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Citizens of Nowhere

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Dedicated to Jan Berry Baker & Ken Long

Citizens of Nowhere

Duo for Bb Clarinet/Bass Clarinet &
Soprano/Alto Saxophone

2011

NICKITAS DEMOS

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Citizens of Nowhere (2011)

NICKITAS DEMOS (b. 1962)

Duo for Bb Clarinet/Bass Clarinet & Soprano/Alto Saxophone
Dedicated to saxophonist Jan Berry Baker & clarinetist Ken Long

Duration: 7'30"

PROGRAM NOTES

The title ***Citizens of Nowhere*** is taken from an article of the same name written in 2003 by Paul Kingsnorth for *The New Statesman*. The article puts forth the assertion that a new global middle class is emerging. He calls this new class the "citizens of nowhere," and opines, "Whether they are scurrying through summit venues, storming the business class gates in airport terminals, lunching at restaurants with high ceilings and unobtrusive waiters, or drinking bottled water in air-conditioned boardrooms, the citizens of nowhere are our new ruling class. Politicians, corporate top dogs, media stars, 'opinion formers' and bureaucrats, they occupy a prism of halogen-lit elitism…Rootless, technocratic, unburdened by the baggage of locality or the complications of history, they exist in every nation but feel attached to none." As a traveling musician, I often find myself within the environment created by the fruit of this class; awakening in chain hotels flanked by chain restaurants and big box retailers. More than this simple comparison, however, this notion extends to the current state of contemporary music composition as well. I can't help but think about how many "composers of nowhere" there seem to be. Over the years I have attended many contemporary music conferences and festivals or sat on composition panels where one contemporary piece is presented after another. They all seem the same; originating from a nondescript geographical area and possessing all the same textbook techniques. Thus title of the Kingsnorth article, the class it describes and how it relates to my own experience resonated with me. I knew that at some point I would like to write a piece of music influenced by these ideas.

The opportunity presented itself when my colleagues Ken Long (clarinet) and Jan Berry Baker (saxophone) approached me about writing a new work for them. The resulting composition, *Citizens of Nowhere* is the work influenced by the Kingsnorth article. The music is rootless and constantly shifting; never settling for long in any one key center or mood. Even the two soloists do not remain on a single instrument for very long but constantly shift back and forth between different members of their respective instrumental families – the clarinetist moving between the Bb clarinet and bass clarinet and the saxophonist between the alto and soprano saxophones. There is a general anxious feeling about the piece that is manifested by a relatively quick tempo, the use of shifting meters and rhythmic, virtuosic writing. As the piece continues, bits and pieces of melodic fragments begin to reappear and the work begins to gain some cohesiveness. At its conclusion, the music finds solid footing and a clear resolution and therefore seeks to answer Kingsnorth's final challenge: "The rest of us can join the citizens of nowhere in their empire of the placeless, or we can build new relationships with our own landscapes and our own communities. We can build on our pasts or dismiss them; bleach the human rainbow or loudly defend awkward, stubborn, unprofitable diversity. Somewhere or nowhere. The choice is ours."

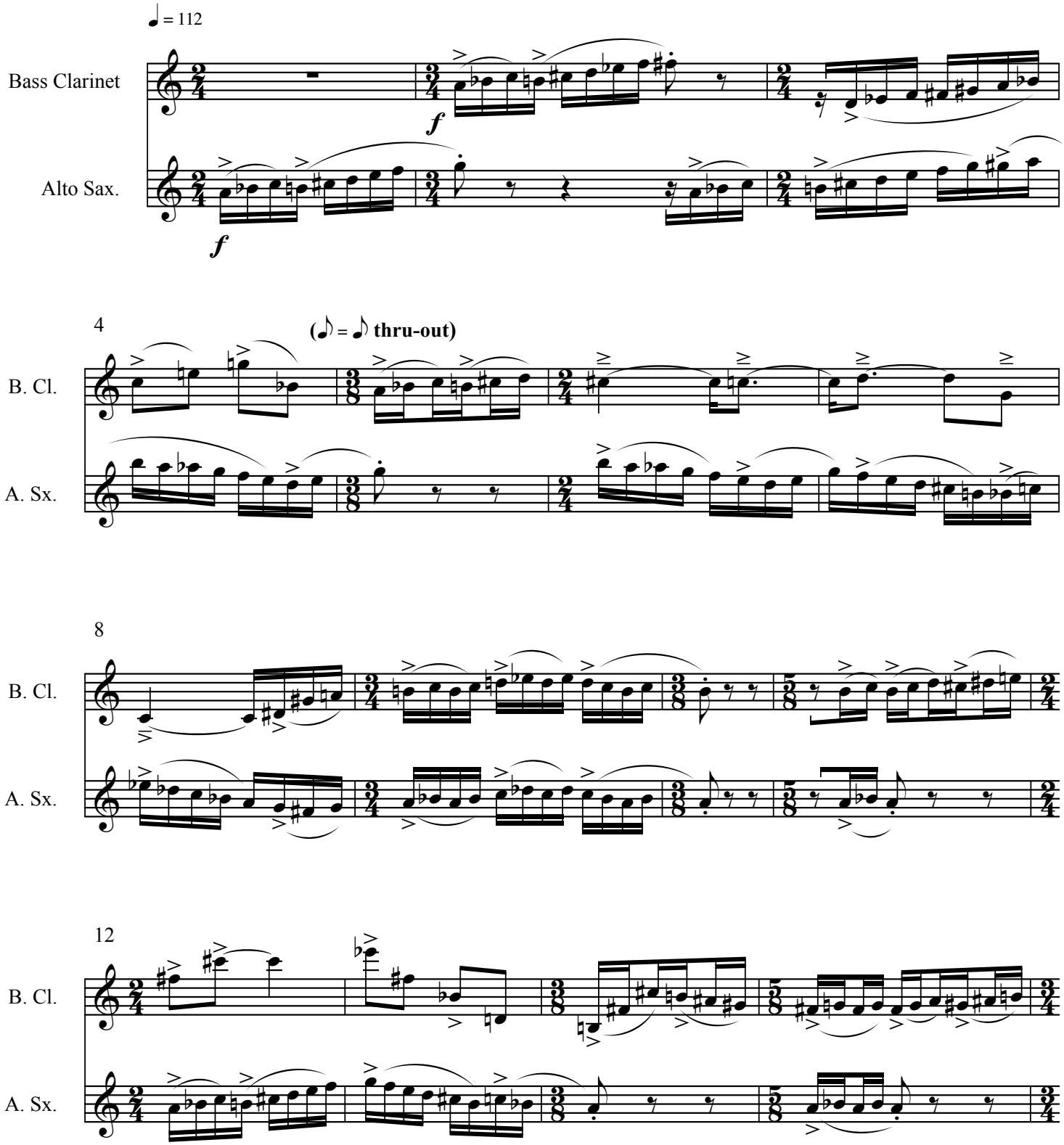
I chose somewhere.

