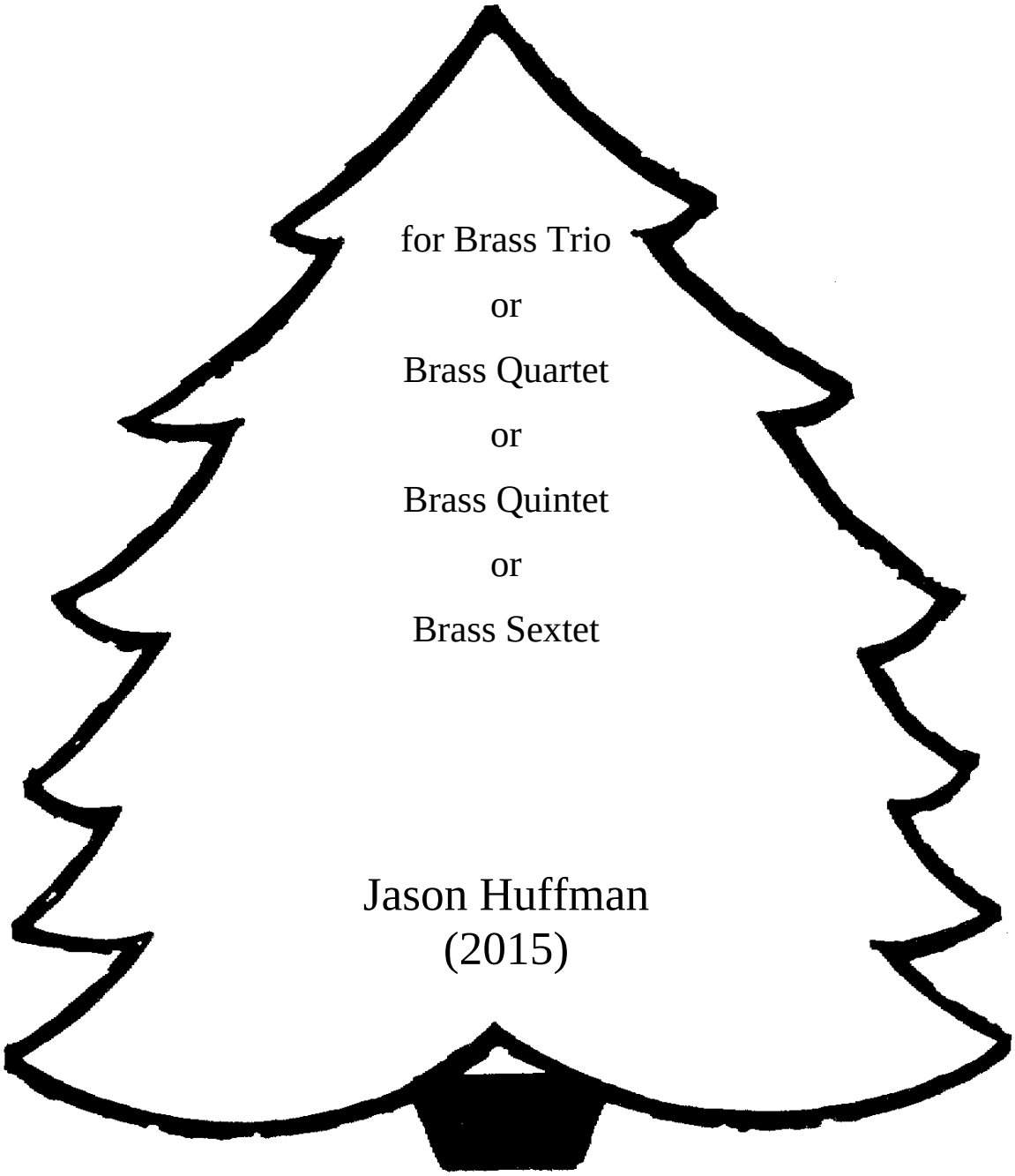
Christmas Tree



for Brass Trio

or

Brass Quartet

or

Brass Quintet

or

Brass Sextet

Jason Huffman

(2015)

Hyman Bloom, *Christmas Tree*, 1938-39
54 x 35 inches

Christmas Tree is the second in a larger series of works based on the numerous Christmas Trees Hyman Bloom painted throughout his life. Each piece, scored for different standard trios of instruments is constructed to be performed singly, or in simultaneous sounding combination with any or all of the other trios, recalling Bloom's extensive set of paintings and drawings of forests in Maine. Additionally, each trio can be optionally performed as a quartet, quintet or sextet, the additional parts coloring and thickening the existing trio textures. Formally, the piece follows the painting horizontally across the canvas in imperfect symmetry, ending on the central fulcrum of the unseen trunk, musically represented by a nearly unrecognizable quote of a well known, contextually appropriate tune.

Christmas Tree can be performed as a:

Brass Trio using the Trumpet, Horn and Euphonium/Bass Trombone parts

Brass Quartet using the Trumpet, Horn, Trombone and Euphonium/Bass Trombone parts

Brass Quintet using the Piccolo Trumpet, Trumpet, Horn, Euphonium/Bass Trombone and Tuba parts

Brass Sextet using all parts

Mutes:
Piccolo Trumpet – Metal Straight Mute, Practice Mute
Trumpet – Plunger, Metal Straight Mute
Horn – Mute, Practice Mute
Trombone – Metal Straight Mute
Euphonium/Bass Trombone – Plunger, Metal Straight Mute, Practice Mute
Tuba – Straight Mute, Practice Mute
+ and o are used for closed and open respectively with the plunger
When playing with the practice mutes, dynamics indicated are as if unmuted, not the sounding dynamic

Specified and alternate fingerings are labeled top to bottom from the first valve, T in the horn is the thumb valve

Square noteheads indicate air sounds using the fingering or position specified, the lowest non-pedal tone is used to eliminate any confusion

⏲ above a note indicates a mouthpiece pop using the indicated fingering or position

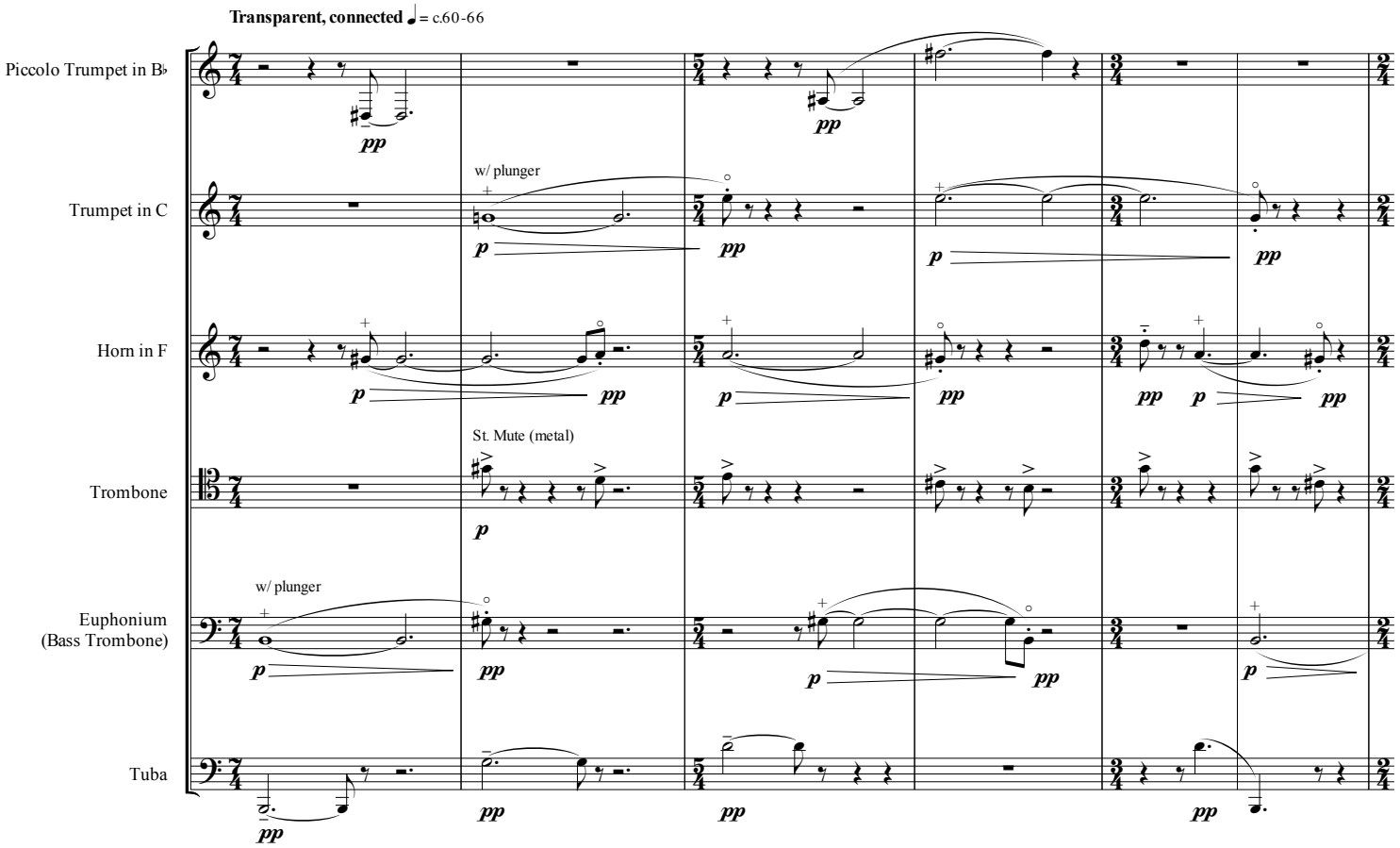
Cues for the rhythm of the core trio parts are given in all parts to facilitate rehearsal and performance

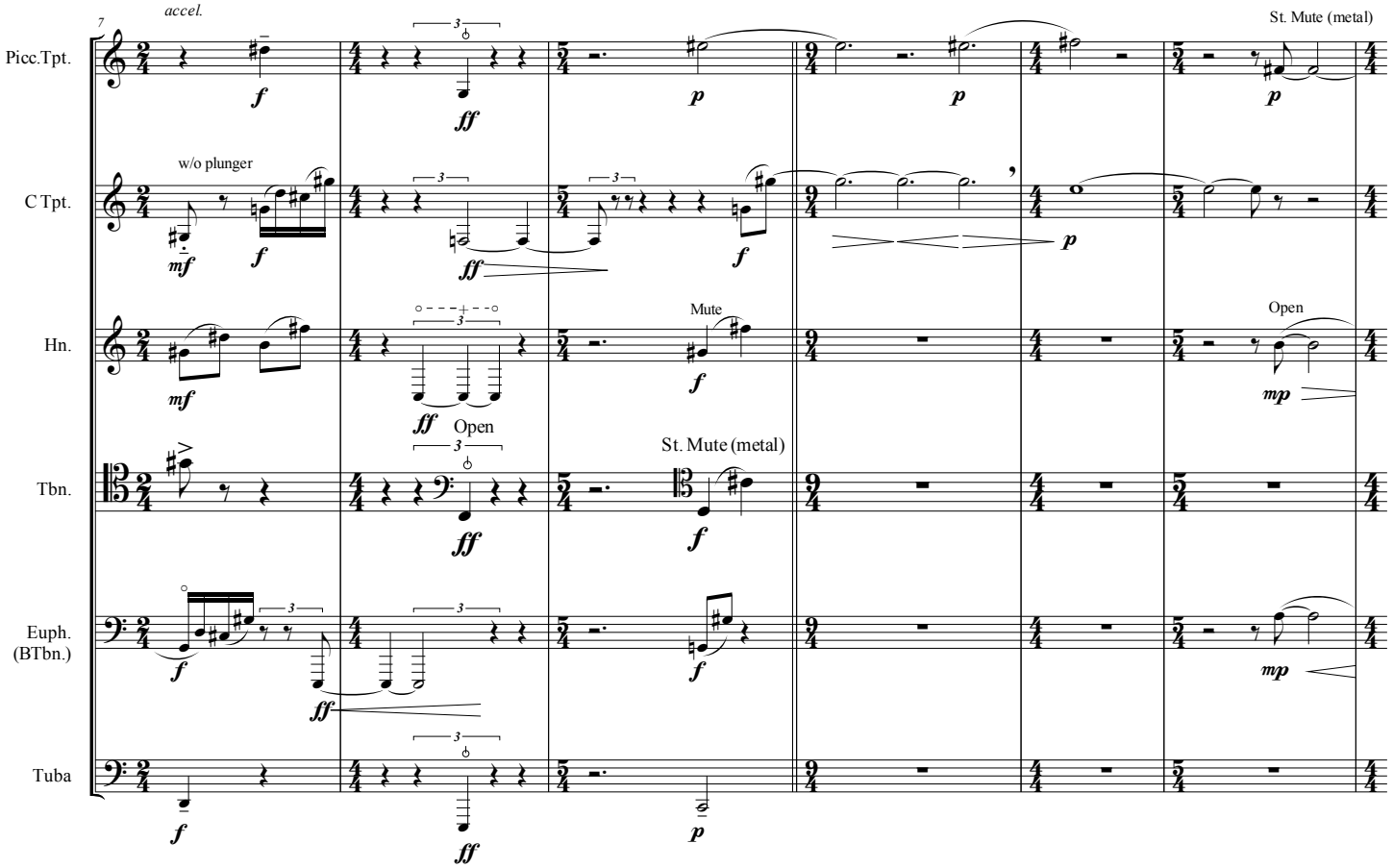
Wedge-shaped tremolos get faster (from approximately eighth-notes to a true tremolo) if they expand, slower if they contract

