Politics, Money, Music

for Brass Quintet

Christopher Coleman

commissioned by the Hong Kong Composers' Guild
for Brass Extreme Tokyo
and dedicated to the victims of Hurricane Katrina

duration ca. 9 minutes

Politics, Money, Music

It has often been my habit to composer works in pairs, putting similar materials and techniques to contrasting gestures. Having just completed a large work for symphonic band that in spite of its title, *A Jazz Funeral*, is an optimistic celebration of life, I turned to this commission for Extreme Brass Tokyo from the Hong Kong Composers' Guild. Inspired by the group's name, I took the jazzy rhythms and inflections from the previous work and put them to darker and quite a bit more virtuostic use. Frustrated and angered by what I perceive as broken promises, outright lies, and other evil machinations by my government in the US, the government here in Hong Kong and China where I now reside, and even within my profession and university; I gave vent to my feelings in this, my darkest and most sardonic work yet. *Politics, Money, Music* develops a twisting chromatic figure throughout its nine-minute length, obsessively reordering the pitches repeatedly in static melodic statements that suddenly burst into movement, only to be cut short by stabbing syncopations. The central section expands the compressed chromatic idea into a sarcastic blues, which in turn works its way to a quieter but still unsettled conclusion. Shortly after the piece was completed, Hurricane Katrina devastated the southern United States; and in sympathy with those who have suffered from its passage the subsequent governmental ineptitude, I have dedicated this piece to its victims.

Politics, Money, Music was premiered October 3, 2005, by Brass Extreme Tokyo in Tokyo, Japan. --*Christopher Coleman*

Bio:

Christopher Coleman (b. 1958, Atlanta, GA) composer, conductor, trombonist, is currently Composition Coordinator of the Hong Kong Baptist University Department of Music and Fine Arts. He has also taught at the University of Chicago, DePaul University, Columbia College, and in the Interlochen Center for the Arts summer program. He earned his Ph. D. from the University of Chicago where he studied composition with Ralph Shapey and Shulamit Ran. While at the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned the M.A. in composition, he studied with George Crumb, George Rochberg, and Richard Wernick.

While most of Coleman's works are scored for traditional forces, recent efforts at Hong Kong Baptist University have resulted in two large scale multimedia/improvisation pieces: *September Variations* and *Prophecies for a New Millennium*. He has received commissions from the Hong Kong Wind Philharmonia, the Hong Kong Bach Choir and Orchestra, the Hong Kong Composers' Guild, the DuPage Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago-area chapter of the American String Teachers' Association, and the University of Georgia Trombone Choir, among others. He received first place in the Percussive Arts Society Percussion Ensemble Composition Contest and the ASUC/SESAC Composition Contest. His music is published by Maecenas Music, Theodore Presser, Ensemble Publications, C. Alan Publications and Crown Music Press. A trans-media artist, Coleman also works in the visual arts and leads Hong Kong's only regularly performing comedy improv troupe, People's Liberation Improv.

Contact info:
Dr. Christopher Coleman
Tower 1, 4A; 22 Sui Wo Road
Fo Tan, NT; HONG KONG
coleman@hkbu.edu.hk

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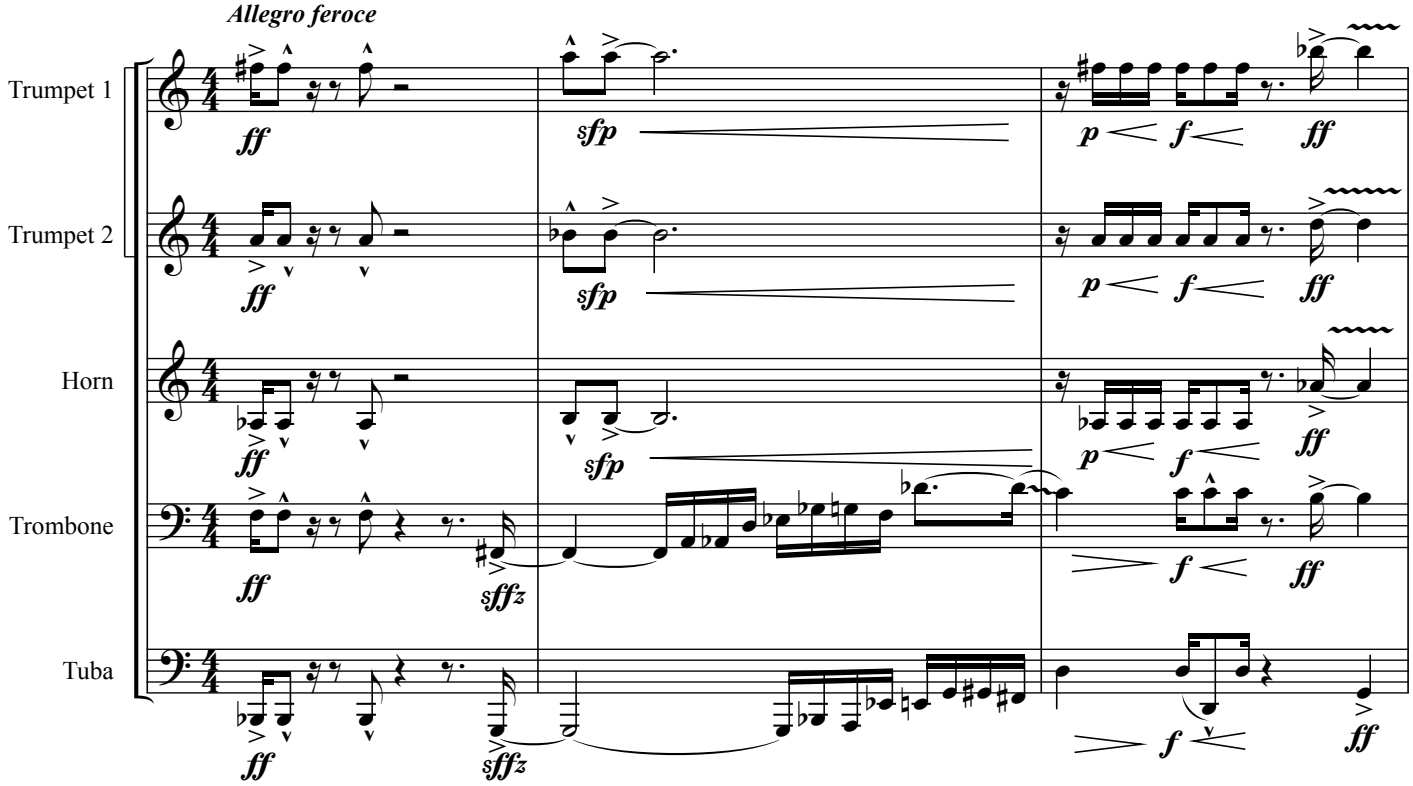
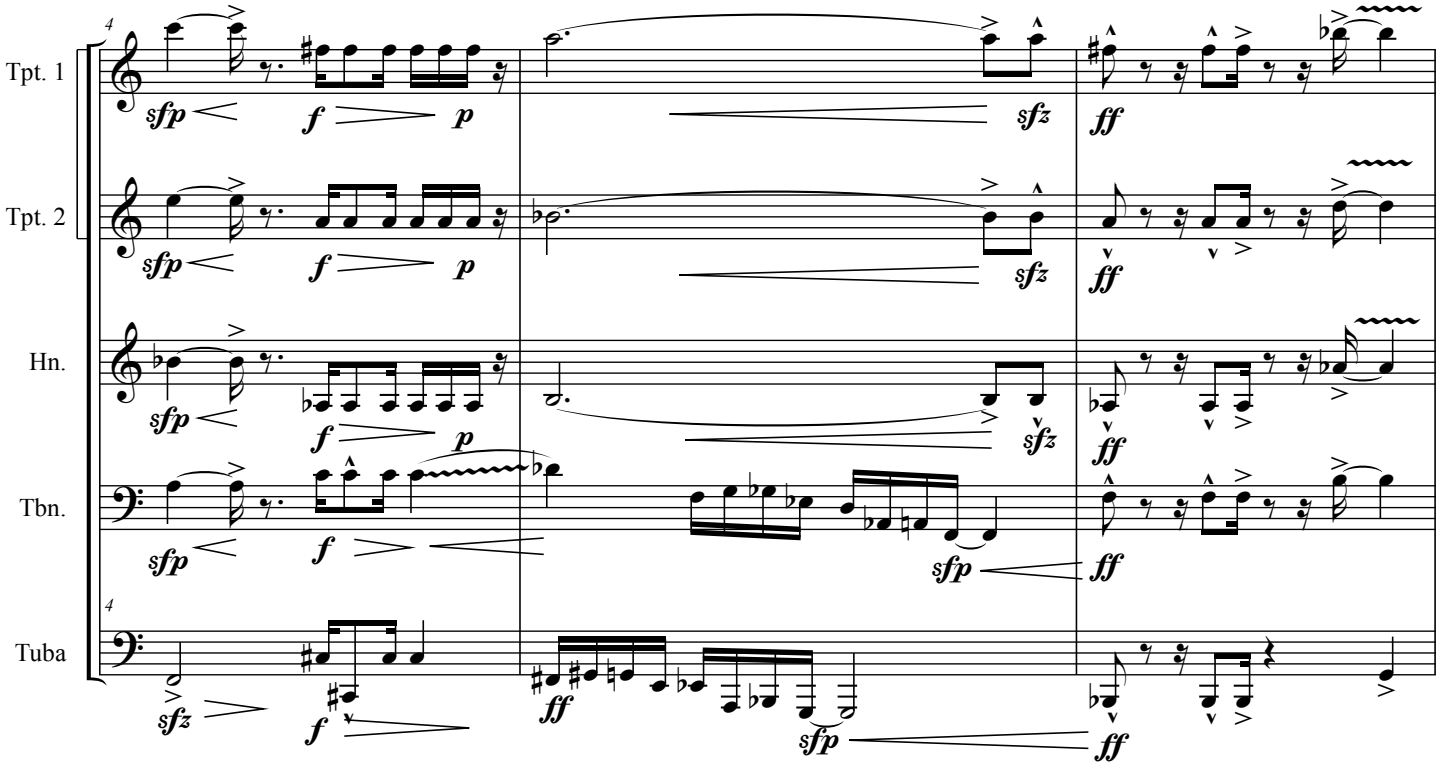
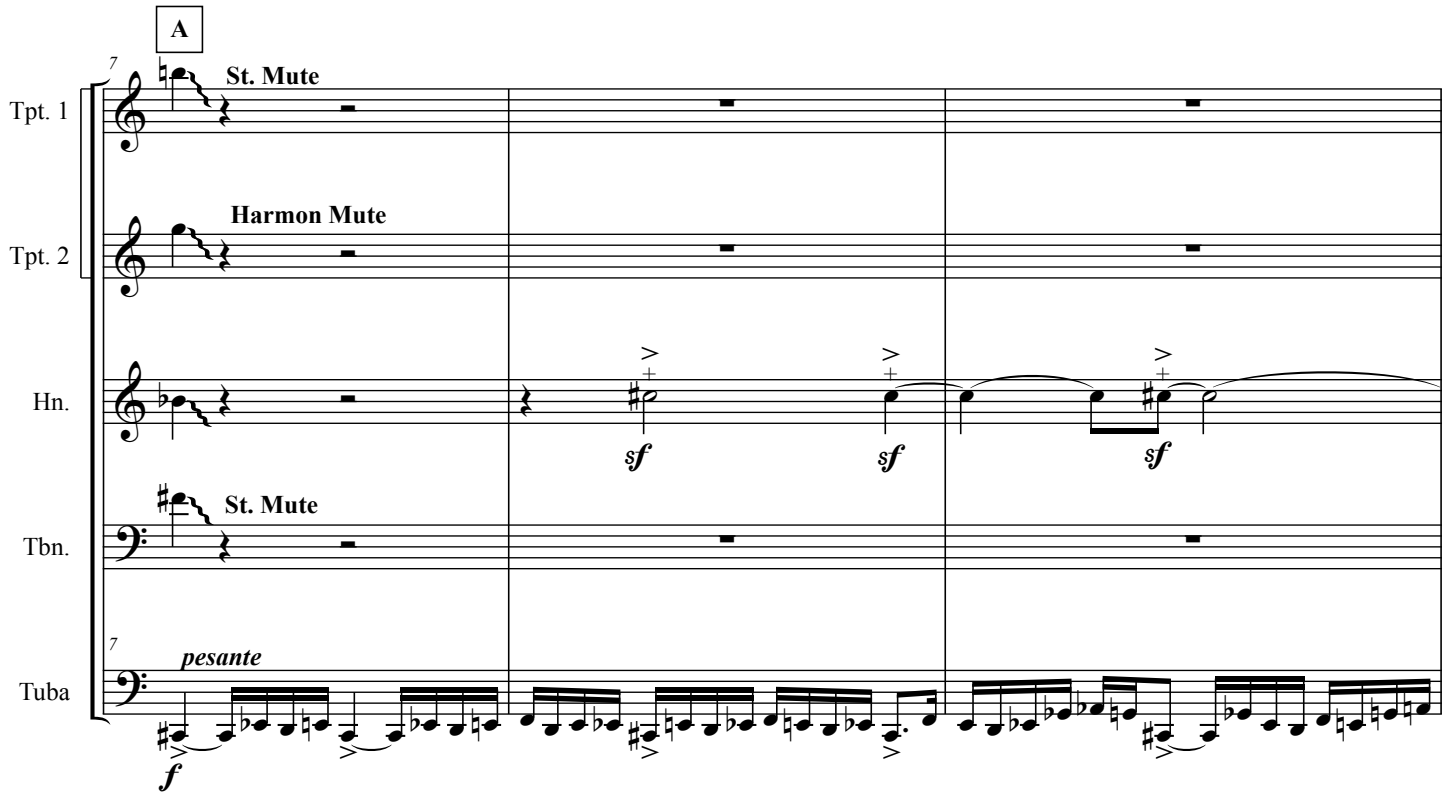
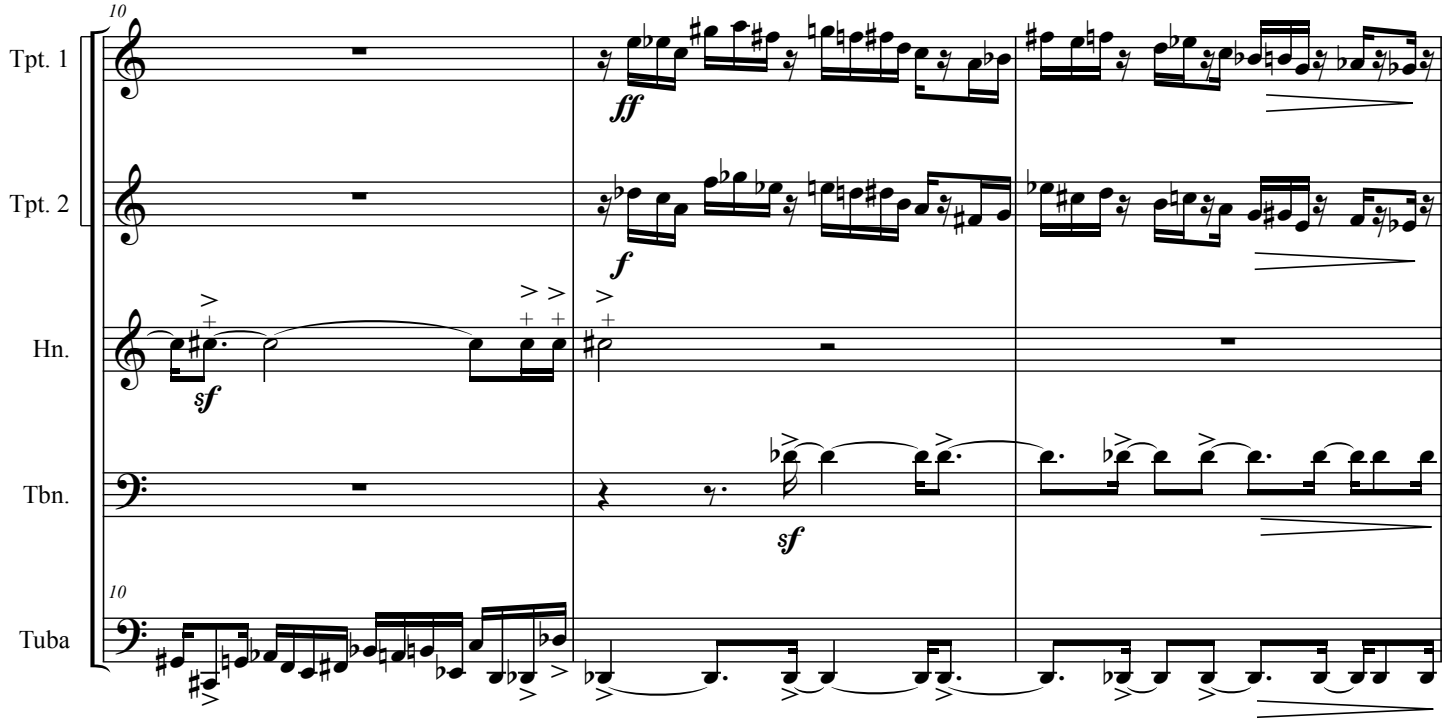
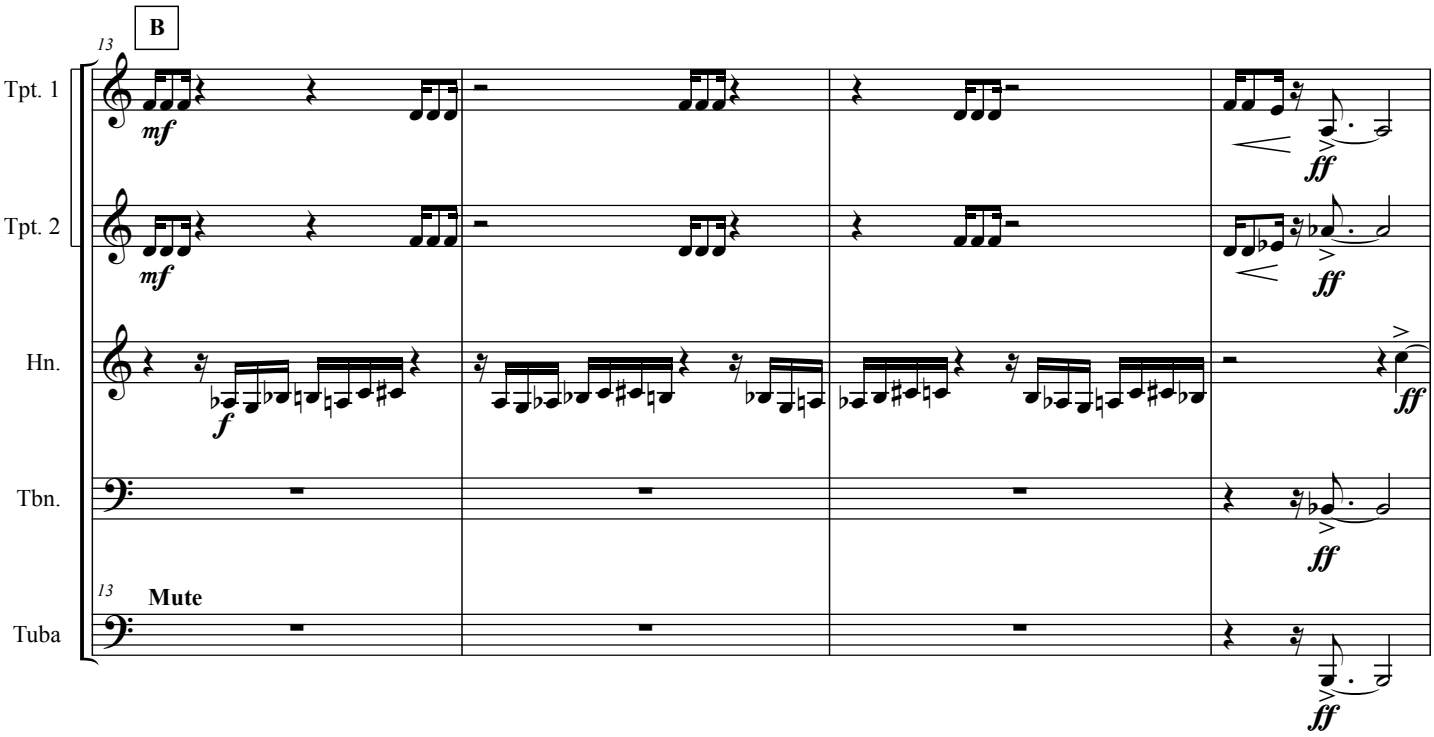


