

The 13 Clocks

an Opera

(based on the book by James Thurber)



Full Score



THE 13 CLOCKS

(Libretto by David Avshalomov, based on the story

by James Thurber. Used by Permission)

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

The Cold Duke of Coffin Castle

Nasty Baritone, in his forties

Prince Zorn of Zorna (Xingu* the Minstrel) Lyric Tenor, 21

Princess Saralinda Lyric Soprano, almost 21

The Golux* [also Listen, invisible] Lyric Baritone, old but ageless

Hagga Contralto or Mezzo, 38

Hark/Narrator, the Duke's henchman Bass, forties

ENSEMBLE

Taverner (Baritone)

Traveller / Jack-o'-Lent (Soprano/Mezzo; pants)

(Traveller may be played by Hagga in pants)

(Jack-o'-Lent may be played by Saralinda in pants)

Tale-Teller / Jackadandy (Bass-Baritone)

Troublemaker (Tenor)

Tosspot (Bass/Baritone)

Castle Guards and Captain (minimum 4, may be played by tavern frequenters)

AND

Whisper, the Duke's spy, non-singing walk-off

The Todal, non-singing (2 actors, 3-legged-walking in a large dark slimy-looking sack)

Voice of the Todal (all ensemble voices mixed, offstage)

The Geese (all ensemble voices mixed, offstage)

*NOTES: Golux is pronounced as though it were spelled "Gollux," like Gollum, or mollusk.

Xingu is pronounced "Exingu" and written thus in the score.

Todal is pronounced "**Toe**-doll"

Prince Zorn, as Xingu the Minstrel, carries and mimes playing a lute. (May substitute a small guitar, ukulele, or mandolin.)

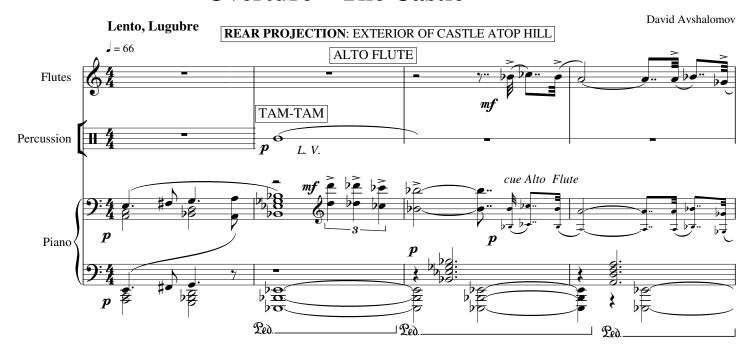
ACCOMPANIMENT: Piano, Flute(s), Percussion

SYNOPSIS

The cold Duke of Coffin Castle has imprisoned Princess Saralinda until he can marry her. Per a spell put on him, enforced by the horrible Todal, he must offer princes a chance to win her hand; he sets them impossible tasks, and when they fail he feeds them to his geese. At the Silver Swan in town, the ensemble tells prince Zorn of Zorna, disguised as a minstrel, all this; he mocks the Duke in song. The Golux, a forgetful little semi-magician (and invisible servant of the Duke), offers guidance; the Duke's guards take Zorn to the Castle. There he sees Saralinda, and the Duke, with his sarcastic servant Hark, sets him his tasks—bring him 1000 jewels in 99 hours, and restart all the stopped castle clocks (the Duke claims he slew time). The Golux remembers Hagga, who used to weep jewels. He and Zorn set off to find her and they tell their plight, but she says her tears are all gone. They notice some jewels there which she says are tears of laughter; these last only a fortnight, then melt. They try make her laugh, and fail, but finally she does; they bag the jewels and return to the Castle. Zorn fights the guards; the Golux and Saralinda start the clocks. The Duke is defeated, and, cheered on by the ensemble, Zorn and Saralinda ride off to the Land of Ever After.

A fortnight later, the Duke sees his jewels suddenly all melt–and the Todal gleeps him.

Overture—The Castle



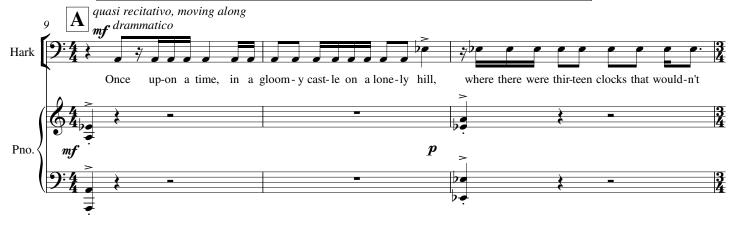


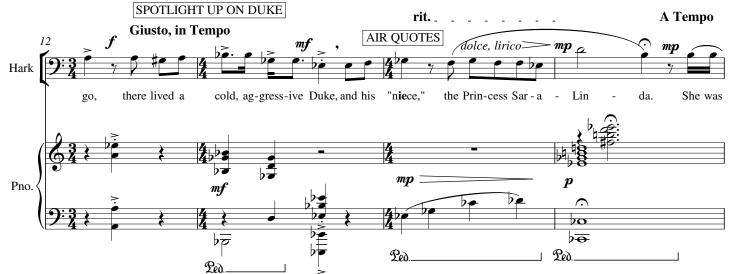
Prologue

THE DUKE STANDS VISIBLE THROUGH A LARGE HIGH CASTLE WINDOW,
[OR, ALTERNATIVELY, AT THE TOP OF THE STAGE L. STAIRS,] AND ECHOS

Moderato
THE NARRATION WITH SUBTLE MOVEMENTS, LOOKING BEYOND THE AUDIENCE.

J = 76 NARRATOR (HARK), AT SIDE OF STAGE, IN HALF-LIGHT, WEARING HIS MASK.





DUKE ADMIRES THE JEWELS ON HIS GLOVES, TURNING HIS HAND AND MOVING HIS FINGERS.



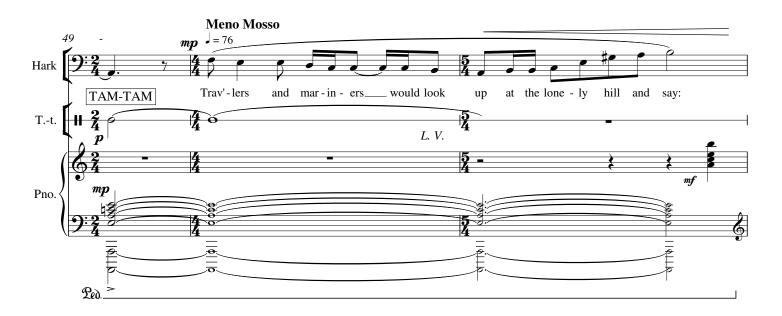




PROJECTION: MONTAGE OF CLOCKS SET AT THAT TIME, OR LIGHT UP BRIEFLY ON CLOCKS ON THE GREAT HALL BACK WALL

5





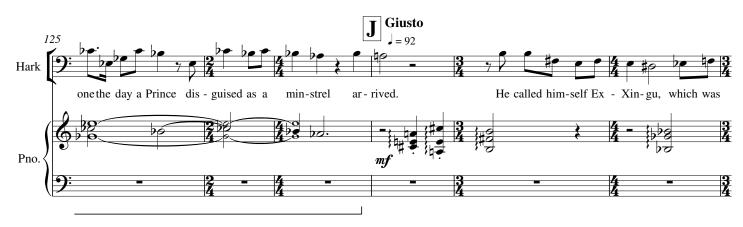


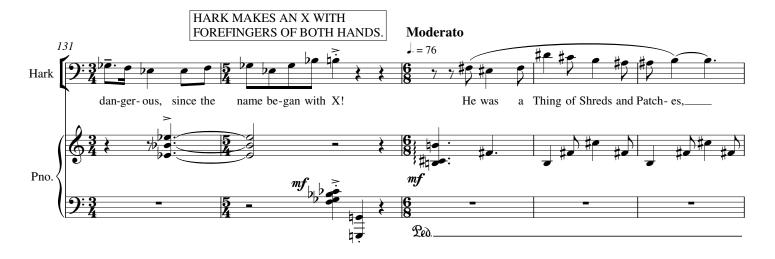


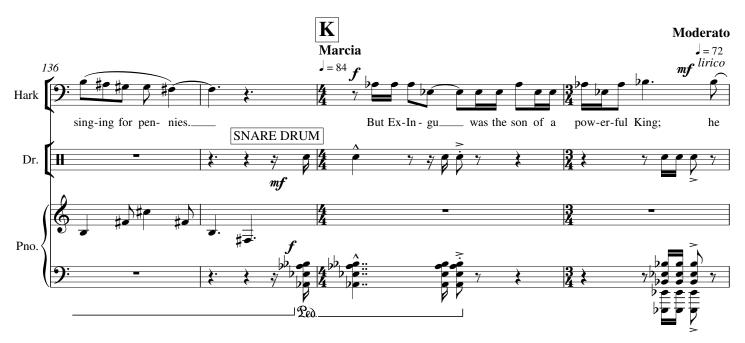














Scene I -- at the Silver Swan

LIGHTS UP ON TOWN PLAZA, CENTER. REVELERS ARE SCATTERED AROUND 2 TABLES UNDER AN AWNING. PRINCE ZORN STANDS NEXT TO A TABLE WITH HIS LUTE. ALL ARE LAUGHING, ANIMATED WITH THE INTRO MUSIC.



Led.

Led.

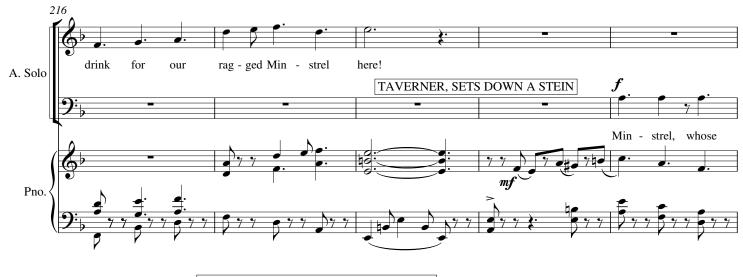
∧ Led.



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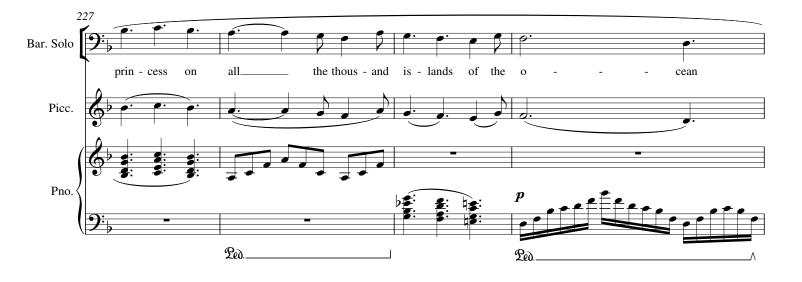






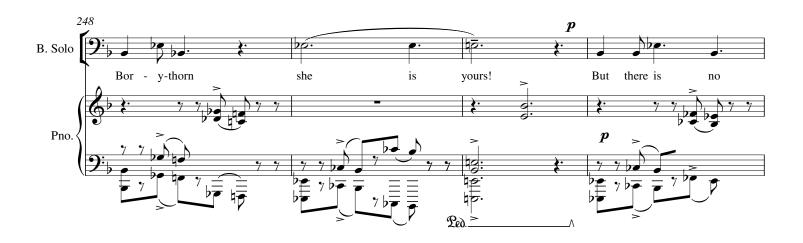
ALL THE REST GRIMACE, MAKE AN "X" WITH CROSSED FIRST FINGERS OF 2 HANDS AND TURN THEIR HEADS.









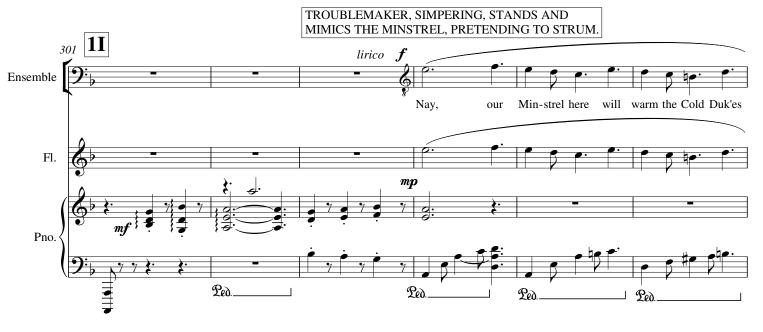


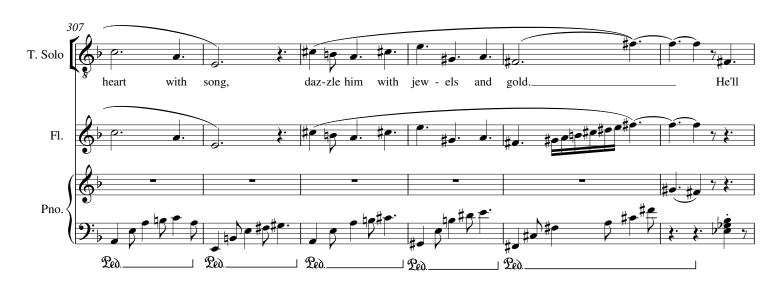
















AS ALL WATCH, ZORN QUICKLY YANKS HIM UP BY THE TUNIC, PUSHES HIM UP WITH ONE HAND BY THE THROAT AND HOLDS HIM UP ON HIS TOES, LOOKS HIM SHARPLY IN THE EYE, THEN RELEASES HIM AND HE CRUMPLES TO THE GROUND.

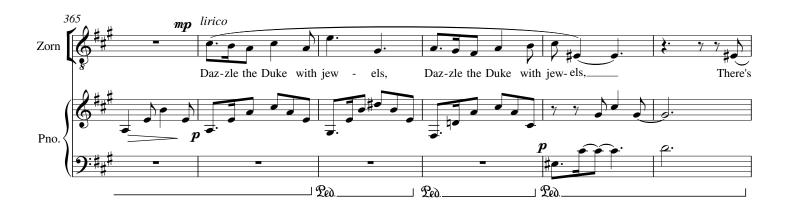


Scene 2 -- Town outside the Silver Swan

LIGHTING CHANGE: FOCUS OFF TAVERN, DARKER. OUTSIDE THE NIGHT IS LIGHTED BY A ROCKING YELLOW QUARTER MOON THAT HOLDS A WHITE STAR IN ITS HORN. IN THE GLOOMY CASTLE HIGH ON THE HILL [PROJECTION, HIGH:] A LANTERN GLEAMS AND DARKENS, COMES AND GOES. OPTIONAL NOISES: THE DUKE STALKS FROM ROOM TO ROOM, STABBING BATS AND SPIDERS, KILLING MICE.

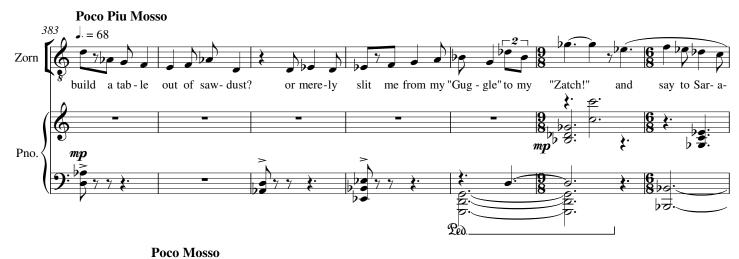








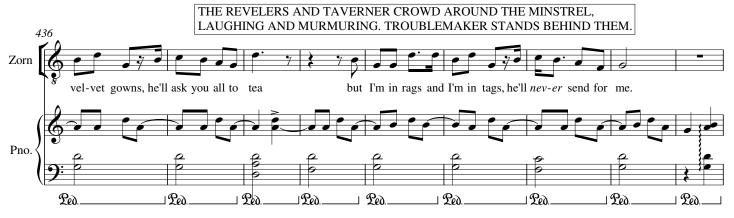




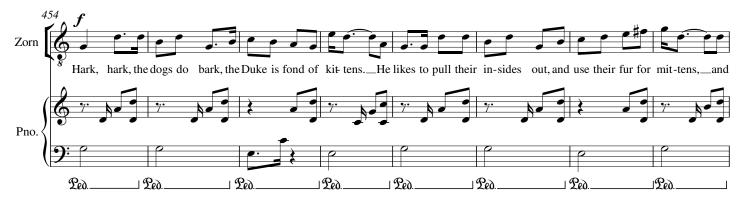
























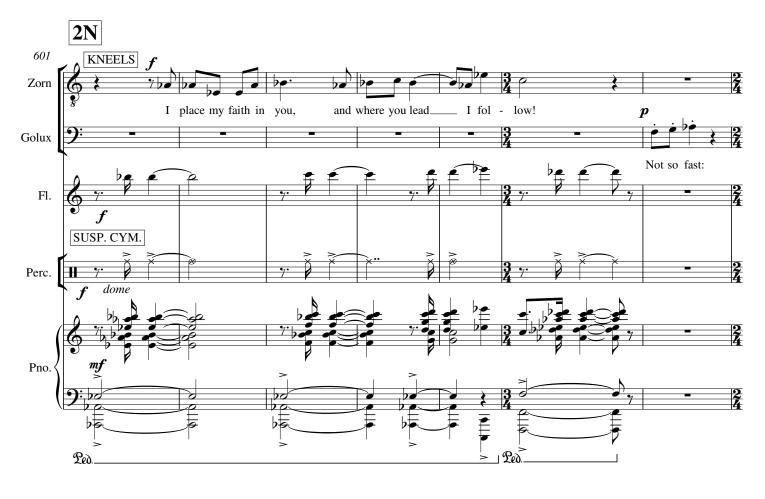






Led.

