FABERGÉ INVESTIGATIONS

percussion part

(2016/19)

TREVOR BAČA

By the start of the revolution in October 1917, workmasters at the House of Fabergé had completed fifty jeweled eggs for the last of the Russian tsars. Forty-three of the eggs survive (auctioned by the Bolsheviks after the revolution) with the others now lost, or the treasure of thieves. Dazzling in ribbons of guilloche, the intricacy of the eggs' enamelwork gives to these objects their ability to transfix: greens, purples, reds made brilliant in cloisonné. But how to understand the rules of a world that embeds in eggs the wealth of its kings? How slowly must have gone the work at the jewelers' desks. And how quickly the changes outside.

Instrumentation:

- Flute (bass flute)
- English horn (ratchet, small maraca)
- Clarinet in B♭ (bass clarinet, small maraca)
- Piano (woodblock, small maraca)
- Percussion
  - crotales (E♮6, F♯6, G♮6)
  - mounted castanets
  - bass drum (large mallet, sponge, superball)
  - marimba
- Violin (woodblock)
- Viola
- Cello

Accidentals. Accidentals govern only one note. This is true even for successive noteheads at the same staff position. Because of this no natural signs appear in the score. The sequence of, for example, G♯4 followed by G4 (without accidental) is to be understood as G♯4 followed by G♮4.

The winds are tranposed. The bass flute sounds an octave lower than written. The English horn sounds a perfect fifth lower than written. The B♭ clarinet sounds a major second lower than written and the bass clarinet sounds a major ninth lower than written.

Winds. Do not tongue changes of pitch: treat all notes as though they are slurred.

Piano. Sharp signs above clusters indicate that all notes in the cluster are to be played sharp. Passages marked "tuning pegs" are to be played with a stiff piece of plastic passed over the tuning pegs of the instrument: approximate the rhythms given.

Strings. No scordatura. The instruction **spazzolato** (Italian for "brushed" or "swept") indicates that the bow should be turned slightly to the half col legno tratto position (so that the wood of the bow comes into contact with the string) and then swept alternately up the string (towards the bridge) and back down again (towards the fingers) according to the rhythms specified. The instruction **XFB** ("extremely fast bow") appears in the viola part; the music labeled with this indication should be played as an extremely fast, extremly light, extremely irregular type of tremolo flautando: use very generous amounts of bow (to create extremely fast bow strokes) and change the bow frequently in a constantly irregular rhythm. The aural result of the technique is a "fluorescent" type of flautando that brings out the upper partials of the string's sound, especially as the bow is moved towards the bridge. Quadruple-staccati indicate rimbalzandi: aim for four bounces of the bow per note head. The indication "OB" stands for playing directly on the wood of the bridge: white noise results with almost no sense of pitch.

Fabergé Investigations was written for ensemble recherche, who gave the world premiere on 21 May 2016 in Paine Hall on the campus of Harvard University.

