Don Freund

Runs, Hits and Ayres (2025)

for Euphonium Ensemble

First Run: Inside the Park
Lead-off Hit: Scruffy Ballad
Ayre on a G Pedal
Another Run: Off the Wall
Fresh Ayre (trio)
7th Inning Stretch: Easy Going
Suite of Ayres: Balk; Slo-Mo Replay; Walk (arioso andantino)
Dance at the Old Rum Battered Inn
Caught in a Run Down / Walk-off Homer

Runs, Hits, and Ayres is dedicated the Jacobs Euphonium Ensemble and its terrific director Gail Robertson. I originally thought of the title (borrowed from the baseball box score statistic of Runs, Hits, and Errors) as clever way to bring together a suite of short pieces that were "runs" (toccatas with lots of scales and arpeggios and such), catchy tuneful "hits," and more lyrical "ayres." But as I began putting the piece together, I started having more fun with baseball ideas and parlance which might need some explanation for non-fans.

*First Run: Inside the Par*k – "inside the park" is a homerun that features fielders chasing the ball around the field while the batter successfully circles all the bases.

Lead-Off Hit: Scruffy Ballad features a core melody with a captivating hook preceded in true pop-tune style with an introductory "verse." It ends with a grand arrival of the verse superimposed over the melody.

Ayre on G Pedal has nothing to do with baseball. Its inspiration is the idea that Bach's popularly misnomered "Air on a G String" could be reimagined as a melodic piece that uses only the harmonic partials of the G pedal on the euphonium – one fingering for the entire movement, and harmonic sweeps that include the deliciously out of tune 7th partial (a very flat F).

Another Run: Off the Wall is a repeated note toccata with the ball bouncing unpredictably.

Fresh Ayre (trio) is a short, beguiling tune, a sweet solo with accompanying dyads.

7th Inning Stretch: Easy Going revisits a tune that was a featured euphonium solo in my orchestral piece Urban Pastorale. I thought it needed to be heard again in this euphonium family gathering.

Suite of Ayres: in baseball, a "balk" is an illegal pitching motion that results in awarding base runners an extra base; spoiler alert, it sounds a lot like "Bach." It often requires a slow motion replay to be appreciated. "Walk" (a base on balls) seemed like a good occasion for displaying a sauntering 7/8 accompaniment and wistful melody.

Dance at the Old Rum Battered Inn: Ok, this is stretch, but a vital baseball statistic is a batter's RBI's – runs batted in. I couldn't resist anticipating a celebratory dance, giving the players a chance to sing: "We'll soon be dancing at the Old Rum Battered Inn, Sweet celebration if we just can get a win."

Caught in a Run-Down/Walk-Off Homer: One final frenetic toccata leads to the ecstatic joy of a homerun which ends the game if the home team scores the winning run in the last inning of play. The only walk-off homer in the 7th game of a World Series was Bill Mazeroski's shot that led the 1960 Pirates over the damned Yankees. I was 12. Still get goose-bumps.

The composer will provide a series of title screens for projection during the performance, and 40" mp4 video to be projected during the "Walk-Off Homer".

Duration: 20 minutes

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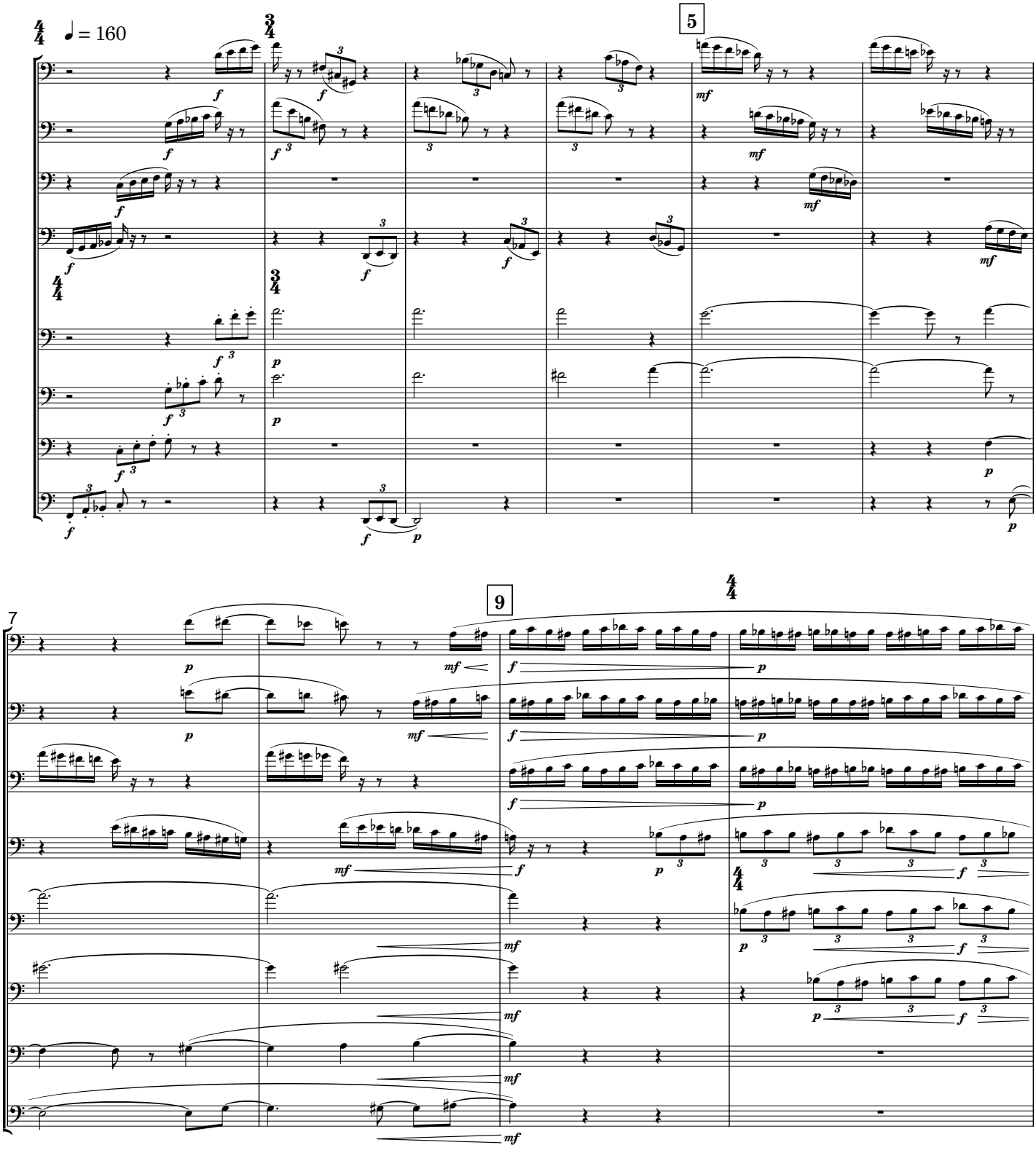
1. First Run: Inside the Park



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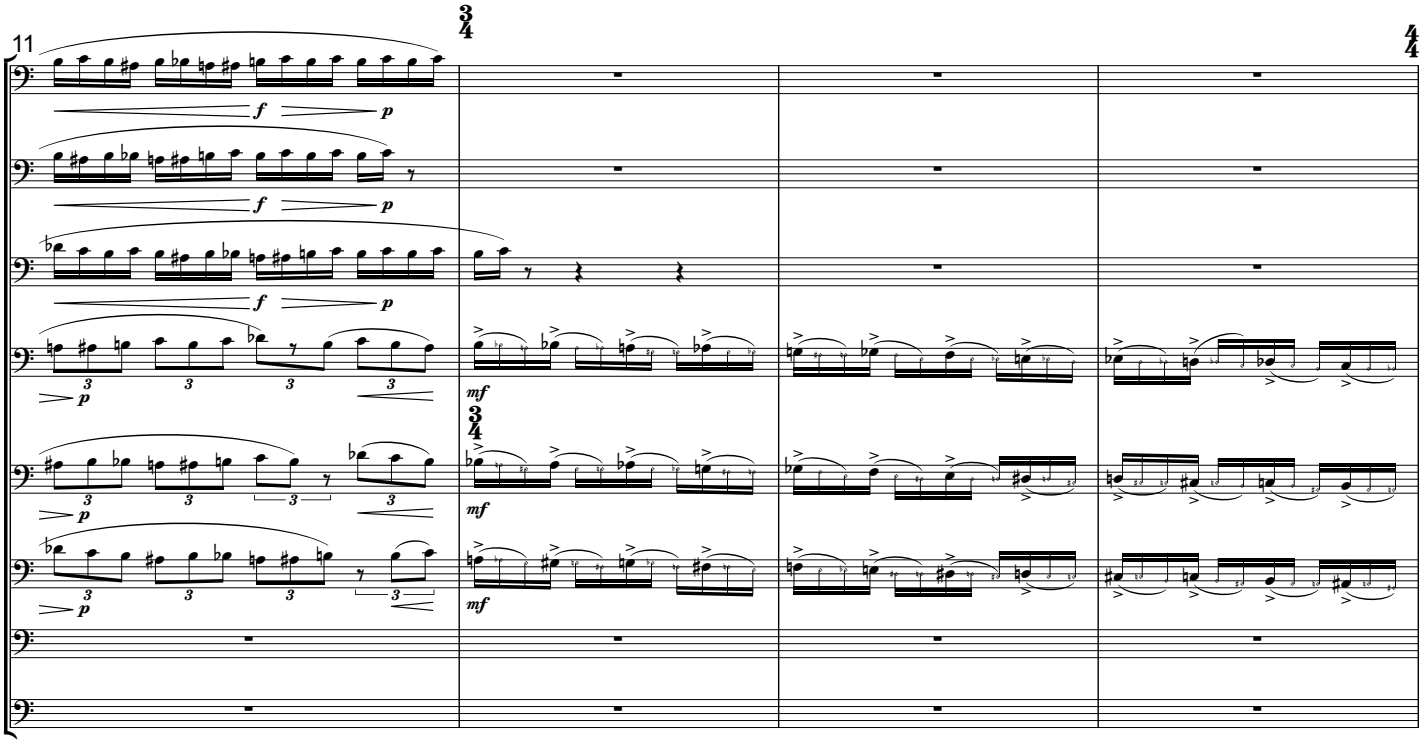
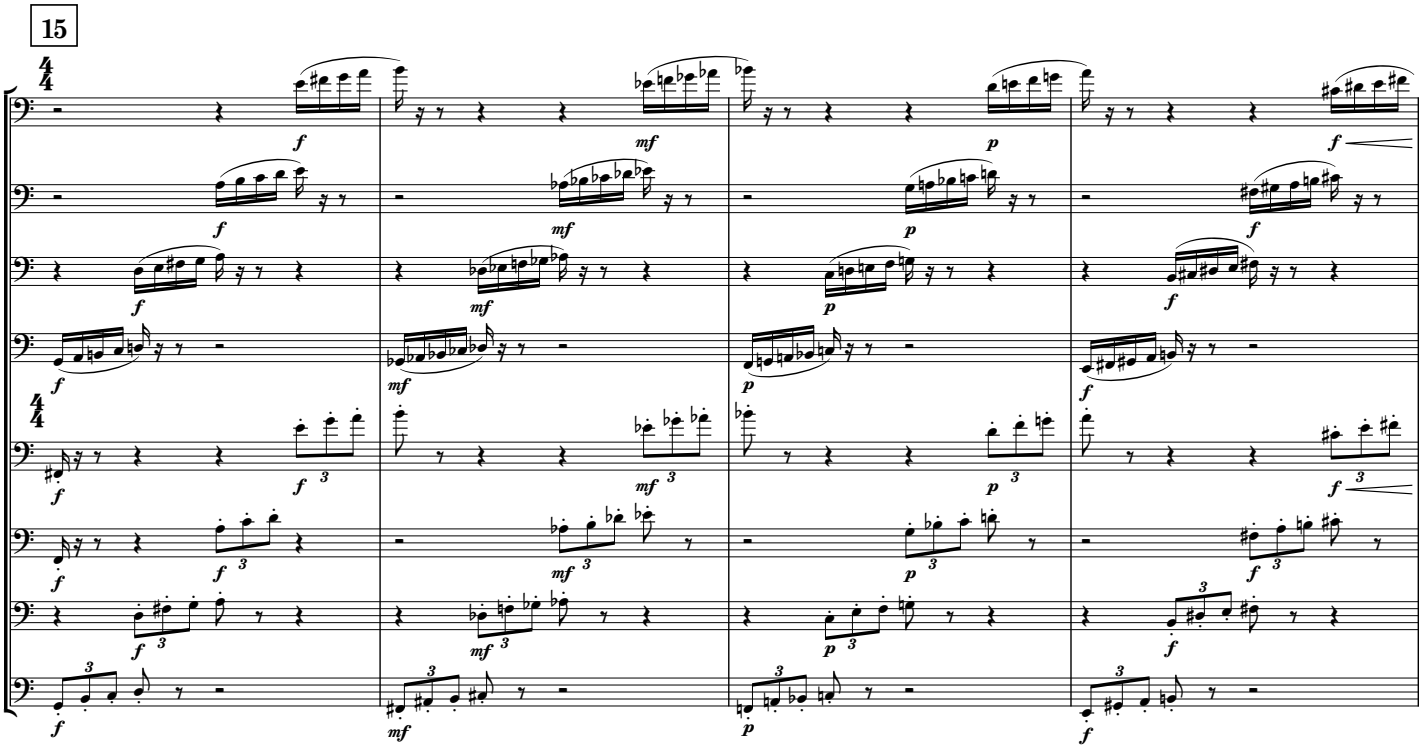
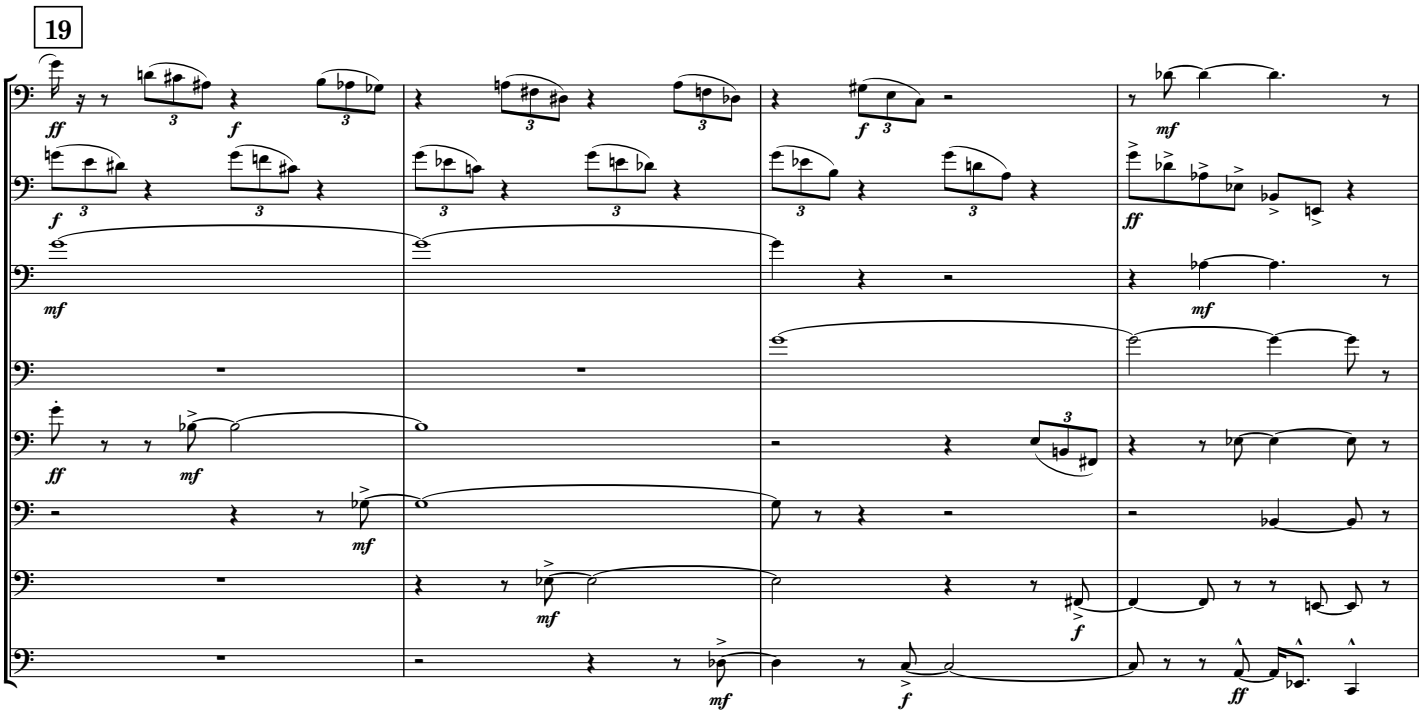
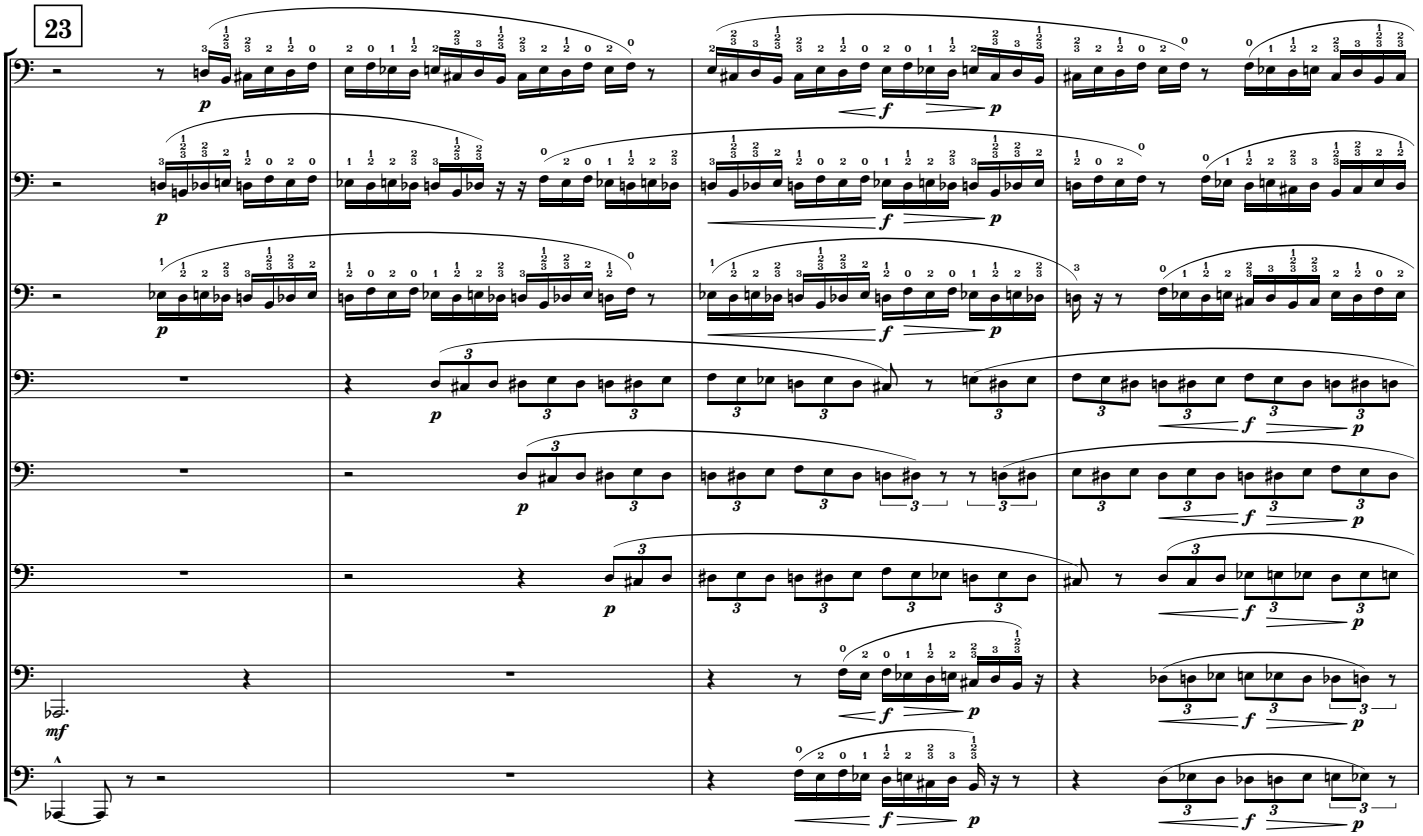
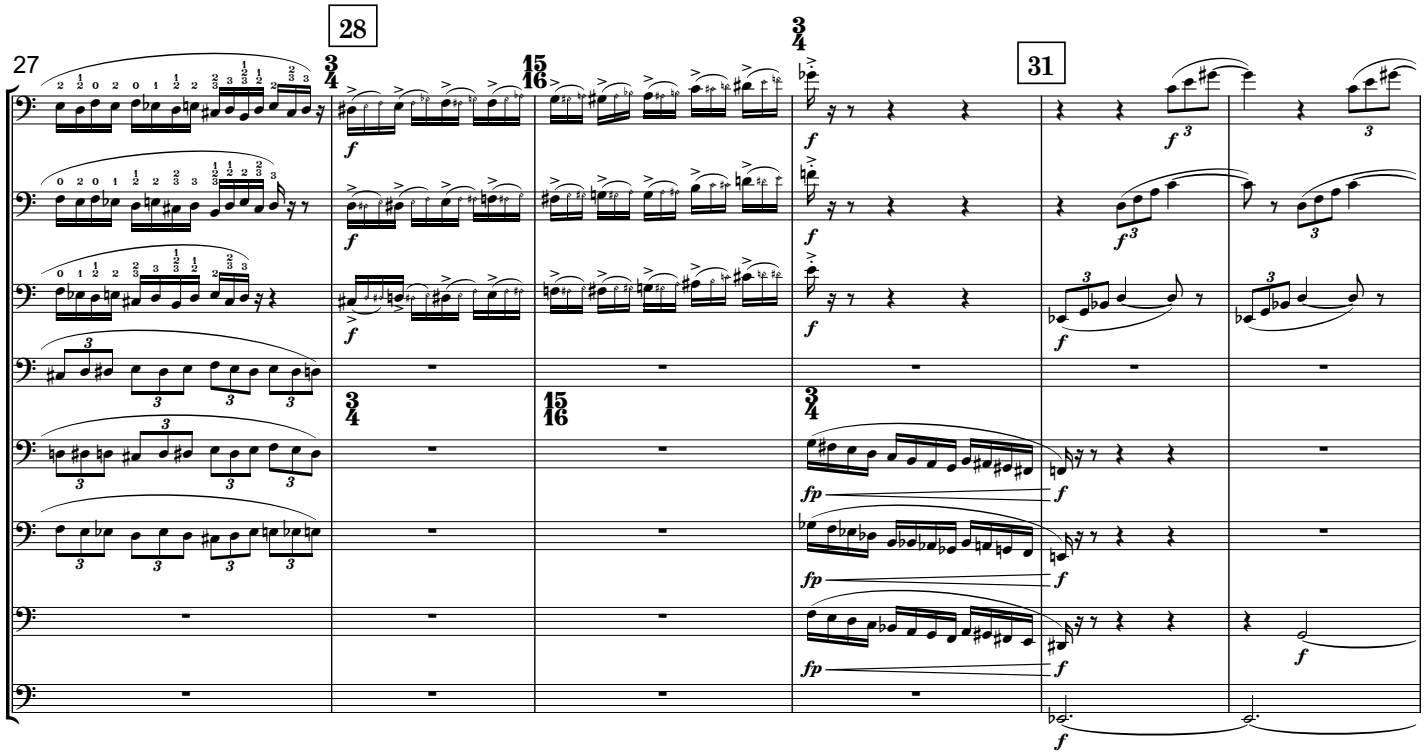

11
3/4
4/4
3/4
3/4


15
4/4
4/4



Ossia: Random valve wiggling in 16ths
to create a similar effect.

