La Grande Vitesse

a Triple Brass Concerto

for Solo Trumpet, French Horn and Trombone
with orchestra
PIANO REDUCTION

James M. Stephenson

Stephenson Music

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La Grande Vitesse

"Great Swiftness"

by James Stephenson

a concerto for Brass Trio - trumpet, french horn and trombone - and Orchestra
[Piano reduction]

I. Moderato, spirito
II. Adagio - scherzo
III. Run with it

approximate performance time: 17 minutes

Program Notes by the composer:

As with many important projects, it sometimes is necessary to have patience, but then to be prepared to act quickly! I don't even recall when Erich Peterson (Assistant Principal Horn of the Grand Rapids Symphony) and I first touched on the idea of my writing a solo piece to include him, but by the time the commissione was finalized with the Grand Rapids Symphony (May, 2009), and the premiere date was set, for October of the same year, I knew I had to get busy! The new work was to include Erich and two of his brass colleagues, who were also good friends of mine: Charley Lea on trumpet, and Dan Mattson on trombone.

While in Grand Rapids that May, I took a stroll through downtown pondering what sort of piece I might compose for the decided-upon brass triple concerto. It was during this walk that I happened upon Alexander Calder's 43' high sculpture: "La Grande Vitesse" (Great Swiftness). I had written music based on Calder before, and so seeing this sculpture while at the same time considering another new musical project seemed a bit prophetic, and ostensibly not to be ignored.

I was immediately struck with the idea of a piece that would exhibit a constant forward motion; not necessarily imitating through sound a rapidly flowing river, but capturing that inherent energy while allowing the soloists to form a great musical arc (much like the bottom shapes of the sculpture) on top of the churning orchestra. Therefore, much of the piece is up-tempo and spirited, though the 2nd movement does allow for some slower and softer playing by the soloists and orchestra. [Coincidentally enough, that Calder sculpture, as the first federally funded work of art in the U.S., was dedicated in the year of my birth and thus, like me, is 40 years old.]

I am extremley grateful to Charley, Erich and Dan, for their dedication to this project. I am also indebted to Maestros John Varineau (conductor of the premiere) and David Lockington, Music librarian Sarah Bowman, GRS Executive Peter Kjome and Orchestra Manager Roger Nelson, for their faith in the continued creation of new music, and believing in the ideal that worthwhile music can and still should be something in which to be invested. I would also like to extend my appreciation to my colleagues in the Grand Rapids Symphony, for their talents in performing with such unity and beauty, and without whom not a note of this new piece could possibly be heard.

Commissioned by the Grand Rapids Symphony; David Lockington, Music Director.
Premiere conducted by John Varineau, October 29, 2009.

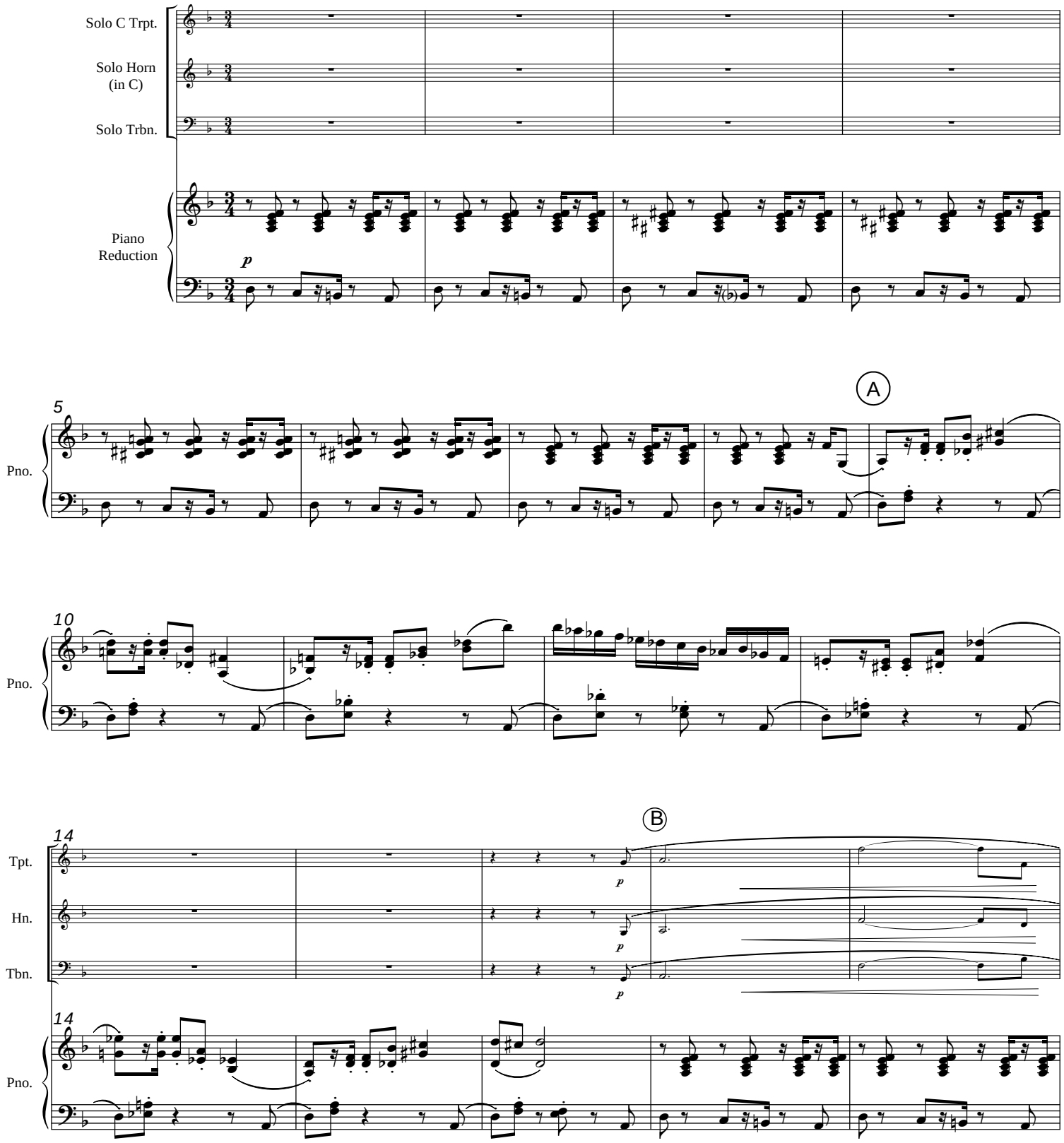
La Grande Vitesse

Triple Concerto for Brass

I.

James M. Stephenson [2009]

Moderato, spirito ♩ = 116



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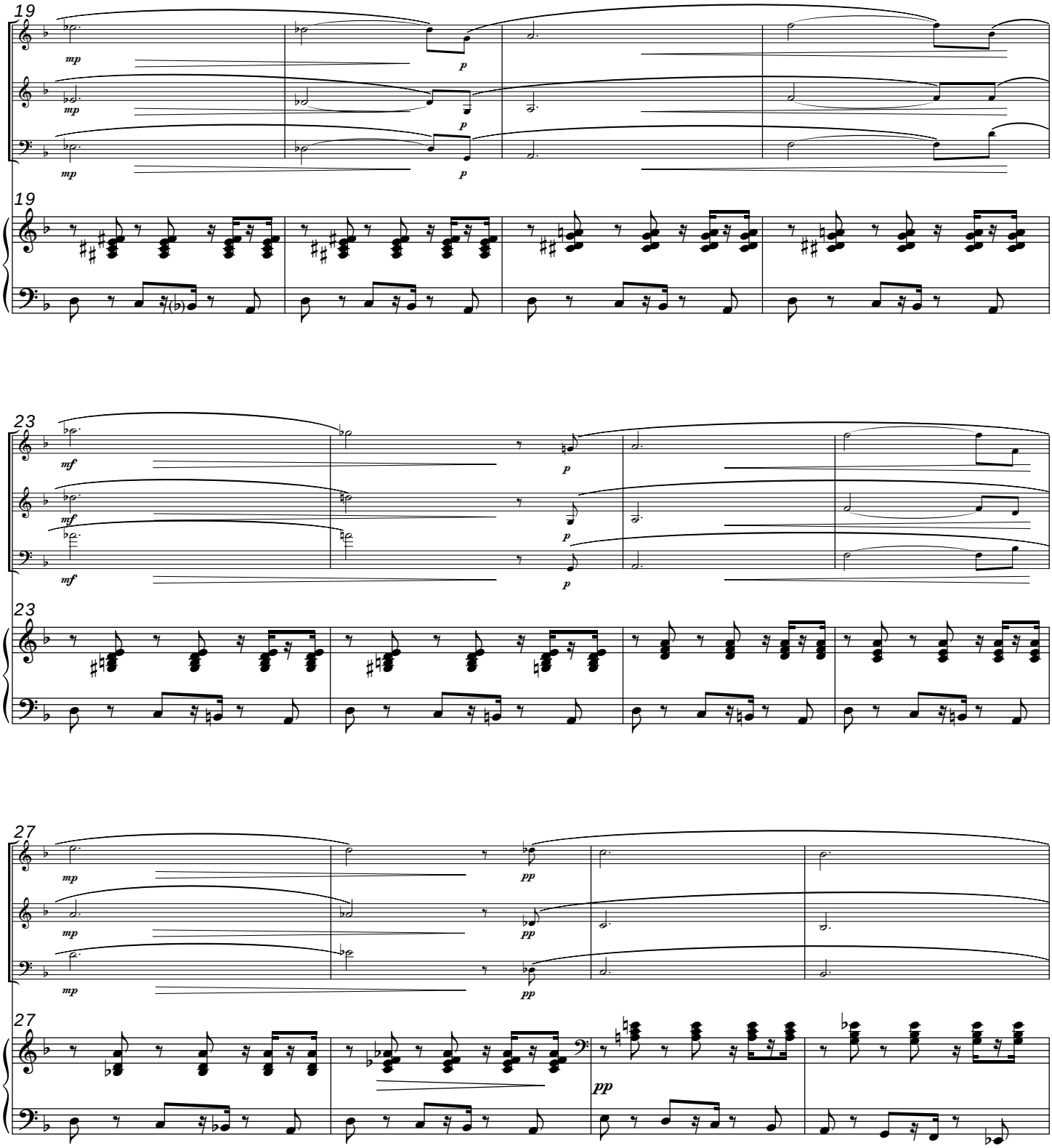
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Hn.
Tbn.
Pno.
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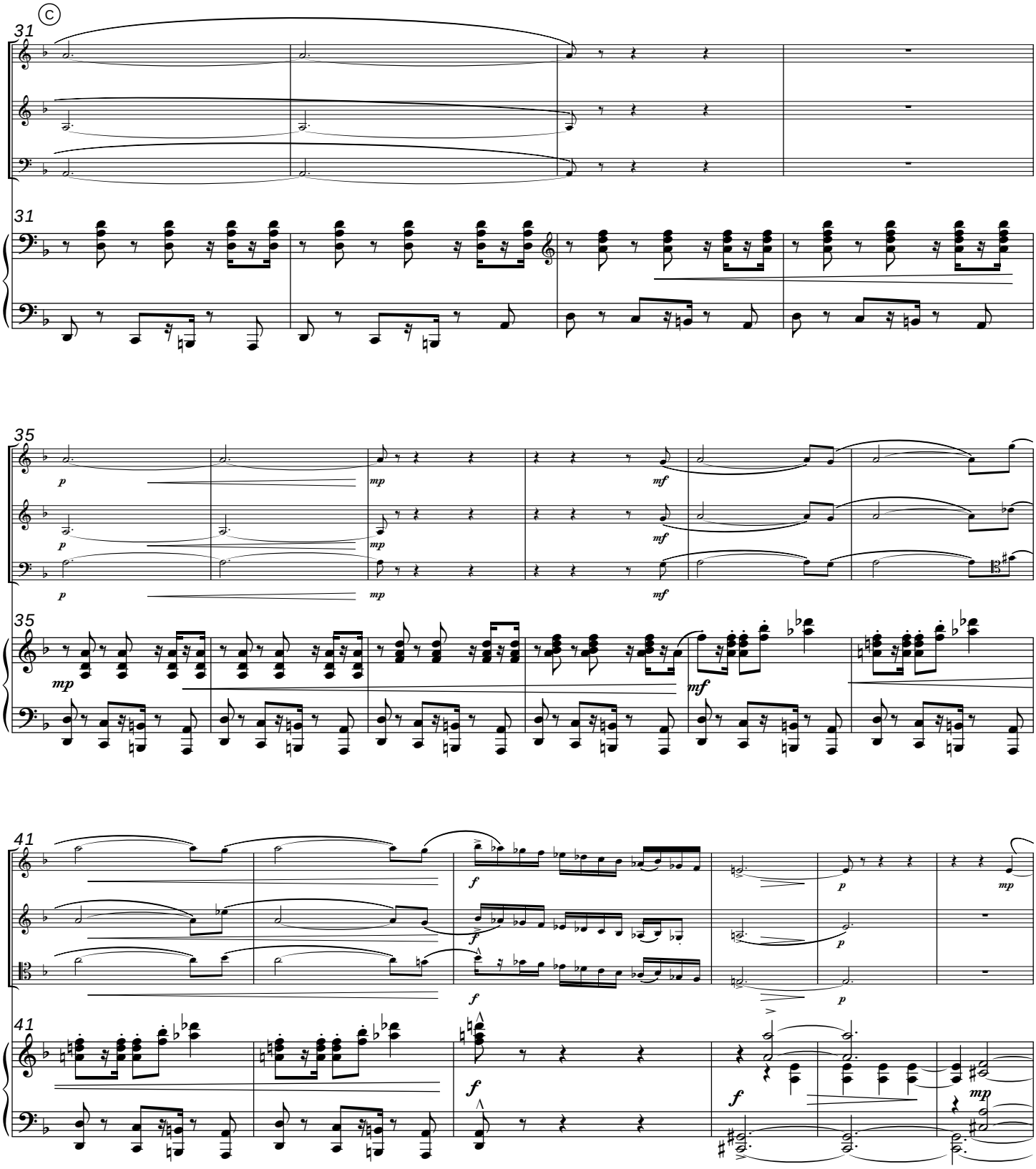
p
23
mf
27
pp


