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Publication Date
2020

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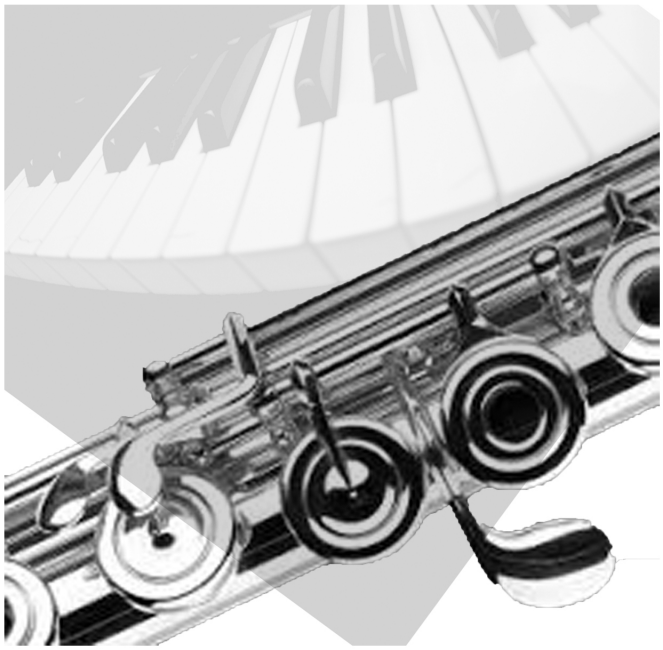
William Neil

Objets Trouvés

for flute and piano

(2019)



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(2019)

for flute and piano

(Score edited by Jonathan Borja)

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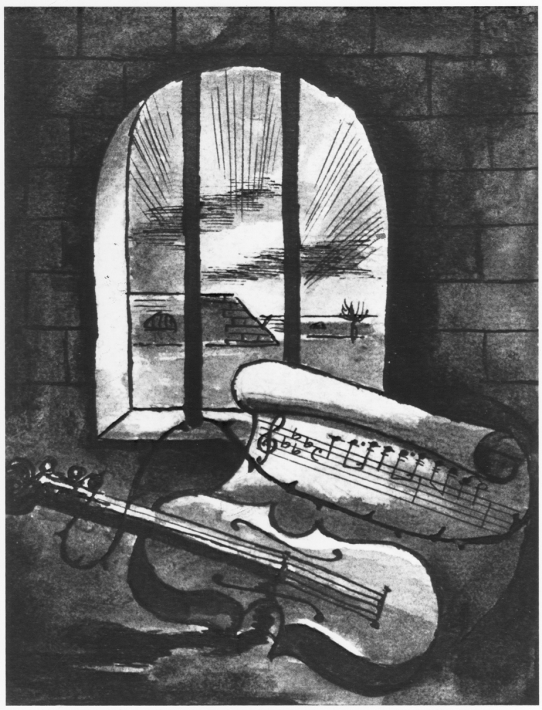
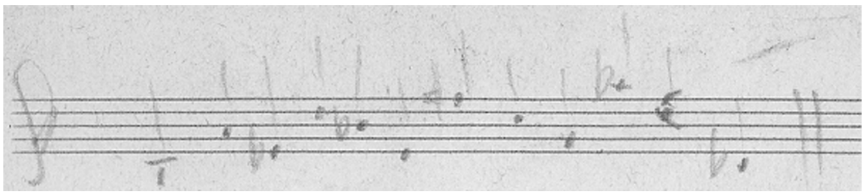
Program Notes



World War II was a dark time for the musicians, artists, writers who were silenced and forbidden to express freely. Many were ultimately murdered in the labor camps, their creativity lost to the world forever. The creation of this piece presented an unusual challenge for me, demanding a sense of empathy for artists that were in the shadow of oppression and persecution during this time. In preparing for this composing project, I searched the archives of the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. for information about those that were silenced. I found two objects that fueled my imagination as they represented to me acts of defiance against their oppressors. The ink drawing entitled "A Brighter Future" was drawn by the Czech Jewish artist, Bedrich Fritta (1909-1945) while interned in the Theresienstadt concentration camp. Fritta created drawings and paintings that depicted the deplorable living conditions in the camps.

I was captivated by this image with its clear expression of freedom beyond the barred window and the still life of the violin and musical manuscript suggesting the consoling power of art and music; a precious asset to those prisoners who endured the violence and starvation that ruled the camps.

The second found object was a sketch composed by the Moravian composer, Gideon Klein (1919-1945) who was forced to abort his musical career when Czechoslovakia was invaded in 1939. He was murdered at Auschwitz in 1945 when the Nazi were busy retreating and hiding their atrocities by liquidating the camps and executing the prisoners.



He composed and performed music while captive including a string quartet, a string trio and a piano sonata.

He also composed this fragment, hidden from the Nazi and returned to Klein's surviving family. This sketch of a twelve tone melody was never realized as a finished work for solo violin. By using it as a basis for my composition, I am giving a voice to a silenced composer. Fritta's creation is manifest in my work through the quotation of the motive in Ab major depicted in the drawing. The construction of my composition is largely derived from the dual tonal-atonal nature of the music as it drives forward in thematic variations expressing the conflicting emotions of hope and despair. WN

I am grateful to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for its assistance with my research
and for their permission to use the Fritta images in my publication.
I would also like acknowledge the Jewish Museum in
Prague photo archive for permission to use the Klein manuscript.

**"THE VIEWS OR OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS (BOOK/ARTICLE/EXHIBIT/OTHER),
AND THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THE IMAGES ARE USED, DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT
THE VIEWS OR POLICY OF, NOR IMPLY APPROVAL OR ENDORSEMENT BY,
THE UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM"**

(dedicated to Jonathan Borja)

Objets Trouvés

(2019)