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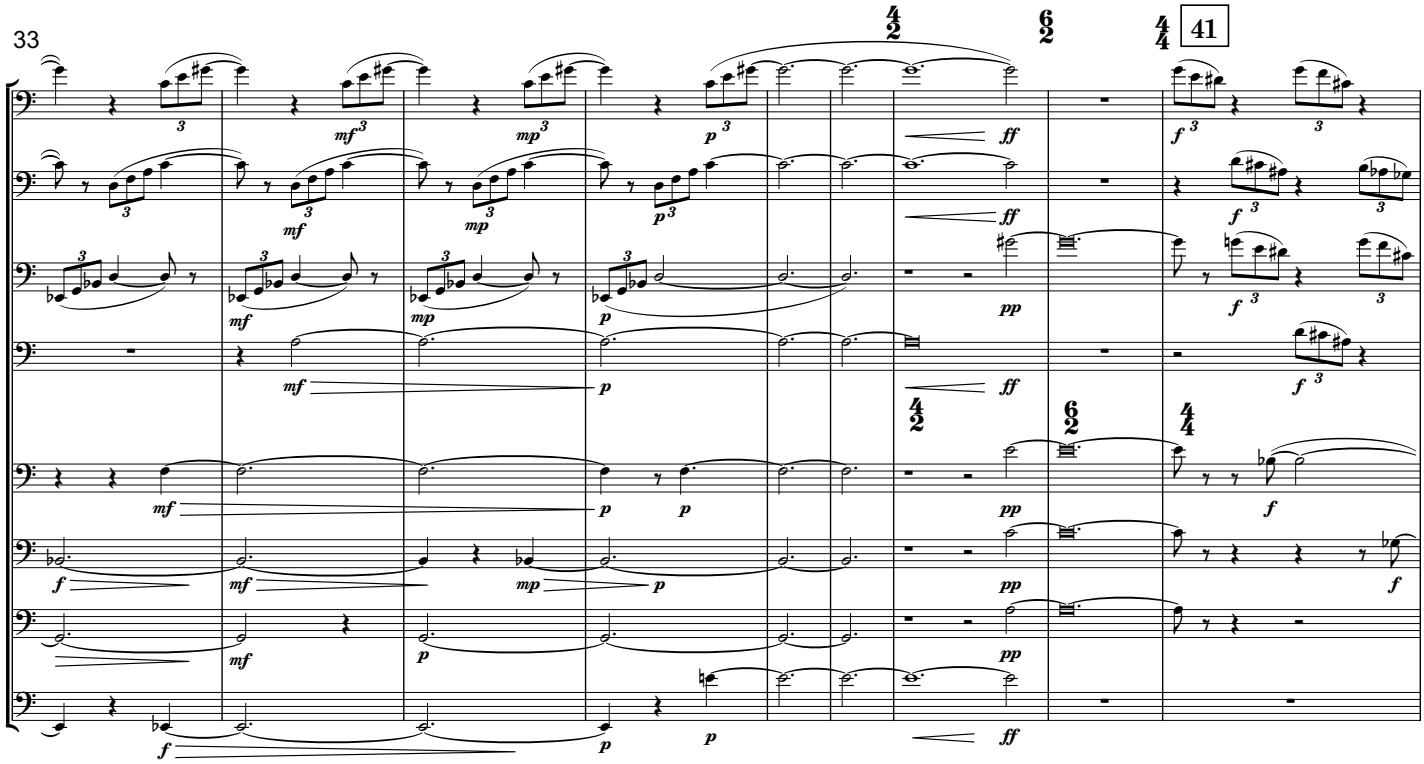
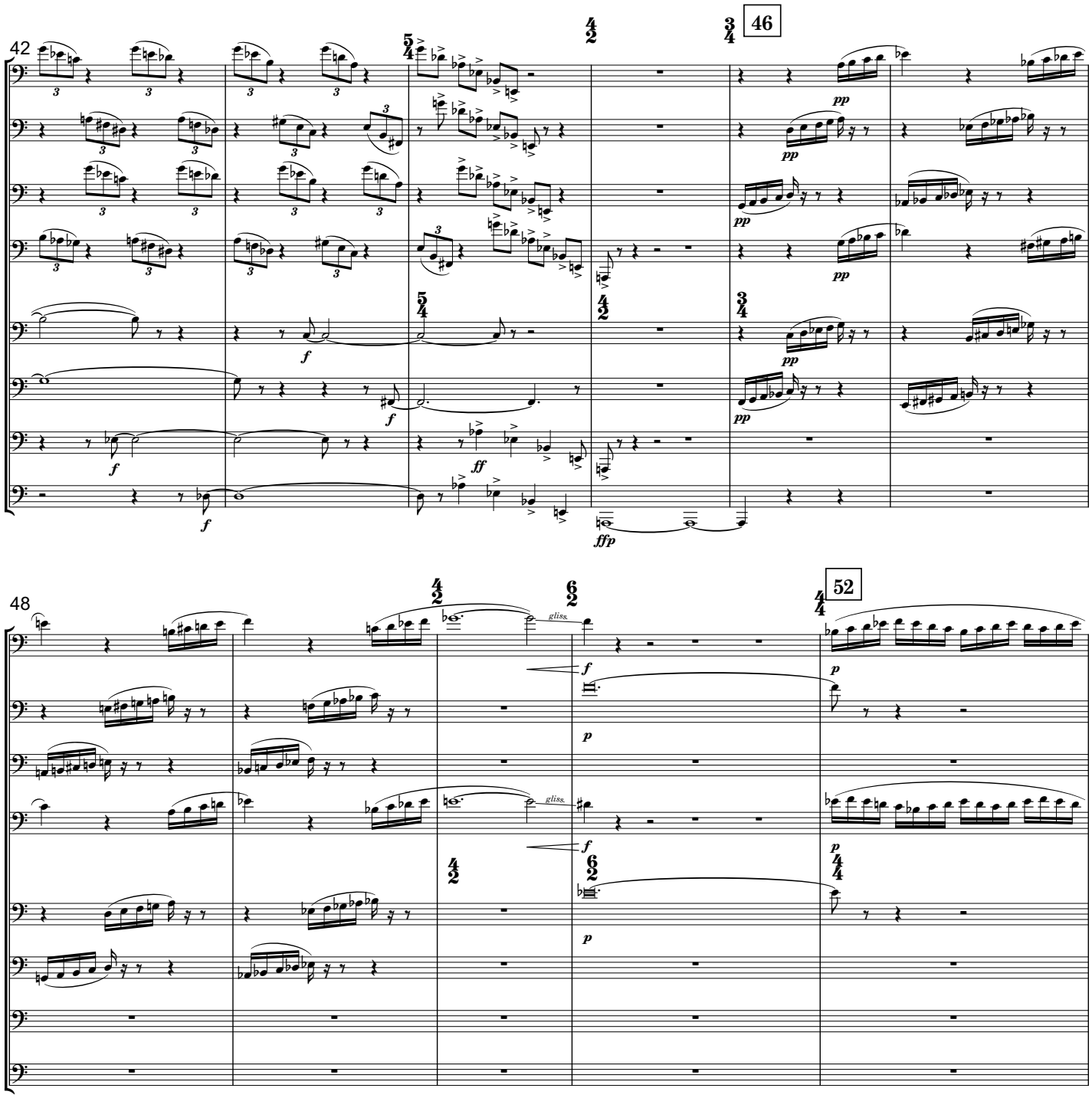
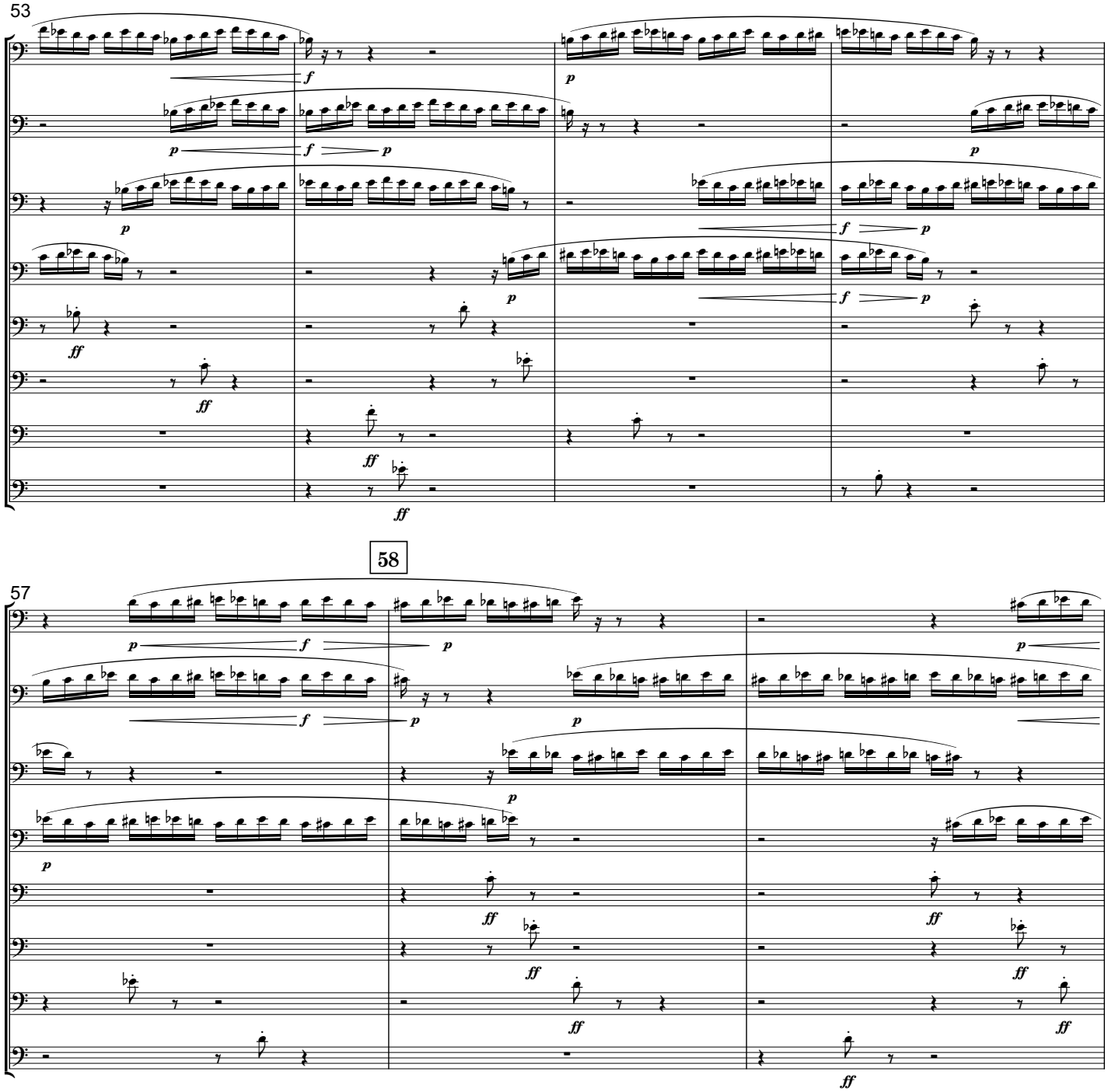
28
31


33
41


42
46
48
52
gliss.
gliss.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58
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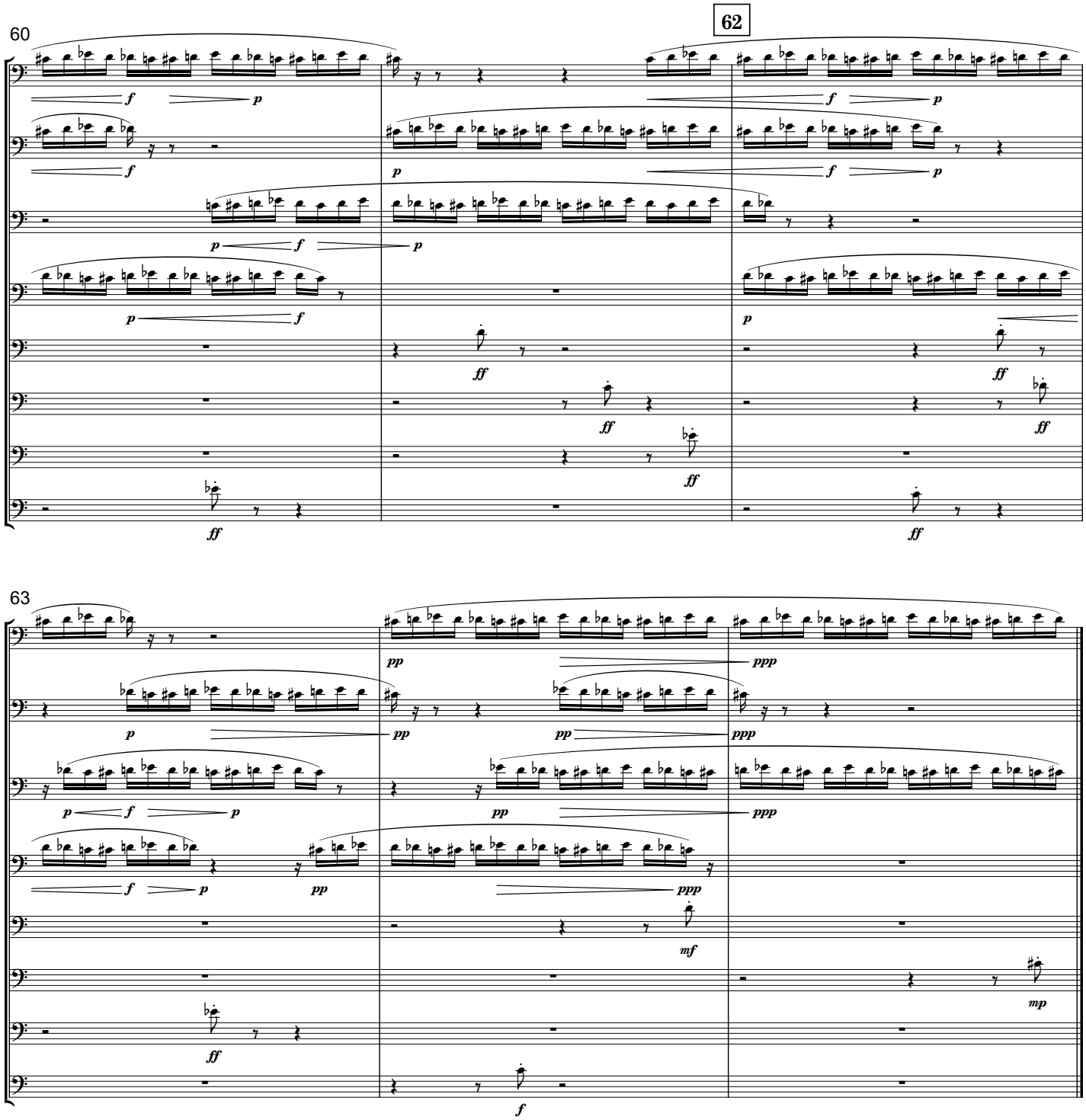
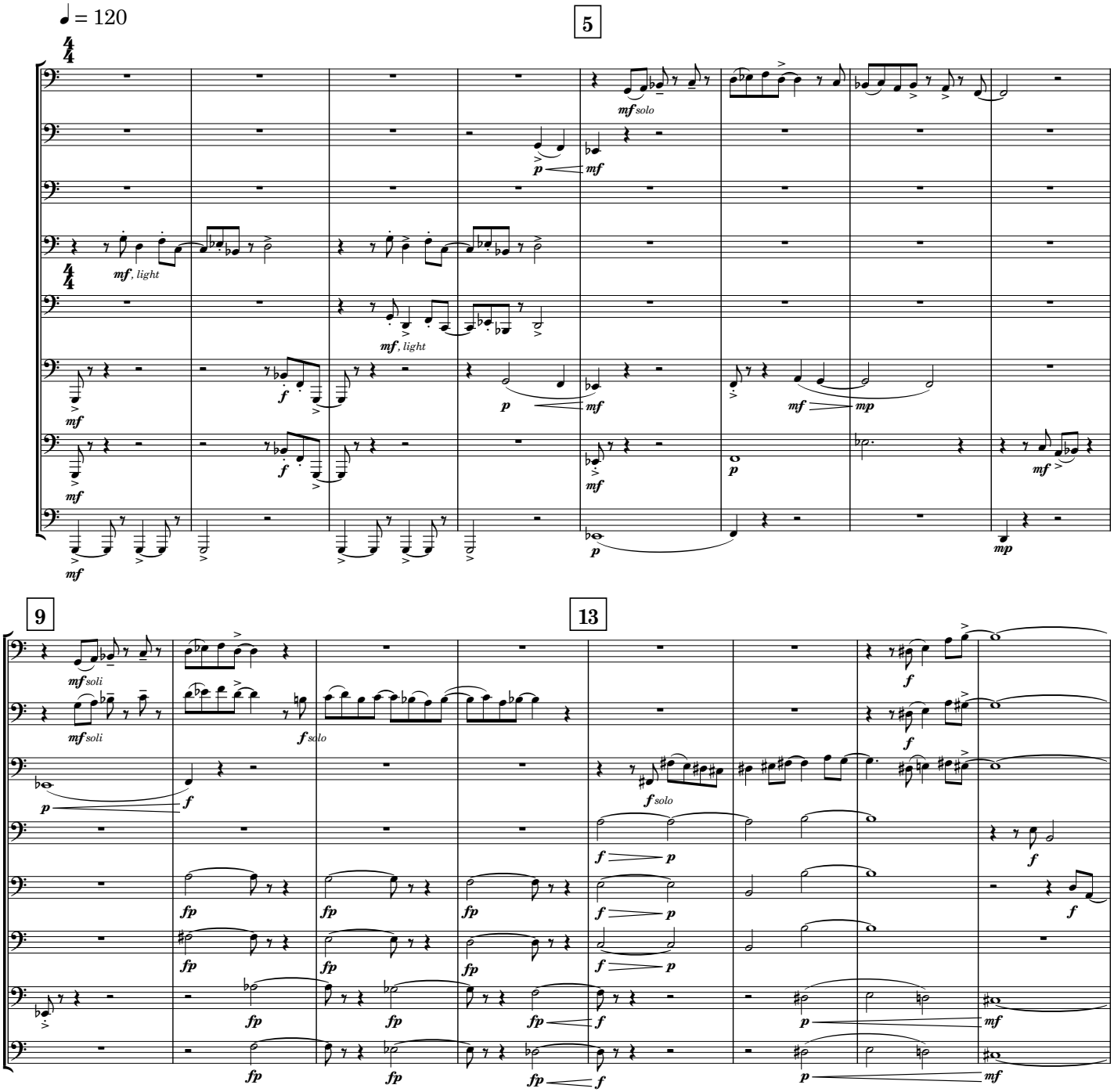
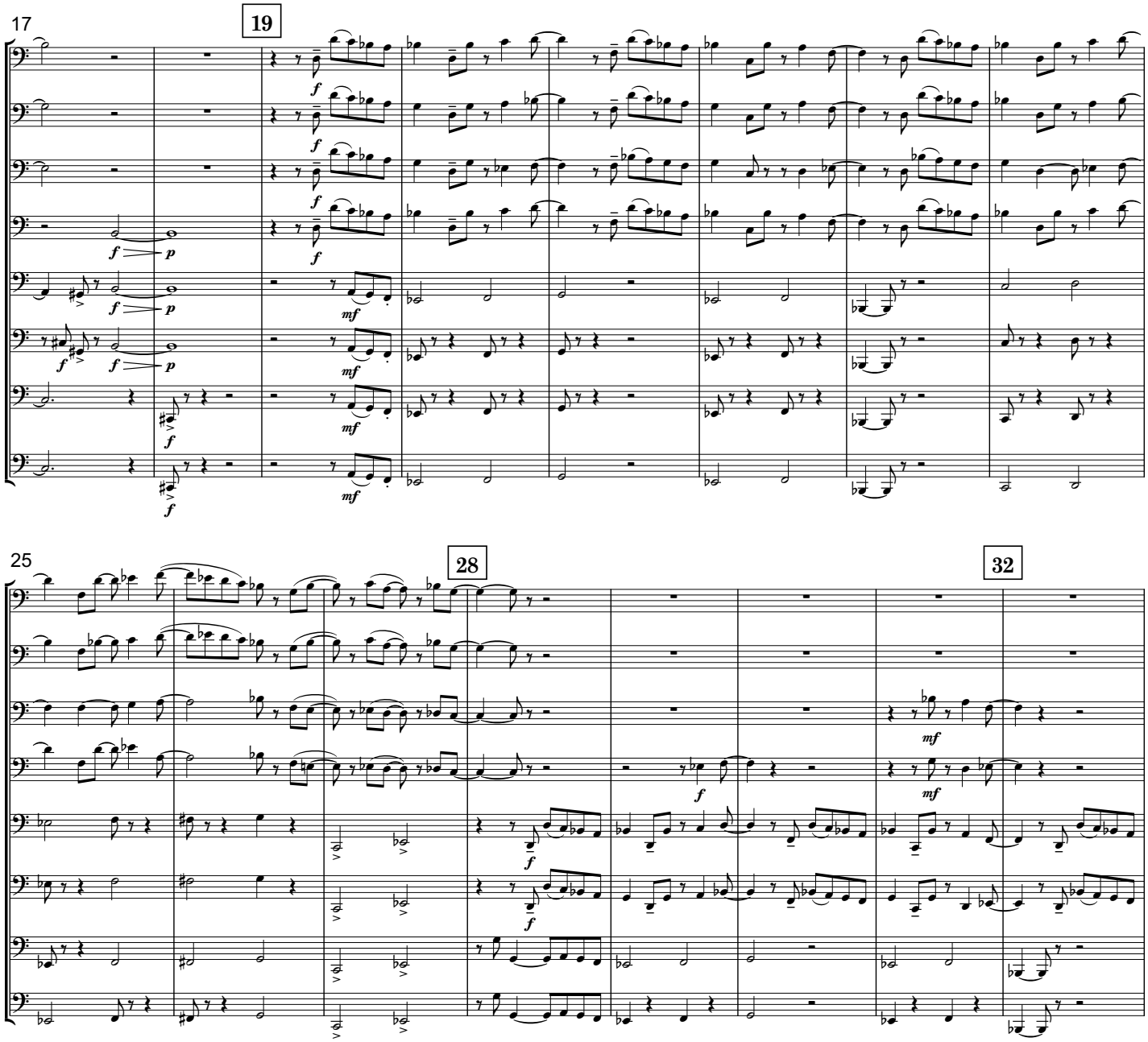

