Kristýna Švihálková

Sonda

for vibraphone and voice

Performance notes

Sonda (2022) is an instrumental theatre piece for a speaking percussionist. The main idea is to capture the feelings and thoughts of a vibraphone player while performing various genres. In other words: what if the performer´s mind speaks out loud on the stage?

The performer says everything written in the score regularly out loud. Text in italics represents instruction. However, it is possible to change the text according to the vibrapone player´s personality, or occasion. Page turns are part of the action.

There are five different styles of vibraphone playing:

1) Orchestra music

This part is the only one quoted in this piece.The bars 568-575, 582-588, and 688-704 from Leonard Bernstein´s Symphonic Dances from West Side Story represent the classic example of orchestra literature. It´s crucial to preserve the atmosphere of playing in the orchestra – focus, musicality, and contact with the conductor.

2) Vibraphone solo

Change the mindset to the solo recital mode – more expressivity and independency in the musicality.

3) Funk

The beat is essential in this part. Beatboxing while playing the instrument has to be rhythmically perfect.

4) Jazz

Scat the melody while playing it when you feel it. It can be dirty.

5) Contemporary music

The graphic score (pages 10 to 12) represents the new music in this piece. The duration of this part is 2 minutes.

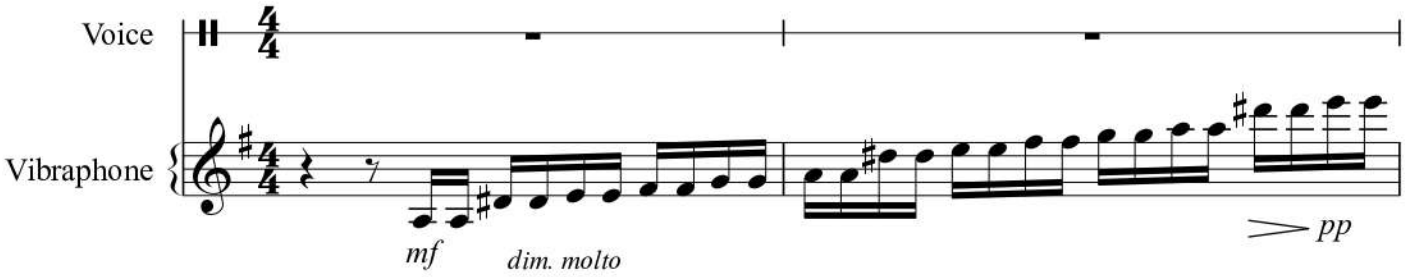
Switching between styles has to be as quick as possible.

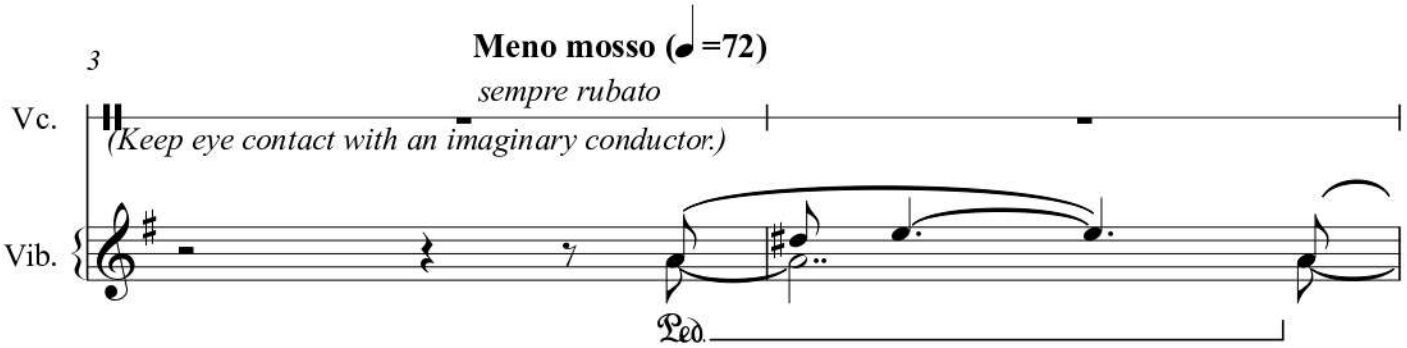
Even though having the score on the stage is part of the performance, it is good to know the piece by heart.

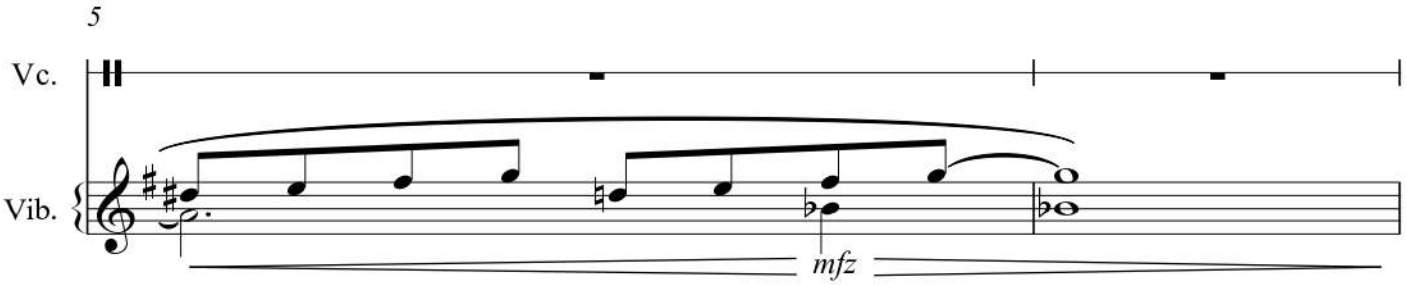
(You´re coming to the stage) Wow! There are so many people!