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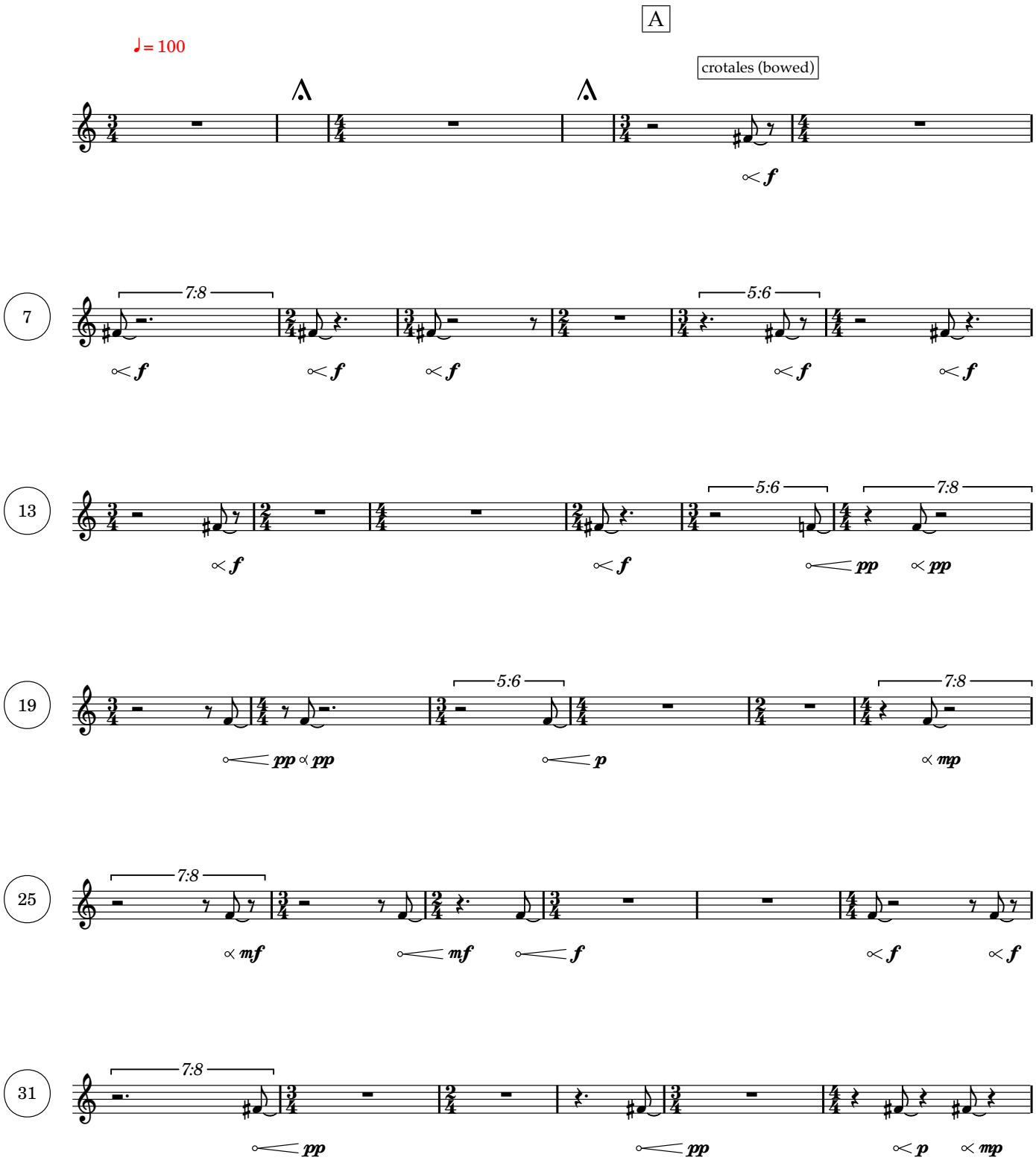
