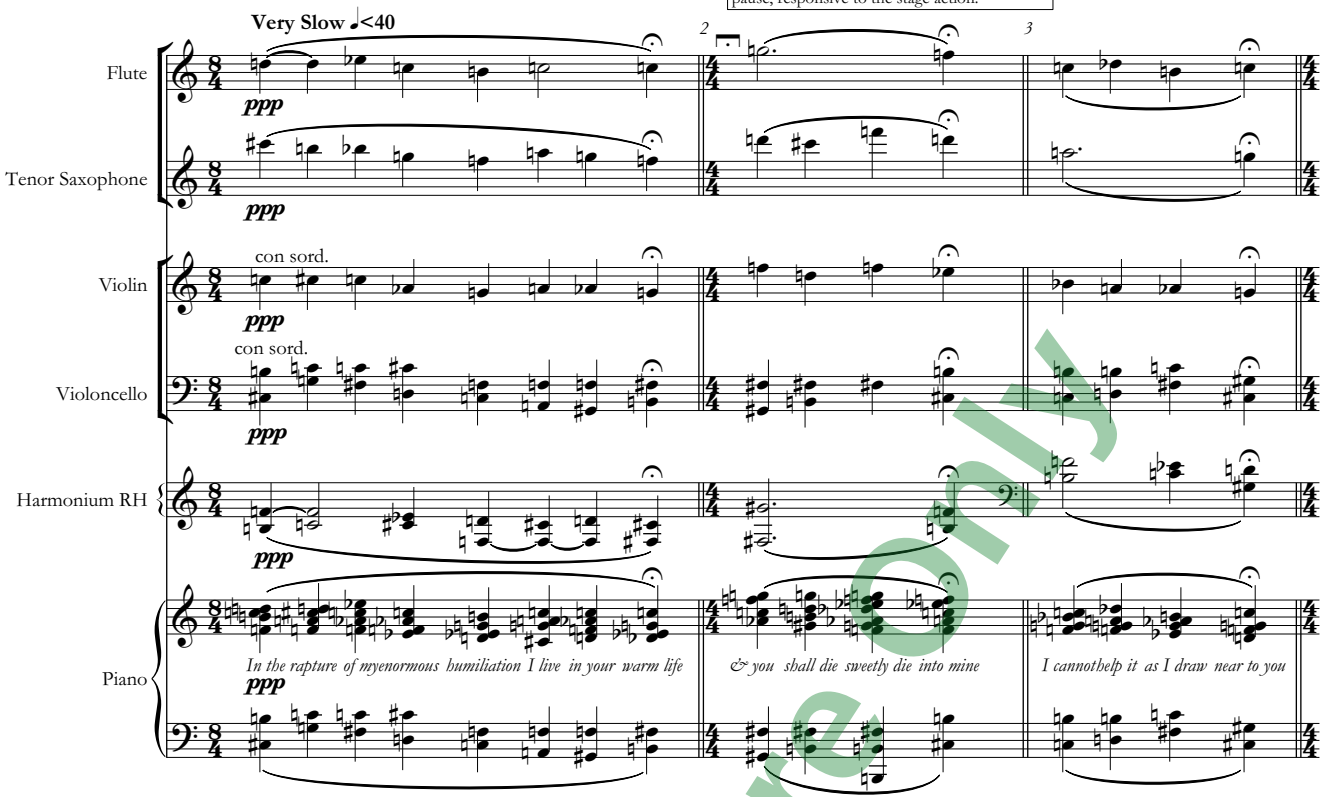
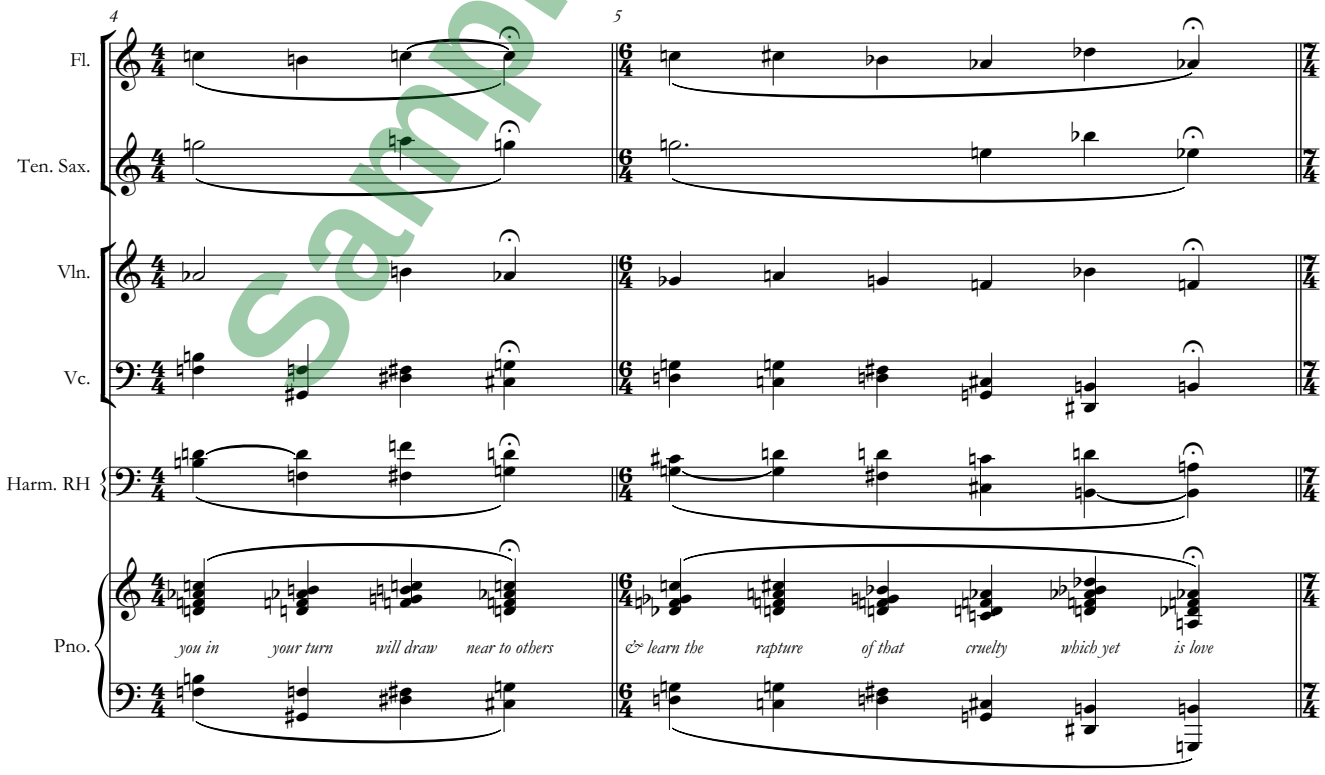
Carmilla

