portmanteaux

for flute and alto saxophone

Thomas J Dempster

Copyright © 2014 Thomas J Dempster

portmanteaux

for flute and alto saxophone

Thomas J Dempster

for the Greenbrook Ensemble

Copyright © 2014 Thomas J Dempster

West Columbia, SC :: www.thomasdempster.com

portmanteaux

i.	discursation	(discursive conversation)	ca. 3'15"
ii.	diffures	(diffuse gestures)	ca. 1'45"
iii.	scherzotypical	(scherzo, atypical; pun on schizotypal)	ca. 3'
iv.	passabando	(passages, sarabande, rubato)	ca. 2'15"
v.	phunque	(a baroque funk, but maybe classier)	ca. 2'30"

duration: under thirteen minutes, natch

PROGRAM NOTES

Pulling from everything ranging from baroque dance forms to Cleveland Players, and attempting to create something rather new from a restricted palette of sounds, *portmanteaux* is a synthesis of ideas and styles, and an experiment to obtain as many different colors, moods, and gestures from the instruments as possible. In a good pairing, there is not just complementary existence, but a liberation and freedom to complete one another's thoughts, to separate and reconvene, to work in unison, or in tandem, or in competition. In *discursation*, I envisioned similar ideas being tossed around, completed differently, copied, sometimes jokingly, with discursive moments without going too far off subject. In *diffures*, I examine quietude, but also explore timbre and note shape with highly-diffuse passages and gestures. This thread is continued in both *scherzotypical* and *passabando* – the middle movement is a purer scherzo-rondo, high in energy, rich in aggressive rudeness, and short on patience; the fourth movement, *passabando*, is a set of cadenza-like passages set between a familiar pairing in thirds, showing the ghost of a sarabande as the graceful opening ultimately gives way to a quirky finish. The final movement, *phunque*, has a lot of notes, some familiar tunes and techniques, but a few rhythmic moments that will hopefully elicit at least a little head-bobbery, if not toe-tap-foppery.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Most performance notes appear in-score. Below is a short overview of common symbols and abbreviations.

T.S. – tongue slap (sax)
T.P. – tongue pizzicato (flute)
L.P. – lip pizzicato (flute)
note: when flute has simply "pizz," lip pizz is preferred
oo or **aa** – embouchure-shape / voicing (sax only) – oo ----> aa: change voicing slowly from one to the other.
k or **t** – articulation method (hard glottal or tongue at upper teeth and hard-palate juncture. respectively) (flute).
Consonants should be clearly audible, but not at the expense of pitch.
J.W. – jet whistle (flute). *Note: jet whistles should last the duration of the pitch*
Flzg. – flutter-tongue (also marked by tremolo articulation / three slashes; both instruments)
honk! – self-explanatory, one hopes (sax)

Occasionally, grouped tuplets have feather-beam; attempt to fit the number of attacks (accelerating or decelerating) into the grouping.

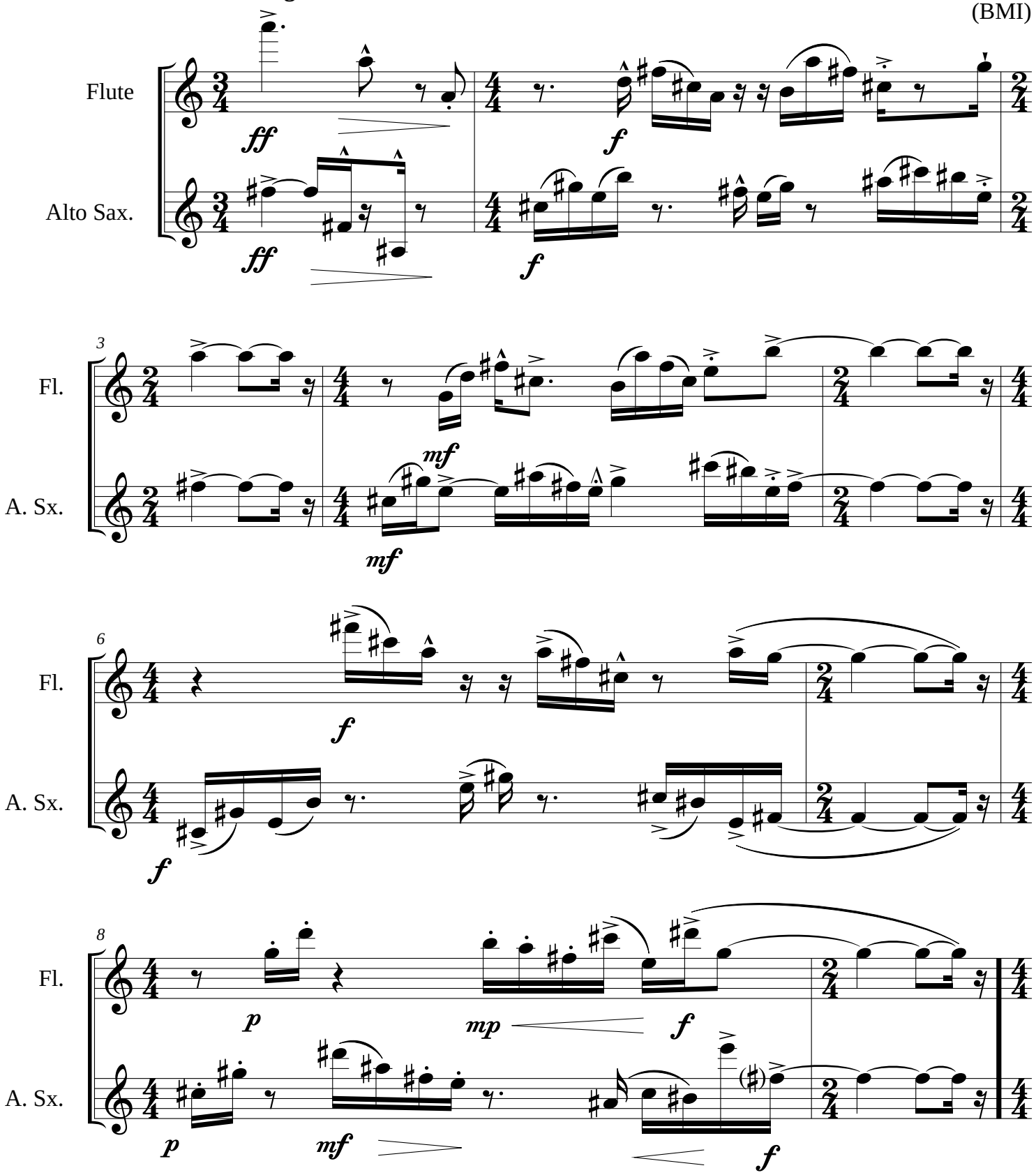
portmanteaux

Score

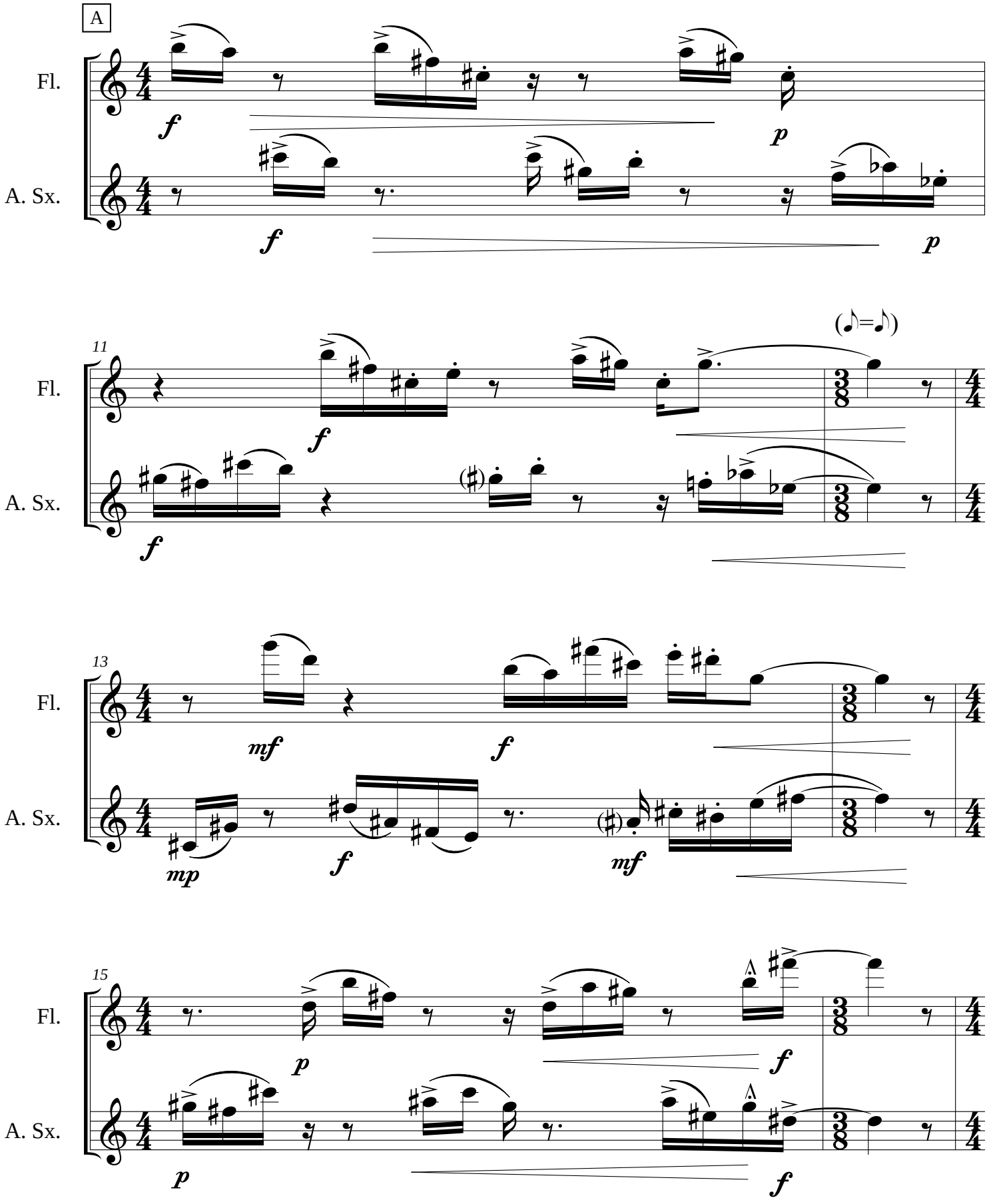
I. discursations

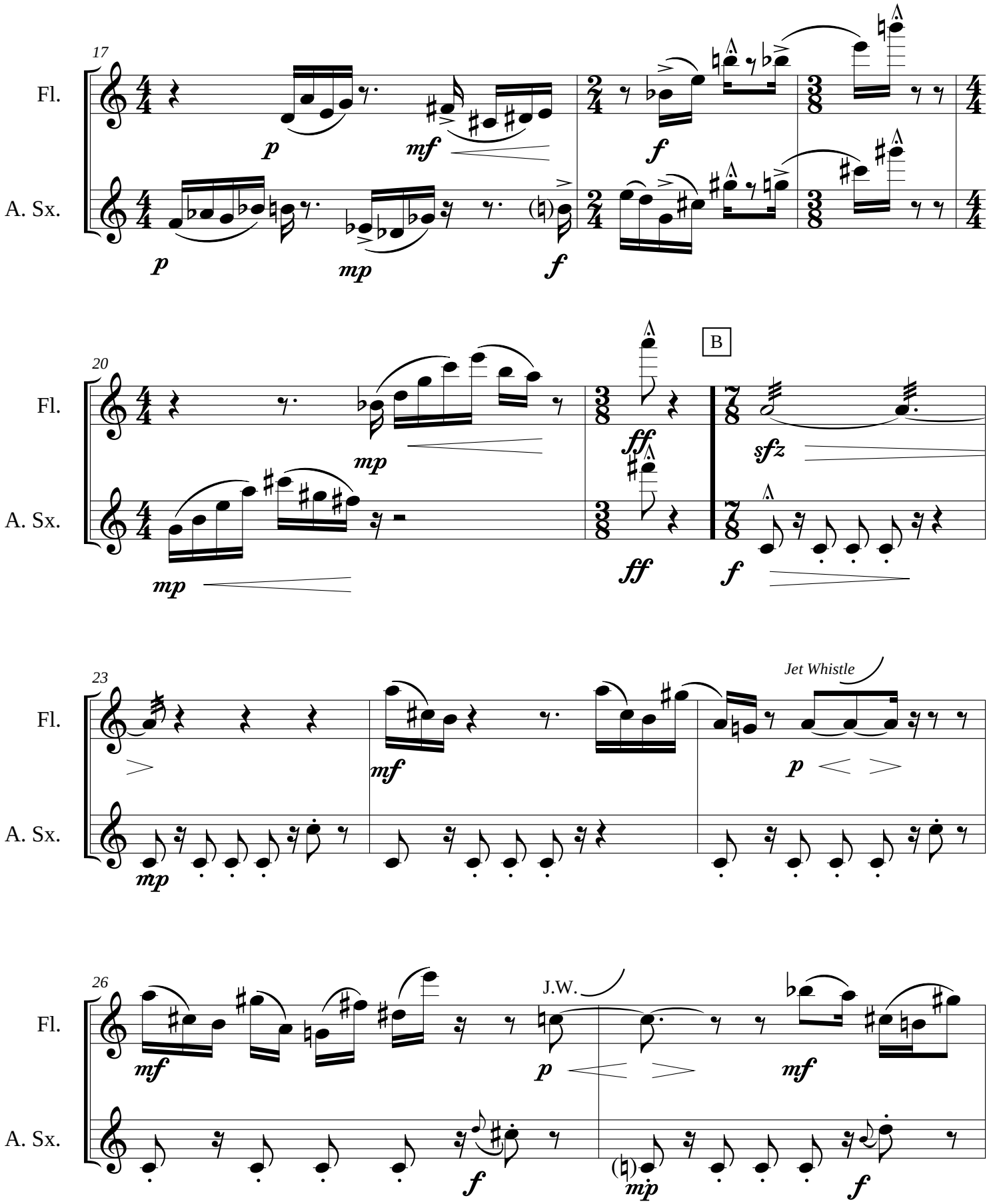
Crackling ♪ = 204

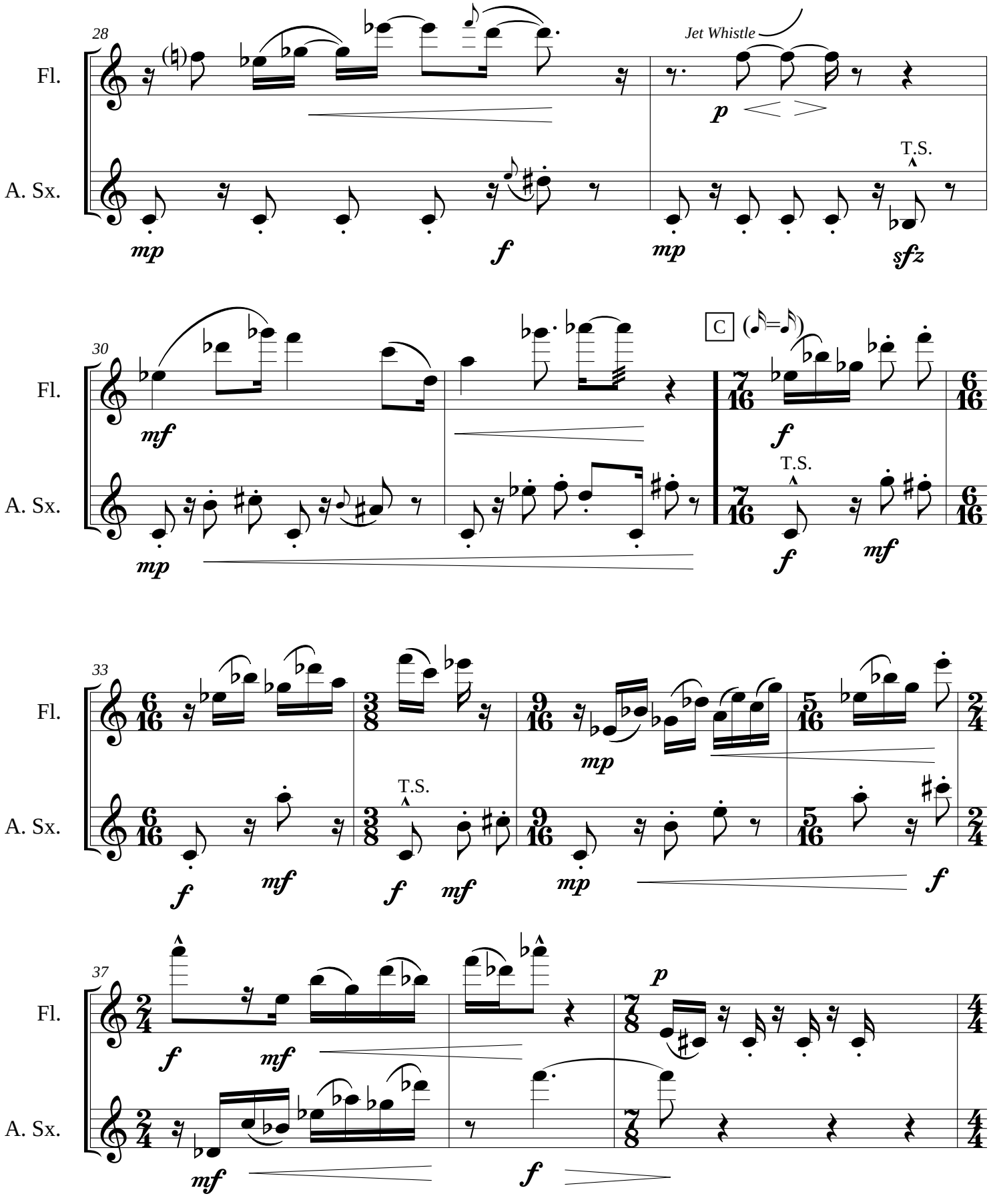
Thomas J Dempster
(BMI)

