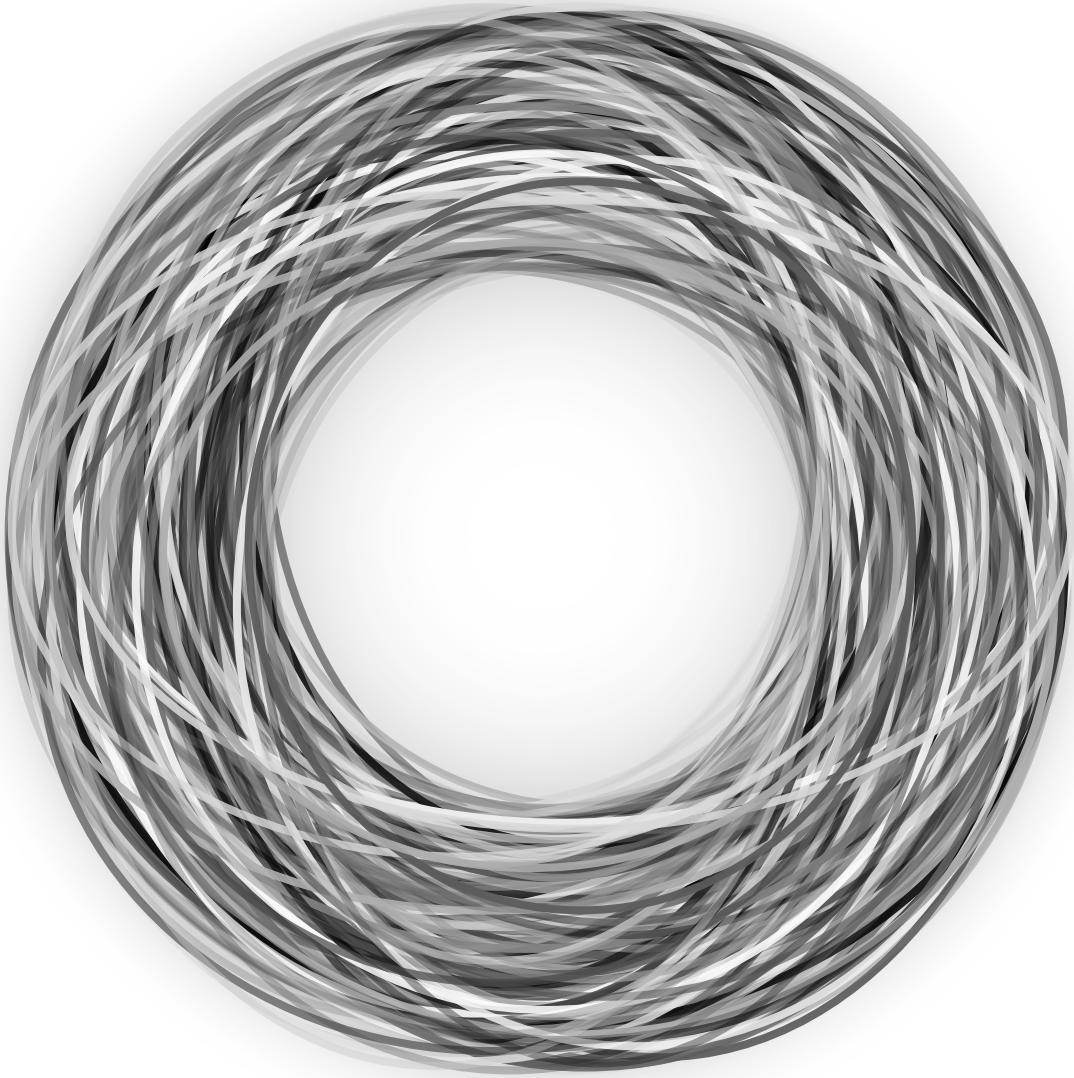


Wouter Snoei | **Och**

for six voices and live electronics

Wouter Snoei | **Och**

for six voices and live electronics

© W. Snoei 2010

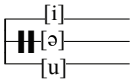
Wouter Snoei | **Och**

About the score:

Text
all text is in phonetic symbols according to the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet).

Staffs and clefs
There are two types of clefs and staffs used in the score. The regular 5-line type and a 3-line type with percussion clef. The latter needs some additional explanation:

In the three-line staves the lines do not resemble the pitch of a sound, but its timbre. More specifically they resemble the sound of vowels. The range of vowels starts at [u] (as in English “you”, French “vous” or Dutch “koe”), and goes up via [o] (as in English “no” or Dutch “boot”) and [ʌ] (as in English “love” or German “och”) to [ə] (the neutral vowel, as in English “fur” or Dutch “de”). Then it goes further to [e] (as in English “play” or Dutch “nee”), [ɪ] (as in English “bit” or Dutch “ding”) to end at [i] (as in englisch “me” or Dutch “bier”). If you speak these vowels fluently in this order ([uoʌəeɪi]) as if they were one word and listen carefully, you might hear a glissando of overtones ranging apx 3 octaves. By touting the mouth towards whistling it becomes



more apparent. This is the scale used in the three-line staffs; a continuous range of overtones created by the form of the mouth (compare to overtone singing).

But that is not all. In the score this notation is only used for noise sounds. Sounds like [s] (as in English “see”), [x] (as in German “ich” or Flemish “dag”) and [t] (as in English “tie”) can be made on various vowels. A [x] on the top line may sound like de “ch” in German “ich”, while an [x] just above the bottom line may sound like the “ch” in German “doch”. And an [x] in between the two upper lines may sound like an angry cat’s hiss.

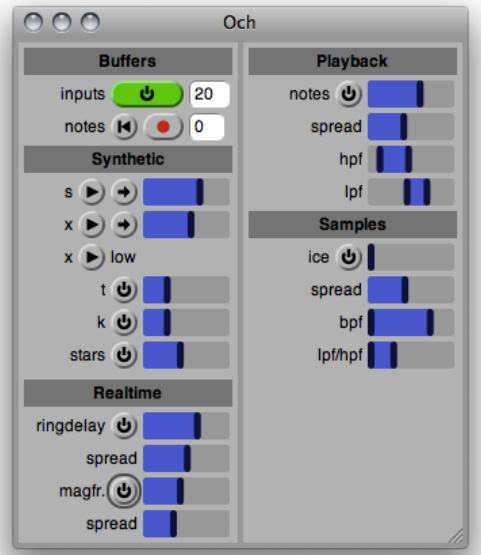
It is important that the singers try to match the sound they make to each other; i.e. practice together and decide on an exact vowel to produce. The electronics will later be tuned to the singers vowels too.

Note heads
There are three types of note heads used in the score:

- regular notes (sung)
- without voice (whispered)
- × spoken (normal speaking voice)

Live electronics

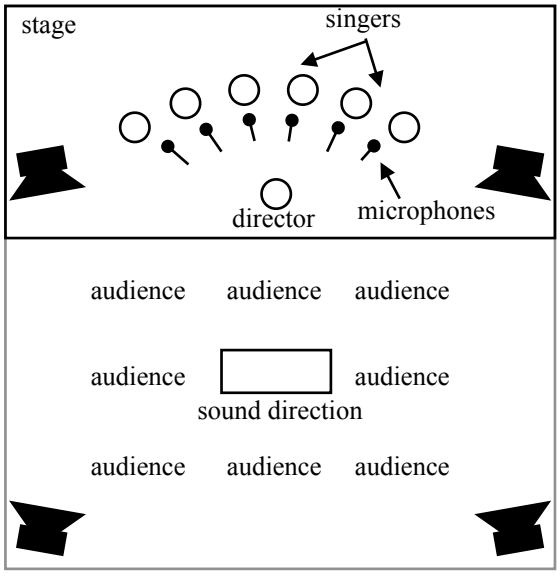
The electronics for Och are a computer program written in the open-source audio synthesis language SuperCollider [1]. For the performance a computer and appropriate audio interface are required, as well as 6 microphones, routed separately into the electronics. The 4 loudspeakers are setup around the audience, to enable the distinct role of spatialisation in the piece. There is no direct amplification, but the voices are sampled and processed in various ways.



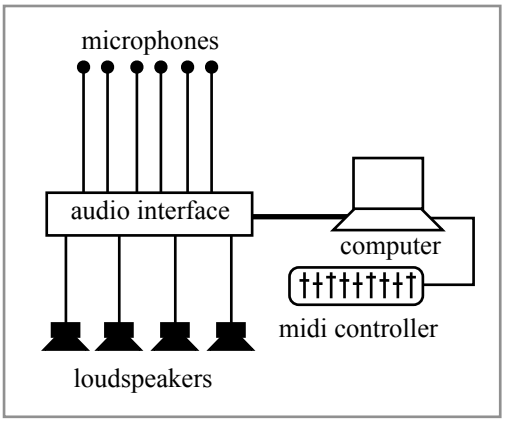
screenshot of the graphical interface

The electronics have synthesized, pre-sampled, live sampled and realtime elements. It is controlled via a midi controller with a minimum of 9 faders, 13 buttons and 7 knobs. For this version of the piece the electronics are operated by the composer during the concert.