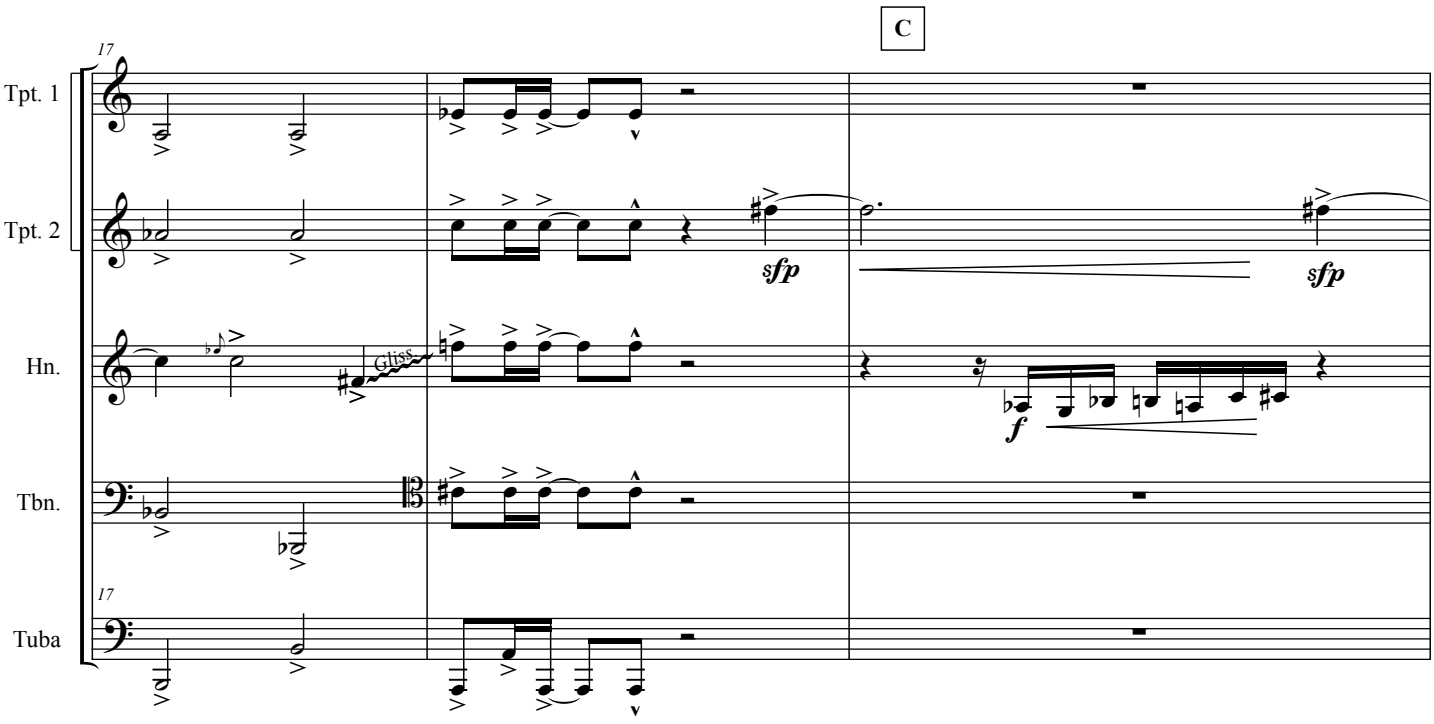


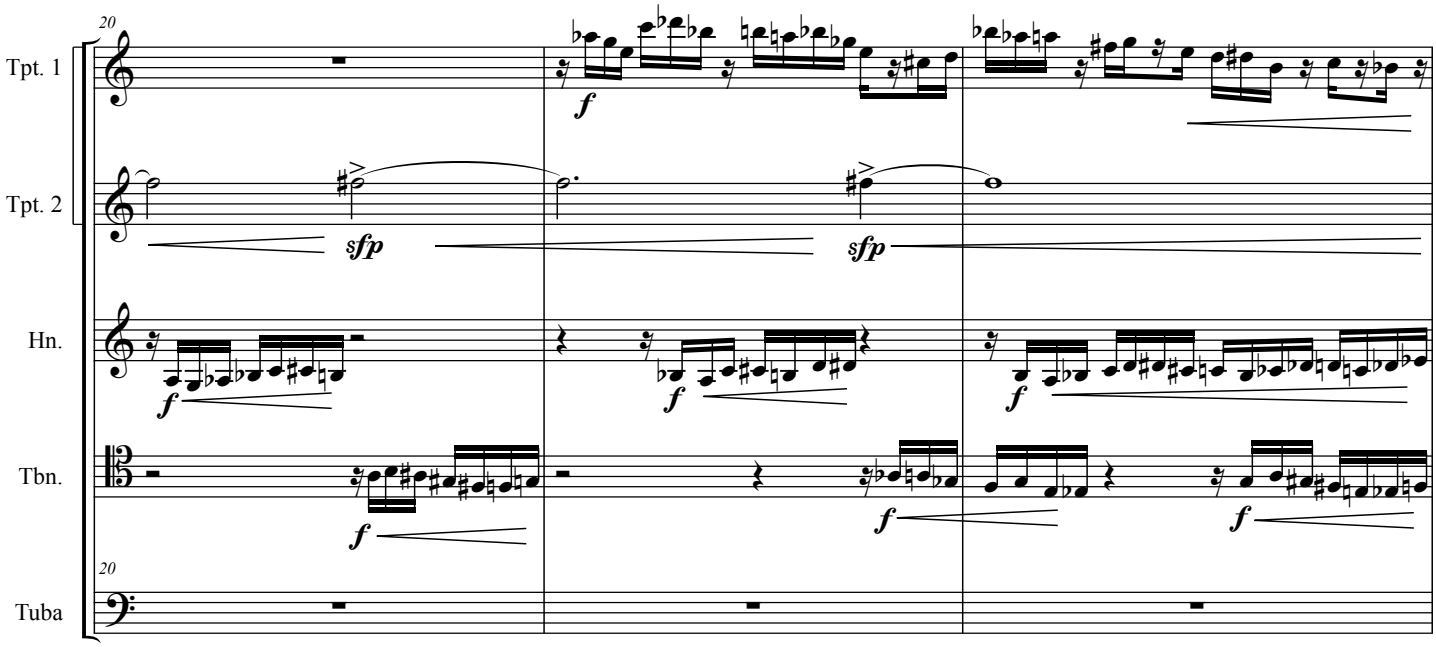
Score in C
duration ca. 9 minutes

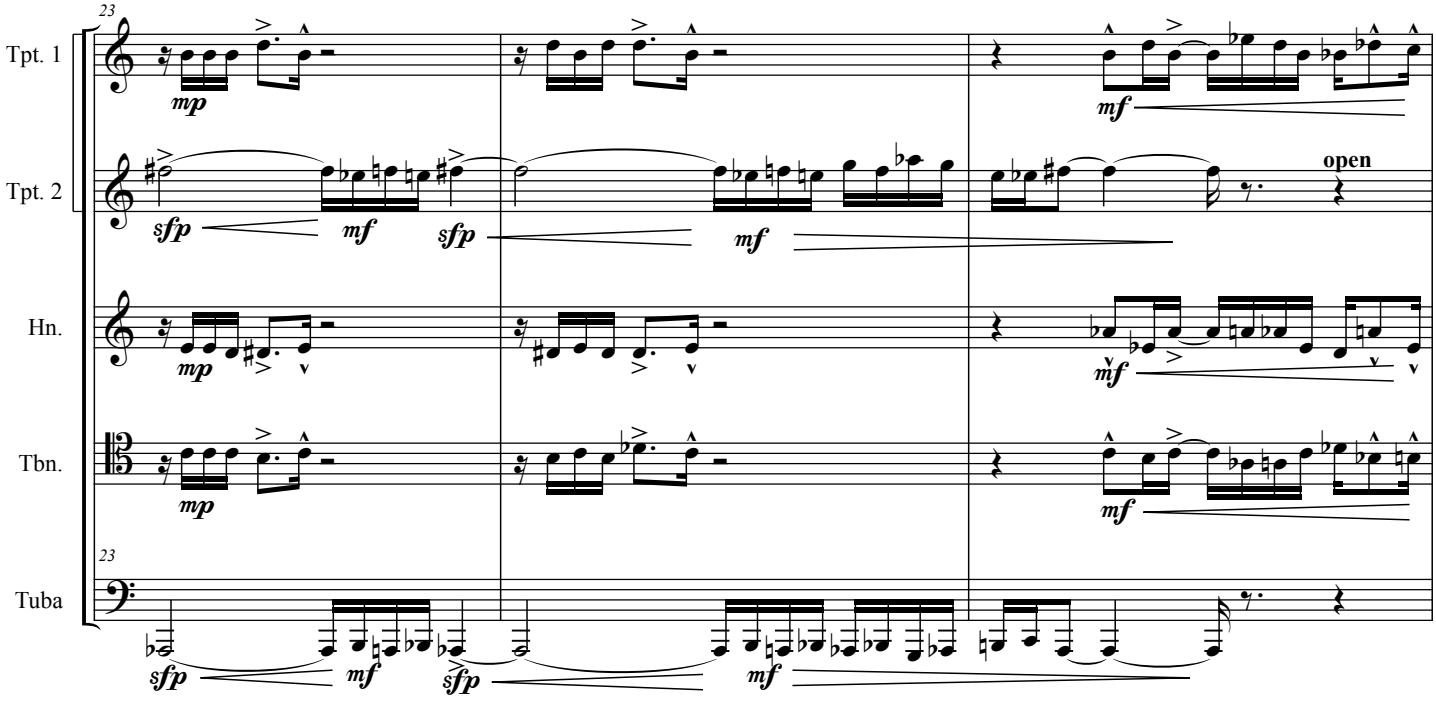

A
7
St. Mute
Tpt. 1
Harmon Mute
Tpt. 2
Hn.
sf
sf
sf
St. Mute
Tbn.
7
pesante
Tuba
f

