Pamela J. Marshall

Isolde's Garden
and
Cornwall Hunt

horn quartet

Spindrift Music Company
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Publishing contemporary classical music and promoting its performance and appreciation

Isolde’s Garden and Cornwall Hunt

two quartets for four horns
by Pamela J. Marshall

Isolde's Garden

A dream of songs heard long ago and love lost

In Wagner's operatic version of the Tristan and Isolde legend, they both die accompanied by transcendant music. But in another version of the story I read recently, Tristan died a tormented soul, but Isolde lived on, participating in the intrigues and struggles of Arthurian politics. I imagined her later in life in a seaside garden in Cornwall, wistful, maybe even bitter about her lot in life but living for a moment with the memory of those passionate feelings, now cooled to tenderness, and wondering what life might have brought her had she shared the rest of her life with Tristan. The music should be played gently, with smooth connections as the melody moves from voice to voice, keeping it very fluid. Isolde's Garden is brief, as such periods of remembrance must be. Duration 2'30.

Cornwall Hunt

Fantasy on themes from Act II of Wagner's Tristan and Isolde

There are many hunting calls in older ensemble music for horn, most of it simple and often trite. In Act II, Scene I of Tristan and Isolde, Wagner took the hunting call to a more exciting level, giving it harmonic interest. However, it's so short. That's why I wrote Cornwall Hunt - because I love to play that music and I wanted more of it, more of the energy, more of the harmonies. The music quotes Wagner's opening fanfares in full at the start and again at the end. The open fifths fanfare motif from Wagner's second and third horn parts drives the piece forward to its climax. Modal interludes evoke a feeling of Arthurian times. Duration 4'.

These two quartets may be played together or separately.

Pamela J. Marshall
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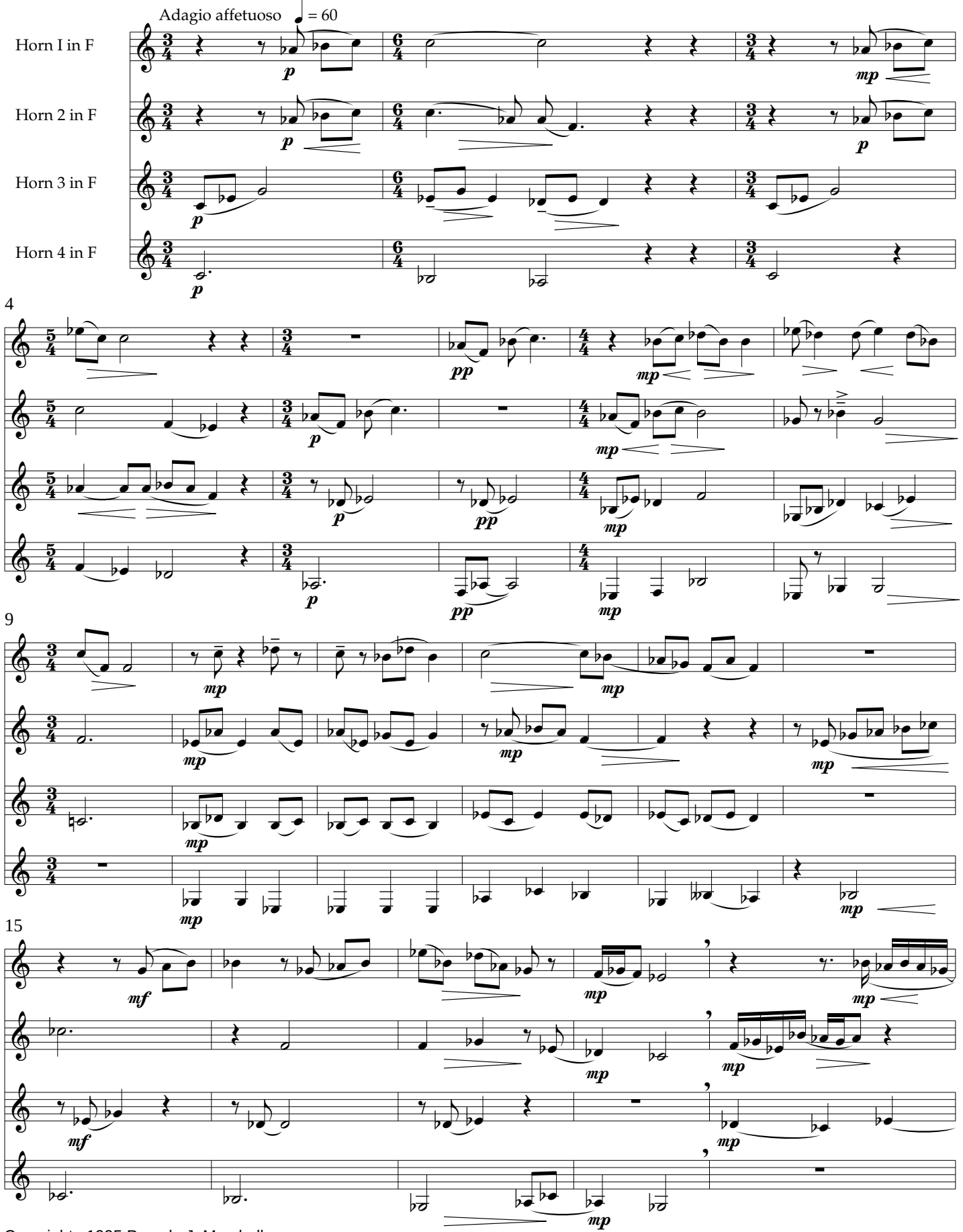
Isolde's Garden

