Vehemence

Quartet for
Clarinet in Eb, Violin,
Violoncello and Piano

Nigel Morgan

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ISMN 979-0-57043-237-0 (Full score)
ISMN 979-0-57043-238-7 (Clarinet Part)
ISMN 979-0-57043-239-4 (Violin Part)
ISMN 979-0-57043-240-0 (Cello Part)
ISMN 979-0-57043-241-7 (Piano Part)

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For clarinet in Eb, Violin, Violoncello and Piano

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About The Subject

On 20th January 2017 the 45th President of the United States of America used his inauguration address to vilify the institutions and legacy of the previous administration, and in language with a *vehement* tone of delivery that was harsh, even offensive to some of those listening. To others it represented a robust declaration and promise to change the *status quo* and 'give power back to the people'. It was a far cry from the inauguration address of his predecessor who, before taking the oath of office, had commissioned a short piece, *Air and Simple Gifts,* from movie composer John Williams for performance by Itzhak Perlman, Yo-yo Ma, Anthony McGill and Gabriela Montera.

Vehemence takes the new president's words and delivery of his inaugural address as its source material, mapping the very letters of his text to pitch and his spoken delivery to rhythmic phrases. *Vehemence* joins four other works by the composer where a similar device has been used create novel harmonic sound objects.

Performance Guidelines

Whilst *Vehemence* assumes the presentation of a concert work in the Classical tradition an enterprising ensemble, wishing to extend the collected musical material into sonic territory, may wish to use amplification and include 'preparations' for the instrumental ensemble. For the piano, pitches D3 F3 C#4 D#4 and E may be prepared by threading dimes or 1p pieces between the triple strings. These pitches are marked with triangular note-heads on the first two pages of the piano part as *exempla*. For violin the use of Blu-tack placed behind the bridge is suggested

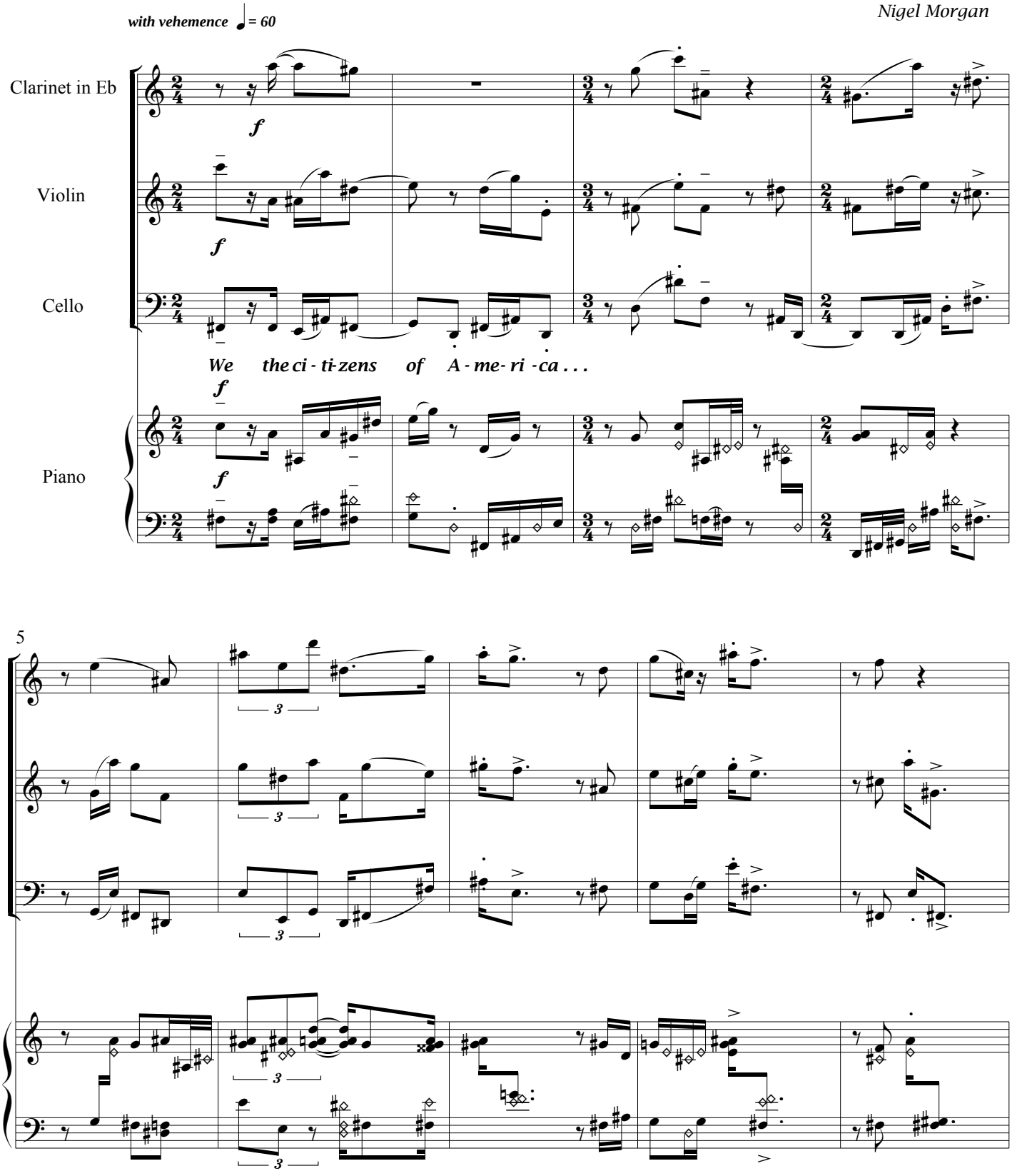
on strings D4 and A4 to destabilise the pitch on open strings. The use of an Eb Clarinet is recommended to produce a *vehement* and insecure timbre. In all instrumental parts (though particularly in the Eb Clarinet part) octave transpositions of melodic lines may be made as deemed appropriate for further emphasis and *vehemence*.

The score includes very few dynamics and additional playing instructions: playing a score having a general expressive marking *with vehemence* throughout does not give much opportunity for a dynamic range. Articulation is another matter, and its varied execution is paramount. Although there are some markings of slurs, bowing, and the nature of attack and its duration, players should regard these signs as a starting point, no more. The players might consider studying the inauguration address itself, seeing themselves as either projecting a version of this address using musical means, or placing their personal response to its words and the character of its delivery into their performance manner and approach. In either interpretation *Vehemence* seeks to set a very contemporary event into the resin of time and music . . .

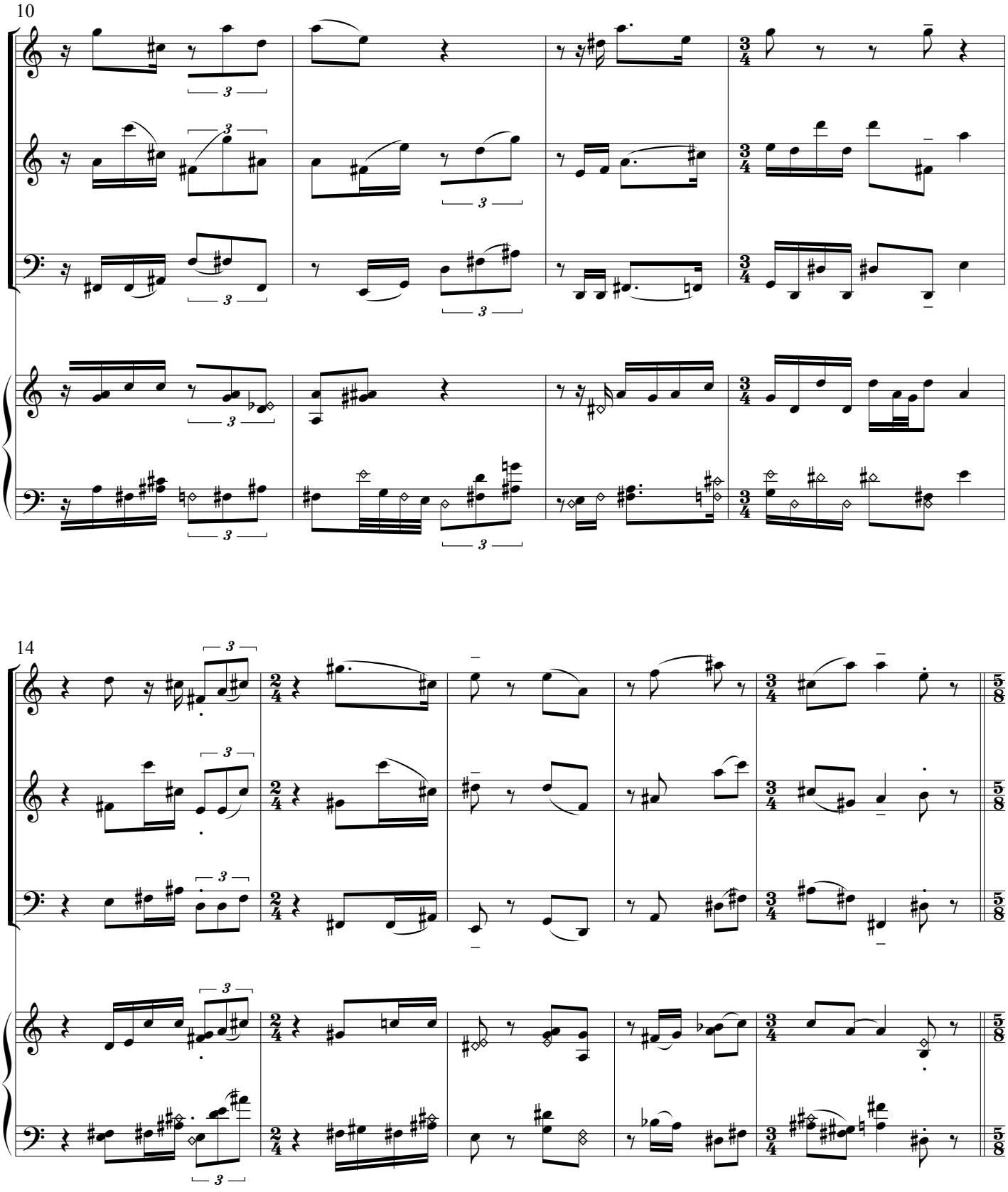
The music is dedicated to Eric Wubbels and the composers of The Wet Ink Ensemble, New York City.

Vehemence

Nigel Morgan



Score in C

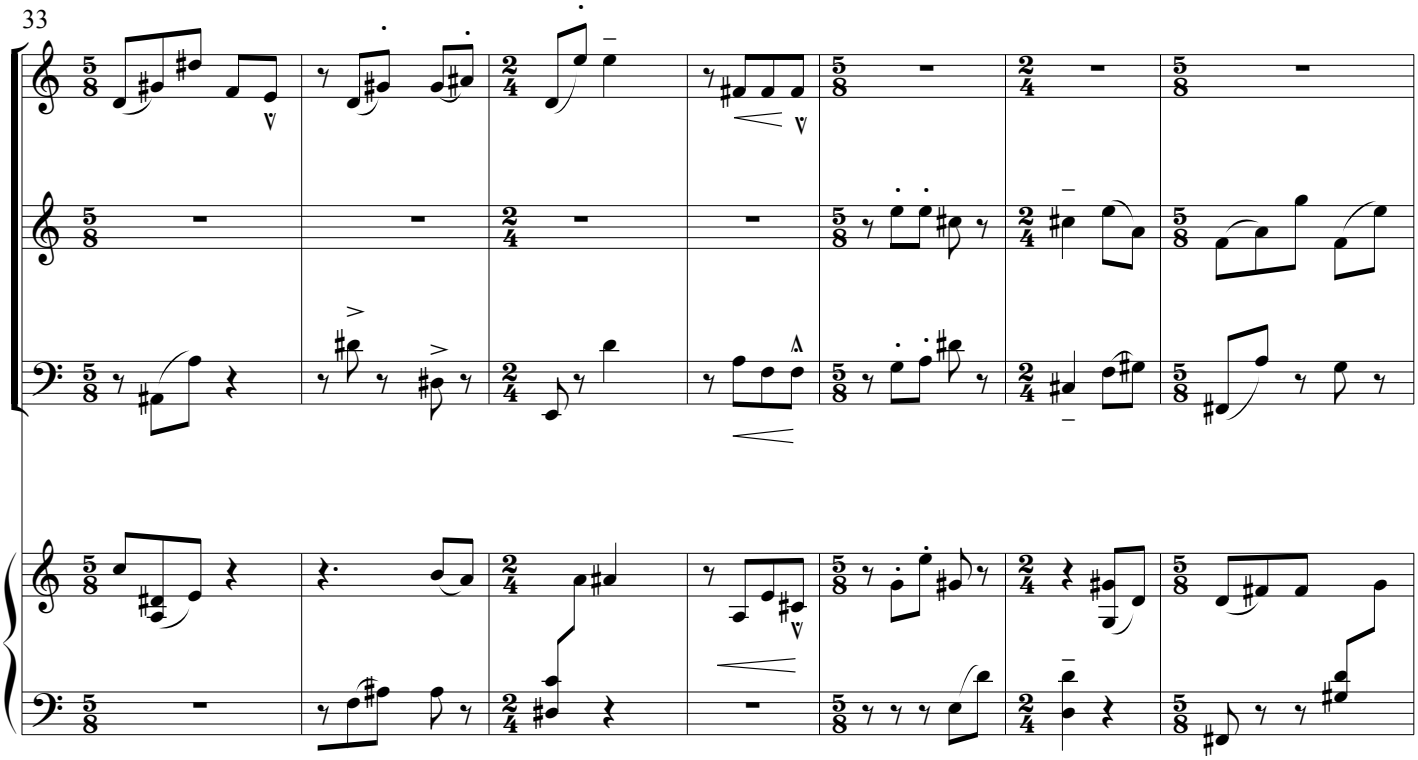

10
14

19

A *with clarity* ♩ = 90

E-very four years we ga-ther on these steps. . . .

24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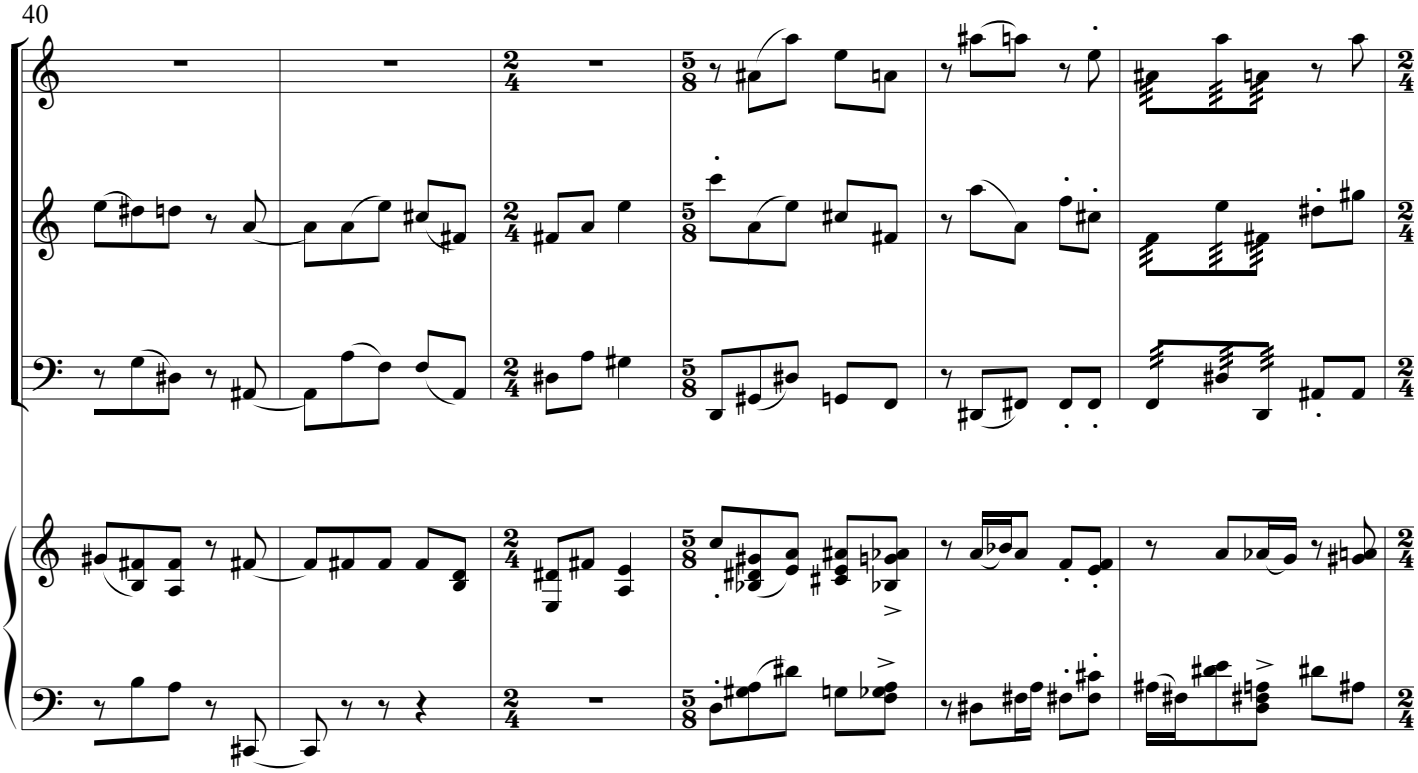
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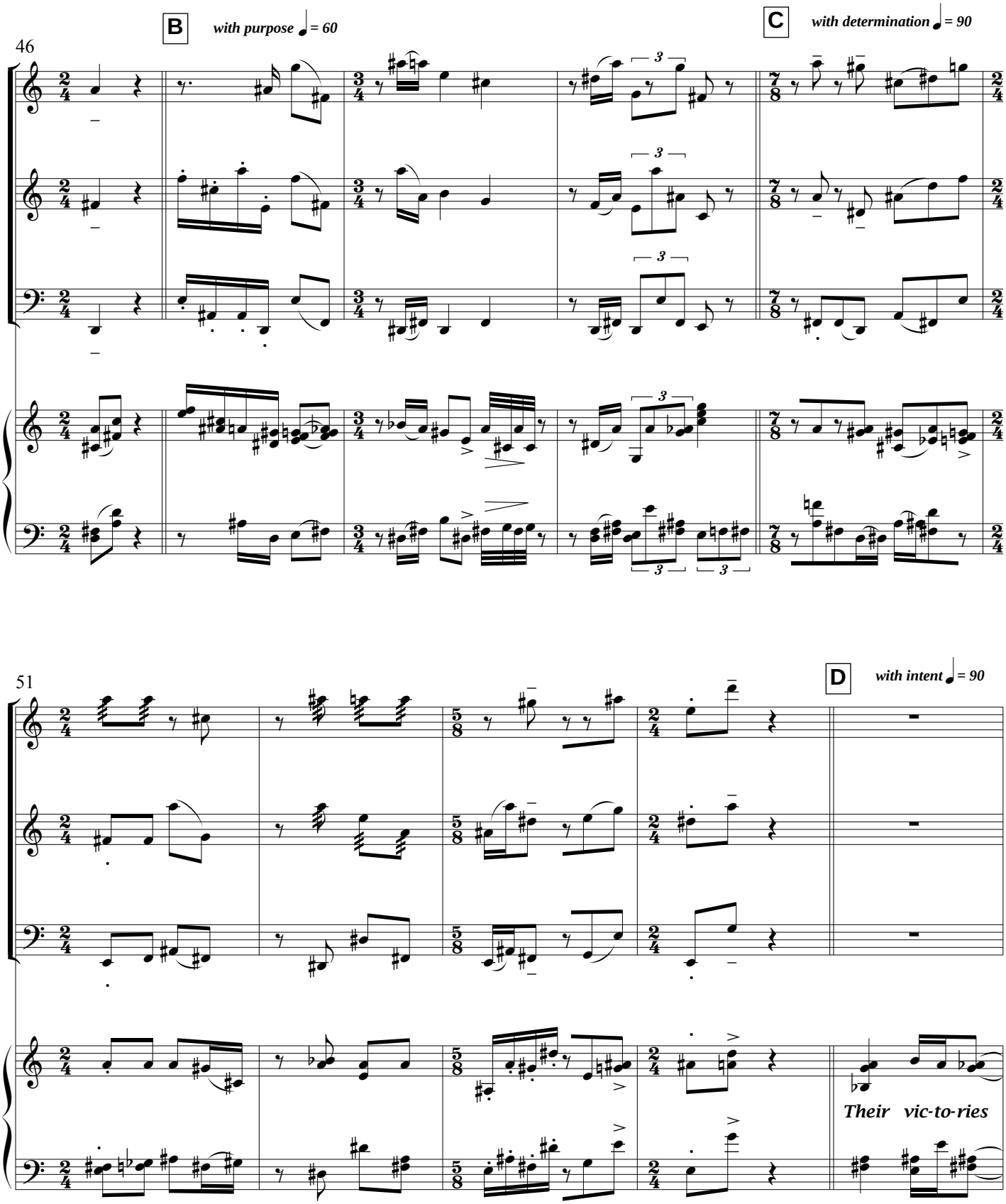
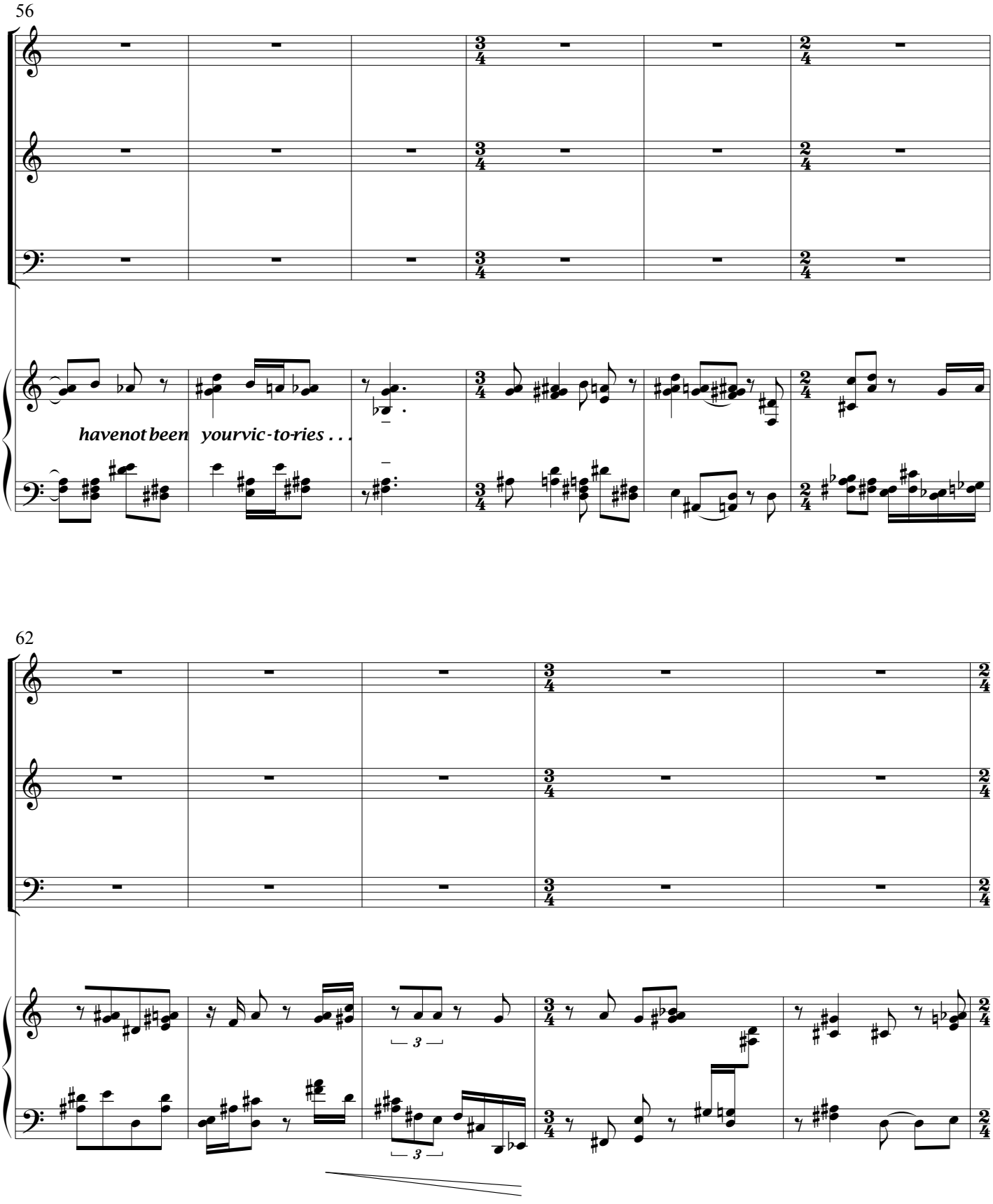

B
with purpose ♩ = 60
C
with determination ♩ = 90
46
D
with intent ♩ = 90
51
Their vic-to-ries