Led.







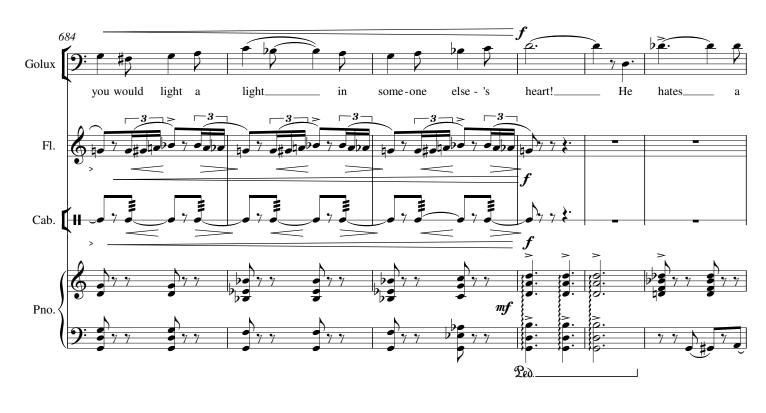








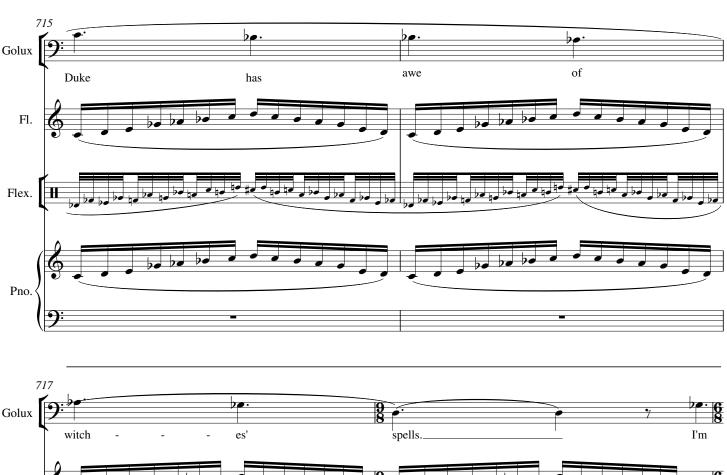


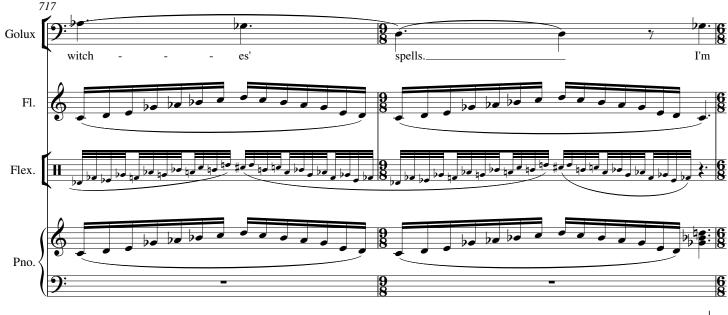




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THE SOUND OF TRAMPING FEET COMES NEAR AND NEARER.

ZORN AND GOLUX LOOK IN THE DIRECTION OF THE MARCHING SOUNDS AND WAIT.

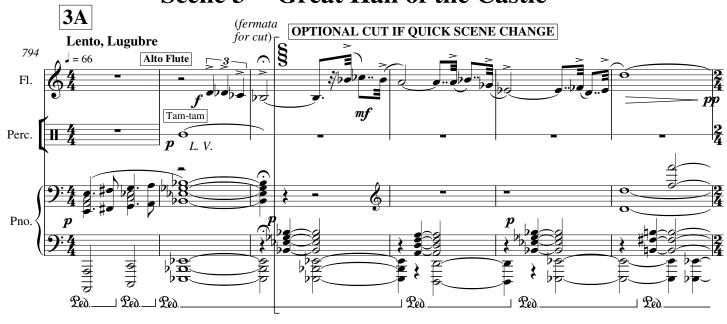
THE IRON GUARDS OF THE DUKE CLOSE IN, THEIR LANTERNS GLEAMING AND THEIR SPEARS AND ARMOR. THERE IS A CLANG AND CLANKING.

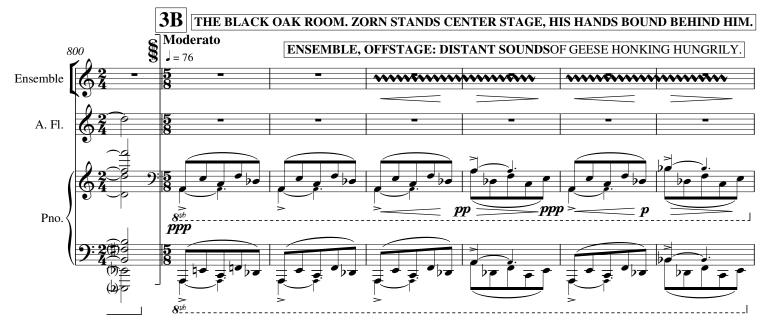


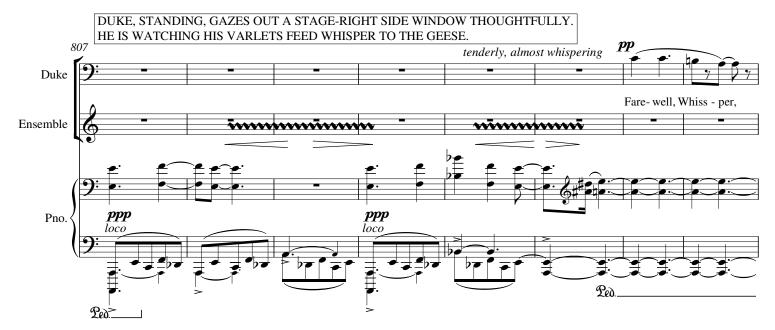




Scene 3 -- Great Hall of the Castle













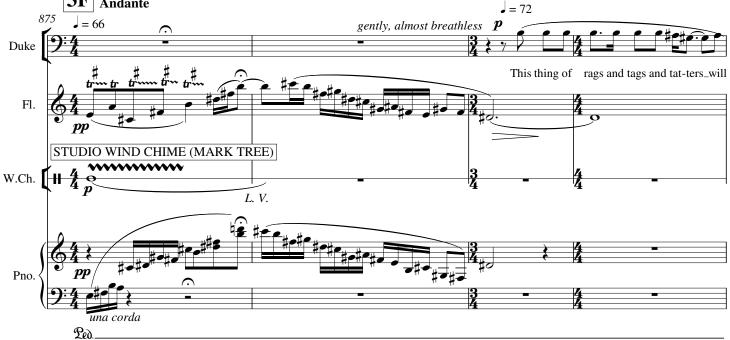
THE PRINCE GAZES IN WONDER, FROZEN BY HER
PRINCESS SARALINDA FLOATS
LIKE A CLOUD.

THE PRINCE GAZES IN WONDER, FROZEN BY HER
BEAUTY. THE DUKE'S EYE GLEAMS LIKE CRYSTAL.
HE HOLDS UP THE PALMS OF HIS GLOVES, AS IF
SHE WERE A FIRE AT WHICH TO WARM HIS HANDS.

Poco Mosso

gently, almost breathless

P







Led.

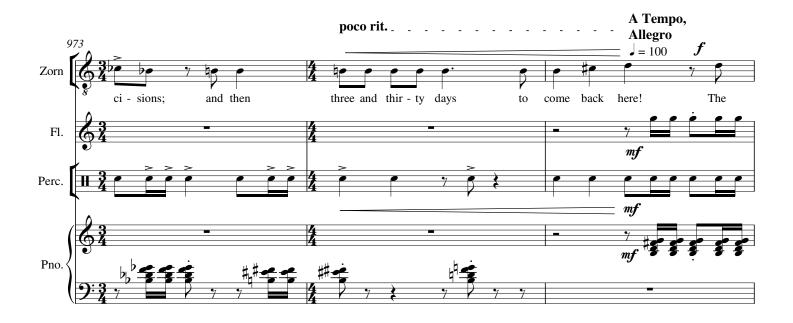








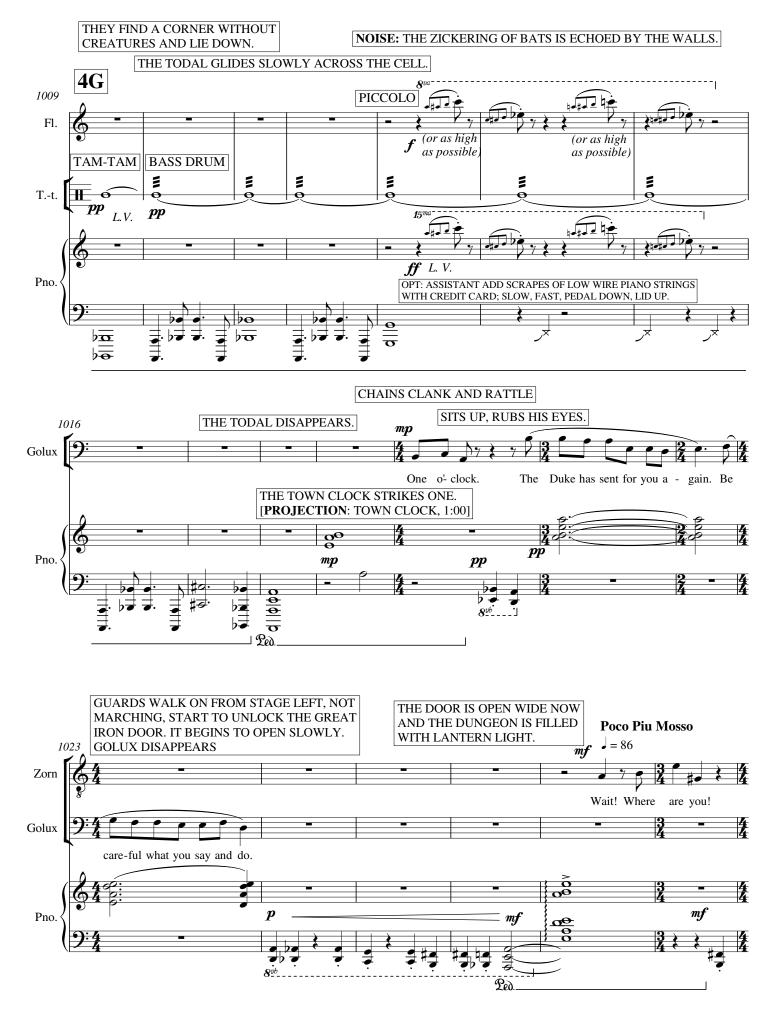














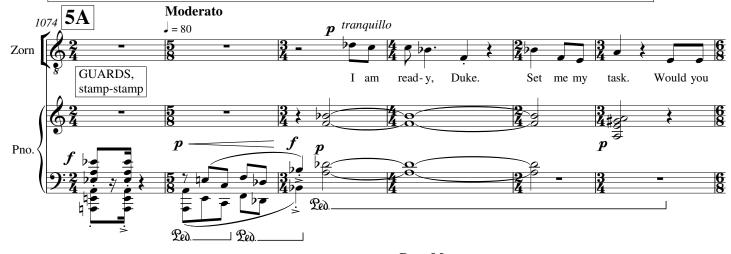


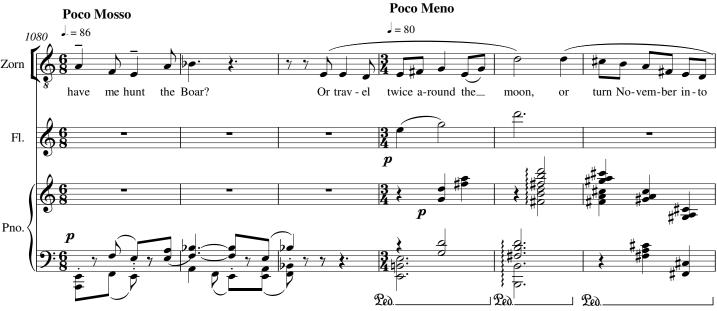




Scene 5--The Great Hall

NOW LIGHTED BY FLAMING TORCHES THAT THROW RED GLEAMS ON SHIELDS AND LANCES. THE DUKE SITS AT ONE END OF A BLACK OAK TABLE. HIS GLOVES SPARKLE WHEN HE MOVES HIS HANDS. HE STARES MOODILY THROUGH HIS MONOCLE AT PRINCE ZORN.















Duke

Fl.

Perc.

Pno.

Duke

Pno.

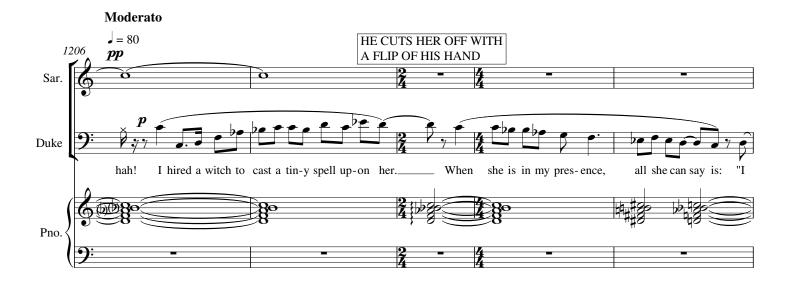
73 ZORN COMES OUT IN HIS PRINCELY ATTIRE. HE TRIES TO PULL HIS SWORD, BUT IT IS SEALED. Marcia 1165 J = 86 out! Ver - y Prince-ly! I give you nine and nine-ty SUSPENDED CYMBAL BASS DRUM hard mallet **mf** wood snare stick butt, dome SARALINDA PEEKS AROUND A CORNER AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS. **5 Andante** rit. 1170 = 72 hours, not days, to find a thou-sand jew-els and bring them here! And when you re-turn, the 201 = = Led. Led.

