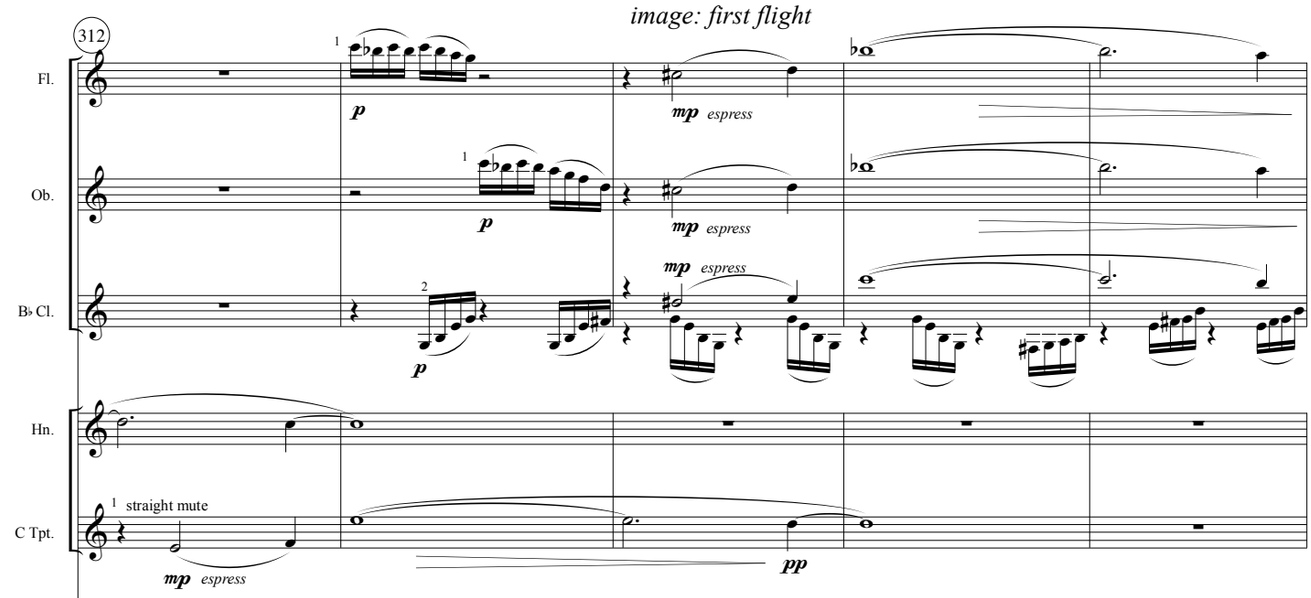




Daniels

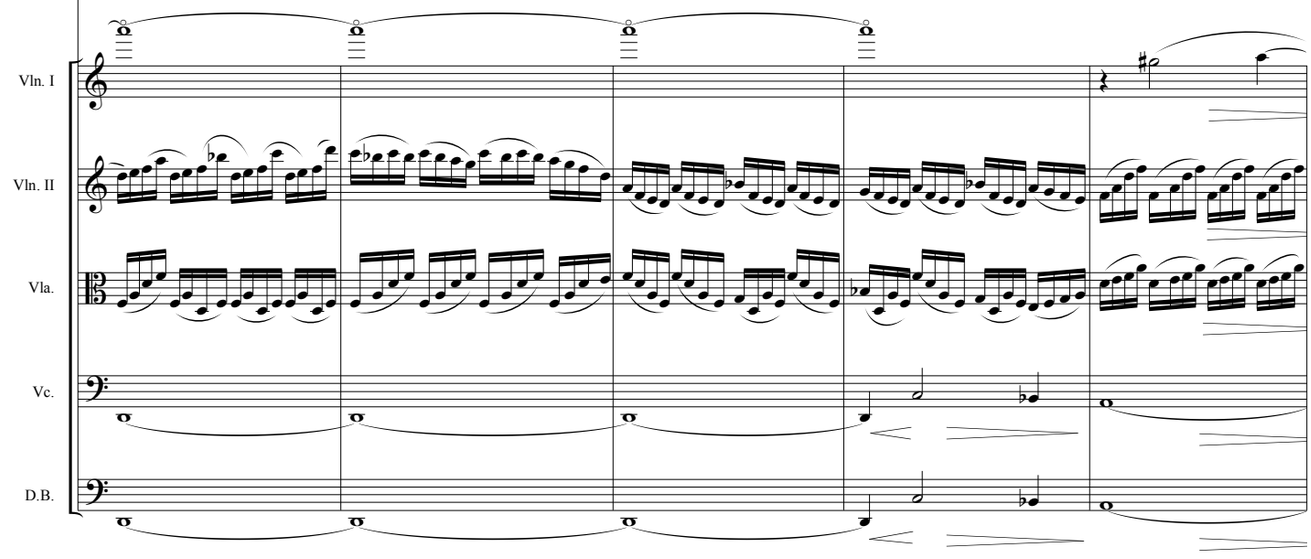
I stood as still as a sand crab, watching closely, holding the shutter, waiting for the right moment. Then it came: Wilbur let go of the wing, and the machine and Orville lifted up off the ground, and I was so stunned, I fell over backward, let go of the shutter, and just stared with my mouth wide open like I had seen a ghost!

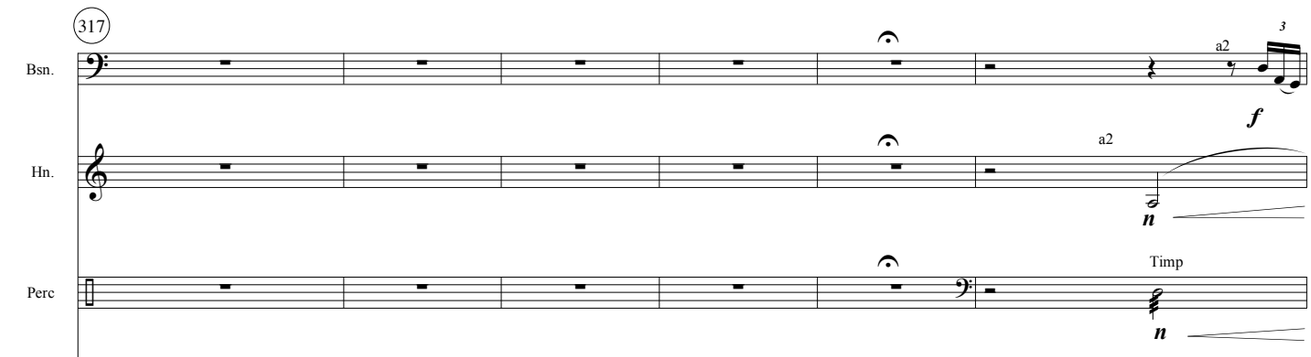




Daniels

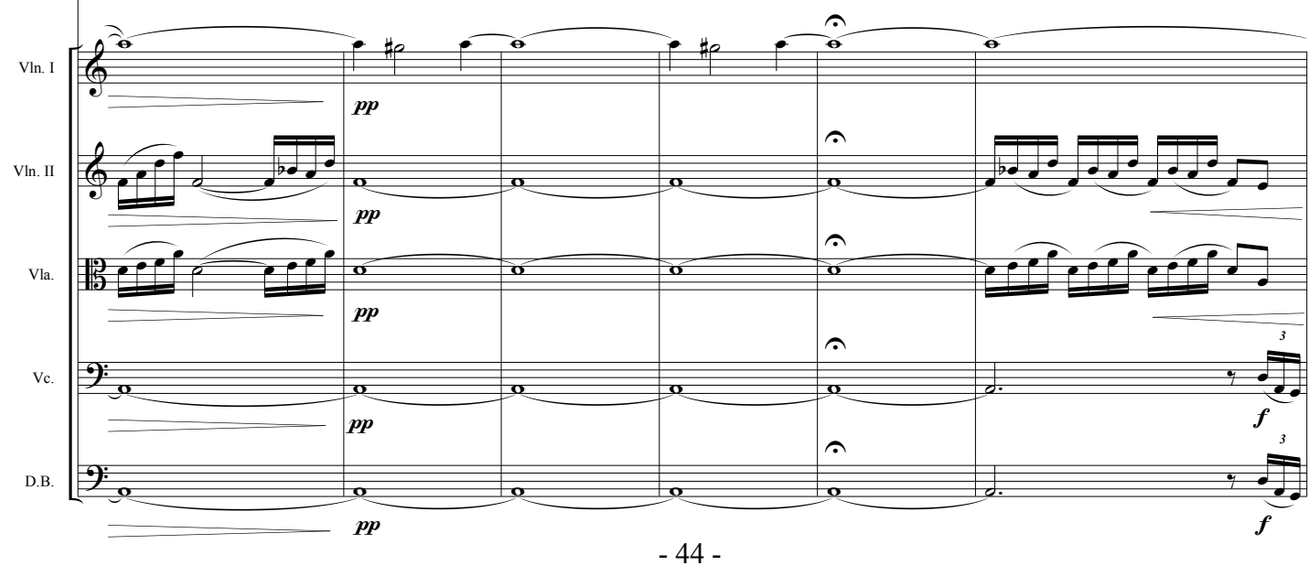
I'd never taken a photograph before, so I wasn't even sure if I had taken one this time. But when they developed the plate later on, there it was, a miracle: the first airplane lifting off the ground.

