The Things I Want to Tell You

for soprano, cello, and percussion

Alexa Letourneau

I want to tell you

I want to tell you how my notes app knows more about me
than my therapist does
I have to write down every flash of identity that comes to me
Every philosophy and metaphor
Every label
Before I continue floating
No adjectives attached

Who am I then?

I want to tell you about the 24 years of practice I have
calculating every action, every word
Sculpting the "self" you see, the "me" that you see
So that others don't think about me
what I think about myself

Is that manipulation?
Is that wrong?

I want to tell you my story
without careful curation
All of the details of my trauma
Which together make up the only "me" I've ever known.

Is that even me?

The problem is
I don't know either
It hurts too much to think about

And I'm scared of what you would think

text by Alexa Letourneau

The Things I Want to Tell You

for soprano, cello, and percussion (vibraphone and buk or similar leather drum)

Alexa Letourneau

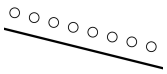
7′

May 2023

Hairpins with a circled tip indicate to or from niente

Open rectangle notehead indicates non-pitched sound produced by extremely slow bow speed

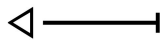
Closed rectangle notehead indicates non-specific pitch



Glissando lines with harmonic circles indicate open harmonic glissandi, moving up and down the string with harmonic pressure; no specific pitches are expected

Solid black mark above vocal staff indicates adding vocal fry

Solid black above the cello staff indicates overpressure



Backwards line indicates ingressive (inhaling) singing

Triangle fermatas indicate a relatively short pause

Plus indicates left hand pizzicato

Throughout all meter changes, the eighth note remains consistent, except where marked

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words and music by
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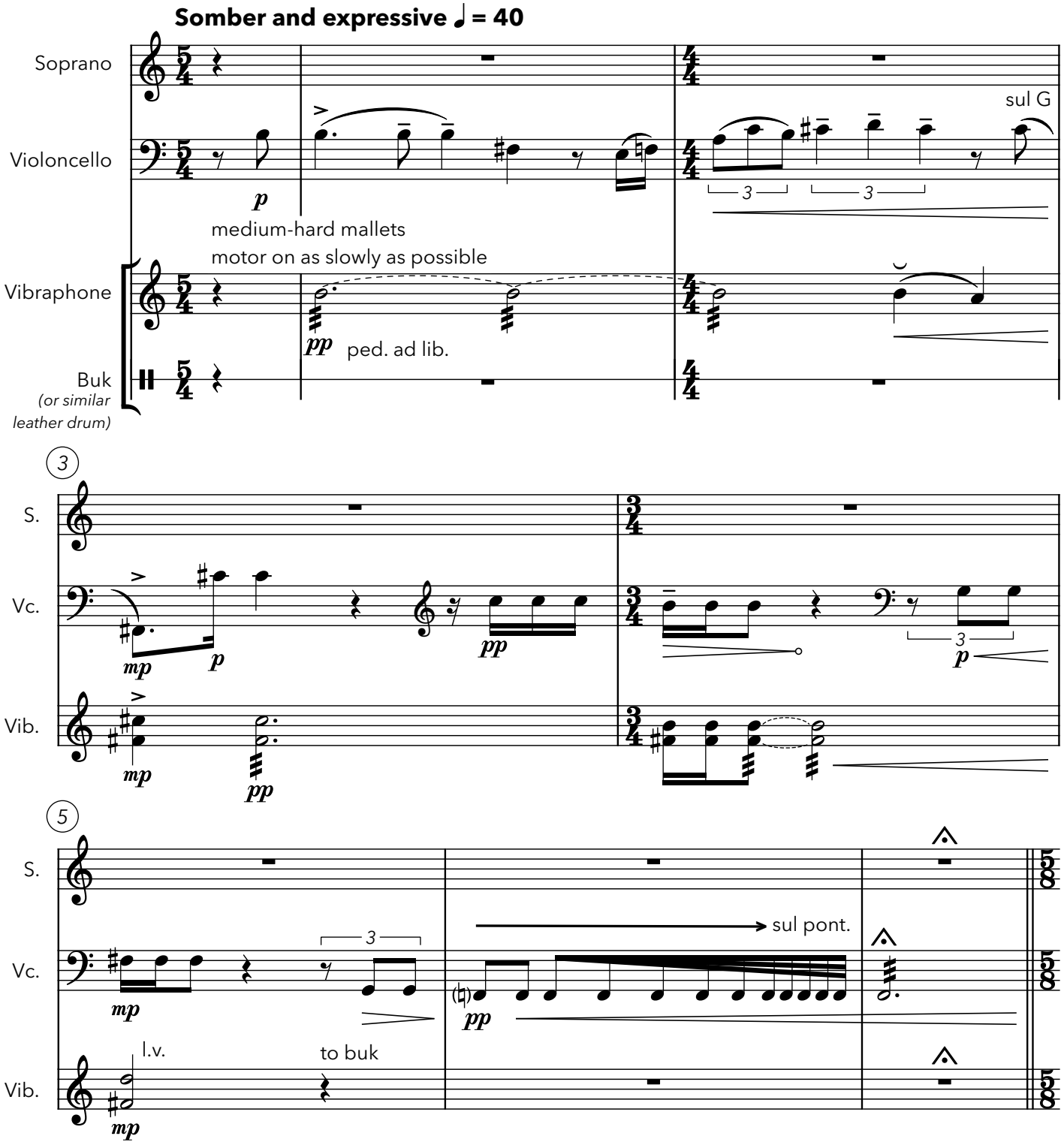