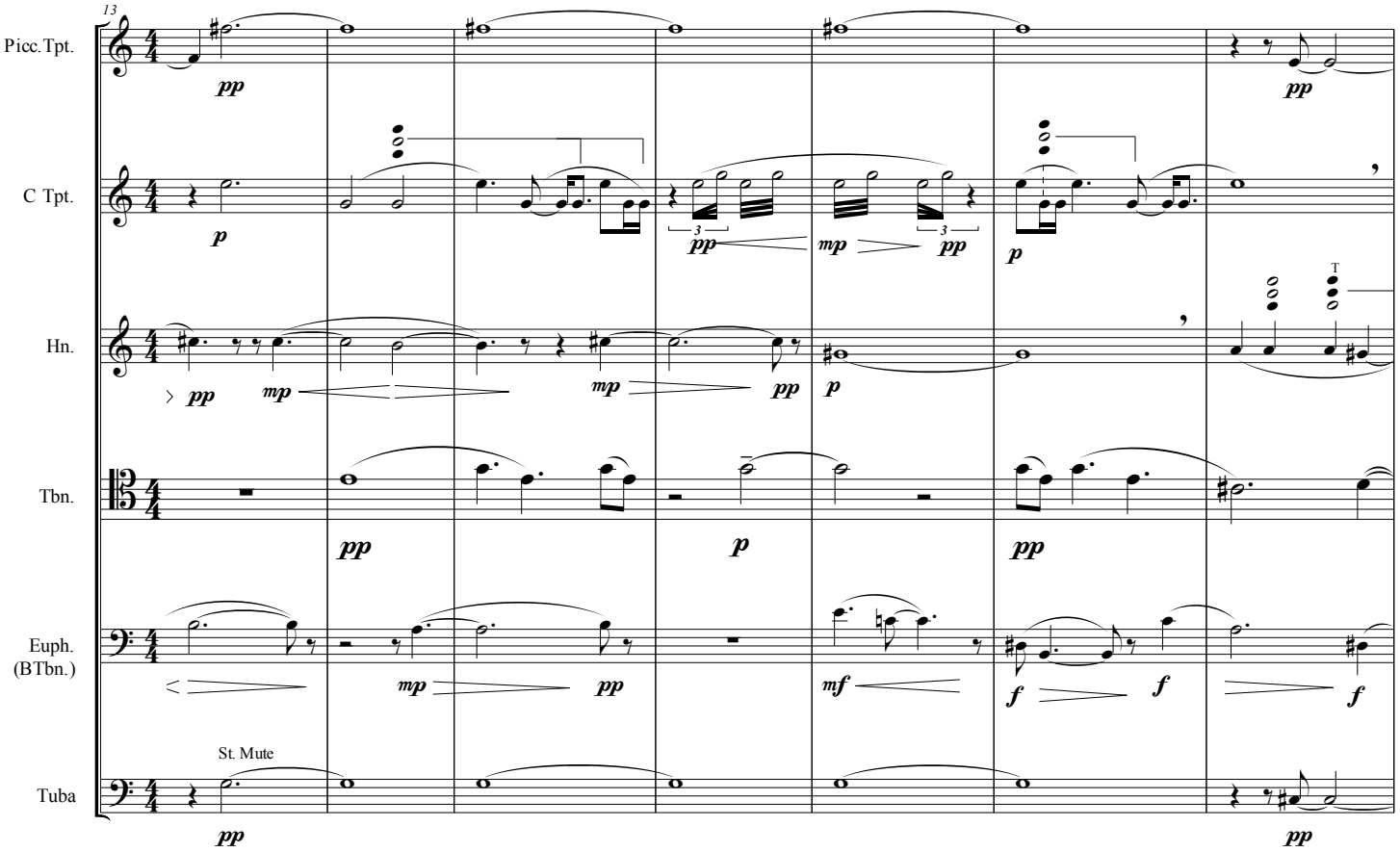
Score

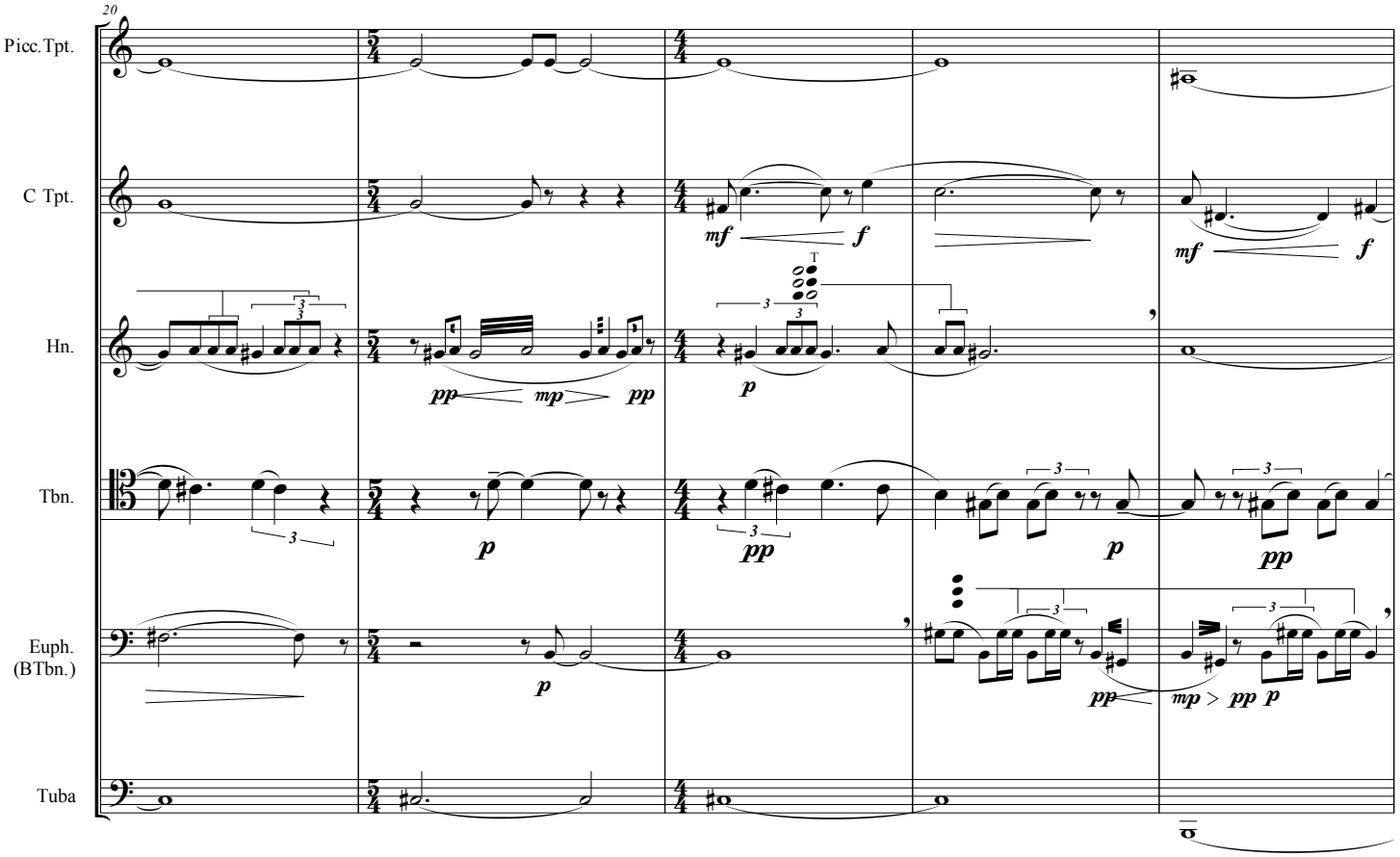
Christmas Tree

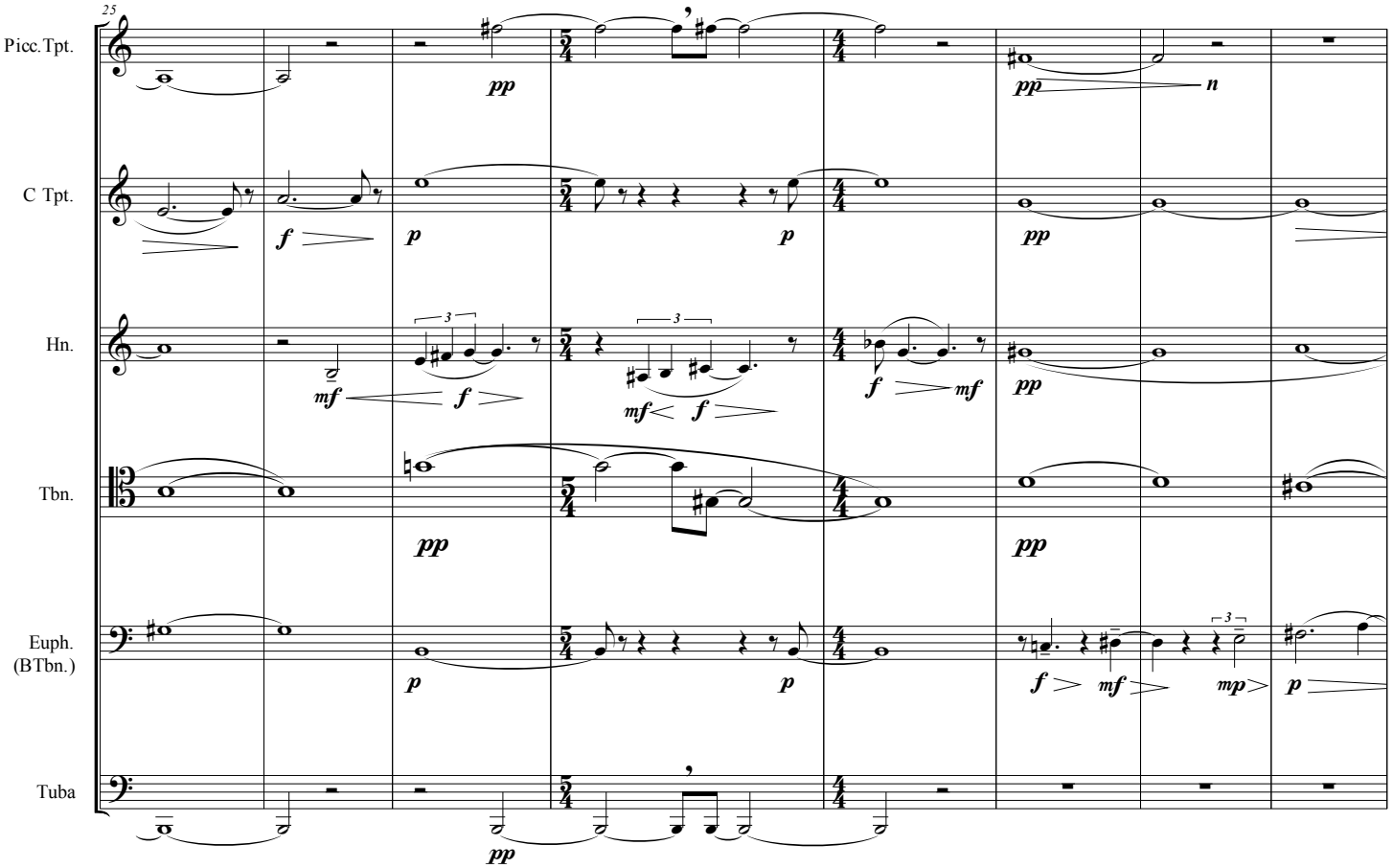
Jason Huffman

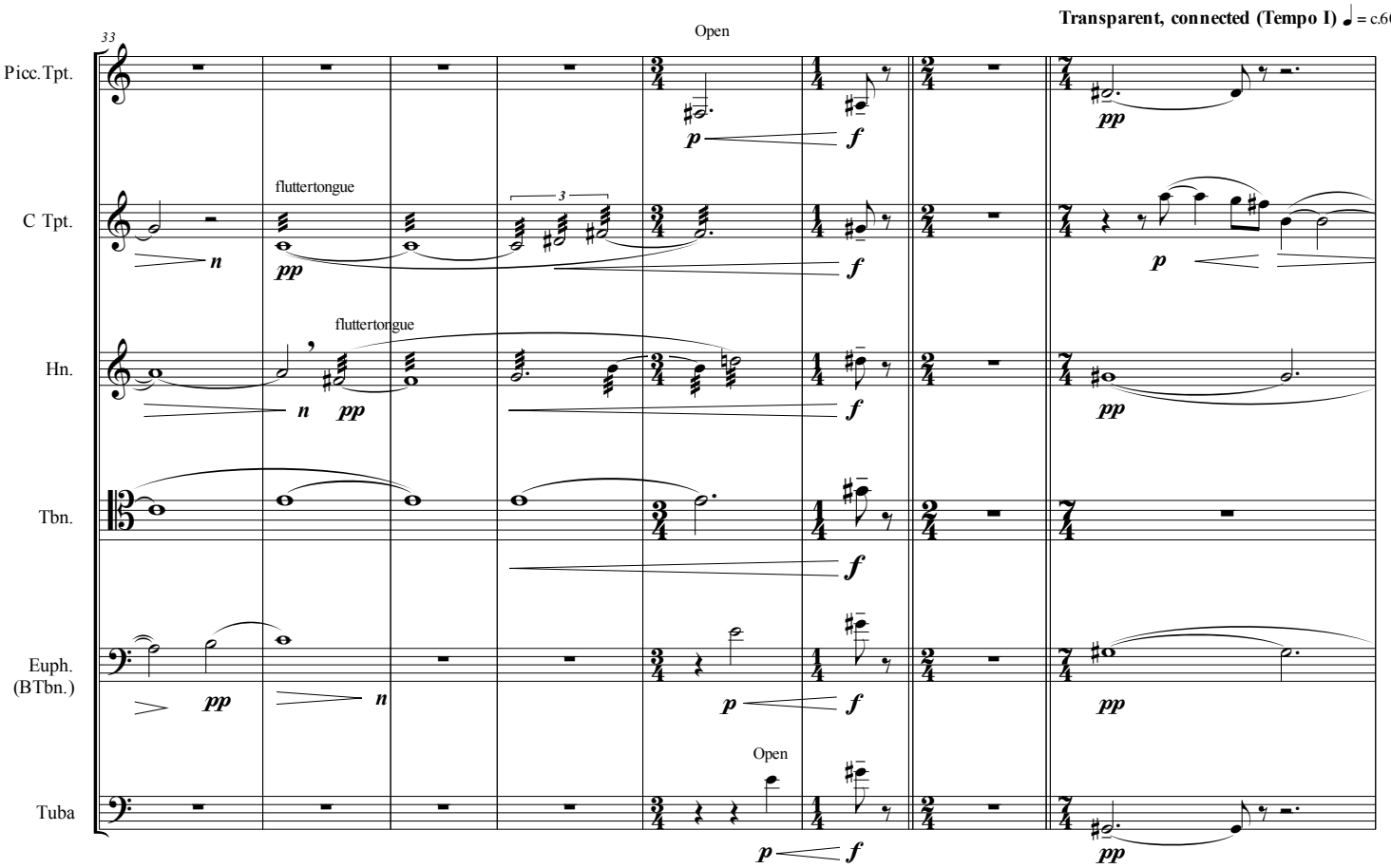


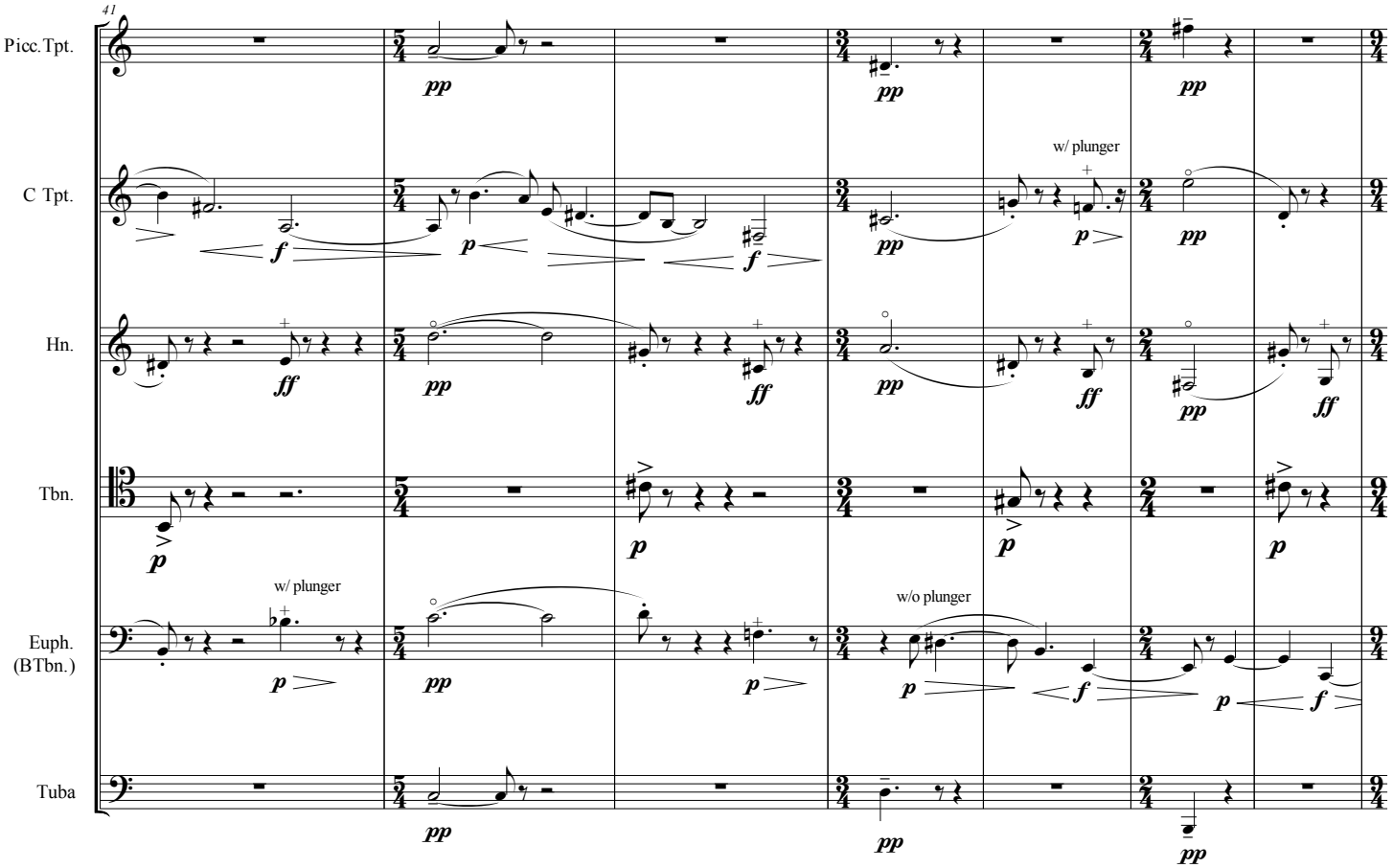


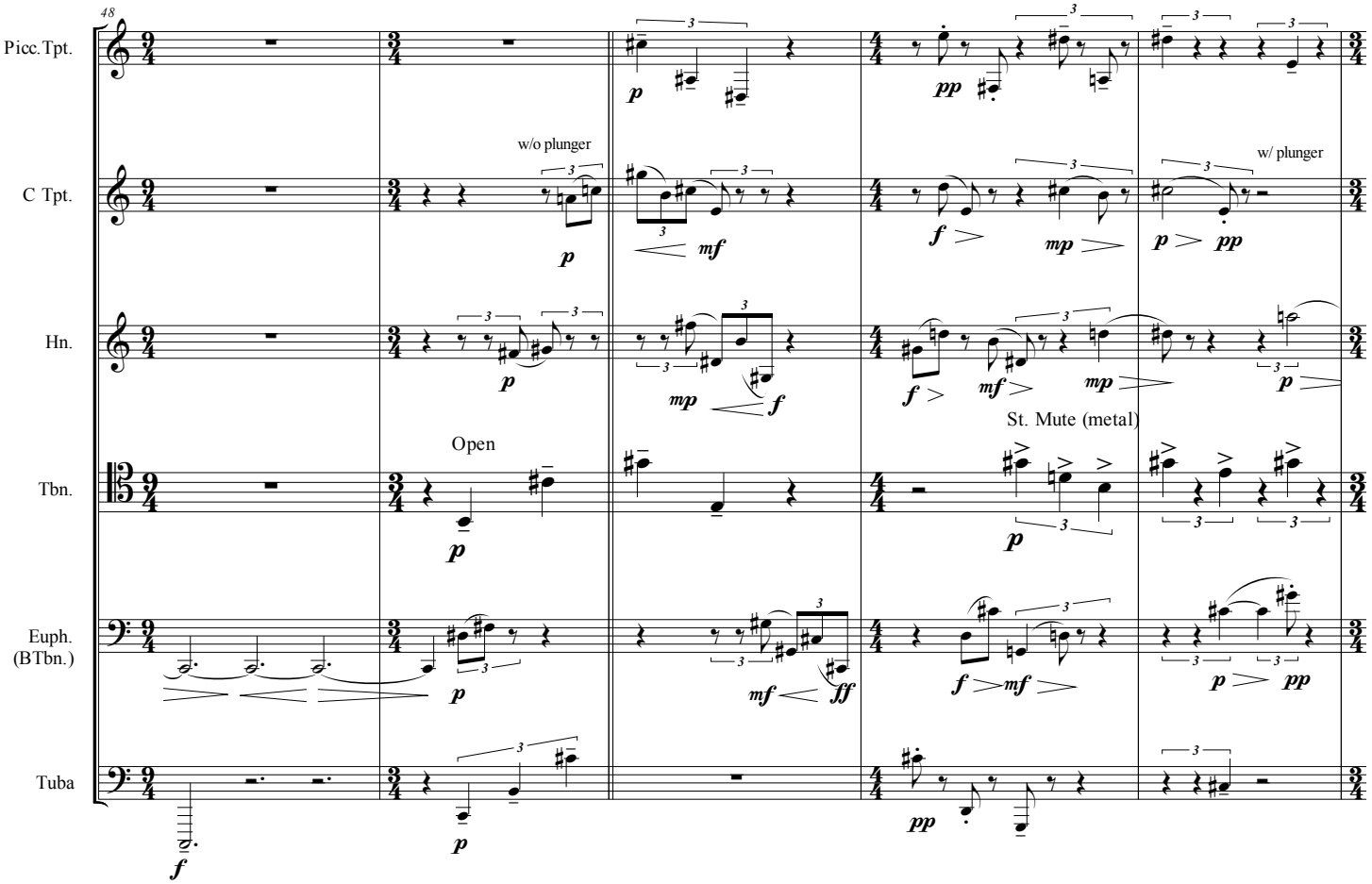

13
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
St. Mute
Tuba
pp
p
mp
mf
f
T