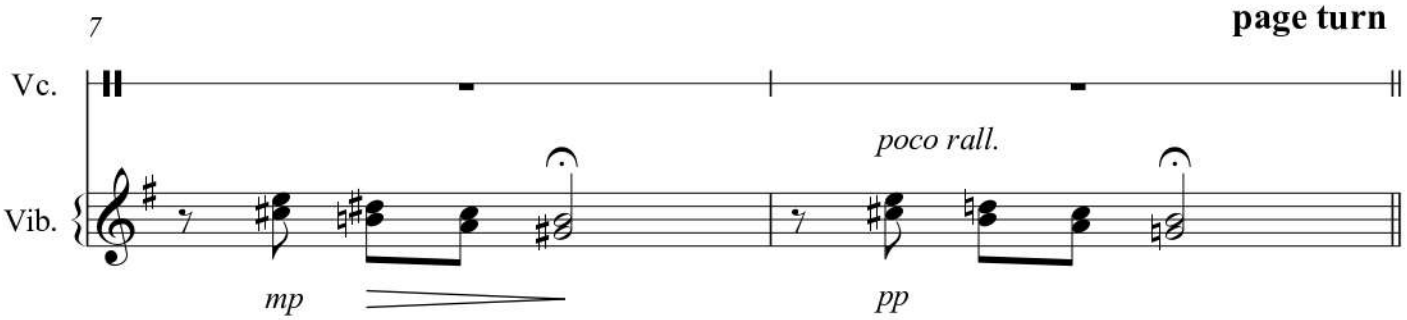
(Bow down)

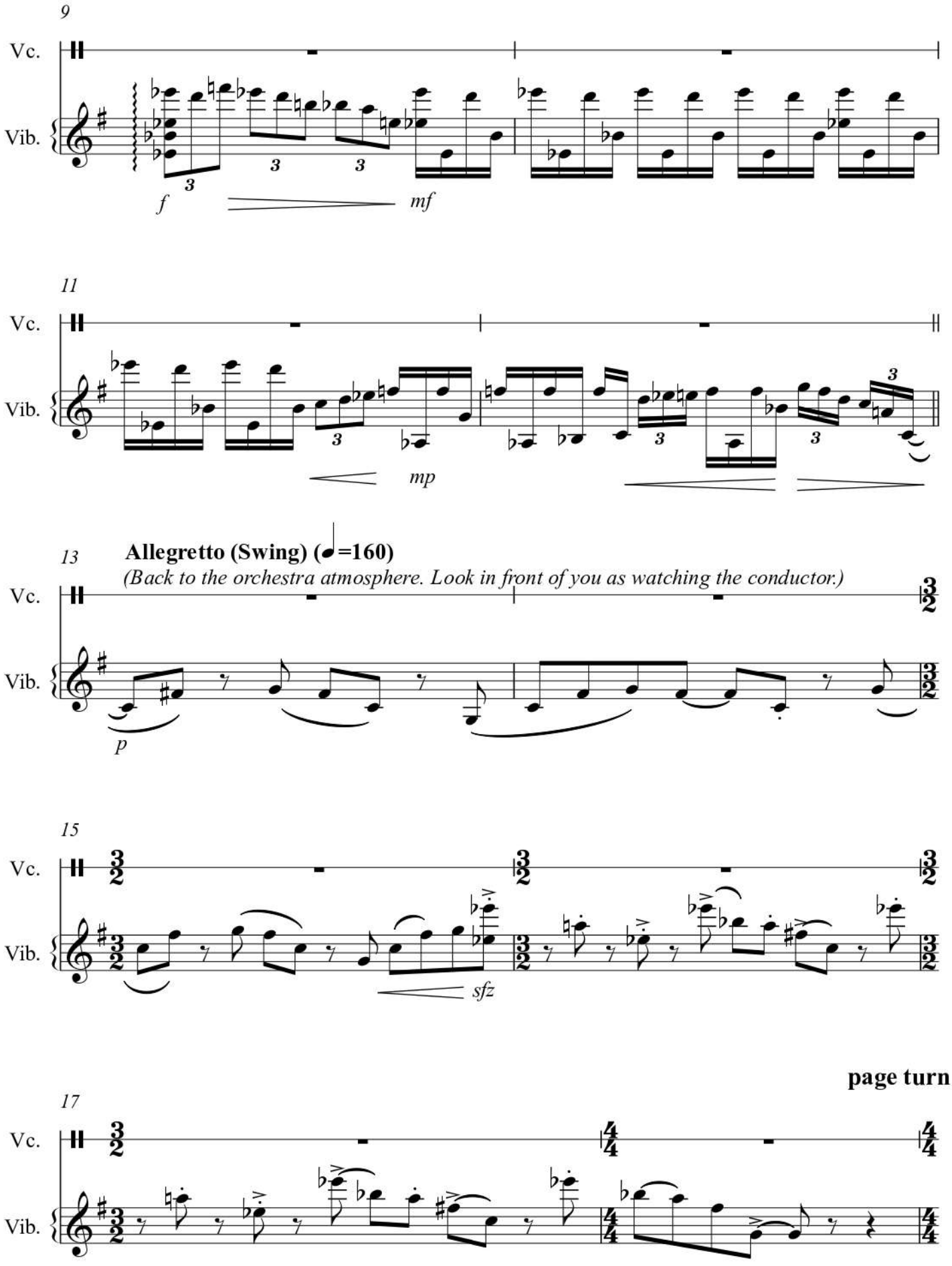
I´ve practiced. It´s going to be awesome! *(Say this sentence twice - firstly silently to yourself, secondly loudly to the audience.Take a look at the imaginary conductor. Start playing)*










9
Vc.
Vib.
f
mf
11
Vc.
Vib.
mp
13
Allegretto (Swing) (♩=160)
(Back to the orchestra atmosphere. Look in front of you as watching the conductor.)
Vc.
Vib.
p
15
Vc.
Vib.
sfz
page turn
17
Vc.
Vib.