In several parts of the piece (A, B, C, D, I) the electronics mimic the [s] and [x] sounds of the singers, using filtered noise. This effect needs to be tuned during rehearsal.



stage plot

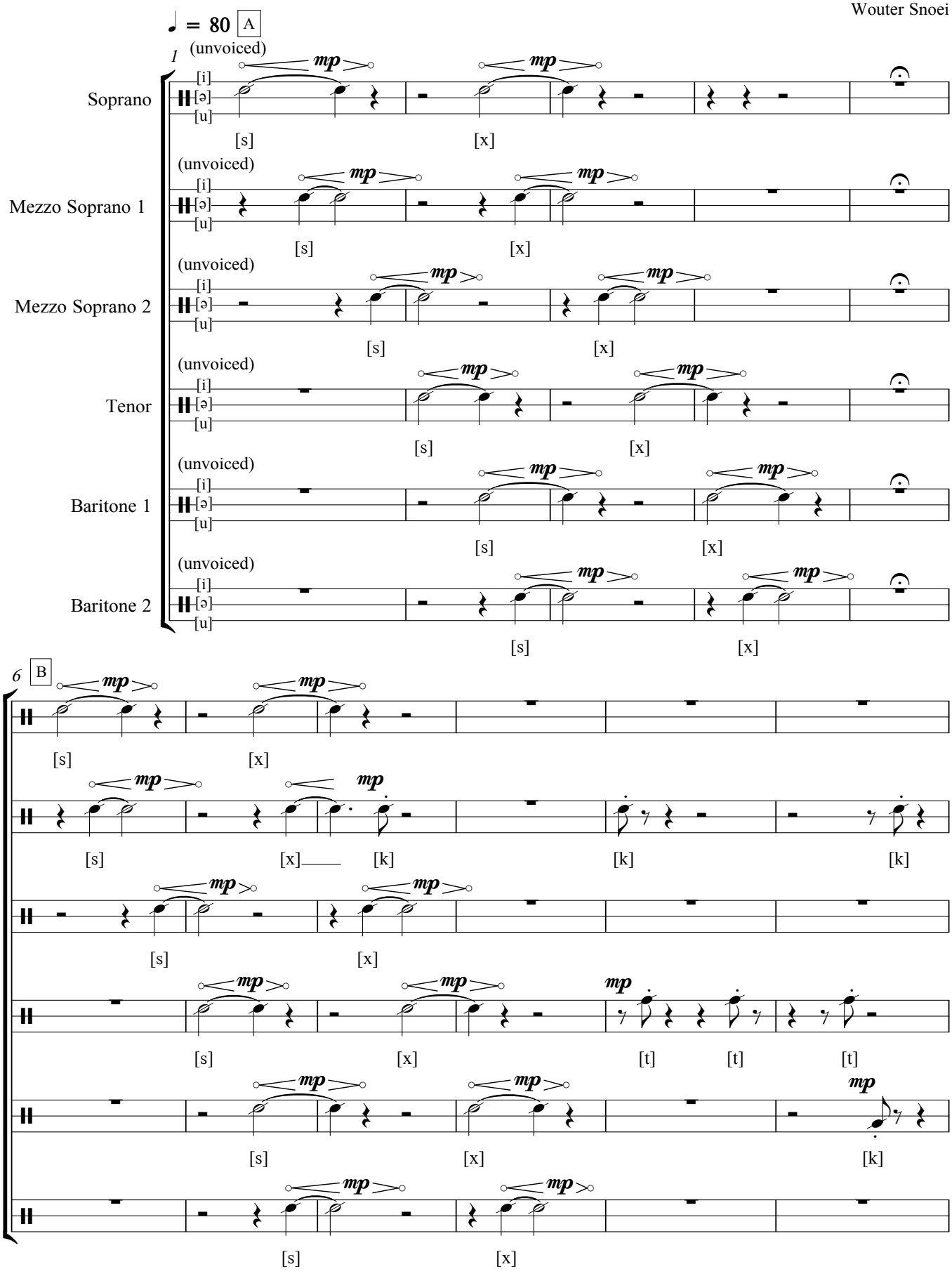


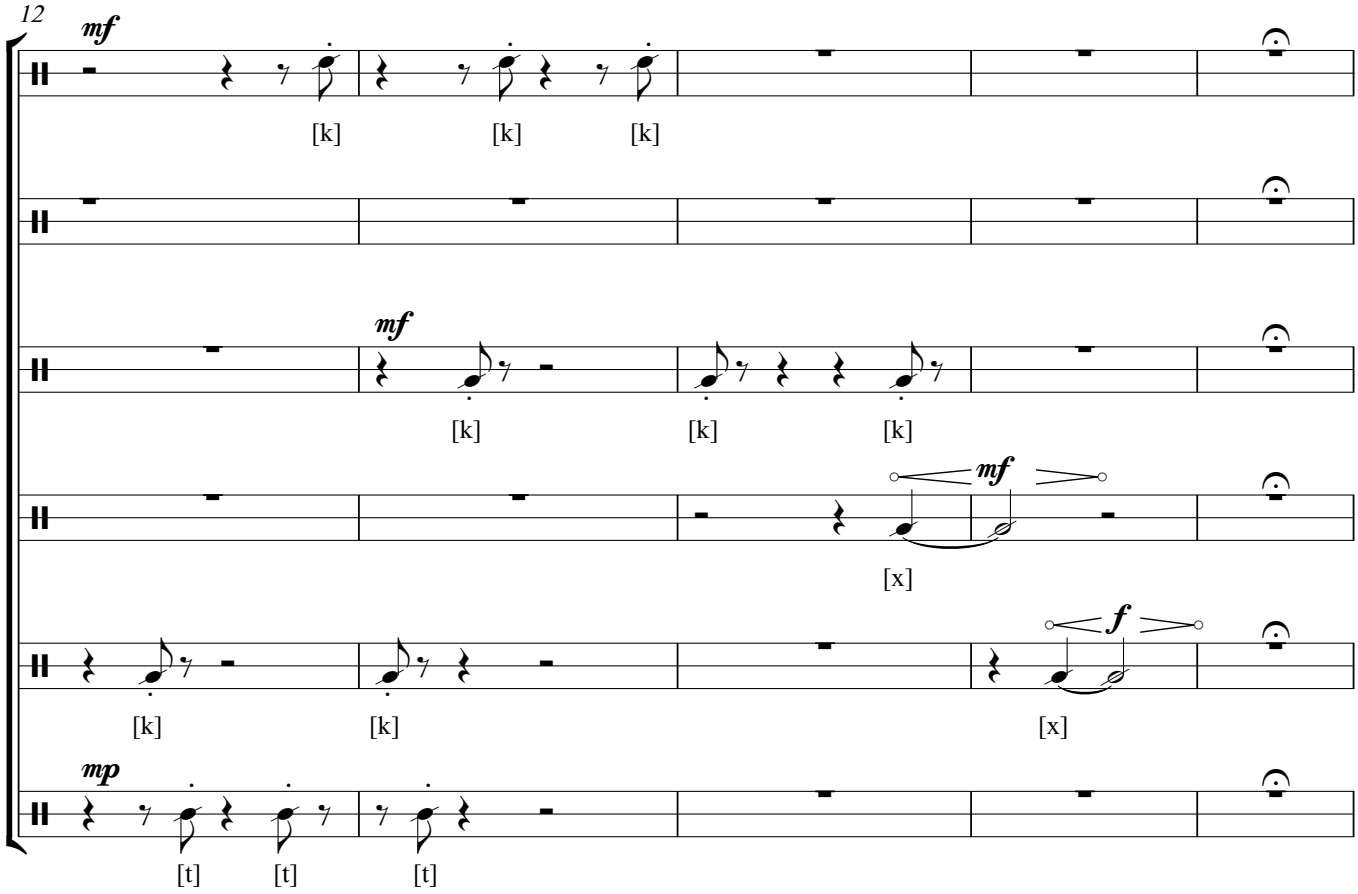
connection scheme

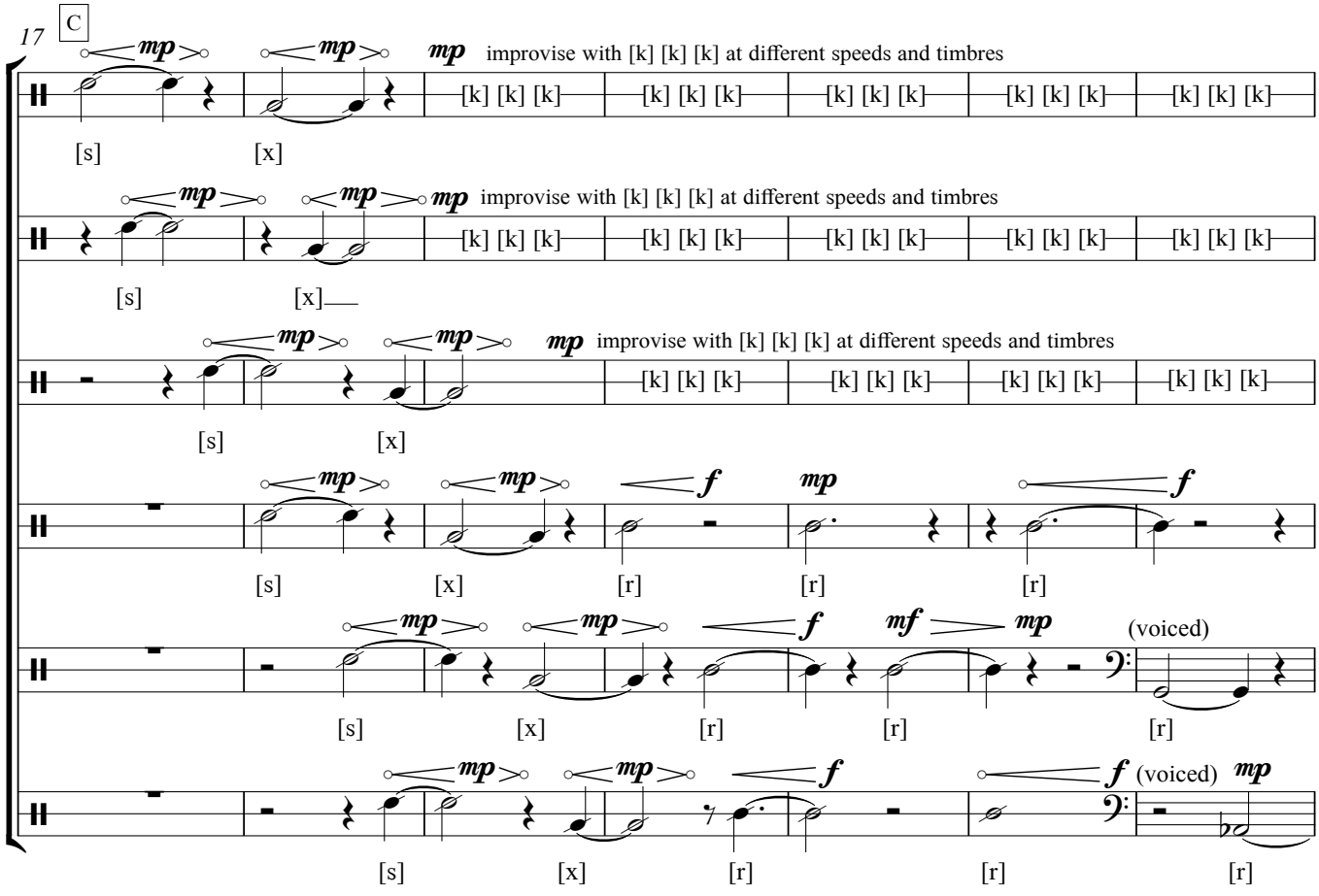
[1] http://supercollider.sourceforge.net/