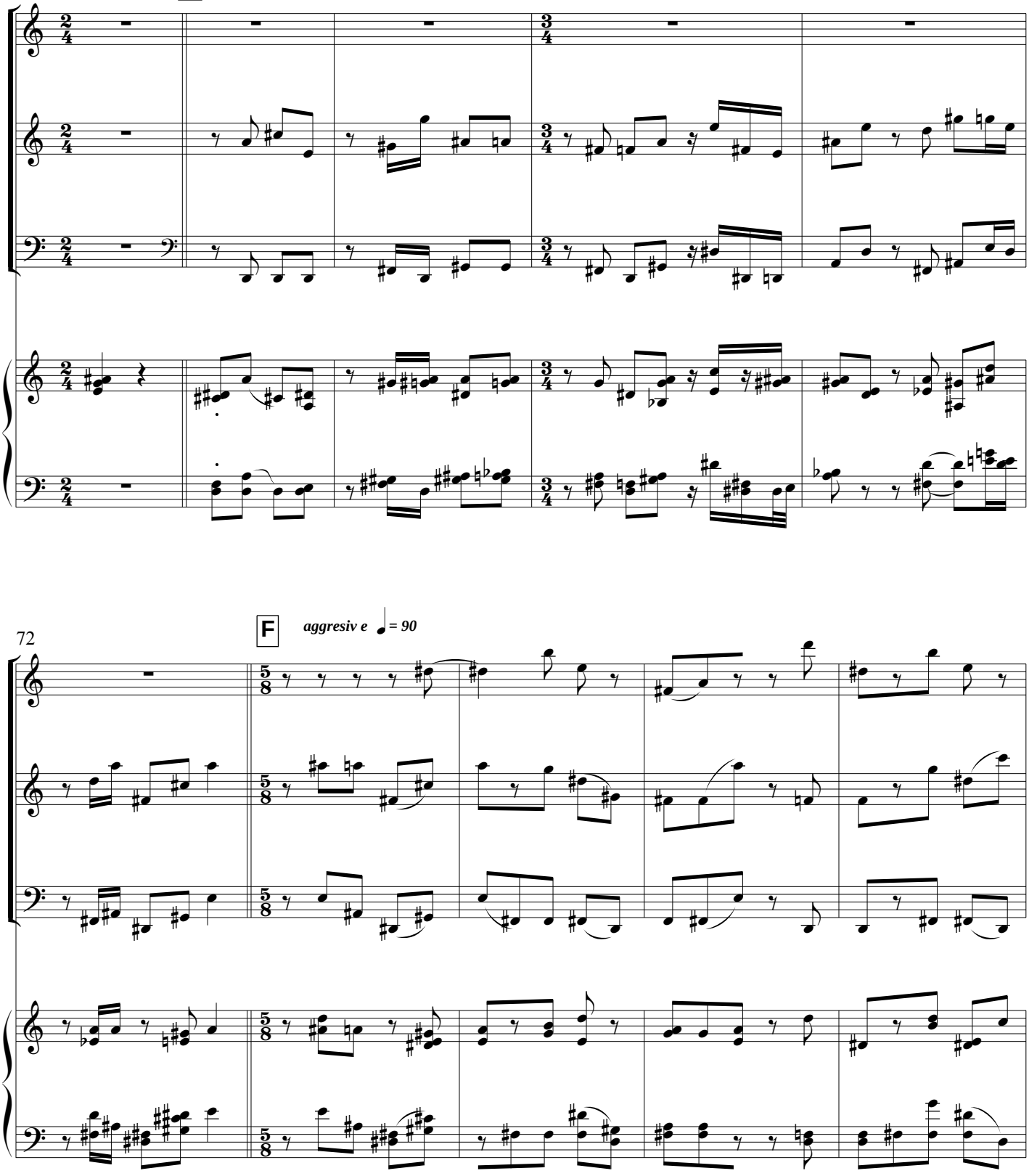

56
havenot been yourvic-to-ries . . .
62
3
3

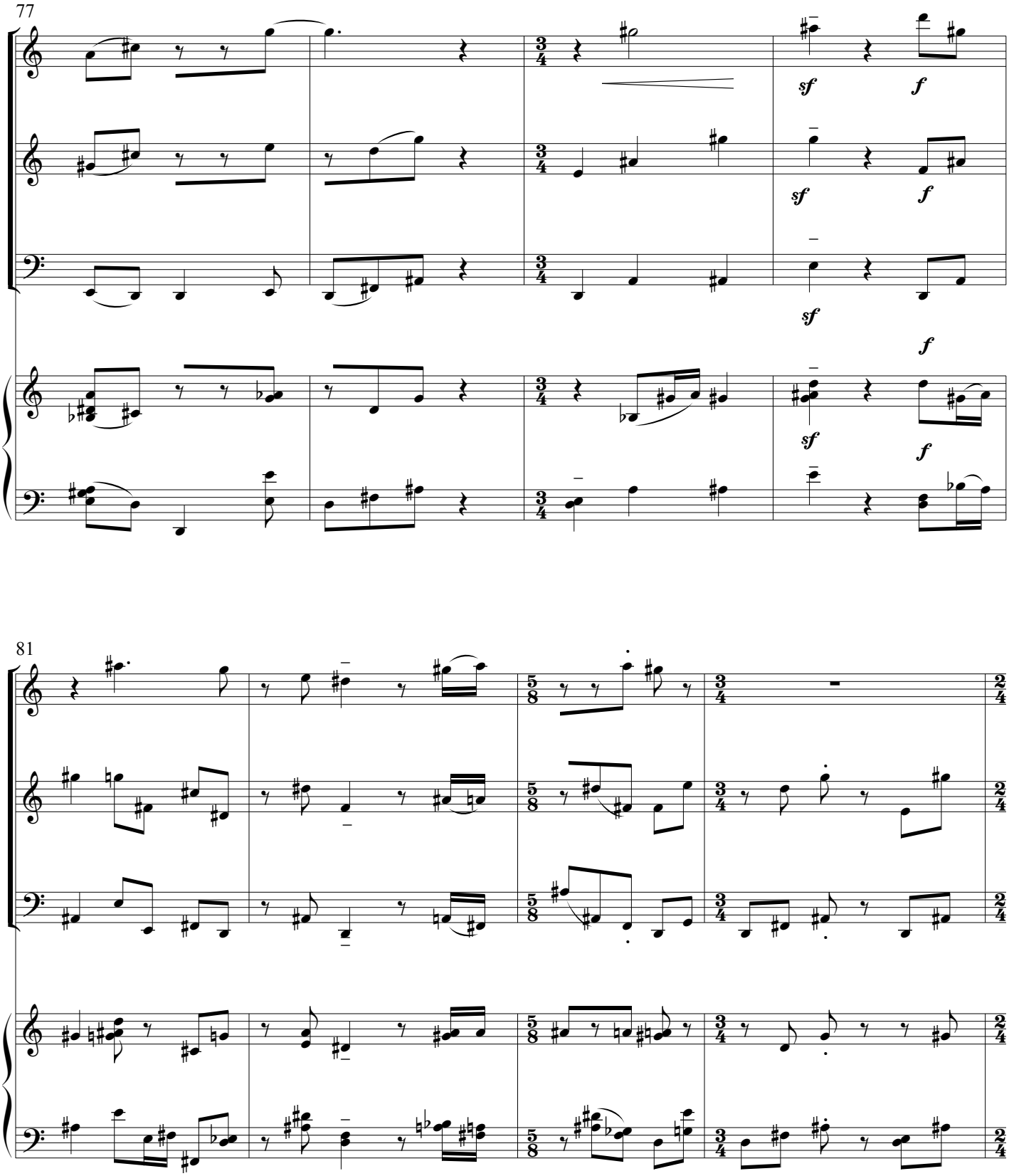
67

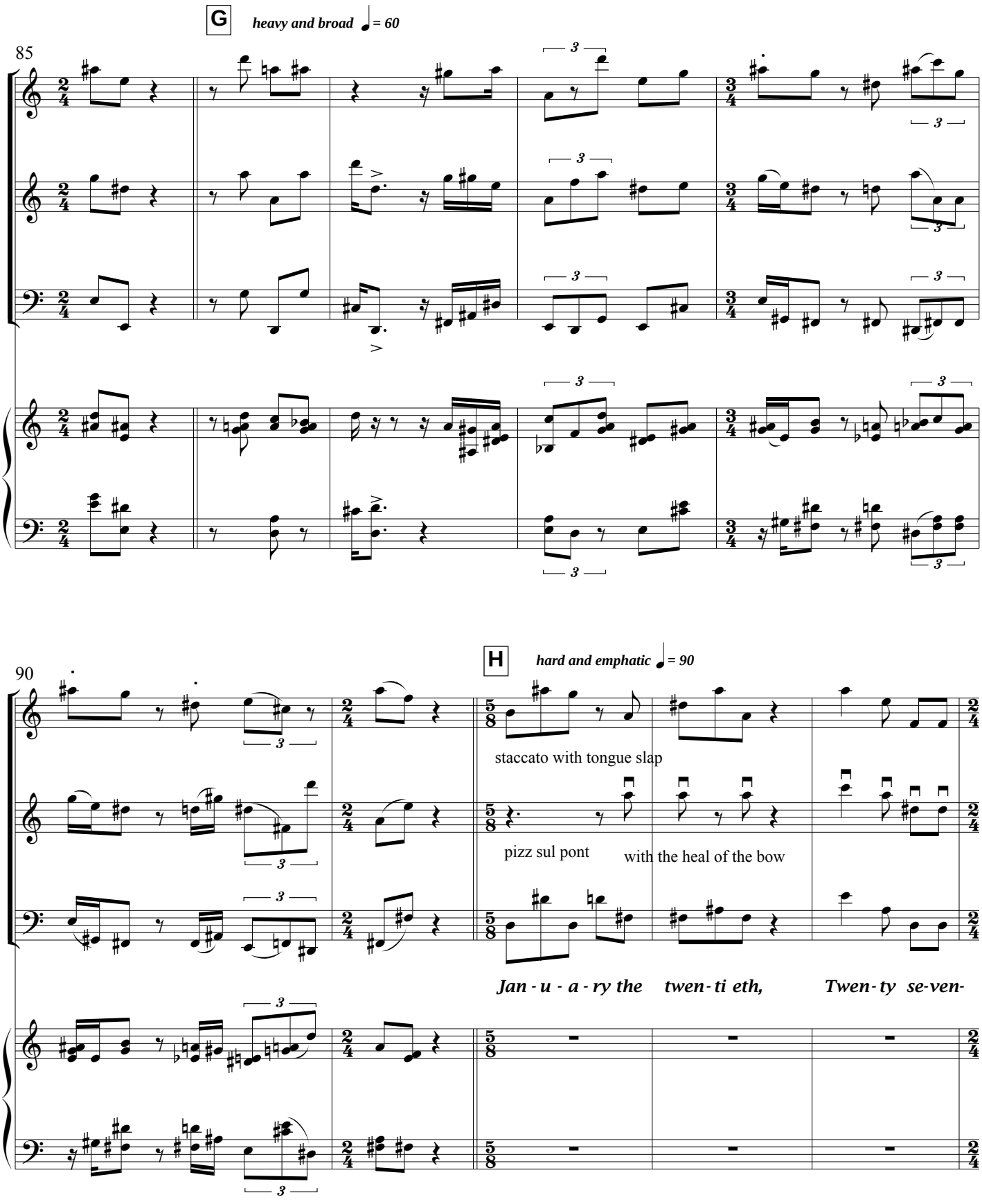
E *pedantic* ♩ = 60

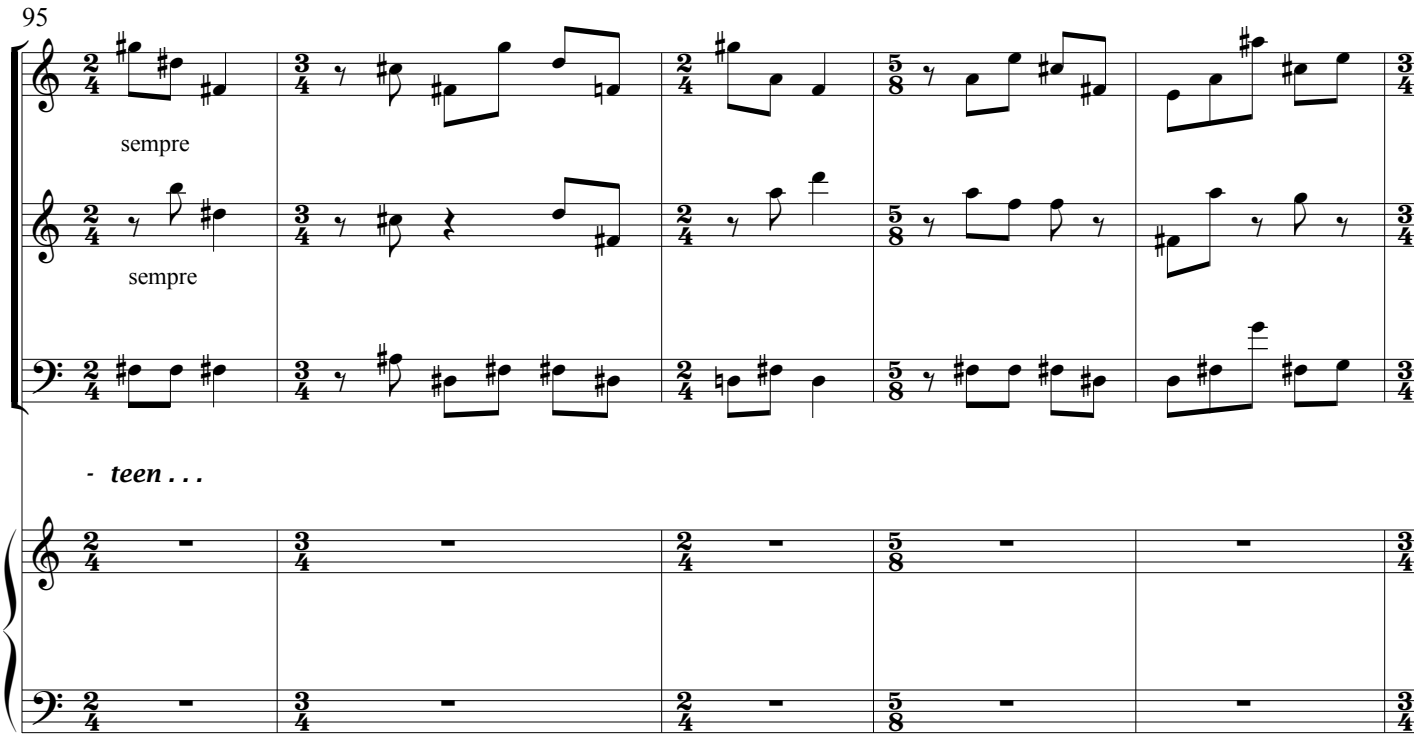
72

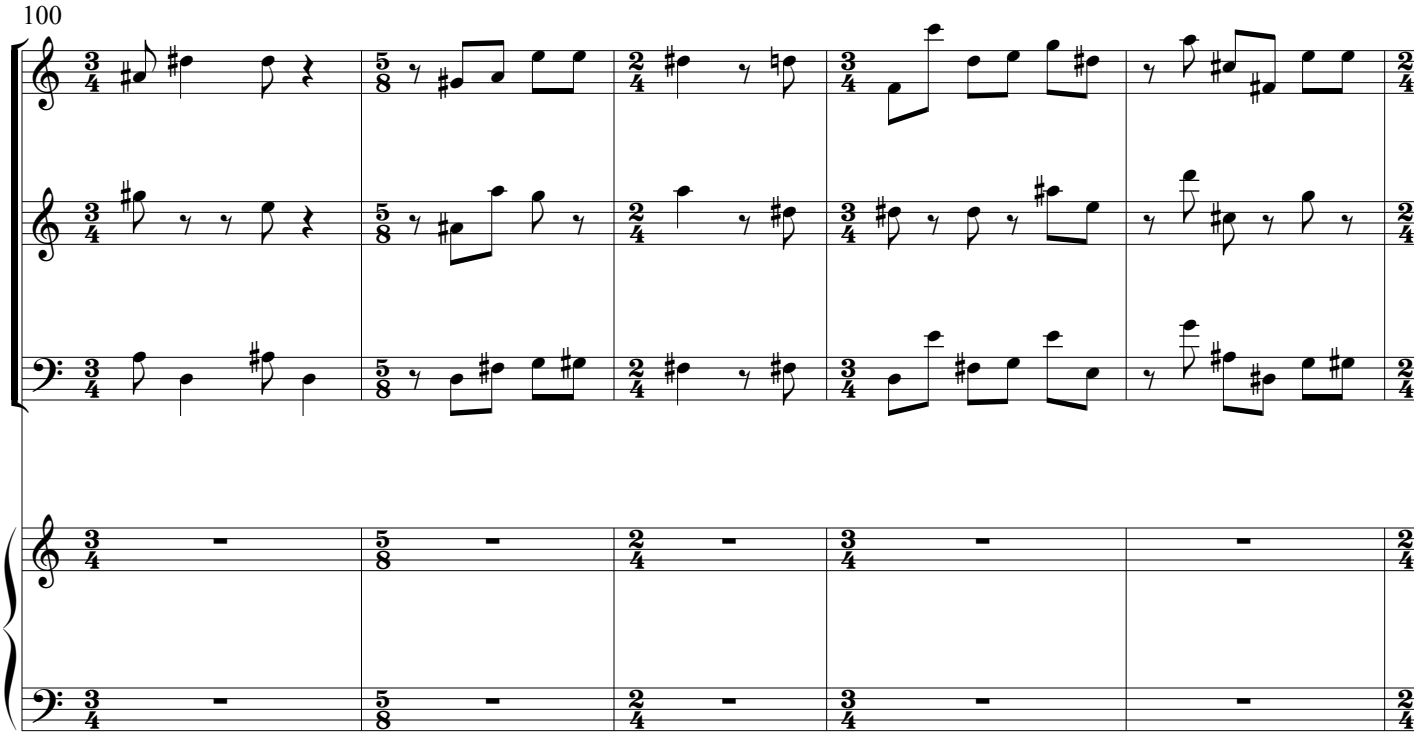
F *aggresiv e* ♩ = 90




77
sf
f
81


G
heavy and broad ♩ = 60
85
H
hard and emphatic ♩ = 90
90
staccato with tongue slap
pizz sul pont
with the heal of the bow
Jan - u - a - ry the twen - ti eth,
Twen - ty se-ven-


95
sempre
sempre
- teen . . .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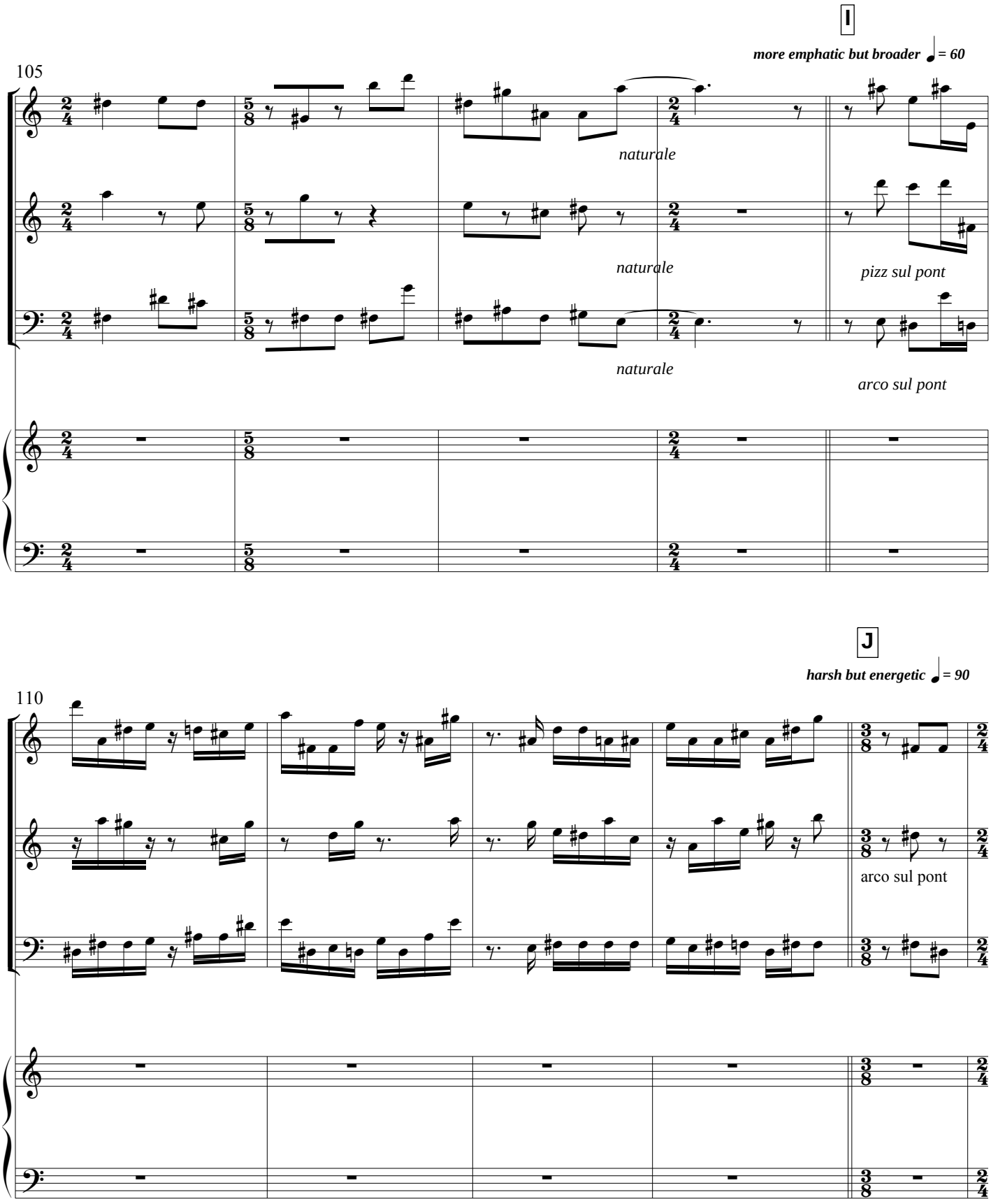
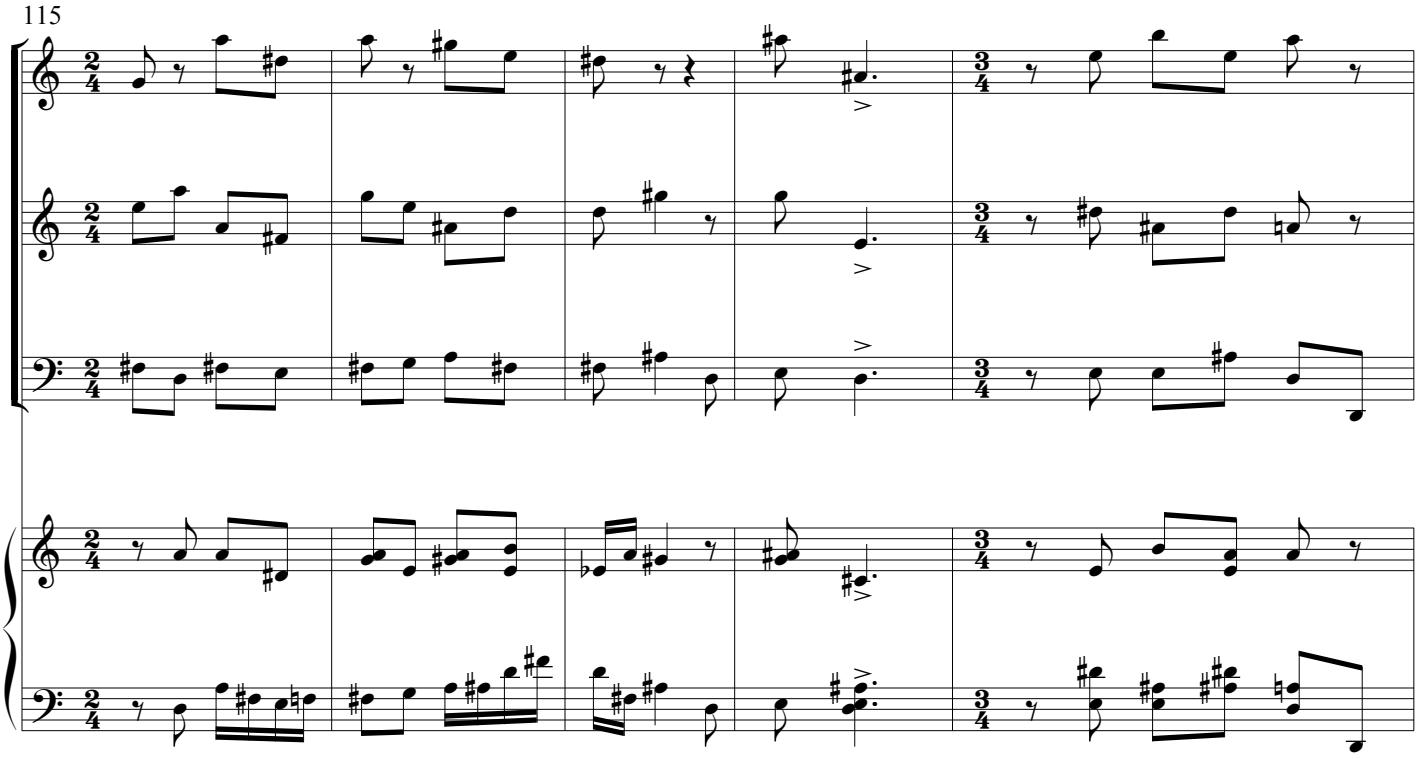

