Commissioned by The Commission Project

for Dale Underwood and Prism Brass Quintet

Sextet

for Alto Saxophone and Brass Quintet

Edward Green

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The Sextet for Alto Saxophone and Brass was commissioned by Dale Underwood and Prism Brass, who premiered it in 2002 at the Kennedy Center. The work was one of several I composed in response to 9/11. My wife and I live in Lower Manhattan; we saw the attack from the balcony of our apartment, half-mile away.

In this music, I was trying to find a way to show that Western and Islamic cultures need not be at war, but could add to each other–this, at a time when forces on both sides were stoking the flames of war, and wanting to have us fighting, fearing, and despising each other. “Contempt causes war,” wrote the great philosopher Eli Siegel, who founded Aesthetic Realism, and with whom I had the honor to study. This sextet was created in the hope that, through the language of music, I might convey the kind, necessary, and beautiful alternative to contempt: the desire to know and have good will for the world and people different from ourselves.

In this Sextet, aspects of Western and Islamic musical technique constantly interact and merge—most often by having Western musical forms meet Islamic rhythmic cycles. For example, the second movement relies on an Islamic meter (2+3+3+2) while being simultaneously a strict Western fugue —albeit one with strong jazz flavoring. (And humor!)

The opening movement, “Cantilena,” is likewise affected by the world of Islam. It is in quadrupal meter, but is not a typical 4/4; instead, it's a highly irregular “4” in which the eight-notes are grouped 2+3+2+1.

Note: please take care *not* to perform this in an irregular *triple* meter: as 2+3+3. I want the Islamic feeling—the groove that comes from an irregular pattern "in 4." So please give an independent accent to the final eighth note.

Back to the over-all design: the third movement, “Recitative,” is in free meter, much like an Arabic taqsim; here there is also a melodic salute to the Middle East in certain aspects of the saxophone’s rhapsody. Meanwhile, no microtonal shadings! That much, the music remains typically Western.

Just as most Arabic suites, or nawbahs, conclude with a joyous and rapid dance in 6/8, so does this Sextet—only in a surprising way: nearly every phrase in this high-spirited movement is an unusual five bars in length.

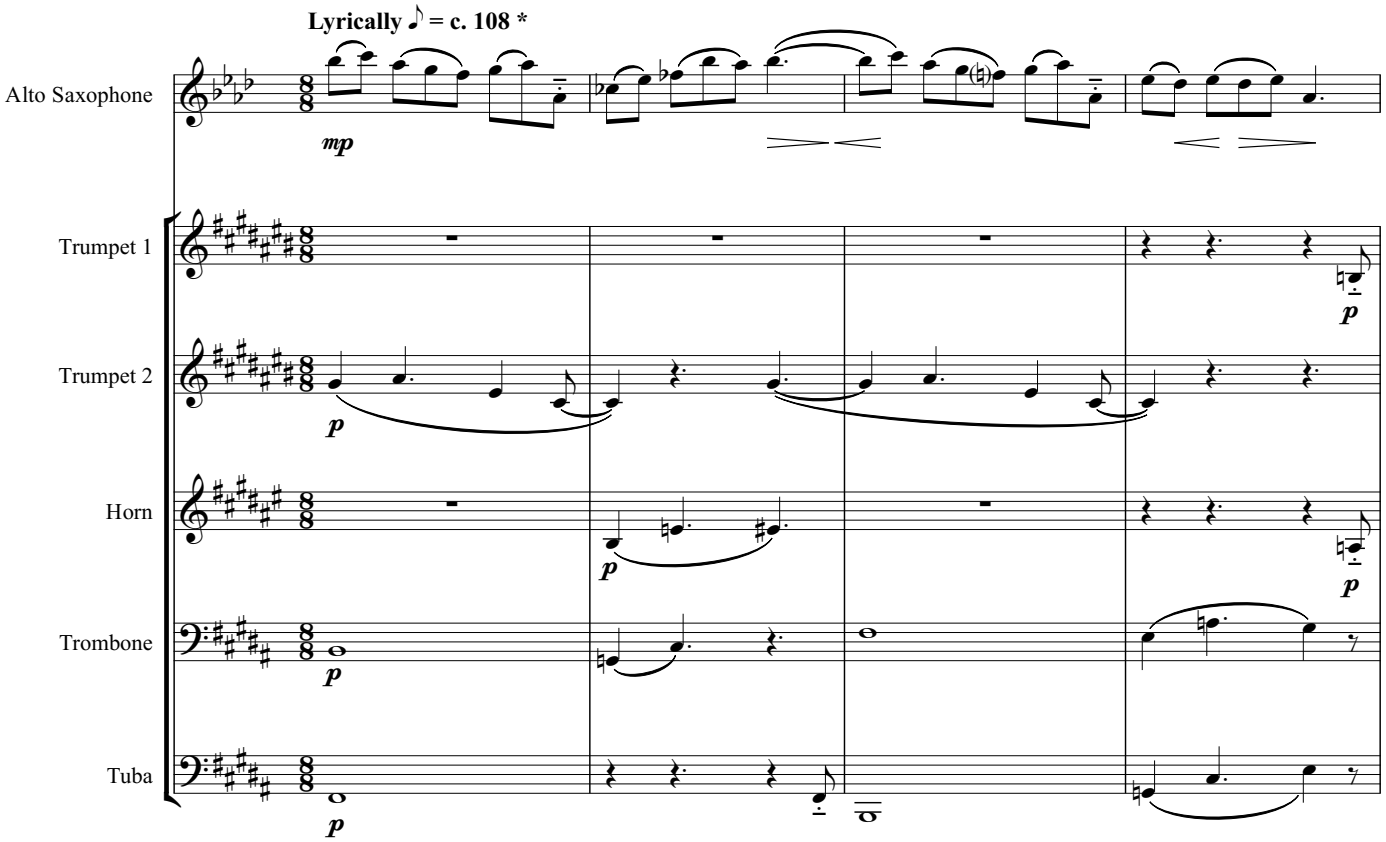
And, yes, it's a Western rondo.

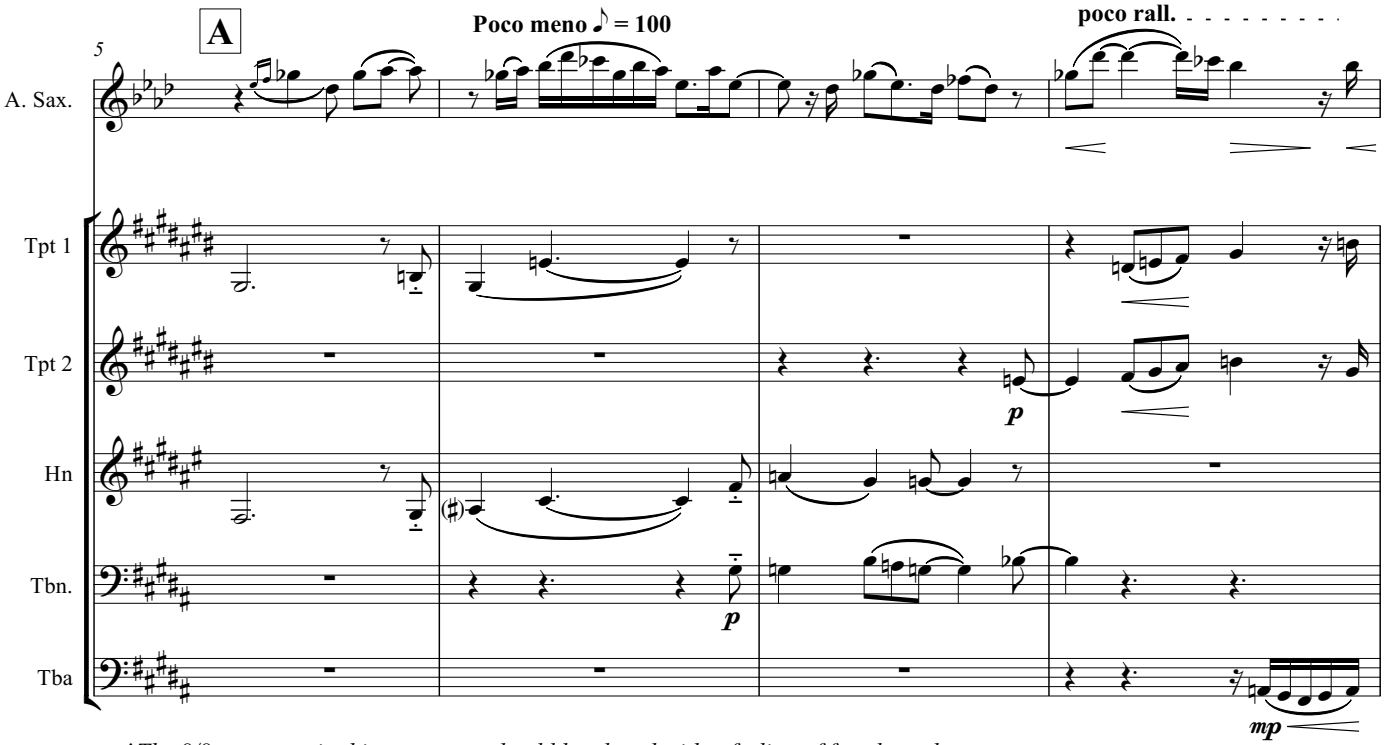
Transposed Score

Commissioned by The Commission Project for Dale Underwood and Prism Brass Quintet

Sextet
for Alto Saxophone and Brass Quintet
1. Cantilena

Edward Green





**The 8/8 measures in this movement should be played with a feeling of four large beats. That is, 2+3+2+1, counting in 8ths. It is crucial to avoid the feeling of 3 large beats.*

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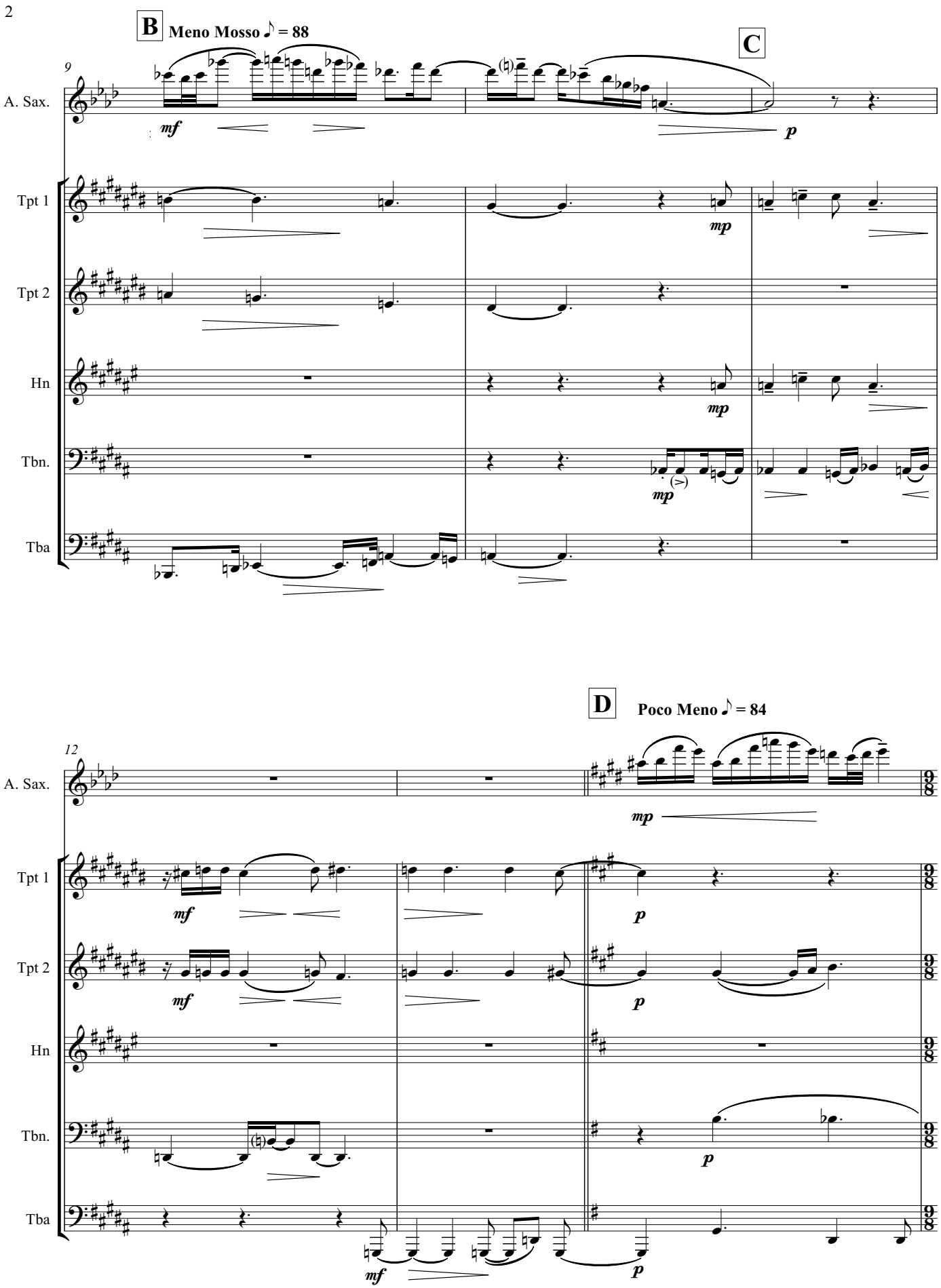
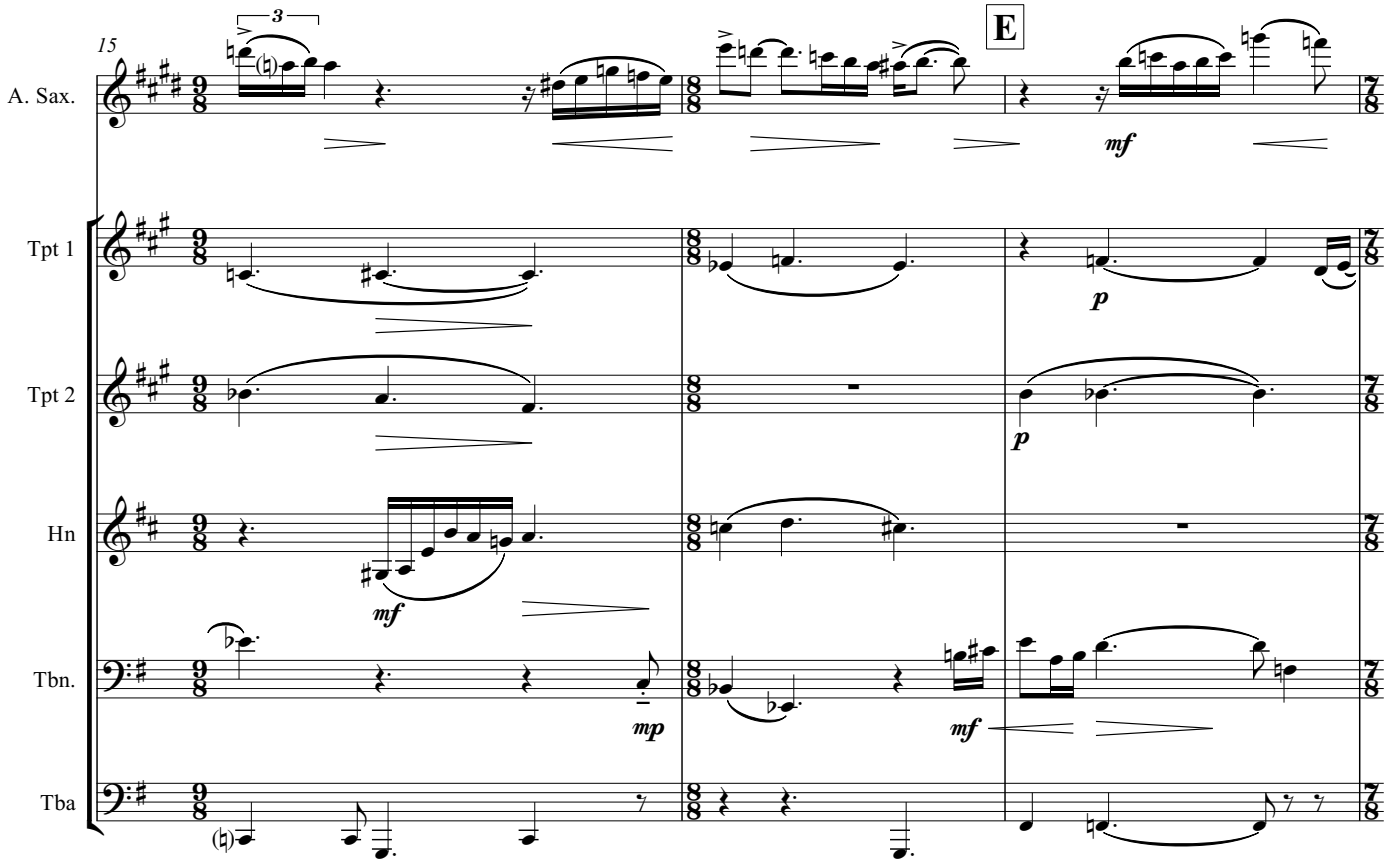
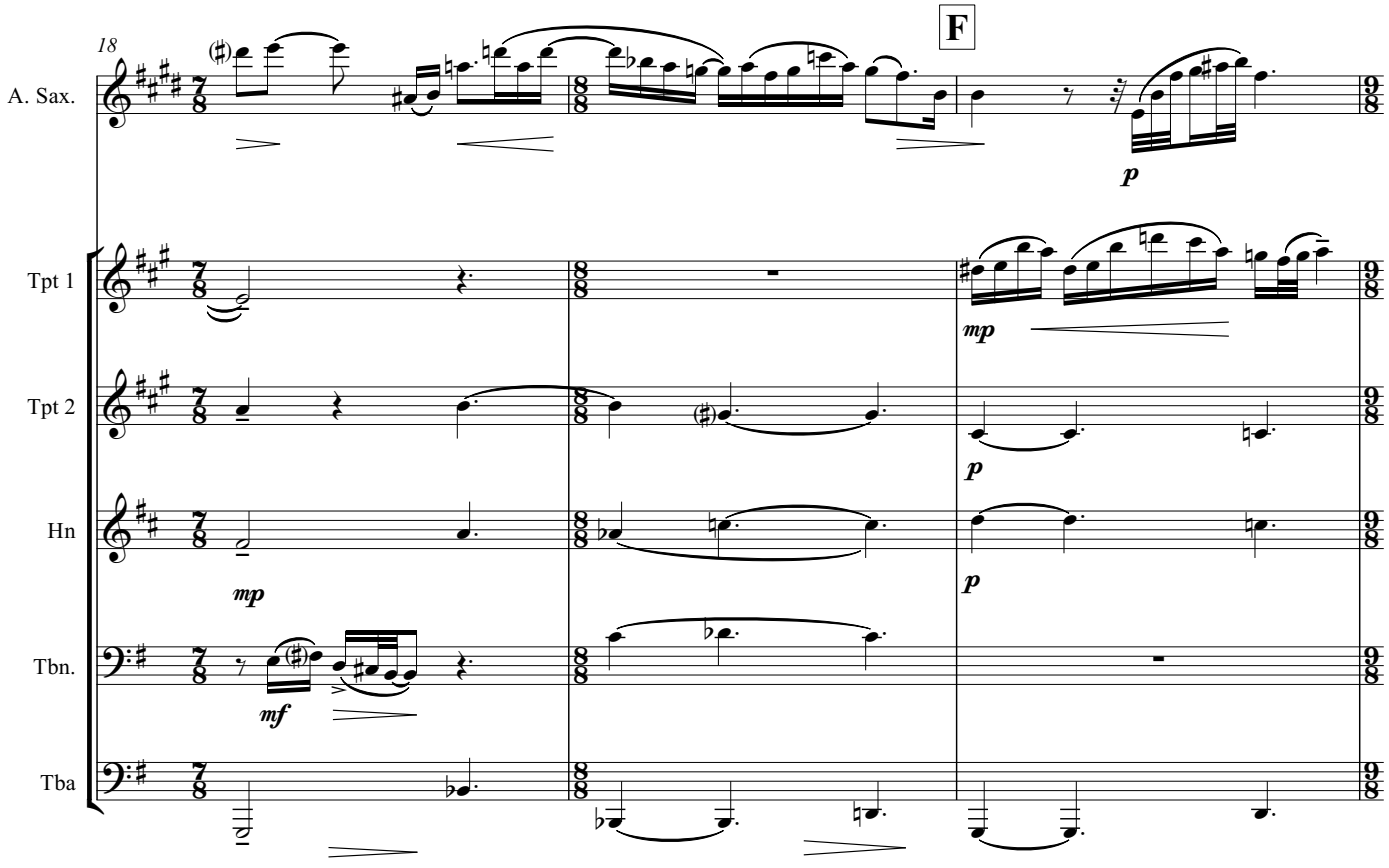
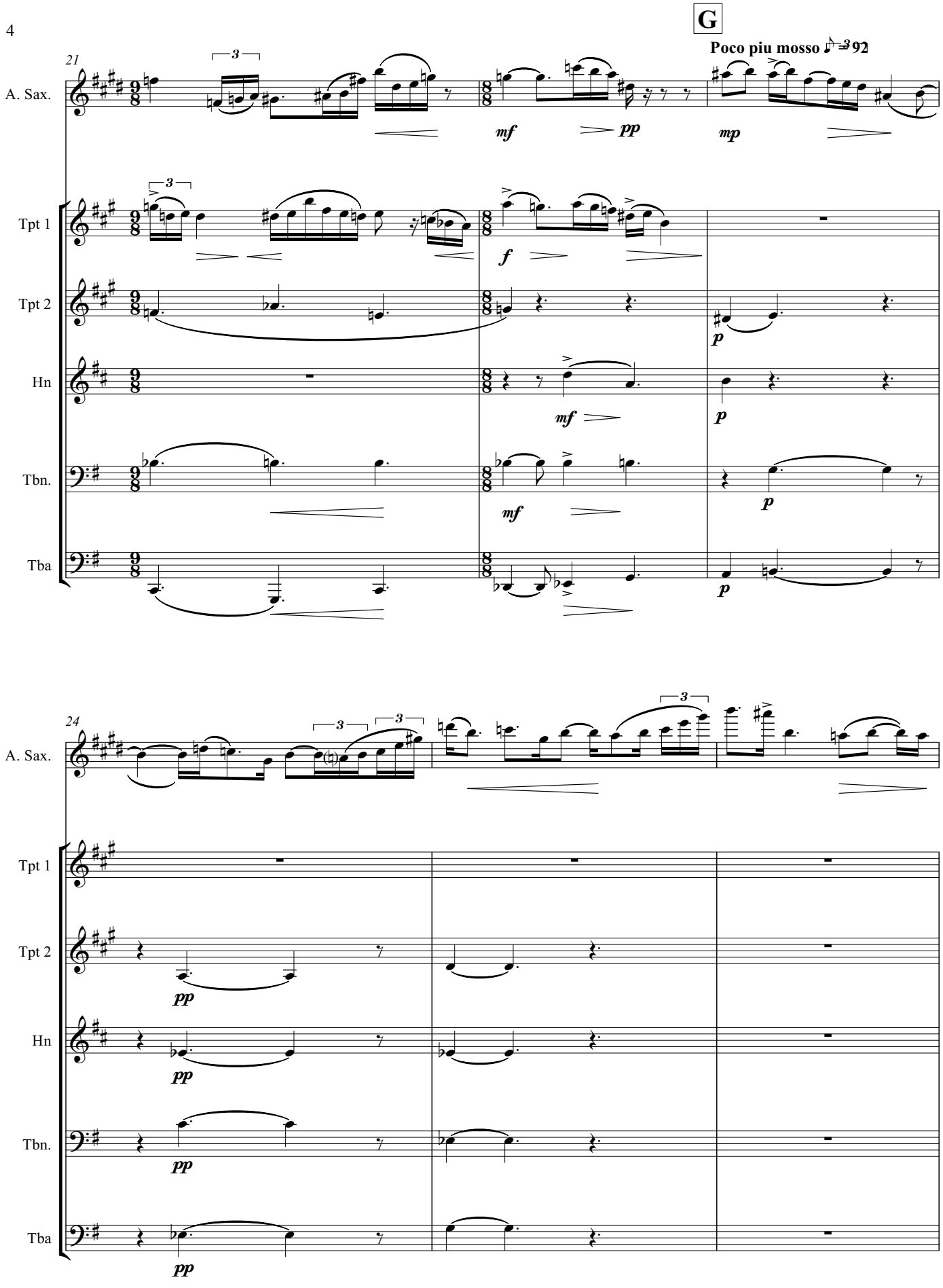
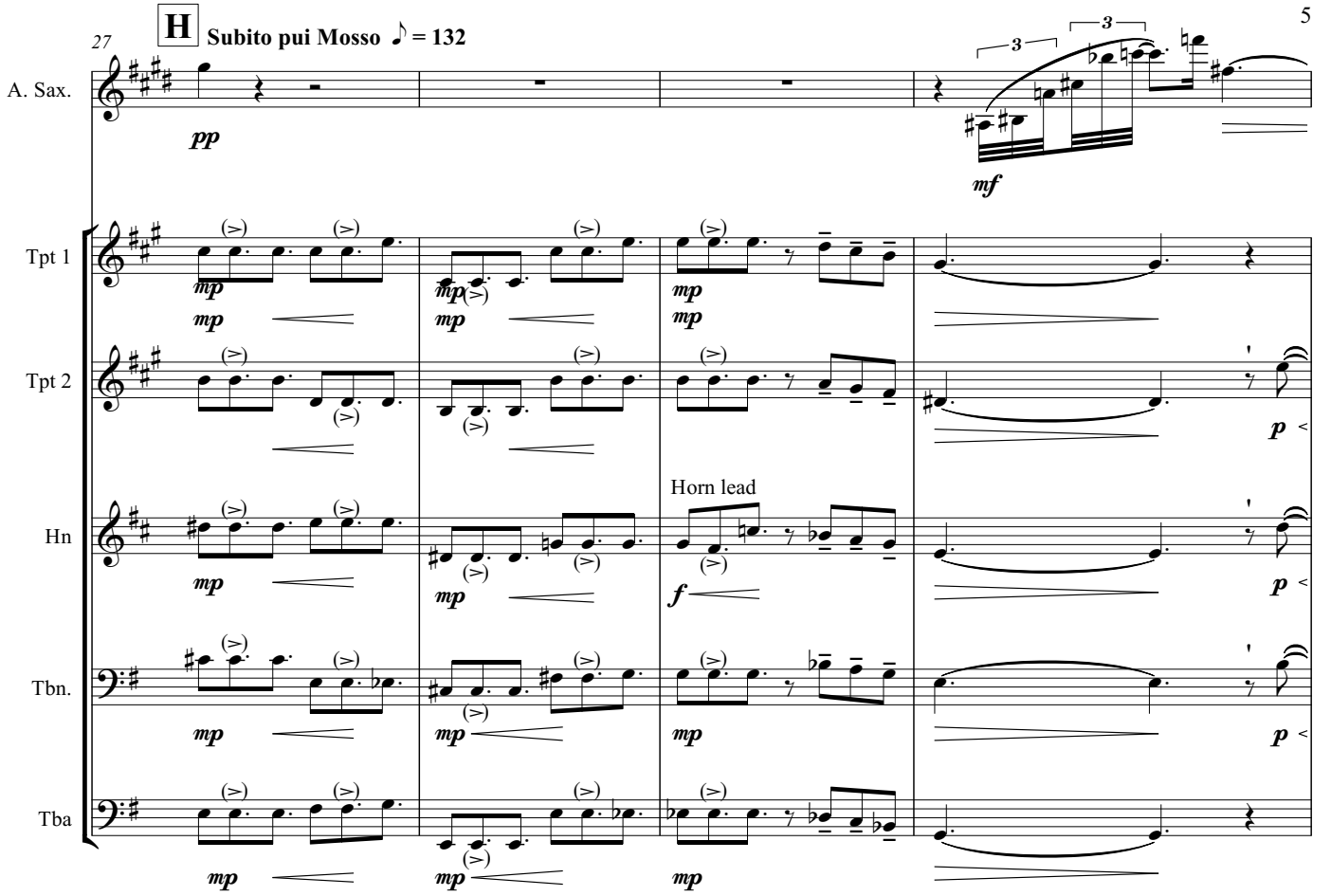
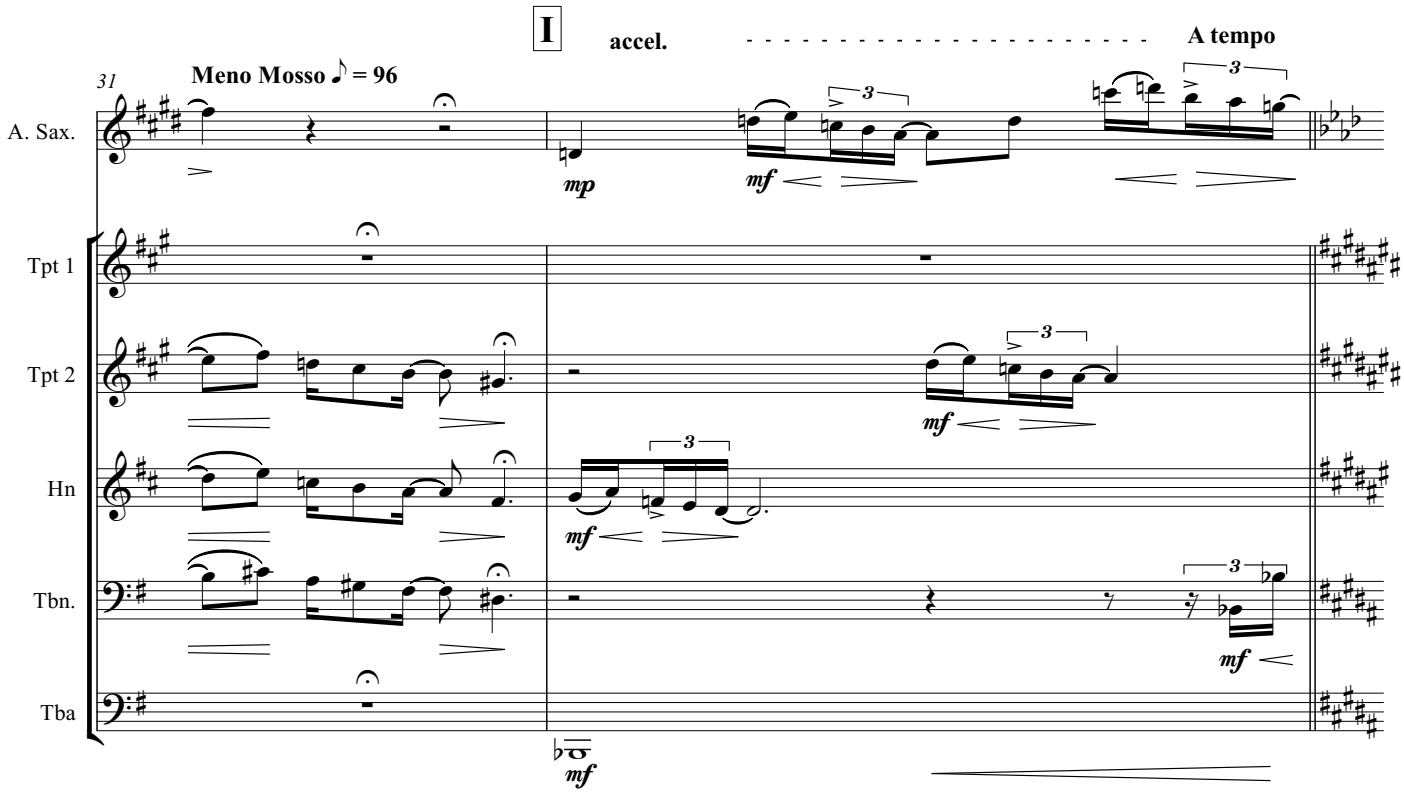

