Score

James M. Stephenson

Overture for Brass

for Brass Quintet

Music for Brass
www.stephensonmusic.com

PROGRAM NOTES

Overture for Brass for Brass Quintet

Overture for Brass was written early in my career (1994), for a concert to feature the Naples Philharmonic Brass Quintet. The program had all but been decided, and included many of the standard works for brass quintet. The only things lacking were any “new” music and an opener. Being a member of the group, I was difficult to reject when I suggested the possibility of combining the two and composing a new work to begin the concert.

Overture for Brass is an up-tempo, high spirited work and lasts not much more than 2 minutes. It has moments reminiscent of Kabalevsky, a composer of whom I was fond at the time. Harmonically, it flirts with the three keys suggested by the augmented triad of G-flat, B-flat and D, before settling on B-flat at the finish. The rhythmic complexity at letter B is somewhat of an inside joke related to our group in Naples. The trombonist, Michael Zion, often commented on how my music was very rhythmic; therefore, the remaining four members of the group “enjoy” juxtaposing 2 against 3 against 5, while the trombonist marches forward in a seemingly innocuous “simple” 2/4 pattern. Ironically, it is this “simple” part that ends up being the most difficult! [One should never make observations to a composer in the group!]

The premiere took place in the fall of 1994.

Jim Stephenson

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1BQOB-6s

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

James M. Stephenson (b. February 4, 1969)

"... straightforward, unashamedly beautiful sounds..." and "deserves to be heard again and again."

"... skillfully composed" and "covers a wide stylistic and emotional range... seamlessly arranged..."

- Boston Herald and Boston Globe

James Stephenson's music is the complete package: a fresh and energizing sound-scape that delights the audience while maintaining integrity and worthwhile challenges for the performing musicians. This rare combination has rewarded Stephenson with ongoing commissions and projects. A list of current collaborations would include a concerto for Branford Marsalis with Rodney Mack, a work for the Houston Symphony, a concerto for the Philadelphia Orchestra's principal trombonist, Nitzan Haroz, a piano/trumpet concerto, and a new work for the Bozeman Symphony.

Stephenson has been performed by many of today's leading orchestras, including the Cleveland Orchestra, the symphonies of Houston, Atlanta, Detroit, Baltimore, Jacksonville, the Rochester Philharmonic, Florida Orchestra, Naples Philharmonic and more.

Stephenson's commitment to music for young audiences resulted in his landmark educational work: *Compose Yourself!* This interactive and informative introduction to the symphony orchestra has already been performed over 125 times nationwide since its 2002 premiere.

Jim Stephenson studied at the New England Conservatory of Music, where he earned his Bachelor of Music with distinction in trumpet performance. His wife, Sally, is a performing violinist, and they have four children.

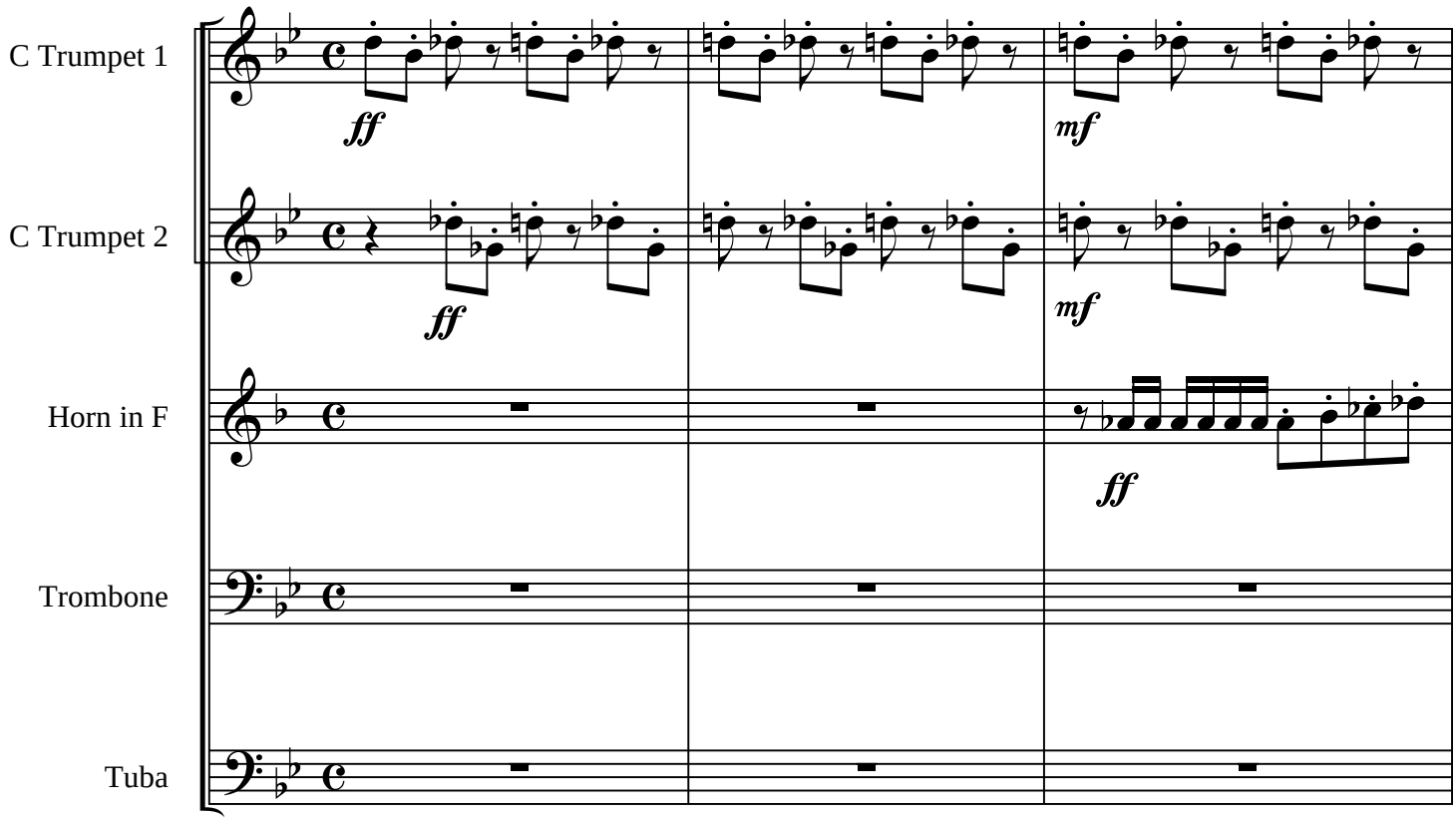
For a complete listing of Stephenson's works, written for many genres, please visit www.stephensonmusic.com.