A dream of songs heard long ago and love lost

Pamela J. Marshall



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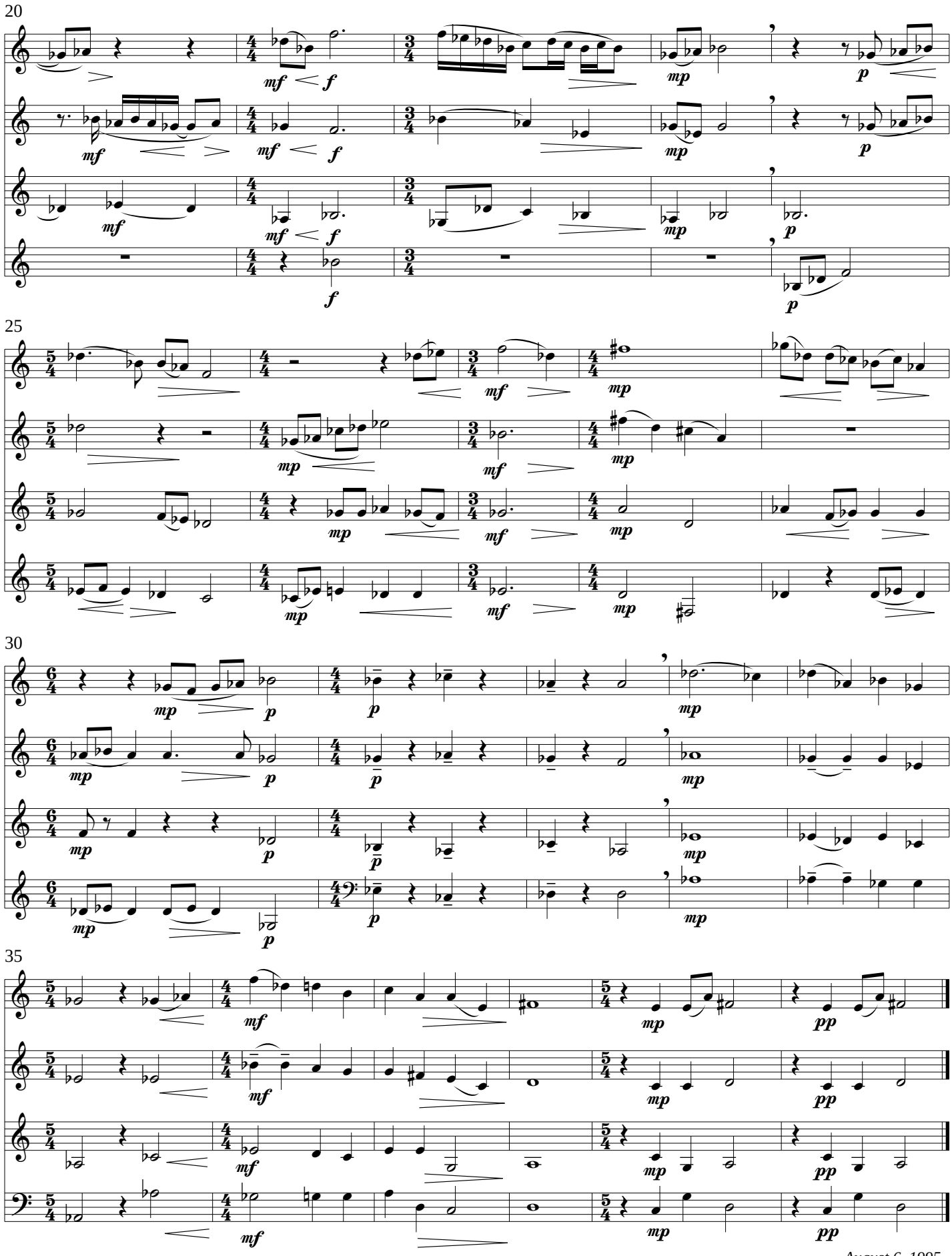