C
31
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
31
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Tpt.
Hn.
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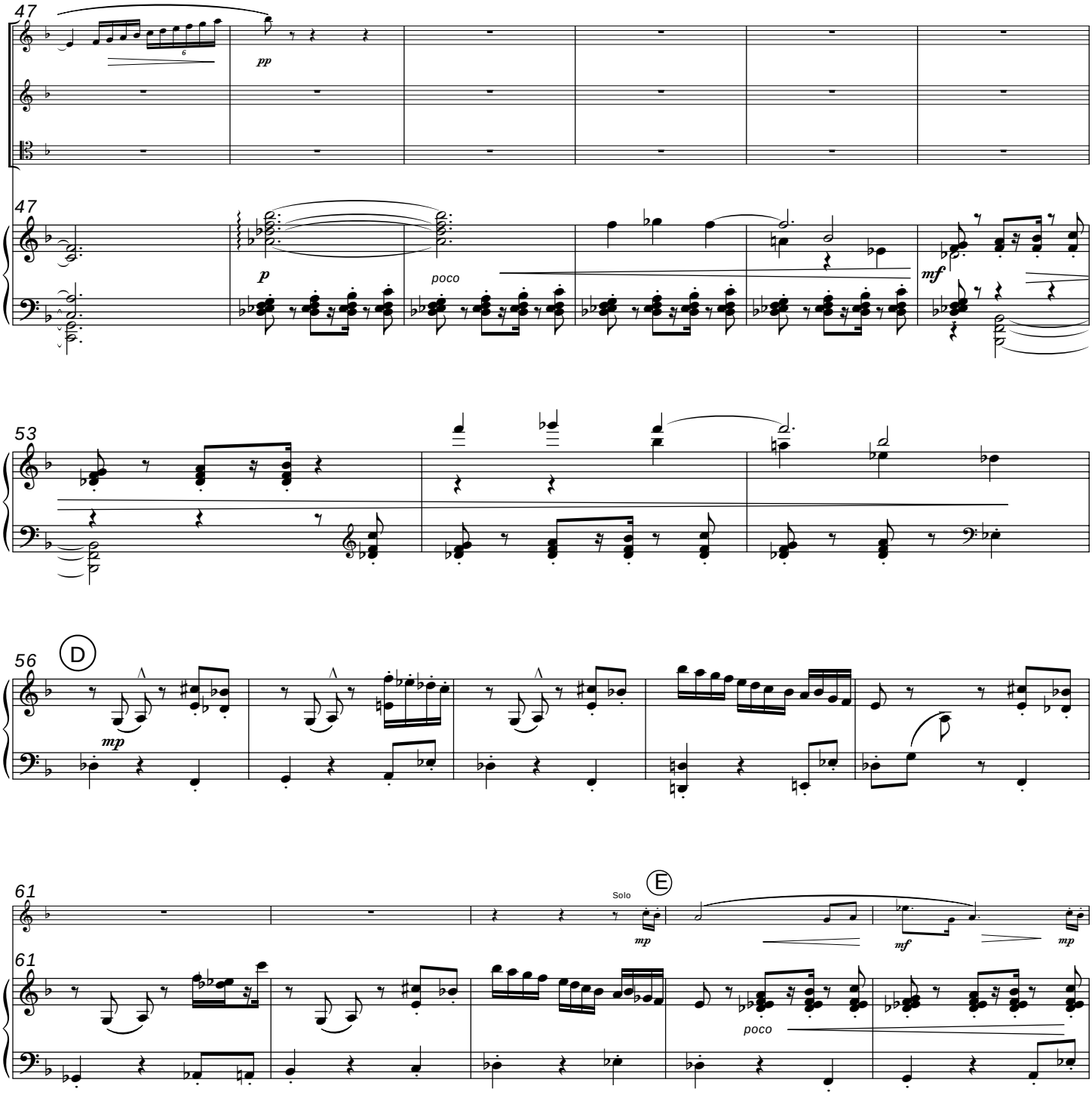
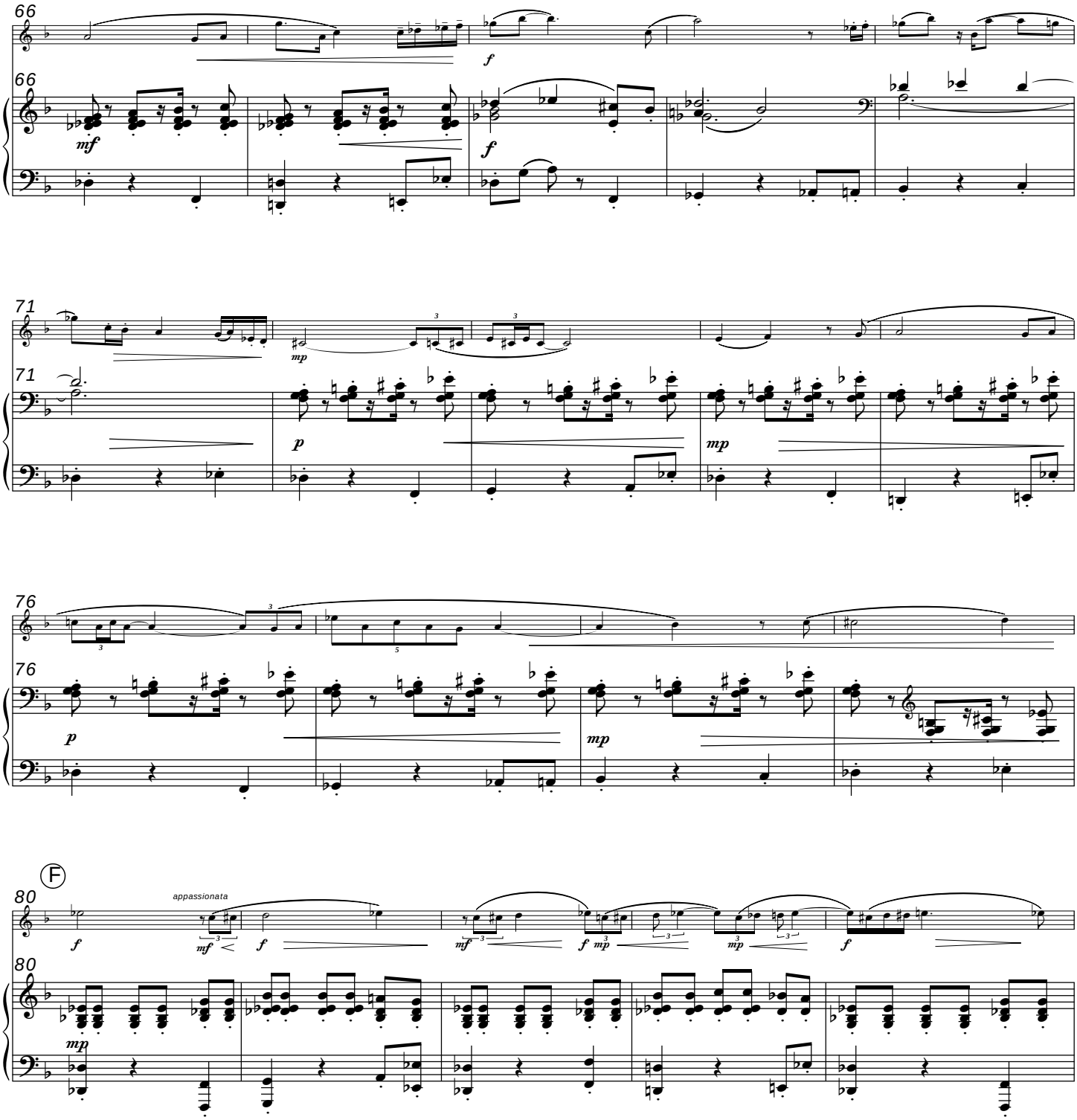
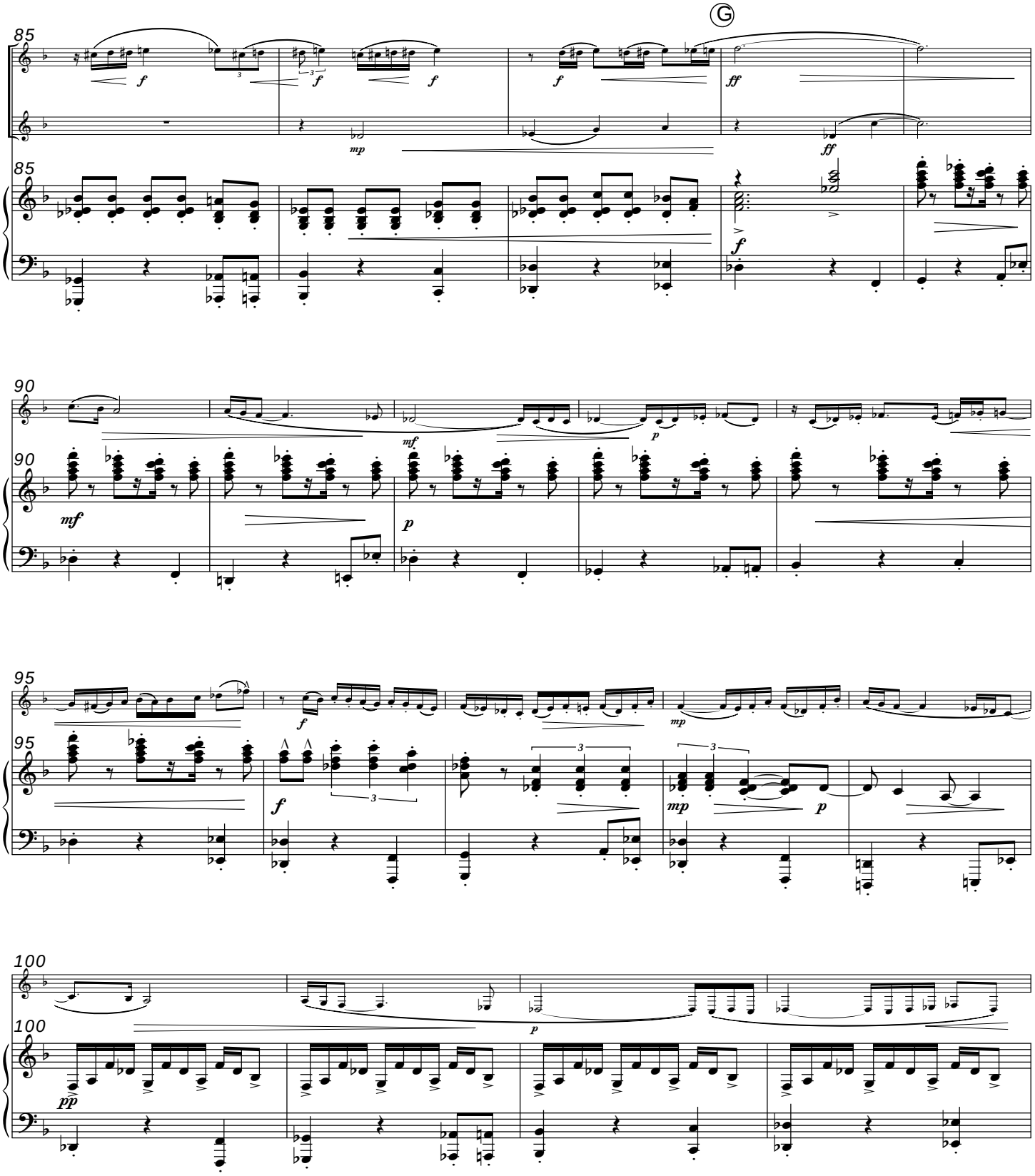
Pno.
41
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
41
Pno.


47
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
pp
47
Pno.
p
poco
mf
53
Pno.
56
D
Pno.
mp
61
Tpt.
Solo
E
mp
mf
mp
61
Pno.
poco


66
Tpt.
Pno.
mf
f
71
mp
p
76
80
Ⓕ
appassionata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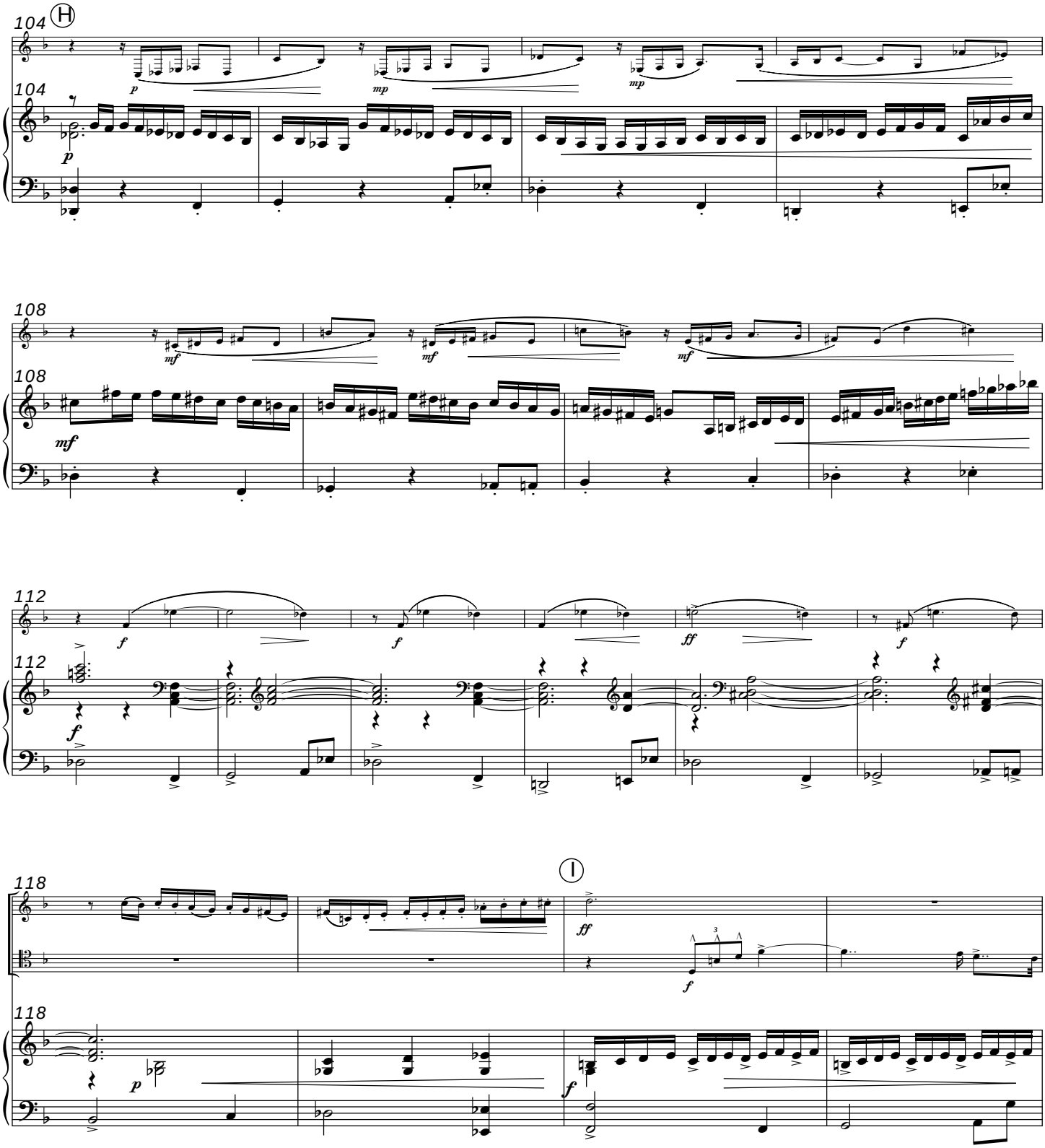
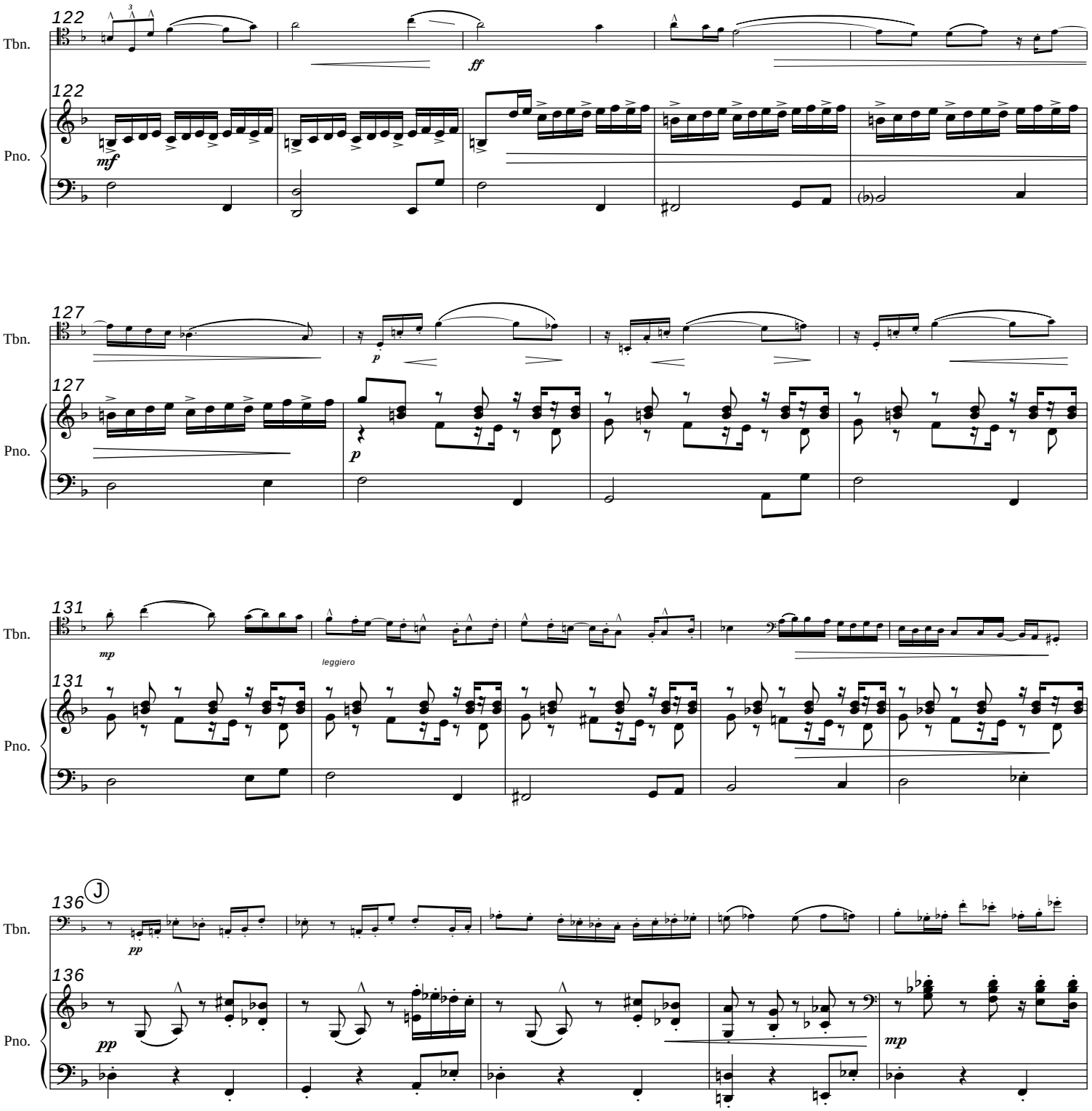
Hn.
Pno.
Ⓖ
f
mp
ff
90
mf
p
95
100
pp