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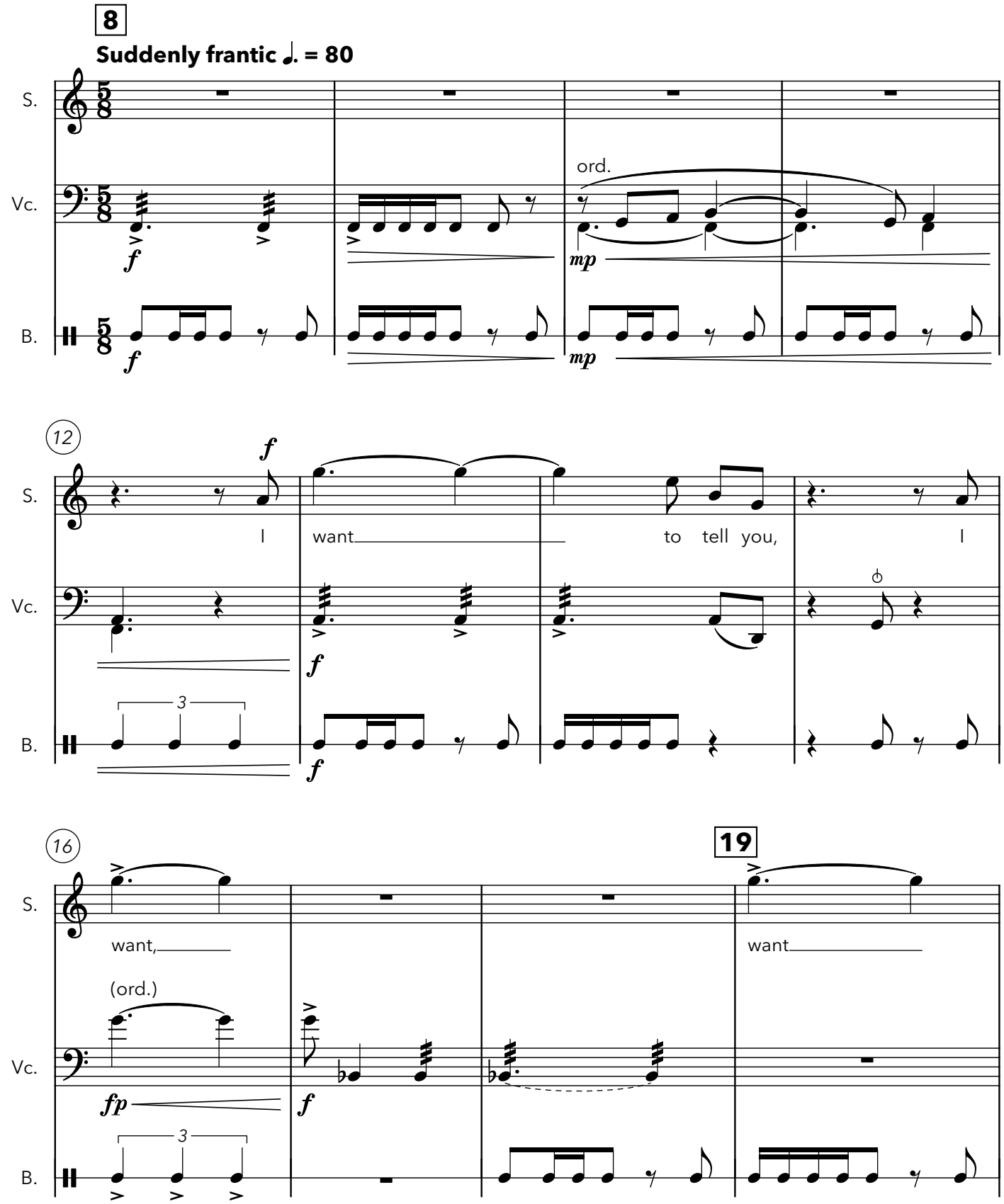
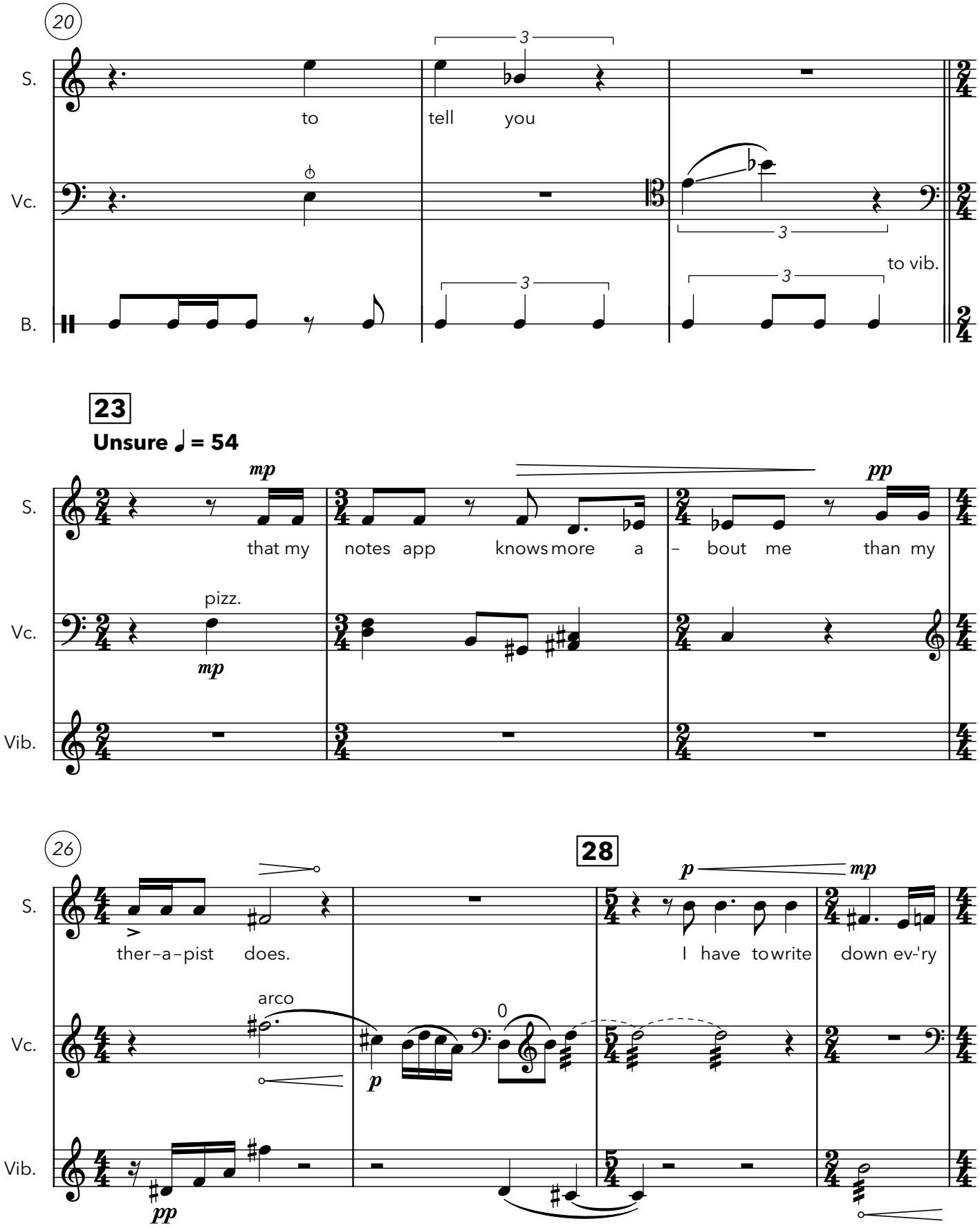
