

Andreas Pflüger

# Christmas Ballad

nach dem gleichnamigen Gedicht von  
Joseph Brodsky

für  
Mezzosopran, Bariton,  
Cister, Schlagzeug und Streicher





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# **Christmas Ballad**

## **(2020)**

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# Besetzung

Mezzosopran

Bariton

Cister

Schlagzeug

Glockenspiel, Chimes, Triangel,  
Becken hängend

Streicher

## Text

There floats in an abiding gloom,  
among immensities of brick,  
a little boat of night: it seems  
to sail through Alexander Park.  
It's just a lonely streetlamp,  
though,  
a yellow rose against the night,  
for lovers strolling down below  
the busy street.

There floats in an abiding gloom  
a drone of bees: men drunk,  
asleep.  
In the dark capital a lone  
tourist takes another snap.  
Now out onto Ordynka turns  
a taxicab, with sickly faces;  
dead men lean into the arms  
of the low houses.

There floats in an abiding gloom  
a poet in sorrow; over here  
a round-faced man sells kerosene,  
the sad custodian of his store.  
Along a dull deserted street  
an old Lothario hurries. Soon  
the midnight-riding newlyweds  
sail through the gloom.

There floats in outer Moscow one  
who swims at random to his loss,  
and Jewish accents wander down  
a dismal yellow flight of stairs.  
From love toward unhappiness,  
to New Year's Eve, to Sunday, floats  
a good-time girl: she can't express  
what's lost inside.

Cold evening floats within your eyes  
and snow is fluttering on the panes  
of carriages; the wind is ice  
and pale, it seals your reddened palms.  
Evening lights like honey seep;  
the scent of halvah's everywhere,  
as Christmas Eve lifts up its sweet-  
meats in the air.

Now drifting on a dark-blue wave  
across the city's gloomy sea,  
there floating by, your New Year's Eve—  
as if life could restart, could be  
a thing of light with each day lived  
successfully, and food to eat,  
—as if, life having rolled to left,  
it could roll right.



# Andreas Pflüger

# Christmas Ballad

für Mezzosopran, Bariton, Cister, Schlagzeug und Streicher  
nach dem gleichnamigen Gedicht von  
Joseph Brodsky

*Cister* ♩ = 76 *mp*

*Glockenspiel*

*Chimes*

*Triangel*

*Becken hängend*

*Mezzosopran*

*Bariton*

*Violine 1*

*Violine 2*

*Viola*

*Violoncello* *con sord.* *pp*

*Kontrabass* *pp*

**7**

*Cister*

*Glsp.*

*Chim.* *pp*

*VI. 1* *con sord.* *pp* *ppp* *pp*

*VI. 2* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *ppp*

*Vla.* *ppp*

*Vc.* *ppp*

*Kb.* *ppp*

**12**

Cister

Chim.

VI. 1

VI. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Kb.

==

**15**

Cister

Glsp.

M.-S.

Bar.

VI. 1

VI. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Kb.

There \_\_\_\_\_ floats.

There \_\_\_\_\_ floats, there

pizz.

pizz.

**19**

M.-S.      in an a - bi - ding gloom,

Bar.      floats. an a - bi - ding a - bi - ding a - bi - ding gloom,

VL. 1

VL. 2

Vla.

arco  
Vc.

Kb.

**22**

Cister

Glsp.      *p*

Chim.      *pp*

M.-S.      fast geflüstert  
gloom

Bar.      fast geflüstert  
gloom

VL. 1

VL. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Kb.      *pp*

**25**

M.-S. a - mong, a - mong im - men - si - ties

Bar. a - mong a - mong im - men - si - ties im -

VI. 1 *p*

VI. 2 *p*

Vla. *p* 3 3

(1.arco)  
Vc. *p* 2.pizz.

Kb. pizz. *p*

**28**

Cister *mf*

M.-S. im - mens... im - men - si - ties of brick, of brick of brick, a litt - le

Bar. men - si - ties im - men - si - ties of brick, of brick, of brick, a litt - le

VI. 1 *tr* 5

VI. 2 *tr* 5 *pizz.* *p* *pp* arco

Vla. *tr* 5 *pizz.* *p* arco

Vc. *tr* 5 *pizz.* *p* arco

Kb.

