Tandem

for alto saxophone duo

Thomas J. Dempster (BMI)

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for alto saxophone duo

Thomas J. Dempster (BMI)

West Columbia, SC / Nebraska City, NE / Hot Springs, AR

April 2014 / January 2016 / November 2019

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Tandem (2014/2019) – Duration: ca. 8:00

Program Notes

Side by side, and then one after the other. One after another, after another after another. Pulling or pushing each other along? A friendly game of chase, or something a little more desperate?

Performance Notes

Multiphonics are sourced from Kientzy's *Le Sons Multiples*…. and are notated by Kientzy number. Feel free to sub in other multis that produce approximately the same lowest pitch. Suggested fingerings forthcoming.

Tongue slaps ("slap!" in score) should be a little more delicate the close to and above written middle C one gets. Lower slaps should, unequivocally, be as subtle as Donald Trump being a racist, pathological liar.

Glissandi, when marked, should be treated as bends where appropriate. Glissandi should extend the entire written duration, not a sudden up or downswoop just before the termination of the pitch.

Grace notes should be brittle and cosmically short.

The first few pages look messy. It should sound messy, as though the two players are purposefully trying to find each other's place and rhythm. Leave the ultimate exactitude for later in the work where painfully necessary.

The lone ¼-tone trill is probably as easily executed as a timbre trill. Either works. It happens only once in the piece, so don't overthink it. Hell, don't do it if you don't want to.

Accelerandos, as much as is comfortable, should reach and exceed tempos beyond the tempo markings that follow. It's a constant game of push, push, push, and immediately hesitate.

Composed in West Columbia, SC, and Nebraska City, NE, and revised in Hot Springs, AR, all between 2014-2019.

Accidentals apply only to octave in which they appear.

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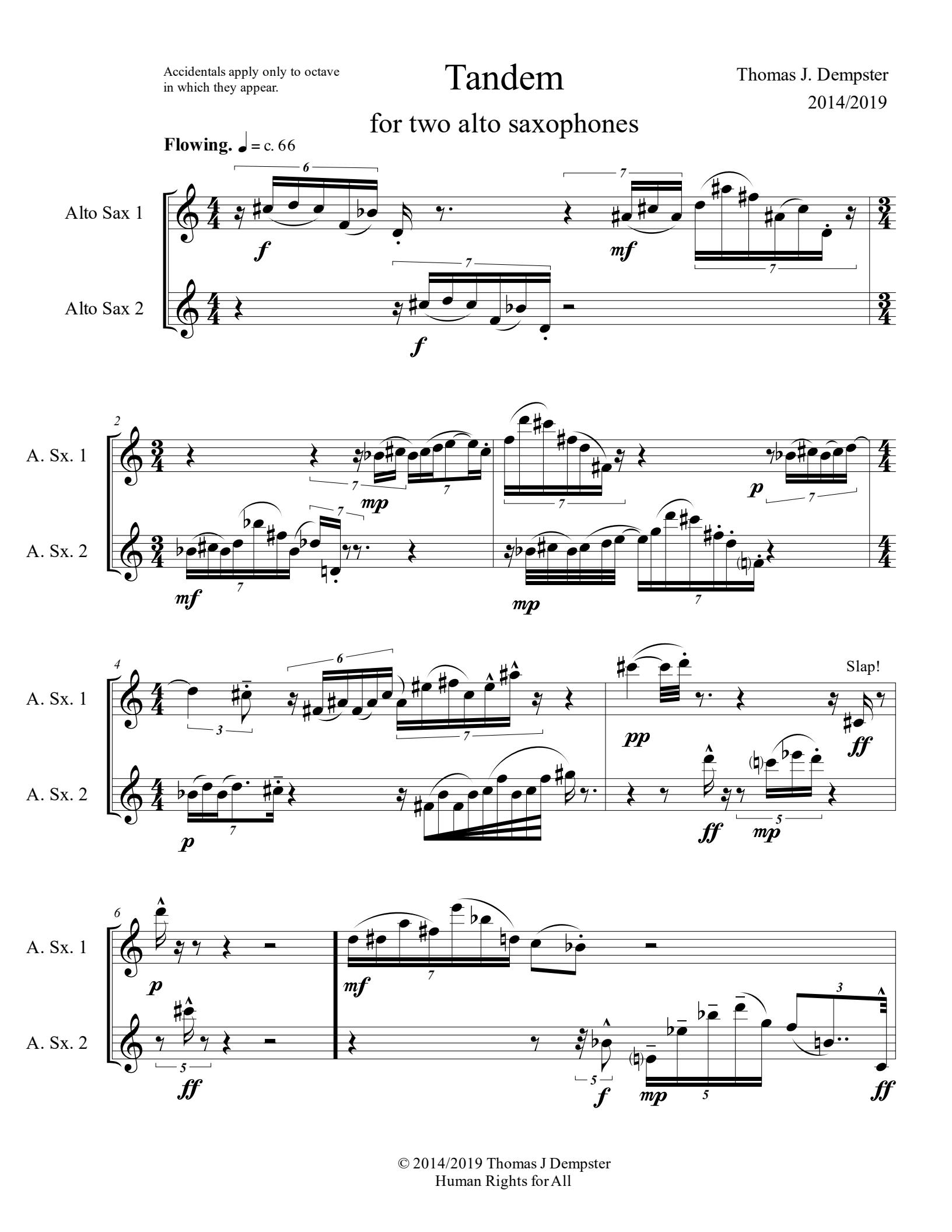
for two alto saxophones

