"A Day in the Life of a Garden"

for percussion, pre-recorded sounds and piano, right hand

Duration: 7'45"

Instrumentation:

- one percussionist on bass drum, set of crotales, small suspended cymbal, glockenspiel, maracas, marimba, tam, low and high triangle, vibraphone;
- one pianist on three-pedal grand piano and guiro;
- pre-recorded tape with string, percussion and nature sounds.

Foreword

"*A Day in the Life of a Garden*" is commissioned by the Garden City Fund Committee for its launch dinner on 02-12-2003 in the Ballroom of the Istana, with Guest-of-Honour Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

The composer recorded life sounds from gardens and parks in Singapore. Sounds of rain, thunder, birds, frogs and walking nature lovers are intertwined with the music played by the instrumentalists. At first the music describes the misty sunrise in a park. The music livens as park lovers enjoy their brisk morning walk. Rain starts to fall. Lush strings accompany a chorus of baritone and bass bull frogs in e flat until nature unleashes thunder and lighting. After the storm, the walk resumes. The pace increases when joggers pass by. As they catch their breath, a second passage of warm strings leads to a joyous assembly of birds arguing. Crickets enshrine the falling night as sun sets.

"*A Day in the Life of a Garden*" is dedicated to all nature and park lovers.

Robert Casteels

From a fine academic career in his native Belgium, at the Guildhall, London, and finally at the Juilliard where he was awarded the Bruno Walter Memorial Scholarship for conducting two years consecutively, Robert Casteels leads a distinguished professional career as conductor and composer in his adopted home Singapore.

Internationally in the region, he has recently conducted the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, the Tasmania Symphony Orchestra, the Elision Ensemble in the Konzerthaus of Berlin, and has just returned from a successful series at the Queensland Conservatory of Music, Griffith University, Brisbane and at the School of Music, Australia National University, Canberra. Robert Casteels serves as Chief External Examiner of the Faculty of Music of The University of Melbourne.

His compositions range from miniature to large-scale works in the European tradition, as well as multi-disciplinary works which combine European, Chinese and Indian instruments with gamelan. In 2001, in recognition of his work in promoting cross-cultural composition and research on non-European tuning systems, Robert Casteels was awarded the Christoffel Plantin Prize, the highest Cultural Medallion in Belgium.

In the midst of this full schedule, he nevertheless devotes time and energy to music education for youth, and is currently Artistic Director of The Philharmonic Winds and Music Director of the Singapore National Youth Orchestra, under the Ministry of Education.

Recent compositions include:

- "Qie Yu" for Chinese and gamelan orchestras, western brass, percussion ensemble and speaking choir on the poem 'Bicara Dalam Sepi' by Norulashikin Jamain (2001);
- "Hui Rao" Celebratory spatial fanfare WASBE (Singapore) for sixteen horns and Chinese percussion instruments (2001, commissioned by the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles);
- "L' (autre) fille aux cheveux de Bali" for Chinese string trio, vibraphone and an ensemble of Solonese, Balinese and Burmese metallophones (2002, commissioned by the Contemporary Asian Arts Centre, Singapore);
- "Sui Yuen" for unaccompanied piano (2002);
- "Sonata Profana" for triple orchestra and Balinese gangsa with 3 simultaneous conductors (2002, commissioned by the Centre for The Arts, National University of Singapore);
- "Elegy to the men you don't meet ev'ryday" for Chinese symphonic orchestra, Balinese gangsa, trombone chorus and Quinton (2002, dedicated to Jo McNally and Kuo Pao Kun);
- "Shadow catcher" for double chorus a cappella and rapper on text by Elangovan (2003);
- "Whisper in the night" for solo percussion, strings and tape (2003, commissioned by the Australian National University);
- "Spirit of Wood" for percussion quartet and tape (2003, commissioned by the Asian Civilisations Musem at Empress Place).

1" 13" ♩= 69 *Slow*

Percussion

pluck string

Piano
right hand

pp

(follow tempo of tape)

Sost. pedal until bar 13 and
u.c. pedal until bar 14

Ped.

Nature
sounds

(left hand of pianist
or assistant)