Transposed Score

Dedicated to Jan Berry Baker & Ken Long

Citizens of Nowhere

NICKITAS DEMOS



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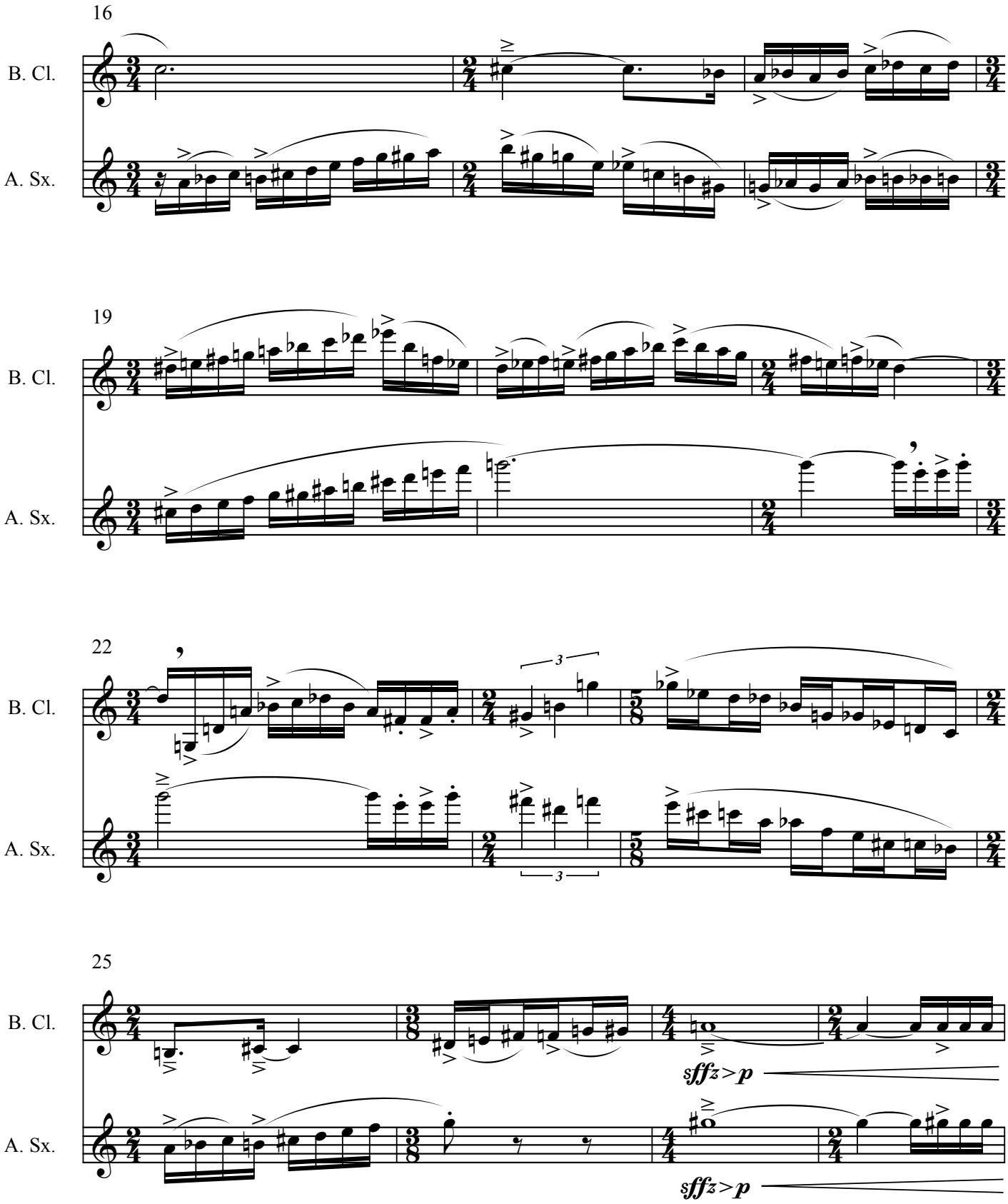