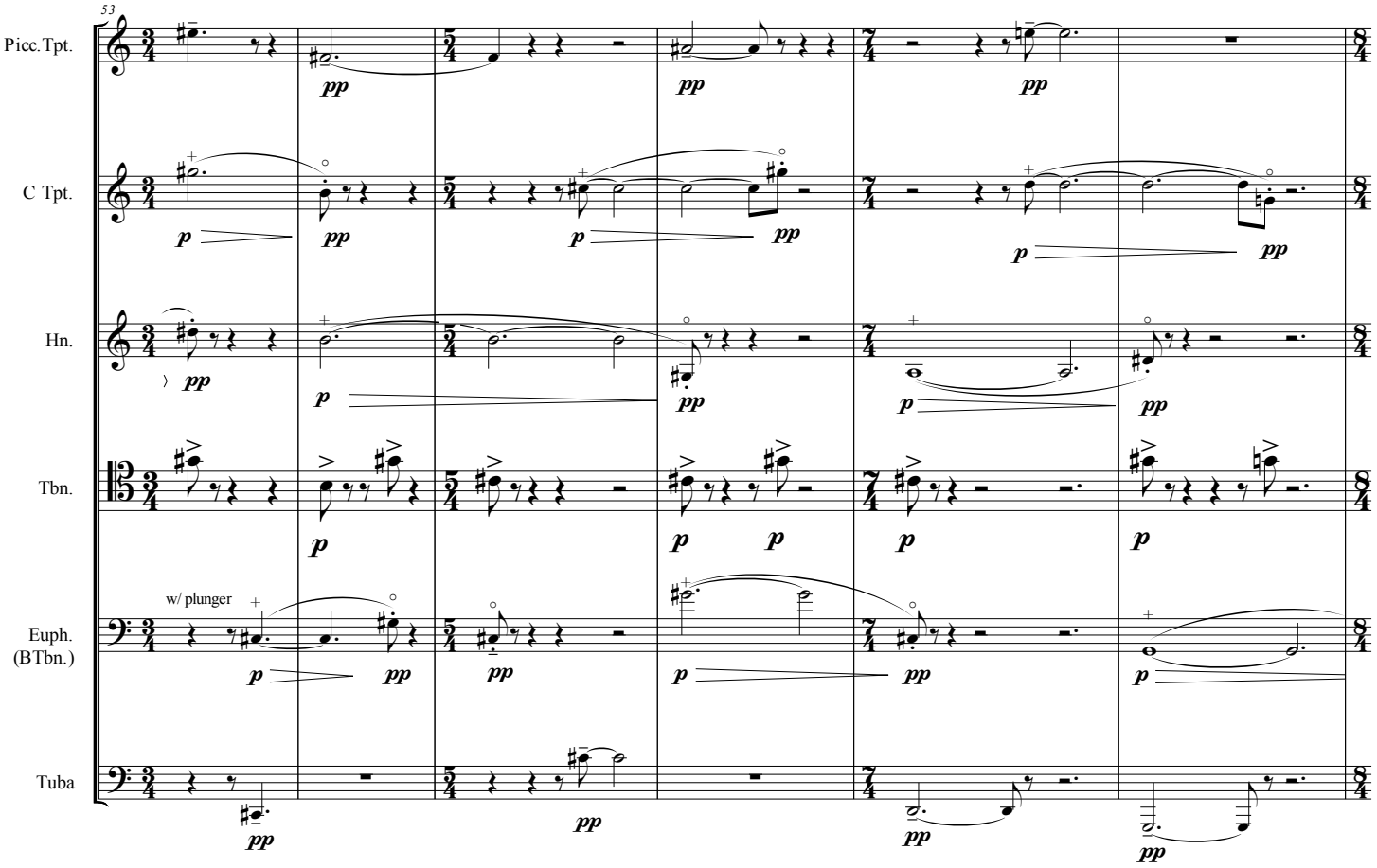

20
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Tuba
pp
p
mp
mf
f
T

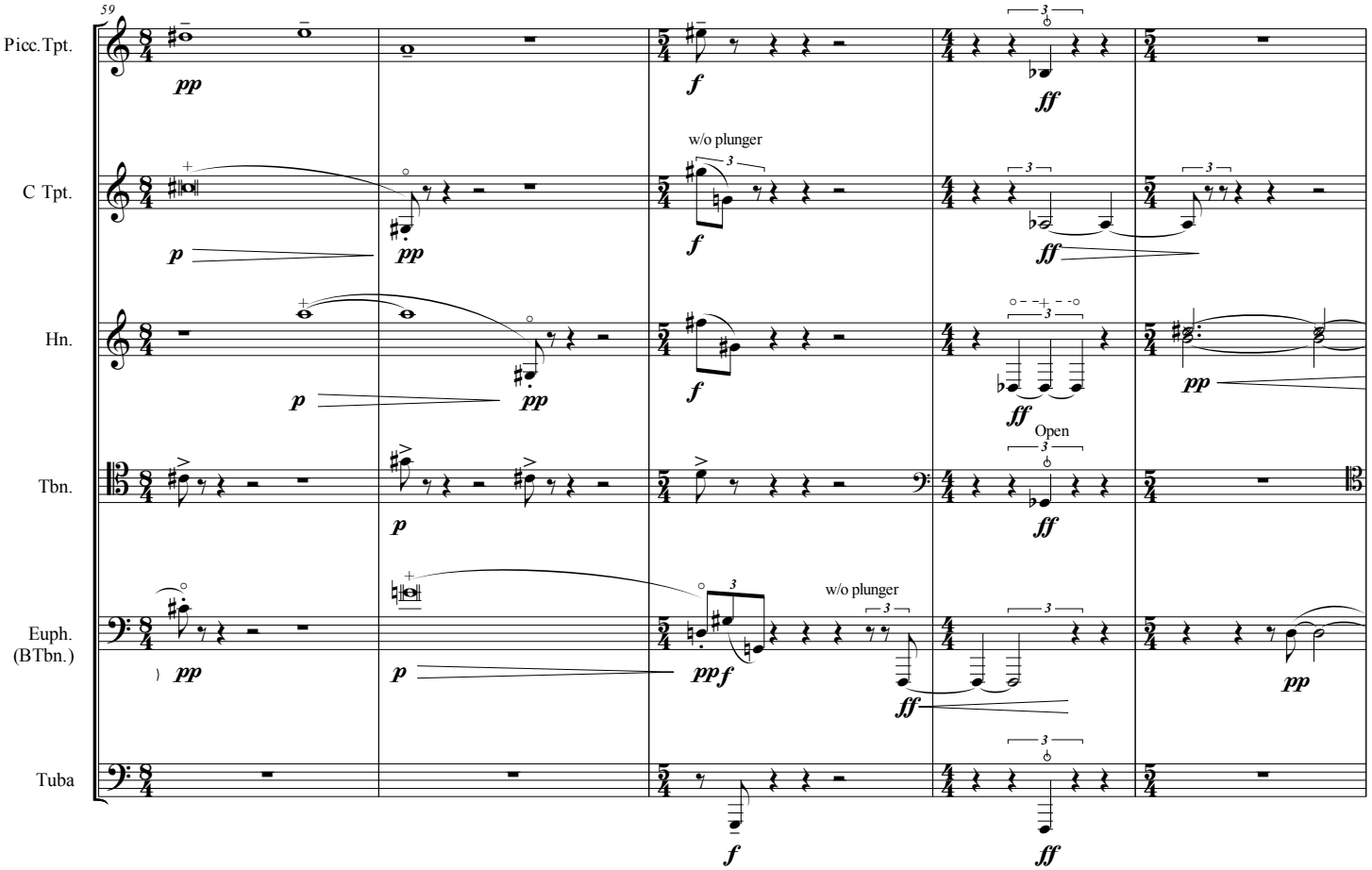

25
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Tuba

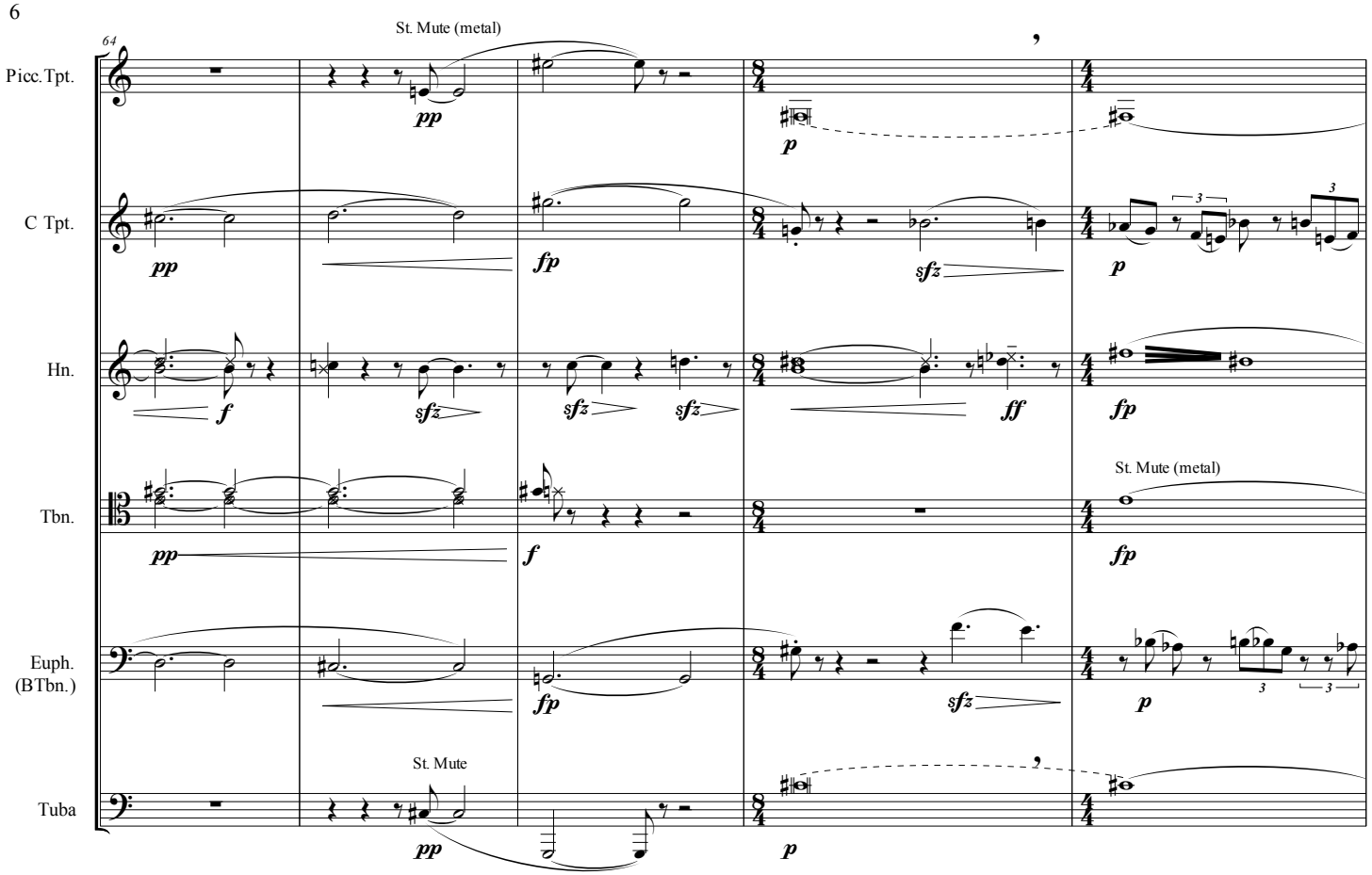

Transparent, connected (Tempo I) ♩ = c.60-66
33
Open
Picc.Tpt.
fluttertongue
C Tpt.
fluttertongue
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Open
Tuba

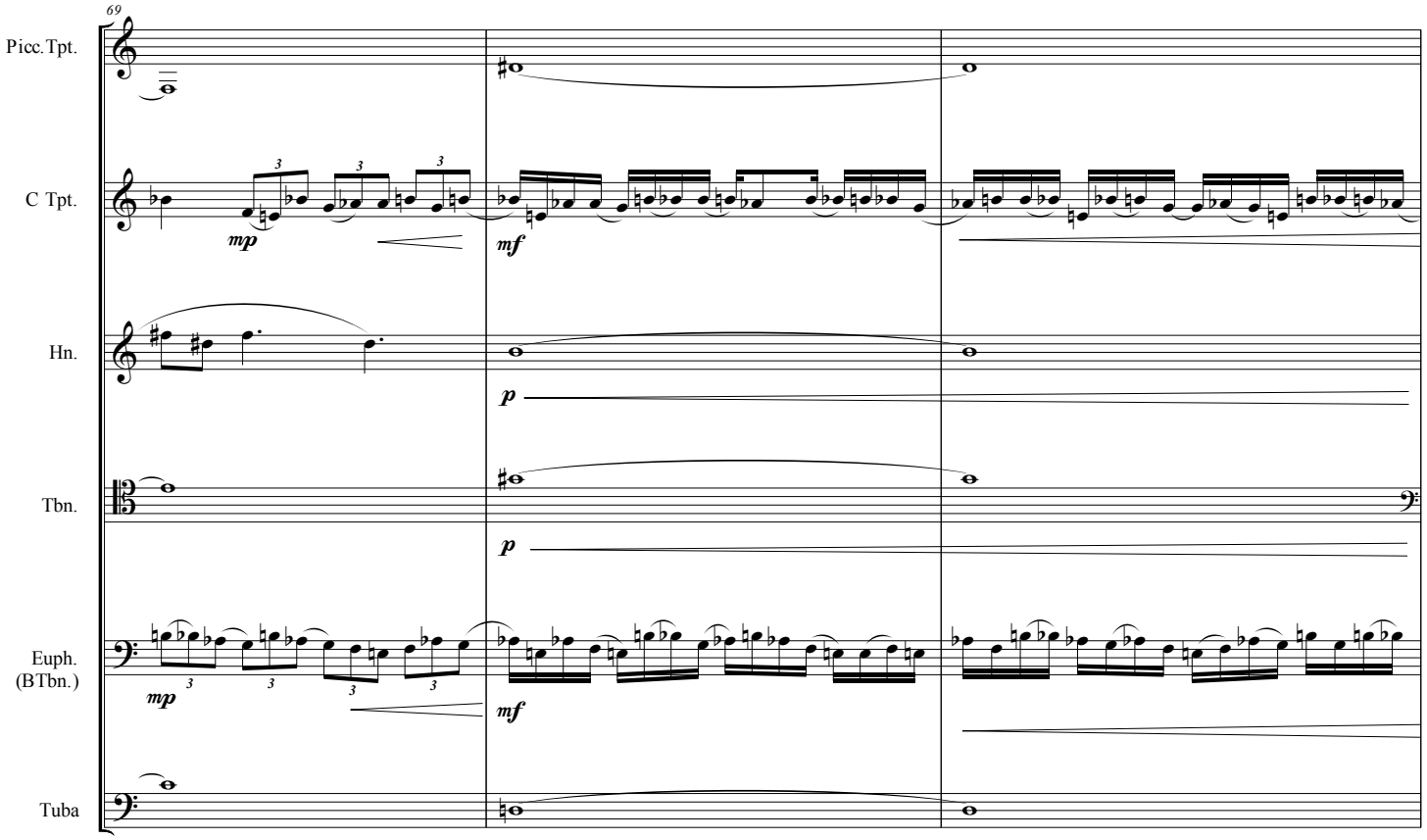

41
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Tuba
w/ plunger
w/o plunger

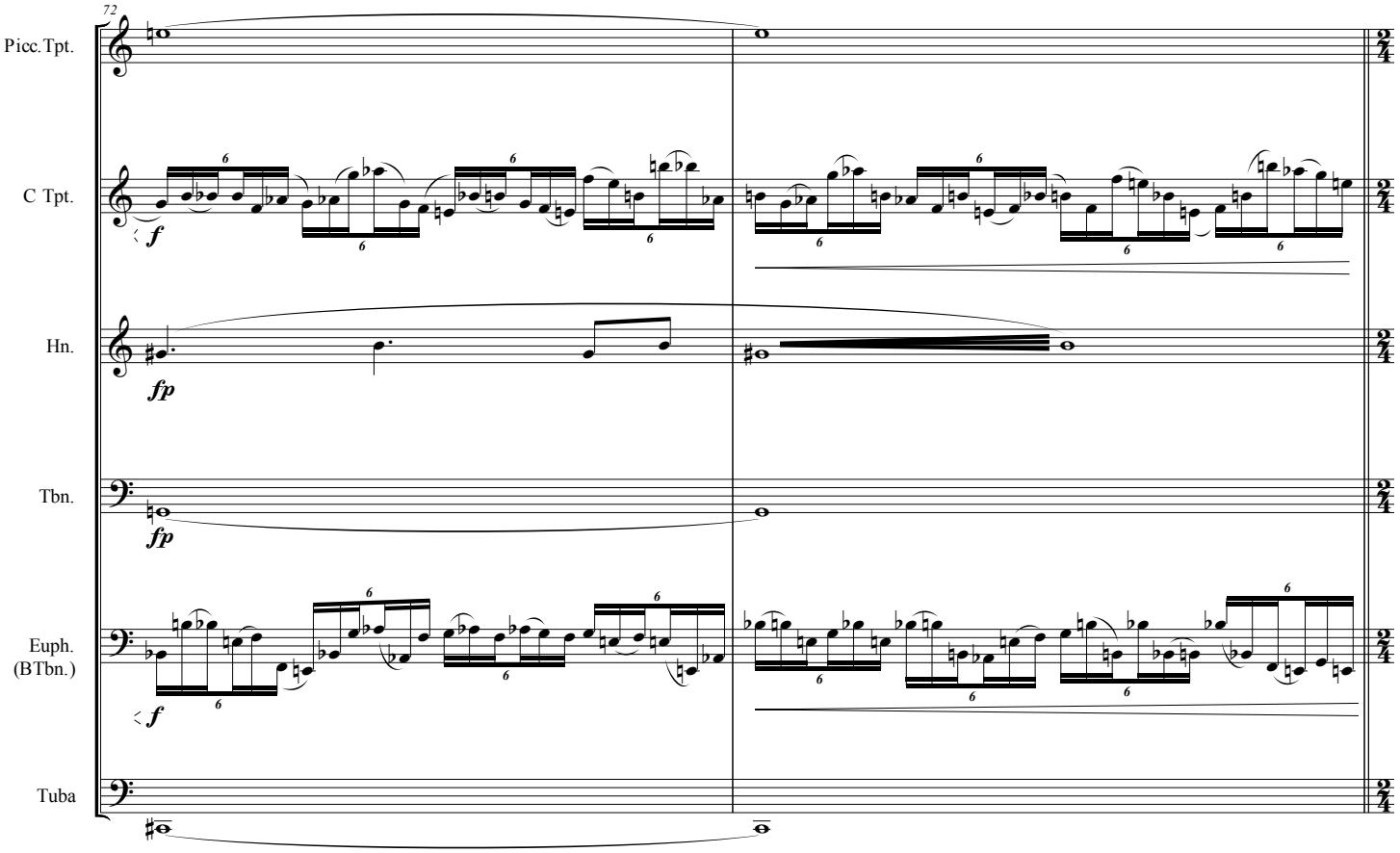

48
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Tuba
w/o plunger
w/ plunger
Open
St. Mute (metal)

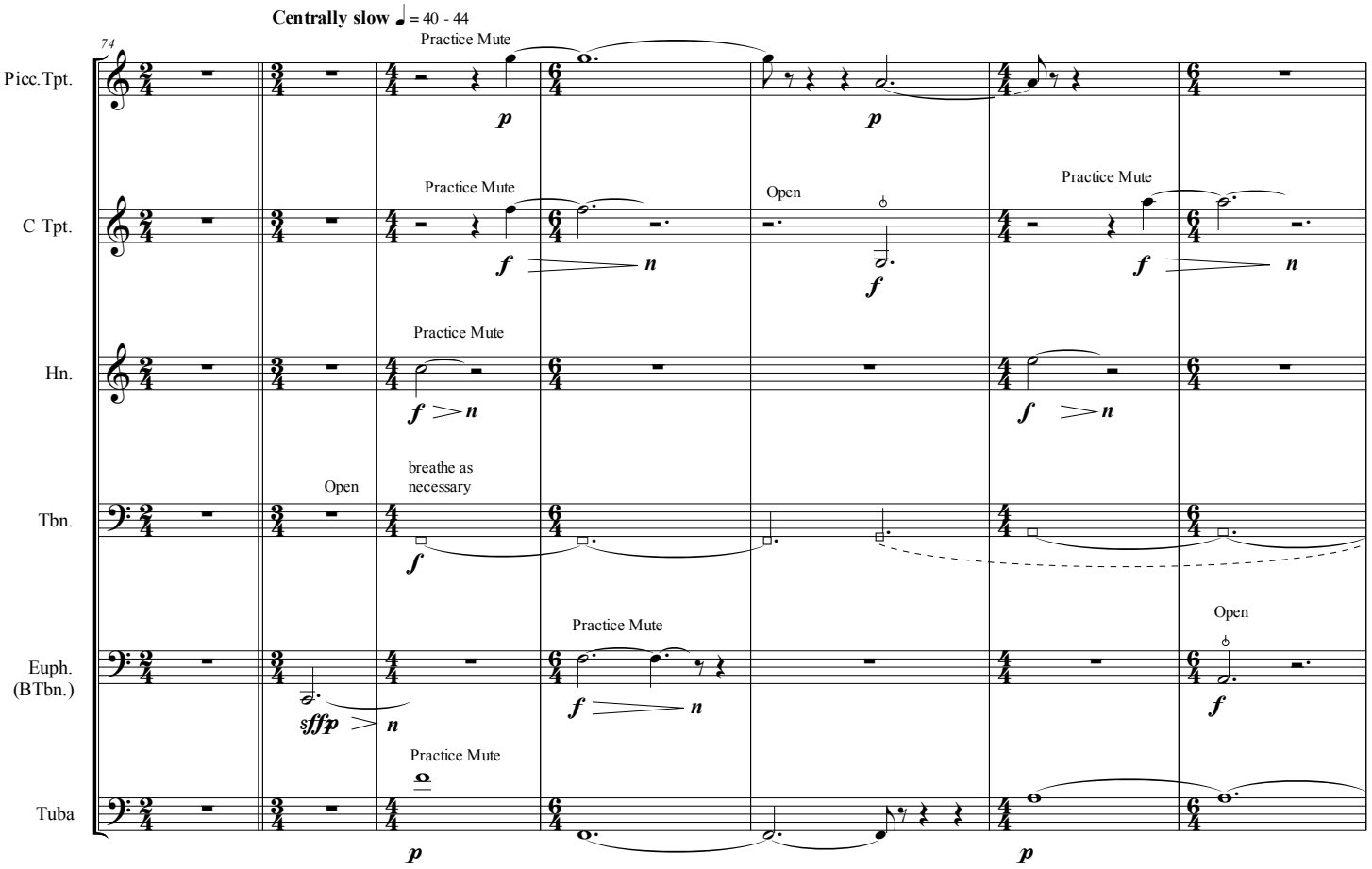

53
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Tuba
w/ plunger

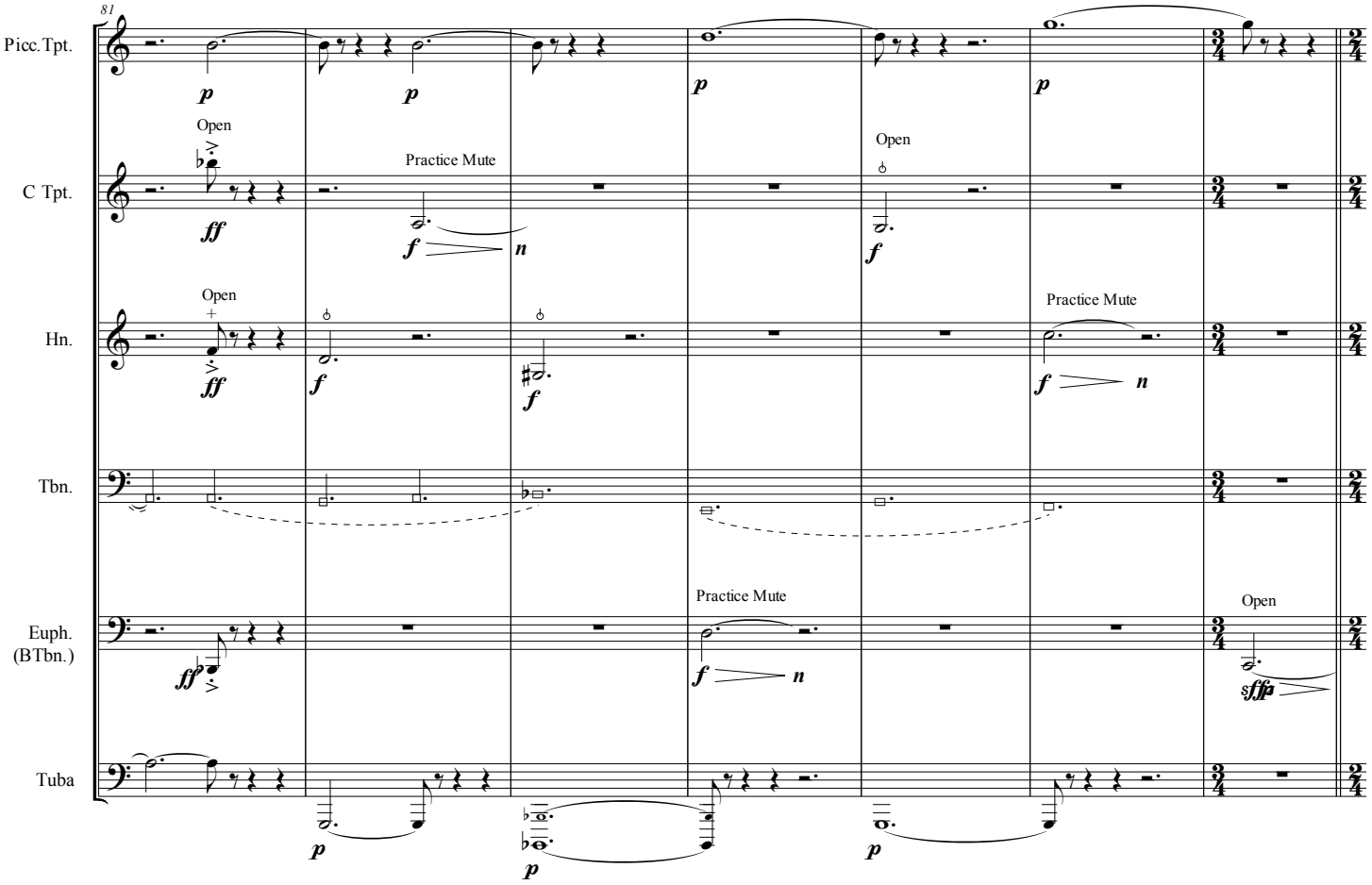

59
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Tuba
w/o plunger
Open
w/o plunger

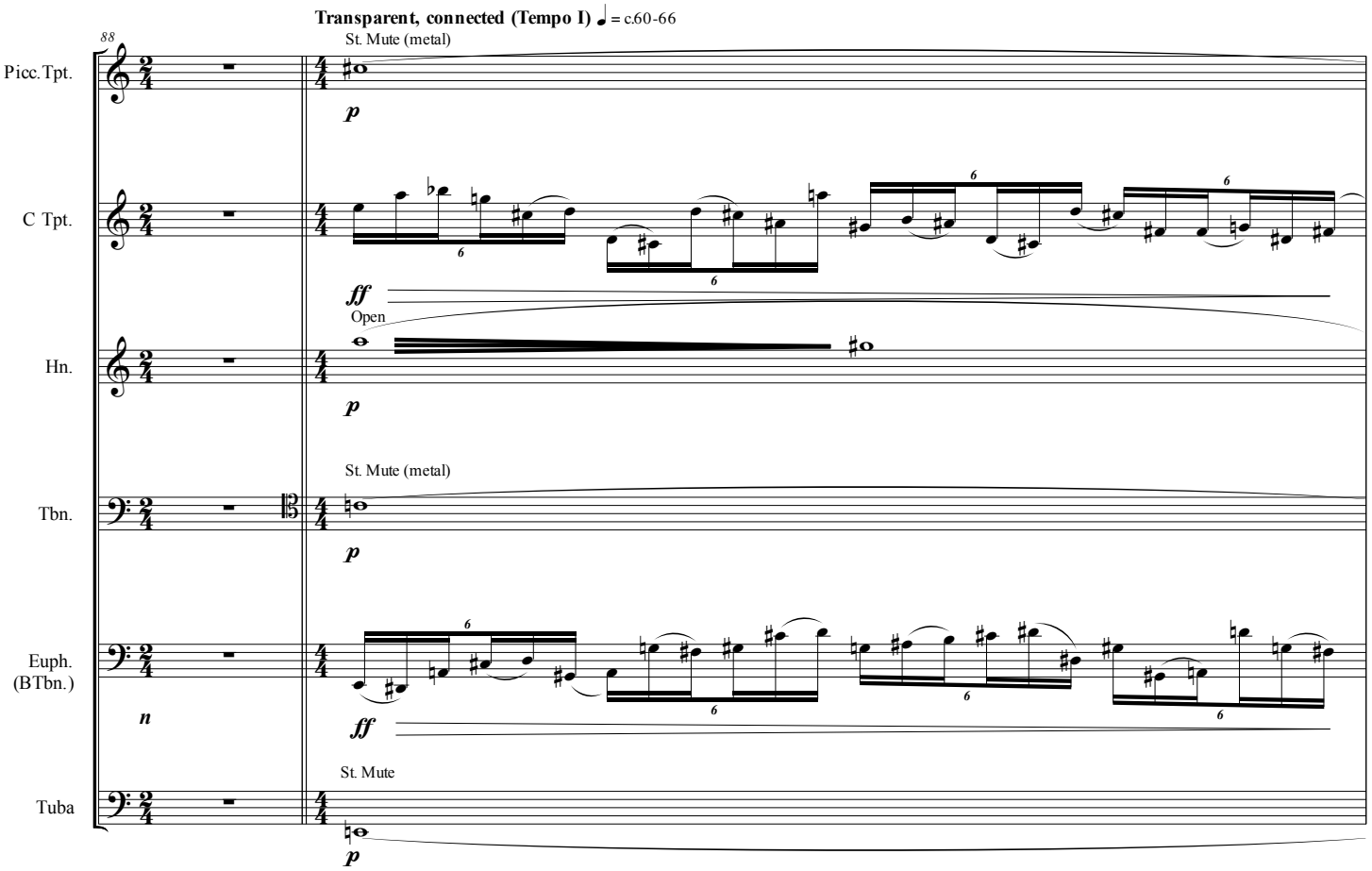

64
St. Mute (metal)
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
St. Mute (metal)
Euph. (BTbn.)
St. Mute
Tuba
pp
p
fp
sfz
f
ff

