Framing [Bitter Sweetness]

for Solo Harp and mixed sextet

Don Freund

Freundworks Publishing

Don Freund:
Framing [Bitter Sweetness]
for Solo Harp and mixed sextet (2004)

Duration: 13 minutes

Instrumentation:

Solo Harp

Oboe
Bassoon
Tuba
Viola
Contrabass
Harpsichord

Composer's Program Notes

Framing [Bitter Sweetness] for Solo Harp and Mixed Sextet
Don Freund (2004)

Bitter Sweetness, a work for solo harp, was composed in the fall of 1992. Twelve years later I returned to this work to create a piece for solo harp and mixed sextet for Indiana University's New Music Ensemble. In this work, the harp performs *Bitter Sweetness* unaltered, with the sextet's interpolations and superimpositions providing context and commentary, a “frame” for the earlier work.

I find the sound of the harp to be the most intrinsically seductive of all musics. The point of *Bitter Sweetness* is to give edge to this natural acoustic allure of the harp, mixing-in elements which present the more biting, noisier, grittier side of the instrument. Some of these elements are extensive use of the low range, a highly chromatic harmonic and melodic language, sharp articulations and generally loud dynamics. The pervasive half-step pedal glissandi (heard as pedal buzzes near the end) articulate the defining gestures of the piece. In *Framing [Bitter Sweetness]* these themes and sounds are echoed, decorated and reinforced in the framing sextet of oboe, bassoon, tuba, viola, double bass, and harpsichord.

Framing [Bitter Sweetness]

for Solo Harp and mixed sextet

Don Freund
(2004)

♩ = *ca.* 63

Solo Harp

f; heavy, ritualistic

E♯ F♮ G ♯A♭ B♭ C♭ D♯

The lowest D should be tuned to D♯.

