2. The Prodigal Parents

(THE ROAD, Mile 42)

Frederic Rzewski (2000)
for Steve ben Israel

4 different wood noises, on different parts of the instrument:
e.g. music rack, top front, keyboard lid, under keyboard

Moderato ♩=69

Voice: I hope to be forgiven by my grandchildren for all

Right hand: (knock) N.B

Left hand: (Close keyboard lid) (slap)

Ped. sempre (Stomp left foot on left pedal)

the useless garbage (fingernails) that the people of my generation

(slap)

will have dumped upon them.

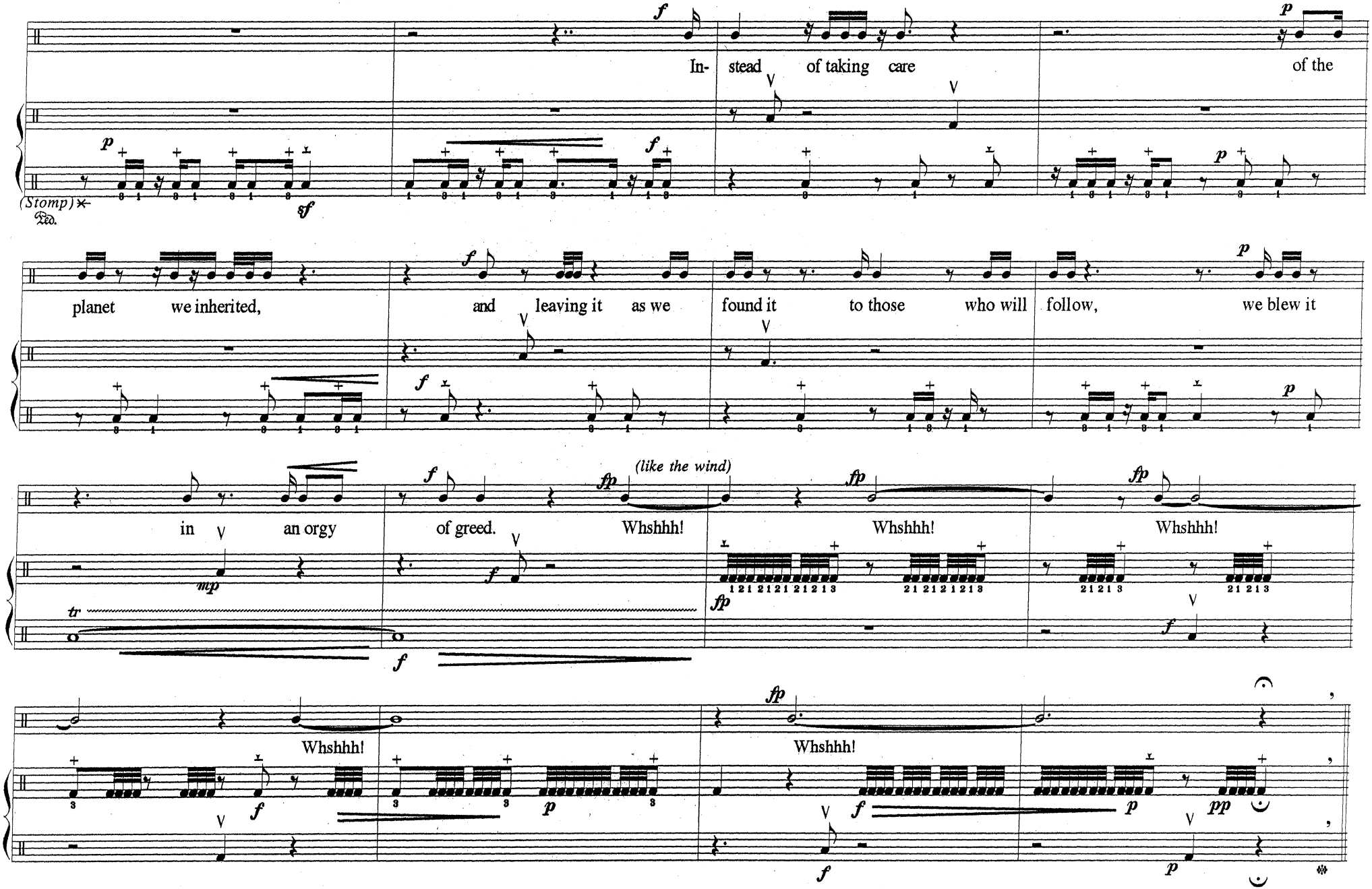
Plop!

