Concerto for prepared piano and percussion

Instrument list

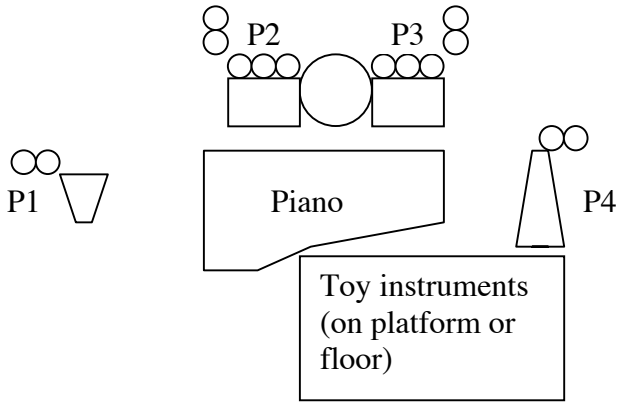
Grand Piano with lid off.

Player 1: Glockenspiel, Ukulele, Toy Piano, 2 Bongos, Suspended Cymbal, 2 Stones, 3 Tuned Bowls, Nipple Gong (20”).

Player 2: Crotales (F#, A, B, C#, E), Toy Glockenspiel, Vibraphone (shared with player 3), China Cymbal, Suspended Cymbal, 2 Stones, 3 Tuned Bowls, 3 Wood Blocks, 2 Bongos, Snare Drum, 2 Tom Toms, Bass Drum.

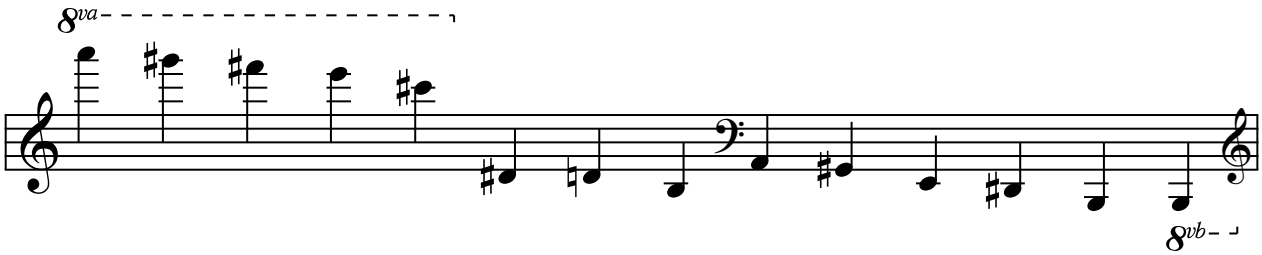
Player 3: Crotales (E, G#, B, D#), Toy Piano, Vibraphone (shared with player 2), China Cymbal, Suspended Cymbal, 2 Stones, 3 Tuned Bowls, 2 Bongos, Snare Drum, 2 Tom Toms, Bass Drum.

Player 4: Xylophone, Toy Glockenspiel, Melodica, 2 Bongos, Suspended Cymbal, 2 Stones, 3 Tuned Bowls, Nipple Gong (16”).