104
H
Hn.
Pno.
p
mp
mp
108
mf
mf
mf
112
f
f
ff
f
118
I
Hn.
Tbn.
Pno.
ff
f
p
f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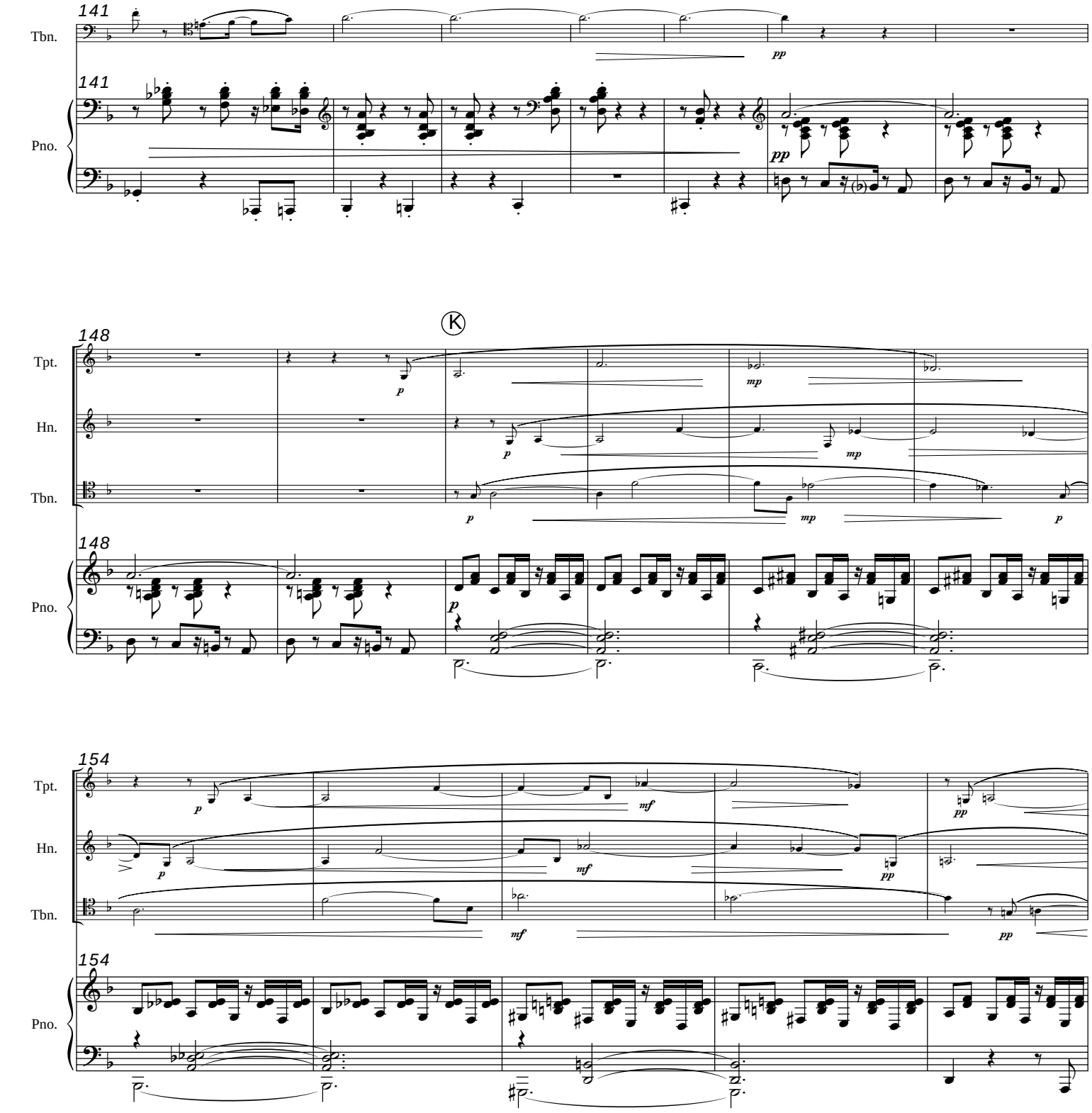
mf
ff
127
p
131
mp
leggiero
136
J
pp
mp


141
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141
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pp
pp
148
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Hn.
Tbn.
148
Pno.
K
p
mp
p
mp
p
mp
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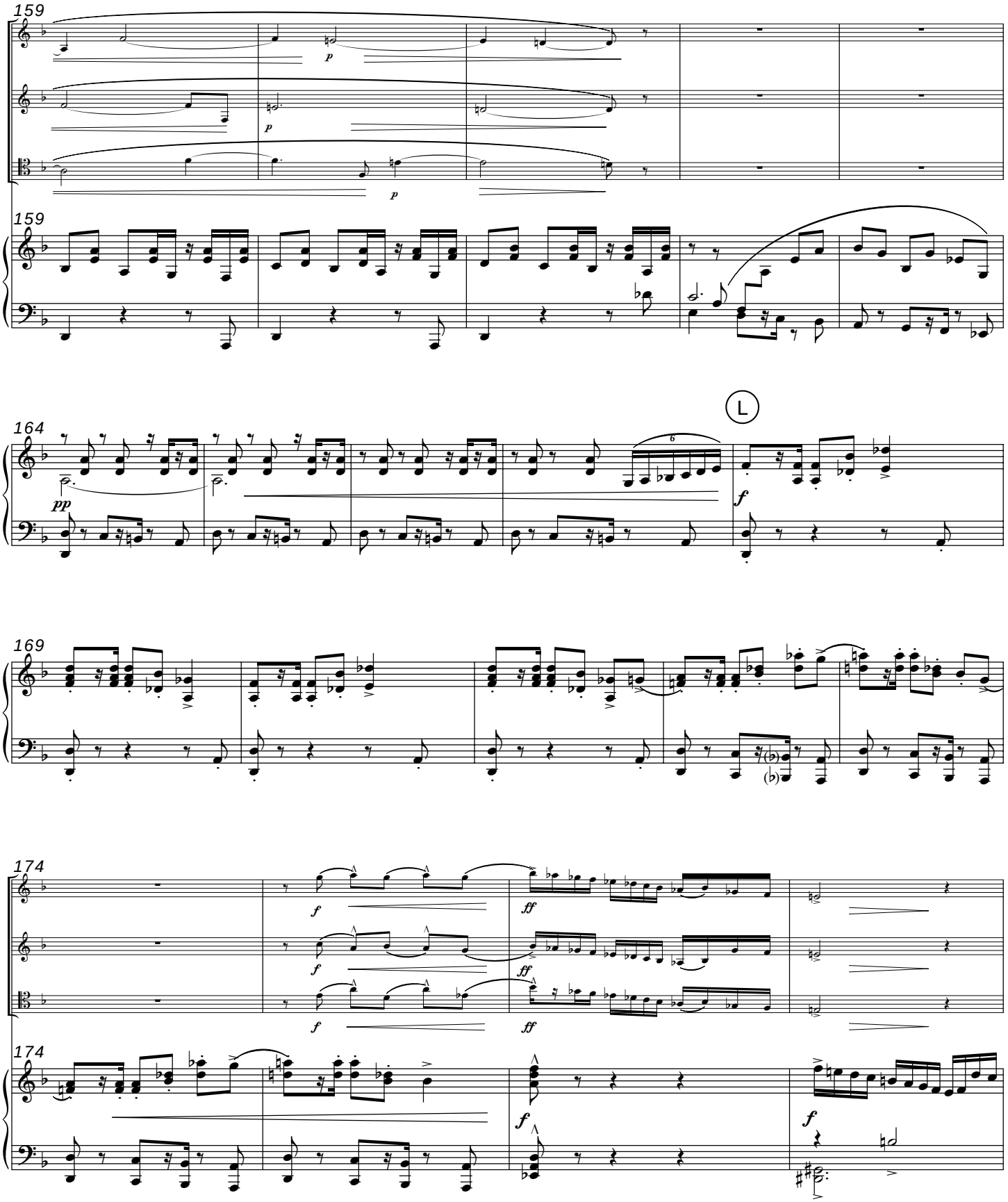
p
mf
pp
p
mf
pp
mf
pp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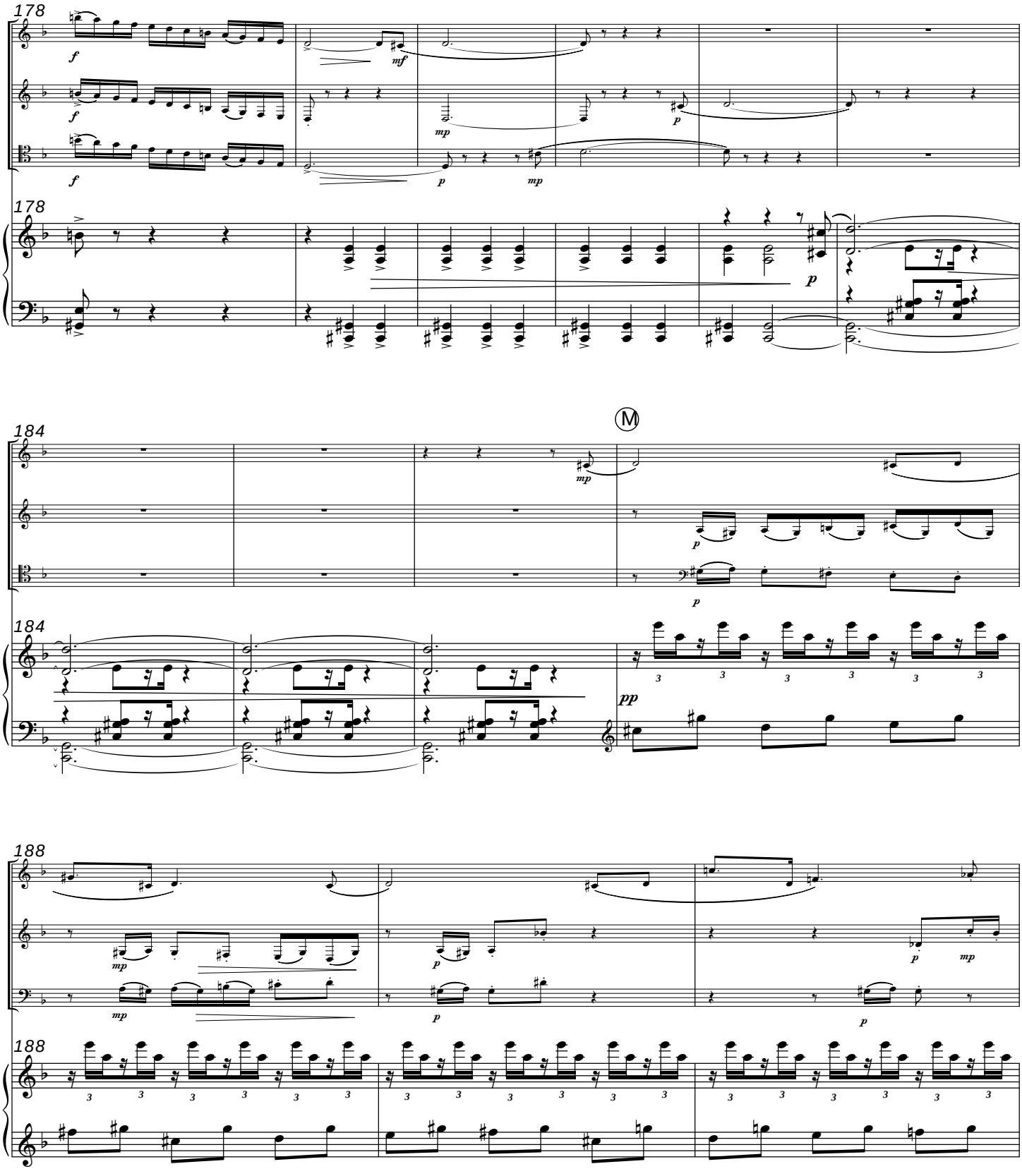
174
Pno.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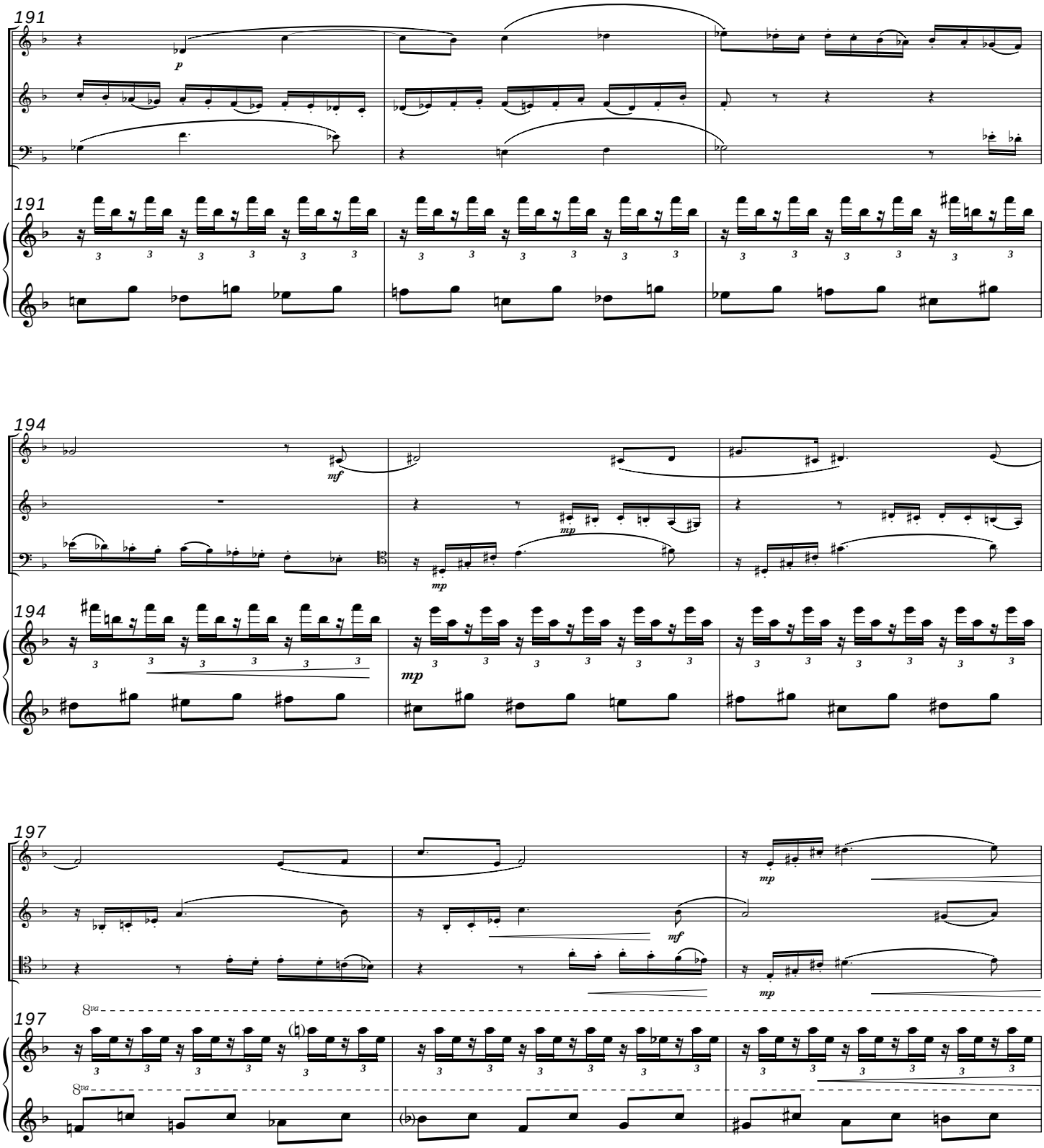