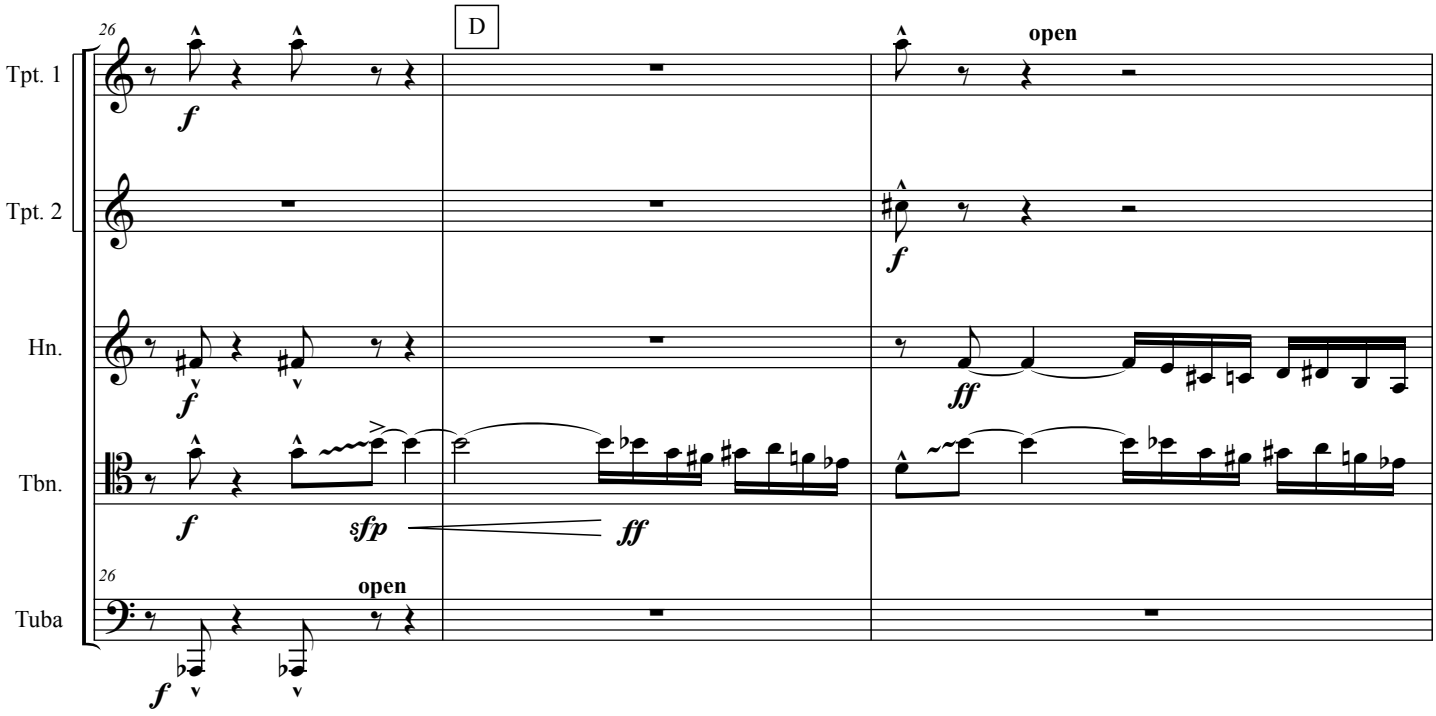

10
Tpt. 1
ff
Tpt. 2
f
Hn.
sf
Tbn.
sf
10
Tuba

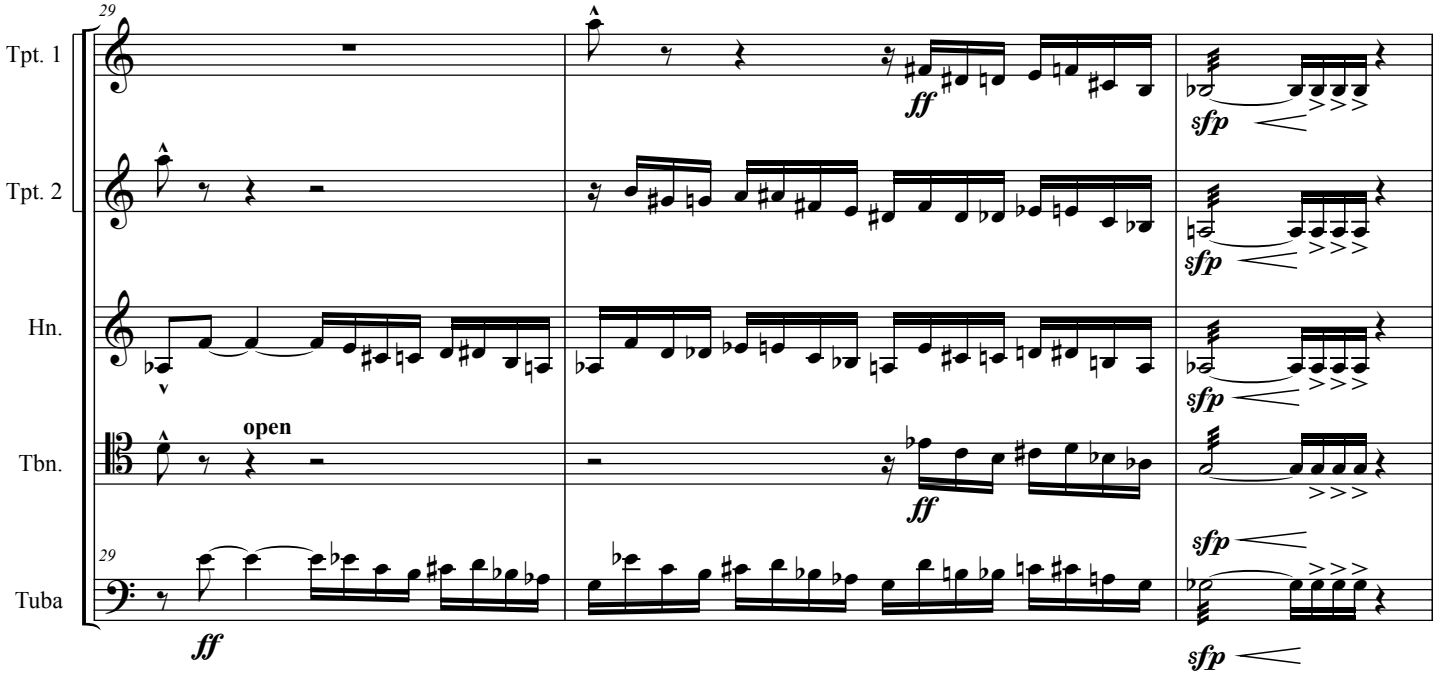

B
13
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
13
Mute
Tuba
mf
mf
f
ff
ff
ff
ff

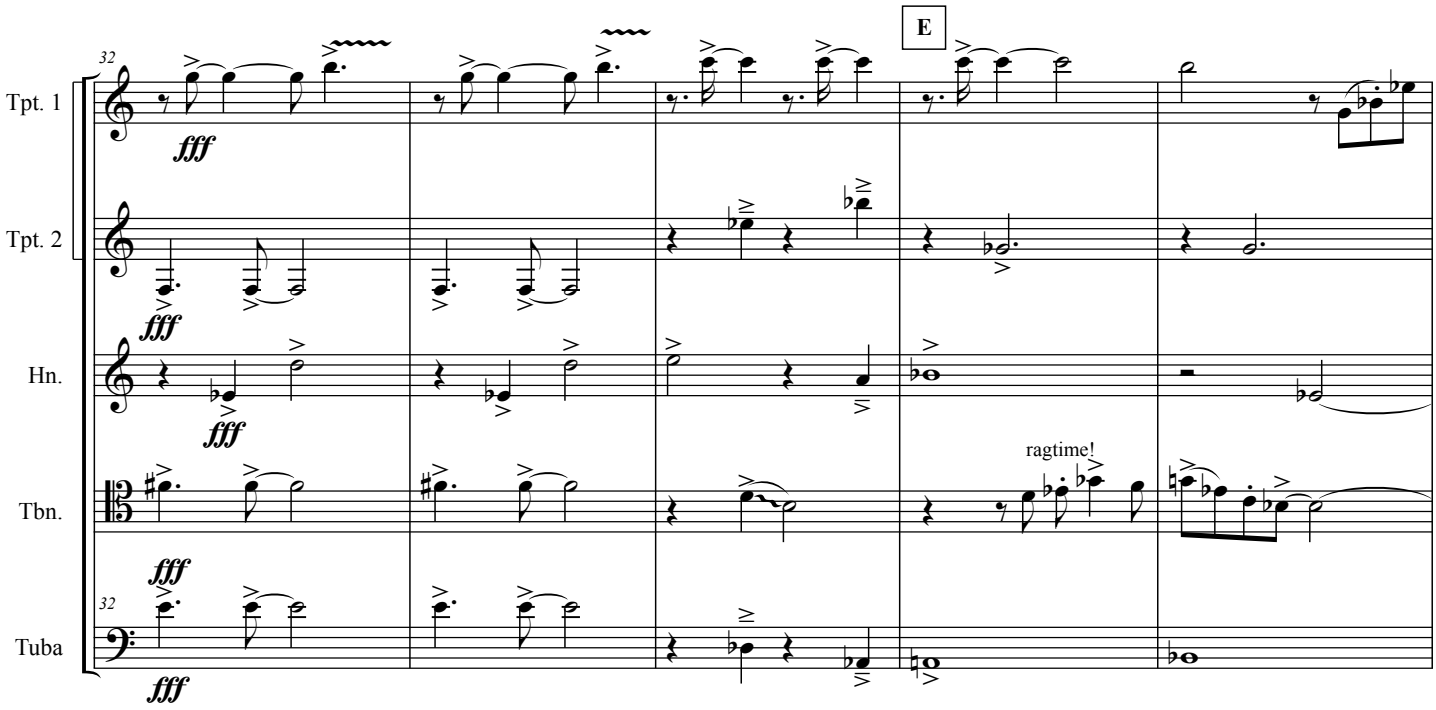

C
17
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
17
Tuba
Gliss.
sfp
sfp
f

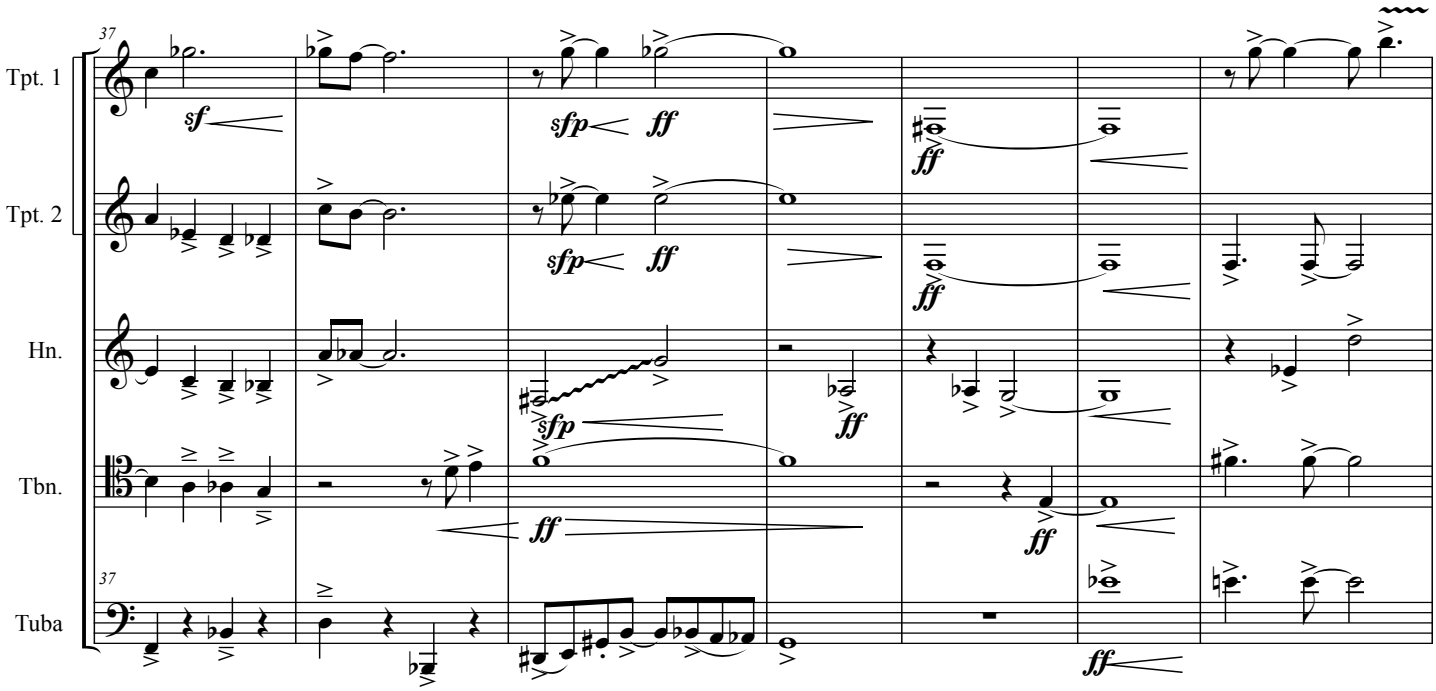

20
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
20
Tuba
f
sfp
sfp
f
f
f
f
f

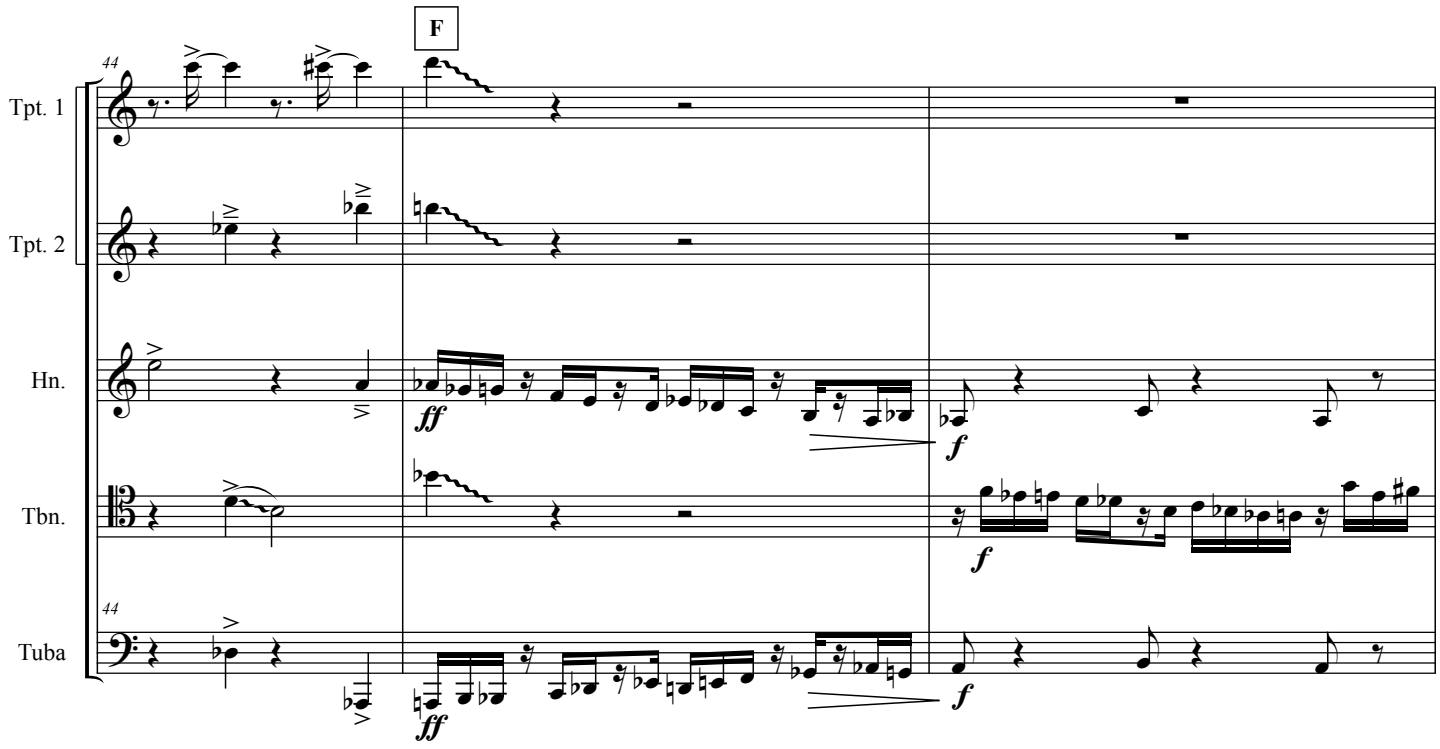

23
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
23
Tuba
mp
mf
mf
open
sfp
mf
sfp
mf
mp
mf
mp
mf
sfp
mf
sfp
mf

