

MEDITATION

~ AFTER THE DEATH OF STEPHEN HAWKING ~

FOR SOPRANO, FLUTE/ALTO FLUTE, DOUBLE BASS, AND FIXED MEDIA

JORDAN ALEXANDER KEY

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~ MEDITATION ~

AFTER THE DEATH OF STEPHEN HAWKING

FOR THE FONEMA CONSORT

February, 2019

FIXED MEDIA ON TEXTS FROM

Carl Sagan
Stephen Hawking
Richard Dawkins

Jane Goodall
Wangari Maathai
Malala Yousafzai

Meditation after the Death of Stephen Hawking

Jordan Alexander Key
February 2019

0" 4" 9" 14" 19" 24" 28"

Mysterious (♩ = c. 50 bpm)
(c. 4' of silence) (ethereal string sounds)

Fixed Media

Soprano Solo
* *pp* *pondersome*
Hmm... Hmm oo ha ha
pp *mp* *p*

Alto Flute
* *mournful*
n *pp*

Double Bass
delicate, with precision
(sounding pitch)
* *pp* *sim.* SP (sul pont.)
mp

5

FM
Carl Sagan:
The Earth is a very small stage... *in a vast cosmic arena*
(tinkle sounds)

Sop.
non vib. *p* (no articulation between pitches) *mp* *n*
Ooo... Ah...

A. Fl.
pp *p* 3:2

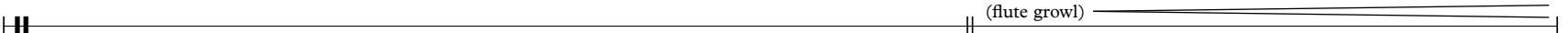
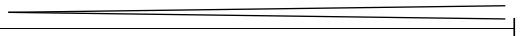
Db.
PO (position ord.) SP
sim. *pp* II III *mf* II


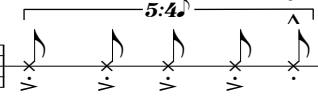
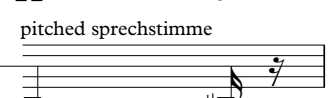
The score is written for a chamber ensemble and includes a fixed media part. It features a soprano soloist, an alto flute, a double bass, a flugelhorn, and a soprano. The music is in C major and has a tempo of approximately 50 bpm. The score is divided into two systems, with the first system ending at 28 minutes. The music is characterized by its 'mysterious' and 'mournful' qualities, with a focus on precise pitch and delicate articulation. The soprano soloist has a prominent role, with a long, sustained note in the second system. The double bass part is particularly intricate, with a focus on precise pitch and delicate articulation. The flugelhorn part is also prominent, with a focus on precise pitch and delicate articulation. The soprano part is also prominent, with a focus on precise pitch and delicate articulation.

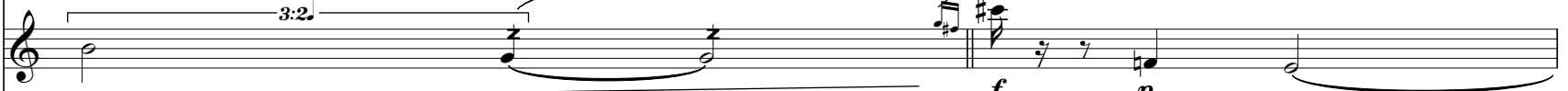
33"


38"

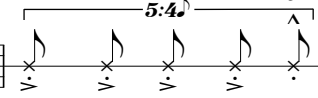
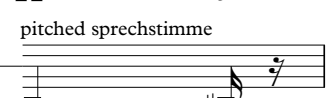
8

FM  (flute growl) 

Sop. *nervously but delicate*
8va. (if possible)
mf  *mf*  *f* *pp*  *f*
ah ee oh ee ah ee oh ee ah ee oh ee tak - o - teek - ah - toh Ah.

