IHEOMA

-GOOD THING-

For Brass Quintet

Desmond Ikegwuonu

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About the Music

When the Igbo's from Nigeria say *Iheoma* Abiawo, it means a good thing has come or in broad terms, that the present experience marks the beginning of great joy. The cultural life of Igbo's is steeped in communal living. Even with the outgrowth of distinctive family units typical of contemporary life, indigenes flourish as part of a larger community. This theme of community is embodied throughout this quintet—*Iheoma.* Contrapuntal passages convey the extra musical narrative not of isolation but forward motion, depicting growth within the community.

The first movement is inspired by Benjamin Britten's Simple Symphony, which has been transcribed for brass quintet. This fanfare is joyful in character and comprises musical quotations woven into the thematic fabric of this work. Second movements are generally slow in character and for this, the main theme of this second movement is a native tune of the Yorùbá people from Southwestern Nigeria titled Ise Oluwa Kole Baje (God's Creation will Never Be Destroyed). The compositional technique created by Estonian composer Arvo Part that features two voices, a Melodic and a Tinnabuli voice, defines this movement. The character is both meditative and minimalistic. This slow movement can also be described as a solemn prayer. The Finale features a brassier melodic idea that further explores themes layered over an ostinato bass pattern.

Iheoma describes the conversational nature of life in the Igbo Community. Harmonic units, the melodic layering, joyful fanfare and counterpoint provide a referential narrative for this idea of conversations in the Igbo community. Conversations also involve quotations, and this could either be statements, proverbs, or descriptions of past and current events. *Iheoma* explores the quotation of other tunes in the first movement as integral and representative of the native communal life of Igbos. As stated by the great Nigerian novelist, Chinua Achebe, "Among the Igbo the art of conversation is regarded very highly, and proverbs are the palm-oil with which words are eaten." *Iheoma* is a good thing and this musical conversation within the quintet reflects this character.

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Iheoma

Fanfare

I

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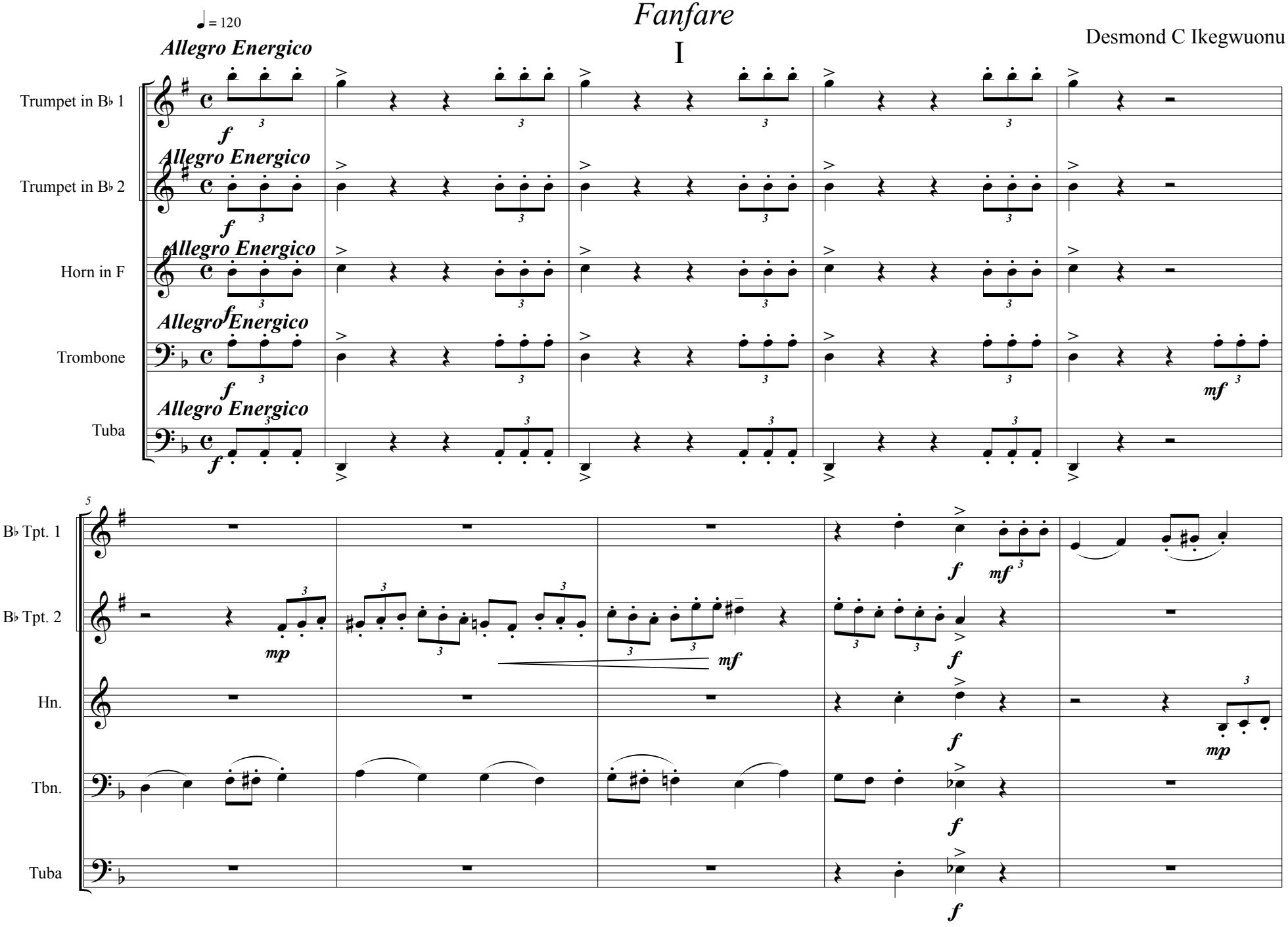

