# The Swineherd

Opera da Camera for soprano, tenor, flute, viola, harp, and percussion

William Osborne



## Performance Notes

### Notation

Each player reads from a full score.

(9) = pause or hold approximately 9 seconds

<u>Page one</u>: Read in the following order: 1A,1B,1C,2A,2B,2C,etc. Each circle has an independence of tempo and vertical relation with the other parts but the total duration of each circle should be approximately the same. When the last circle has completed 3c go directly to the "coalition phrase." Pause 5-2 seconds between each part.

Page two: For the circle follow a numerical order beginning each successive part according to the cue arrows. E.g. means begin part & at this point. If there is no cue the next section follows in tempo.

<u>Page six</u>: Each circle follows the numerical order. Pause 5-8 seconds between each part. As indicated the top circle waits about 15 seconds before entering and the bottom circle about 7. The circles should end at approximately the same time

<u>Page nine</u>: Read in the same manner as the page two circle.

All instruments sound where written except glockenspiel, celeste, and crystal goblet which sound sva higher. Crotales sound 15ma. higher.

## Special Effects

Percussion: Bowed crotales-Stroke crotales with a well rosined bass bow. On pages one and nine two crotales are bowed at once thus requiring two bass bows. Crystal goblet-Rub a moistened finger around the rim of a goblet tuned with water. Harmonica-The part can be played by the percussionist because it is very simple. The passages on pages seven and eight appear difficult but they aren't because they involve only the lowest and highest triads of the instrument with a glissandoin between. The vowel effects are produced by forming them with the mouth while playing. Tremolos are produced by a fast back and forth latteral movement of the instrument accross the mouth.

Voice: 0 -> a means to modulate gradually between the vowel sounds. Trills notated thus are Monteverdi trills.

(I.e. A tremolo on a single note.) The vowel sounds of the vocalise on page ten are prounounced as they would be in

Staging

The work may be performed staged or unstaged. If staged the instrumentalists should not play from a pit but on stage behind the singers. A platform might be used. Some simple stage directions are given in the score. Two props are necessary, a red rose and some glass wind chimes. Costuming, lighting, and staging can be very simple or more elaborate if the means are available. The "Dancé" and "Revelation" can be used as ballets. The work is very freely based on the fairy tale of Hans Christian Anderson of the same name.

#### Voices and Instrumentation

Soprano Tenor Viola Flute Harp Percussion:

vibraphone 4 (sounds 15 ma

glockenspiel

xylophone

tubular bells

6 tuned membranes

2 suspended cymbals (large and small)

harmonica in 6 minor

5 wood blocks

Kabuki blocks

maracas

glass chimes

bell tree

2 bass bows

crystal goblet

(actual pitch)

# Libretto

To be presented with the atmosphere and suspension of a dream.

Gift

[The lighting has risen on a Prince. He is holding a Rose. His mind has been abstracted by its beauty.]

Prince: "Rose, Rose of the Garden, Rose of dreams."

[ As he sings this last phrase he gives the Rose to the Princess as the lighting rises on her. She is bewildered and confused by the gift. She does not Know if she is dreaming or if it is real.]

Princess: "Between two worlds, Like ghostly angels. Vivid vision --Sight's will."

> "Rose... Nocturne's flower, Celestial dream. Rose..."

[Lighting fades on Princess]

(Dance)

Seduction

[The lighting has slowly risen on the Prince and Princess. His back is to the audience. He has made the magic chimes and she is enchanted and bewitched by their beauty. She casts the Rose aside...]

Princess: "Why that's my song I hear among the pens. Let's find this man of taste And be his friends."

> "Kind Sir, what do you want for those sweet chimes? They ring so beautifully in your gentle hand. For now I find my long sought fantasy, Is now a part of this reality."

[He musingly rings the glass chimes. Then singing as he turns, exposes to her horror, the grotesque mask of a swineherd.]

Prince: "Ten Kisses!"

Princess: "Oh how rude you are! I leave at once, This dirty pigman who creates such silly stunts. You are a man beneath my Kiss, And for that price the chimes I will dismiss!"

