Brad Decker

# Ripple

for Flute, Marimba, and Computer

# Ripple.

for Flute, Marimba, and Computer
Brad Decker (2019)

**About the piece:**
"Ripple" is about how small events can accumulate to contribute to broader, more meaningful ones. I began working on it during the grip of winter, 2019, and was longing for the promise of spring. During this time, I was struck by this famous quote by the late Robert F. Kennedy, which still holds true today:

"*Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.*" - Robert F. Kennedy, 1966

Musically, this piece explores how two small pitch cells can interact in a variety of ways. The initial gesture is rather tame, but these gestures accumulate to create larger, sweeping polyrhythmic sections. The computer part surrounds the duo with a stereo soundscape, at times mirroring their pitch and rhythmic content.

This piece was written for my good friends Rebecca Johnson and Jamie V. Ryan, and is dedicated to them.

**Accompanying App (Mac only) can be downloaded at www.braddecker.org**

**Score Notes:**
**Accidentals:** for passages in a meter, the accidentals carry through the bar. For passages that are not metered, accidentals apply only to the note they precede.

Time cues are provided as a guide. The times are approximate.

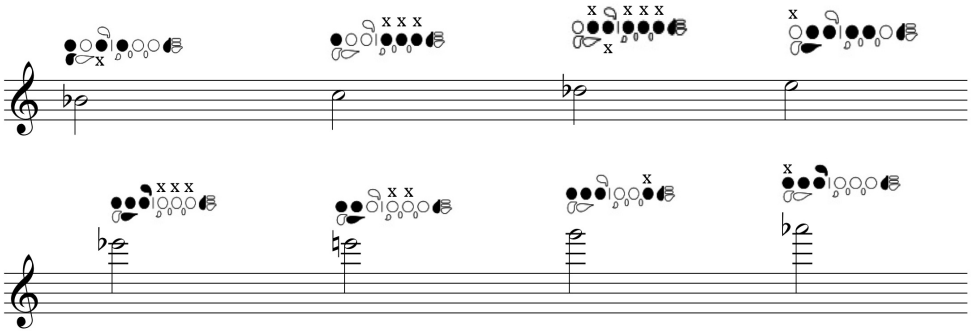
The circled numerical cues are for the computer part, which will play the appropriate cue at the notated point in the score. The cue audio overlaps in a way that allows for some flexibility of the performers regarding fermati and other indeterminate time elements.

Graphics below some trils and tremolos attempt show levels of intensity and speed of the gesture. Please utilize some freedom in these moments so that you are able to create a feeling of ebb and flow between the performers (and the computer).

Flute trills that involve special fingerings are notated with an * above it.

flute notation:
x = air
+ = percussion
⊖ = air/percussion
T = through the teeth
◇ = harmonic

Timbral Trills: From alternate fingerings



# Ripple

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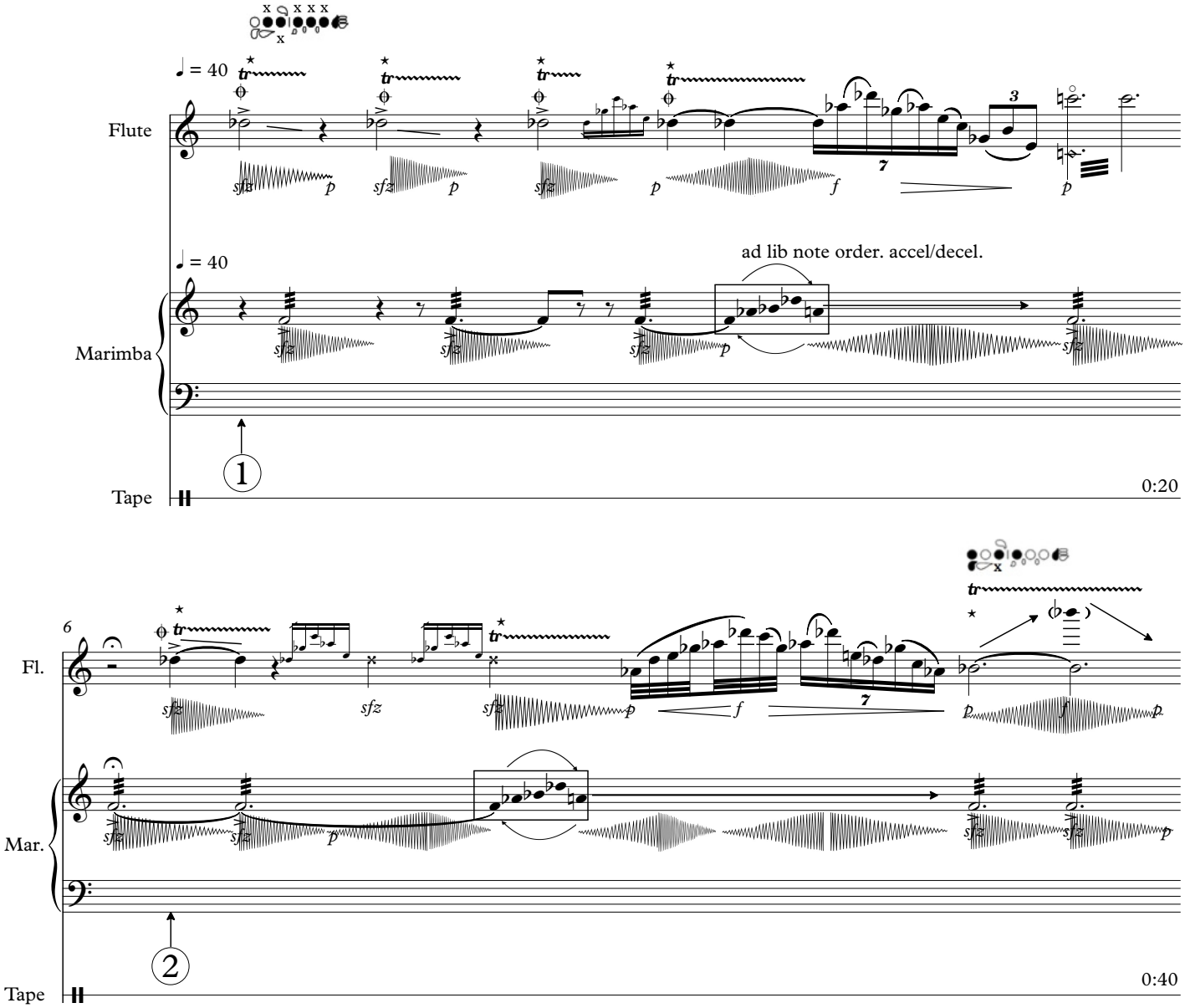
*for Rebecca Johnson and Jamie V. Ryan*