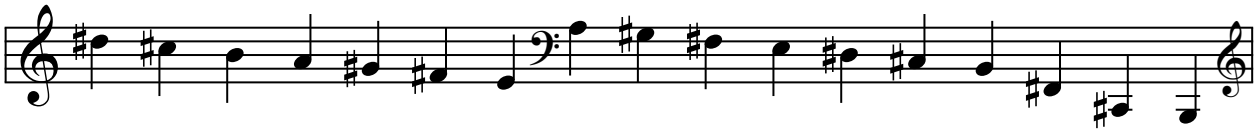
Instructions for preparing the piano

Paper



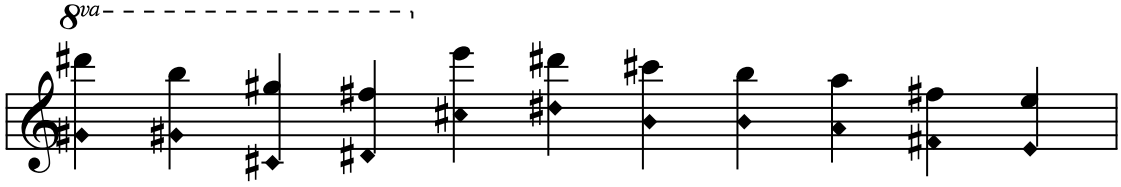
Use strips of 80 gsm paper approximately 4 x 8 cm. Lace the strips under the middle string (for treble pitches), or one double or single string (for bass pitches). The upper octave should be a sharp, biting attack. Middle and lower register pitches should have a buzzing quality.

Rubber



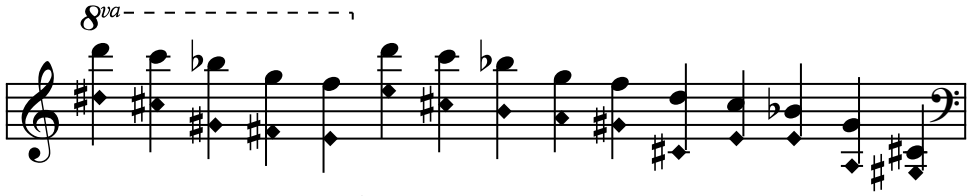
Use strips of flat rubber elastic approximately 2.5 cm wide and 1 mm thick. Lace the strips under the middle string (for treble pitches), or one double or single string (for bass pitches). These notes should have a muted quality, and a plucked quality to the attack.

Single Screws



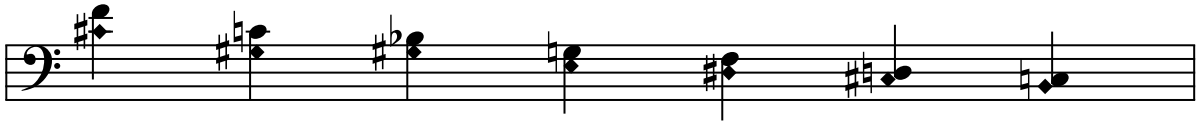
Use wood screws approximately 4 cm long, fitting snugly between the strings. Screw one screw between two of the three treble strings and carefully slide the screw along the string to tune the undertone. The sound quality consists of the original (higher) pitch, the (lower) undertone, and a slight buzz.

Double Screws or bolts



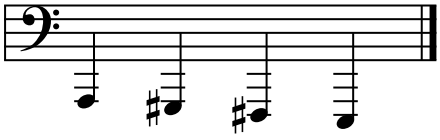
Use wood screws (as above) or machine bolts 3-4mm x 2.5 cm, fitting snugly between the strings. Place two screws in the two gaps between each set of three strings, to produce a gong like sound consisting only of the l ower undertone (and any resultant harmonics).

Cardboard



Use cardboard pieces 2 x 4 x .5 cm. Place pieces in the two gaps betweeneach set of three strings. Use as many pieces as necessary for a snug fit to produce the given undertone.

Large bolt or thick rubber strips



Use bolts .6 x 4 cm coated in electrical tape, or rubber strips approximately 2 mm x 4 cm. Place the bolts between double strings, or lace the strips between single strings at the node of the fifth harmonic.

Concerto for Prepared Piano and Percussion

Commissioned by the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary (1957-2007).
This commission has been made possible through the generosity of Bruce & Jocelyn Wolfe.

P1: Glockenspiel
P2: Crotales, 1 tuned bowl (F#, B, E)
P3: Bowed Vibraphone
P4: Gong