60
62
63

2. Lead-Off Hit: Scruffy Ballad

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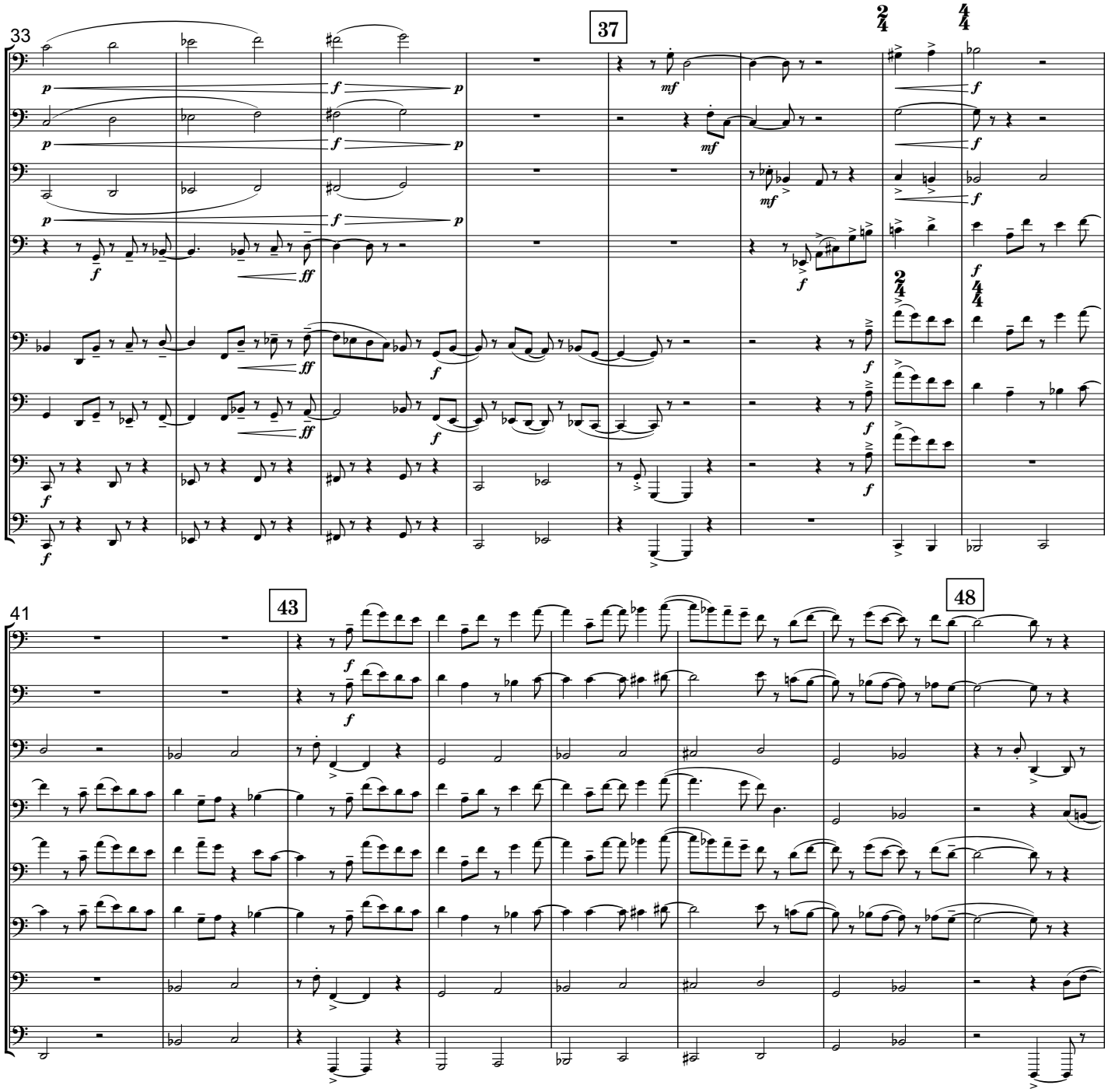
25
28
32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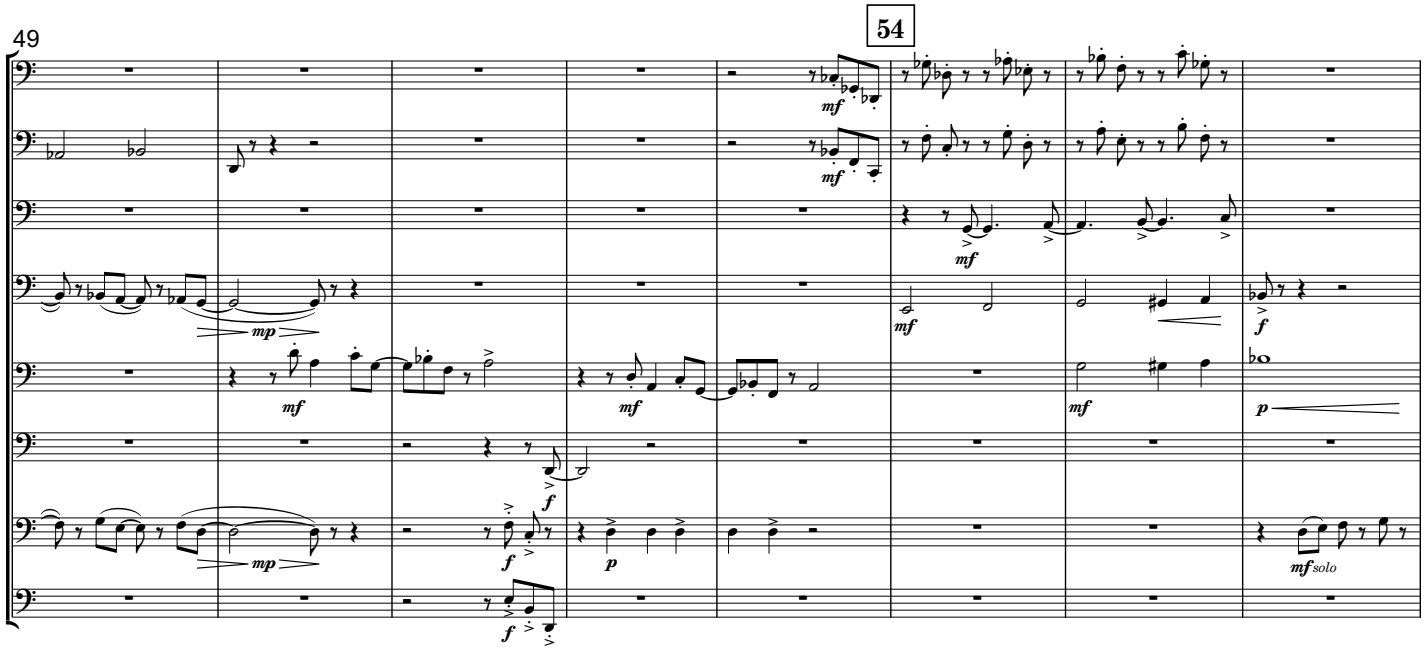
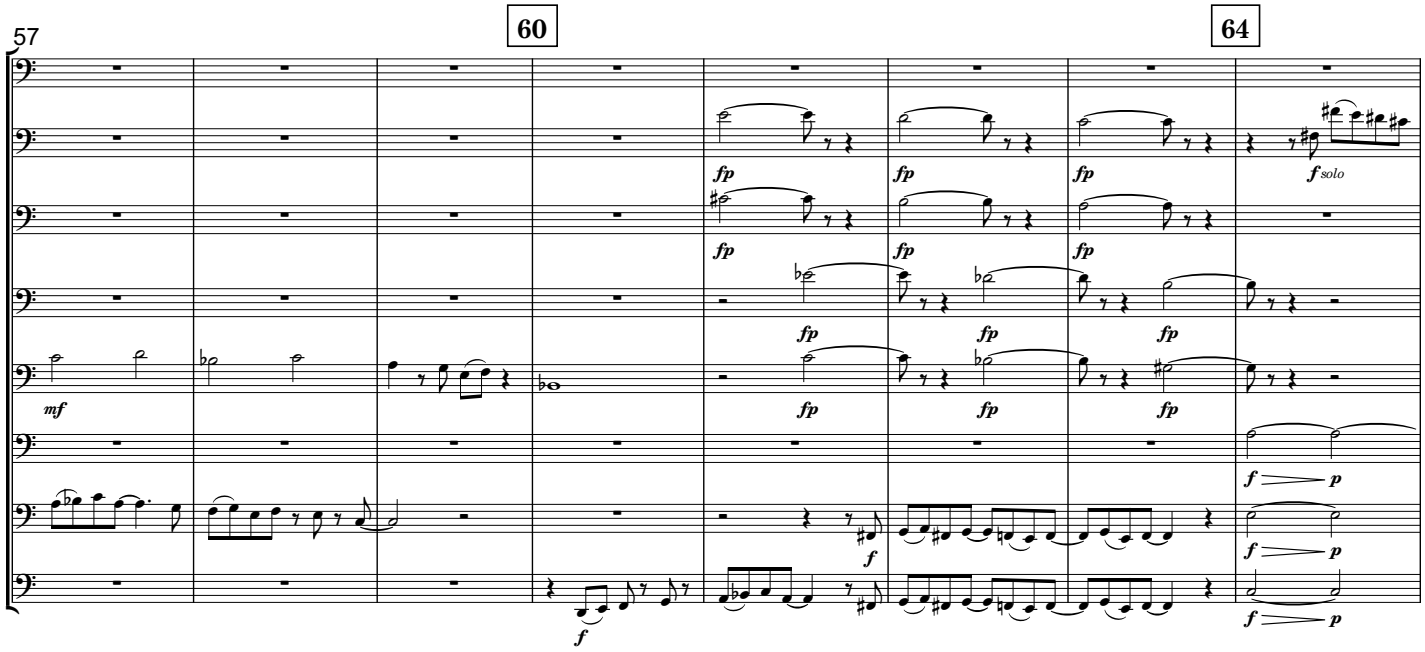
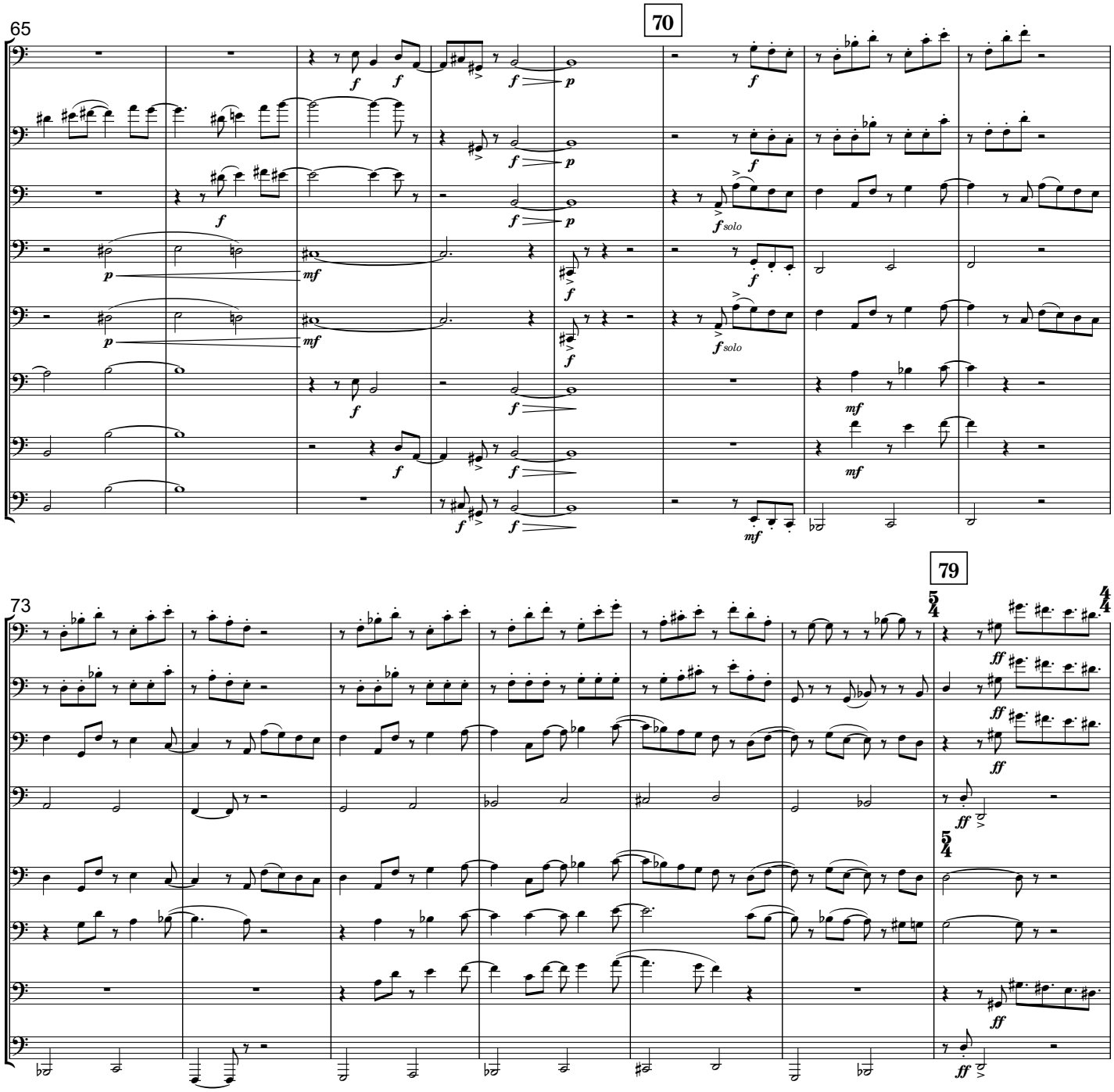
43
48


49
54
mf
mp
f
p
mf solo


57
60
64
fp
f solo
mf
f
p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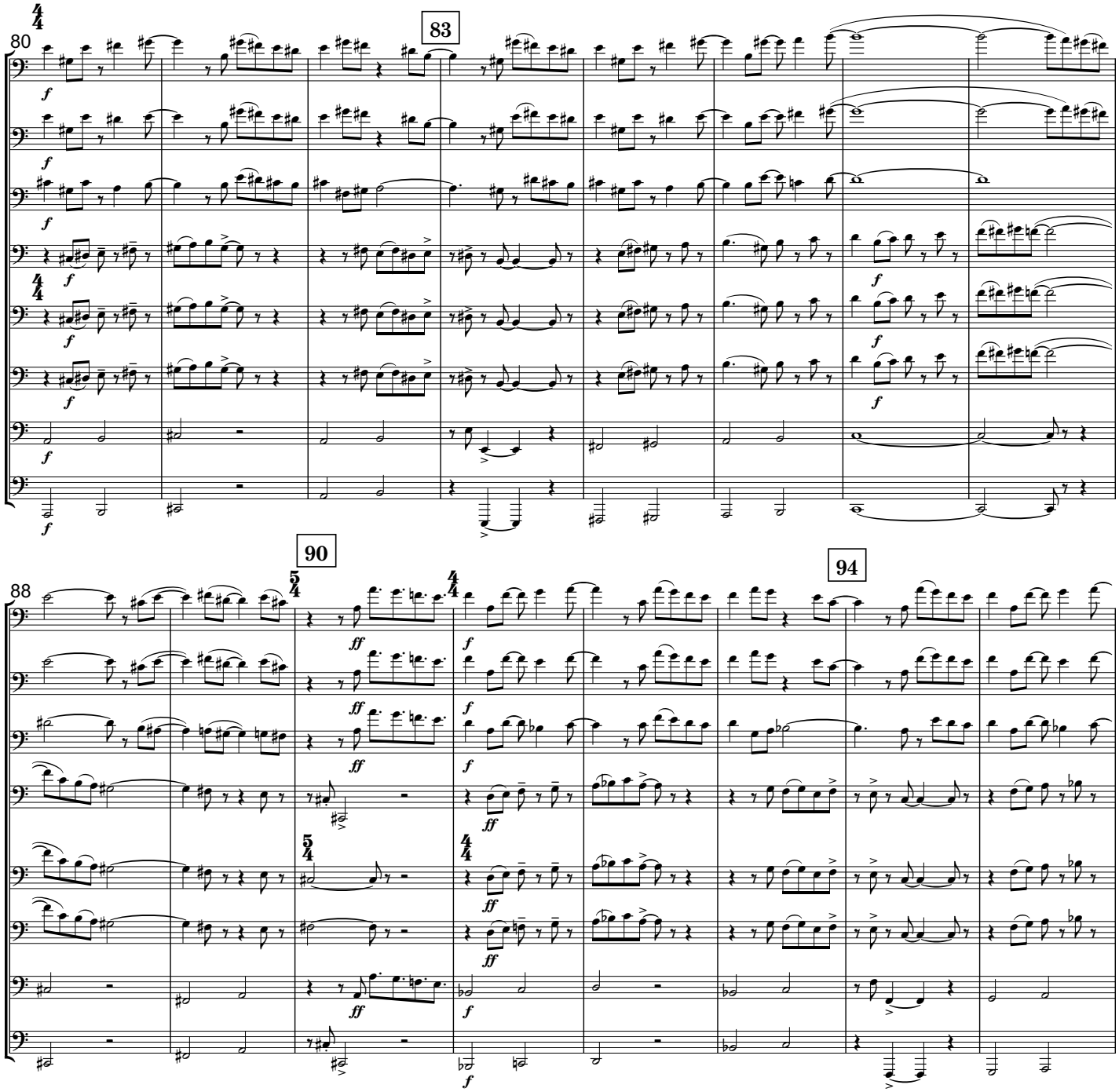
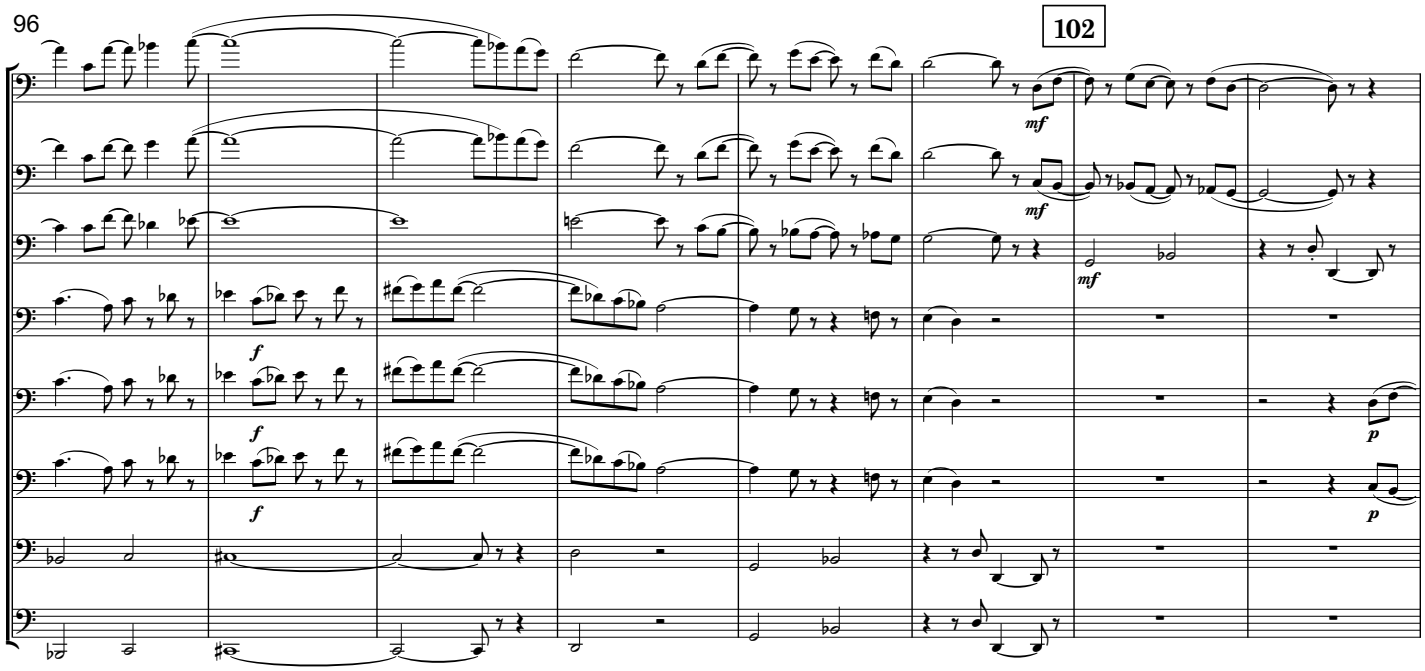
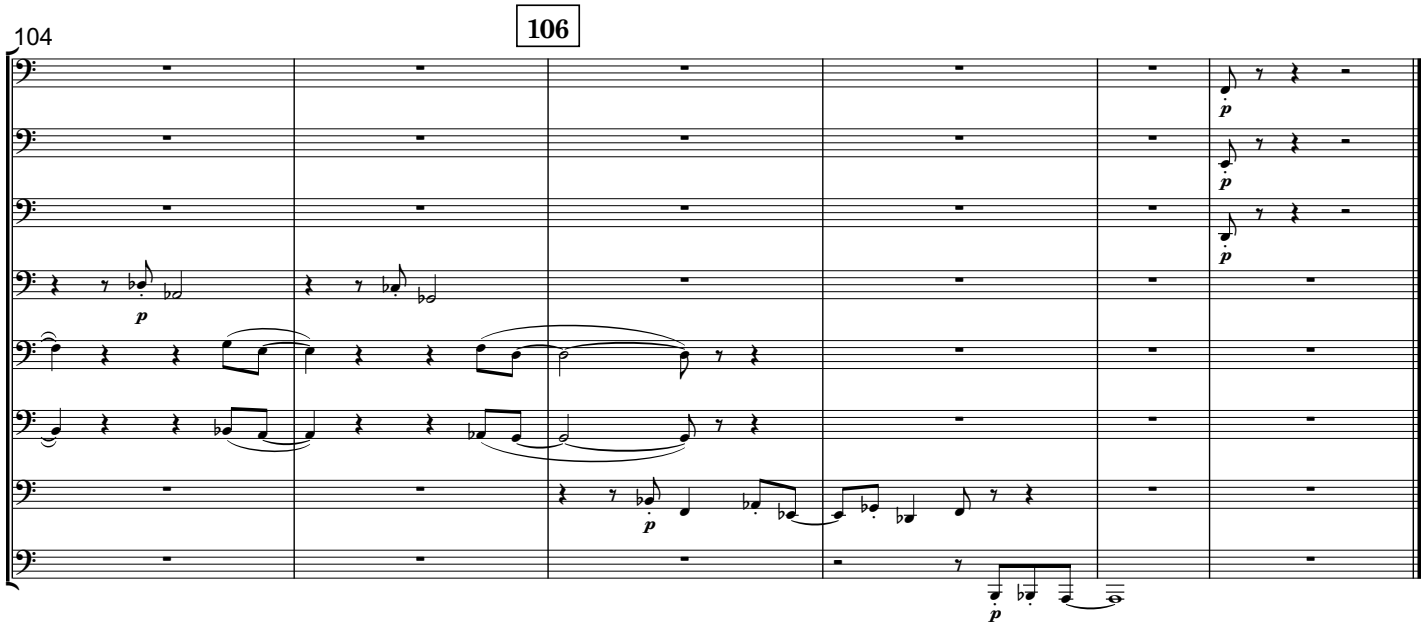
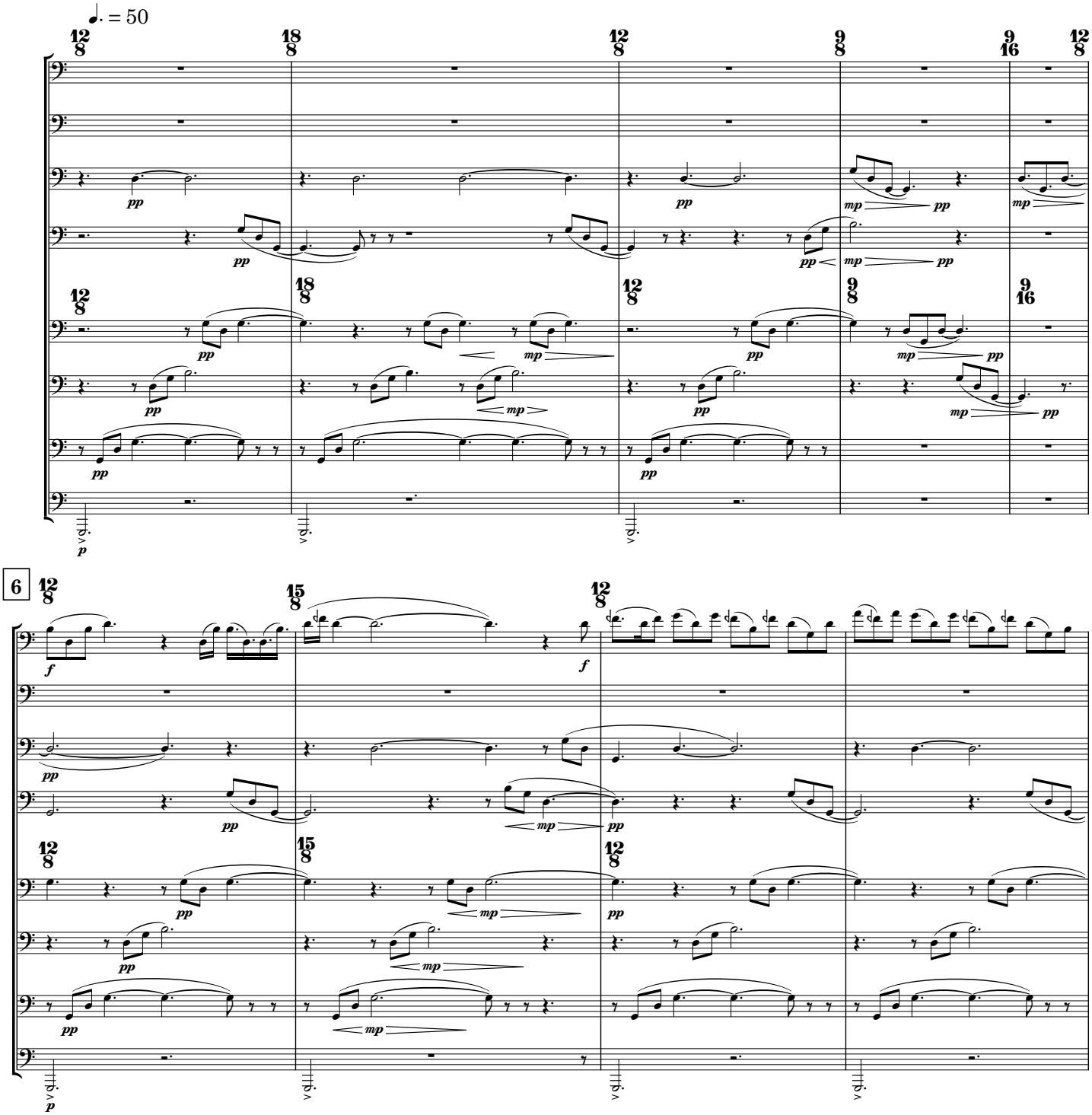
70
73
79