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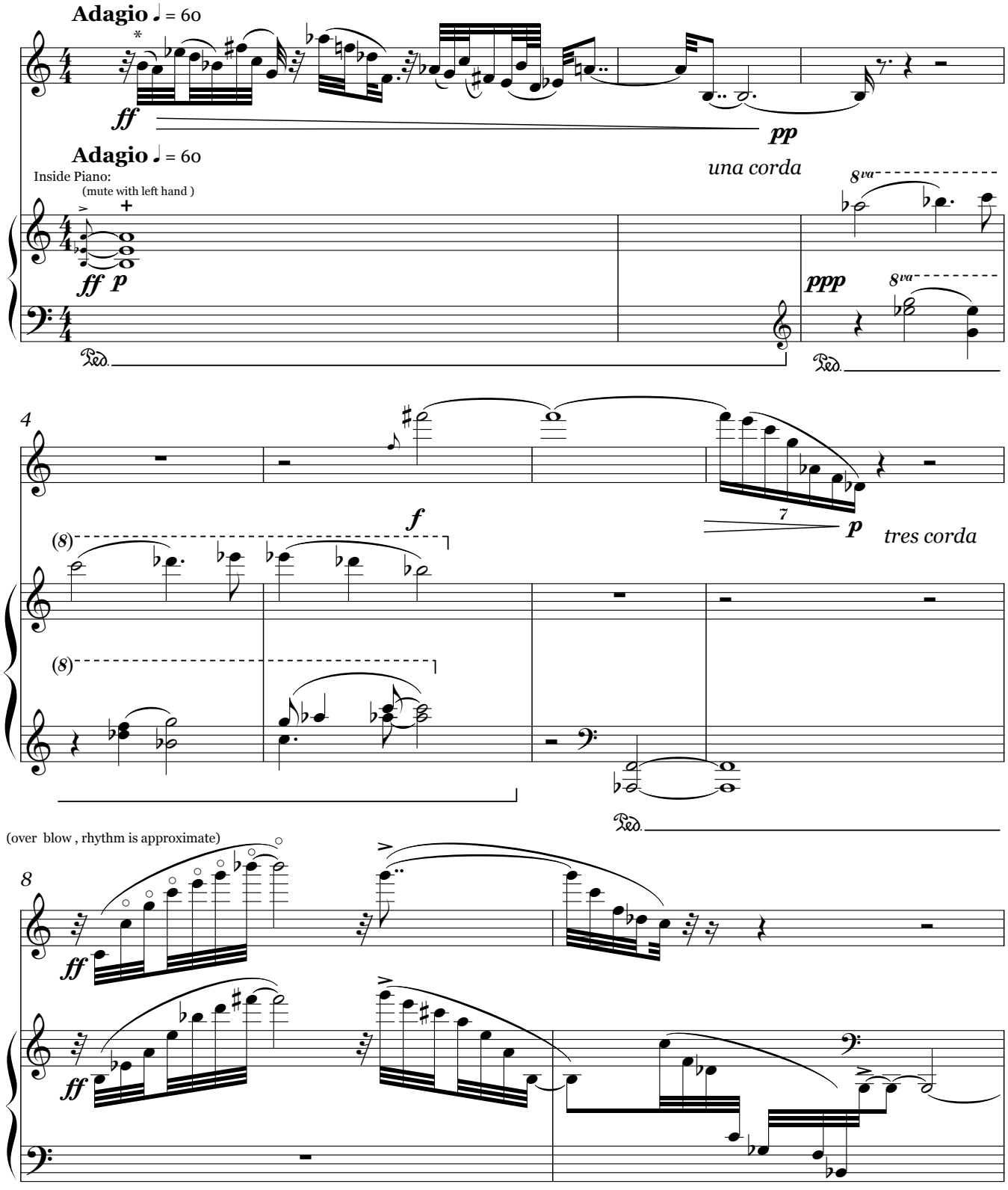
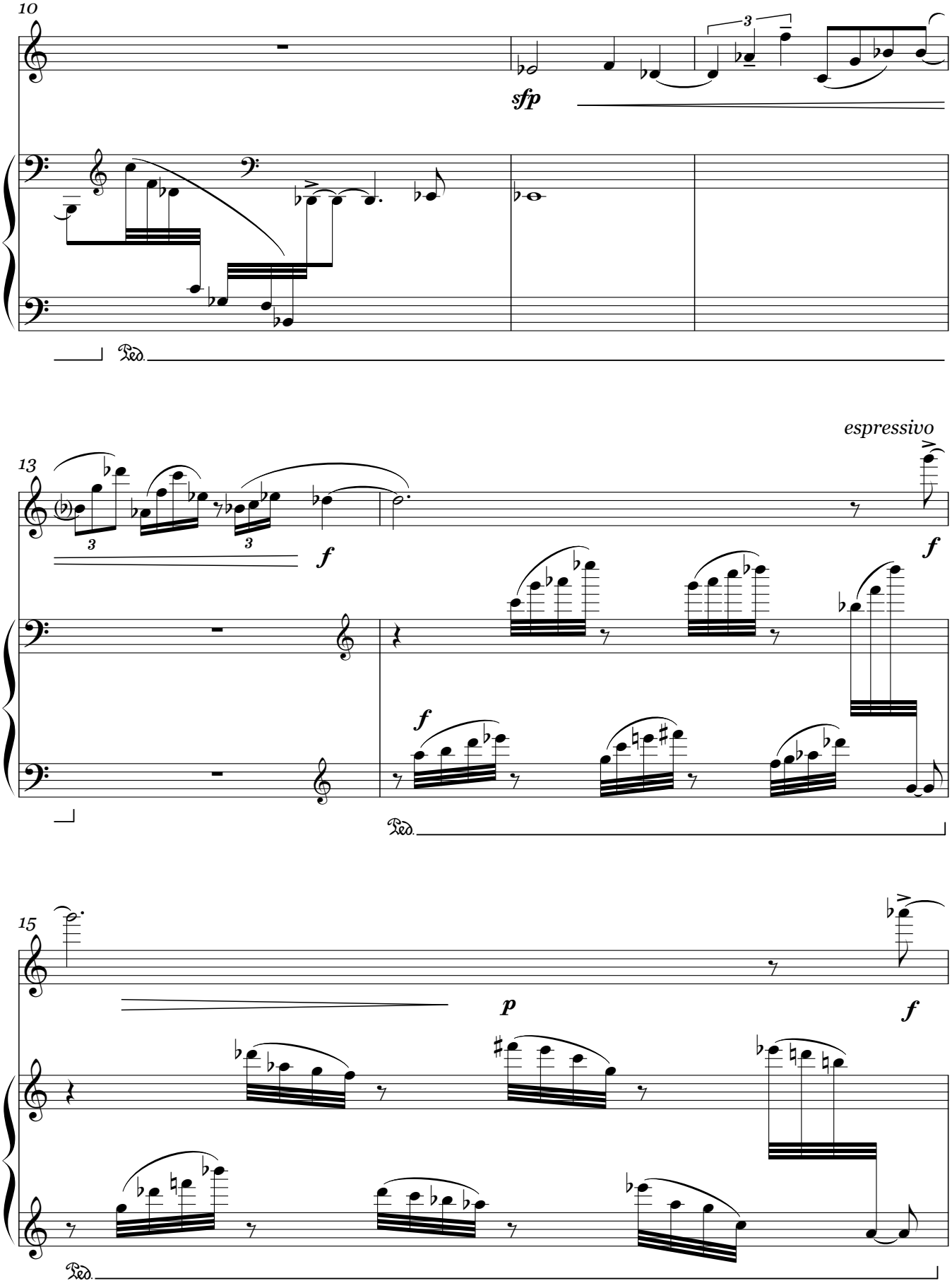