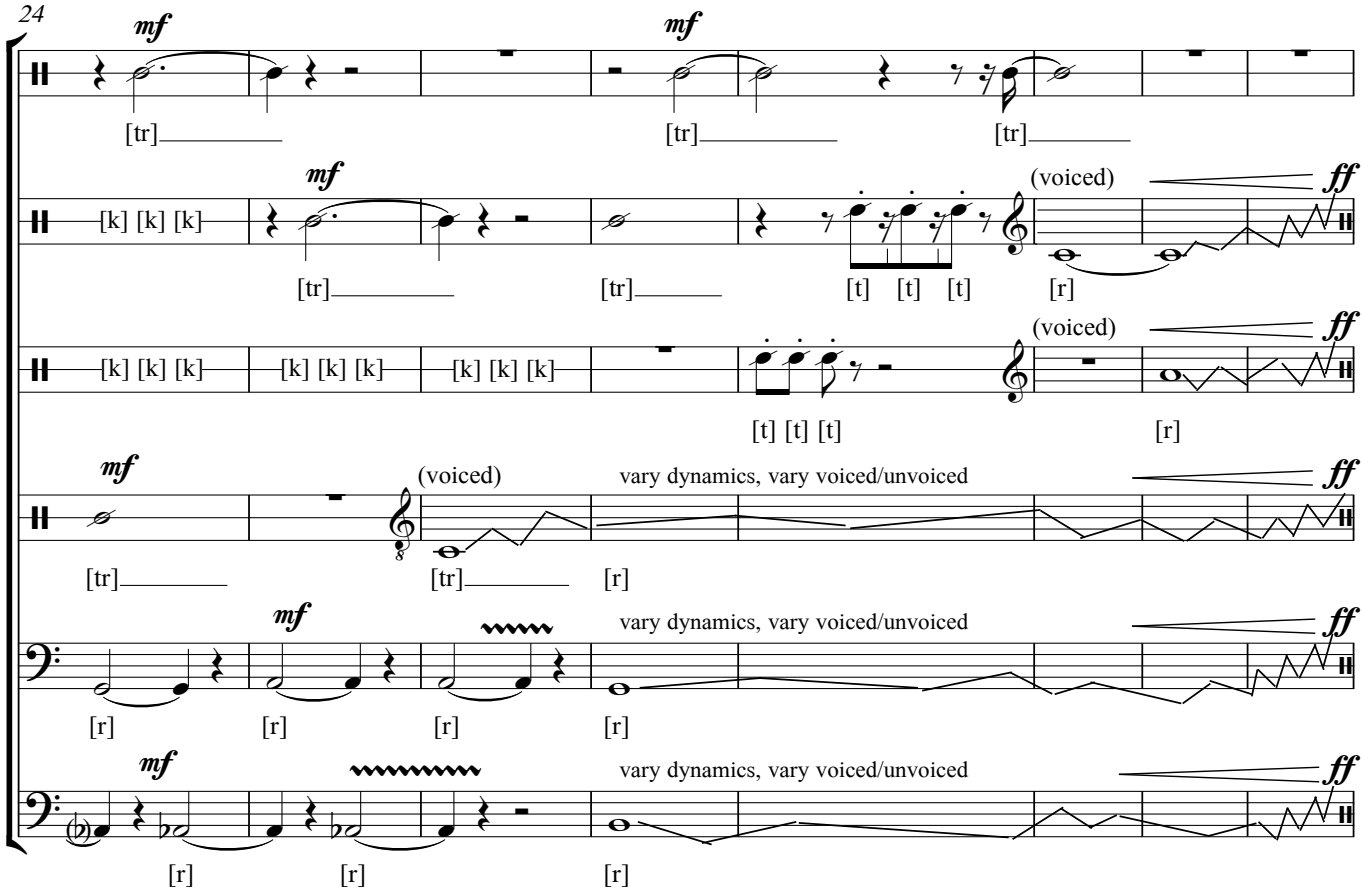
Och

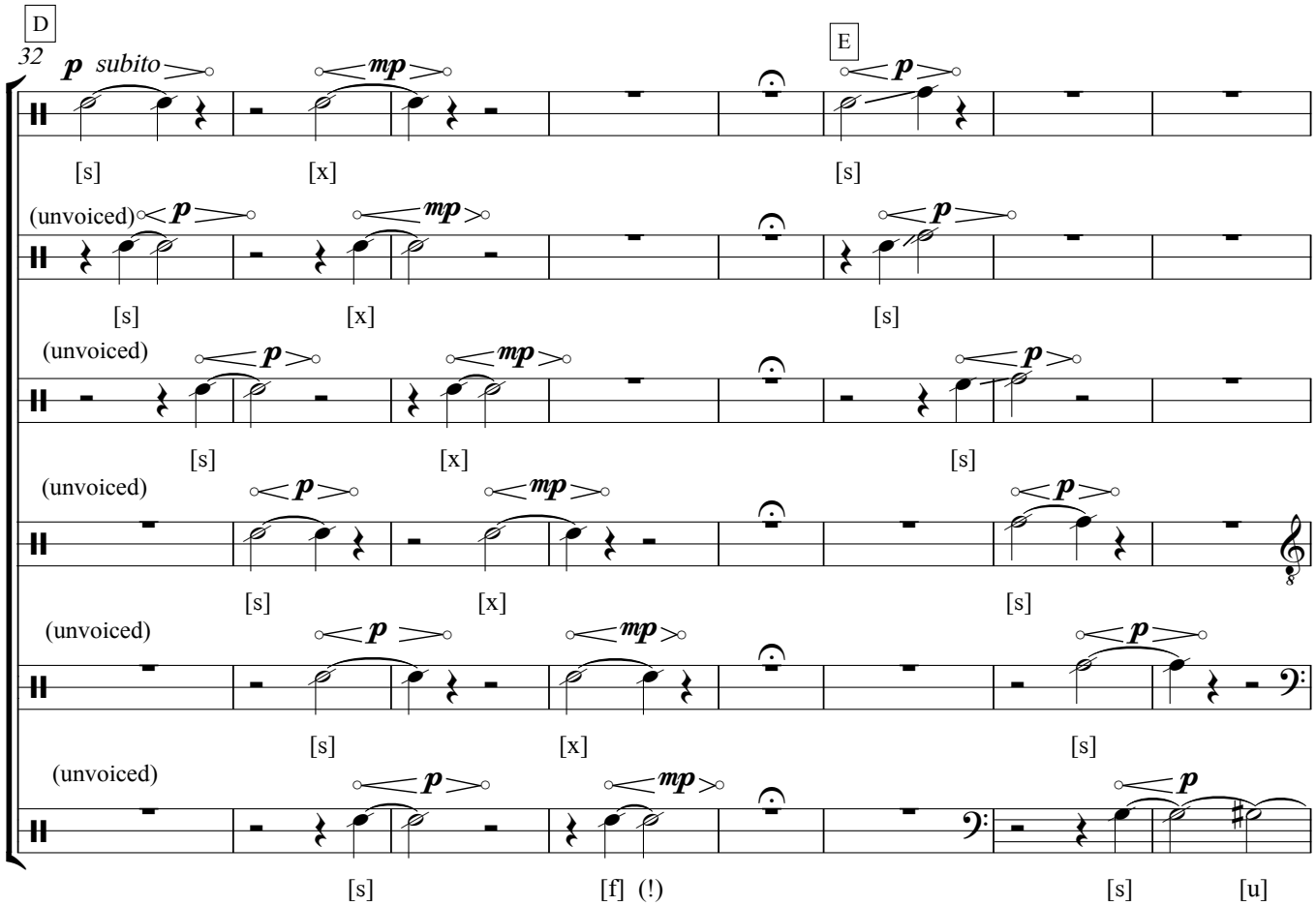
Wouter Snoei

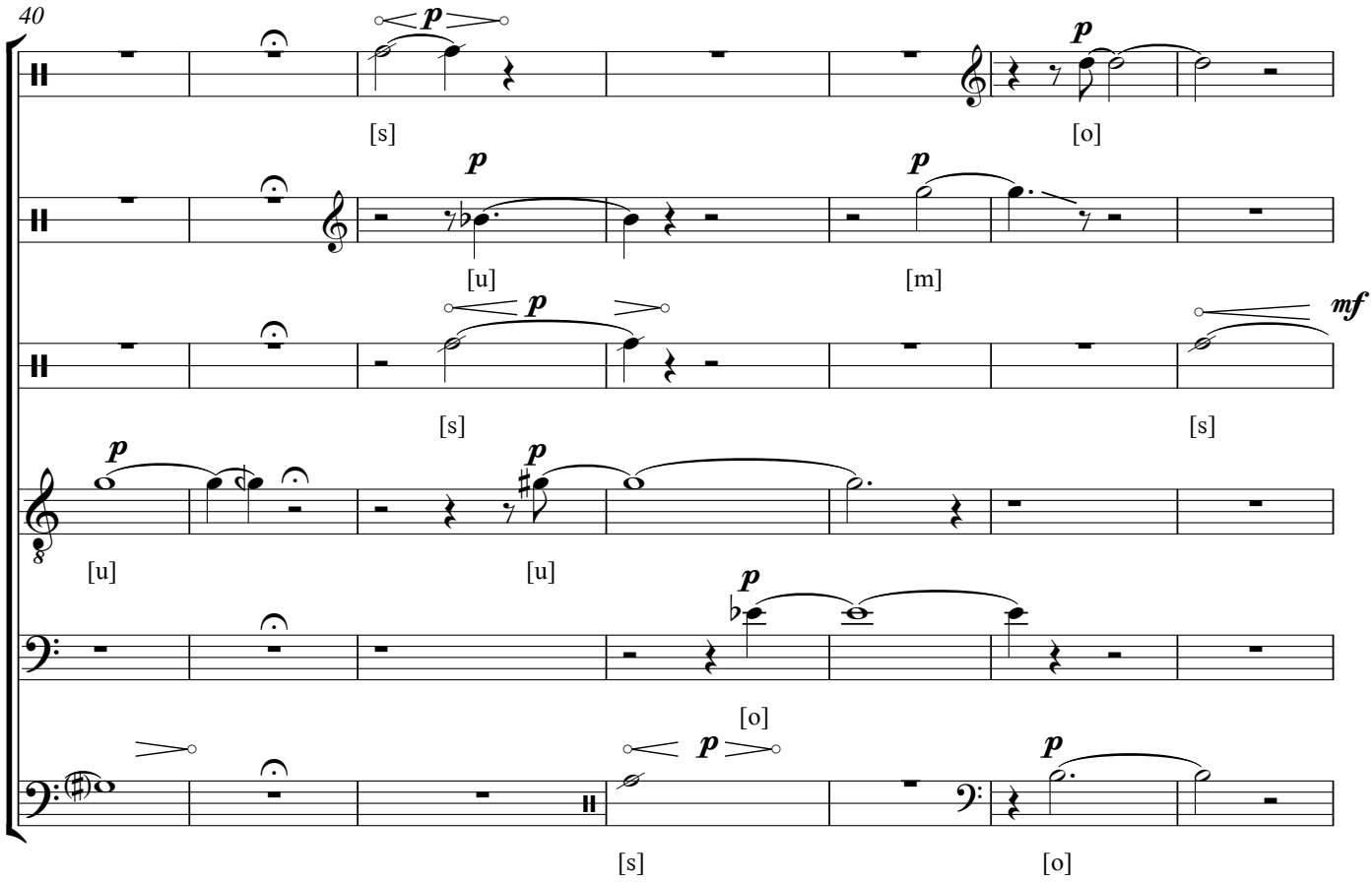