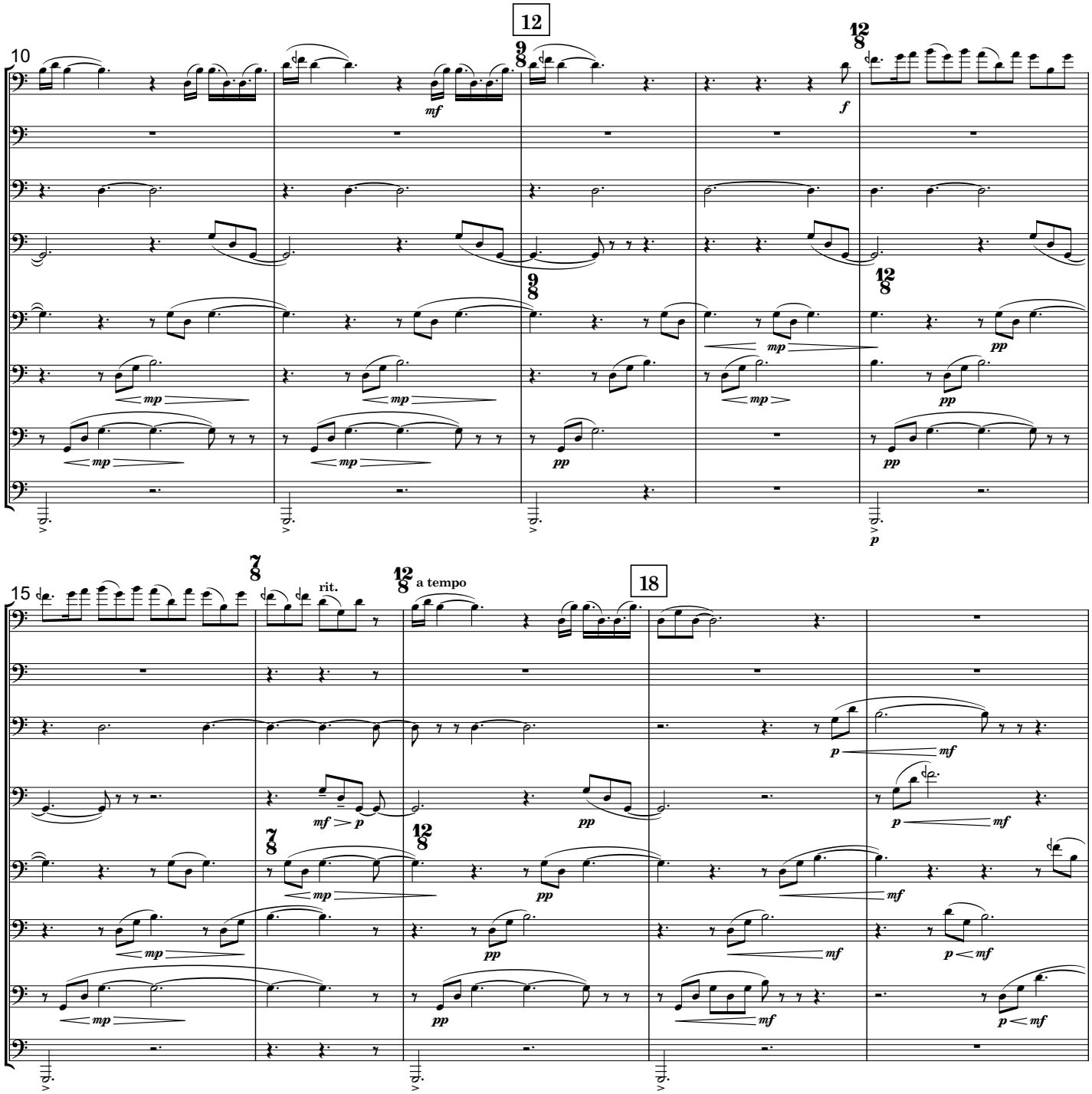

80
83
88
90
94

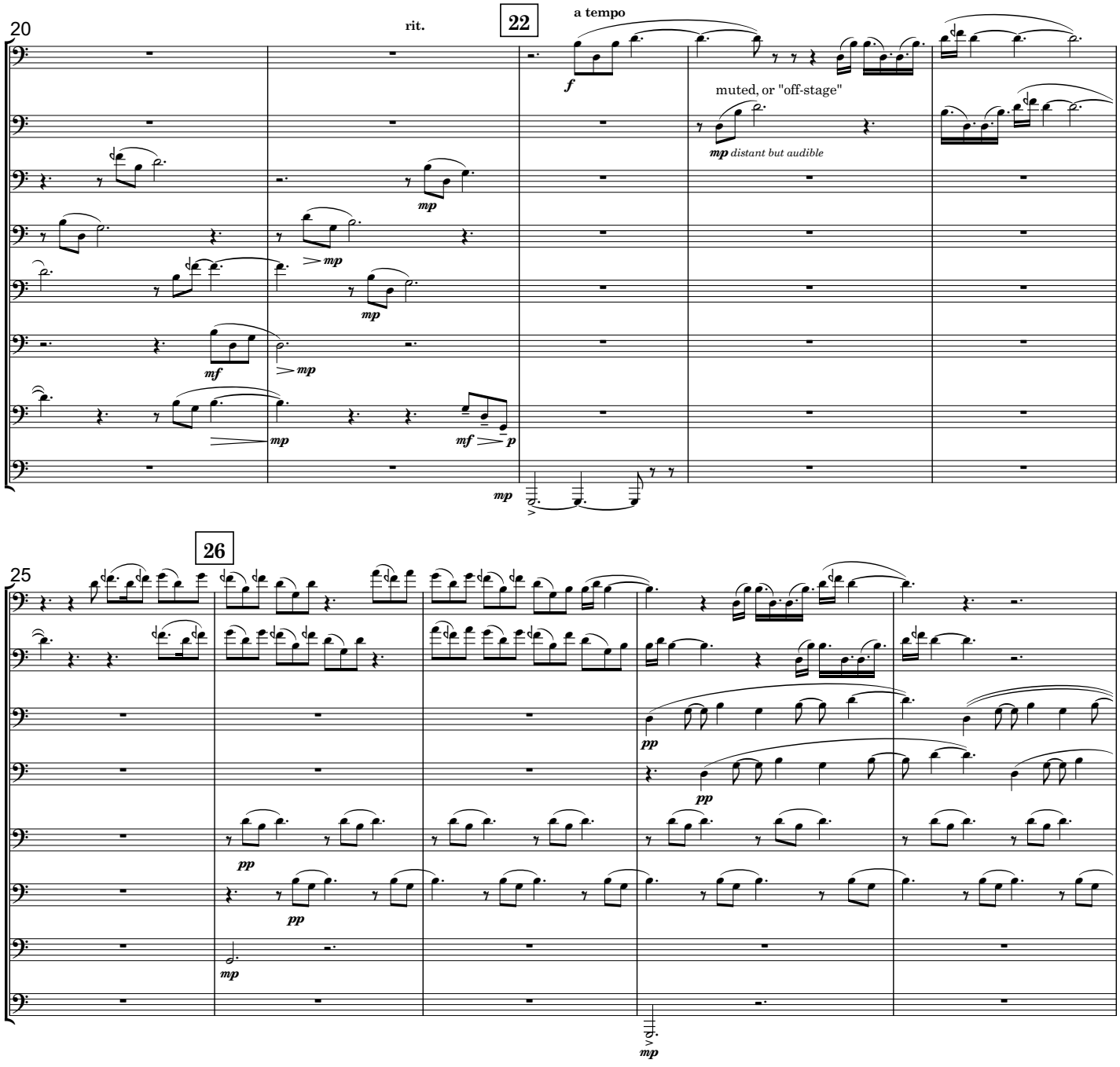

96
102
mf
mf
mf
f
f
f
p
p

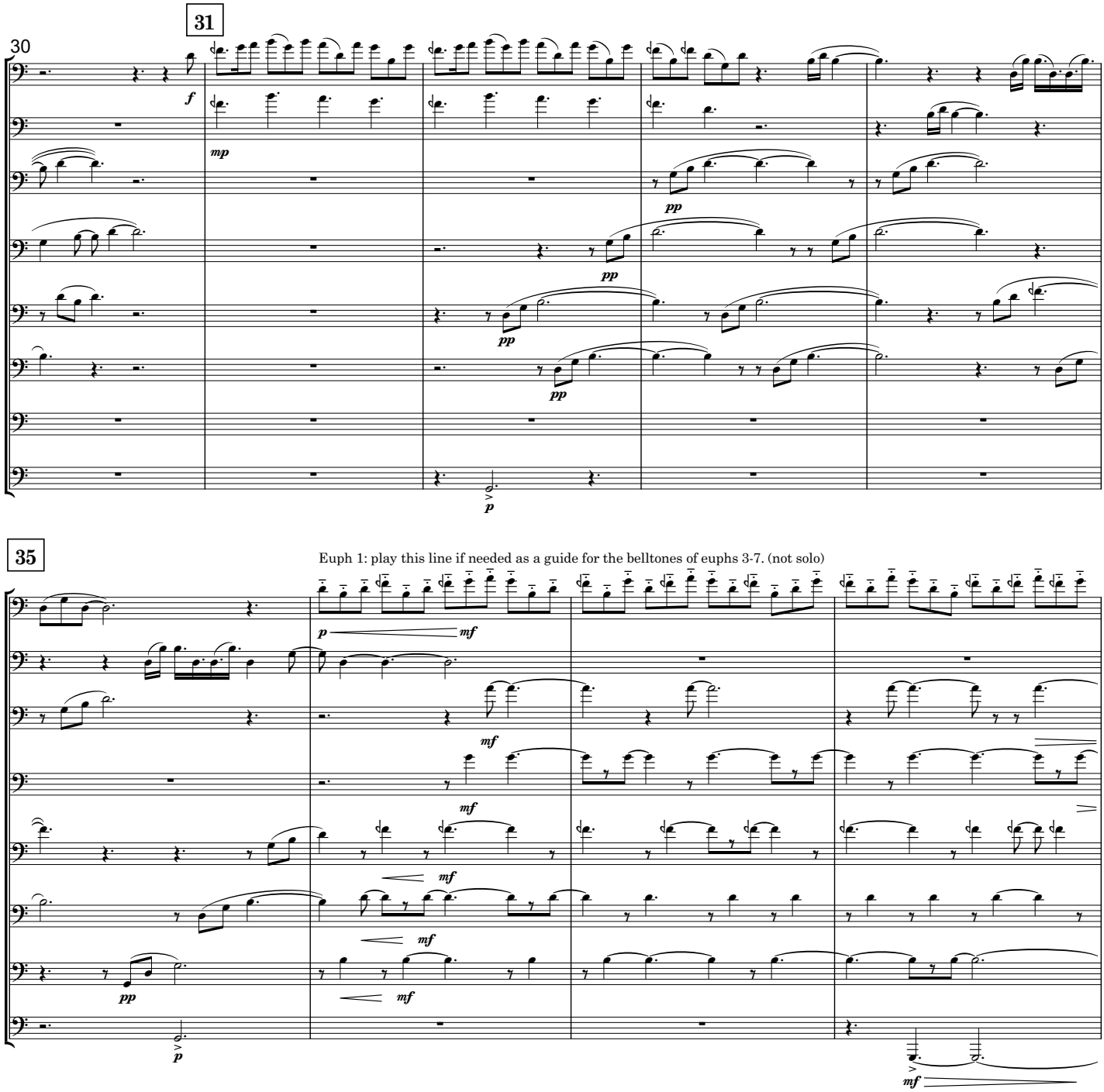

104
106
p
p
p
p
p

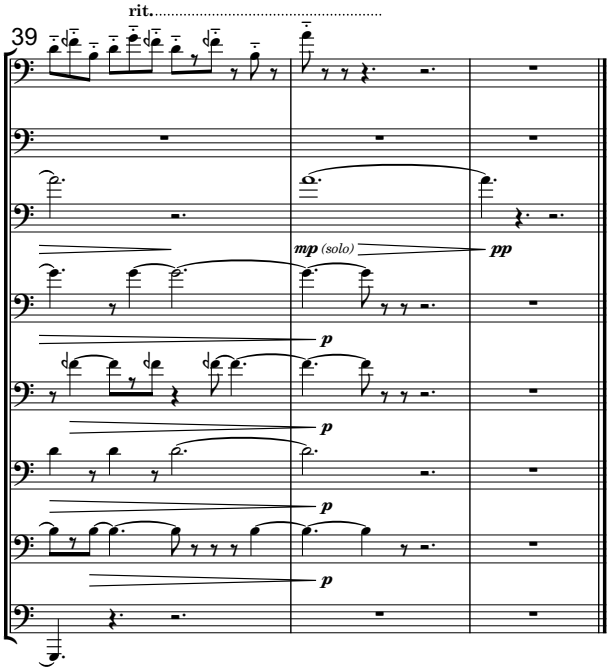
3. Ayre on a G Pedal



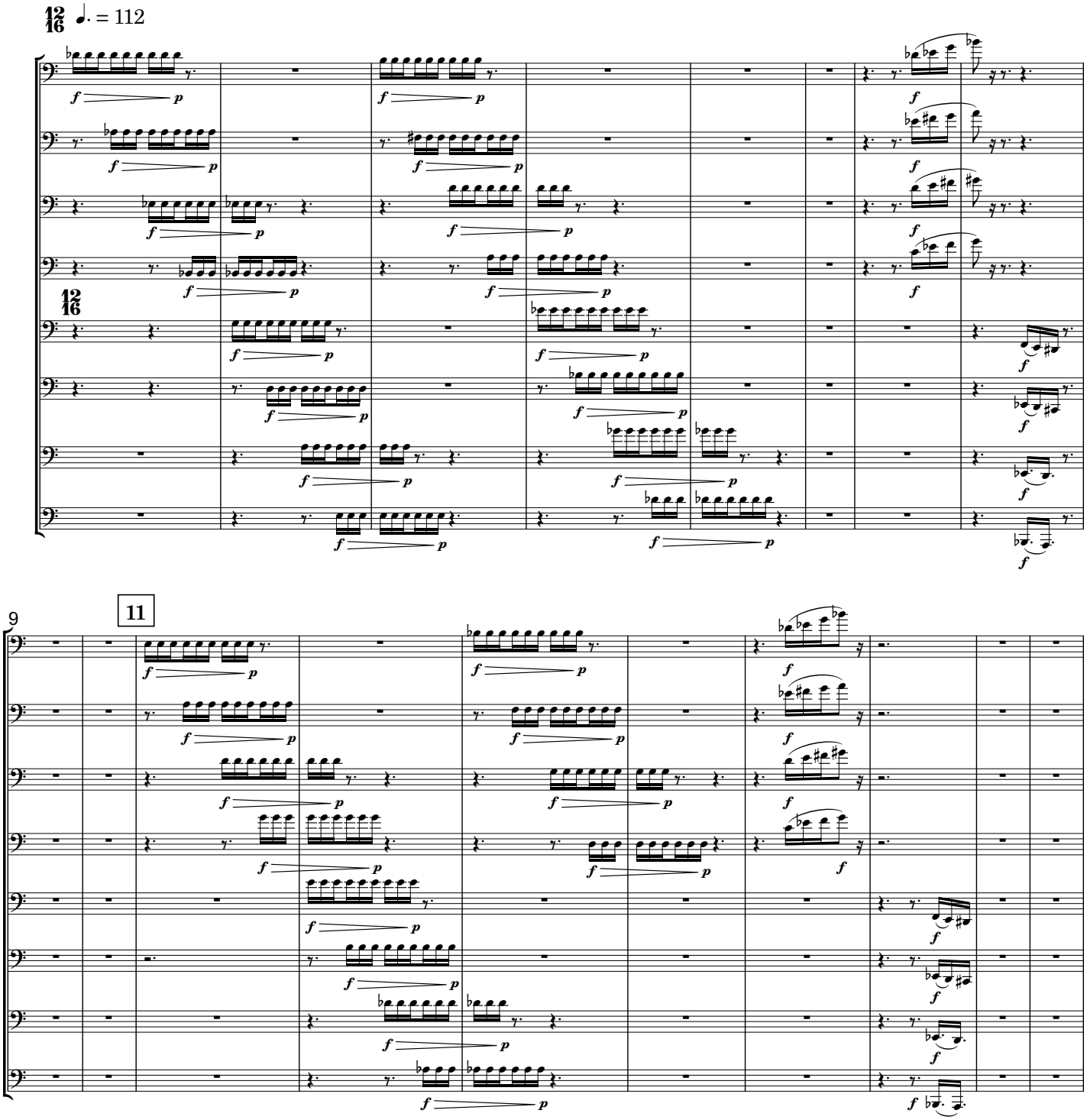

12
10
mf
f
mp
pp
15
rit.
a tempo
18

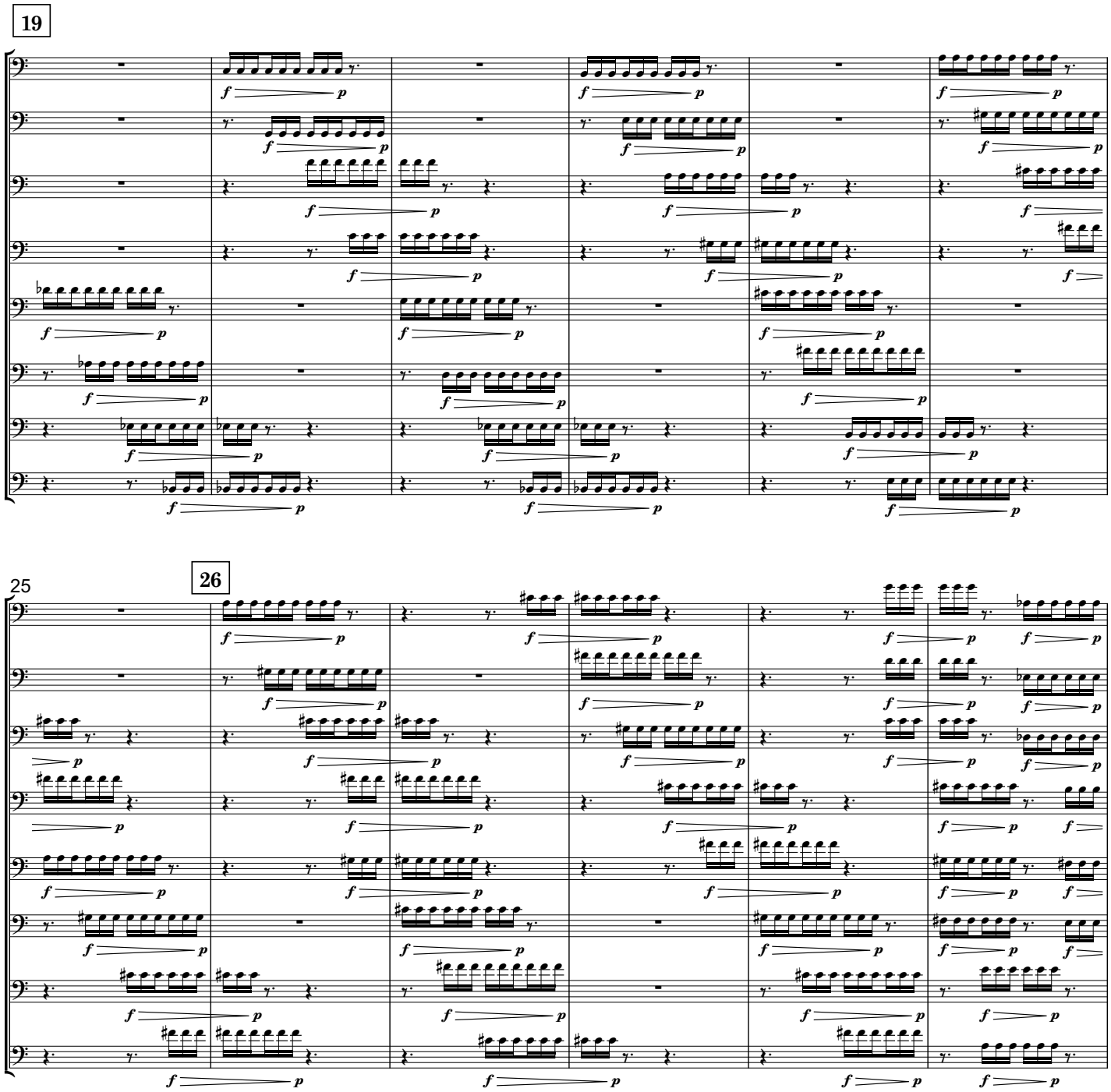

20
rit.
22
a tempo
f
muted, or "off-stage"
mp distant but audible
mp
mf
p
25
26
pp