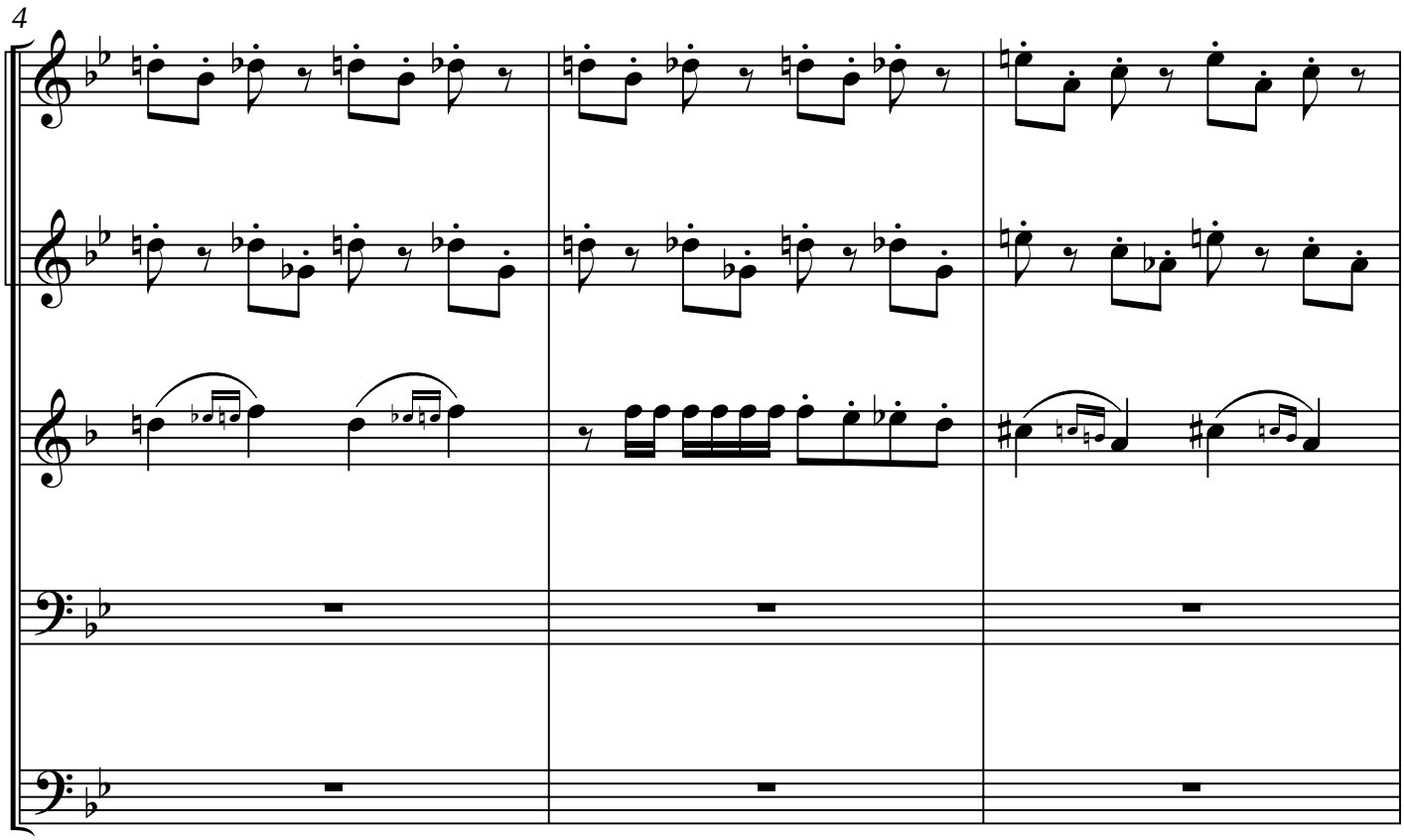
Score

Overture for Brass

Allegro Vivace ♩ = 152

James M. Stephenson