I
more emphatic but broader ♩ = 60
105
naturale
naturale
pizz sul pont
naturale
arco sul pont
J
harsh but energetic ♩ = 90
110
arco sul pont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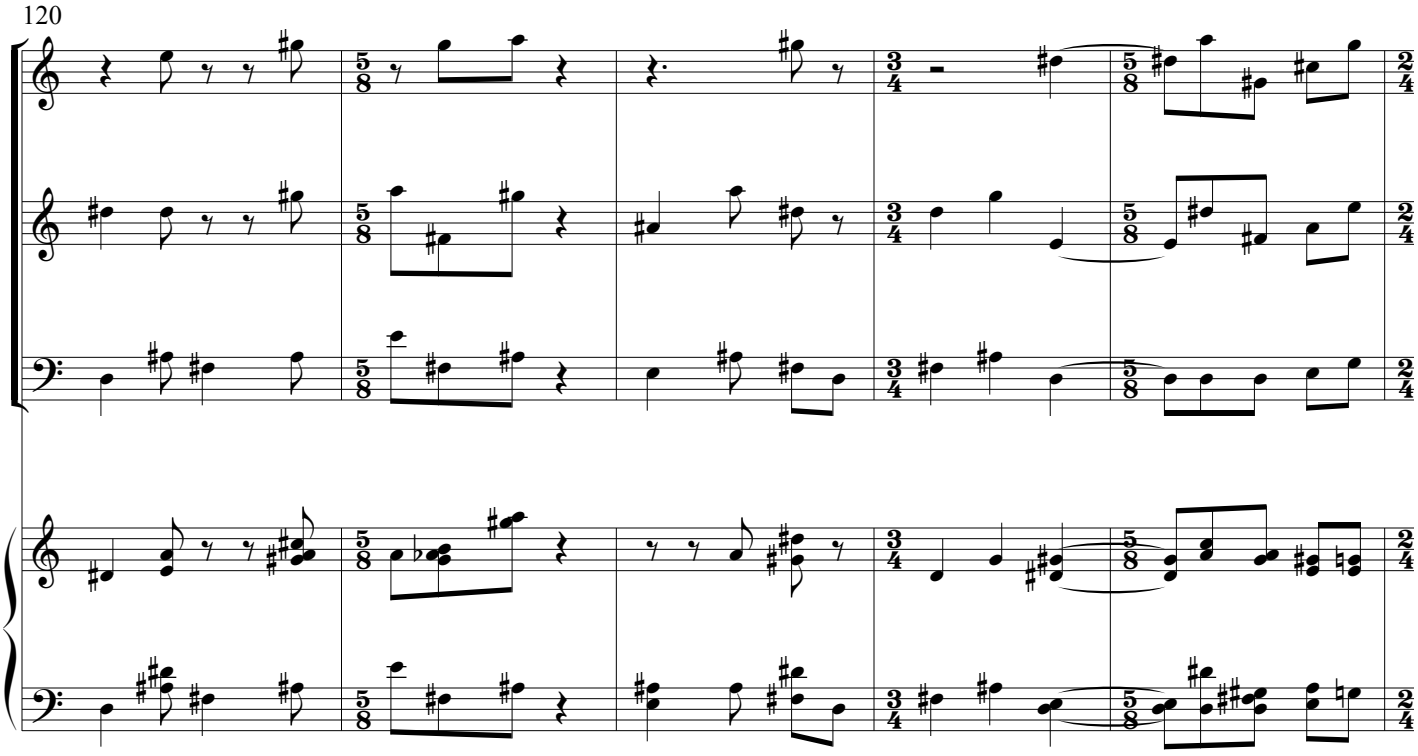
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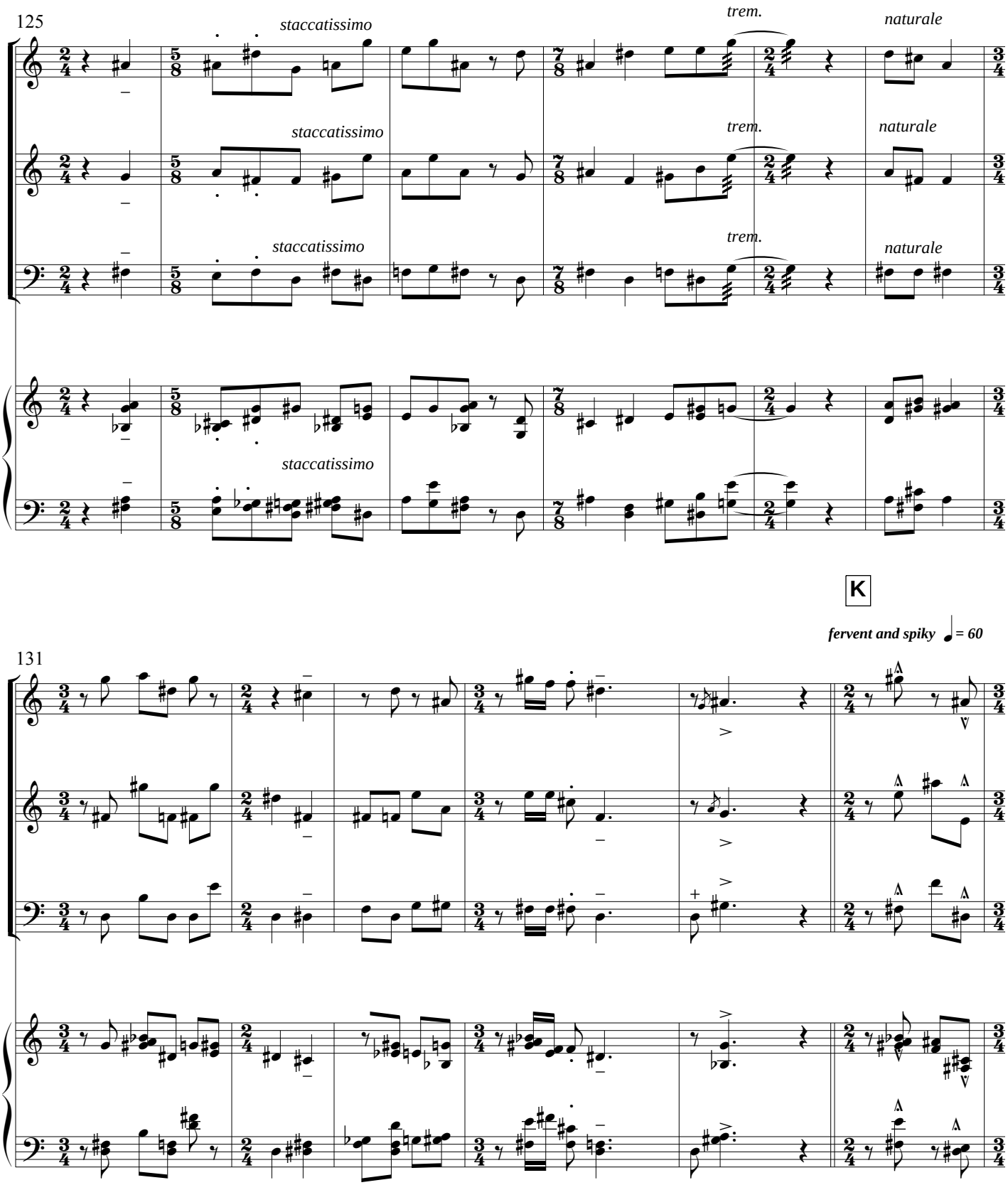
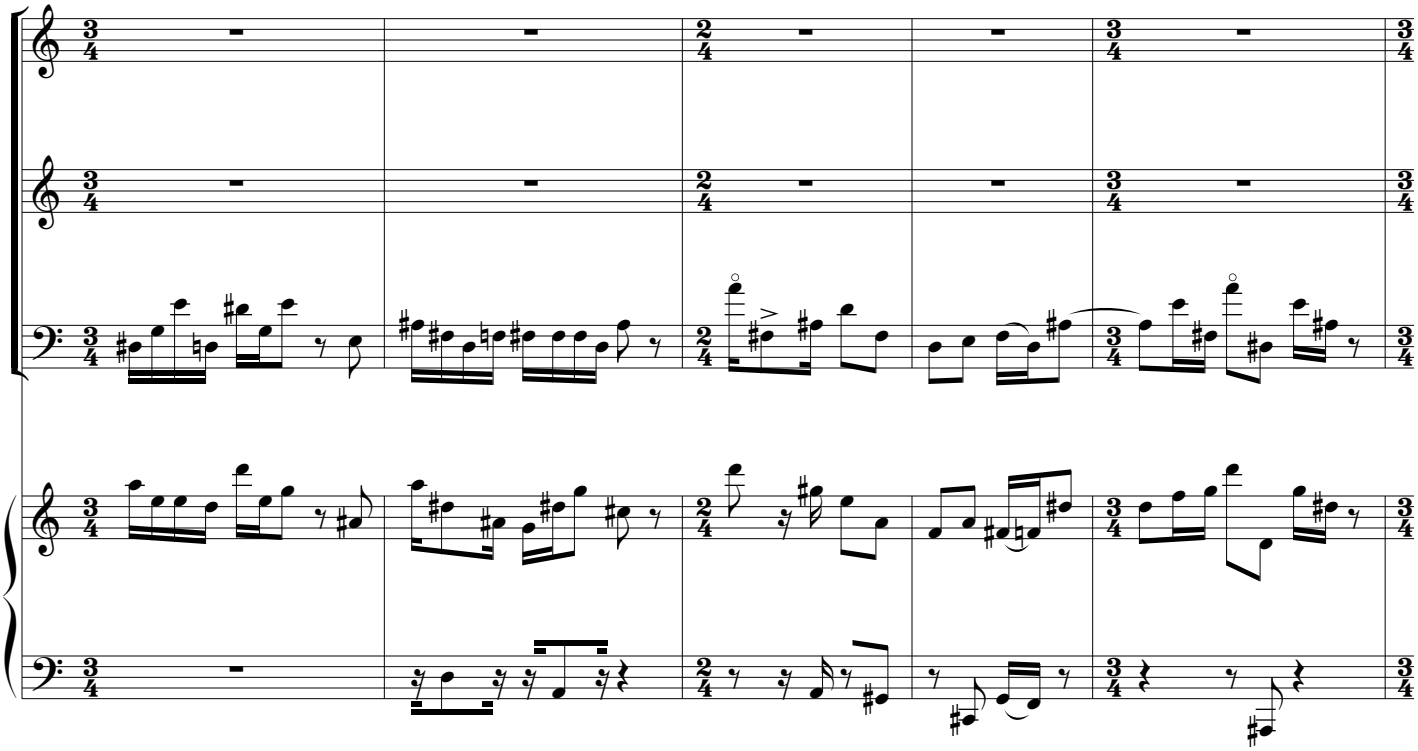

125
staccatissimo
trem.
naturale
staccatissimo
trem.
naturale
staccatissimo
trem.
naturale
staccatissimo
K
fervent and spiky ♩ = 60
131

137



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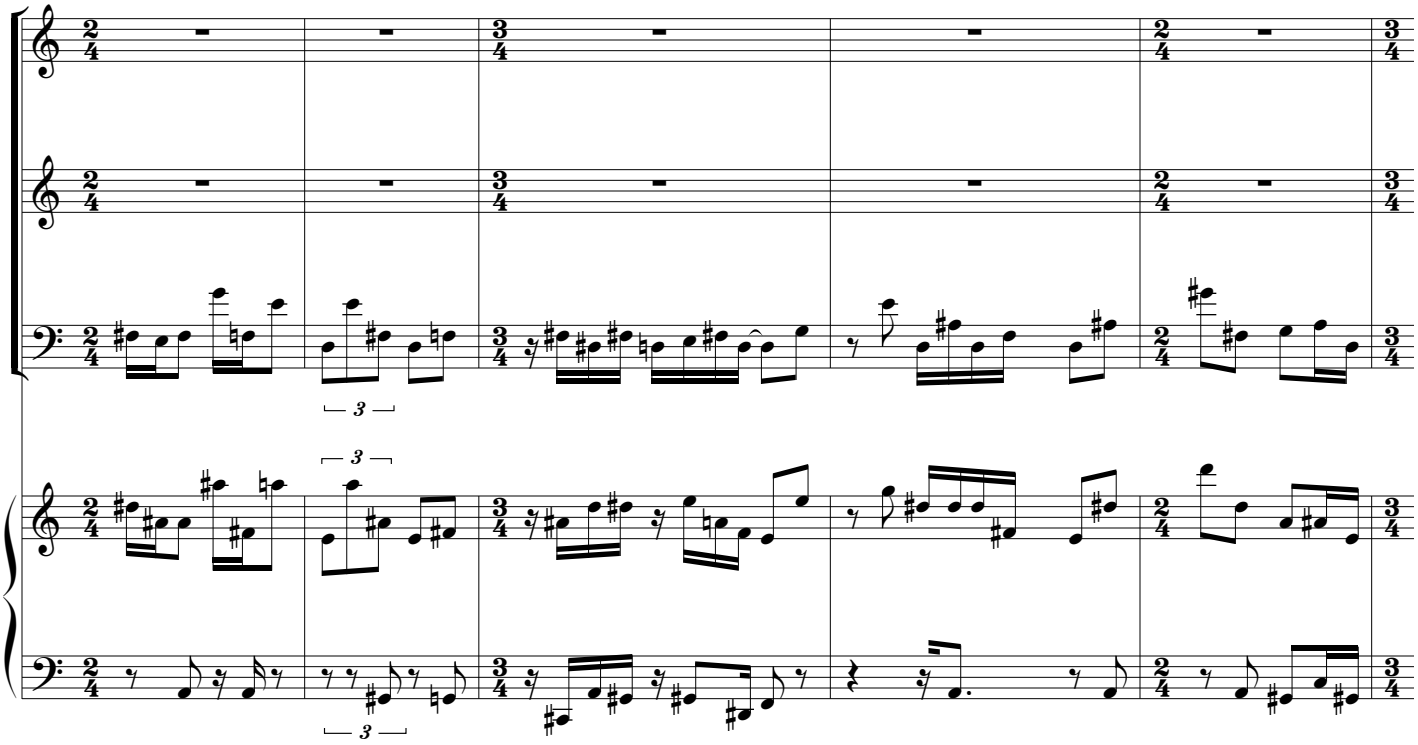
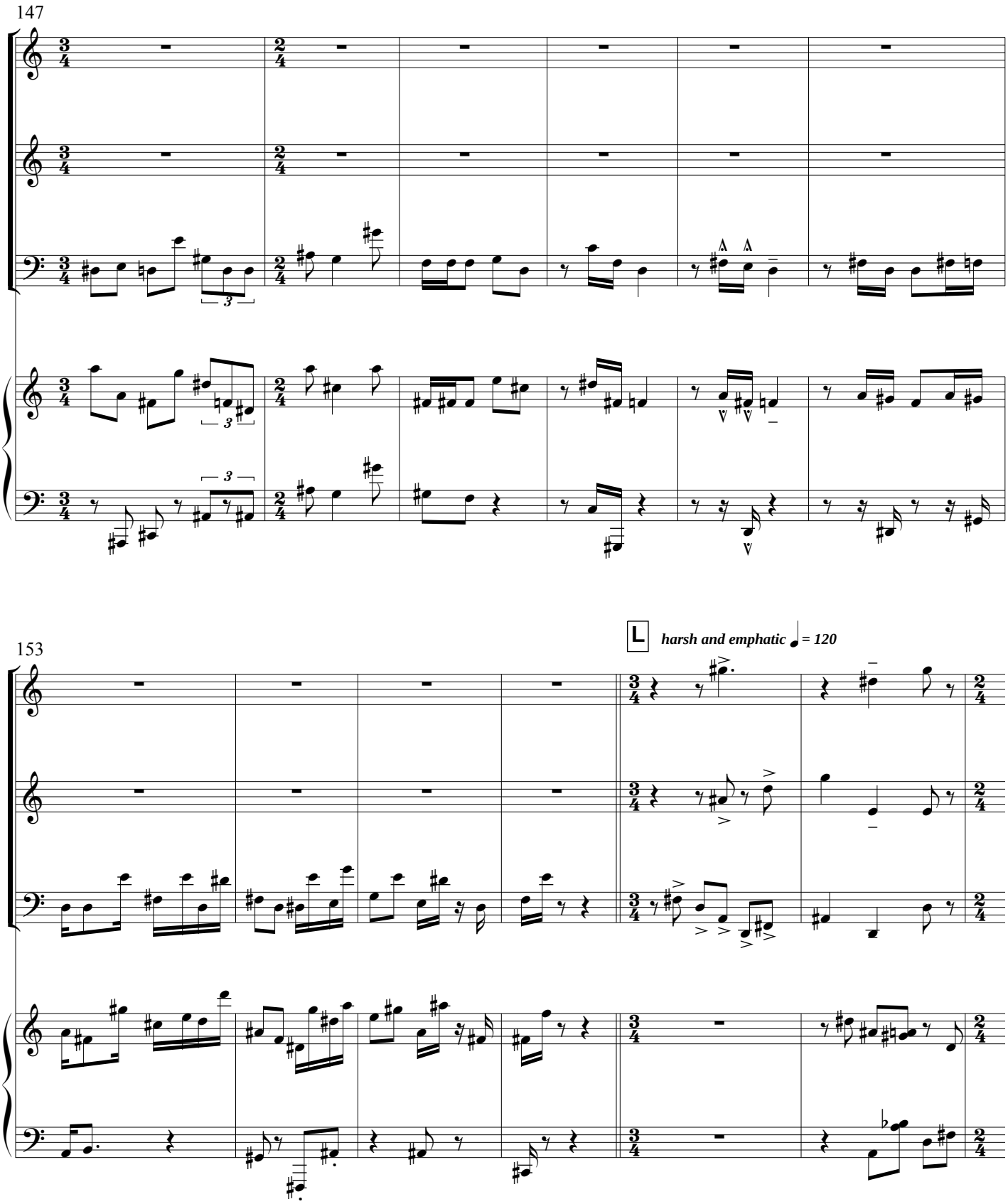
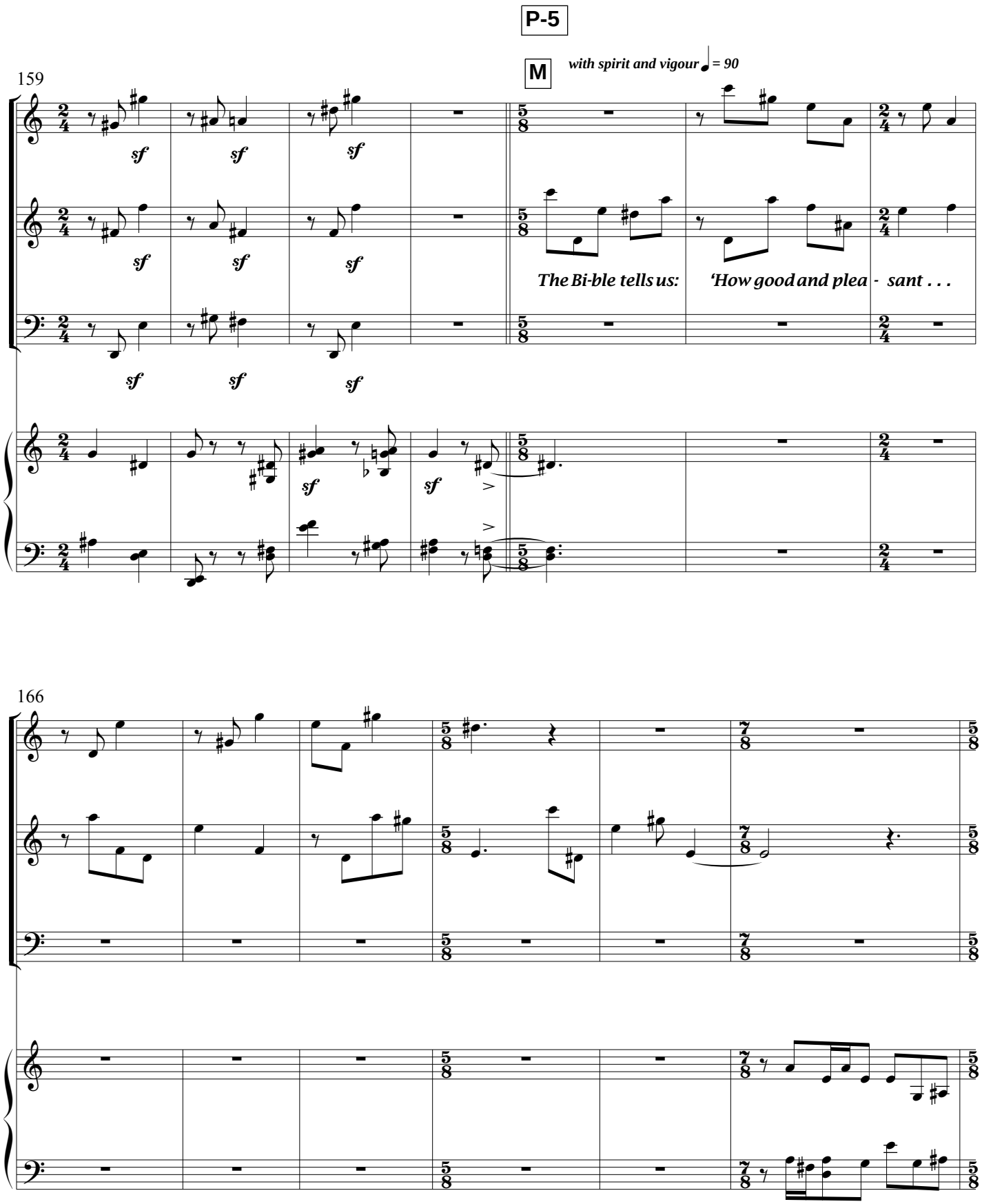
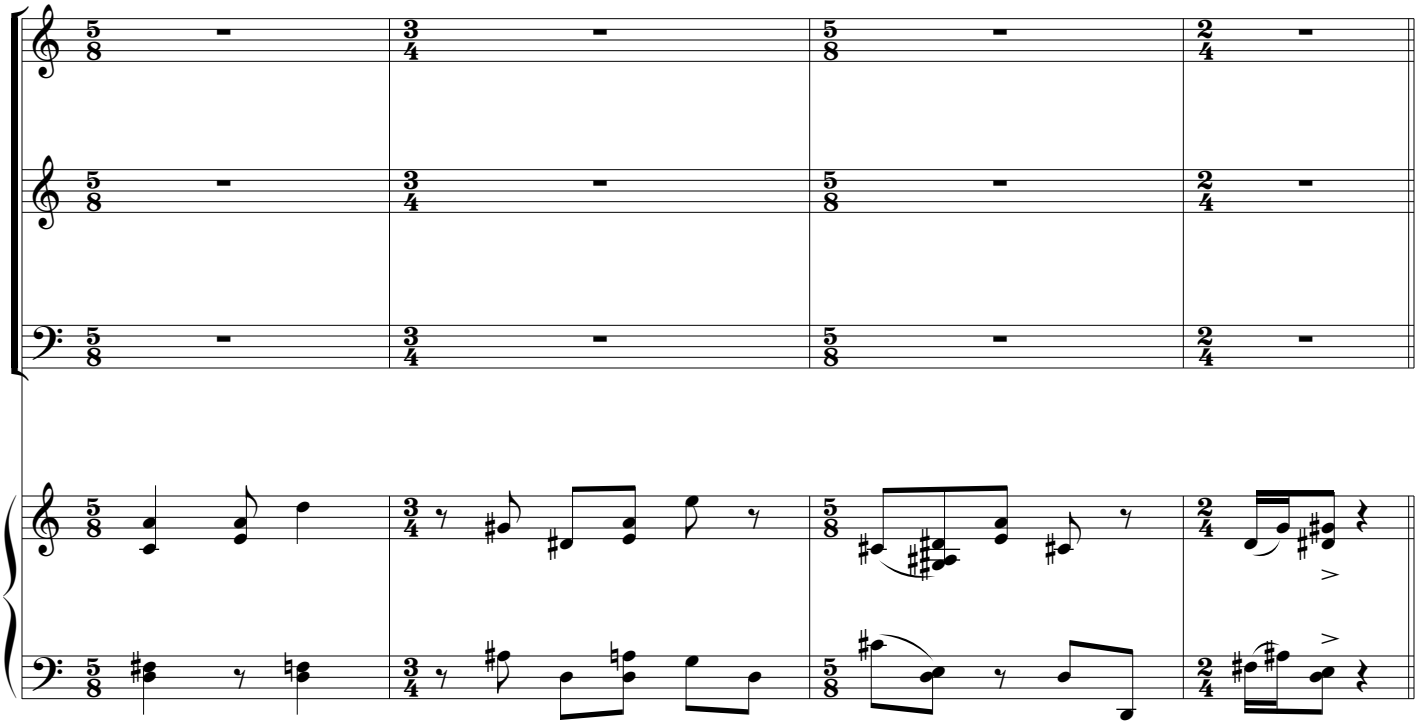



147
153
L
harsh and emphatic ♩ = 120


P-5
M
with spirit and vigour ♩ = 90
159
sf
The Bi-ble tells us: 'How good and plea - sant . . .
166