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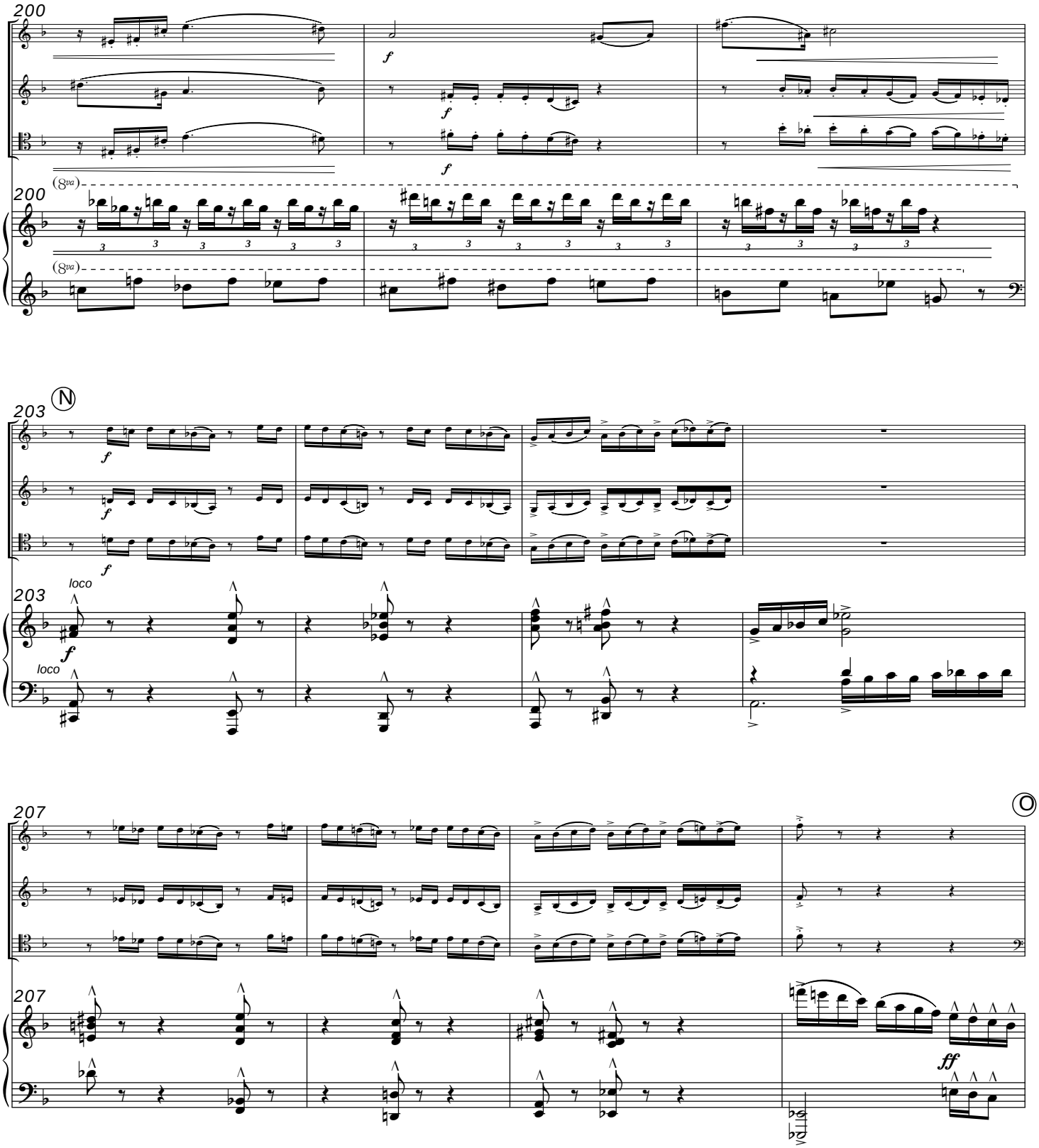
mp
197
8va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f
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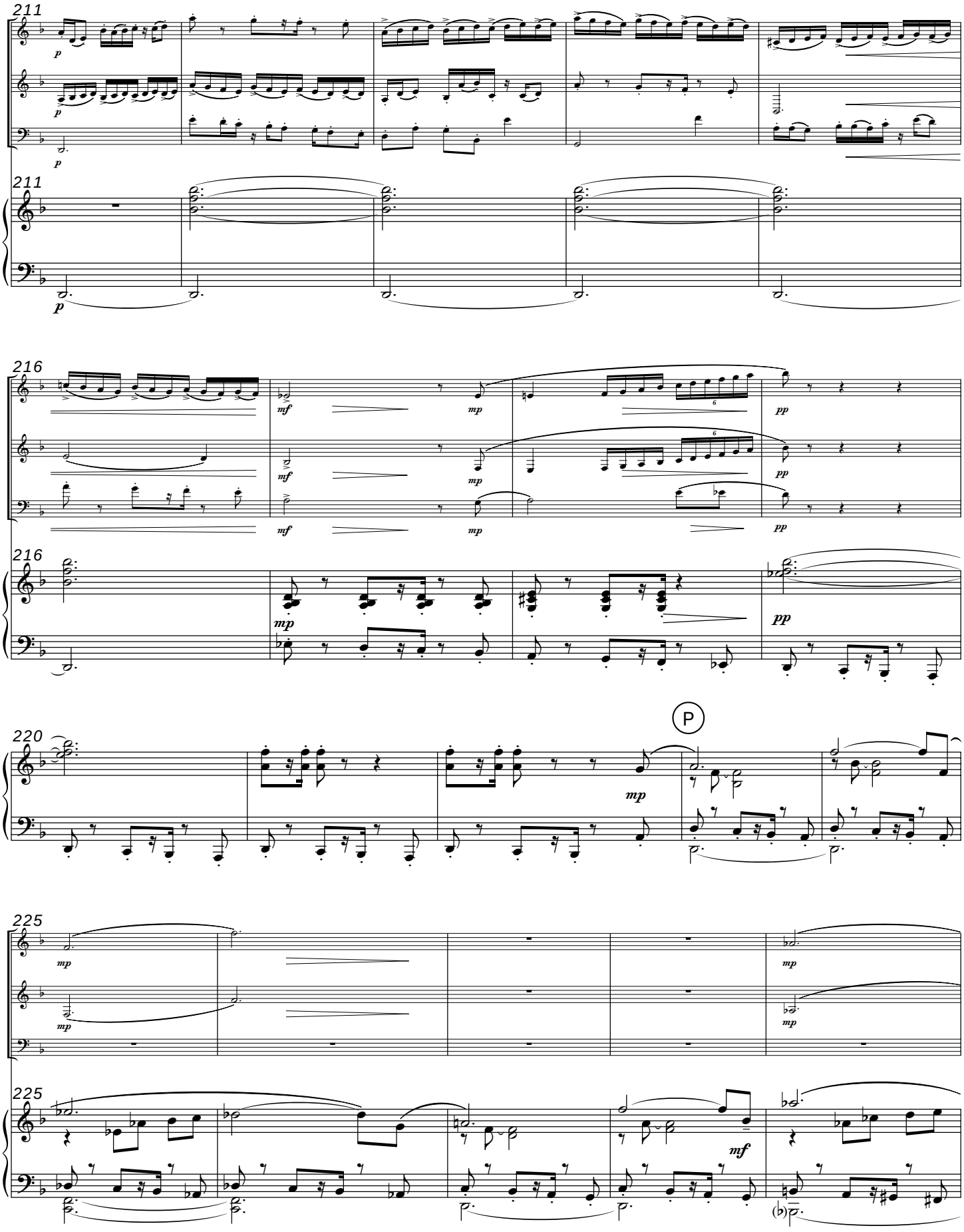
203
N
loco
207
O
ff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mp
pp
220
P
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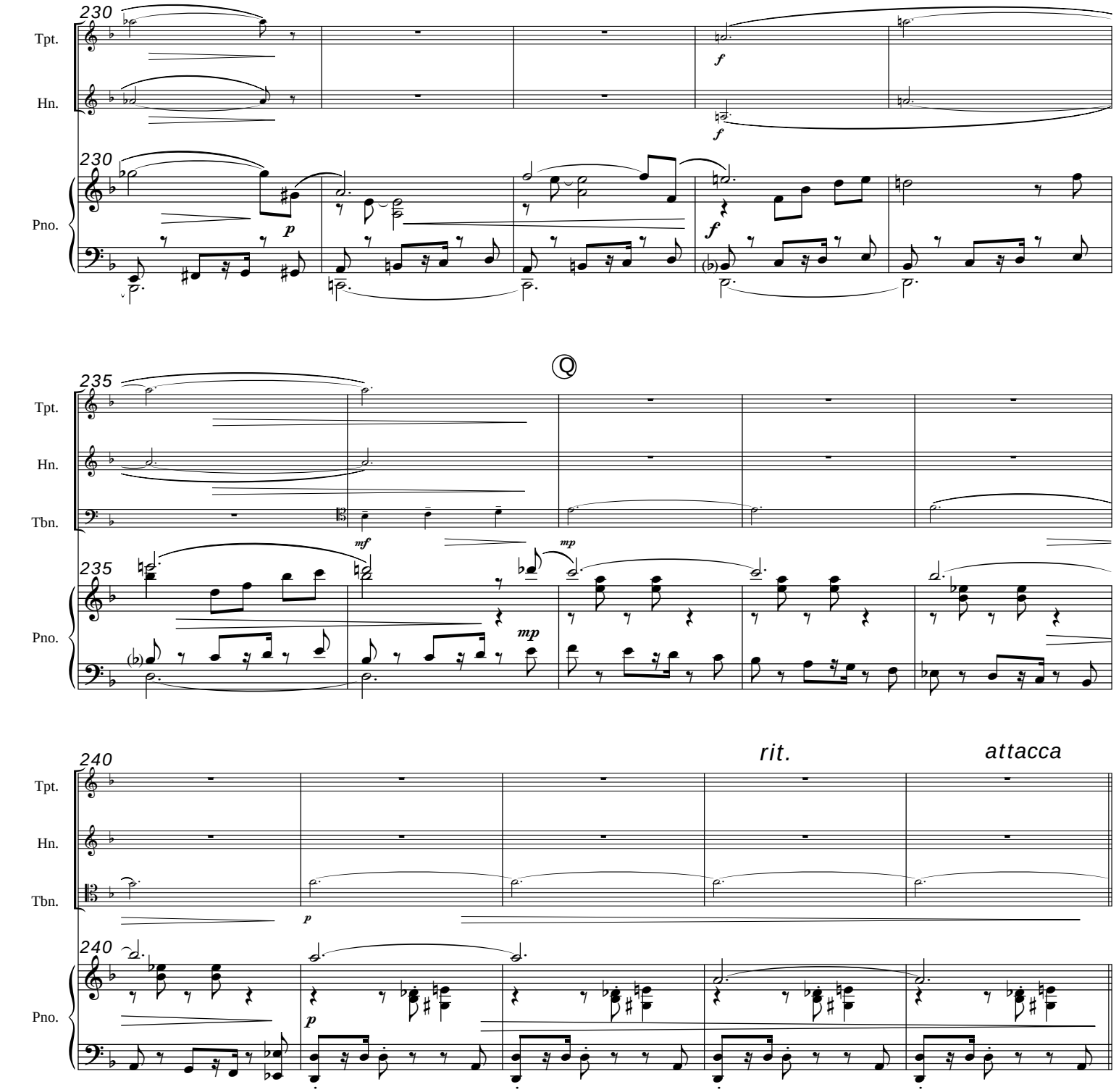
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p
235
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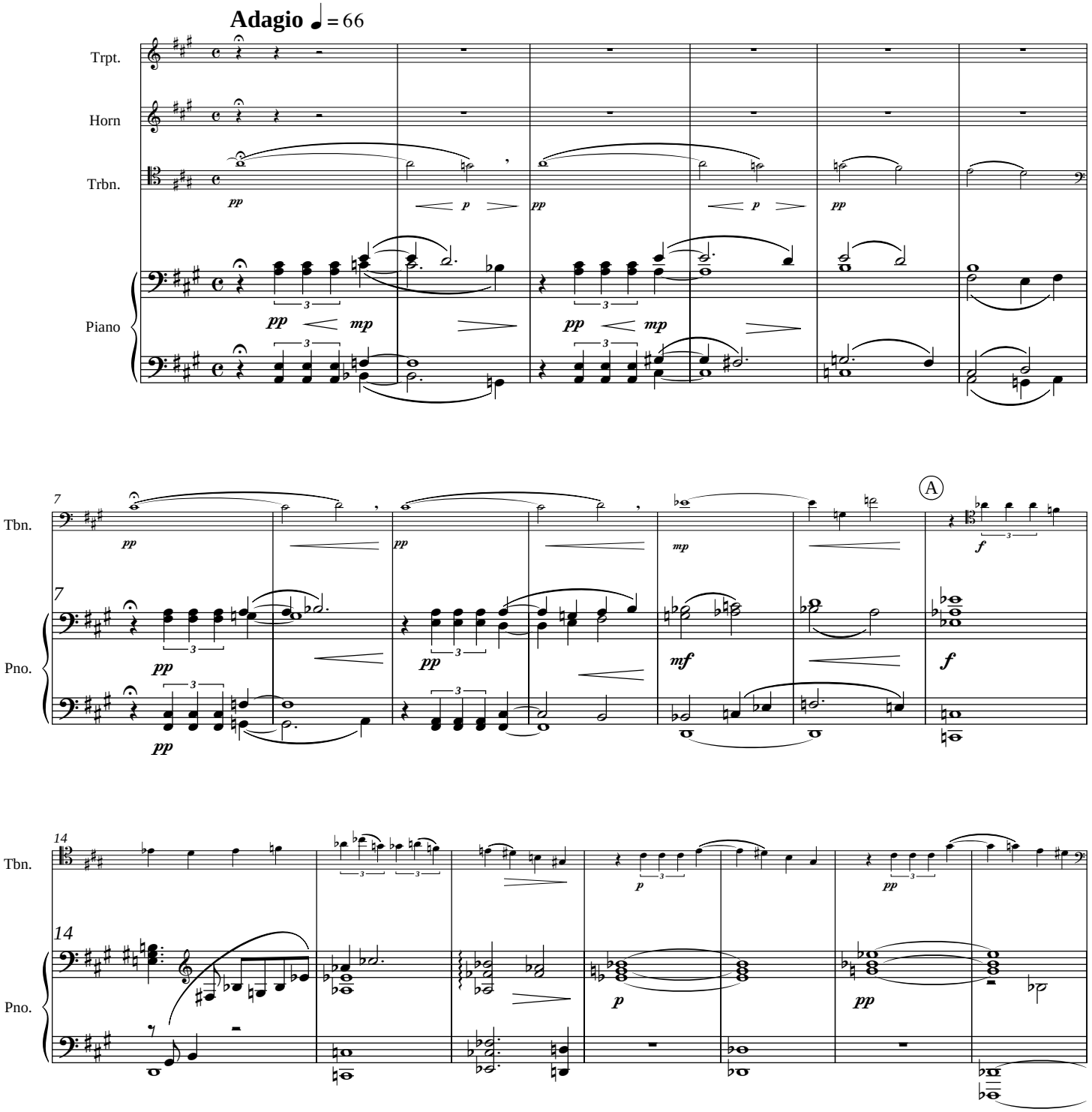
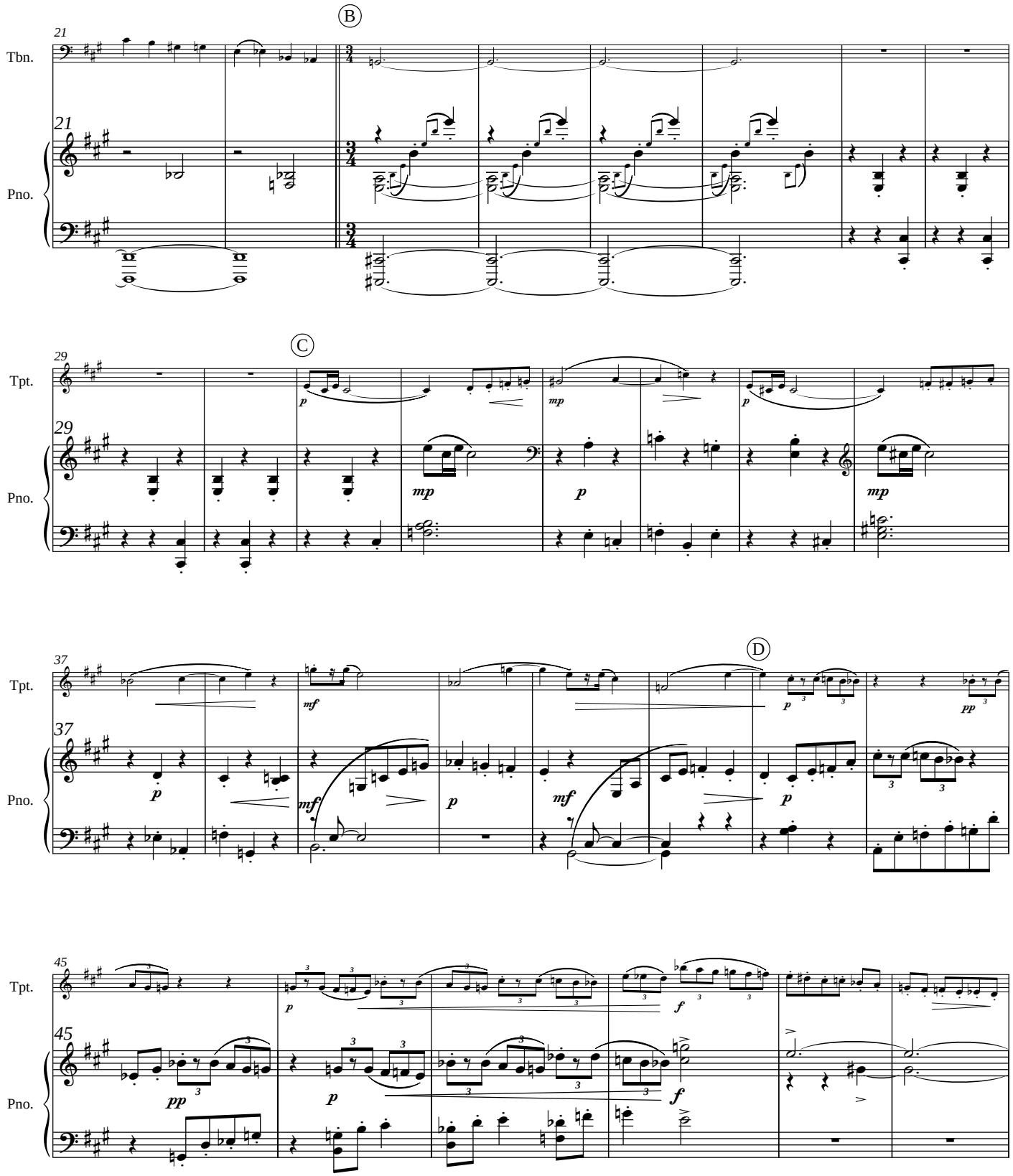
mf
mp
240
rit.
attacca