N.B: hereafter, double bar lines indicate a silent pause, responsive to the stage action.

Adam Yee (2012-2016)





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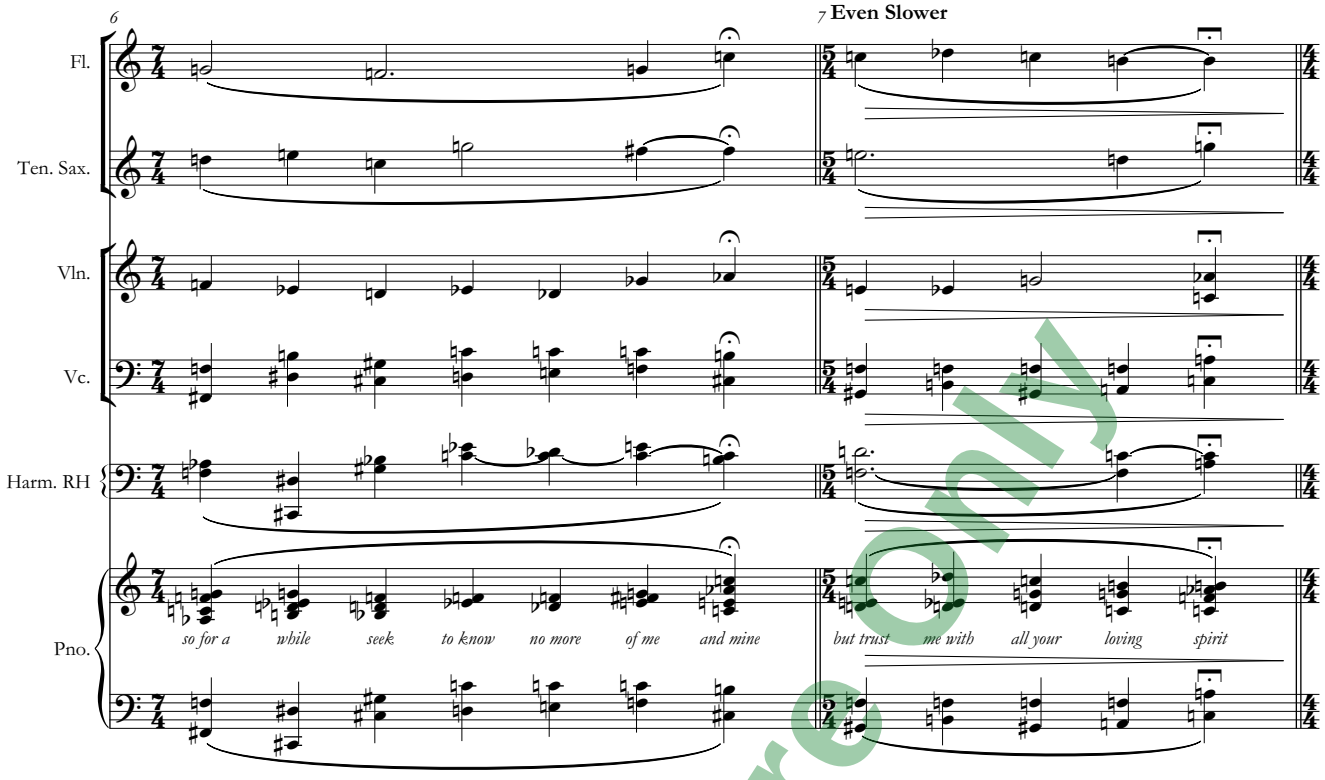

Words in **bold** cue the music they precede throughout

[Spotlight on LAURA]
LAURA: In Styria, we, though by no means magnificent people, inhabit a castle, or schloss. Nothing can be more picturesque or **solitary**.

