Nathan Thatcher

EBB AND FLOW

for
Flute, Viola, and Harp

2017

Full Score

PROGRAM NOTE

This piece is both inspired by the Huron river, which runs through Ann Arbor, Michigan, where the piece was written, and directly based on data of the river's discharge (total volume flowing through a cross-section of the river at a given moment) taken from one of the Ann Arbor measuring stations. The piece is made up of 26 sections of 21 beats each. Each section represents two weeks of the year. Within each section, the percentage of the 21 beats that is occupied (per instrument) with notes corresponds to the average discharge of the river during those two weeks of the year averaged over the last 100 years expressed as a percentage of the maximum average discharge.

Thus, unlike a lot of "data-driven" music, in this piece the data determines elements of the form and not the content of the piece. The basic material of the piece comes from two quotations. The first is a children's song I grew up with: "Give Said the Little Stream." For me, this quite clearly emphasizes the eternally giving nature of the river. Although its discharge ebbs and flows, the Huron continuously provides Ann Arbor along with many other cities and countless plants and animals with drinking water. The second quote is from a Renaissance motet by Orlande de Lassus, "Eram quasi agnus," the text of which paraphrases several biblical passages and relates them to the innocent suffering of Jesus Christ. The river as well undergoes this kind of "holy" suffering. Although we abuse it and its health suffers it continues to give itself away.

PERFORMANCE NOTE

The piece meant to be cyclical, that is, there isn't a "first" section and a "last" section. There is, of course, a measure 1 (which represents the two weeks following January 1st) but a performance could theoretically start anywhere and end back at the same point, looping back from section 26 to section 1 and following all other sections in chronological order. The cycle can be repeated as many times as desired. Additionally, each individual section can also be repeated as many times as desired as long as every section is repeated the same number of times. If no repeats are taken and the "year" is only played through one time the piece should only last approximately 4 minutes.

Give Said the Little Stream

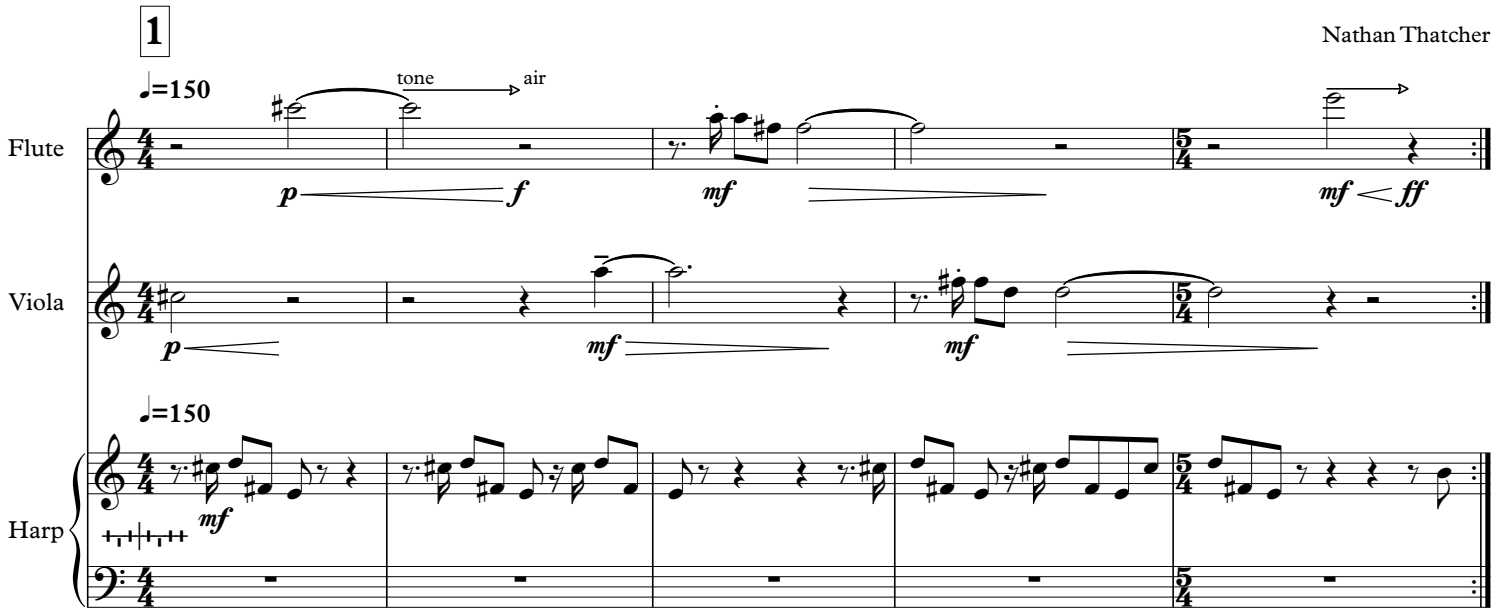
"Give," said the little stream.
Give, oh give.
"Give," said the little stream
As it hurried down the hill.
"I'm small, I know, but wherever I go
The grass grown greener still."
Singing, singing all the day,
"Give away, oh give away."

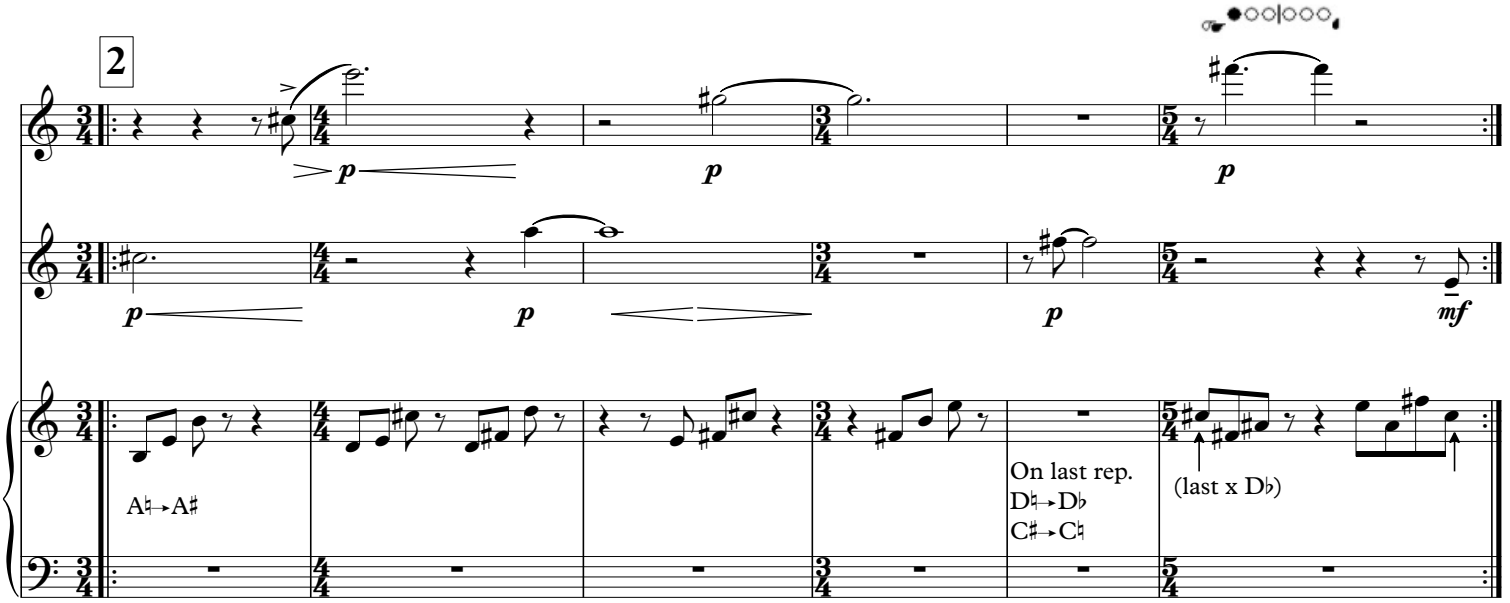
Words: Fanny J. Crosby
Music: William B. Bradbury

Eram Quasi Agnus Innocens

Behold, I was like an innocent lamb;
I was led to the slaughter, and I knew it not.
My enemies have conspired together against me, saying:
Come, let us put poison into his bread,
And let us cut him off out of the land of the living.