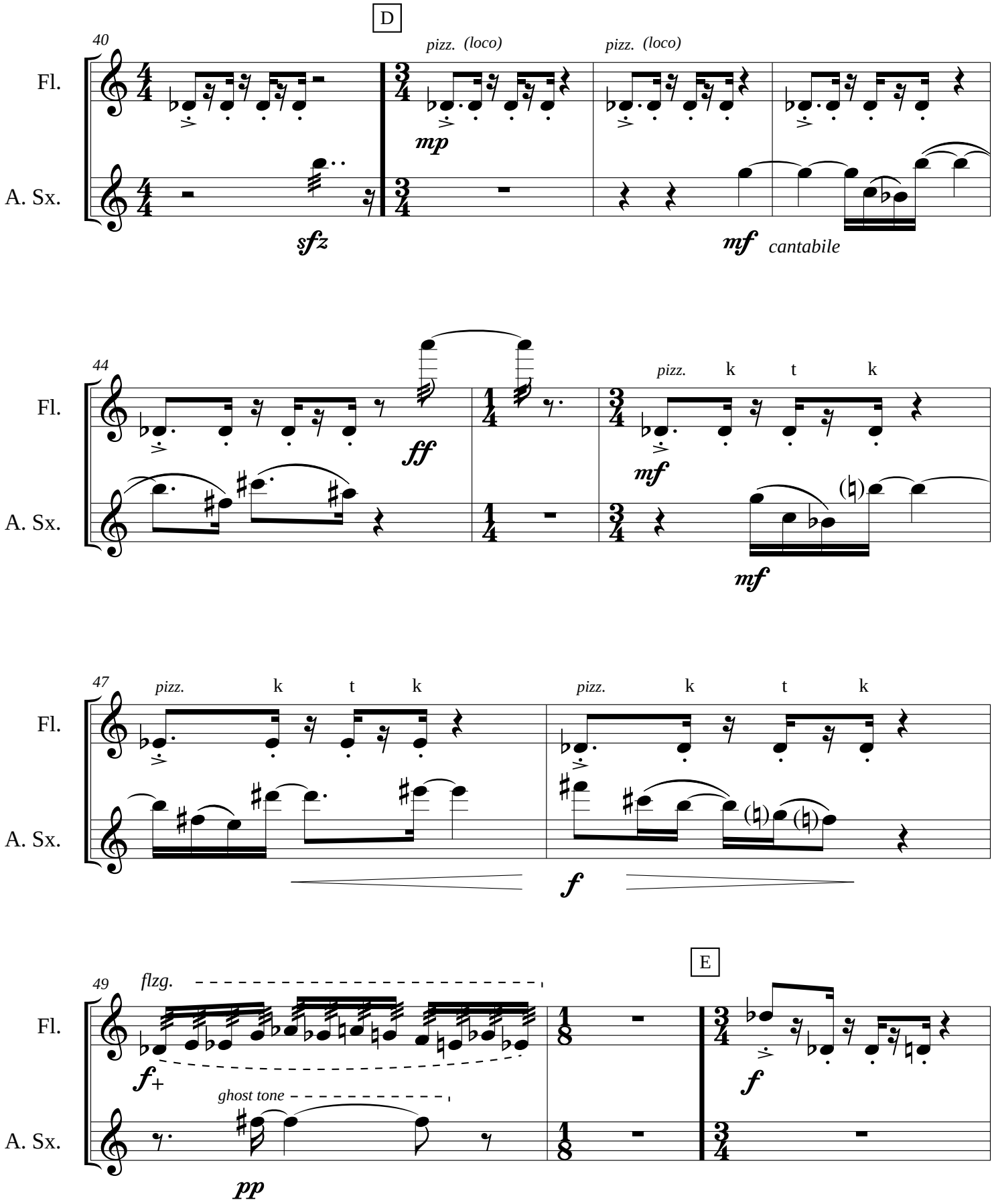


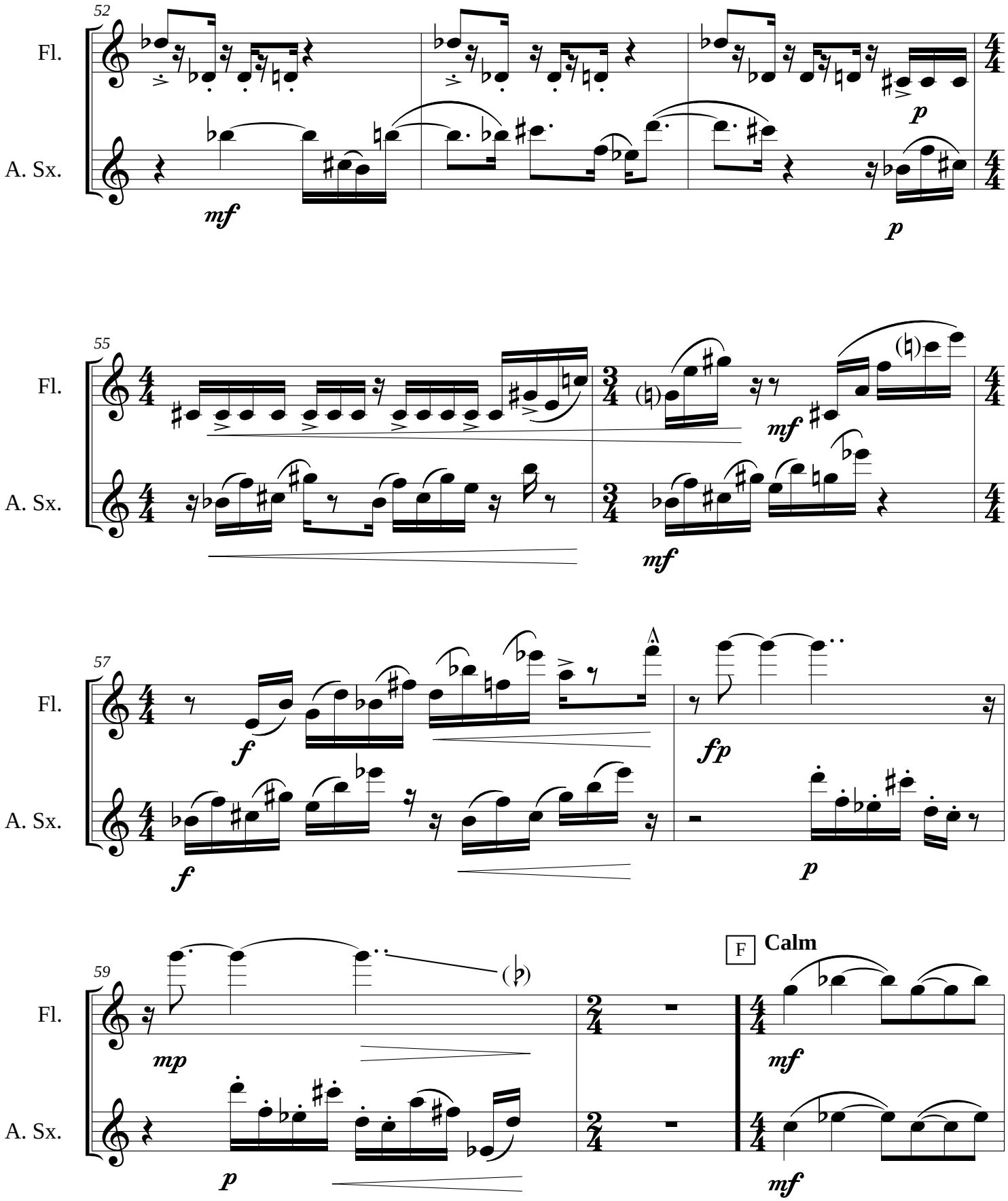
Copyright © 2014 Thomas J Dempster

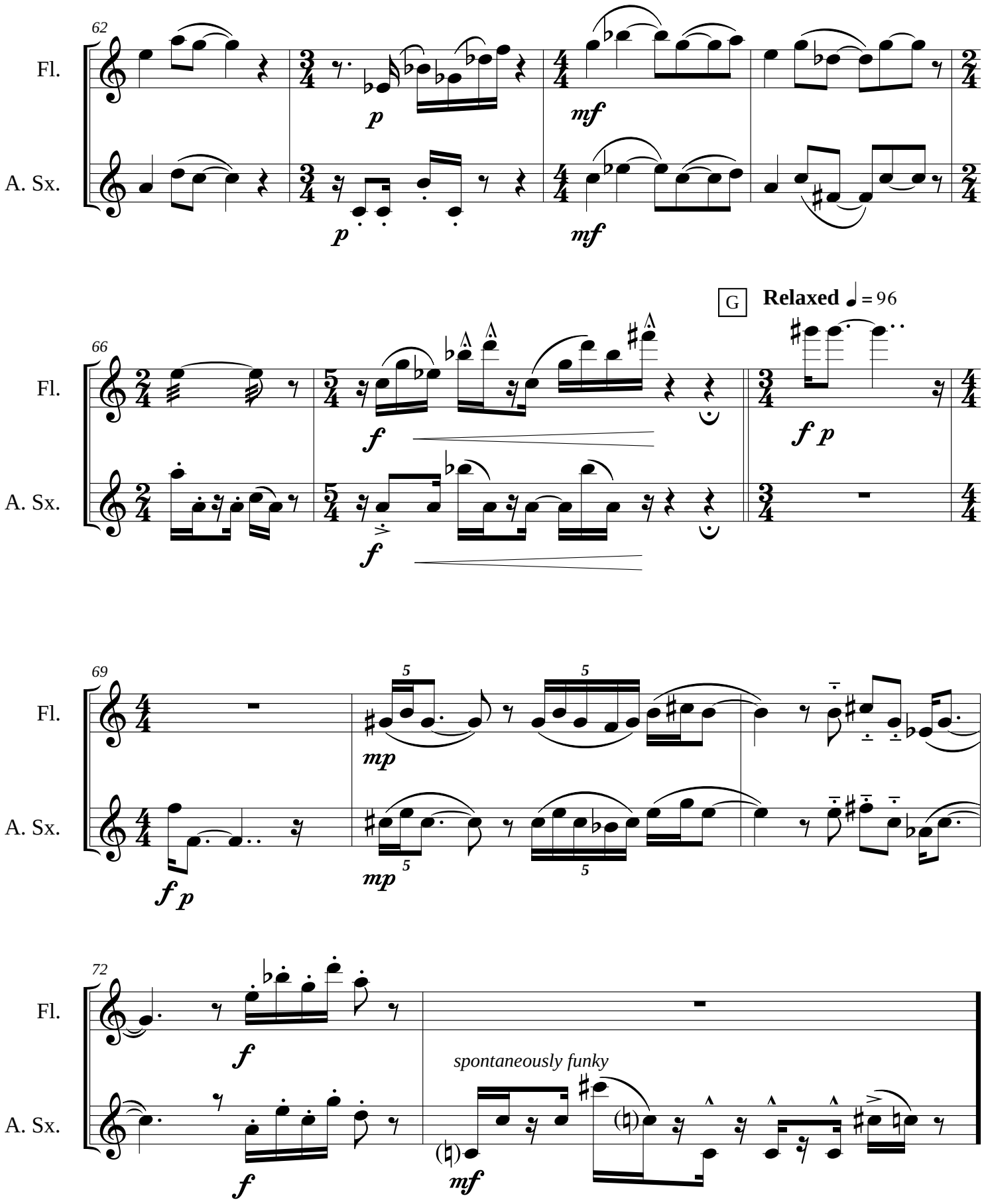

A
Fl.
A. Sx.
f
p
11
(♪=♪)
mf
mp
13
15

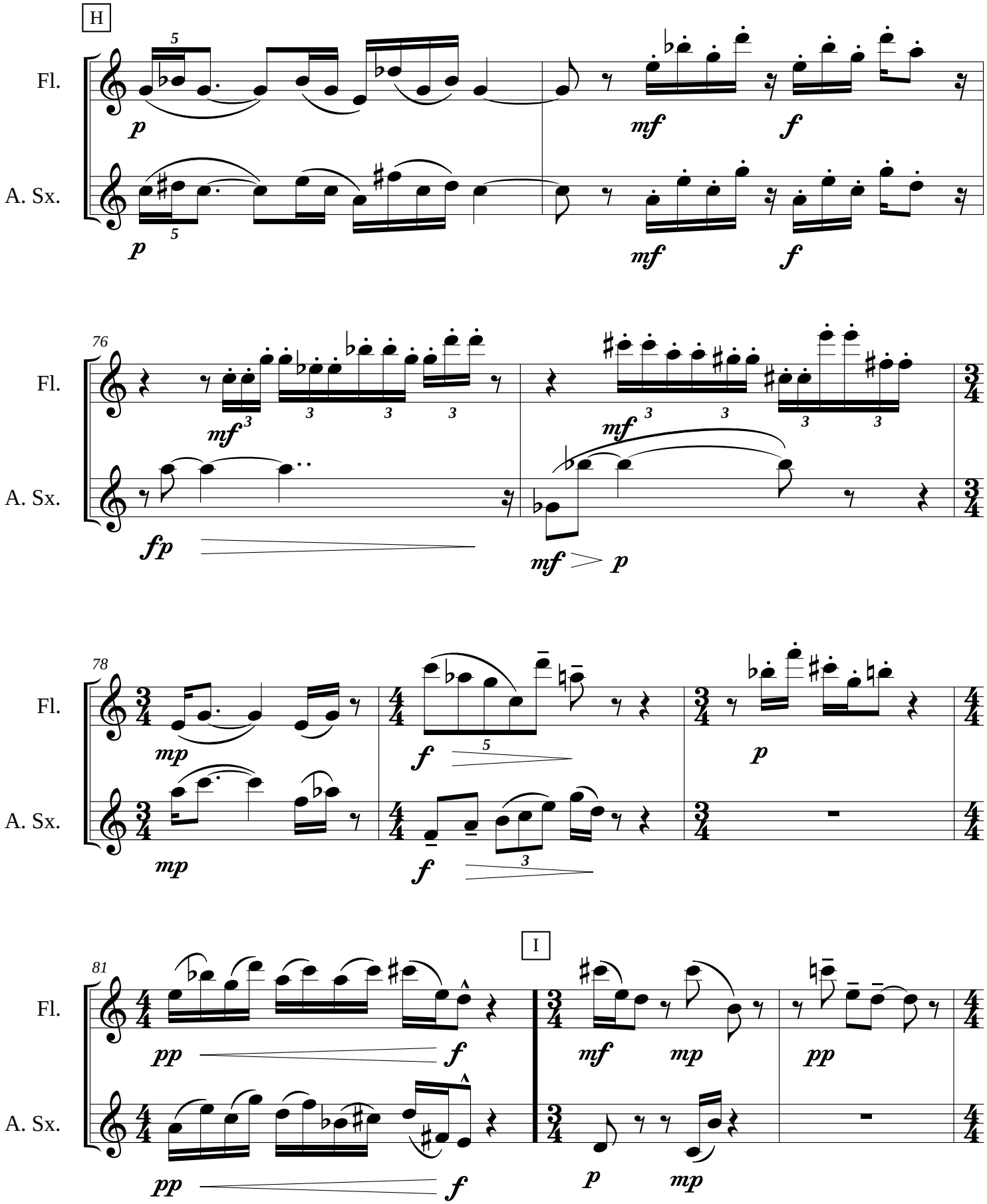

17
Fl.
A. Sx.
p
mf
f
p
mp
f
20
Fl.
A. Sx.
mp
ff
sfz
mp
ff
f
B
23
Fl.
A. Sx.
mp
mf
p
Jet Whistle
26
Fl.
A. Sx.
mf
f
p
J.W.
mp
mf
f