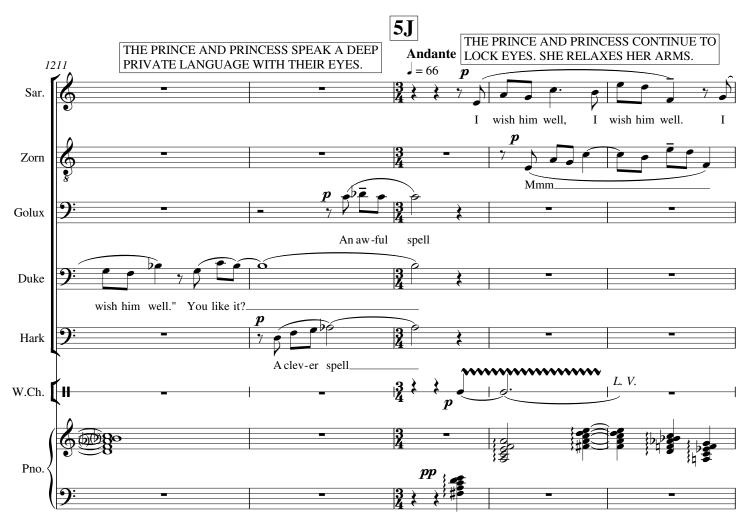


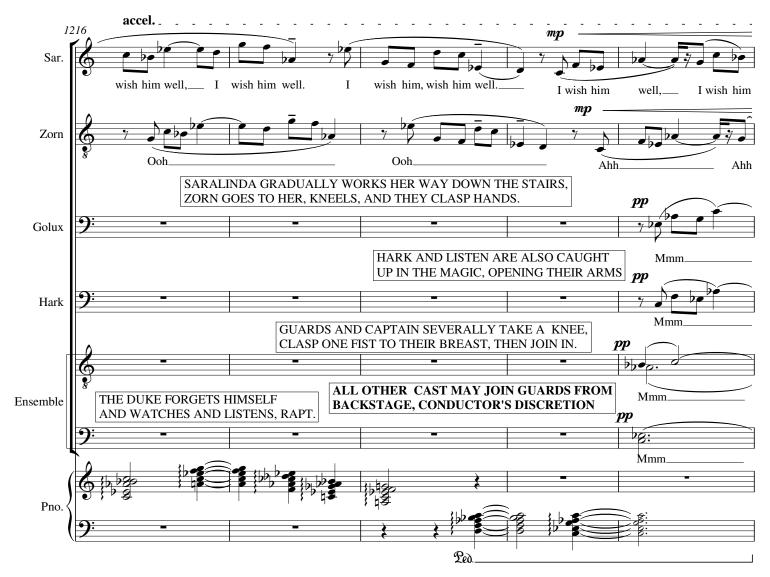






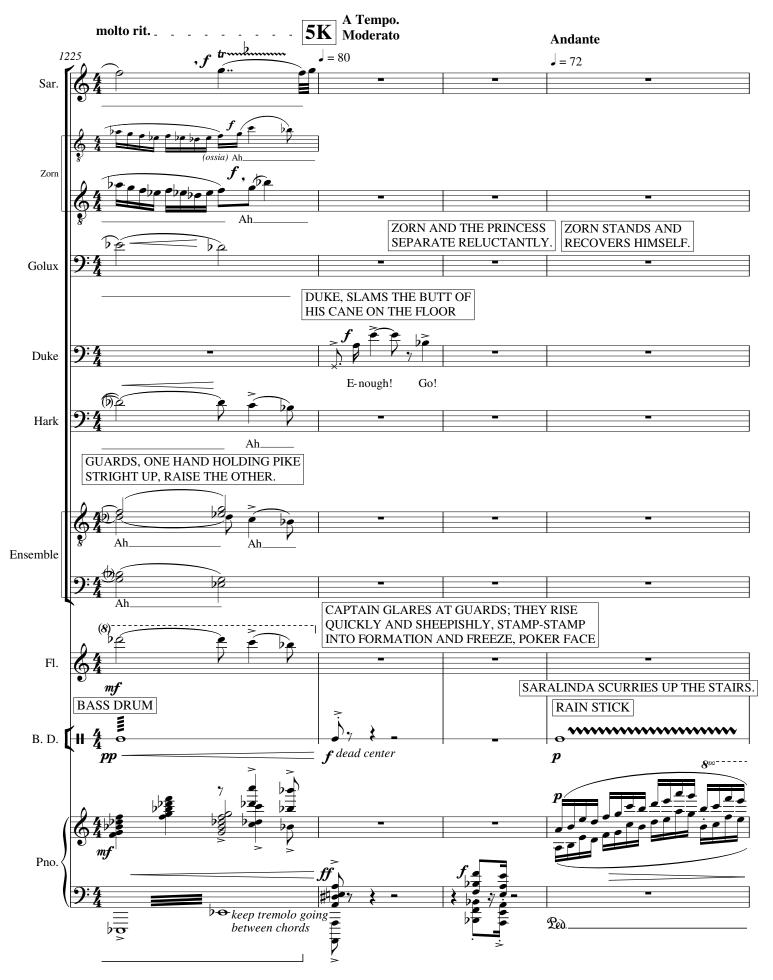






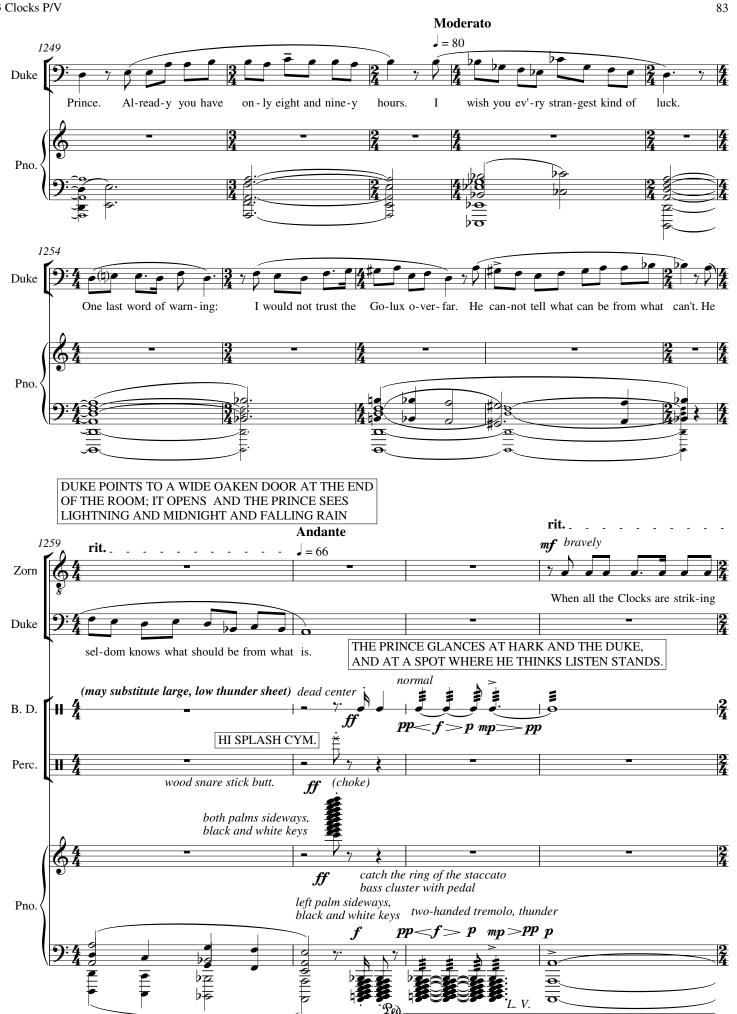


Ped._____







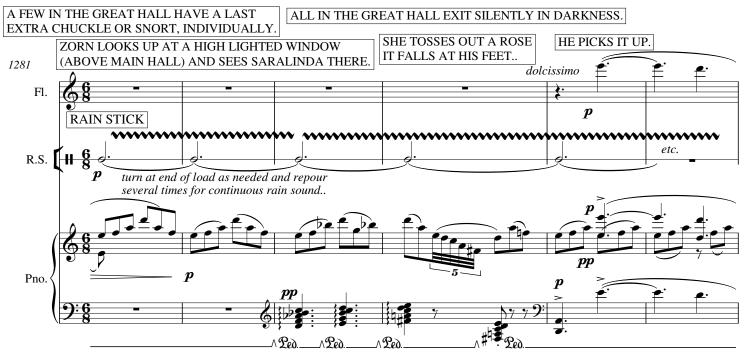








Scene 6 -- Outside/below the Castle. Night











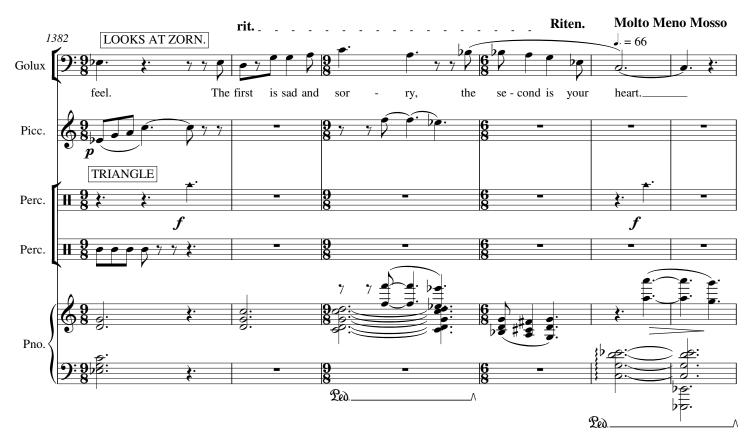
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HAND DRUM







95





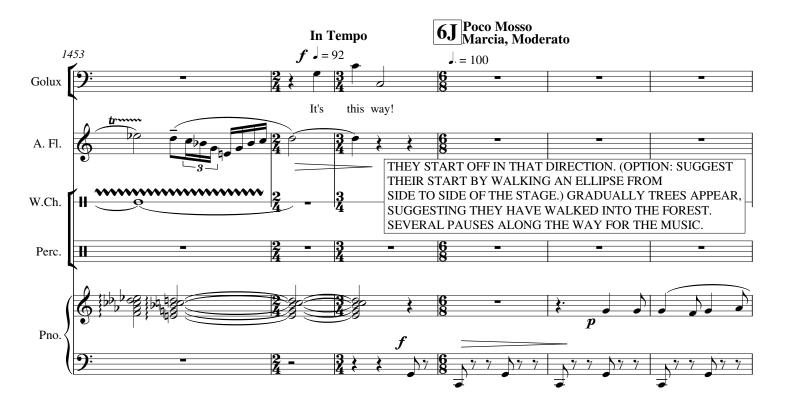


















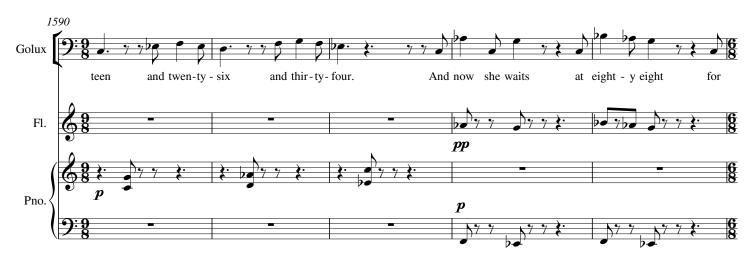






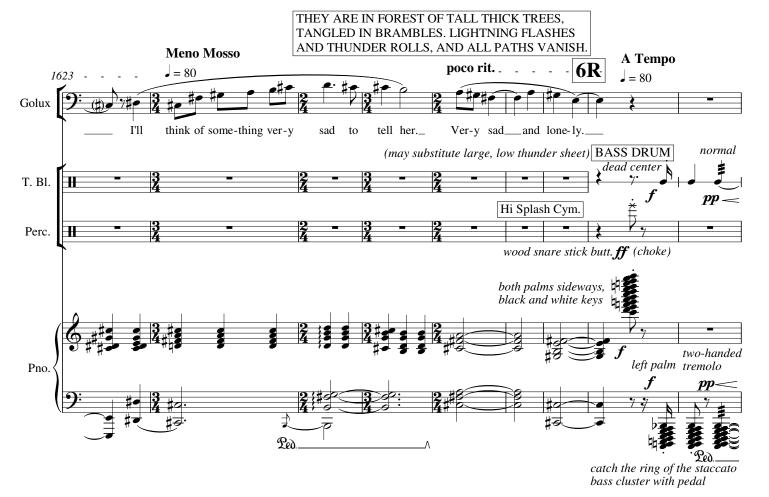


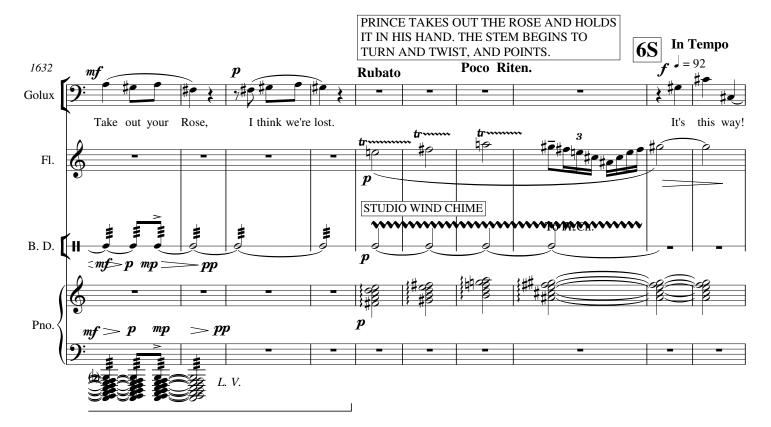








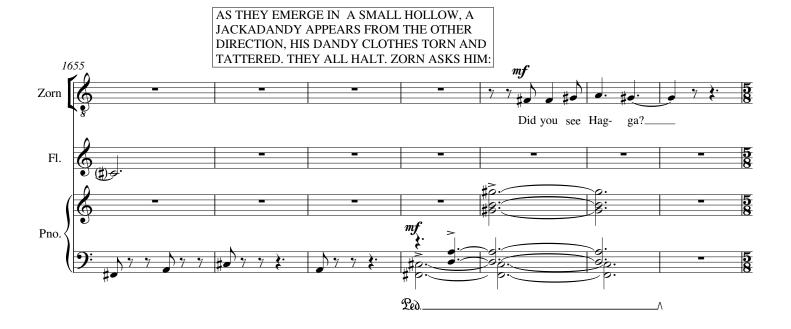




THEY FIND THE PATH, AND VANISH INTO THE BRAMBLES.







Hagga Weeps No More











TEXT PROJECTED ON SCREEN, AS THEY WALK, CUED TO THE SUNG NARRATION:

"The brambles and thorns grew thick and thicker in a ticking thicket of bickering crickets. Farther along and stronger, bonged the gongs of a throng of frogs. From the sky came the crying of flies, and the pilgrims leaped over bleating sheep creeping knee-deep in a sleepy creek, where swift and slippery snakes slid and slithered silkily, whispering sinful secrets."

Perc.







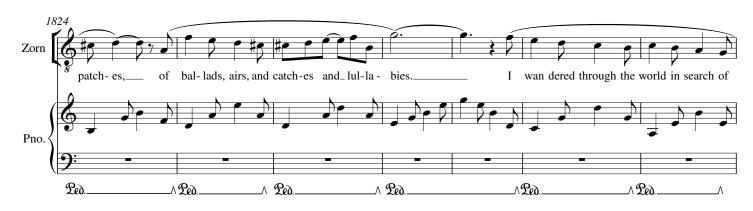


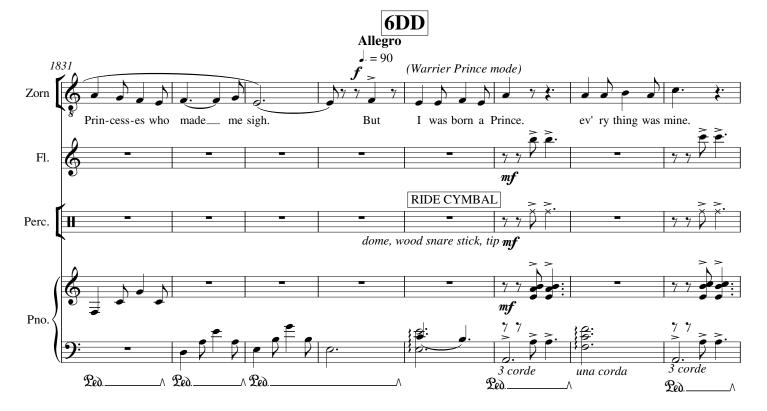
[ZORN, SPOKEN:] "My Wandering Minstrel Ballad! (Every time I start to sing it, someone cuts me off. Besides,) until I met the Princess Saralinda, I really could not finish it. But I have been working on it in my head as we walked, and now it is done.

[TO GOLUX AND AUDIENCE:] May I?"









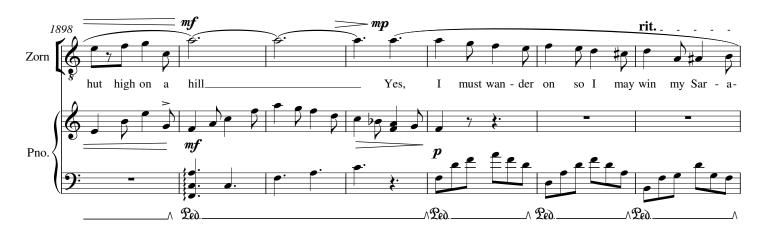


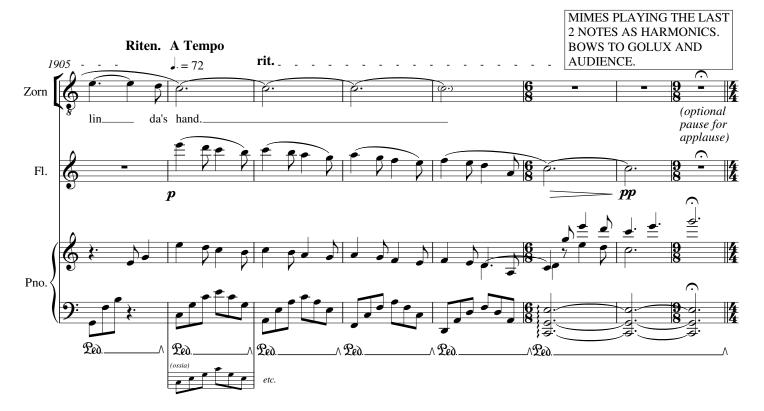


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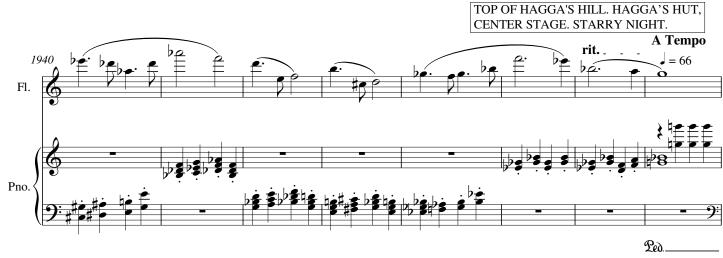




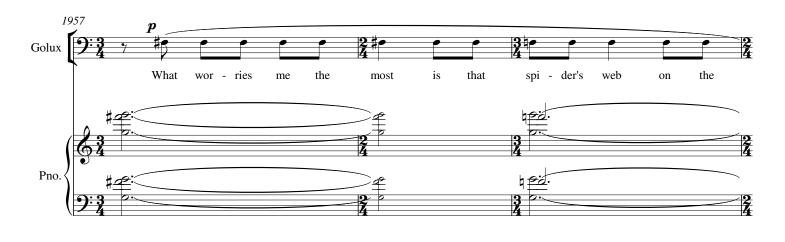


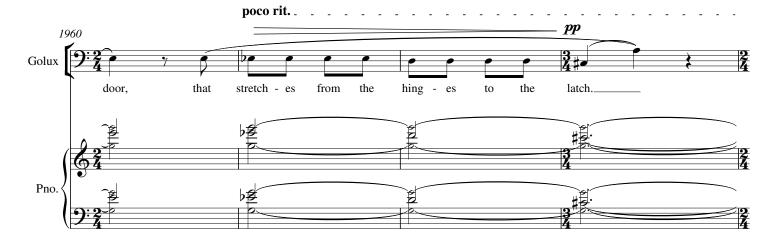


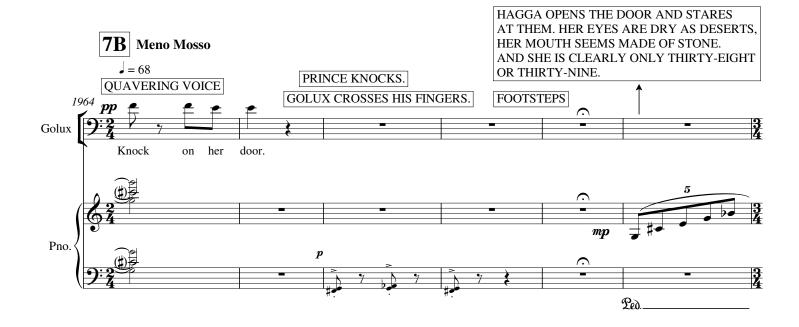


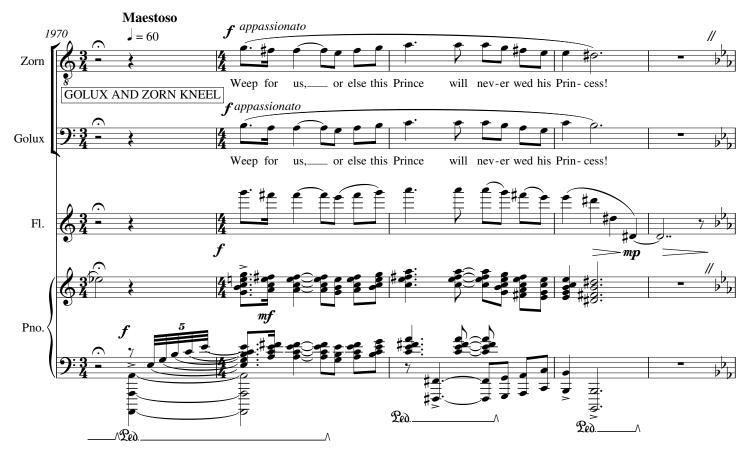


Scene 7. Hagga's House **7A** PRINCE, CARRYING THE GOLUX, ENTERS FROM STAGE RIGHT, Piu Mosso LETS THE GOLUX DOWN AND ONTO HIS FEET. THEY APPROACH THE HUT AND STAND AT EITHER SIDE OF THE DOOR. J = 82 Golux There is no light in her win-dow, and it is LOOKS TO ROOF There is no smoke in her chim-ney, and it is cold and get-ting cold - er. Golux dark and get-ting dark - er.