II.




B
21
Tbn.
21
Pno.
C
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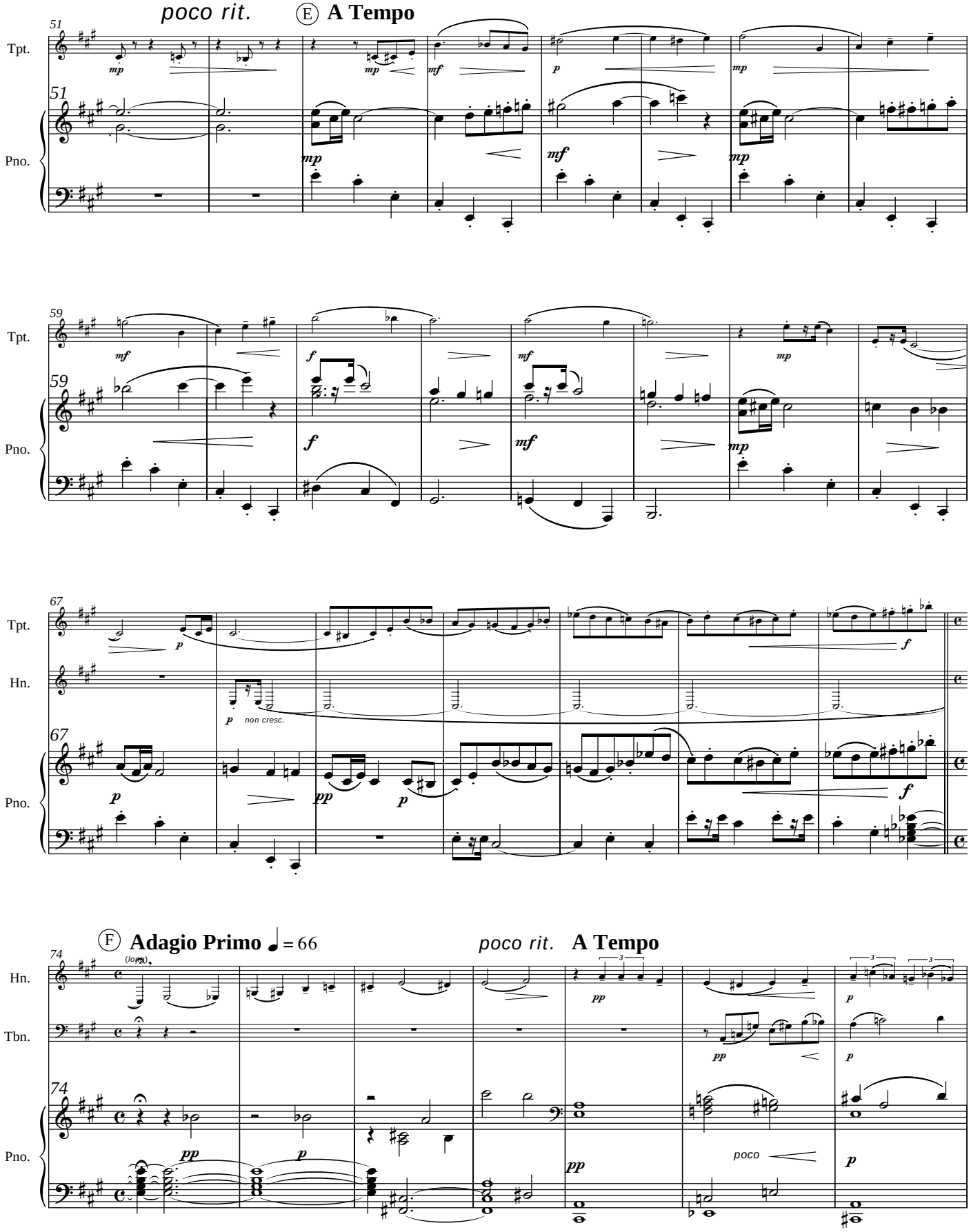
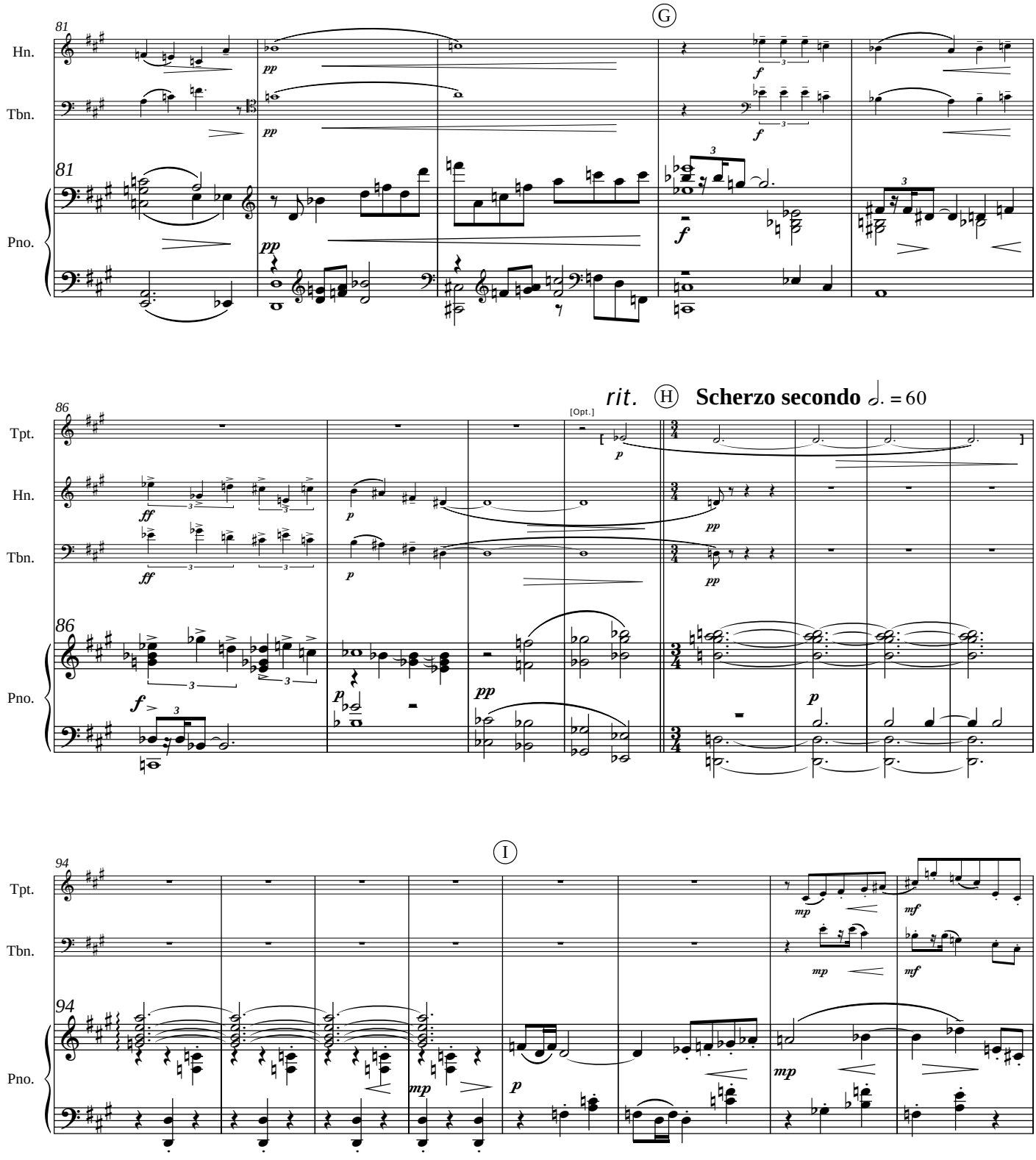
Tpt.
29
Pno.
mp
p
mp
p
mp
D
37
Tpt.
37
Pno.
mf
p
mf
p
mf
p
pp
45
Tpt.
45
Pno.
pp
p
p
f
f


poco rit.
E A Tempo
51
Tpt.
Pno.
59
67
Hn.
non cresc.
F Adagio Primo ♩ = 66
74
Tbn.
poco rit.
A Tempo
poco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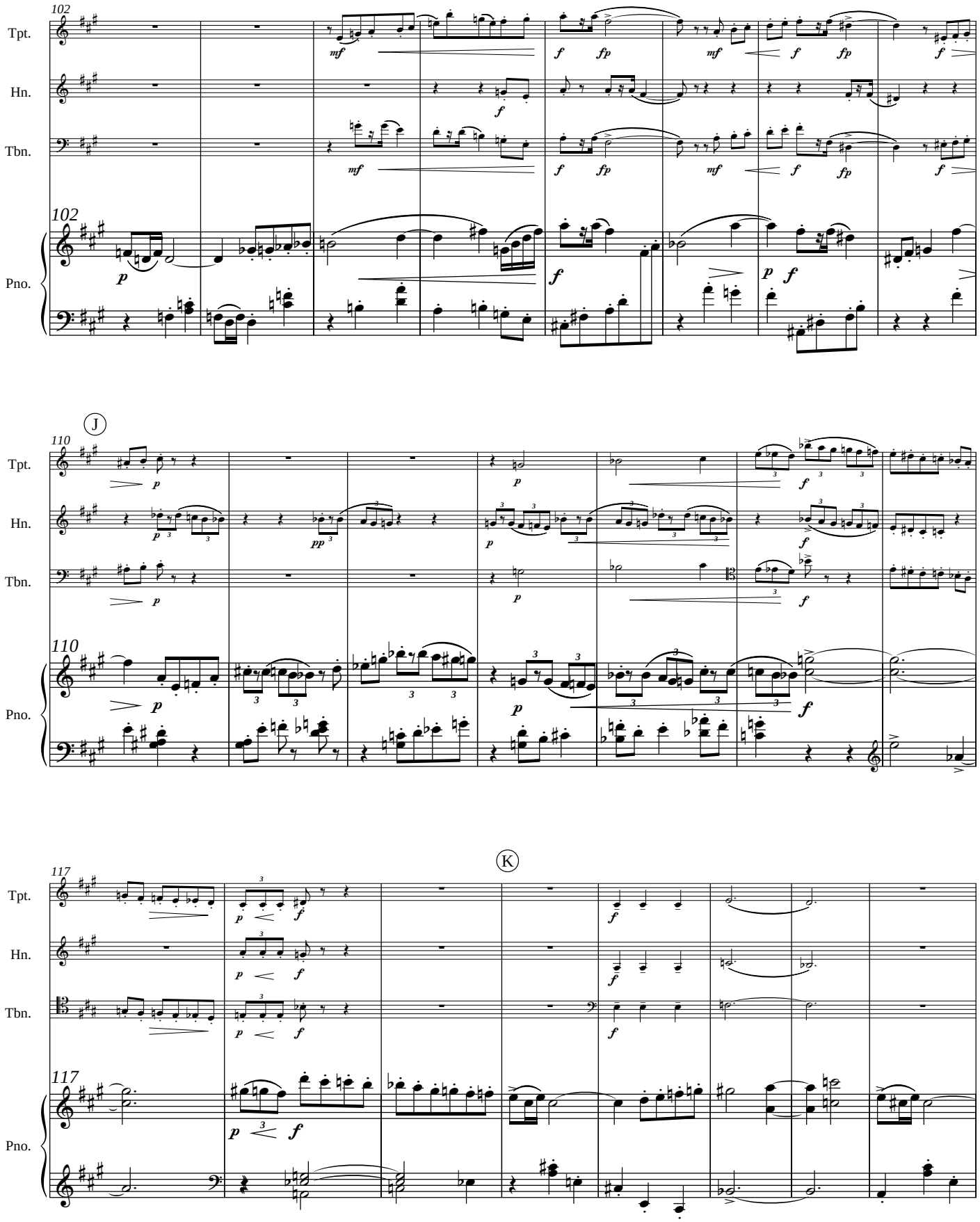
G
86
Tpt.
rit.
H
Scherzo secondo
= 60
[Opt.]
94
I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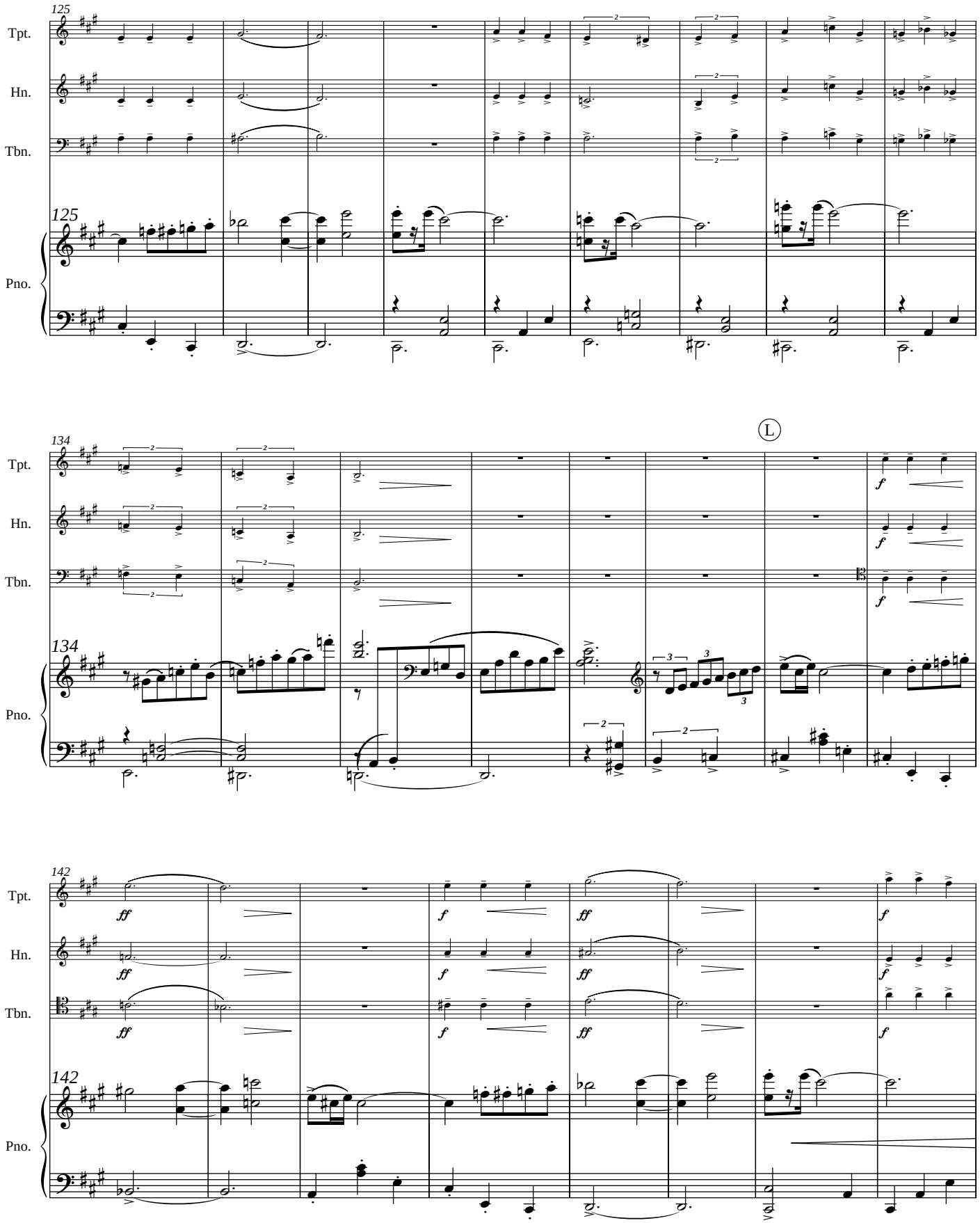
Hn.
Tbn.
Pno.
J
110
K
117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Hn.
Tbn.
125
Pno.