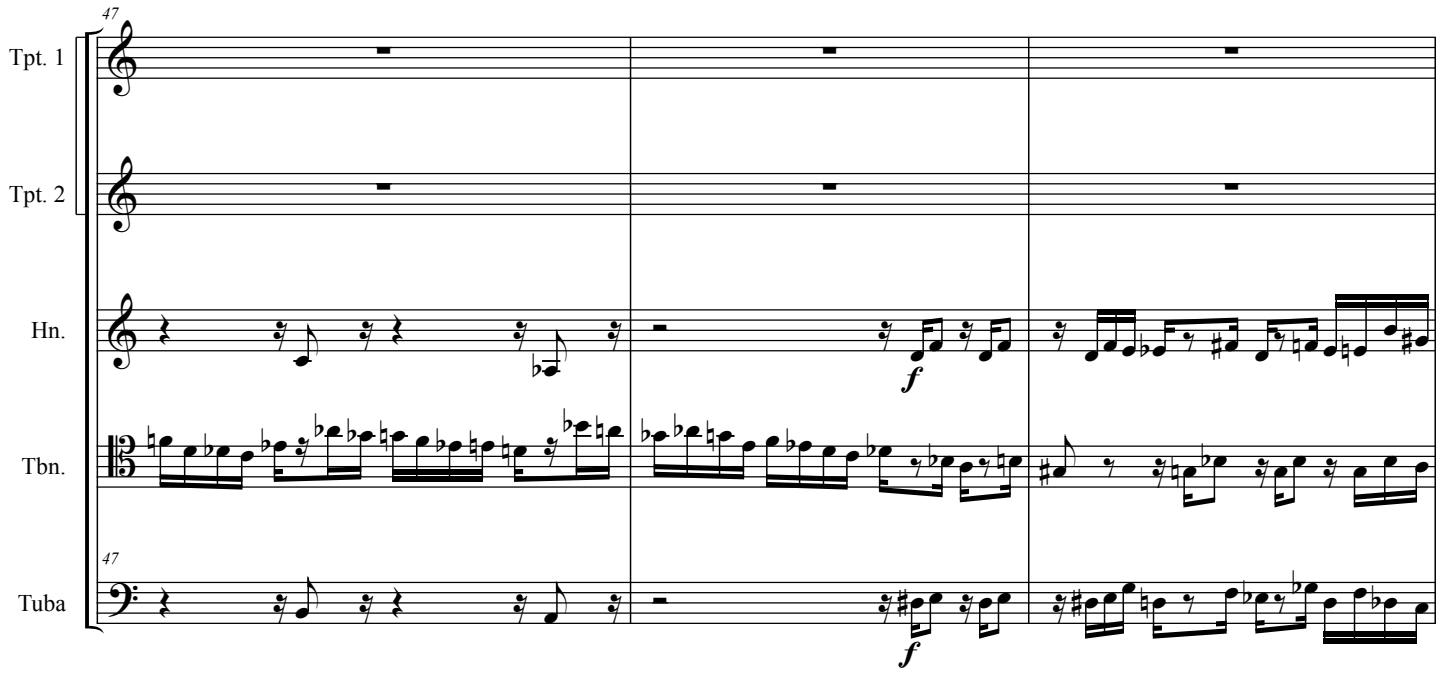

26
D
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
f
sfp
ff
open

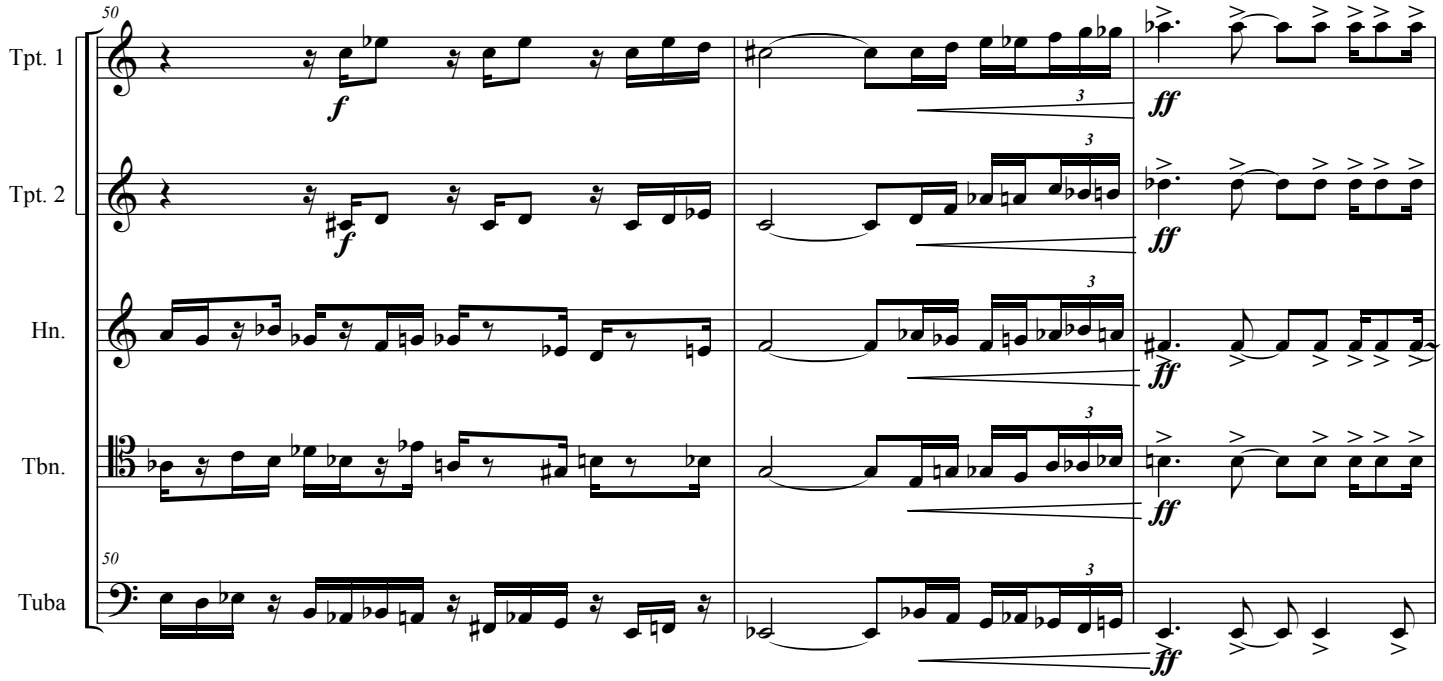

29
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
ff
sfp
open

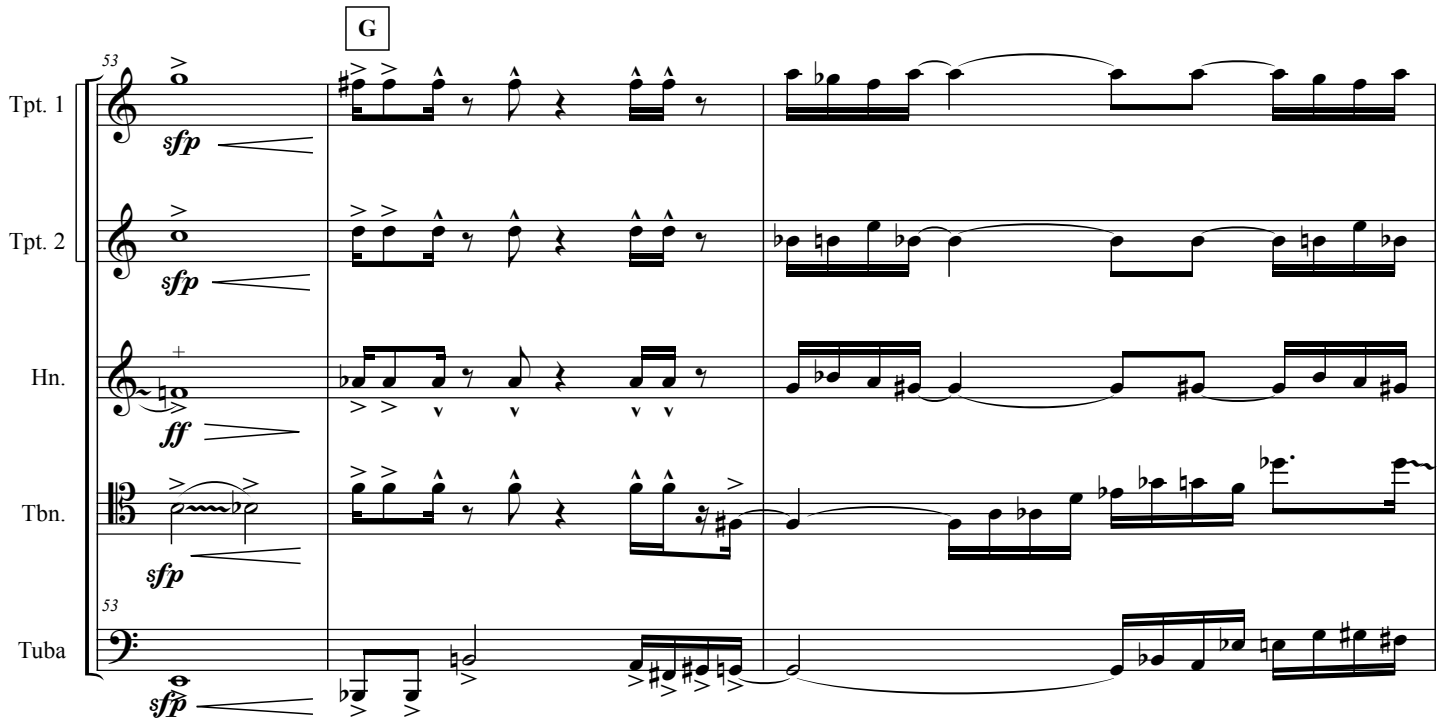

E
32
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
fff
ragtime!

