The Chambers of the Sea

For Electronics, Harmonica, and Voice

Music by
DYLAN NEEDLEMAN

Text by
T.S. ELIOT

October 2023

Instrumentation

Voice: Bass singer with range from F2 to E4

Harmonica: 16 hole C Chromatic Harmonica

Pitched Noise: To be played live with a MIDI Controller. There are five distinct sound that need to be switched through, and they each should have the ability to be transposed up a quarter tone. The five sounds are: a siren, a church organ like sound, the same siren with a more harmonic tone underneath, a swell not unlike the sound of waves, and an electric organ like sound. Each of the sounds should be created before the performance electronically using feedback through different effects to generate the desired sounds, and then pitched to be able to be used harmonically.

Percussive Noise: Either pre-recorded or to be played live with a MIDI controller. There are three general sounds to be created, a low rumble (similar to a bass drum), a medium hit (similar to a snare drum), and a high hit (similar to a shaker). These sounds should be created electronically by using feedback with effects in the middle to control the sounds.

Drone: To be played by mixer with at least 2 inputs (which can be toggled on or off) and 3 outputs. The first two outputs should be routed into the 2 inputs, to create a tone from the feedback. Those tones should then be tuned to C2 and G2.

An Excerpt from The Love Song Of J. Alfred Prufrock (1917)

by T.S. Eliot

I grow old... I grow old...
I shall wear the bottoms of my trousers rolled.

Shall I part my hair behind? Do I dare to eat a peach?
I shall wear white flannel trousers, and walk upon the beach.
I have heard the mermaids singing, each to each.

I do not think that they will sing to me.

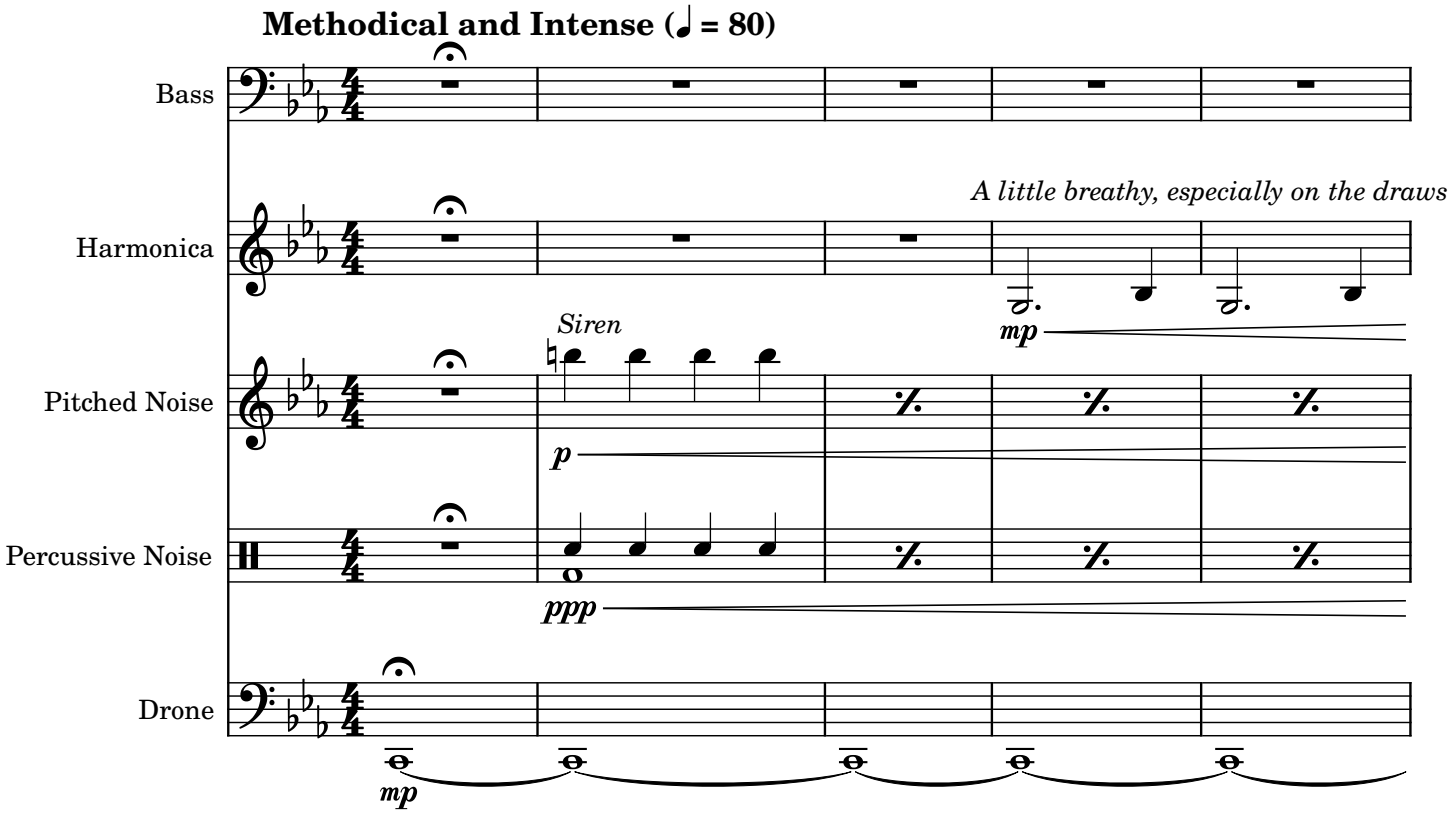
I have seen them riding seaward on the waves
Combing the white hair of the waves blown back
When the wind blows the water white and black.

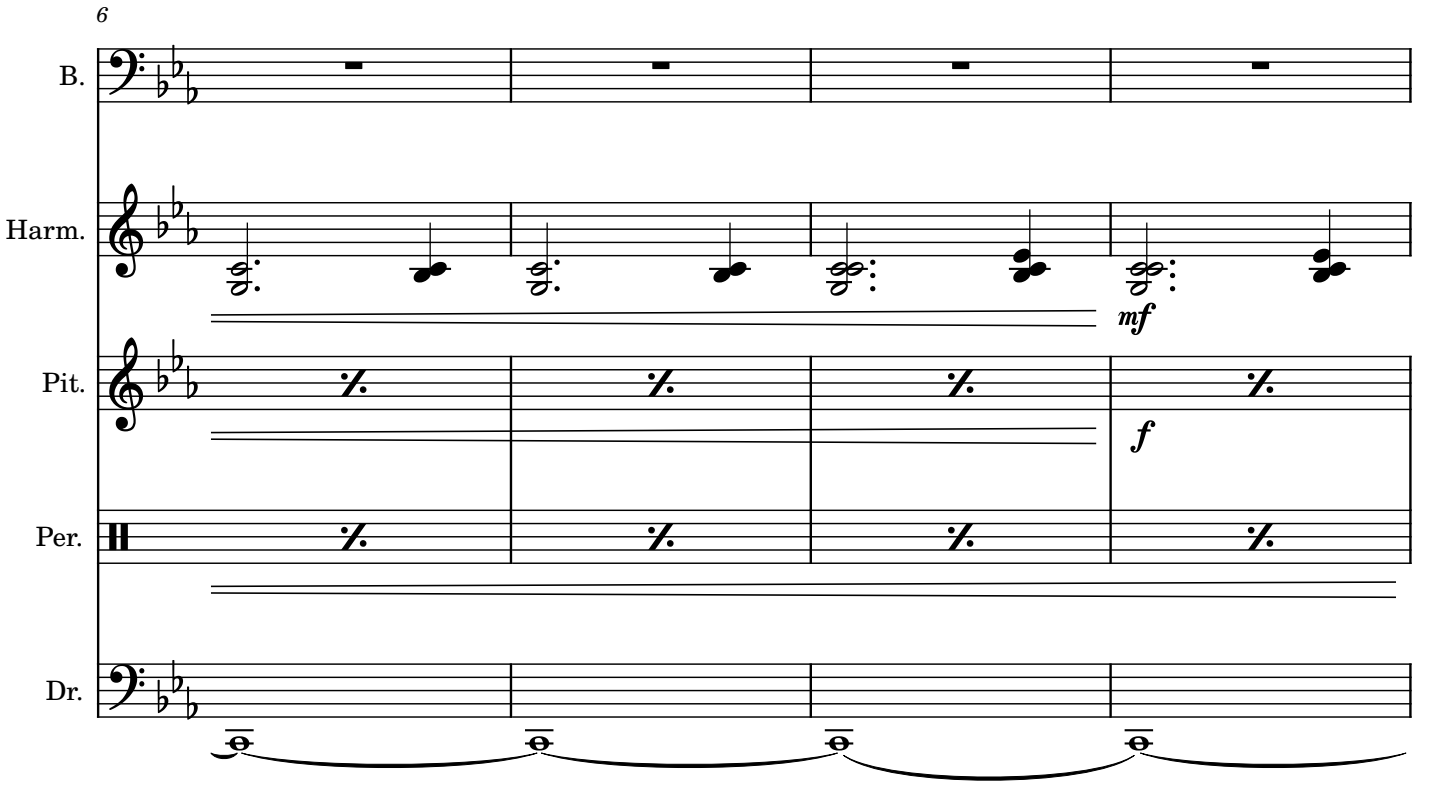
We have lingered in the chambers of the sea
By sea-girls wreathed with seaweed red and brown
Till human voices wake us, and we drown.

