That Blue Banner

2020

for Alto Saxophone, Piano, Double Bass, and reduced Drum set

Benjamin Janisch

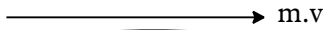
Foreword:

This piece was composed in the spring of 2020 with the intention of being featured in the artistic competition "Possehl Musikpreis für Neue musikalischen Aufführungskonzepte". In correspondence to this competition my colleagues and I chose the theme "*Identity: Man's Search for Meaning*". This piece is a reflection of my personal and musical development as a German-American composer, who once emigrated from the States, has become ever more disappointed and yet fascinated with the cultural and social unrest and injustice in my home country.
The piece is designed similar to that of a traditional Pop/Jazz number, always changing between the 'refrain' and improvisations, in this case however both have been composed and written out.
Although this piece can be played very strictly in correspondence to the notation, my original intention, which will also be executed for the Possehl-Competition, is the free interpretation of the score with a continuously existing '*improvisando*' and/or '*molto rubato*'; rhythmical flexibility, improvisation opportunities for all instruments, as well ornamentation freedoms.

General performance remarks:

All accidentals only pertain to the note directly following. In order to avoid confusion, as well as to make some passages clearer *natural signs* have been added.

m.v. = molto vibrato,



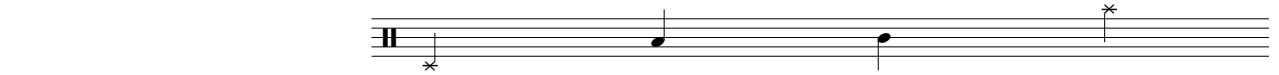
= gradually transitioning from *senza vibrato* to *molto vibrato*.

slur signs are rather a guideline to phrasing as opposed to *legato*.

The double bass is to play *pizzicato* the entire piece. (This is indicated once more in the score for clarity).

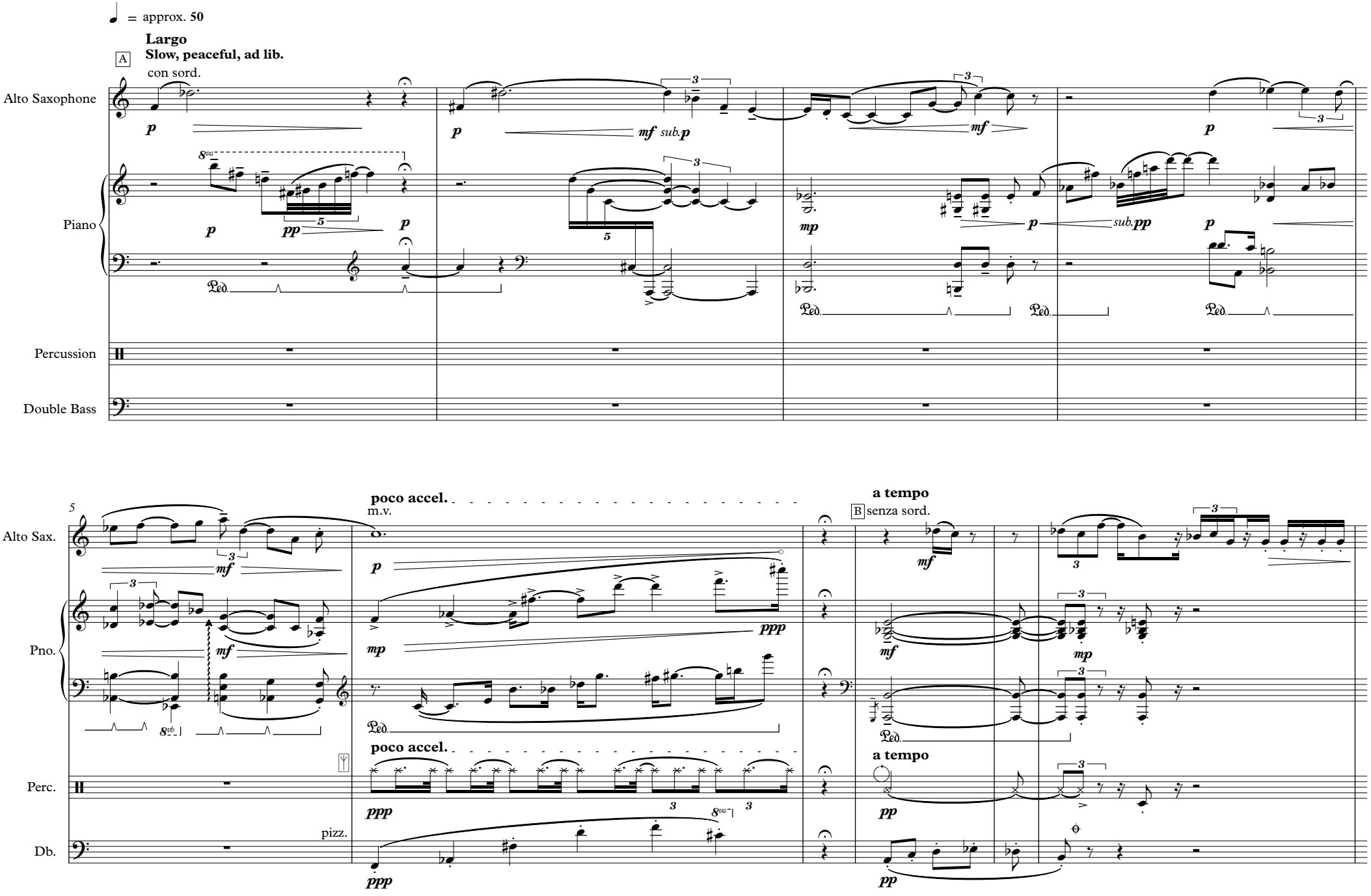
Percussion Layout:

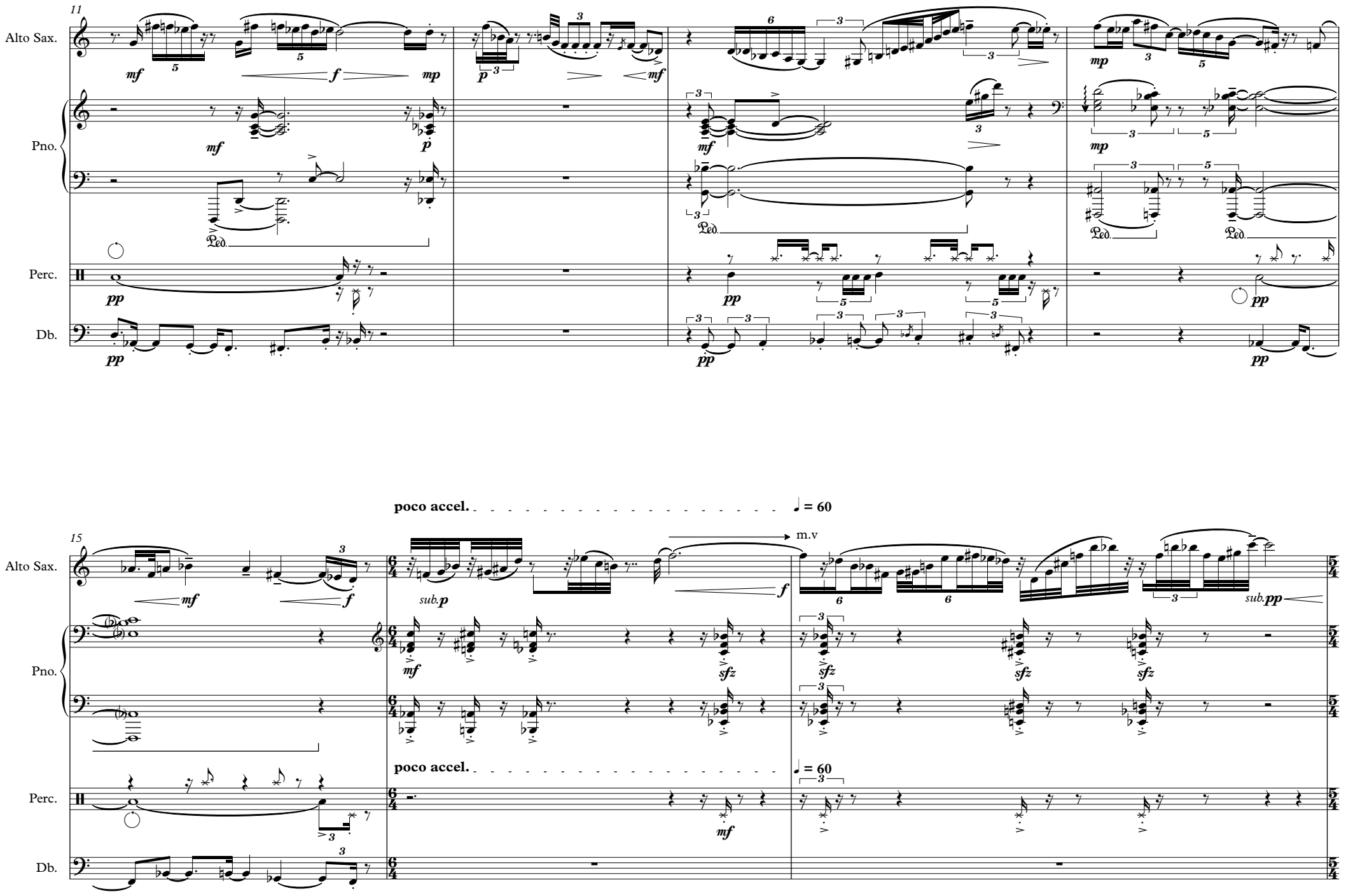
High Hat (pedal) Snare Tom-Tom Crash Cymbal