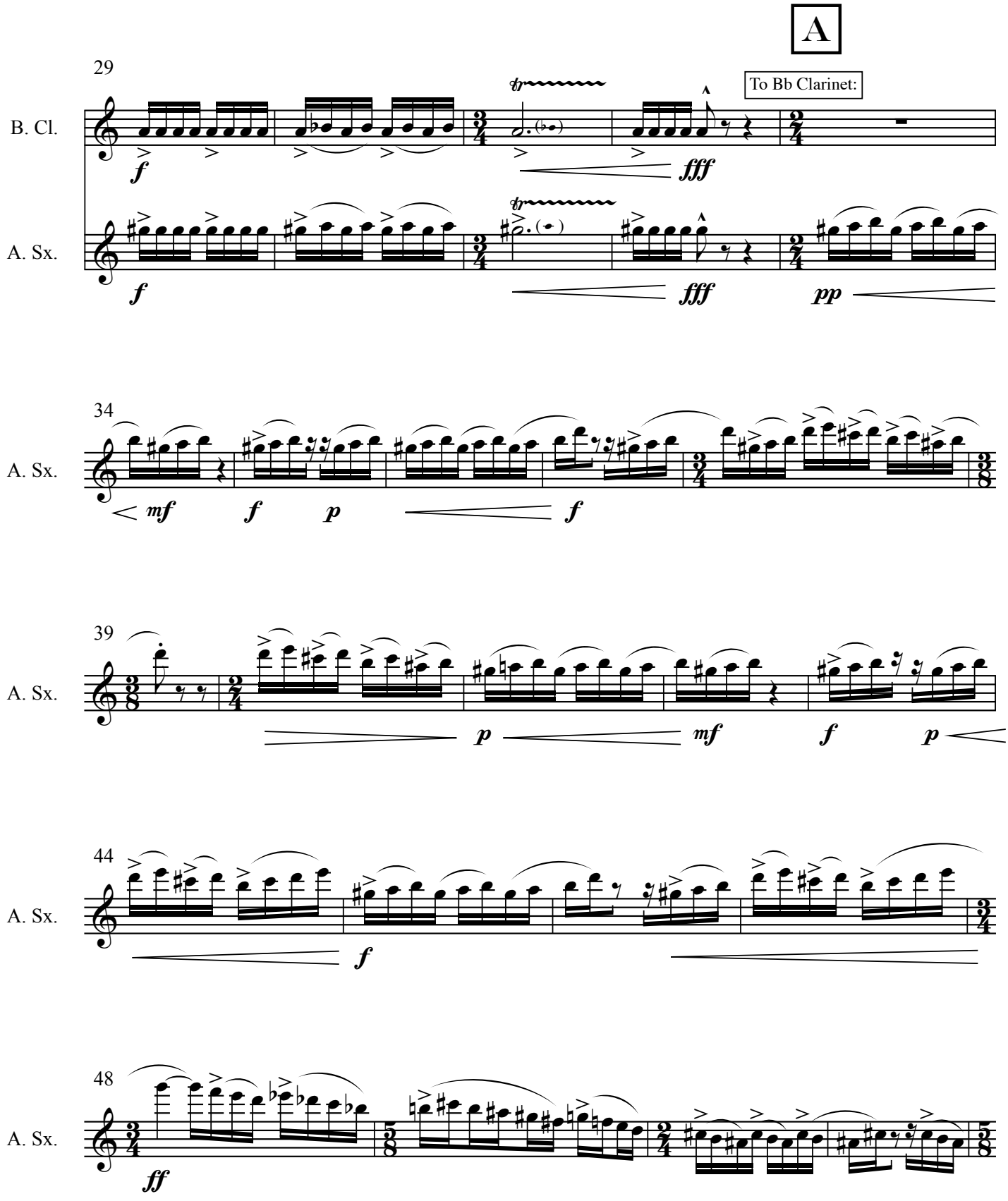
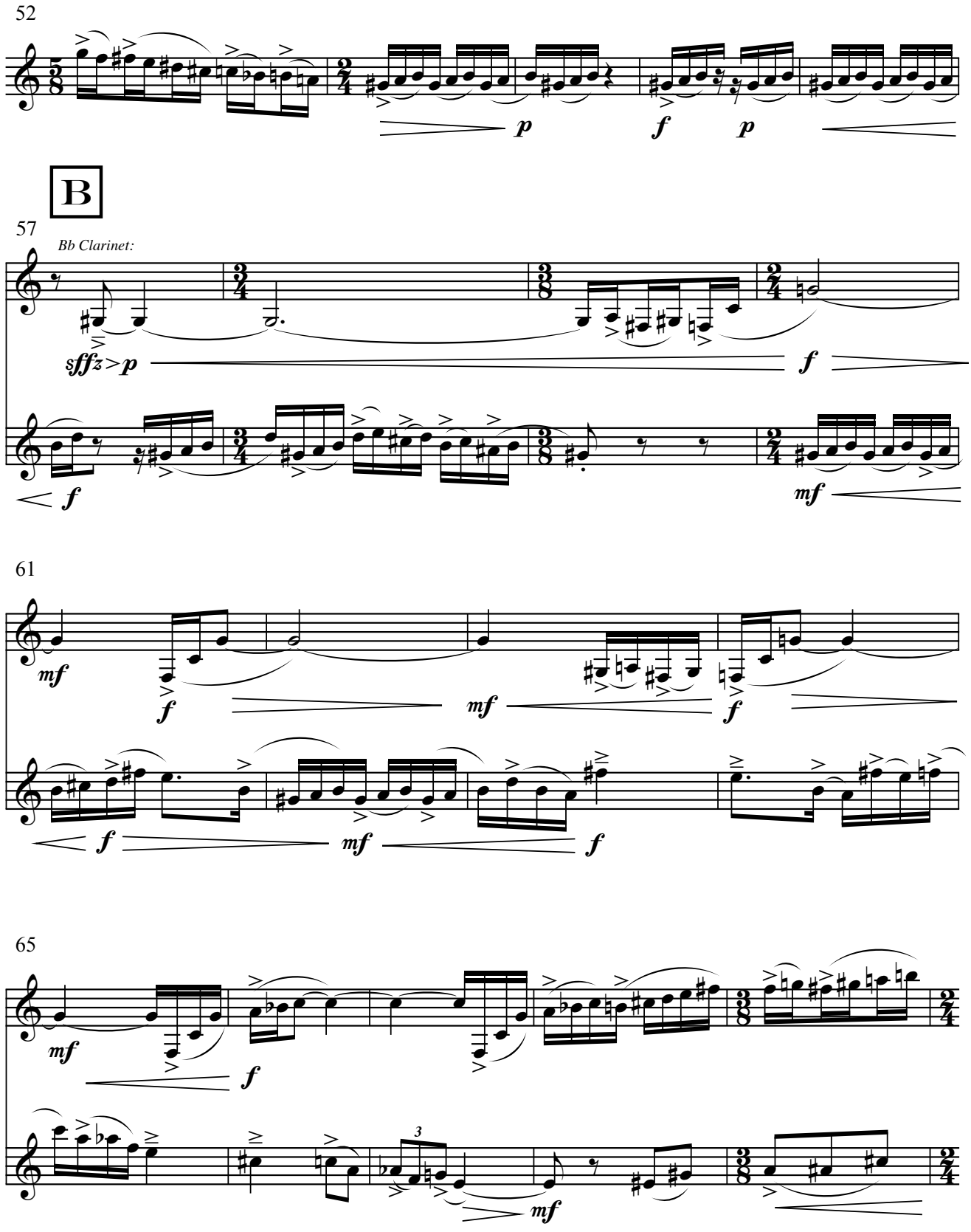
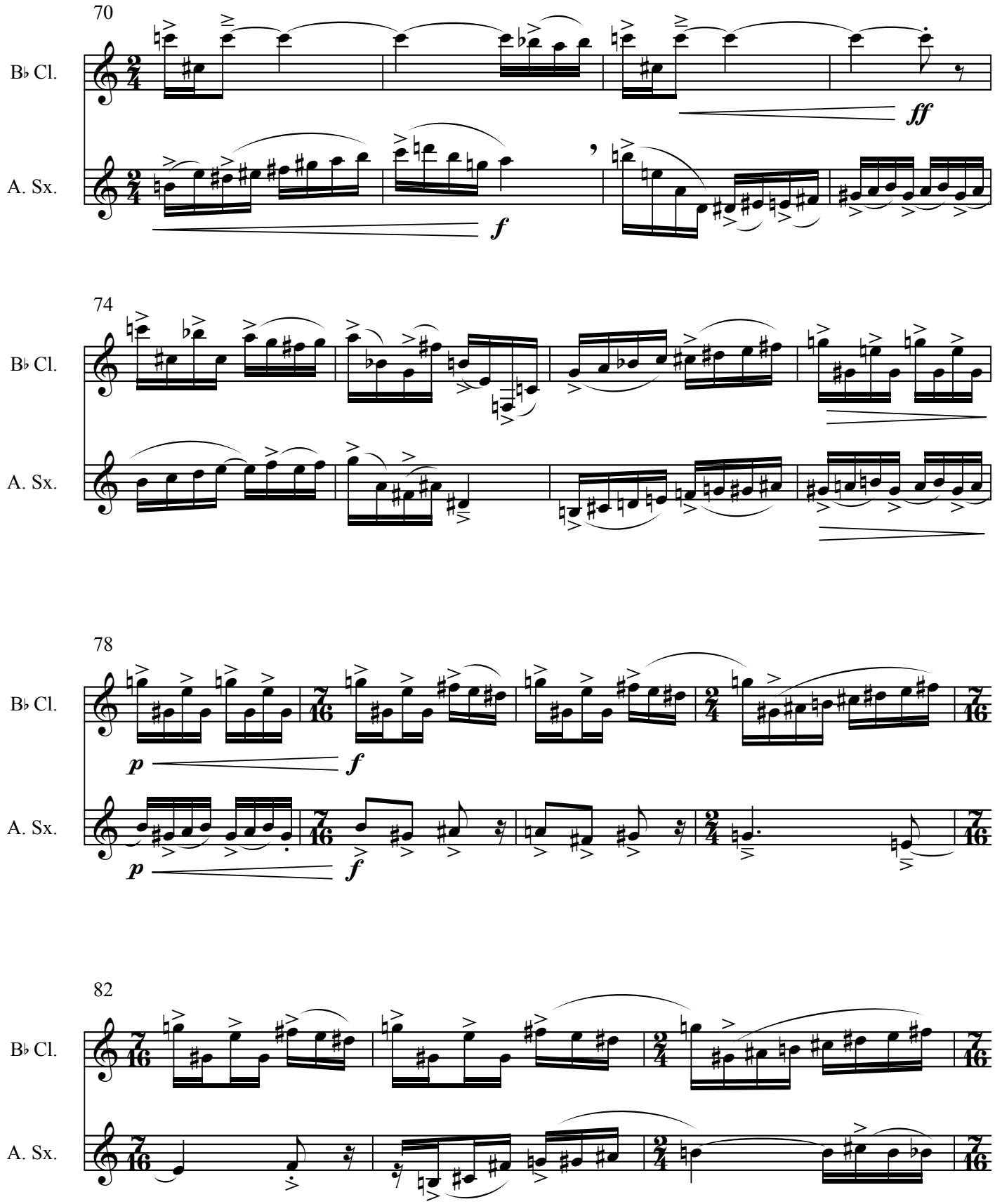
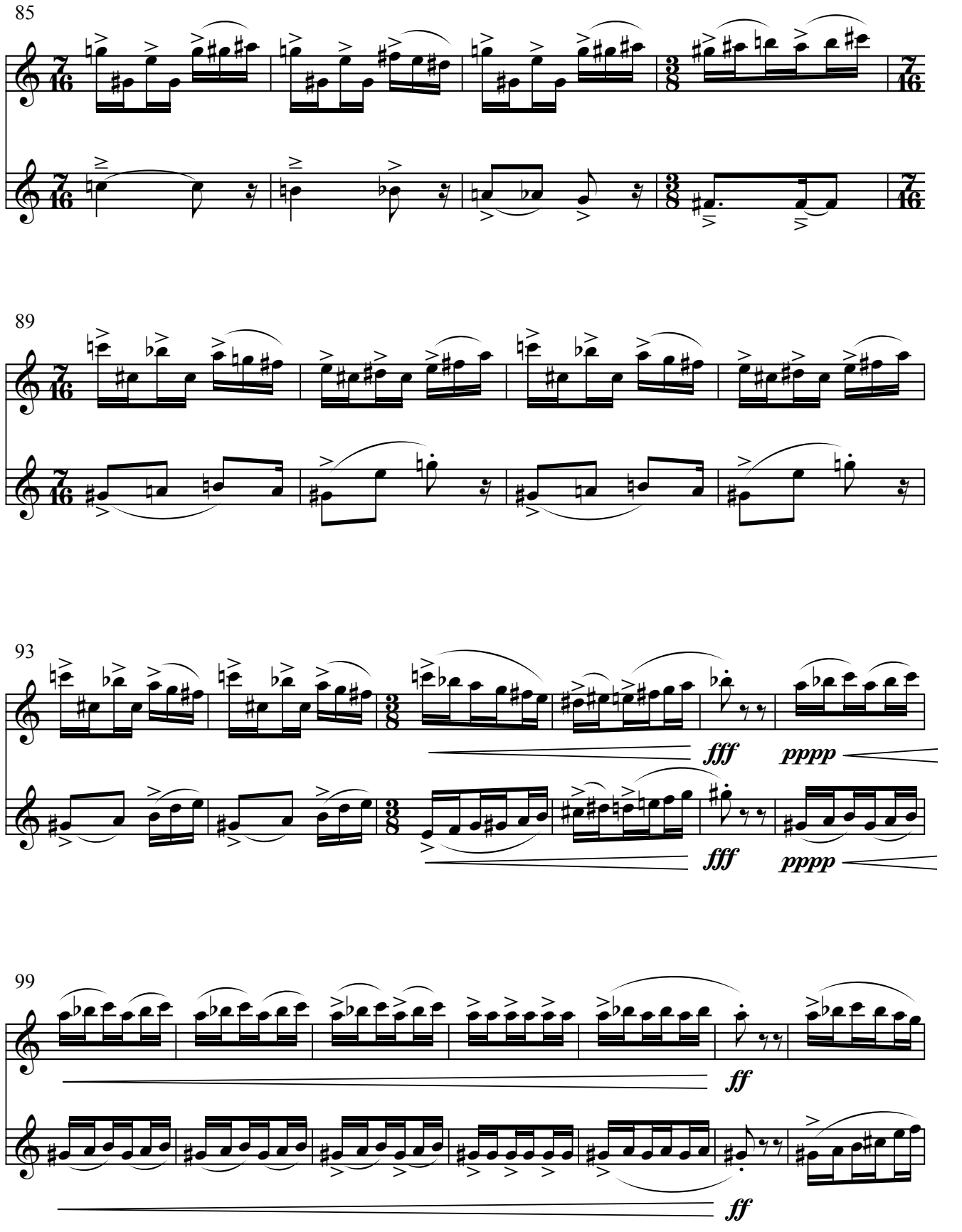
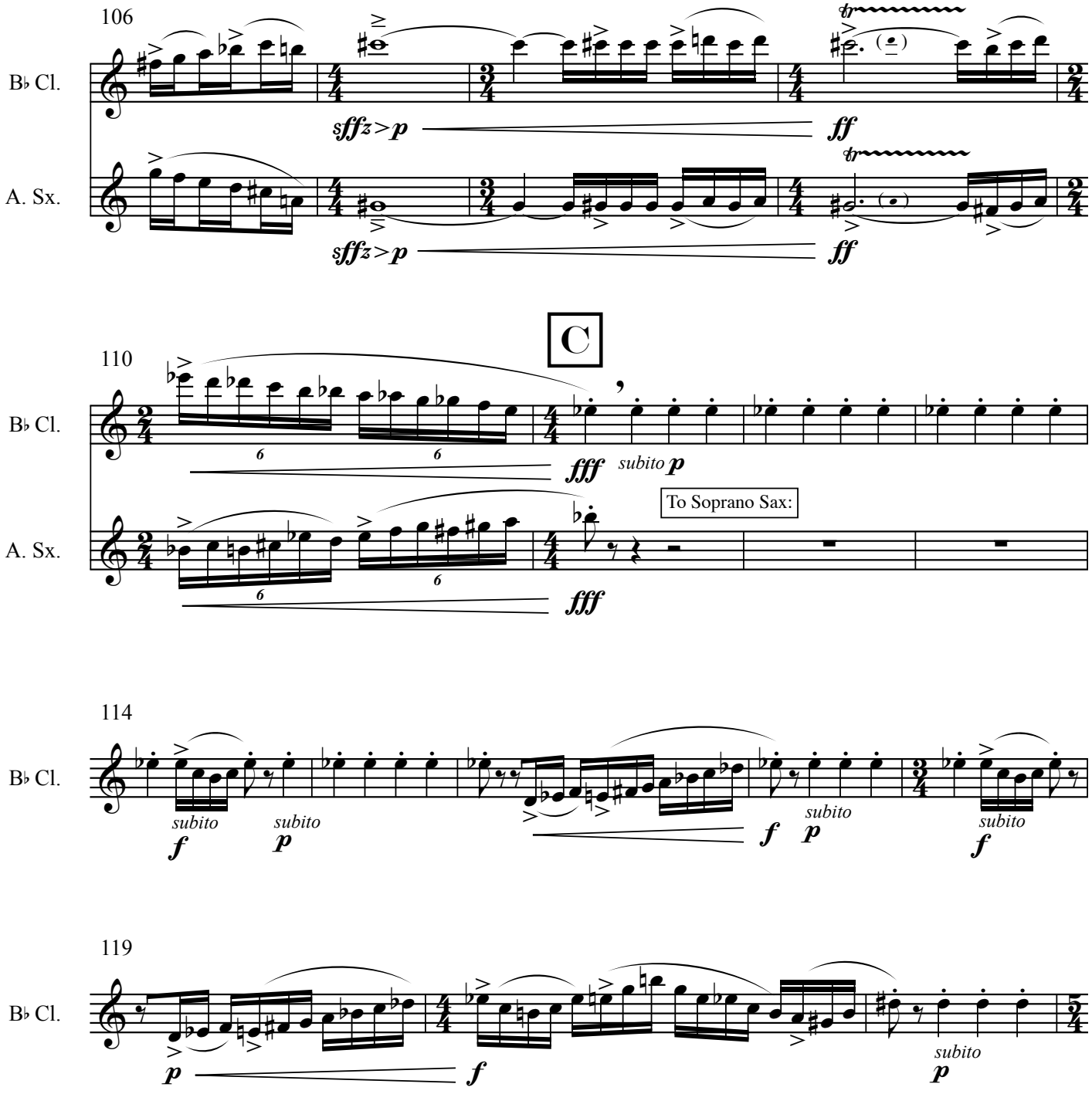