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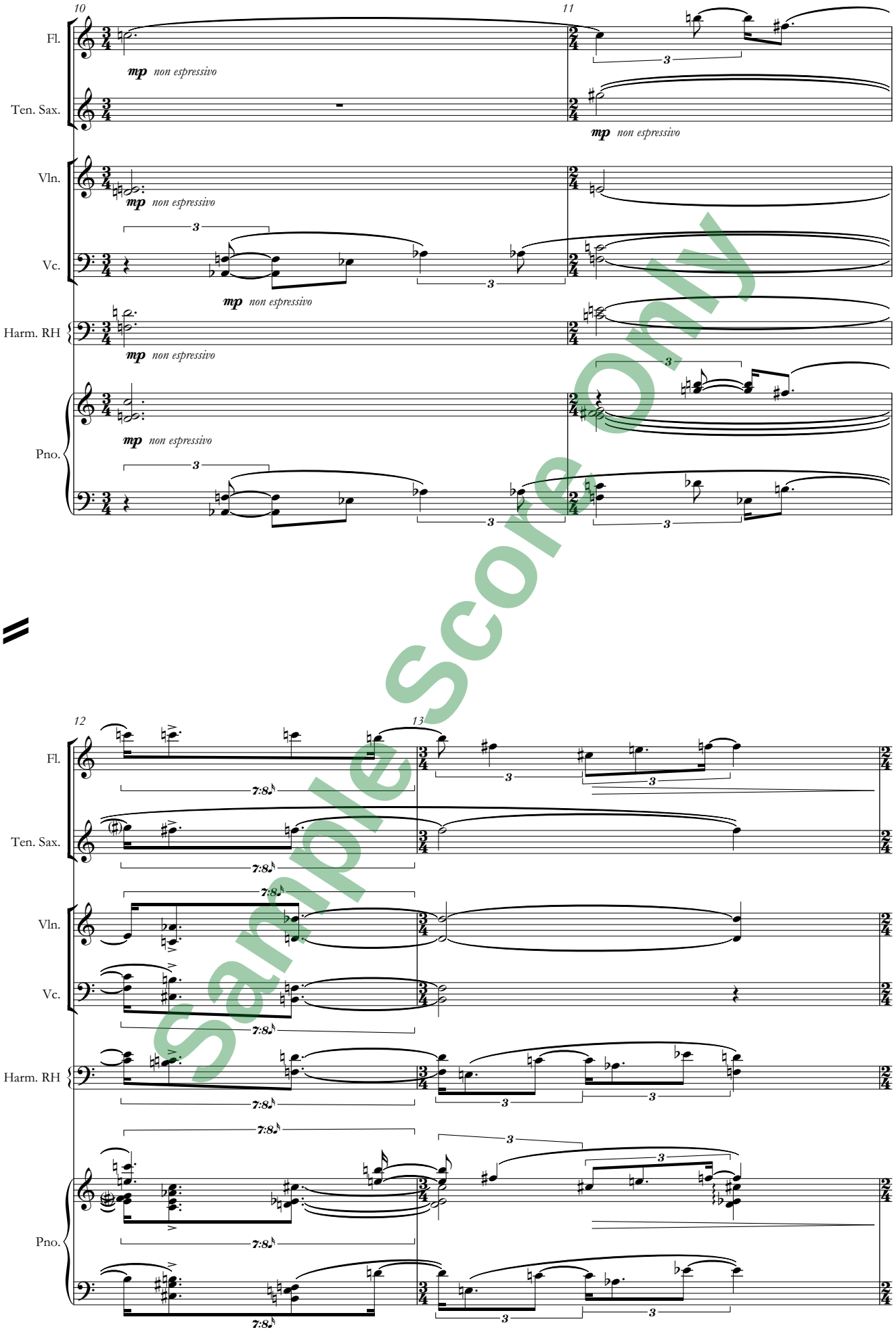
LAURA: I must tell you of the first occurrence in my existence, which produced a terrible impression upon my mind.
It was one of the very earliest incidents of my life which I can recollect. I was not frightened, for I was one of those happy children who are studiously kept in ignorance of **ghost** stories. [Lights reveal YOUNG LAURA asleep in her bed]