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Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
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Pno.
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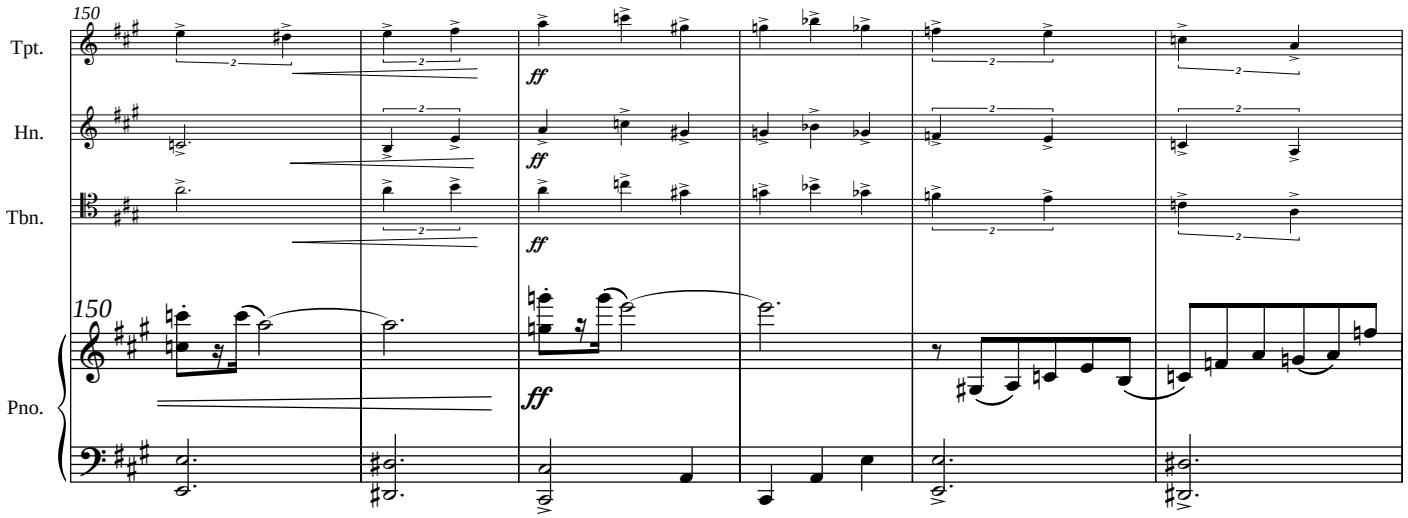
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
142
Pno.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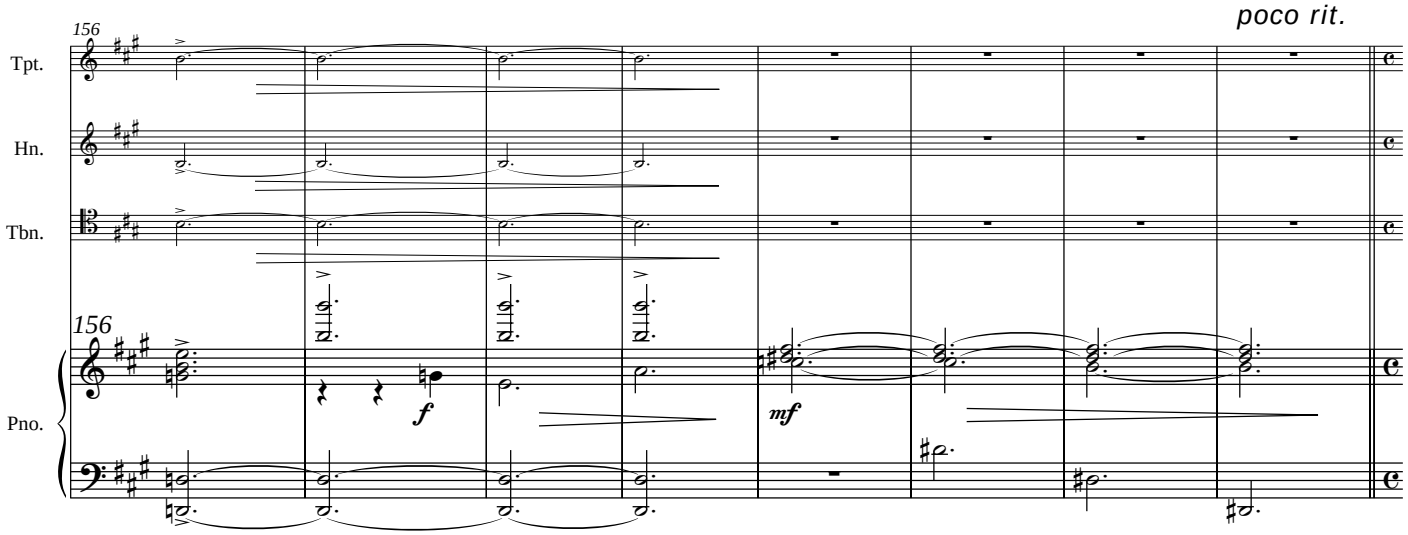
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Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
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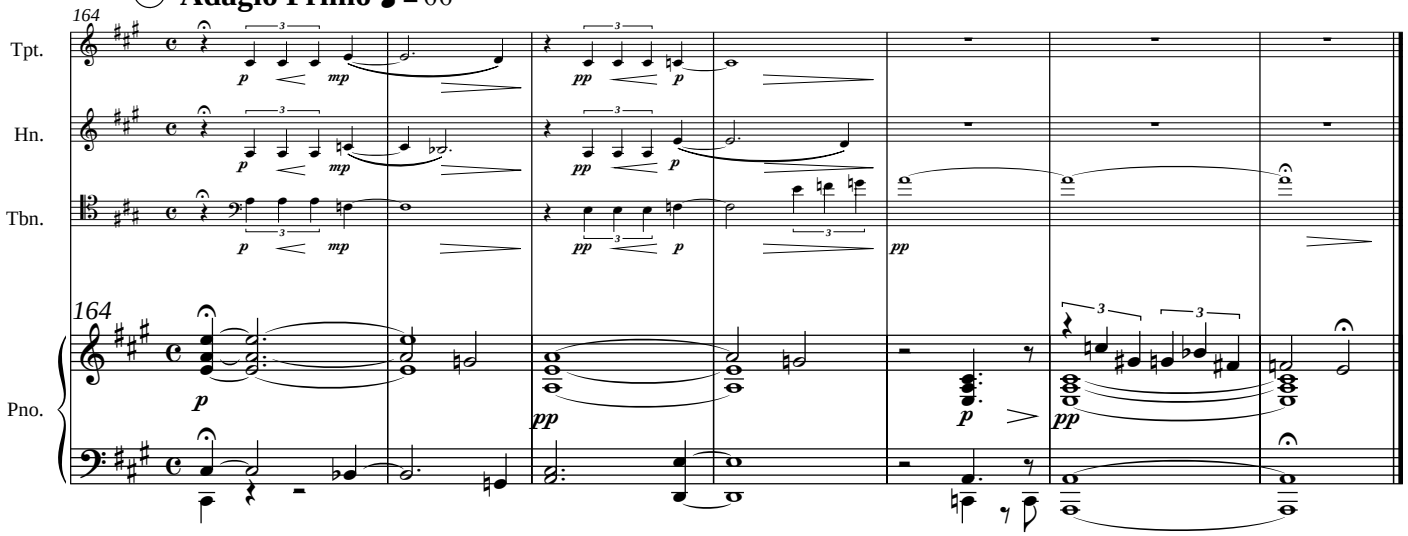
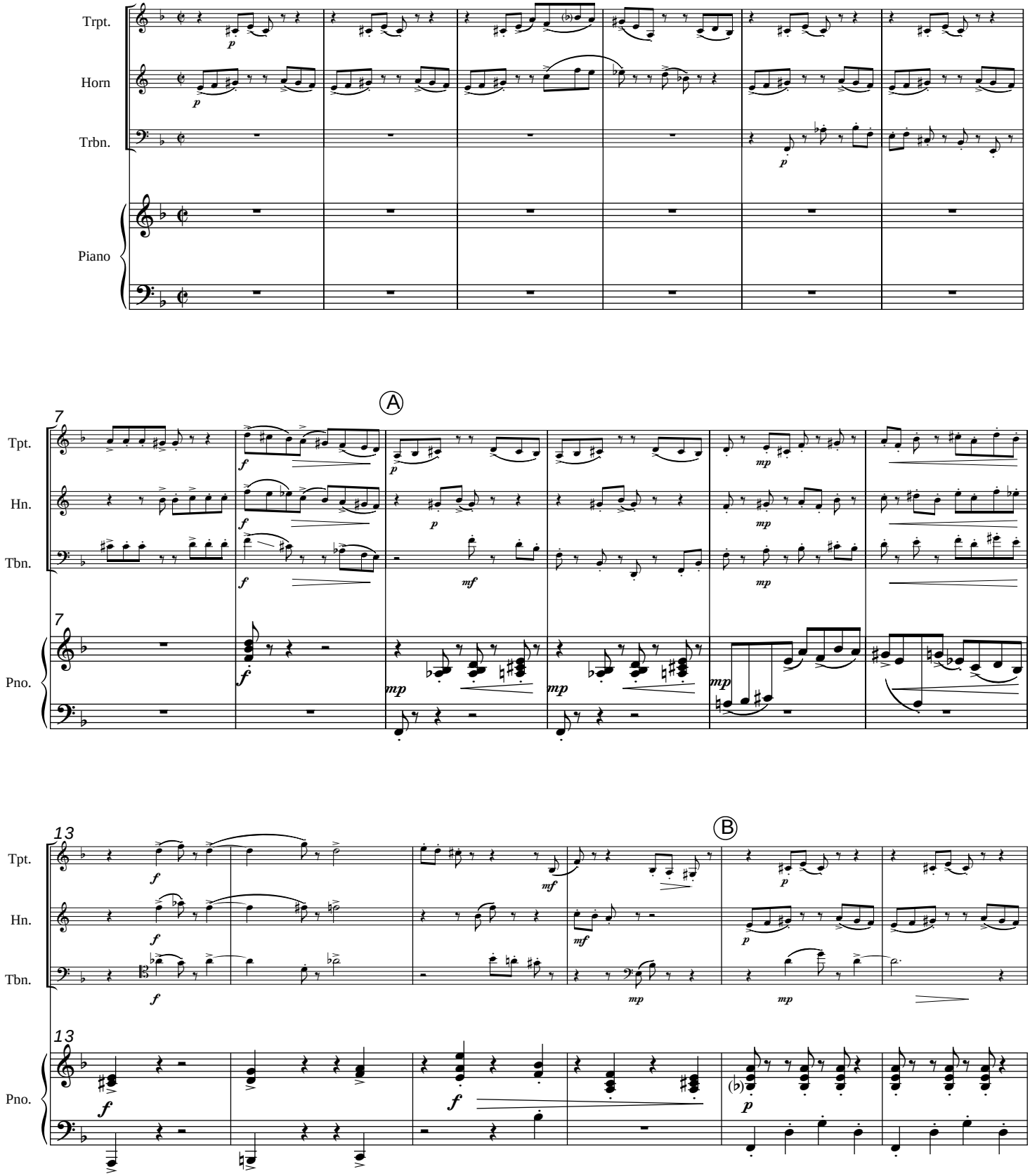
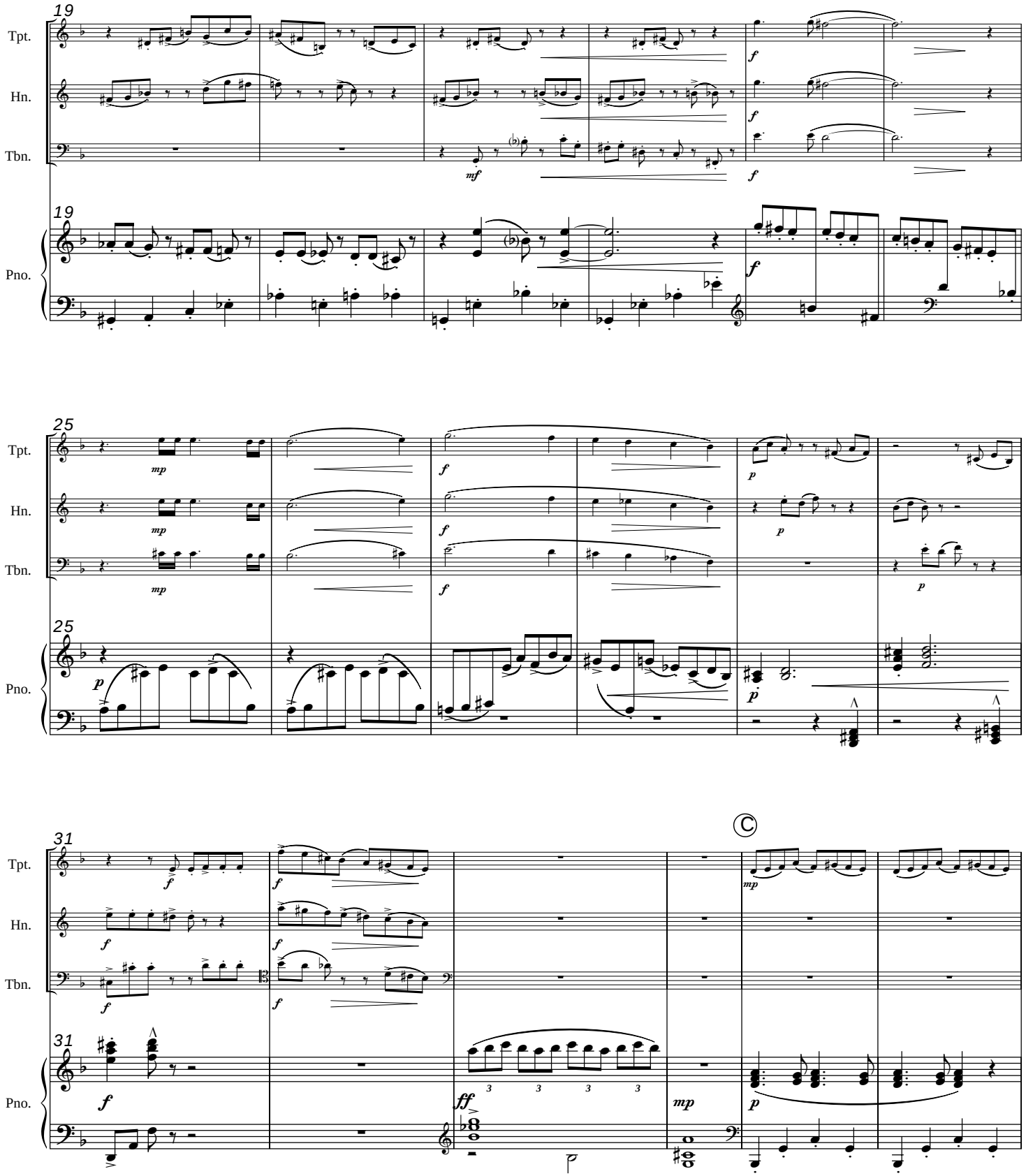
f
mf