Thomas J. Dempster
2014/2019

Flowing. ♩ = c. 66



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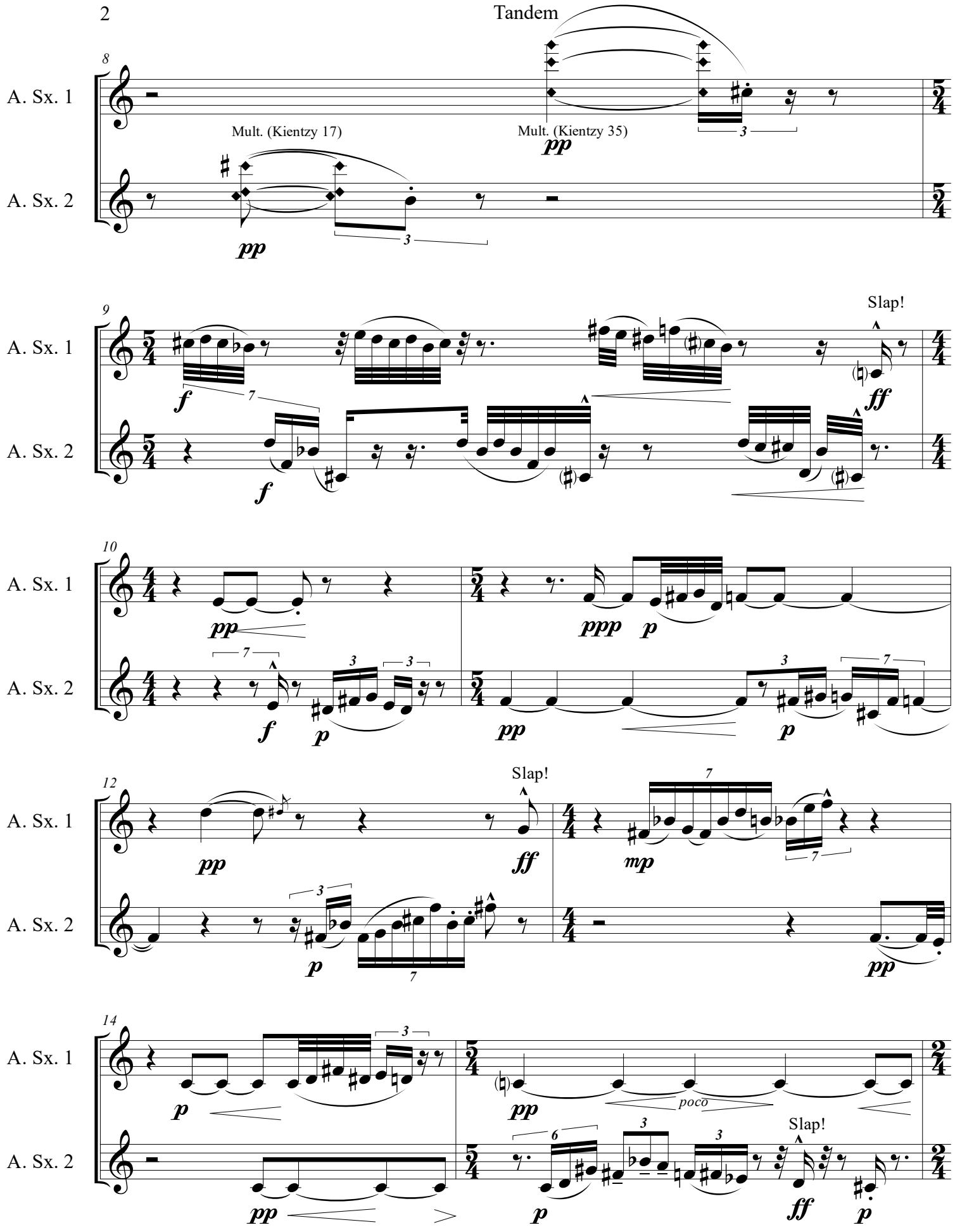
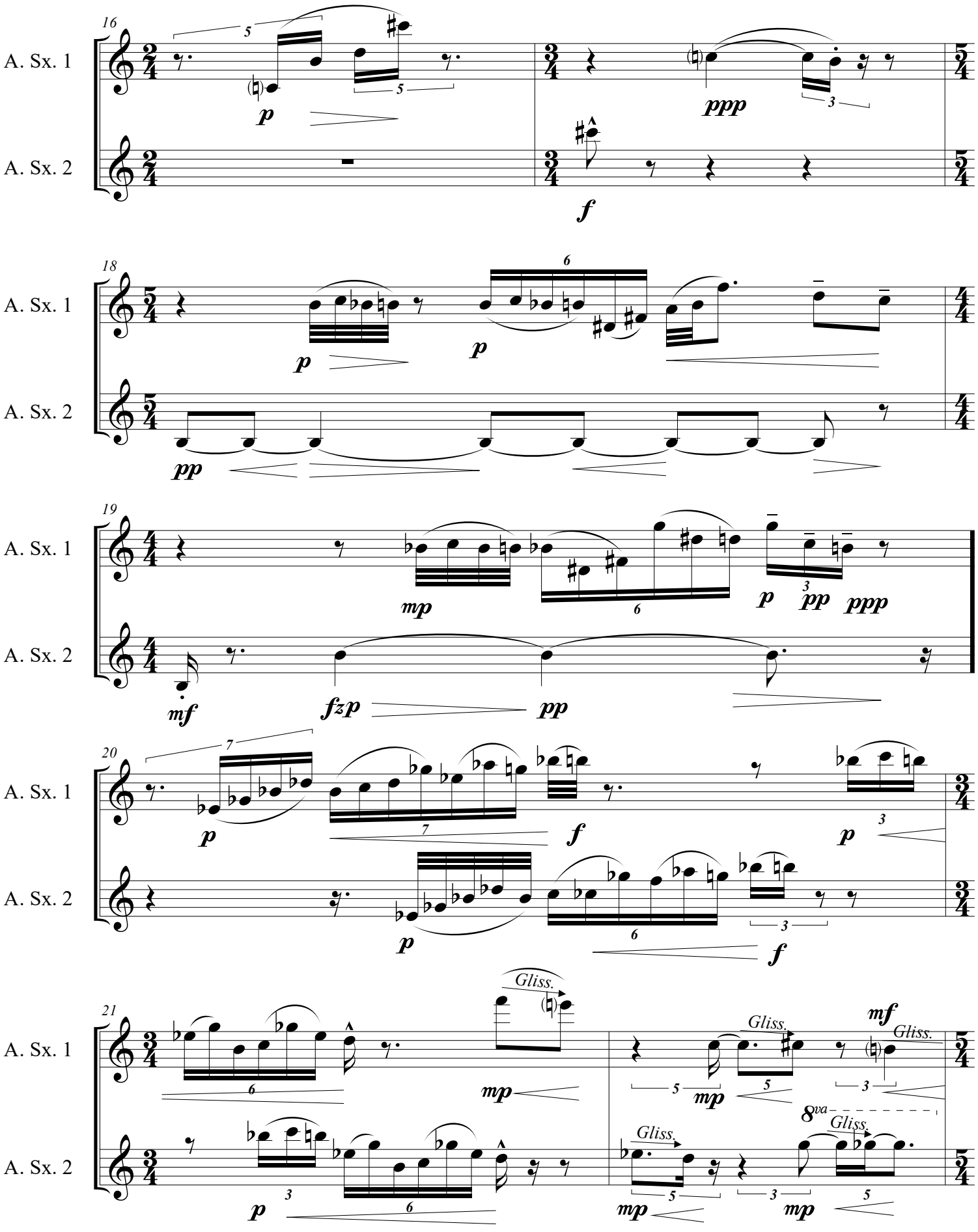
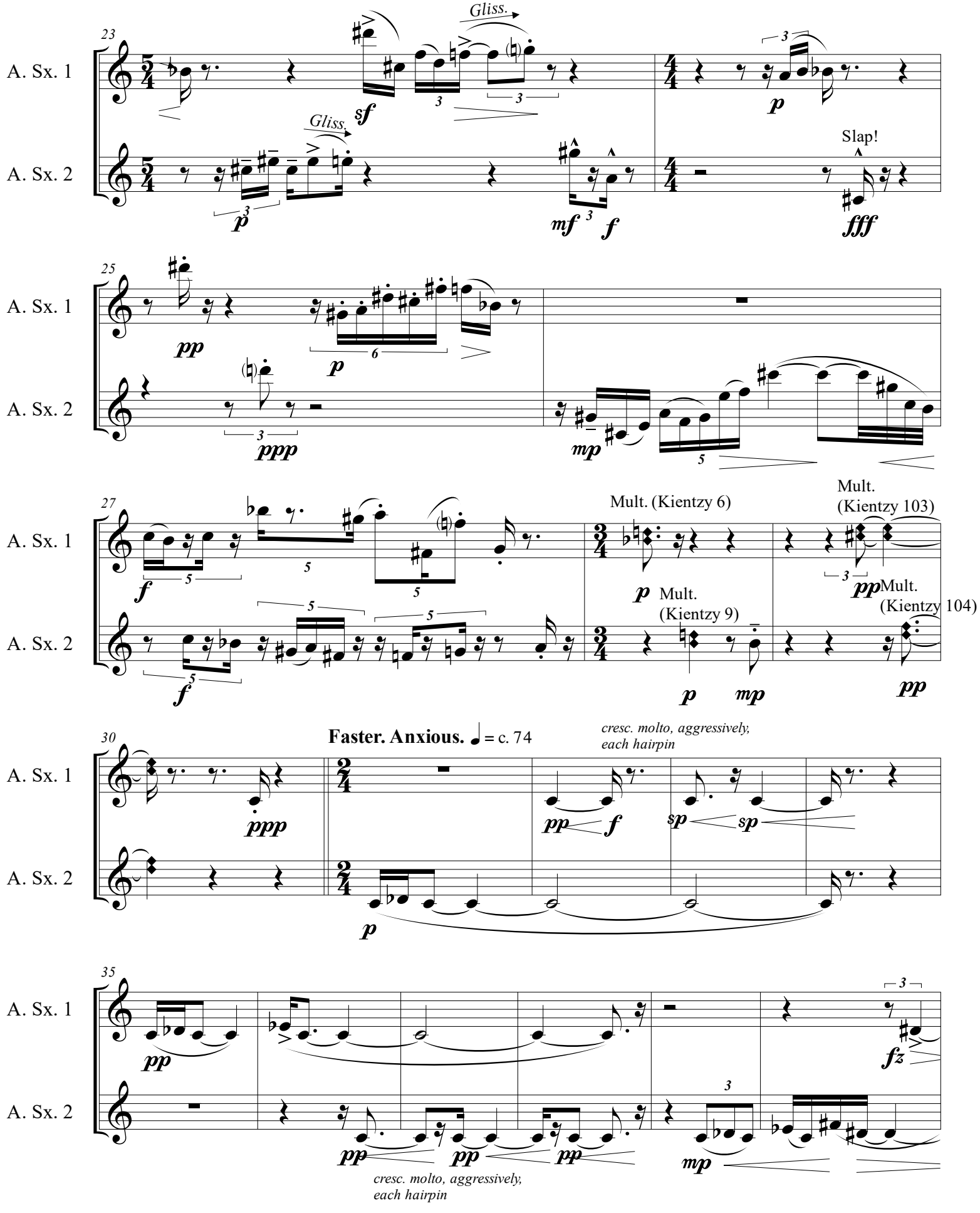