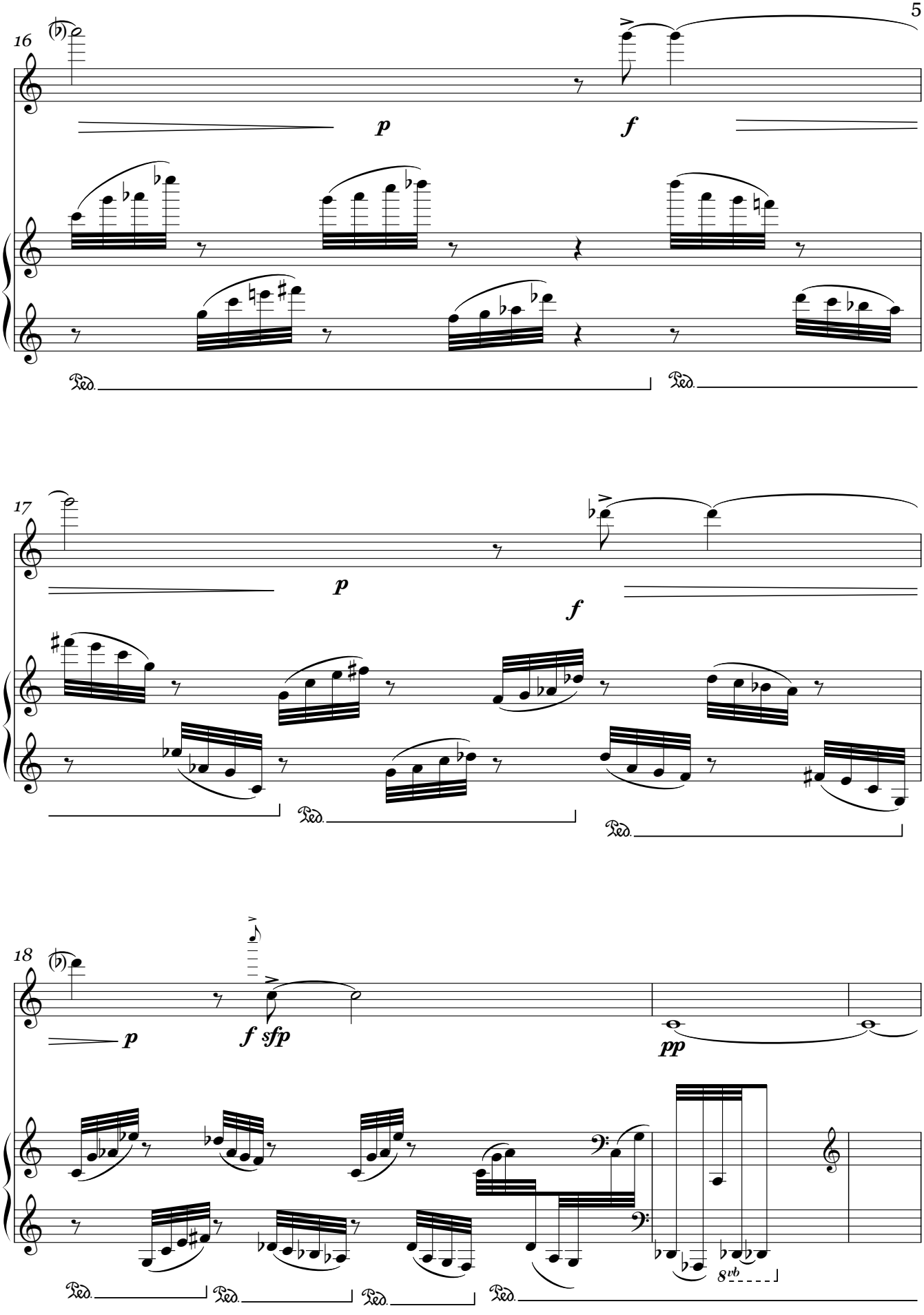
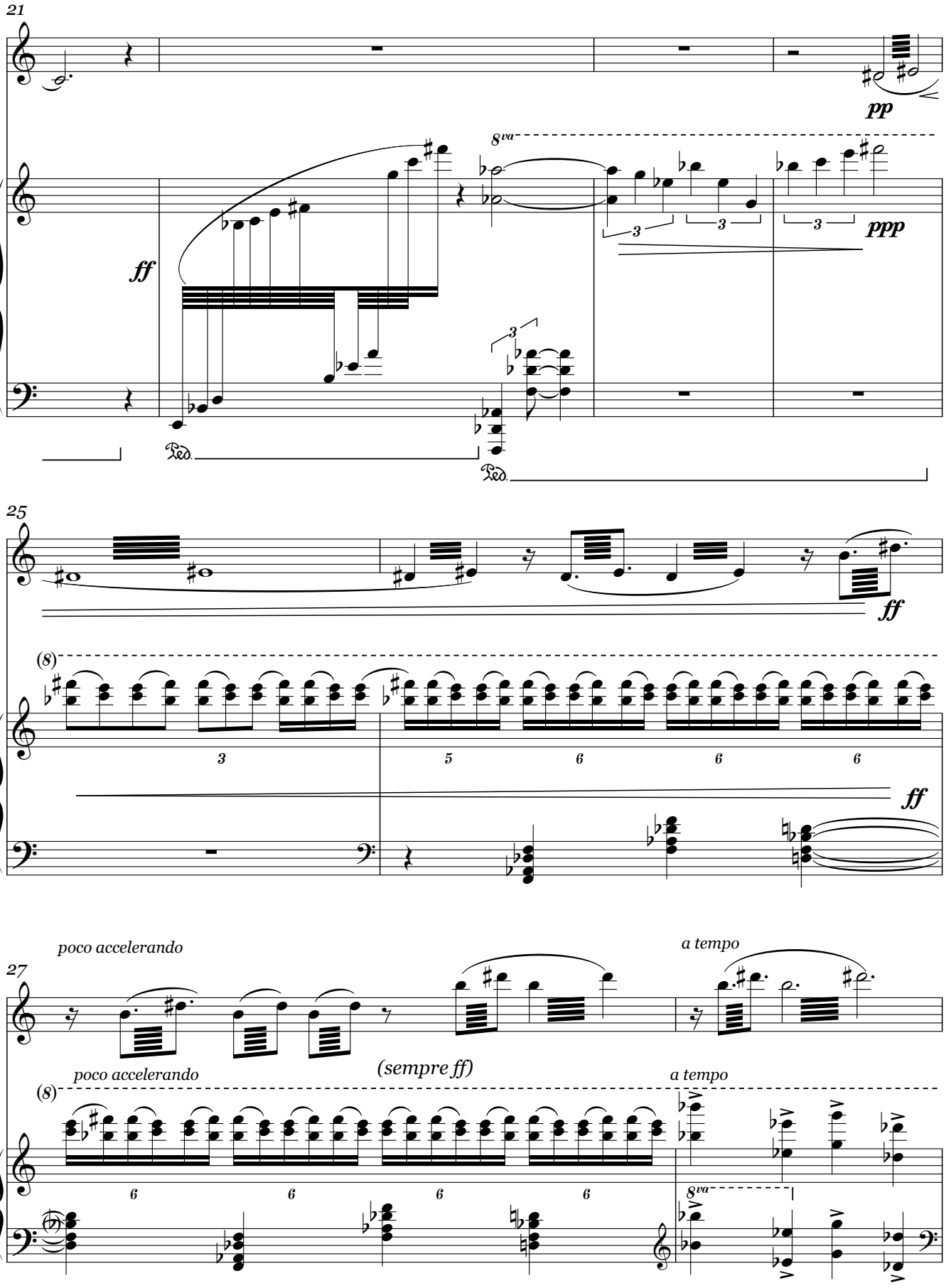
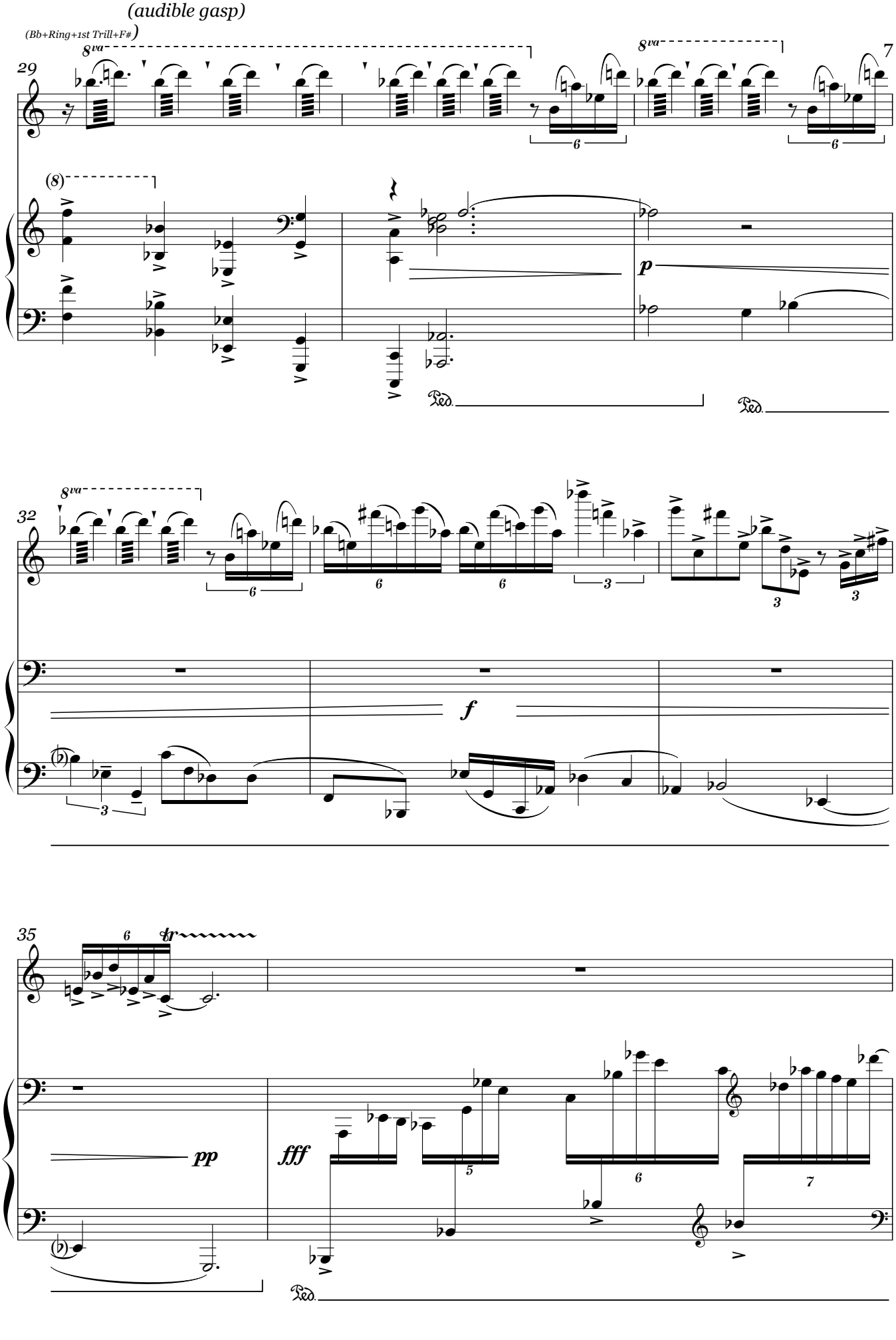
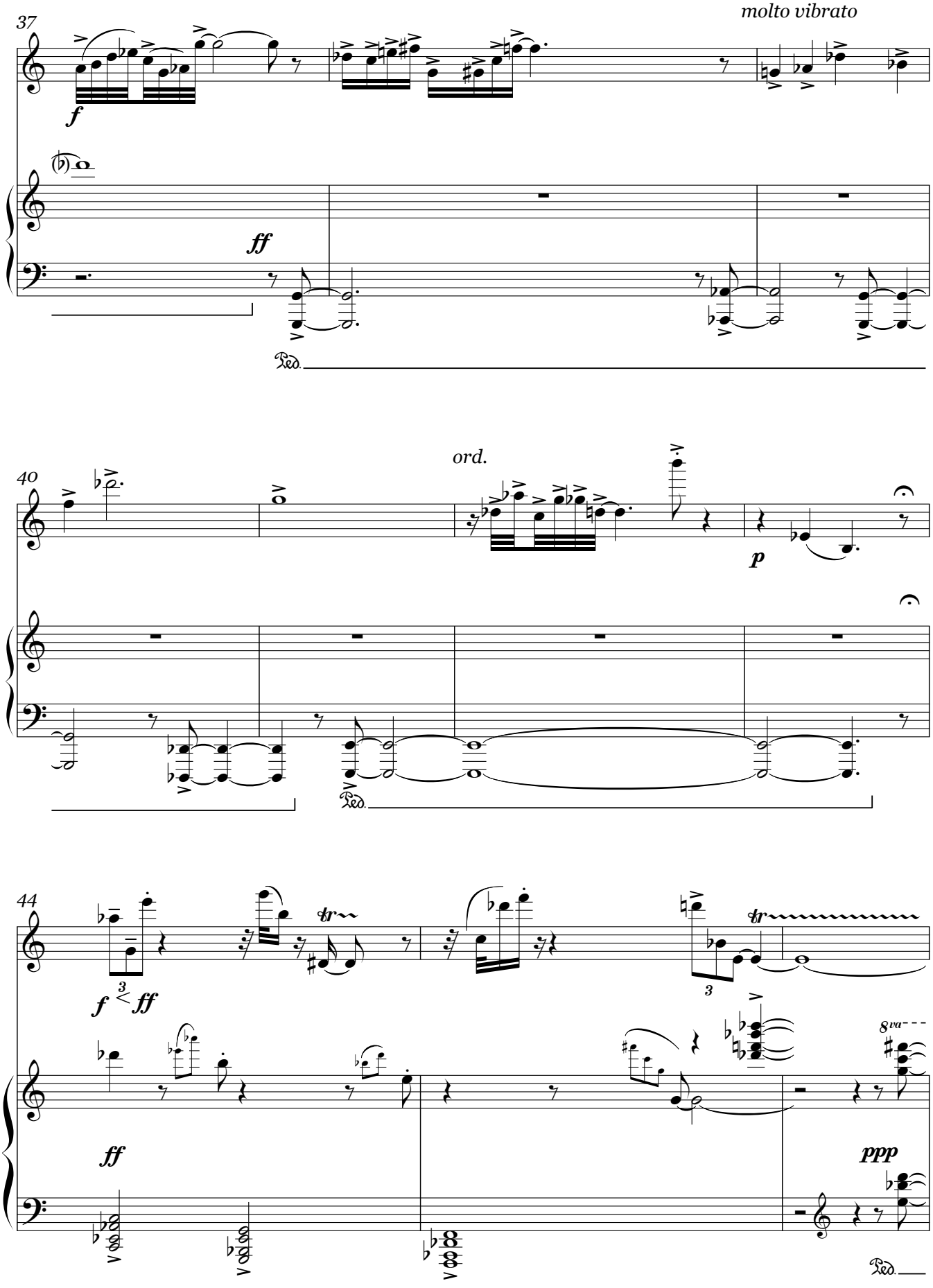