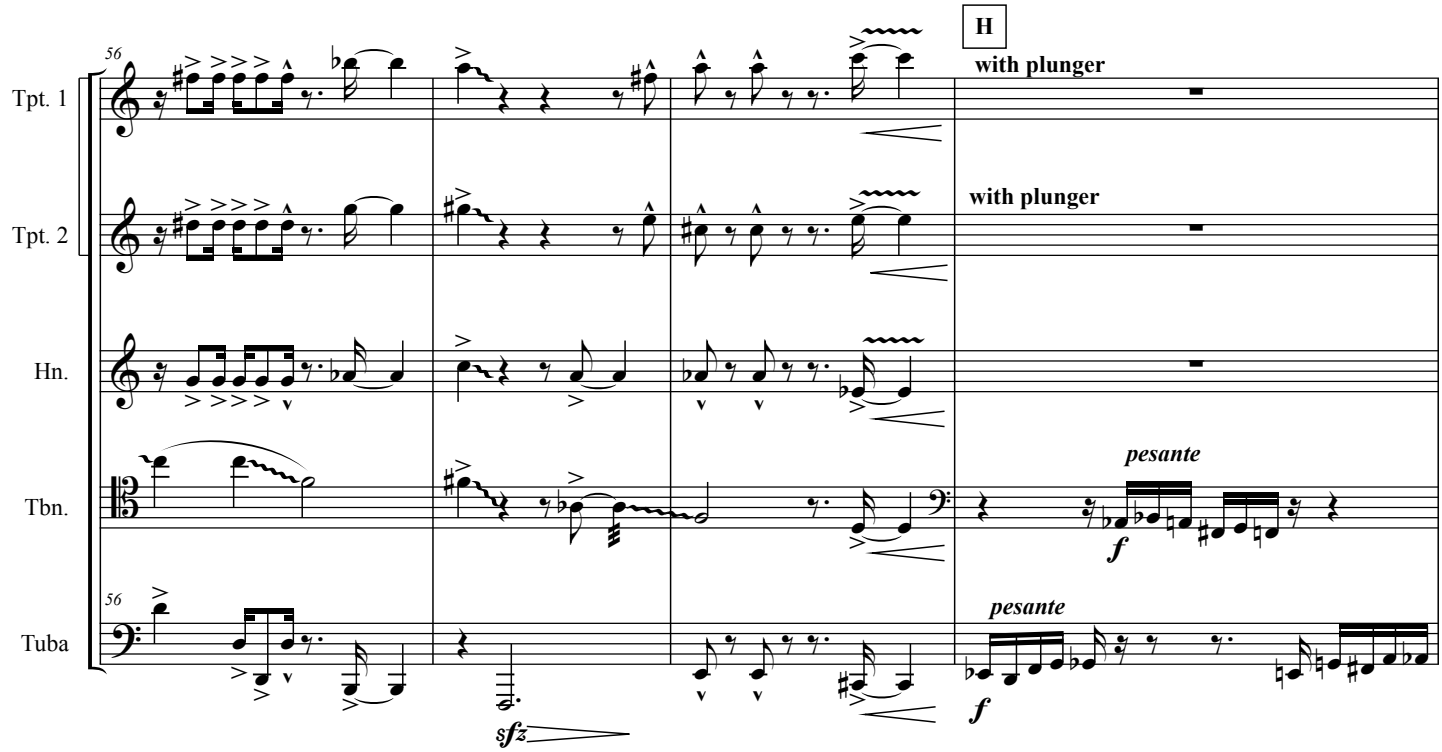

37
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
sf
sfp
ff

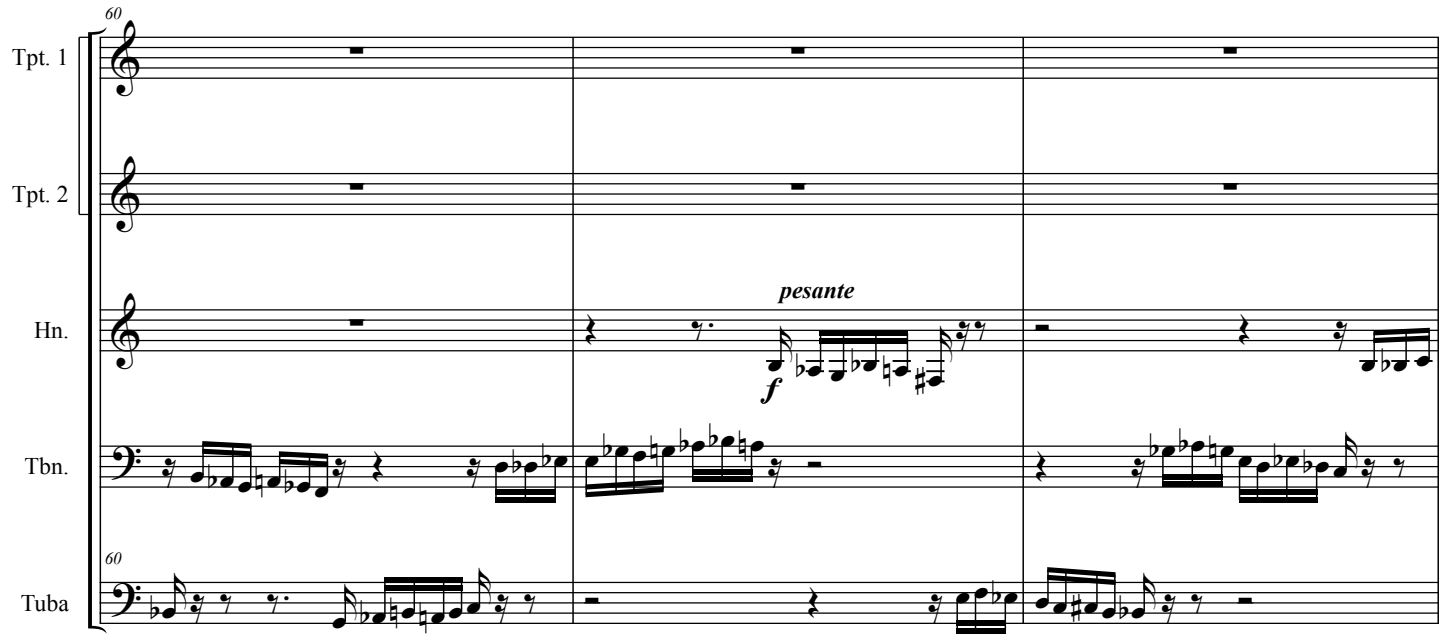

F
44
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
ff
f

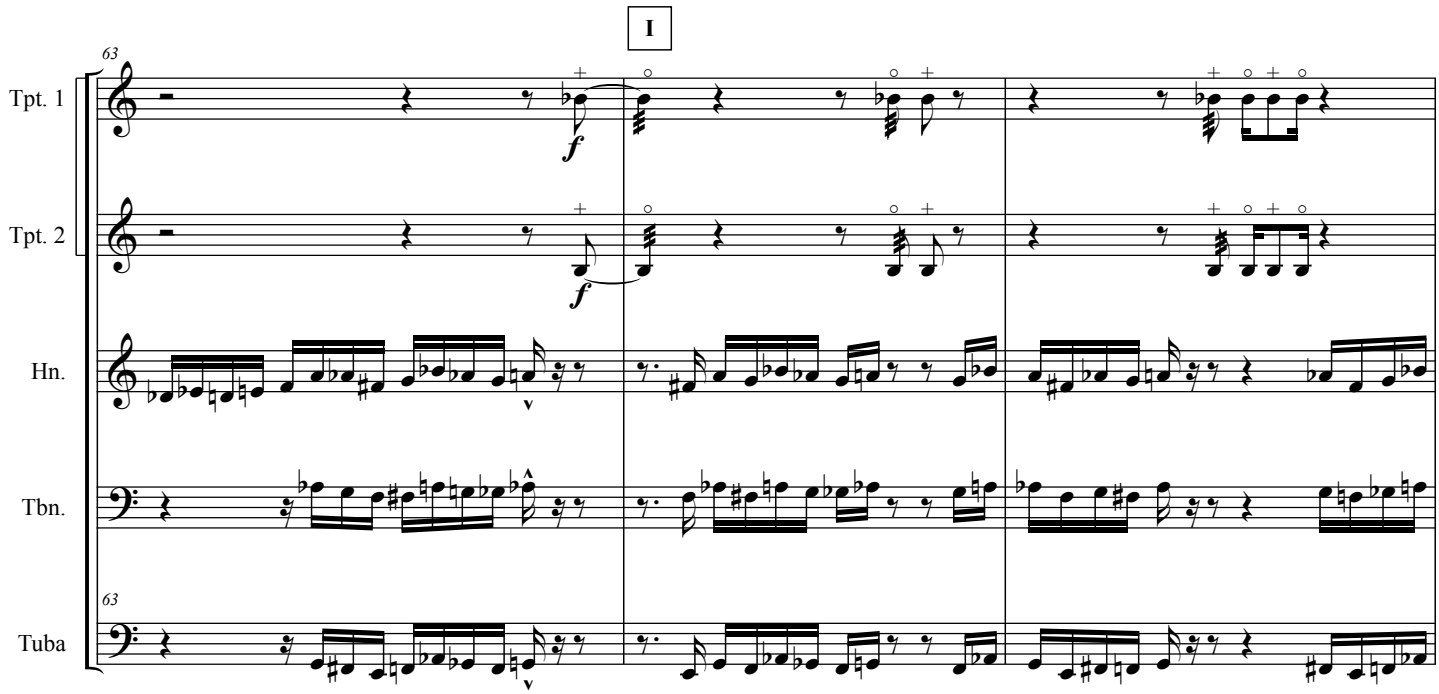

47
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
f

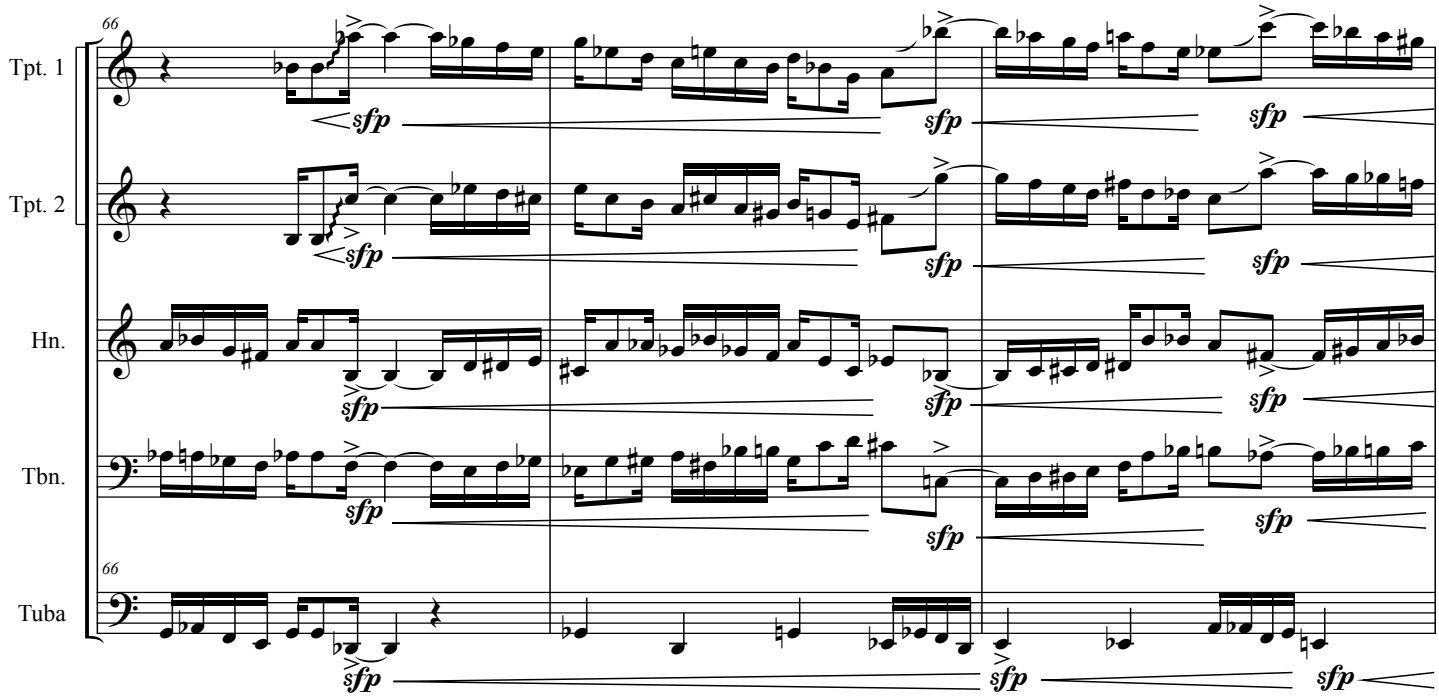

50
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
f
ff
3

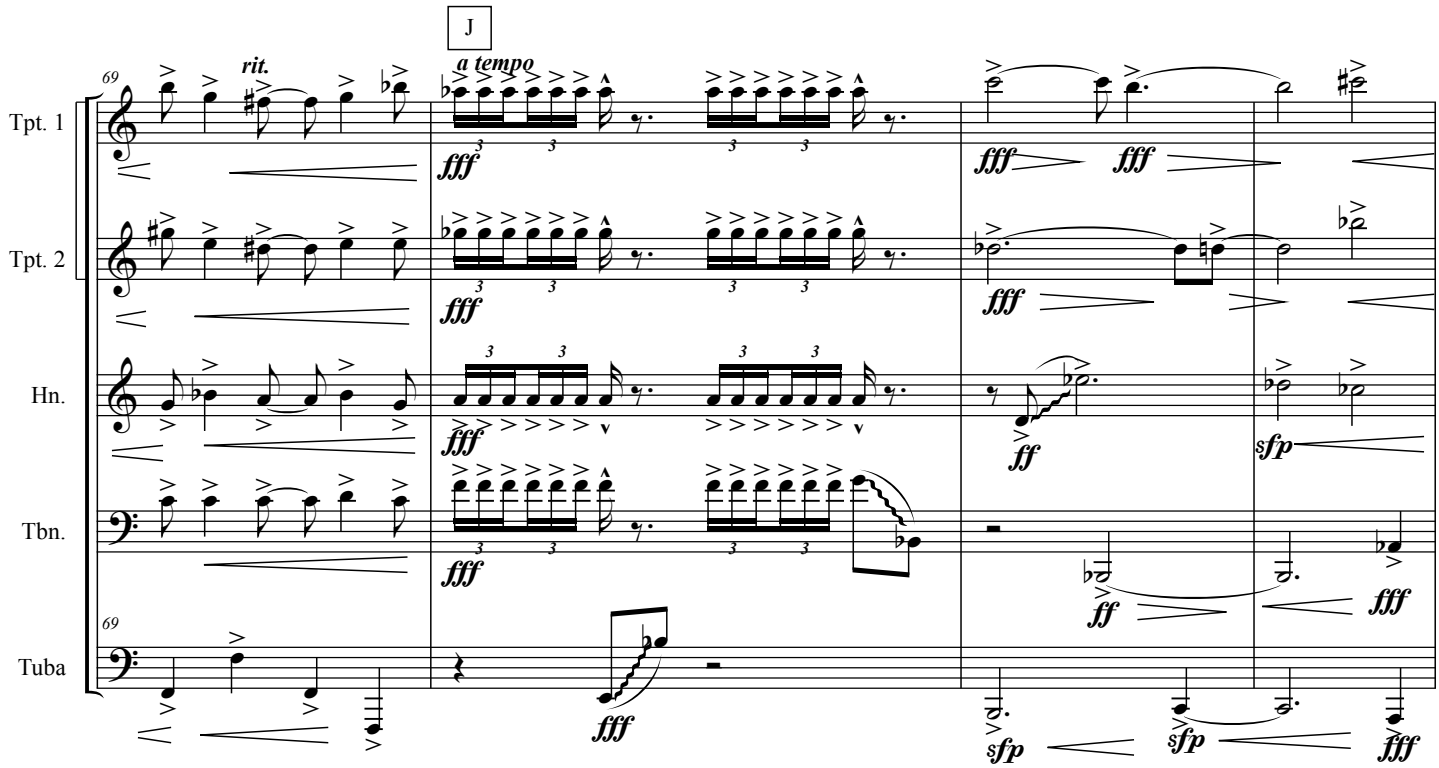

G
53
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
sfp
ff

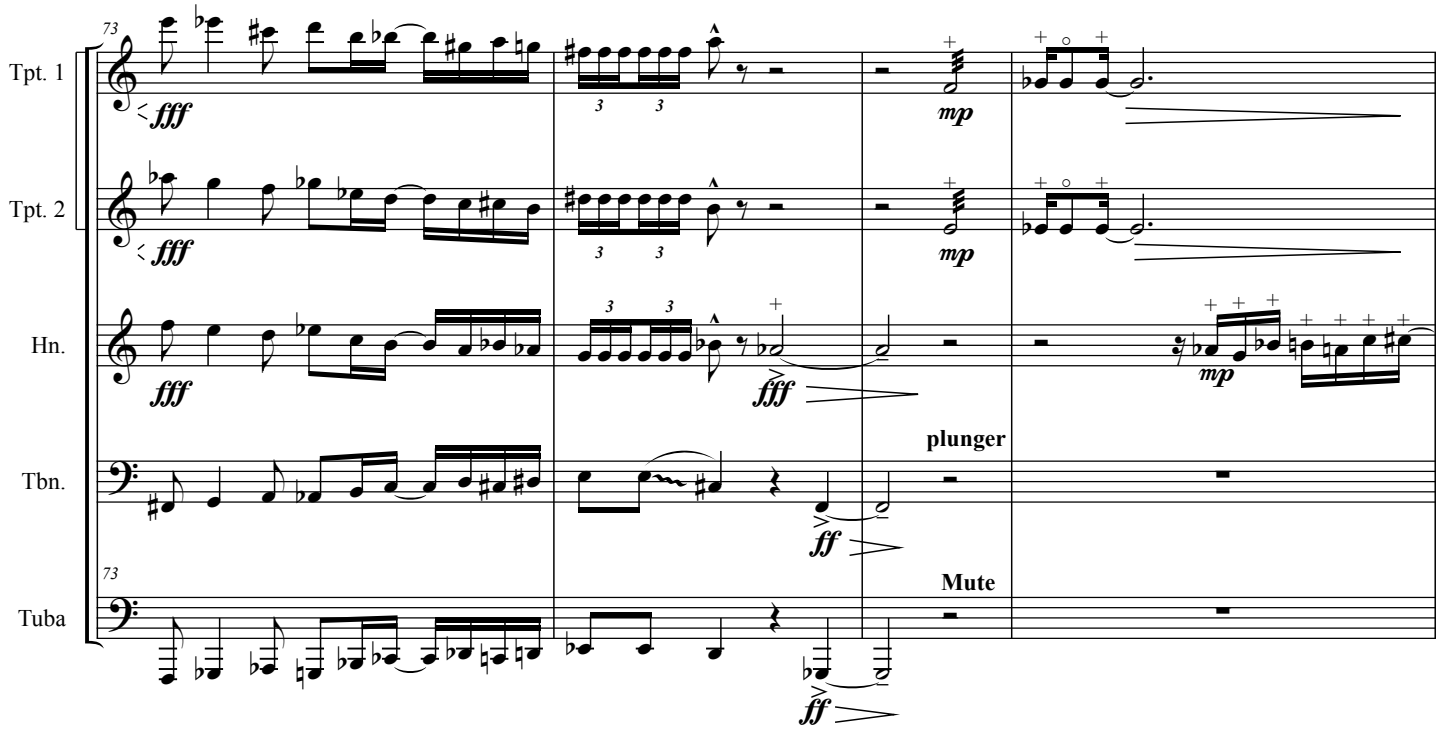