Working Title: EBB AND FLOW





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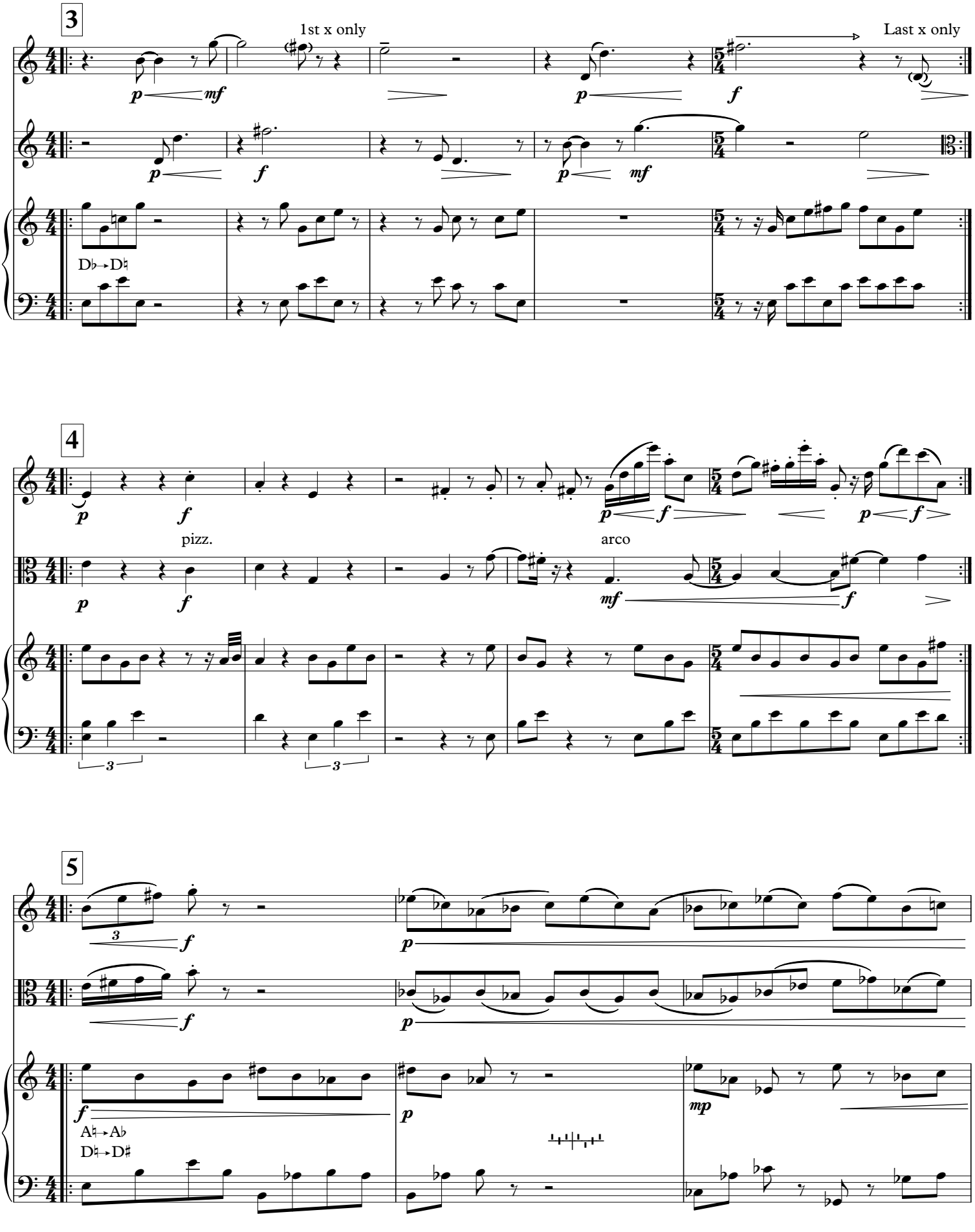
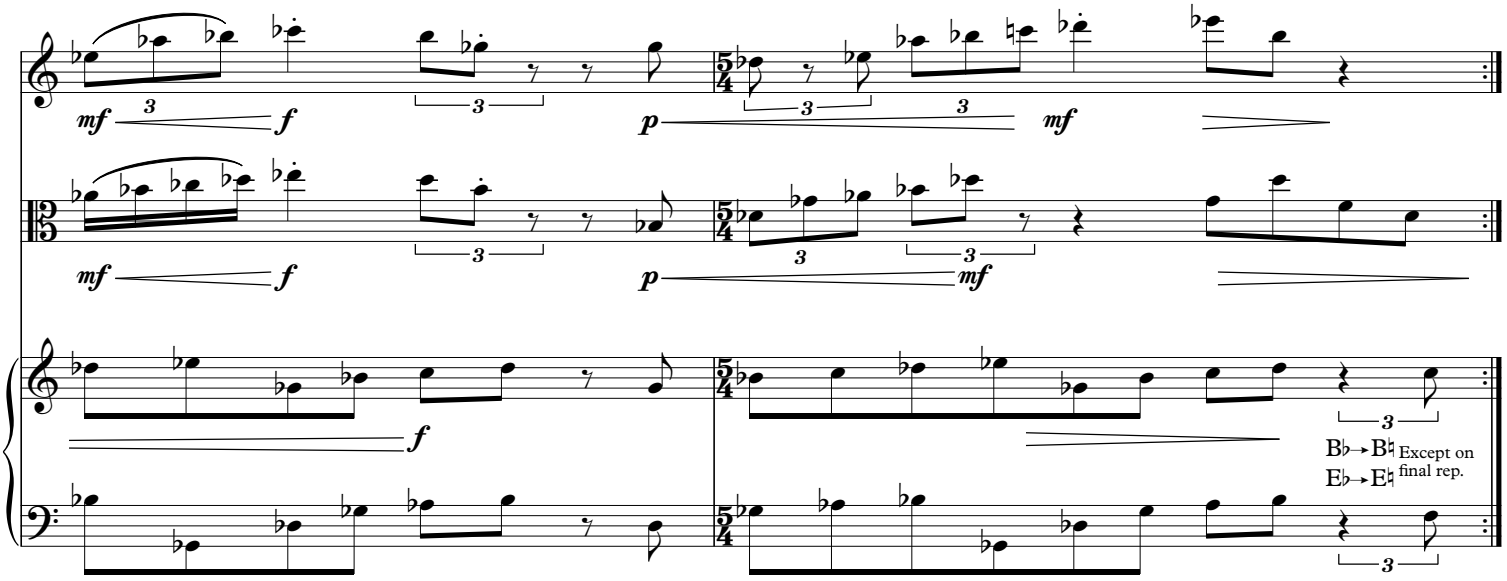
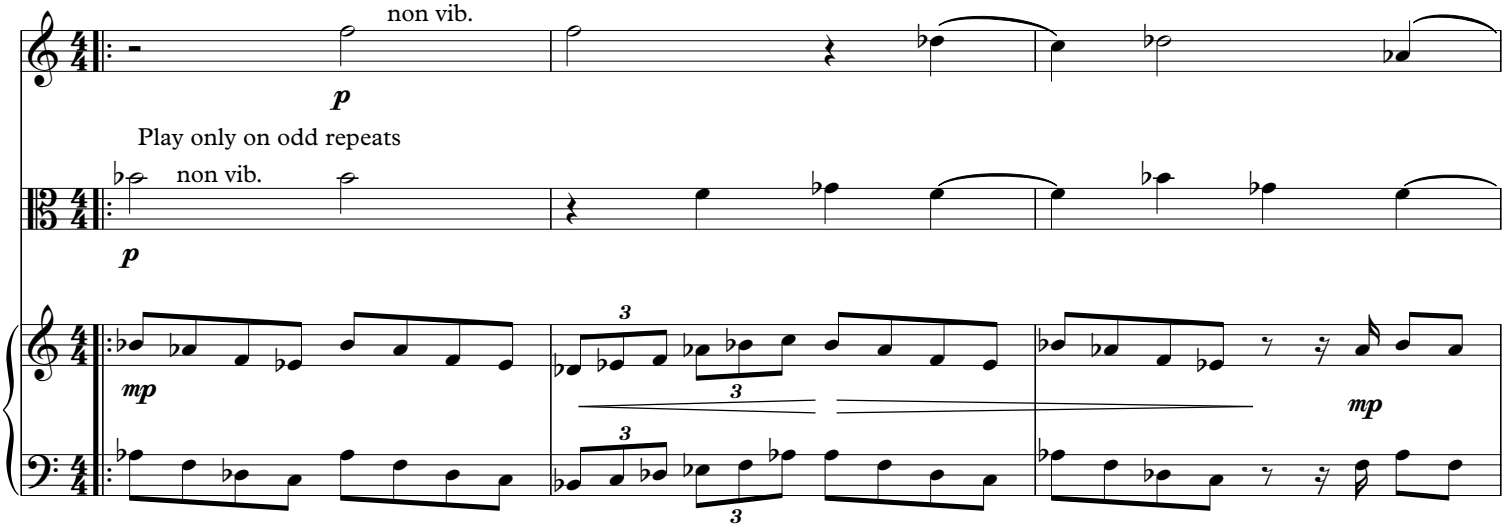
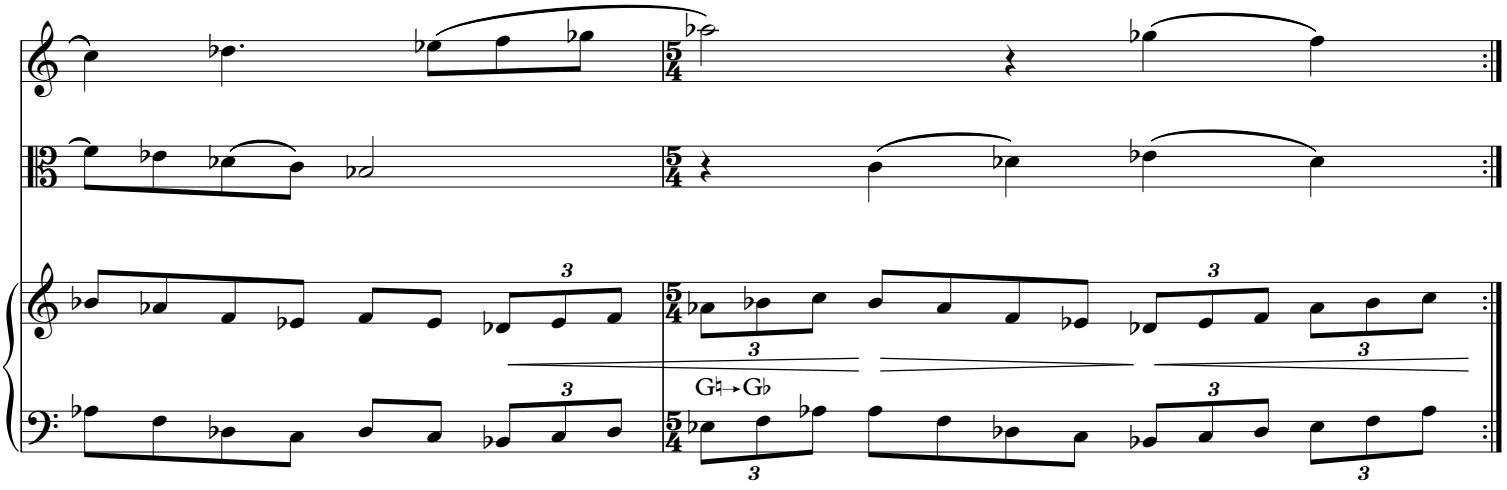
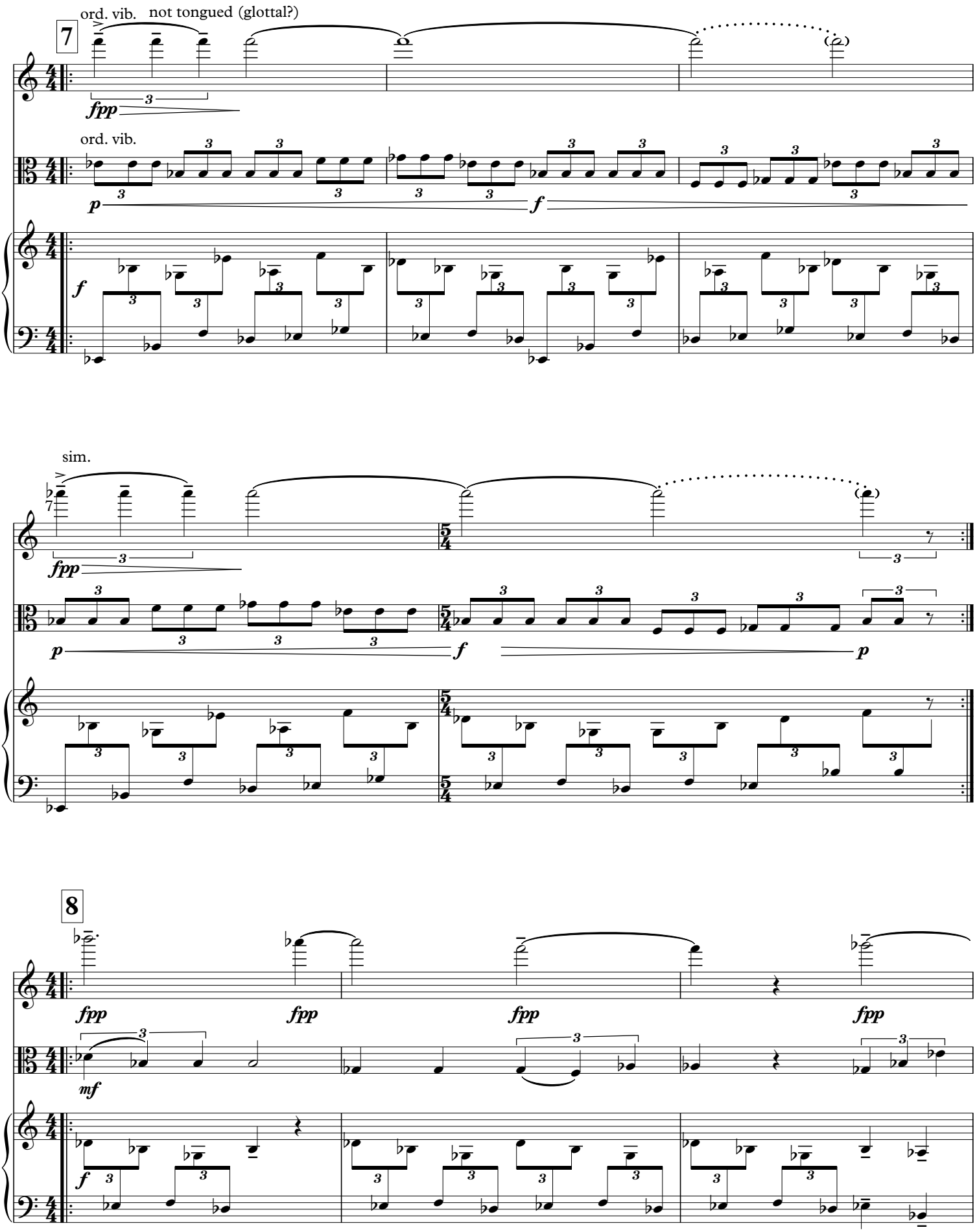