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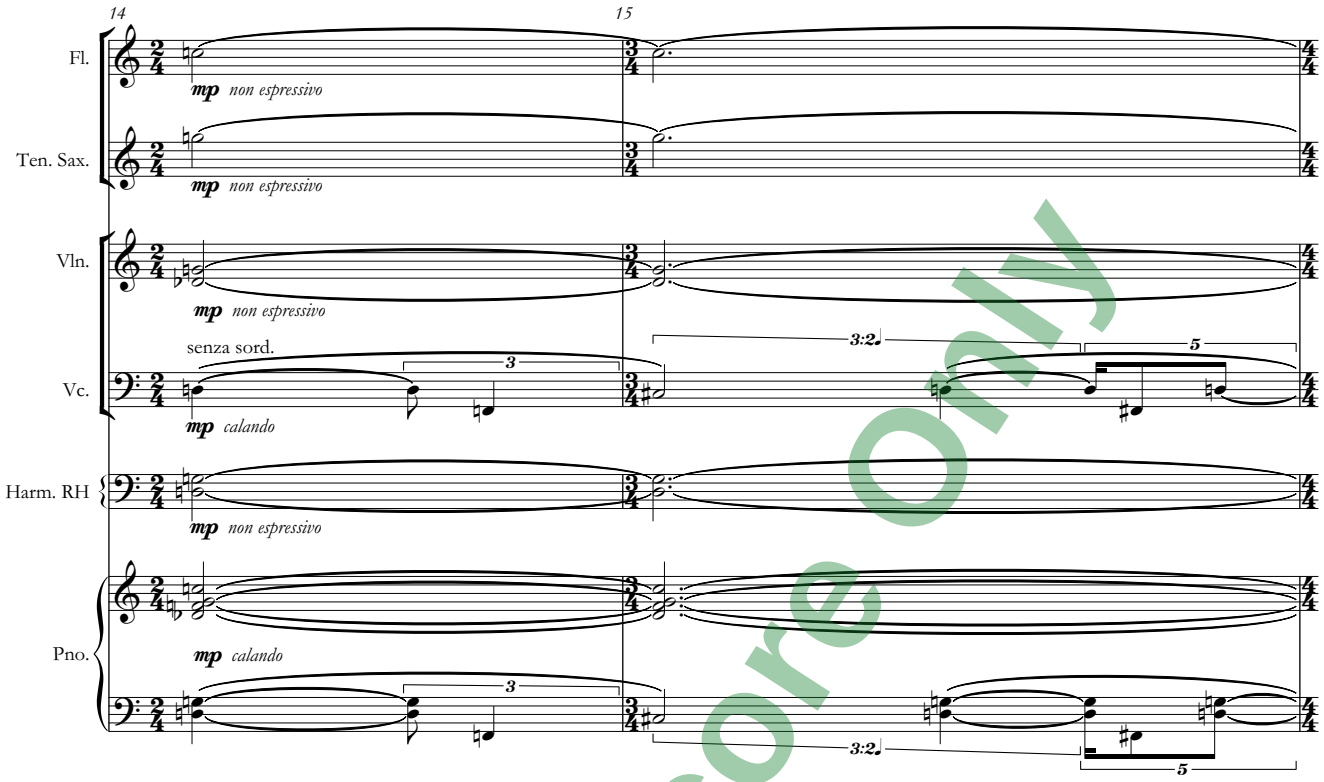
[LAURA wakes, and realizes that she is alone.]