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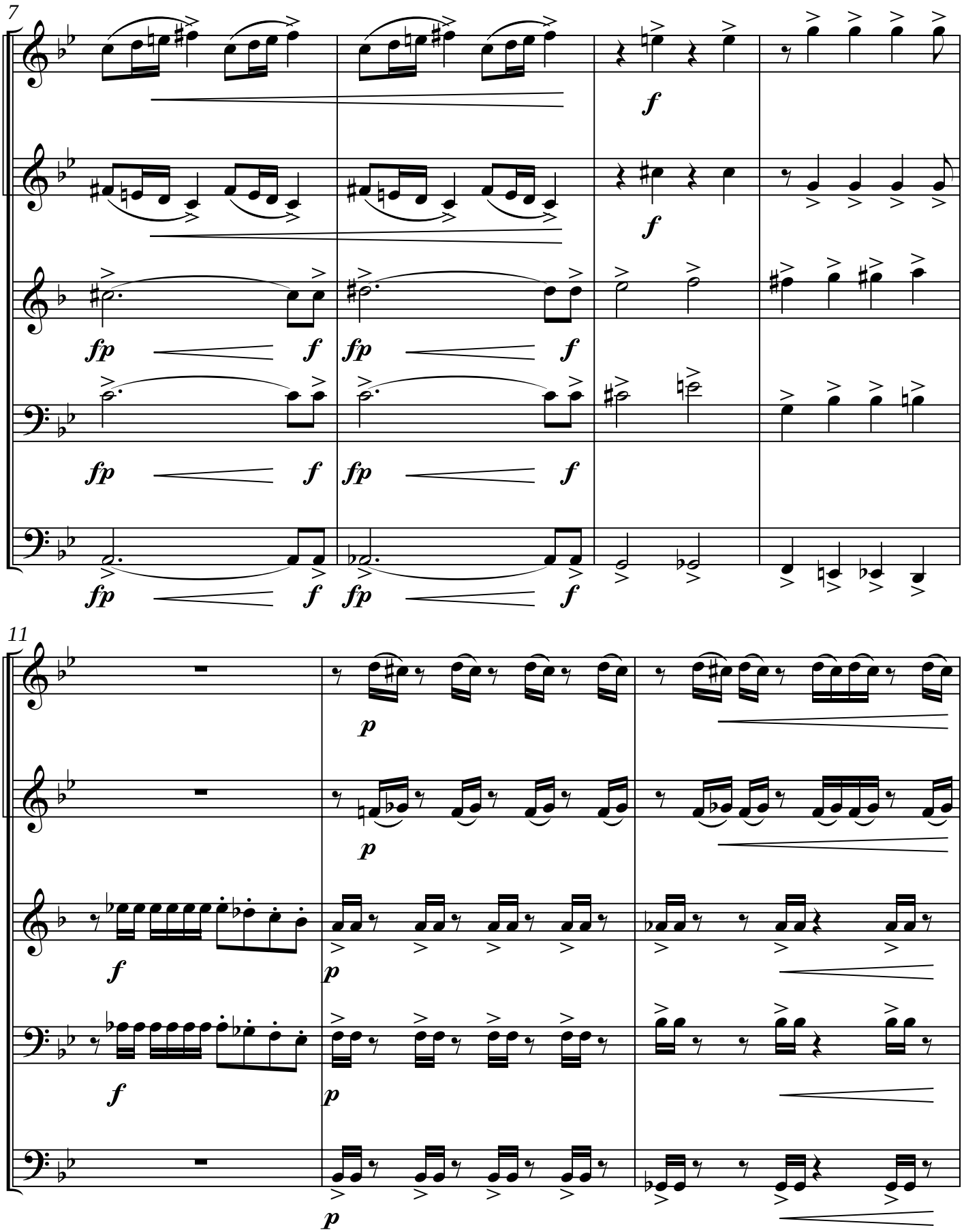
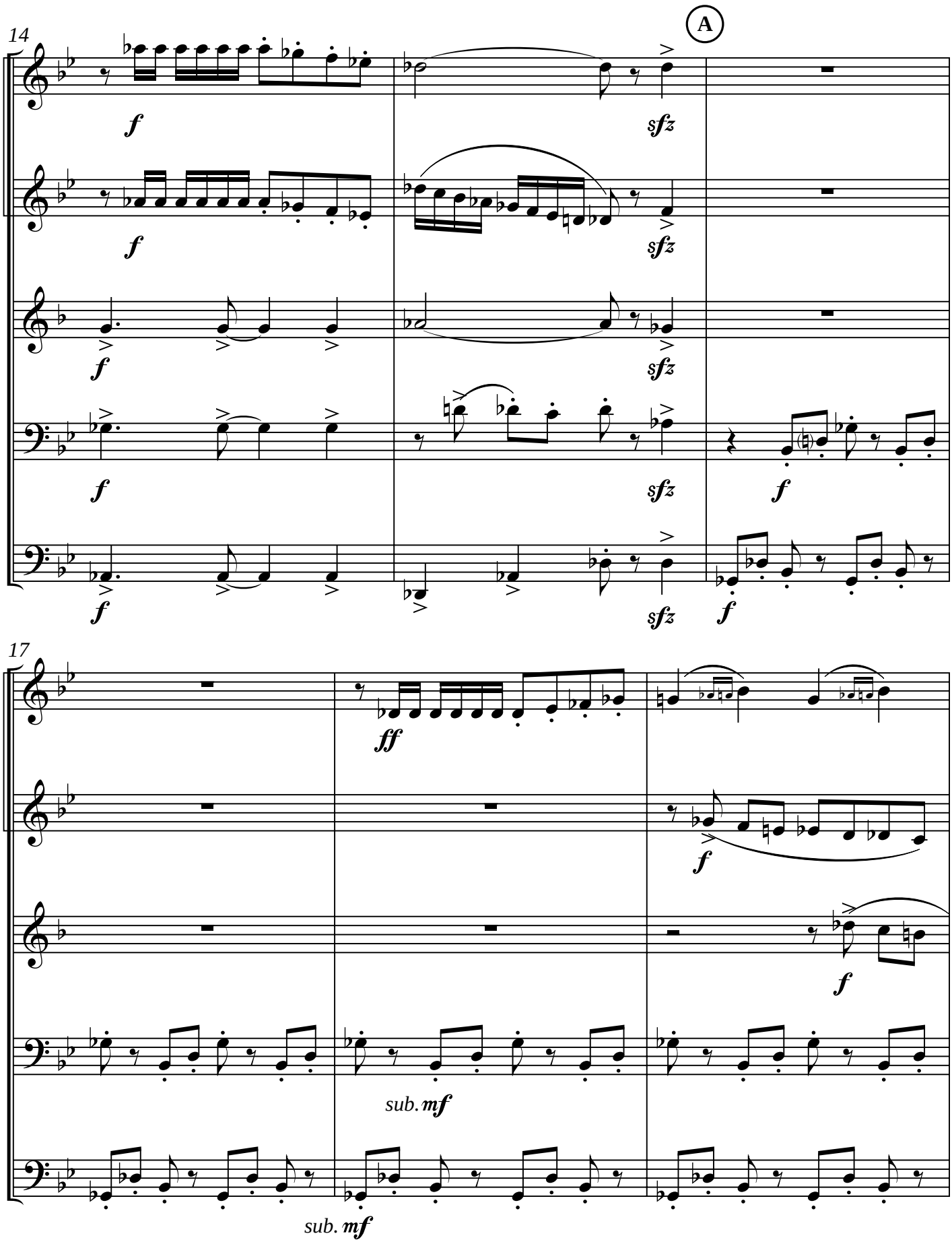
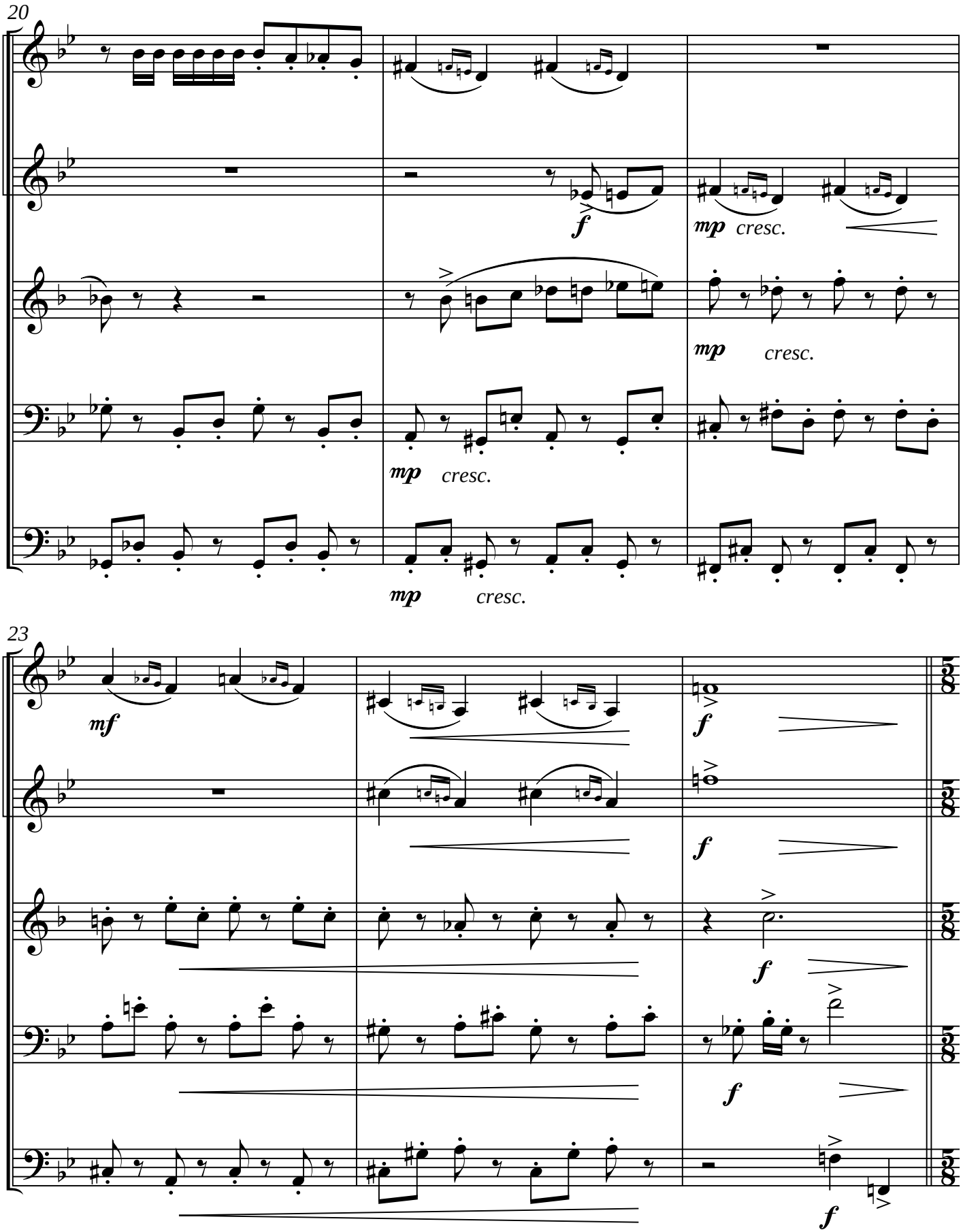
