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RIDDLES AND WAITING

for soprano or mezzo soprano, violin, clarinet/bass clarinet, and piano

texts from the Anglo-Saxon in translations by

MICHAEL ALEXANDER

music composed by

RICHARD M. KASSEL

A dissertation submitted to the Graduate Faculty in Music
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy, The City University of New York

1996

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This manuscript has been read and accepted for the Graduate Faculty in Music in satisifaction of the dissertation requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

12/10/95
Date

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Chair of Examining Committee

17 January 1996
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THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Texts from Michael Alexander, *The Earliest English Poems*. Second edition. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1977. Copyright Michael Alexander, 1966, 1977. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

I. Riddle 30

I am fire-fretted and I flirt with Wind/ and my limbs are light-freighted and I am lapped in flame/ and I am storm-stacked and I strain to fly/ and I am a leaf-bearing grove and a glowing ember.// From hand to friend's hand about the hall I go,/ so much do lords and ladies love to kiss me./ When I hold myself high, and the whole company/ bow quiet before me, their blessedness/ shall flourish skyward beneath the fostering shade.

II. Riddle 38

I watched a beast of the weaponed sex./ He forced, fired by the first of lusts,/ four fountains which refreshed his youth/ to shoot out shining in their shaped ways.// A man stood by that said to me:/ "That beast, living, will break clods,/ torn to tatters, will tie men's hands."

III. Riddle 47

I heard of a wonder, of words moth-eaten;/ that is a strange thing, I thought, weird/ that a man's song be swallowed by a worm,/ his binded sentences, his bedside stand-by/ rustled in the night--and the robber-guest/ not one whit the wiser for the words he had mumbled.

IV. Riddle 85

Many were met, men of discretion/ wisdom and wit, when in there walked. . .// Two ears it had, and one eye solo,/ two feet and twelve hundred heads/ back, belly, a brace of hands/ a pair of sides and shoulders and arms/ and one neck. Name, please./ A one-eyed garlic seller.* [*answer supplied by Michael Alexander]

V. Riddle 68

The wave, over the wave, a weird thing I saw,/ thorough-wrought, and wonderfully ornate:/ a wonder on the wave--water became bone.

VI. Riddle 75

I saw a woman sit alone.

VII. Wulf & Eadwacer

The men of my tribe would treat him as game:/ if he comes to the camp they will kill him outright./ Our fate is forked.// Wulf is on one island, I on another./ Mine is a fastness: the fens girdle it/ and it is defended by the fiercest men./ If he comes to the camp they will kill him for sure./ Our fate is forked.// It was rainy weather, and I wept by the hearth,/ thinking of my Wulf's far wanderings;/ one of the captains caught me in his arms./ It gladdened me then, but it grieved me too // Wulf, my Wulf, it was wanting you/ that made me sick, your seldom coming,/ the hollowness at heart; not the hunger I spoke of.// Do you hear, Eadwacer? Our whelp Wulf shall take to the wood./ What was never bound is broken easily,/ our song together.

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From "The Earliest English Poems," second edition, published by Penguin Classics, 1977

Poems used (in order of appearance) are:
Riddles 30, 38, 47, 85, 69, and 75; Wulf and Eadwacer

Performance notes (in addition to those in score):
Clarinet and Bass Clarinet (B♭) are transposed

Accidentals apply to note immediately following AND any note immediately following in repetition BEFORE the next barline

INTERPRETATION of metric modulation symbols:

SYMBOL:	FIRST APPEARANCE:	OLD VALUE	BECOMES NEW VALUE	UNIT INTERPRETATION:
♩. - ♩	♩ = 173	♩.	♩	♩♩♪ → ♪♪♪
♩ - ♩	♩ = 181	♩ or ♪♪	♩	♪♪♪ → ♪♪♪
♩♪ - ♩	♩ = 265	♩♪	♩	♪♪♪♪ ♪ → ♪♪♪♪♪
♩ - ♪.	♩ = 309	♩	♪.	♪♪♪ → ♪♪♪
♪. - ♩	♩ = 331	♪.	♩	♪♪♪ → ♪♪♪
♩ - ♩♪	♩ = 387	♩	♩♪	♪♪♪♪ → ♪♪♪♪

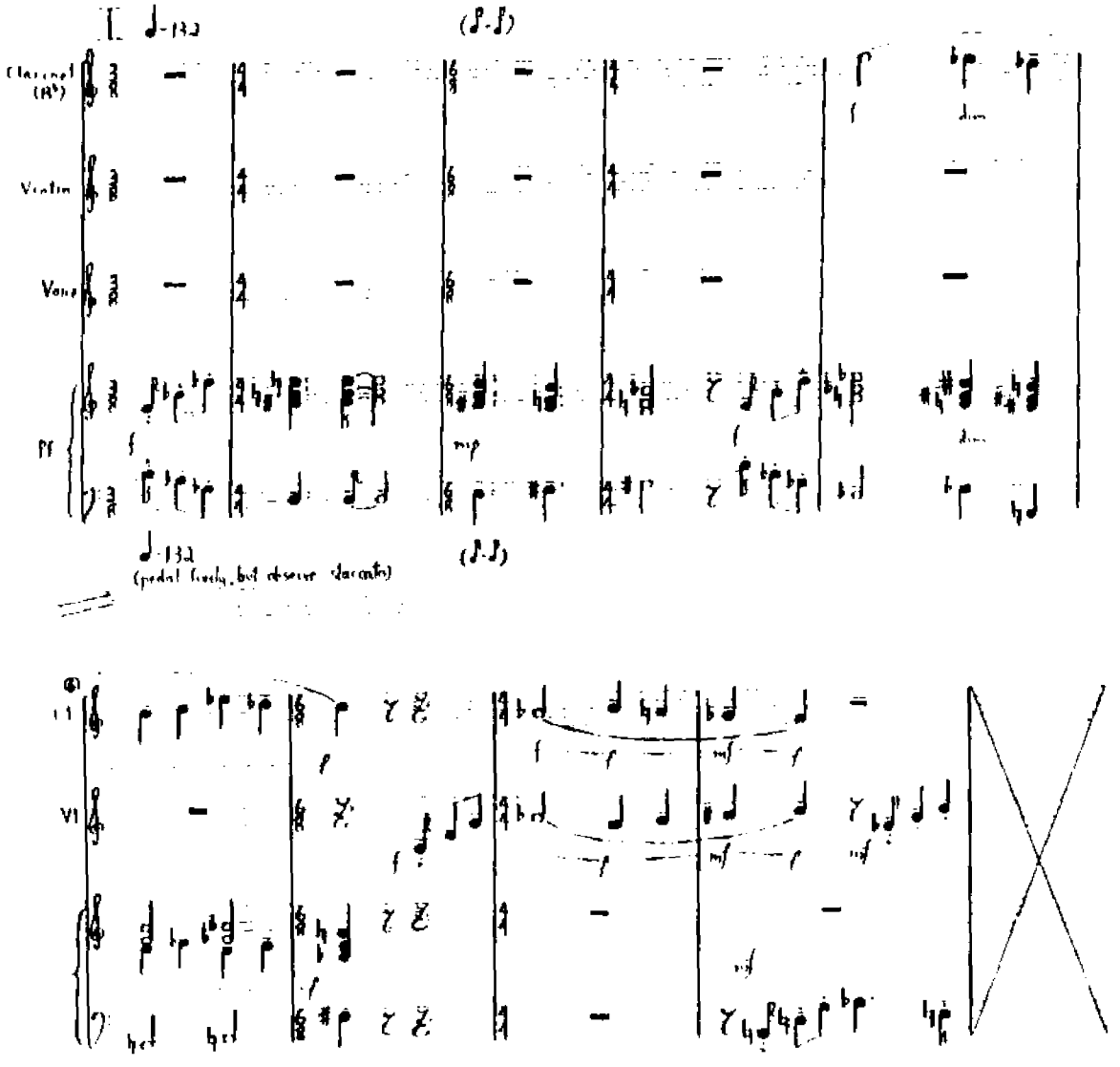
Accent slightly.