Light rain and birds

track 1

Tape

Percussion

Harp

Violin 1

Violin 2

Violin 3

Violin 4

Violin 5

Viola 1

Viola 2

Viola 3

Viola 4

Viola 5

Violoncello 1

Violoncello 2

Violoncello 3

Violoncello 4

Violoncello 5

Bass 1

Bass 2

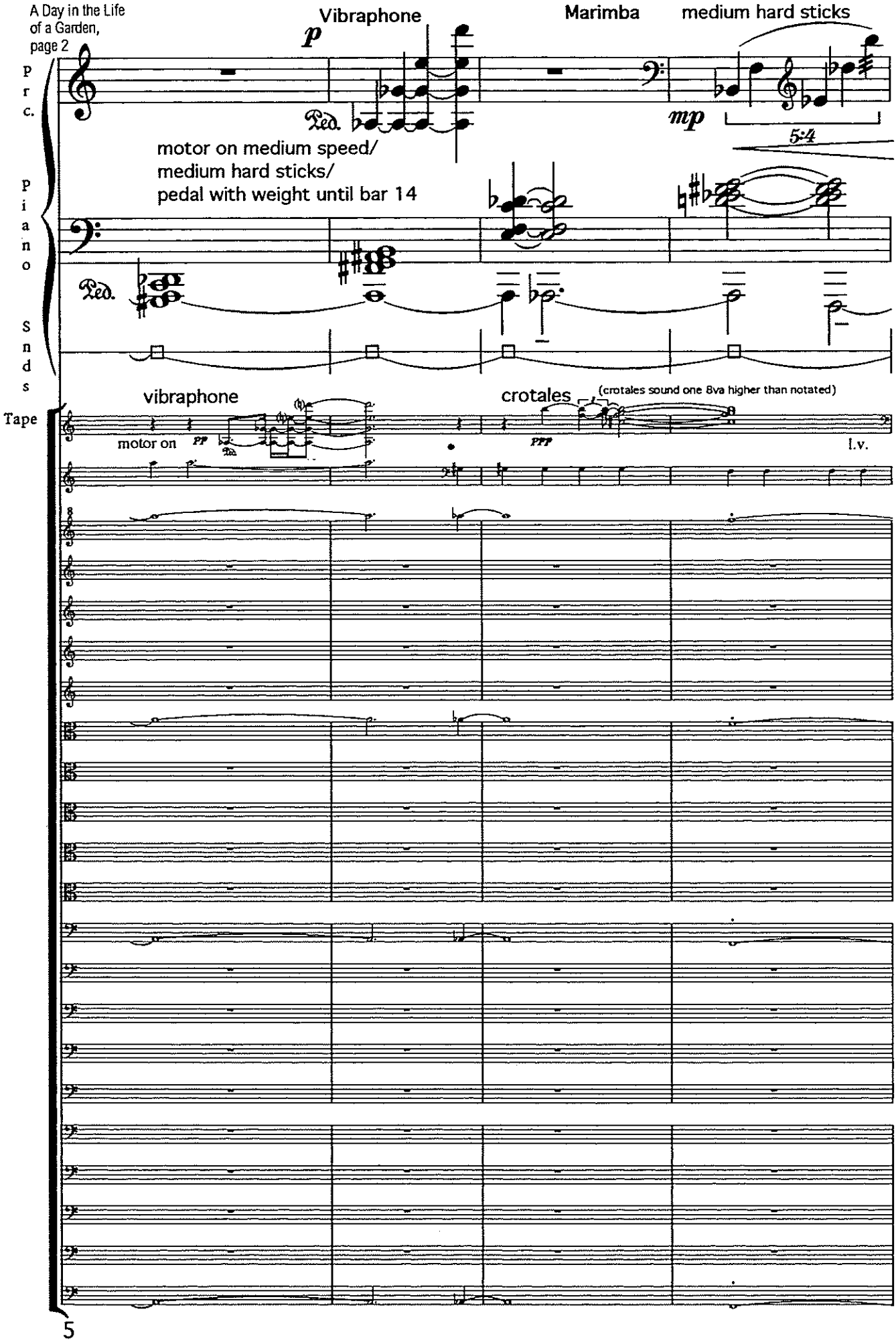
Bass 3

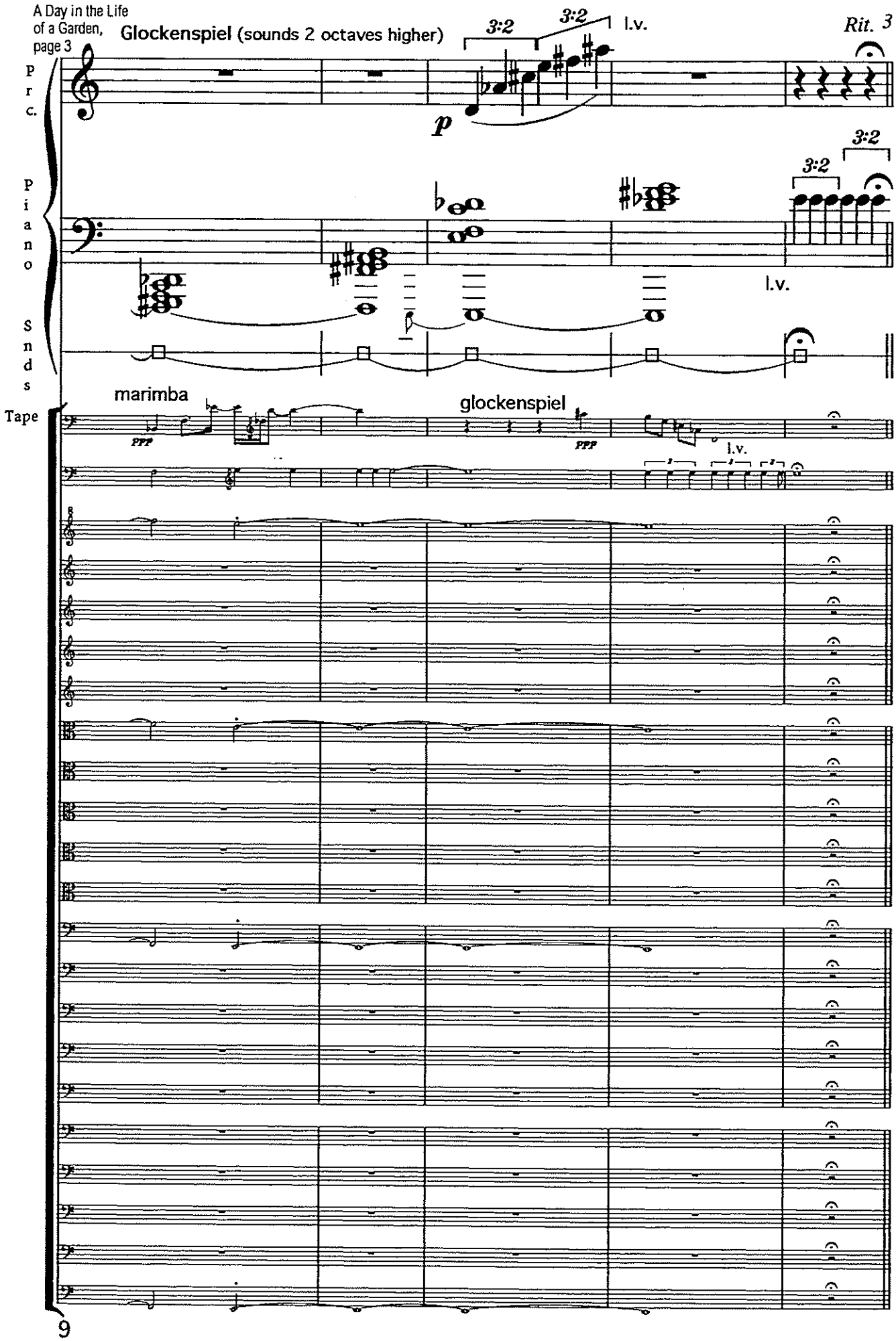
Bass 4

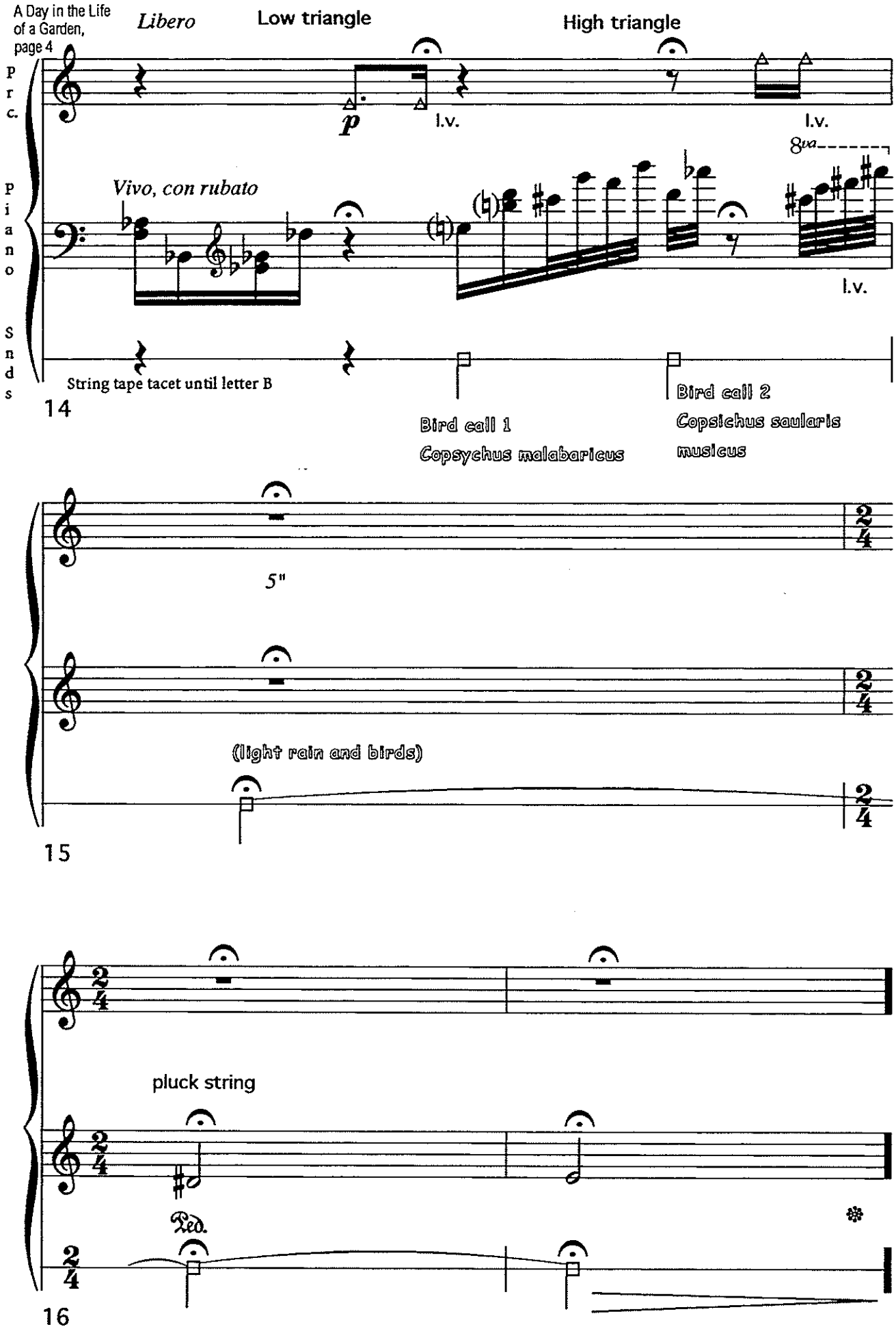
Bass 5

pp

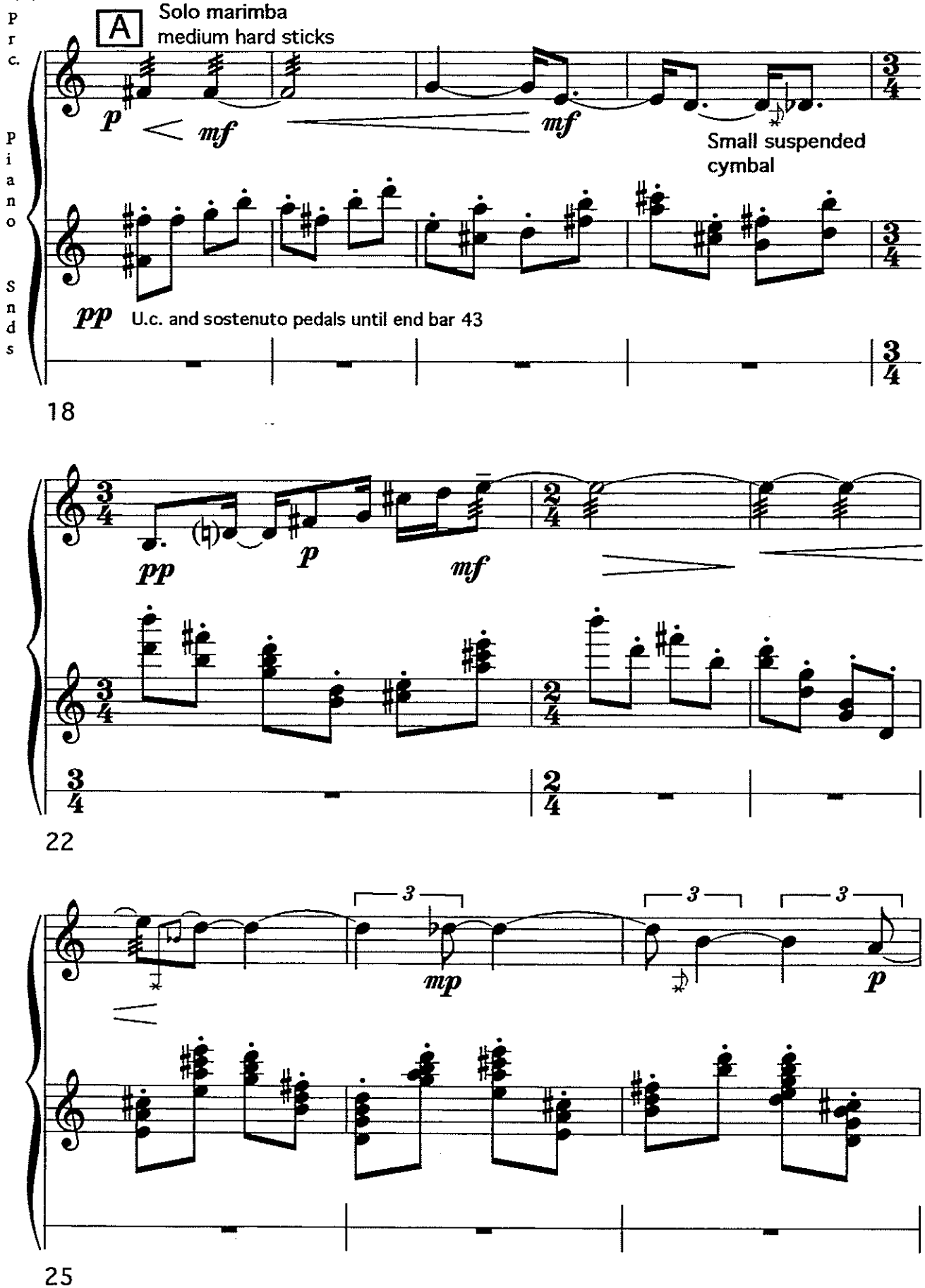
ppp arco non vibrato

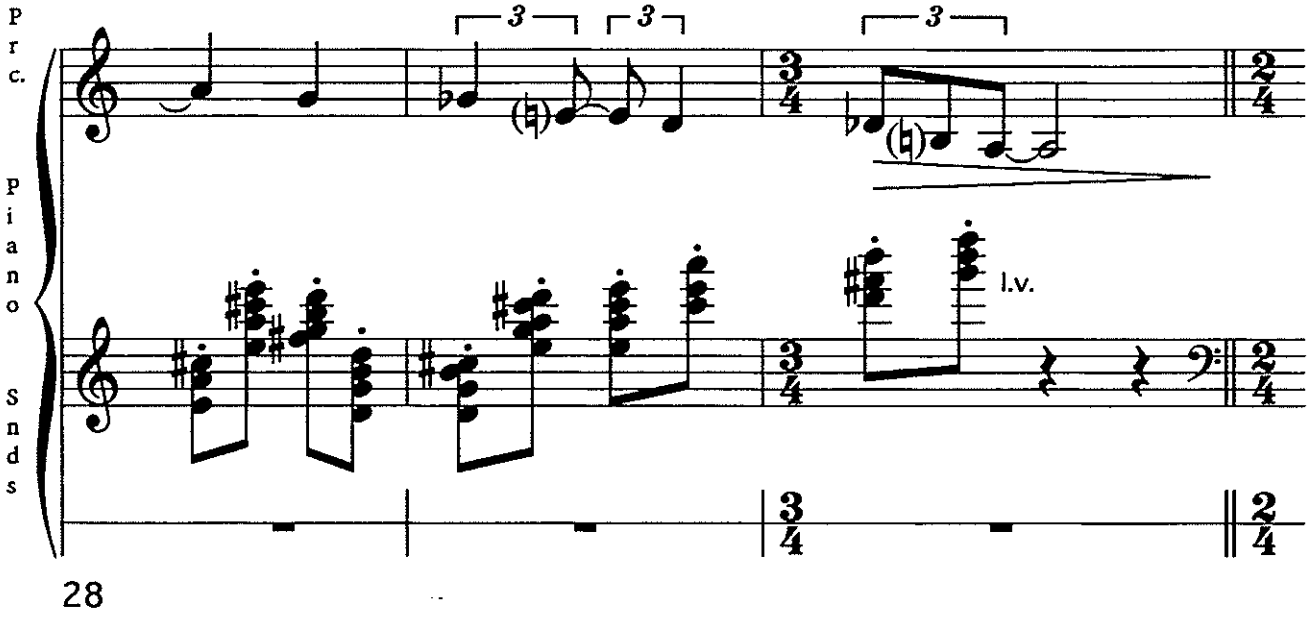

Vibraphone
Marimba
medium hard sticks
p
mp
5:4
Ped.
motor on medium speed/
medium hard sticks/
pedal with weight until bar 14
vibraphone
crotales
(crotales sound one 8va higher than notated)