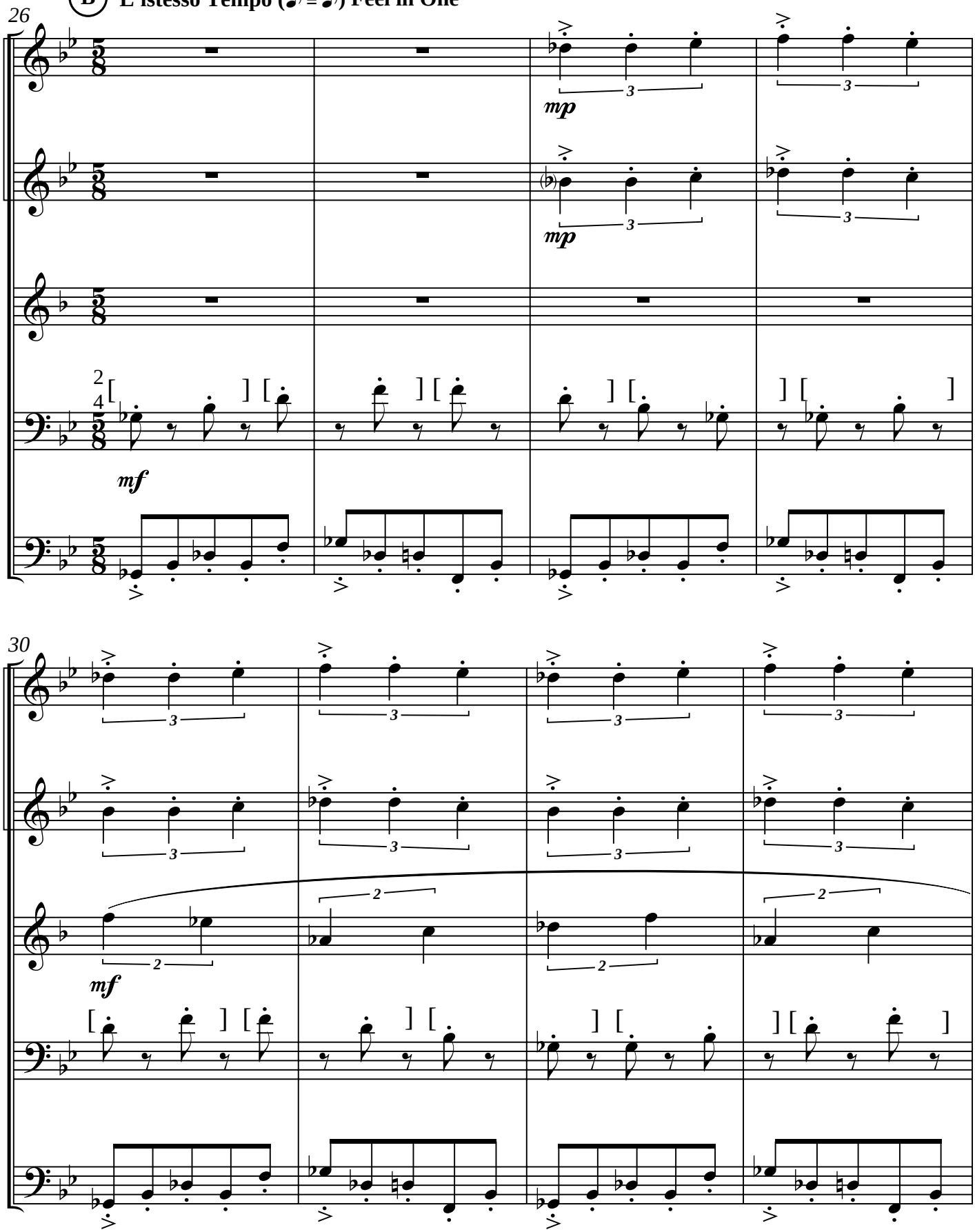
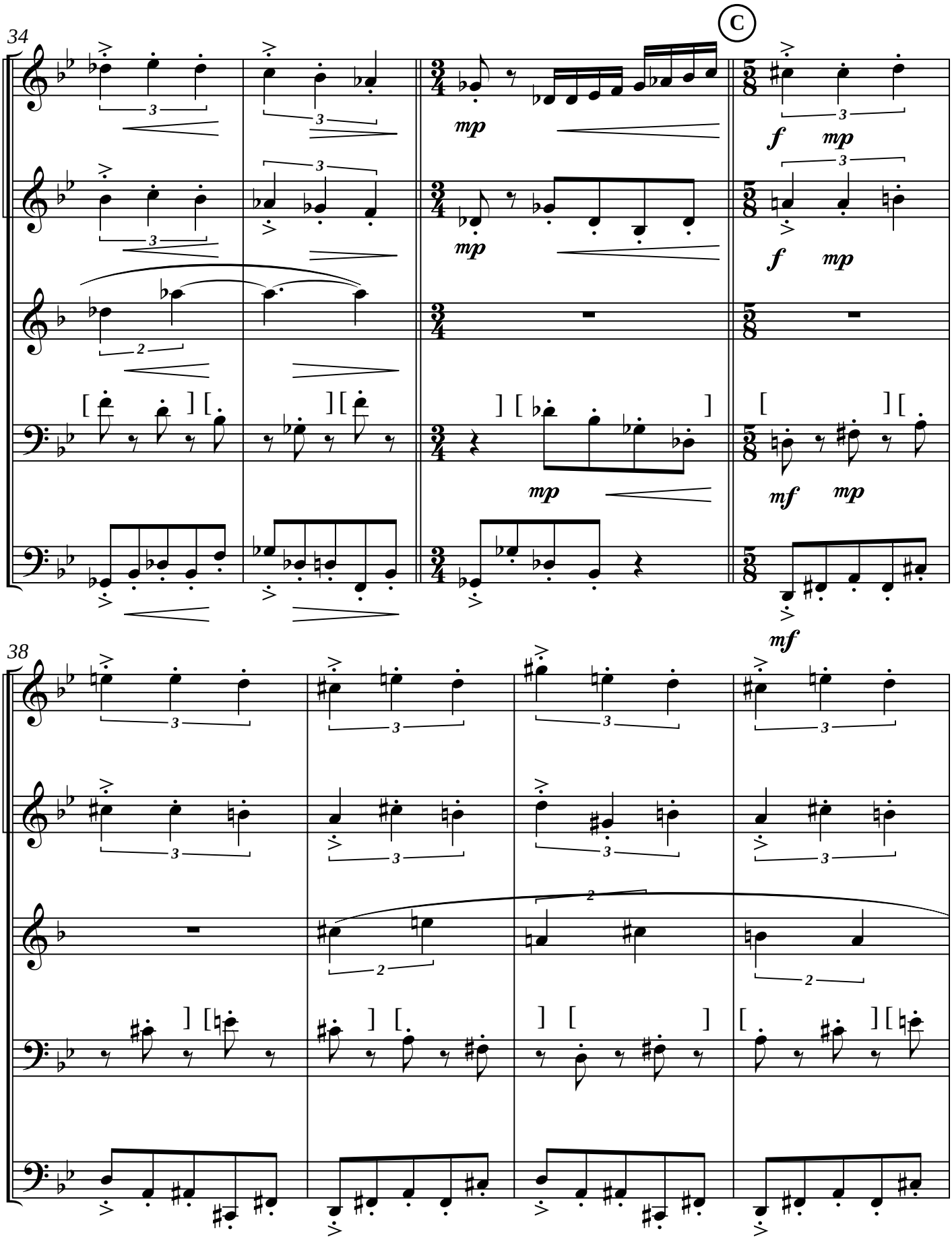
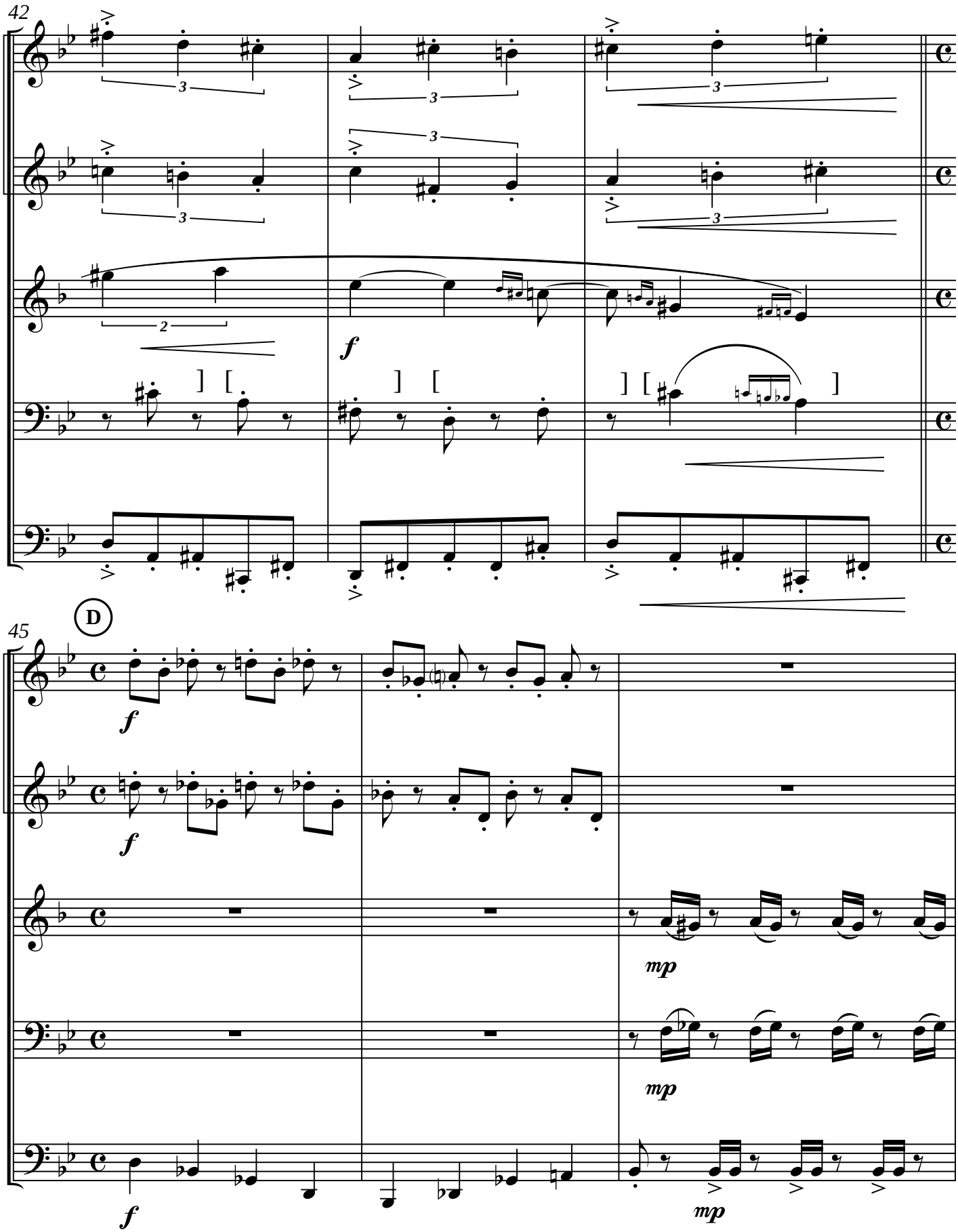

