ALINEA

FOR 4 SAXOPHONES (SOPRANO, ALTO, TENOR, BARITONE)

BY OLIVER DUBON

C. 12'

Program Note:

These are three short pieces thinking about "spontaneous composition." In these works, I leave some space for the performers to compose the work themselves. I have experimented with spontaneous composition, but this is the first piece where I have really begun to integrate this method of composition into my music more seriously.

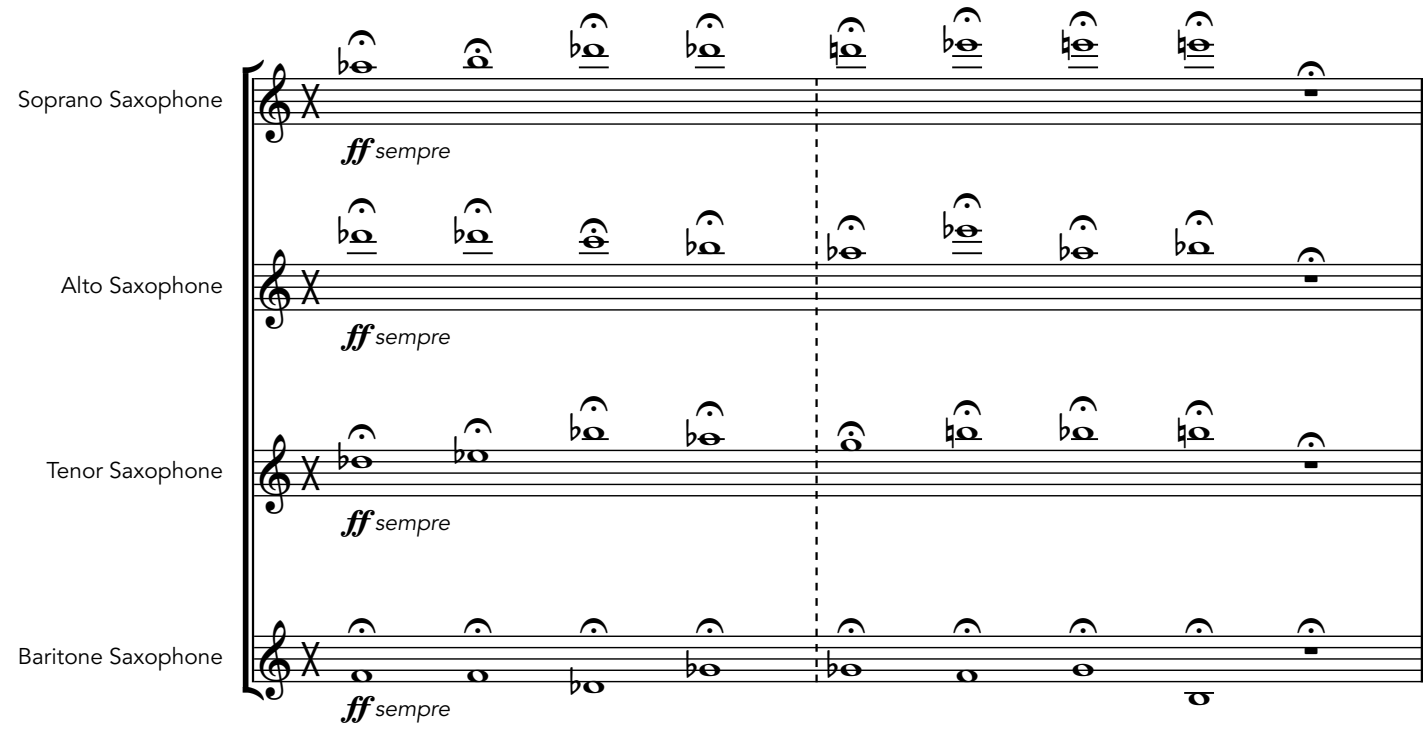
This work was written for the New Thread Saxophone Quartet in early 2026 as a part of their residency at The University of Pennsylvania.

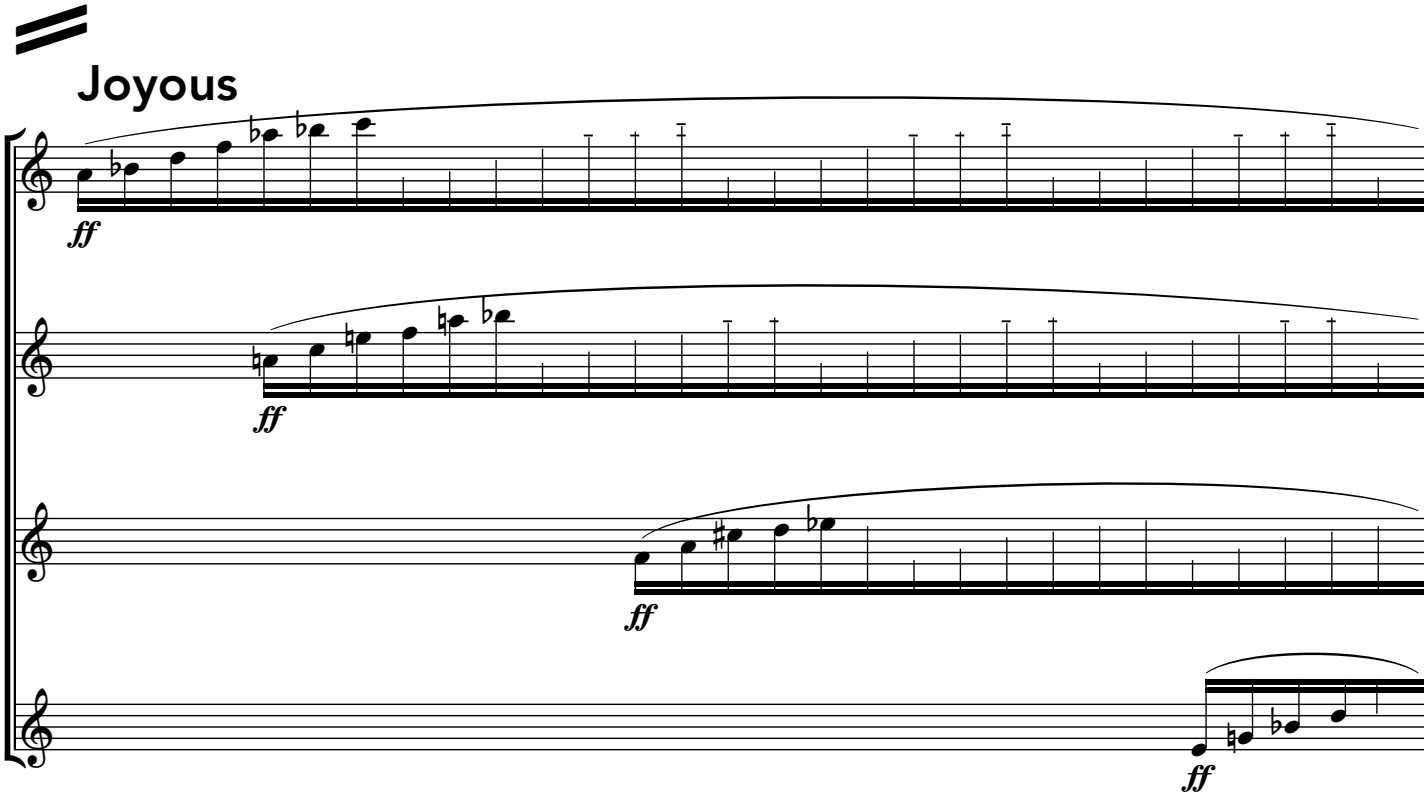
This work is dedicated to Phillip Golub.

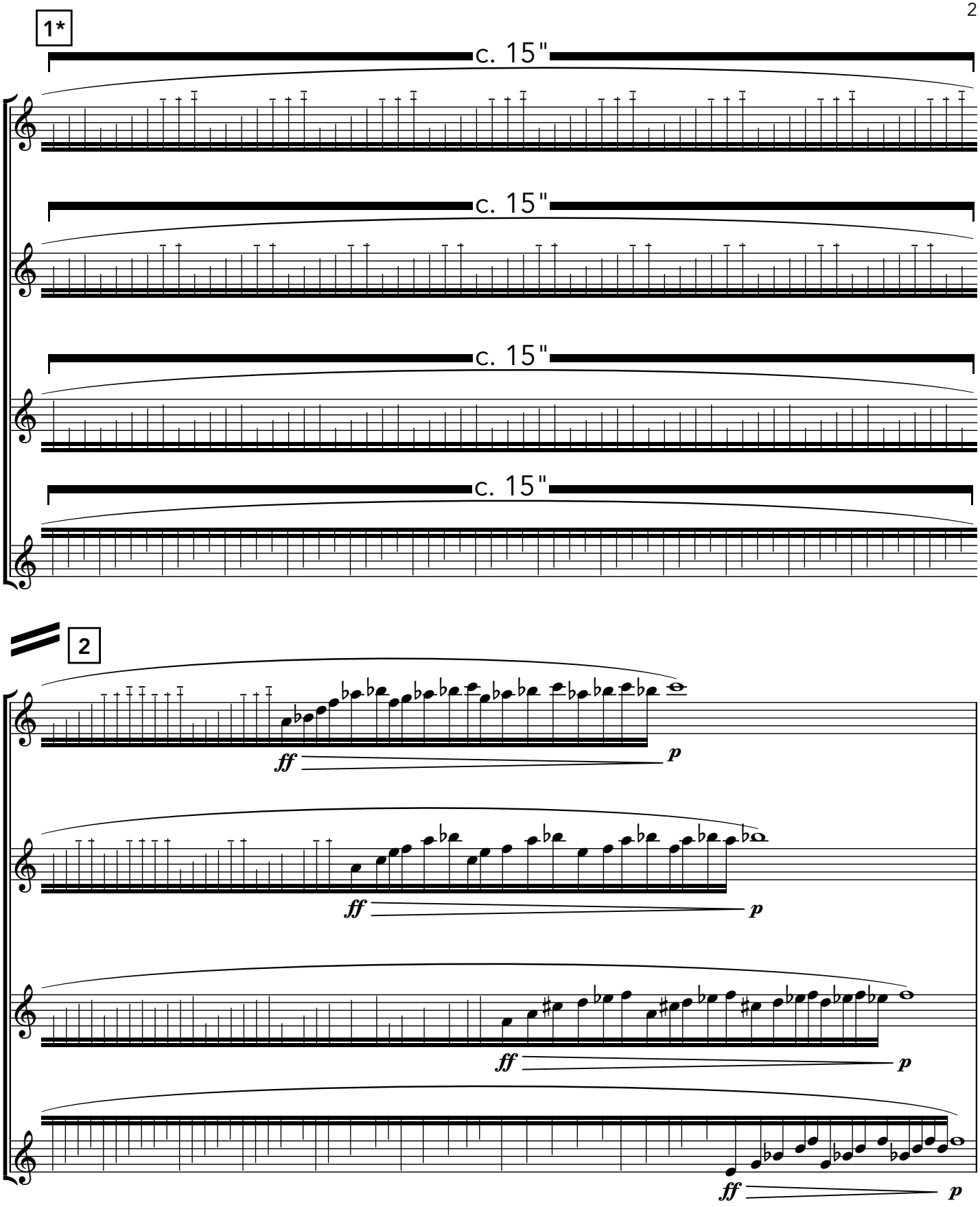
ALINEA

I.