RIDDLES AND WAITING

For soprano, clarinet/bass in B♭, violin, and piano

Anglo Saxon
translated by Michael Alexander

RICHARD KASSEL



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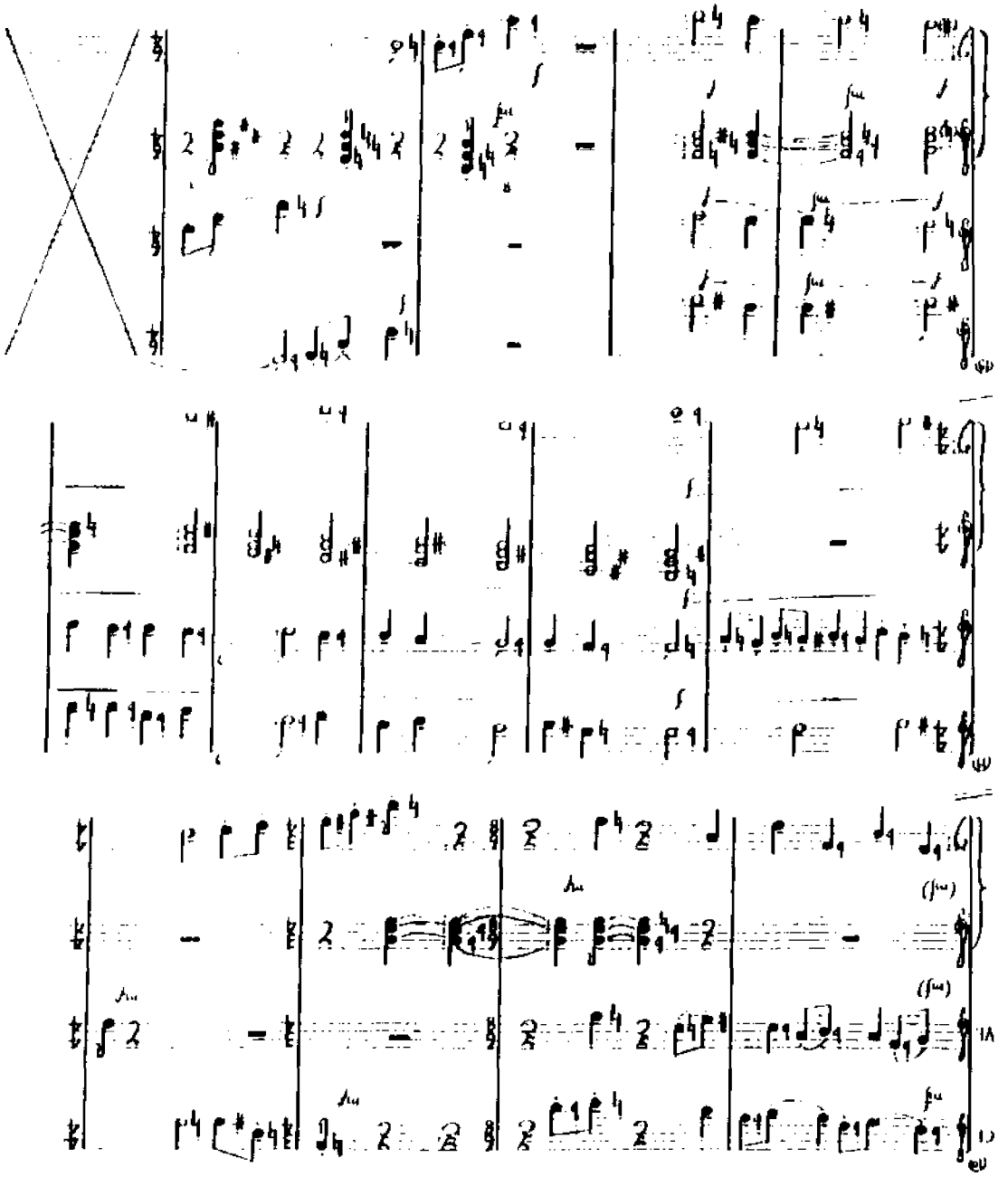
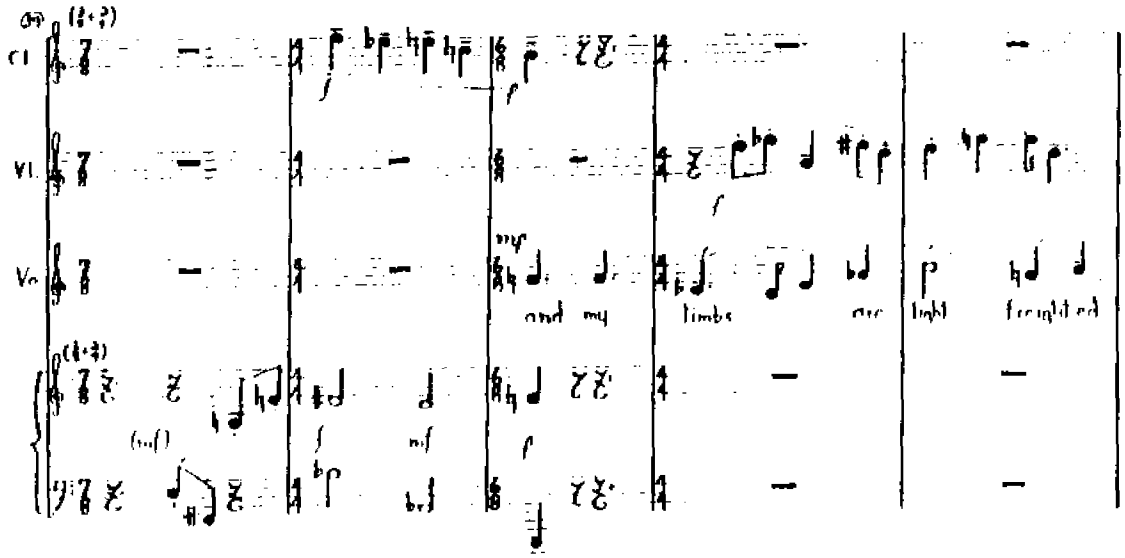
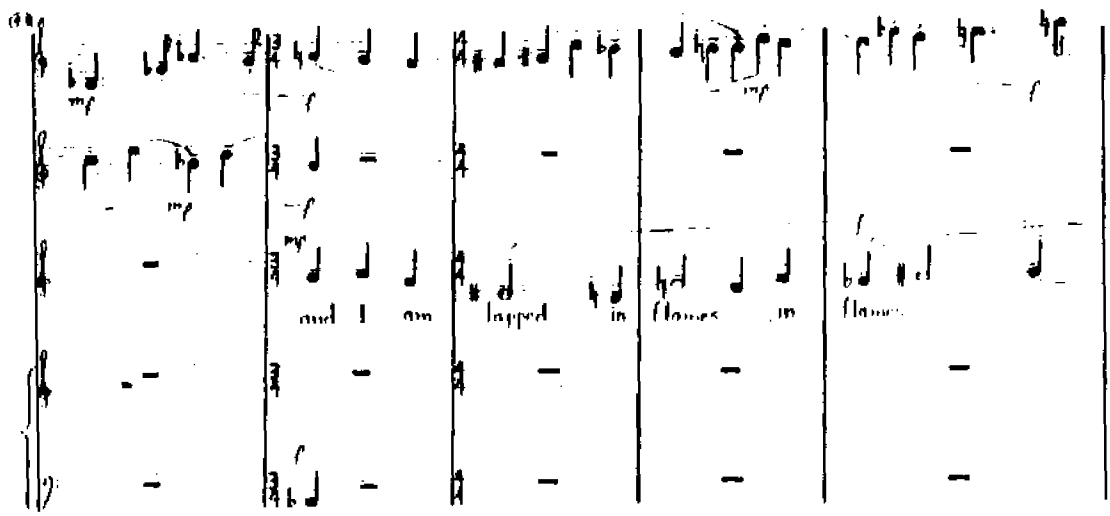
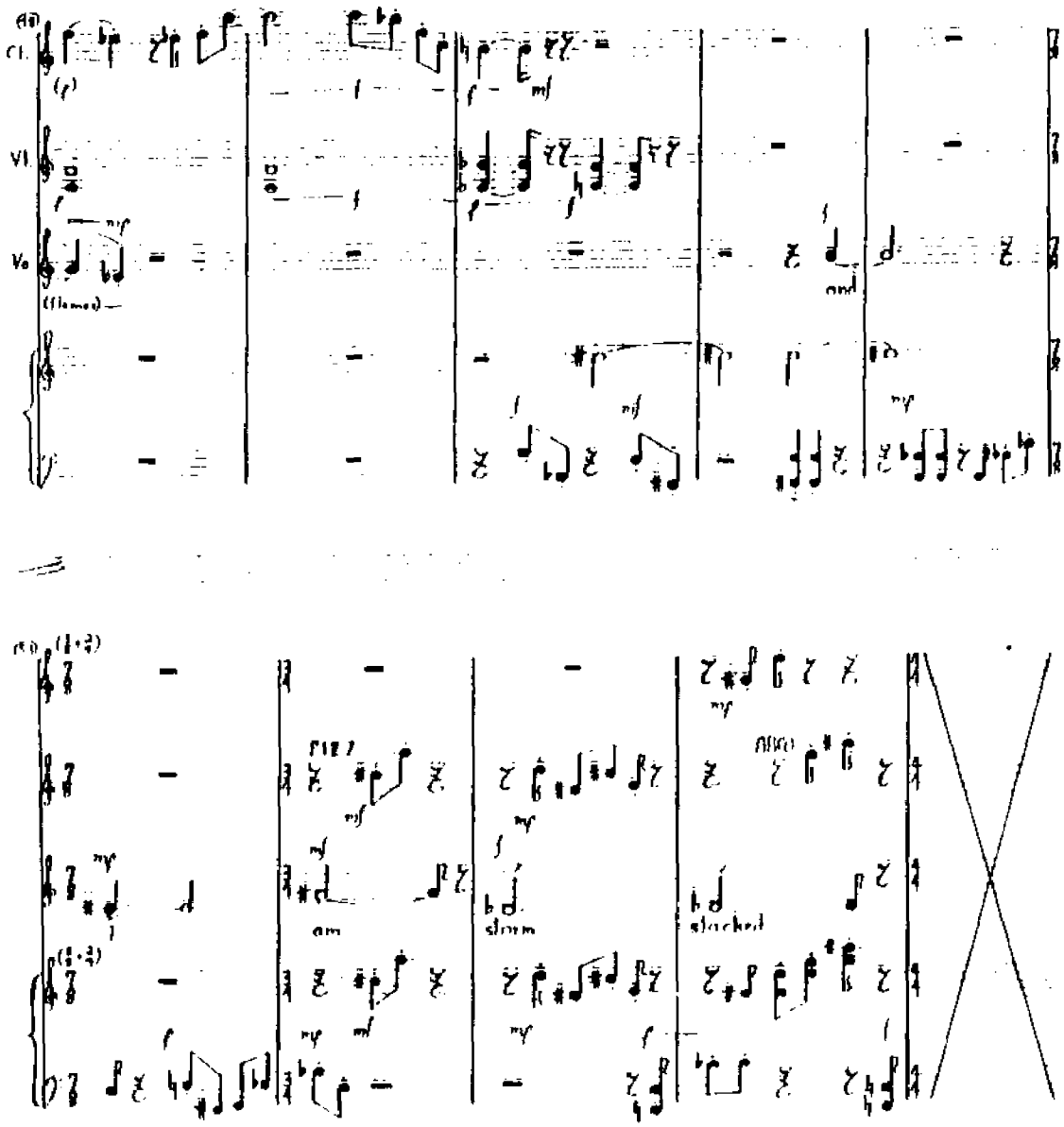
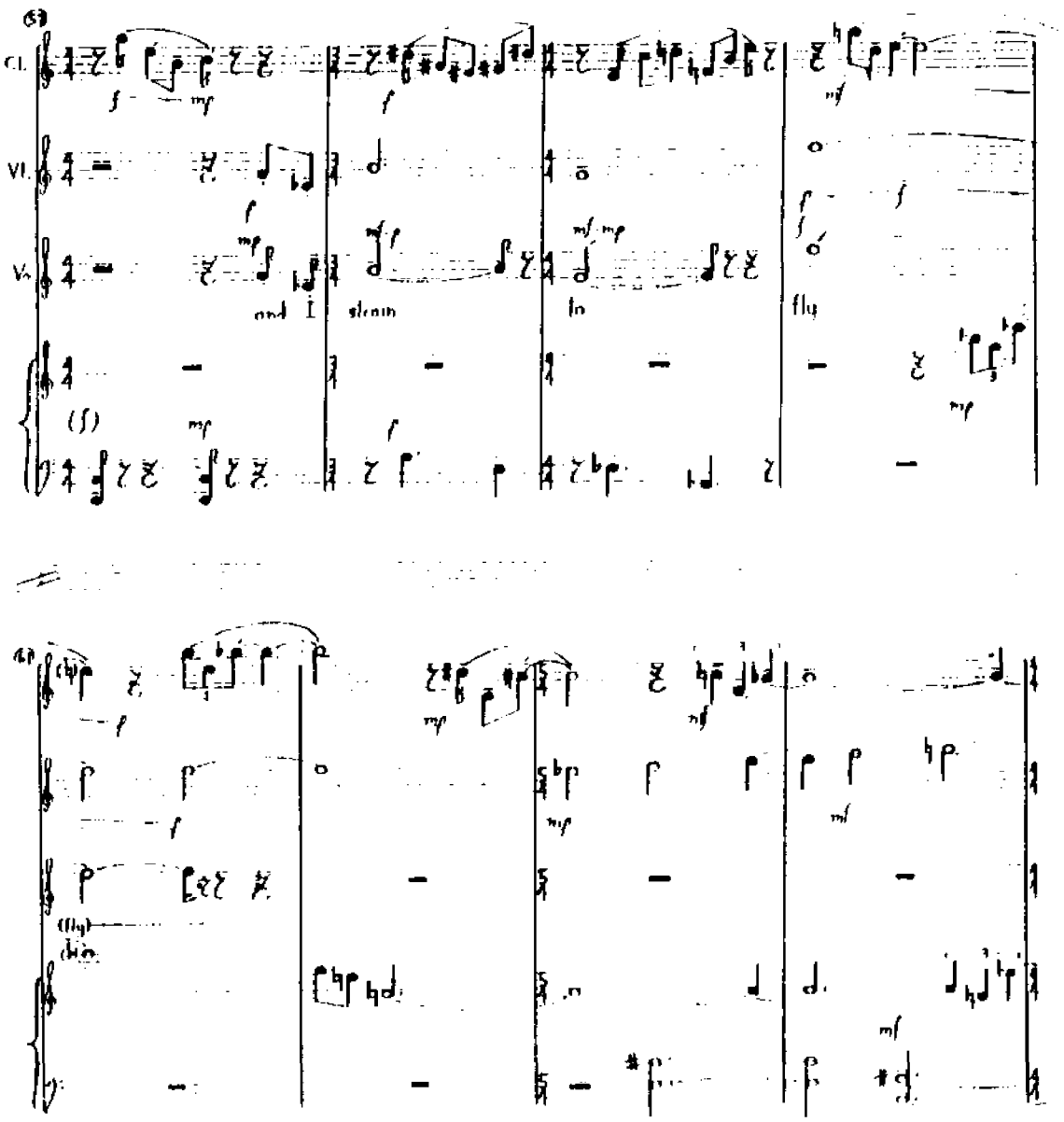


