Piano Reduction

Duels and Dances

for solo oboist and wind ensemble

James M. Stephenson

Wind Ensemble Instrumentation:

Note: One per part

Piccolo, Flute 1-2
Clarinet 1-2, Bass Clarinet
Bassoon (1)
Alto, Tenor, Bass Saxophone

French Horn 1-2
Trumpet 1-2
Trombone 1-2, Bass Trombone
Tuba

Piano, Harp

Timpani
Percussion (5 players) (possibly 4)

SOLO OBOE
(using Bass Oboe, Oboe d'Amore, English Horn, Musette and Oboe
[separate solo part available for Oboe/English Horn only]

NOTES from the composer:

The inspiration for Duels and Dances came, strangely enough, while attending a church service in my hometown of Lake Forest, IL. During the prelude (a baroque piece), I was struck by how interesting the music can be, even if only one or two voices are being used. This thought process led to the imagery of a soloist and ensemble "fighting" one another (admittedly this is not entirely original), which then in turn led to the concept of duels. The concerto is therefore largely built around "fight sequences", where both soloist and ensemble participate in, or comment upon, music that suggests action of a aggressive nature. All music requires, or thrives on, contrast, of course, and that is where the dances come in.

Alex Klein - for whom the concerto was written - is a musician of incomparable musicality, and I wanted to highlight this innate ability he possesses. The melodic material in his part is often accompanied by rhythmic counterpoint with a dance quality. Though not immediately related to the music of Prokofiev or Bernstein, I have always been struck by how their music is so dance-like, and therefore so human.

Duels and Dances was commissioned by the wonderful Minnesota Commissioning Club, and I am deeply indebted to them for their continued support of my music. Along with the club, the piece is dedicated to Alex Klein, and to The "President's Own" United States Marine Band, all of whom are musicians of the highest degree, and for whom it is the ultimate pleasure to create music. Lastly, it should noted that the piece is a through-composed one-movement concerto, lasting roughly 13 minutes.

It uses 5 different oboes (at Alex's request) - in performance order: Bass oboe, Oboe d'amore, English horn, Oboe and Musette. There is also a version for the more common instruments of the oboe family: English horn and oboe.

Premiere date: March 4, 2011, Norfolk, VA.
Alex Klein, soloist with The "President's Own" United States Marine Band, conducted by Major Jason K Fettig.

James M. Stephenson - January, 2011

Piano score

Commissioned by the Minnesota Commissioning Club for and premiered by Alex Klein and "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, at Norfolk, Virginia, March 4, 2011, for the American Bandmaster's Association Conference.

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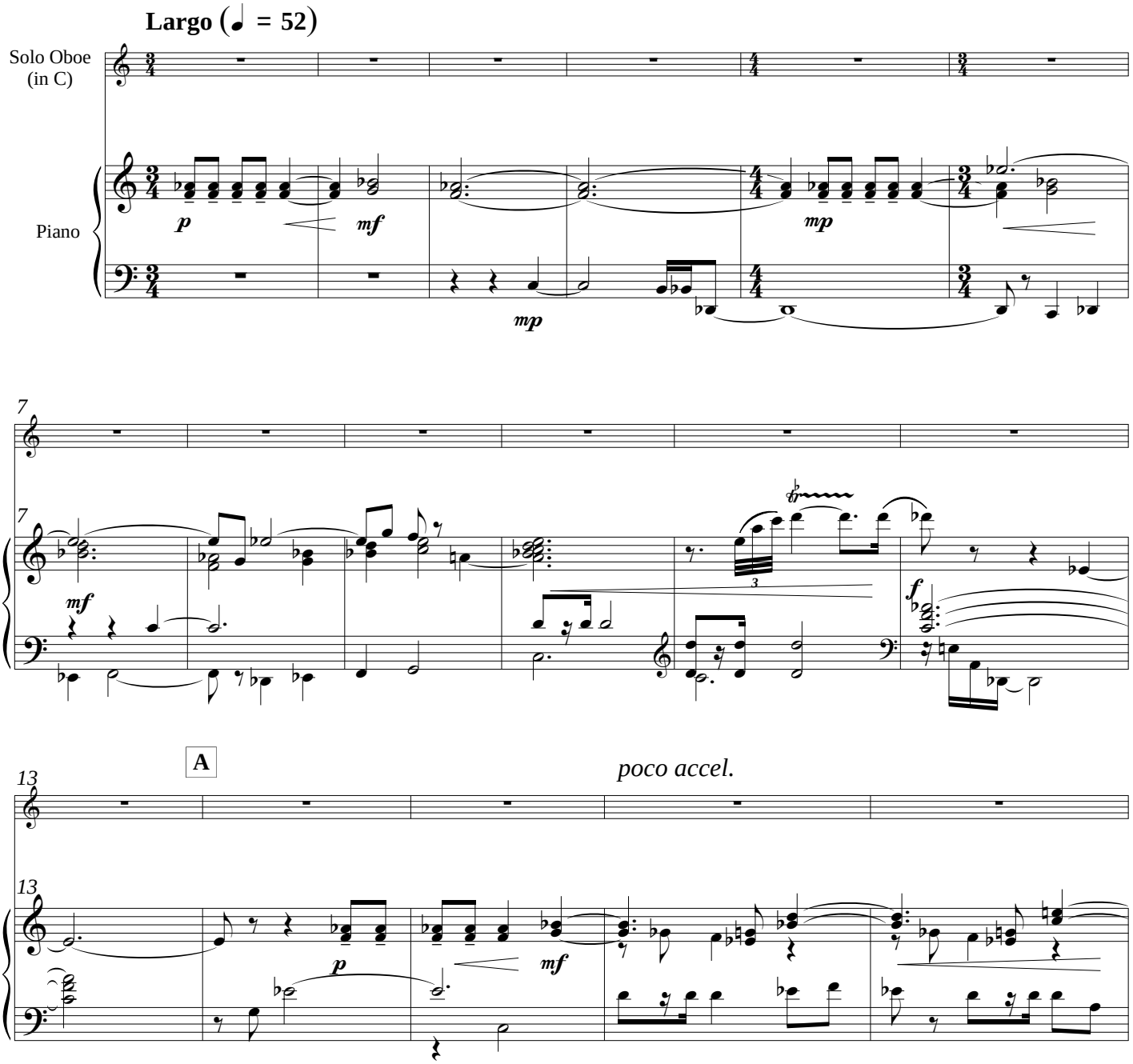