Brad Decker
(2019)

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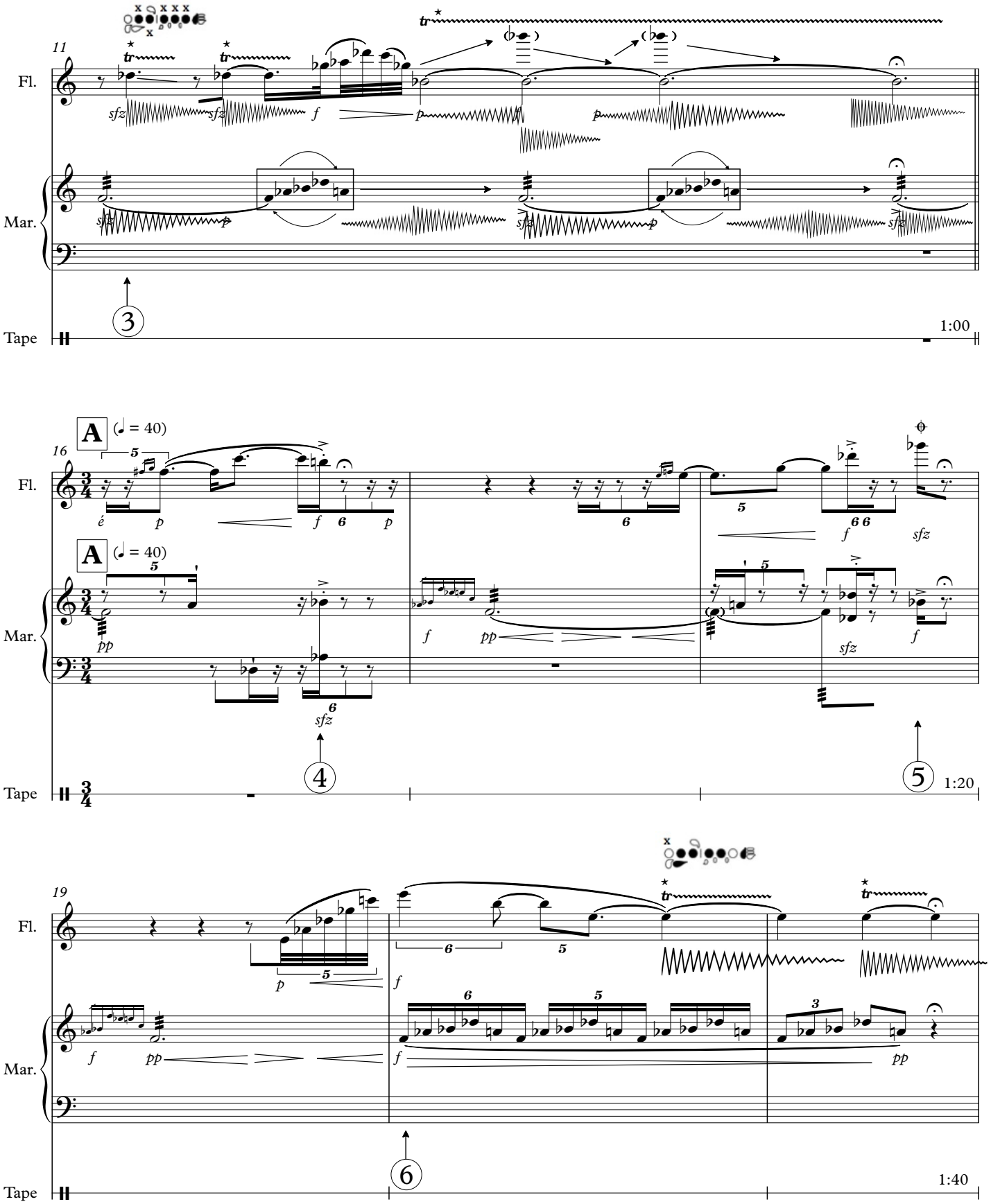
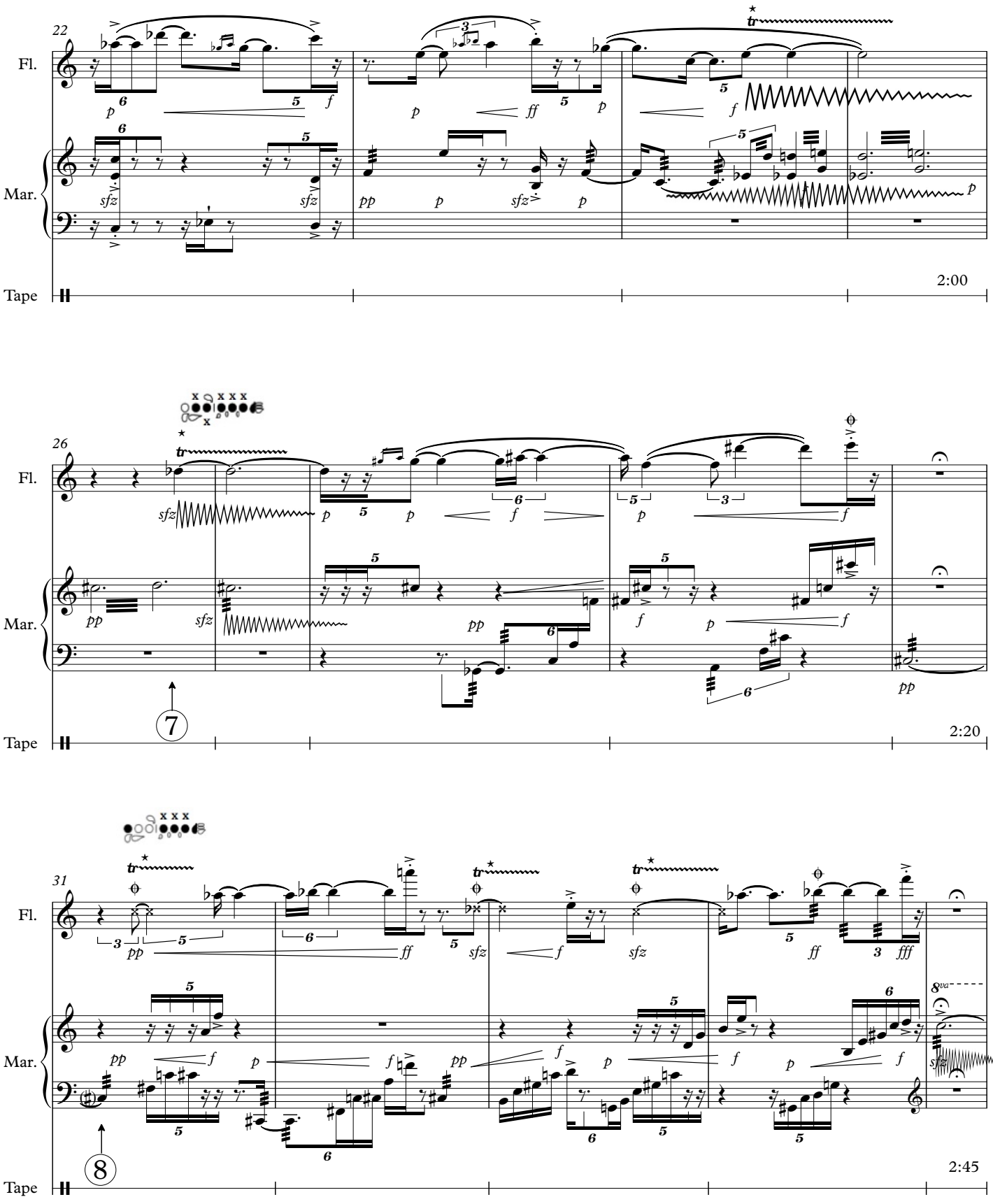
