Charlene from Big Data

for voice, xylosynth, percussion, piano, and keyboard

Olly Sellwood

2021, rev. 2023

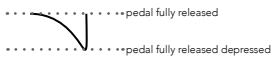
arranged for Riot Ensemble (May 2023)

Instrumentation

> xylosynth + foot pedal
> Roland SPD-SX + orchestral bass drum
> voice
> piano
> MIDI keyboard + foot pedal

Notation

> the two foot pedals function as pitch modulators. Each pedal, when depressed, lowers the pitch incremently to the maximum of -50 cents. The length of the bend is represented by the length of the symbol.
> the symbol is notated like this: Each application of the pedal should fully depress and the pedal.



Voice

> the vocal part is a combination of sung and spoken phrases.
> the vocalist may be any gender (transpose into a suitable octave).
> the vocalist sings the notated pitches in the score and speaks the boxed text.
> general timings are given through the placement of the boxed text in the bars.

Set-up Instructions

Equipment
> one microphone for the vocalist.
> a laptop running the Ableton Live 11 performance patch, available here:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/to0mpgsapdrelip/AADknED32UNjuHR90fakX32La?dl=0
> two piano-sustain style footpedals
> a convertor between voltage and MIDI
> a MIDI keyboard
> MIDI expression software, available here: https://www.audiofront.net/index.php
> samples for the Roland SPD-SX, available here:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0ub6fa7e8fm1wsm/AAD9GvEMbwud2gHWJHlVH4LHa?dl=0

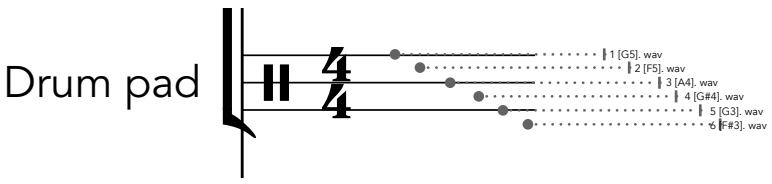
Routing
> the xylosynth is connected via USB or MIDI to the laptop
> the MIDI keyboard is connected via USB or MIDI to the laptop
> both the xylosynth and MIDI keyboard use piano-sustain style footpedals. These should be connected to the laptop via the voltage-to-MIDI convertor
> samples are loaded into the Roland SPD-SX

Samples
> there are five samples of individual piano notes, available here:
> the samples are non-dynamic and should be set to playback at a similar volume to match the piano.

Switching between A + B
> both the xylosynth and keyboard need to be able to switch between two settings (labelled A + B on the score). To do this, one note on either instrument can be assigned to make the switch, or an additional footpedal can be used to ensure this operation.

Drum pad Key

> assign the samples as follows:



Text

Original microfiction by Rose Biggin & Keir Cooper

I think everything got out of hand, when the smoothies started getting friendly. My carton of non-dairy milk substitute had a cartoon glass of non-dairy milk substitute with a moustache and three friendly white drops issuing from the top, and a speech bubble that said, *put me in your bones!!!!*

But when things started getting personal I decided I'd had enough. I needed to speak with Big Data, but I didn't know where to begin. I typed "I would like to speak to a Big Data representative" into google, pressed search and hoped it would reach them. Then I held my phone in front of me and said loudly, *I would like to speak to a representative of Big Data please*.

That evening, I received a call from an unknown number.

A voice said, *Hello, this is Charlene from big data. How can I help you today?*

She continued, *Before we proceed any further I will need to ask you a quick security question*.

I said, *You're asking me?*

She said, *Which Showergel do you feel best encapsulates the need for freedom?* I said the first one I could think of and she said, *yes, that's correct, that's what we thought you'd say.*

Now I could explain my situation. I told them I was feeling targeted.

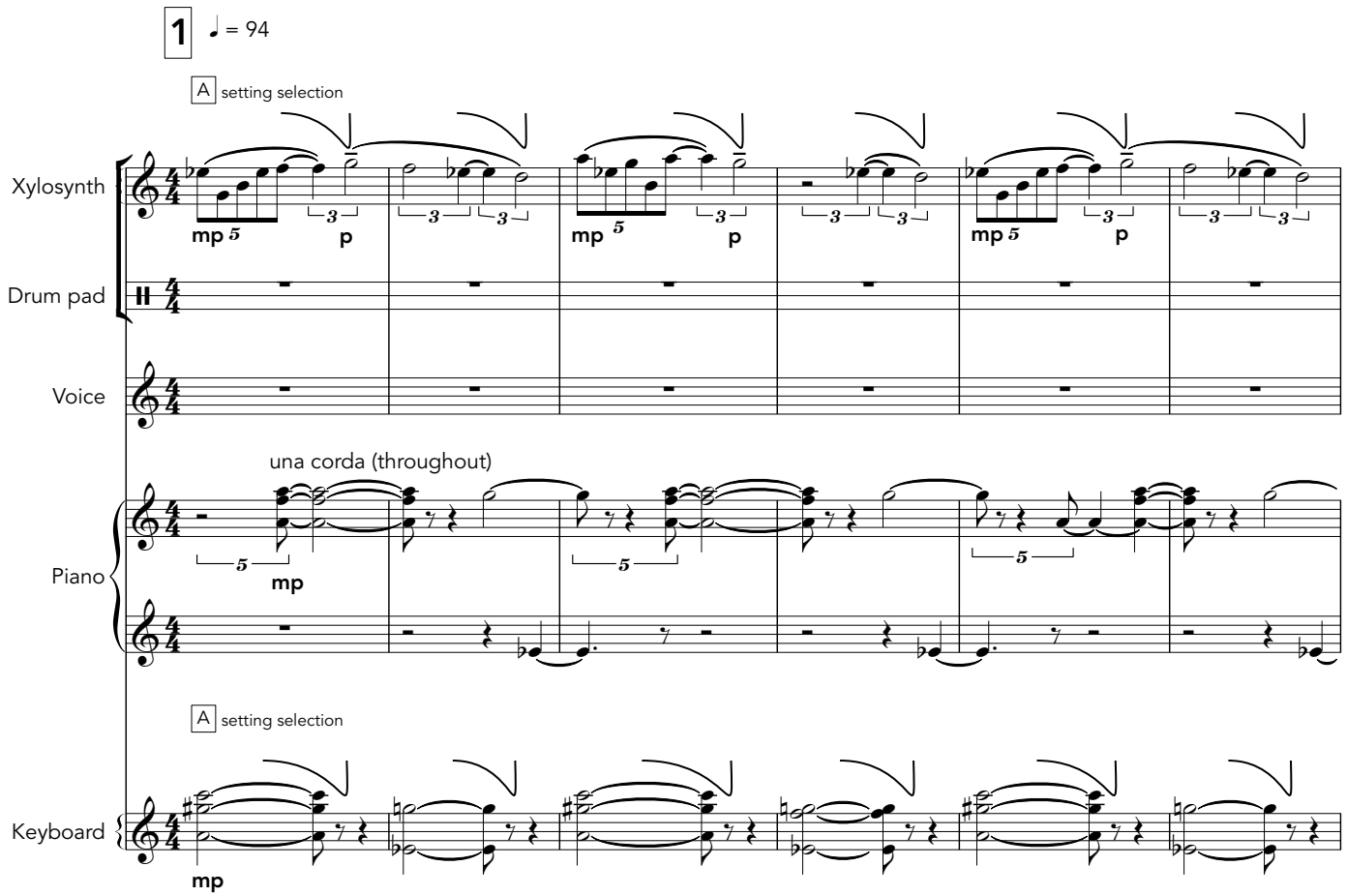
Charlene said, *Thank you very much. Feedback is extremely important.*