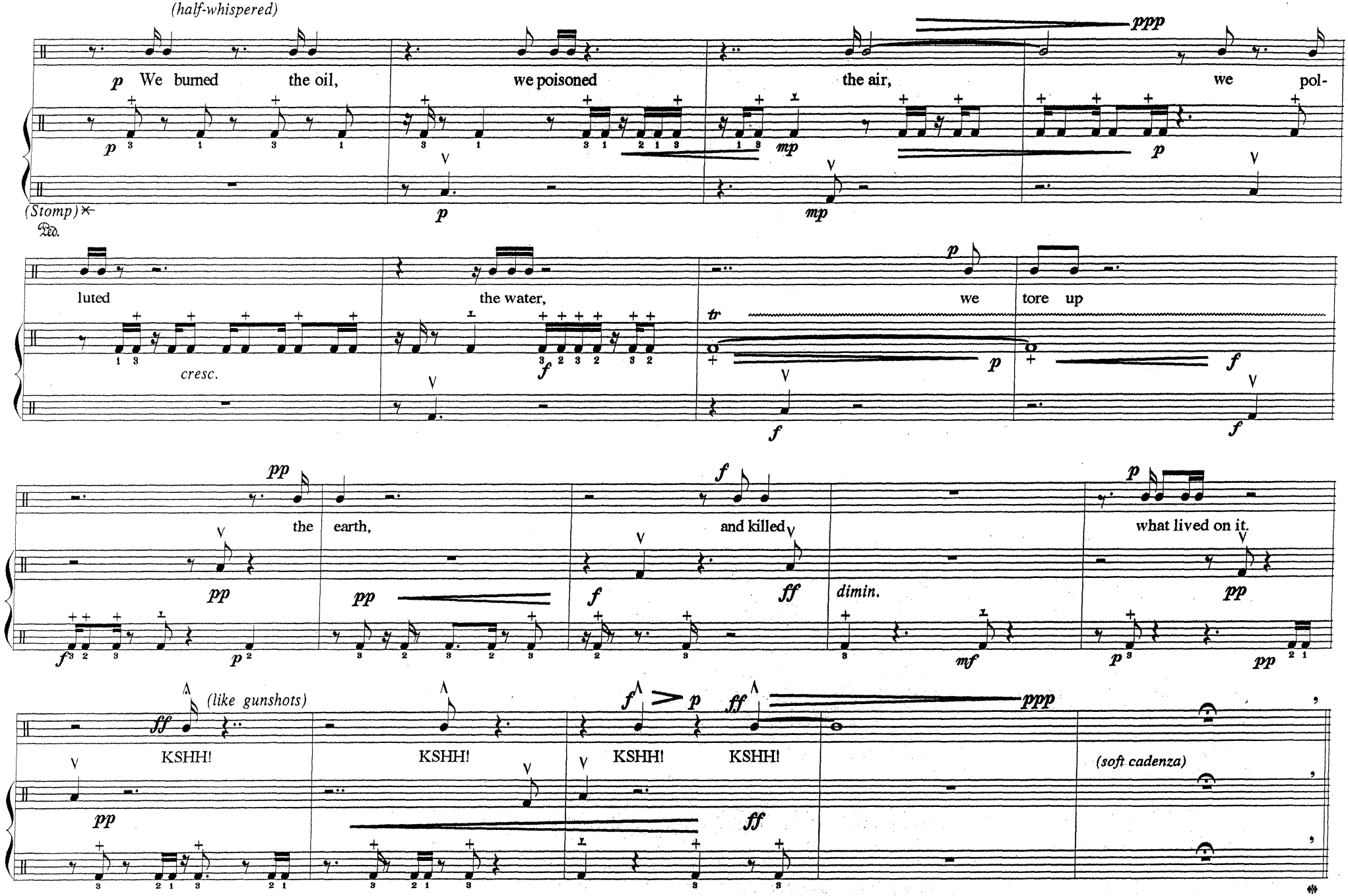
Plop! Plop! Plop! Plop! Plop!