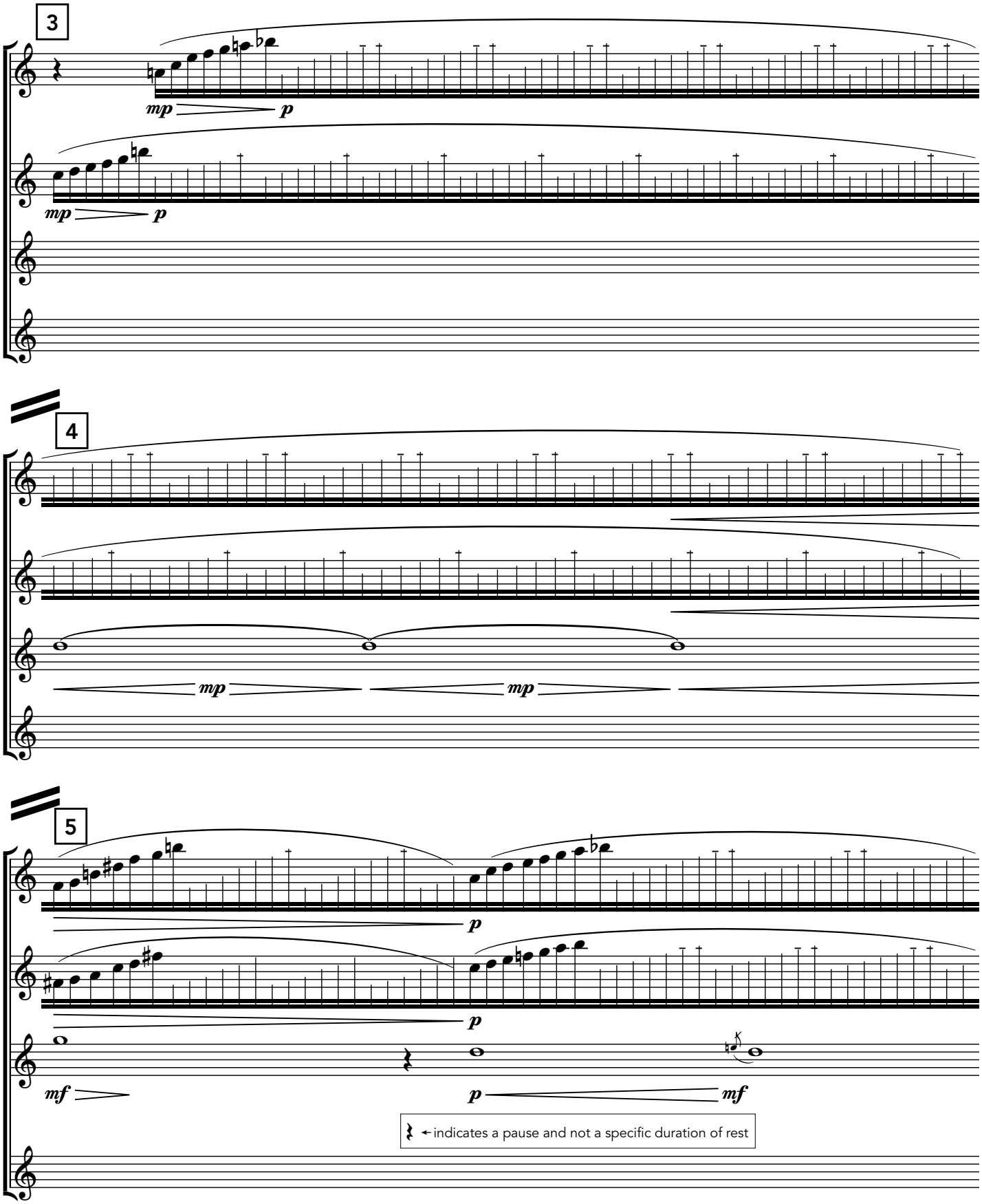
Oliver Dubon

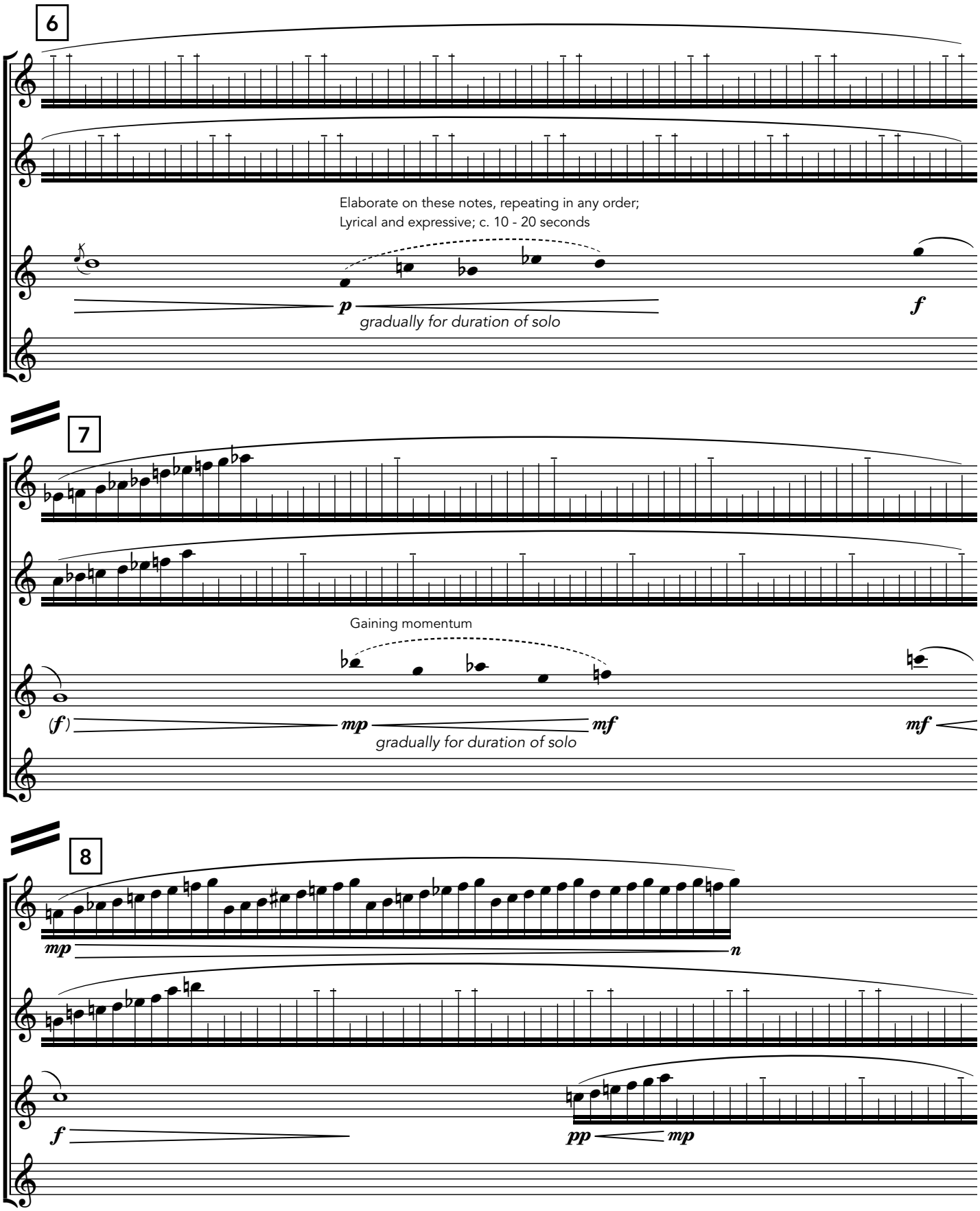


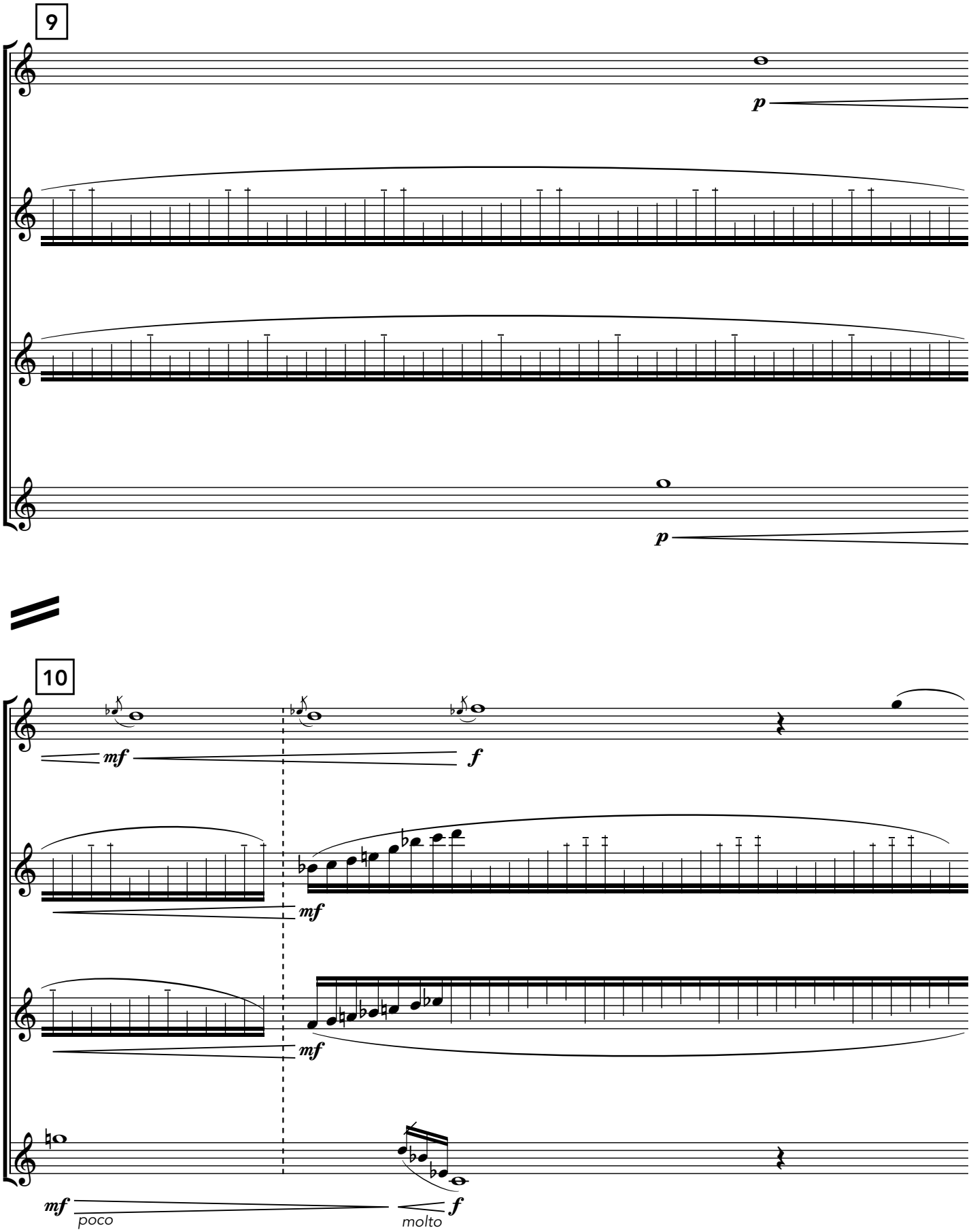


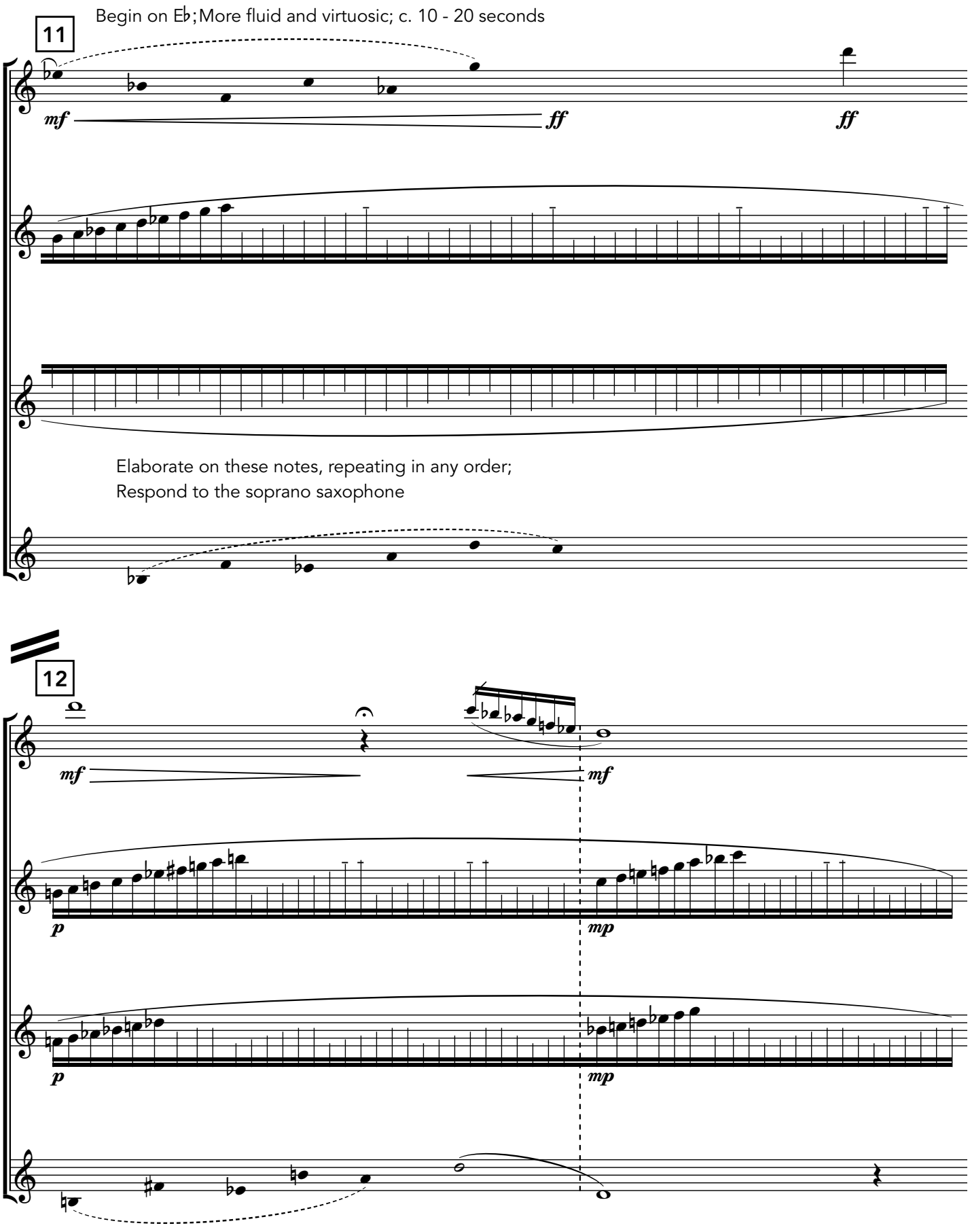


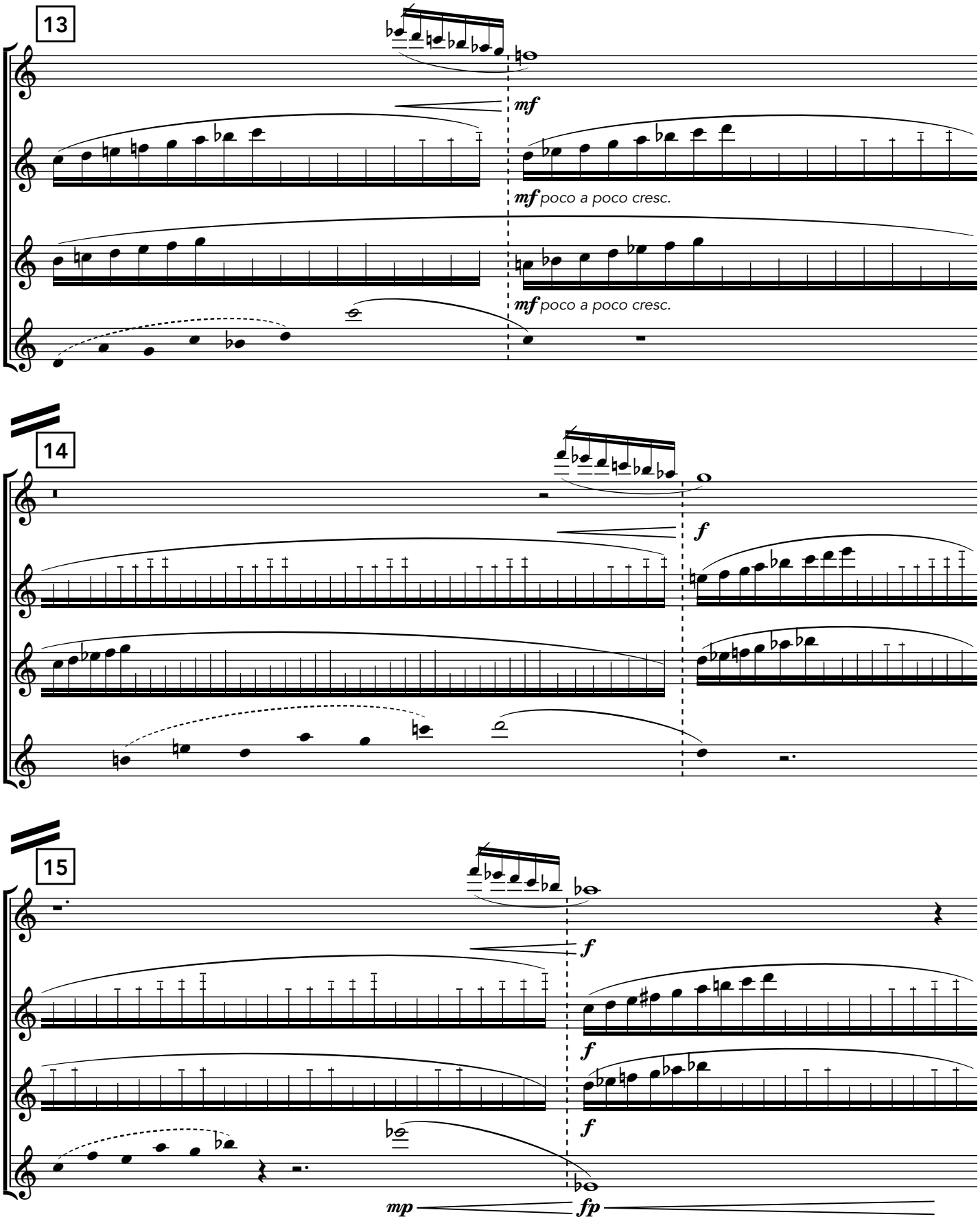
*As there are no bars in this movement, I have given each system a number to assist with rehearsing.