30
31
f
mp
pp
pp
pp
pp
p
35
Euph 1: play this line if needed as a guide for the belltones of euphs 3-7. (not solo)
p
mf
mf
mf
mf
mf
pp
p
mf


39
rit.
mp (solo)
pp
p
p
p
p

4. Another Run: Off the Wall




19
25
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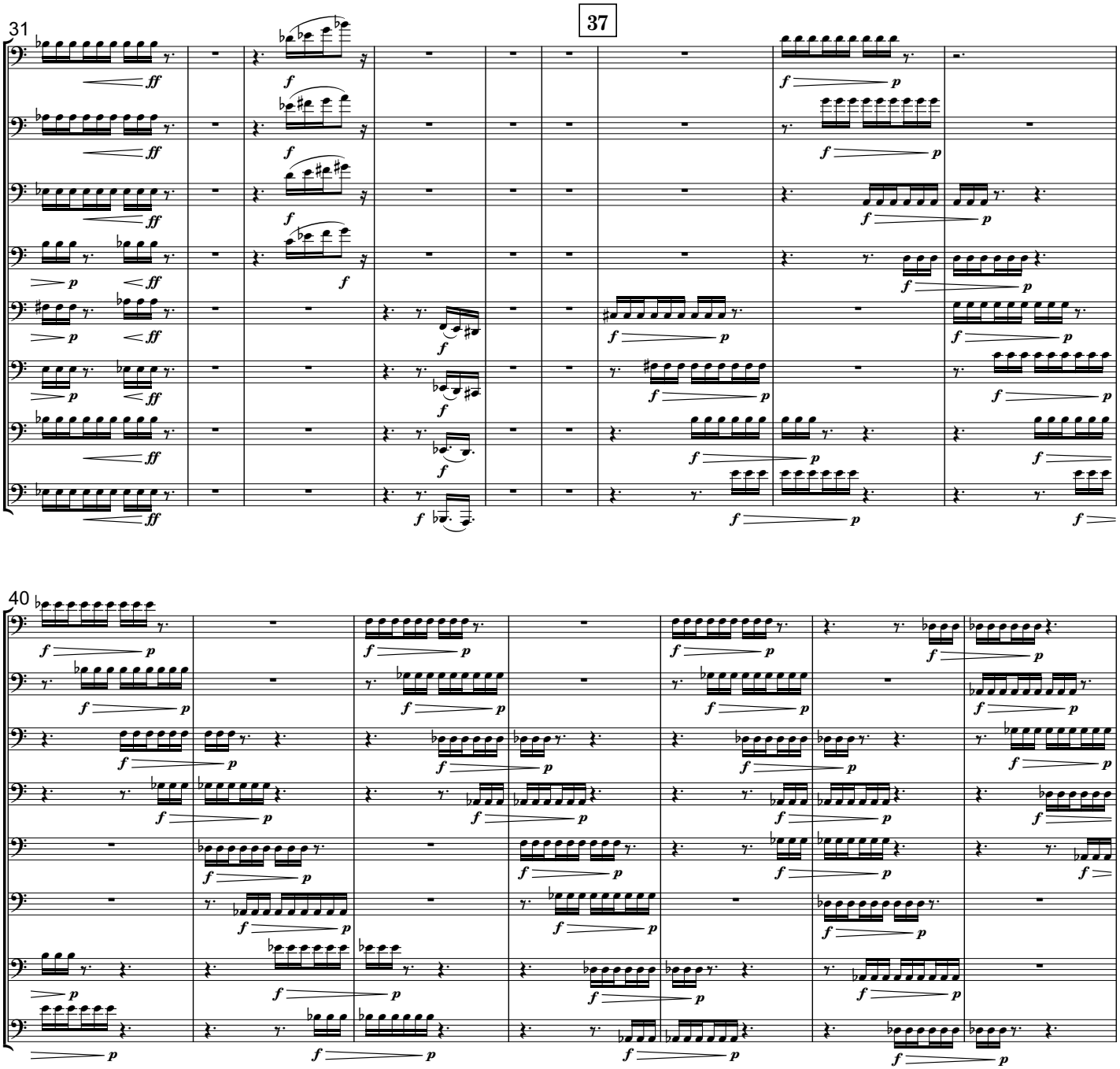
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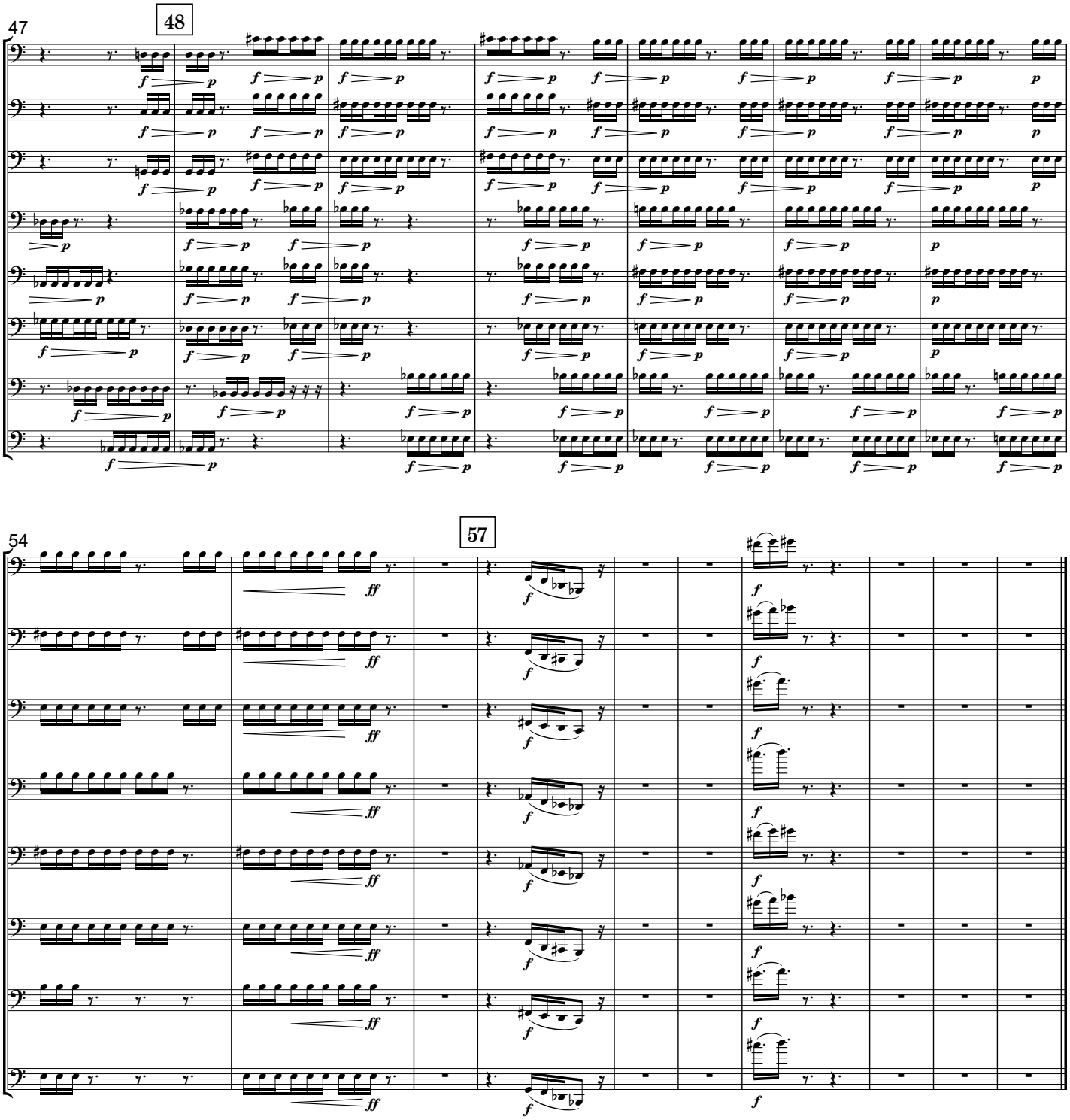
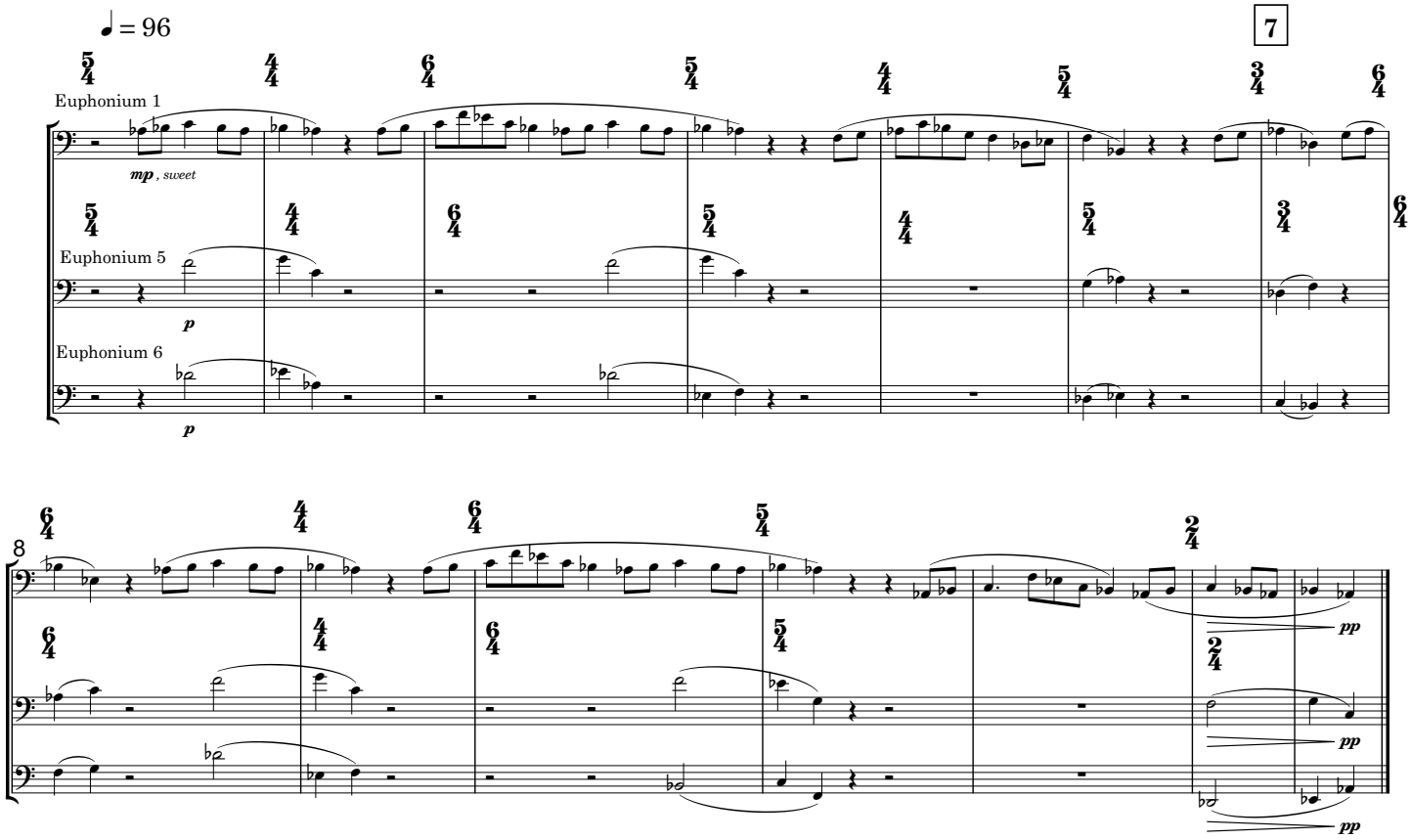
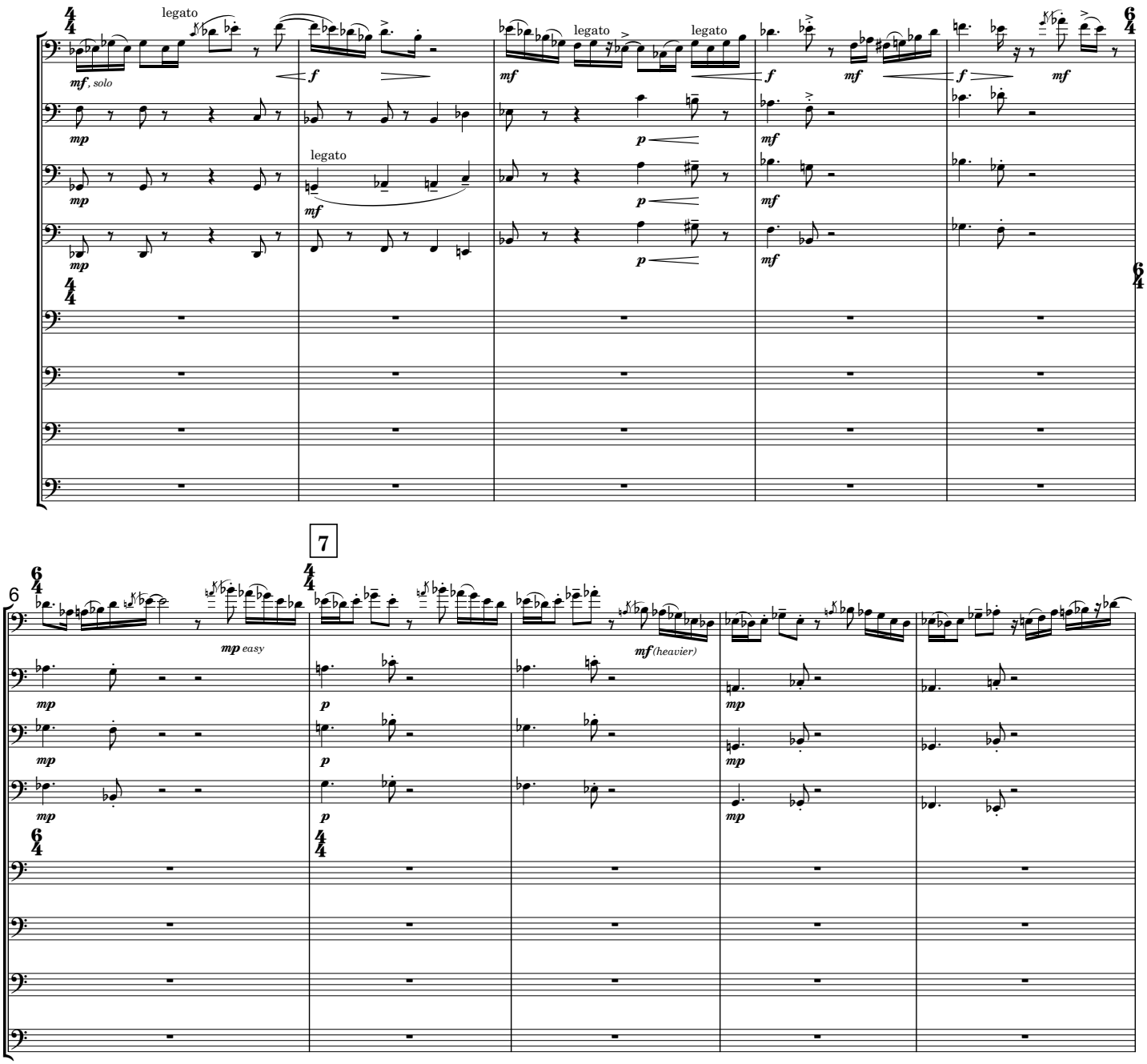
37
40

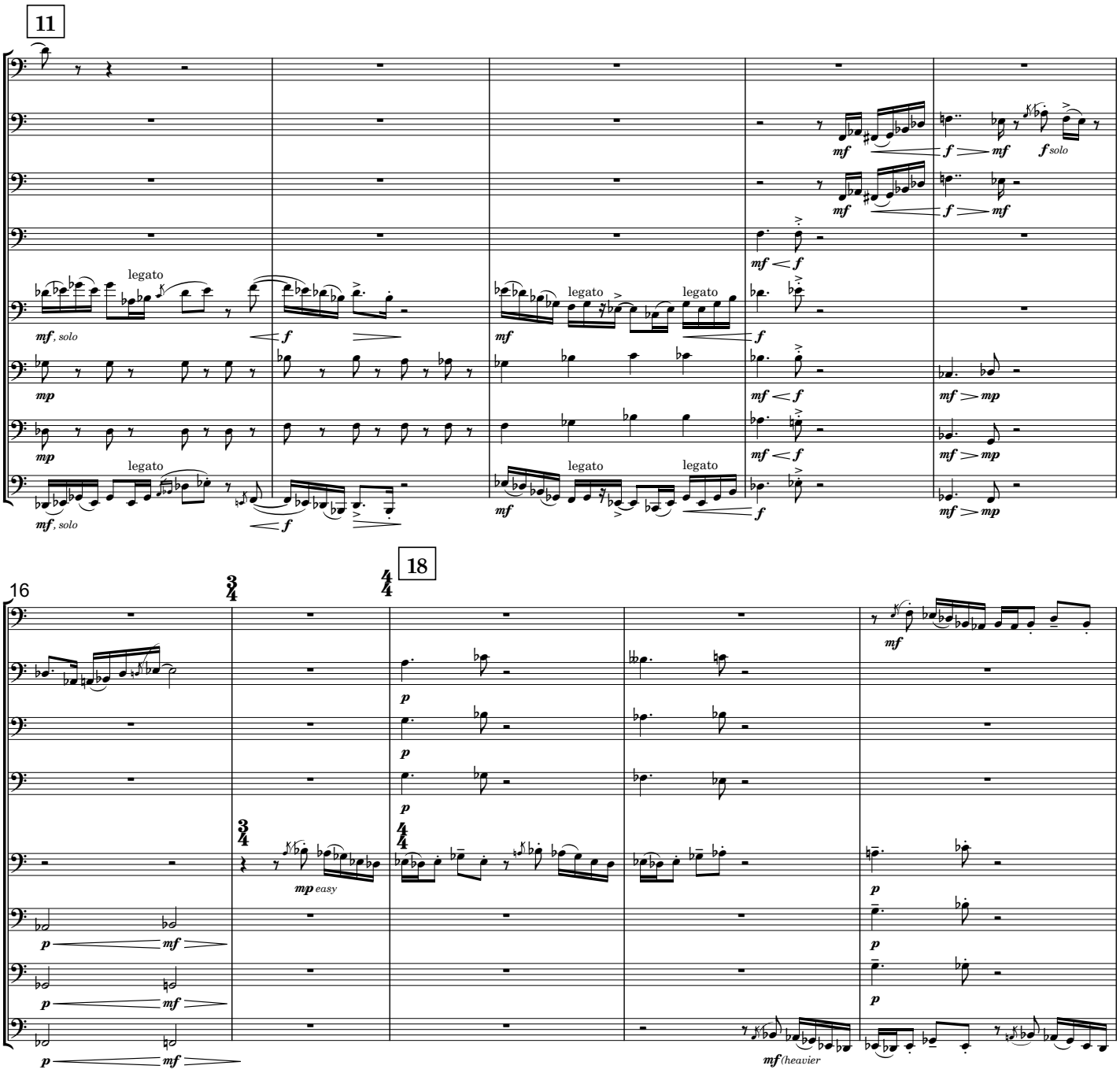

47
48
54
57

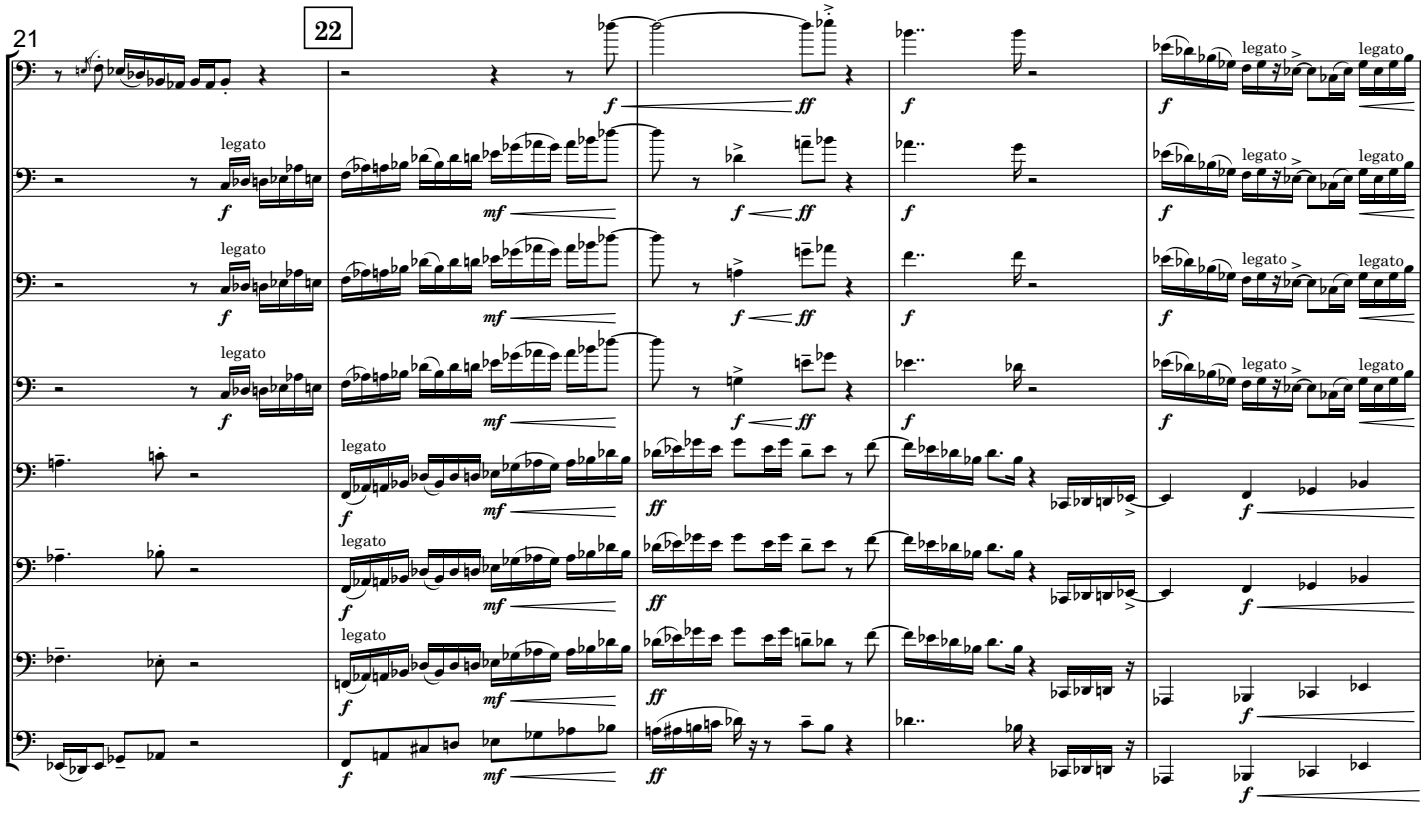
5. Fresh Ayre (trio)

