NANCY VAN DE VATE

WHERE THE *CROSS* IS MADE

Vocal score

Opera in one act
based on the play by
Eugene O'Neill

CHARACTERS

Captain Isaiah Bartlett	Bass
Nat Bartlett, *his son*	Baritone
Sue Bartlett, *his daughter*	Soprano
Doctor Higgins	Tenor

Silent roles:

Silas Horne, *mate*)
Cates, *bo'sun*) of the schooner Mary Allen
Jimmy Kanaka, *harpooner*)

Duration: ca. 60 minutes

SCENE. CAPTAIN BARTLETT'S *"cabin"- a room erected as a lookout post at the top of his house, high on the California coast. The inside is fitted up like the captain's cabin of a deep-sea sailing vessel, with portholes left and right. The roof above is also rigged up as if part of a ship, with a wheel, compass, binnacle light and companionway.*

Toward the rear of the cabin are the companionway stairs and a sideboard with a ship's lantern. At center rear a door opens on stairs to the lower house. There is a cot with a blanket to the left of the door and a wooden bench against the right wall, with a long table and two straight-backed chairs in front of it. The light from the binnacle above seeps down into the room. Moonlight creeps wearily in through the portholes, and the wind moans in the stubborn angles of the old house. The muffled sound of thundering surf comes from below.

It is early on a clear windy night in the fall of 1900.

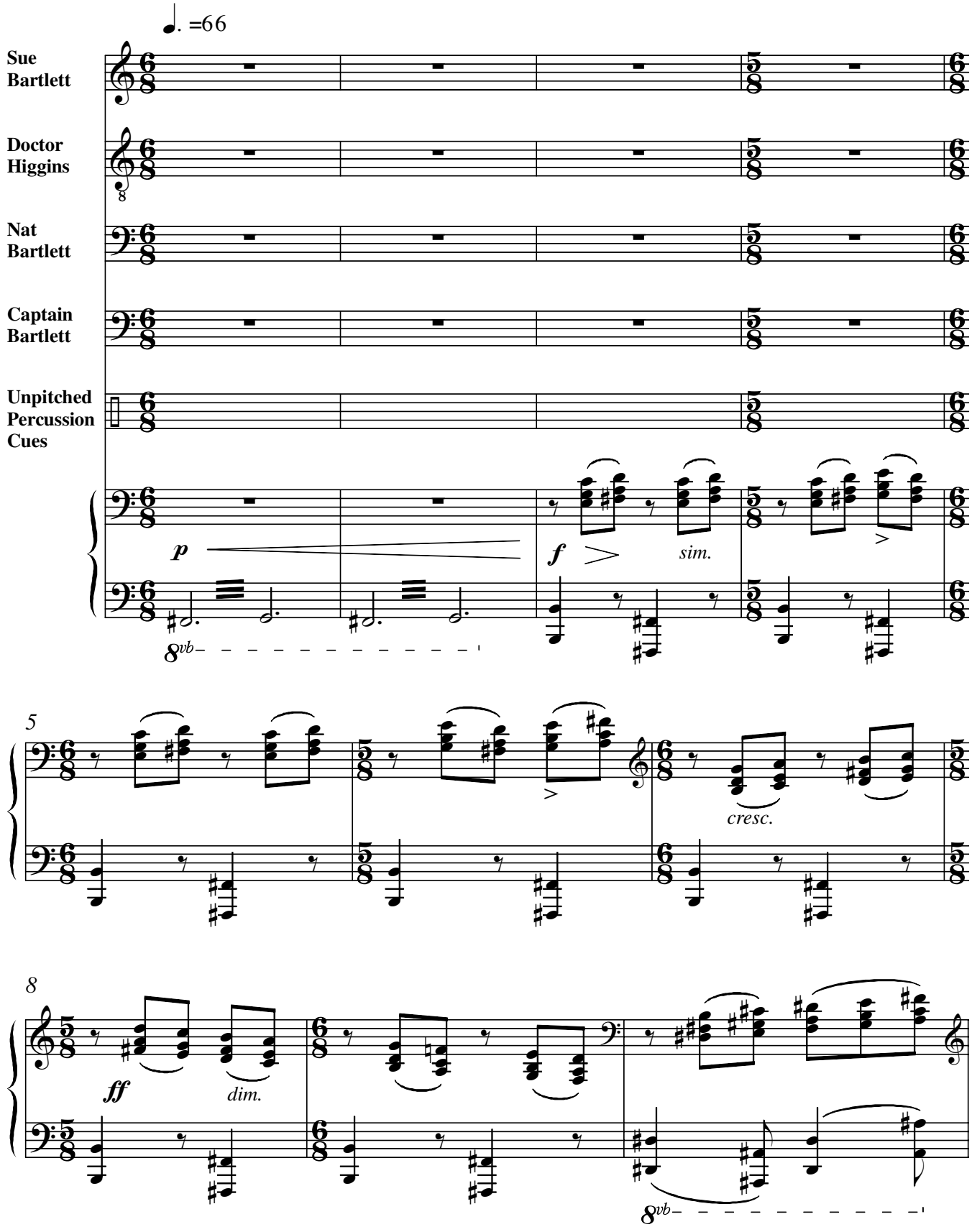
The door in the rear is opened slowly and Nat Bartlett's head and shoulders appear over the sill. He glances around the room and seeing no one, enters, making a sign to someone below. DOCTOR HIGGINS *follows him into the room and closing the door, looks around with great curiosity. He is a slight, professional-looking man of about thirty-five.* NAT BARTLETT *is tall, gaunt, and loose-framed. His right arm has been amputated at the shoulder, and the empty sleeve of his mackinaw flaps against his body as he moves. His shoulders have a weary stoop and he appears much older than his thirty years. His voice has a penetrating, hollow quality.*

