Transitional Songs

Composed for:
Flute, cello, piano, glockenspiel, vibraphone

Glockenspiel player also plays large tam-tam and sandpaper blocks (one of which may be laid flat on a table for ease of changes.) A variety of mallets may be used for color and volume; brass is encouraged as well as small acrylic for soft passages.

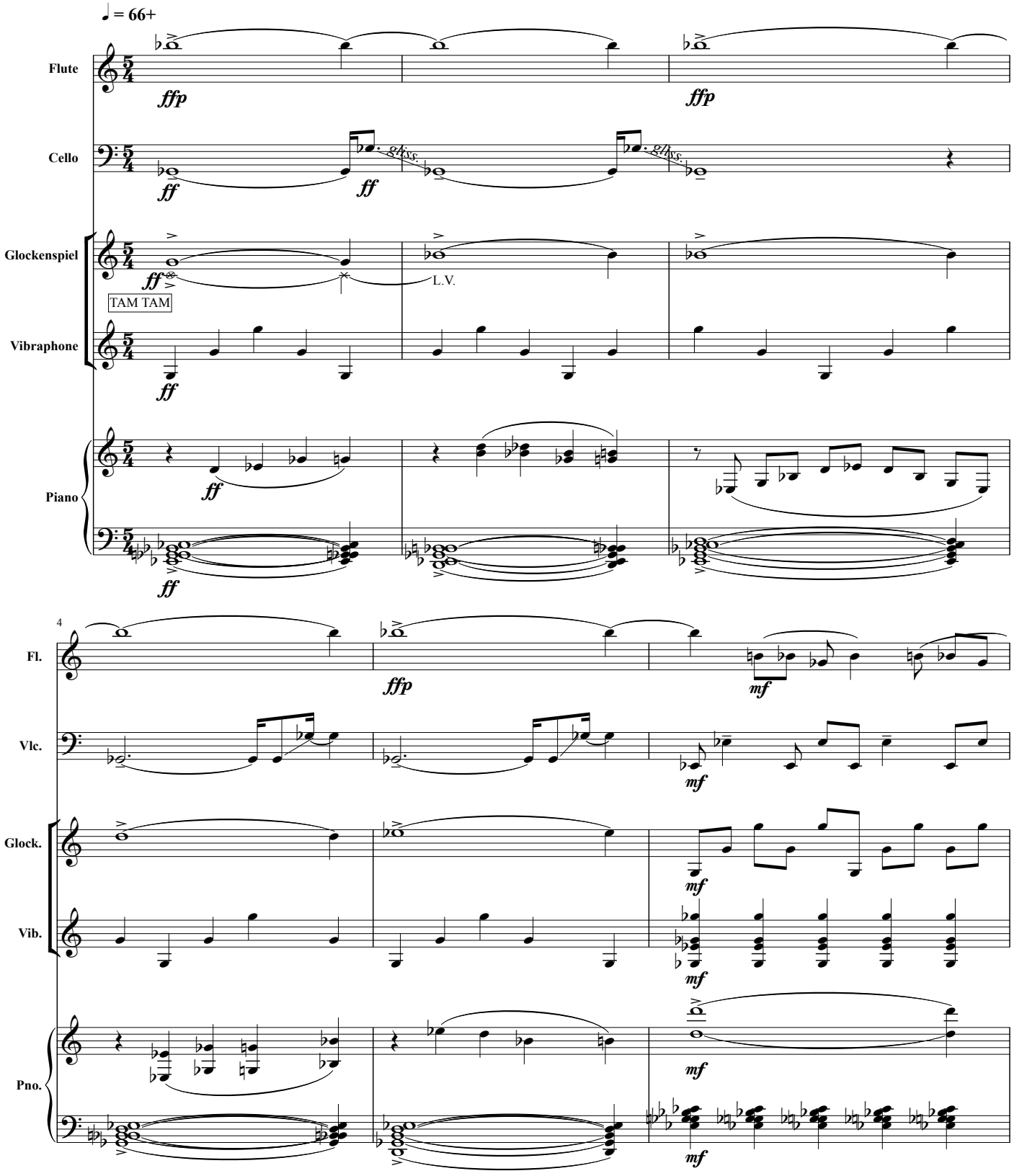
Vibraphone uses no motor; player also plays a resonant drum which may be a small bass drum or floor tom.