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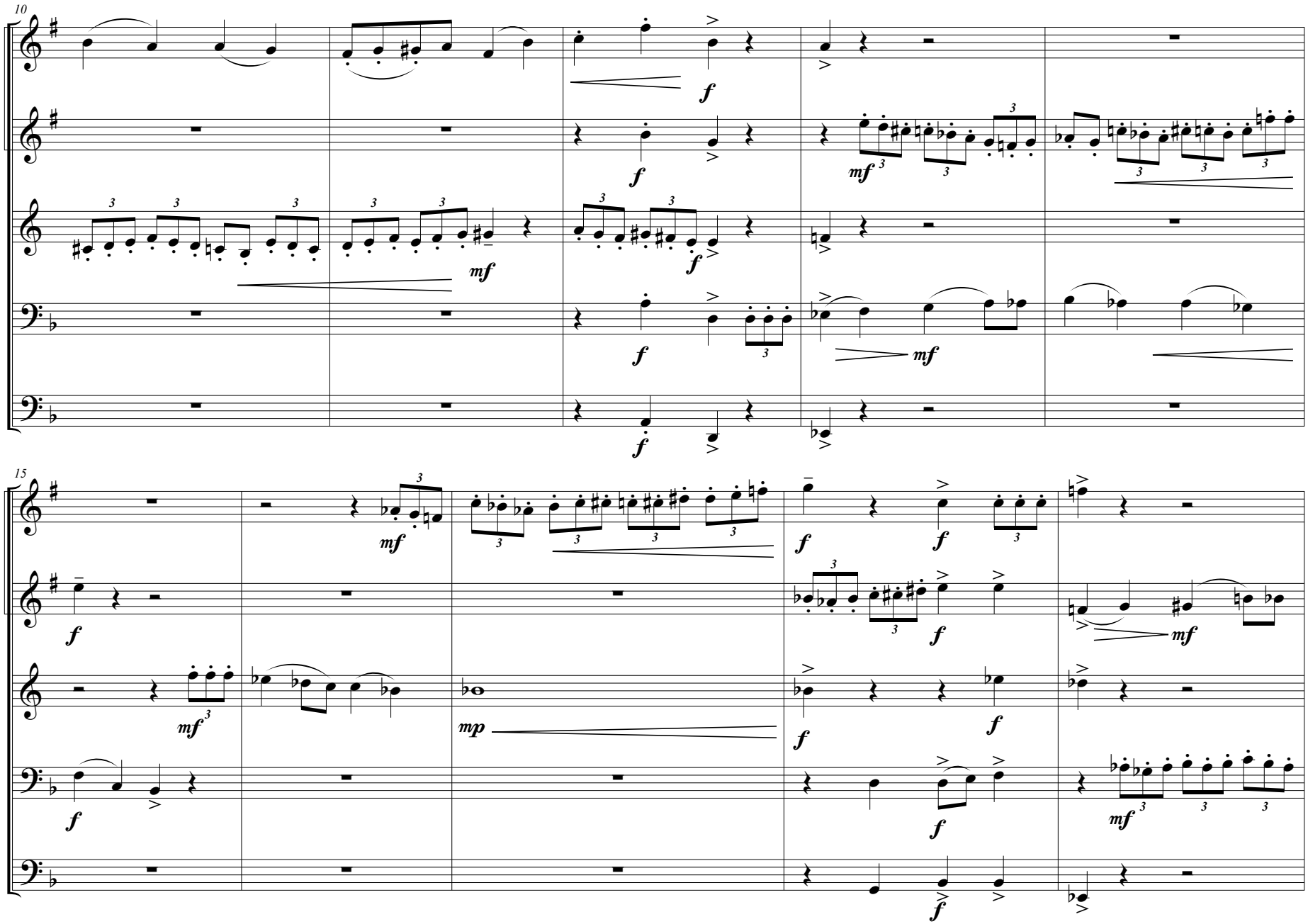
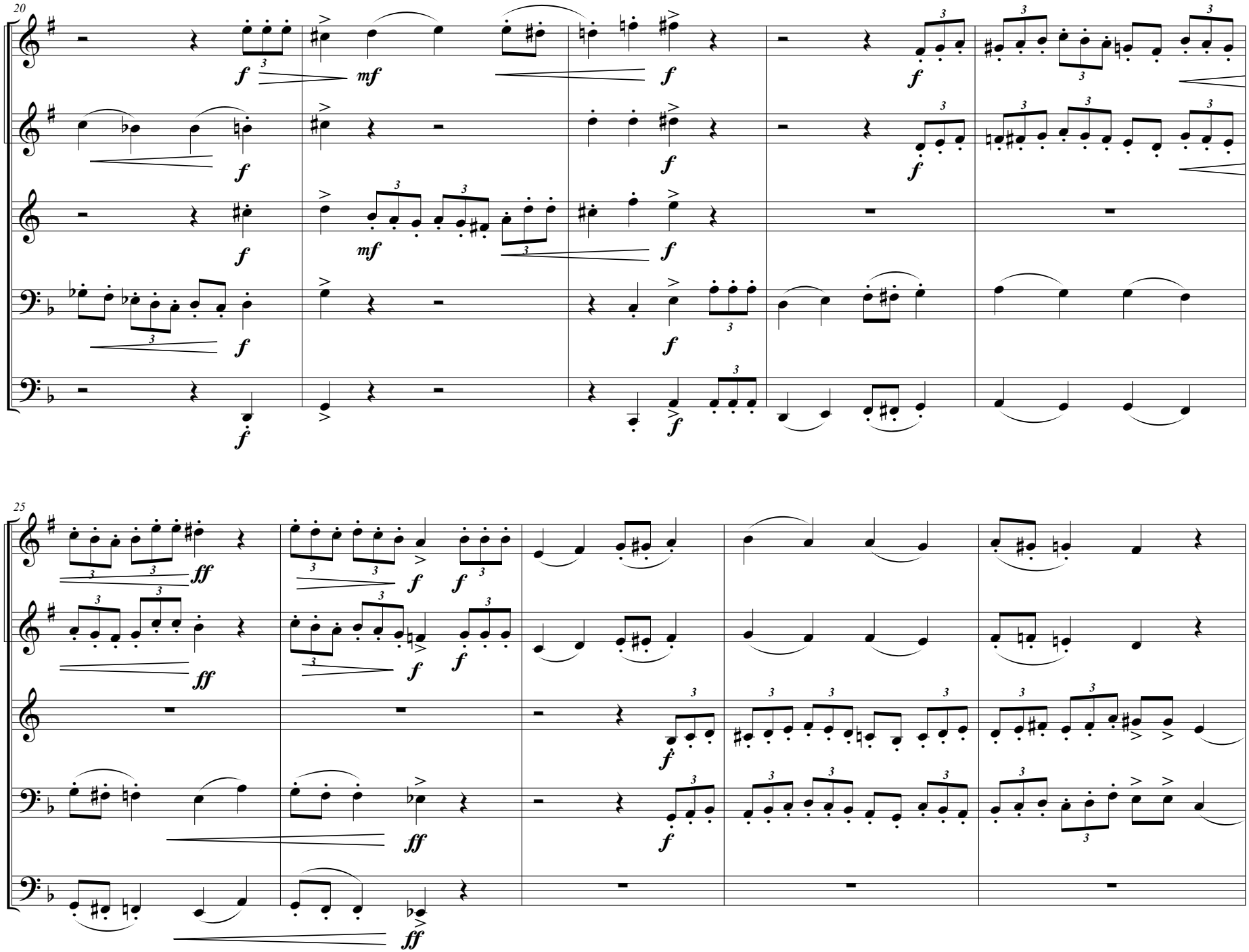
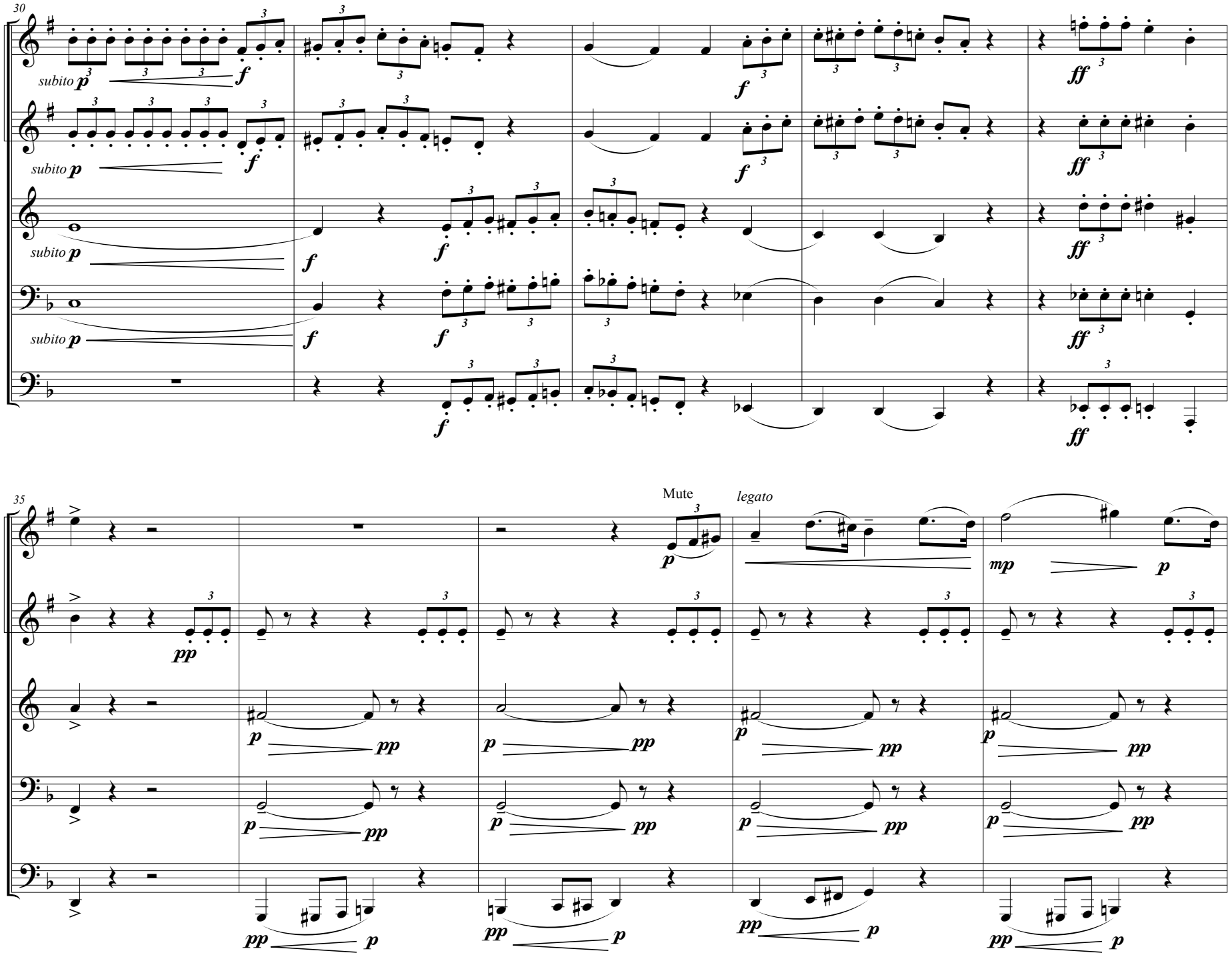
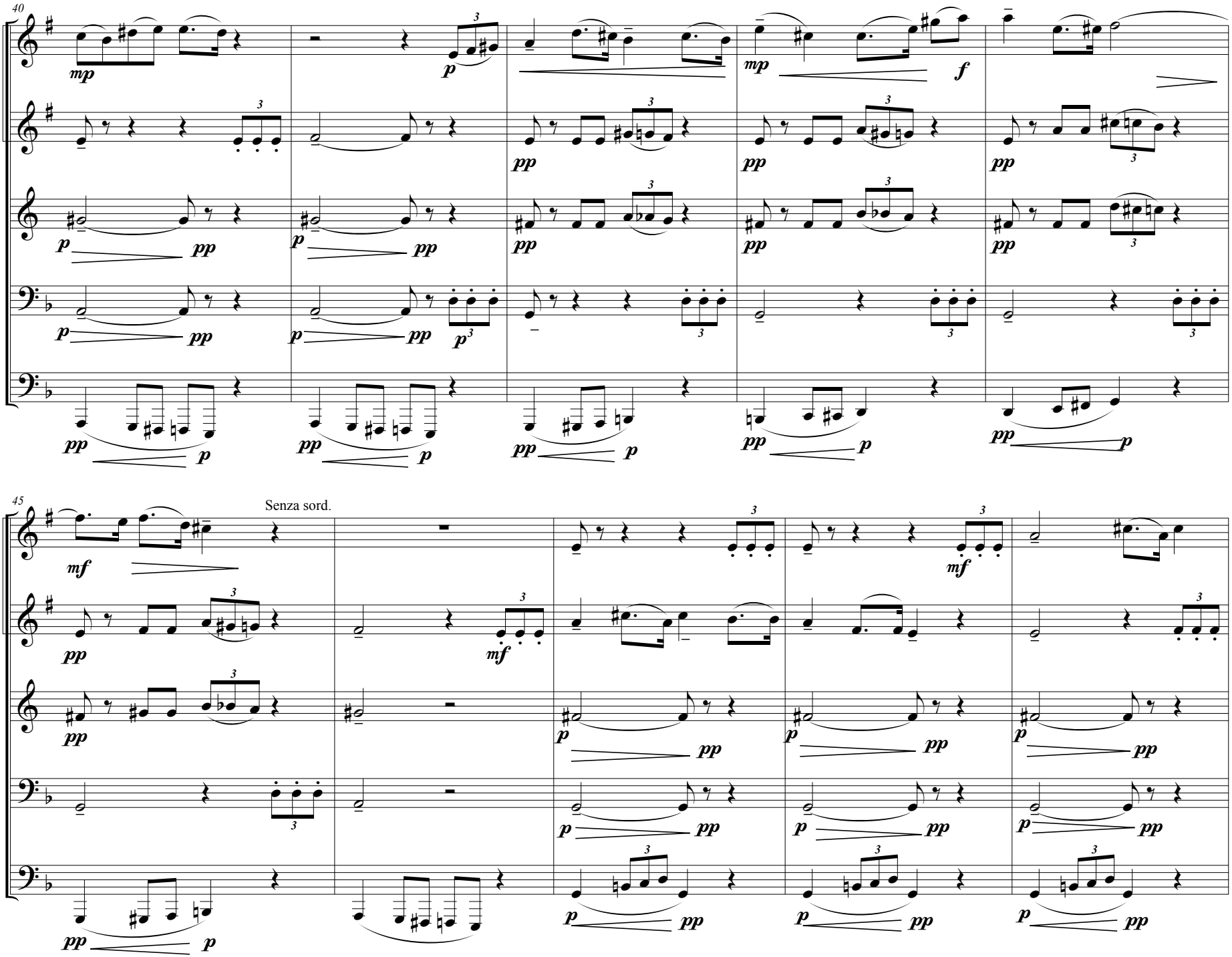
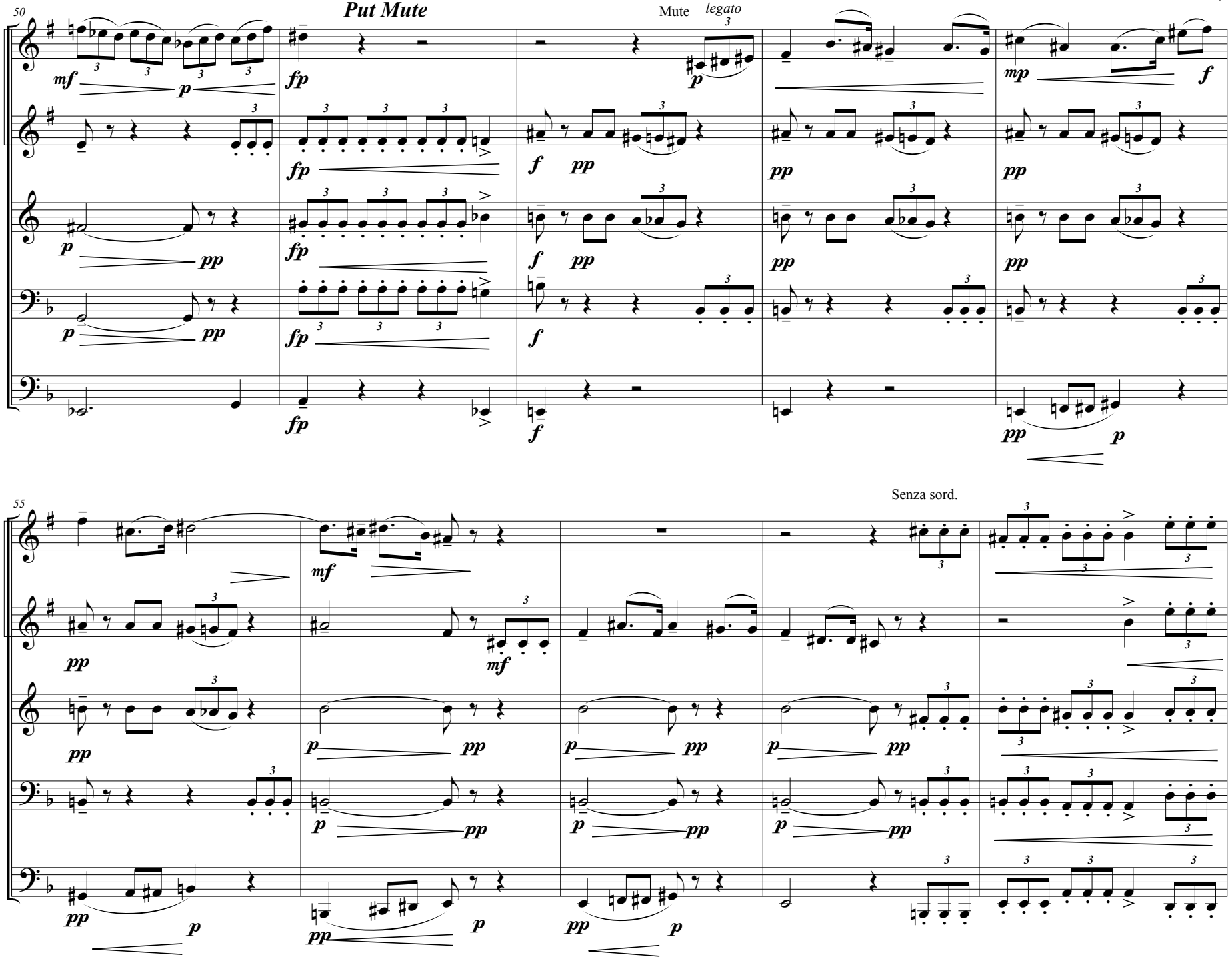
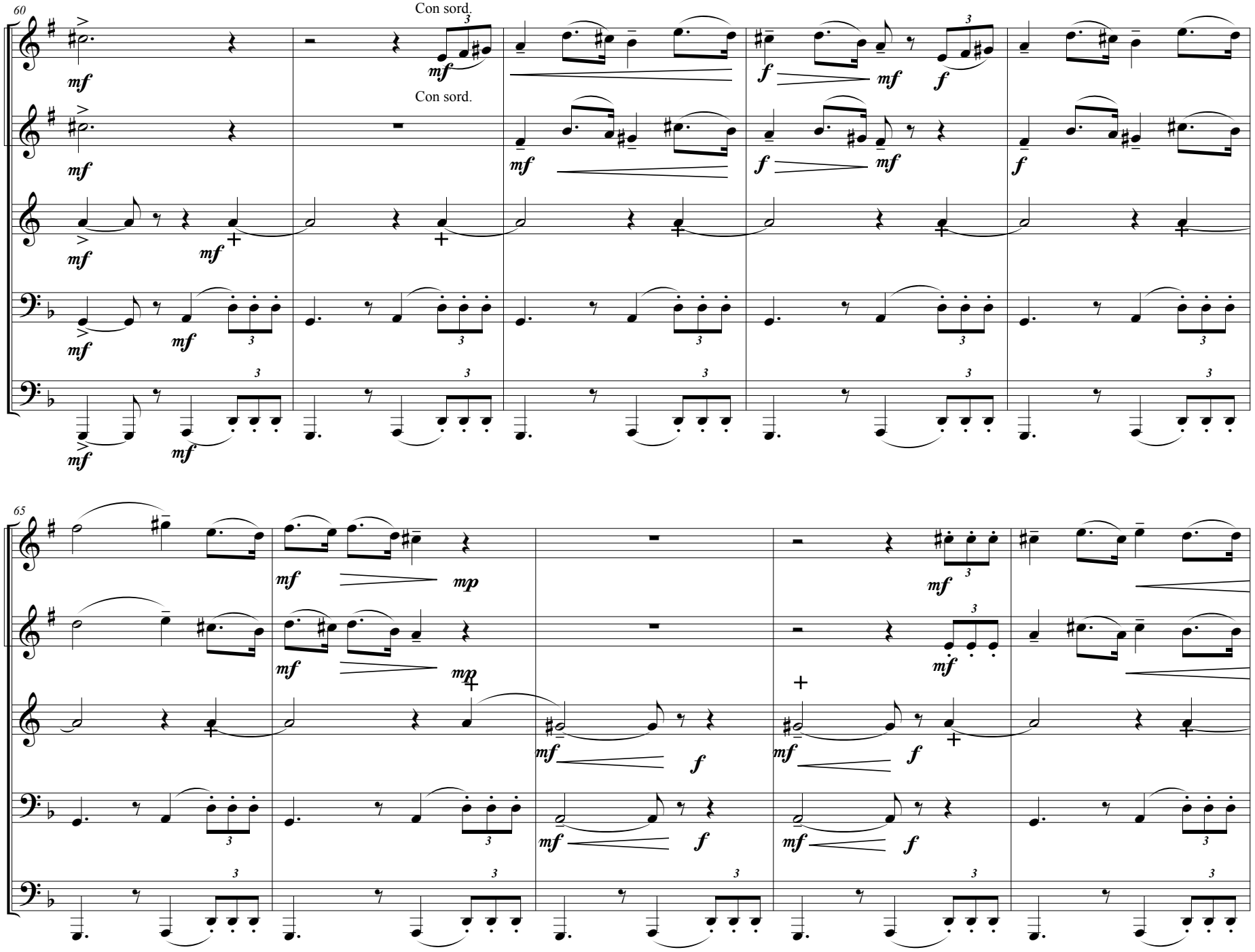

10
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
15
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba

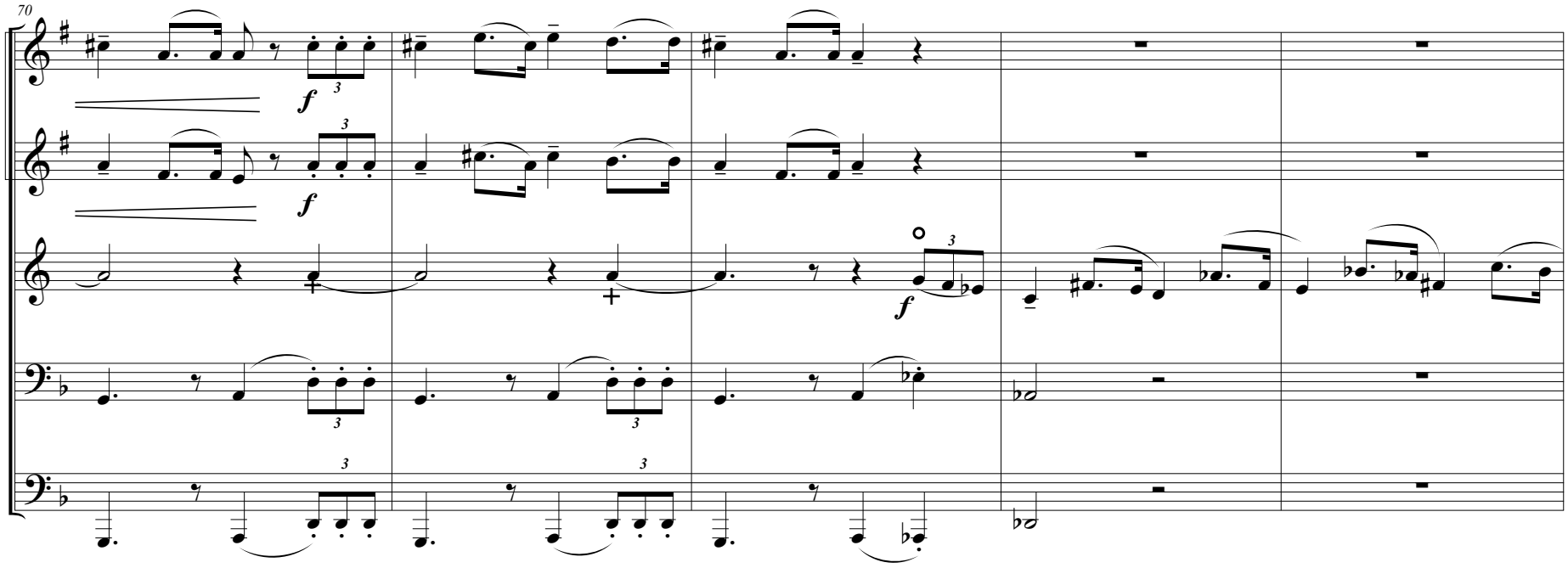

20
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
25
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba

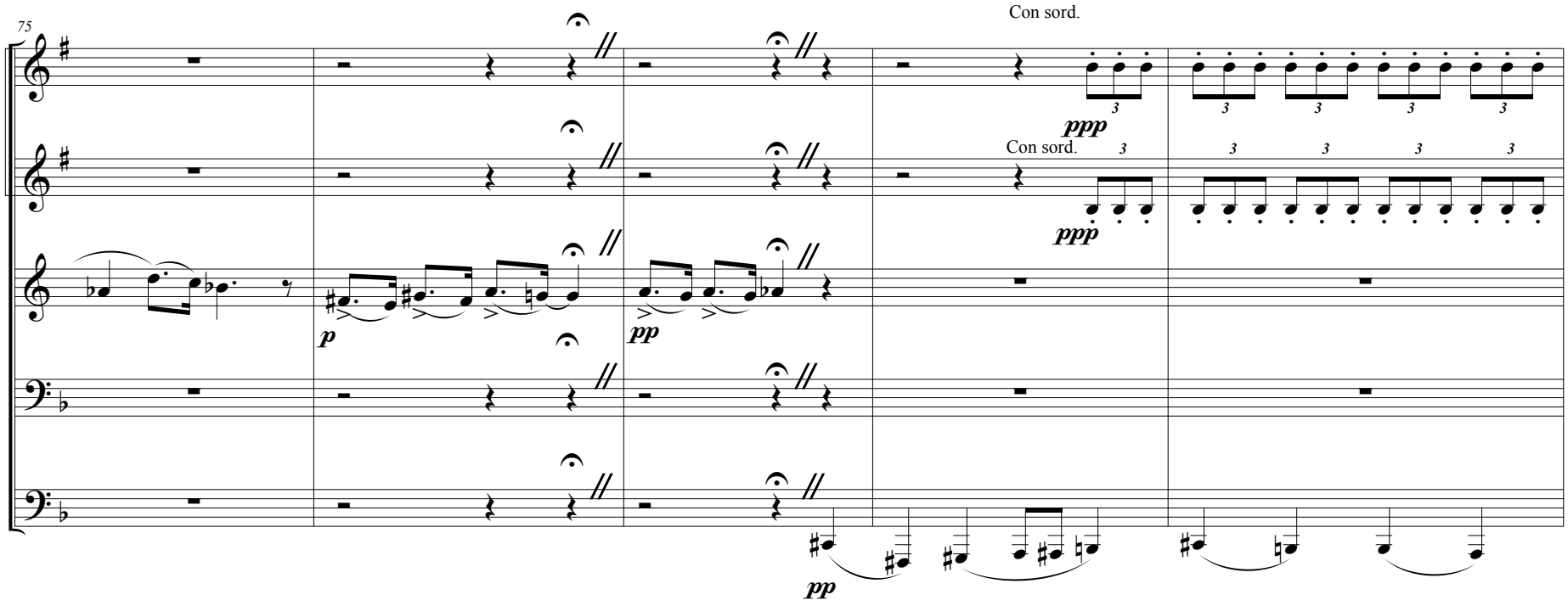

30
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
subito p
f
ff
35
Mute
legato
mp
pp

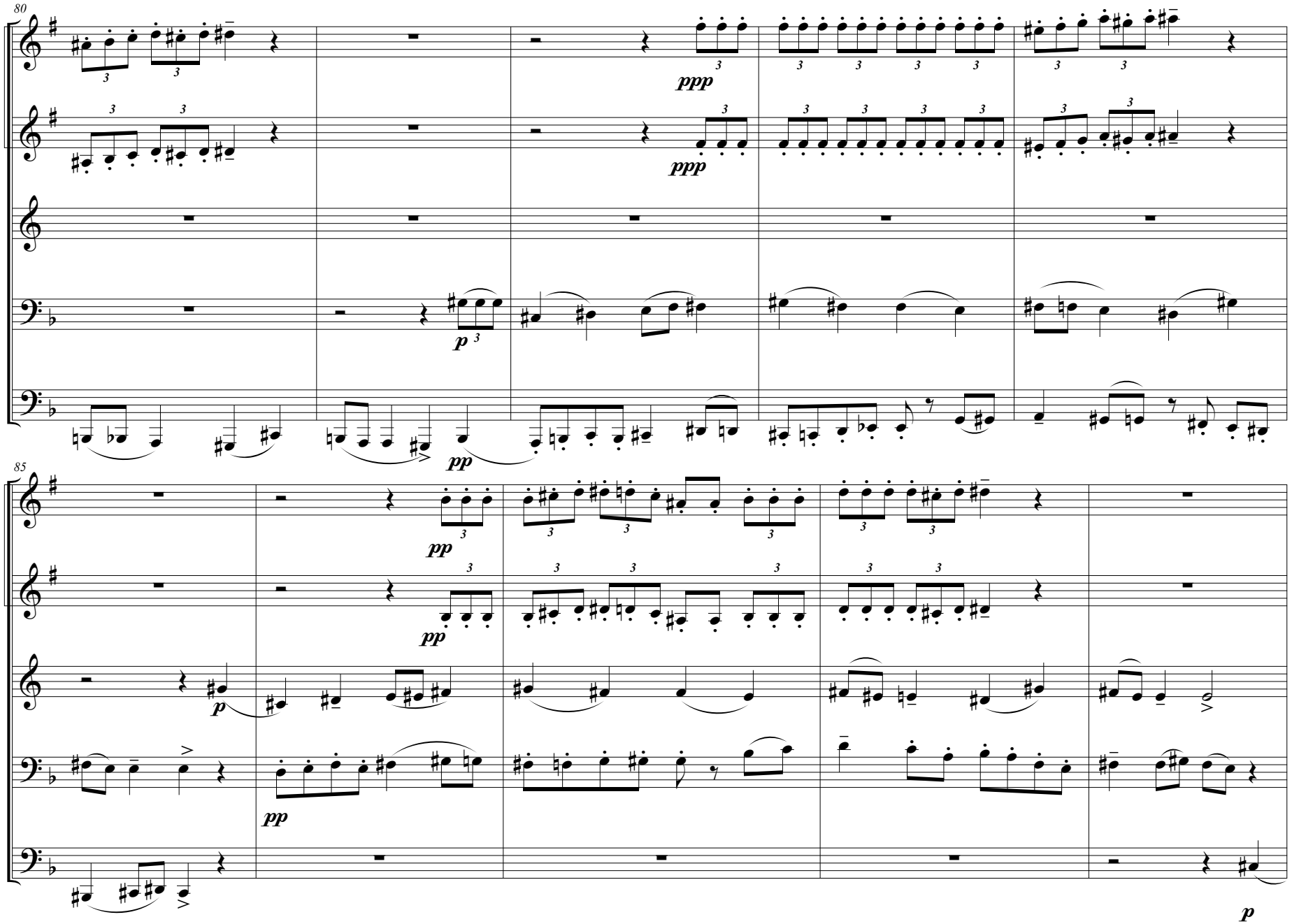

40
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
45
Senza sord.