Oboe

Bassoon

Tuba

as legato as possible

pp

mf, singing

Viola

Contrabass

Harpsichord

5

Hrp

Ob

Bn

Tba

Va

Cb

Hpschd

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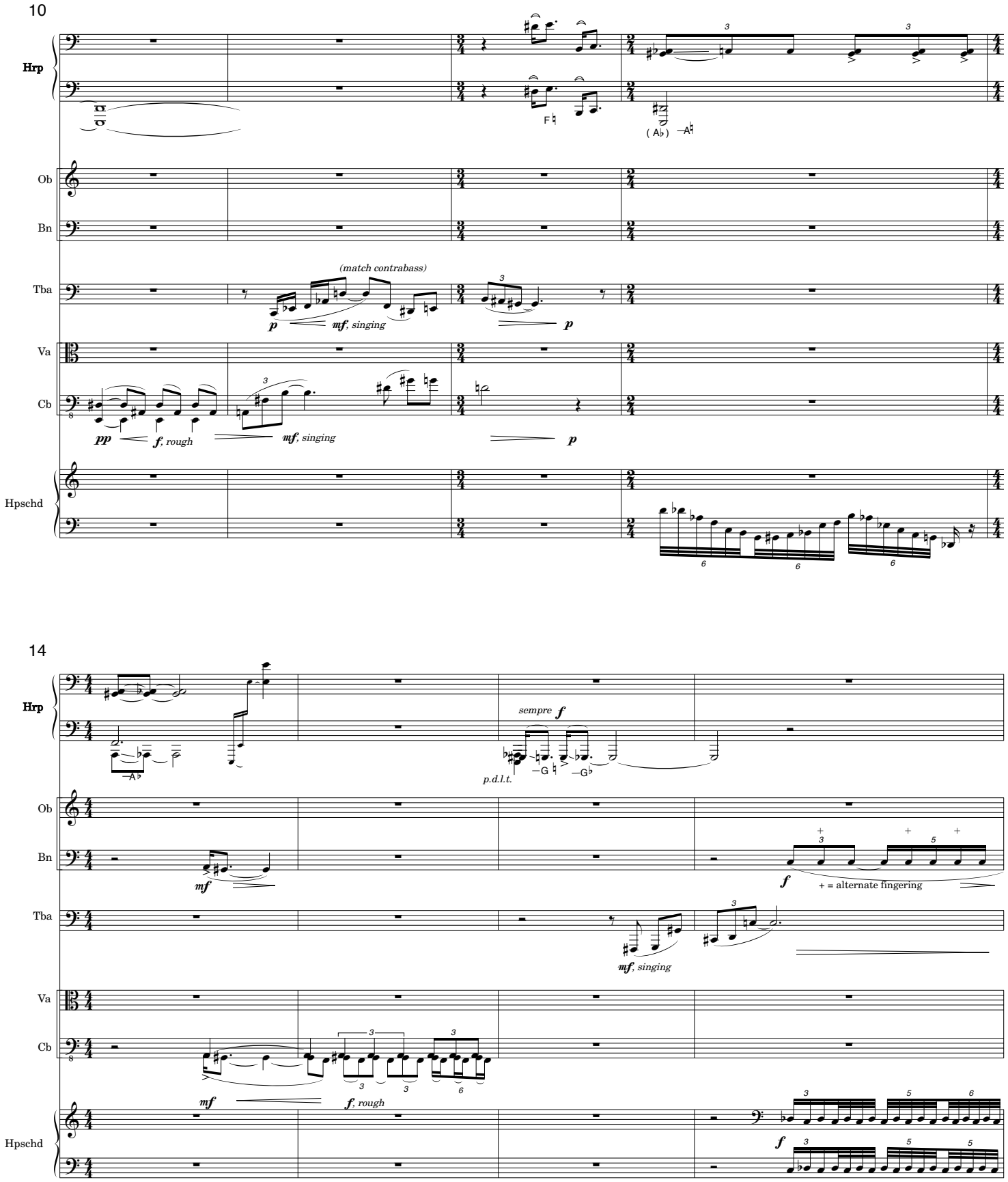