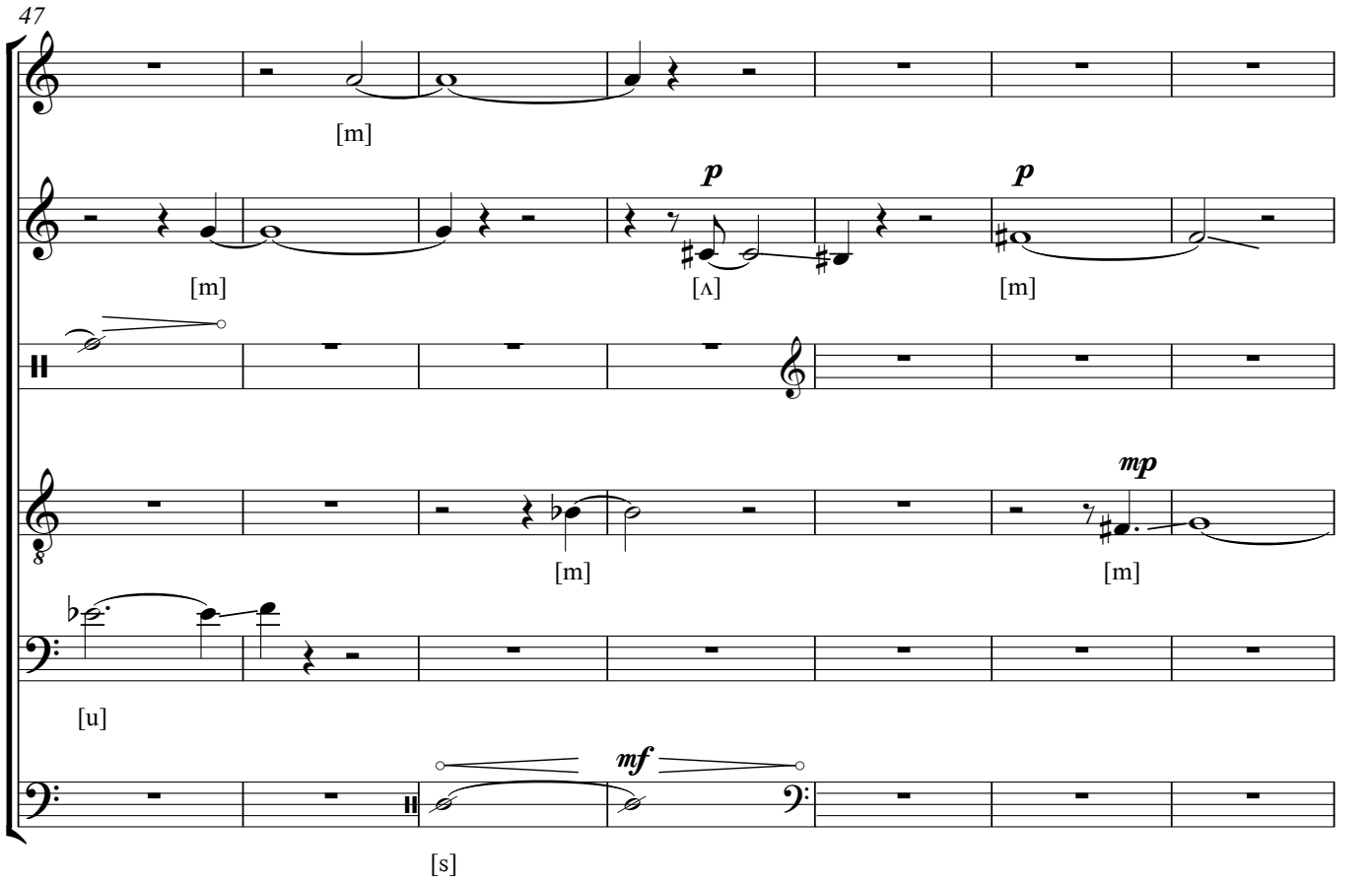

12
mf
[k] [k] [k]
mf
[k] [k] [k]
mf
[x]
f
[k] [k] [x]
mp
[t] [t] [t]