Ⓜ Adagio Primo ♩ = 66
164
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Pno.
p
mp
pp

III.

Run with it ♩ = 116

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Hn.
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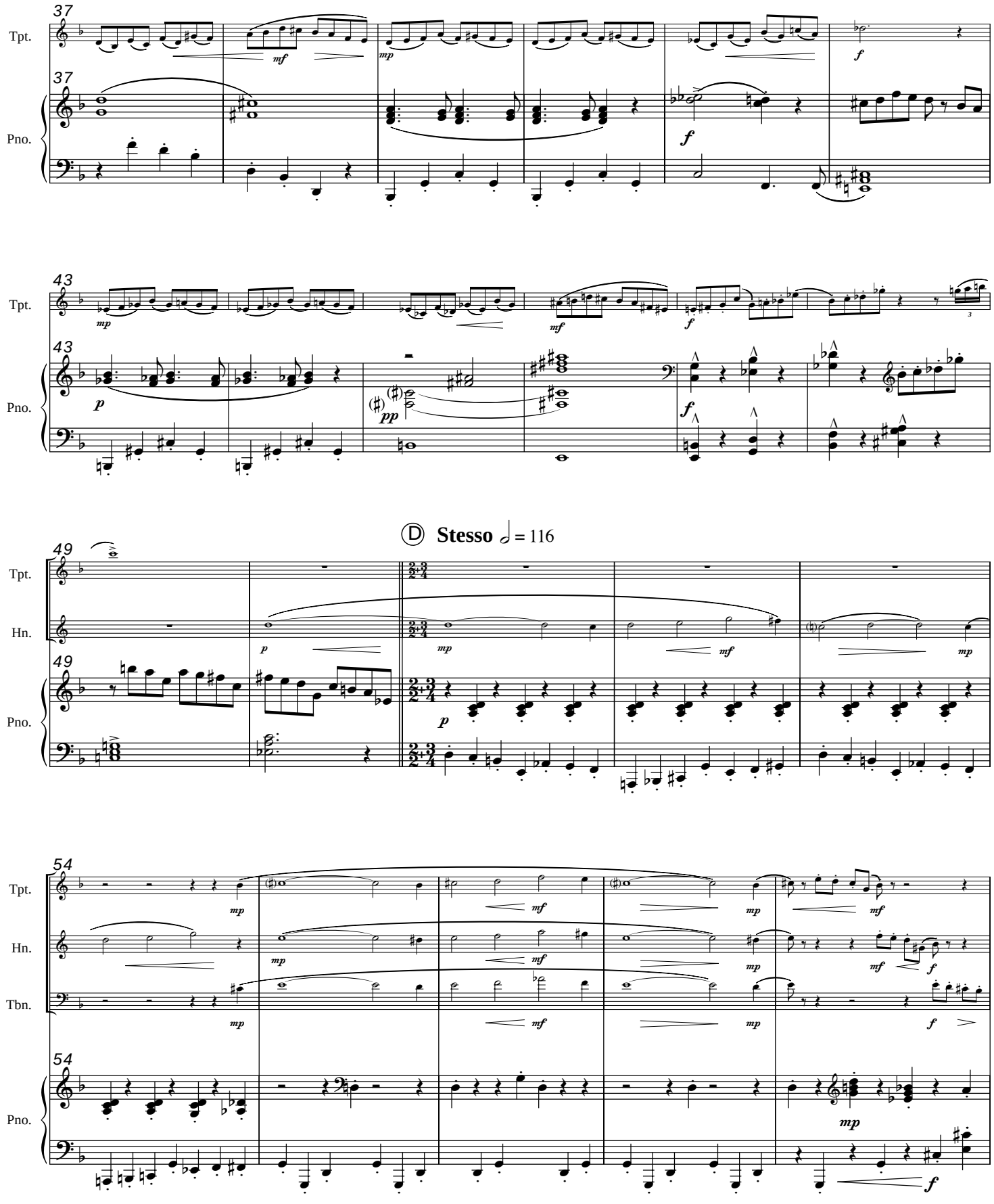
Pno.
Ⓒ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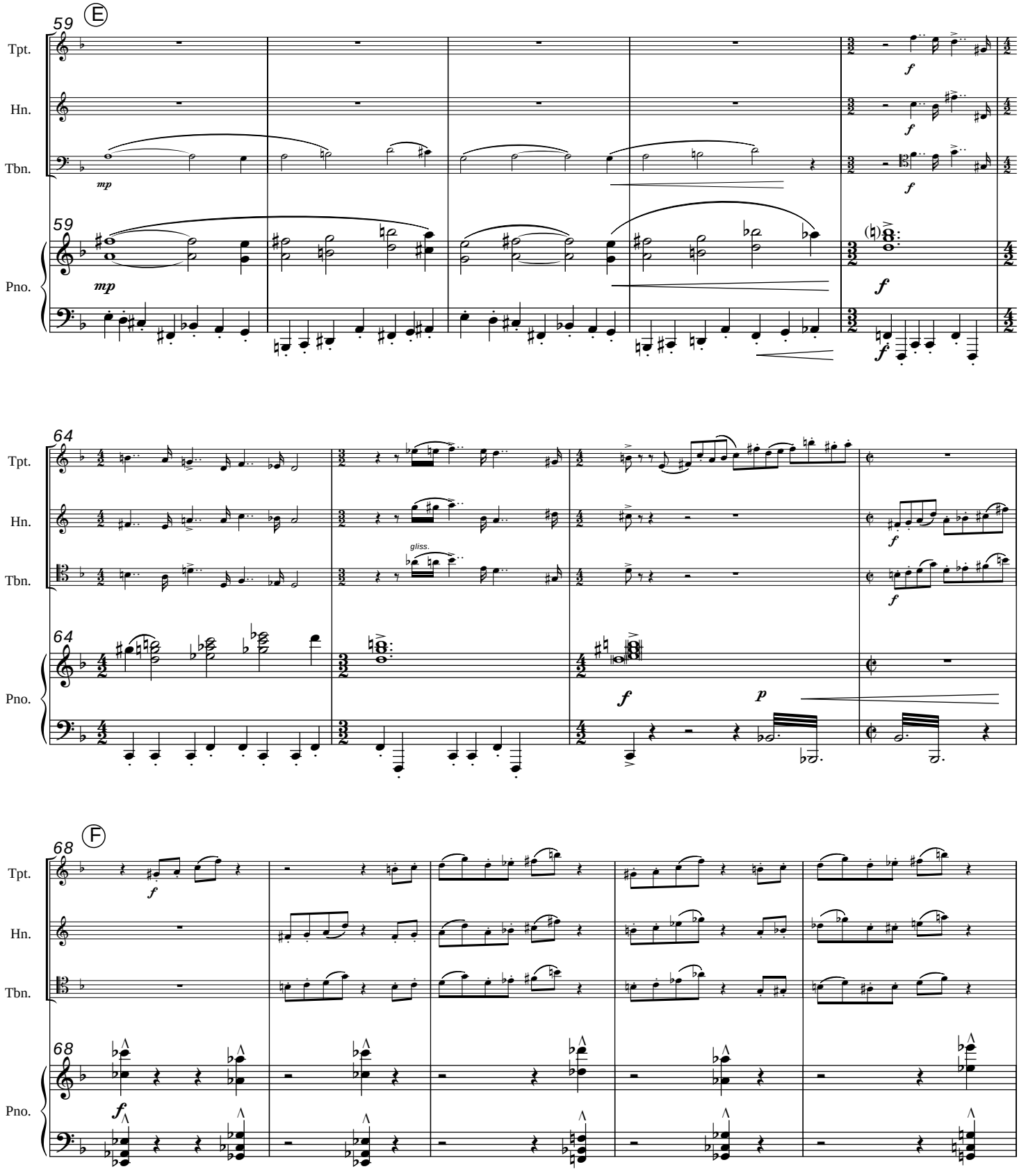
Pno.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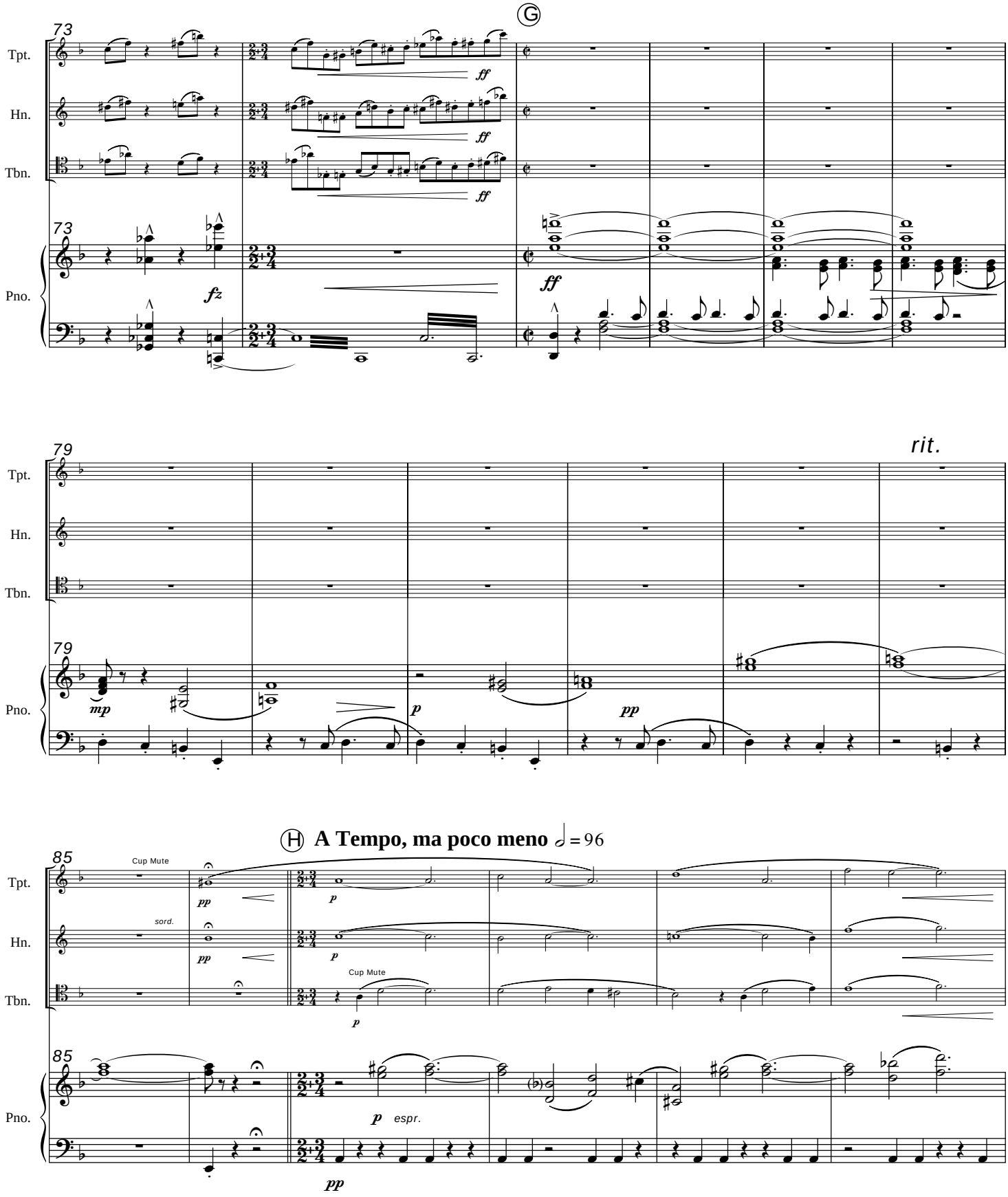
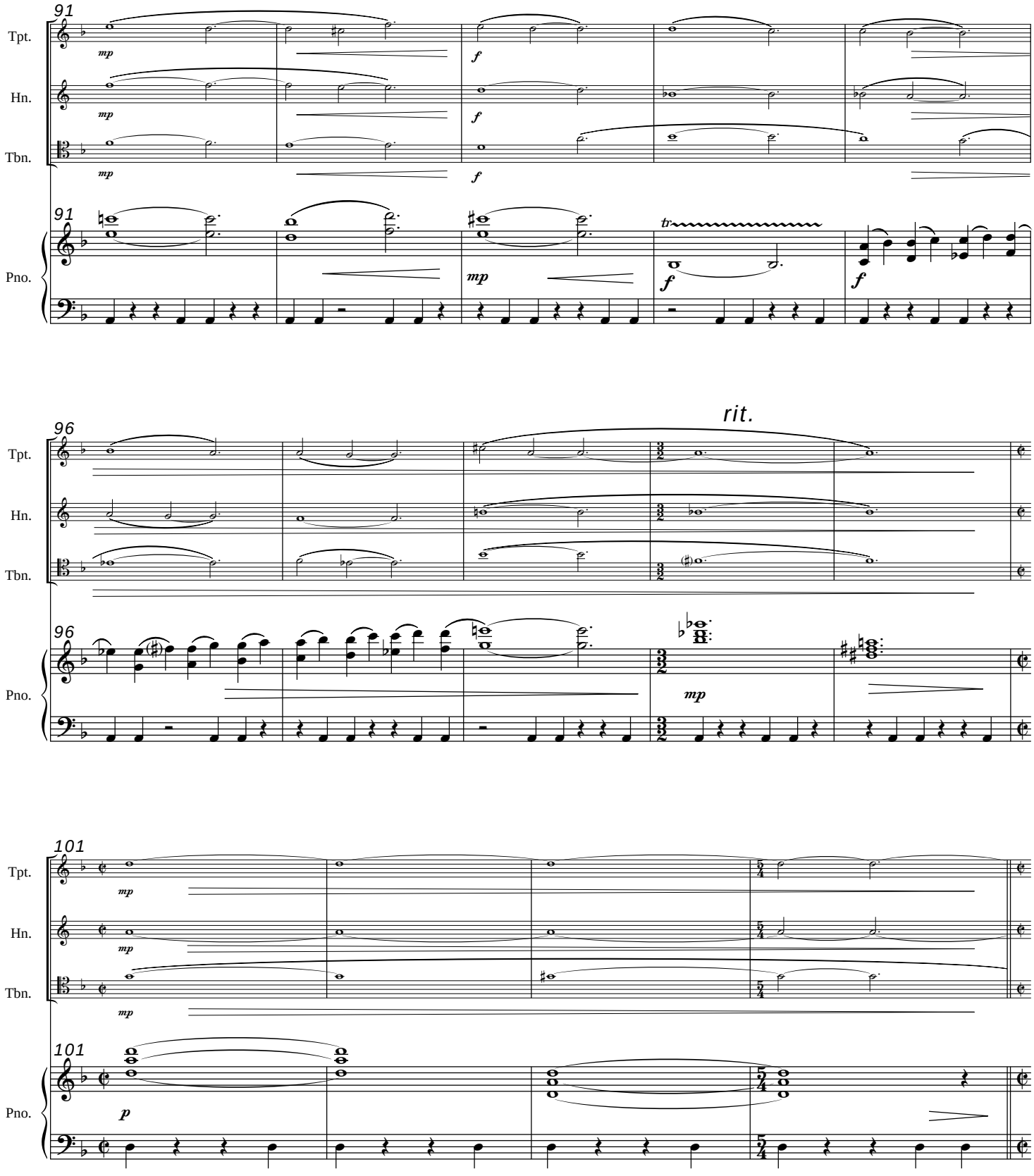
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Pno.
mp
f
64
gliss.
p
68
Ⓕ


Ⓖ
73
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Pno.
ff
fz
79
rit.
mp
p
pp
Ⓗ A Tempo, ma poco meno ♩ = 96
85
Cup Mute
sord.
espr.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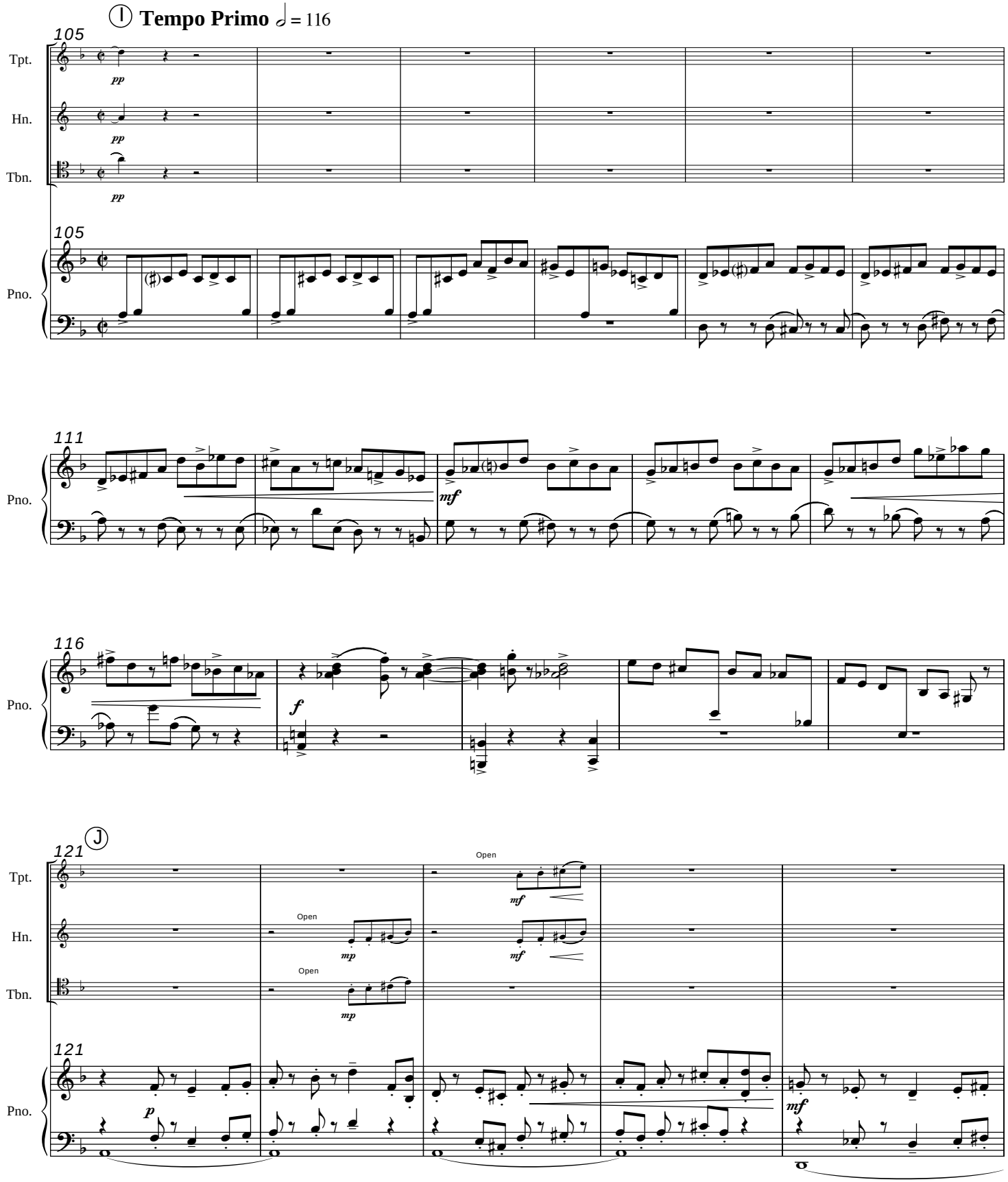
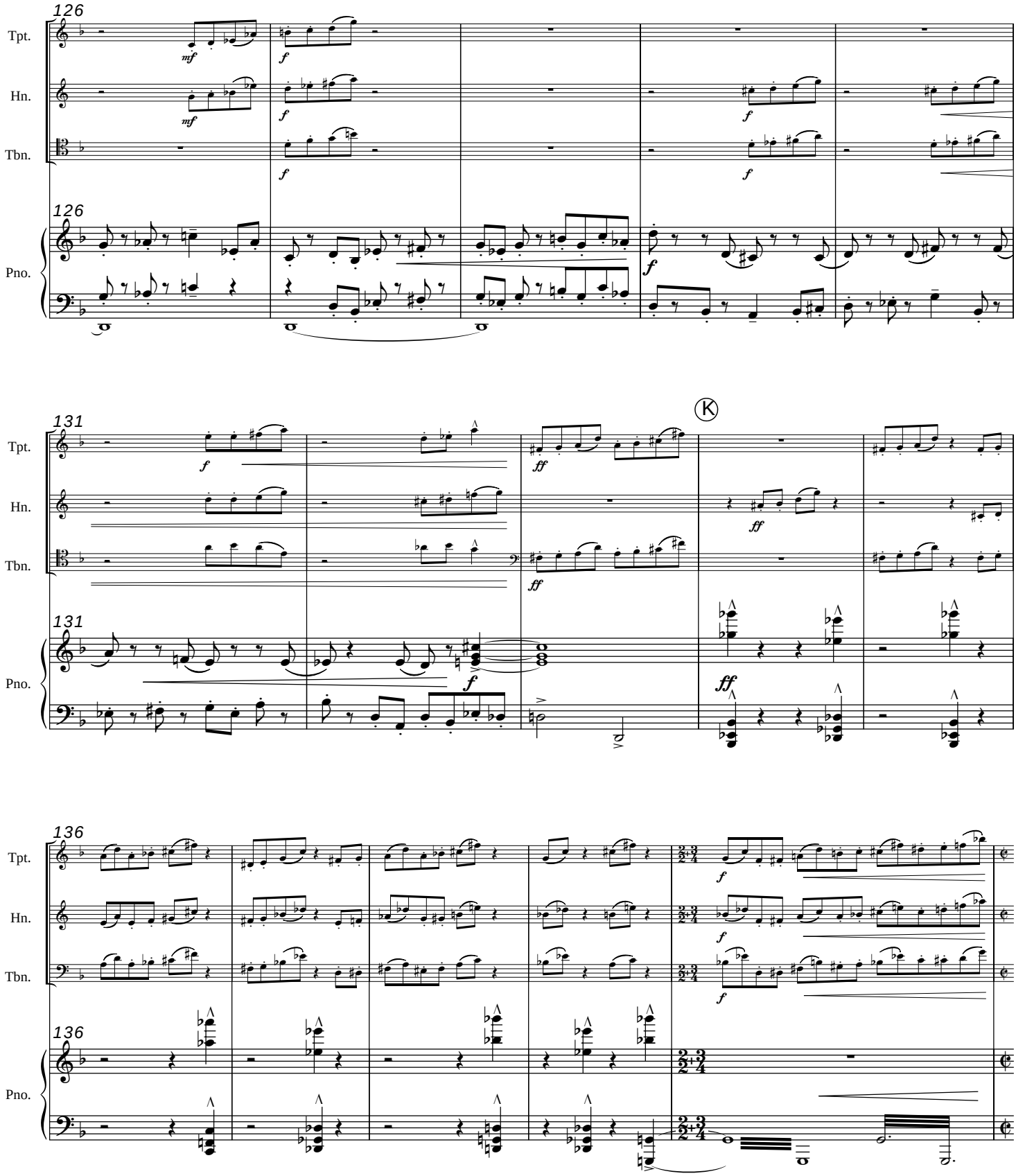
rit.
101
p


