Grand Jeu

for saxophone quartet

Timothy Kramer

2022

Performance Notes

- Accidentals carry through the measure, but never in a different octave.
- All tempos in this piece have strict metric relationships marked in the score.

Duration: 6 minutes, 30 seconds

Program Notes

This work was written for the ~Nois saxophone quartet in cooperation with the Composers Alliance of San Antonio for a concert in March of 2023.

Grand Jeu is a particular registration on French organs of the 17th and 18th centuries that includes heavy reeds (8' and 4') and mutations. The effect is very robust, loud and bright. Works written with this registration may also feature dialogues that offer softer divisions of the organ and lighter textures. As I thought about the wide variety of sounds that a saxophone quartet can make, I first envisioned them sounding together - like an organ - all playing in strict parallel motion of fourths and fifths. This block of sound was my starting point. (I wondered how the early saxophone may have been received in churches in France as it developed in the 19th century, noting that the Catholic Church banned saxophones in the early 1900s.) In this piece, we also hear quieter sections in the middle – some in an almost reverent tone - but much of the work presents a wall of sound.

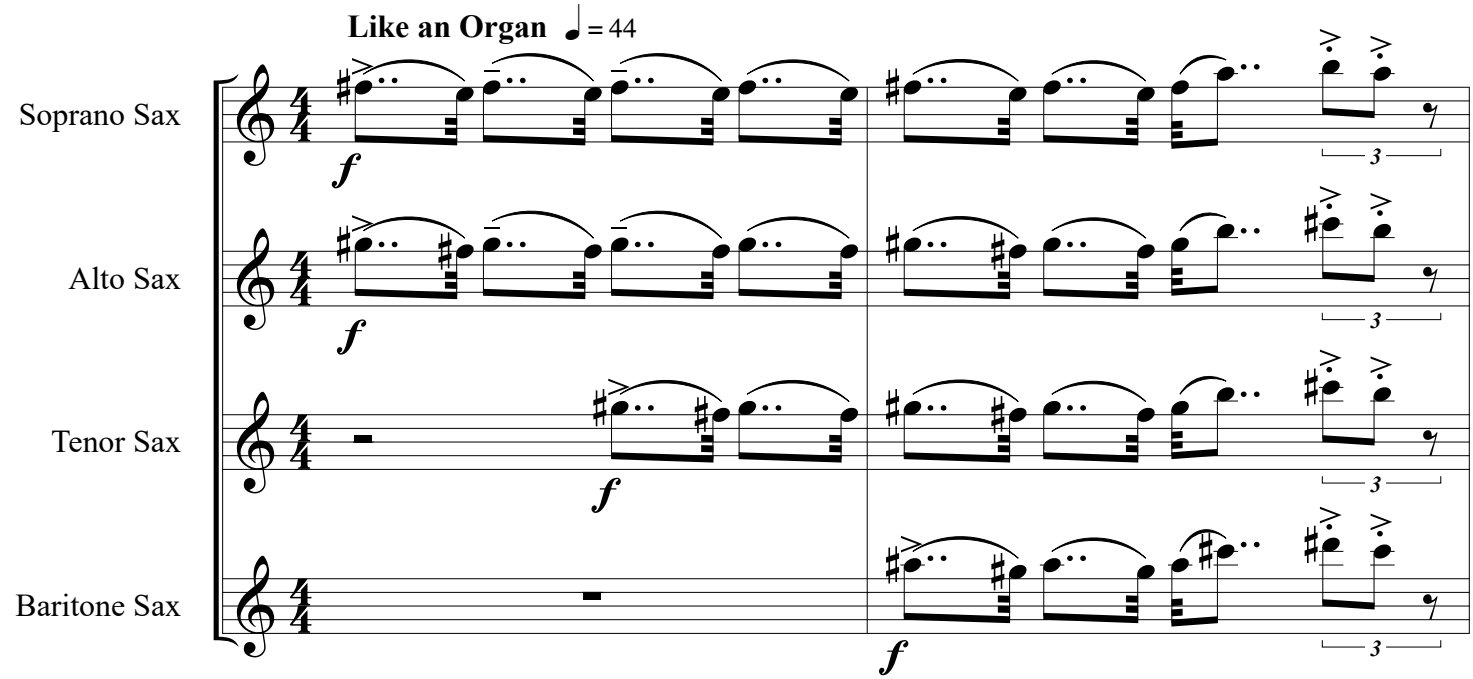
About the Composer

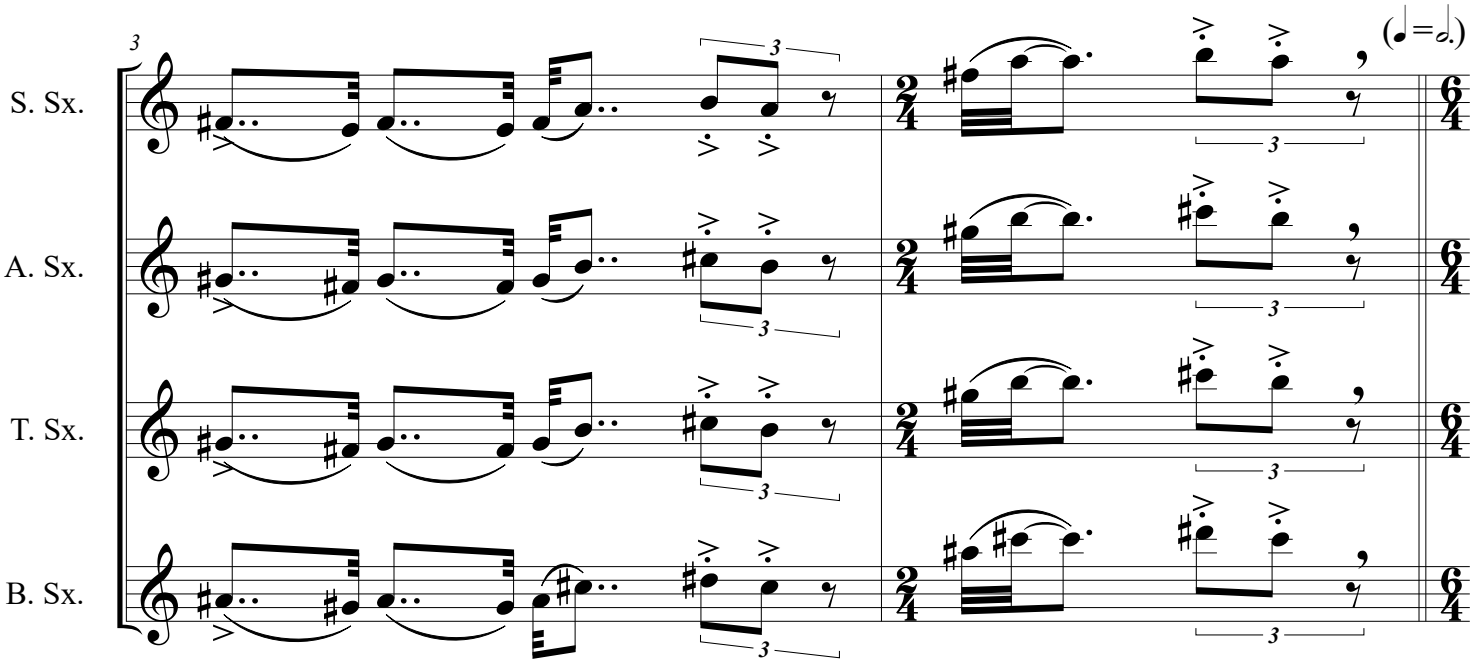
Timothy Kramer's works have been performed by major orchestras (Indianapolis, Detroit, San Antonio) and chamber ensembles (North/South Consonance, SOLI Ensemble, ONIX Ensemble, Detroit Chamber Winds, Luna Nova, Ensemble Mise-en). He has received grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, the NEA, the MacDowell Colony, Meet the Composer, BMI, ASCAP, and the AGO, and commissions from the Midwest Clinic, the Utah Arts Festival, and the Detroit Chamber Winds, among others. He was Composer-not-in-Residence with the San Francisco Choral Artists from 2019-2022. Originally from Washington State, he went to Pacific Lutheran University (B.M.) and the University of Michigan (M.M., D.M.A.), and he was a Fulbright Scholar to Germany. He taught at Trinity University in San Antonio for 19 years, where he founded the Composers Alliance of San Antonio. In 2010 he moved to Illinois College as Chair of Music and named the Edward Capps Professor of Humanities in 2013, and Professor Emeritus in 2020. More information is at www.timothykramer.com.

Grand Jeu

for the ~Nois Saxophone Quartet

Timothy Kramer





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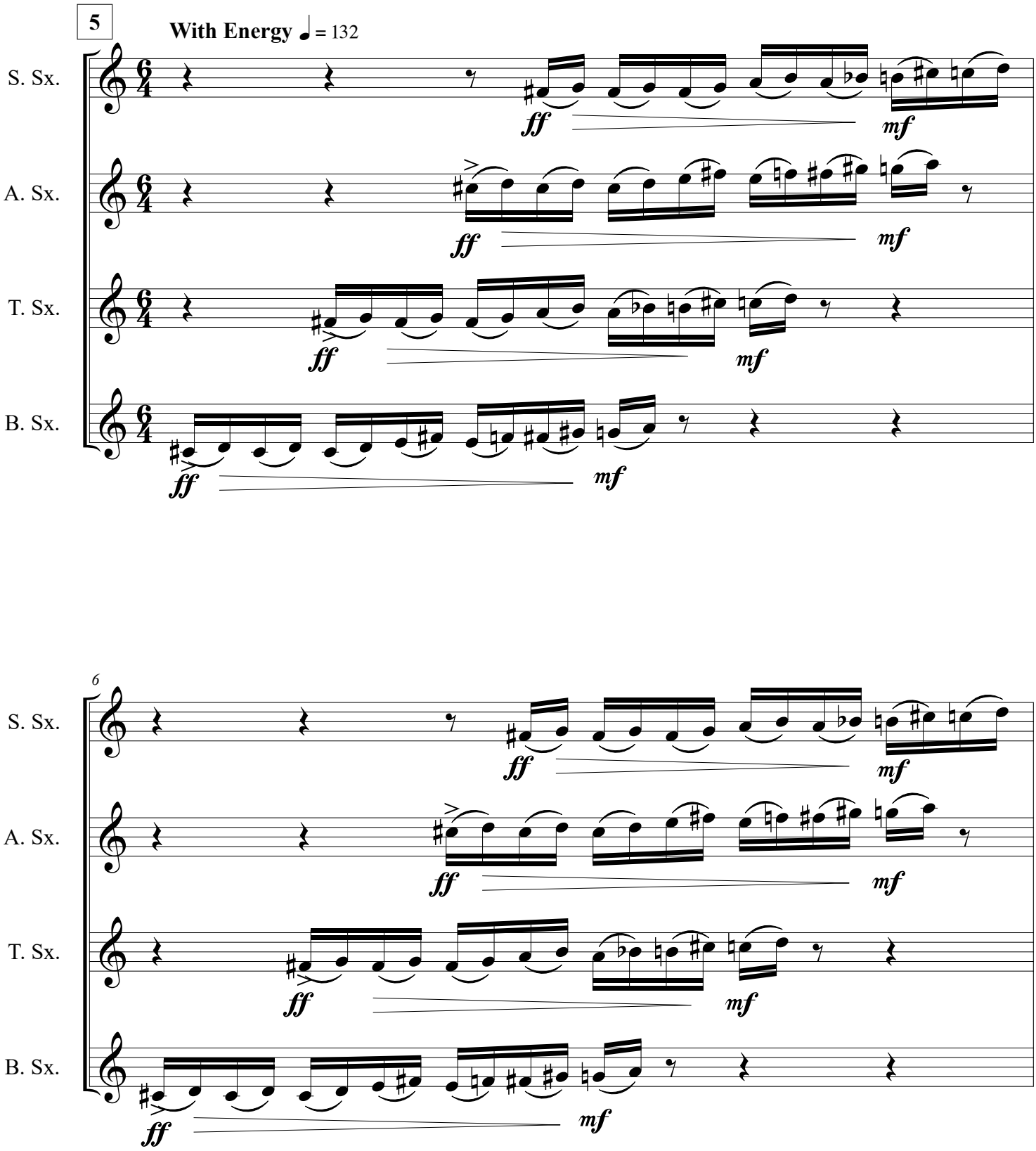
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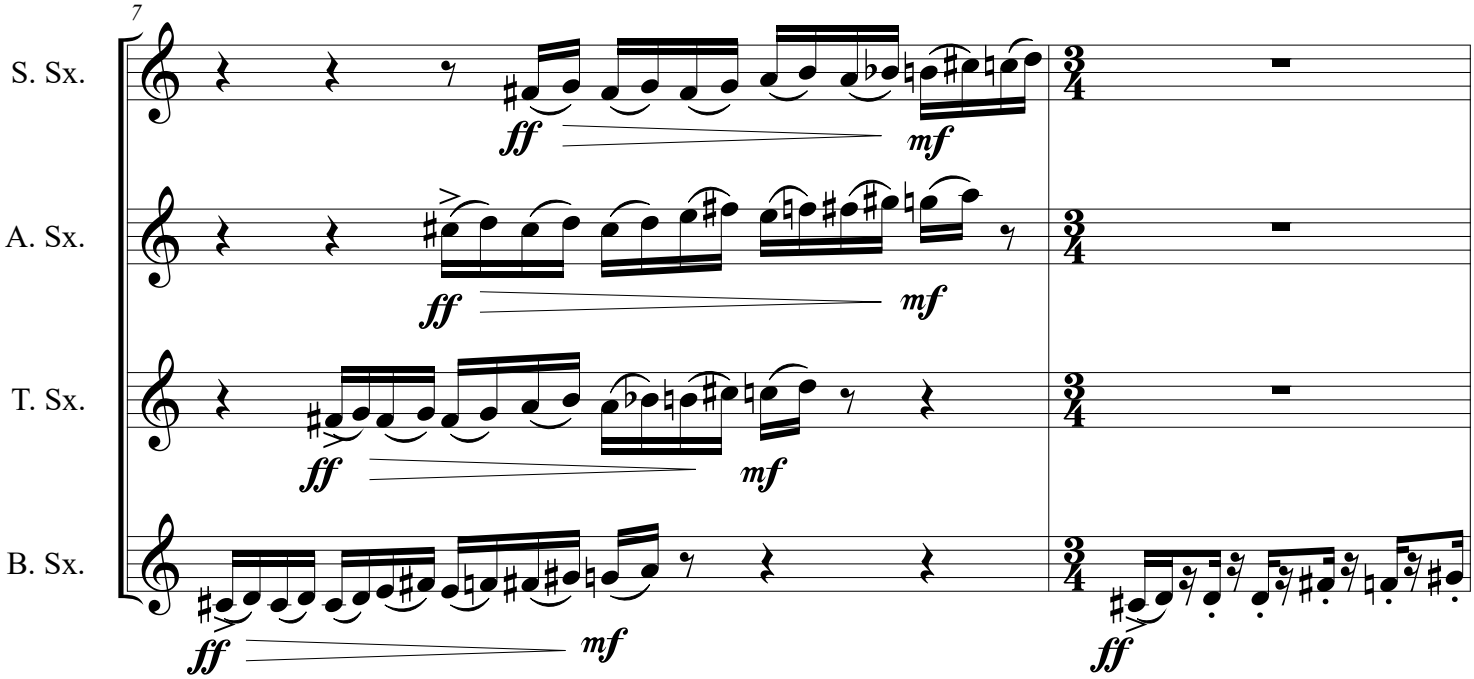
With Energy ♩ = 132
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
ff
mf
6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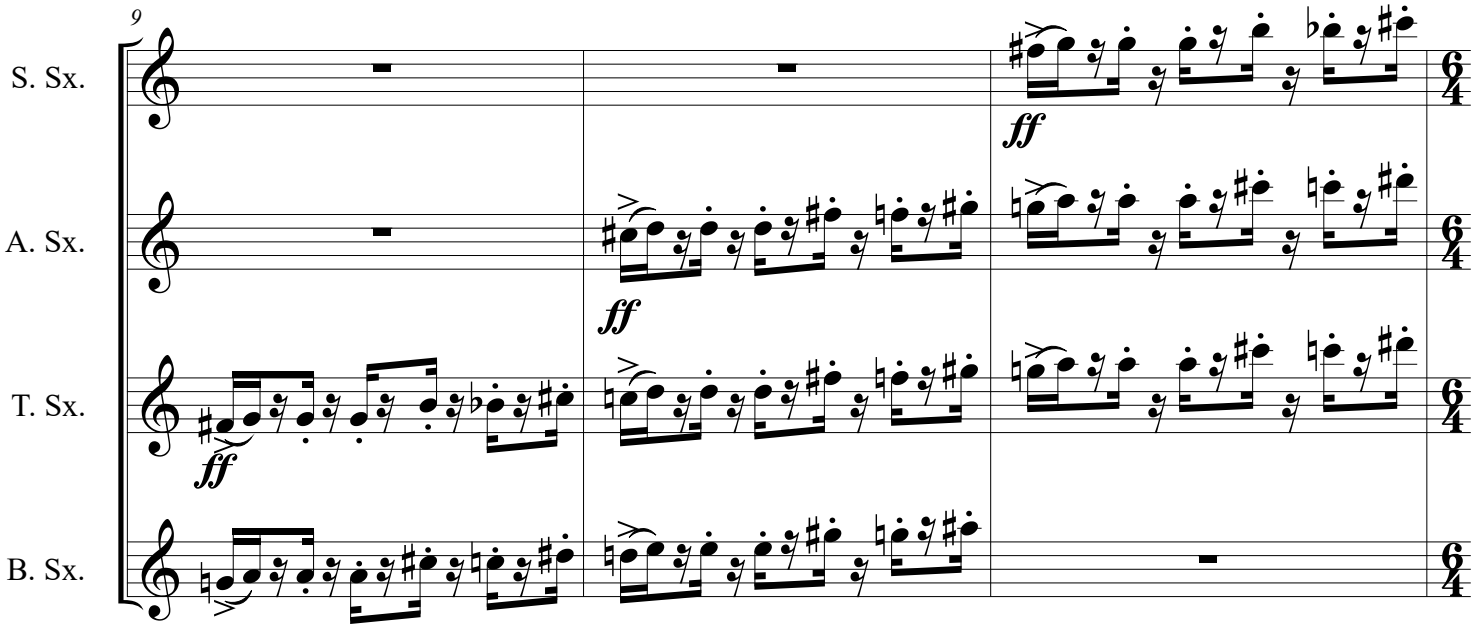
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
ff
mf
3/4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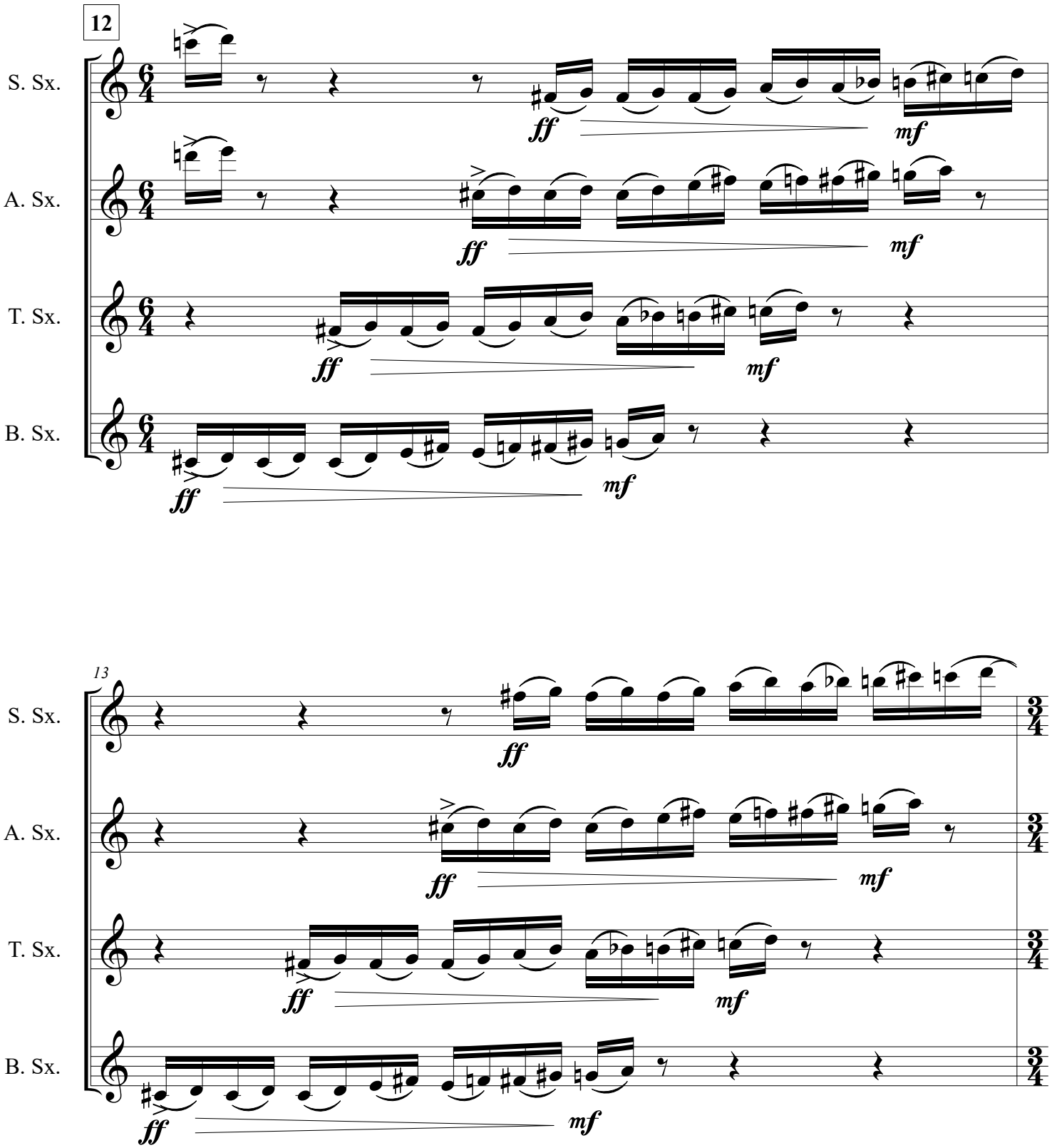
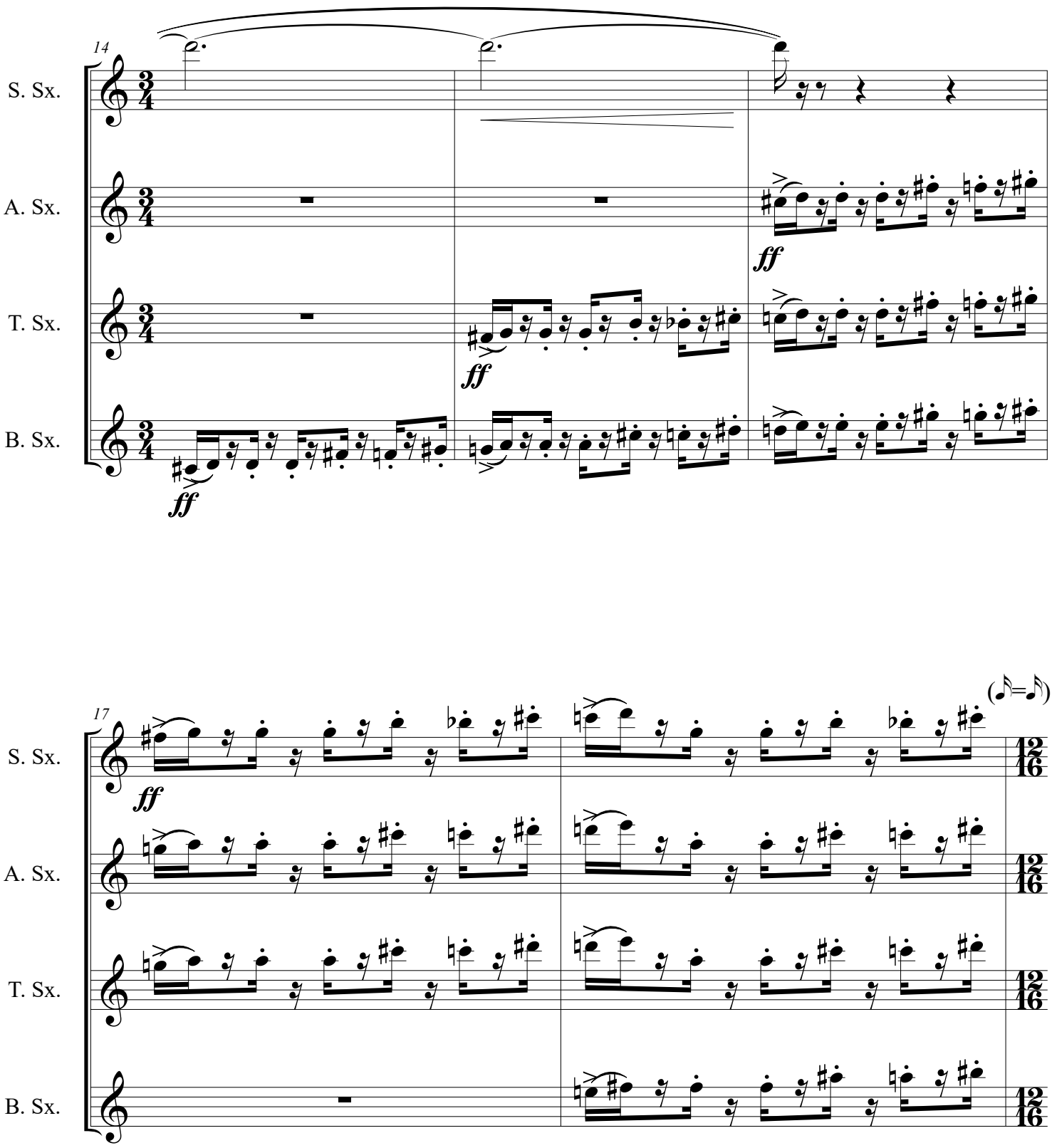
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
ff
6/4