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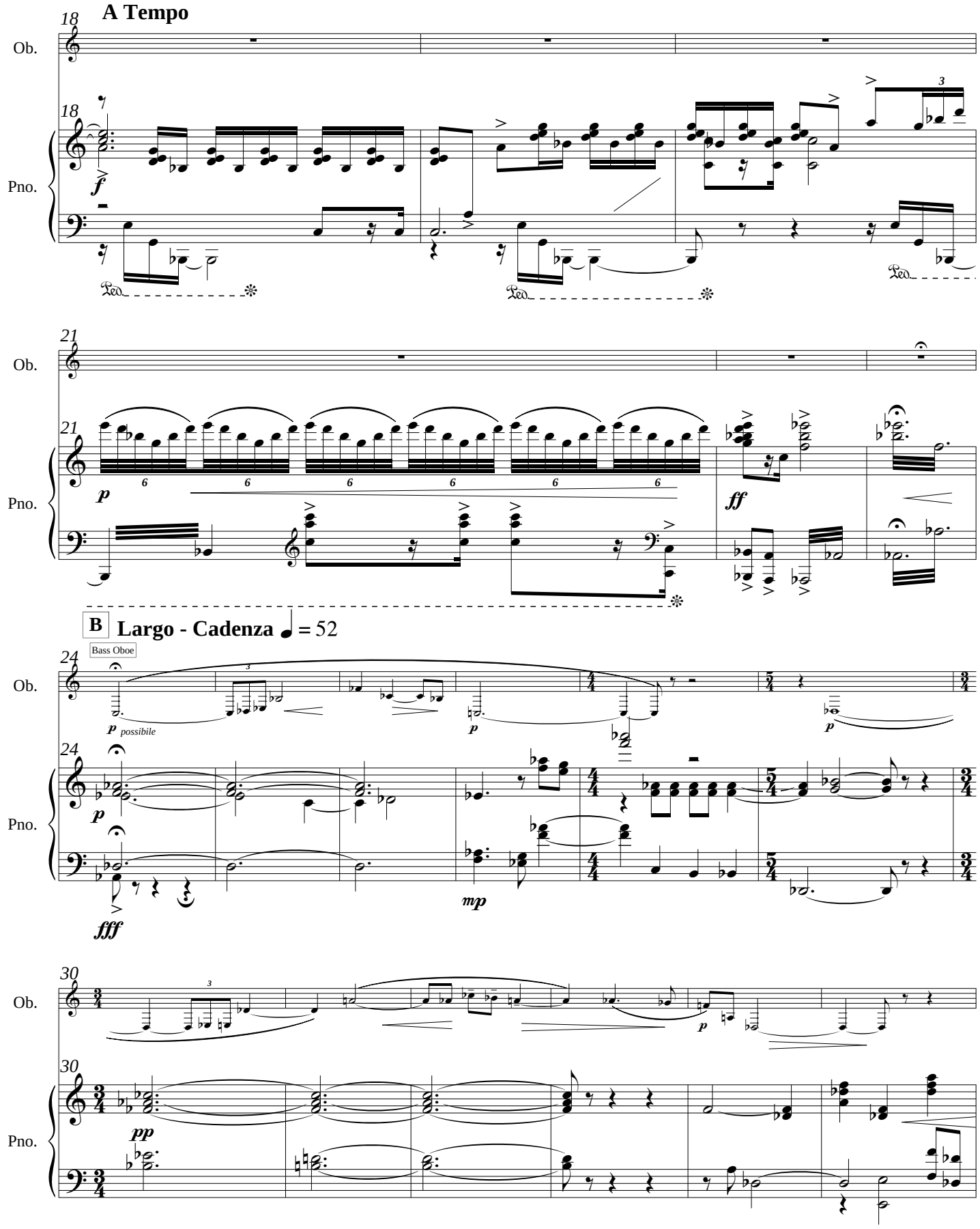
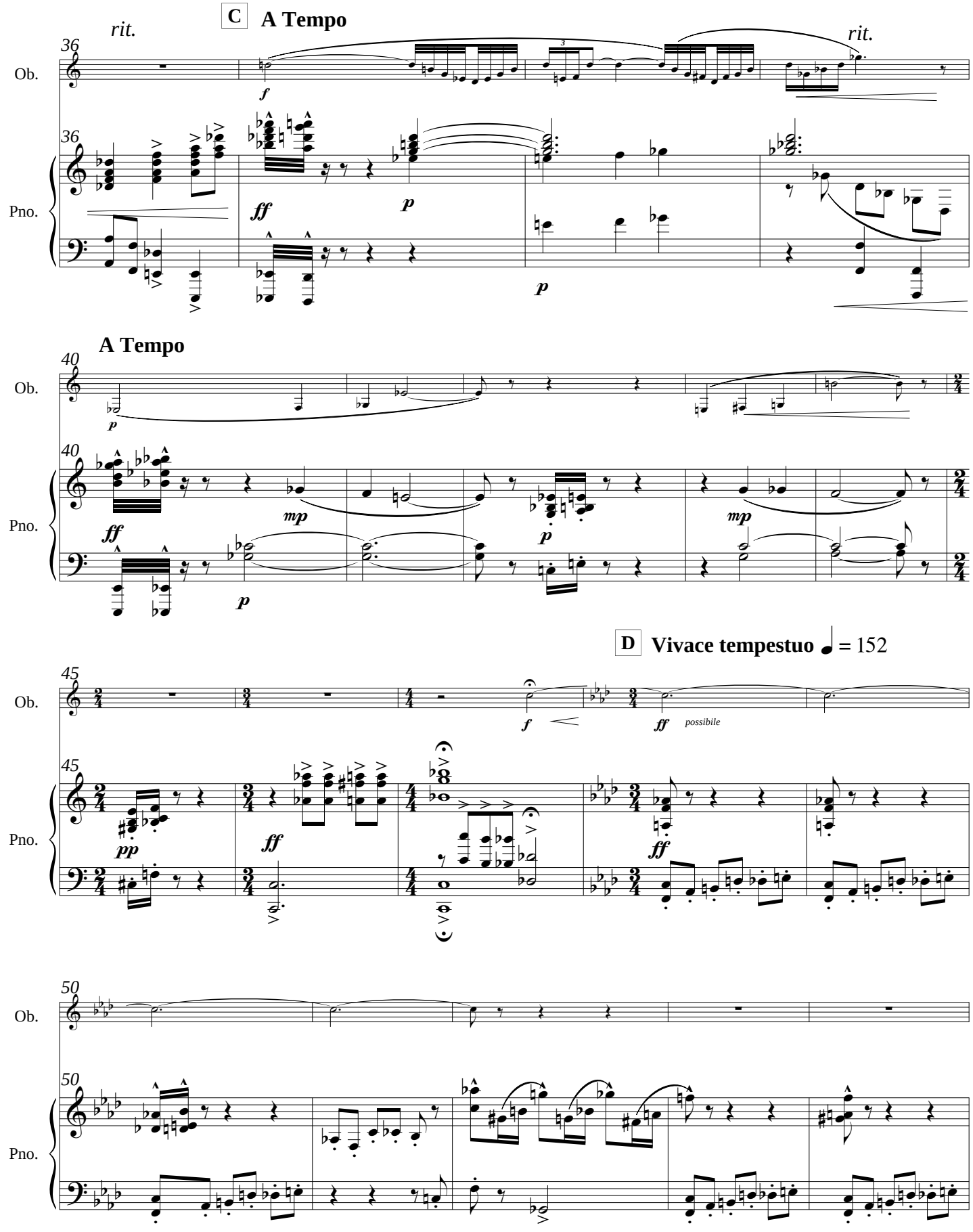