motor on
PP
PPP
l.v.
Prc.
Piano
Snds
Tape


Glockenspiel (sounds 2 octaves higher)
3:2
3:2
l.v.
Rit. 3"
p
3:2
3:2
l.v.
Prc.
Piano
Snds
Tape
marimba
glockenspiel
PPP
PPP
l.v.


Libero
Low triangle
High triangle
prc.
p
l.v.
l.v.
piano
Vivo, con rubato
8va
l.v.
Snds
String tape tacet until letter B
Bird call 1
Copsychus malabaricus
Bird call 2
Copsichus saularis
musicus
14
5"
(light rain and birds)
15
pluck string
Ped.
16

♩= 76 *Andante comodo "jalan"*





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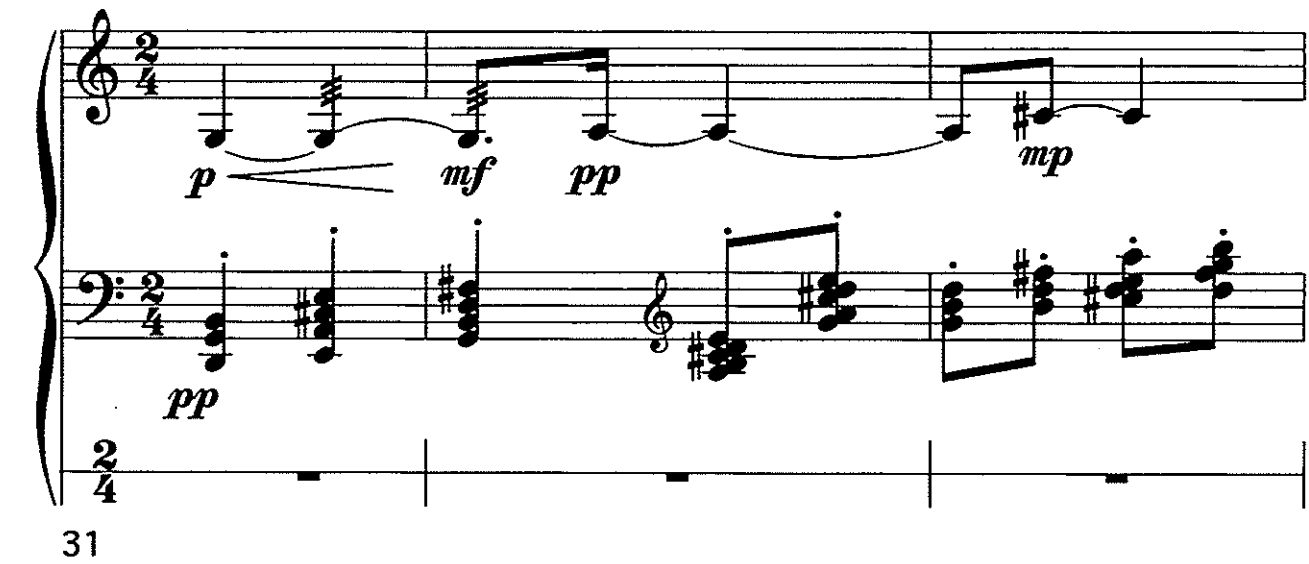

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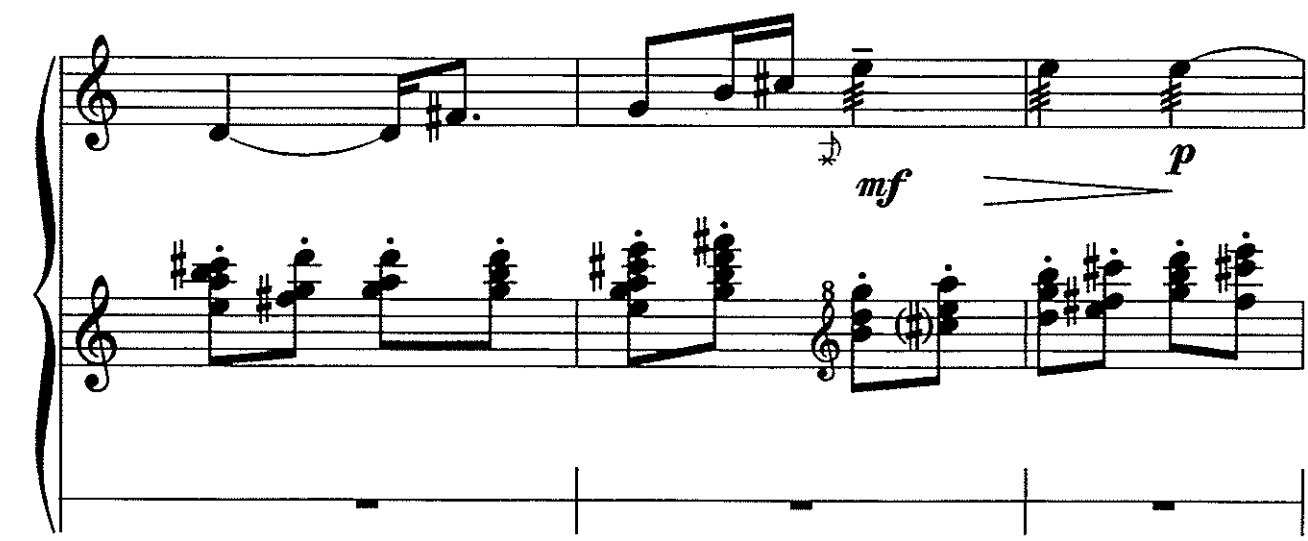