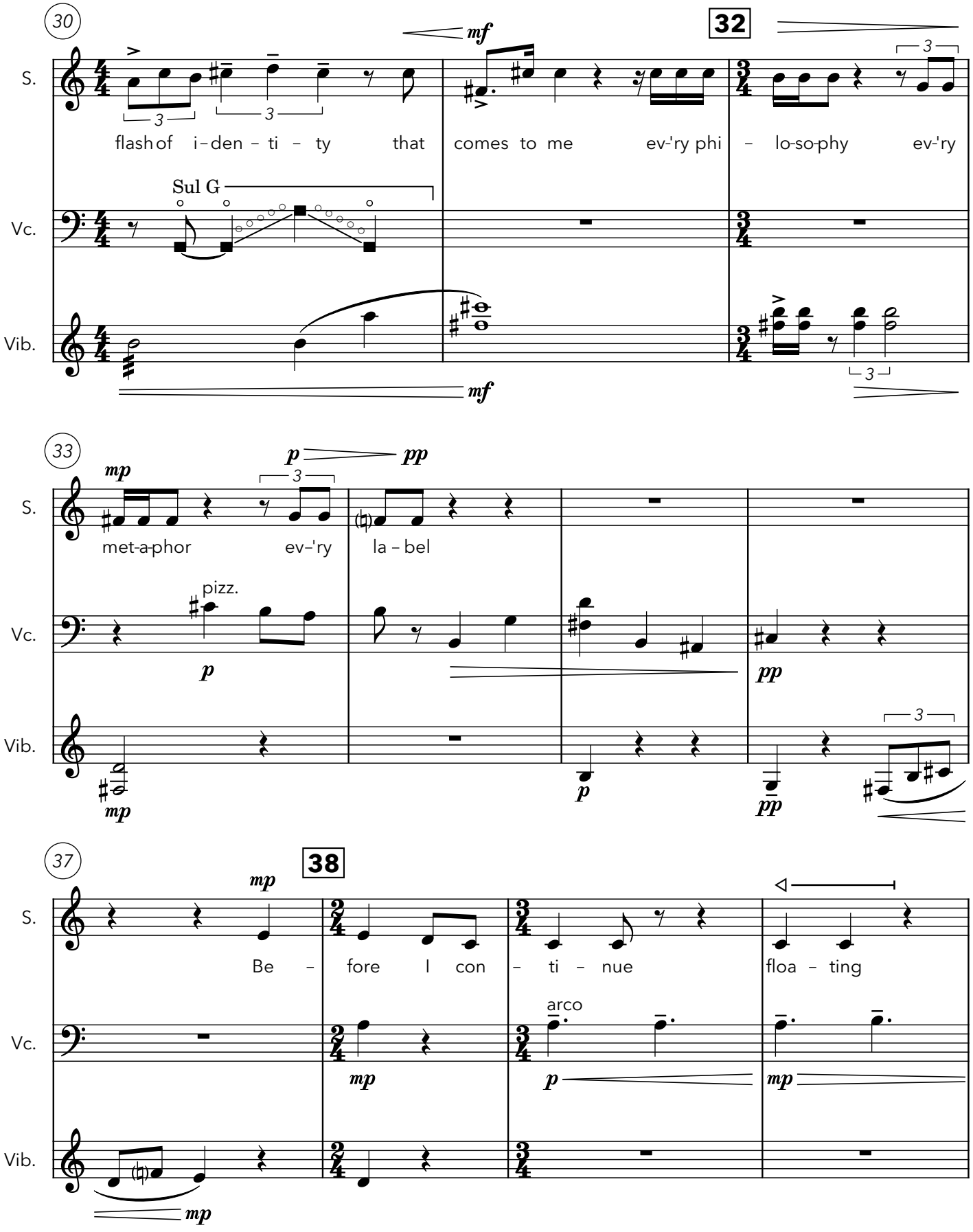
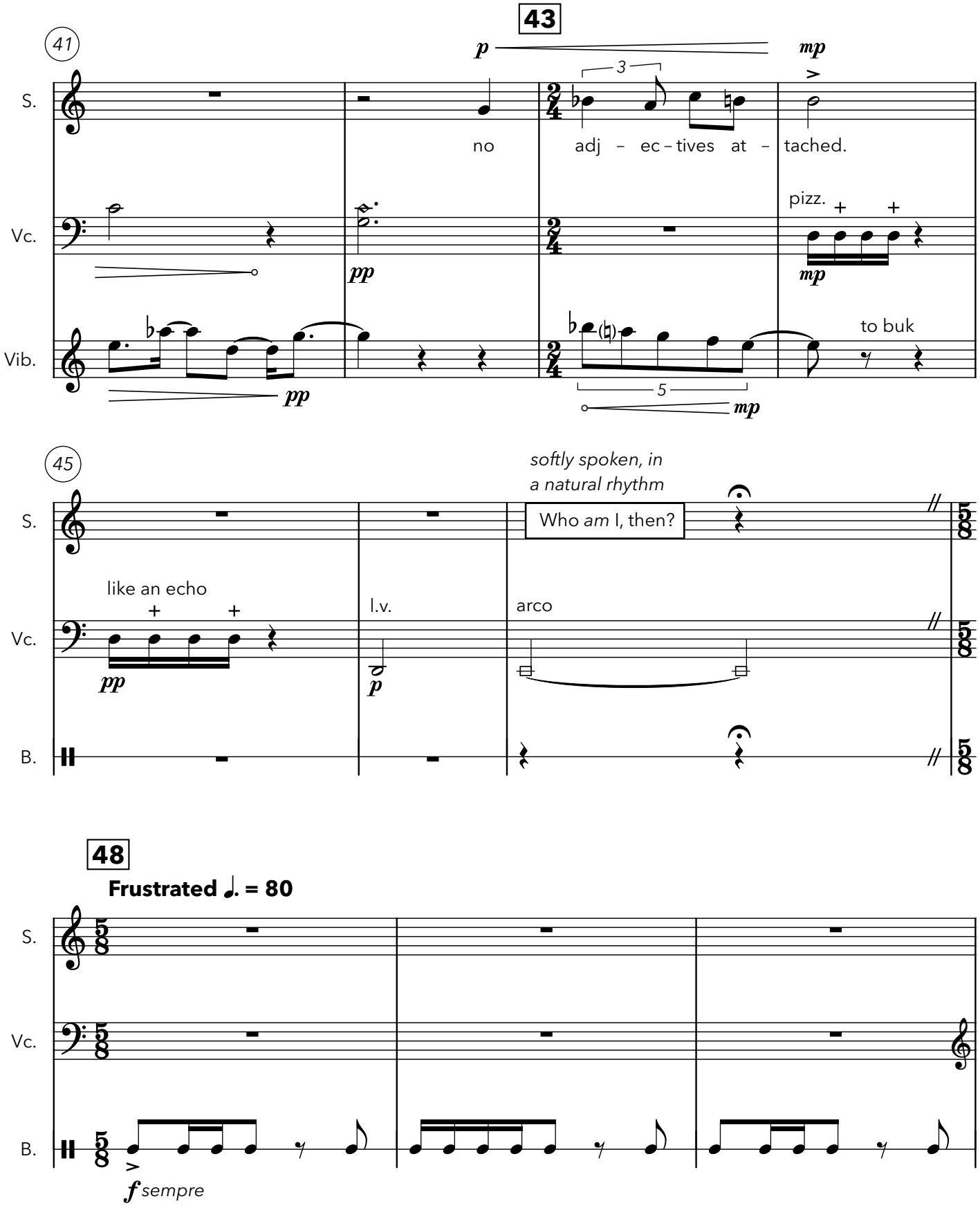
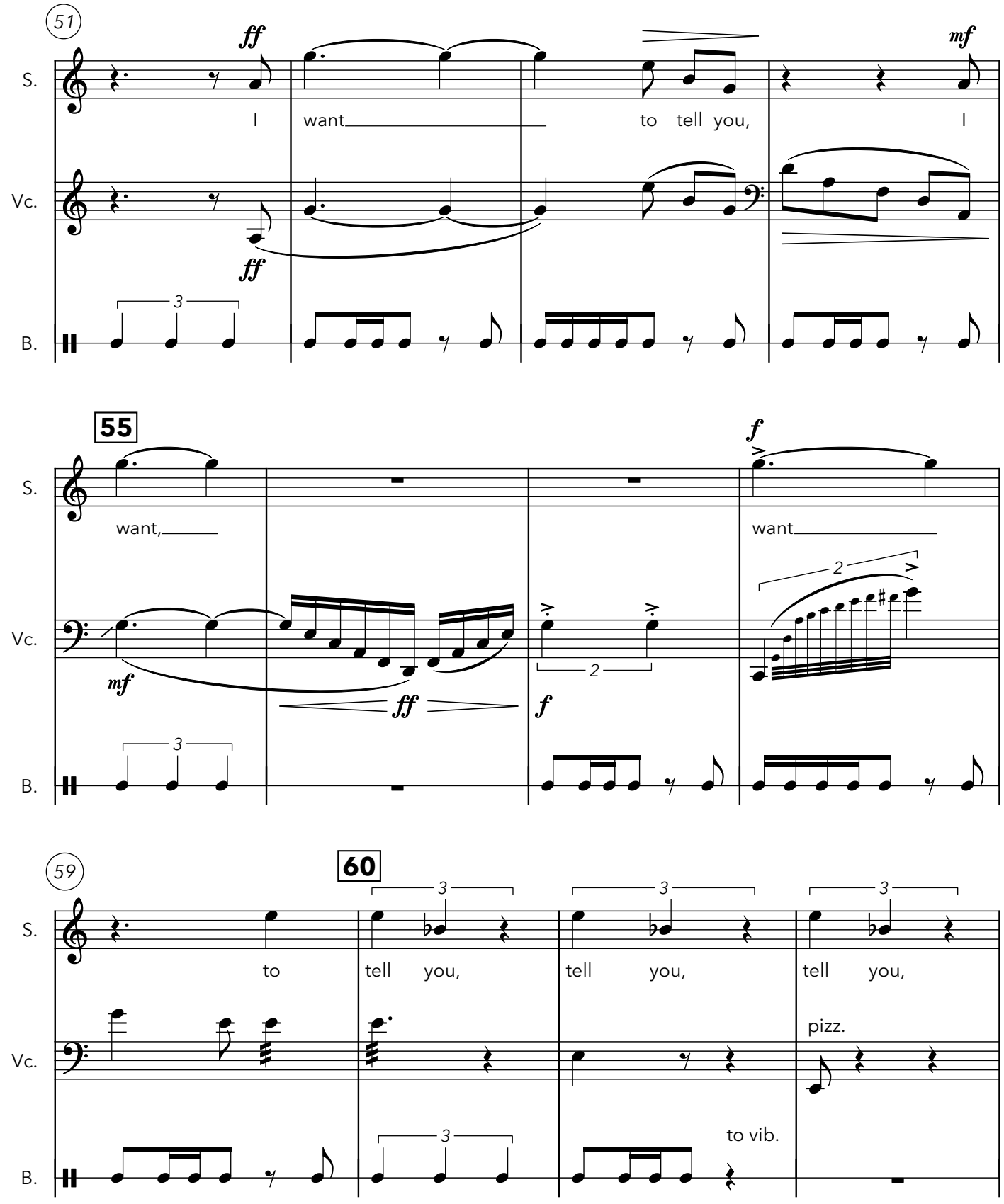
alexaletourneau.com

