Mo Suo's Burial Ceremony

For Woodwind Quintet

Xinyan Li

2006

Mo Suo’s Burial Ceremony

Woodwind quintet *Mo Suo's Burial Ceremony* was composed in 2006, commissioned by Aspen Music Festival's composition program. Inspired by the unique funeral customs in Mo Suo, a Chinese southwest minority, this wood quintet depicts Lama's reciting scriptures to release souls from purgatory, Daba monks' dancing to expel ghosts, as well as Lama's cremating corpse which are tied up like a fetus into a wooden cage for reincarnation. I tried to create various colors and dramatic tension and express the touching emotions. In this work, winds are considered human beings' voices that contain joy, sadness, anger, and fear etc. They cry, they laugh, they talk and they dance. In addition, this work is based on three pitches---B, C, and F, initials of Burial, Ceremony and Funeral. The first and last note both use C, which symbolize a life cycle.

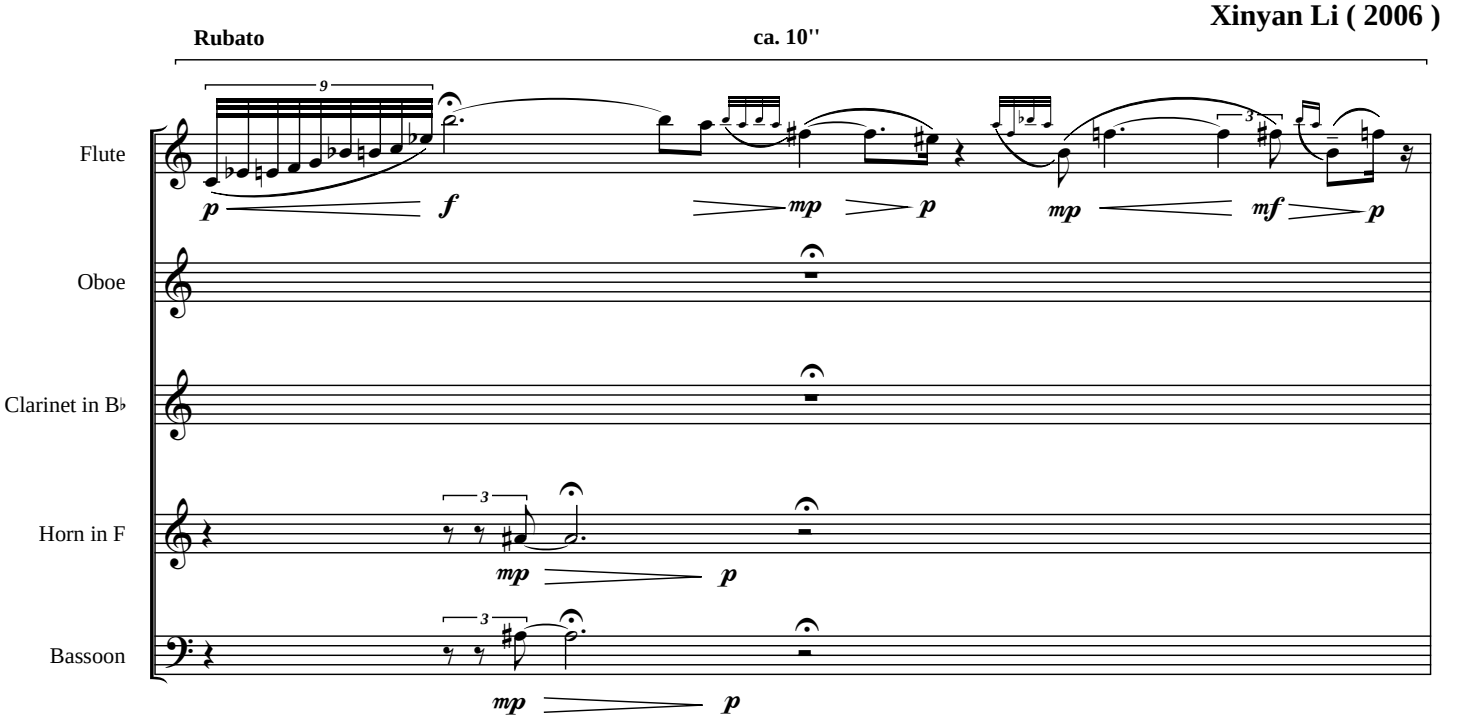
INSTRUMENTATION:

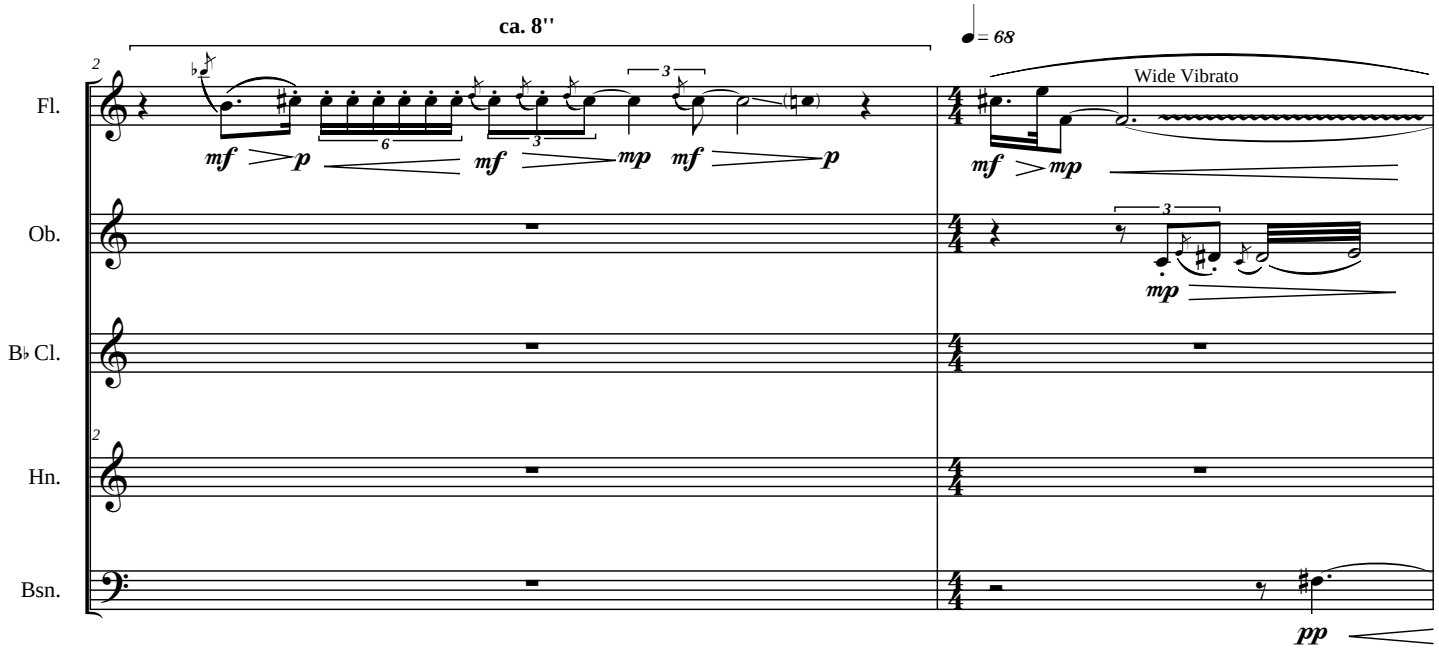
Flute
Oboe
Clarinet in Bb
Horn in F
Bassoon

Mo Suo's Burial Ceremony

Transposed Score

Xinyan Li (2006)