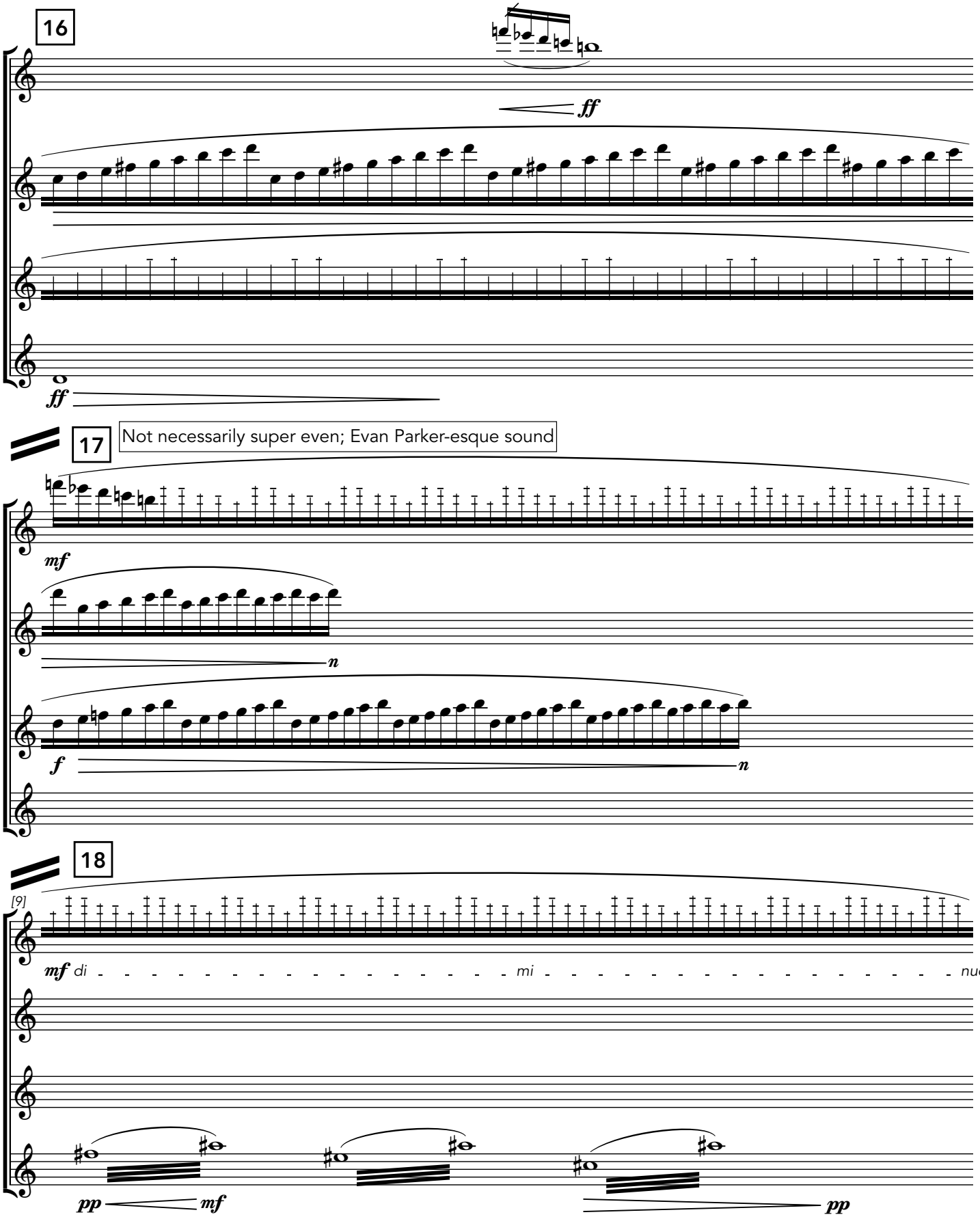

3
mp
p
mp
p
4
mp
mp
5
p
p
mf
p
mf
indicates a pause and not a specific duration of rest

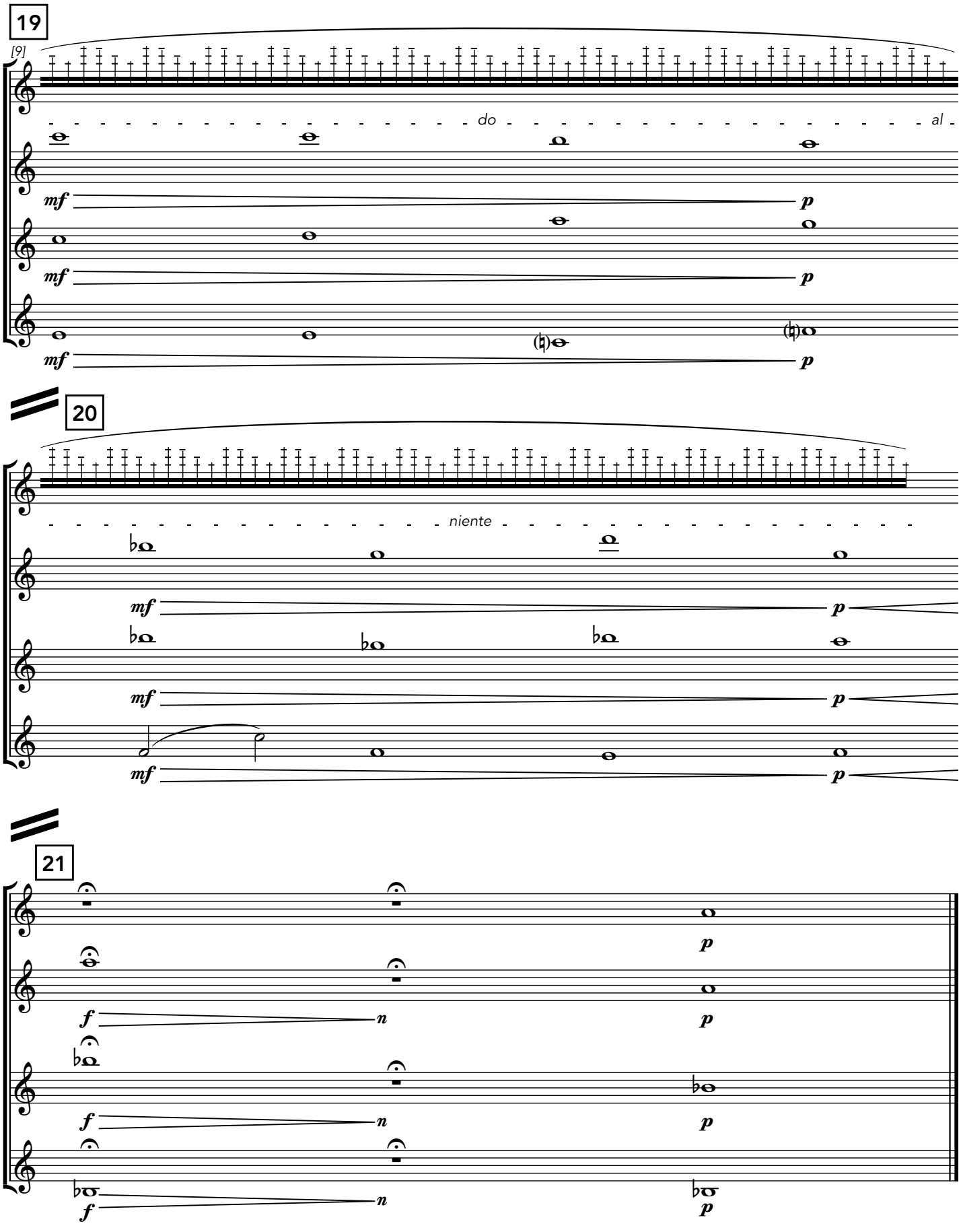

6
Elaborate on these notes, repeating in any order;
Lyrical and expressive; c. 10 - 20 seconds
p
gradually for duration of solo
f
7
Gaining momentum
(f)
mp
mf
gradually for duration of solo
mf
8
mp
n
f
pp
mp


9
p
p
10
mf
f
mf
mf
mf
poco
f
molto

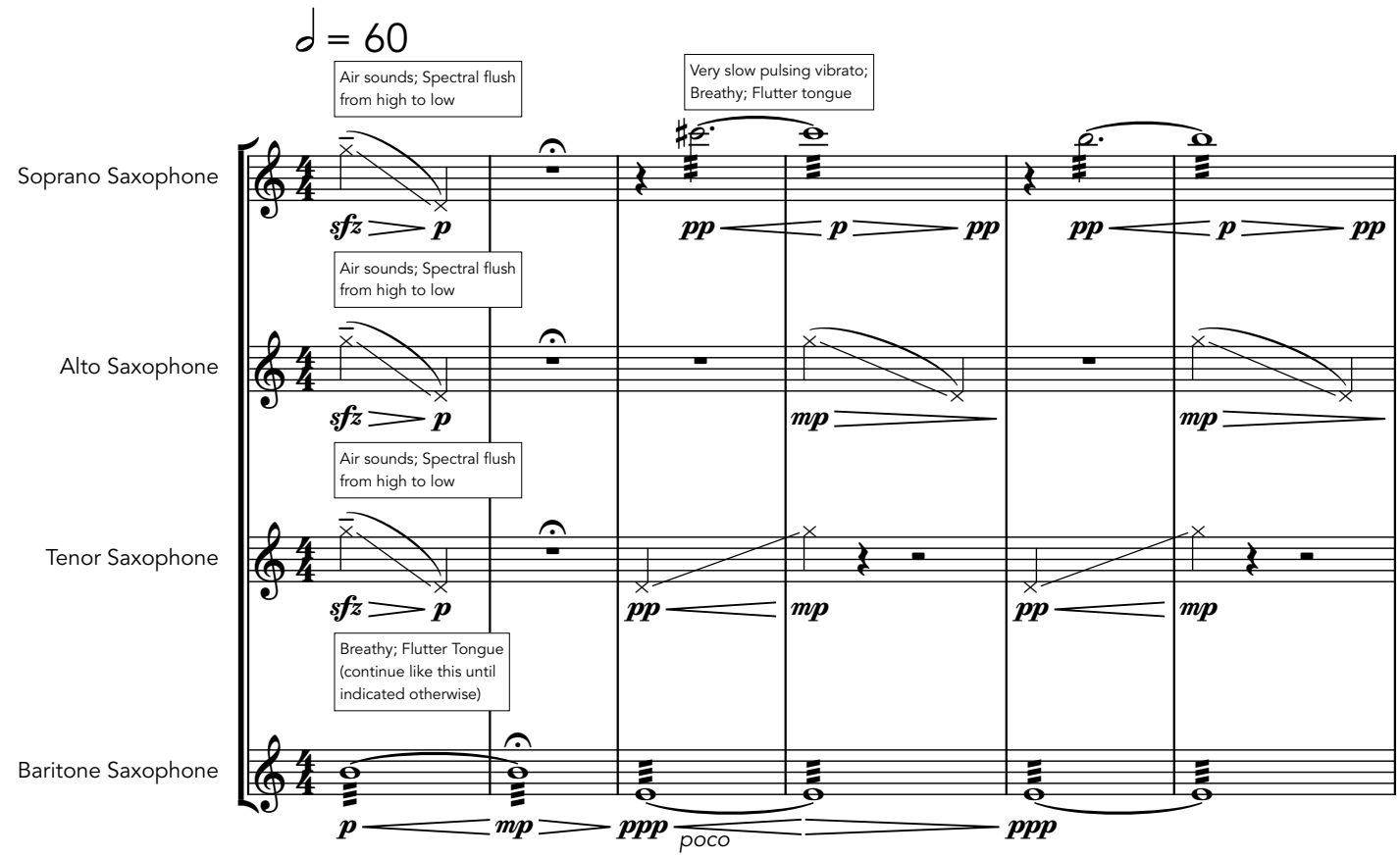

11
Begin on E♭; More fluid and virtuosic; c. 10 - 20 seconds
mf
ff
ff
Elaborate on these notes, repeating in any order;
Respond to the soprano saxophone
12
mf
mf
p
mp
p
mp

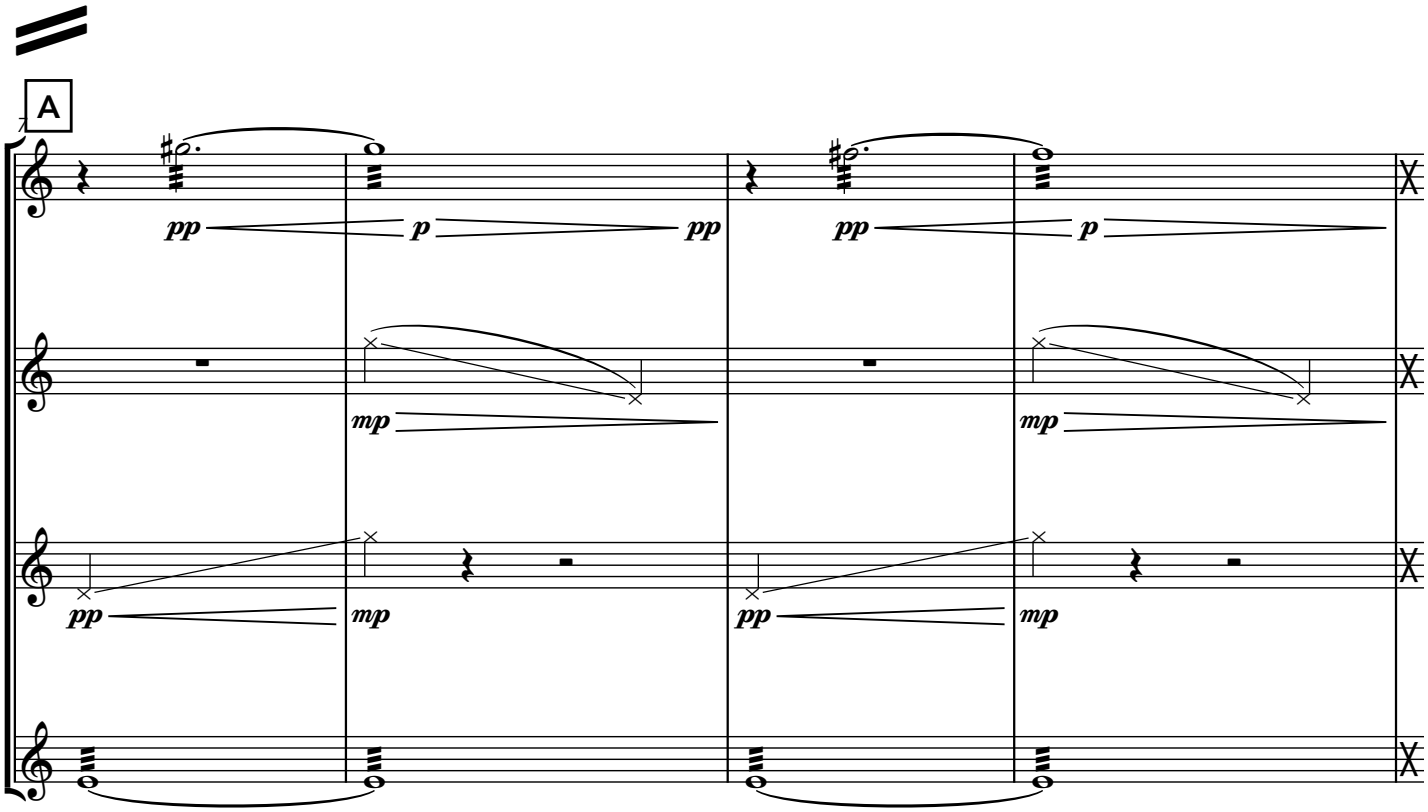

13
mf
mf poco a poco cresc.
mf poco a poco cresc.
14
f
15
f
f
f
mp
fp


16
ff
ff
17
Not necessarily super even; Evan Parker-esque sound
mf
n
f
n
18
[9]
mf di mi nuen
pp mf
pp


19
[9]
do
al
mf
p
20
niente
21
f
n

II.


