## **MERKABAH**

for soprano and piano

David Jason Snow

Firey wheel without beginning, Firey wheel without end. The revolving sword of flame In dance the wings of cherubim About an eye dark and flickering About a heart dark and dumb.

- Tuvia Rivner (translated from the Hebrew)

When I ascended to the first palace I was devout; in the second palace I was pure; in the third sincere; in the fourth I was wholly with God; in the fifth I displayed holiness before God; in the sixth I spoke the kedushah before Him who spoke and created, in order that the guardian angels might not harm me; in the seventh palace I held myself erect with all my might, trembling in all limbs, and spoke the following prayer: Praise be to thee who art exalted, praise be to the Sublime in the chambers of grandeur.

To ascend on high, to descend below, to explore the world, to walk on dry ground to drive on wheels (of the Merkabah), to contemplate the splendor, to dwell with the crown, to praise the glory, to say praise, to combine letters, to say names, to behold what is on high, and to behold what is below, to know the meaning of the living, and to see the vision of the dead, to know the lightning, to walk in rivers of fire.

I beheld and saw the whole Universe and preceived it as it is; I ascended in a carriage of fire and I contemplated the Palaces of Hail. And I found geruska, geruska (?) and three torch-like stones.

This is the spell and the seal by which the Earth is bound, and by which the Heavens are bound. And the Earth flees before it, and the Universe trembles before it.

It opens the mouth of the sea, and closes the waters of the firmament. It opens the Heavens and waters the Universe.

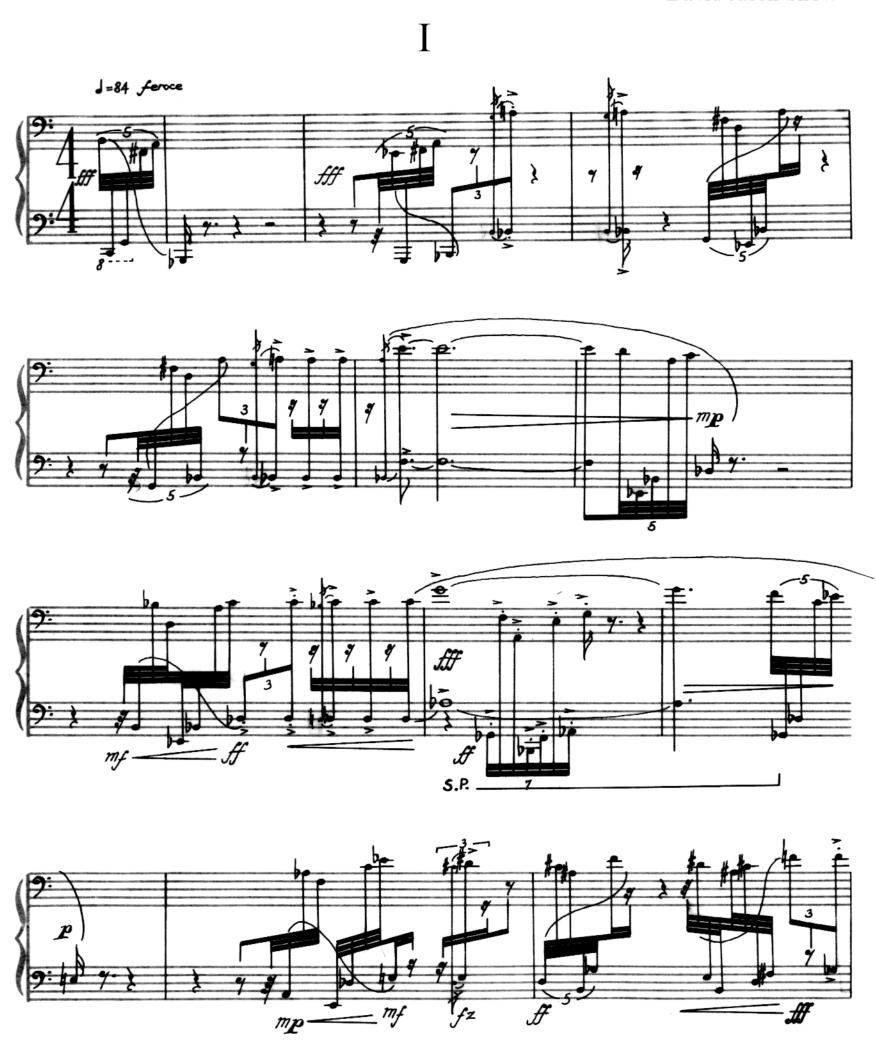
It uproots the Earth and confuses the Universe...