Part 1

Erik Griswold

♩ = 72 *Molto Rubato - Wistful*

Repeat independently 3 Times

Pno

Repeat independently 4 Times

Glockenspiel

P1

2 Crotales & 1 tuned bowl

Repeat independently 4 Times

P2

P3

Gently scrape gong with triangle beater - ad lib

P4

Pno

P1

P2

Bowed Vibraphone

Repeat independently 5 Times

P3

P4

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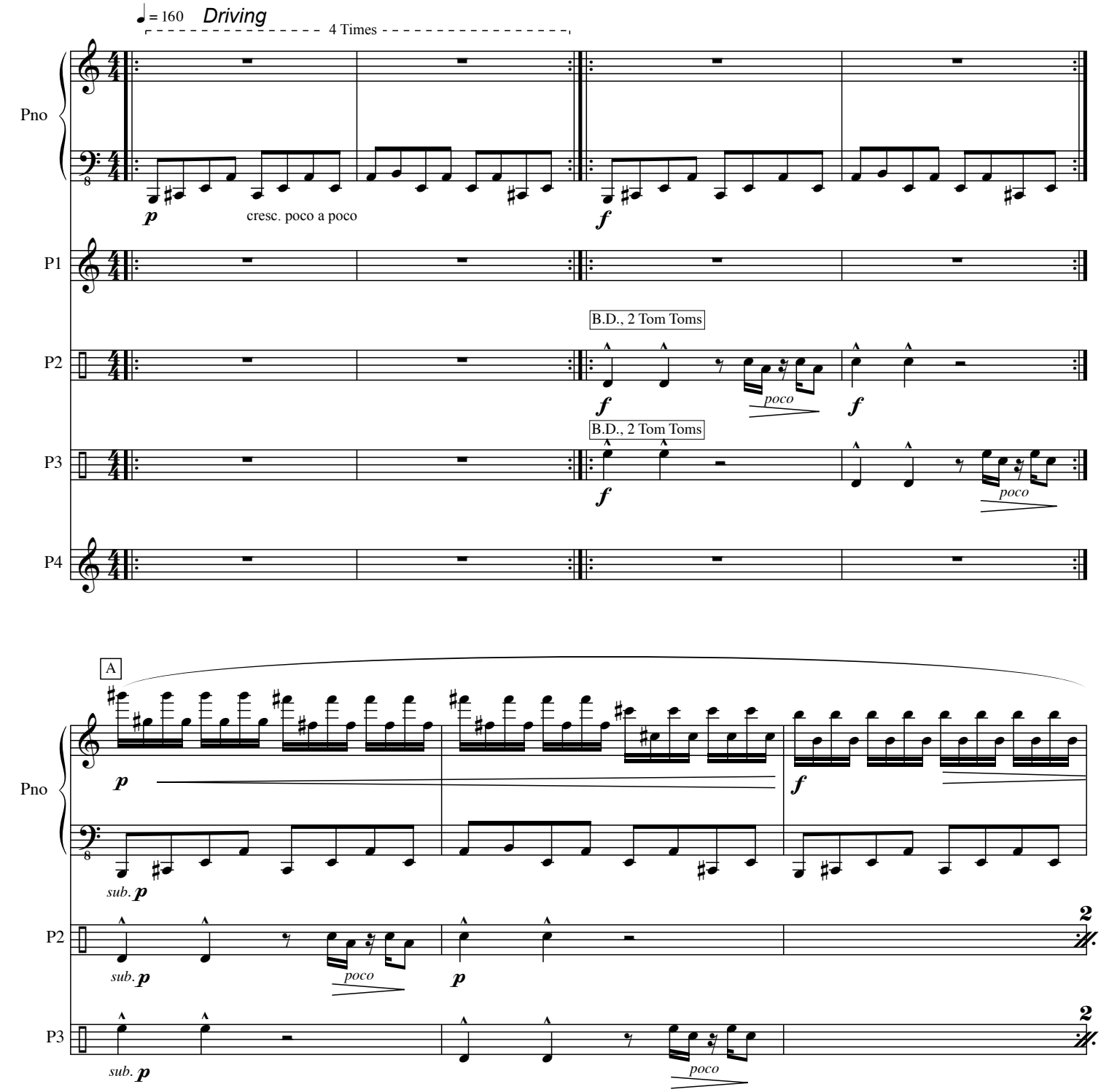
P1: Glockenspiel
P2 & P3: Bass Drum, 2 Tom Toms, China Cymbal, Bowed vibraphone (shared)
P4: Xylophone