> [He sounds the chimes again. Falling under their spell she succumbs.]

Princess: "Listen, Listen to the chimes, How sweet the song.

> "Very well... Very well..."

[She embraces him. The lighting fades.]

(Revelation)

Banishment

[The Princess appears in a dim light shocked and anguished. She has been banished from her realm for Kissing the Swine-herd. She sings a vocalise and takes up the Rose she had cast aside.]

Princess: "Between two worlds, Ghostly angels."

[A dim light has appeared on the Prince. He is now without the mask.]

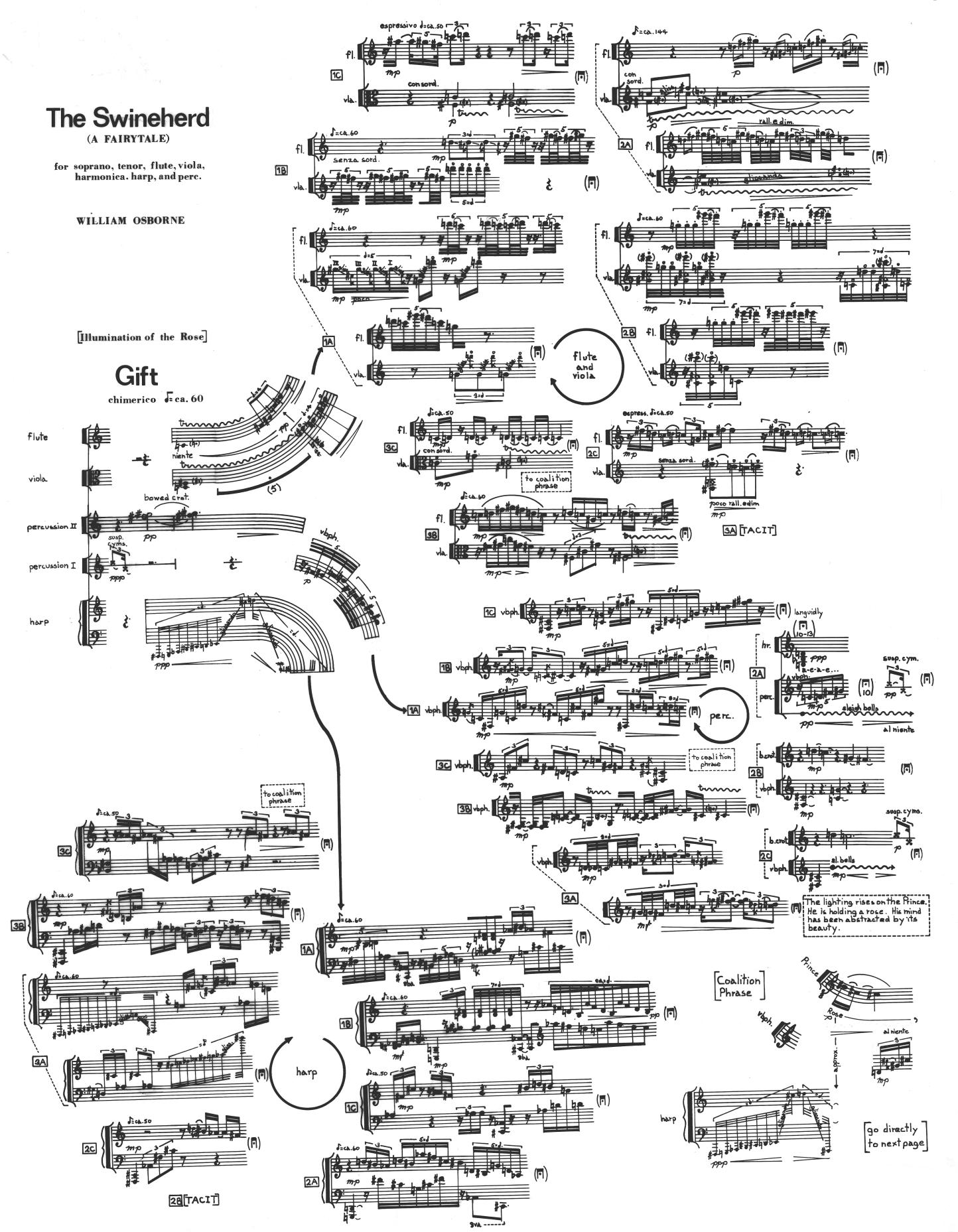
Prince: "The Rose you would not have."