12
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
ff
mf
13
3/4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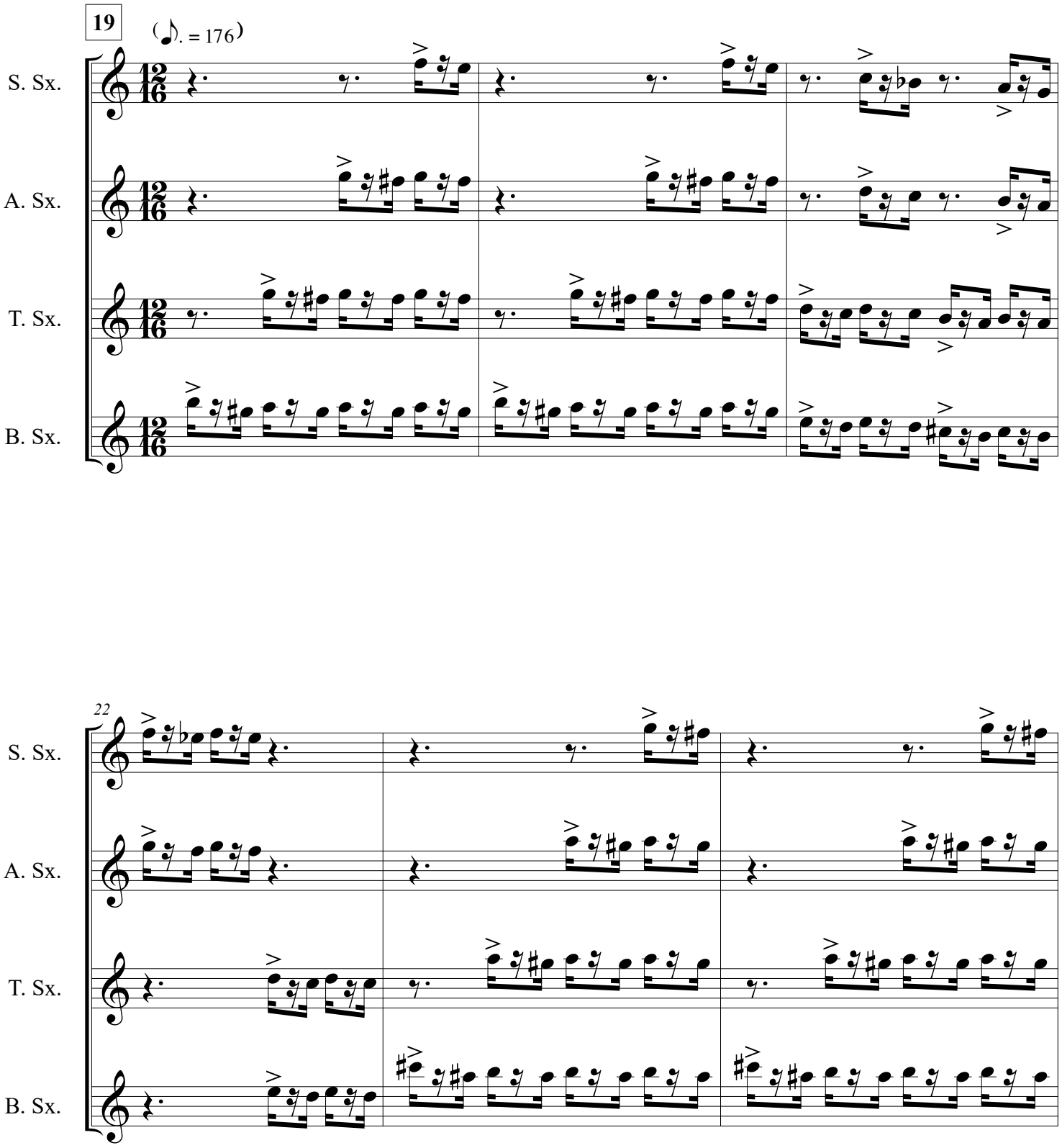
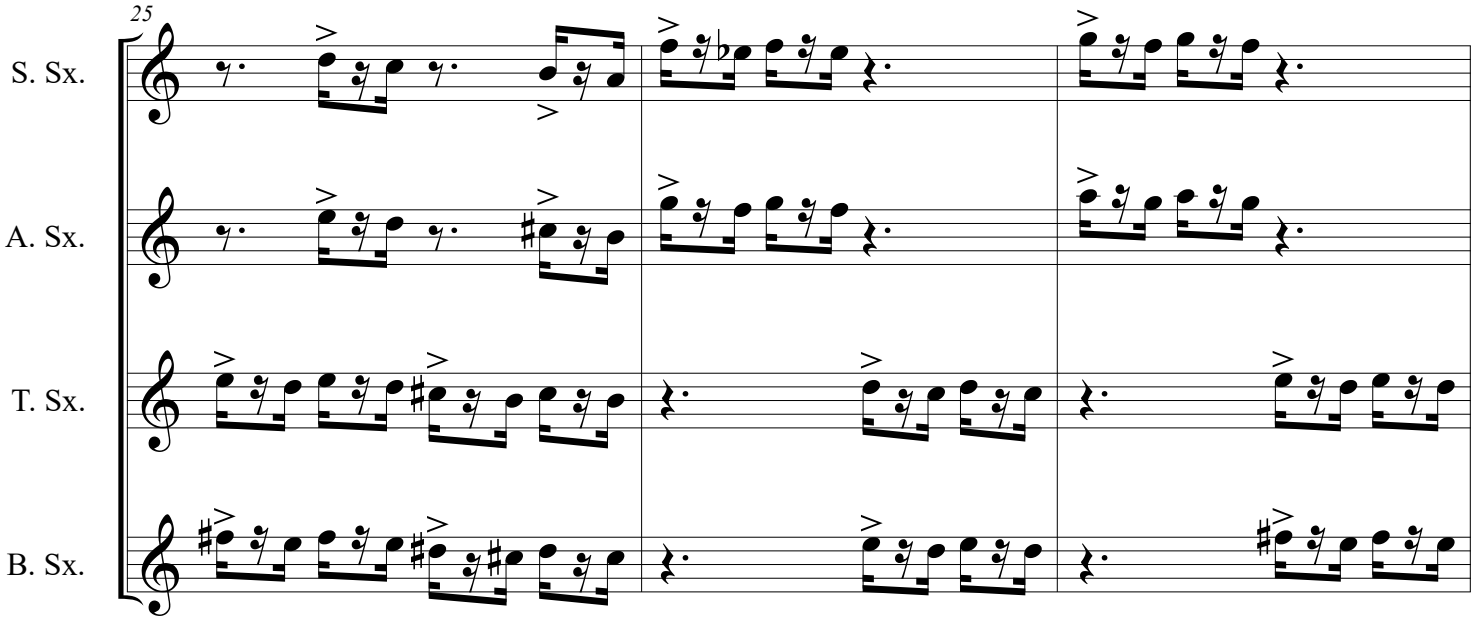
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
ff
17
(♪=♪)
12/16