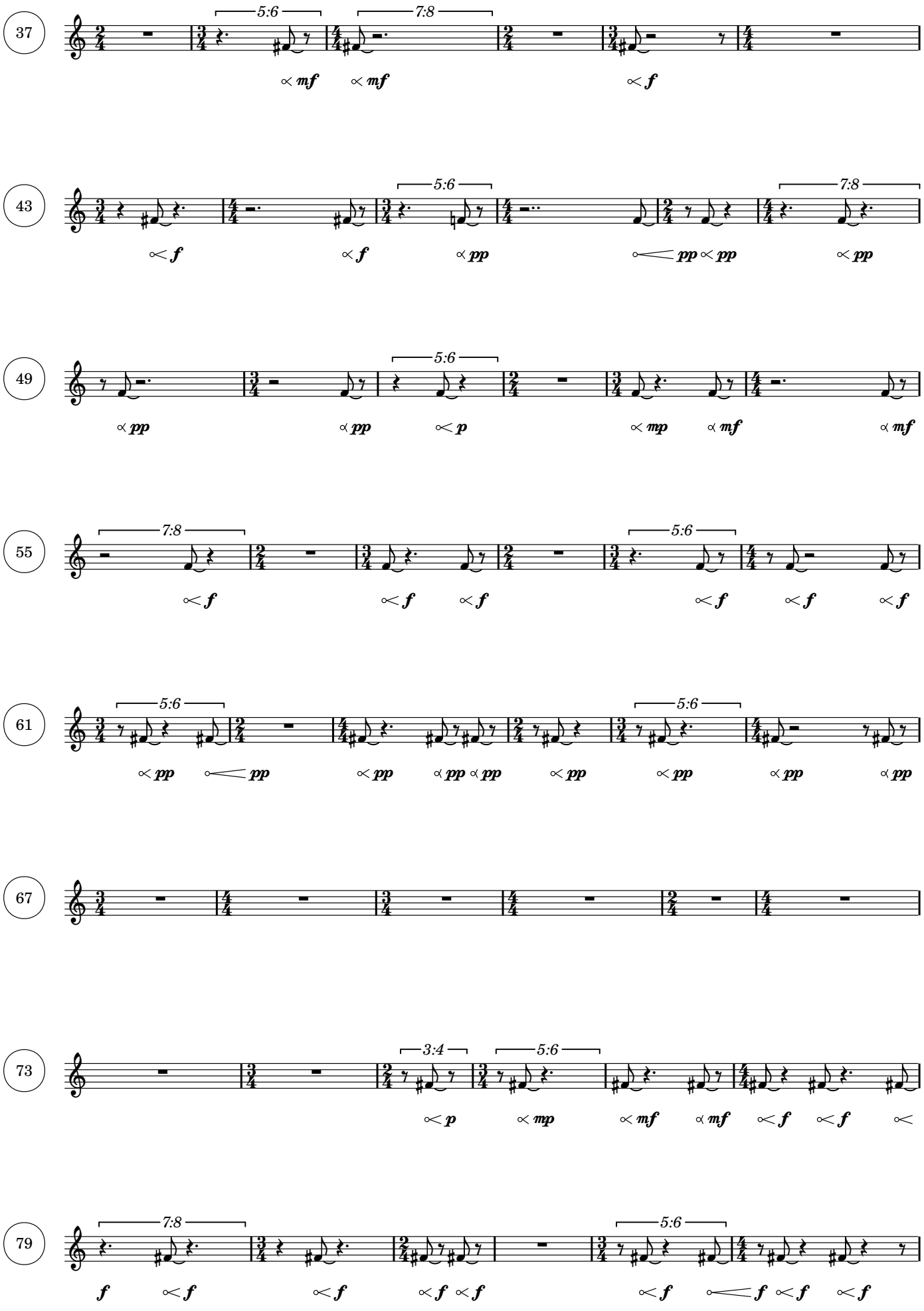
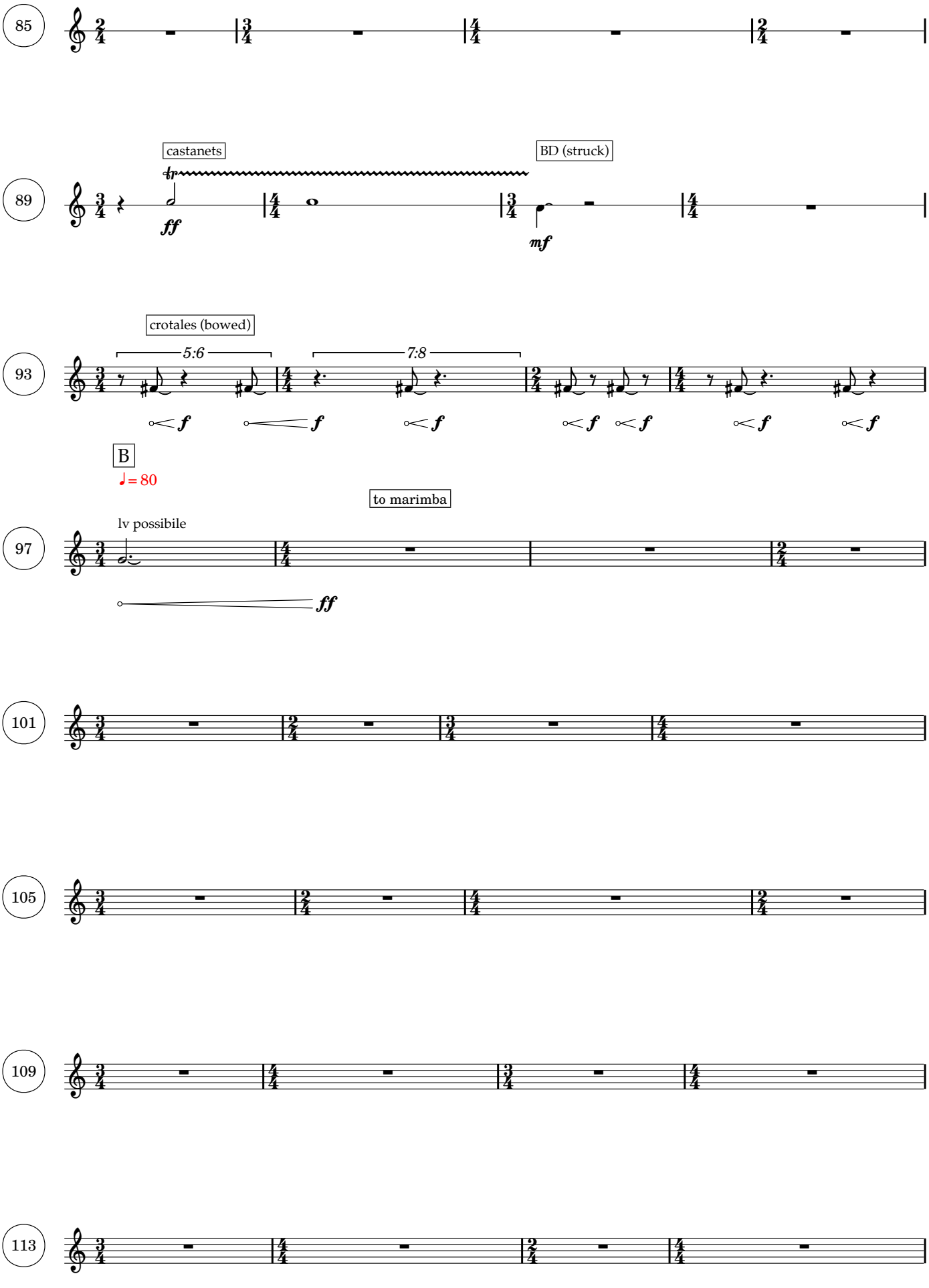
for ensemble recherche

