adam groh

confluence

for three percussionists

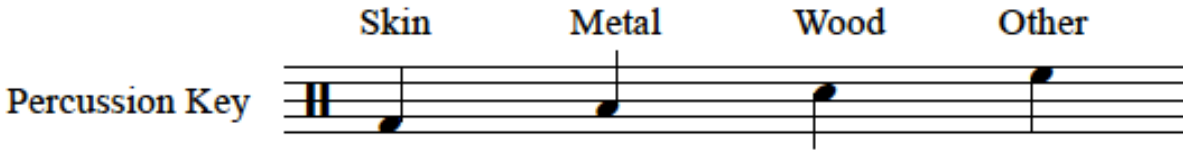
2012

Program Notes

Rivers have long served as a lifeline for nations across the world. Trace the paths of rivers along a map and you will inevitably come across major cities, who came to prominence because of the opportunities for commerce, nourishment, and transportation that the rivers flowing through them provided. *confluence* takes its inspiration from the great rivers of the United States, and the effect that they have had on how our country has developed and grown. Literally, the word "confluence" refers to the point at which two rivers join together. For this piece, I chose to use three major waterways, the Missouri, Mississippi, and Ohio rivers, all of which eventually meld into the same common stream before flowing out to the Gulf of Mexico. Altogether, these three rivers combine to flow over more than 6,000 miles. They pass through major cities such as Minneapolis/St. Paul, Omaha, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Louisville, Memphis, and eventually empty into the Gulf right at the city of New Orleans. These rivers, and their tributaries, are the main source of water for millions of people across an enormous portion of the United States. Their geography serves as the basis for the form of the work, and their interconnectedness is mirrored in the three parts, which function both individually, as well as one cohesive unit.

Setup/Notation Considerations

Each player uses four instruments. Instrument selection is done at the performer's discretion, although there are a few basic guidelines. Three instruments should come from the following categories: Skin, Metal, and Wood. The fourth instrument should be made of a different material than the other three (ie – glass, ceramic, plastic, etc.), and should have a unique timbre that stands out from the rest of the setup. The instruments should have no, or very little, resonance. Because of the tempo and intricate rhythmic figures, instruments that have unclear attacks or sustain too long are not suitable. While the composer envisions the setups including relatively small instruments, for example, a bongo, wood block, etc., there is nothing wrong with using large instruments such as floor toms, trash cans, or wooden slats, as long as their articulation is clear. It is also important to note that all three players should use basically the same instruments. Therefore, if players choose to use small tom-toms as the skin instrument, all three should be approximately the same size and pitch. It is also preferable to arrange the instruments from low to high pitch in accordance with their placement on the score (skin being the lowest pitched, ascending to the "other" category).