19
(♪. = 176)
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
22
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.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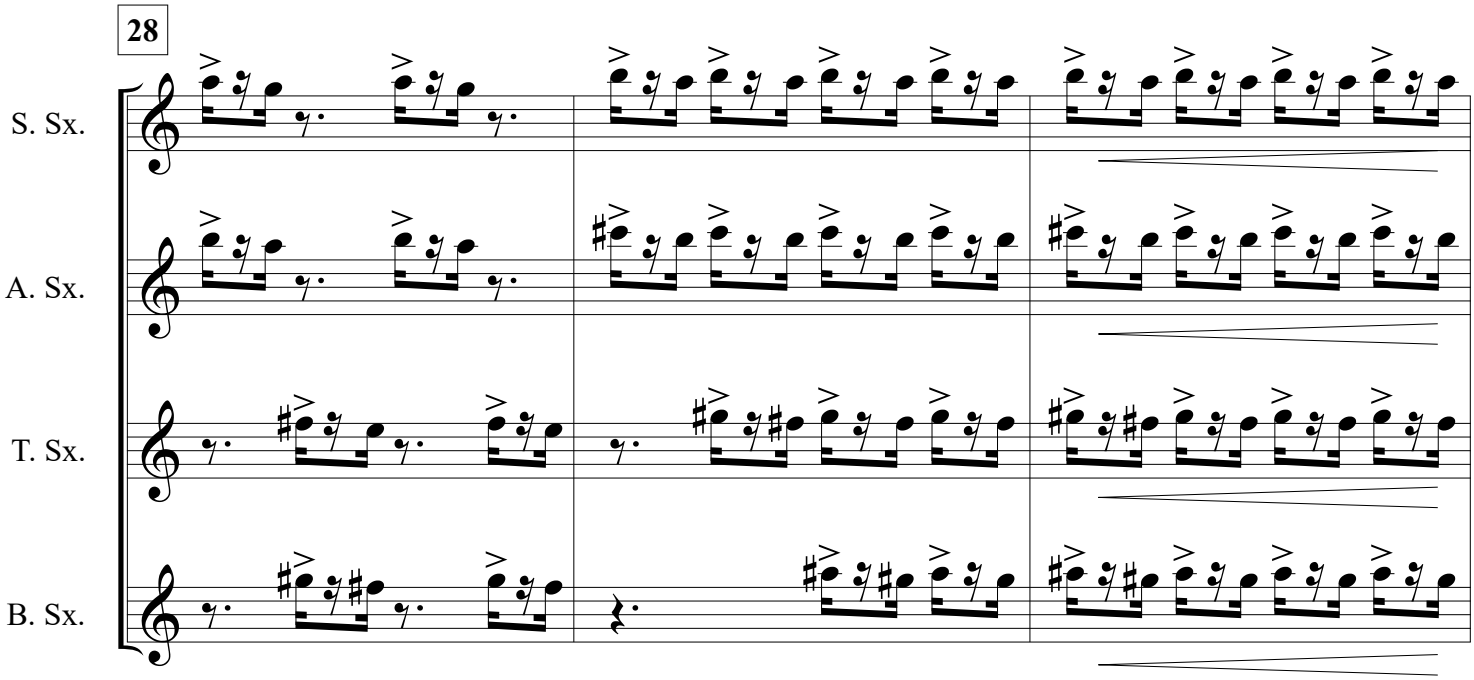
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.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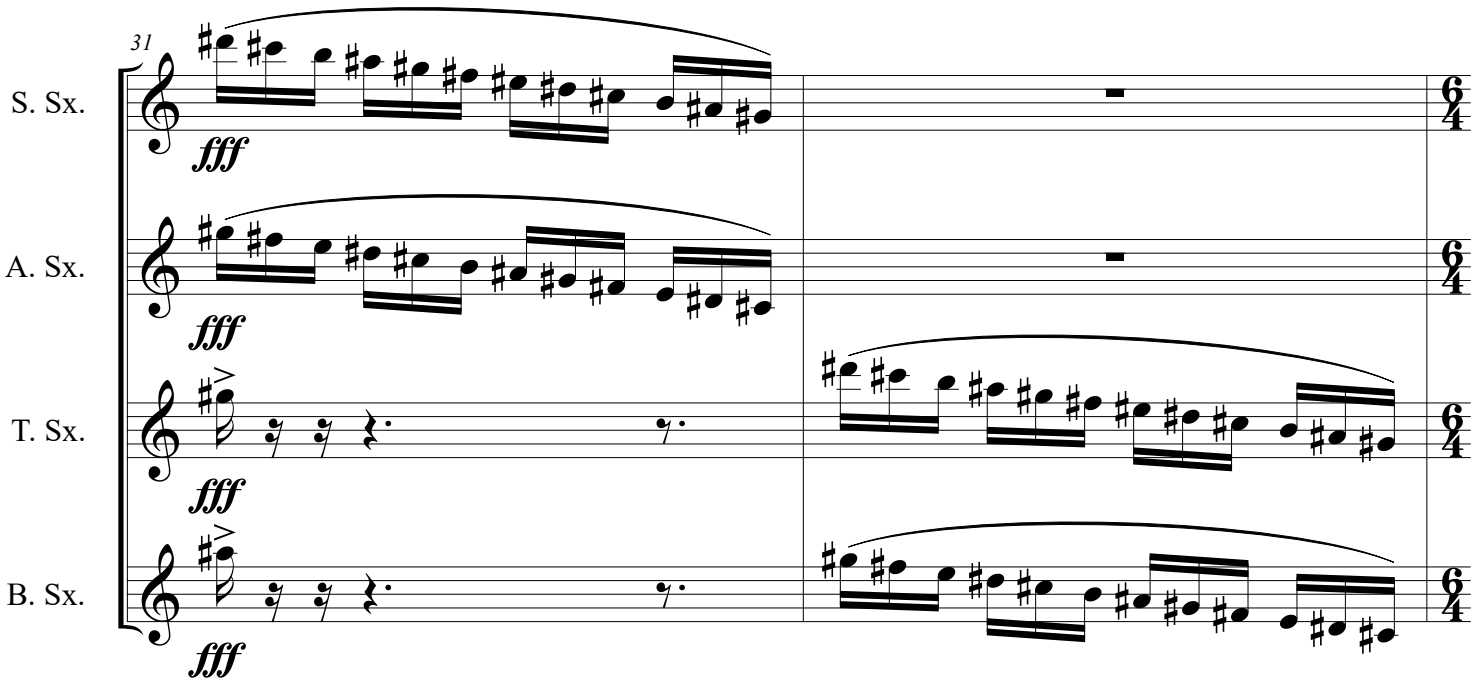
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.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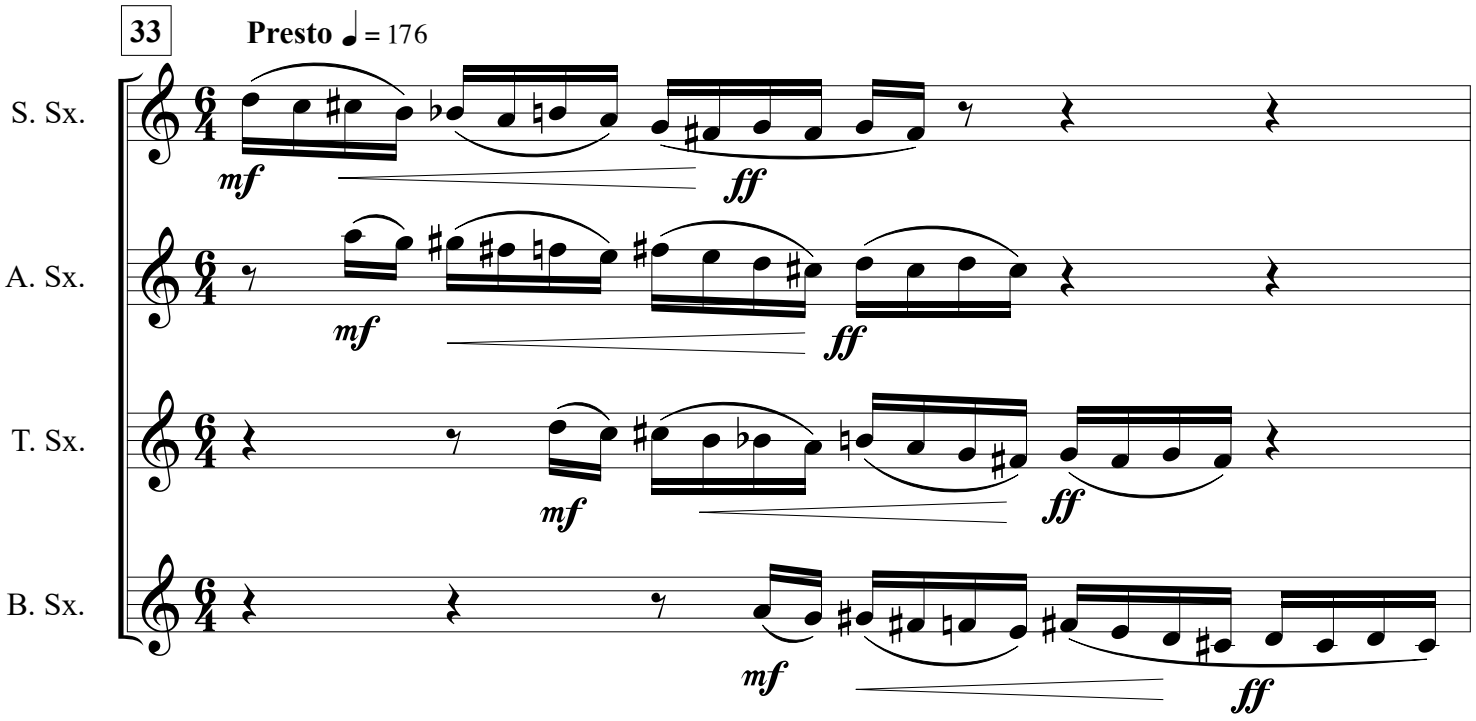
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
fff