**32**

Cister

Chim.

Trg.

M.-S. boat of night:

Bar. boat of night:

Vi. 1

Vi. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Kb. arco pp

**36**

Cister

Chim.

M.-S. it seems to sail through

Bar. it seems to sail

Vi. 1

Vi. 2

Vla.

Vc. p pizz.

Kb.

**40**

Cister *p*

M.-S. A - - lex - an - der Park it's just, it's

Bar. through A - lex - an - der Park it's just, it's

VL. 1

VL. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Kb. *arco* *p*

**43**

Cister *mf*

Glsp.

Trg. *mp*

Bck.h. *ppp* *sfz*

M.-S. just, a lon - ely street - lamp, though,

Bar. just, it's just, it's just a lon - ely street - lamp, though, though,

VL. 1 *sfz*

VL. 2 *ppp* *sfz*

Vla. *ppp* *sfz* *mp*

Vc. *ppp* *sfz* *pizz.*

Kb. *ppp* *sfz* *pizz.* *p*

**47**

Cister  
Glspl.  
Trg.  
M.-S.  
Bar.

through,  
a yel - low rose\_\_\_\_  
a - gainst the night  
through,  
a yel - low rose\_\_\_\_  
a - gainst the night.

VI. 1  
VI. 2  
Vla.  
Vc.  
Kb.

**51**

Cister  
Trg.  
M.-S.  
Bar.

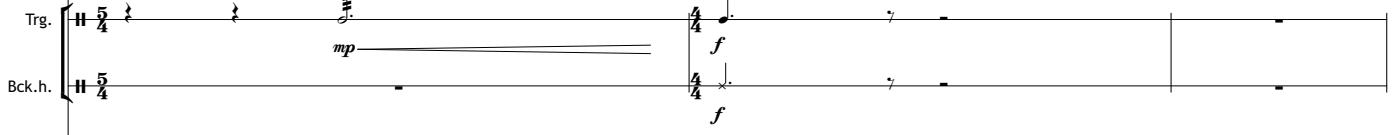
for lov - - ers  
strol - - ling  
be - low  
the bu - sy  
for lov - - ers  
strol - - ling  
be - low  
the bu - sy

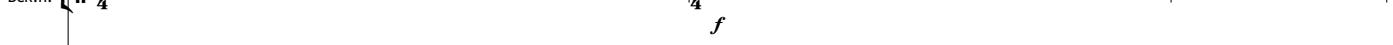
VI. 1  
VI. 2  
Vla.  
Vc.  
Kb.

arco

**54**

Cister 

Trg. 

Bck.h. 

M.-S. 

Bar. 

Vl. 1 

Vl. 2 

Vla. 

Vc. 

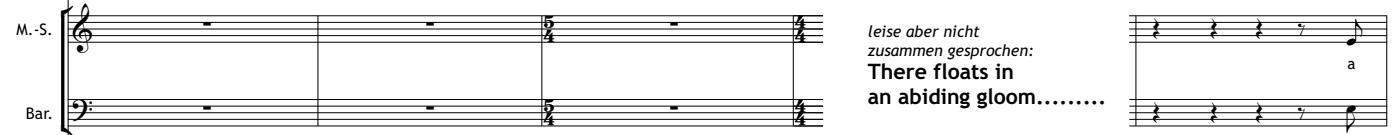
Kb. 

**57**

Cister 

Glsp. 

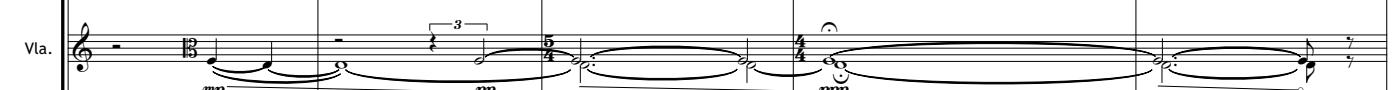
Chim. 

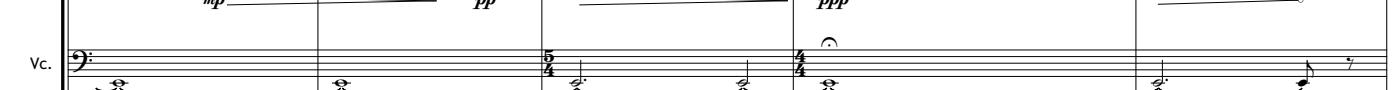
M.-S. 

