Ernesto Molin

The Itch

A curious Cabaret of Profanities
(Transposed score)

(2025)

Instrumentation:

Piccolo Clarinet in Eb
Bb Clarinet
Alto clarinet, also Bassoon
Bass Clarinet

Percussions (1 player): Toy Glockenspiel, 3 toms, suspended cymbal, triangle.

Characters:

WOMAN: Medium high voice, possibly female
MAN: Medium low voice, possibly male

THE ITCH

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WOMAN: (grumbling, searching pockets) The keys. The keys. The keys. Where did I put them?

MAN: (checking phone, agitated) Five minutes ago I was a man who never struggled with time.

WOMAN: Five minutes ago, I was a woman who never struggled with doors.

MAN: My Grindr date is court-appointed. Court. Appointed. There are laws. There are
orders.

WOMAN: I am carrying a child of my own making. Do you think the court would be interested in that?

MAN: (distracted, scratching arm) If it involves mandatory sex with strangers, maybe.

WOMAN: Do you think it was the sex with strangers?

MAN: What?

WOMAN: The itch.

MAN: The itch.

WOMAN: I feel it. I must scream —

MAN: (scratches neck, then thigh) It started as a whisper. Now it's in my dreams.

WOMAN: What if the itch is the keys?

MAN: (pauses, intrigued) You mean—

WOMAN: What if I must scratch to find them? What if I am the lock?

MAN: (growing frantic) What if I am the door?

WOMAN: (grabs her belly, gasps) And the child is the key..

MAN: (gasping too, in solidarity, for no reason) or the key is inside me?

WOMAN: (serious, still searching) Could be. I got myself pregnant.

MAN: With?

WOMAN: My own massive dong.

MAN: (pauses, blinking) Logistically?

WOMAN: Carefully.

MAN: (muttering, pulling at his collar) Some of us struggle to open a Grindr chat of one liners, and here you are, conducting a one-woman reproductive miracle.

WOMAN: Life finds a way, my dear.

MAN: In my ass m'lady.

WOMAN: (suddenly stops, holds up finger) The itch! It has moved!

MAN: (gasps) To the keys?

WOMAN: (searches her coat one last time—nothing. Then, she reaches down, scratches her calf... and triumphantly pulls out the keys from inside her sock.)

MAN: (whispering in awe) You were the lock.

WOMAN: (reverently) I was the lock.

MAN: And the itch..

WOMAN: was the key.

MAN: (suddenly remembering, gasping, looking at phone) My date! I must go!

WOMAN: (gently) Go. Grind. Obey the court.

MAN: (hurrying off, but stops, turns back) And you?

WOMAN: (holds up keys, belly glistening under the streetlamp like a full moon) I open my door. I enter my home. I await my child, the self-begotten.

MAN: (nodding, touched) You are a miracle.

WOMAN: (nodding back, sagely) Yet you are late.

MAN: (rushing offstage) The law is cruel!

(The clock stops spinning. The lights flicker. The woman steps through the doorframe, disappearing into nothing.)