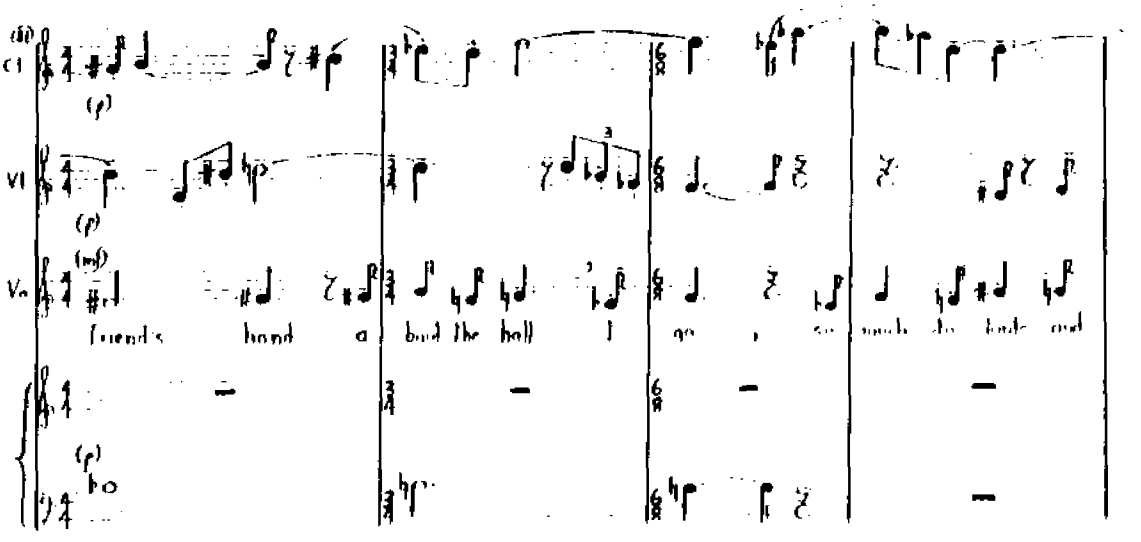

Cl
Vl.
Vo
and my
limbs
are
light
freighted

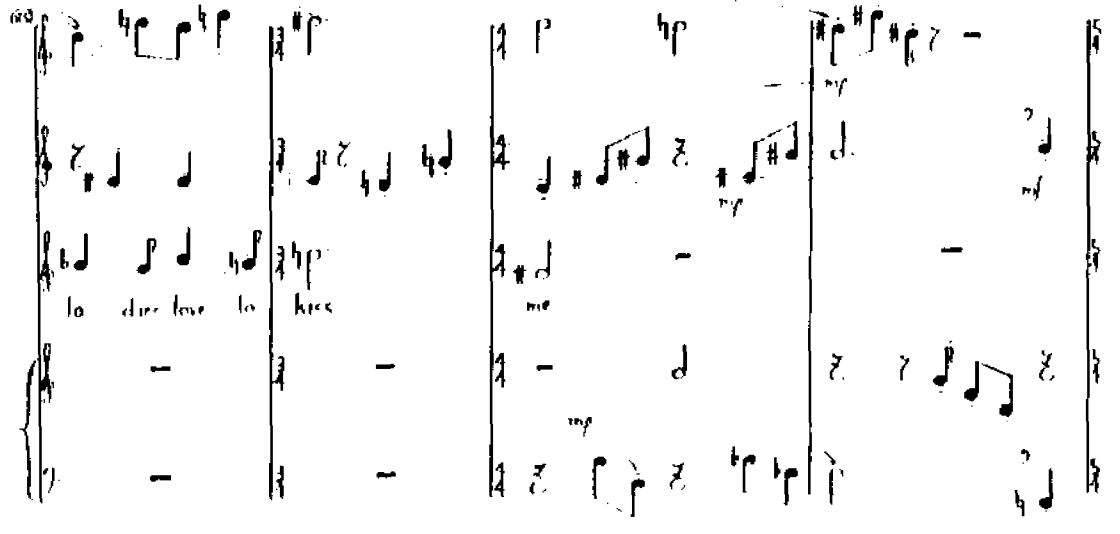

and I am
lapped
in
flames
in
flames

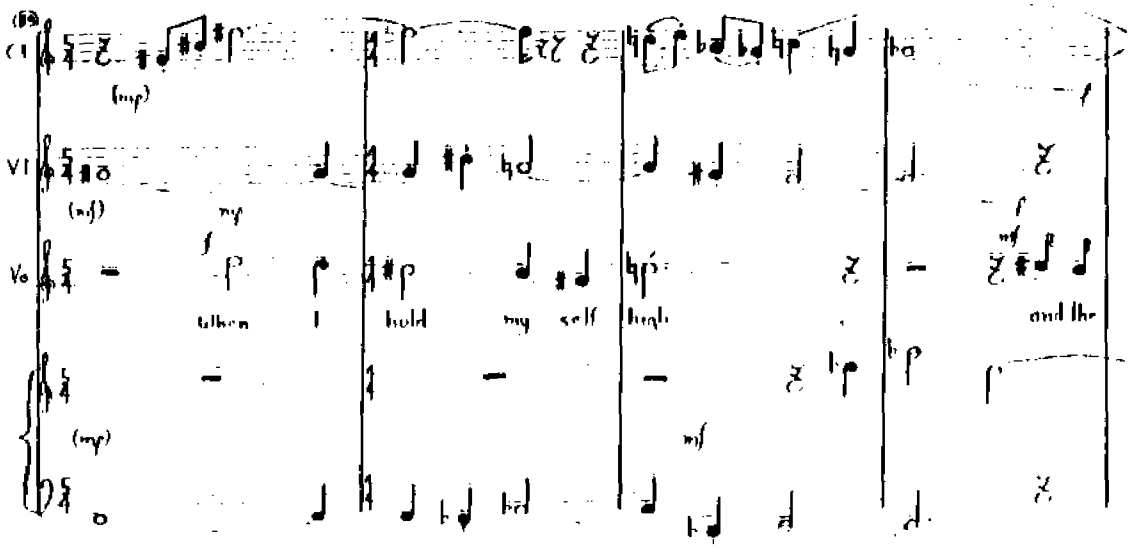

Cl.
Vl.
Vo
(flames)
and
am
storm
stacked

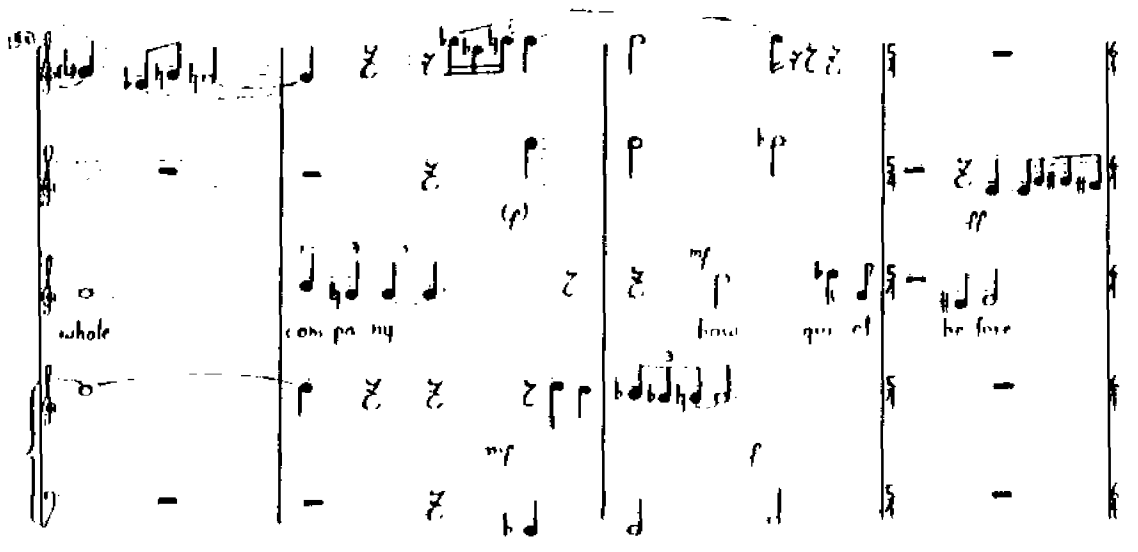

Cl.
Vl.
Vc.
and I
stem
to
fly

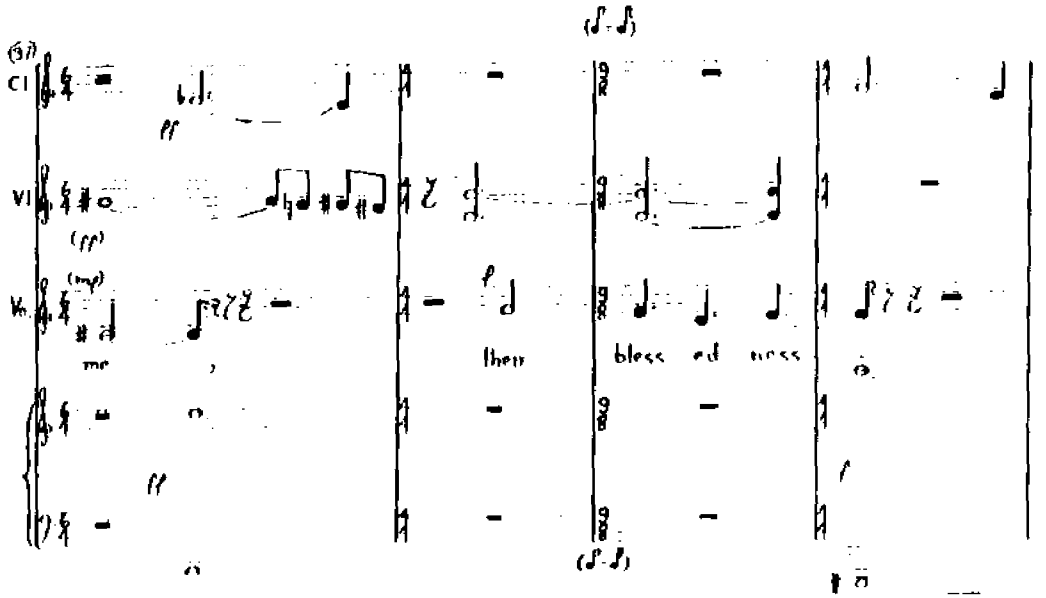
Cl.
Vl.
Va.
(mf)
(mf)
f
ff
pp
f
f
pp
pp
f
f
pp
pp
f
f
pp