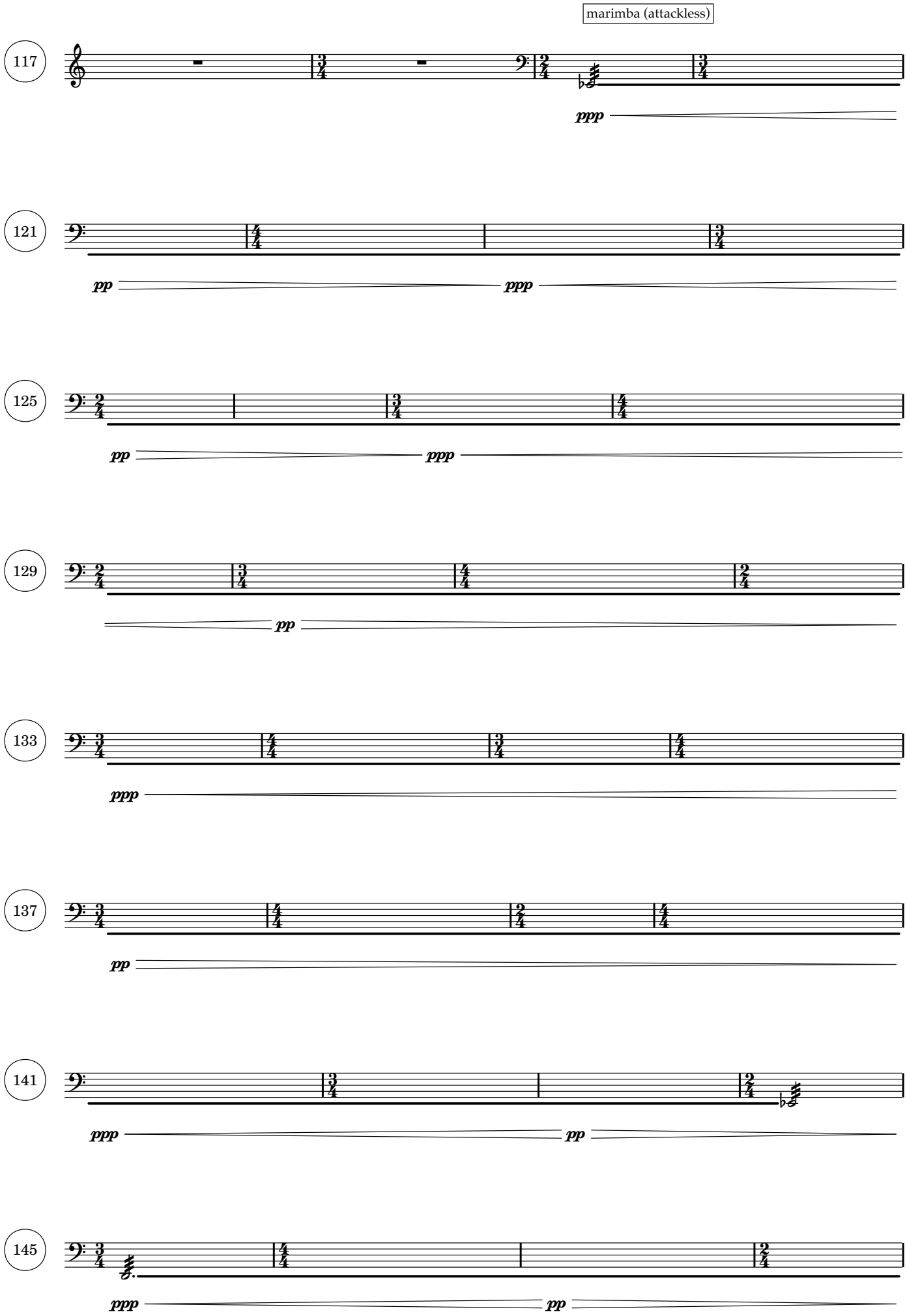
(percussion part)

