Two Movements

for Saxophone Quartet

Music by Nigel Morgan

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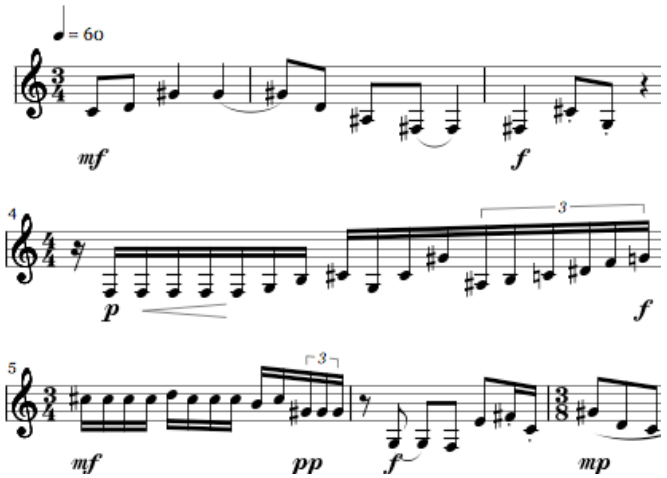
Background

These Two Movements for saxophone quartet were created as part of the development process of the Opusmodus software application for Macintosh. The first demonstrates how an ensemble piece can be composed from an extended musical statement freely written in the OpusModus Notation (OMN). This unique notation brings together the common parameters of music: Length, Pitch, Dynamics, Attributes. The parametric Attributes gathers to itself all musical ornamentation and expressive details from trills to legato marks, breath marks to repeat signs. From this statement in code the parameters of Pitch and Note-Length are disassembled and then used separately in composing the other three parts. This is a good example of how free composition using a linear score script can come together with algorithmic generation and structuring

Here's part of the OMN code devised as a starting point for Movement 1.

```
(setf alto-sax
'((e c4 mf d4 q gs4 gs4 tie)
  (e gs4 d4 as3 fs3 tie q fs3 )
  (q fs3 f e cs4 stacc  g3 stacc -q)
  (-s f3 p< < < < <  g3 b3 cs4 g3 cs4
      gs4 3e as3 b3 c4 ds4 f4 g4 f)
  (s cs5 mf =  =  =  d5 cs5 = = b4 cs5 3e gs4 pp  = =)
  (-e q  g3 f e f3 e4 s fs4 stacc c4 stacc)))
```

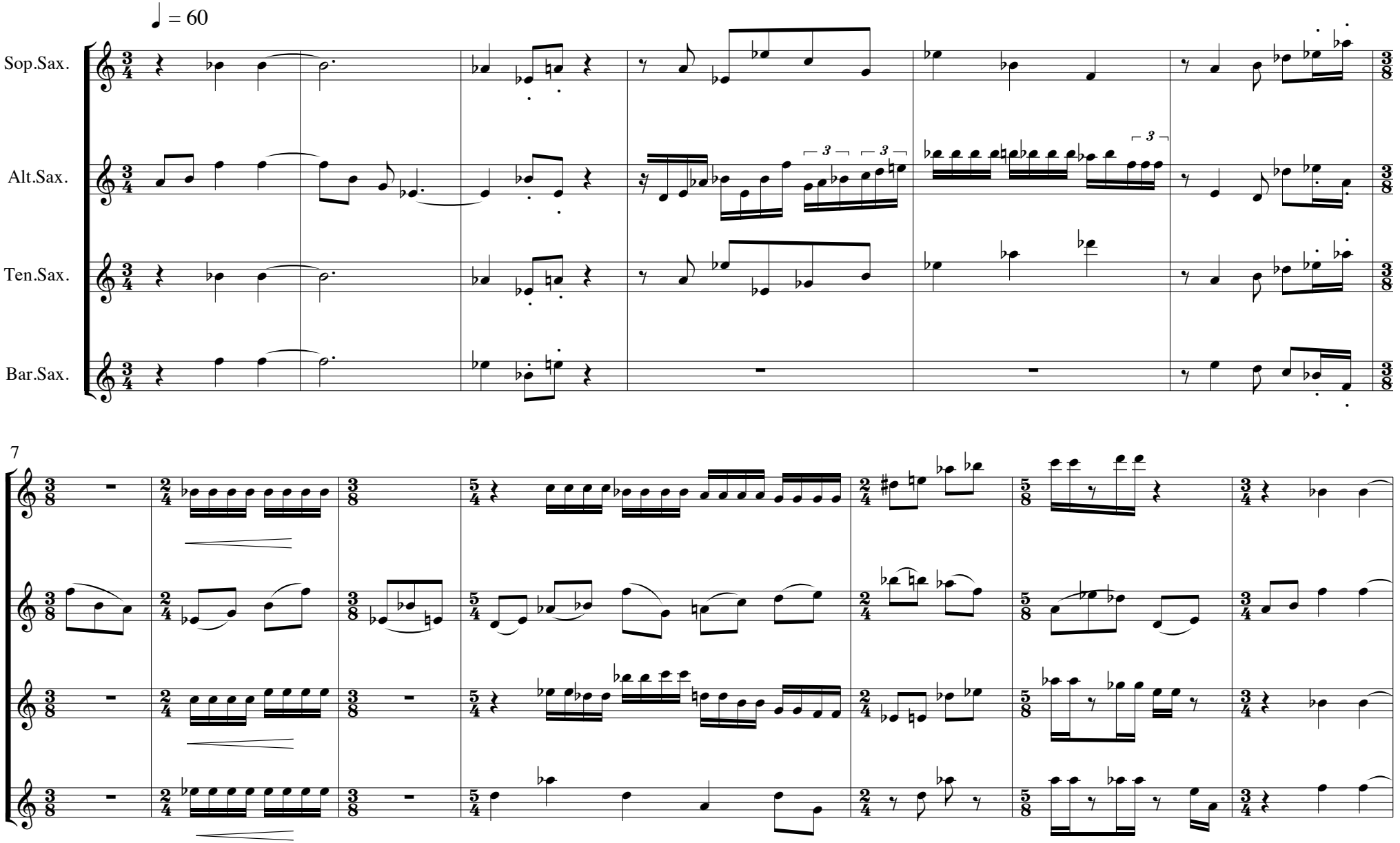
And here the notation rendered in Opusmodus from the code expression above.