A. Fl.  *f* *p*

Db.  II


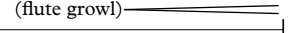
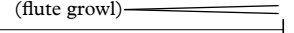
unpitched percussive sounds
breathy *mf*  *f* *pp*  *f*
pitched sprechstimme

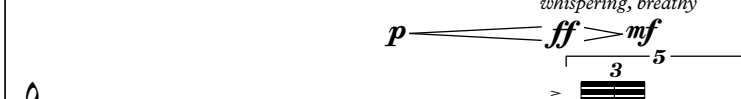

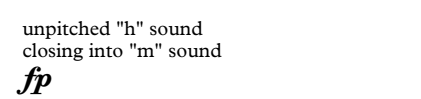
43"


48"


52"

10

FM  Sagan:  (flute growl) 

S. Solo *whispering, breathy*
p  *ff* *mf*  *p*  *fp*
Ah - ah ee oh ee ha ha h mm...

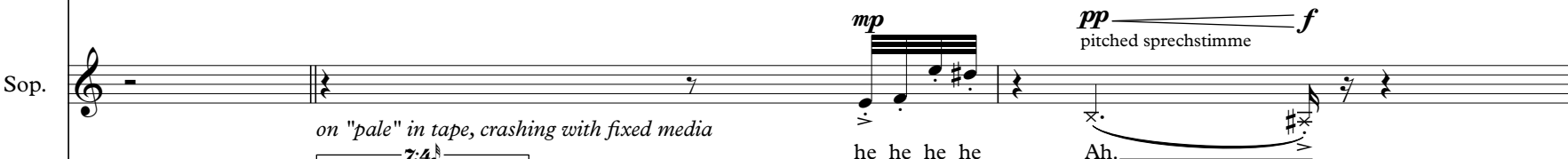
A. Fl.  *pp* *p* *5:4* *5:4* *5:4* *5:4* *p* *pp* *6:4*

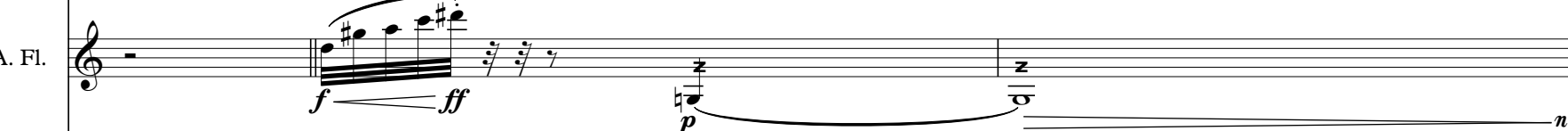
Db. 

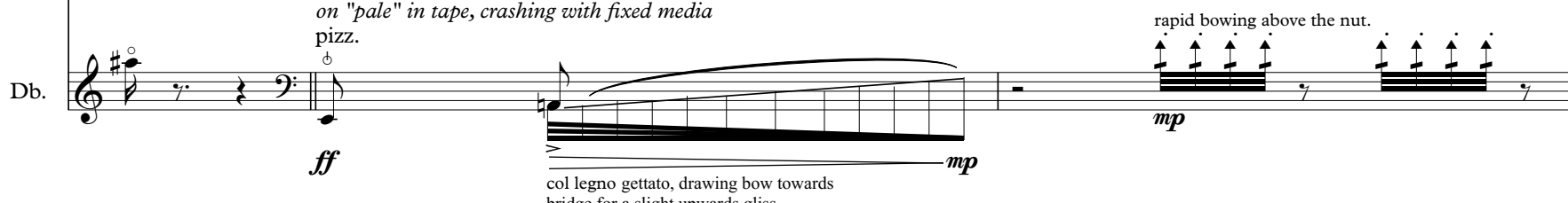
unpitched "h" sound
closing into "m" sound

13

FM 

Sop. 