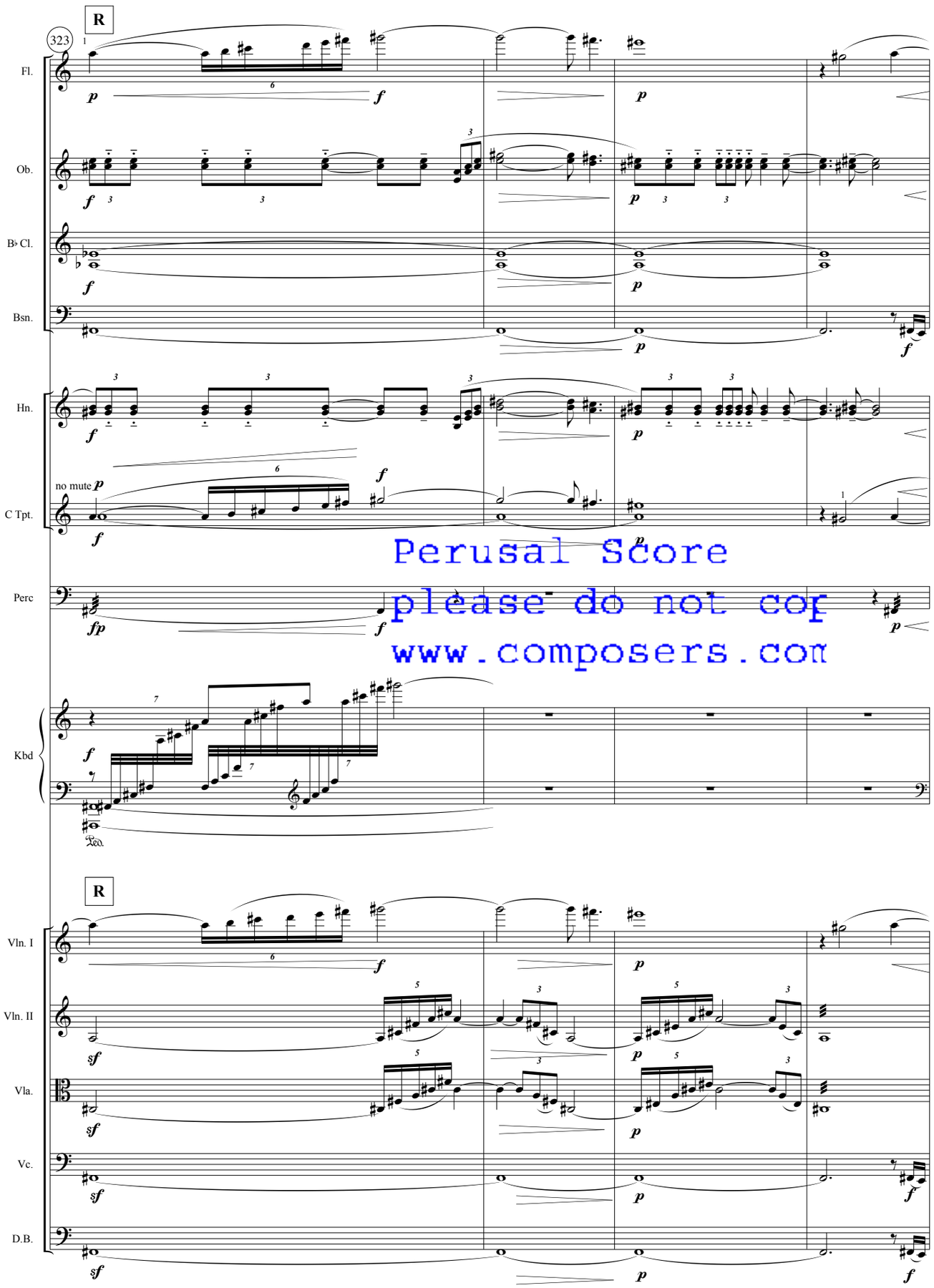




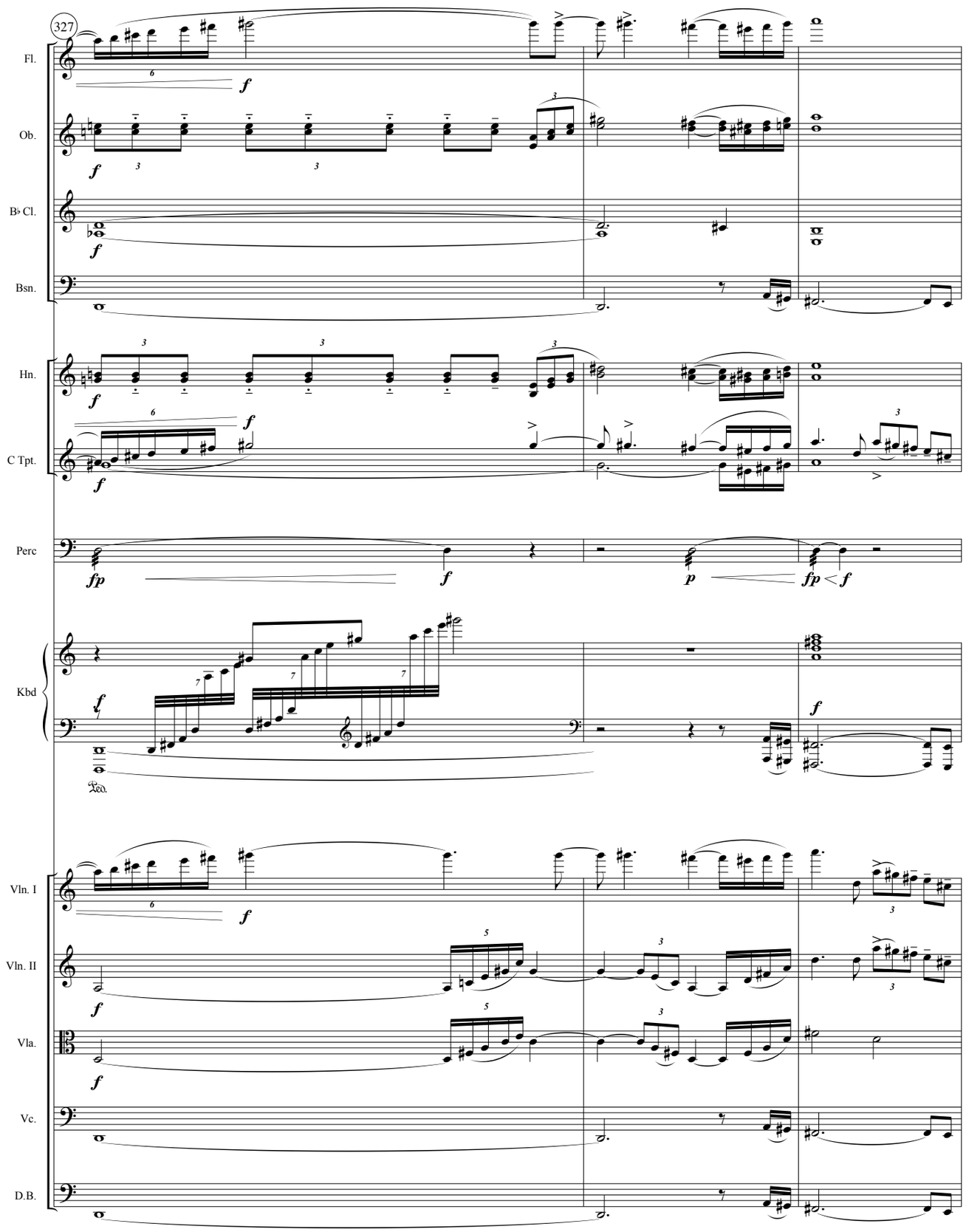
Daniels

That's Wilbur, off to the right: he's just let go of the wing. And Orville, can you see him? There in the middle of the plane? That's exactly what I saw. As God is my witness, that plane flew over a hundred feet, and it was the grandest sight of my life.





Perusal Score
please do not cop
www.composers.con


327
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
C Tpt.
Perc
Kbd
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