Libretto by Ernesto Molin

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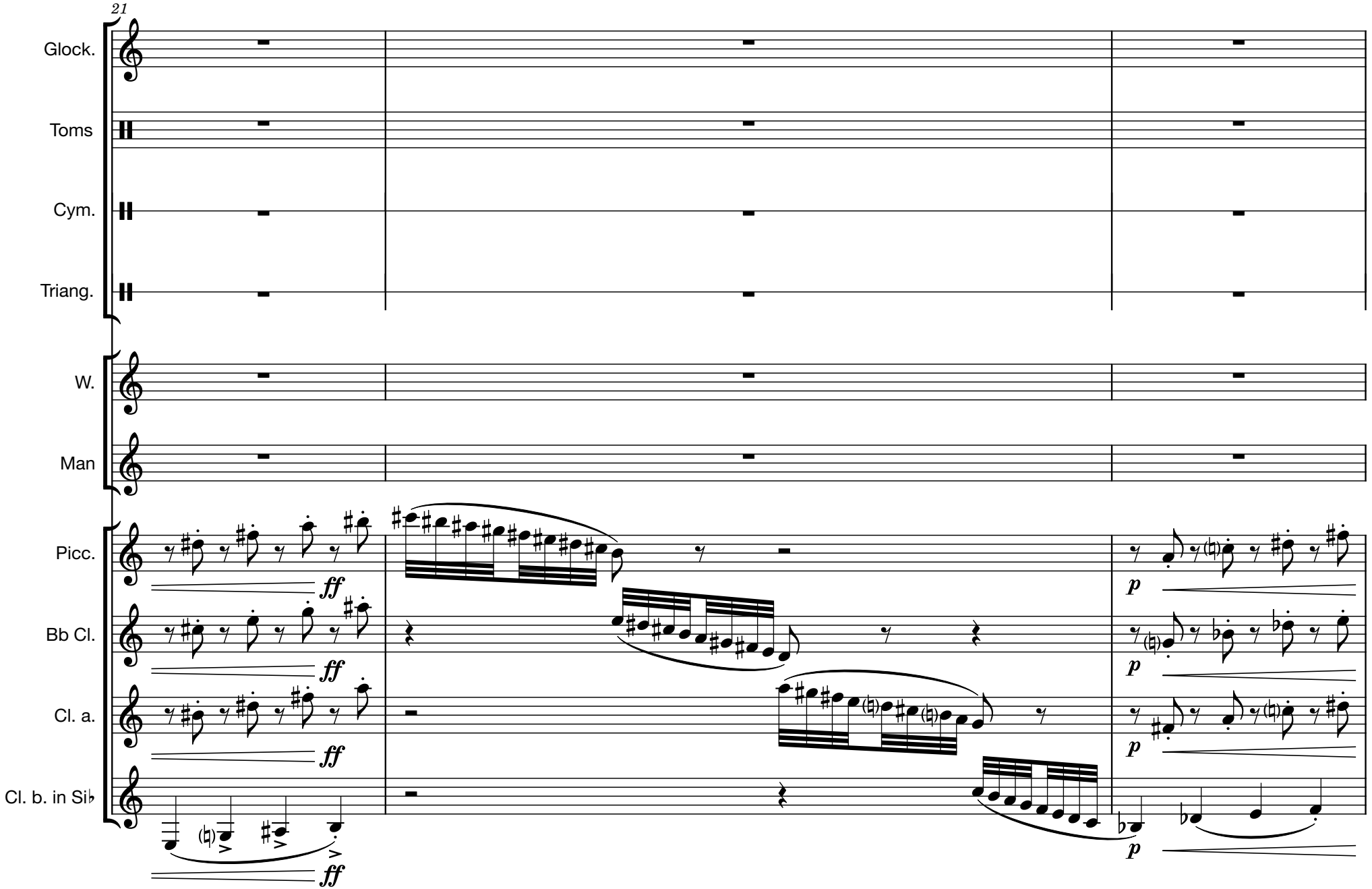


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1 Recitando
Agitato ♩ = 60
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
Man
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Cl. a.
Cl. b. in Si♭
worried
thekeys thekeys
thekeys...where did I put them?


12
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
Man
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Cl. a.
Cl. b. in Si♭
ff
mp
smirking
f
dishveled
five
five minu-tes ago i was a man...
who...
ne-ver strug-gled with time!
sfp
pp
mf
sfpp

