The Earliest Seduction

for improvisers and electronics

Chris Fisher-Lochhead

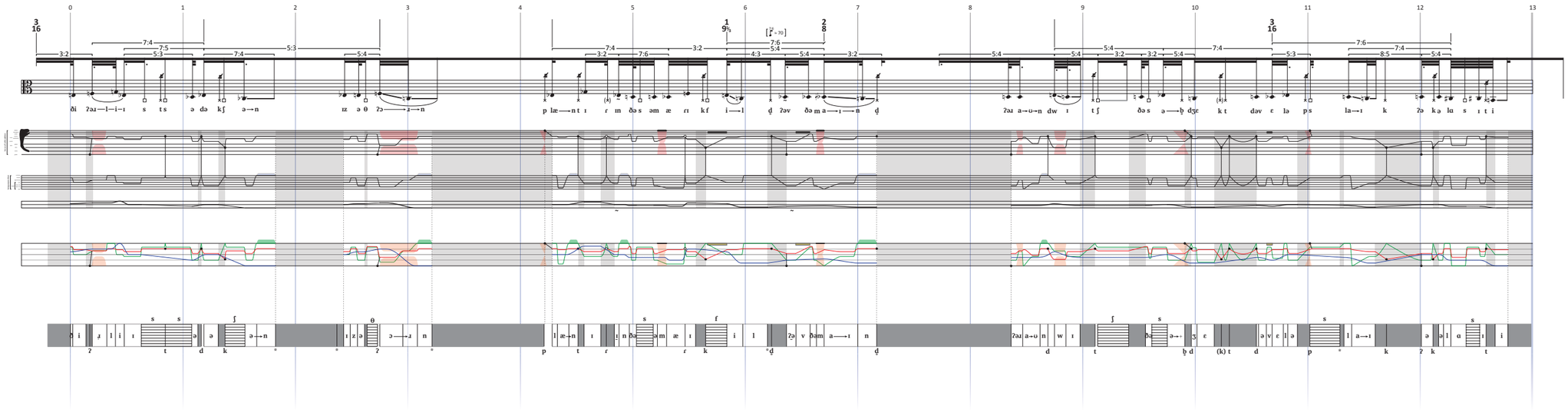
The Earliest Seduction [2023] for improvisers and electronics
written for the EOS Ensemble

Spoken language is a medium overflowing with sonic variety and nuance. The billions of people on the planet who speak every day of their lives are regularly engaging in a practice that, if it were framed as music, would defy all norms of technical virtuosity and explode the normative categories that enact a hygienic partitioning of sounds into “musical” and “non-musical.” Language’s capacities for sense-making rely on subtle variations of timbre in noise and tone, and on minute inflections of pitch. Yet, because speech is cognitively encountered merely as a vehicle for the meaning it conveys, we so often disregard both its sonic richness and the physical dynamics of its embodied articulation.

Written for my colleagues at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, *The Earliest Seduction* is an attempt to recuperate this richness. The piece’s generative material is derived from a detailed transcription of text from Paul Preciado’s *Testo Junkie* as spoken by Stephanie Loveless: “The earliest seduction is a thorn planted in the somatic field of the mind, around which the subject develops like a callosity.” Time-stretched by a factor of 60, this text becomes a terrain upon which the improvisers can play.

This piece was developed collaboratively with the members of the ensemble over a period of months, and I want to gratefully acknowledge their contributions and their support throughout the process.

Matthew Goodheart, piano and gong tech
Stephanie Loveless, gong consonants
Robert Whalen, percussion
Rob Hamilton, electronics