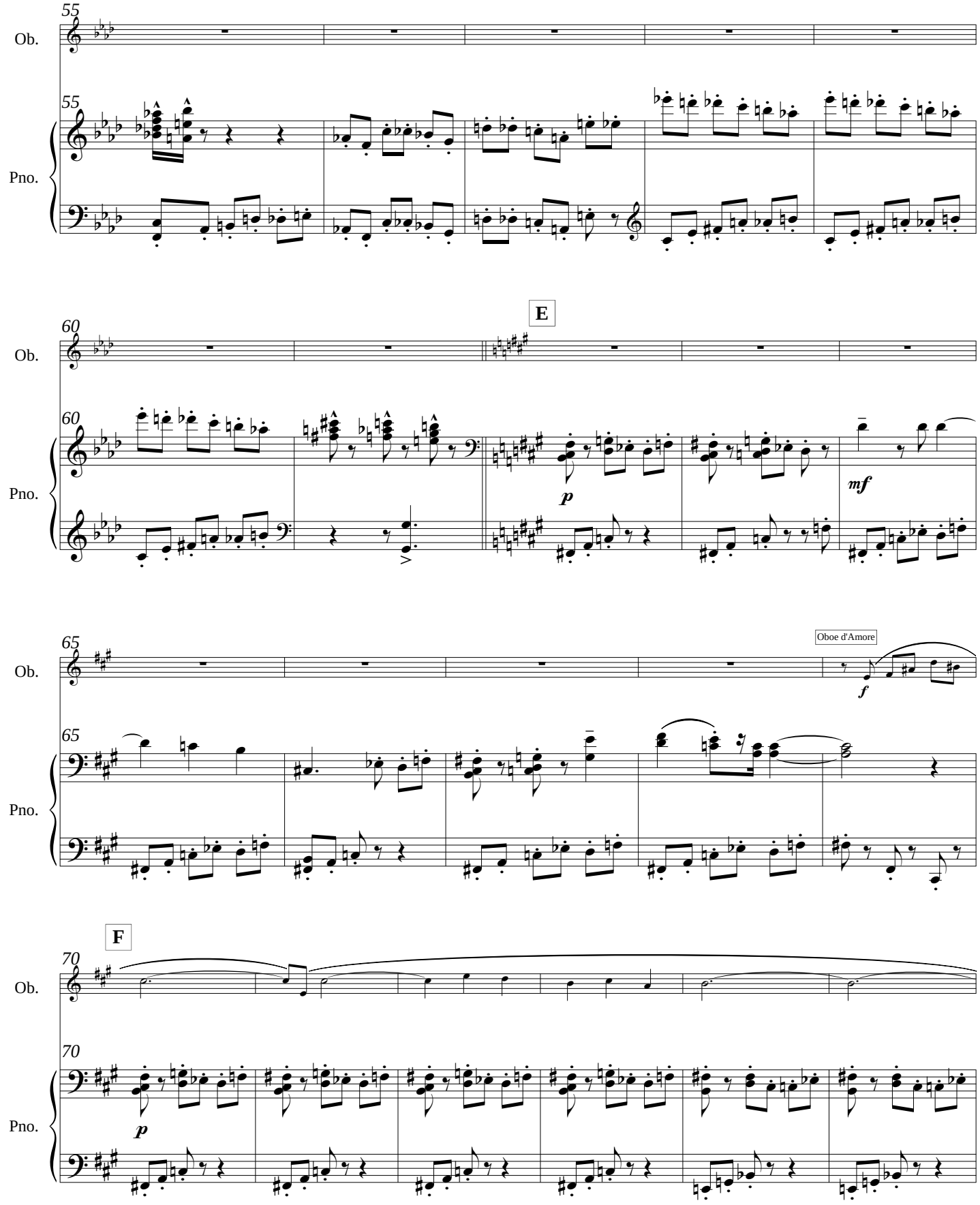
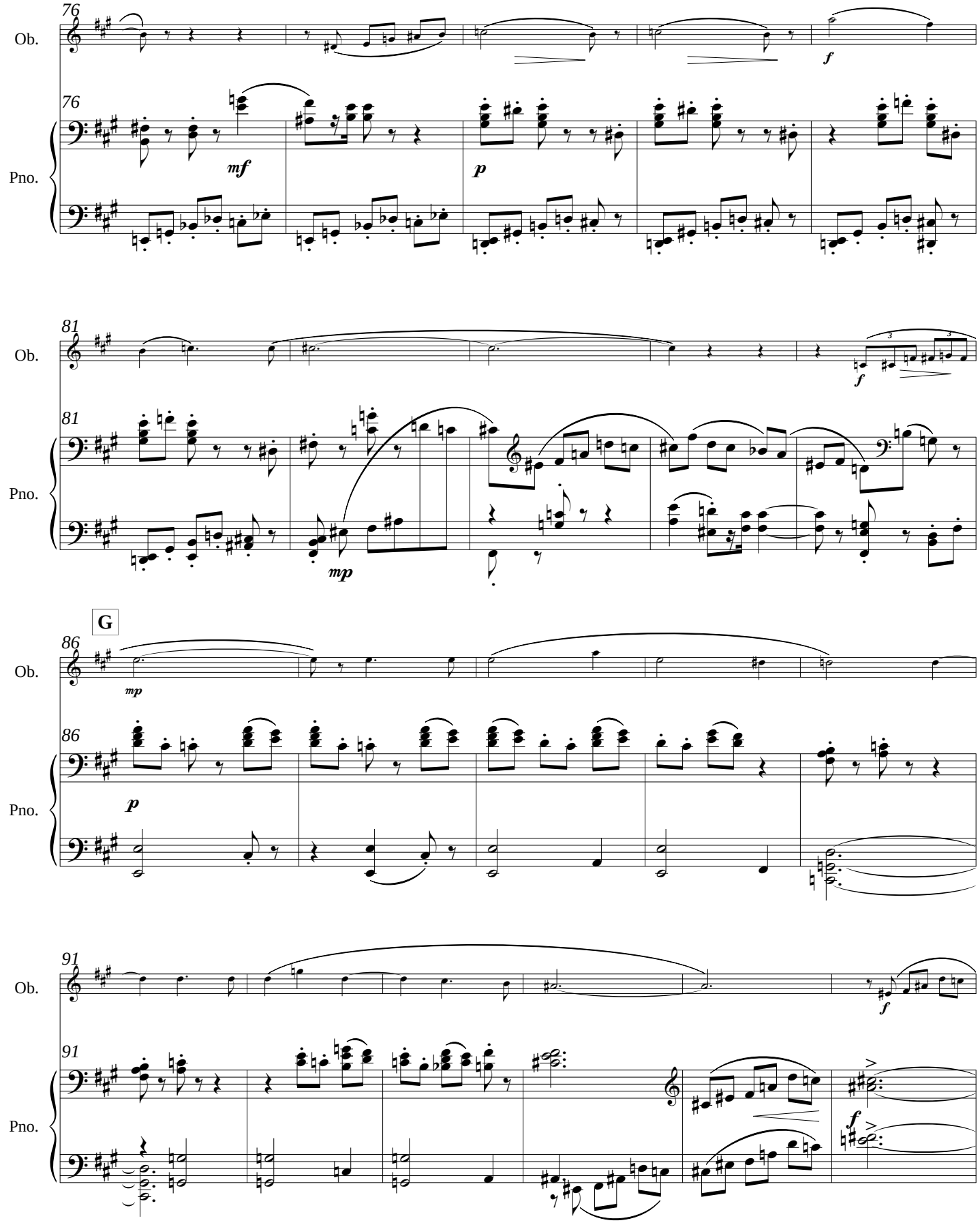
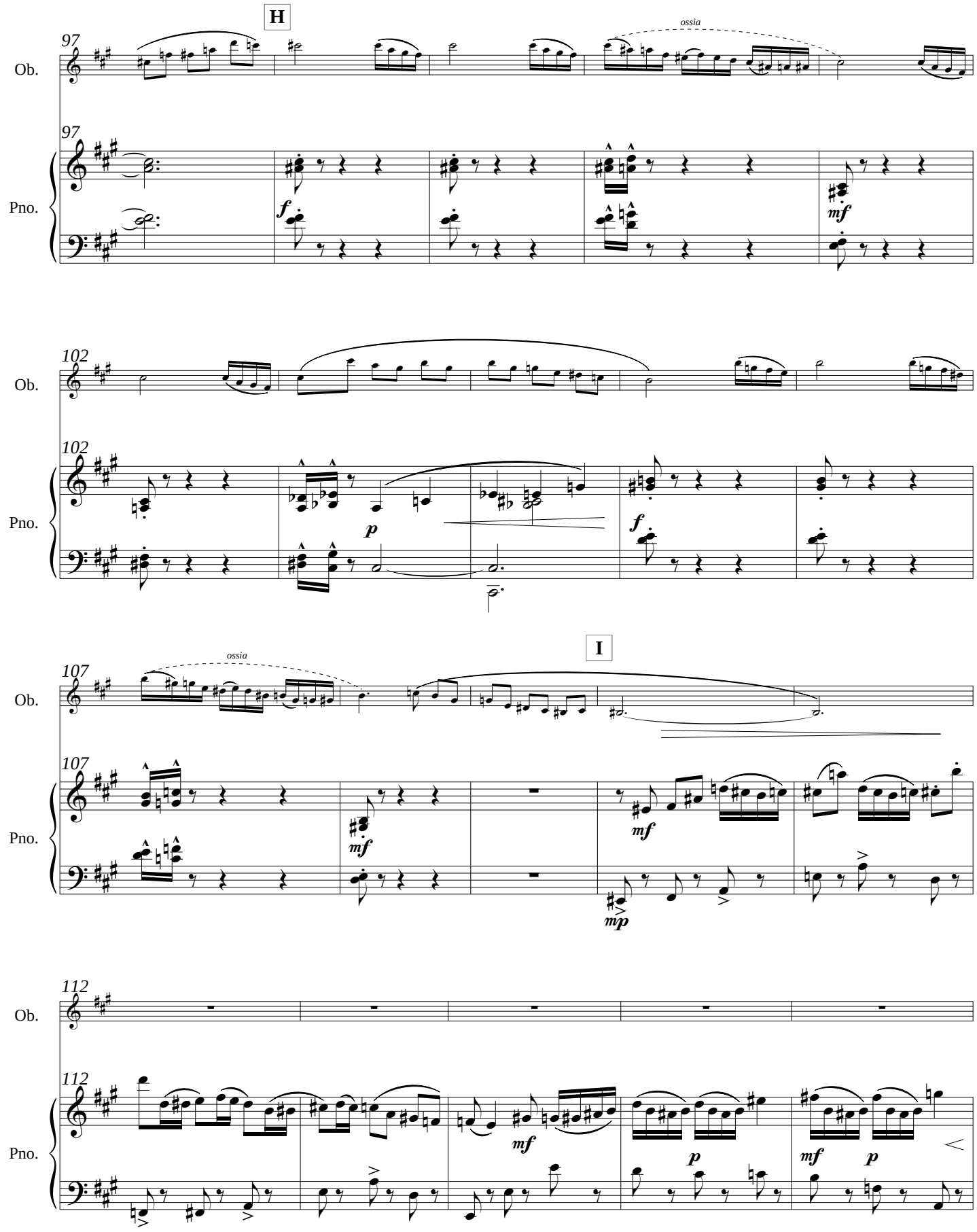
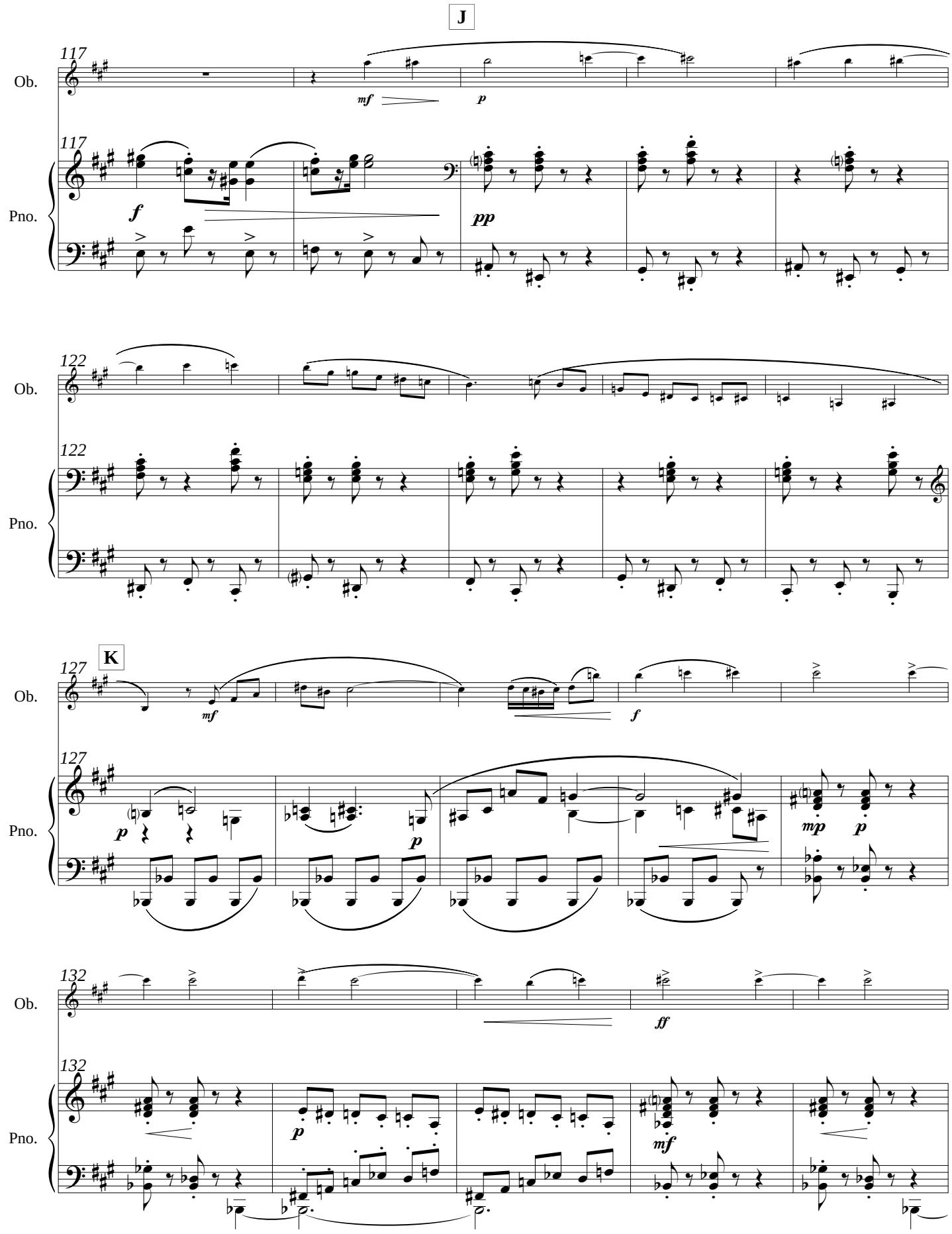