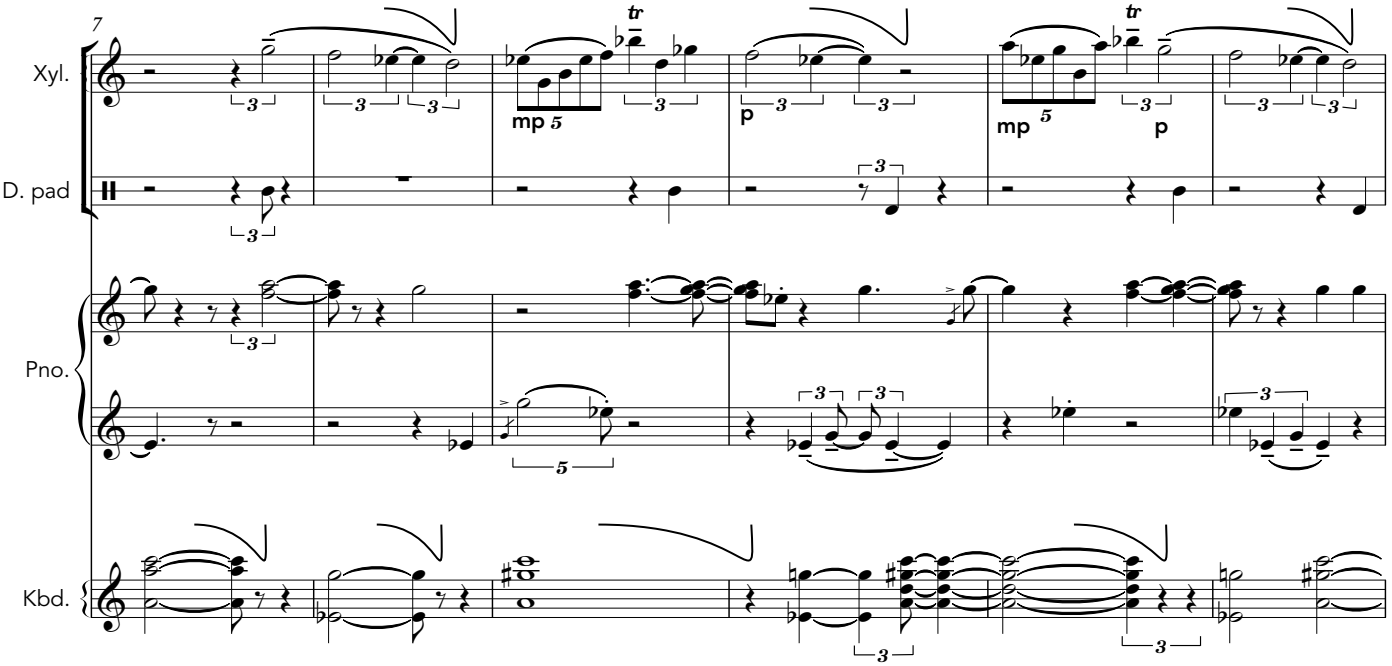
Then she said, *Can I call you back if we have any more questions?*

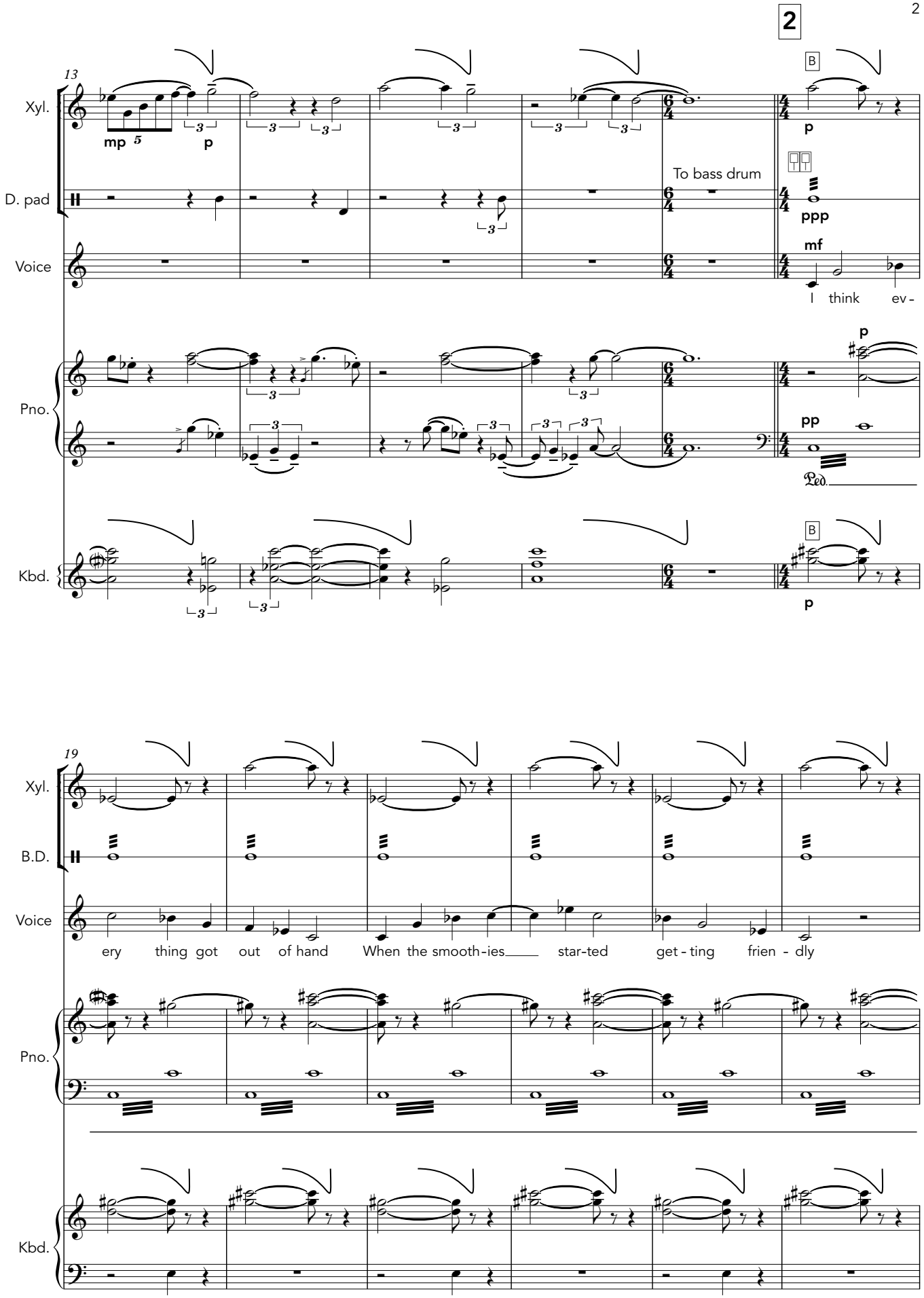
Thank you, I said, but I really don't know when I'll have the time.

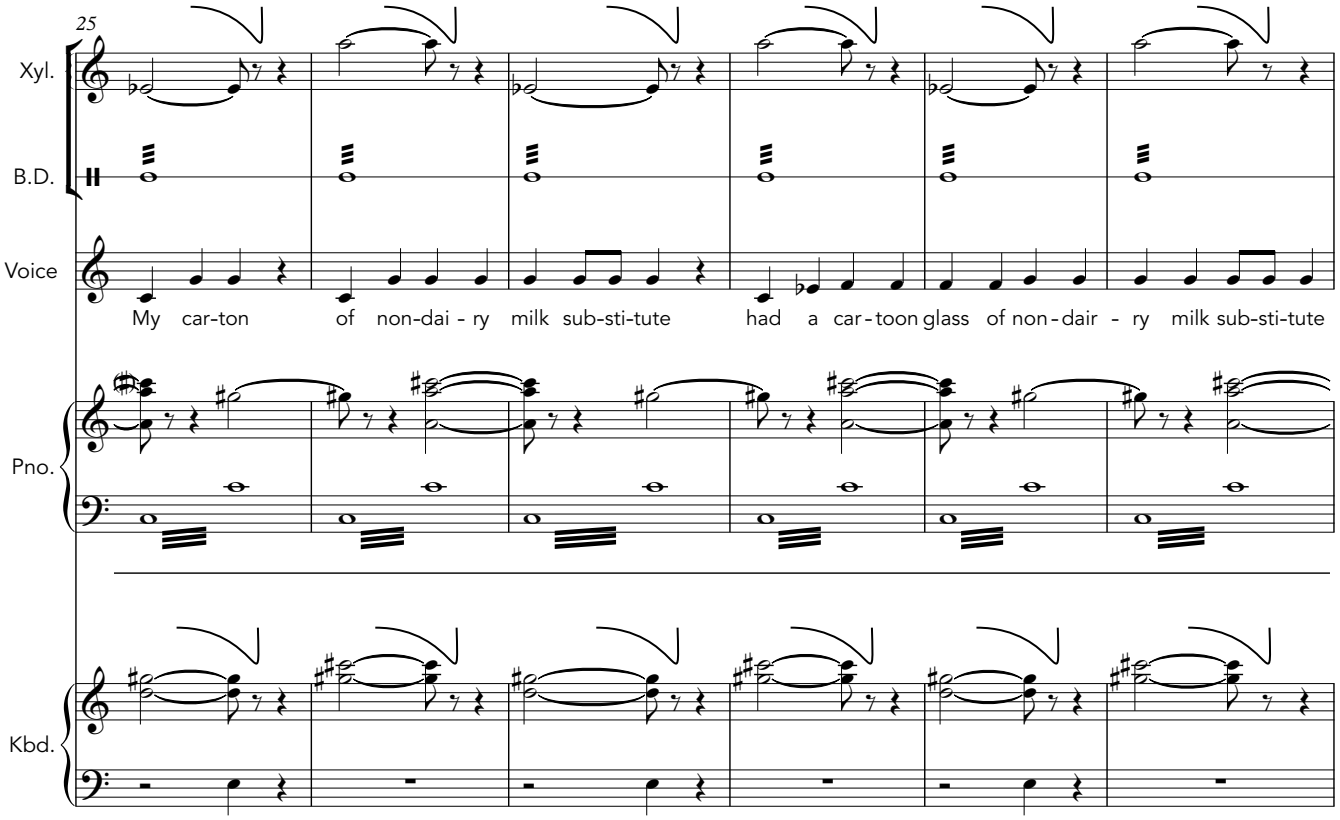
She said, *You're mostly free on Wednesdays*, and hung up.