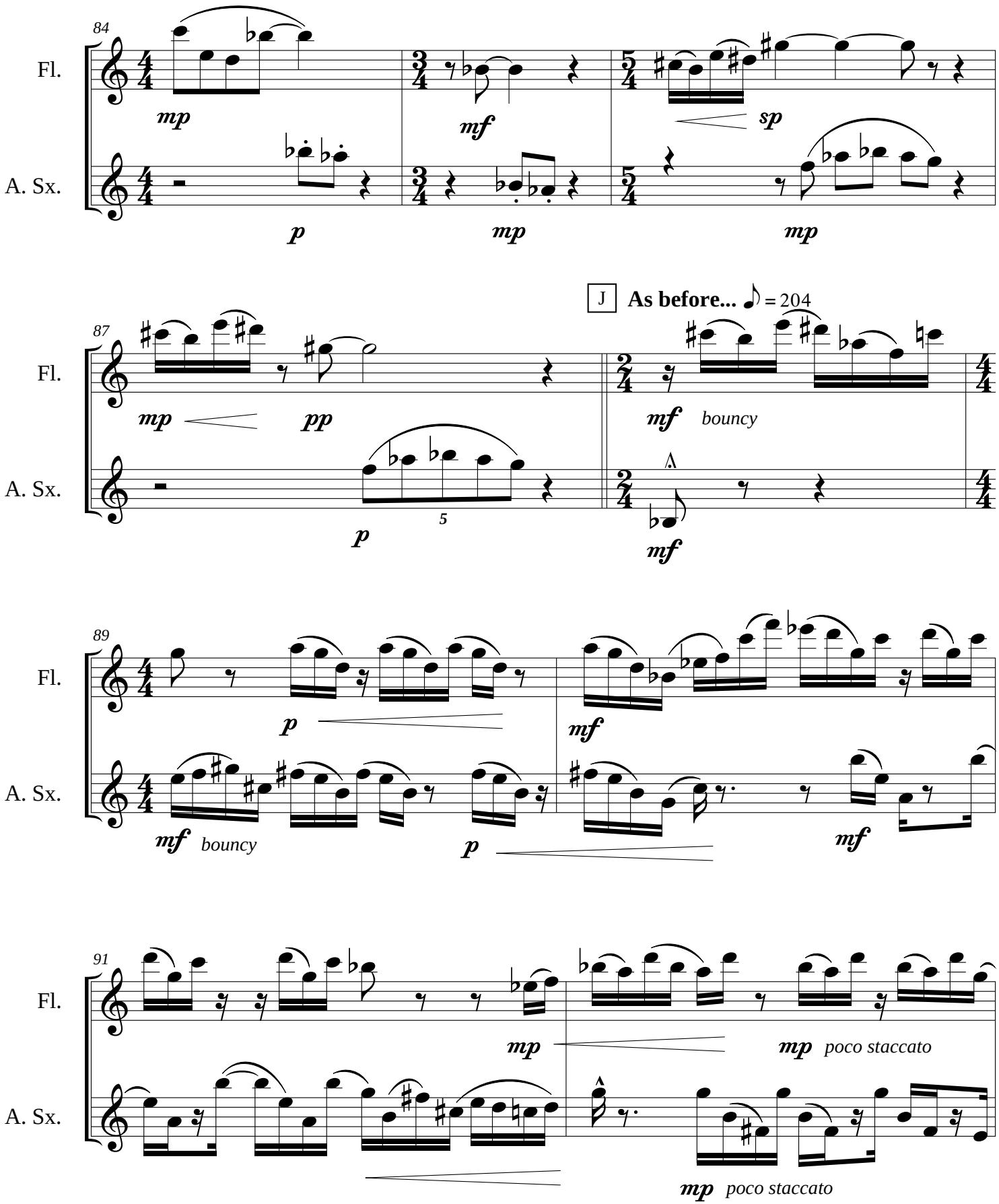

28
Fl.
A. Sx.
Jet Whistle
p
T.S.
mp
f
mp
sfz
30
mf
mp
C
f
T.S.
f
mf
33
mp
T.S.
f
mf
f
mf
mp
f
37
f
mf
p
mf
f

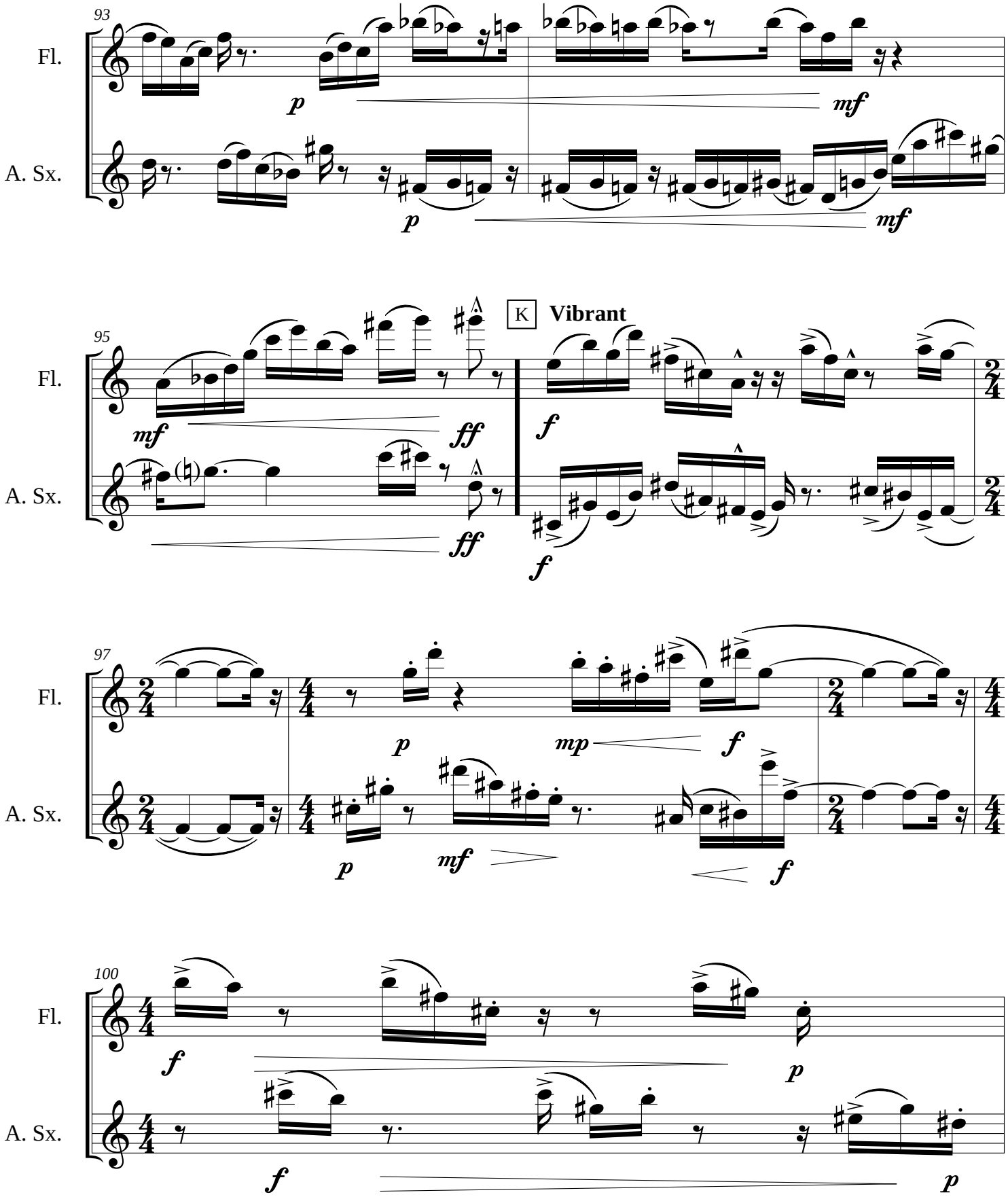

D
40
Fl.
A. Sx.
pizz. (loco)
pizz. (loco)
mp
sfz
mf cantabile
44
pizz. k t k
ff
mf
mf
47
pizz. k t k
pizz. k t k
f
E
49
flzg.
f+
ghost tone
pp
f

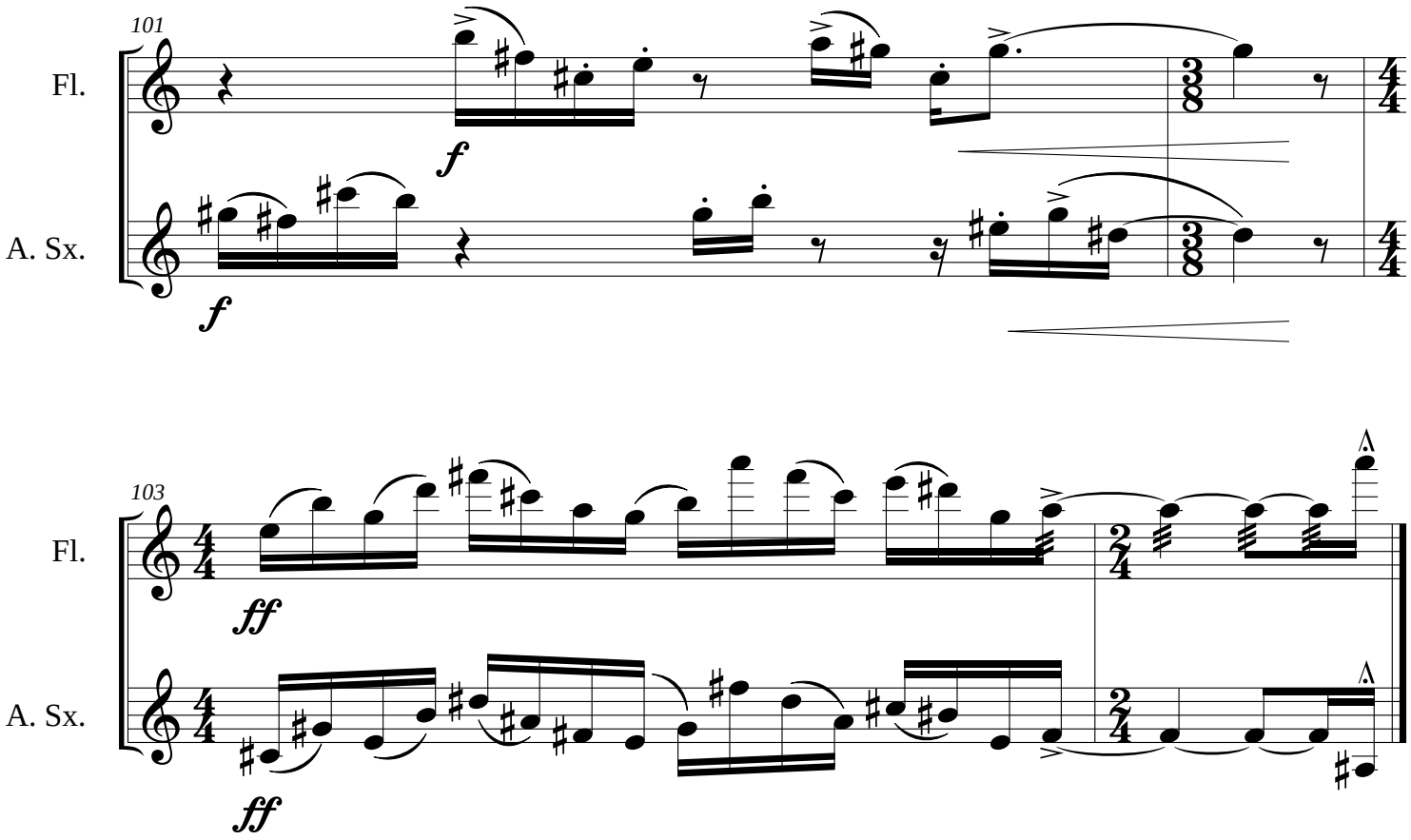

52
Fl.
A. Sx.
mf
p
55
mf
57
f
fp
59
mp
F
Calm


62
Fl.
A. Sx.
p
mf
66
G
Relaxed ♩ = 96
f
f p
69
mp
72
spontaneously funky

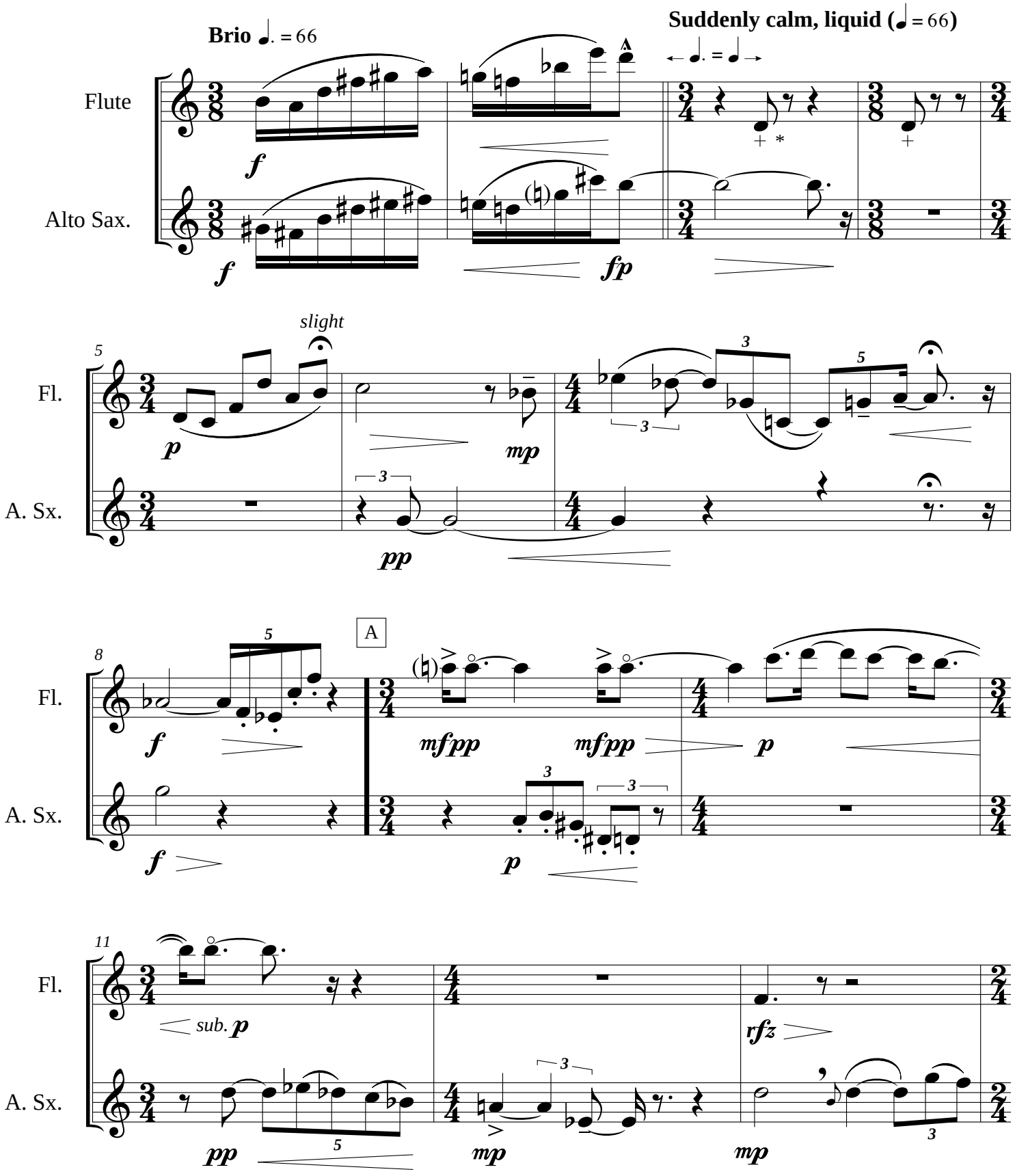

H
Fl.
A. Sx.
76
78
81
I

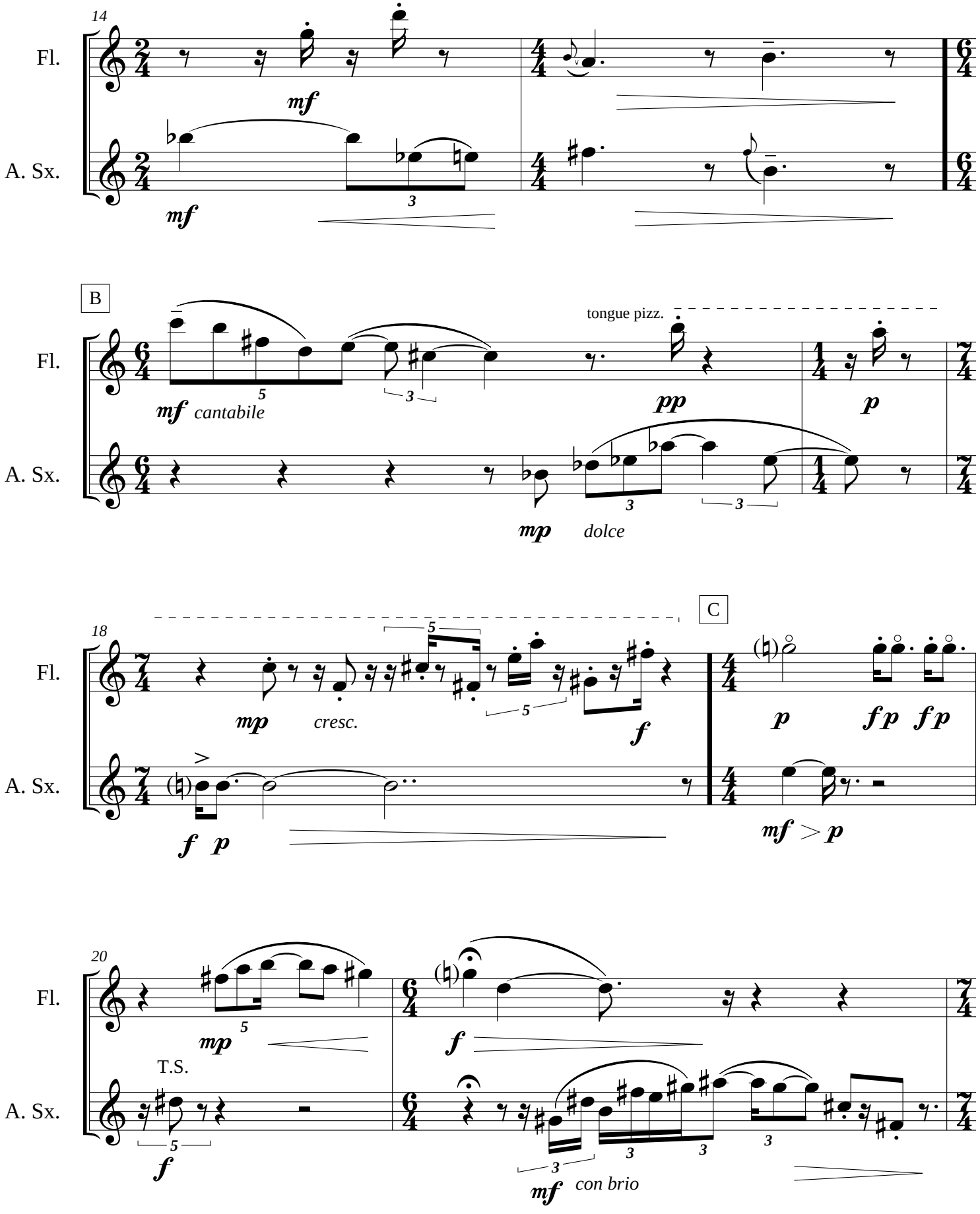

84
Fl.
A. Sx.
mp
mf
sp
p
mp
mp
J
As before... ♪ = 204
87
Fl.
A. Sx.
mp
pp
p
5
mf bouncy
A
mf
89
Fl.
A. Sx.
p
mf bouncy
p
mf
mf
91
Fl.
A. Sx.
mp
mp poco staccato
mp poco staccato