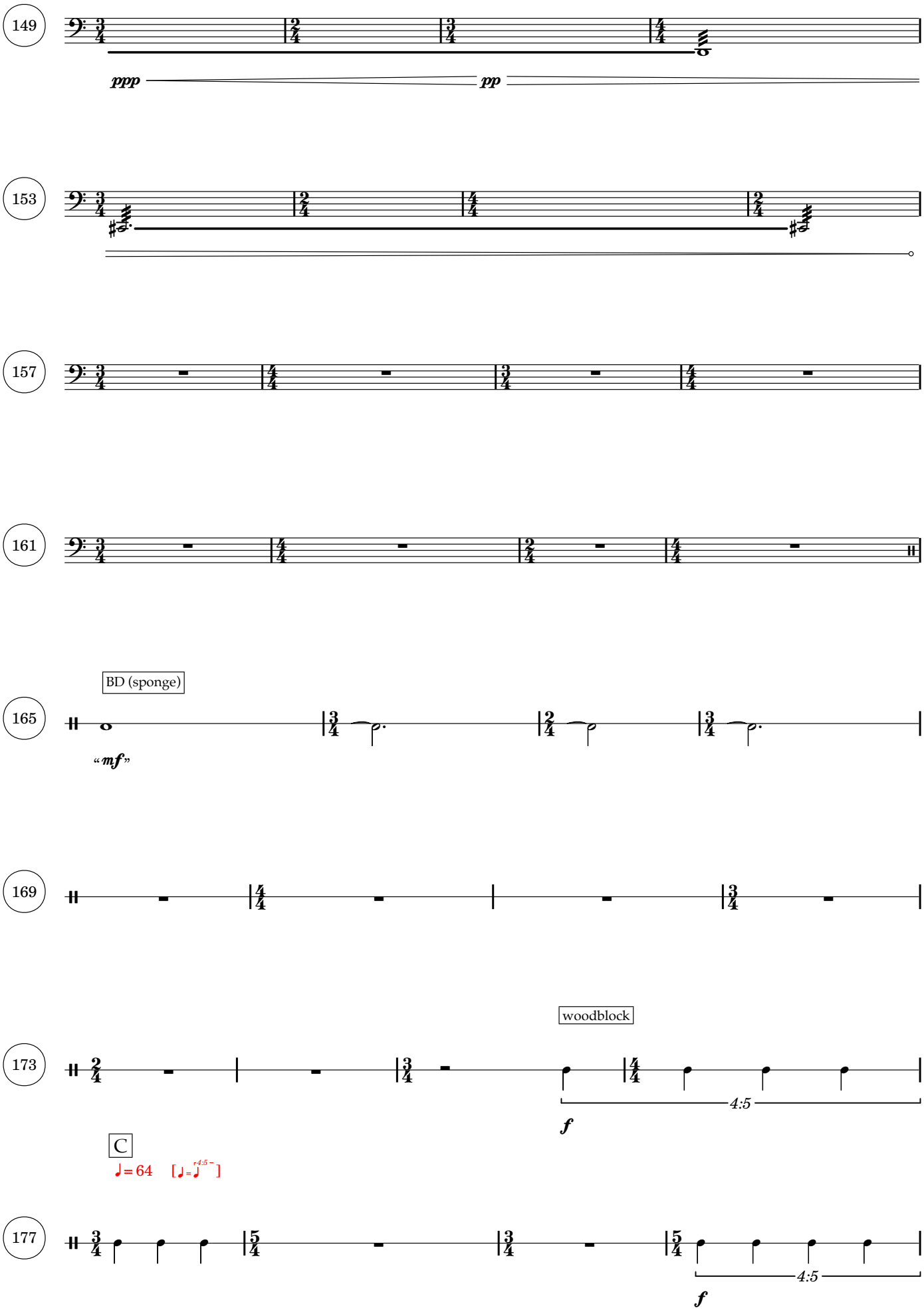
Trevor Bača (*1975)