[CARMILLA appears, looking at YOUNG LAURA. CARMILLA caresses YOUNG LAURA, lies down beside her on the bed, and draws YOUNG LAURA towards her, smiling. YOUNG LAURA is soothed and sleeps.]

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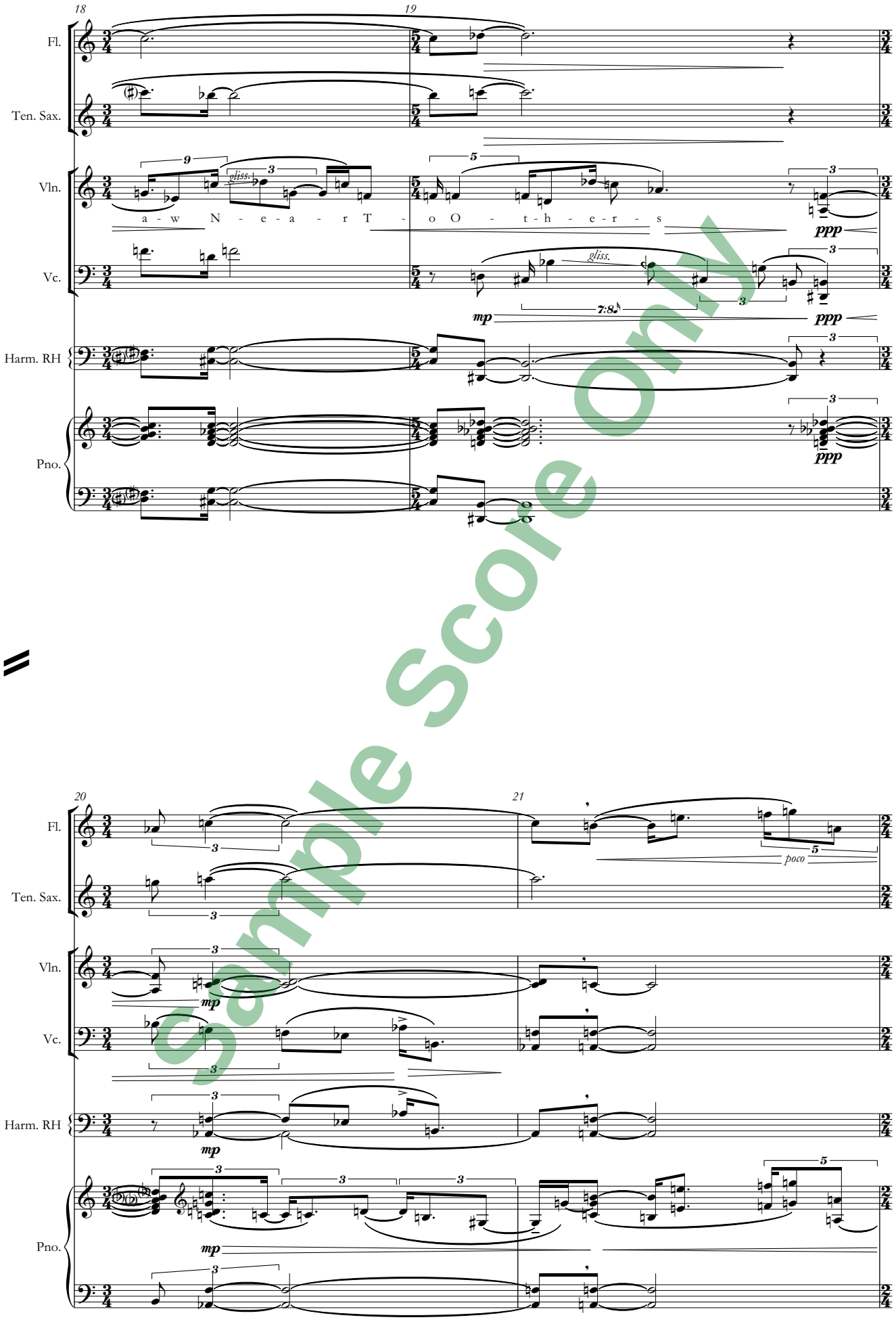