I Tempo Primo ♩ = 116
105
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Pno.
pp
111
mf
116
f
J
121
Open
mp
mf
p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Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
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Tbn.
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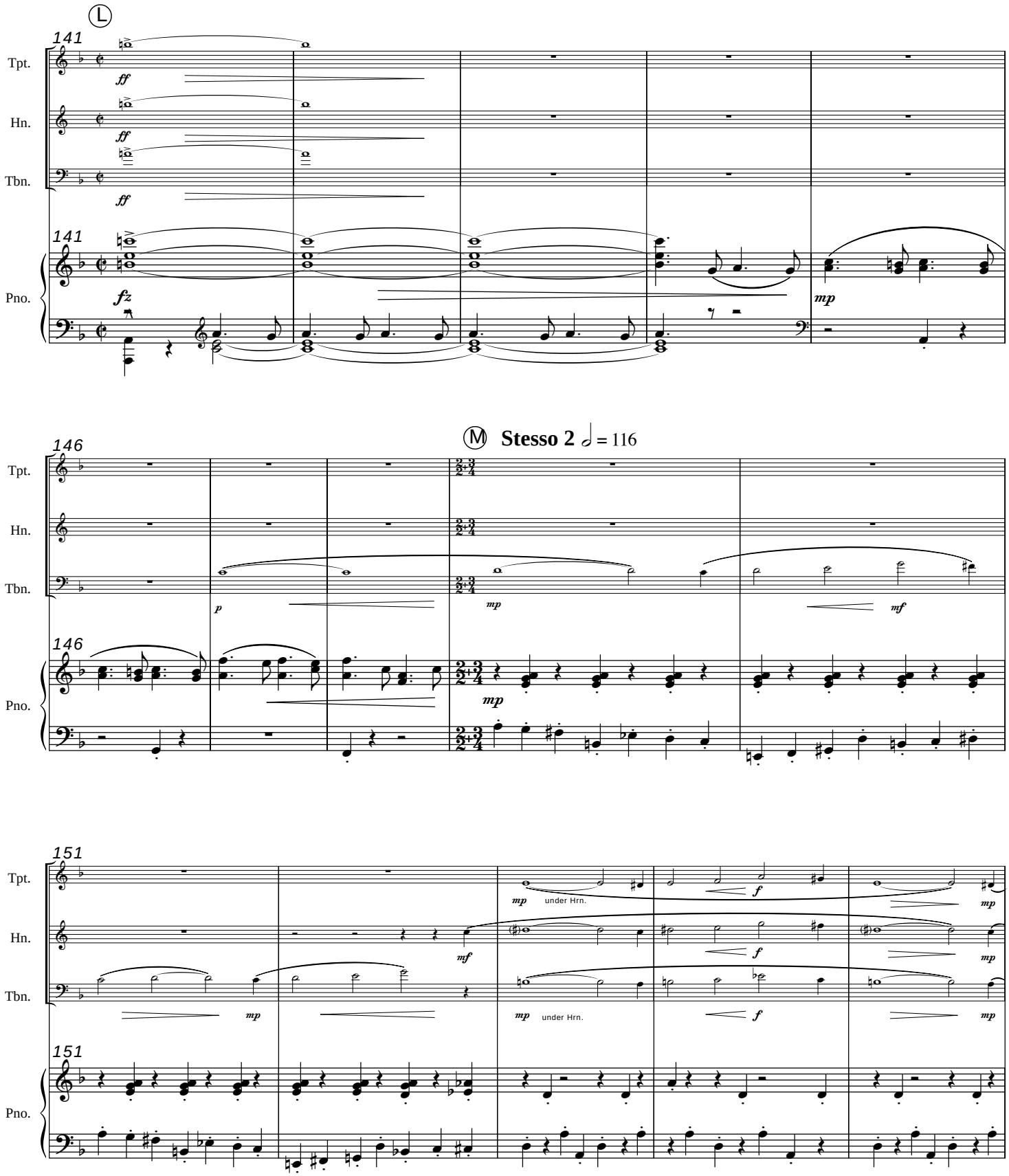
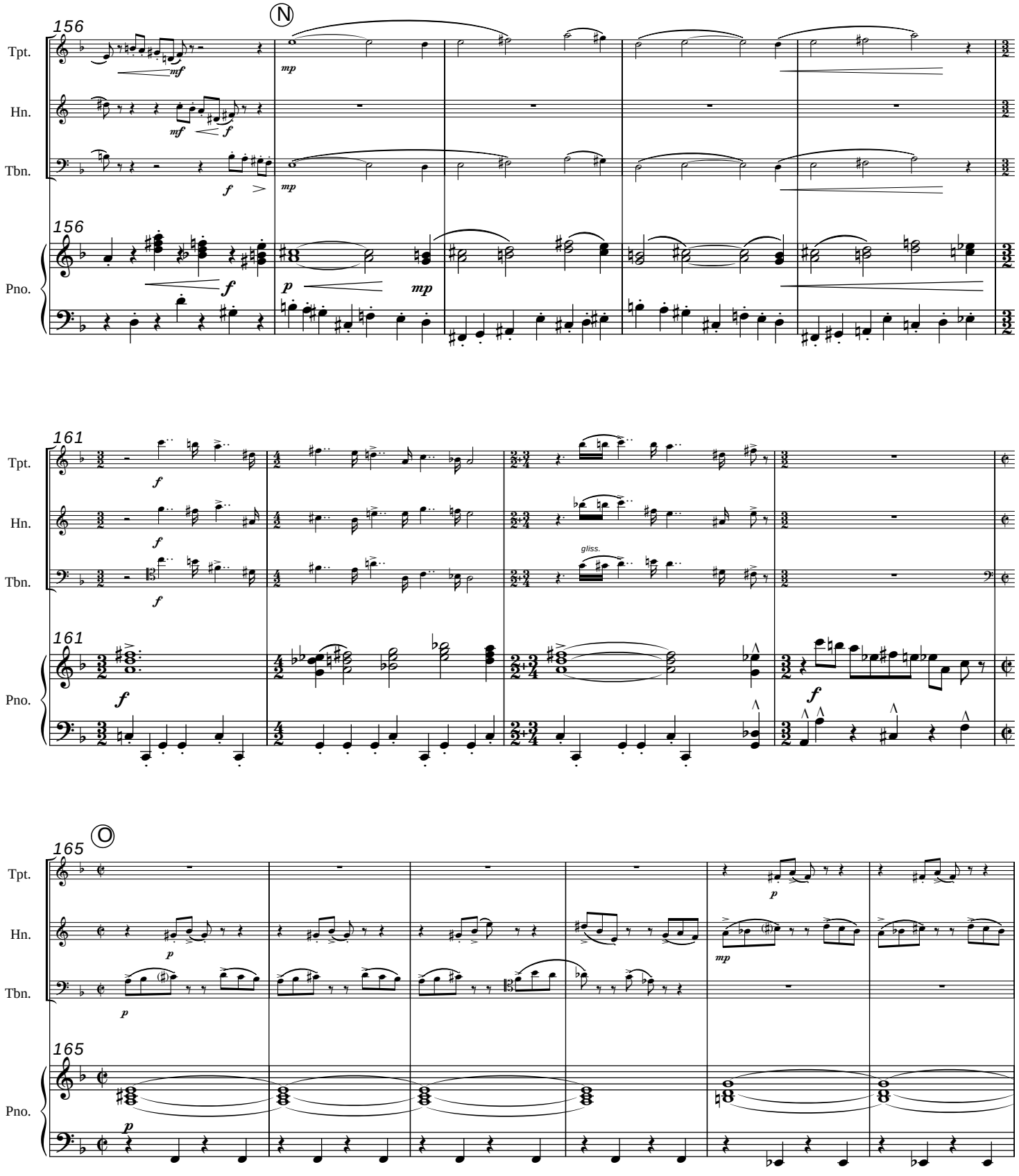
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
136
Pno.


Ⓛ
141
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Pno.
ff
fz
mp
Ⓜ Stesso 2 ♩ = 116
146
p
mp
mf
151
under Hrn.
f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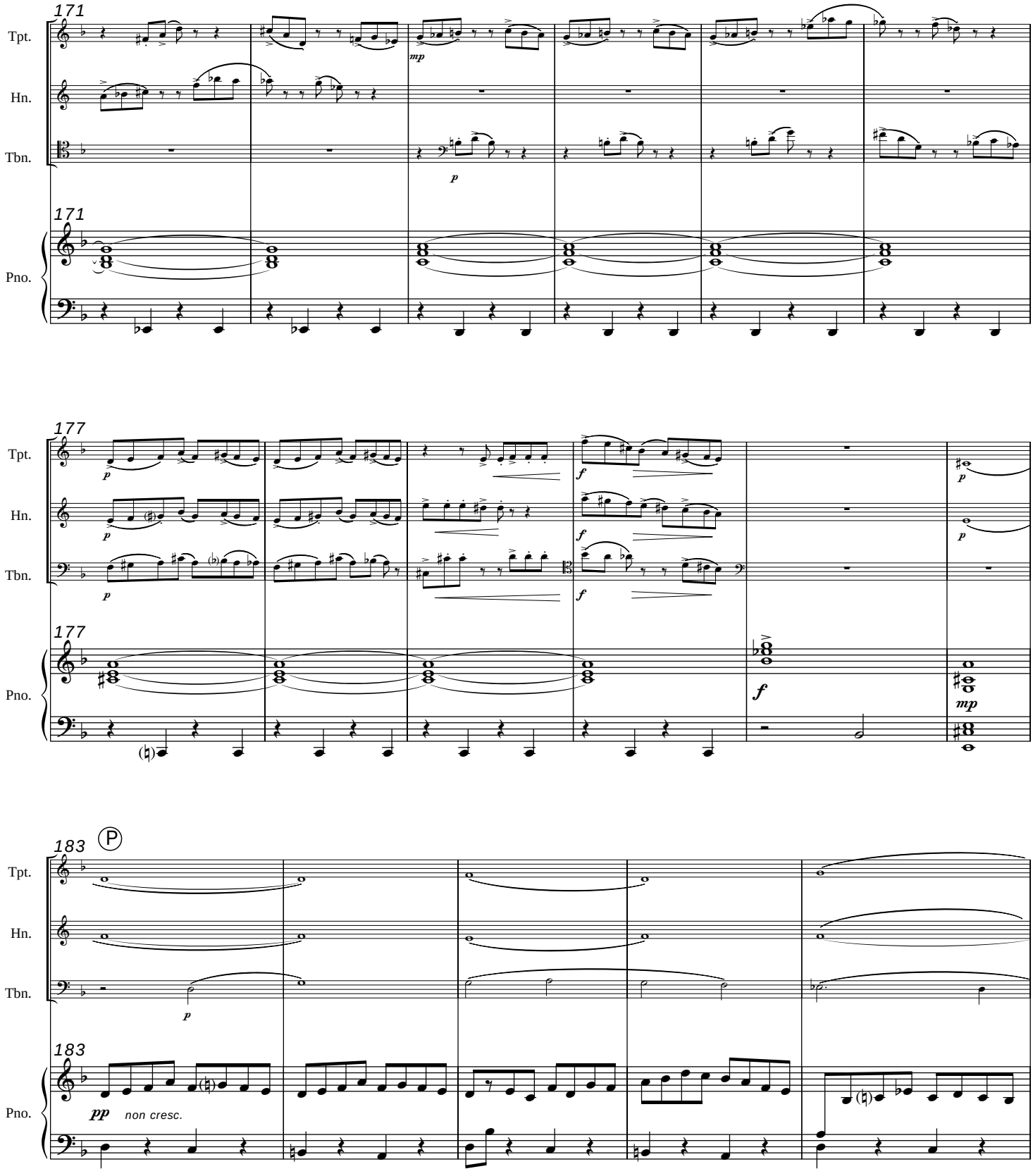
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Pno.
N
mf
f
mp
p
161
gliss.
165
O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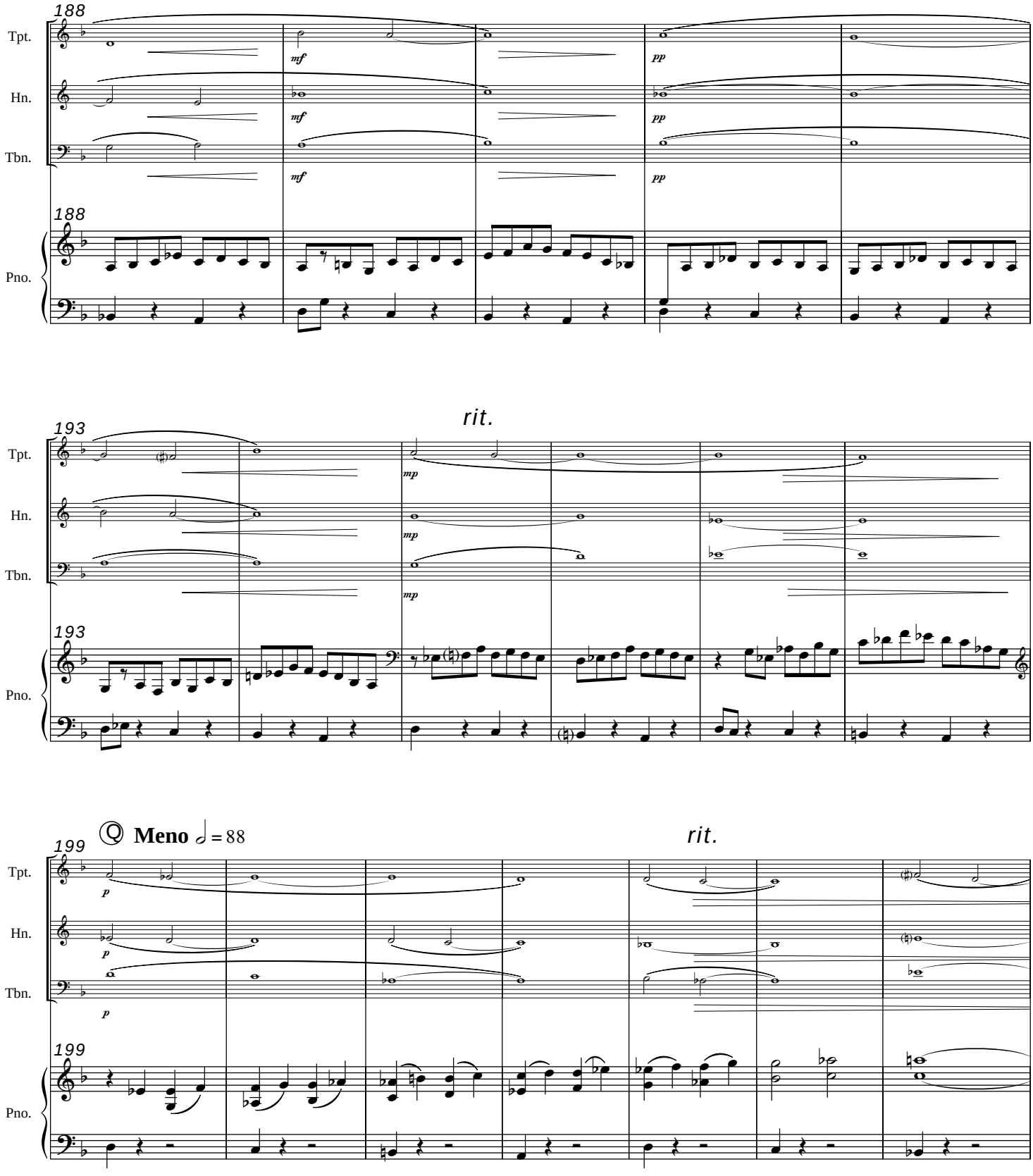
Pno.
mp
p
177
f
mp
183
Ⓟ
pp
non cresc.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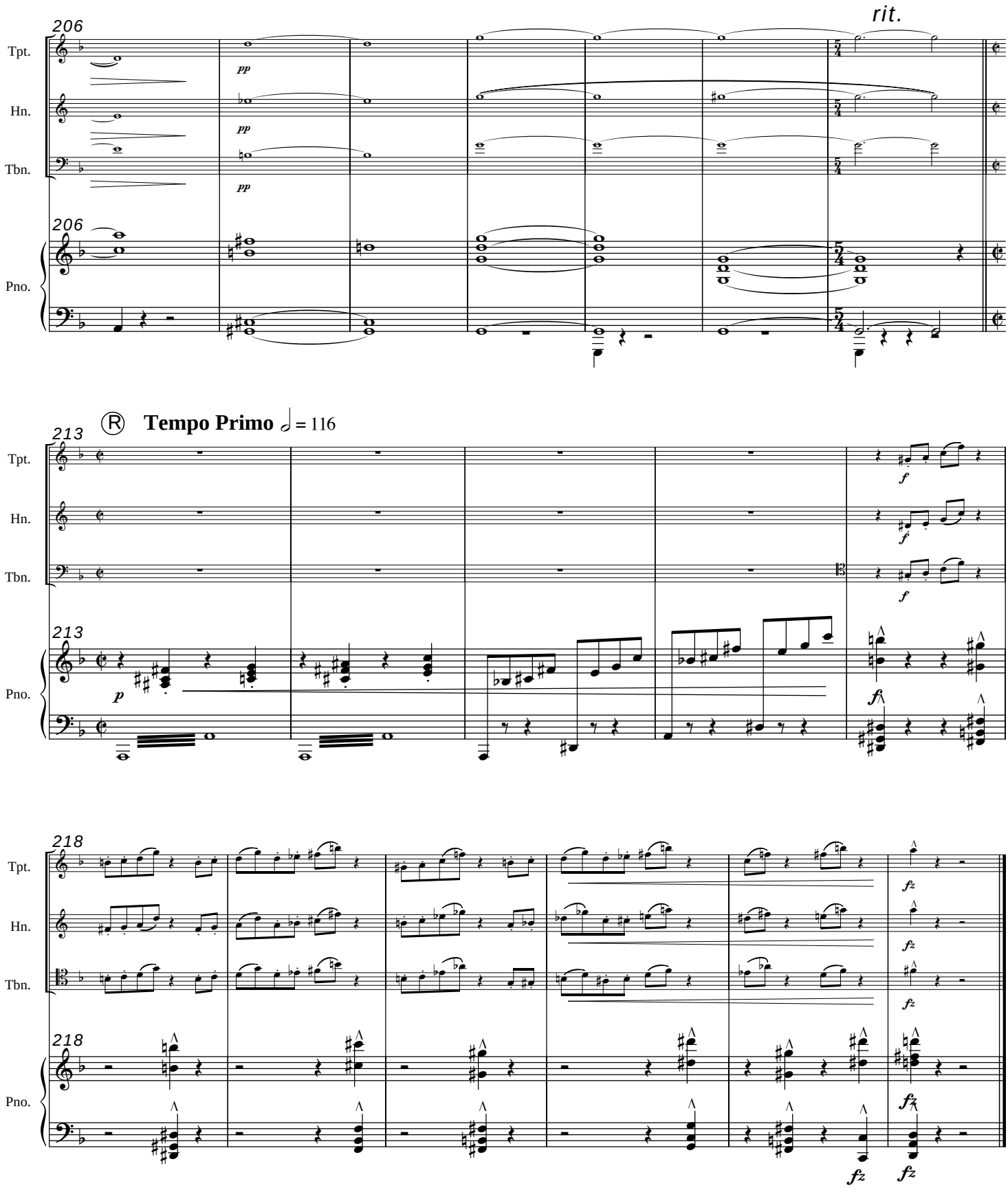
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
mf
pp
188
Pno.
rit.
193
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
mp
193
Pno.
Meno ♩= 88
rit.
199
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
p
199
Pno.


206
rit.
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Pno.
pp
206
213
Ⓡ Tempo Primo ♩ = 116
213
p
f
fz
218
218