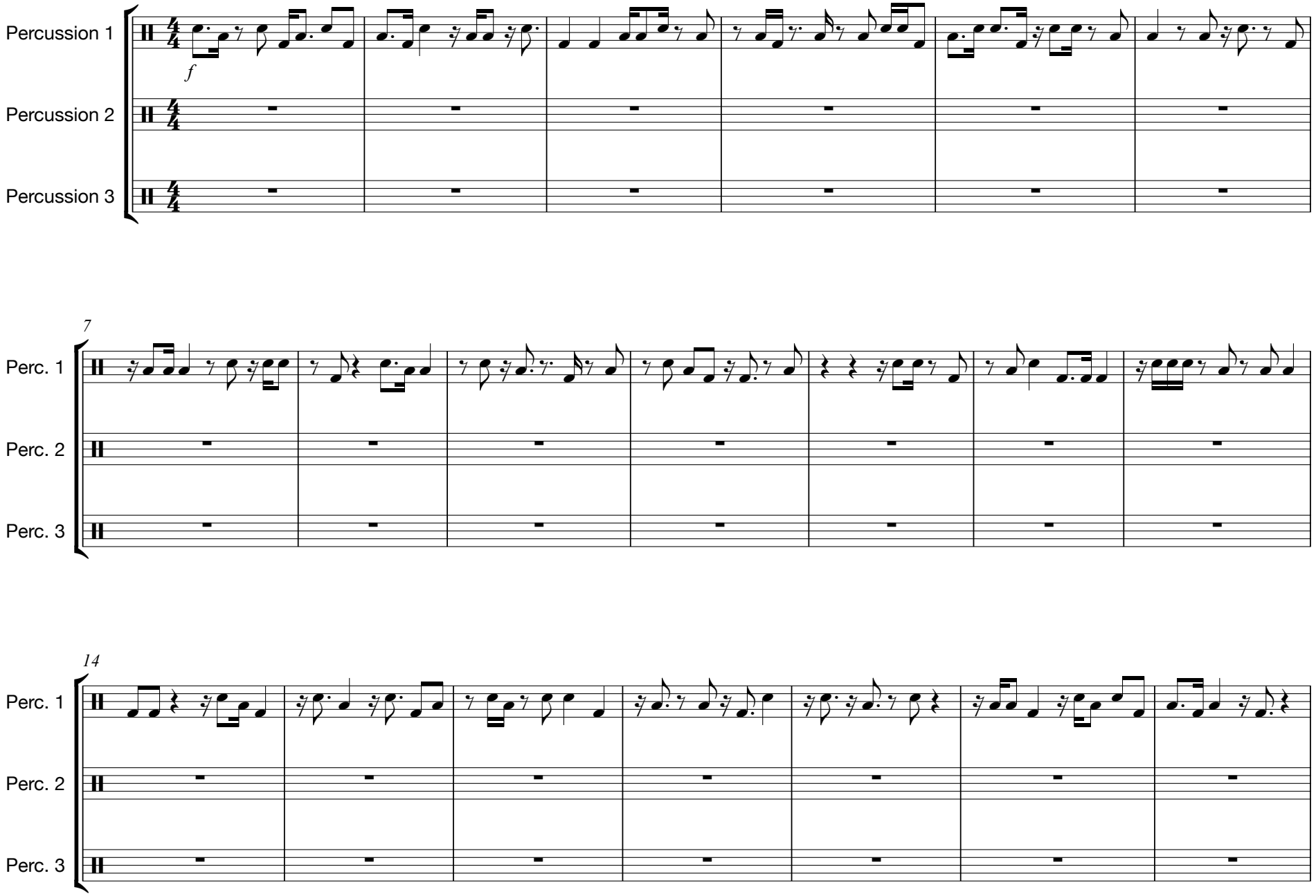


confluence

adam groh

♩ = 120

with a steady groove...



