Near the Western Necropolis

for mezzo-soprano and chamber orchestra

Commissioned by The Anvil with funds provided by Southern Arts.
First performance given by the London Mozart Players
at The Anvil on April 21st 1999.

Texts by Martin Mooney

Music by Ian Wilson

File Only

Preview

Instrumentation:

flute (dbl. piccolo)
oboe
clarinet in B flat (dbl. bass clarinet)
bassoon

horn in F
trumpet in B flat

1 percussionist (sandpaper blocks, triangle, glockenspiel,
bass (floor) tom-tom, G sharp tubular bell,
guiro, tam-tam, flexitone, claves,
tenor drum, finger cymbals, cabasa)

2 violins
viola
cello
double bass

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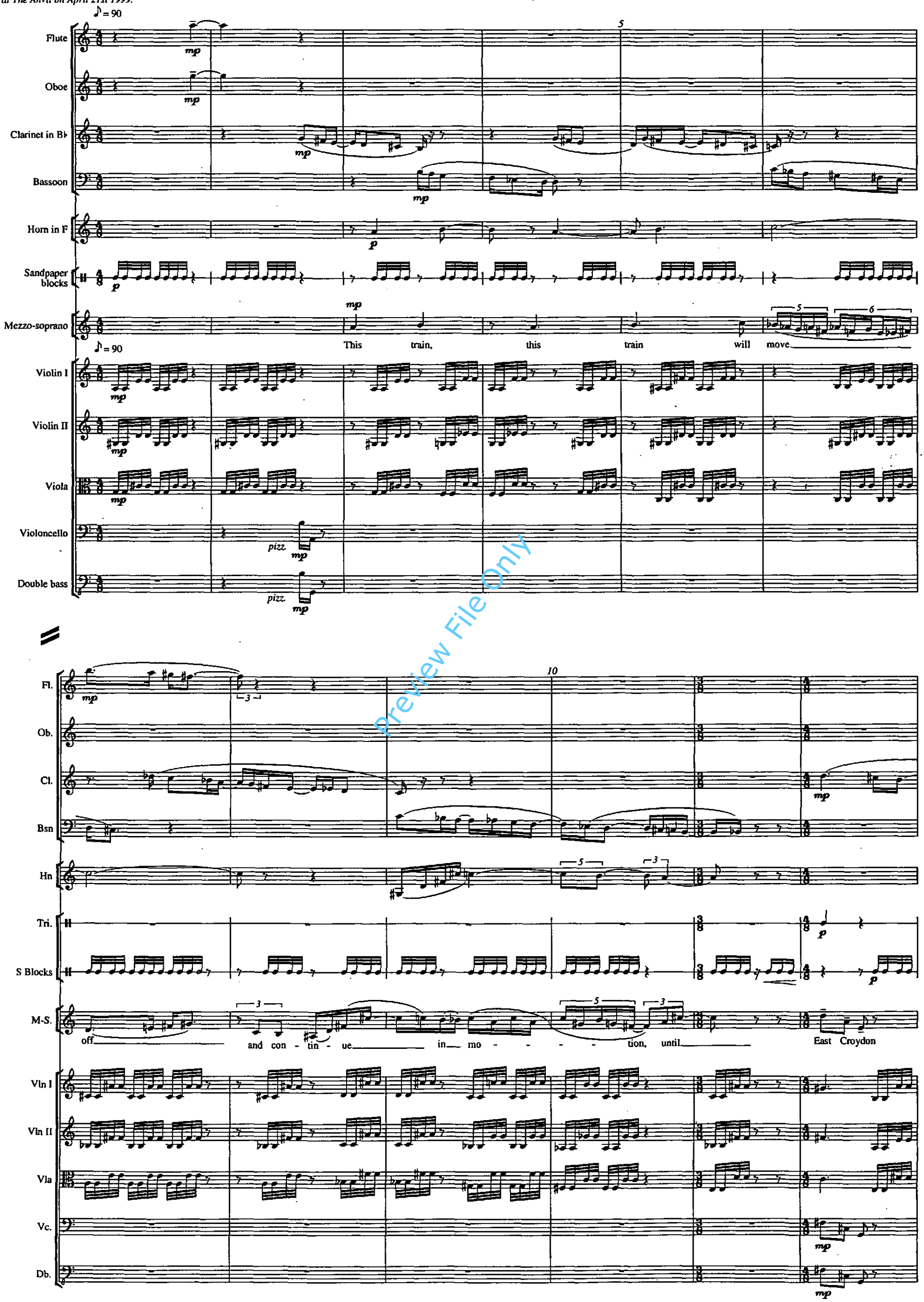
I