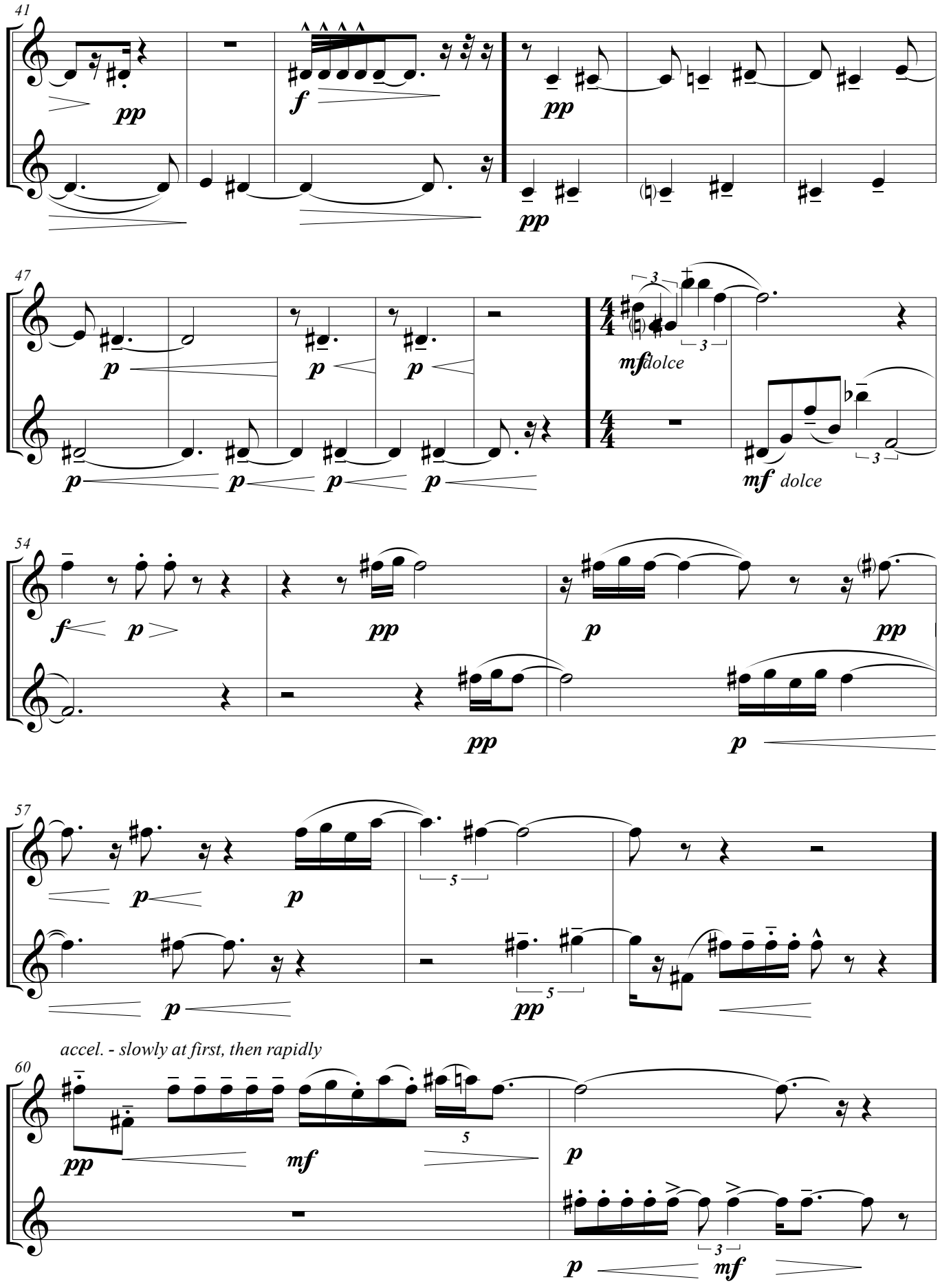
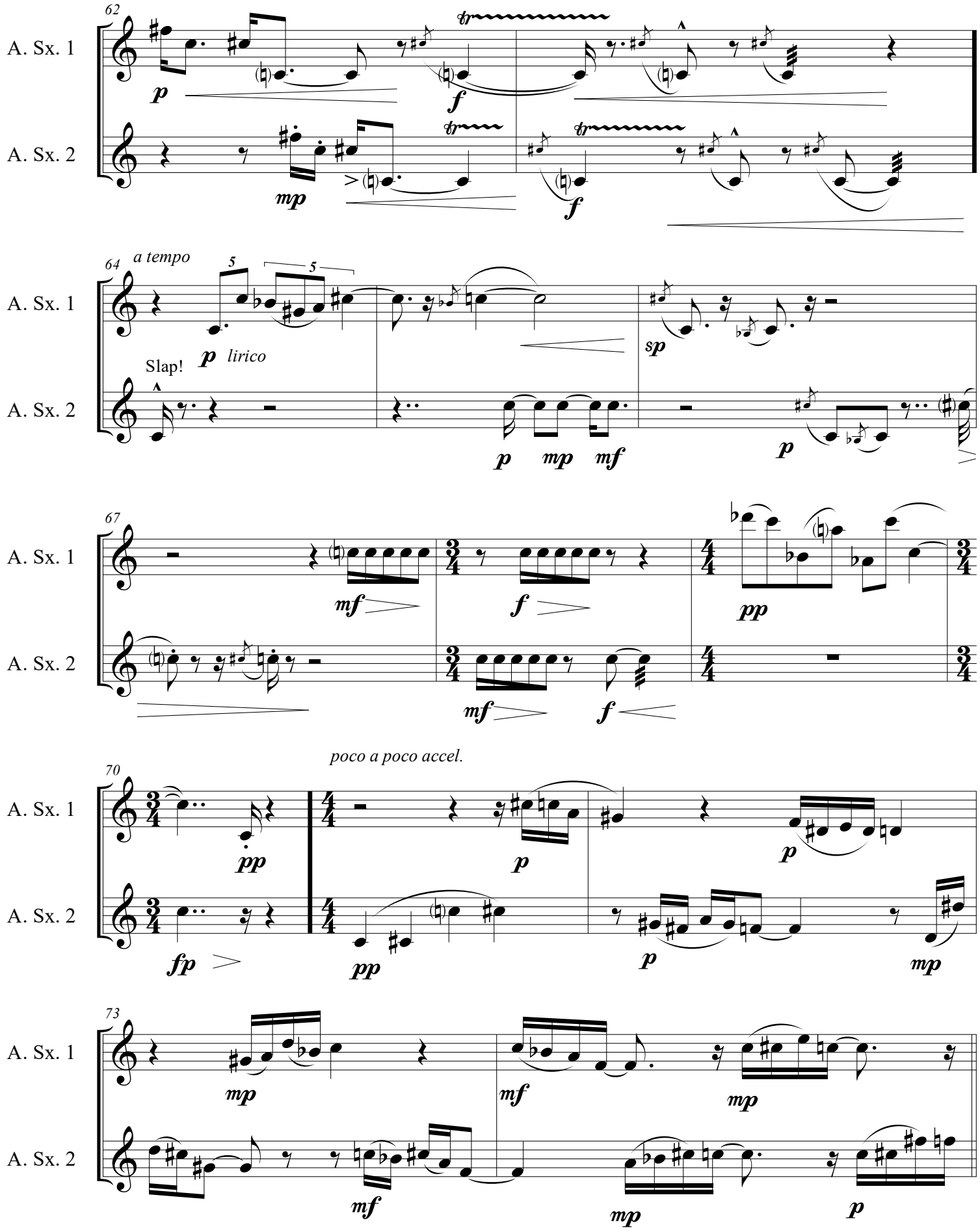
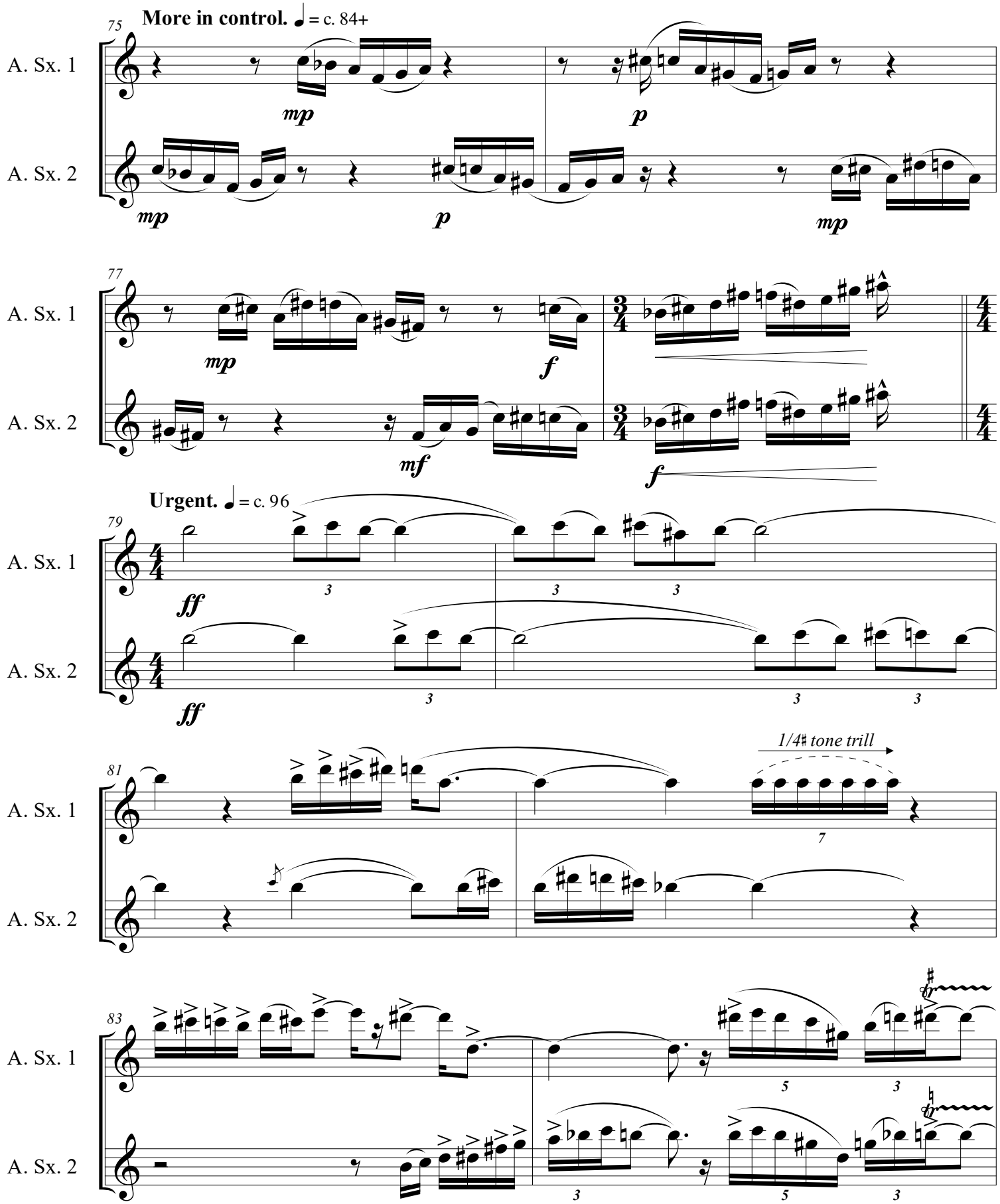