Funky (♩=101)

(Improvise funky style beat box through the whole funky part. Move with music. Stay on top of things)

19

Vc.

Vib.

21

sim. ad. lib.

Vc.

Vib.

23

Vc.

Vib.

Andante (♩= 80)

25

(Solo recital situation. Hum the melody.)

Vc.

Vib.

mf

27

Vc.

Vib.

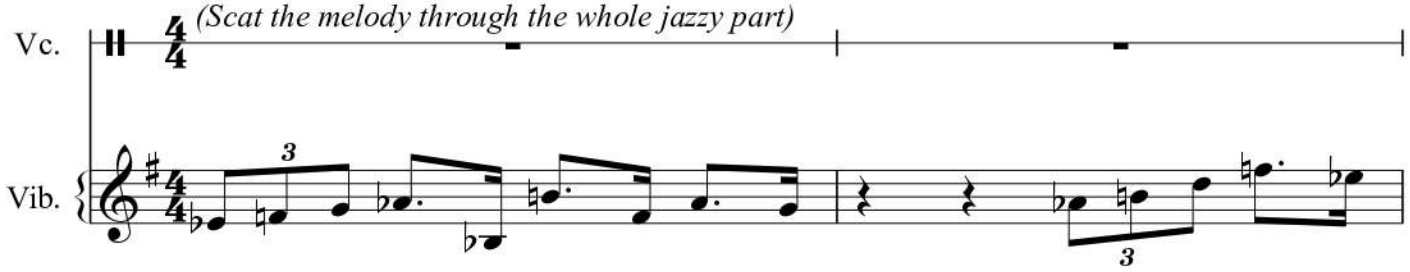
sub. p

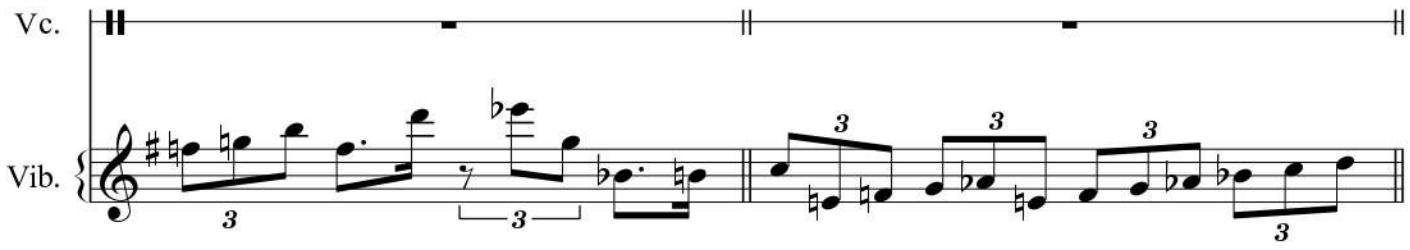
f

29

Jazz (♩= 90)

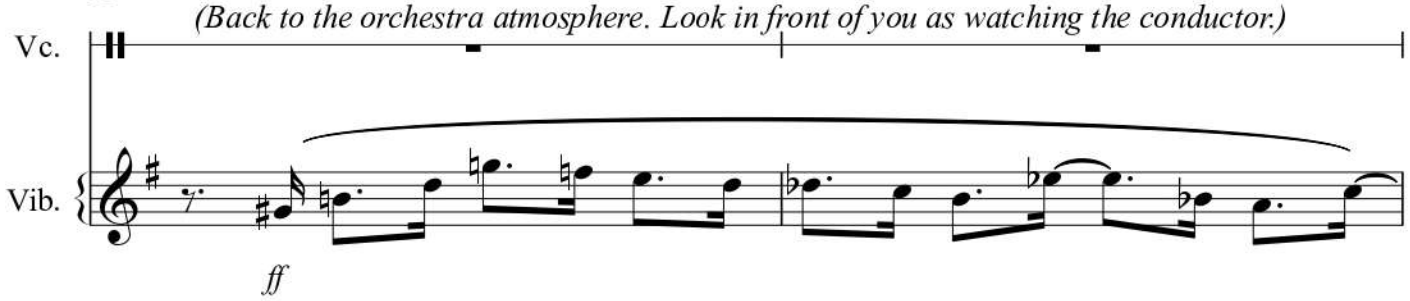
(Scat the melody through the whole jazzy part)



31

33

Allegretto (Swing) (♩=160)

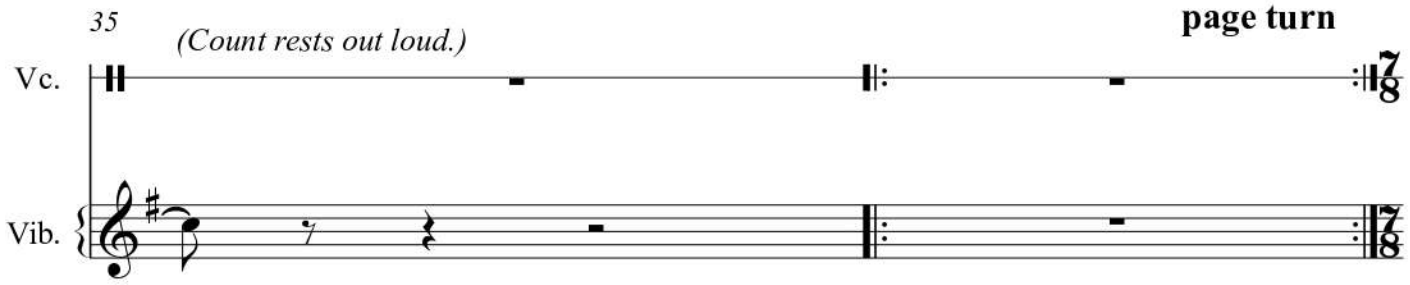
(Back to the orchestra atmosphere. Look in front of you as watching the conductor.)