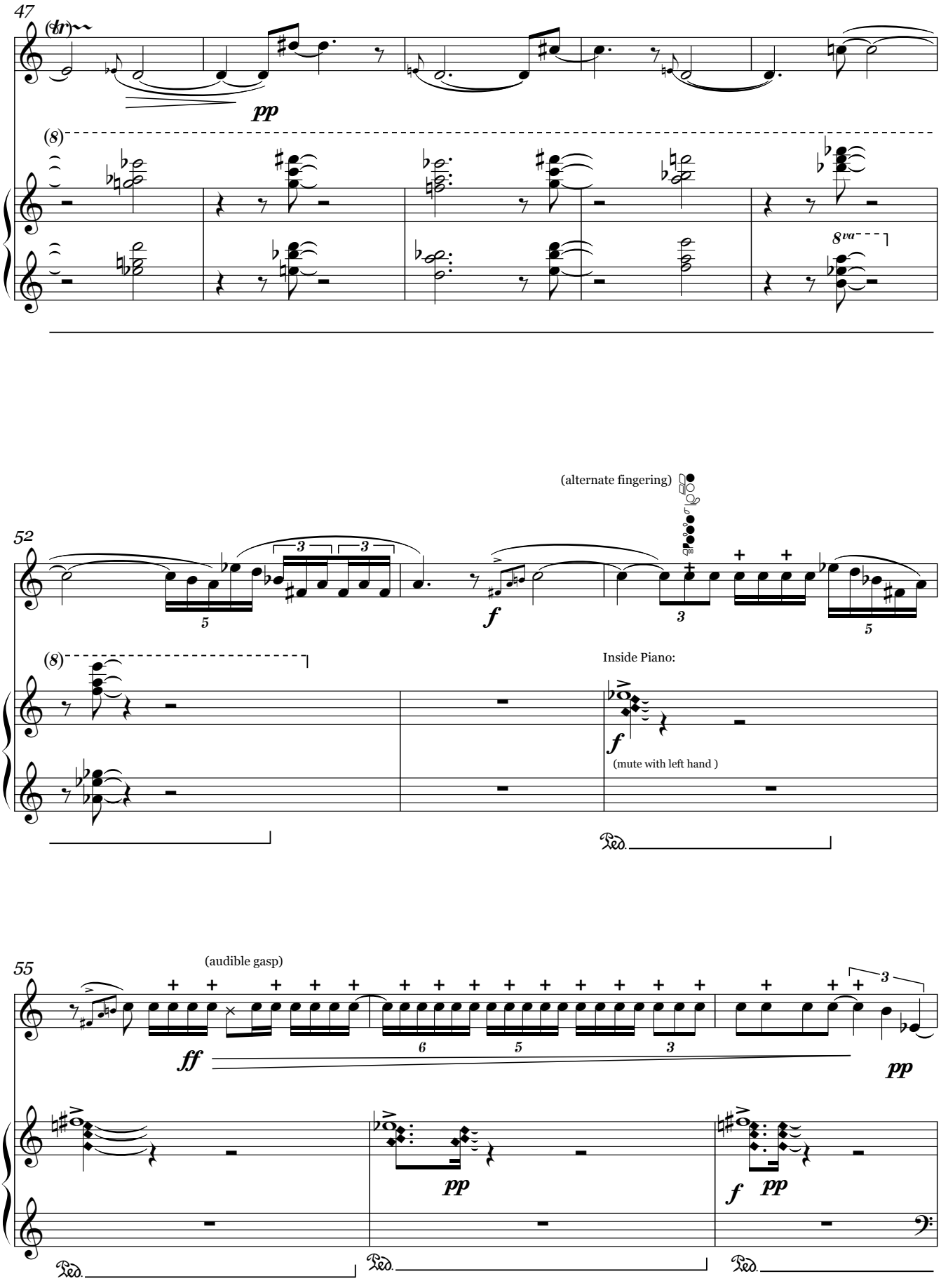

10
sfp
Ped.
espressivo
13
f
f
f
Ped.
15
p
f
Ped.