A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
Mult. (Kientzy 17)
Mult. (Kientzy 35)
Slap!
poco

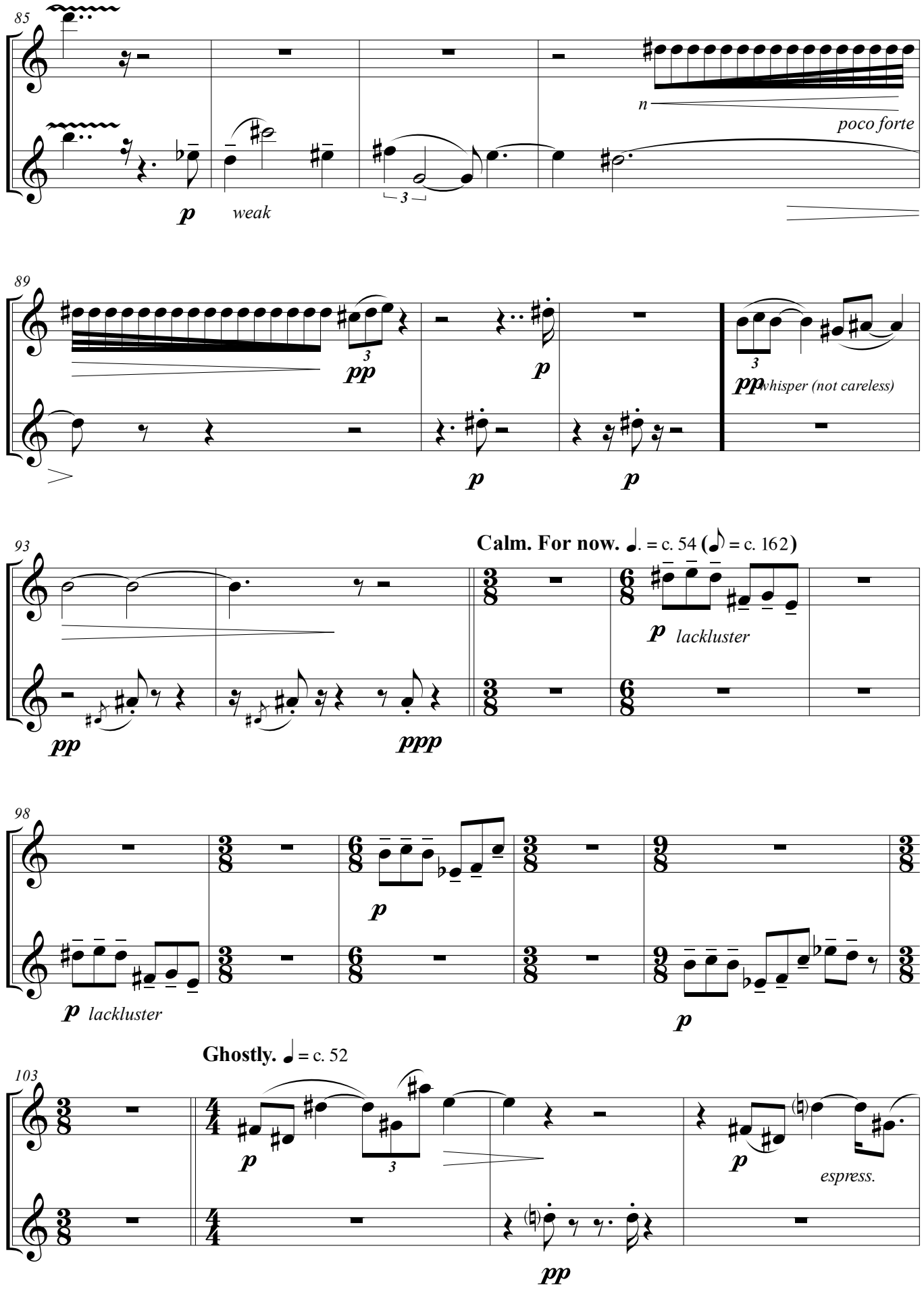

16
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
p
ppp
f
18
pp
19
mp
mf
fzp
20
21
Gliss.
8va

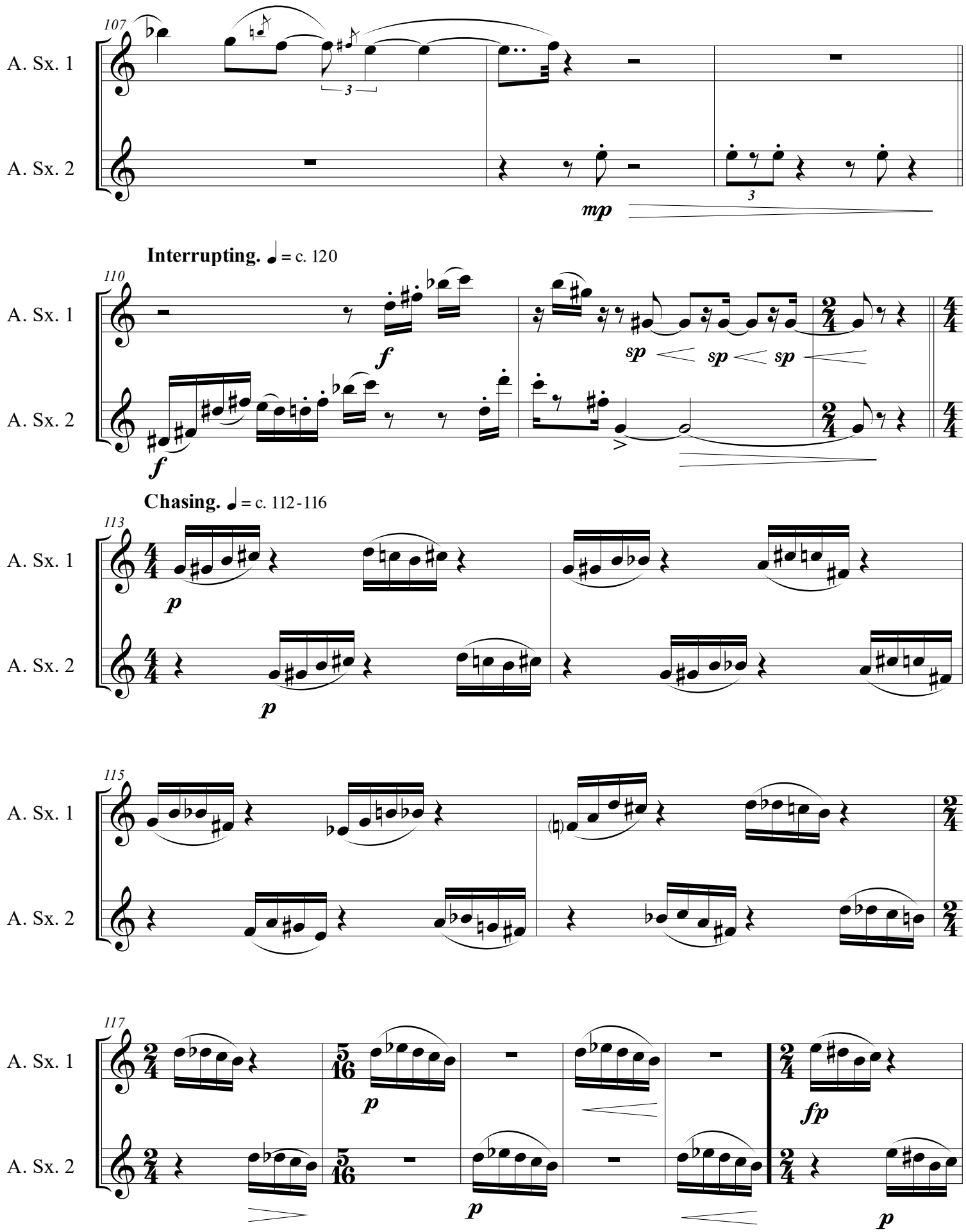

23
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
Gliss.
Gliss.
Slap!
25
27
Mult. (Kientzy 6)
Mult. (Kientzy 103)
Mult. (Kientzy 9)
Mult. (Kientzy 104)
30
Faster. Anxious. ♩ = c. 74
cresc. molto, aggressively, each hairpin
35
cresc. molto, aggressively, each hairpin