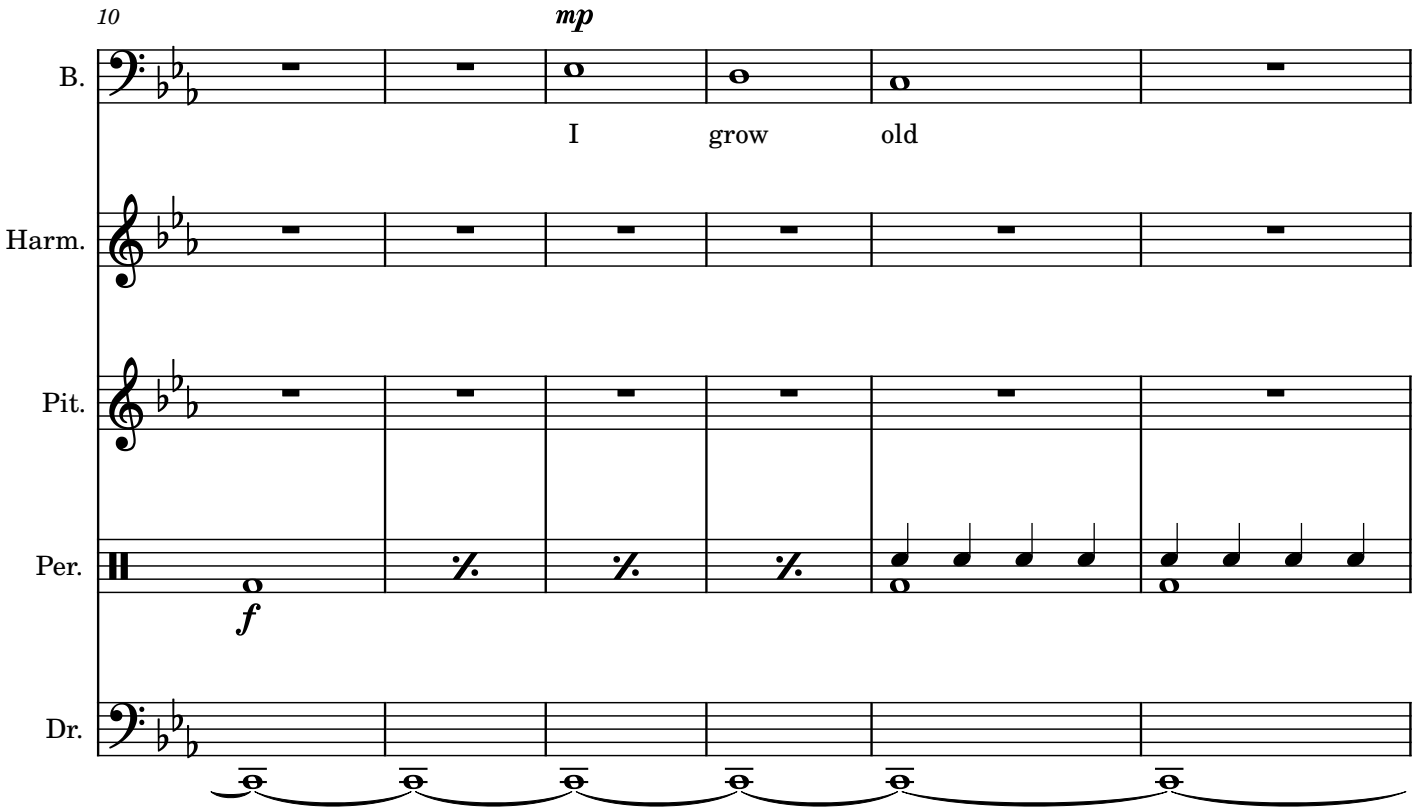
The Chambers of the Sea

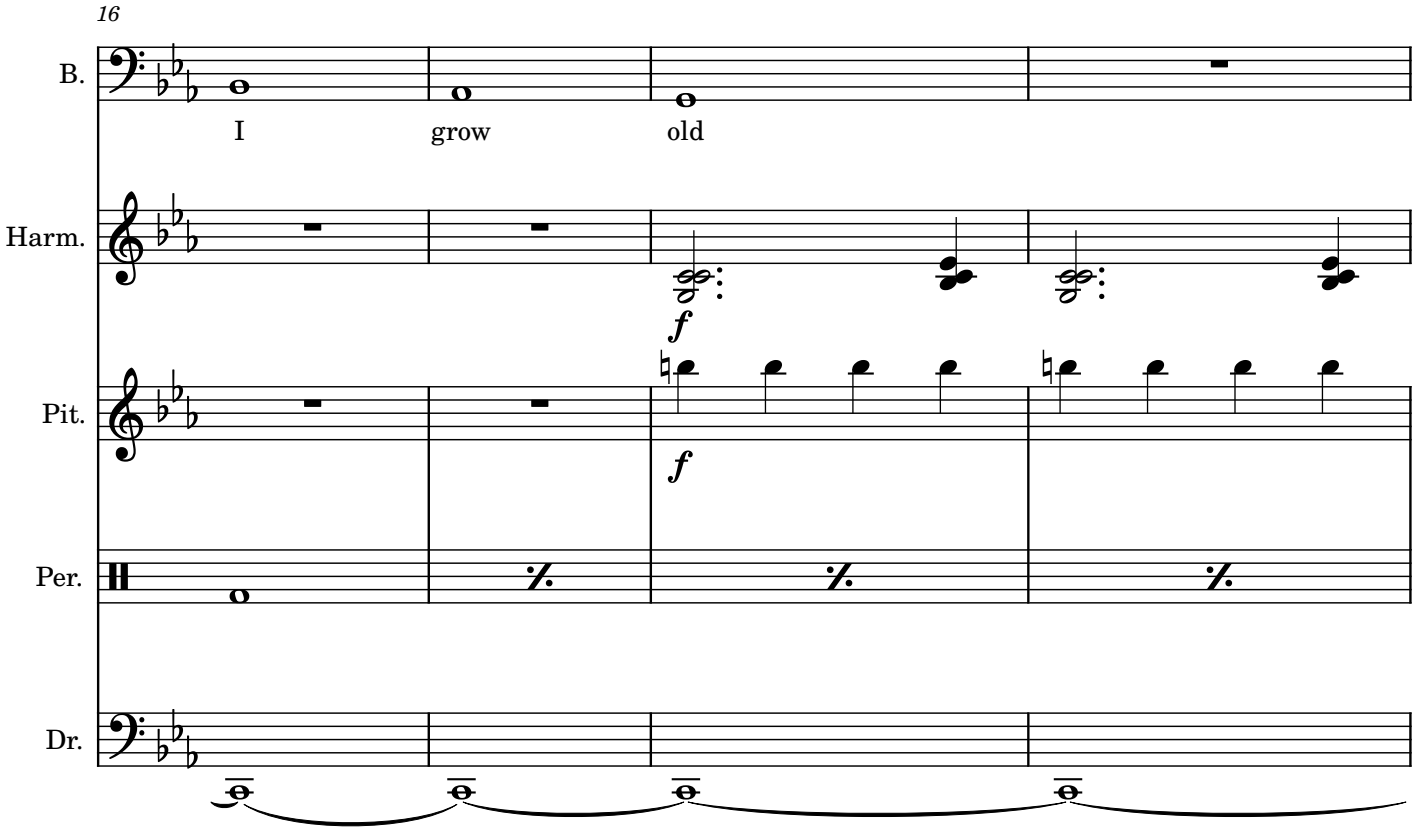
Words by T.S. Eliot

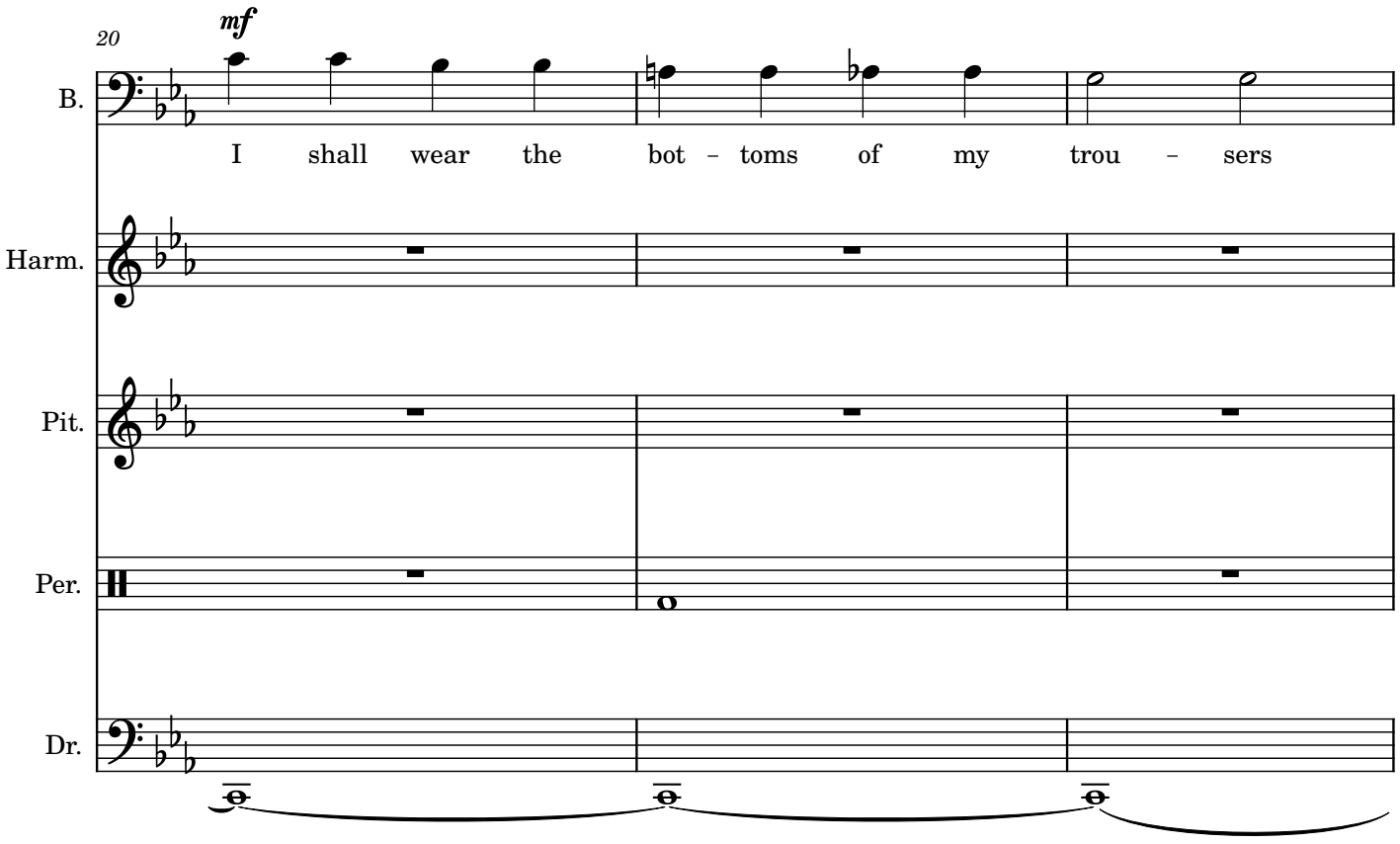
Music by Dylan Needleman