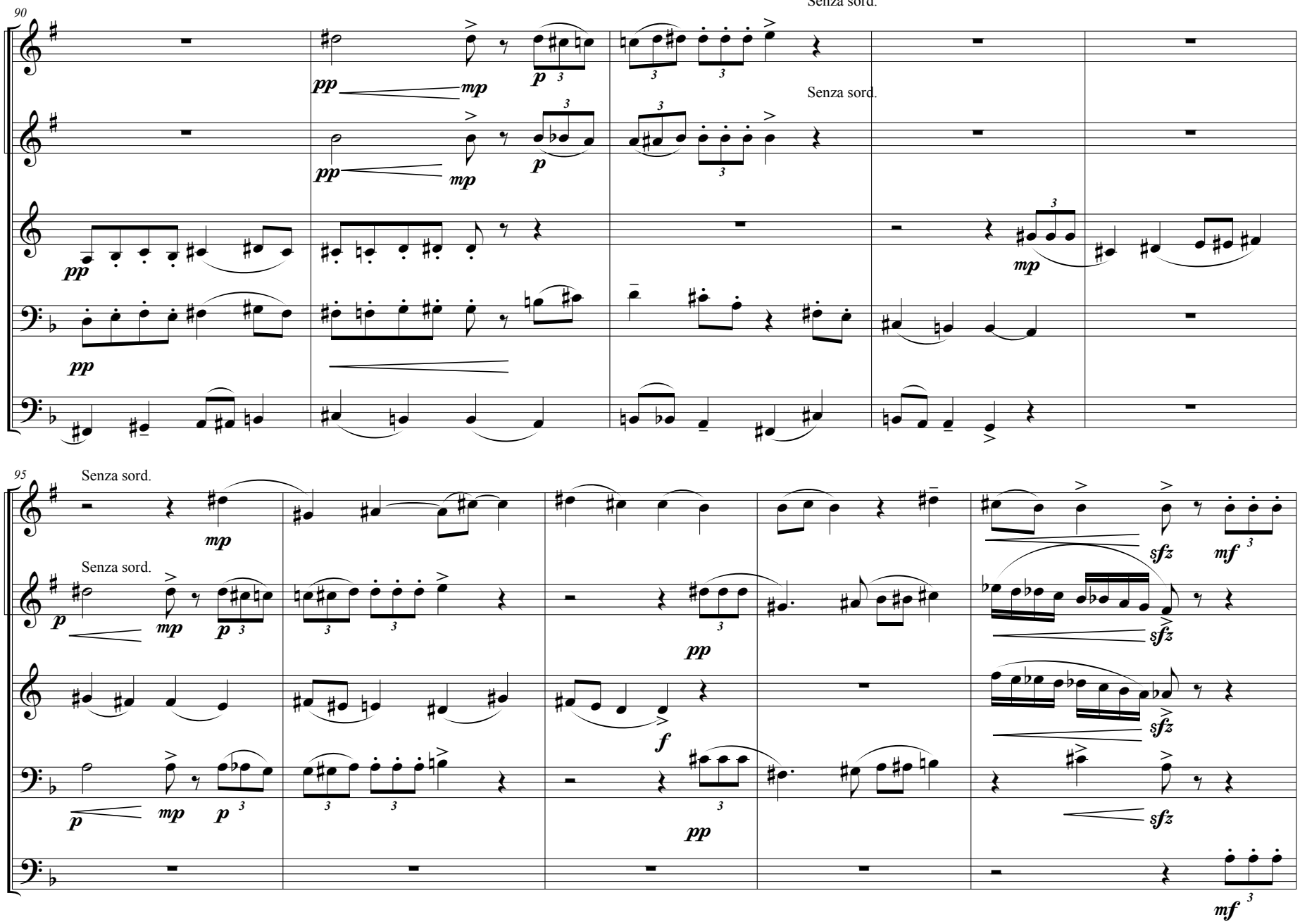

50
Put Mute
Mute
legato
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
55
Senza sord.

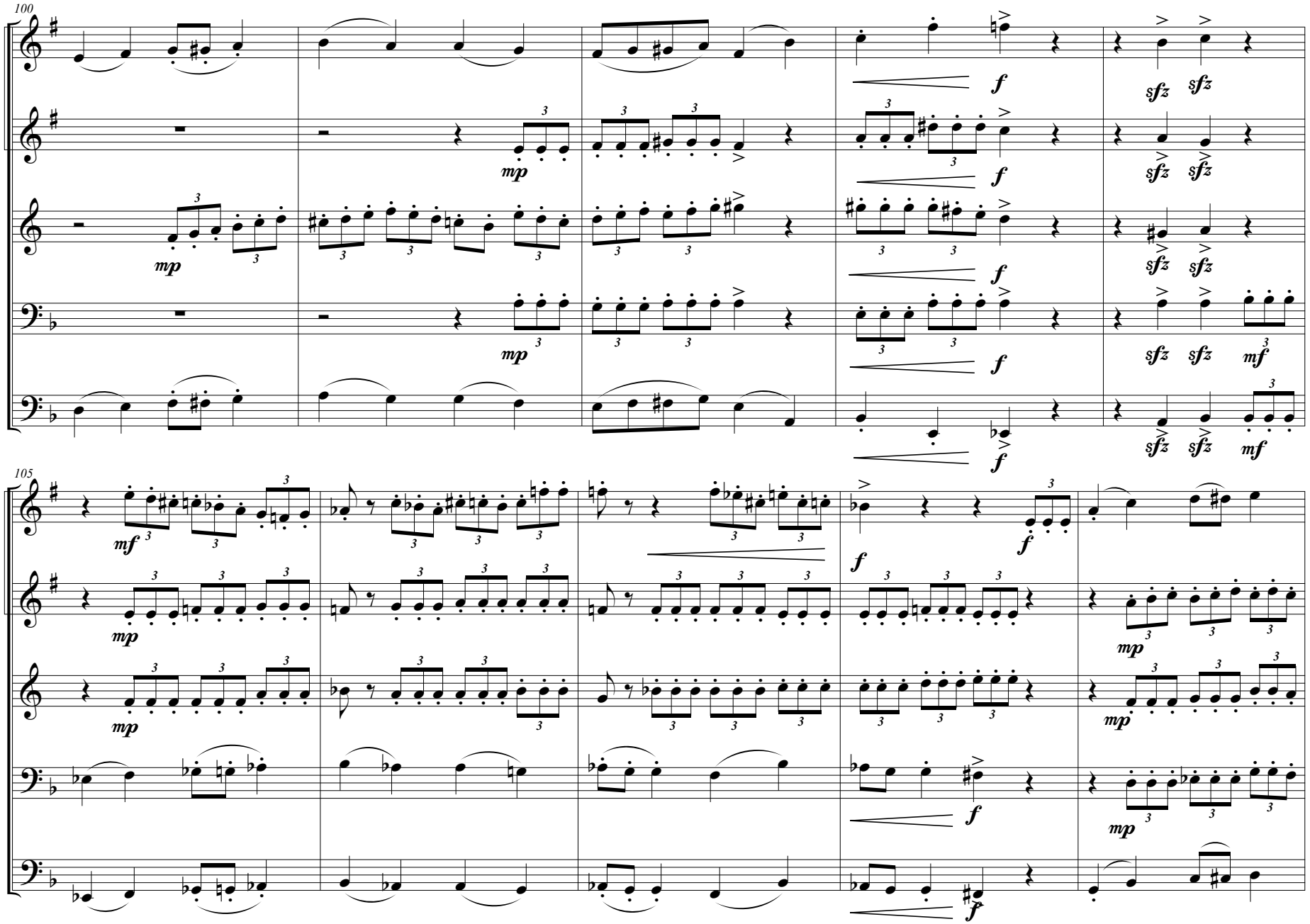

60
Con sord.
Con sord.
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
mf
f
mp
65

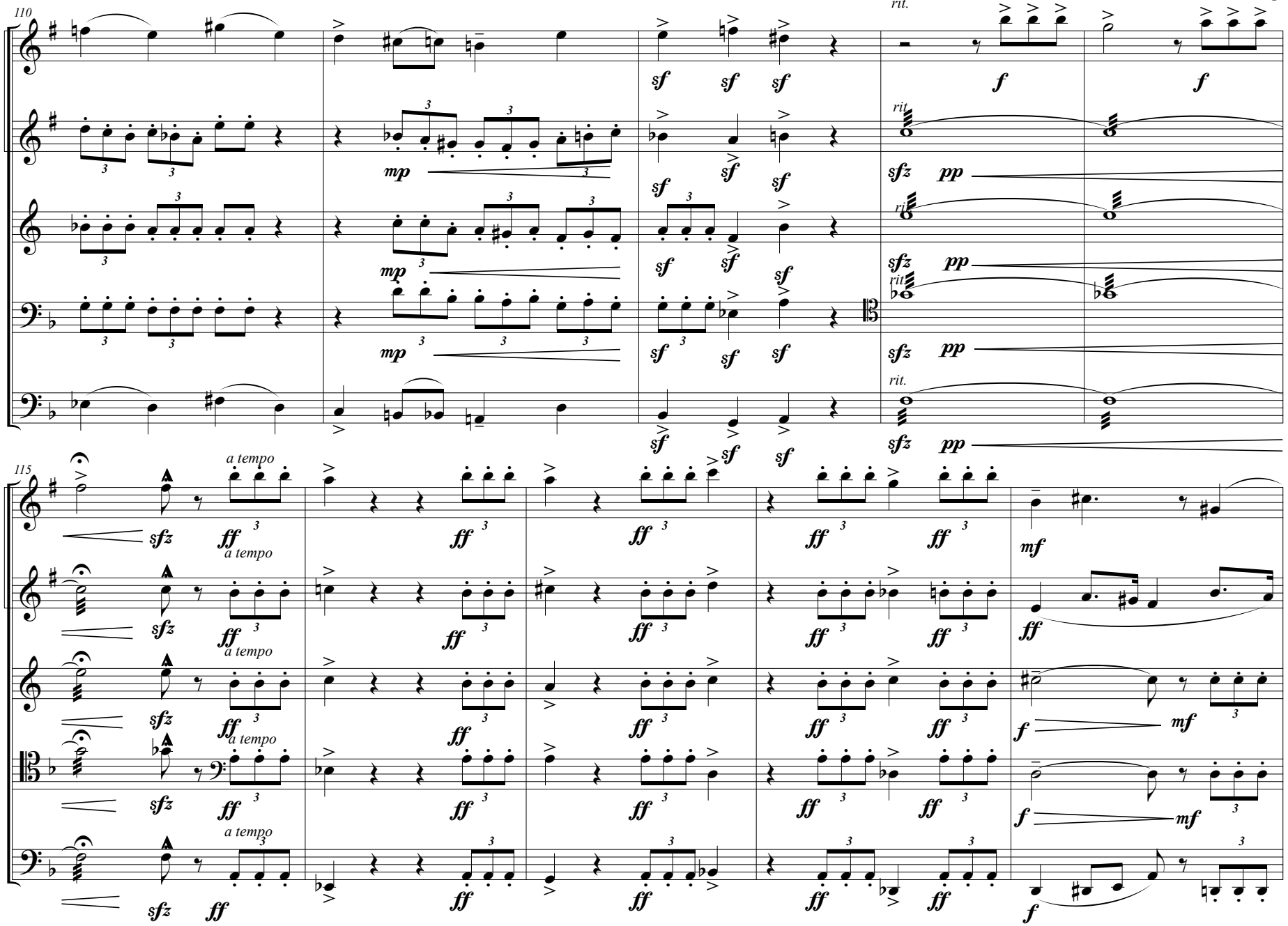

70
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
f
f
f

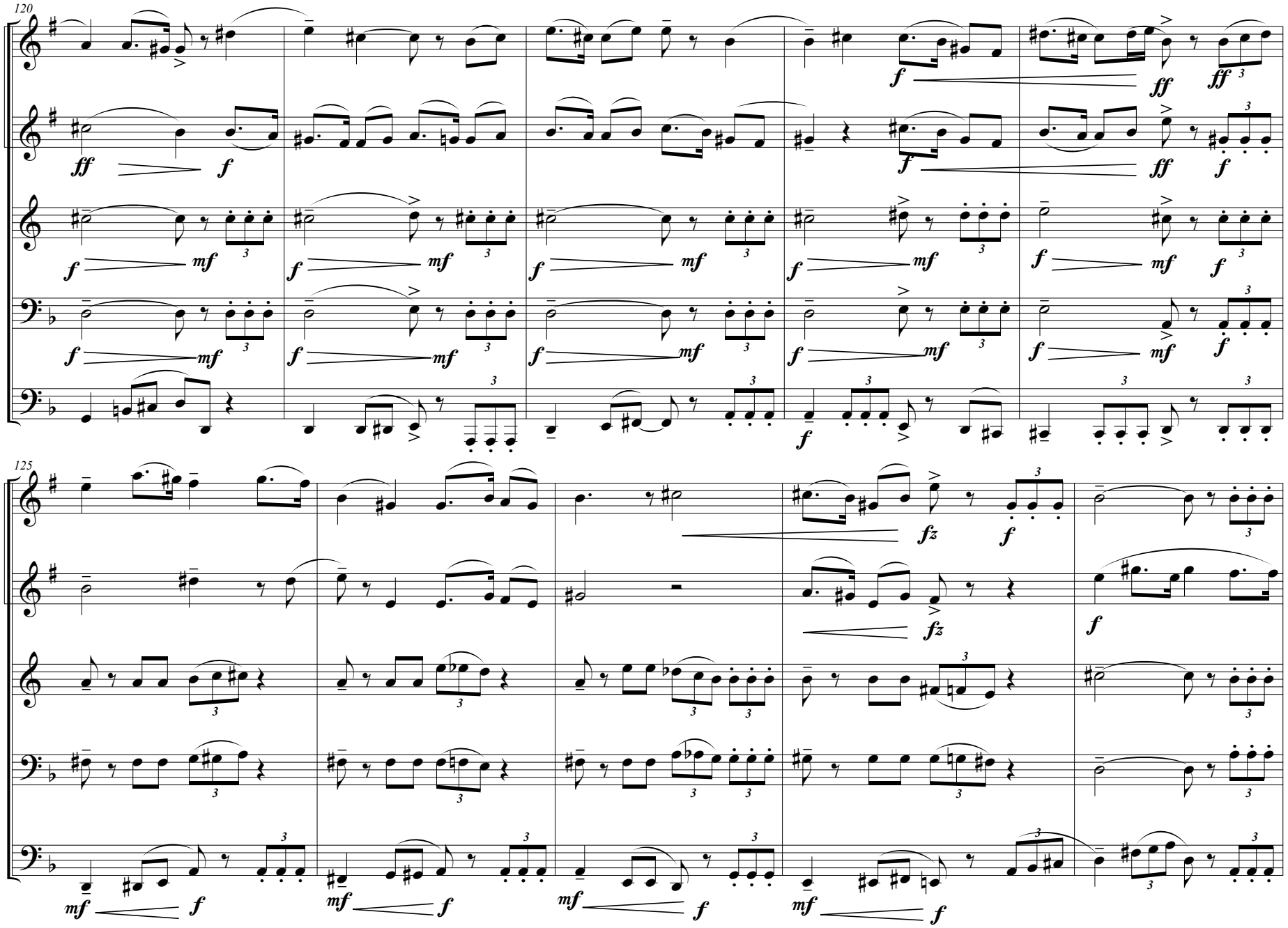

75
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
Con sord.
ppp
Con sord.
ppp
p
pp
pp

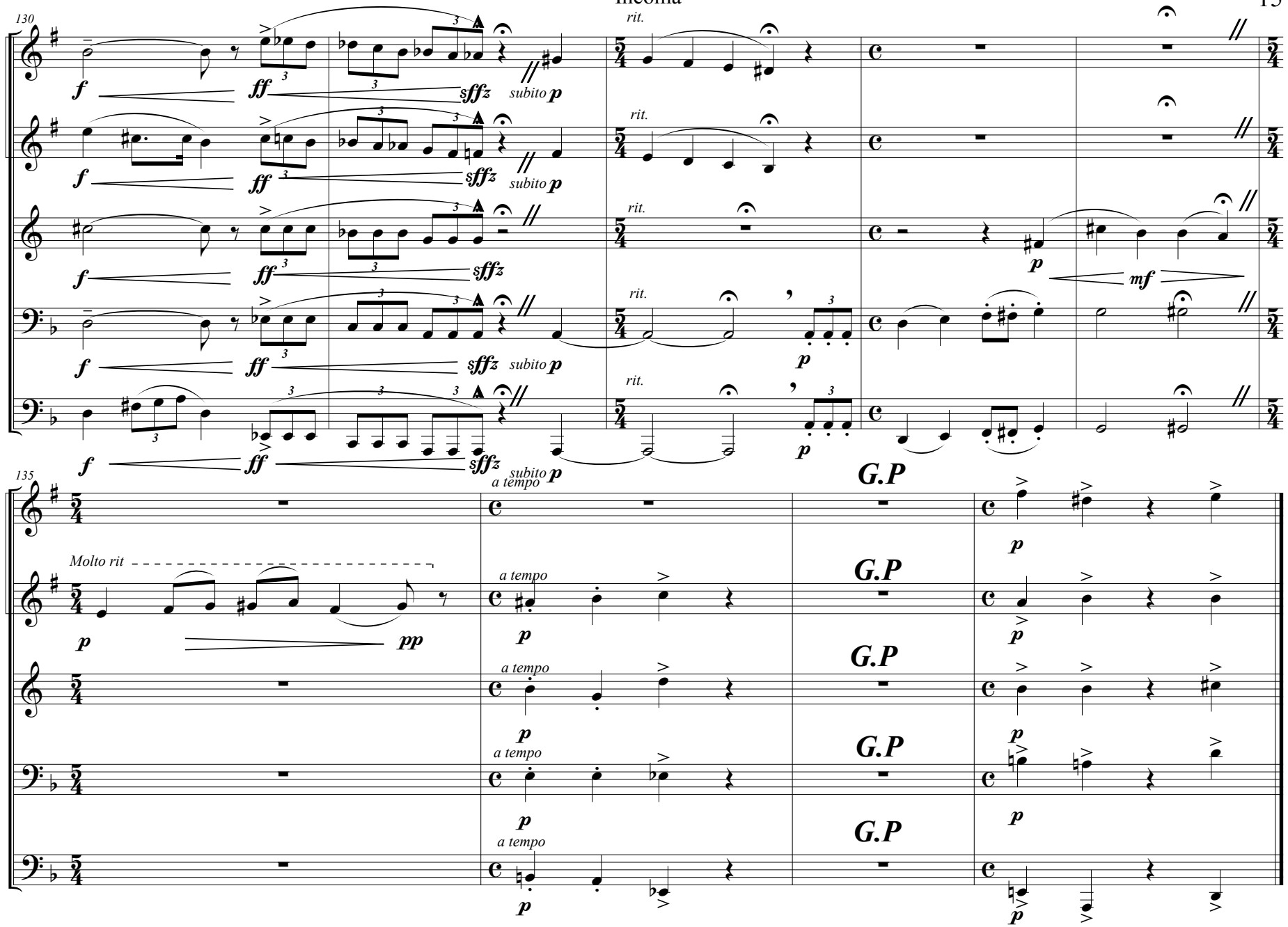

80
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
ppp
p
pp
85
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
pp
p


90
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
Senza sord.
Senza sord.
95
Senza sord.
Senza sord.