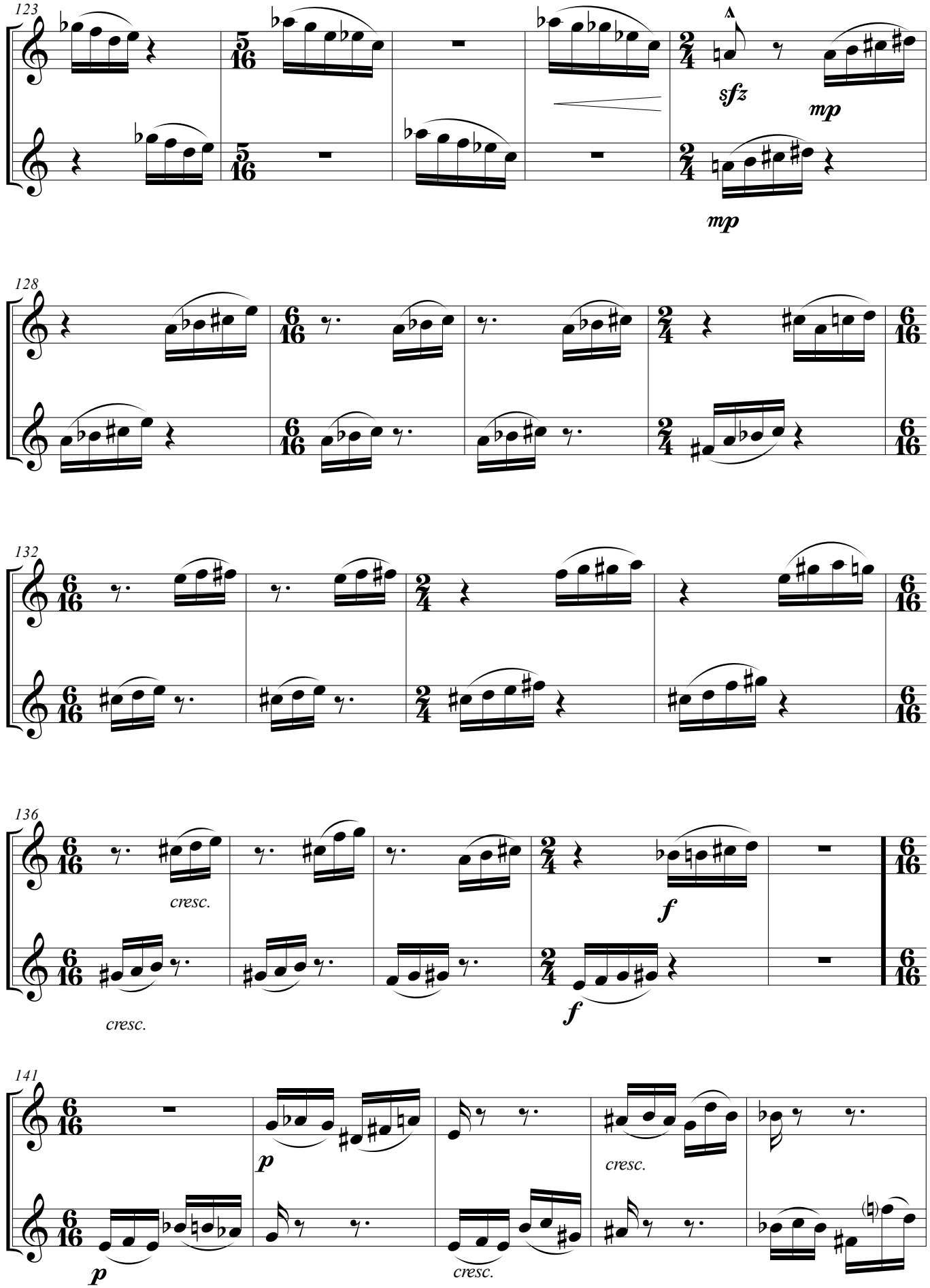

41
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
pp
f
pp
pp
47
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
p
p
p
mf dolce
p
p
p
p
mf dolce
54
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
f
p
pp
p
pp
pp
p
57
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
p
p
5
p
5
pp
accel. - slowly at first, then rapidly
60
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
pp
mf
5
p
p
3
mf