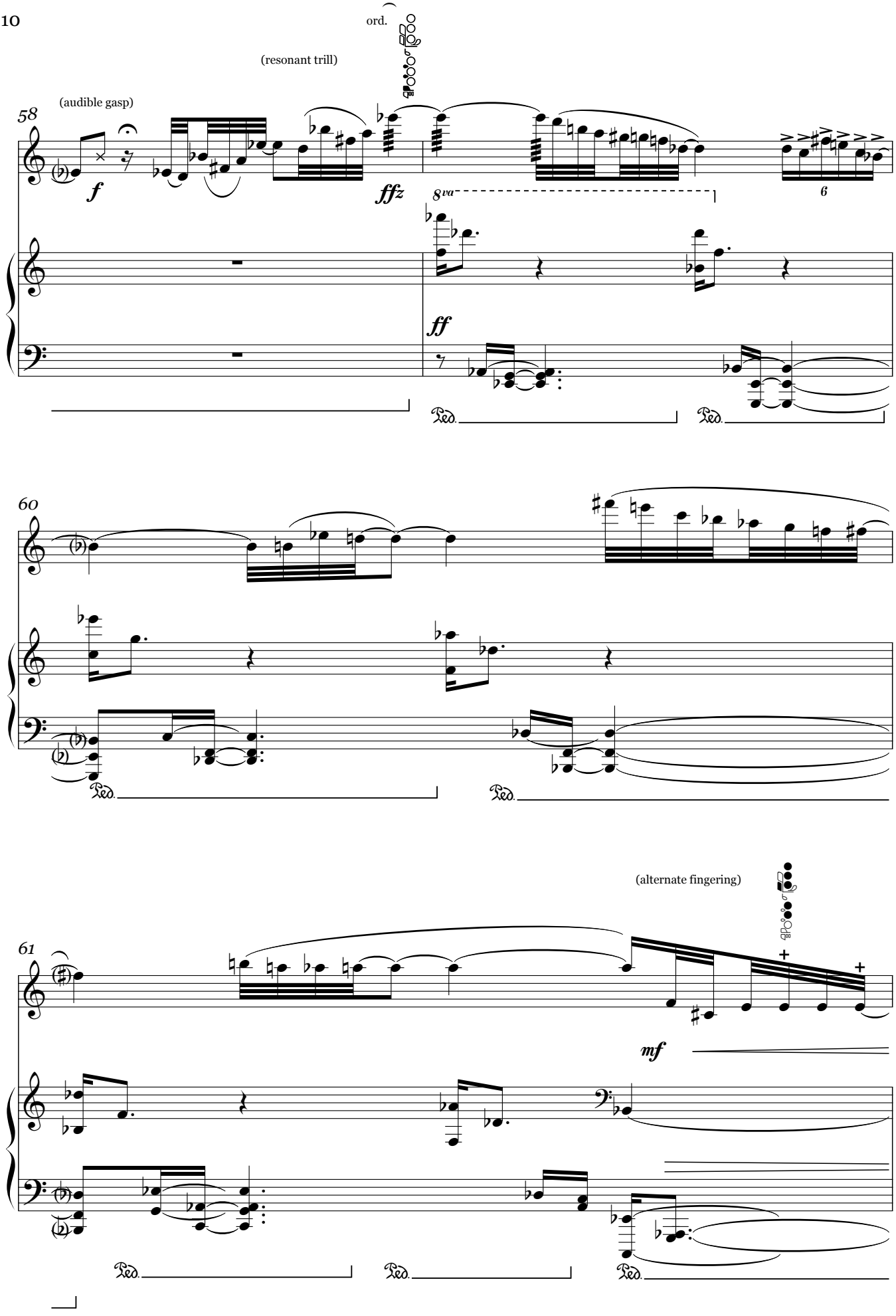

16
p
f
Ped.
Ped.
17
p
f
Ped.
Ped.
18
p
f sfp
pp
8vb
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

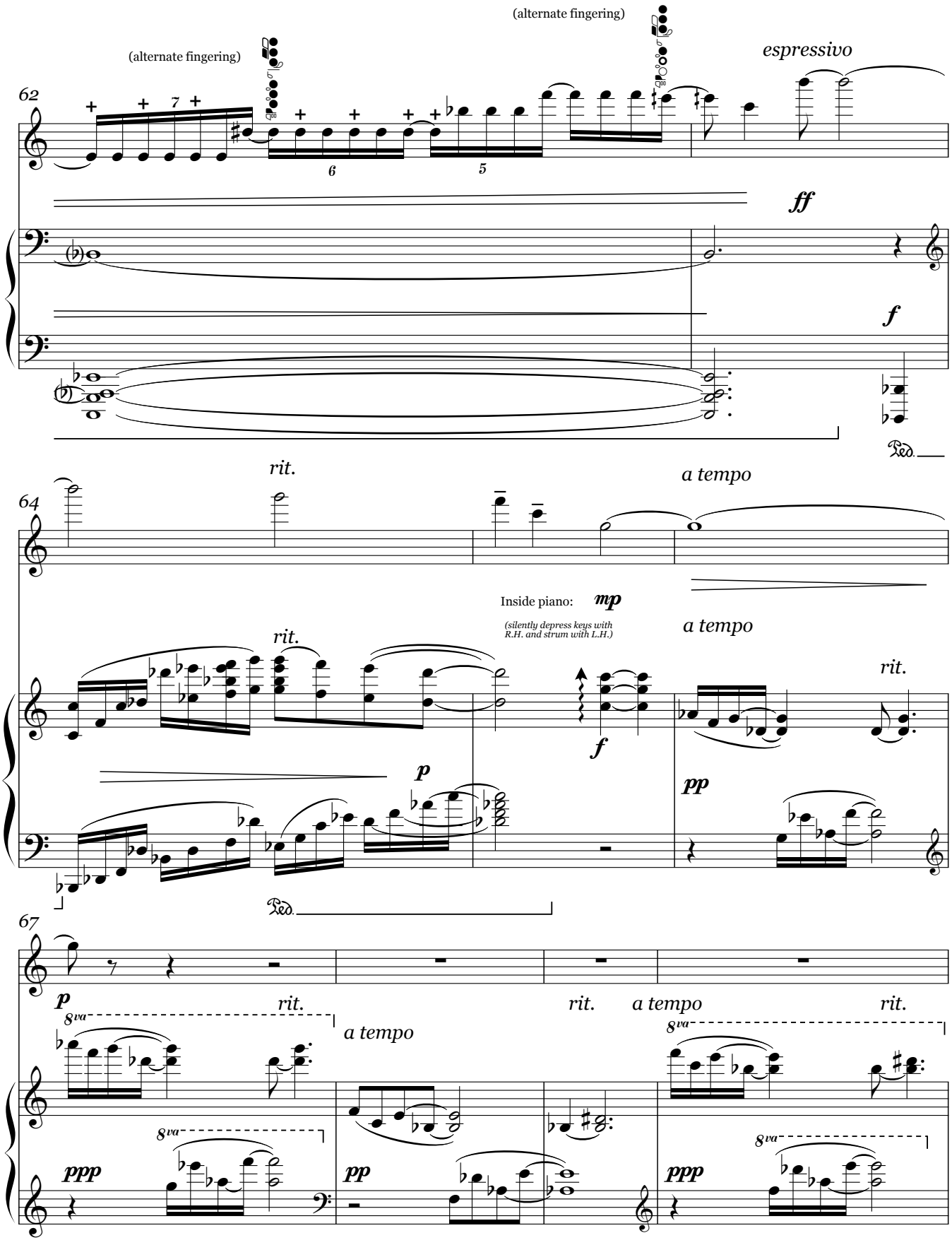

21
pp
8va
ff
3
3
3
ppp
3
Ped.
Ped.
25
ff
(8)
3
5
6
6
6
ff
poco accelerando
27
a tempo
(sempre ff)
poco accelerando
(8)
a tempo
6
6
6
6
8va