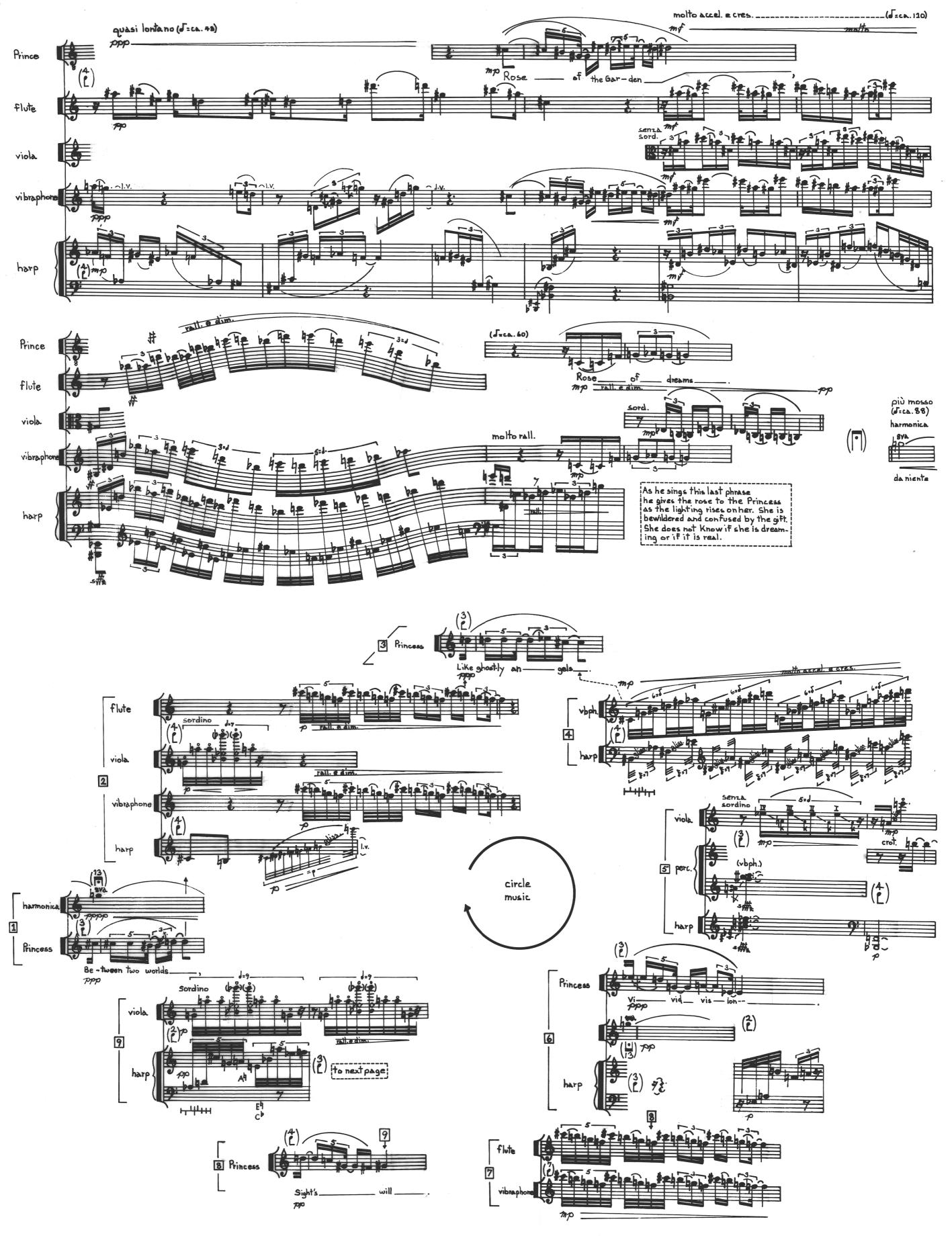
Princess: "Life's a dream." Prince: "Banished for ever." Princess: "Am I dreaming?"