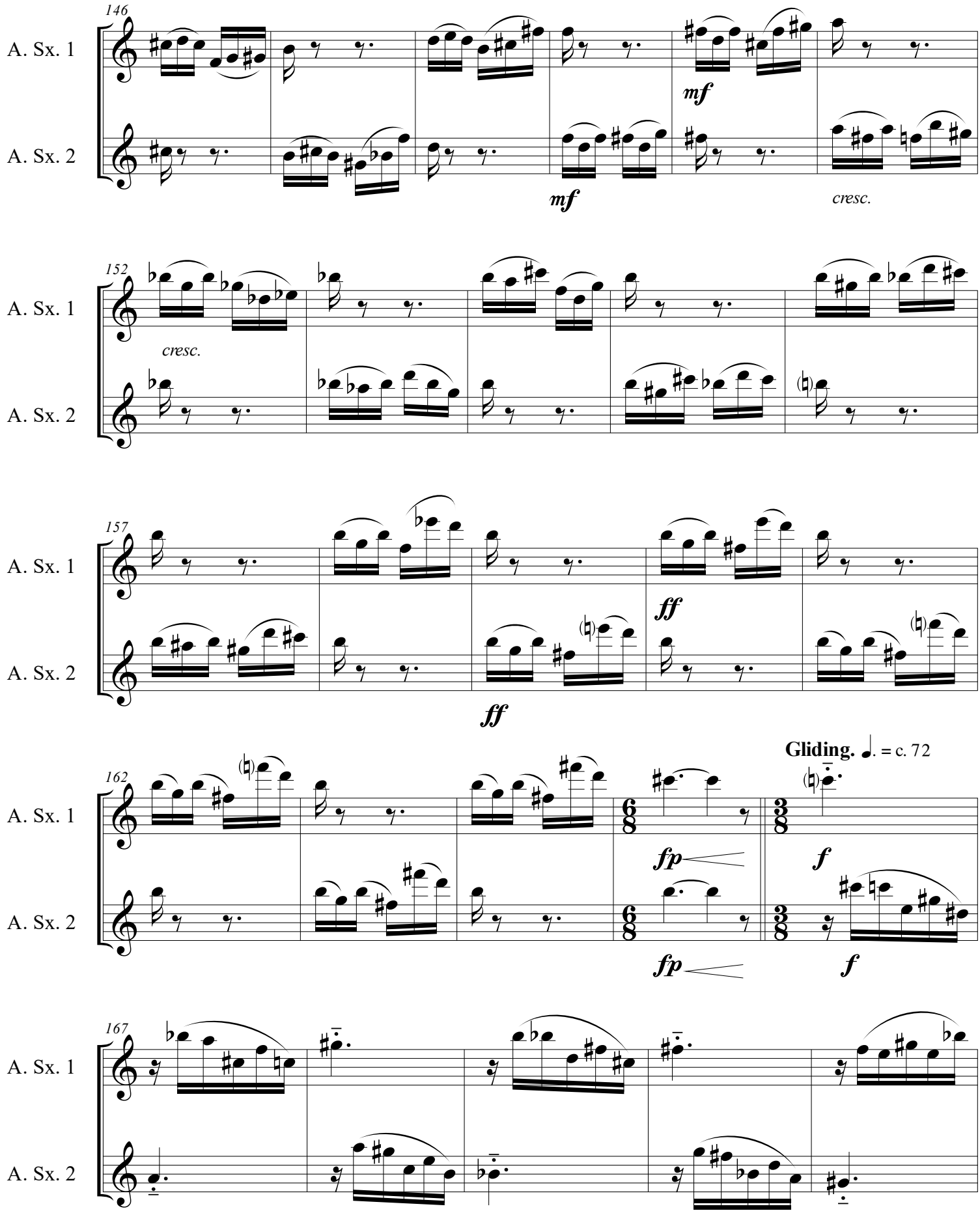

62
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
p
f
mp
f
64
a tempo
5
5
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
Slap!
p lirico
sp
p
p mp mf
p
67
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
mf
f
pp
mf
f
poco a poco accel.
70
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
pp
p
p
fp
pp
p
mp
73
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
mp
mf
mp
mf
mp
p

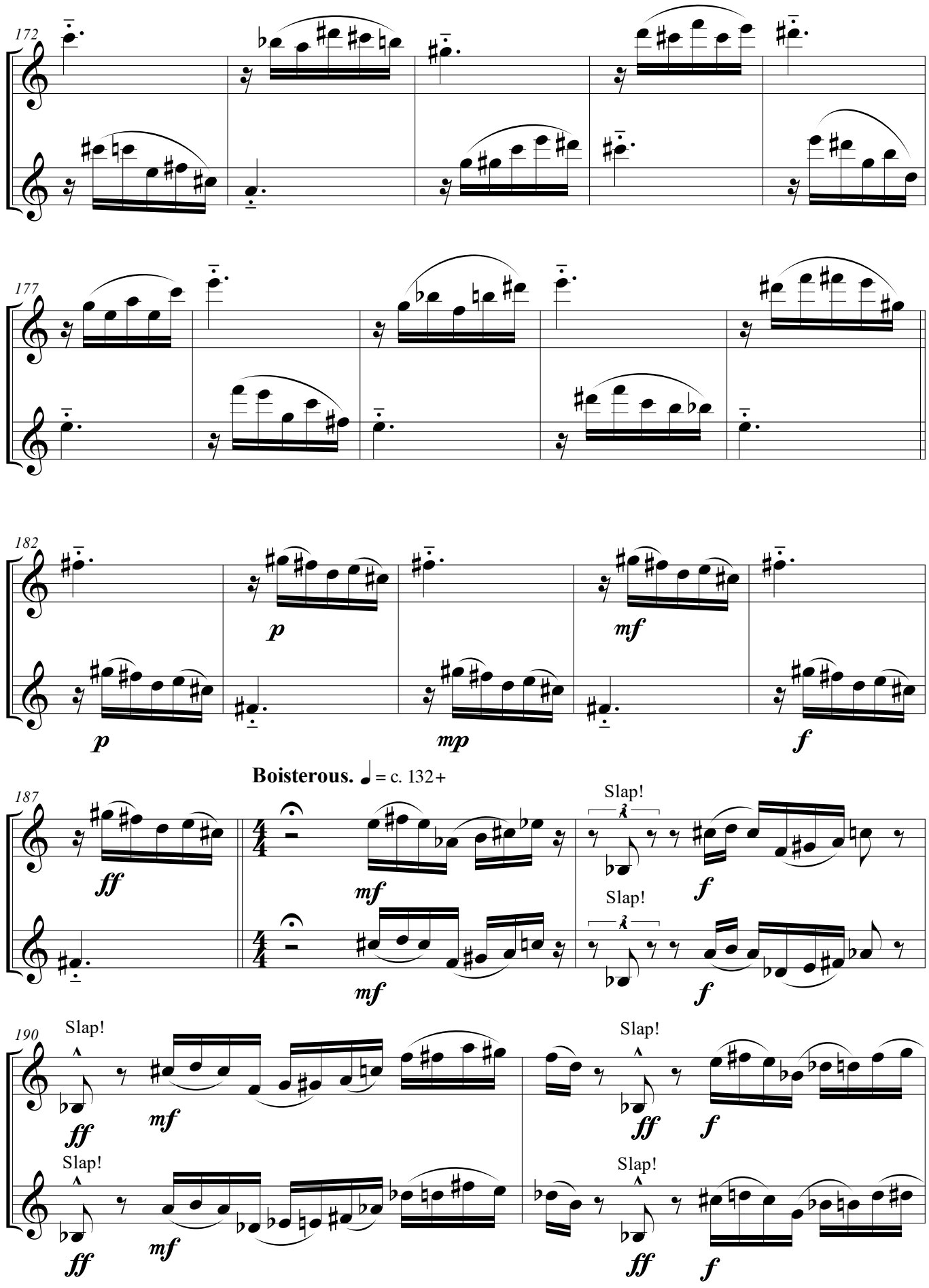

75
More in control. ♩ = c. 84+
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
mp
p
mp
p
mp
77
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
mp
f
mf
f
Urgent. ♩ = c. 96
79
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
ff
ff
3
81
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
1/4♯ tone trill
7
83
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
5
3
3
5
3