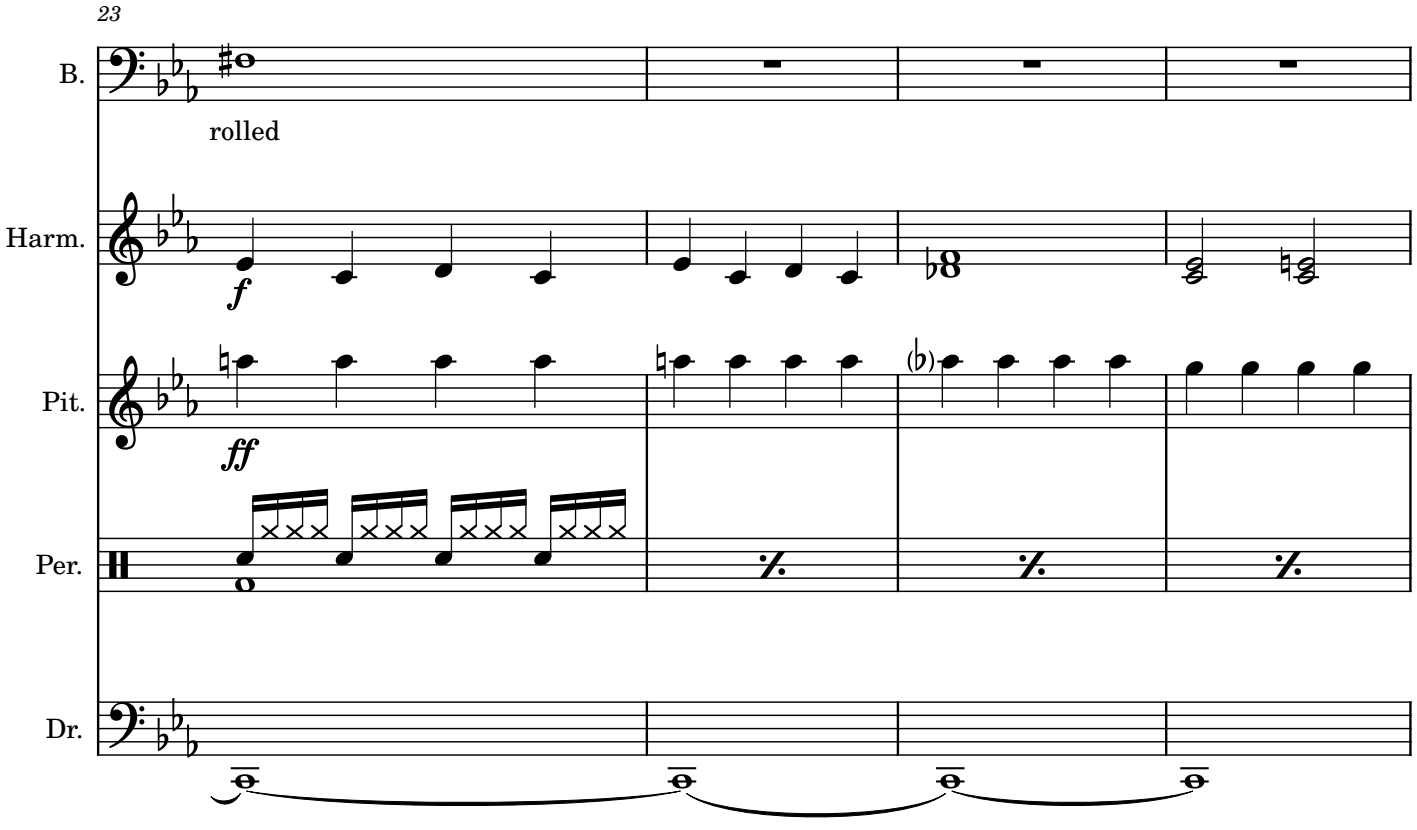


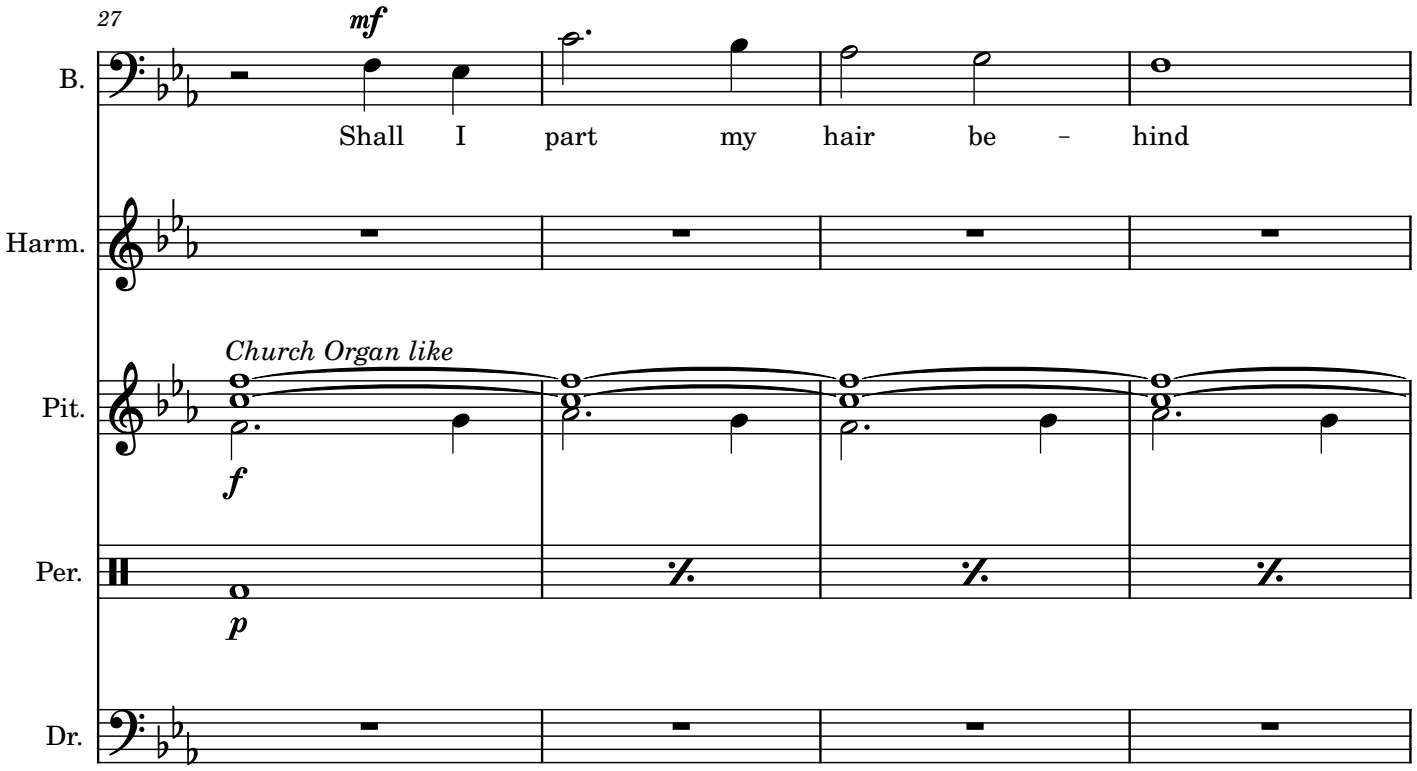


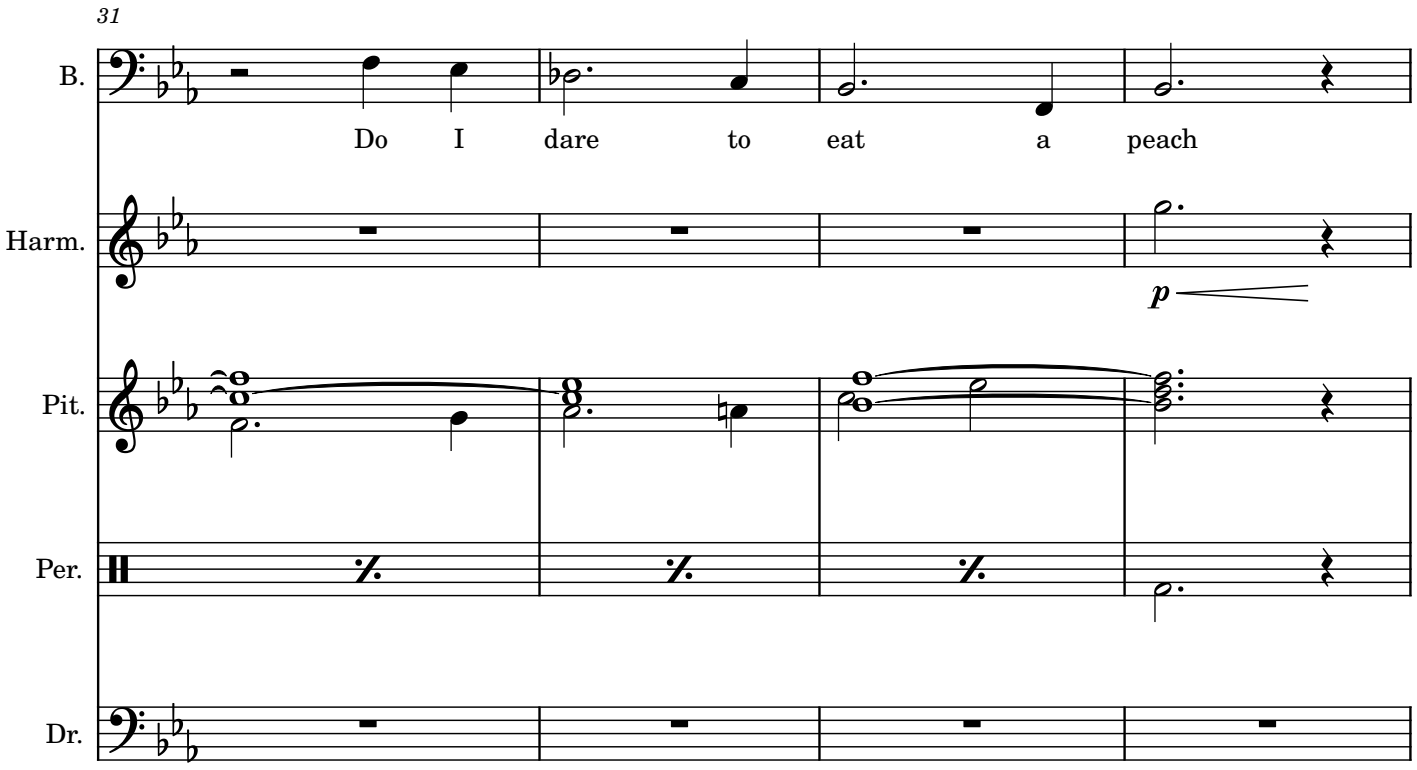

10
mp
B.
I
grow
old
Harm.
Pit.
Per.
f
Dr.