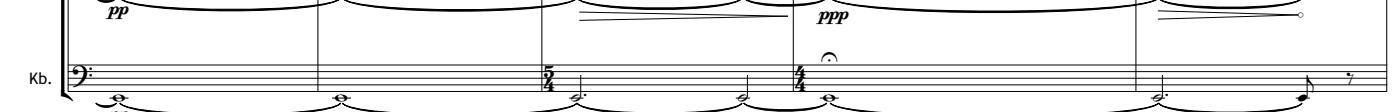
Bar. 

Vl. 1 

Vl. 2 

Vla. 

Vc. 

Kb. 

**62**

Trg.  $\text{ff}$   $f$

Bck.h.  $p$

M.-S. drone. of bees: *gliss.* men drunk a.  
Bar. drone of bees: men drunk

VI. 1  $p$  *f* *sul pont.* *pos. ord.*

VI. 2  $p$  *f* *sul pont.* *pos. ord.*

Vla.  $mp$  *mf*  $f$  *f* *p* *ppp*

Vc.  $p$  *mf*  $f$  *gliss.* *gliss.* *pizz.* *ppp*

Kb.  $p$  *mf*  $f$  *f* *arco* *pos. ord.* *ppp* *sfz*

**64**

Cister  $mp$

Glsp.  $mp$

M.-S. sleep. In the dark ca - pi - tal a lone *gliss.* tou - rist

Bar. a - sleep. In the dark ca - pi - tal dark ca - pi - tal

VI. 1 *pp*  $3$   $5$

VI. 2  $3$   $7$

Vla.  $3$

Vc.  $3$

Kb.  $3$

*ppp*

**68**

Cister      Glsp.      Chim.      M.-S.  
*takes an - oth - er snap.*  
 Bar.      takes an - oth - er an - oth - er snap.

VI. 1      VI. 2      Vla.      Vc.      Kb.

sul pont.

**71**

Cister      Glsp.      Trg.      M.-S.  
*Now out of the Or - din - ka turns a tax - i - cab with*  
 Bar.      Now out on - to Or - - din - ka turns a tax - i - cab

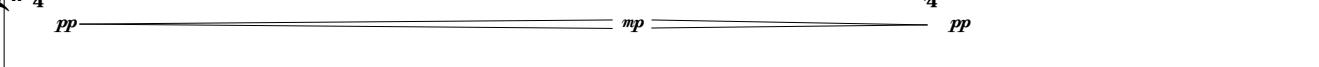
VI. 1      VI. 2      Vla.      Vc.      Kb.

sul pont.  
 ppp      pizz.  
 p

**74**

Cister 

Glp. 

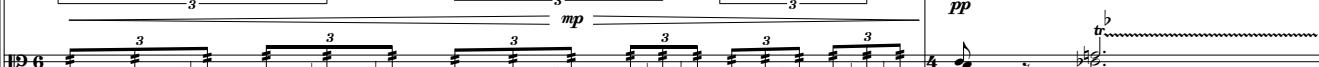
Bck.h. 

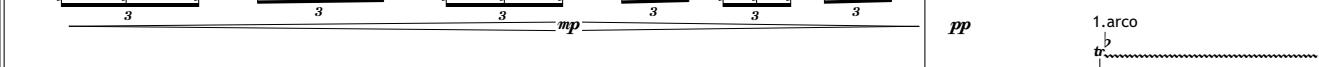
M.-S. sick - - - ly fa - - - ces; 

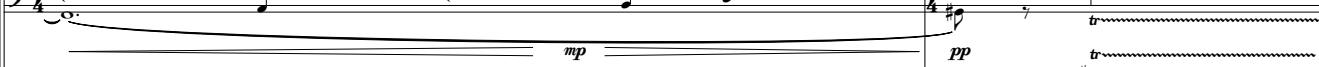
Bar. with sick - - ly with sick - ly fac - es; dead men lean in - to the 

VI. 1 

VI. 2 

Vla. 

Vc. 