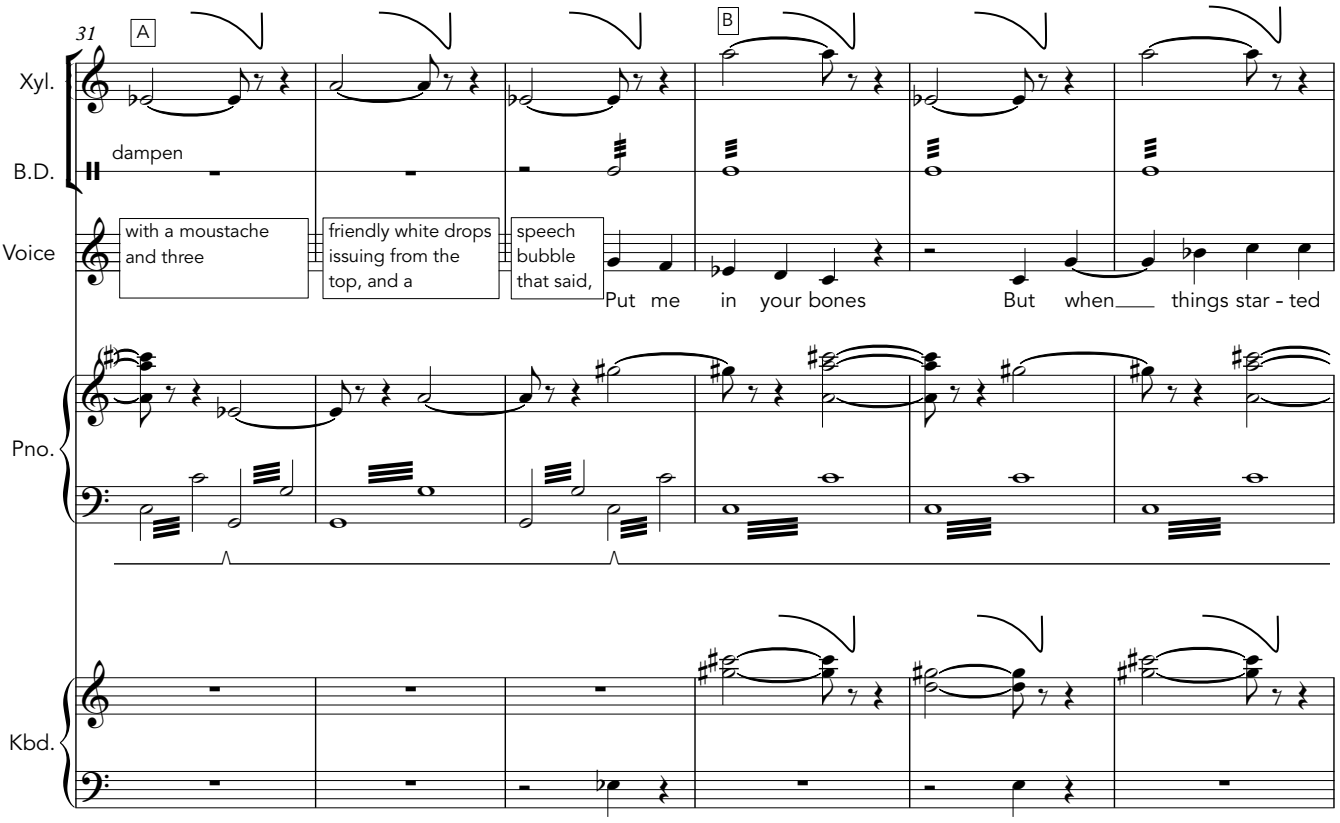
I looked again at the cartoon milk and pondered my unknown future.

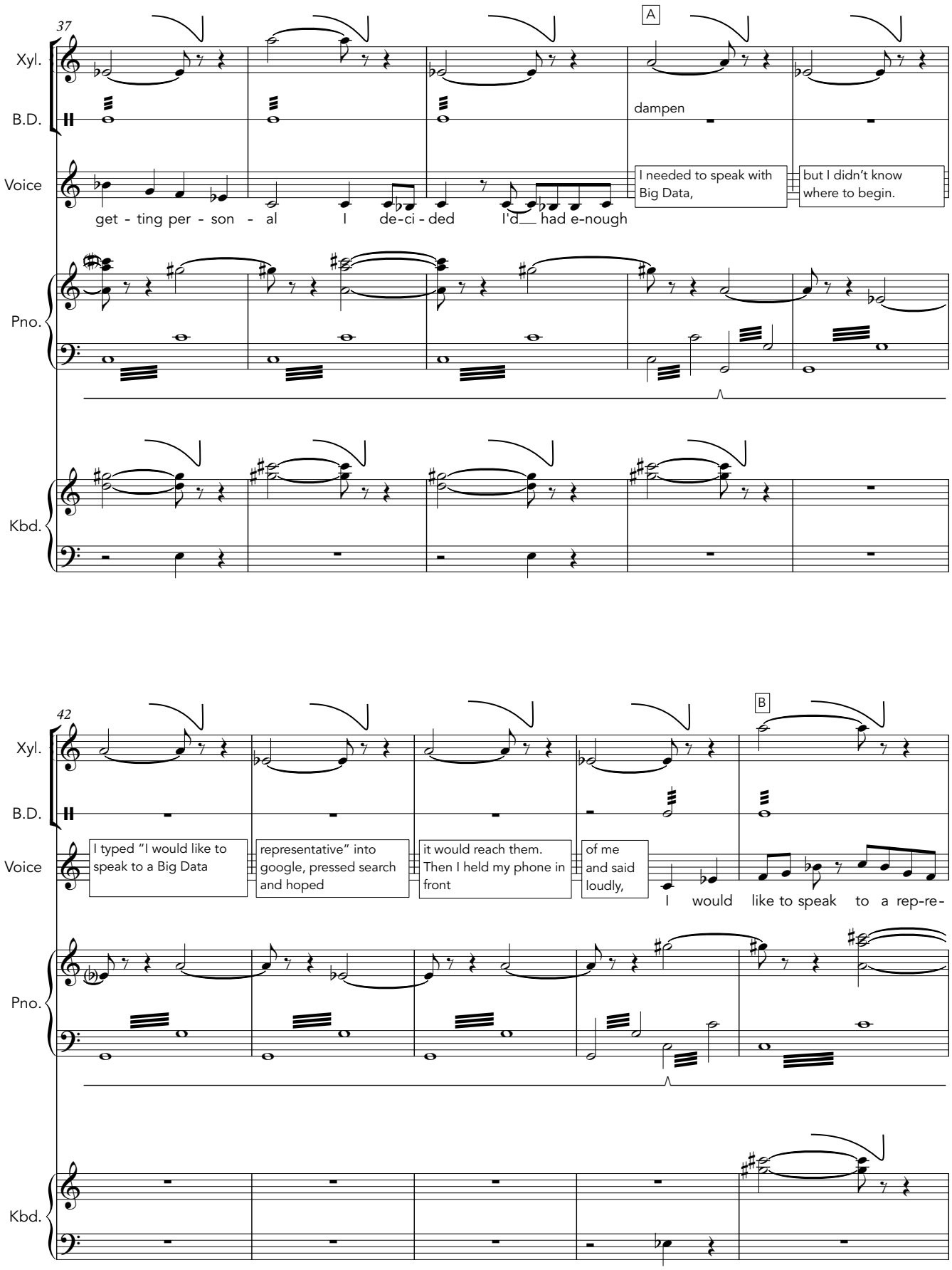

1
♩ = 94
A setting selection
Xylosynth
Drum pad
Voice
una corda (throughout)
Piano
A setting selection
Keyboard