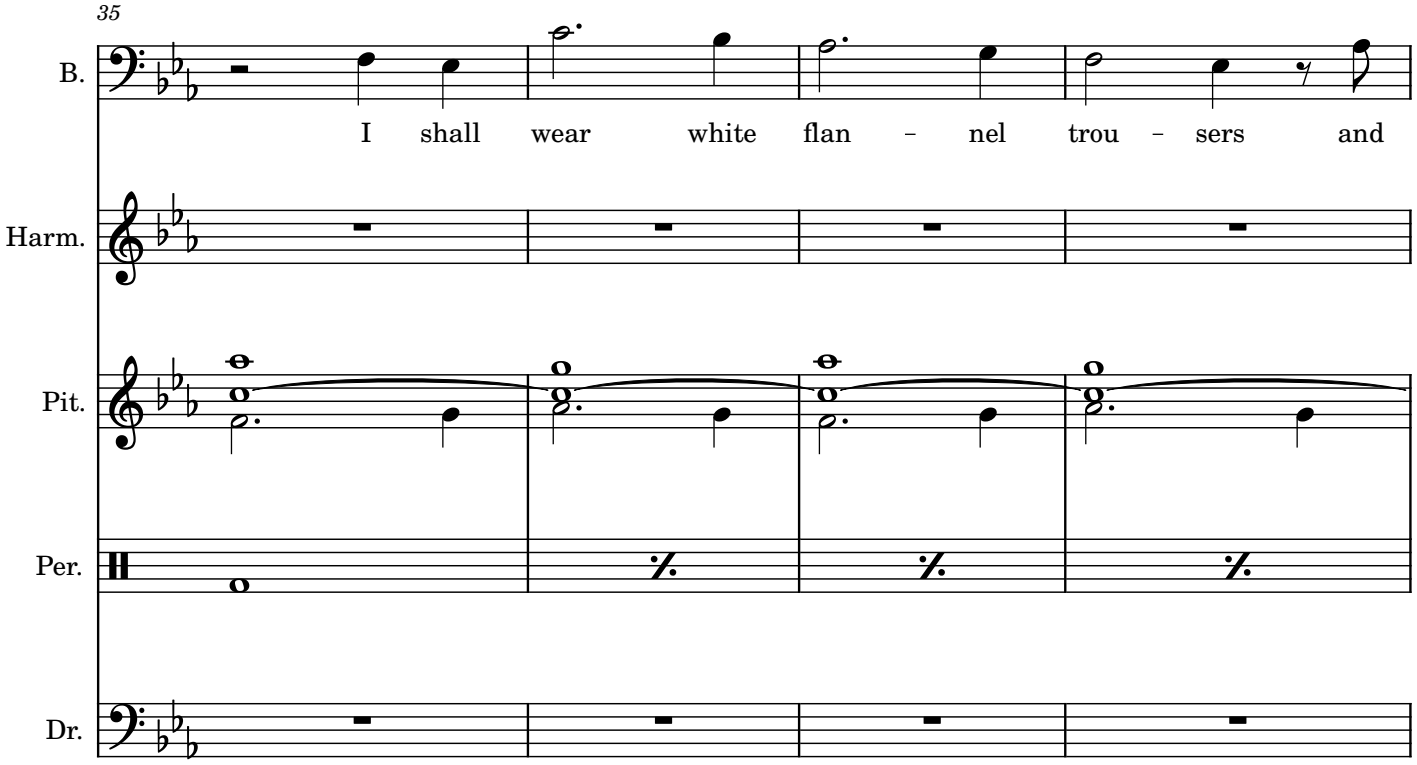

16
B.
I
grow
old
Harm.
f
Pit.
f
Per.
Dr.

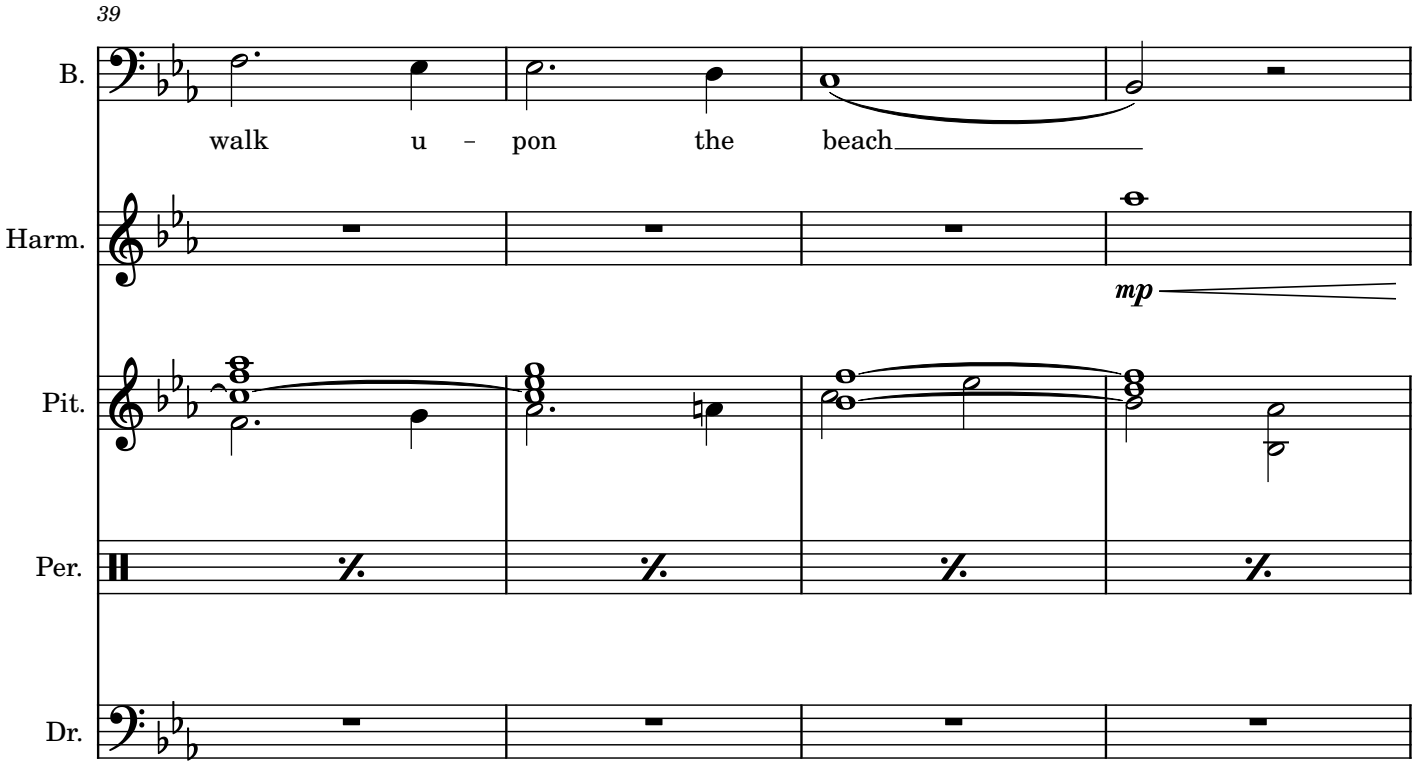

20
mf
B.
I shall wear the bot – toms of my trou – sers
Harm.
Pit.
Per.
Dr.