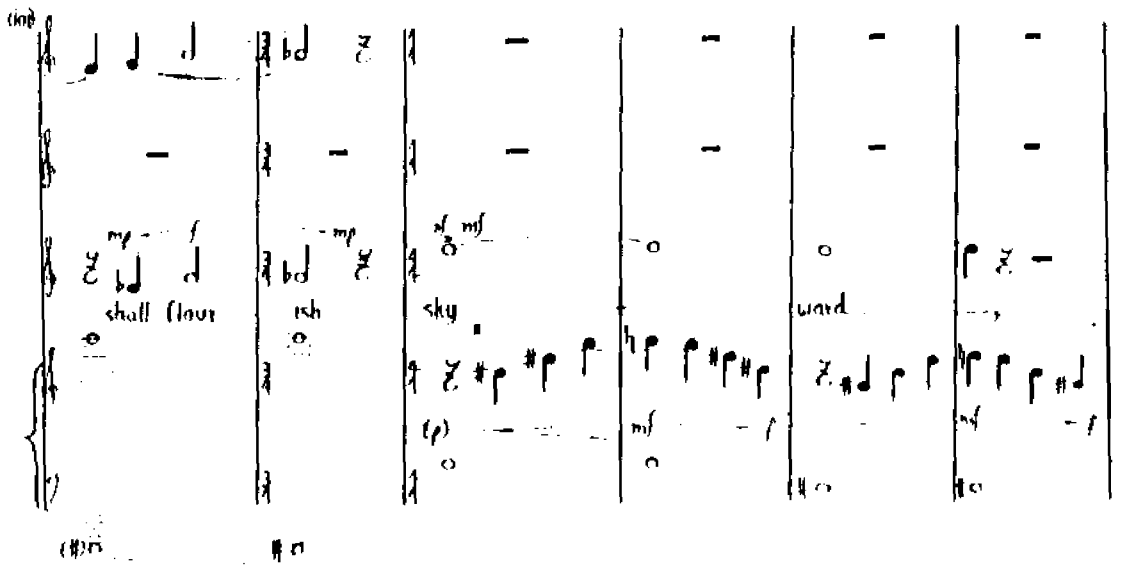

Cl
Vl
Va
friends hand a bud the hall I go , so much do birds and

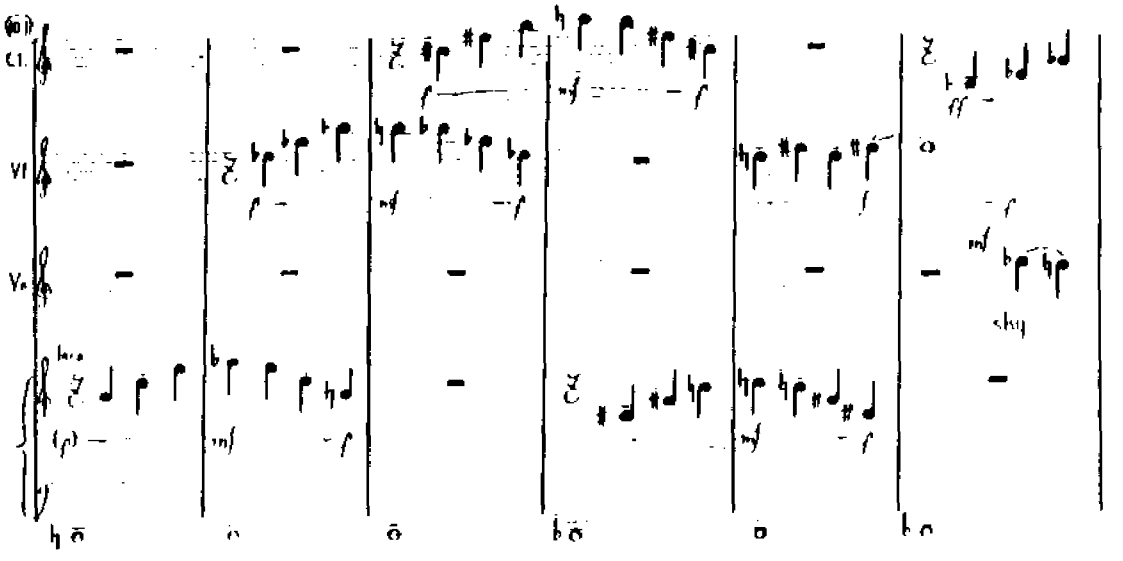

lo dies love lo kiss
me

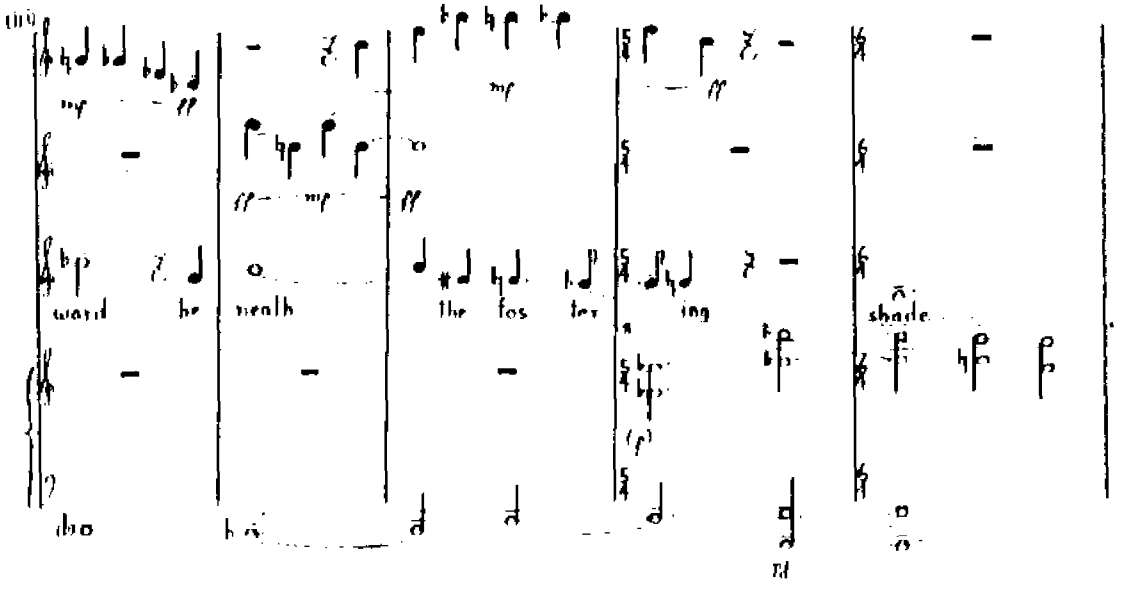

(mp)
(mf)
mp
f
mf
when I hold my self high
and the
(mp)
mf


(p)
ff
mf
whole com pa ny
bow qui et
be fore
mf
f


Cl
Vl
Vn
me
their
bless ed ness


shall flour
ish
sky
ward


(ii)
Cl.
Vl
Vn
sky


(iii)
ward be neath the fos ter ing shade

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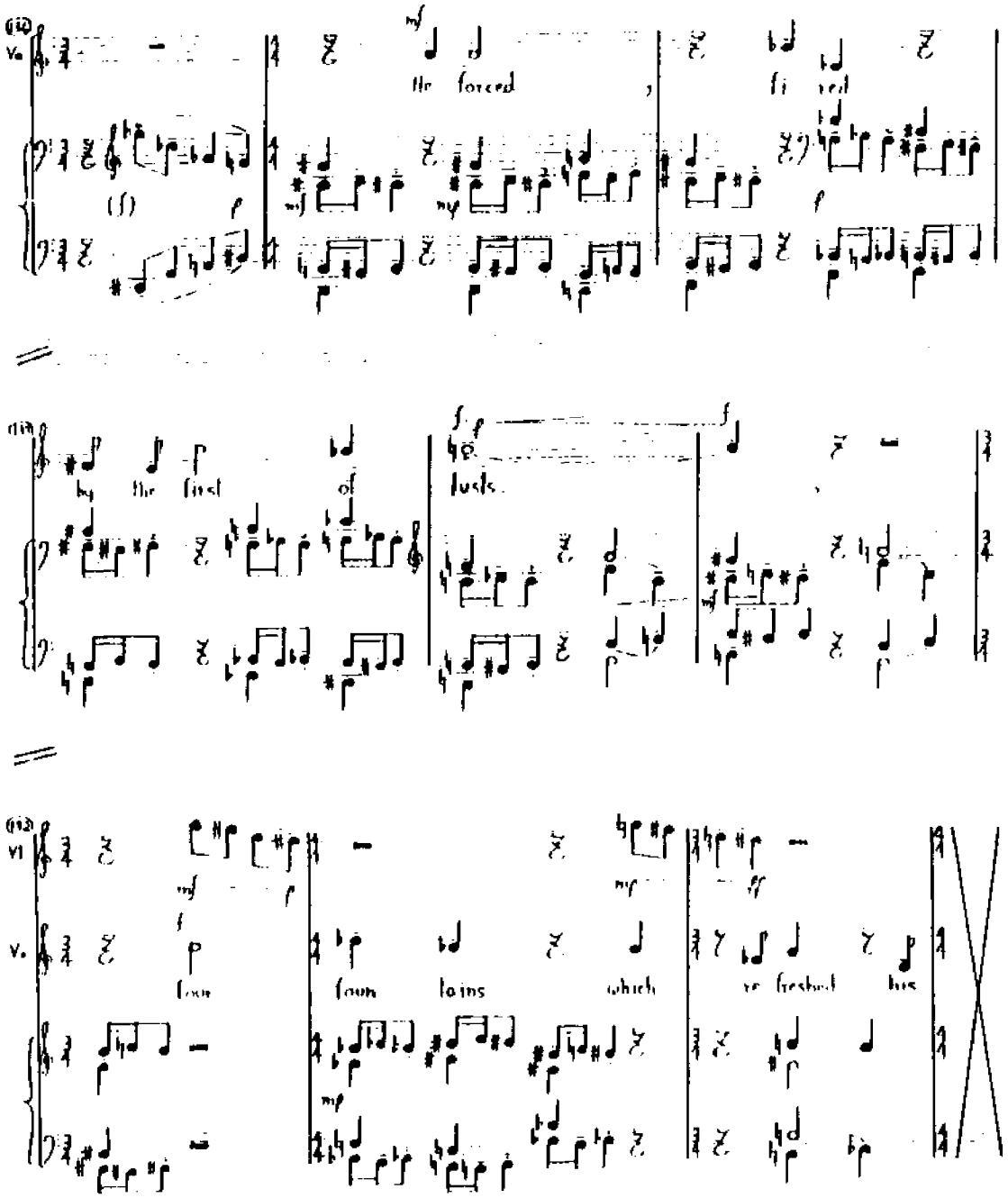
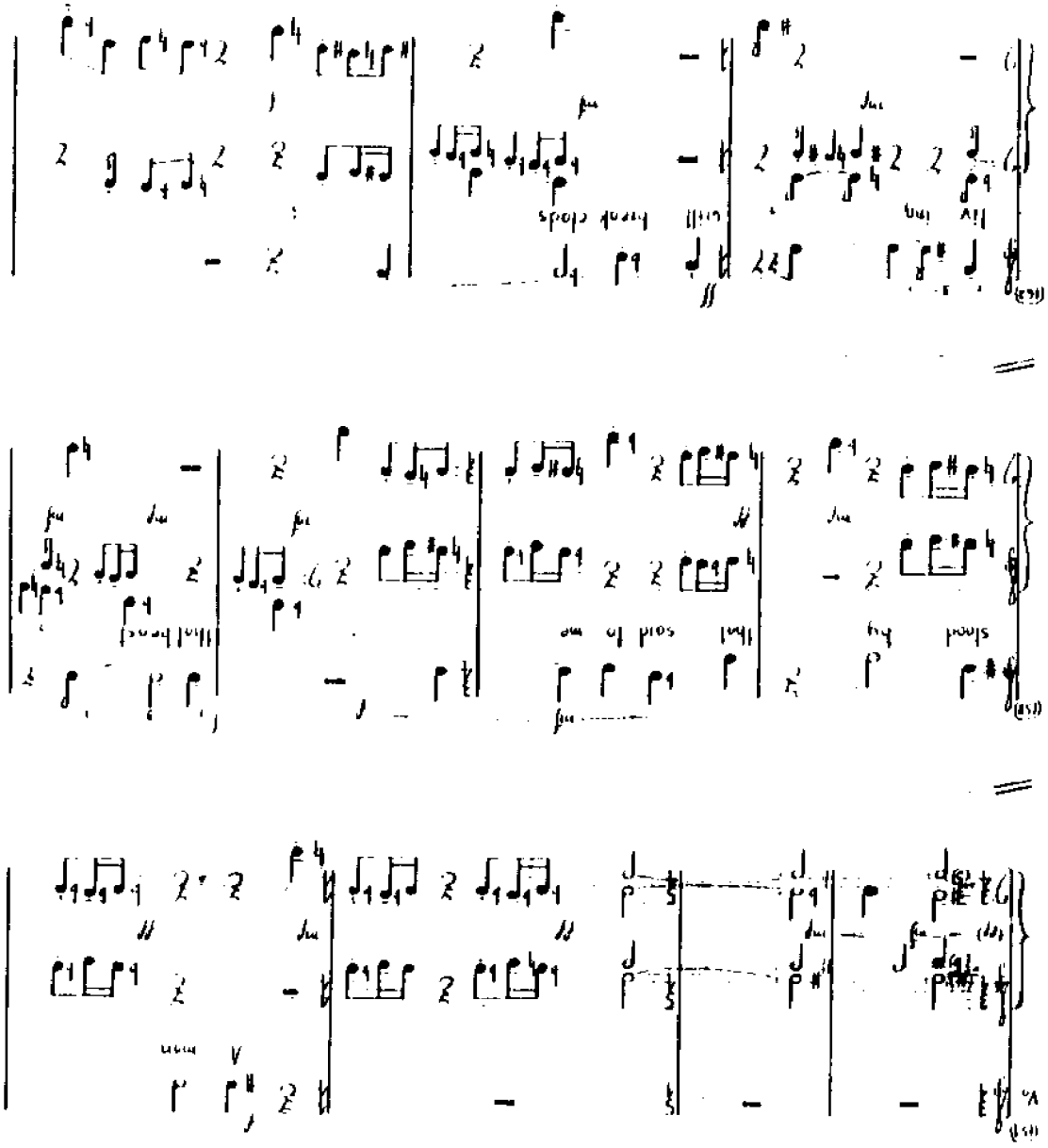
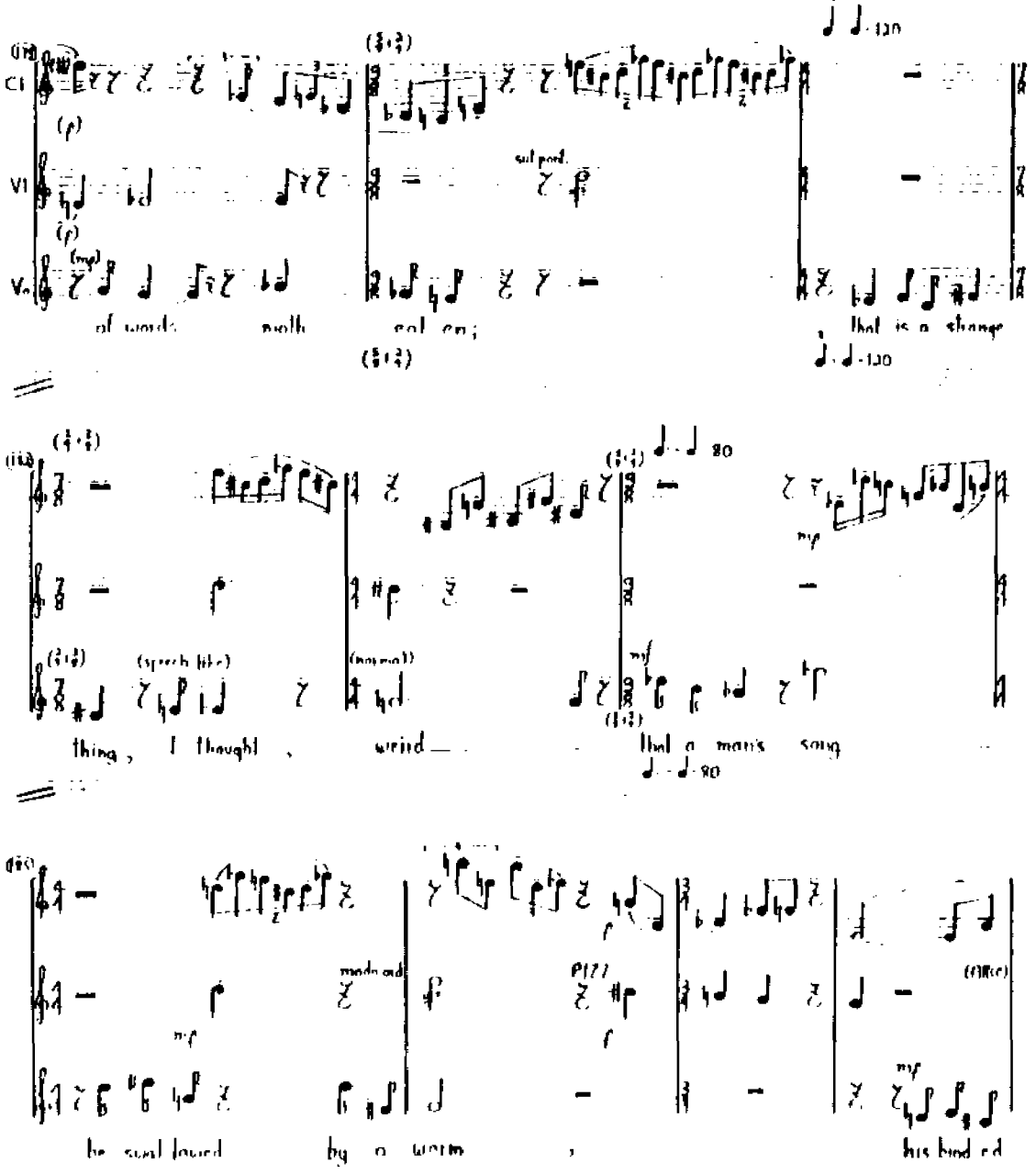
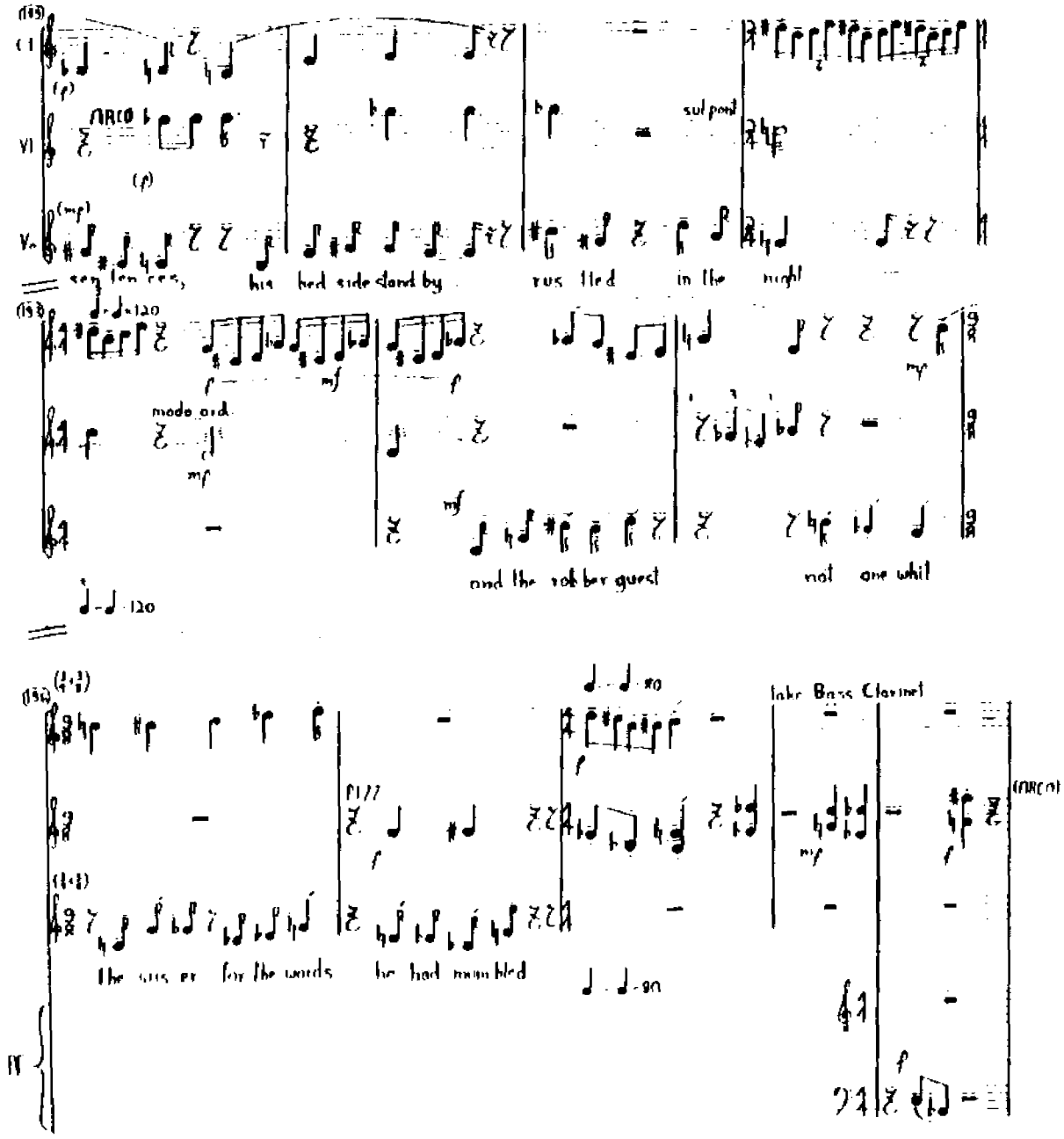
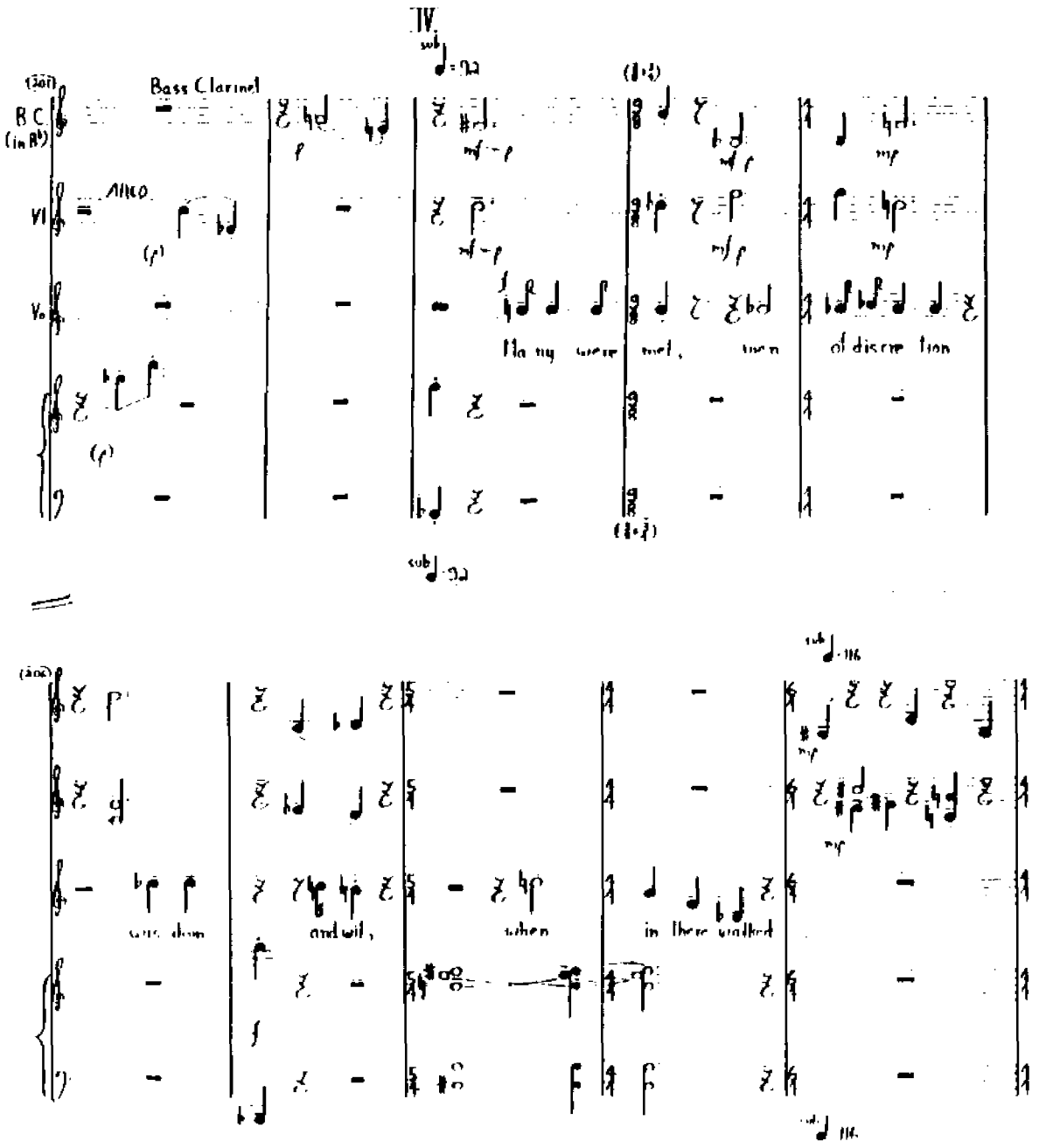
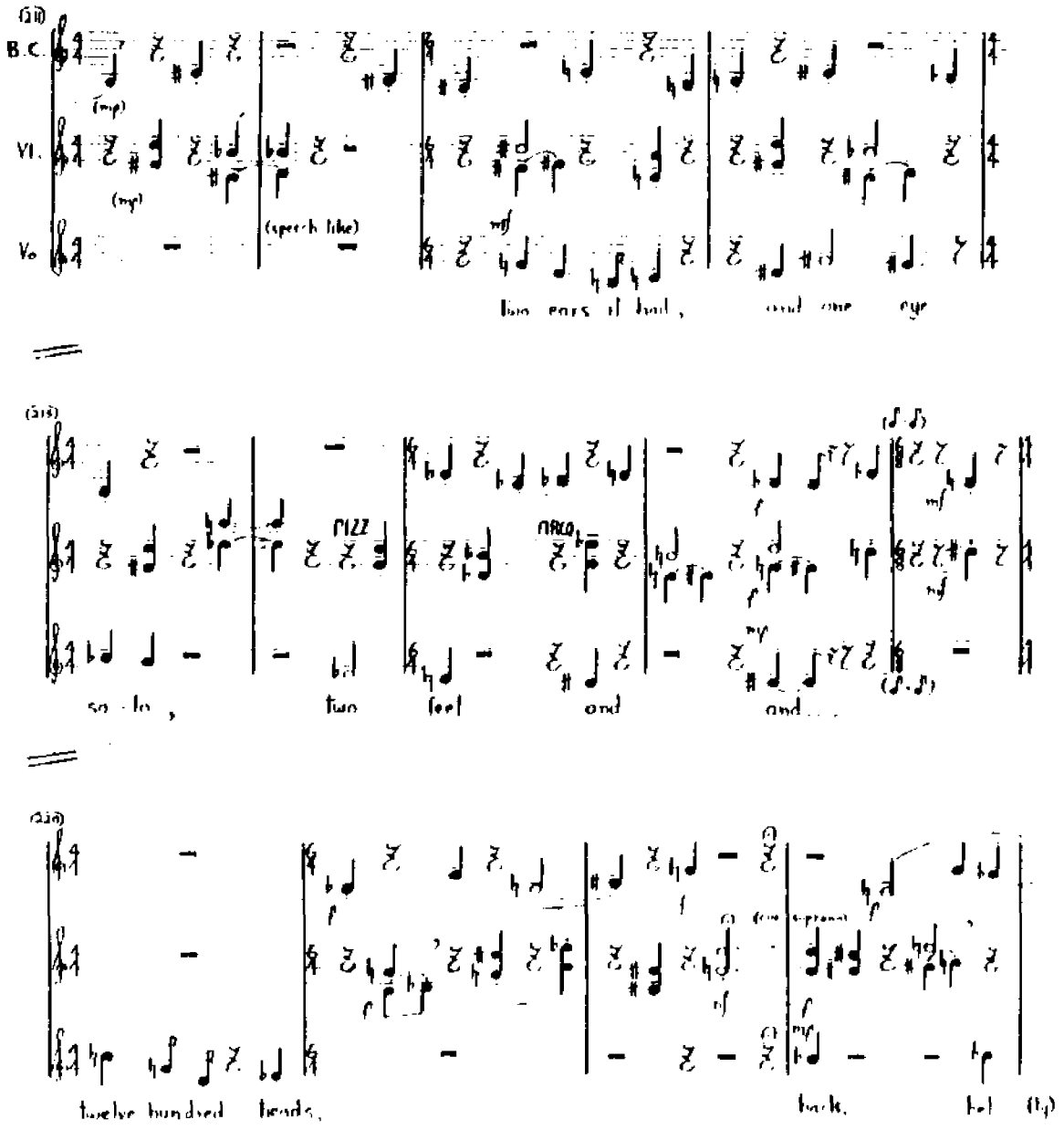