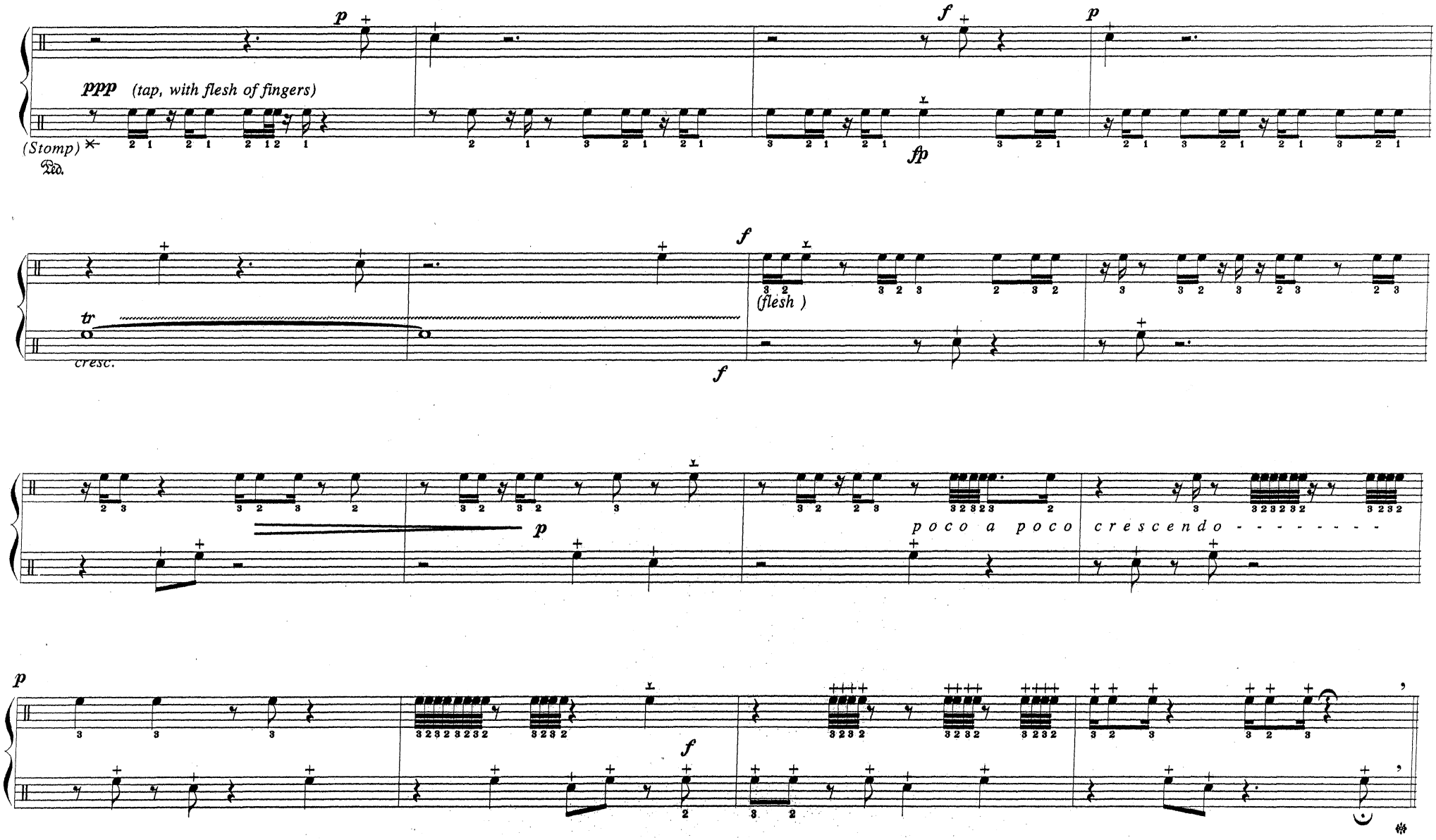
(tap)