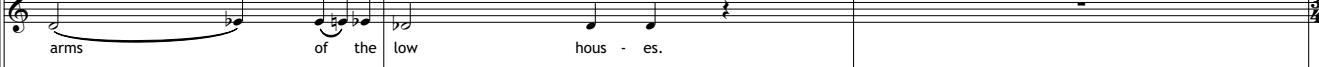
Kb. 

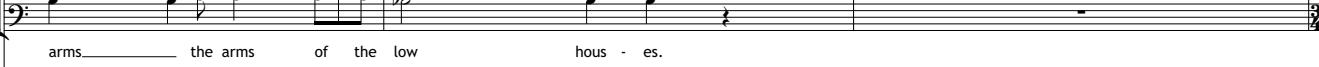
*pp*

**76**

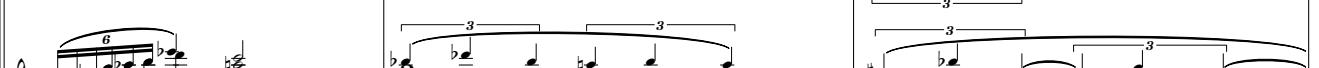
Cister 

Glp. 

M.-S. arms of the low hous - es. 

Bar. arms the arms of the low hous - es. 

VI. 1 

VI. 2 

Vla. 

Vc. 

Kb. 

**79**

Cister

Trg.

M.-S.

Bar.

Vl. 1

Vl. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Kb.

The floats \_\_\_\_\_  
in an a bi - ding  
There floats \_\_\_\_\_  
in an a bi - ding

**83**

Cister

Chim.

M.-S.

Bar.

Vl. 1

Vl. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Kb.

gloom\_\_\_\_\_ a po - et in sor - row; o-ver  
gloom\_\_\_\_\_ a po - et in sor - row; o-ver

p ppp p ppp p

mf pp 3 3 trb 3 3 3 3

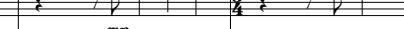
pp 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

pp 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

pp 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

87

Cister 

Glspl. 

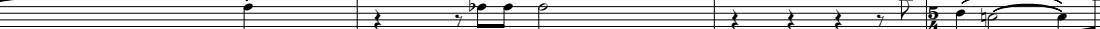
Trg. 

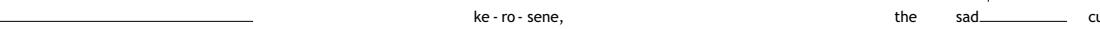
M.-S. 

Bar. 

Vl. 1 

Vl. 2 

Vla. 

Vc. 

Kb. 

91

Cister  
Glspl.  
Trg.  
Bck.h.  
M.-S.  
Bar.

of his store. A - long a dull de - ser - ted

his store. A - long a dull de - - - ser - ted

Vl. 1  
(tr.)  
Vl. 2  
(tr.)  
Vla.  
(tr.)  
Vc.  
Kb.

**95**

Cister  
Bck.h.  
M.-S. street an old Lo - tha - rario hur - ries.  
Bar. de - ser - ted street an old Lo - tha - ian hur - ries.

VL. 1  
VL. 2  
Vla.  
Vc.  
Kb.

**99**

Cister  
Glsp.  
Trg.  
M.-S. Soon the mid - night - ri - ding new - ly - weds  
Bar. Soon the mid - night ri - ding new - ly - weds

VL. 1  
VL. 2  
Vla.  
Vc.  
Kb.

**103**

Cister *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *tr<sup>b</sup>* *pp*

Glspl. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Bck.h. *p*

M.-S. sail through the gloom..

Bar. sail through the gloom..

Vl. 1 *mf*

Vl. 2

Vla.

Vc. *p* *mf*

Kb. *pp*

**107**

Bck.h. *sfz*

M.-S. There floats in ou - ter Mos cow

Bar. There floats in ou - ter Mos cow

Vl. 1 *sfz*

Vl. 2 *sfz*

Vla. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *mf*

Vc. *sfz - mf* *p*

Kb. *=sfz - mf* *p*

**110**

M.-S. one who swims at ran - dom to his loss, and  
Bar. one who swims, who swims, who swims at ran - dom his loss and

3

VI. 1 VI. 2 Vla. Vc. Kb.

**113**

Cister Je - wish ac - cents wan - der a  
M.-S. Je - wish sc - cents wan - der down as dis - mal,  
Bar.