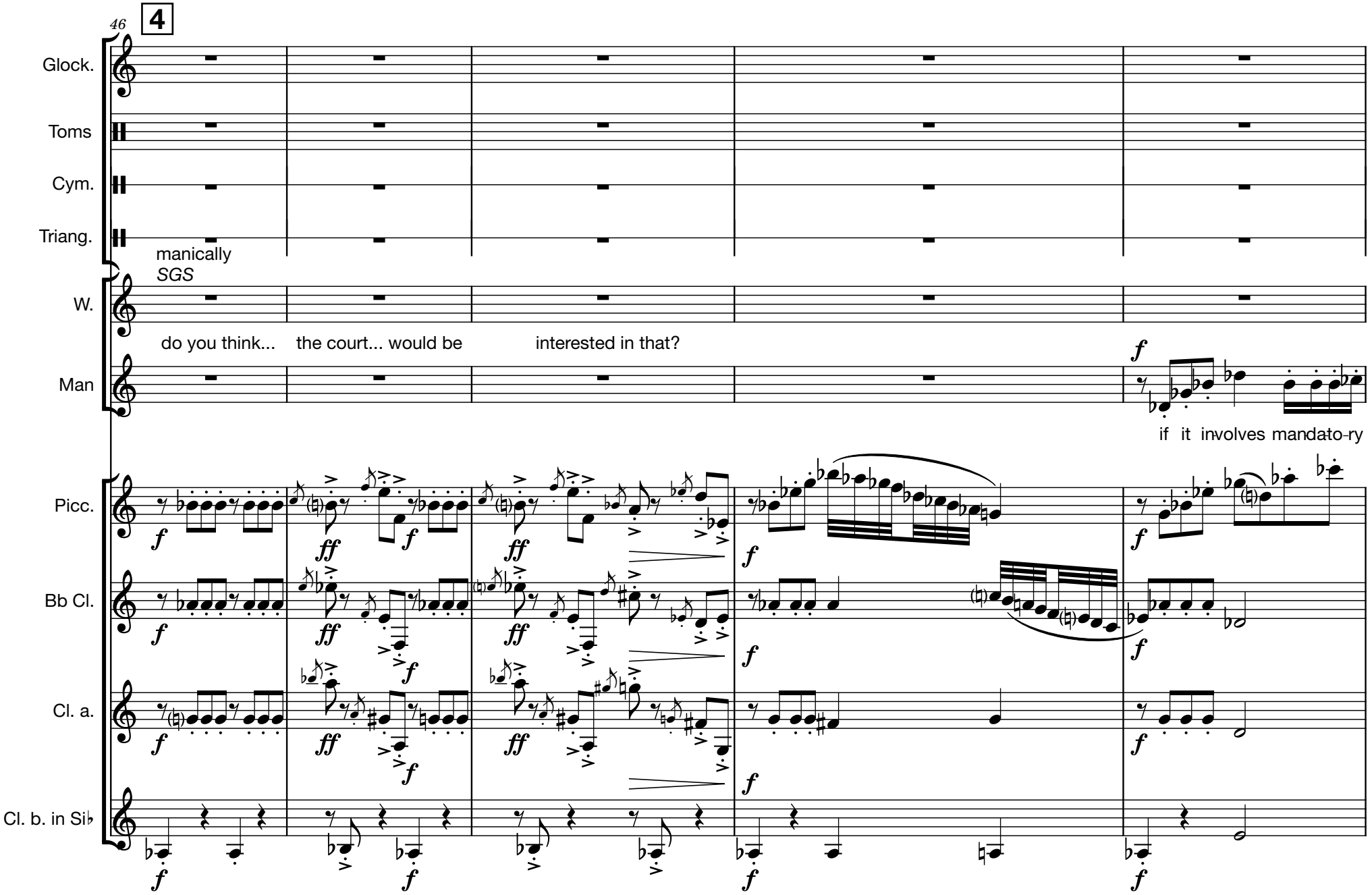

17
2
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
mi-nu-tesago
i wasa wo - man..
whone-verstrug-gledwithdoors..
Man
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Cl. a.
Cl. b. in Si♭


21
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
Man
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Cl. a.
Cl. b. in Si♭
ff
p


24
3
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
Man
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Cl. a.
Cl. b. in Si♭
SGS
my grindr date is court appointed!
COURT! APPOINTED! There are laws.....
thereare
or - ders
ff
mf
mp


30
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
pp
W.
devoutly
I am__ Carry - ing a child__
Man
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Cl. a.
Cl. b. in Si♭
f
mf
re-la trem


39
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
of myown ma-king_ or_ some-thing that..
Man
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Cl. a.
Cl. b. in Si♭
f
ff
3