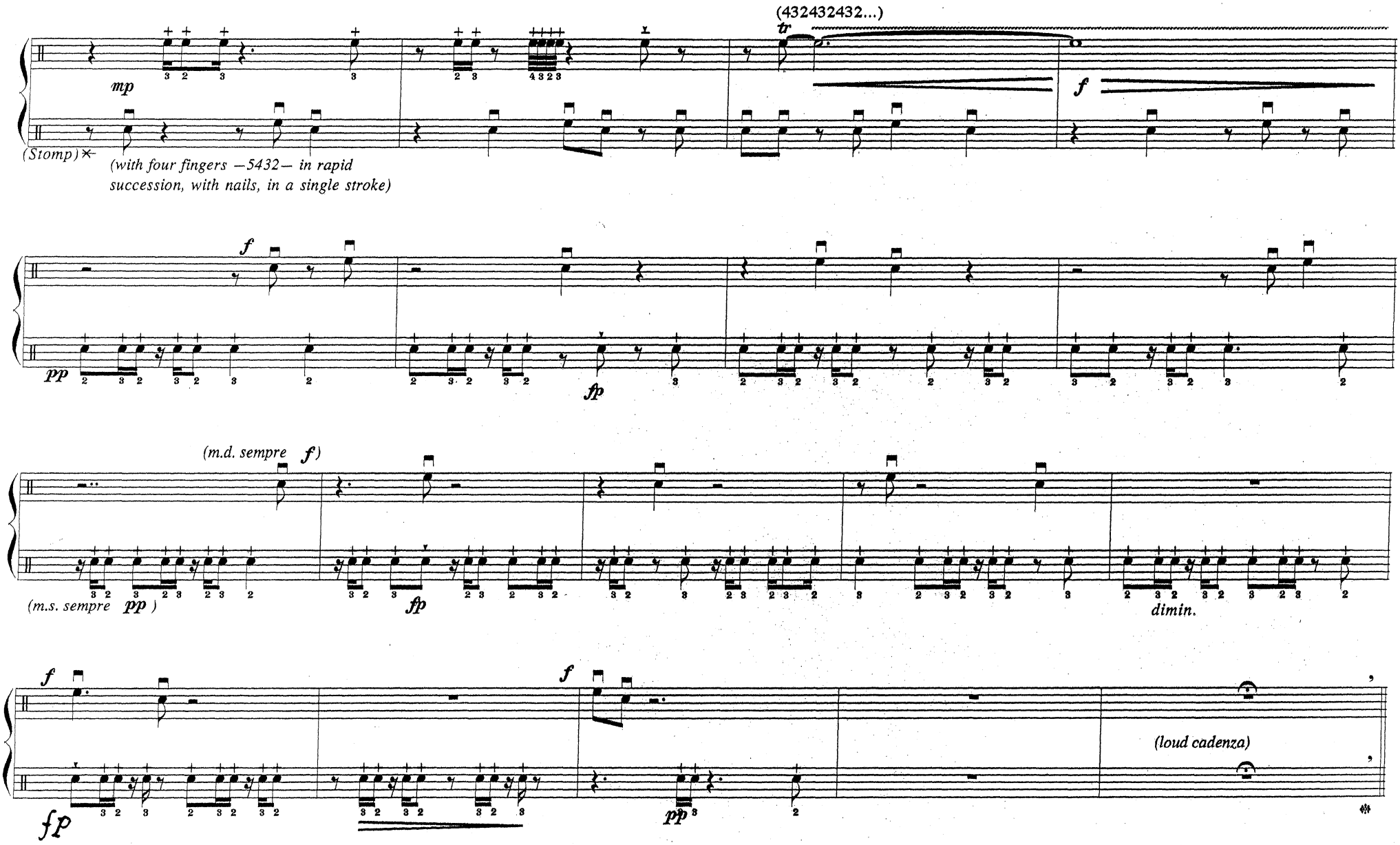
f sub.