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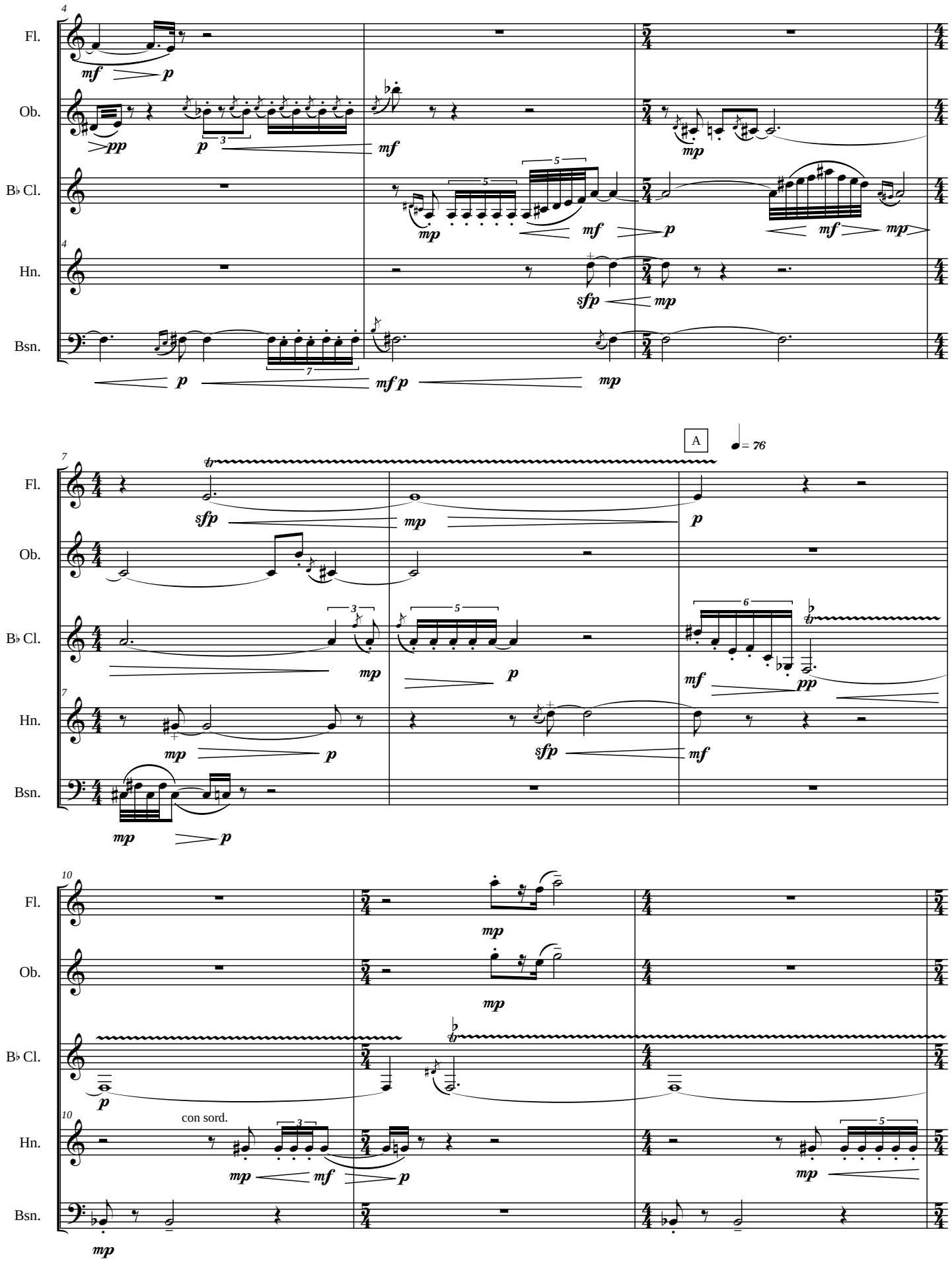
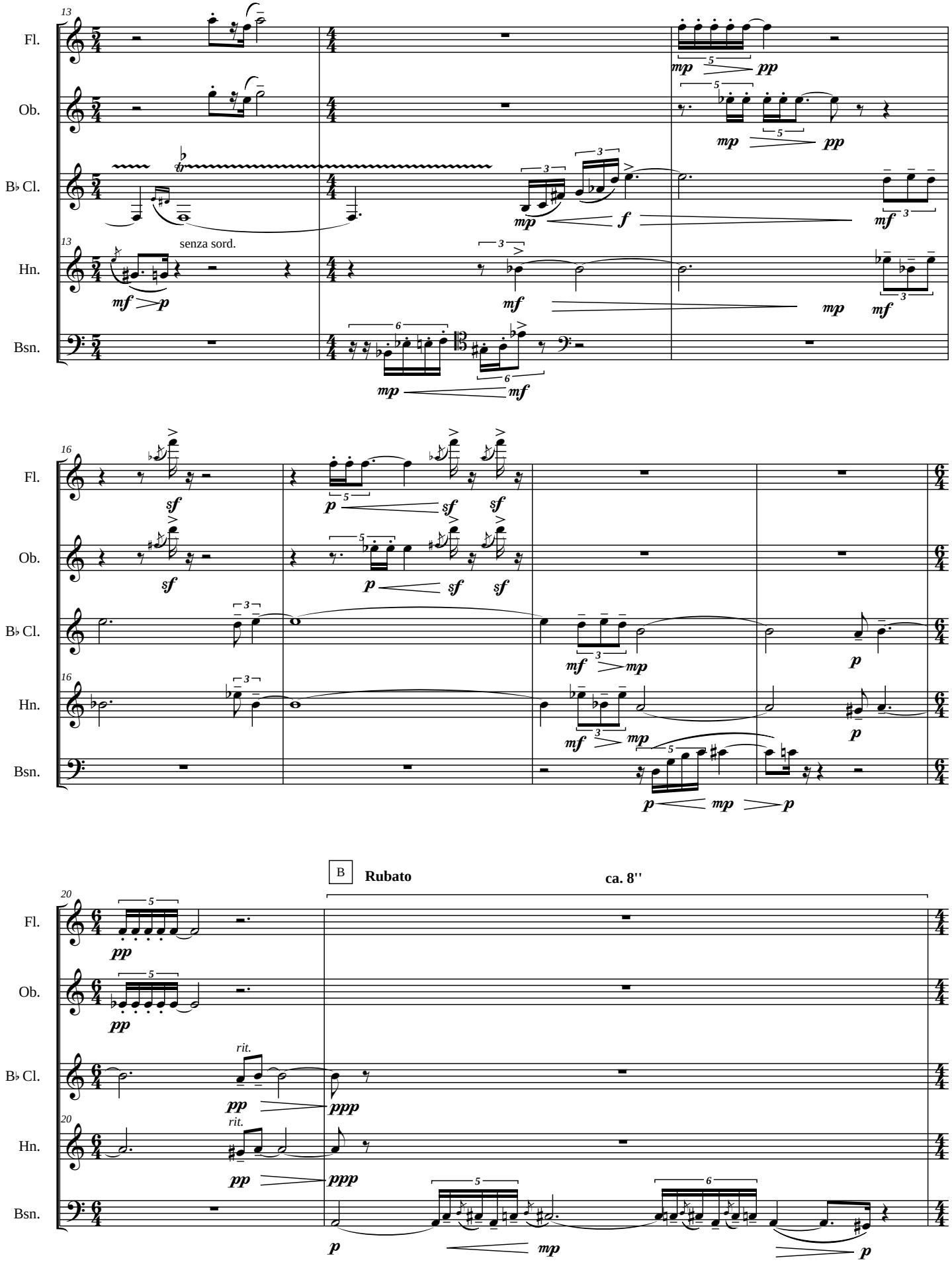