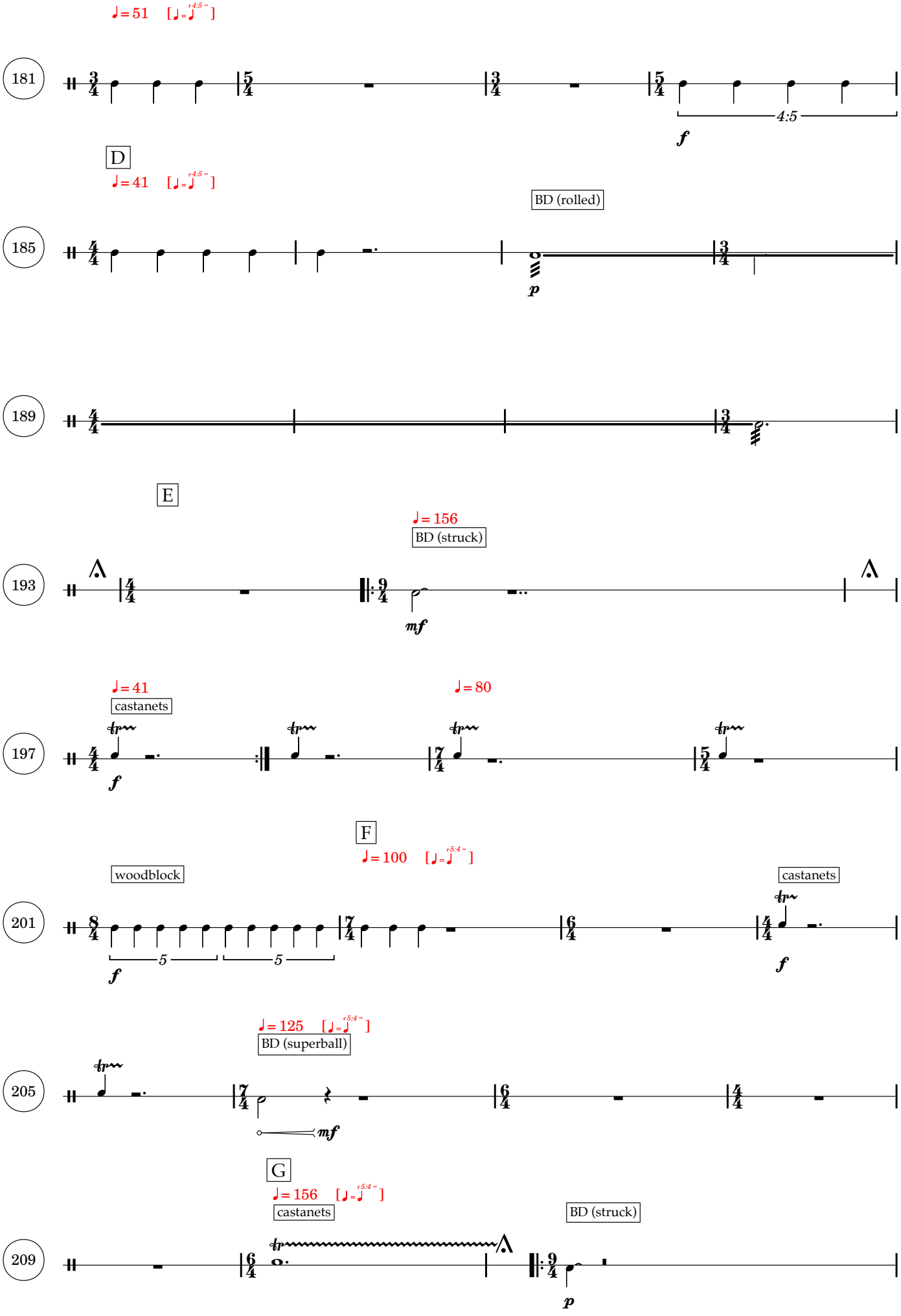


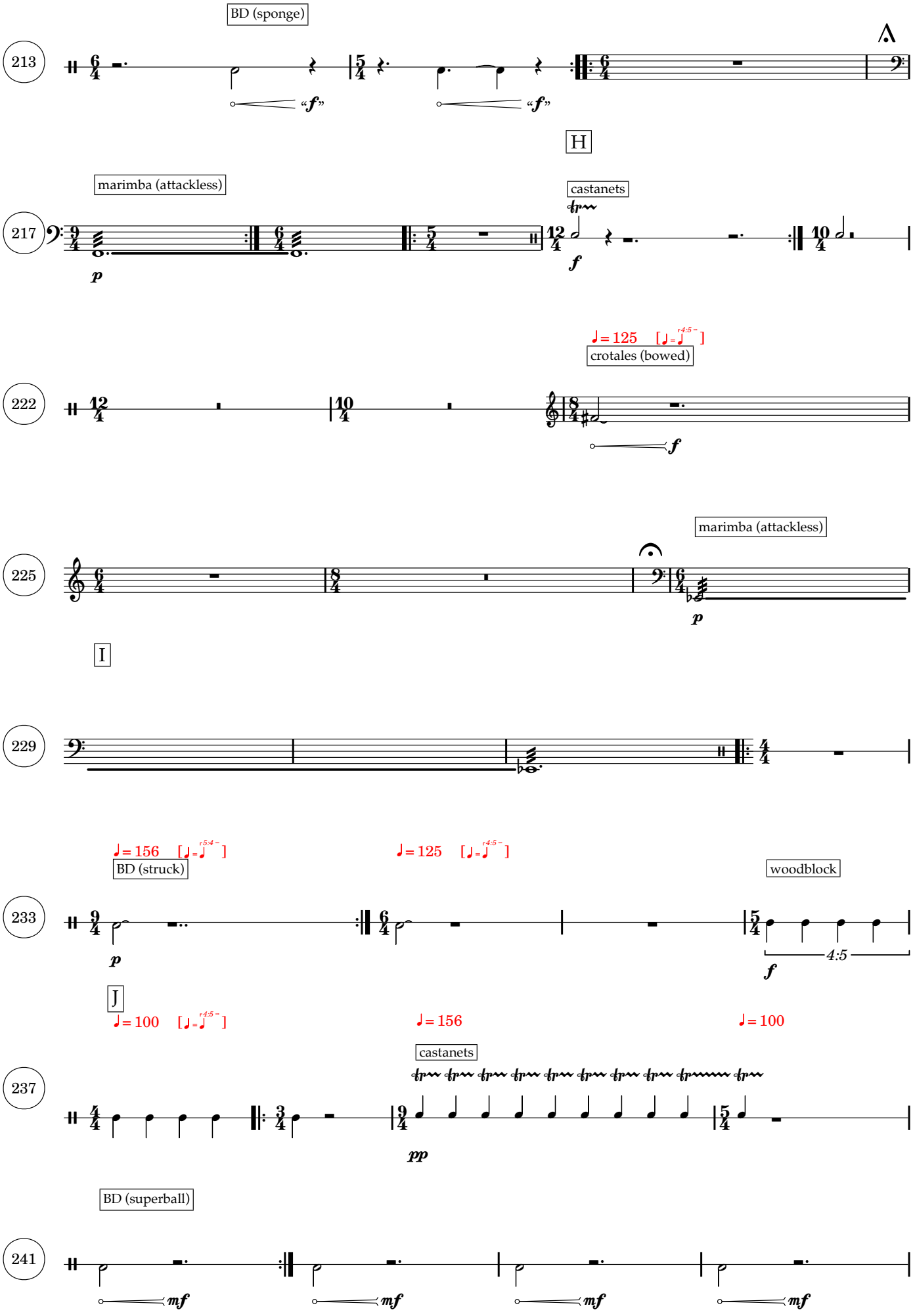

37
5:6
7:8
43
5:6
7:8
49
5:6
55
7:8
5:6
61
5:6
5:6
67
73
3:4
5:6
79
7:8
5:6