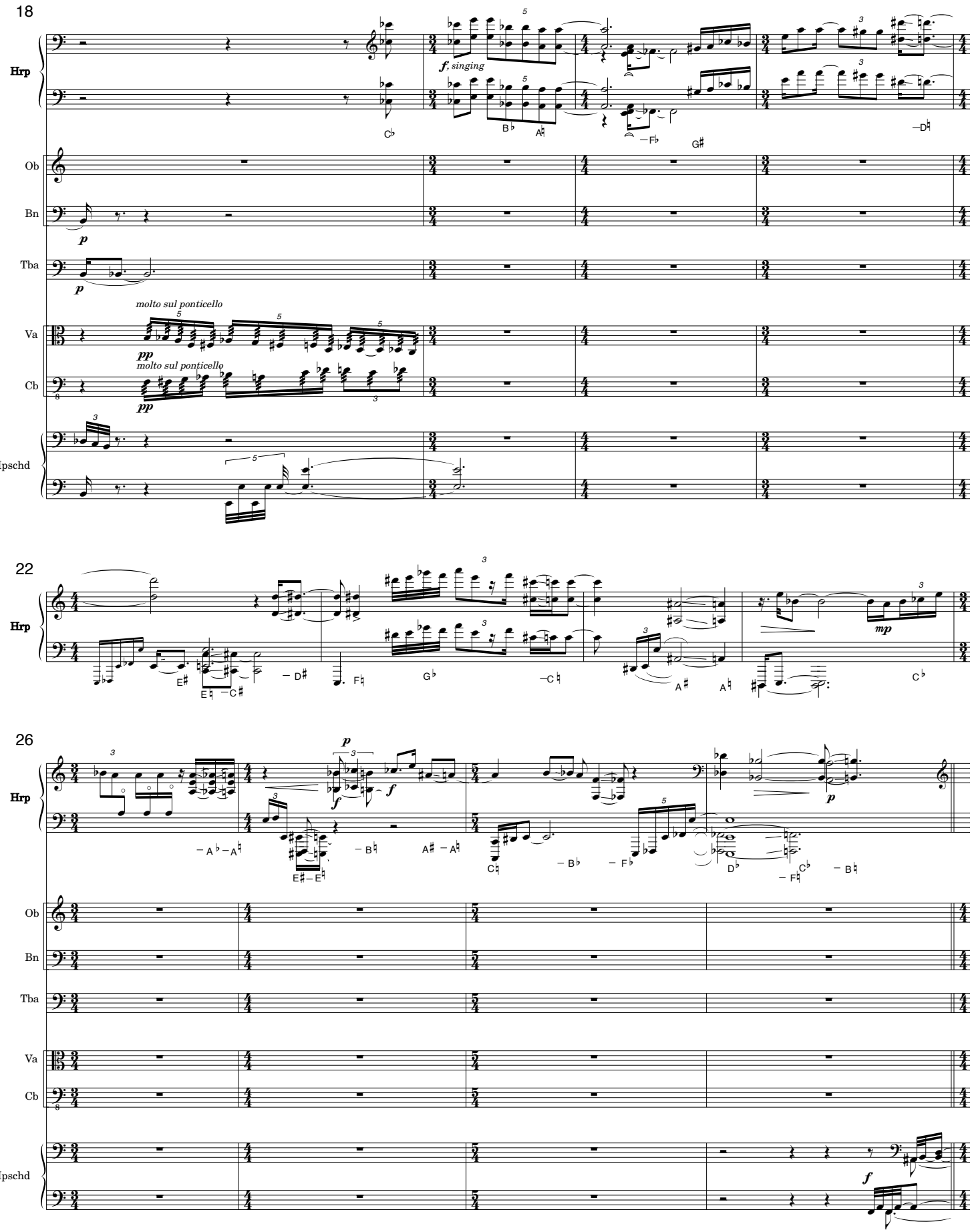
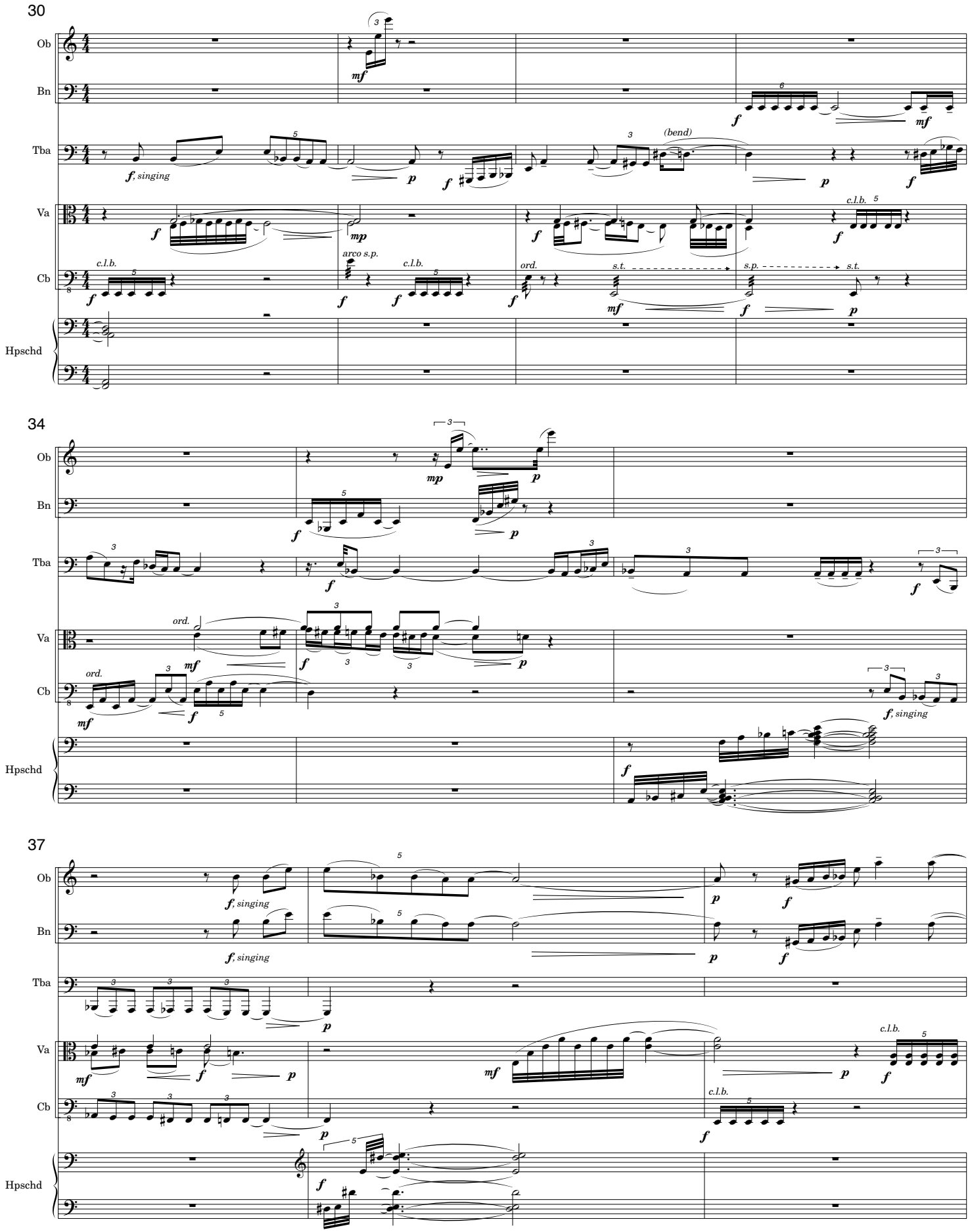
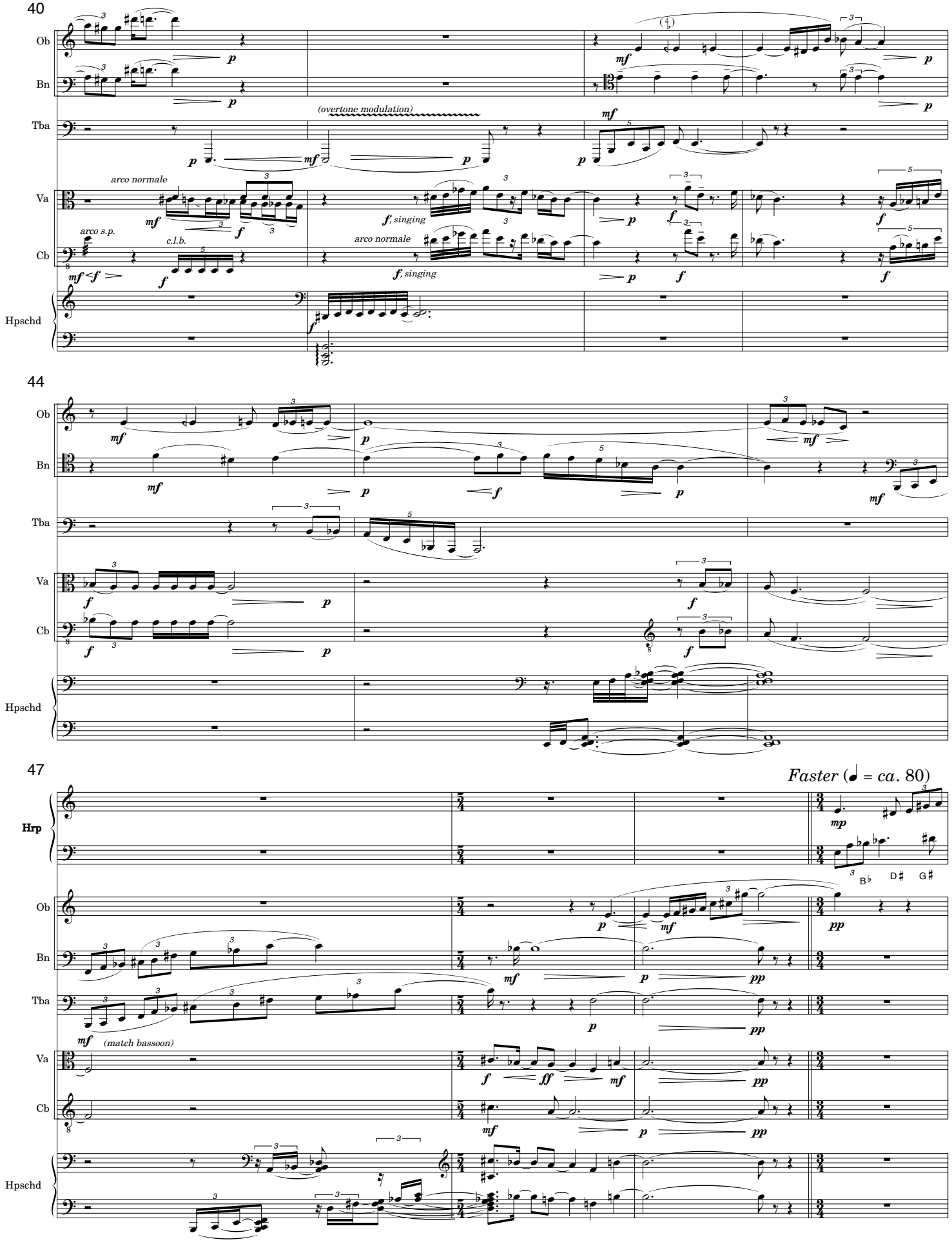
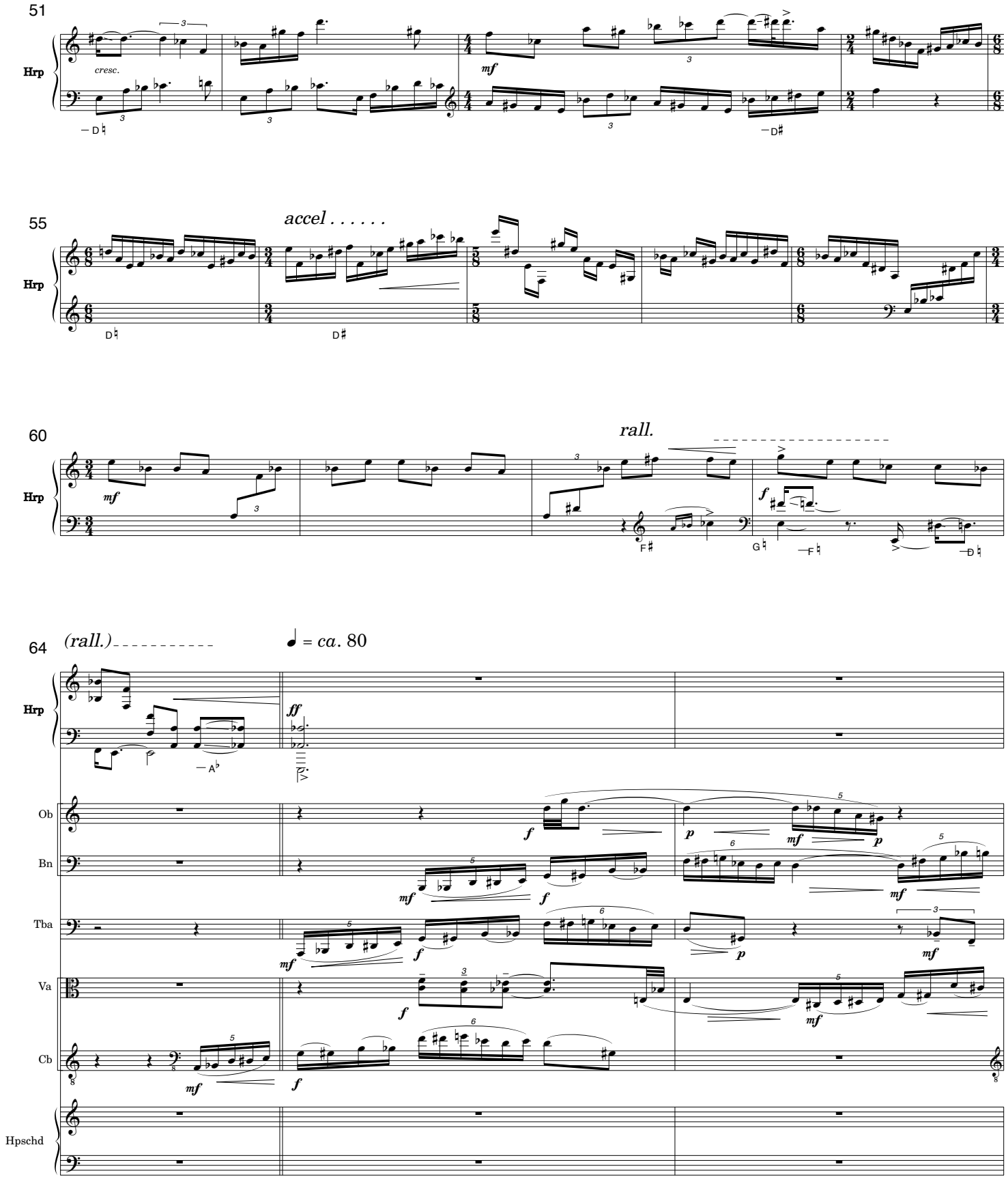
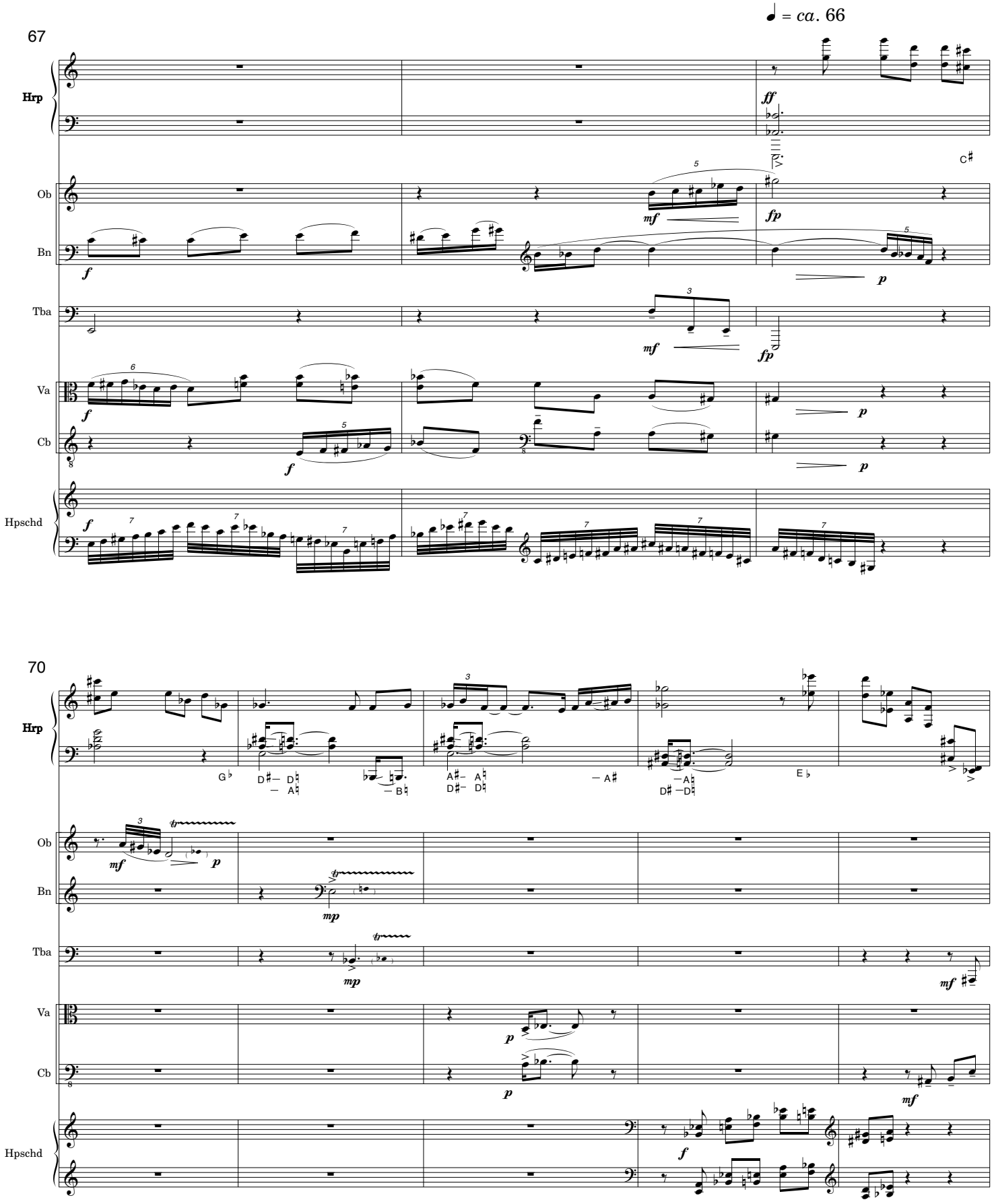