B
Meno Mosso ♪ = 88
C
9
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
mf
p
mp
(>)
D
Poco Meno ♪ = 84
12

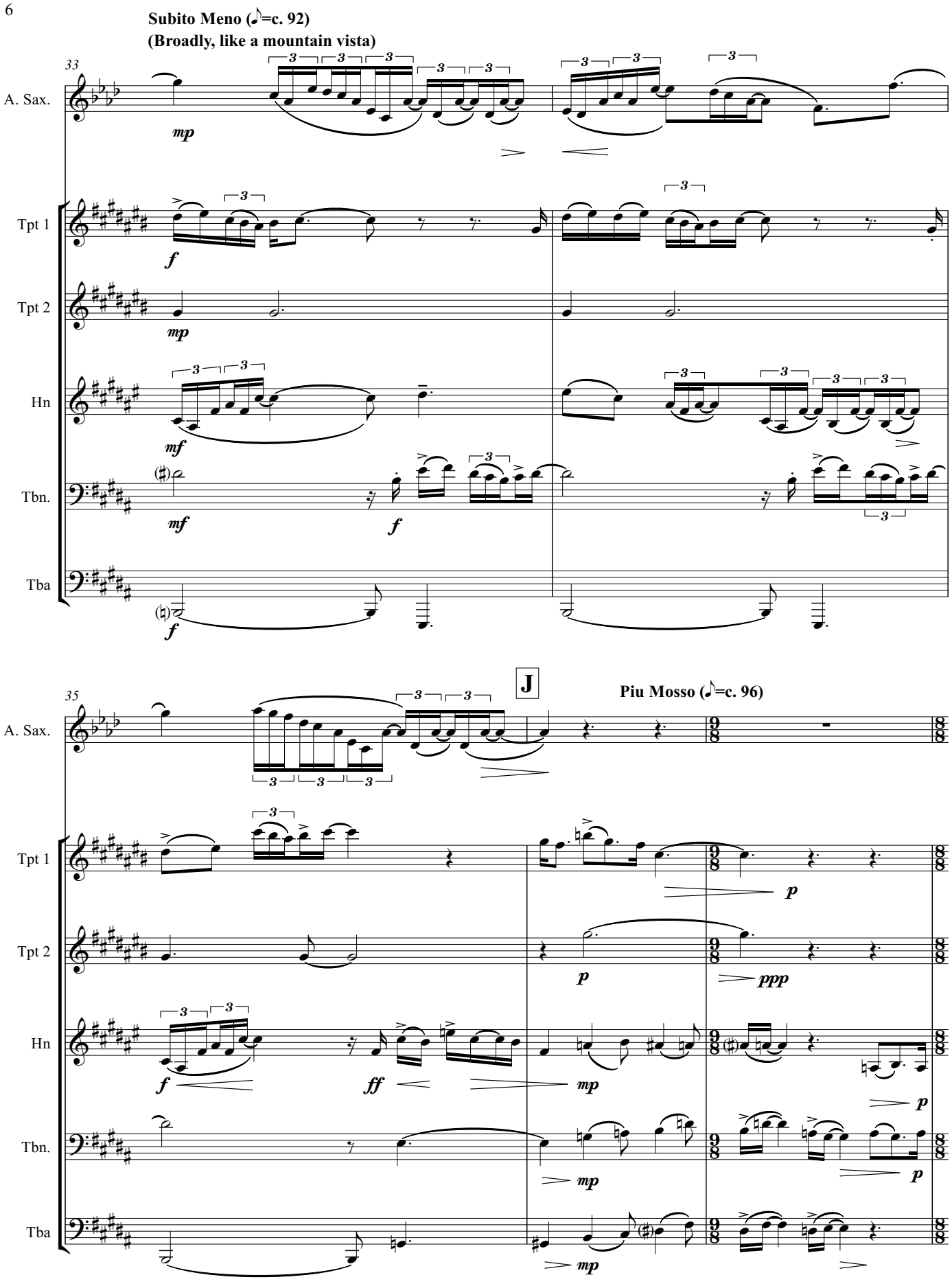

15
3
E
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
mf
p
p
mf
mp
mf
p

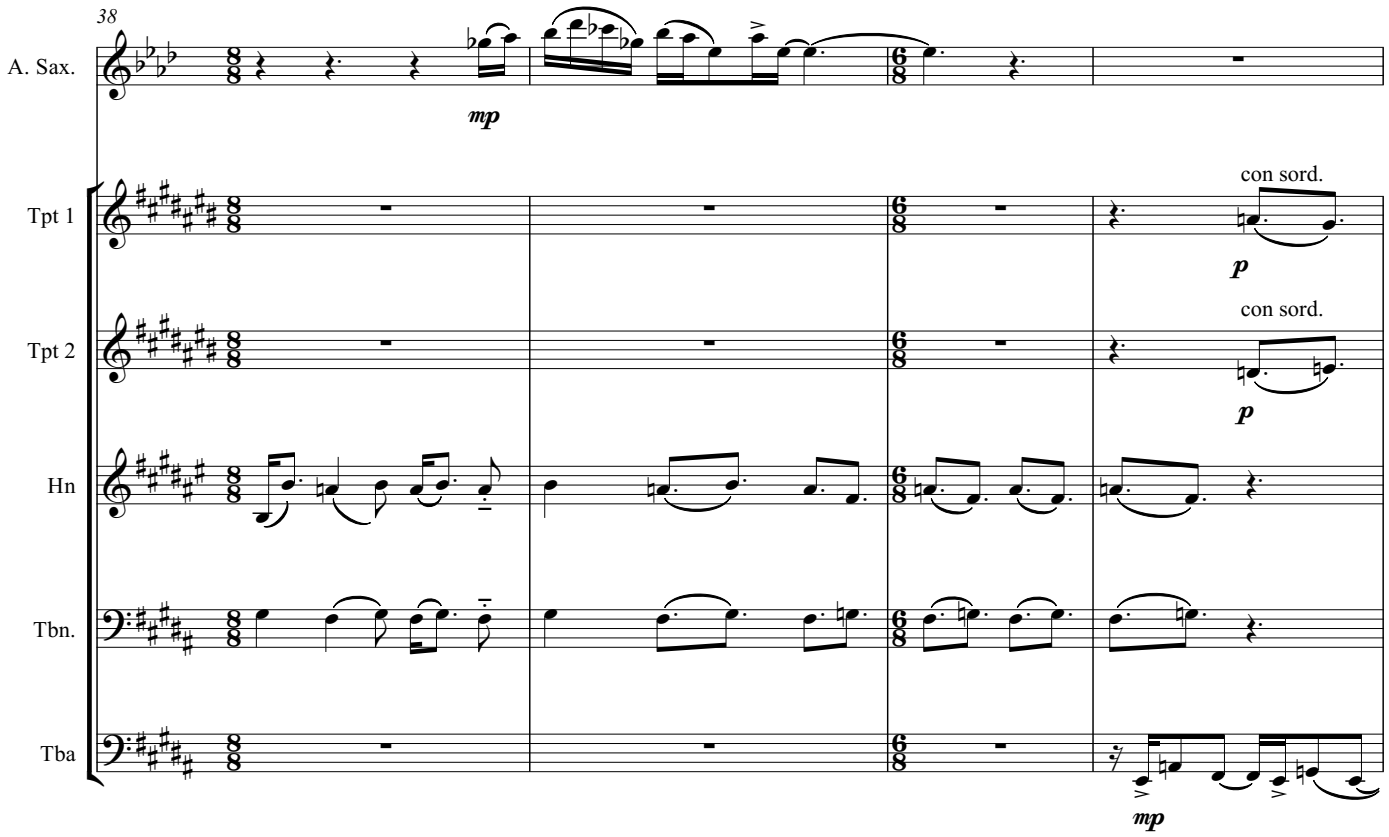

18
F
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
p
mp
p
mp
mf
p

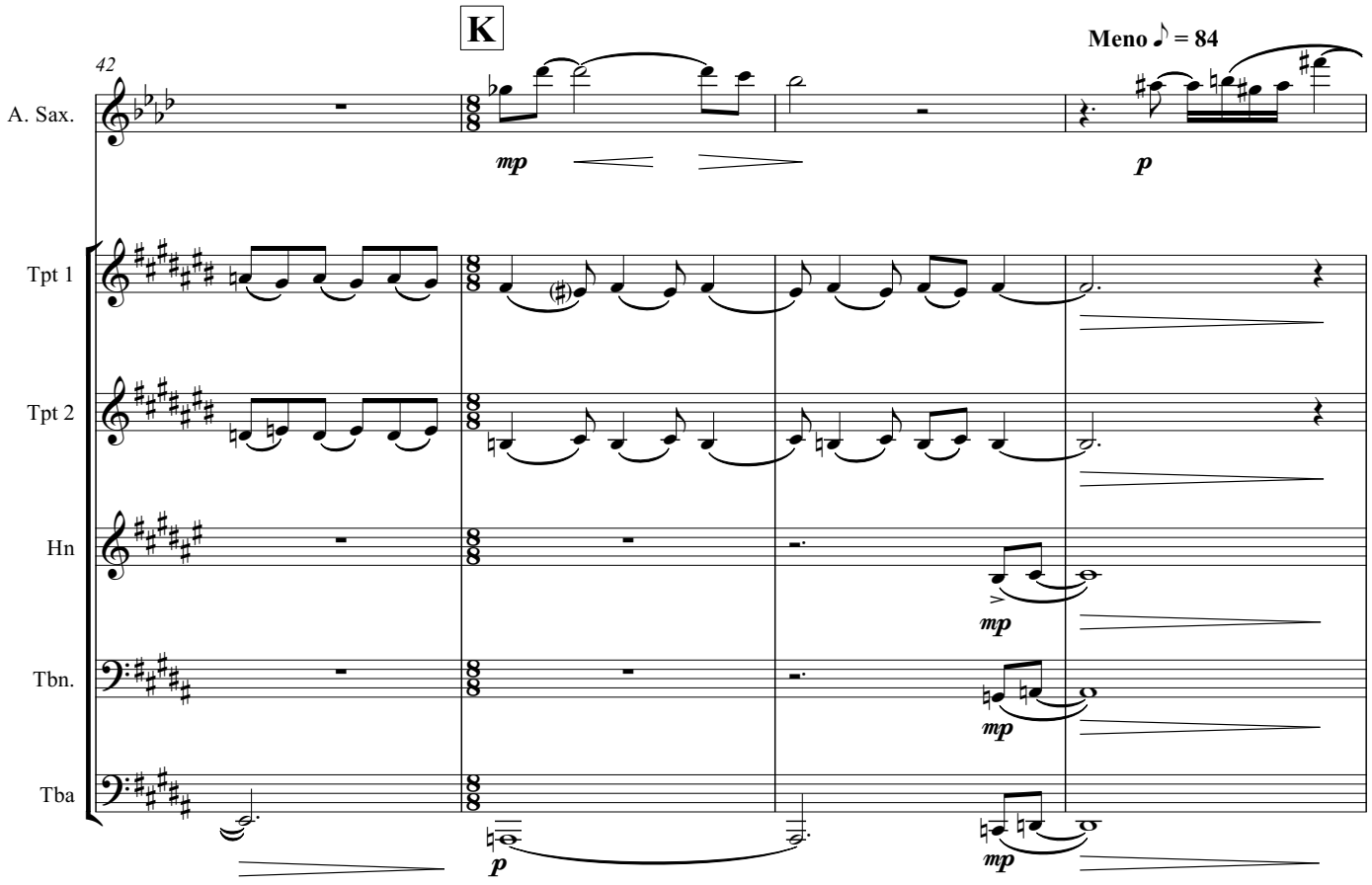

G
Poco piu mosso ♪=92
21
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
mf
pp
mp
f
p
mf
p
p
24
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
pp
pp
pp
pp

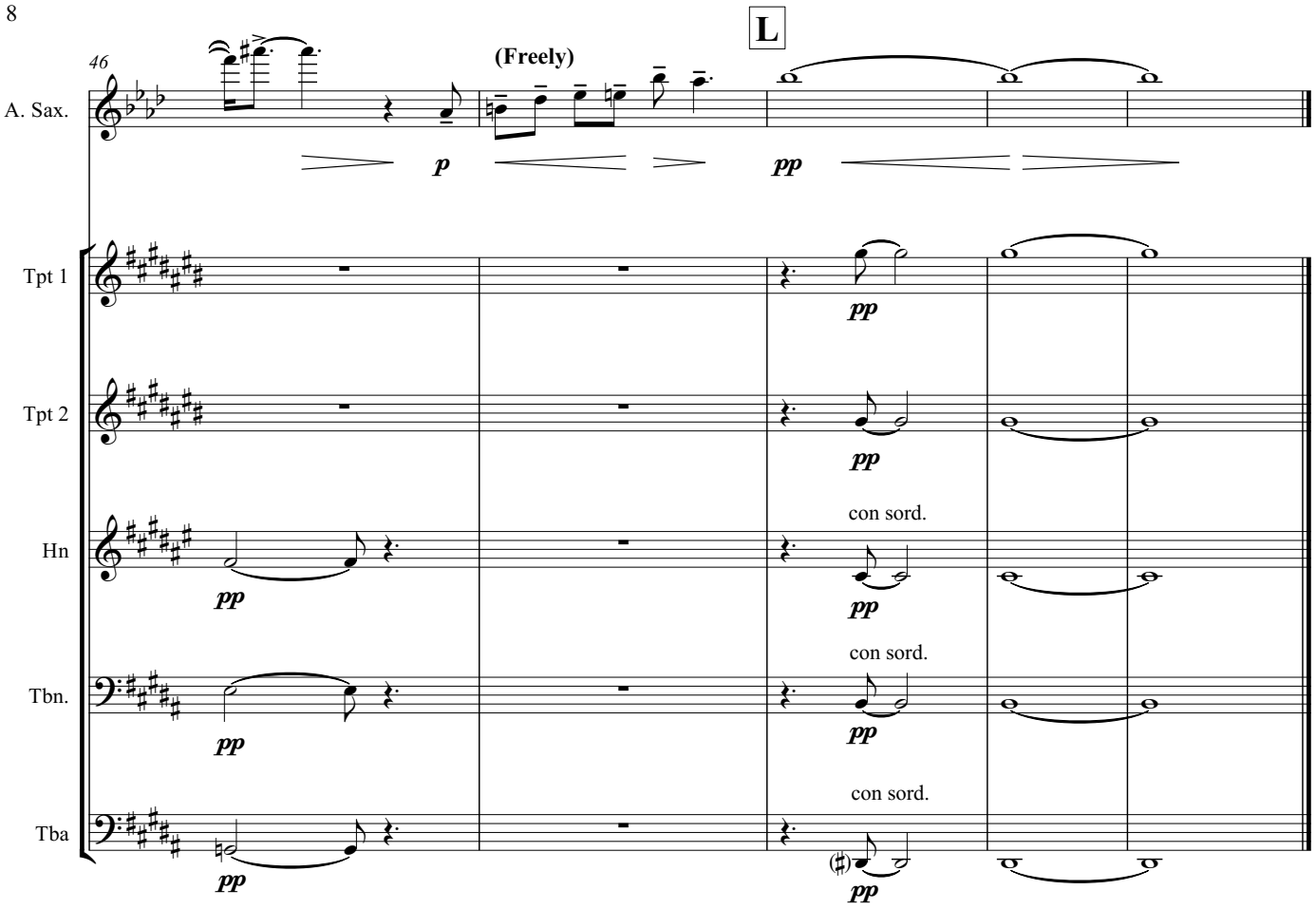

27
H
Subito pui Mosso ♪ = 132
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Horn lead
Tbn.
Tba
pp
mf
mp
f
p


I
accel.
A tempo
31
Meno Mosso ♪ = 96
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
mp
mf

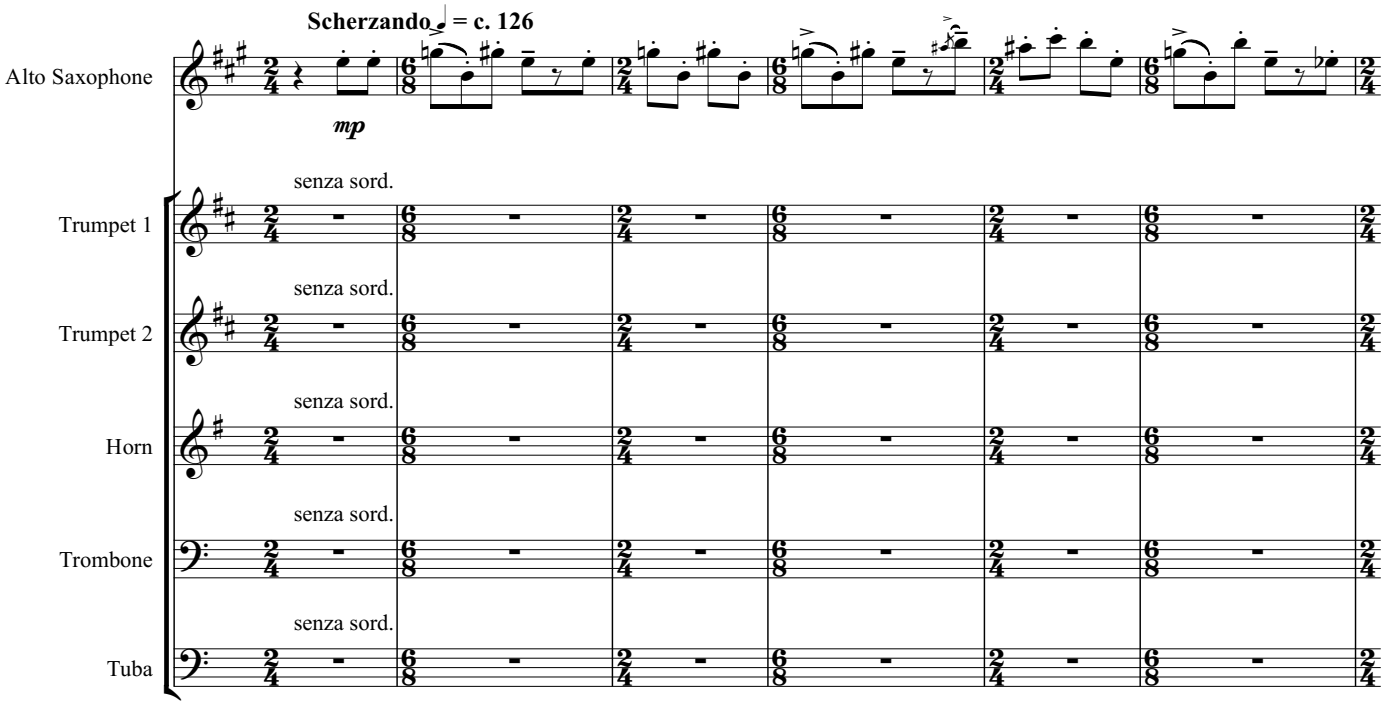

Subito Meno (♪=c. 92)
(Broadly, like a mountain vista)
33
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
mp
f
mf
J
35
Piu Mosso (♪=c. 96)
ff
ppp

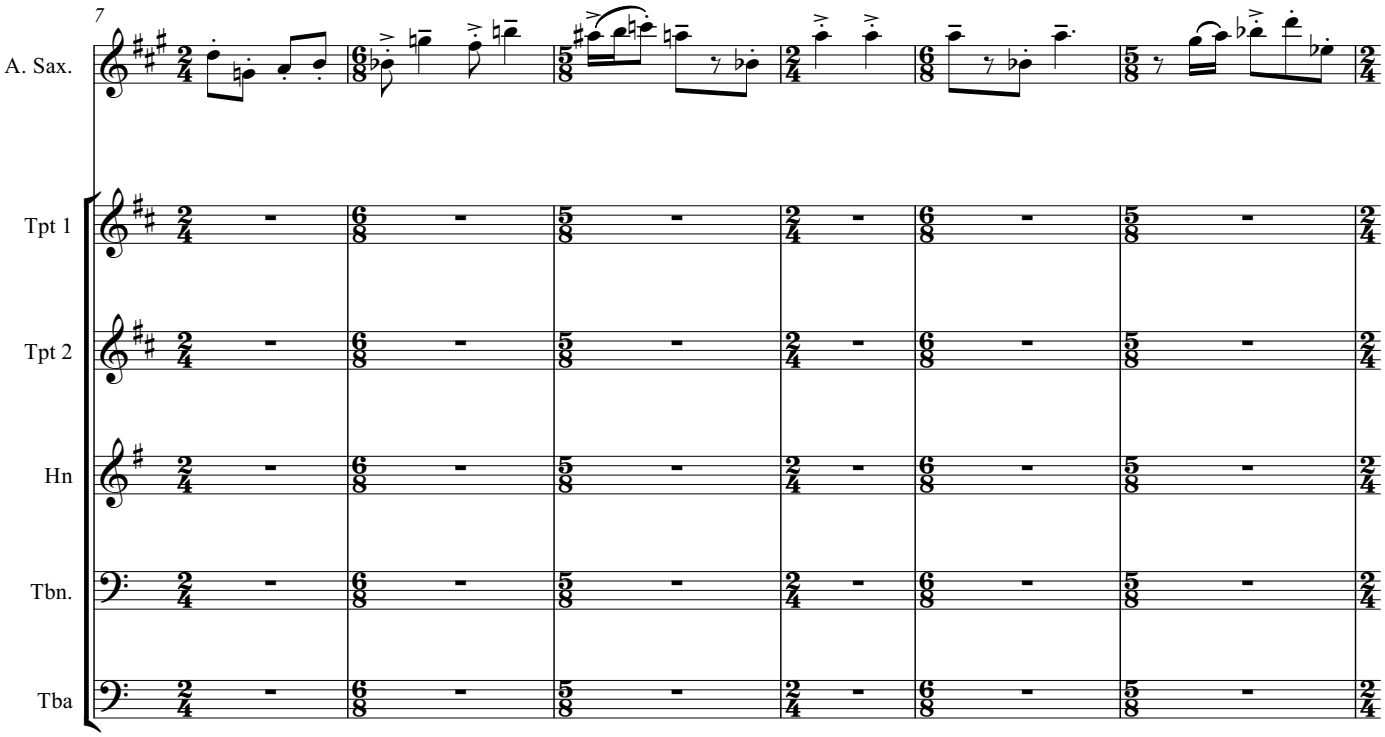

38
A. Sax.
mp
Tpt 1
con sord.
p
Tpt 2
con sord.
p
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
mp

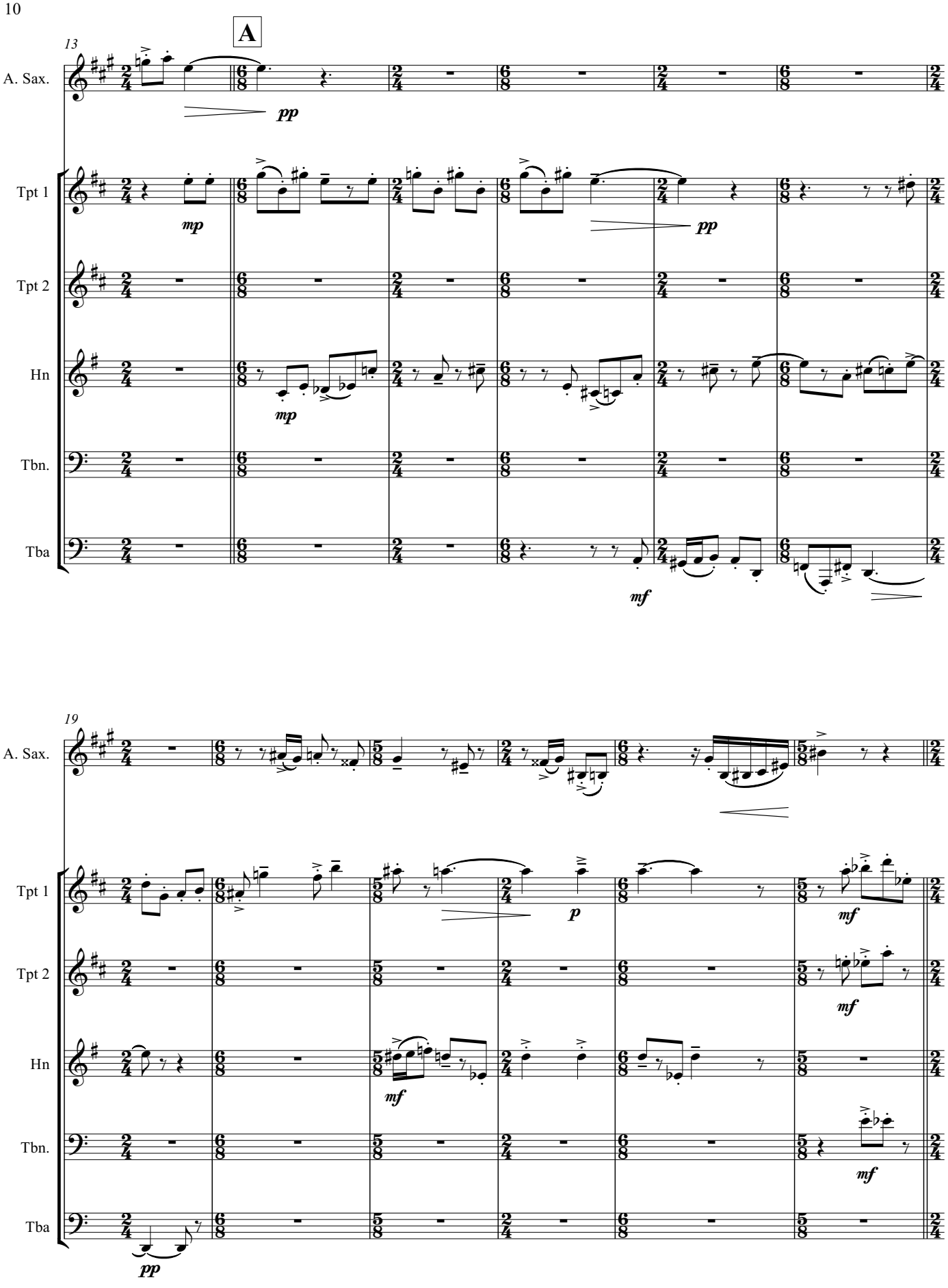

K
Meno ♪ = 84
42
A. Sax.
mp
p
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
mp
Tbn.
mp
Tba
p
mp