6/4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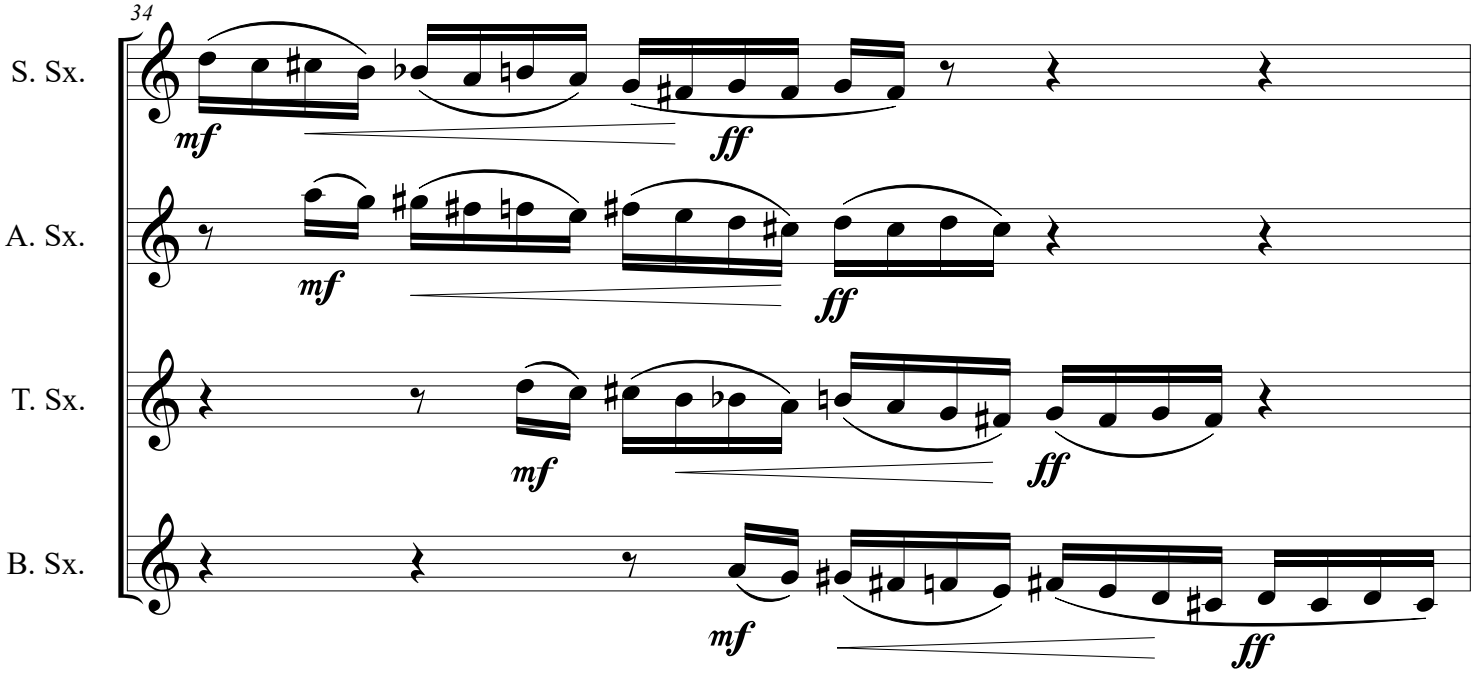
Presto ♩ = 176
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
mf
ff
6/4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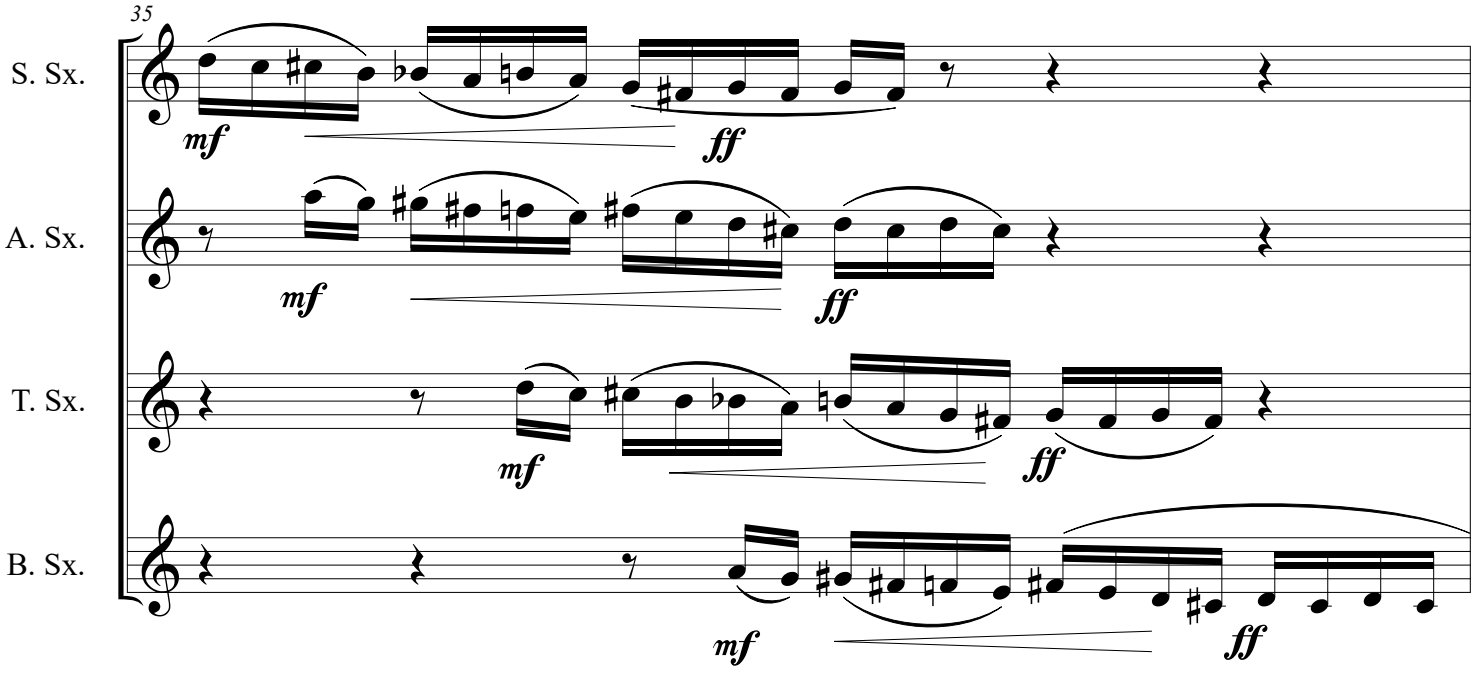
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
mf
ff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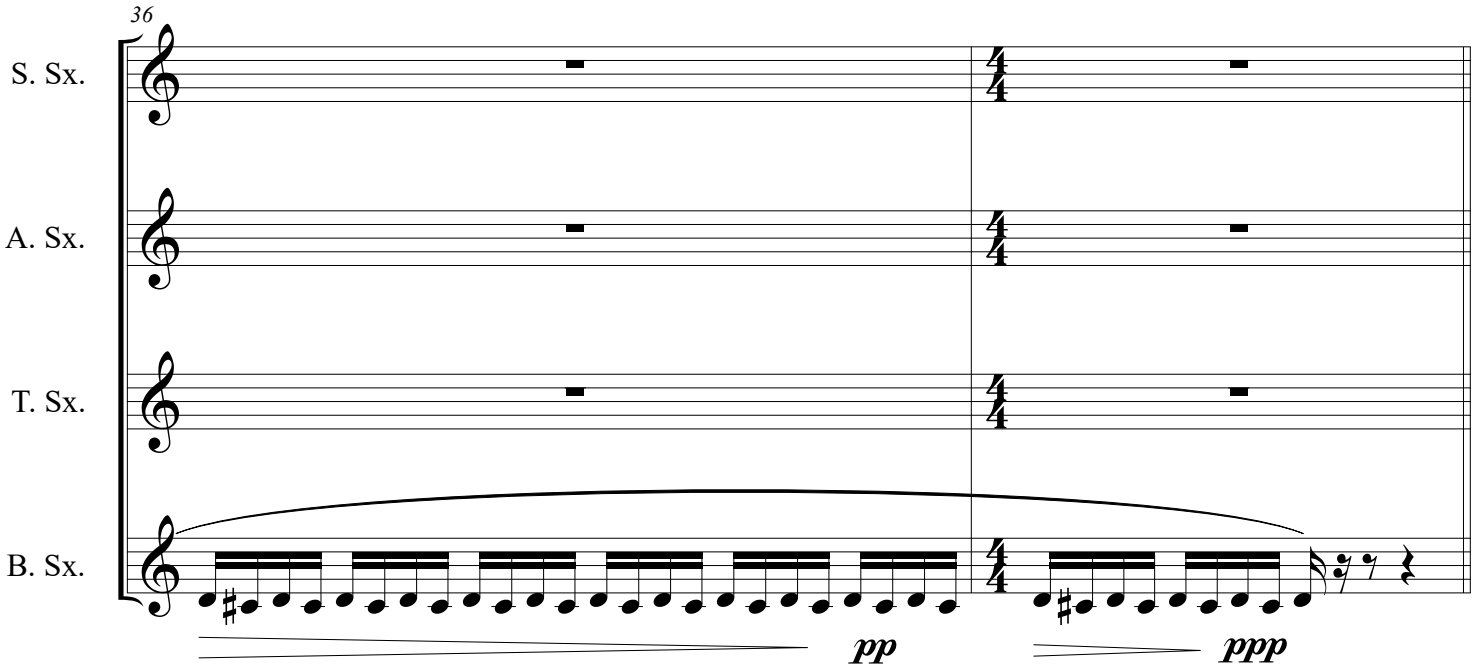
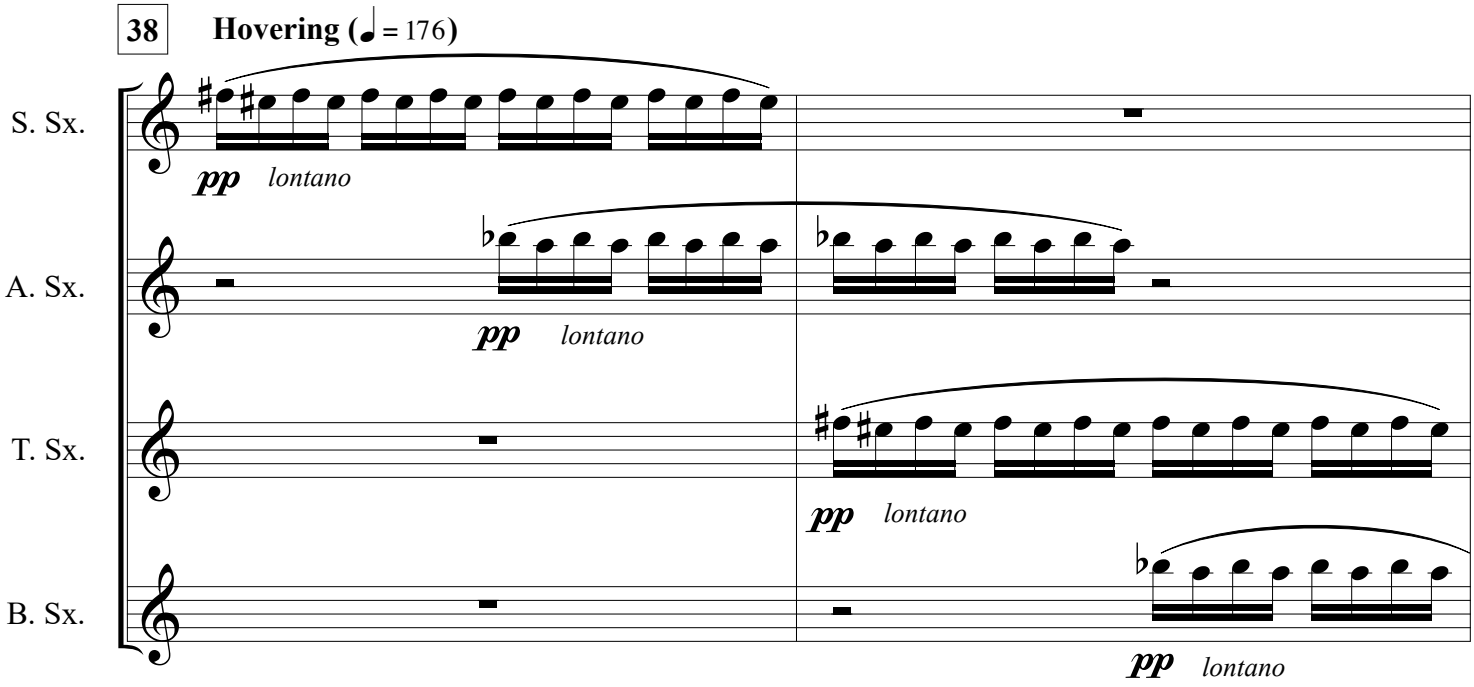
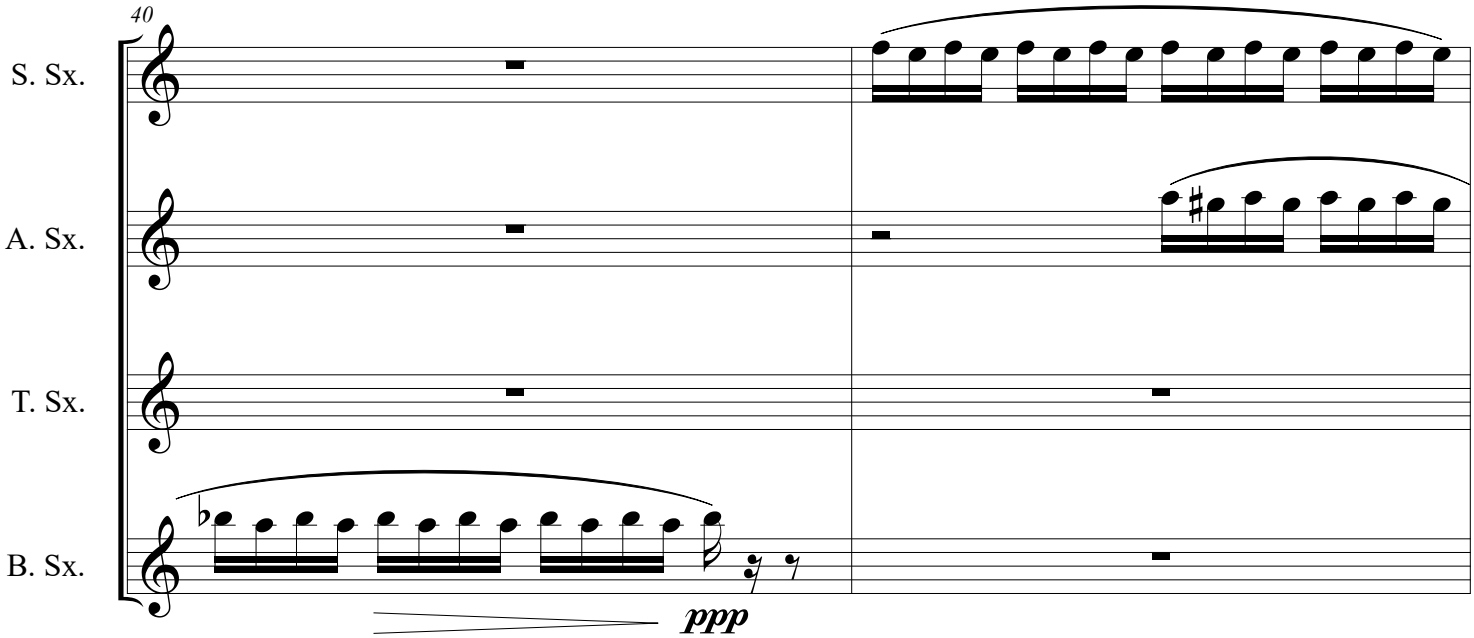
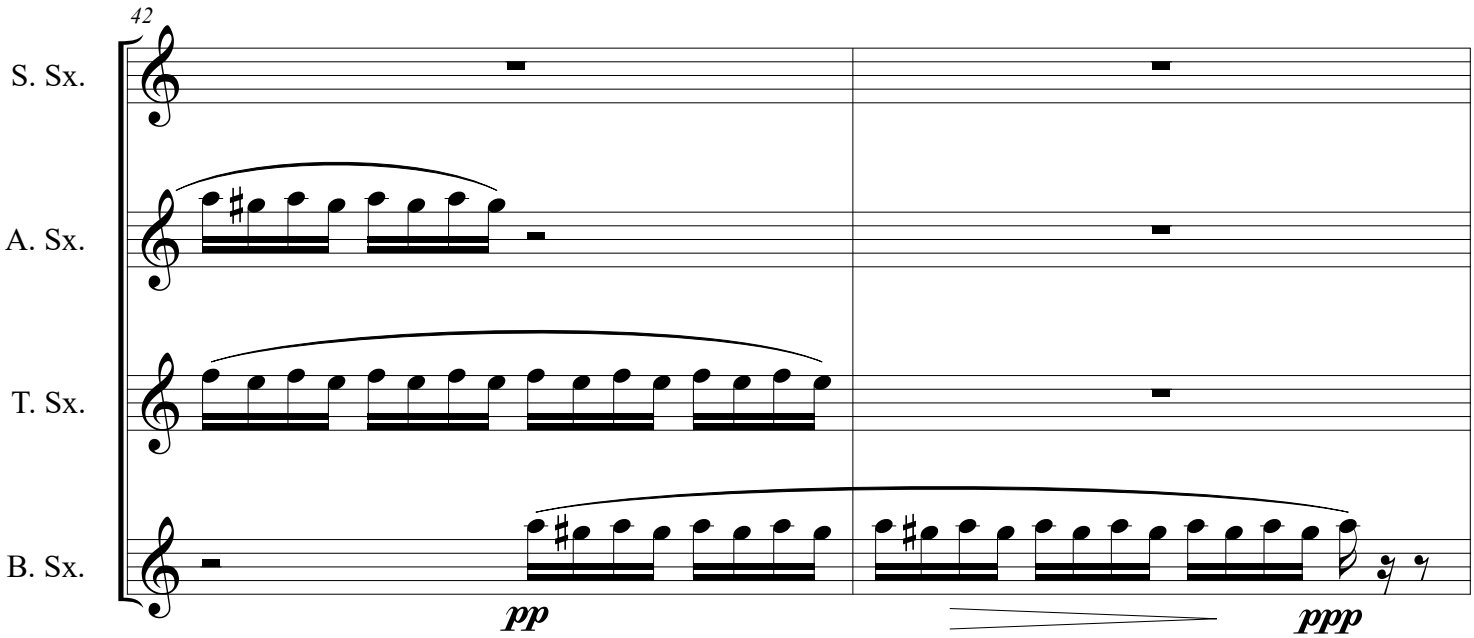
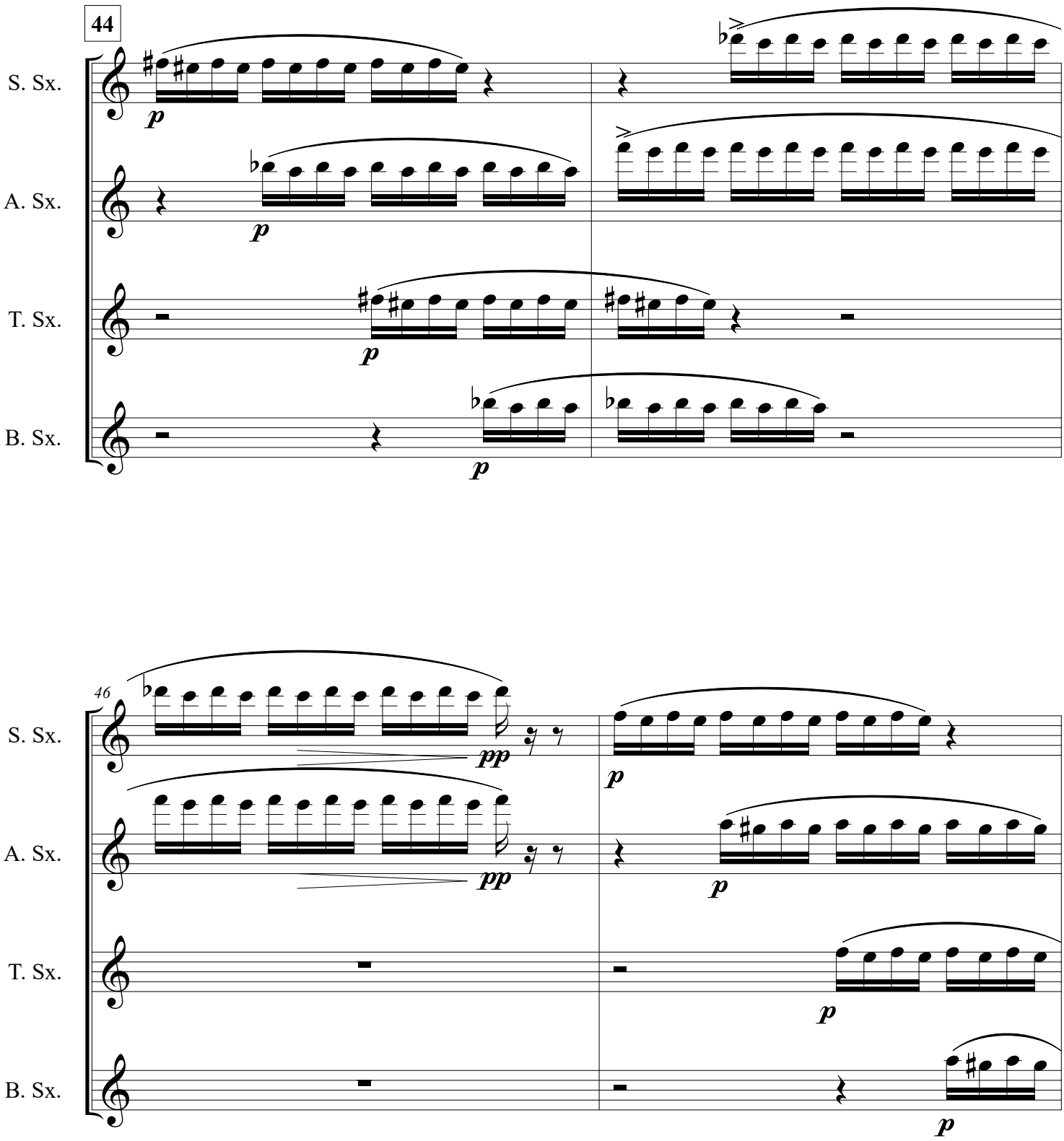
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
mf
ff