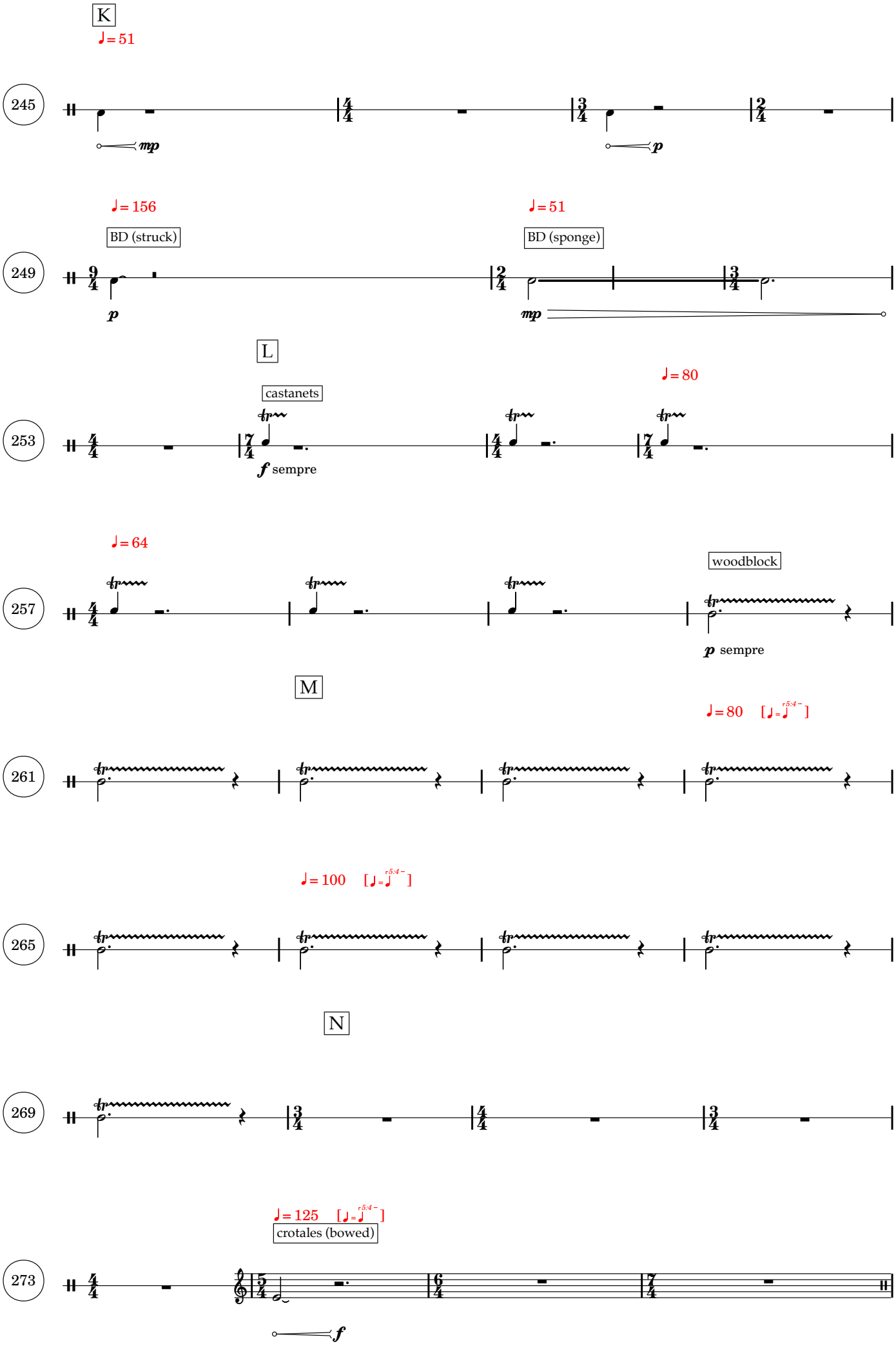

85
89
castanets
tr
ff
BD (struck)
mf
93
crotales (bowed)
5:6
7:8
f
B
♩= 80
97
to marimba
lv possibile
ff
101
105
109
113