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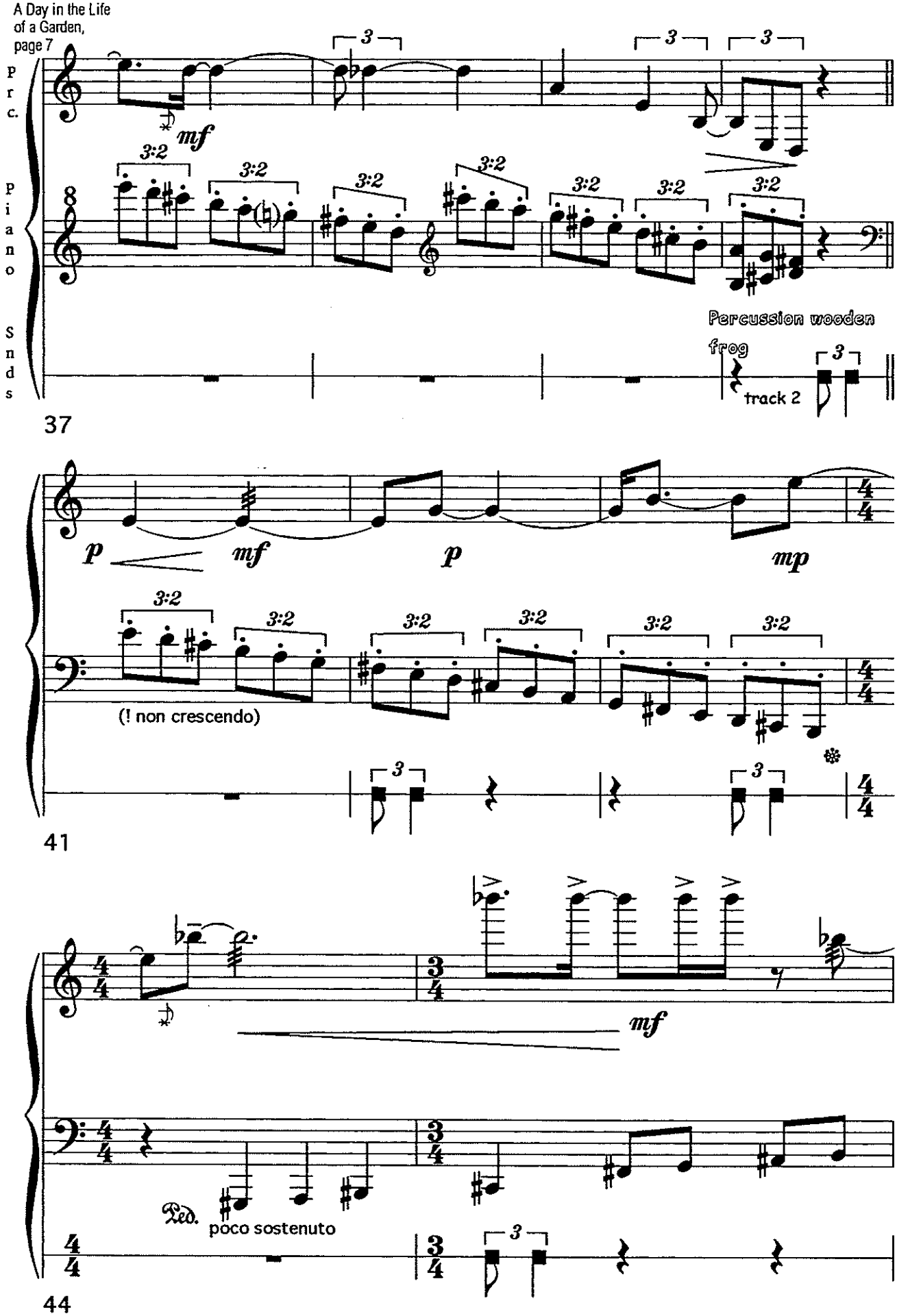
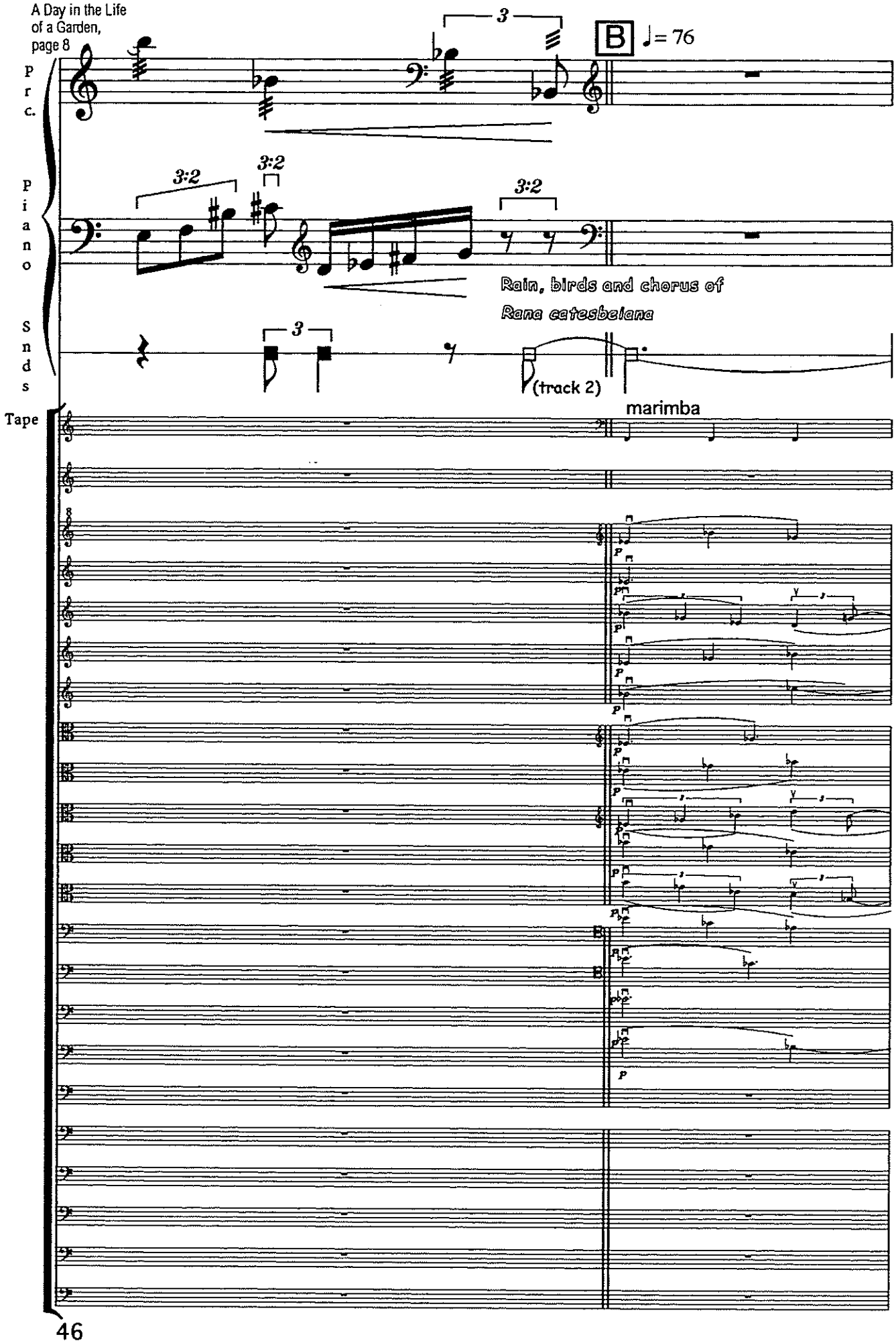
