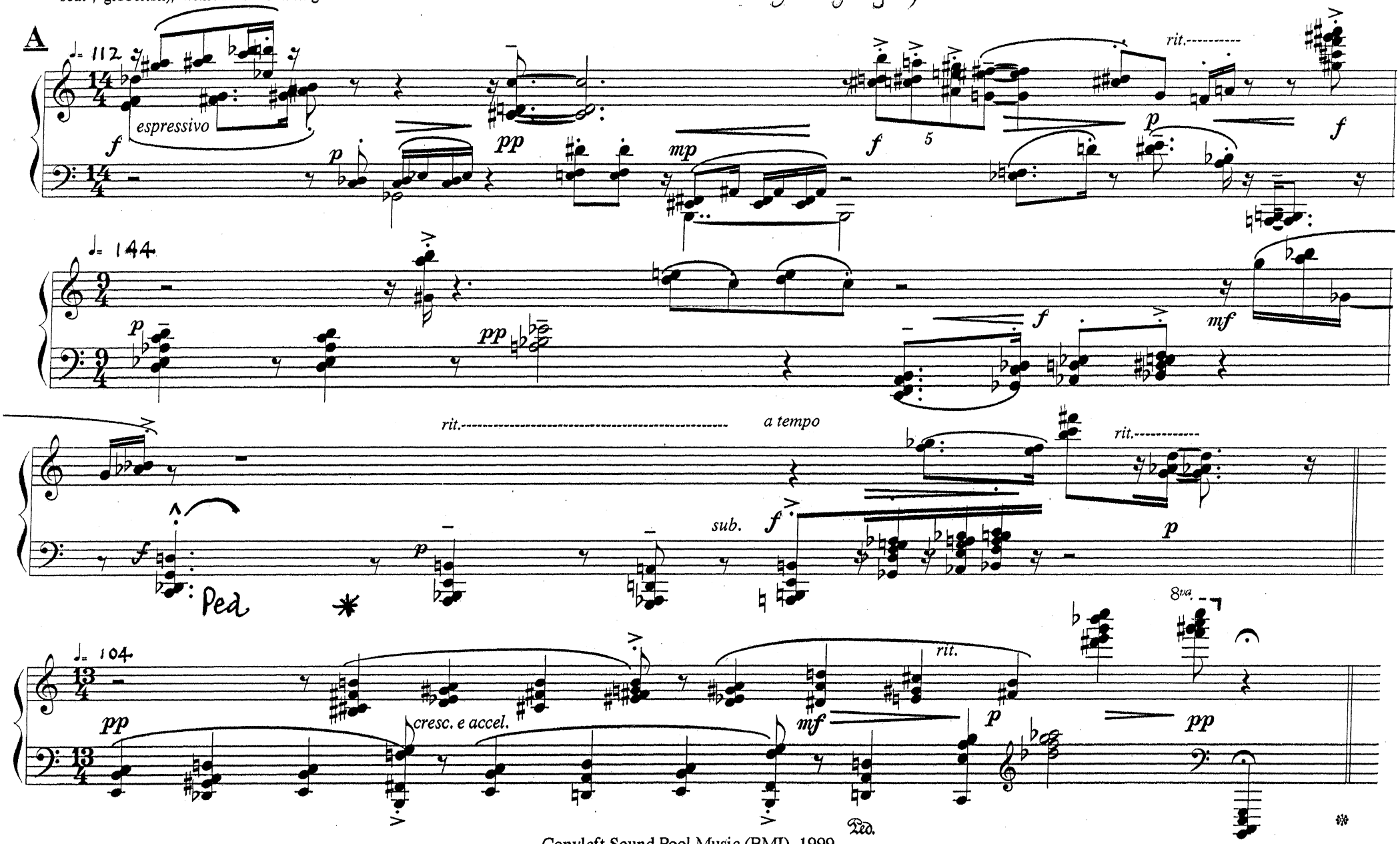
2. Una tragedia Domestica
("The Road", Mile 34)
(A Soap Opera)

Percussive sounds may be accompanied by spontaneous, freely articulated vocal noises (grunts, coughs, single syllables, "scat", gibberish), without determining beforehand.

