Music Box Prelude

Karim Al-Zand (2004)

NOTE:

Measures 1-8 are played a total of (at least) 6 times before the final measure is played. The cello begins the piece, playing its part alone. In each successive repeat, an instrument is added, in the following order:

Cello	begins
Percussion	enters top of repeat 1
Piccolo	enters top of repeat 2
Violin	enters top of repeat 3
Piano	enters top of repeat 4
Clarinet	enters top of repeat 5

A very pronounced *ritardando* begins in the final repetition (repeat 6). The music should gradually slow to almost a standstill by measure 8, after which the final measure is cued.

The work may be performed with the instrumentalists coming on stage one at a time, their entrances timed so that they can begin playing at the appropriate moment in the piece (the top of the repeat). The cellist begins on stage alone or, if a conductor is involved, the conductor may begin the piece, directing an 'invisible' ensemble before the cellist enters. Alternatively, if a conductor is not needed to coordinate the initial instrumental entrances, he or she may enter last, in time to begin the *ritardando*.

The piece is also given in a version with harp substituting for piano.

April 2004

Premiere performance: *Music Box Prelude* was written as a concert opener for the contemporary music group *Musiqa*. The work was premiered on May 1, 2004 with Alison Jewett, piccolo; Michael Webster, clarinet; Andrej Grabiec, violin; Norman Fischer, cello; Jean Kierman Fischer, piano; Andrea Moore, percussion; Kevin Noe, conductor.

DURATION:

ca. 3´

Cello
Percussion
Flute
Violin
Piano
Clarinet

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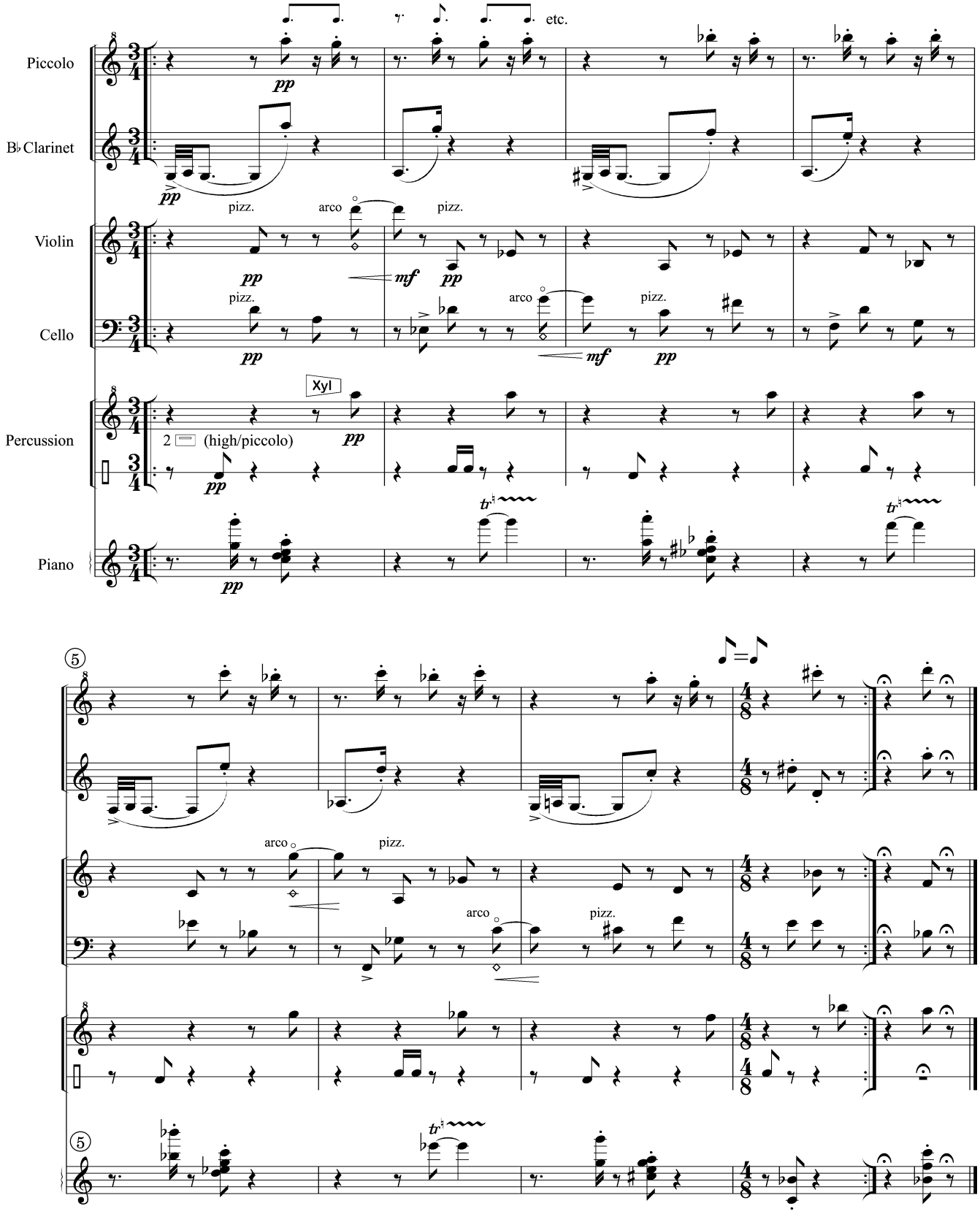
(2004)