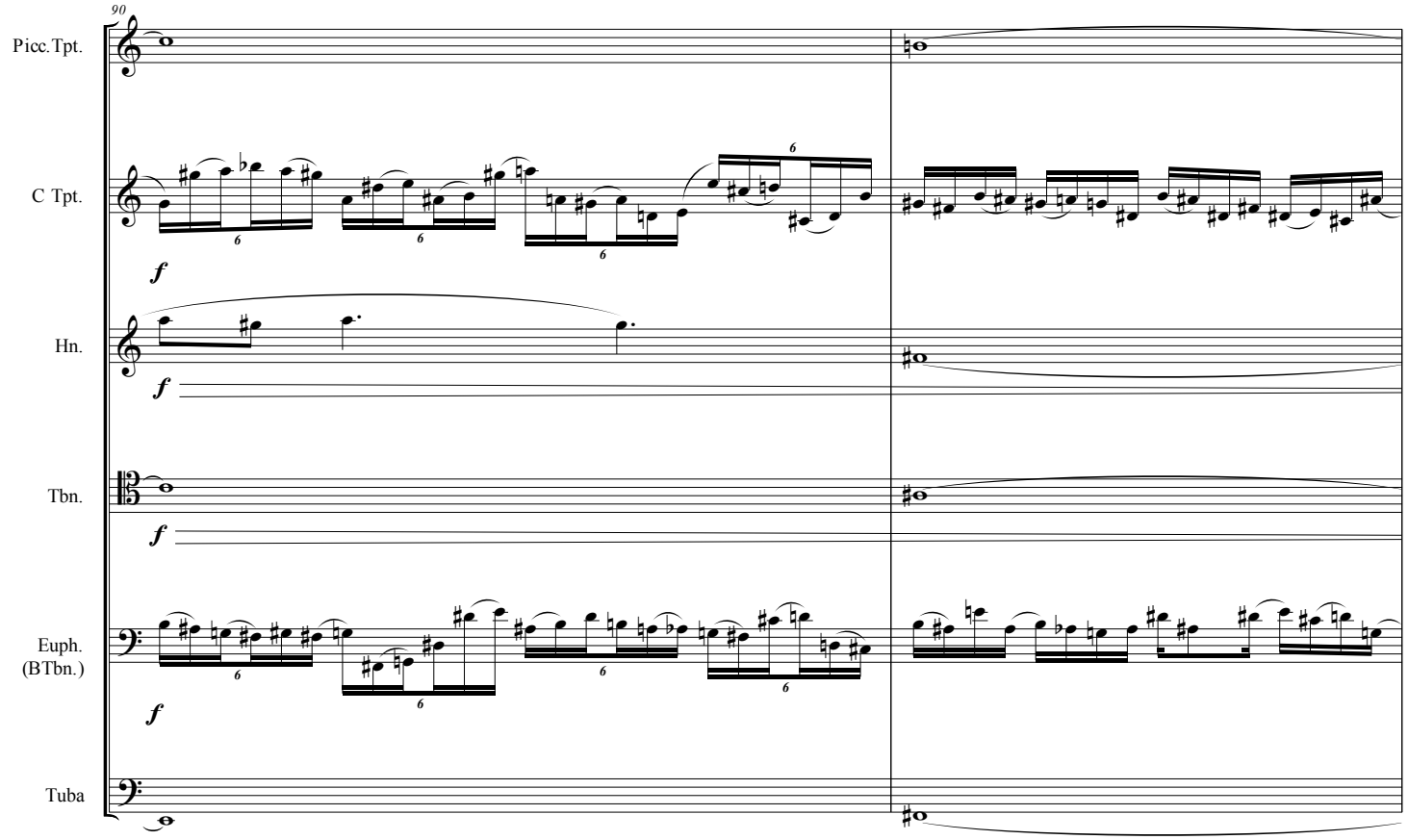

69
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Tuba
mp
mf
p

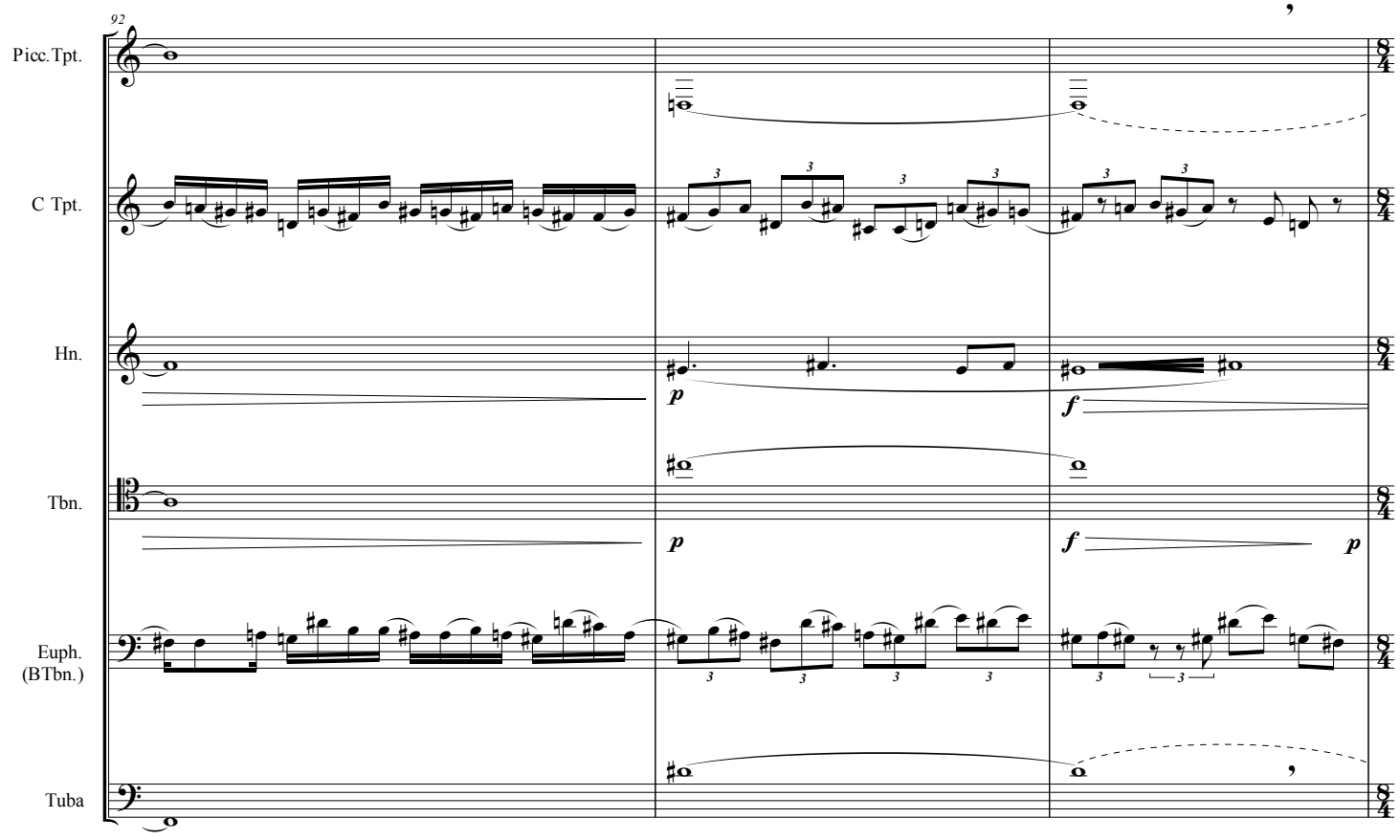

72
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Tuba
f
fp
fp
f

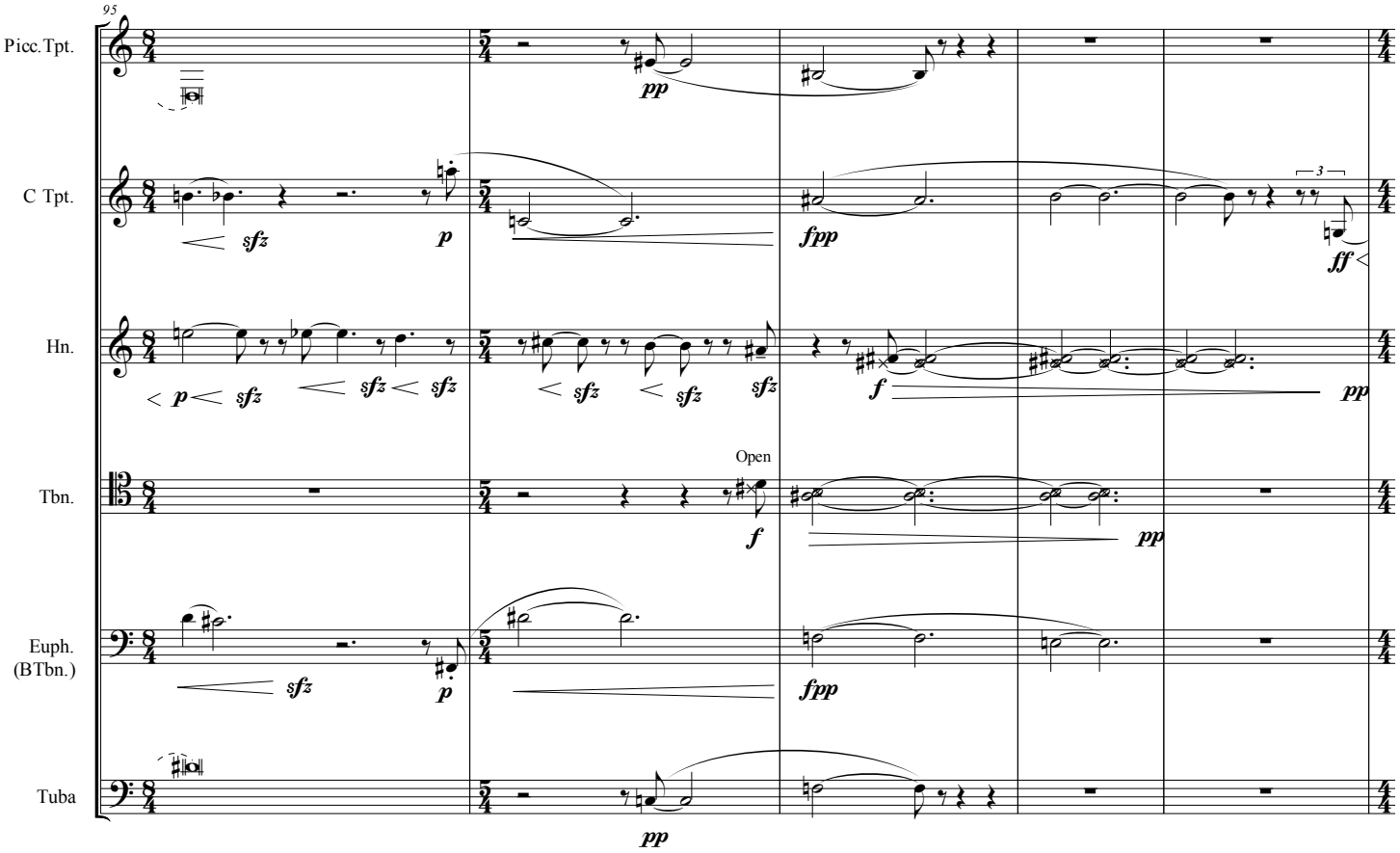

74
Centrally slow ♩ = 40 - 44
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Tuba
Practice Mute
Open
breathe as necessary
p
f
n
sffp

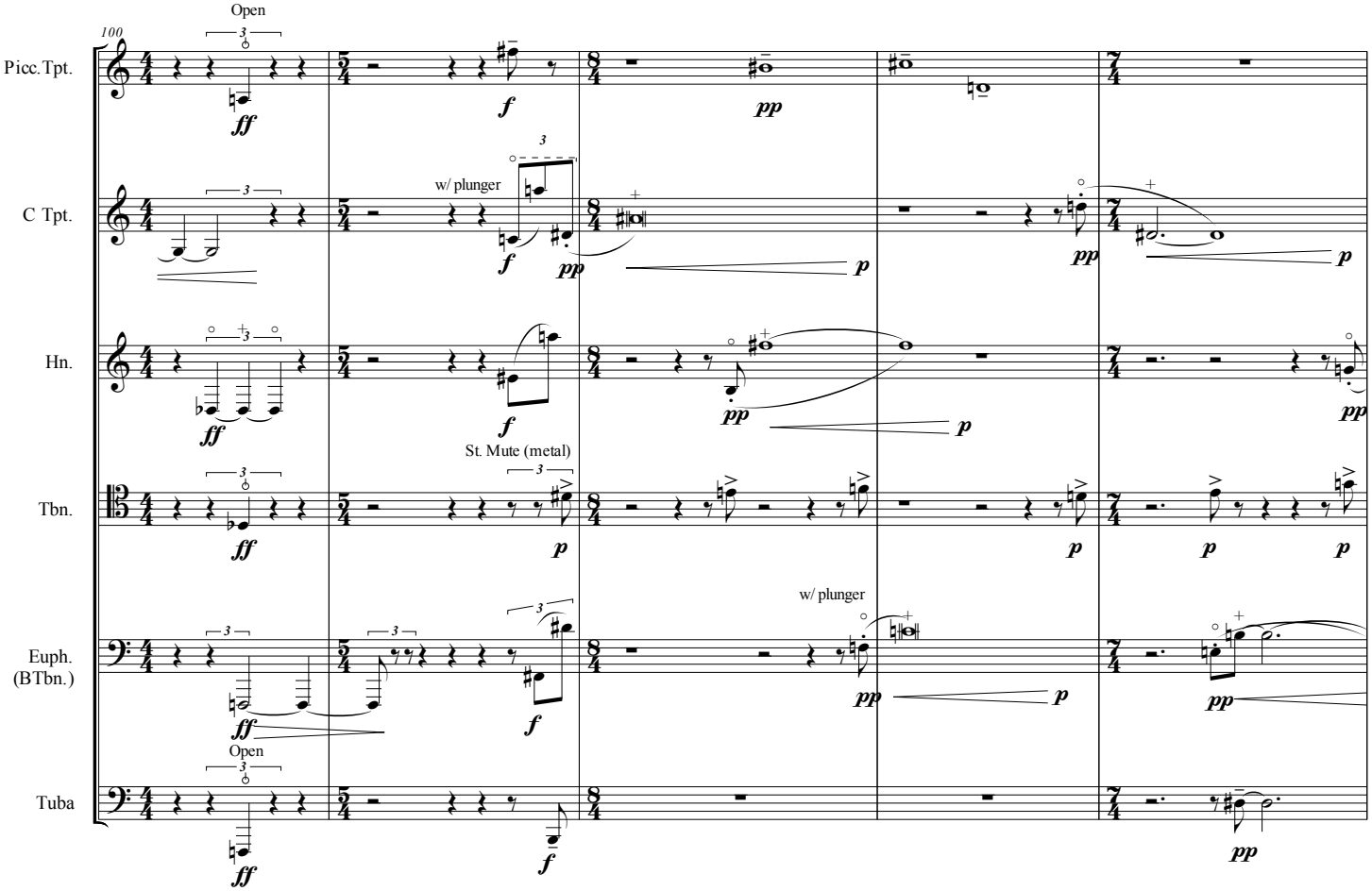

81
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Tuba
Open
Practice Mute
Open
Open
Practice Mute
Practice Mute
Open
p
ff
f
n
fff
sfffp

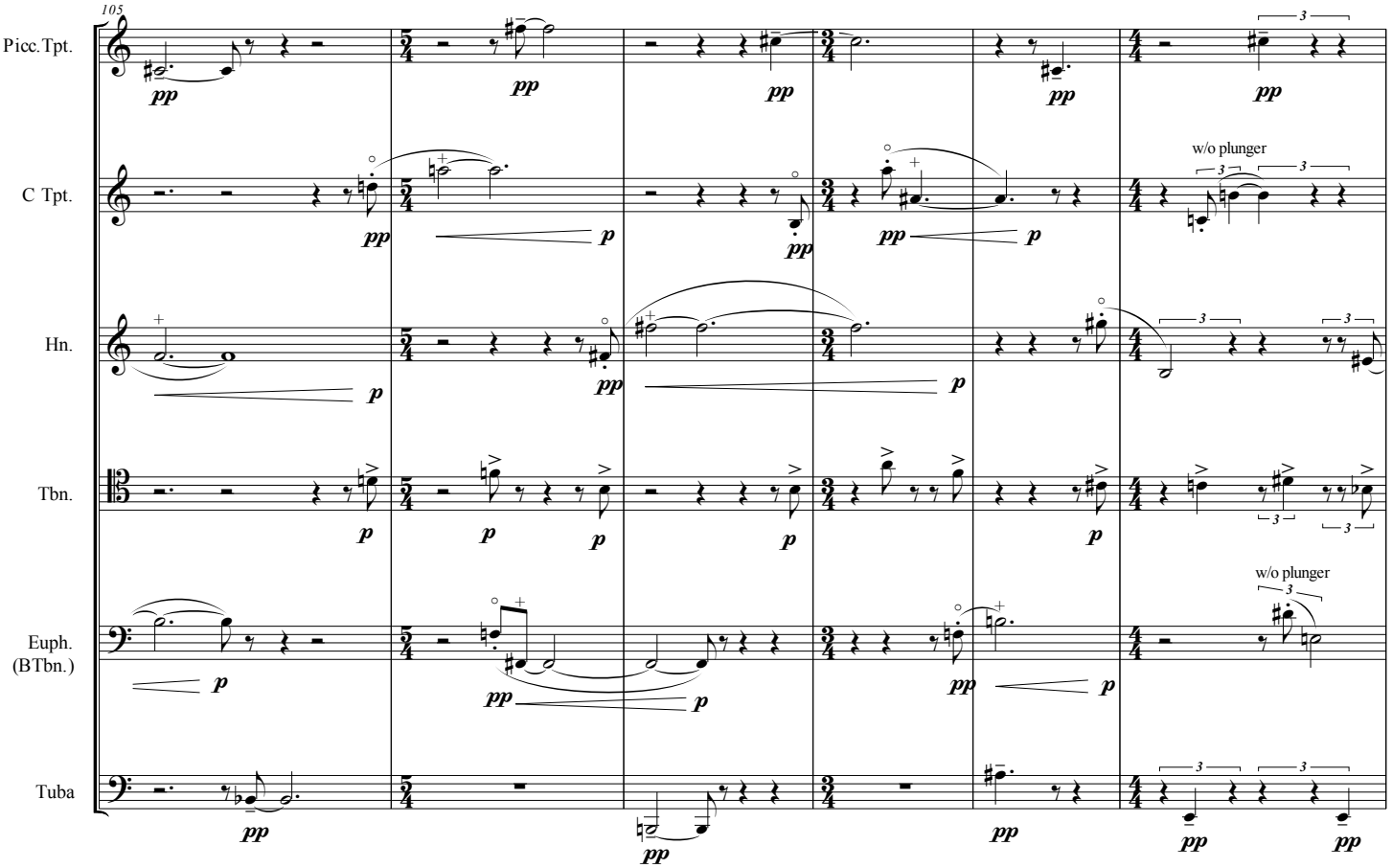

Transparent, connected (Tempo I) ♩ = c.60-66
88
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Tuba
St. Mute (metal)
St. Mute (metal)
St. Mute
Open
p
ff
n
6