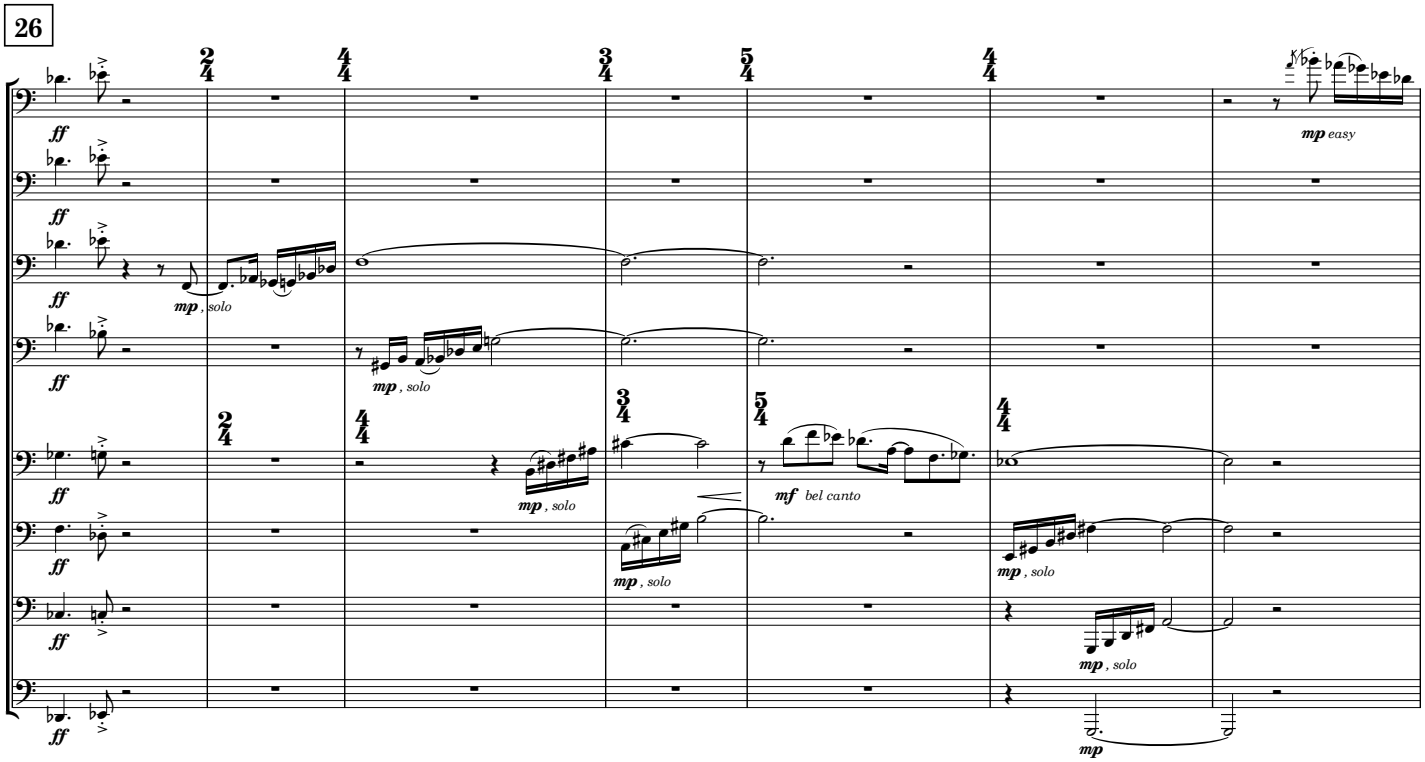


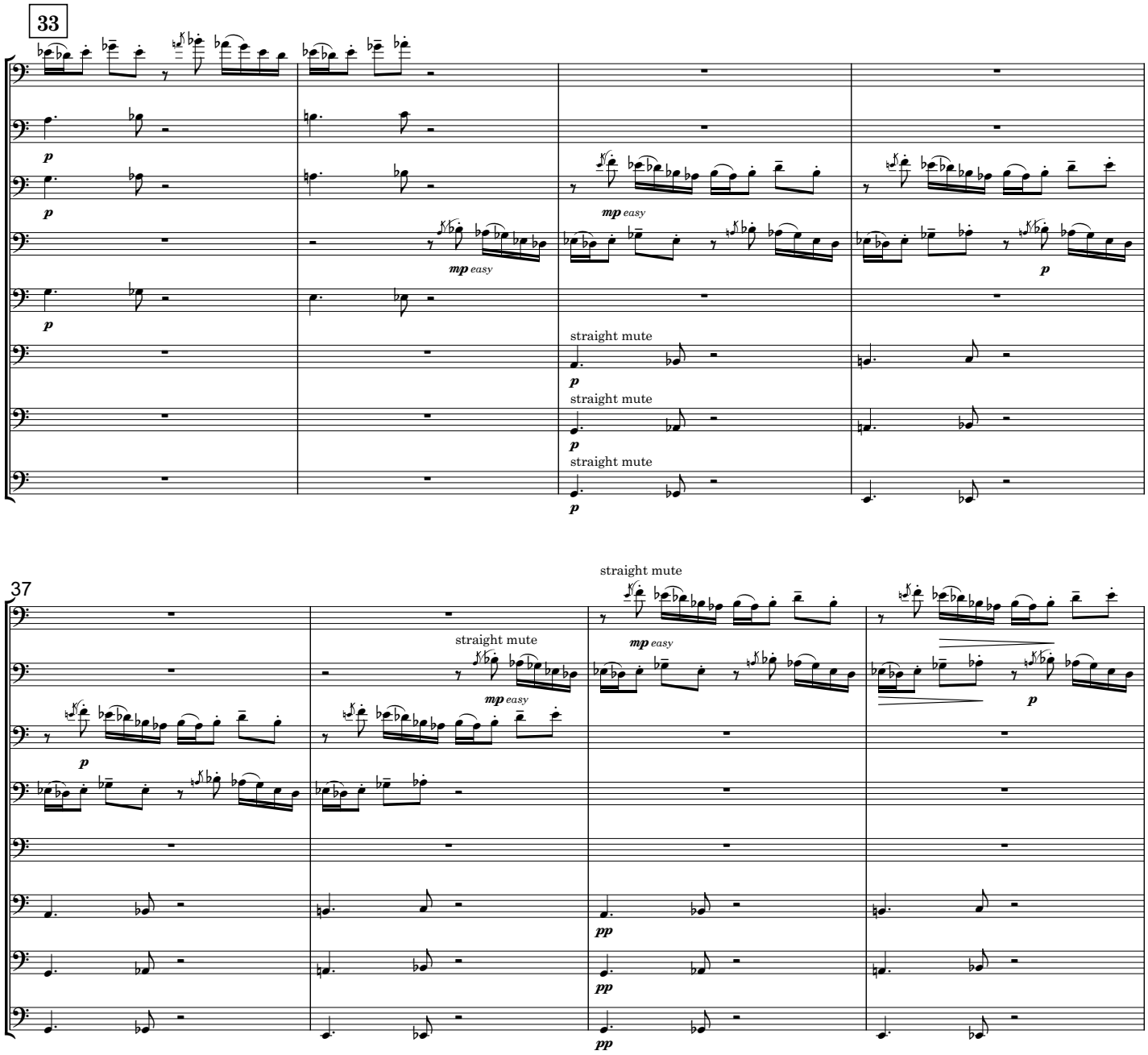
6. 7th Inning Stretch: Easy Going

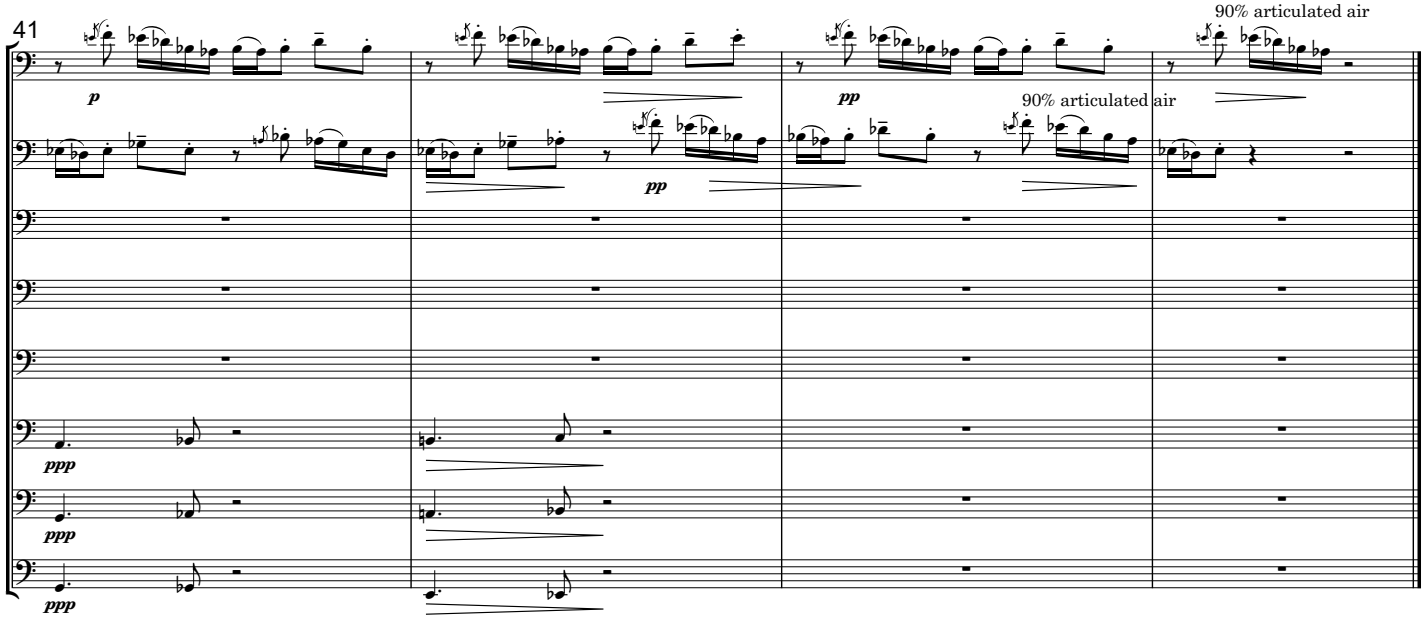



11
legato
mf, solo
mp
mf
f
mf < f
mf > mp
f solo
16
18
mp easy
p
mf (heavier


21
22
legato
f
mf
ff


26
ff
mp, solo
mf bel canto
mp easy


33
p
mp easy
straight mute
37
pp


41
90% articulated air
p
pp
90% articulated air
pp
ppp
ppp
ppp

7. Suite of Ayres

Balk

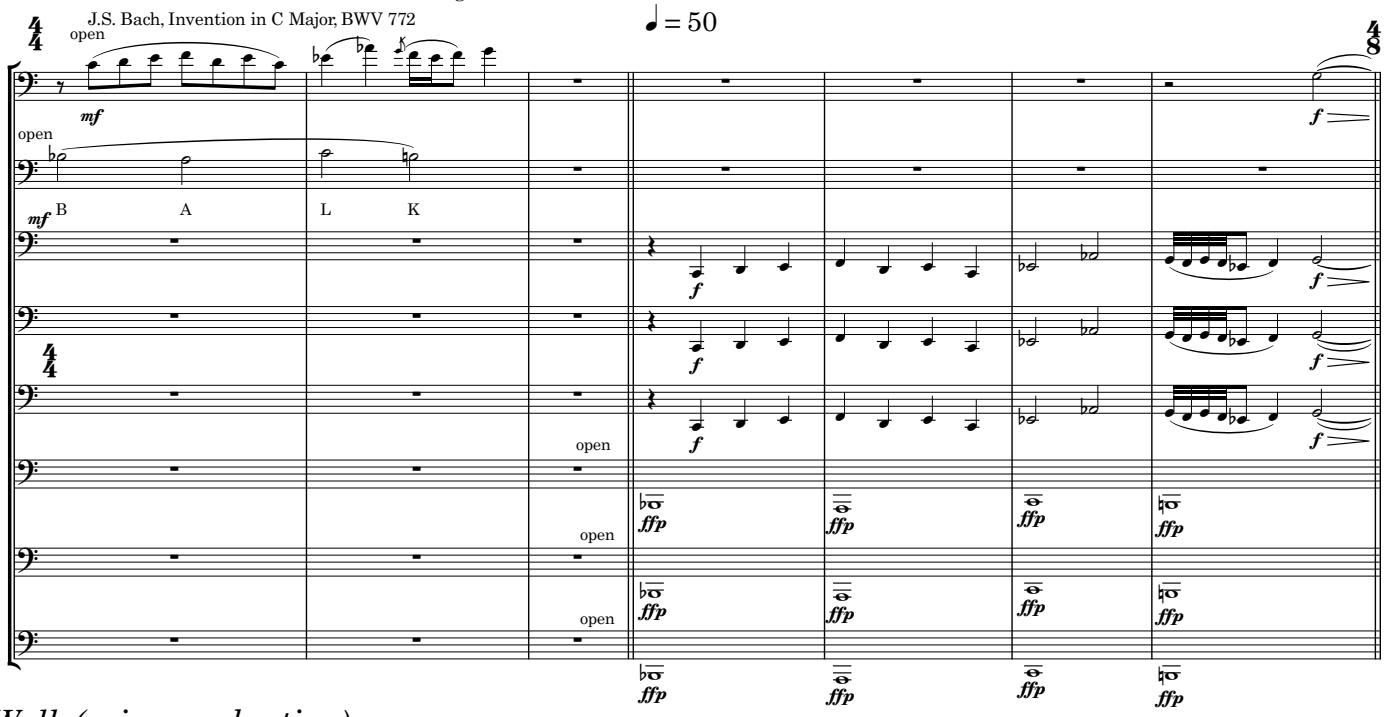
♩ = 88

Slowing...