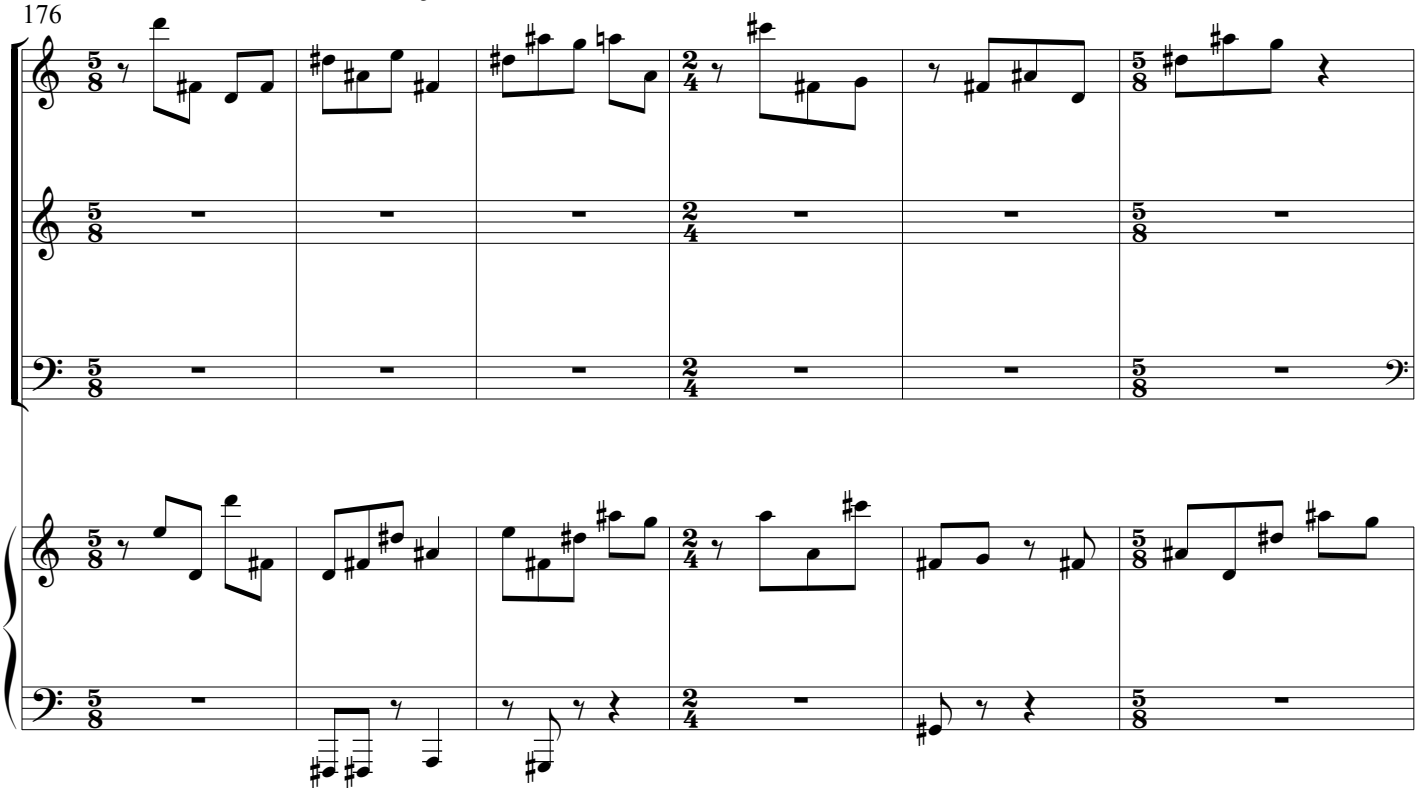
172

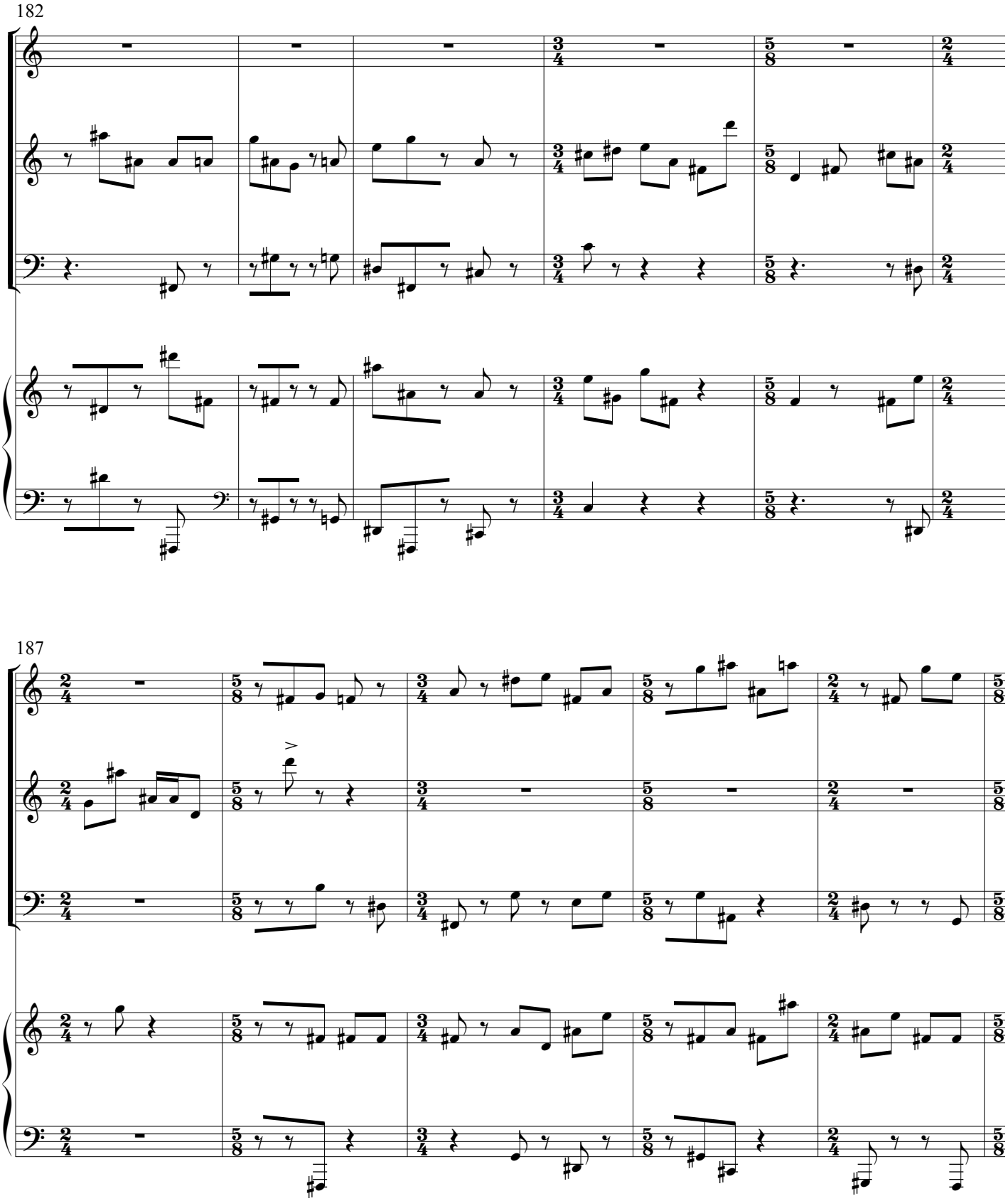


N

each note hard and with exact duration ♩ = 120

176

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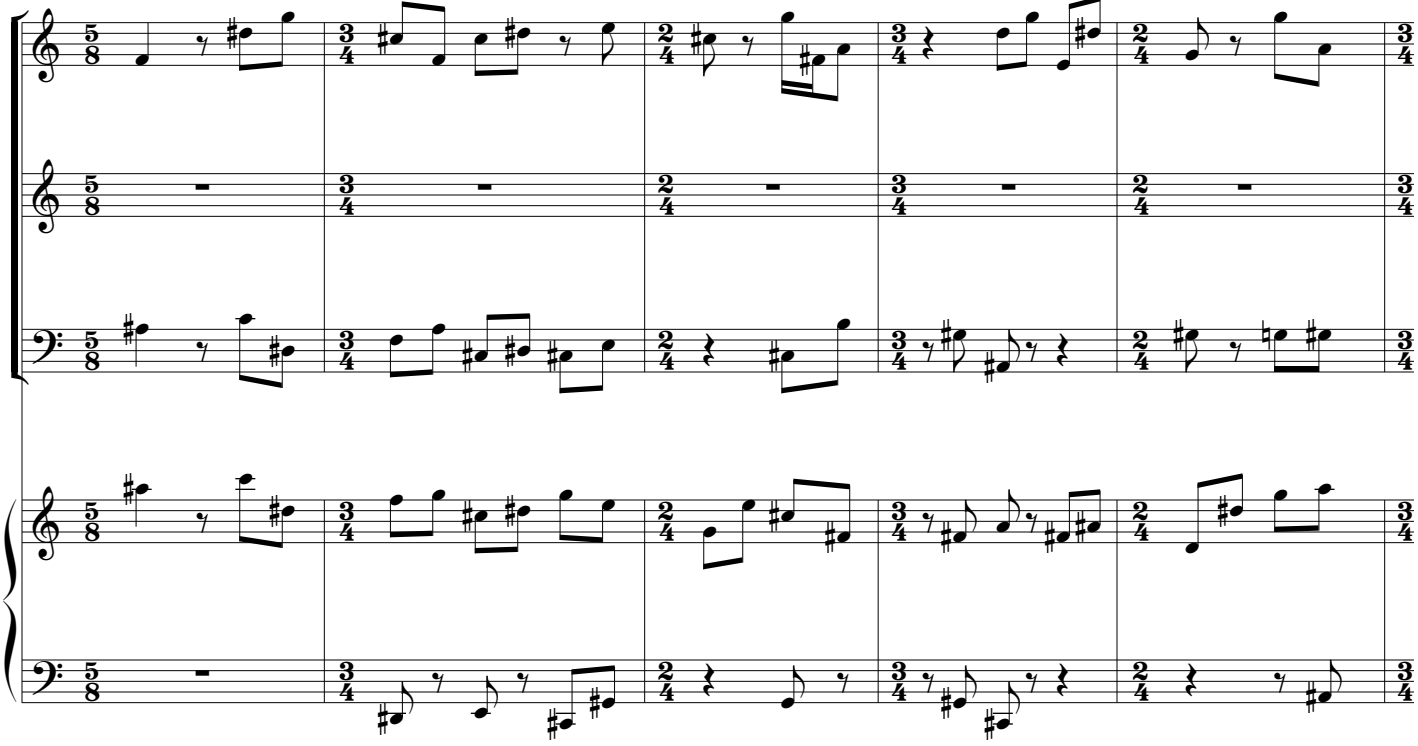
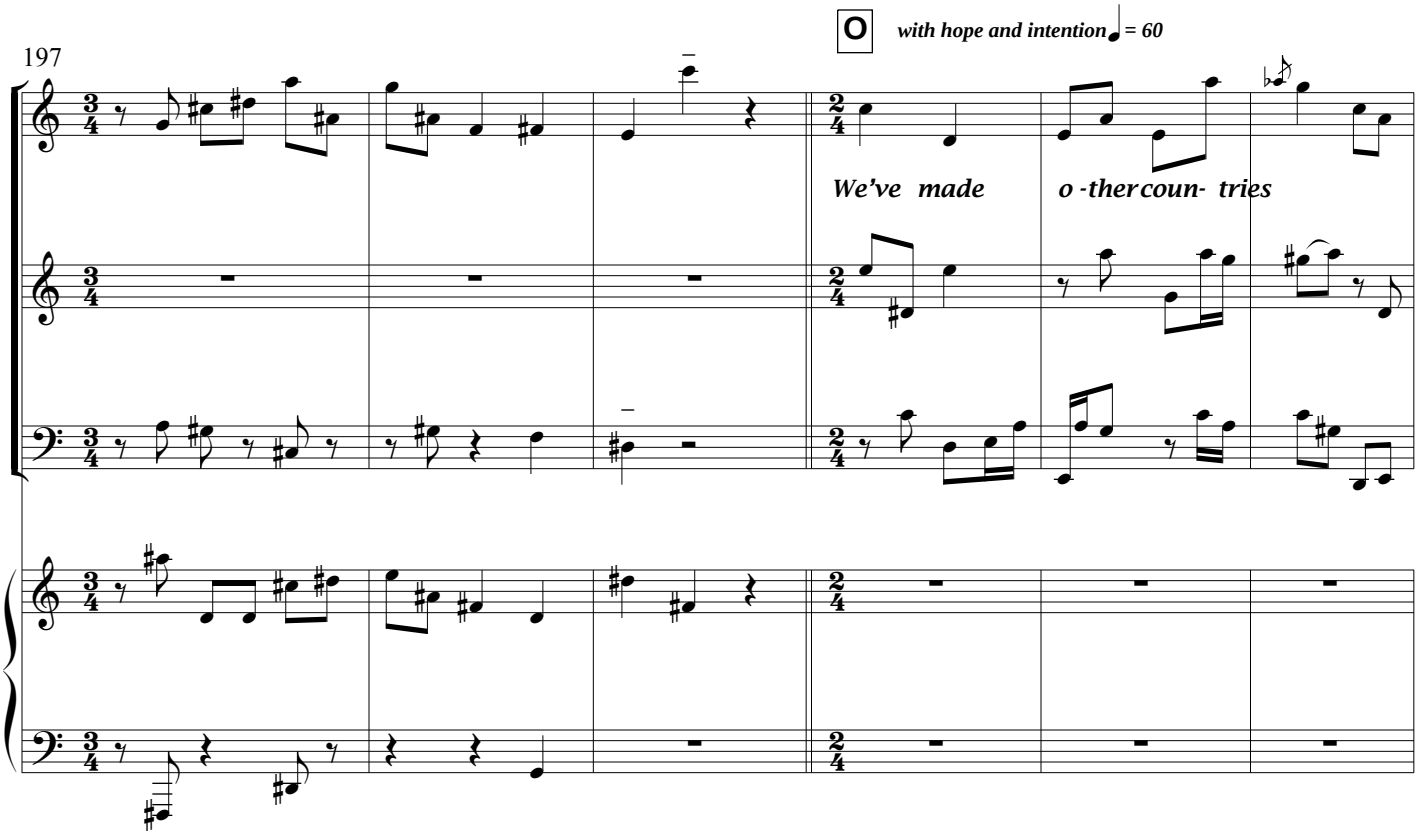
187

192



197

O *with hope and intention* ♩ = 60



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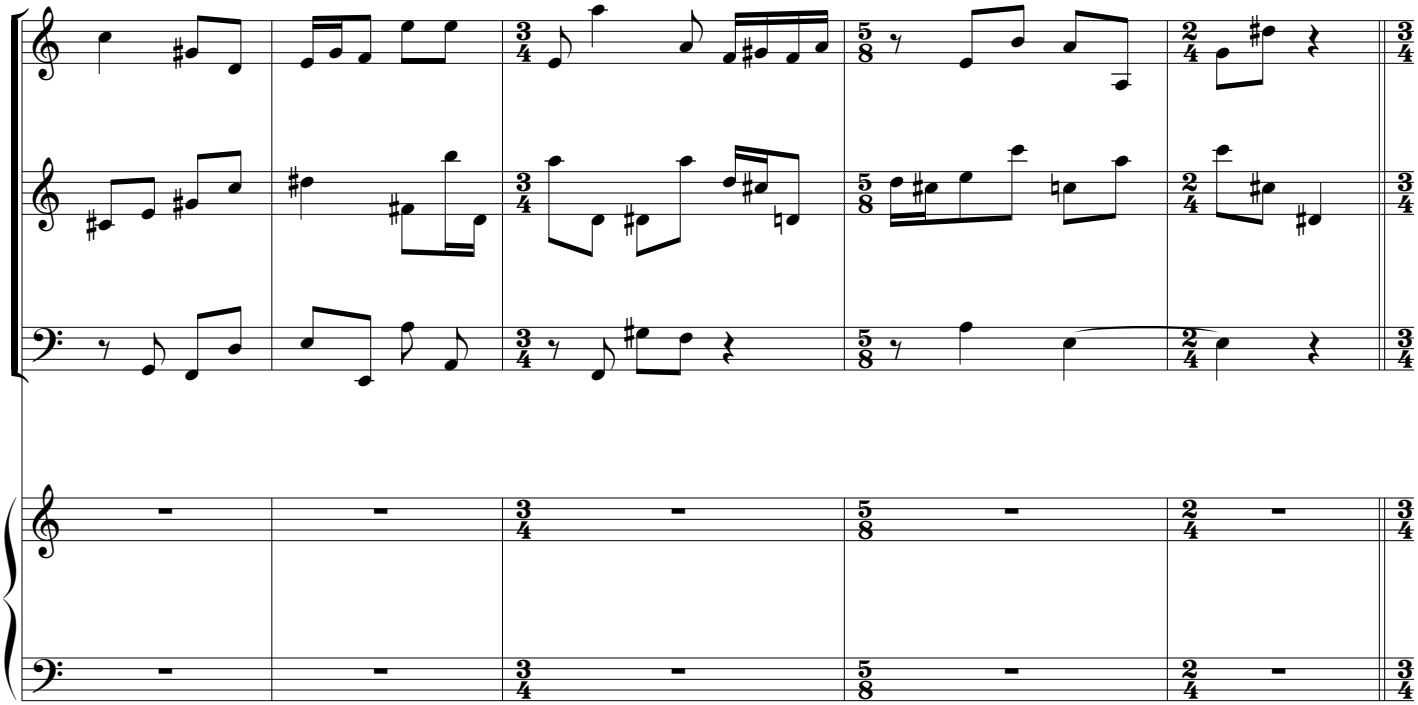
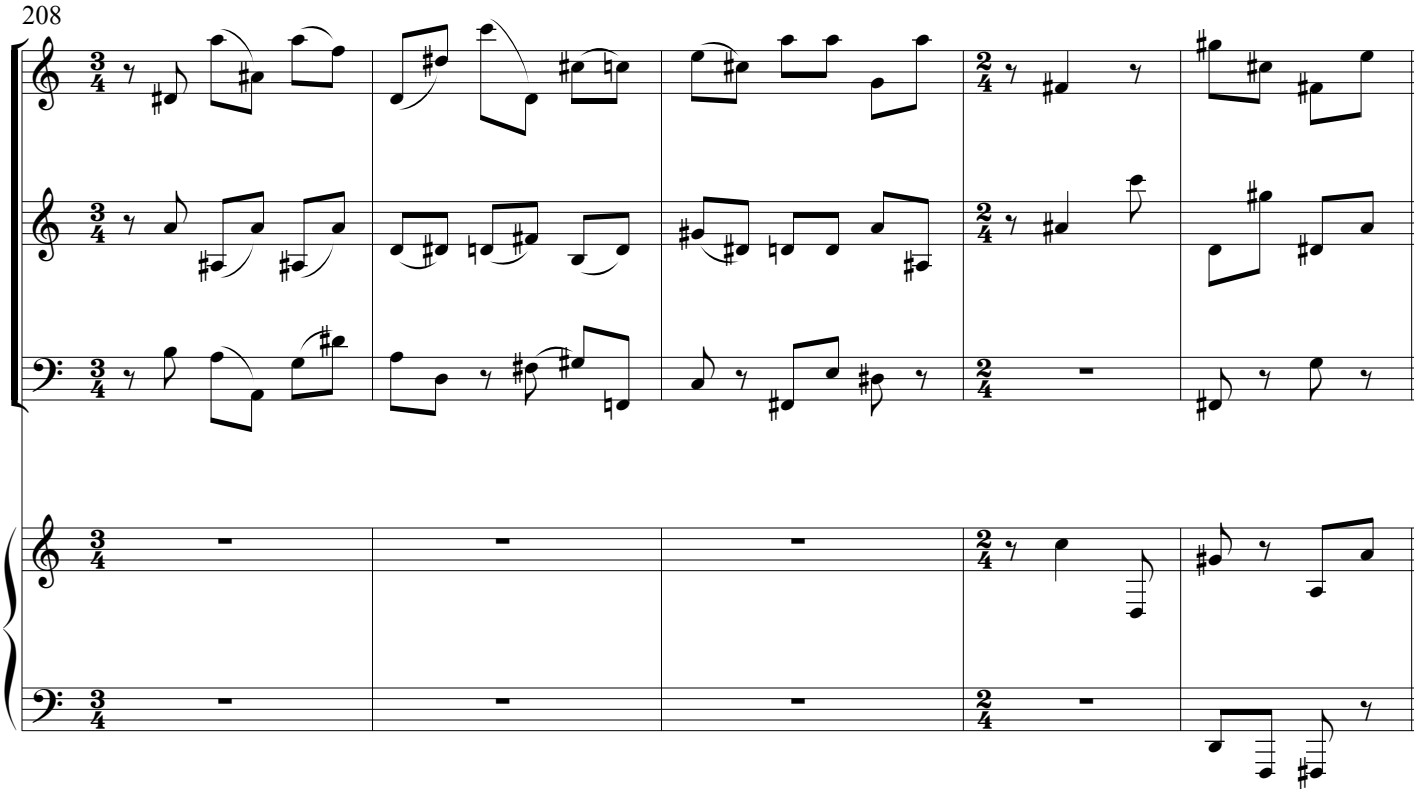
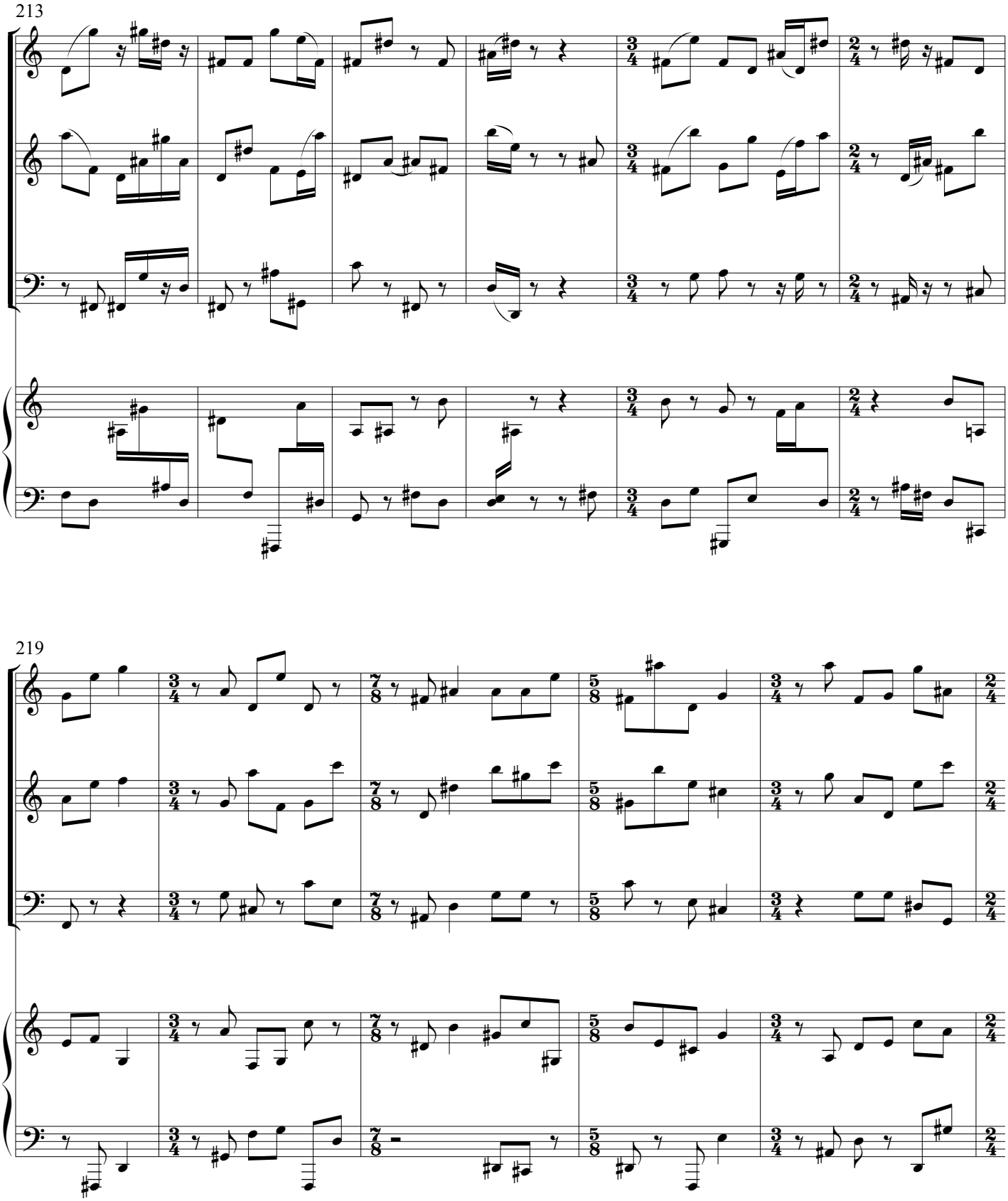


P *insistent and declamatory* ♩ = 90

208

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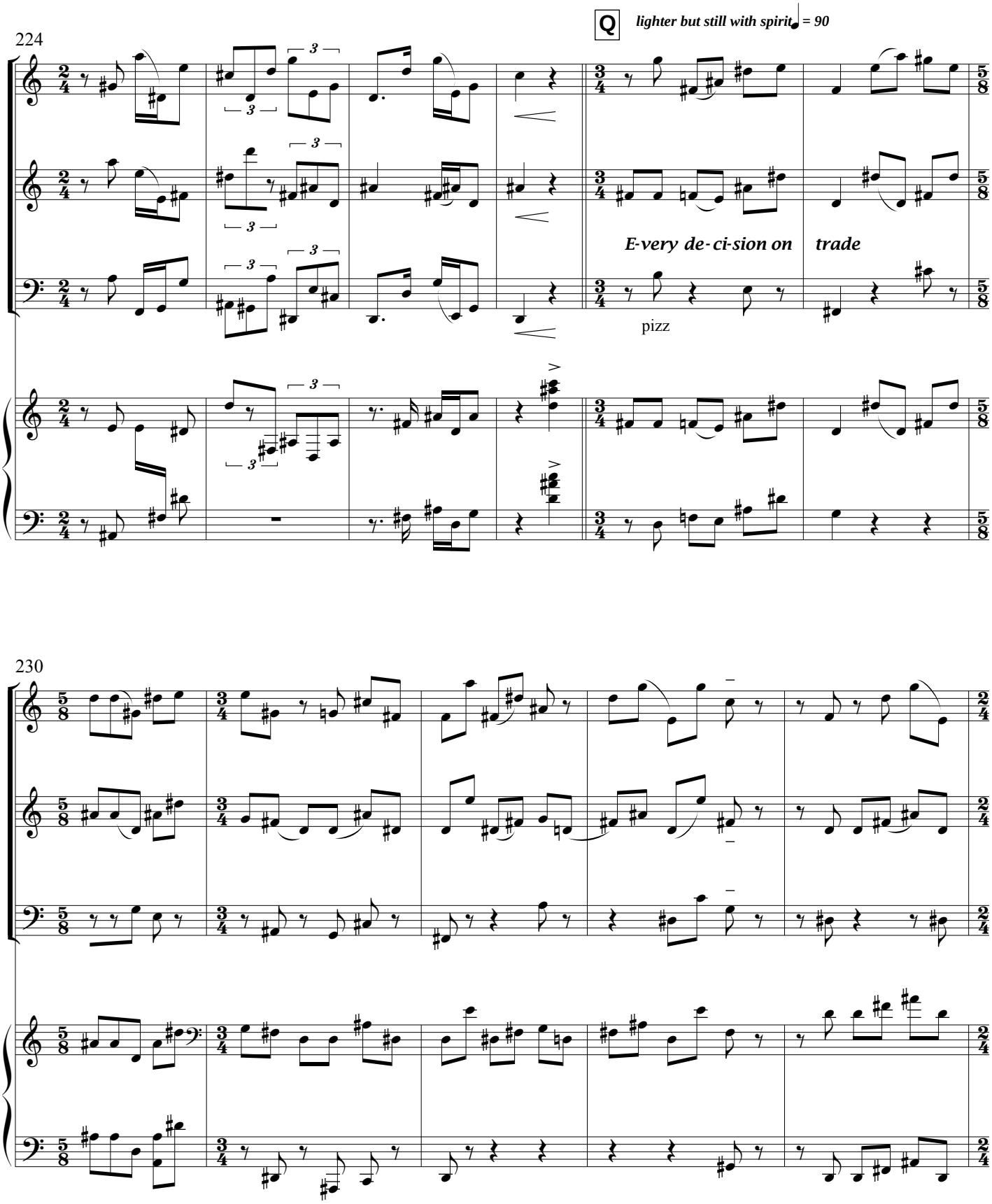
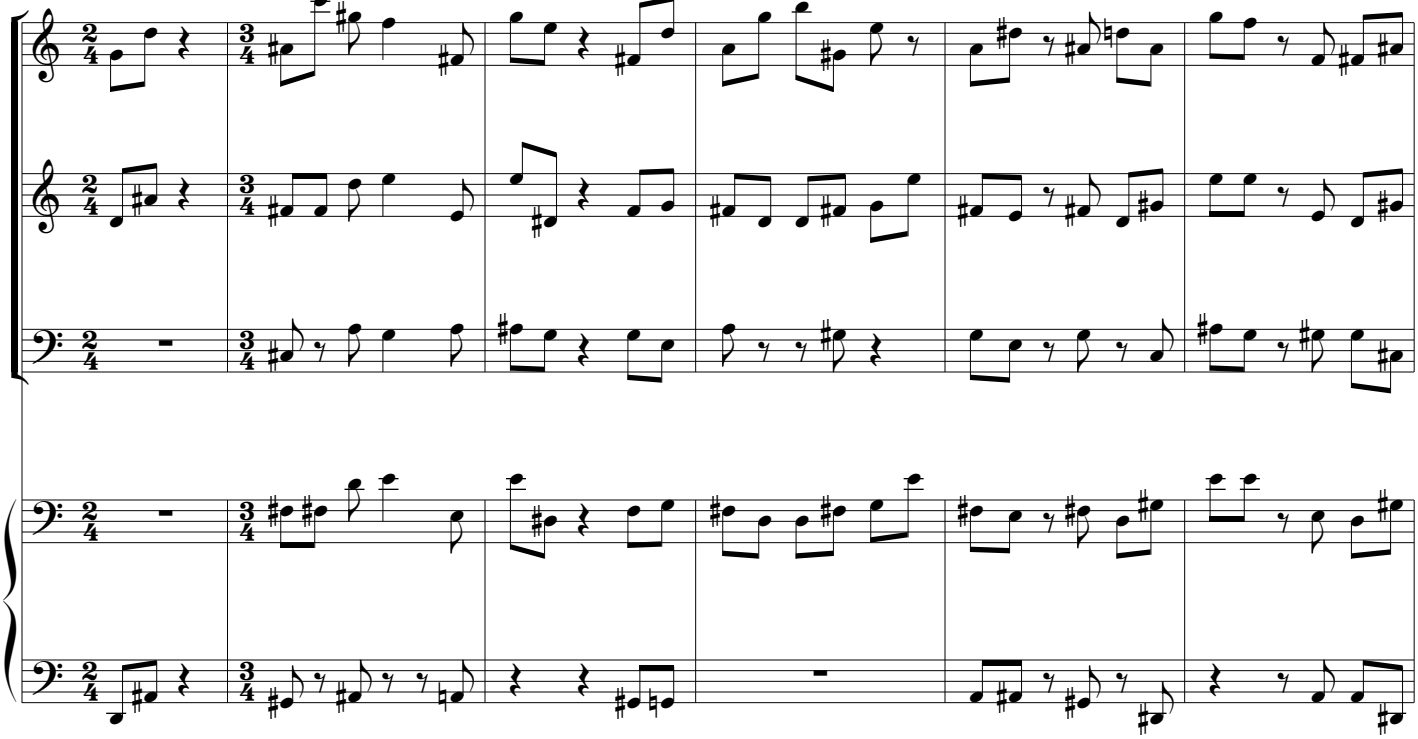
219


