Sacred Trees

for piano and percussion

Aspen Grove
Hackberry
Chinquapin Oak
Red Oak
Blue Beech
Elm

Brooke Joyce (2007)

toydogmusic

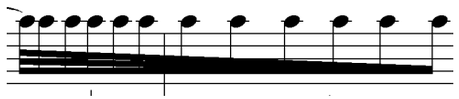
Sacred Trees

Duration: 13:30

Program Note:
This piece was inspired by several trips to the Effigy Mounds National Monument in Iowa, a park that contains the remnants of several large Native American burial mounds, some of which are shaped like birds and animals. My experiences there led me to reflect on my own sense of ritual, memory, and spirituality. As I was composing this music, I decided to focus my reflections not on the mounds or the people who built them, but rather on the various and ancient trees that grow in the area. Trees are thought to be sacred in many faith traditions, and to me, they are a kind of silent witness to the passage of time and the people who come and go under their gaze.

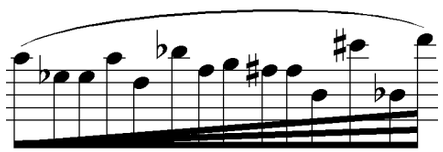
Performance Notes:

General

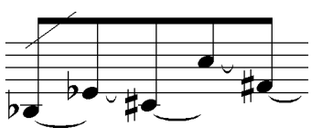


play progressively slower, undetermined number of notes

play progressively faster, undetermined number of notes



play progressively faster, play only the notes indicated



play as fast as possible

Piano

All triangle-shaped notes are to be played inside the piano as instructed

aeolian harp: strum strings while holding down keys

strike the lower strings with palm of left hand, hold pedal

"banshee" effect: quickly rub fingertips the length of the low strings

pluck string with fingertip

+ stopped note: mute string close to agraffe

triangle beaters

prayer bowl beater

Percussion

Instrument changes are indicated in boxes

soft mallets

medium mallets

hard mallets

wire brushes

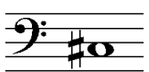
triangle beaters

medium mallets and brushes in both hands

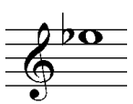
prayer bowl beater

Percussion Instruments:

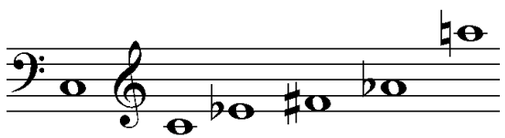
1 Large Gong, tuned:



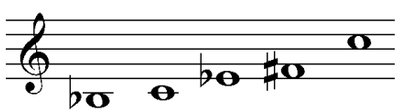
Finger Cymbal, tuned:



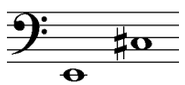
6 Noa Bells, tuned:



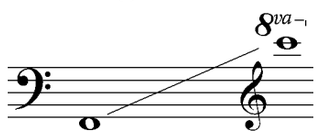
5 Prayer Bowls, tuned:



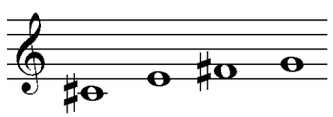
2 Roto toms, tuned:



Marimba, range:



4 Peking Opera Gongs, tuned:



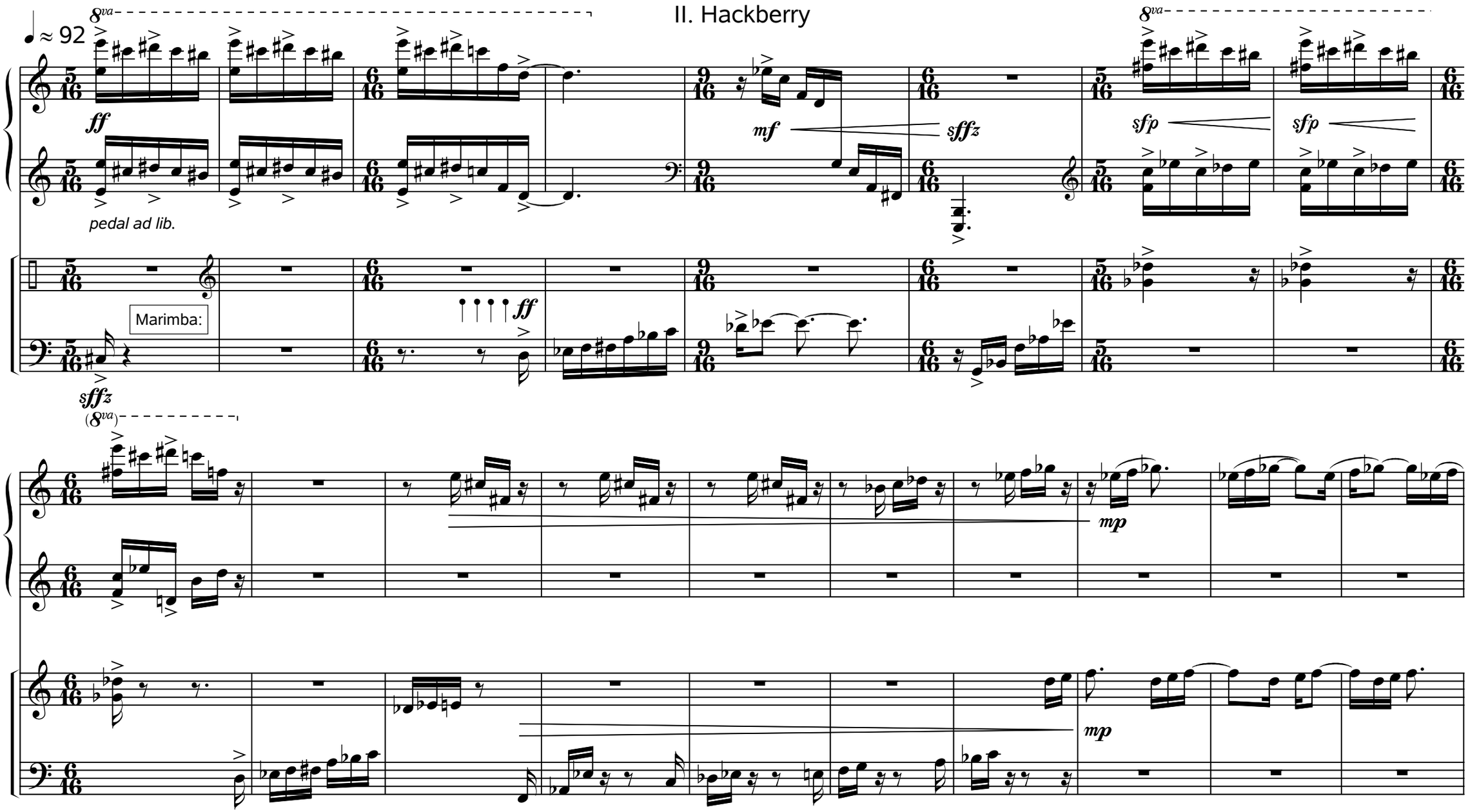
Bright Metallic Windchimes

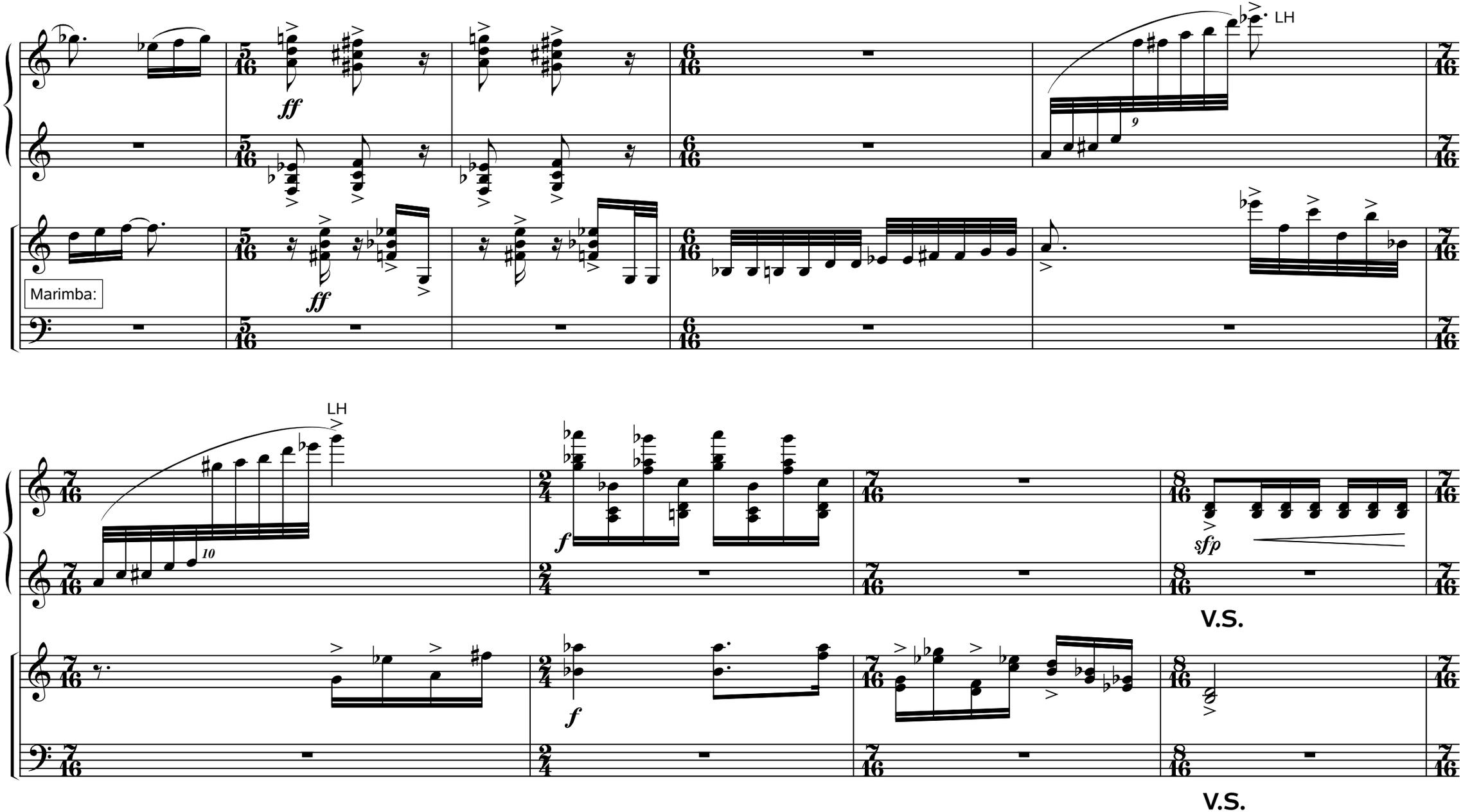
Dull Windchimes (bamboo or other material)