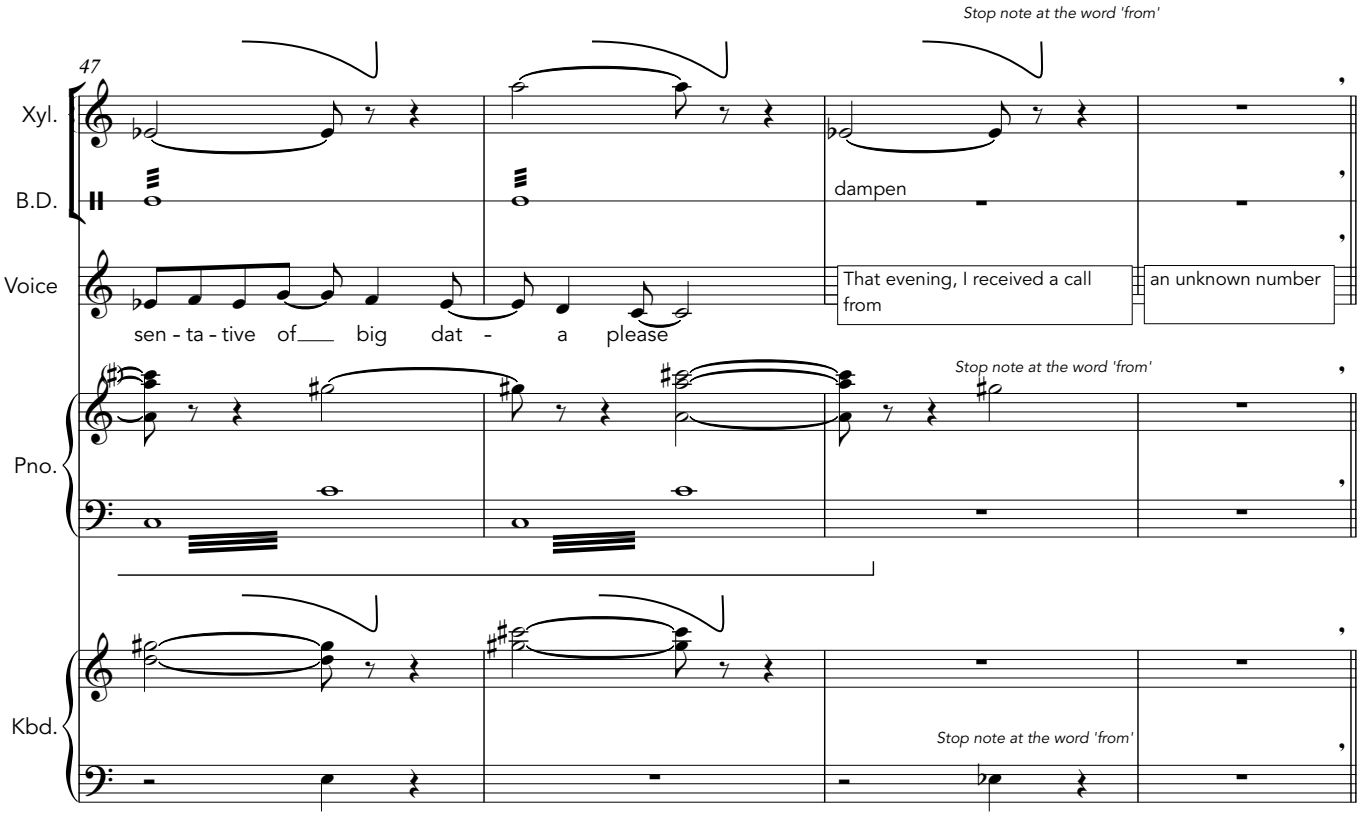

7
Xyl.
D. pad
Pno.
Kbd.

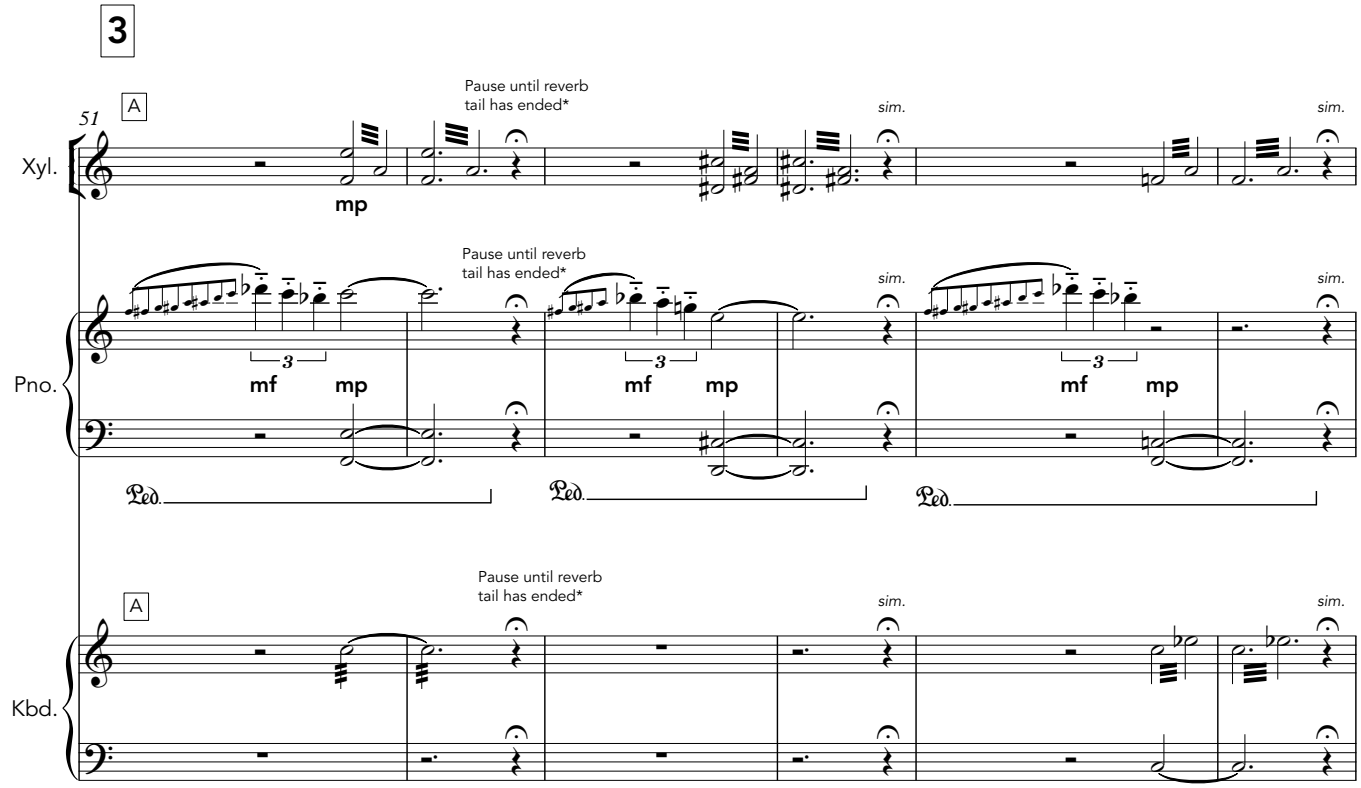

2
13
Xyl.
mp
p
D. pad
To bass drum
ppp
Voice
mf
I think ev-
Pno.
p
pp
Ped.
Kbd.
B
p
19
Xyl.
B.D.
Voice
ery thing got out of hand When the smooth-ies star-ted get-ting frien-dly
Pno.
Kbd.


25
Xyl.
B.D.
Voice
My car-ton of non-dai - ry milk sub-sti-tute had a car-toon glass of non-dair - ry milk sub-sti-tute
Pno.
Kbd.


31
A
B
Xyl.
B.D.
dampen
Voice
with a moustache and three
friendly white drops issuing from the top, and a
speech bubble that said,
Put me in your bones
But when things star - ted
Pno.
Kbd.