A Tempo
Ob.
Pno.
B
Largo - Cadenza ♩ = 52
Bass Oboe
possibile

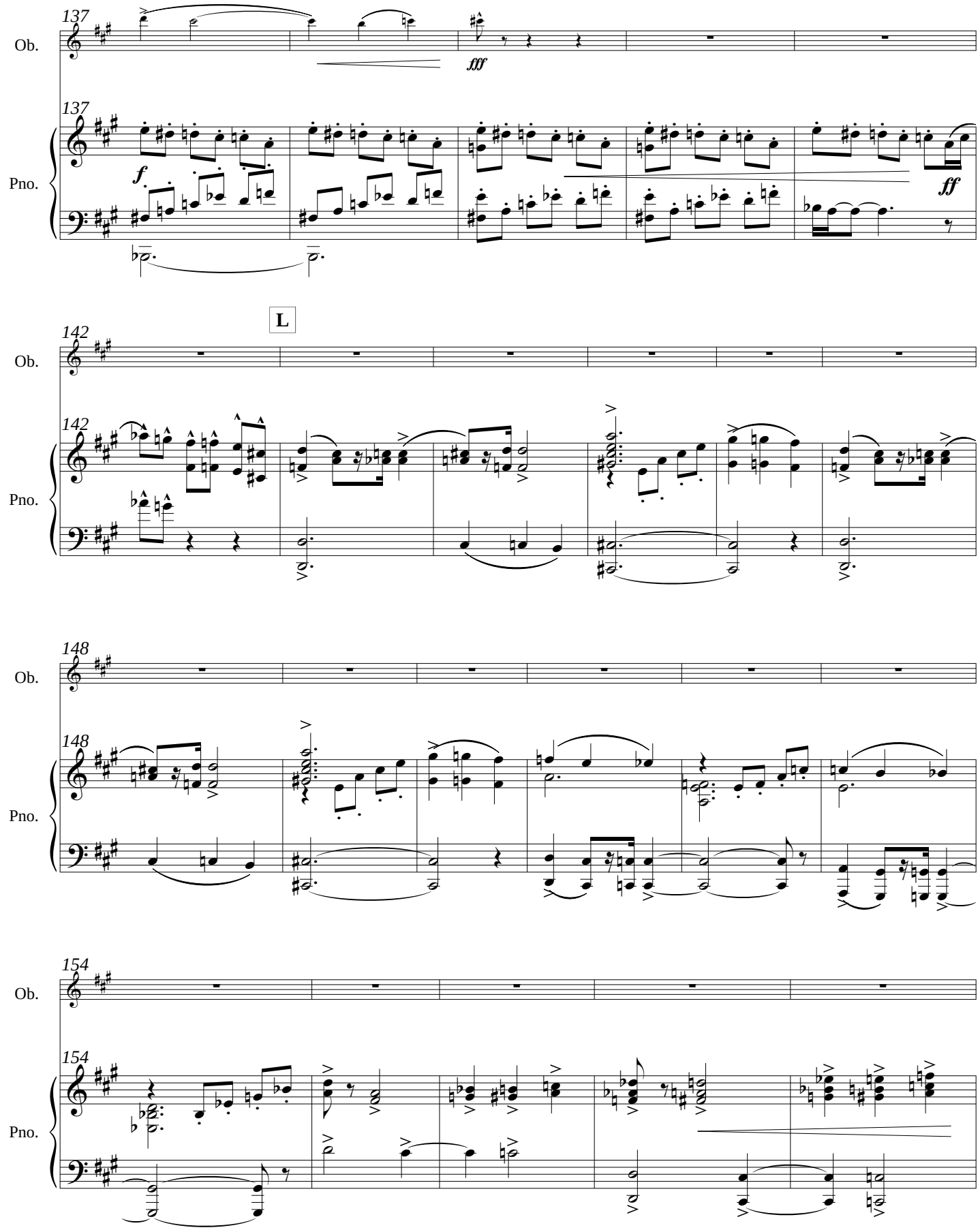

C
A Tempo
rit.
rit.
36
Ob.
Pno.
ff
p
p
A Tempo
40
mp
mp
D
Vivace tempestuo ♩ = 152
45
pp
ff
ff
possibile
50