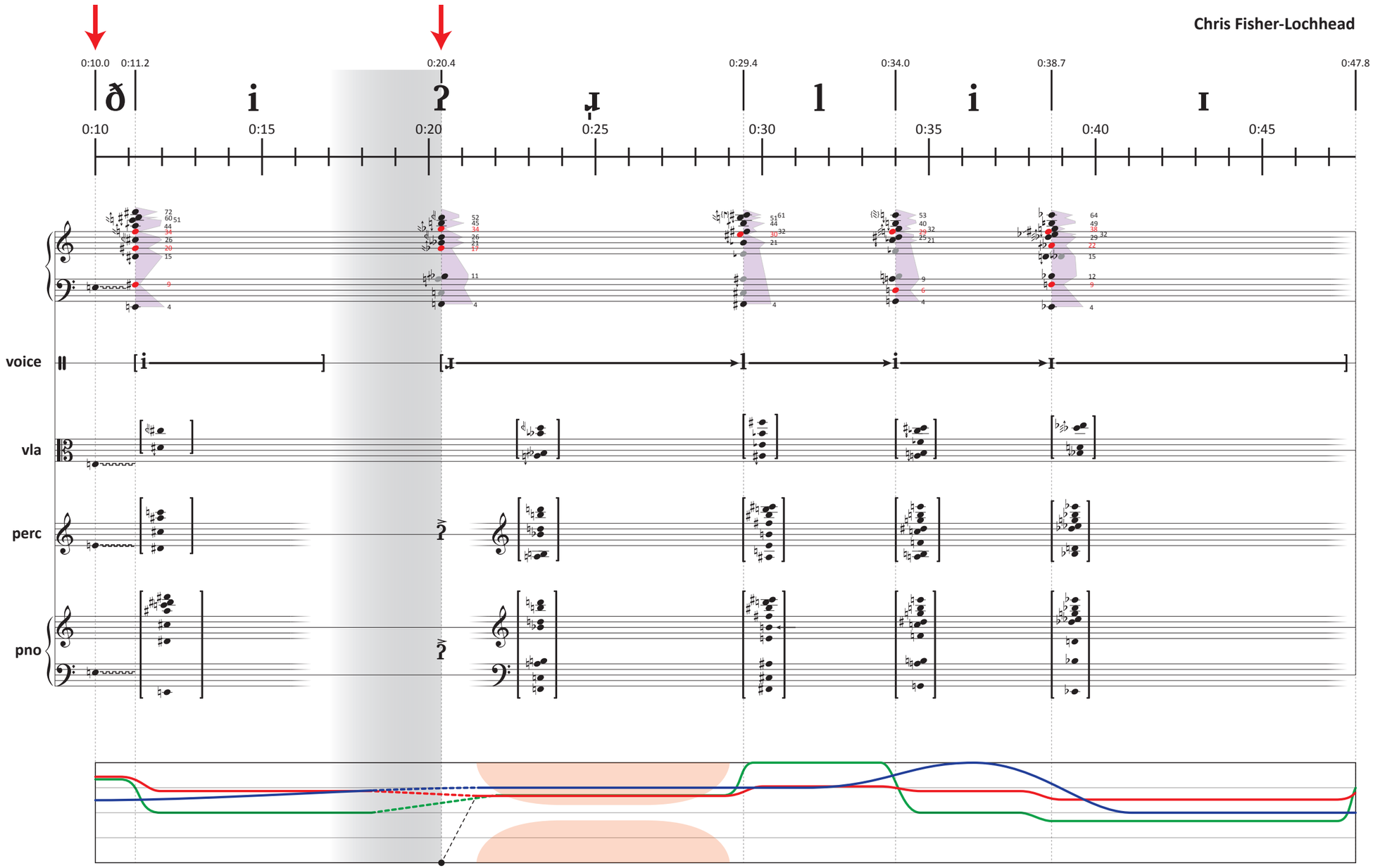
The Earliest Seduction was premiered by the EOS Ensemble at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute’s Chapel & Cultural Center on October 18, 2023.

Duration: 13 minutes

The Earliest Seduction