the forced
fi red
by the first of
lusts.
foun
foun tains
which
re freshed his

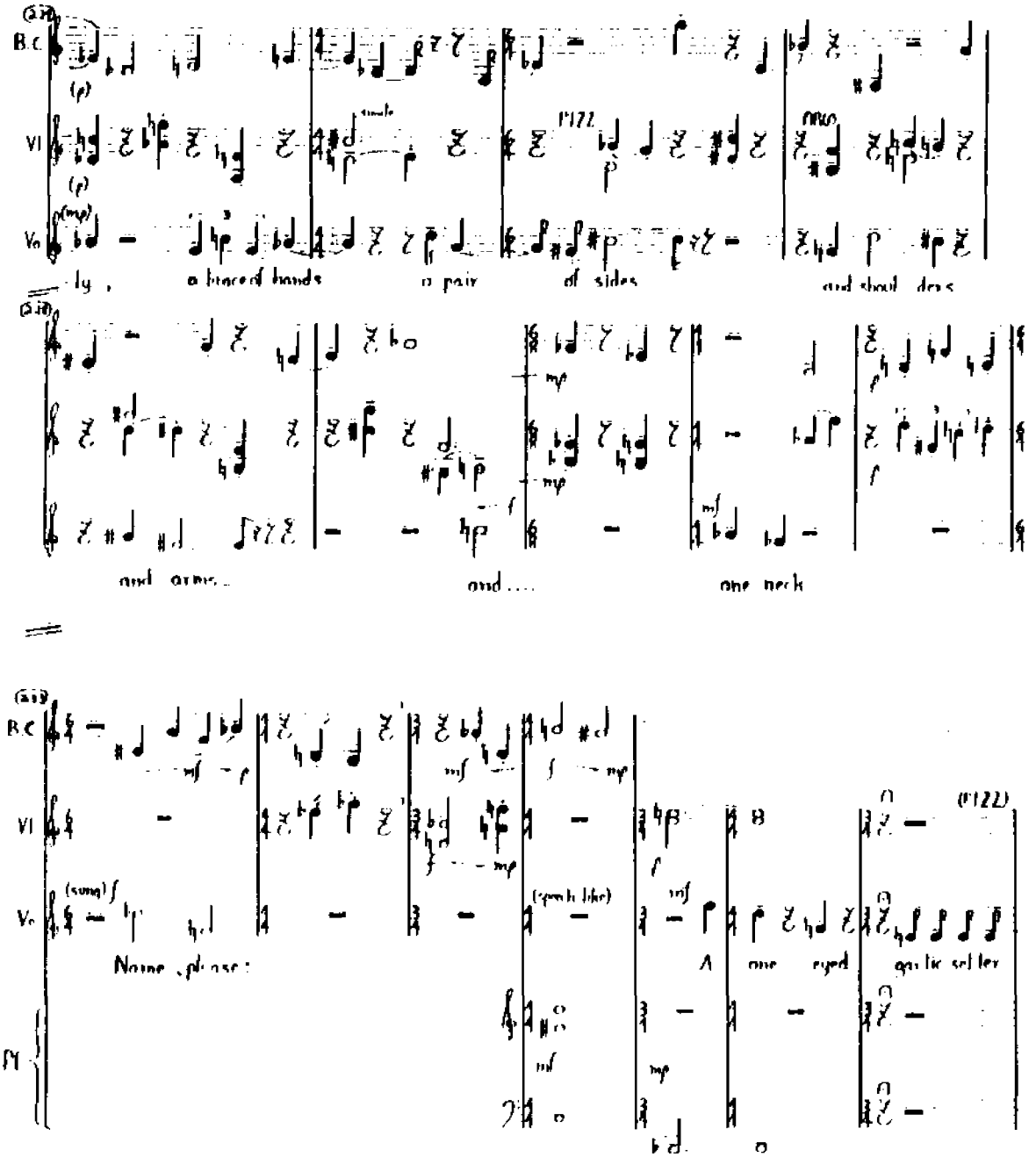


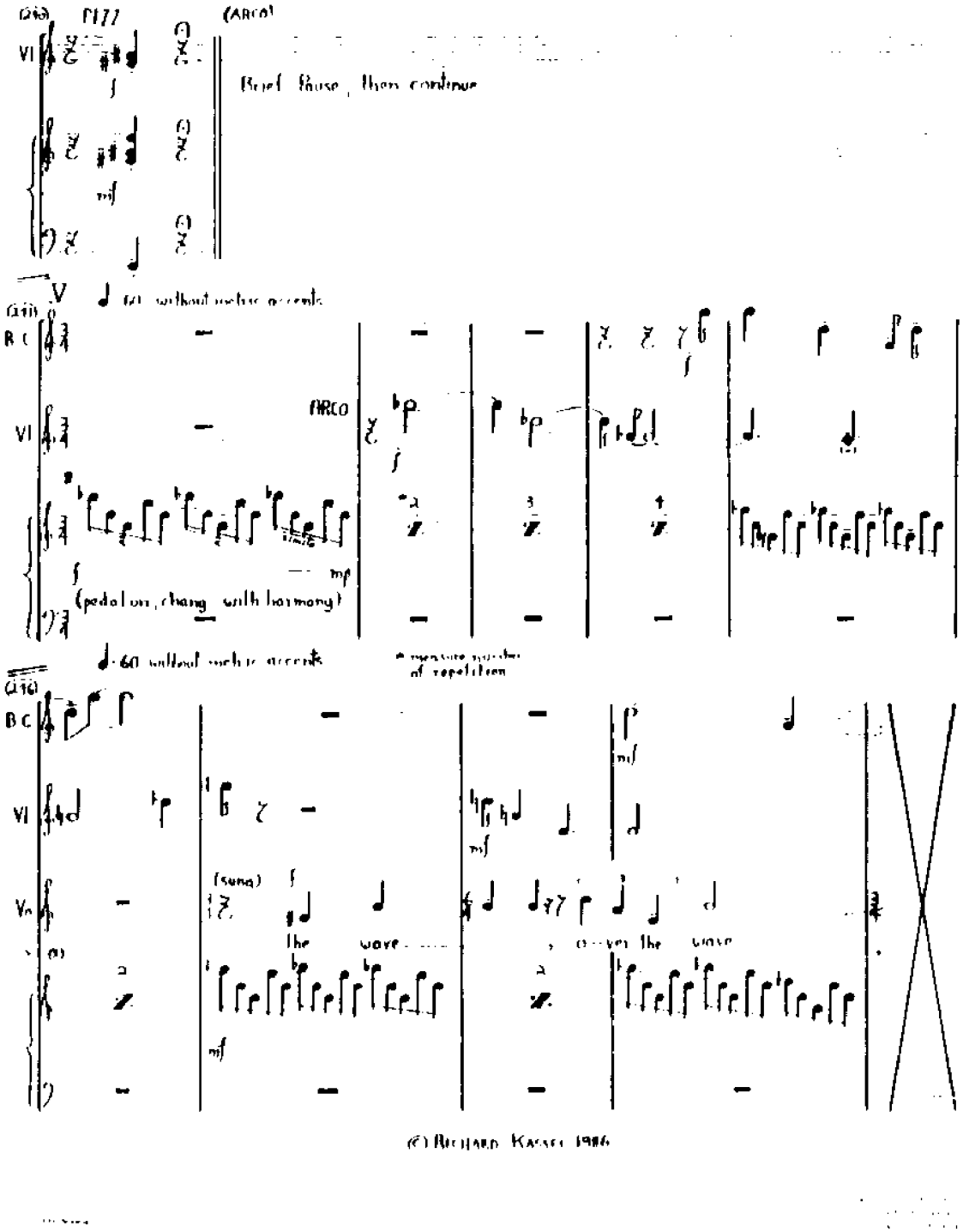

Cl
Vl
Vc
sul pont.
of words
moth
eat en;
that is a strange
thing, I thought, weird
that a man's song
(speech like)
(normal)
be swallowed by a worm,
his bind ed


ARCO
sul pont
sen ten ces, his bed side stand by rus tled in the night
modo ord.
and the rob ber guest not one whit
the wis er for the words he had mum bled
take Bass Clarinet
(ARCO)


IV
Bass Clarinet
B.C. (in B♭)
Vl
Vo
Many were met, men of discretion
wisdom and wit, when in there walked


B.C.
Vl.
Vo
(mp)
(mp)
(speech like)
mf
two ears it had, and one eye
PIZZ
ARCO
so - lo, two feet and and...
twelve hundred heads,
back, bel (ly)


B.C.
Vl
Vo
(p)
(mp)
smale
PIZZ
ARCO
ly, a brace of hands a pair of sides and shoul ders
and arms... and.... one neck
mf
f
(sung) f
(speech like)
Name, please:
A one eyed garlic seller
(PIZZ)
Pf