Q
lighter but still with spirit ♩ = 90
224
E-very de-ci-sion on trade
pizz
230

235



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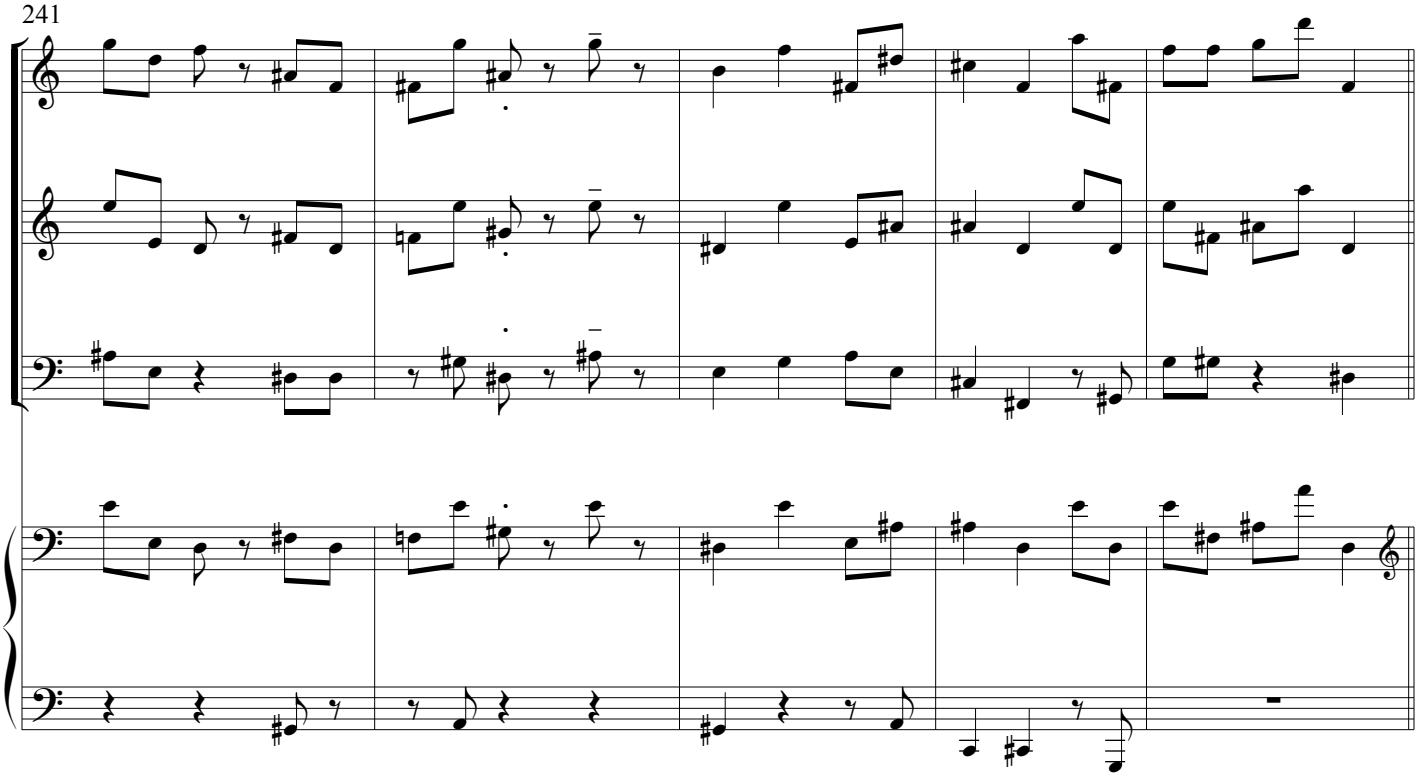
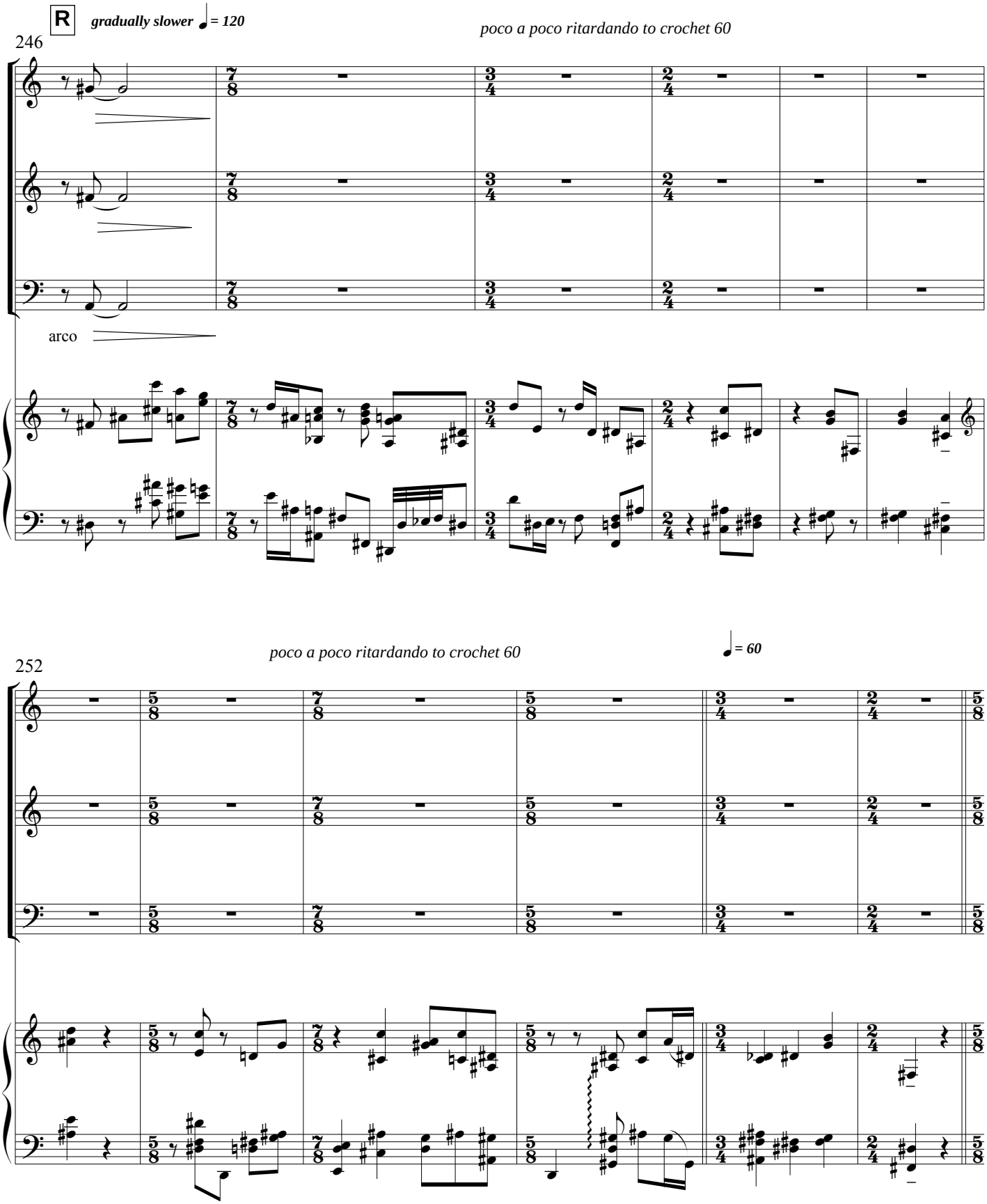
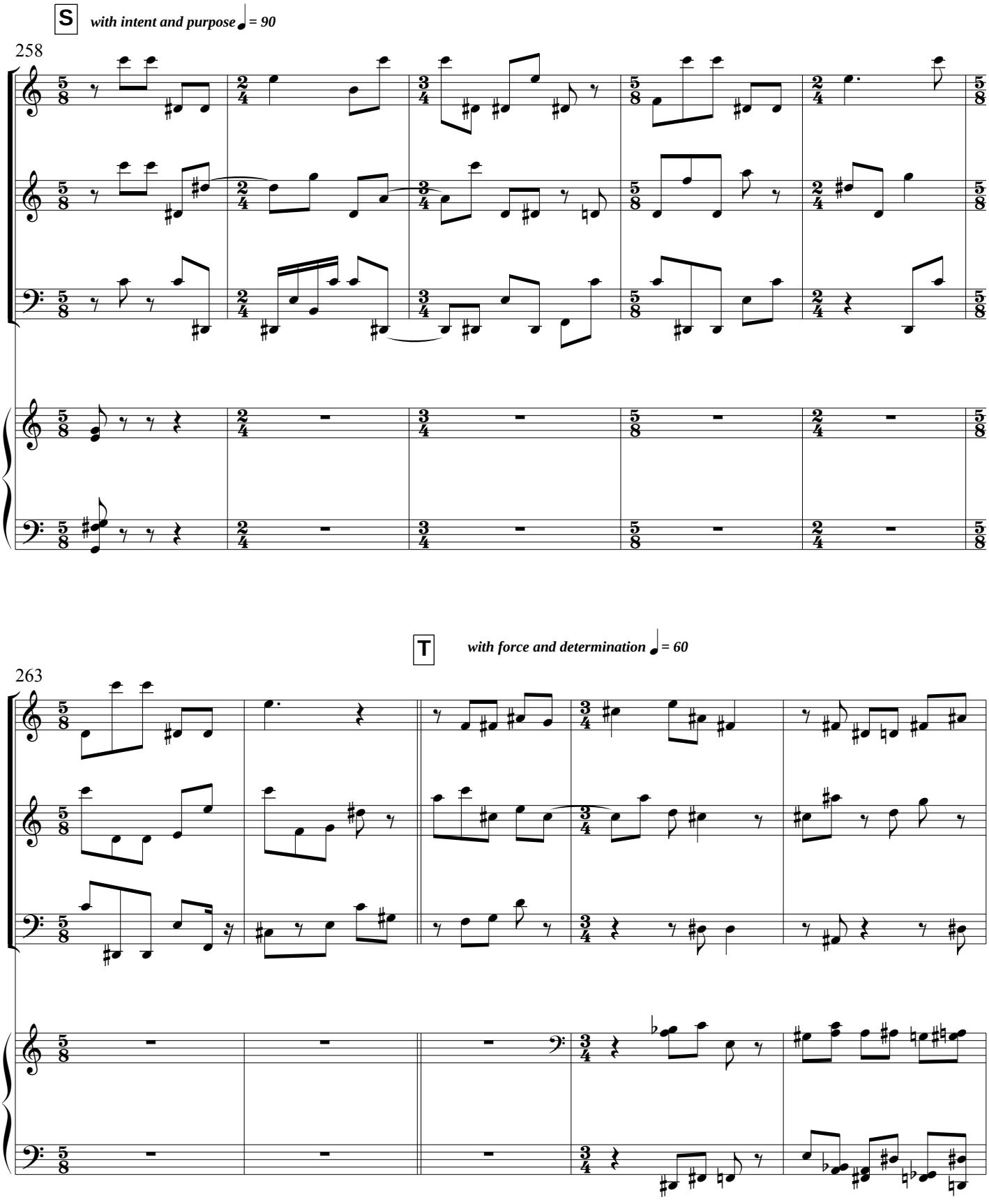
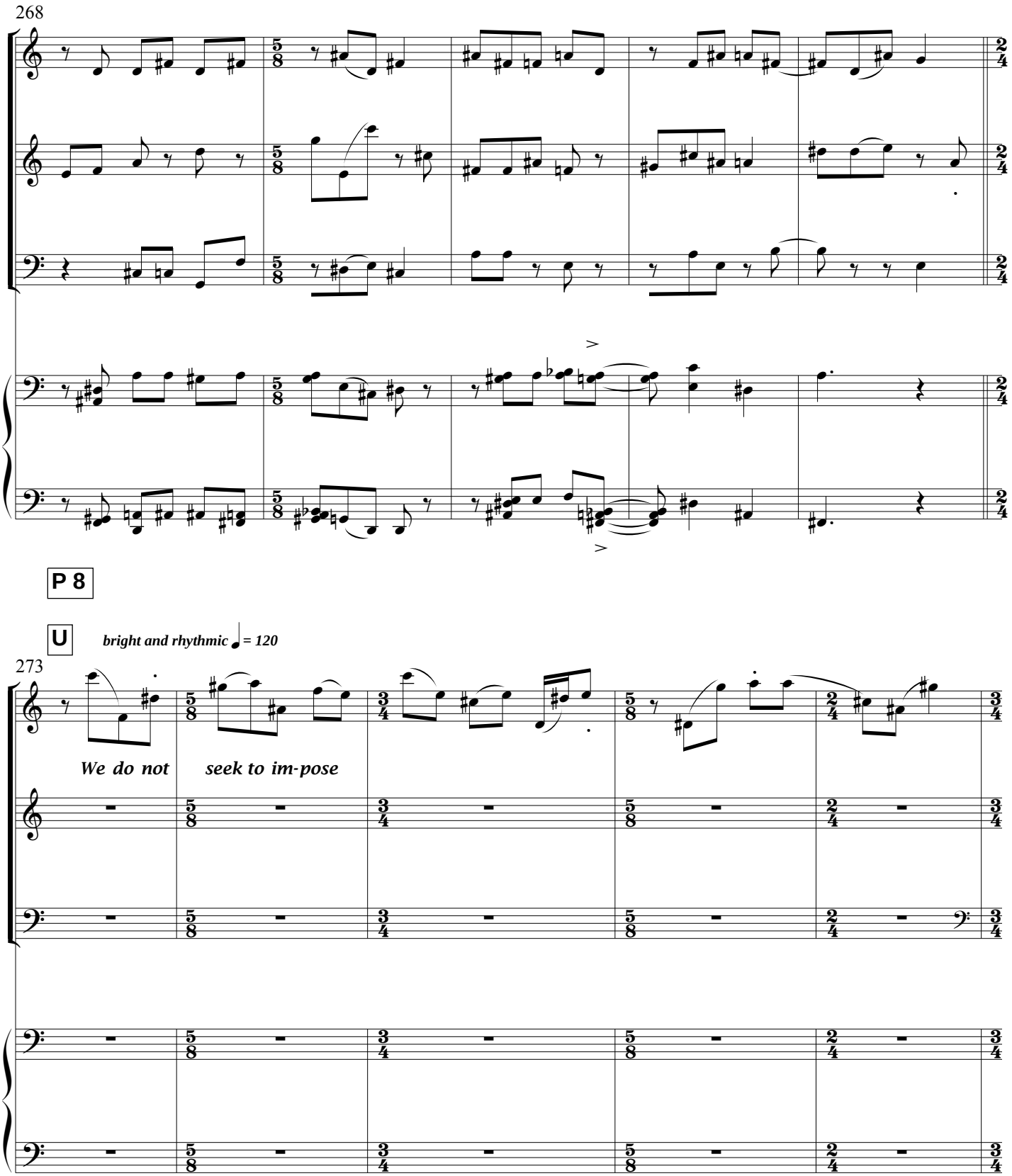
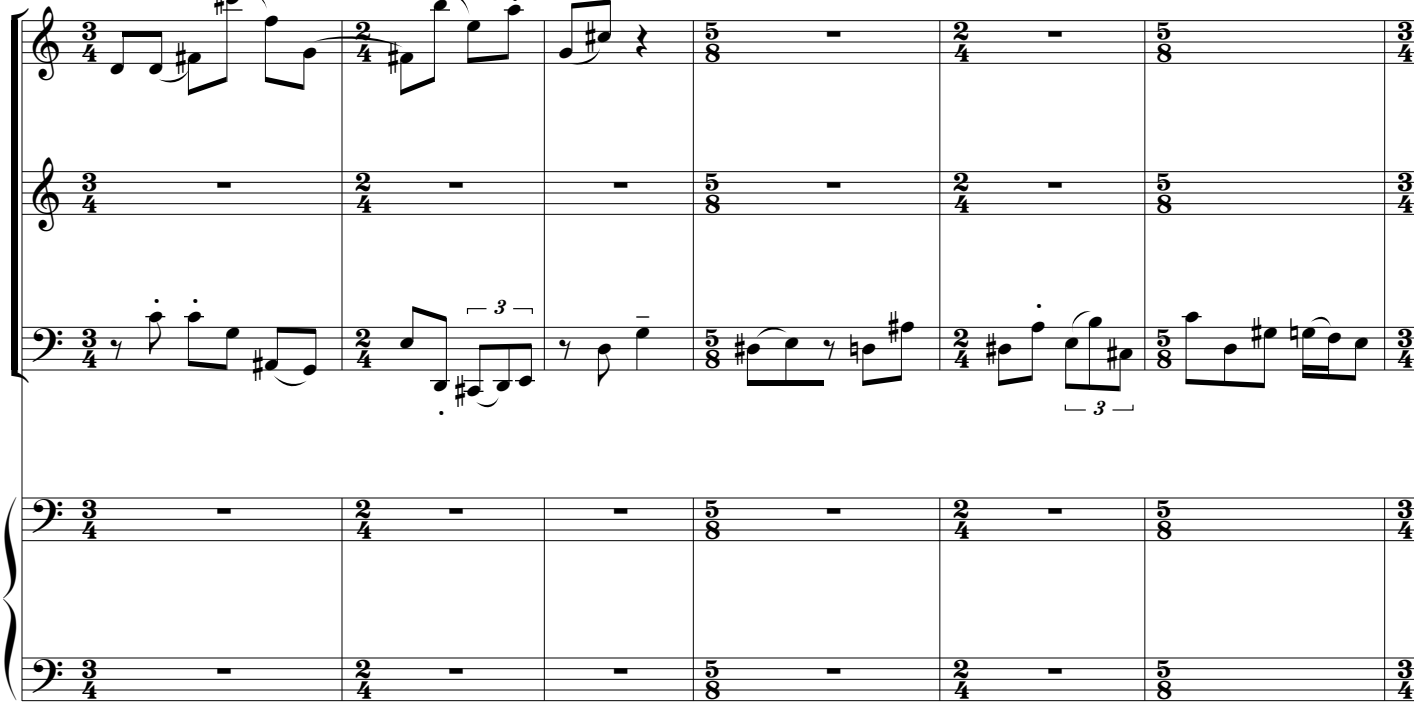



R
gradually slower ♩ = 120
poco a poco ritardando to crochet 60
246
arco
poco a poco ritardando to crochet 60
♩ = 60
252


S
with intent and purpose ♩ = 90
258
T
with force and determination ♩ = 60
263


268
P 8
U
bright and rhythmic ♩ = 120
273
We do not
seek to im-pose

278



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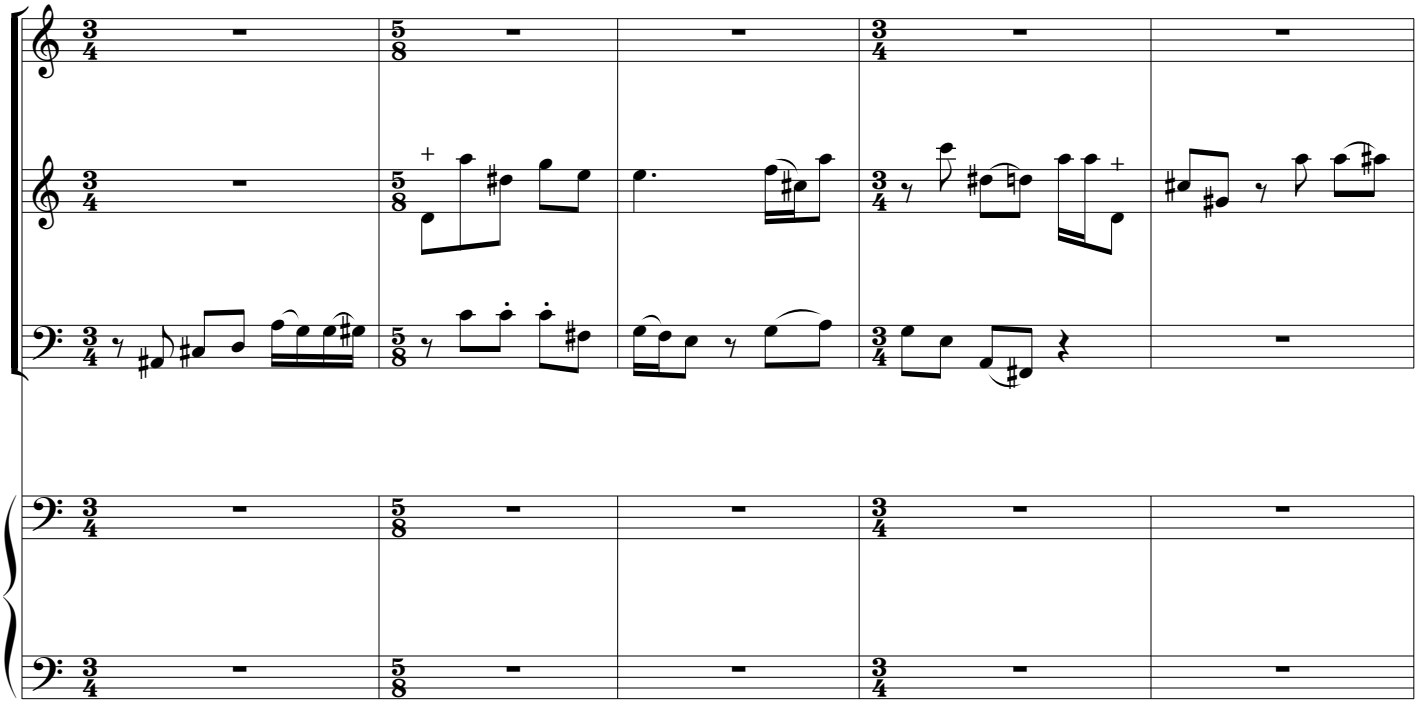