I Weep No More

Largo Mesto resigned, impassive I have no tears, I have turned a thou-sand per-sons gem-less, I weep no more. Led. pedal freely Led. 1982 gem-less from my Once I wept when ships were o-ver-due, or brooks ran Poco Mosso Once I wept when maids were mar-ried un - der tan-ger-ines were ov-er-ripe, or sheep all got pink-eye. \mathbf{Q} Led.

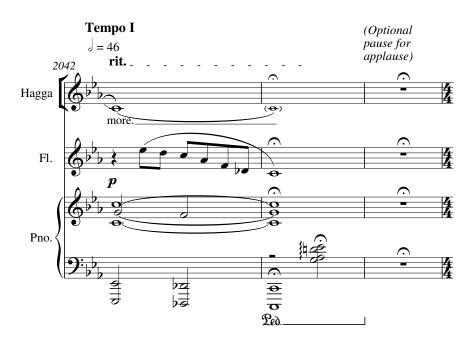






Led.

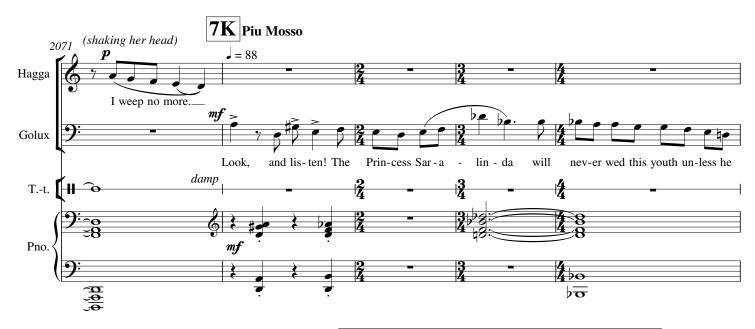
⊥ Led.











THE PRINCE HAS WANDERED TO THE OAKEN CHEST.

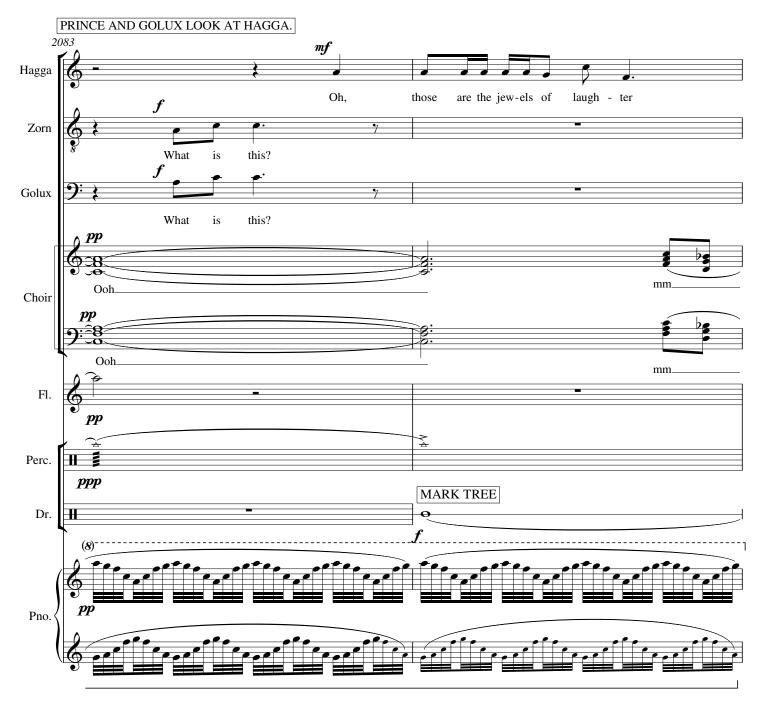


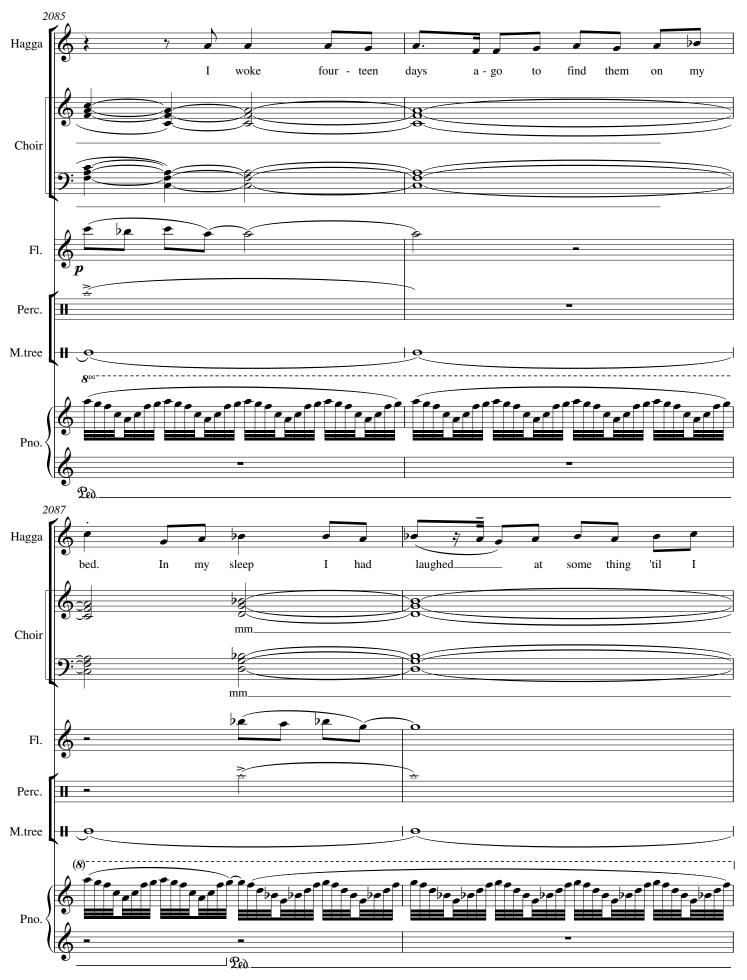
A MULTICOLORED RADIANCE FILLS THE ROOM AND LIGHTS THE DARKEST CORNERS. INSIDE THE CHEST IS A HEAP OF JEWELS: DIAMONDS, RUBIES, SAPPHIRES AND EMERALDS.