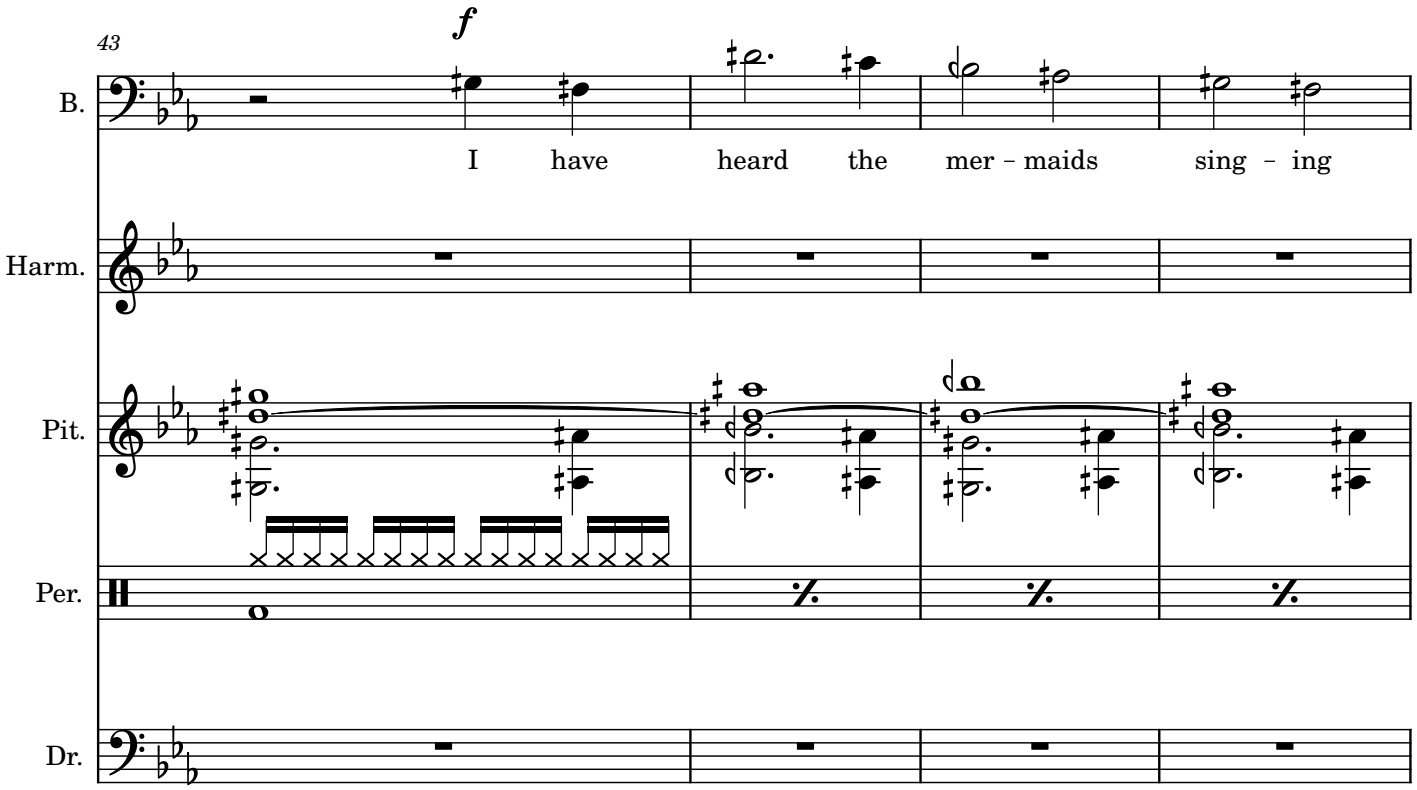

23
B.
rolled
Harm.
f
Pit.
ff
Per.
Dr.

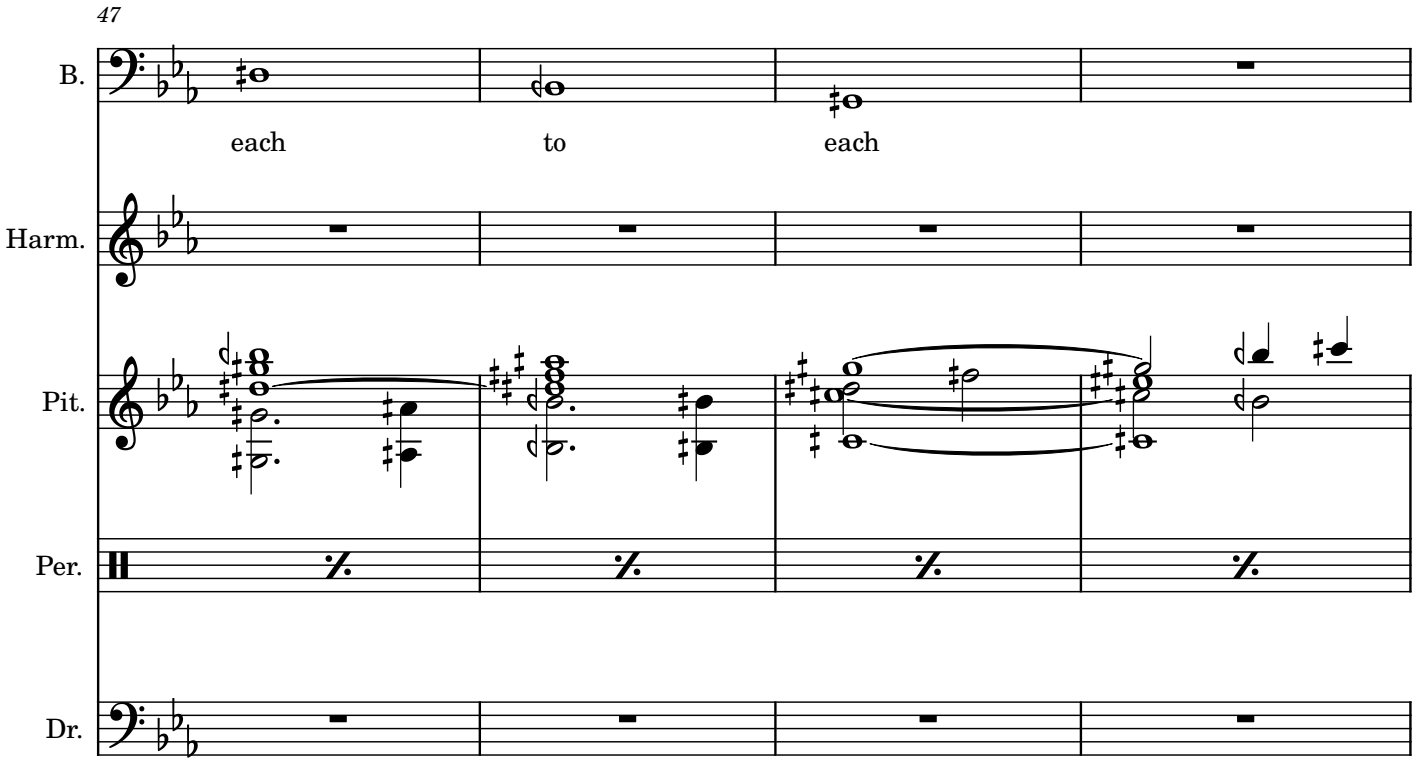

27
mf
B.
Shall I part my hair be - hind
Harm.
Church Organ like
Pit.
f
Per.
p
Dr.