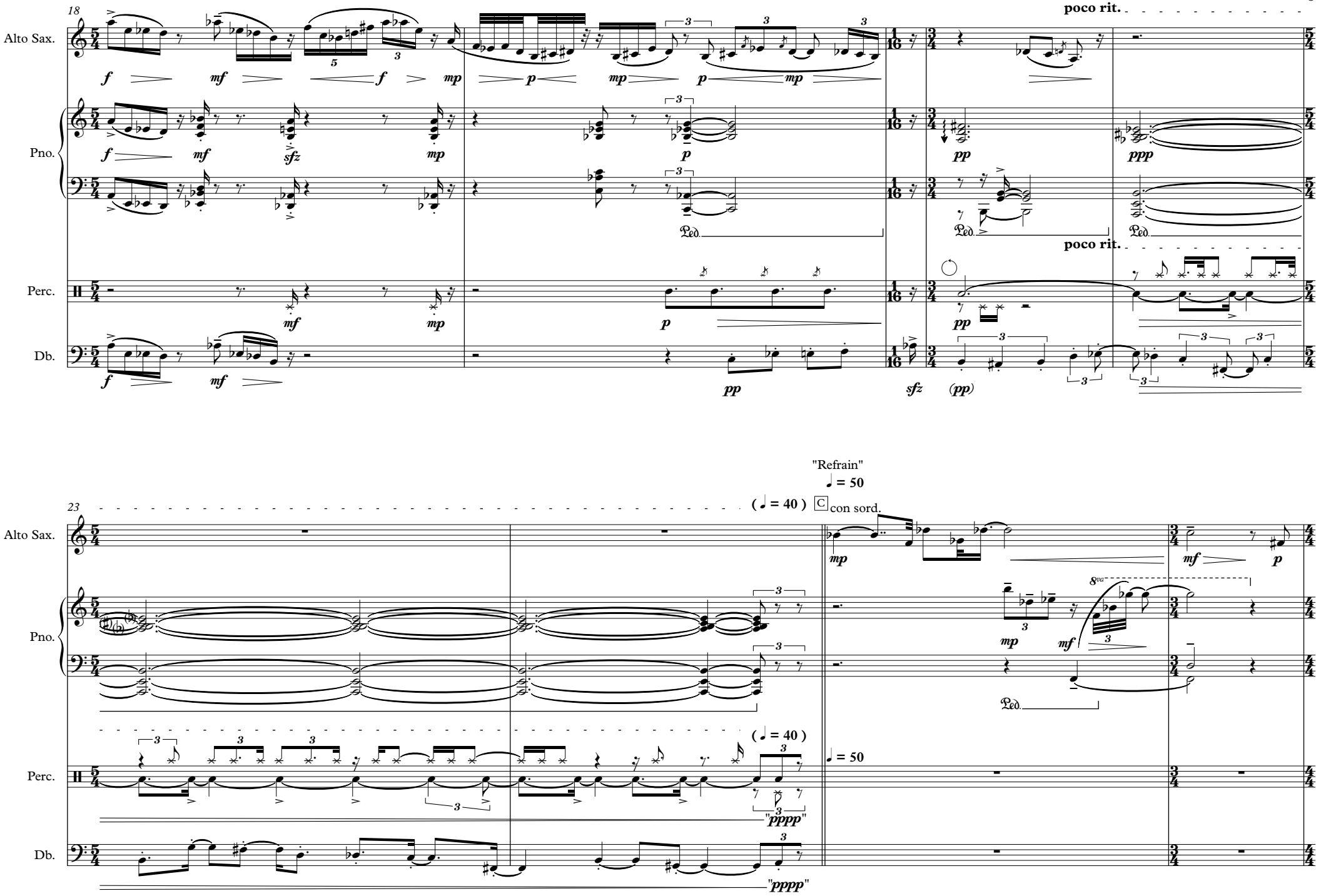


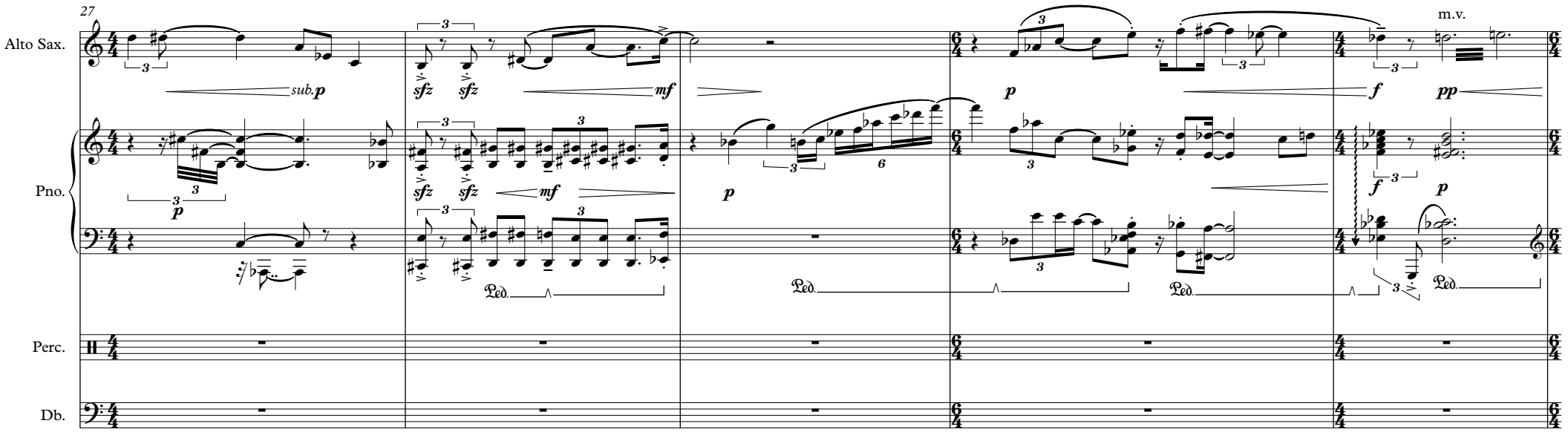
= The percussionist should use brushes for the entire piece, with the one exception that the *High Hat (pedal)* should always be played with the foot.

