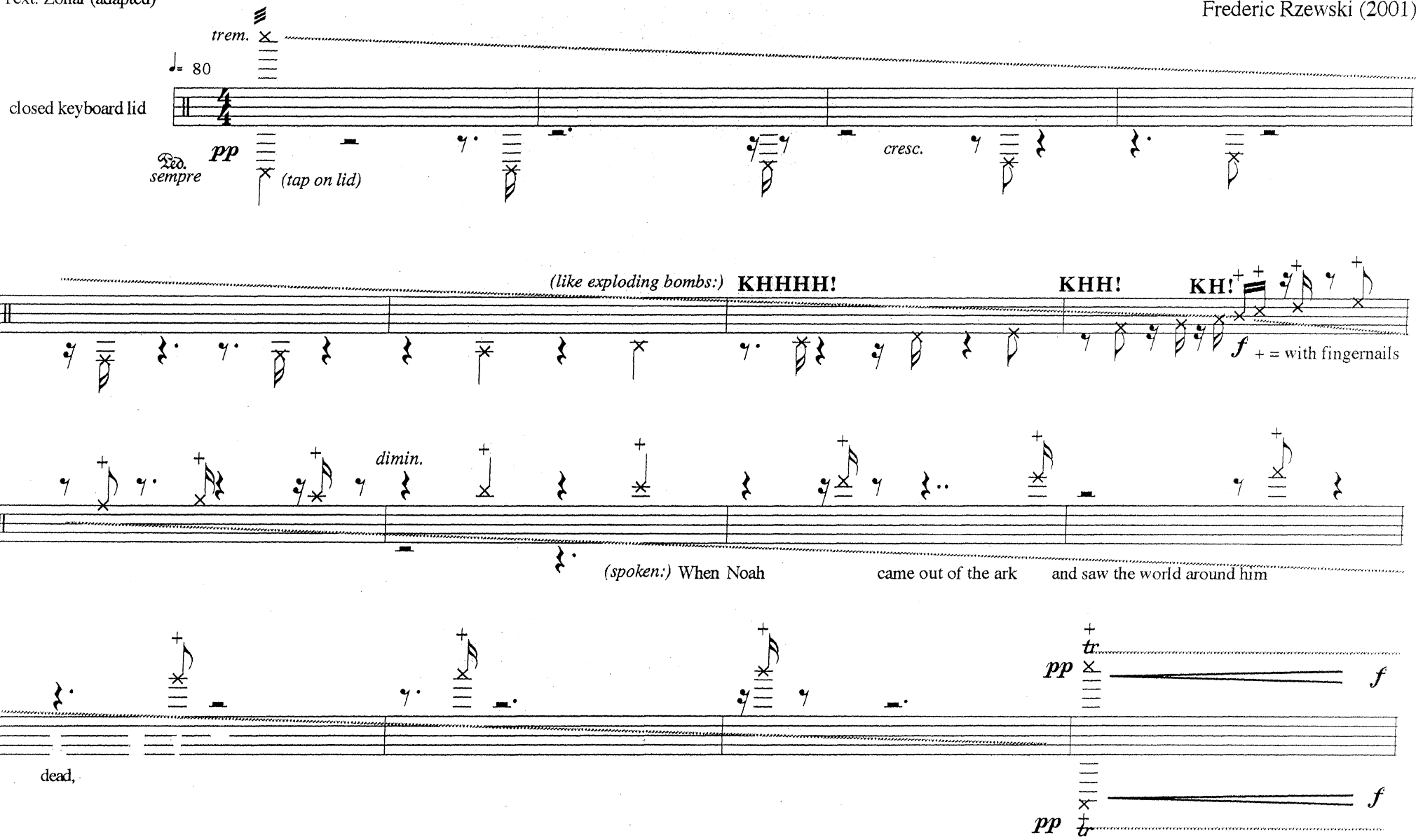