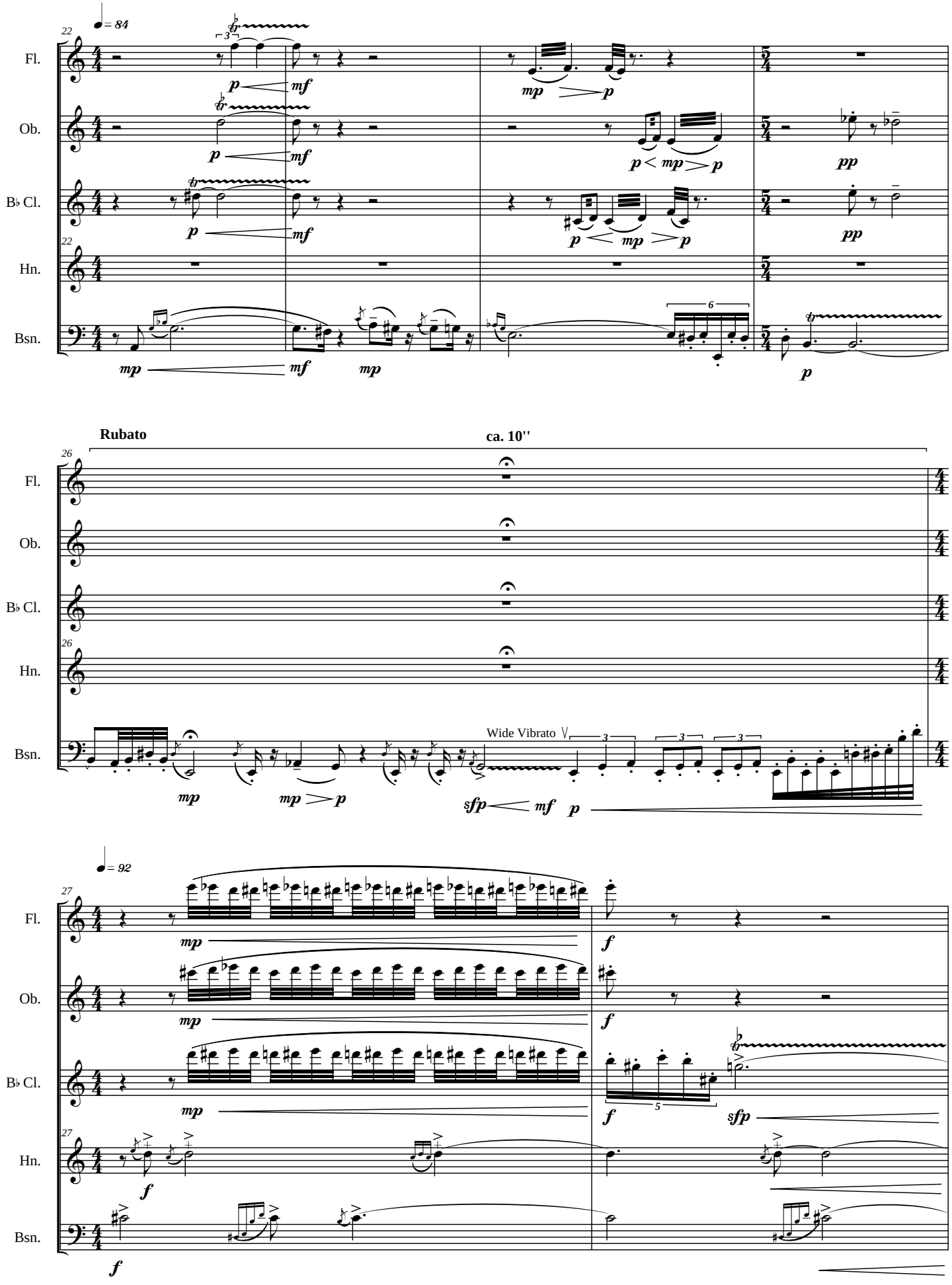
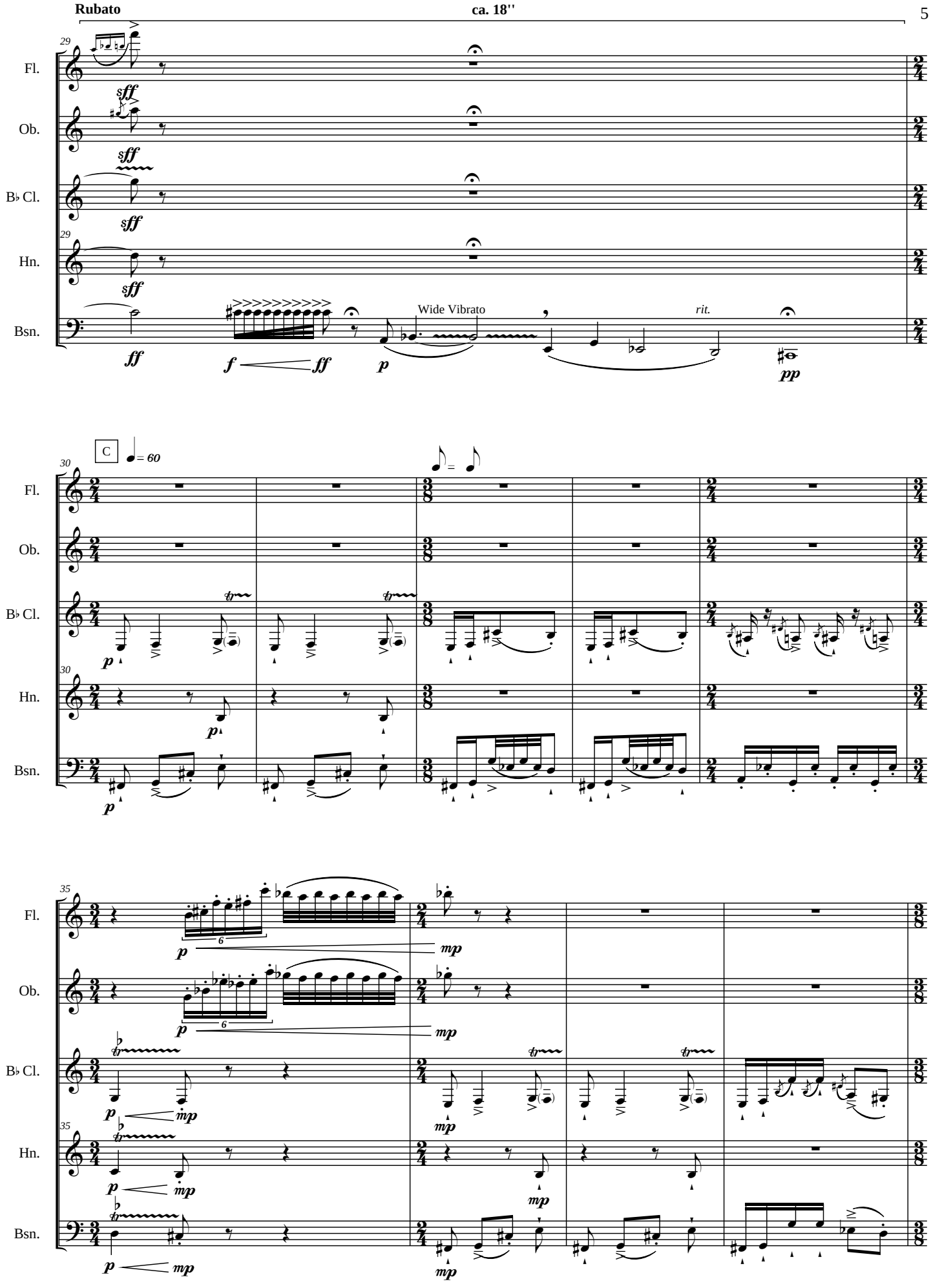
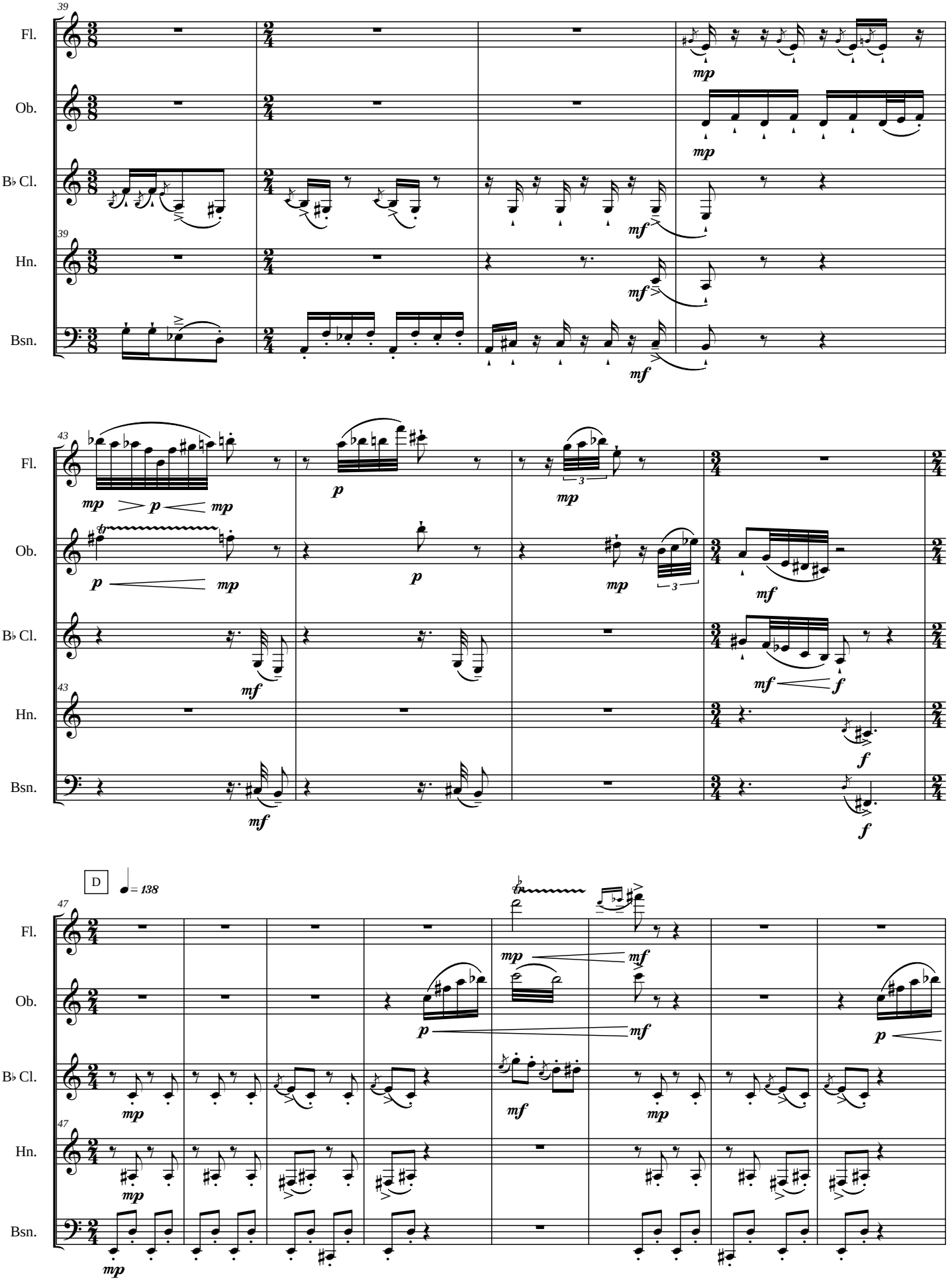
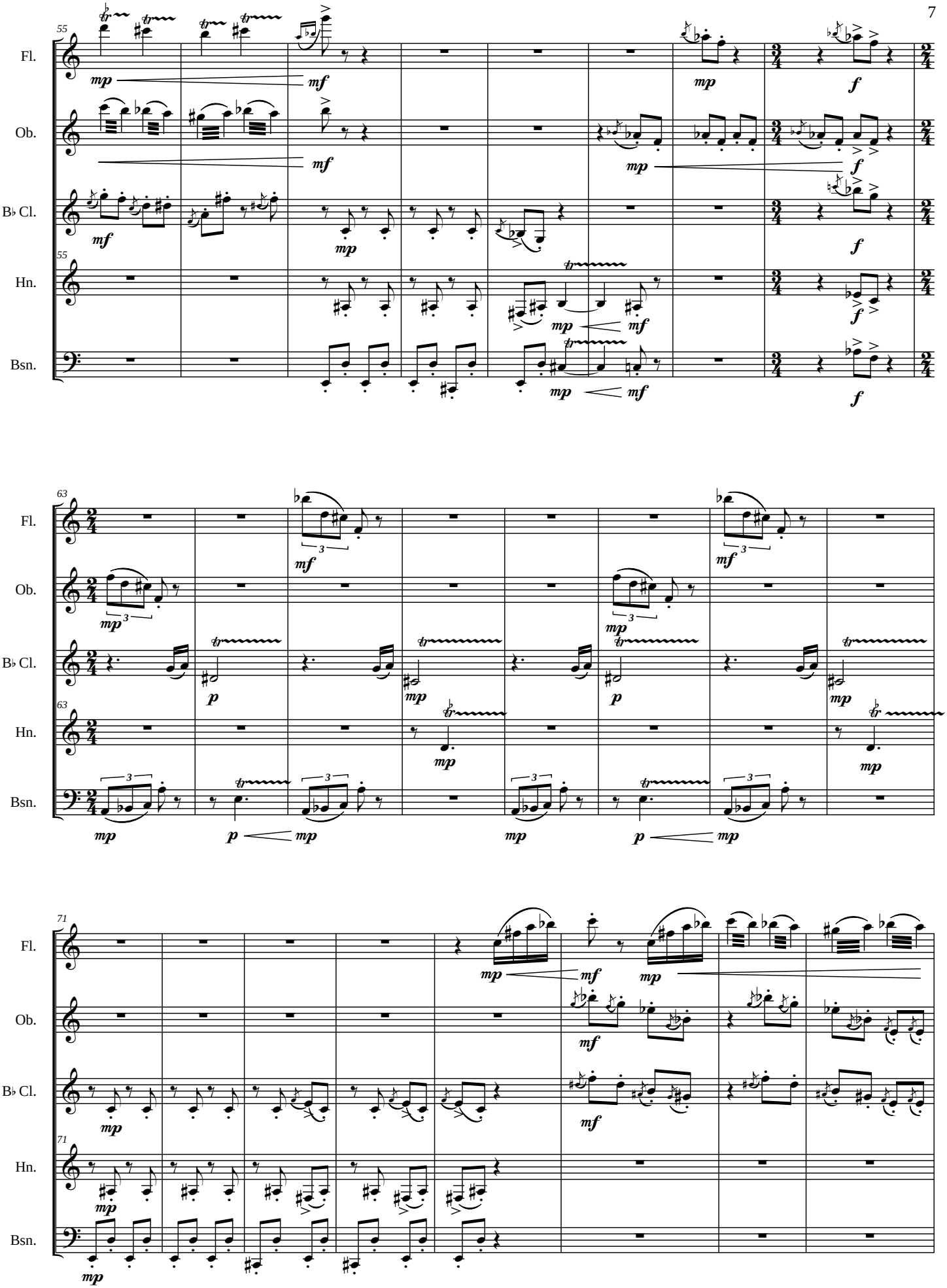

Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
A
♩= 76
con sord.

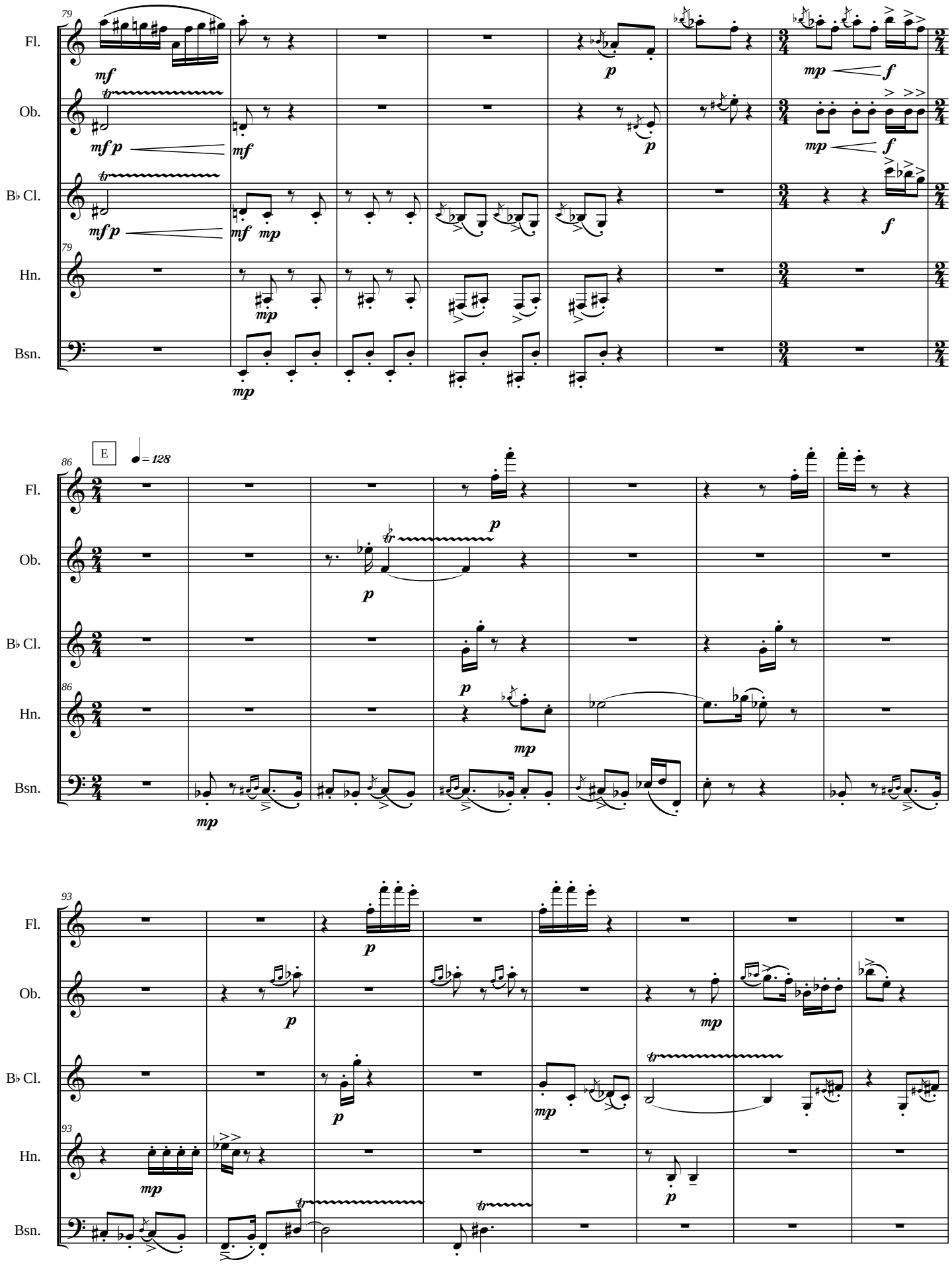

13
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
senza sord.
16
20
B
Rubato
ca. 8''
rit.