after Paul Preciado and Stephanie Loveless

Chris Fisher-Lochhead



0:47.8 1:00.6 1:14.7 1:19.8 1:32.5

s t s ə d ə

0:50 0:55 1:00 1:05 1:10 1:15 1:20 1:25 1:30

7617hz 7289hz

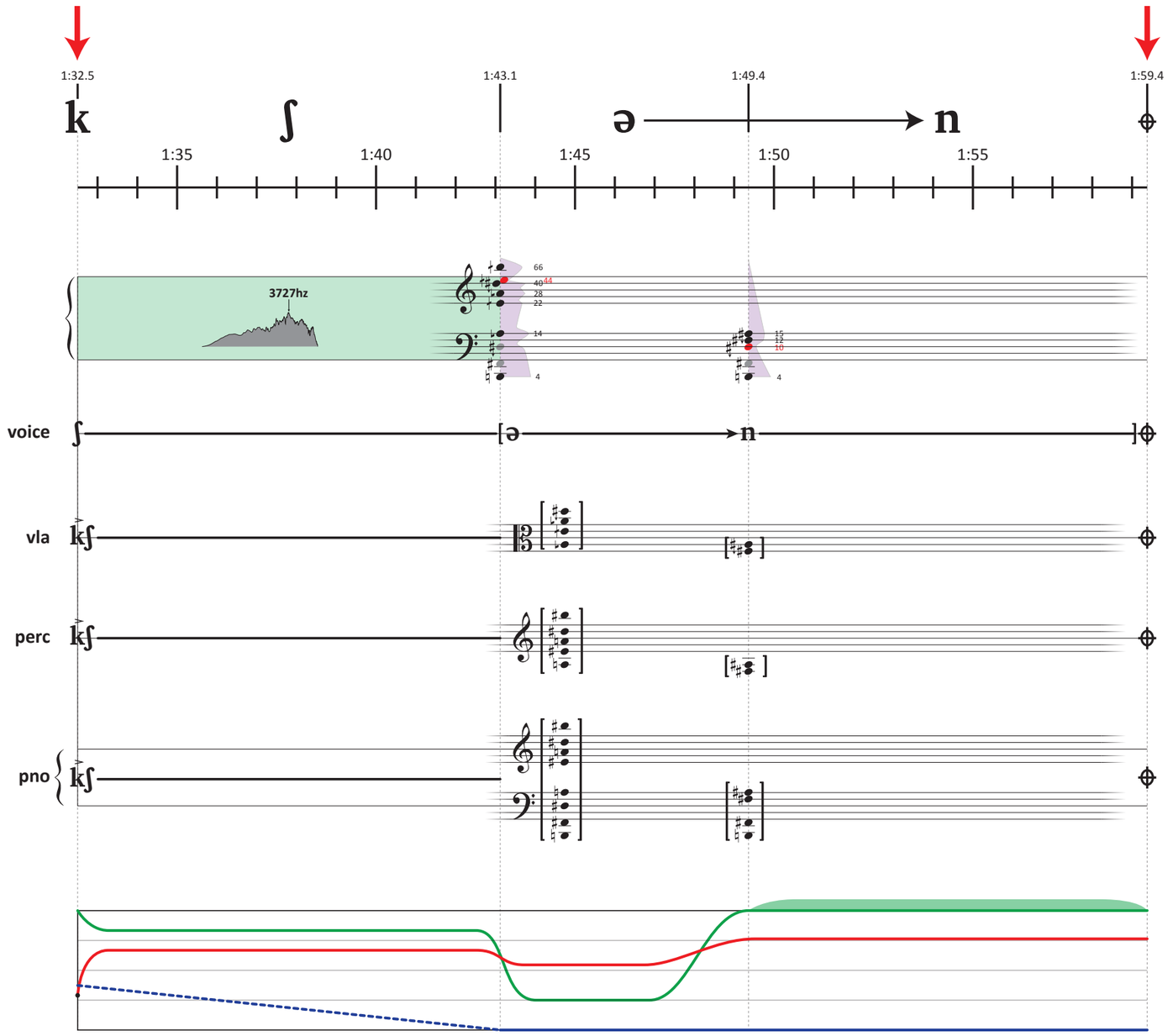
voice s [ə]