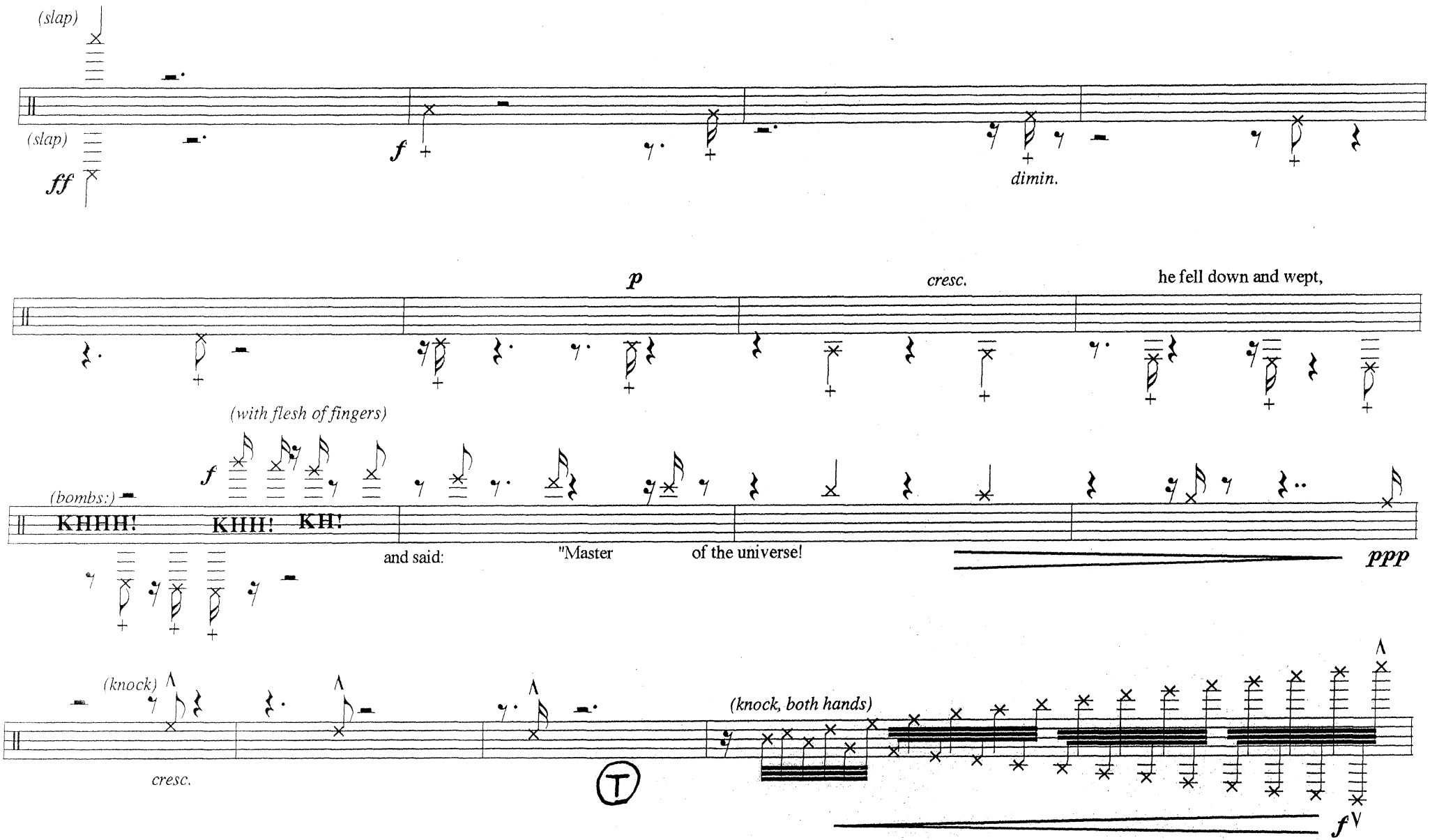
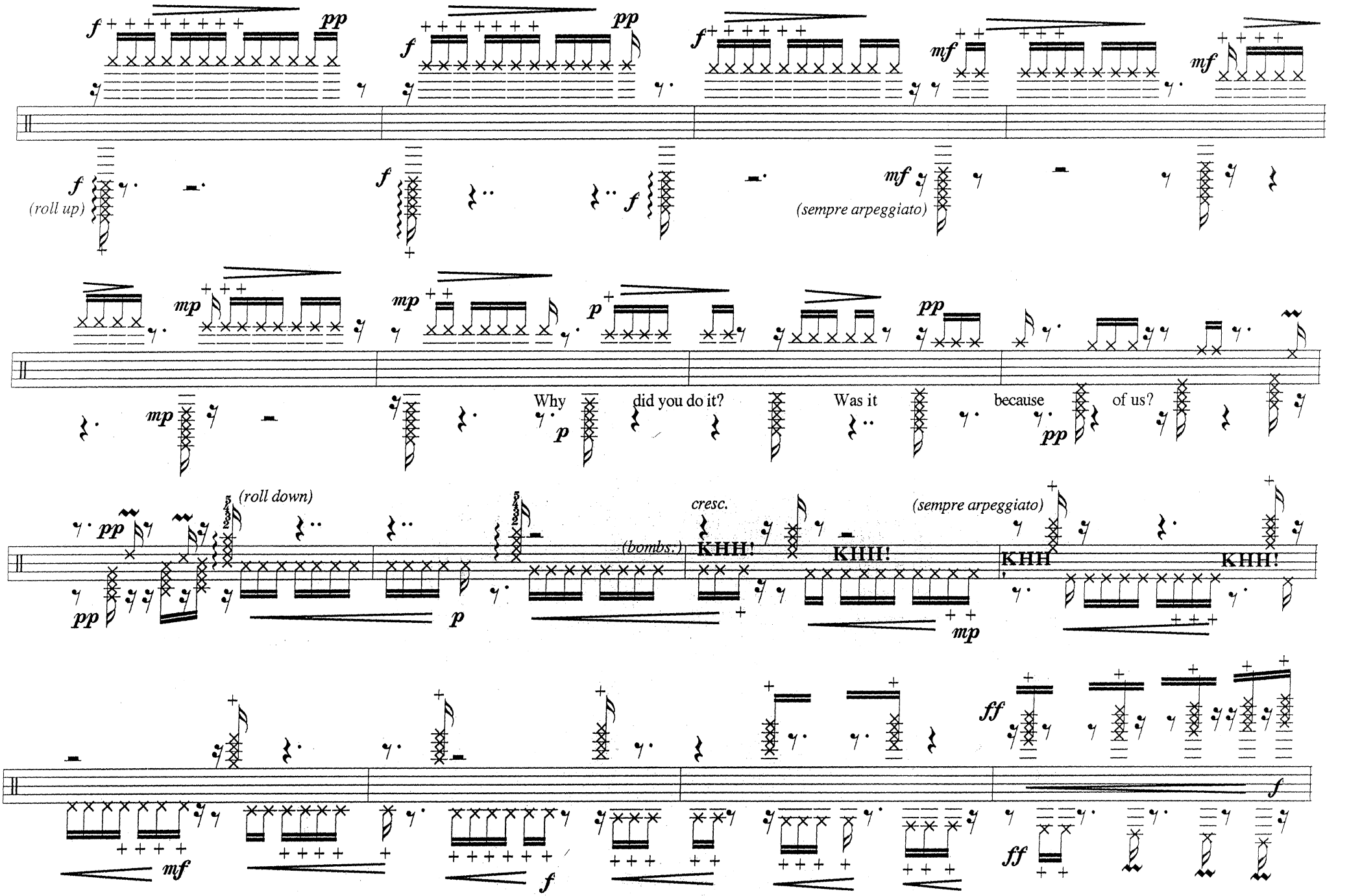
THE FLOOD
(THE ROAD, Mile 56)