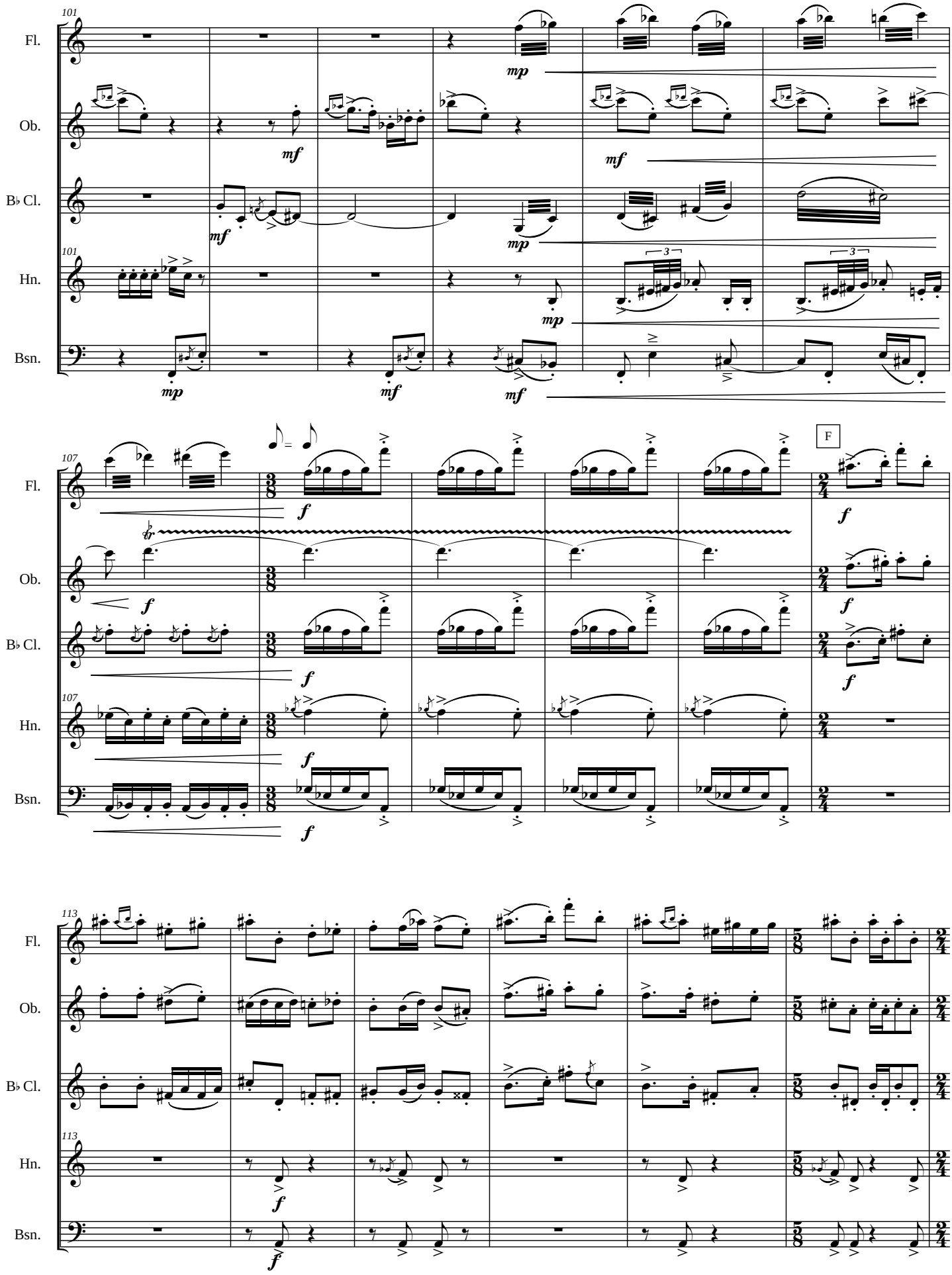

22
♩= 84
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
p mf
mp p
p < mp > p
pp
mp mf mp
6
Rubato
ca. 10''
26
Wide Vibrato
sfp mf p
27
♩= 92
f
sfp

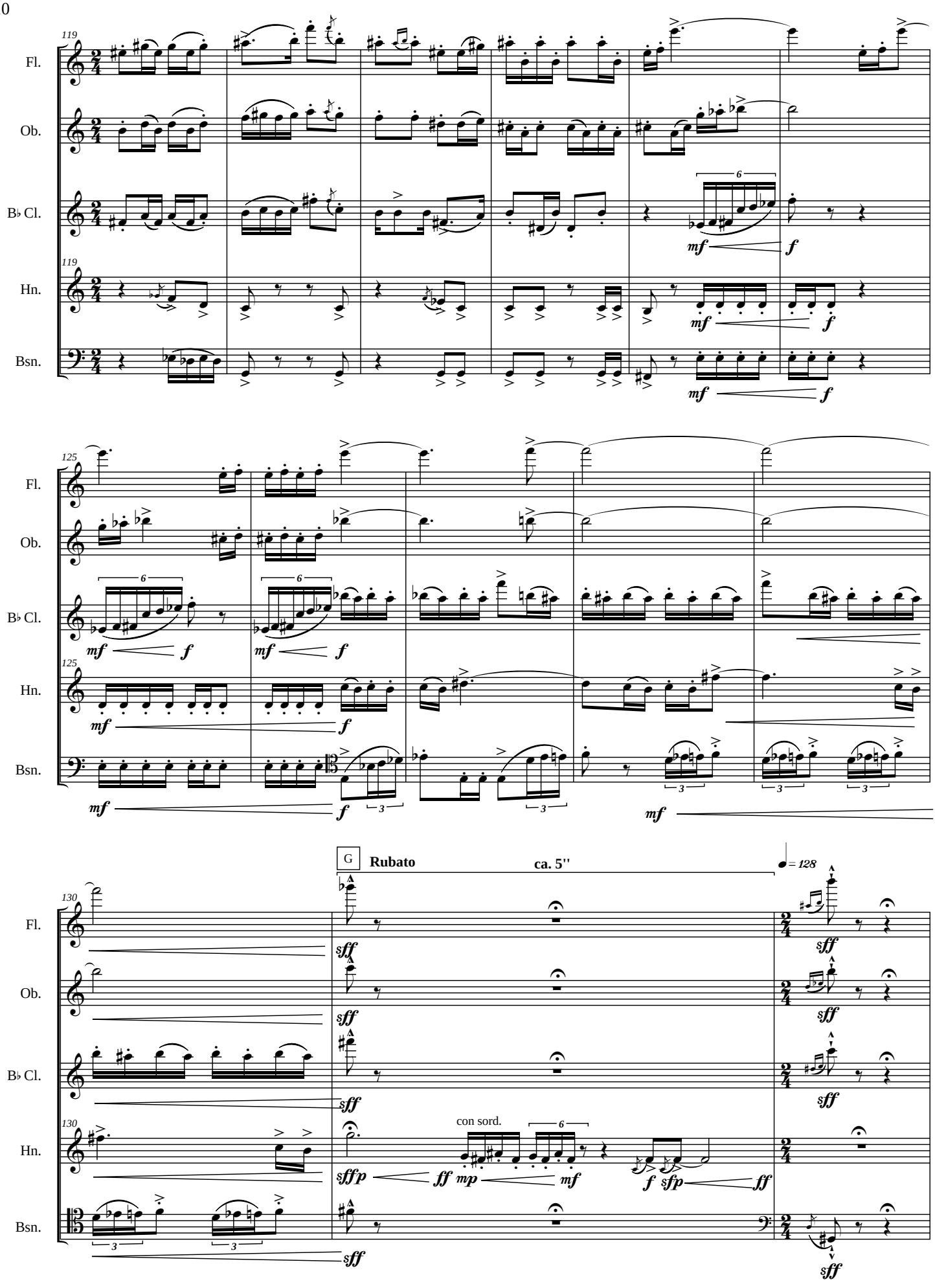

Rubato
ca. 18''
29
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
sff
ff
f
p
Wide Vibrato
rit.
pp
C
= 60
30
tr
mp
35
6