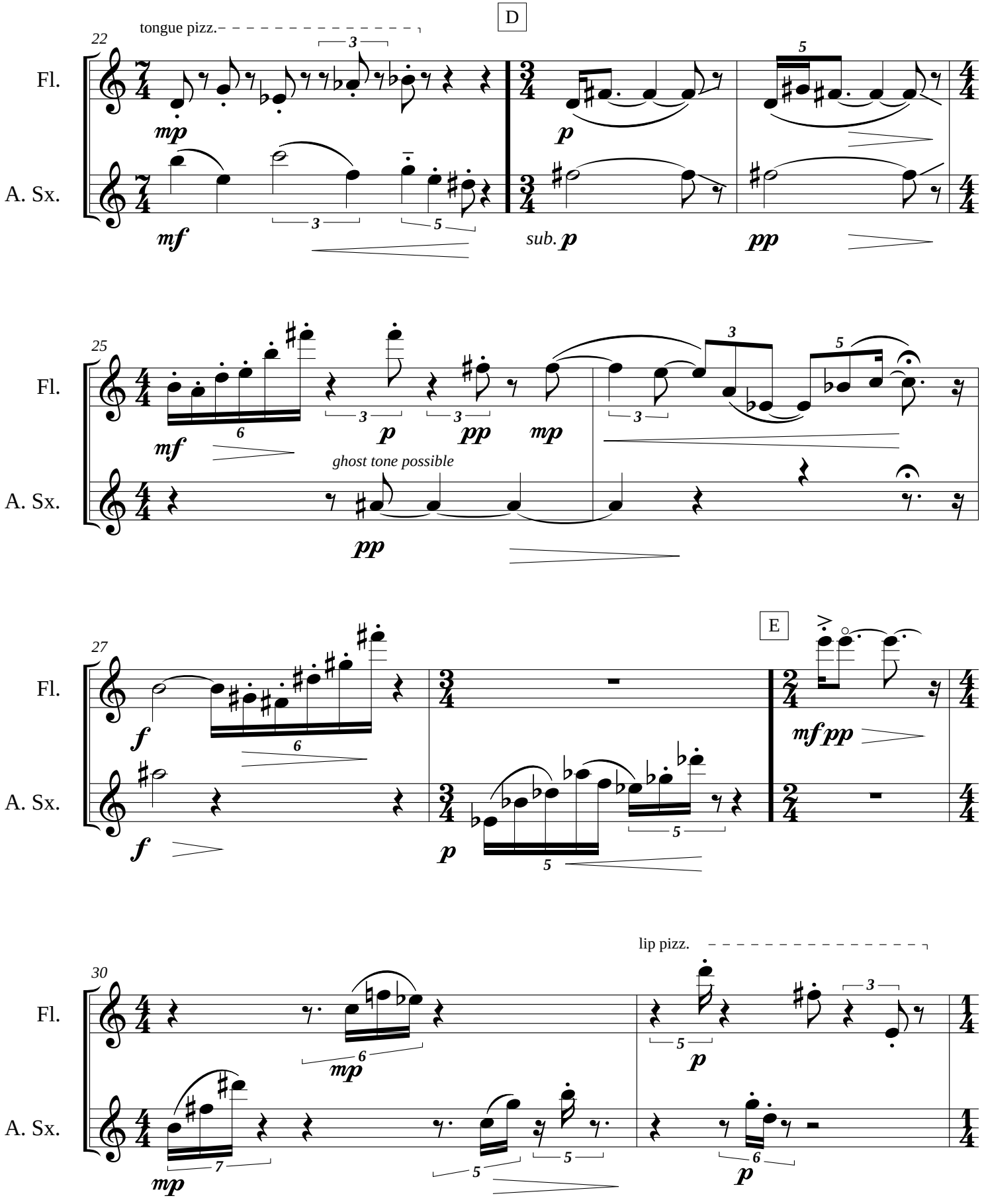

93
Fl.
A. Sx.
p
mf
95
K
Vibrant
ff
f
97
mp
100

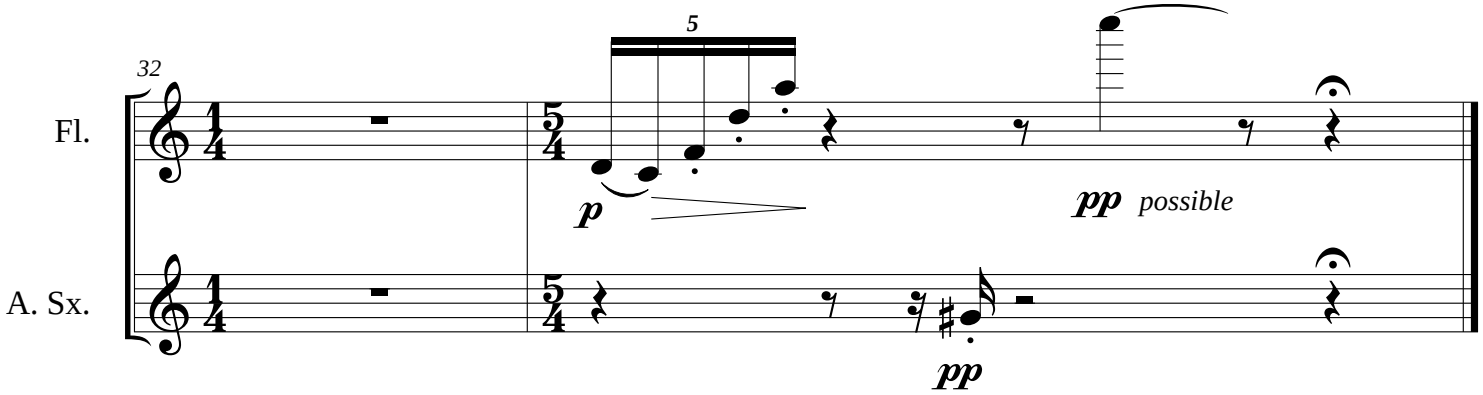

101
Fl.
A. Sx.
f
f
103
Fl.
A. Sx.
ff
ff

II. diffures

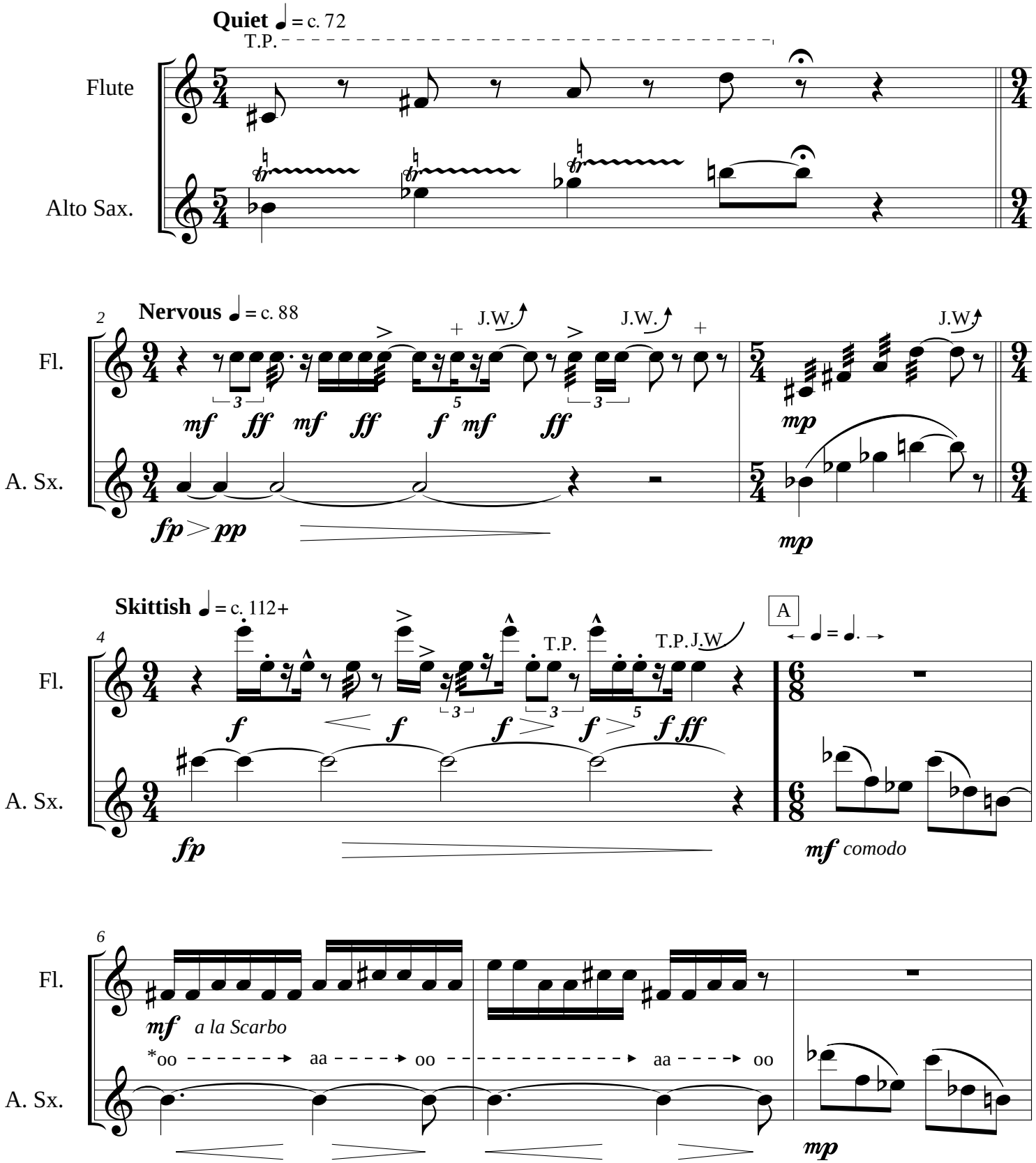

Brio ♩. = 66
Suddenly calm, liquid (♩ = 66)
Flute
Alto Sax.
slight
Fl.
A. Sx.
A
sub. p
rfz
*) + designates key click


14
Fl.
A. Sx.
mf
mf
3
B
tongue pizz.
mf cantabile
5
3
pp
p
mp dolce
3
3
18
C
5
mp cresc.
5
f
p
fp fp
f p
mf > p
20
mp
5
f
T.S.
5
f
3
3
3
3
mf con brio

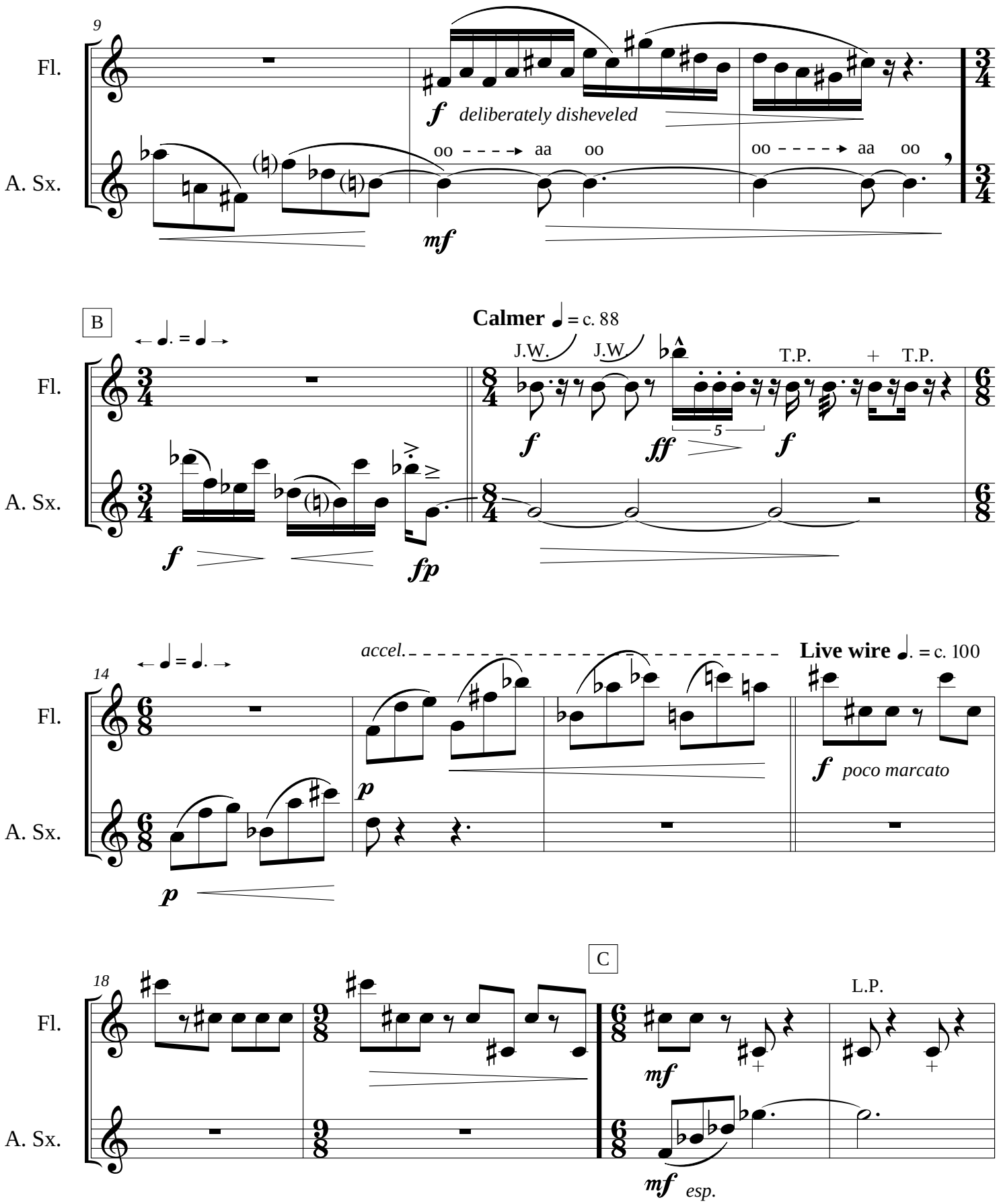

D
22
tongue pizz.
Fl.
A. Sx.
mp
mf
p
sub. p
pp
25
mf
p
pp
mp
ghost tone possible
pp
27
E
f
f
p
mf pp
30
lip pizz.
mp
mp
p
p