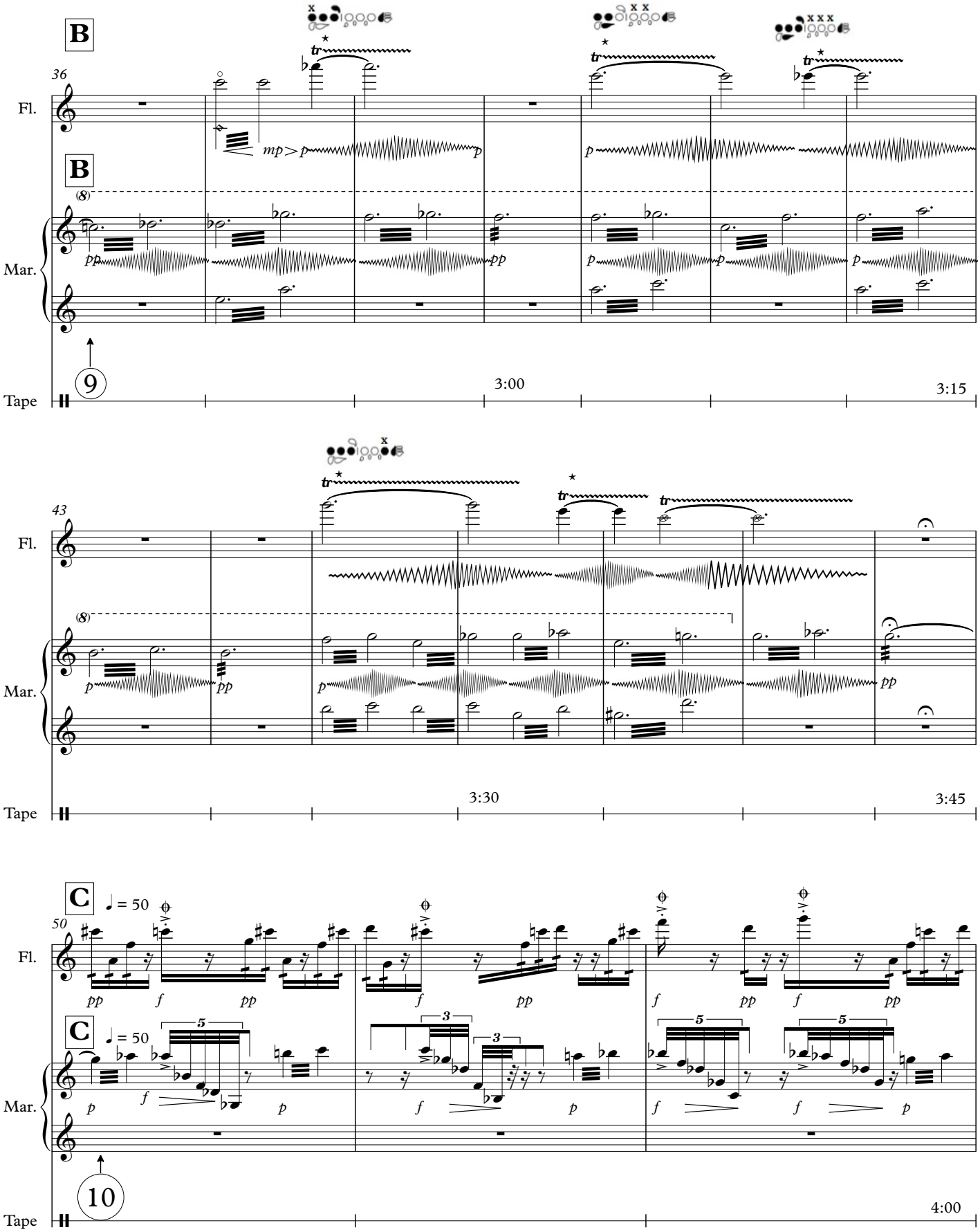
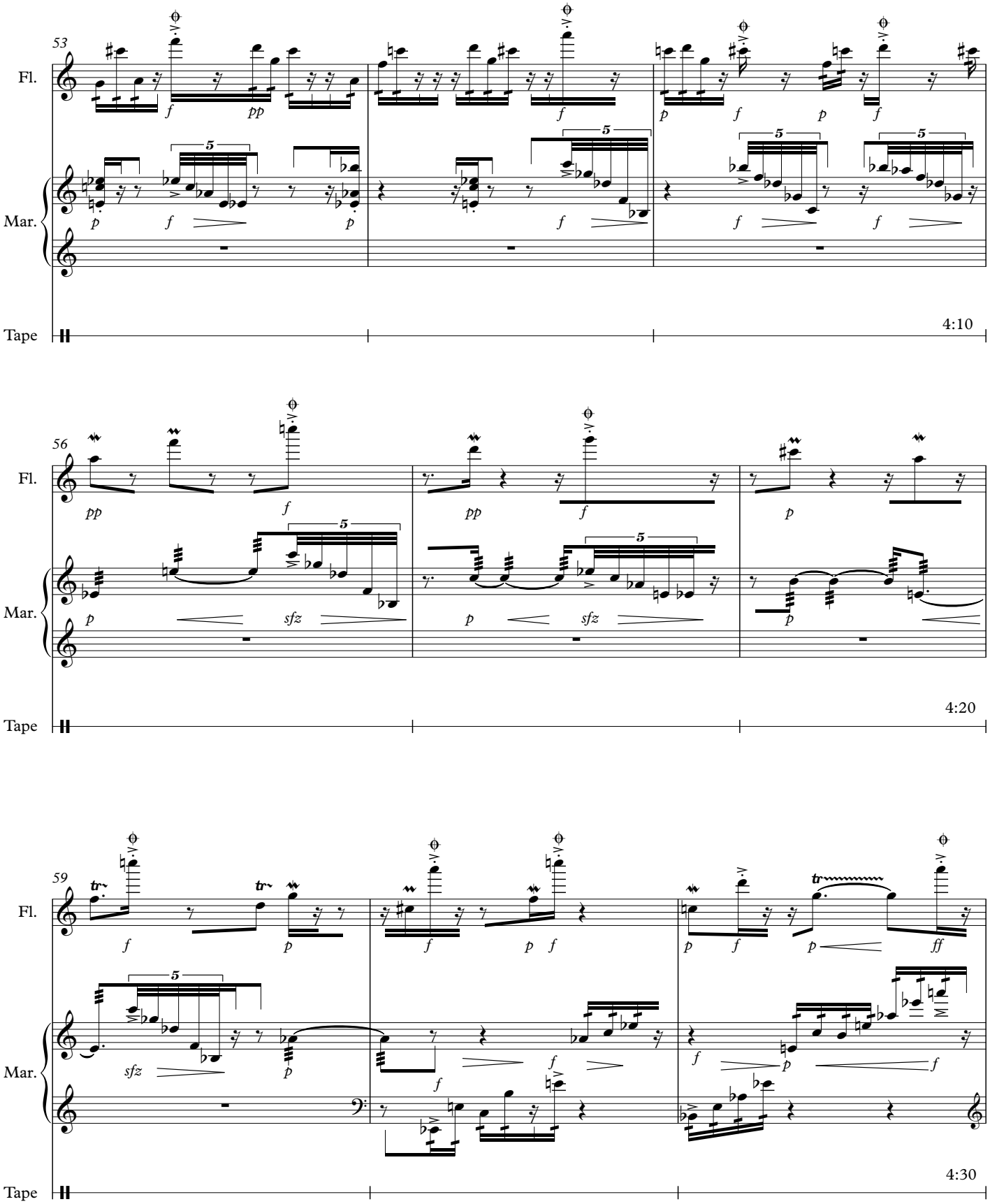