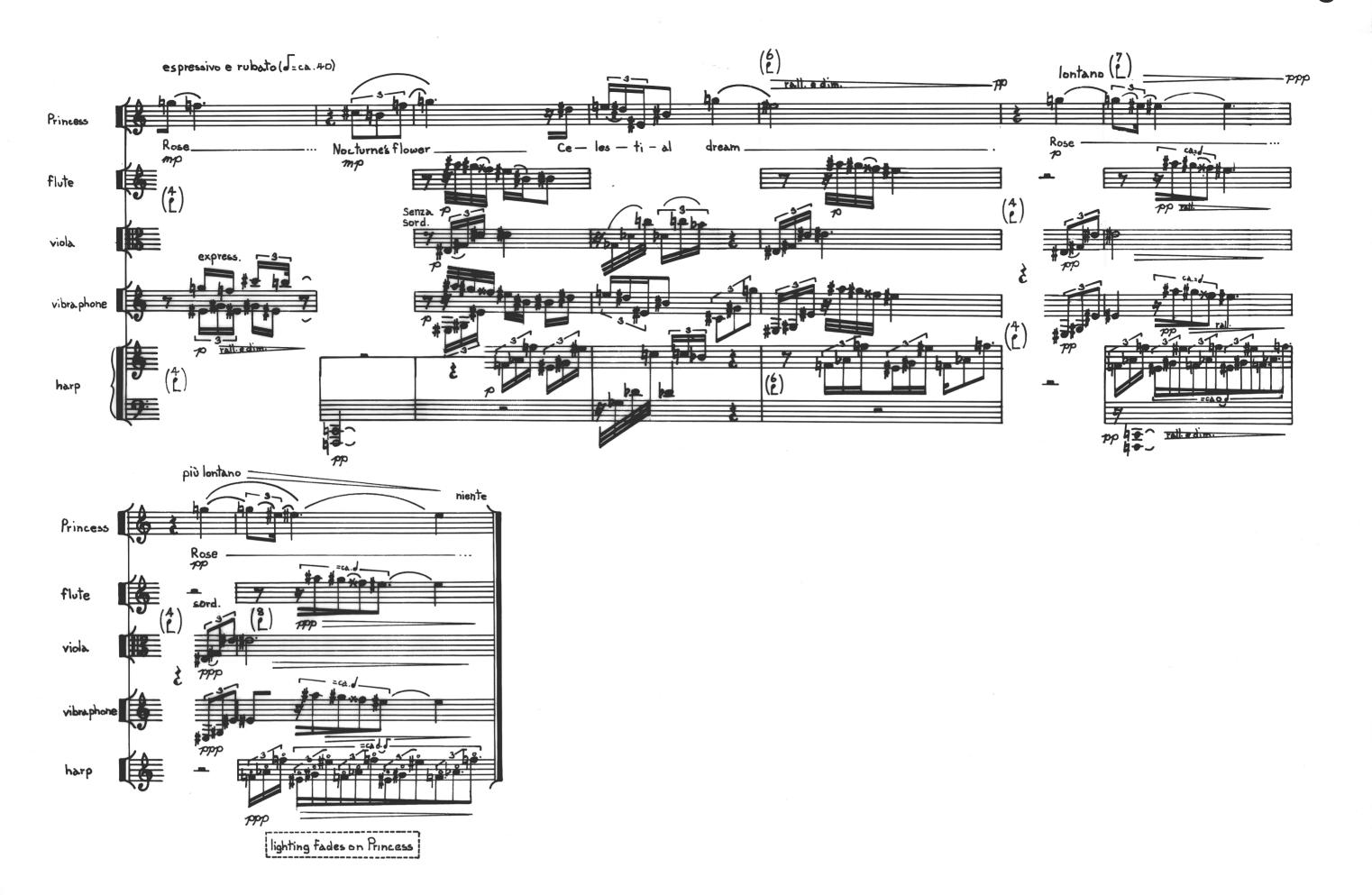
[The light on the Prince gradually fades. The Princess