Part 2

Erik Griswold



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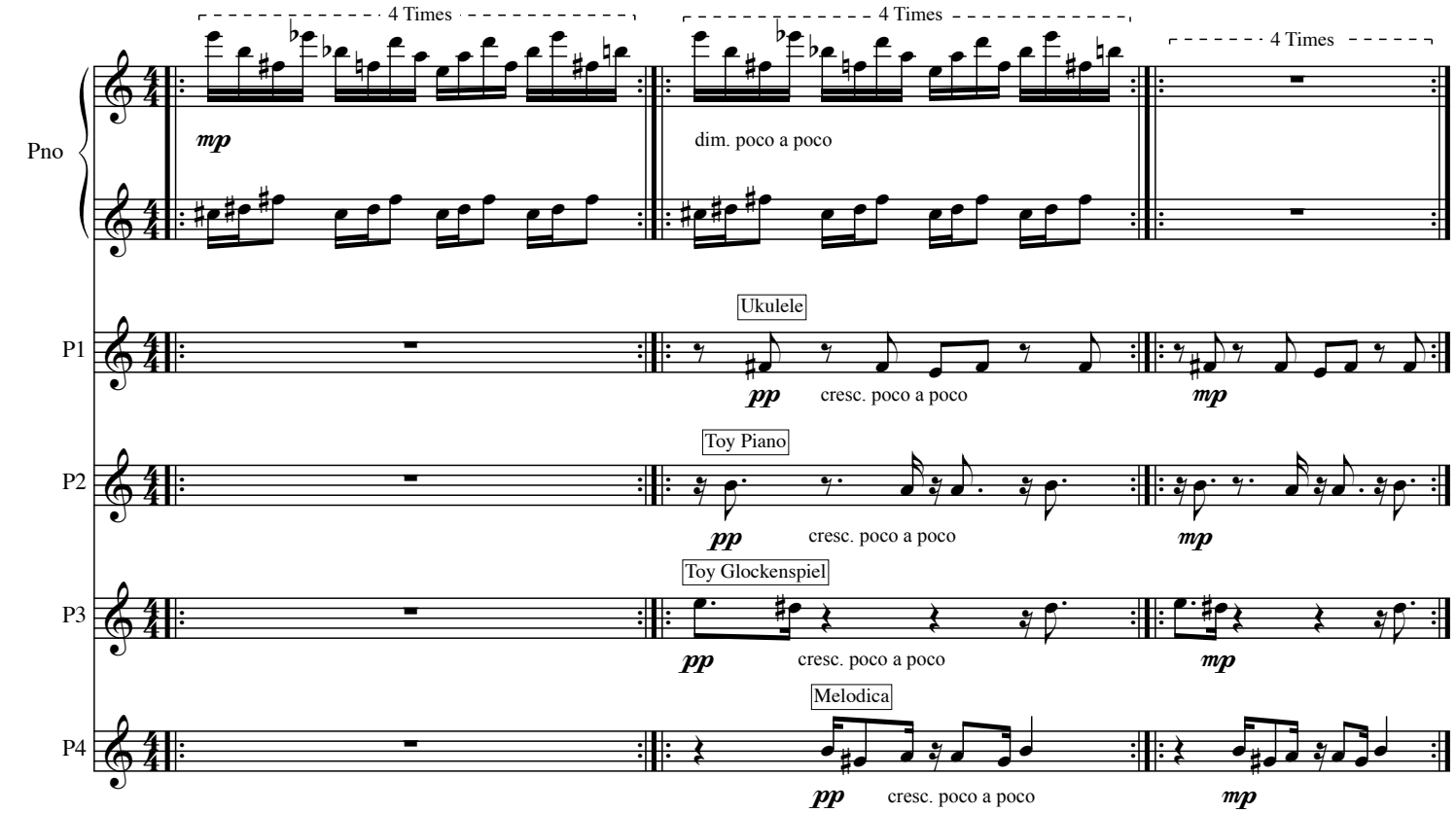