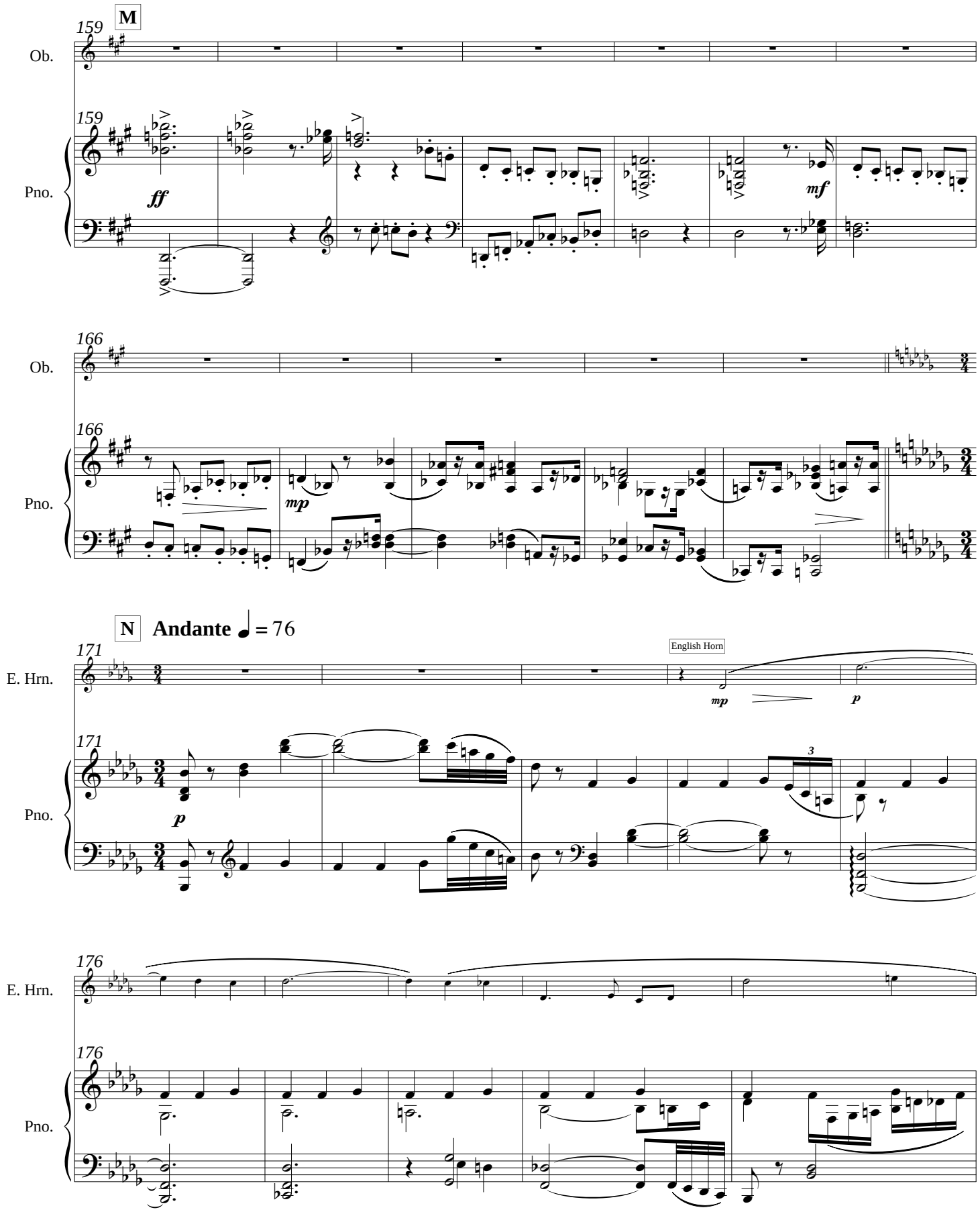

55
Ob.
55
Pno.
E
60
Ob.
60
Pno.
p
mf
65
Ob.
Oboe d'Amore
f
65
Pno.
F
70
Ob.
70
Pno.
p

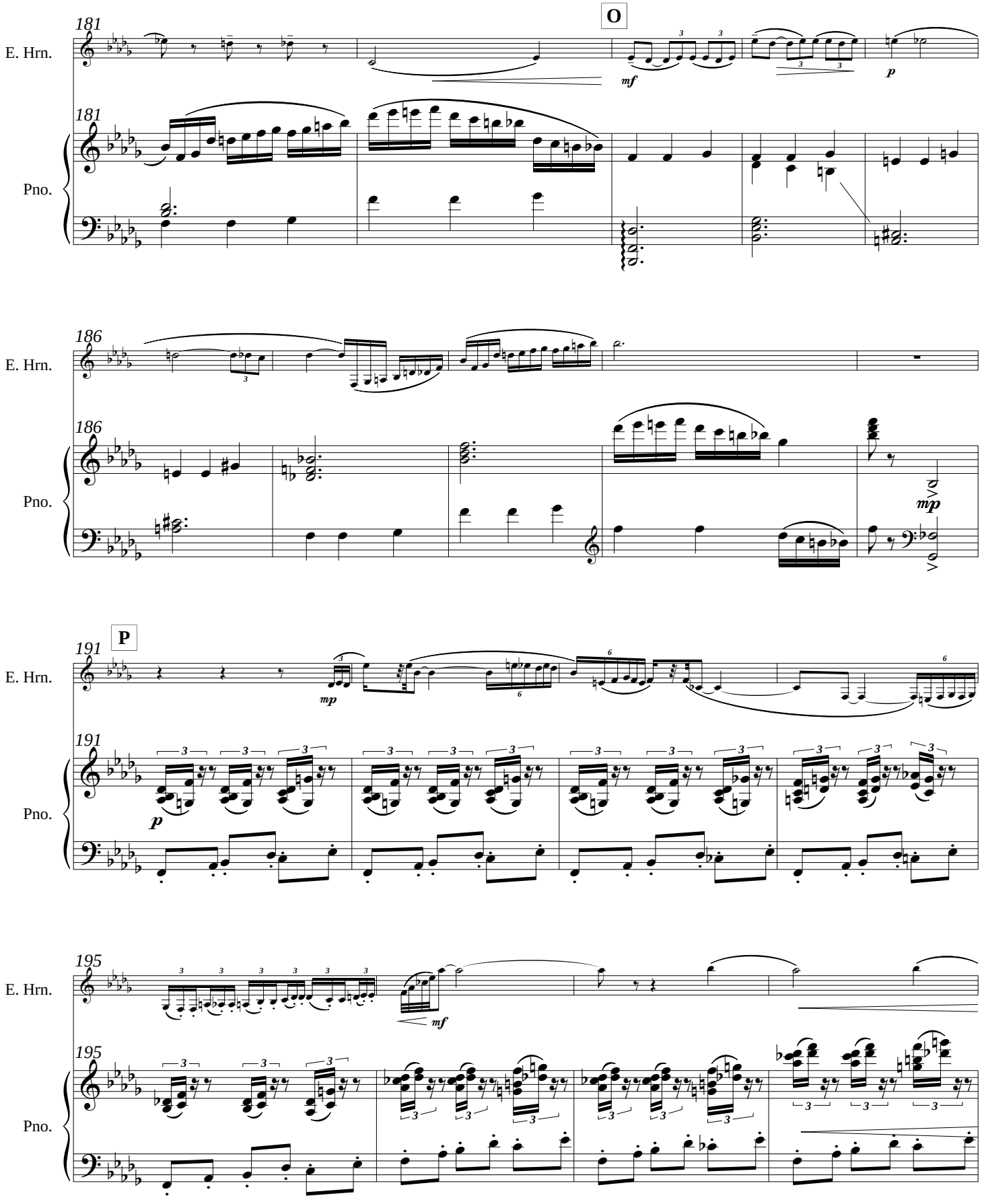

76
Ob.
76
Pno.
mf
p
f
81
Ob.
81
Pno.
mp
f
G
86
Ob.
86
Pno.
mp
p
91
Ob.
91
Pno.
f
f

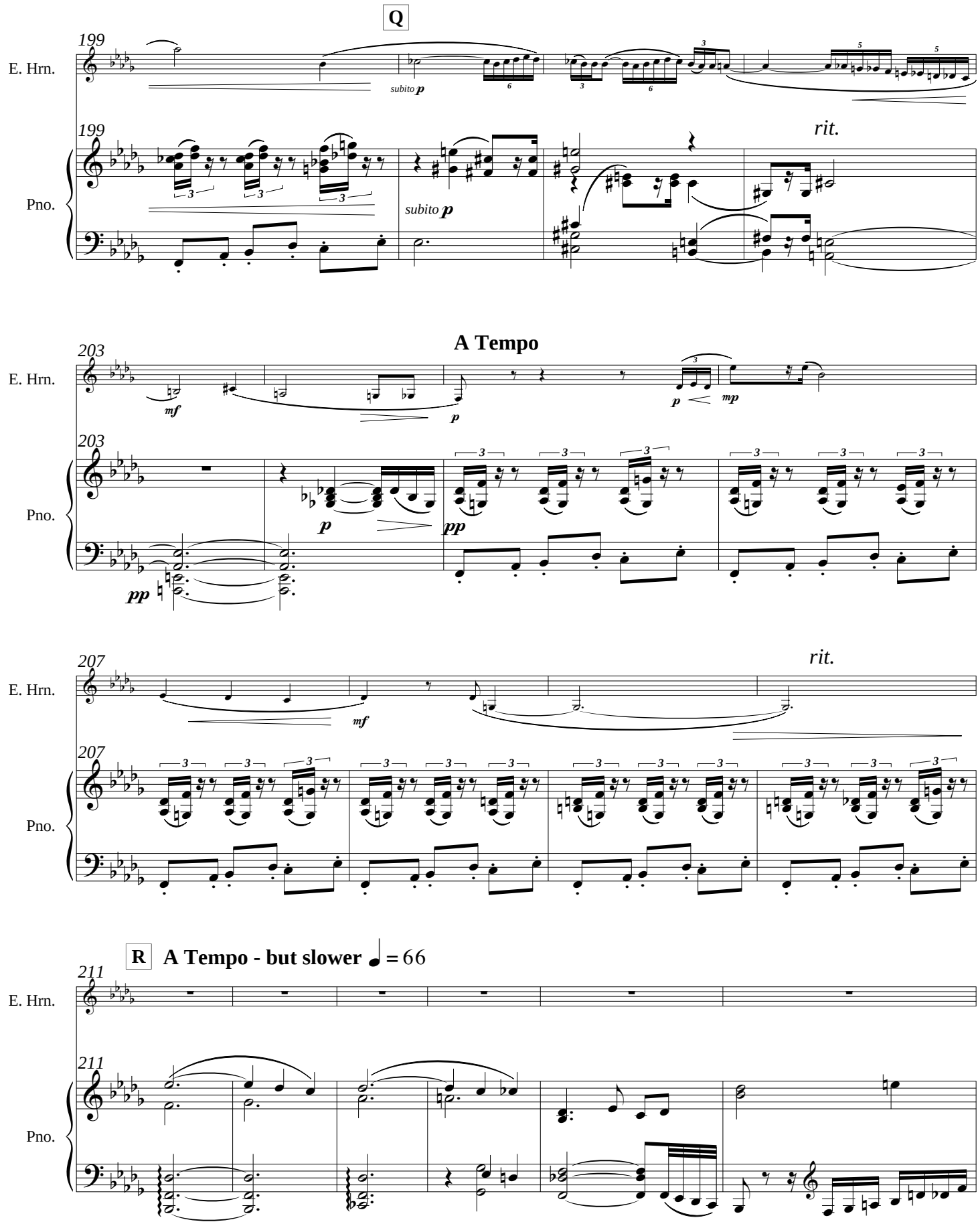

H
ossia
97
Ob.
Pno.
f
mf
102
p
I
107
mp
112

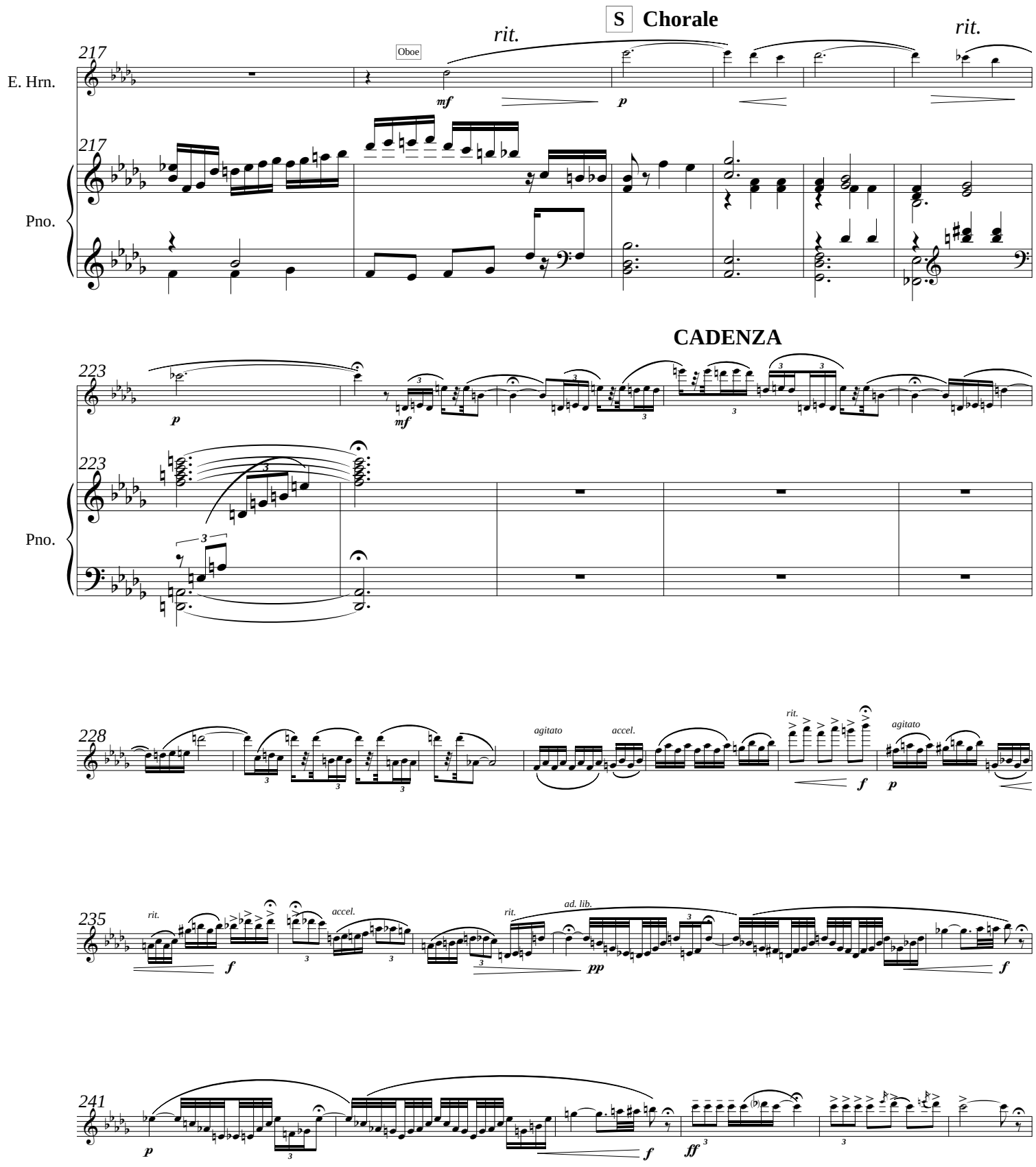

J
117
Ob.
117
Pno.
mf
p
f
pp
122
Ob.
122
Pno.
K
127
Ob.
127
Pno.
mf
f
p
p
mp
p
132
Ob.
132
Pno.
ff
p
mf