10
Hrp
Ob
Bn
Tba
Va
Cb
Hpschd
(match contrabass)
p
mf, singing
p
pp
f, rough
mf, singing
p
14
sempre f
p.d.l.t.
mf
f
+ = alternate fingering
mf, singing
mf
f, rough
f

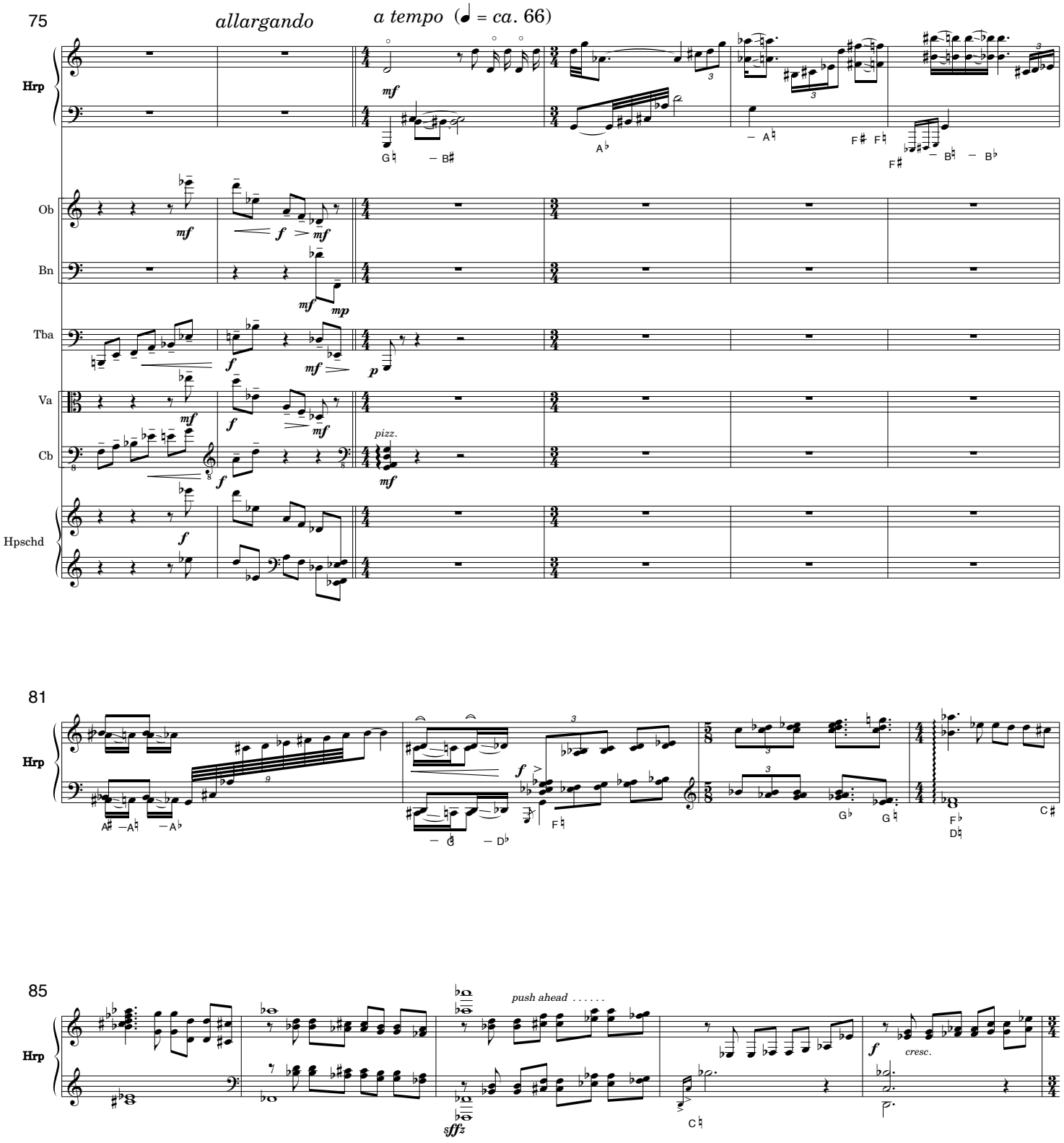

18
Hrp
f, singing
Ob
Bn
p
Tba
p
molto sul ponticello
Va
pp
molto sul ponticello
Cb
pp
Hpschd
22
Hrp
mp
26
Hrp
p
f
f
p
Ob
Bn
Tba
Va
Cb
Hpschd
f