3
1st x only
Last x only
p
mf
f
D♭→D♮
4
pizz.
arco
3
5
A♮→A♭
D♮→D♯
mp

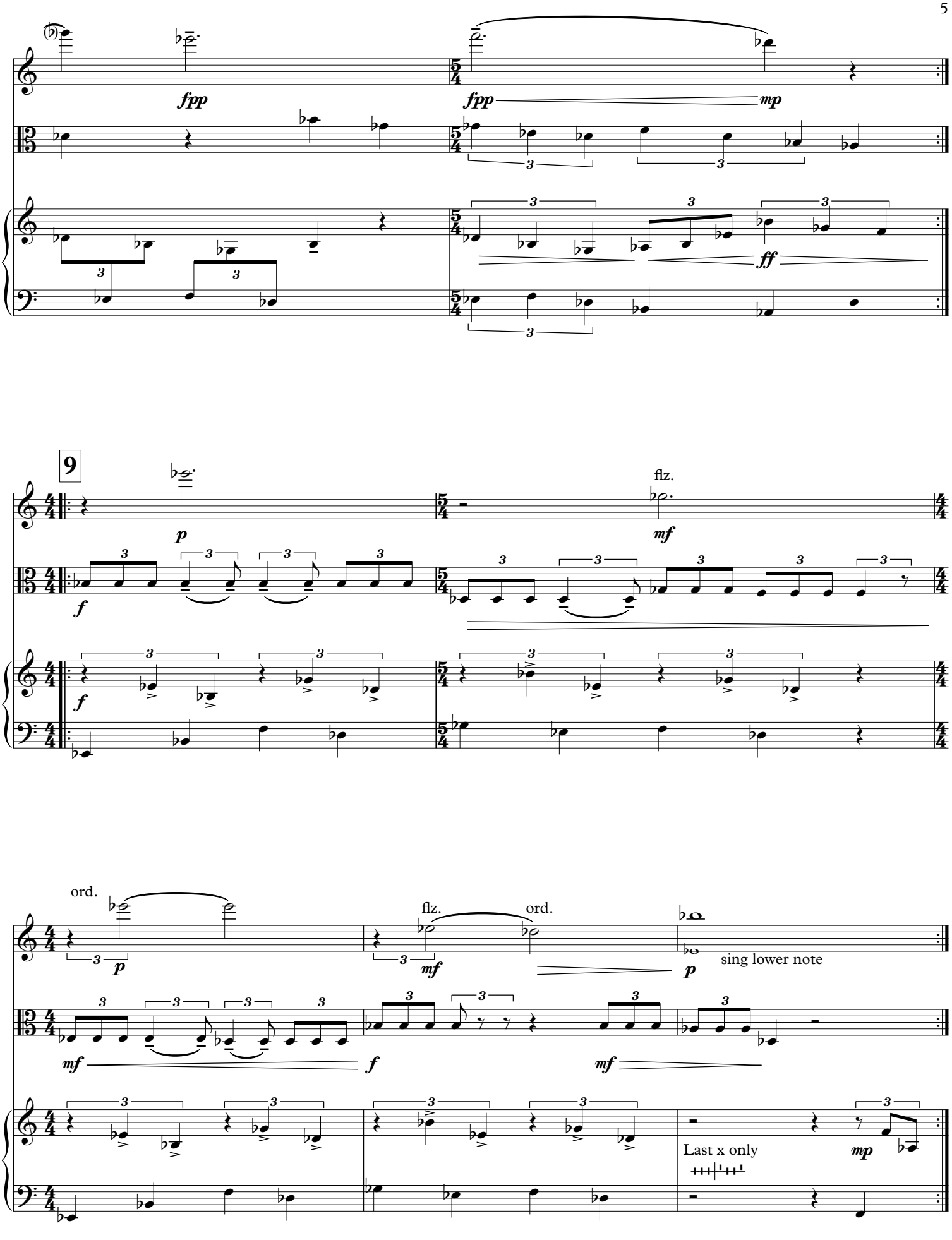


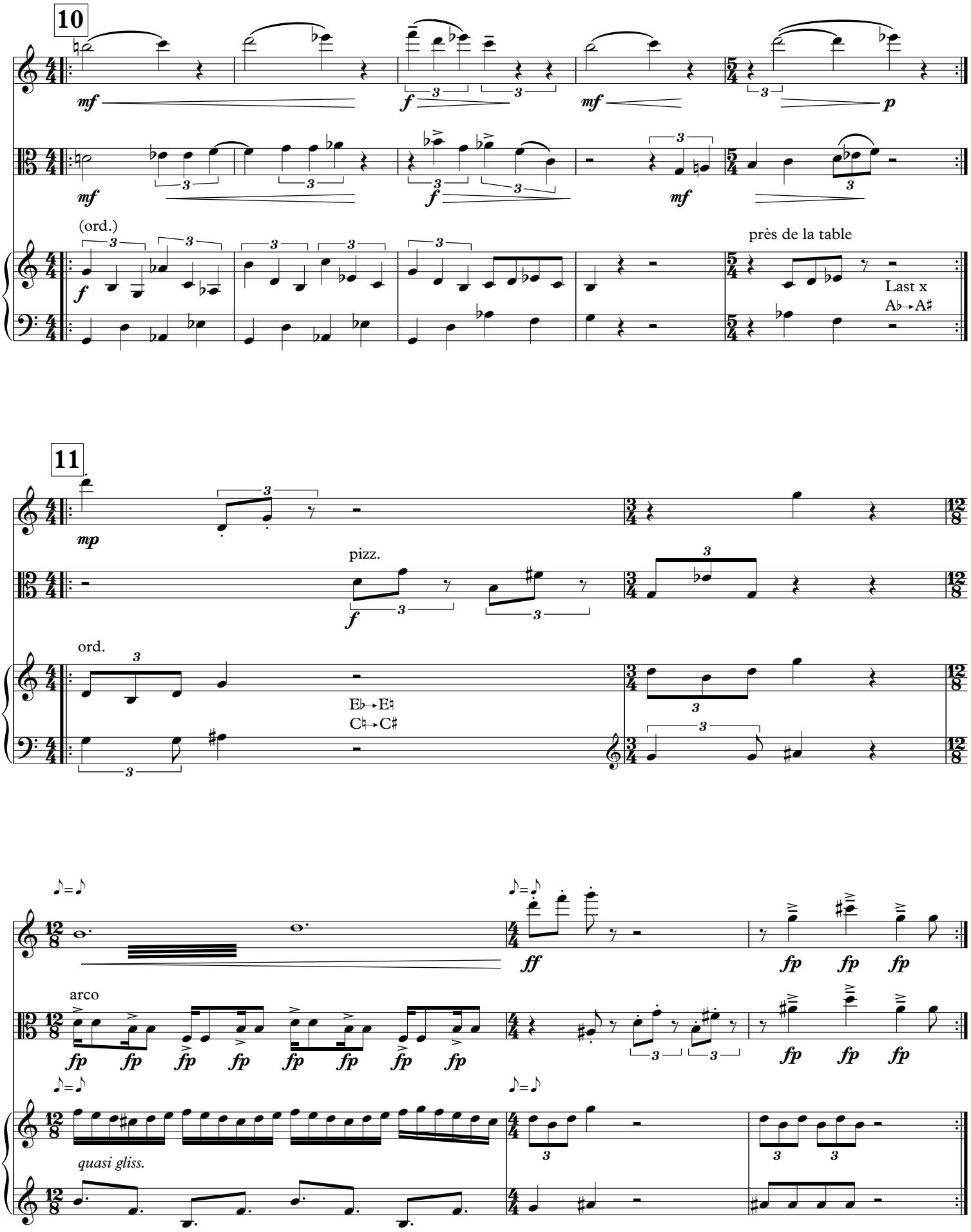
6 SPRING
Play only on odd repeats

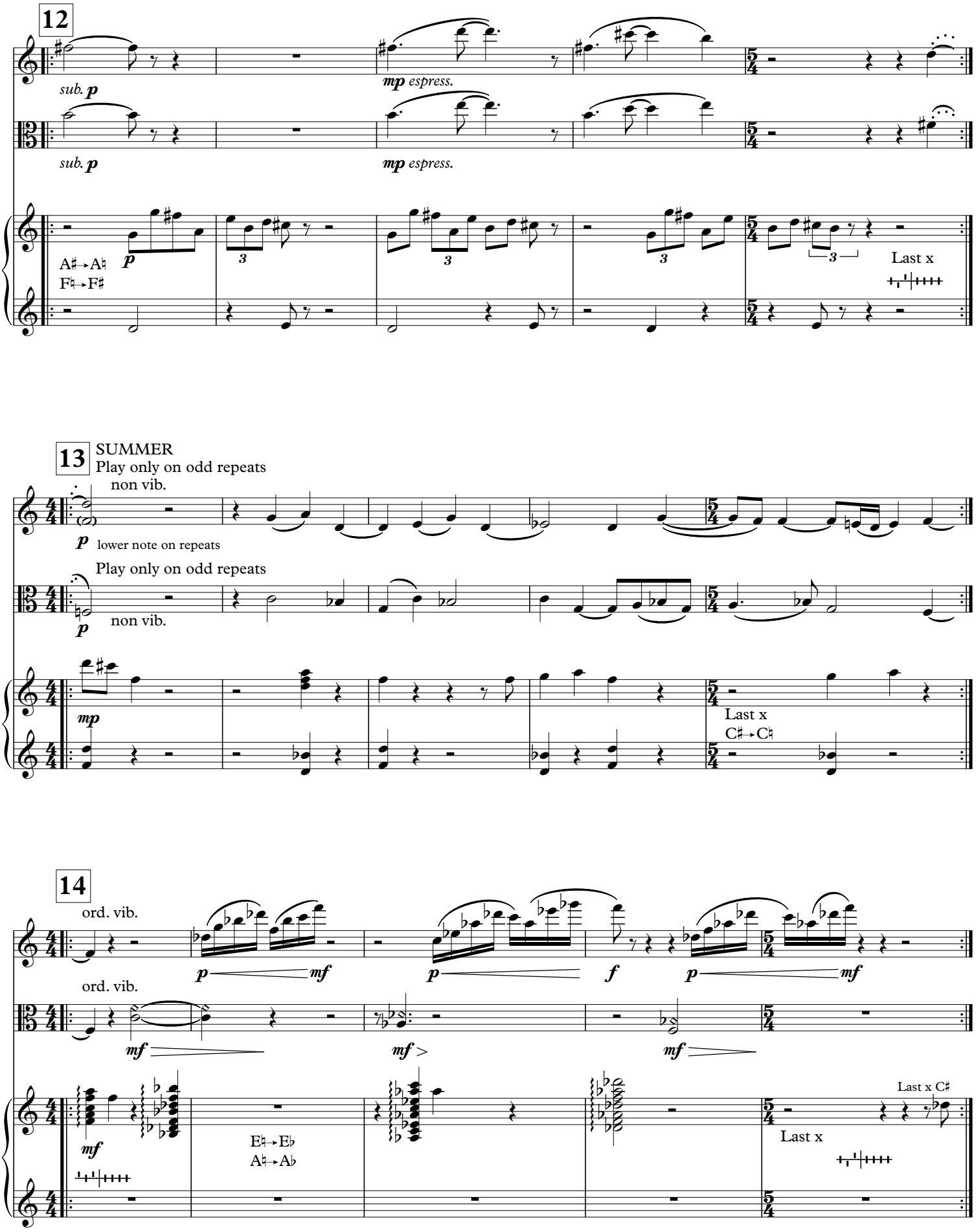


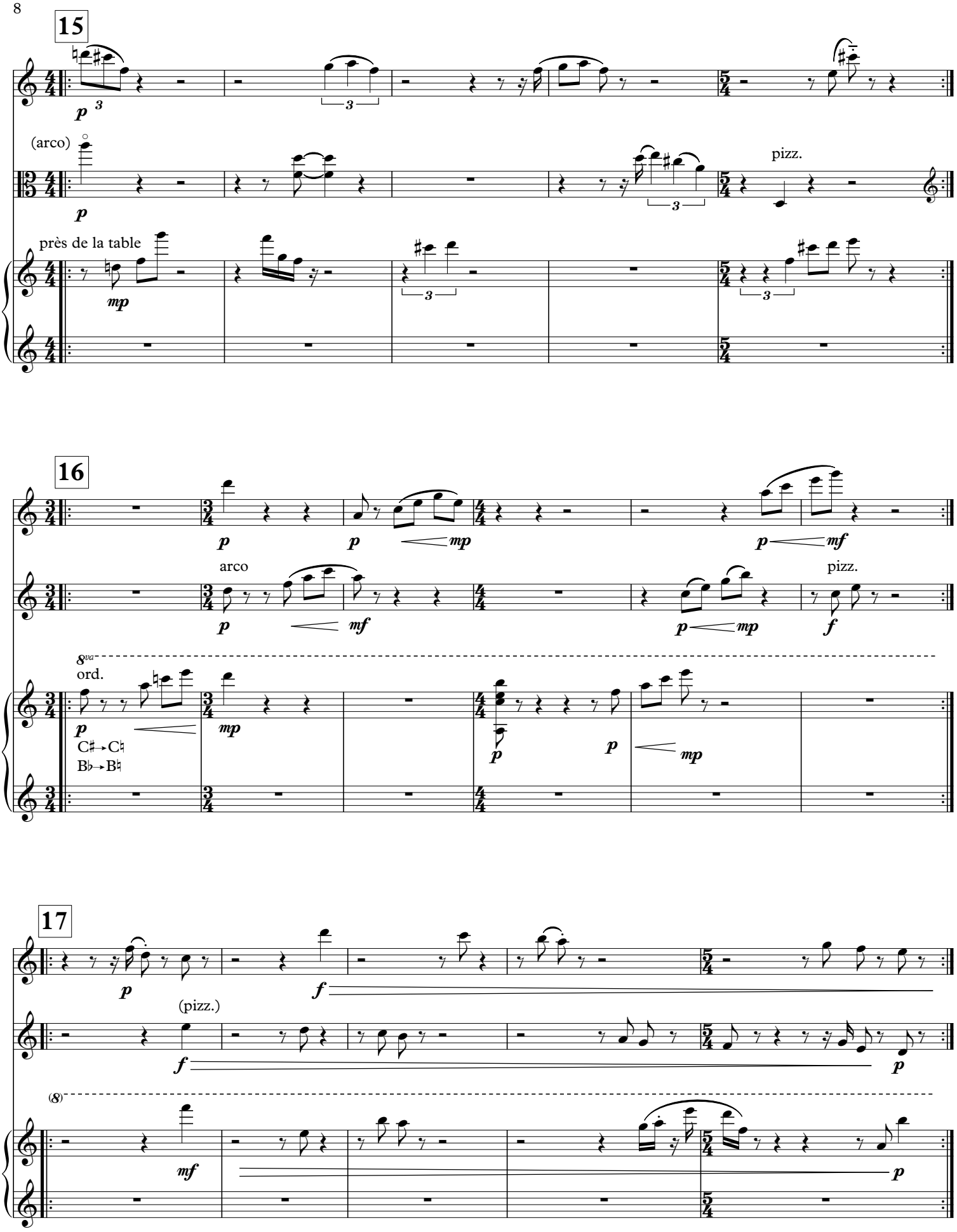


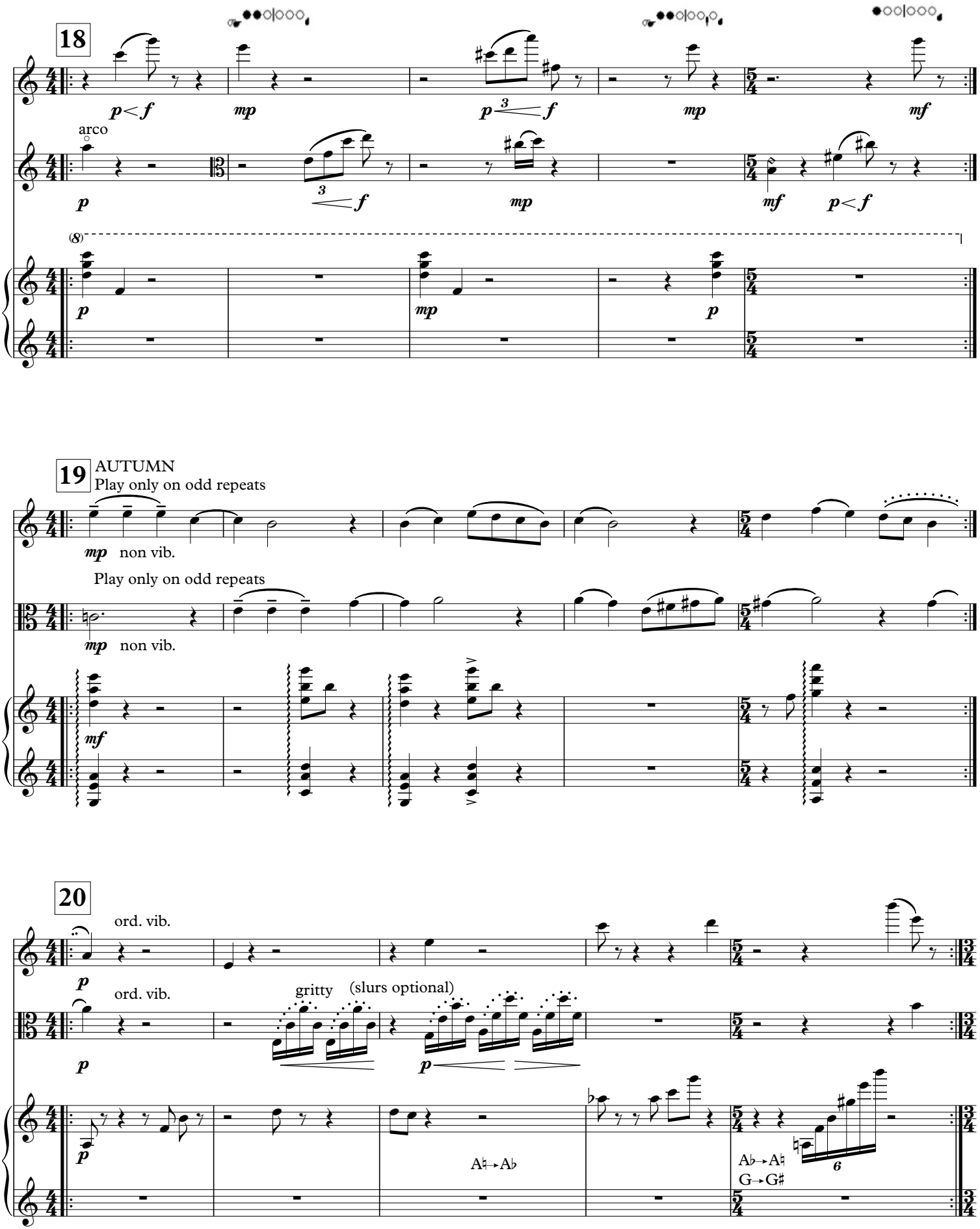

ord. vib.
not tongued (glottal?)
7
fpp
ord. vib.
p
f
f
sim.
7
fpp
p
f
p
8
fpp
fpp
fpp
fpp
mf
f