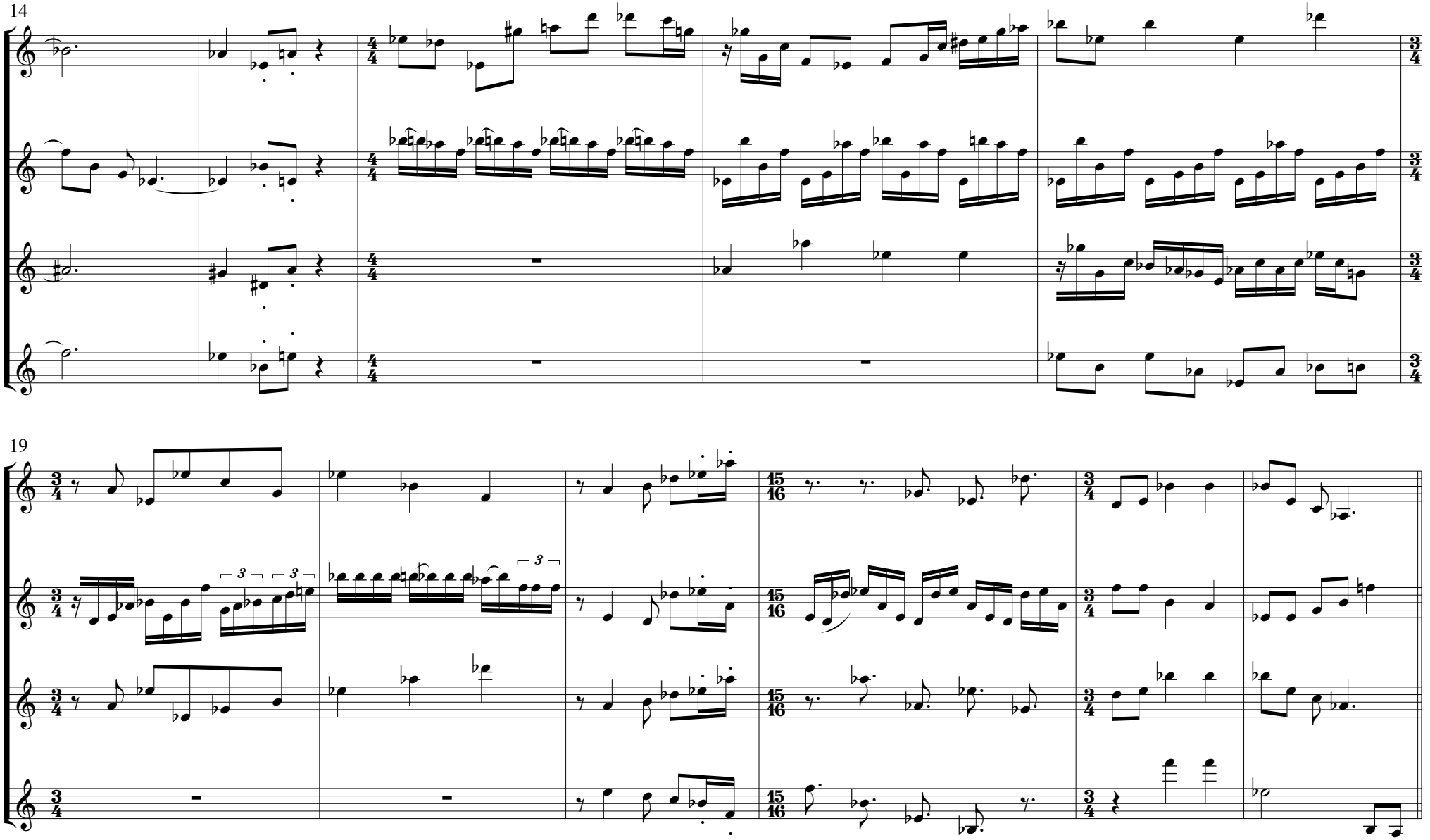


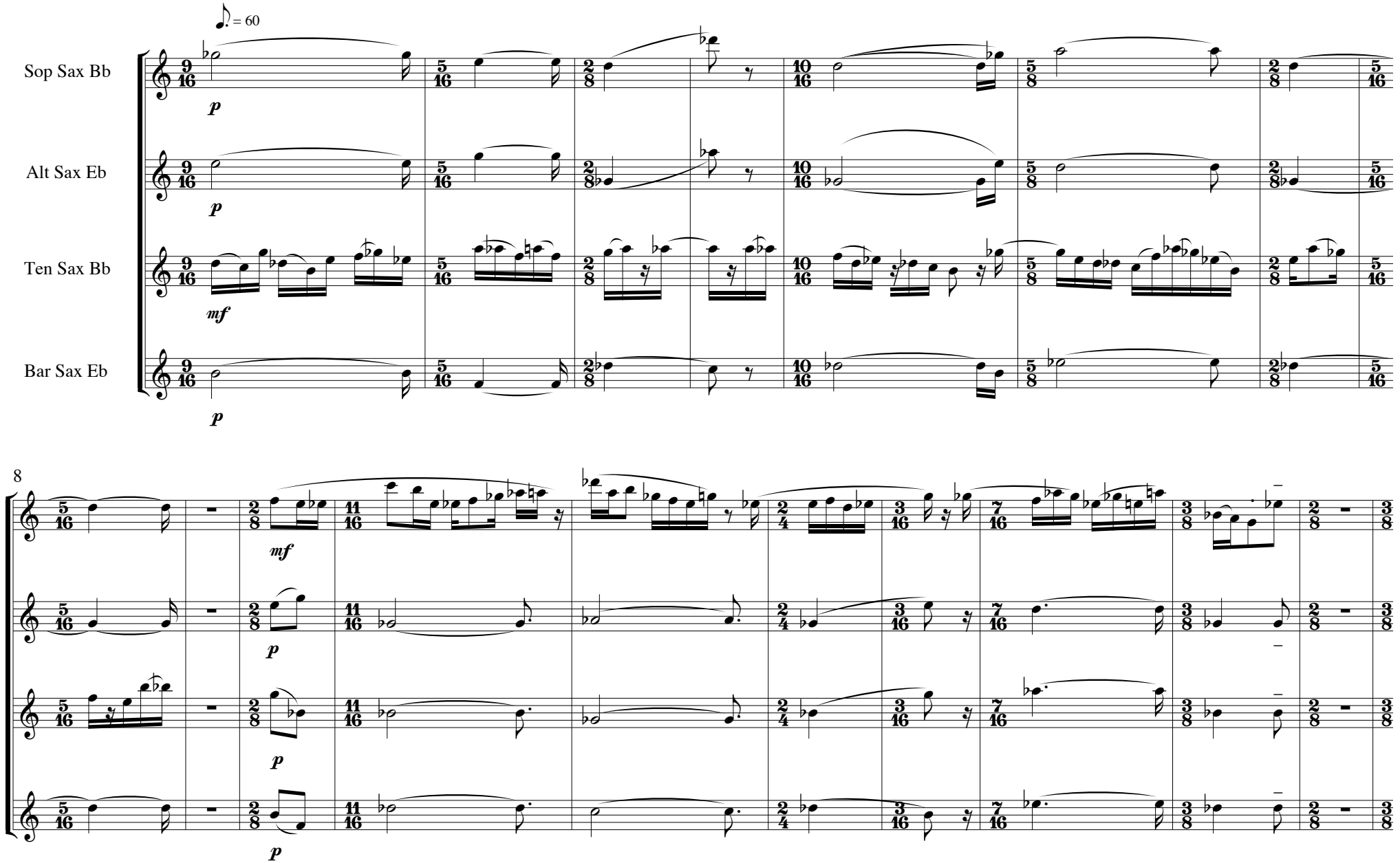
The Second Movement is a study to develop a process required in my concerto *La Serenissima* for violin and string orchestra. The idea was to create a way of making a melodic trajectory between intervals in a chord. This involved writing a special function – a trajectory-maker. This example shows how it works:

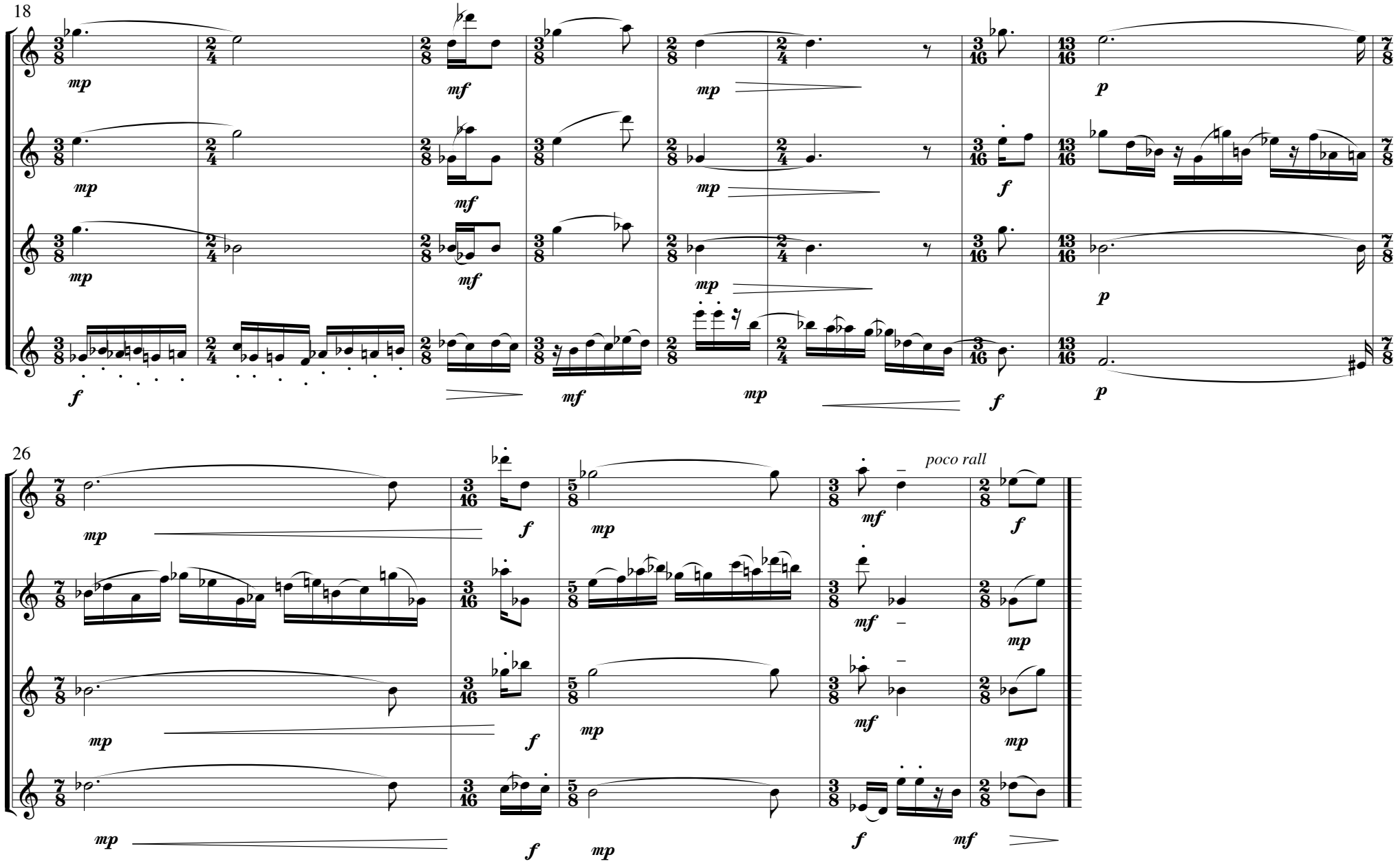
```
 (trajectory-maker '((c4) (fs4)(ds4) (b3)))
=> ((ds4 c4 f4 e4 cs4 d4) (fs4 e4 f4)(d4 c4 ds4 cs4))
```

In this movement each saxophone has the opportunity to play a solo generated from this trajectory function.


♩ = 60
Sop.Sax.
Alt.Sax.
Ten.Sax.
Bar.Sax.
7


14
19


♩. = 60
Sop Sax Bb
Alt Sax Eb
Ten Sax Bb
Bar Sax Eb
p
mf
8


18
26
poco rall