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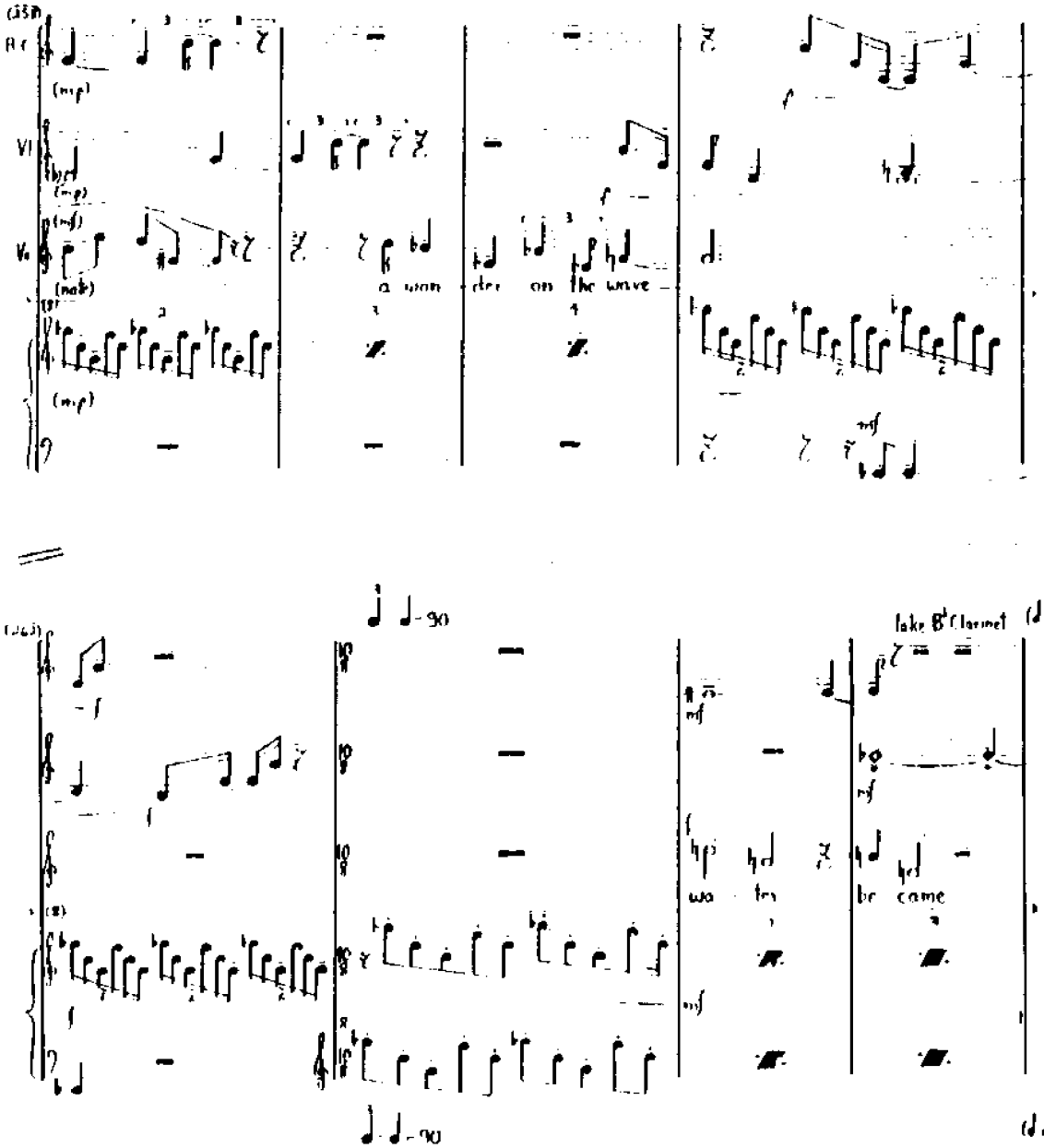
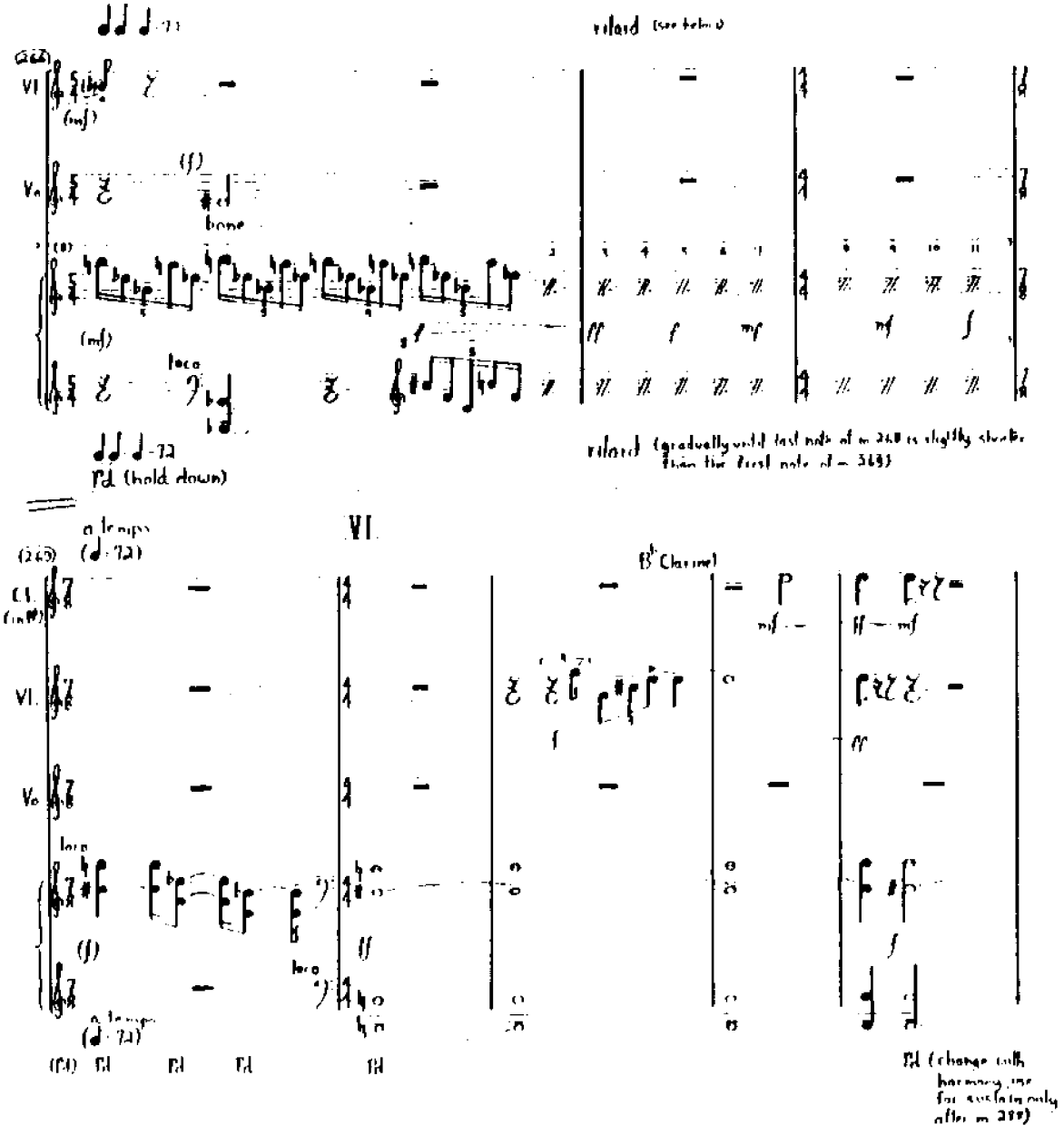
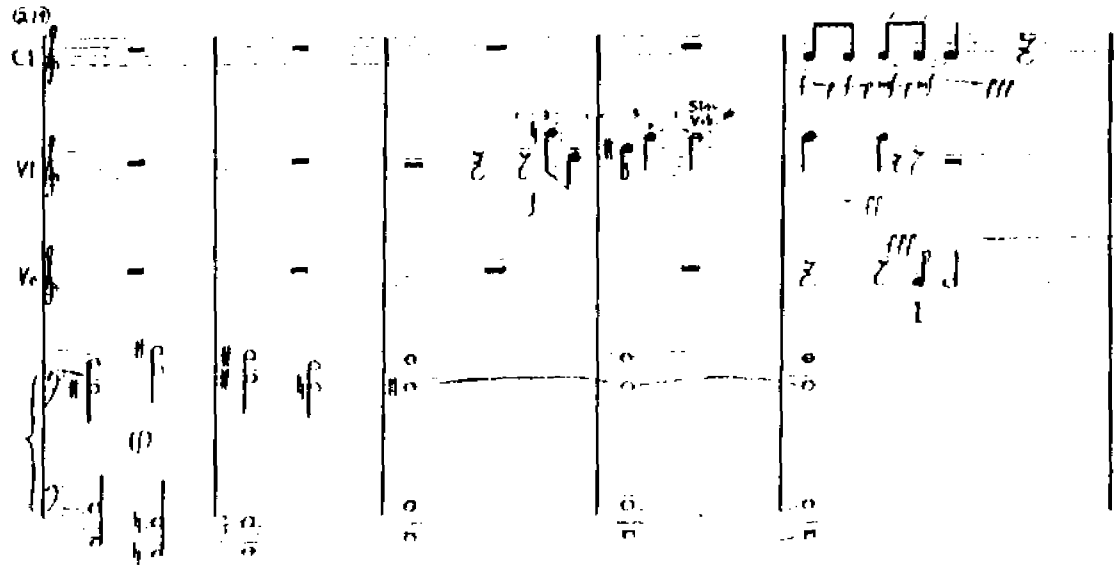
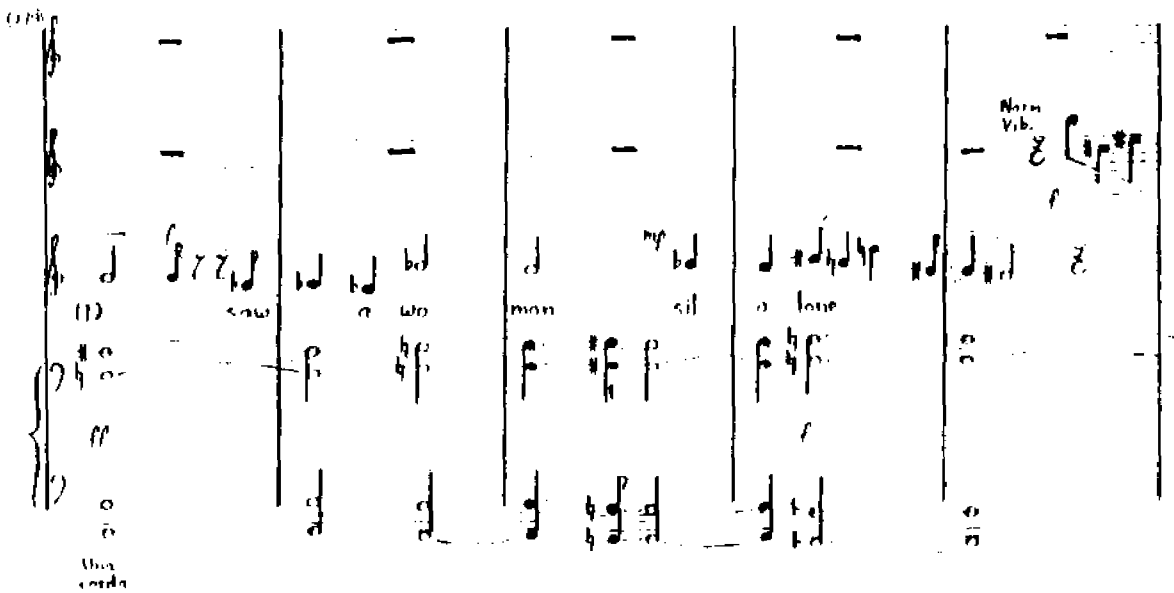
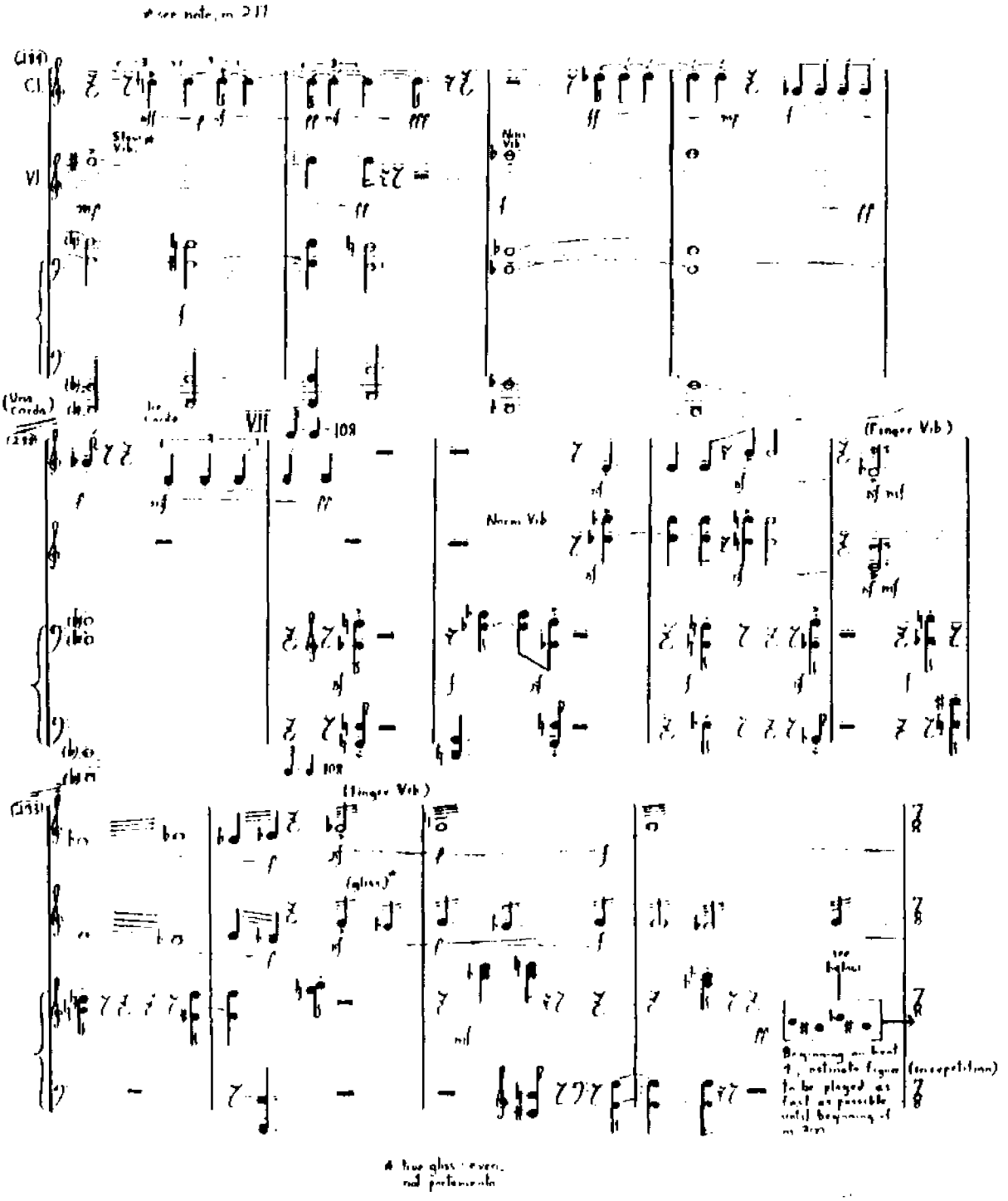
(wave),
a weird thing
saw
(saw),
the roughwrought,
and wonderfully
or
nale