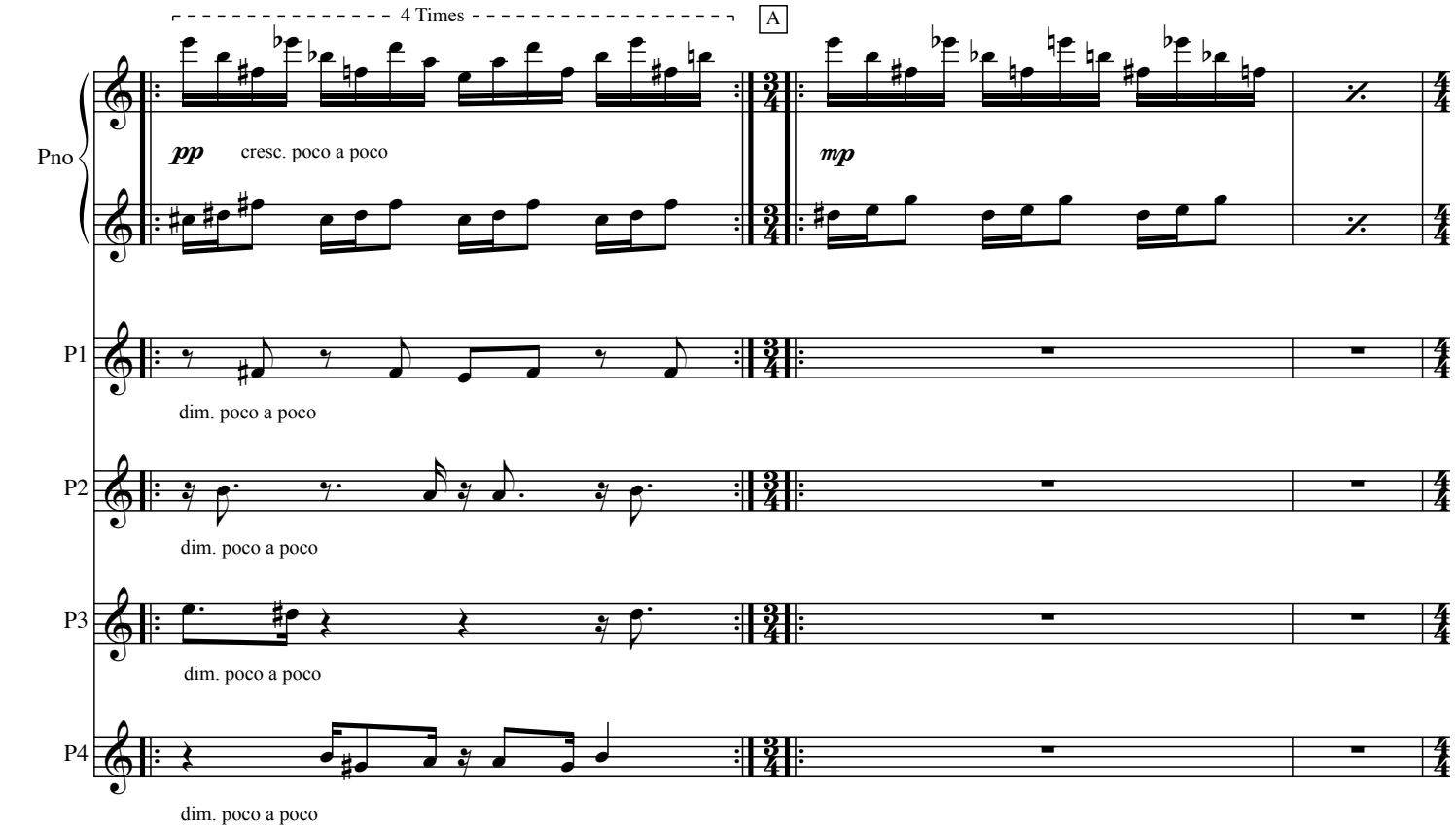
P1: Ukulele
P2: Toy Piano
P3: Toy Glockenspiel
P4: Melodica