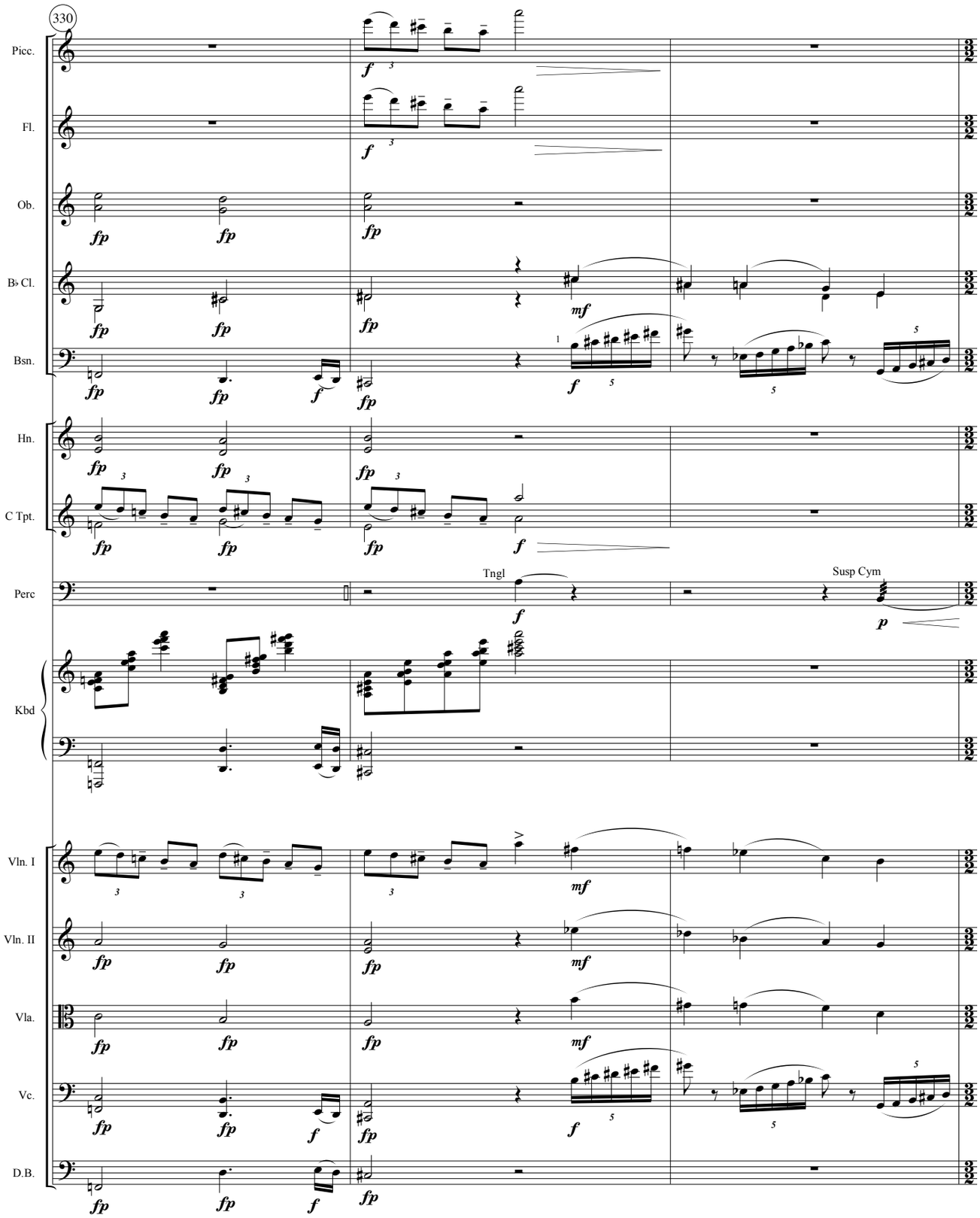
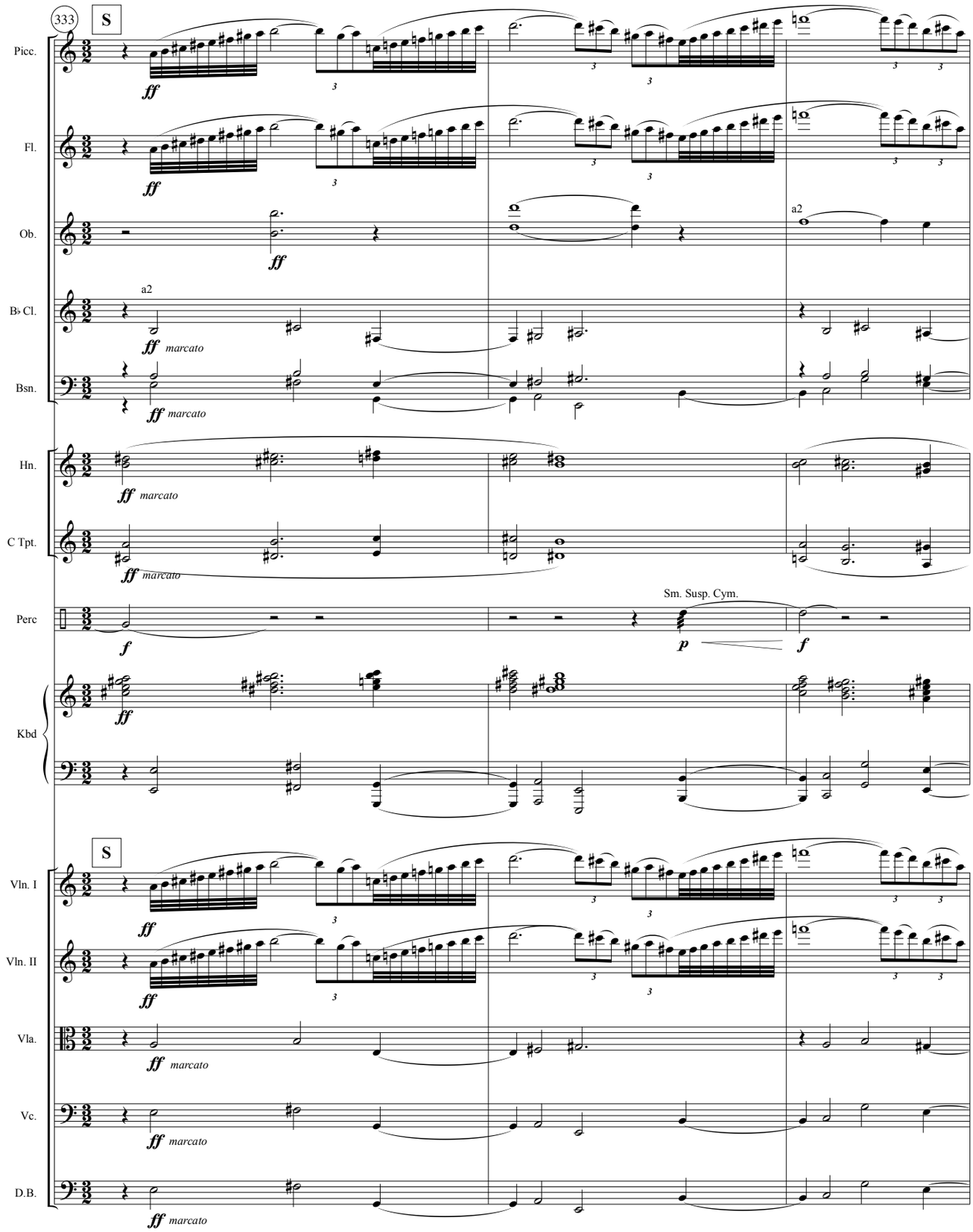
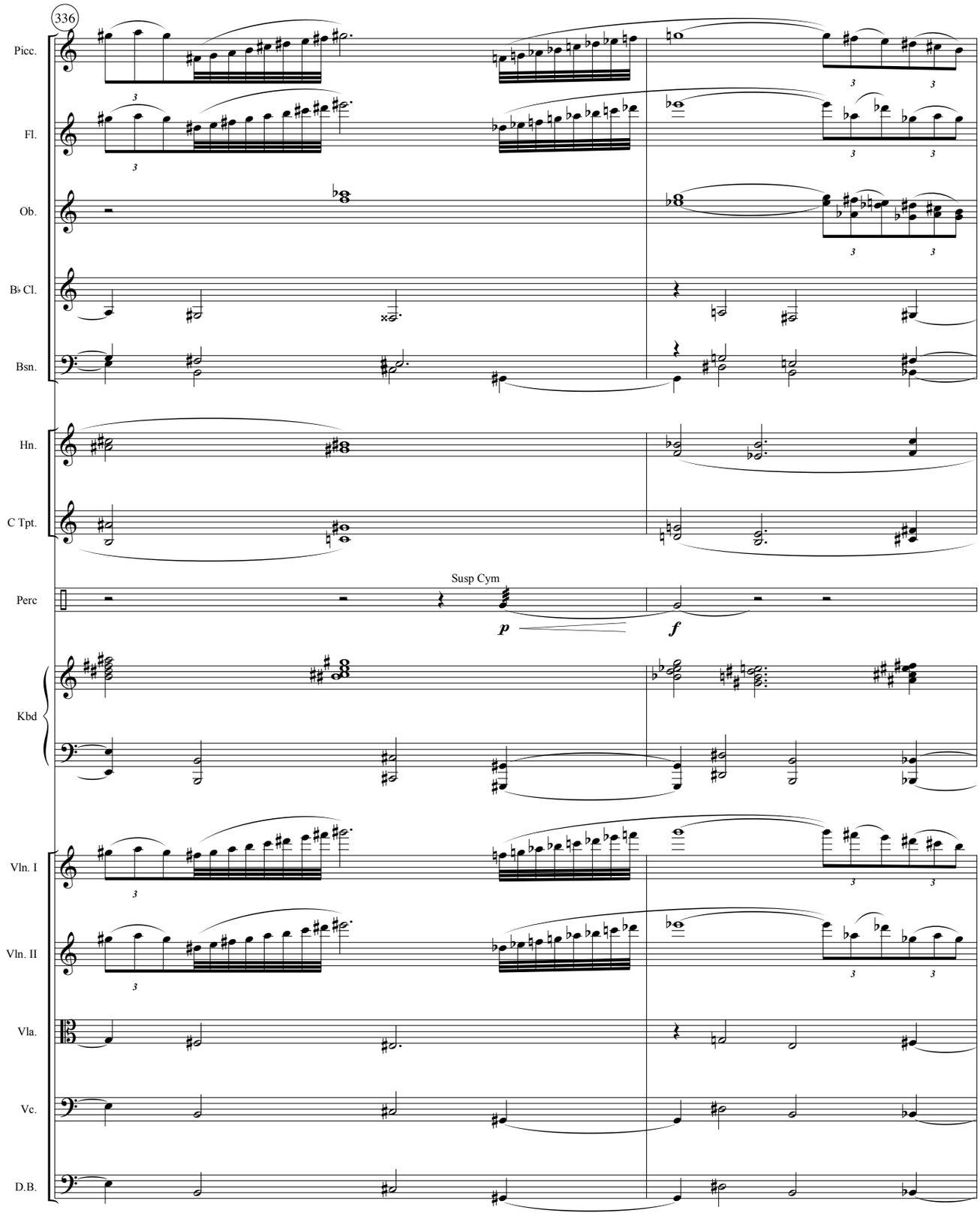
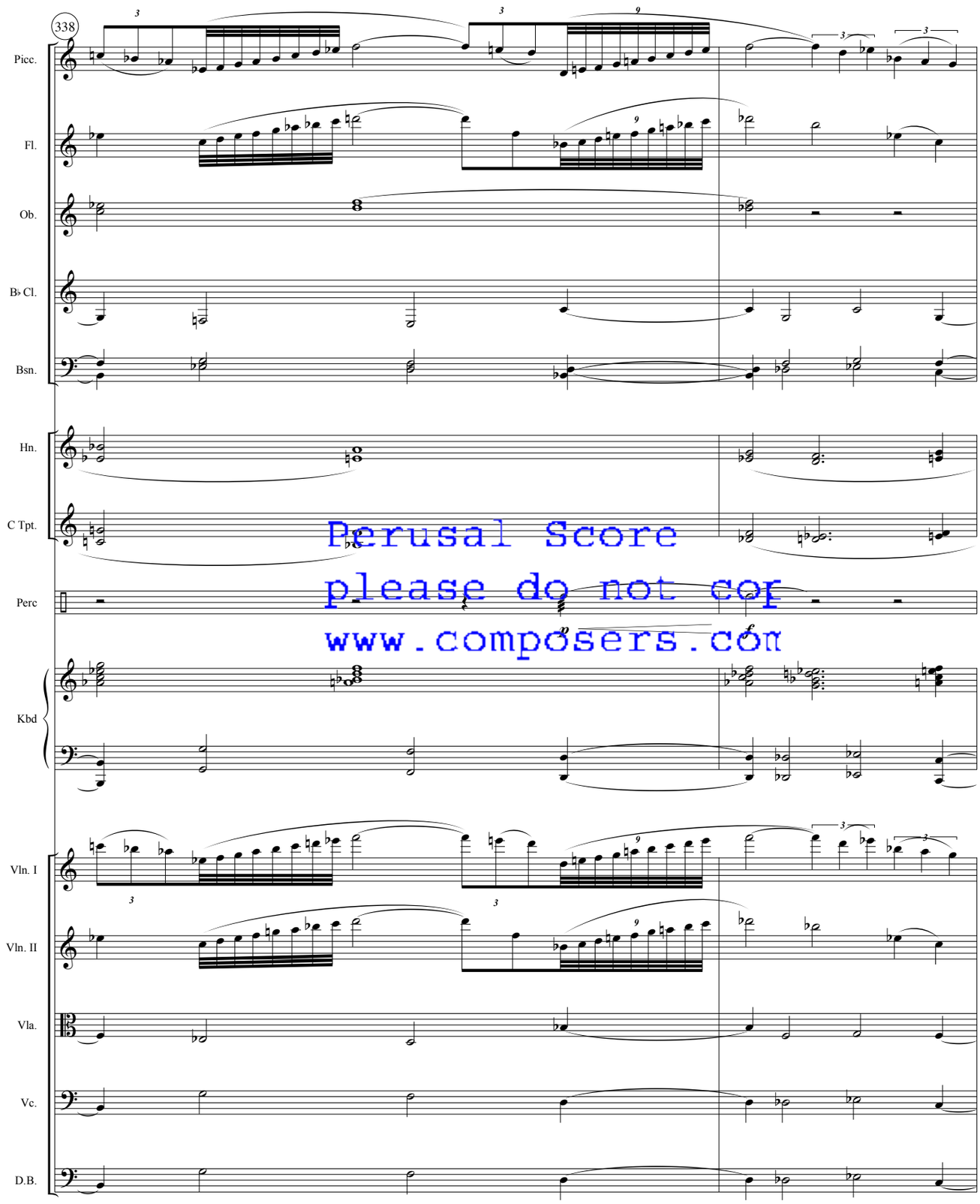

330
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
C Tpt.
Perc
Tngl
Susp Cym
Kbd
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

image: men on sand dune tipping caps to glider overhead




336
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
C Tpt.
Perc
Susp Cym
p
f
Kbd
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.