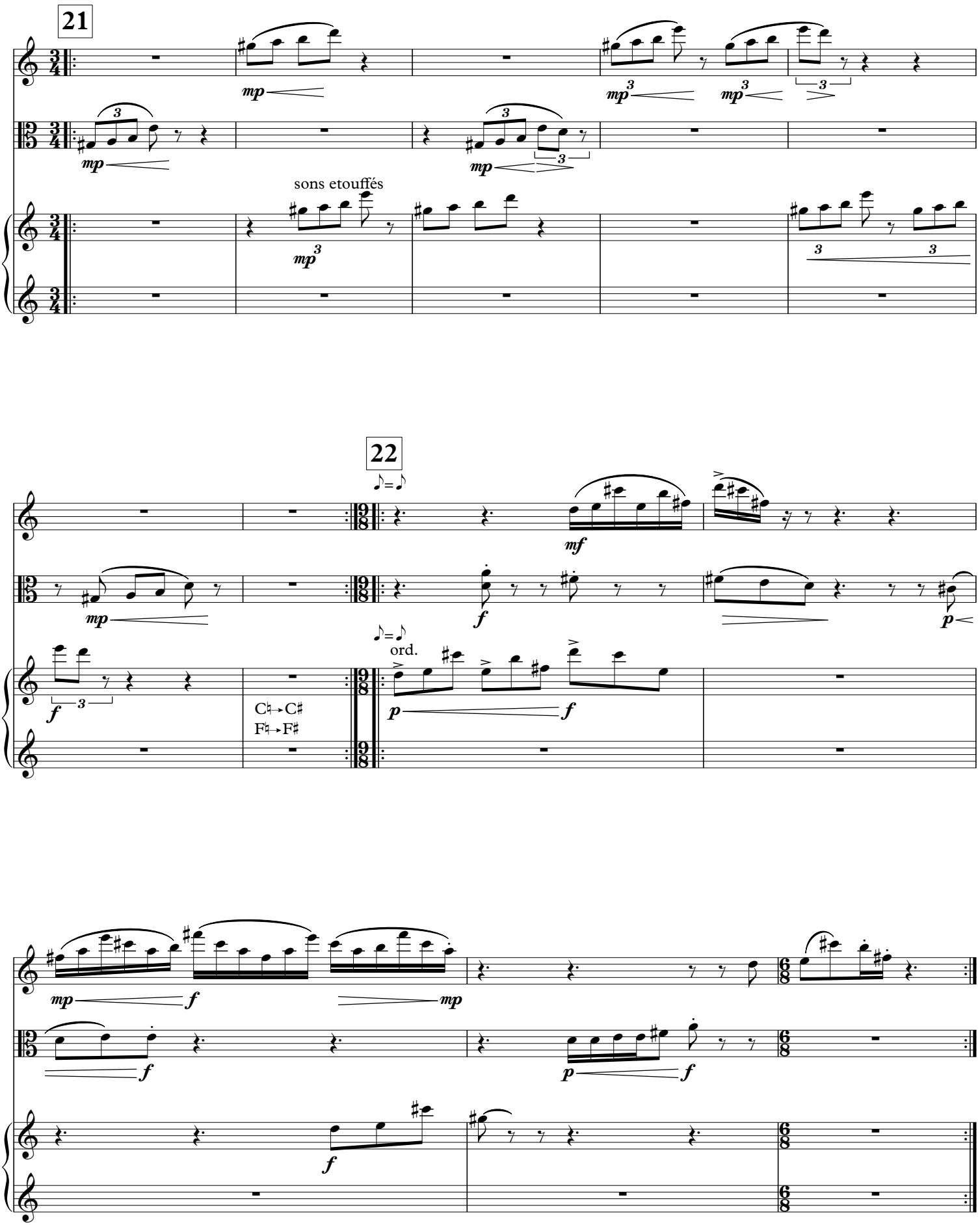

fpp
fpp
mp
ff
9
p
flz.
mf
f
f
ord.
p
flz.
mf
ord.
p
sing lower note
mf
f
mf
Last x only
mp

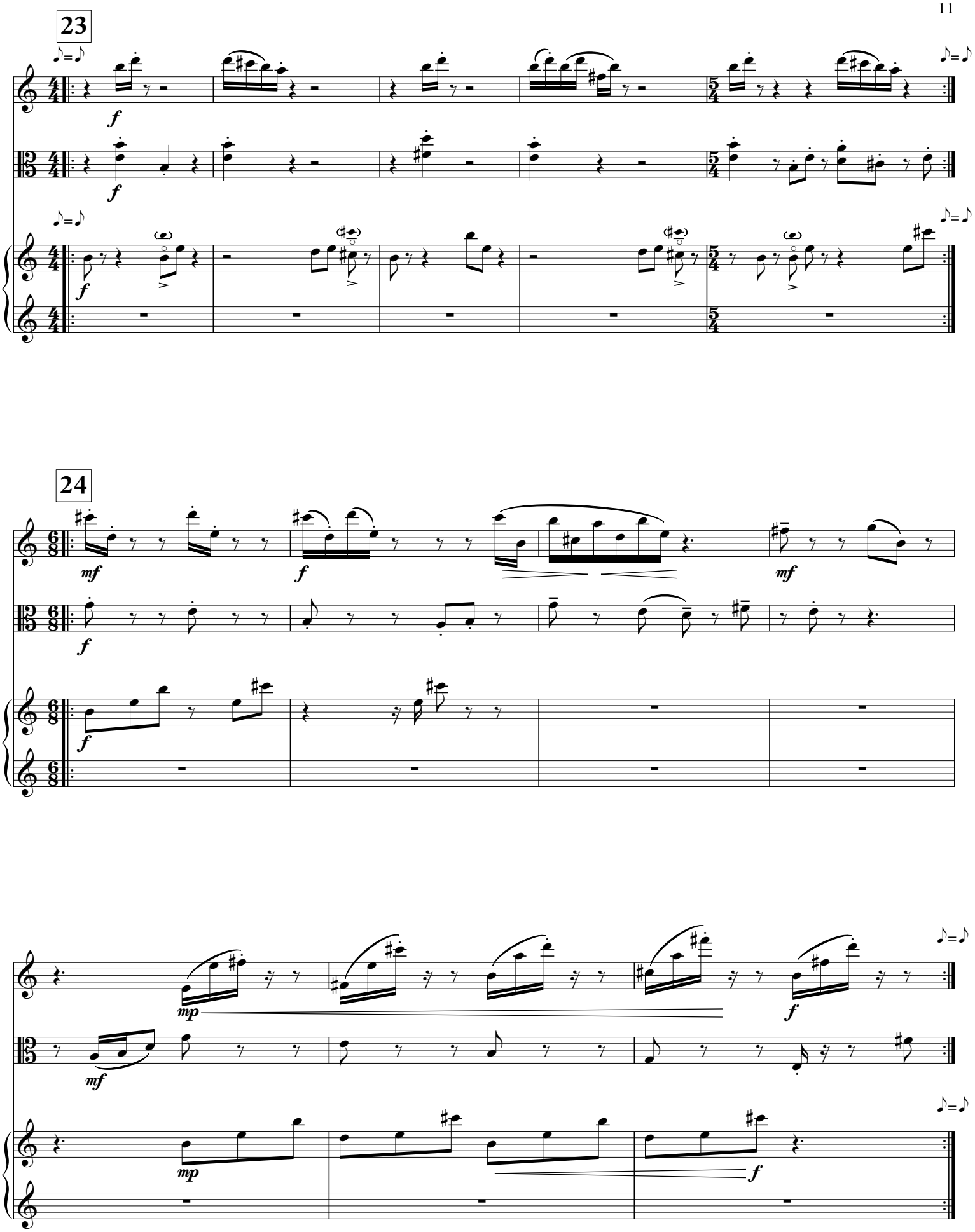

10
mf
f
mf
p
(ord.)
près de la table
Last x
A♭→A♯
11
mp
pizz.
f
ord.
E♭→E♮
C♮→C♯
♪=♪
ff
fp
arco
quasi gliss.

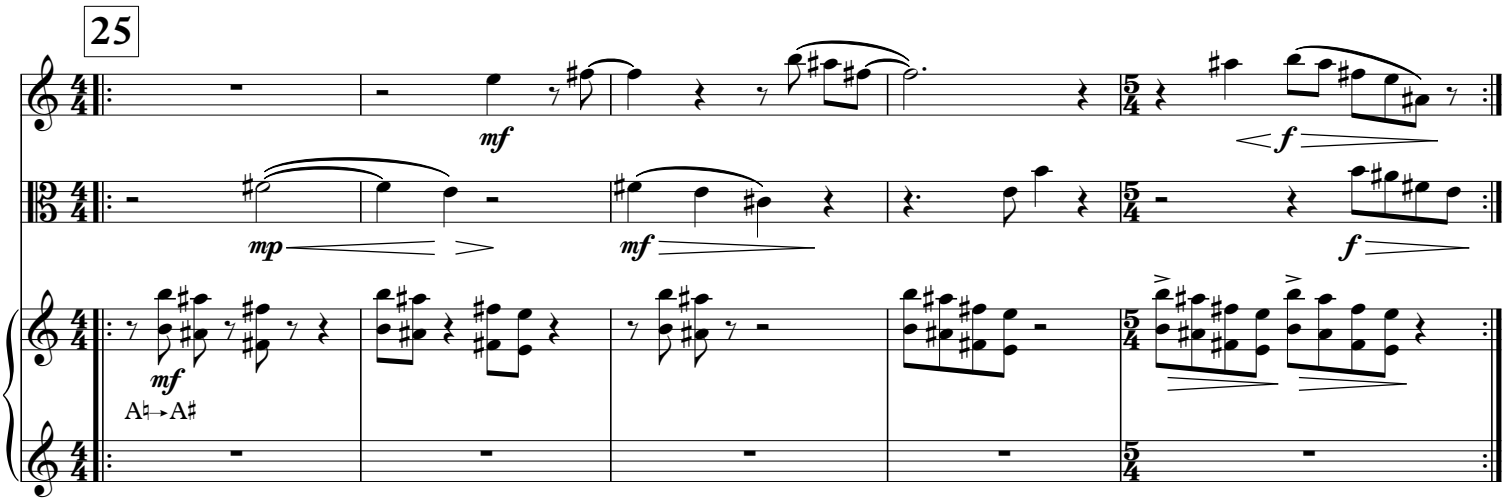

12
sub. p
mp espress.
sub. p
mp espress.
A♯→A♮
F♮→F♯
p
3
3
3
3
Last x
13
SUMMER
Play only on odd repeats
non vib.
p
lower note on repeats
Play only on odd repeats
p
non vib.
mp
Last x
C♯→C♮
14
ord. vib.
p
mf
p
f
p
mf
ord. vib.
mf
mf >
mf
mf
E♮→E♭
A♮→A♭
Last x C♯
Last x

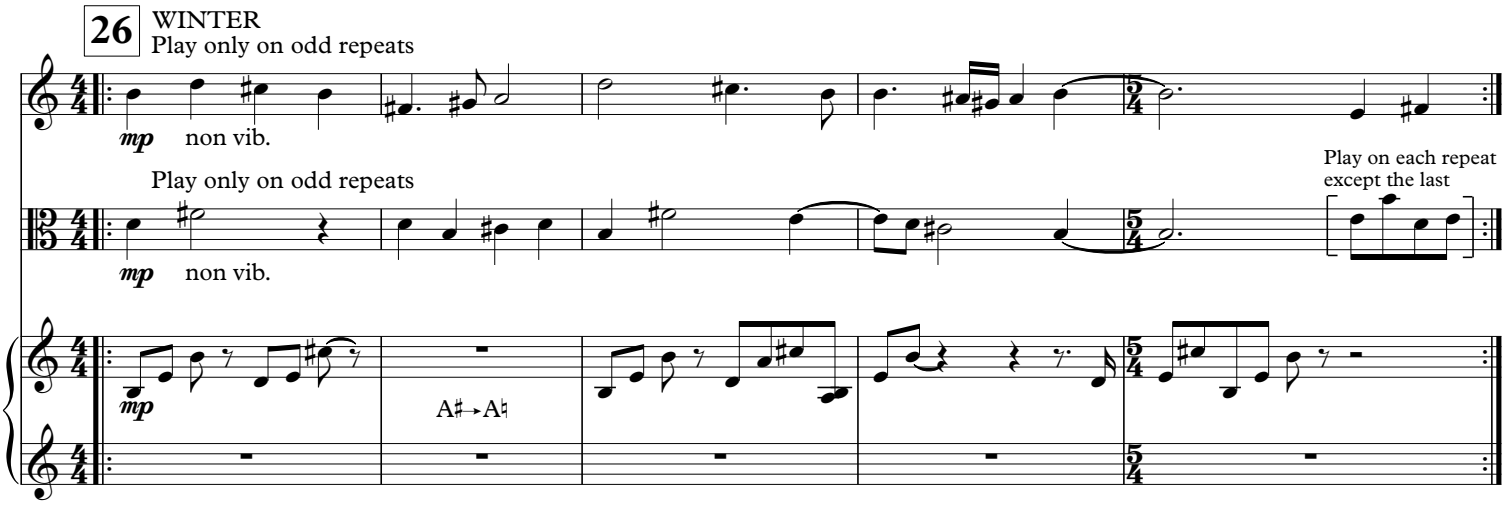

15
(arco)
pizz.
près de la table
16
arco
pizz.
ord.
C♯→C♮
B♭→B♮
17
(pizz.)