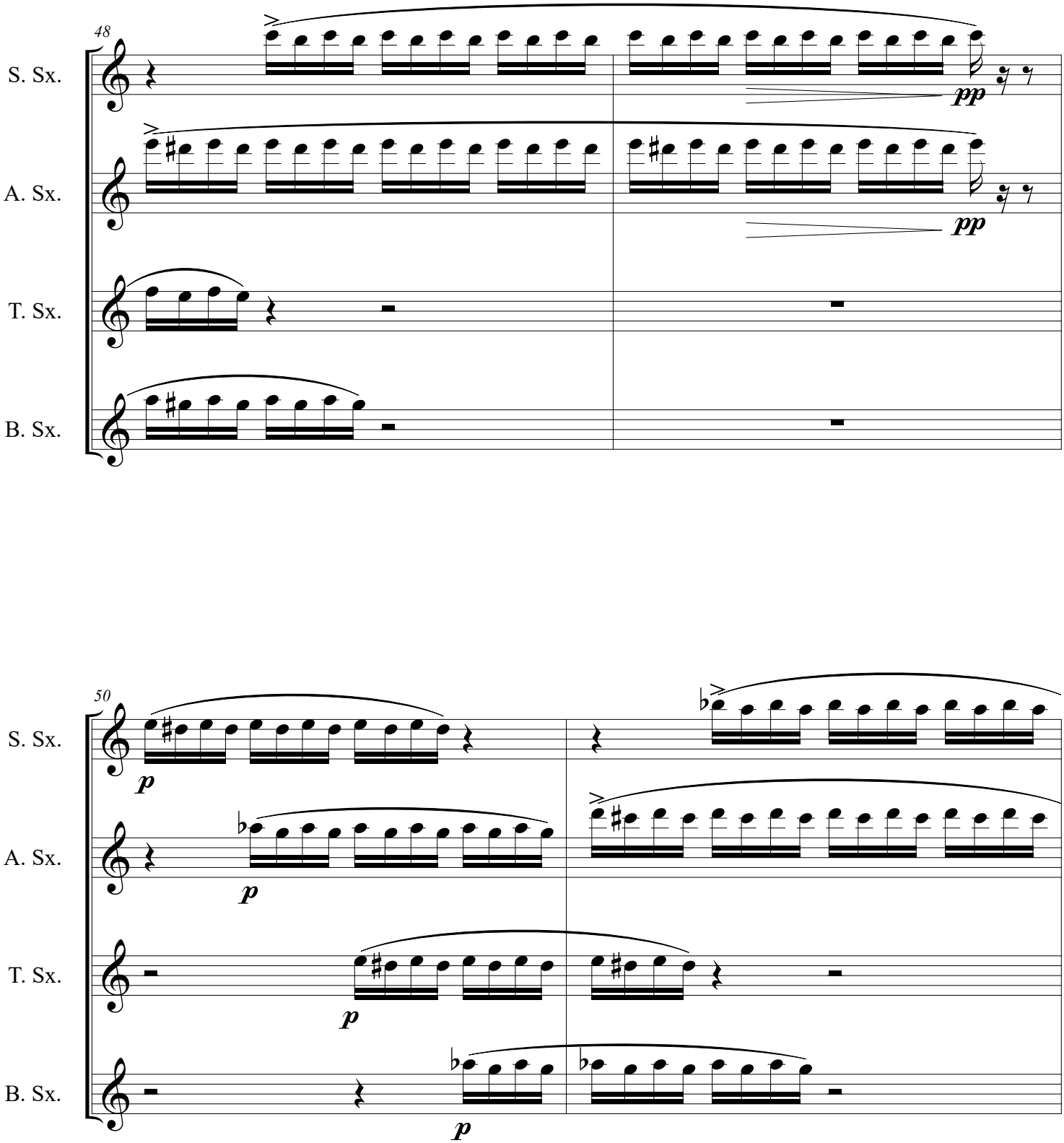

36
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
pp
ppp

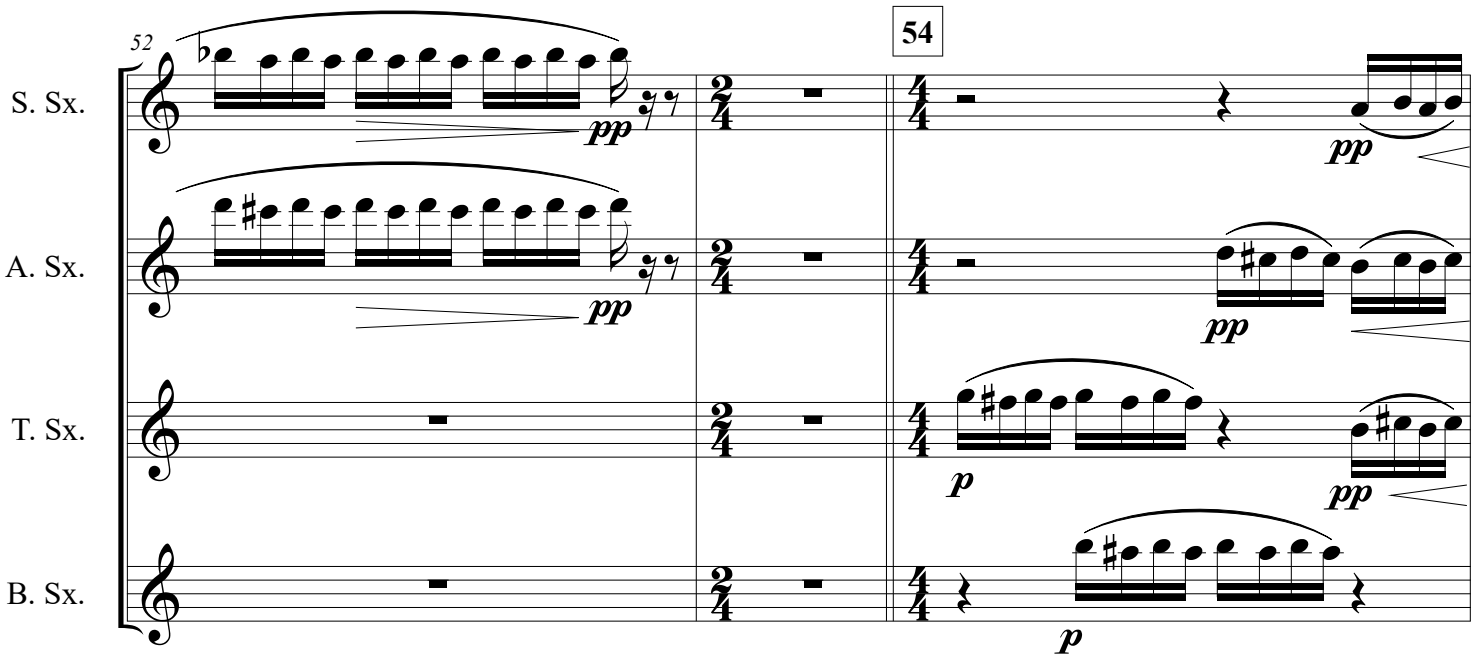

38
Hovering (♩ = 176)
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
pp lontano
pp lontano
pp lontano
pp lontano

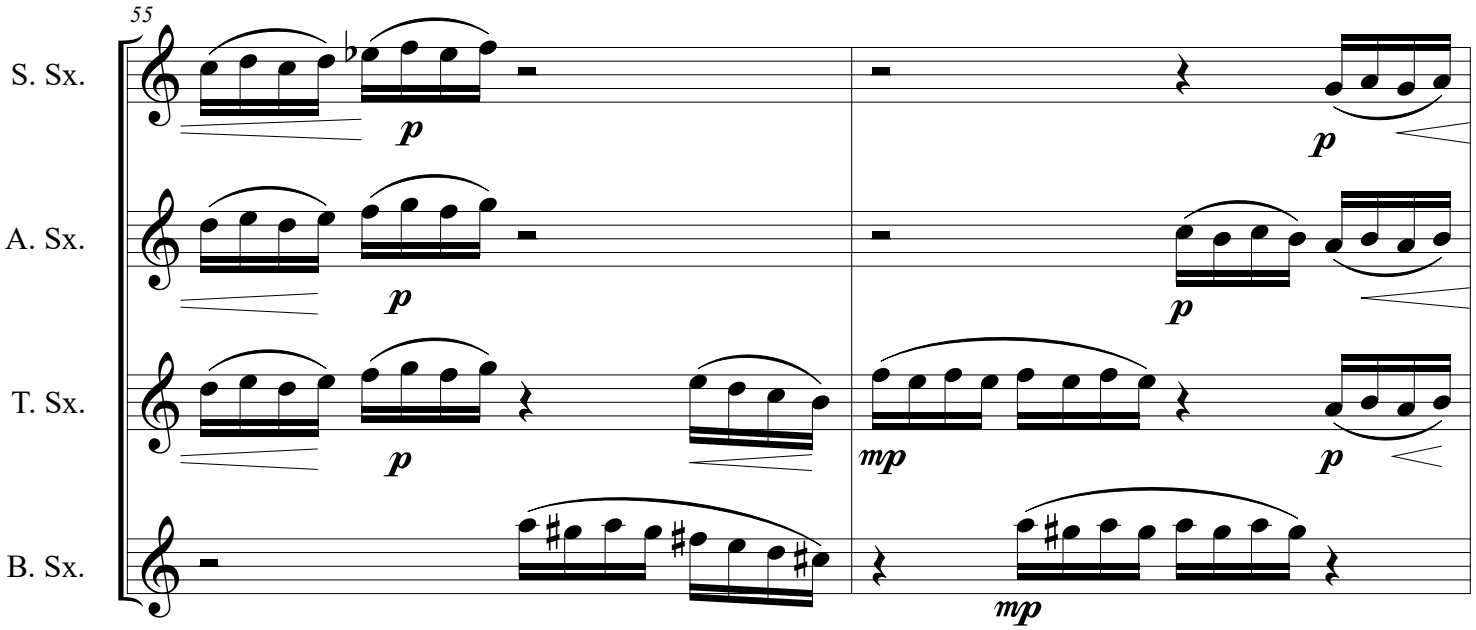

40
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
ppp


42
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
pp
ppp


44
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
p
46
pp


48
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
pp
pp
50
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
p
p
p
p