35

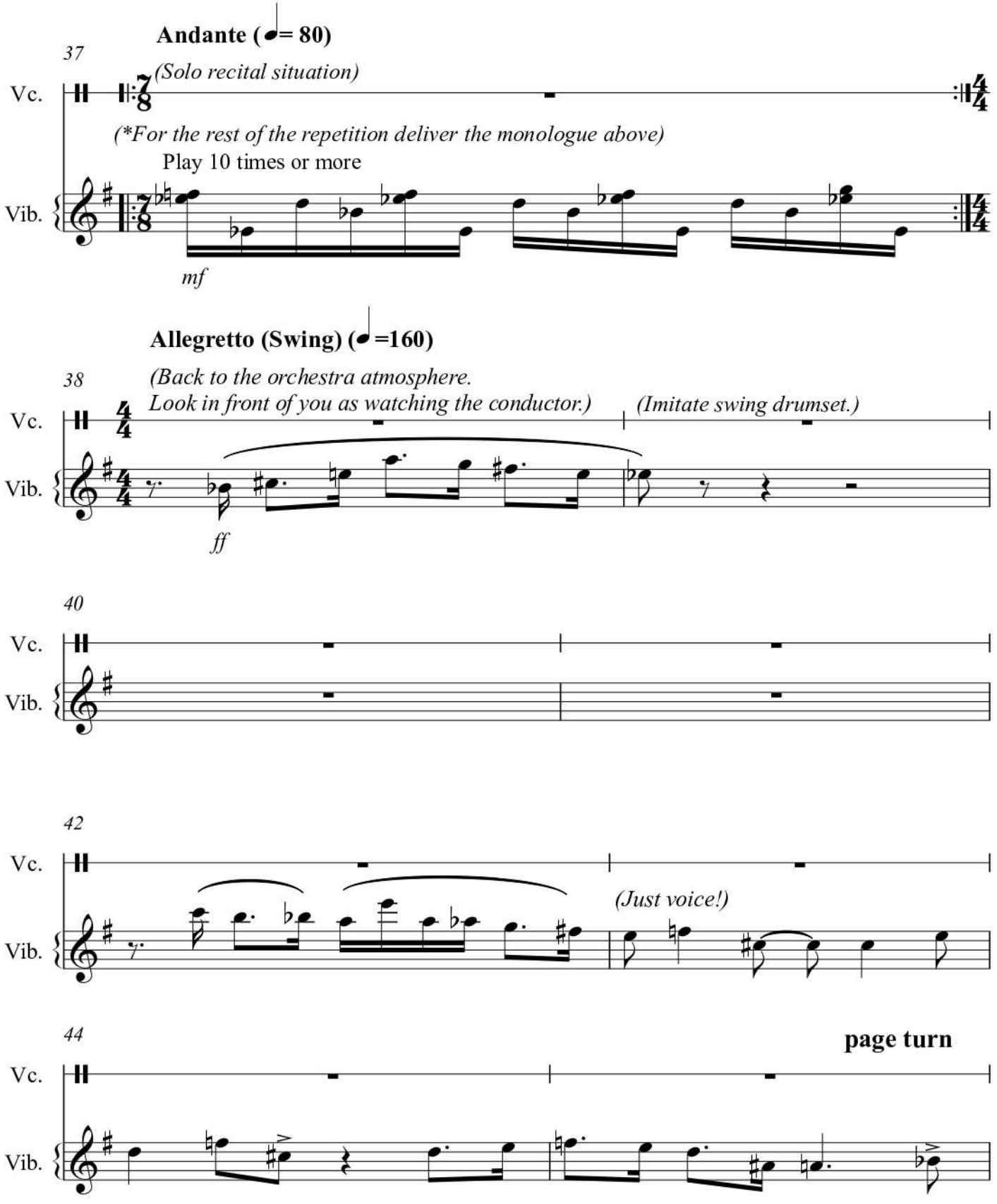
(Count rests out loud.)

page turn



**(Sigh. Look into the score)* It says: "play 10 times or more." *(Sigh again)*

Yeah. So, what do you think? Do you like it? Yes? No? Talk to me, people! *(Pause a little bit).*

Anyway, I´m hungry. I´d fancy...*(Deliver a monologue about a certain kind of food. Play with the pace of the vibraphone part).*

46

Vc.

Vib.

(Vibraphone)

mf *dim. molto*

48

Vc.

Vib.

pp

Funky (♩=101)

50 *(Improvise funky style beat box through the whole funky part. Move with music. Stay on top of things)*

Vc.

Vib.

52

Vc.

Vib.

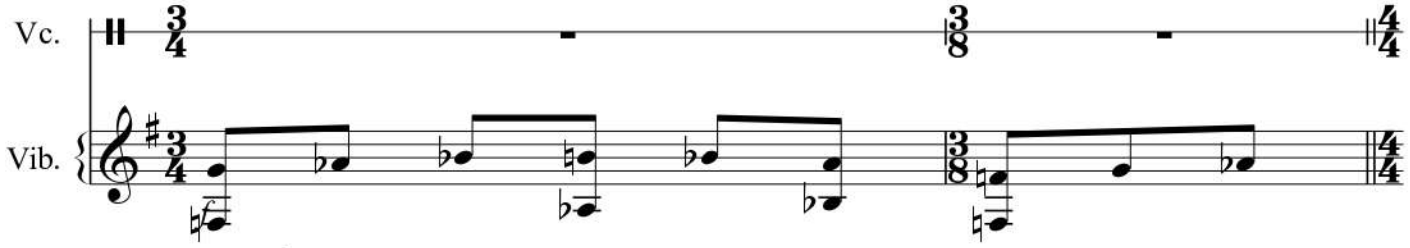
Andante (♩= 80)