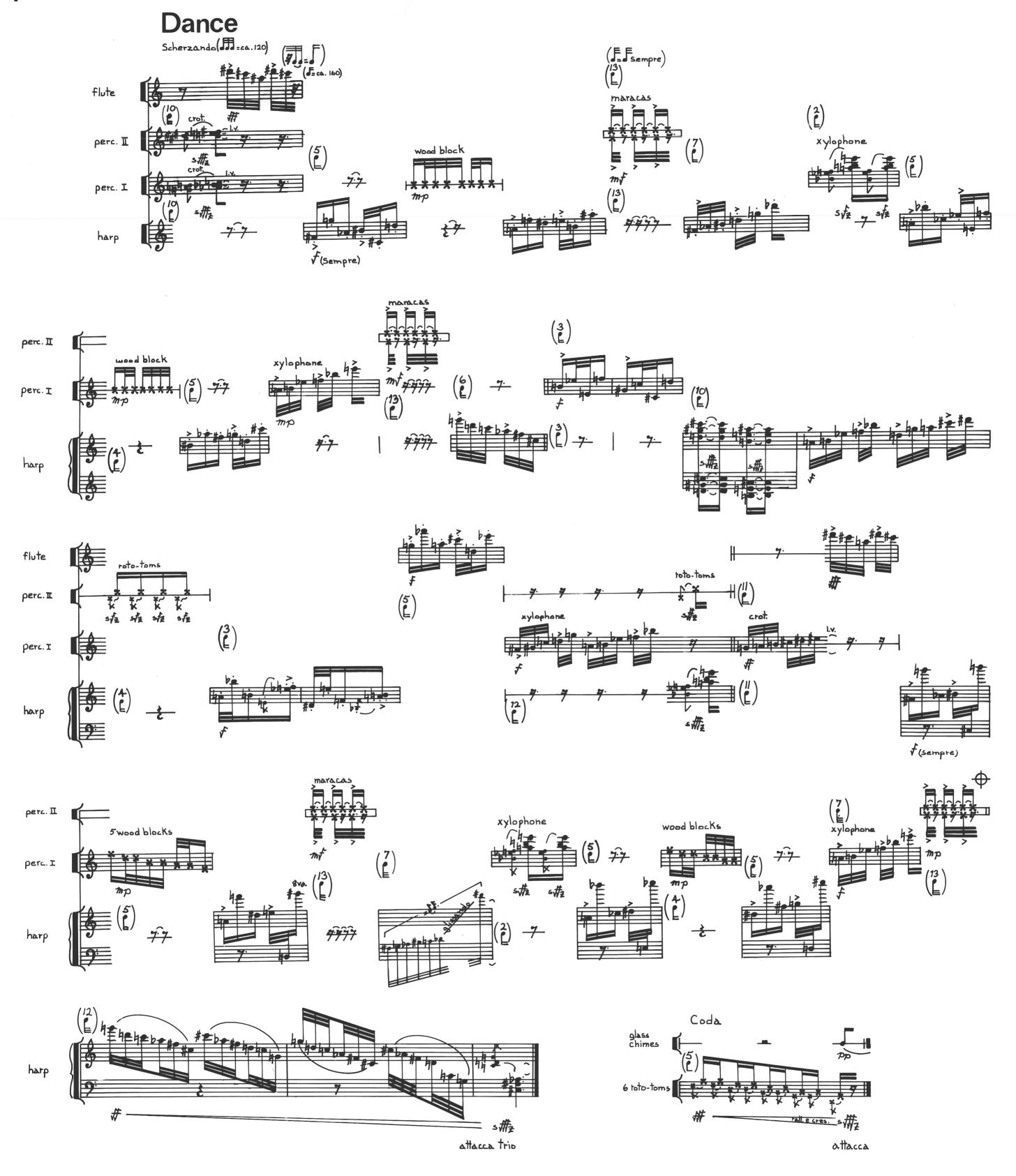
Princess: "Ah my dear Augustine, Our dreams are done, done, done..."