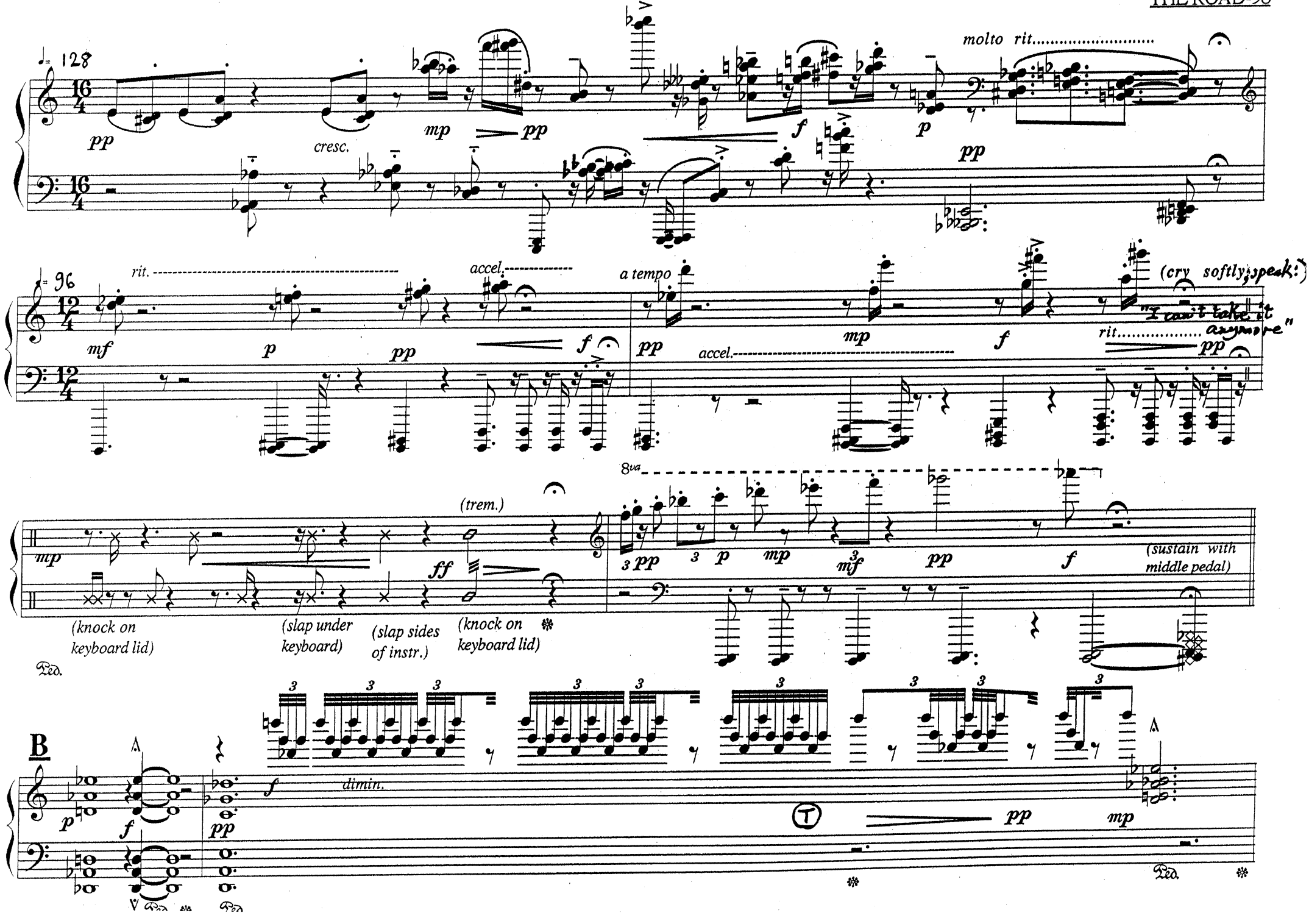
(Texts are optional. Performer may also change or add ad lib., in any language.)