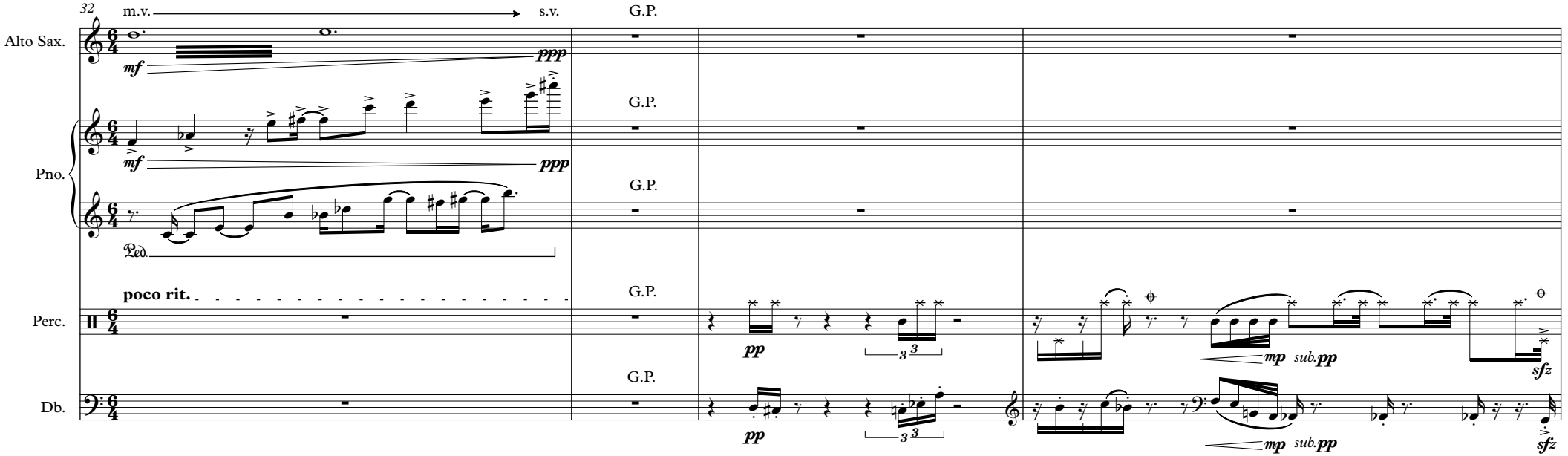
= continuous circular rubbing of the brushes on the face of the specified drum.