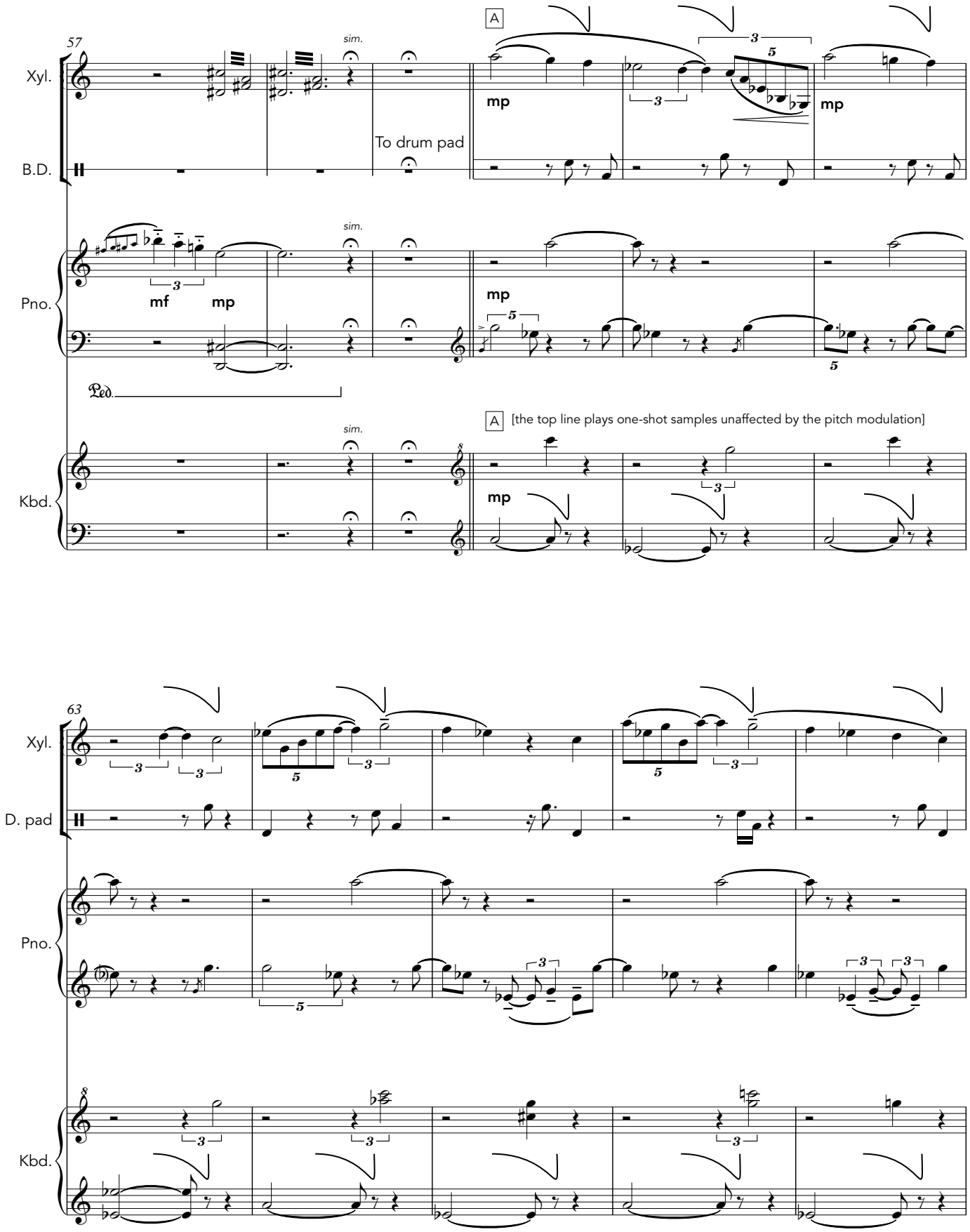

37
A
Xyl.
B.D.
dampen
Voice
get - ting per - son - al I de-ci - ded I'd had e-nough
I needed to speak with Big Data,
but I didn't know where to begin.
Pno.
Kbd.
42
B
I typed "I would like to speak to a Big Data
representative" into google, pressed search and hoped
it would reach them. Then I held my phone in front
of me and said loudly,
I would like to speak to a rep-re-