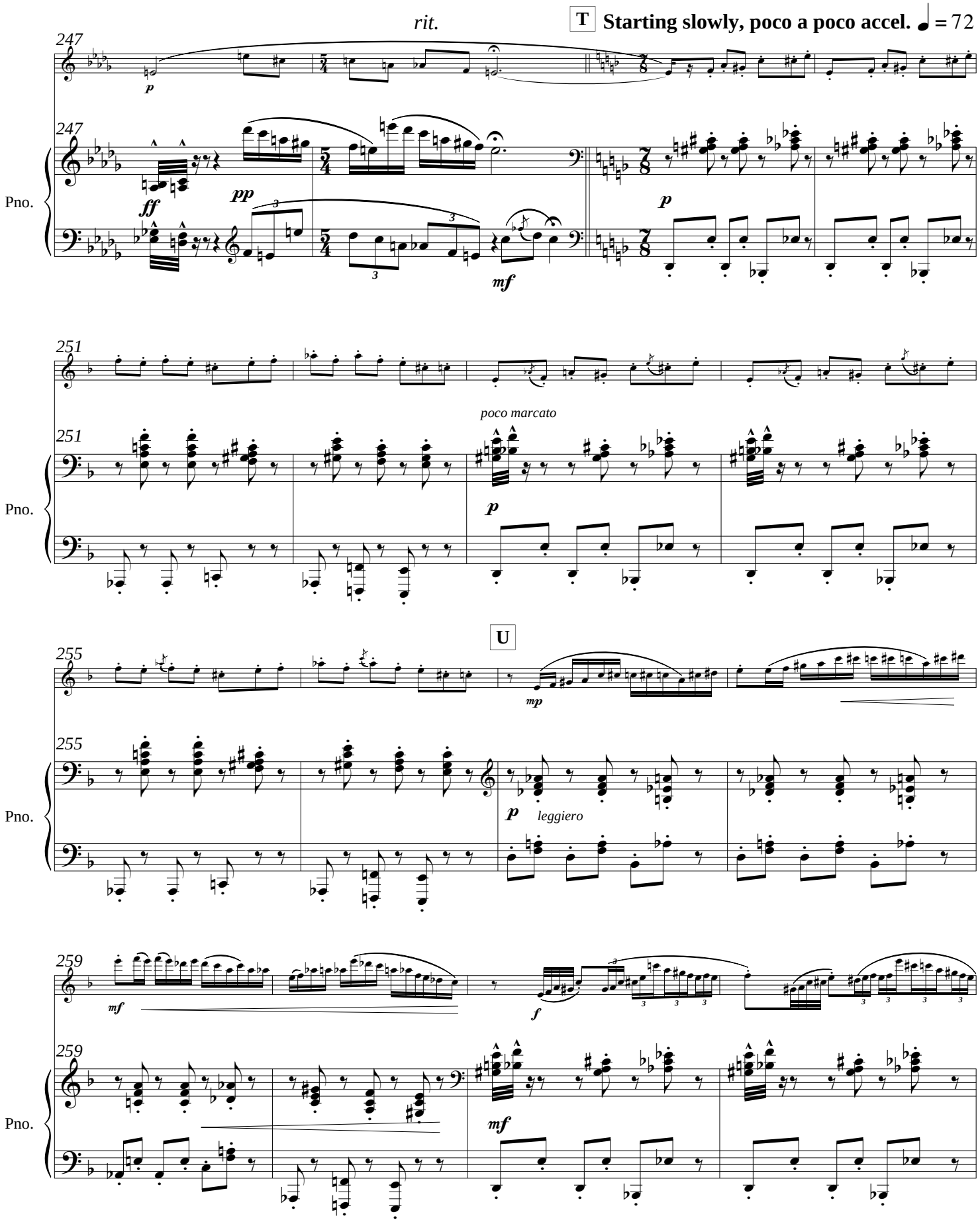

137
Ob.
137
Pno.
fff
f
ff
L
142
Ob.
142
Pno.
148
Ob.
148
Pno.
154
Ob.
154
Pno.

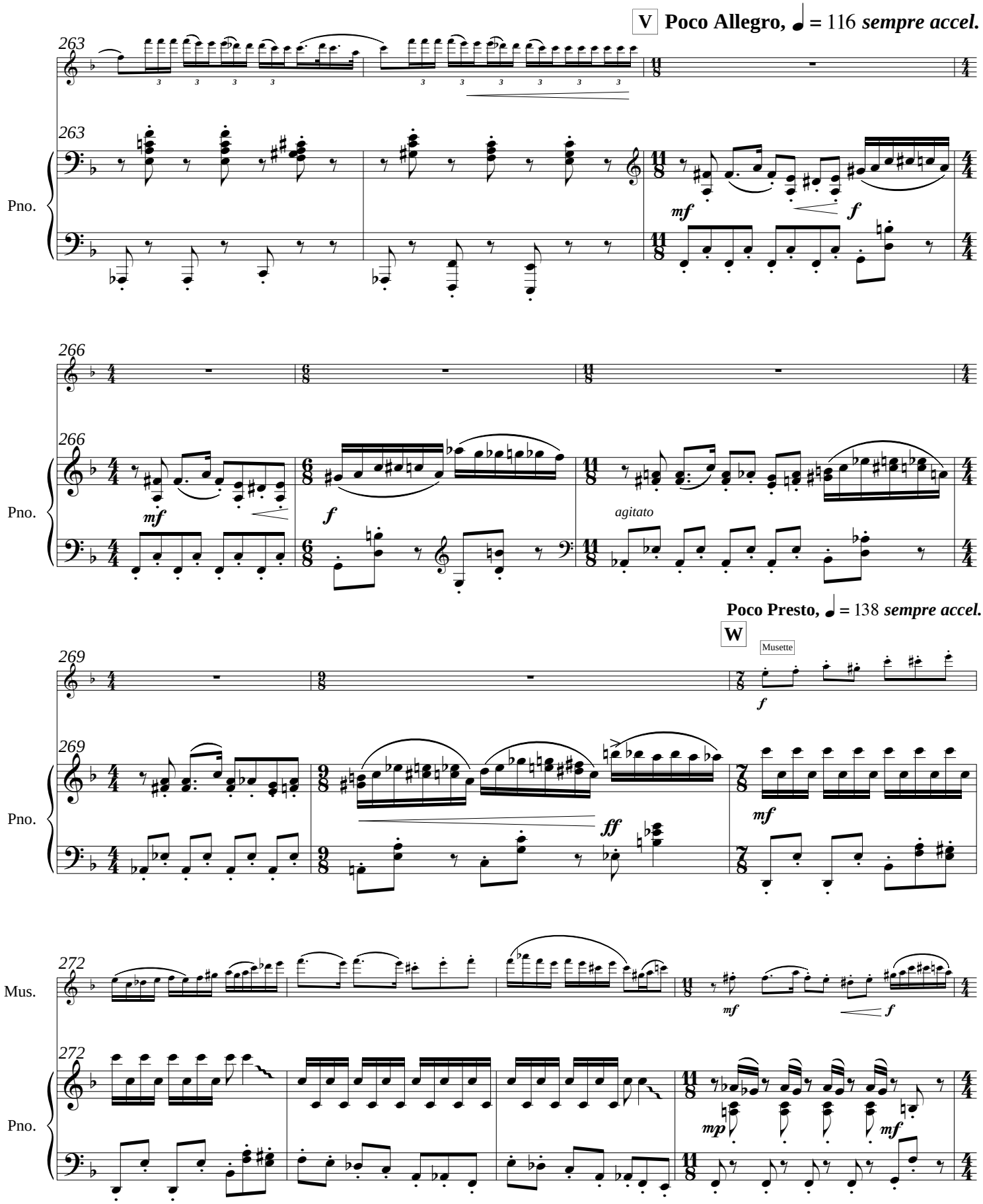

M
159
Ob.
159
Pno.
ff
mf
166
Ob.
166
Pno.
mp
N
Andante ♩ = 76
171
E. Hrn.
English Horn
mp
p
171
Pno.
p
3
176
E. Hrn.
176
Pno.