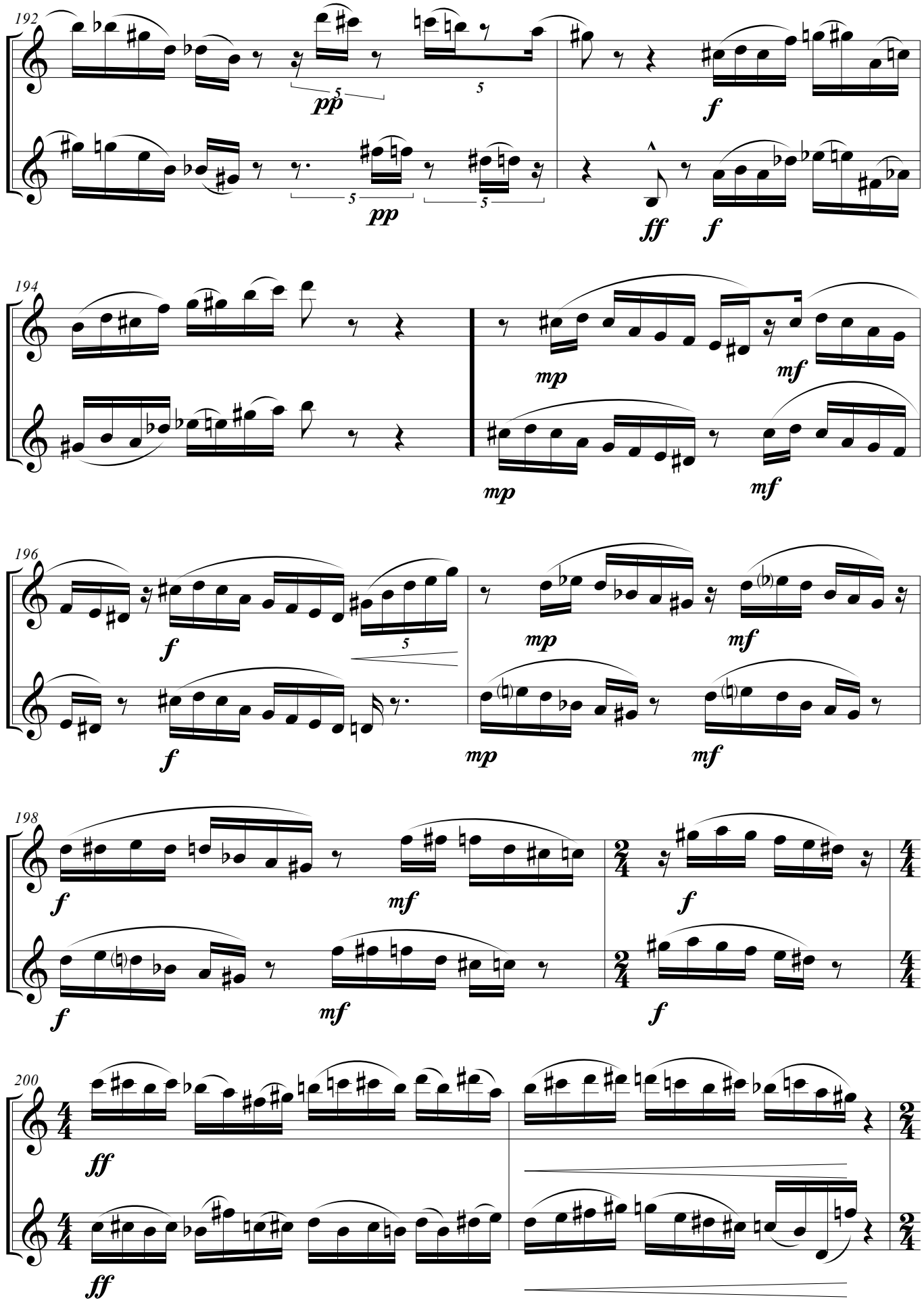

85
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
n
poco forte
p
weak
3
89
pp
p
3
pp whisper (not careless)
93
Calm. For now. ♩. = c. 54 (♪ = c. 162)
pp
ppp
p lackluster
98
p lackluster
p
103
Ghostly. ♩ = c. 52
espress.
pp

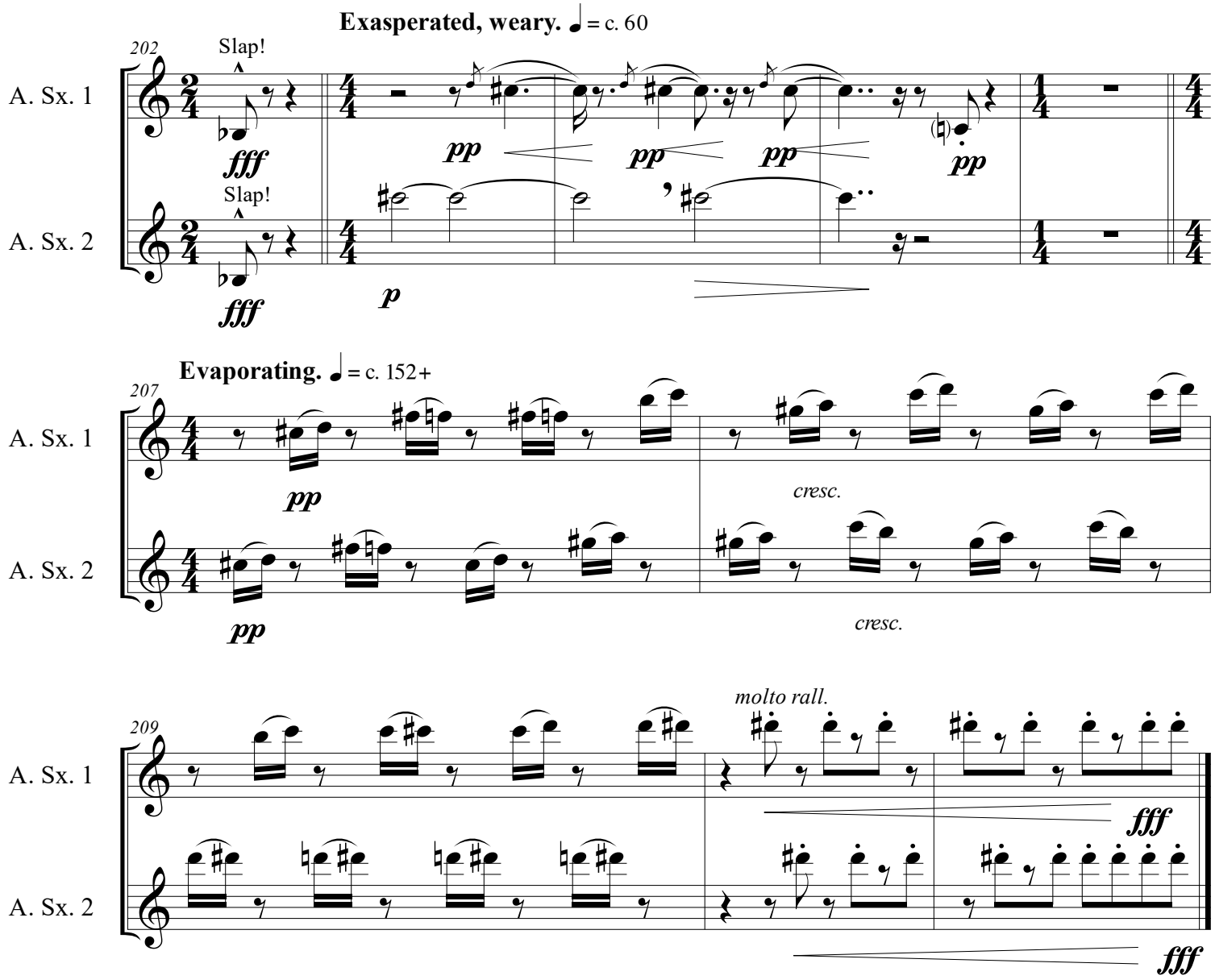

107
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
3
3
mp
Interrupting. ♩ = c. 120
110
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
f
f
sp
sp
sp
Chasing. ♩ = c. 112-116
113
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
p
p
115
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
117
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
p
p
p
fp
p


123
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
sfz
mp
mp
128
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
132
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
136
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
cresc.
cresc.
f
f
141
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
p
p
cresc.
cresc.


146
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
mf
mf
cresc.
152
cresc.
157
ff
ff
162
Gliding. ♩. = c. 72
fp
fp
f
f
167


172
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
177
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
182
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
p
p
mf
mp
f
Boisterous. ♩ = c. 132+
187
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
ff
mf
mf
Slap!
Slap!
f
f
190
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
Slap!
Slap!
Slap!
Slap!
ff
mf
ff
f
ff
mf
ff
f


192
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
pp
f
pp
ff
f
194
mp
mf
mp
mf
196
f
mp
mf
f
mp
mf
198
f
mf
f
f
mf
f
200
ff
ff


Exasperated, weary. ♩ = c. 60
202
A. Sx. 1
A. Sx. 2
Slap!
Slap!
fff
fff
pp
pp
pp
pp
p
Evaporating. ♩ = c. 152+
207
pp
pp
cresc.
cresc.
molto rall.
209
fff
fff