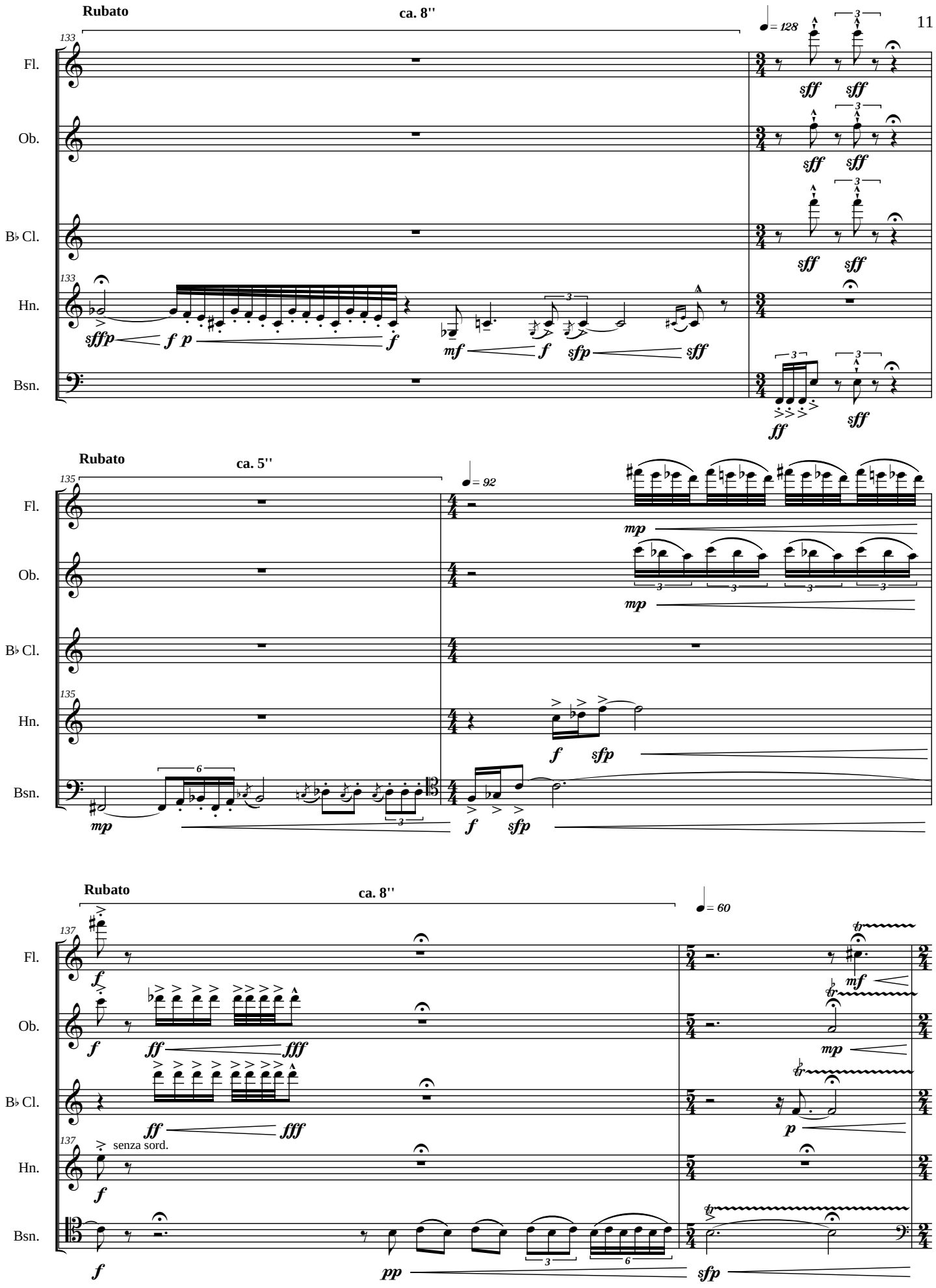

39
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
mp
mf
43
p
f
D
= 138
47

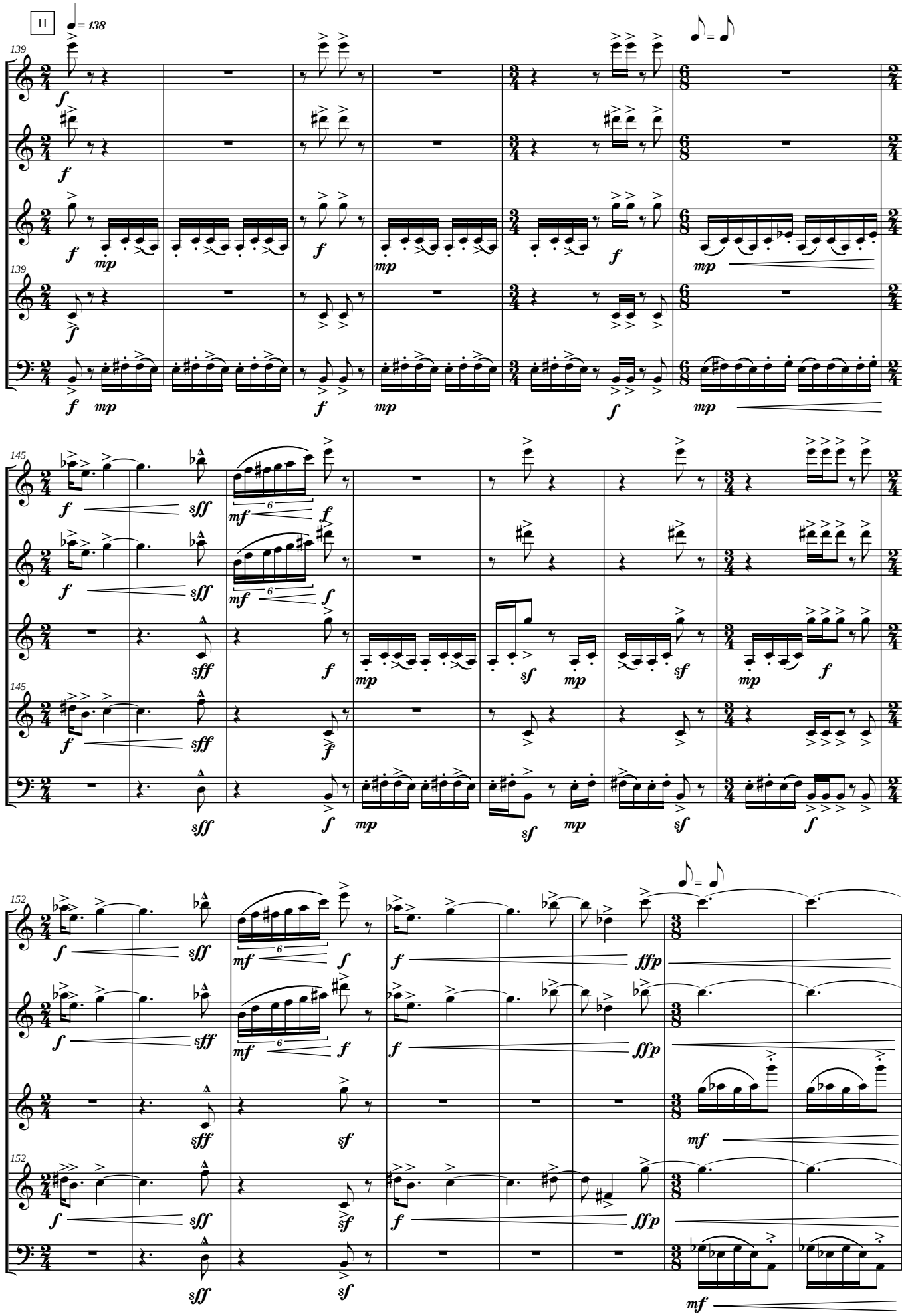

55
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
mp
mf
f
63
p
3
71

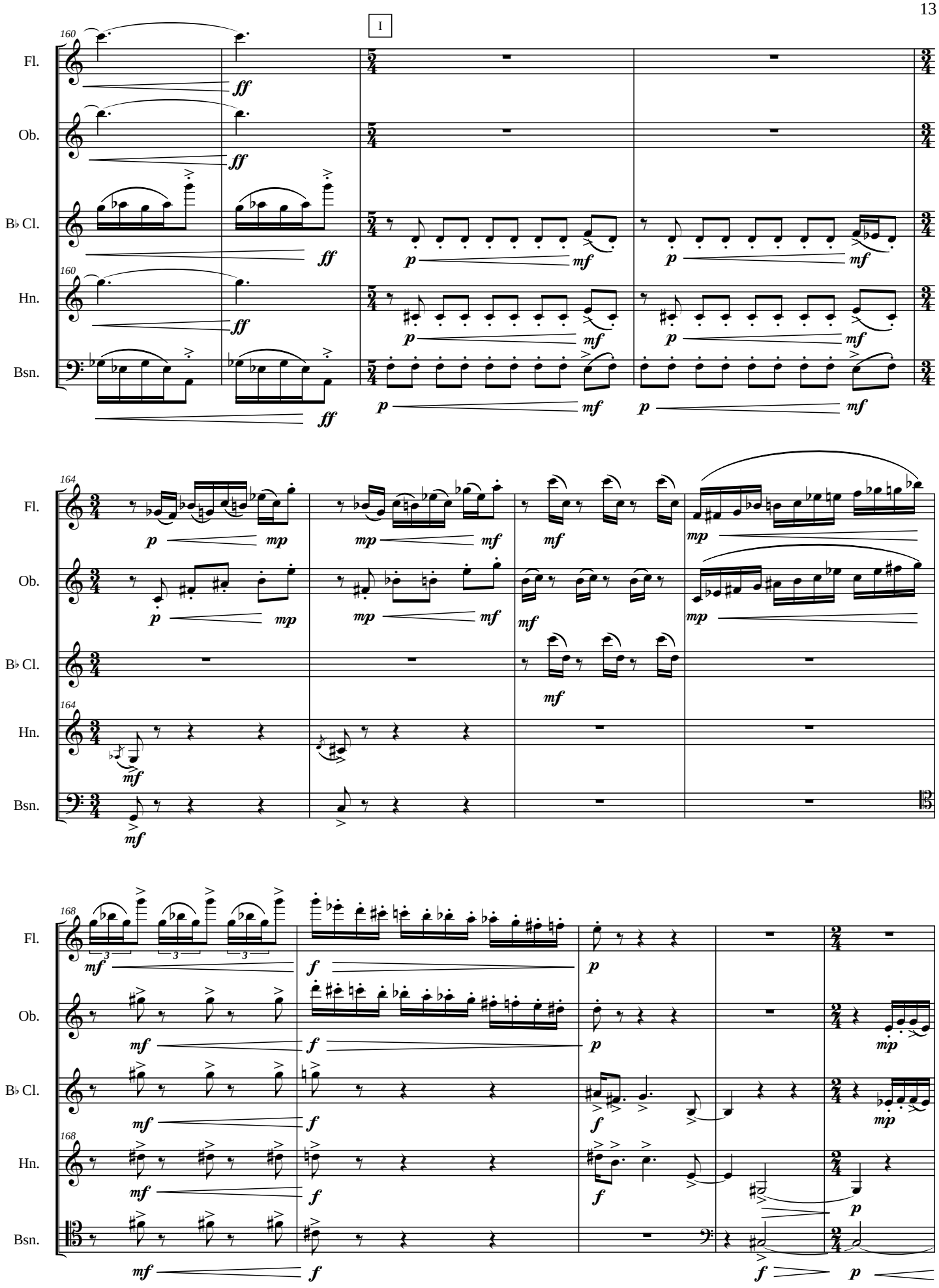

79
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