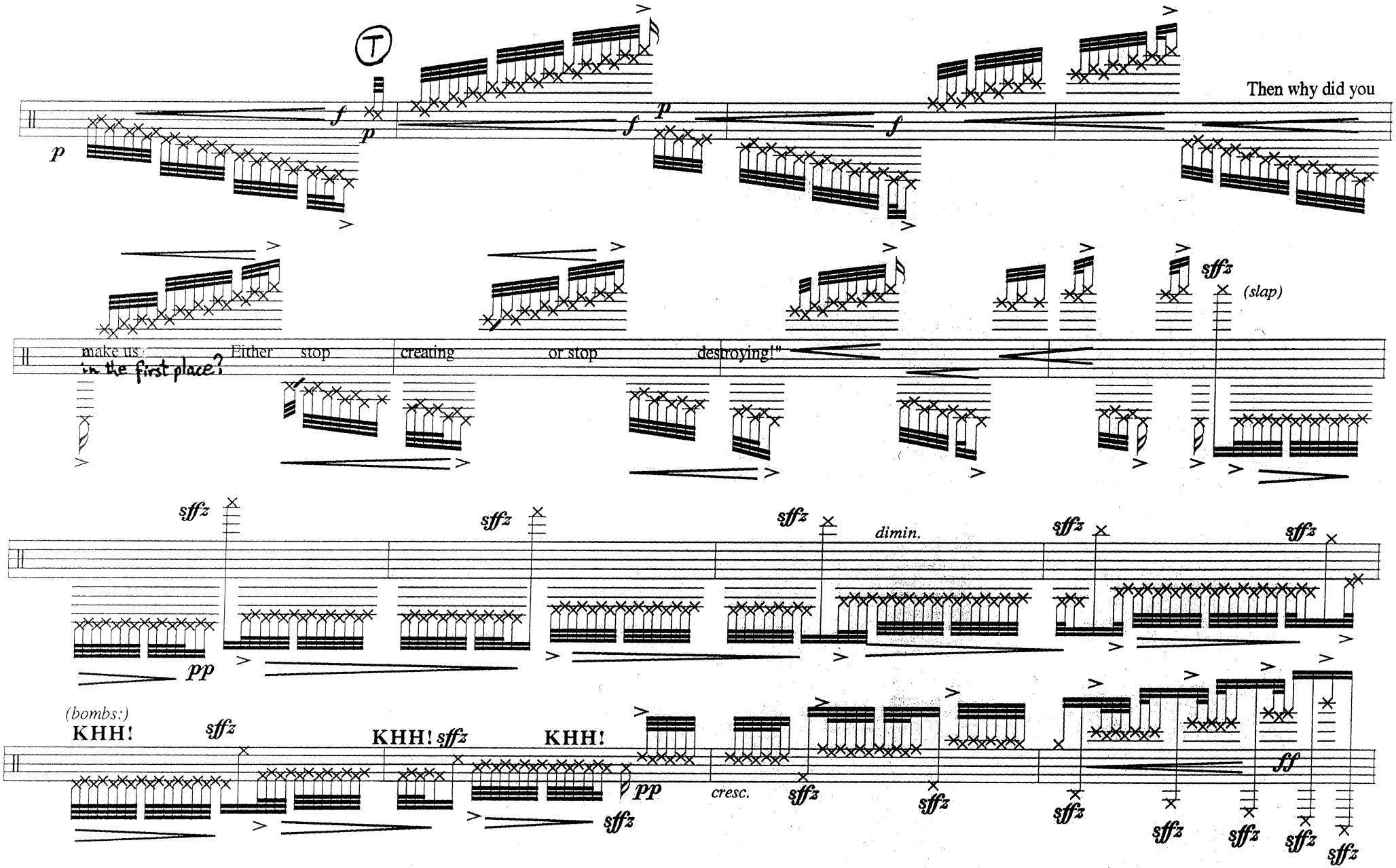
Text: Zohar (adapted)