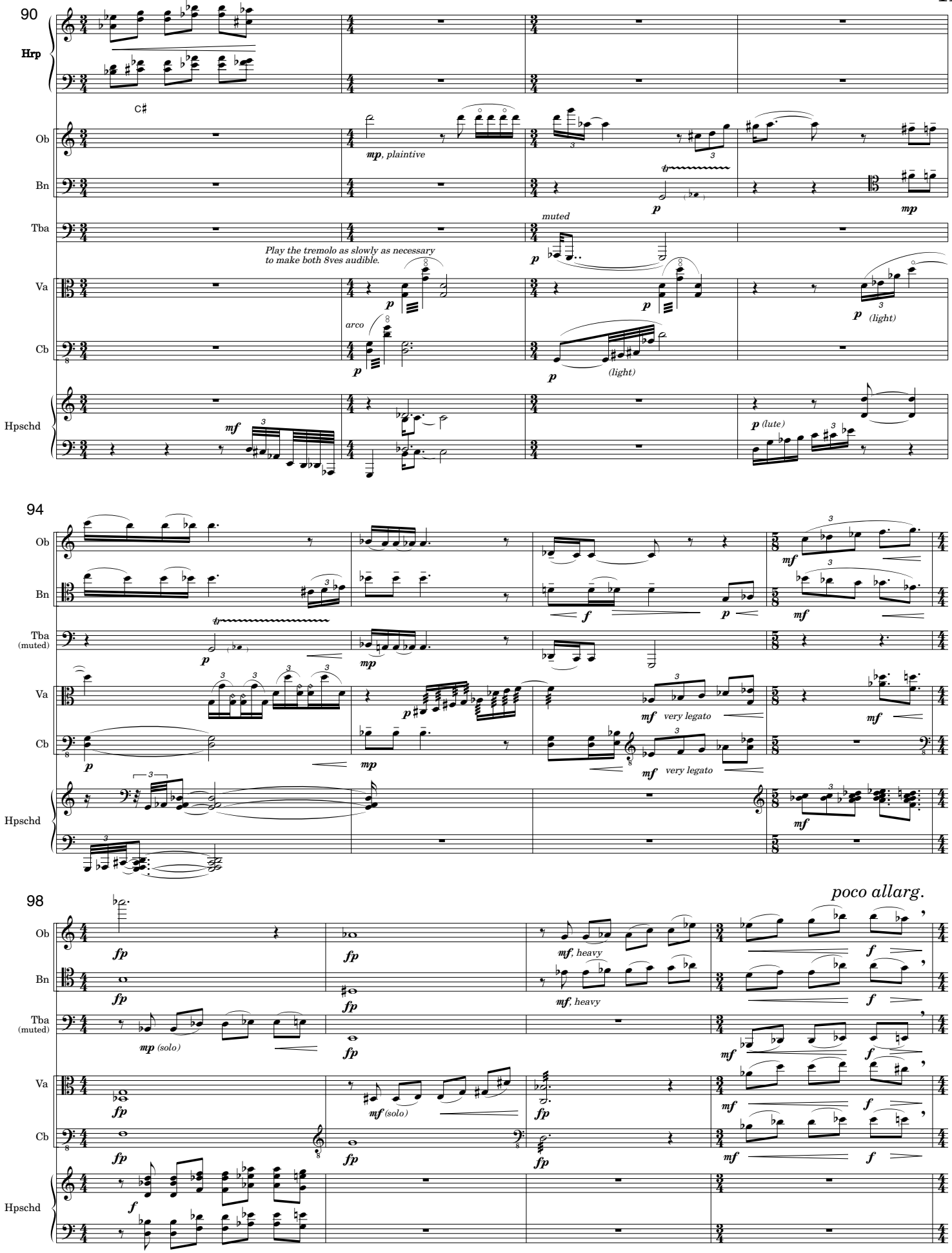

30
Ob
Bn
Tba
Va
Cb
Hpschd
f, singing
(bend)
c.l.b.
arco s.p.
ord.
s.t.
s.p.
34
37

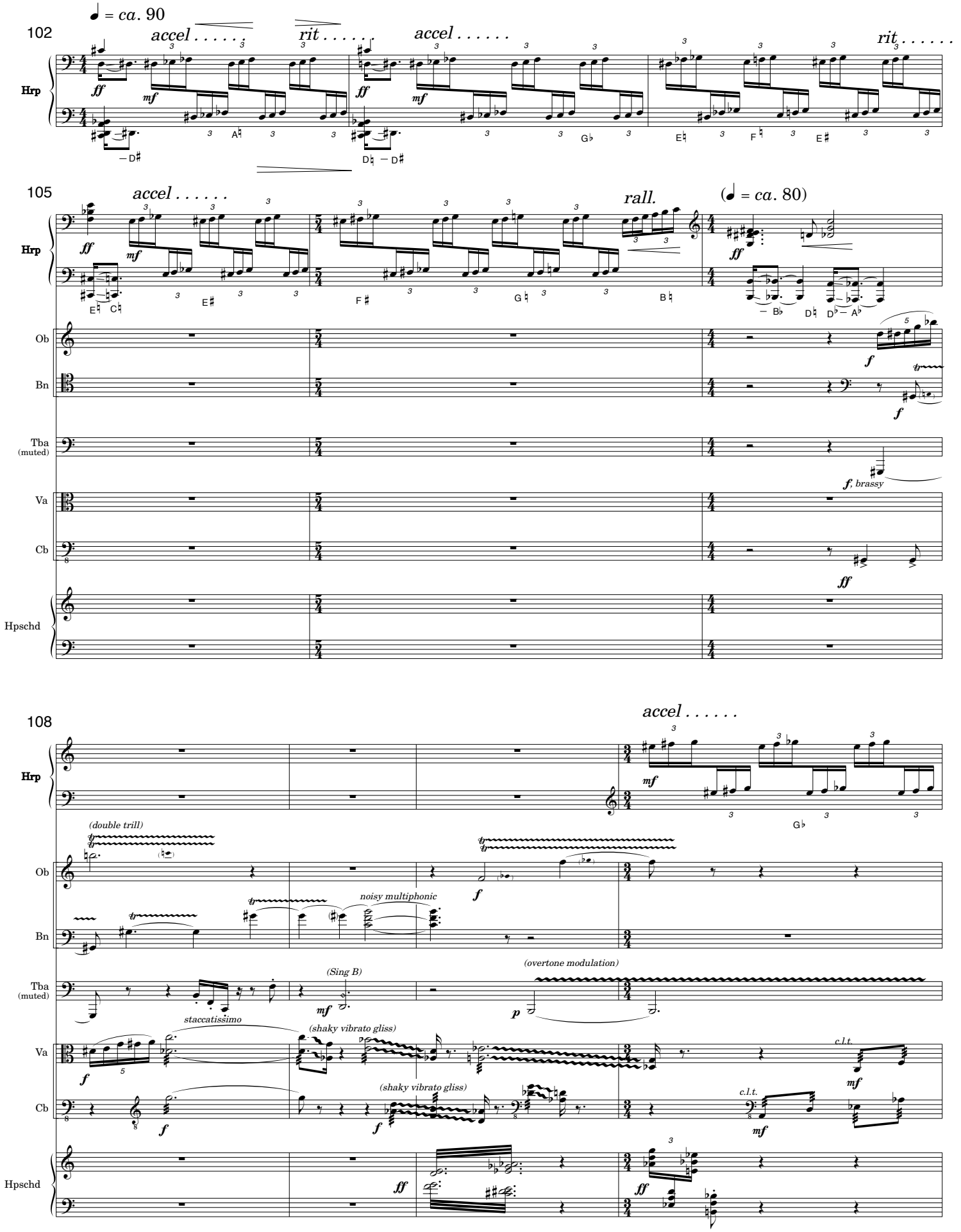

40
Ob
Bn
Tba
Va
Cb
Hpschd
(overtone modulation)
arco normale
arco s.p.
c.l.b.
f, singing
44
47
Faster (♩ = ca. 80)
Hrp
(match bassoon)