338
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
C Tpt.
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Kbd
Vln. I
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Vc.
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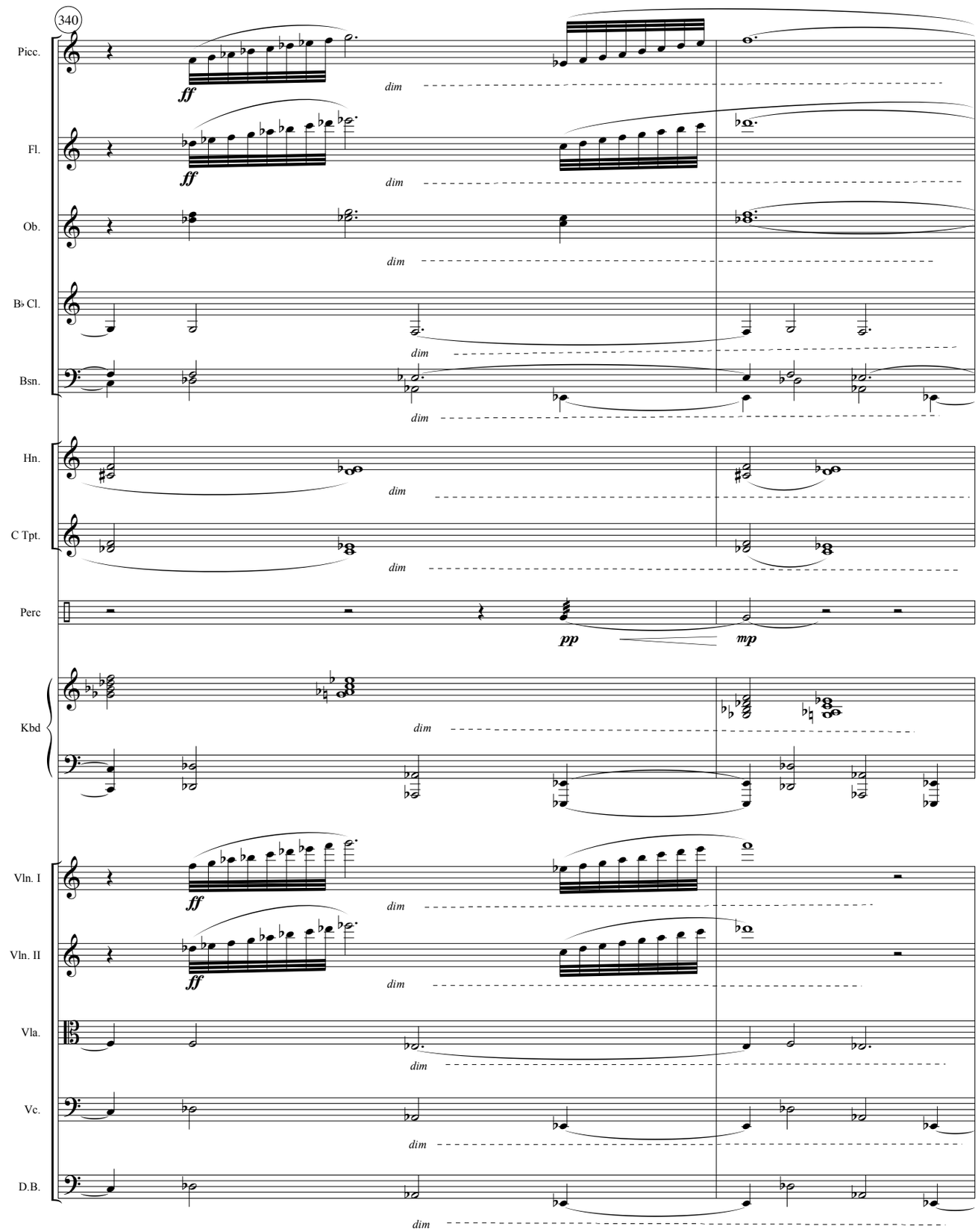
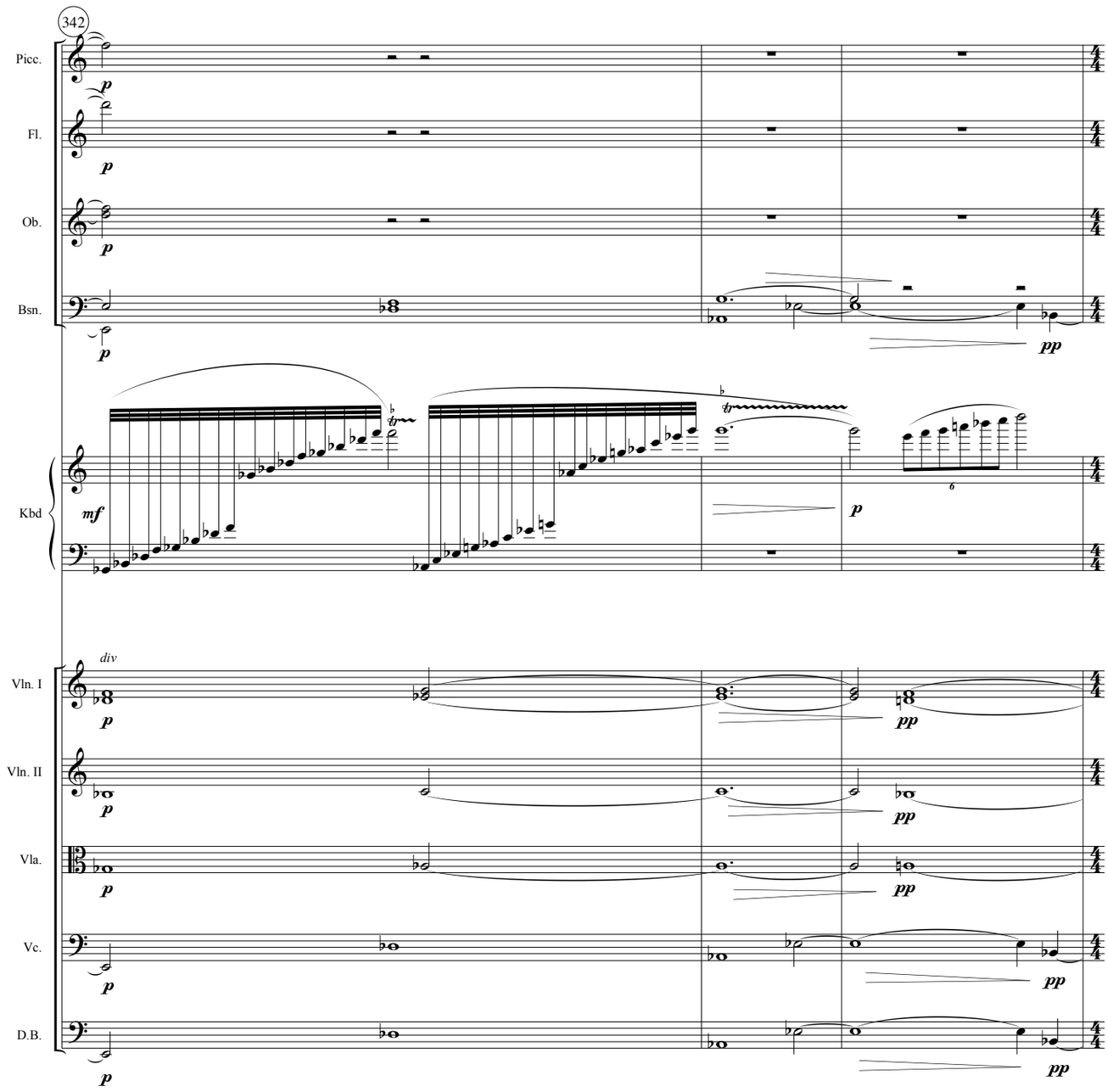
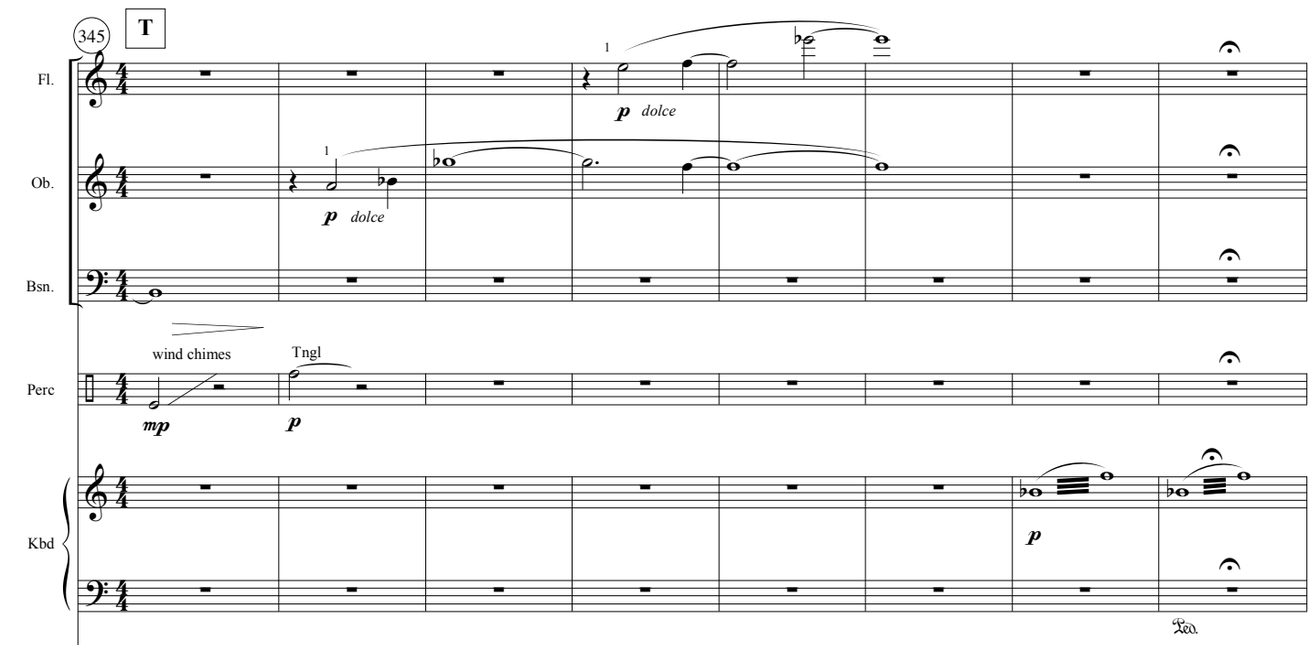
Perusal Score
please do not cop
www.composers.com

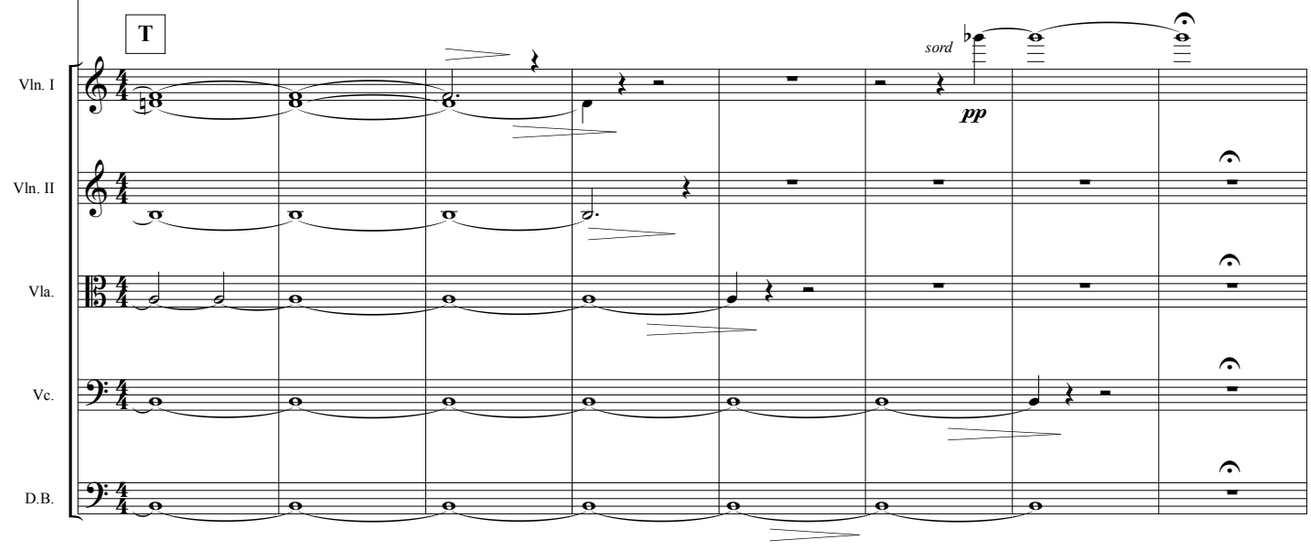

340
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
C Tpt.
Perc
Kbd
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
ff
dim
pp
mp