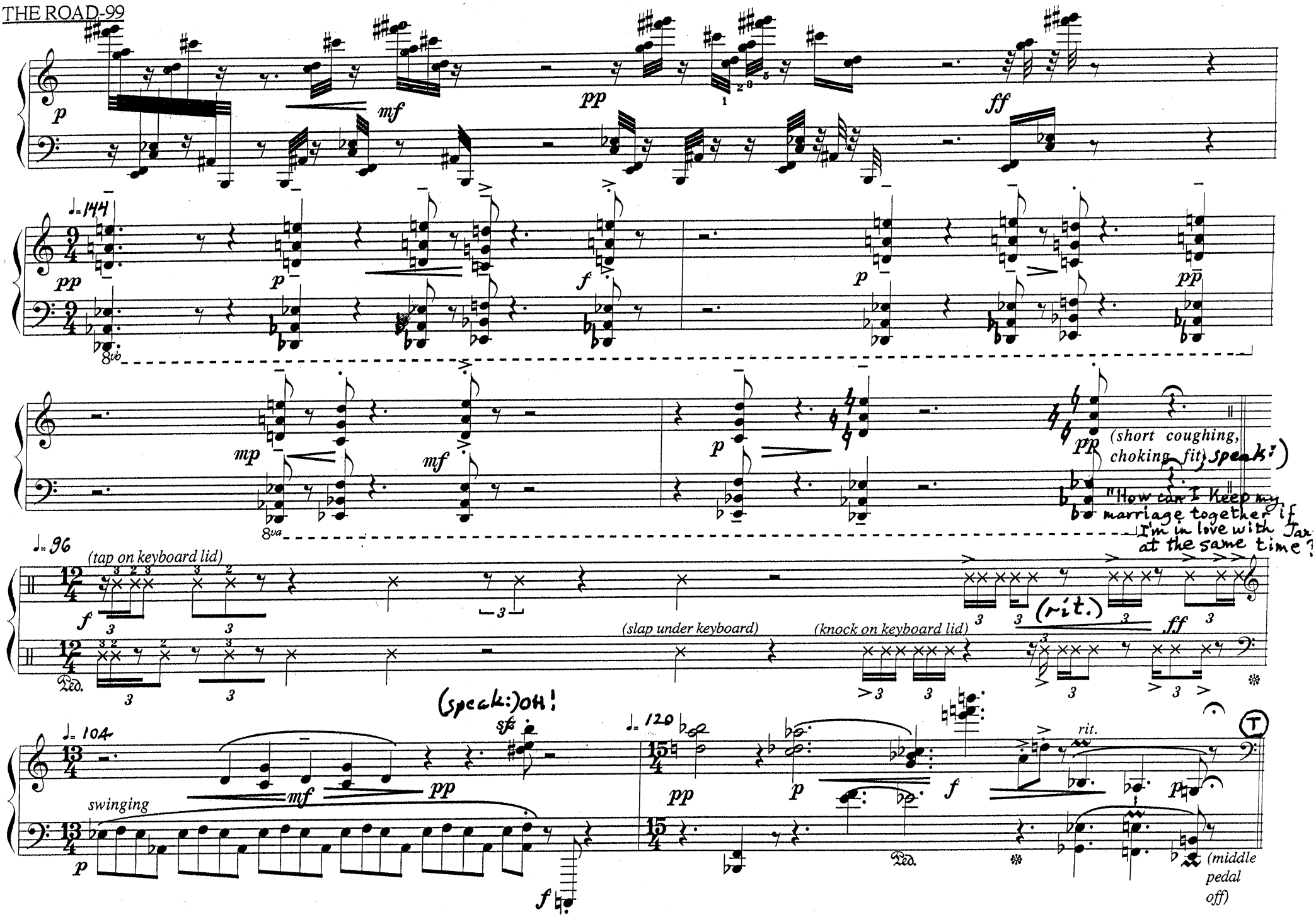
for Chris Newman

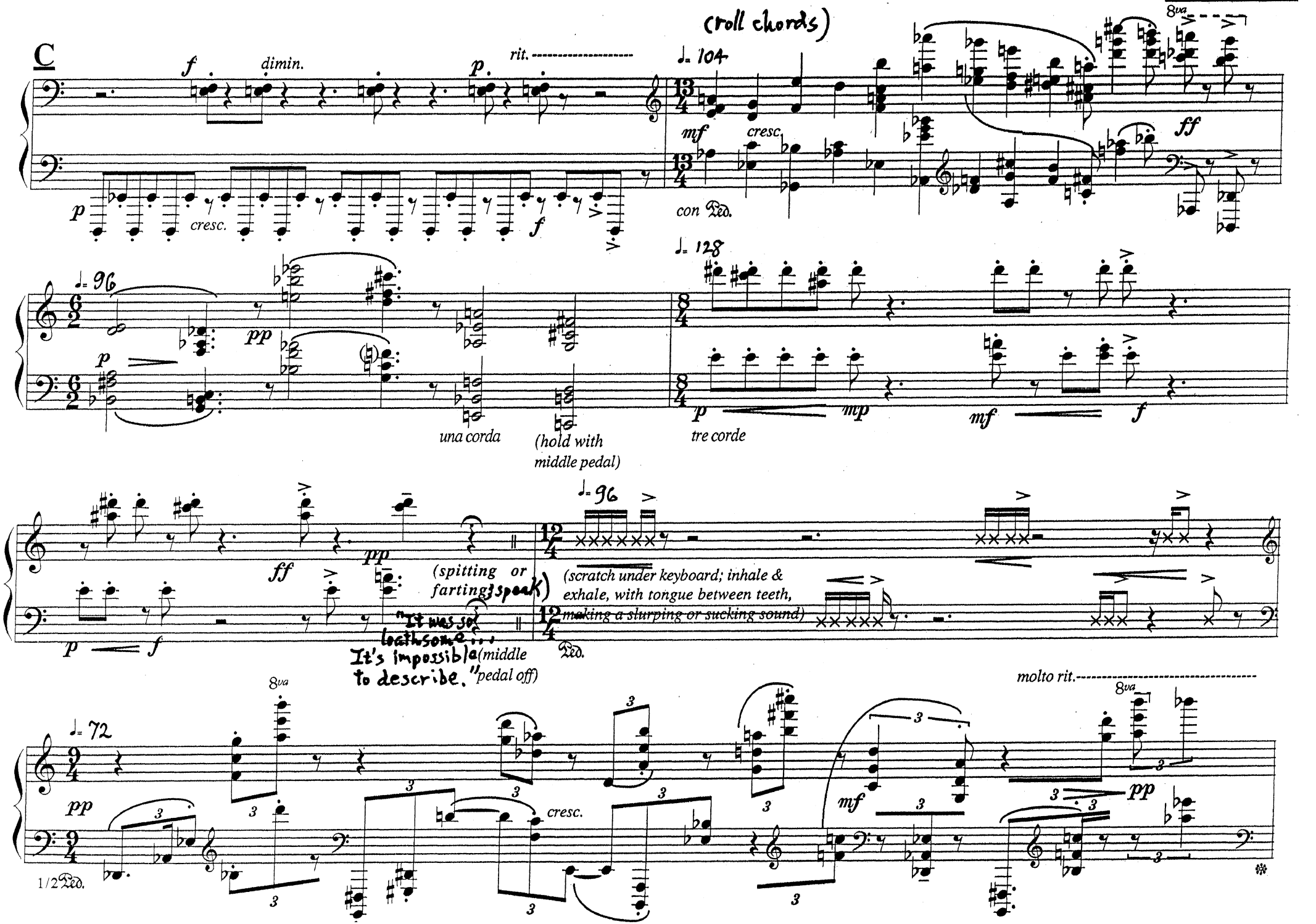
Frederic Rzewski (1998)