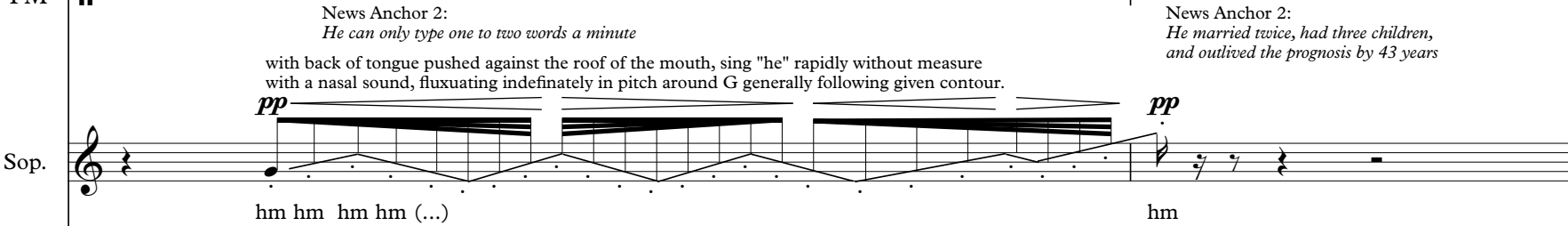
A. Fl. 

Db. 

1'07"

1'12"

FM 

Sop. 

Tape 

Db. 

1'16"

1'21"

1'26"

17

FM **H** News Anchor 2: *treating every single day as a chance to ask a new question* Stephen Hawking: *40 years ago I wrote a paper, "Breakdown of Predictability in Gravitational Collapse," in which I claimed there would be loss of predictability...*

Sop. *mp molto espress.* **3:2** normal tone changing to... *p* con't. as sprechstimme... *pp* con't. as whisper
 Ah speaking many random nonsense syllables as fast as possible on pitch

A. Fl. *f* with some pitch, with articulated, breathy consonances.
 can you hear me? can you hear me?

Db. ord. to scratch *mp* *ff* *pp* sul E harmonic node, arco ord.... change to... multiphonic high action, light bow pressure
mp *mf*

1'31"

1'36"

20

FM **H** Stephen Hawking: *of the final state if the black hole evaporated completely.* Richard Dawkins: *Hello. Thank you very much for comming.*

S. Solo *sim.* *p* he he he he... *pp* he

A. Fl. touch string only *p* *mf* *mp* *f* (bend)

Db. *mp* 7

1'40" 1'45" 1'50" 1'55"

22 FM Malala Yousafzai: Dear sisters and brothers. I speak not for myself,...

Stephen Hawking: Much of my own life... but for those without voice can be heard

Richard Dawkins: The brain is a kind of computer, but its a computer such as no...

Sop. *p* *5:4* ee ee ee ee ee ee *mp* *sprechstimme, robotic* I speak not for my - self

A. Fl. *mp* (bend) *p* *mf* *furtive* *5* *3* *3* *3*

Db. *mf* > *p* PO -----> SP *l.h. pizz.* (arco, sul pont.) arco ord. *n*

2'00" 2'04"

26 FM Stephen Hawking: ...unlucky enough to fall in. (orchestral crash)

Richard Dawkins: ...human factory has ever turned out.

Sop.

A. Fl. *pp* *5:4* *5:4* *6:4* *7:4* *f* *f* jet whistle (high to low) (harmonic) (as *p* as possible)

Db. *pizz.* *3:2* *3:2* *p* *ff* *f* *mp* col legno gettato, drawing bow towards bridge for a slight upwards gliss. Some clattering may result due to the E-string still vibrating from the pizz.

2'09"

2'14"

2'19"

28 Wangari Maathai:
"What are you doing?" said the other animals.

"You are too little for the fire."

"We are overwhelmed."

FM

Stephen Hawking:
We know that there is at least one advanced civilization...

With a propensity for destroying species, ecosystems...

Sop.

f *3* *5* *3* *5* *3*

ah ee oh ee ah ee oh ee ah ee oh ee

with anxiety and fear
non vib. ... changing to ... normal vib. ... to ... wide vib.
mp

Ah

A. Fl.

(2) *mf* *p* *ff* *7:4* *mp* *7:4*

To Fl. Flute (at pitch) fevered

Db.

SP ----->

p *mf*

2'24"

2'28"

2'33"

31 Wangari Maathai:
"We are overwhelmed."

"You should be as well."

Carl Sagan:
The aggregate...

FM

Stephen Hawking:
atmospheres, and weather patterns...

perhaps entire planets.