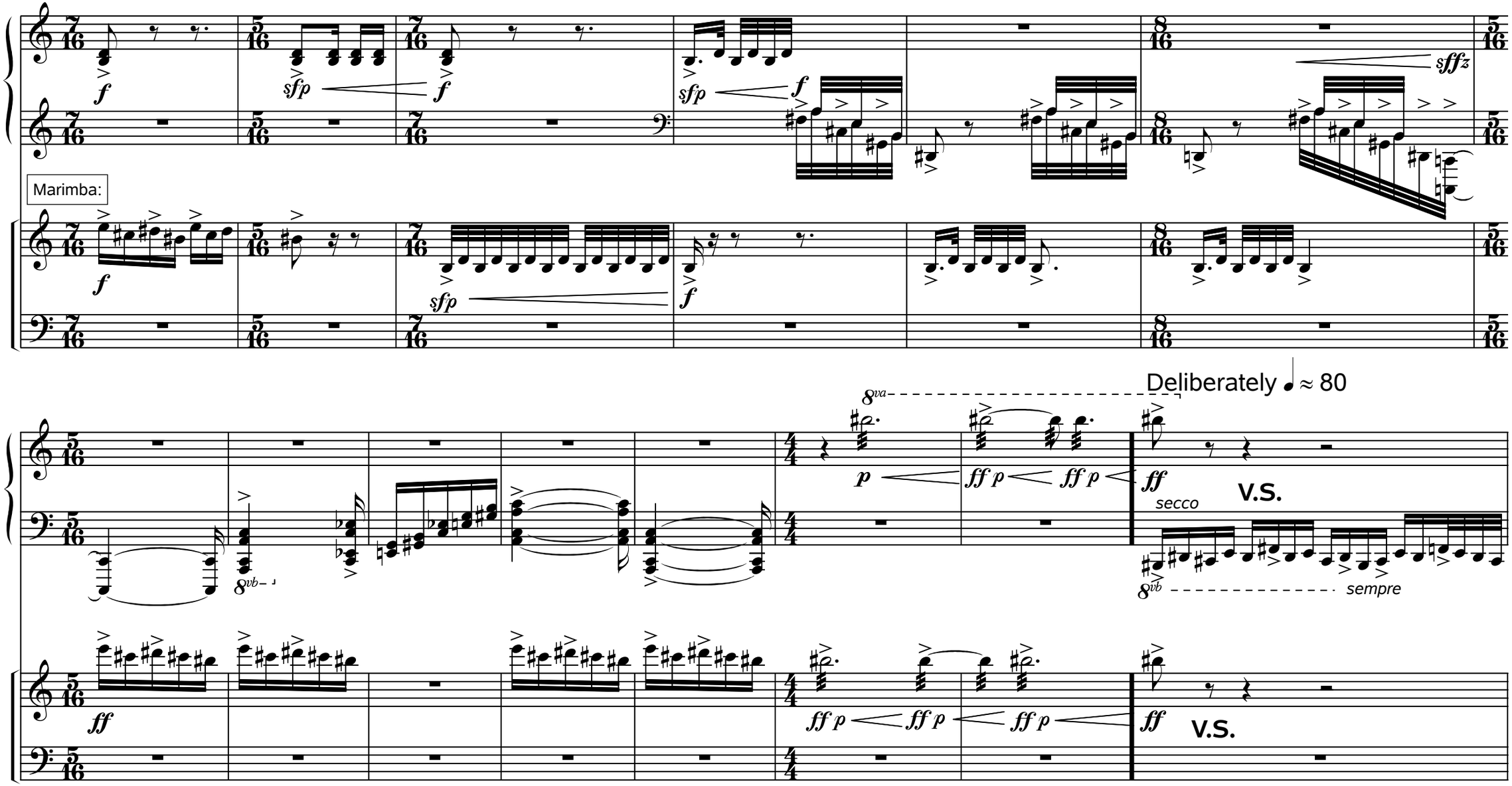
Burmese Windchimes

3 Triangles

Cylindrical Chime


≈ 92
8va
ff
pedal ad lib.
mf
sffz
sfp
sfp
Marimba:
ff
sffz
(8va)
mp
mp


LH
Marimba:
LH
V.S.
V.S.


Marimba:
Deliberately ♩ ≈ 80
8va
8vb
secco
V.S.
sempre