mf
mf p
mp
f
p
E
♩= 128
86
93

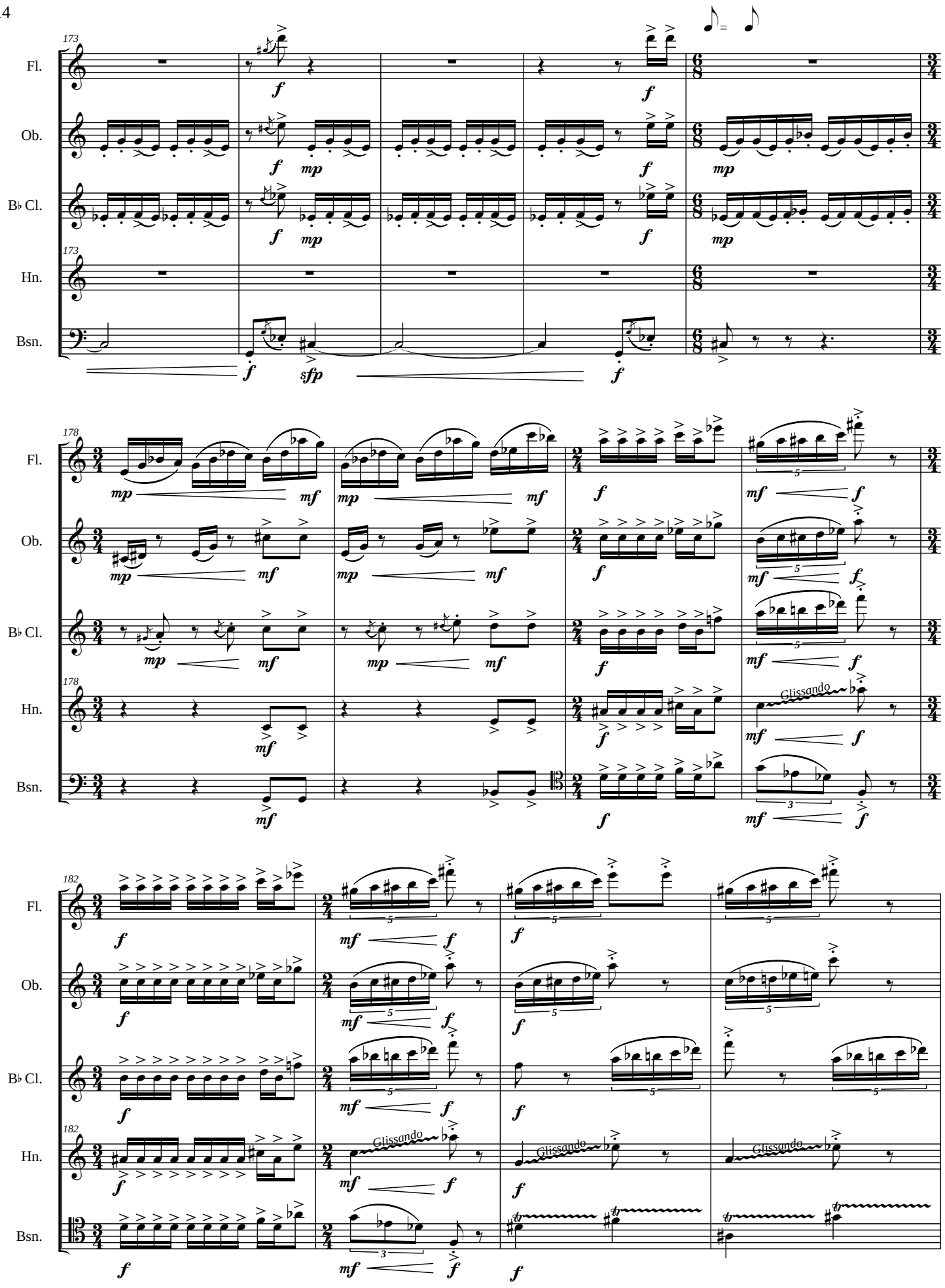

101
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
mp
mf
3
107
F
f
113

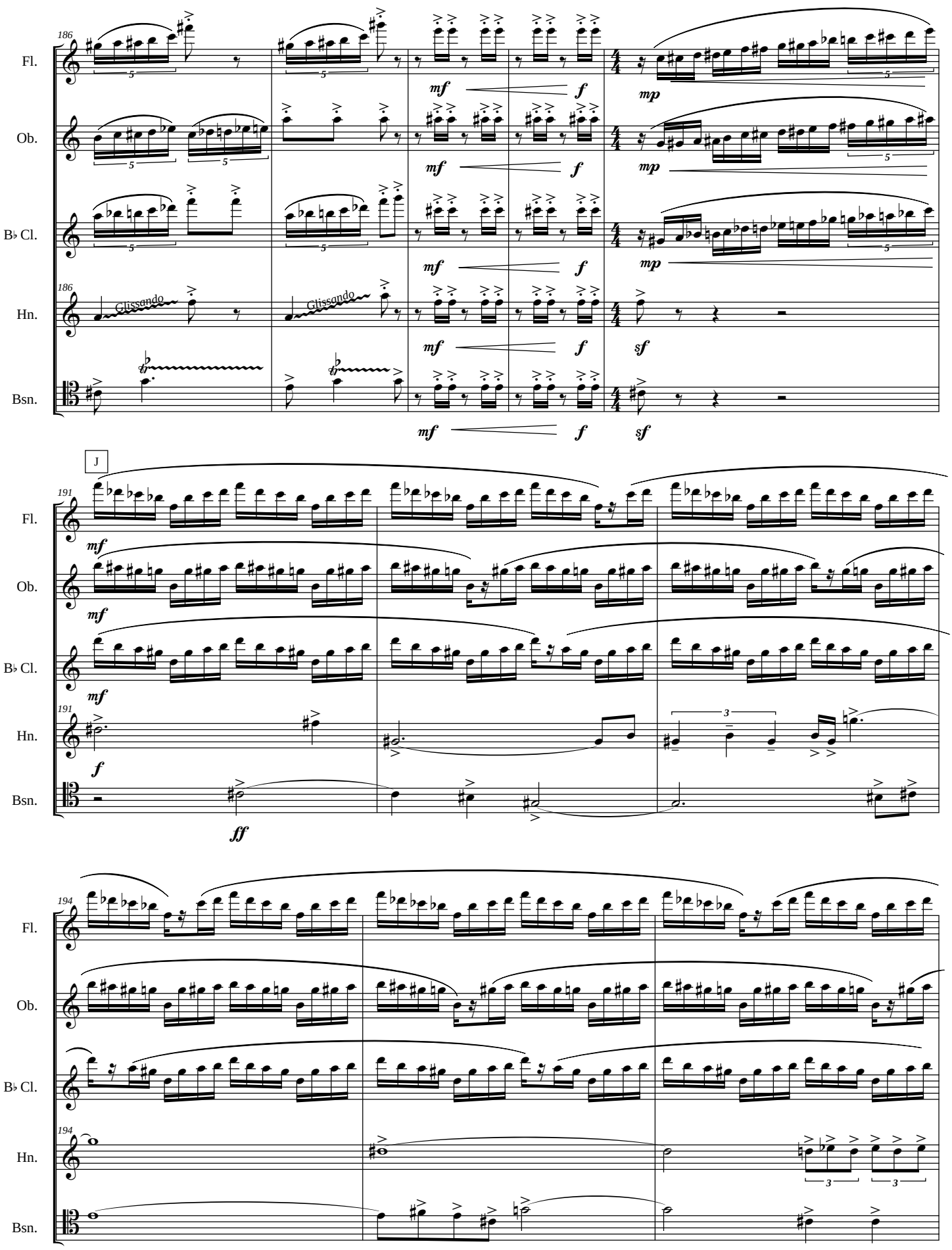

119
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
mf
f
125
130
G
Rubato
ca. 5''
= 128
con sord.
sff
sffp
ff
mp
sfp