7
fp
f
11
p
f

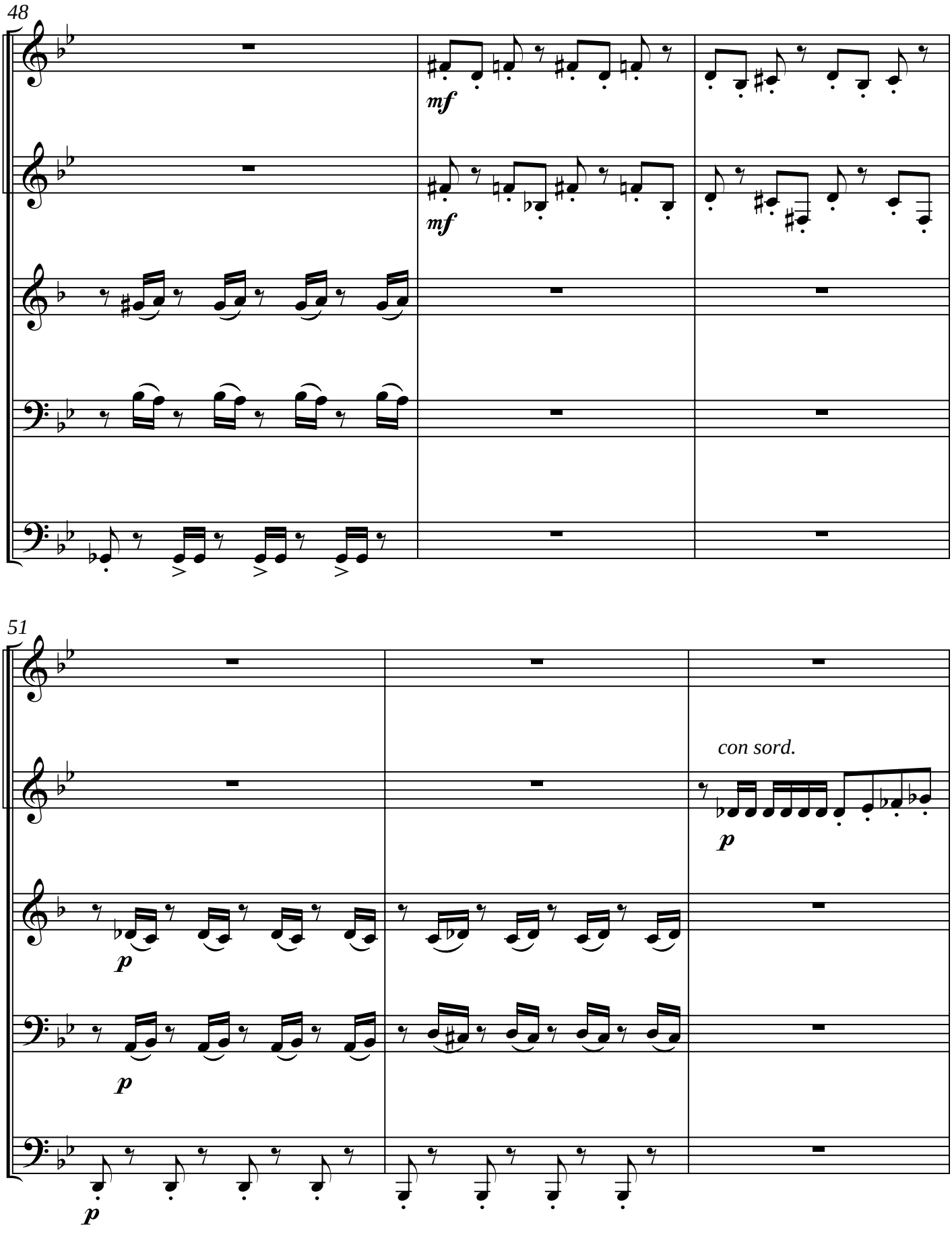

14
A
f
sfz
17
ff
sub. mf

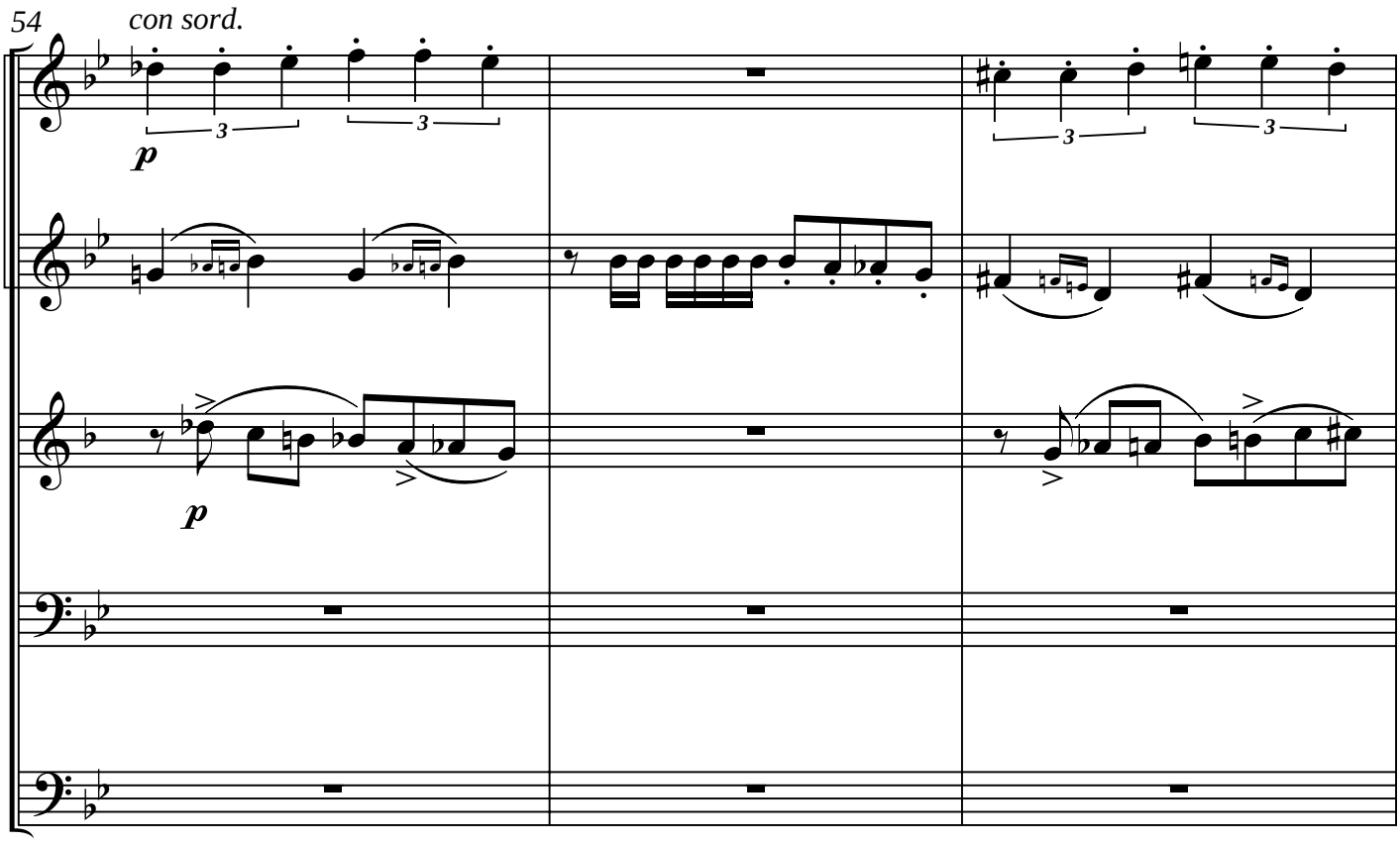

20
f
mp cresc.
mp cresc.
mp cresc.
mp cresc.
23
mf
f
f
f
f
f

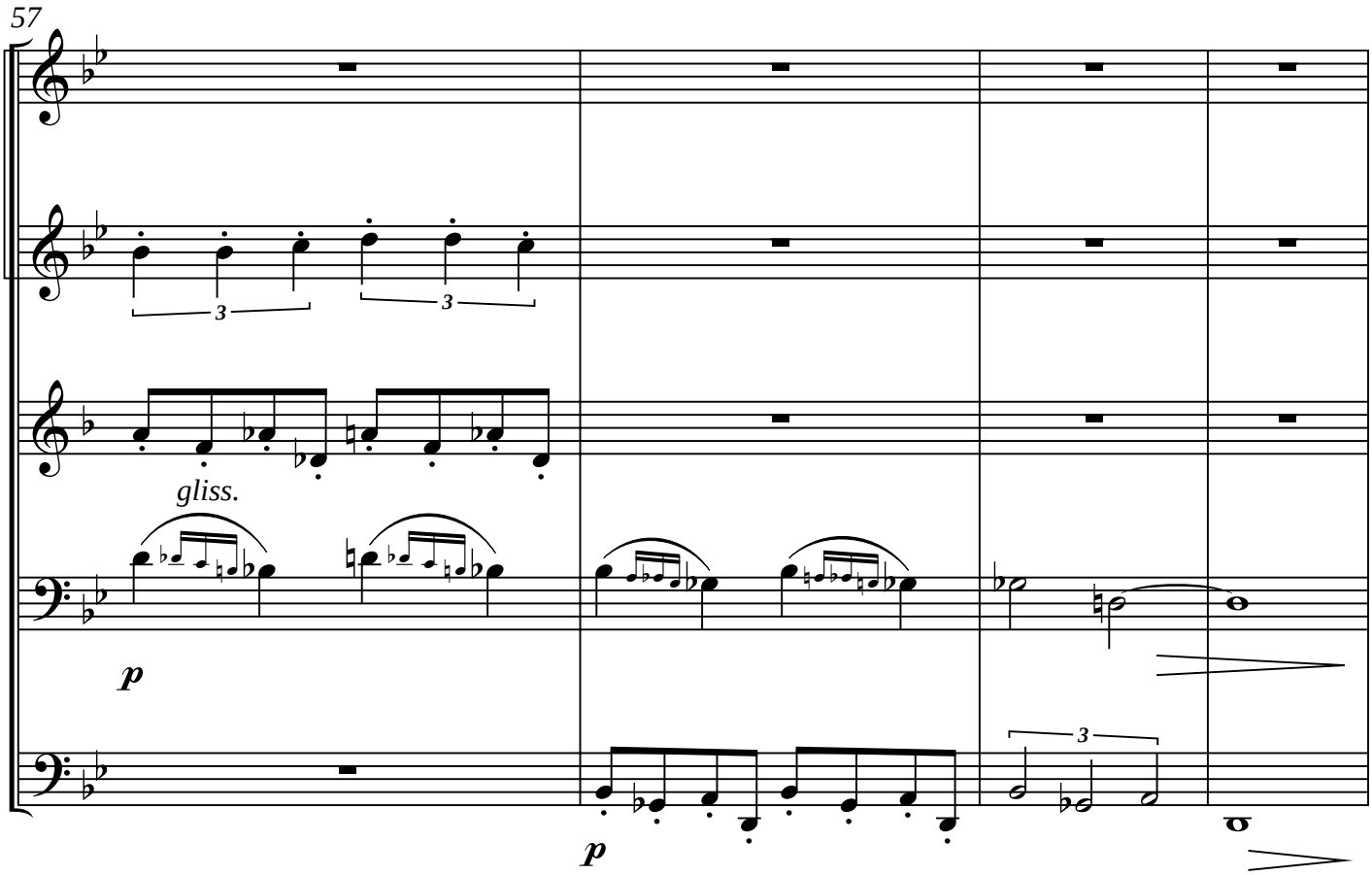

B