56
H
with plunger
Tpt. 1
with plunger
Tpt. 2
Hn.
pesante
f
Tbn.
56
pesante
Tuba
f
sfz

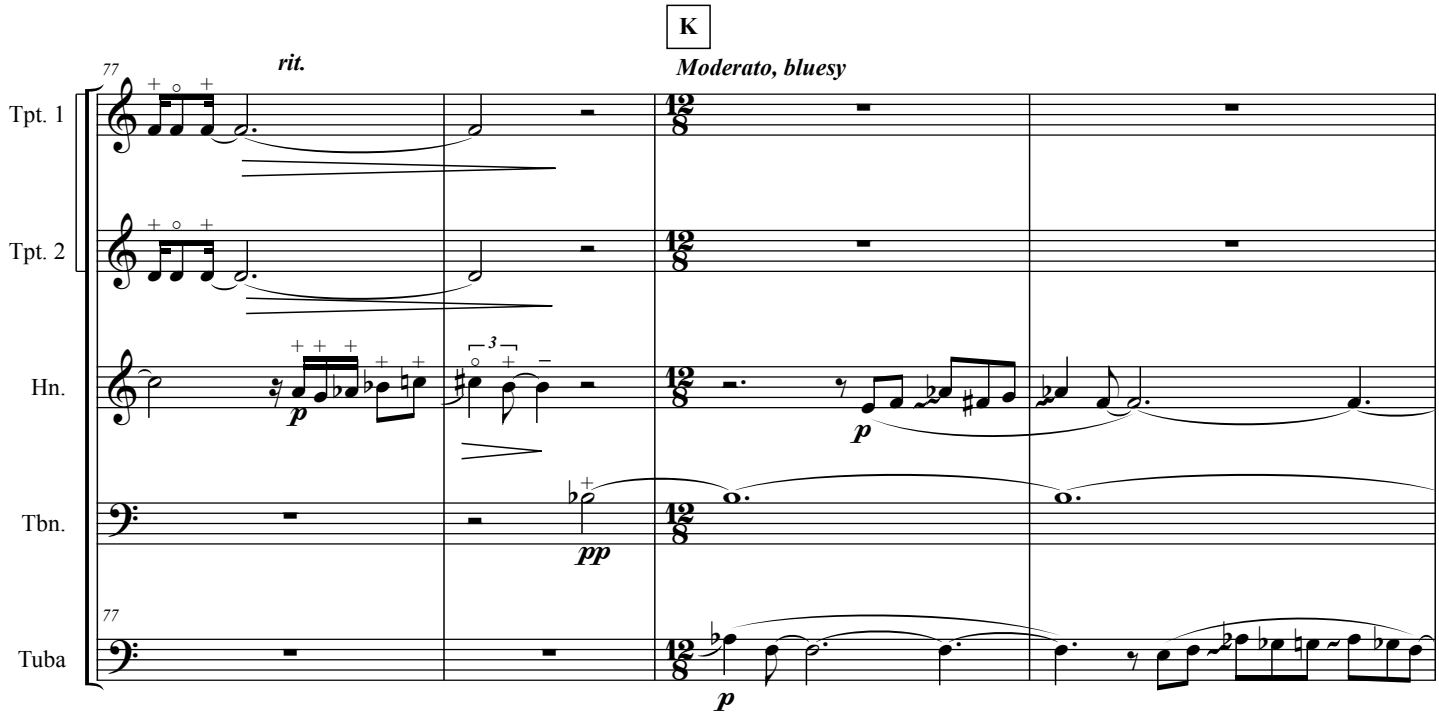

60
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
pesante
Hn.
f
Tbn.
60
Tuba

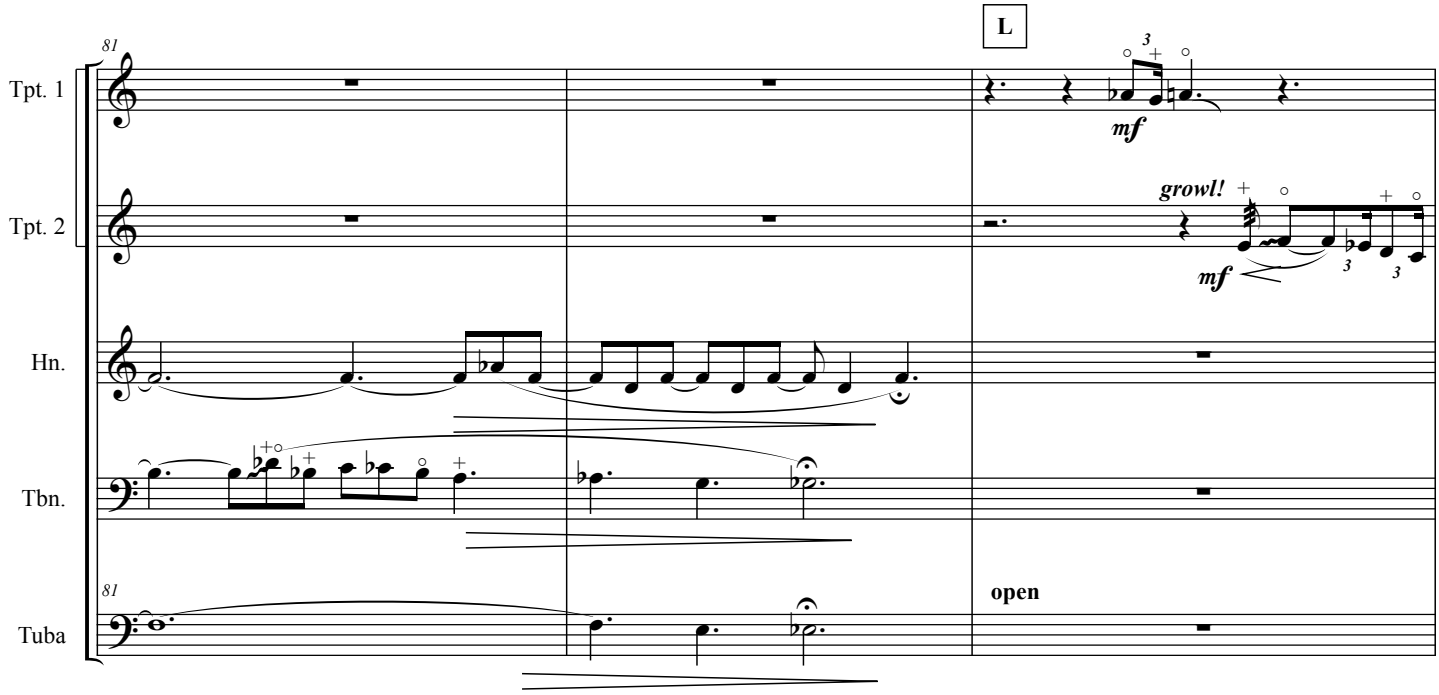

I
63
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
63
Tuba
f
f

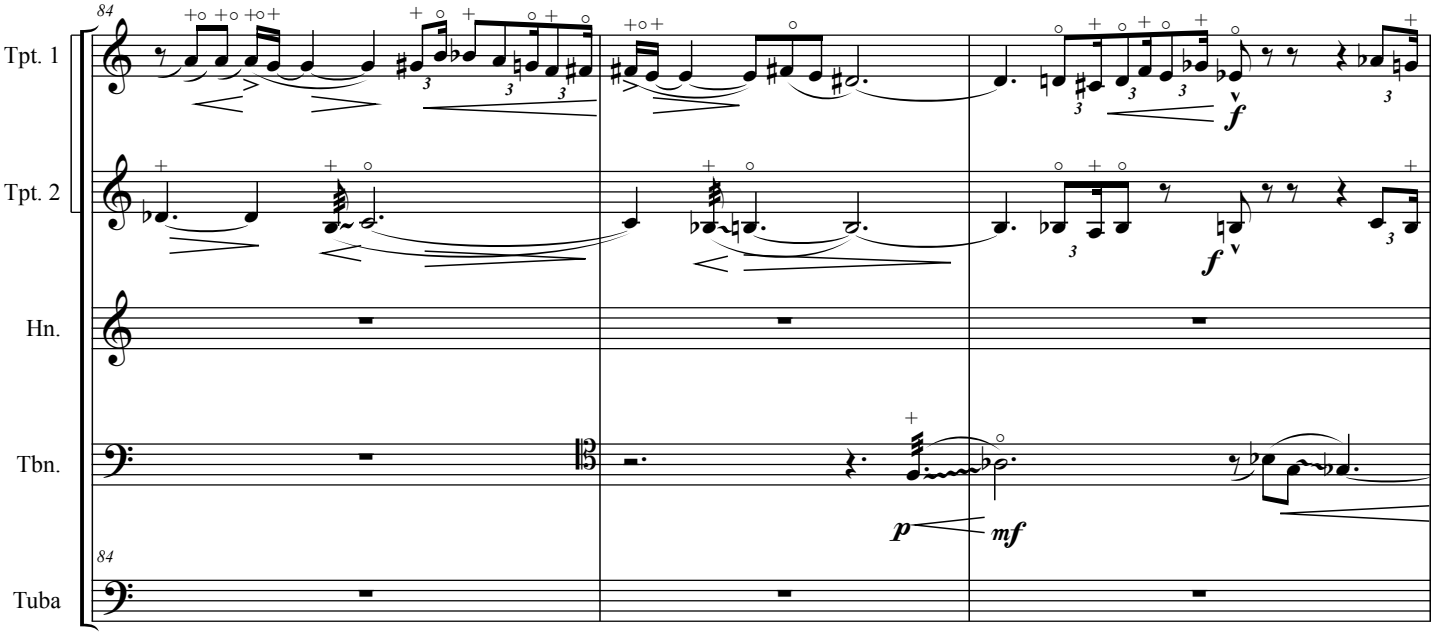

66
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
66
Tuba
sfp

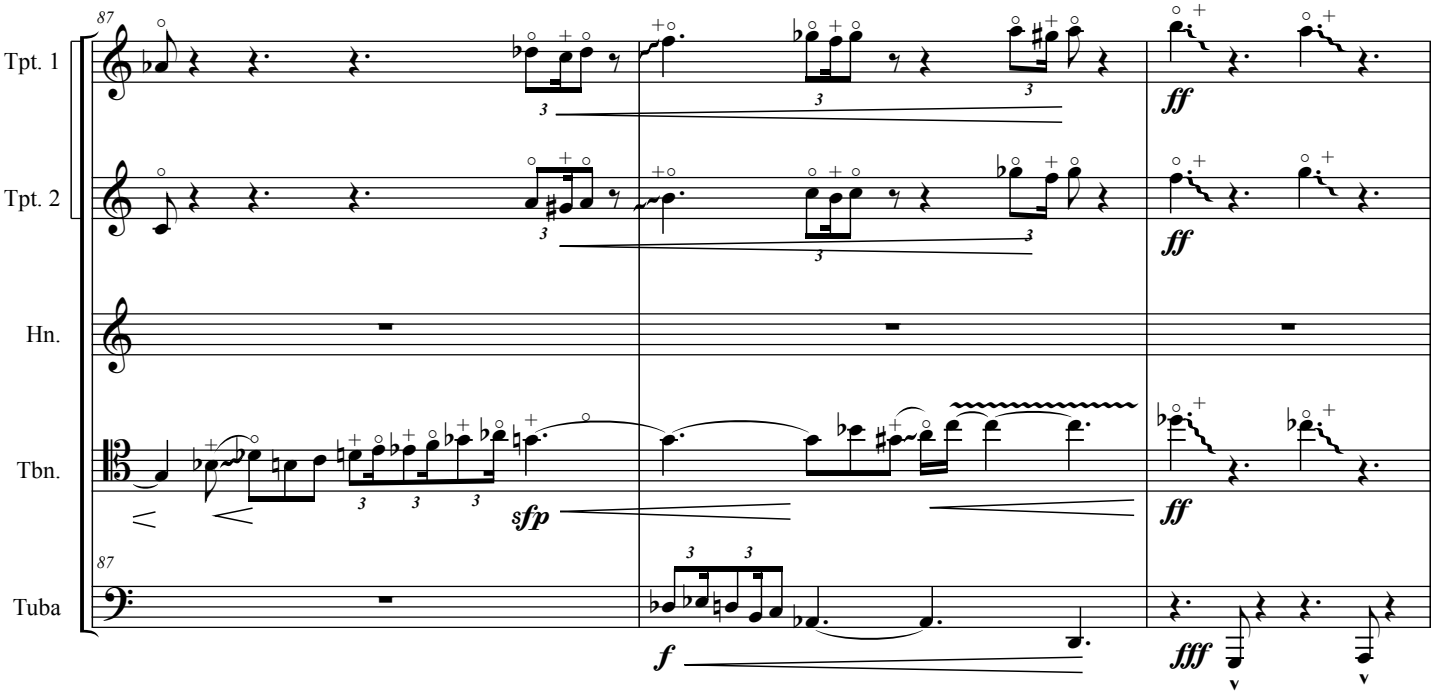

J
69
rit.
a tempo
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
fff
ff
sfp