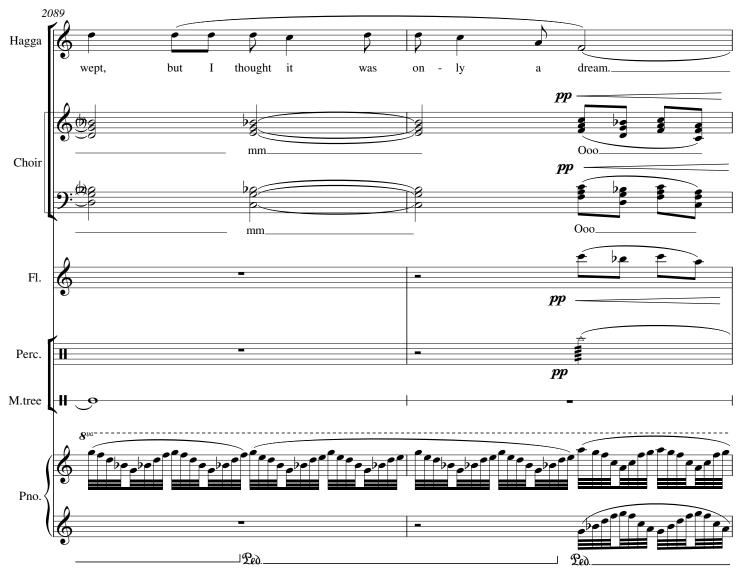
Piu Mosso

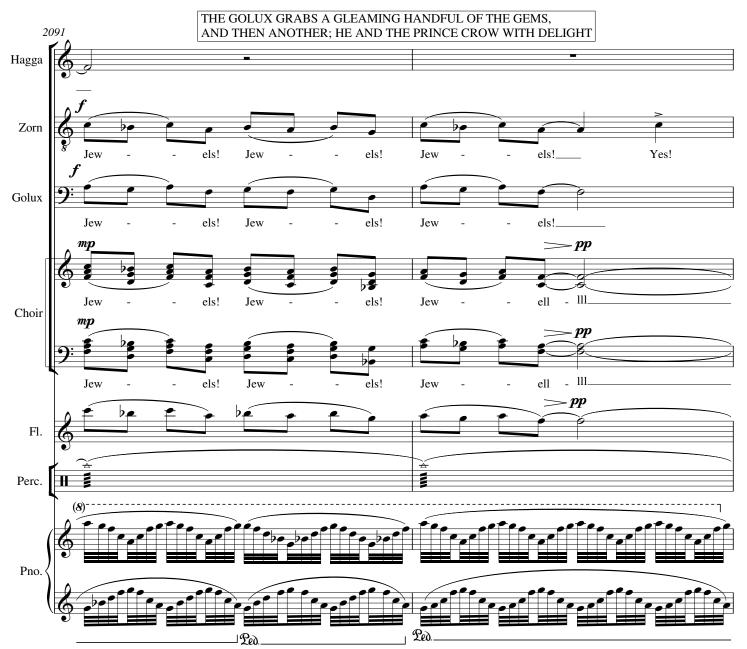
J = 82 CHOIR (ALL OTHER CAST), OFFSTAGE

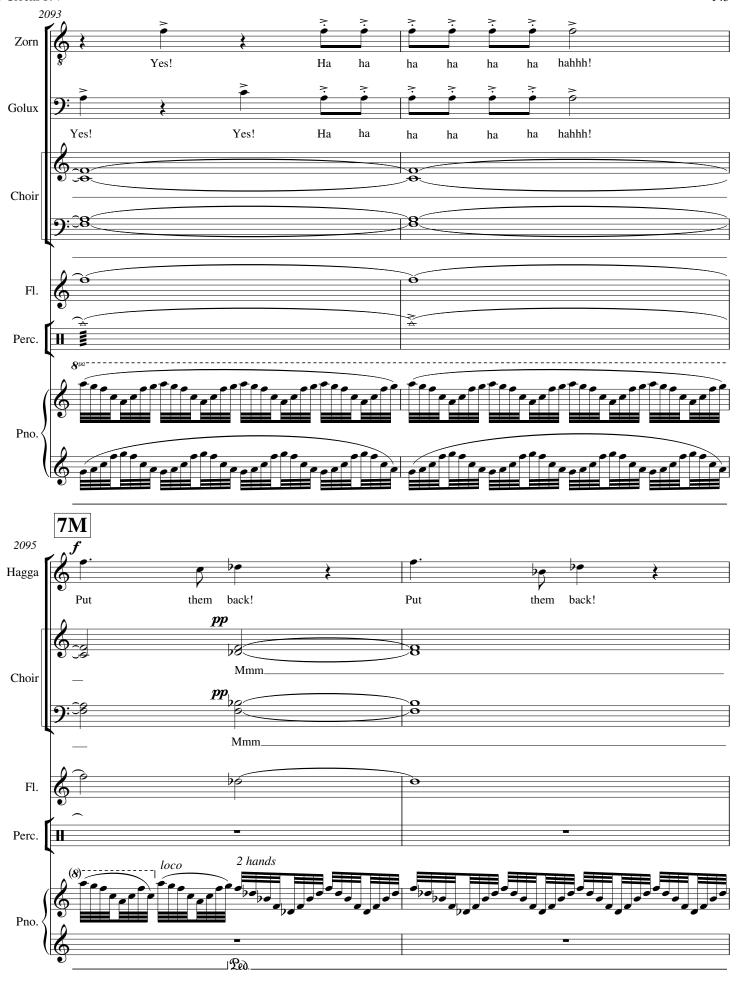


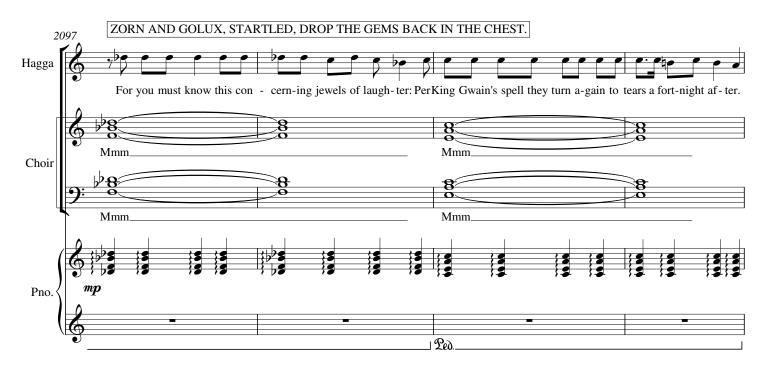


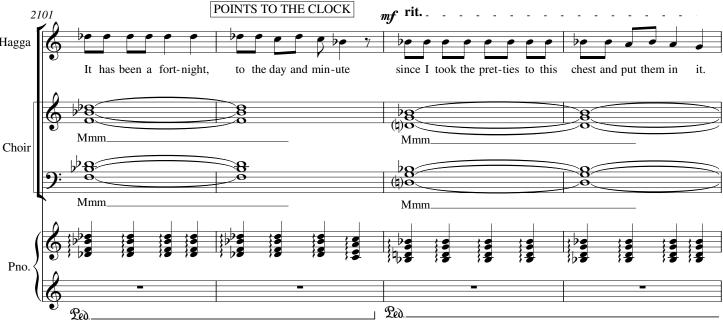


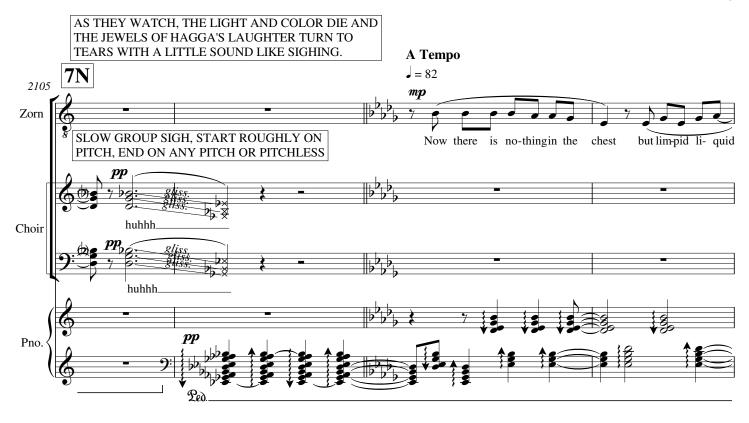


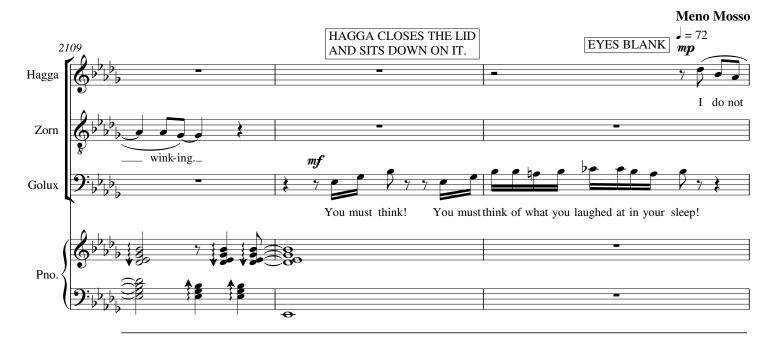






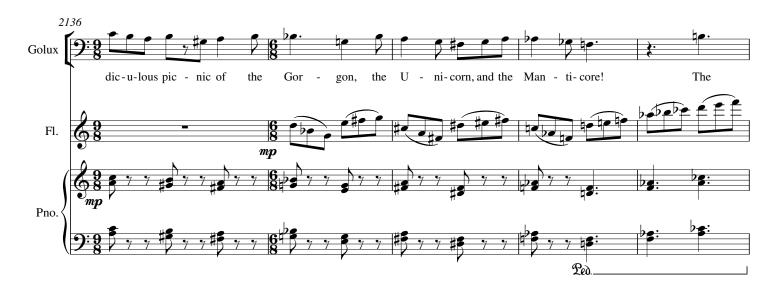






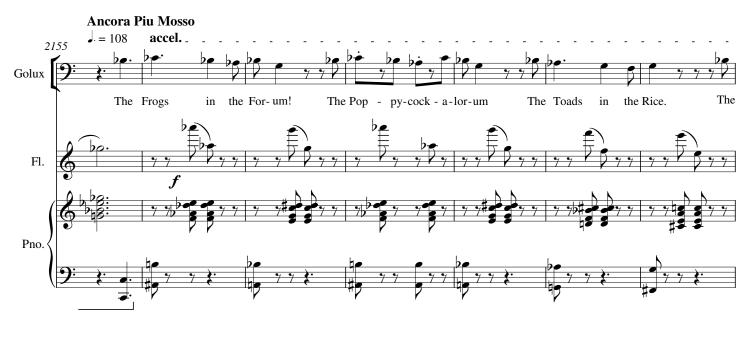


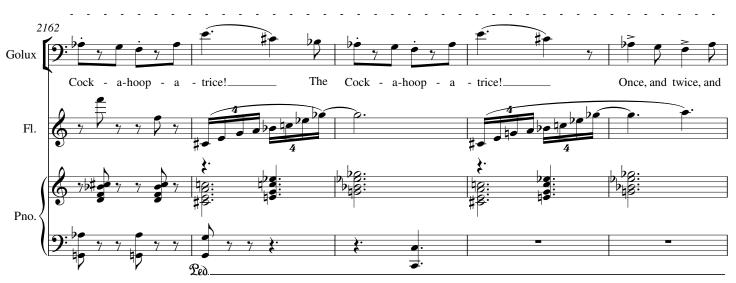












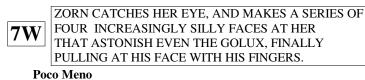




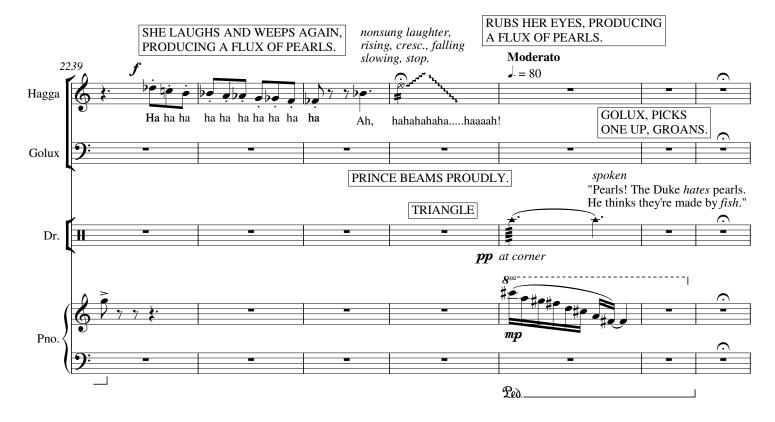




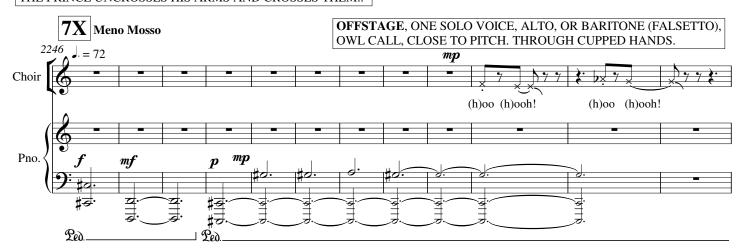








IT GROWS DARKER IN THE ROOM. THE MOON IS GONE. GLOOM. THE PRINCE AND THE GOLUX STAND THERE, STILL AS STATUES. THE GOLUX CLEARS HIS THROAT. THE PRINCE UNCROSSES HIS ARMS AND CROSSES THEM..



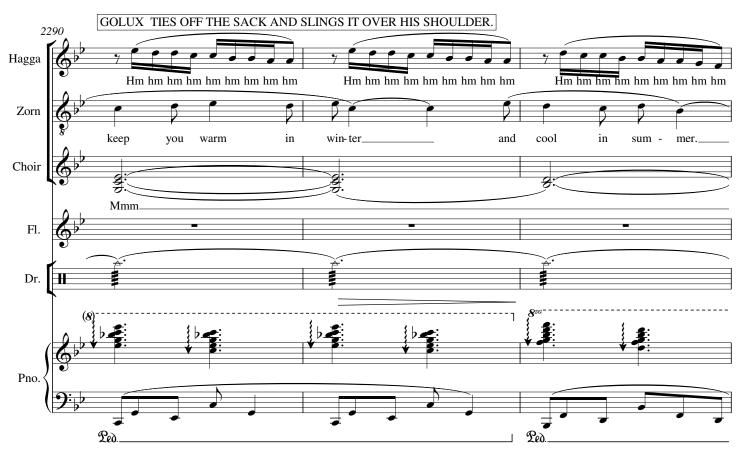


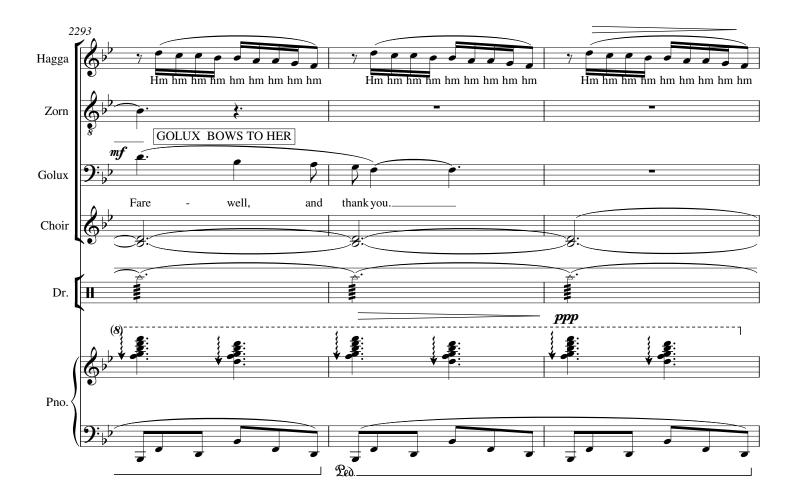












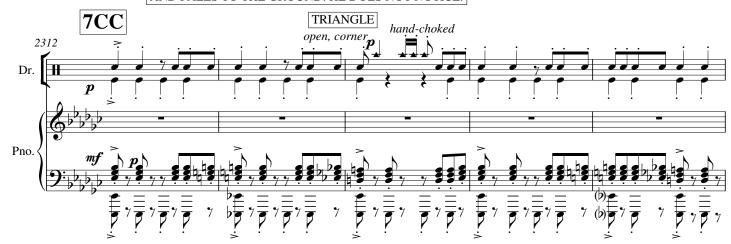


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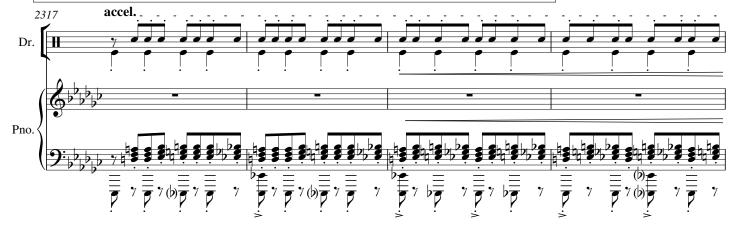
Dr.



AS THEY WALK OFF, ONE GEM, TWINKLING, POPS OUT OF THE SACK THE GOLUX IS CARRYING AND FALLS TO THE GROUND. HE DOES NOT NOTICE.



HAGGA'S LAUGHTER SLOWS. SHE SEES SARALINDA'S ROSE ON THE FLOOR AMONG THE JEWELS, STOPS LAUGHING, DRAWS BREATH, AND PICKS IT UP. SHE GETS UP AND GOES QUICKLY TO HER DOOR AND STANDS THERE, HOLDING IT OUT, BUT THEY ARE GONE. SNIFFS IT, SMILES, STARTS UP CHUCKLING AGAIN, NOW MORE GENTLY, AND GOES BACK INSIDE. LAUGHTER FADES











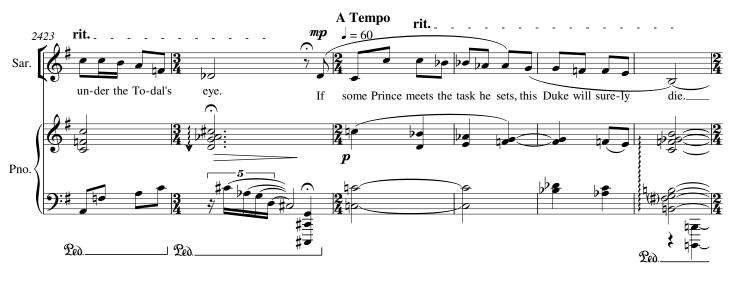


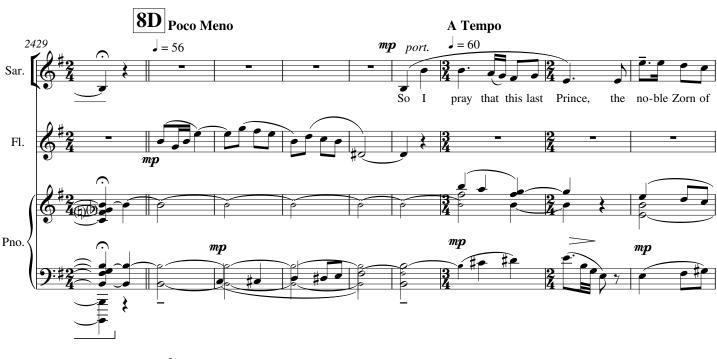
Scene 8. Castle, Saralinda's Window Why Must I Wed This Duke?