L'istesso Tempo (♪ = ♪) Feel in One
26
mp
mp
mf
30
mf

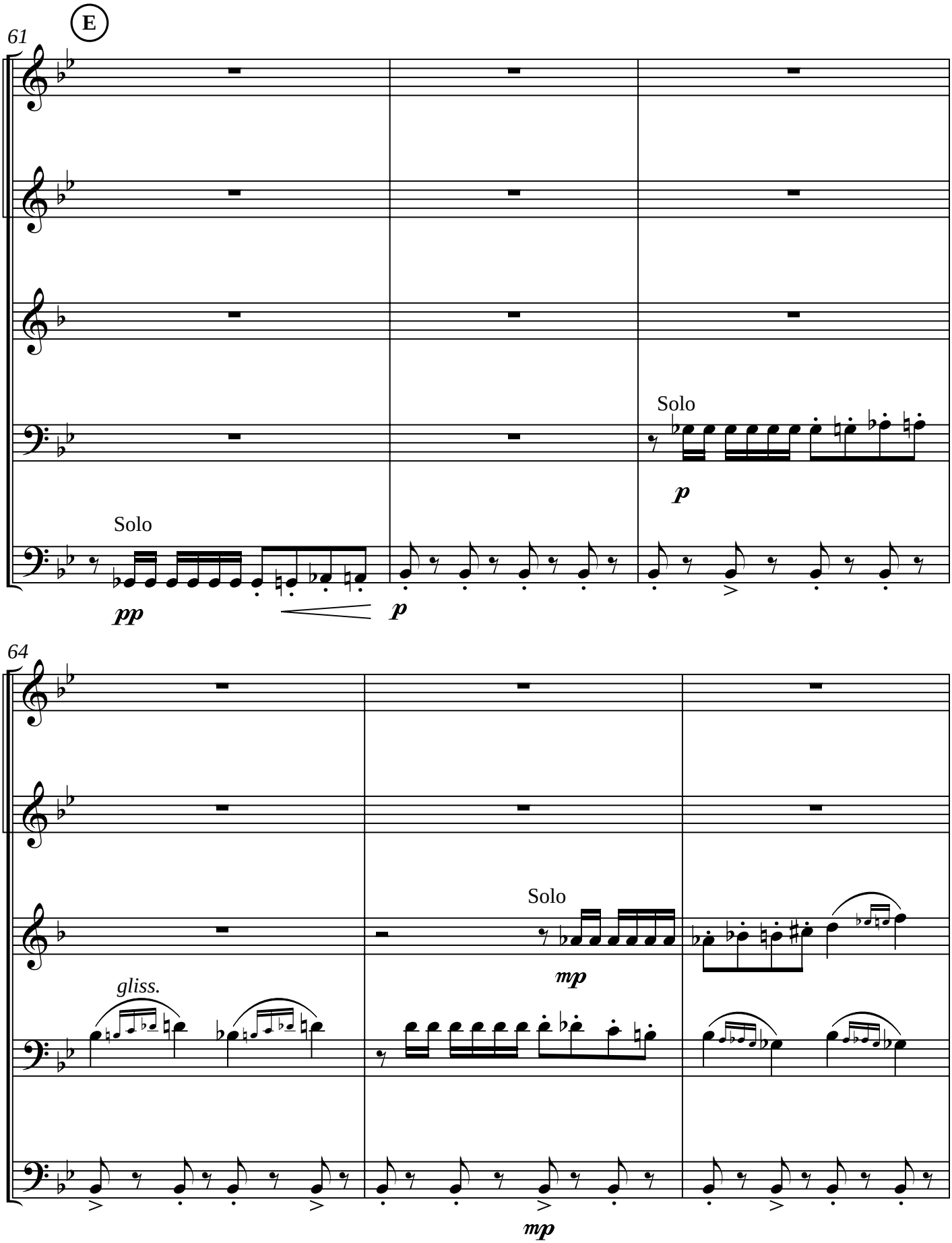

34
C
mp
f
mp
mf
38

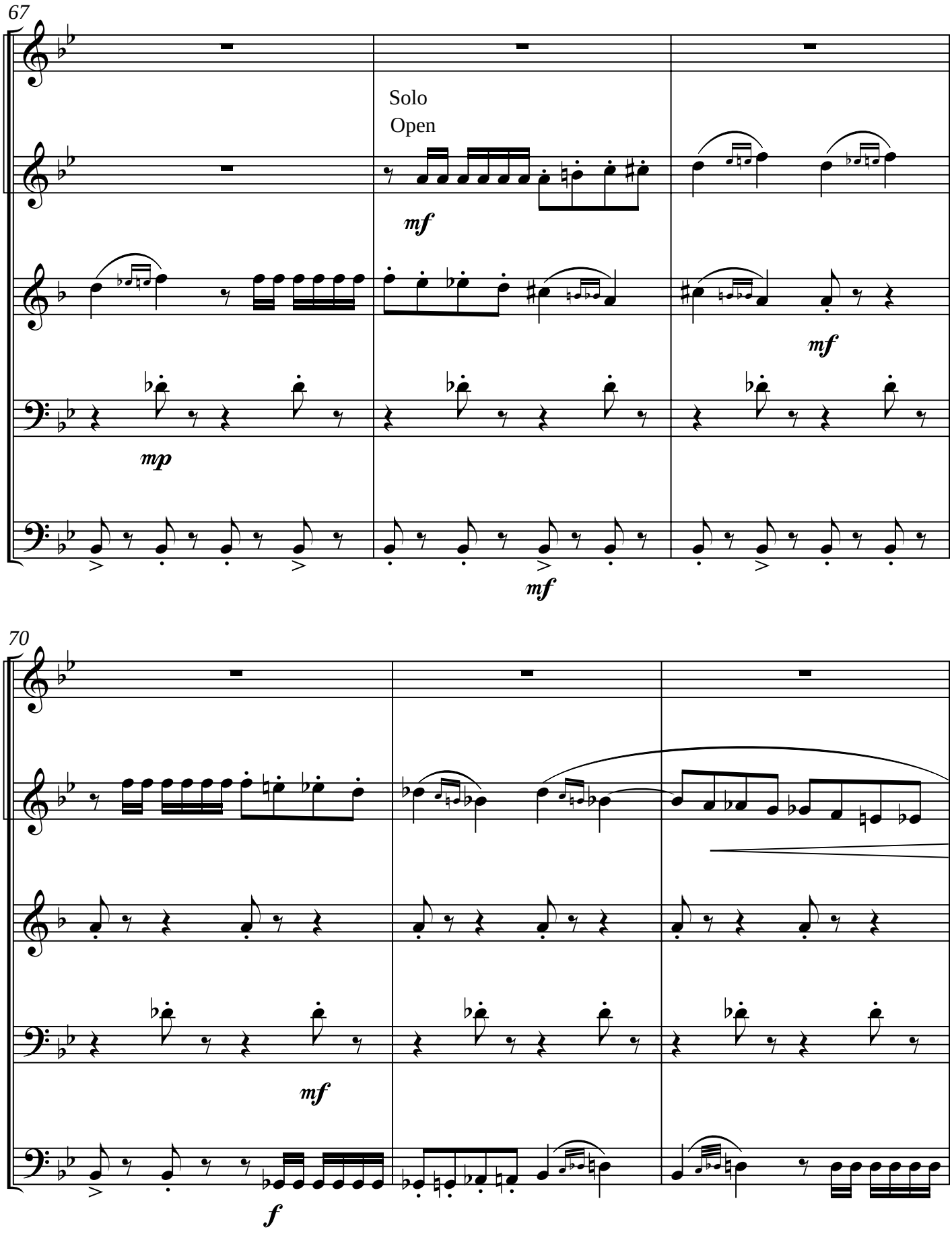

42
f
45
D
f
f
mp
mp
f

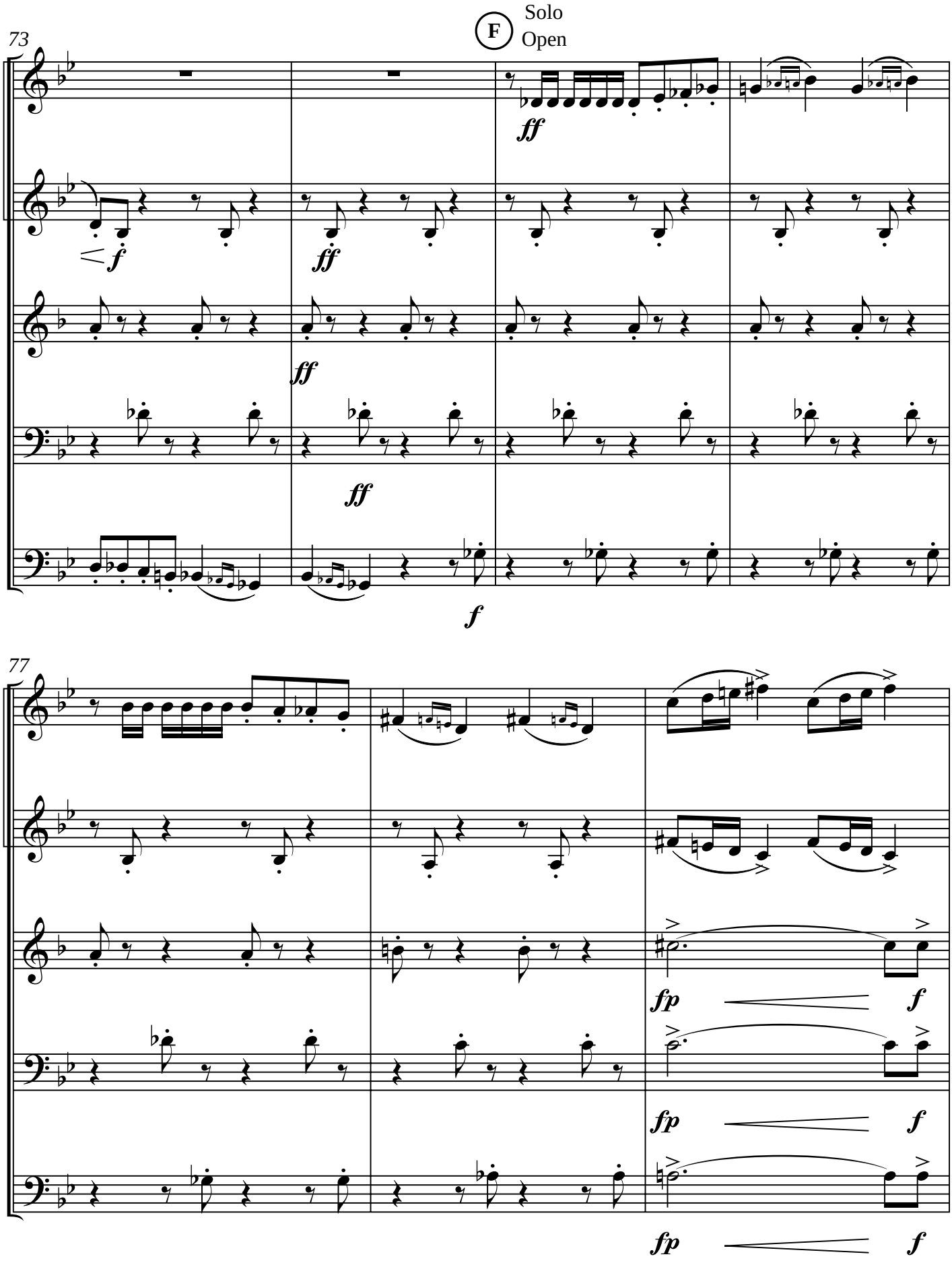

48
mf
mf
51