J.S. Bach, Invention in C Major, BWV 772

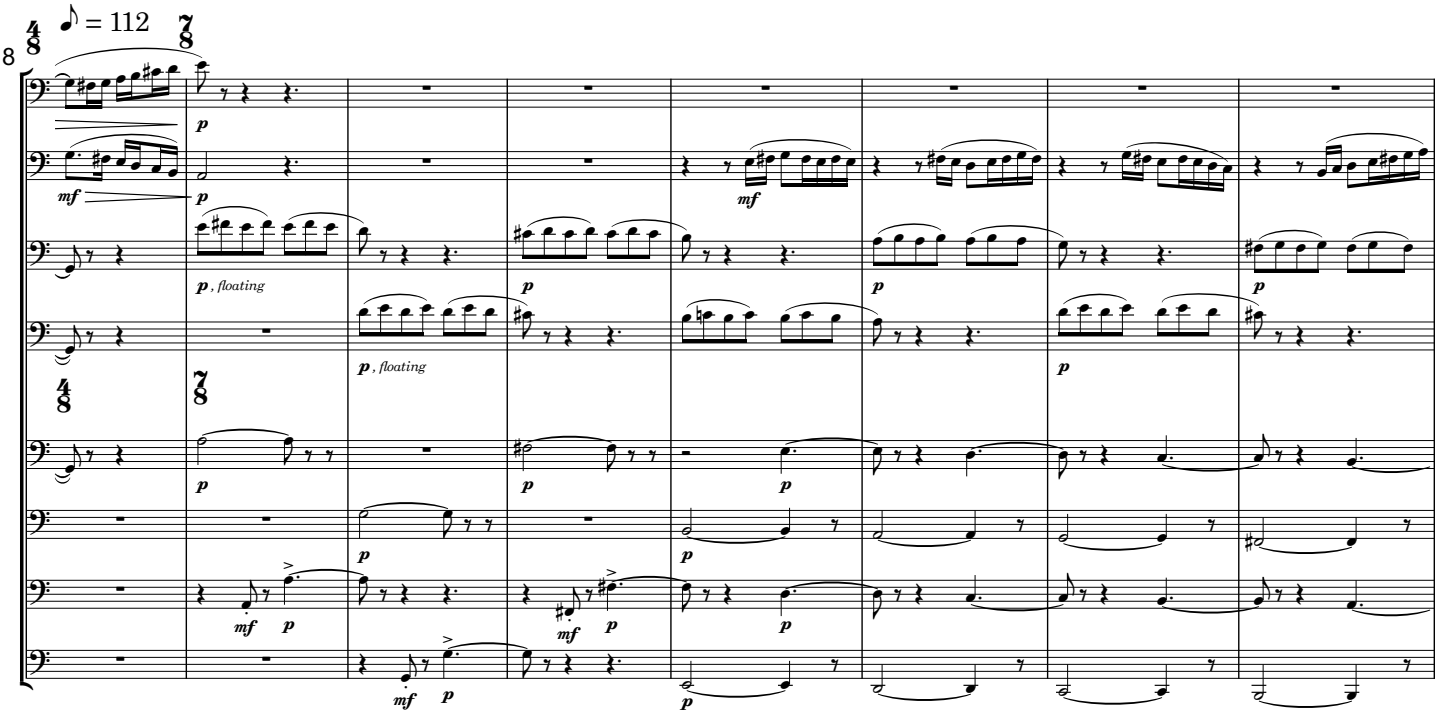
Slo-Mo Replay

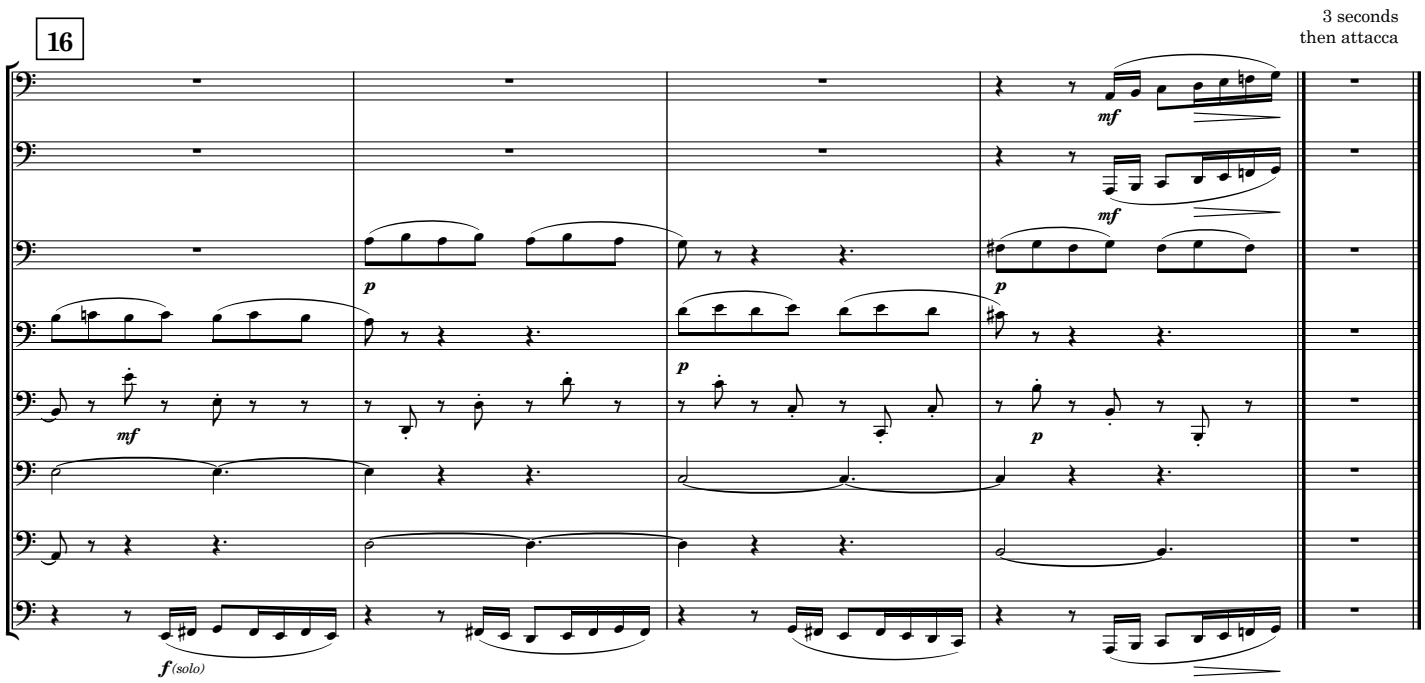
♩ = 50



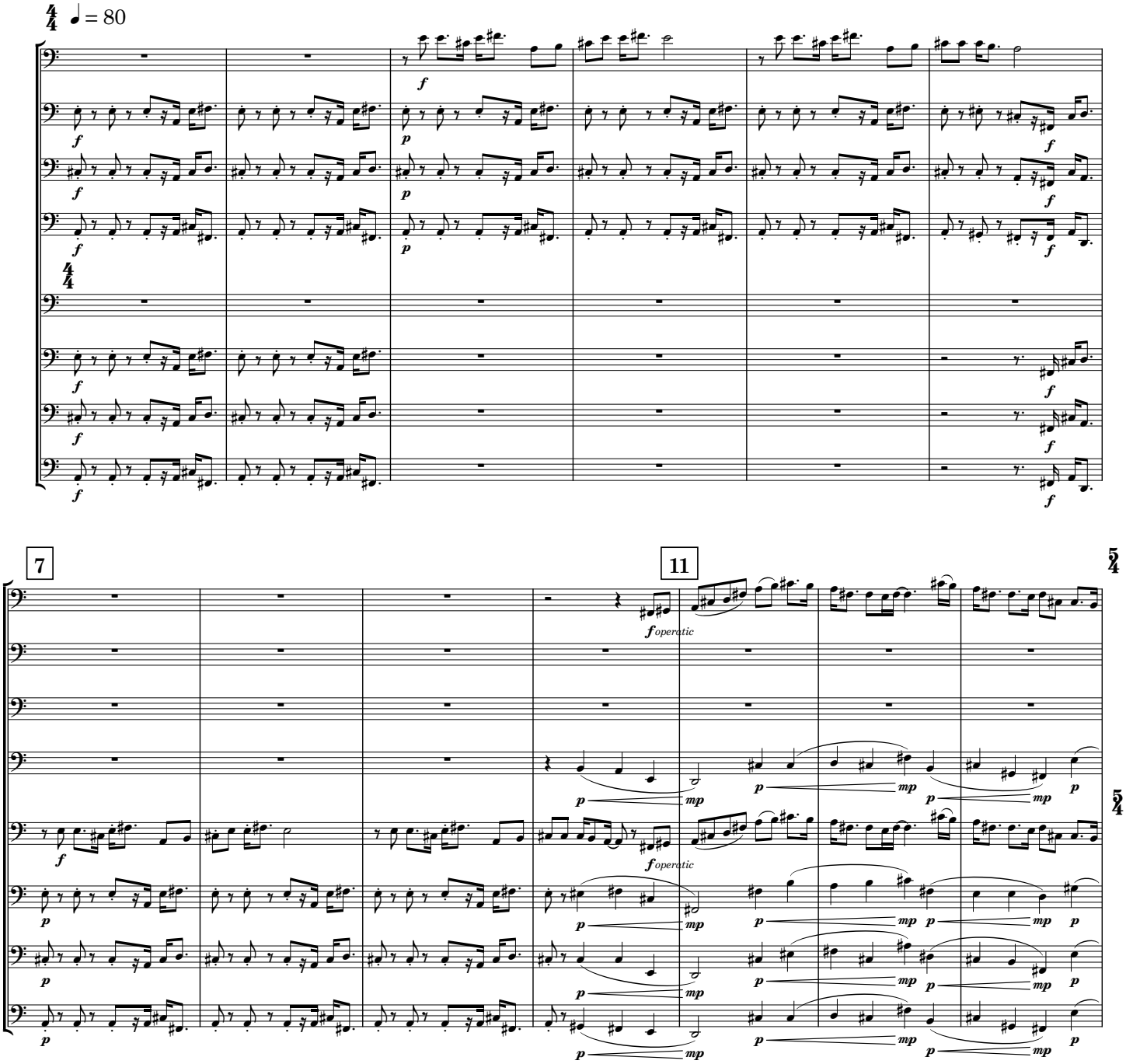
Walk (arioso andantino)

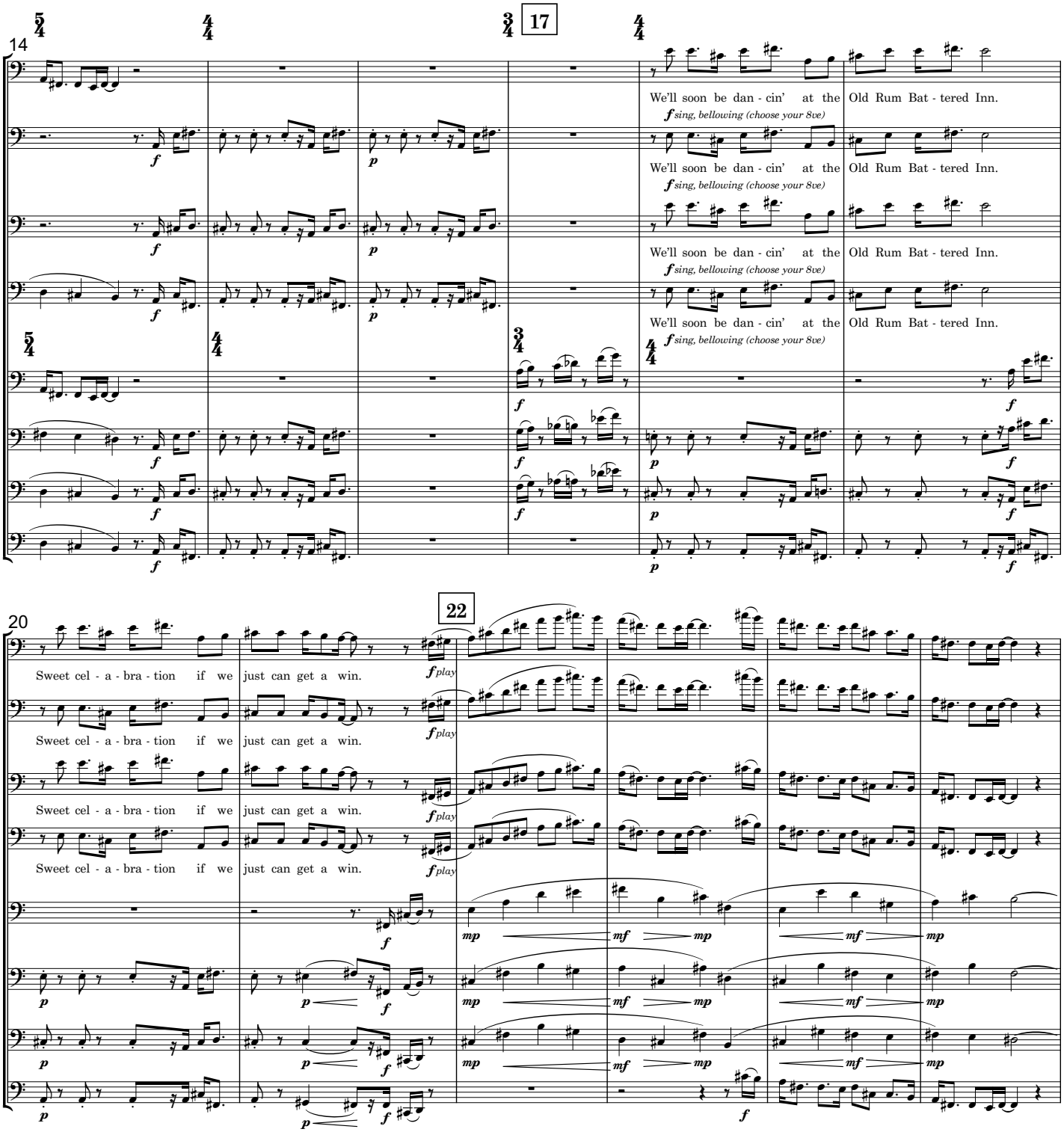
♪ = 112

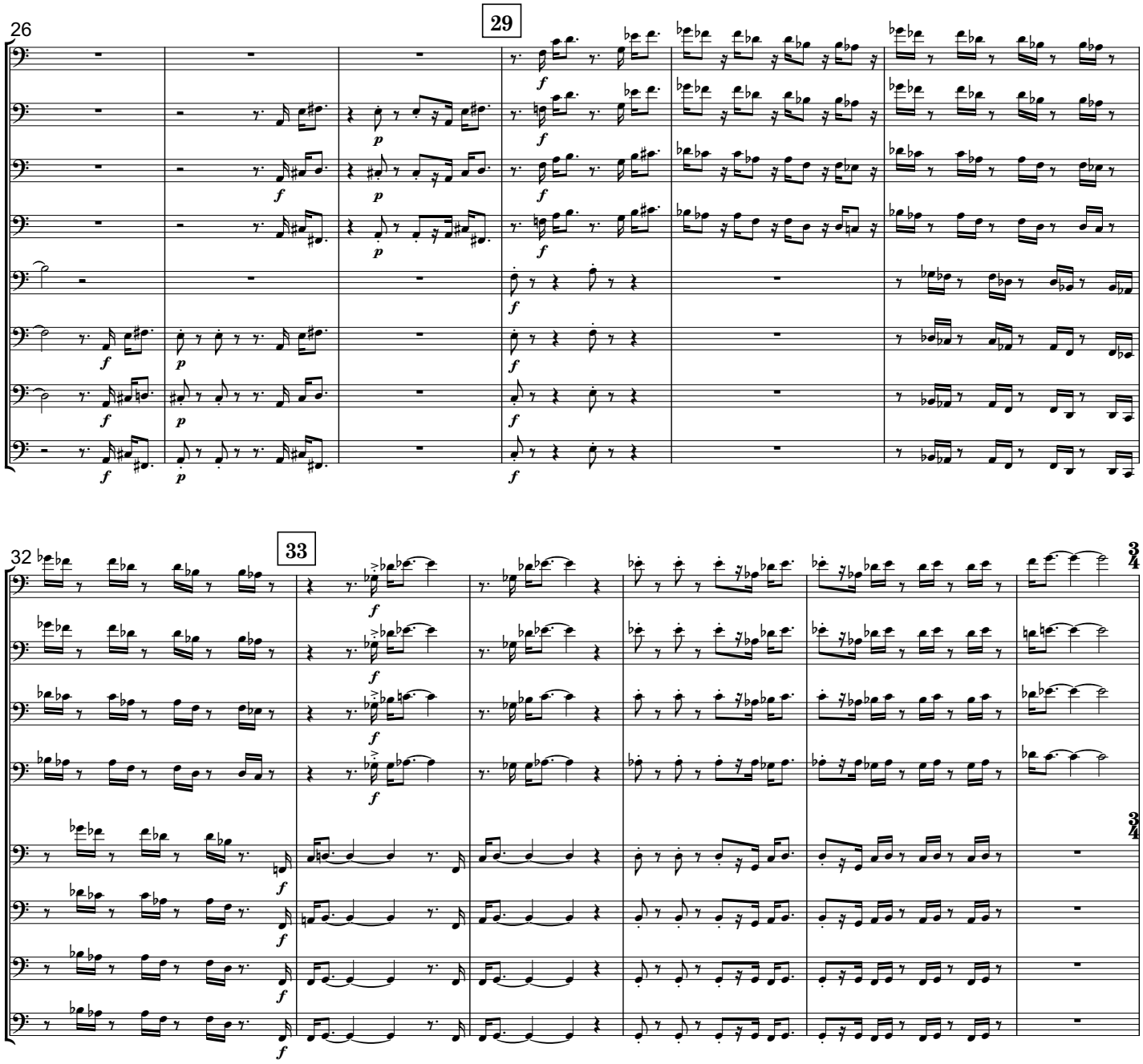


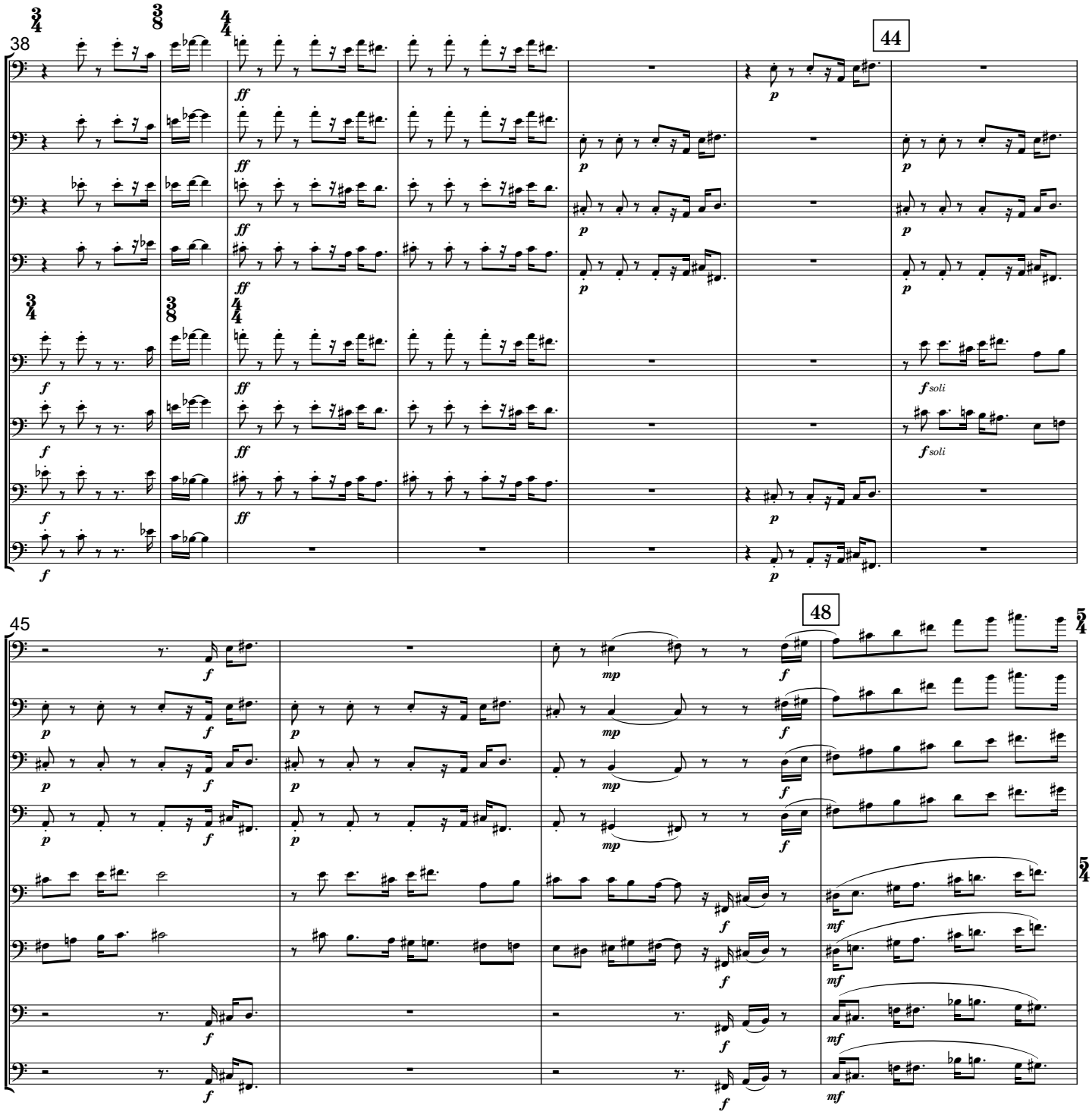

16
3 seconds
then attacca
mf
mf
p
p
p
mf
p
f (solo)

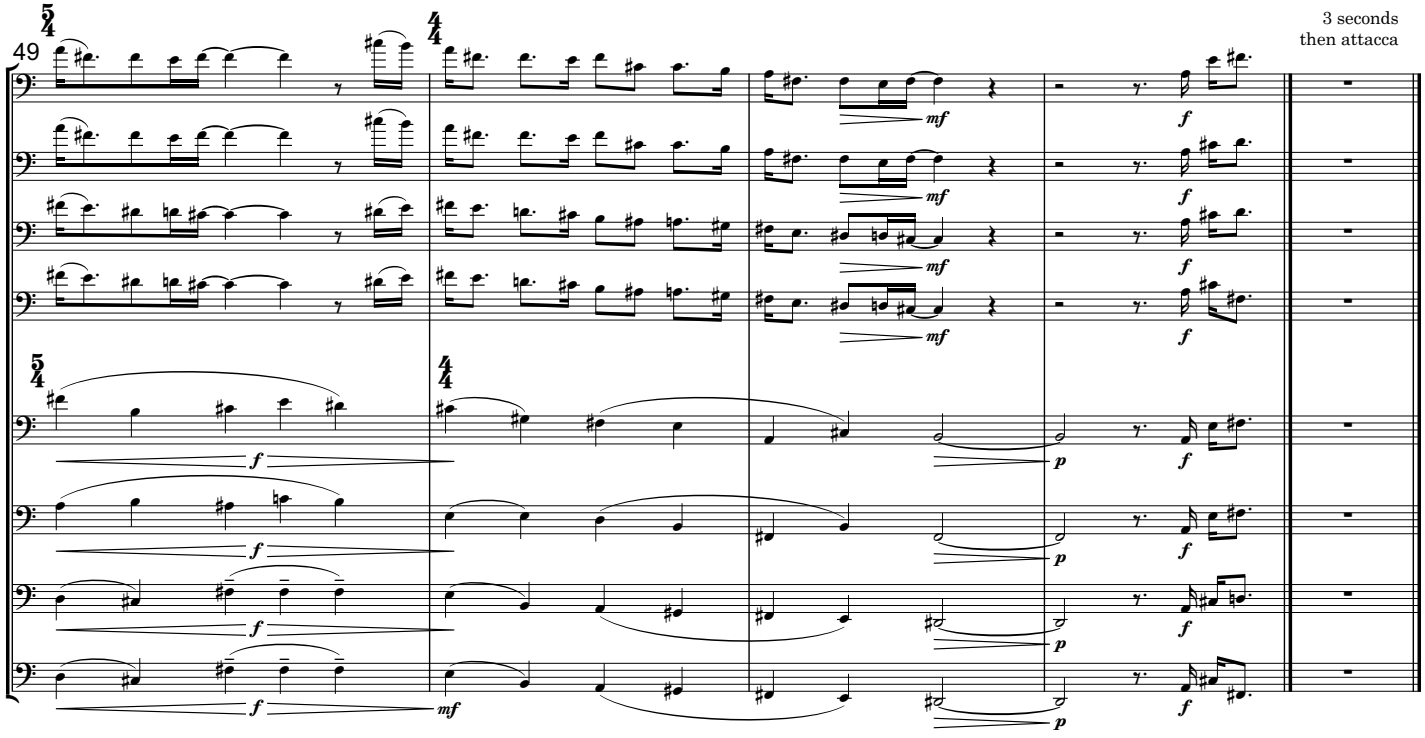
8. Dance at the Old Rum Battered Inn



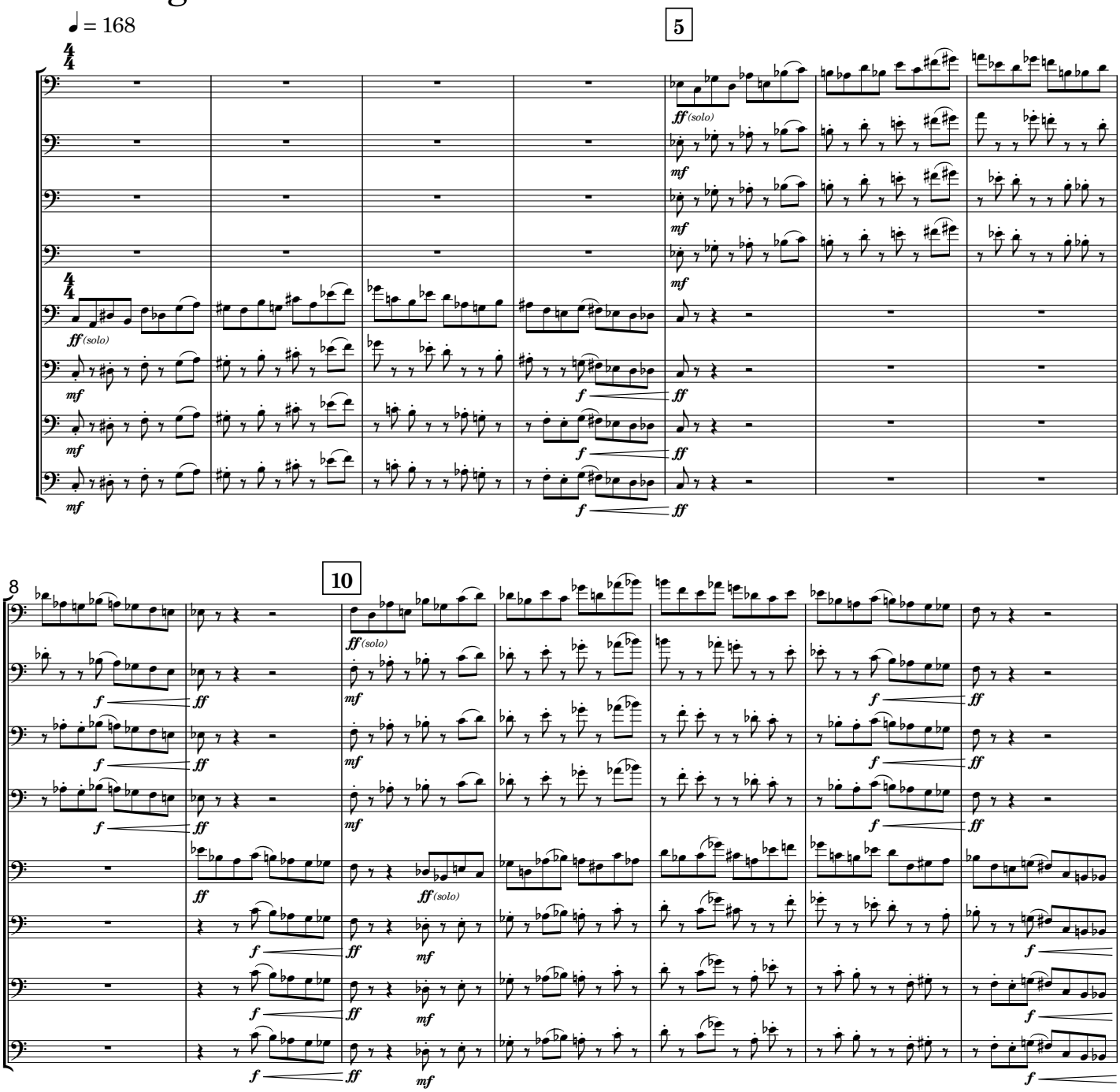

14
17
We'll soon be dan - cin' at the Old Rum Bat - tered Inn.
sing, bellowing (choose your 8ve)
20
22
Sweet cel - a - bra - tion if we just can get a win.
play