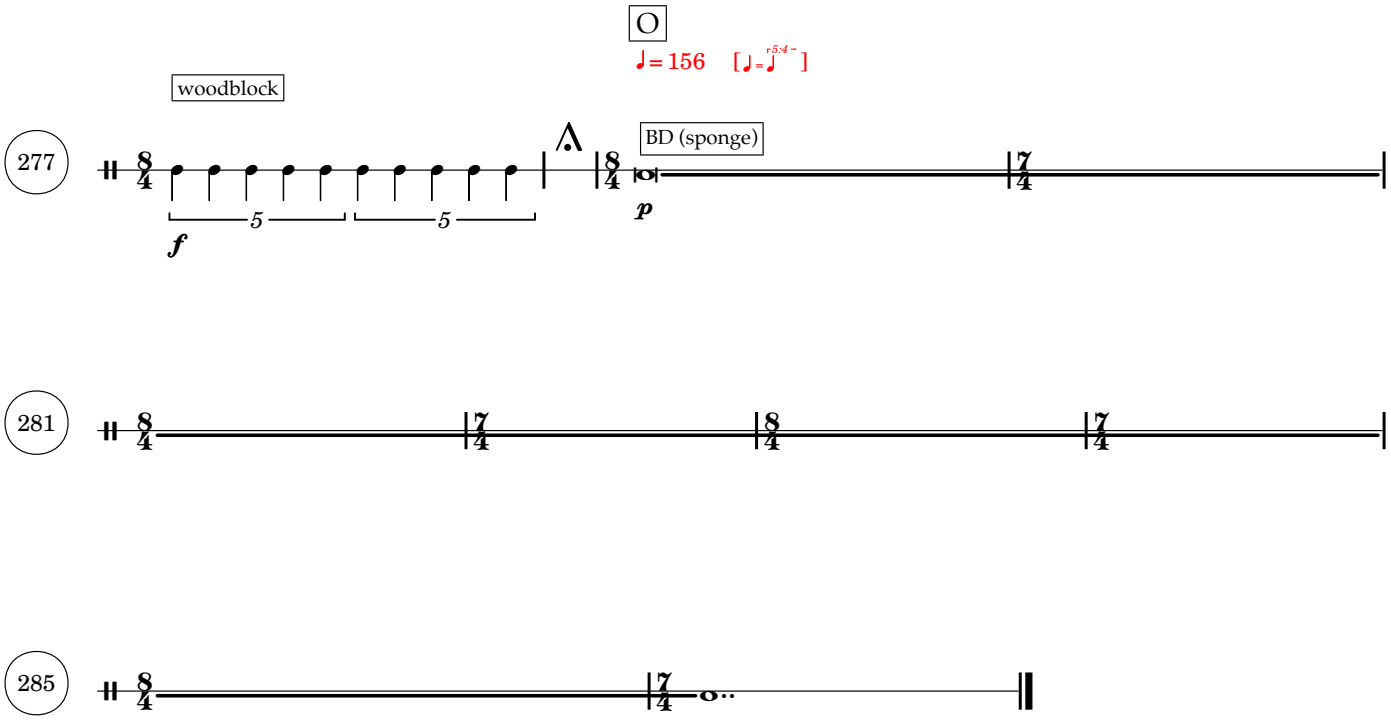

marimba (attackless)
117
ppp
121
pp
ppp
125
pp
ppp
129
pp
133
ppp
137
pp
141
ppp
pp
145
ppp
pp


149
ppp
pp
153
157
161
BD (sponge)
165
«mf»
169
woodblock
173
4:5
f
C
♩= 64
177
4:5
f


♩= 51 [♩= ♩ r4:5]
181
4:5
f
D
♩= 41 [♩= ♩ r4:5]
BD (rolled)
185
p
189
E
♩= 156
BD (struck)
193
mf
♩= 41
castanets
♩= 80
197
f
F
♩= 100 [♩= ♩ r5:4]
woodblock
castanets
201
5
5
f
f
♩= 125 [♩= ♩ r5:4]
BD (superball)
205
mf
G
♩= 156 [♩= ♩ r5:4]
castanets
BD (struck)
209
p


BD (sponge)
213
"f"
"f"
H
marimba (attackless)
castanets
217
p
f
♩= 125 [♩=♩ r4:5]
crotales (bowed)
222
f
marimba (attackless)
225
p
I
229
♩= 156 [♩=♩ r5:4]
BD (struck)
♩= 125 [♩=♩ r4:5]
woodblock
233
p
4:5
f
J
♩= 100 [♩=♩ r4:5]
♩= 156
♩= 100
castanets
237
pp
BD (superball)
241
mf
mf
mf
mf


K
♩= 51
245
mp
p
♩= 156
BD (struck)
♩= 51
BD (sponge)
249
p
mp
L
♩= 80
castanets
253
f sempre
♩= 64
woodblock
257
p sempre
M
♩= 80 [♩=♩ r5:4]
261
♩= 100 [♩=♩ r5:4]
265
N
269
♩= 125 [♩=♩ r5:4]
crotales (bowed)
273
f


O
♩= 156
woodblock
277
5
5
f
BD (sponge)
p
281
285