Part 3

Erik Griswold

♩ = 88 *Delicate and precise - like miniature clockworks*





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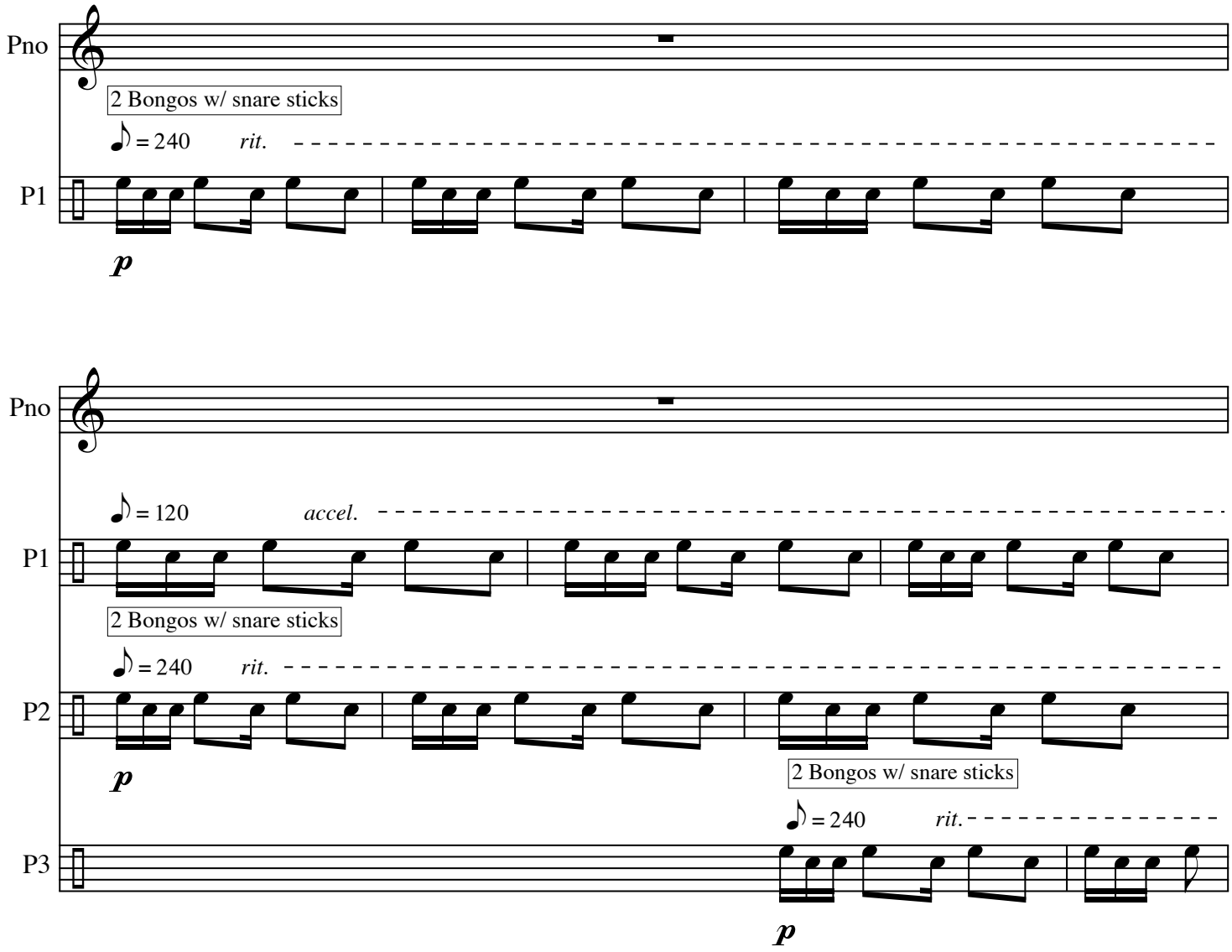
P1 & 4: 2 Bongos, Suspended Cymbal, 2 Stones, 3 Tuned Bowls, Gong
P 2 & 3: 2 Bongos, Suspended Cymbal, 2 Stones, 3 Tuned Bowls, 3 W.B., Bass Drum

Part 4

Erik Griswold



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P1: Glockenspiel
P2 & 3: Tom Tom, Bass Drum
China Cymbal, Bowed Vibraphone (shared)
P4: Xylophone