- attributed to R. Akiva ben Joseph (translated from the Aramaic)

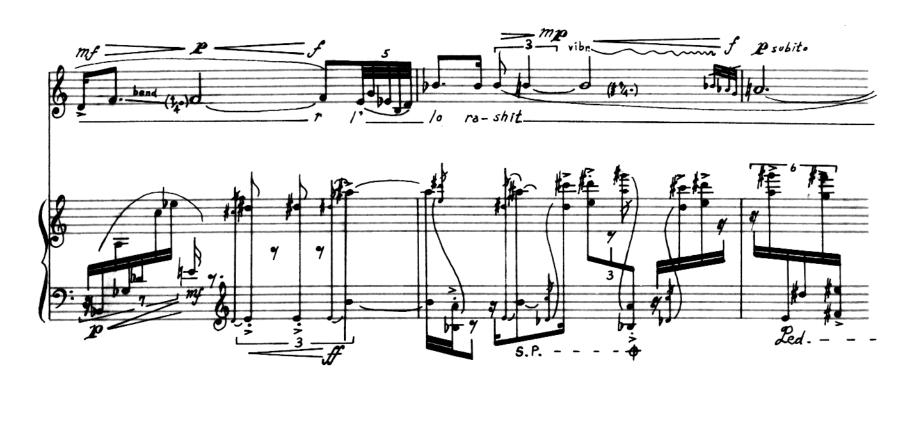
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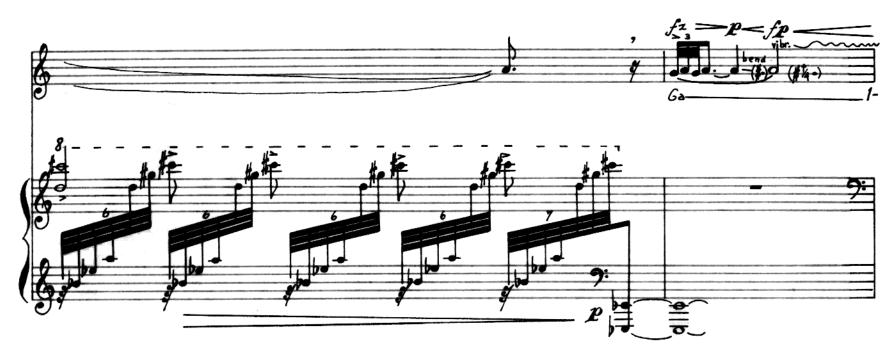
for soprano and piano

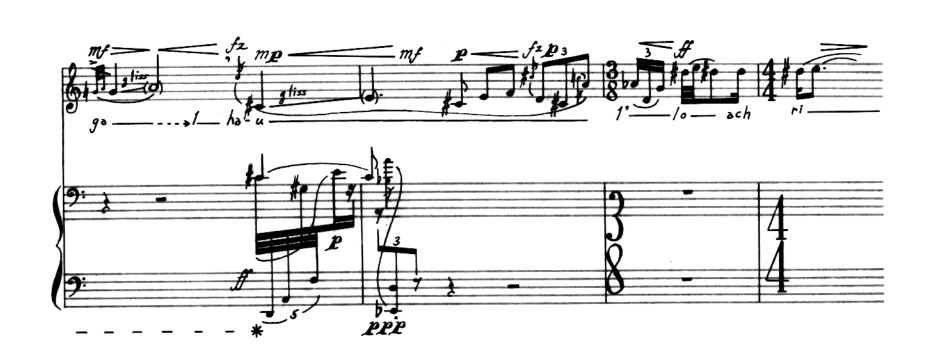
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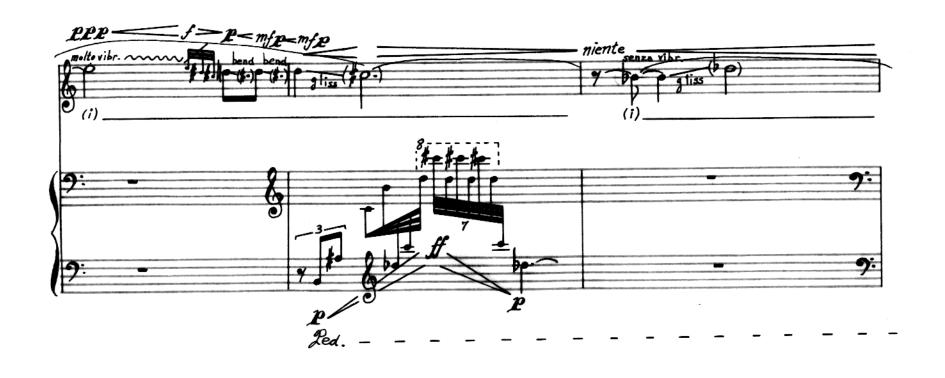