18
arco
19
AUTUMN
Play only on odd repeats
non vib.
20
ord. vib.
gritty
(slurs optional)


21
sons etouffés
22
ord.
C♮→C♯
F♮→F♯


23
24


25
mf
mp
mf
f
f
mf
A♮→A♯


26
WINTER
Play only on odd repeats
mp
non vib.
Play only on odd repeats
Play on each repeat
except the last
mp
non vib.
mp
A♯→A♮

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2017

Flute

Flute

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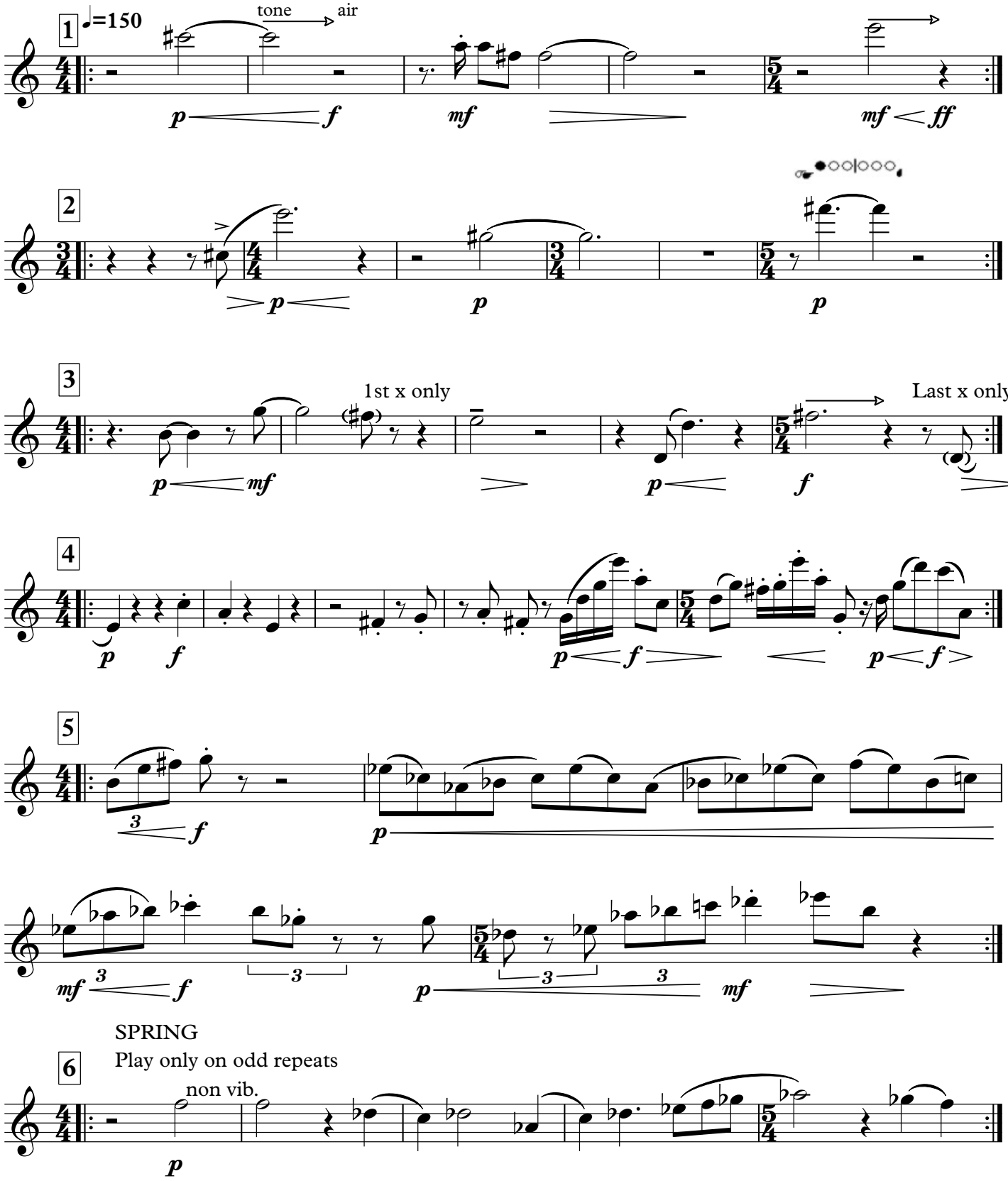

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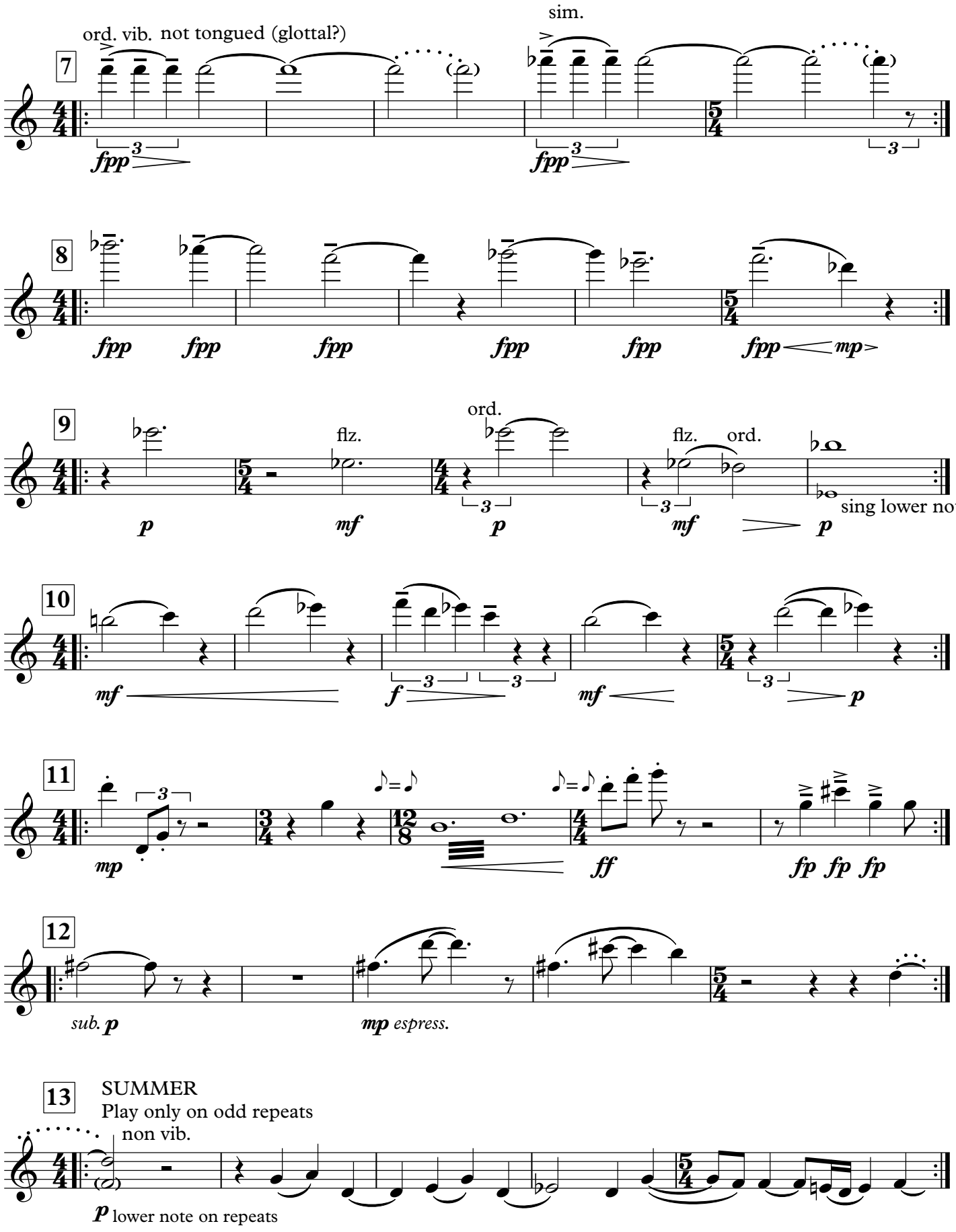
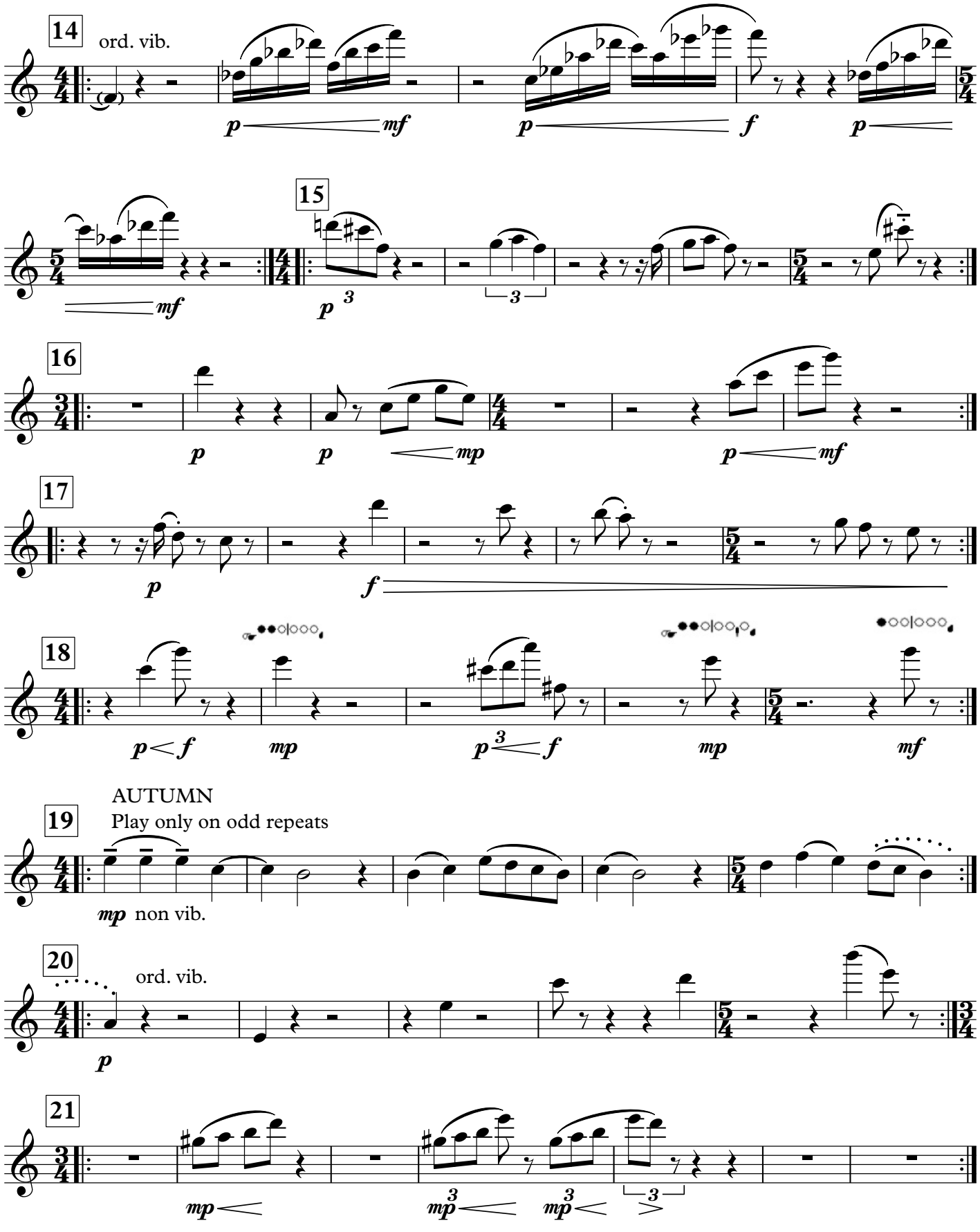
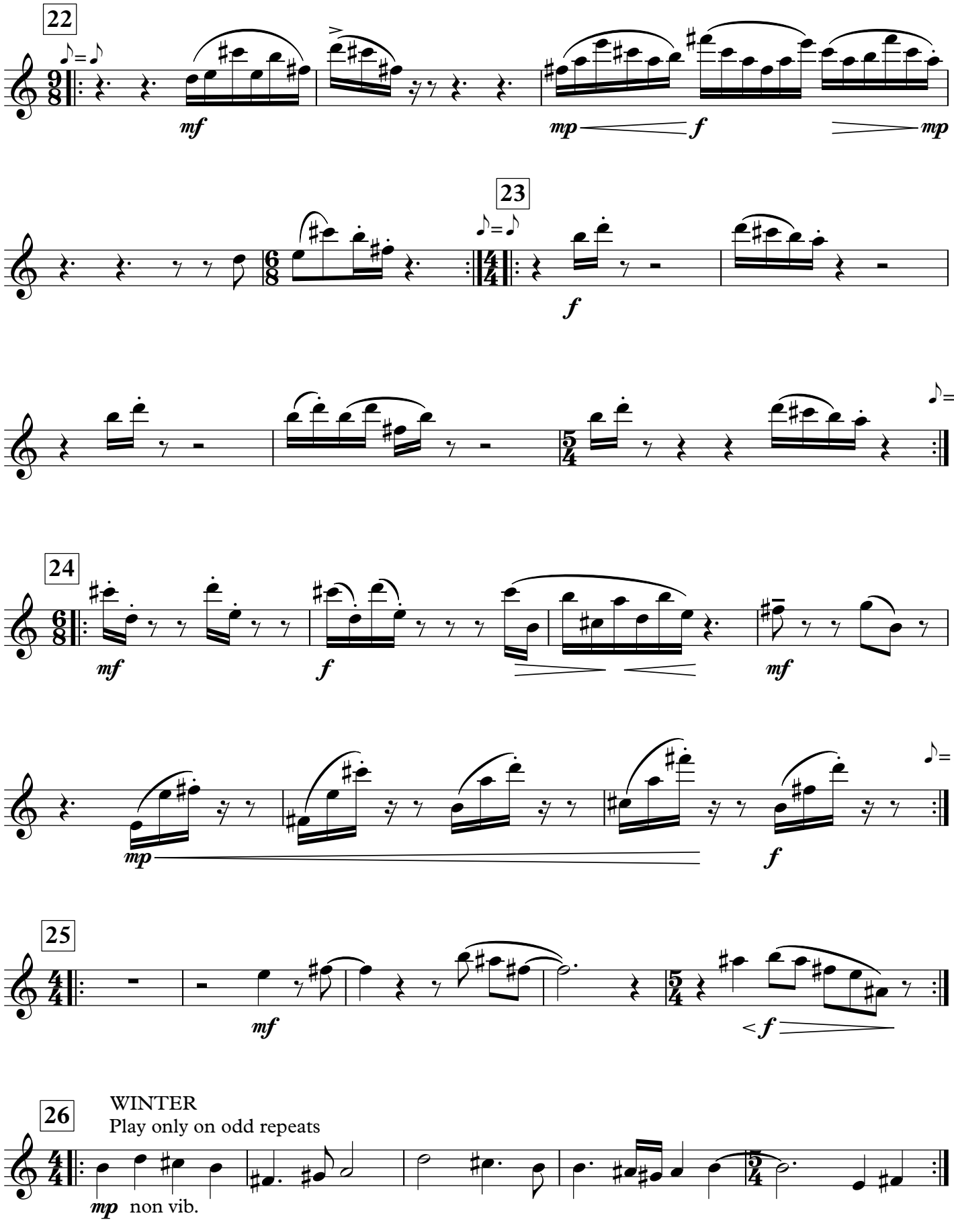