♩ = 60
Air sounds; Spectral flush from high to low
Very slow pulsing vibrato; Breathy; Flutter tongue
Soprano Saxophone
Air sounds; Spectral flush from high to low
Alto Saxophone
Air sounds; Spectral flush from high to low
Tenor Saxophone
Breathy; Flutter Tongue (continue like this until indicated otherwise)
Baritone Saxophone
poco


A

Very slow

Improvise on these four pitches in this octave

Very slowly add pitches to the set you're improvising on

play these three pitches only in this order to signal the end of this four-bar phrase (both times)

11

pp

breathy flutter tongue;

sfz p pp mfz pp

breathy flutter tongue;

sfz p pp mfz

breathe as needed

p *cresc./dim. ad lib.*

B

15

cresc. poco a poco

mfz

breathy

p mp

2x only

p

breathy

p mp

2x only

p

2x only

p

p *cresc./dim. ad lib.*

Freely ♩ = c. 52

c. 10"

19

play a creative solo based on the previous two measures;
Remain relatively tonally linked to the previous materials.

mf espressivo

mfz *p* *mp* *pp*

mfz *p* *mp* *pp*

mfz *p* *mp* *pp*

C

c. 10"

26

play a creative solo based on the previous two measures;
Remain relatively tonally linked to the previous materials.