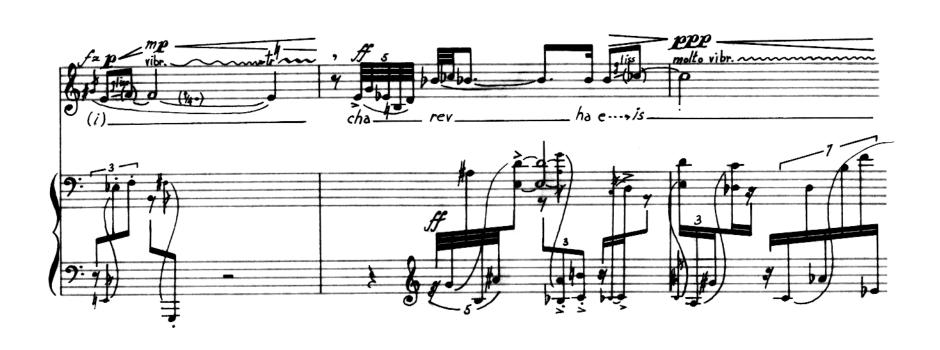


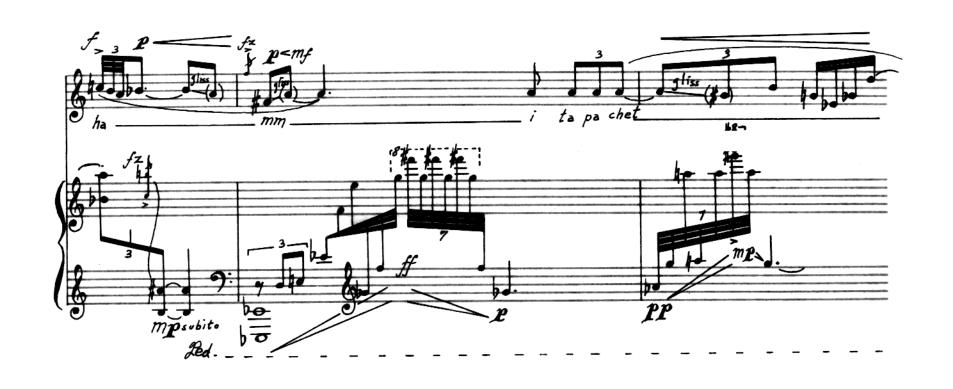


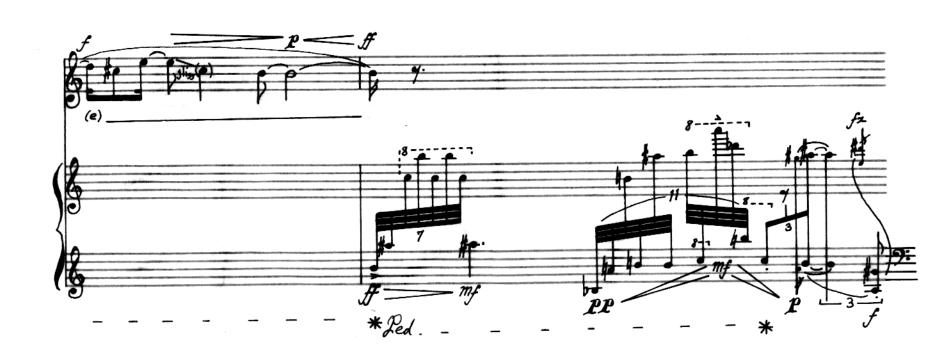


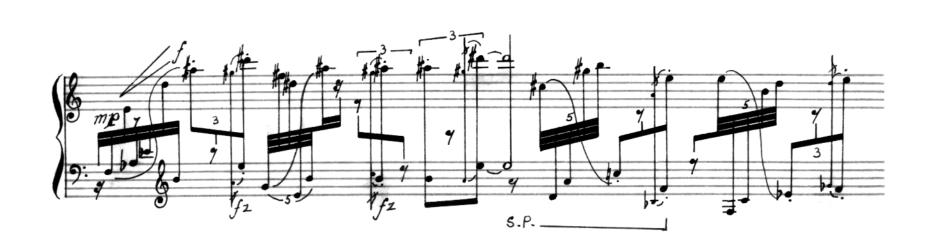


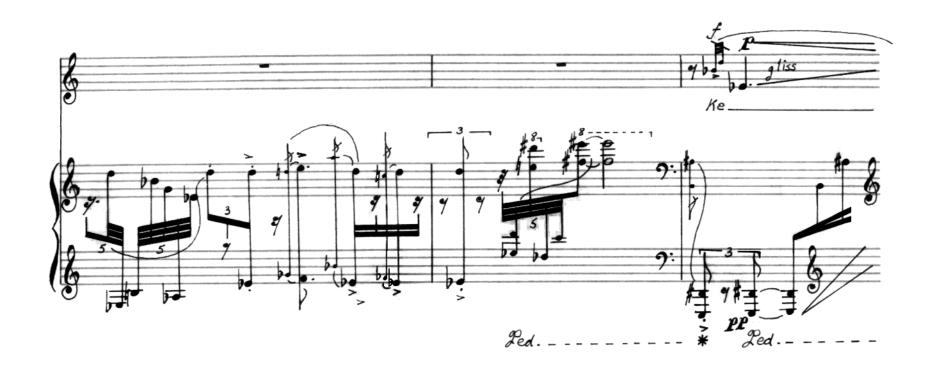