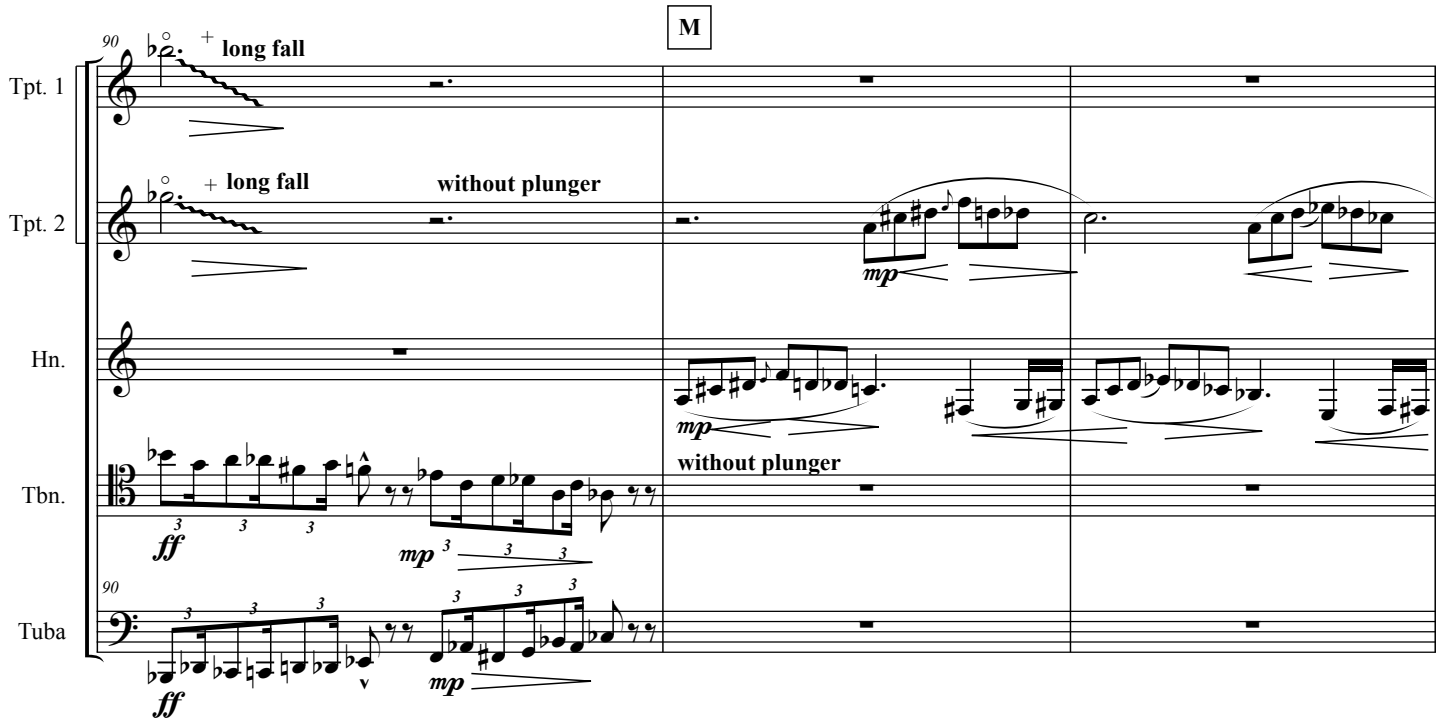

73
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
fff
mp
ff
plunger
Mute

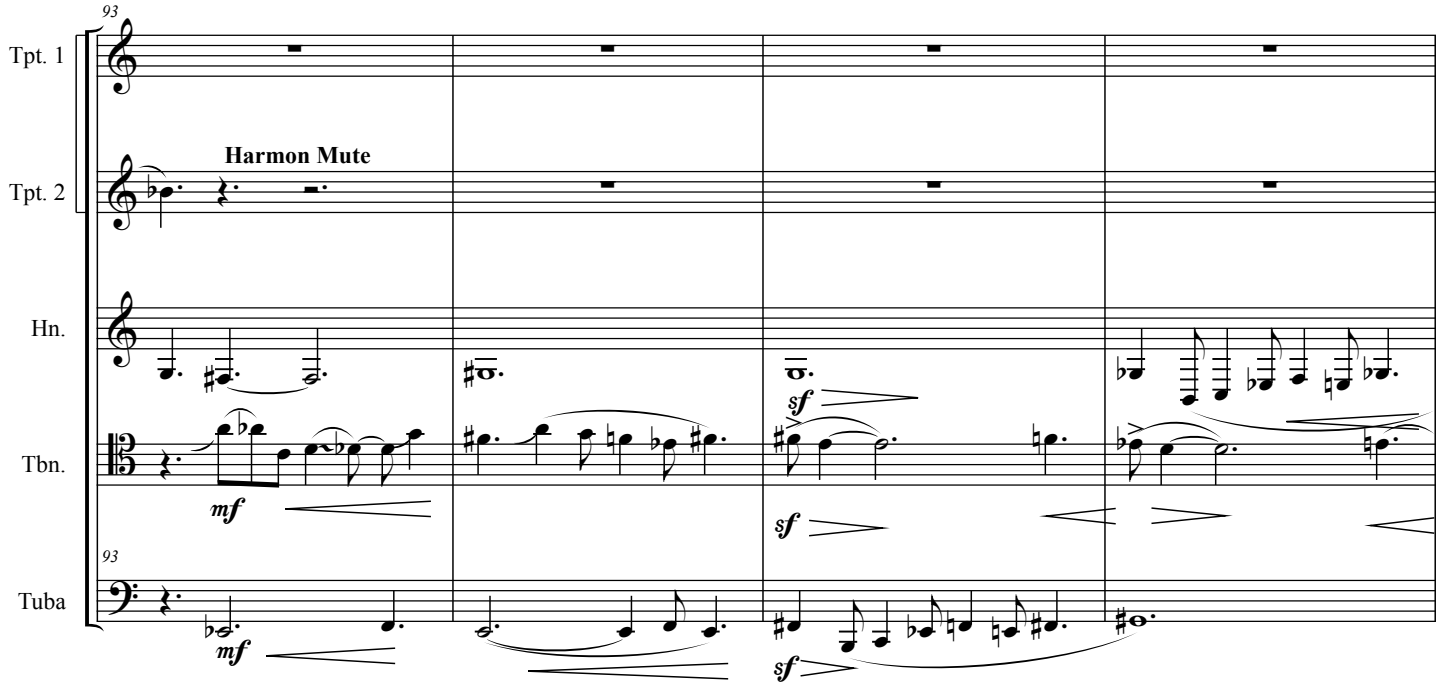

K
77
rit.
Moderato, bluesy
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
p
pp
p
77
p

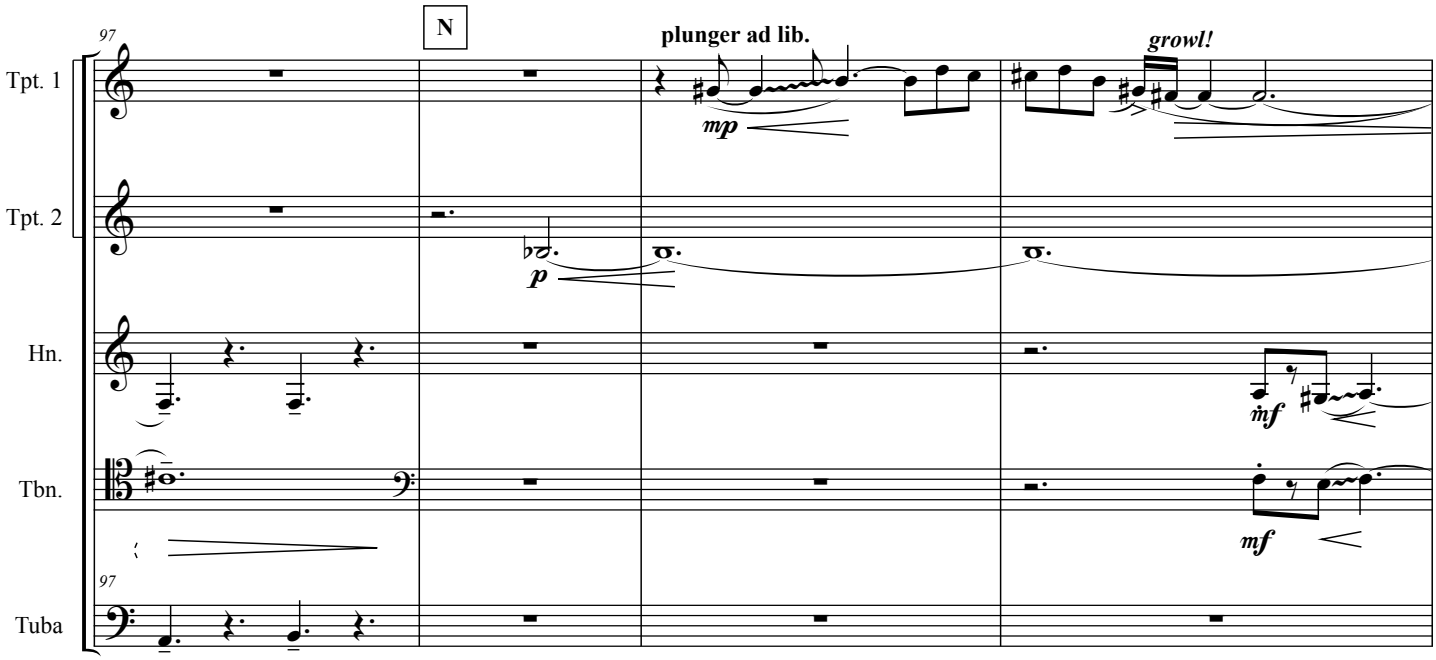

L
81
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
mf
growl!
mf
81
open

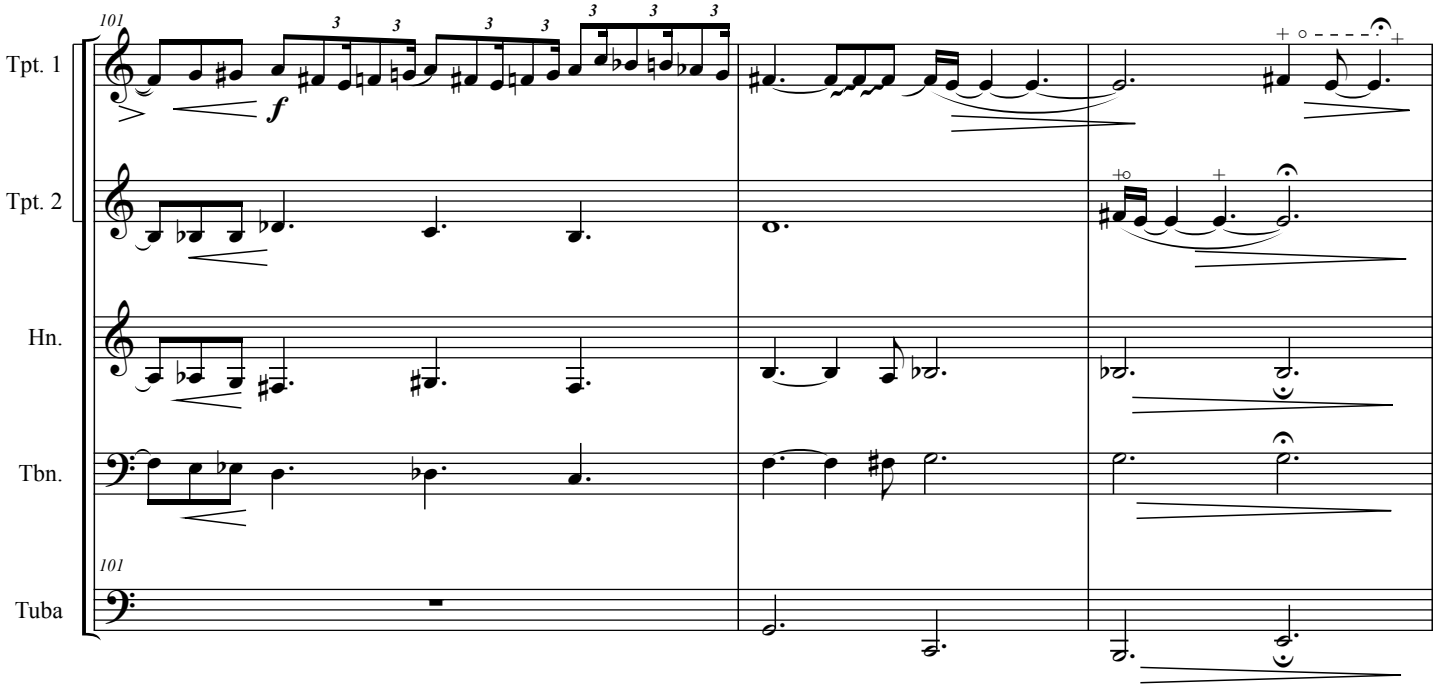

84
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
84
Tuba
f
f
p
mf

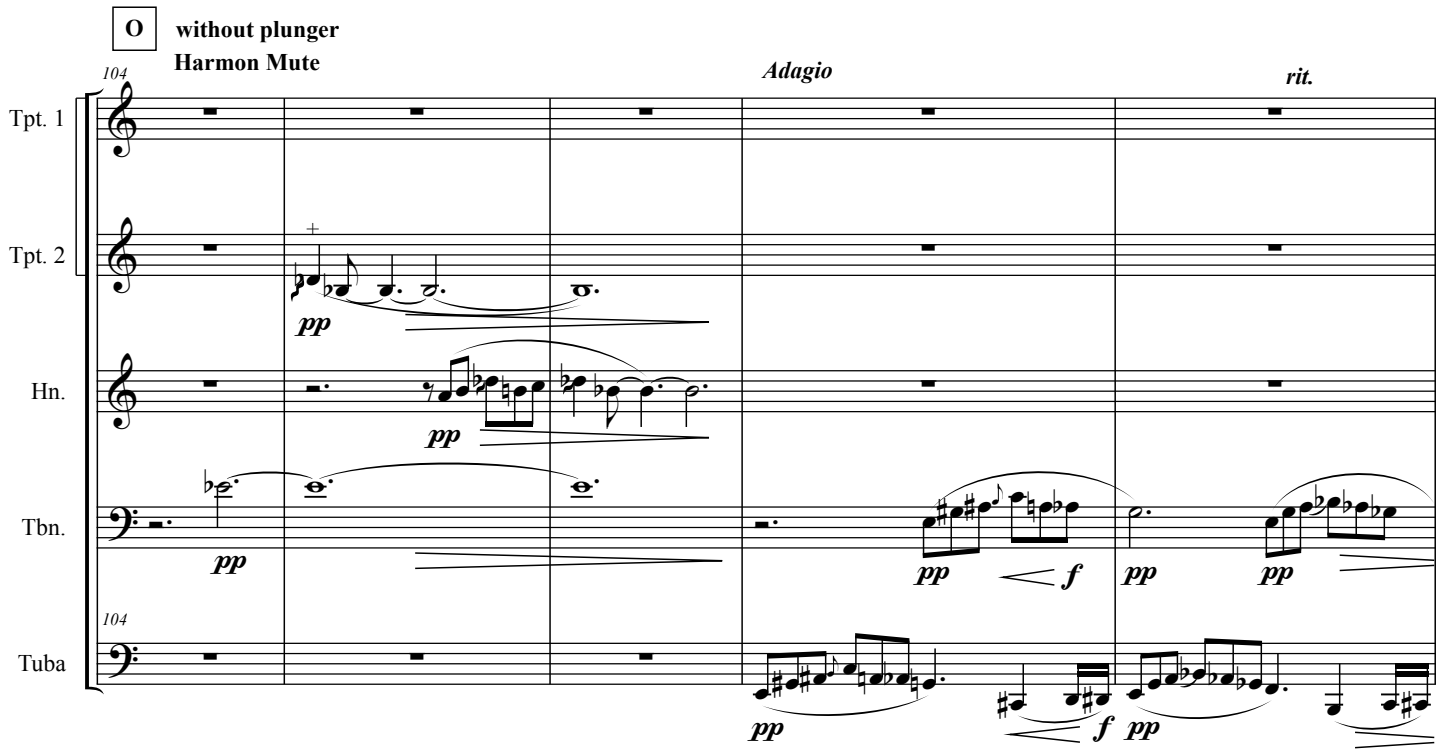

87
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
87
Tuba
ff
ff
sfp
ff
f
fff

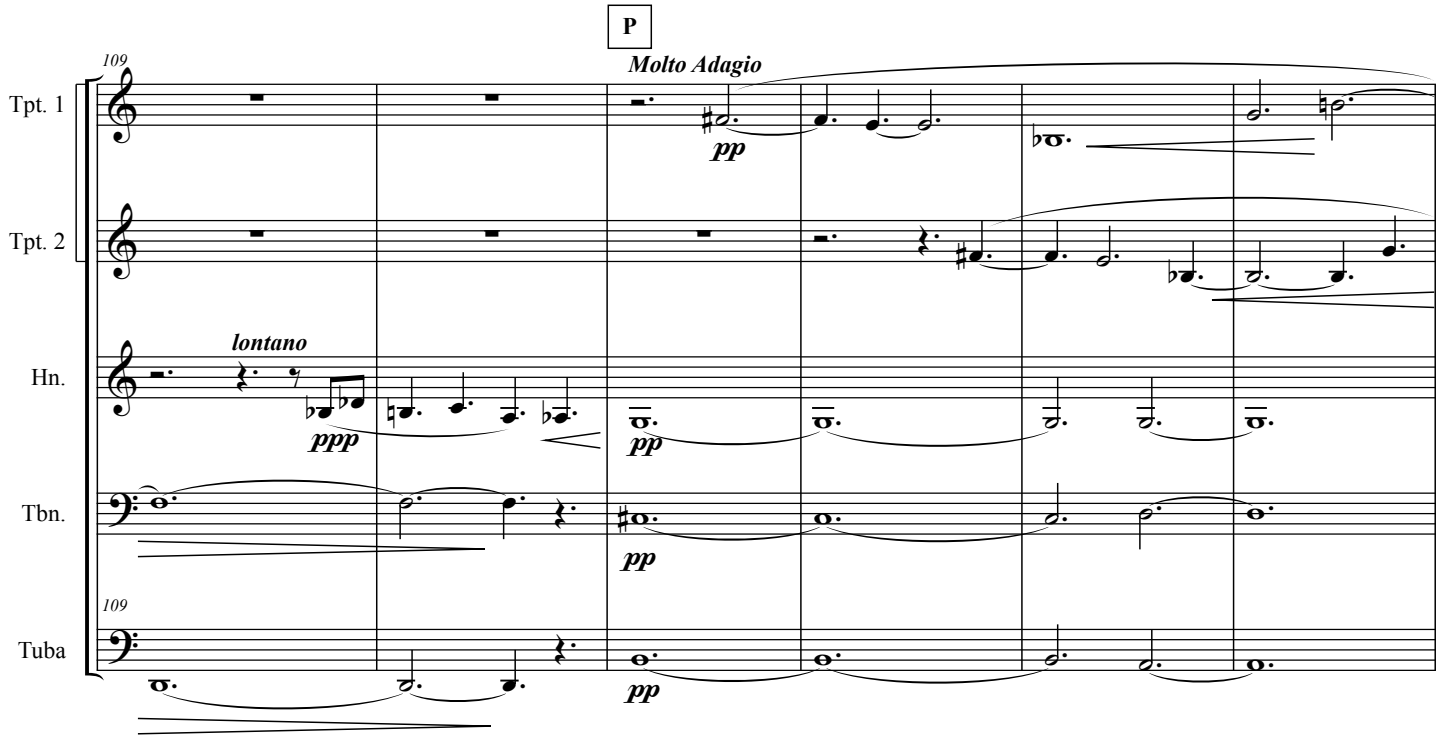

M
90
long fall
Tpt. 1
long fall
without plunger
Tpt. 2
Hn.
mp
Tbn.
without plunger
ff
mp
90
Tuba
ff
mp