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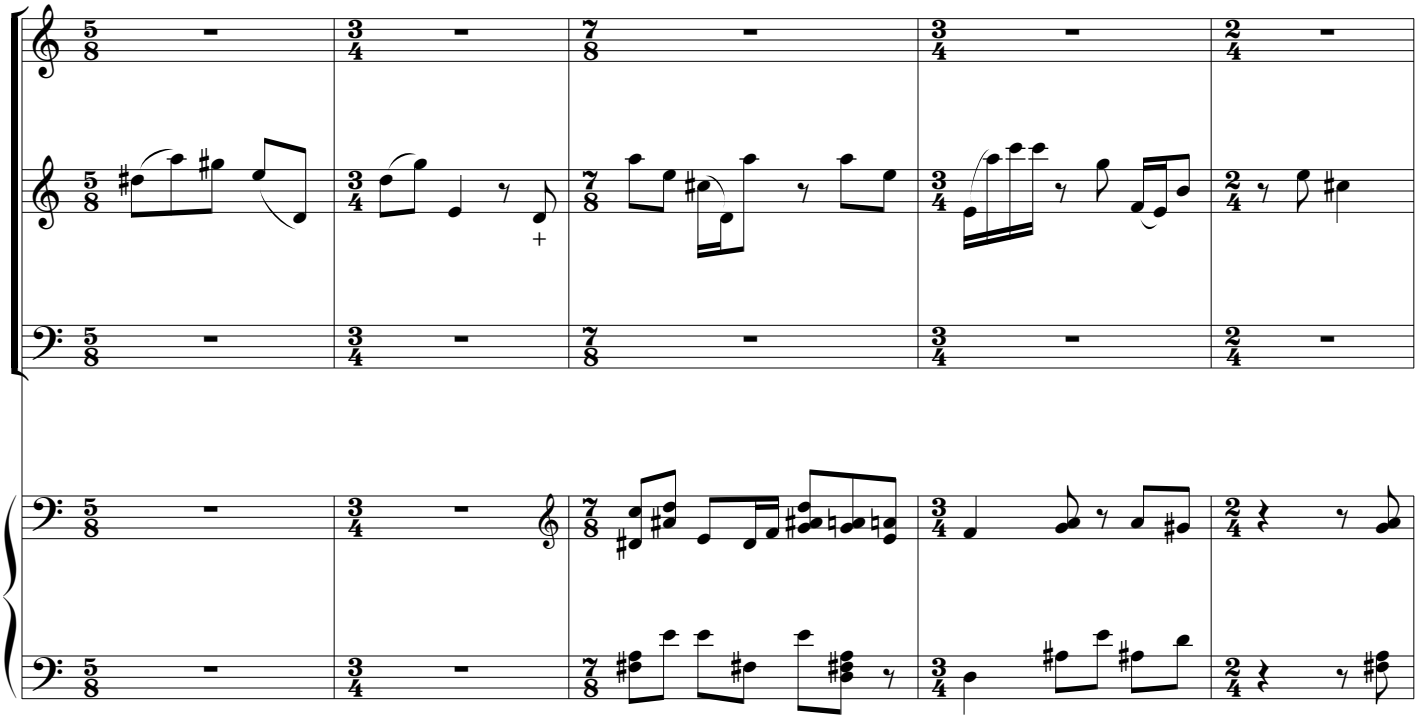
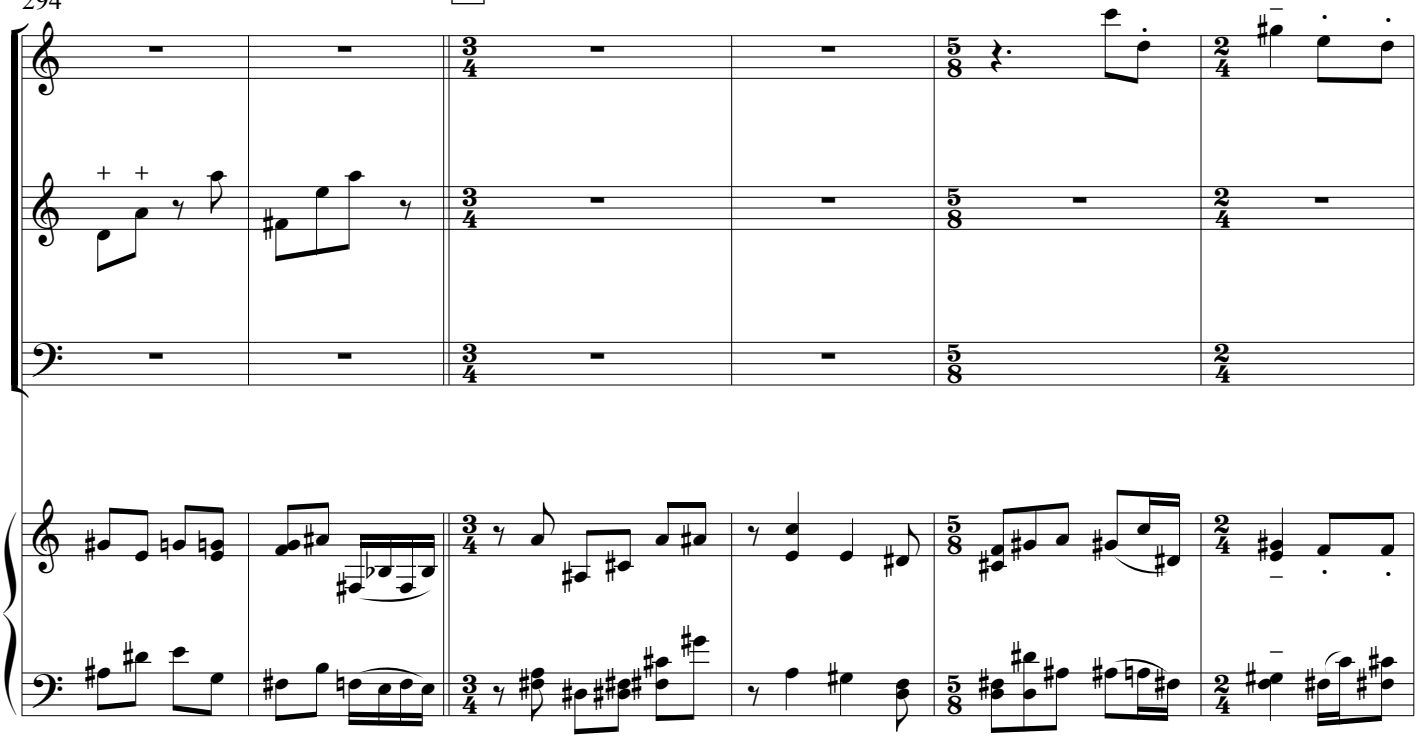
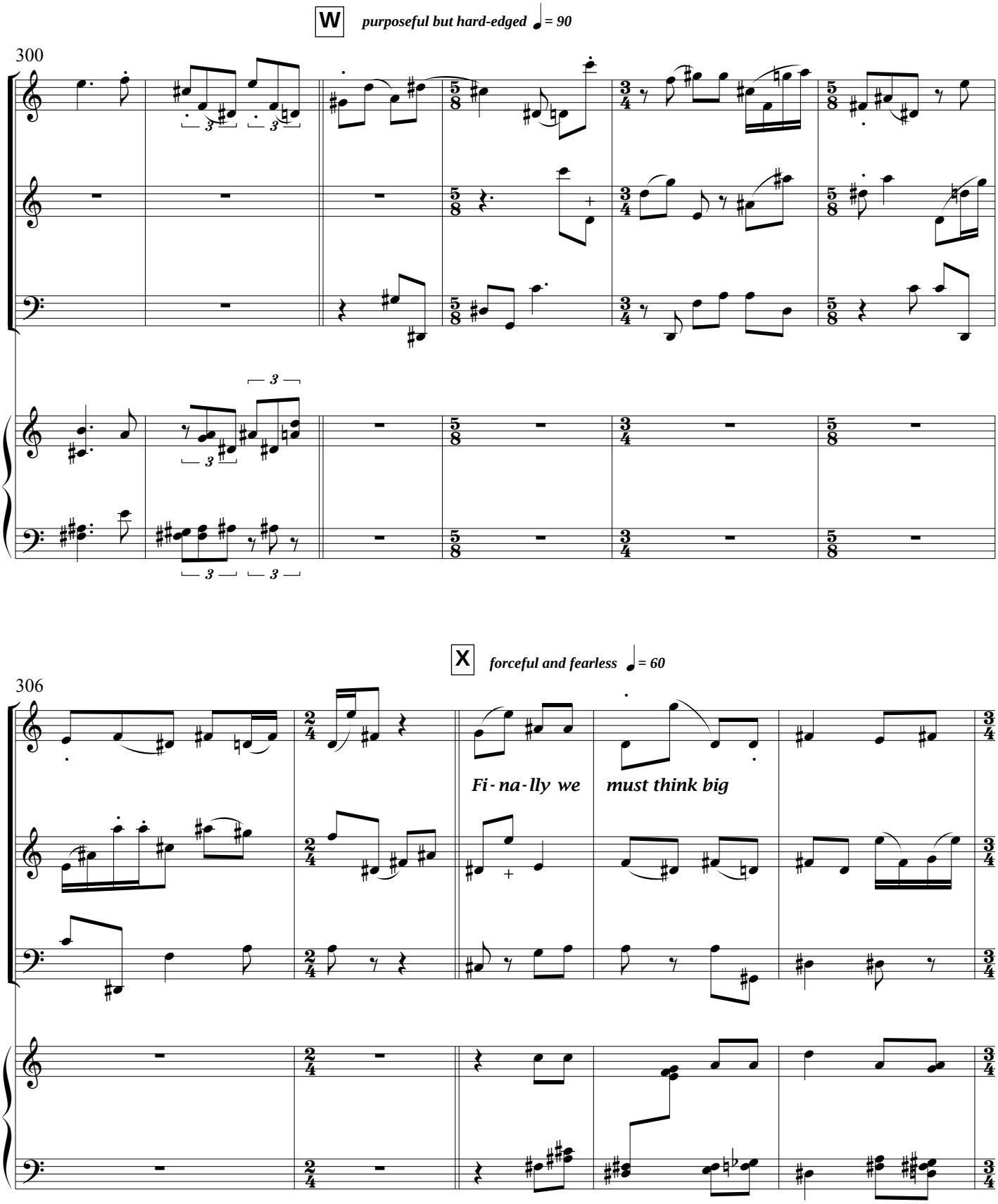


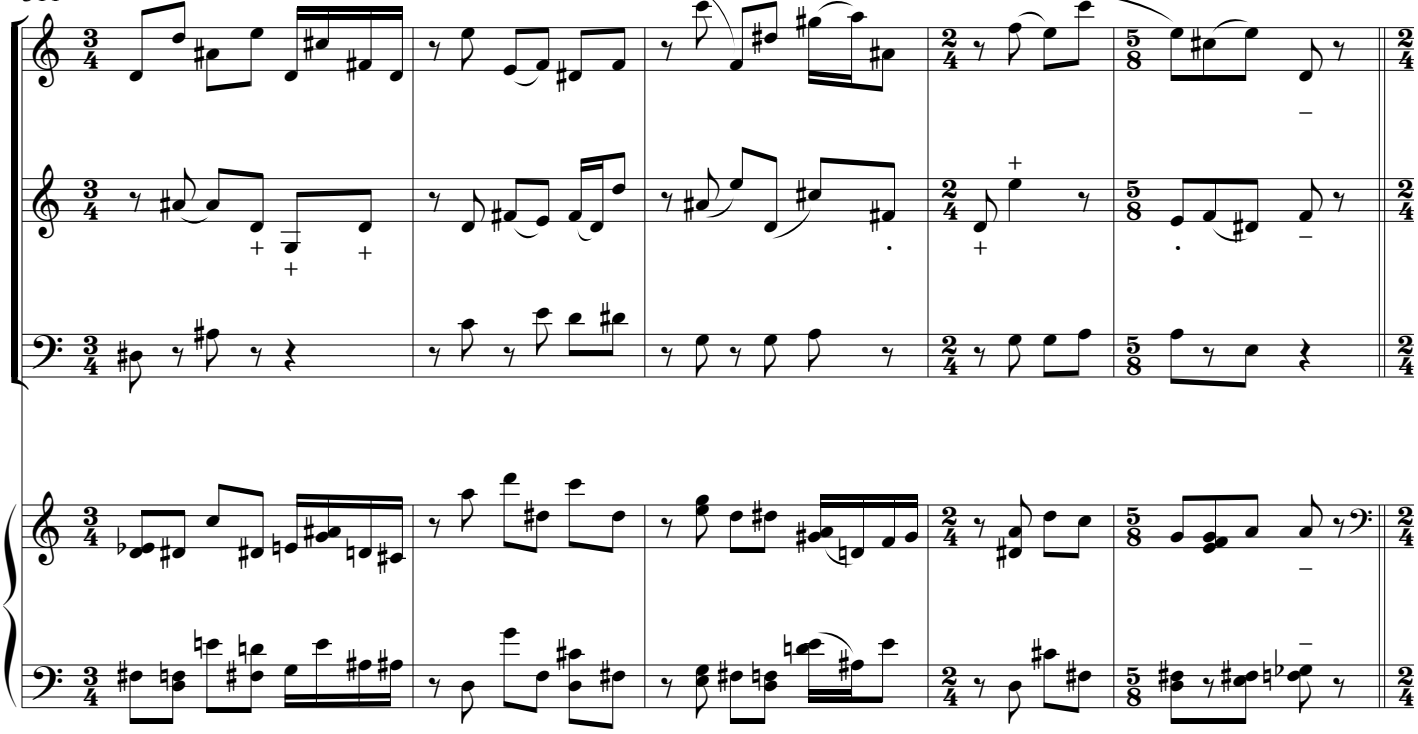
294

V *broad and with intent* ♩ = 60



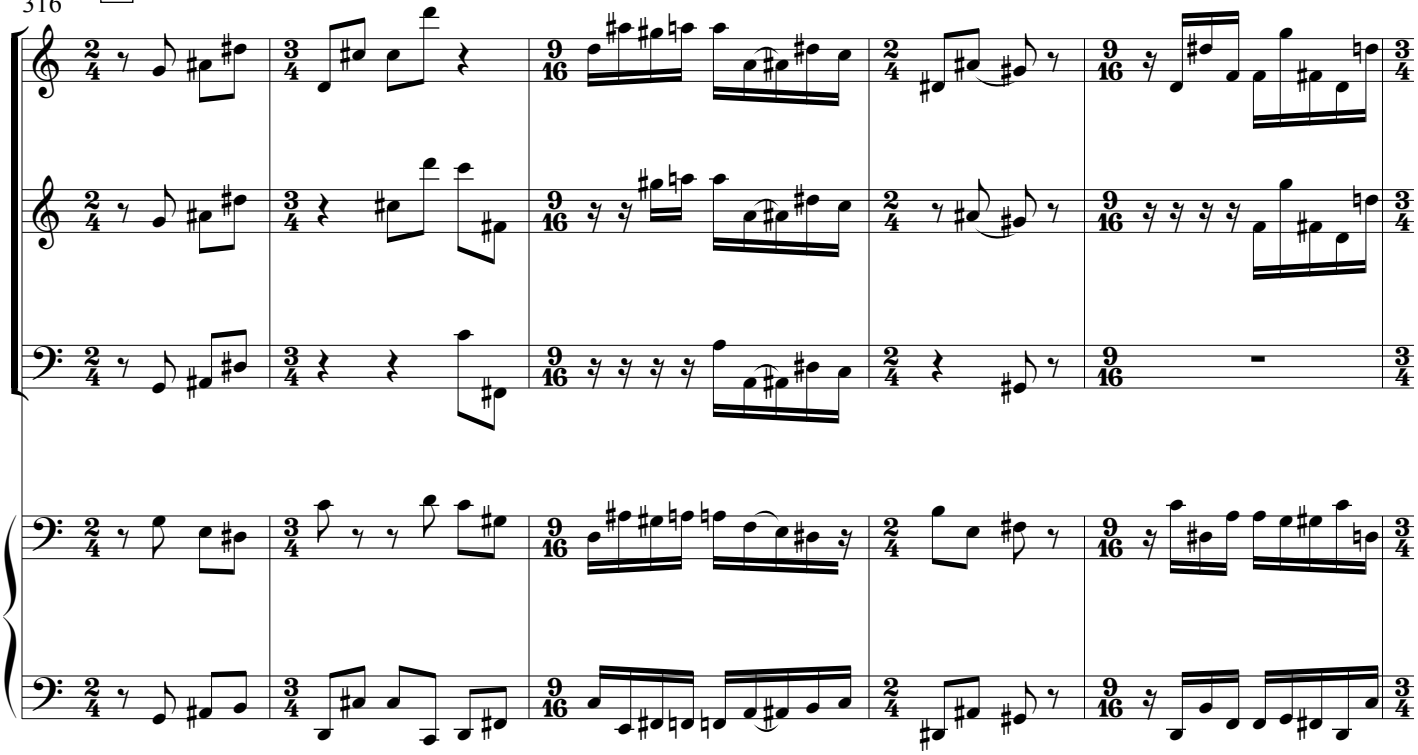

W
purposeful but hard-edged ♩ = 90
300
X
forceful and fearless ♩ = 60
306
Fi - na - lly we
must think big