"This train is fast to East Croydon. Which means
that East Croydon is this train's first stop."

ian wilson



Preview File Only

15

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn
S Blocks
M-S.
Its doors will stay stubbornly closed and no one will board or alight from this train till it rea - ches
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

File Only

20

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn
Tri.
S Blocks
M-S.
East Croydon Which means that the count, the tally, the total number of passen - gers and rail way staff a - board this train
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

Preview

25

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn
Tri.
S Blocks
M-S.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

30

will not dim-in - ish or in - crease un-til arr- i - val at East Croydon

Preview

35

It foll - ows then that a - ny rise or fall in num - bers on this train that's not acc - oun-ted

File Only

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn
S Blocks
M-S.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

40

mp

mp

mp

3

3

3

3

for by sim-ple birth or death a-board this train will be mir - a-cu-lous will be mir - a- cu-lous or

File Only

Preview

45

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn
Tri.
S Blocks
M-S.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

p

p

p

p

p

crimin - al crimin - al and ought to be re - port - ed at East Croy - don And

pizz. *p*

pizz. *p*

mp

mp

p

50

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn
Tri.
S Blocks
M-S.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

p *mp* 3 3 3

should this train be empty on arr i - val at East Croydon the world may well have en - ded have

p *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *pizz.*

File Only

55 60

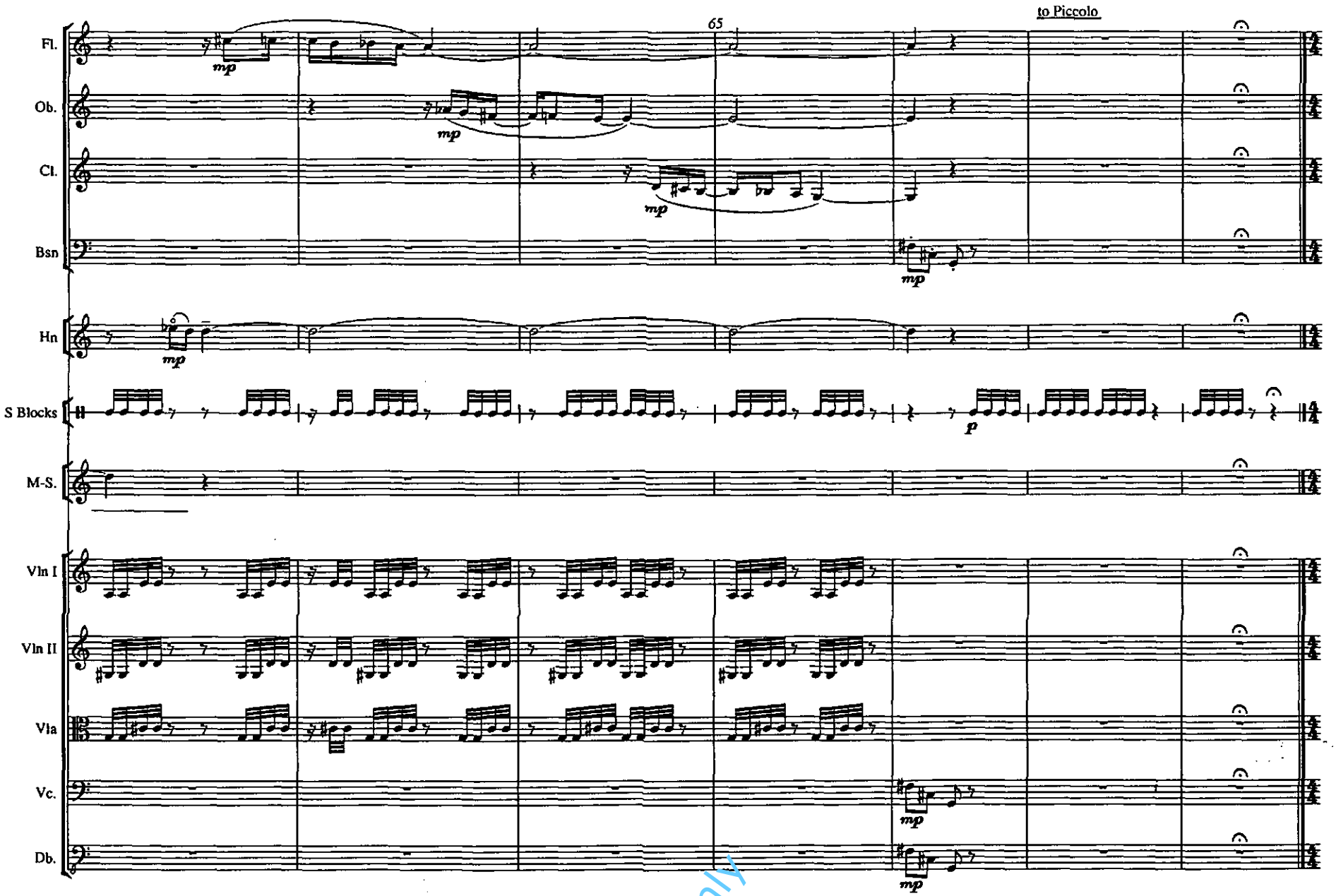
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn
Tri.
S Blocks
M-S.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