16
B. Cl.
A. Sx.
19
B. Cl.
A. Sx.
22
B. Cl.
A. Sx.
25
B. Cl.
A. Sx.
sffz>p
sffz>p

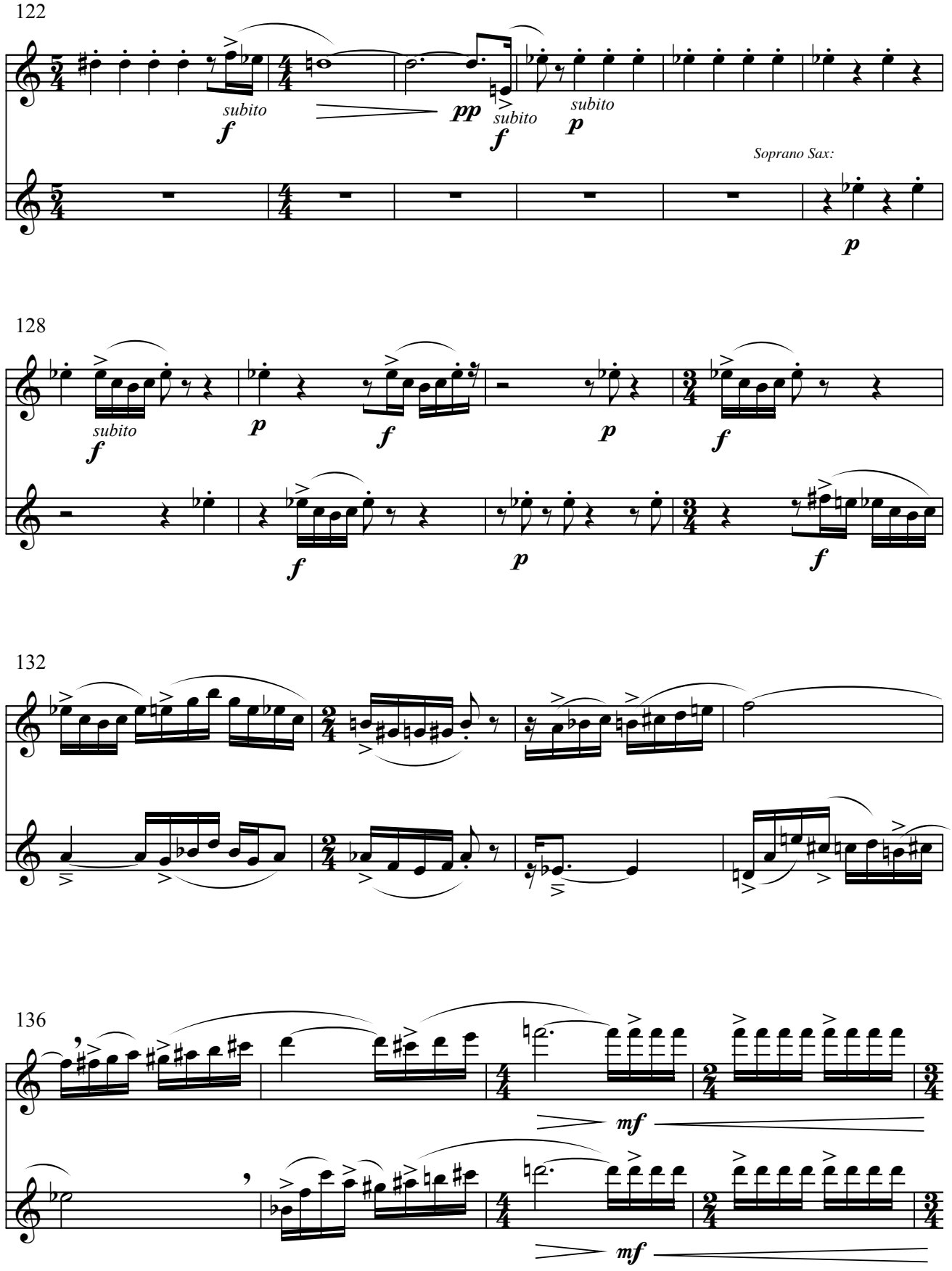

A
29
To Bb Clarinet:
B. Cl.
A. Sx.
f
fff
pp
34
mf
p
39
mf
44
ff
48

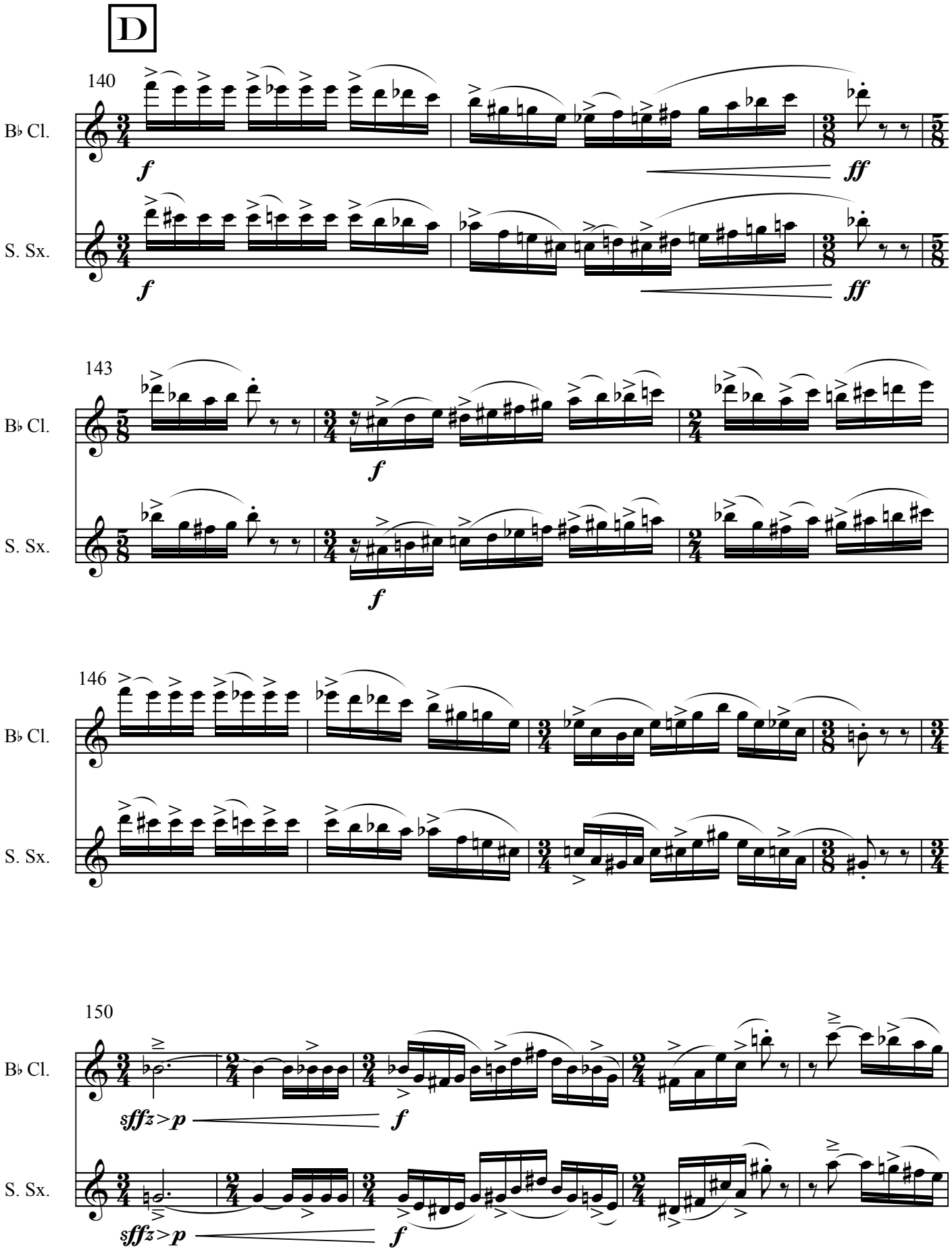

52
A. Sx.
B
57
Bb Clarinet:
B♭ Cl.
A. Sx.
61
B♭ Cl.
A. Sx.
65
B♭ Cl.