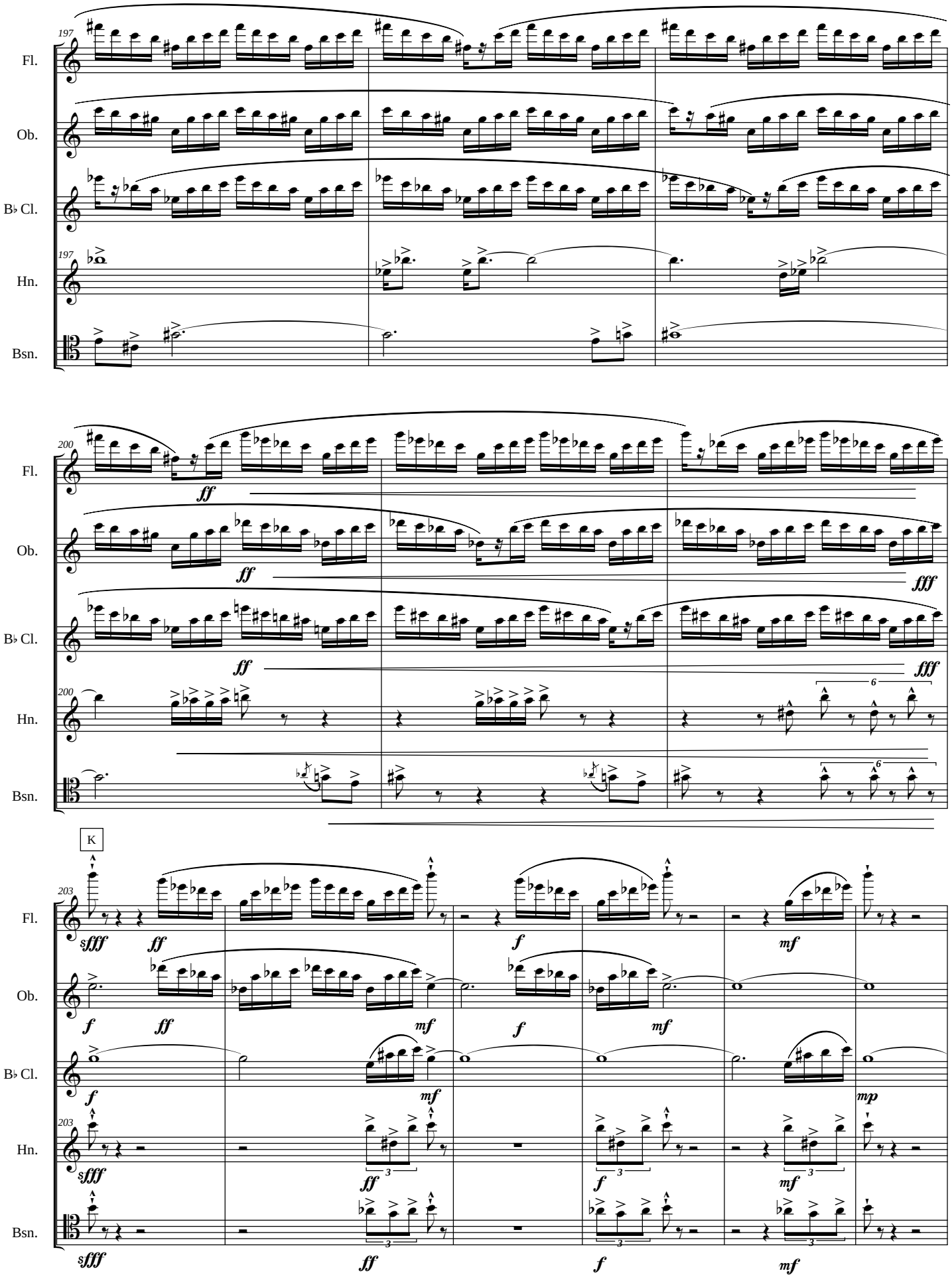

Rubato
ca. 8''
= 128
133
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
sff
sffp
f p
mf
sfp
ff
Rubato
ca. 5''
= 92
135
mp
6
Rubato
ca. 8''
= 60
137
senza sord.
fff
pp

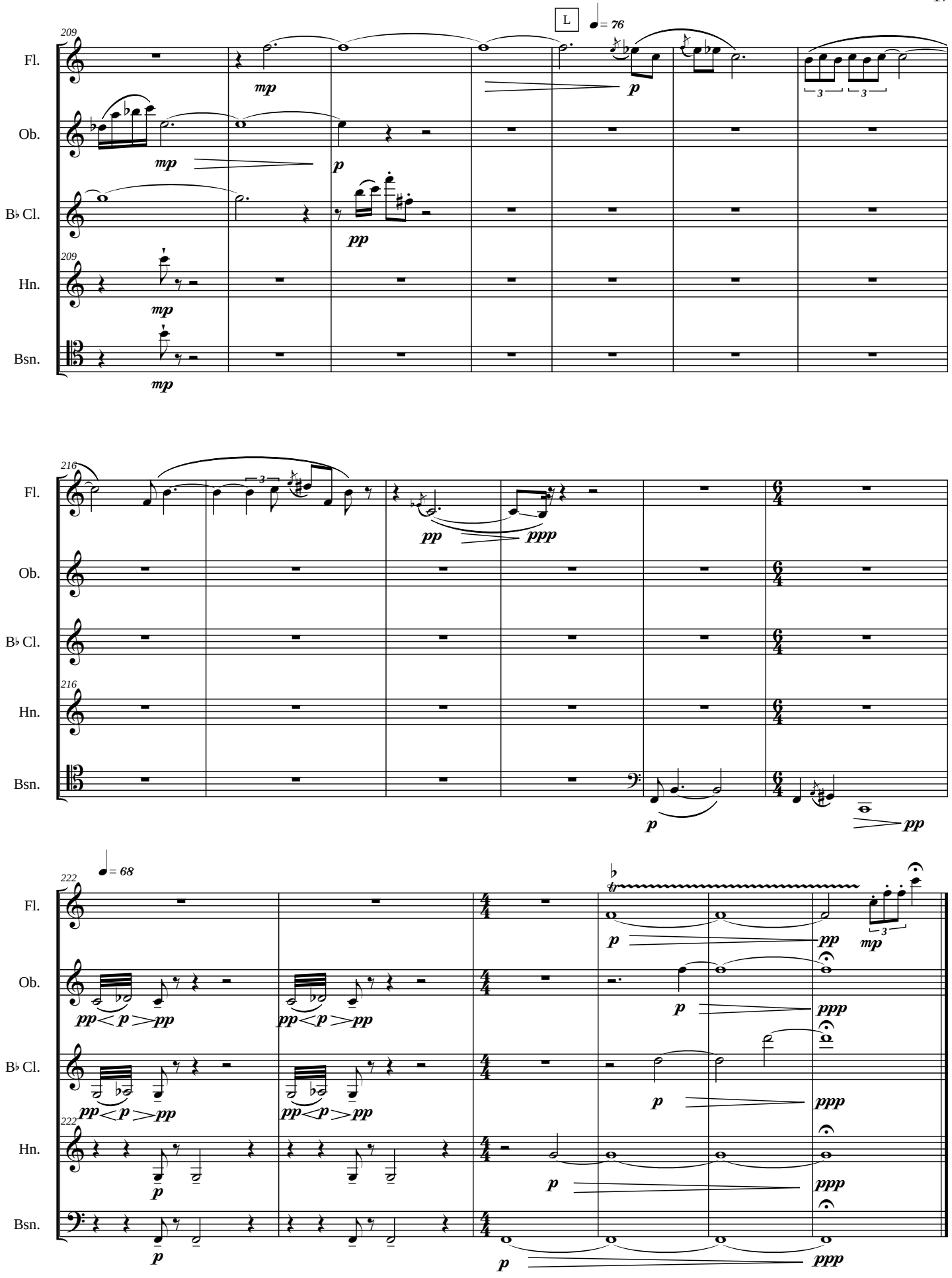

H
♩ = 138
139
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
145
152
f
sff
mf
mp
sf
ffp


I
160
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
ff
p
mf
164
mp
168
3
f


173
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
178
182
Glissando


186
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
Glissando
Glissando
mf
f
mp
sf
J
191
ff
194


197
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
200
ff
fff
6
K
203
sfff
mf
mp
3


L
♩= 76
209
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
mp
p
pp
216
ppp
6/4
222
♩= 68
4/4
tr
ppp