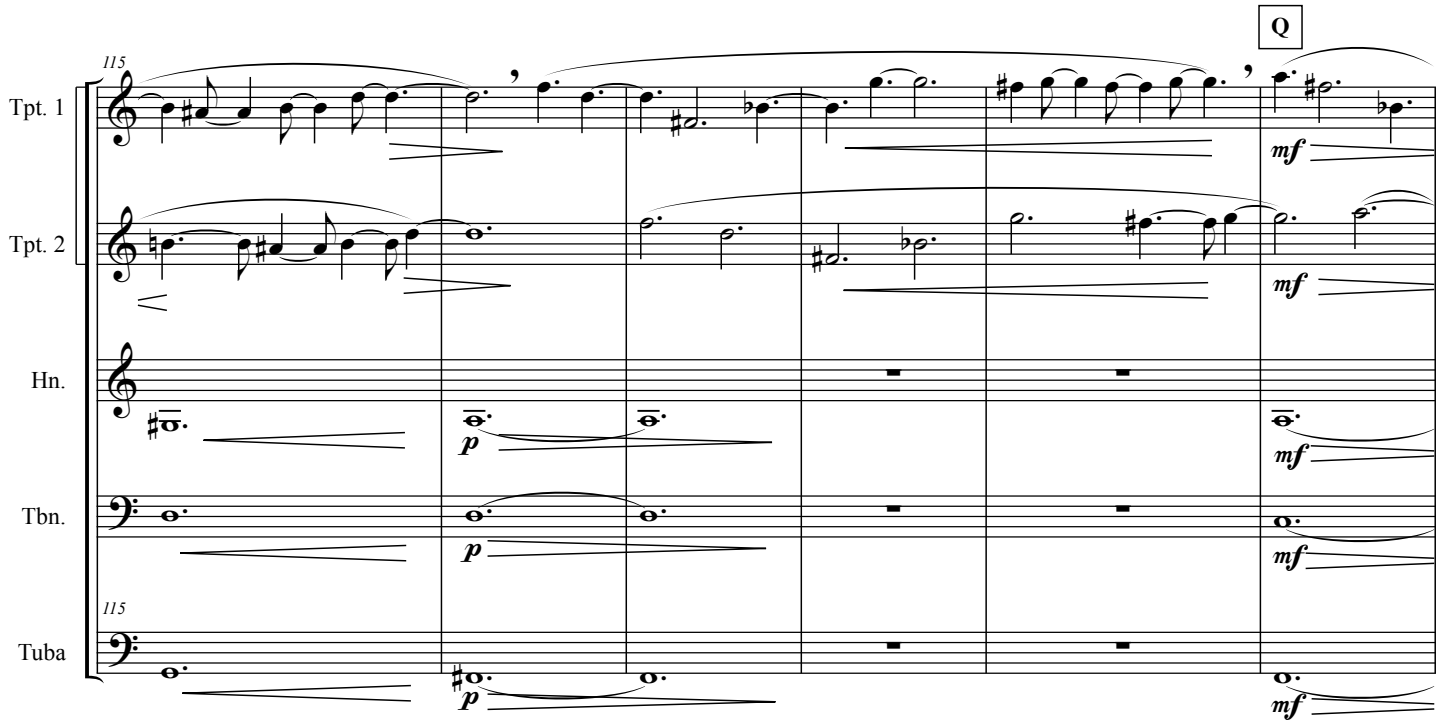

93
Tpt. 1
Harmon Mute
Tpt. 2
Hn.
sf
Tbn.
mf
sf
93
Tuba
mf
sf

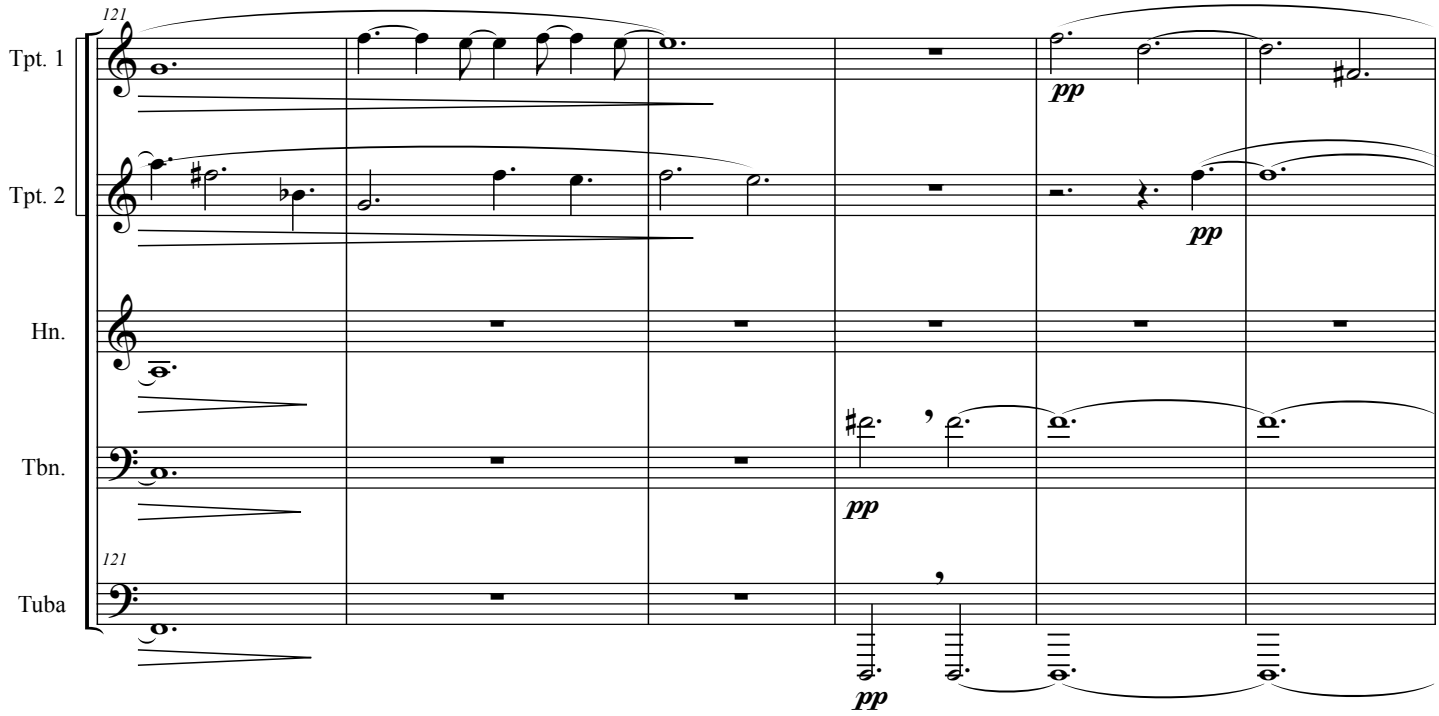

97
N
plunger ad lib.
growl!
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
mp
p
mf
mf

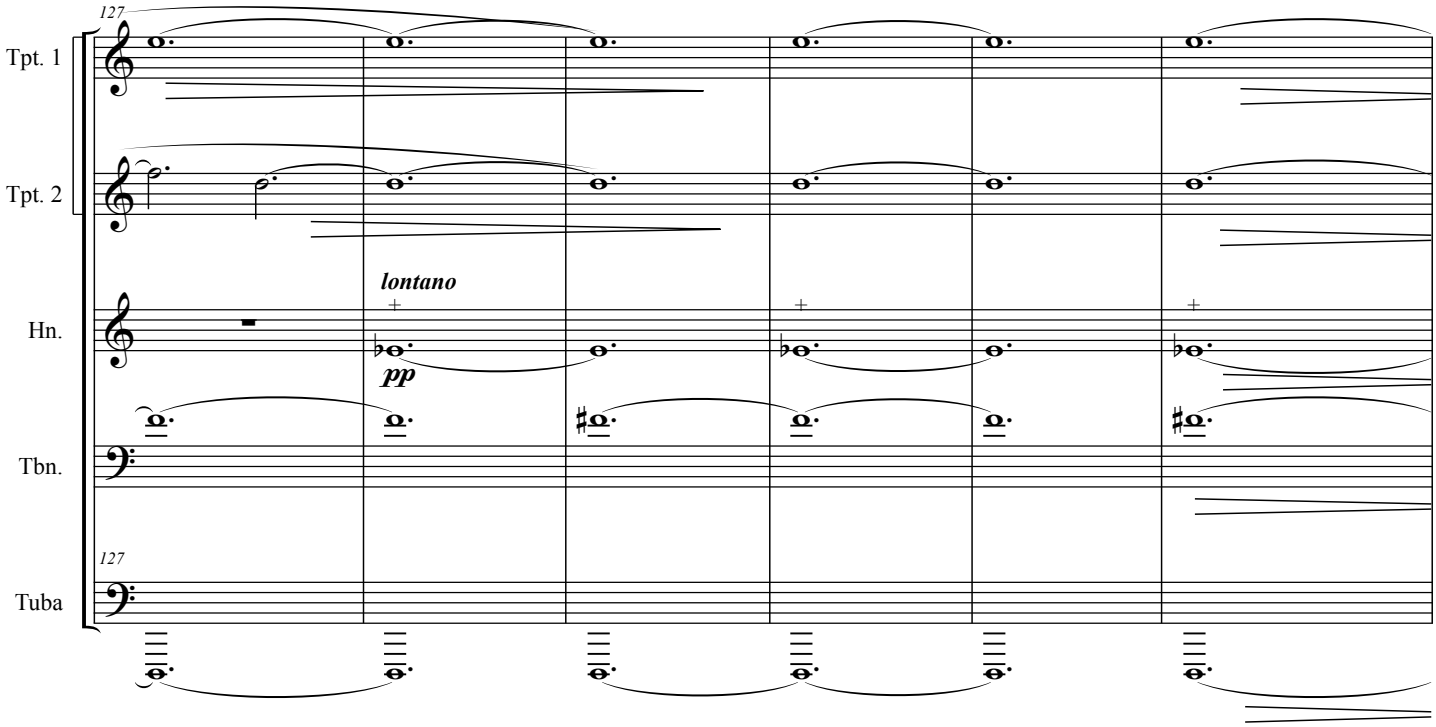

101
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
f

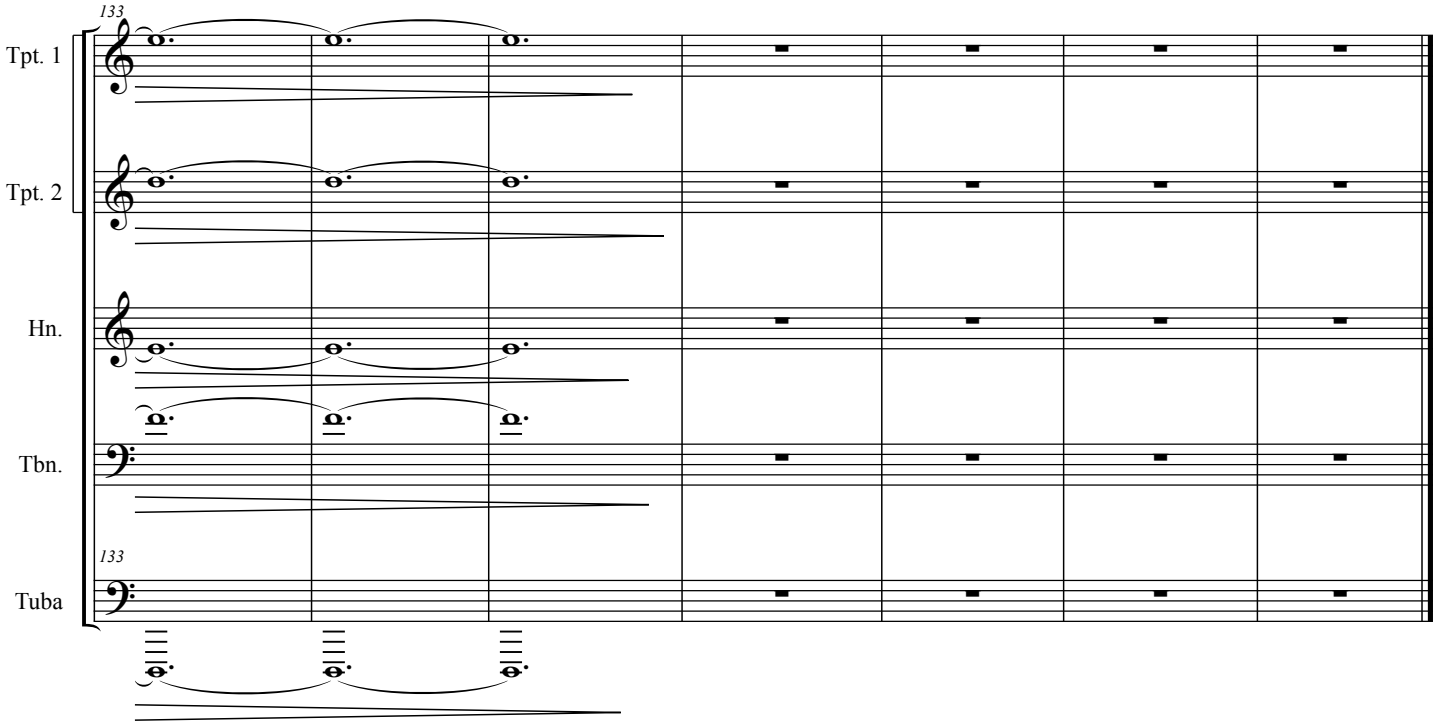

O
without plunger
Harmon Mute
104
Adagio
rit.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
pp
f


P
109
Molto Adagio
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
lontano
ppp
pp


Q
115
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
115
p
mf


121
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba
121
pp


127
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
lontano
Hn.
pp
Tbn.
127
Tuba


133
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Tbn.
133
Tuba