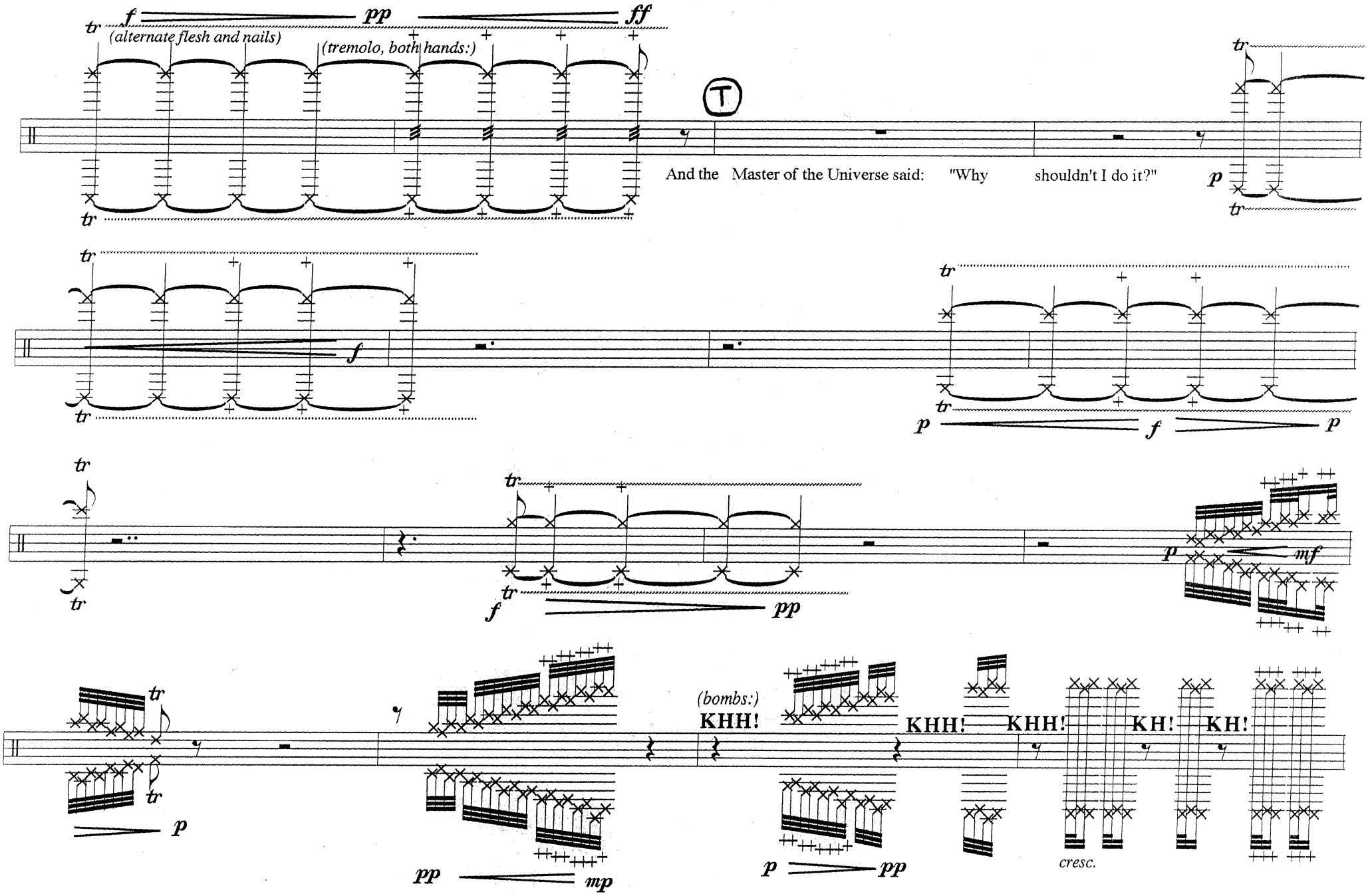
Frederic Rzewski (2001)