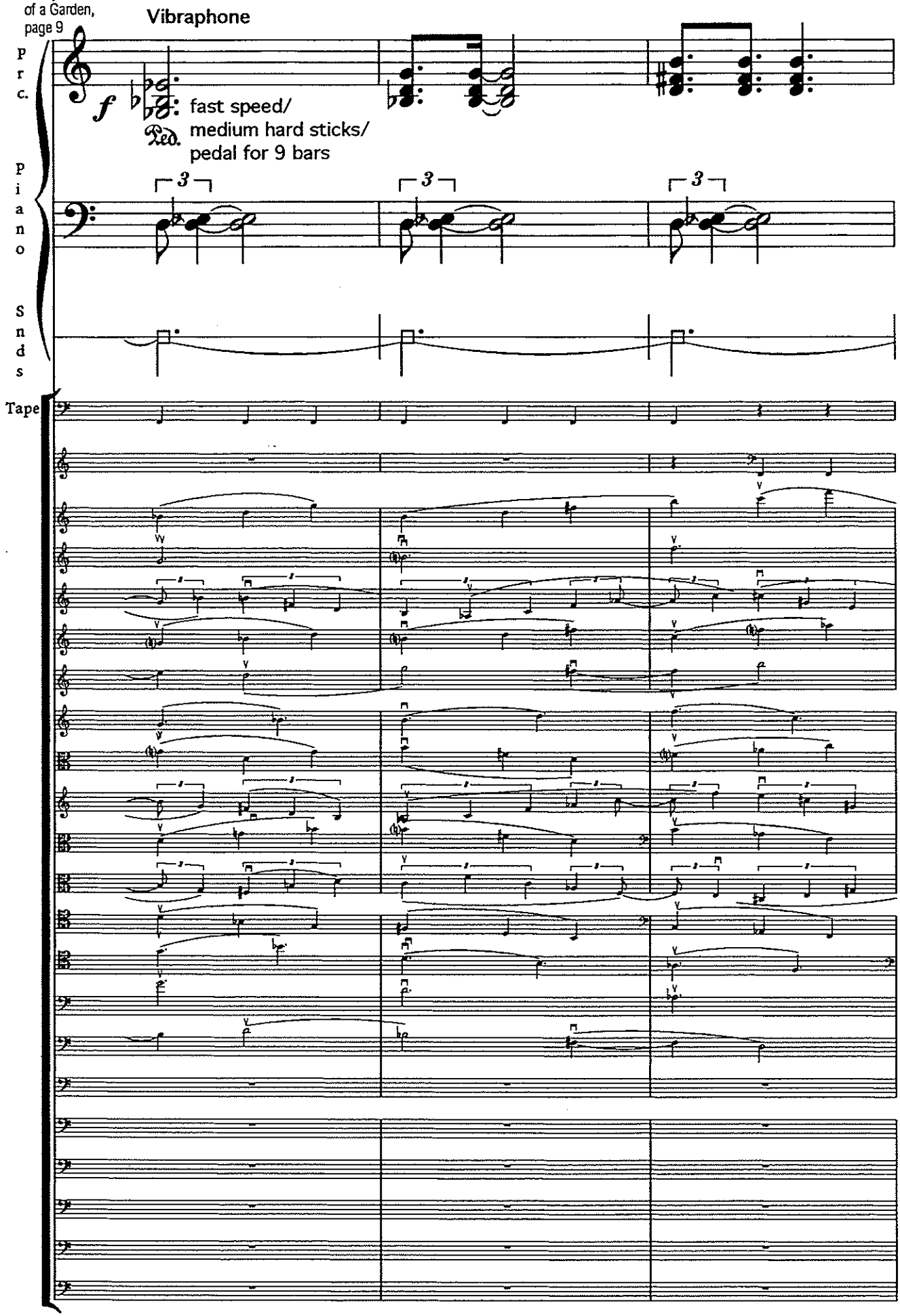
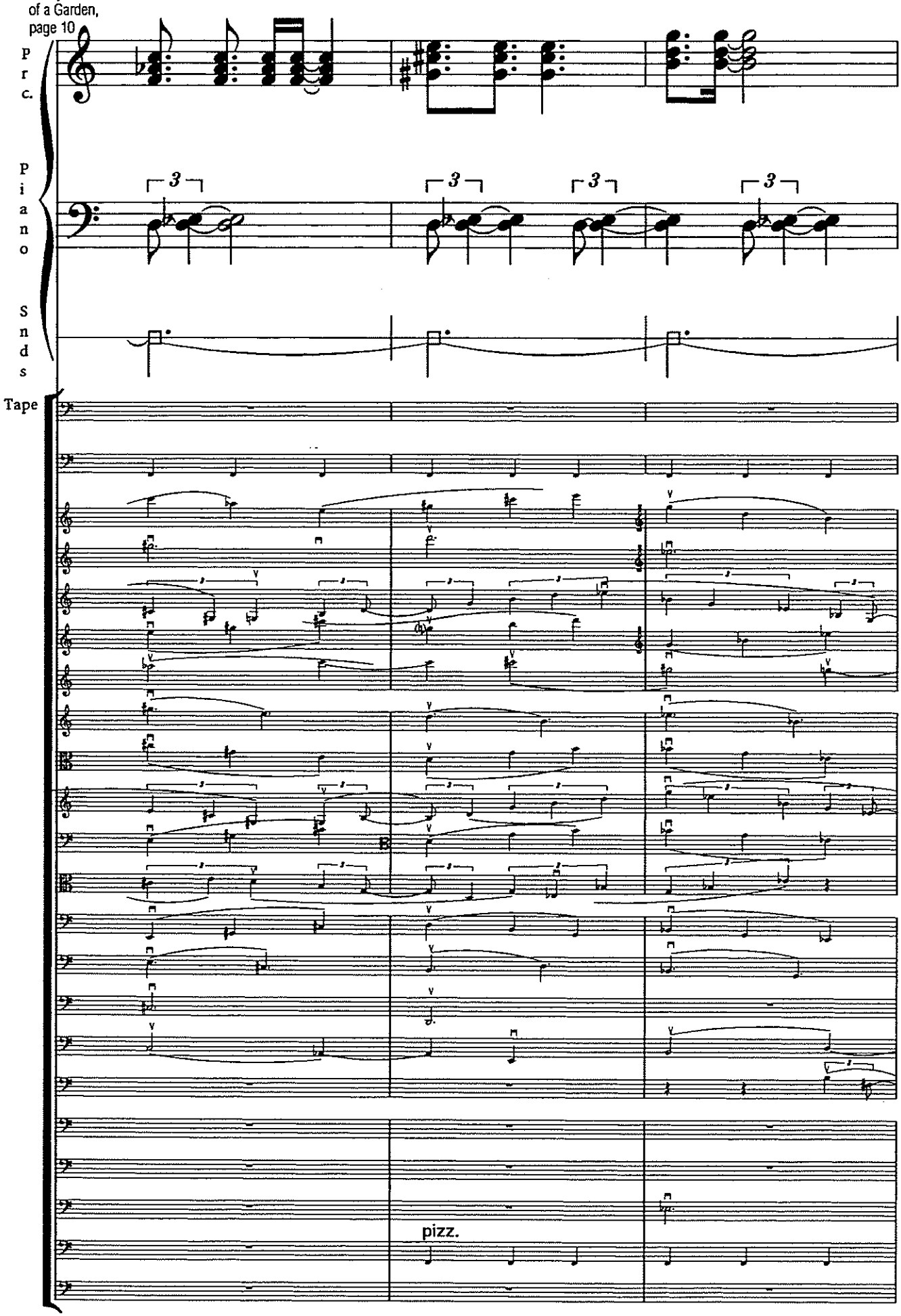
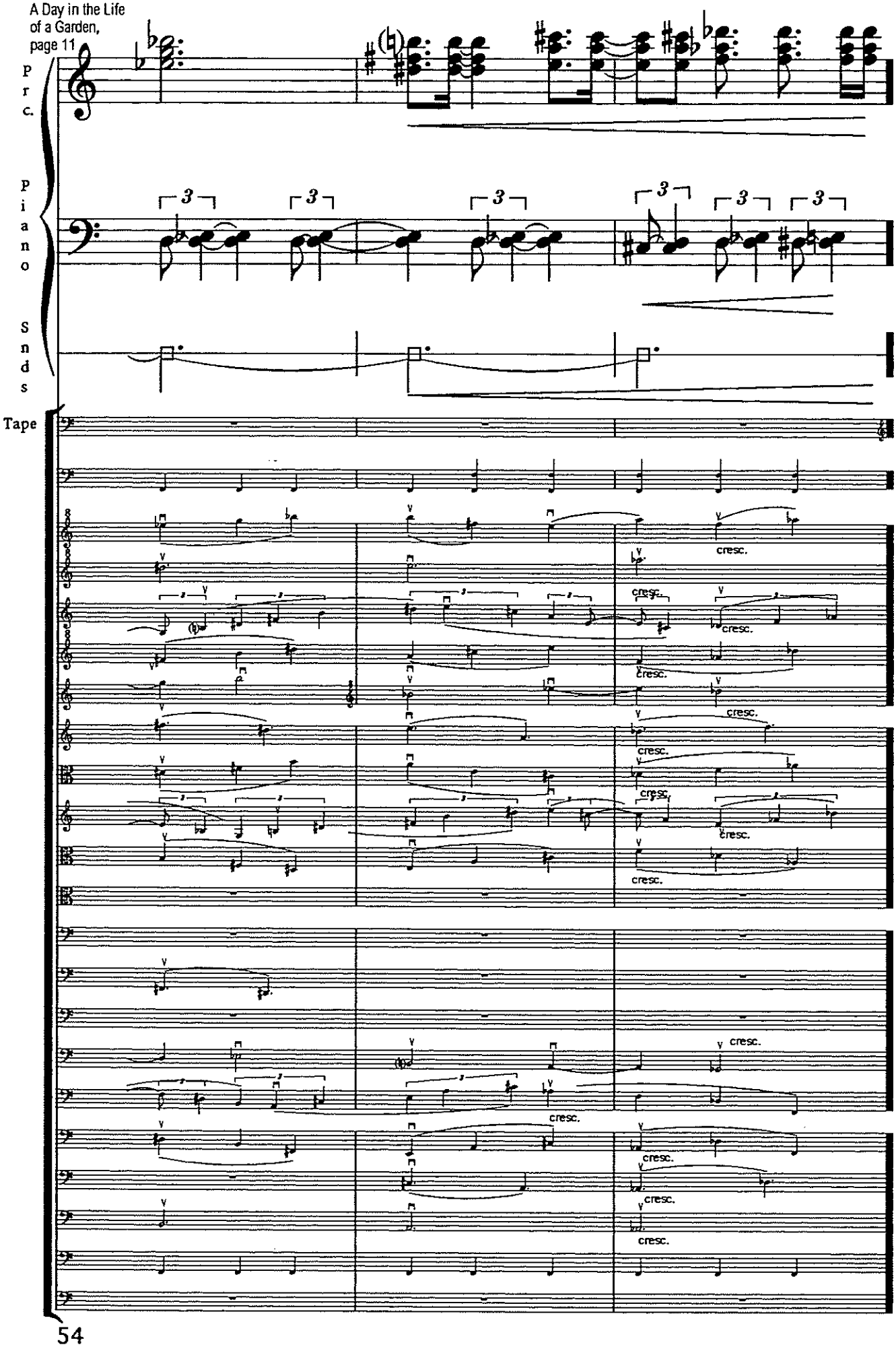
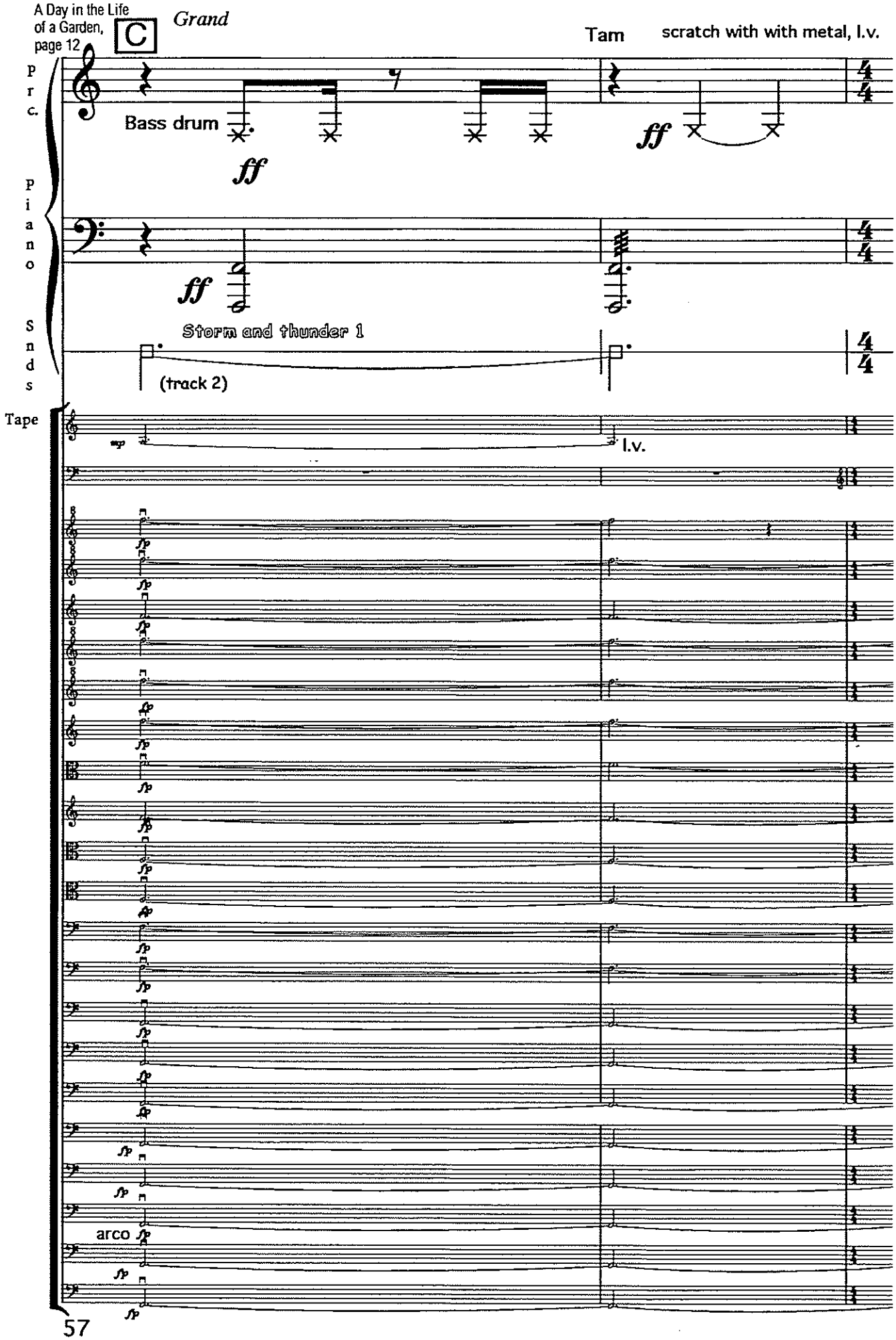