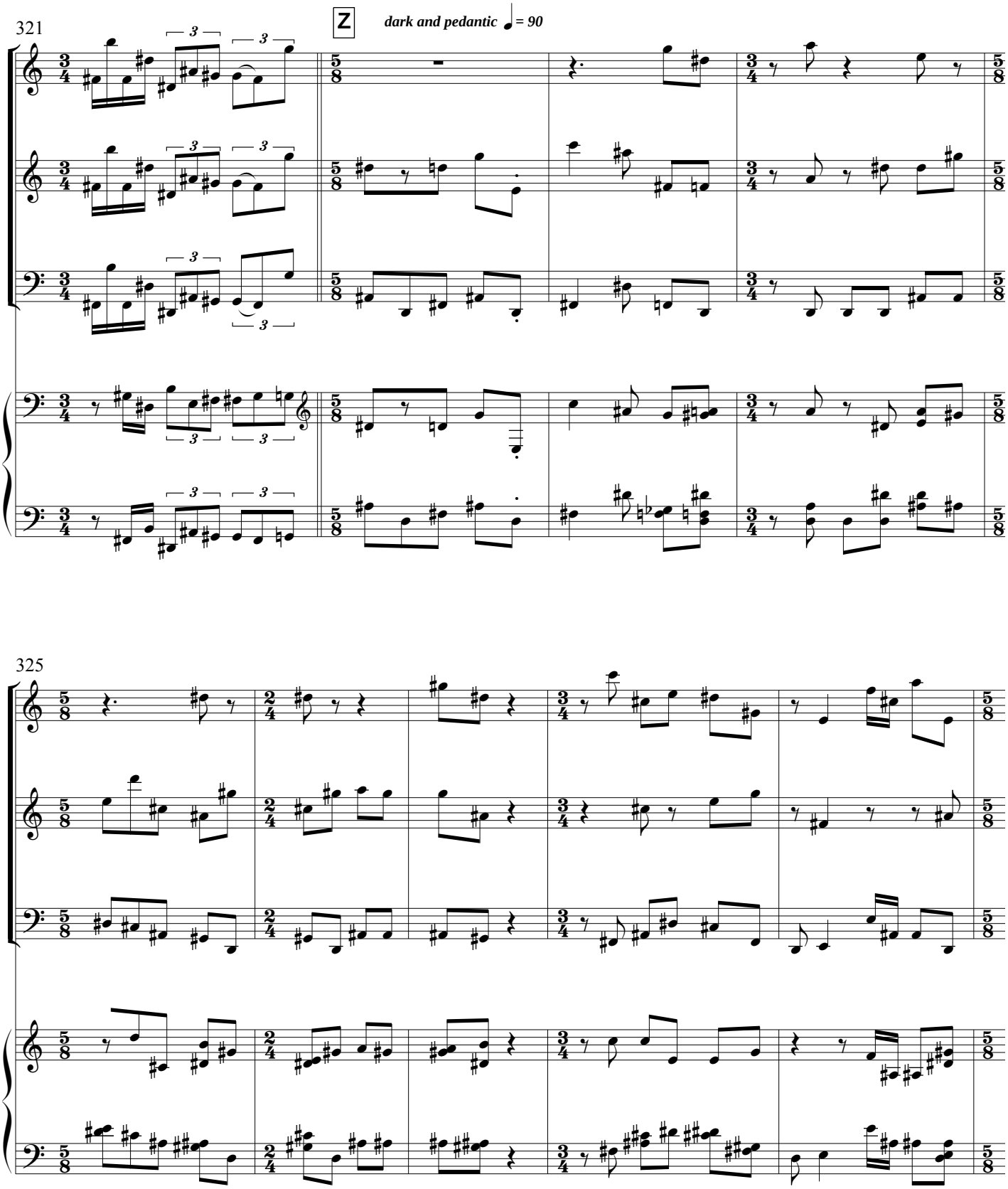
311



316

Y *bold and precise* ♩ = 90

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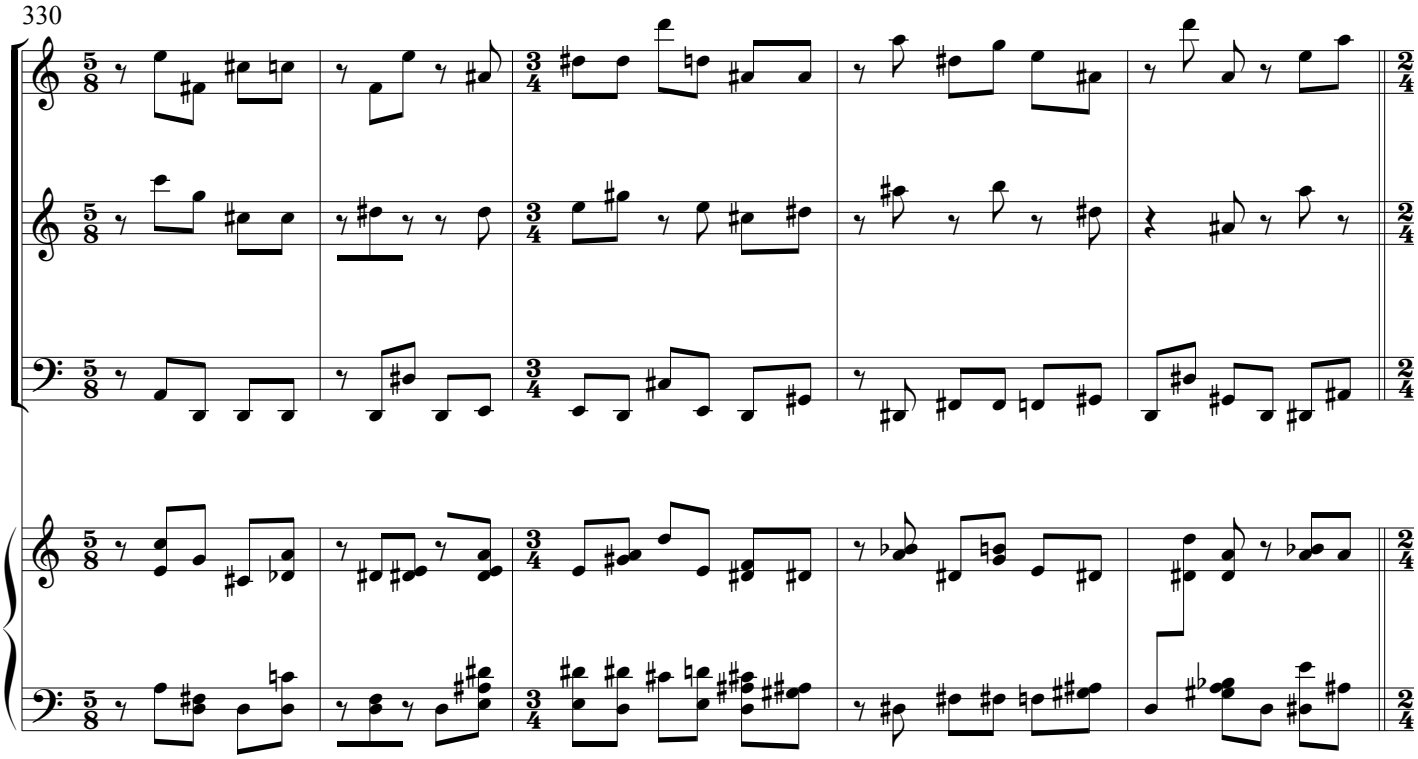
Z
dark and pedantic ♩ = 90
325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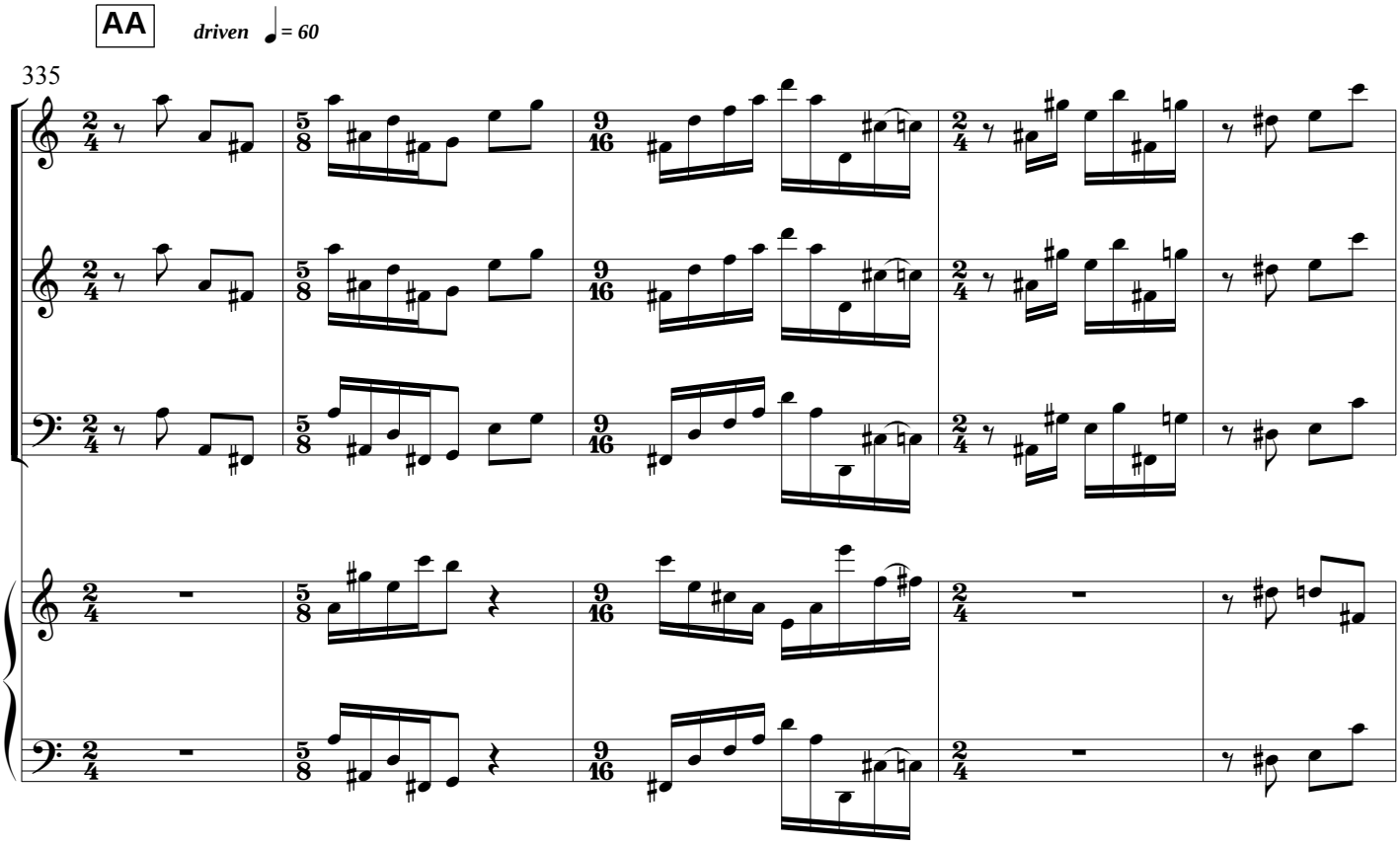
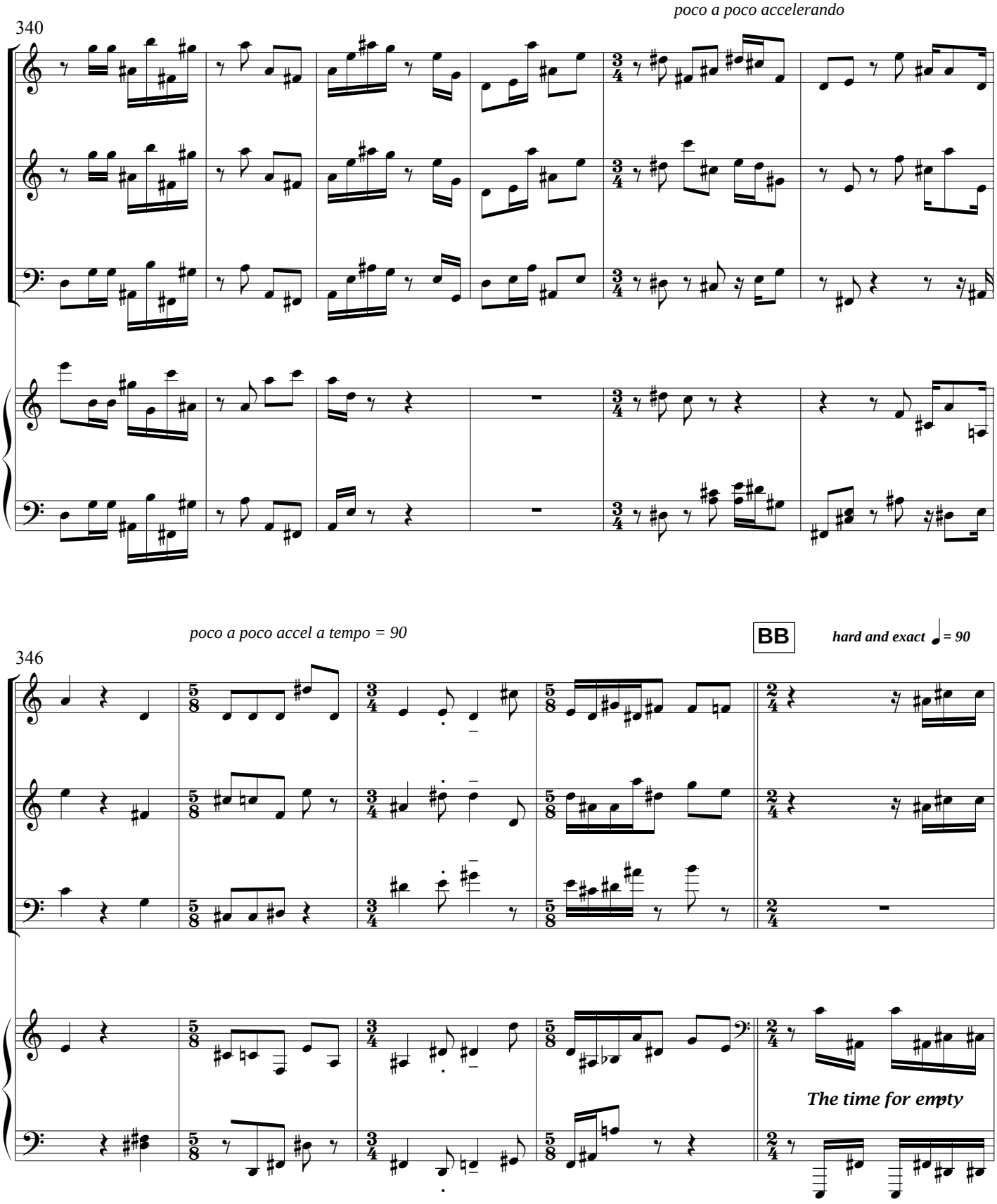
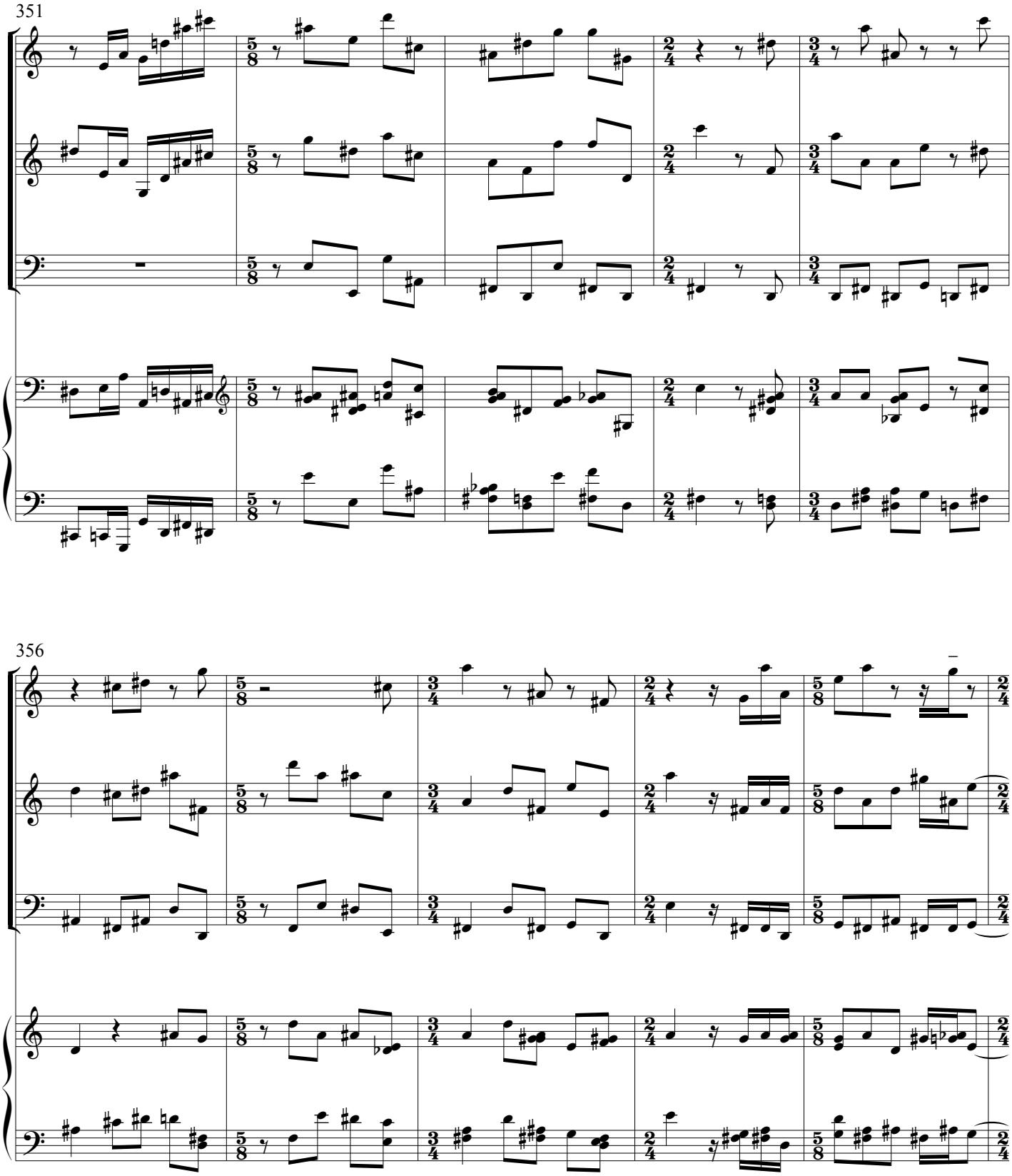
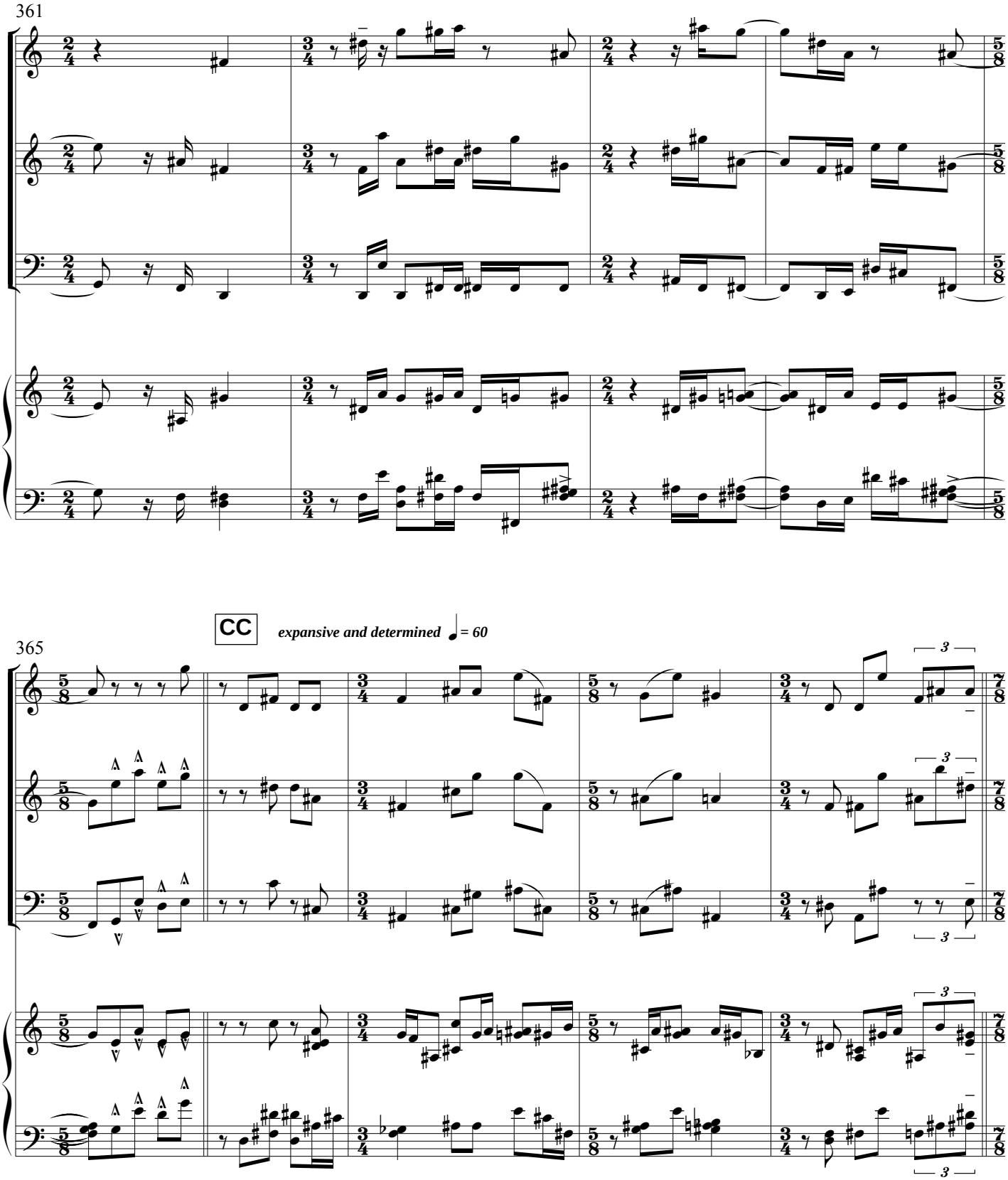

AA
driven ♩ = 60
335


340
poco a poco accelerando
346
poco a poco accel a tempo = 90
BB
hard and exact ♩ = 90
The time for empty

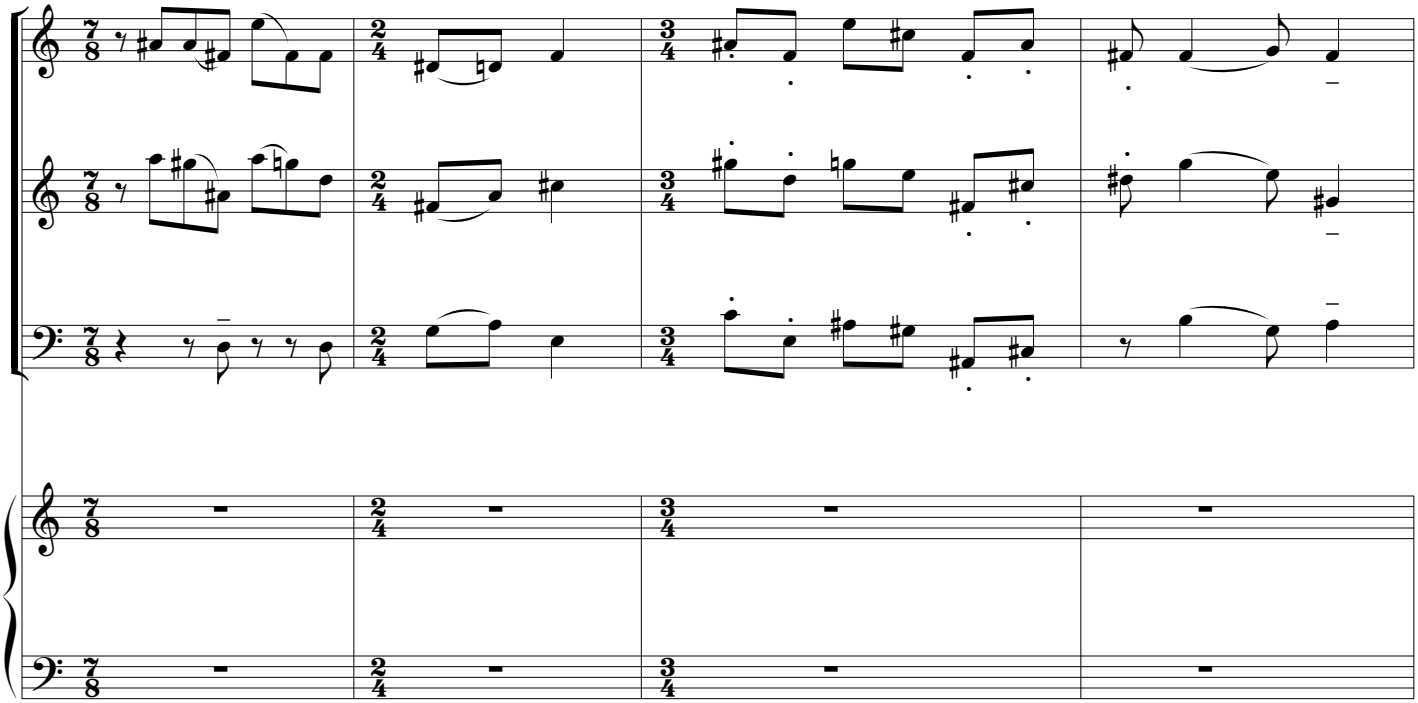

351
356


361
CC
expansive and determined ♩ = 60
365

DD

purposeful but reflective ♩ = 90

370



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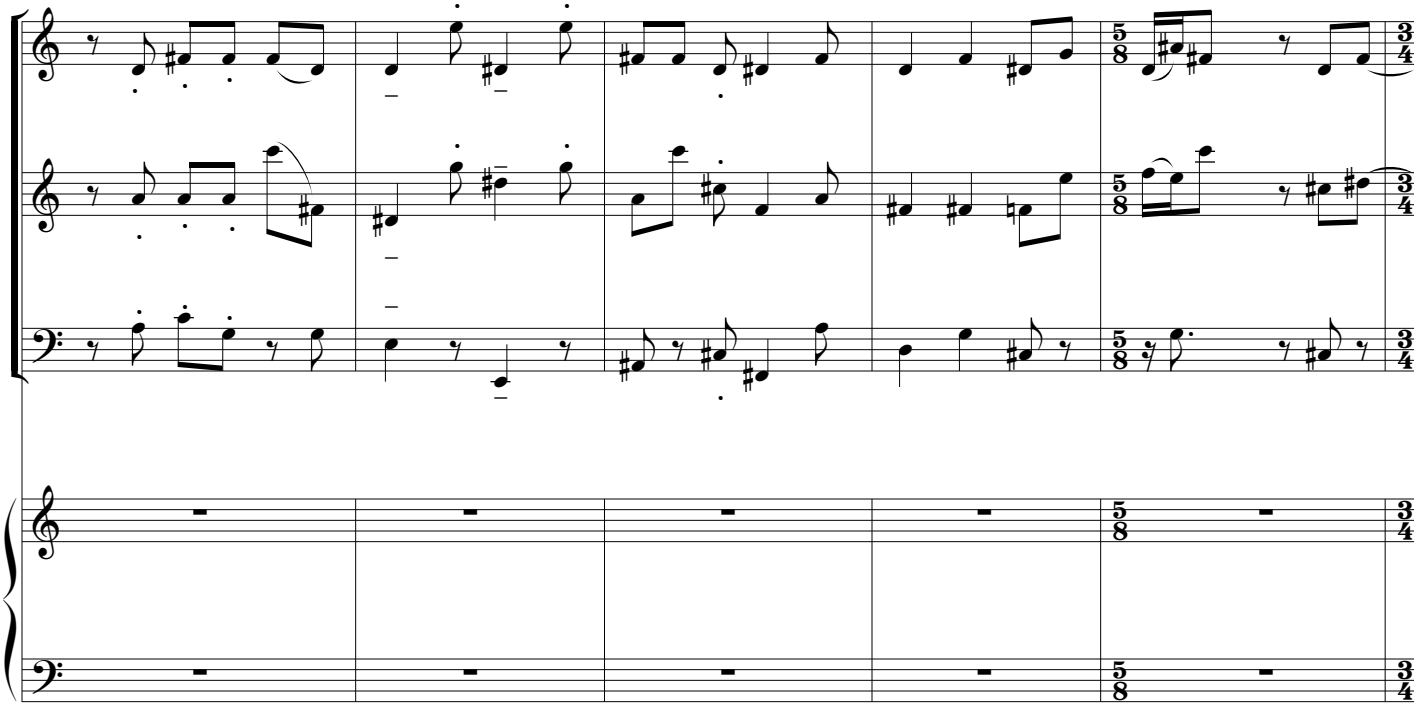
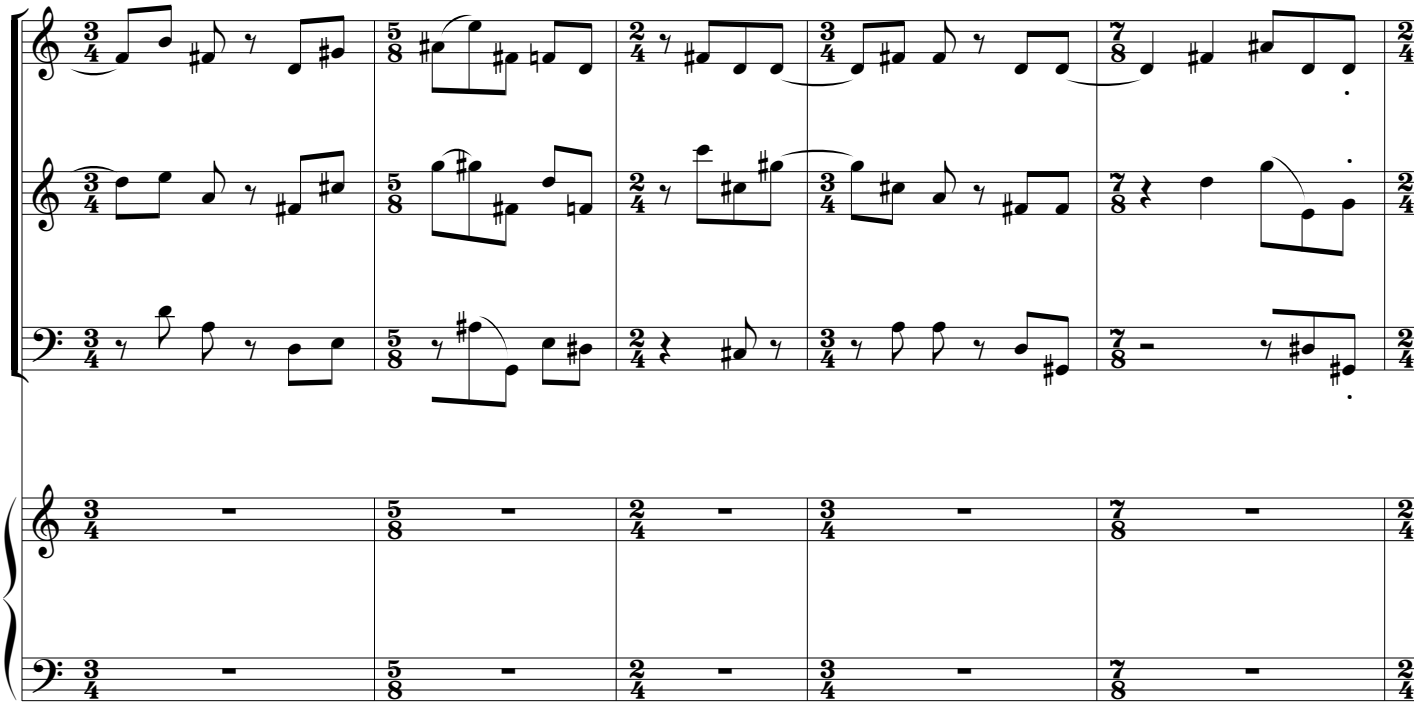