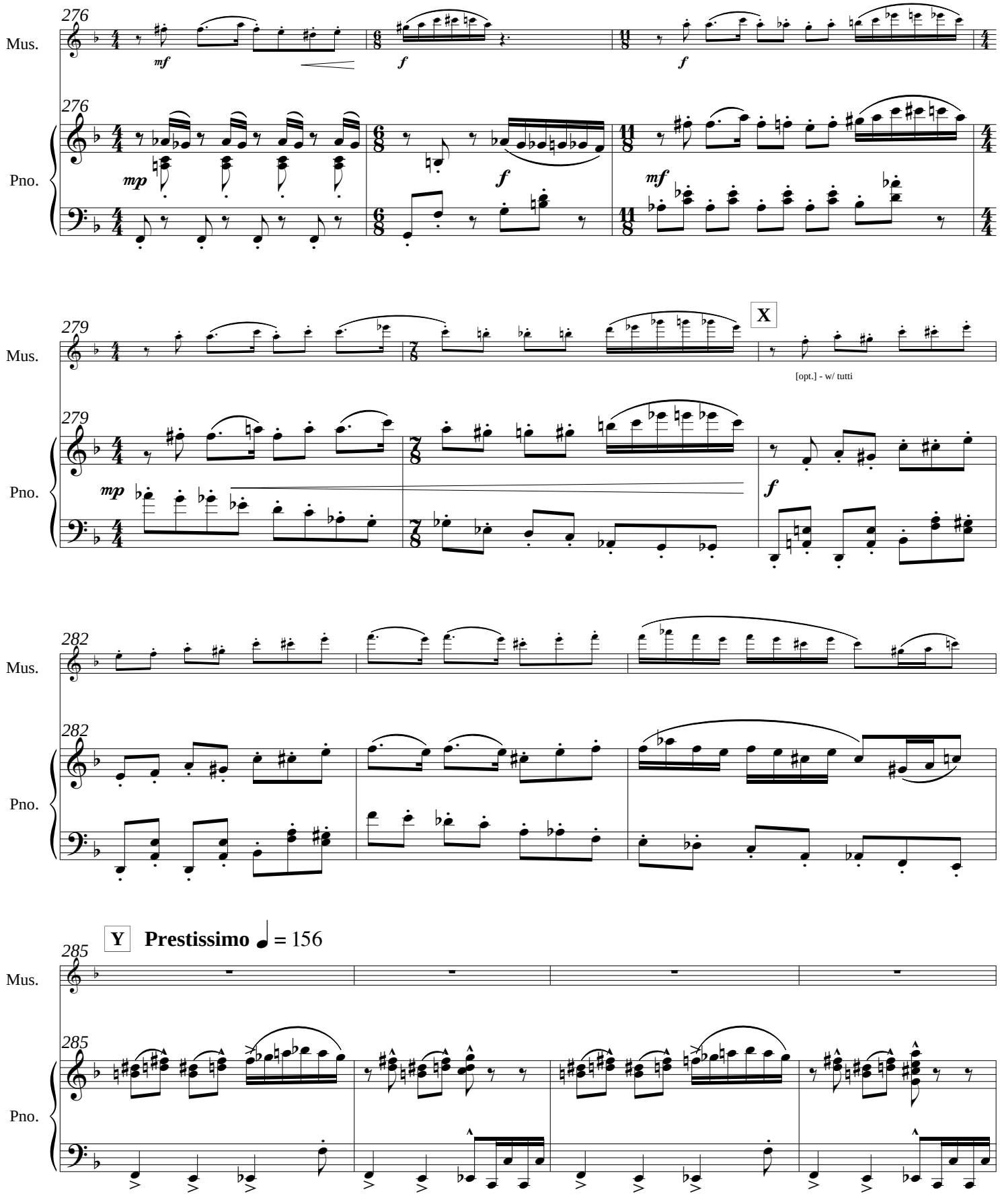

O
181
E. Hrn.
Pno.
mf
p
186
mp
P
191
195

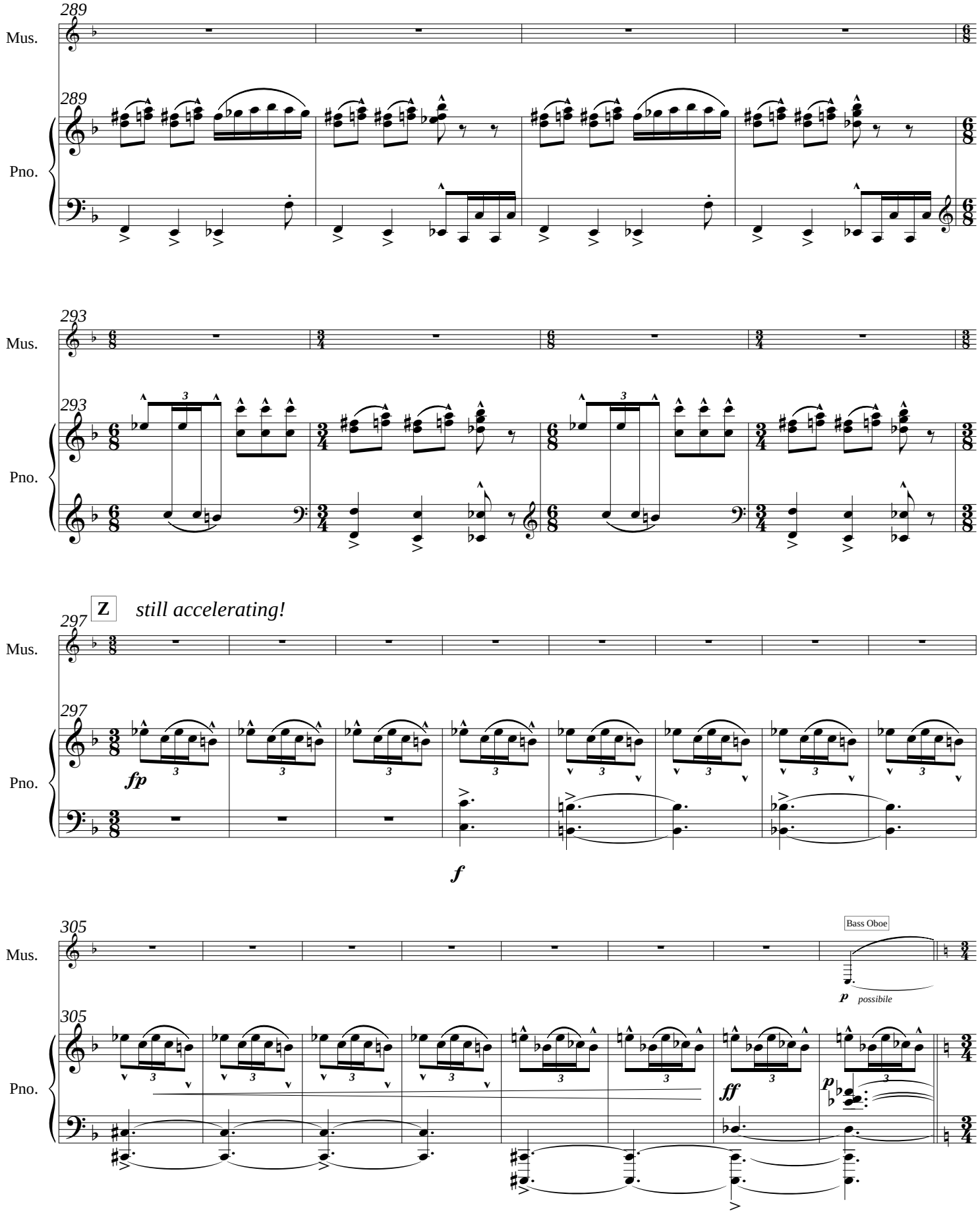

Q
199
E. Hrn.
199
Pno.
subito p
subito p
rit.
A Tempo
203
E. Hrn.
203
Pno.
mf
p
p
mp
p
pp
pp
207
E. Hrn.
207
Pno.
rit.
mf
R
A Tempo - but slower ♩ = 66
211
E. Hrn.
211
Pno.

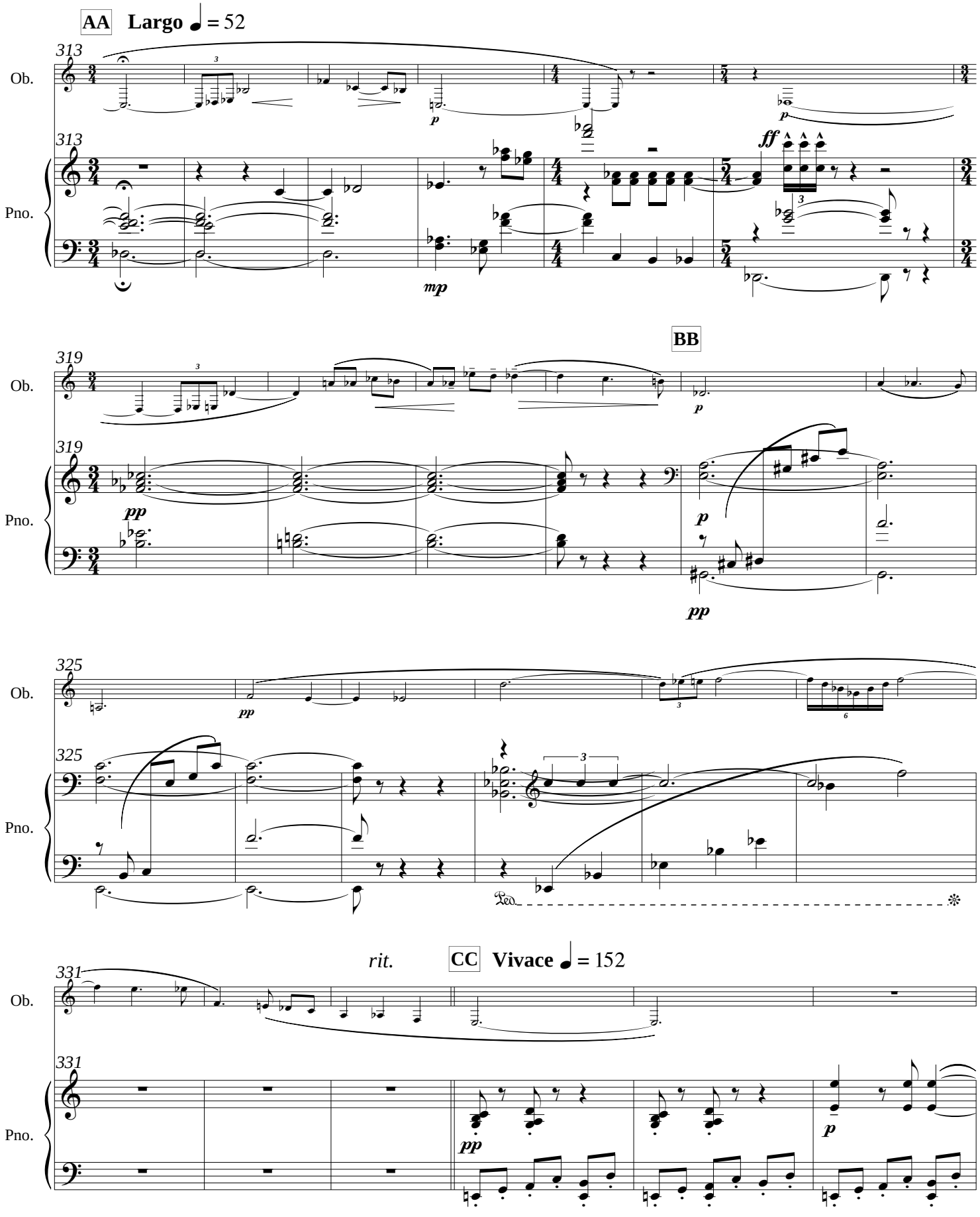

S Chorale
rit.
rit.
217
Oboe
E. Hrn.
mf
p
217
Pno.
CADENZA
223
p
mf
223
Pno.
228
agitato
accel.
rit.
f
p
agitato
235
rit.
f
accel.
rit.
ad. lib.
pp
f
241
p
f
ff

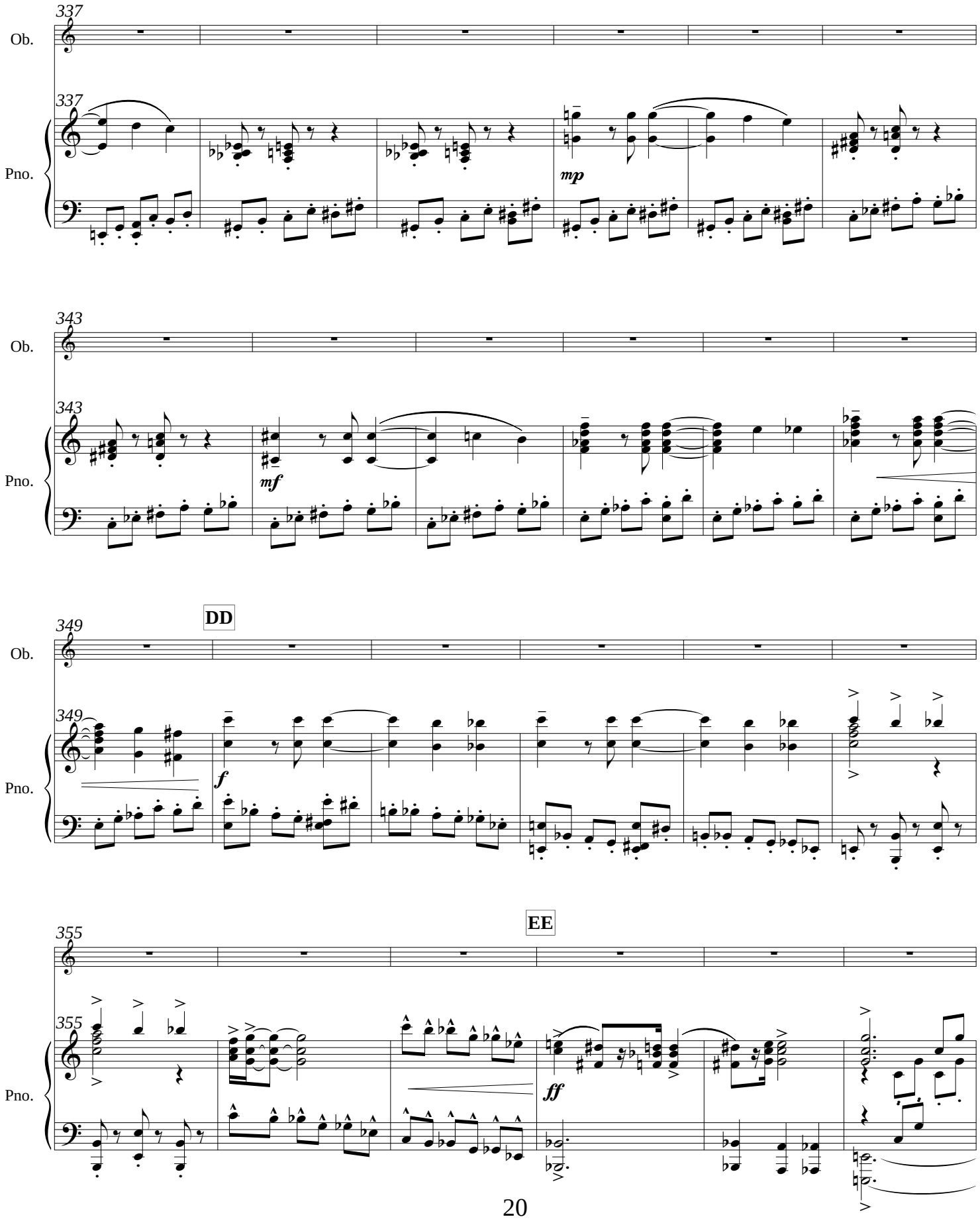

rit.
T
Starting slowly, poco a poco accel. ♩ = 72
247
Pno.
ff
pp
mf
p
251
poco marcato
U
255
mp
leggiero
259
mf
f