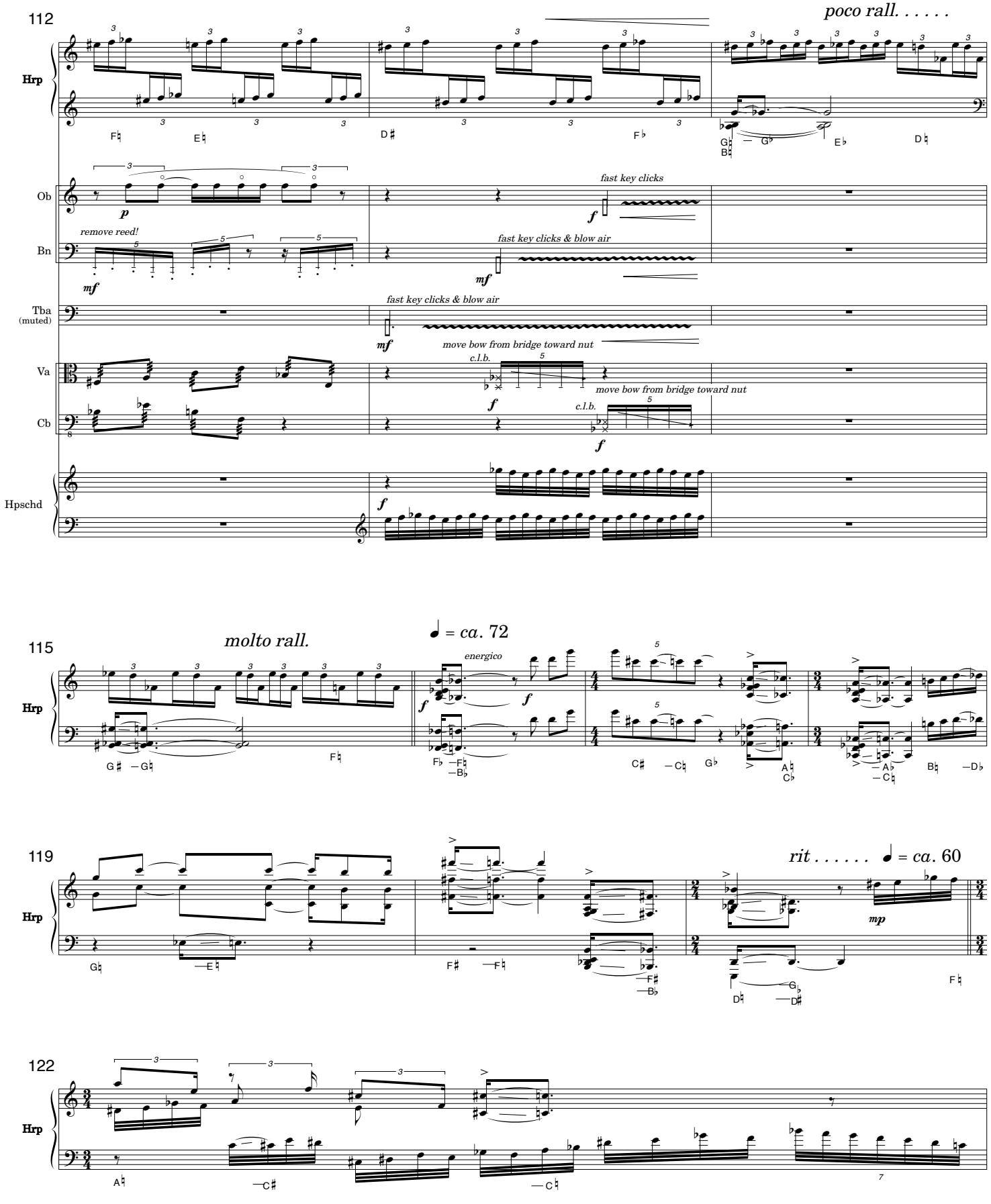

51
Hrp
cresc.
mf
55
accel . . . . . .
60
rall.
64
(rall.)
♩ = ca. 80
ff
Ob
Bn
Tba
Va
Cb
Hpschd

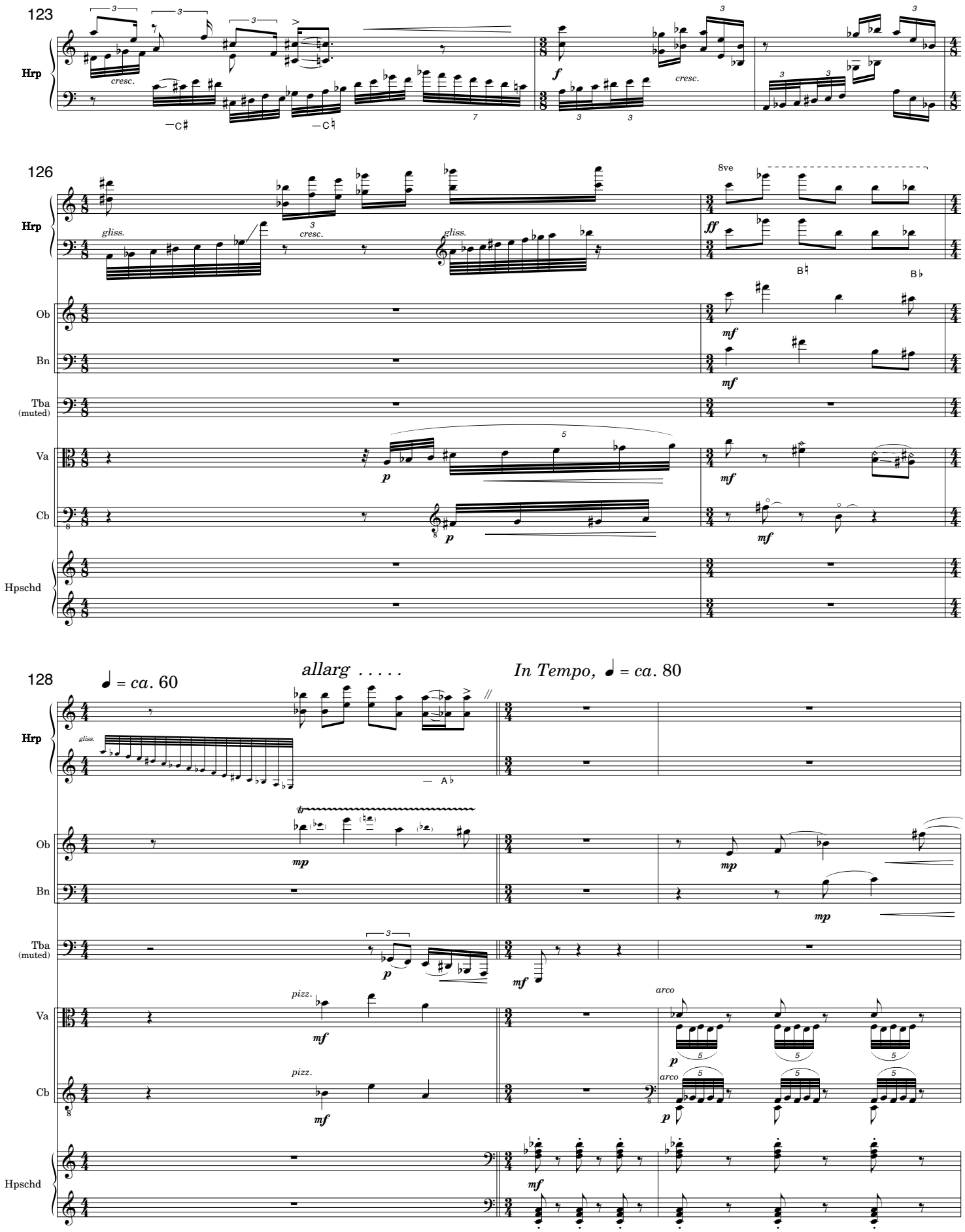

♩ = ca. 66
67
Hrp
Ob
Bn
Tba
Va
Cb
Hpschd
70

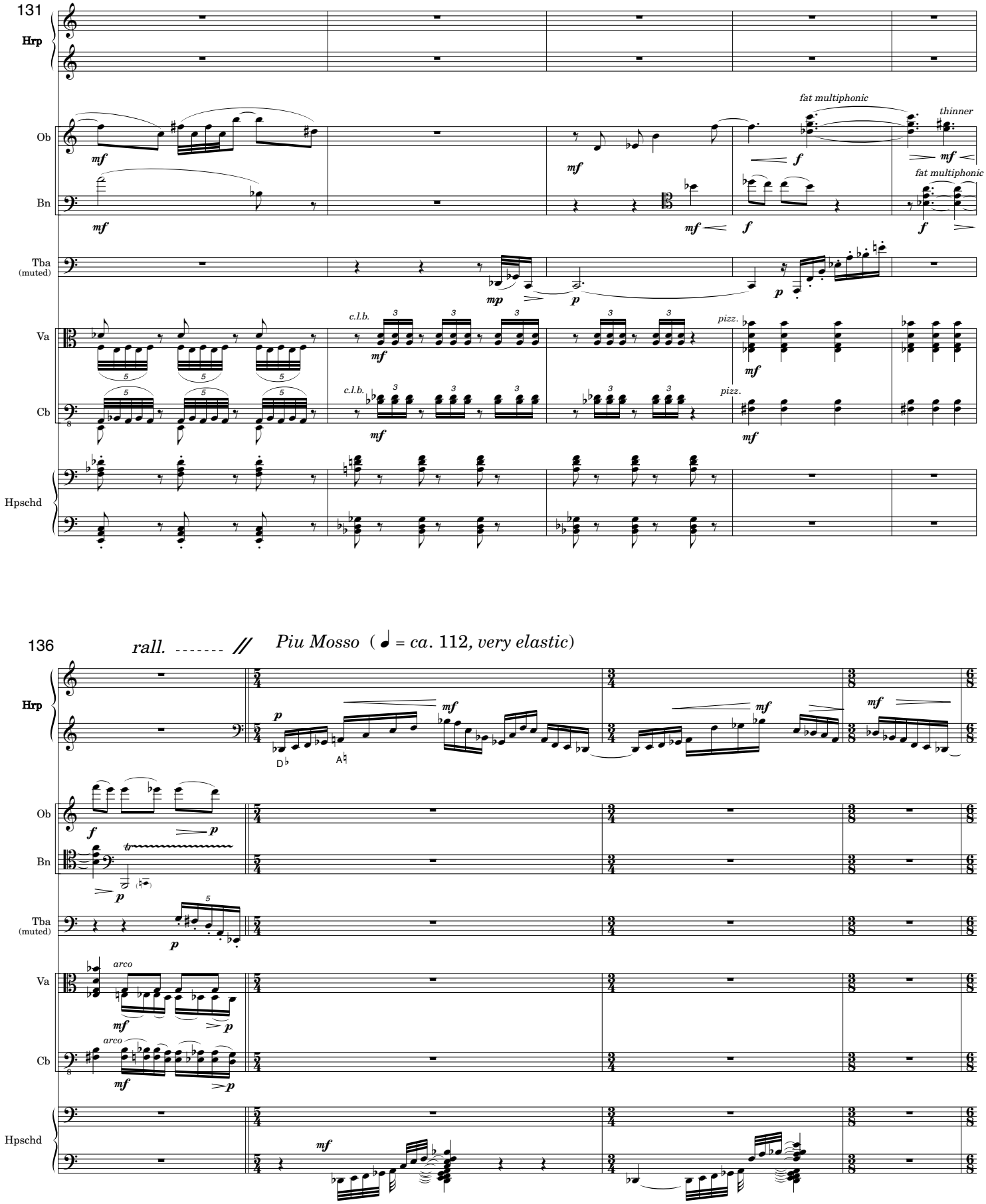

75
allargando
a tempo (♩ = ca. 66)
Hrp
Ob
Bn
Tba
Va
Cb
Hpschd
pizz.
81
85
push ahead . . . . . .
cresc.

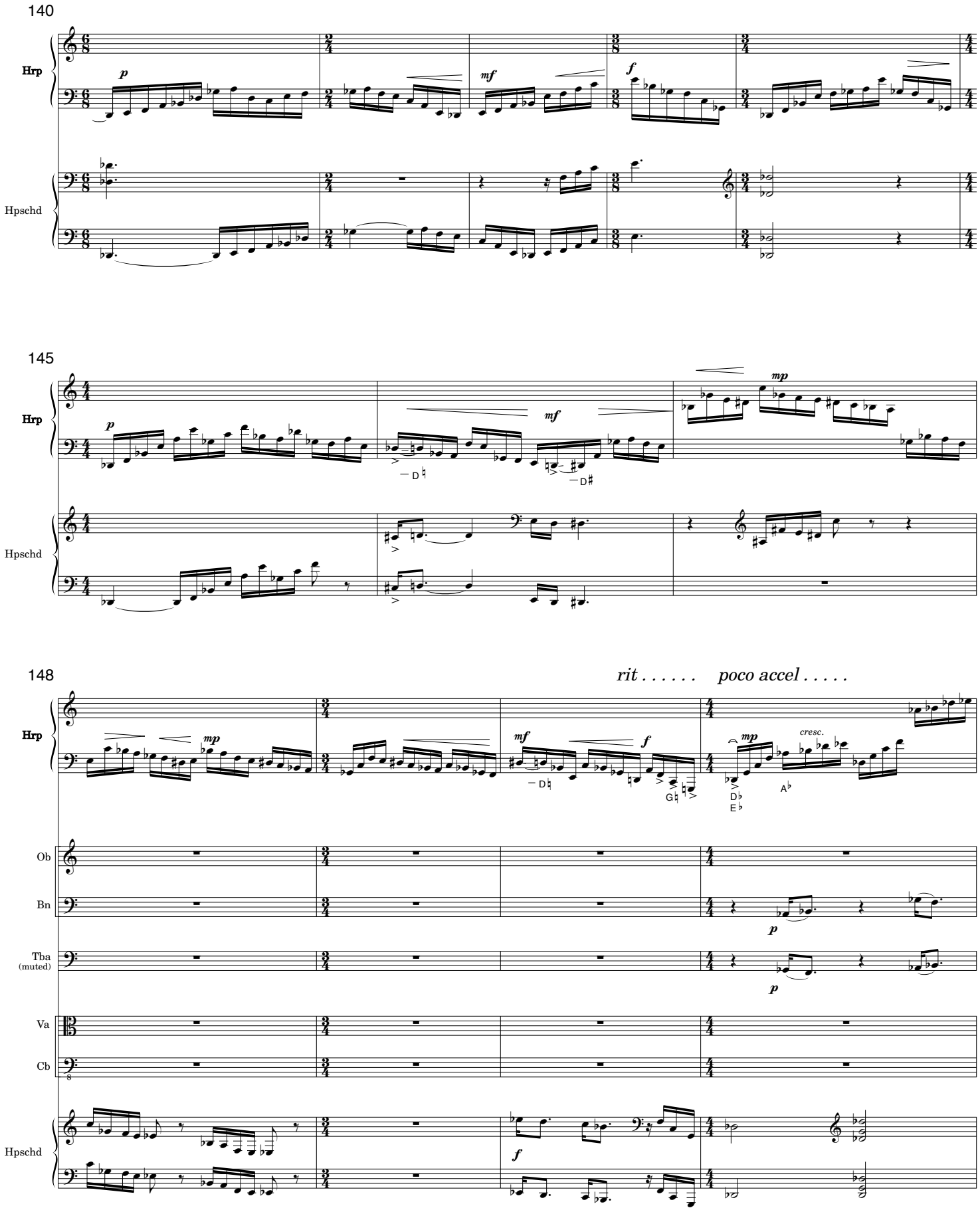

90
Hrp
C♯
Ob
Bn
Tba
Va
Cb
Hpschd
mp, plaintive
muted
Play the tremolo as slowly as necessary to make both 8ves audible.
arco
(light)
(lute)
94
(muted)
very legato
98
poco allarg.
(solo)
heavy

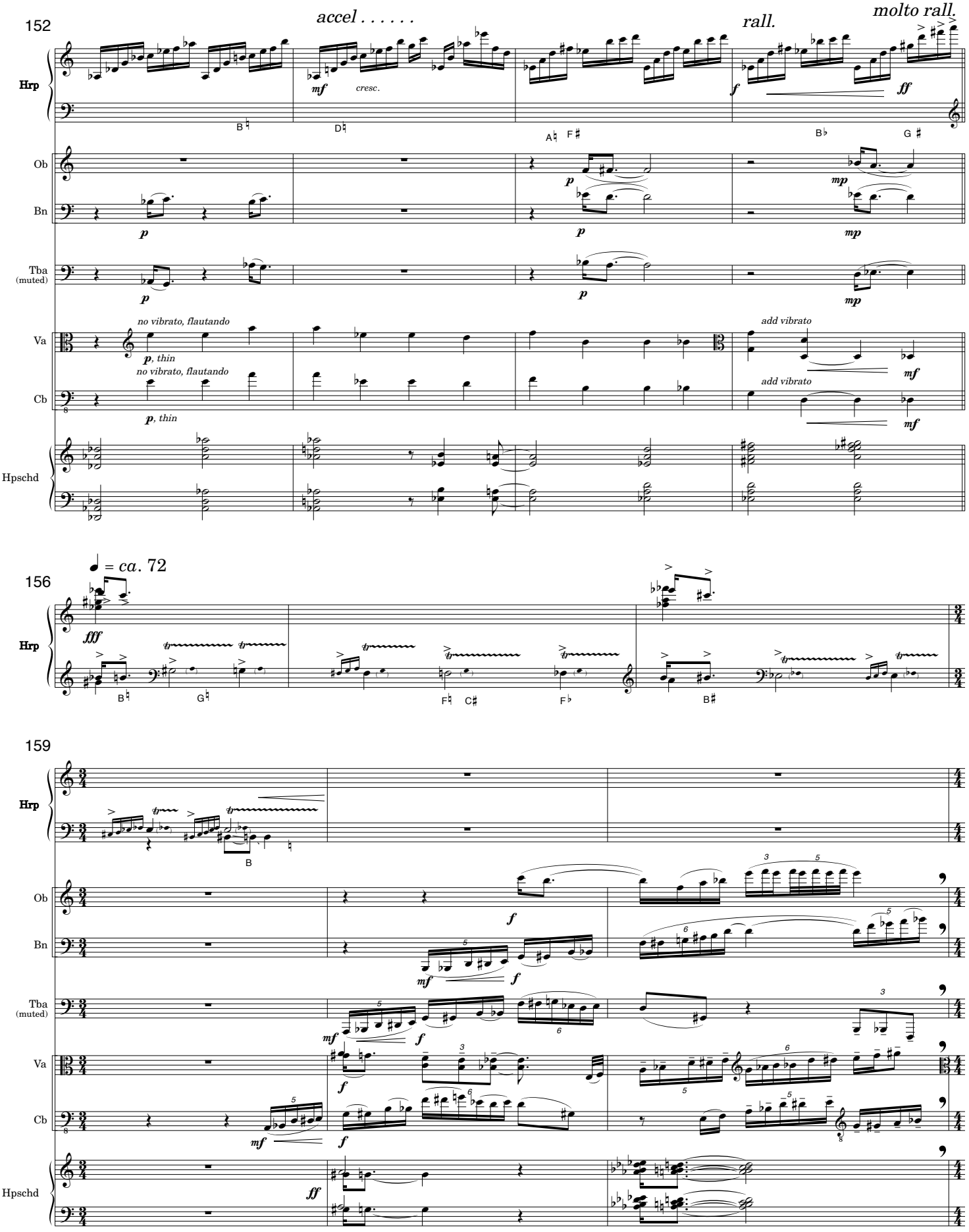

102
♩ = ca. 90
accel . . . . . .
rit . . . . . .
accel . . . . . .
rit . . . . . .
Hrp
105
accel . . . . . .
rall.
(♩ = ca. 80)
Hrp
Ob
Bn
Tba (muted)
Va
Cb
Hpschd
f, brassy
108
accel . . . . . .
Hrp
(double trill)
noisy multiphonic
(Sing B)
(overtone modulation)
staccatissimo
(shaky vibrato gliss)
(shaky vibrato gliss)
c.l.t.
c.l.t.