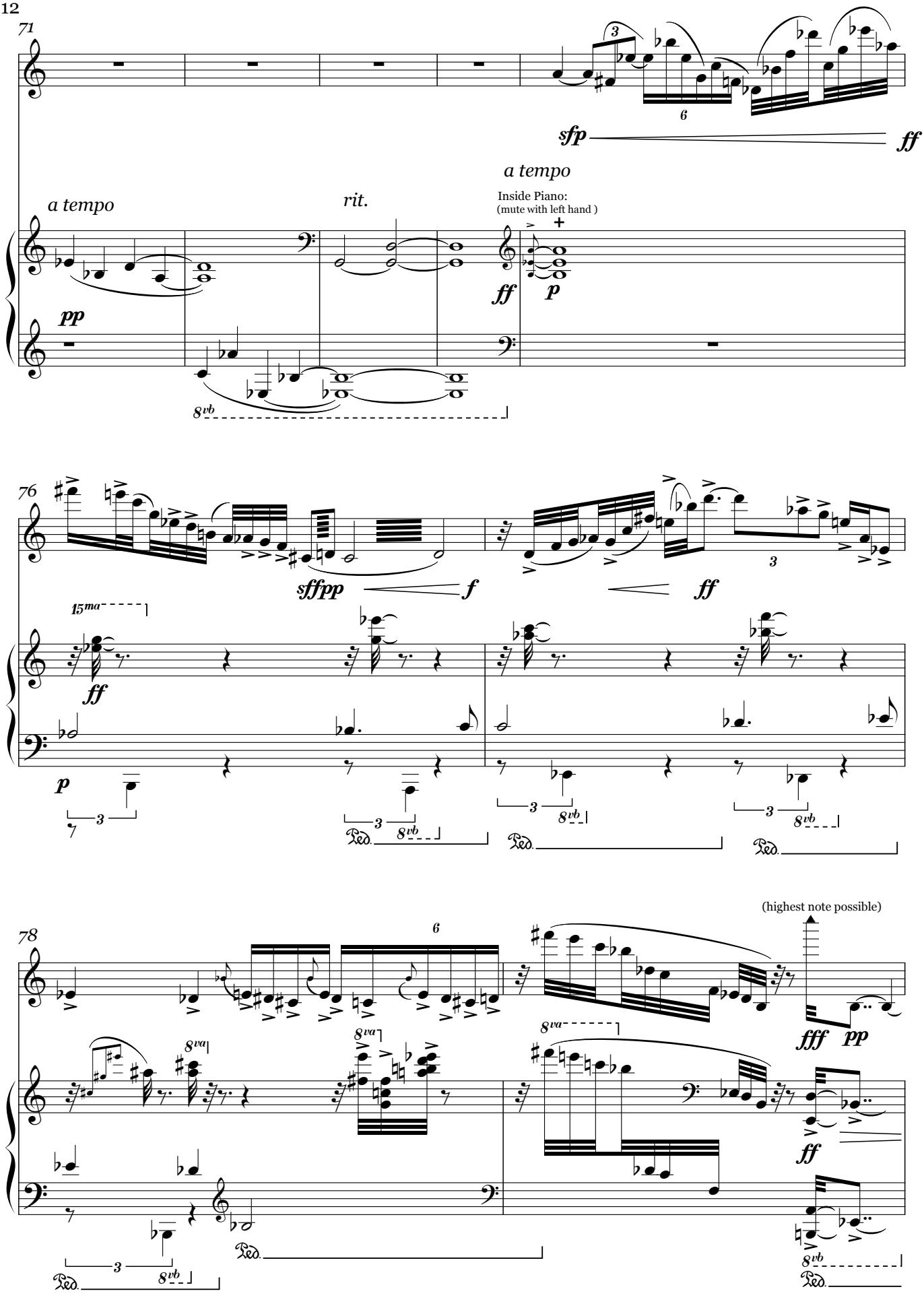

(audible gasp)
(Bb+Ring+1st Trill+F#)
29
8va
7
(8)
p
Ped.
32
f
35
pp
fff

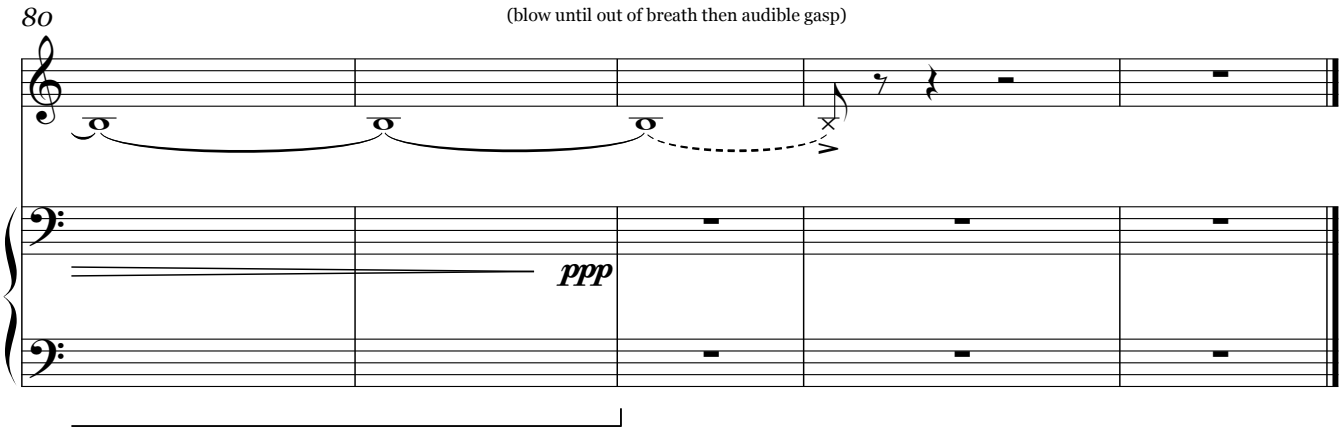

37
molto vibrato
f
ff
Ped.
40
ord.
p
Ped.
44
f
3
ff
tr
tr
3
ff
8va
ppp
Ped.


47
(tr)
pp
(8)
8va
52
(alternate fingering)
3
3
5
f
3
5
(8)
Inside Piano:
f
(mute with left hand)
Ped.
55
(audible gasp)
ff
6
5
3
3
pp
pp
f
pp
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.


ord.
(resonant trill)
(audible gasp)
58
f
ffz
8va
6
ff
Ped.
Ped.
60
Ped.
Ped.
(alternate fingering)
61
mf
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.