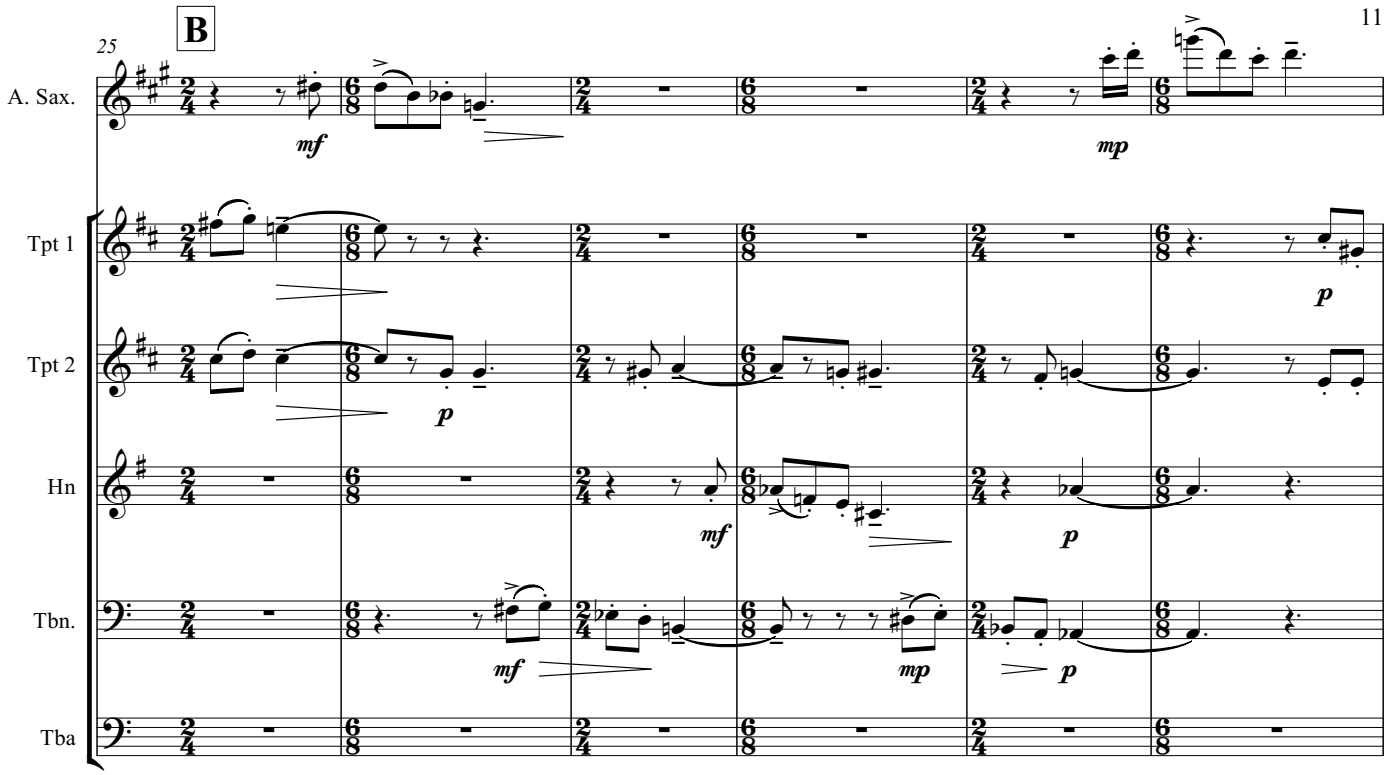

L
46
(Freely)
A. Sax.
p
pp
Tpt 1
pp
Tpt 2
pp
con sord.
Hn
pp
pp
con sord.
Tbn.
pp
pp
con sord.
Tba
pp
pp

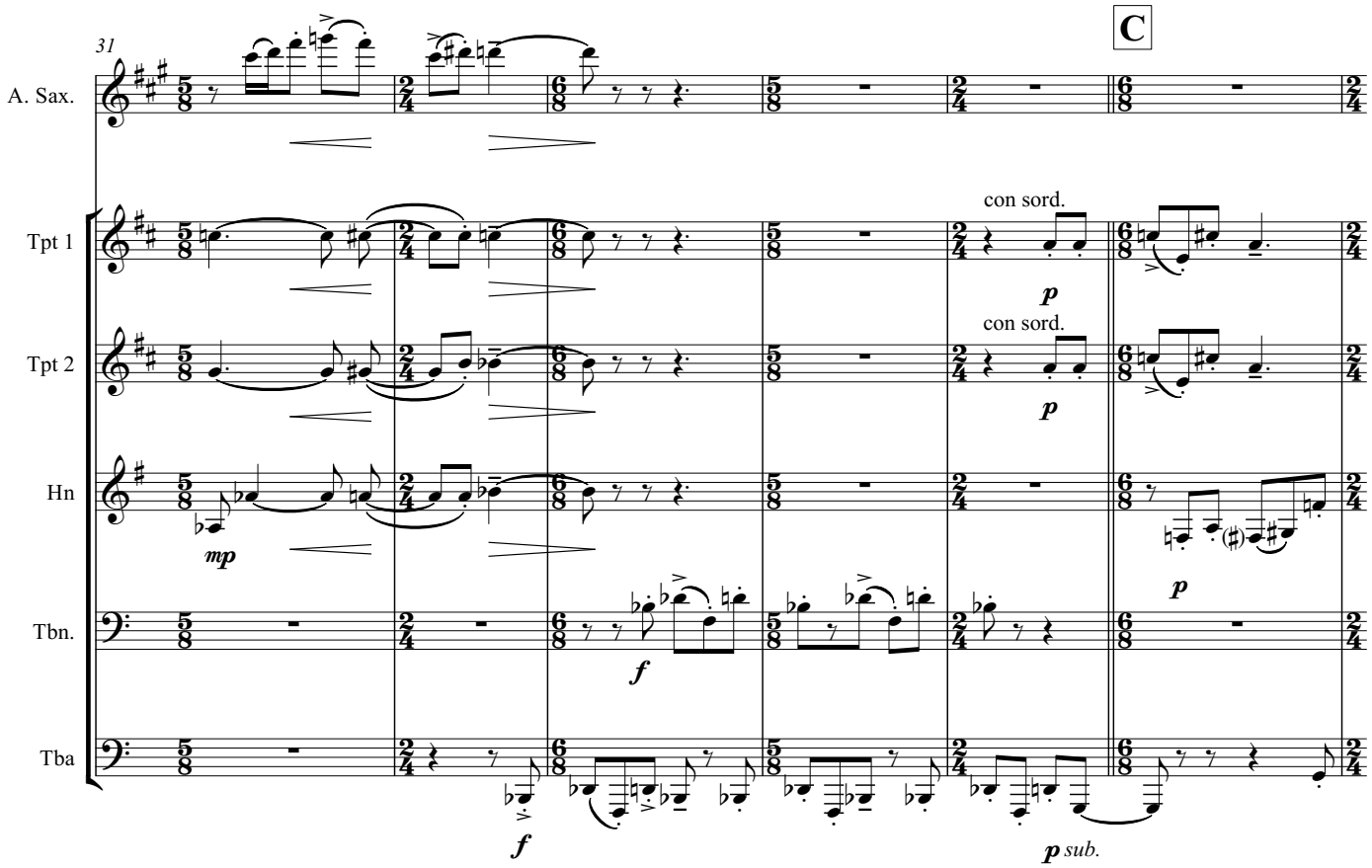
2. Fugue

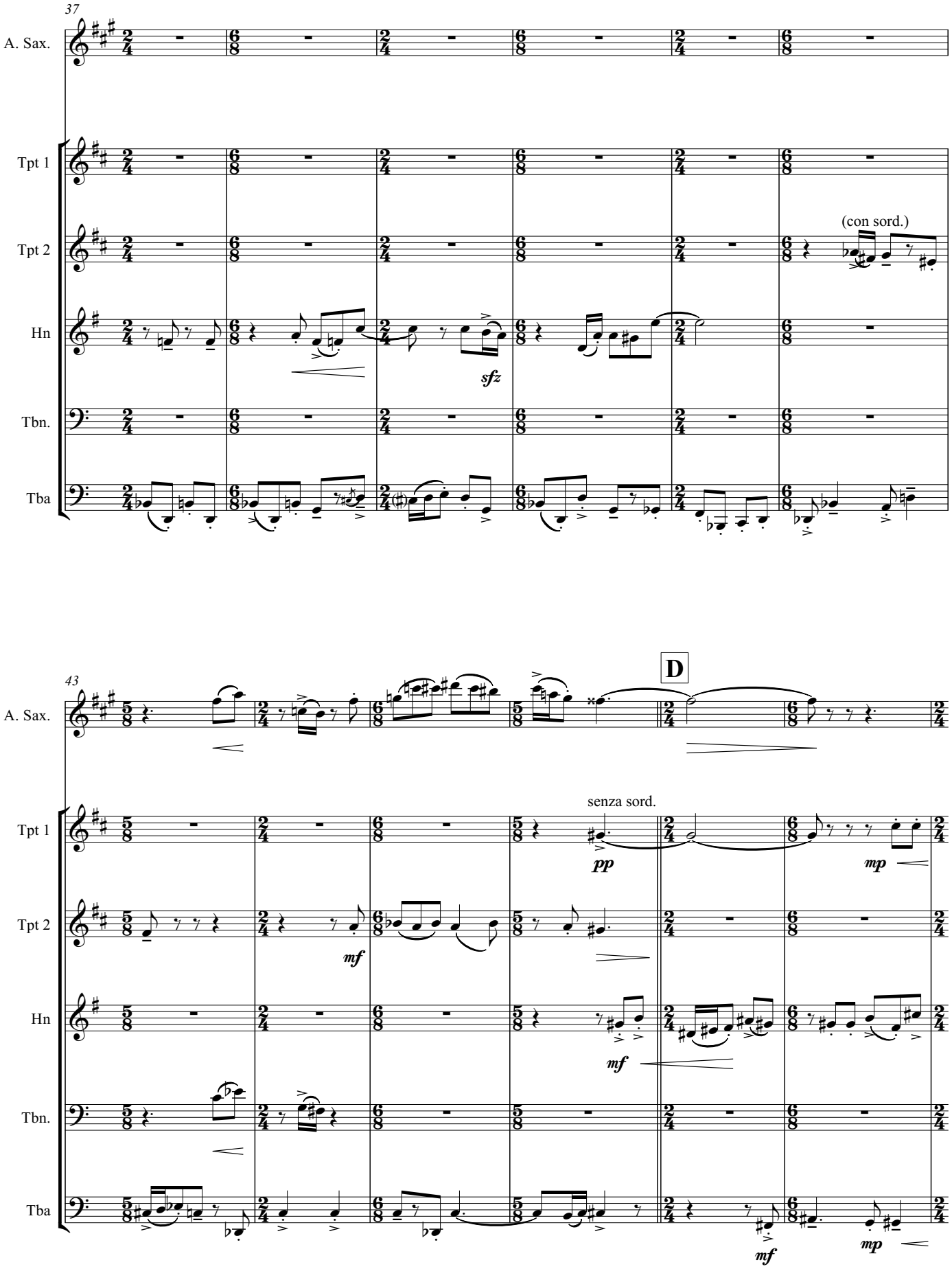

Scherzando ♩. = c. 126
Alto Saxophone
mp
Trumpet 1
senza sord.
Trumpet 2
senza sord.
Horn
senza sord.
Trombone
senza sord.
Tuba
senza sord.

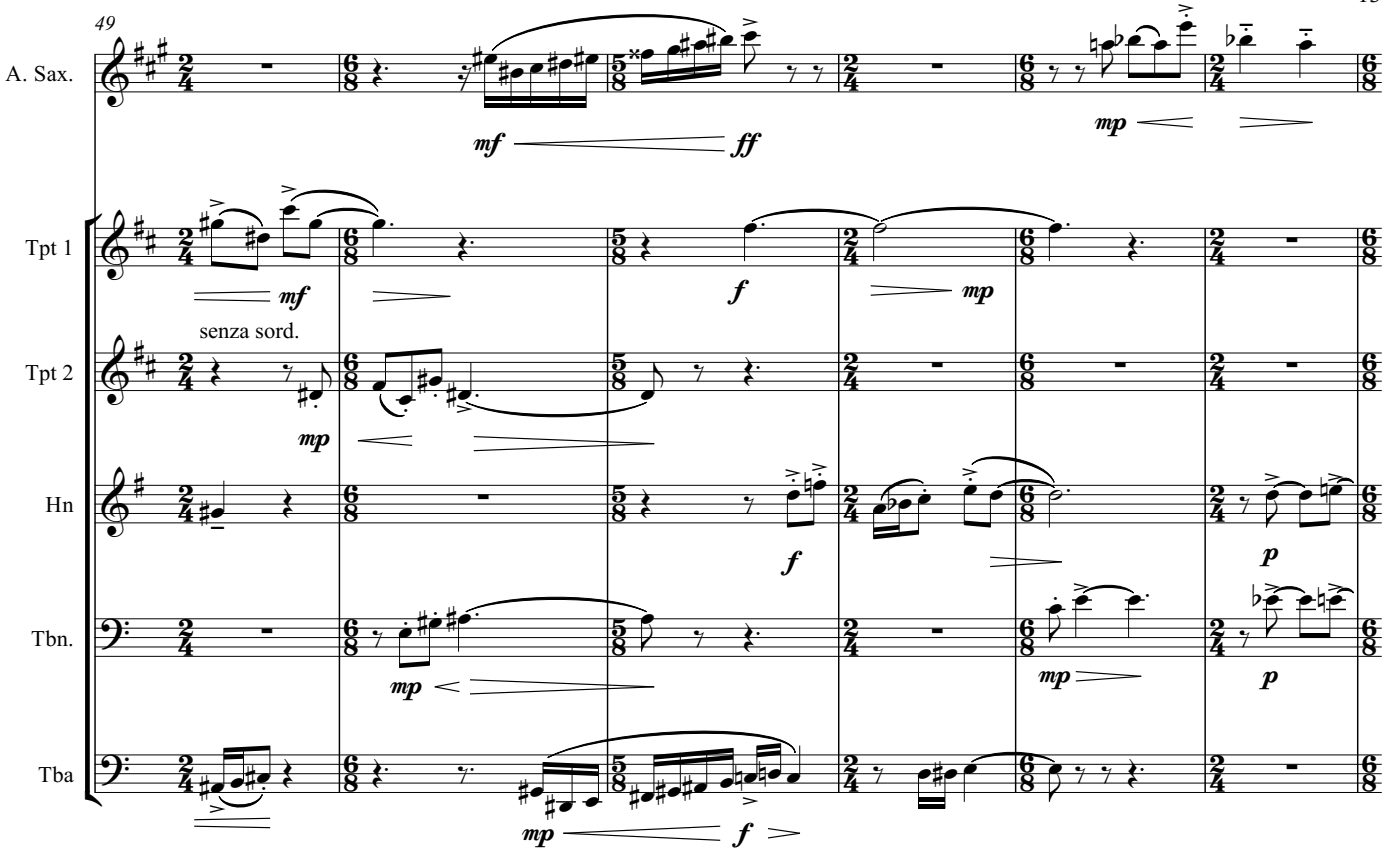

7
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba

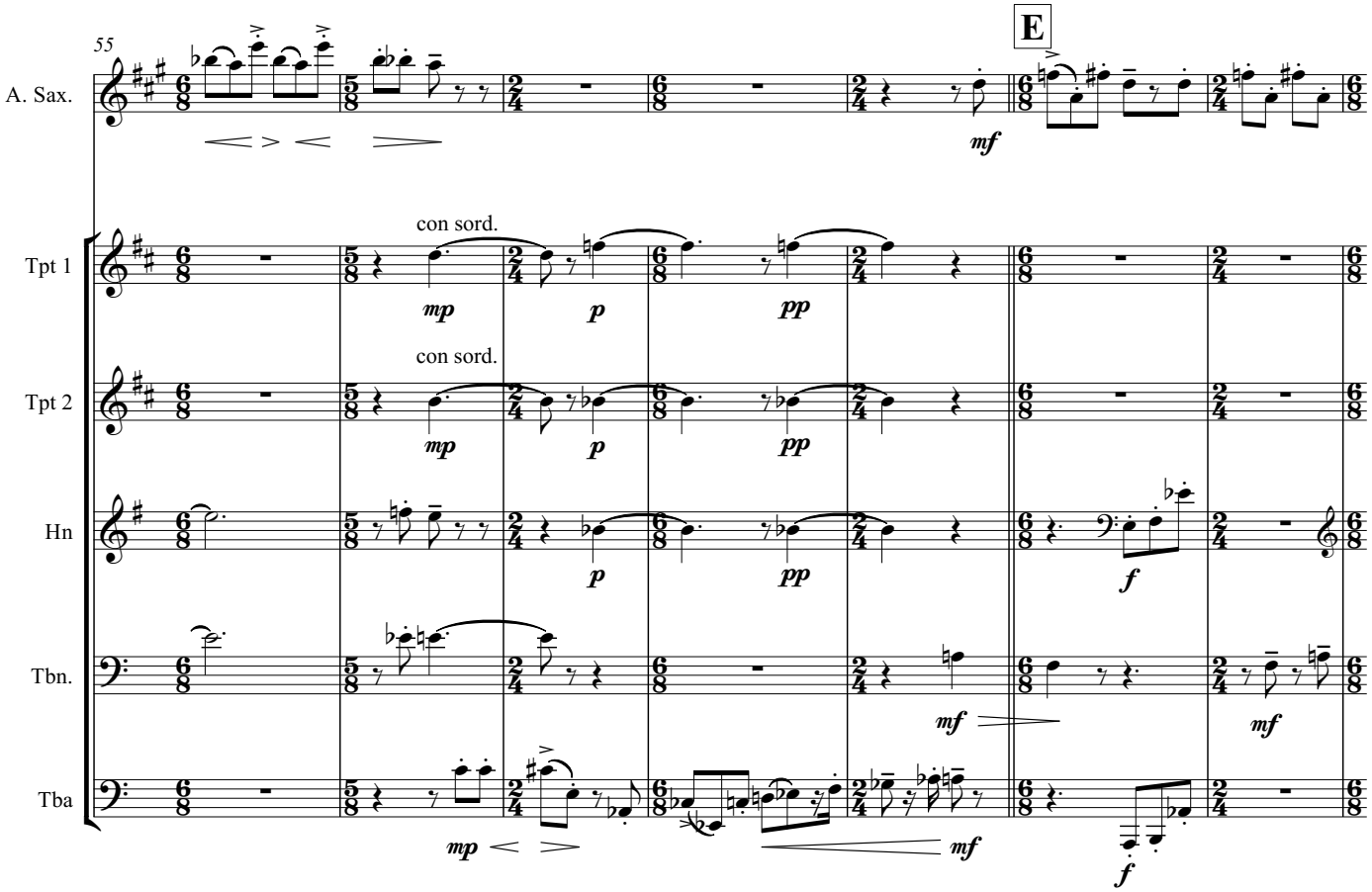

A
13
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
pp
mp
mp
pp
mf
19
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
p
mf
mf
mf
mf
pp

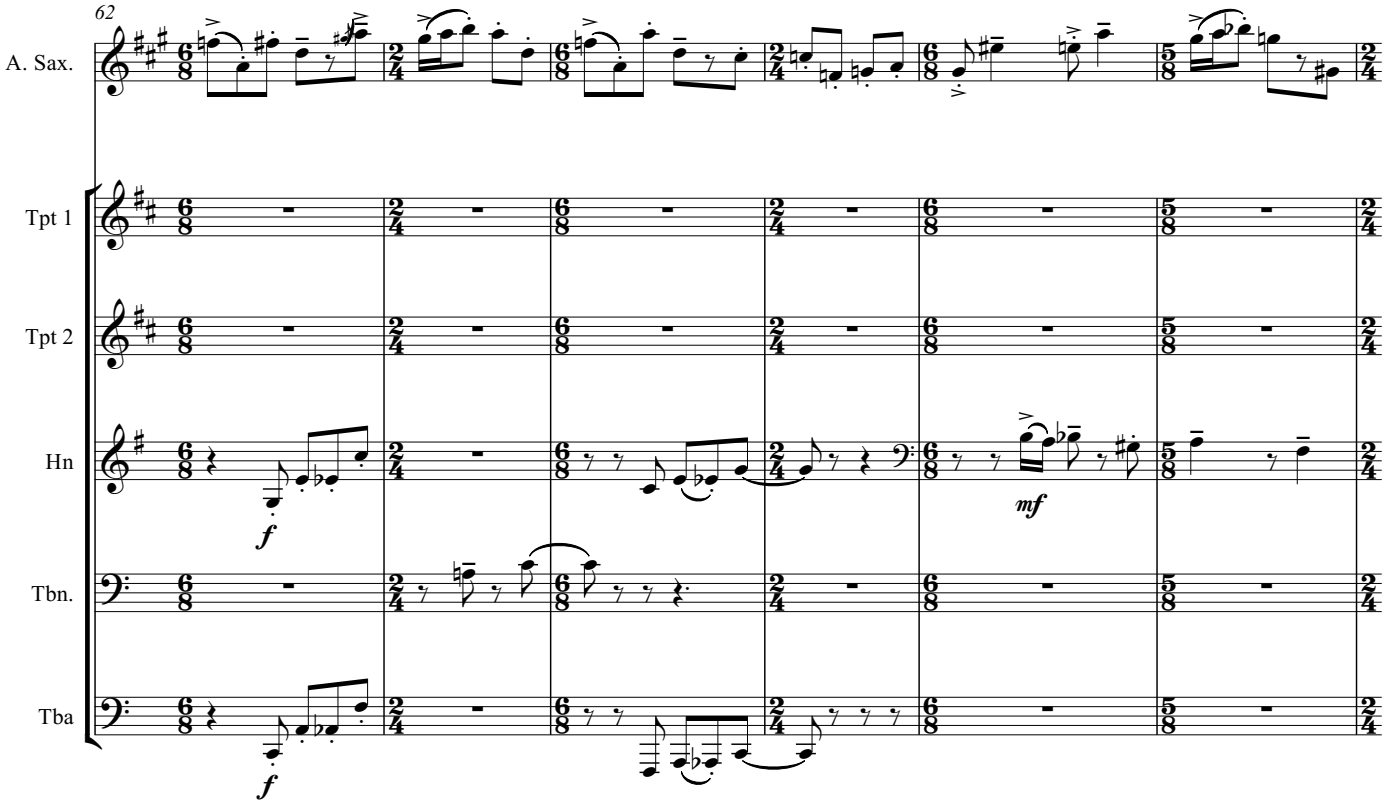

B
25
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
mf
mp
p
mf
mp
p

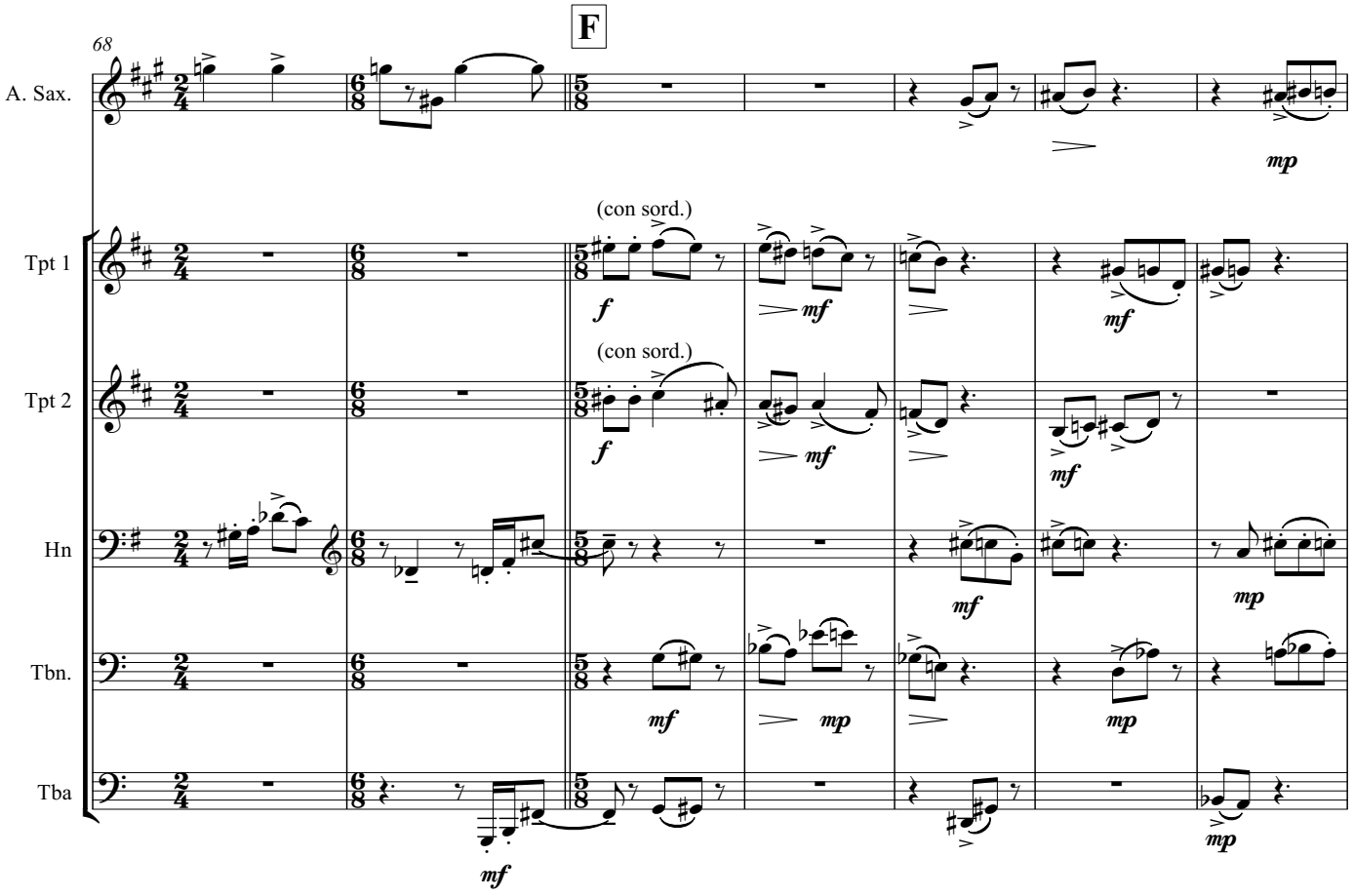

C
31
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
con sord.
con sord.
mp
f
f
p
p
p
p sub.