46
4
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
manically
SGS
W.
do you think... the court... would be interested in that?
Man
if it involves mandato-ry
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Cl. a.
Cl. b. in Si♭


51
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
Man
Do you think it was the sex with stran__
sex with stran-gers, may___ be!
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Cl. a.
Cl. b. in Si♭
f


55
5
2nd time
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
ff
gers?
the itch!
the itch, theitch, i feel it imustscream!
itch, theitch i'm sor-ry if I bitch
Man
fff
what?
theitch?
it
a
Picc.
ff
f
Bb Cl.
Cl. a.
Cl. b. in Si♭
sfpp


61
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
Man
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Cl. a.
Cl. b. in Si♭
1.
f
1st time: what if
the itch..is the key?
the
star-ted as a whis-per and now it's in my dreams
mad-de-ning de light I'd sell my soul to ditch
1st time: you mean...
tr


6
♩. = 60
siciliana
what if...
66
Glock.
Toms
f
Cym.
Triang.
W.
Man
Picc.
Bb Cl.
To Bassoon
Fag.
Bassoon
Cl. b. in Si♭


74
7
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
Man
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Fag.
Cl. b. in Si♭
ff
f
mf > p
ff


81
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
What If IMust scratch to Find them? What if I Am the lock?
Man
nel cor più non mi sento....
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Fag.
Cl. b. in Si♭
mf
f


86
8
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
Man
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Fag.
Cl. b. in Si♭
and I amthekey
what if I'mthedoor and

92

9 **Agitato** ♩ = 60

Glock.

Toms

Cym.

Triang.

W. trova soluzione

i mustcomein - side you in - side you, in - side methere's al - ready a ba by

Man

youhaveto come in - side me in side - you A ba - by

Picc. *ff*

Bb Cl. A ba *ff*

Fag. *ff*

Cl. b. in Si♭ *ff*


99
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
YES! The child is the key?
Could be, I got myself pregnant..
Man
and I am the door?
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Fag.
Cl. b. in Si♭
ff


10
104
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
Man
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Fag.
Cl. b. in Si♭
mf
ff
With my own mass - ive dong!
with?
p
3


110
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
Man
Some of us struggle to
open a grindr chat of one liners,
and here you are
conducting a one–woman reproductive
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Fag.
Cl. b. in Si♭
mf
f
3