Moderately; like a delicate wind-up toy ♩= ca. 84



Cello
Percussion
Flute
Violin
Harp
Clarinet

Music Box Prelude

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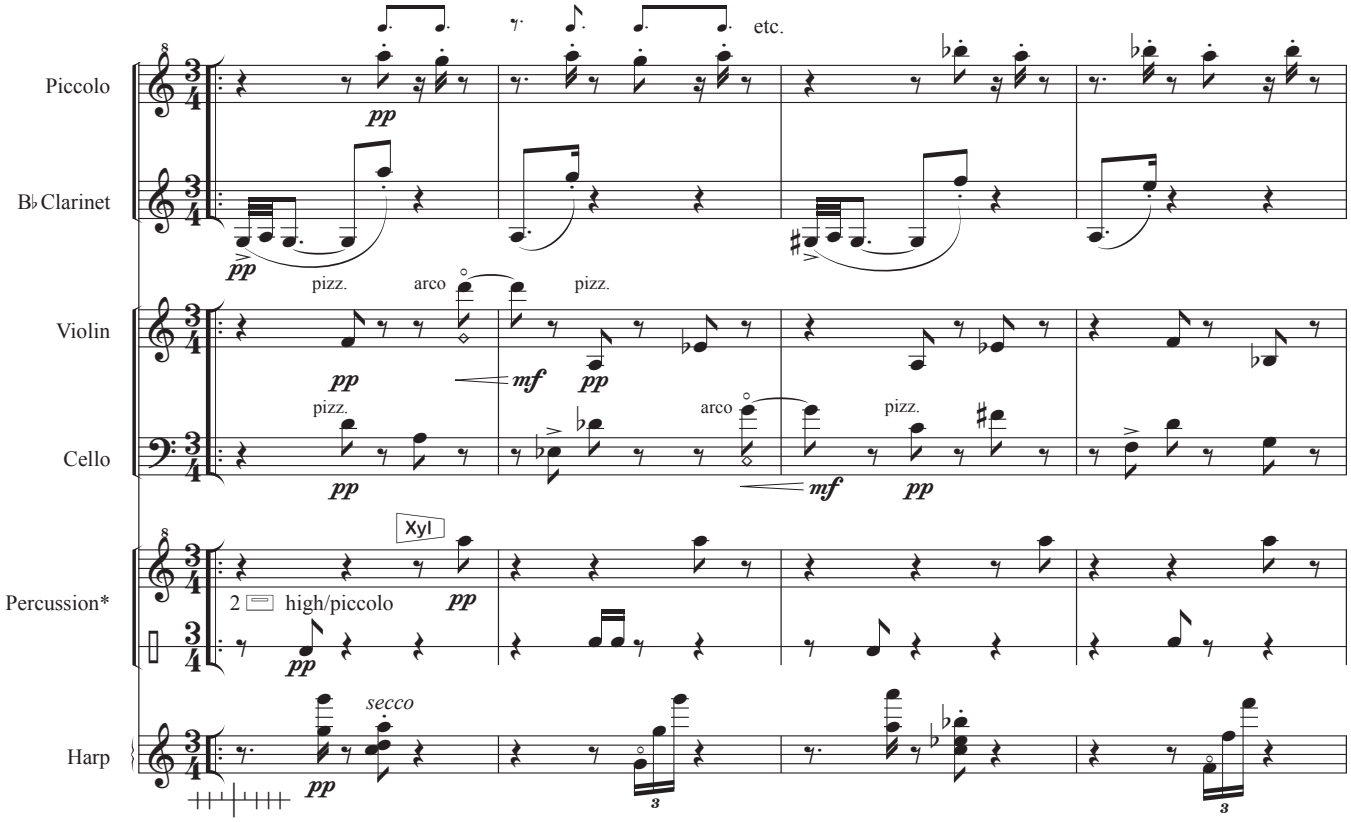
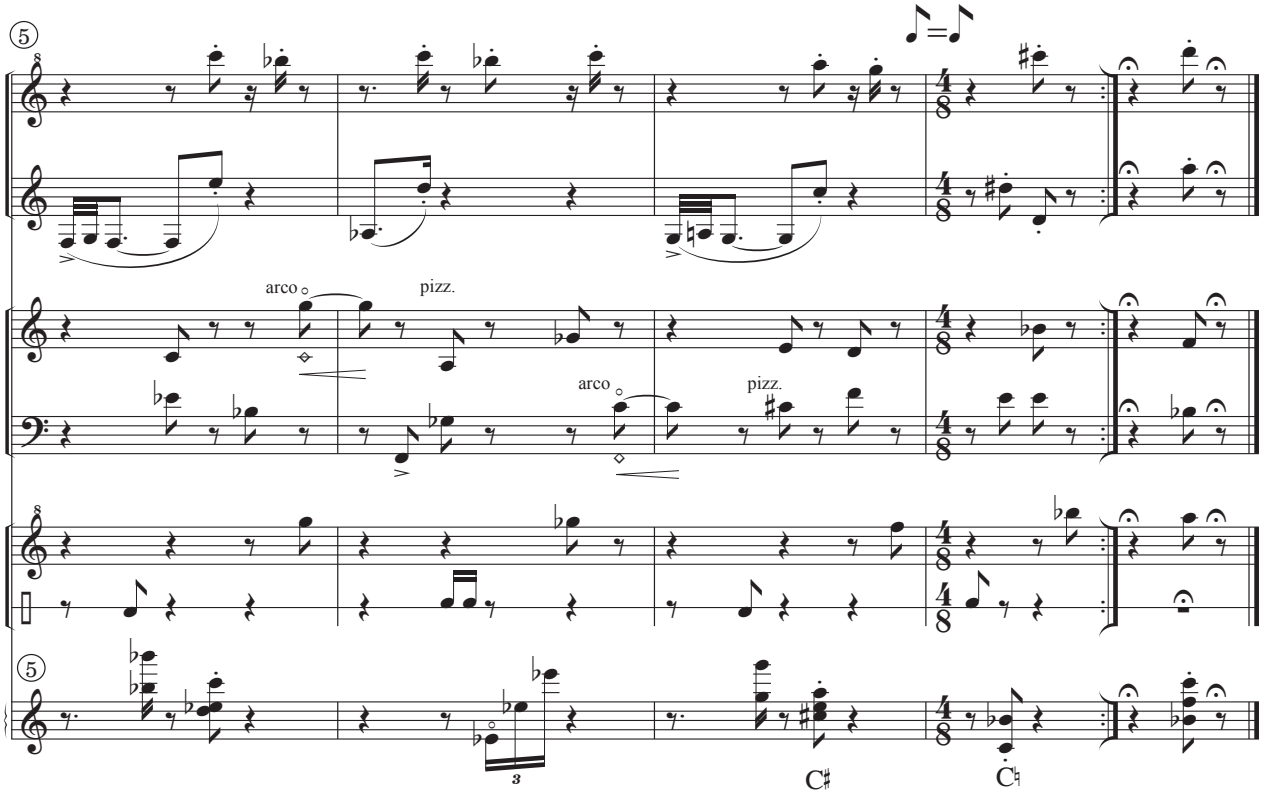
* may be played with high metal sounds: pipes + glockespiel
or high wood sounds: woodblocks + xylophone