100
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
105
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba


110
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
rit.
sf
mp
sfz
pp
f
115
a tempo
ff
mf


120
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
125
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba


130
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
f
ff
sffz
subito p
rit.
p
mf
135
a tempo
Molto rit
pp
G.P

Iheoma

Chorale

II

Adagio Religioso ♩= 40

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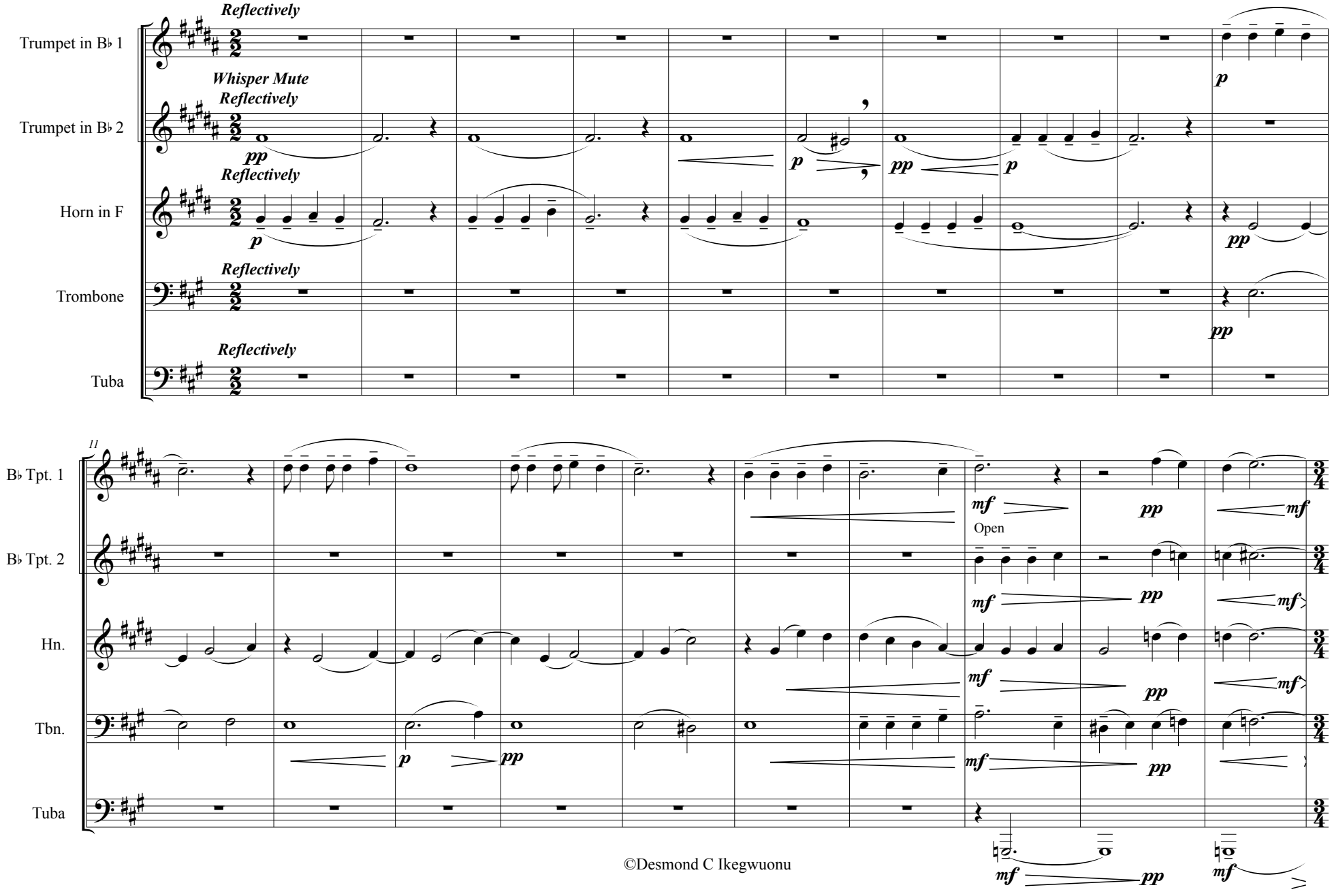

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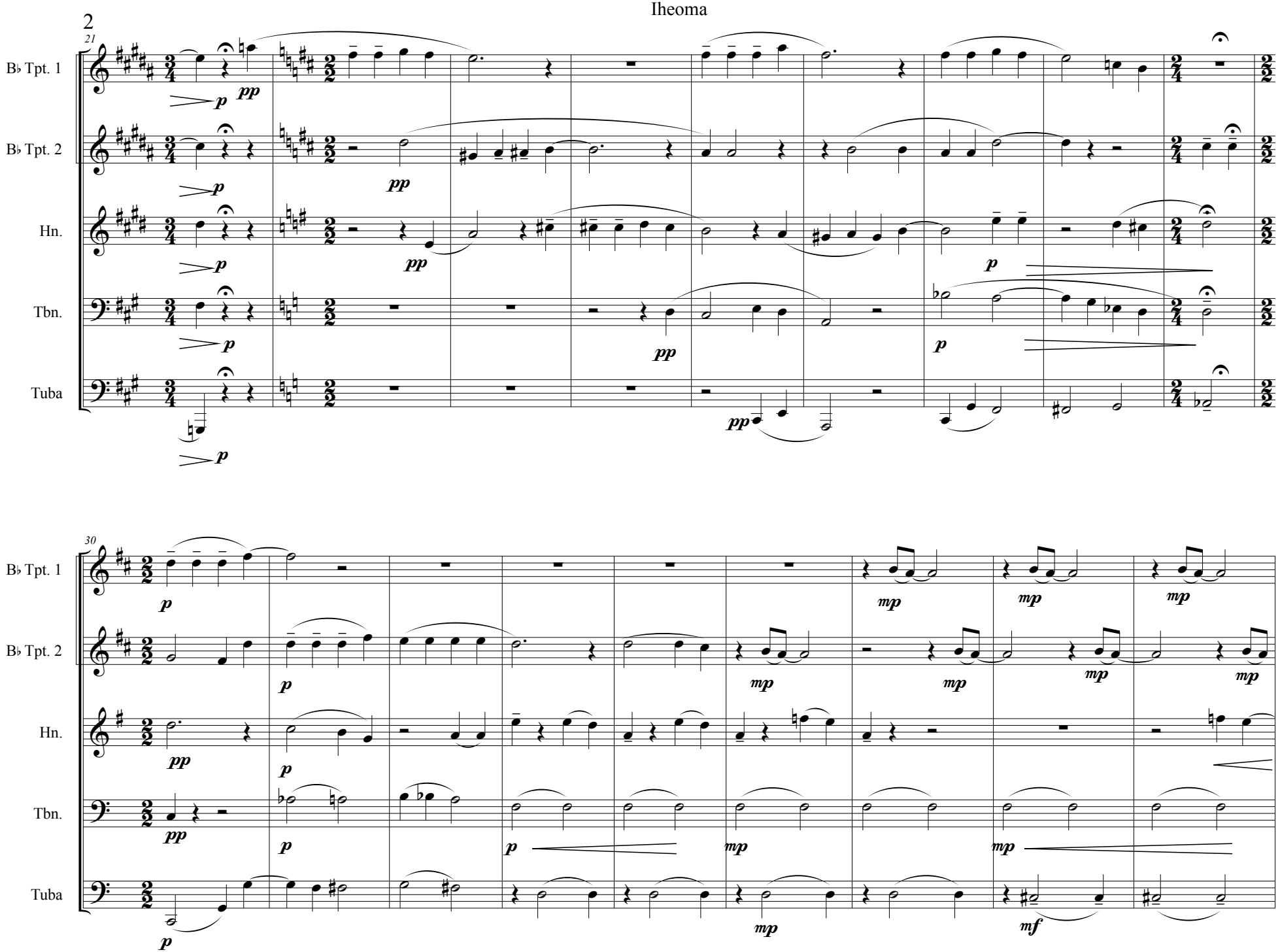
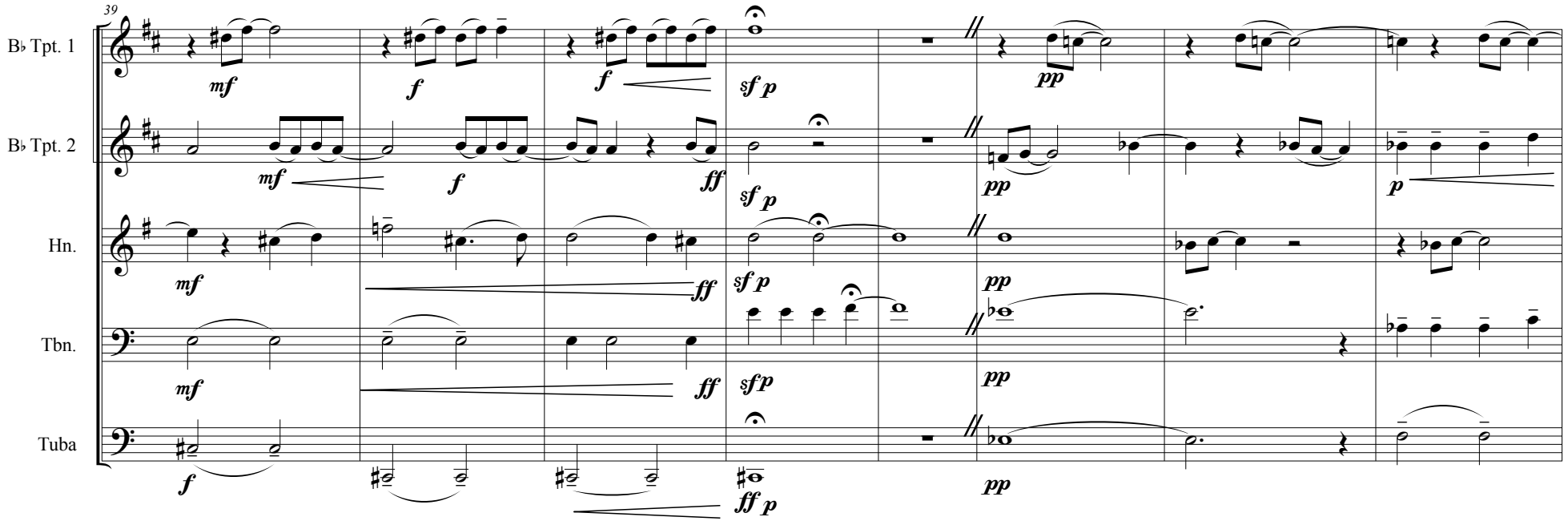
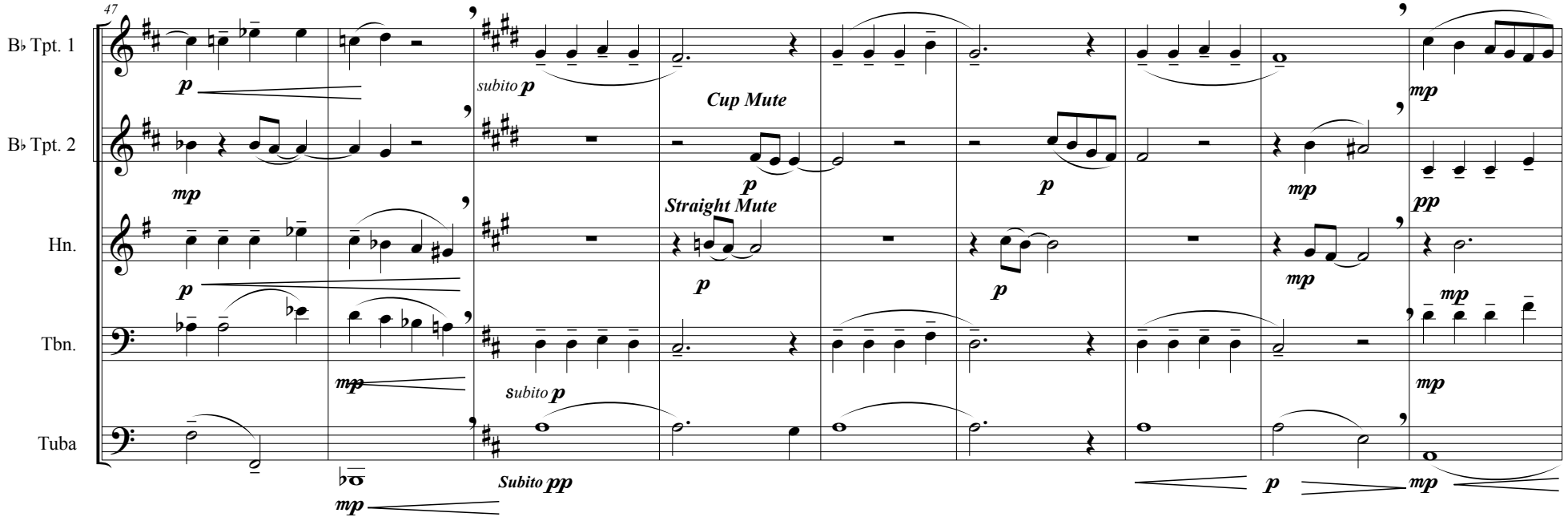
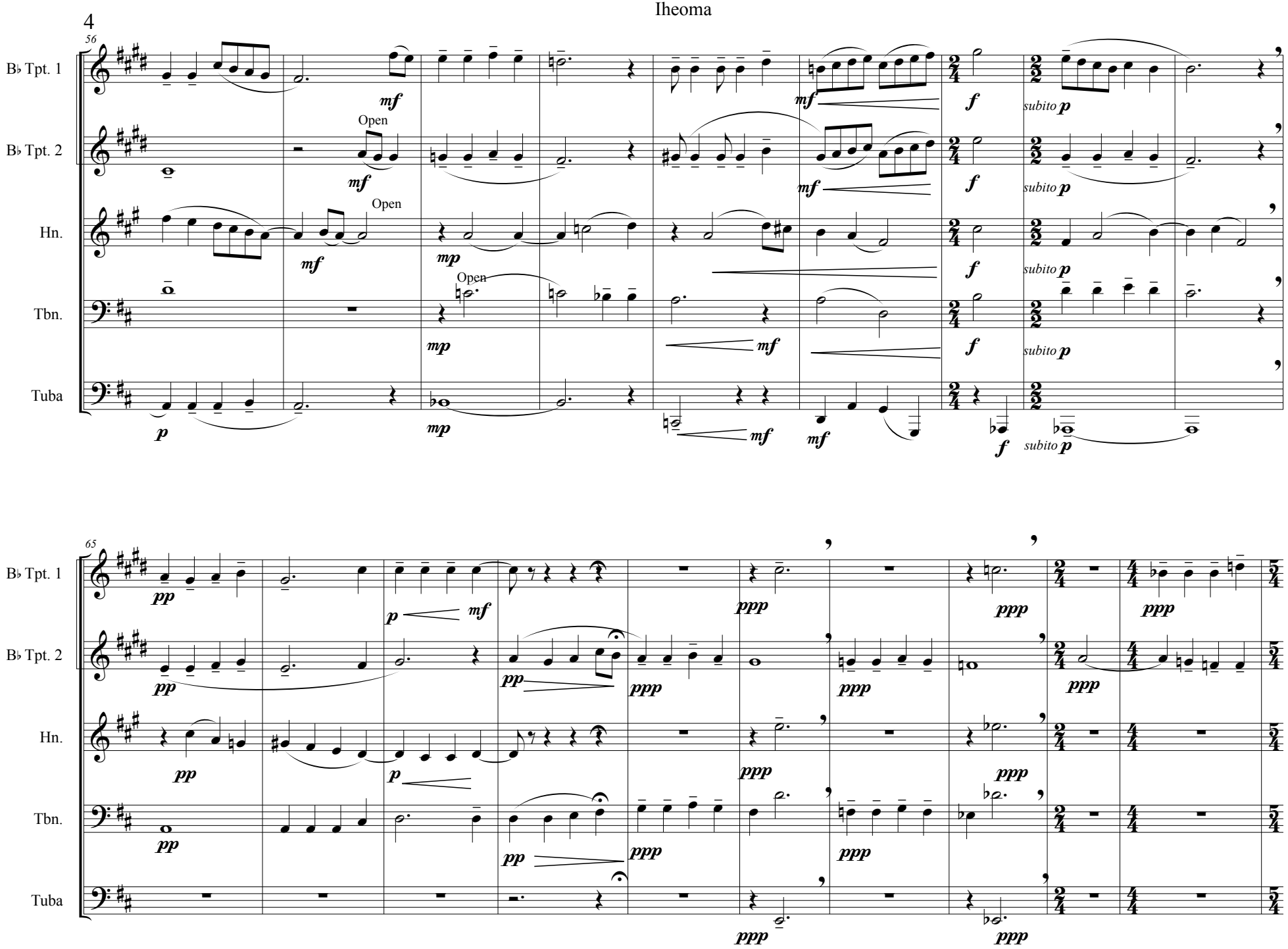
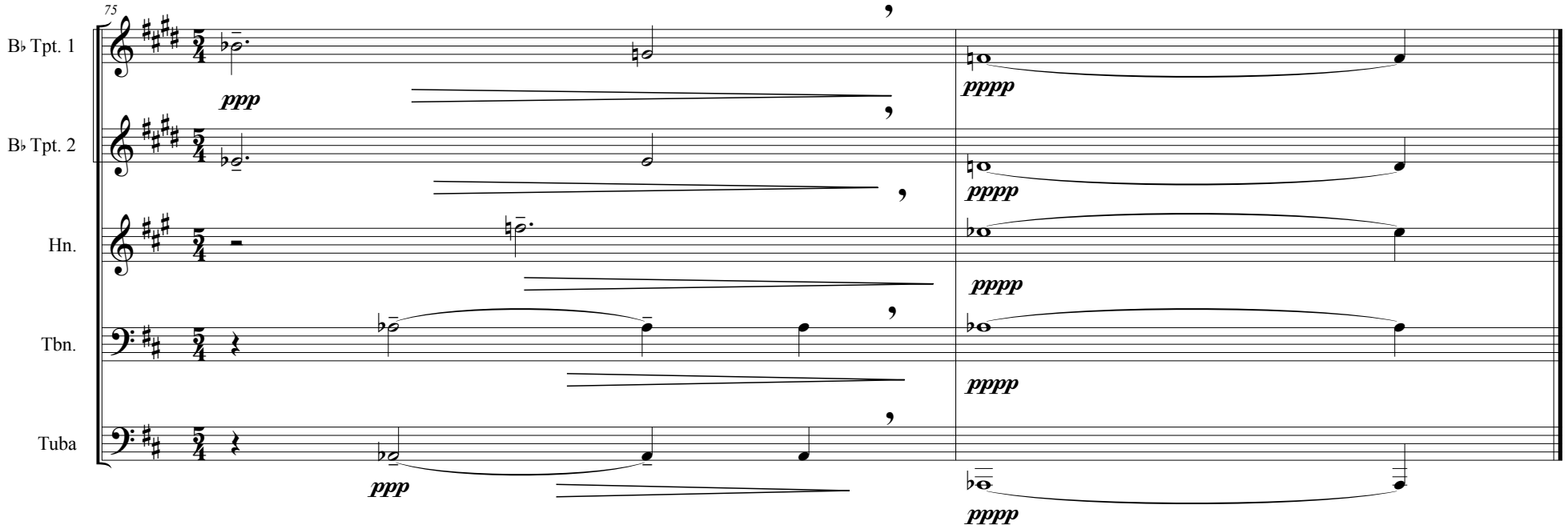