(35)
Fl
Vl
Va
(mf)
(mp)
(mf)
(mp)
(mf)
(mp)
(mf)
(mp)
a wan
der on the wave
(mf)
(mf)
(mf)


rilard (see below)
(266)
VI
(mf)
Vo
(f)
bone
(mf)
loco
Pd (hold down)
rilard (gradually until last note of m 268 is slightly shorter than the first note of m 269)
a tempo
(♩=72)
VI
(269)
Cl.
(mf)
VI.
Vo
loco
(f)
loco
a tempo
(♩=72)
(Pd) Pd Pd Pd Pd
B♭ Clarinet
mf
ff
mf
ff
f
Pd (change with harmony, use for sustain only after m 288)






Cl.
VI
VII
(Una Corda)
(Finger Vib.)
Norm Vib
(gliss)*
Beginning on beat 1, ostinato figure to be played as fast as possible until beginning of m. 2(?)
(in repetition)
* live gliss: even not portamento

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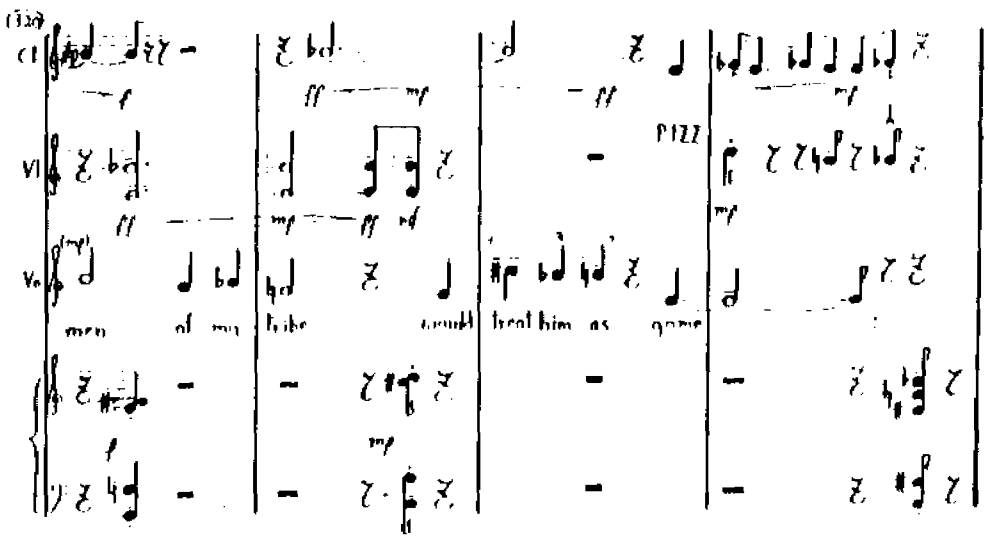
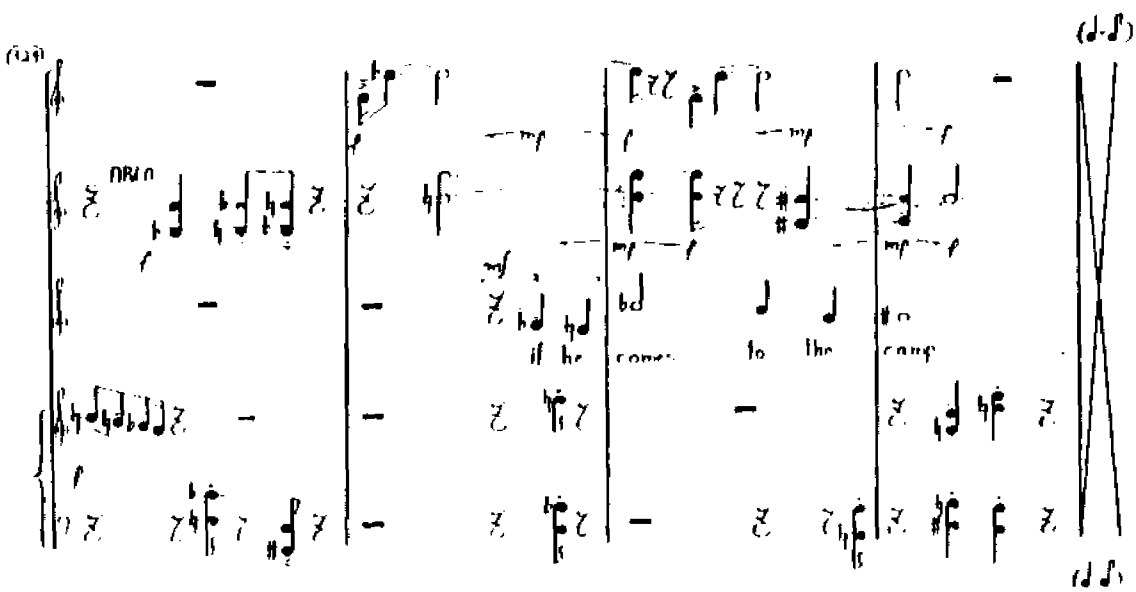
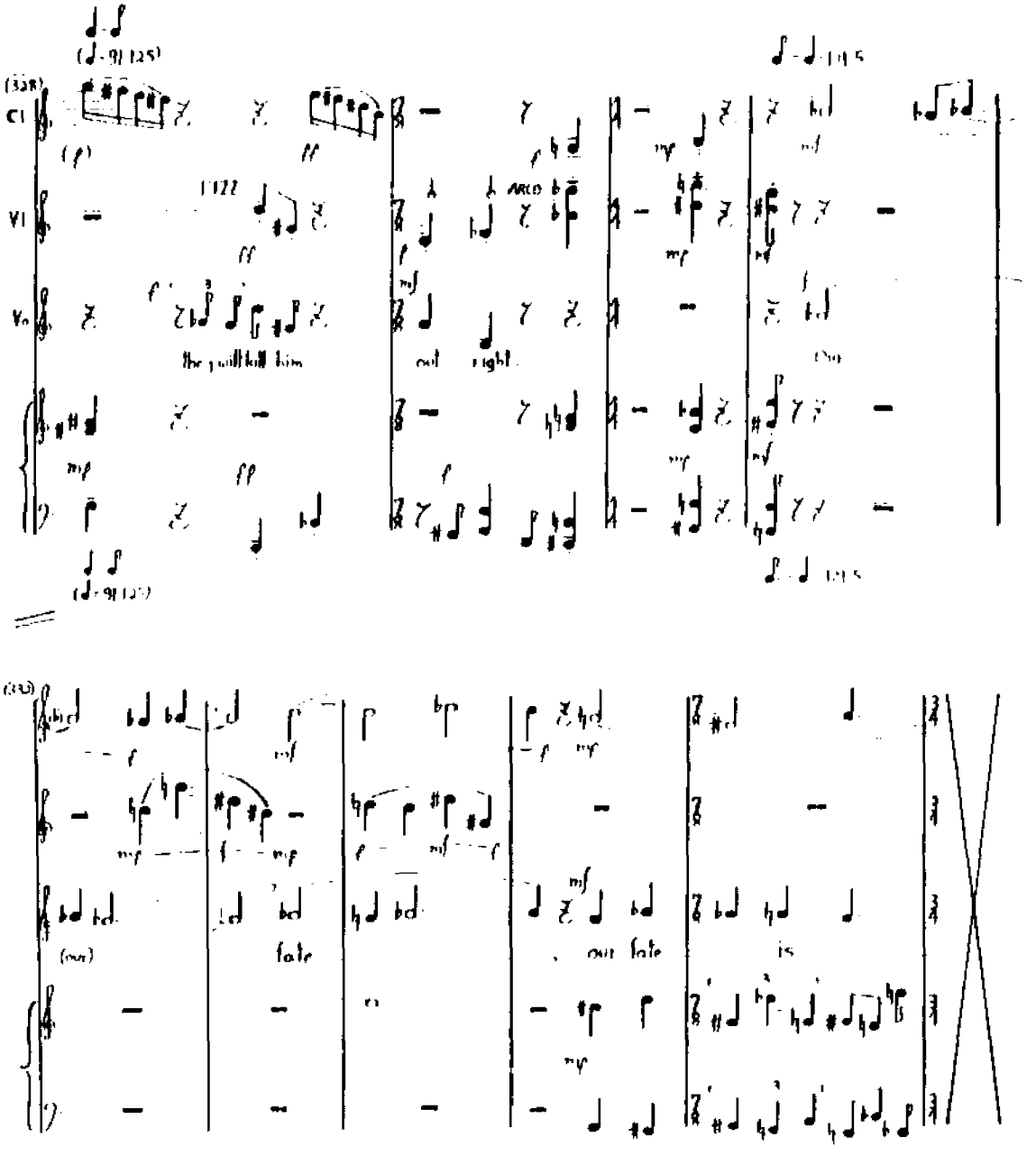
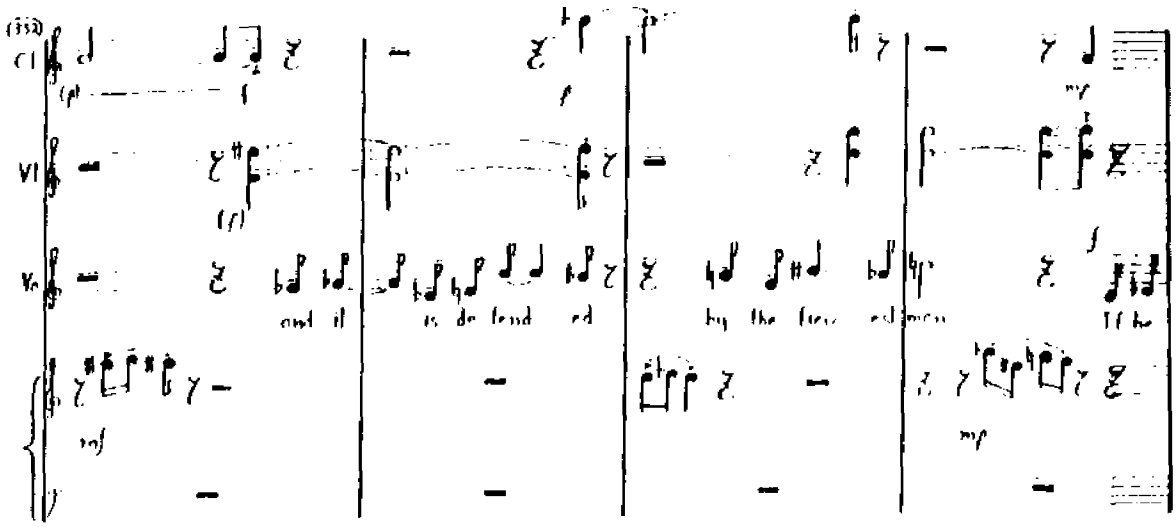
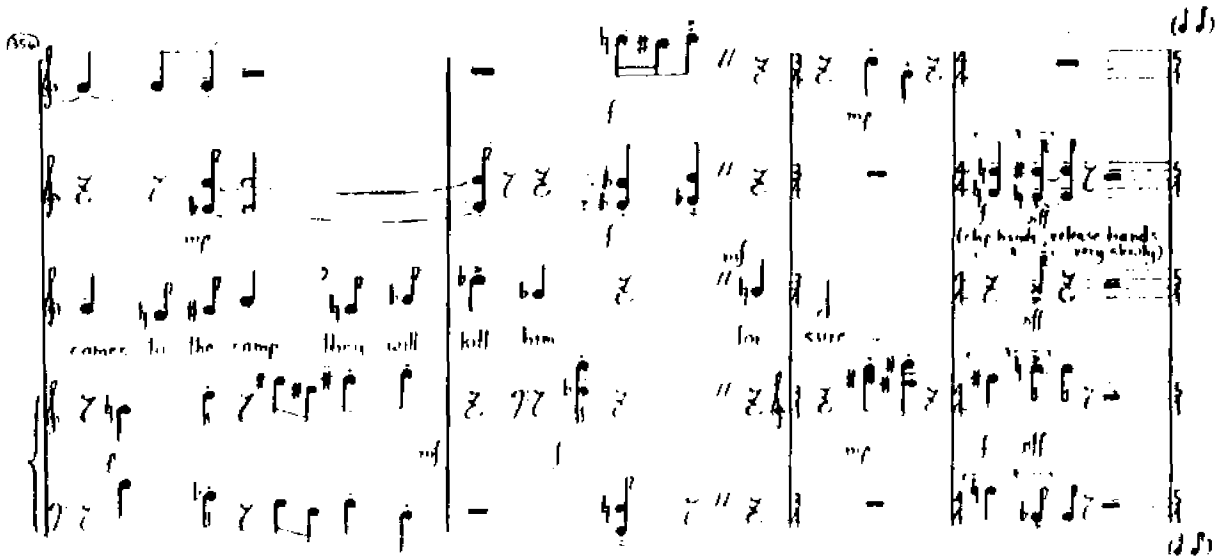