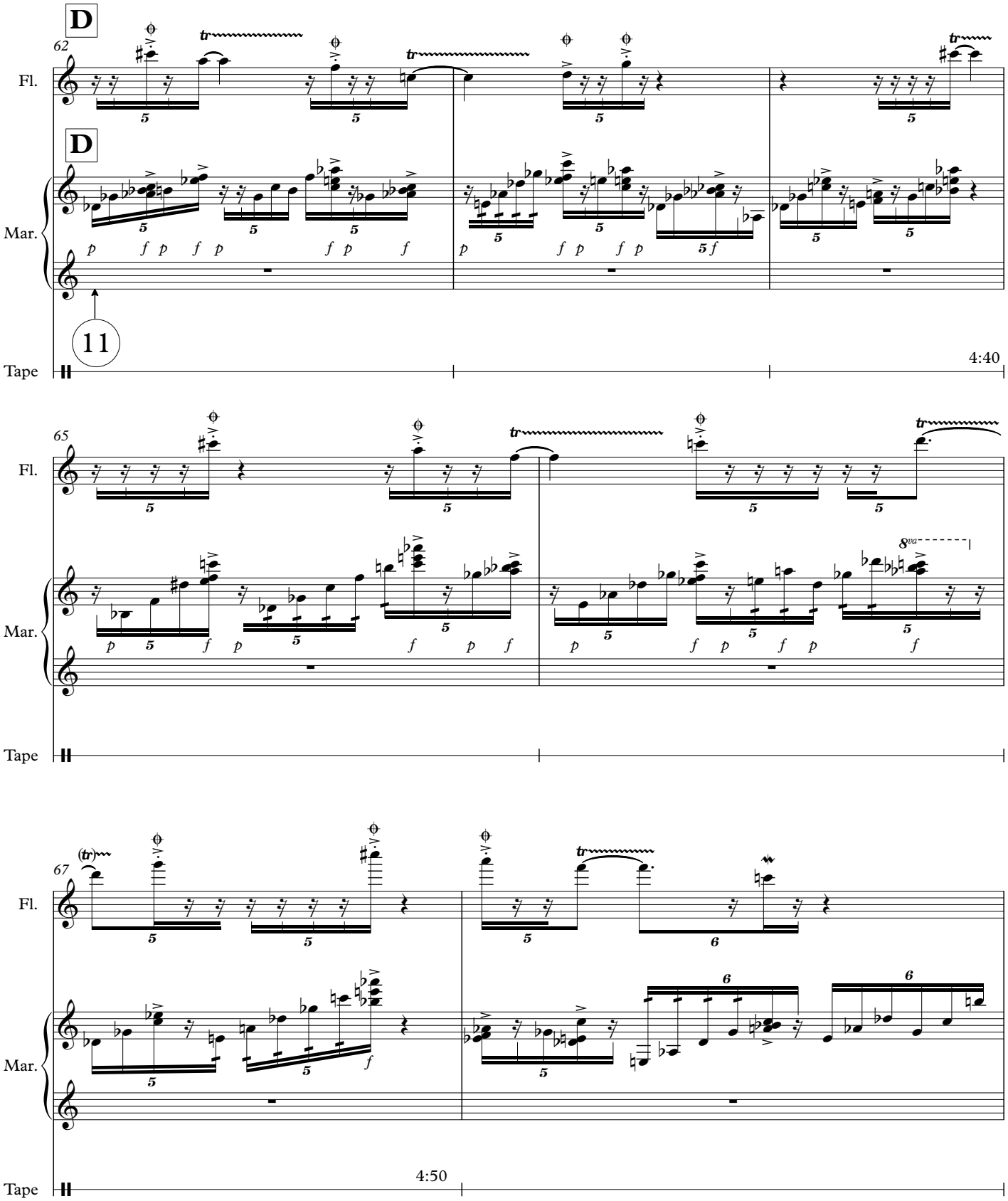
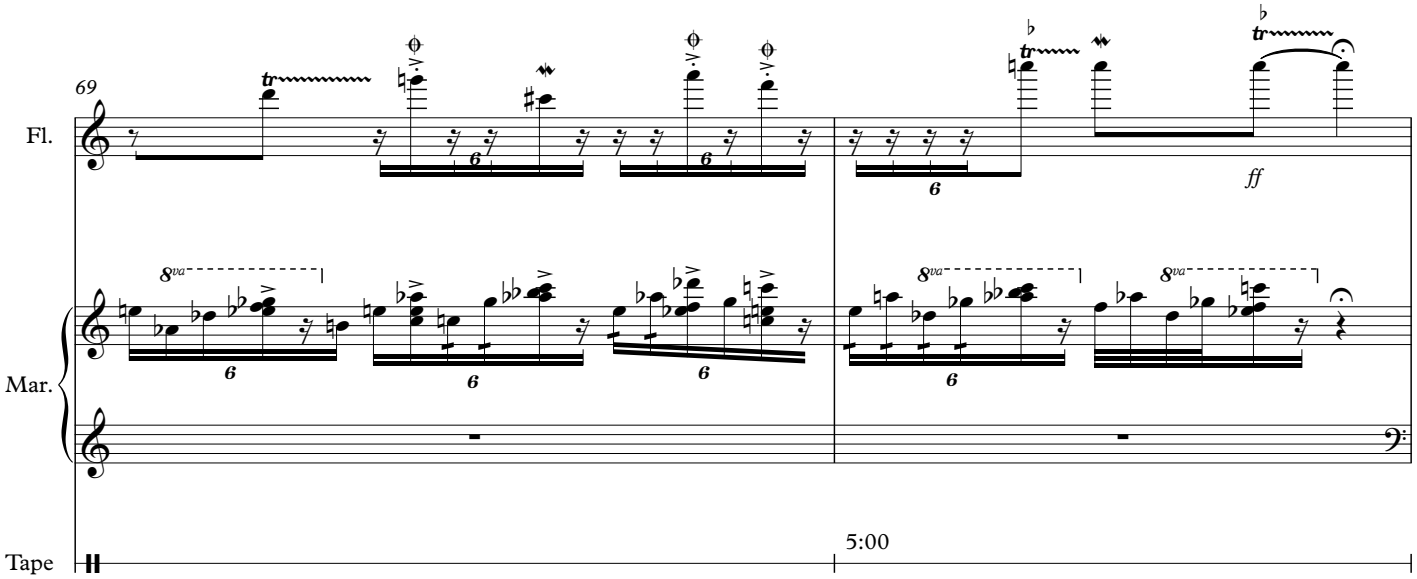