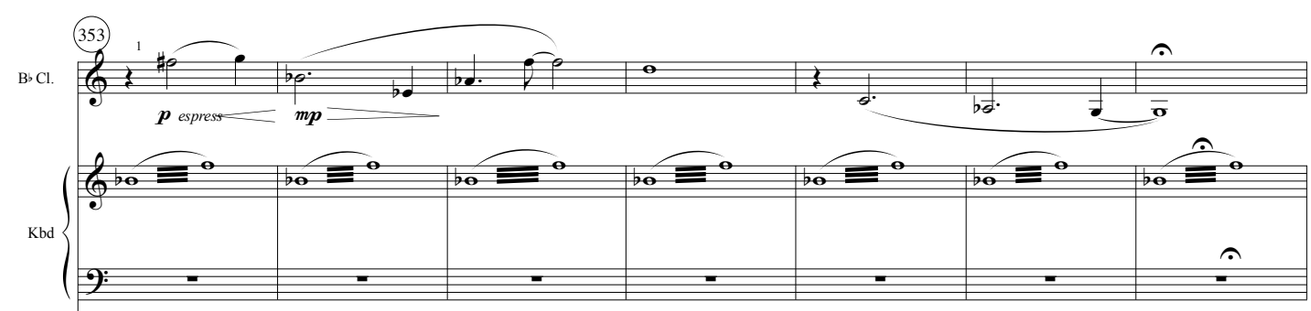

342
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
Bsn.
Kbd
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
div
p
mf
pp



Daniels

When he landed, we all ran over and jumped up and down congratulating him. Then it was Wilbur's turn. He flew the plane even further, then Orville took another try, then Wilbur again, each time staying up longer, and flying farther. The fourth flight, with Wilbur, lasted so long he was just a distant speck when he finally came down.





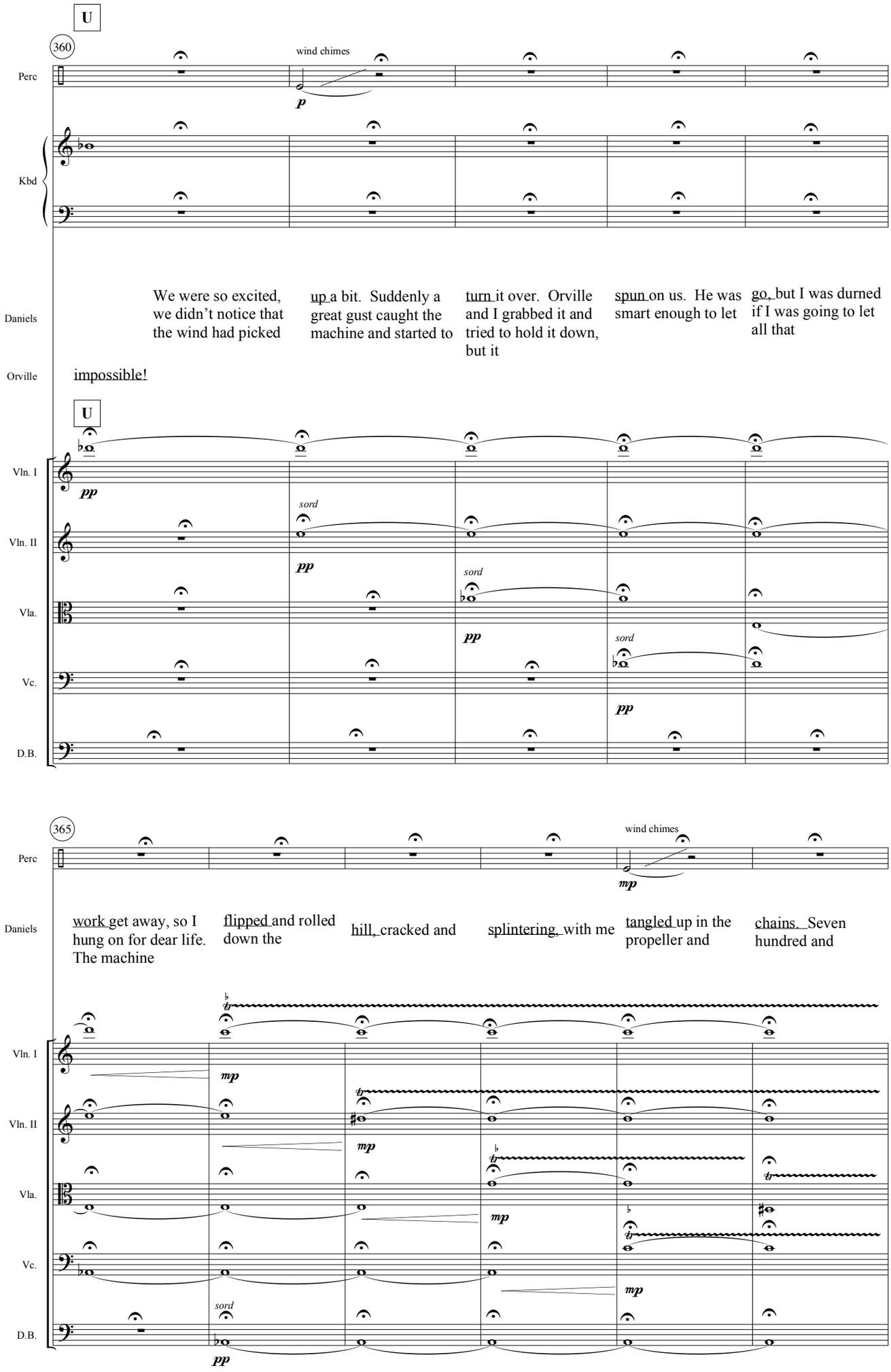
Daniels

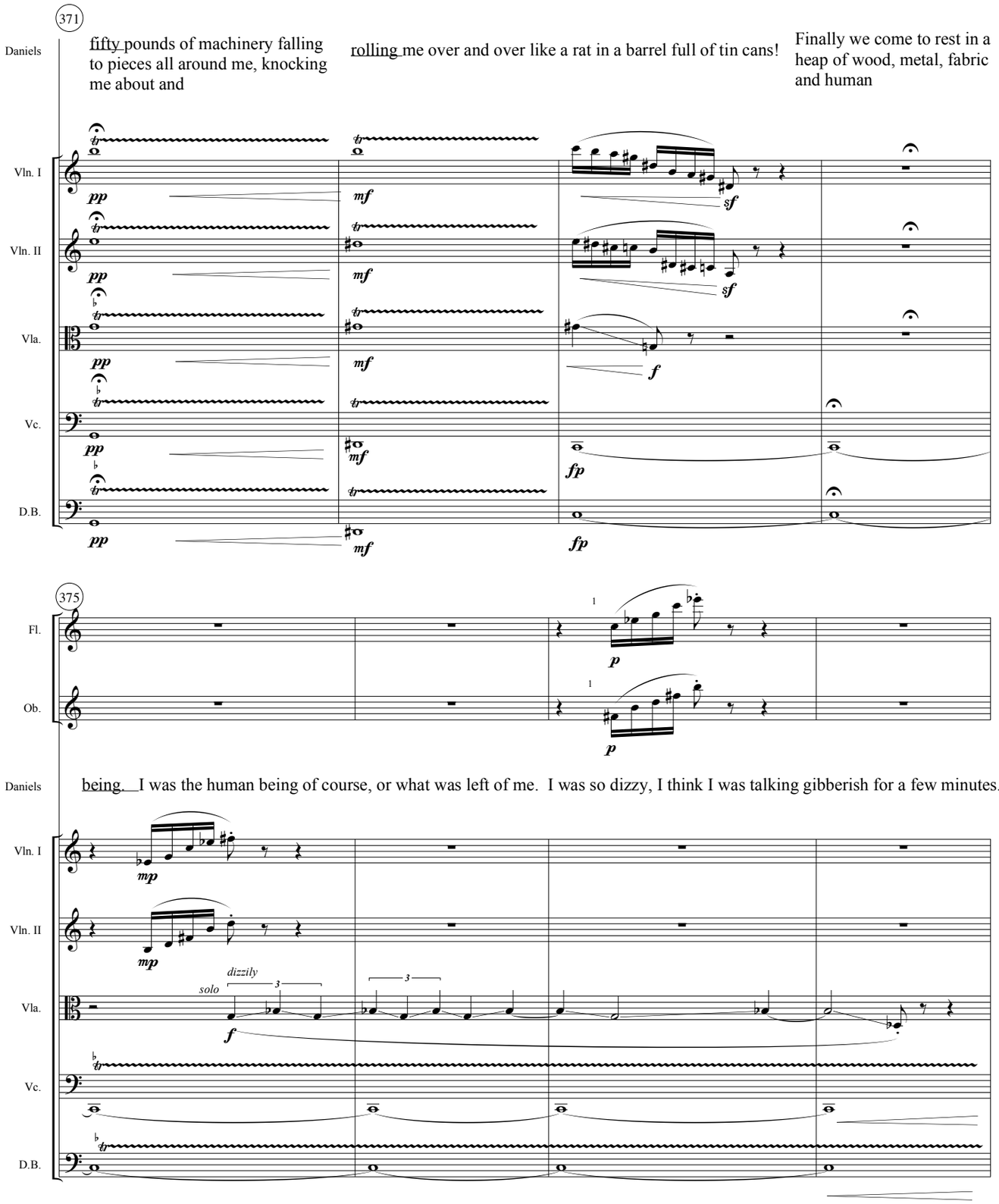
Four flights. After the fourth flight, we were in complete jubilation, shaking our heads, shaking hands, laughing, dreaming of the possibilities for the future.