ord. vib. not tongued (glottal?)
sim.
7
fpp
fpp
8
fpp fpp fpp fpp fpp fpp mp
9
p
flz.
mf
ord.
p
flz. ord.
mf
p
sing lower note
10
mf
f
mf
p
11
mp
ff
fp fp fp
12
sub. p
mp espress.
13
SUMMER
Play only on odd repeats
non vib.
p lower note on repeats


14
ord. vib.
15
16
17
18
AUTUMN
Play only on odd repeats
19
mp non vib.
20
ord. vib.
21


22
mf
mp
f
mp
23
f
24
mf
f
mf
mp
f
25
mf
f
26
WINTER
Play only on odd repeats
mp non vib.

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2017

Viola

Viola

EBB AND FLOW

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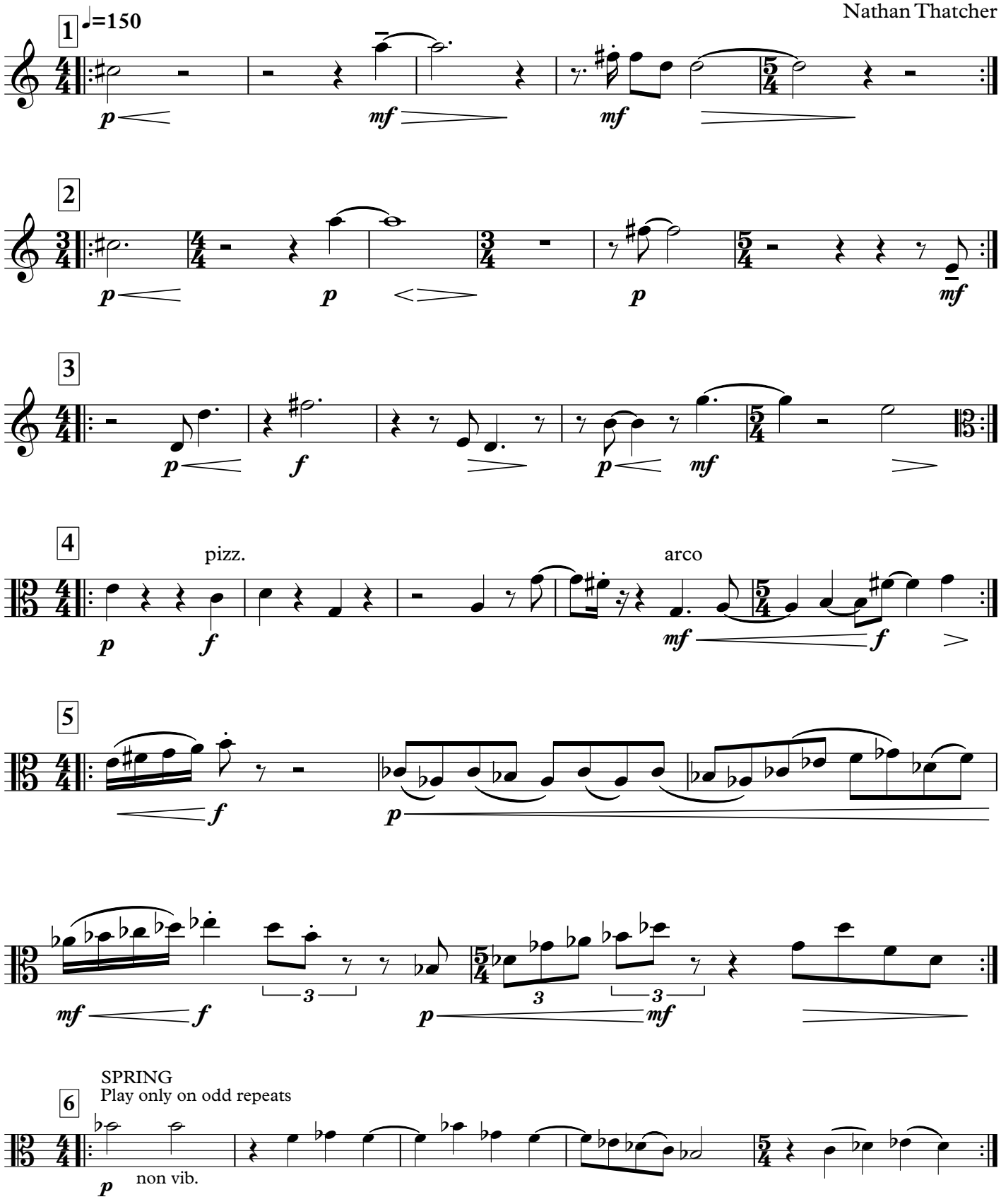

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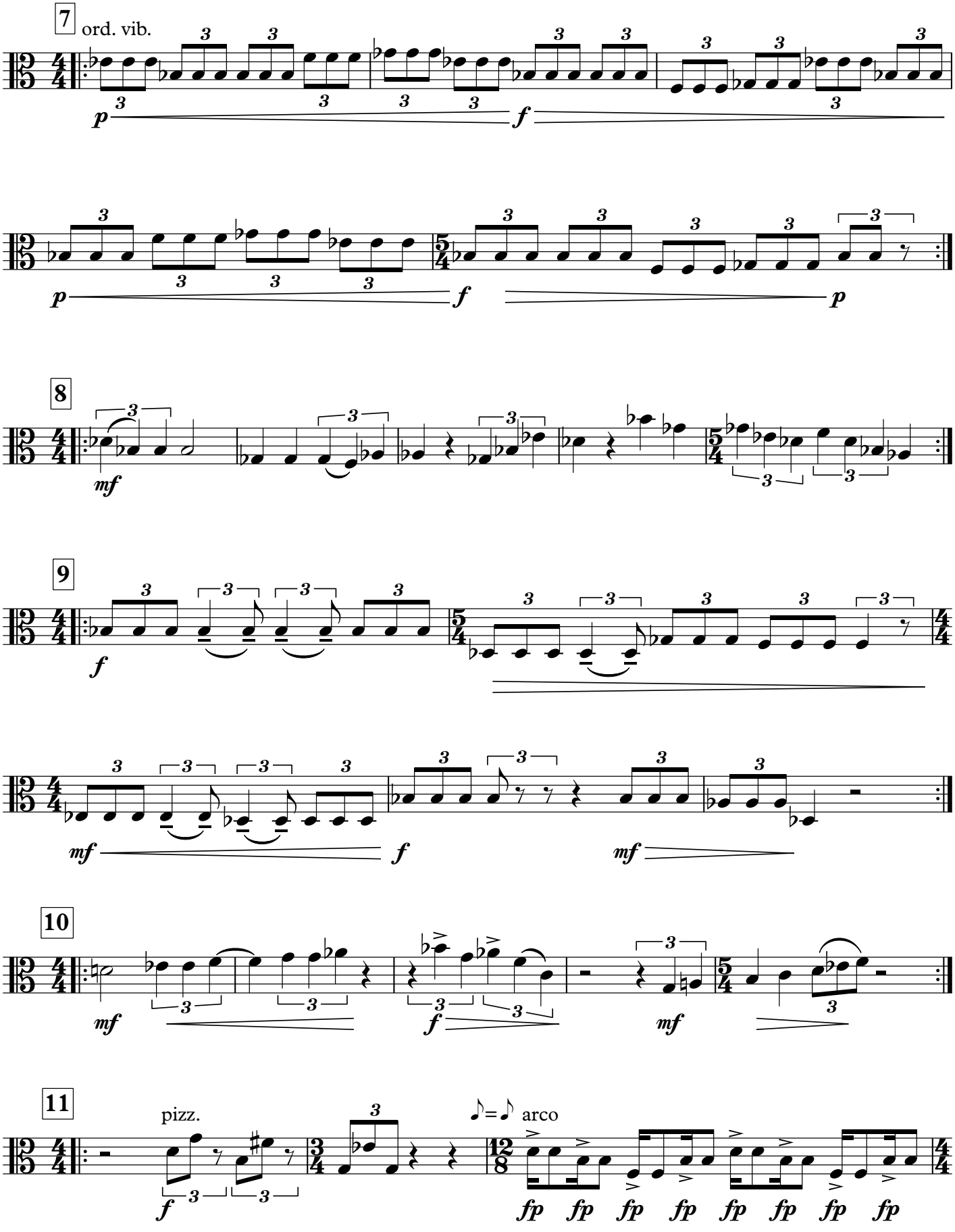
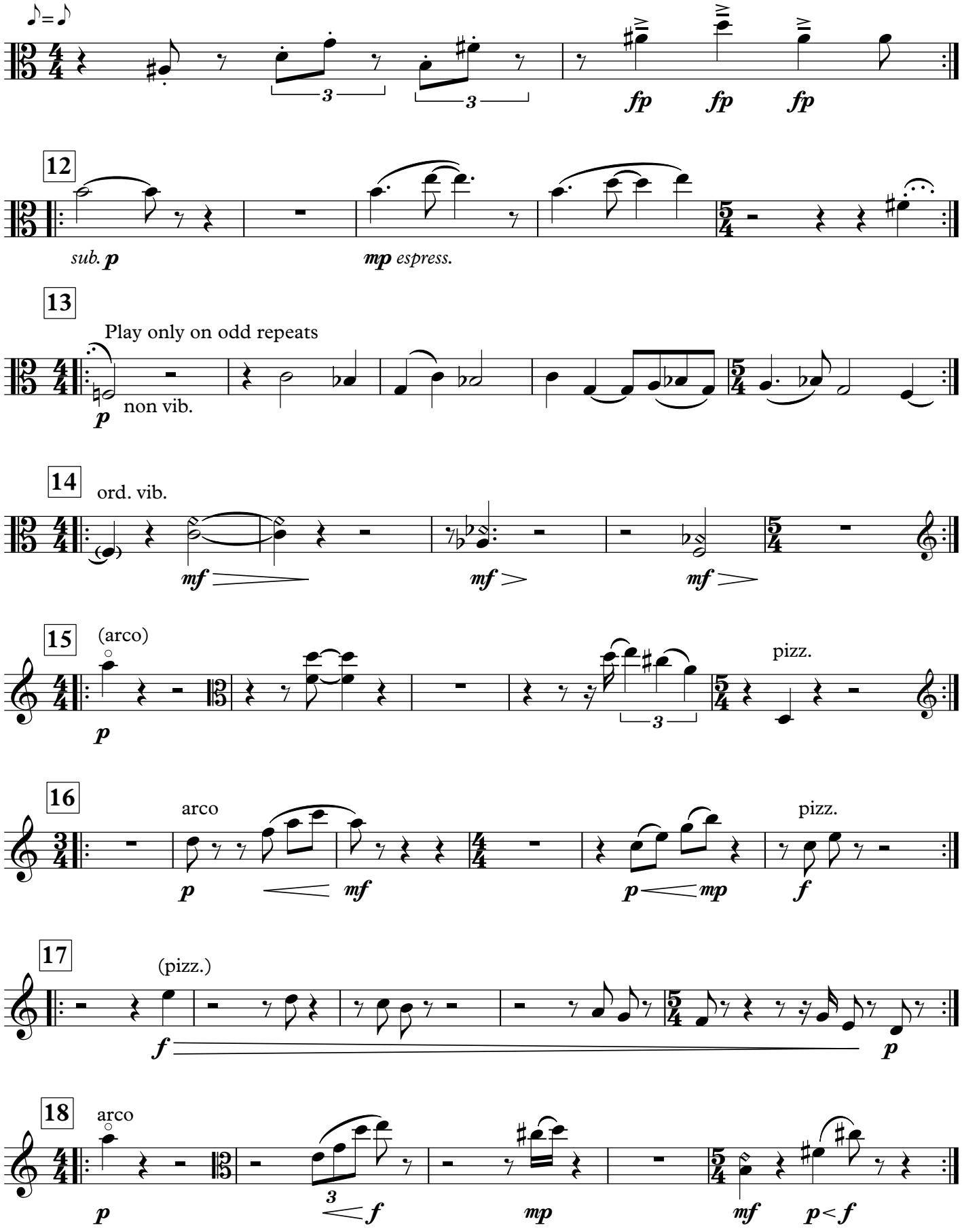
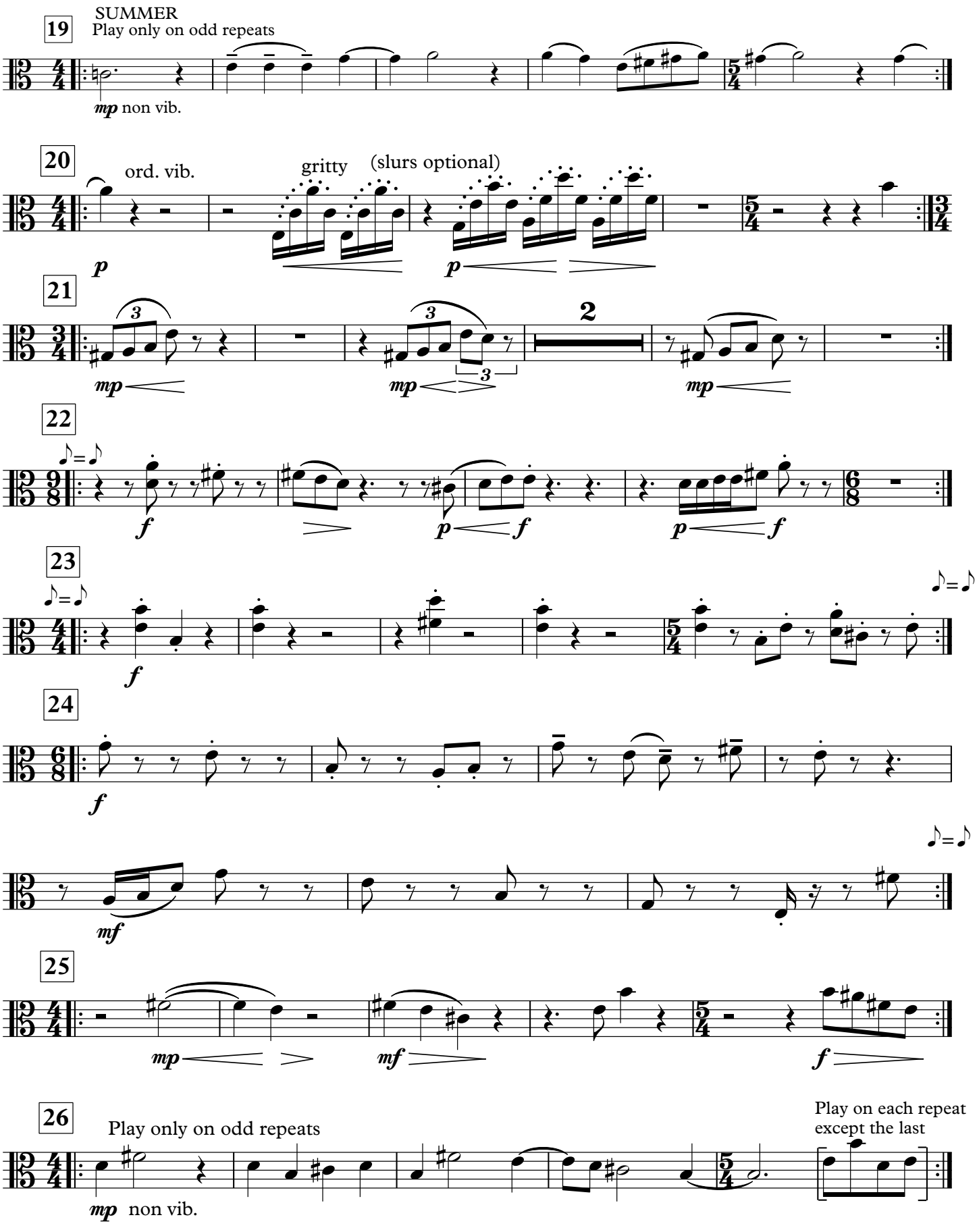