con sord.
p
p
p
p

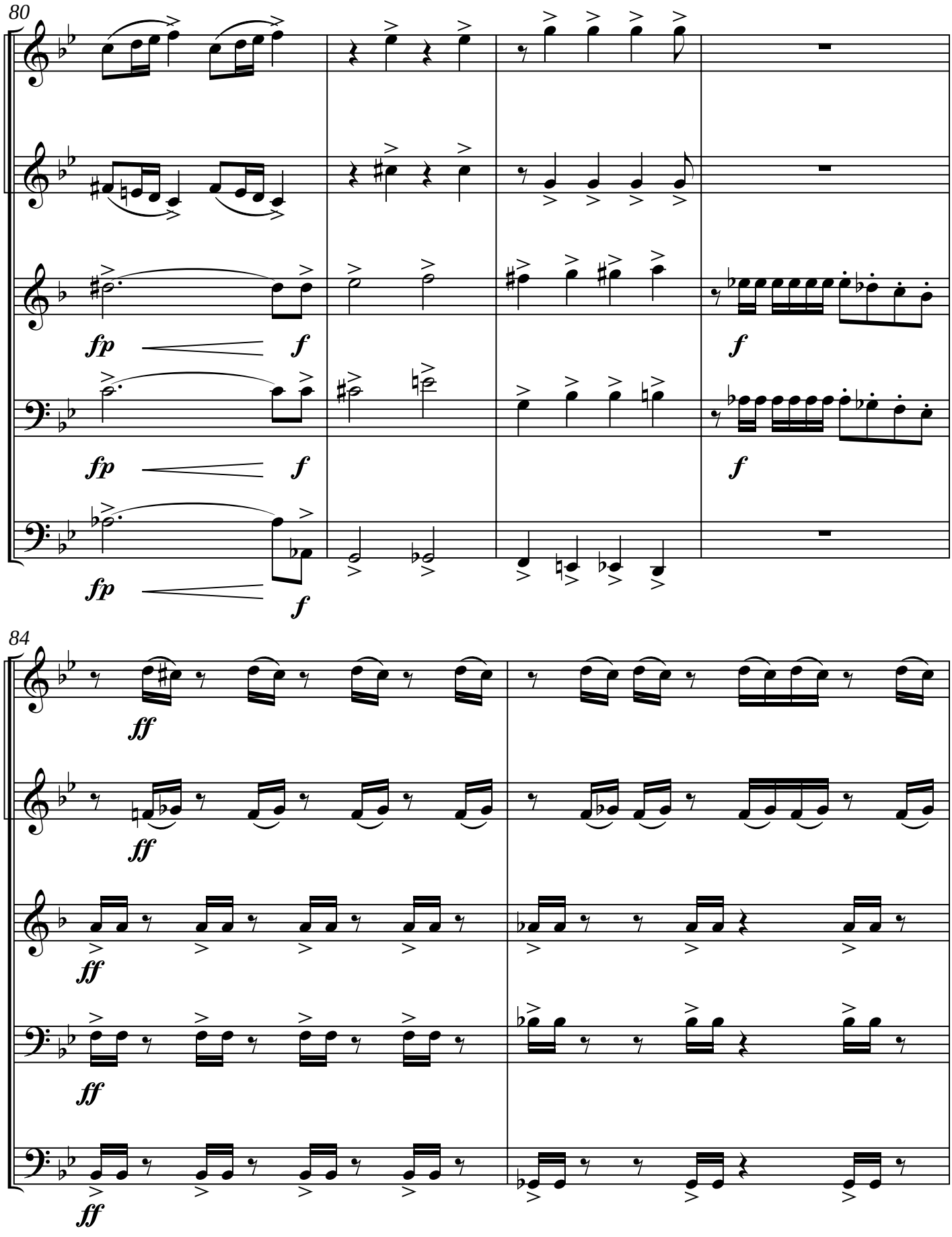

54
con sord.
p
p

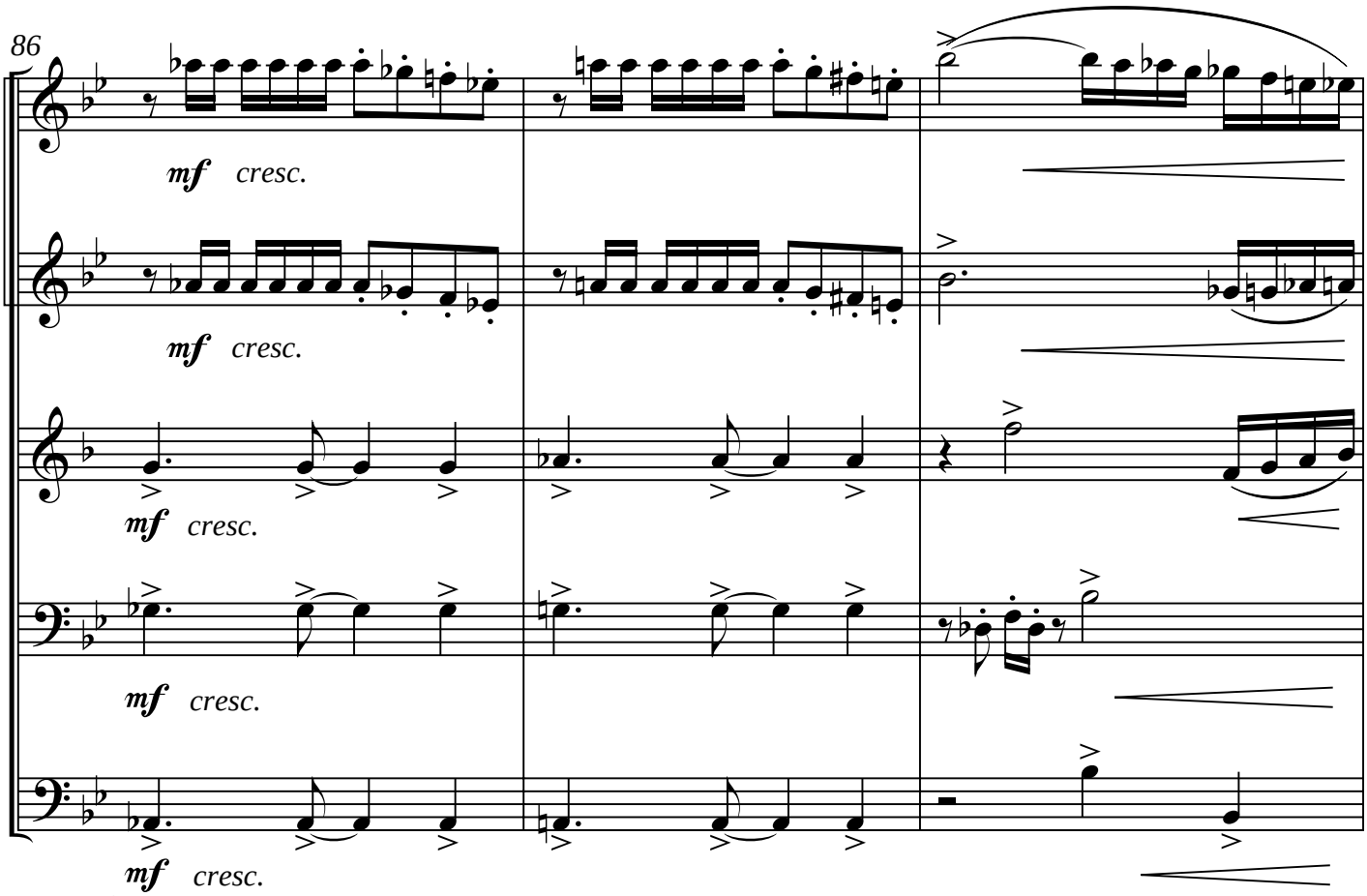

57
gliss.
p
p

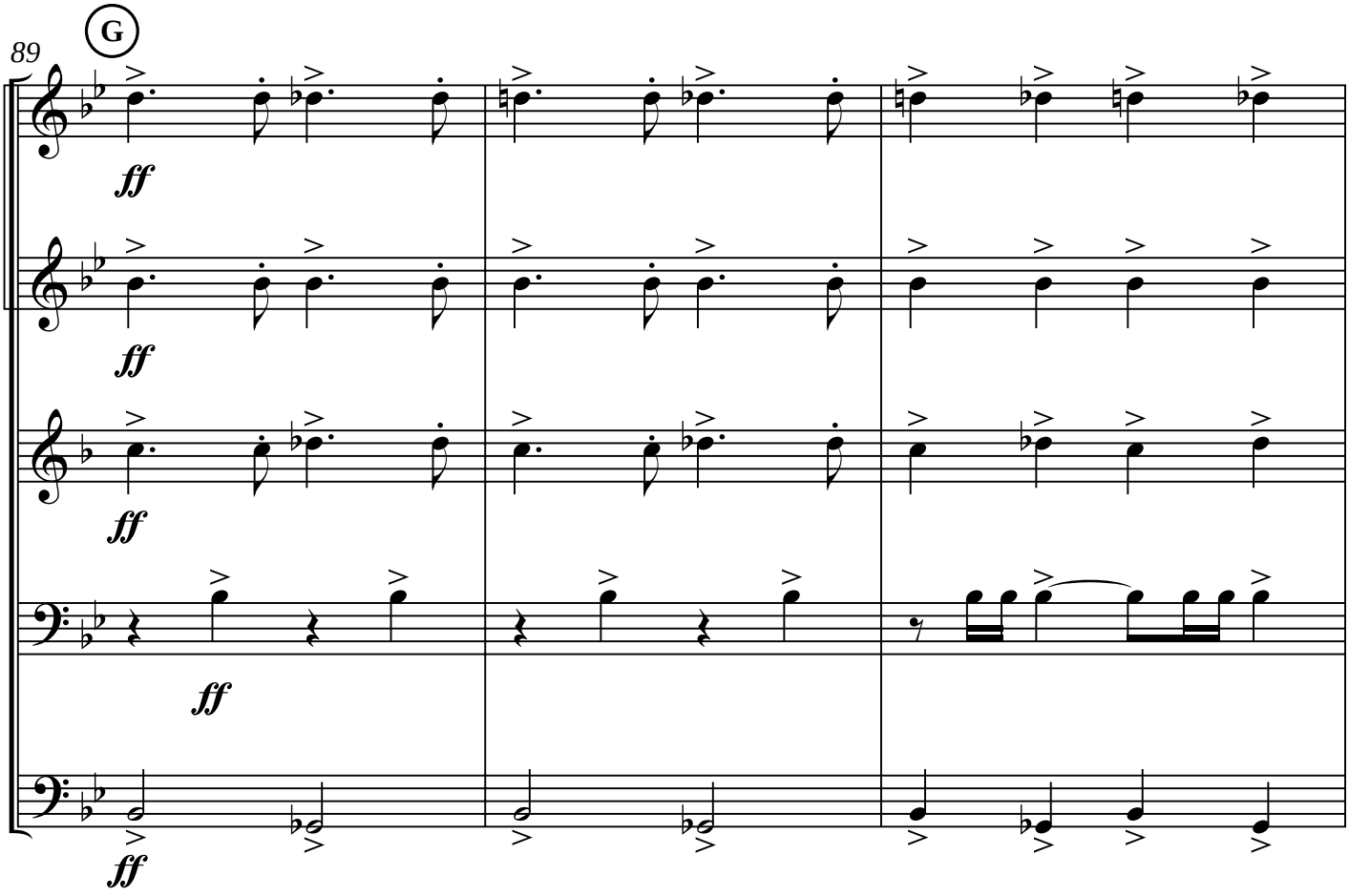

E
61
Solo
pp
p
Solo
p
64
Solo
mp
gliss.
mp