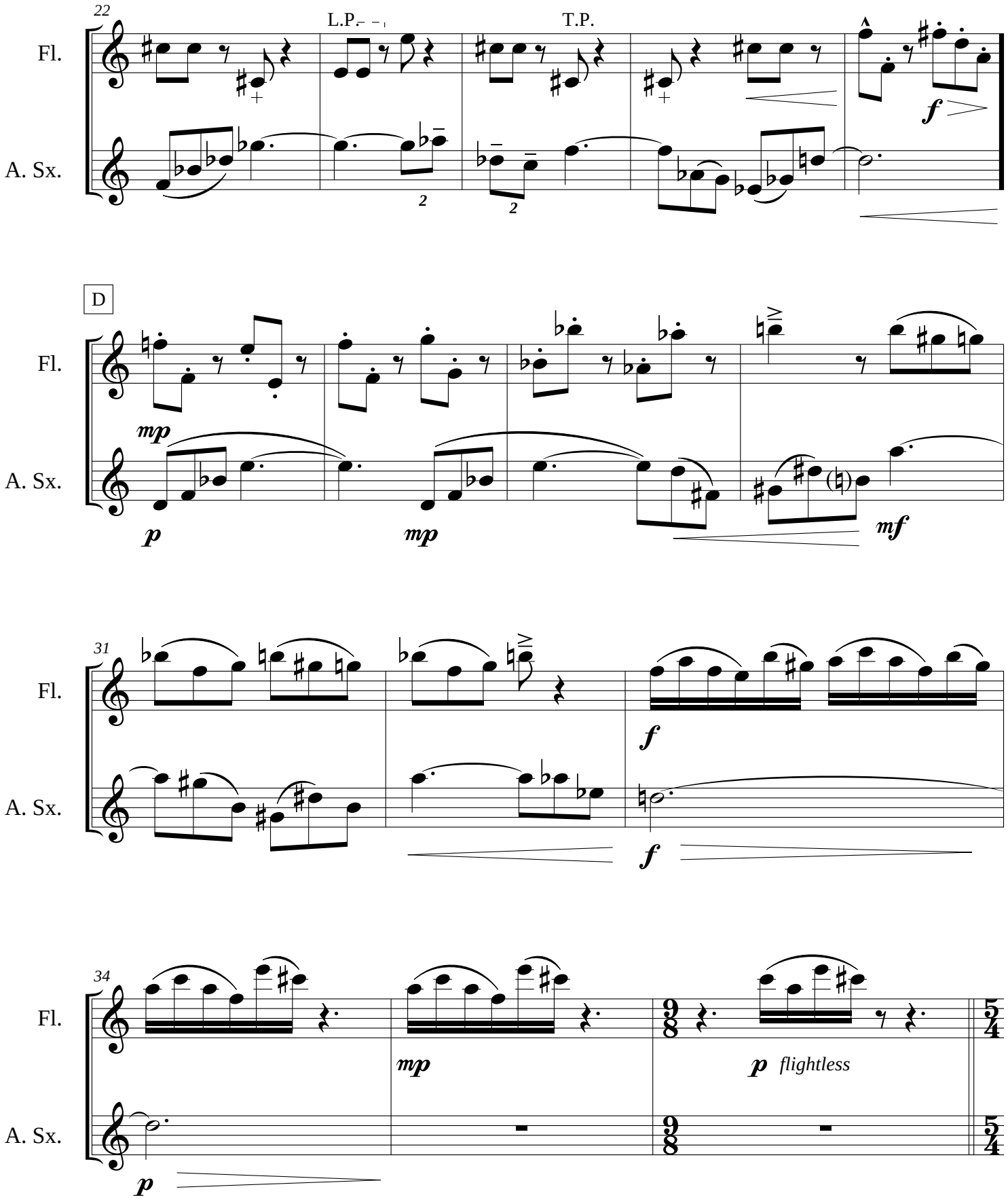

32
Fl.
A. Sx.
5
p
pp
possible
pp

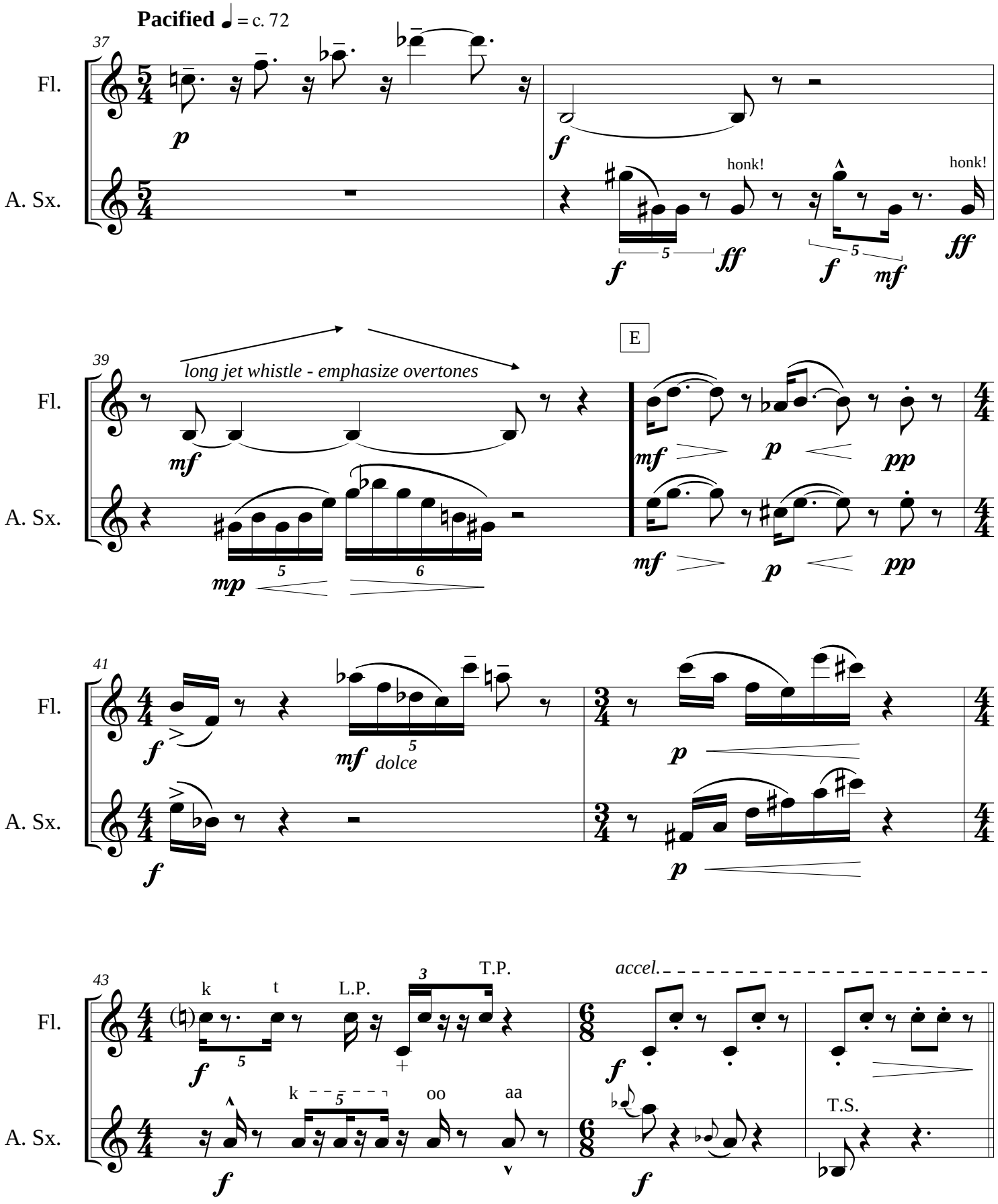
III. scherzotypical

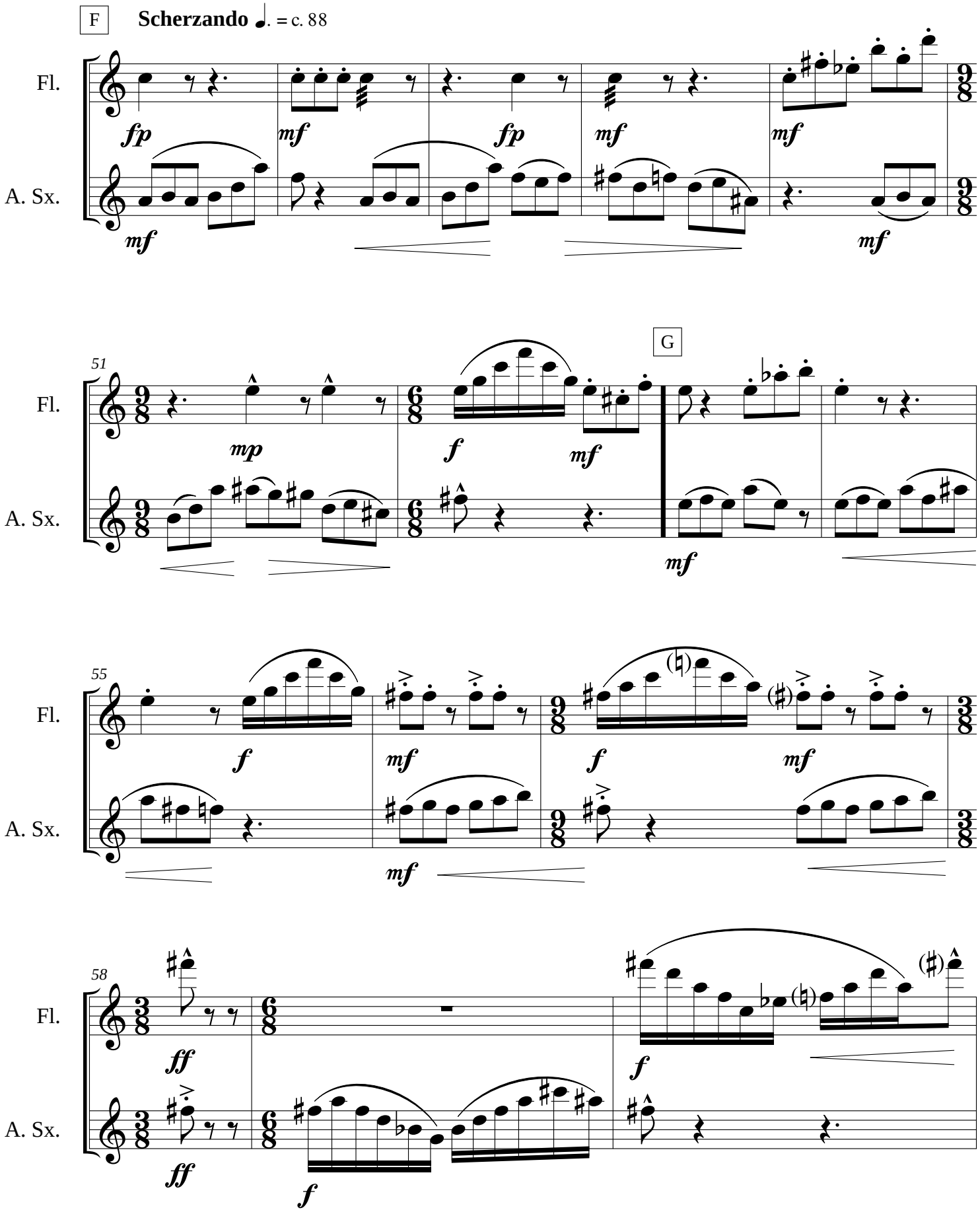


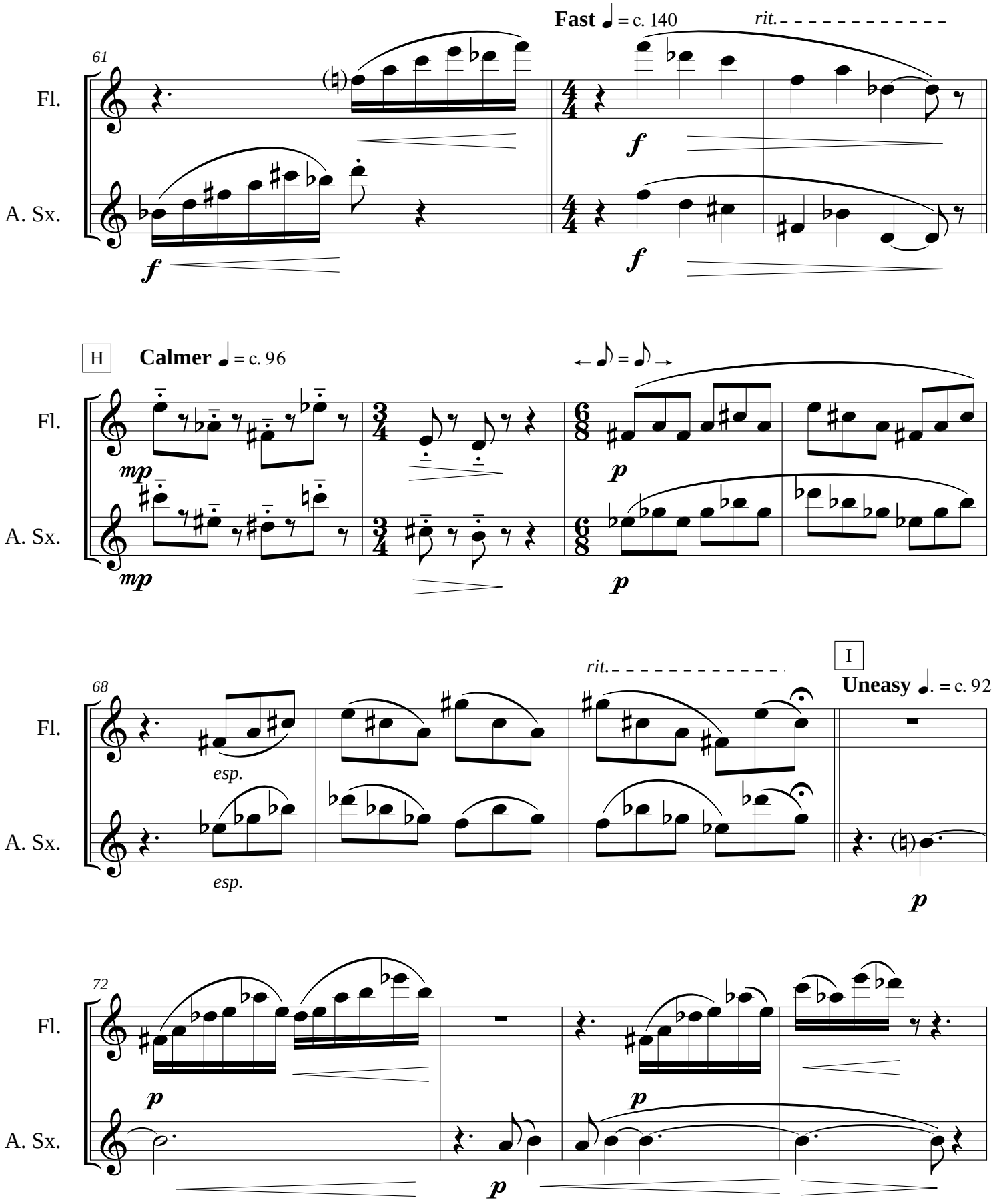
*) - denotes voicing / embouchure shape

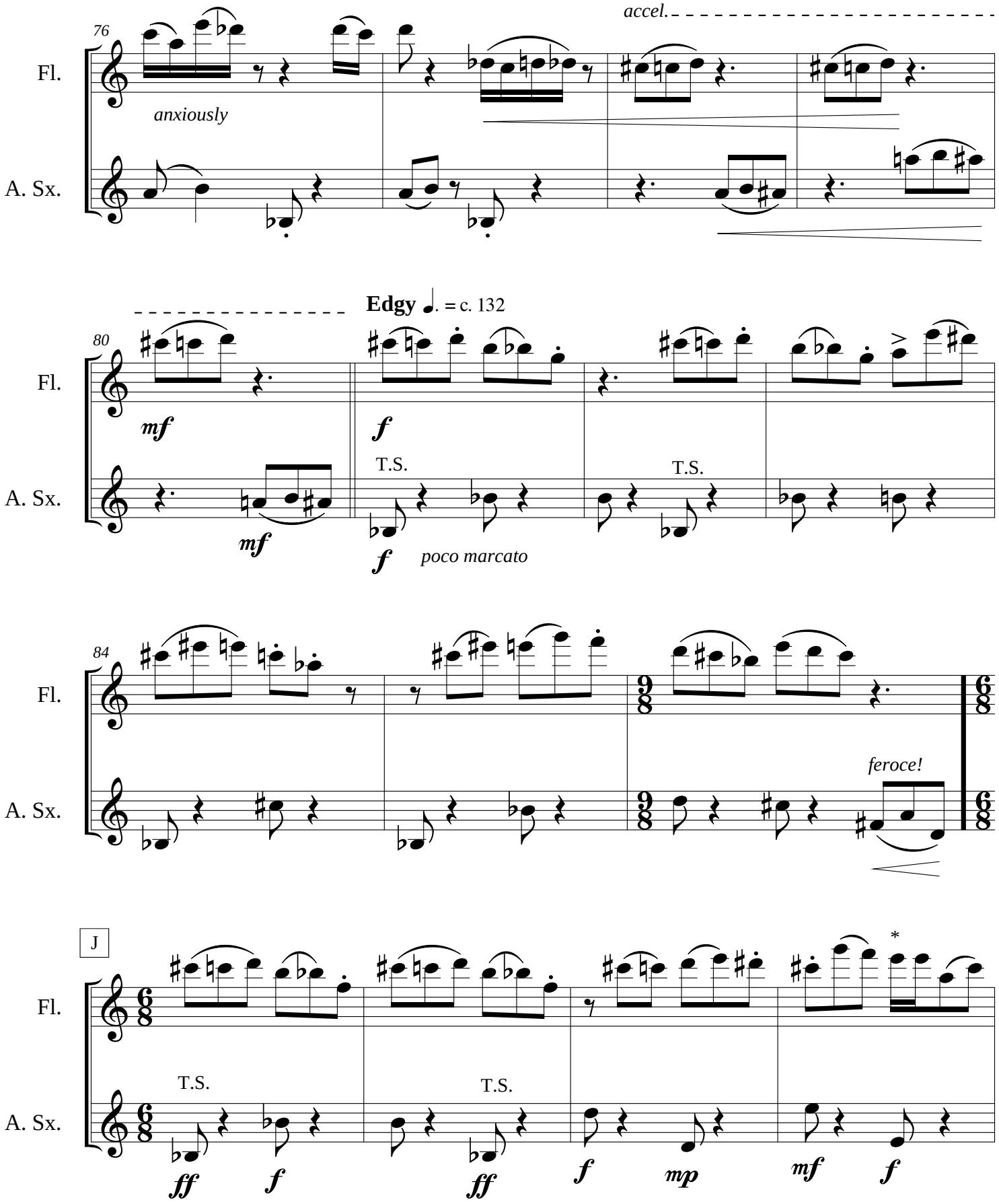

9
Fl.
A. Sx.
f deliberately disheveled
oo aa oo
oo aa oo
mf
B
Calmer ♩ = c. 88
J.W.
J.W.
T.P.
+ T.P.
5
f
ff
f
f
fp
accel.
Live wire ♩. = c. 100
14
p
p
f poco marcato
C
18
L.P.
mf
mf esp.