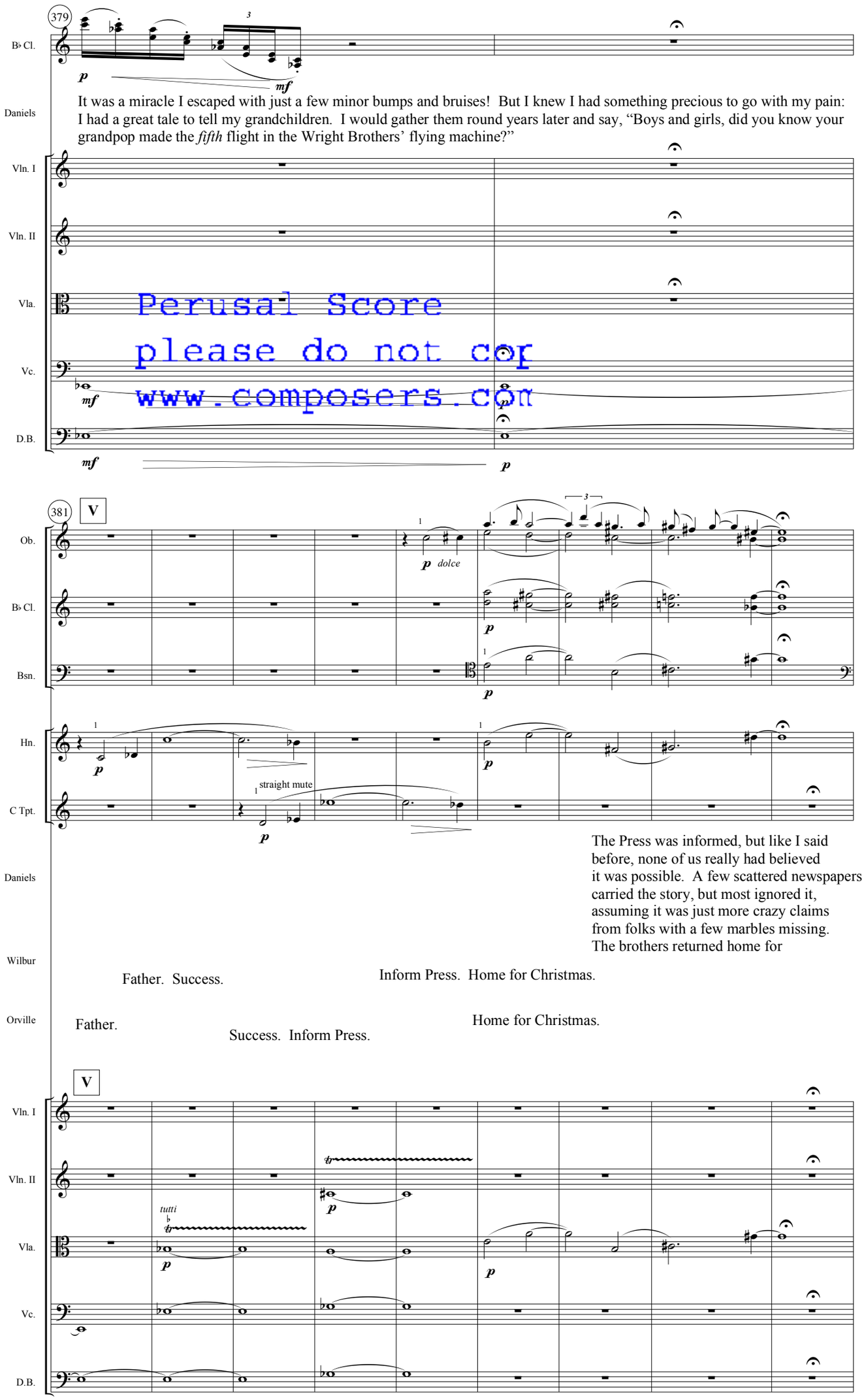
Orville

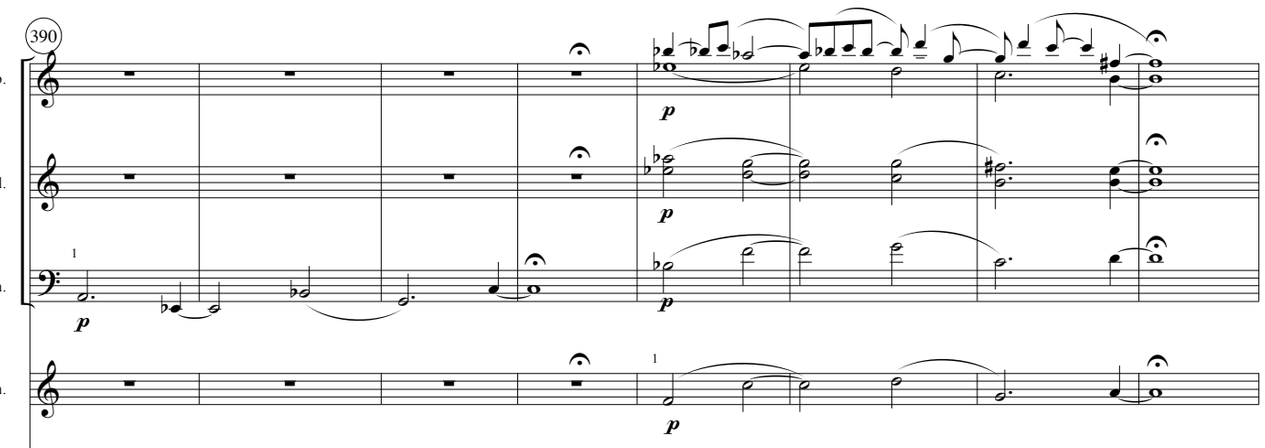
Father: Success. Four flights Thursday morning, all against twenty-one mile wind. Started from level with engine power alone. Average speed through air: thirty-one miles. Inform Press. Home for Christmas.

This is an invention which will make further wars practically


U
360
wind chimes
Perc
p
Kbd
We were so excited, we didn't notice that the wind had picked up a bit. Suddenly a great gust caught the machine and started to turn it over. Orville and I grabbed it and tried to hold it down, but it spun on us. He was smart enough to let go, but I was durned if I was going to let all that
Daniels
Orville
impossible!
U
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
pp
sord
365
wind chimes
mp
work get away, so I hung on for dear life. The machine flipped and rolled down the hill, cracked and splintering, with me tangled up in the propeller and chains. Seven hundred and

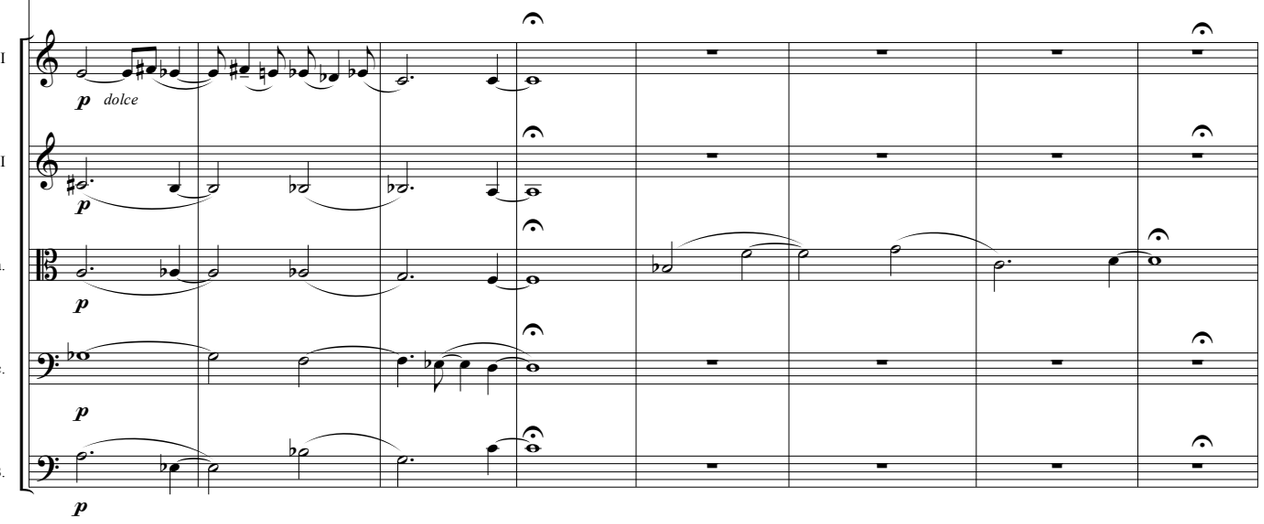

371
Daniels
fifty pounds of machinery falling to pieces all around me, knocking me about and
rolling me over and over like a rat in a barrel full of tin cans!
Finally we come to rest in a heap of wood, metal, fabric and human
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
pp
mf
sf
f
fp
375
Fl.
Ob.
p
being. I was the human being of course, or what was left of me. I was so dizzy, I think I was talking gibberish for a few minutes.
mp
solo
dizzily
3

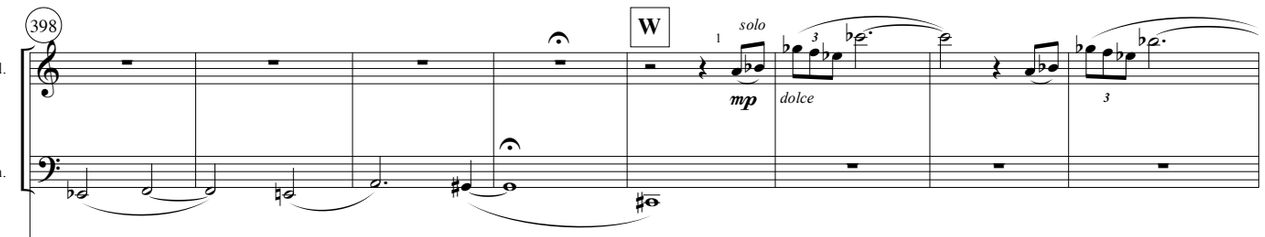

379
B♭ Cl.
p
mf
Daniels
It was a miracle I escaped with just a few minor bumps and bruises! But I knew I had something precious to go with my pain: I had a great tale to tell my grandchildren. I would gather them round years later and say, "Boys and girls, did you know your grandpop made the *fifth* flight in the Wright Brothers' flying machine?"
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
mf
p
Perusal Score
please do not cop
www.composers.con
381
V
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
C Tpt.
p dolce
straight mute
Daniels
The Press was informed, but like I said before, none of us really had believed it was possible. A few scattered newspapers carried the story, but most ignored it, assuming it was just more crazy claims from folks with a few marbles missing. The brothers returned home for
Wilbur
Father. Success.
Inform Press. Home for Christmas.
Orville
Father.
Success. Inform Press.
Home for Christmas.
V
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
tutti



Daniels

Christmas, and we went on with our lives, trying to convince anyone who would listen of what they had done. Wilbur and Orville wrote repeatedly to the folks in Washington, hoping to interest the government in their invention. But they got no response. It was five years before anyone took notice, five years before they received an offer of any kind. Then the French government started showing interest, which made the folks in Washington prick up their ears and make an offer of their own. Soon the whole world knew that Wilbur and Orville Wright had done something mighty