21
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
30
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba


39
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
mf
f
ff
sf p
pp
p


47
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
p
mp
subito p
Cup Mute
Straight Mute
Subito pp
pp


56
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
Open
Open
Open
mf
mp
f
subito p
p
65
pp
ppp


75
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
ppp
pppp
pppp
pppp
pppp
ppp
pppp

Iheoma

Finale

III

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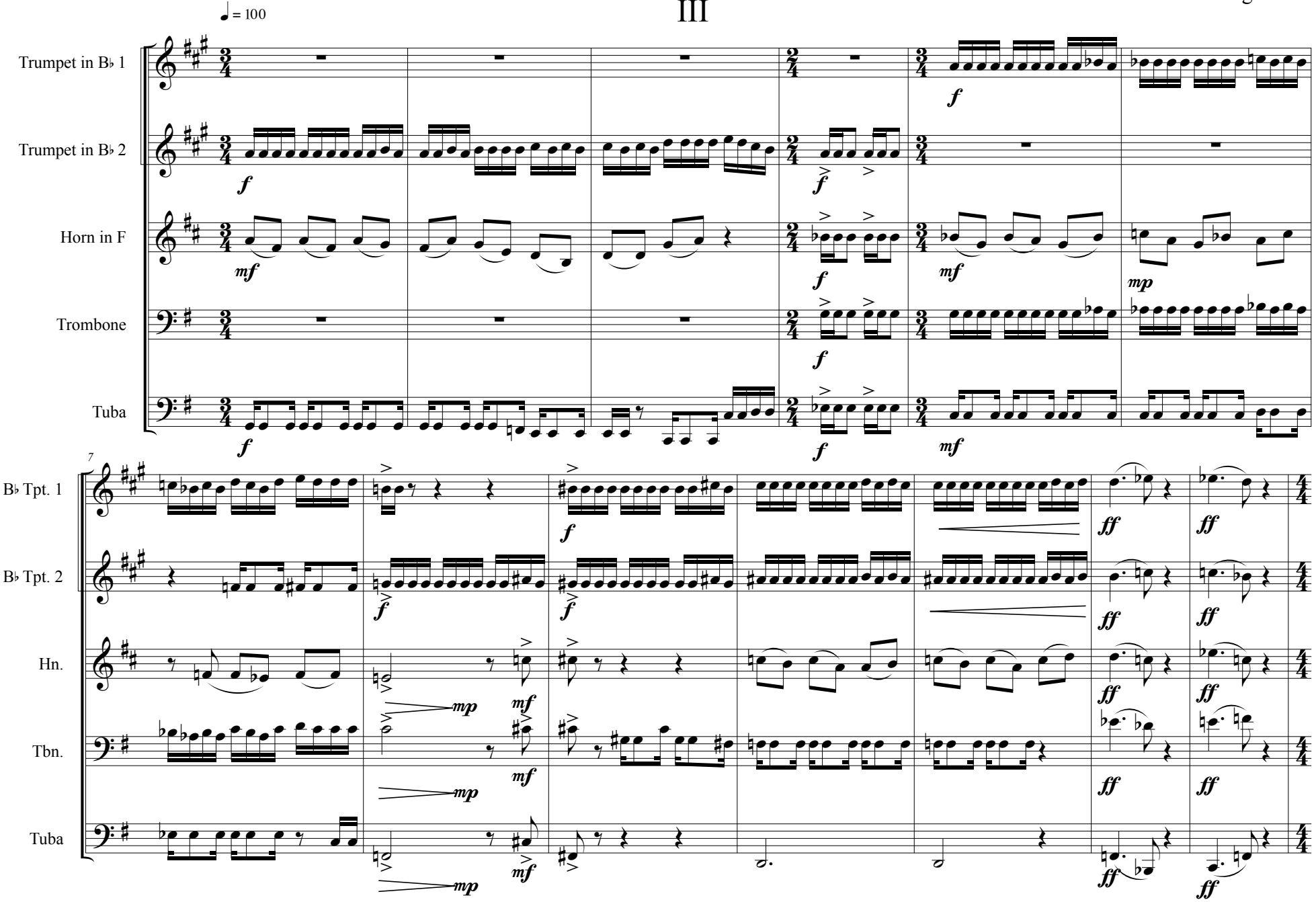