August 6, 1995

Cornwall Hunt

Fantasy on themes from Act II of Wagner's Tristan and Isolde

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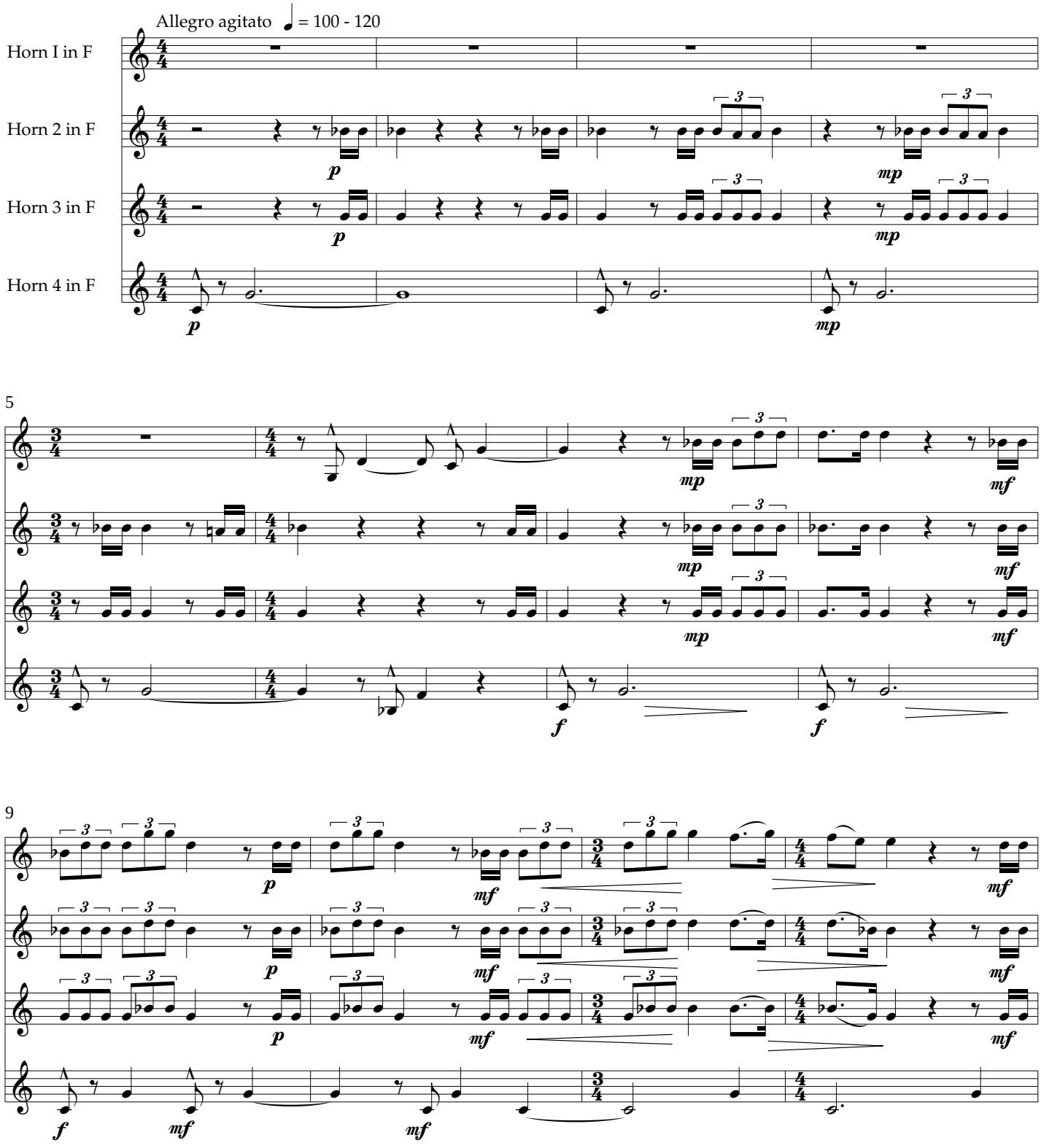