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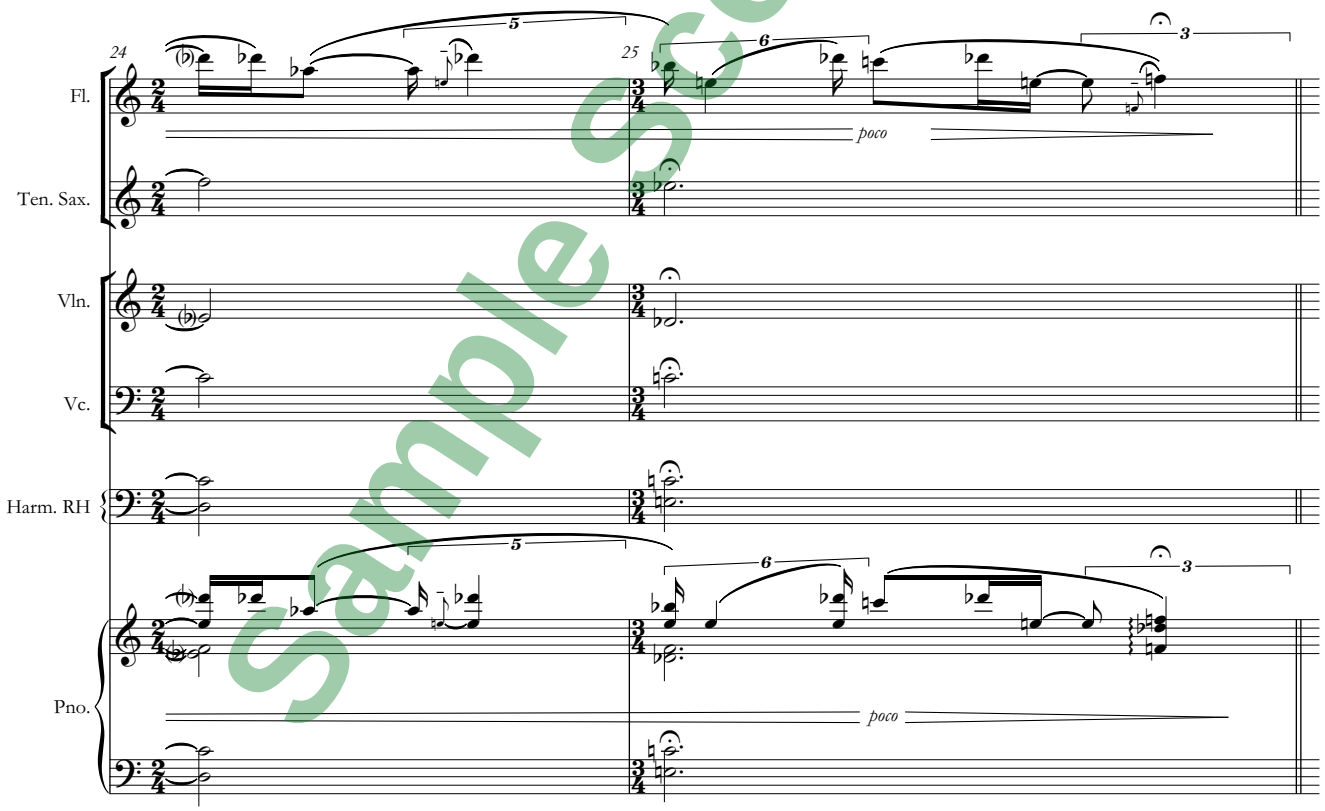
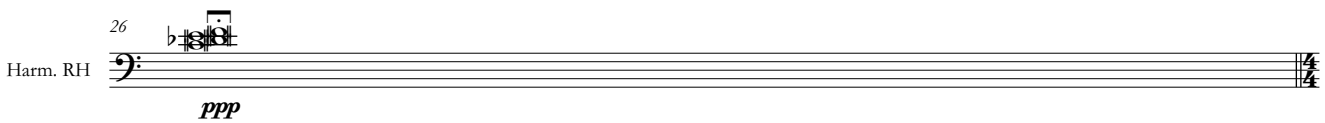
[Suddenly, CARMILLA leans over YOUNG LAURA who wakes, startled, and cries out loudly. CARMILLA starts back, with her eyes fixed on YOUNG LAURA, and then vanishes. Fade out lights on the bed.]