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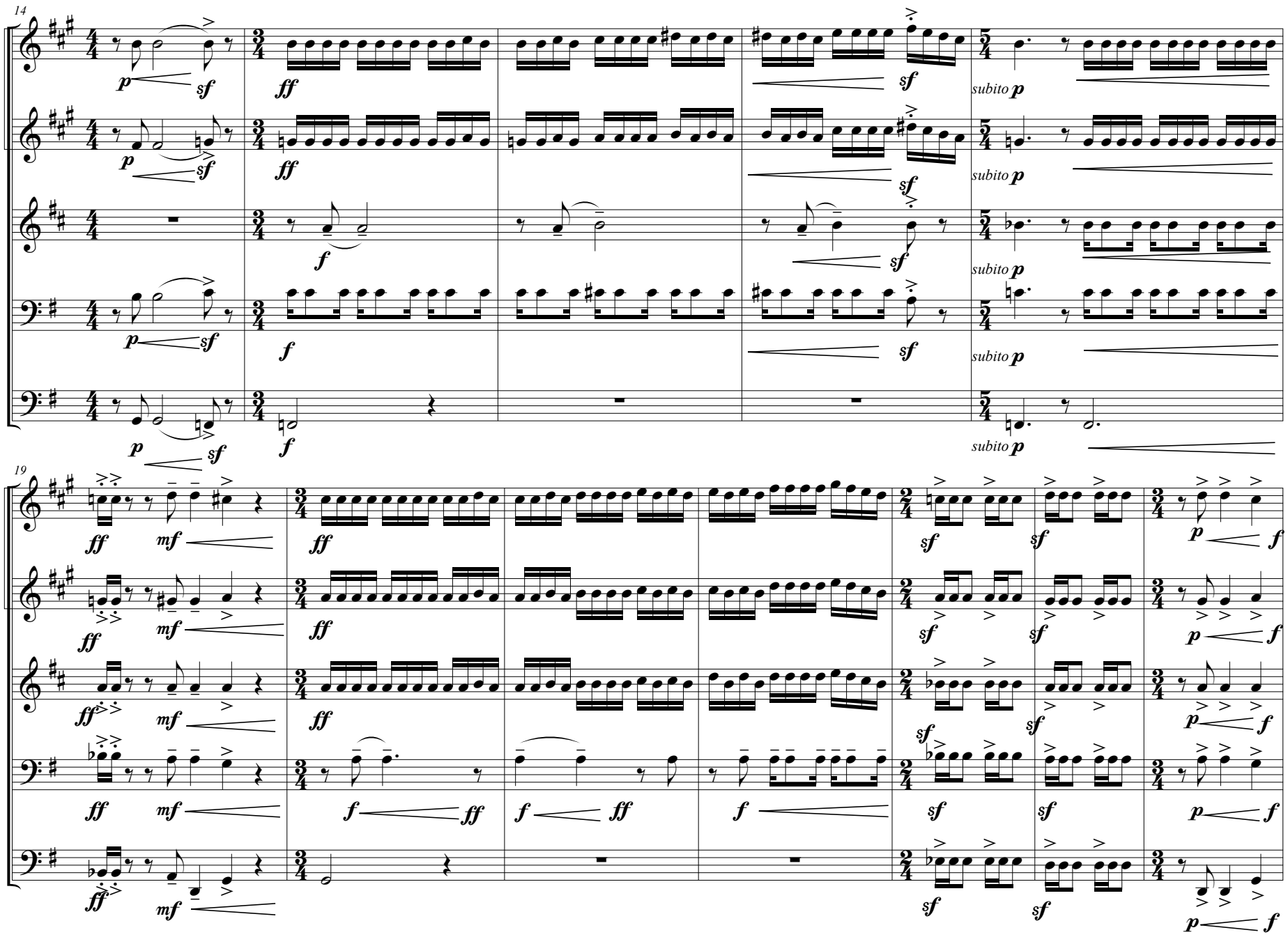
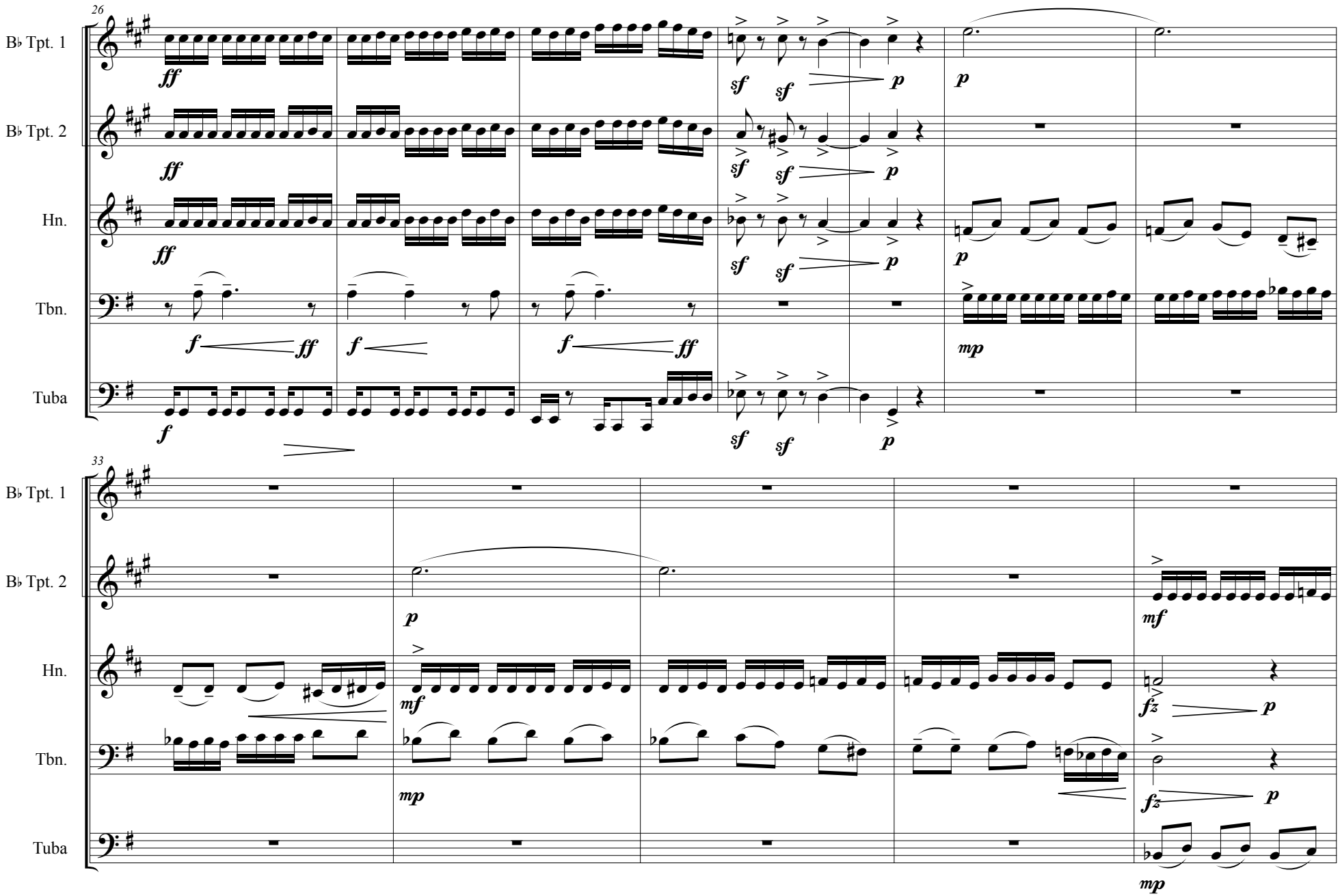
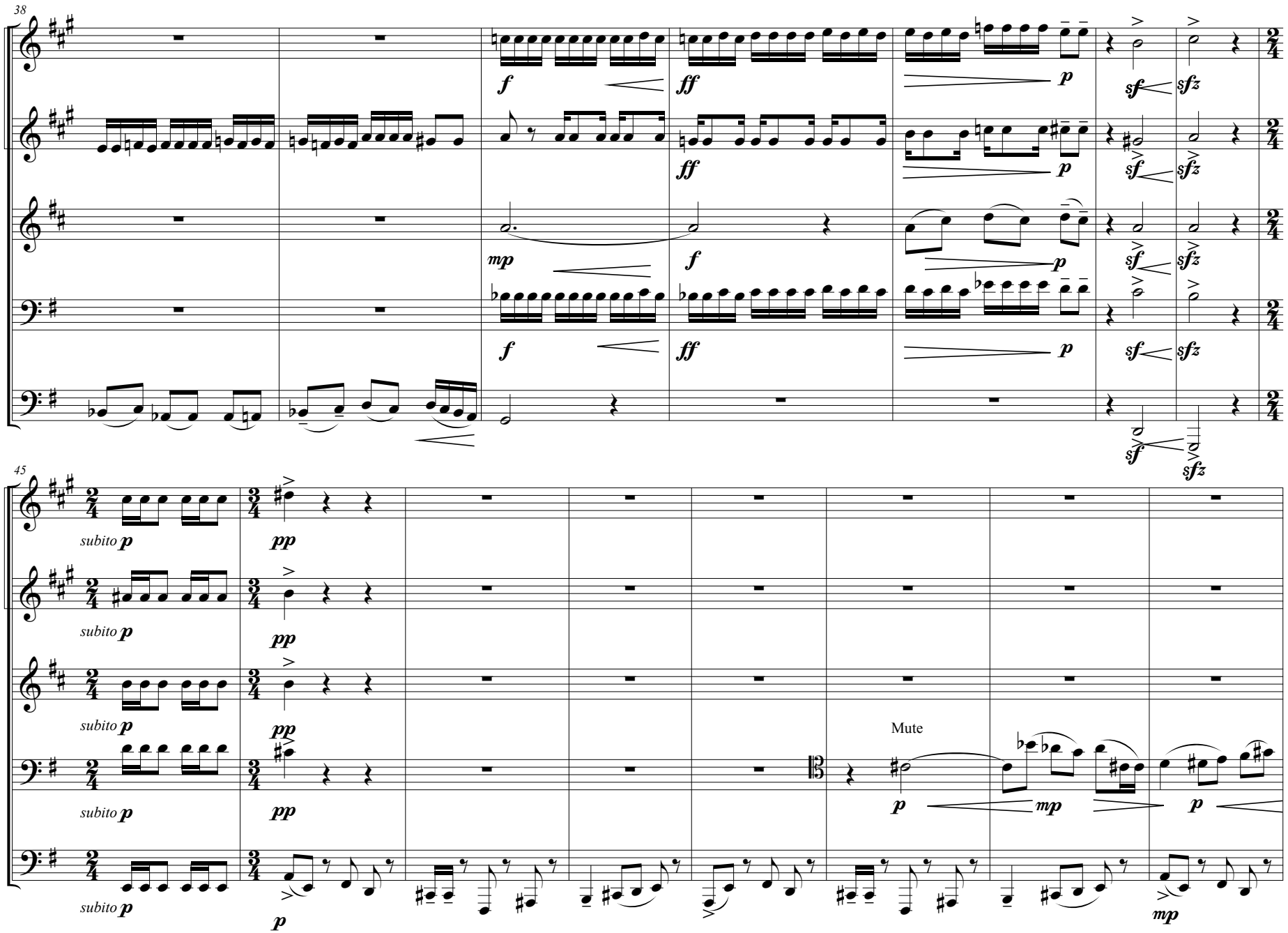
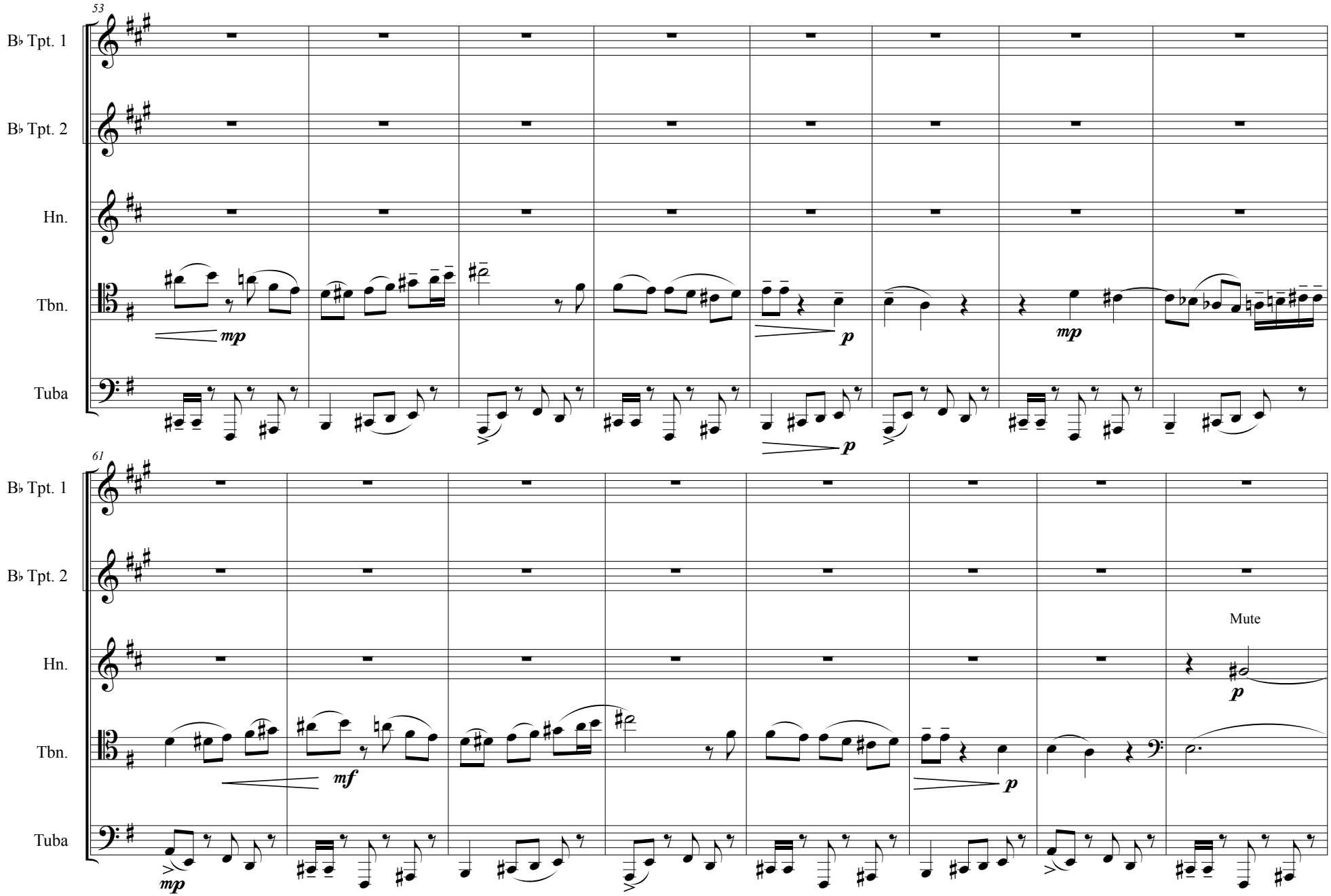
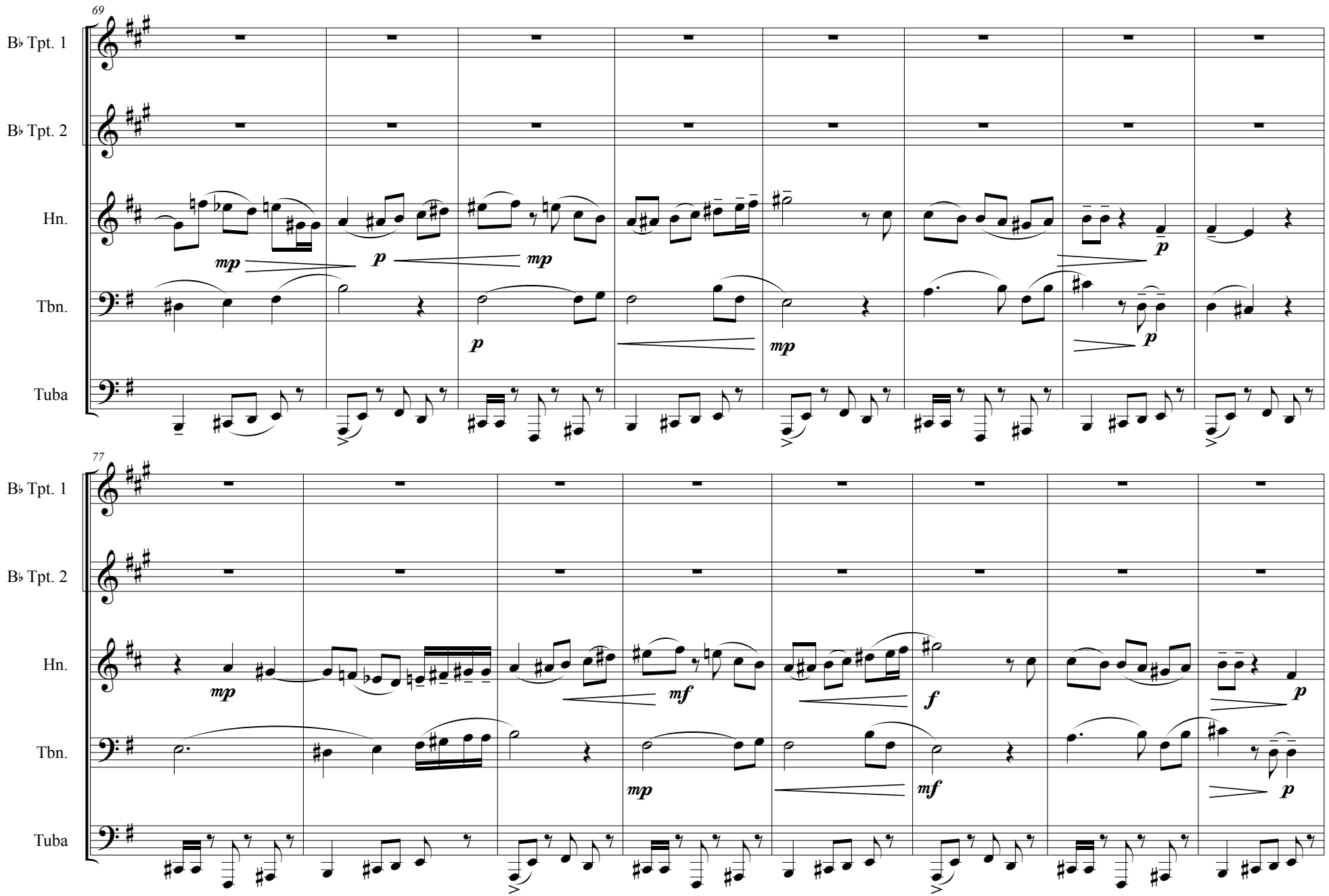
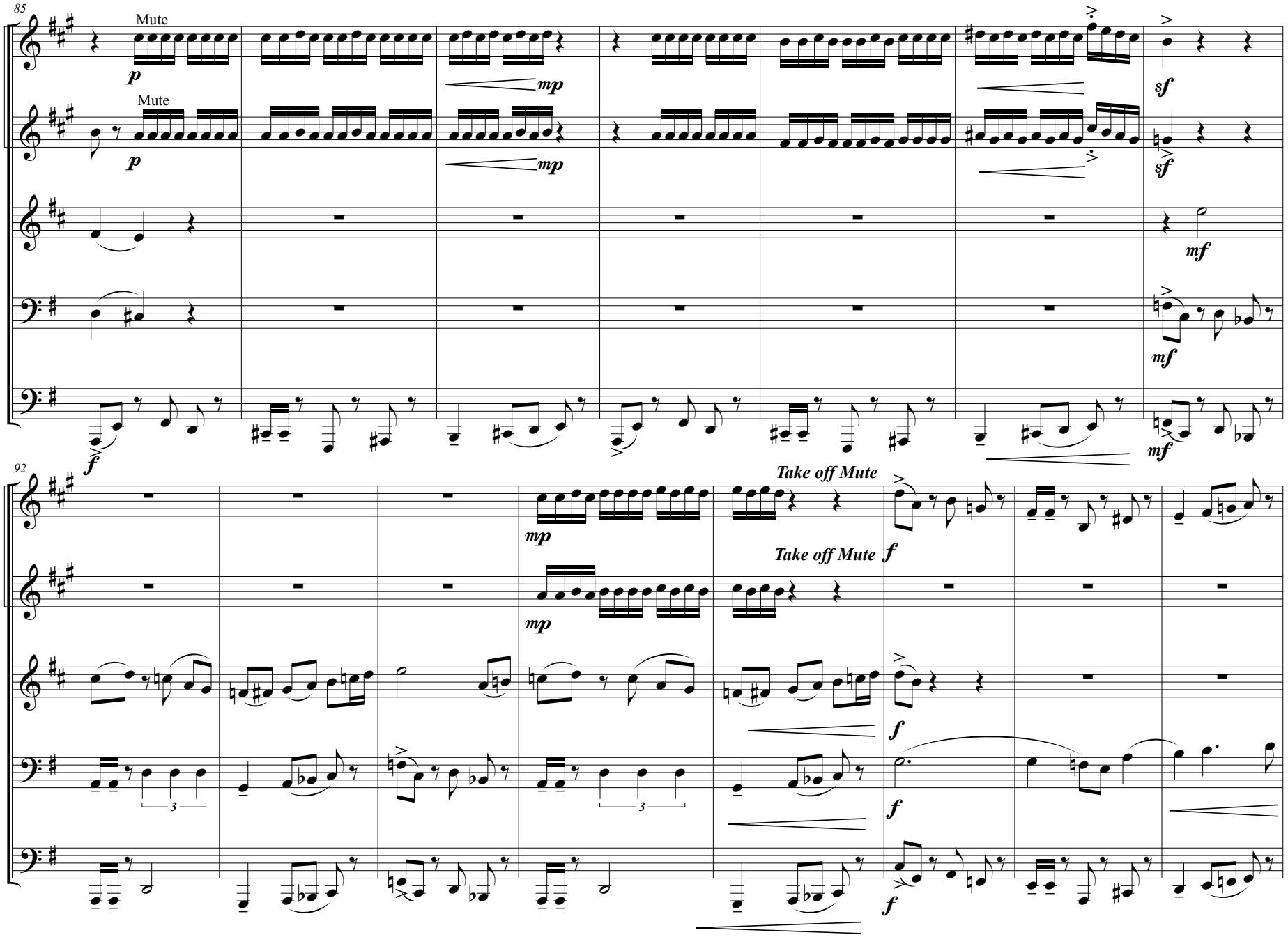