3 5 *mf* *p* *p*

en - ded the laws of phy - sics flawed beyond re - pair In which e - vent this train may not be stopping anywhere

arco *arco* *arco* *arco* *mp* *mp* *mp* *pizz.*

Preview



File Only
Preview

♩ = 60

70

Picc. *p*

Ob. *p*

Cl. *p*

Bsn *p*

Hn *p con sord.*

Tpt *p con sord.*

Glock. *p*

M-S. *mp*

When mor - phine con - sti - pates him a neighbour tells him ice will free his bowels His wife feeds

♩ = 60

Vln I *p con sord.*

Vln II *p con sord.*

Vla *p con sord.*

Vc. *arco p con sord.*

Db. *arco p con sord.*

80

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn

Hn

Tpt

Glock.

M-S.

ice-cubes one by one in - side him till at last he squeezes out a ti-ny, blood-dark frozen stool ice, mostly, though his bel-ly feels as though it's hard- pressed snow, a rock

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

Preview
Preview File Only

85

Picc.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn
Tpt
Glock.
M-S.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

— of pack - ice fro - zen to his spine — A - no - ther — pa - tient at the hos - pice tells — him

File Only

Preview

95

to Flute

to Bs. cl.

"If it was-n't for the call of na-ture some of us — would ne - ver — walk — a - gain"

pizz.

♩ = 64

100

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn

B. Cl.

f (omit notes to breathe where necessary)

Hn

f senza sord.

Tpt

f senza sord.

hard yarn sticks

Bass (floor) tom-tom

p *f* *f* *mf*

M-S.

f

We flinch, We flinch

♩ = 64

Vln I

f senza sord.

Vln II

f senza sord.

Vla

f senza sord.

Vc.

f senza sord.

Db.

arco

f senza sord.

105

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn

B. Cl.

Hn

Tpt

Bass (floor) tom-tom

p *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

M-S.

or turn turn our backs as hun-dreds of tonnes and

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

Preview File Only

Fl.
Ob.
Bsn
B. Cl.
Hn
Tpt
Bass (floor) tom-tom
M-S.
souls go hurt - - - ling past us
fas-ter than our wet-ted eyes can fol - - -
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

110

Fl.
Ob.
Bsn
B. Cl.
Hn
Tpt
Bass (floor) tom-tom
M-S.
- low Our teeth chatter, hair gets in our mouths clothes flatten themselves a - gainst our bo -
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

Preview File Only

Fl.
Ob.
Bsn
B. Cl.
Hn
Tpt
Bass (floor) tom-tom
M-S.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

115

mp *p* *mp*

- dies like fright - - tened chil - dren or pull a- way from sha - ken knees as if they'd strip us na- ked

Preview File

poco meno mosso
♩ = 52

slightly slower than Tempo 1
♩ = 60
120

sf *sf*

f *pp*

How dare these fast ones leave such an - gry rain - fall in their wake?