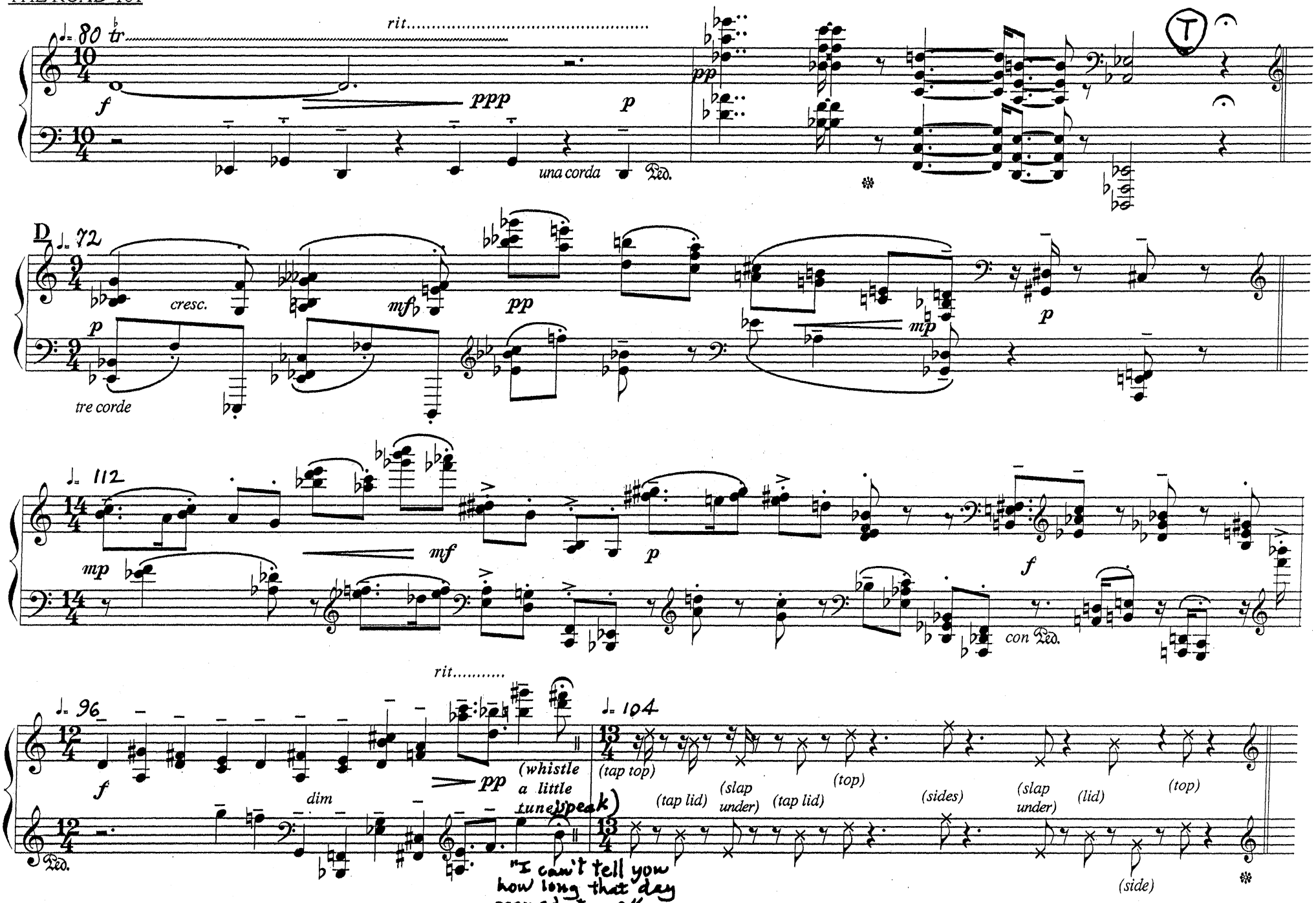


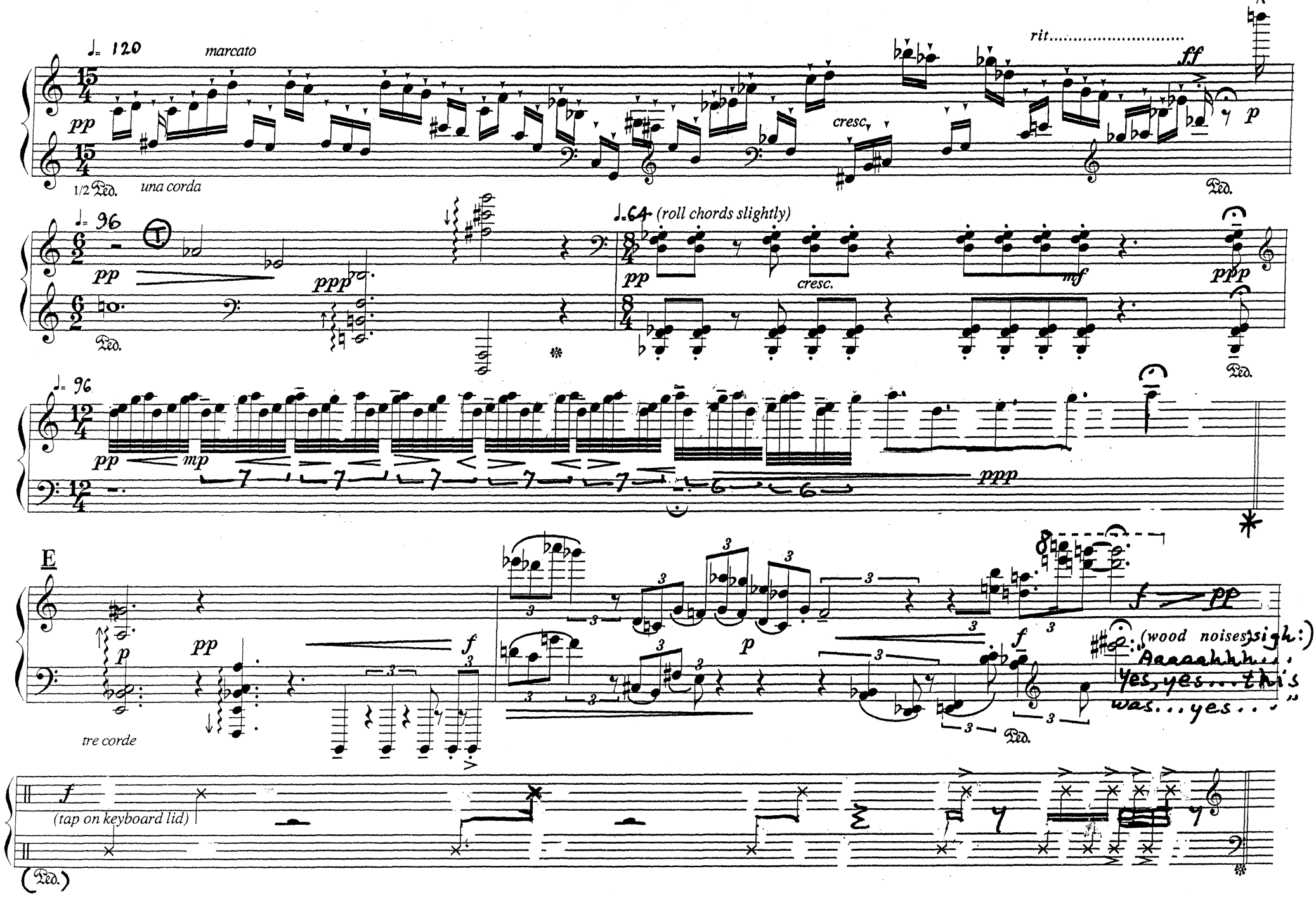
Copyleft Sound Pool Music (BMI), 1999

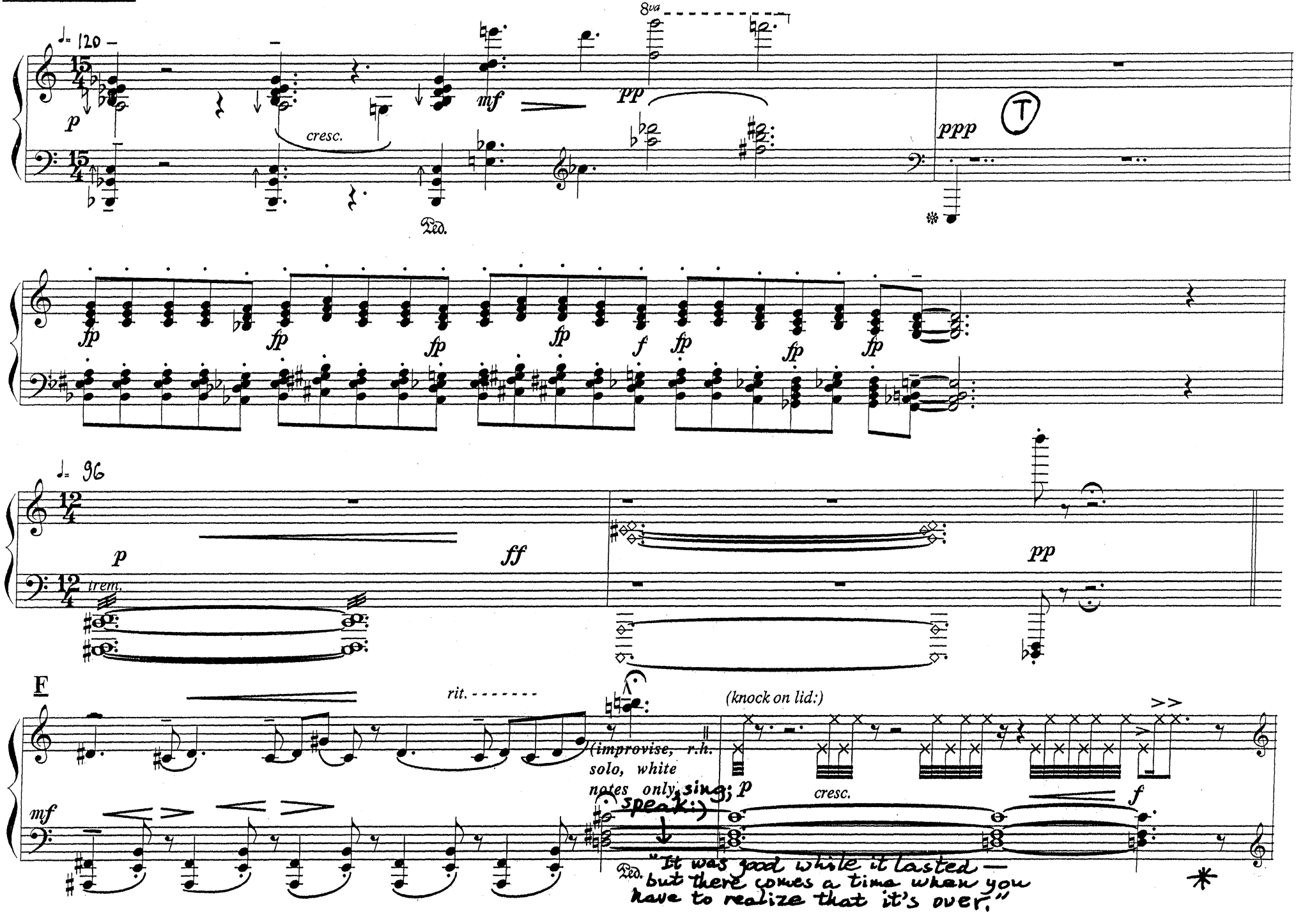

♩= 128
pp
cresc.
mp
pp
f
p
molto rit.
pp
♩= 96
rit.
accel.
a tempo
mf
p
pp
f
pp
mp
f
(cry softly; speak:)
"I can't take it anymore"
rit.
pp
accel.
8va
(trem.)
mp
ff
3 pp
3 p
mp
3 mf
pp
f
(sustain with middle pedal)
(knock on keyboard lid)
(slap under keyboard)
(slap sides of instr.)
(knock on keyboard lid)
Ped.
B
p
f
pp
f
dimin.
pp
mp
Ped.