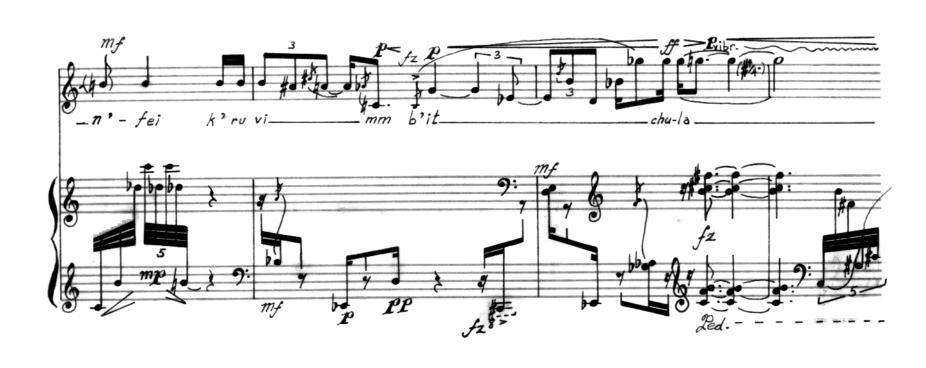




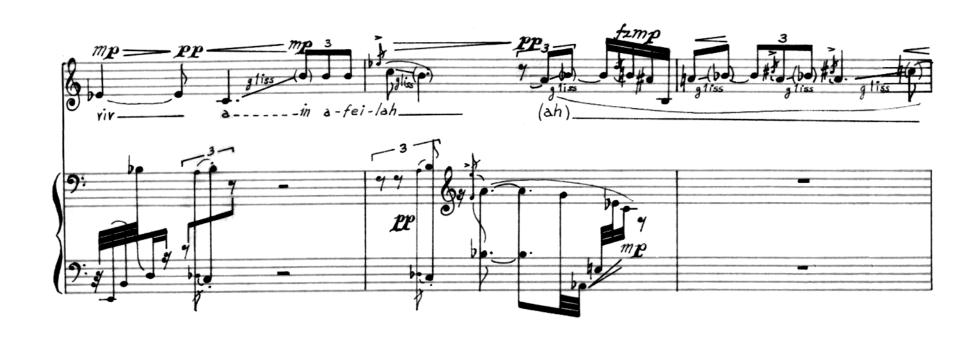


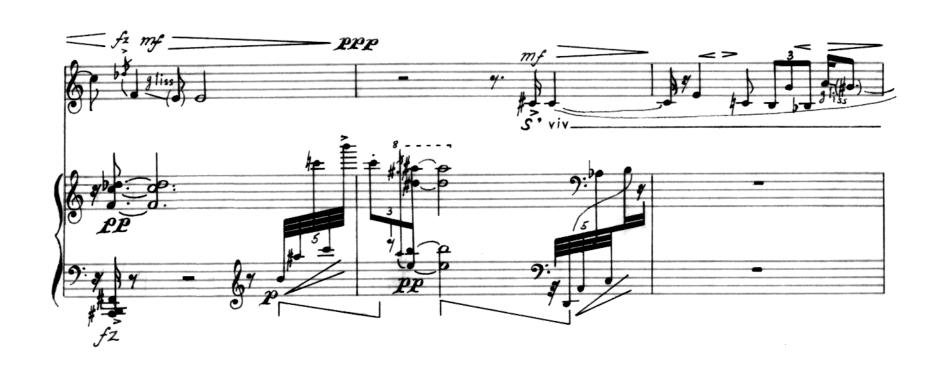




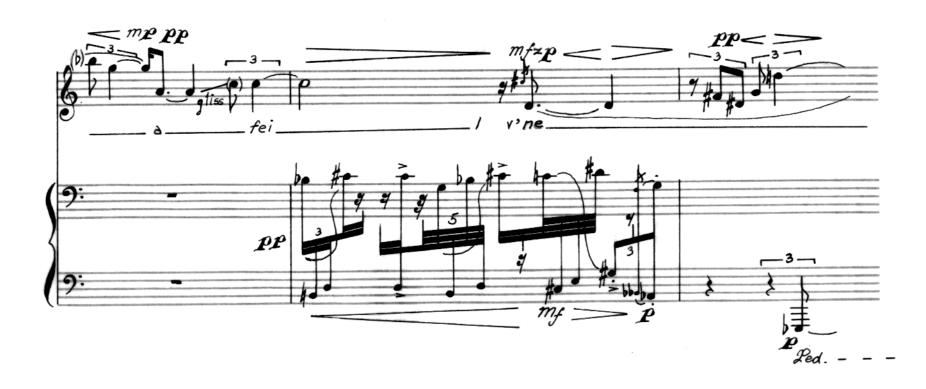