Cue to continue: LAURA's cry



LAURA'S FATHER: Do not be frightened. It was nothing but a dream. It cannot hurt you.
LAURA: But I was not comforted, for I knew the visit of the strange woman had been real. [**Blackout.**]



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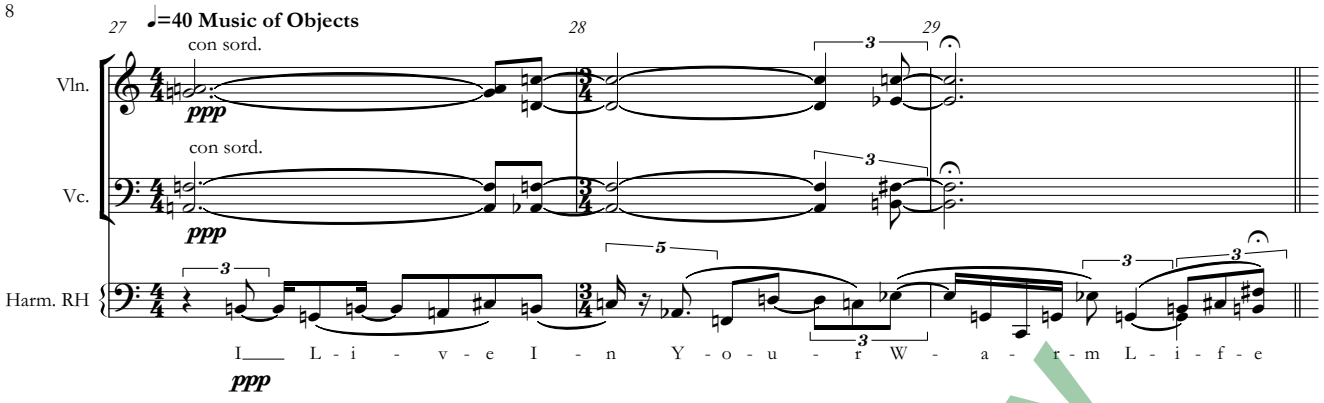
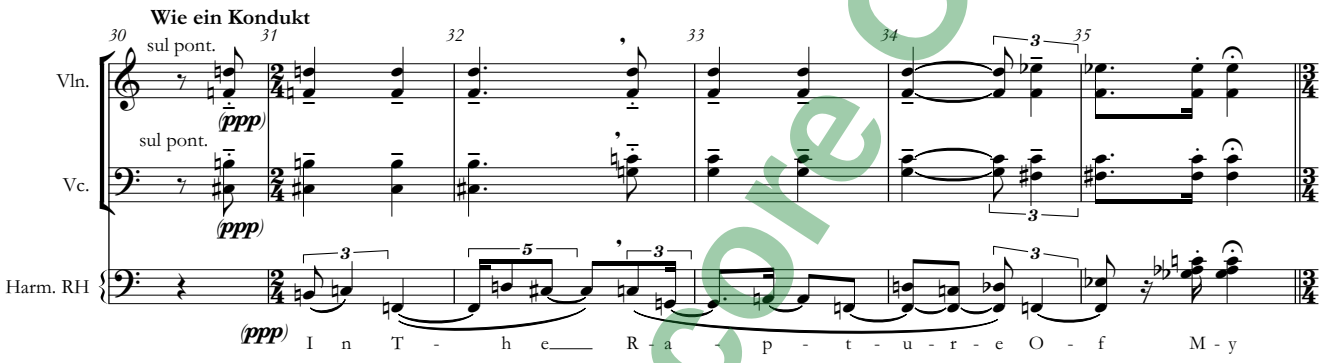
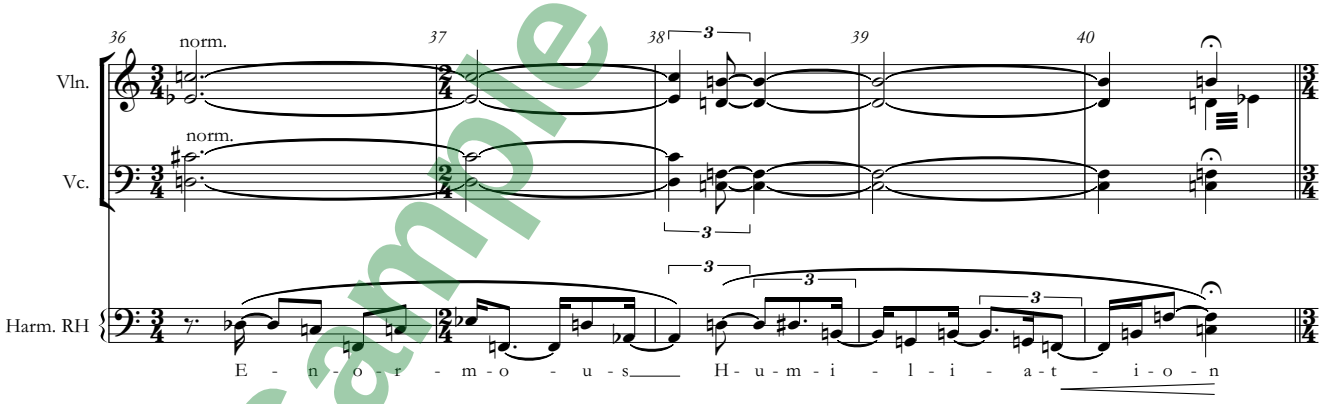
LAURA: I am now going to tell you something so strange that it will require all your faith in my veracity to believe my **story**.
[Enter LAURA and LAURA'S FATHER together. LAURA'S FATHER is reading a letter.]