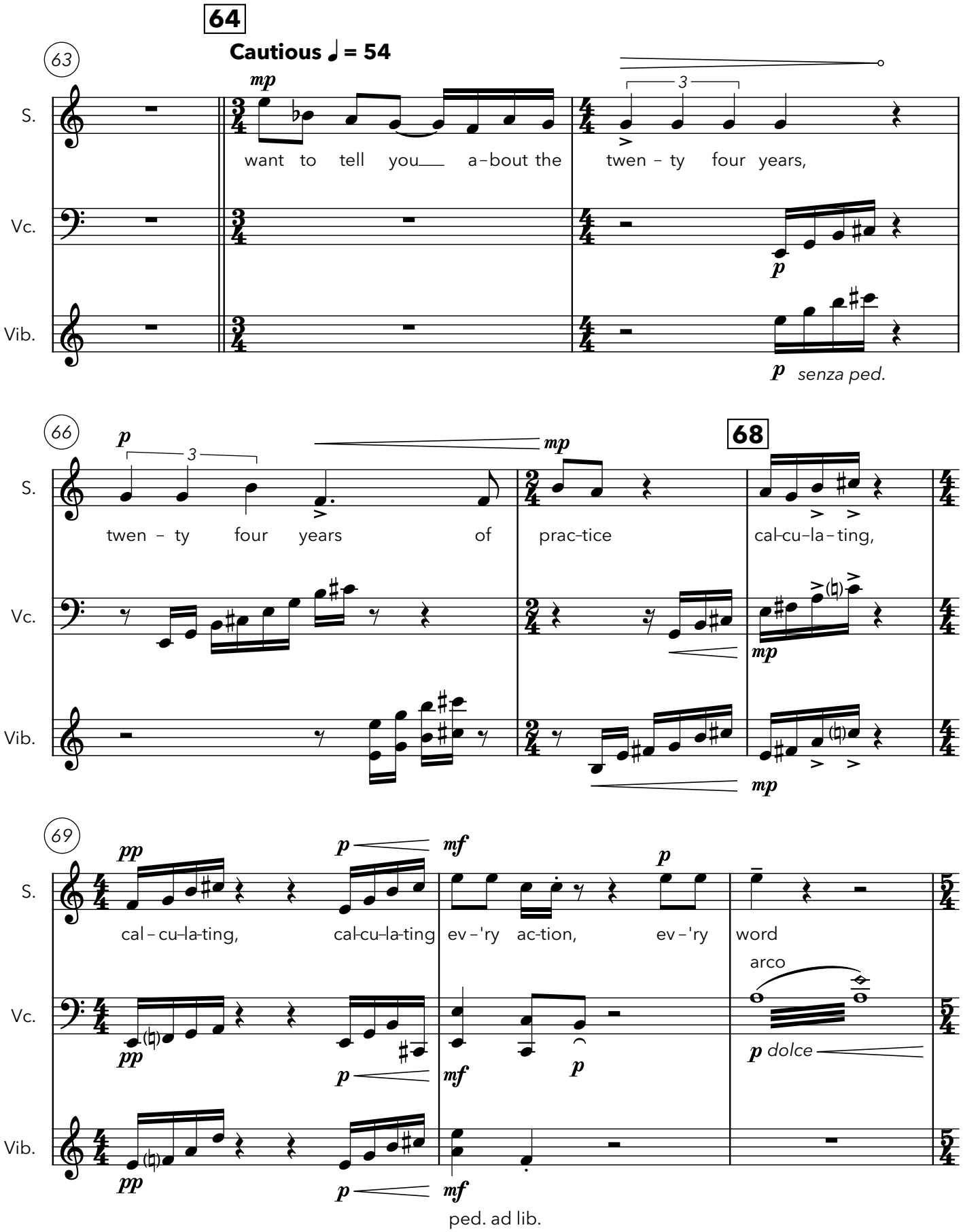

8
Suddenly frantic ♩. = 80
S.
Vc.
B.
ord.
mp
12
I want to tell you, I
16
19
want,
want
(ord.)
fp
3

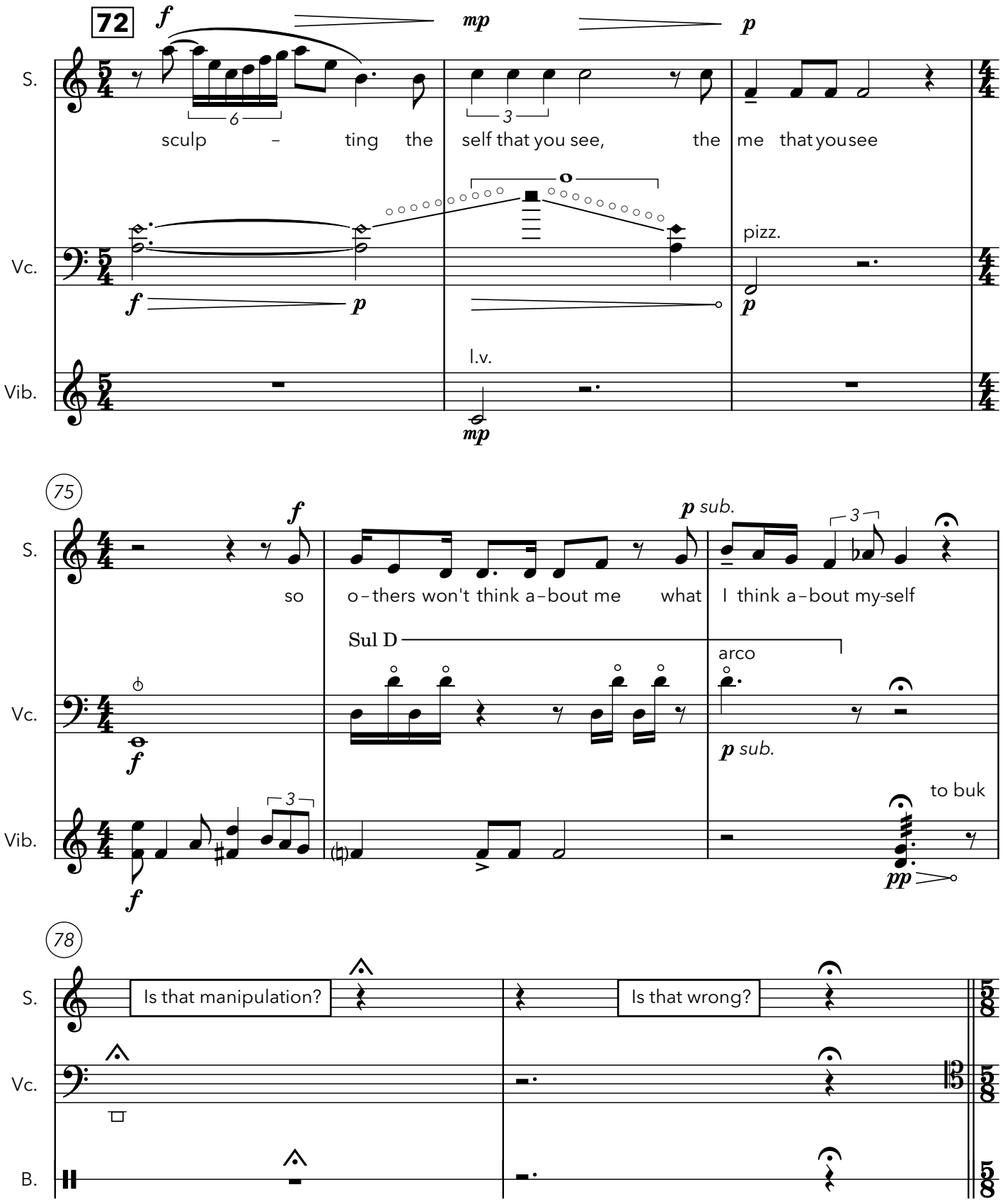

20
S.
Vc.
B.
to
tell you
3
to vib.
23
Unsure ♩ = 54
mp
pp
that my notes app knows more a – bout me than my
pizz.
mp
Vib.