54 *(Solo recital situation.)*

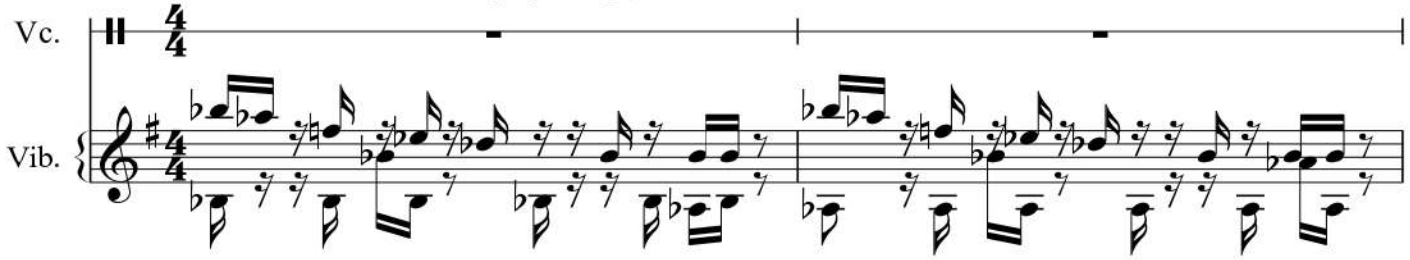
Vc.

Vib.

mp

56

Funky (♩=101)

(Improvise funky style beat box through the whole funky part.

58 *Move with music. Stay on top of things)*

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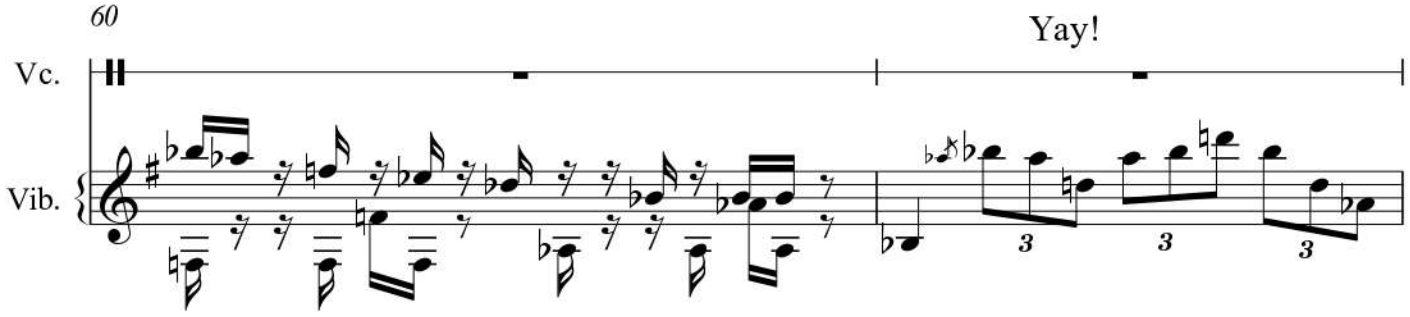
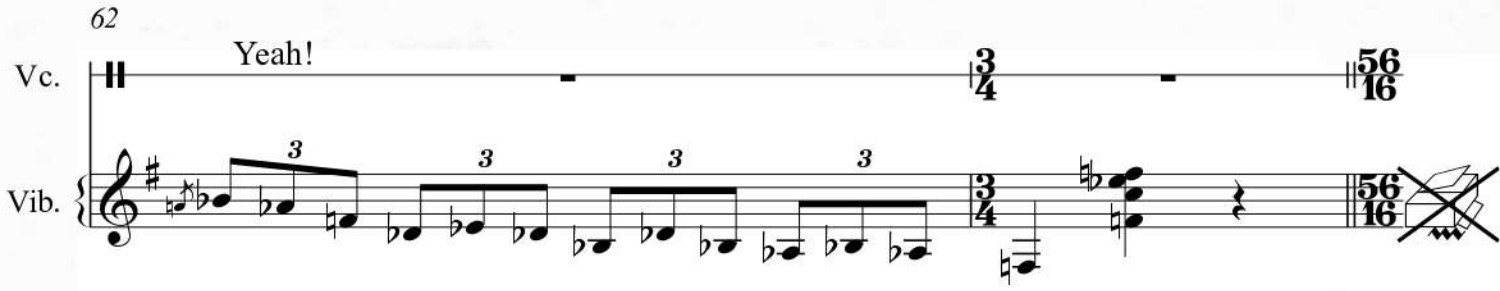
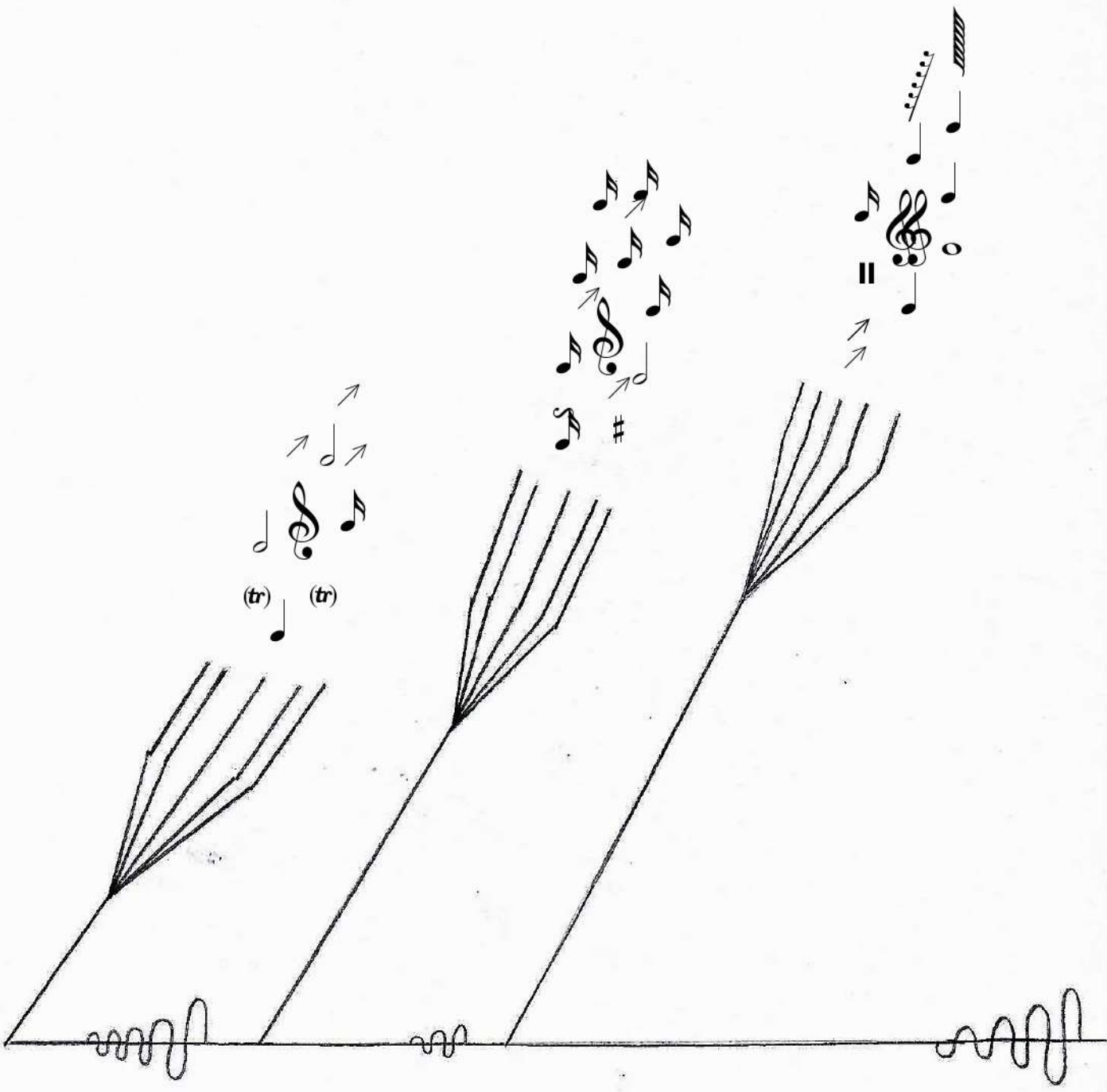