Transitional Songs was premiered June 2, 2000, at the Spoleto Festival USA. I composed the work in contemplation of a new millennium while mindful of the ultimately arbitrary nature of this assignation. The piece has an underlying structural design in units of tens, which are presented metrically, rhythmically, melodically and harmonically. The development of the material – the "songs" – is continuously interrupted, creating an overall climate of regular transition. Elaborating on cultural aspects of transition, and where I believed music has been and is going, the work blends certain stylistic traits of 20th Century music. Among other devices, a serialist row is deconstructed and reduced to the tonal center progression of a series of diatonic phrases – for me, closing a book of sorts and preparing for new directions in my own work.

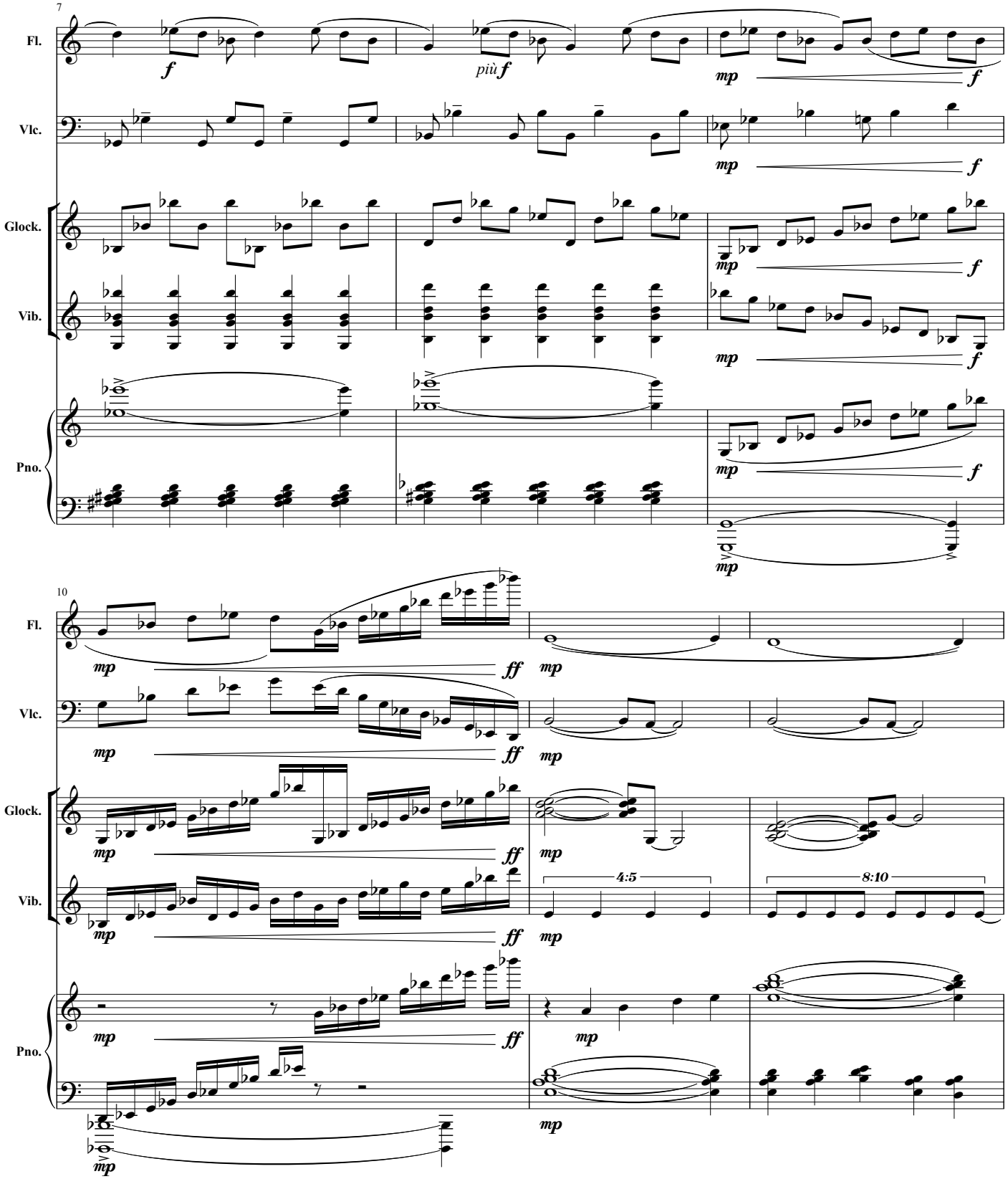
– John Kennedy
January-May, 2000
Santa Fe/Charleston