poco meno mosso
♩ = 52

slightly slower than Tempo 1
♩ = 60

p con sord. *p con sord.*

pp *pp*

Only

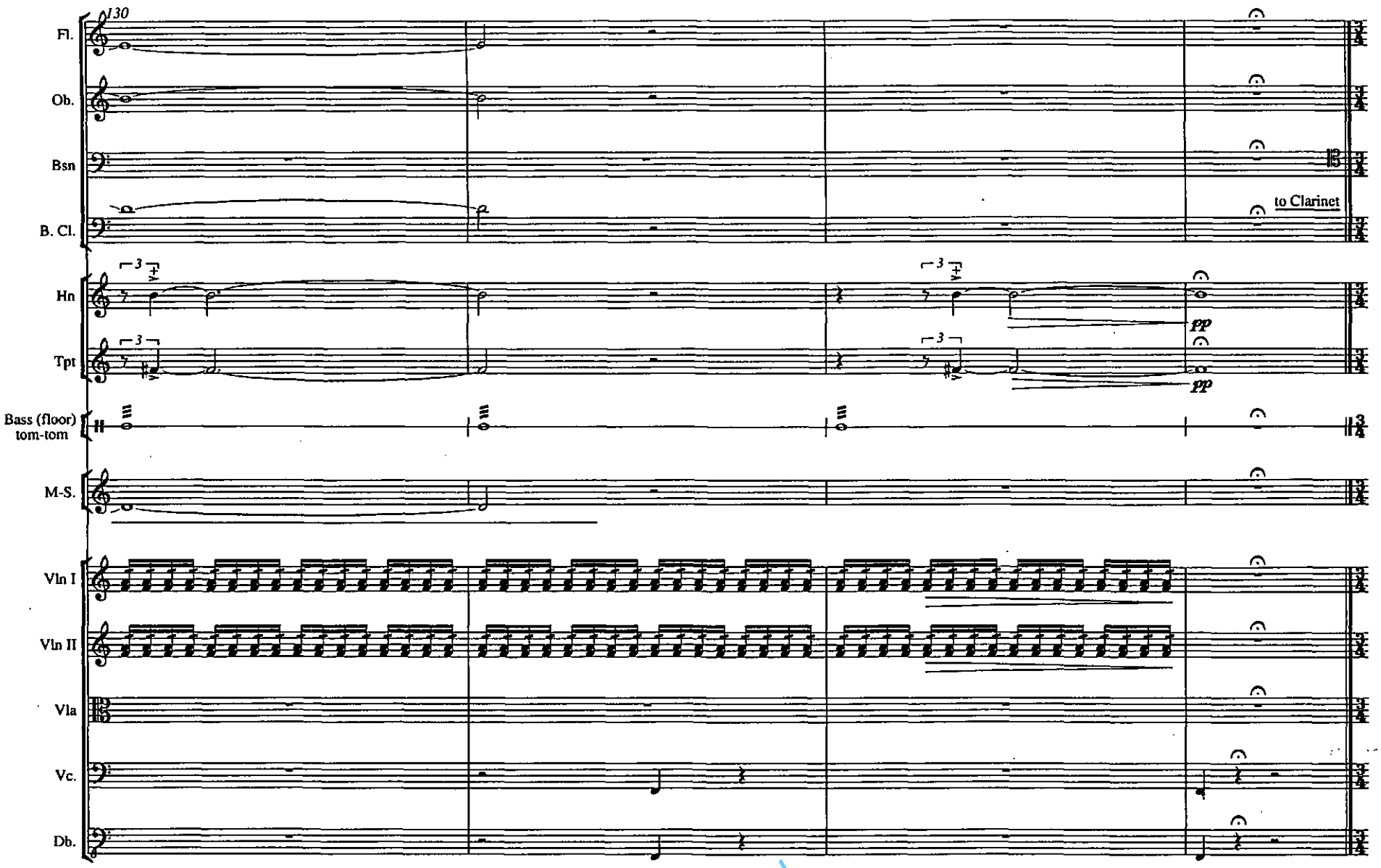
125

Fl.
Ob.
Bsn
B. Cl.
Hn
Tpt
Bass (floor) tom-tom
M-S.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

pp
poco
con sord.
mp
Greasy pig-eons brave the slip-stream plant gnarled
pizz.

Preview
Preview File Only

claws be-tween the lines test the tre-mor in the gra-vel peck at bro-ken stone



File Only
Preview

IV

"This service will be delayed for a short while.
This is due to an object on the track."

♩ = 56

135

140

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn
Tub. B.
M-S.
Vc.

p

mp

It's not the yel-low mass of the Railtrack stone blower sidelined near

arco

♩ = 56

145

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn
Tub. B.
M-S.
Vc.
Db.

the in - ven - - - - - ted vil - lage Maid - en - bower not a sus - pect parcel

pizz. mp

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn
Tub. B.
M-S.
Vc.
Db.

— or a dumped corpse on - ly the buck - led bird - cage of a shop - ping trol - ly

Preview
New File Only

150

155

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn
Tpt
Tub. B.
M-S.
Vc.

Stopped for ten minutes we can't help wonder where we are and if we've been here for- e - - -

pizz. arco

poco

160

165

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn
Tub. B.
M-S.
Vc.
Db.

- - - ver The coarse grass, bracken and sap - lings on eith - er side light - starved, oil- stained, au- tum nal will not slide down

(pizz.)

170

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn
Tpt
Tub. B.
M-S.
Vc.

mp senza sord.

to swallow us

mp

We are hi -jacked by the ba-nal and the

Preview File Only

175

180

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn

Hn

Tpt

Tub. B.

M-S.

snag is con - tag - ious

sprea - - - ding back to all the stations we have swept through till a queue of trains waits

Vc.

File Only

Preview

185

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn

Hn

Tpt

p

Tub. B.

M-S.

pp

(please let them wait)

mp

un - til we move a - gain

Vc.