26
28
p
mp
ther–a–pist does.
I have to write down ev-'ry
arco
0
p
pp

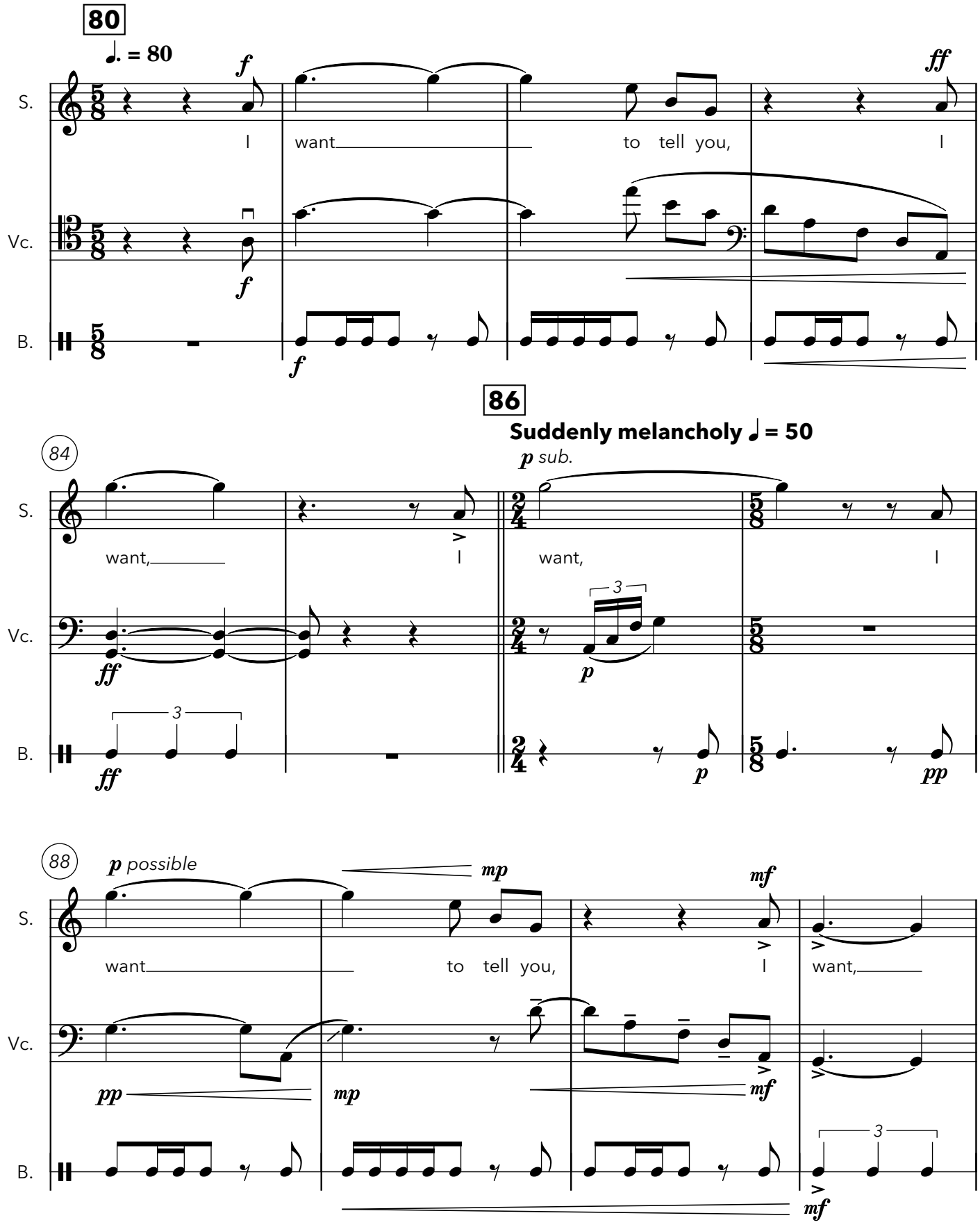

30
32
S.
Vc.
Vib.
mf
flash of i – den – ti – ty that comes to me ev-'ry phi – lo-so-phy ev-'ry
Sul G
33
mp
p
pp
met-a-phor ev–'ry la – bel
pizz.
37
38
Be – fore I con – ti – nue floa – ting
arco