Slide as low as possible while maintaining a wide vib. tone. Changing to something akin to sprechstimme while glissing down might aid in the lower range.

arrive here on "well"

mf *n*

Sop.

gliss.

speaking many random nonsense syllables as fast as possible without pitch, but low.

arrive here on "well"

jet whistle
(low to high)

ff

Fl.

f *7:4* *7:4* *ff*

arrive here on "well"

SP

Db.

Overpressure & SP ----->

fff *fp* *n*

2'38" 2'48" 2'52"

34 FM Carl Sagan: *... of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions and ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, ...* Carl Sagan: *... every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilizations, ...* Richard Dawkins: *Now my own suspicion is that the universe is not only queerer than we suppose...*

Sop.

Fl. *short, but delicate, not cut*
p

Db. PO
pp

2'57" 3'02" 3'07"

37 FM Richard Dawkins: *...but queerer than we can suppose.* Carl Sagan (antiphonally): *... every king and peasant, every mother and father, every couple in love, infant child, inventor and explorer, every corrupt politician, every teacher of morals, every "superstar," ...* Richard Dawkins: *I suspect that there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamed of or can be dreamed of in any philosophy* Stephen Hawking: *Stars engulf planets, ... super novas fire lethal rays across space ...*

Sop. *freely, clear and chant-like*
mp
ah oo... (oo)...

Fl.

Db. Malala Yousafzai: *... On the 9th of October, 2012, ... the Taliban ...*

3'12" 3'16" 3'21"

40 Carl Sagan:
... every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species...
... lived there... ... on a mote of dust... ... suspended in a sunbeam.

Malala Yousafzai:
... shot me on the left side of my forehead ...
... they shot my friends too.

Stephen Hawking:
Asteroids hurtle around at hundreds of miles a second

decay until absolutely out of breath

Sop. *p* *sprechstimme* *n*

hmm Oh Ah

Fl. *pp* (bend)

Db. PO ----- SP I (slowly and quietly as possible) *pp* *n*

"Seagull Effect": Gliss harmonics, maintaining finger position, rather than interval ratio. The position here is just a suggestion. This might vary depending on the instrument and stretch capability of the fingers.

3'26" 3'31" 3'36" 3'40"

43 Wangari Maathai
I like to tell a story of a humming bird. I don't know how many of you have heard me tell about the humming bird

Richard Dawkins:
After sleeping for a hundred and forty million centuries we have finally woken up in the universe. We've opened our eyes on a wonderful planet...

Sop. *p* (bend) *pp* *mp* relaxed, like a jazz singer
Mm - - - oo Ah...

Fl. *freely* (as *p* as possible) overtone blowing *pp*

Db. *ppp* *p* *arco mobile ad lib.

*Arco Mobile is a special technique in which a sustained pitch is subjected to small variations in bow pressure whilst continually varying the bow position over a wide range of placements. By varying the range of placements of pressures, a wide range of overtones are produced in addition to the fundamental resulting in a continually changing sonic spectrum.

3'45" 3'50" 3'55" 4'00"

47 Richard Dawkins:
... filled with color, teeming with life. Before very long
we shall have to close our eyes again.

Wangari Maathai:
They felt like there was nothing they could do because the problem was
too much for them...

FM

Wangari Maathai:
So this story is the story of a forest that caught fire, and it was a huge fire

Sop. oo - mm - - - - - ah (scoop into note) (ah) *n*

Fl. *p* 5:4 *f* 5:4 *pp* 6:4

Db. transition to spiccato bow harmonic activation slowly dissipate and cease bowing *n*

4'04" 4'09" 4'14" 4'19"

51 Carl Sagan:
Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors...
... so that in glory and triumph they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot.

Wangari Maathai:
Except for this little humming bird.

FM

Wangari Maathai:
Except for this little humming bird.

Sop. Why? Can you hear? Can you hear? Why? *n*

Fl. (bend) *p* (bend) *mp*

Db. col legno battuto molto espressivo, undulating rhythmically, with slight random accents *p* sim.