52
54
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
pp
p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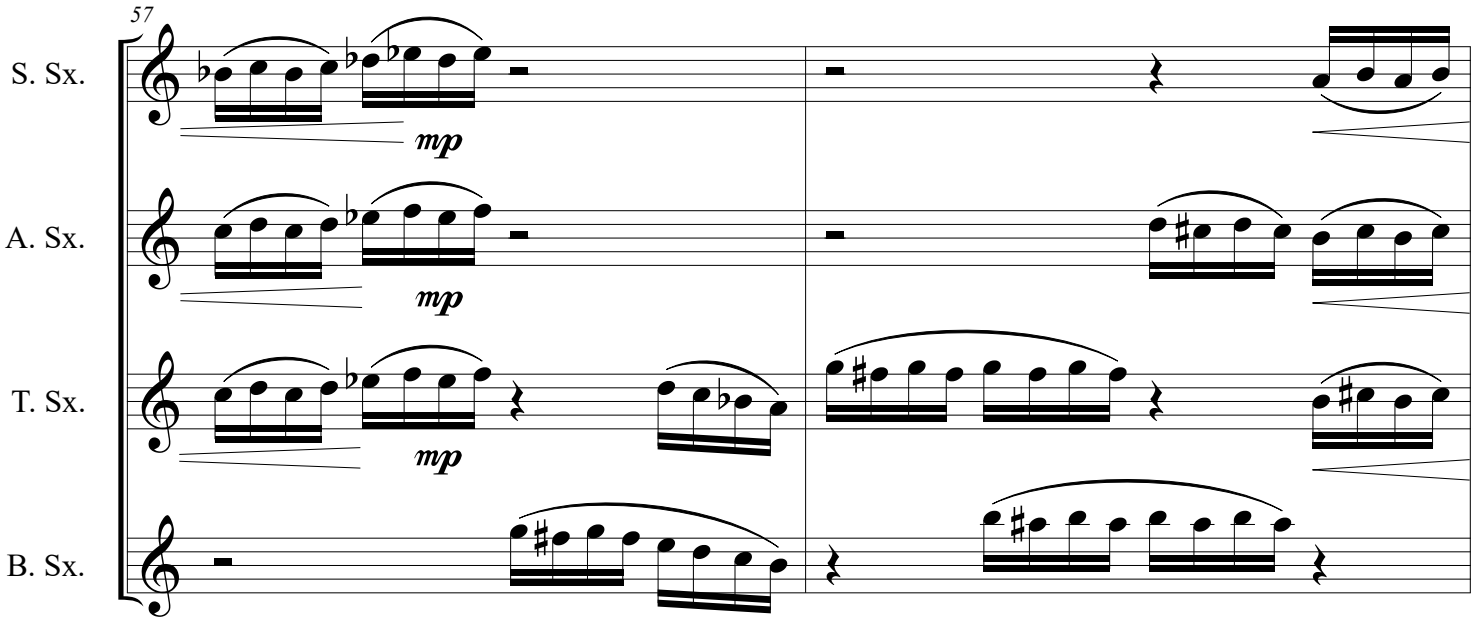
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
p
mp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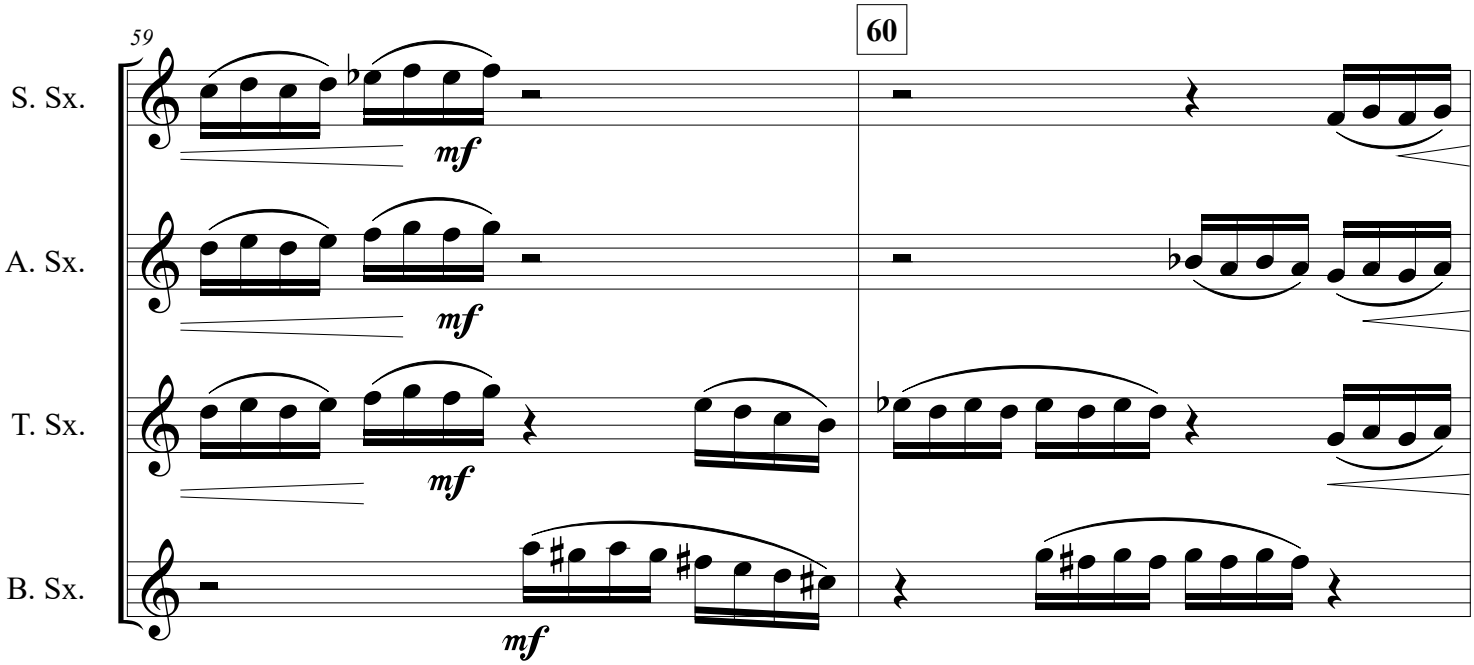
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
mp
mp
mp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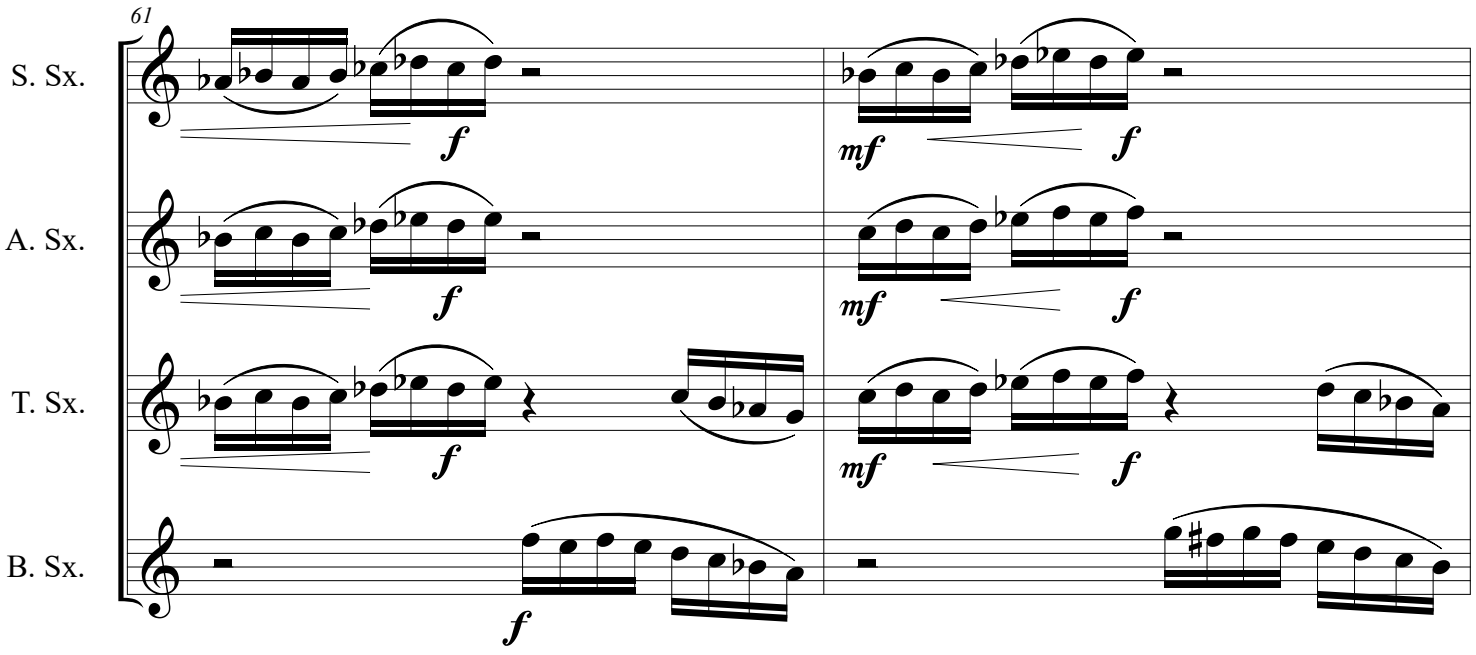
60
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
mf
mf
mf
mf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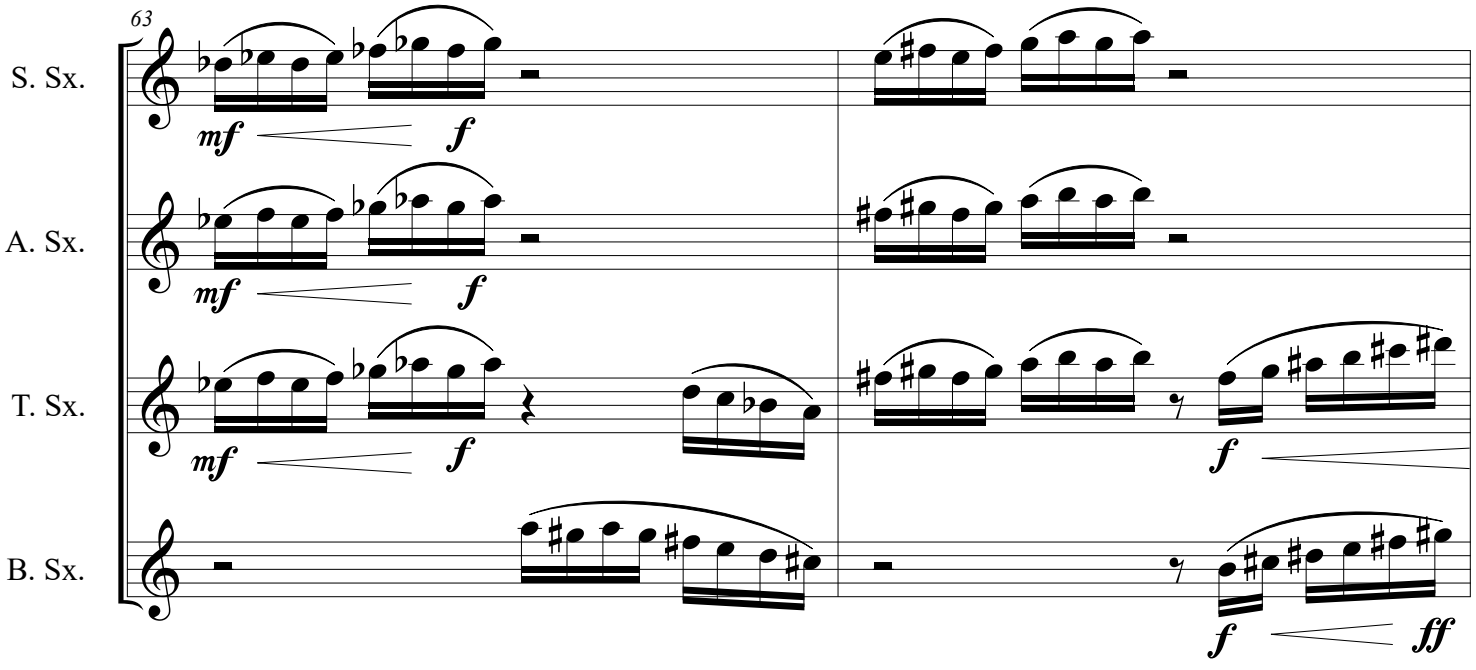
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
f
mf
f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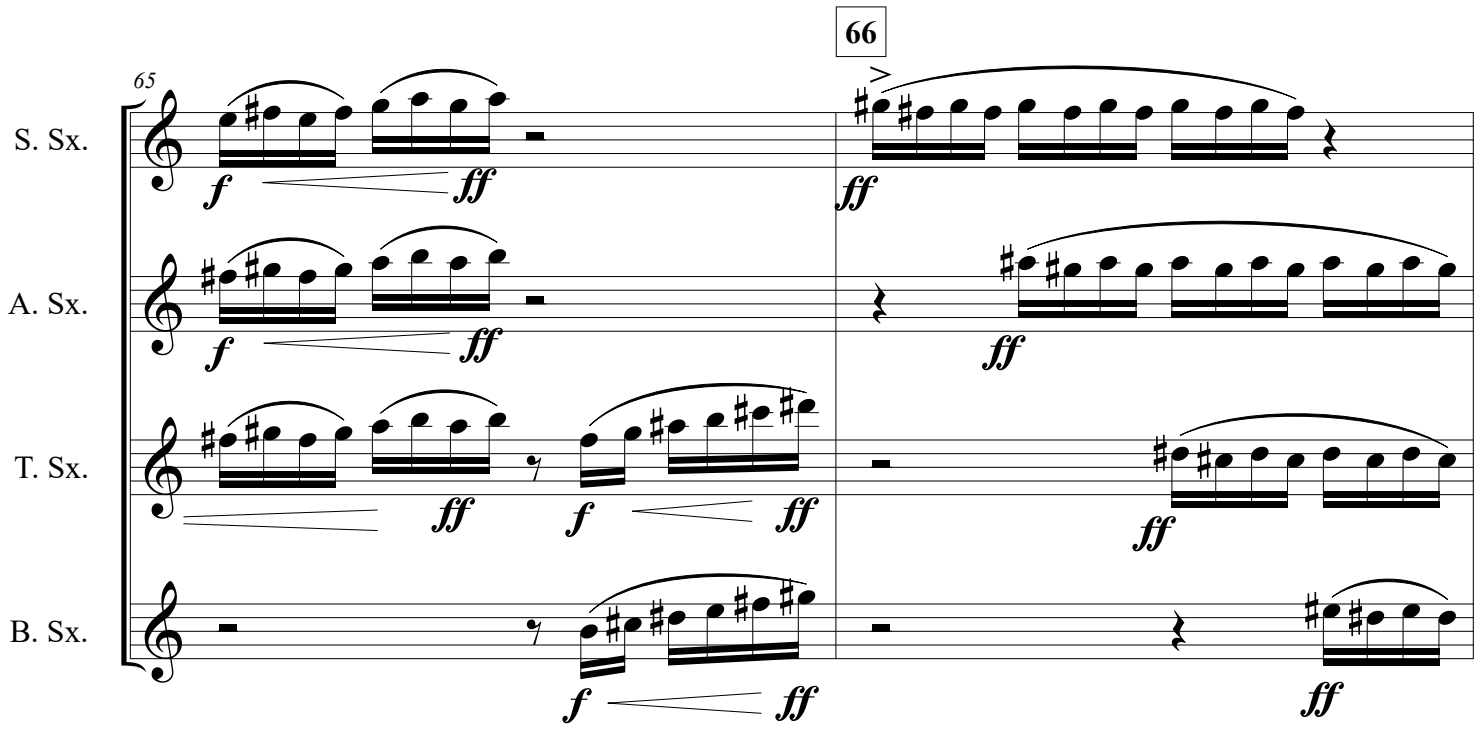
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
mf
f
ff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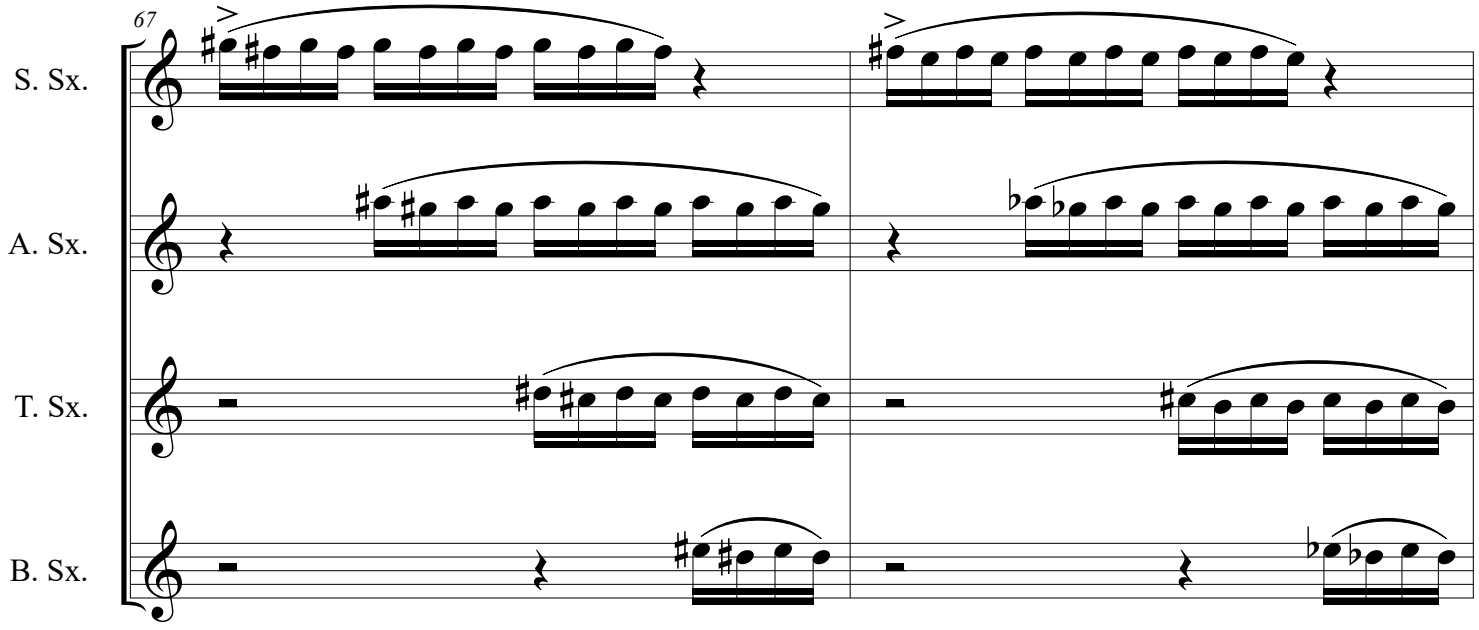
65
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
f
ff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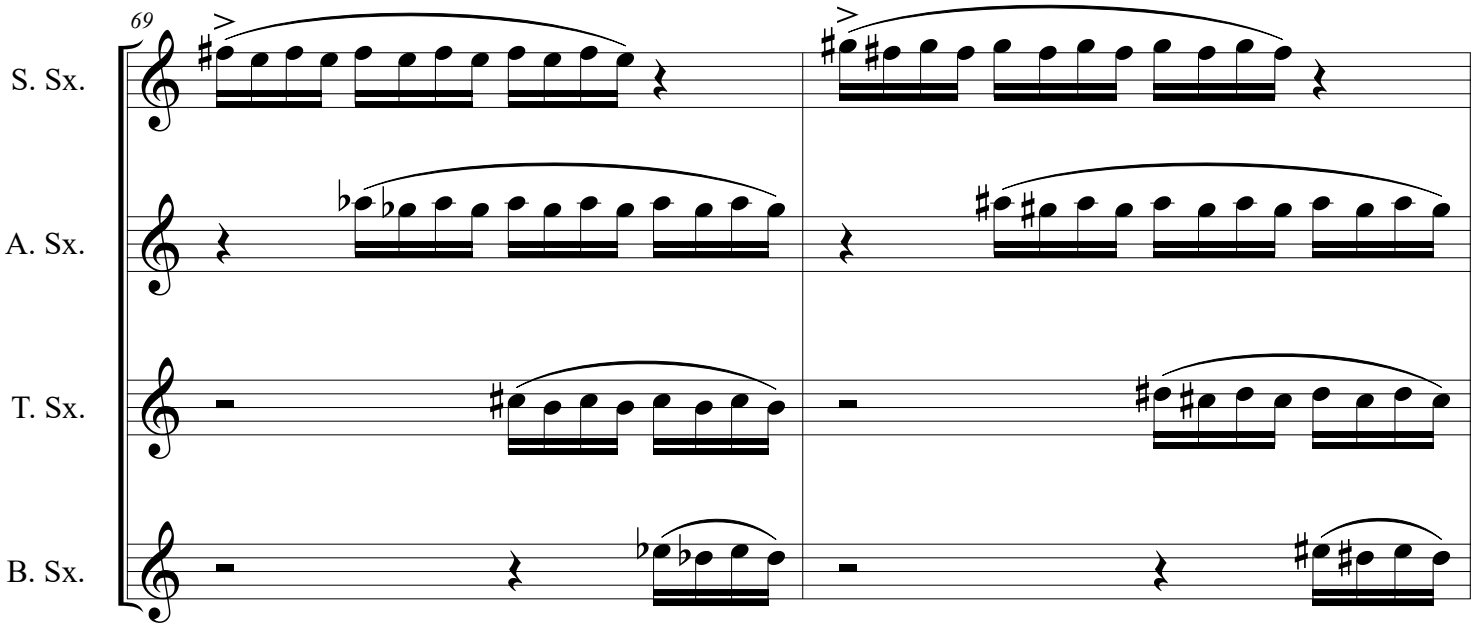
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.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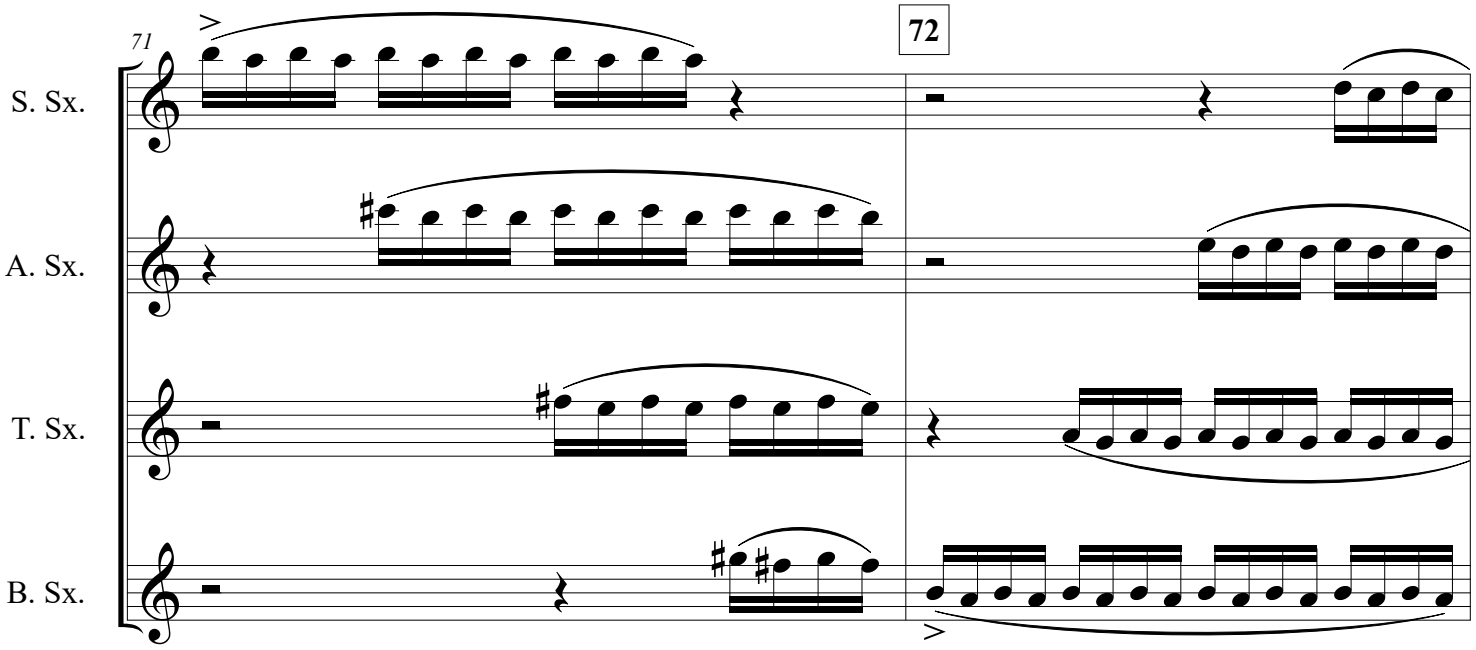
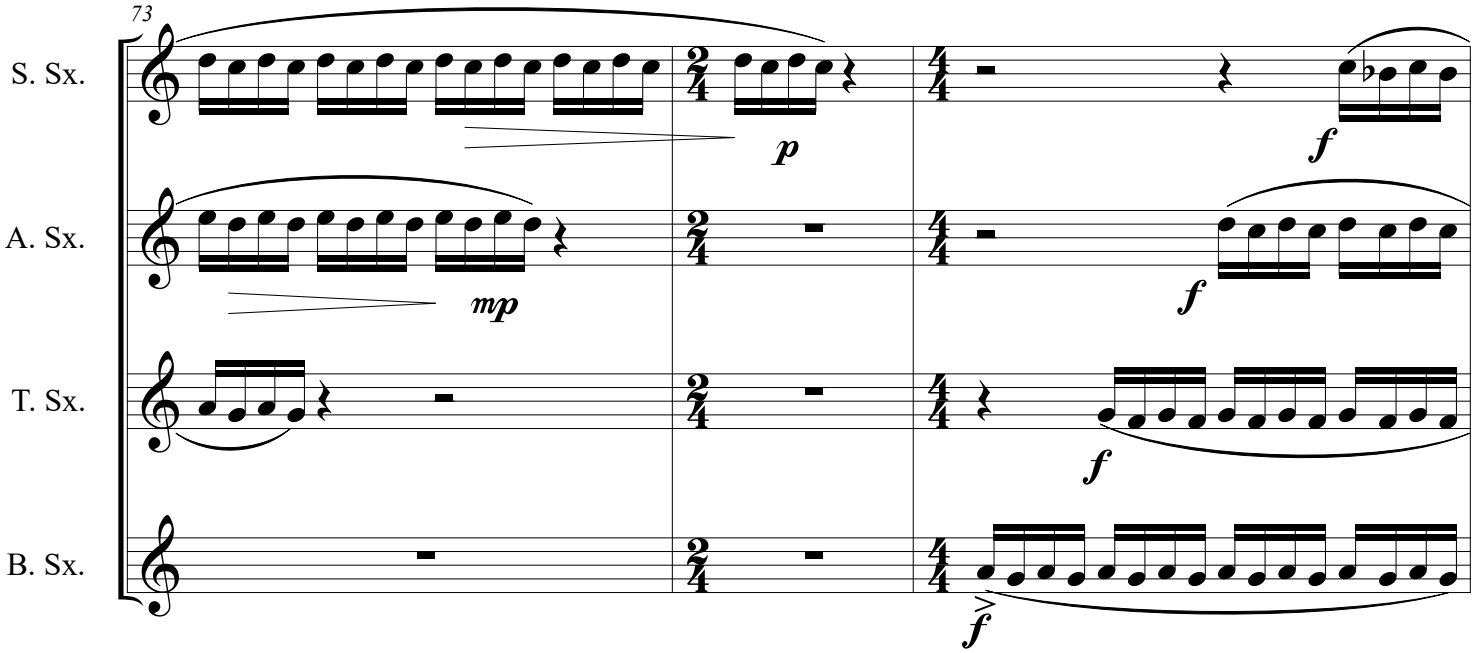
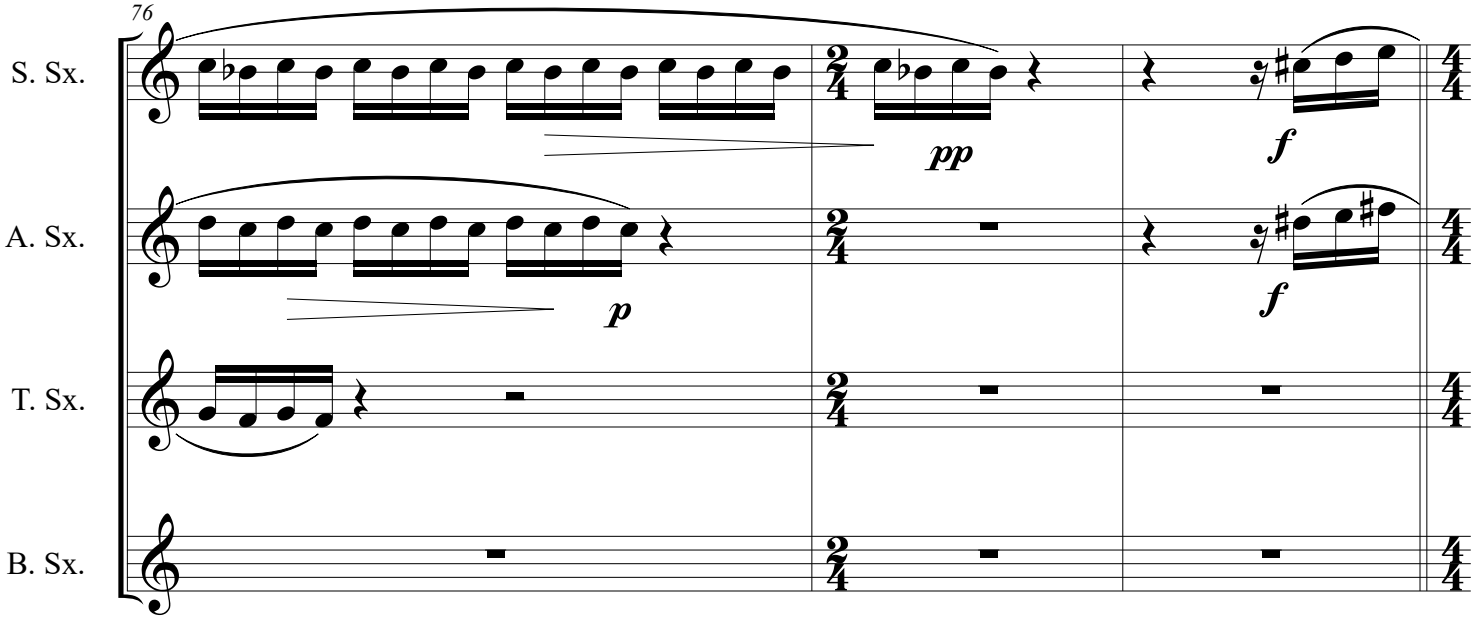
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.