Part 5

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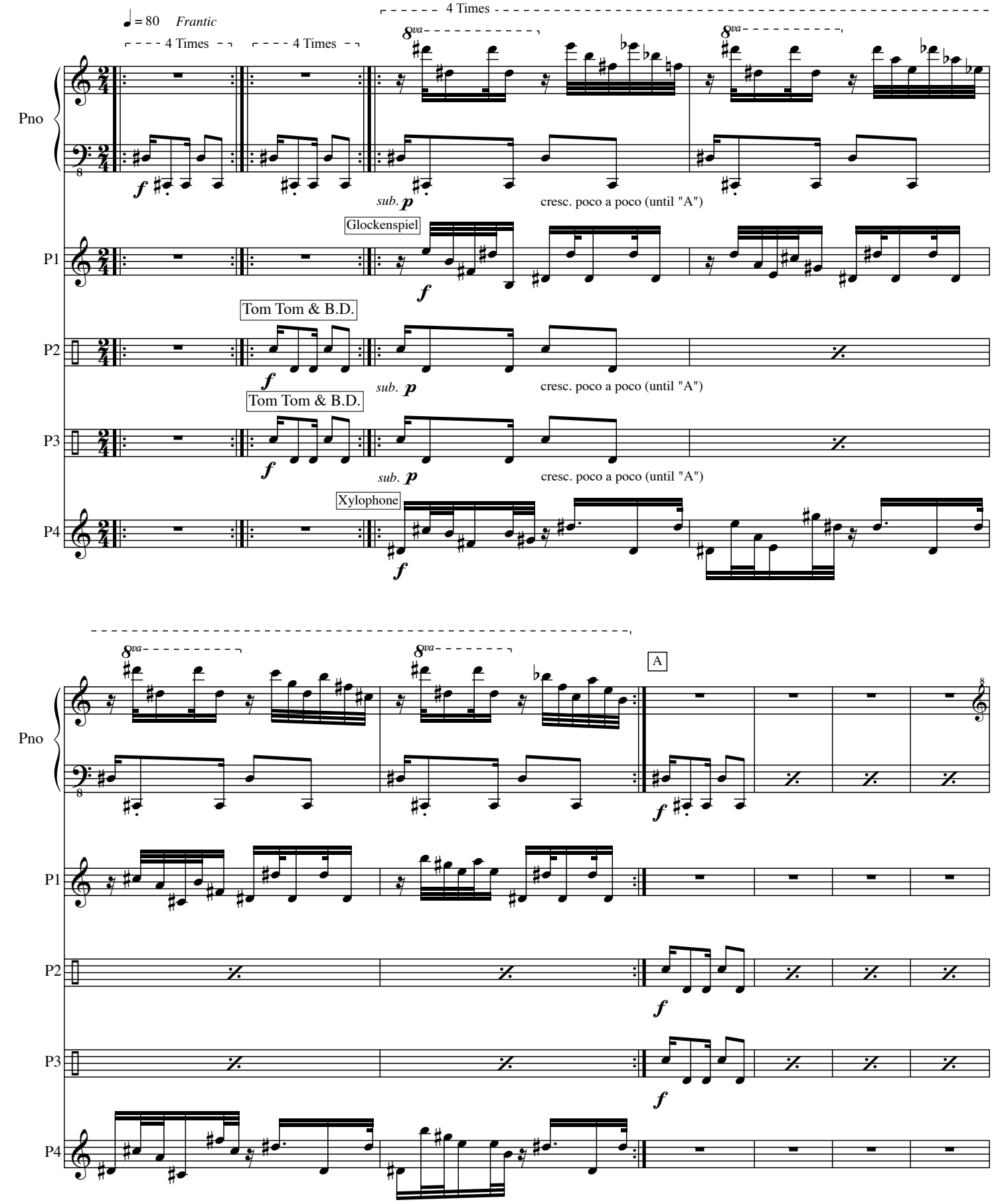