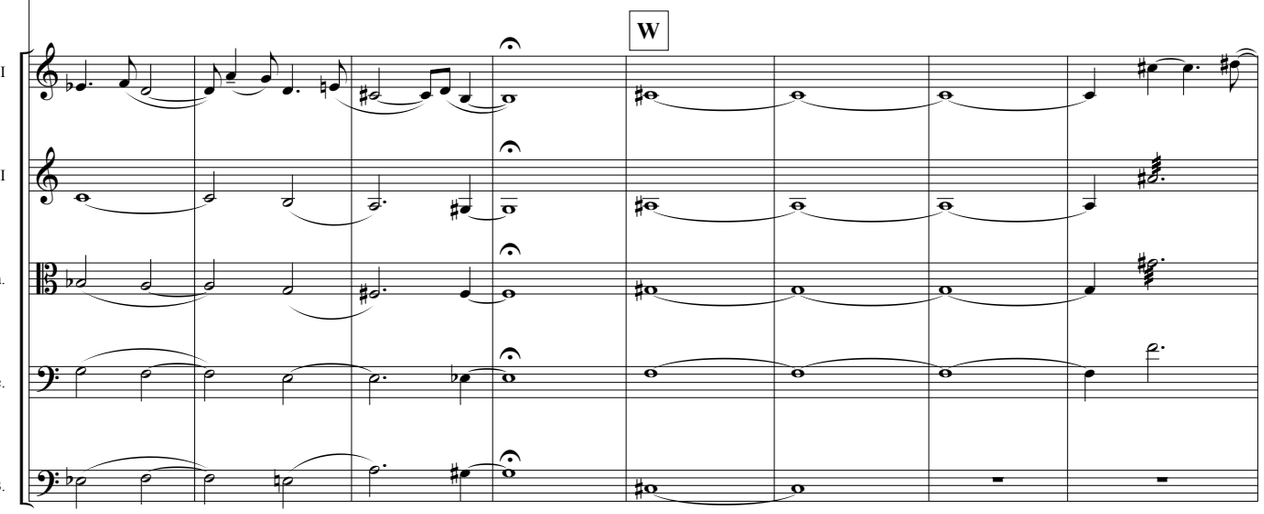


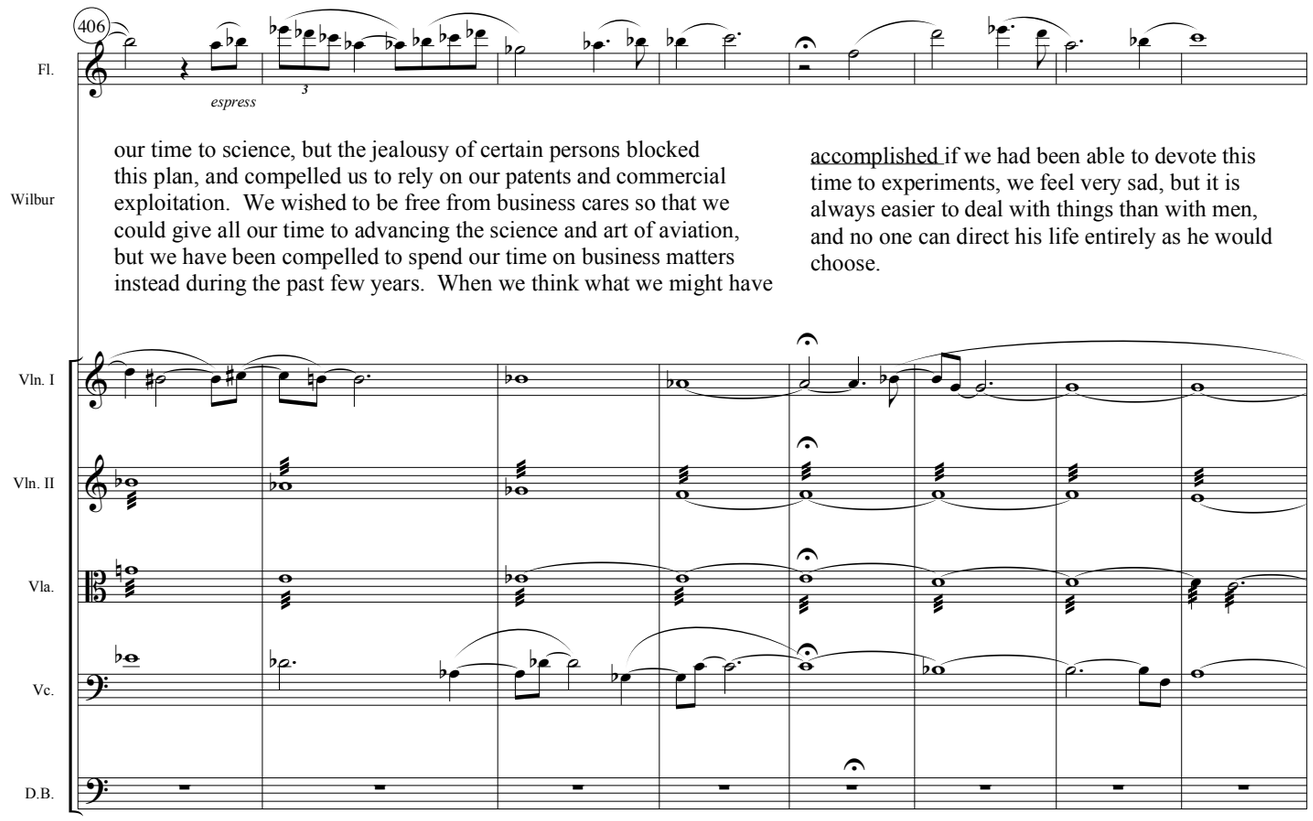
Daniels

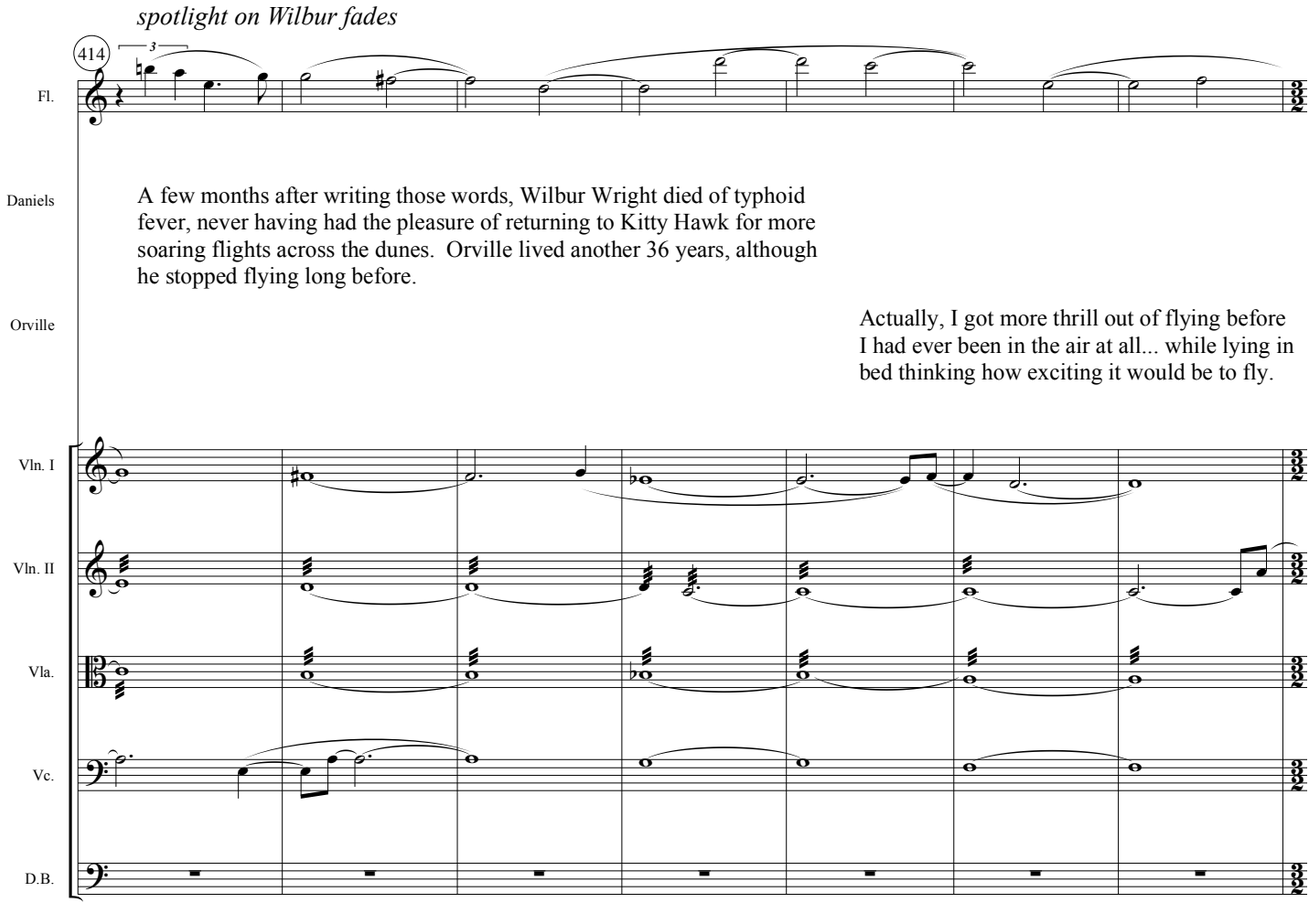
special. Now you might think the inventors of the airplane would've made a heap of money and spent the rest of their days taking it easy. But somehow, life's not so simple.