A. Sx.

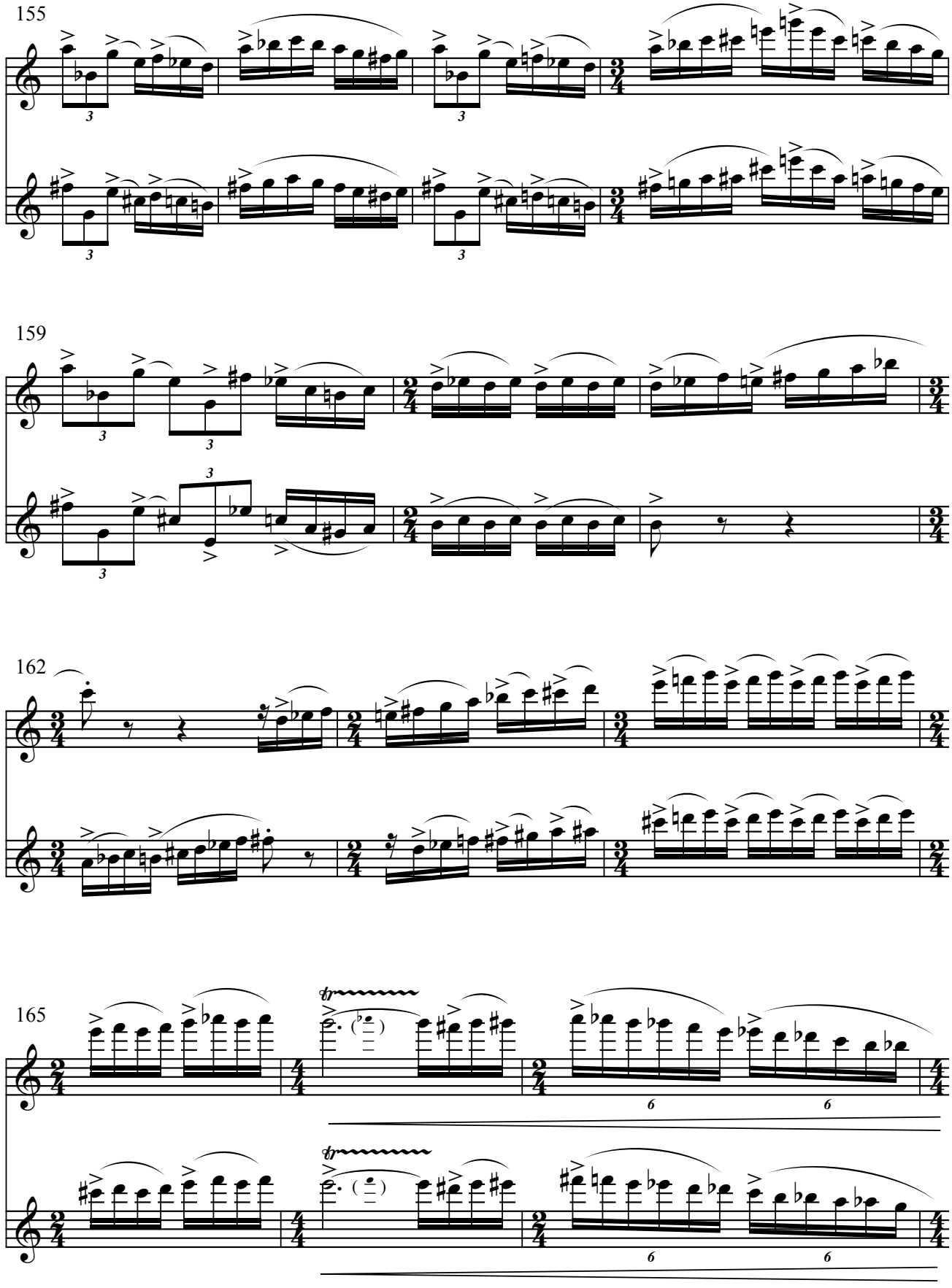

70
B♭ Cl.
A. Sx.
ff
f
74
B♭ Cl.
A. Sx.
78
B♭ Cl.
A. Sx.
p
f
p
f
82
B♭ Cl.
A. Sx.

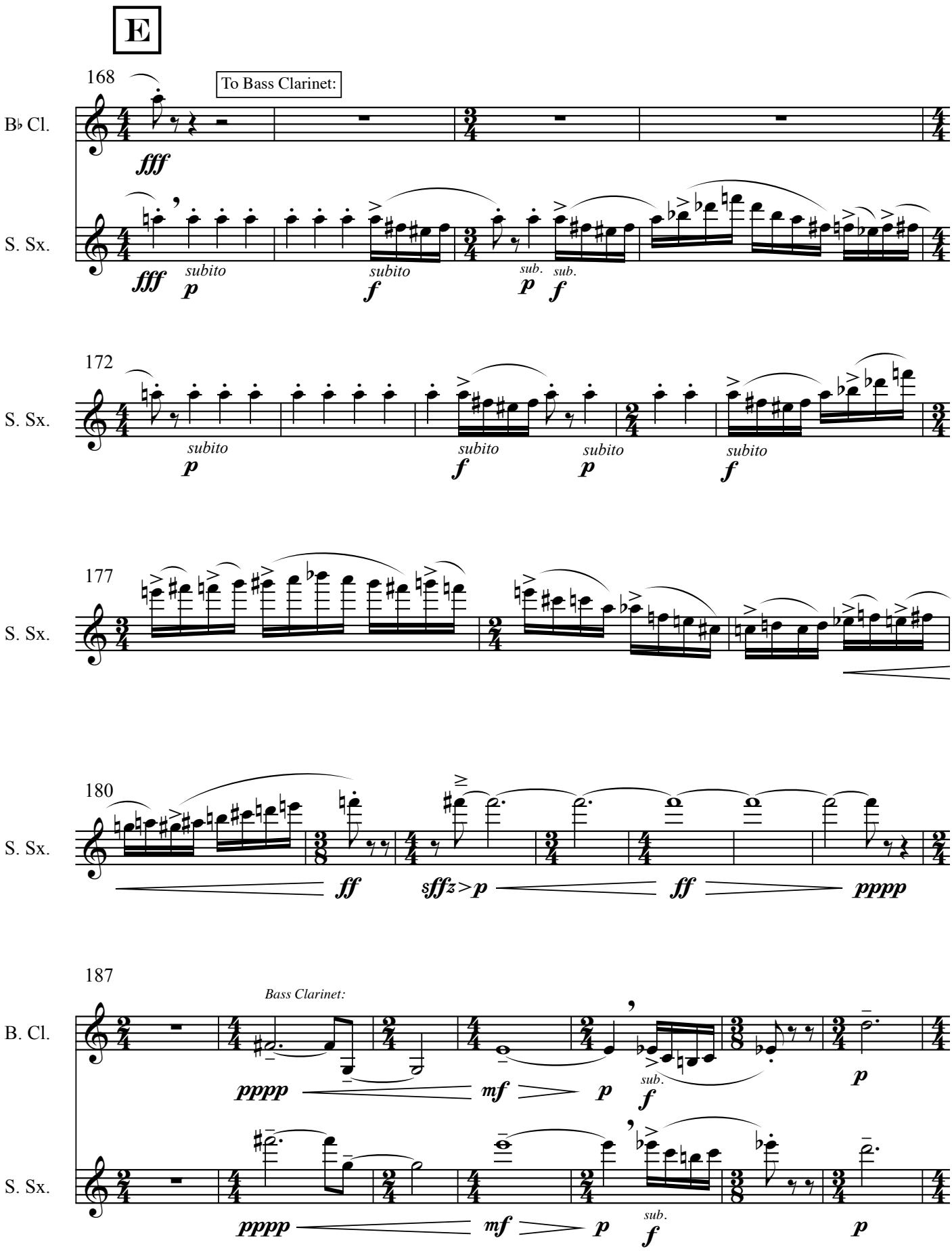

85
B♭ Cl.
A. Sx.
89
B♭ Cl.
A. Sx.
93
B♭ Cl.
fff
pppp
A. Sx.
fff
pppp
99
B♭ Cl.
ff
A. Sx.
ff

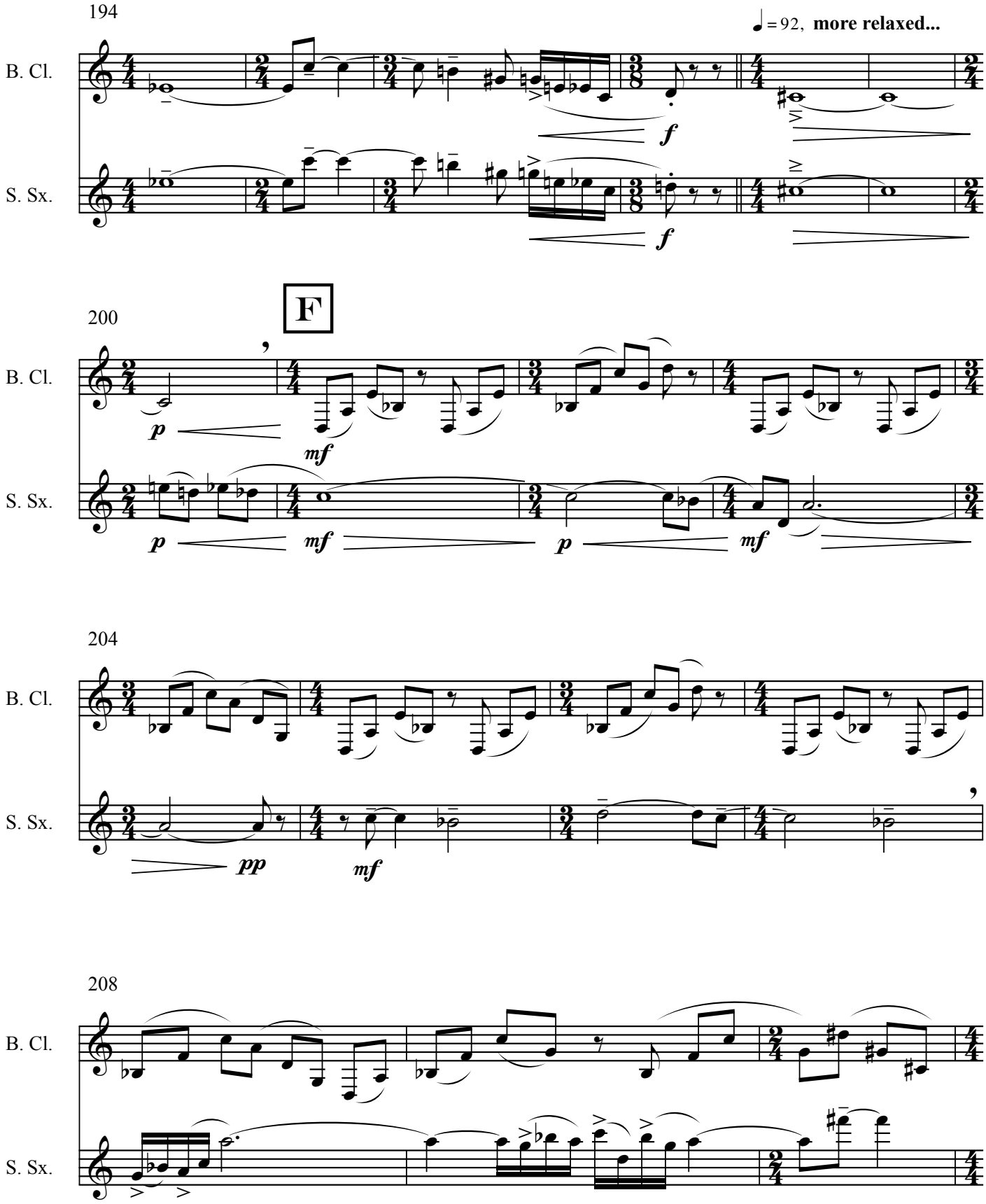