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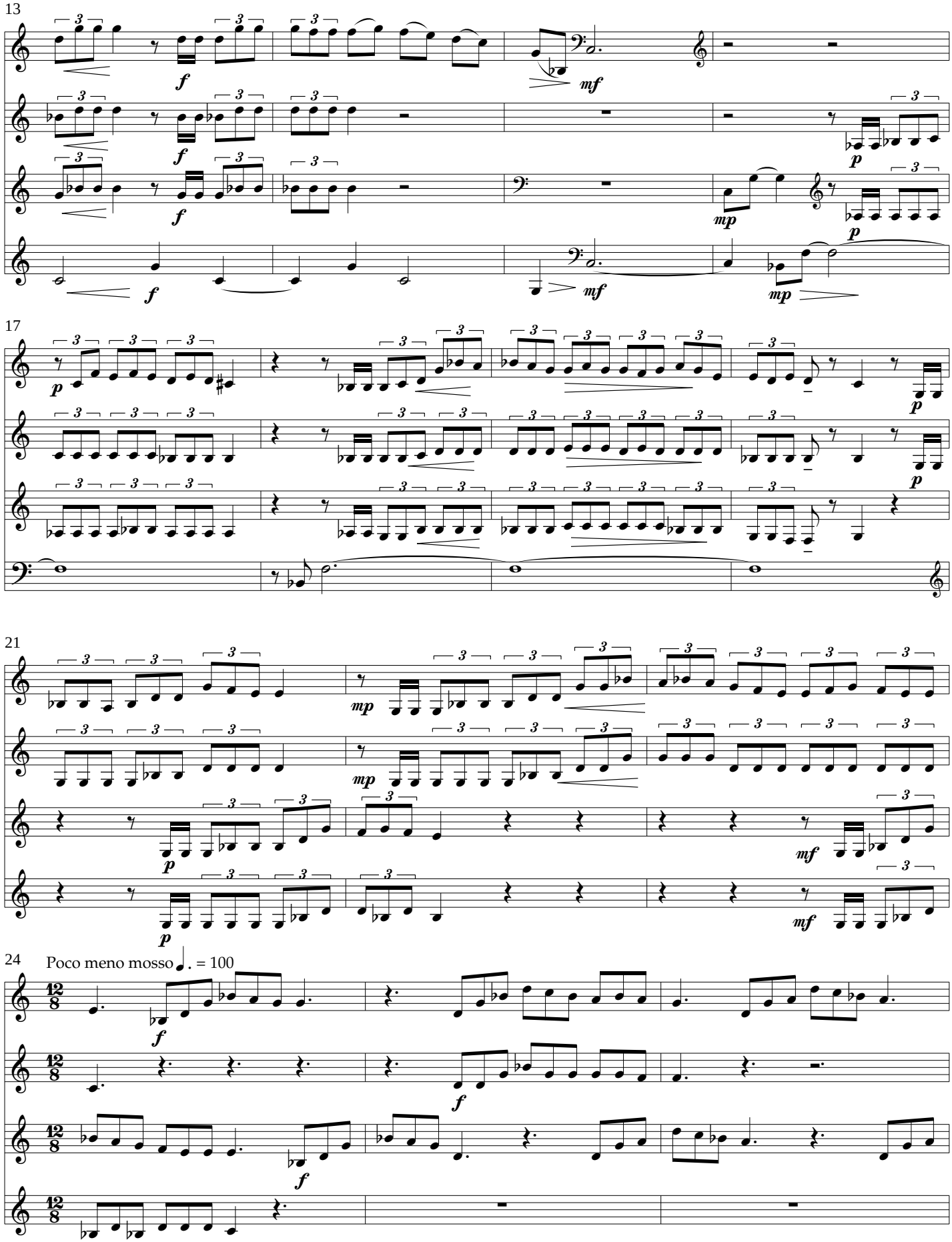
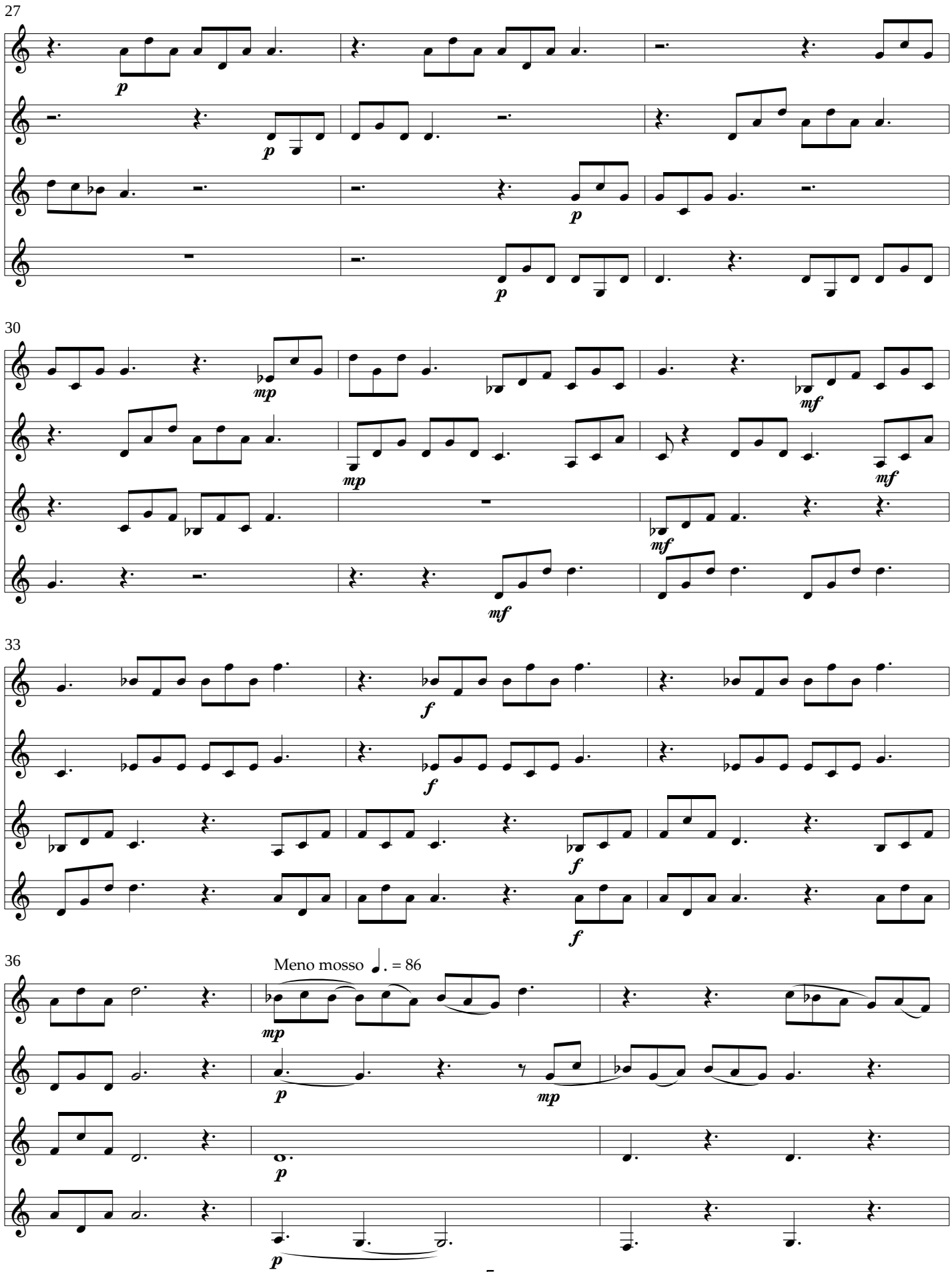