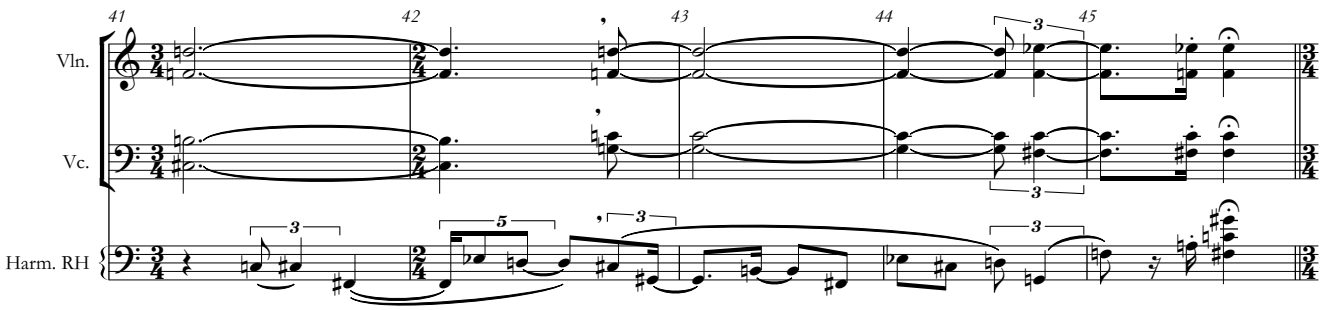
LAURA'S FATHER: General Spielsdorf cannot come to us so soon as I had hoped. LAURA: And how soon does he come?
LAURA'S FATHER: Not for two months, I dare say. And I am very glad now, dear, that you never knew Mademoiselle Rheinfeldt.
LAURA: And why? LAURA'S FATHER: Because the poor young lady is **dead**. [Hands letter to LAURA]
His letter appears to me to have been written very nearly in distraction.



LAURA: [reading] *"I have **lost** my darling daughter, for as such I loved her. I had no idea of her danger. I have lost her, and now learn all, too late. She died in the peace of innocence. The fiend who betrayed our infatuated hospitality has done it all. I thought I was receiving into my house innocence, gaiety, a charming companion for my lost Bertha. Heavens!*



LAURA: ... *What a **fool** I have been! I devote my remaining days to tracking and extinguishing a monster, cursing my conceited incredulity, my despicable affectation of superiority, my blindness, my obstinacy — all too late. I cannot write or talk collectedly now.*



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