22
L.P.
T.P.
Fl.
A. Sx.
f
D
mp
p
mp
mf
31
f
f
34
mp
p flightless
p

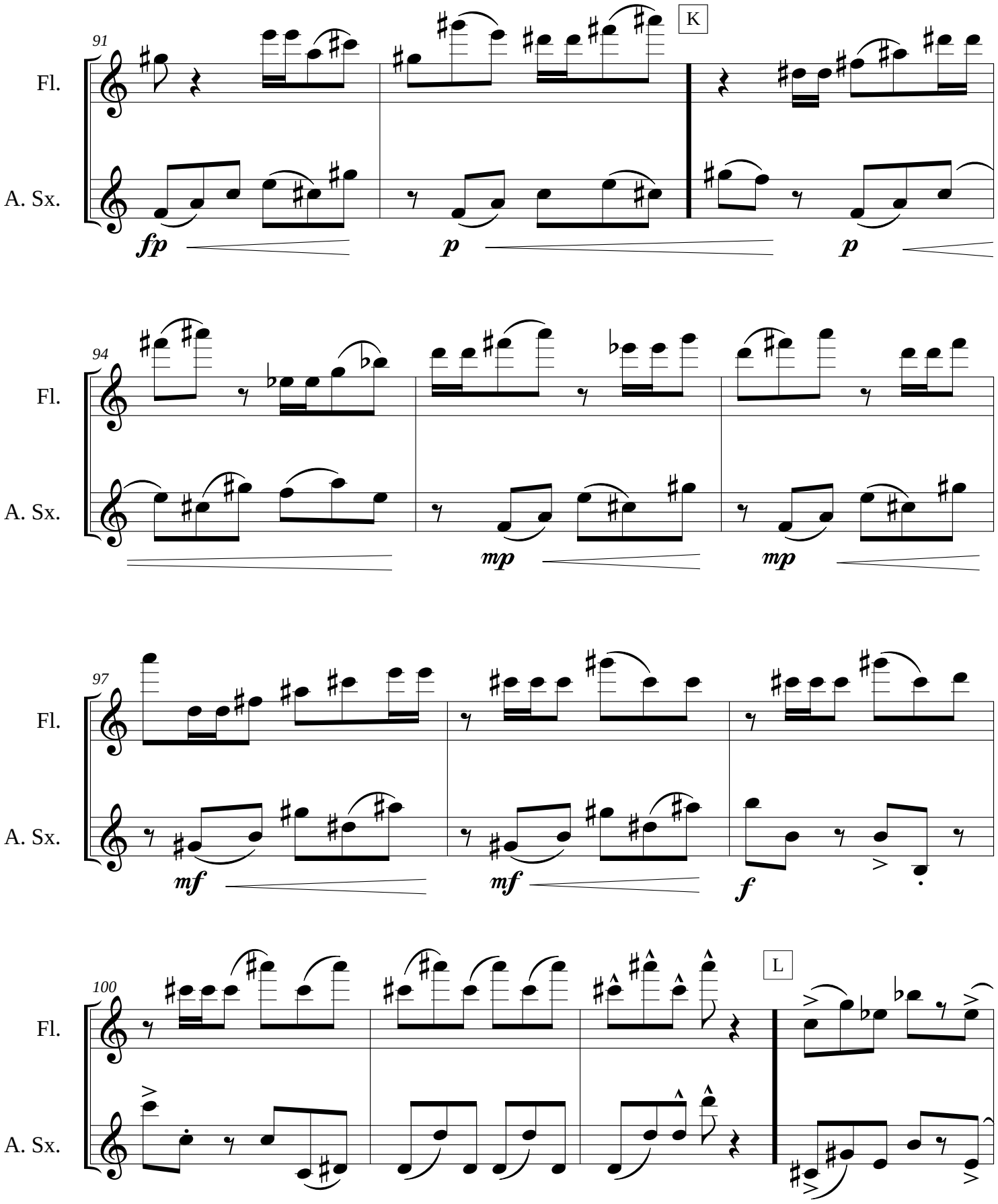

Pacified ♩ = c. 72
37
Fl.
A. Sx.
honk!
honk!
39
long jet whistle - emphasize overtones
E
41
dolce
43
k
t
L.P.
T.P.
accel.
k
oo
aa
T.S.

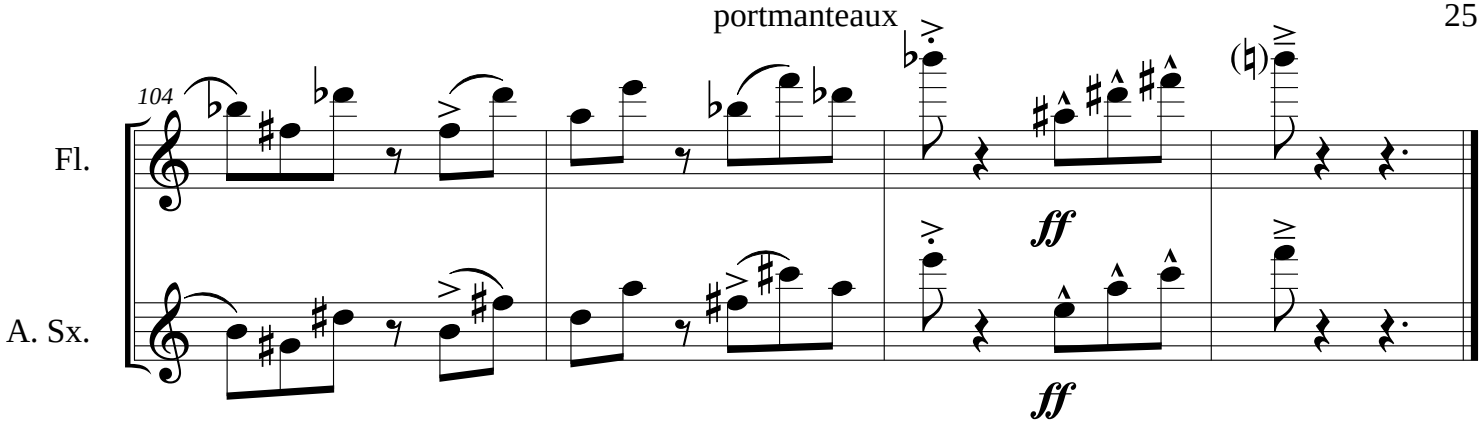

F
Scherzando ♩. = c. 88
Fl.
A. Sx.
fp
mf
fp
mf
mf
mf
51
G
mp
f
mf
mf
55
f
mf
f
mf
mf
58
ff
ff
f
f