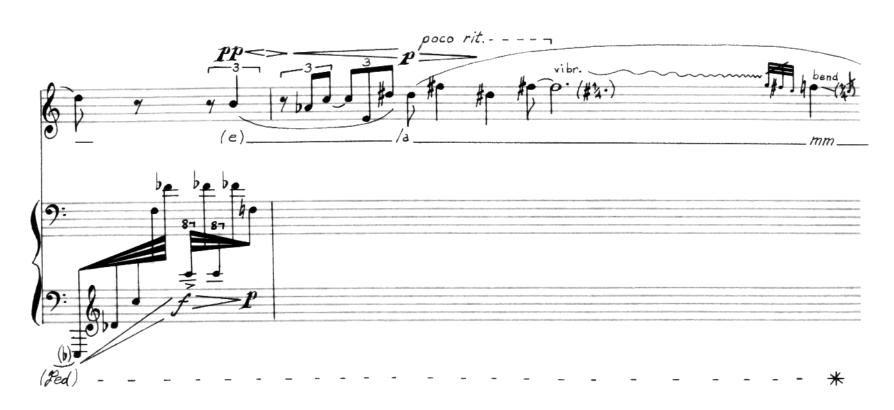


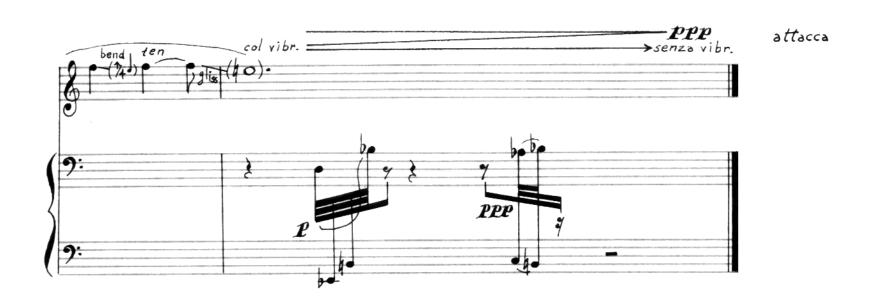










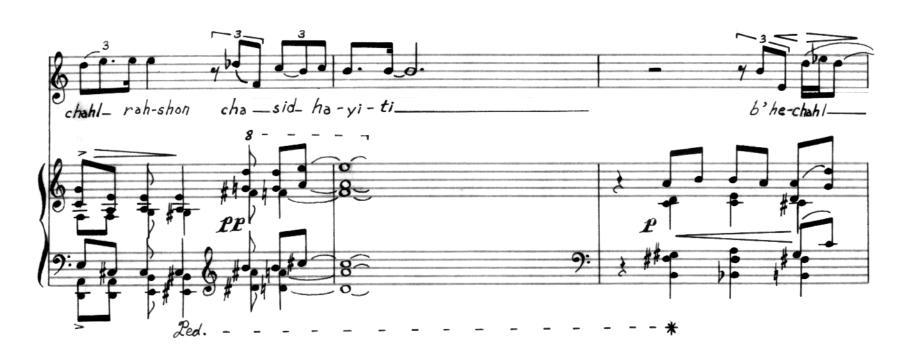


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