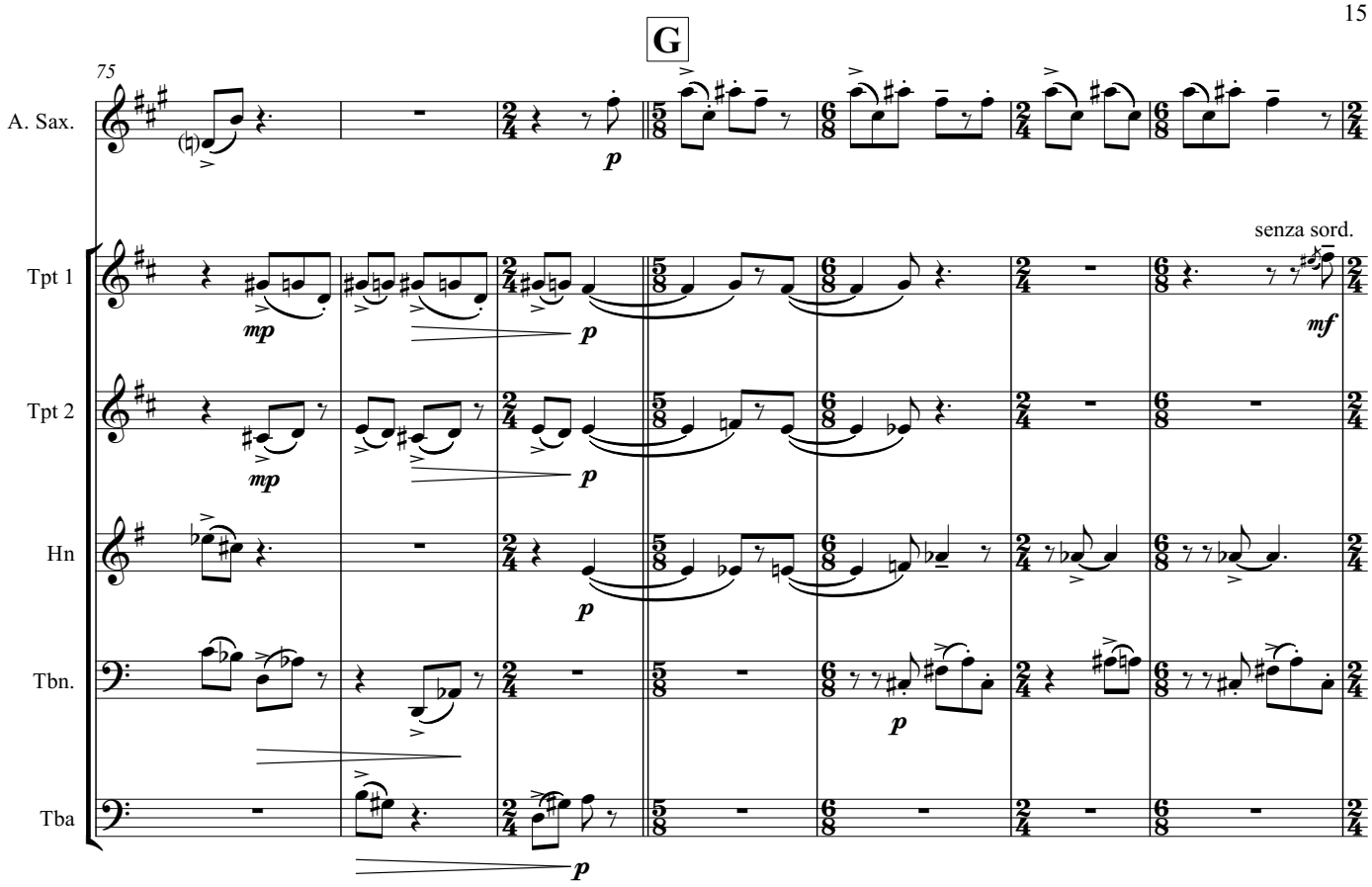

37
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
(con sord.)
Hn
sfz
Tbn.
Tba
43
D
senza sord.
pp
mp
mf
mf
mp
mf

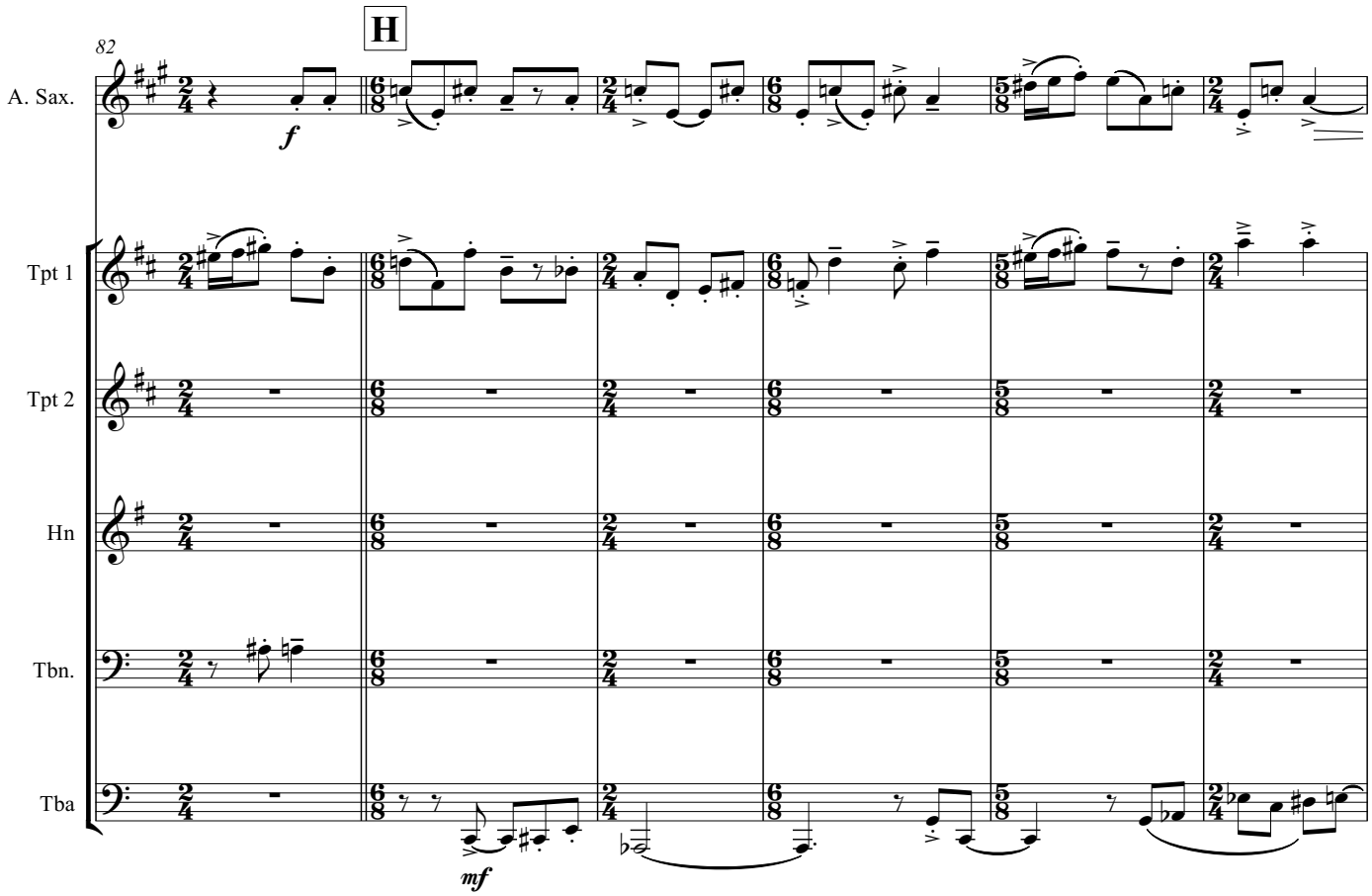

49
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
senza sord.

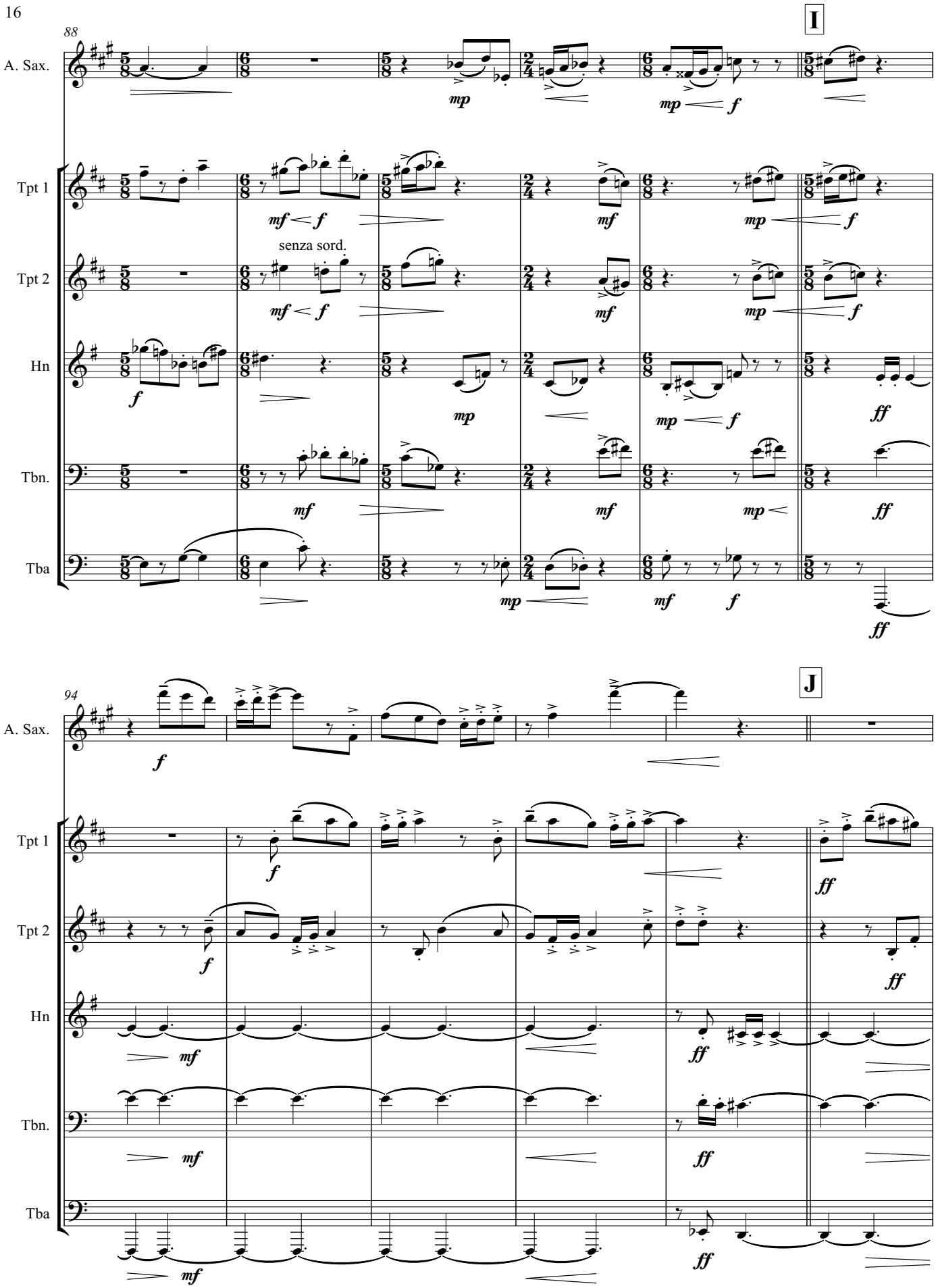

55
E
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
con sord.
con sord.

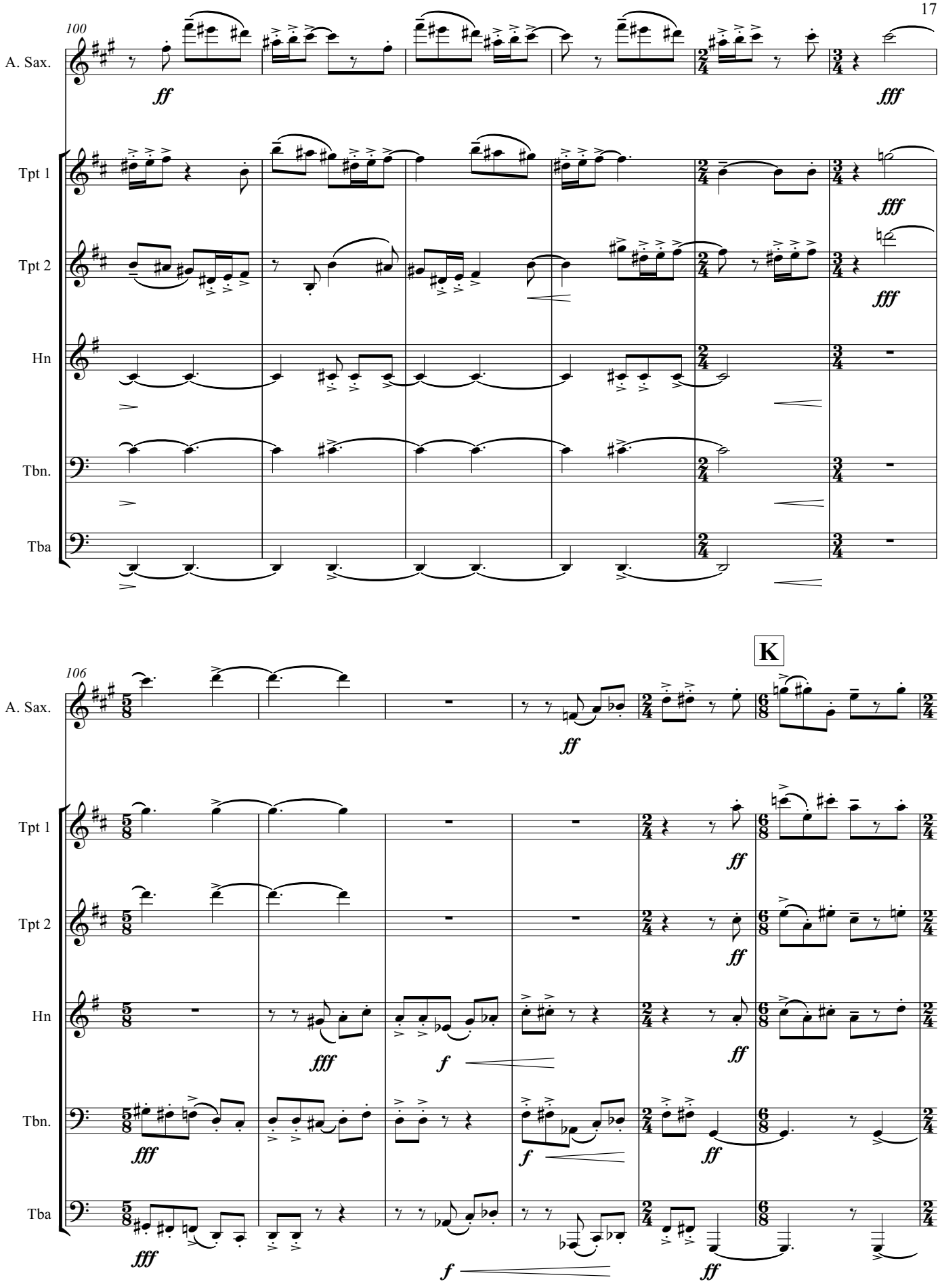

62
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
f
mf

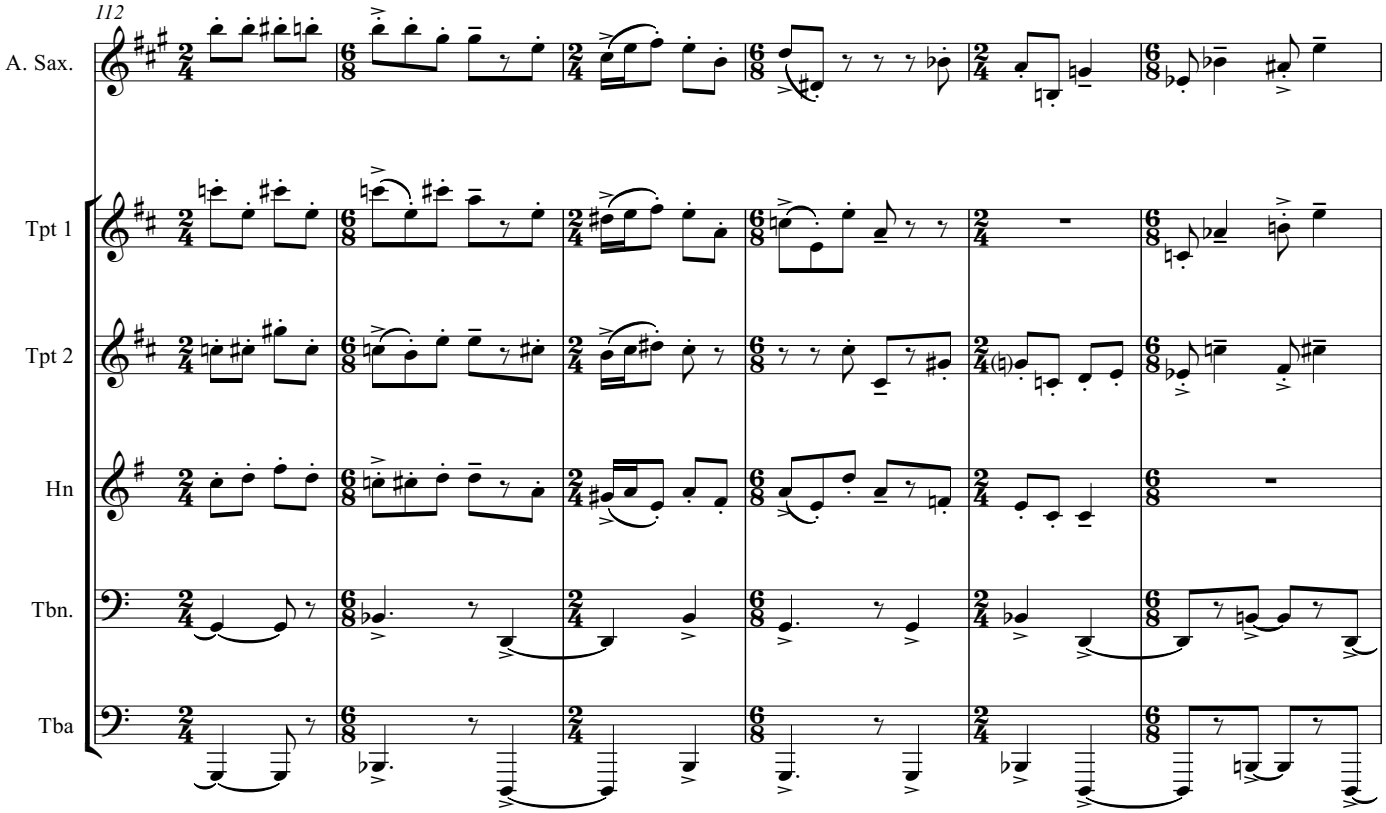

F
68
A. Sax.
mp
(con sord.)
Tpt 1
f
mf
(con sord.)
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
mp

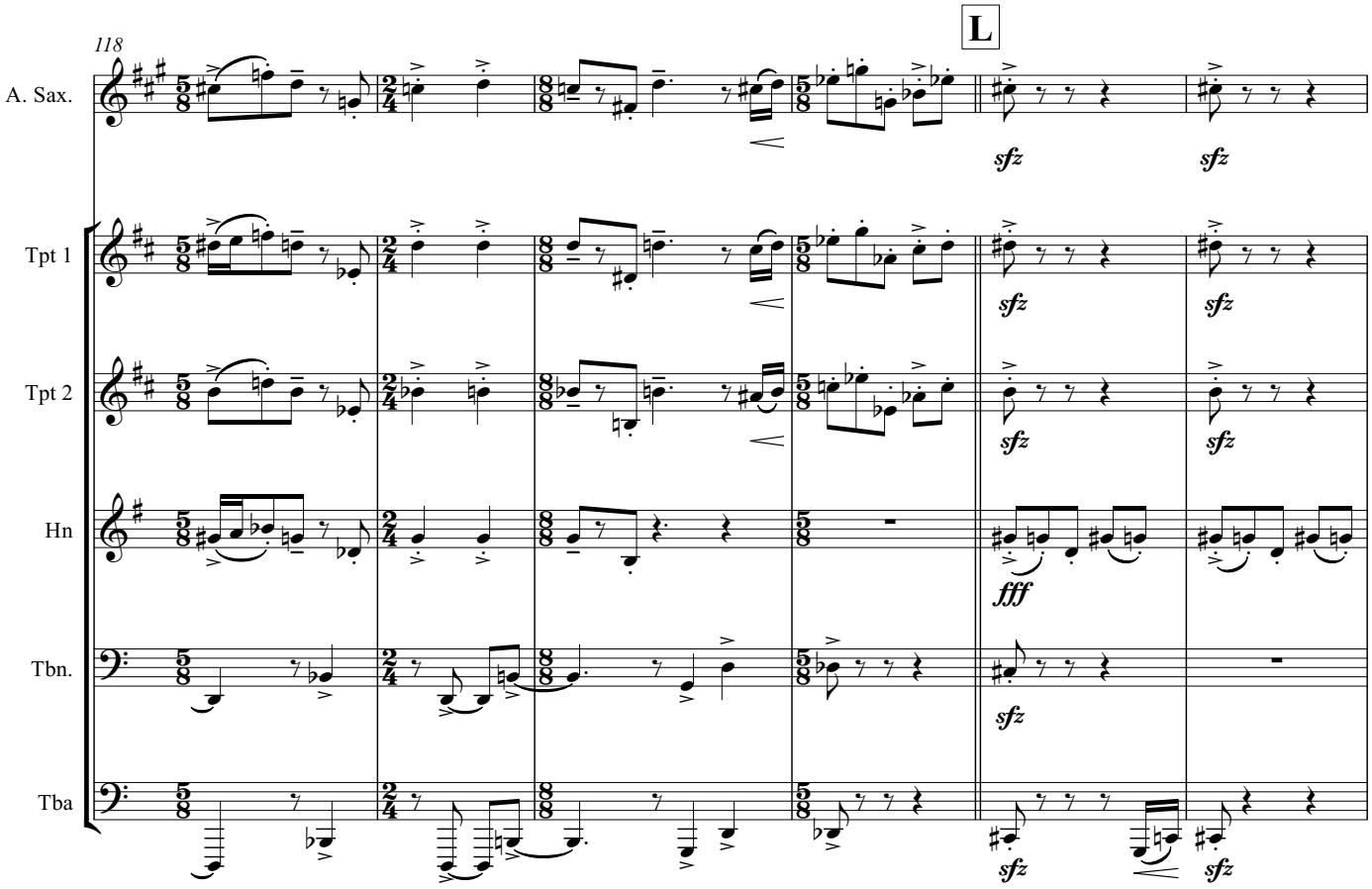

G
75
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
senza sord.
mp
p
mf

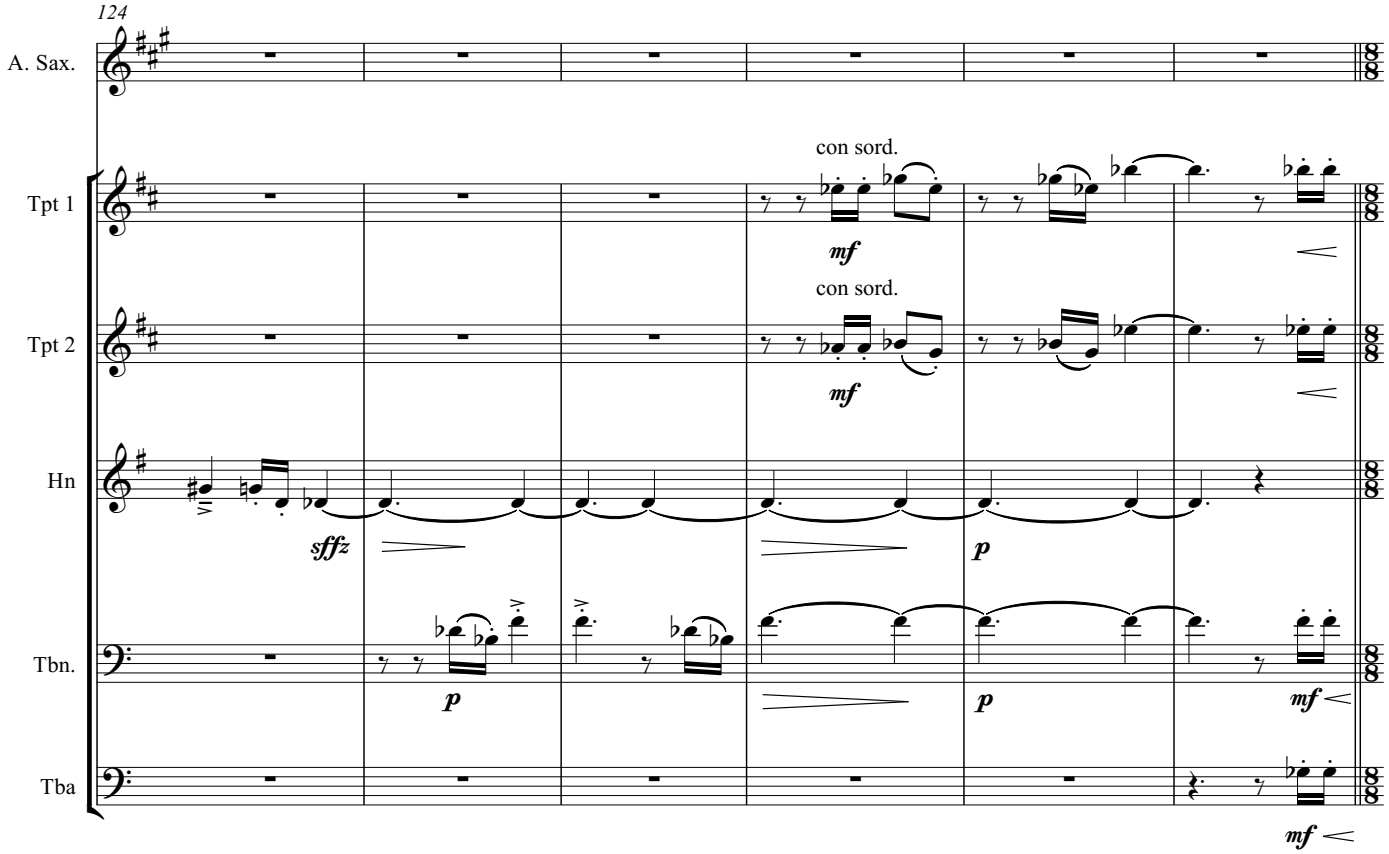

H
82
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
f
mf

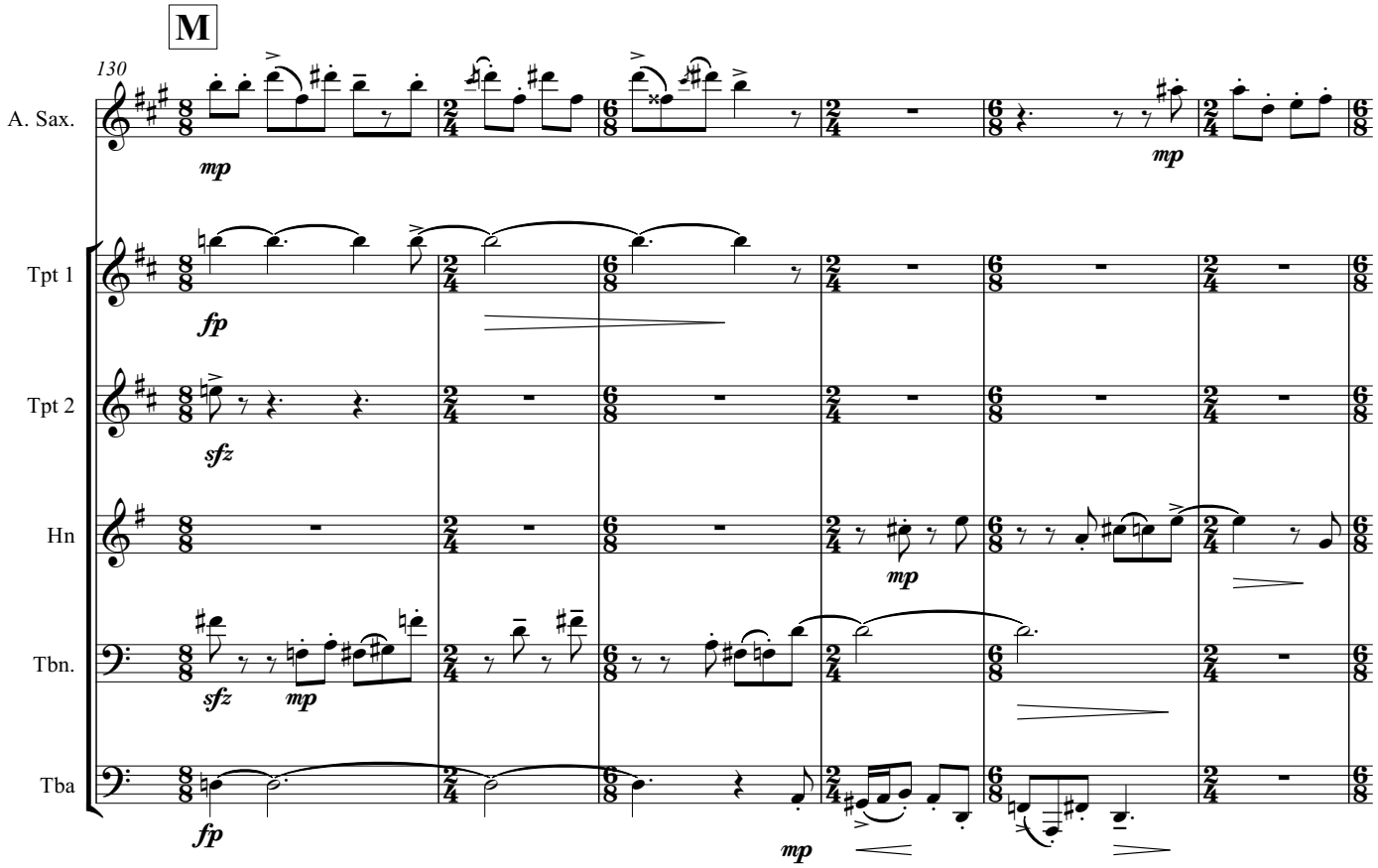

88
I
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
senza sord.
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
94
J