7
ord. vib.
p
f
8
mf
9
f
mf
f
mf
10
mf
f
mf
11
pizz.
f
♪=♪ arco
fp fp fp fp fp fp fp fp


♪=♪
3
3
fp fp fp
12
sub. p
mp espress.
13
Play only on odd repeats
p
non vib.
14
ord. vib.
mf
mf
mf
15
(arco)
p
3
pizz.
16
arco
p
mf
p mp
pizz.
f
17
(pizz.)
f
p
18
arco
p
3
f
mp
mf
p < f


19
SUMMER
Play only on odd repeats
mp non vib.
20
ord. vib.
gritty
(slurs optional)
p
p
21
mp
mp
mp
22
f
p
f
p
f
23
f
24
f
mf
25
mp
mf
f
26
Play only on odd repeats
mp non vib.
Play on each repeat
except the last

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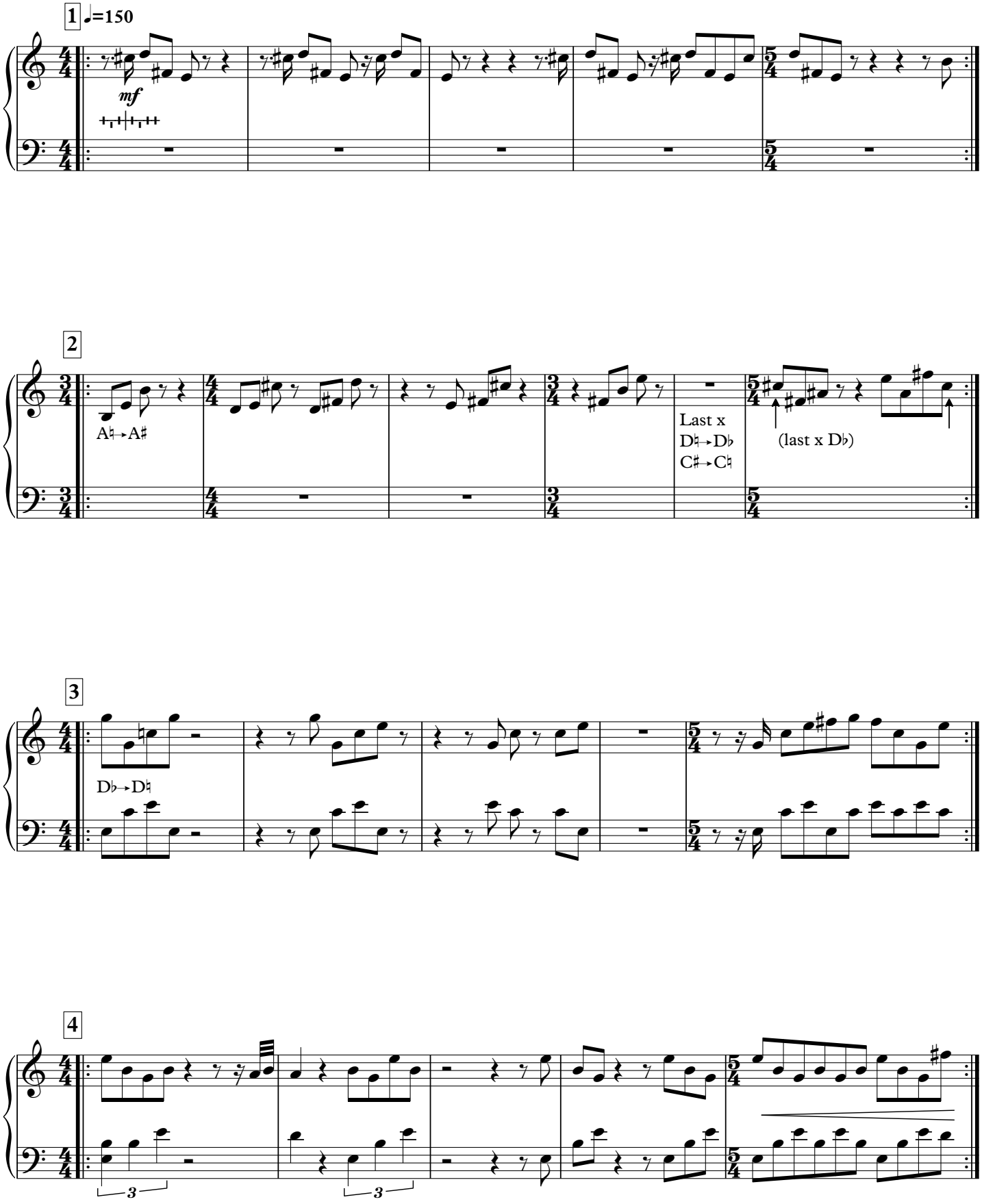
for
Flute, Viola, and Harp