11
Fl.
Mar.
Tape
3
1:00
A
(♩ = 40)
16
4
5
1:20
19
6
1:40

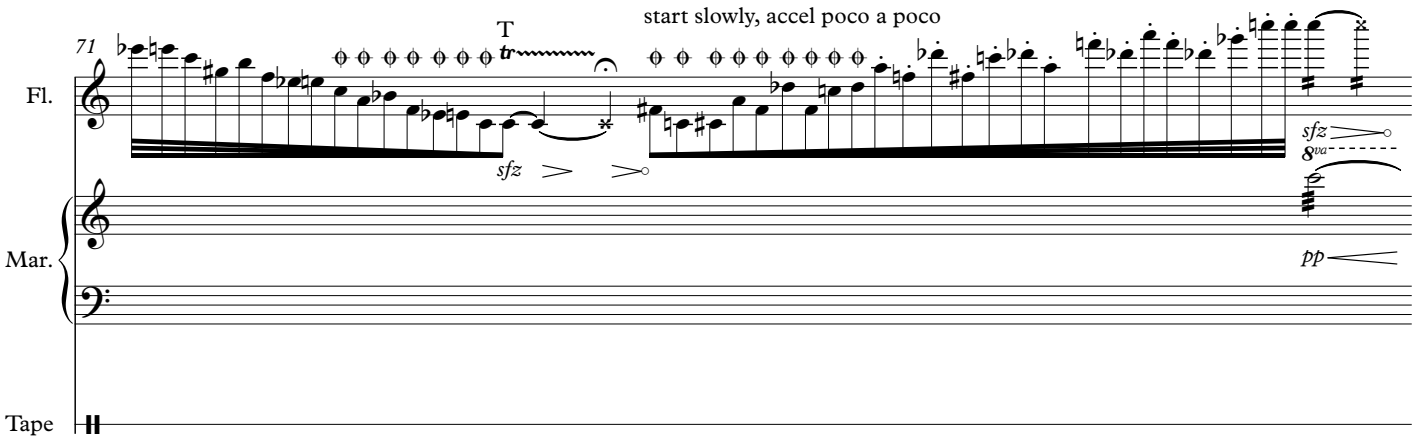

22
Fl.
Mar.
Tape
2:00
26
Fl.
Mar.
7
Tape
2:20
31
Fl.
Mar.
8
Tape
2:45

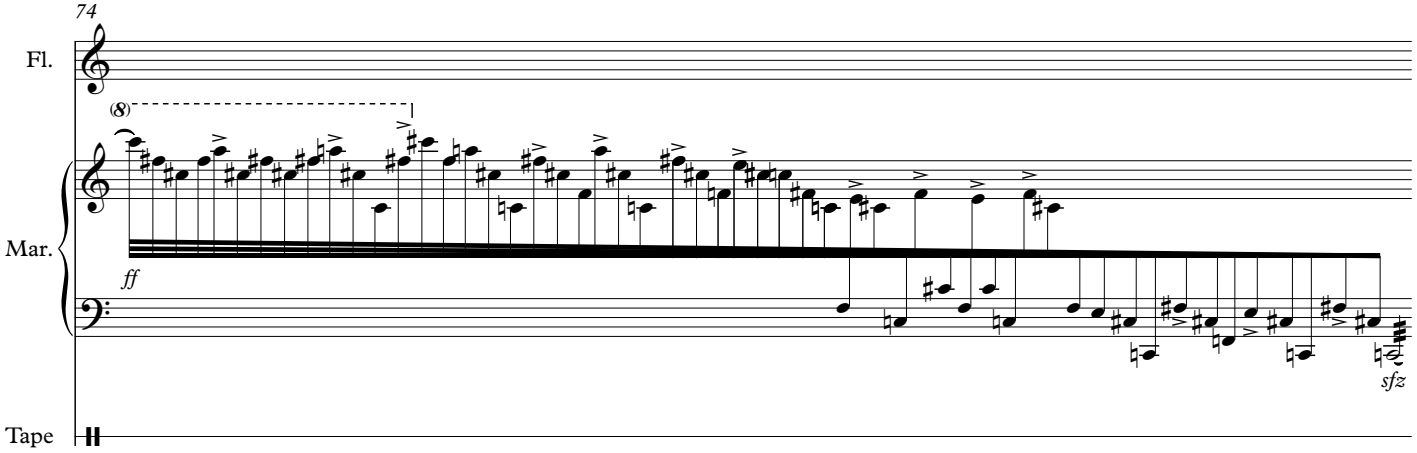

B
36
Fl.
mp > p
p
B
(8)
Mar.
pp
p
9
Tape
3:00
3:15
43
Fl.
(8)
Mar.
p
pp
Tape
3:30
3:45
C
♩ = 50
50
Fl.
pp
f
C
♩ = 50
Mar.
p
f
10
Tape
4:00