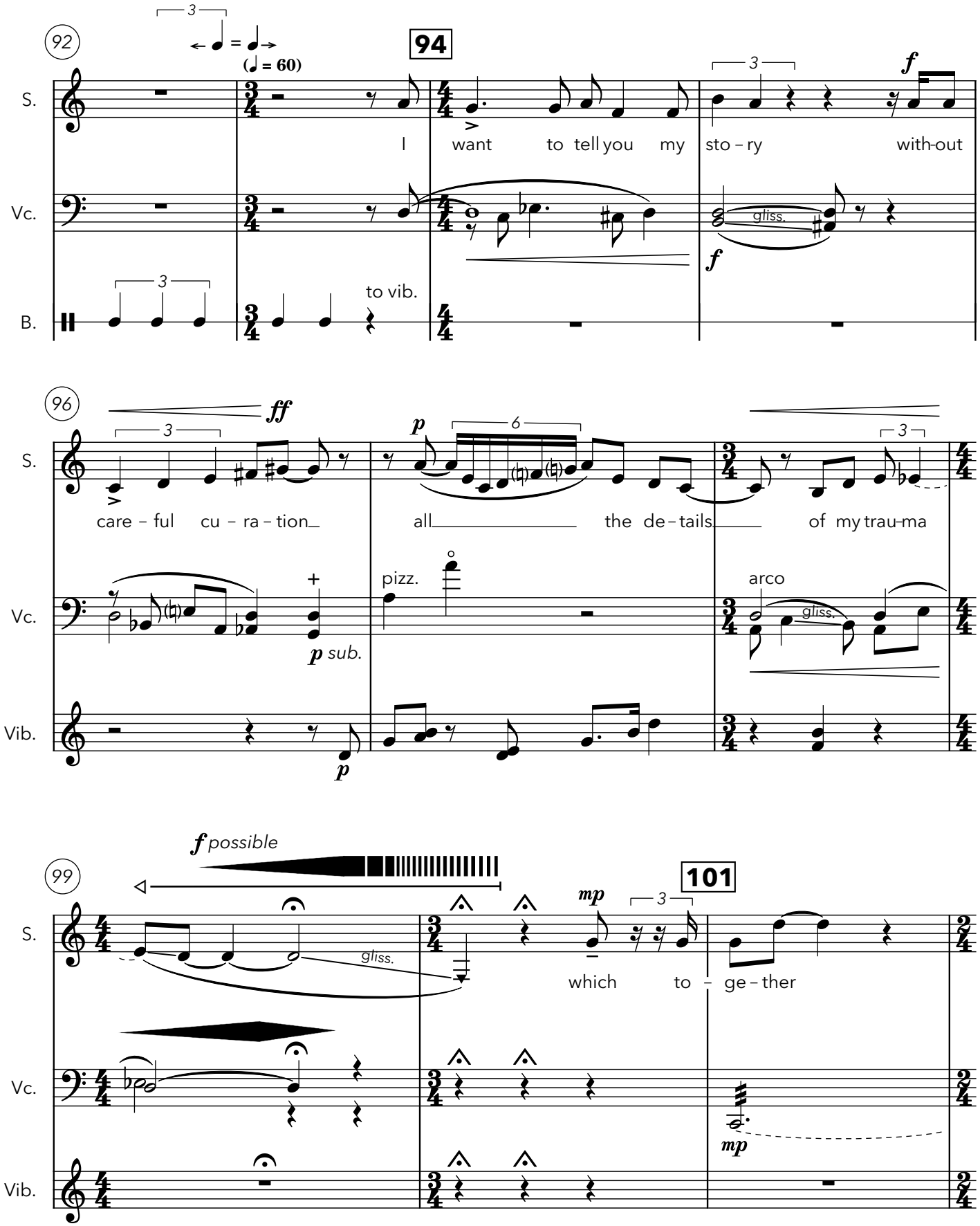

43
41
p
mp
3
S.
no
adj – ec – tives at – tached.
Vc.
pizz.
pp
mp
Vib.
to buk
pp
5
mp
45
softly spoken, in
a natural rhythm
S.
Who am I, then?
like an echo
Vc.
l.v.
arco
pp
p
B.
48
Frustrated ♩. = 80
S.
Vc.
B.
f sempre

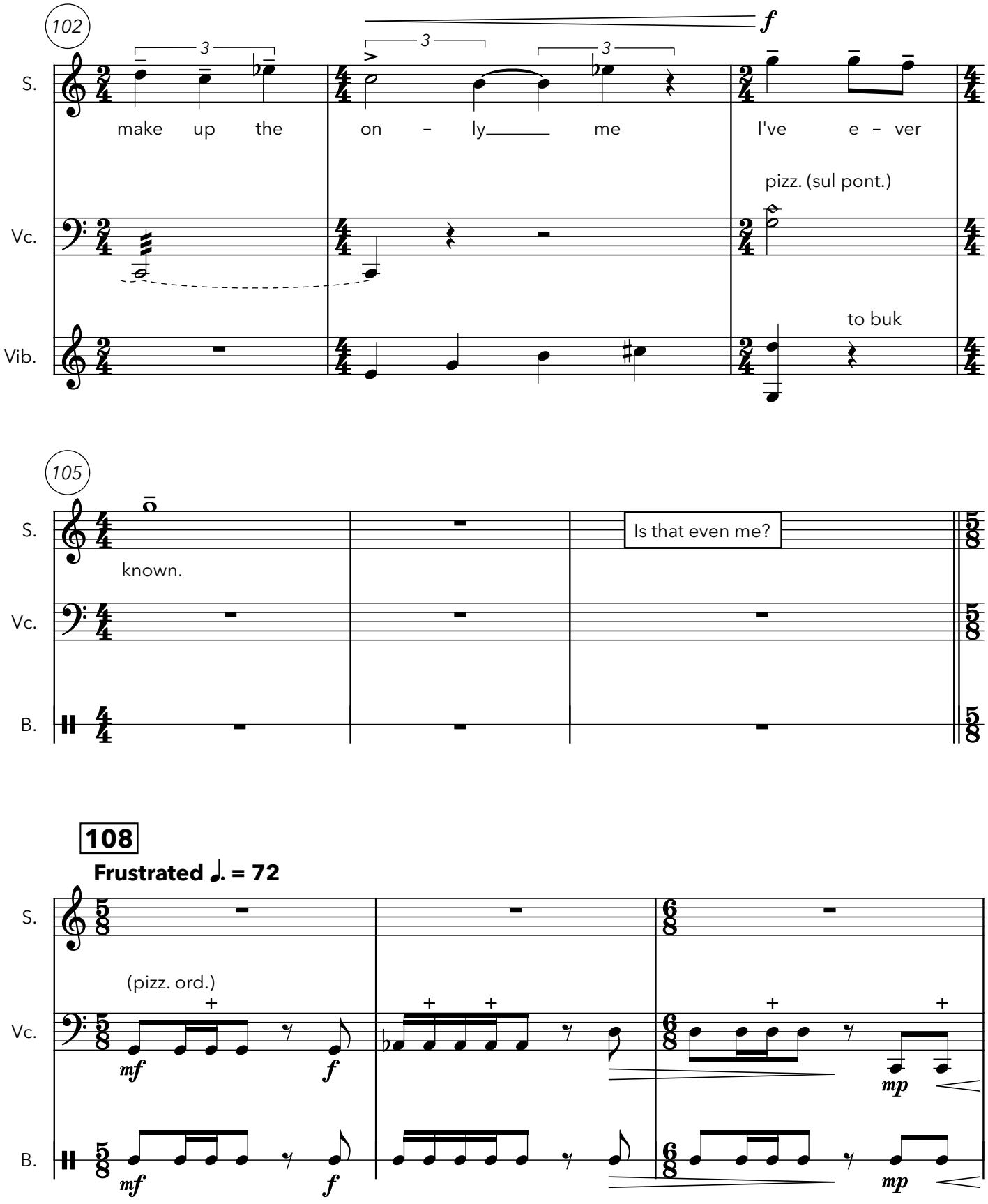

51
ff
mf
S.
I want to tell you, I
Vc.
ff
3
B.
55
f
S.
want, want
Vc.
mf
ff
f
2
2
3
B.
59
60
S.
to tell you, tell you, tell you,
3
3
3
Vc.
pizz.
B.
3
to vib.