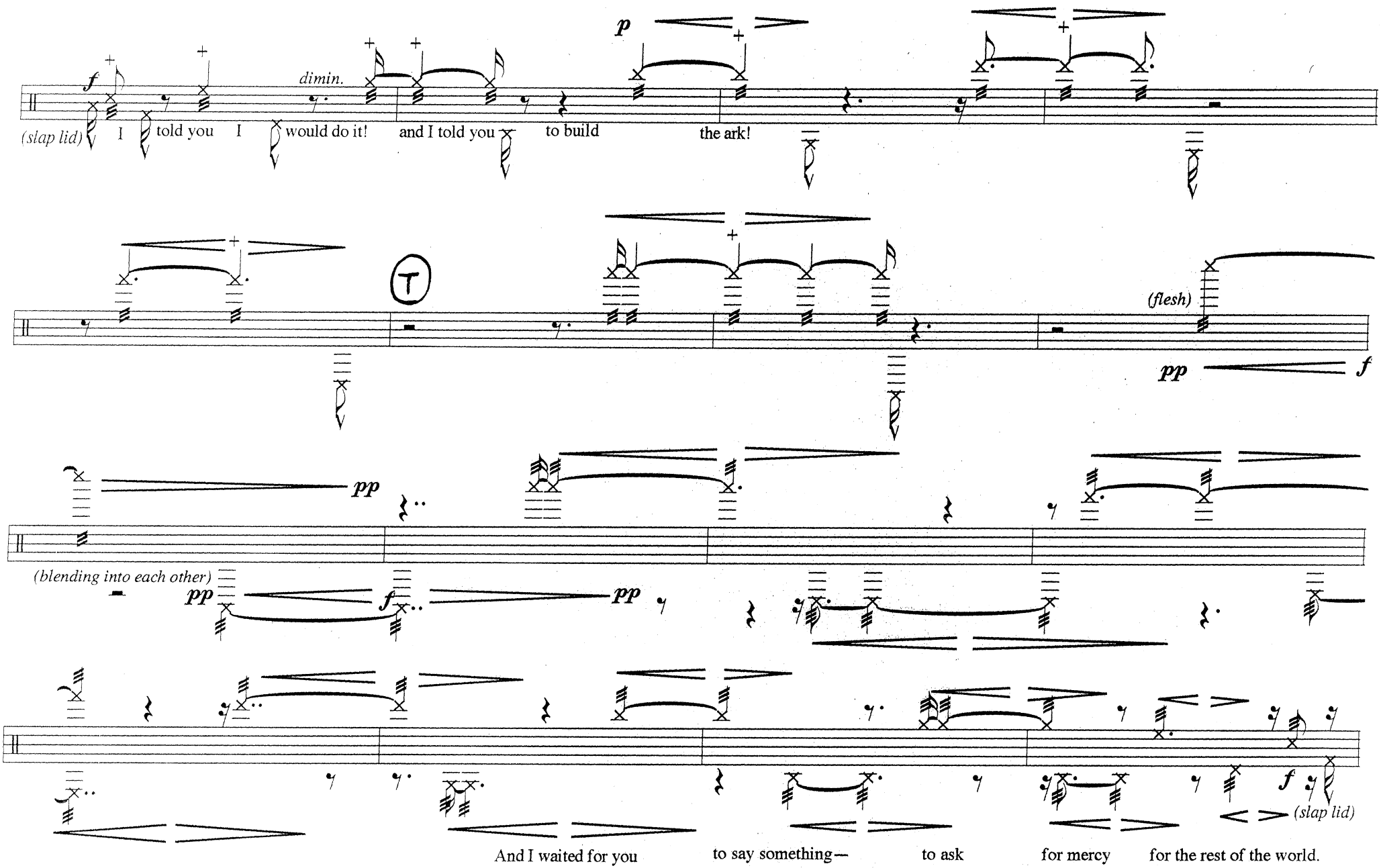


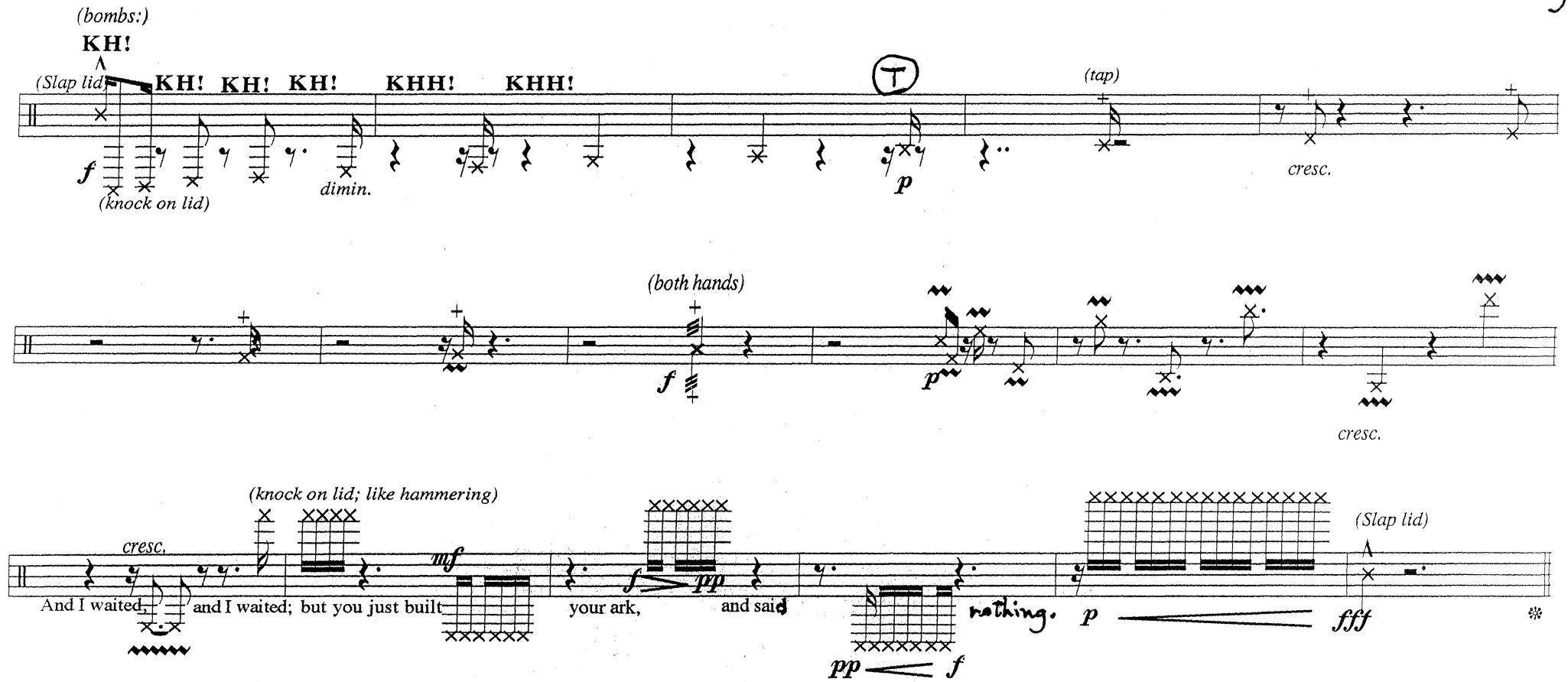

(slap)
(slap)
ff
f
dimin.
p
cresc.
he fell down and wept,
(with flesh of fingers)
f
(bombs:)
KHHH!
KHH!
KH!
and said:
"Master
of the universe!
ppp
(knock)
(knock, both hands)
cresc.
T
f


(roll up)
(sempre arpeggiato)
Why did you do it? Was it because of us?
(roll down)
(bombs.)
cresc.
KHH!
KHH!
KHH
KHH!
(sempre arpeggiato)


T
Then why did you
make us
in the first place?
Either stop creating or stop destroying!"
(slap)
dimin.
(bombs:)
KHH!
KHH!
KHH!
cresc.


f
pp
ff
tr
(alternate flesh and nails)
(tremolo, both hands:)
T
And the Master of the Universe said: "Why shouldn't I do it?"
p
f
mf
(bombs:)
KHH!
KH!
cresc.
mp


f
dimin.
p
(slap lid)
I told you I would do it!
and I told you to build
the ark!
T
(flesh)
pp
f
pp
(blending into each other)
pp
f
pp
f
(slap lid)
And I waited for you
to say something—
to ask
for mercy
for the rest of the world.