62
Yeah!
Vc.
Vib.
3
3
3
3
3/4
56/16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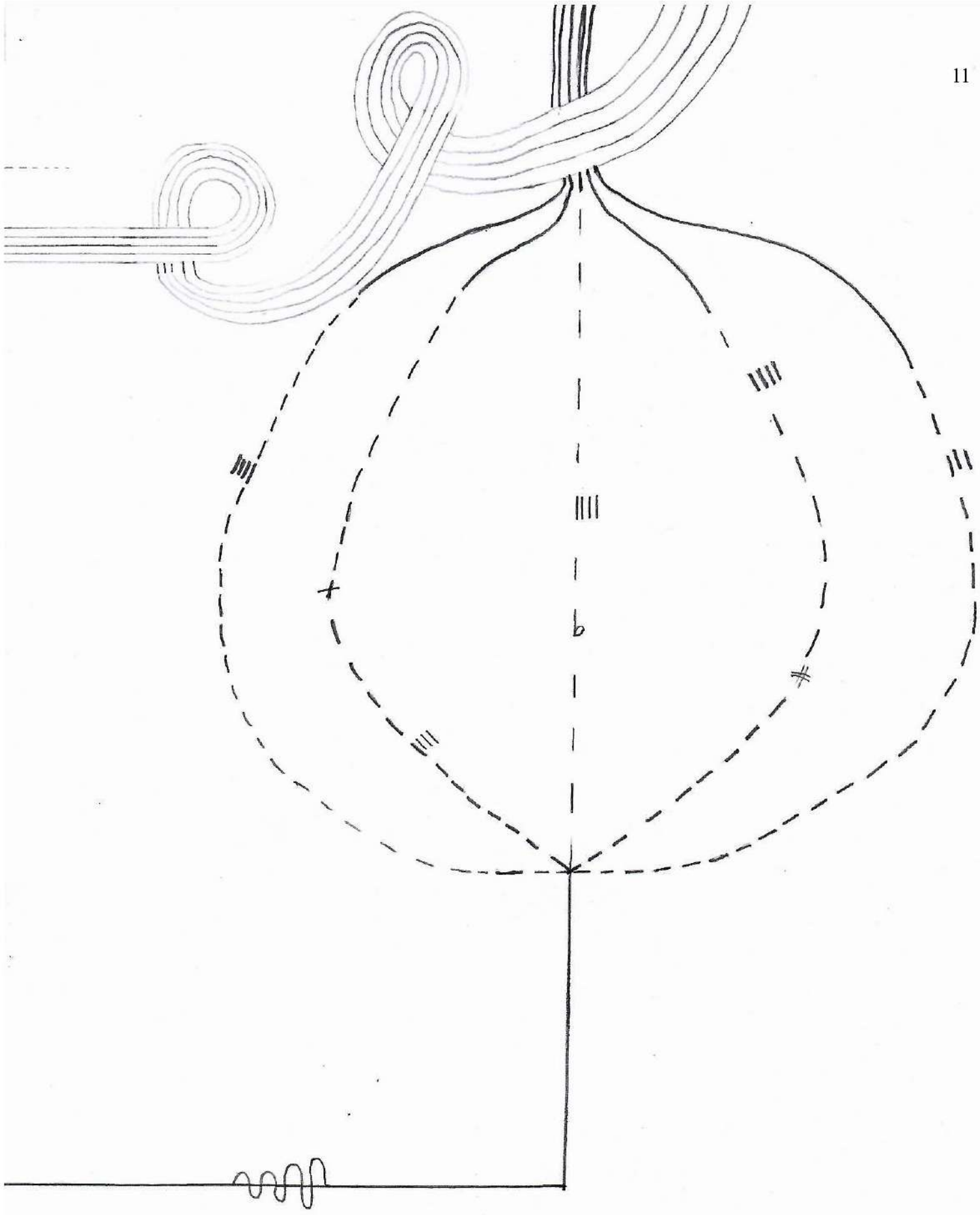

b

What is this?