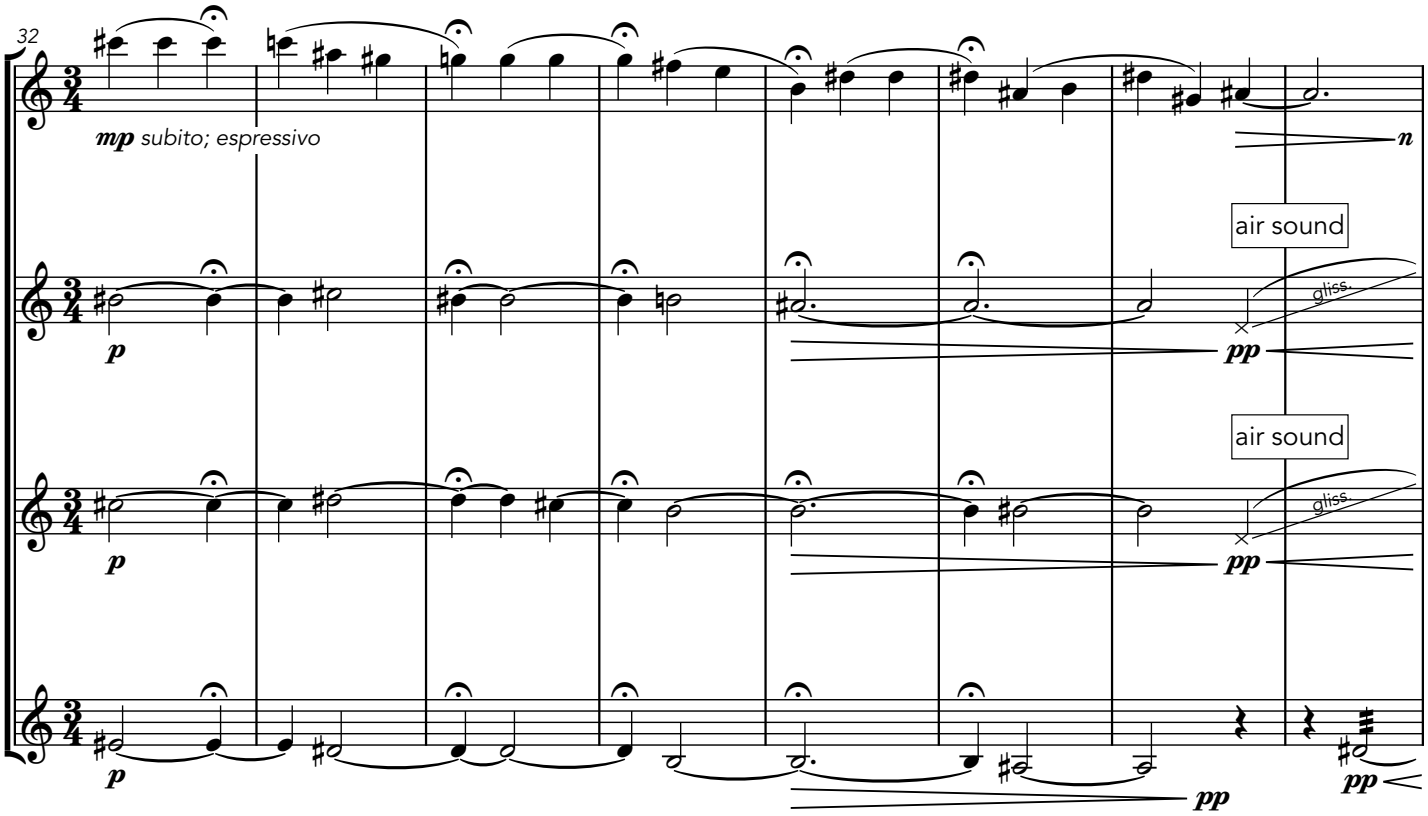
mf espressivo

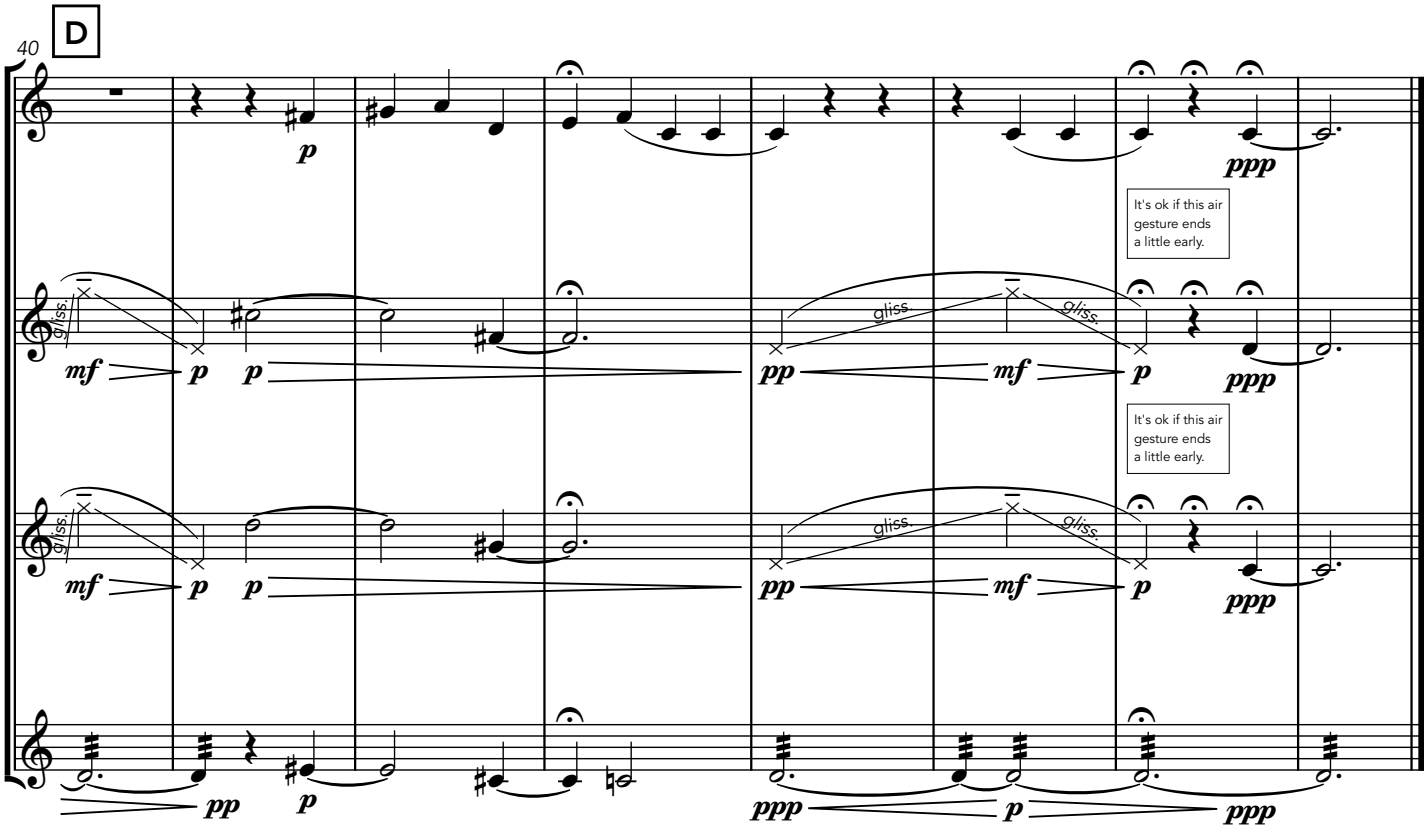
mp *pp*

mp *pp*

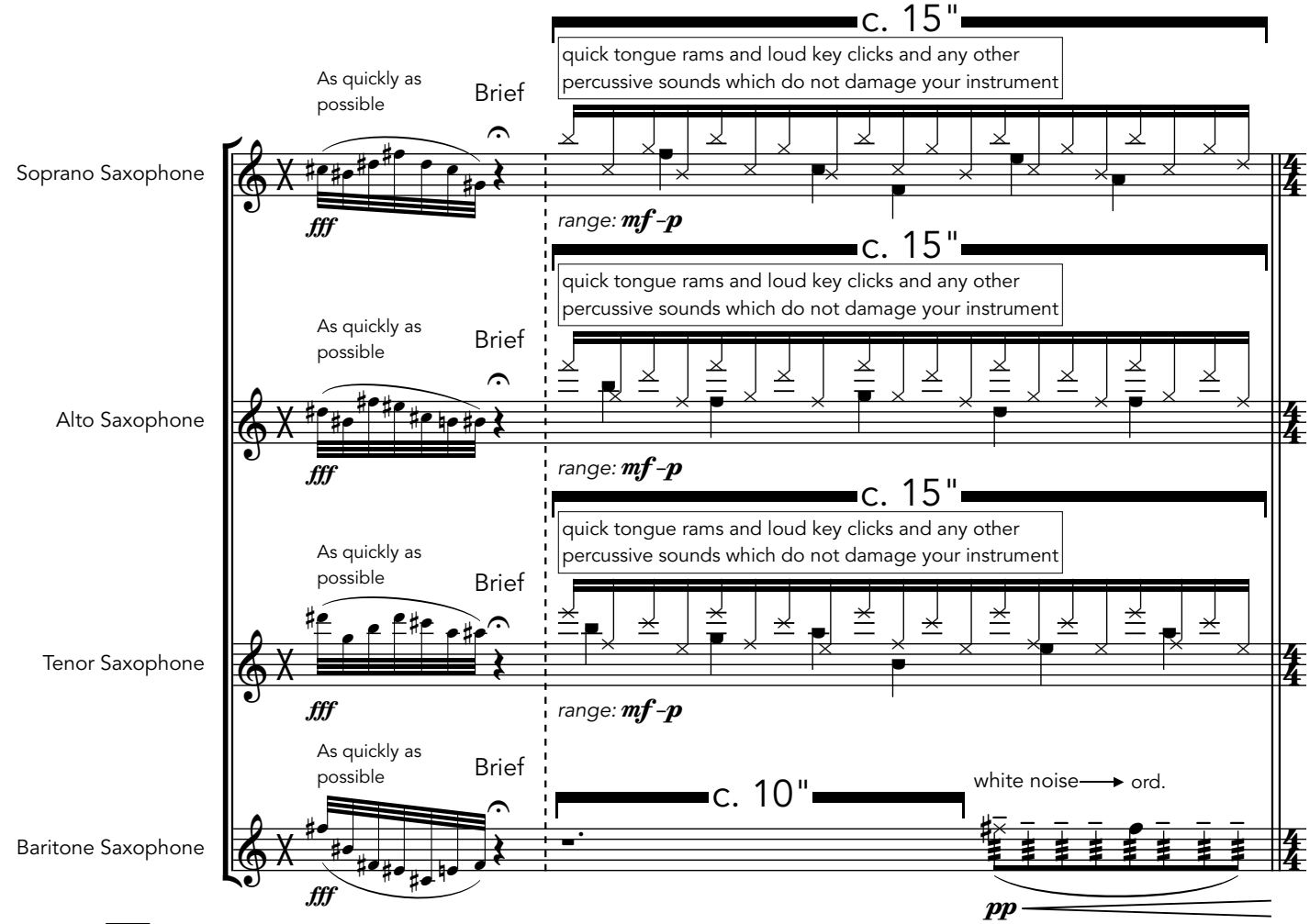
mp *pp*

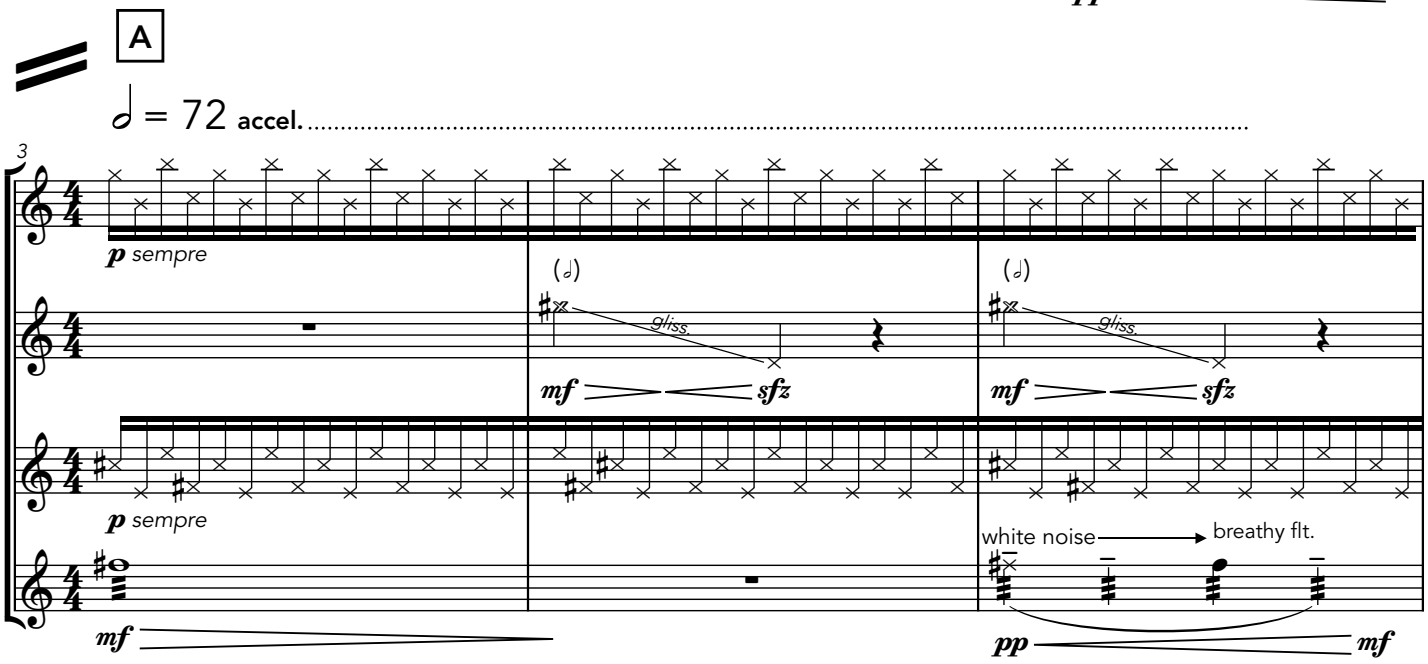
Still Very Free ♩ = c. 30 - 52

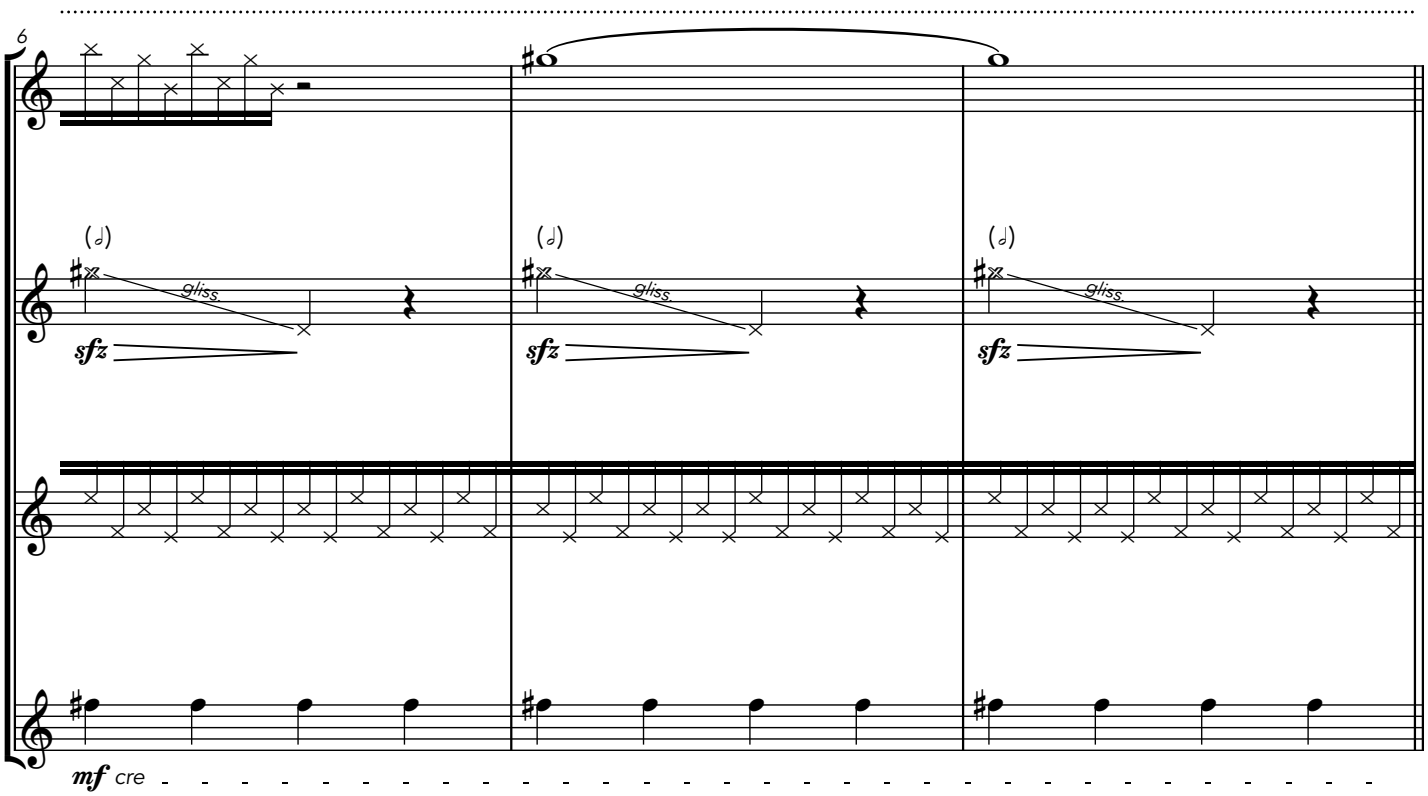




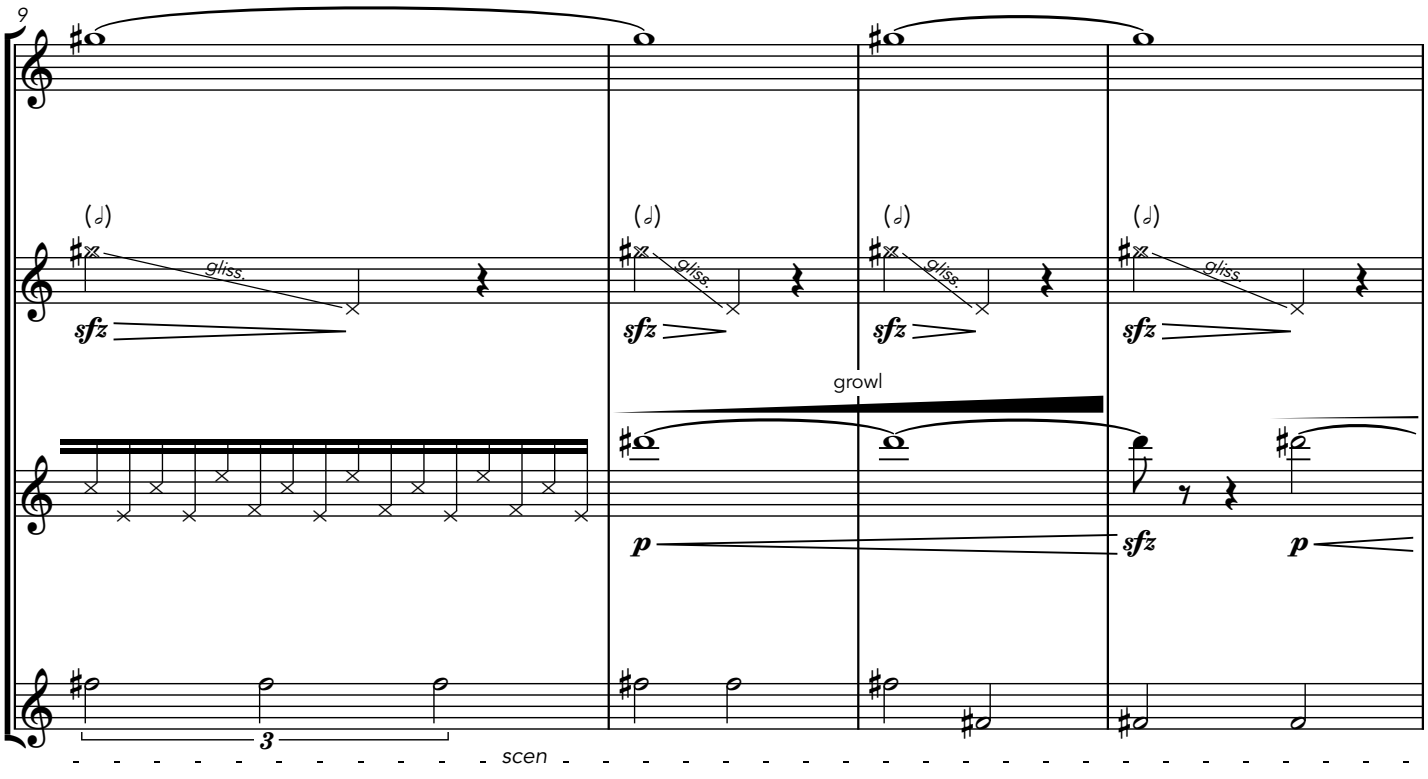
III - PASSACAGLIA

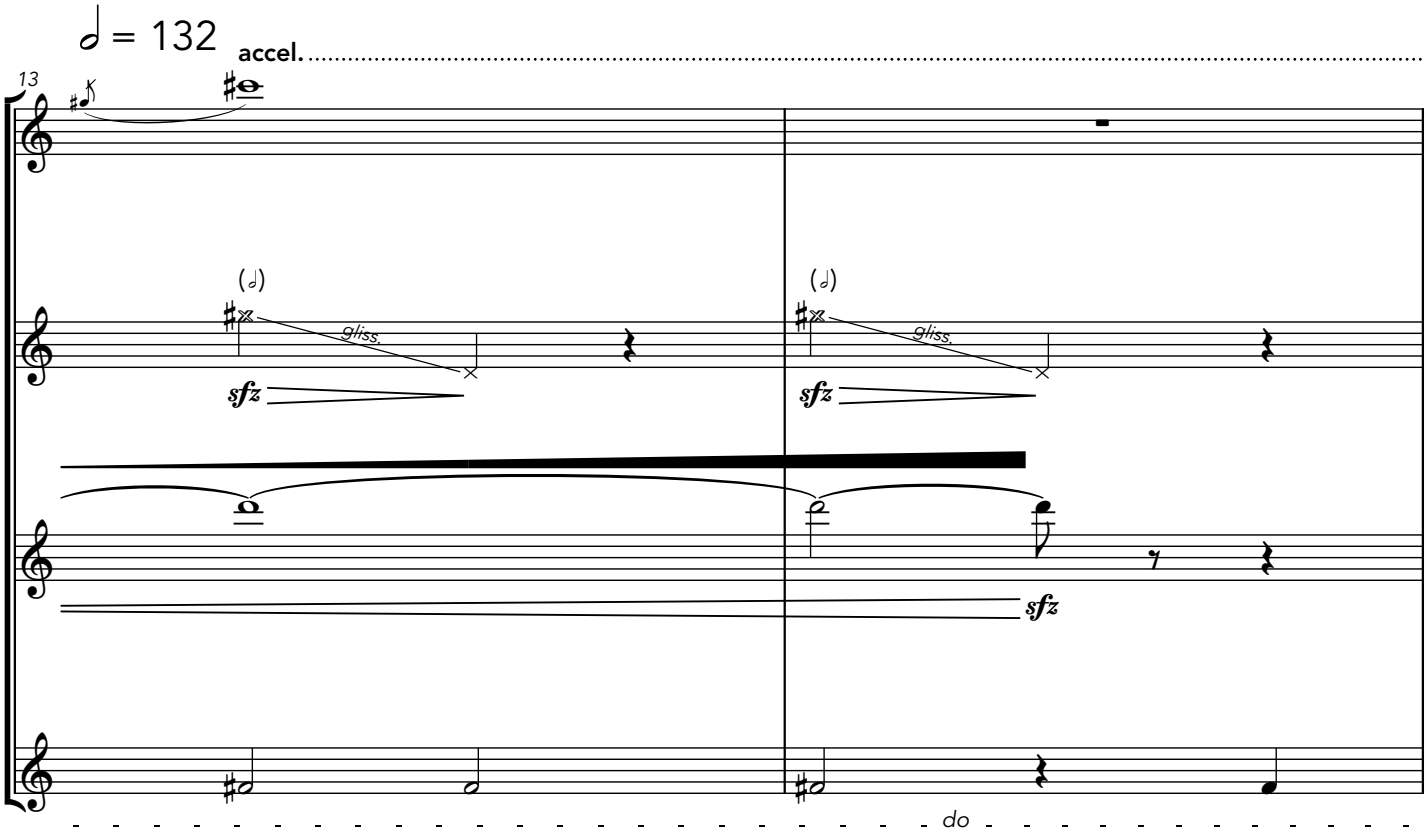


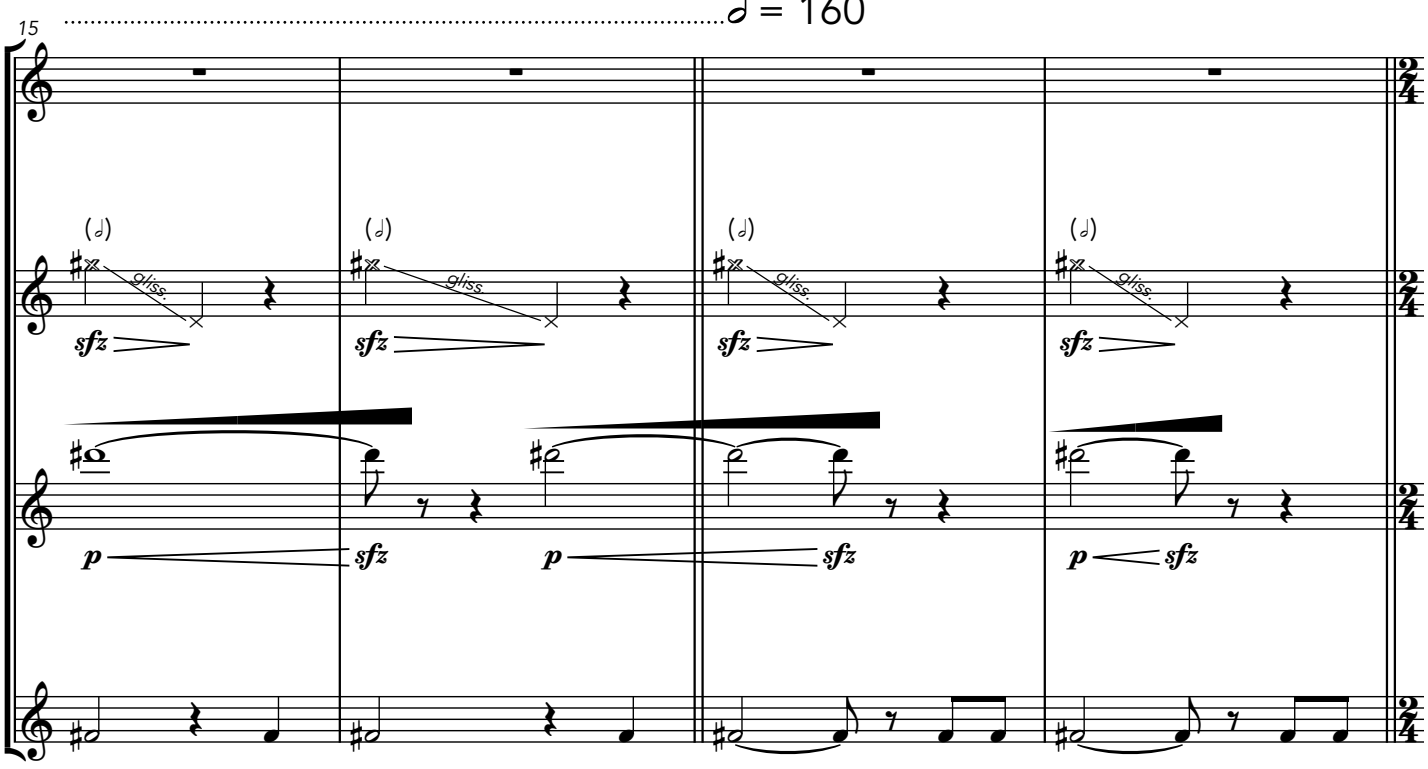


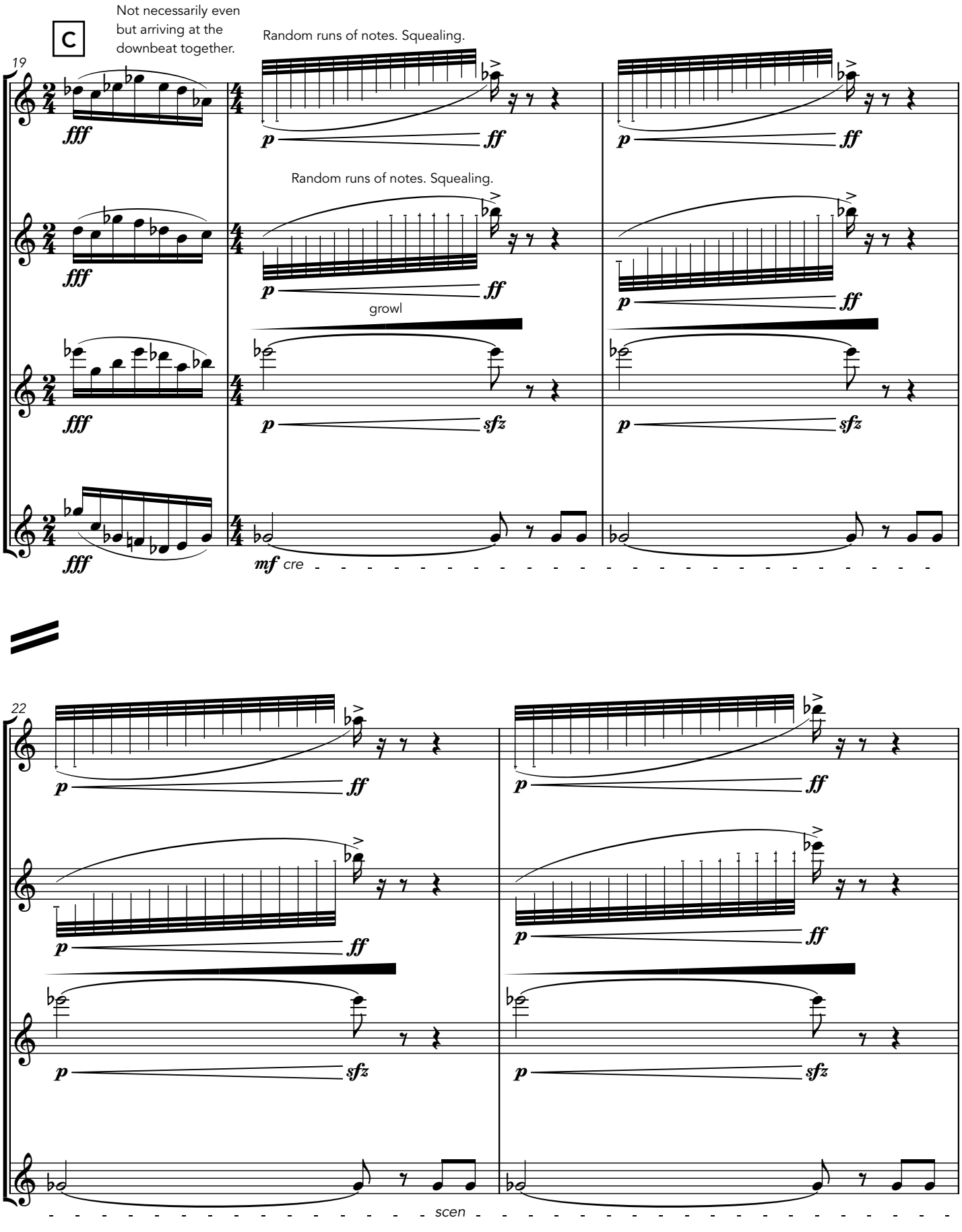