2017

Harp

EBB AND FLOW

Nathan Thatcher



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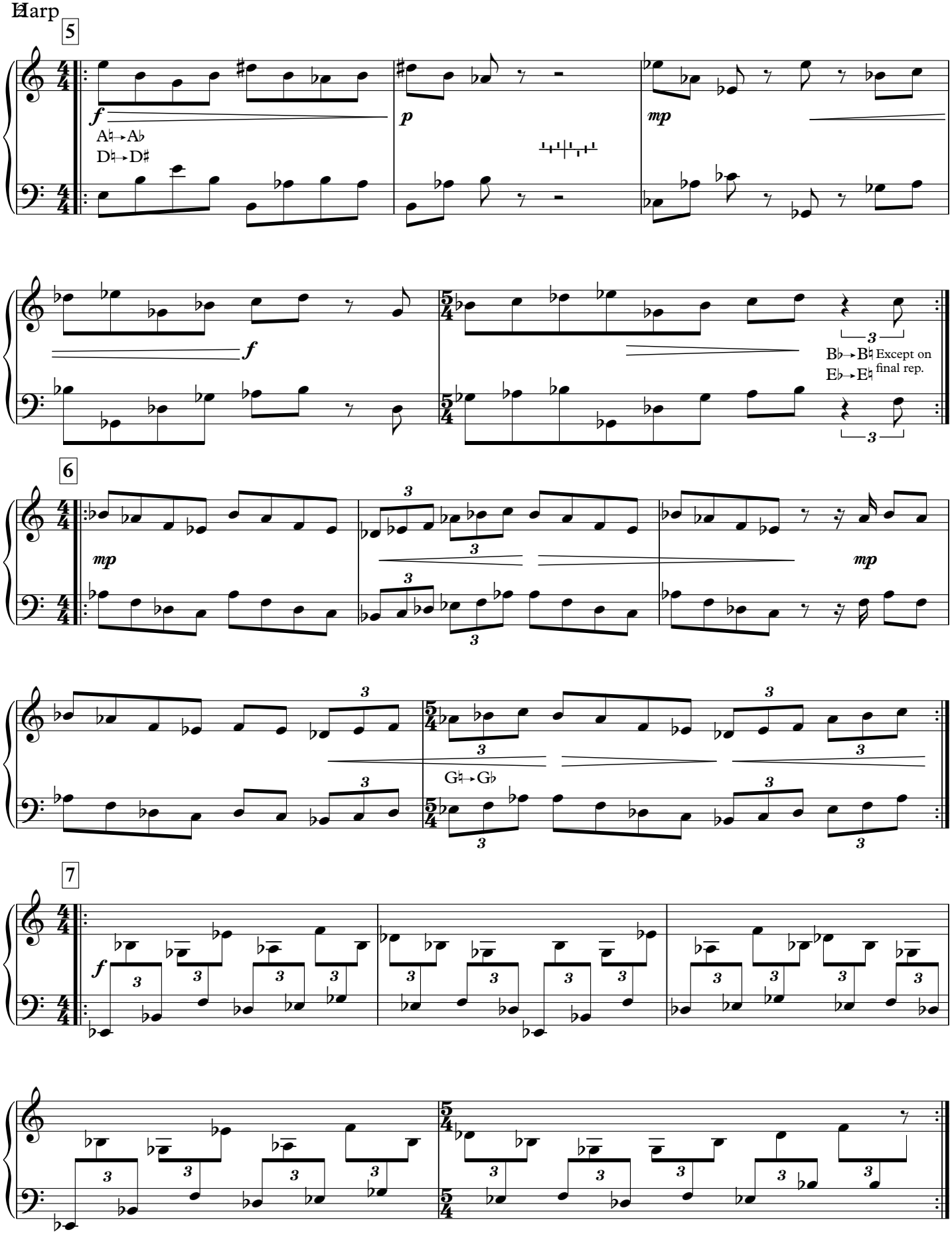
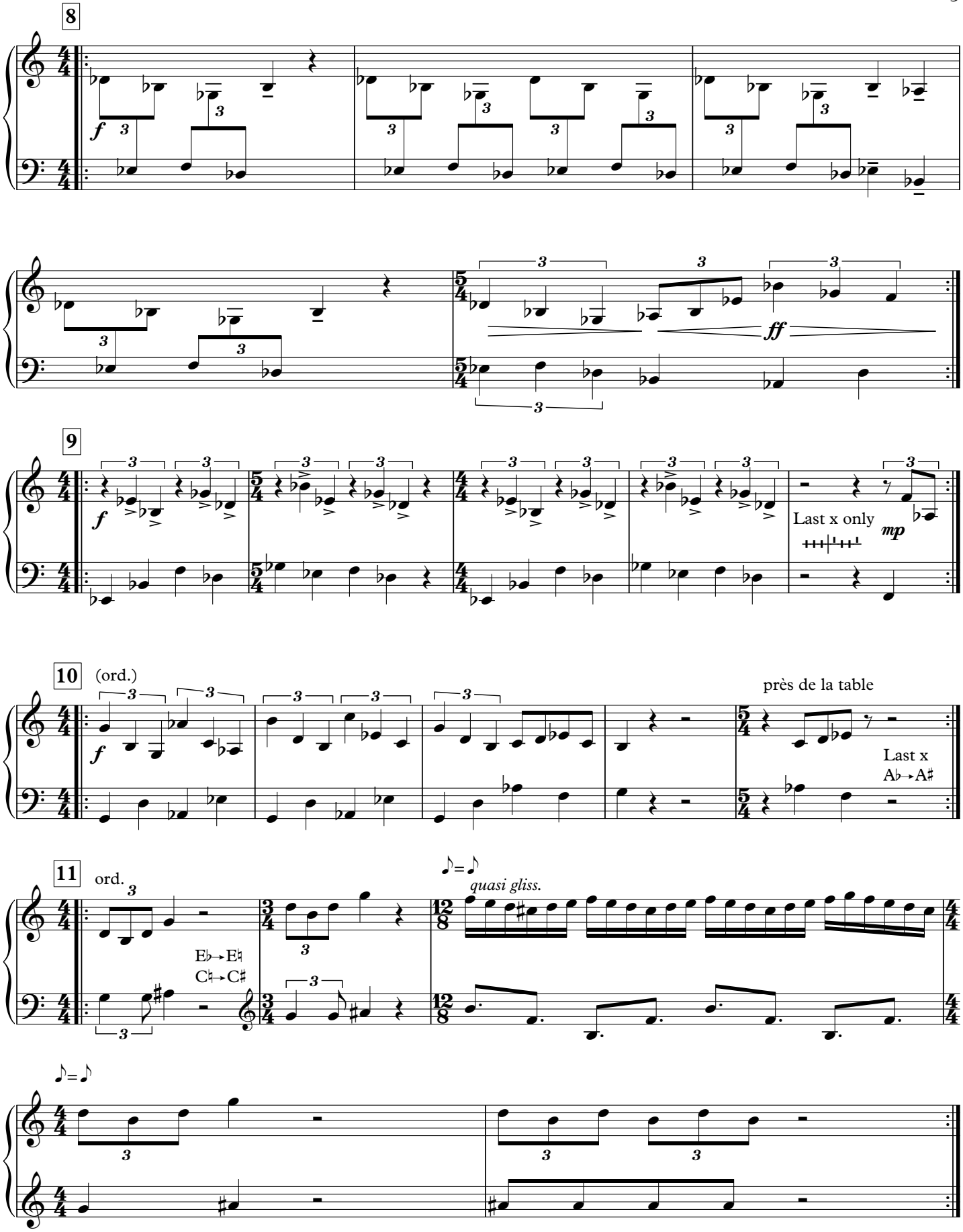
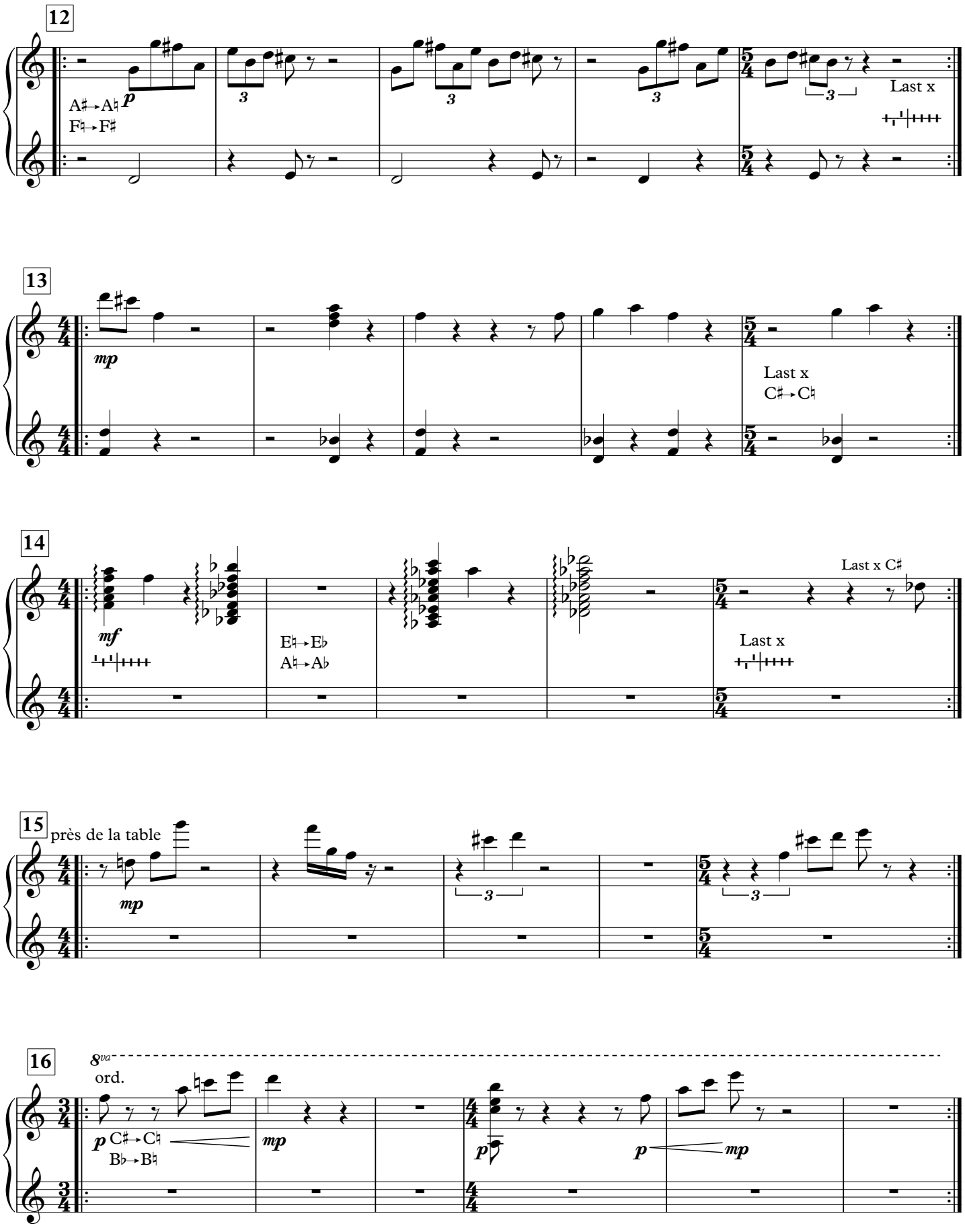
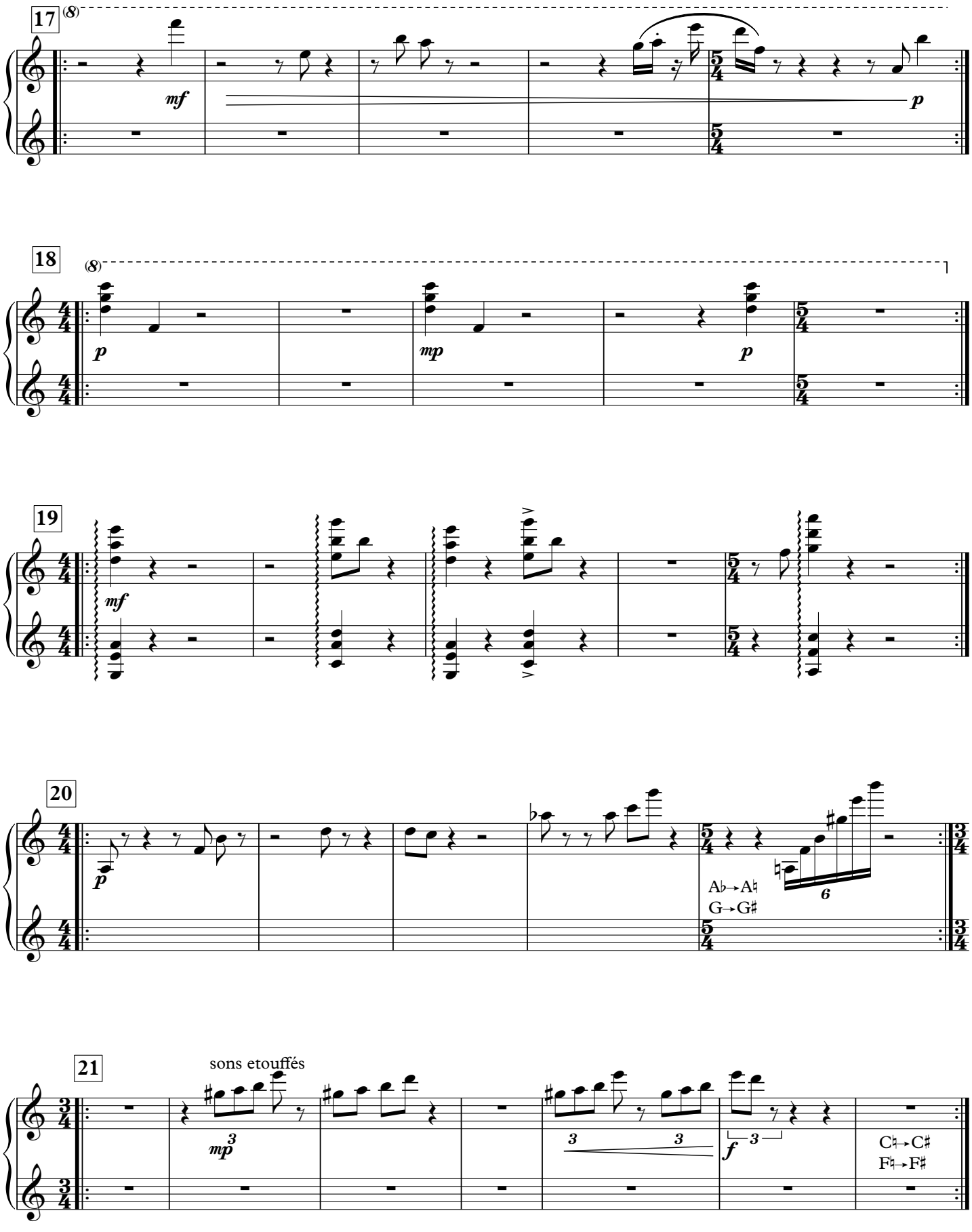
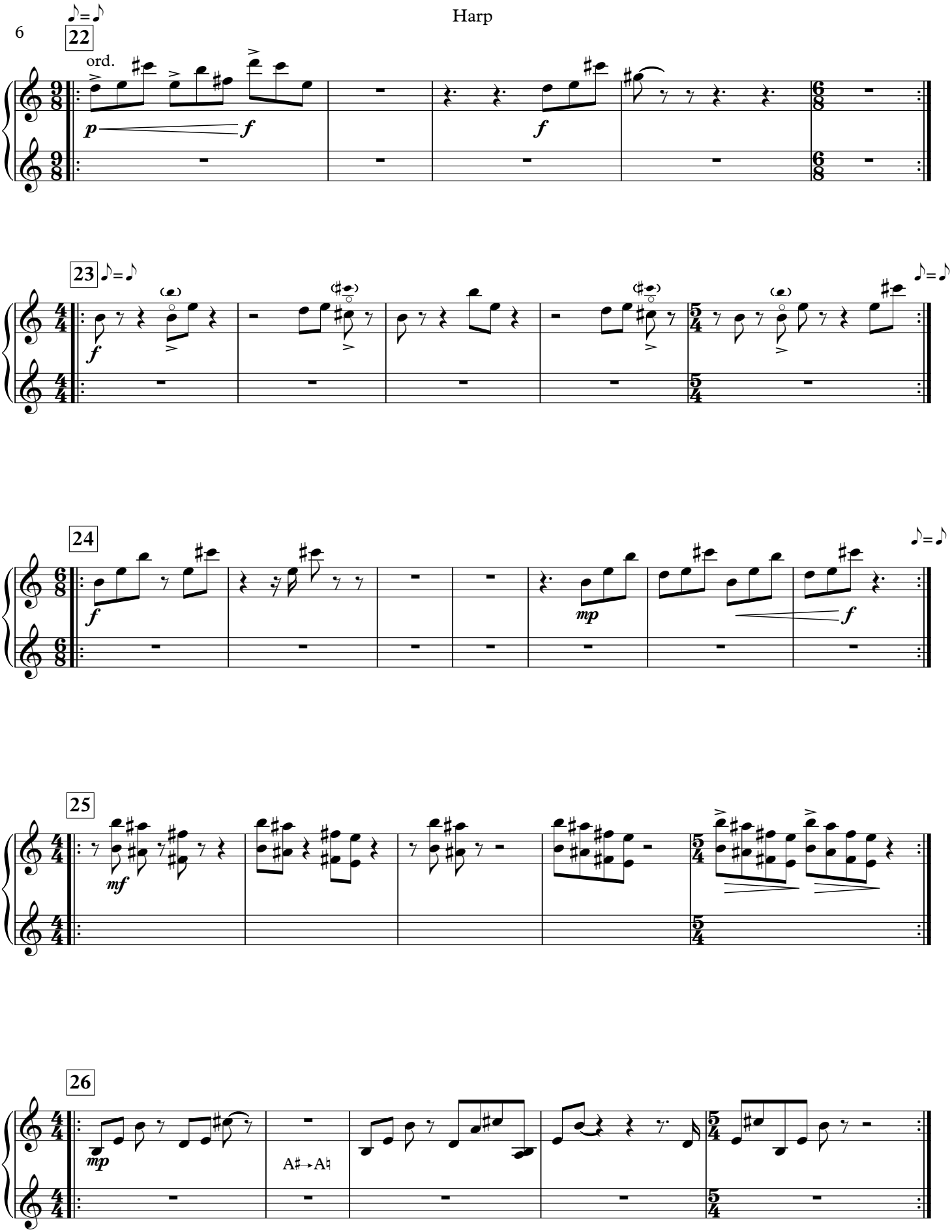
Harp




8
9
Last x only
mp
10
(ord.)
près de la table
Last x
A♭→A♯
11
ord.
E♭→E♮
C♮→C♯
quasi gliss.


12
A♯→A♮
F♮→F♯
Last x
13
Last x
C♯→C♮
14
E♮→E♭
A♮→A♭
Last x C♯
Last x
15
près de la table
16
8va
ord.
C♯→C♮
B♭→B♮


17
(8)
mf
p
18
(8)
p
mp
p
19
mf
20
p
Ab→A♮
G→G♯
6
21
sons etouffés
mp
3
3
3
f
3
C♮→C♯
F♮→F♯


22
ord.
p
f
f
23
f
24
f
mp
f
25
mf
26
mp
A♯→A♮