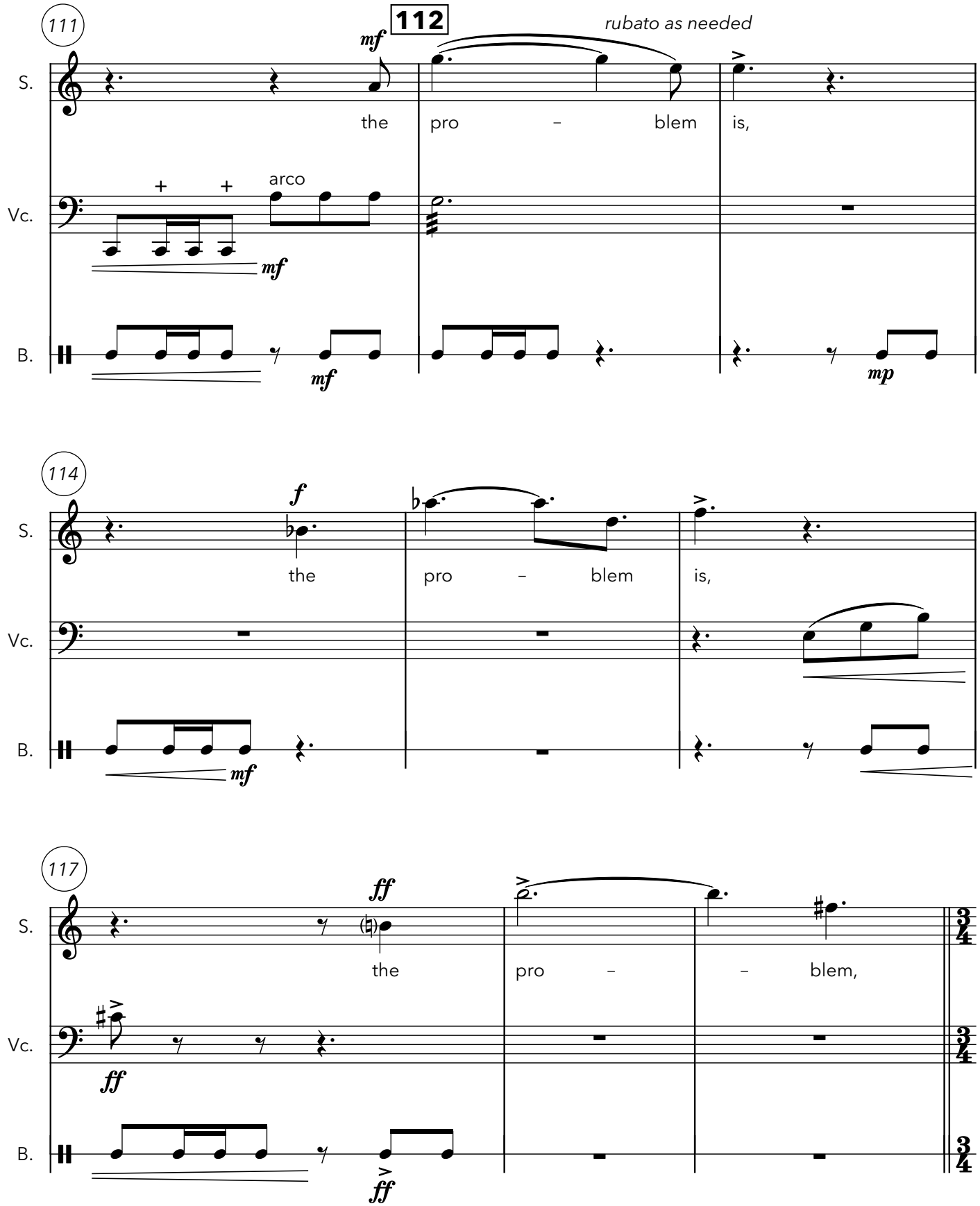

64
Cautious ♩ = 54
63
S.
Vc.
Vib.
mp
want to tell you a-bout the
3
twen - ty four years,
p
p senza ped.
66
68
p
mp
twen - ty four years of
prac-tice
cal-cu-la-ting,
69
pp
p
mf
cal - cu-la-ting, cal-cu-la-ting
ev - 'ry ac-tion, ev - 'ry
word
arco
p dolce
ped. ad lib.