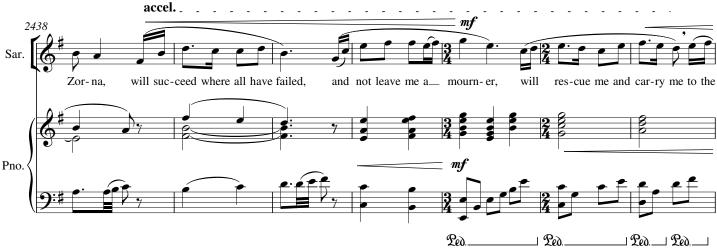






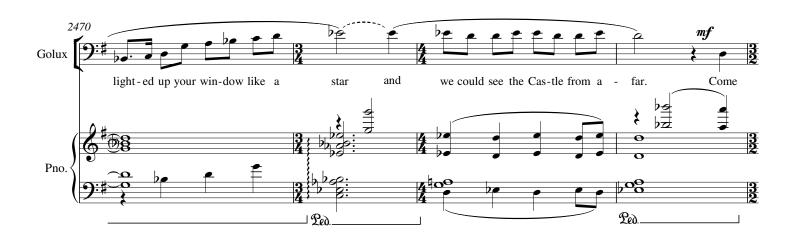


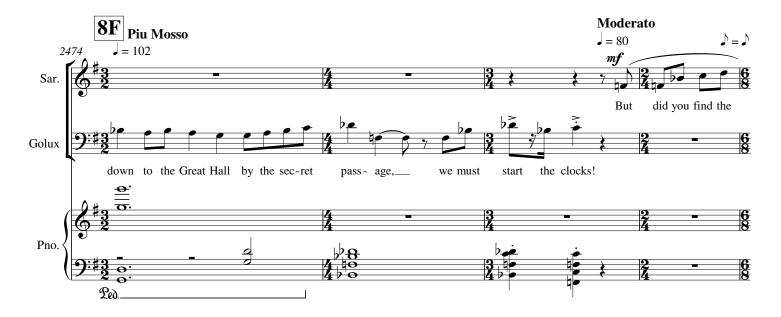






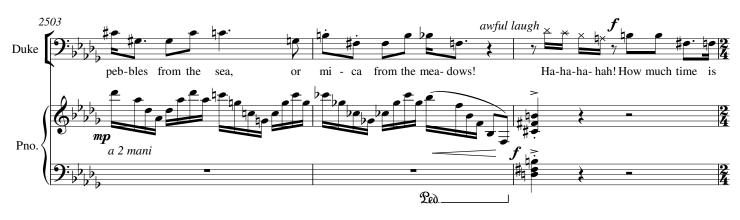


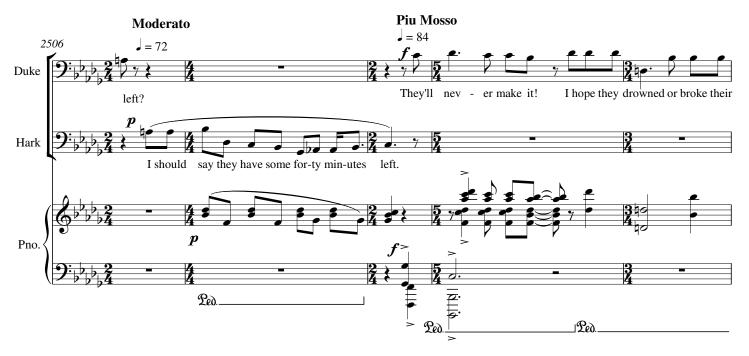


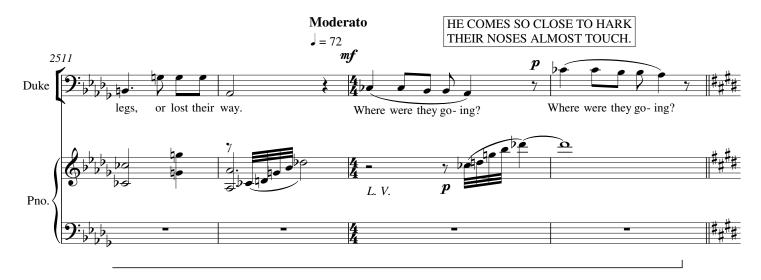














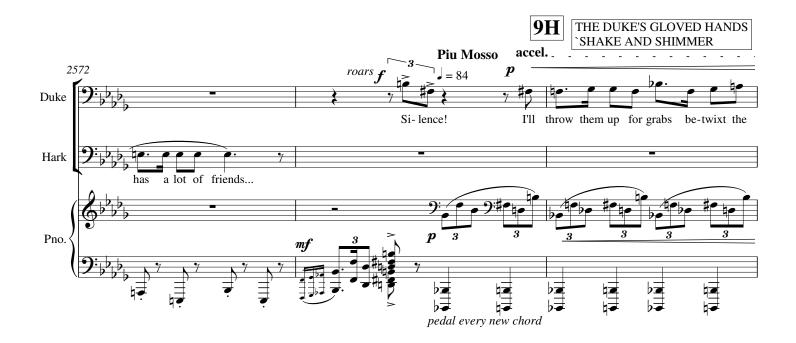


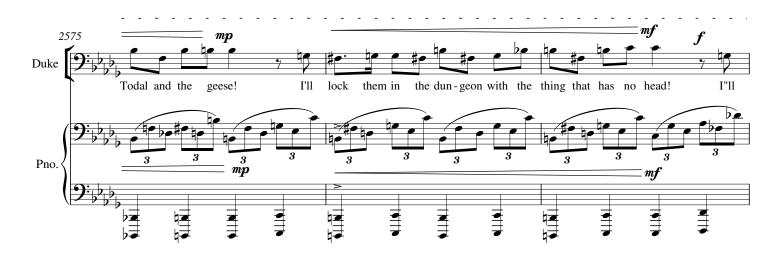


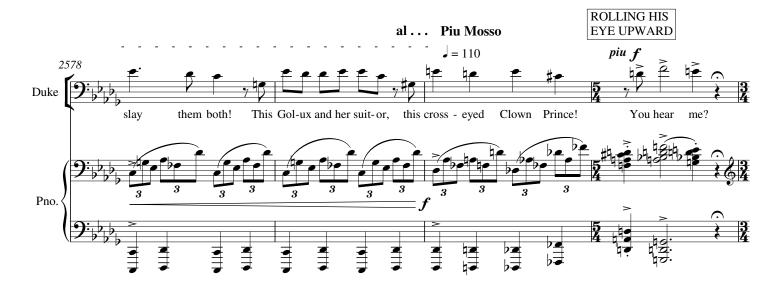


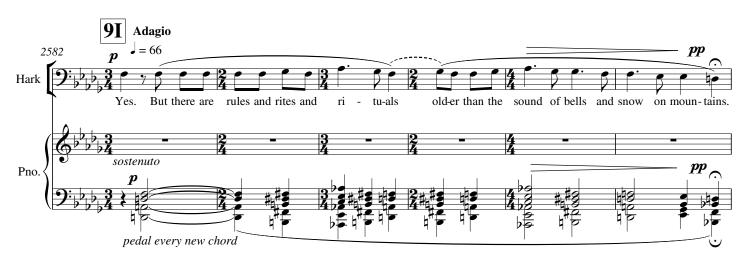




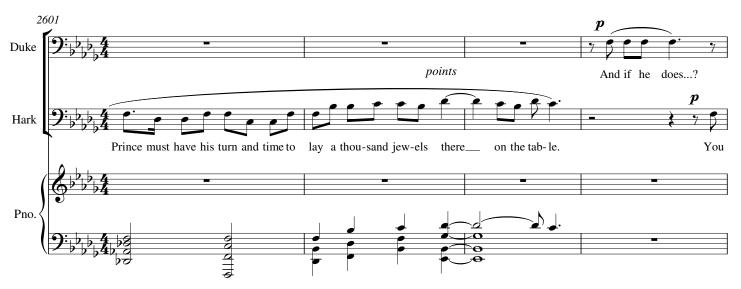










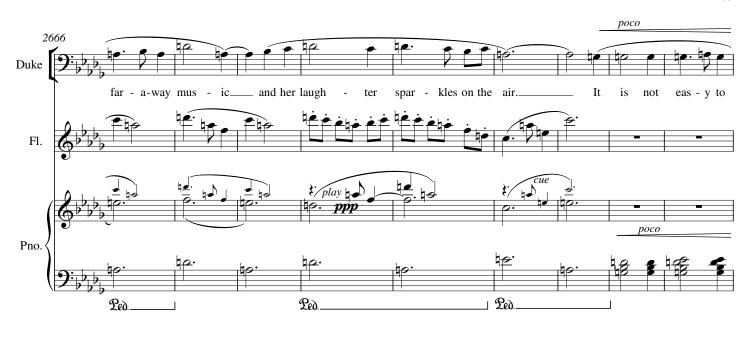


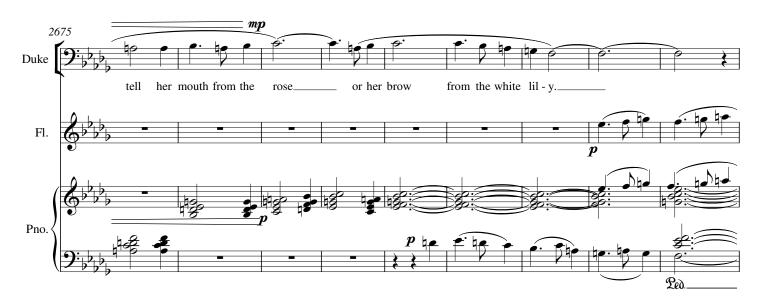


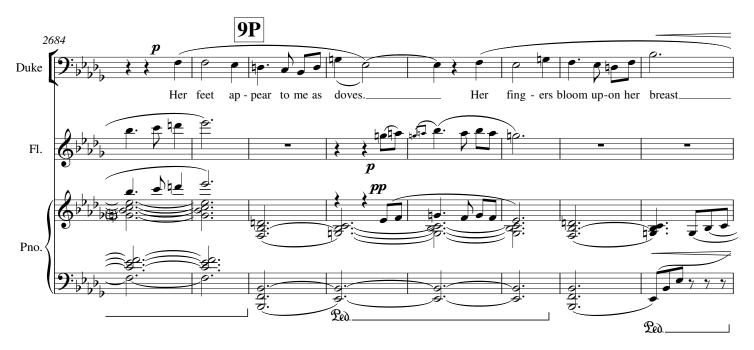
9L The Hand of Saralinda

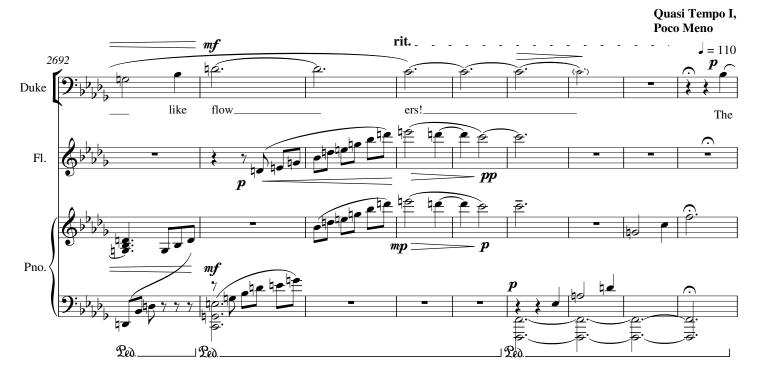


















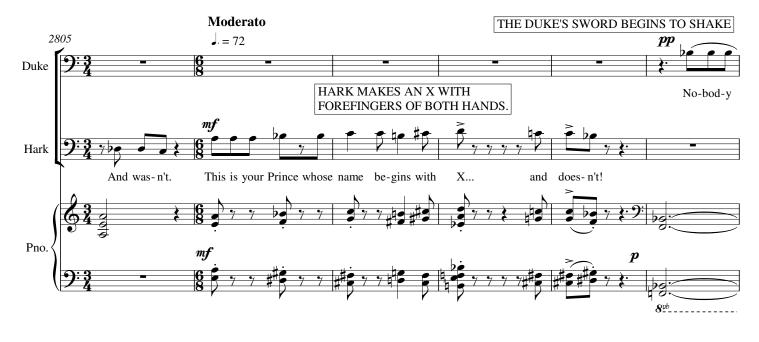




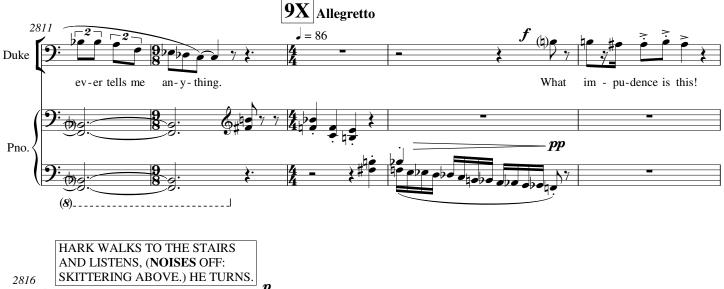








A SMALLER BLACK BALL STAMPED WITH SCARLET OWLS COMES BOUNCING DOWN THE STAIRS. DUKE WATCHES IT ROLL ACROSS THE FLOOR.

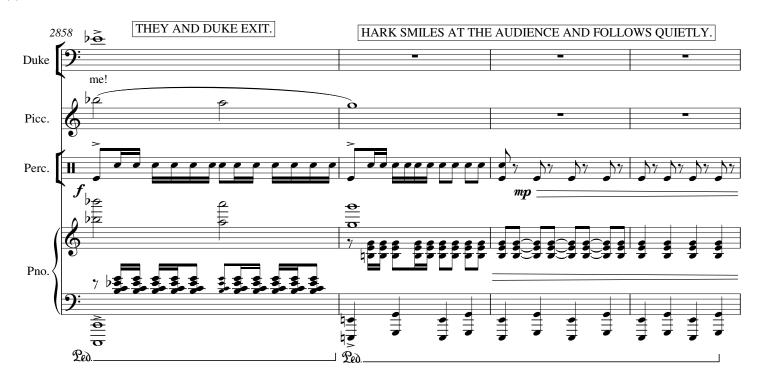


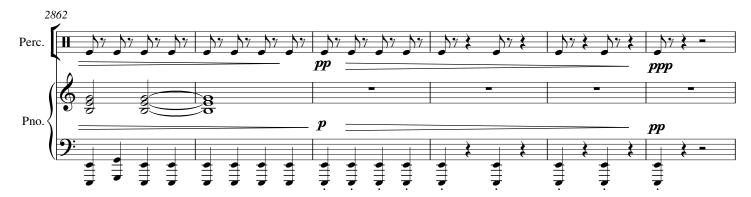




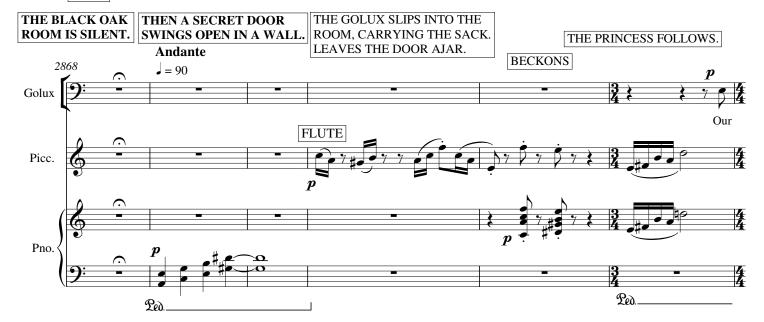








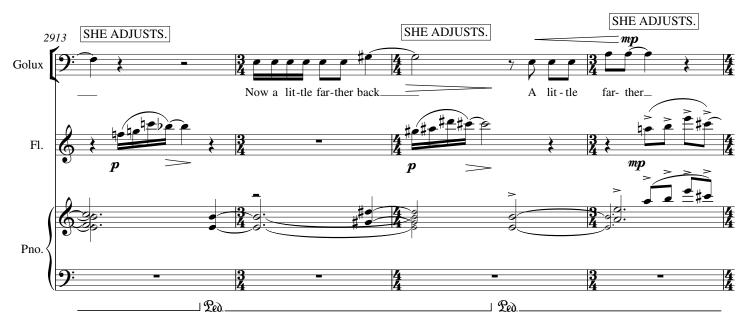
Scene 10. Great Hall

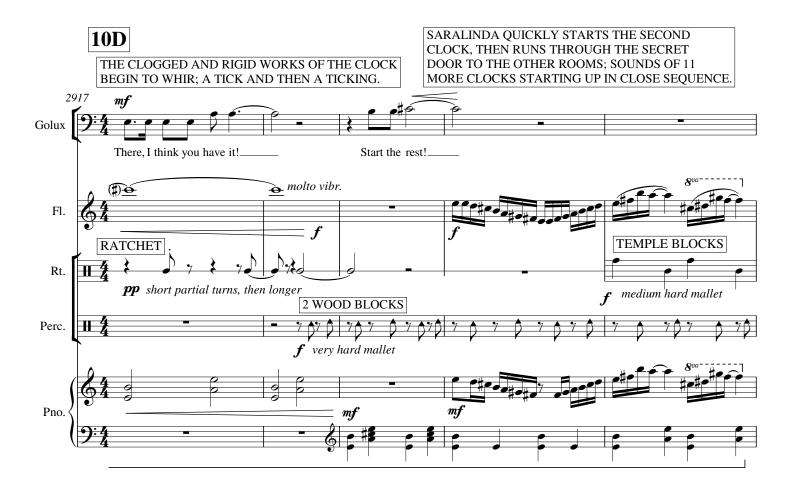






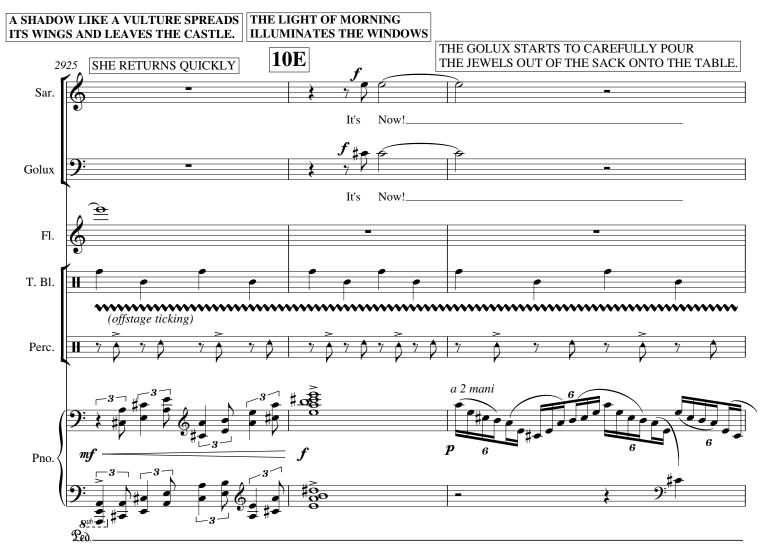


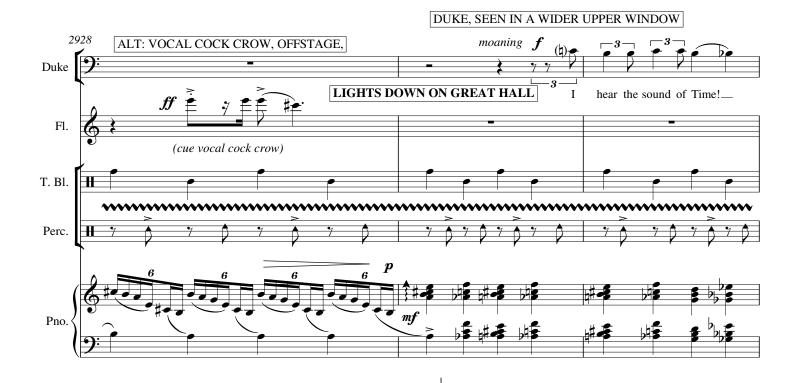


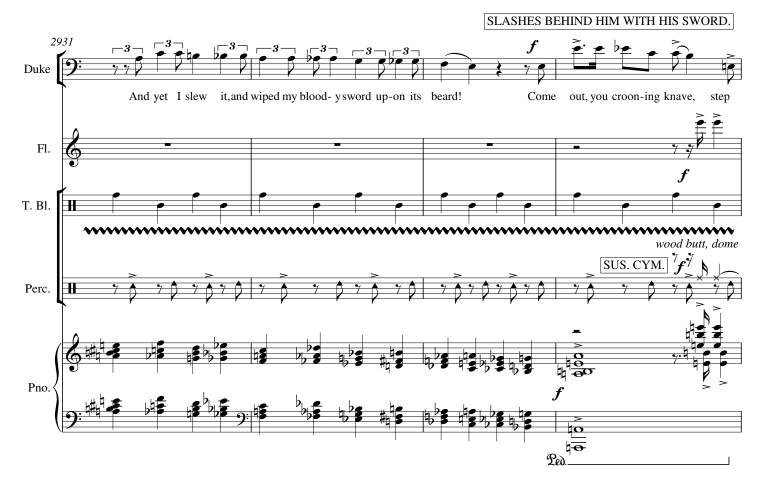


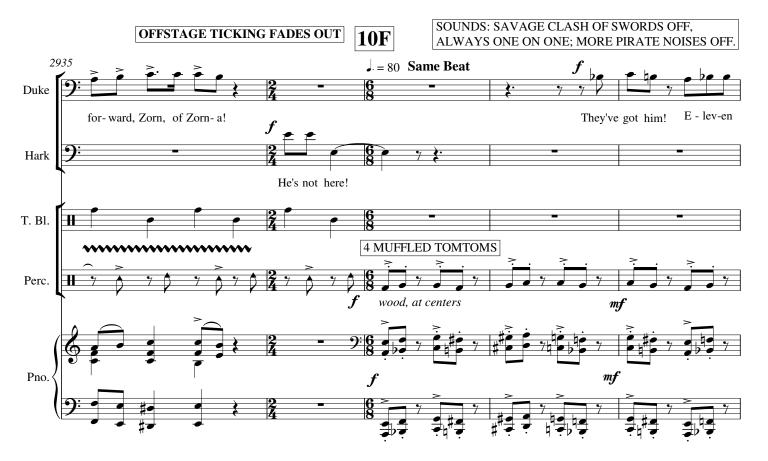
ENSEMBLE PLAYS UNSYNCHRONIZED TICKING NOISES OFF, BUILDING UP TO AS MANY AS 11 MORE TRACKS, IN MANUAL PERCUSSION, (PLASTIC CHOPSTICKS, KNITTING NEEDLES, TRIANGLE BEATERS, CLAVES, MARACAS, CASTANET MACHINE, PAPER CUP BOTTOMS TAPPED WITH CHOPSTICKS, FINGER SNAPS (SEVERAL PEOPLE), VOCAL CLICKS)*











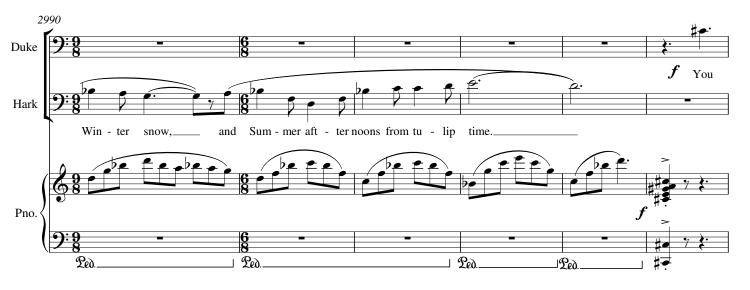














Scene 11. Great Hall

LIGHTS UP ON THE GREAT HALL; SARALINDA AND GOLUX ARE STANDING BEHIND THE GREAT TABLE. THE PRINCE, DISHEVELED, SWORD IN HAND, ENTERS BY THE SECRET DOOR AND TAKES SARALINDA'S HAND.