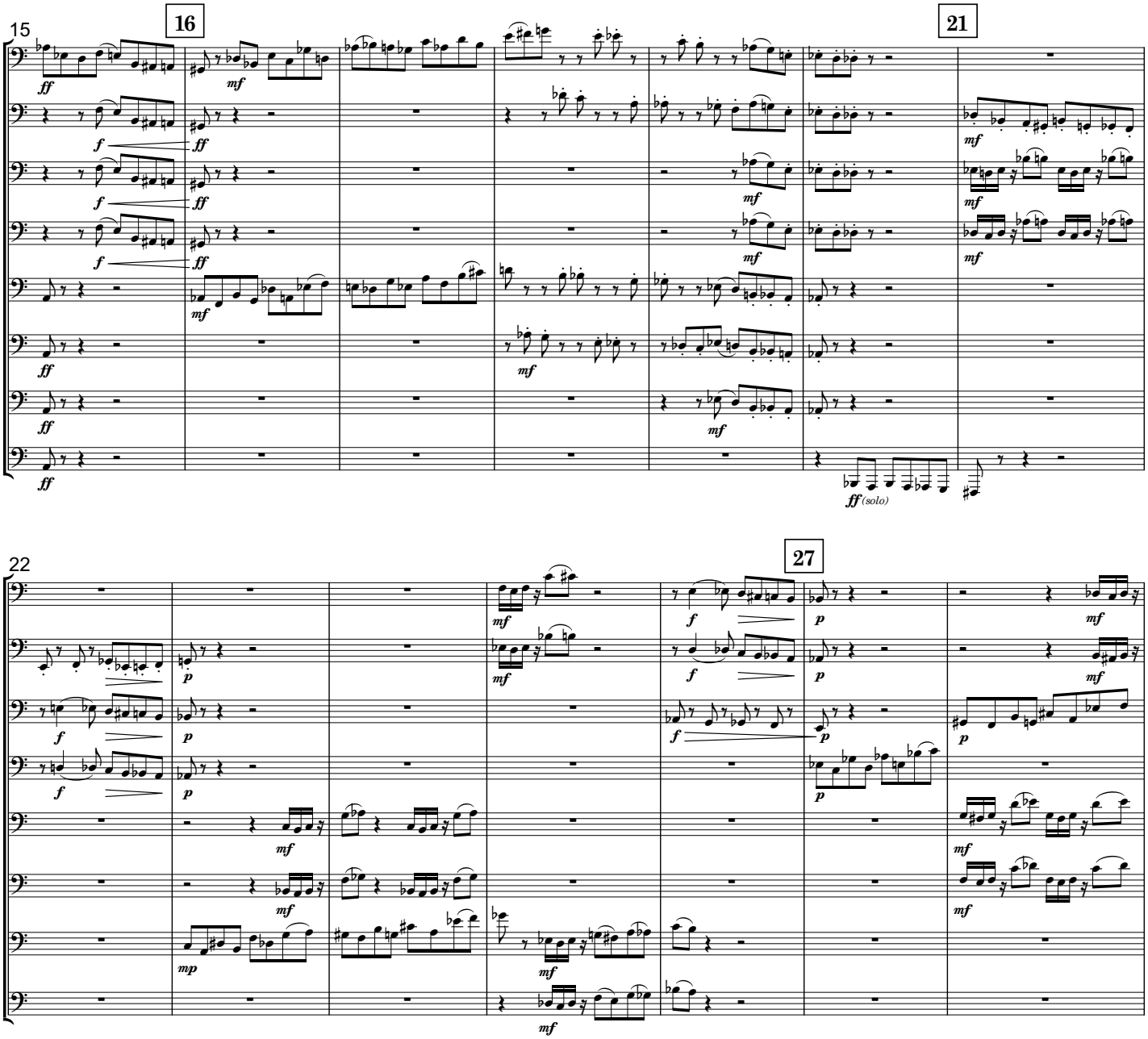

26
29
32
33
3/4
3/4

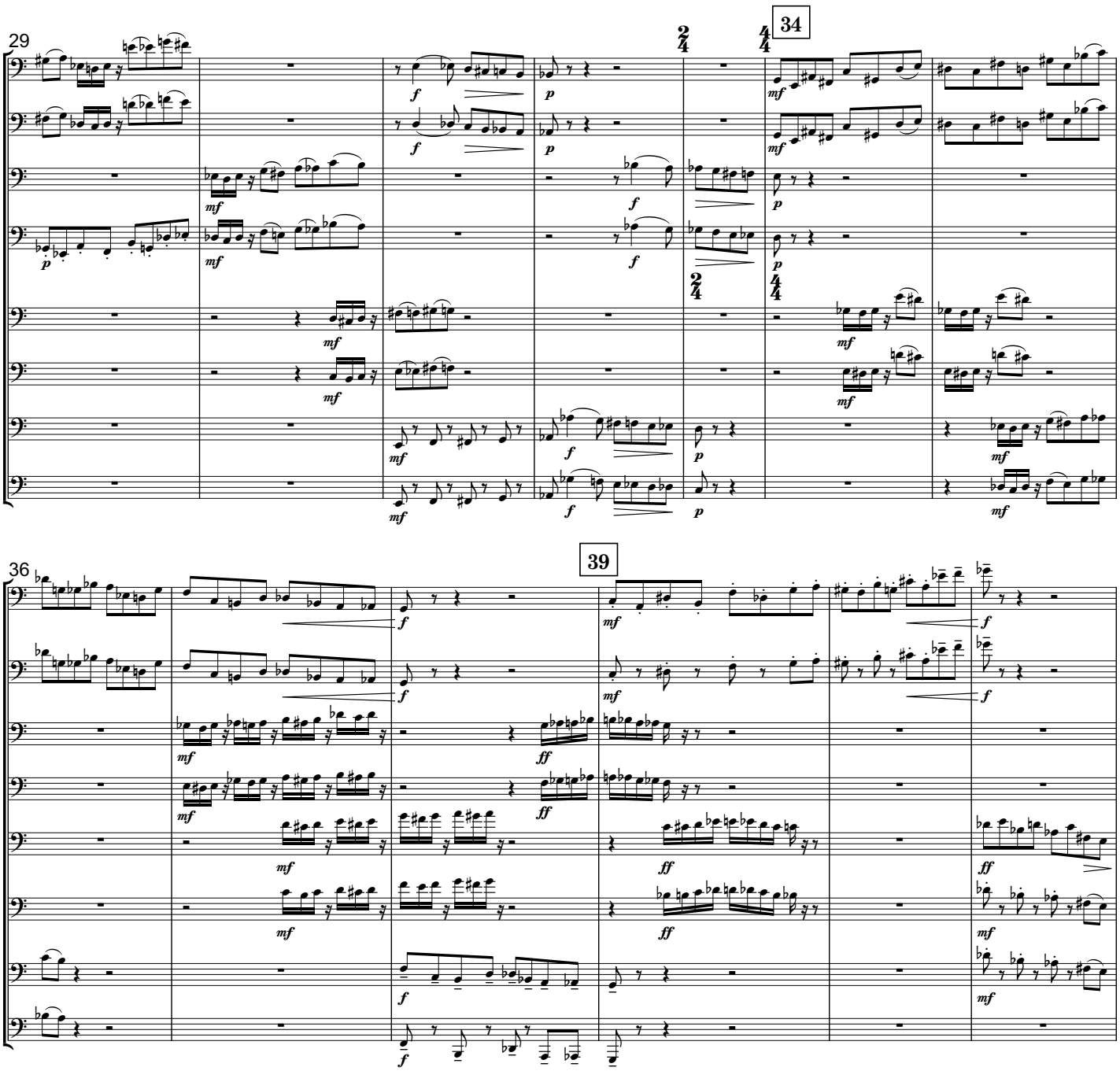

38
44
45
48

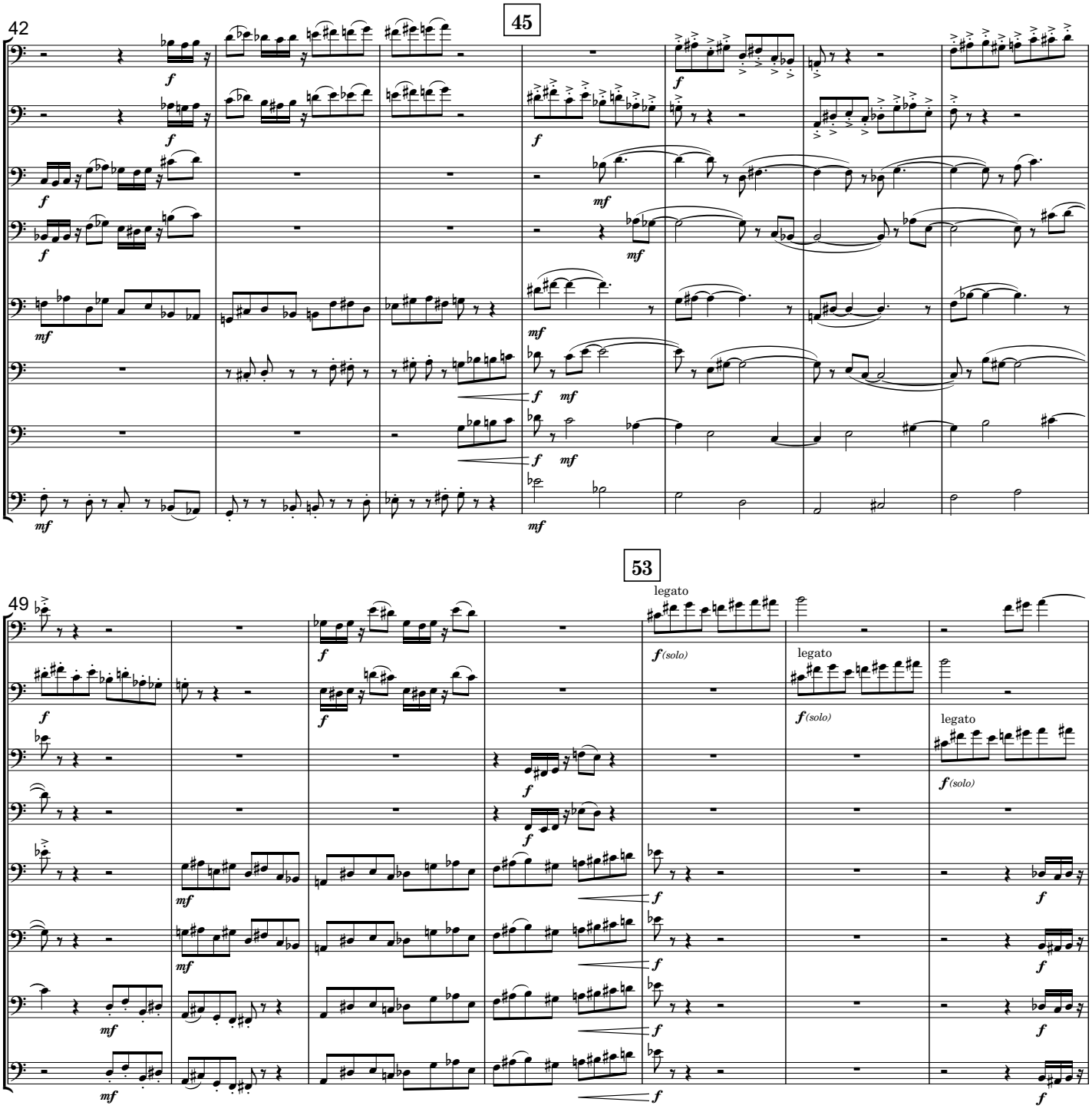

49
3 seconds
then attacca

9. Caught in a Run Down / Walk-off Homer



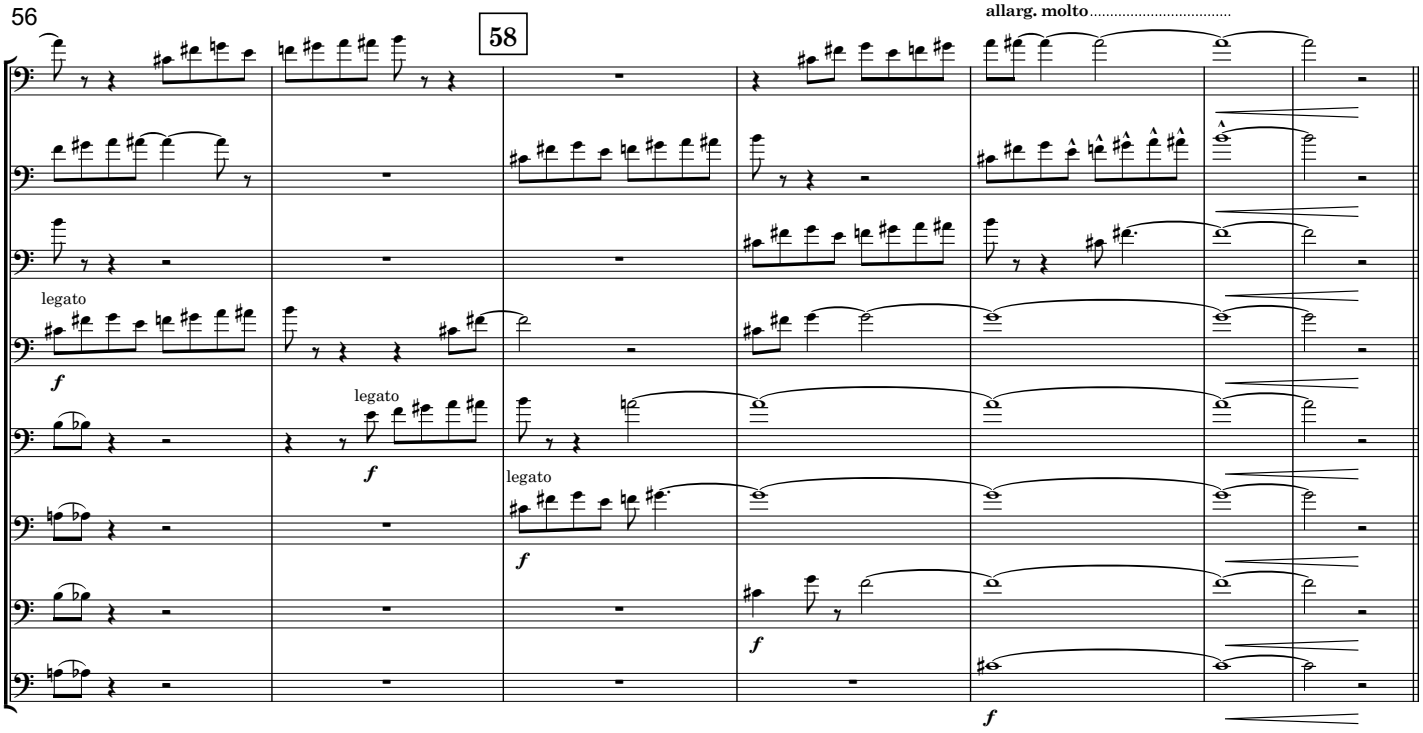

15
16
21
22
27
ff
mf
f
p
mp
ff (solo)


29
34
36
39


42
45
49
53
legato
f(solo)

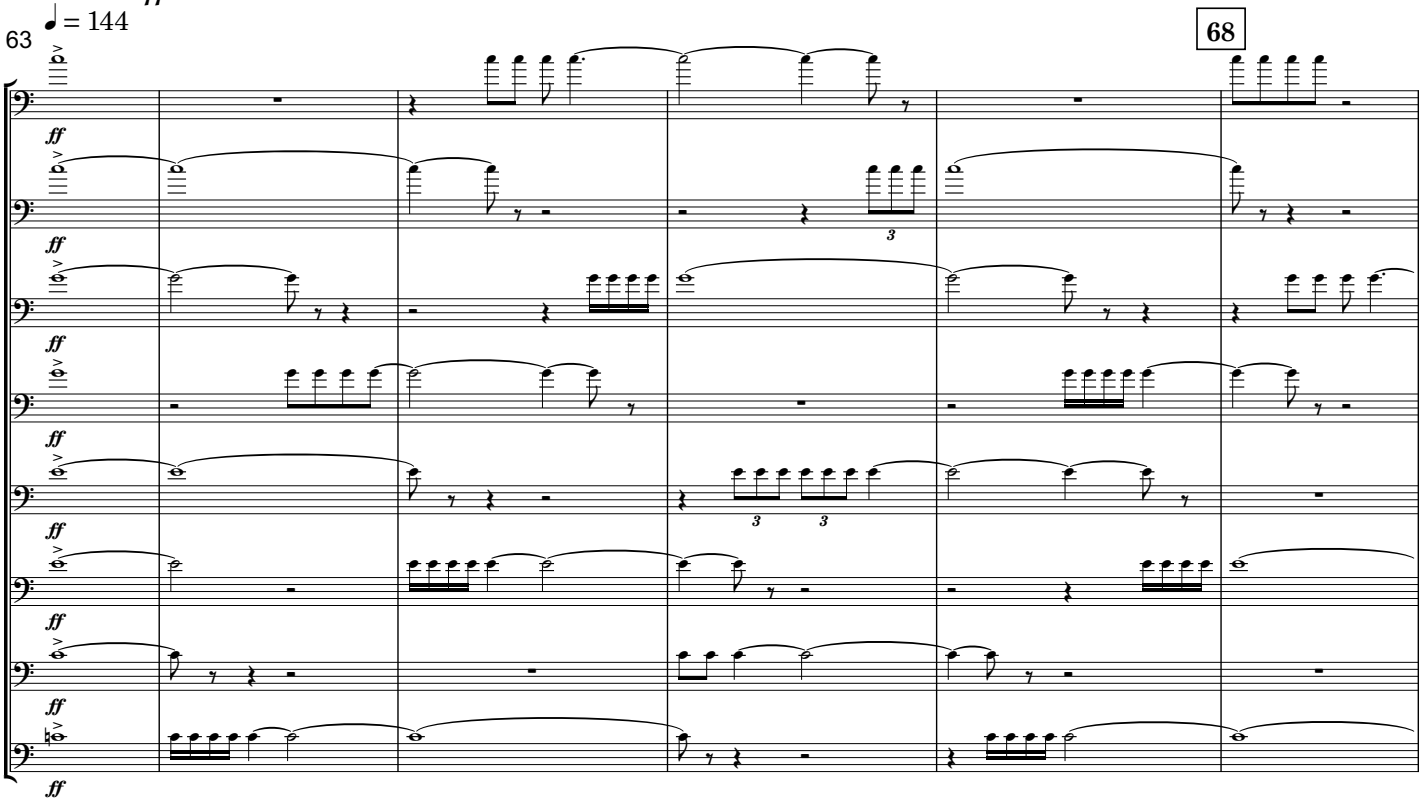
The composer could provide a 40" mp4 video file of Bill Mazeroski's 1960 World Seies Walk-off Homer. Begin projection at measure 60.

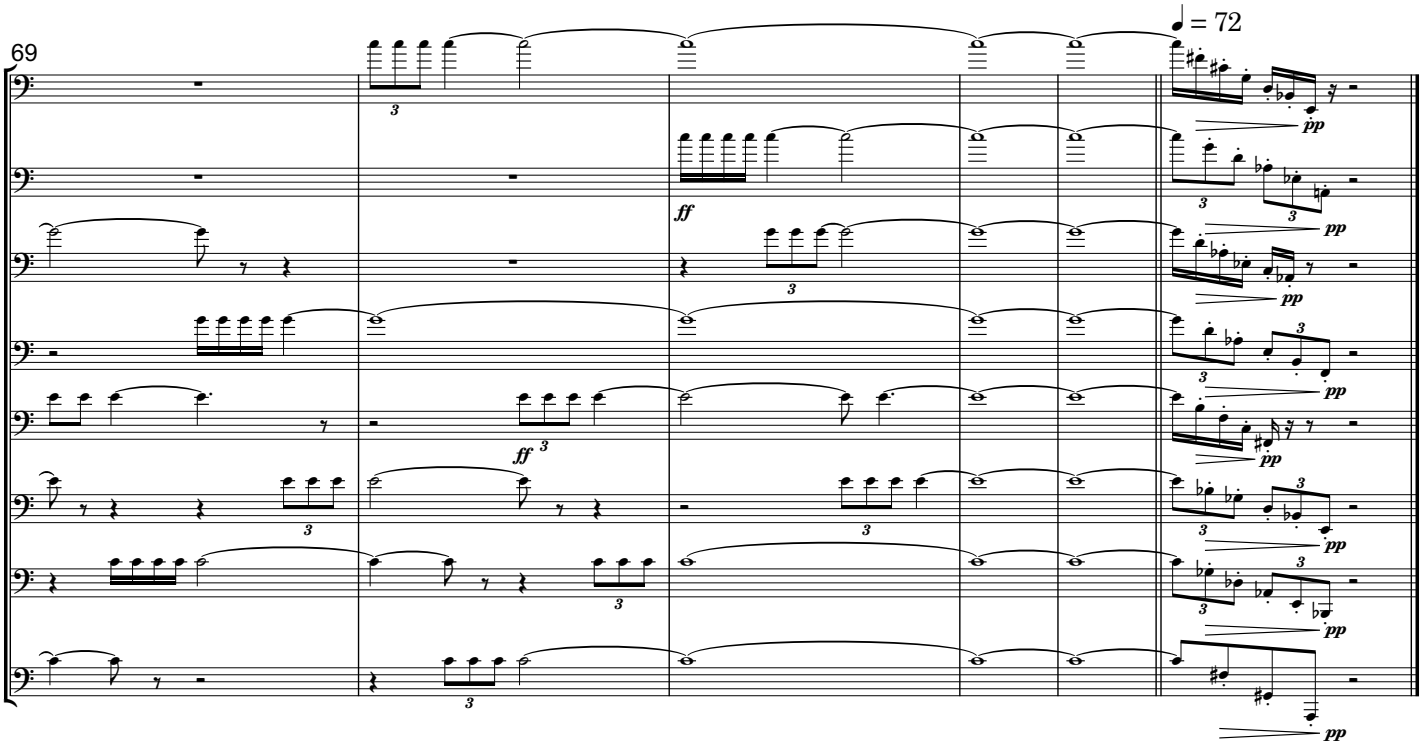
allarg. molto.....



Walk-off Homer

♩ = 144





Bloomington, IN
8/20/2025