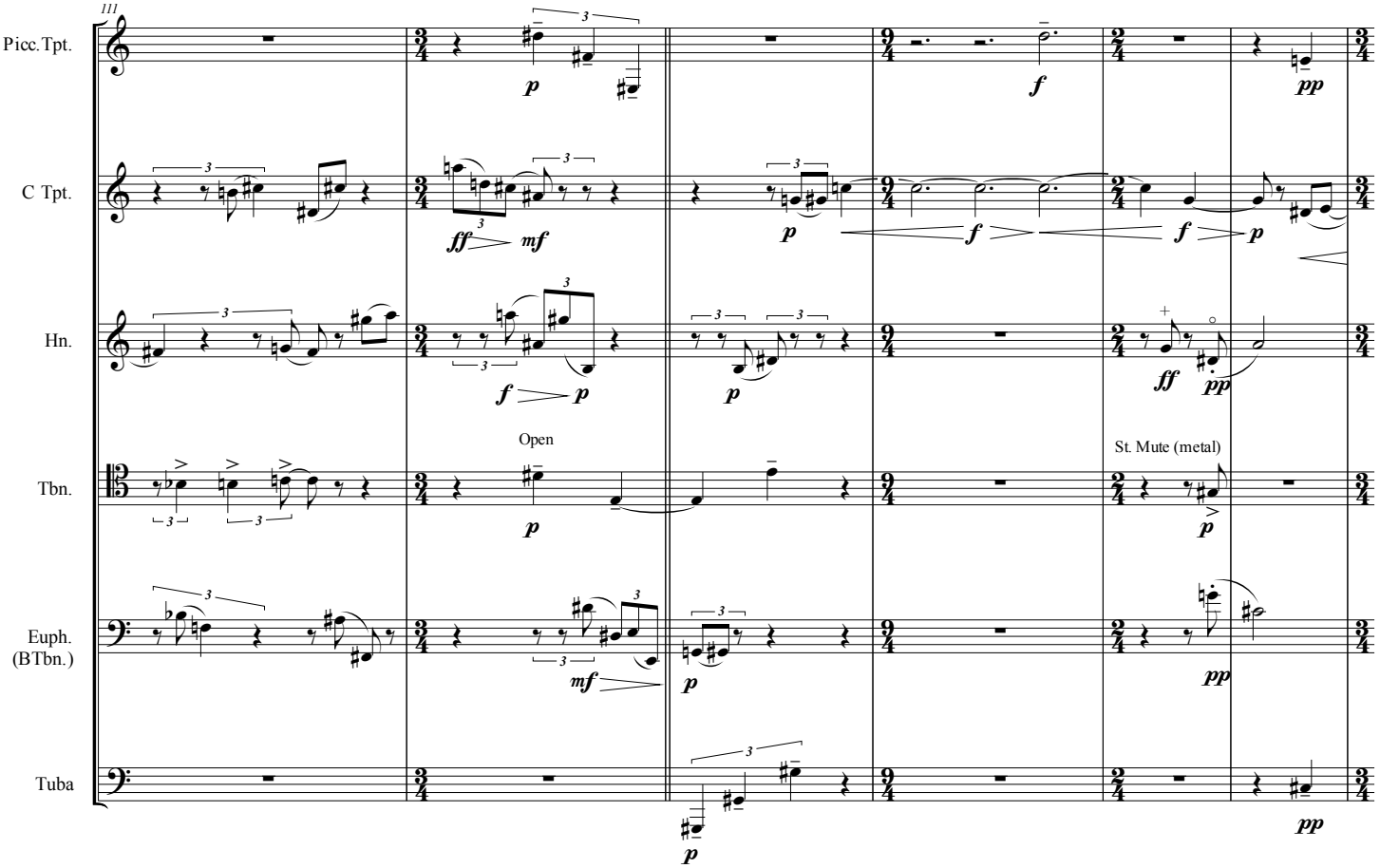

90
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph.
(BTbn.)
Tuba
f

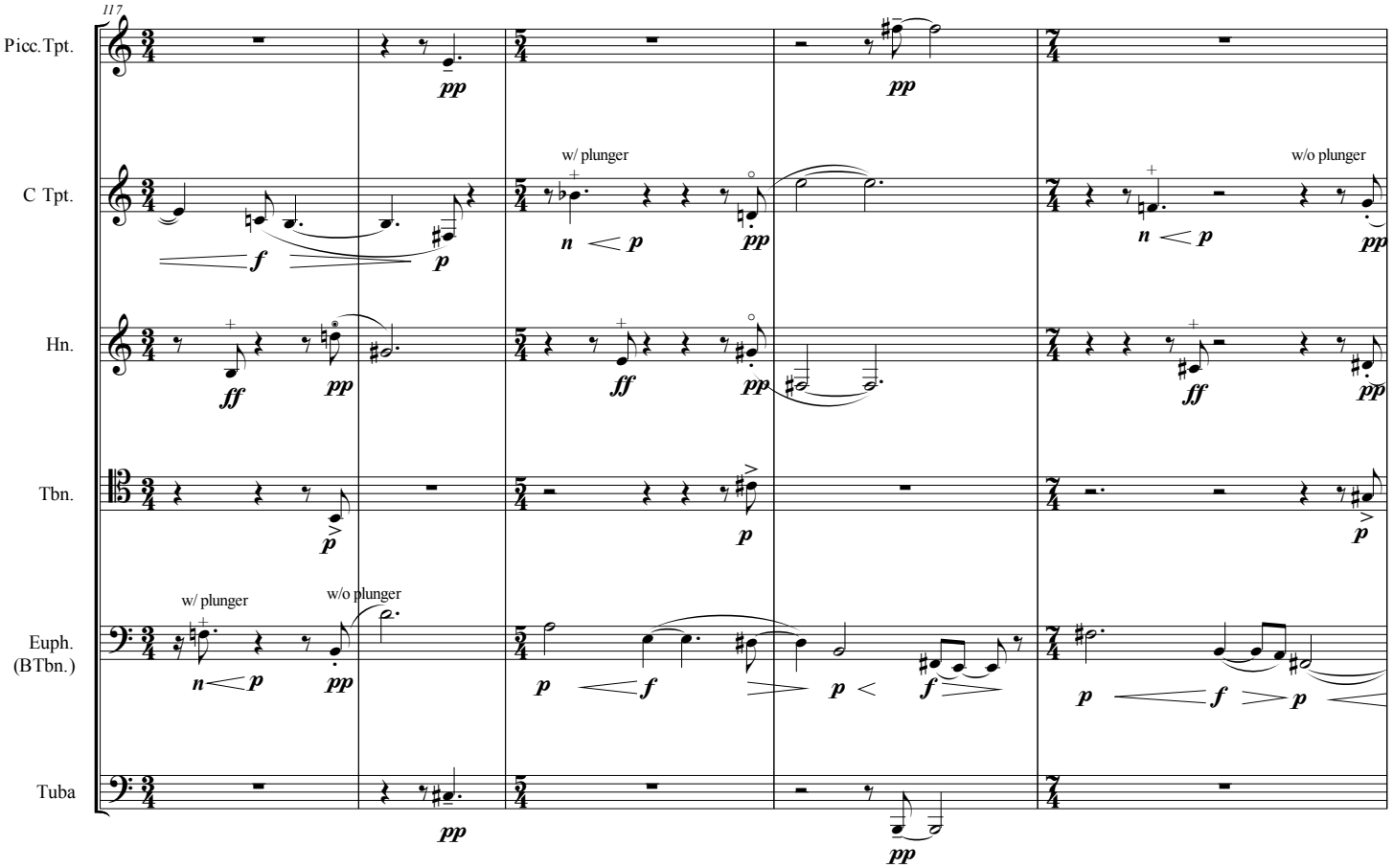

92
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph.
(BTbn.)
Tuba
p
f


95
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Tuba
Open

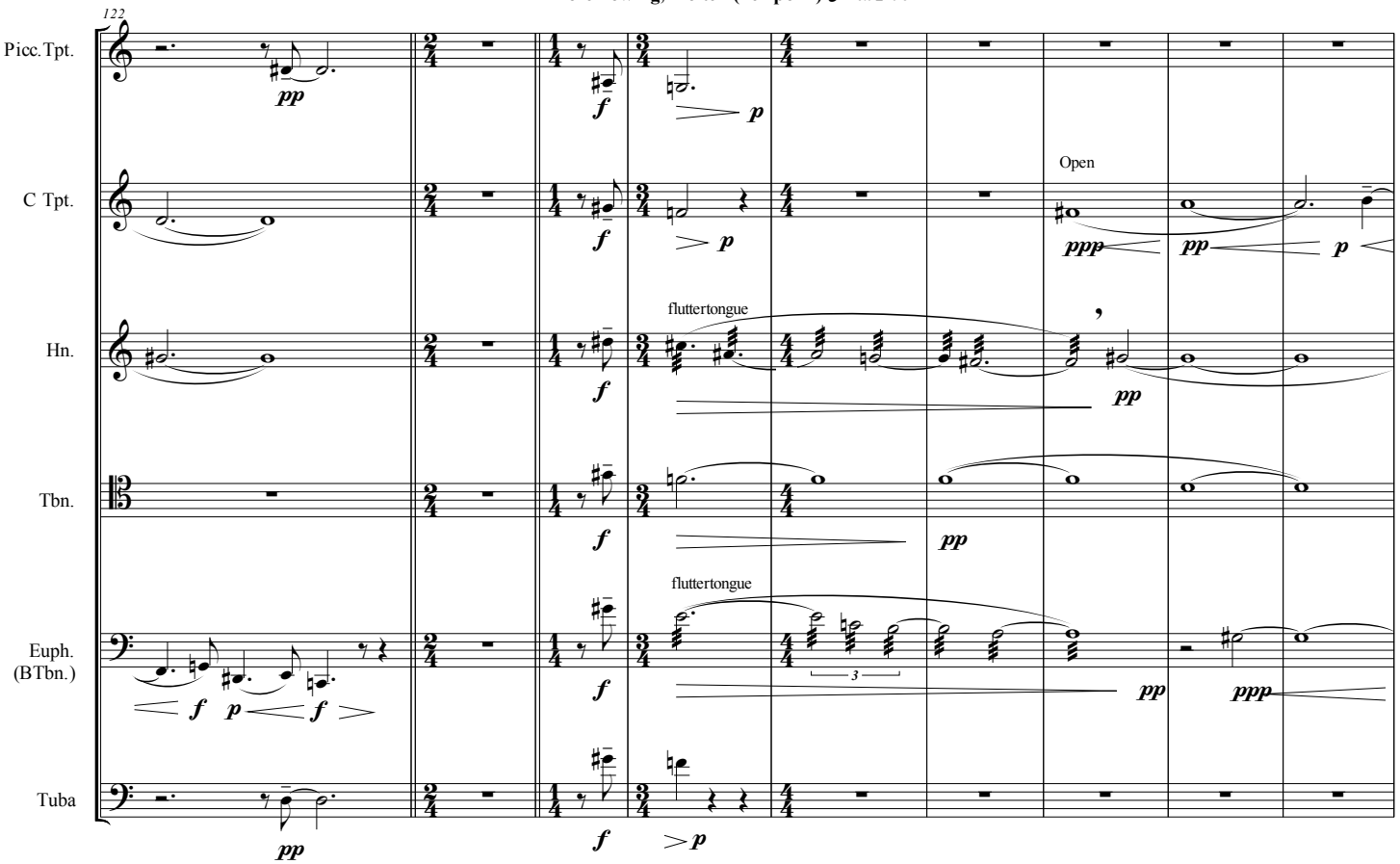

100
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Tuba
Open
w/ plunger
St. Mute (metal)
w/ plunger
Open

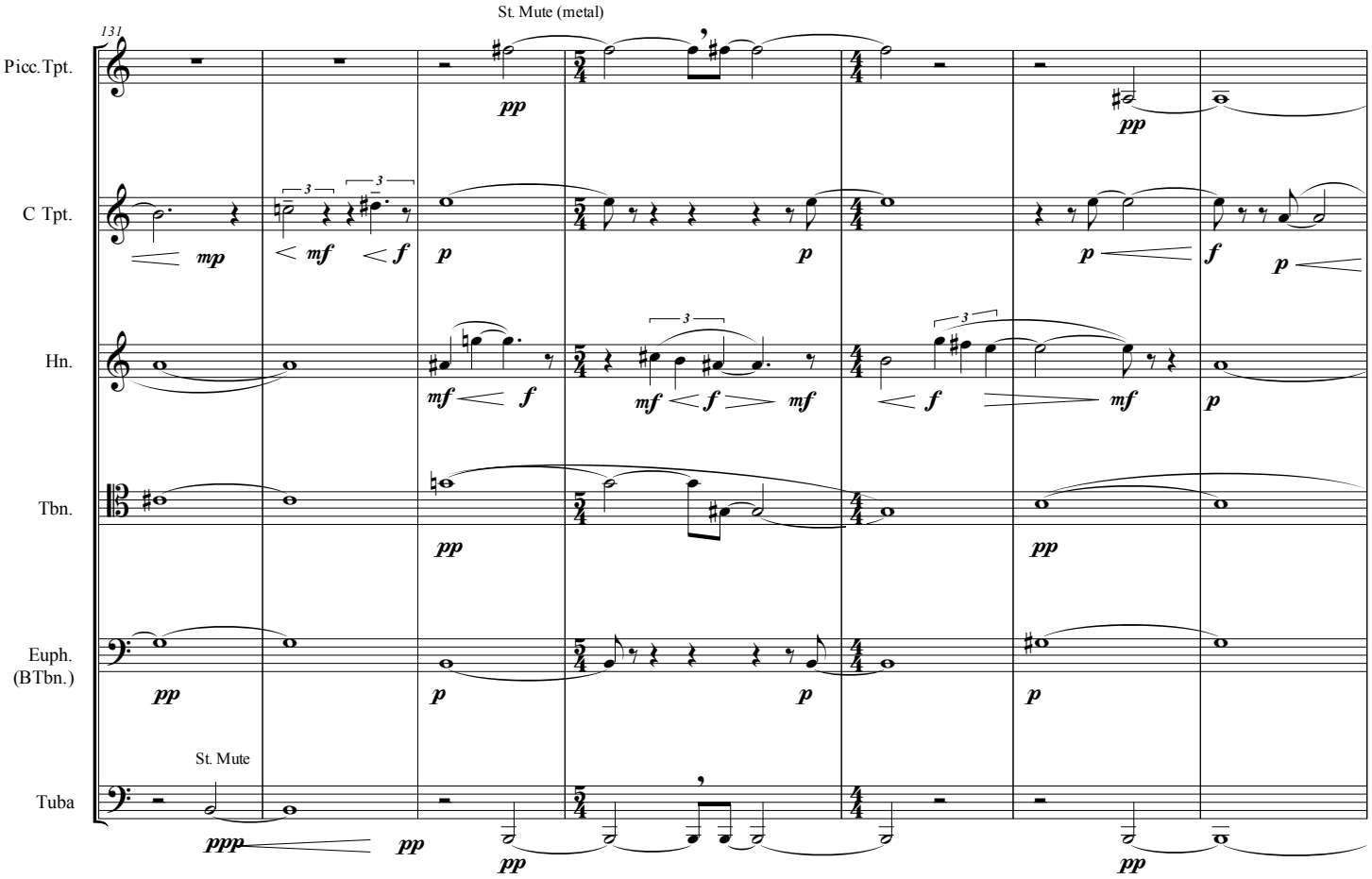

105
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Tuba
w/o plunger
w/o plunger

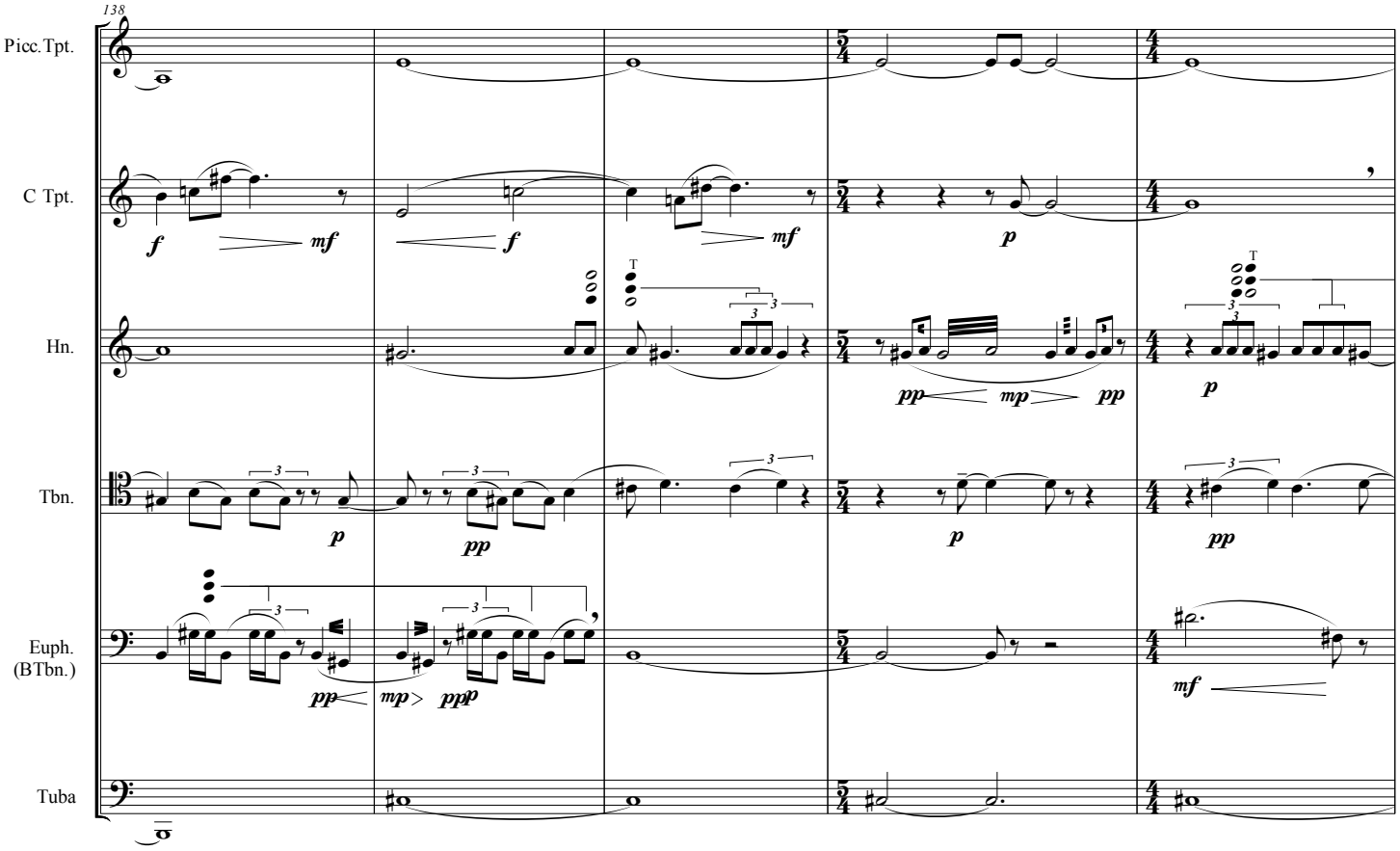

111
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Tuba
Open
St. Mute (metal)

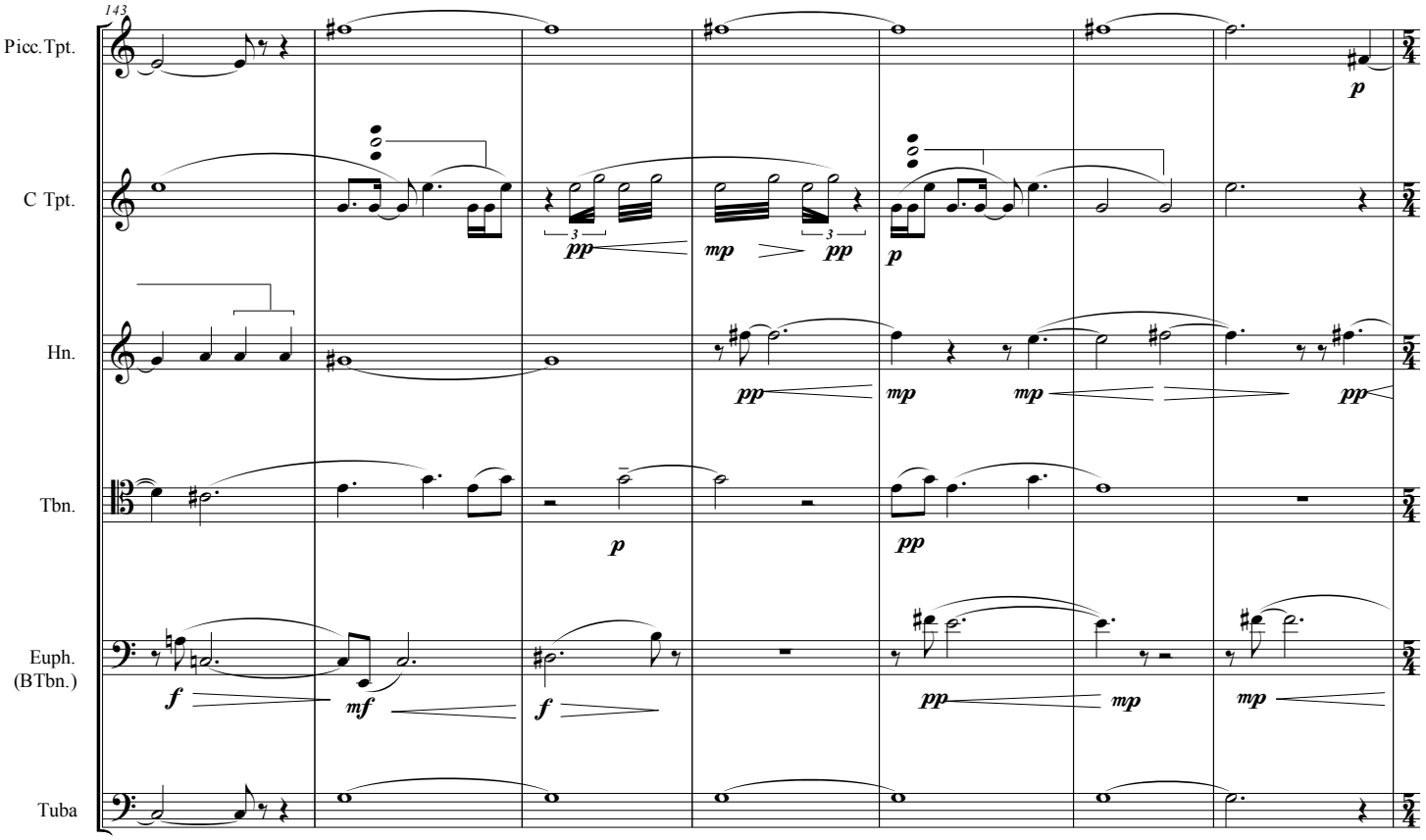


More flowing, molten (Tempo II) ♩ = c.72-76




St. Mute (metal)
131
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
St. Mute
Tuba