14
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
subito p
19

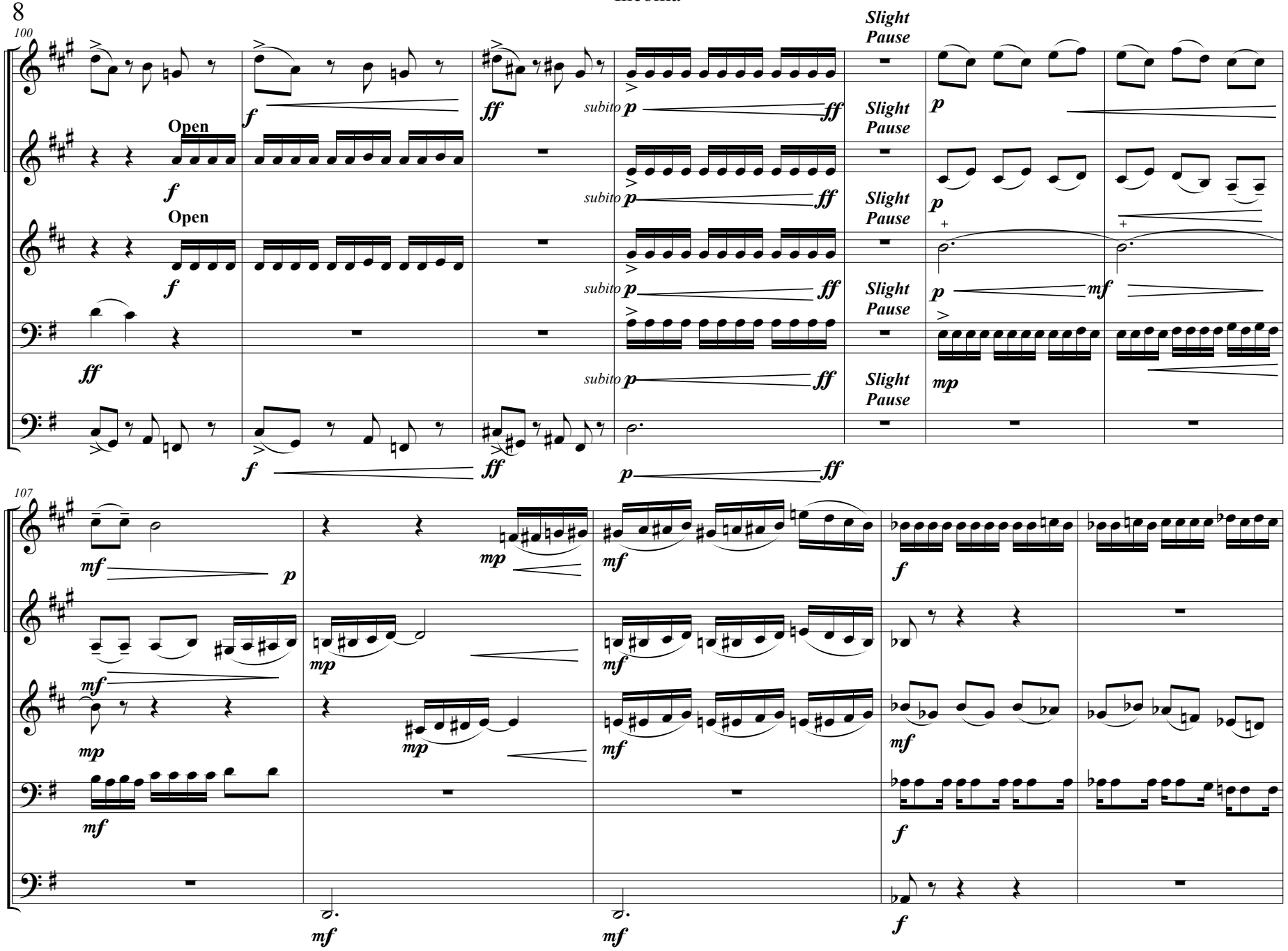

26
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
33
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba

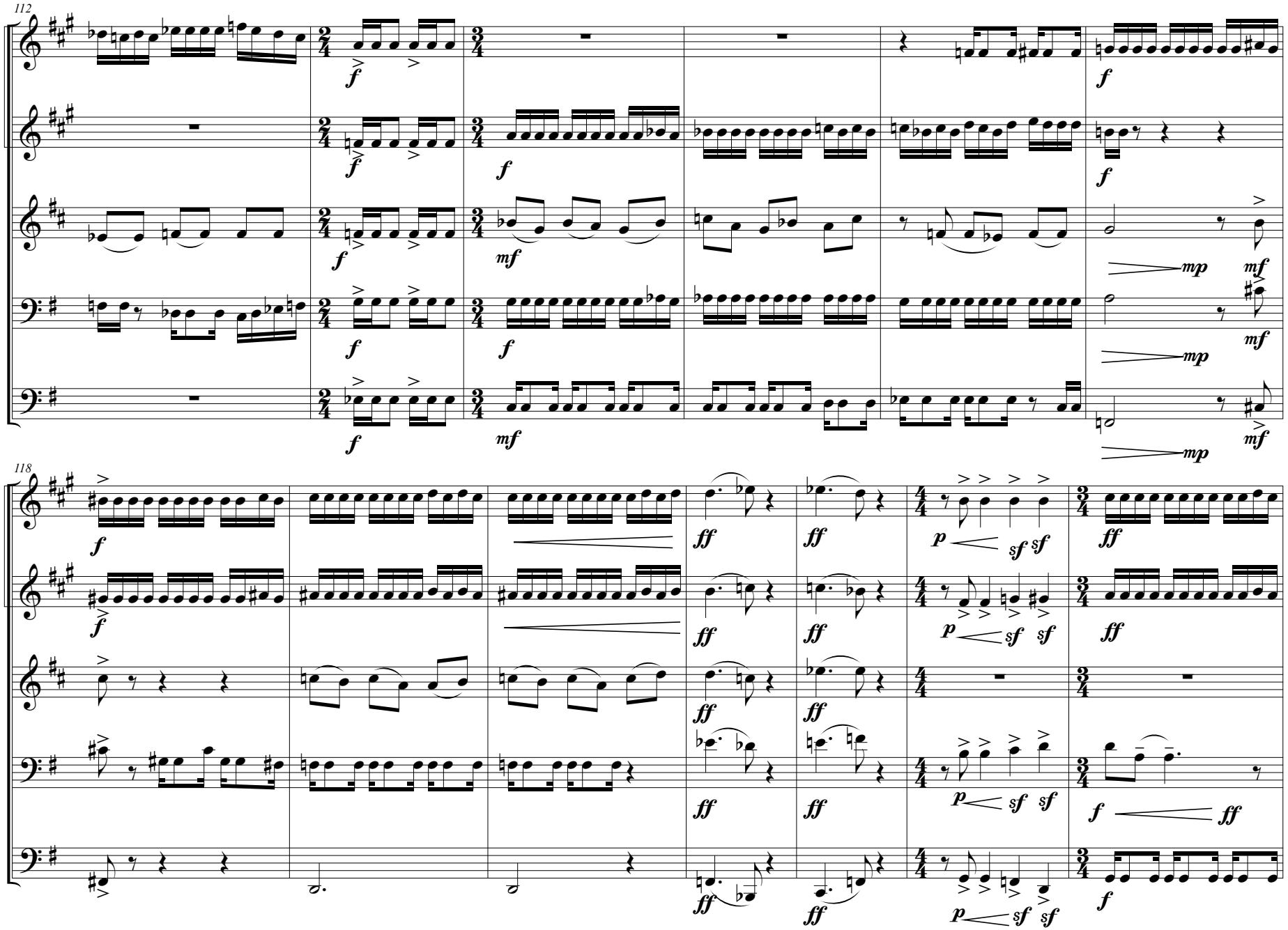
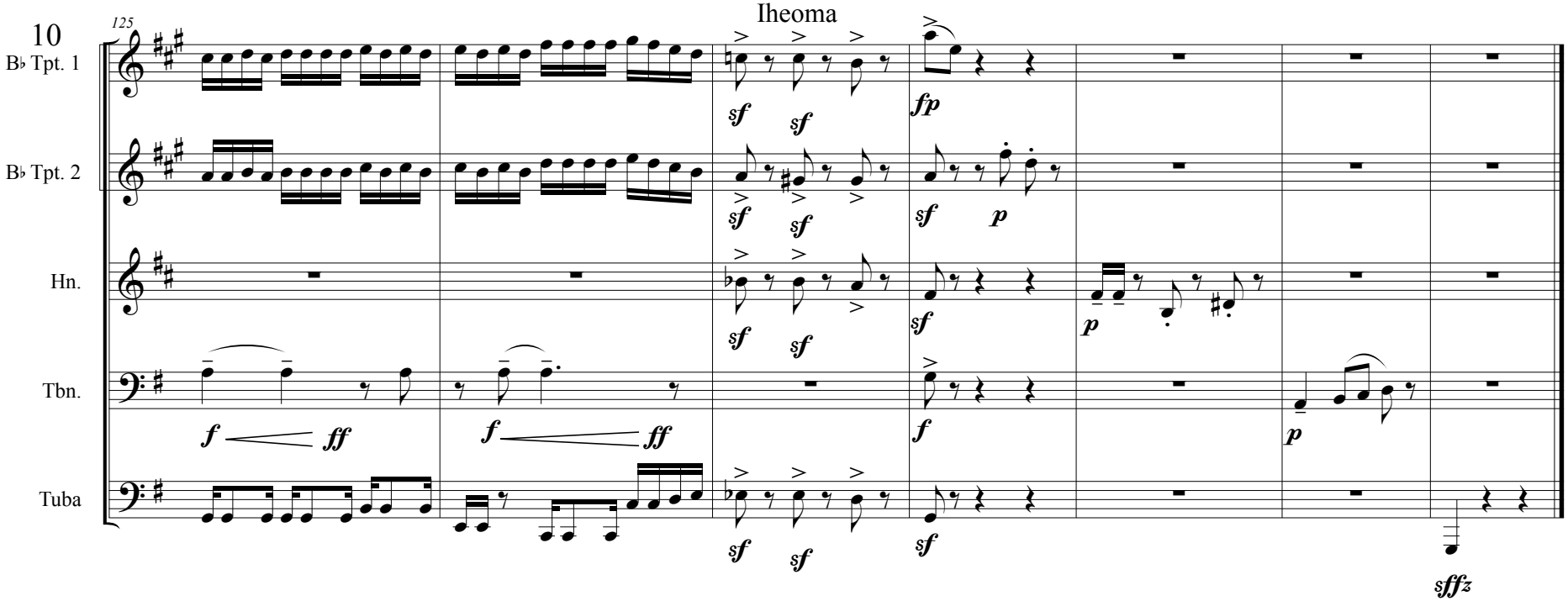

38
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
f
ff
p
mp
sf
sfz
45
subito p
pp
Mute
mp


53
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
mp
p
mp
p
61
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
mf
p
mp
Mute
p


69
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
mp
p
mp
p
p
mp
p
77
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
mp
mf
f
p
mp
mf
p


85
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
Mute
Mute
p
mp
sf
mf
f
92
Take off Mute
Take off Mute
3


100
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
Open
Open
Slight Pause
subito
107


112
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
118
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba

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