Really?!

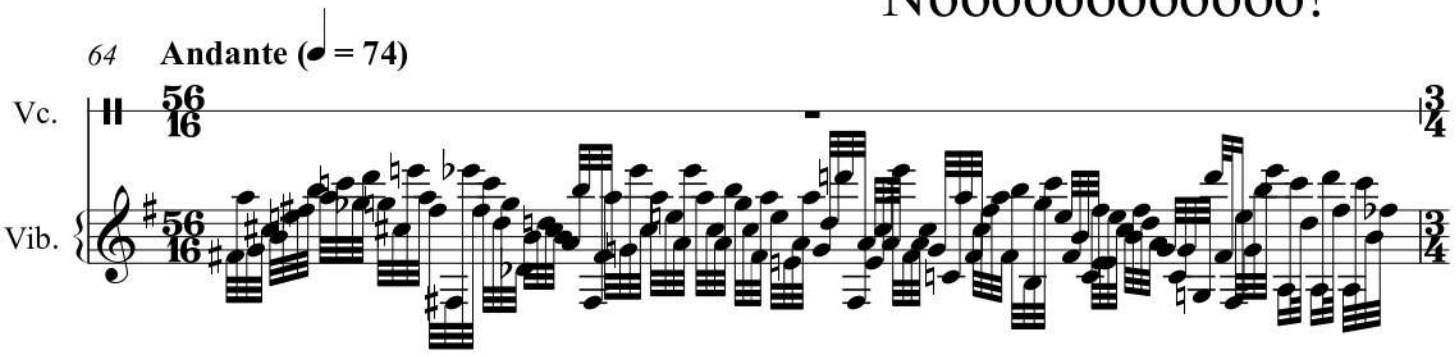
Who has written this piece?

Has the composer ever seen a vibraphone?
(Check the name of the composer on the front page.)

Classic!

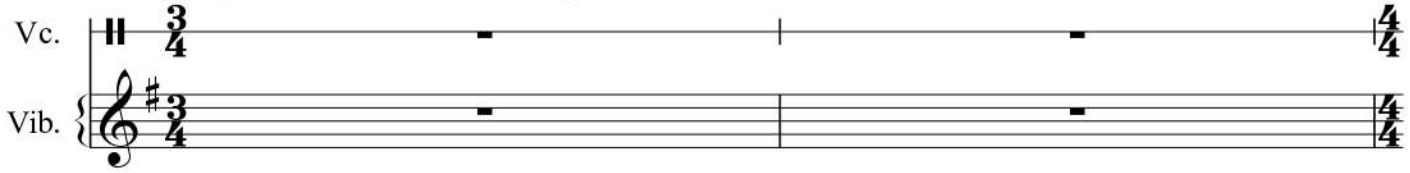
I can do it! We can do it! *(make the same gesture as the women on the J. Howard Miller's "We Can Do It!" poster)*

Noooooooooooo!

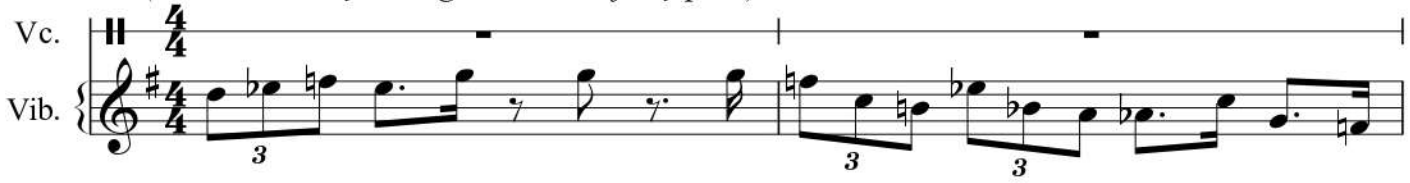


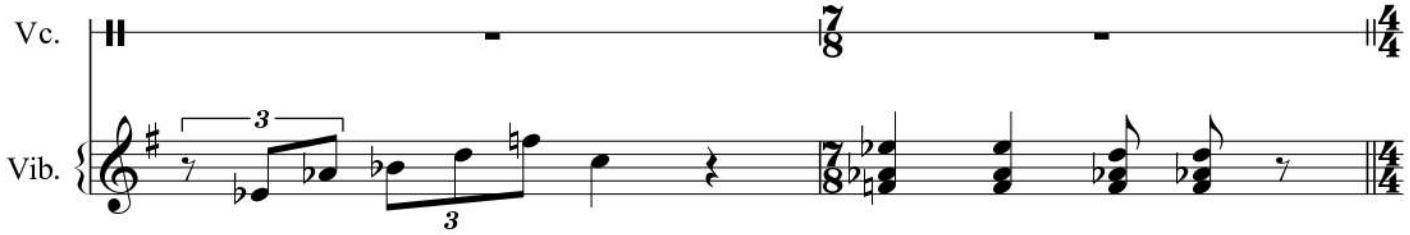
(Build the tension through the bar)