71
72
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.


73
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
p
mp
f
f
f
f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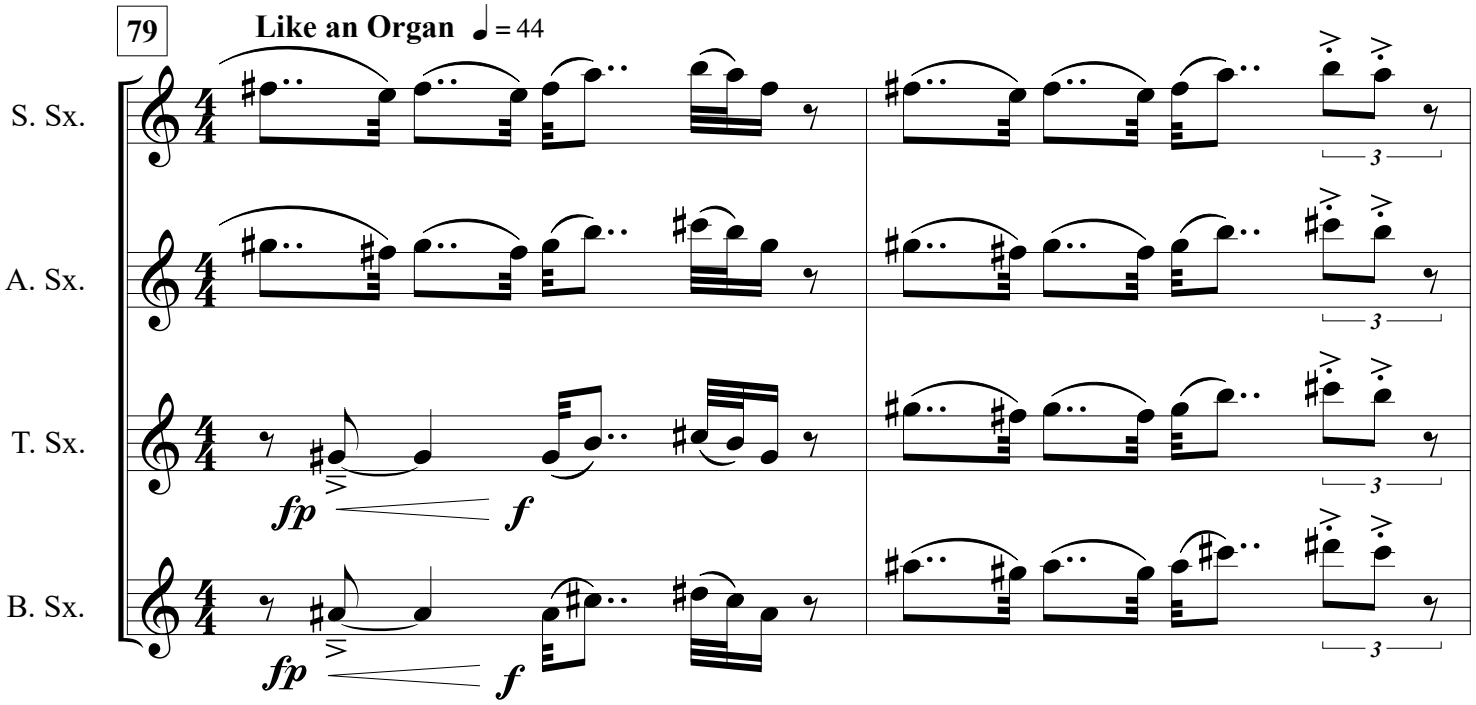
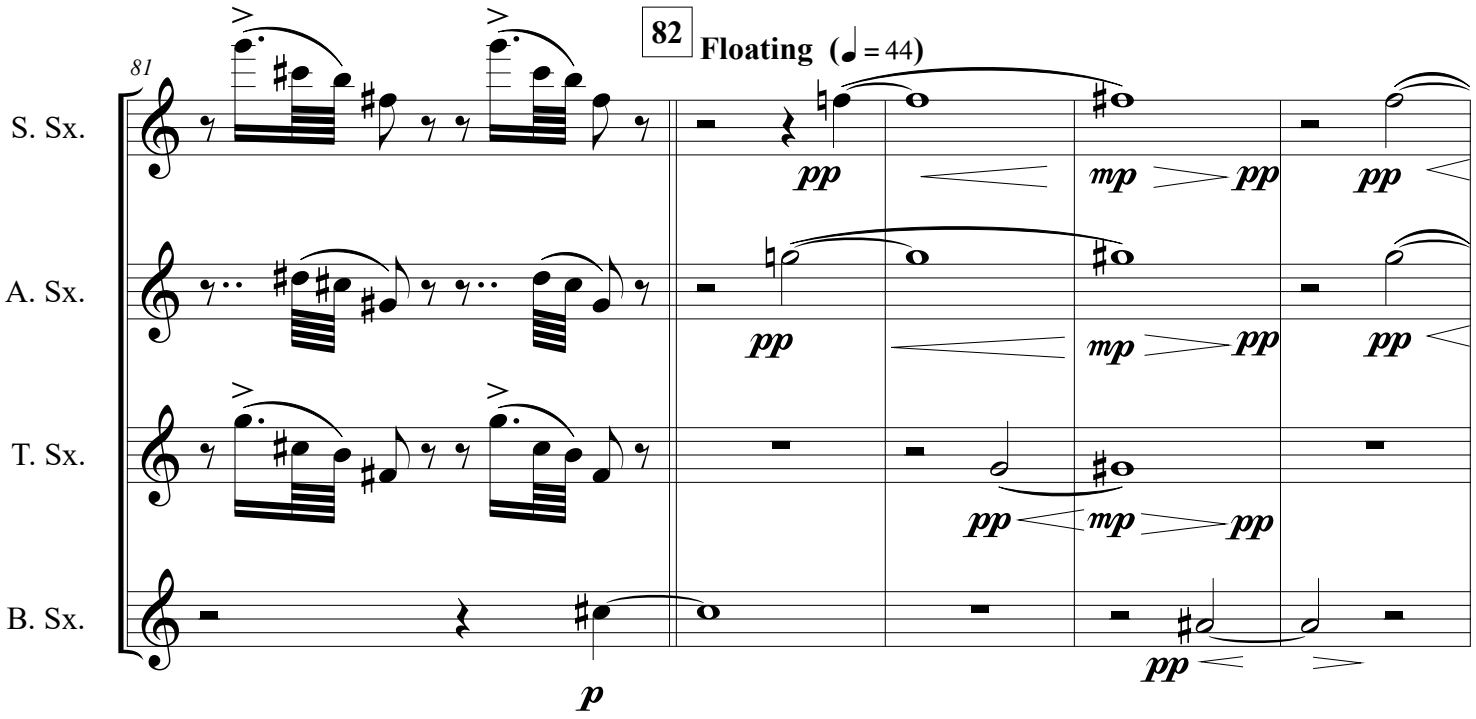
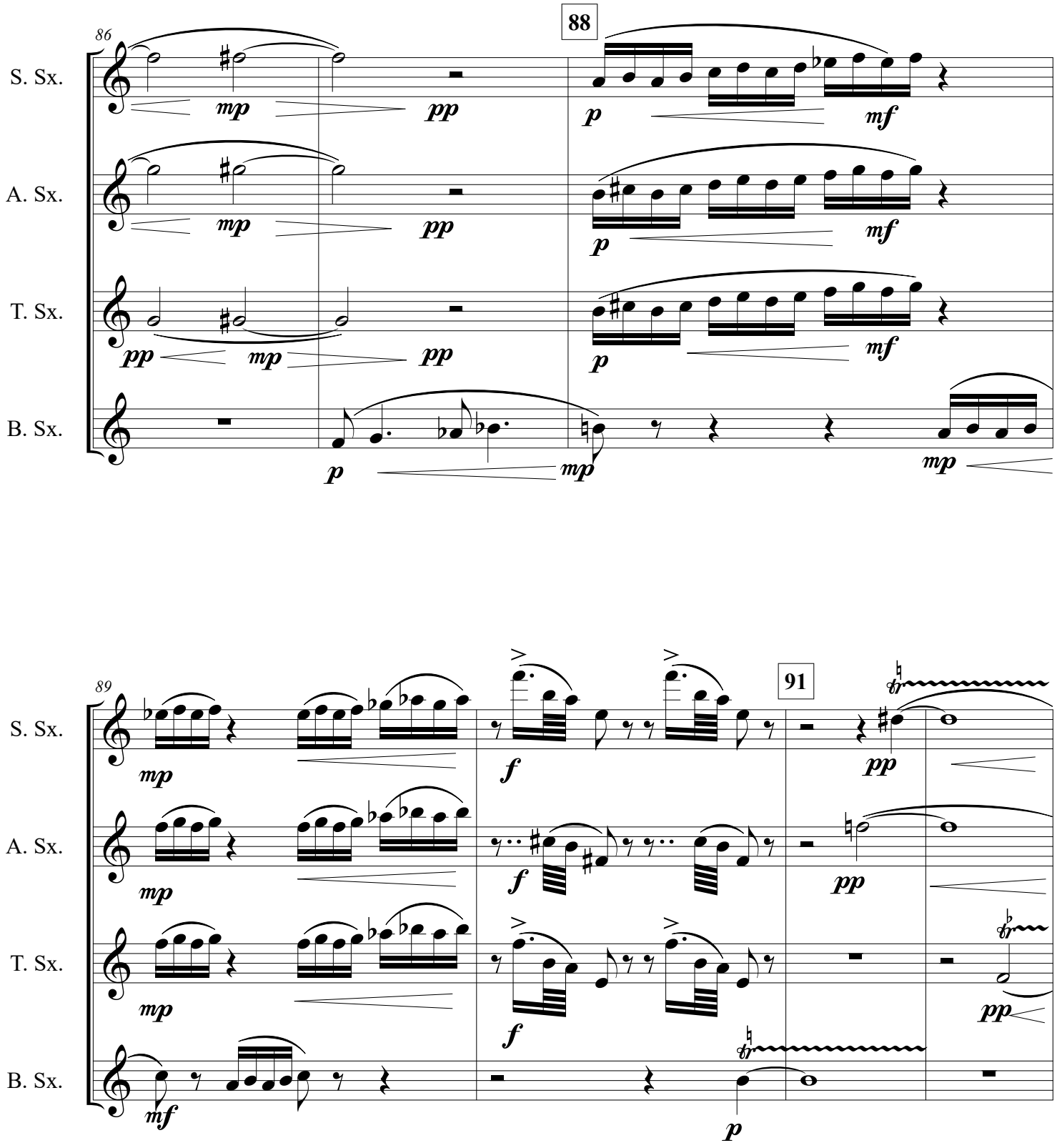
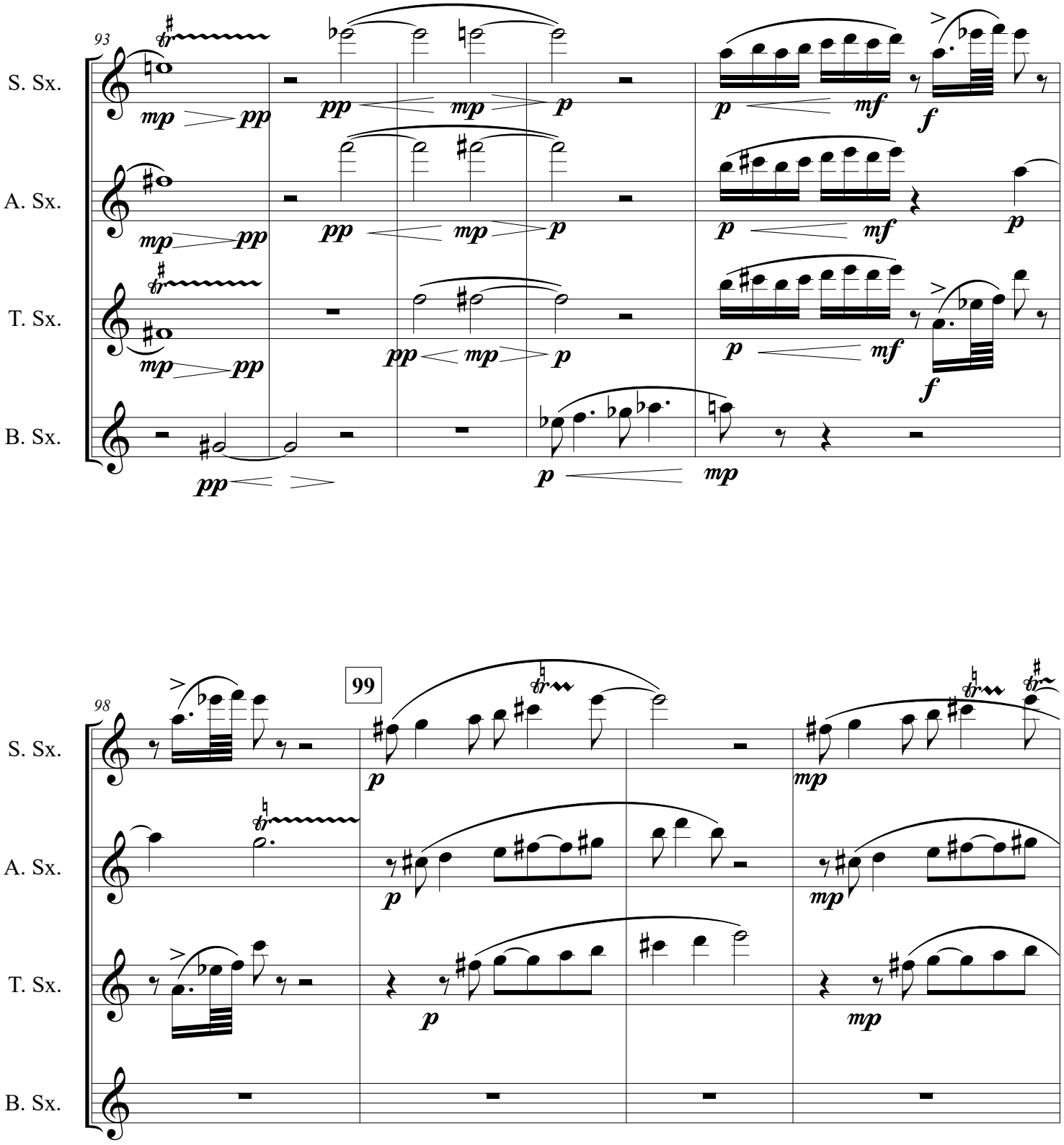
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
pp
p
f
f


79
Like an Organ ♩ = 44
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
fp
f
3


81
82
Floating (♩ = 44)
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
pp
mp
p