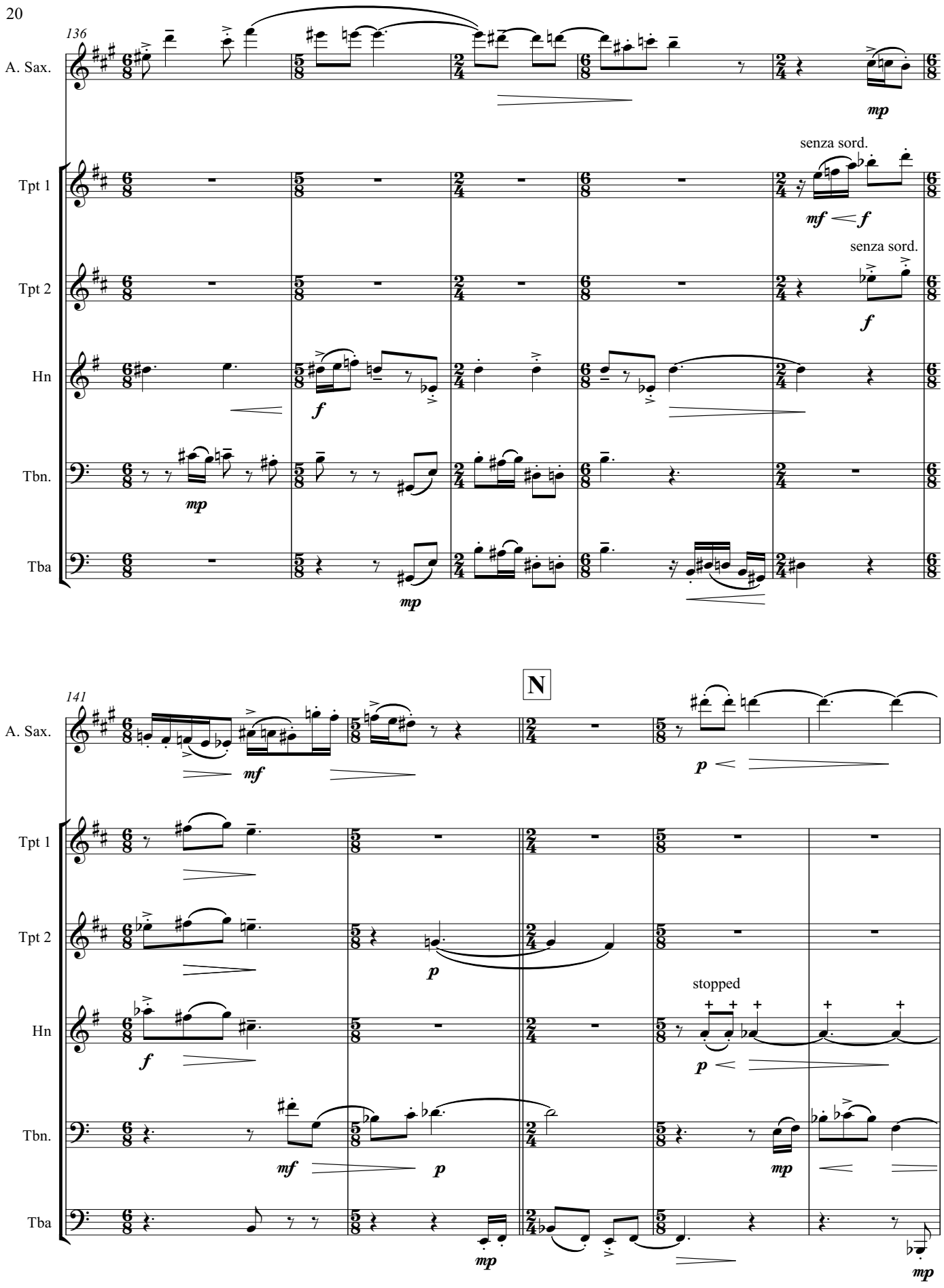

100
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
106
K

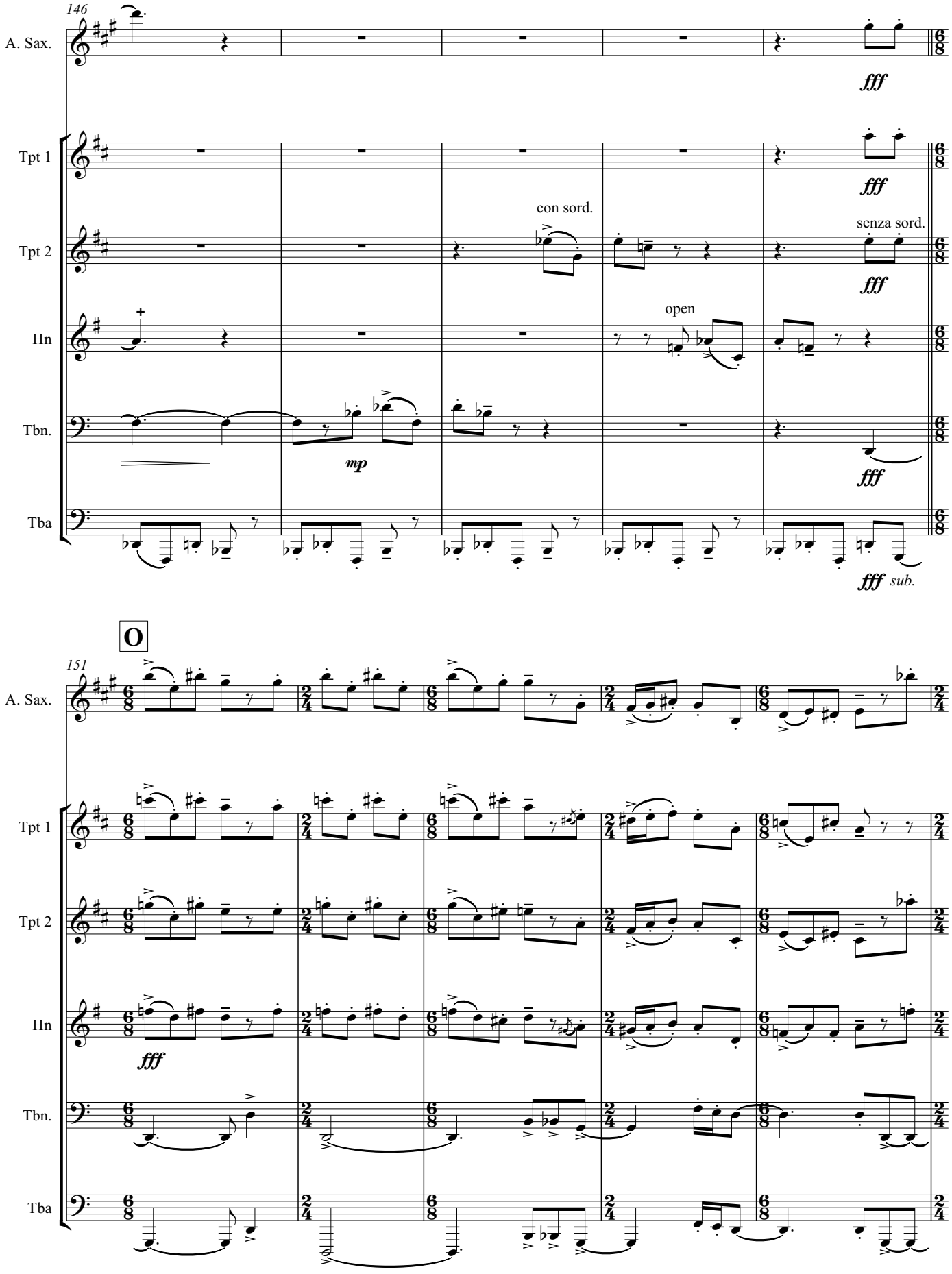

112
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba

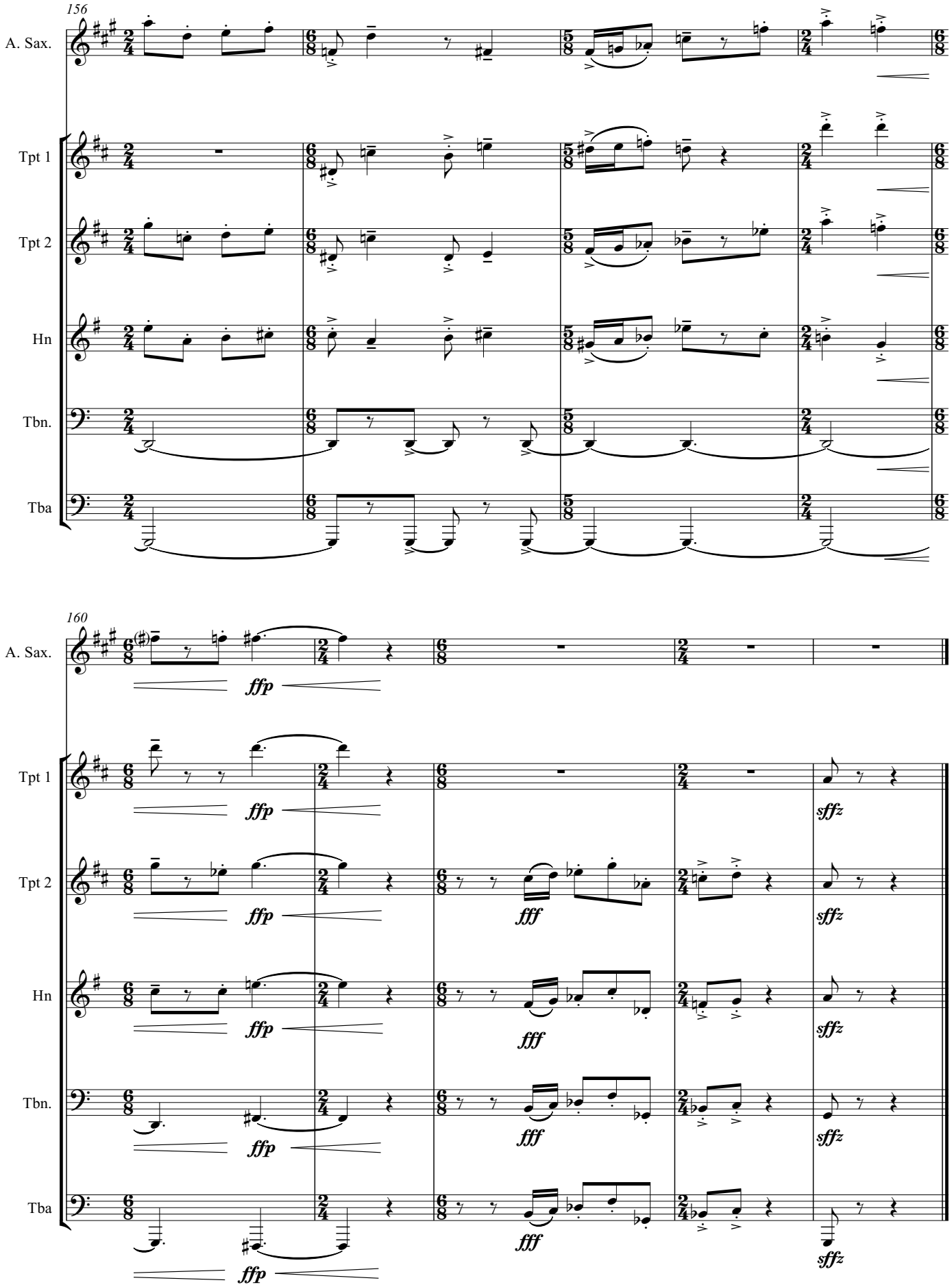

118
L
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
sfz
fff


124
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
con sord.
mf
Tpt 2
con sord.
mf
Hn
sffz
p
Tbn.
p
p
mf
Tba
mf

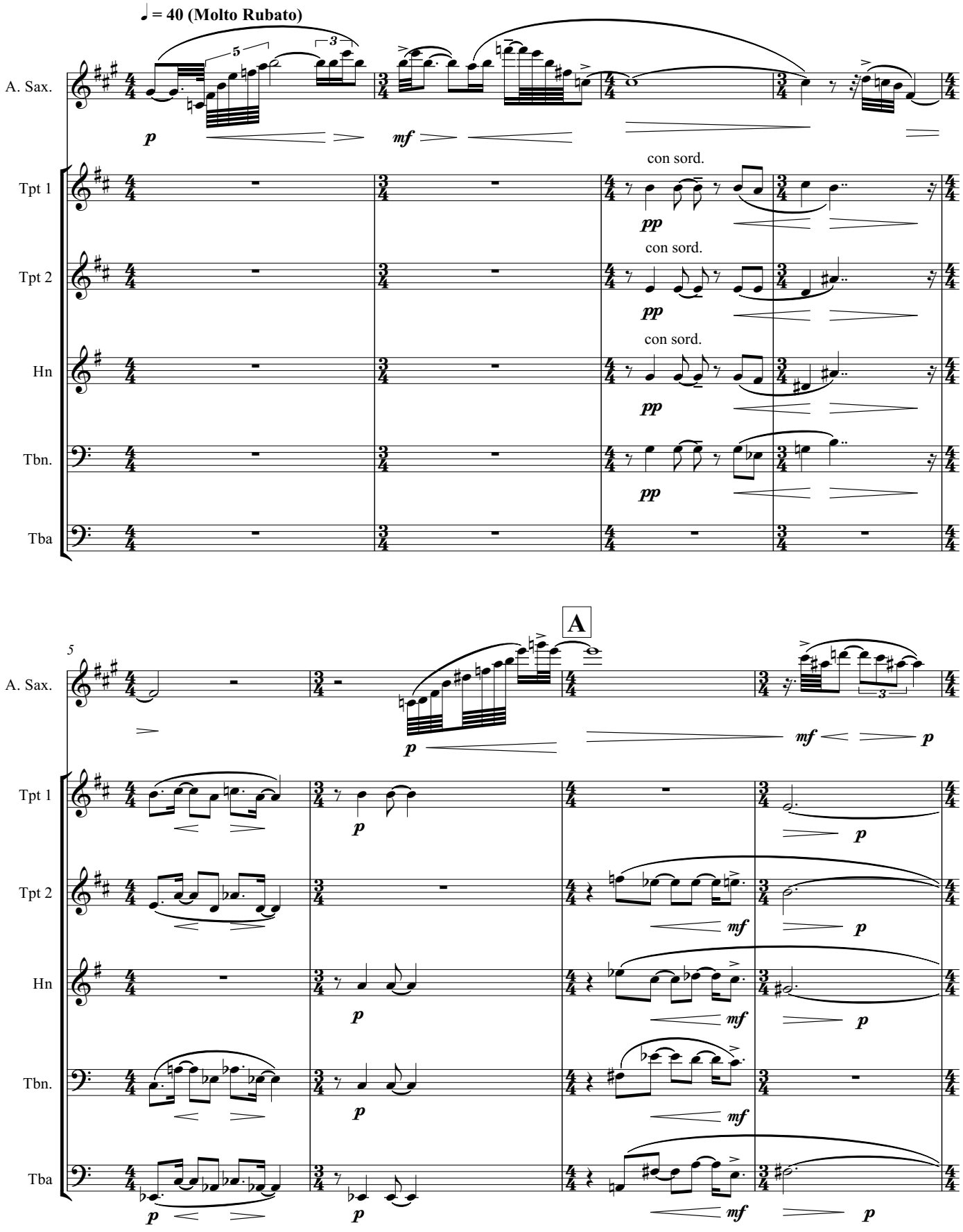

M
130
A. Sax.
mp
mp
Tpt 1
fp
Tpt 2
sfz
Hn
mp
Tbn.
sfz
mp
Tba
fp
mp

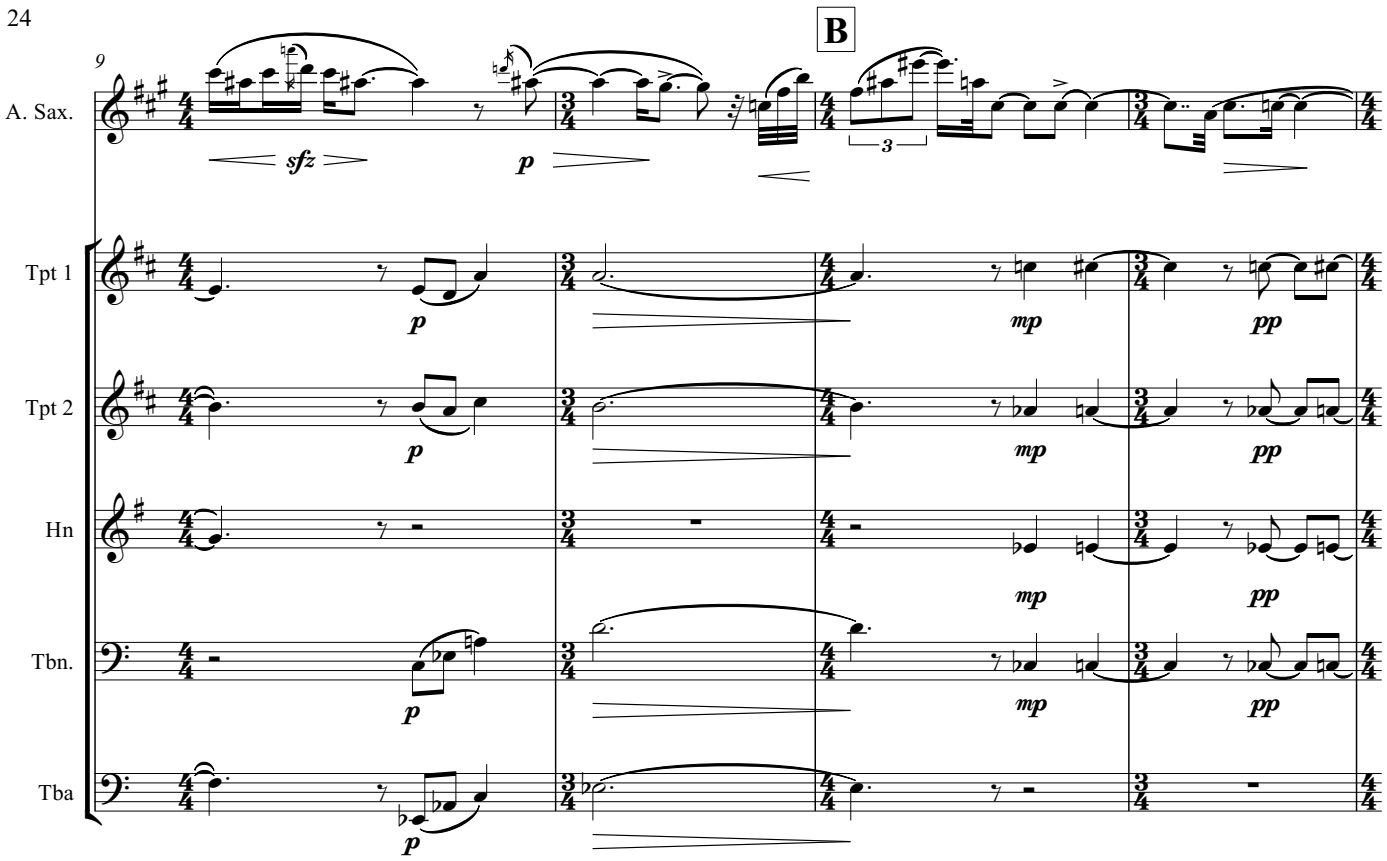

136
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
senza sord.
senza sord.
141
N
stopped

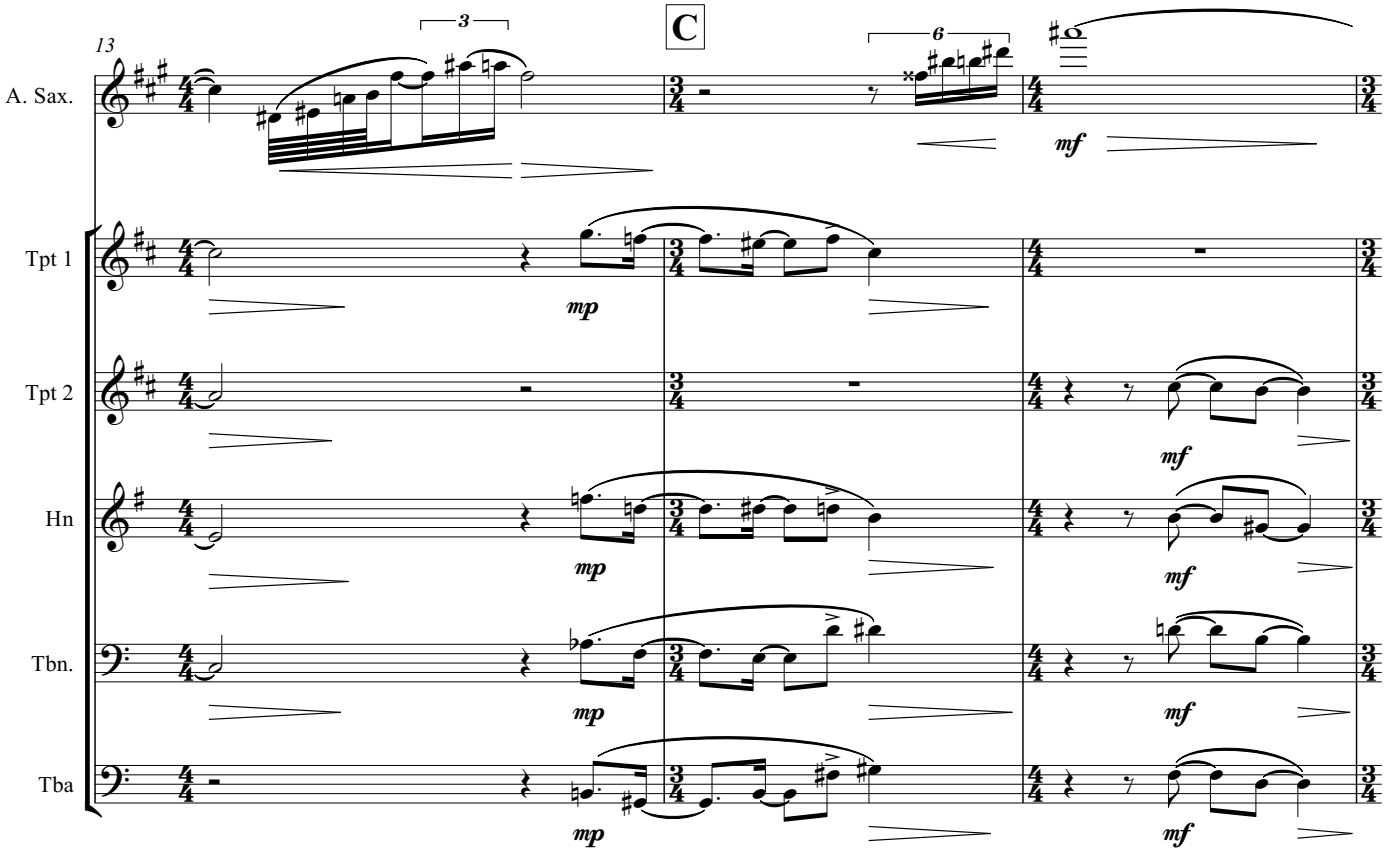

146
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
fff
con sord.
senza sord.
open
mp
fff sub.
O
151
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
fff

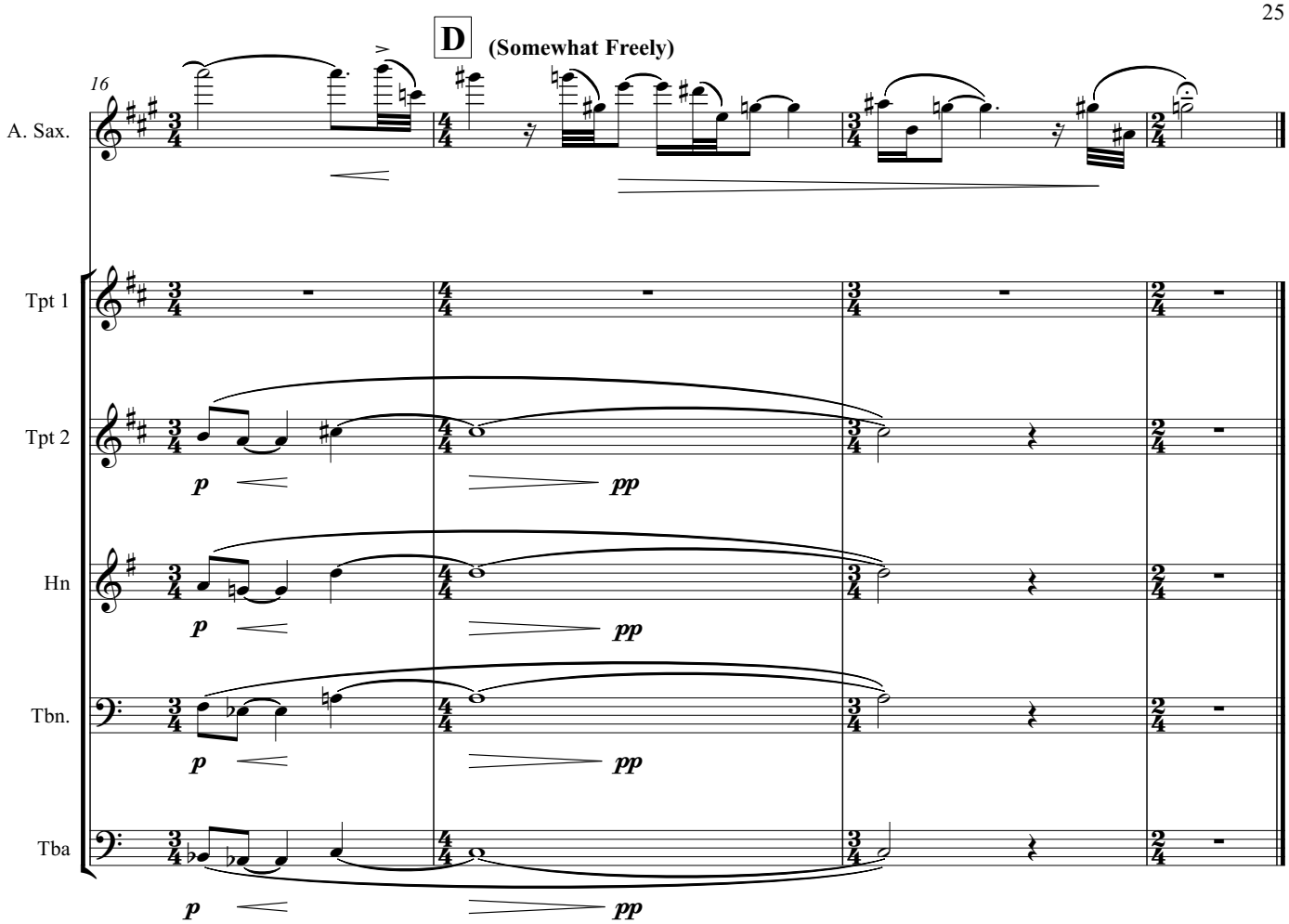

156
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
160
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
ffp
fff
sffz