106
B♭ Cl.
A. Sx.
sffz>p
ff
C
110
fff
subito p
To Soprano Sax:
114
subito f
subito p
f
119
p
f
subito p

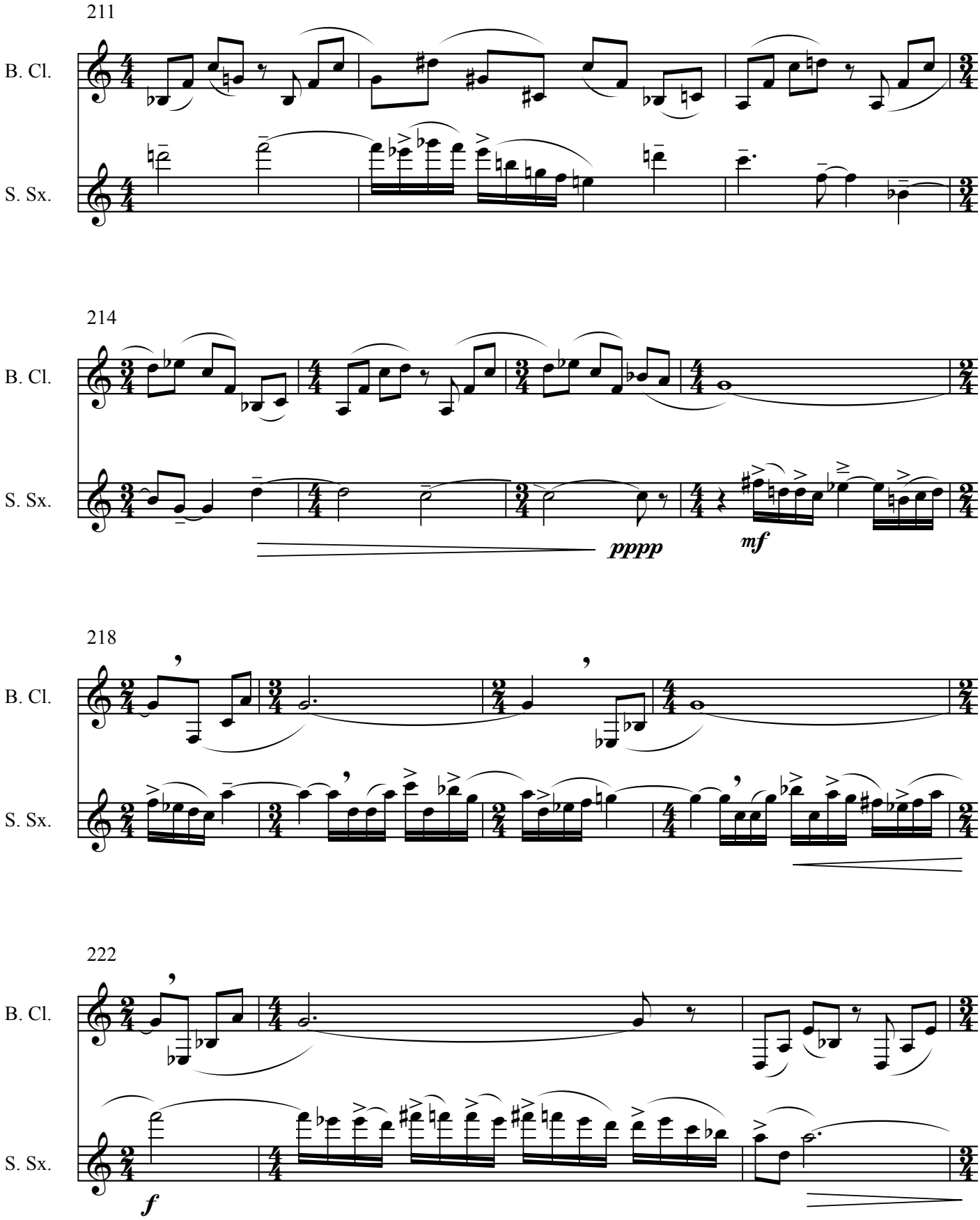

122
B♭ Cl.
S. Sx.
subito
f
pp
subito
f
subito
p
Soprano Sax:
p
128
B♭ Cl.
S. Sx.
subito
f
p
f
p
f
f
p
f
132
B♭ Cl.
S. Sx.
136
B♭ Cl.
S. Sx.
mf
mf