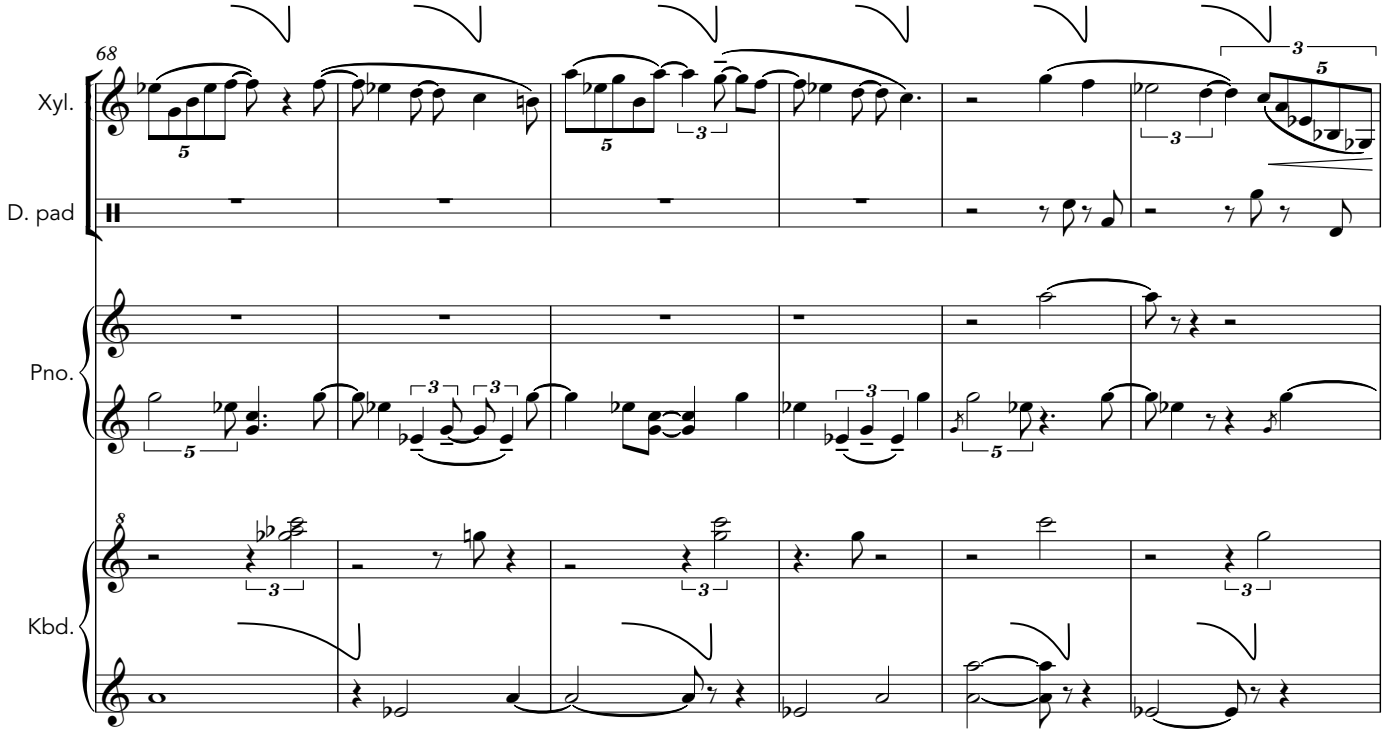


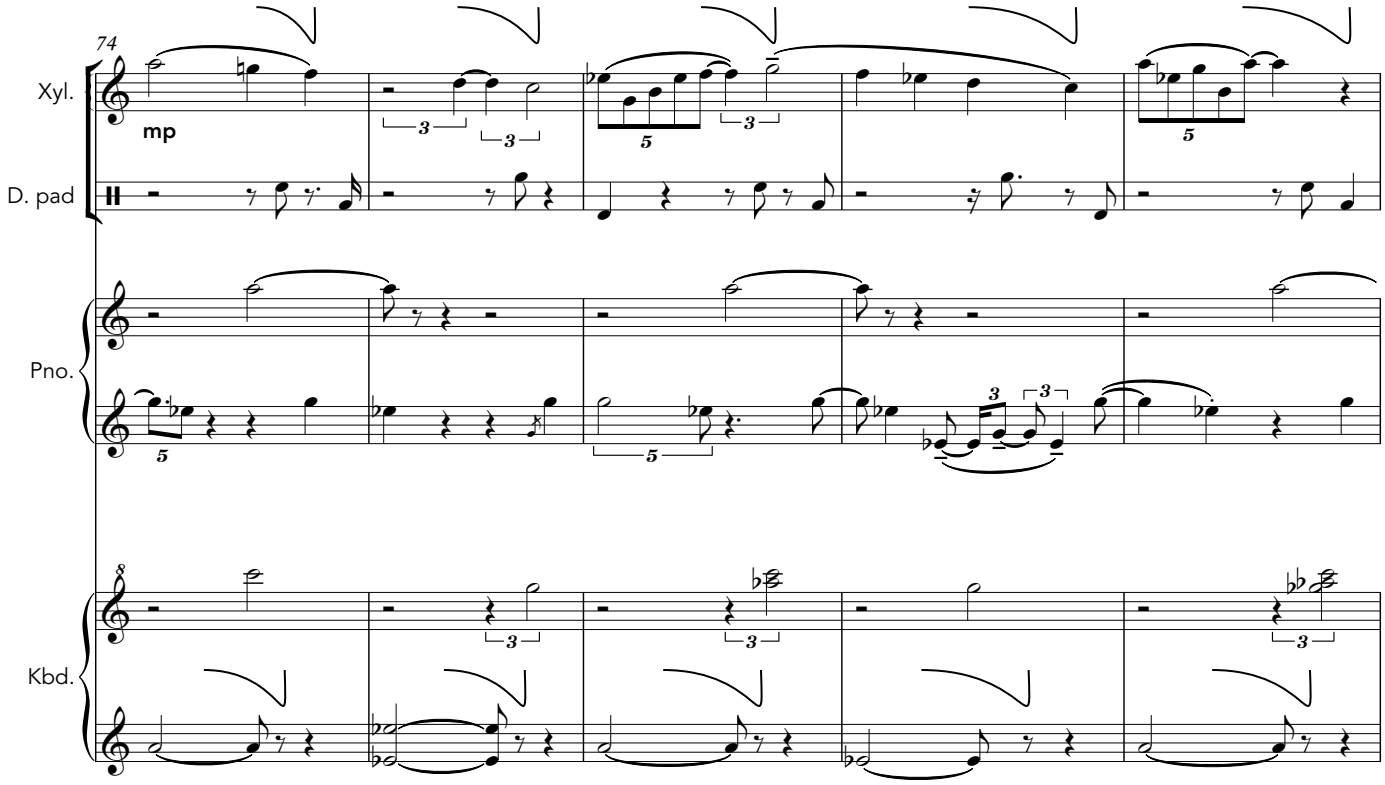


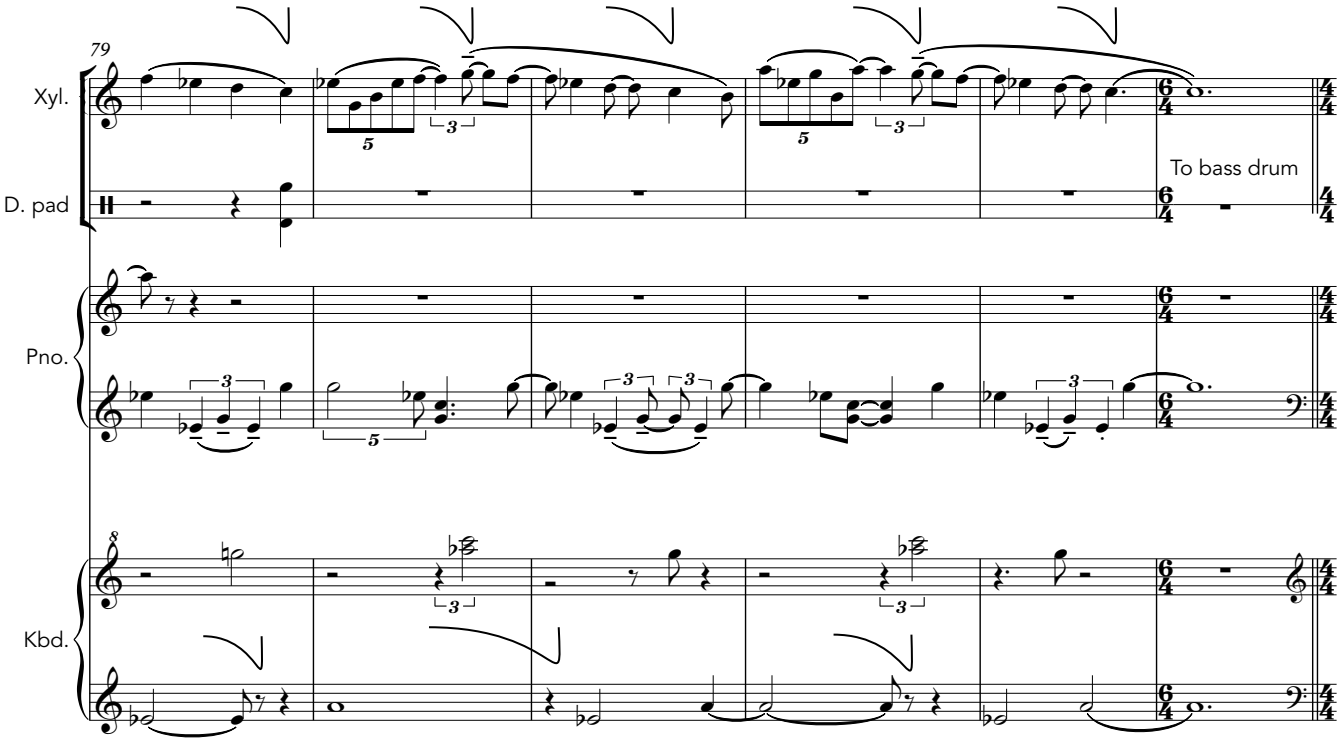
* reverb possibilities to be explored during rehearsal