138
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Tuba


143
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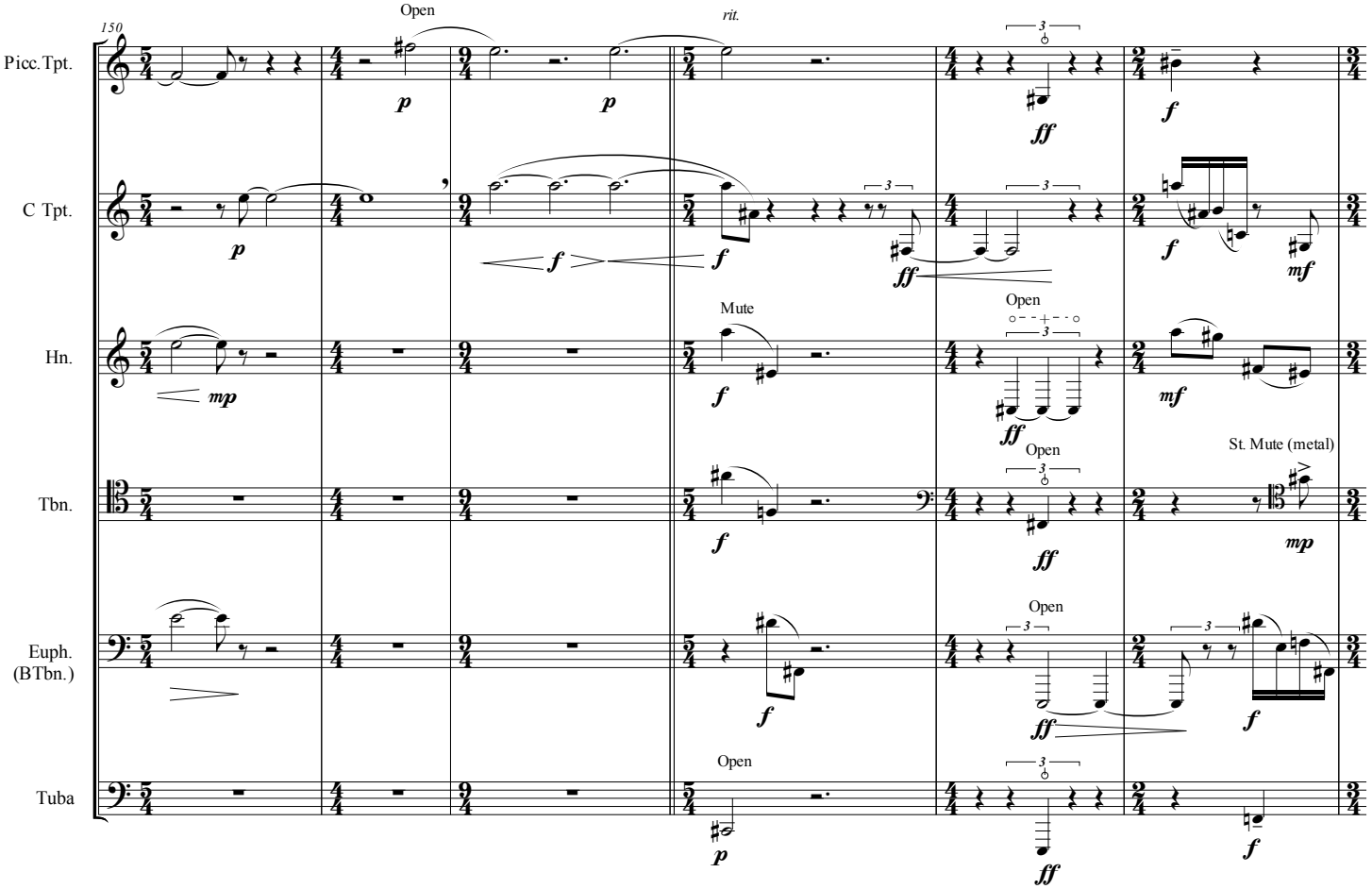
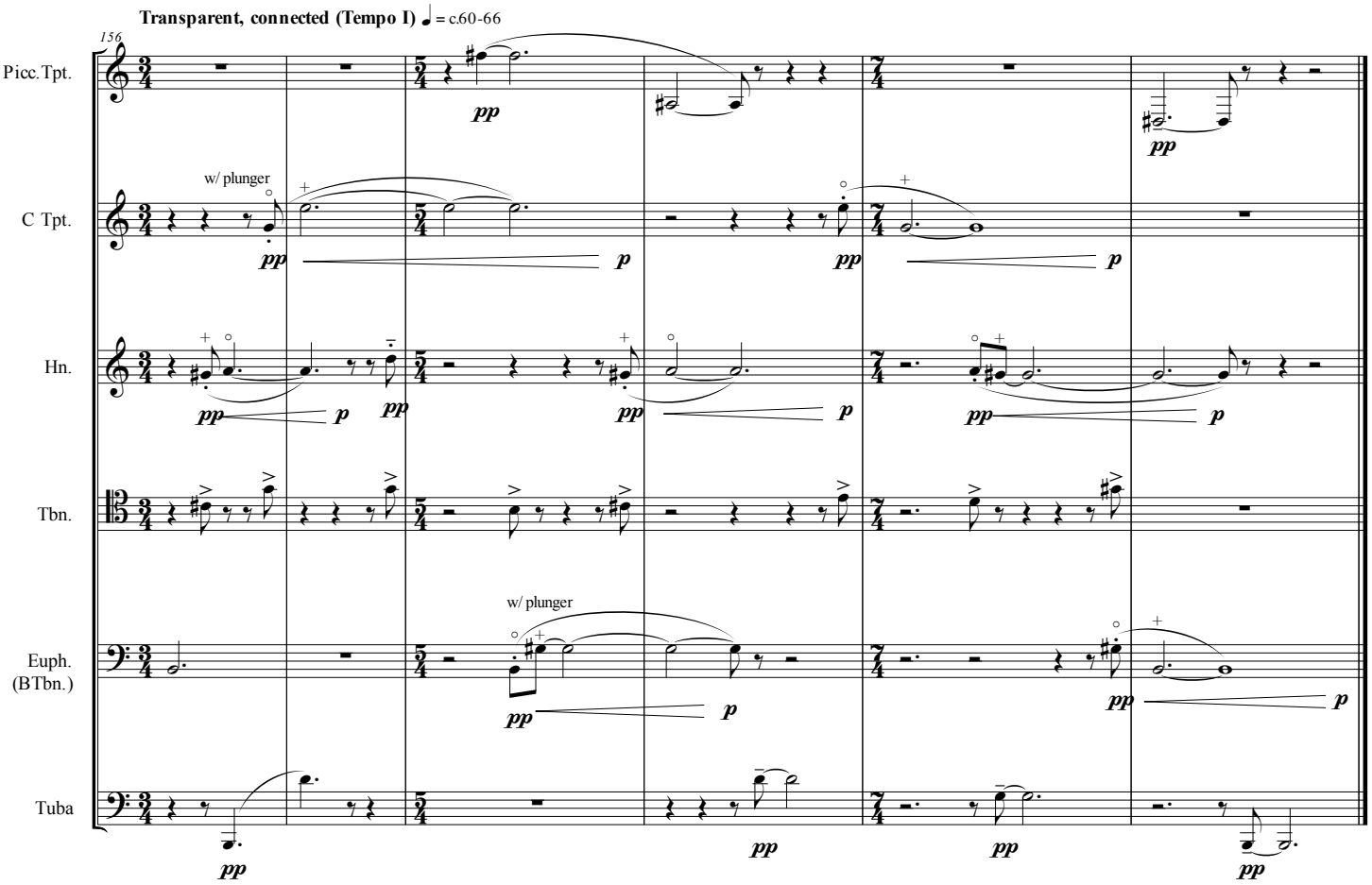
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Tuba


150
Open
rit.
Mute
Open
St. Mute (metal)
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Tuba


Transparent, connected (Tempo I) ♩ = c.60-66
156
Picc.Tpt.
C Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph. (BTbn.)
Tuba
w/ plunger
w/ plunger
pp
p

Brass Trio

Christmas Tree

Jason Huffman

Transparent, connected ♩ = c.60-66

w/ plunger

w/ plunger

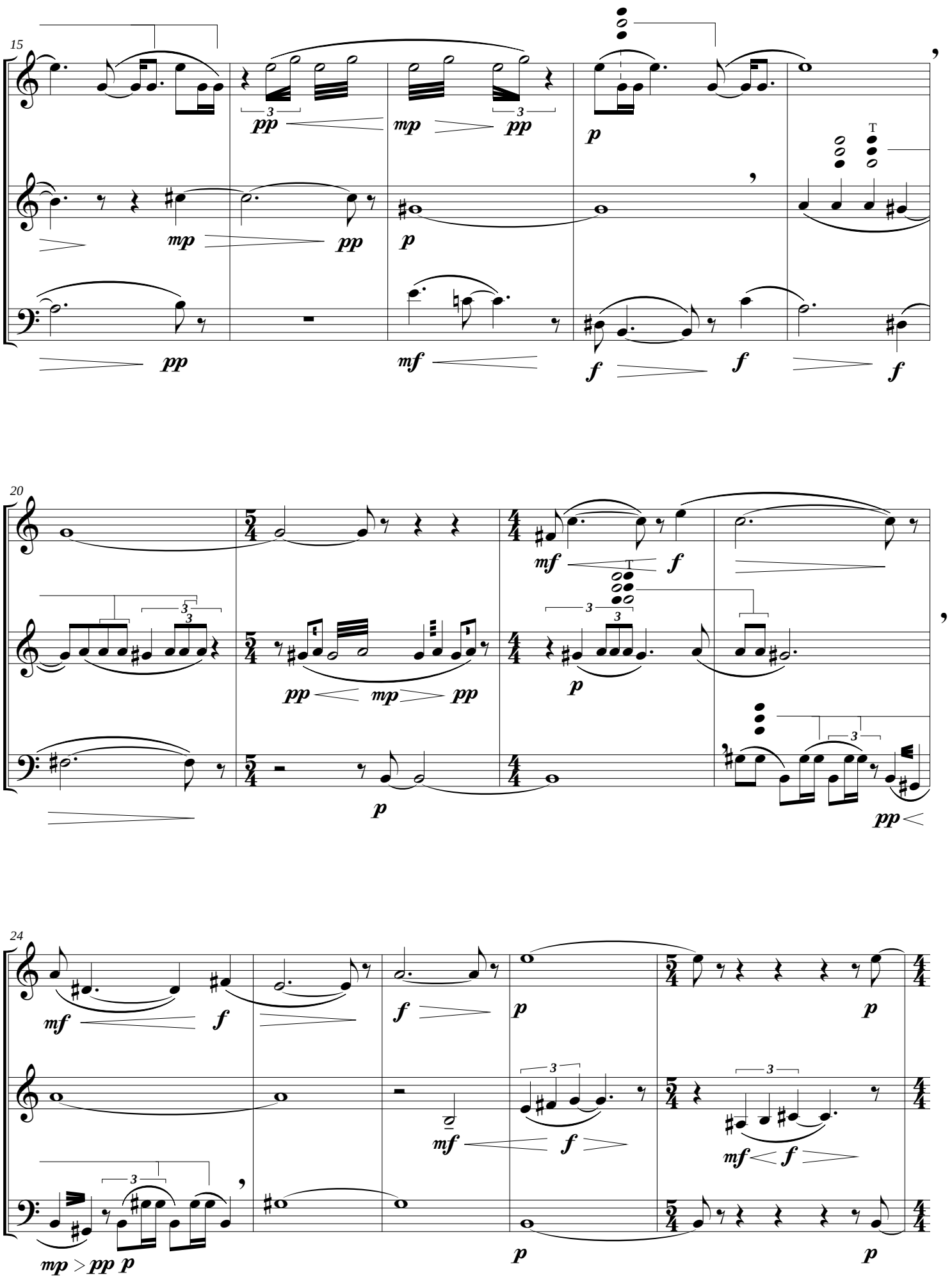
accel.