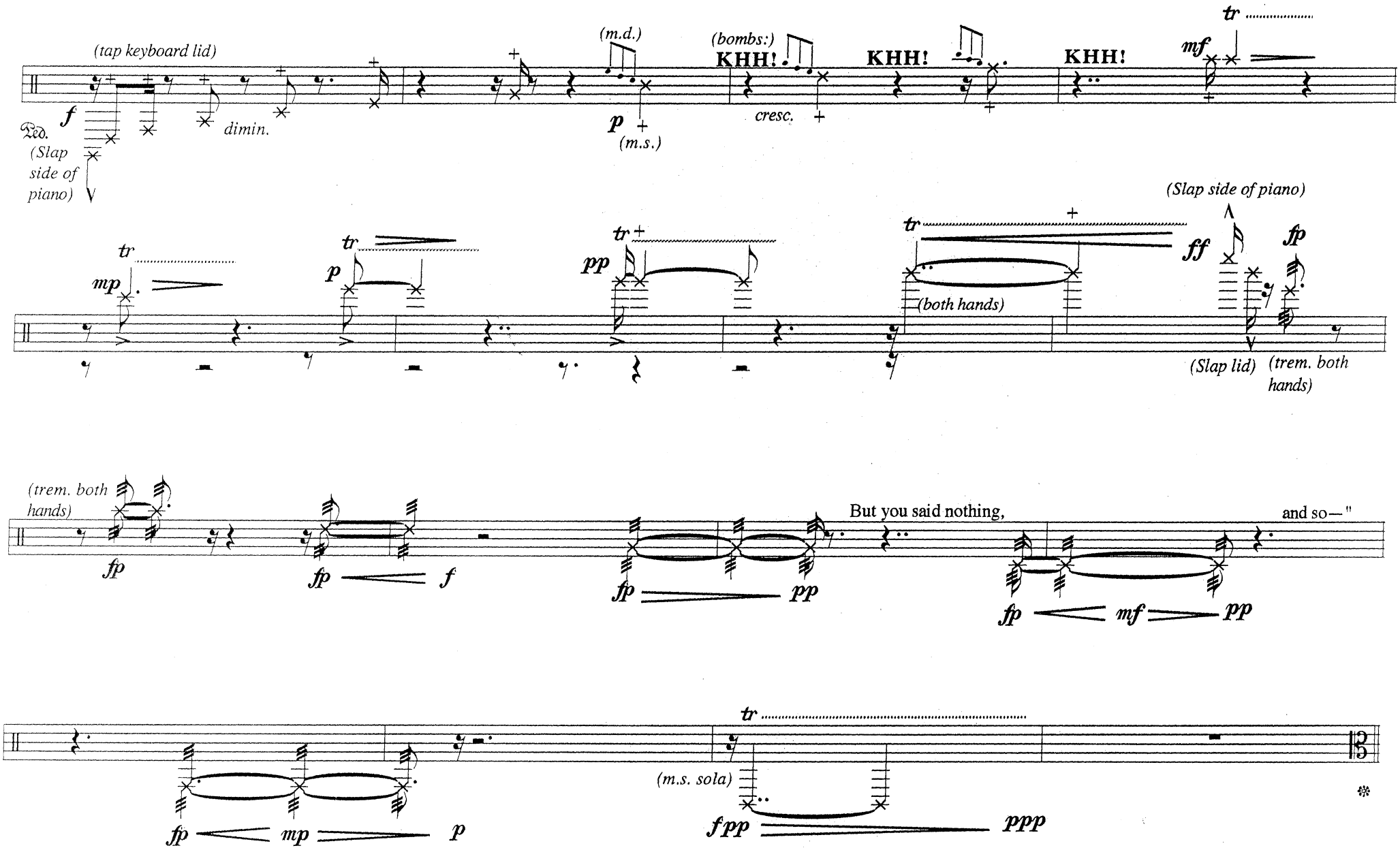


CADENZA

for pianist and chair.

Play chair: drumming in different places, softly at first, then more energetic, as if trying to wake it up. Drag across floor. Pick up and drop. Overturn. Use as a beater to play floor. Finally return to original position.

Spoken (to the chair): **Why don't you say something? Eh? Ha?**
If you had only asked me, I might have changed my mind.


(tap keyboard lid)
f
dimin.
Ped.
(Slap side of piano)
(m.d.)
p
(m.s.)
(bombs:)
KHH!
cresc.
KHH!
KHH!
tr
mf
tr
mp
tr
p
tr
pp
tr
(both hands)
(Slap side of piano)
ff
fp
(Slap lid)
(trem. both hands)
(trem. both hands)
fp
fp
f
fp
pp
But you said nothing,
and so—"
fp
mf
pp
fp
mp
p
tr
(m.s. sola)
fpp
ppp