13
17
21
24
Poco meno mosso ♩. = 100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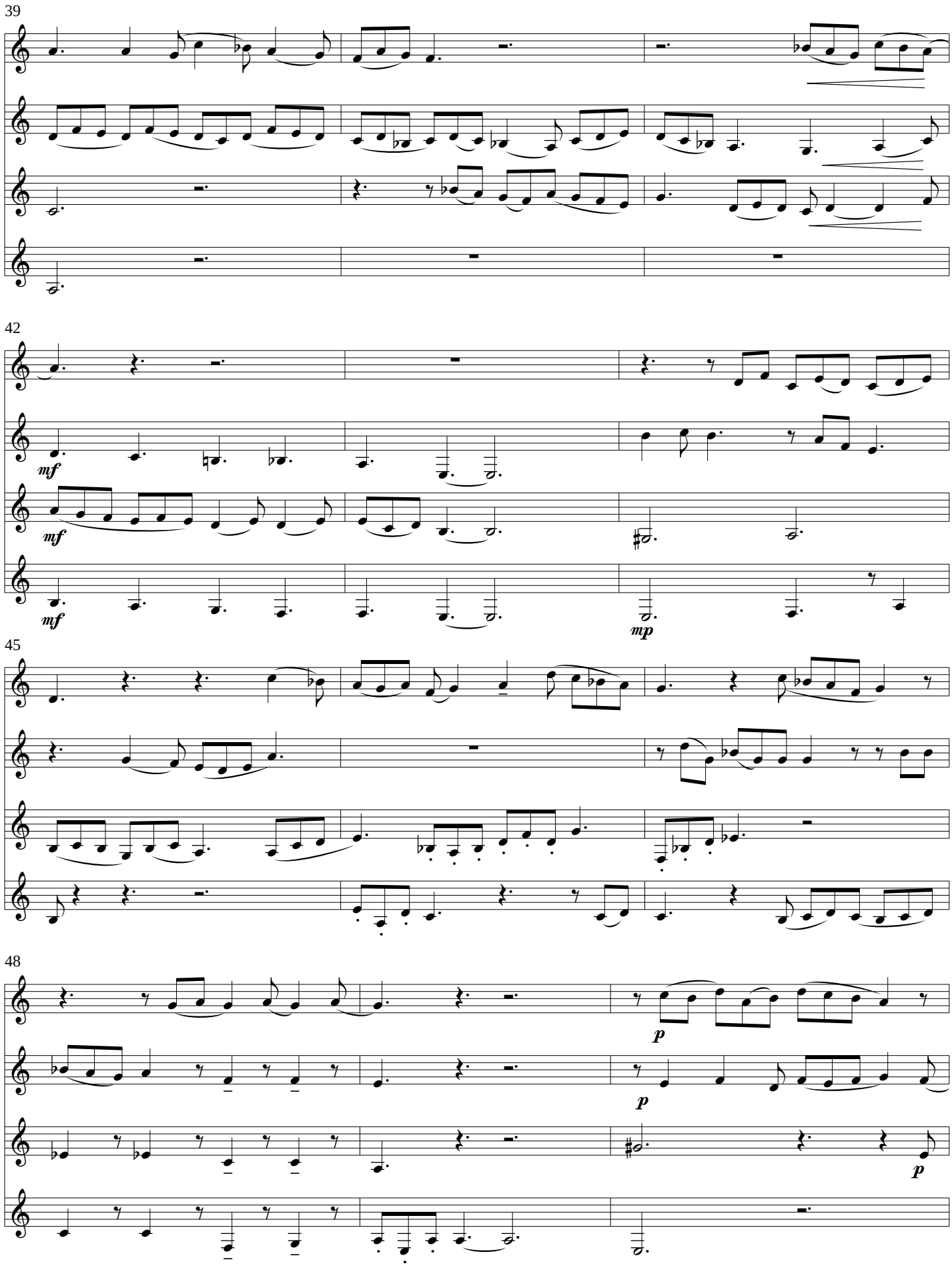
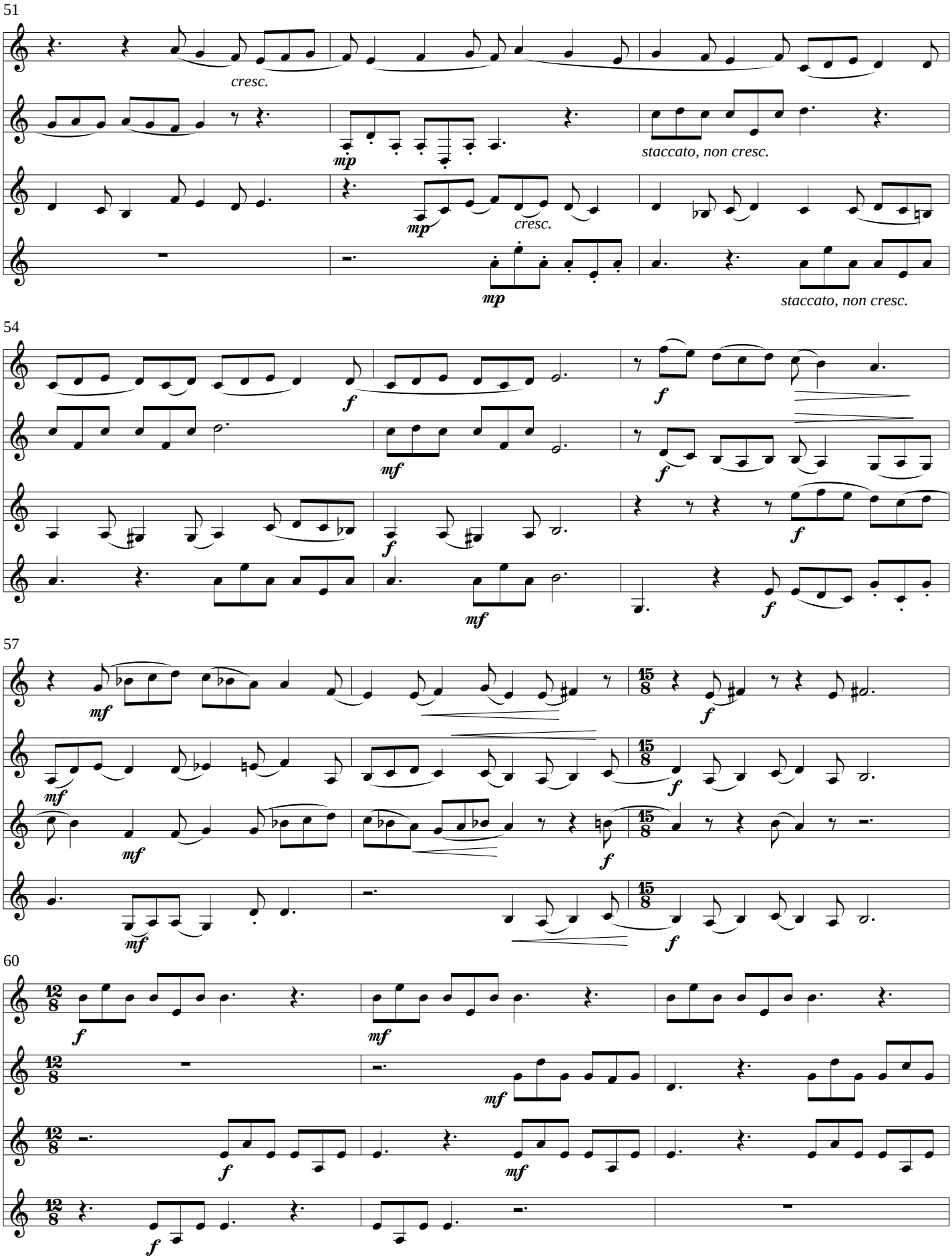