(alternate fingering)
(alternate fingering)
espressivo
62
ff
f
Ped.
rit.
a tempo
64
Inside piano: mp
(silently depress keys with R.H. and strum with L.H.)
a tempo
rit.
f
p
pp
Ped.
67
p
rit.
rit.
a tempo
rit.
8va
a tempo
ppp
pp
ppp


71
sfp
ff
a tempo
a tempo
rit.
Inside Piano:
(mute with left hand)
pp
ff
p
8vb
76
sffpp
f
ff
15ma
ff
p
3
8vb
Ped.
78
(highest note possible)
fff
pp
8va
ff
8vb


80
(blow until out of breath then audible gasp)
ppp

Flute

(dedicated to Jonathan Borja)

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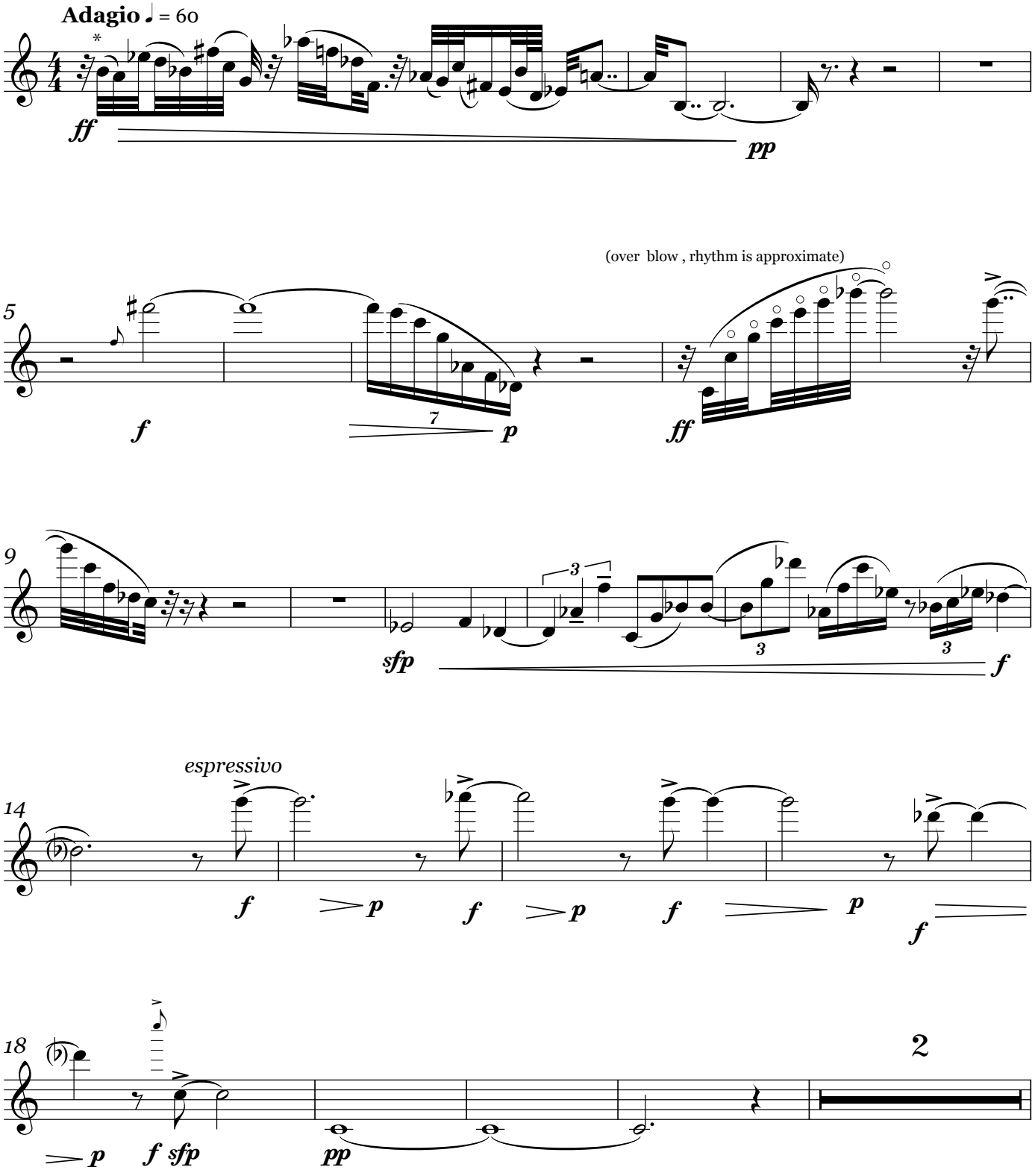
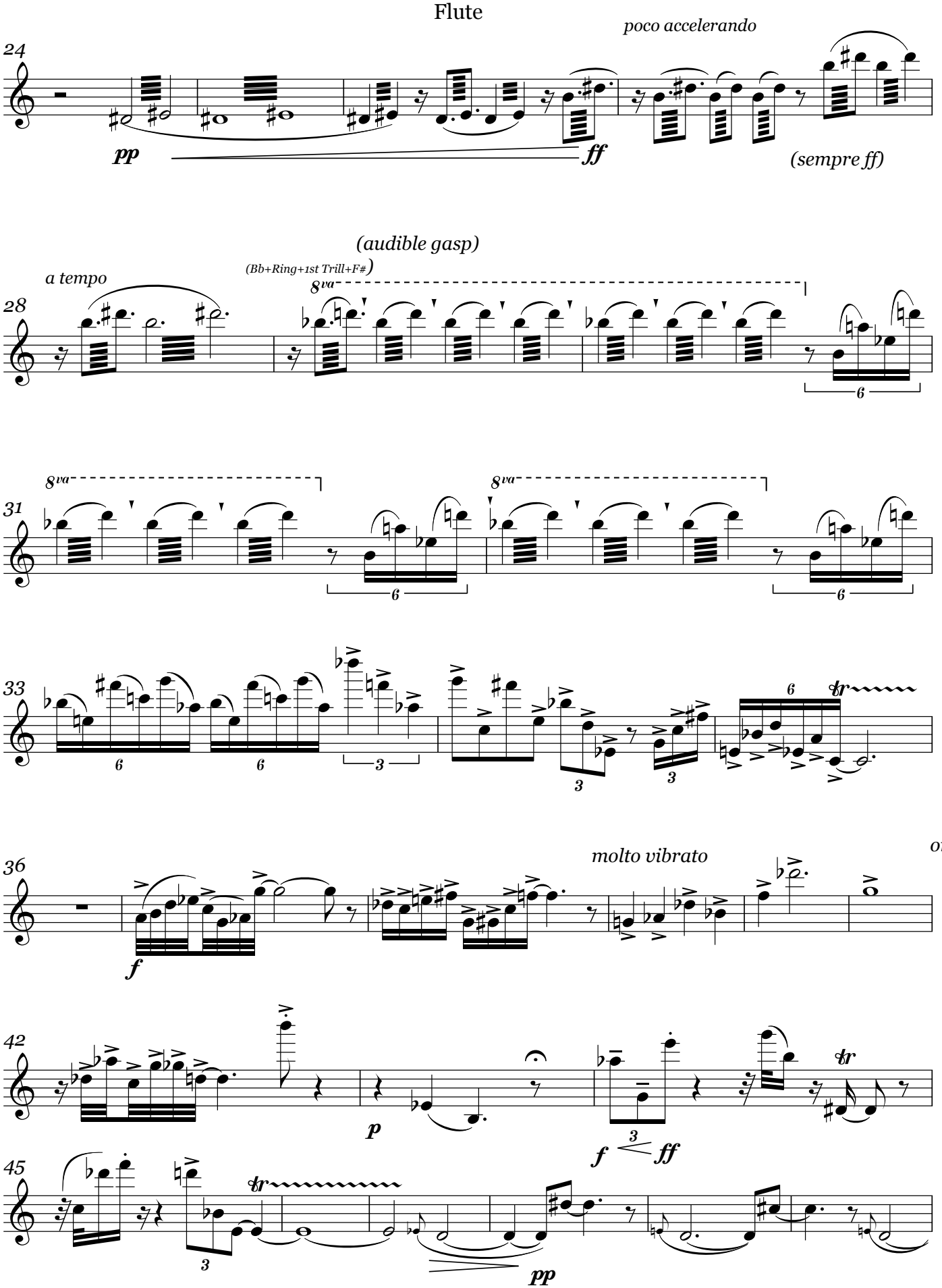