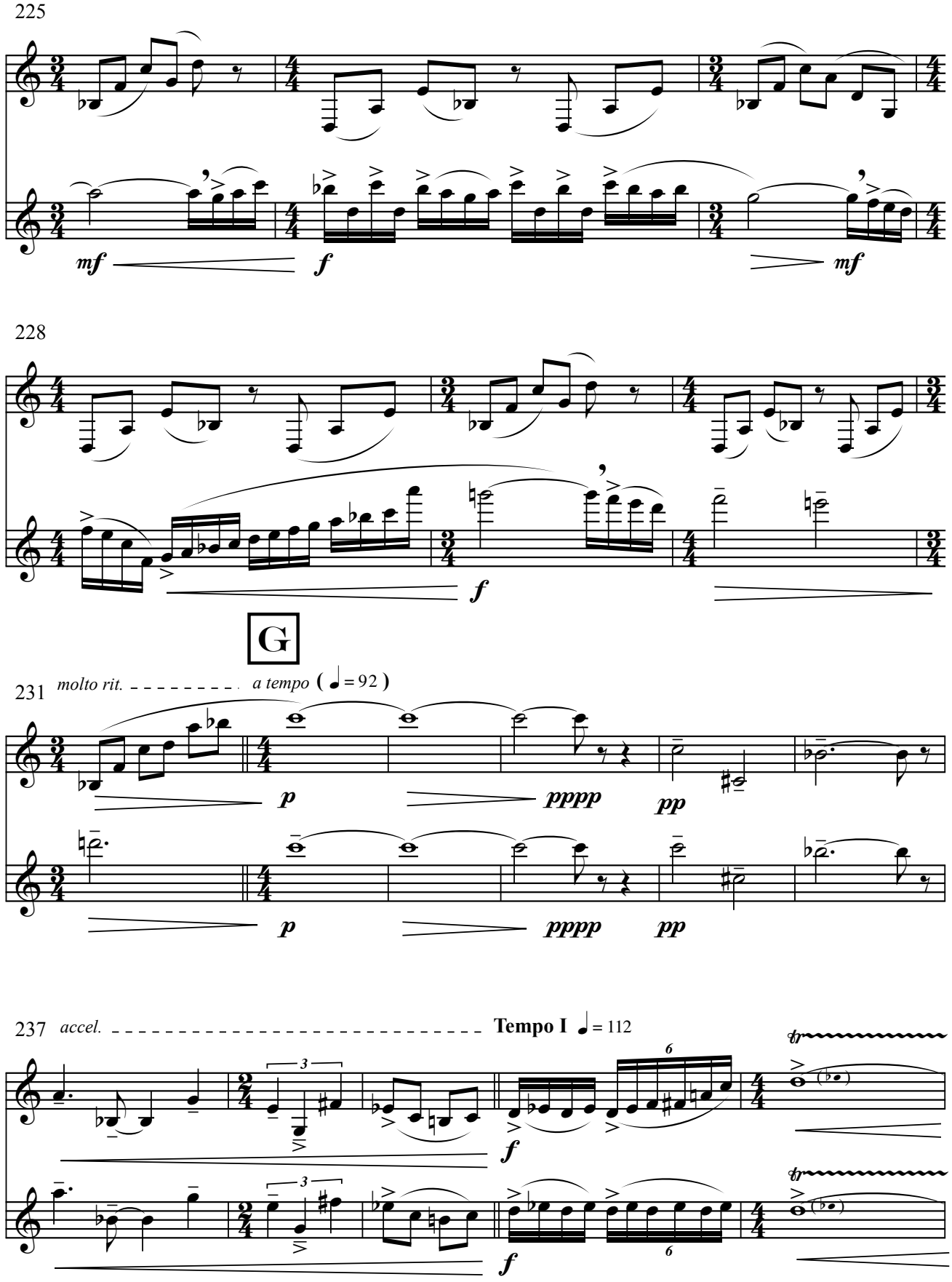

D
140
B♭ Cl.
S. Sx.
f
ff
143
B♭ Cl.
S. Sx.
f
146
B♭ Cl.
S. Sx.
150
B♭ Cl.
S. Sx.
sffz>p
f

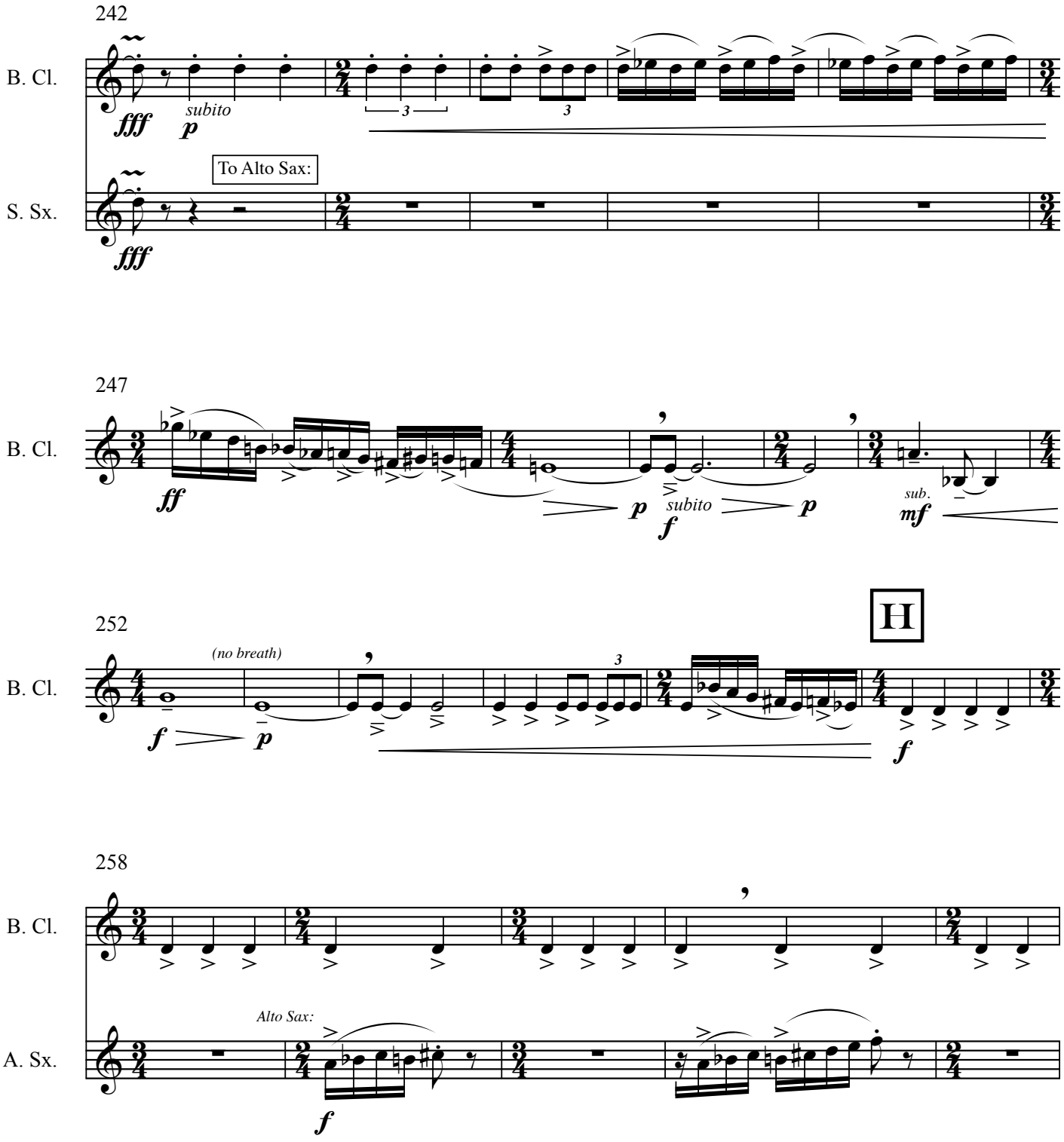

155
B♭ Cl.
S. Sx.
159
B♭ Cl.
S. Sx.
162
B♭ Cl.
S. Sx.
165
B♭ Cl.
S. Sx.


E
168
To Bass Clarinet:
B♭ Cl.
S. Sx.
fff
fff
p
subito
f
subito
p
sub.
f
sub.
172
S. Sx.
p
subito
f
subito
p
subito
f
subito
177
S. Sx.
180
S. Sx.
ff
sffz>p
ff
pppp
187
Bass Clarinet:
B. Cl.
pppp
mf
p
f
sub.
p
S. Sx.
pppp
mf
p
f
sub.
p


194
♩ = 92, more relaxed...
B. Cl.
S. Sx.
f
f
200
F
B. Cl.
S. Sx.
p
mf
p
mf
p
mf
204
B. Cl.
S. Sx.
pp
mf
208
B. Cl.
S. Sx.


211
B. Cl.
S. Sx.
214
B. Cl.
S. Sx.
pppp
mf
218
B. Cl.
S. Sx.
222
B. Cl.
S. Sx.
f


225
B. Cl.
S. Sx.
mf
f
mf
228
B. Cl.
S. Sx.
f
G
231
molto rit.
a tempo (= 92)
B. Cl.
S. Sx.
p
pppp
pp
237
accel.
Tempo I = 112
B. Cl.
S. Sx.
f
tr
6
3


242
B. Cl.
fff
subito
p
3
3
S. Sx.
To Alto Sax:
fff
247
B. Cl.
ff
p
subito
f
p
sub.
mf
252
H
B. Cl.
(no breath)
f
p
3
f
258
B. Cl.
A. Sx.
Alto Sax:
f

263

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

267

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

271

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

275

I

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

279

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

283

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

287

B. Cl.

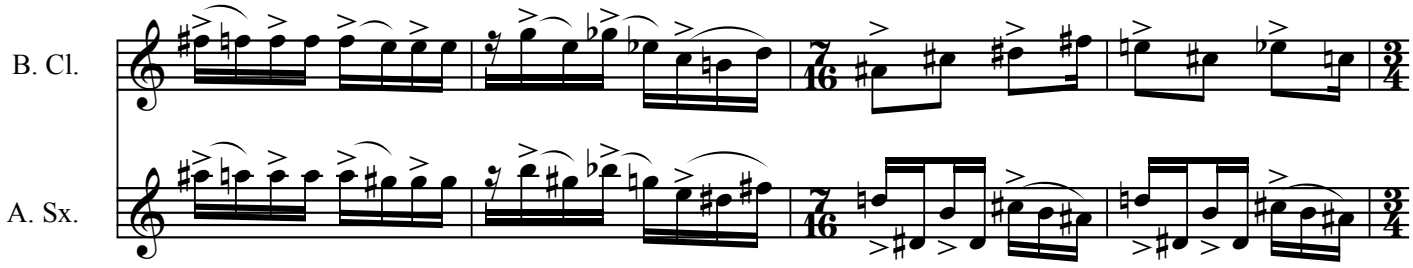
A. Sx.