61
Fast ♩ = c. 140
rit.
Fl.
A. Sx.
f
f
f
H
Calmer ♩ = c. 96
mp
mp
p
p
68
rit.
I
Uneasy ♩. = c. 92
esp.
esp.
p
72
p
p
p
p

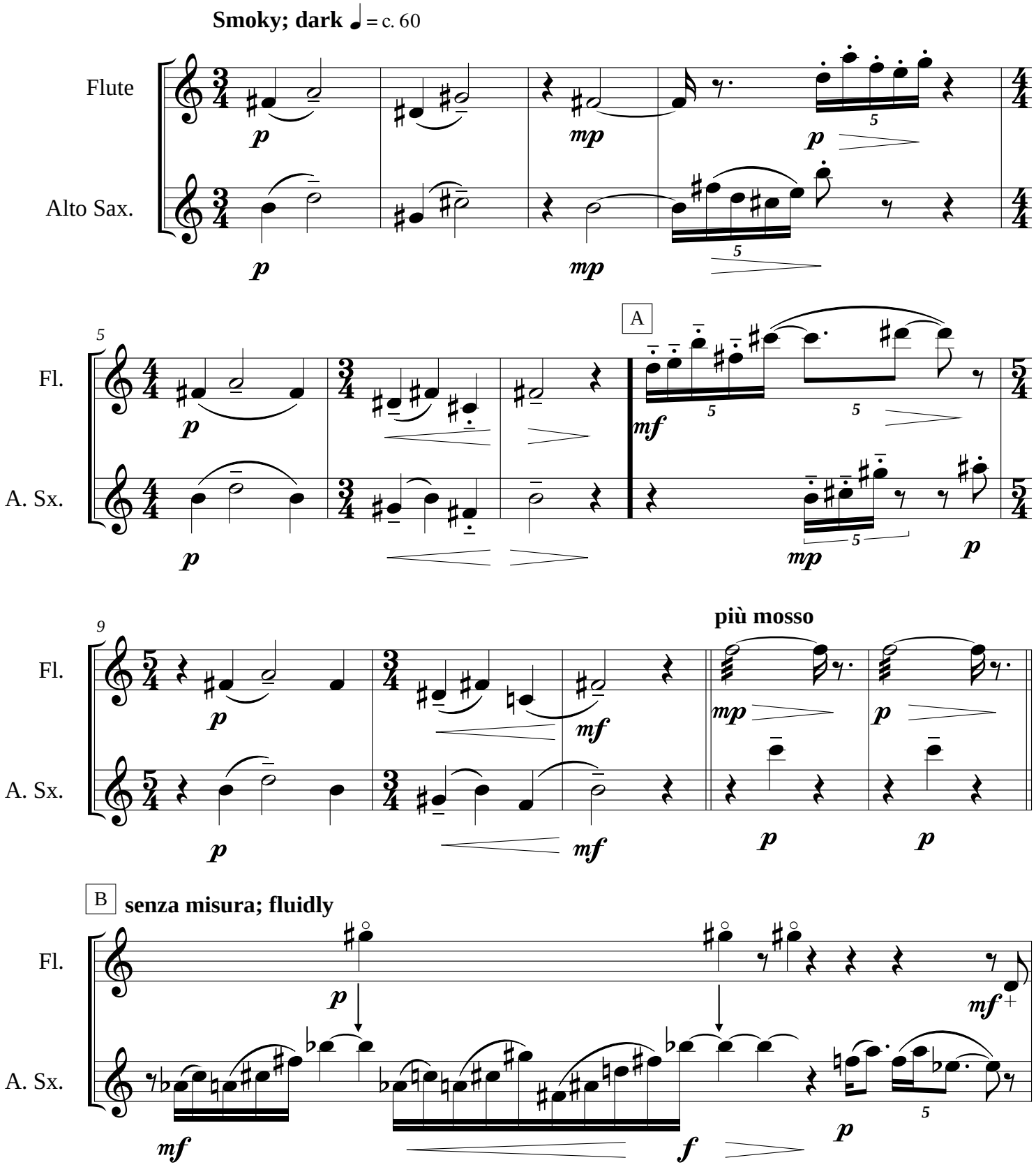


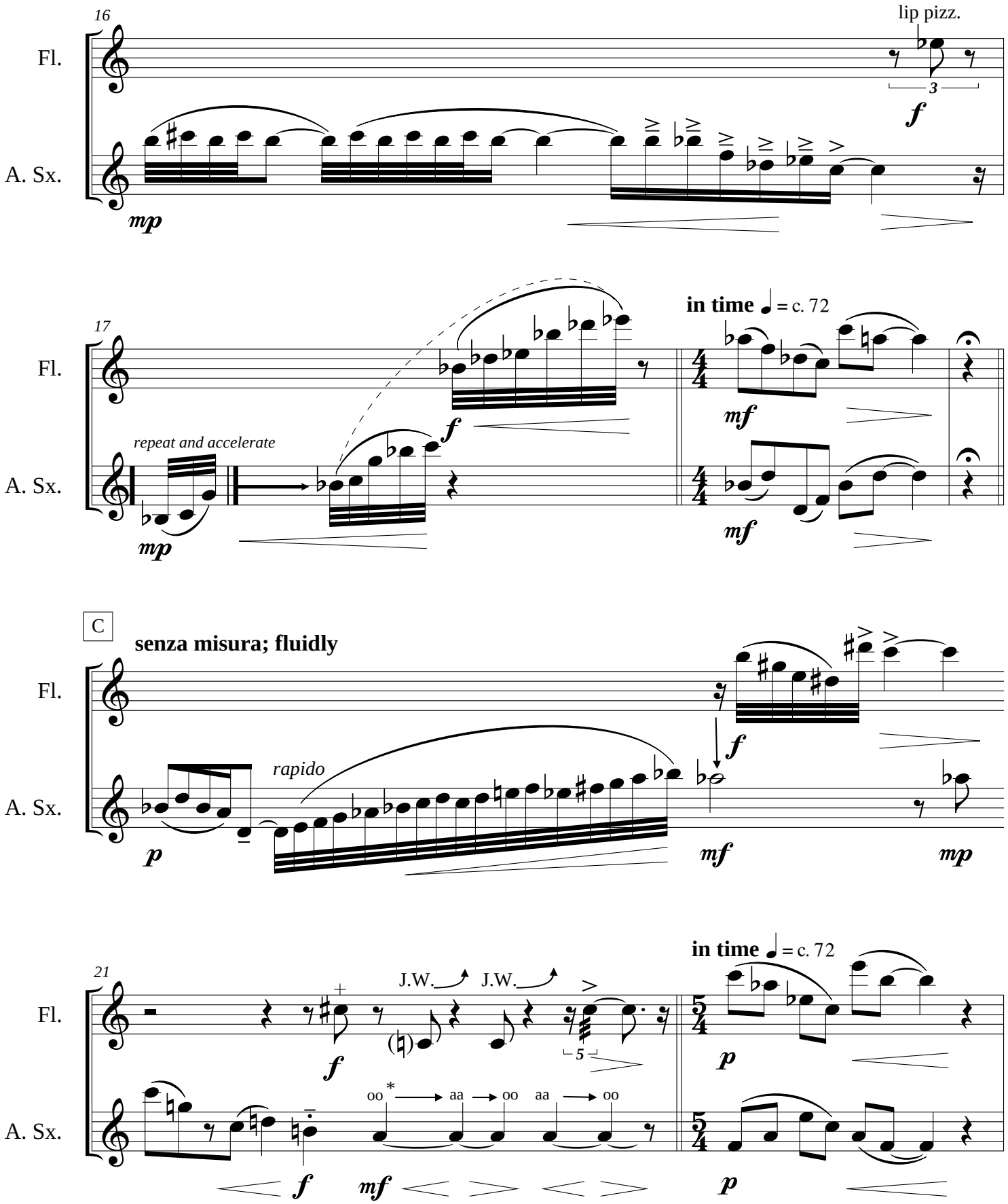
*) - ossia: play first sixteenth only

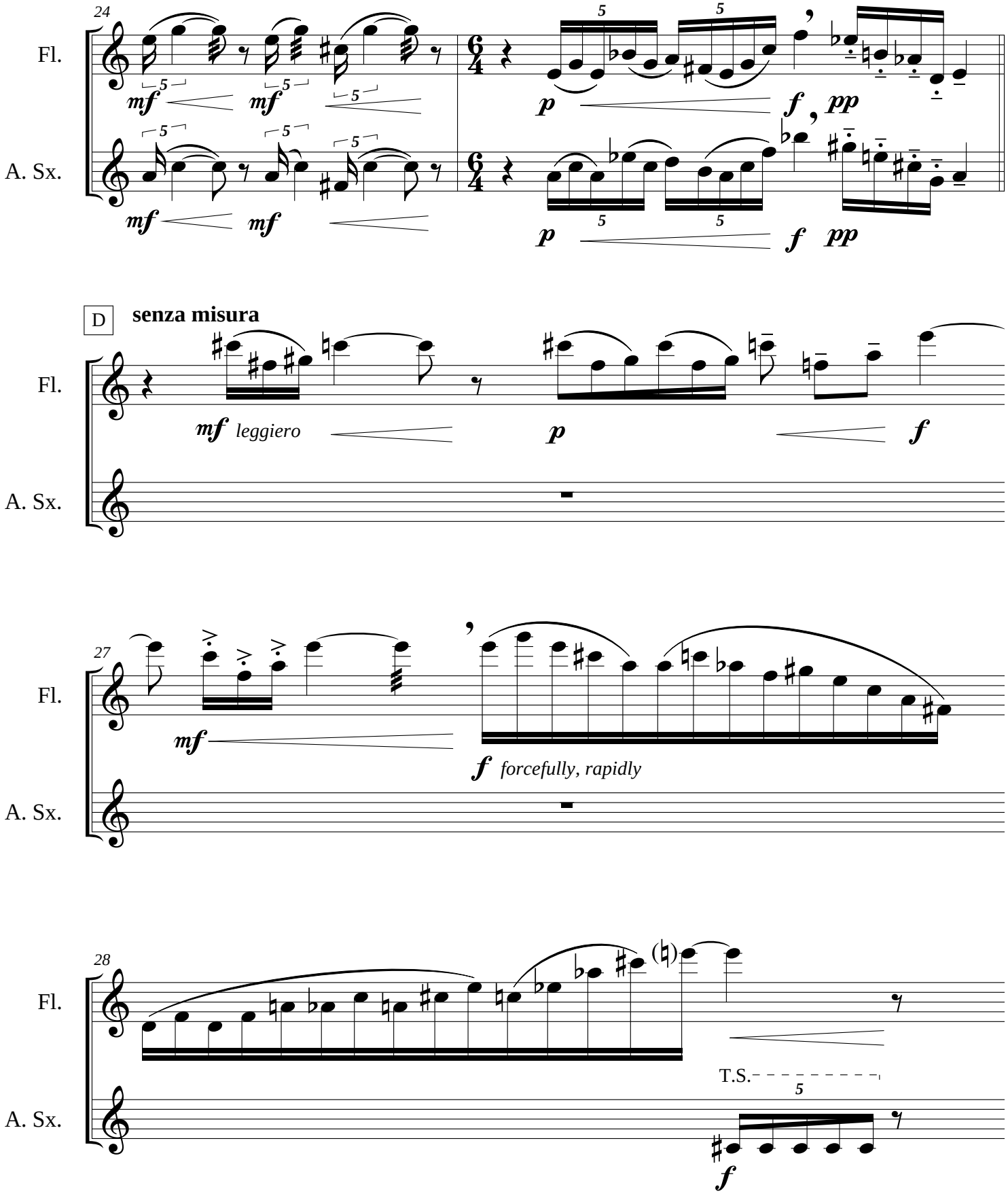

91
K
Fl.
A. Sx.
fp
p
p
94
Fl.
A. Sx.
mp
mp
97
Fl.
A. Sx.
mf
mf
f
100
L
Fl.
A. Sx.

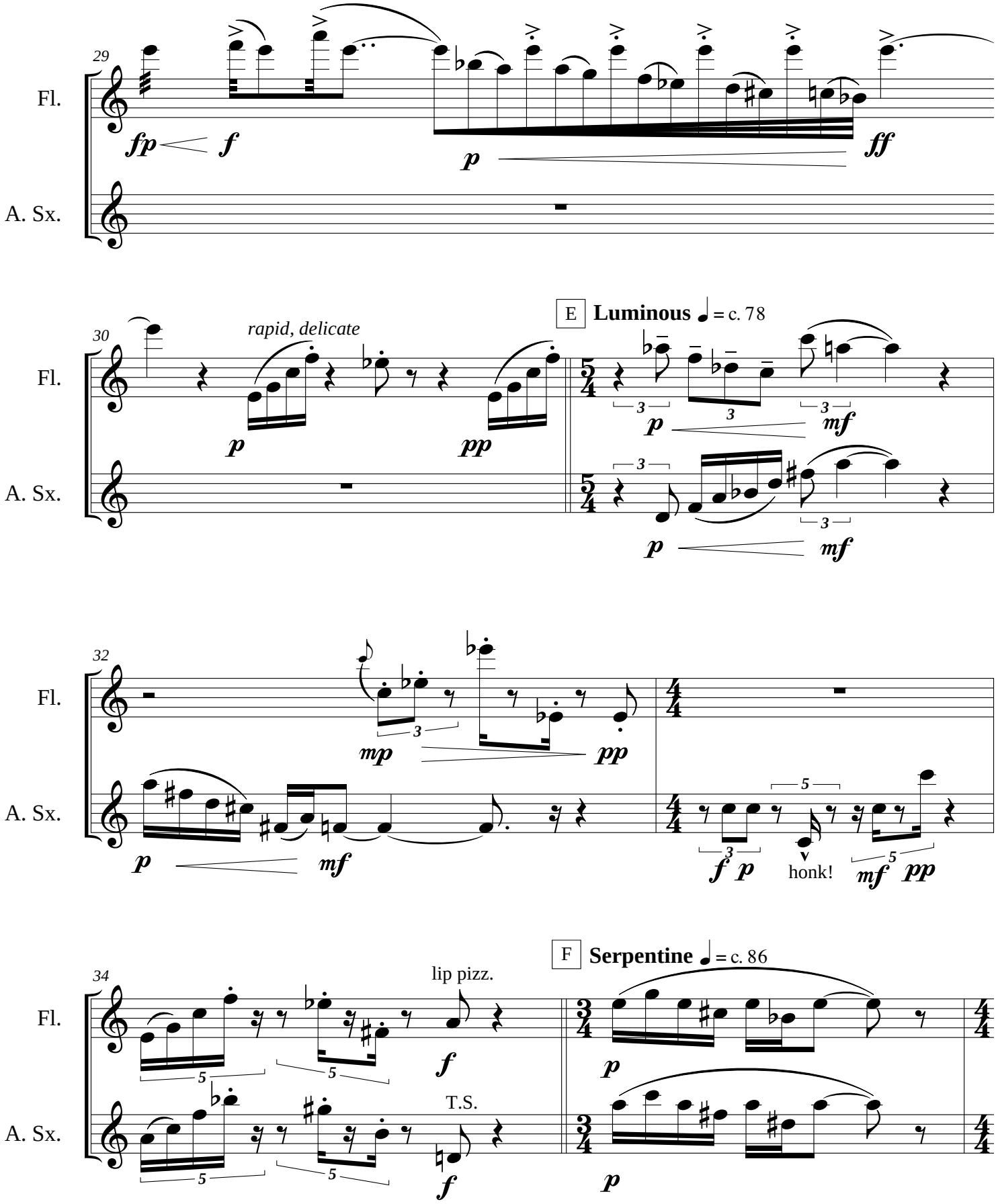

104
Fl.
A. Sx.
ff
ff

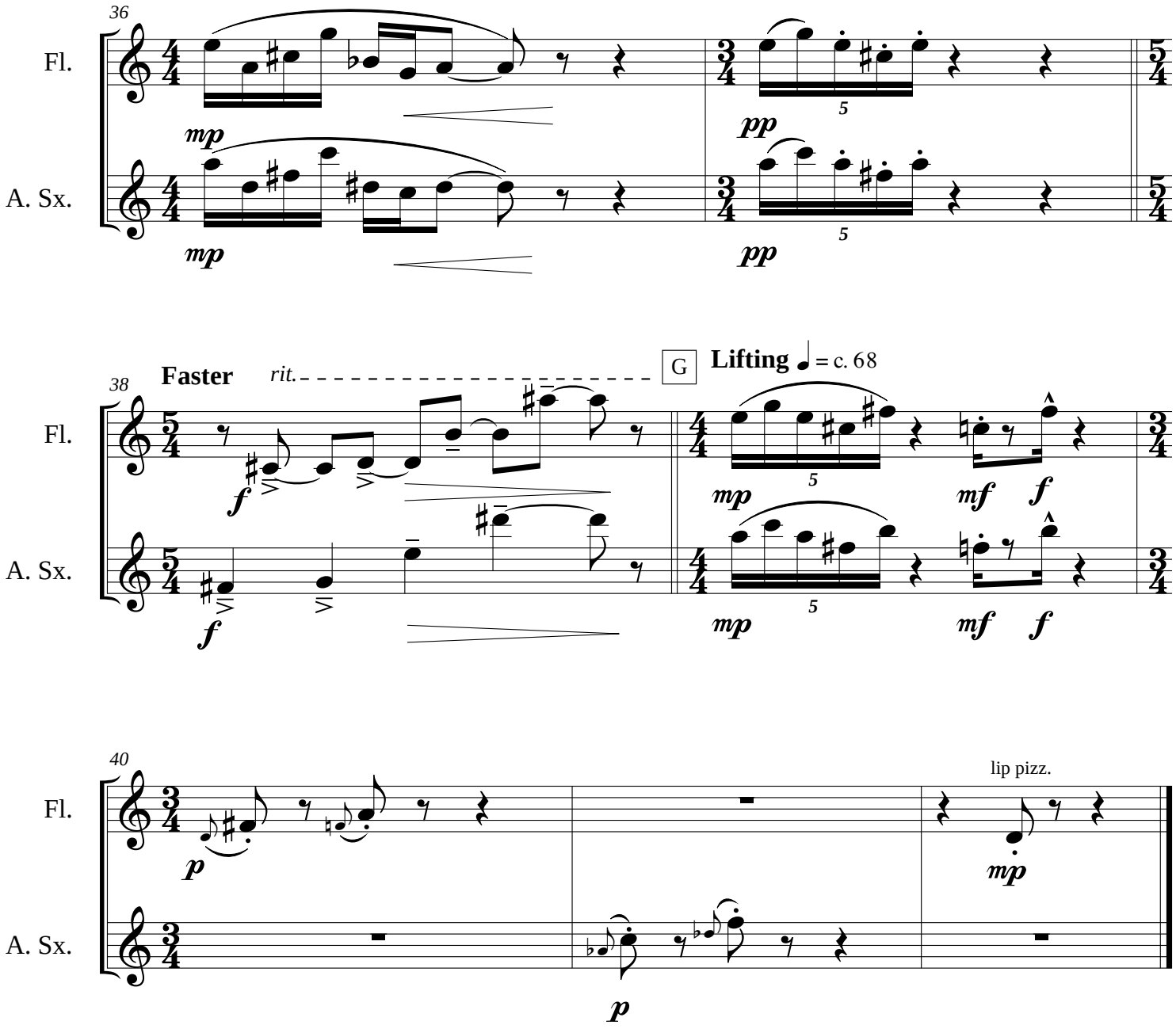
IV. passabando




16
lip pizz.
Fl.
A. Sx.
mp
f
17
in time ♩ = c. 72
repeat and accelerate
mf
C
senza misura; fluidly
rapido
p
21
J.W.
oo * aa oo aa oo
5
*) - voicing / embouchure shape

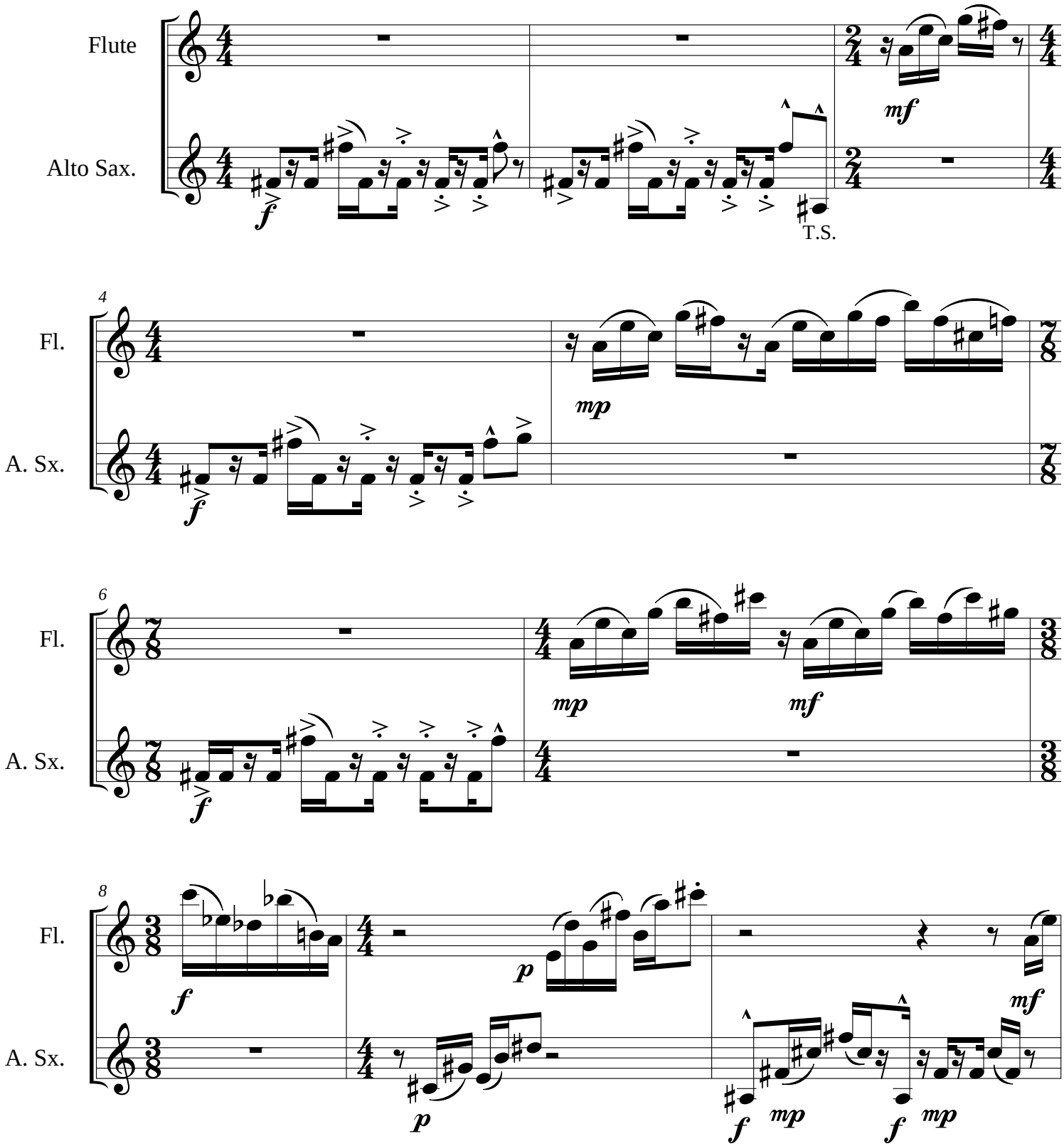

24
Fl.
A. Sx.
mf
p
f
pp
D
senza misura
leggiero
27
forcefully, rapidly
28
T.S.

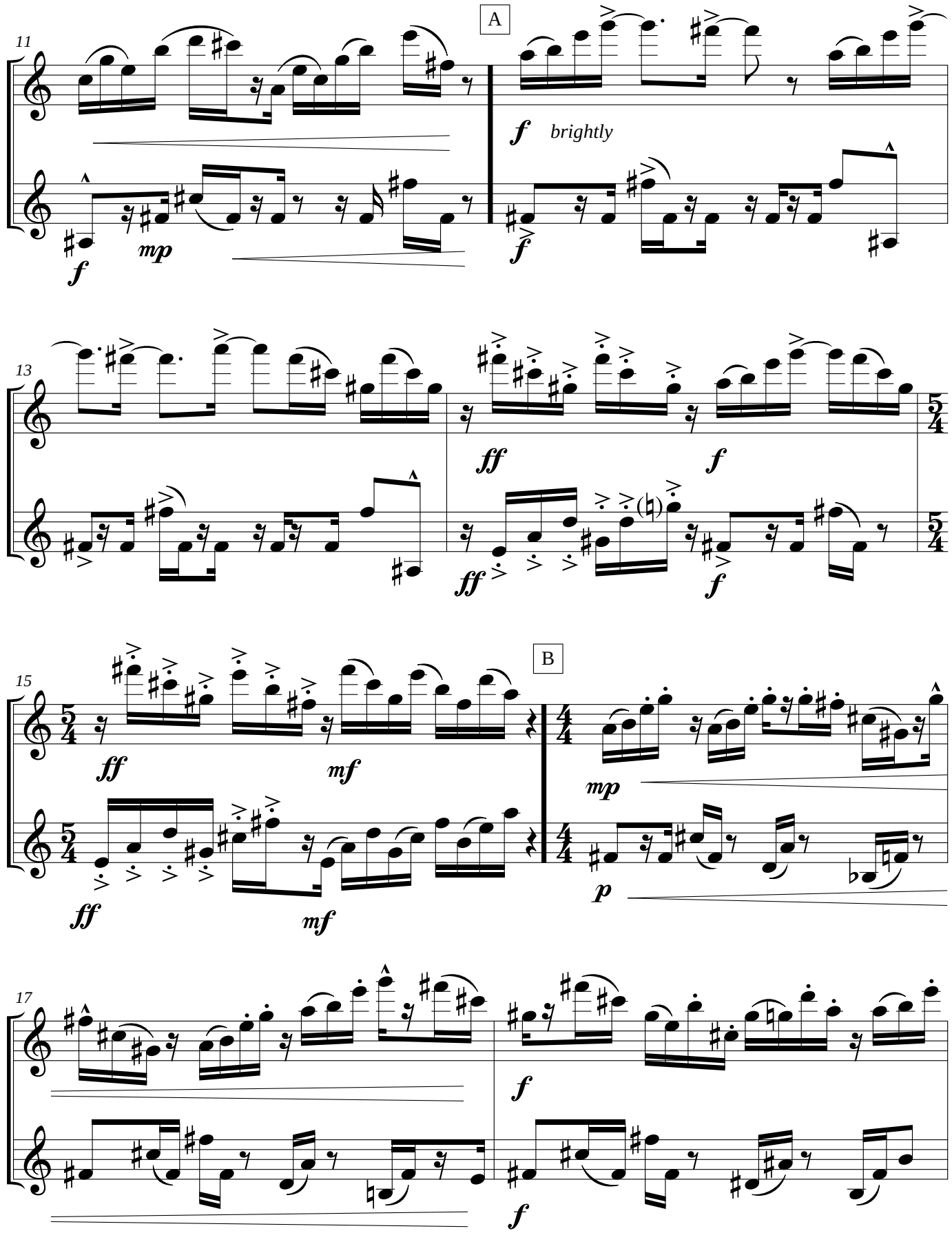

29
Fl.
A. Sx.
fp
f
p
ff
30
rapid, delicate
p
pp
E
Luminous ♩ = c. 78
p
mf
32
mp
pp
p
mf
f p
honk!
mf pp
34
lip pizz.
f
T.S.
F
Serpentine ♩ = c. 86
p