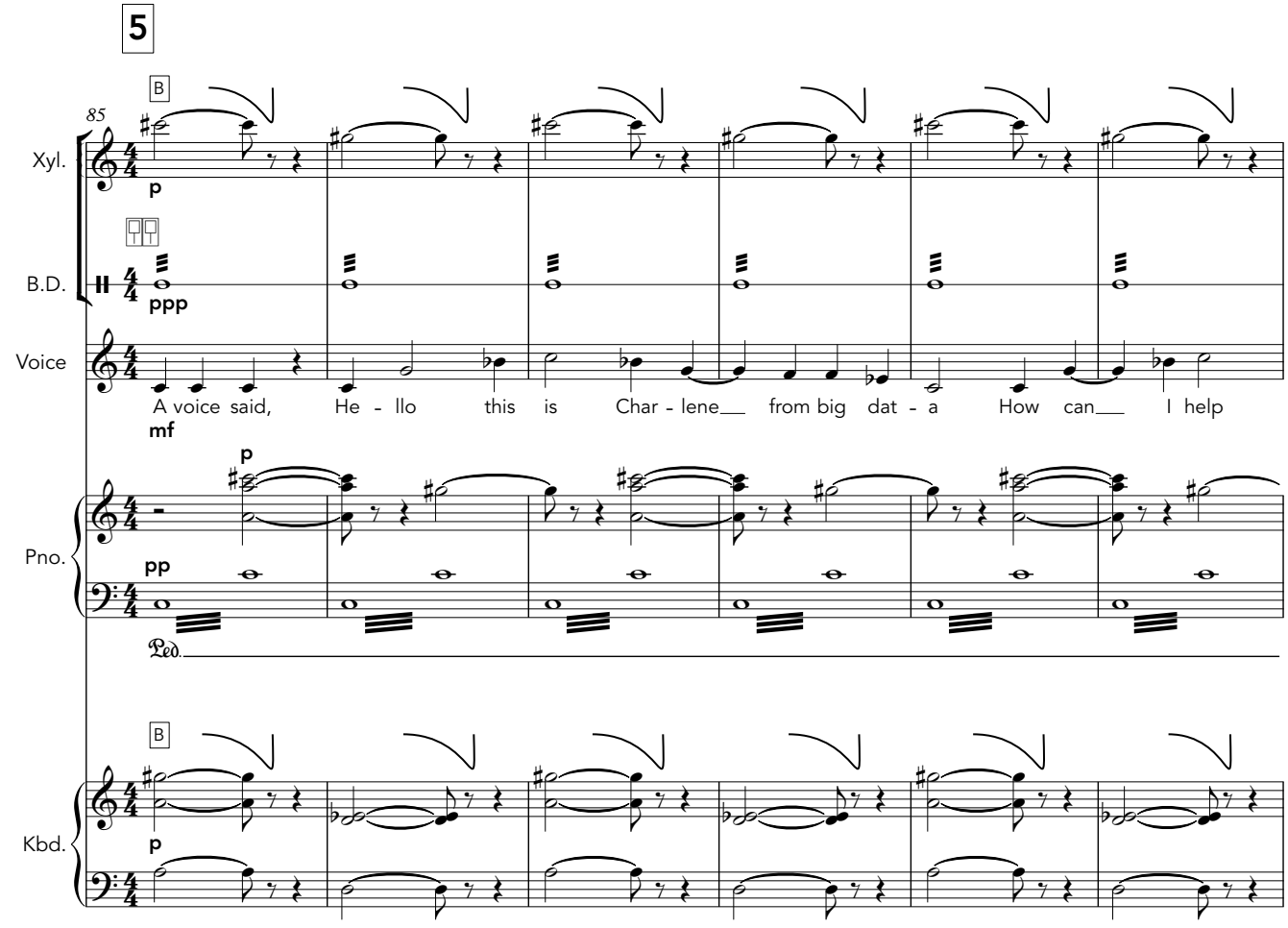
4

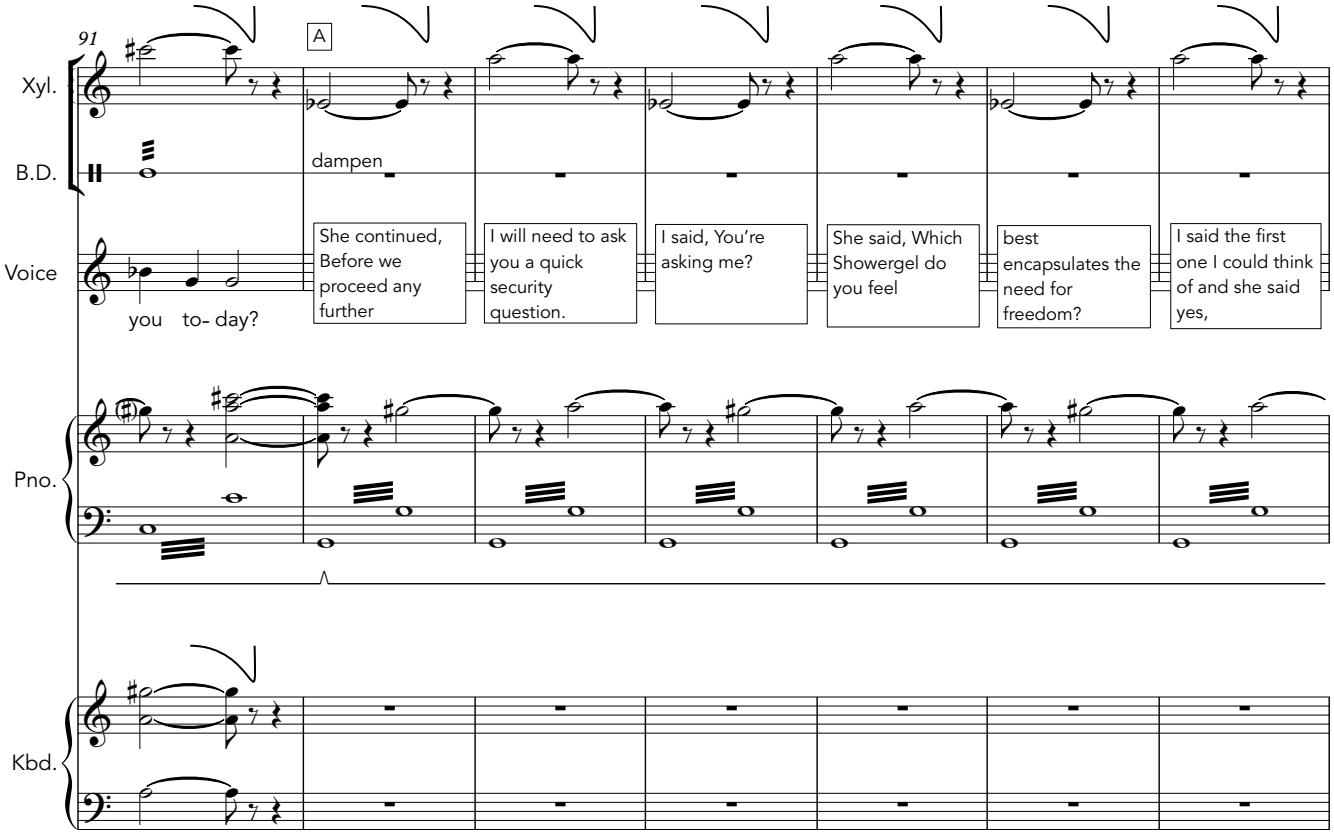

57
Xyl.
B.D.
Pno.
Kbd.
sim.
To drum pad
A
mp
mf
Ped.
[the top line plays one-shot samples unaffected by the pitch modulation]
63
D. pad