* The clocks, scattered, begin to strike slowly, gradually chiming closer and closer together,

Converging on the lowest (grandfather clock, A plus E) as the last one.

Noises: pit percussion (susp. cym on dome with triangle beater; triangle, small bump gong with hard beater), plus offstage hand percussion of various types played by ensemble: single metal wind chime tube(s) struck with small wood beaters; small yoga bowl gongs, bicycle bell, wine glasses struck with bamboo

Chopsticks, triangle. Last note on 2 handbells (lowest A plus E fifth), one player, or percussionist on single tubular chime (low a). Piano does not play chimes if covered offstage and in pit percussion.

Each player pick your note from the notated piano pattern, but no need to match piano pitches.

Space notes roughly as notated in piano part; always start with the highest chime.

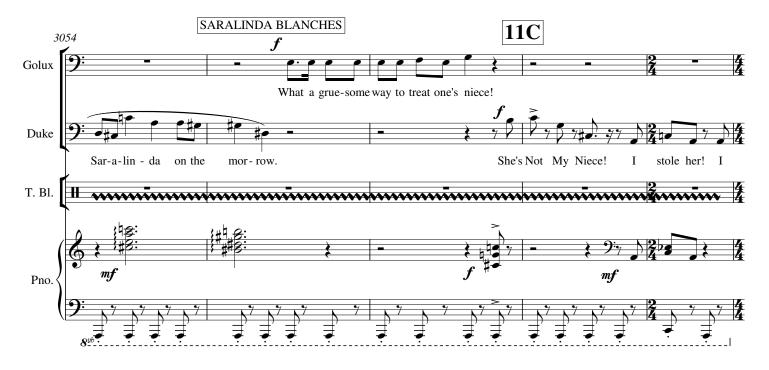
The very very last strike is a close cluster, almost simultaneous. Let all ring.

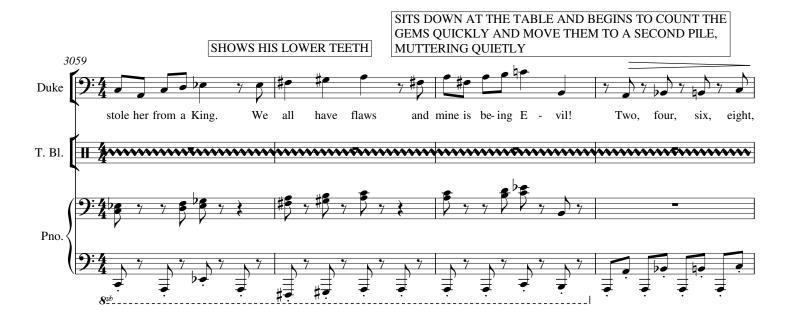
*alternate--and for rehearsals: piano.





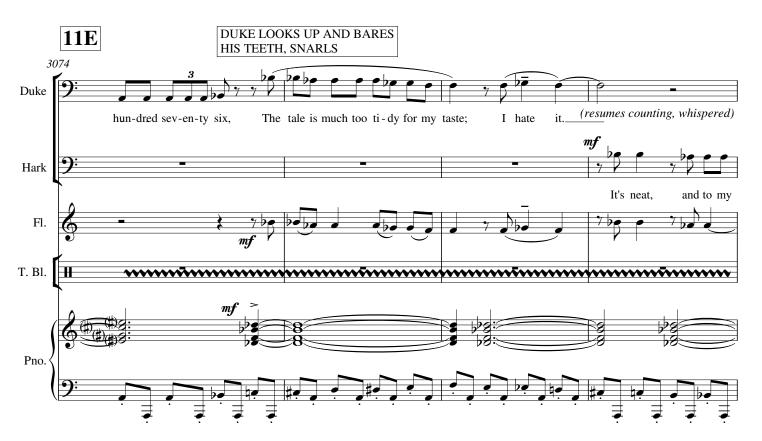










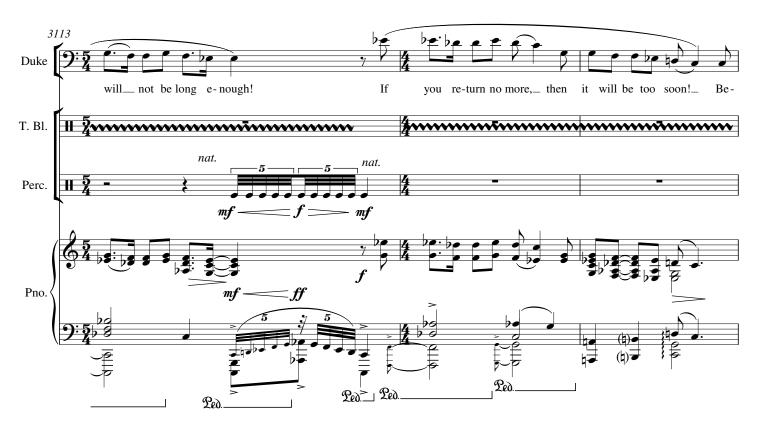


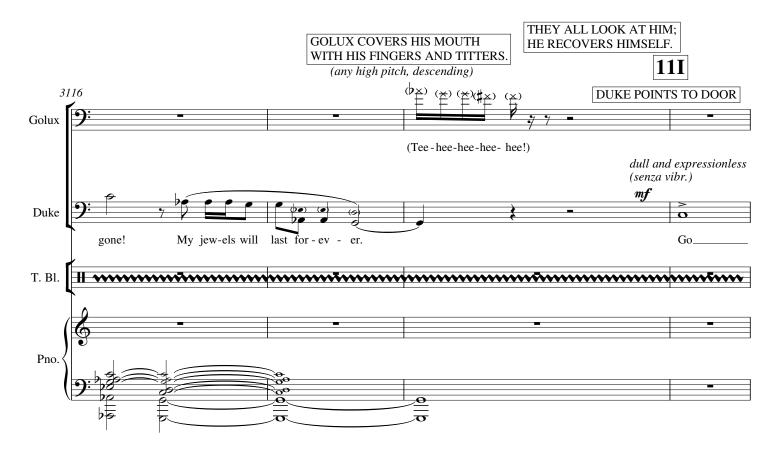






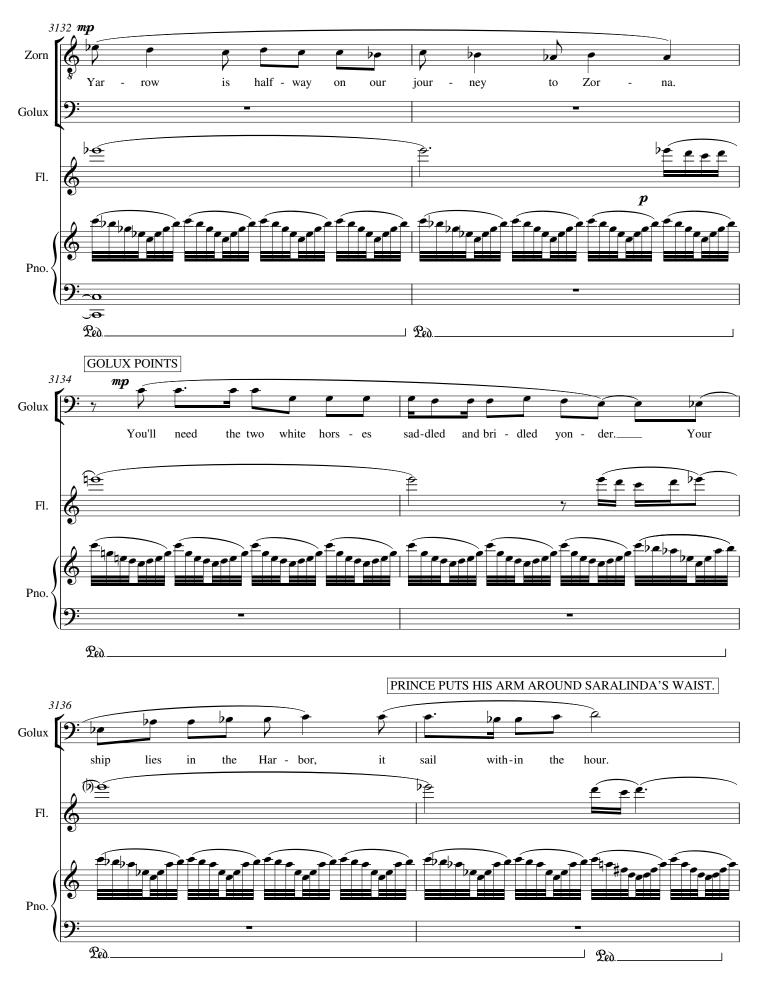






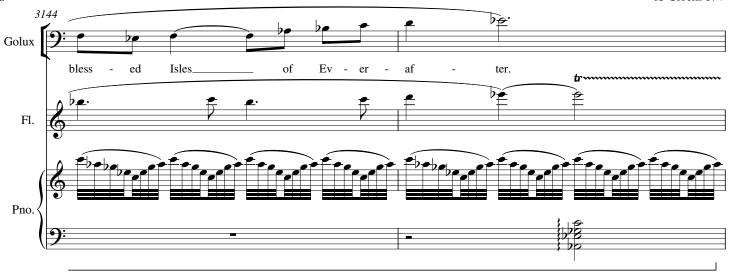
THE GREAT DOORS OF THE OAK ROOM OPEN. ZORN RAISES HIS HAND, PALM DOWN, AND SARALINDA RESTS HERS ON TOP FOR A "BRIDE-LEAD". THEY LEAVE THE COLD DUKE STANDING THERE, UP TO HIS WRISTS IN JEWELS. THE LIGHT ON HIM FADES AND THE TICKING OF THE TWO CLOCKS IN THE HALL FADES OUT, AS THE PRINCE, SARALINDA, HARK, AND THE GOLUX IN SLOW PROCESSIONAL DESCEND THE STAGE-RIGHT STAIRS AROUND TO BRIGHT DAYLIGHT OUTDOORS BELOW THE CASTLE, WHICH THEN SHOWS IN PROJECTION ABOVE.

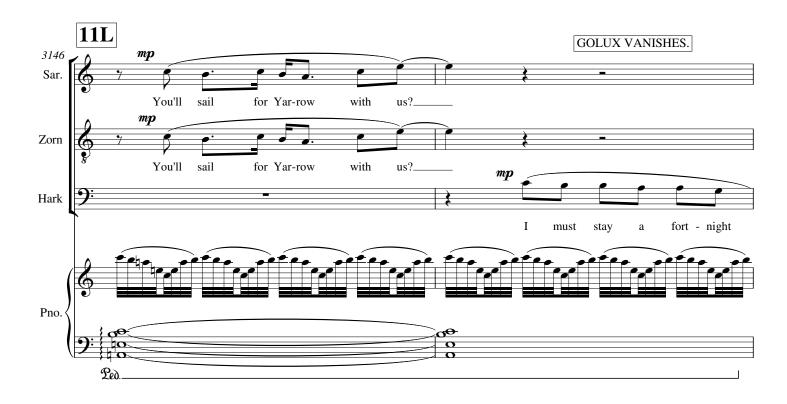


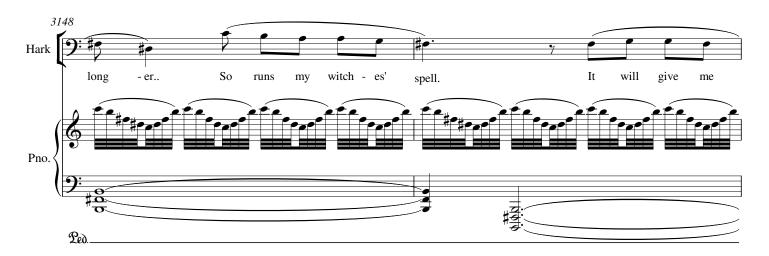


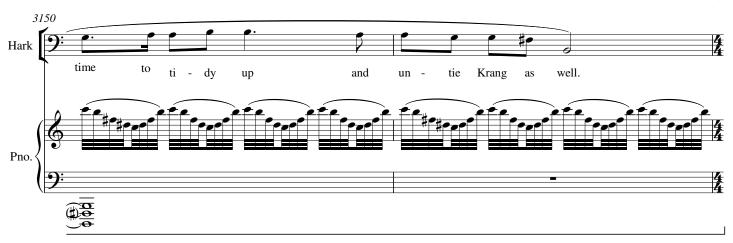


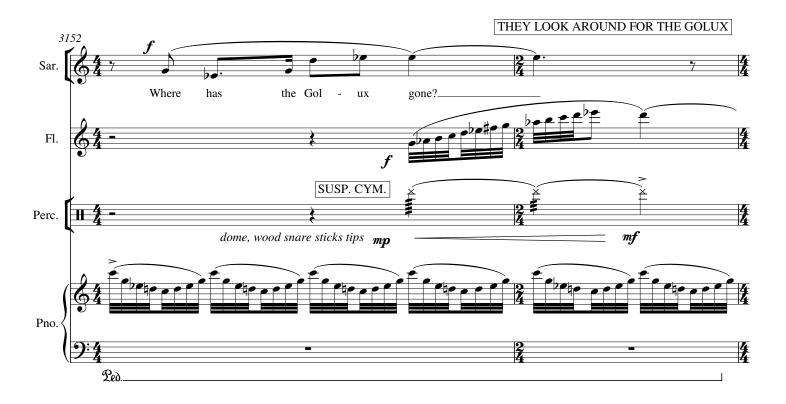
Led.

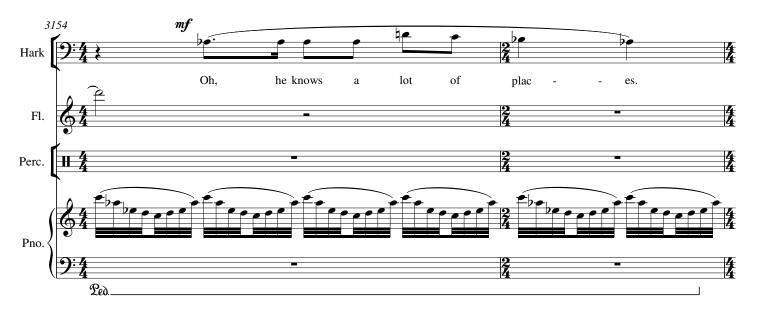


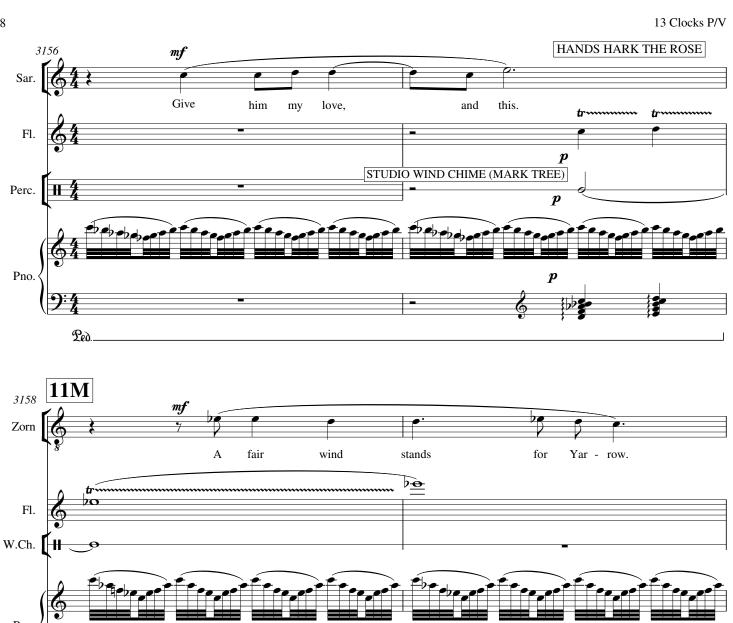


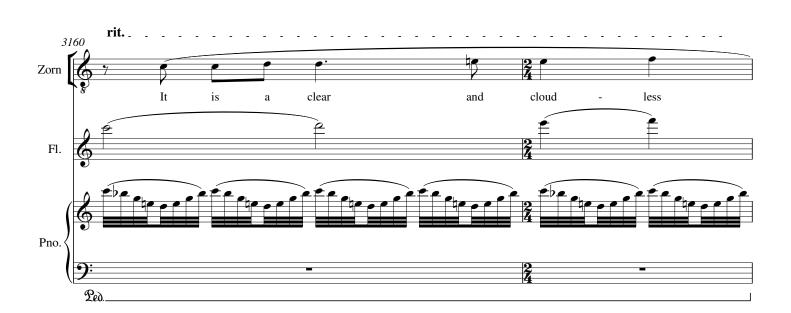






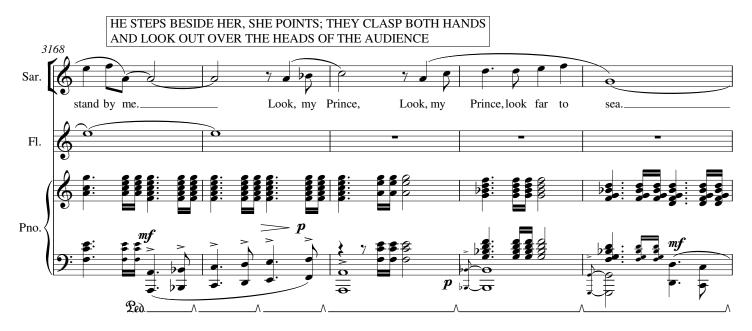


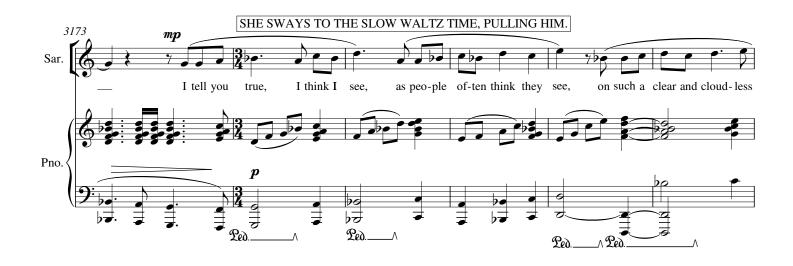


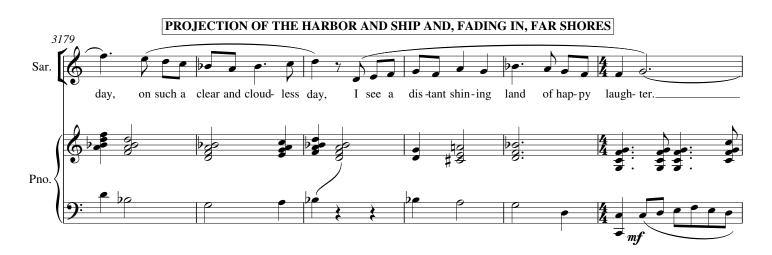


DURING FIRST PART OF DUET, FULL ENSEMBLE, INCLUDING GUARDS/CAPTAIN WITH HELMETS OFF, GRINNING, A HAPPY HAGGA, AND THE GOLUX WITH NO HAT IN THE VERY BACK, ENTER A FEW AT A TIME, CARRYING FLOWERS, AND GATHER ONSTAGE IN A WIDE CIRCLE BEHIND THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS, SMILING, LAUGHING.