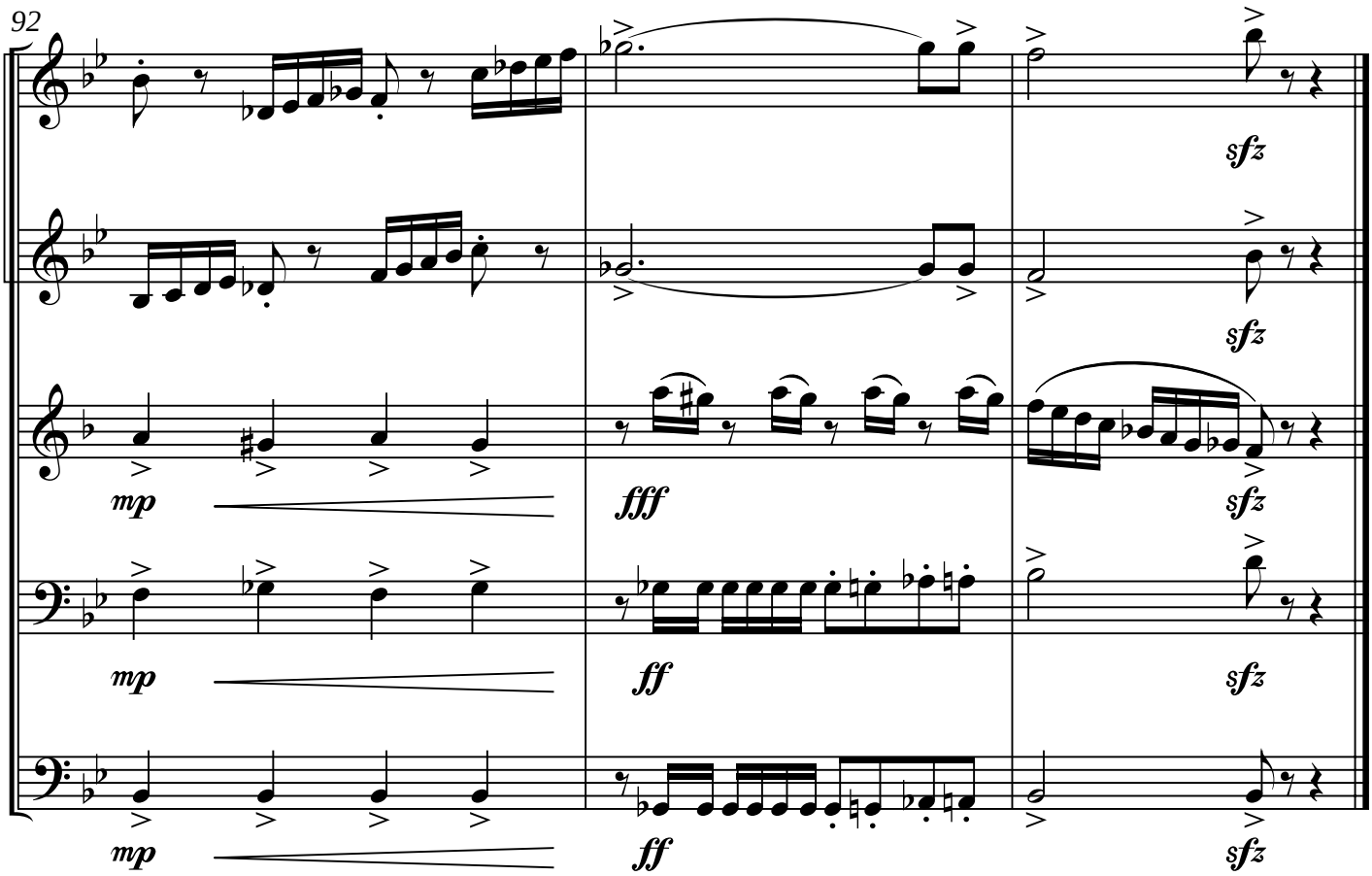

67
Solo
Open
mf
mf
mp
mf
70
mf
f


F
Solo
Open
73
77
ff
f
fp


80
fp
f
fp
f
fp
f
f
84
ff
ff
ff
ff
ff


86
mf cresc.
mf cresc.
mf cresc.
mf cresc.


G
89
ff
ff
ff
ff
ff


92
mp
fff
sfz
mp
ff
sfz
mp
ff
sfz