vla s ts

perc s ts d (t)

pno s ts

3


1:32.5
1:43.1
1:49.4
1:59.4
k
ʃ
ə
n
1:35
1:40
1:45
1:50
1:55
3727hz
66
40
44
28
22
14
4
15
12
10
4
voice
ʃ
[ə
n
]
vla
kʃ
perc
kʃ
pno
kʃ


1:59.4 – 2:35.7

2:35.7 2:39.2 2:43.1 2:48.2 2:53.8 3:07.3 3:15.0 3:22.9

ɪ z ə θ ʔ ɔ ɹ n

2:40 2:45 2:50 2:55 3:00 3:05 3:10 3:15 3:20

15727hz

voice

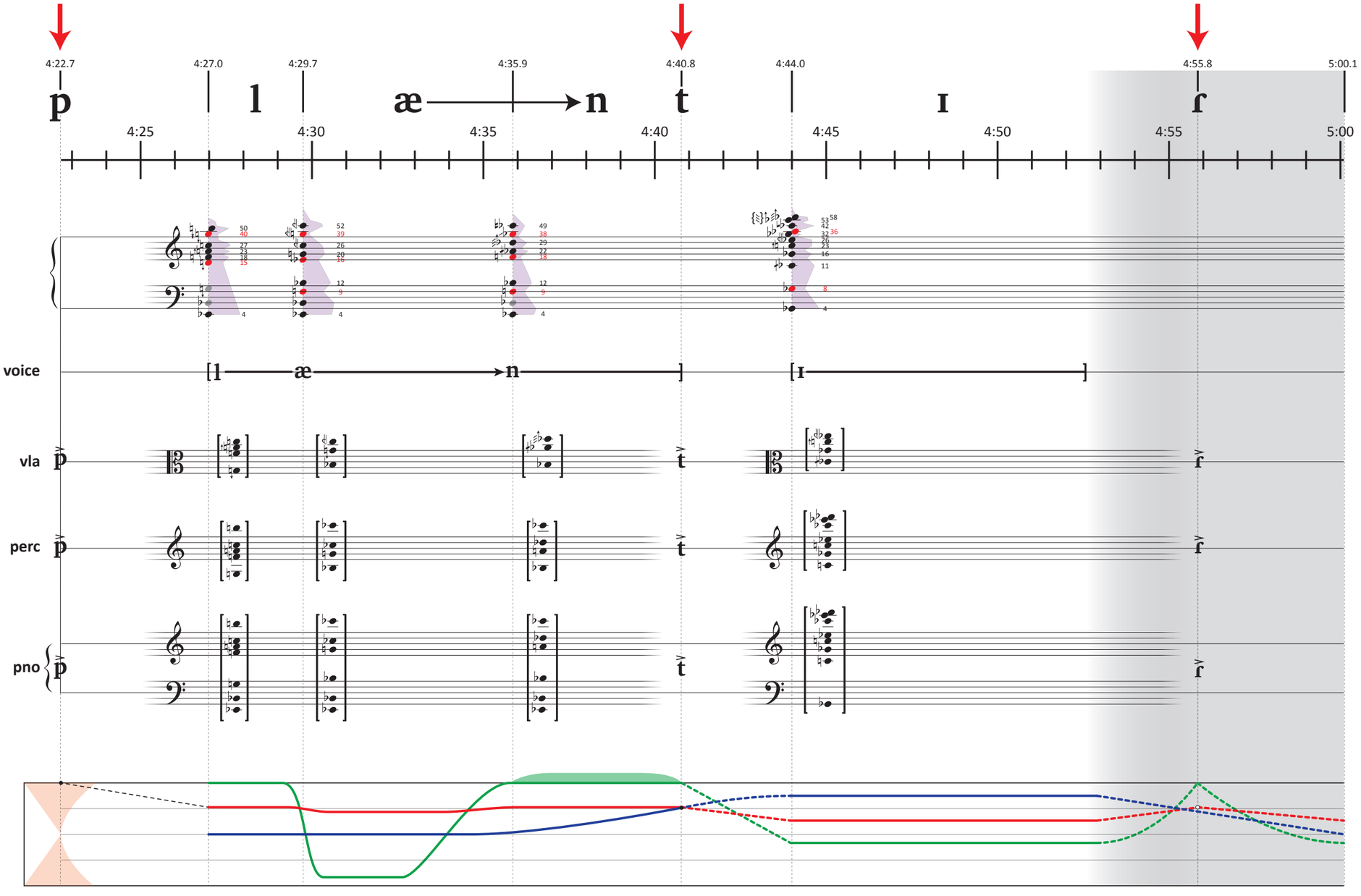
vla

perc

(s)

pno

3:22.9 – 4:22.7


4:22.7
4:27.0
4:29.7
4:35.9
4:40.8
4:44.0
4:55.8
5:00.1
p
l
æ
n
t
ɪ
ɾ
4:25
4:30
4:35
4:40
4:45
4:50
4:55
5:00
voice
vla
perc
pno

5:00.1 5:02.6 5:08.1 5:09.4 5:11.9 5:20.9 5:23.1 5:28.0 5:37.8 5:47.8

ɪ̃ n ð ə s ə m æ ɾ ɪ

5:05 5:10 5:15 5:20 5:25 5:30 5:35 5:40 5:45

7055hz

voice

[ɪ → n] [ə]s [ə → m → æ ɪ]