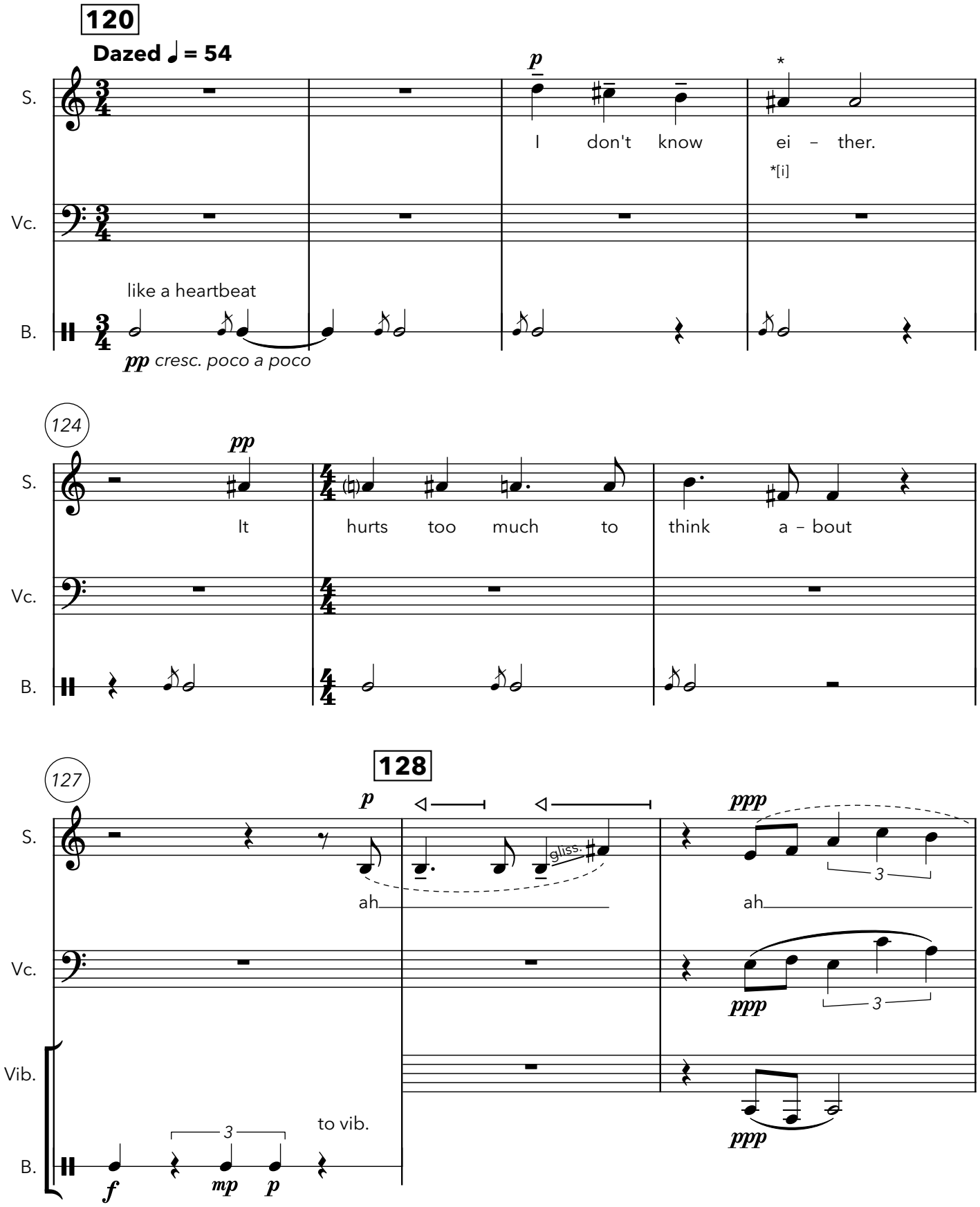

72
S.
Vc.
Vib.
sculp – ting the self that you see, the me that you see
pizz.
l.v.
75
so o–thers won't think a–bout me what I think a–bout my-self
Sul D
arco
to buk
78
Is that manipulation?
Is that wrong?
B.

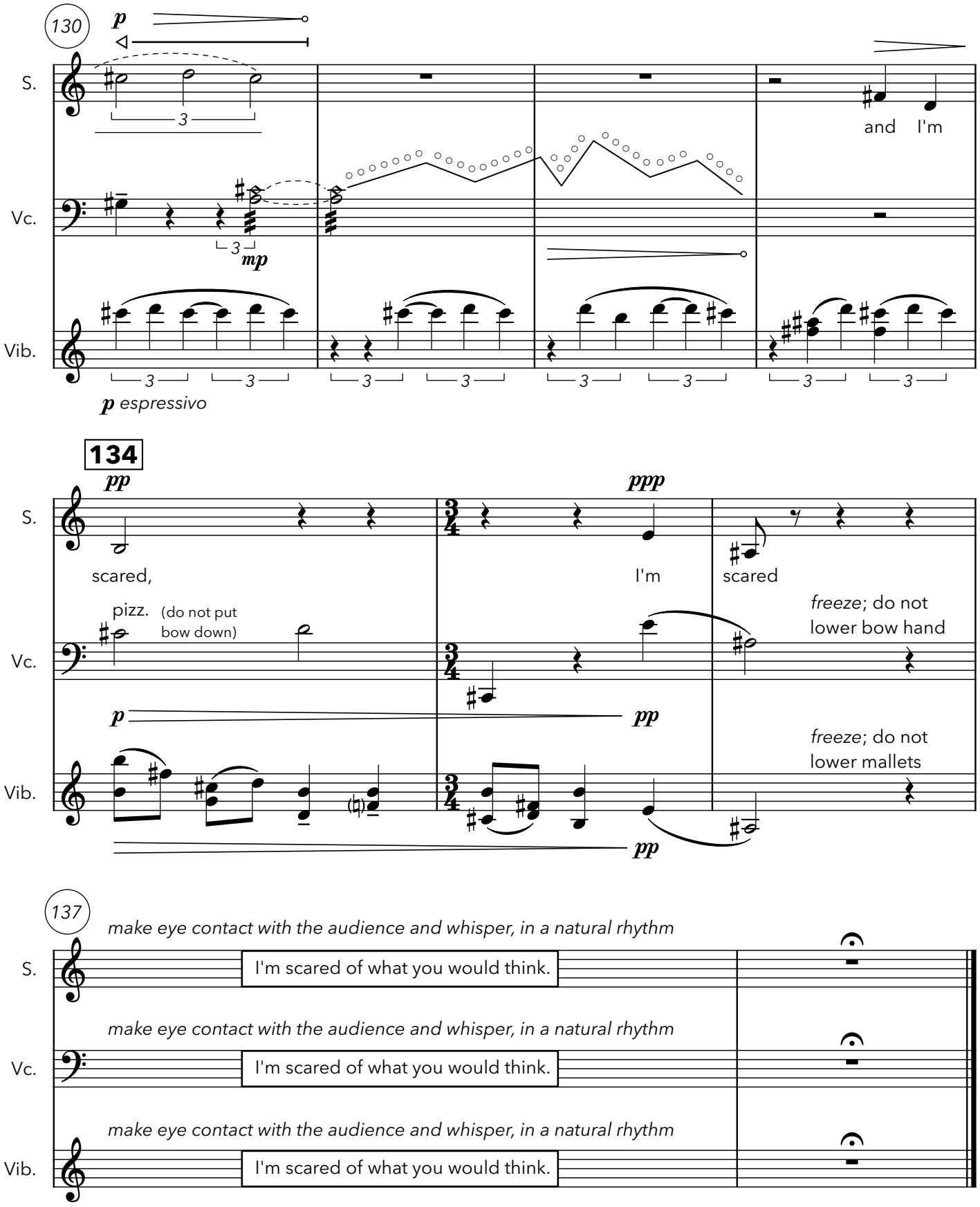

80
♩. = 80
S.
Vc.
B.
I want to tell you, I
86
Suddenly melancholy ♩ = 50
84
want, I want, I
88
want to tell you, I want,


92
94
96
99
101
S.
Vc.
B.
Vib.
(♩ = 60)
I want to tell you my sto – ry with-out
to vib.
gliss.
care – ful cu – ra – tion all the de – tails of my trau-ma
pizz.
arco
p sub.
possible
which to – ge – ther


102
f
3
3
3
S.
make up the on – ly me I've e – ver
pizz. (sul pont.)
Vc.
to buk
Vib.
105
S.
known.
Is that even me?
Vc.
B.
108
Frustrated ♩. = 72
S.
(pizz. ord.)
Vc.
mf
f
mp
B.
mf
f
mp


111
112
mf
rubato as needed
S.
the pro – blem is,
Vc.
arco
mf
B.
mf
mp
114
f
S.
the pro – blem is,
Vc.
B.
mf
117
ff
S.
the pro – – blem,
Vc.
ff
B.
ff


120
Dazed ♩ = 54
S.
Vc.
B.
p
I don't know
ei – ther.
*
*[i]
like a heartbeat
pp cresc. poco a poco
124
pp
It hurts too much to think a – bout
127
128
p
ah
gliss.
ppp
3
Vib.
to vib.
f
mp
p


130
p
S.
3
and I'm
Vc.
3
mp
Vib.
3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
p espressivo
134
pp
ppp
S.
scared,
I'm
scared
pizz.
(do not put bow down)
freeze; do not lower bow hand
Vc.
p
pp
freeze; do not lower mallets
Vib.
pp
137
make eye contact with the audience and whisper, in a natural rhythm
S.
I'm scared of what you would think.
make eye contact with the audience and whisper, in a natural rhythm
Vc.
I'm scared of what you would think.
make eye contact with the audience and whisper, in a natural rhythm
Vib.
I'm scared of what you would think.