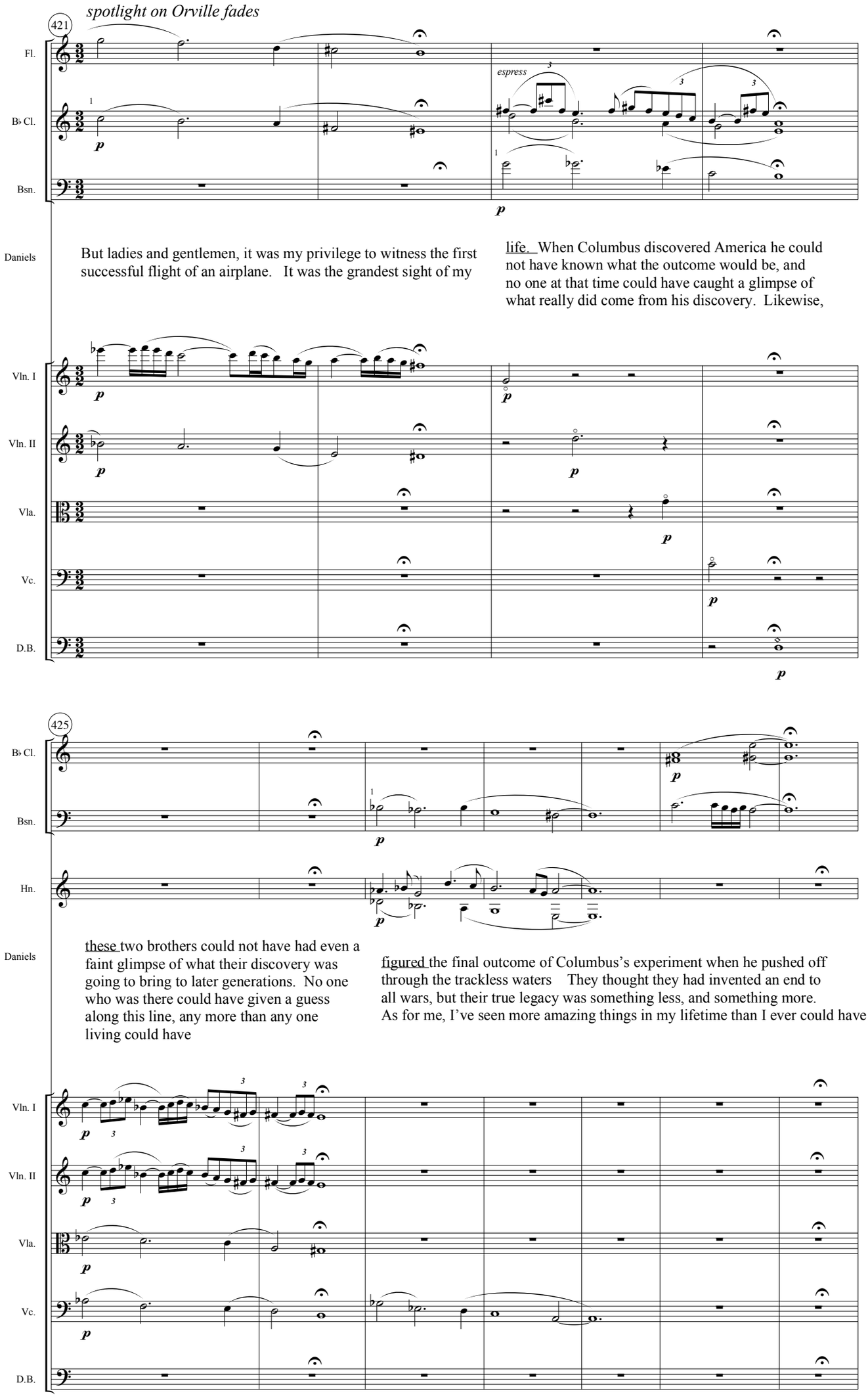
Wilbur

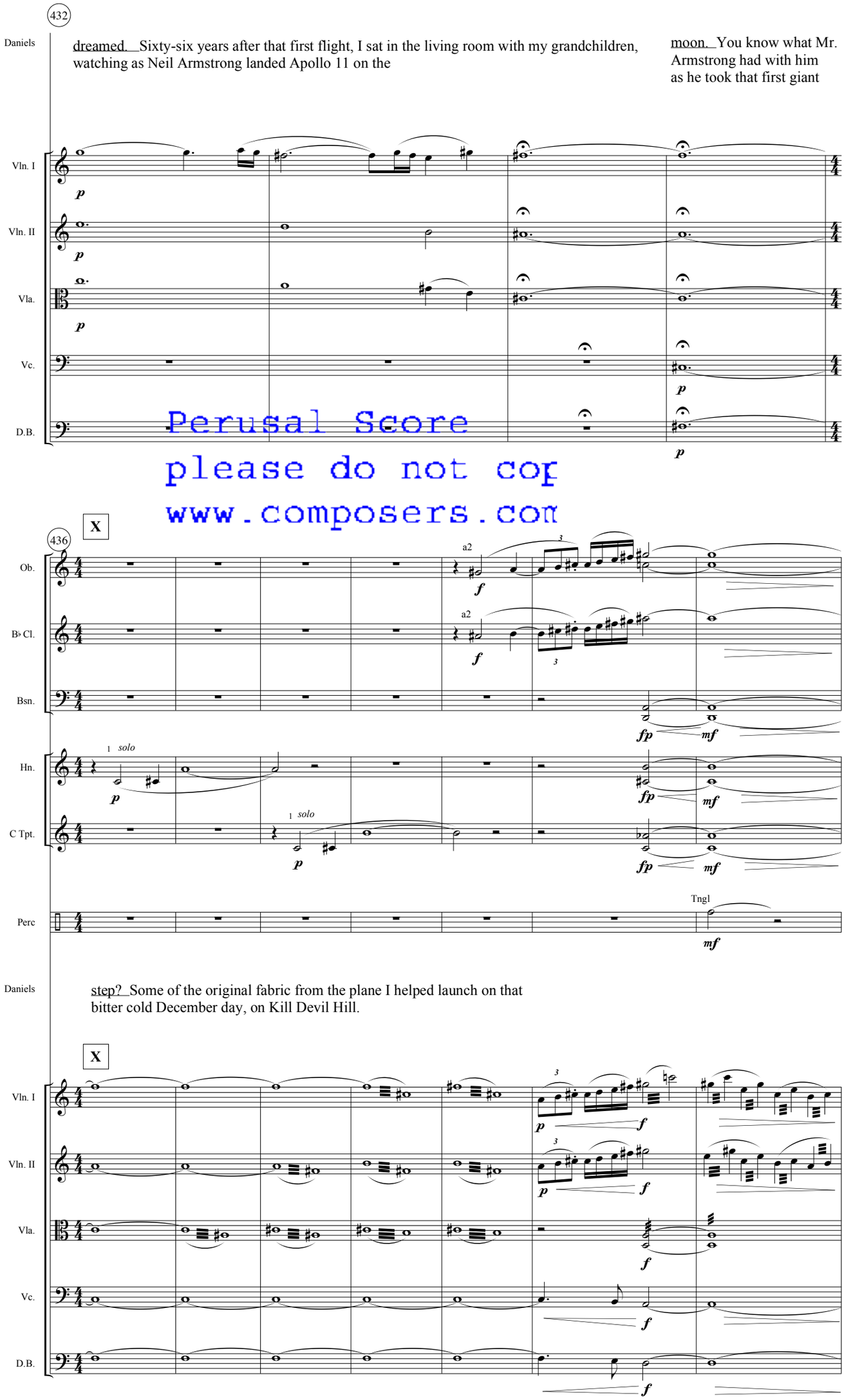
For a while now most of my time has been taken up with lawsuits. I am hoping to be freed from this kind of work before another year has ended. It is much more pleasant to go to Kitty Hawk for experiments than to worry over lawsuits. We had hoped to sell our invention to governments for enough money to satisfy our needs and then devote

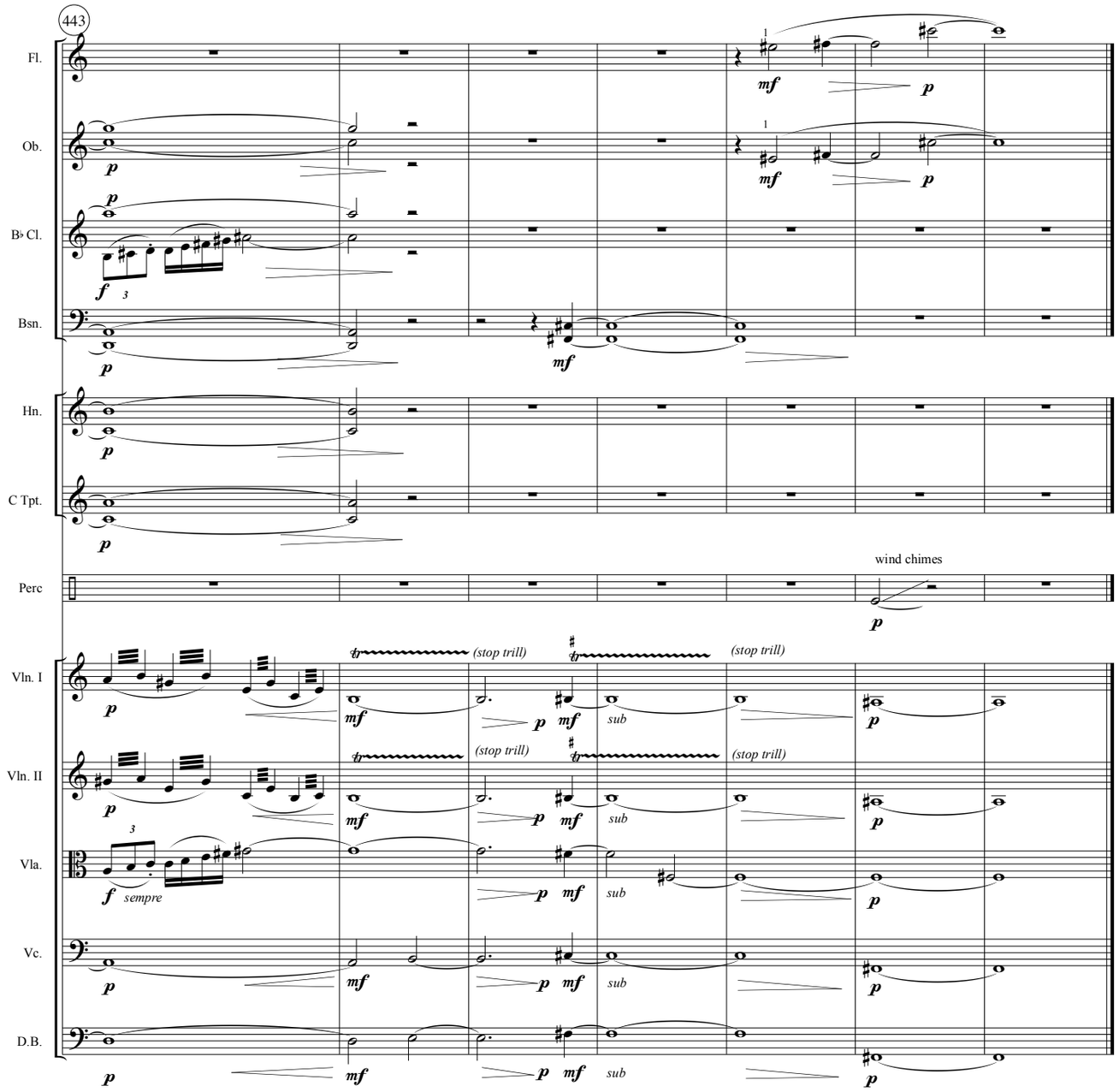



406
Fl.
espress
3
Wilbur
our time to science, but the jealousy of certain persons blocked this plan, and compelled us to rely on our patents and commercial exploitation. We wished to be free from business cares so that we could give all our time to advancing the science and art of aviation, but we have been compelled to spend our time on business matters instead during the past few years. When we think what we might have accomplished if we had been able to devote this time to experiments, we feel very sad, but it is always easier to deal with things than with men, and no one can direct his life entirely as he would choose.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.


spotlight on Wilbur fades
414
3
Fl.
Daniels
A few months after writing those words, Wilbur Wright died of typhoid fever, never having had the pleasure of returning to Kitty Hawk for more soaring flights across the dunes. Orville lived another 36 years, although he stopped flying long before.
Orville
Actually, I got more thrill out of flying before I had ever been in the air at all... while lying in bed thinking how exciting it would be to fly.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.


spotlight on Orville fades
421
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
espress
Daniels
But ladies and gentlemen, it was my privilege to witness the first successful flight of an airplane. It was the grandest sight of my life. When Columbus discovered America he could not have known what the outcome would be, and no one at that time could have caught a glimpse of what really did come from his discovery. Likewise,
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
425
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Daniels
these two brothers could not have had even a faint glimpse of what their discovery was going to bring to later generations. No one who was there could have given a guess along this line, any more than any one living could have
figured the final outcome of Columbus's experiment when he pushed off through the trackless waters They thought they had invented an end to all wars, but their true legacy was something less, and something more. As for me, I've seen more amazing things in my lifetime than I ever could have
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.


432
Daniels
dreamed. Sixty-six years after that first flight, I sat in the living room with my grandchildren, watching as Neil Armstrong landed Apollo 11 on the
moon. You know what Mr. Armstrong had with him as he took that first giant
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
p
Perusal Score
please do not cop
www.composers.com
X
436
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
C Tpt.
Perc
a2
f
fp
mf
1 solo
Tngl
Daniels
step? Some of the original fabric from the plane I helped launch on that bitter cold December day, on Kill Devil Hill.
X
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.


443
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
C Tpt.
Perc
wind chimes
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
(stop trill)
sempre
sub