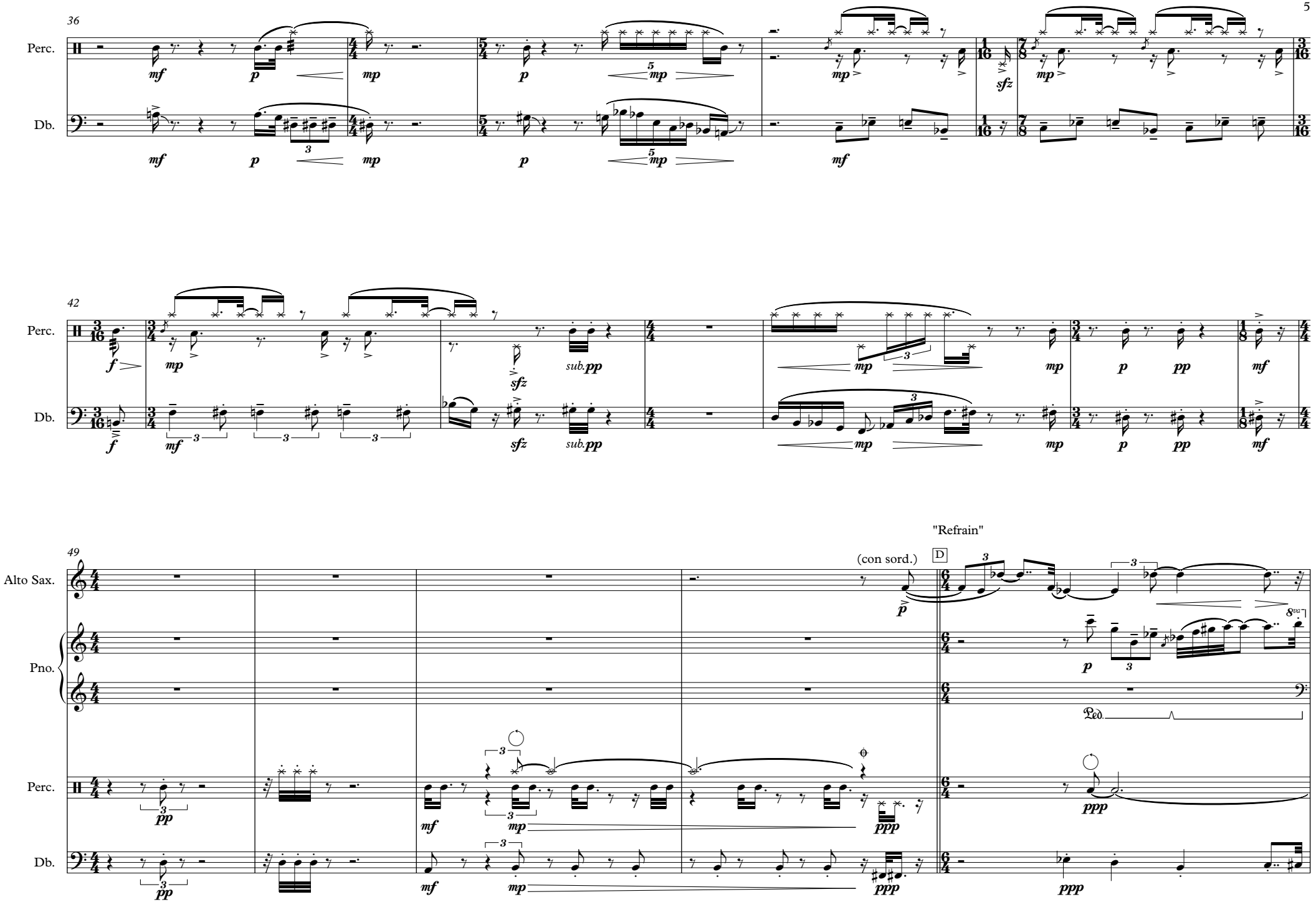

♩ = approx. 50
Largo
Slow, peaceful, ad lib.
A
con sord.
Alto Saxophone
Piano
Percussion
Double Bass
poco accel.
m.v.
a tempo
B senza sord.
Alto Sax.
Pno.
Perc.
Db.
pizz.

