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Chrysalis: in memoriam Olivier Messiaen

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chrysalis:
in memoriam Olivier Messiaen

for eleven winds

Christopher Coleman

duration ca. 9 minutes

Instrumentation:
Flute, Alto flute
Oboe, English horn
2 bassoons, Contrabassoon
2 Bb clarinets, Bb bass clarinet/Bb clarinet, Bb contrabass clarinet/Bb clarinet

Programme note
I first heard *Quatour pour la fin du temps* (Quartet for the End of Time) by French composer Olivier Messiaen (1908 – 1992, in my late teens, as I was beginning my education as a composer. The music was so moving, so powerful and mystical, and seemed such a clear and true picture of something beyond this reality that I was immediately transfixed. The story of the quartet—Messiaen composed it when he was interned at a German prison camp during World War II—made it even more profound. I began to study his music and his writings--*Technique de mon langage musical* (The Technique of My Musical Language)—and discovered a profound affinity; our mutual love of birdsong, of extended harmony, of rhythmic vitality and even of palindrome. While I did not use Messiaen's techniques directly, they demonstrated potentials that I had not previously conceived.

A chrysalis is the hard shell surrounding a pupa formed as a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly. In this piece I use short quotations from the solo movements of *Quatour pour la fin du temps*, especially *Abîme des oiseaux* (Abyss of the birds) but also fragments from *Louange à l'Éternité de Jésus* (Praise to the eternity of Jesus) and *Louange à l'Immortalité de Jésus* (Praise to the immortality of Jesus) to generate a prolonged organic climb toward transcendence. I imagine Messiaen's human body, encased deep in the Earth, gradually metamorphosing into pure, luminous, spirit.

chrysalis was commissioned by the Hong Kong Composers' Guild for the Hong Kong Wind Kamerata.

(notes by the composer)

Christopher Coleman
Christopher Coleman (b. 1958, Atlanta, Georgia, USA), composer, conductor, and trombonist, is currently composition coordinator of the Hong Kong Baptist University Department of Music, where he has taught for the past 26 years.

Coleman's works range from orchestral tone poems to large-scale multimedia improvisation pieces to works for symphonic band, chamber ensembles, instrumental solos, and voice. A prize-winning composer, he has received numerous commissions and grants, including recent commissions from local groups the Hong Kong Wind Kamerata, the Hong Kong Wind Philharmonia, the Hong Kong Composers' Guild, RTHK Radio 4, and the Hong Kong University Grants Committee.

His music is published by Vanderbilt Music, Maecenas Music, Theodore Presser, Ensemble Publications, C. Alan Publications and Crown Music Press.

A trans-media artist, Christopher Coleman also works in painting, sculpture and computer graphics. He is a founding member of People's Liberation Improv, Hong Kong's leading comedy improv group, and has performed with them in Beijing, Seoul, Manila, and Macau as well as Hong Kong.

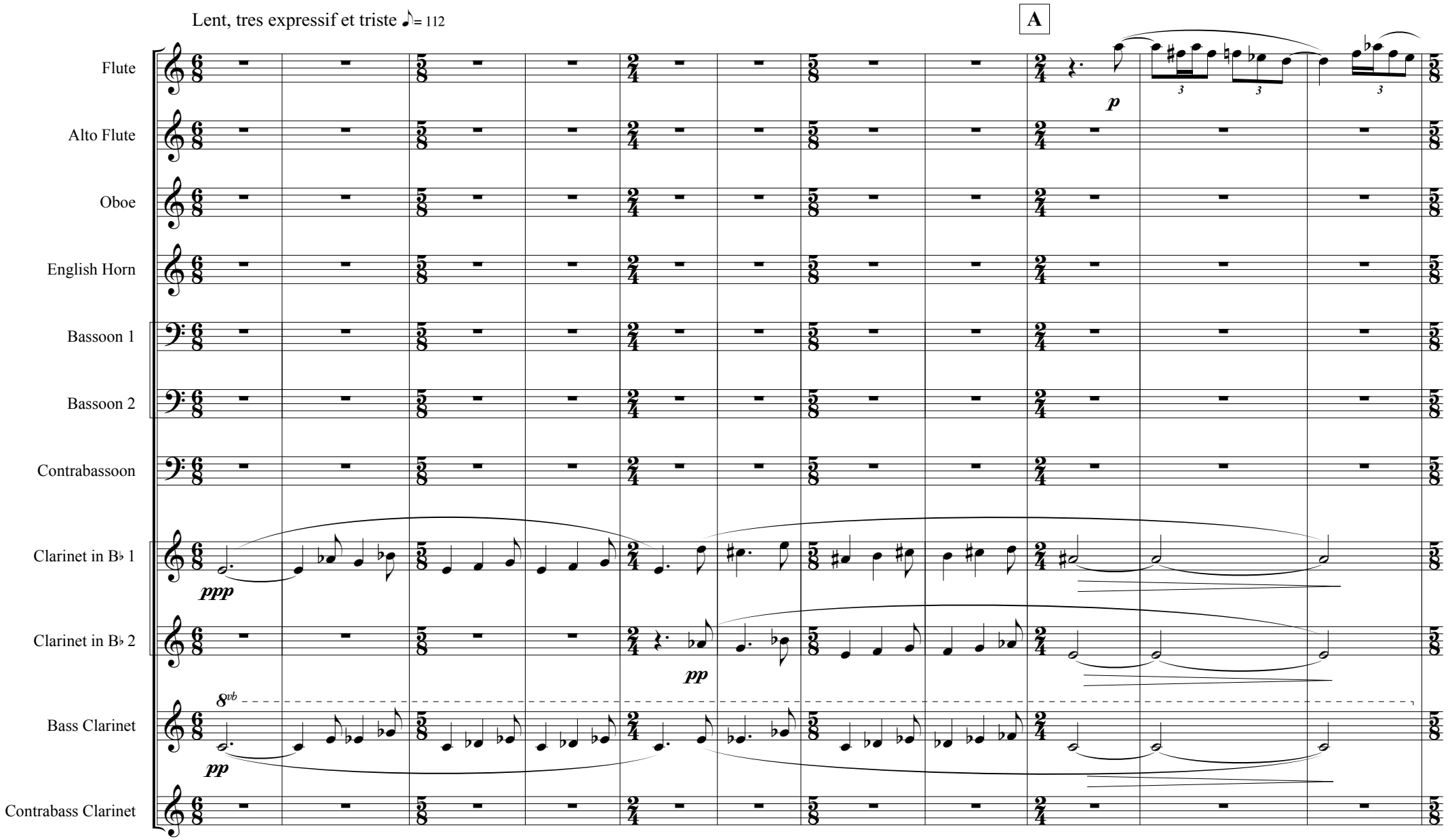
Transposed Score

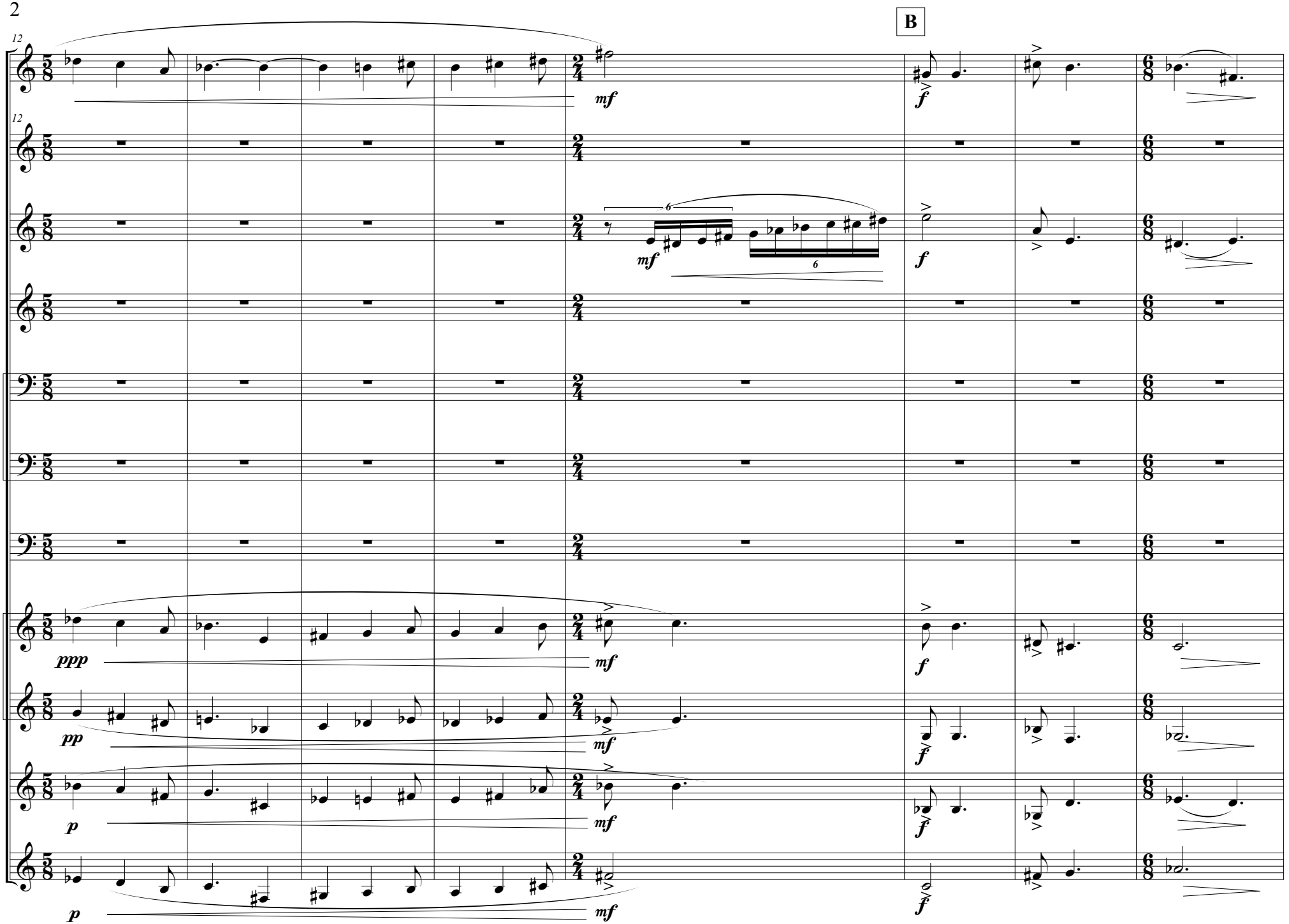
chrysalis:

in memoriam Olivier Messiaen

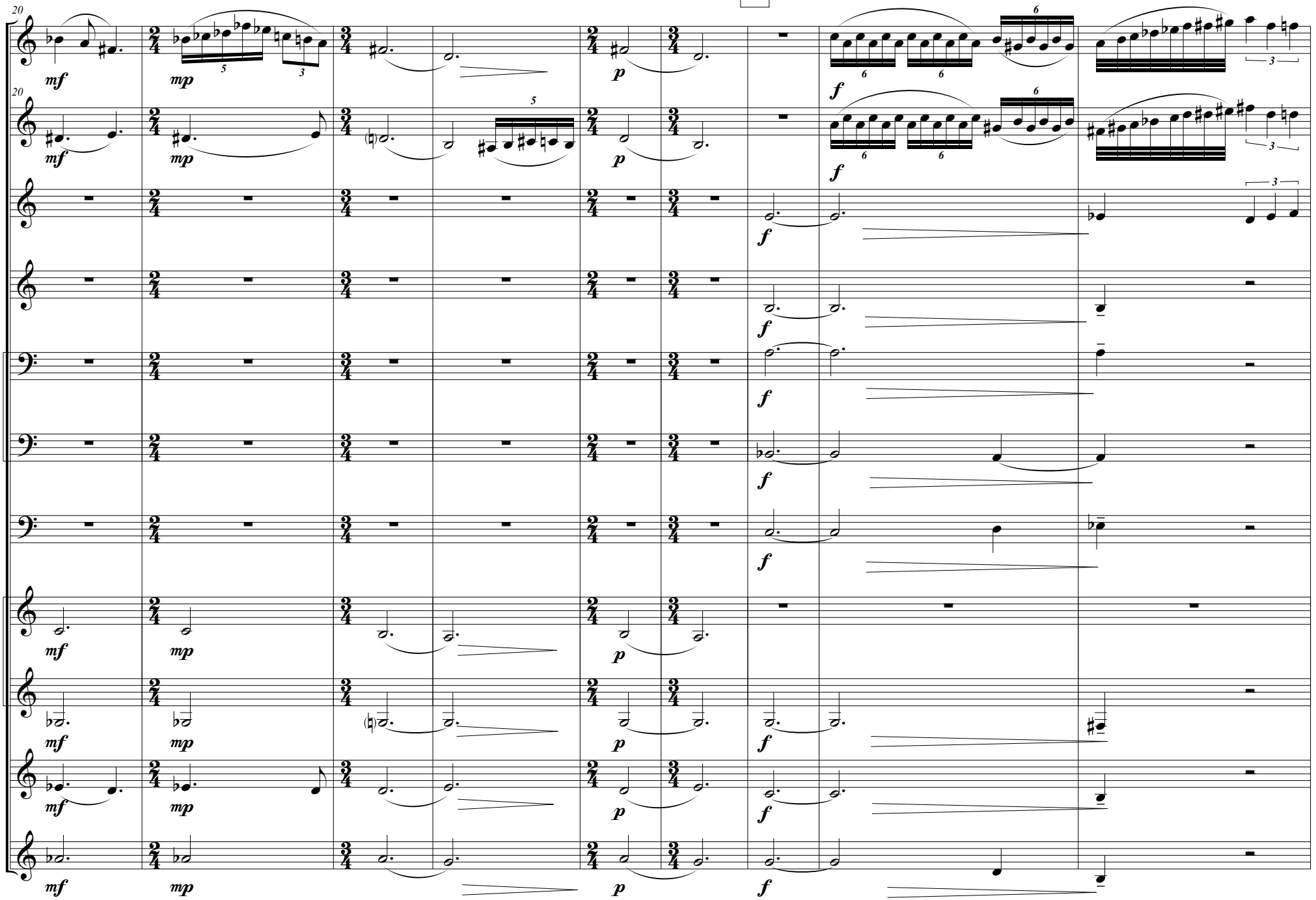
commissioned by the Hong Kong Composers' Guild for the Hong Kong Wind Kamerata