Prc.
Piano
Snds
mf
3:2
Percussion wooden
frog
track 2
37
p
mf
p
mp
(! non crescendo)
41
mf
Ped.
poco sostenuto
44


Prc.
Piano
Snds
Tape
B
♩= 76
3
3:2
3:2
3:2
Rain, birds and chorus of
Rana catesbeiana
(track 2)
marimba

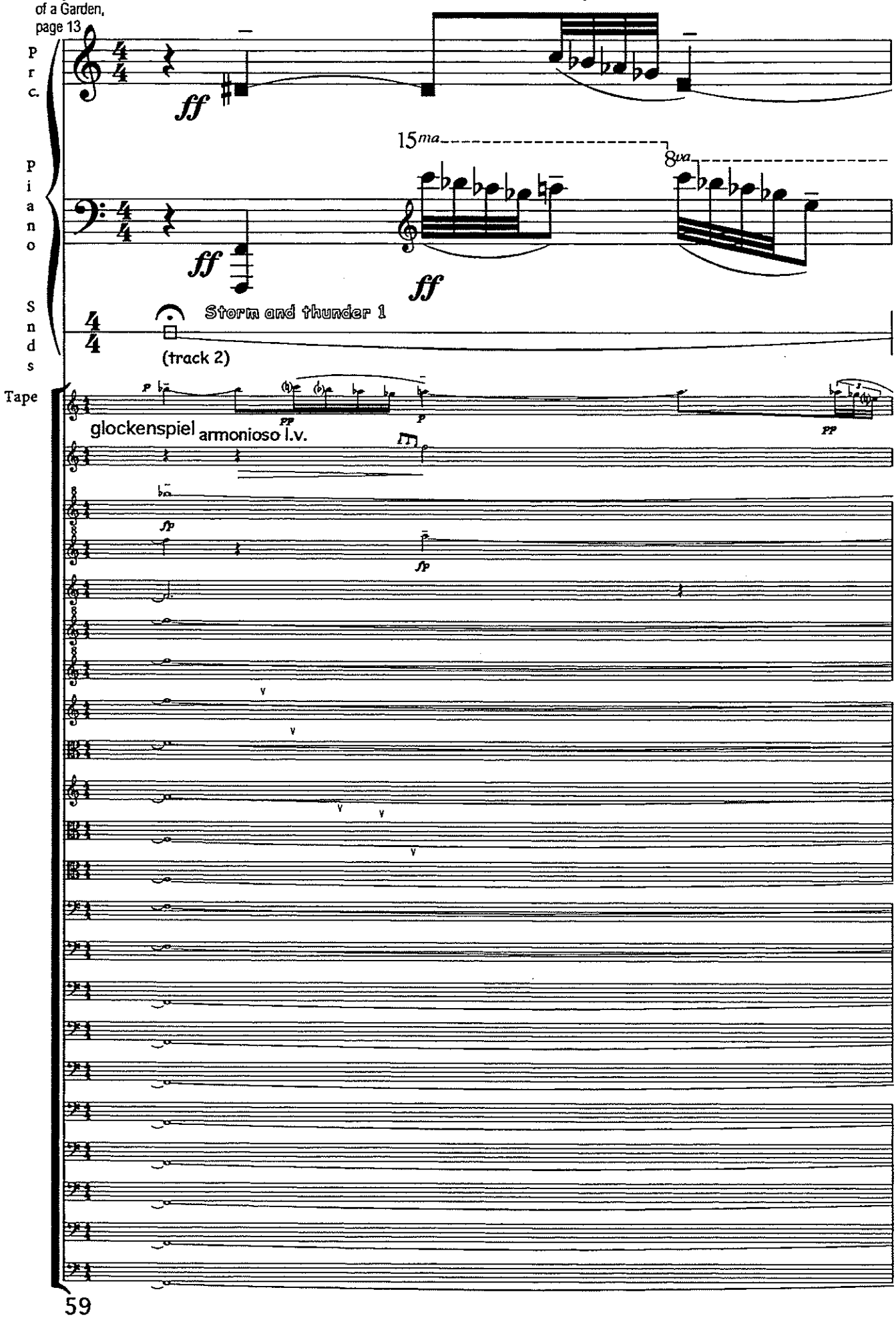

Vibraphone
Prc.
Piano
Snds
Tape
f
fast speed/
medium hard sticks/
pedal for 9 bars
Ped.
3
3
3

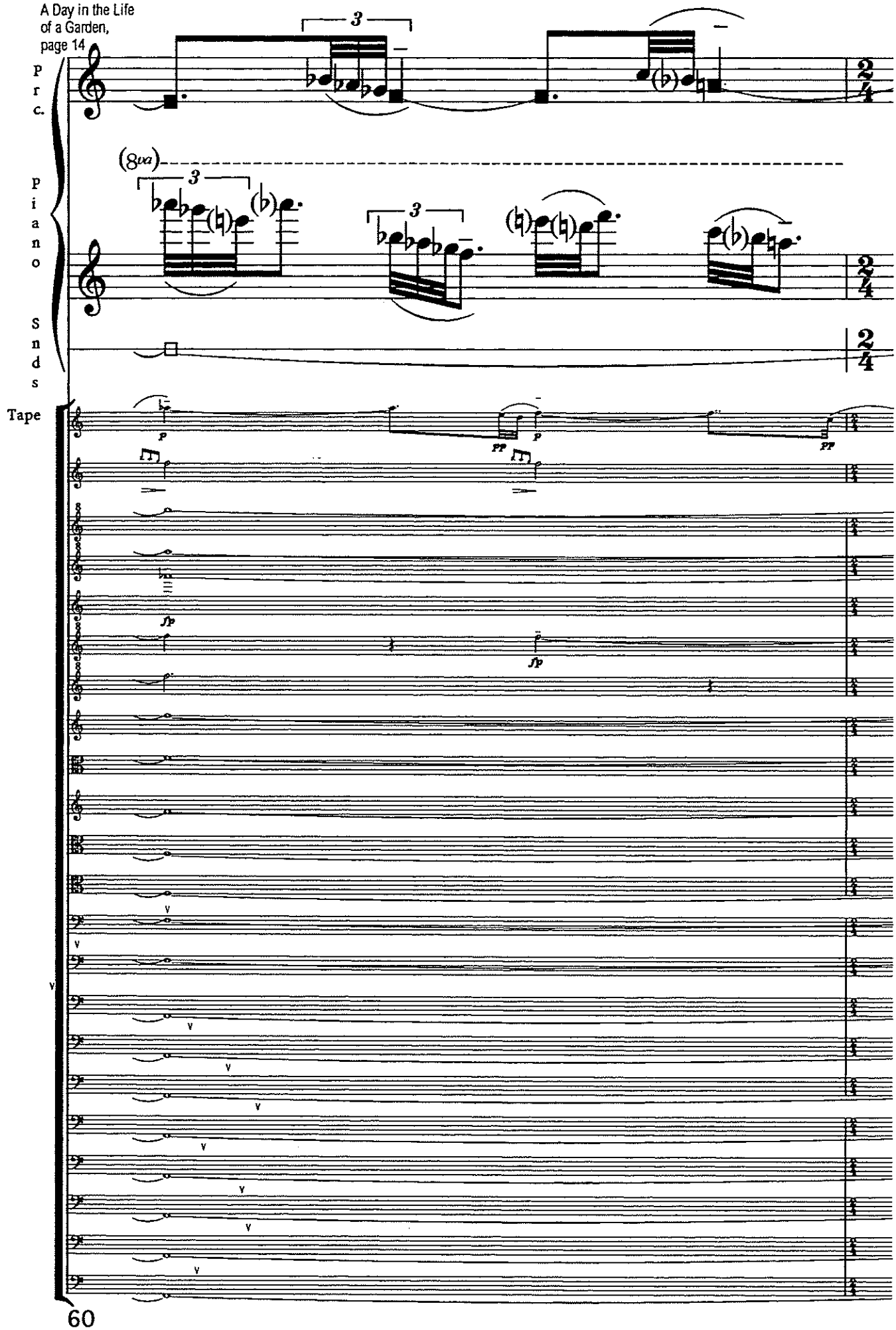

Prc.
Piano
Snds
Tape
3
3
3
3
pizz.

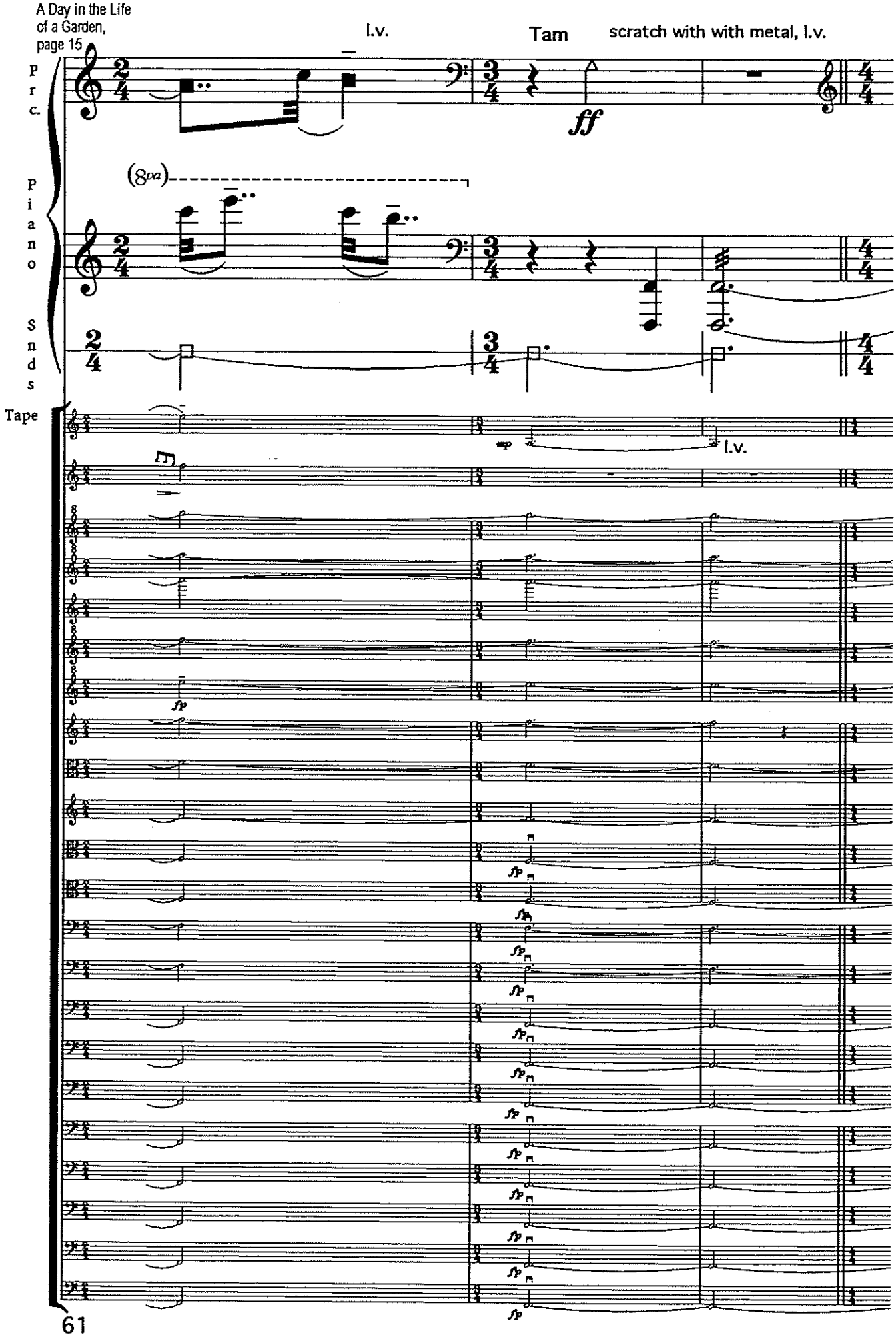

Prc.
Piano
Snds
Tape
cresc.