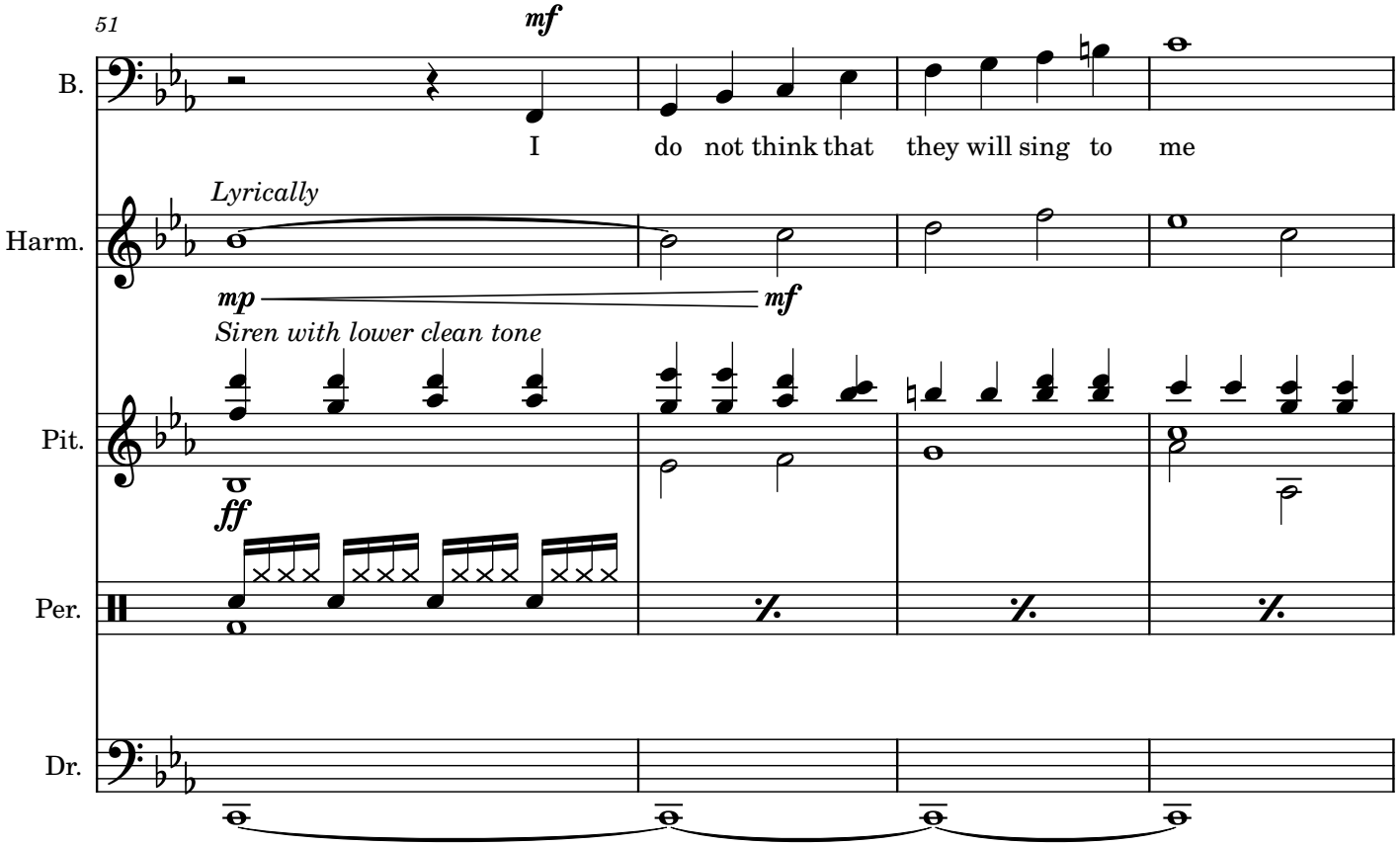

31
B.
Do I dare to eat a peach
Harm.
p
Pit.
Per.
Dr.

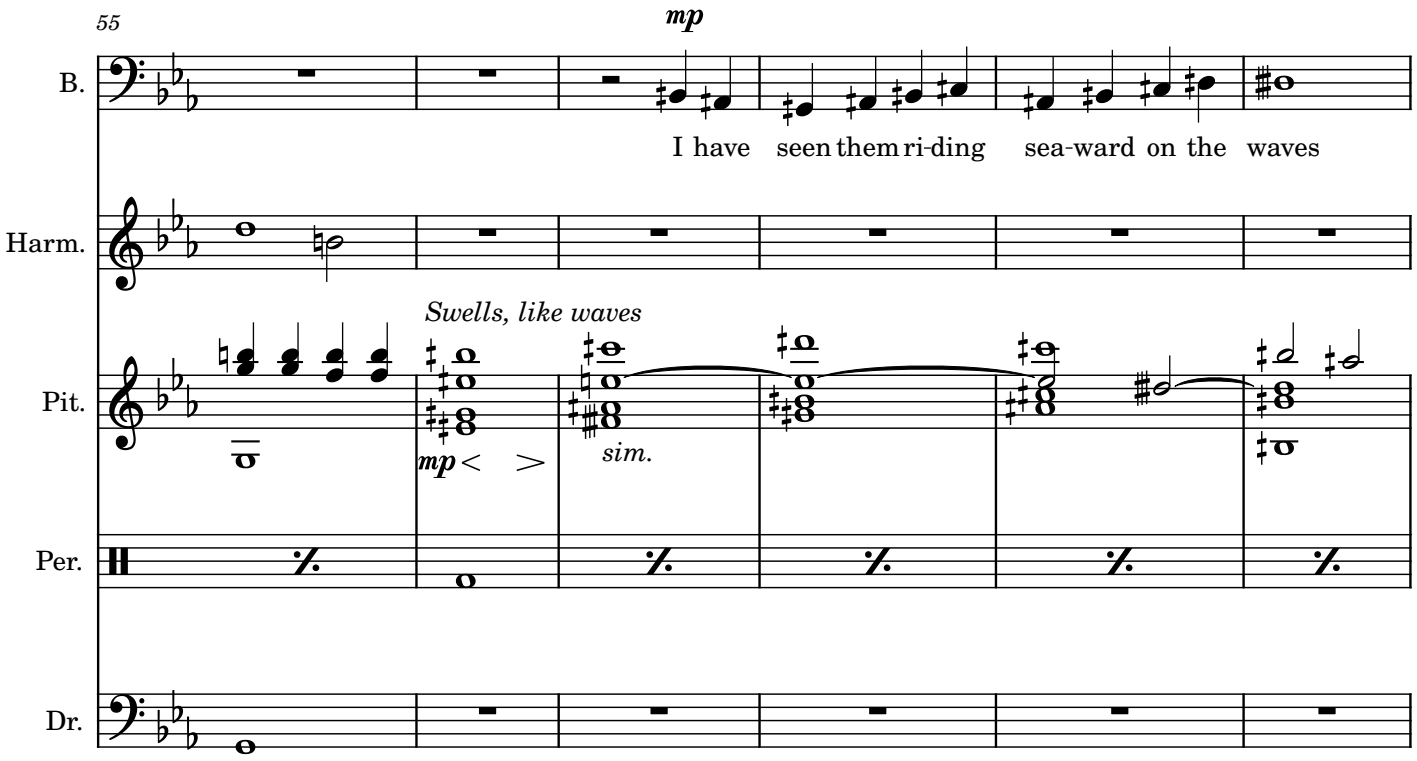

35
B.
I shall wear white flan – nel trou – sers and
Harm.
Pit.
Per.