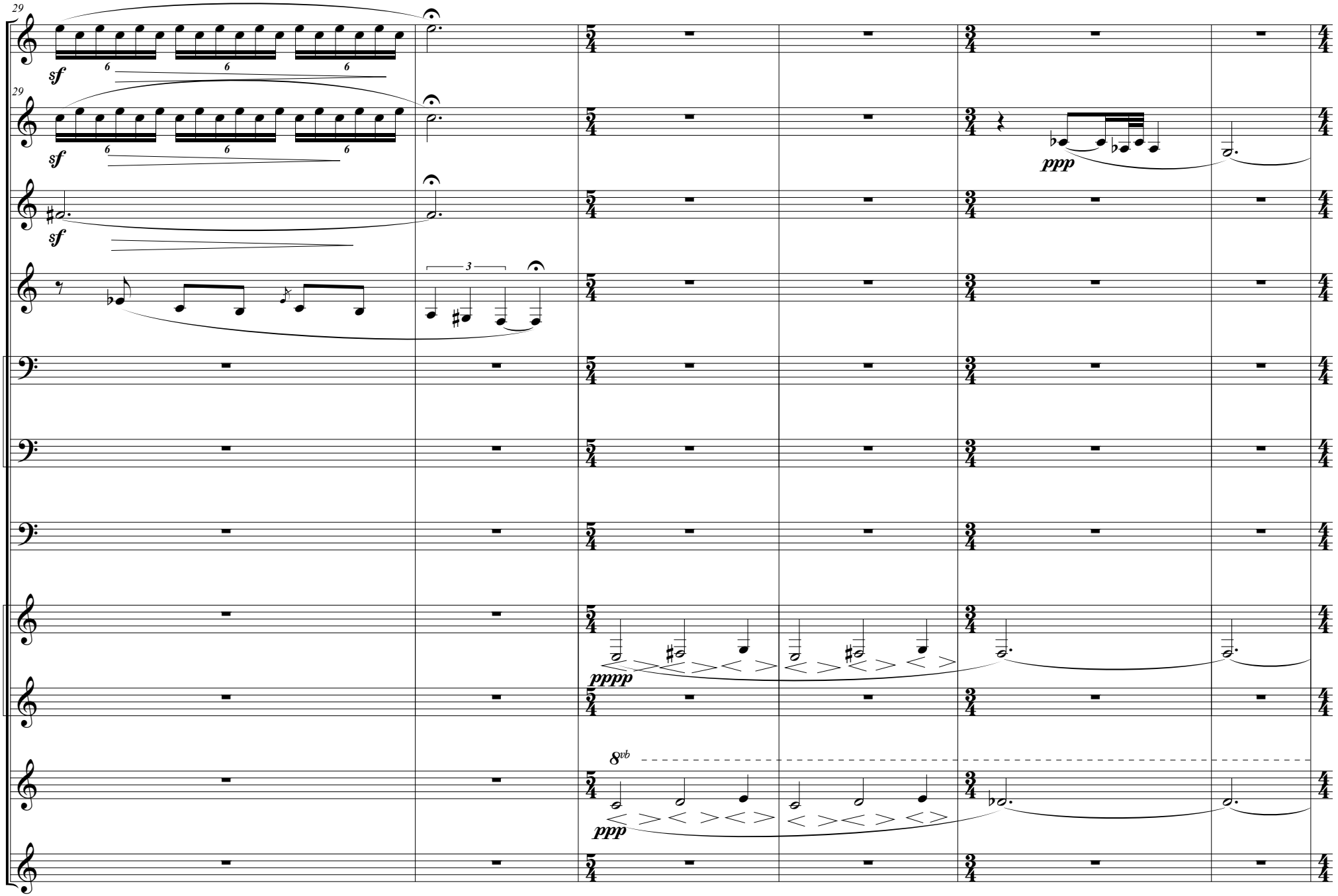
Christopher Coleman

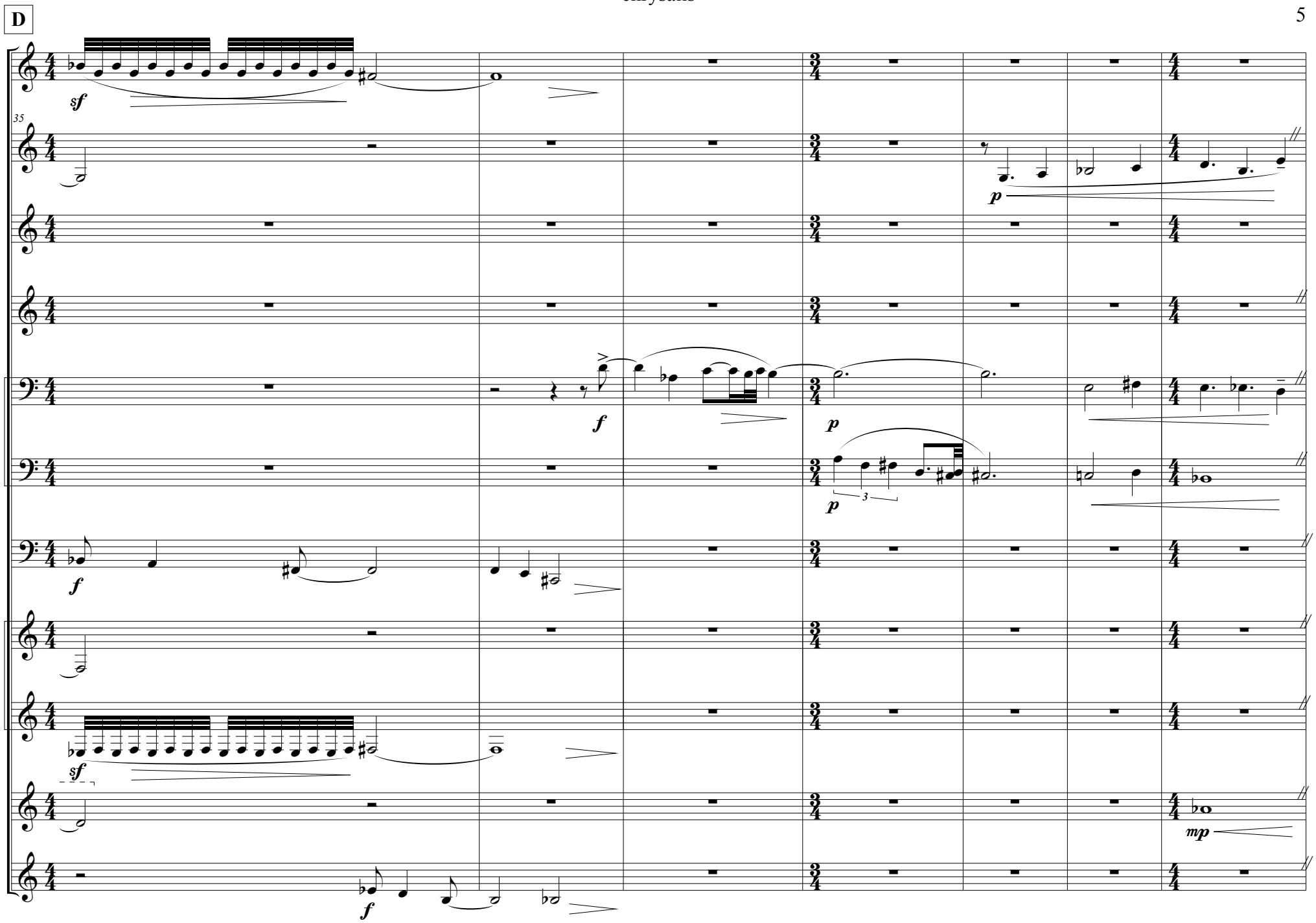


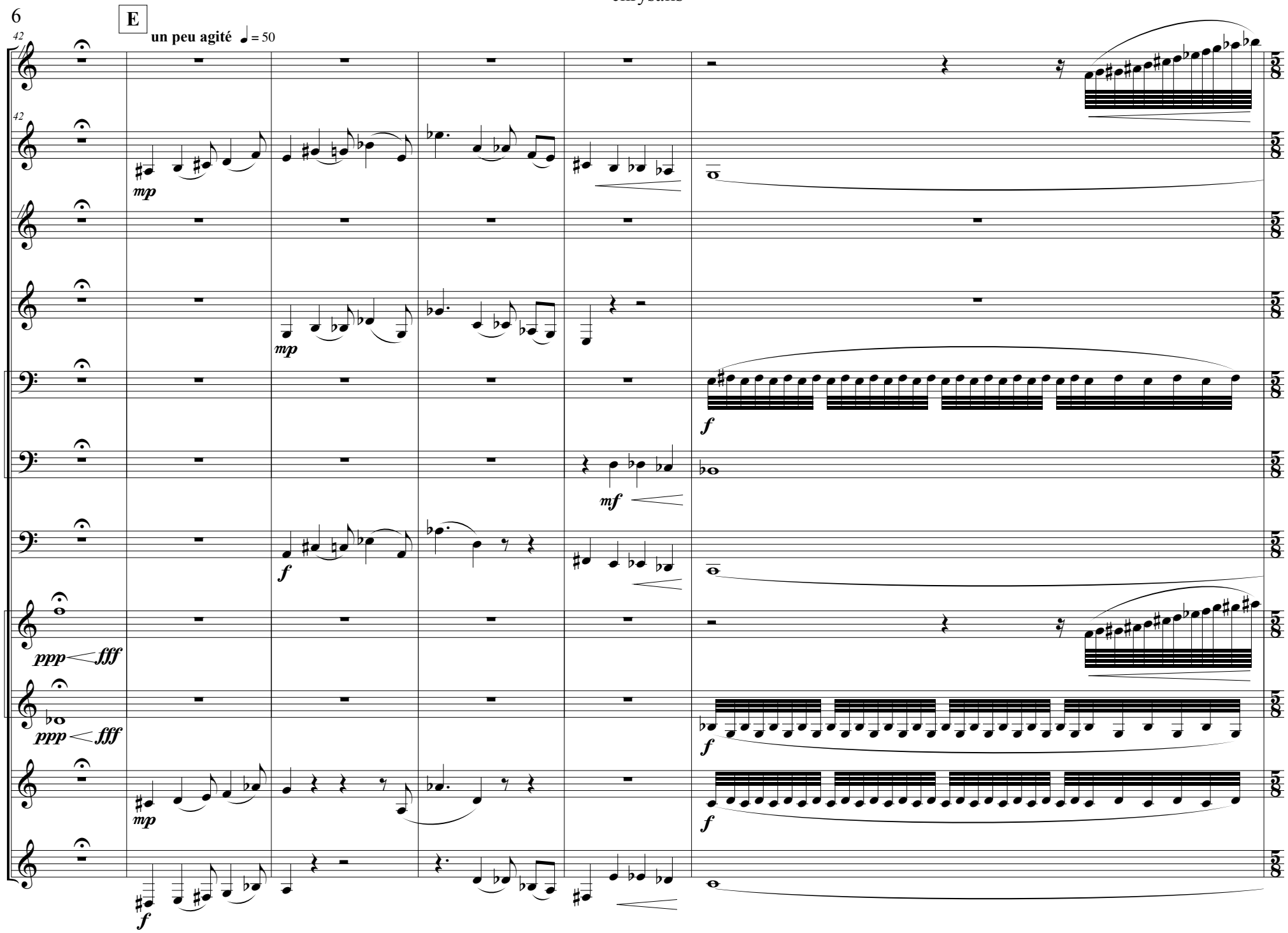

B
Fl.
A. Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Cb. Cl.
12
6
ppp
pp
p
mf
f