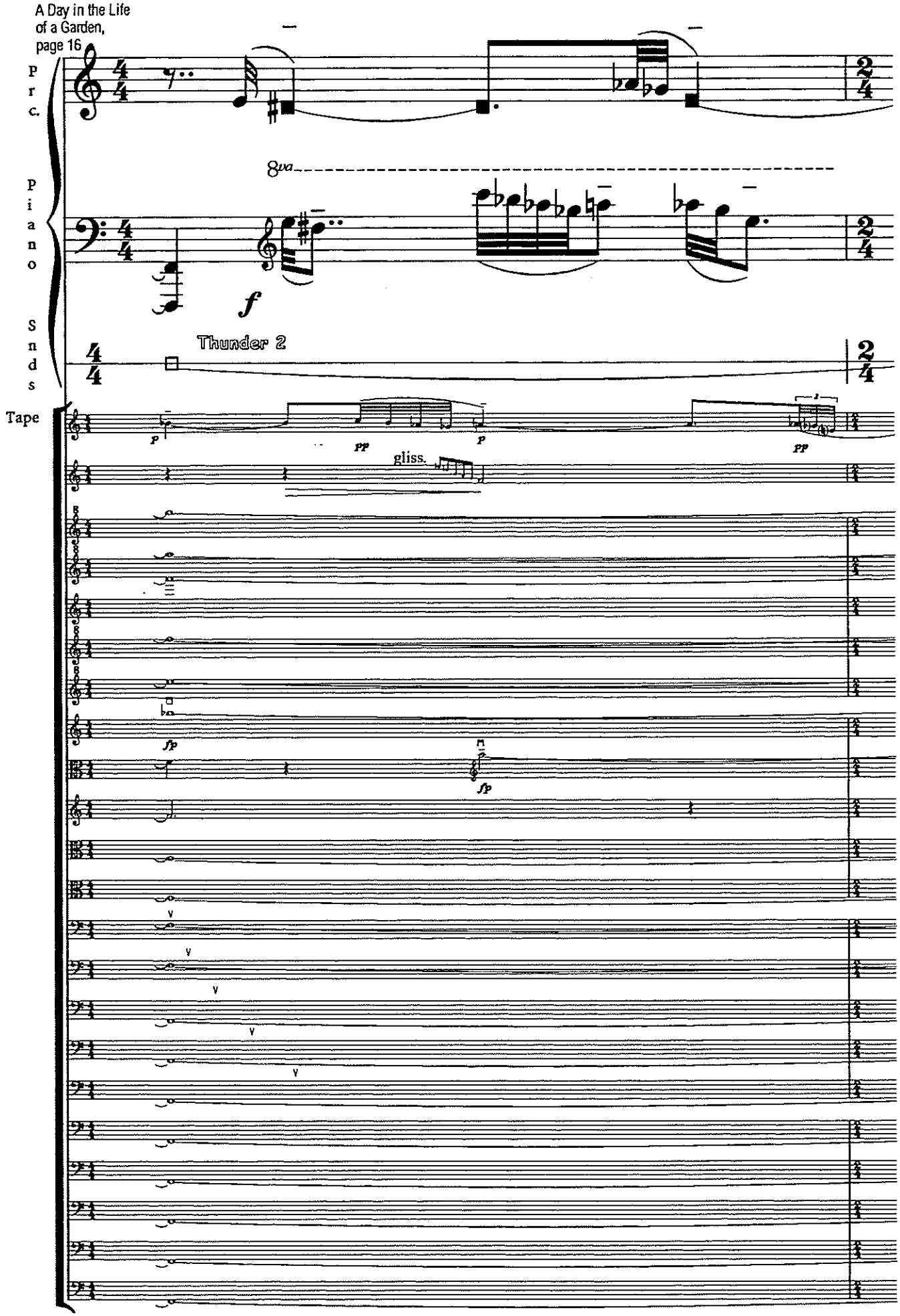

A Day in the Life of a Garden, page 12
C
Grand
Tam
scratch with with metal, l.v.
prc.
Bass drum
ff
ff
ff
piano
Snds
Storm and thunder 1
(track 2)
Tape
mp
l.v.
fp
arco

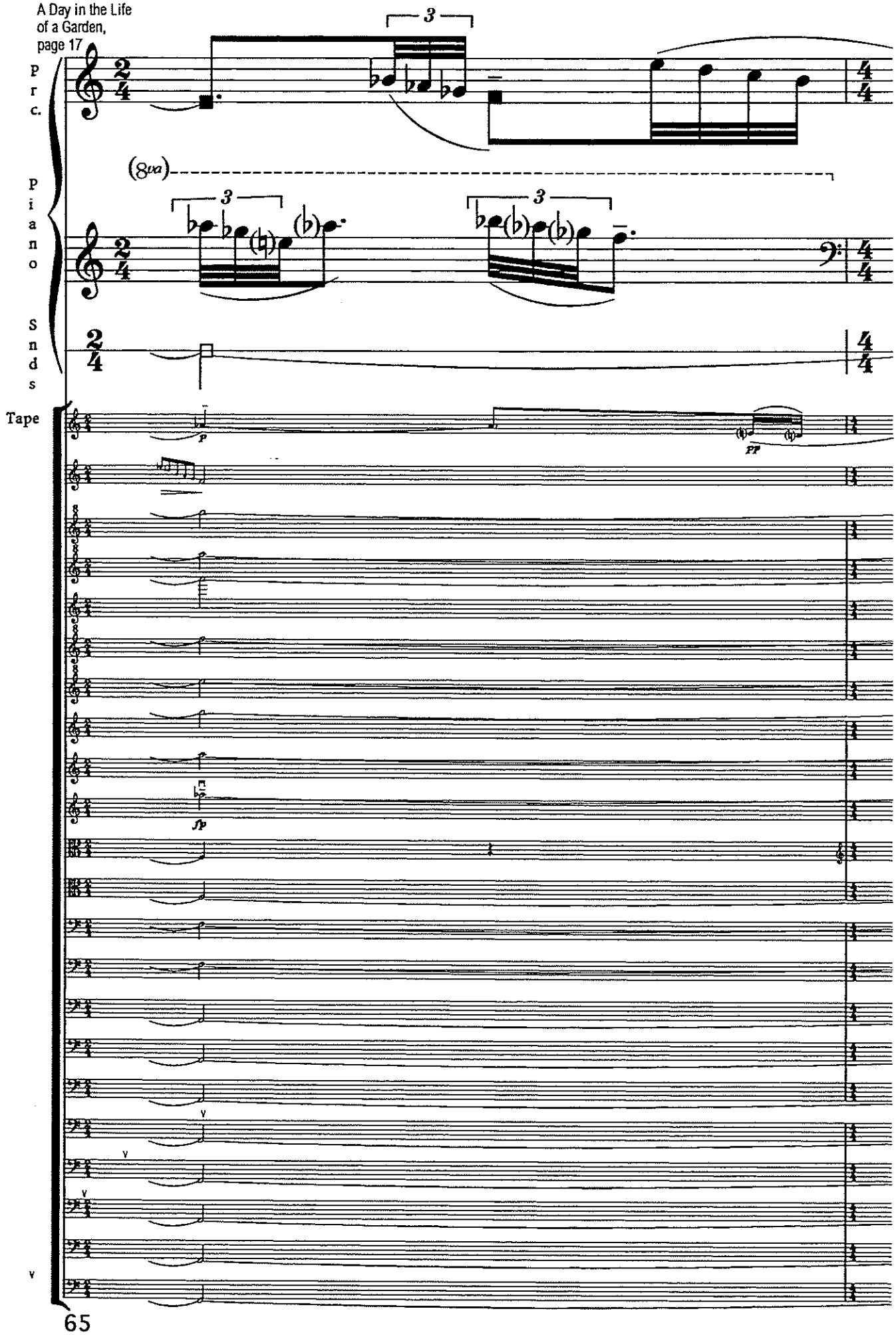
small values on glockenspiel/ main notes with square noteheads on crotales