3. Recitative

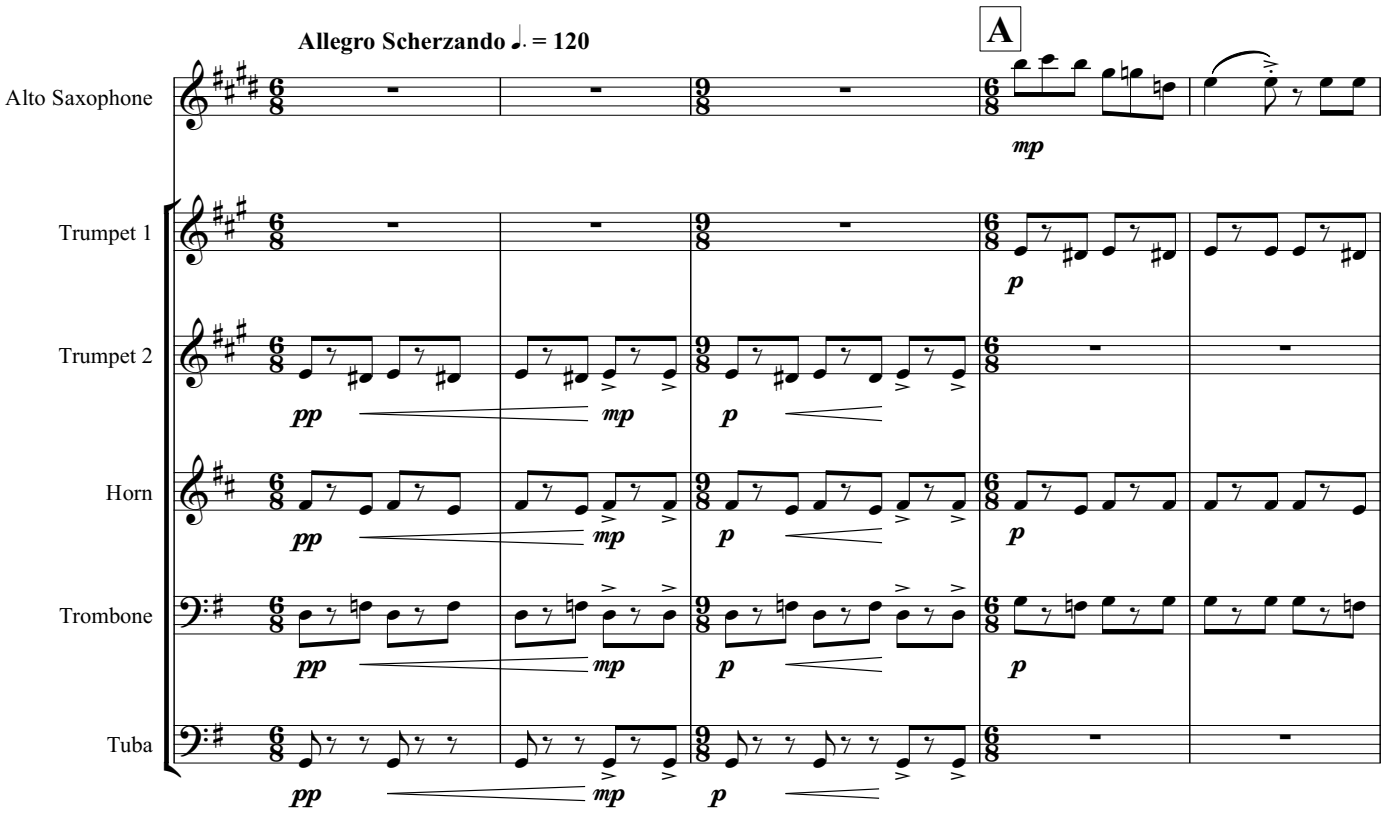


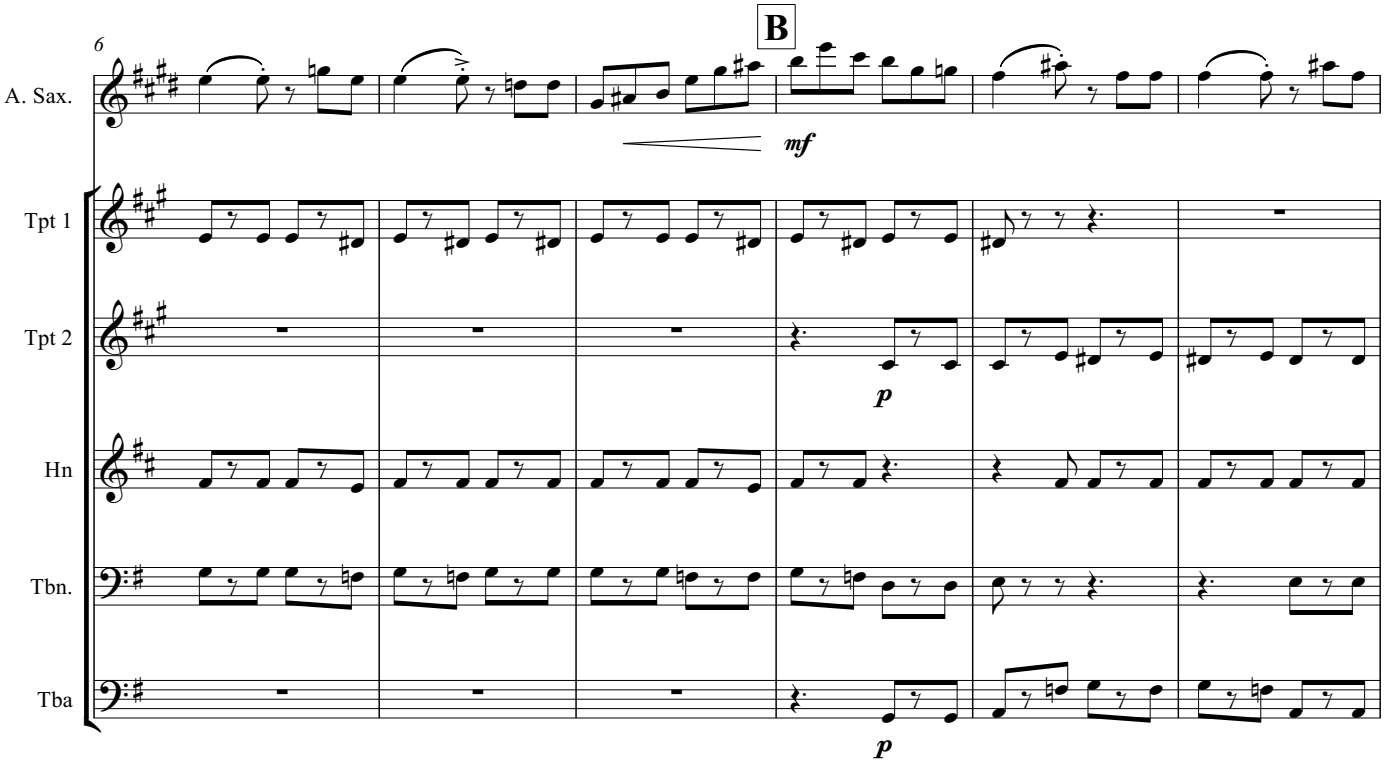

B
9
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
sfz
p
mp
pp
3

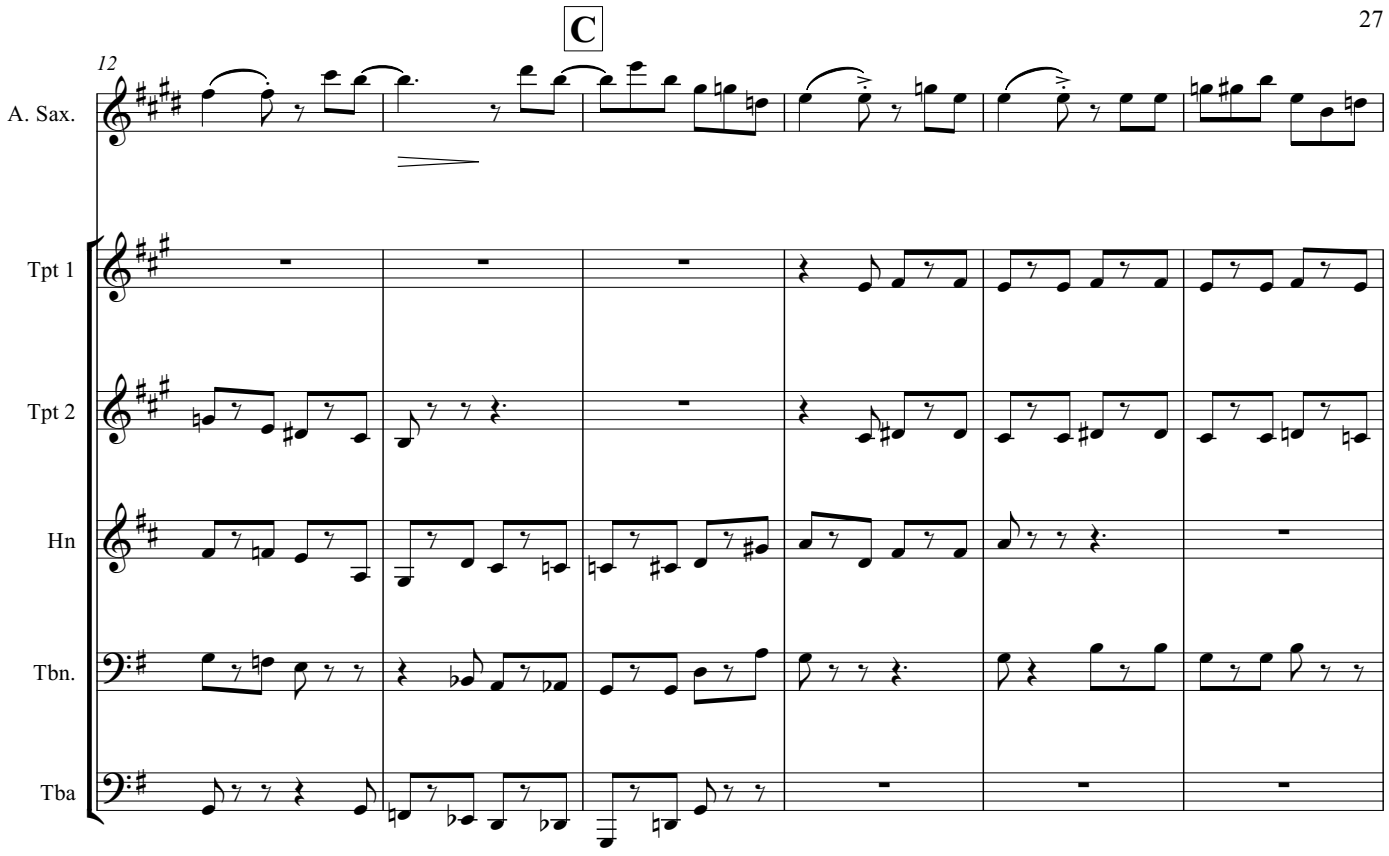

C
13
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
3
6
mp
mf

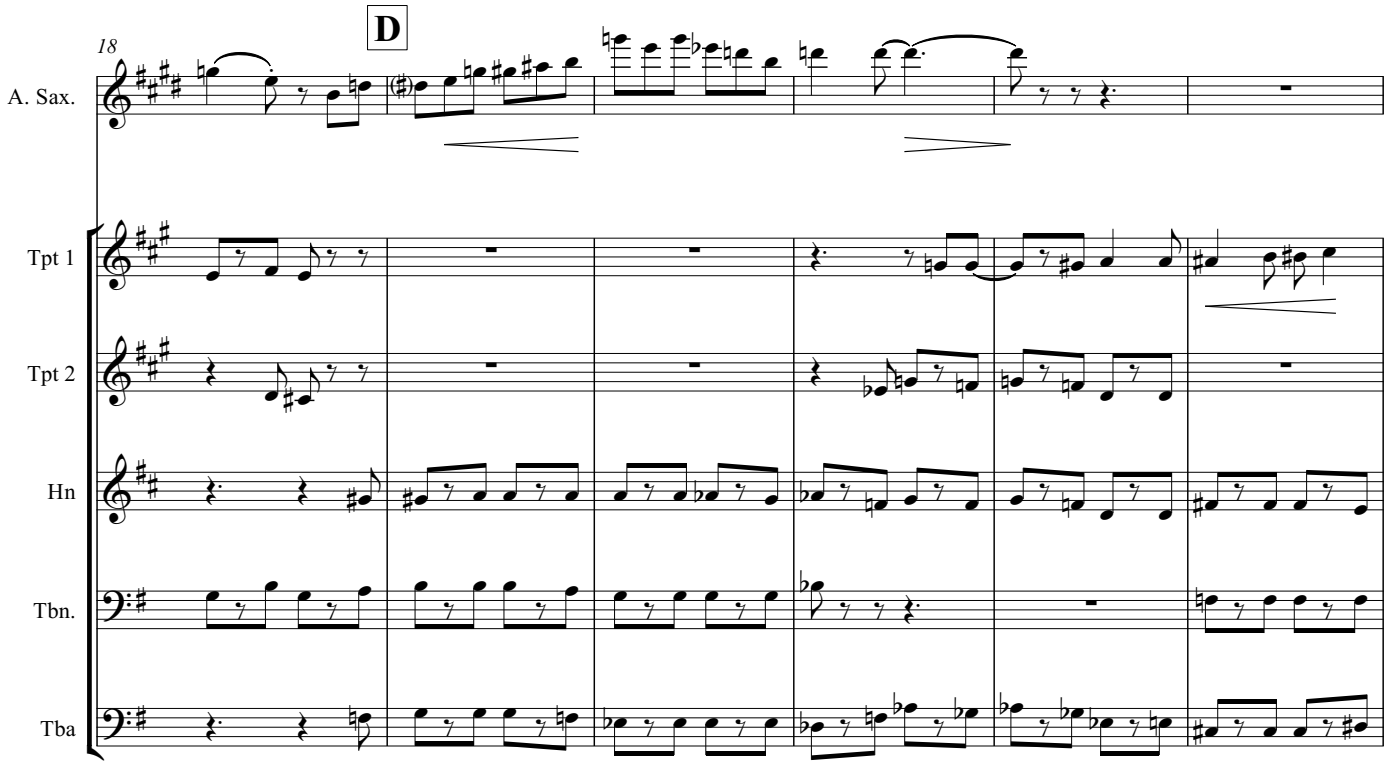

D
(Somewhat Freely)
16
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
p
pp

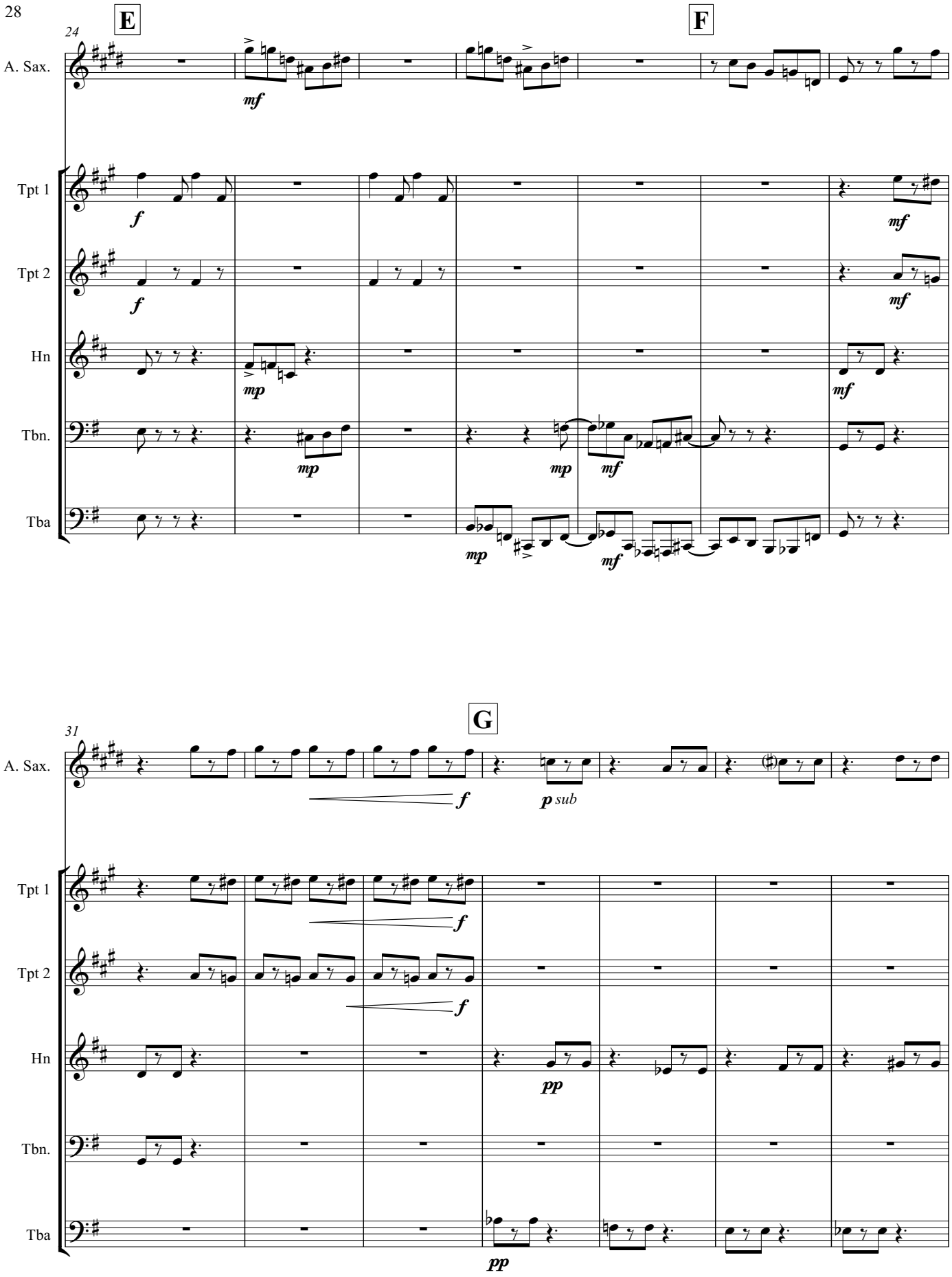
4. Rondo

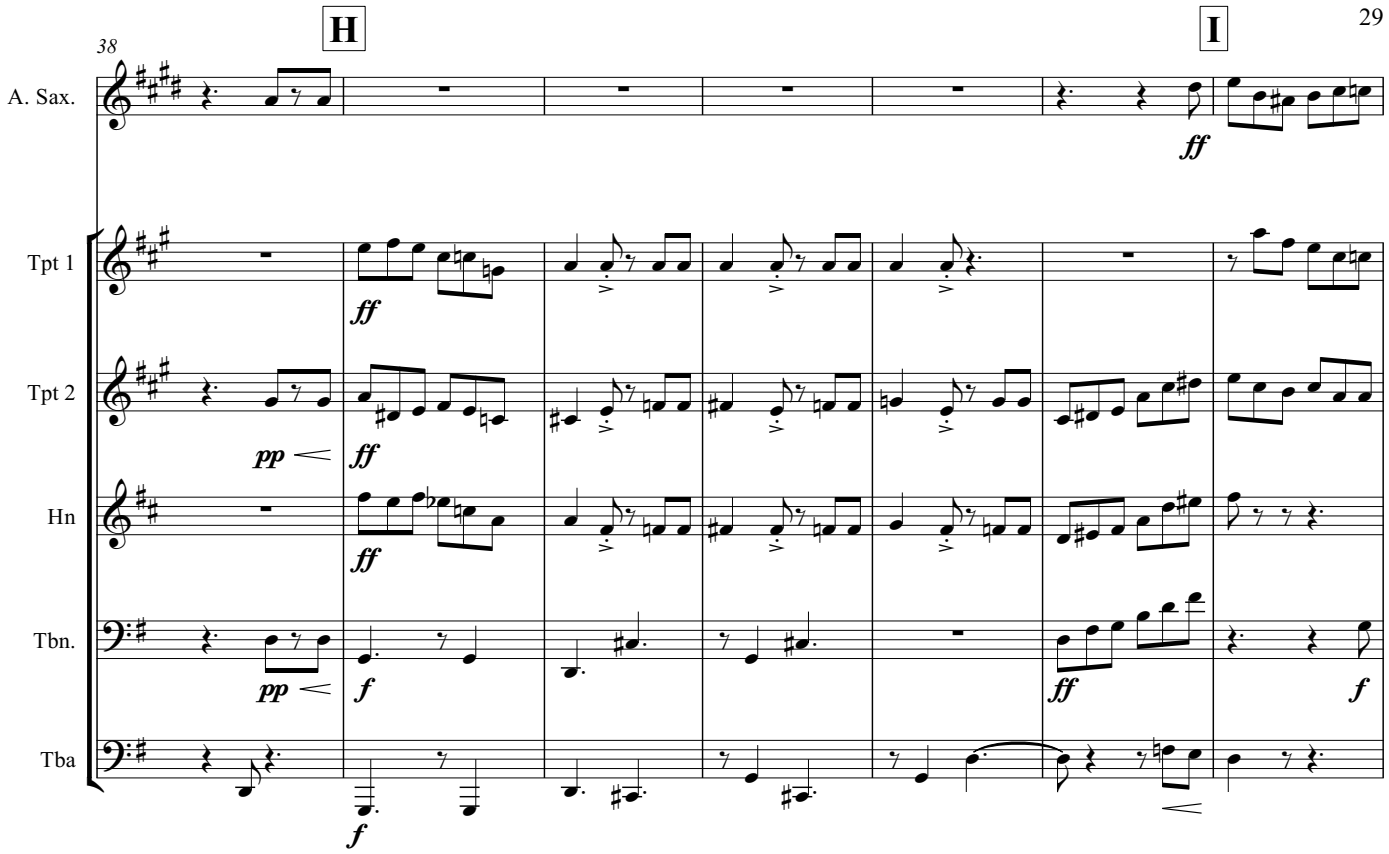

Allegro Scherzando ♩. = 120
A
Alto Saxophone
Trumpet 1
Trumpet 2
Horn
Trombone
Tuba
pp
mp
p

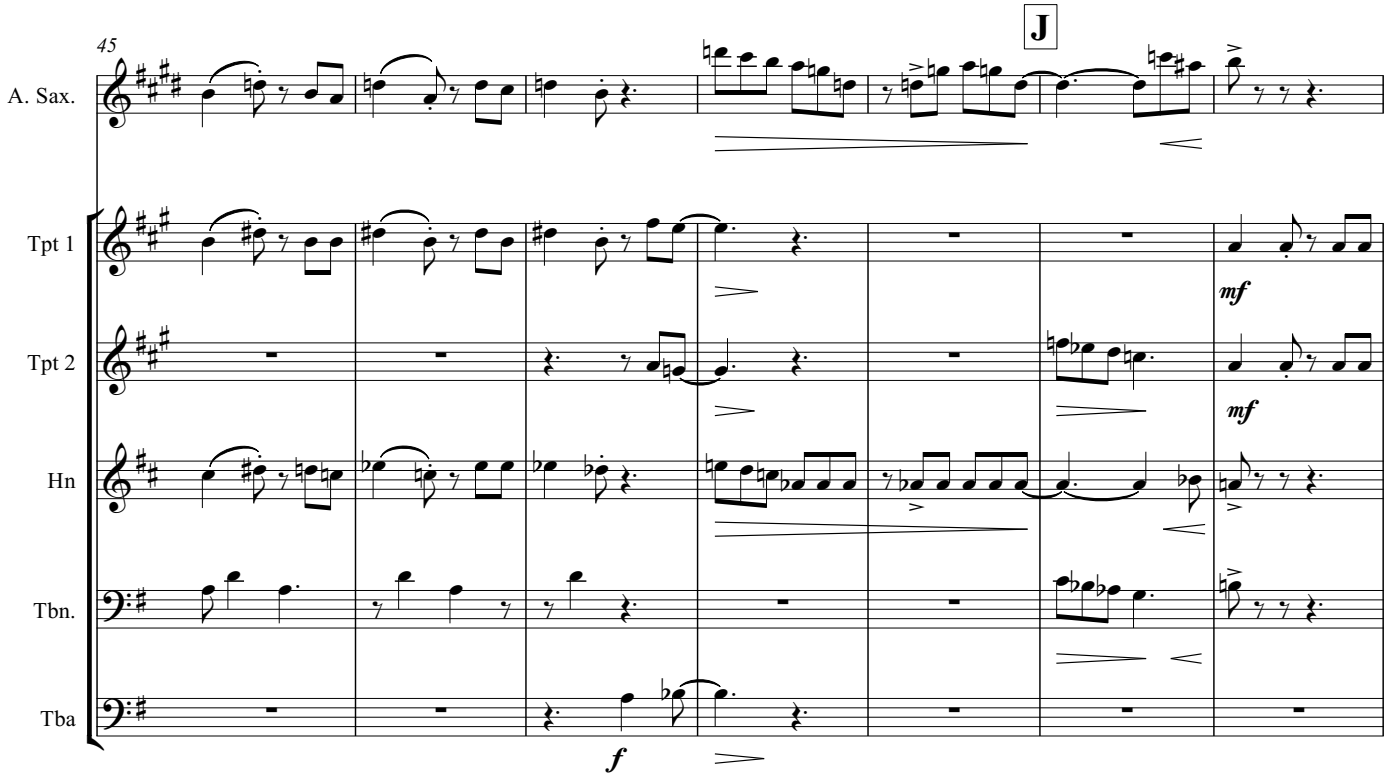

6
B
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
mf
p

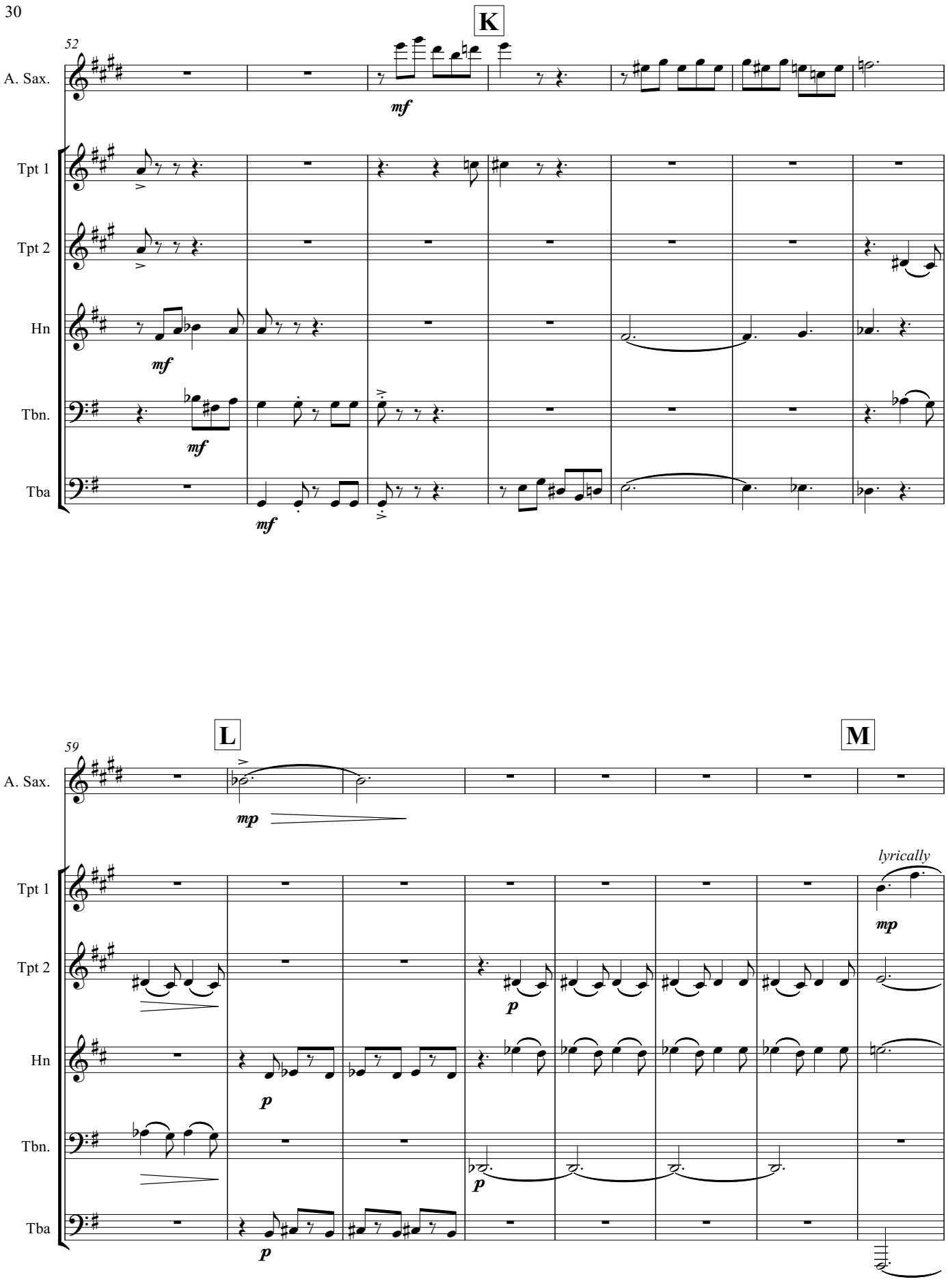

C
12
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba

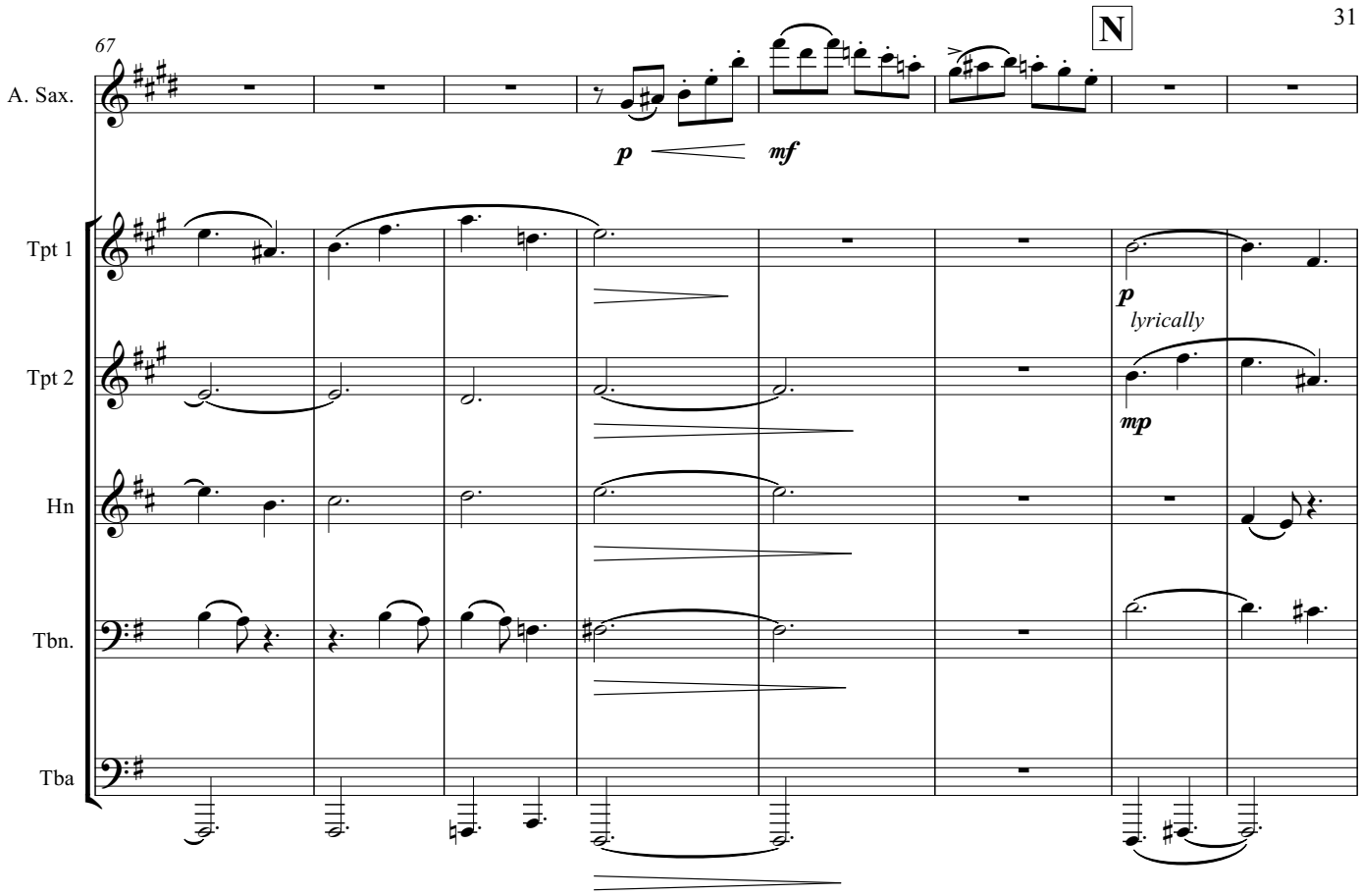

D
18
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba

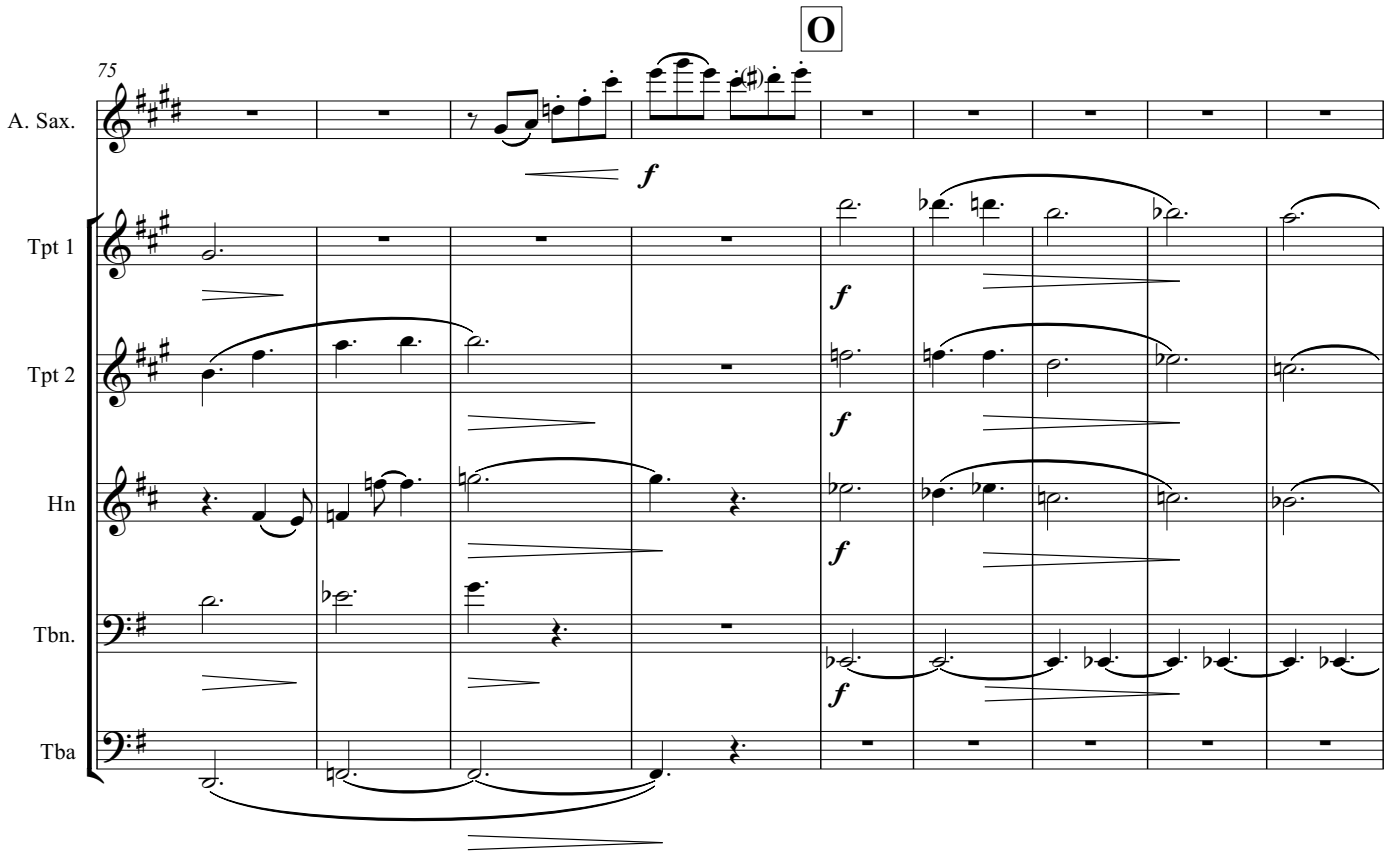

E
F
24
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
mf
f
mp
mf
G
31
p sub
pp