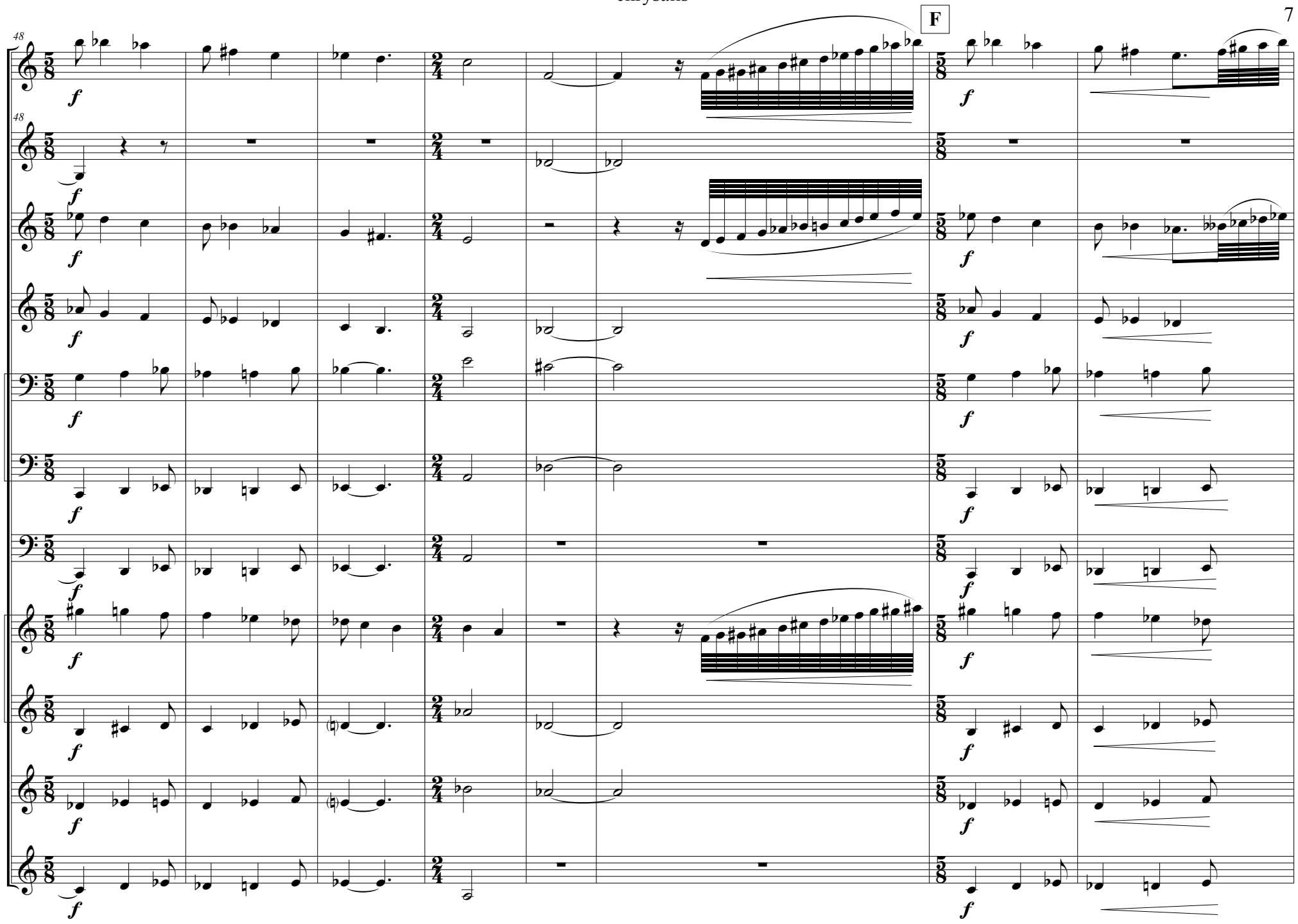
C

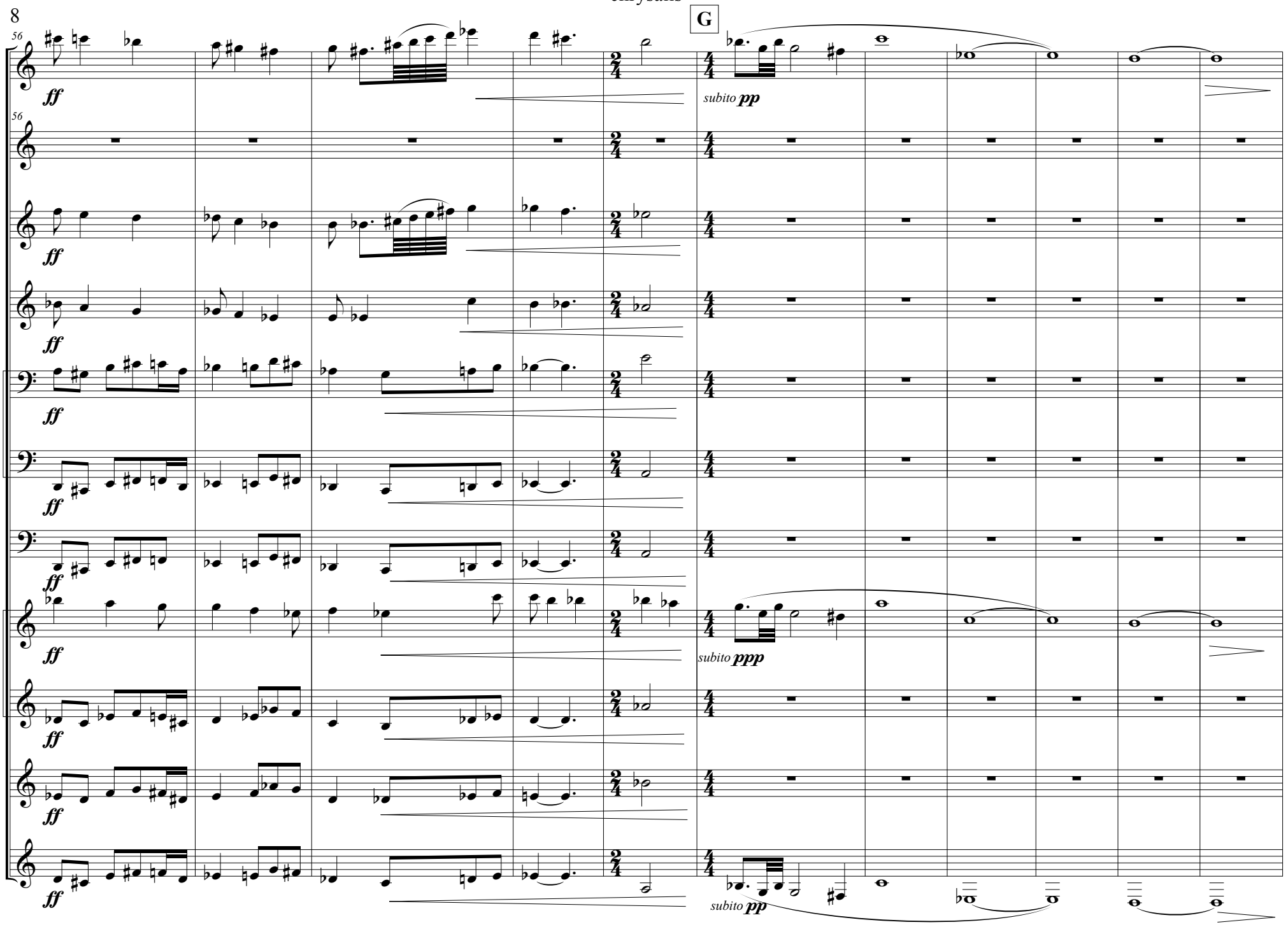


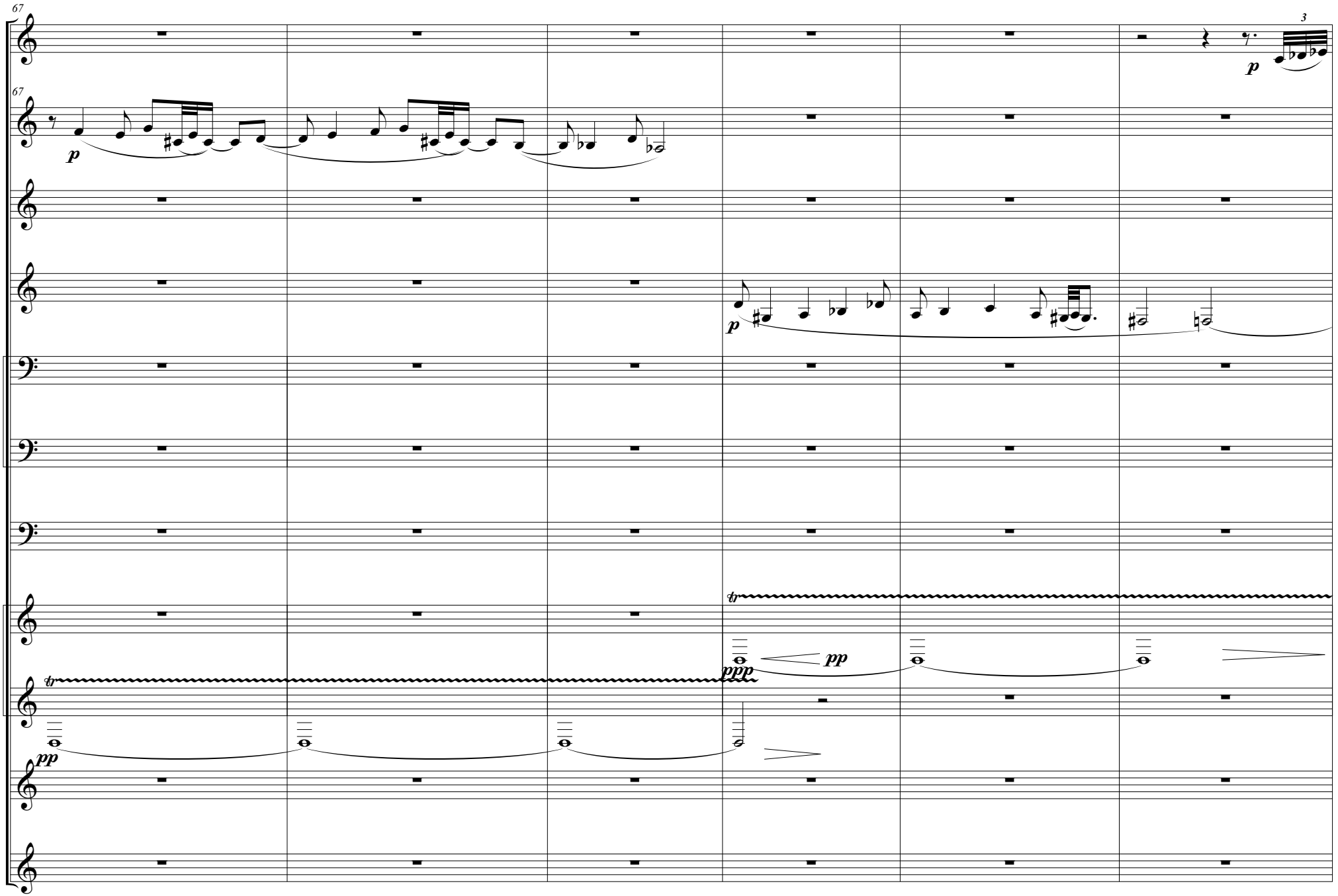

29
Fl.
sf
6
6
6
29
A. Fl.
sf
6
6
6
ppp
Ob.
sf
E. Hn.
3
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
B♭ Cl. 1
pppp
B♭ Cl. 2
8vb
B. Cl.
ppp
Cb. Cl.


D
Fl.
A. Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Cb. Cl.
35
sf
p
f
mp
3

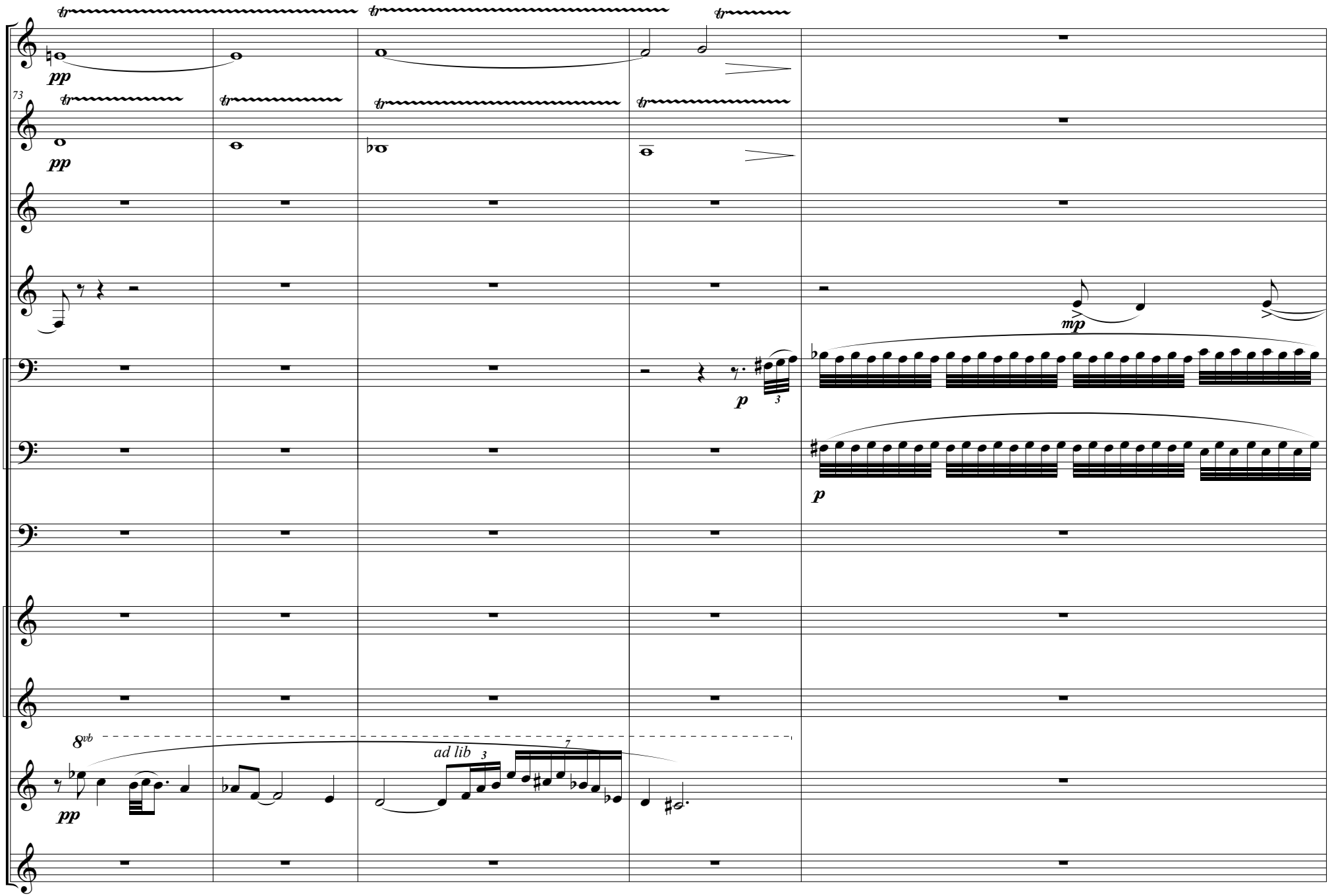

E
un peu agité ♩= 50
Fl.
A. Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Cb. Cl.
42
mp
mf
f
ppp
fff