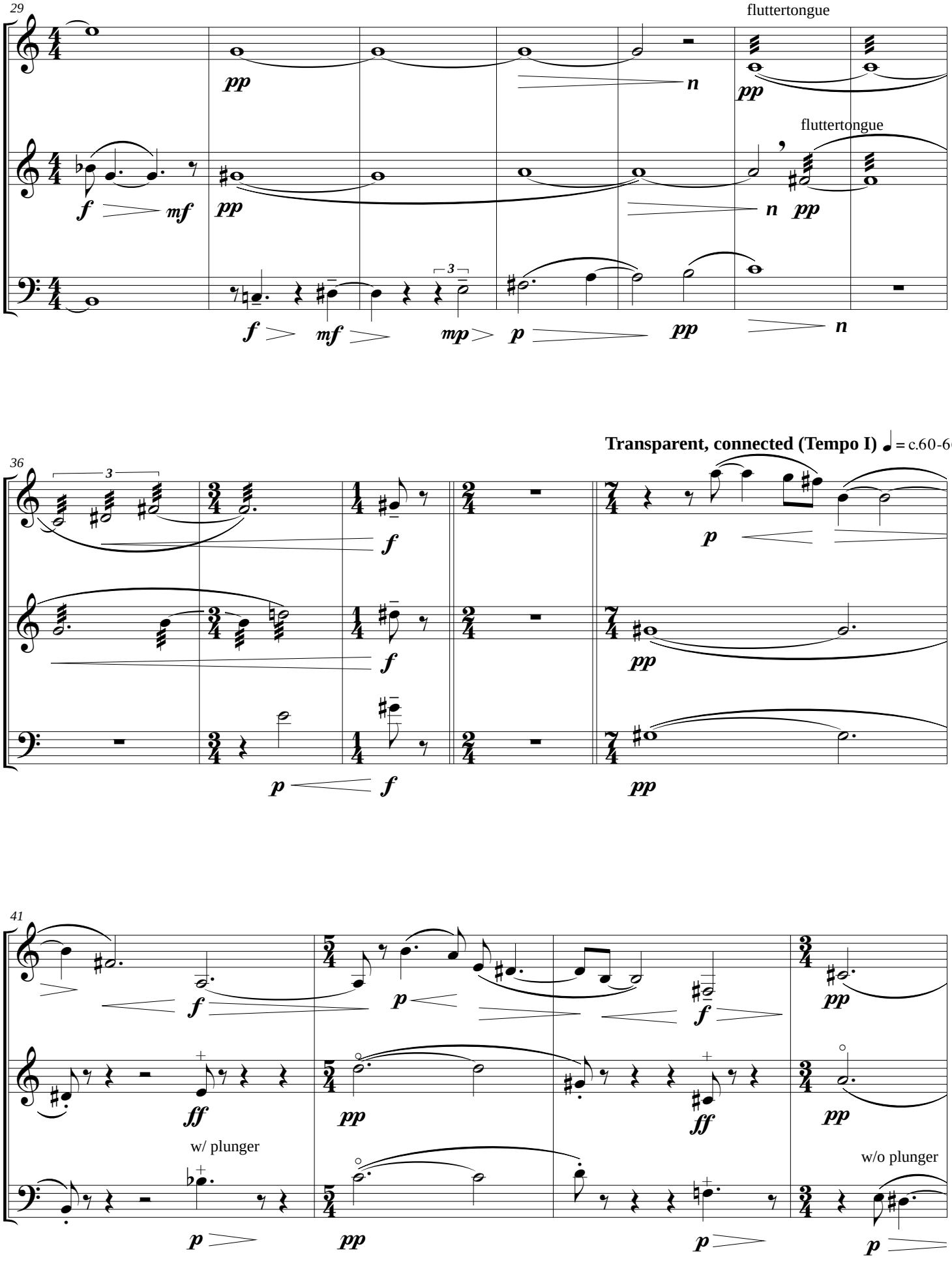
w/o plunger

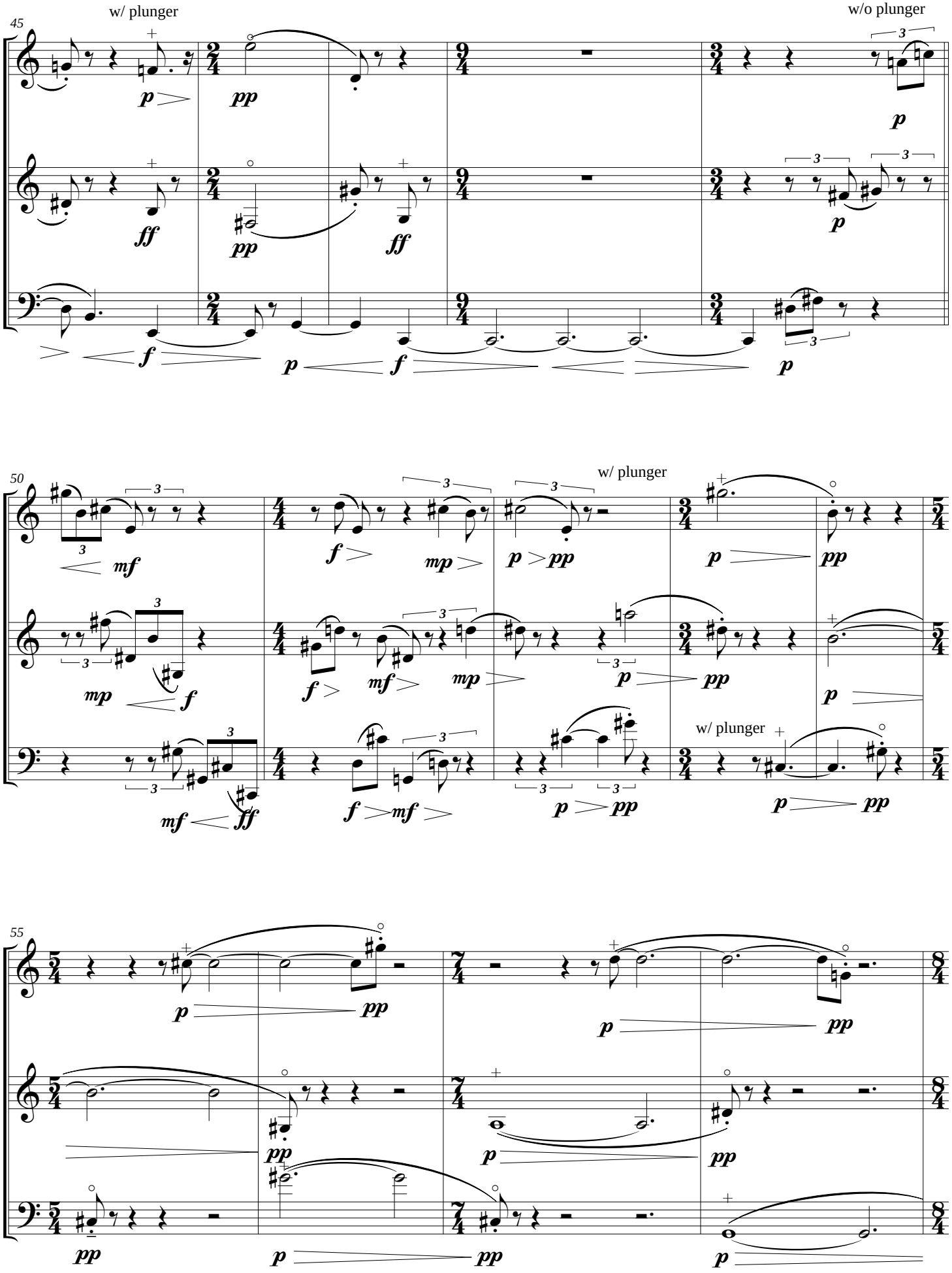
Mute

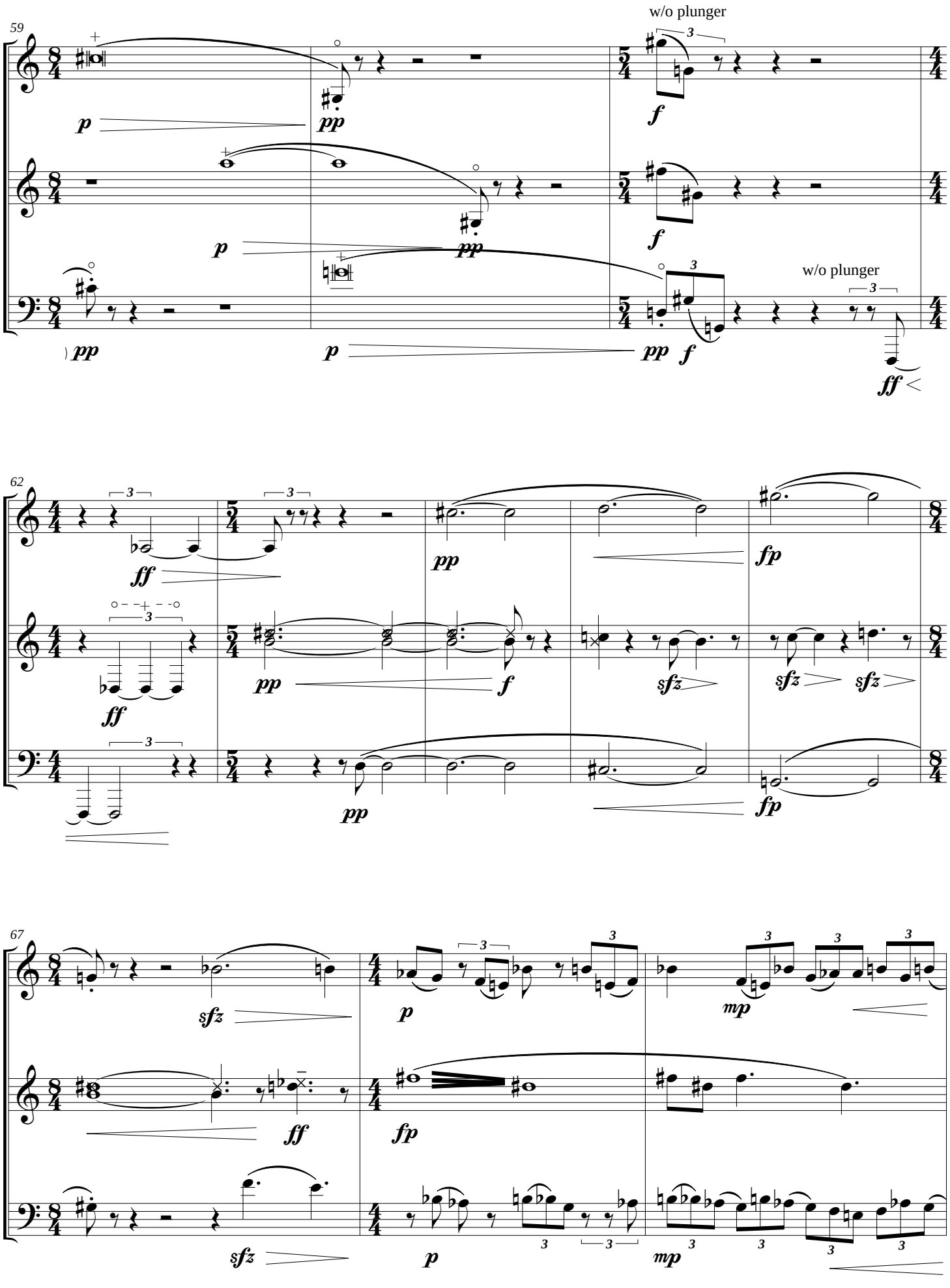
More flowing, molten ♩ = c.72-76

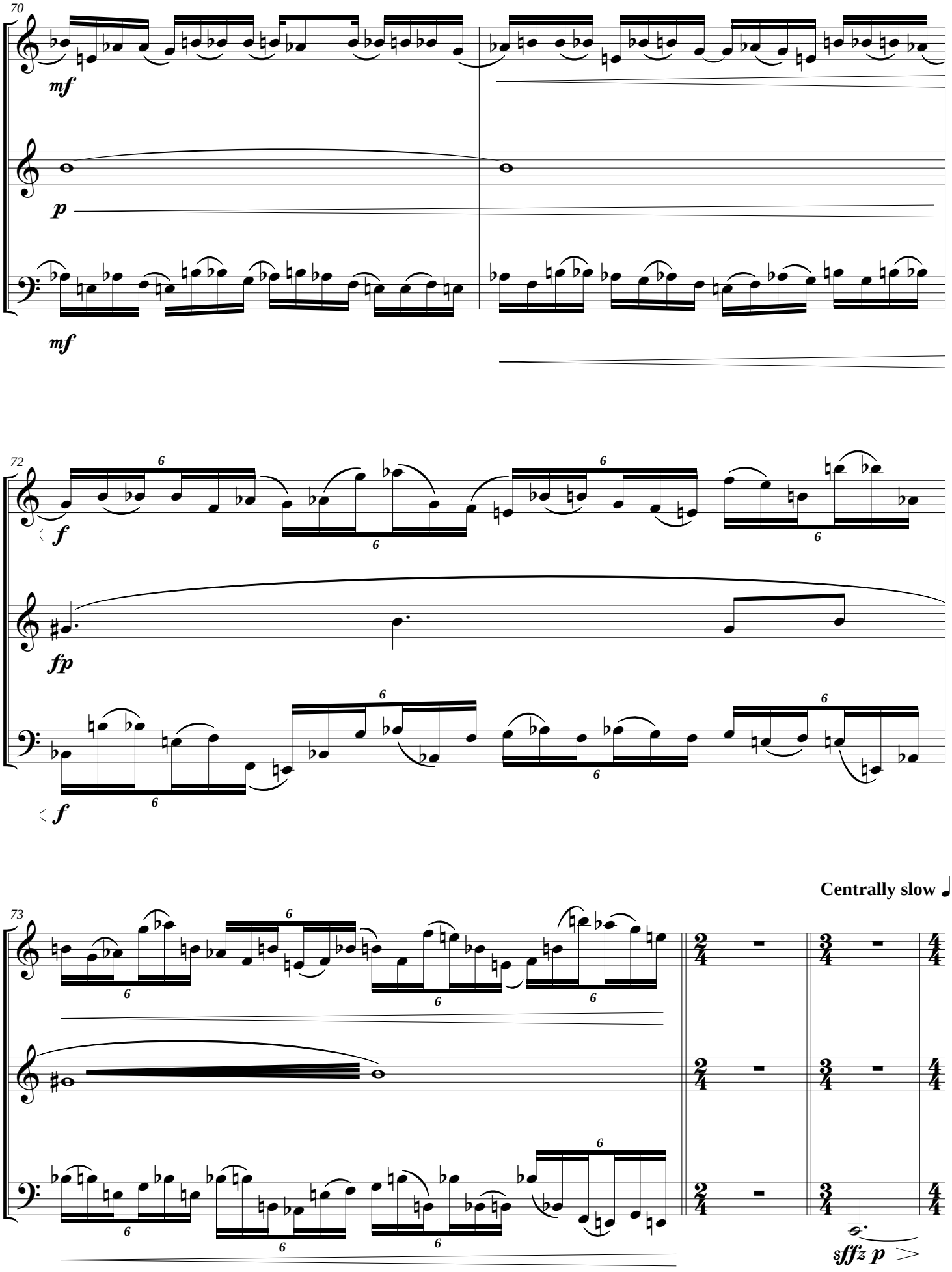
Open

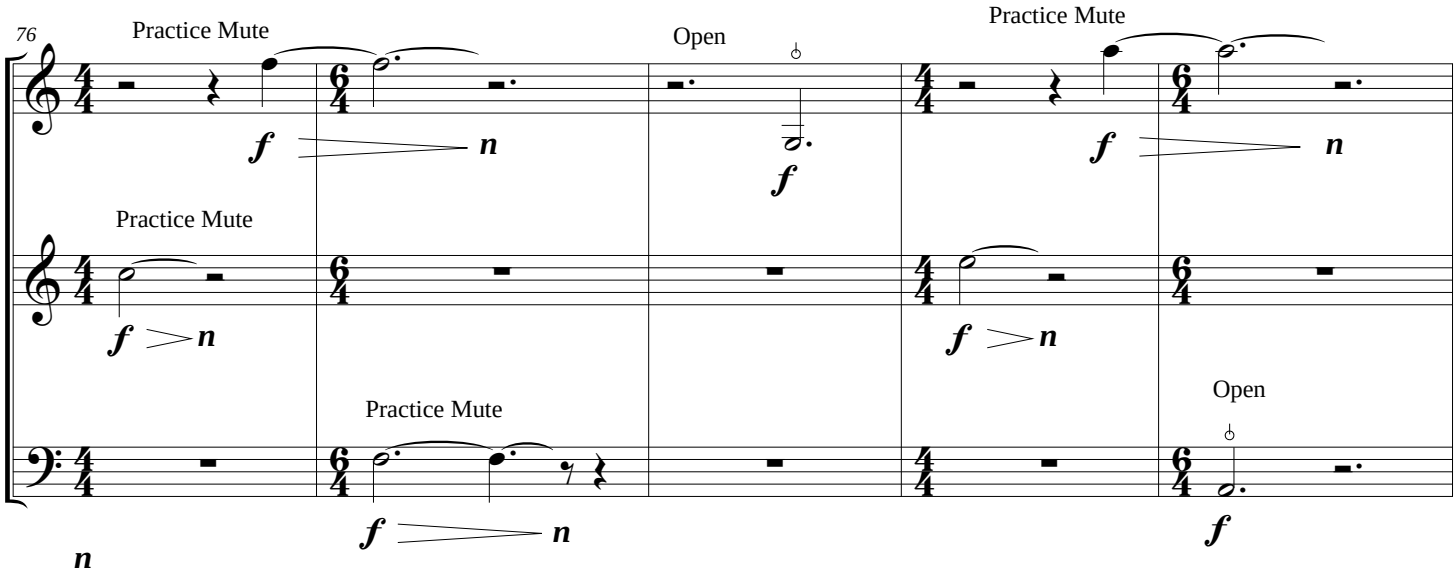

15
pp
mp
pp
p
mp
pp
pp
mf
f
f
f
T
20
mf
f
pp
mp
pp
p
p
pp
T
24
mf
f
f
p
p
mf
f
mf
f
mp > pp
p
p
p

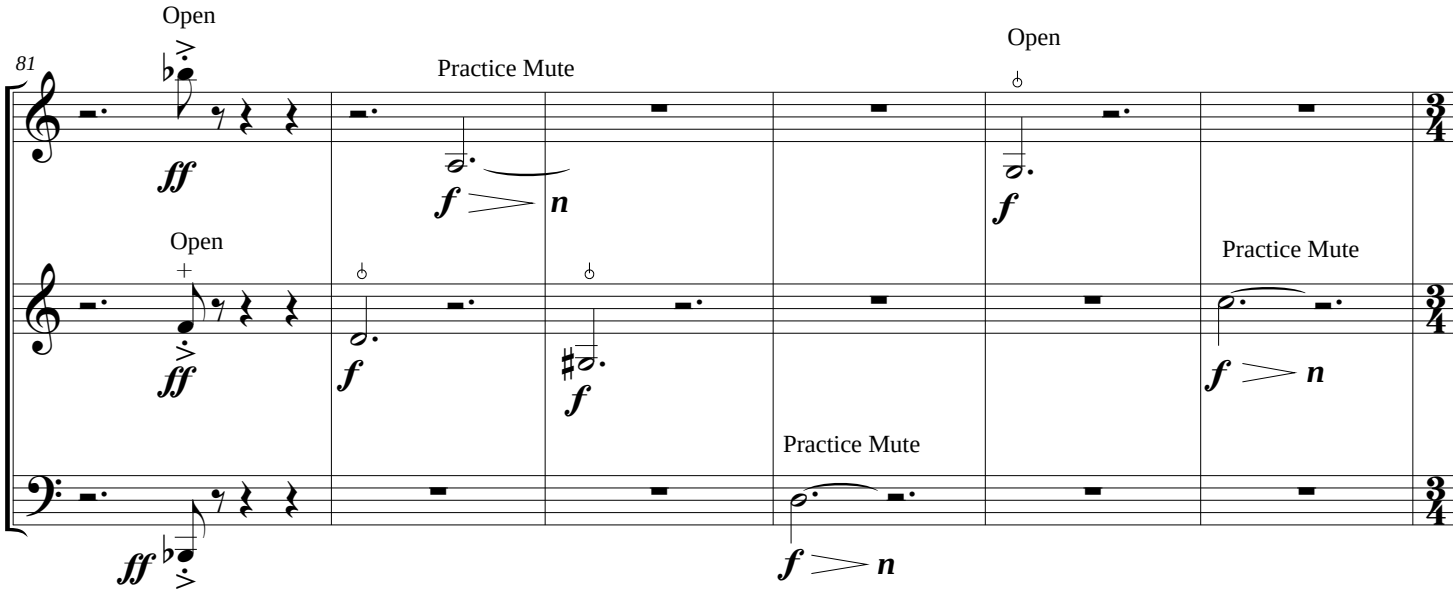

29
fluttertongue
fluttertongue
36
Transparent, connected (Tempo I) ♩ = c.60-66
41
w/ plunger
w/o plunger