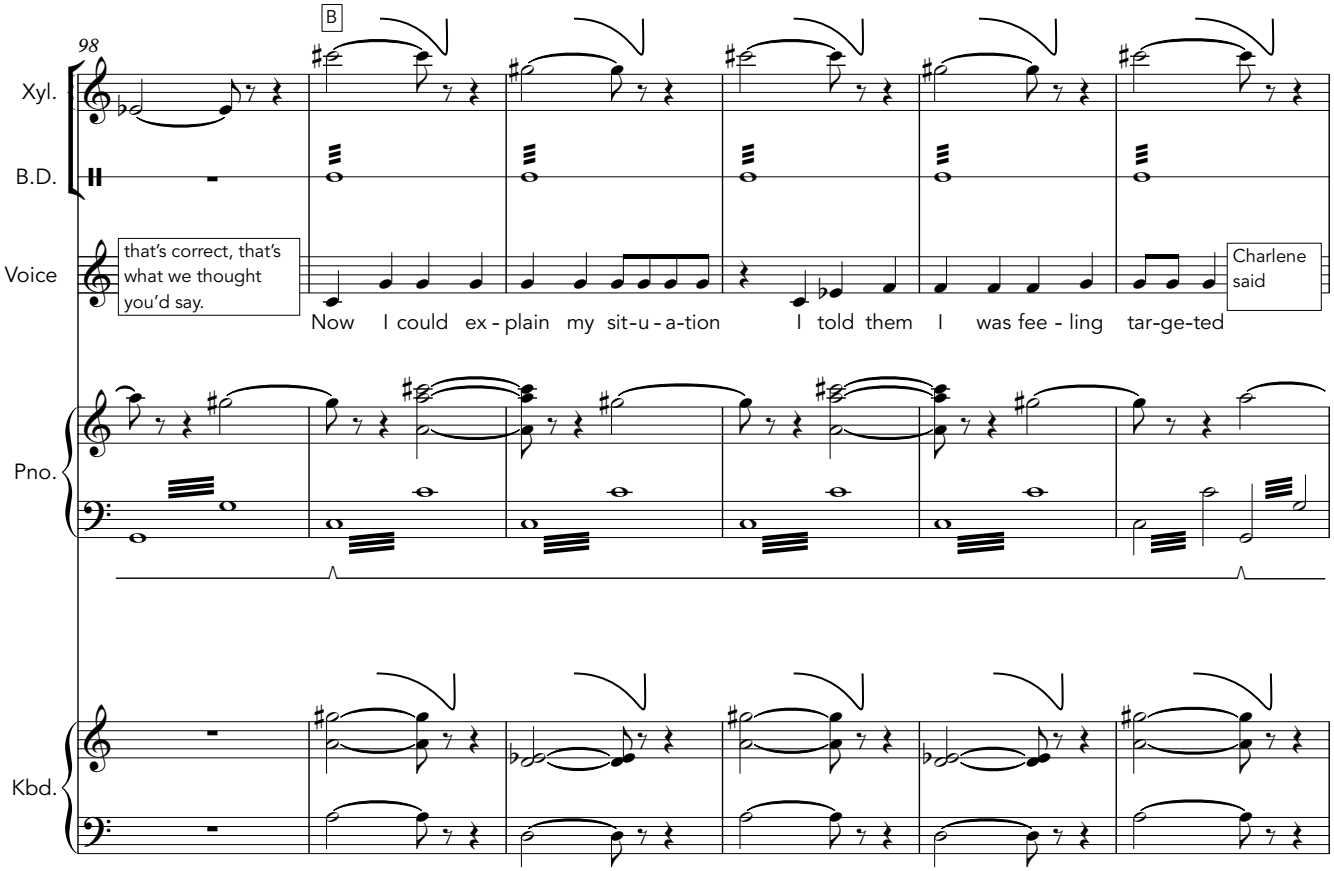

68
Xyl.
D. pad
Pno.
Kbd.

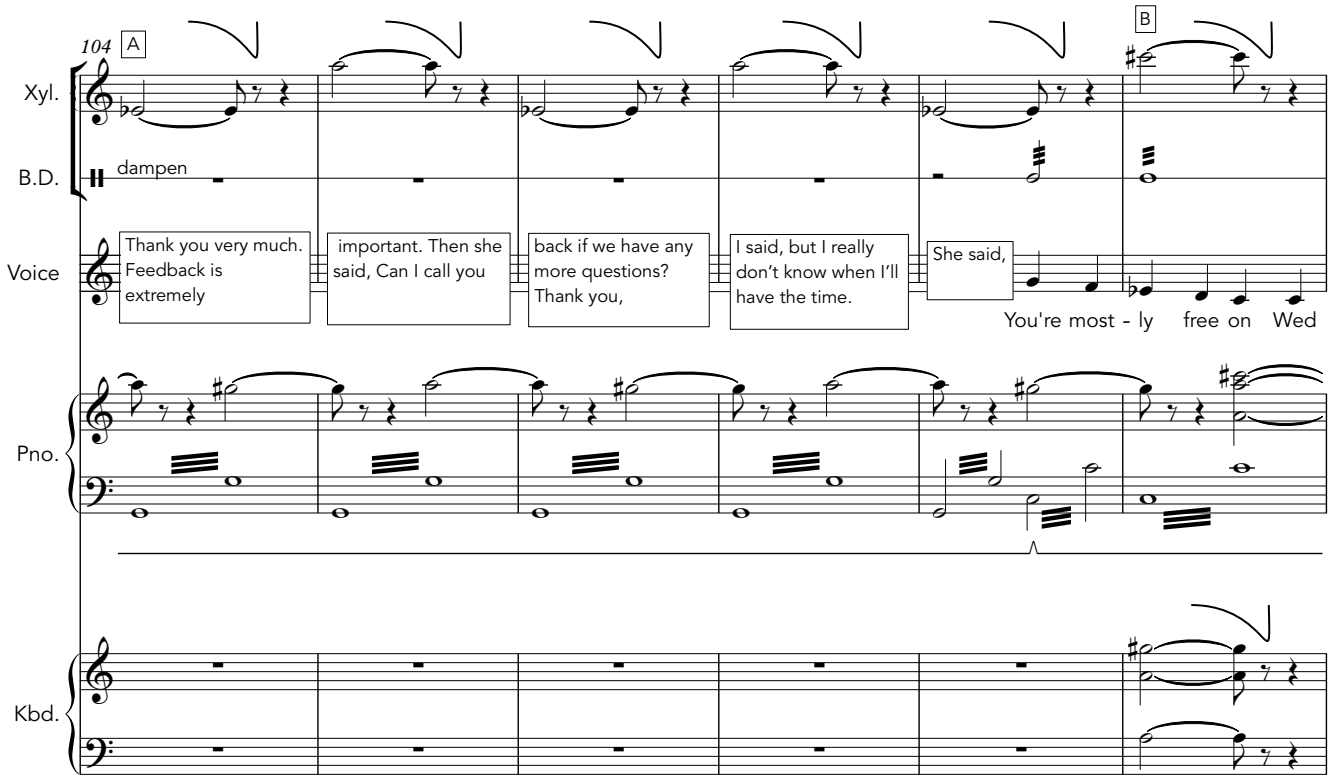

74
mp
Xyl.
D. pad
Pno.
Kbd.

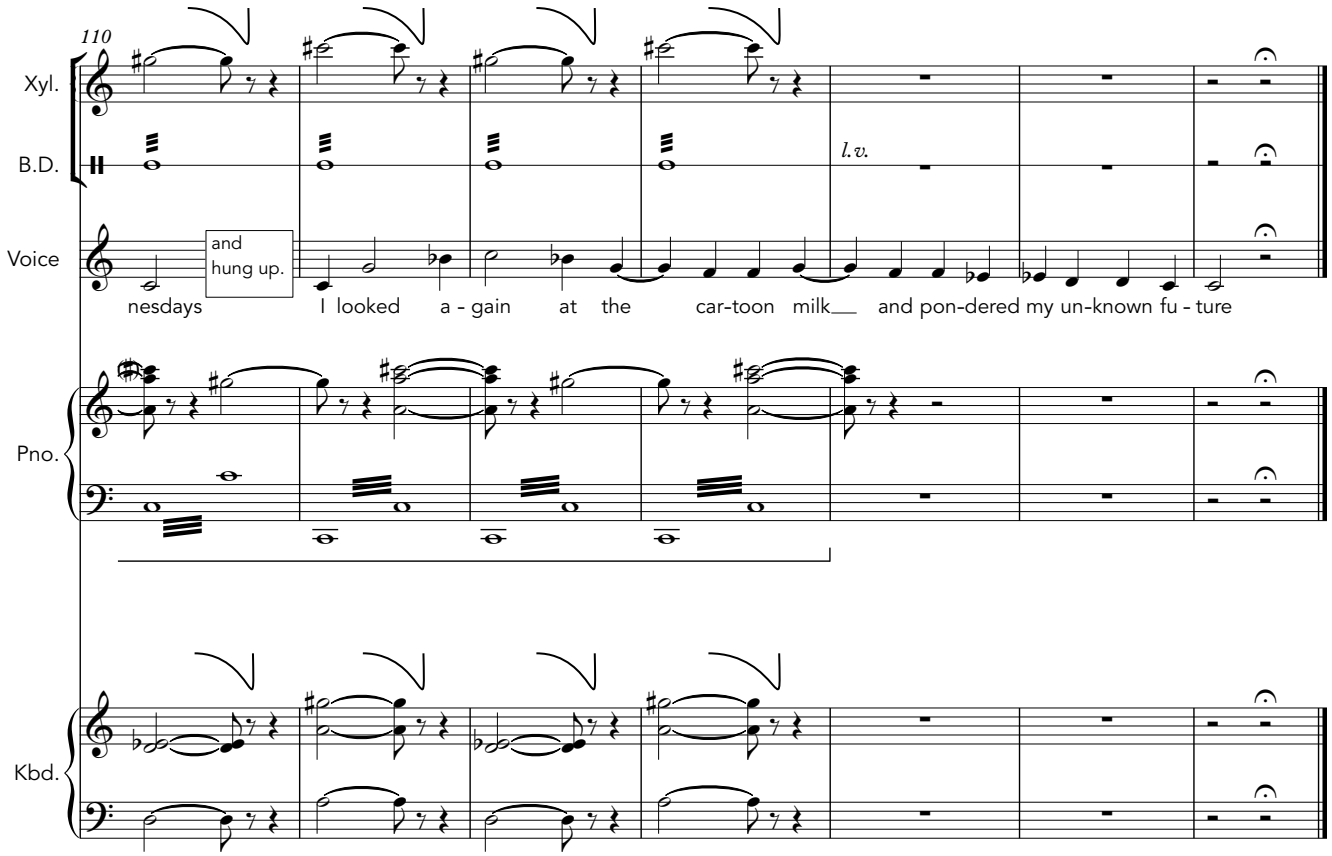

79
Xyl.
D. pad
To bass drum
Pno.
Kbd.


5
85
B
Xyl.
p
B.D.
ppp
Voice
A voice said, He - llo this is Char - lene from big dat - a How can I help
mf
Pno.
p
pp
Ped.
B
Kbd.
p


91
A
Xyl.
B.D.
dampen
Voice
you to- day?
She continued, Before we proceed any further
I will need to ask you a quick security question.
I said, You're asking me?
She said, Which Showergel do you feel
best encapsulates the need for freedom?
I said the first one I could think of and she said yes,
Pno.
Kbd.


98
B
Xyl.
B.D.
Voice
that's correct, that's what we thought you'd say.
Now I could ex - plain my sit-u - a-tion
I told them I was fee - ling tar-ge-ted
Charlene said
Pno.
Kbd.


104
A
B
Xyl.
B.D.
dampen
Voice
Thank you very much. Feedback is extremely
important. Then she said, Can I call you
back if we have any more questions? Thank you,
I said, but I really don't know when I'll have the time.
She said,
You're most - ly free on Wed
Pno.
Kbd.


110
Xyl.
B.D.
l.v.
Voice
and hung up.
nesdays
I looked a - gain at the car-toon milk and pon-dered my un-known fu - ture
Pno.
Kbd.