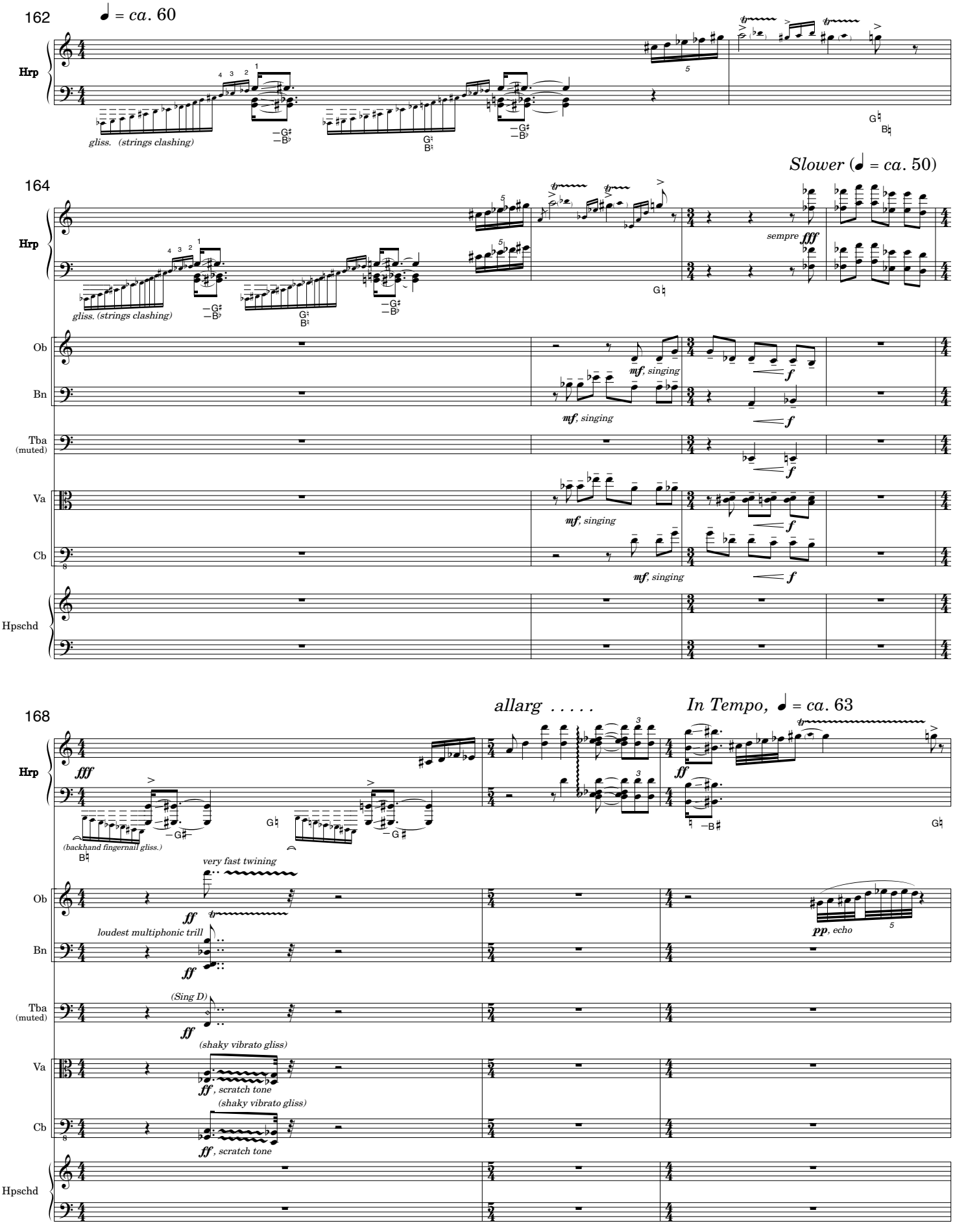

112
poco rall. . . . . .
Hrp
Ob
Bn
Tba (muted)
Va
Cb
Hpschd
remove reed!
fast key clicks
fast key clicks & blow air
fast key clicks & blow air
move bow from bridge toward nut
c.l.b.
move bow from bridge toward nut
c.l.b.
115
molto rall.
♩ = ca. 72
energico
119
rit . . . . . ♩ = ca. 60
122

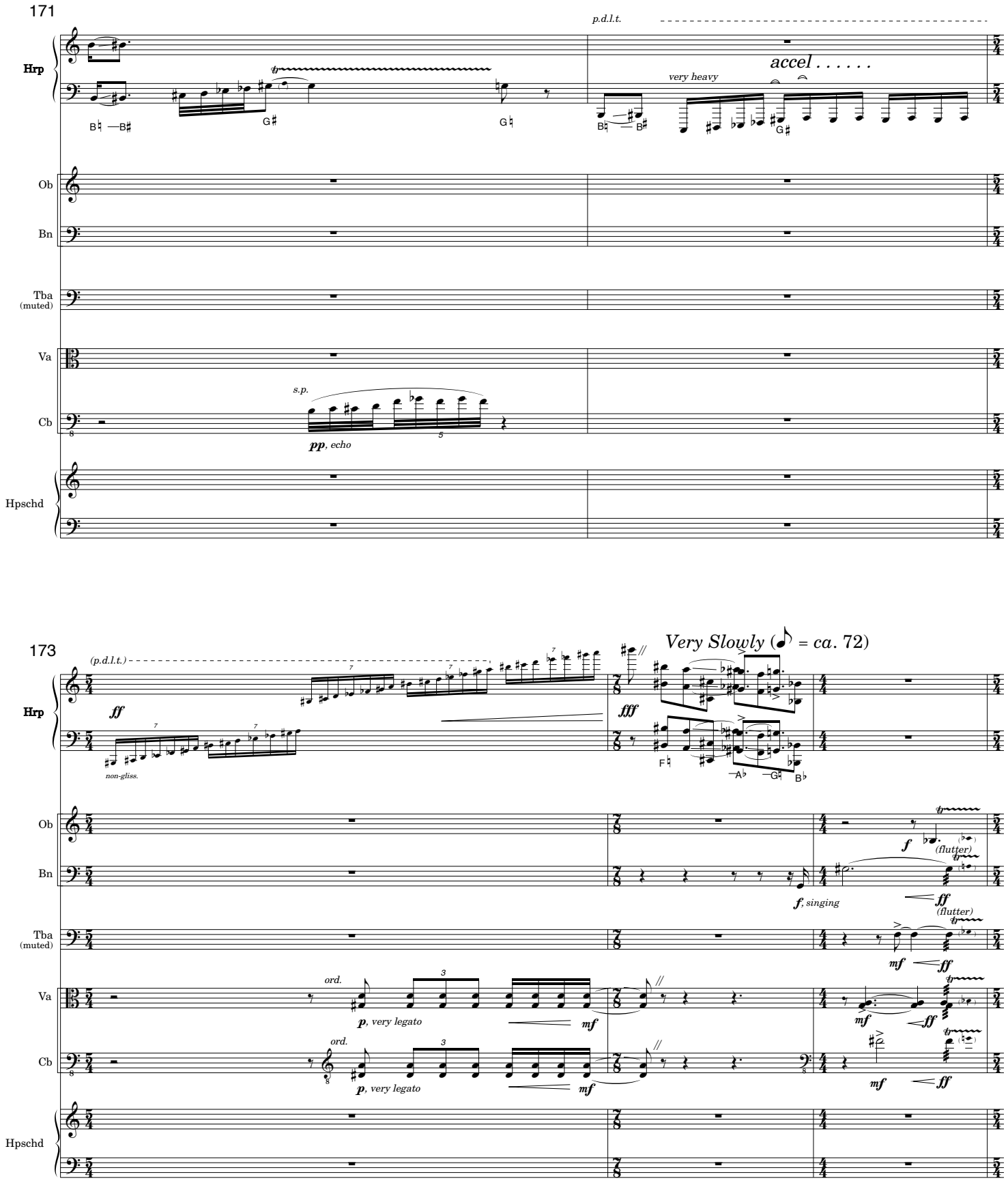

123
Hrp
cresc.
f
cresc.
126
8ve
gliss.
3
cresc.
gliss.
ff
Ob
mf
Bn
mf
Tba
(muted)
Va
5
p
mf
Cb
p
mf
Hpschd
128
allarg . . . . .
In Tempo, ♩ = ca. 80
♩ = ca. 60
Hrp
gliss.
Ob
mp
mp
Bn
mp
Tba
(muted)
p
mf
Va
pizz.
mf
arco
p
Cb
pizz.
mf
arco
p
Hpschd
mf