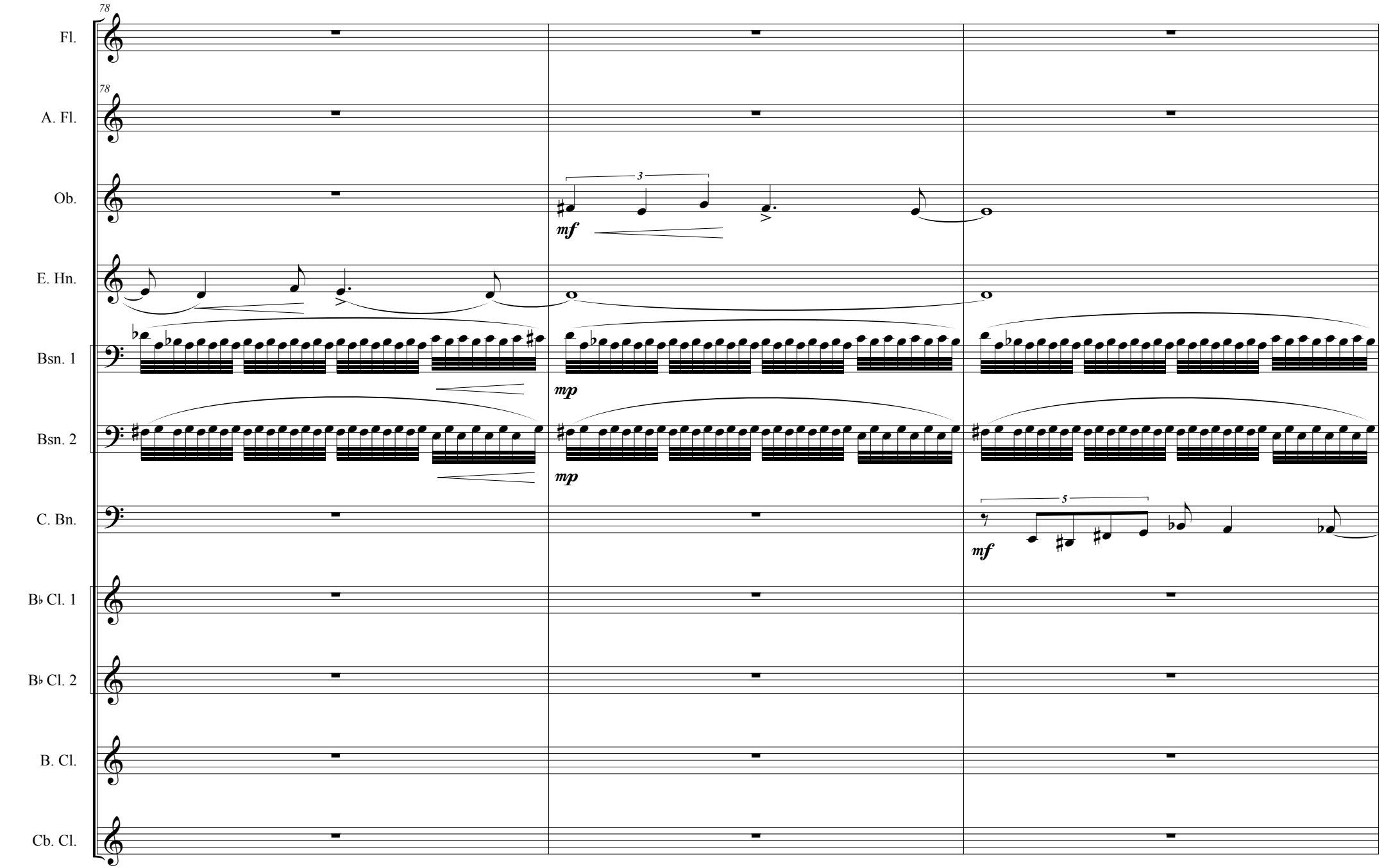

F
48
Fl.
A. Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Cb. Cl.
f

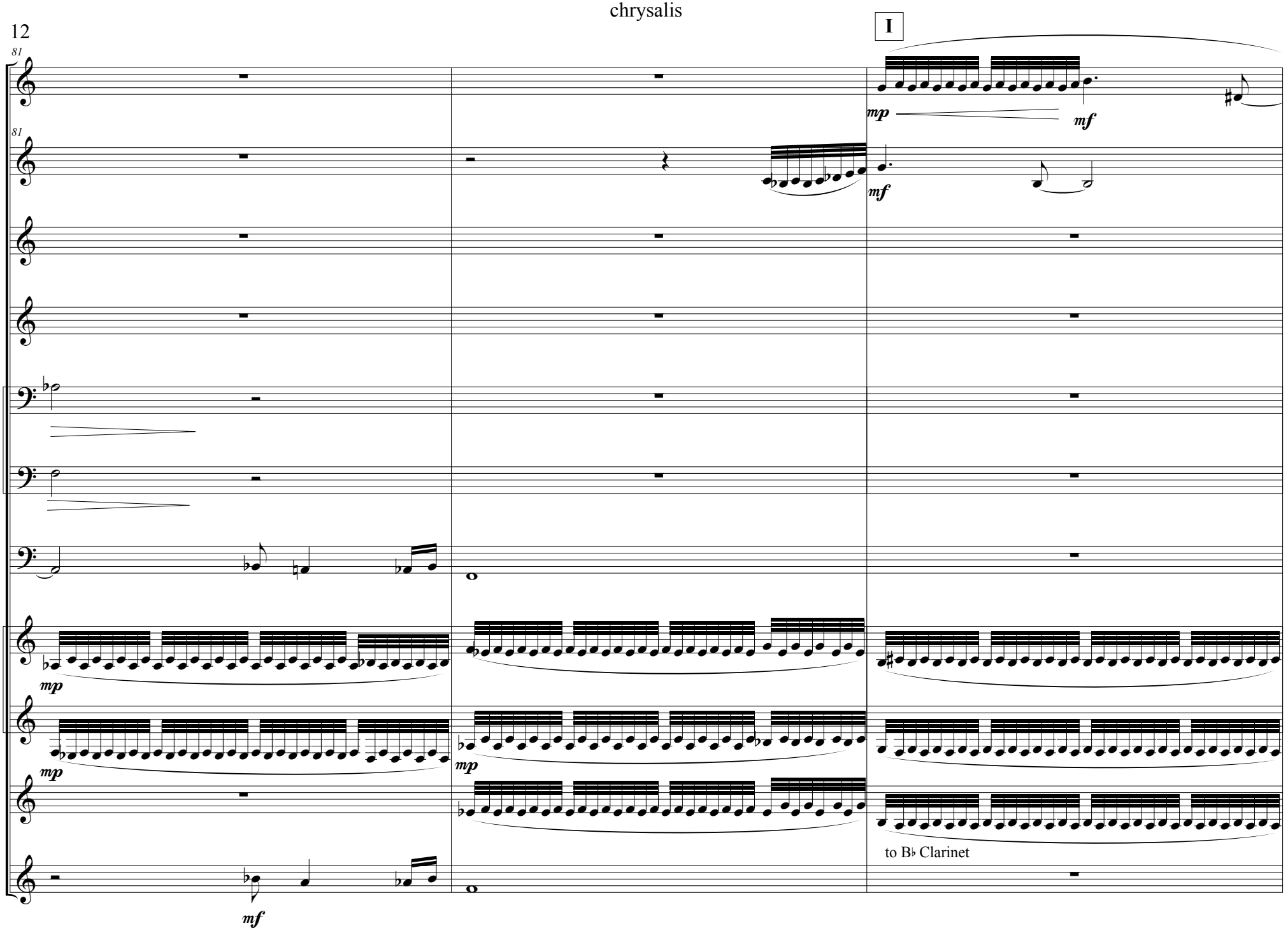

G
56
Fl.
A. Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Cb. Cl.
ff
subito pp
subito ppp
subito pp