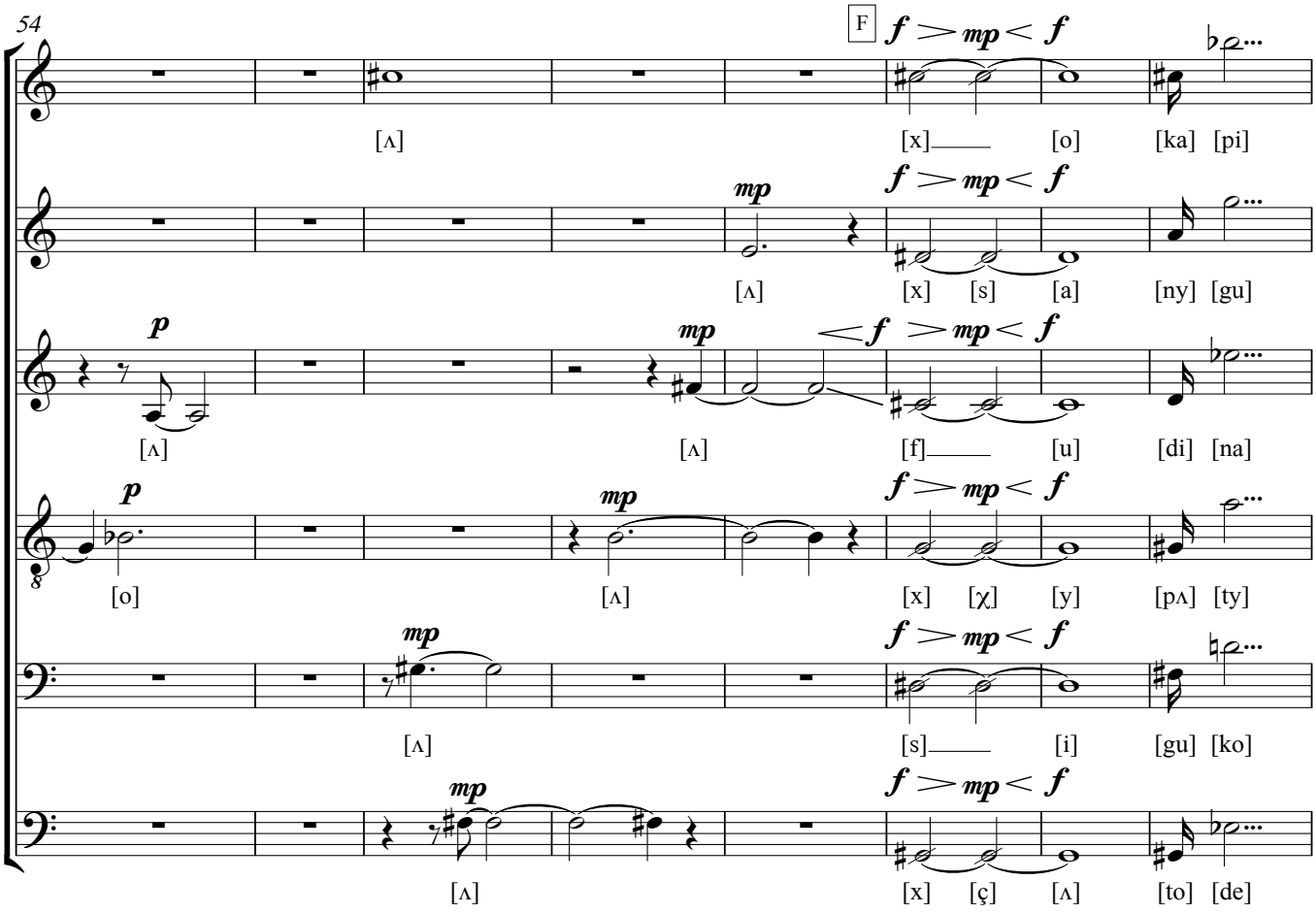

17
C
mp
improvise with [k] [k] [k] at different speeds and timbres
[k] [k] [k]
[s] [x]
[s] [x]
[s] [x]
[r] [r] [r]
[s] [x] [r] [r] [r]
(voiced)
[s] [x] [r] [r] [r]
(voiced)
[s] [x] [r] [r] [r]

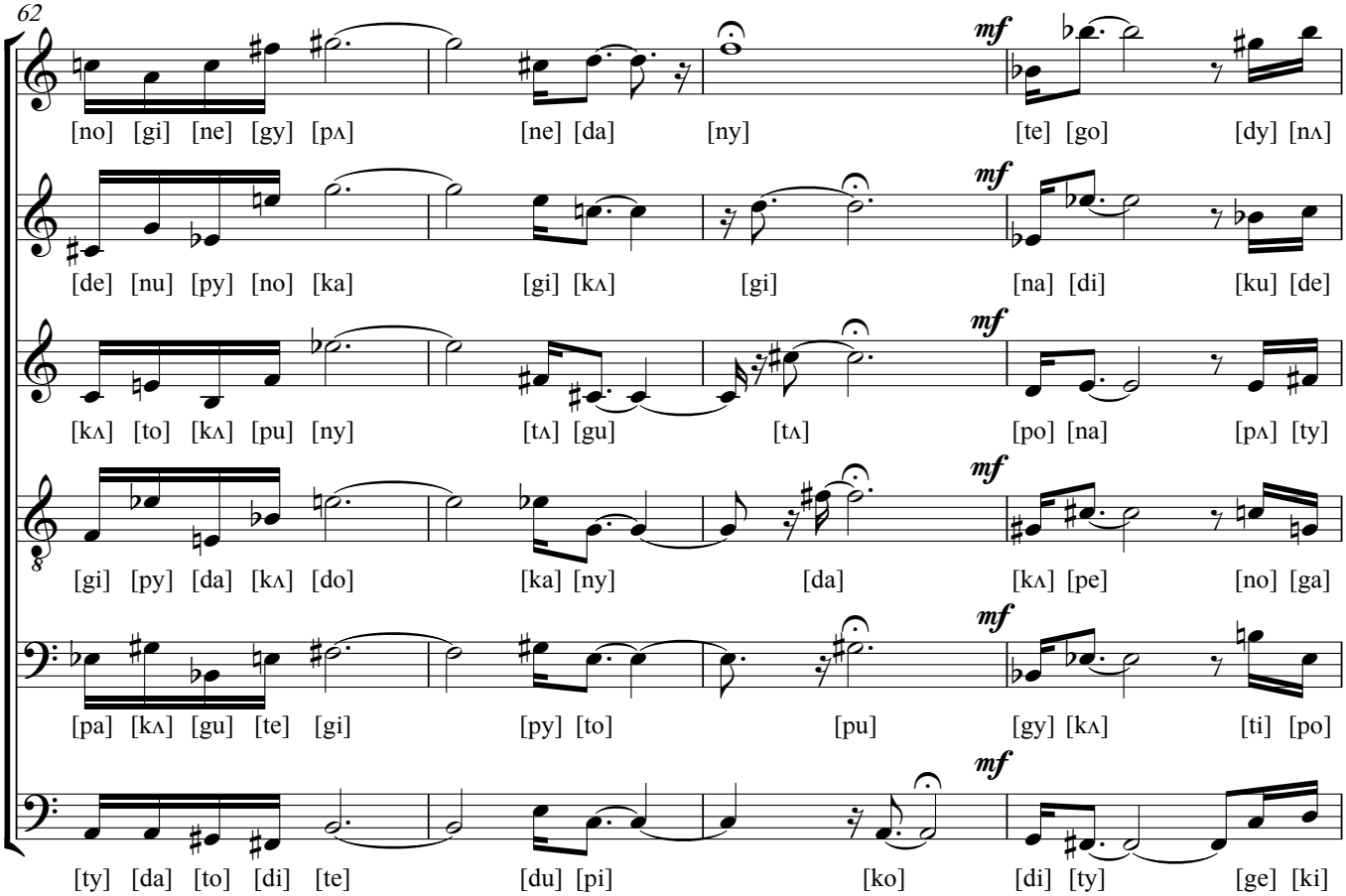

24
mf
[tr]
[k] [k] [k]
(voiced)
ff
[t] [t] [t]
[r]
vary dynamics, vary voiced/unvoiced