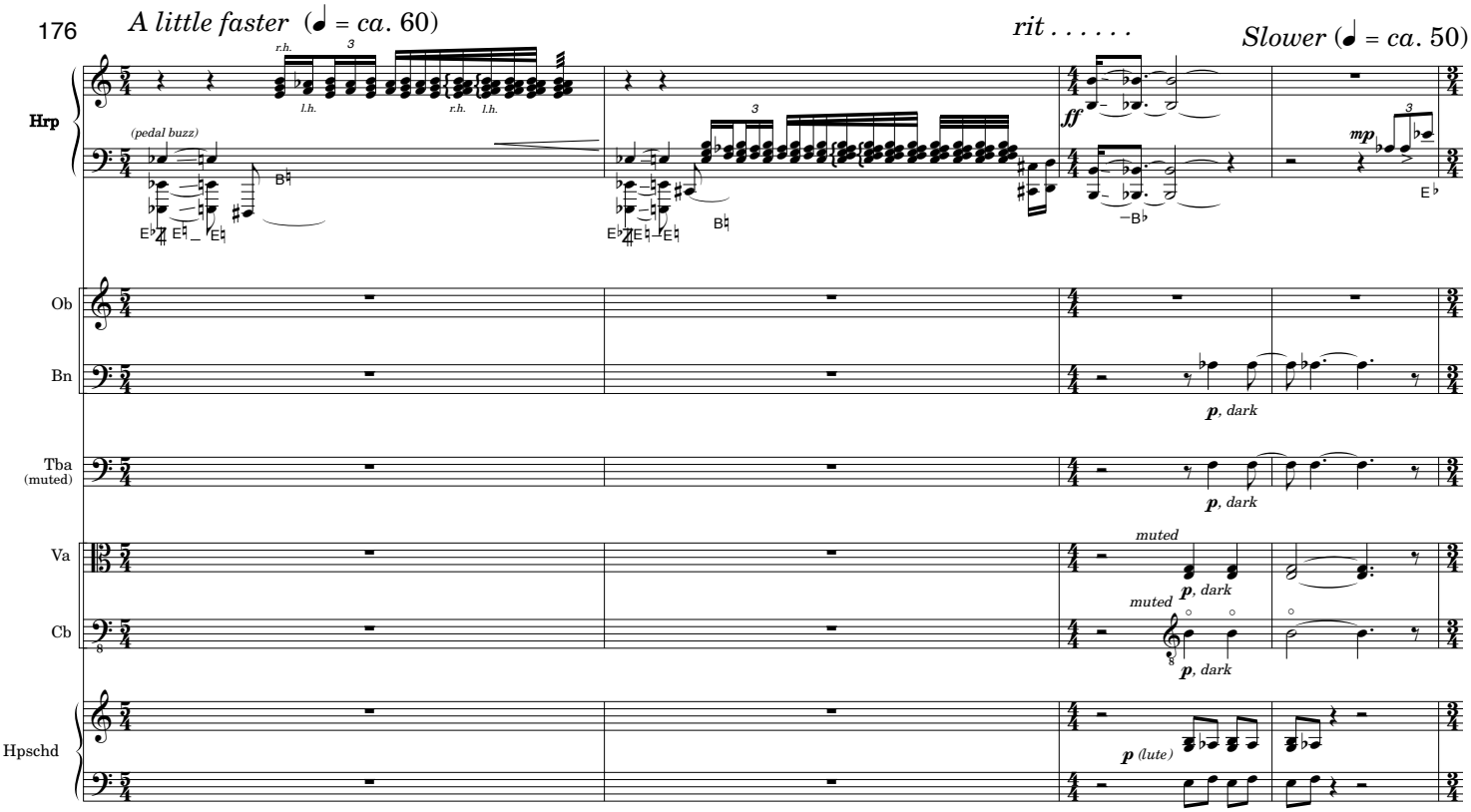

131
Hrp
Ob
Bn
Tba (muted)
Va
Cb
Hpschd
fat multiphonic
thinner
fat multiphonic
c.l.b.
pizz.
136
rall.
Piu Mosso (= ca. 112, very elastic)
arco

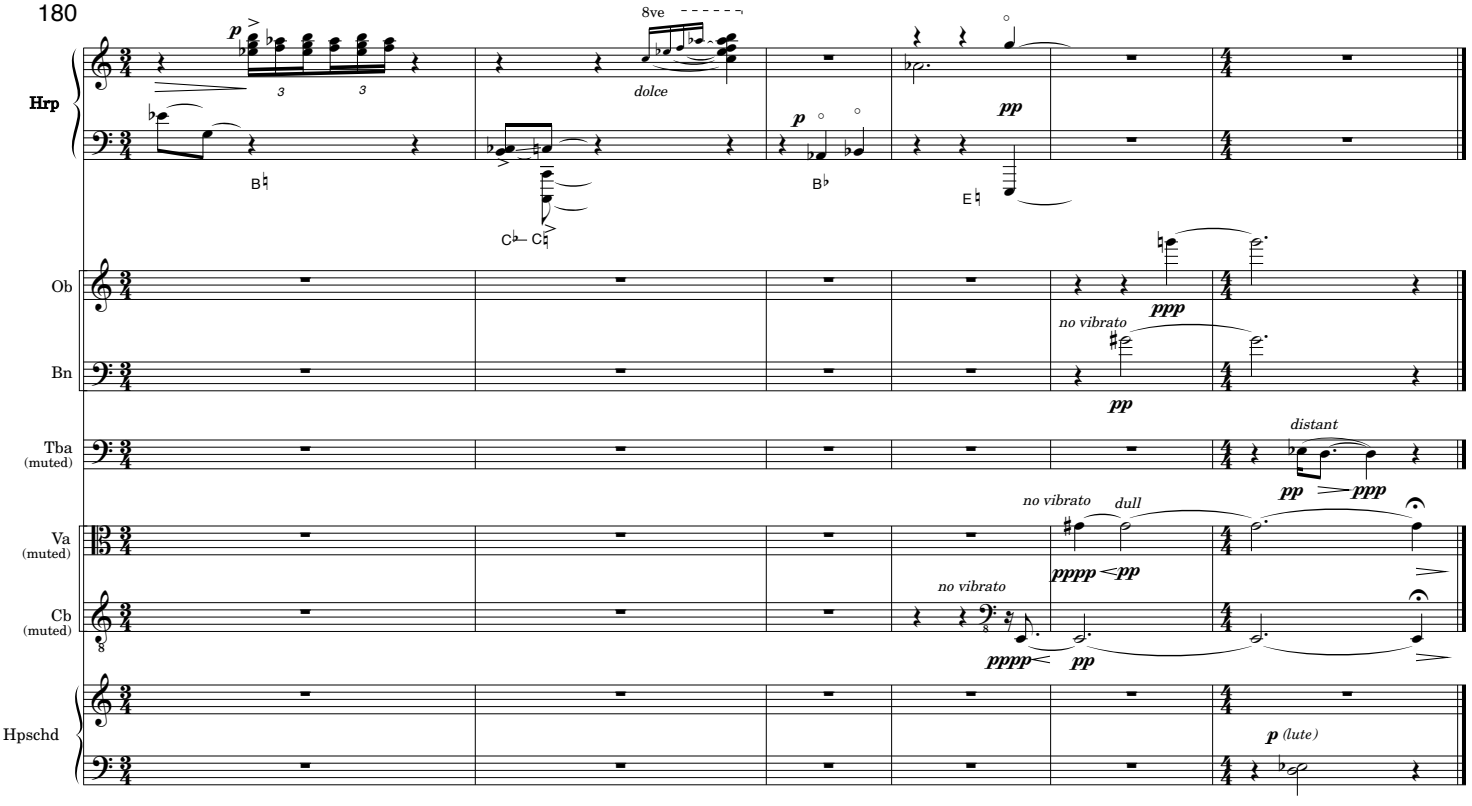

140
Hrp
Hpschd
145
Hrp
Hpschd
148
rit . . . . . poco accel . . . . .
Hrp
Ob
Bn
Tba
(muted)
Va
Cb
Hpschd


152
accel . . . . . .
rall.
molto rall.
Hrp
Ob
Bn
Tba (muted)
Va
Cb
Hpschd
mf
cresc.
f
ff
p
mp
no vibrato, flautando
p, thin
add vibrato
mf
156
♩ = ca. 72
fff
159
ff


162
♩ = ca. 60
Hrp
gliss. (strings clashing)
Slower (♩ = ca. 50)
164
sempre fff
Ob
Bn
Tba (muted)
Va
Cb
Hpschd
mf, singing
f
168
allarg . . . . .
In Tempo, ♩ = ca. 63
fff
ff
(backhand fingernail gliss.)
very fast twining
loudest multiphonic trill
(Sing D)
(shaky vibrato gliss)
ff, scratch tone
pp, echo


171
p.d.l.t.
accel . . . . . .
very heavy
Hrp
Ob
Bn
Tba (muted)
Va
Cb
Hpschd
s.p.
pp, echo
173
(p.d.l.t.)
Very Slowly (♪ = ca. 72)
ff
fff
non-gliss.
f
(flutter)
f, singing
ff
mf
ord.
p, very legato





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