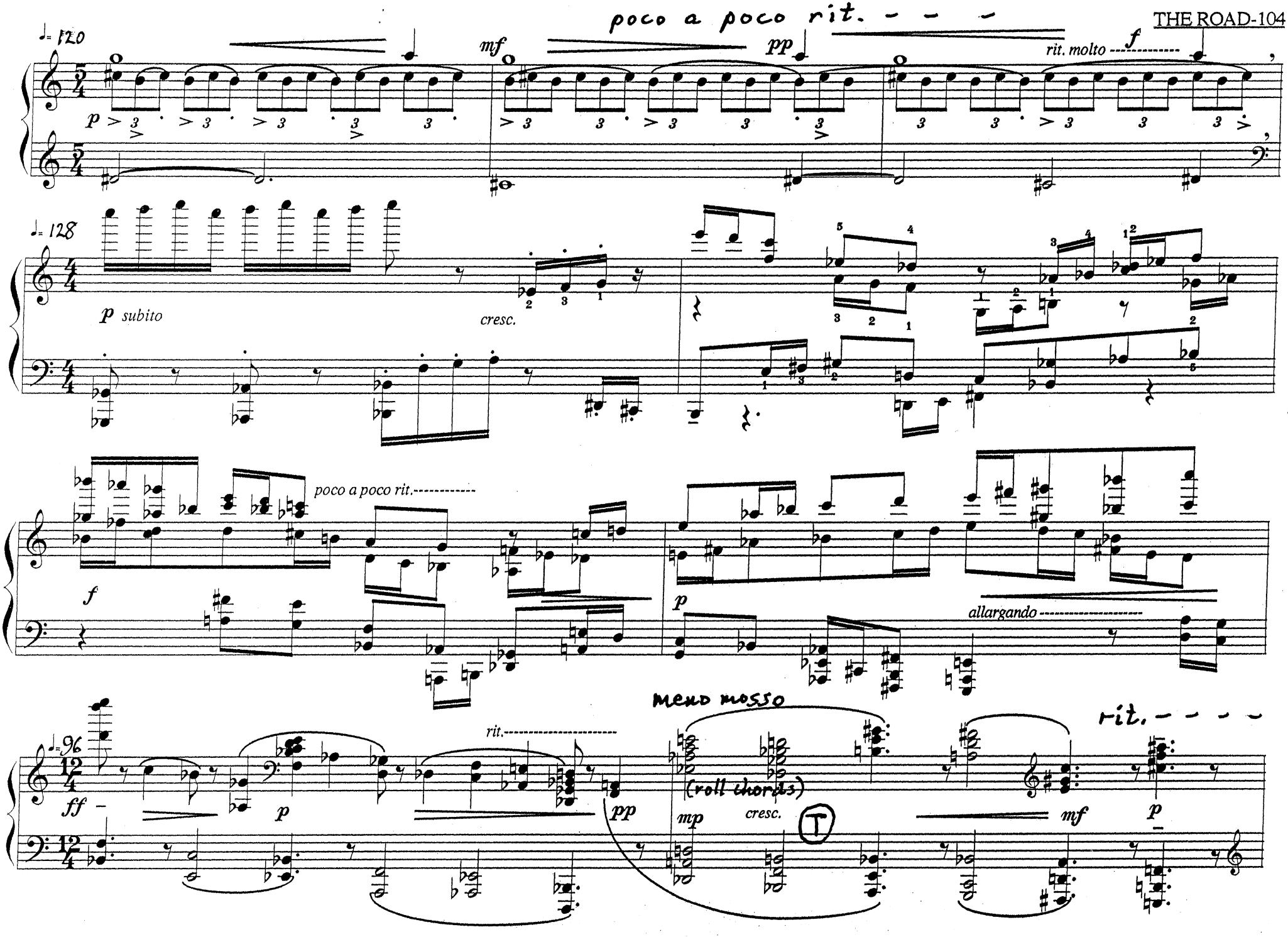

p
mf
pp
ff
♩= 144
pp
p
f
p
pp
8vb
mp
mf
p
pp
(short coughing, choking fit) speak:)
"How can I keep my marriage together if I'm in love with Jan at the same time?
8va
♩= 96
(tap on keyboard lid)
f
(slap under keyboard)
(knock on keyboard lid)
(rit.)
ff
Ped.
(speak:)OH!
sfz
♩= 104
swinging
mf
pp
p
f
♩= 120
pp
p
f
rit.
p
Ped.
(middle pedal off)