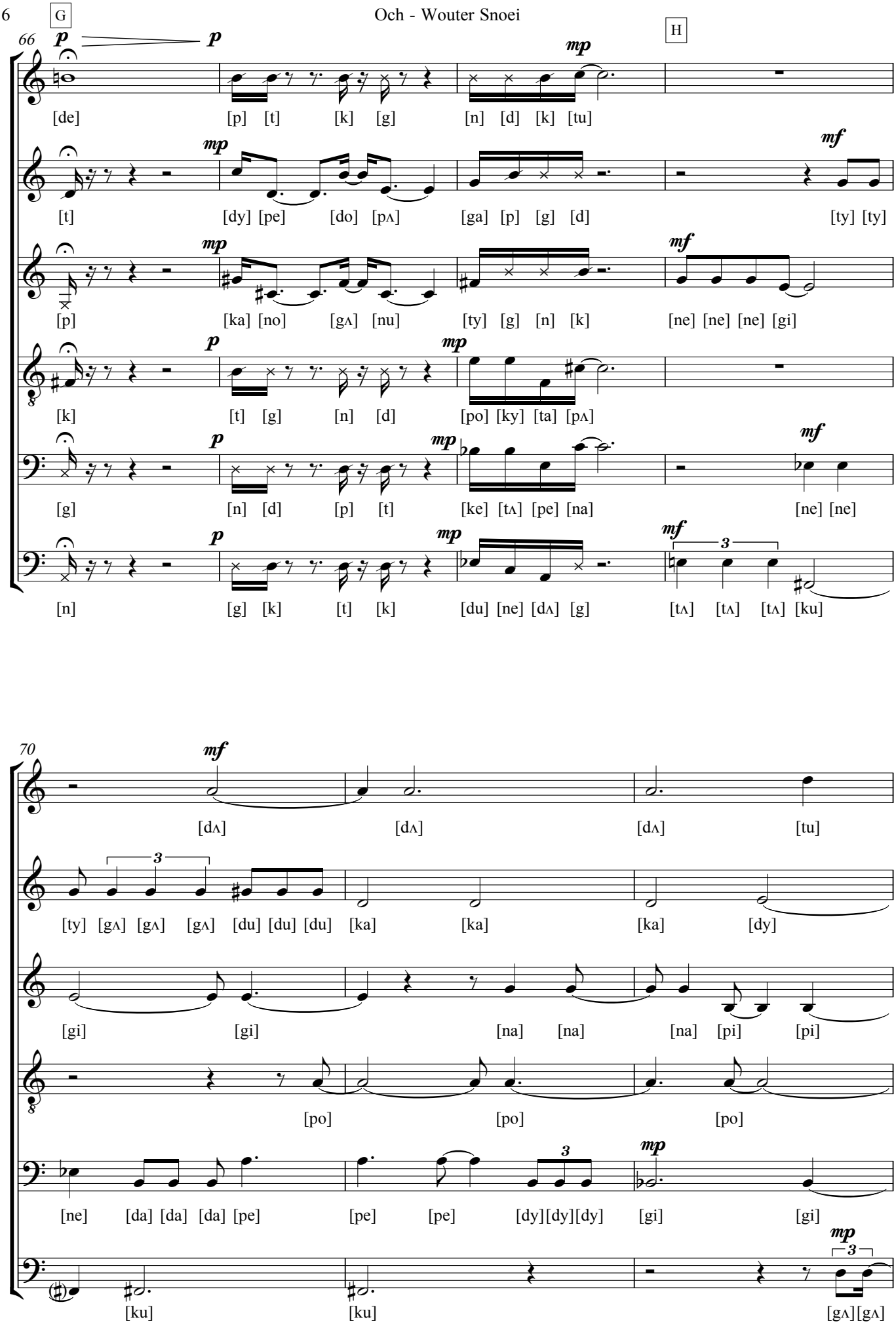

D
32
E
p subito
mp
[s]
[x]
(unvoiced)
[f] (!)
[u]

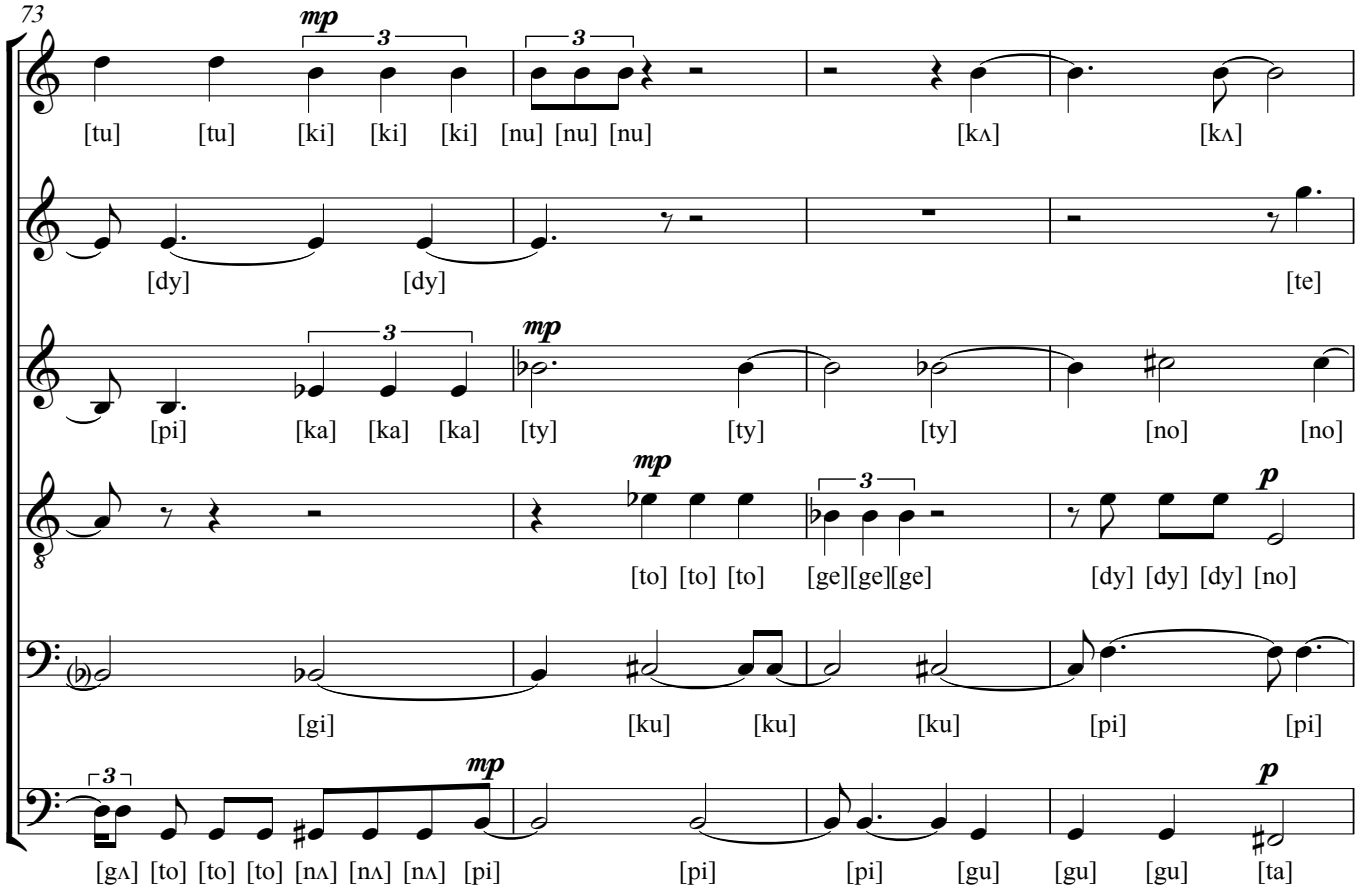

40
p
[s]
p
[o]
p
[u]
p
[m]
p
[s]
mf
[s]
p
[u]
p
[u]
p
[o]
p
[s]
p
[o]