4'24" Malala Yousafzai (antiphonally):
55 They thought that the bullet would silence us...
... They think that God is a tiny, little conservative being...
4'28" ... but they failed

Richard Dawkins:
So where does life come from? ...
...What is it? Why are we here? What are we for? What is the meaning of life?

FM

Sop. *f* straight as possible... ... moving to ... wide vib. *mp* *f*

Fl. Why!

Db. as fast as possible *mf*

4'33" Malala Yousafzai:
57 And out of that silence came thousands of voices!

4'38" Wangari Maathai:
The humming bird said, "I'm going to do something about the fire."

4'43"

FM

Sop.

Fl. *mf* *f* *ff* jet whistle (high to low) unpitched air sound blowing through flute

Db. SP *ff* "Dragging tone" pulling the bow into the string and upwards PO Detune A-string down one half-step to G-sharp *f* *mf* *mp* *f*

4'48"

4'52"

4'57"

60

Stephen Hawking:

Whenever we make a great new leap, like the moon landings, we elevate humanity, bring people and nations together, usher in new discoveries and new technologies.

FM

Sop.

Fl.

Db.

5'02"

5'07"

5'12"

63

Jane Goodall:

We are just part of the animal kingdom, and we are not the only beings with personalities and minds capable of reasoning...

Jane Goodall:

... and certainly not the only being with emotions like happiness, sadness...

Wangari Maathai:

There is something in our lives that we can do, no matter how small it is.

FM

Sop.

Fl.

Db.

5'16" 5'21" 5'26"

66 ... fear, despair. Nor are we the only beings capable of giving and receiving love.... Carl Sagan: Think of the endless cruelties visited... Wangari Maathai: ... on the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel ...

FM **||**

(orchestral drum roll) *mf* Wangari Maathai: "What do you think you are doing?" said the other animals.

Sop. - - oh Can you hear me? Wah - -

Fl. *freely, clear and chant-like improvisational, not so rhythmically precise.* improvised a-flat/g neighbor figure as before

Db. parts should rhythmically coincide sul G *p* *mf* *mp* sul G sul "D-string"

5'31" 5'36" 5'40" 5'45"

69 Carl Sagan: ... on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner. Wangari Maathai: "You are too little for the fire." Stephen Hawking: "We are entering an increasingly dangerous period of our history." Carl Sagan: "We are overwhelmed. You should be as well" Wangari Maathai: "We are overwhelmed. You should be as well" Carl Sagan: How frequent their misunderstanding. How eager they are to kill one another. How fervent their hatreds. Malala Yousafzai: I am here to speak up ... Wangari Maathai: ... for the right of education of every child.

FM **||**

Wangari Maathai: "You are too little for the fire." Stephen Hawking: "We are entering an increasingly dangerous period of our history." Carl Sagan: "We are overwhelmed. You should be as well" Wangari Maathai: "We are overwhelmed. You should be as well" Carl Sagan: How frequent their misunderstanding. How eager they are to kill one another. How fervent their hatreds. Malala Yousafzai: I am here to speak up ... Wangari Maathai: ... for the right of education of every child.

Sop. - - oh Wah - - - oh Wah *f*

Fl. improvised d-flat/c neighbor figure as before improvised a-flat/g neighbor figure as before

Db.

5'50"

5'55"

6'00"

6'04"

73

Wangari Maathai:

Now the hummingbird, without stopping her work... ... she continued running up and down to get the water... ... but she turned once to the other animals and said, "I'm doing the best I can."

FM



nervously but delicate
8va. (if possible)

mf

3

5

3

5

3

freely

Sop.



ah ee oh ee

ah ee oh ee ah ee oh ee

oo...

play any of these pitches individually under staccato articulation
with random dynamics in any available octave at pseudo random
time intervals (c. 5 to 7 per measure of time)

Fl.

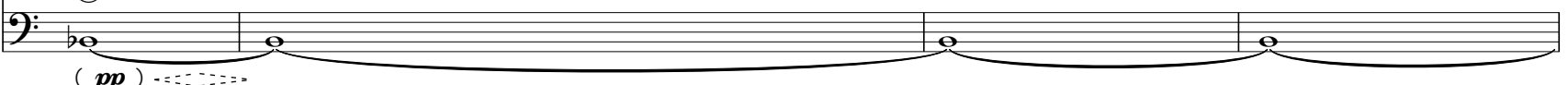


circular bowing; dynamics
ad lib. between pp and mf



sim.