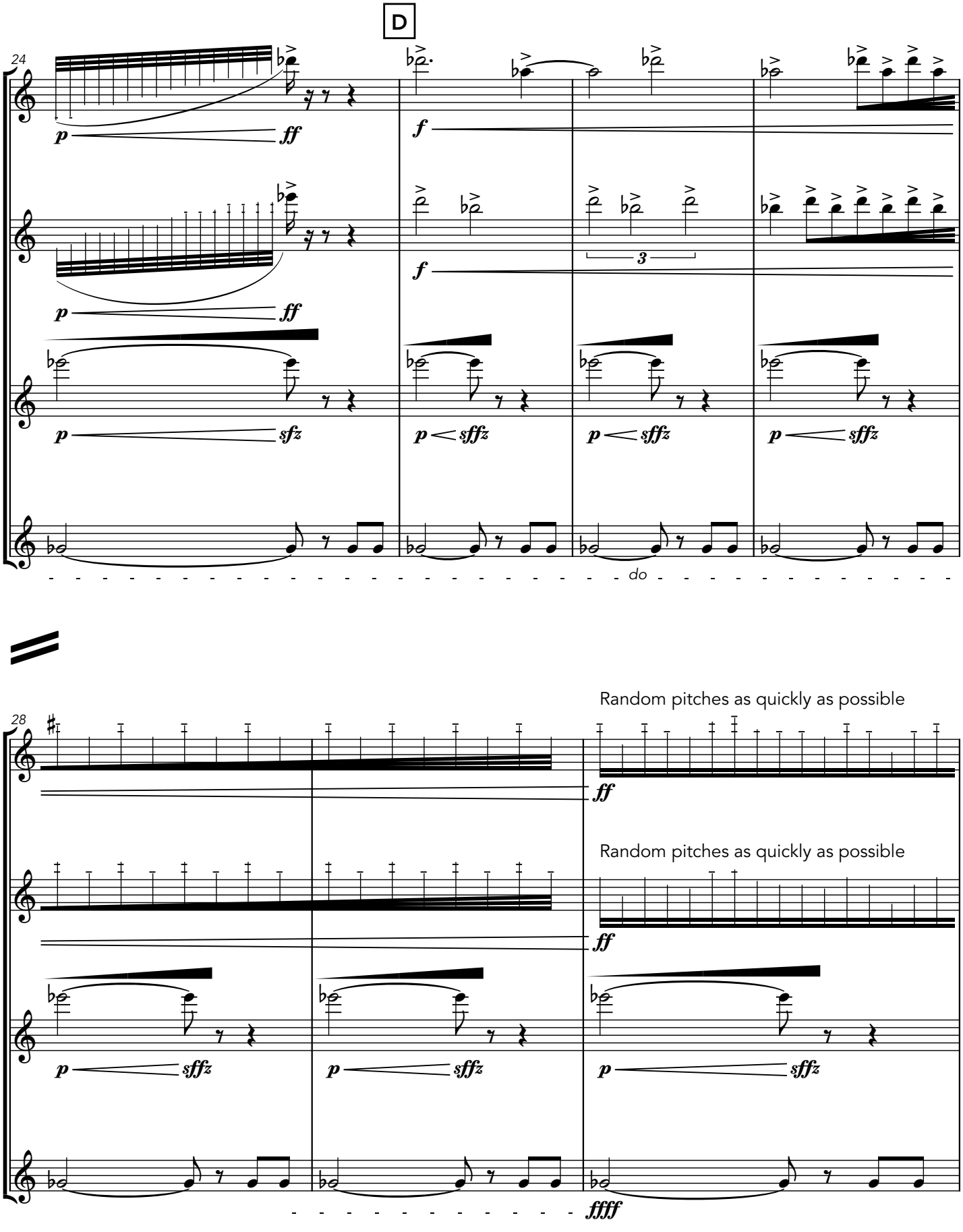
B

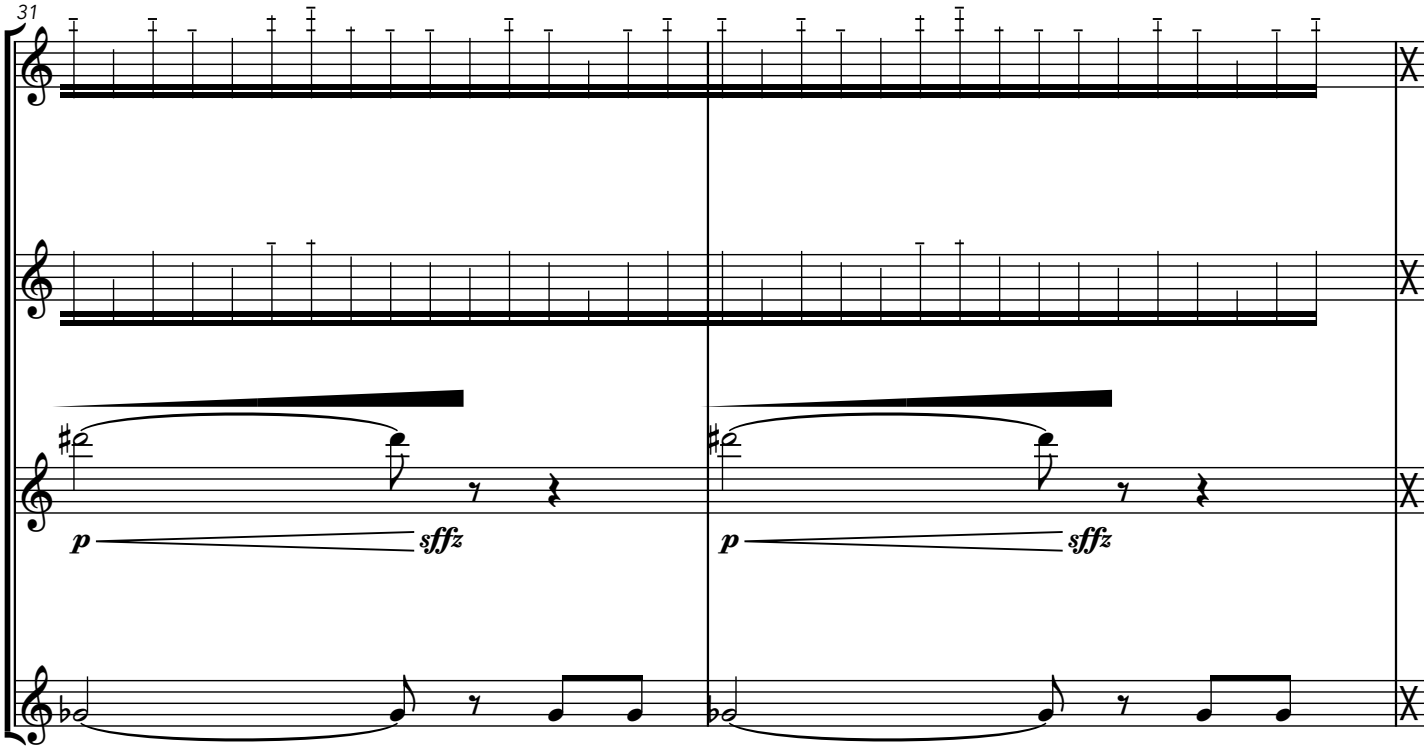


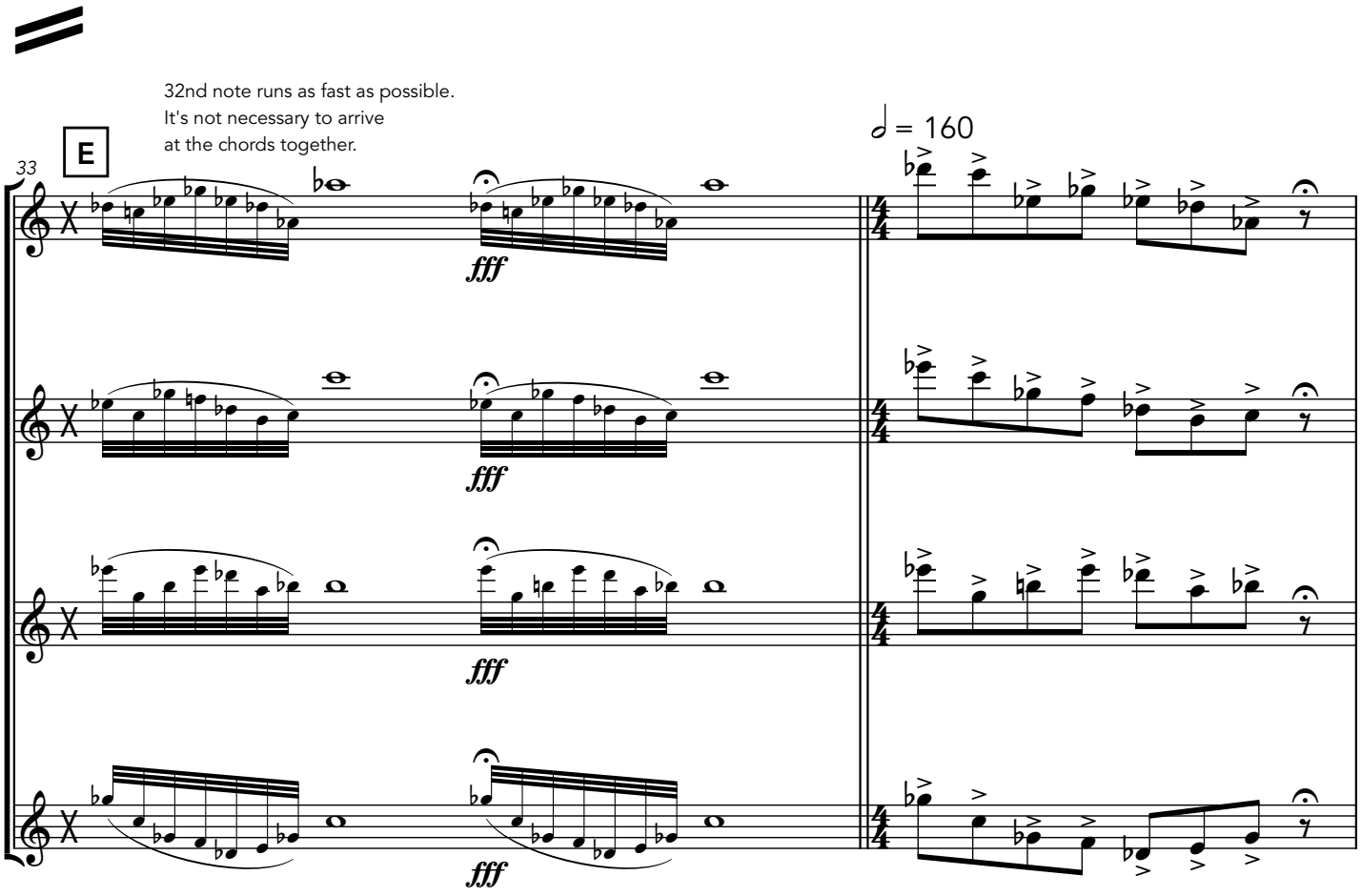

♩ = 132
accel.
13
gliss.
sfz
do

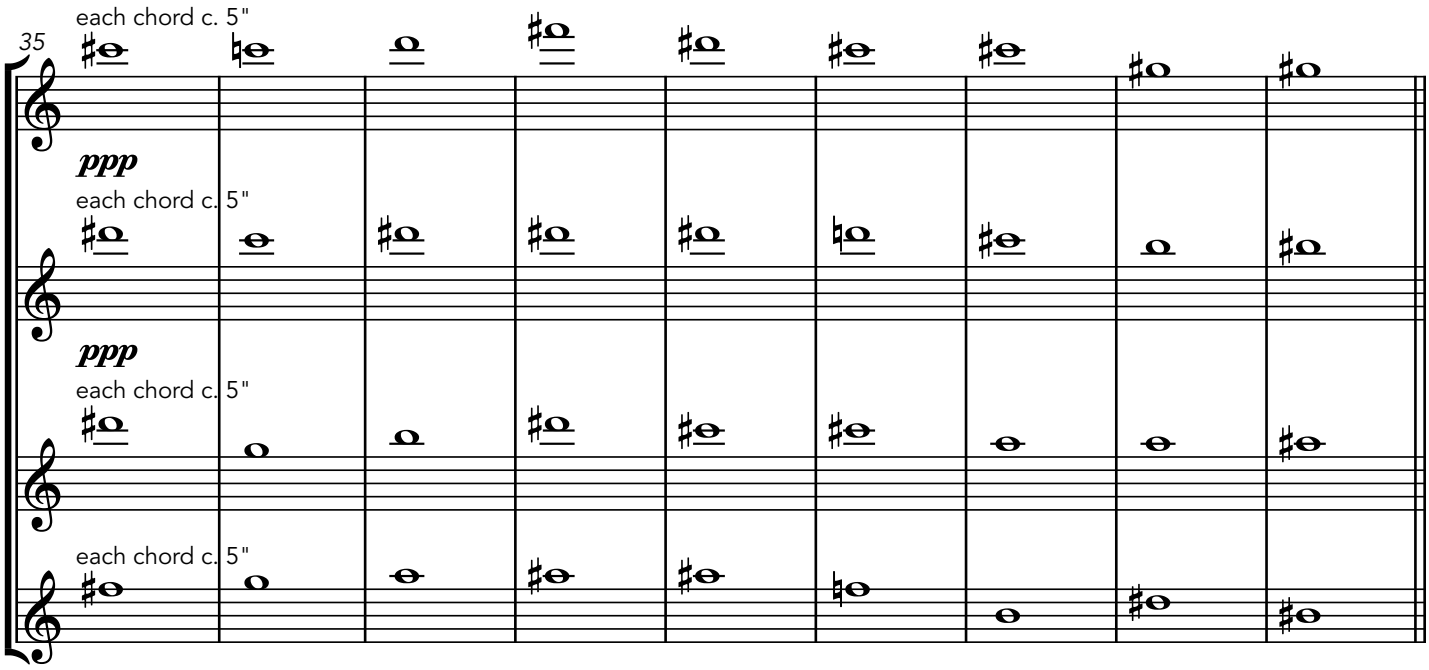

♩ = 160
15
gliss.
sfz
p

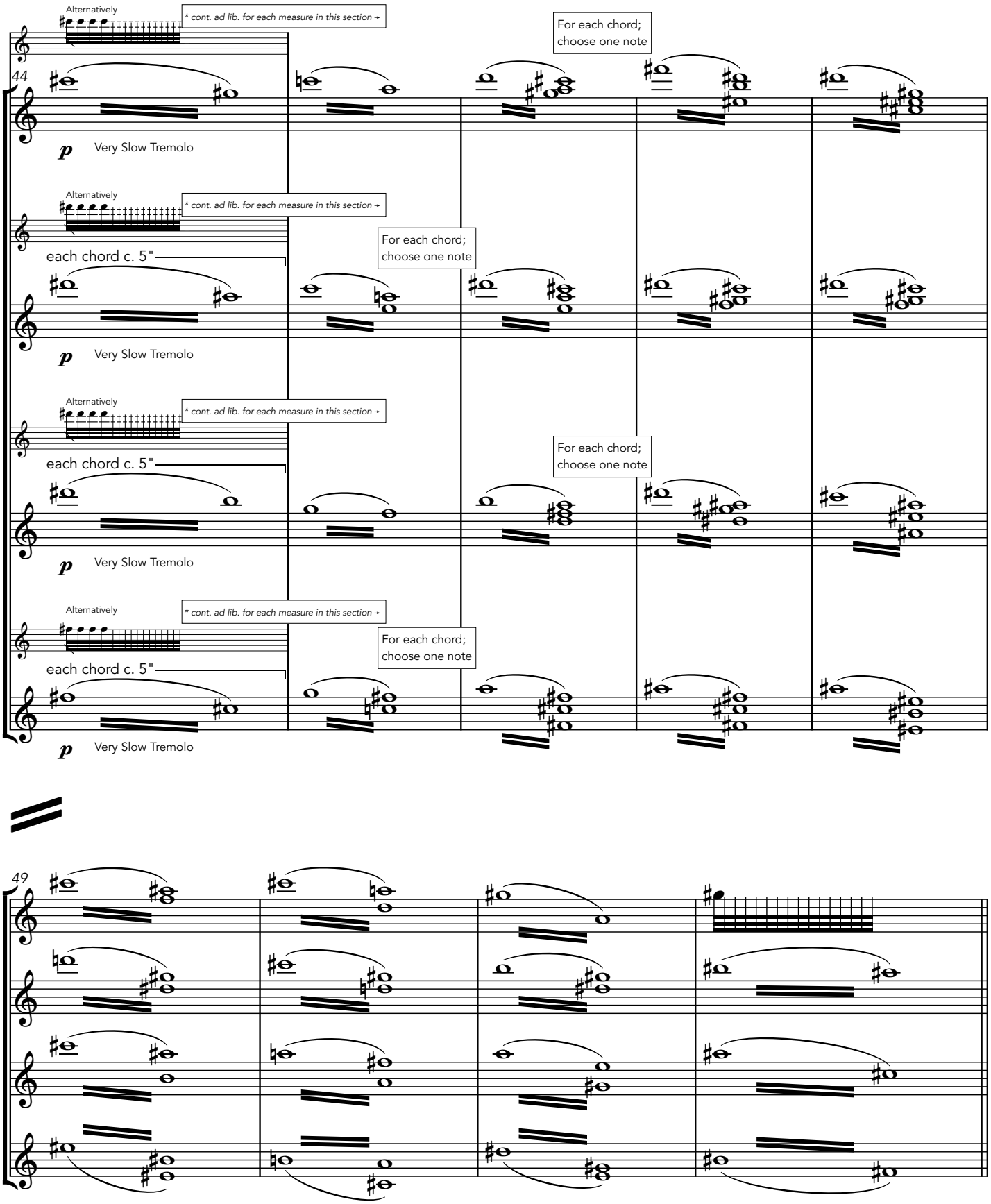

C
Not necessarily even but arriving at the downbeat together.
Random runs of notes. Squealing.
Random runs of notes. Squealing.
growl
19
22
fff
p
ff
sfz
mf cre
scen


D