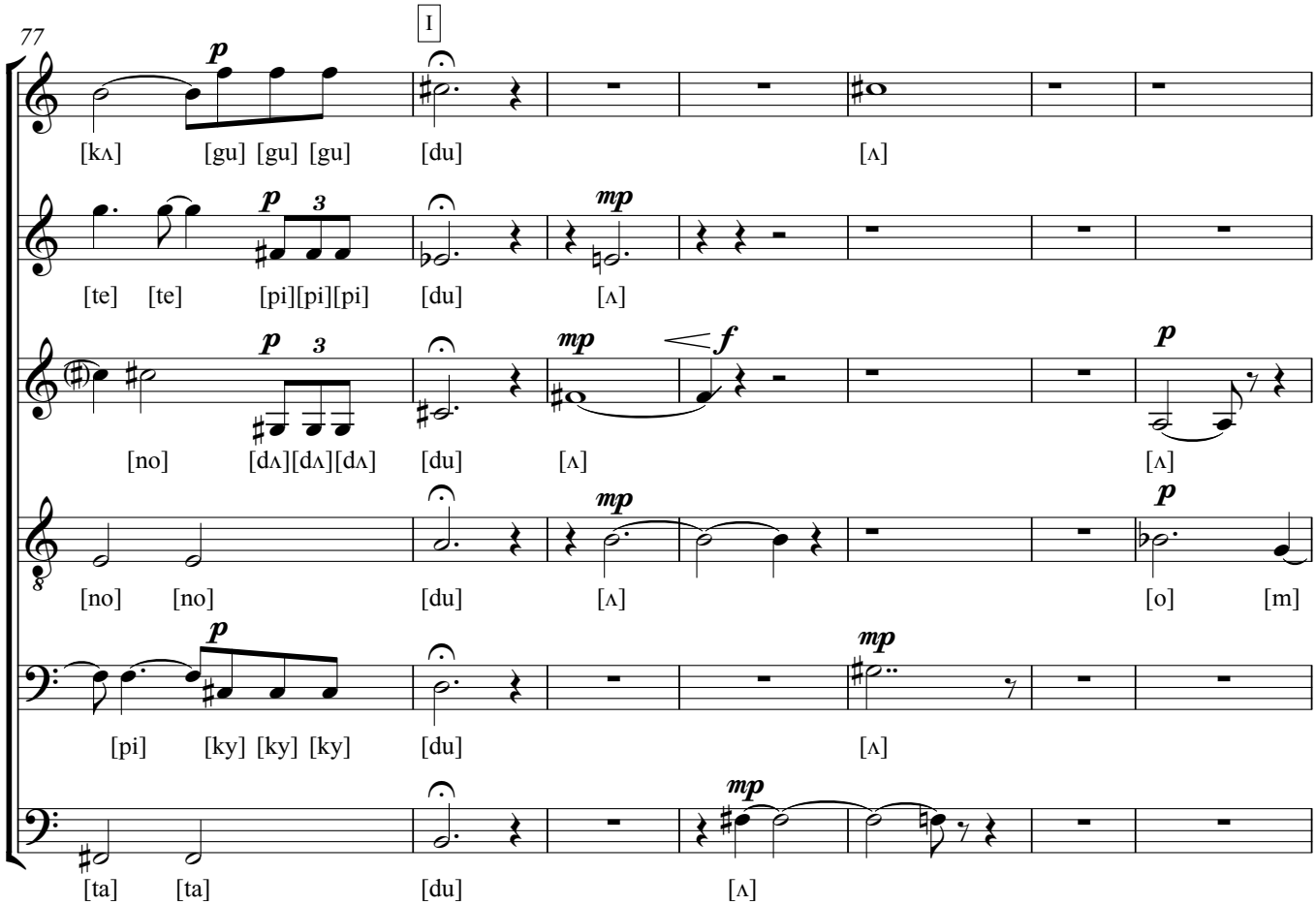

47
[m]
p
[m]
p
[∧]
p
[m]
mp
[m]
[m]
[u]
mf
[s]

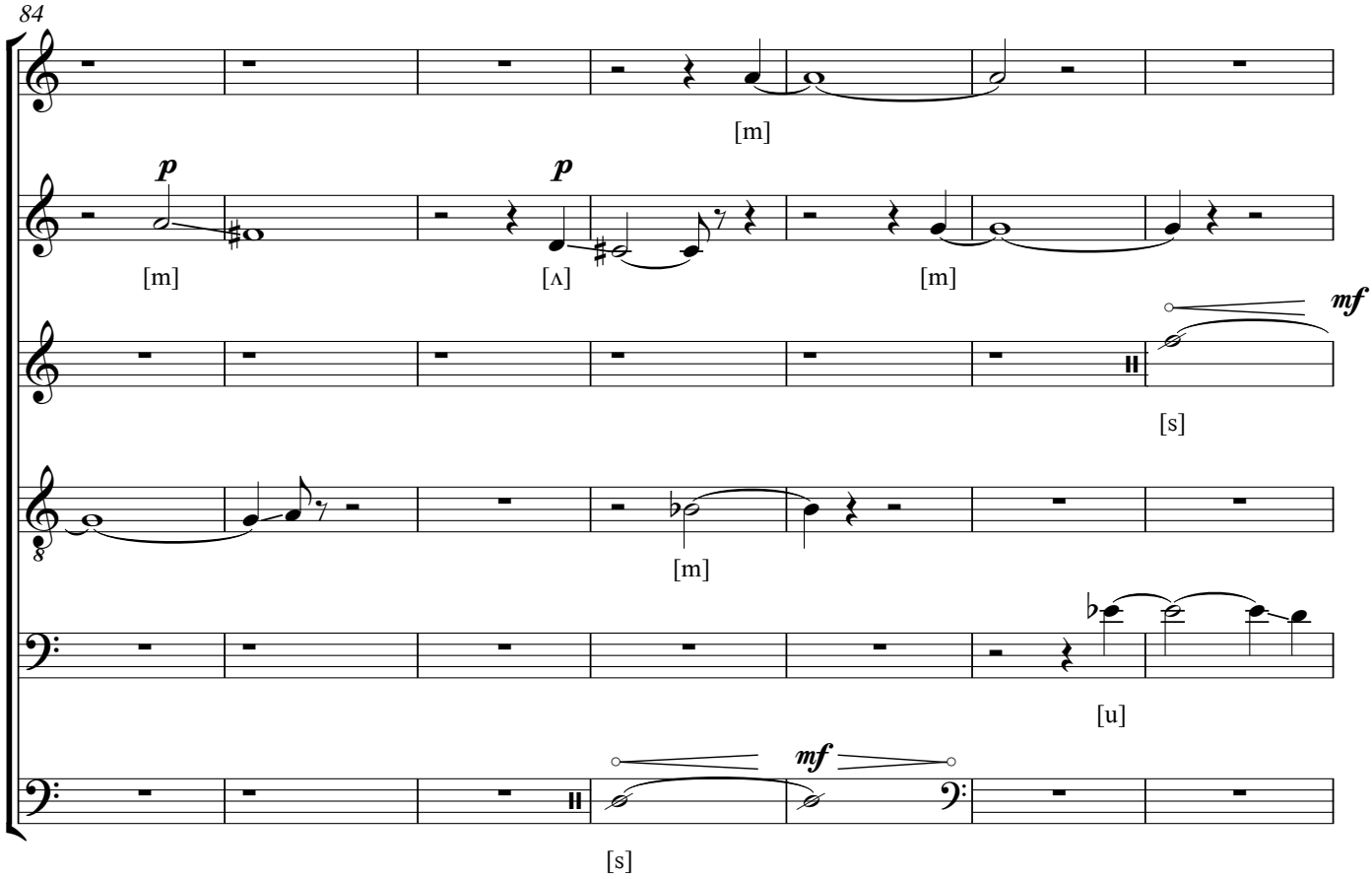

54
F
f > mp < f
[ʌ] [x] [o] [ka] [pi]
mp
[ʌ] [x] [s] [a] [ny] [gu]
p
[ʌ] [ʌ] [f] [u] [di] [na]
[o] [ʌ] [x] [χ] [y] [pʌ] [ty]
[ʌ] [s] [i] [gu] [ko]
[ʌ] [x] [ç] [ʌ] [to] [de]