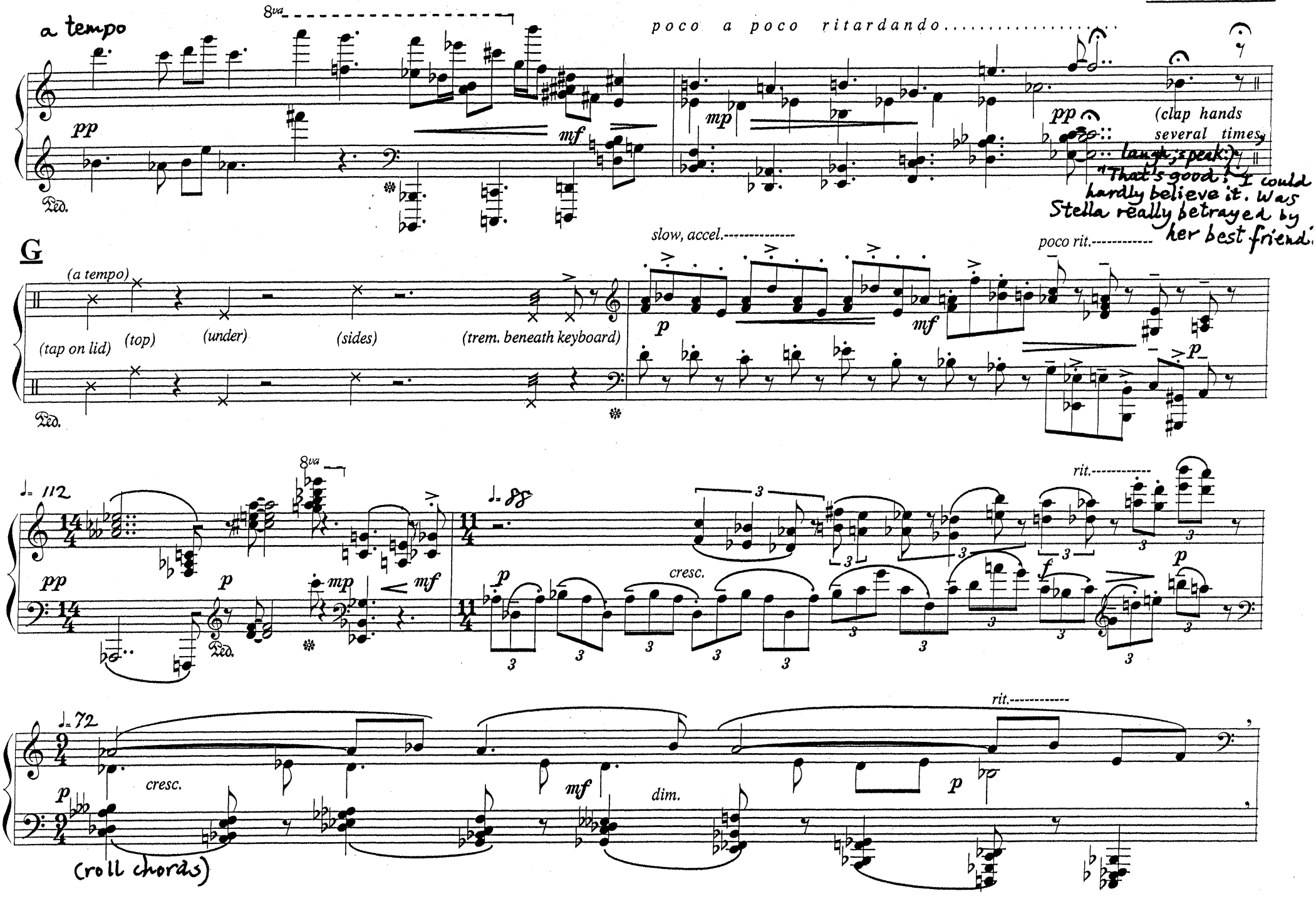

(roll chords)
C
f
dimin.
p
rit.
♩= 104
8va
mf
cresc.
ff
p
cresc.
f
con Ped.
♩= 96
pp
p
una corda
(hold with middle pedal)
♩= 128
p
mp
mf
f
tre corde
ff
pp
(spitting or farting? speak)
"It was so loathsome... It's impossible to describe."
(middle pedal off)
♩= 96
(scratch under keyboard; inhale & exhale, with tongue between teeth, making a slurping or sucking sound)
Ped.
molto rit.
♩= 72
8va
pp
cresc.
mf
pp
1/2 Ped.

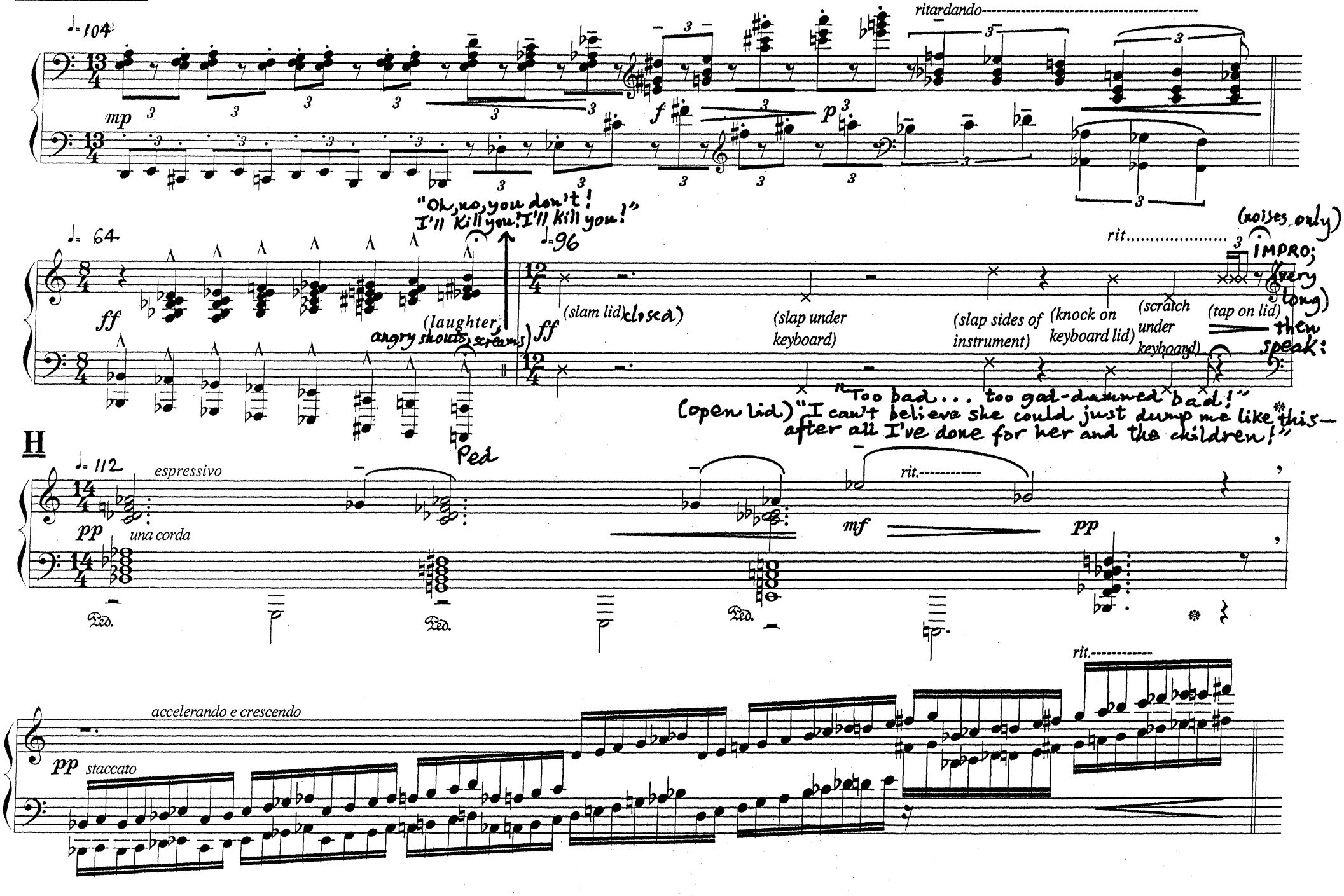

♩= 80
tr
rit.....
f
ppp
p
una corda
Ped.
pp
T
D
♩= 72
cresc.
mfb
pp
p
tre corde
mp
p
♩= 112
mf
mp
p
f
con Ped.
rit.....
♩= 96
f
dim
pp
(whistle a little tune)
(speak)
"I can't tell you how long that day seamed to me"
♩= 104
(tap top)
(tap lid)
(slap under)
(tap lid)
(top)
(sides)
(slap under)
(lid)
(top)
(side)
Ped.