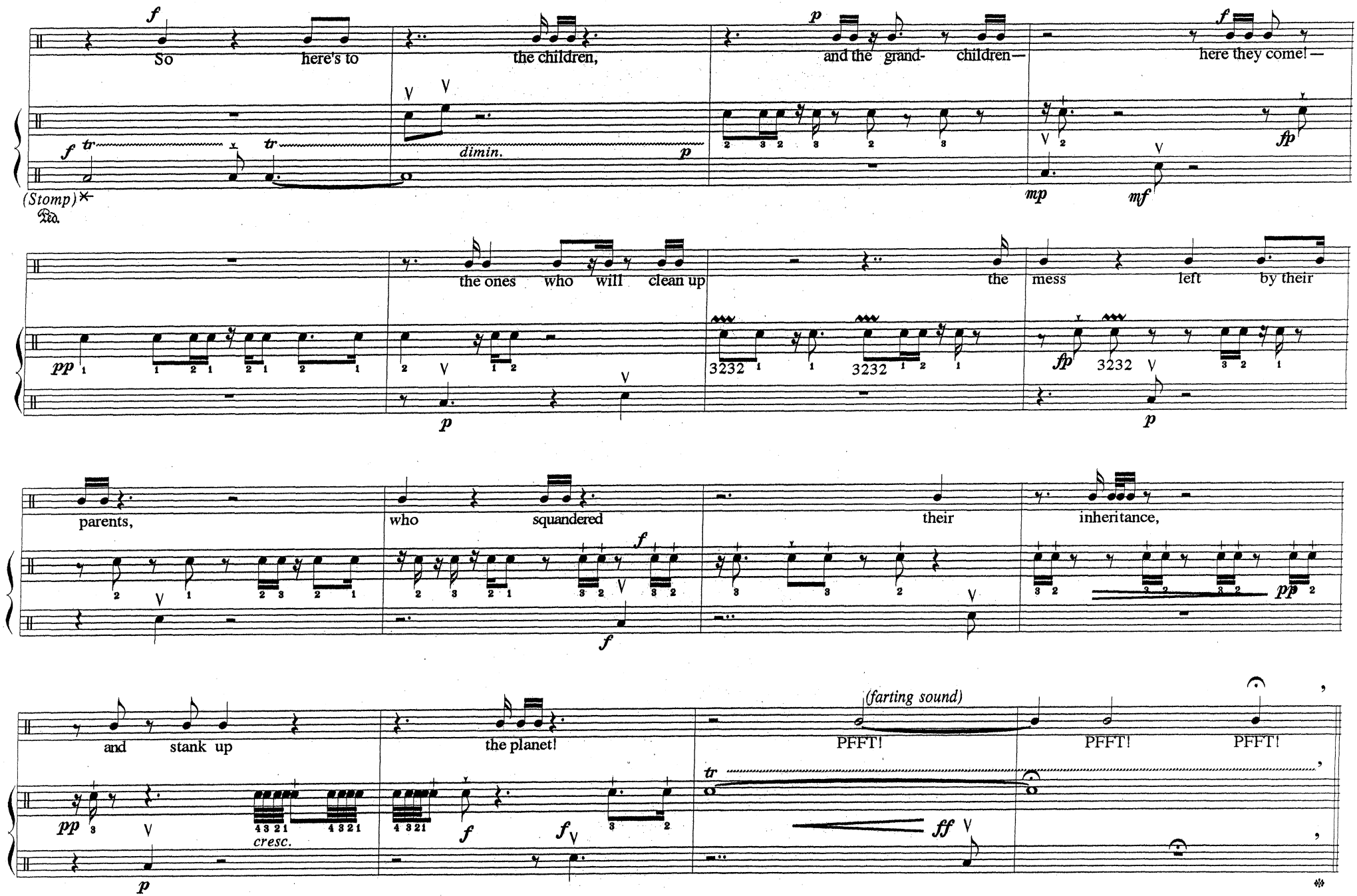
(N.B.: accented notes + with fingernails or knuckles, or slap with palm; all others, tap with flesh of finger)