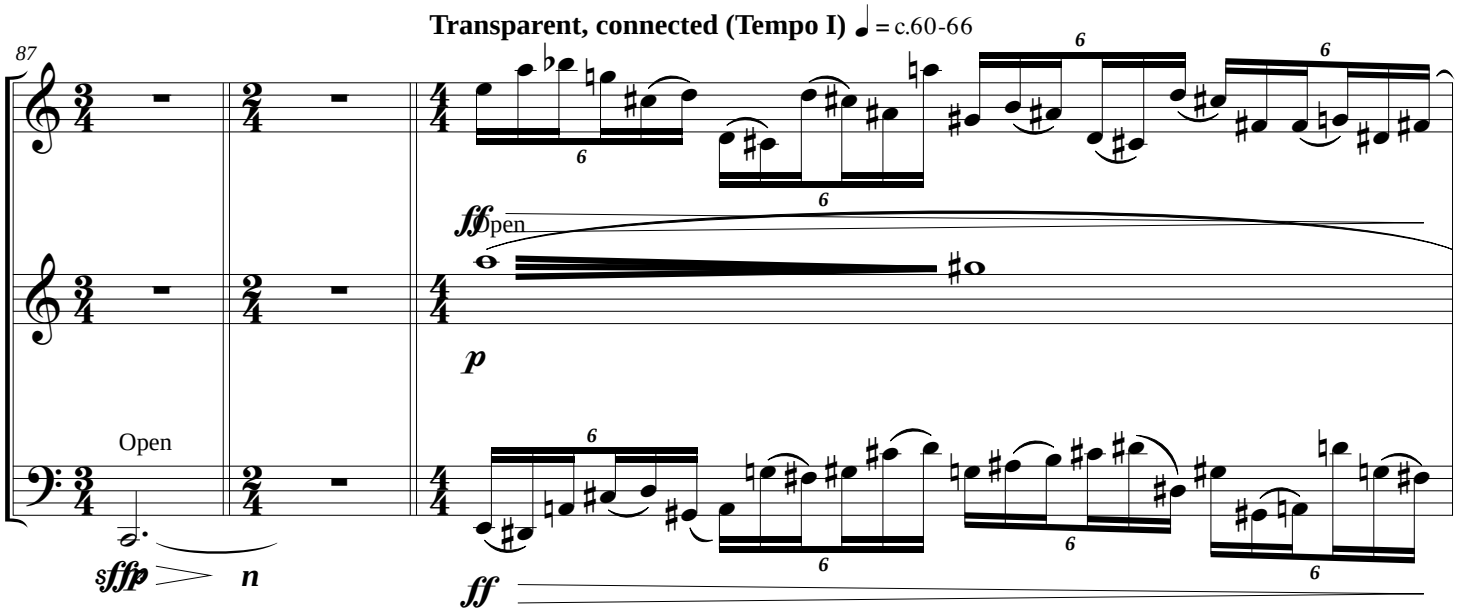

45
w/ plunger
w/o plunger
50
w/ plunger
w/ plunger
55

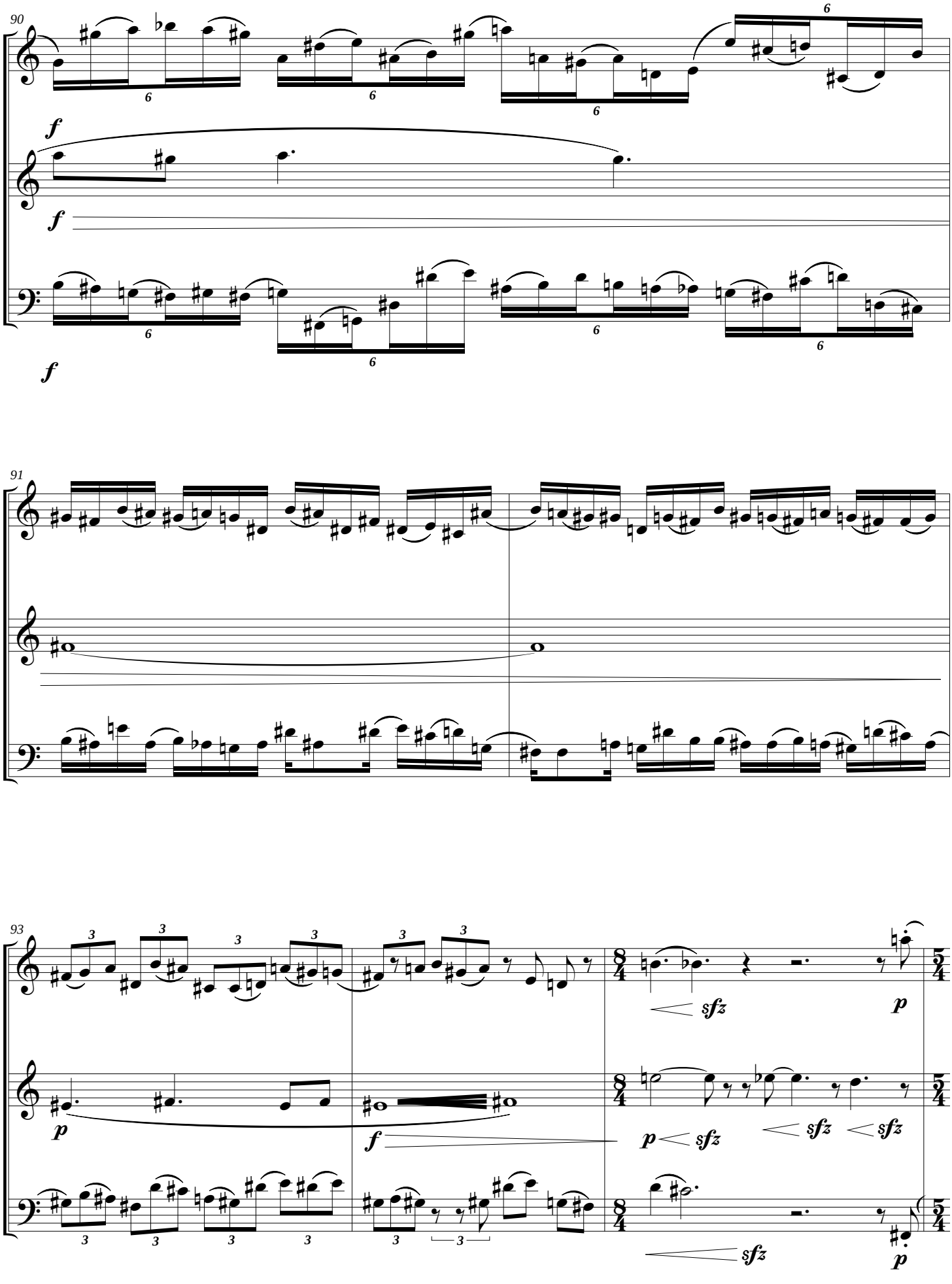

59
w/o plunger
w/o plunger
62
67

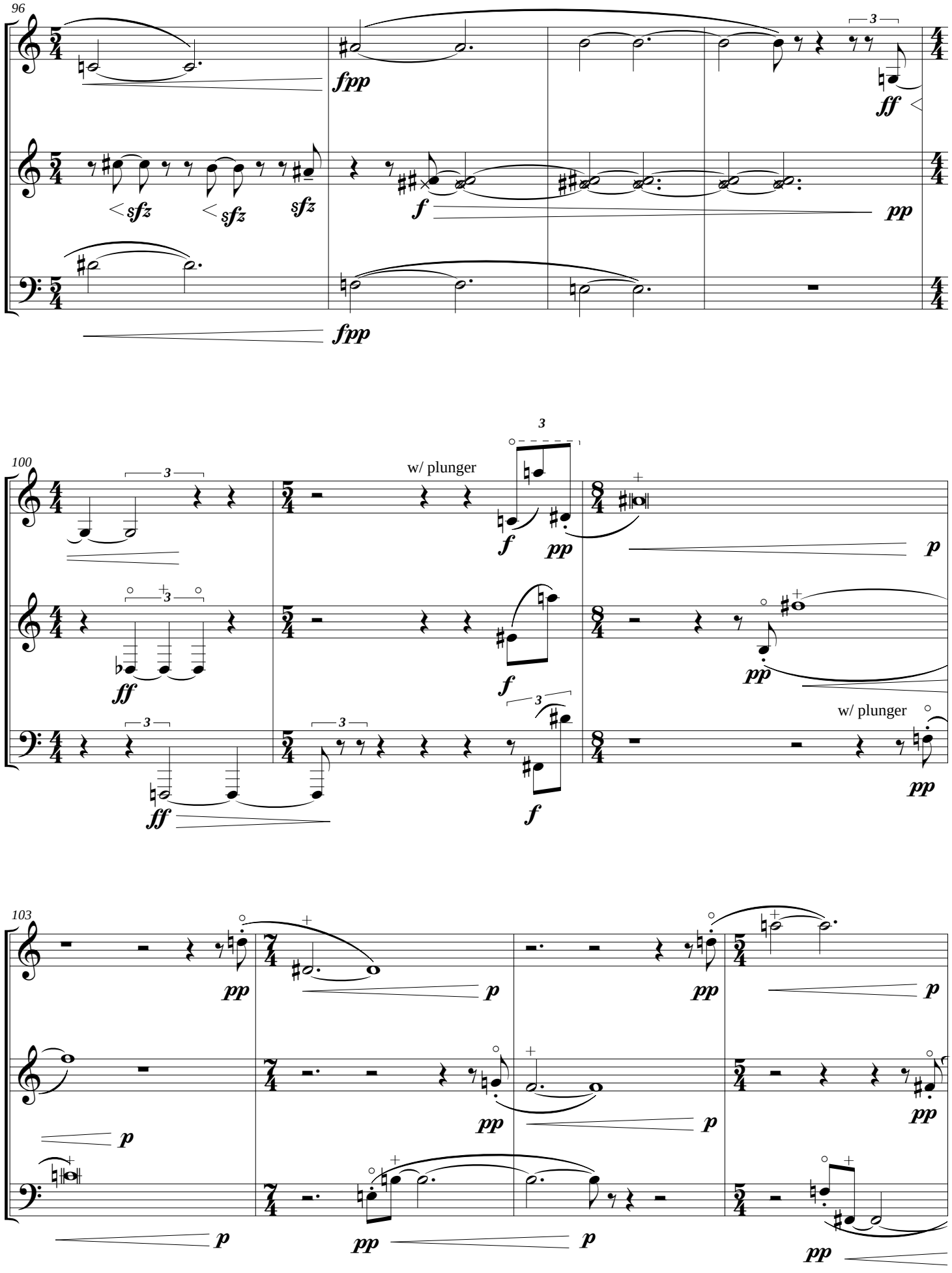

70
mf
p
mf
72
f
fp
f
Centrally slow ♩ = 40 - 44
73
sffz p

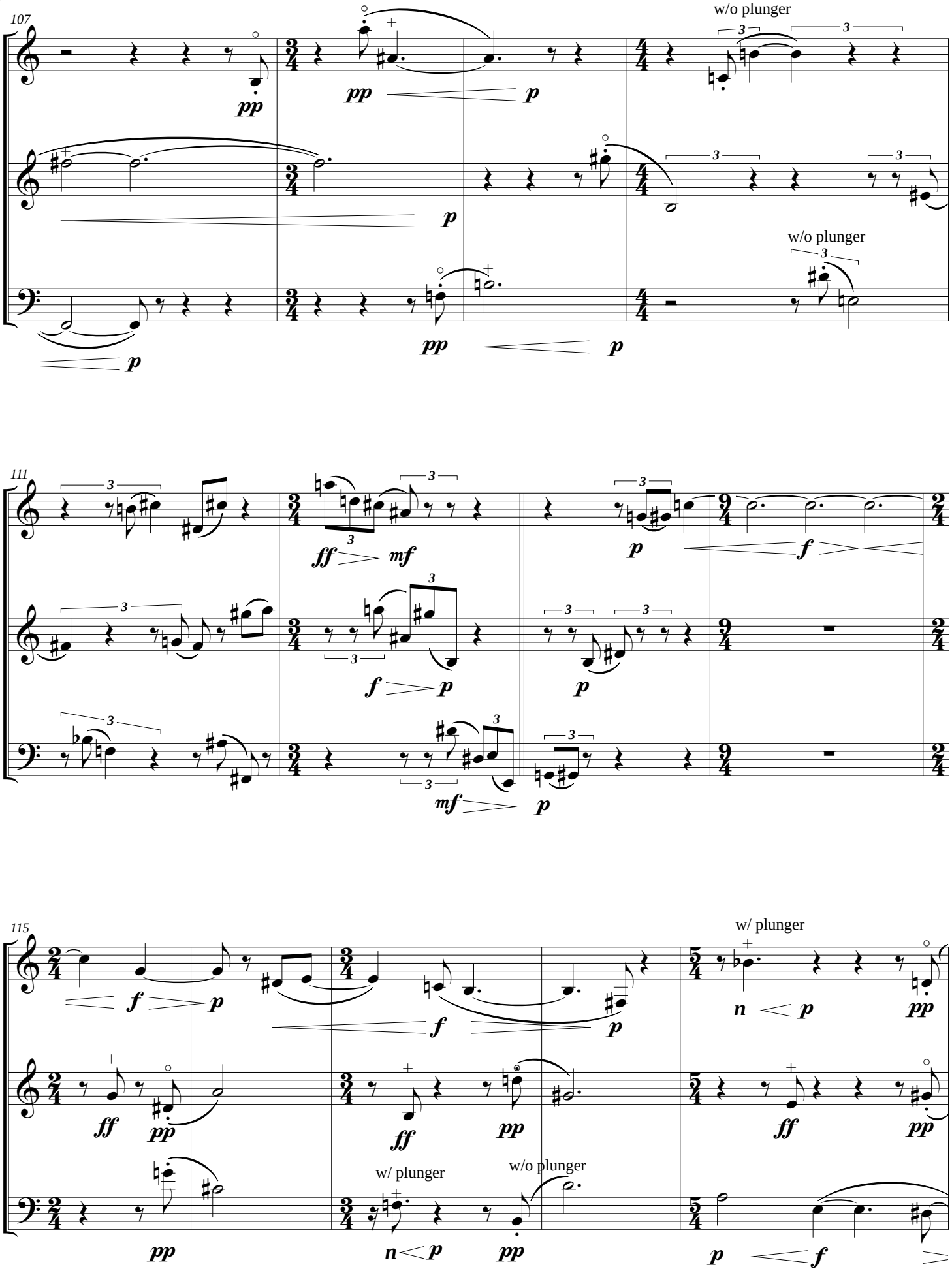

76
Practice Mute
Open
Practice Mute
Practice Mute
Practice Mute
Open

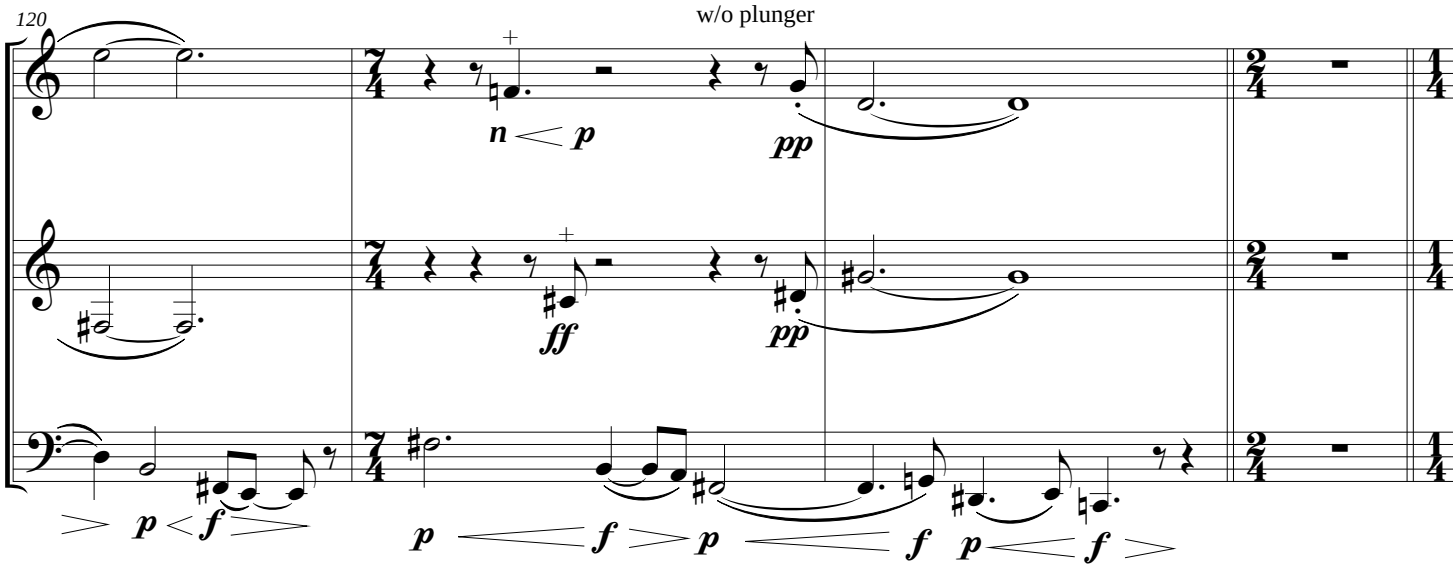

81
Open
Practice Mute
Open
Open
Practice Mute
Practice Mute


Transparent, connected (Tempo I) = c.60-66
87
Open
Open

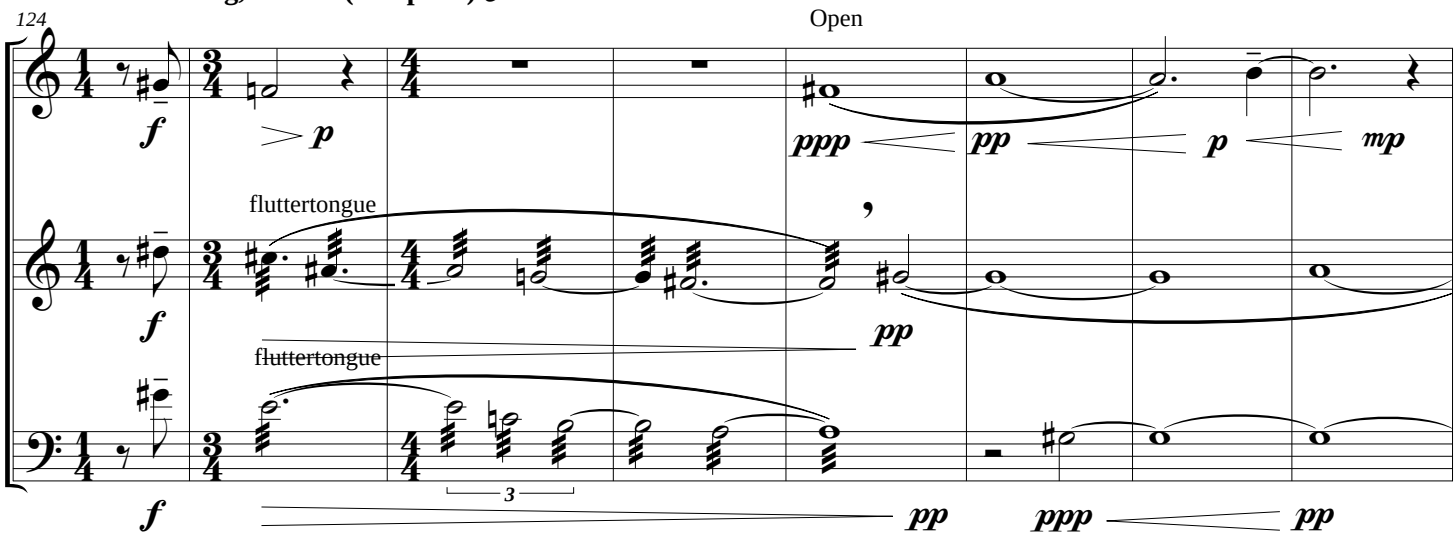

90
f
f
f
91
93
p
f
sfz
p
sfz
sfz
sfz
sfz
p

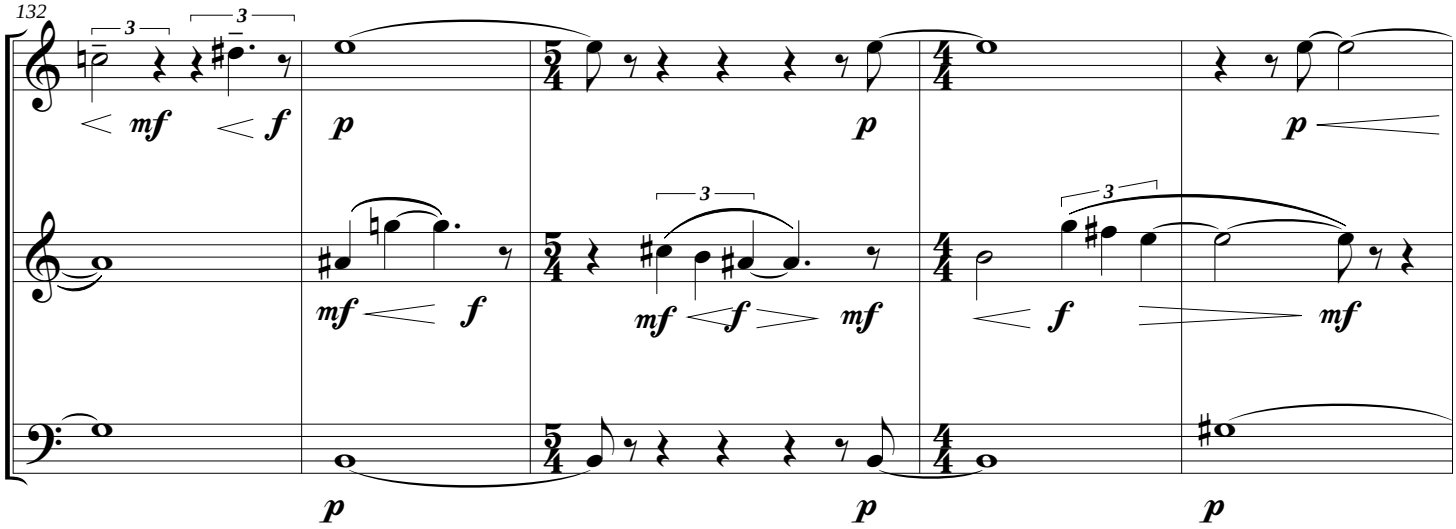

96
fpp
ff
sfz
sfz
sfz
f
pp
fpp
100
w/ plunger
f
pp
p
ff
f
pp
ff
f
w/ plunger
pp
103
pp
p
pp
p
p
pp
p
pp
p
pp

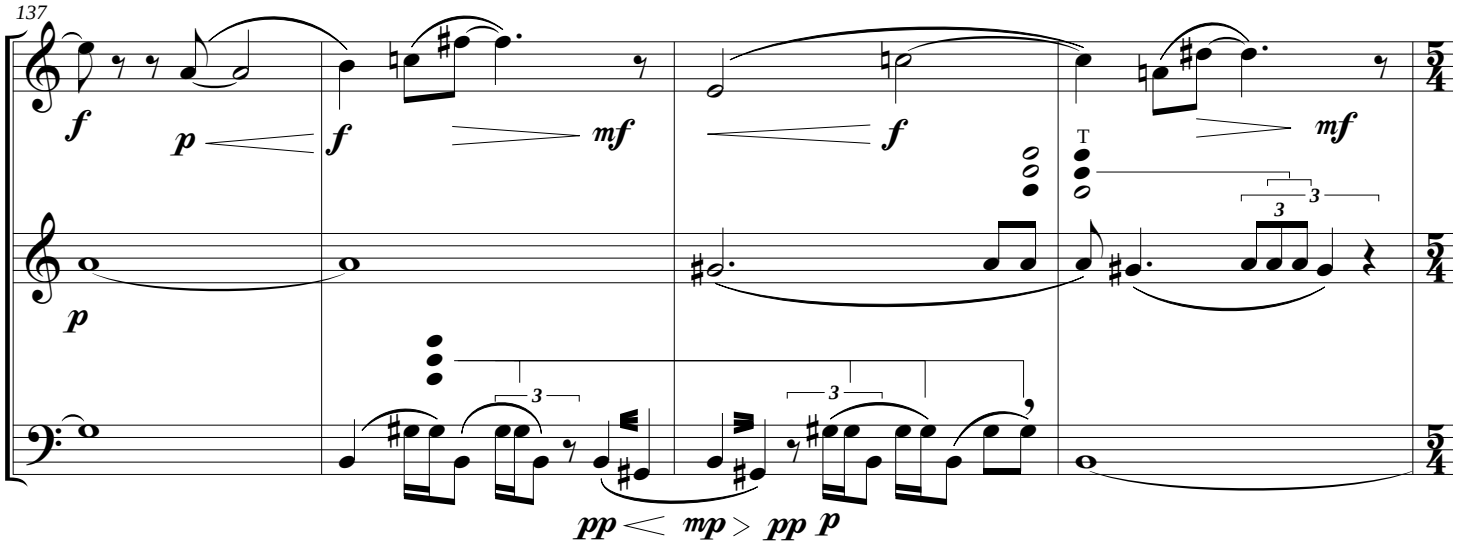

107
w/o plunger
w/o plunger
111
115
w/ plunger
w/ plunger
w/o plunger

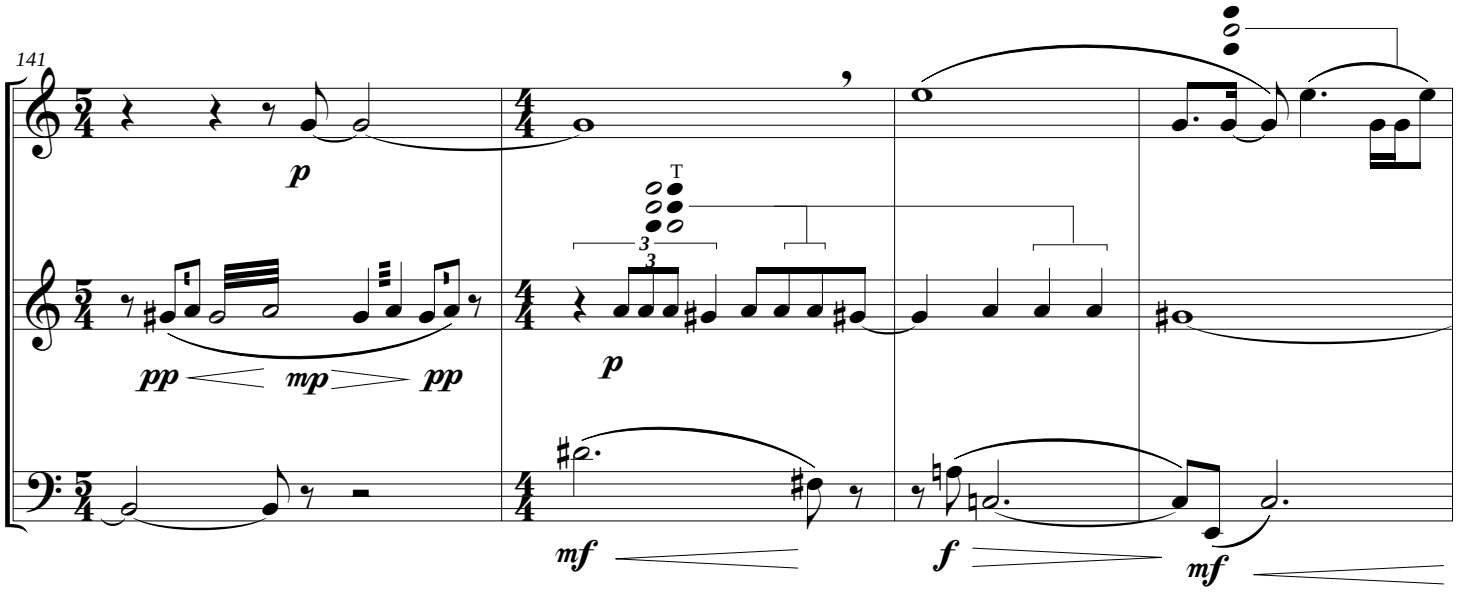


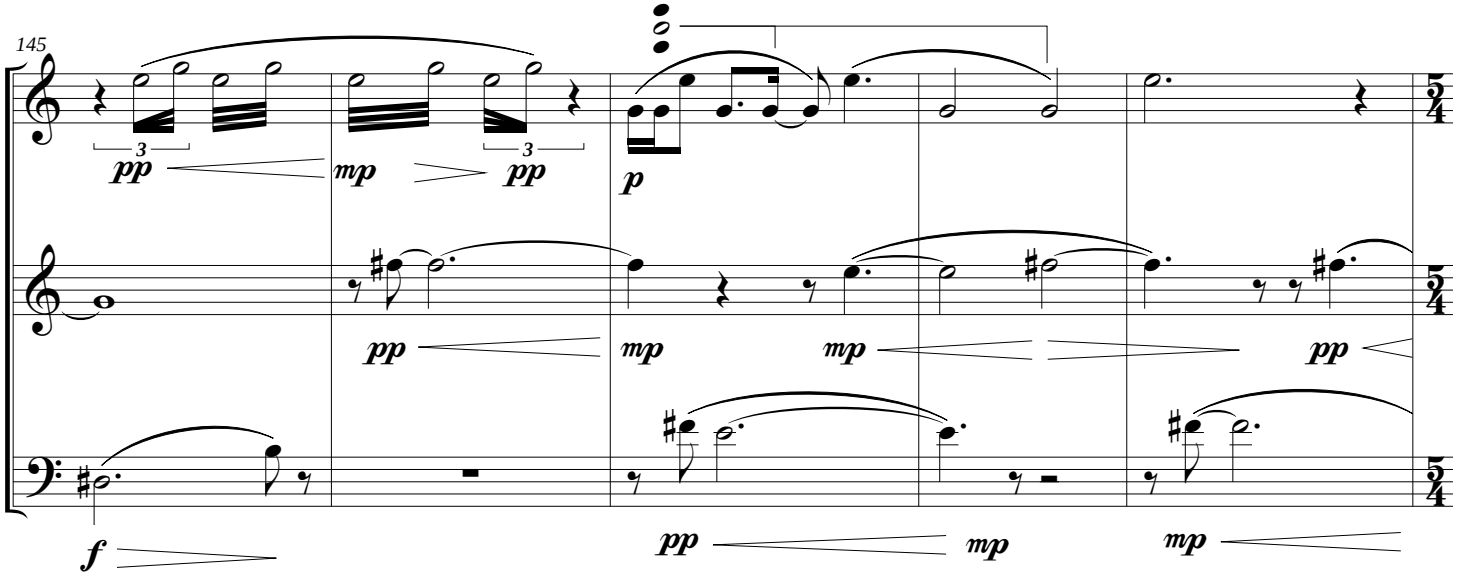
More flowing, molten (Tempo II) ♩ = c.72-76

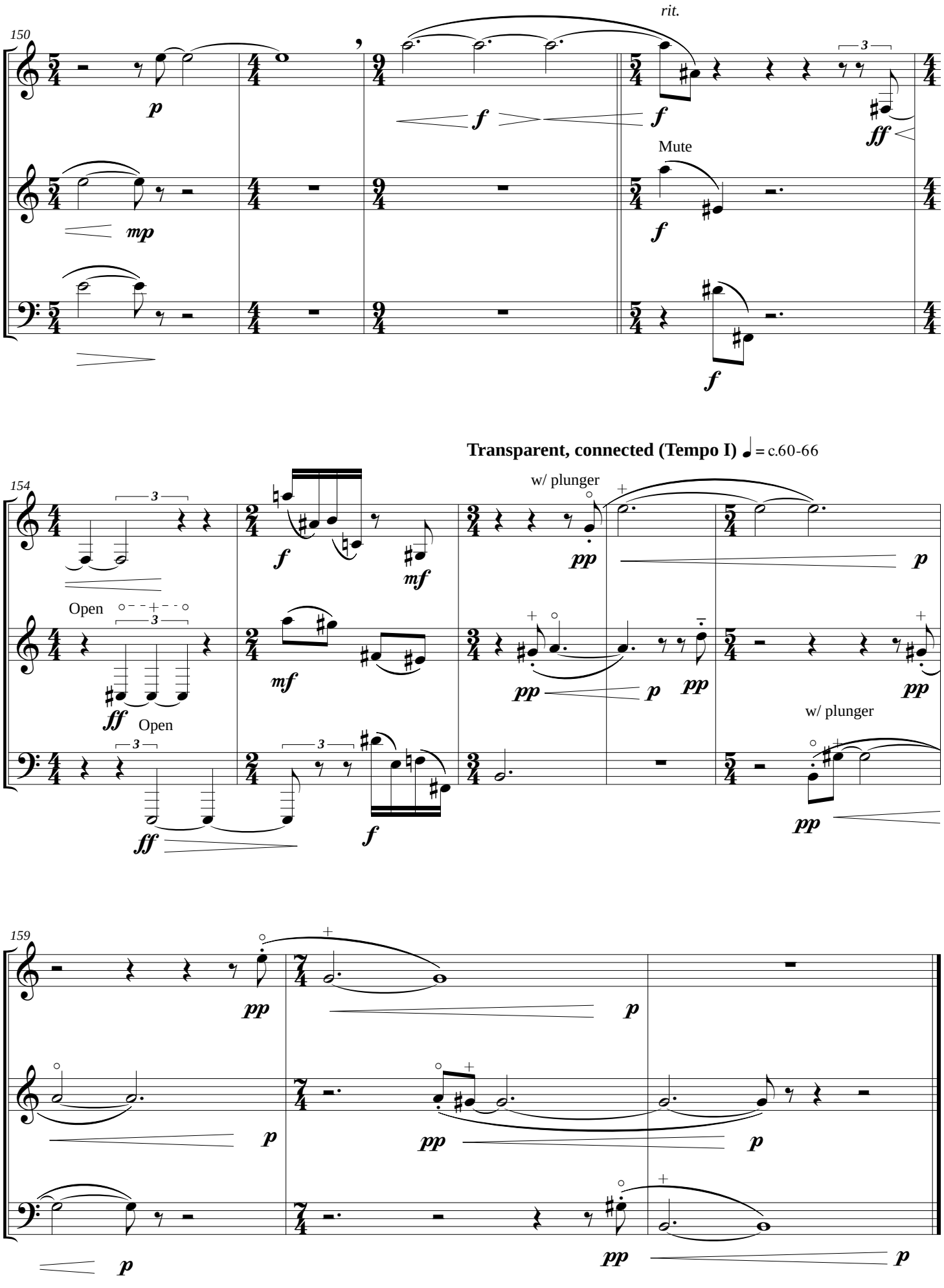





137
f
p
f
mf
f
T
mf
p
3
3
3
3
pp
mp
pp
p


141
p
T
3
3
p
pp
mp
pp
mf
f
mf


145
3
pp
mp
3
pp
p
pp
mp
mp
pp
f
pp
mp
mp


150
rit.
Mute
154
Transparent, connected (Tempo I) ♩ = c.60-66
w/ plunger
Open
Open
w/ plunger
159