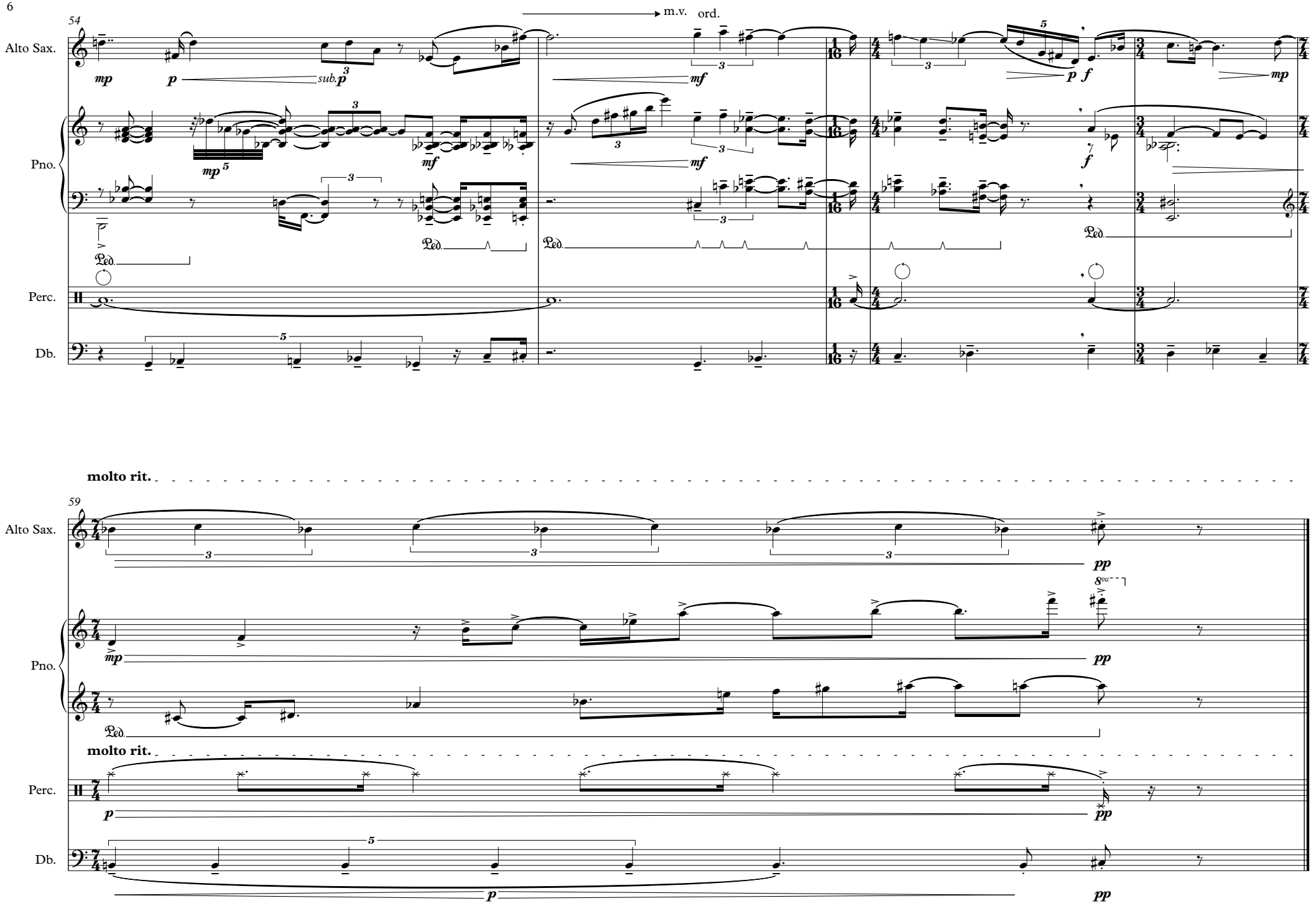

11
Alto Sax.
Pno.
Perc.
Db.
poco accel.
♩ = 60
m.v
15


18
poco rit.
Alto Sax.
Pno.
Perc.
Db.
23
"Refrain"
♩ = 50
(♩ = 40)
C
con sord.
8va
"pppp"


27
Alto Sax.
Pno.
Perc.
Db.
m.v.
sub.p
sfz
mf
p
f
pp
Ped.


poco rit.
32
m.v.
s.v.
G.P.
Alto Sax.
Pno.
Perc.
Db.
mf
ppp
Ped.
pp
mp
sub.pp
sfz


36
Perc.
Db.
42
Perc.
Db.
49
"Refrain"
(con sord.)
D
Alto Sax.
Pno.
Perc.
Db.
Ped.


54
m.v.
ord.
Alto Sax.
Pno.
Perc.
Db.
molto rit.
59
Alto Sax.
Pno.
molto rit.
Perc.
Db.