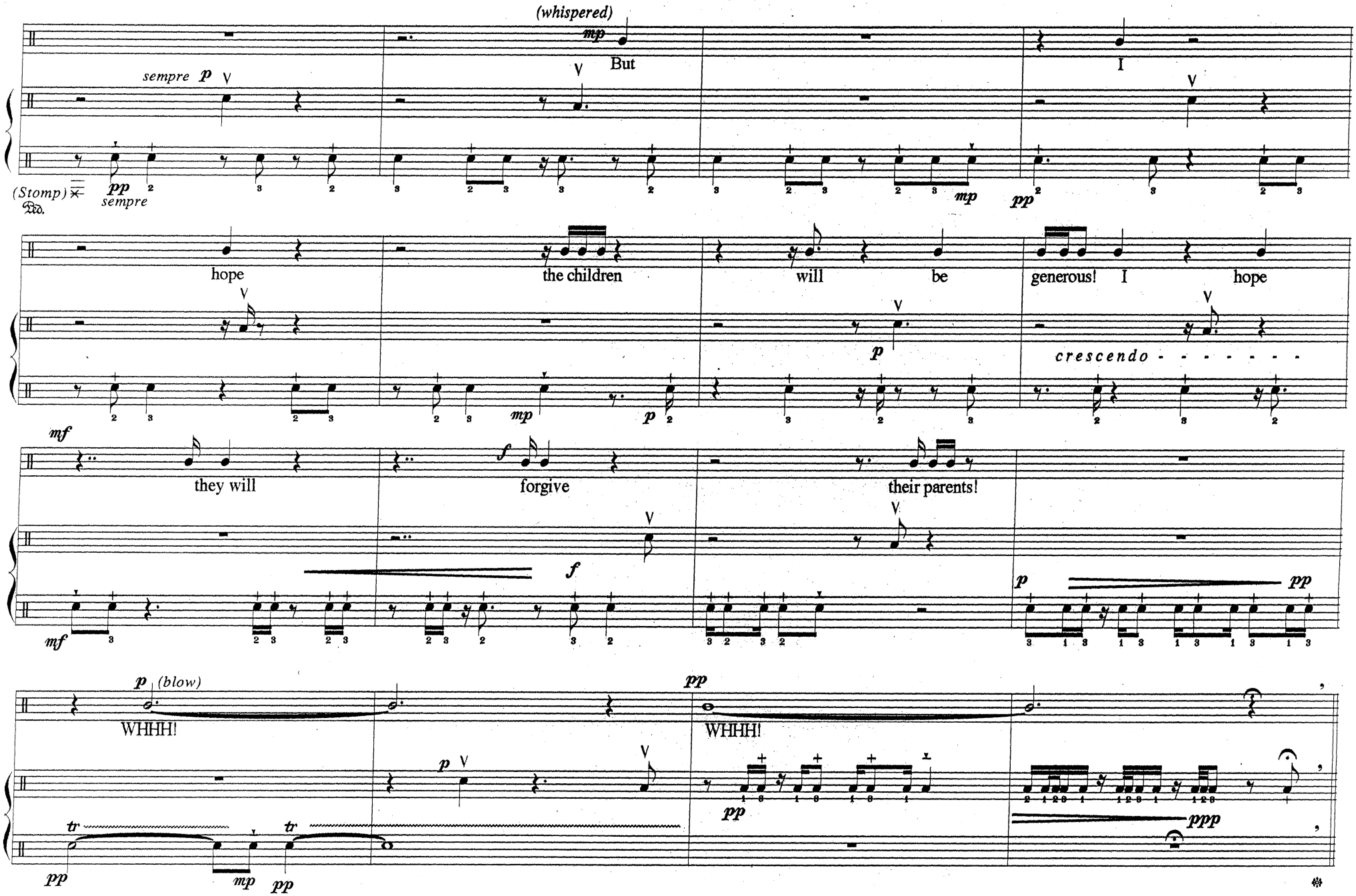

In- stead of taking care of the
planet we inherited, and leaving it as we found it to those who will follow, we blew it
in an orgy of greed. Whshhh! Whshhh! Whshhh!
(like the wind)
Whshhh! Whshhh!
(Stomp)
Ped.