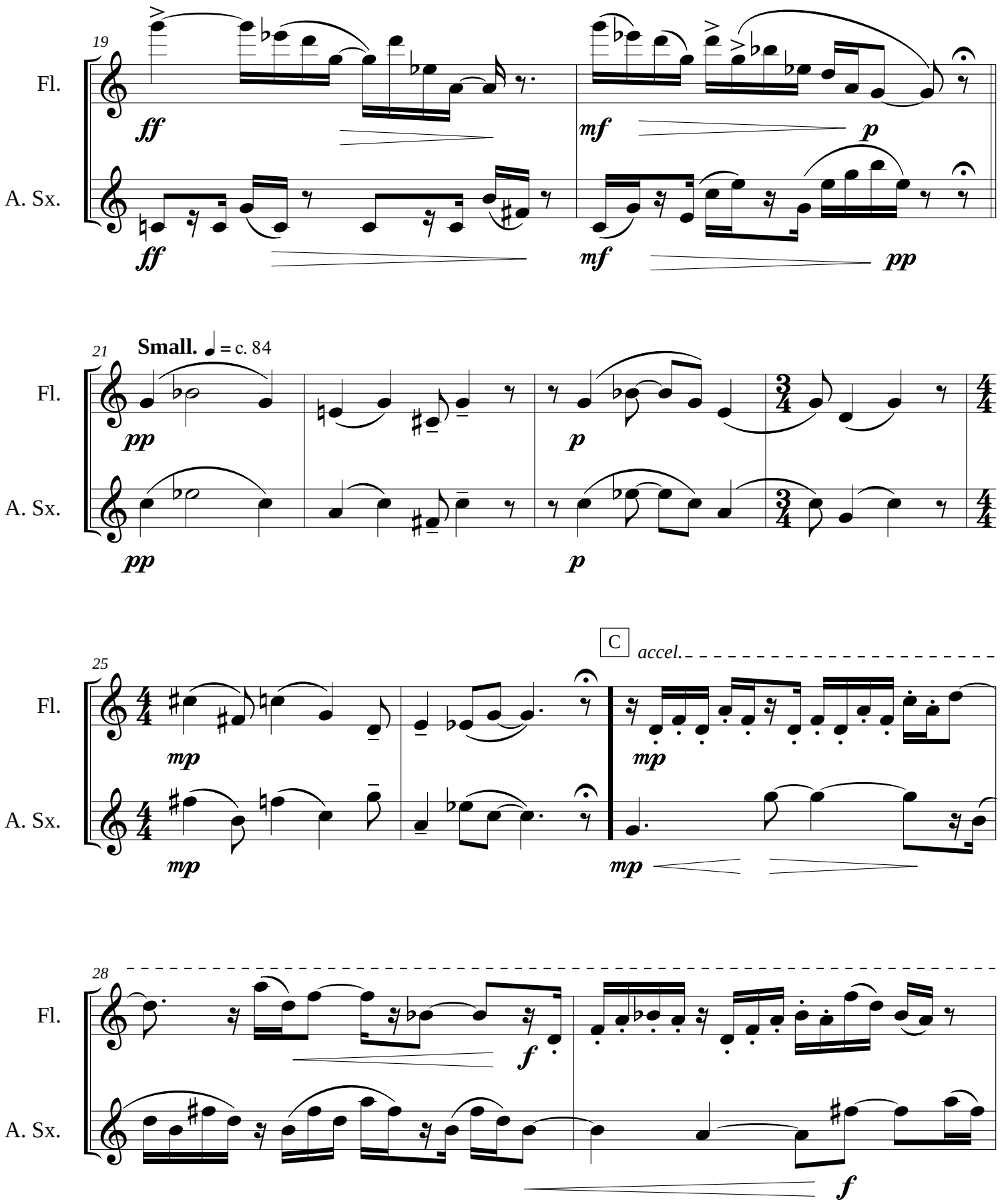

36
Fl.
A. Sx.
mp
pp
38
Faster
rit.
G
Lifting ♩ = c. 68
f
mf
40
lip pizz.
p

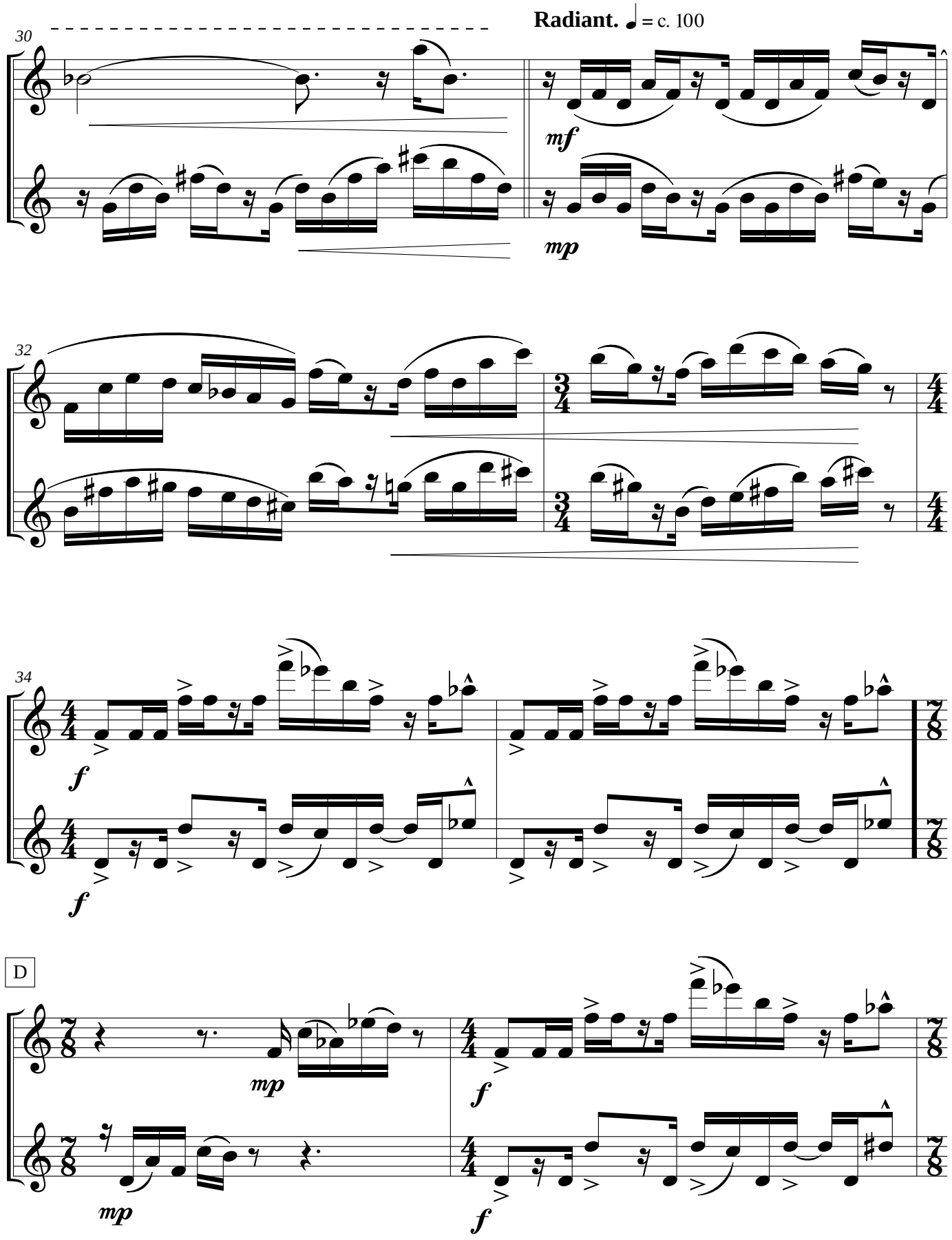
V. phunque

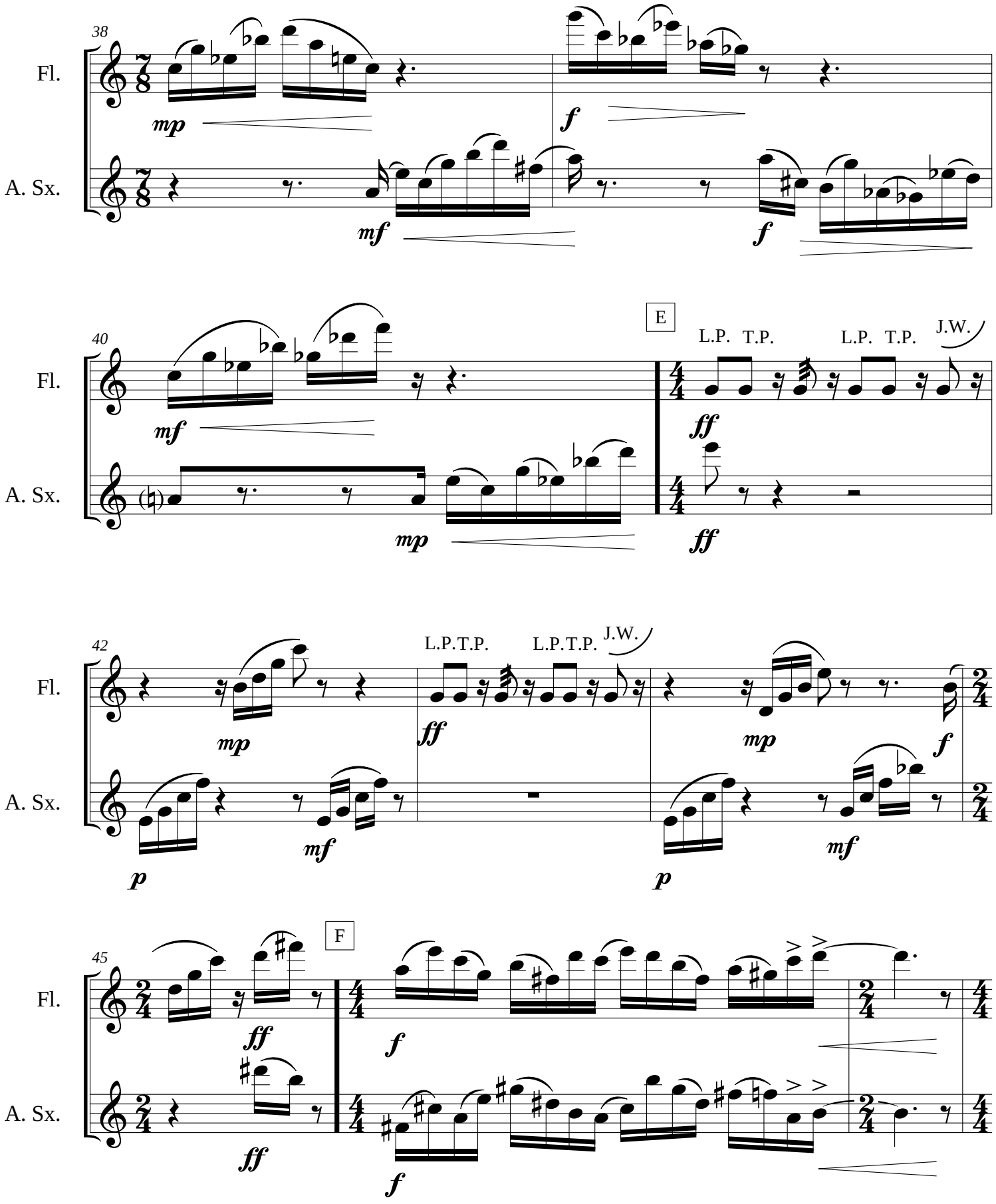
Hard funk. ♩ = c. 94, ♩ = ♩ sempre

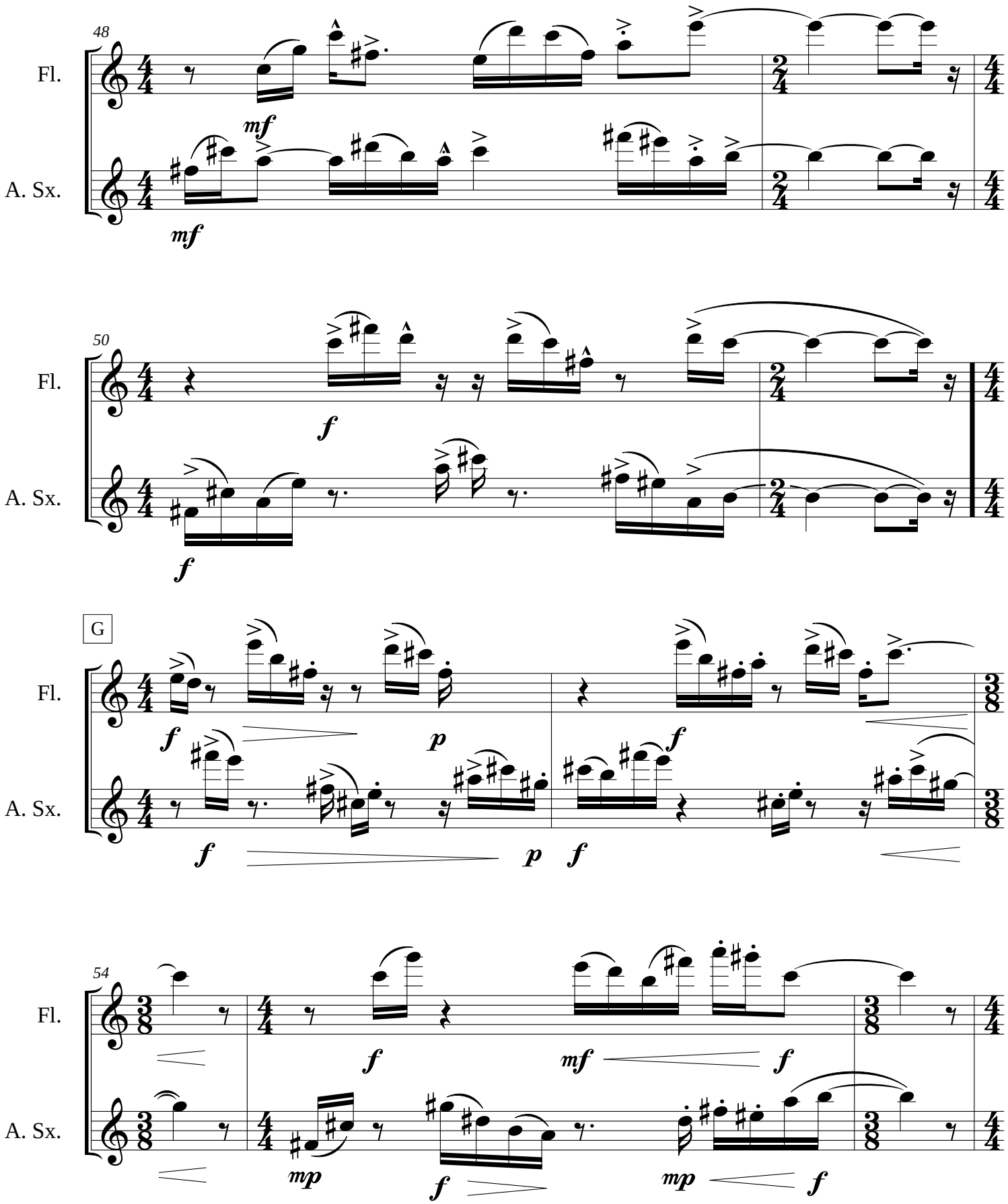


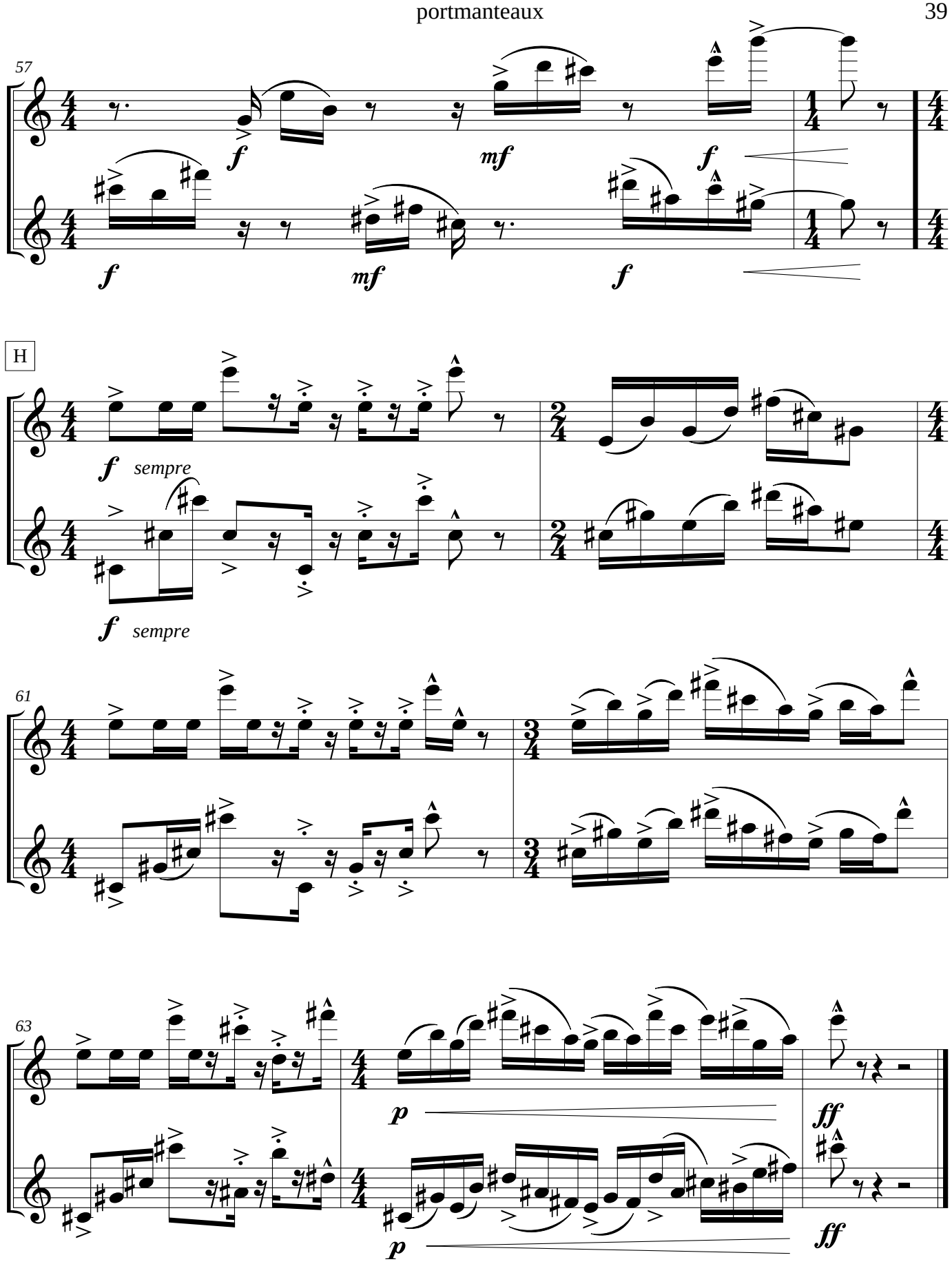

A
11
Fl.
A. Sx.
f
mp
f
f
brightly
13
Fl.
A. Sx.
ff
f
ff
f
B
15
Fl.
A. Sx.
ff
mf
ff
mf
mp
p
17
Fl.
A. Sx.
f
f


19
Fl.
A. Sx.
ff
ff
mf
mf
p
pp
21
Small. ♩ = c. 84
Fl.
A. Sx.
pp
pp
p
p
25
C
accel.
Fl.
A. Sx.
mp
mp
mp
mp
28
Fl.
A. Sx.
f
f


Radiant. ♩ = c. 100
30
Fl.
A. Sx.
mf
mp
32
34
f
D
mp


38
Fl.
A. Sx.
mp
f
mf
f
40
Fl.
A. Sx.
mf
mp
E
L.P. T.P.
L.P. T.P.
J.W.
ff
ff
42
Fl.
A. Sx.
mp
ff
L.P.T.P.
L.P.T.P.
J.W.
mp
f
p
mf
p
mf
45
Fl.
A. Sx.
ff
ff
F
f
f


48
Fl.
A. Sx.
mf
mf
50
Fl.
A. Sx.
f
f
G
Fl.
A. Sx.
f
f
p
f
p
f
54
Fl.
A. Sx.
f
mf
f
mp
f
mp
f


57
Fl.
A. Sx.
f
mf
f
f
mf
f
H
Fl.
A. Sx.
f sempre
f sempre
61
Fl.
A. Sx.
63
Fl.
A. Sx.
p
ff
p
ff