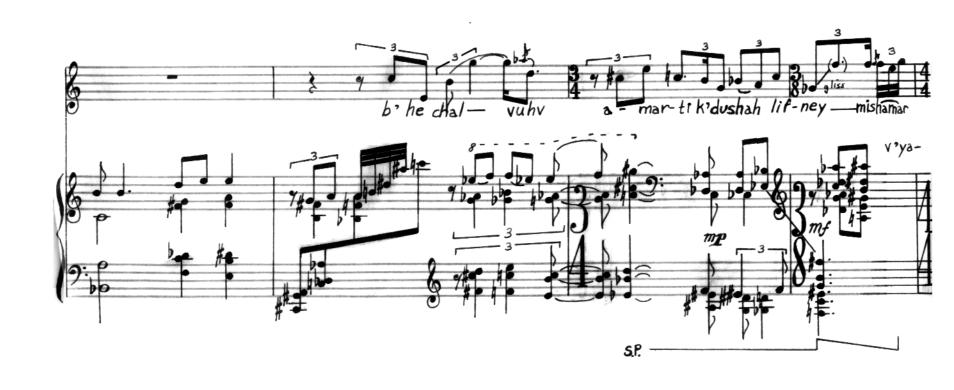


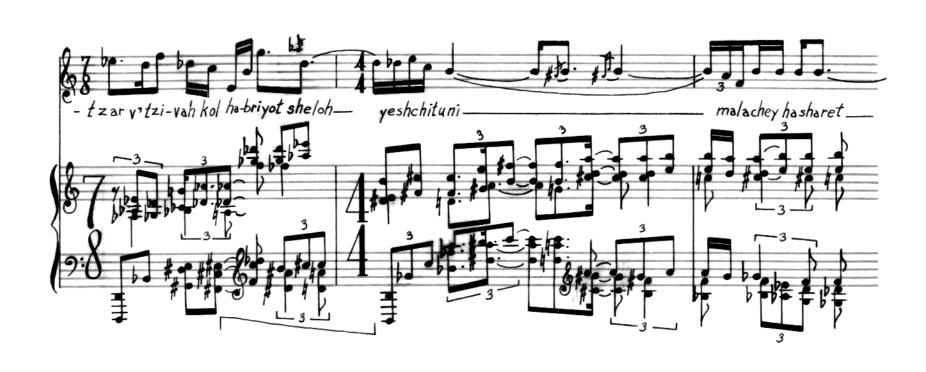




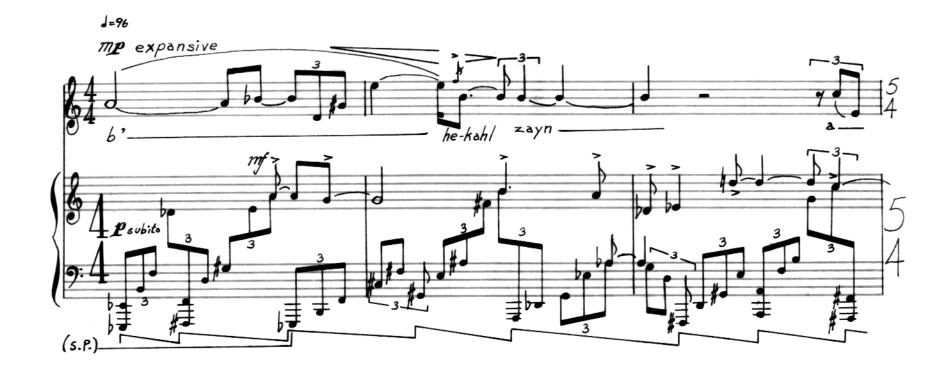


















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