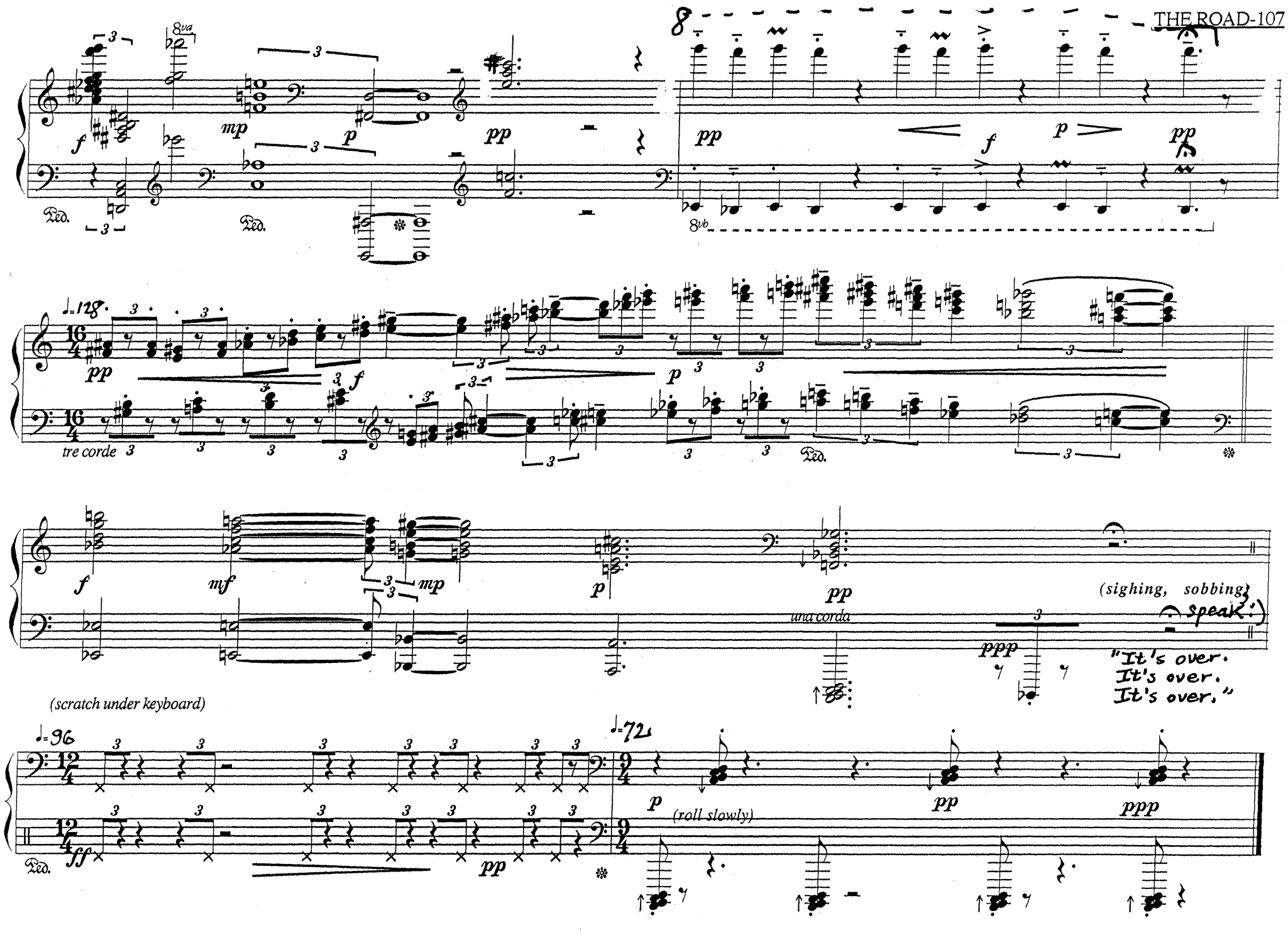

♩= 120
marcato
pp
1/2 Ped.
una corda
cresc.
rit.
ff
p
Ped.
♩= 96
pp
ppp
Ped.
♩= 64 (roll chords slightly)
pp
cresc.
mf
ppp
Ped.
♩= 96
pp
mp
ppp
E
p
pp
f
tre corde
p
f
f
pp
(wood noises) sigh:)
"Aaaaahhh...
Yes, yes... this
was... yes..."
Ped.
f
(tap on keyboard lid)
(Ped.)


♩= 120
8va
p
mf
pp
cresc.
Ped.
ppp
T
fp
f
♩= 96
ff
trem.
F
rit.
(improvise, r.h. solo, white notes only, sing; p speak:)
(knock on lid:)
cresc.
"It was good while it lasted — but there comes a time when you have to realize that it's over."


poco a poco rit. - - -
♩= 120
mf
pp
rit. molto
f
p
♩= 128
p subito
cresc.
poco a poco rit.
f
p
allargando
meno mosso
rit. - - -
♩= 96
ff
p
rit.
pp
(roll chords)
mp
cresc.
mf
p


a tempo
8va
poco a poco ritardando.....
pp
mf
mp
pp
(clap hands several times, laugh, speak:) "That's good! I could hardly believe it. Was Stella really betrayed by her best friend?"
Ped.
G
slow, accel.----------
poco rit.----------
(a tempo)
(tap on lid)
(top)
(under)
(sides)
(trem. beneath keyboard)
p
mf
p
Ped.
♩= 112
8va
pp
p
mp
mf
Ped.
♩= 88
cresc.
rit.----------
f
p
♩= 72
p
cresc.
mf
dim.
rit.----------
p
(roll chords)


♩= 104
mp
ritardando
f
p
"Oh, no, you don't!
I'll kill you! I'll kill you!"
♩= 64
ff
(laughter, angry shouts, screams)
♩= 96
ff
(slam lid closed)
(slap under keyboard)
(slap sides of instrument)
(knock on keyboard lid)
(scratch under keyboard)
(tap on lid)
rit.
(noises only)
IMPRO; (very long)
then speak:
(open lid) "Too bad... too gad-damned bad!
I can't believe she could just dump me like this—
after all I've done for her and the children!"
Ped
H
♩= 112
espressivo
pp
una corda
Ped.
rit.
mf
pp
accelerando e crescendo
pp
staccato
rit.


8va
f
mp
p
pp
Ped.
8vb
pp
f
p
♩=128
pp
f
p
tre corde
Ped.
f
mf
mp
p
pp
una corda
(sighing, sobbing)
speak:)
ppp
"It's over.
It's over.
It's over."
(scratch under keyboard)
♩=96
ff
pp
Ped.
♩=72
p
(roll slowly)
pp
ppp