vla

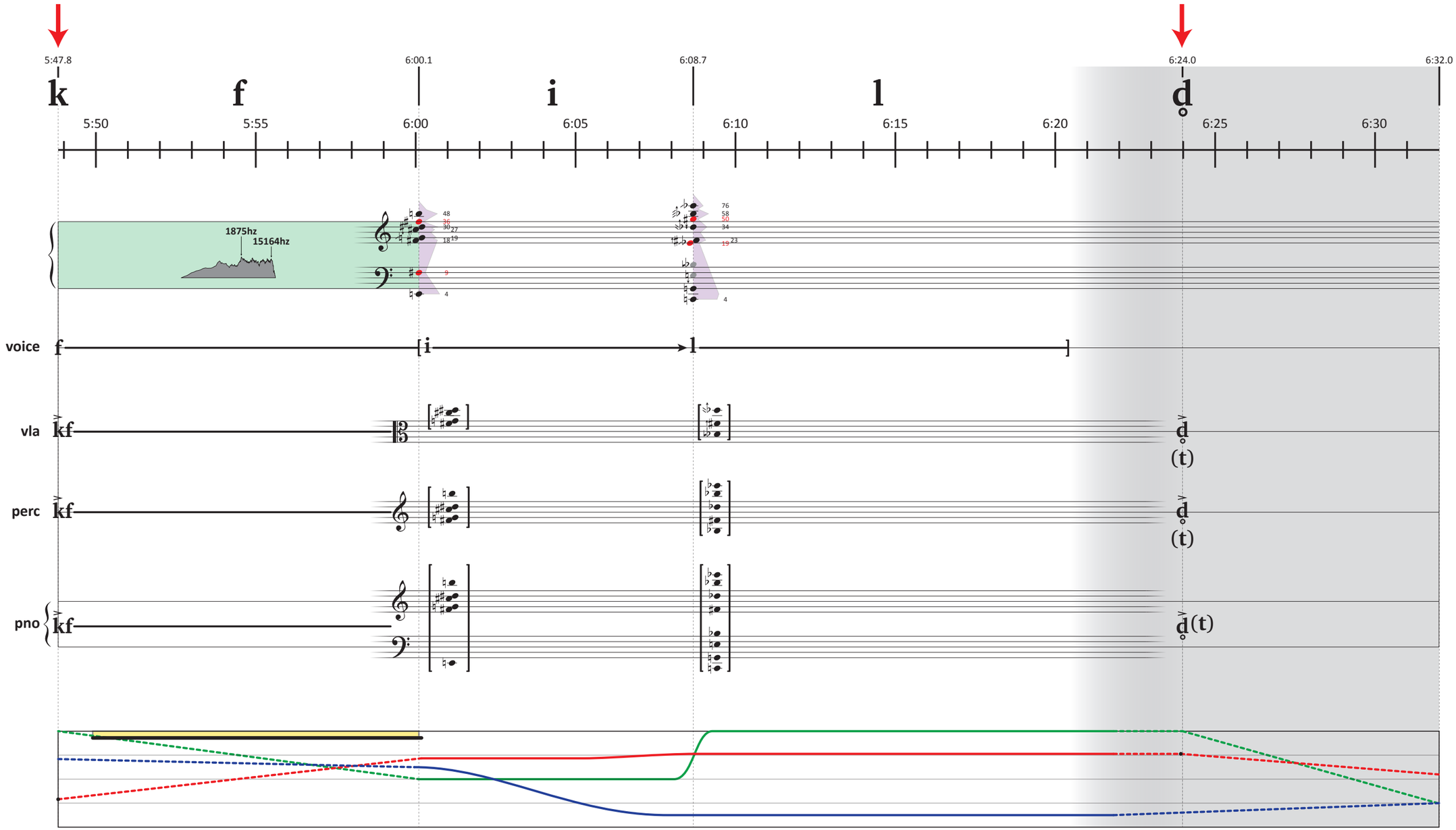
perc

pno

s

ð̞
(θ)

f


5:47.8
6:00.1
6:08.7
6:24.0
6:32.0
k
f
i
l
d
5:50
5:55
6:00
6:05
6:10
6:15
6:20
6:25
6:30
1875hz
15164hz
voice
vla
perc
pno
kf
(t)

6:32.0 ʔ ə̰ 6:37.0 ɣ̥ 6:44.6 6:45.6 ð ə 6:47.9 m 6:52.0 a → ɪ 7:10.0 n 7:20.1 d̥

6:35 6:40 6:45 6:50 6:55 7:00 7:05 7:10 7:15 7:20

2063hz 15023hz

voice [ə]ɣ̥ (f) [ə m a ɪ n]

vla ʔ ɣ̥ (f) d̥ (t)

perc ʔ ɣ̥ (f) ð̥ (θ) d̥ (t)

pno ʔ ɣ̥(f) d̥(t)

7:20.1 – 8:31.8

8:31.8 ʔ ɹə 8:38.0 a → ʊ 8:47.2 n 8:51.4 d 8:54.9 w 9:01.0 ɪ 9:16.5

8:35 8:40 8:45 8:50 8:55 9:00 9:05 9:10 9:15

voice

[ɹə → a → ʊ → n] [w → ɪ]