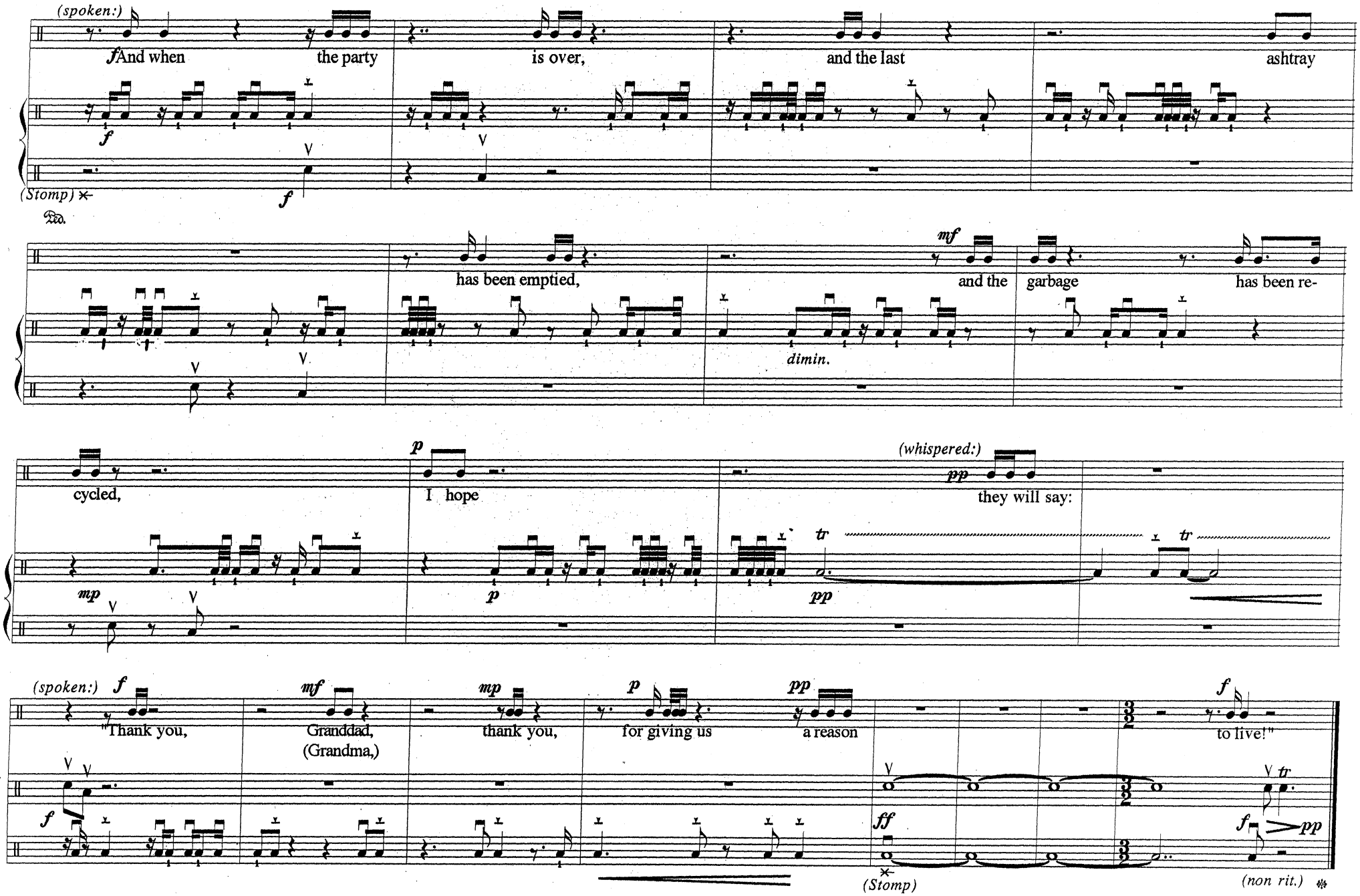

(half-whispered)
p We burned the oil, we poisoned the air, we pol-
ppp
(Stomp)
Ped.
luted the water, we tore up
cresc.
the earth, and killed what lived on it.
dimin.
(like gunshots)
KSHH! KSHH! KSHH! KSHH!
(soft cadenza)


p
ppp (tap, with flesh of fingers)
(Stomp)
Ped.
f
fp
p
f
(flesh)
tr
cresc.
f
p
poco a poco crescendo - - - - - - - -
p
f


(432432432...)
tr
mp
f
(Stomp)
(with four fingers —5432— in rapid succession, with nails, in a single stroke)
f
pp
fp
(m.d. sempre f)
(m.s. sempre pp)
fp
dimin.
f
f
fp
pp
(loud cadenza)


So here's to the children,
and the grand- children—
here they come! —
dimin.
(Stomp)
Ped.
the ones who will clean up
the mess left by their
parents,
who squandered
their inheritance,
and stank up
the planet!
(farting sound)
PFFT!
PFFT!
PFFT!
cresc.


(whispered)
mp
But
I
sempre p
(Stomp)
pp
sempre
mp
pp
hope
the children
will be
generous! I hope
p
crescendo - - - - - - -
mp
p
mf
they will
f
forgive
their parents!
f
mf
p
pp
p (blow)
WHHH!
pp
WHHH!
p
tr
tr
pp
mp
pp
pp
ppp


(spoken:)
And when the party is over, and the last ashtray
(Stomp)
has been emptied, and the garbage has been re-
dimin.
cycled, I hope they will say:
(whispered:)
"Thank you, Granddad, (Grandma,) thank you, for giving us a reason to live!"
(Stomp)
(non rit.)