Cl
Vl
Vc
PIZZ
men of my tribe would treat him as game


if he comes to the camp

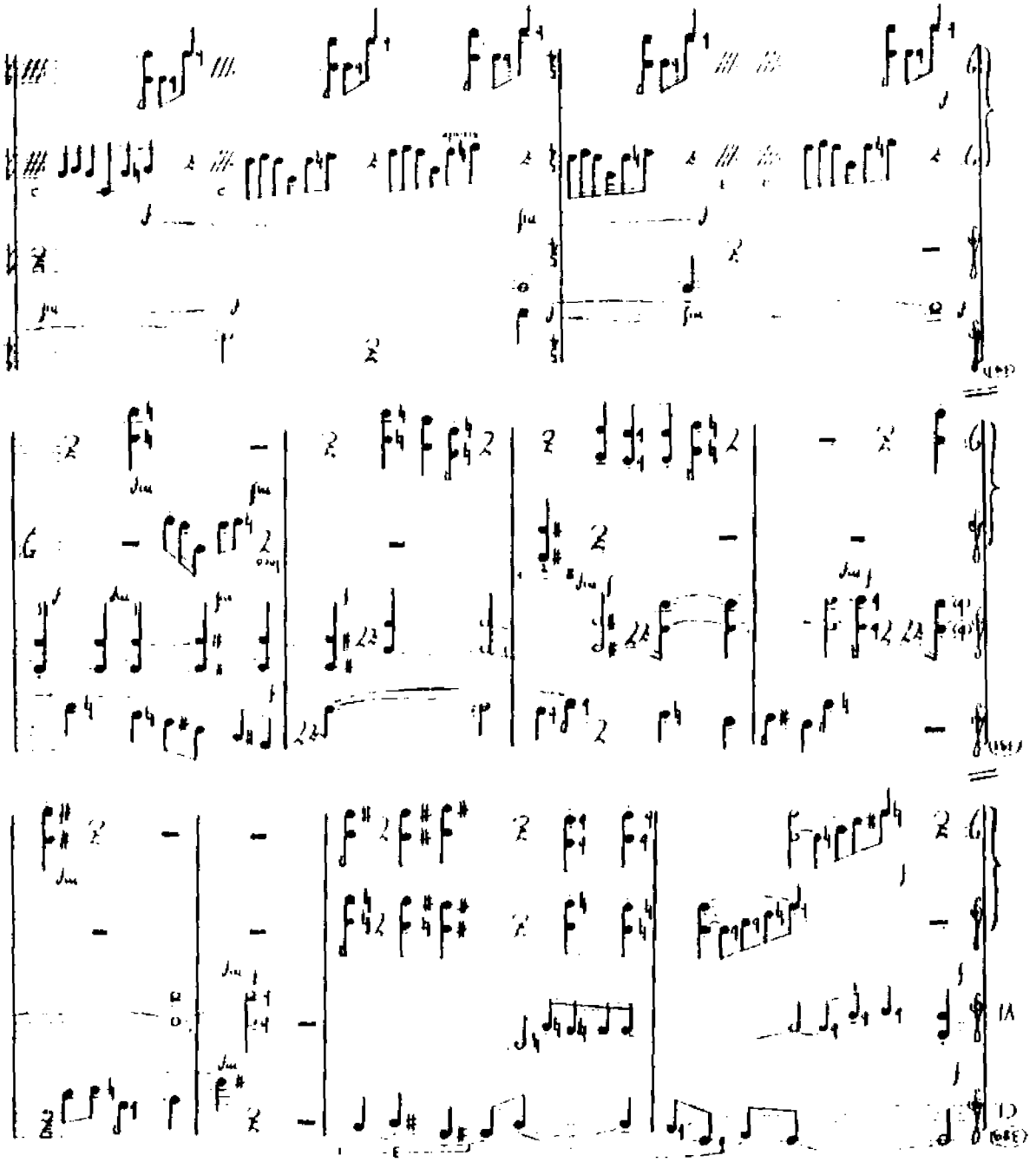

(328)
Cl
Vl
Vo
the pull kill him
out right
(our)
fate
our fate
is

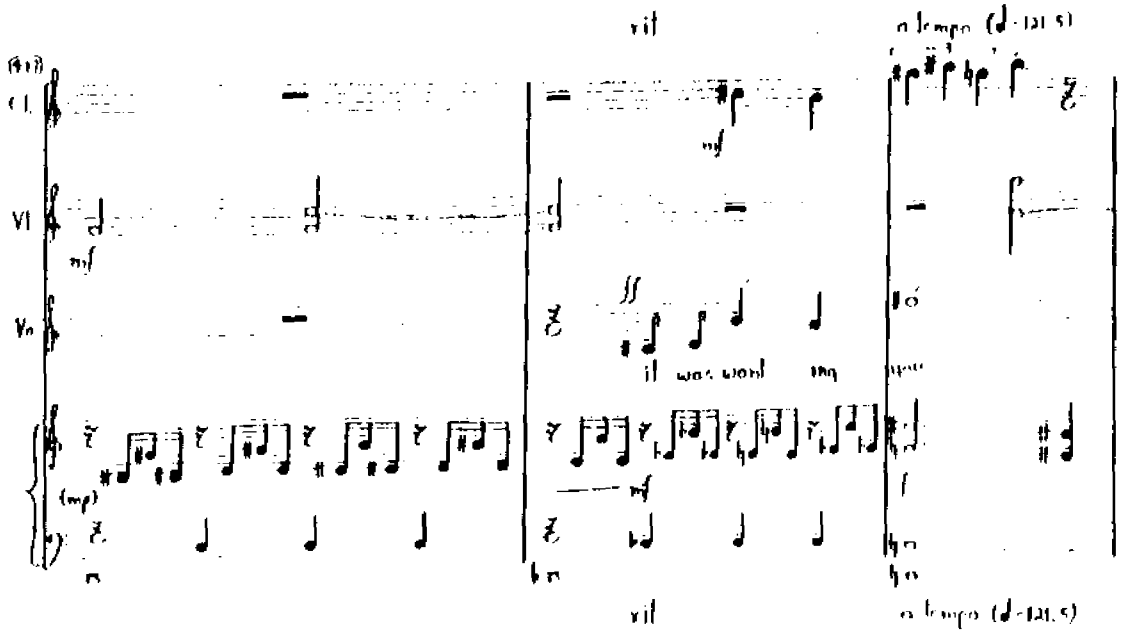
(111)
Vc.
Va.
(mf)
(p)
(p)
(pizz.)
arco
mf
f
ther
(pizz.)
(111)
mf
mp
mf
mp
mf
mp

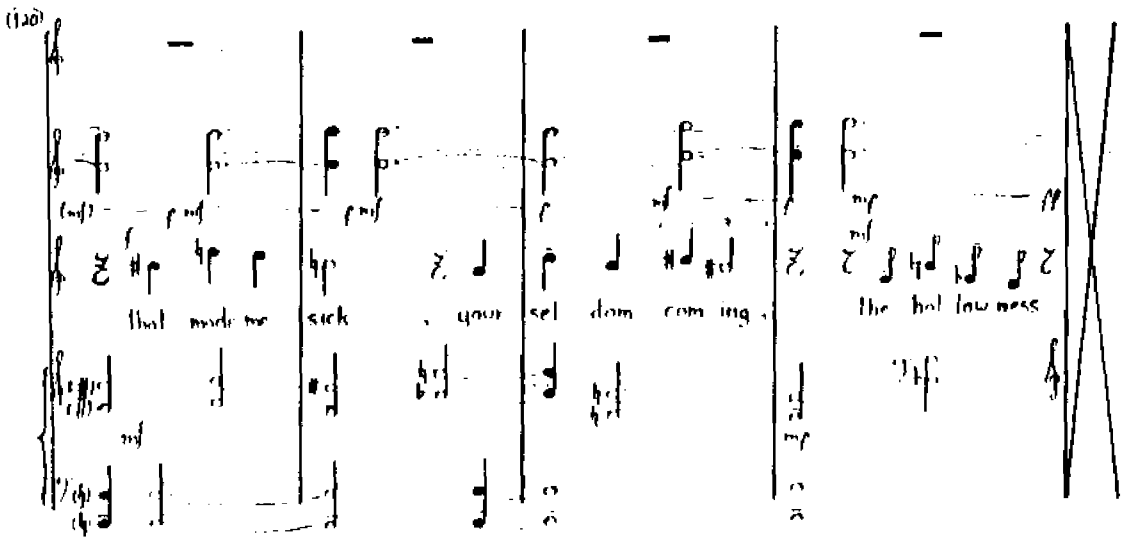

Cl
Vl
Vc
and it
is de fend ed
by the fier est men
If he

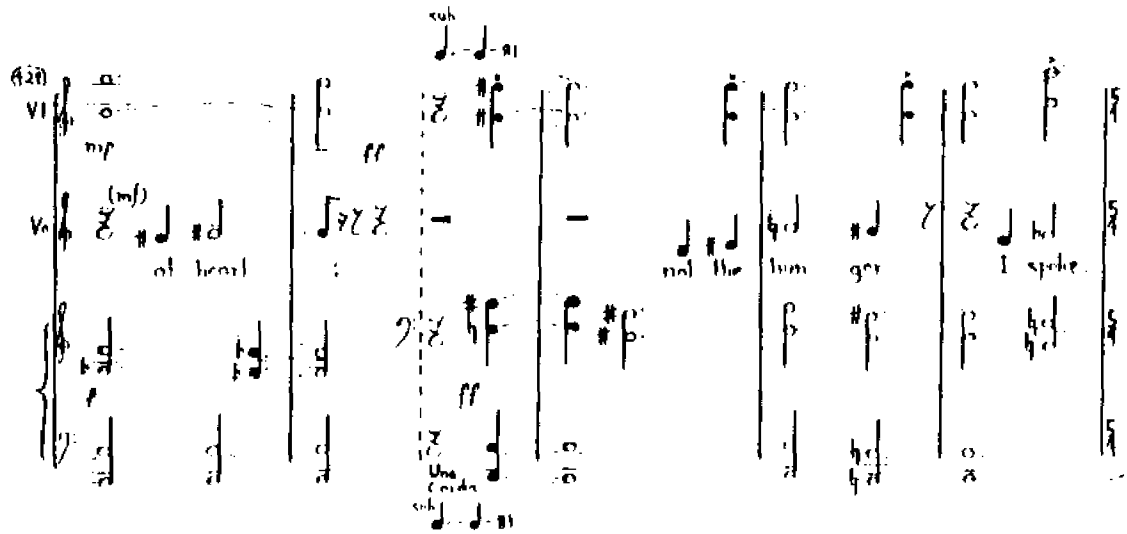

comes to the camp they will
kill him
for sure
(chip hands, release hands very slowly)

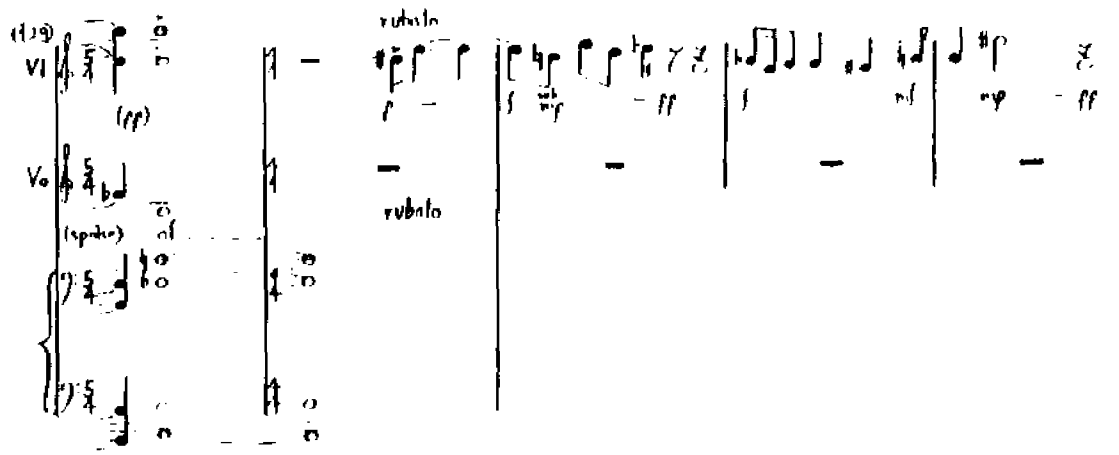
Cl.
Vn.
smile
It was rain y
weath er,
and I wept
(sub.)
(p)
(mp)
(sub.)
(p)
(sub.)
(p)
(sub.)
(p




rit
a tempo (♩=121.5)
Cl.
Vl
Va
mf
ff
(mp)
it was wont ing
you
rit
a tempo (♩=121.5)

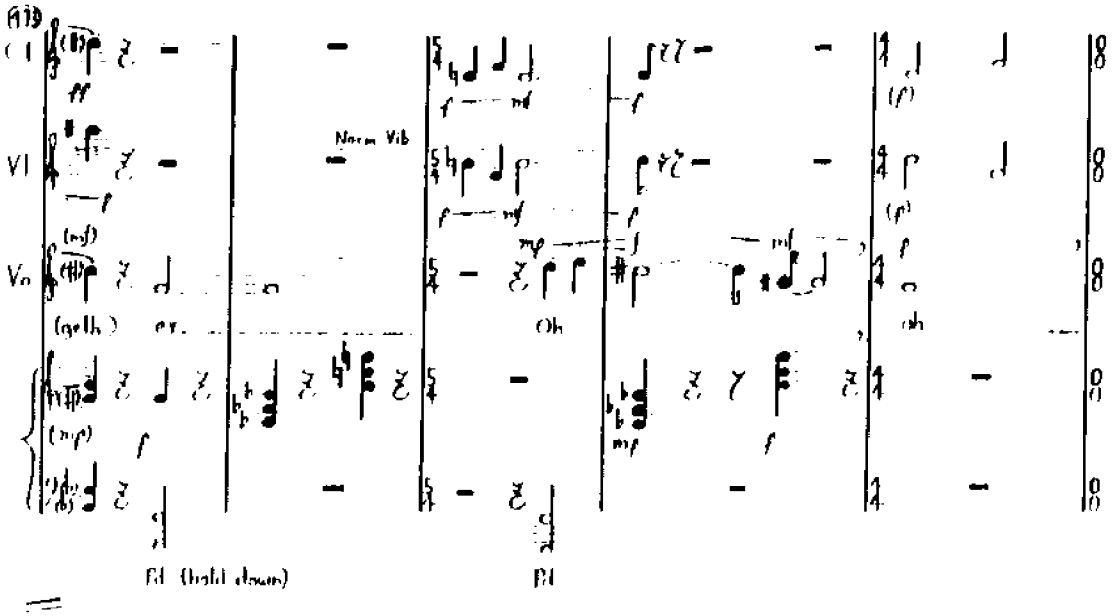
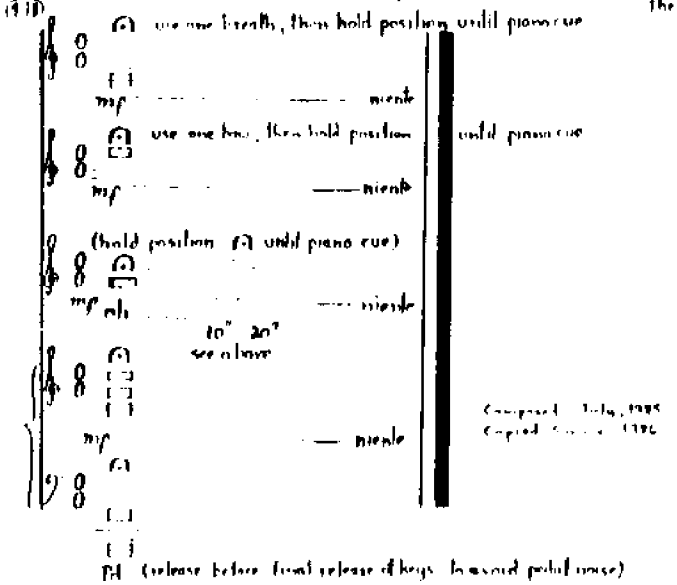

(120)
(mf)
mf
that made me sick , your sel dom com ing , the hol low ness


Vl
Vo
mp
(mf)
ff
at heart
not the hun ger
I spoke
Una Corda


Vl
Vo
(ff)
(spoke)
rubato
rubato
mf
mp
ff

Vl
Vo
mp
Do you hear
Our whelp

Cl.
Vl.
Va.
Vc.
Cb.
wolf
shall
take
up
the
sword
slow with
sul tasto
ponticello
(sul ponticello)
normal vib
(sul tasto)
(mp)
mp
mf
f
p
pp
ff
fp
sfz
a see note on p. 31
tre corde
s 121-125
s 121-125
s 121-125



* to be held until pianist determines that piano sound is inaudible. Pianist should then cue a gradual release