65 *(Breath in and out audibely)*



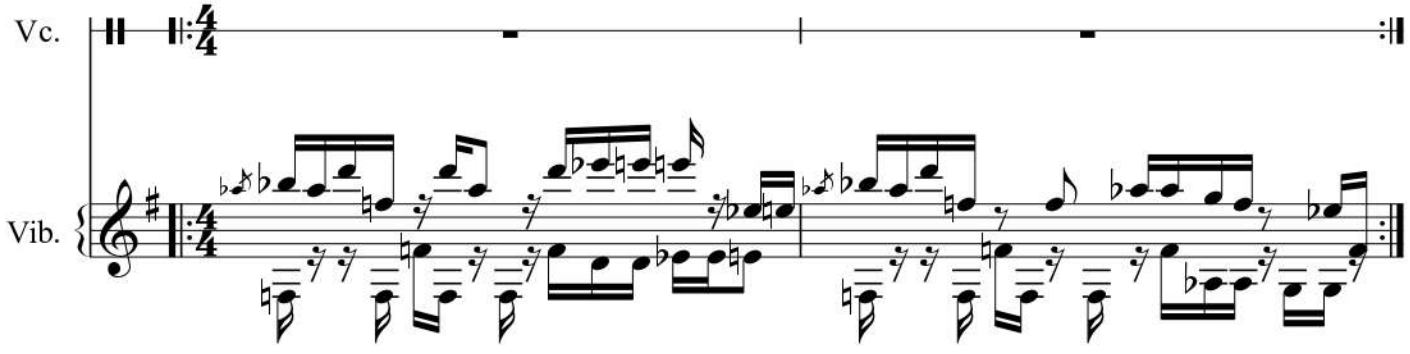
Jazz (♩= 90)

67 *(Scat the melody through the whole jazzy part.)*

69



Funky (♩= 80)

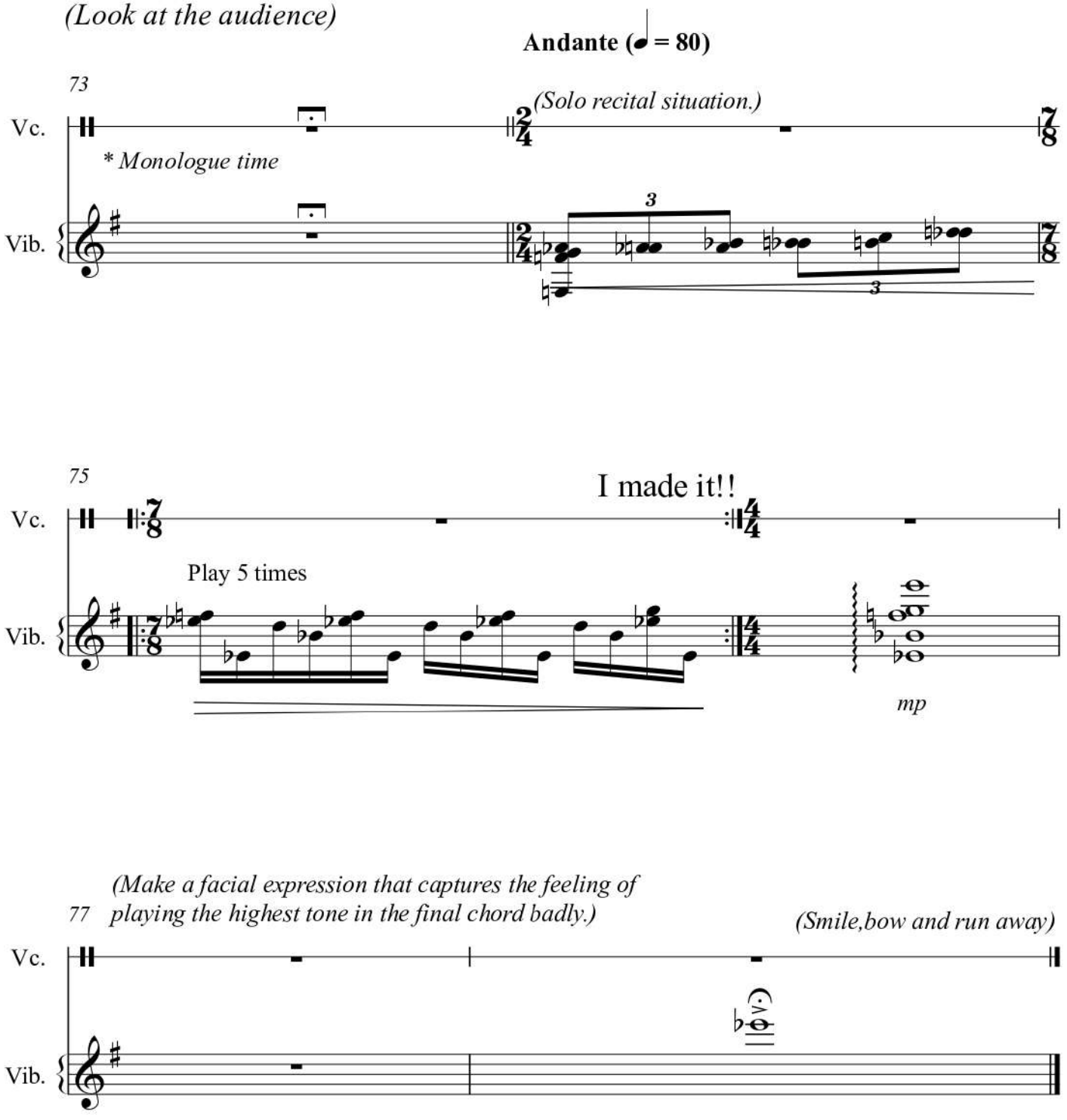
(Improvise funky style beat box through the whole funky part.
71 *Move with music. Stay on top of things)*



* Wait! They are not playing! *(Look confused)*

125, 126, 127, 128 or 129...*(Flip quickly through the pages)*

(Look lost)

Oh no!

(Look at the audience)