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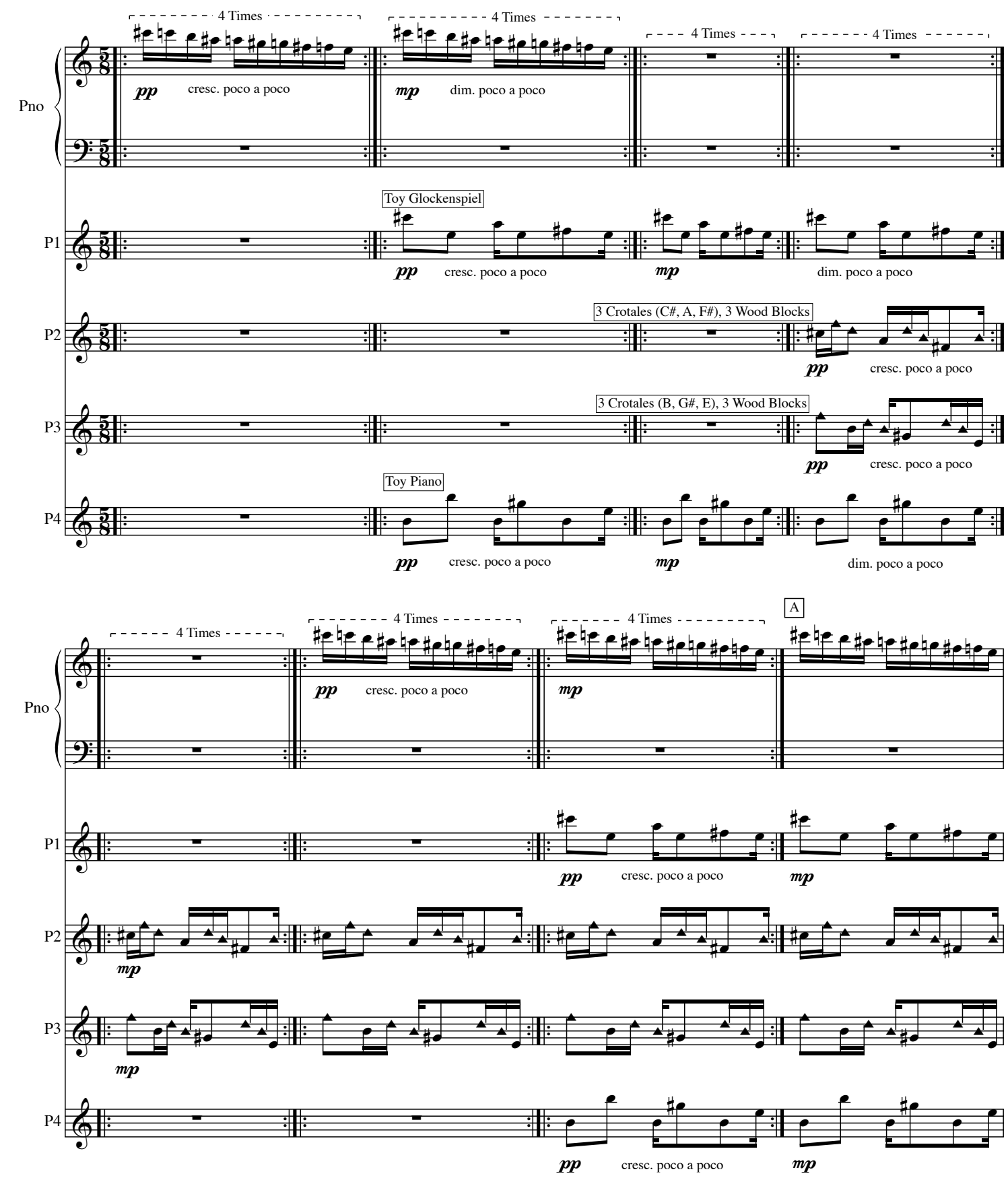
P1: Toy Glockenspiel, Melodica
P2 & 3: 3 Crotales, 3 Wood Blocks, Snare Drum, Bass Drum
P4: Toy Piano

Part 6

Erik Griswold

♩ = 112 *Joyful*



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