> Ah mydear Augustine, Our dreams are done, done, done ...











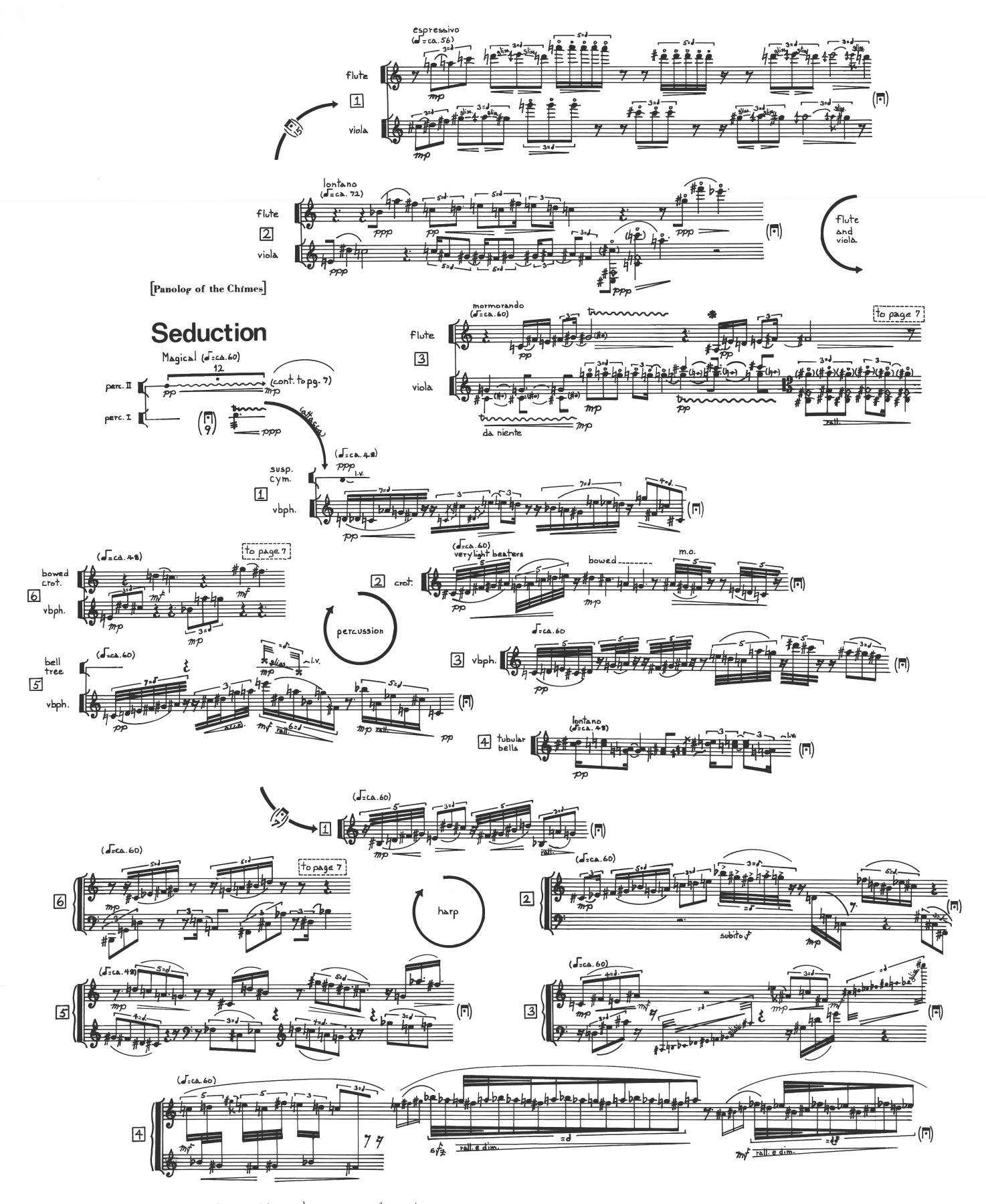
flute