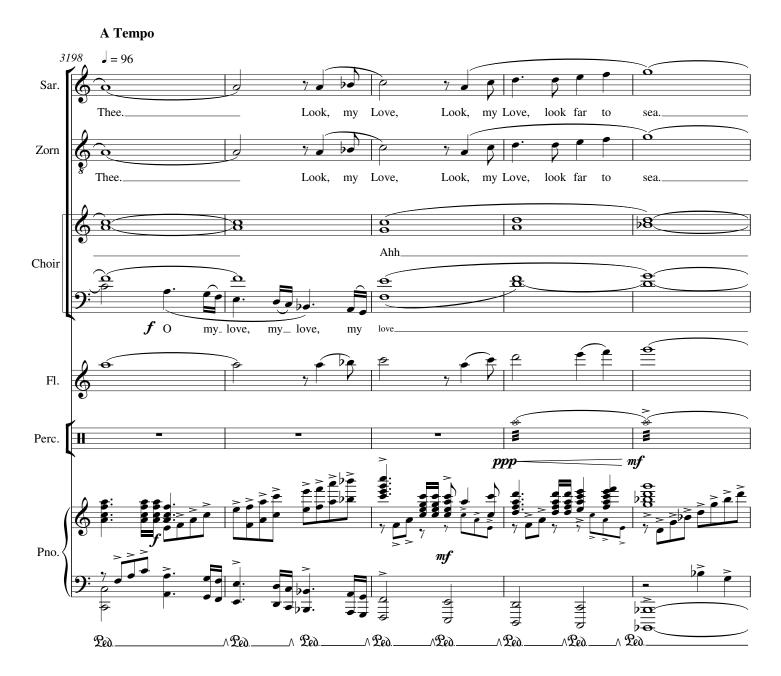




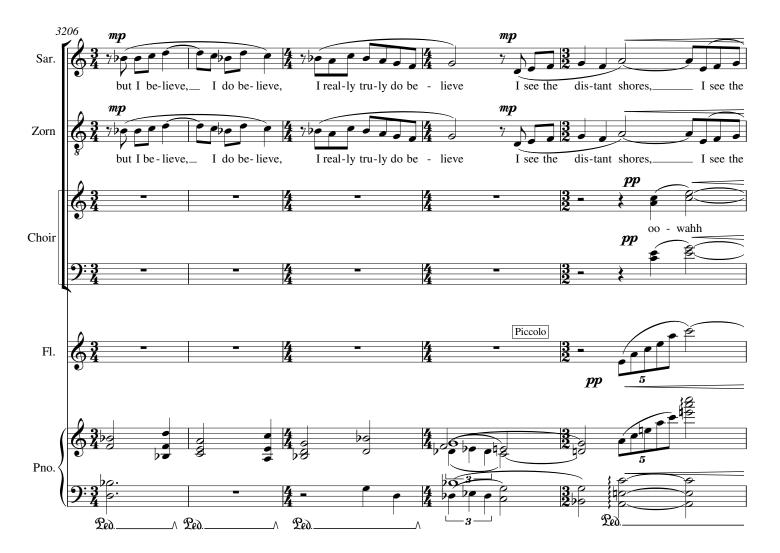
Poco Piu Mosso

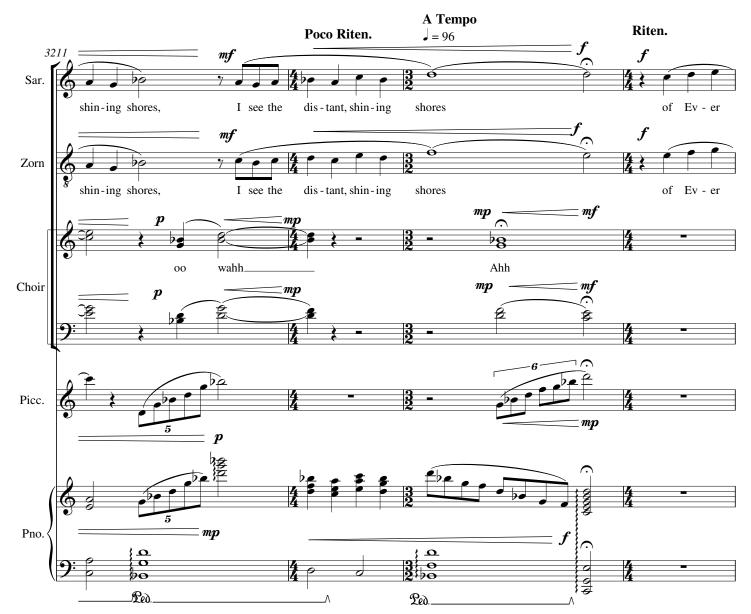






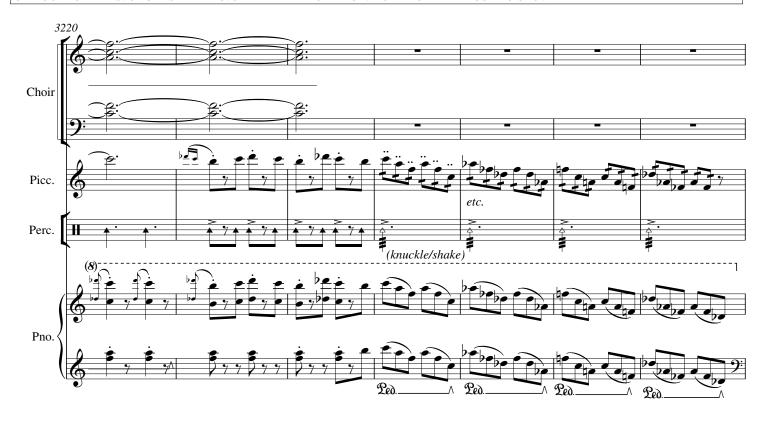




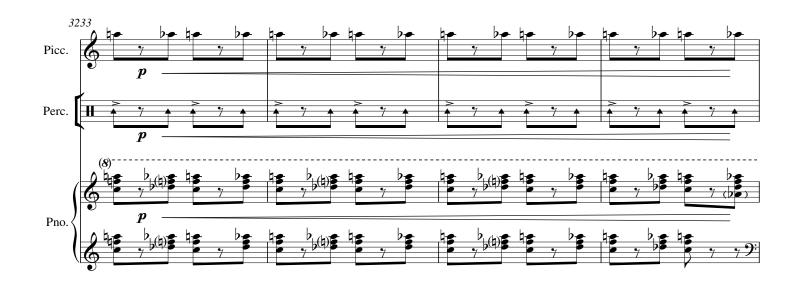


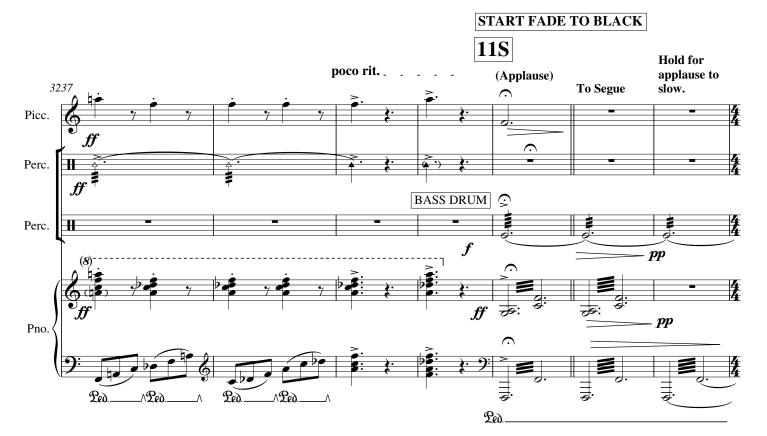


SARALINDA TOSSES THE BOUQUET BEHIND HER TO THE CROWD; THE GUARDS, CAPTAIN, AND HARK FORM AN ARCH WITH SWORDS; ZORN AND SARALINDA PASS UNDER IT CAREFULLY AND THEN EXIT STAGE R., SKIPPING, HAND IN HAND. ENSEMBLE CHEER, TOSS FLOWERS AT THEM, WAVE; HAGGA HAS LAUGHED AND WEPT FOR JOY AND THROWS A HANDFUL OF JEWELS AFTER THEM. HARK SHEATHES HIS SWORD AND, HOLDING THE ROSE, STARTS TO CLIMB STAIRS BACK UP TOWARDS THE GREAT HALL. ENSEMBLE STRAGGLE OFF, TALKING HAPPILY TO ONE ANOTHER. (NOISES OFF: TWO HORSES SNORT, WHINNY, THE TWO RIDERS GALLOP OFF DOWN THE HILLS), HARK TURNS TO WATCH THEM GO, SMILES, SHAKES HIS HEAD. THE SOUND OF HOOVES FADES. ORCHESTRA TAG. START FADE TO BLACK. HOLD FOR APPLAUSE TO SLOW



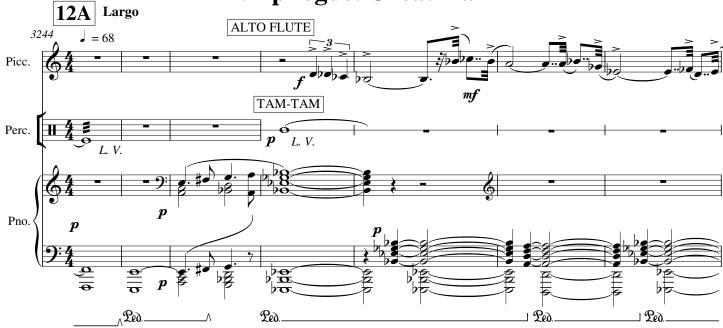




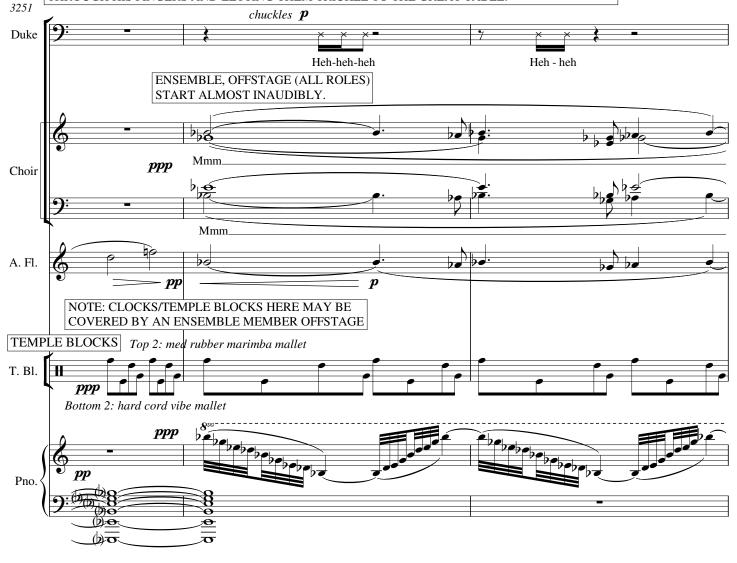


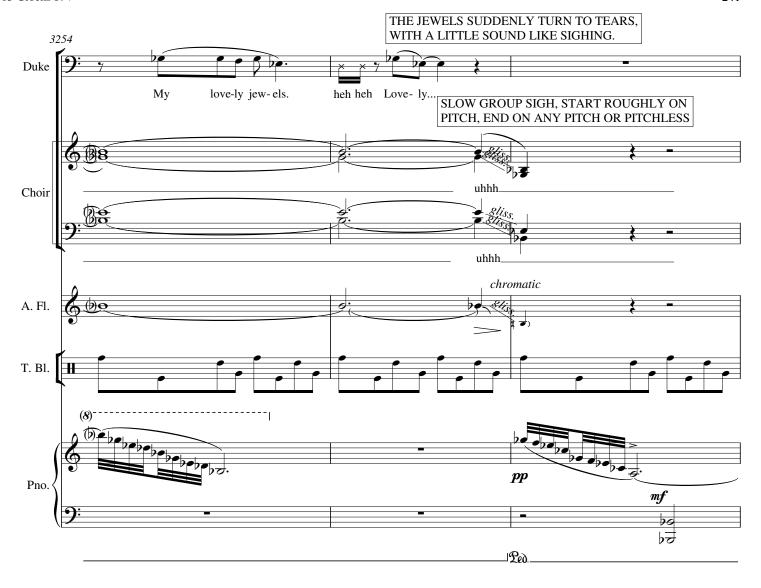
SUPERTITLE: A FORTNIGHT LATER.

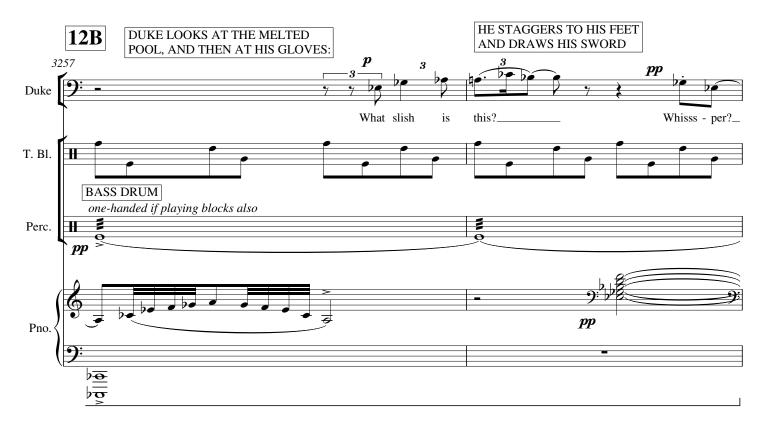
12. Epilogue. Great Hall



GREAT HALL OF COFFIN CASTLE, NIGHT. LOW LIGHT, ONLY 2 TORCHES. ONLY 2 CLOCKS TICKING SOFTLY IN HALL. DUKE, SEATED, IS GLOATING OVER HIS JEWELS, RUNNING THEM THROUGH HIS FINGERS AND LETTING THEM TRICKLE TO THE GREAT TABLE.







HIS MONOCLE FALLS, AND HE SLASHES HIS SWORD AT NOTHING. TODAL MOVES ACROSS THE ROOM TOWARDS THE DUKE, LIKE MONKEYS AND LIKE SHADOWS. THE TORCHES ON THE WALLS GO OUT. NEAR-TODAL DARKNESS. 3259 **5** Duke (OFFSTAGE: SOUND OF RABBITS SCREAMING, HIGH, Hark? MULTI-PITCHED CLUSTER: "EEEEEE!". (5-YEAR OLD GIRLS IF POSSIBLE, ALTISSIMO, MAY BE RECORDED.) Choir \boldsymbol{f} (Eeeee!) PICCOLO A. Fl. T. B1. 4 MUFFLED TOMTOMS (IF BLOCKS hard felt, at centers ARE PLAYED OFFSTAGE) Perc. Pno. p (Eb) ♭₹. **12C And**ante 3262 roars = 76 Duke Come you blob of glup! on, dead center dead center nat. nat. p mp pleft palm sideways, **mf** black and white keys Pno. \mathcal{L}_{ed}

I Led.

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