24
p ff
f
3
sfz
sffz
do
28
Random pitches as quickly as possible
Random pitches as quickly as possible
ff
ffff

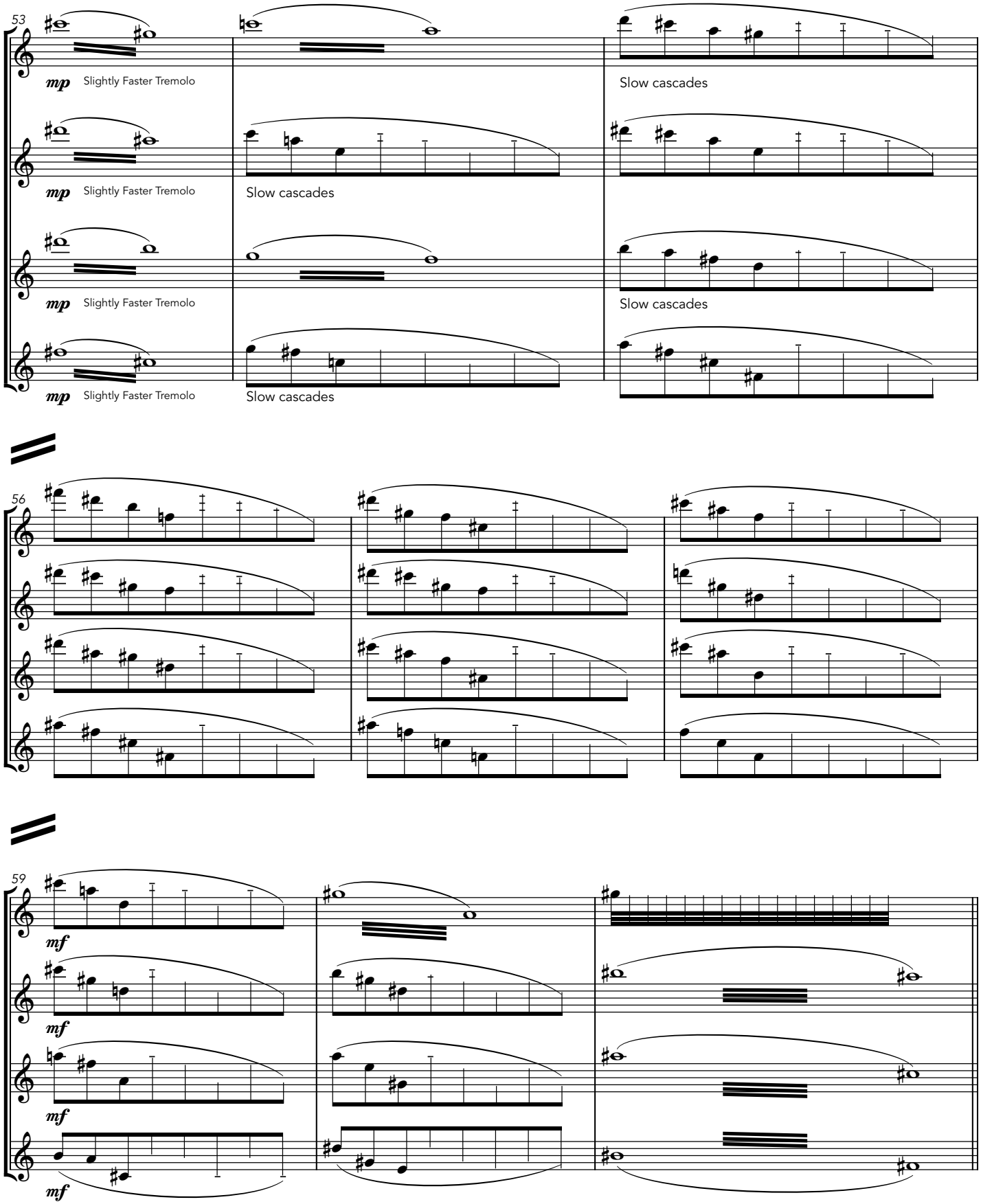

31
p
sffz
p
sffz

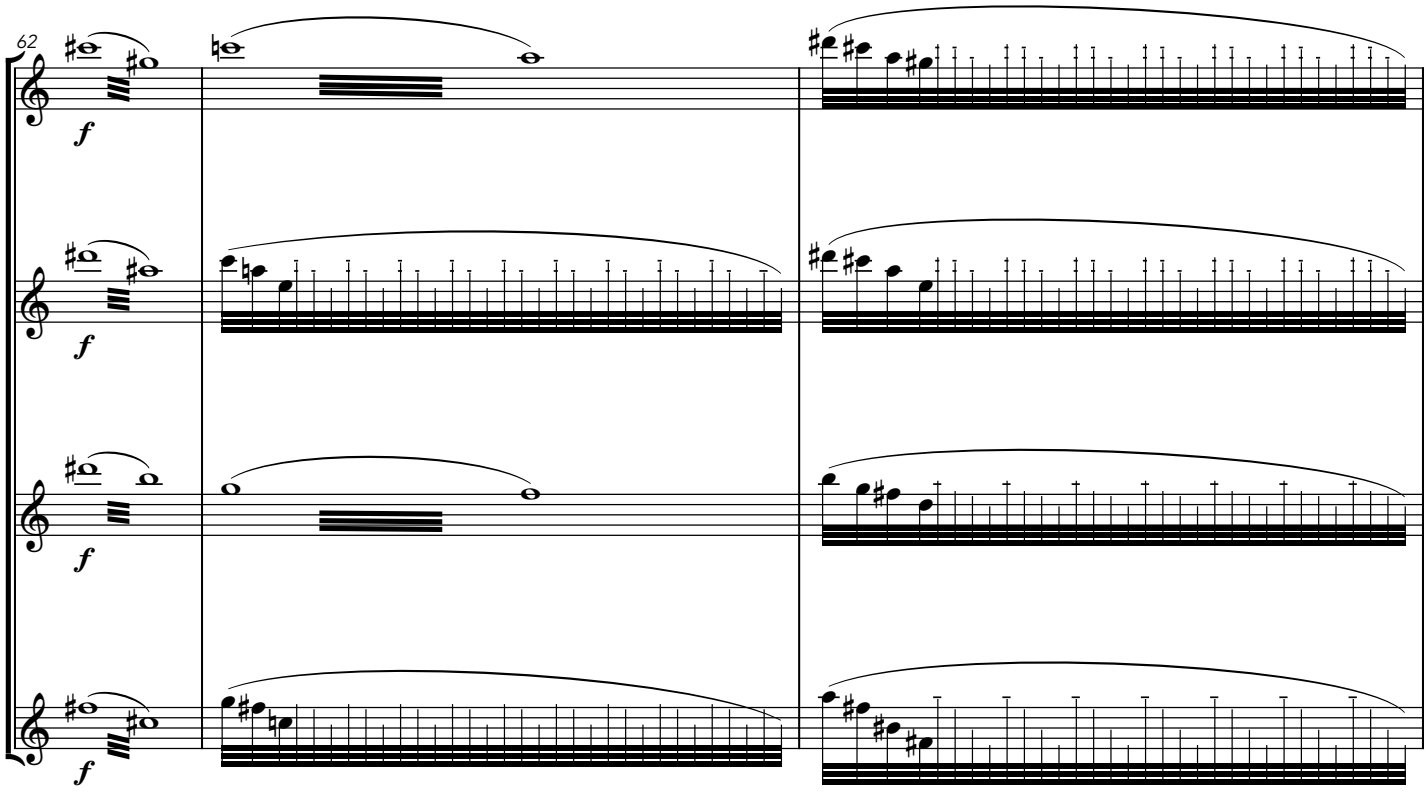

32nd note runs as fast as possible.
It's not necessary to arrive
at the chords together.
E
33
♩ = 160
fff
fff
fff
fff

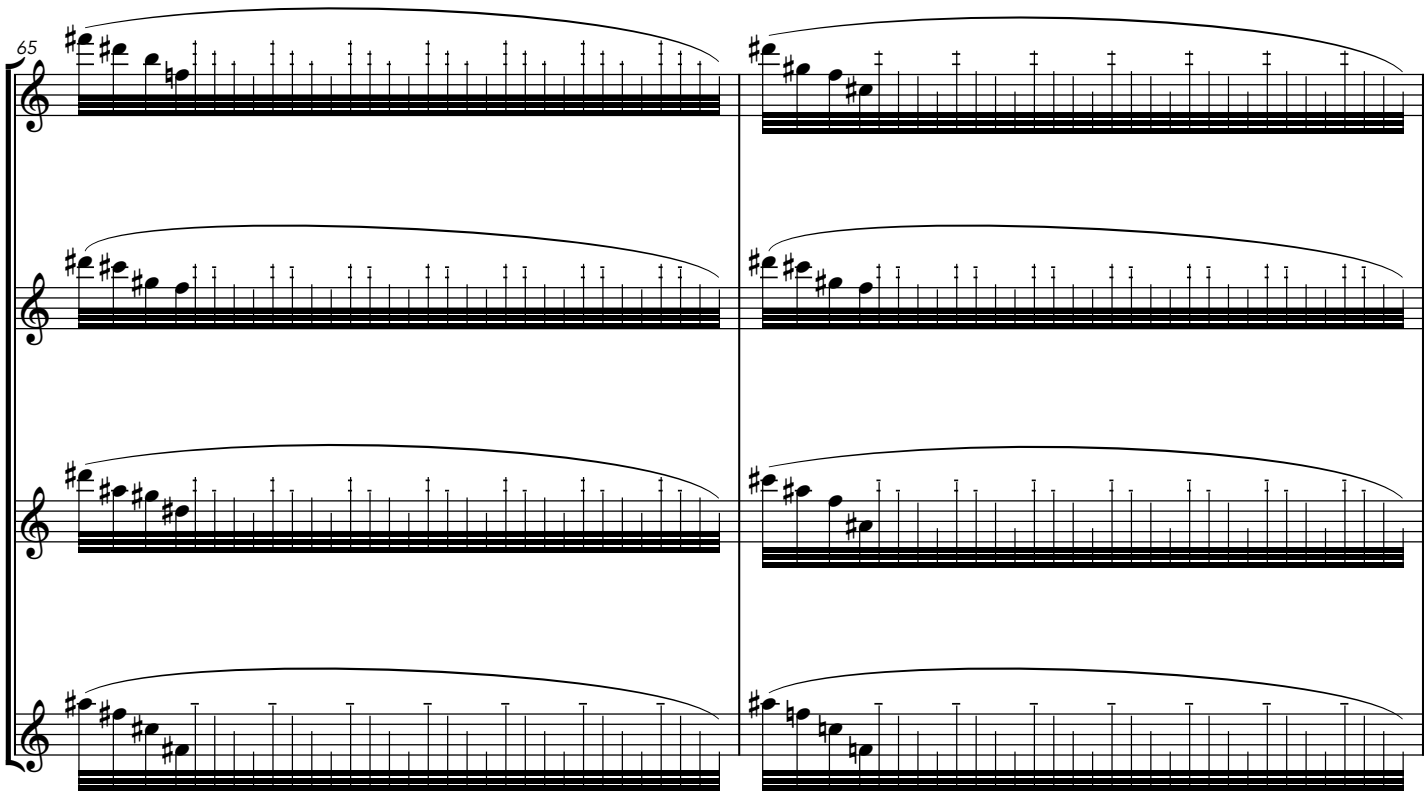

35
each chord c. 5"
ppp
each chord c. 5"
ppp
each chord c. 5"
each chord c. 5"