379



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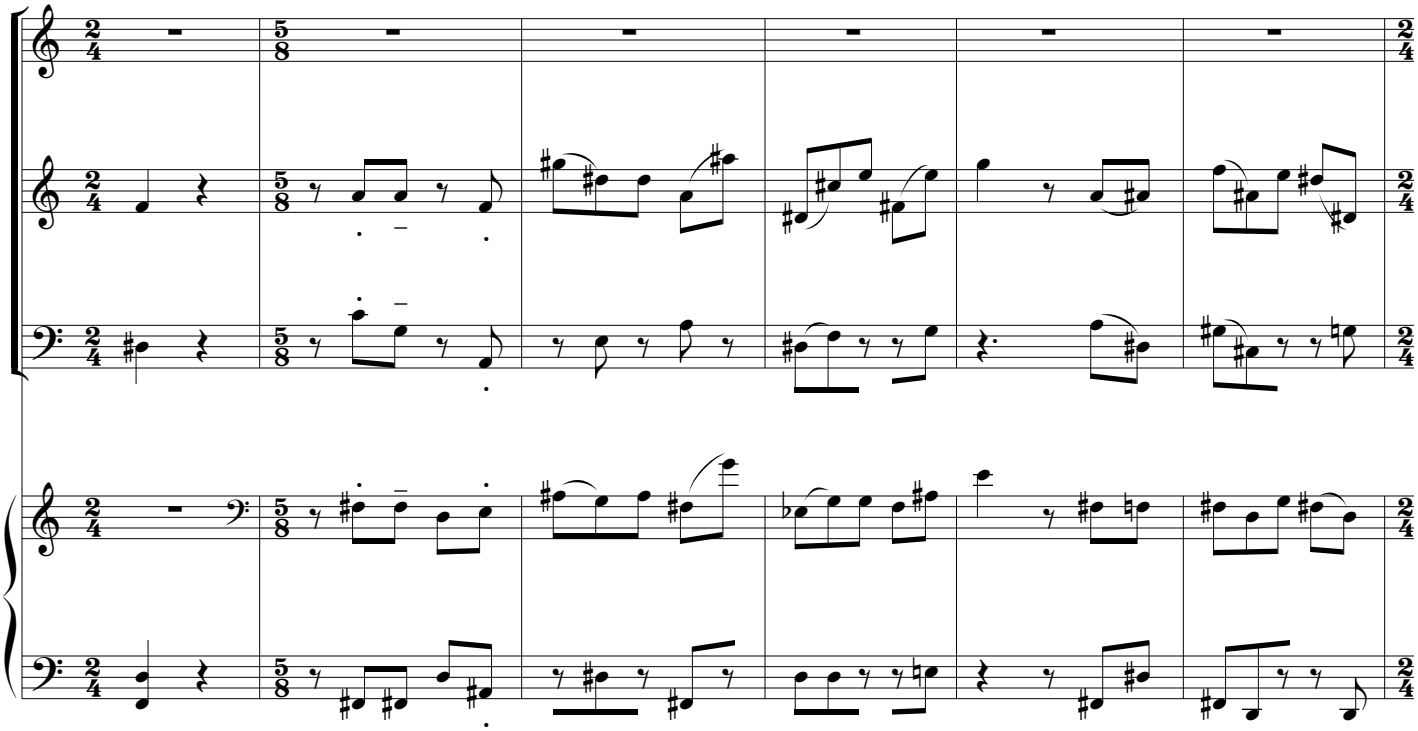
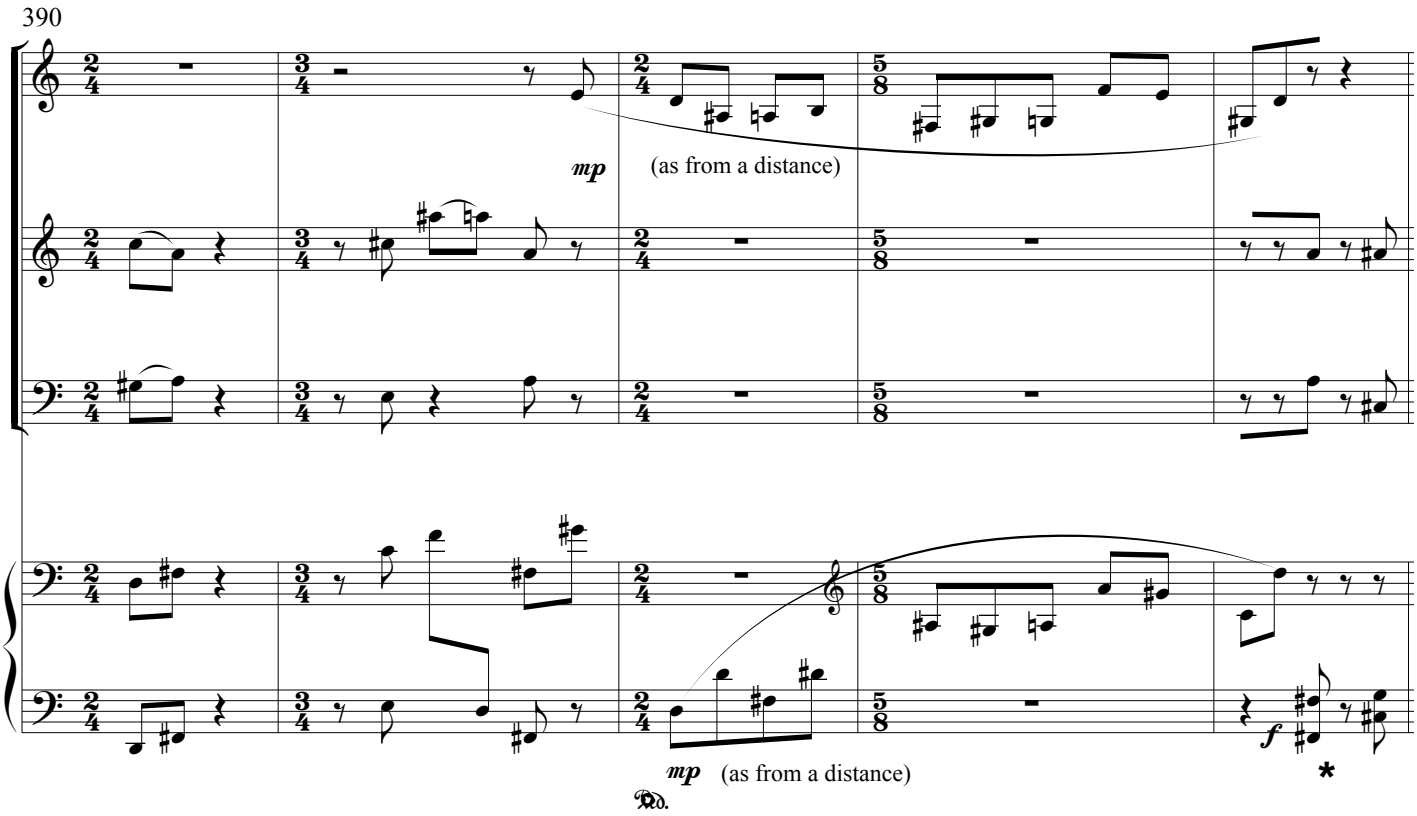
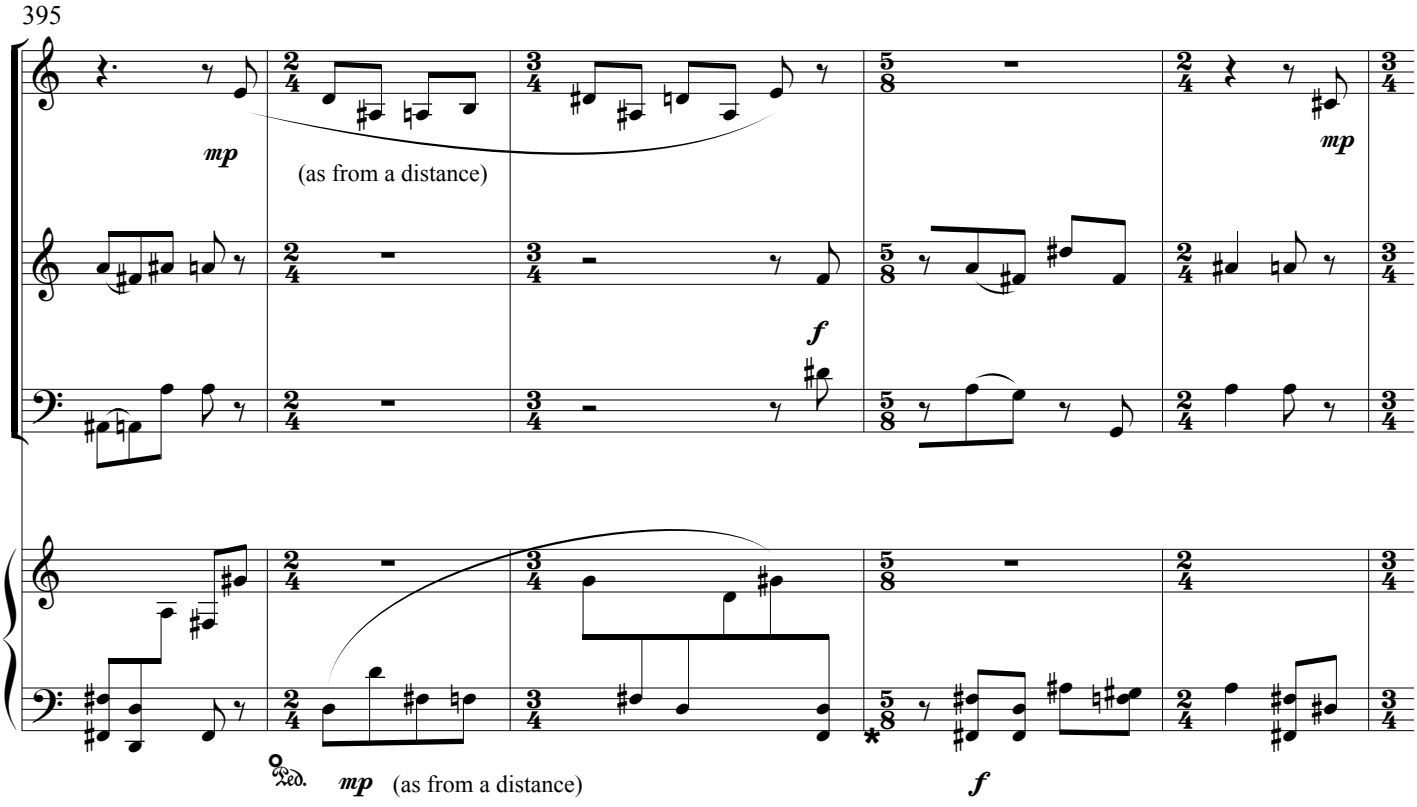
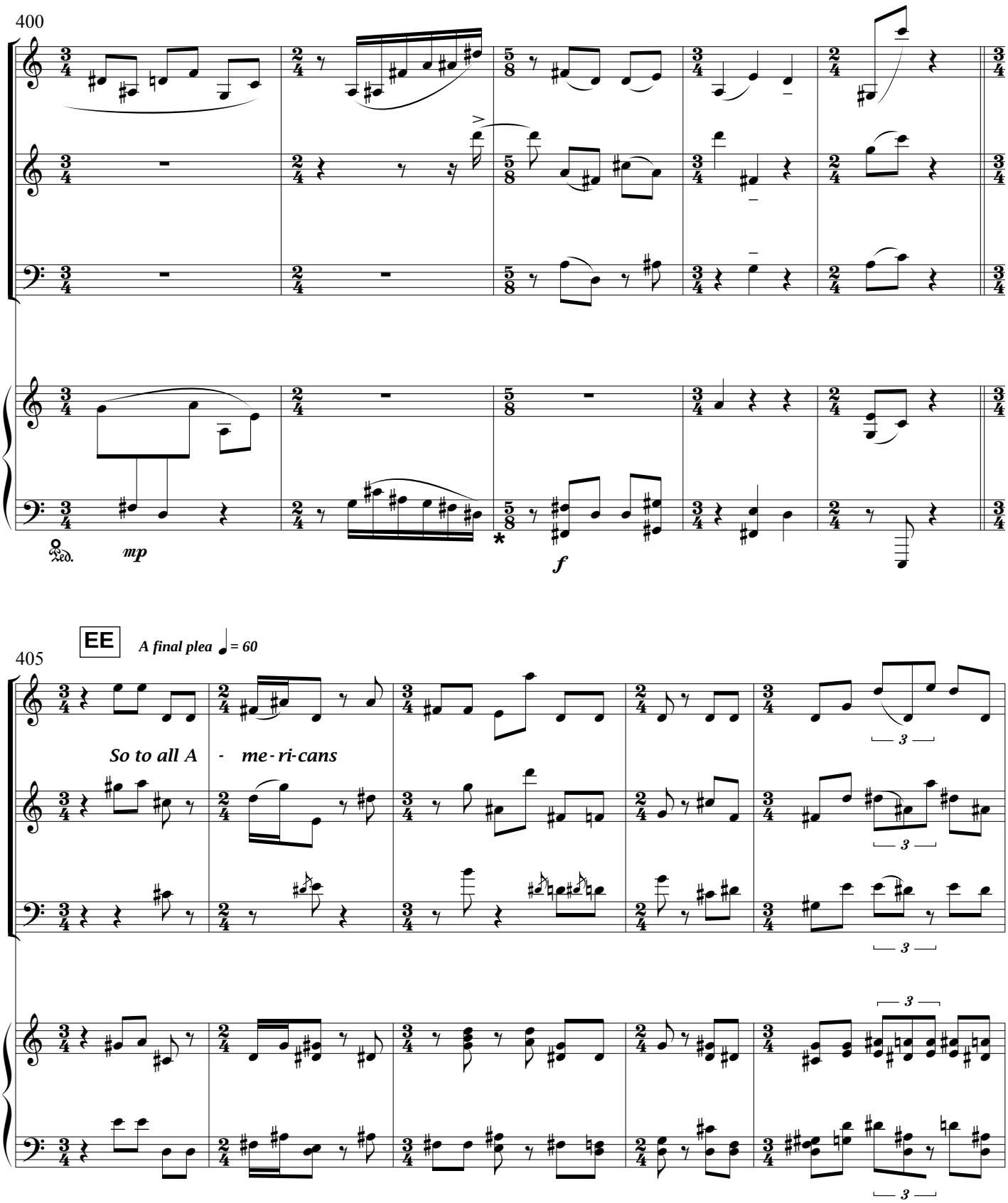



390
mp
(as from a distance)
mp
(as from a distance)
Ped.
f
*

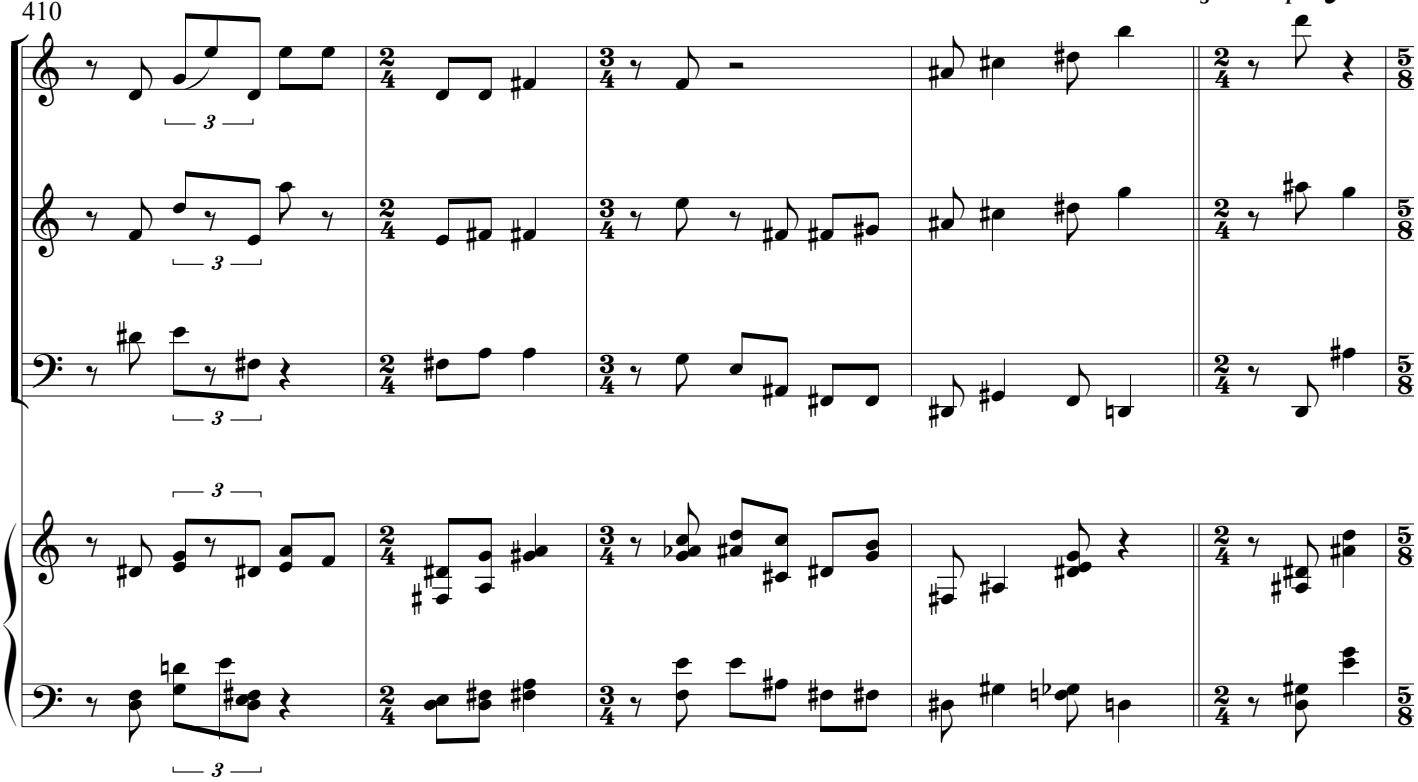

395
mp
(as from a distance)
f
mp
Ped.
mp
(as from a distance)
*
f


400
mp
f
EE
A final plea ♩ = 60
405
So to all A - me - ri - cans

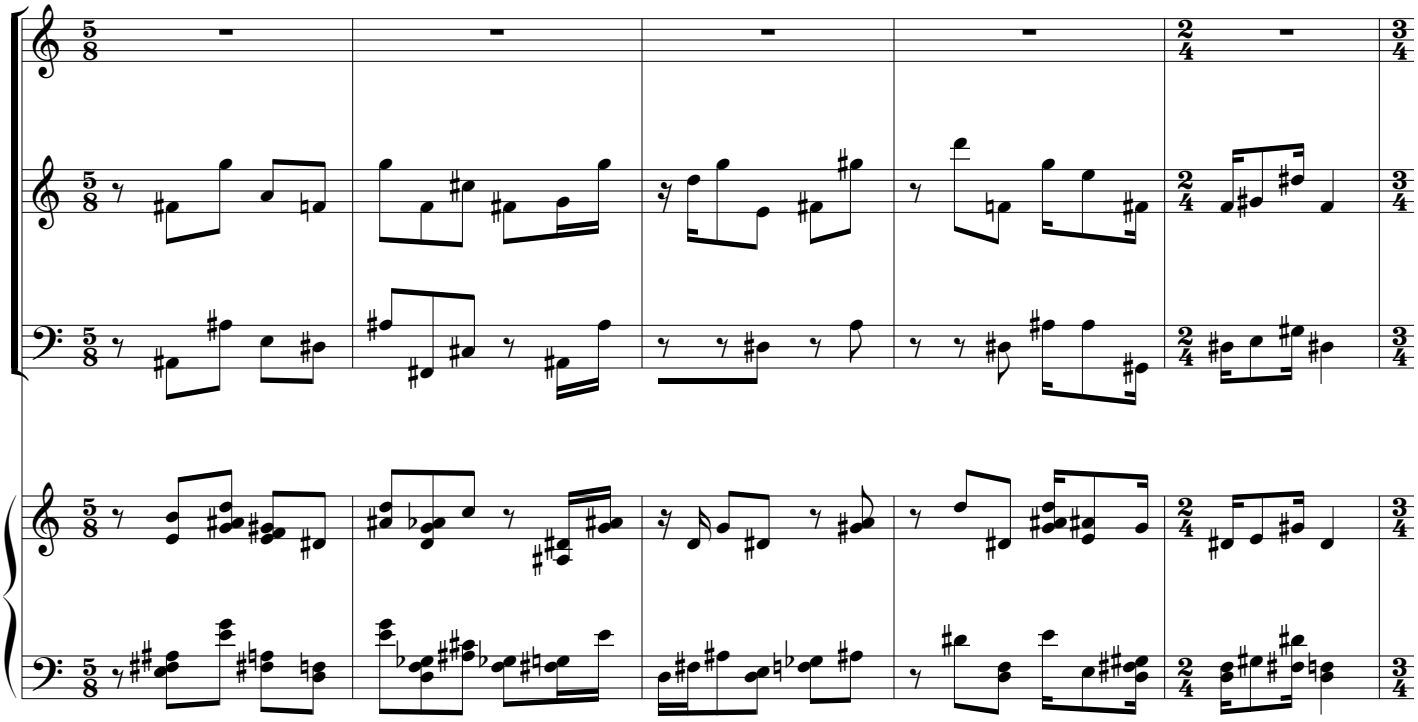
FF

with courage and hope? ♩ = 90

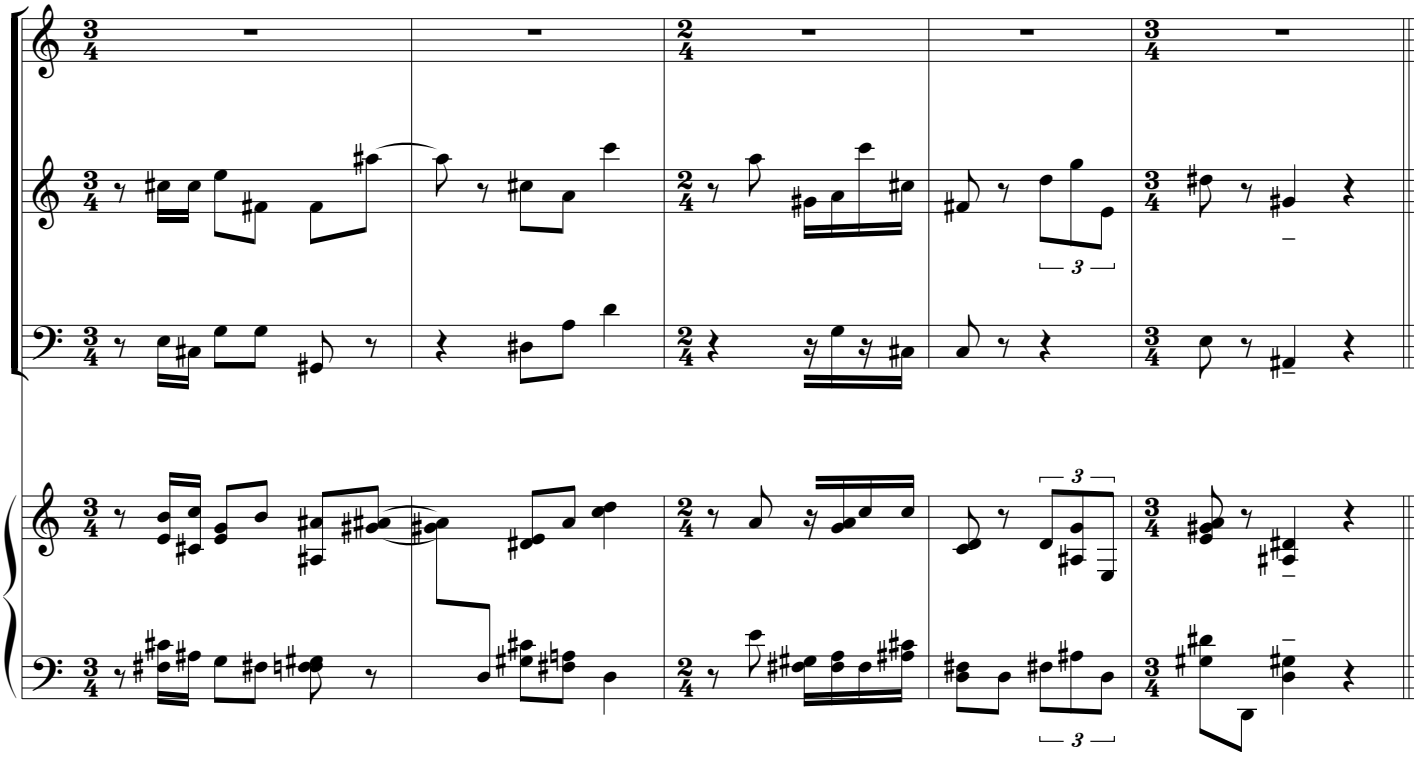
410



415

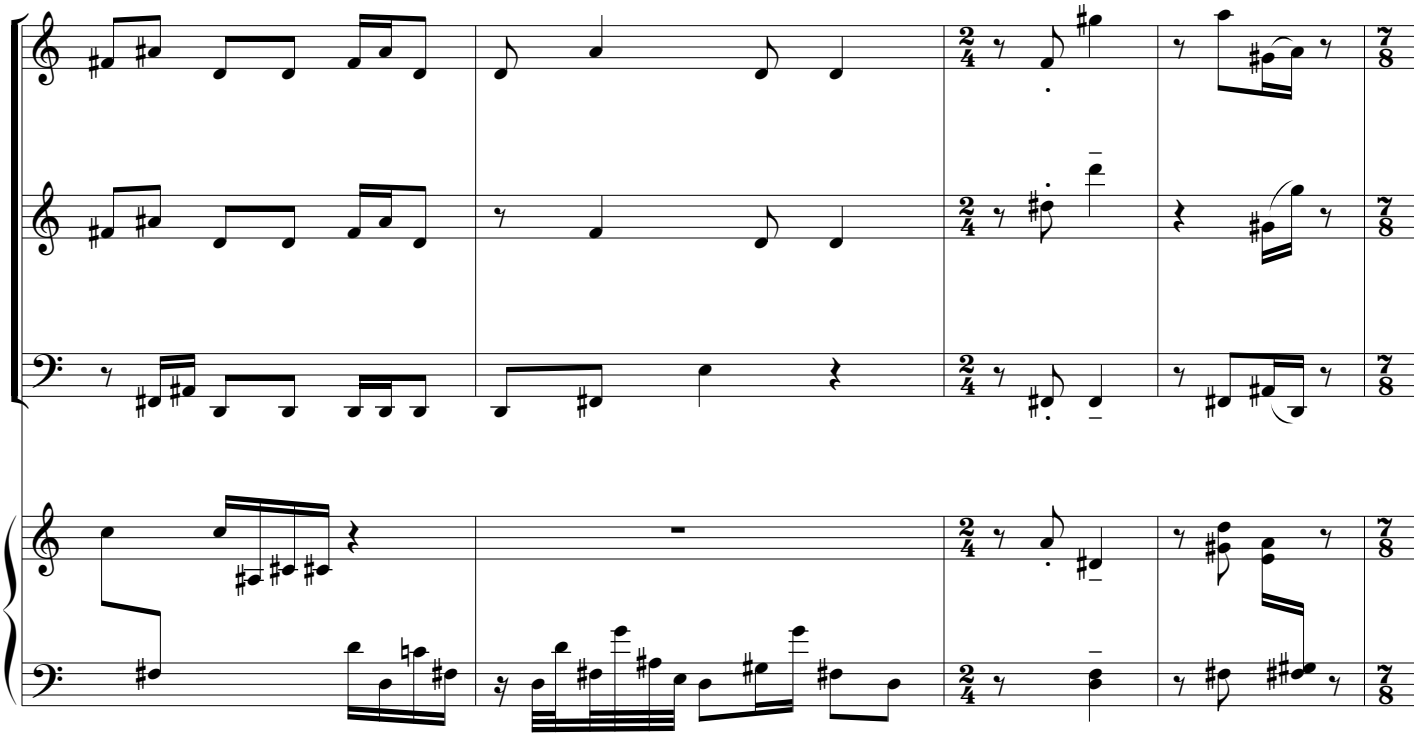


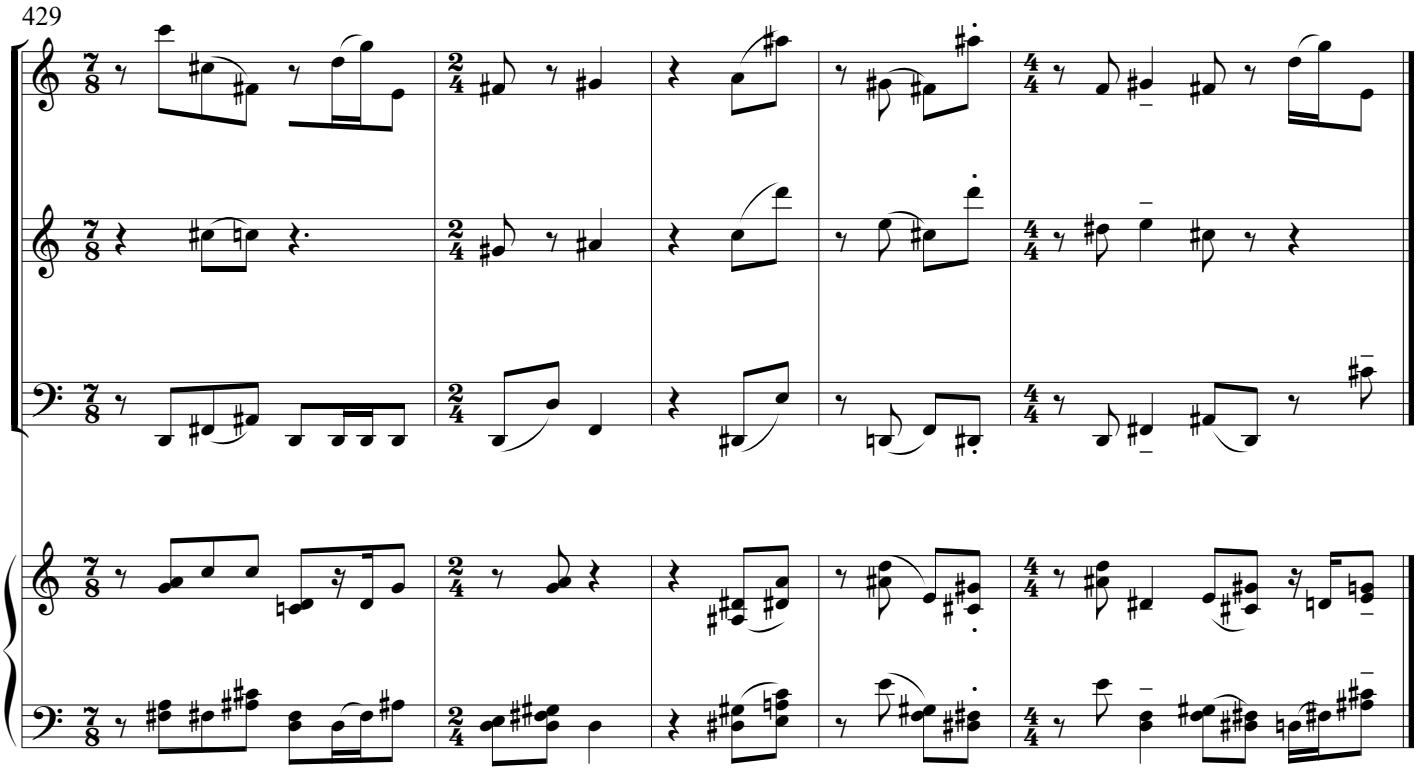
420



GG *declamatory* ♩ = 60

425





January 20 - February 7 2017