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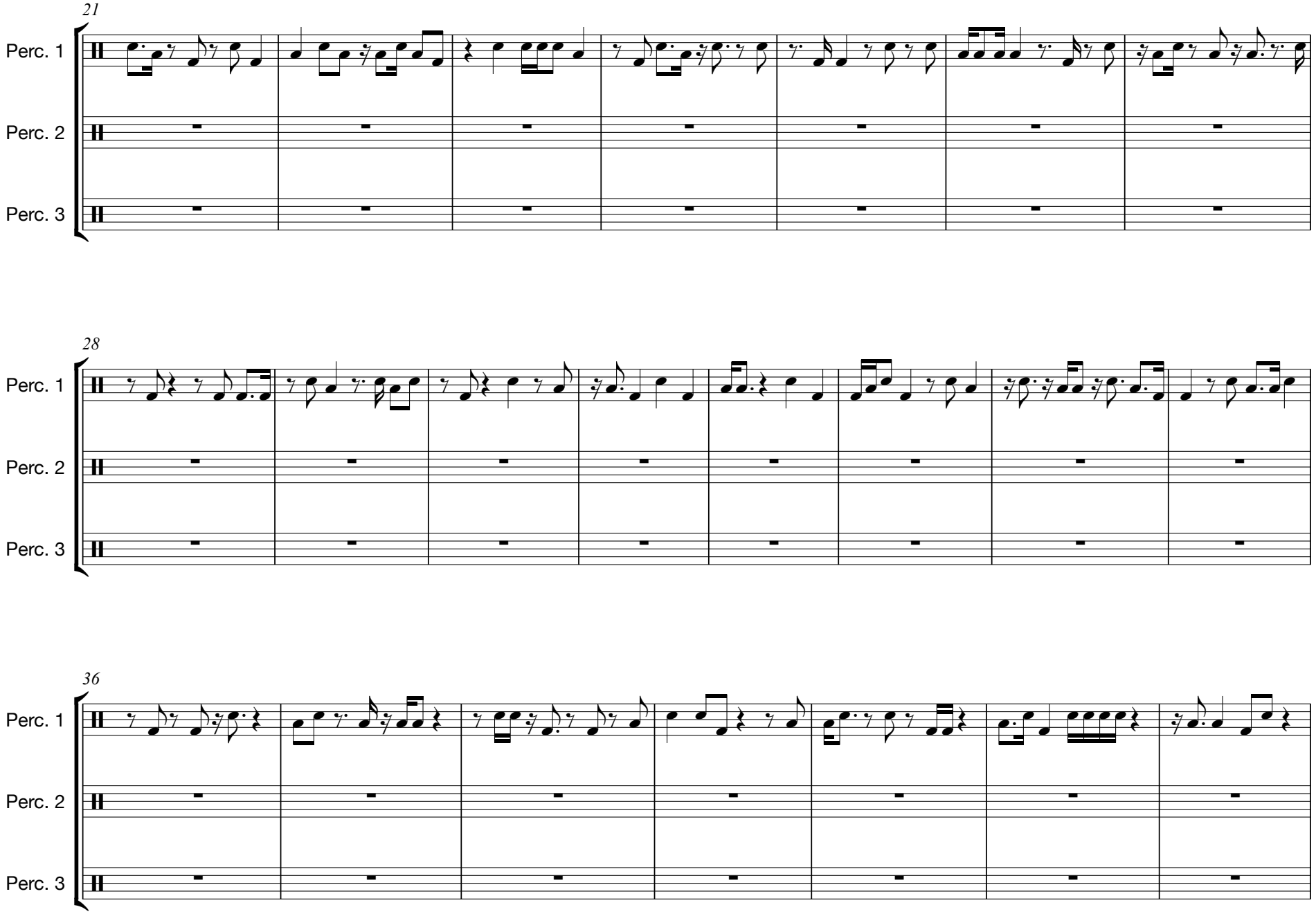
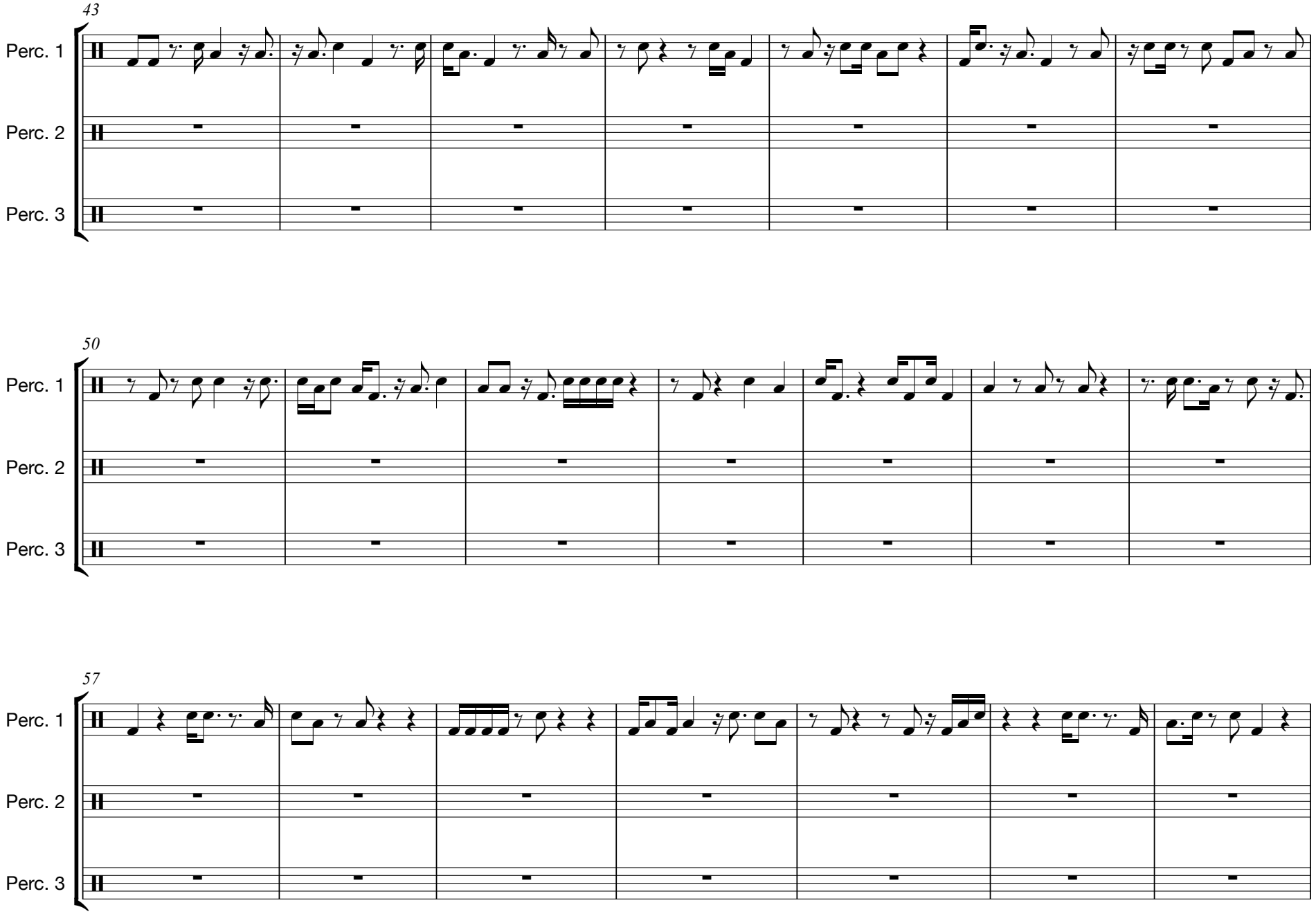
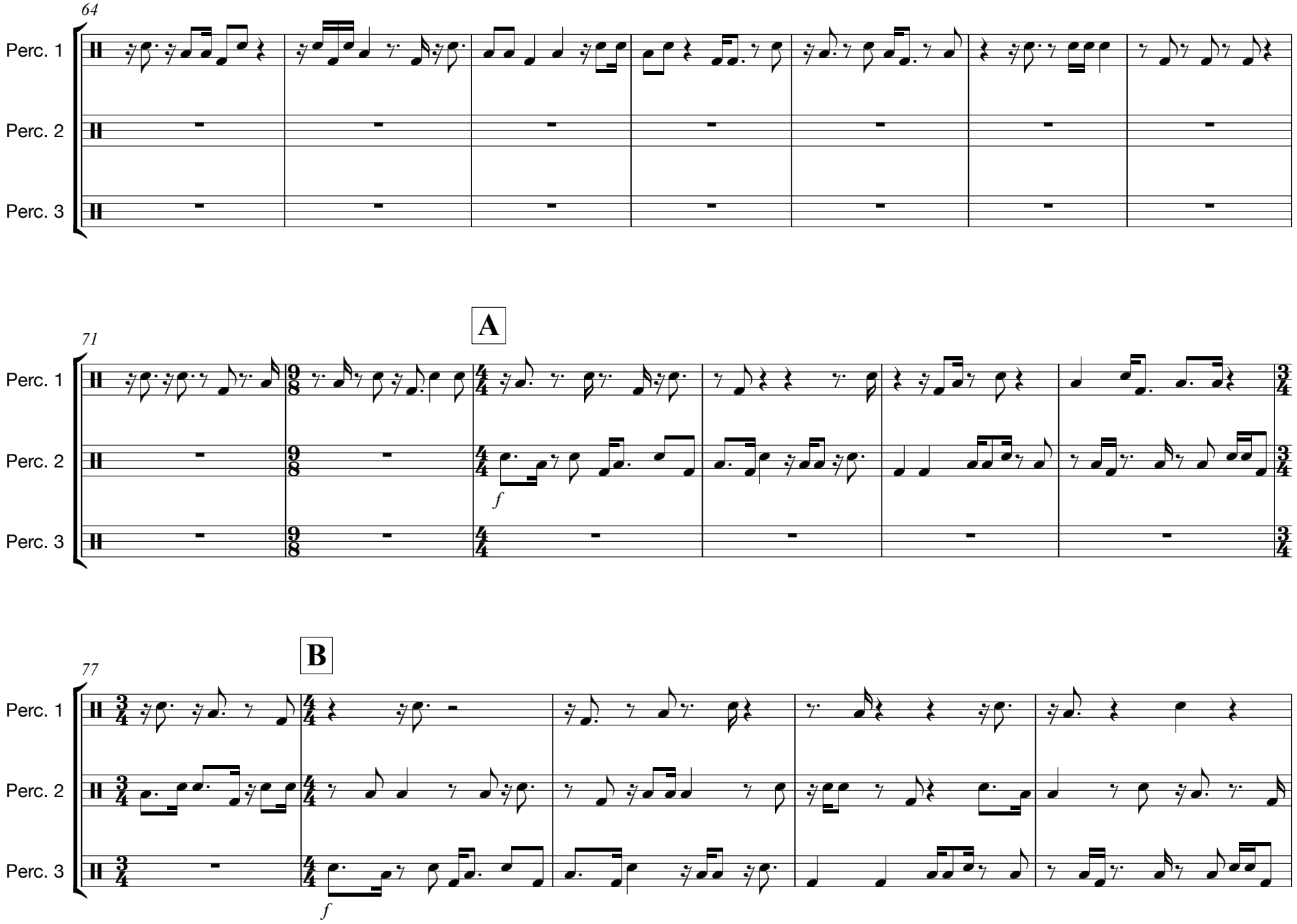

21
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
28
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
36
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3


43
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
50
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
57
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3


64
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
71
A
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
f
77
B
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
f