viola

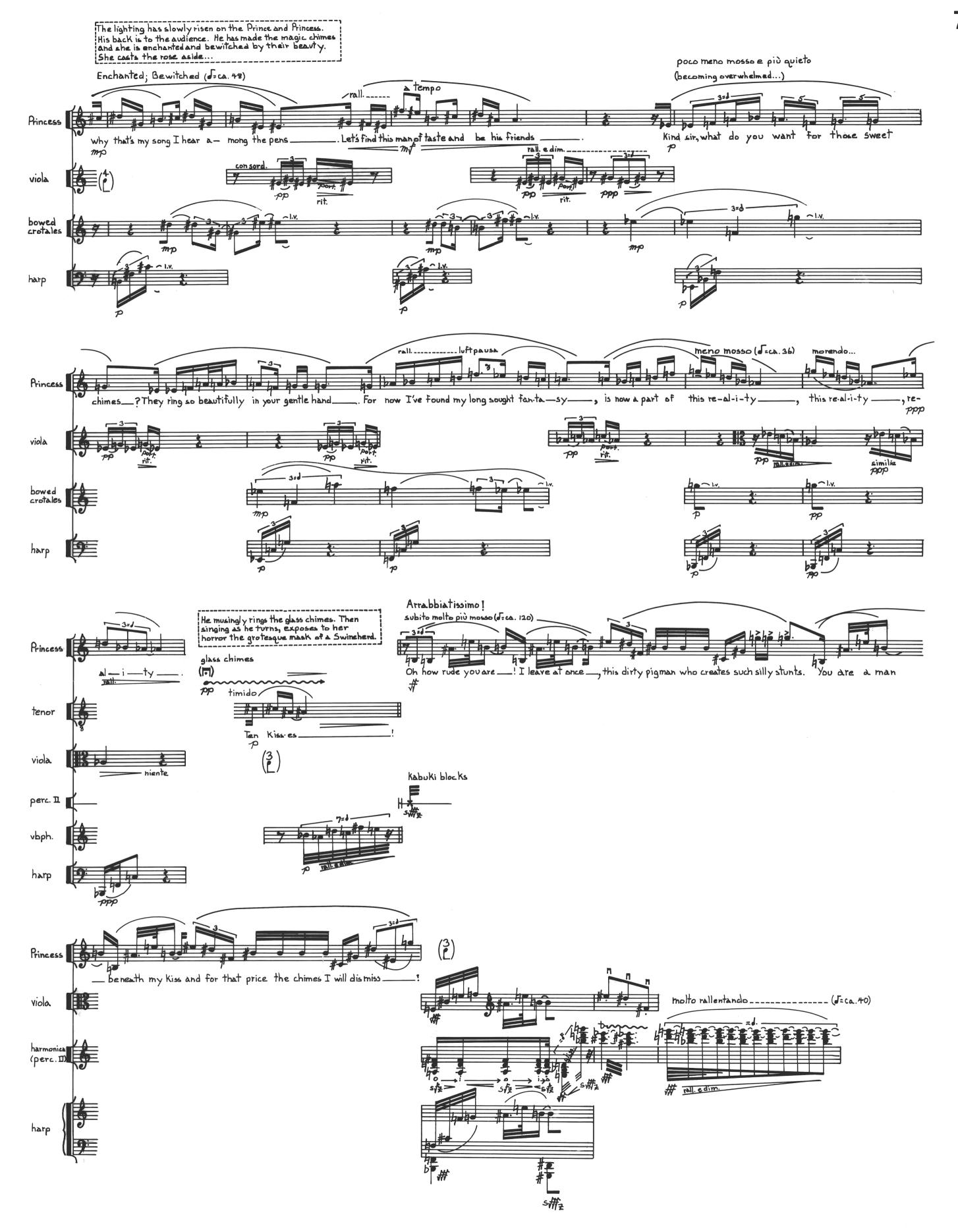
harp

flute

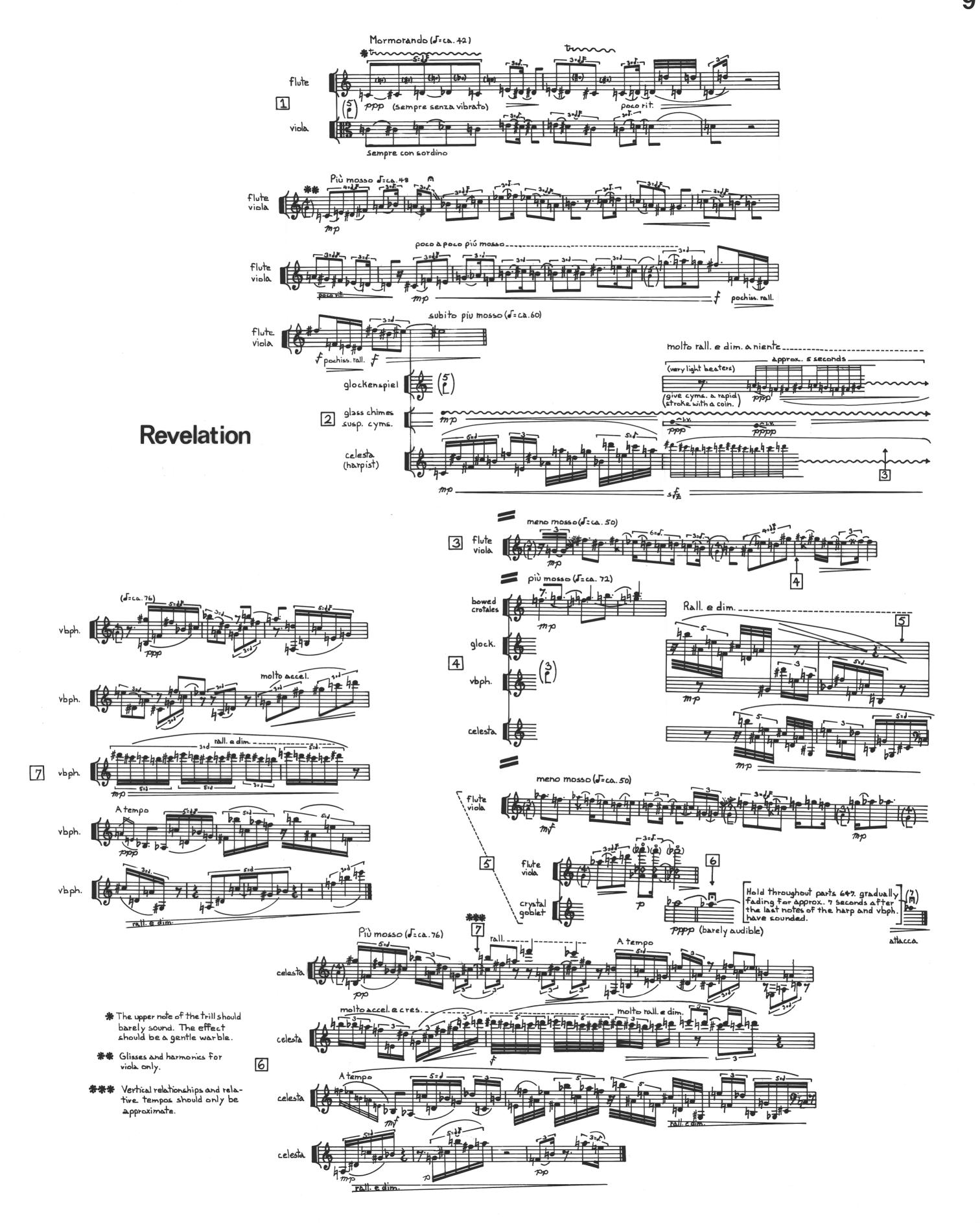
viola



# If the flute does not have a Bb Key raise the A# one octave.







# **Banishment**



<sup>\*</sup> See performance notes.