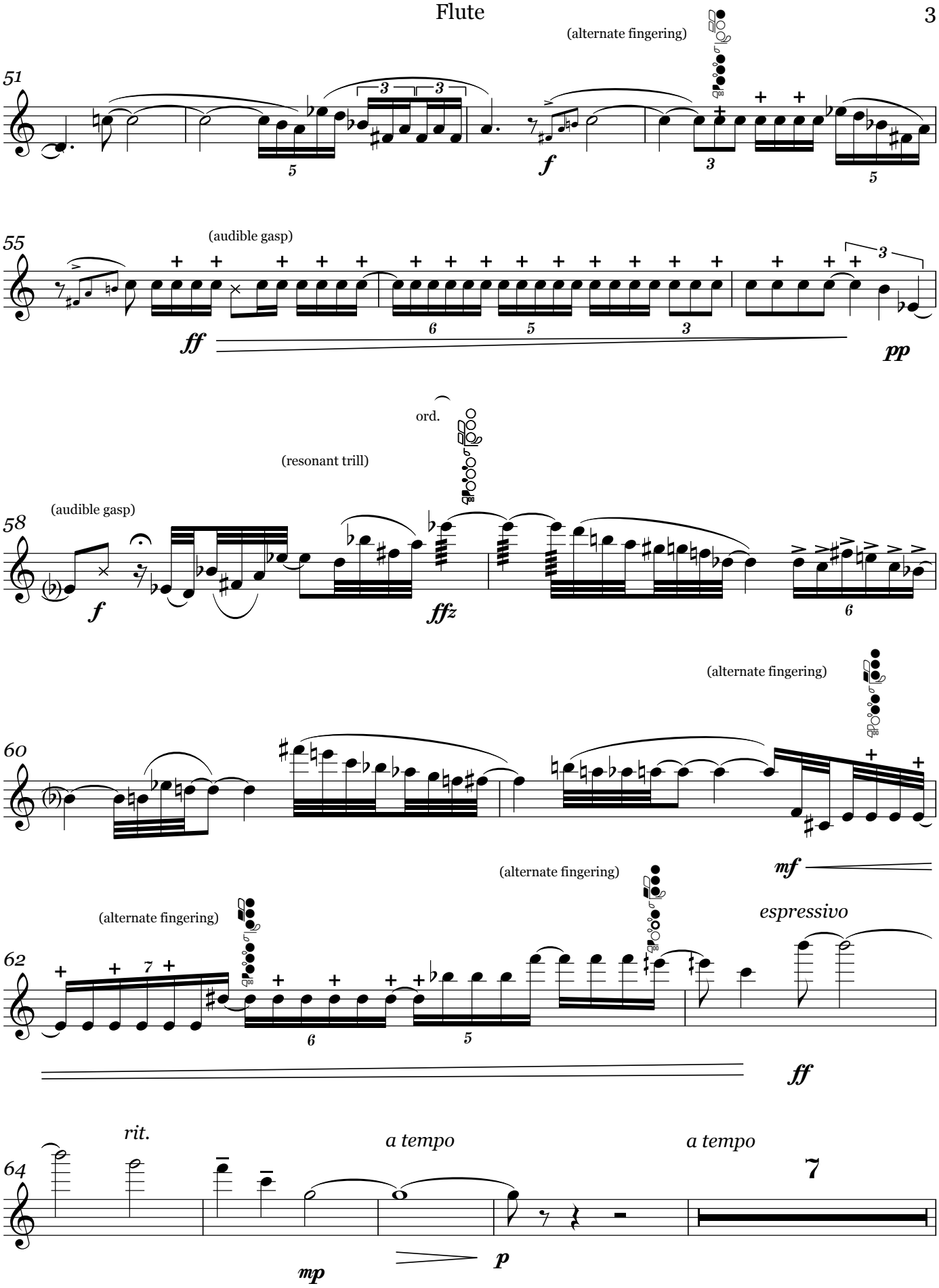
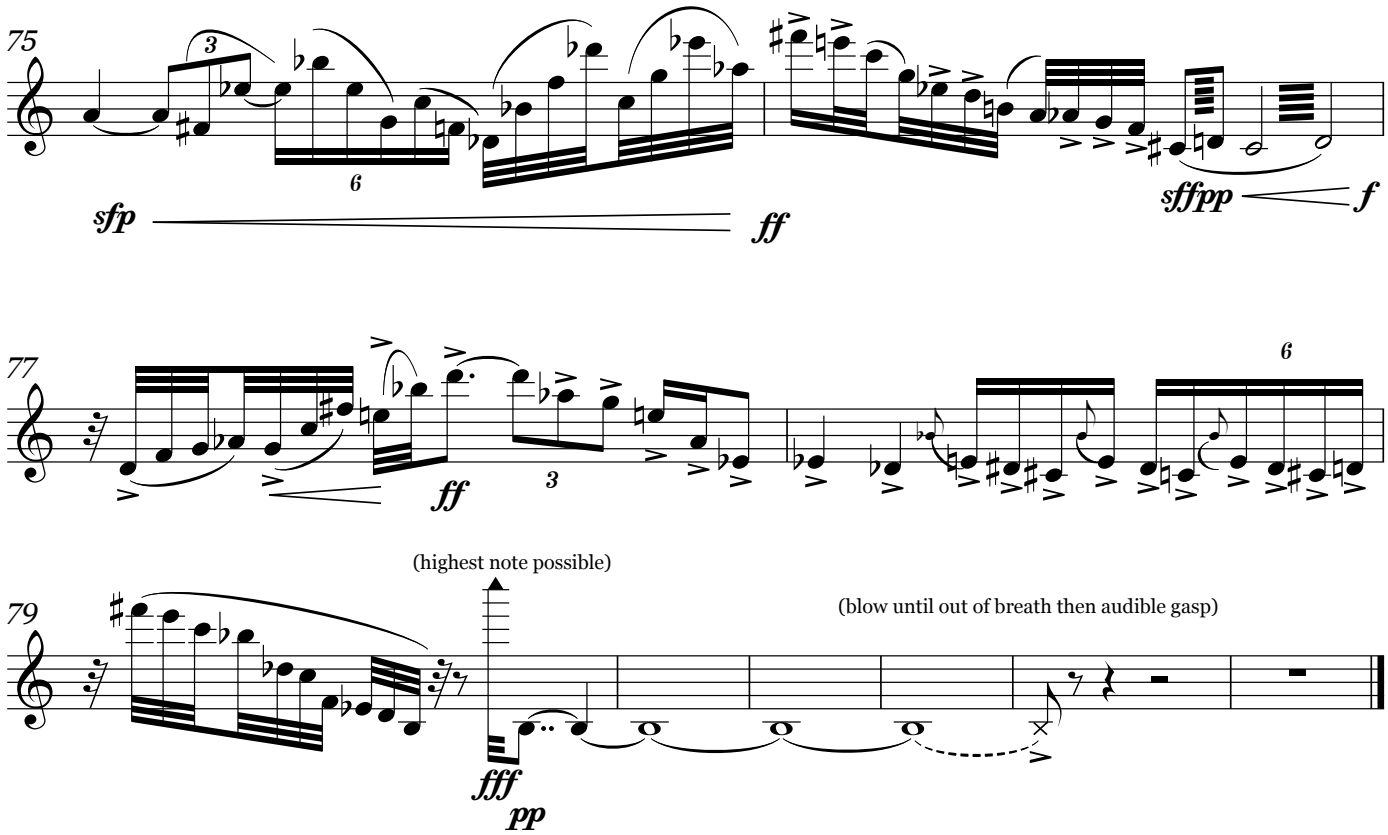



poco accelerando
24
pp
ff
(sempre ff)
(audible gasp)
a tempo
(Bb+Ring+1st Trill+F#)
8va
28
6
8va
31
8va
6
6
33
6
6
3
3
6
tr
ord.
molto vibrato
36
f
42
p
f
3
ff
tr
45
3
tr
pp


(alternate fingering)
51
f
55
(audible gasp)
ff
pp
ord.
(resonant trill)
58
(audible gasp)
f
ffz
(alternate fingering)
60
mf
(alternate fingering)
(alternate fingering)
espressivo
62
ff
rit.
a tempo
a tempo
64
mp
p


75
3
6
sfp
ff
sffpp
f
77
ff
3
6
(highest note possible)
79
fff
pp
(blow until out of breath then audible gasp)