VI. 1 VI. 2 Vla. Vc. Kb.

**117**

Cister *mf*

M.-S.

dis - mal      yel - low      flight      of      stairs.

Bar.

a dis - mal      yel - low      a dis - mal      yel - - - low      a dis - mal      yel - low      flight of stairs.

VL. 1

VL. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Kb.

**120**

Glsp. *mf*

Trg. *mf*      *mf*

M.-S.

From love - - - toward un - - - - hap - py - ness,

Bar.

From love      un - - - - hap - py - ness

VL. 1 *pp*

VL. 2 *pp*

Vla. *mf*

Vc.

Kb.

*f*      *sffz*      *mf*

*f*      *sffz*      *mf*

**124**

Gls. -

M.-S. to sun - day floats a good - time girl  
Bar. to New - Year's Eve, floats a good - time girl

Vl. 1

Vl. 2

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Kb. *pp*

**128**

M.-S. she can't ex - press what's lost in side.  
Bar. she can't ex - press what's lost in side, what's lost in... side.

Vl. 1 *tr.*

Vl. 2 *tr.*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *pp*

Kb. *pizz.* *arco*

**131**

Glp. -

Trg. -

M.-S. lost lost lost

Bar. in... in - - side in - side.

Vl. 1 -

Vl. 2 -

Vla. -

Vc. -

Kb. -

**134**

Cister -

Vl. 1 -

Vl. 2 -

Vla. -

Vc. -

Kb. -

**140**

Cister: Measure 3, dynamic *pp*, measure 4, dynamic *p*, measure 5, dynamic *ppp*.

Glsp.: Measure 5, dynamic *mf*.

Chim.: Measure 5, dynamic *pp*, measure 6, dynamic *p*, measure 7, dynamic *ppp*.

M.-S.: Measure 6, lyrics "Cold e - ven -".

Bar.: Measure 6.

Vl. 1: Measure 7, dynamic *p*.

Vl. 2: Measure 7, dynamic *ppp*.

Vla.: Measure 7, dynamic *ppp*.

Vc.: Measure 7, dynamic *ppp*.

Kb.: Measure 7, dynamic *ppp*.

**145**

Cister: Measure 1, dynamic *p*.

Glsp.: Measure 1, dynamic *p*.

Bck.h.: Measure 2, dynamic *pp*, measure 3, dynamic *p*, measure 4, dynamic *pp*.

M.-S.: Measure 2, lyrics "ing floats in your eyes...".

Bar.: Measure 2, lyrics "...and snow is flut - ter - ing".

Vl. 1: Measure 5, dynamic *pp*.

Vl. 2: Measure 5, dynamic *p*, measure 6, dynamic *tr*, measure 7, dynamic *pp*.

Vla.: Measure 7.

Vc.: Measure 7.

Kb.: Measure 7.

**150**

Cister [f] [mp]

Glp. [pp] [p] [pp] [mp]

Bck.h. [5] [5]

M.-S. [the wind is ice and pale]

Bar. [on the panes of car - ri - ag - es; the wind is ice and pale]

VI. 1 [tr] [p] [tr] [6] [pp] [tr] [6]

VI. 2 [tr] [p] [tr] [6] [pp]

Vla. [gliss.] [1.sul pont.] [2.pos.ord.] [3] [3]

Vc. [arco] [ppp] [3] [3]

Kb. [pizz.] [3] [3]

[ppp]

**154**

Cister

Glspl.

Trg.

M.-S.  
it seals your red - dened  
palms.

Bar.  
it seals your red - dened  
your red - dened palms.

VL. 1

VL. 2

Vla.  
(1.sul pont.)  
3  
2.sul pont.  
3

Vc.

Kb.

**157**

Trg. *mf*

M.-S. E - ve - ning lights like ho - ney sleep; the scent of hal - vah's

Bar. E - ve - ning lights ho - ney sleep; scent of hal - vah's

VI. 1 *tr* ..... *b* .....

VI. 2 *tr* ..... *b* .....

Vla. pizz. arco *f* pizz. arco *p* .....

Vc. pizz. arco *f* pizz. arco *p* .....

Kb. pizz. arco *f* pizz. arco *p* .....