* For each measure: play either the slow tremolo or the top note repeatedly (as in the ossia)


53
mp Slightly Faster Tremolo
mp Slightly Faster Tremolo
mp Slightly Faster Tremolo
mp Slightly Faster Tremolo
Slow cascades
Slow cascades
Slow cascades
Slow cascades
56
59
mf
mf
mf
mf


62
f
f
f
f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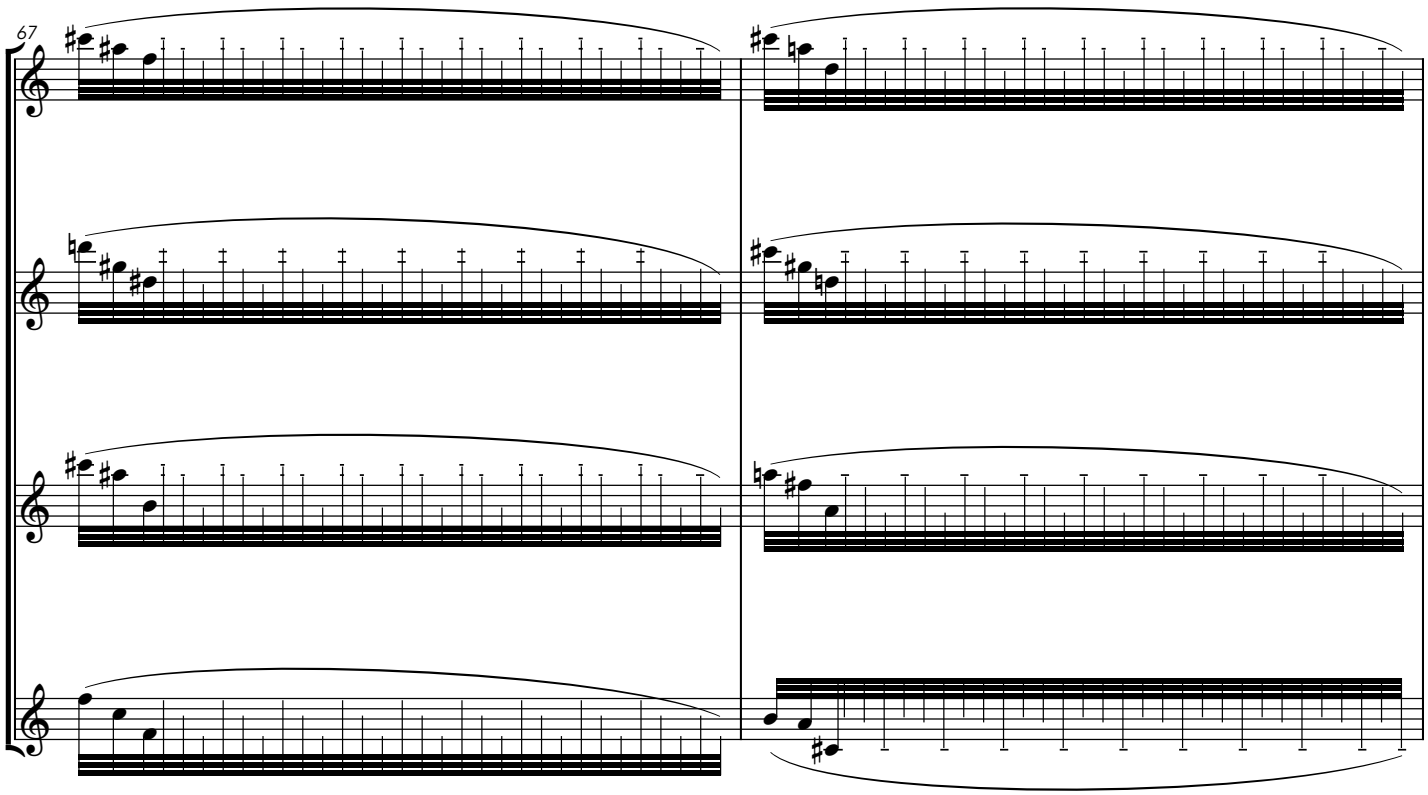
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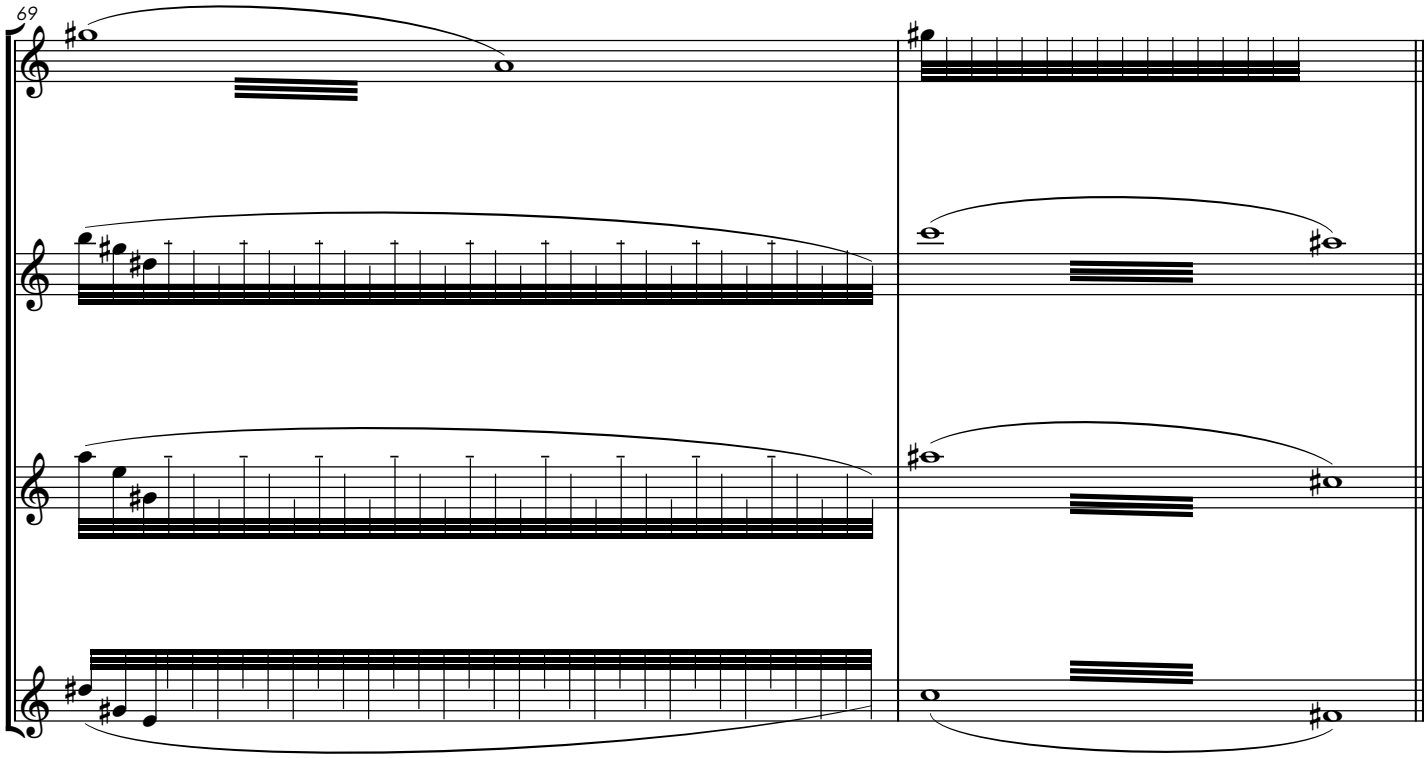
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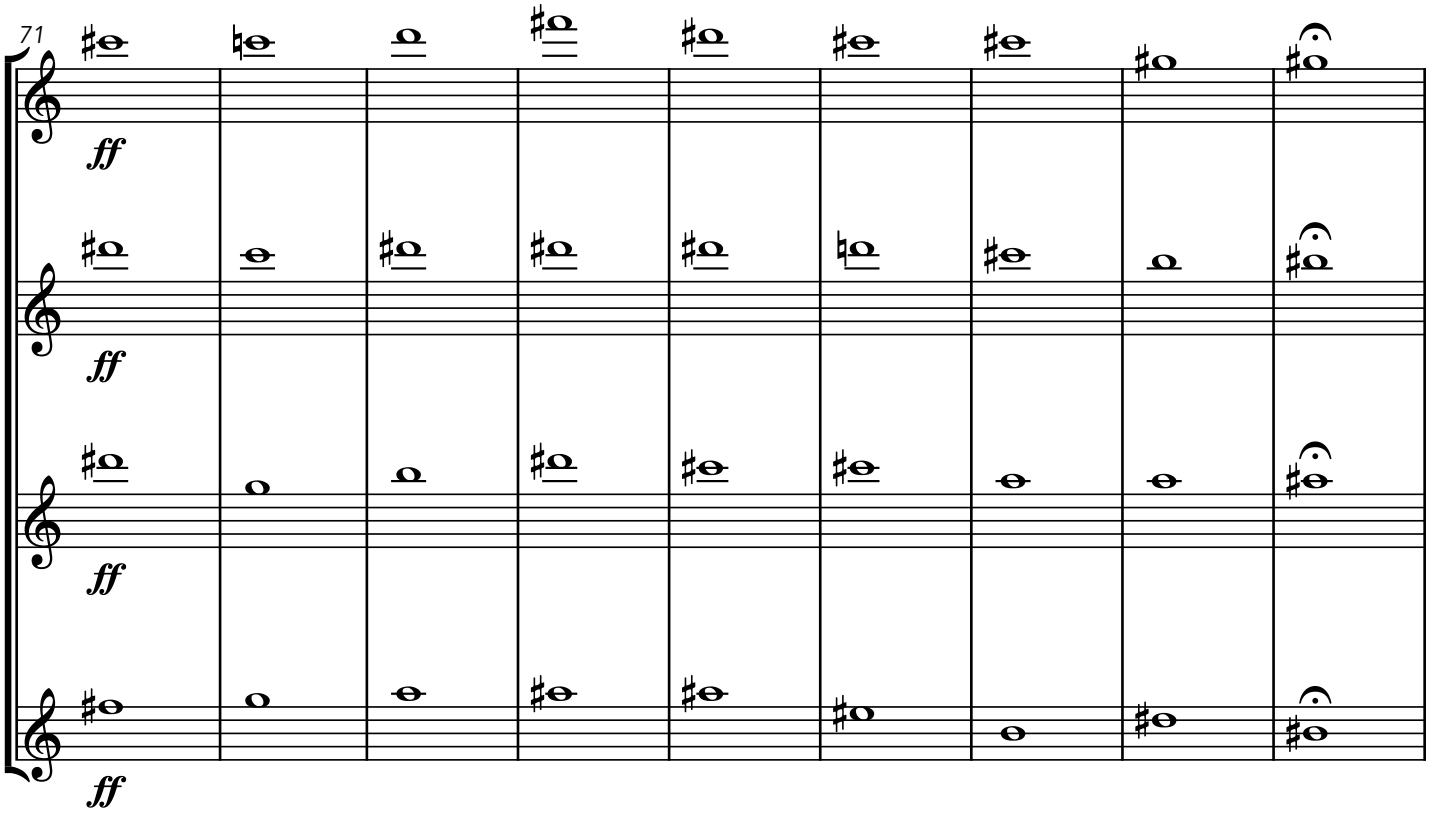
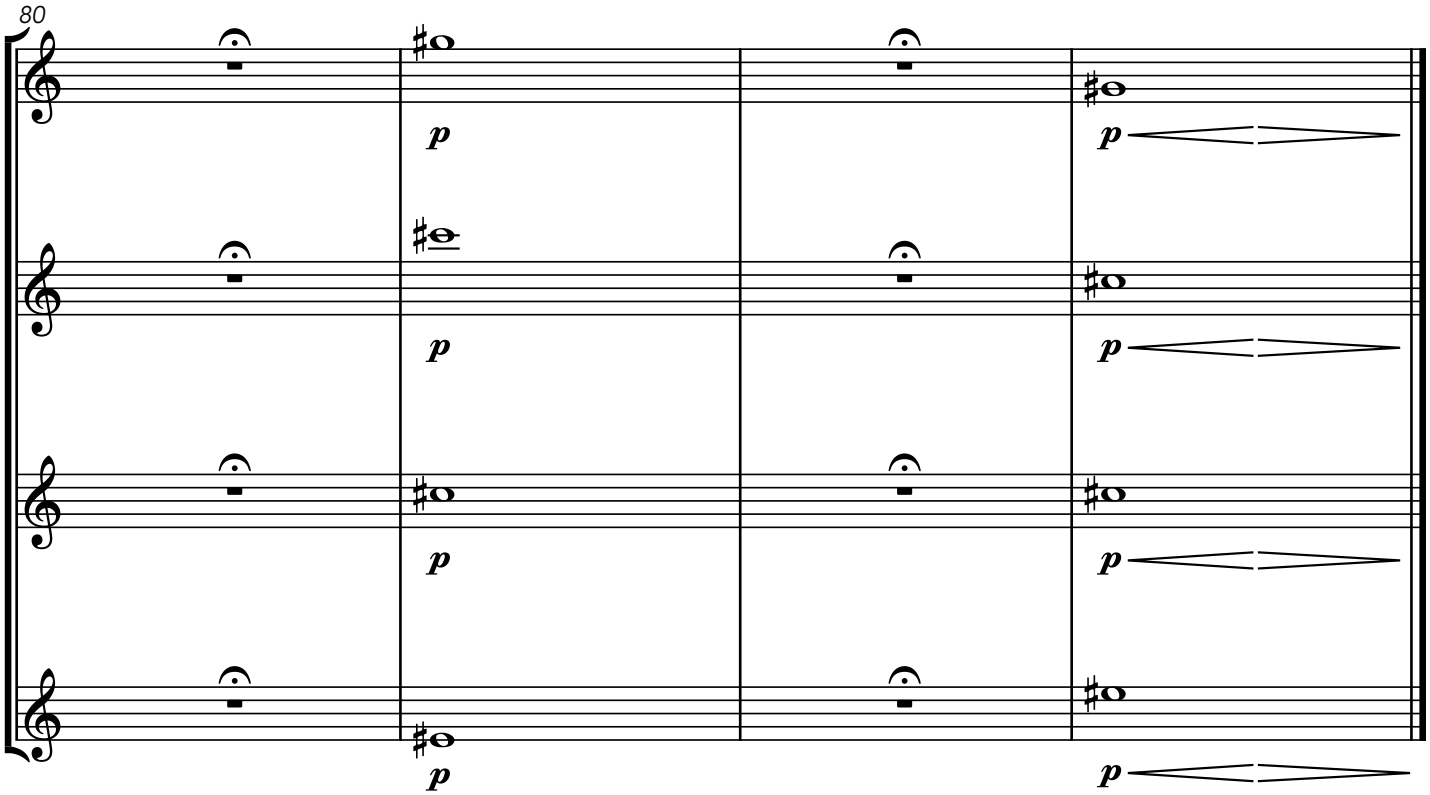

71
ff
ff
ff
ff


80
p
p
p
p
p
p
p
p