vla

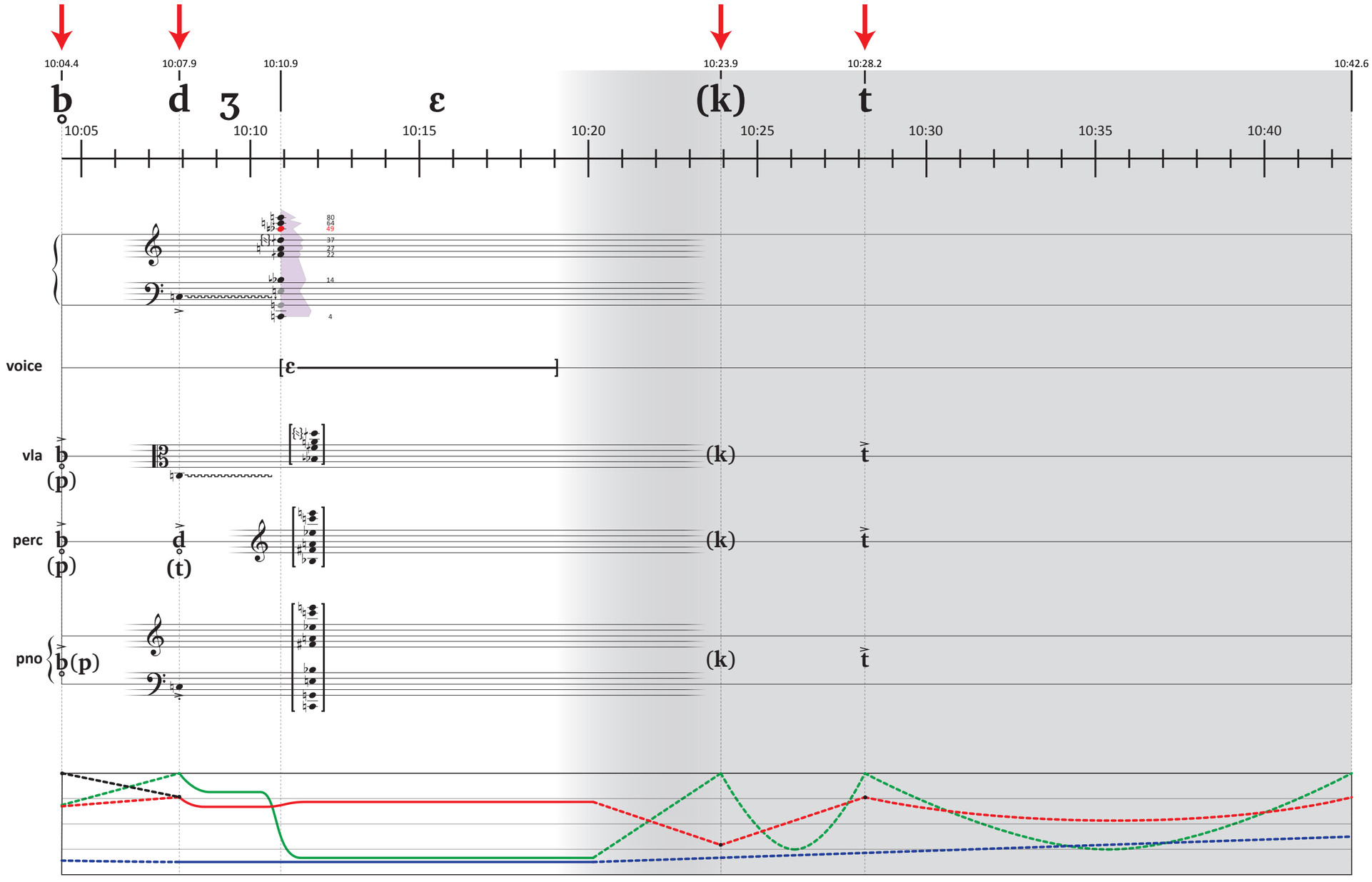
perc

ʔ d (t)

pno

9:16.5
9:34.5
9:43.4
9:46.8
9:55.1
9:59.6
10:04.4
t
ʃ
ðə
s
ə
9:20
9:25
9:30
9:35
9:40
9:45
9:50
9:55
10:00
3680hz
7383hz
voice
vla
perc
pno
(θ)

11


10:04.4
10:07.9
10:10.9
10:23.9
10:28.2
10:42.6
b°
d
3
ε
(k)
t
10:05
10:10
10:15
10:20
10:25
10:30
10:35
10:40
voice
[ε
vla
b°
(p)
(k)
t
perc
b°
(p)
d
(t)
(k)
t
pno
b°(p)
(k)
t