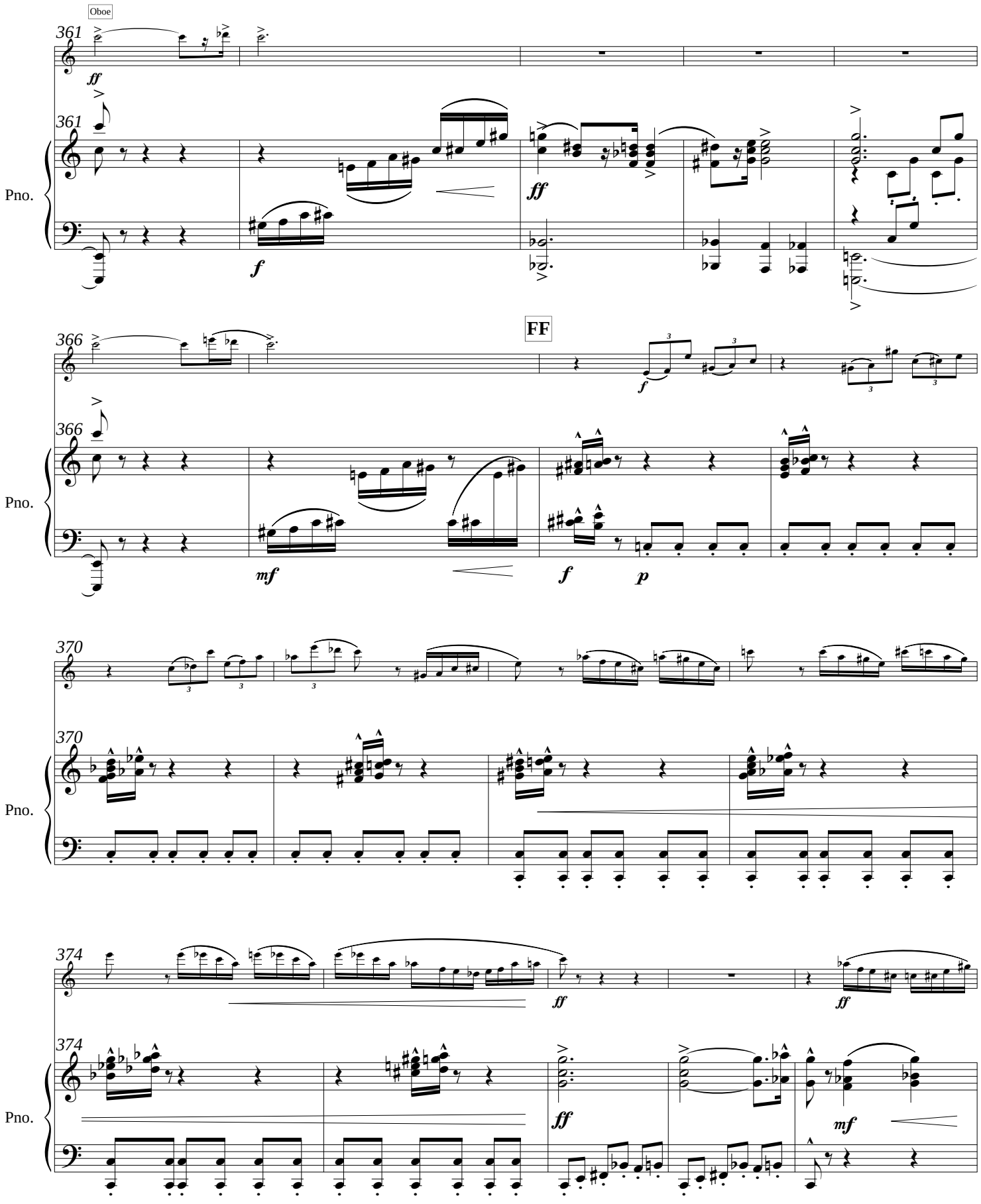

V
Poco Allegro, ♩ = 116 sempre accel.
263
263
Pno.
mf
f
266
266
Pno.
mf
f
agitato
Poco Presto, ♩ = 138 sempre accel.
W
Musette
269
269
Pno.
f
ff
mf
272
Mus.
272
Pno.
mf
f
mp
mf

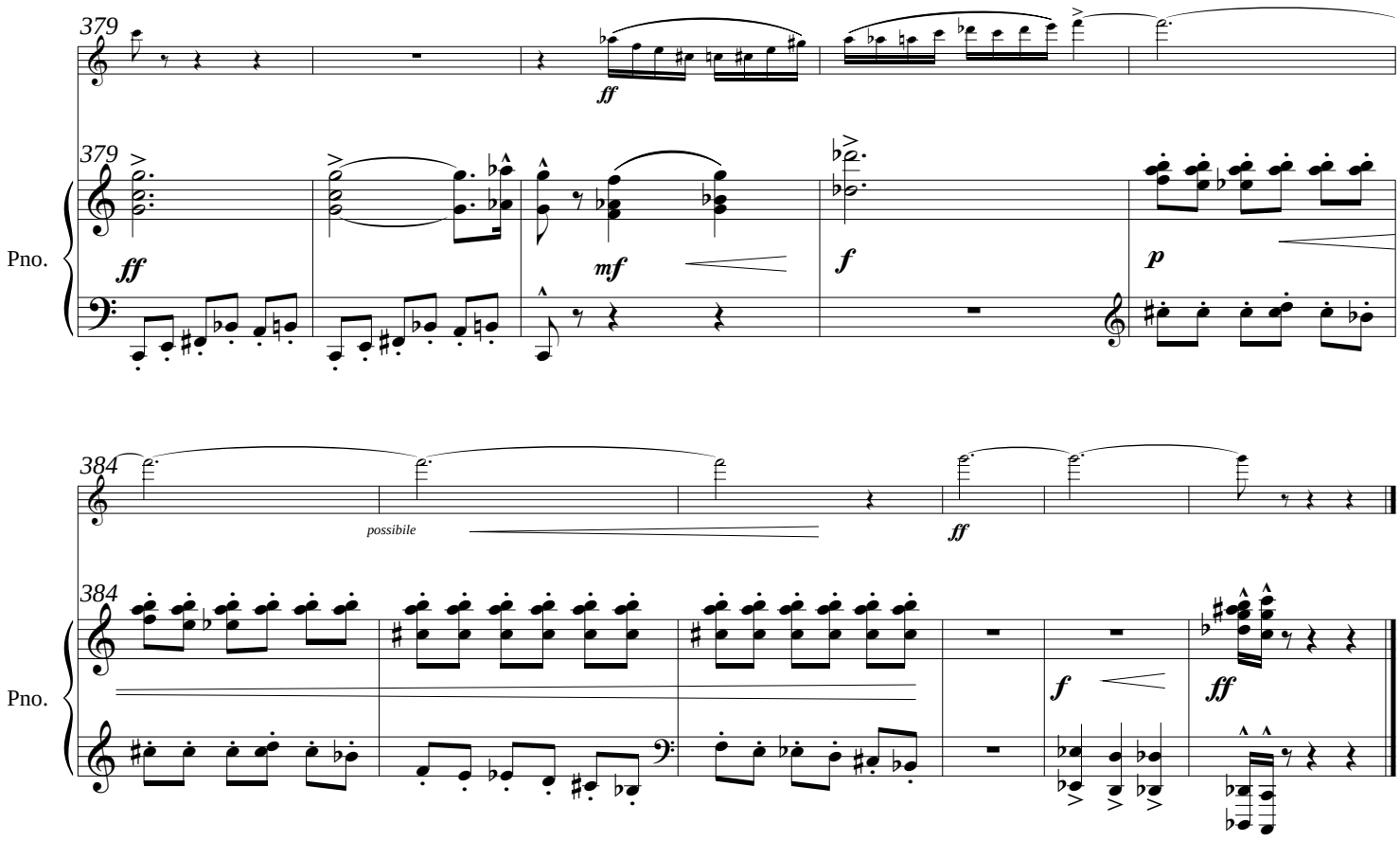

276
Mus.
Pno.
mf
f
mp
279
X
[opt.] - w/ tutti
282
Y
Prestissimo ♩ = 156
285


289
Mus.
289
Pno.
293
Mus.
293
Pno.
Z
still accelerating!
297
Mus.
297
Pno.
fp
f
305
Mus.
Bass Oboe
p
possibile
305
Pno.
ff
p


AA
Largo ♩ = 52
313
Ob.
Pno.
mp
ff
BB
319
pp
p
325
Ped.
rit.
CC
Vivace ♩ = 152
331


337
Ob.
337
Pno.
mp
343
Ob.
343
Pno.
mf
DD
349
Ob.
349
Pno.
f
EE
355
355
Pno.
ff


Oboe
361
ff
361
Pno.
f
ff
366
FF
f
366
Pno.
mf
f
p
370
370
Pno.
374
ff
ff
374
Pno.
ff
mf


379
ff
379
Pno.
ff
mf
f
p
384
possibile
ff
384
Pno.
f
ff