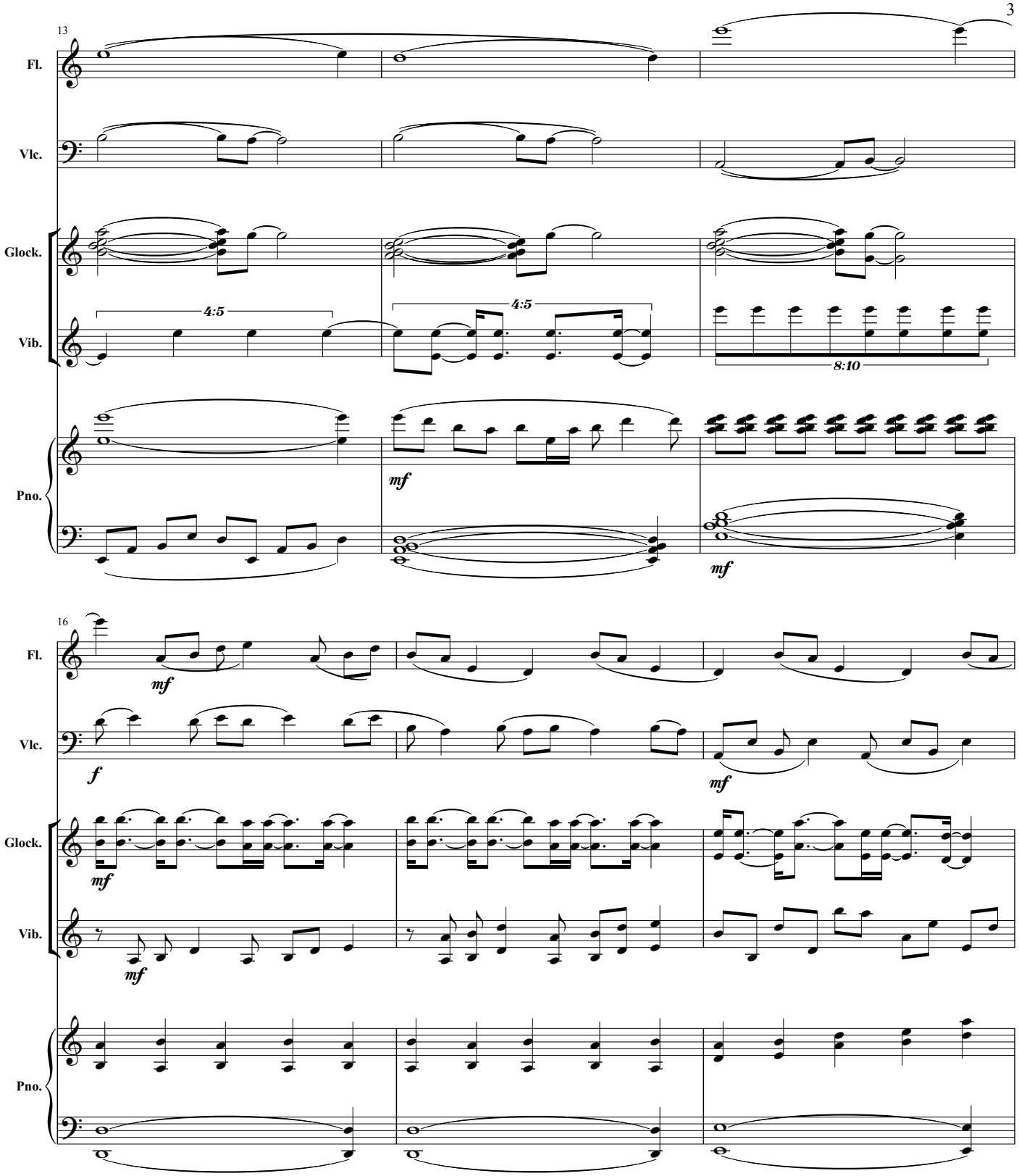
Transitional Songs

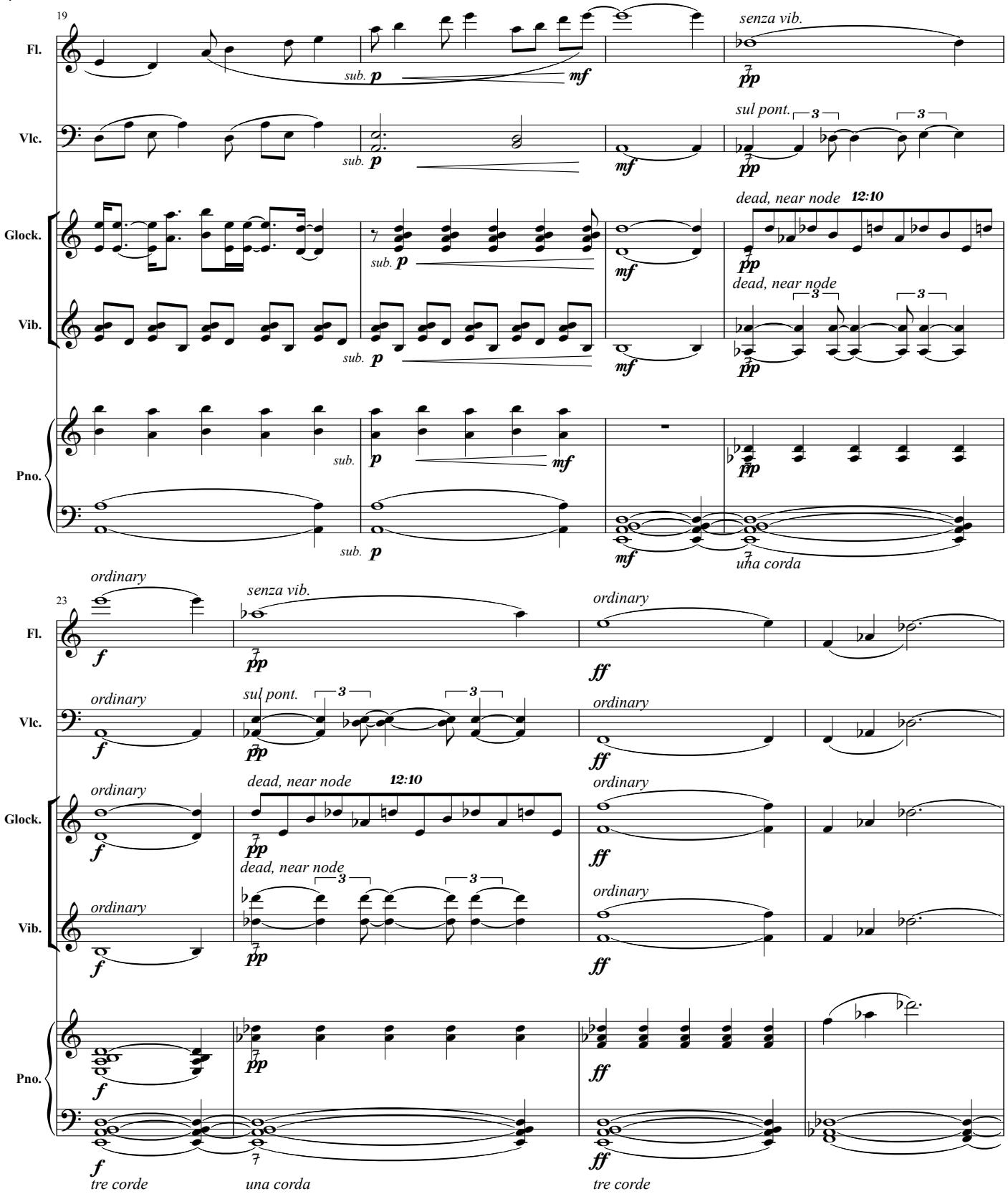
John Kennedy



© 2000, SFNM Editions


7
Fl.
Vlc.
Glock.
Vib.
Pno.
f
più f
mp
f
10
ff
4:5
8:10


13
Fl.
Vlc.
Glock.
Vib.
Pno.
4:5
4:5
8:10
mf
mf
16
Fl.
Vlc.
Glock.
Vib.
Pno.
mf
f
mf
mf
mf


19
Fl.
Vlc.
Glock.
Vib.
Pno.
sub. p
mf
senza vib.
pp
sul pont.
3
dead, near node
12:10
una corda
23
ordinary
f
ff
tre corde