Db.



(*pp*)

6'09"

6'14"

6'19"

6'24"

77

Carl Sagan:

Our planet... is a lonely speck... ... in the great enveloping cosmic dark... In our obscurity... in all this vastness...

Wangari Maathai:

That, my friends, is all we are called to do... ... to do the best... ... we can.

FM



widening vibrato

p

mp

mf

f

slide into tone

Sop.



Wah...

Wah...

Fl.



pp

mp

mf

f

Db.



pp

mp

mf

f

PO

6'28" 6'33" 6'38" 6'43"

81 Carl Sagan:
... there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.

Malala Yousafzai:
We will continue our journey! One child, ... one teacher, ... one hope...

FM **H**

Wangari Maathai:
You cannot enslave a mind that knows itself... that values itself... that understands itself.

Sop. **G**

n ————— *f*

RANDOM HIGH PITCHES

GLOTTAL EFFECTS

FLUTTER TONGUE

SCREAMING

JET WHISTLES

ULULATIONS

ff

FL. **H**

Anxious improvisation:

FEVERED NOISES

ETC.

ETC.

ETC.

ETC.

ETC.

Db. **G**

n ————— *f*

RANDOM LOW PITCHES

FREELY ALTERNATING TECHNIQUES

SCRATCH TONES

BOWING ABOVE NUT

ff

6'48" 6'52" 6'57" 7'02"

85 Malala Yousafzai:
... and one pen can change the world.

Malala Yousafzai:
Dear sisters and brothers ...

... we realize the importance of ...

FM **H**

(orchestral crash)

(Tutti) **H** **SUDDEN SILENCE ON ORCHESTRAL CRASH**

parts should rhythmically coincide

parts should rhythmically coincide

parts should rhythmically coincide

p ————— *pp*

pp

7'07" 7'12" 7'16" 7'21"

89 Malala Yousafzai:
... light, when we see darkness. ... We realize the importance of our voice when we are silenced.

FM

Stephen Hawking:
Here are the most importance pieces of advice that I have passed on to my children.

Sop. *p* gentle, with little vibrato, like ajazz singer. *mp* *pp* *mp*
oo - - - (slowing changing to...) ah ah..

Fl.

Db.

7'26" 7'31" 7'36" 7'40"

93

Malala Yousafzai:
We must not forget.

Stephen Hawking:
One: remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet.

Stephen Hawking:
Two: never give up work - work gives you meaning and purpose and life is empty without it.

Malala Yousafzai:
We must not forget!

FM

Sop. *mf* *mf* *mp*
oo...

Fl.

Db.

7'45" 7'50"

97

FM **||**

Stephen Hawking:
Three: if you are lucky enough to find love... remember it is there and don't throw it away.

Sop. *mf* *mp* *p* as gently as possible
 (oo) - - - - ah...

Fl. *p*

Db. *delicate* *mp*

7'55" 8'00" 8'04" 8'09"

99

FM **||**

Malala Yousafzai:
We must not forget...

Carl Sagan:
Perserve and cherish the pale blue dot... ... the only home we've ever known.

Sop. *pp* *p* *pp*
 ah

Fl. *pp* *n*

Db. *pp*

III
IV

8'14" 8'19" 8'24" 8'28" 8'33"

103 (chimes and bells begin and decay into nothingness)

FM

Sop. *pp* *sombre, expressive, but gentle, not overpowering the tape.* *mp* *p*
 oo - - - - - ah

Fl. *pp* *sombre, expressive, but gentle, not overpowering the tape.* *mp* *p*

Db. *arco mobile until end*
ppp

8'38" 8'43" 8'48" 8'52" 8'57" c. 9'30"

108

FM

Sop. *mp* *p* *n*
 ah - - - - - oo

Fl. *mp* *p* *n*

Db. *n*