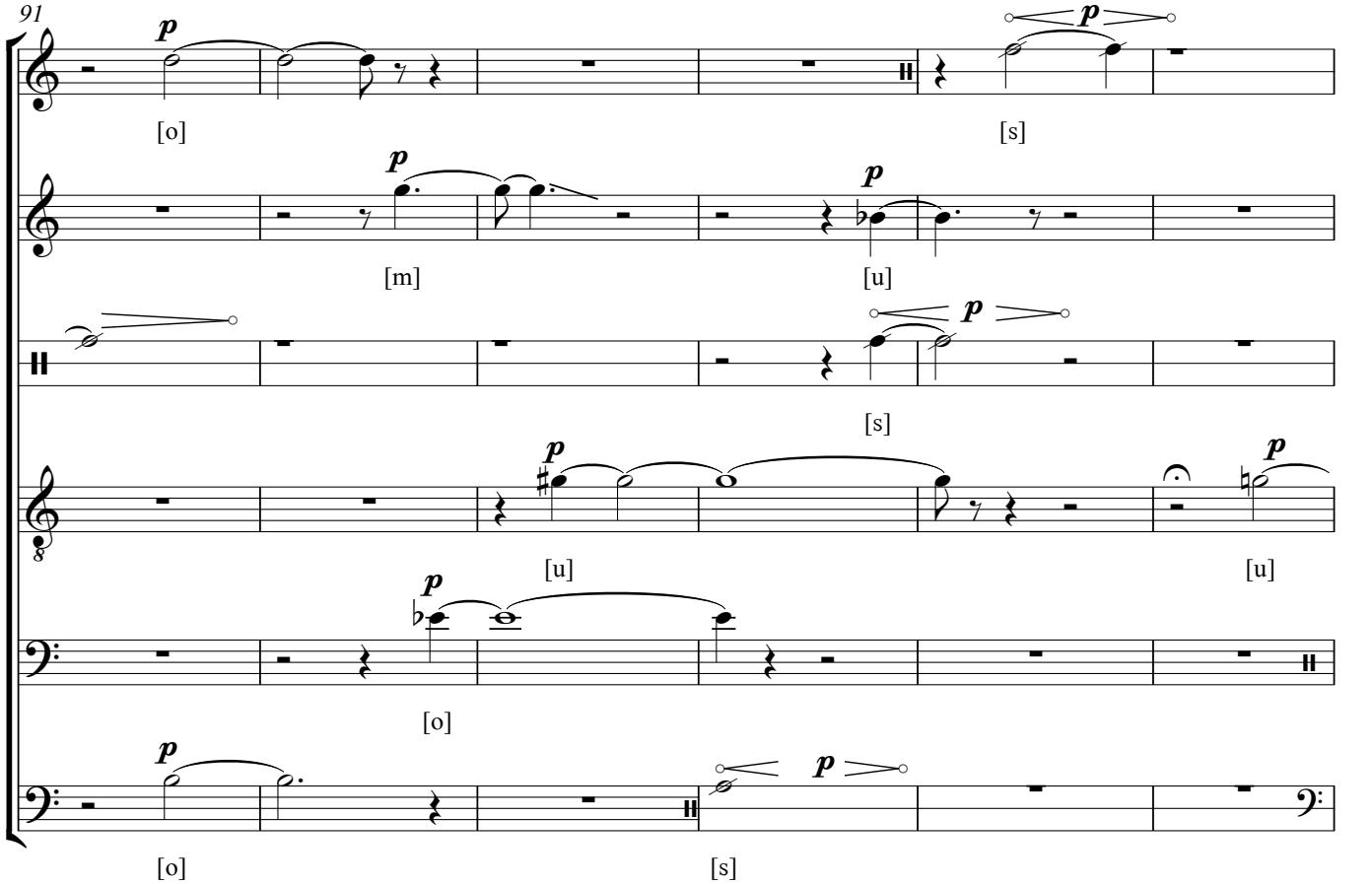

62
mf
[no] [gi] [ne] [gy] [pʌ] [ne] [da] [ny] [te] [go] [dy] [nʌ]
[de] [nu] [py] [no] [ka] [gi] [kʌ] [gi] [na] [di] [ku] [de]
[kʌ] [to] [kʌ] [pu] [ny] [tʌ] [gu] [tʌ] [po] [na] [pʌ] [ty]
[gi] [py] [da] [kʌ] [do] [ka] [ny] [da] [kʌ] [pe] [no] [ga]
[pa] [kʌ] [gu] [te] [gi] [py] [to] [pu] [gy] [kʌ] [ti] [po]
[ty] [da] [to] [di] [te] [du] [pi] [ko] [di] [ty] [ge] [ki]

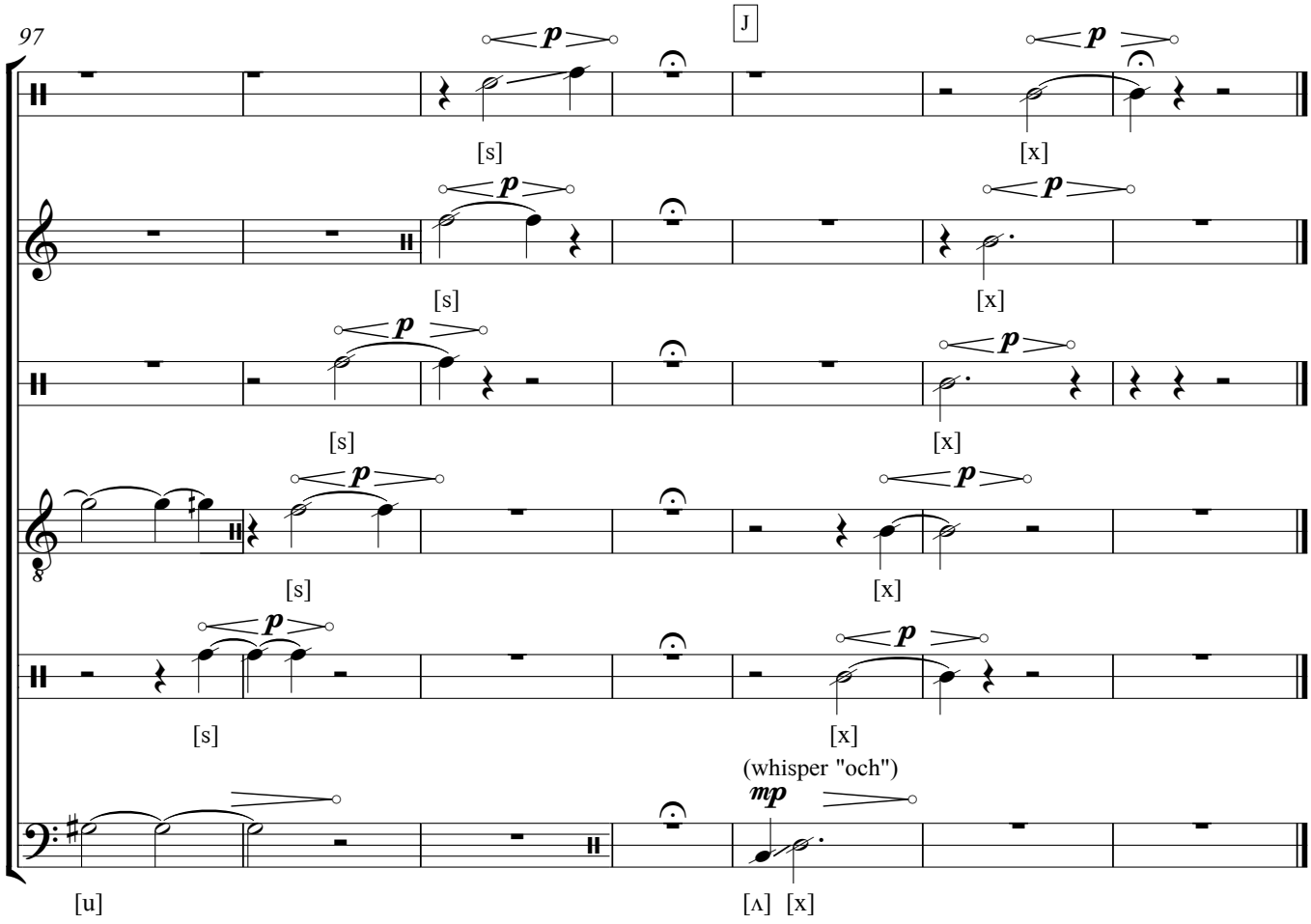

G
H
66
p
mp
mf
[de] [p] [t] [k] [g] [n] [d] [k] [tu]
[t] [dy] [pe] [do] [pʌ] [ga] [p] [g] [d] [ty] [ty]
[p] [ka] [no] [gʌ] [nu] [ty] [g] [n] [k] [ne] [ne] [ne] [gi]
[k] [t] [g] [n] [d] [po] [ky] [ta] [pʌ]
[g] [n] [d] [p] [t] [ke] [tʌ] [pe] [na] [ne] [ne]
[n] [g] [k] [t] [k] [du] [ne] [dʌ] [g] [tʌ] [tʌ] [tʌ] [ku]
3
70
[dʌ] [dʌ] [dʌ] [tu]
[ty] [gʌ] [gʌ] [gʌ] [du] [du] [du] [ka] [ka] [ka] [dy]
[gi] [gi] [na] [na] [na] [pi] [pi]
[po] [po] [po]
[ne] [da] [da] [da] [pe] [pe] [pe] [dy][dy][dy] [gi] [gi]
[ku] [ku] [gʌ][gʌ]


73
mp
[tu] [tu] [ki] [ki] [ki] [nu] [nu] [nu] [kʌ] [kʌ]
[dy] [dy] [te]
mp
[pi] [ka] [ka] [ka] [ty] [ty] [ty] [no] [no]
mp
p
[to] [to] [to] [ge][ge][ge] [dy] [dy] [dy] [no]
[gi] [ku] [ku] [ku] [pi] [pi]
mp
p
[gʌ] [to] [to] [to] [nʌ] [nʌ] [nʌ] [pi] [pi] [pi] [gu] [gu] [gu] [ta]


77
I
p
[kʌ] [gu] [gu] [gu] [du] [ʌ]
p
mp
[te] [te] [pi][pi][pi] [du] [ʌ]
p
mp
f
p
[no] [dʌ][dʌ][dʌ] [du] [ʌ] [ʌ]
mp
p
[no] [no] [du] [ʌ] [o] [m]
p
mp
[pi] [ky] [ky] [ky] [du] [ʌ]
mp
[ta] [ta] [du] [ʌ]


84
[m]
p
[m]
p
[ʌ]
[m]
mf
[s]
[m]
[u]
mf
[s]


91
p
[o]
p
[s]
p
[m]
p
[u]
p
[s]
p
[u]
p
[u]
p
[o]
p
[o]
p
[s]


97
J
p
[s]
[x]
(whisper "och")
mp
[u]
[ʌ] [x]