290

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

293



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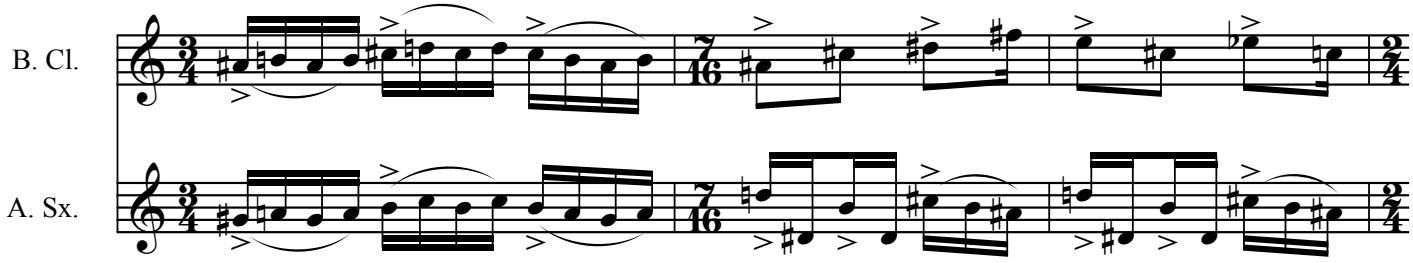
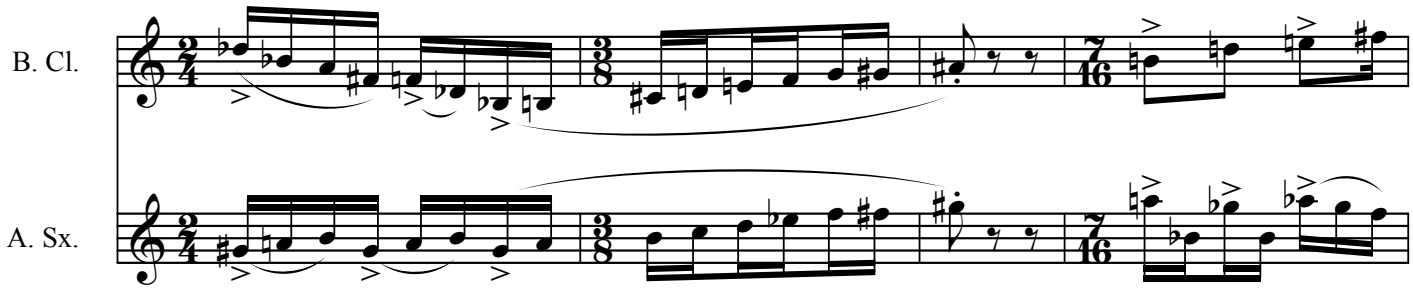


300



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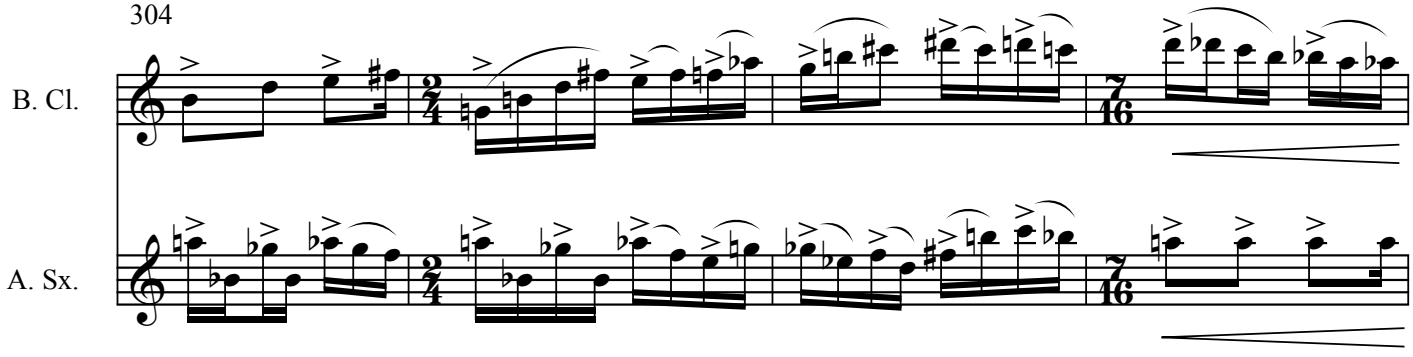

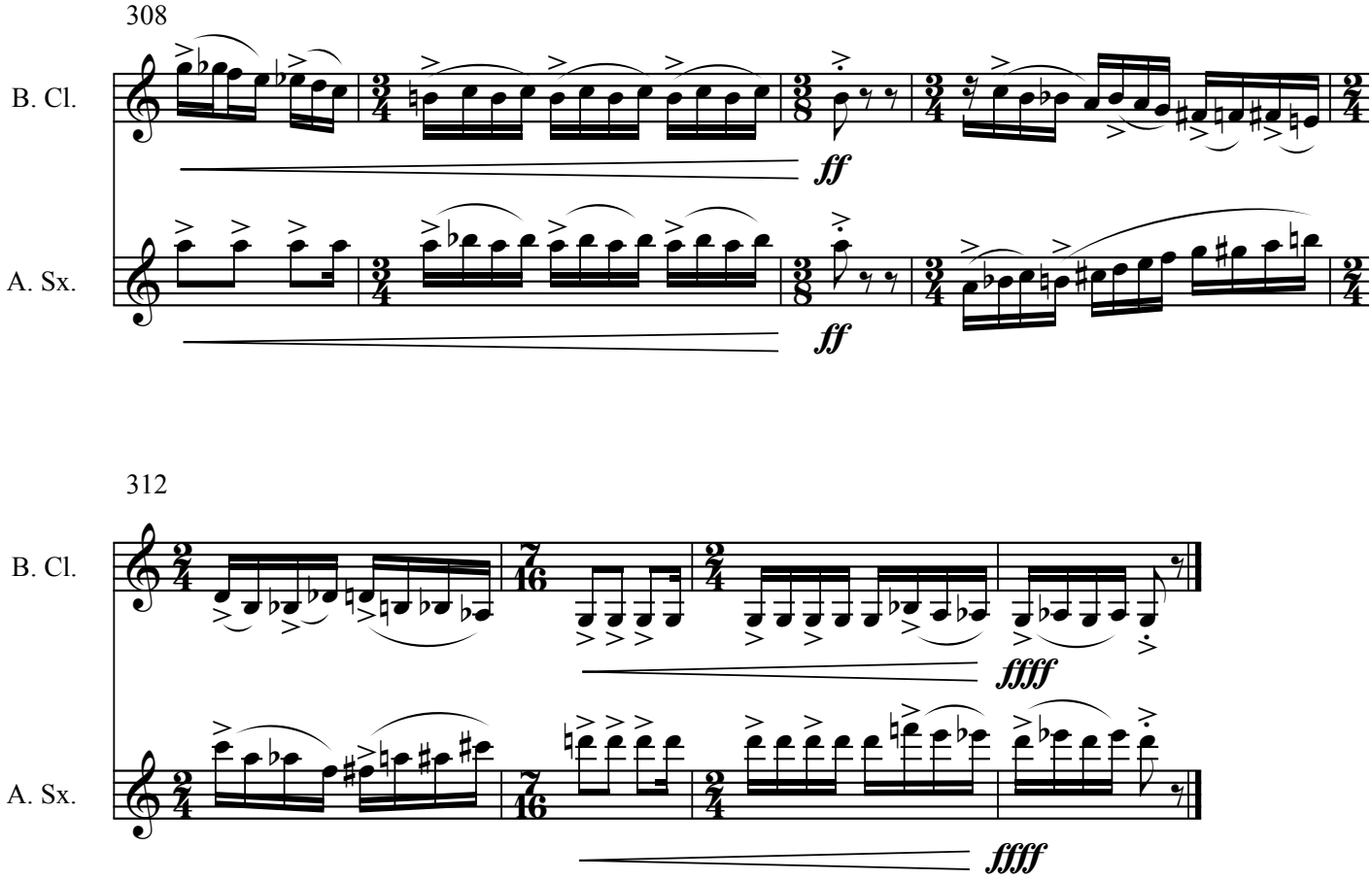

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