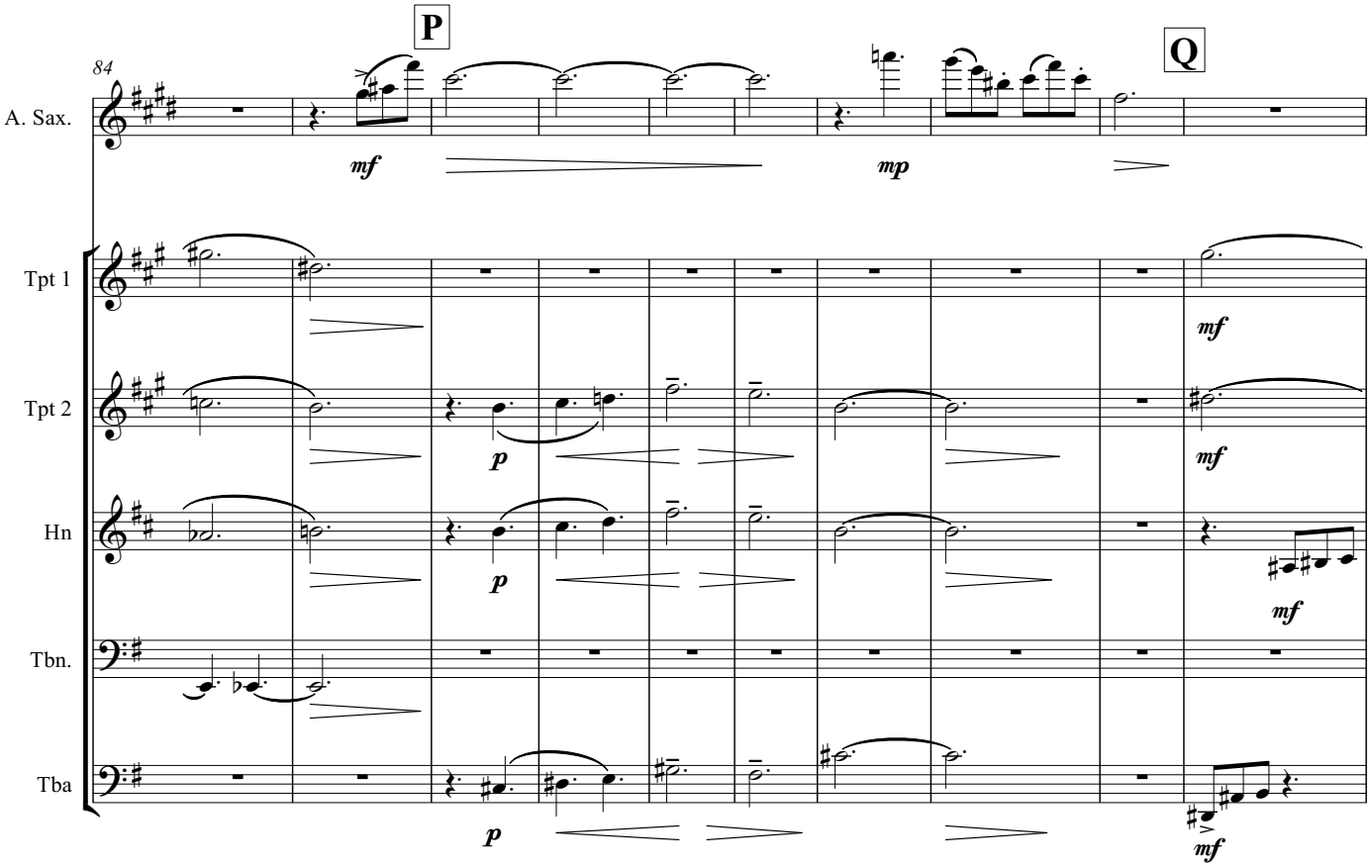

H
I
38
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
ff
pp
f

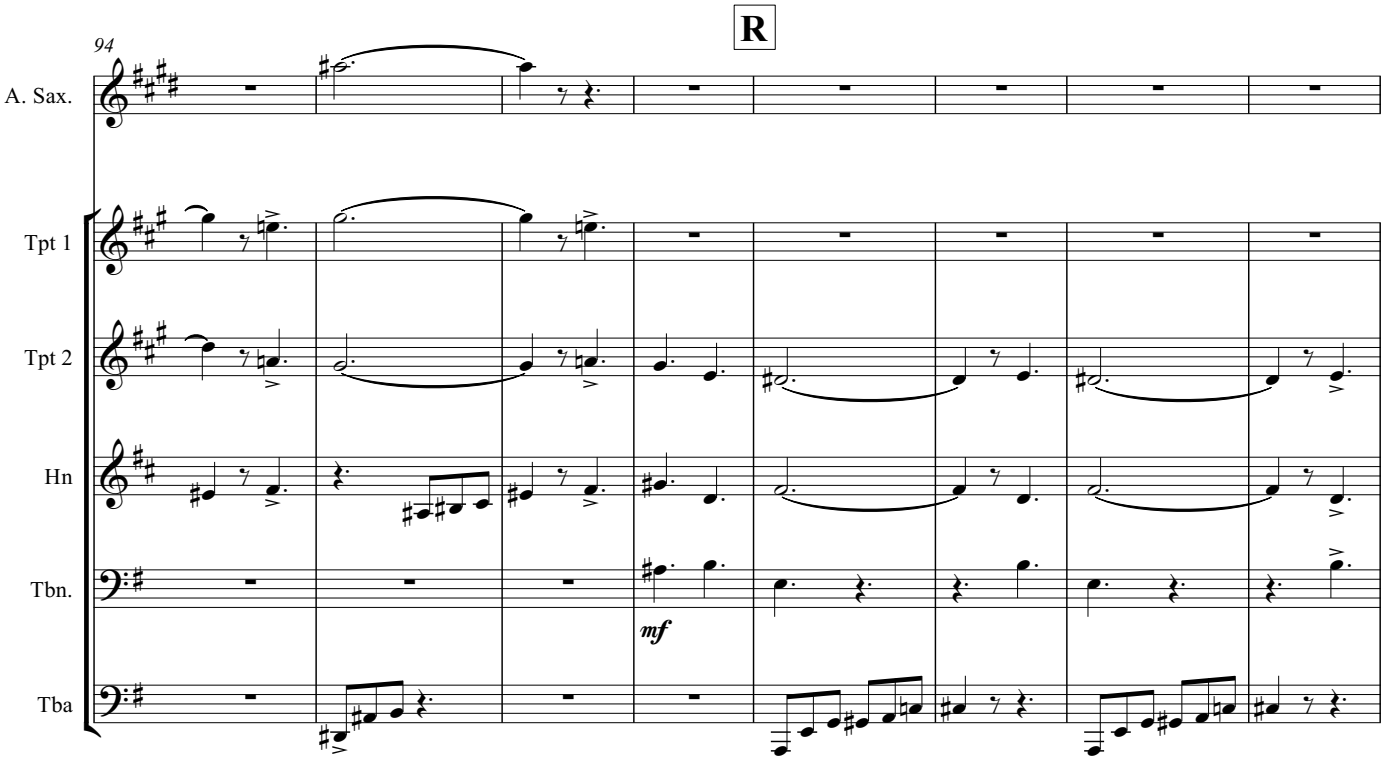

J
45
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
mf
f

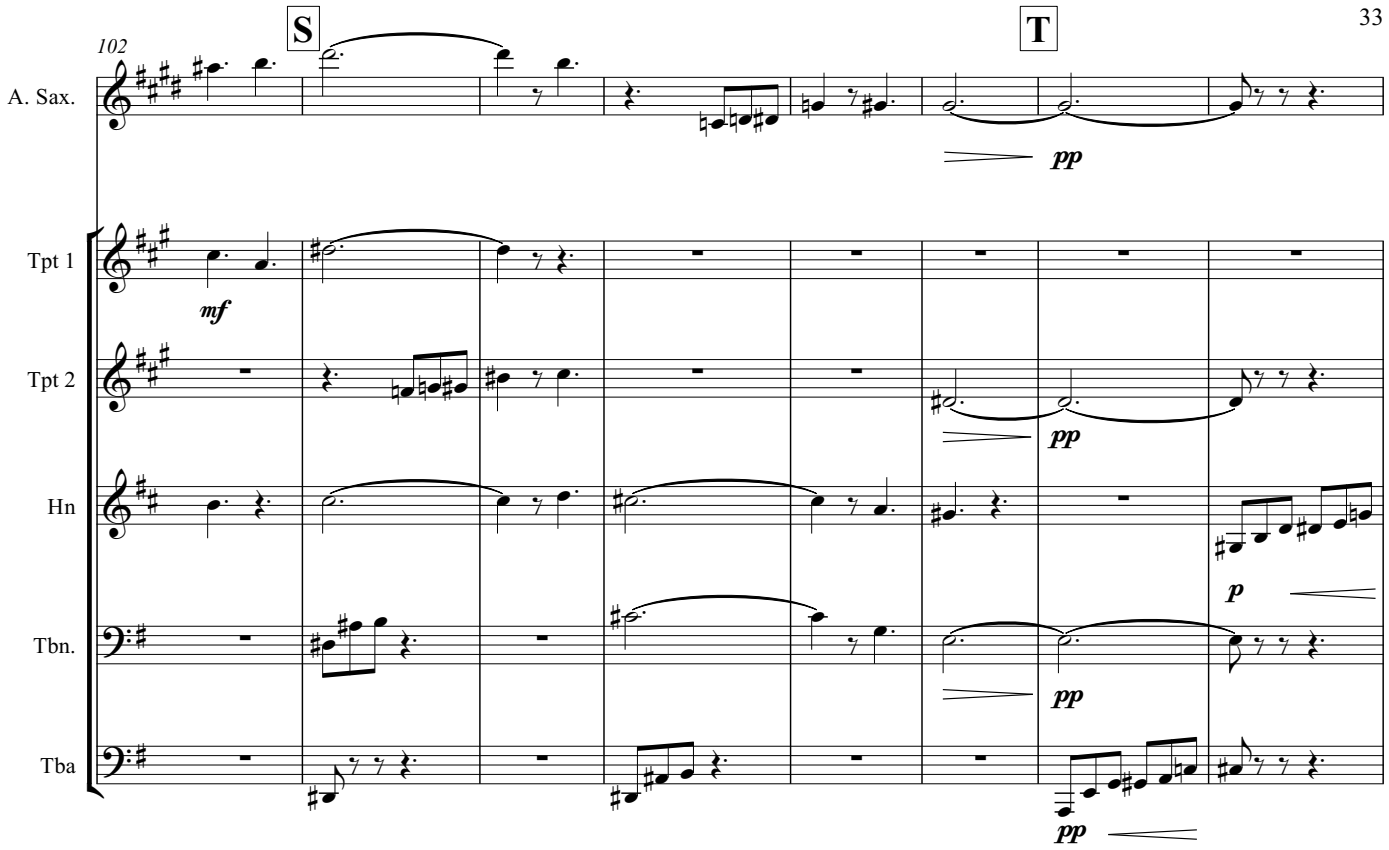

K
52
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
mf
L
M
59
mp
p
lyrically

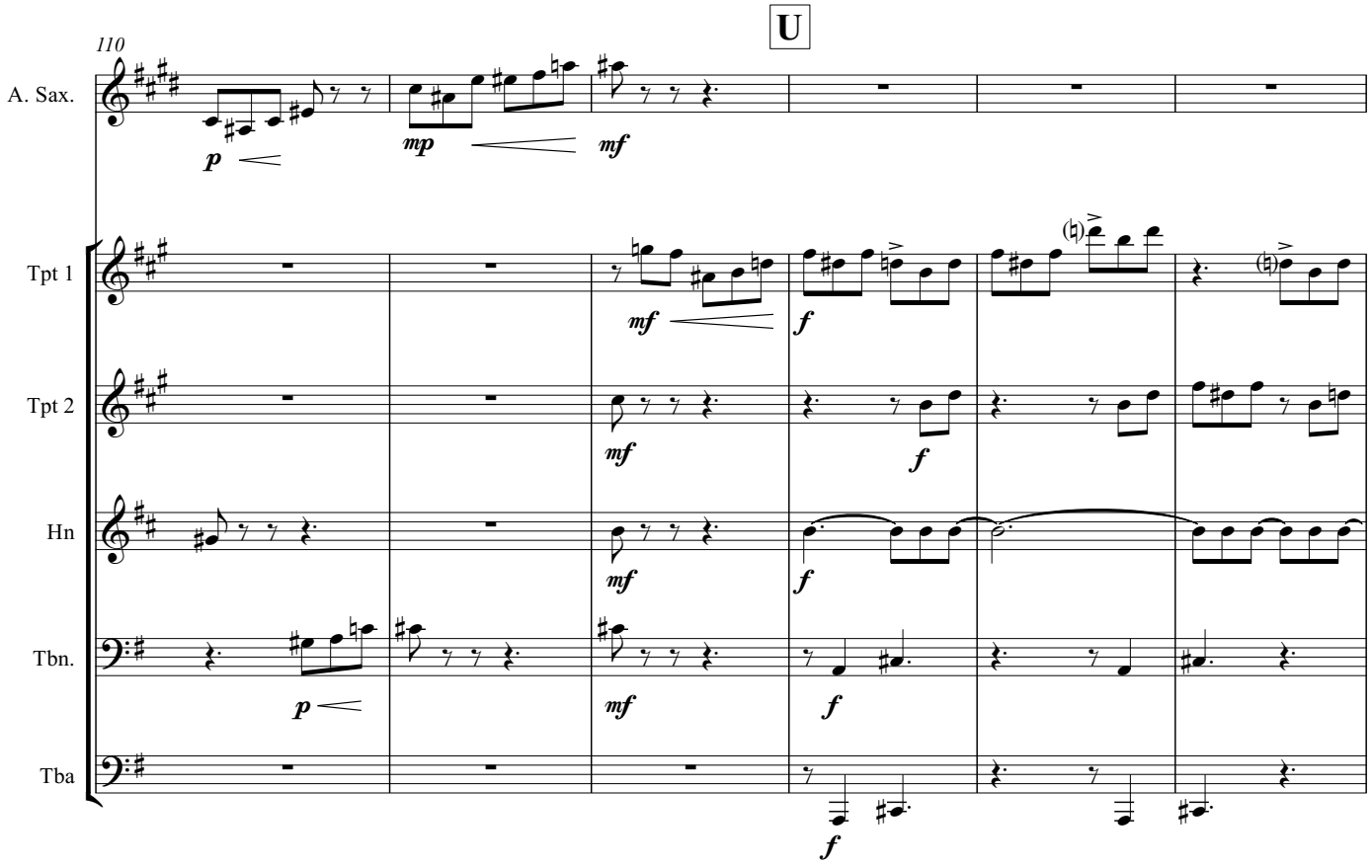

N
67
A. Sax.
p
mf
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
p
lyrically
mp