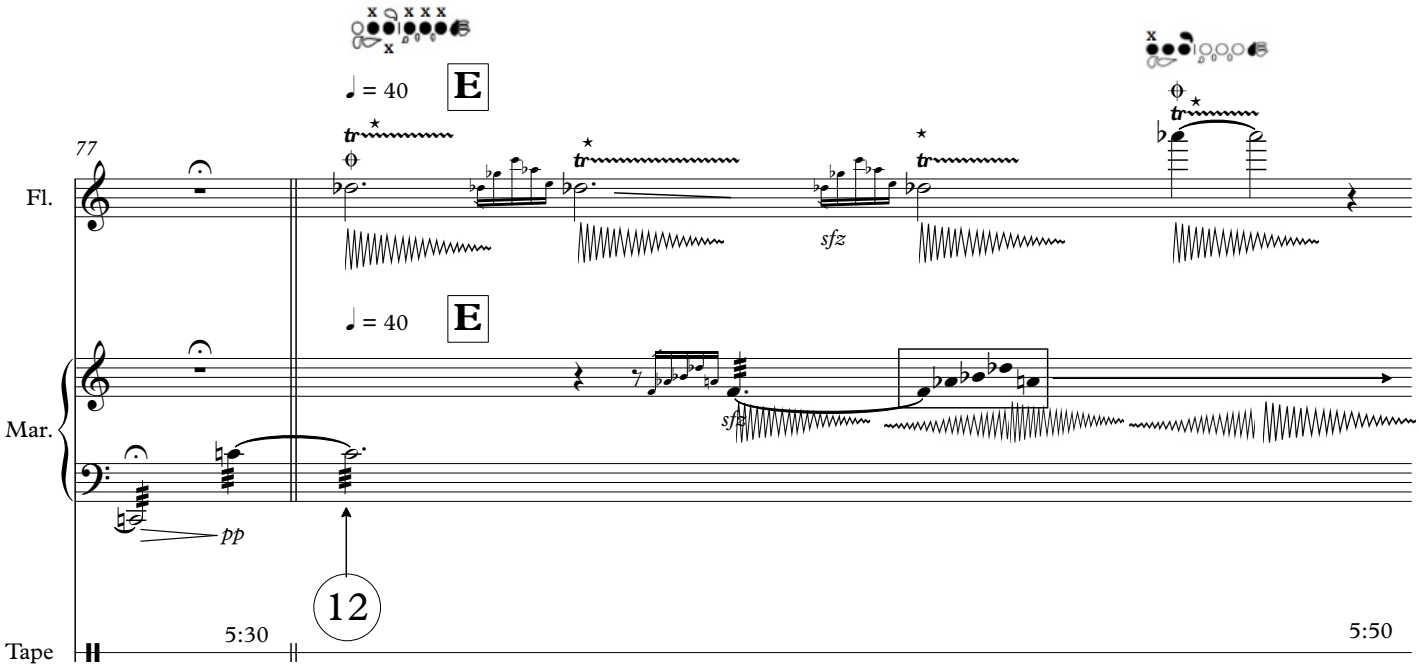

53
Fl.
Mar.
Tape
4:10
56
Fl.
Mar.
Tape
4:20
59
Fl.
Mar.
Tape
4:30

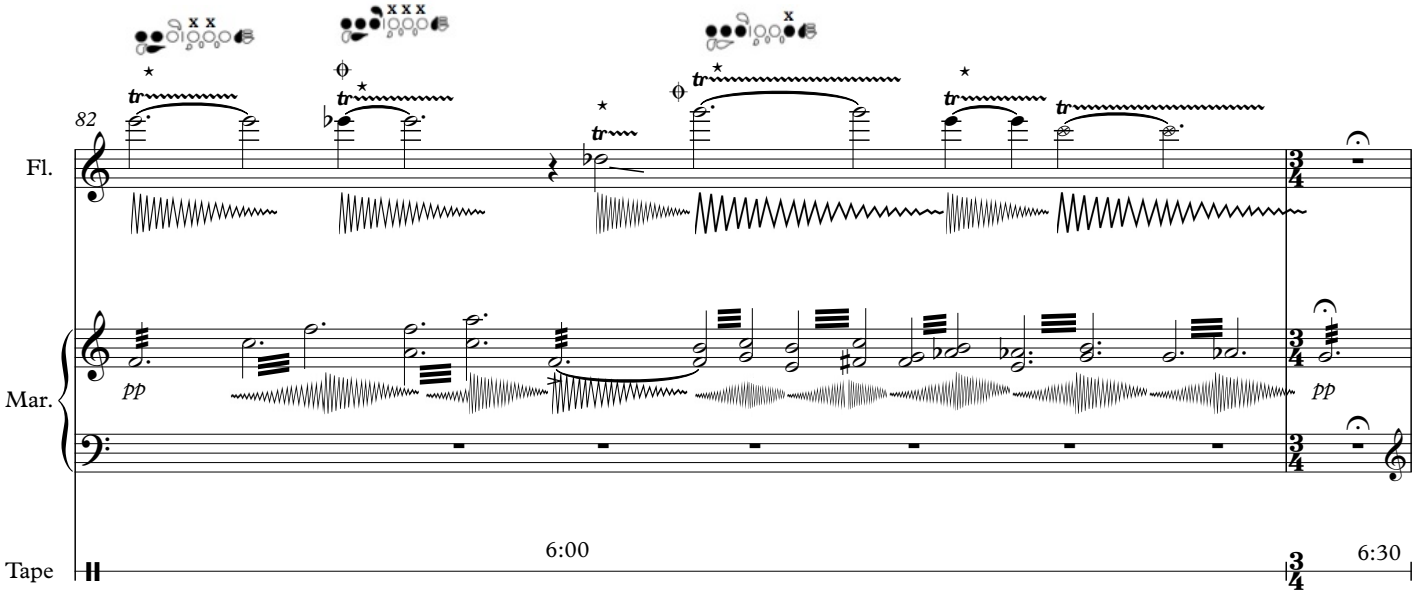

D
62
Fl.
D
Mar.
11
Tape
4:40
65
Fl.
Mar.
8va
Tape
67
Fl.
Mar.
Tape
4:50

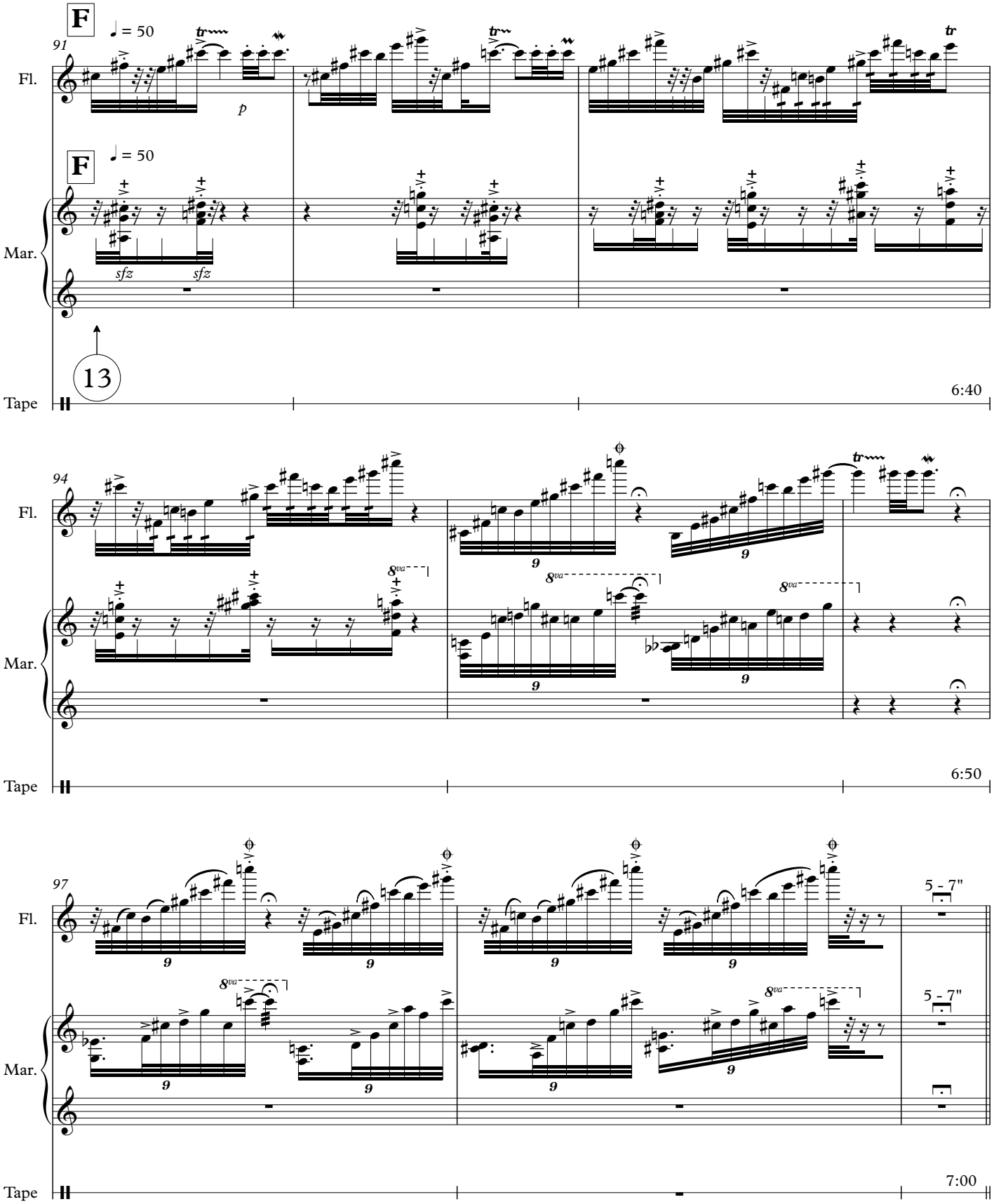

69
Fl.
Mar.
Tape
8va
ff
5:00

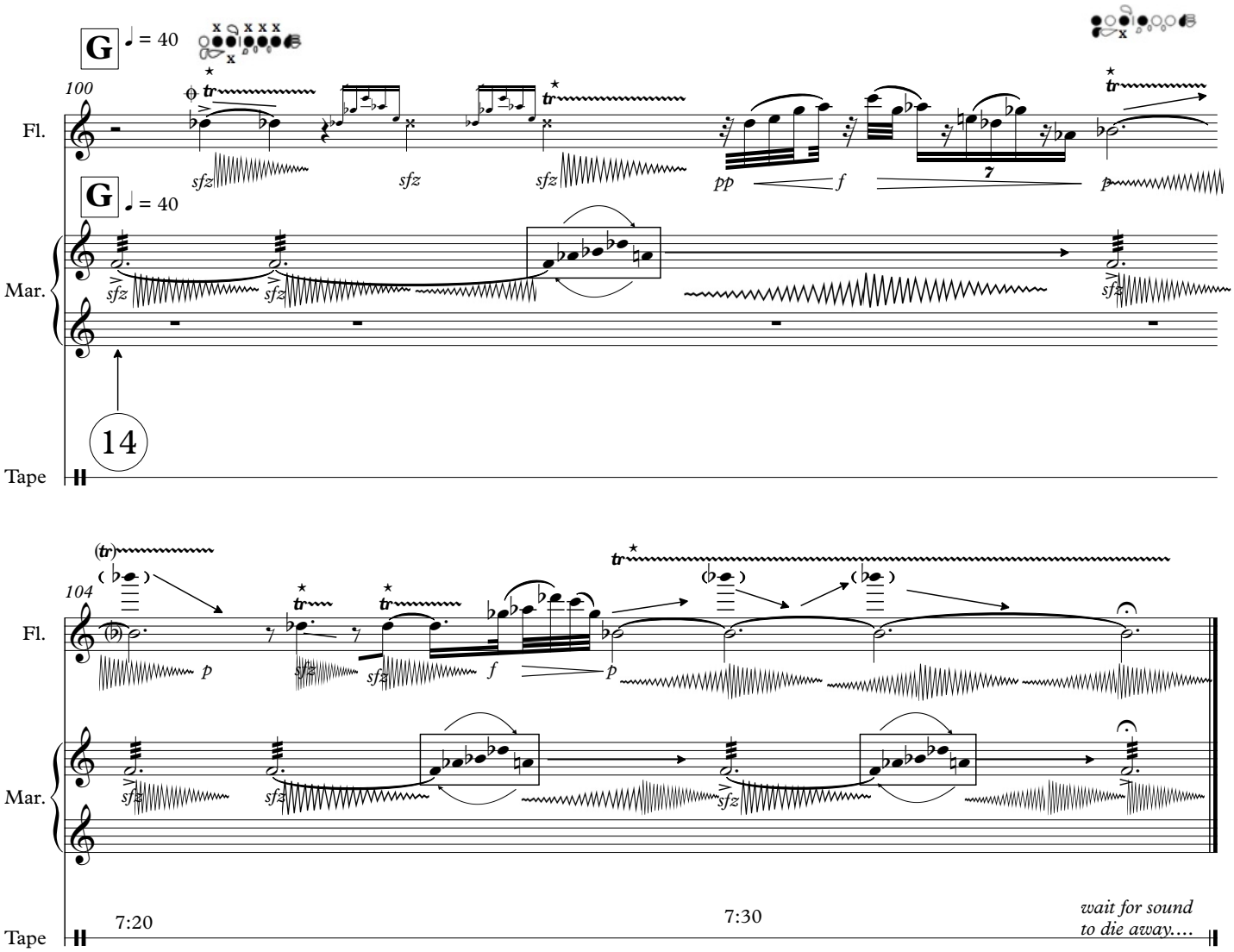

71
T
start slowly, accel poco a poco
Fl.
Mar.
Tape
sfz
8va
pp


74
Fl.
Mar.
Tape
(8)
ff
sfz


77
♩ = 40
E
Fl.
sfz
♩ = 40
E
Mar.
pp
12
Tape
5:30
5:50


82
Fl.
pp
Mar.
pp
Tape
6:00
6:30


F
♩ = 50
91
Fl.
p
F
♩ = 50
Mar.
sfz
sfz
13
Tape
6:40
94
Fl.
8va
Mar.
Tape
6:50
97
Fl.
5 - 7"
8va
Mar.
5 - 7"
Tape
7:00




Charleston, IL
March 22, 2019