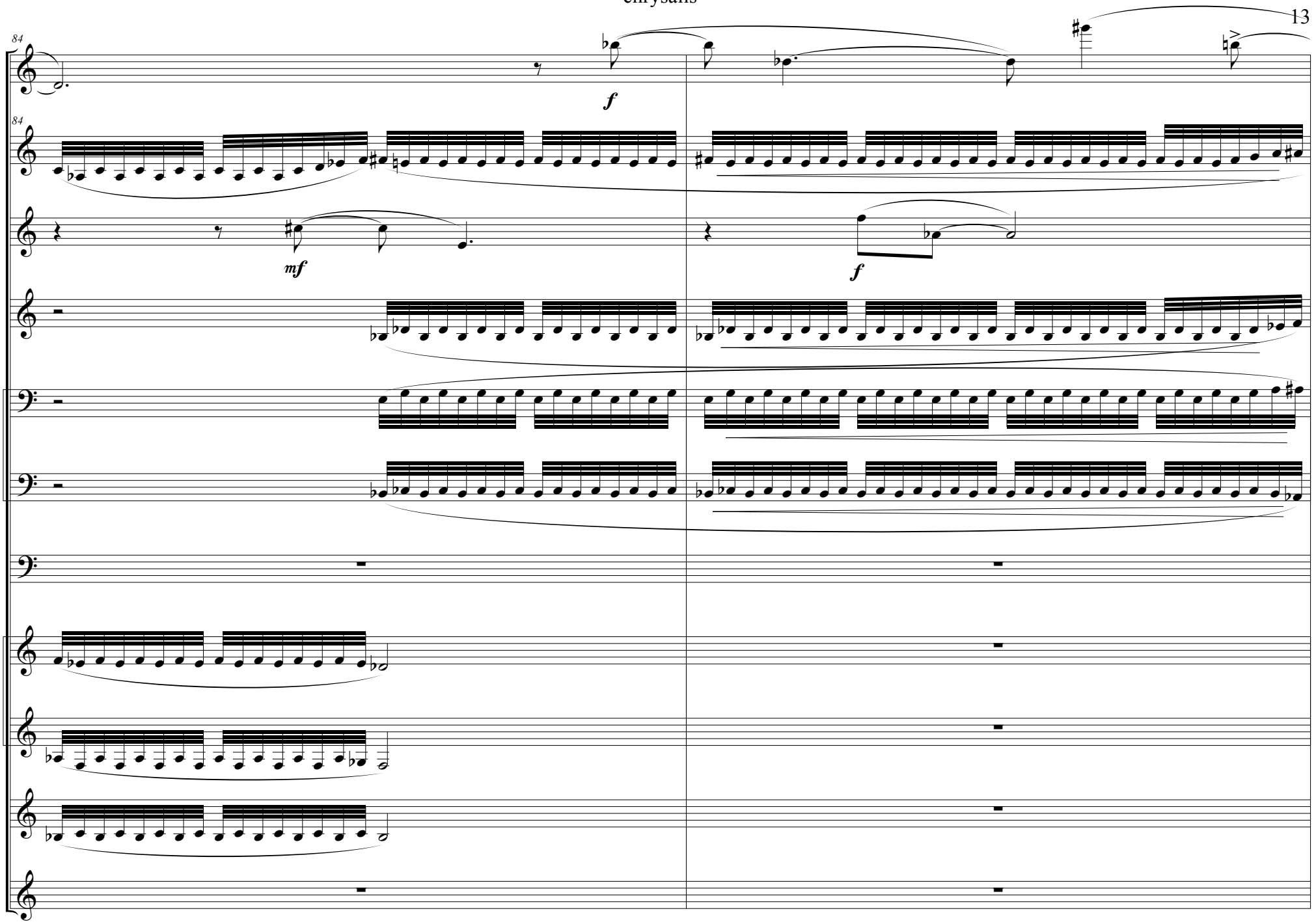

67
Fl.
67
A. Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Cb. Cl.
3
p
p
p
tr
tr
pp
ppp
pp
pp

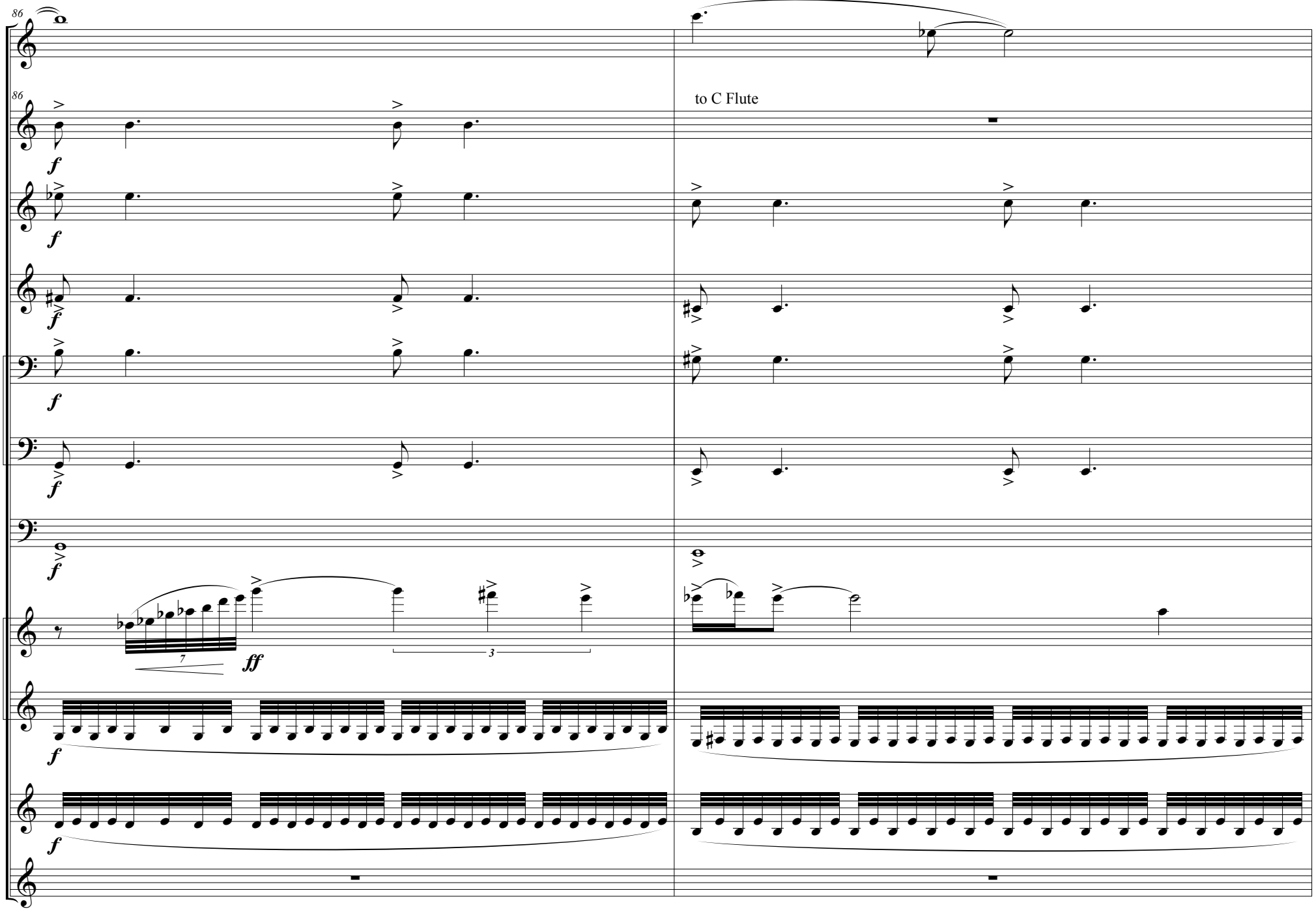
10 **H**


Fl.
A. Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Cb. Cl.
73
pp
tr
mp
p
8vb
ad lib
3
7


78
Fl.
78
A. Fl.
Ob.
3
mf
E. Hn.
Bsn. 1
mp
Bsn. 2
mp
C. Bn.
5
mf
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Cb. Cl.

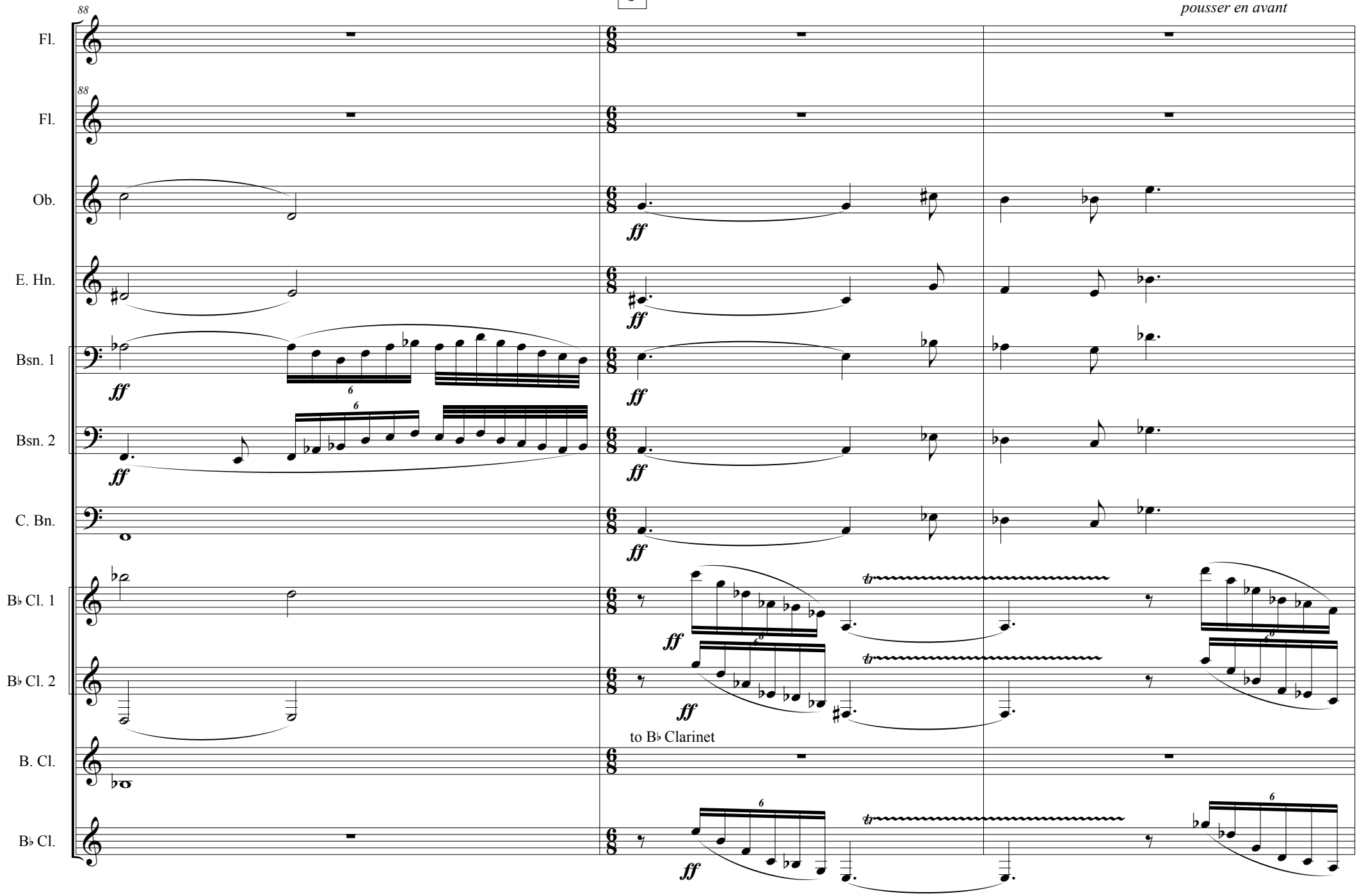

I
81
Fl.
81
A. Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Cb. Cl.
mp
mf
mp
mf
mp
mp
mf
to B♭ Clarinet