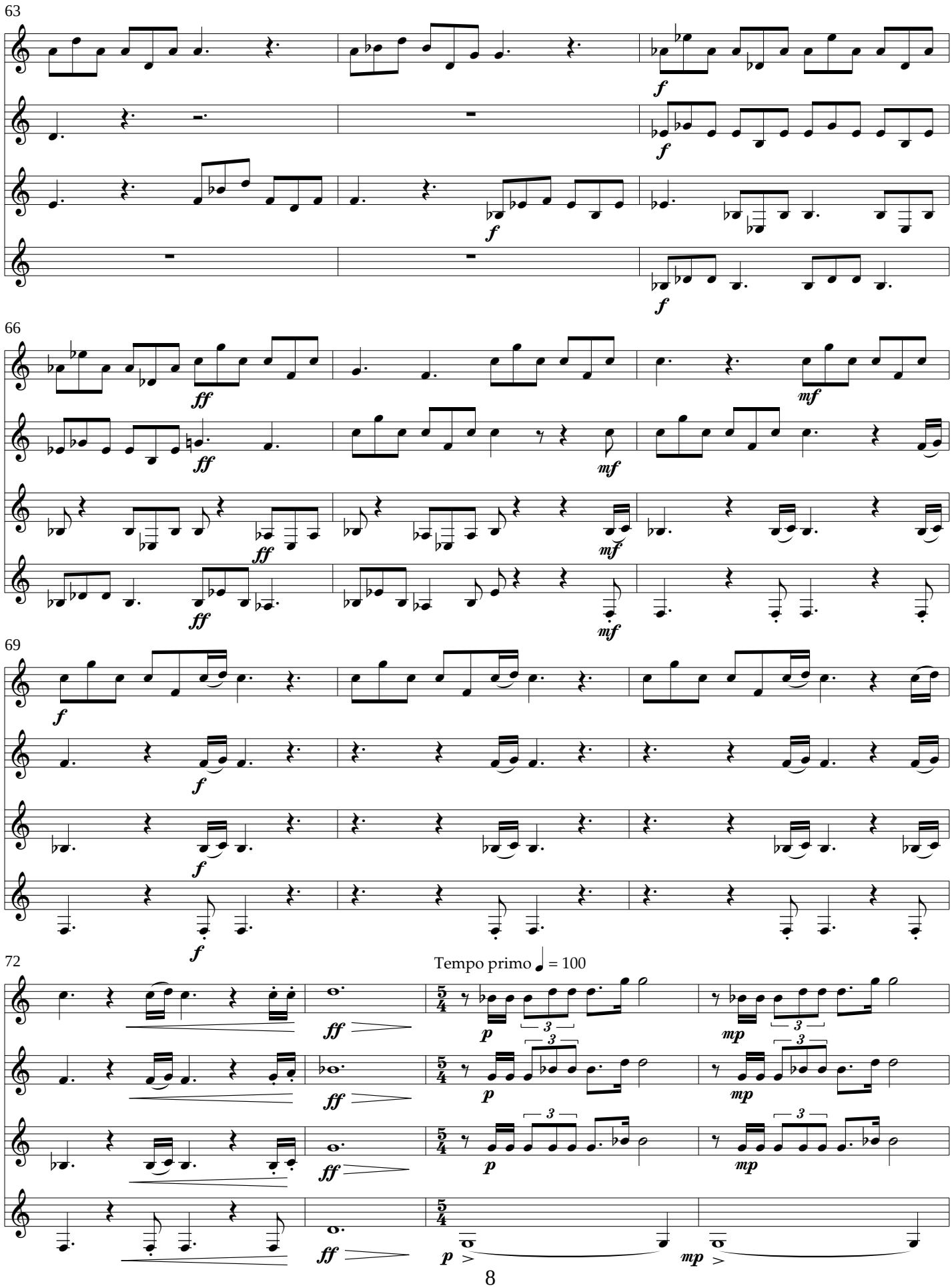
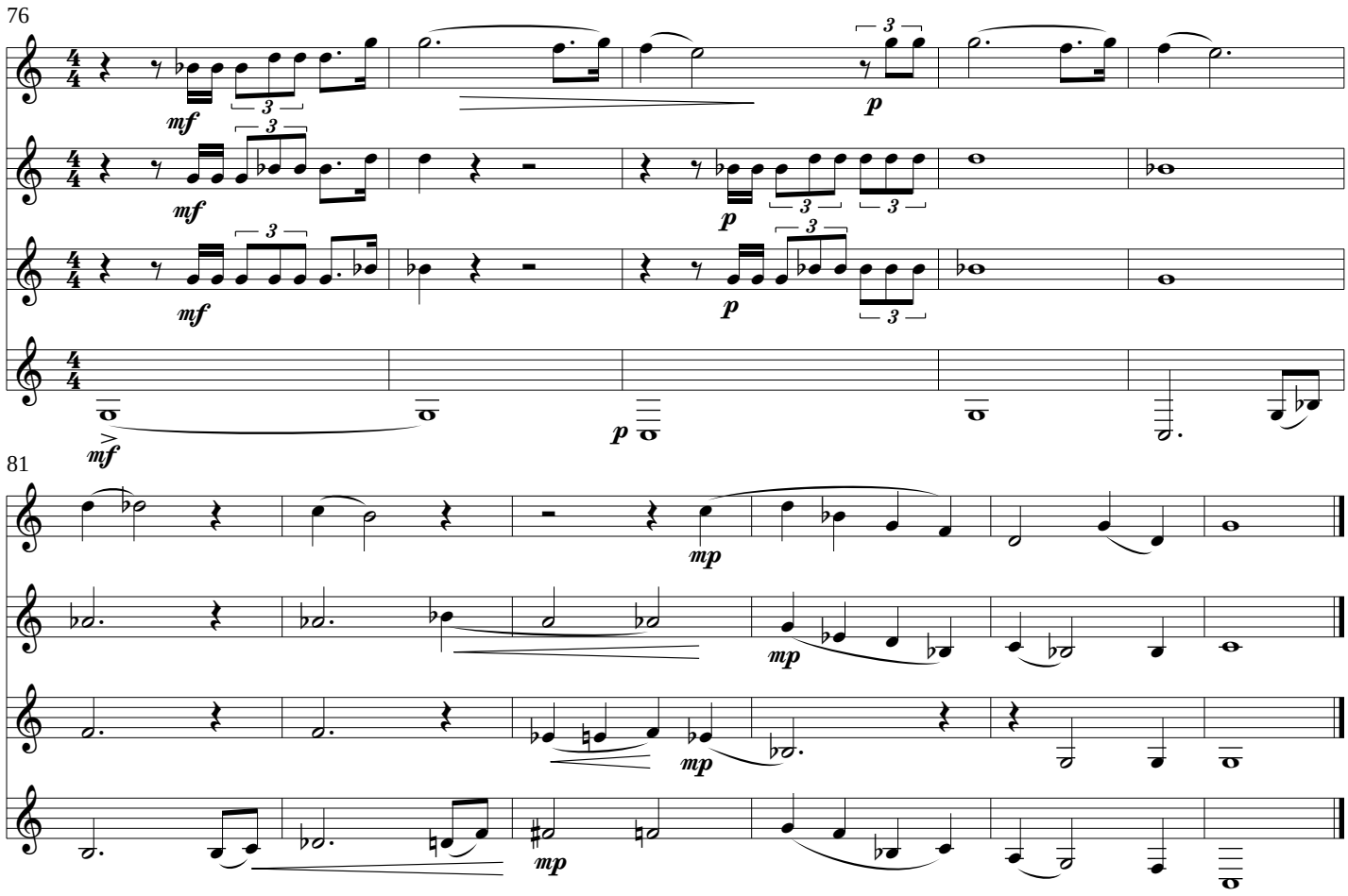
30
33
36
Meno mosso ♩. = 86


39
42
mf
mf
mf
mp
45
48
p
p
p


51
cresc.
mp
staccato, non cresc.
mp
cresc.
mp
staccato, non cresc.
54
f
mf
f
f
mf
f
mf
f
57
mf
f
mf
f
mf
f
mf
f
60
f
mf
mf
f
mf
f


63
66
69
72
Tempo primo ♩ = 100


76
mf
p
mf
p
mf
p
mf
p
81
mp
mp
mp
mp