Dr.

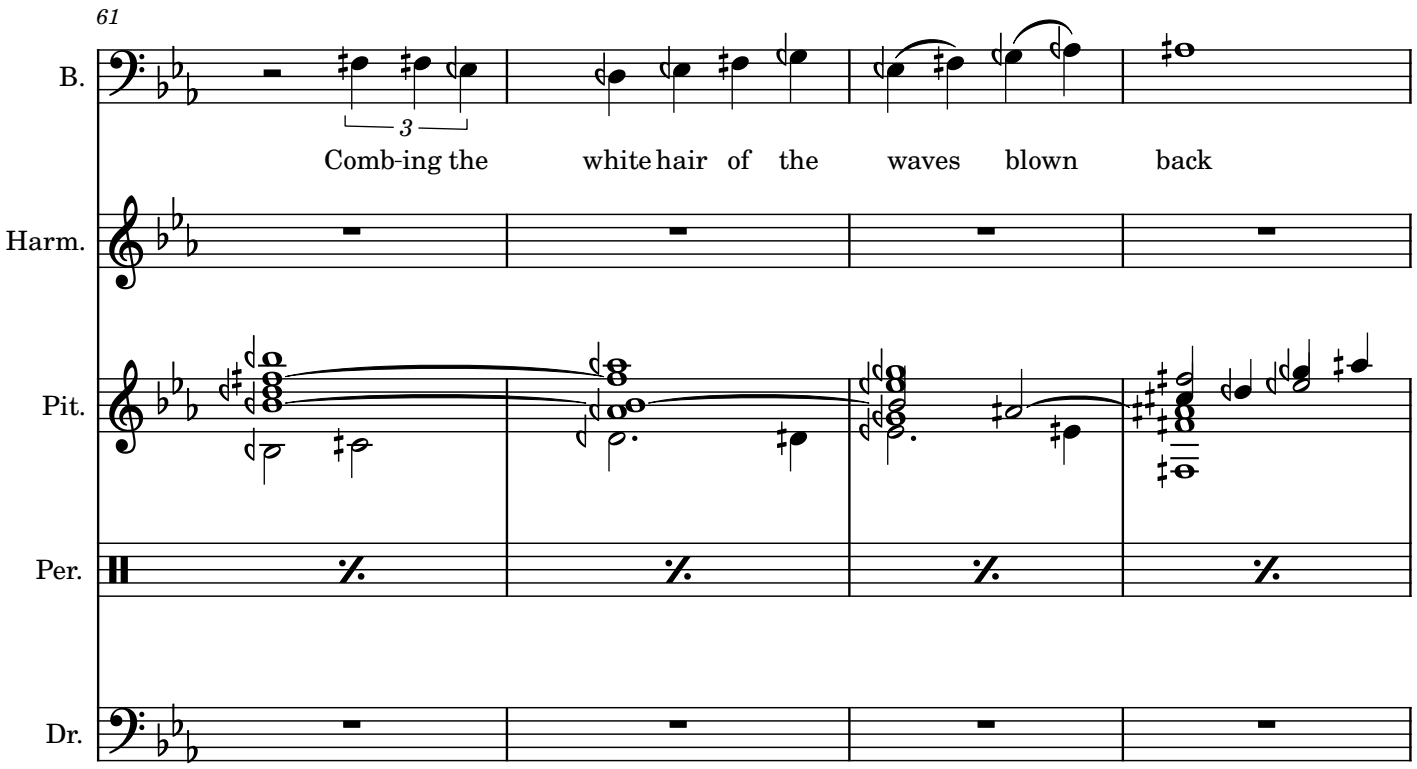

39
B.
walk u – pon the beach
Harm.
mp
Pit.
Per.
Dr.

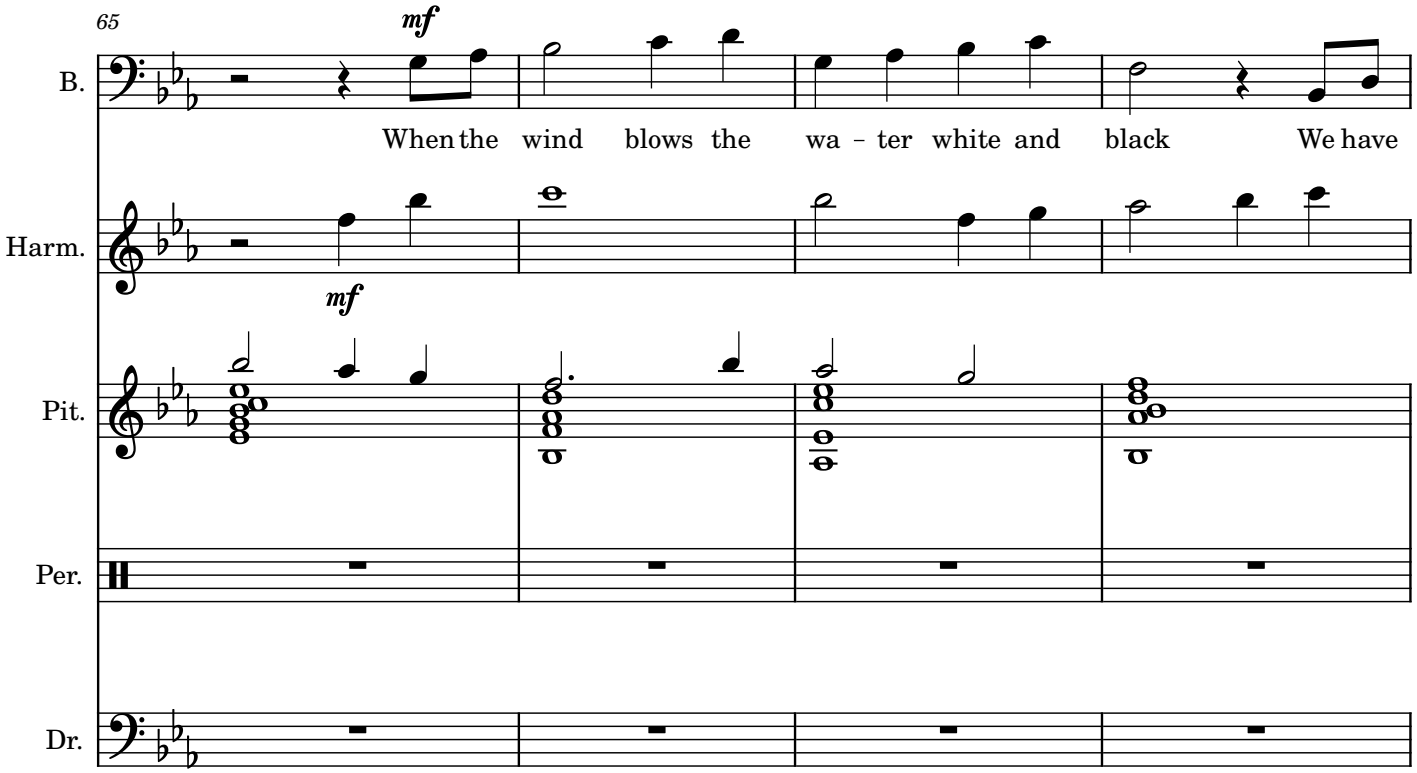

43
f
B.
I have heard the mer – maids sing – ing
Harm.
Pit.
Per.
Dr.