10:42.6 10:47.9 10:51.0 10:57.0 10:59.3 11:11.1 11:27.2 11:29.3

d ə v ɛ l ə p s

10:45 10:50 10:55 11:00 11:05 11:10 11:15 11:20 11:25

7383hz

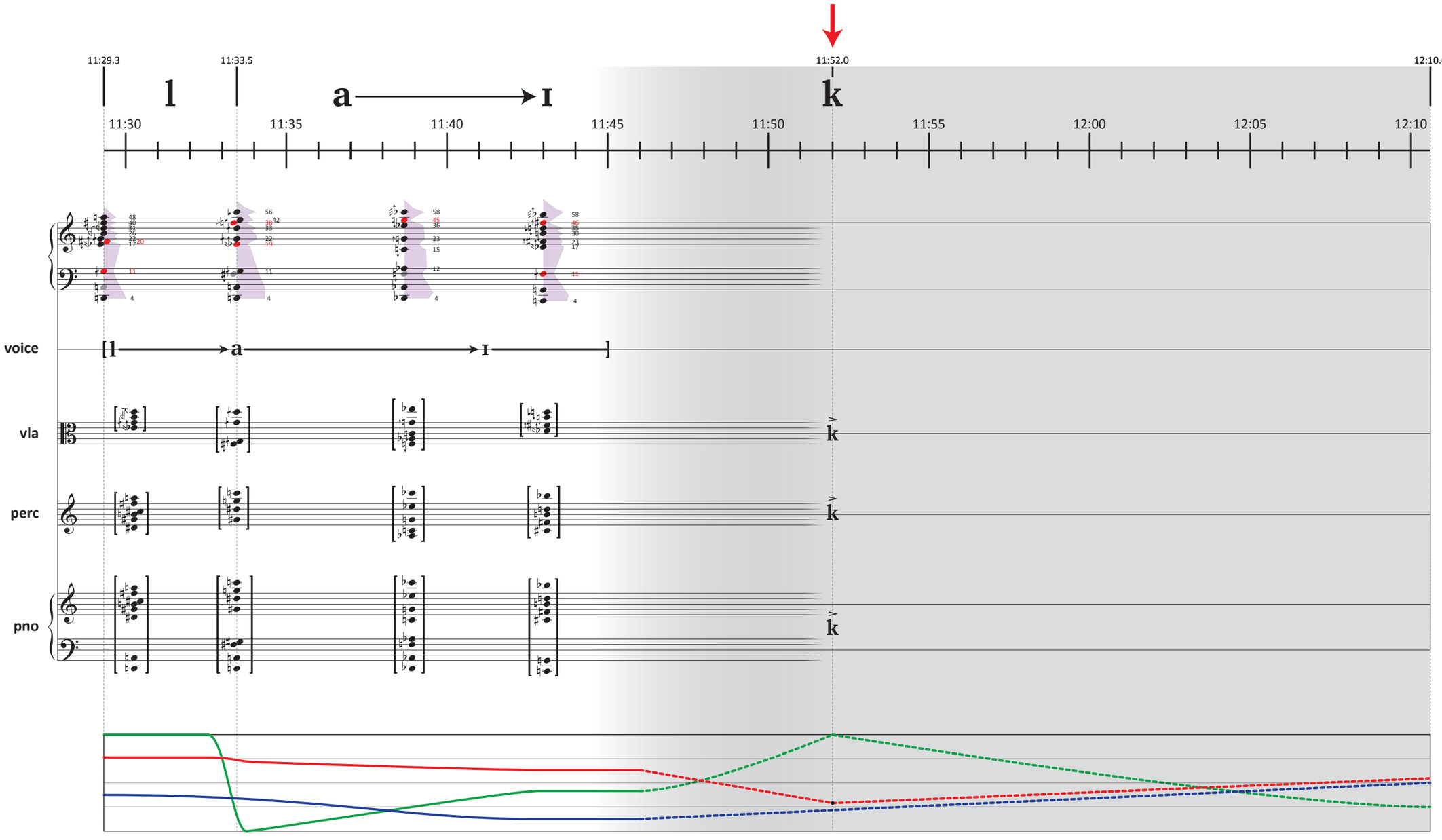
voice

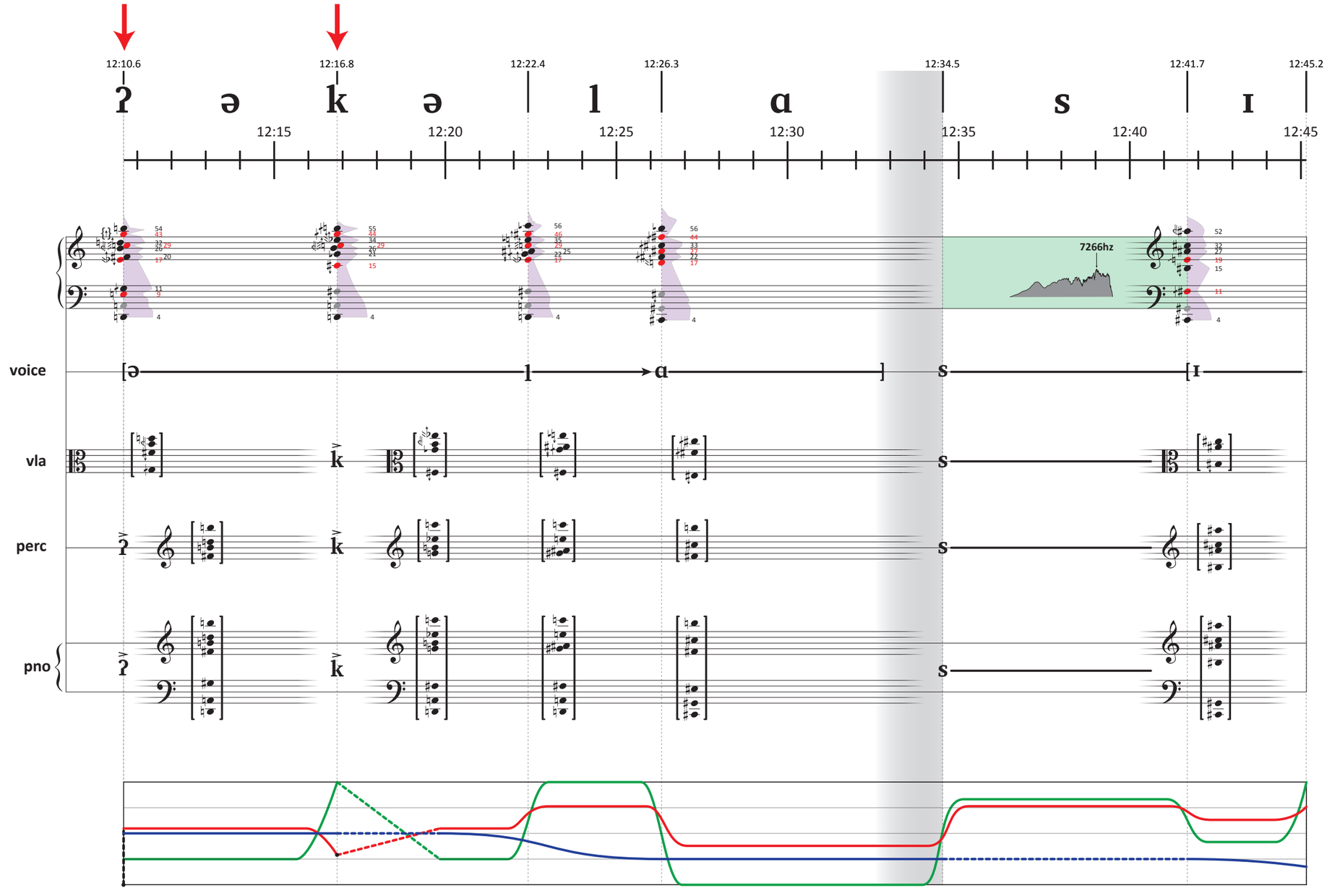
vla

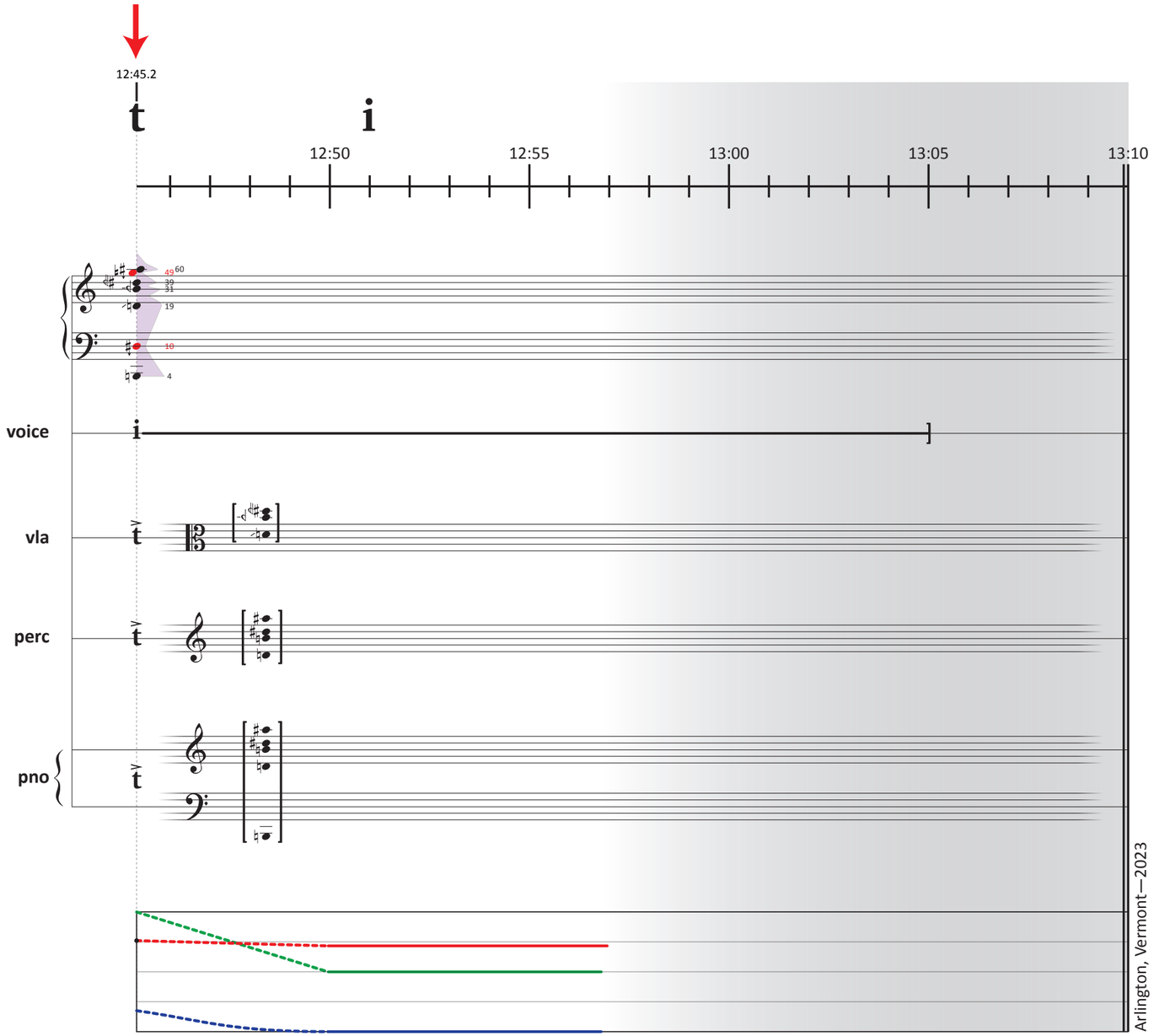
perc

pno

(t) (f)


11:29.3
11:33.5
11:52.0
12:10.6
l
a
I
k
11:30
11:35
11:40
11:45
11:50
11:55
12:00
12:05
12:10
voice
vla
perc
pno


12:10.6
12:16.8
12:22.4
12:26.3
12:34.5
12:41.7
12:45.2
ʔ ə k ə l ɑ s ɪ
12:15
12:20
12:25
12:30
12:35
12:40
12:45
7266hz
voice
vla
perc
pno


12:45.2
t
i
12:50
12:55
13:00
13:05
13:10
voice
vla
perc
pno
Arlington, Vermont—2023