Where the Cross is Made

Play by Eugene O'Neill
Libretto adapted by
Nancy Van de Vate

Nancy Van de Vate

Prelude



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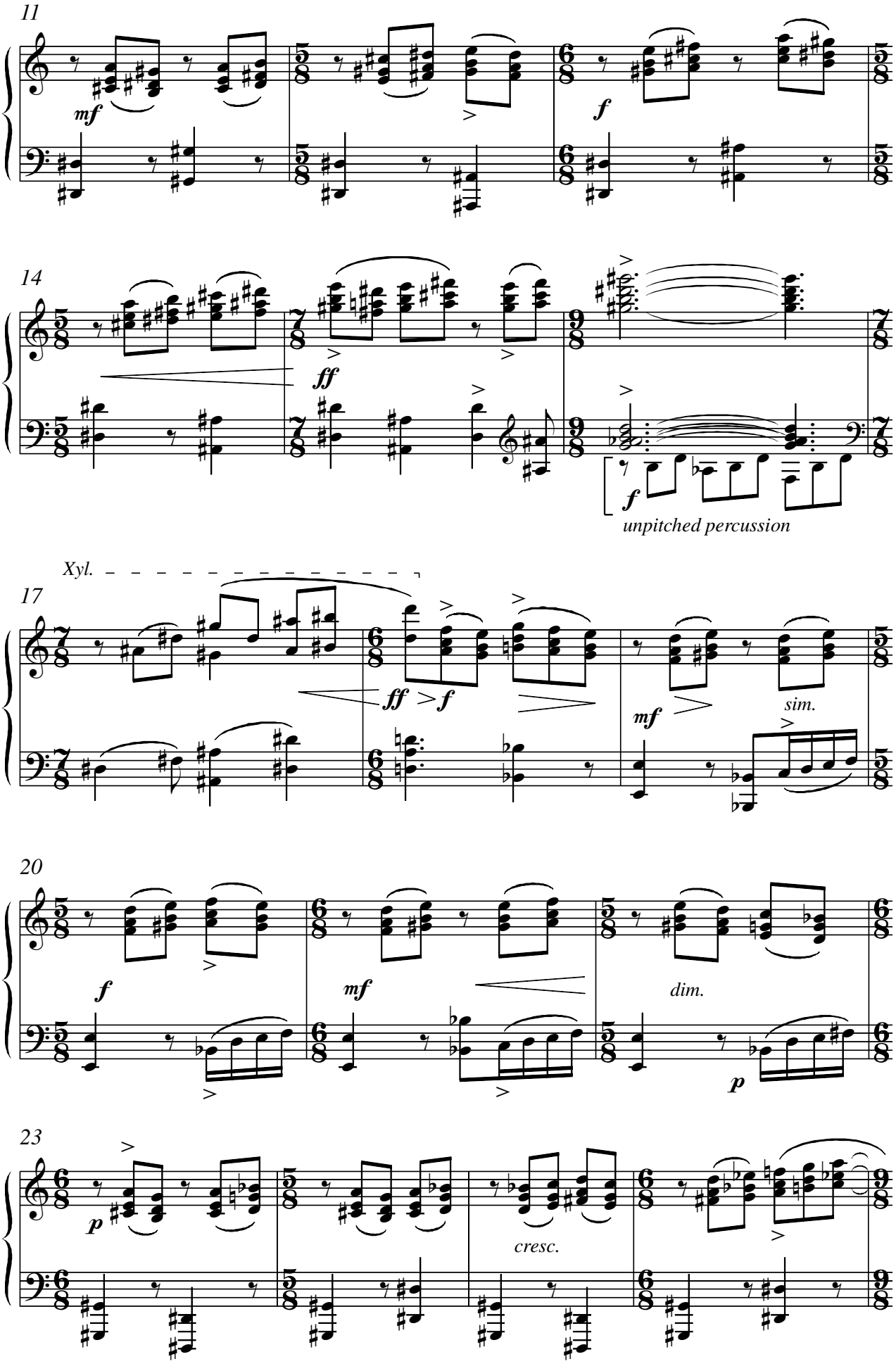
11
mf
f
14
ff
f
unpitched percussion
Xyl.
17
ff
f
mf
sim.
20
f
mf
dim.
p
23
p
cresc.