**160**

Cister *f*

Glsp. *f*

Trg. *f*

M.-S. e - ve - ry where as Christ-mas Eve lifts up its

Bar. e - ve - ry - where as Christ - - - mas Eve

VI. 1 *3* .....

VI. 2 *3* .....

Vla. *3* *3* *3* .....

Vc. *3* *7* *3* .....

Kb. *3* *3* *3* .....

pizz. *pp* .....

pizz. *pp*

**163**

Cister  
Glsp.  
Chim.  
Bck.h.  
M.-S.  
Bar.  
Vl. 1  
Vl. 2  
Vla.  
Vc.  
Kb.

sweet - meats in the air.  
sweet meats in the air.

sul pont.  
sul pont.  
sul pont.  
1.sul pont.  
2.pos.ord.  
arco

**167**

Cister  
Glsp.  
Bck.h.  
M.-S.  
Vl. 1  
Vl. 2  
Vla.  
Vc.  
Kb.

f  
f  
mf  
Now drifting

pos.ord.  
pos.ord.  
1.sul pont.  
2.pos.ord.  
pos.ord. pizz.  
mp  
ppp  
ppp  
ppp  
ppp  
ppp  
ppp  
ppp  
ppp

170

Cister

Glsp.

M.-S.  
on a dark blue wave\_\_\_\_\_  
dark - blue  
dark blue wave\_\_\_\_\_  
a-cross, a - cross

Bar.  
Now drift - ting on a dark - blue  
wave\_\_\_\_\_  
a- cross, a cross

Vl. 1

Vl. 2

Vla.  
pos.ord.  
*p*

Vc.  
1. & 2. arco  
1. sul pont.  
2. pos.ord.  
*pp*

Kb.  
pizz.  
*pp*

174

Cister

Gsp.

Chim.

M.-S.

Bar.

Vl. 1

Vl. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Kb.

**178**

Cister - - - - -

Glspl. - - - - -

Trg. - - - - -

Bck.h. - - - - -

M.-S. your New Year's Eve as is life could re-

Bar. your New Year's Eve as is life could re-

VL. 1 - - - - -

VL. 2 - - - - -

Vla. *ppp* 6 6 6 6 pos.ord. 6 *p* *mf* 3

Vc. *ppp* 3 3 3 3 tutti pos.ord. *p* 6 *mf* 3

Kb. *ppp* - - - - -

**181**

Cister

Glpn.

Trg.

M.-S.

Bar.

start, could be a thing of light with each day lived suc - cess - ful ly

start, could be a thing of light with each day lived suc - cess - ful ly

(8)

Vl. 1

Vl. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Kb.

**185**

Gssp. -

Bck.h. -

M.-S. and food to eat, as if,

Bar. and food and food to eat as if, as if,

Vl. 1 -

Vl. 2 -

Vla. -

Vc. -

Kb. -

**188**

Cister -

Gssp. -

Trg. -

M.-S. life ha - ving rolled to left, it could roll..

Bar. life ha - ving rolled it could roll.. to

Vl. 1 -

Vl. 2 -

Vla. -

Vc. -

Kb. -

**191**

Cister      *mp*

Gssp.      *mp*

Trg.      *p*

M.-S.

Bar.      right.      to      left

Vl. 1      *pp*      *ppp*

Vl. 2      *pp*      *ppp*

Vla.      *ppp*

Vc.      *ppp*

Kb.      *ppp*

**194**

Cister      *pp*

Gssp.      *mf*

M.-S.      left      left      *f* life hav - ing

Bar.      to right      to right      life hav - ing

Vl. 1      *ppp*

Vl. 2      *ppp* *3* *6*

Vla.      *ppp*

Vc.      *ppp*

Kb.      *ppp*

**197**

Cister: ff to pp

Glsp.: ff to ppp

Chim.: **ppp**

M.-S. rolled to **p**  
Bar. rolled to **p**

*flüsternd während  
5 Sekunden  
unregelmäßig wiederholen:  
...left...  
...right...*

Vl. 1 ff to **ppp** al niente

Vl. 2 ff to **ppp** al niente

Vla. ff to **ppp** al niente

Vc. ff to **ppp** al niente

Kb. ff to **ppp** al niente