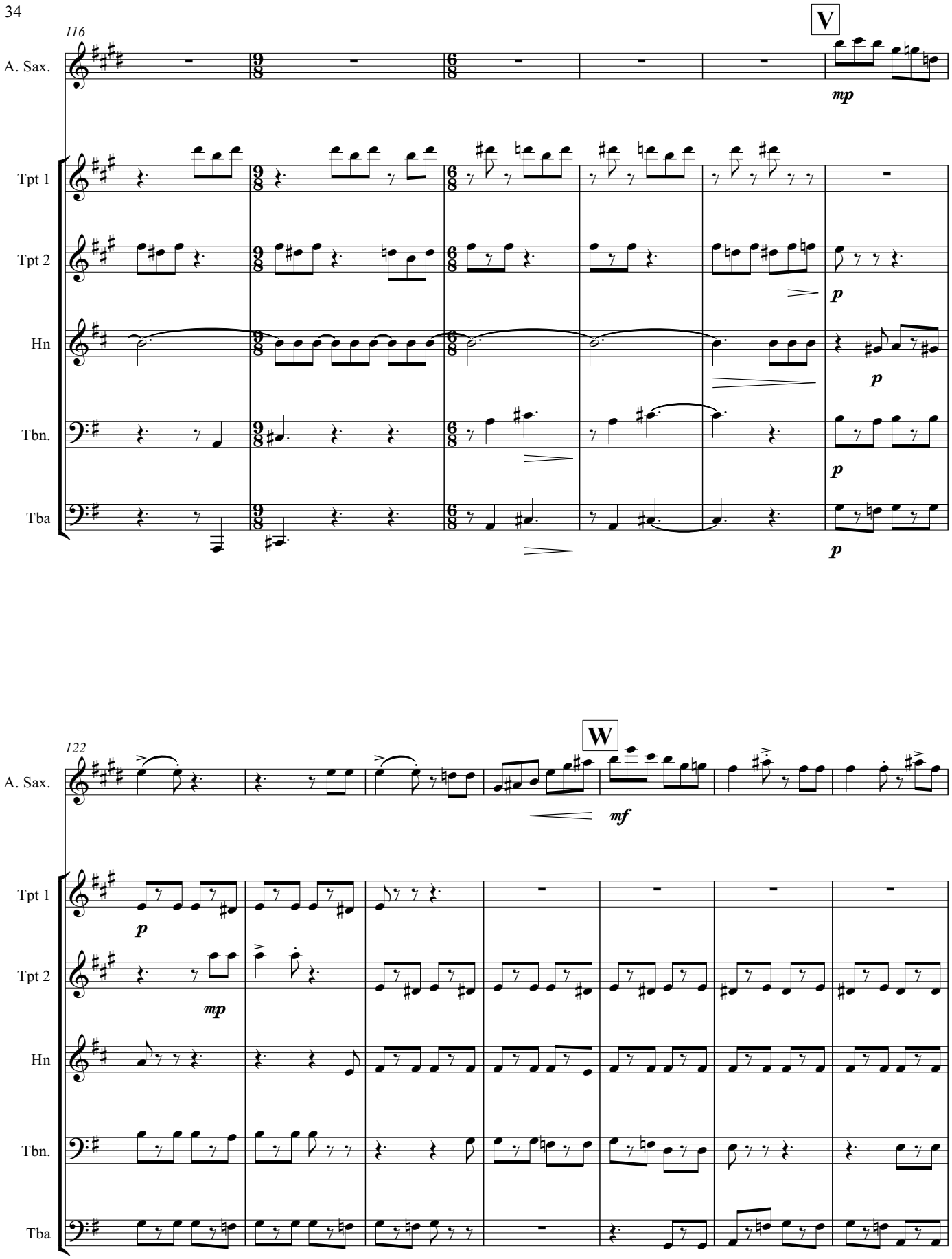

O
75
A. Sax.
f
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
f

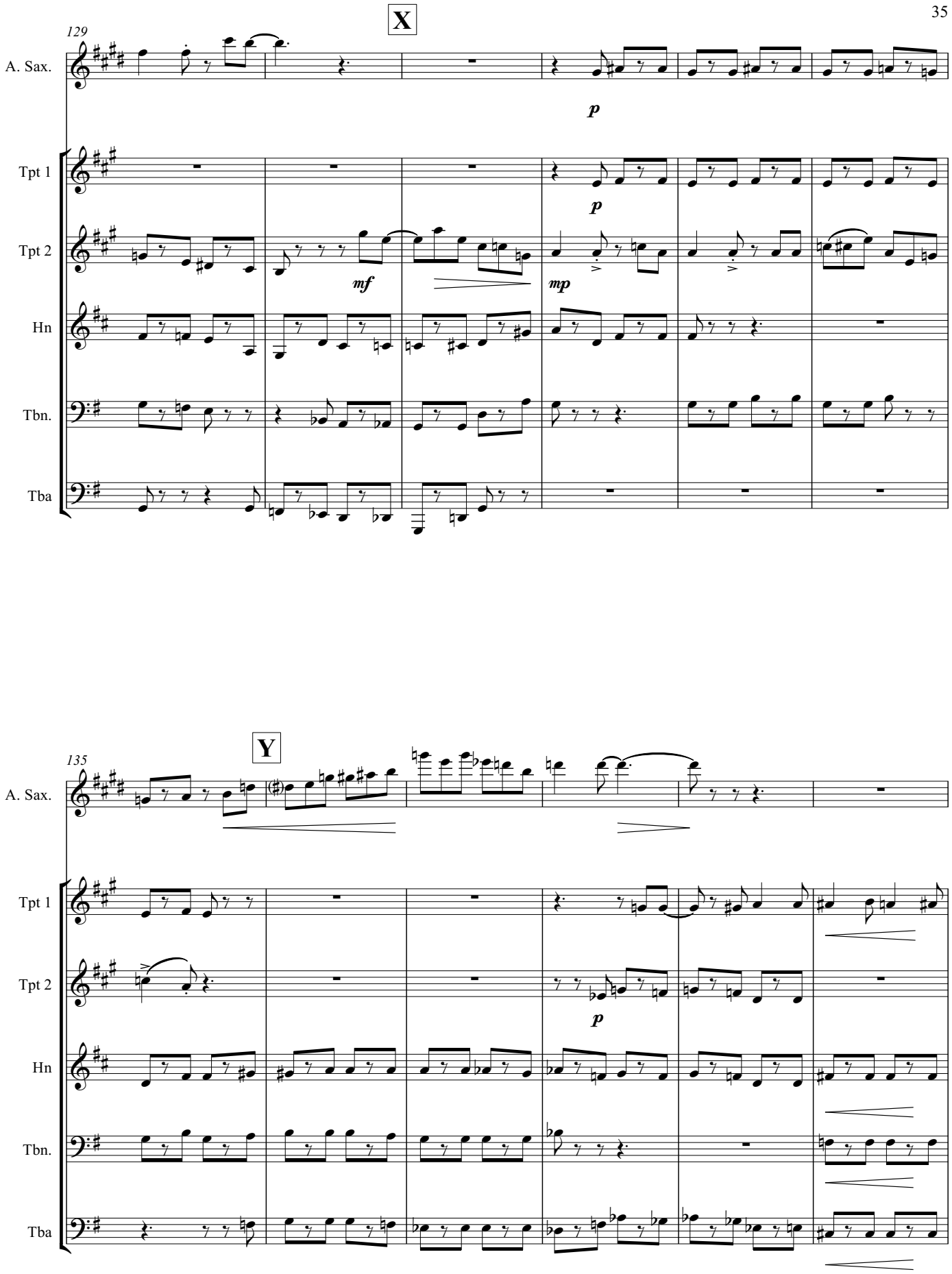

P
Q
84
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
mf
mp
p
mf

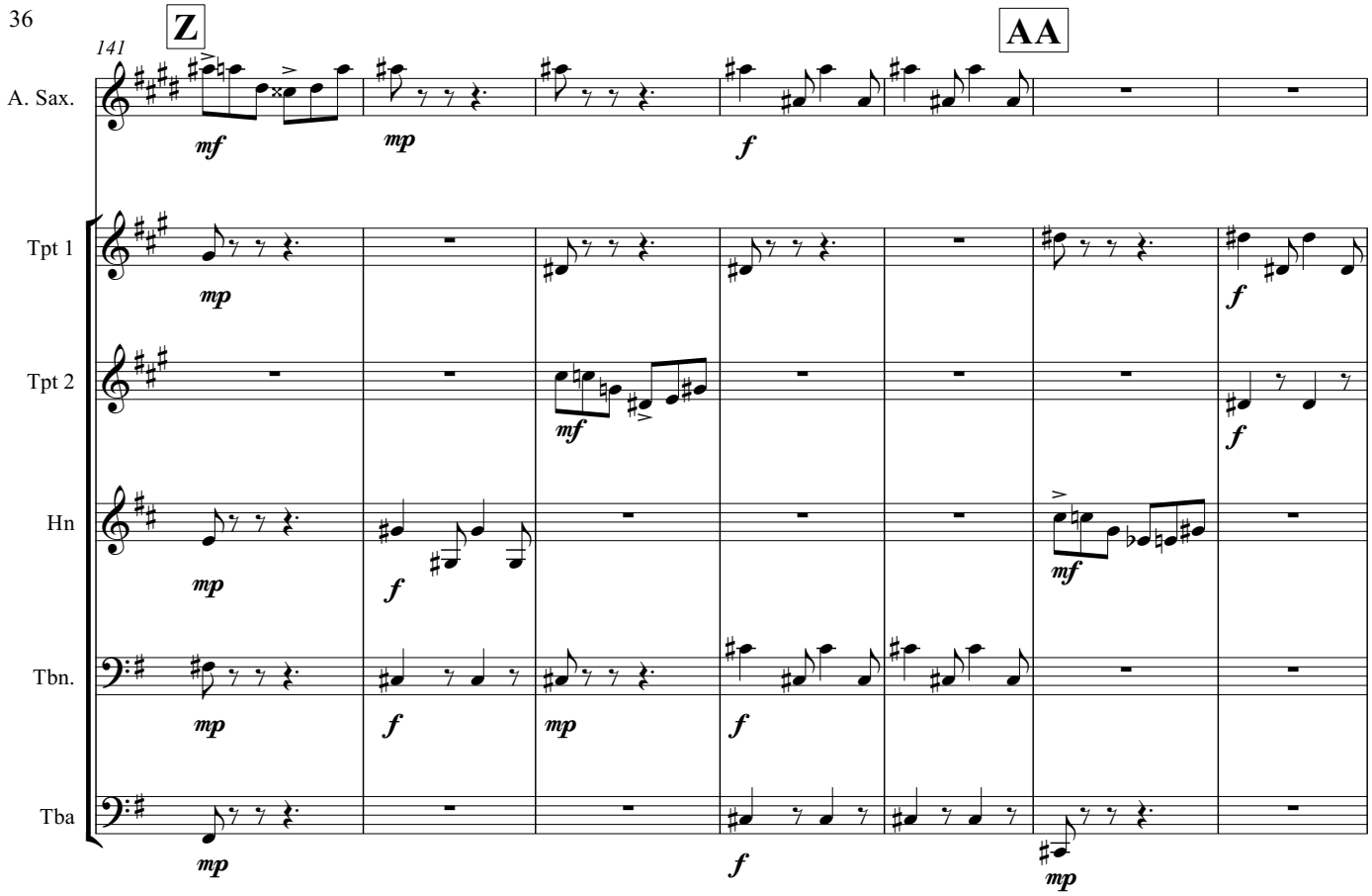

R
94
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
mf

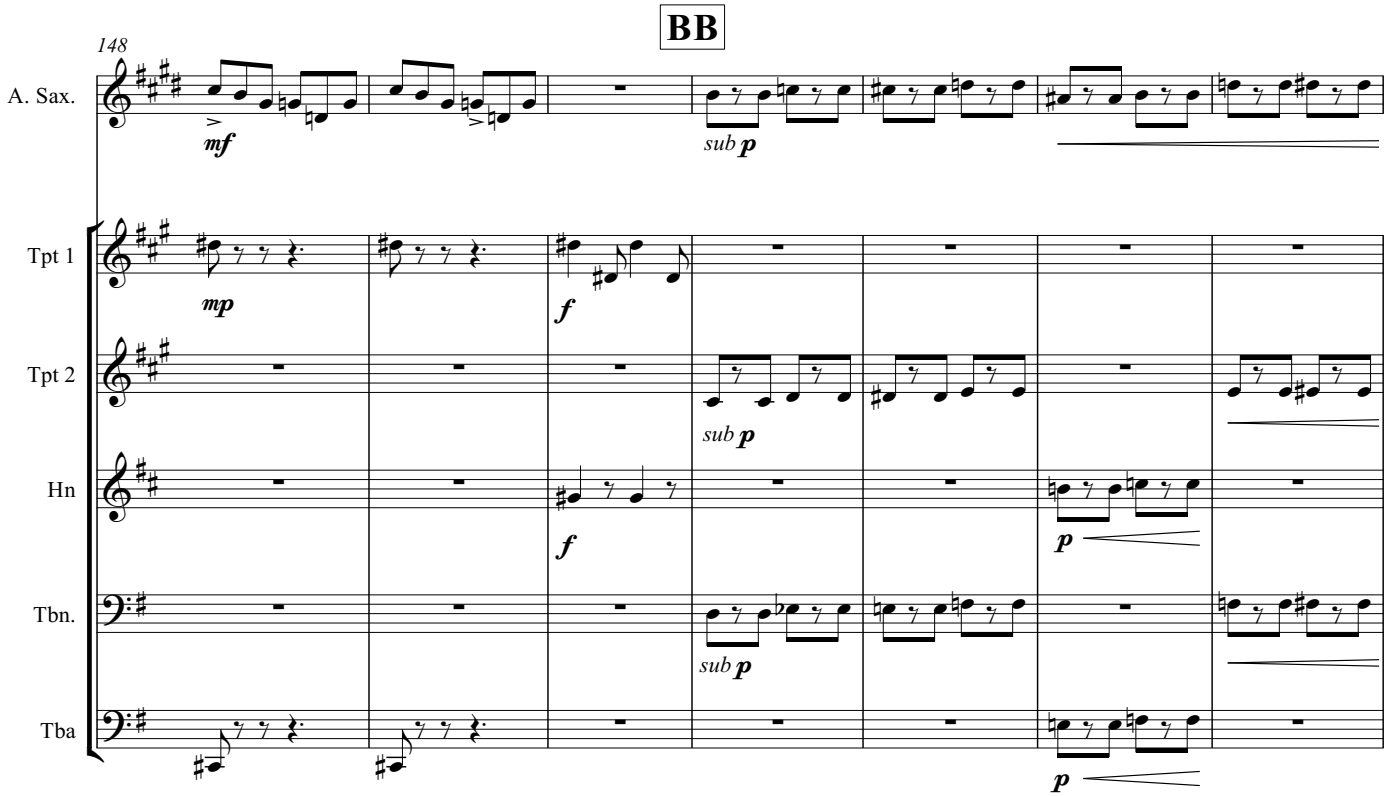

S
T
102
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
mf
pp
p

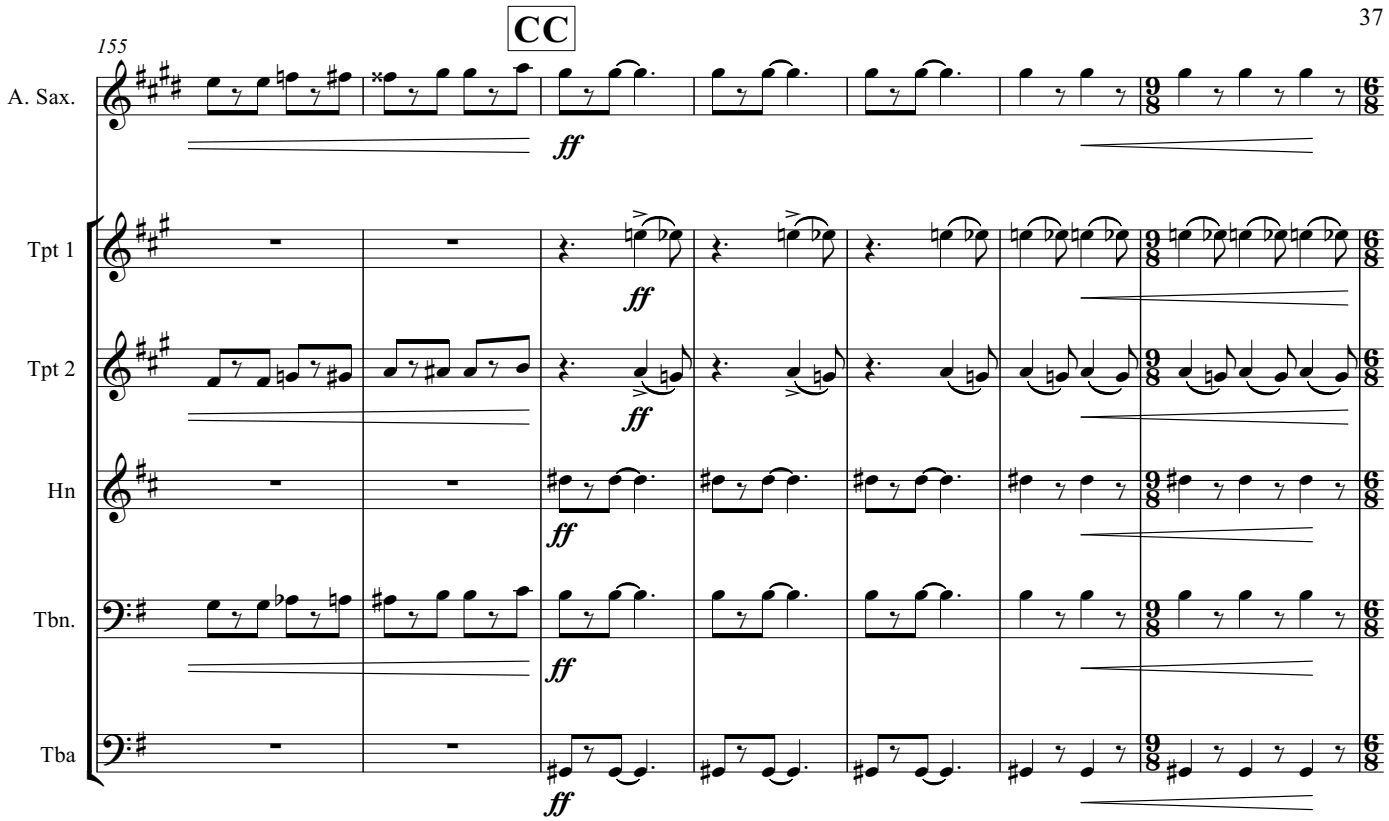

U
110
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
p
mp
mf
f

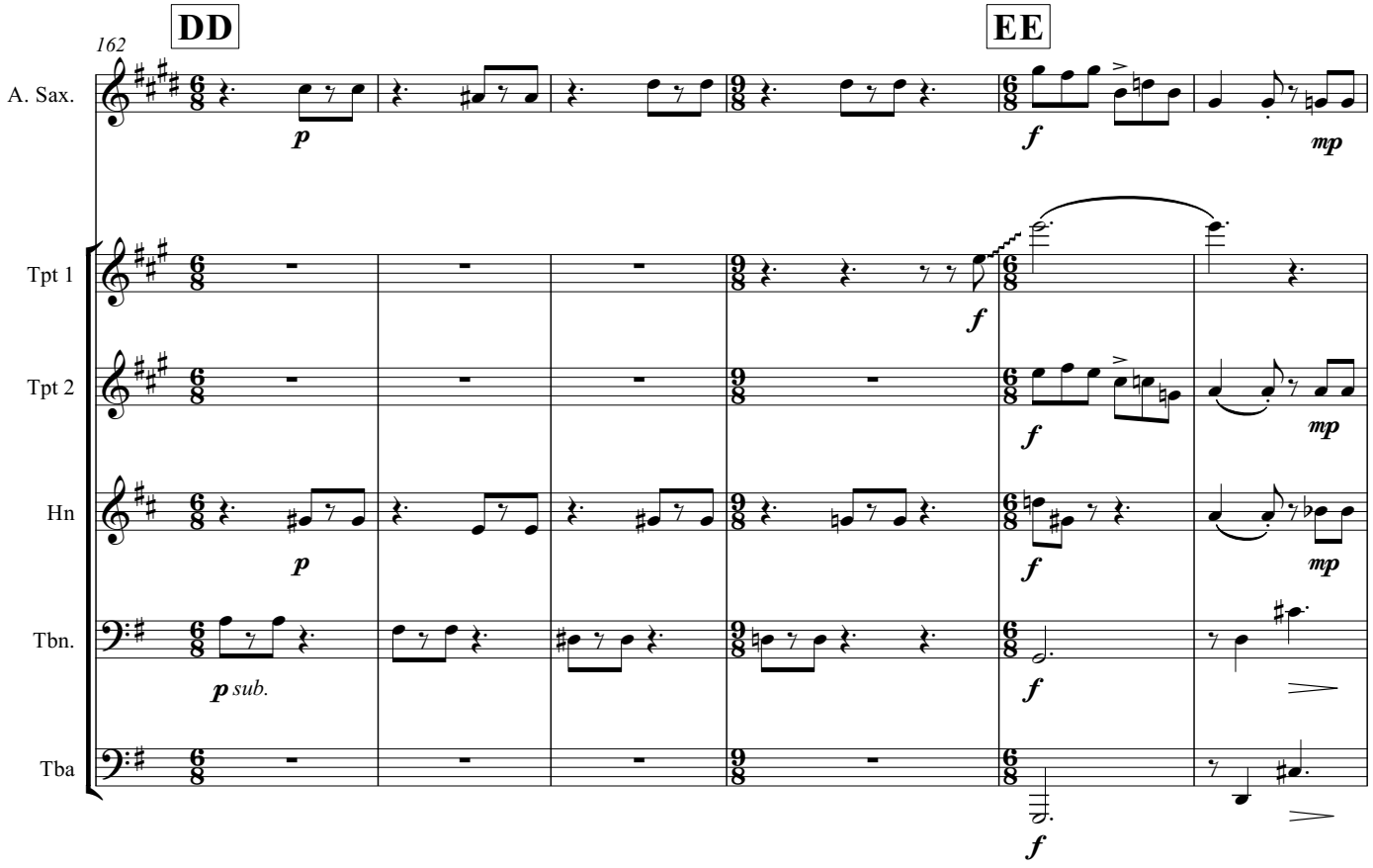

116
V
A. Sax.
mp
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
p
Hn
p
Tbn.
p
Tba
p
122
W
A. Sax.
mf
Tpt 1
p
Tpt 2
mp
Hn
Tbn.
Tba

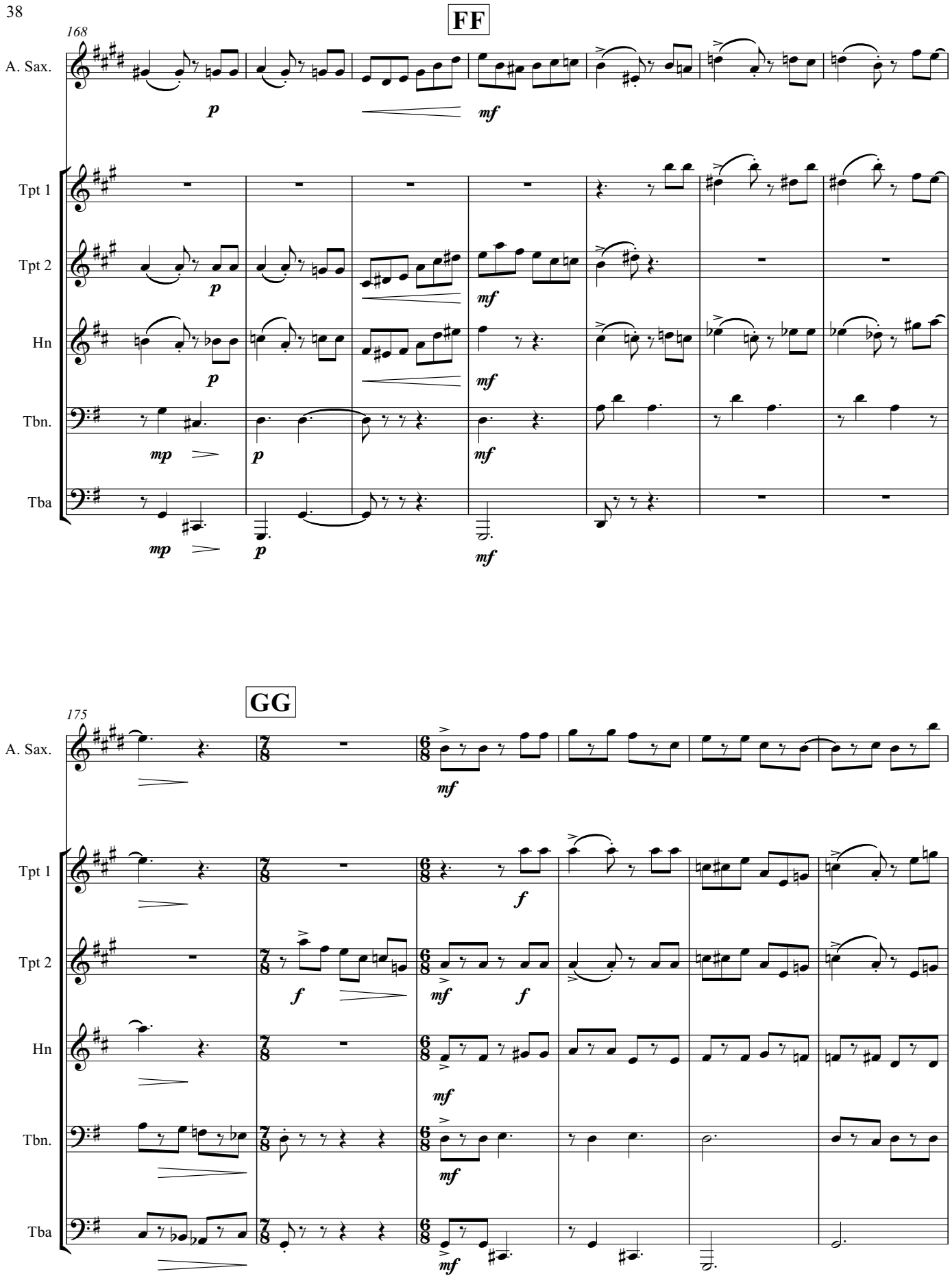

X
129
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
p
p
mf
mp
Y
135
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
p

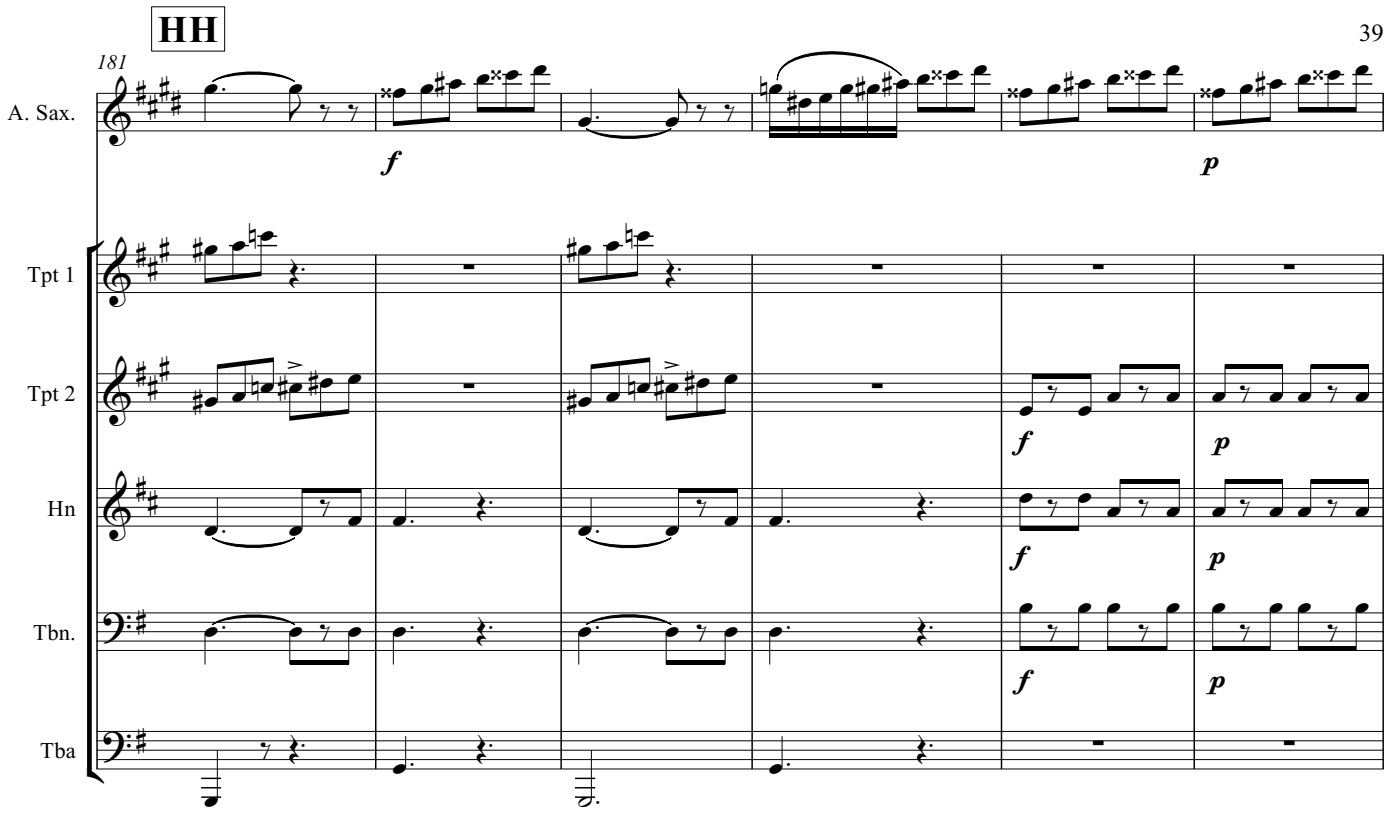

Z
AA
141
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
mf
mp
f

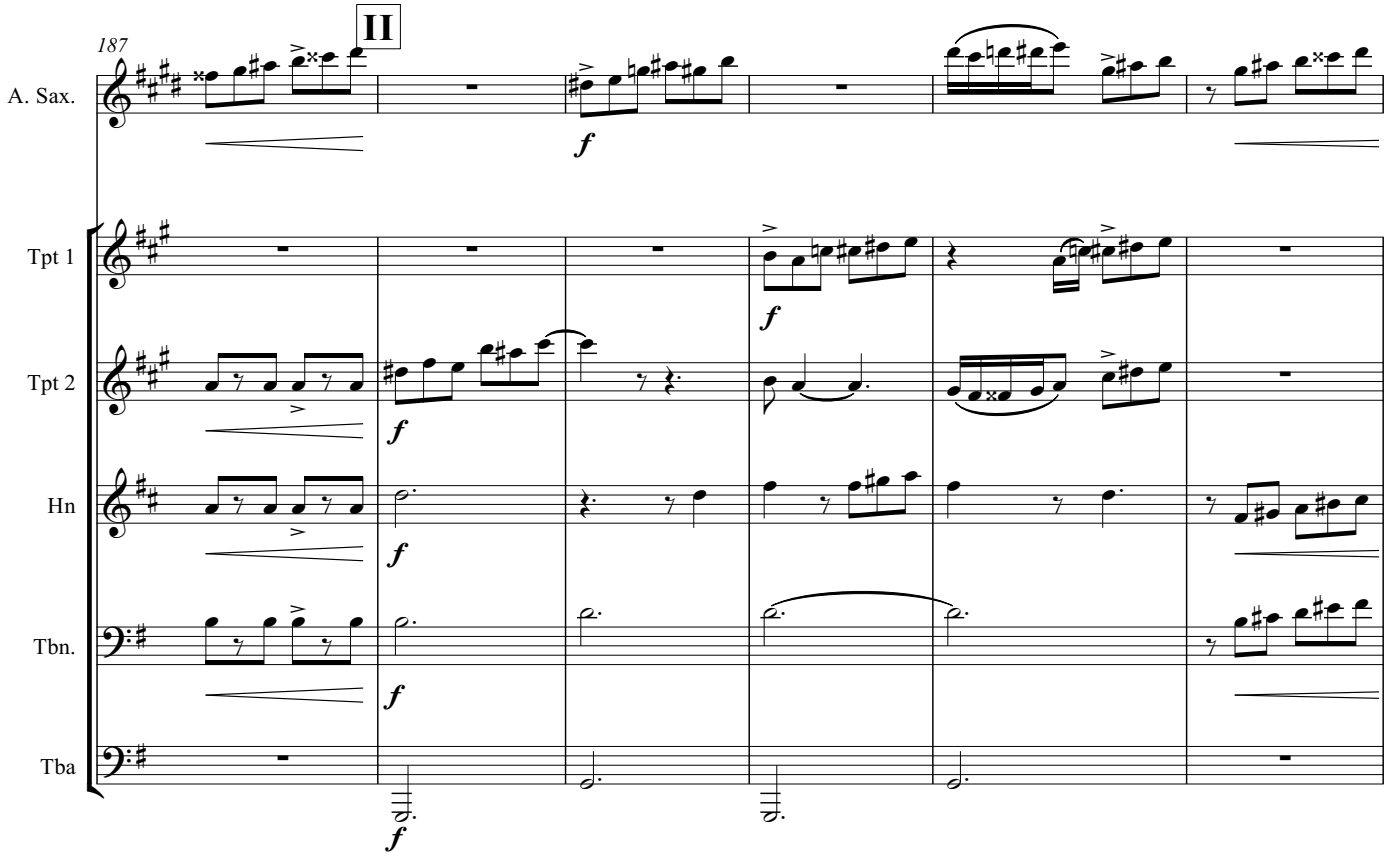

BB
148
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
mf
sub p
mp
f
p

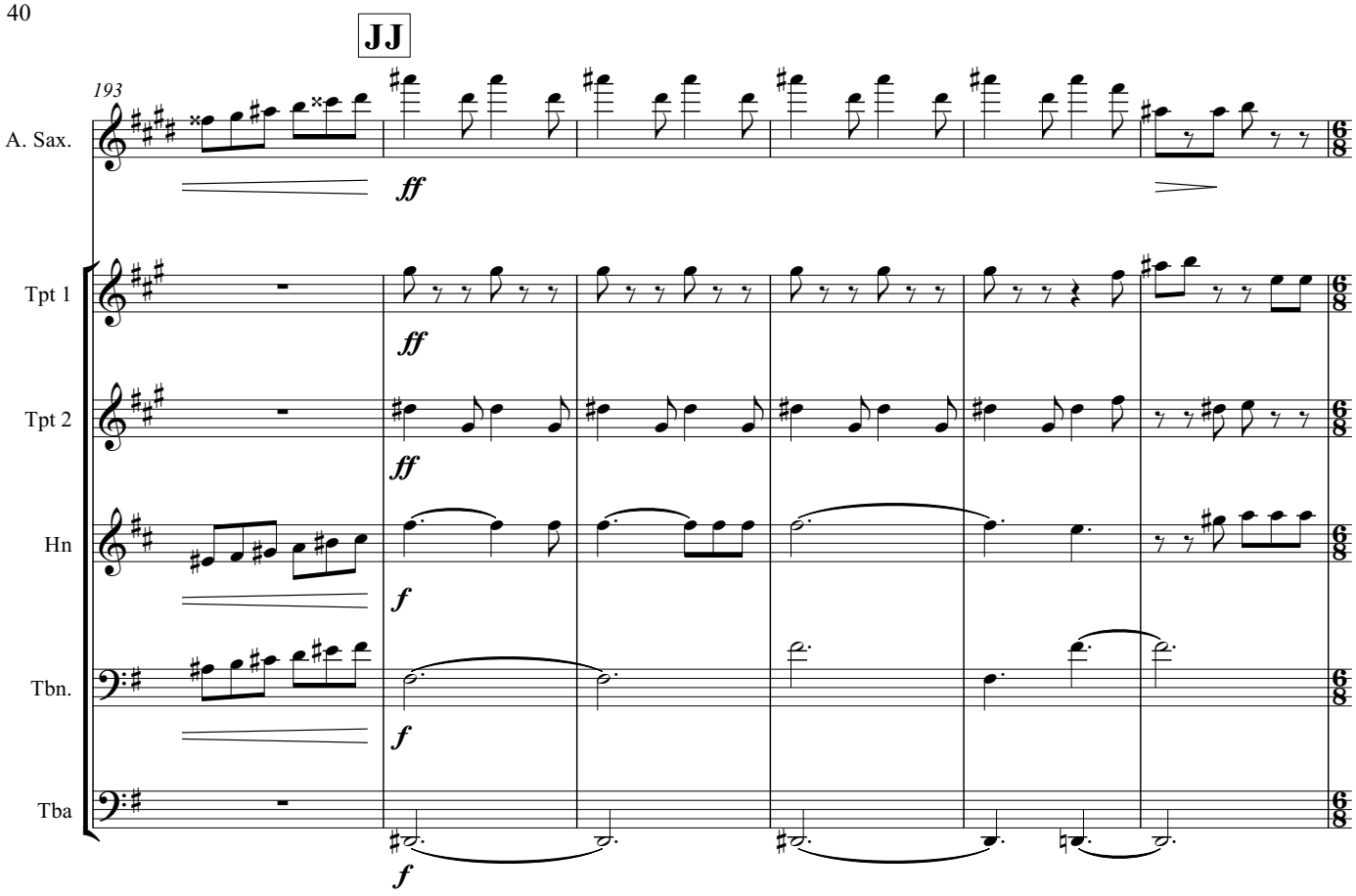

CC
155
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
ff

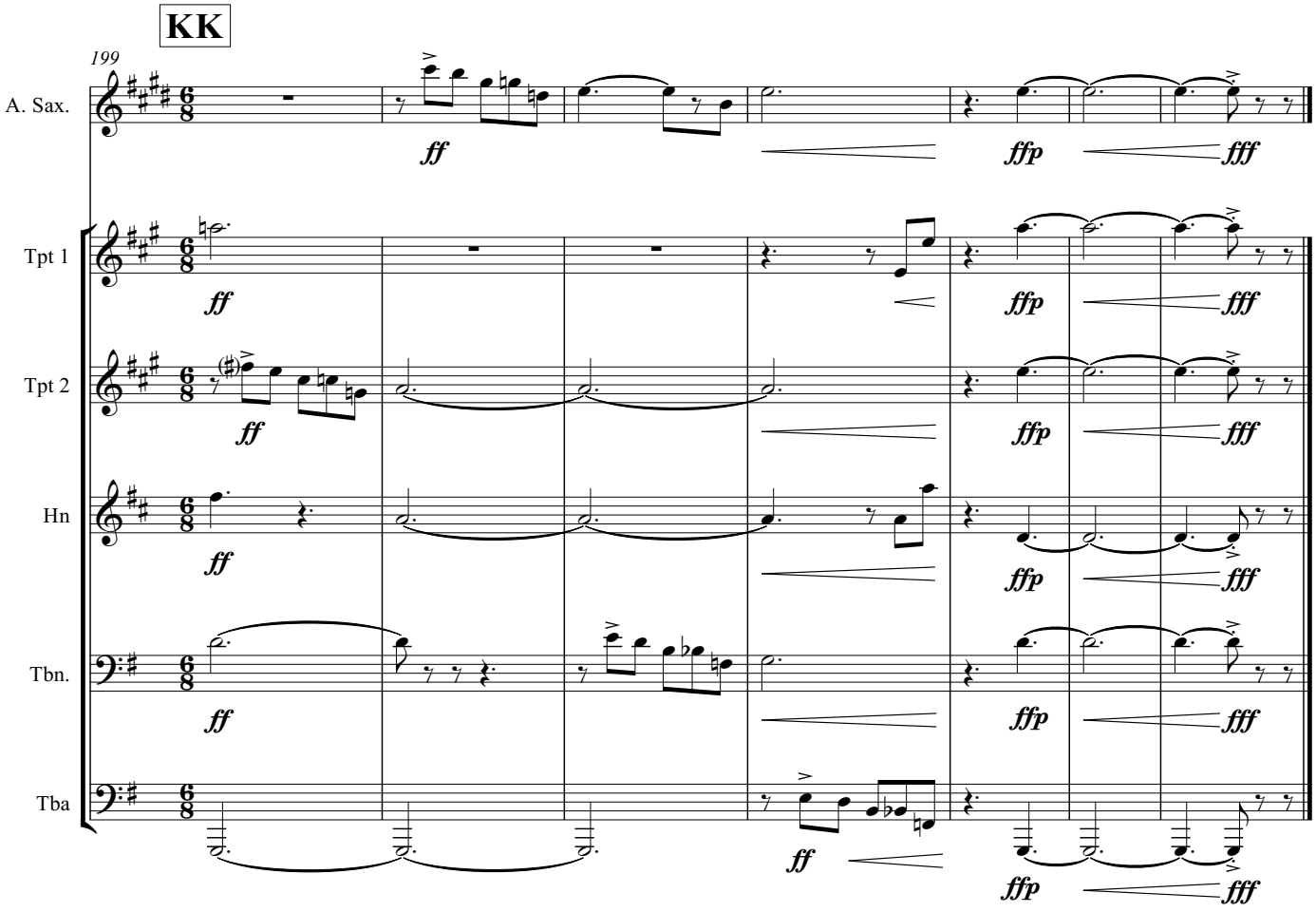

DD
EE
162
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
p
p sub.
f
mp


FF
168
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
p
mf
mp
GG
175
f


HH
181
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
f
p


II
187
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
f


JJ
193
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
ff
f


KK
199
A. Sax.
Tpt 1
Tpt 2
Hn
Tbn.
Tba
ff
ffp
fff