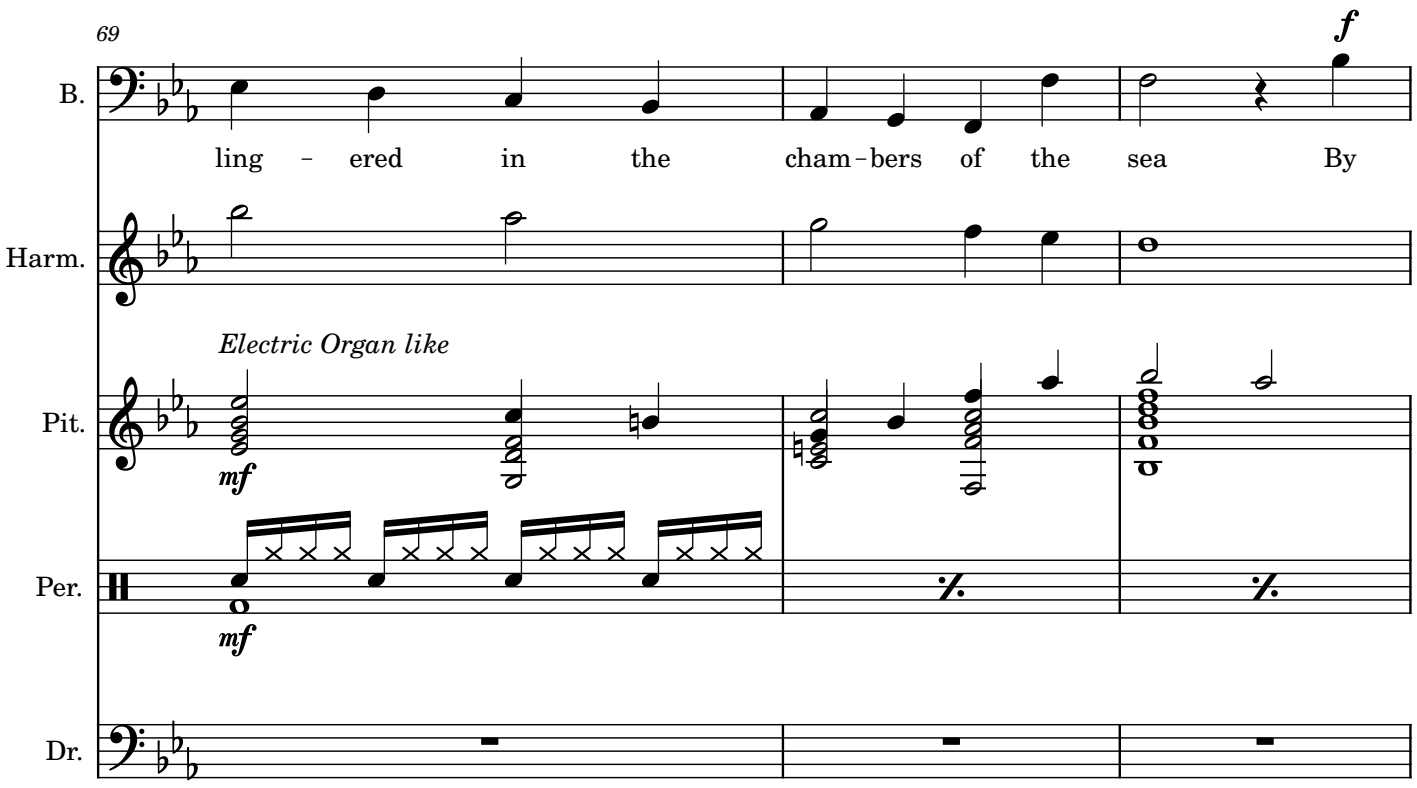

47
B.
each to each
Harm.
Pit.
Per.
Dr.

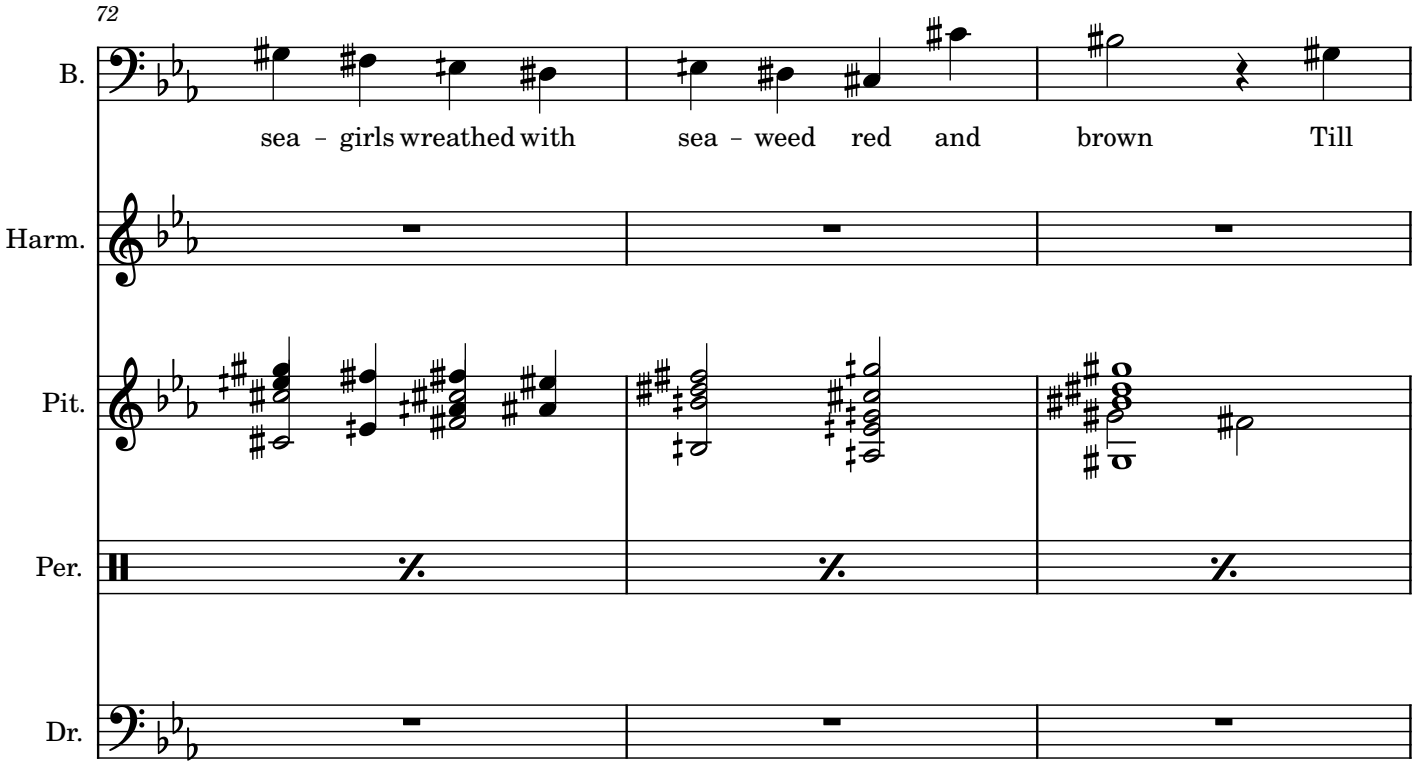

51
mf
B.
I do not think that they will sing to me
Harm.
Lyrically
mp
mf
Pit.
Siren with lower clean tone
ff
Per.
Dr.

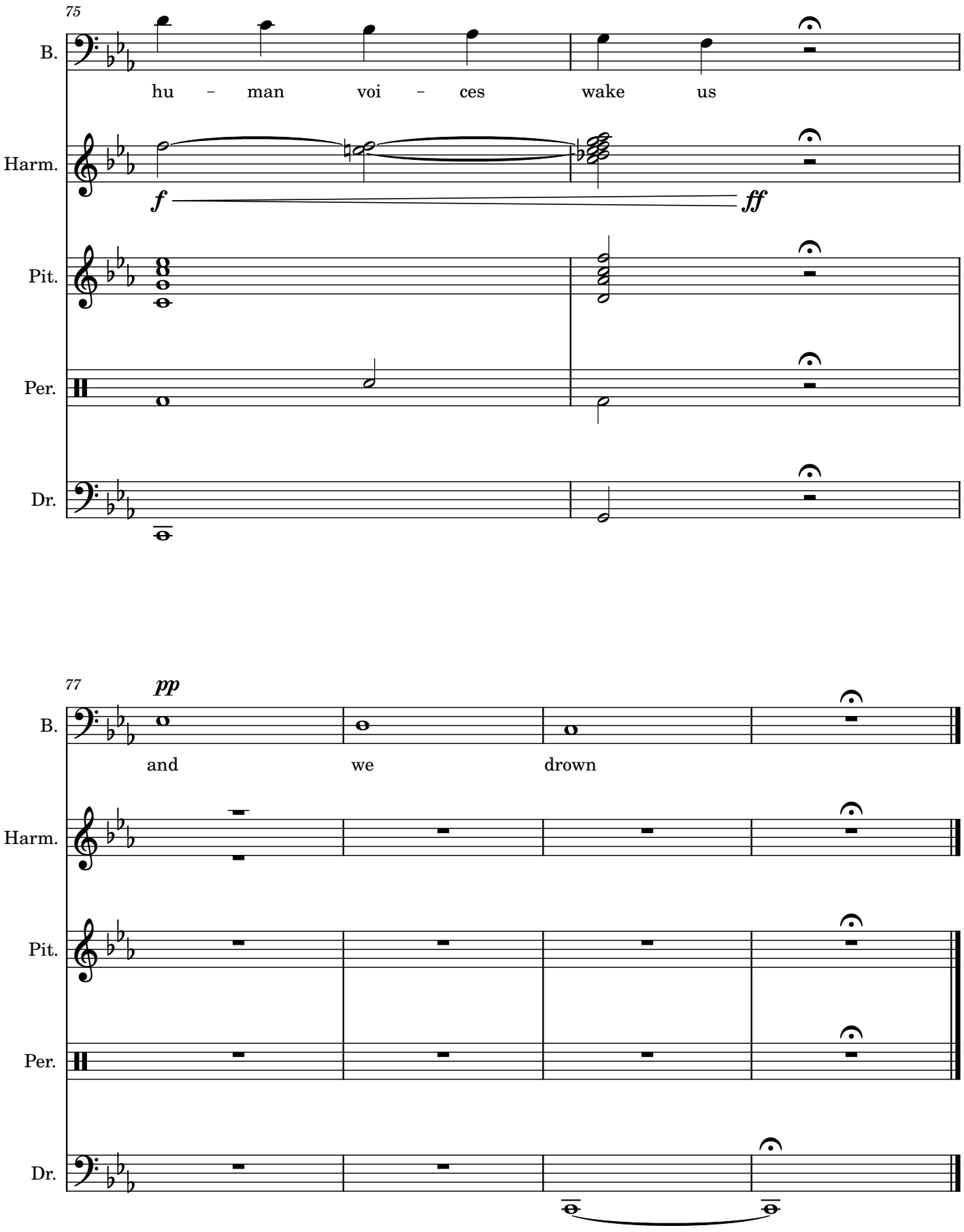

55
mp
B.
I have seen them ri-ding sea-ward on the waves
Harm.
Swells, like waves
Pit.
mp
sim.
Per.
Dr.


61
B.
3
Comb-ing the white hair of the waves blown back
Harm.
Pit.
Per.
Dr.


65
mf
B.
When the wind blows the wa – ter white and black We have
Harm.
mf
Pit.
Per.
Dr.


69
f
B.
ling - ered in the cham - bers of the sea By
Harm.
Electric Organ like
Pit.
mf
Per.
mf
Dr.


72
B.
sea - girls wreathed with sea - weed red and brown Till
Harm.
Pit.
Per.
Dr.


75
B.
hu – man voi – ces wake us
Harm.
f
ff
Pit.
Per.
Dr.
77
pp
B.
and we drown
Harm.
Pit.
Per.
Dr.