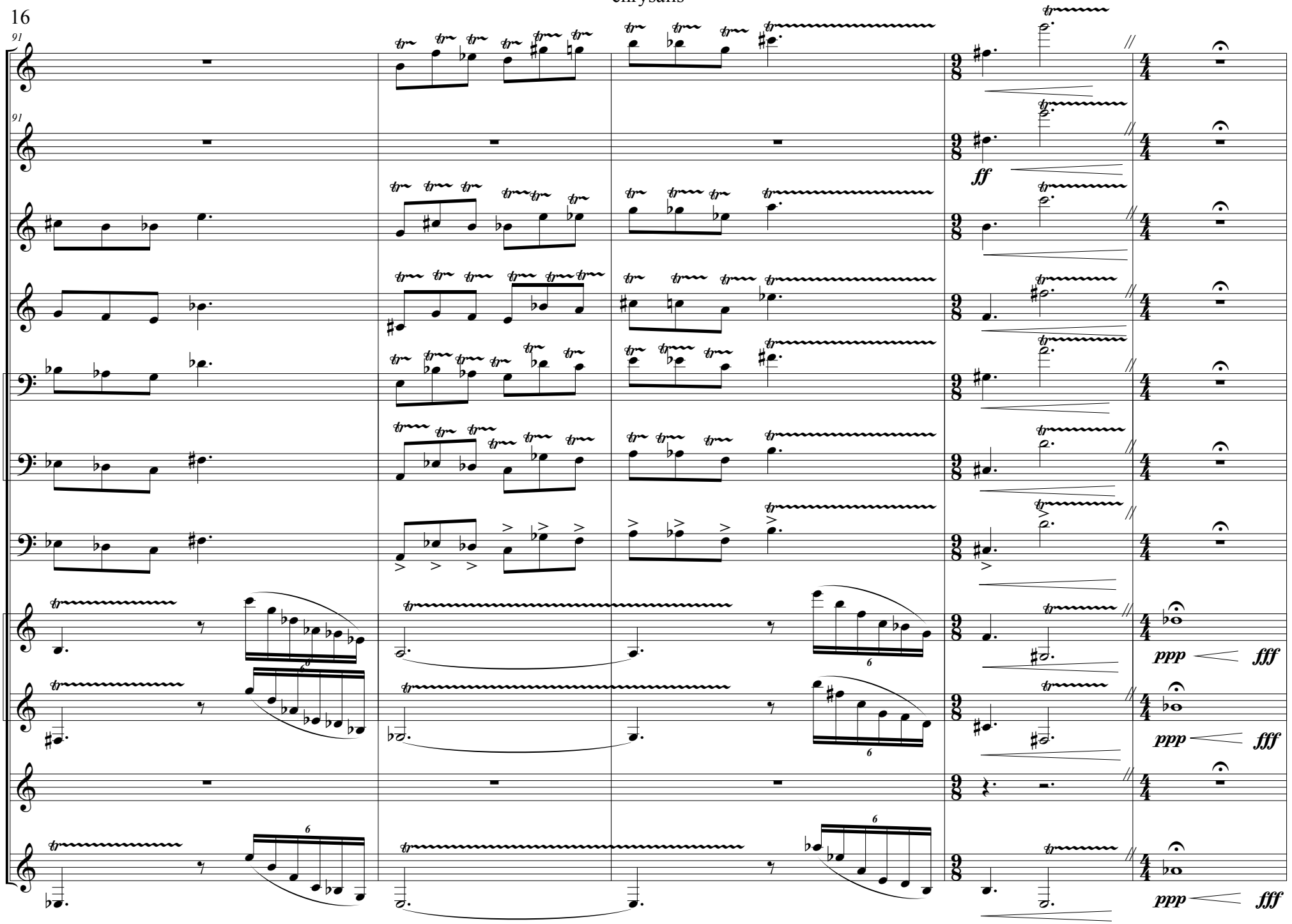

84
Fl.
A. Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
B♭ Cl.
f
mf
f

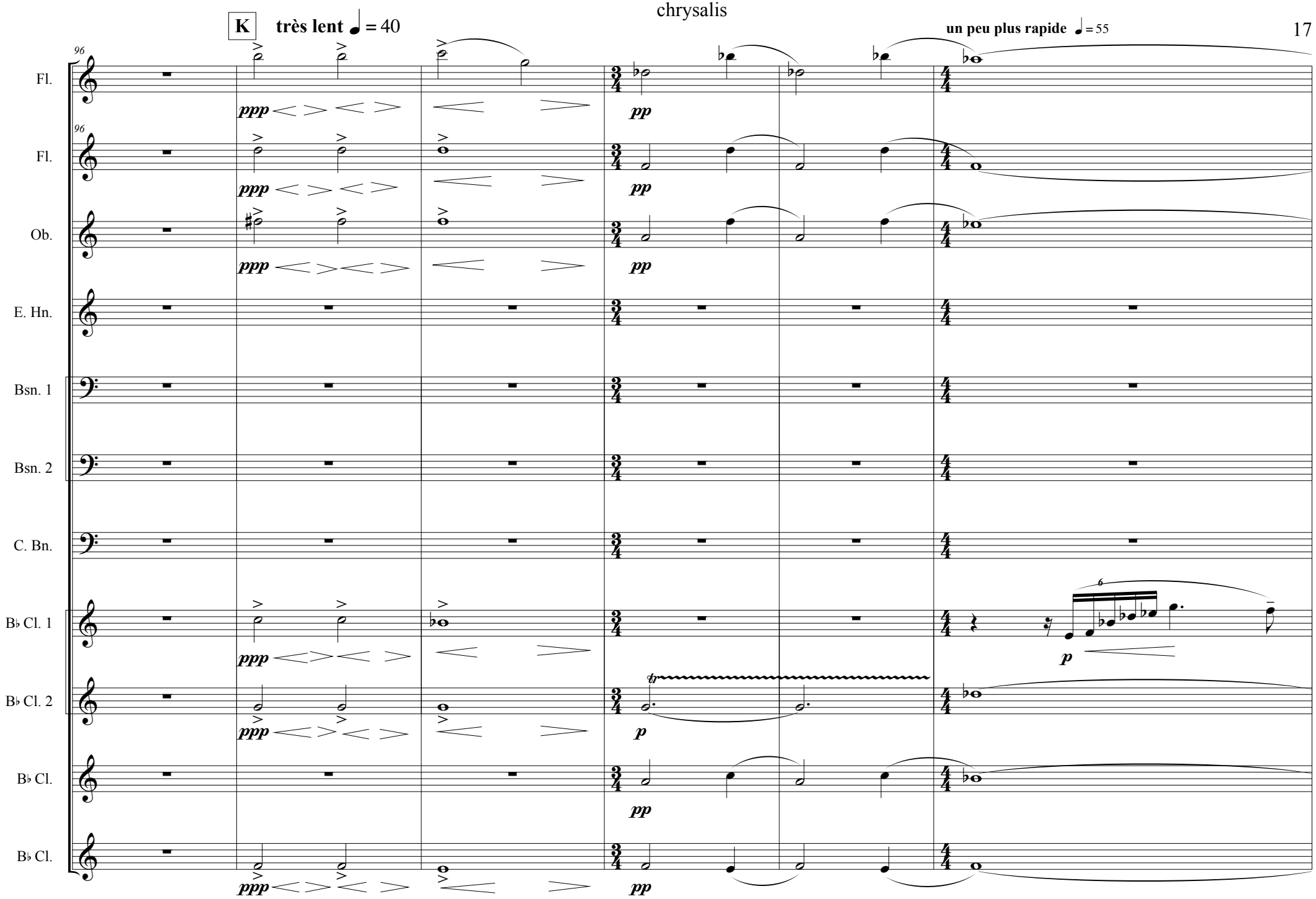

86
Fl.
86
A. Fl.
to C Flute
Ob.
E. Hn.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
B♭ Cl.
f
ff
7
3

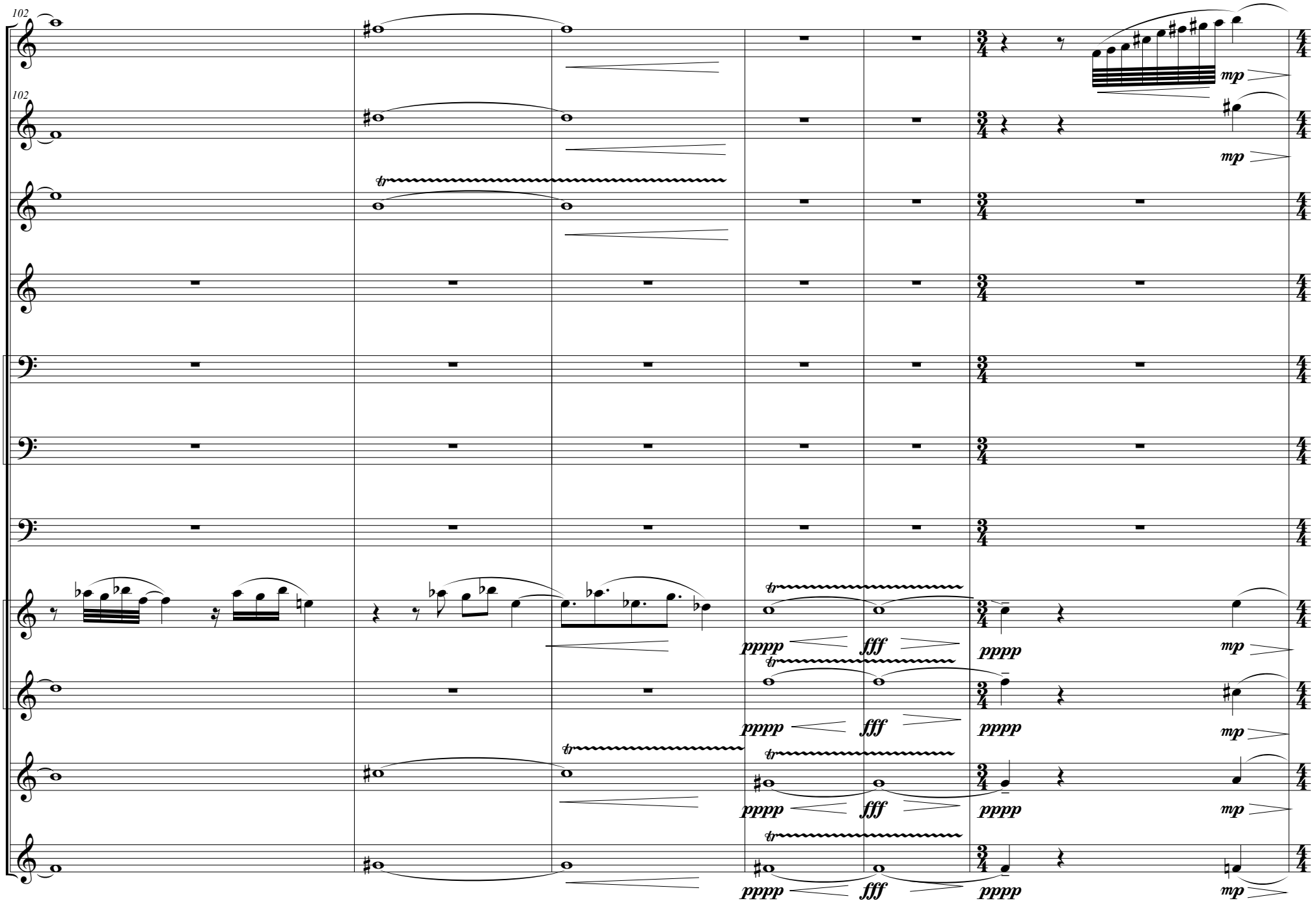
J

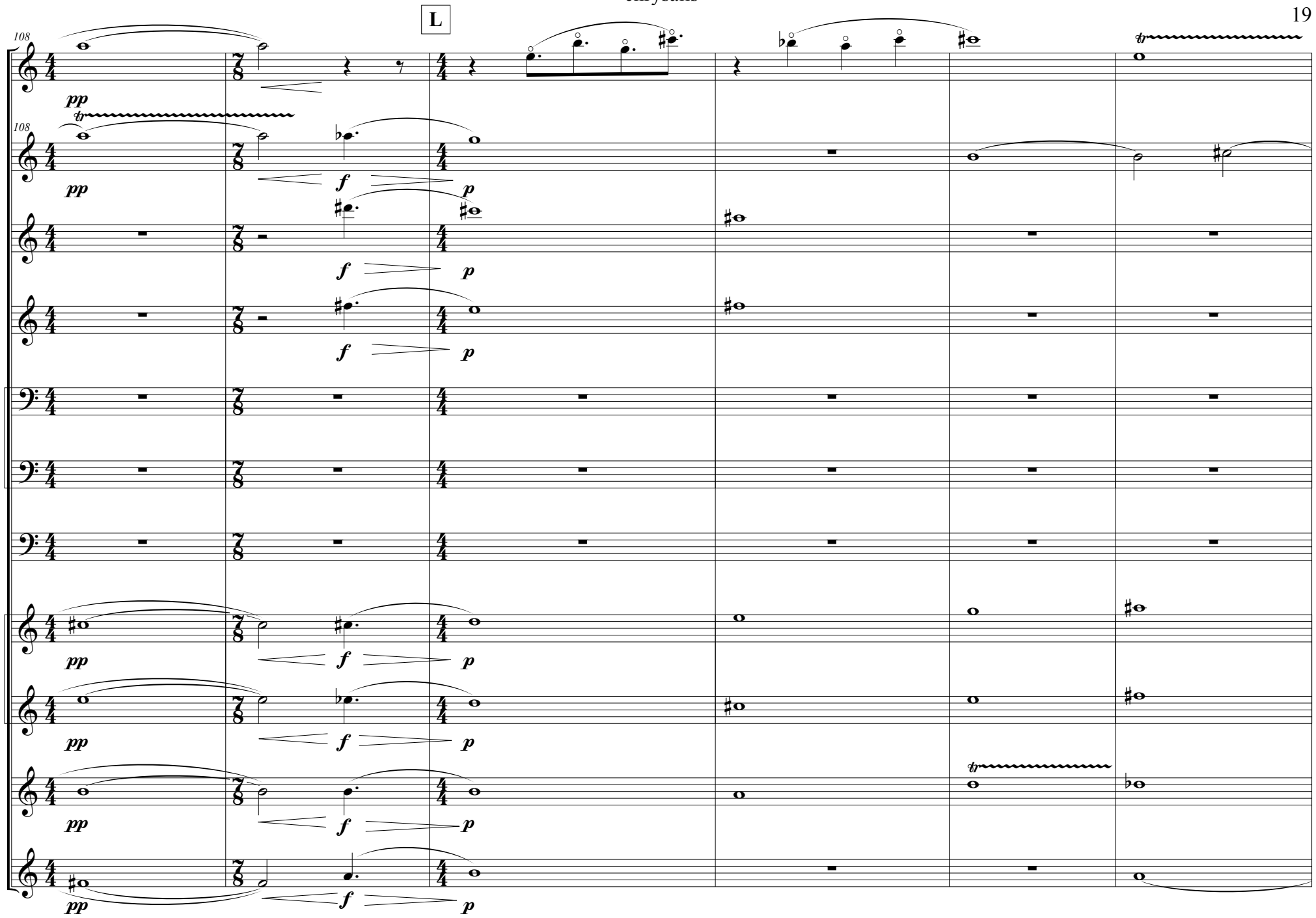
pousser en avant

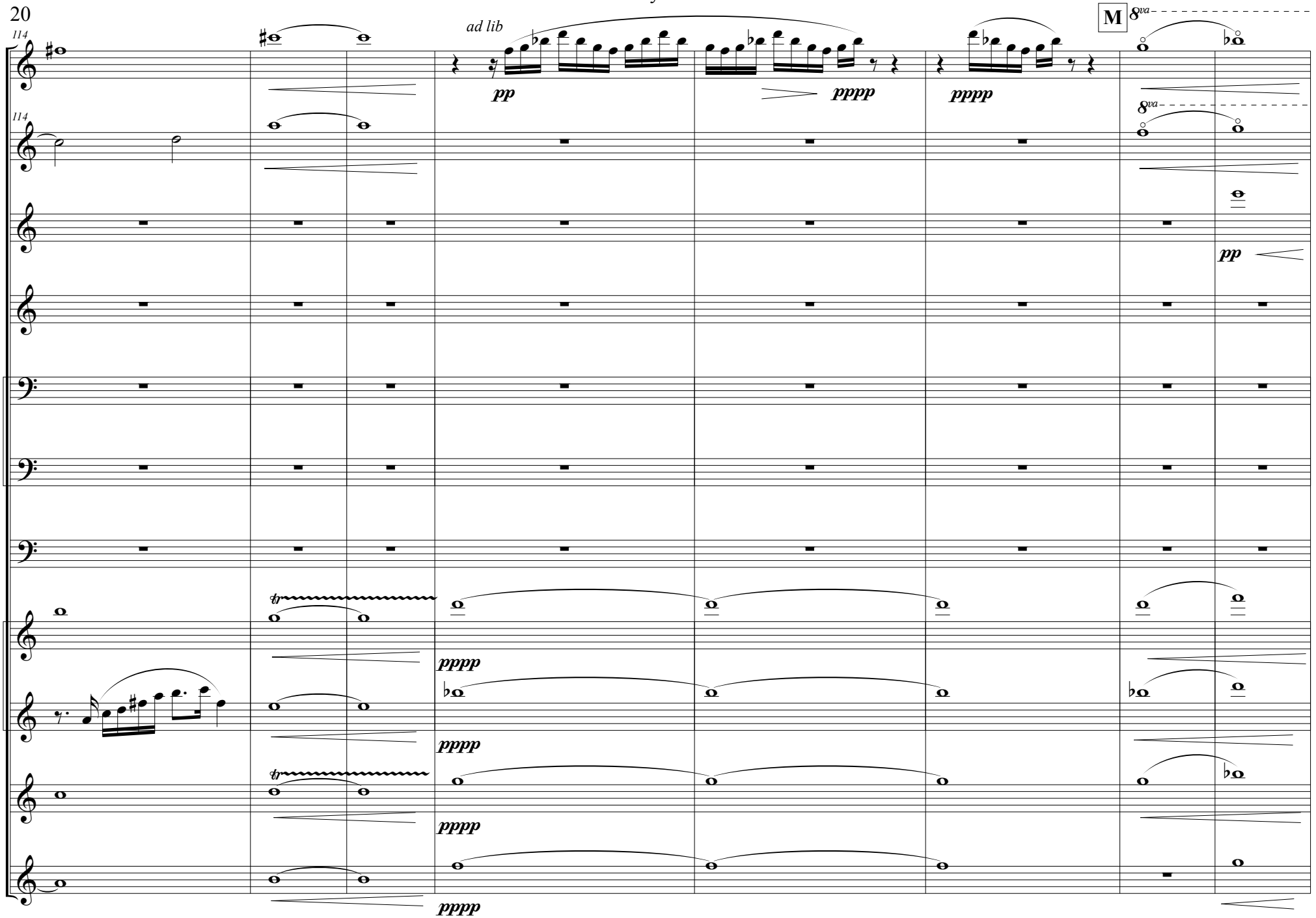


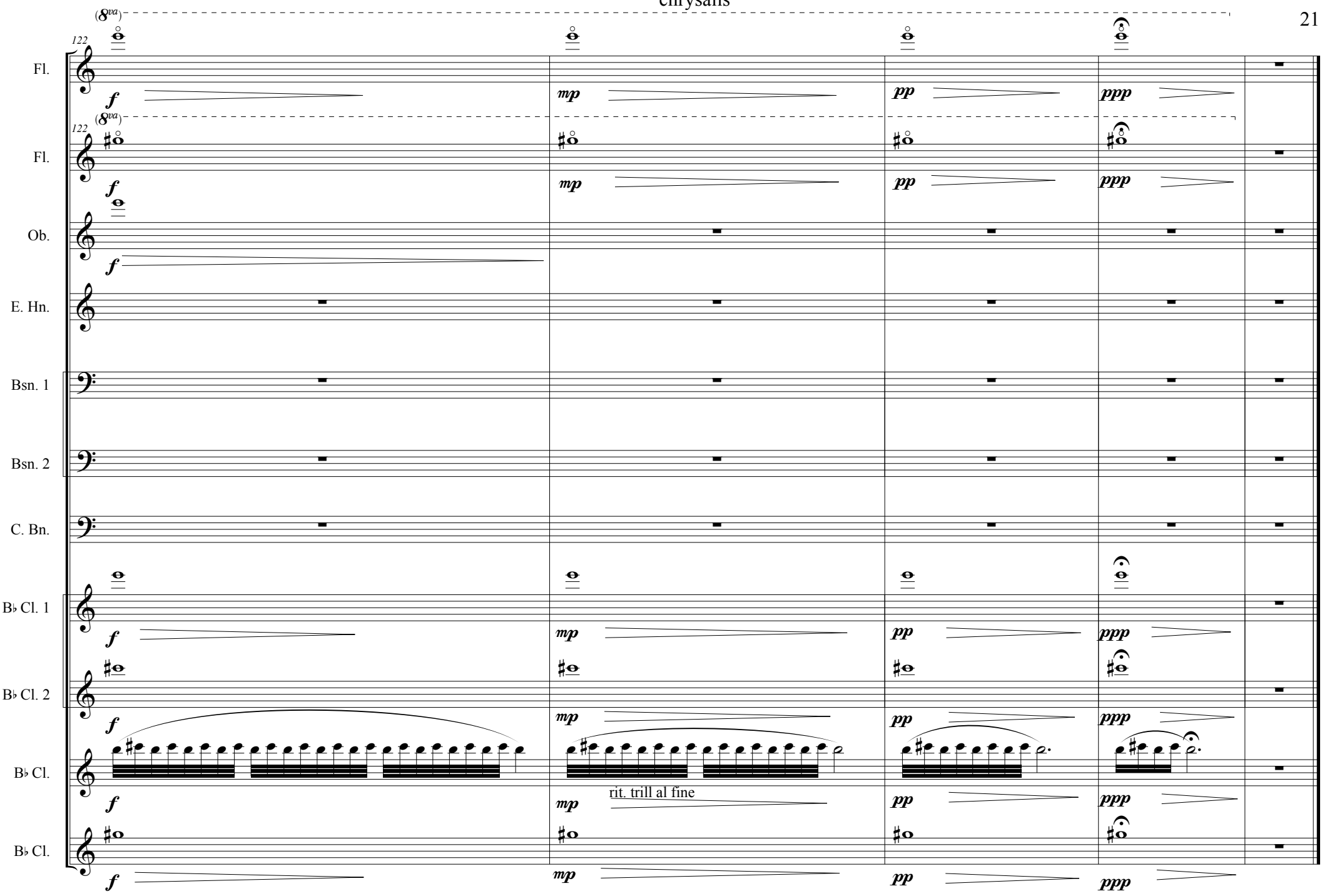

91
Fl.
91
Fl.
ff
Ob.
E. Hn.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
B♭ Cl. 1
ppp
fff
B♭ Cl. 2
ppp
fff
B♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
ppp
fff


K
très lent ♩ = 40
un peu plus rapide ♩ = 55
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
96
ppp
pp
p


102
Fl.
102
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
tr
pppp
fff
mp


L
108
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
pp
f
p
tr


114
ad lib
pp
pppp
pppp
M
8va
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
tr
pppp


122
(8va)
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
f
mp
pp
ppp
rit. trill al fine