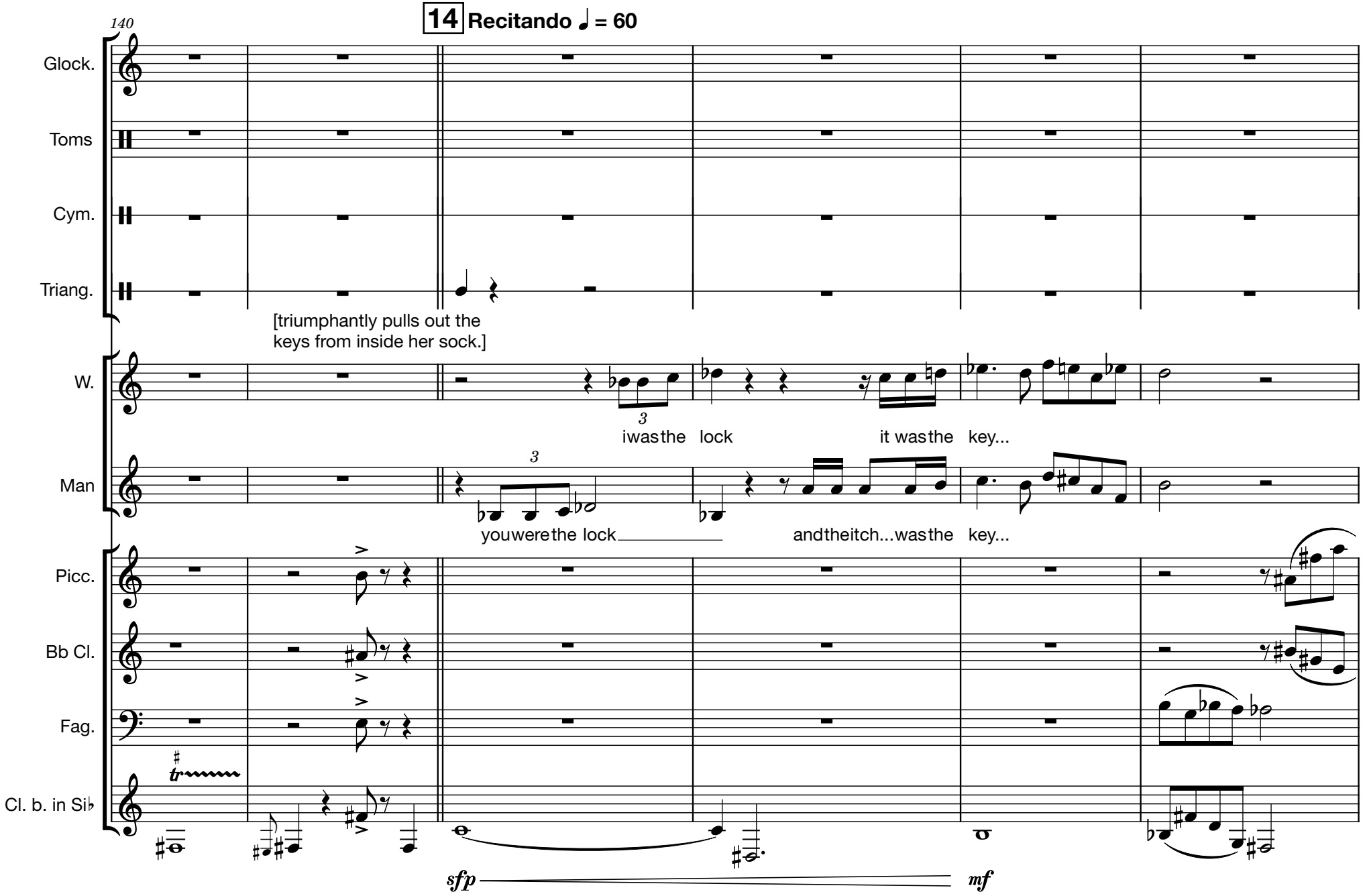

114
rit.
11 Poco più mosso
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
Scratching frantically
Man
miracle..
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Fag.
Cl. b. in Si♭
fff
ff
f


118
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
life
Man
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Fag.
Cl. b. in Si♭


123
12 Meno mosso ♩ = 50
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
findsa way
my dear
Man
in my ass
m' la-dy in my
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Fag.
Cl. b. in Si♭
mp
f
mf
p


rall. di molto
13
Poco più mosso
128
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
Man
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Fag.
Cl. b. in Si♭
ff
[searches her coat one last time—nothing.
Then, she reaches down, scratches her calf…]
the Itch! it has moved! to the keys?
ass! to the keys? the keys?
f


135
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
Man
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Fag.
Cl. b. in Si♭
cresc.
ff


140
14 Recitando ♩ = 60
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
[triumphantly pulls out the keys from inside her sock.]
W.
3
iwasthe lock
it wasthe key...
Man
3
youwerethe lock
andtheitch...wasthe key...
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Fag.
Cl. b. in Si♭
tr
sfp
mf


146
15 Agitato ♩ = 60
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
Man
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Fag.
Cl. b. in Si♭


152
16
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
Man
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Fag.
Cl. b. in Si♭
go grindo-bey the
my date... I must go!
ff
ff
ff
ff


158
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
court I o - penmy door I en - ter my home I a - wait myownchild theself...be-got-ten
Man
andyou?
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Fag.
Cl. b. in Si♭
f
mf
3


163
17
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
Man
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Fag.
Cl. b. in Si♭
one!
you
Are a mi - ra - cle!
Yet you are late...
the law is cruel!
ff
f
3


168
rit.
Glock.
Toms
Cym.
Triang.
W.
Man
Picc.
Bb Cl.
Fag.
Cl. b. in Si♭
f
ff