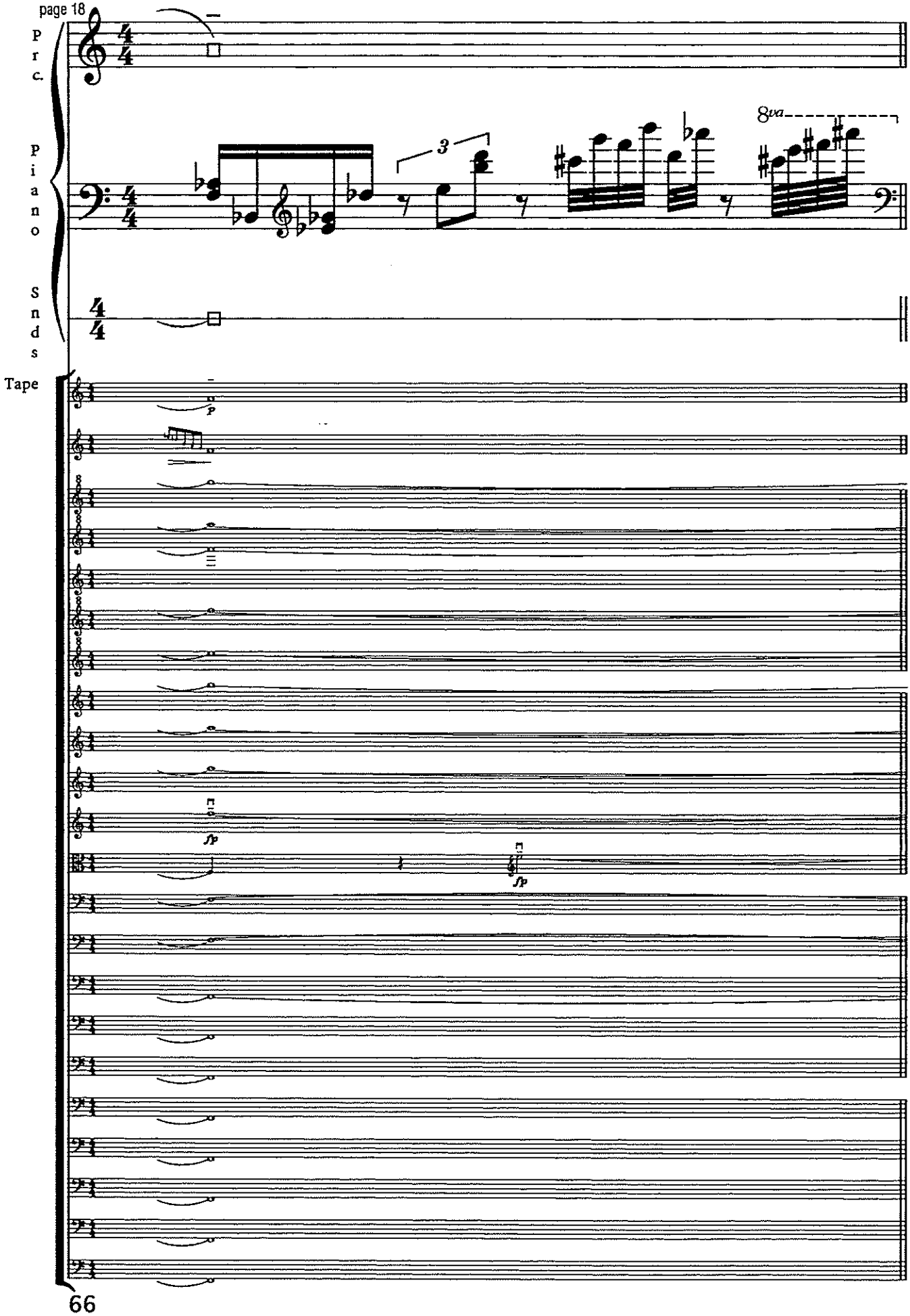


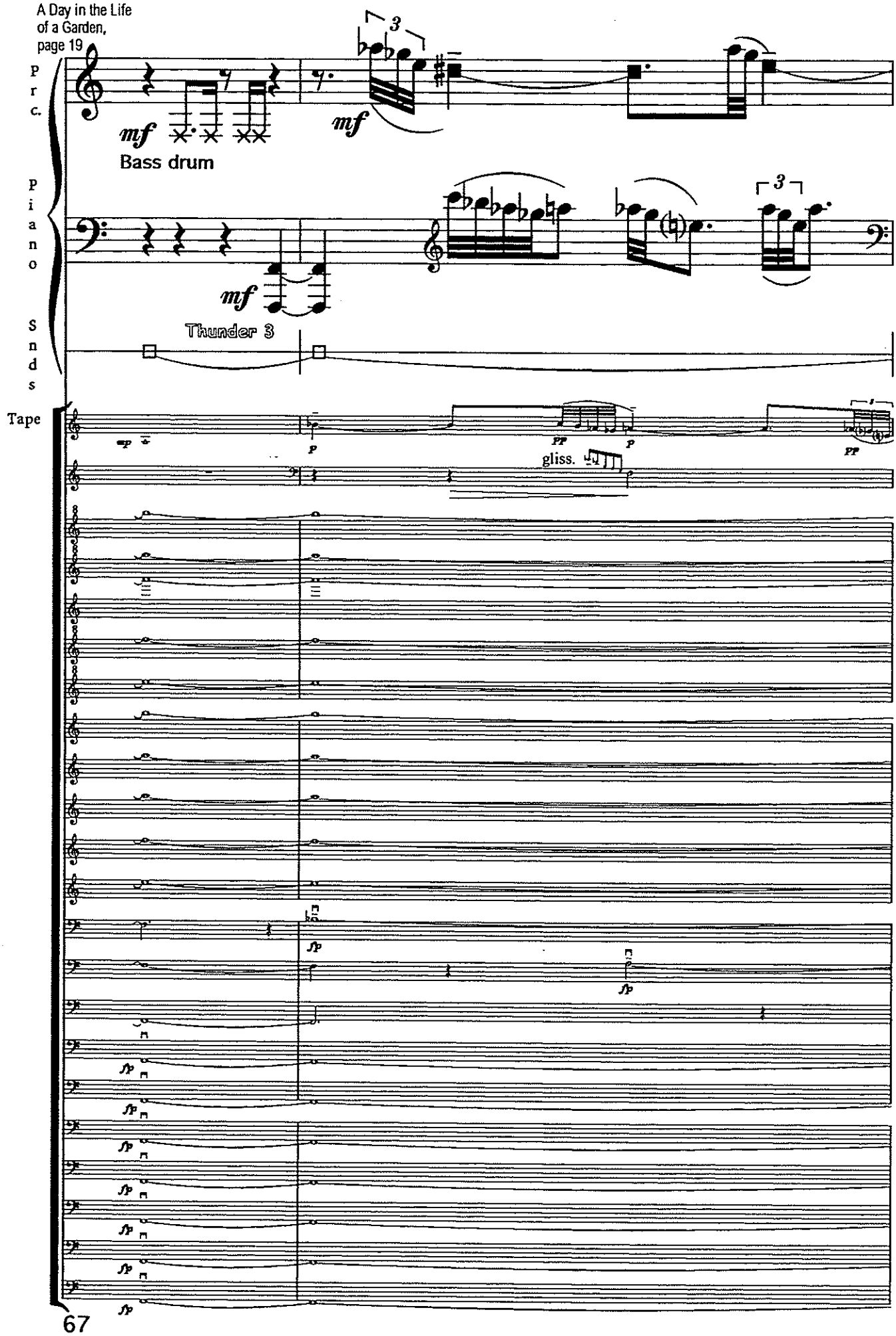

A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 14
Prc.
Piano
Snds
Tape
(8va)
3
p
pp
fp

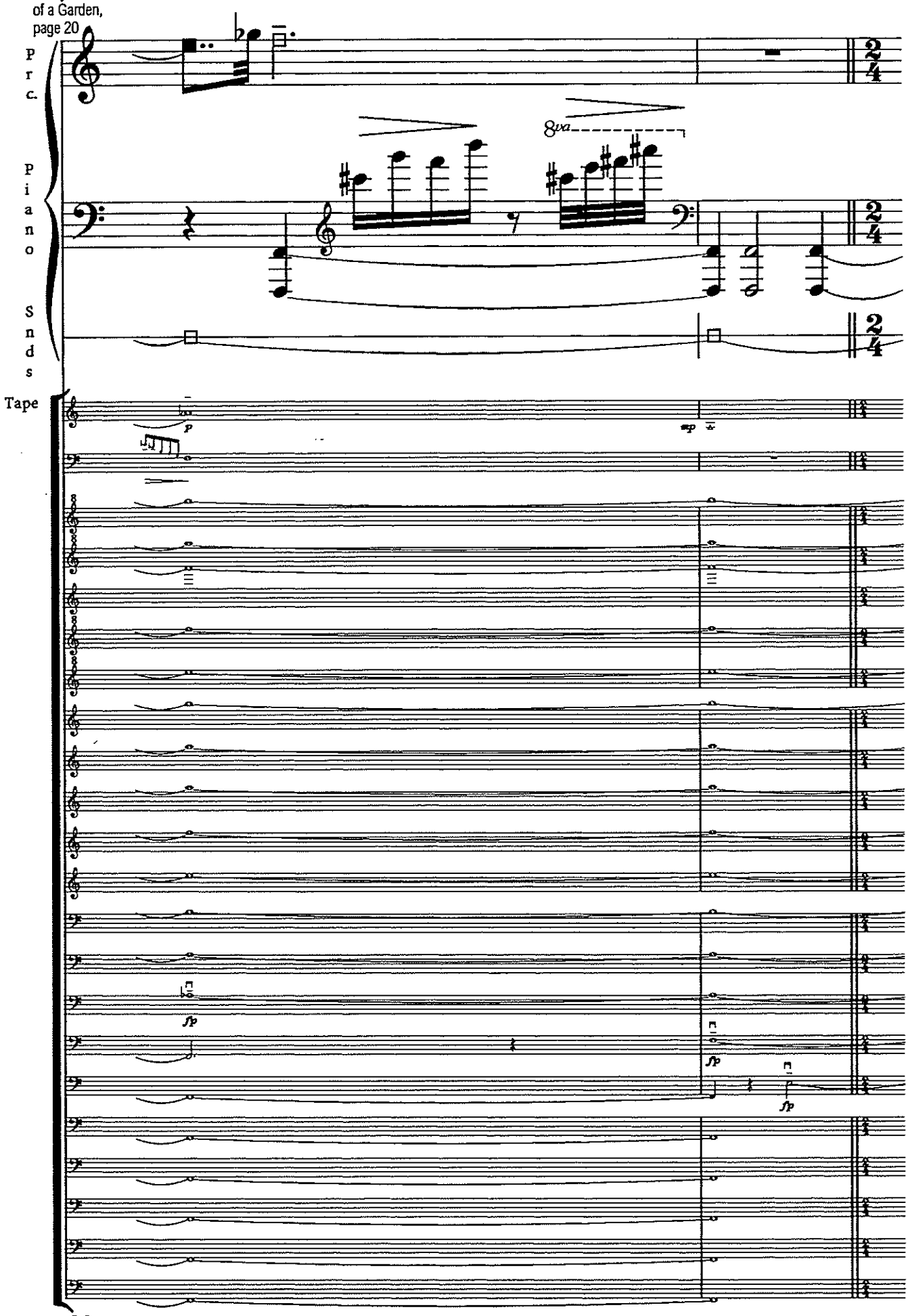

l.v.
Tam
scratch with with metal, l.v.
prc.
piano
snds
Tape
ff
(8va)
mp
l.v.
fp


Prc.
Piano
Snds
Tape
8va
f
Thunder 2
p
pp
p
pp
gliss.
fp
fp


prc.
Piano
Snds
Tape
(8va)
3
3
3
p
pp
fp
v
v
v
v


Prc.
Piano
Snds
Tape
8va
3
p
fp
fp


A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 19
Prc.
Piano
Snds
Tape
mf
Bass drum
Thunder 3
gliss.
PP
sfp


Prc.
Piano
Snds
Tape
8va
p
mp
sfp
sfp
sfp