86
88
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
89
91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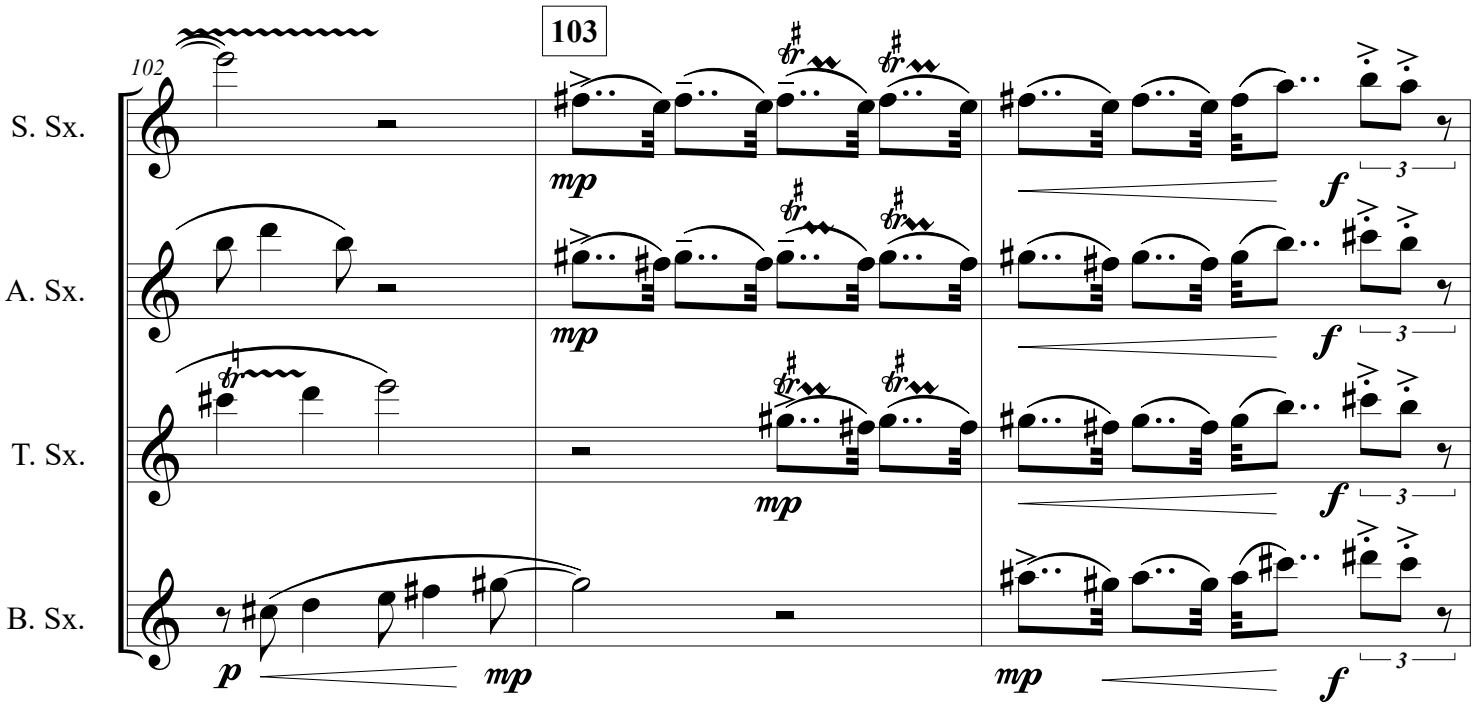
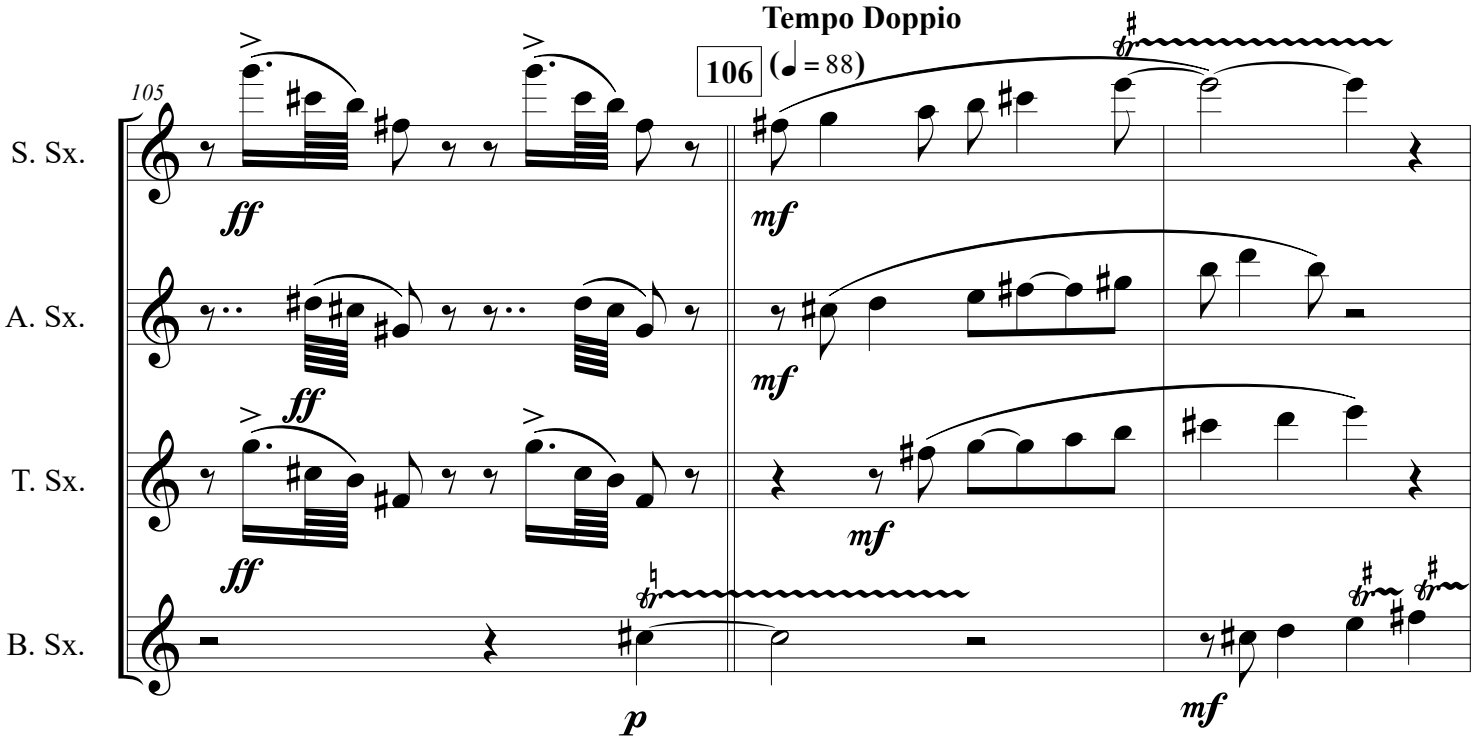
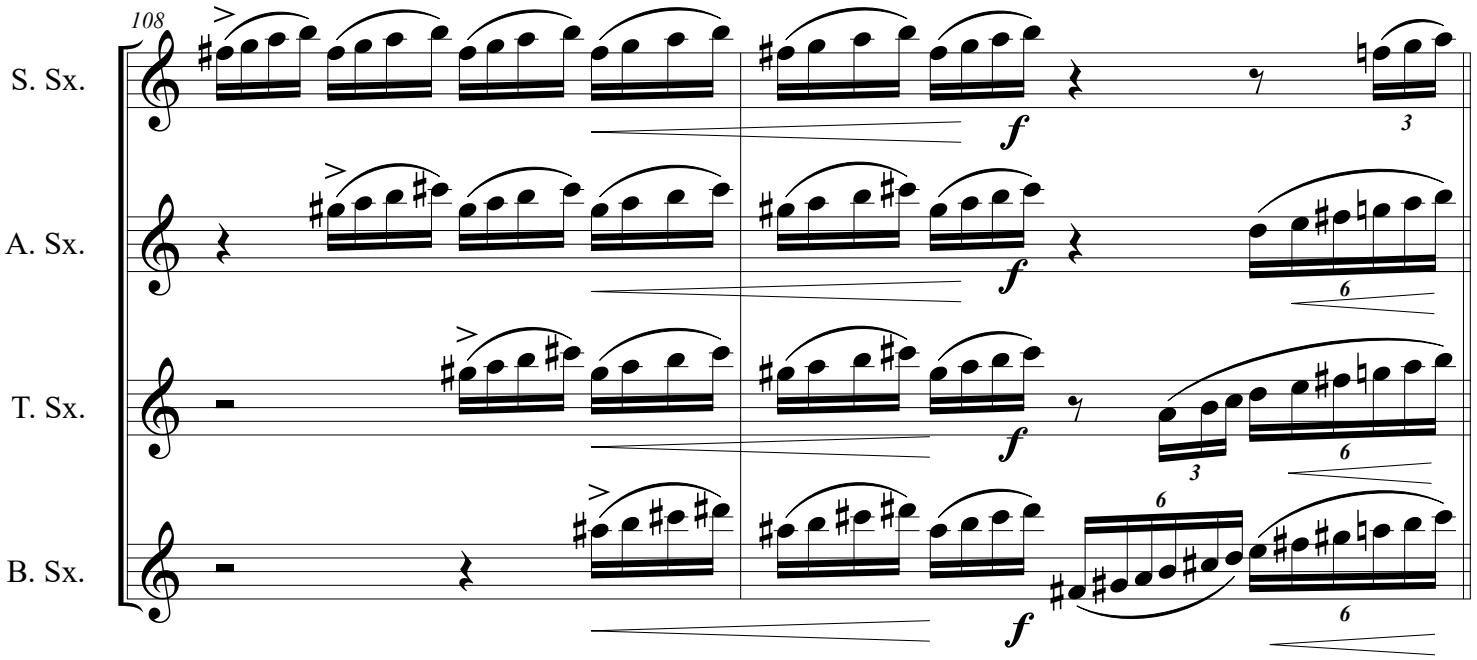
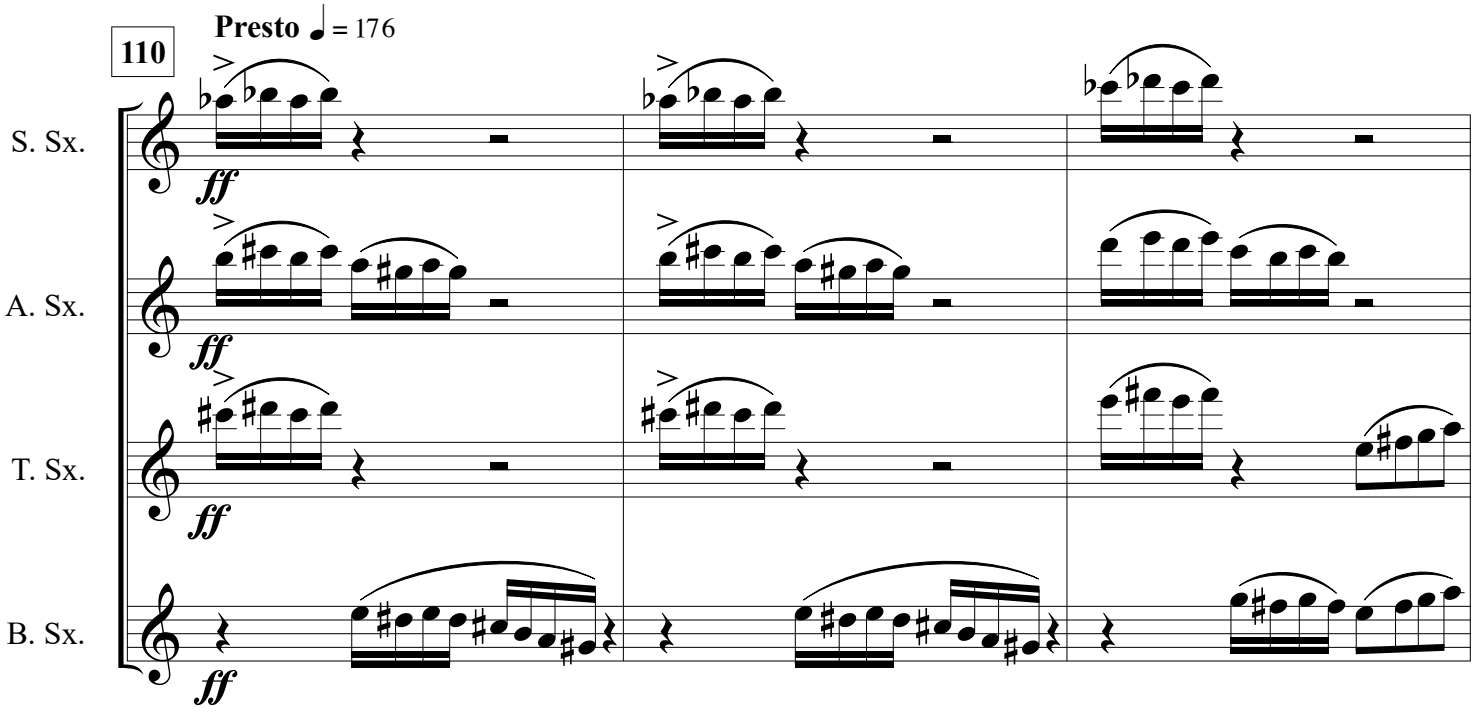
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
98
99

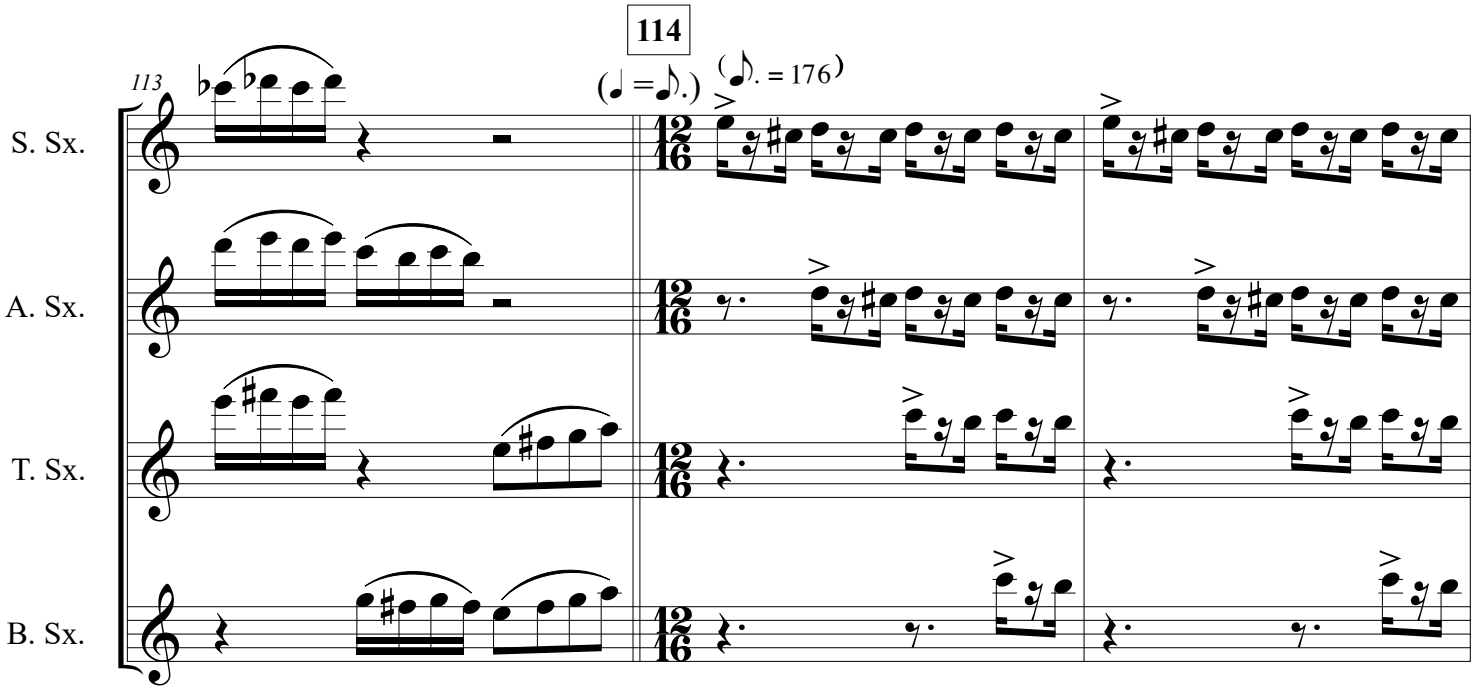

102
103
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
mp
f
p
mp
3

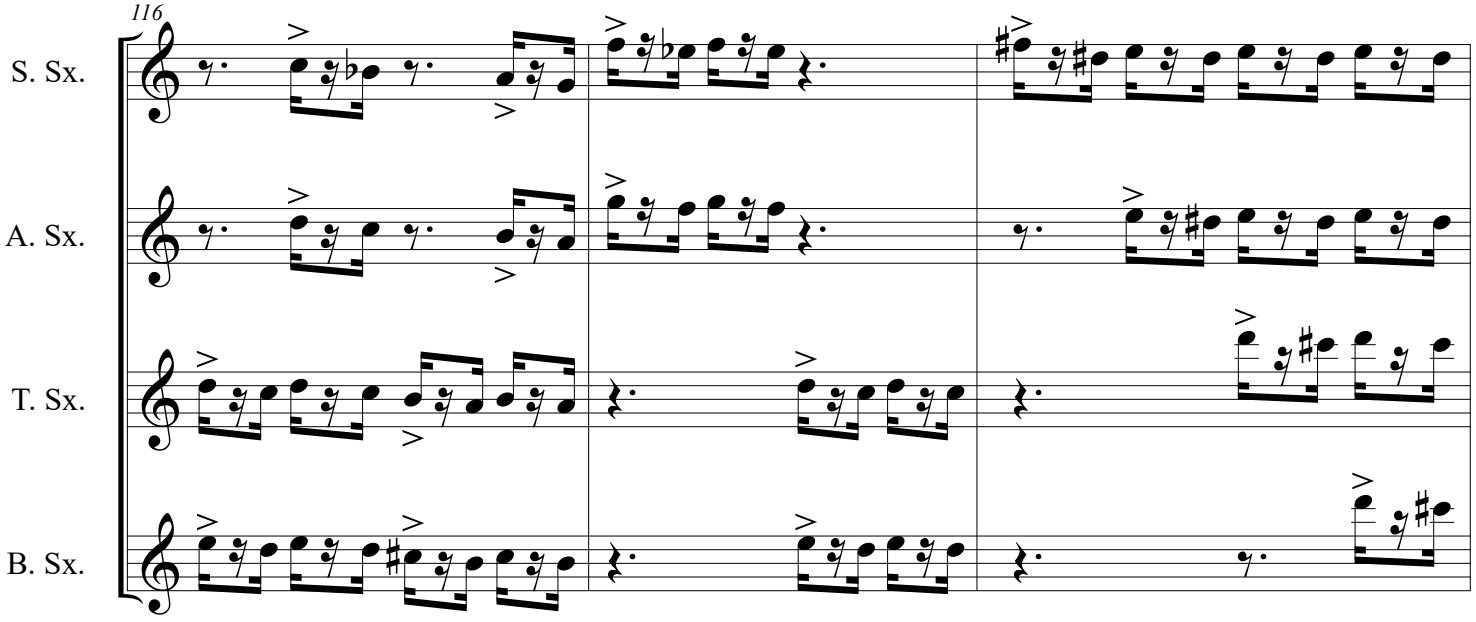

105
Tempo Doppio
106
(♩ = 88)
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
ff
mf
p

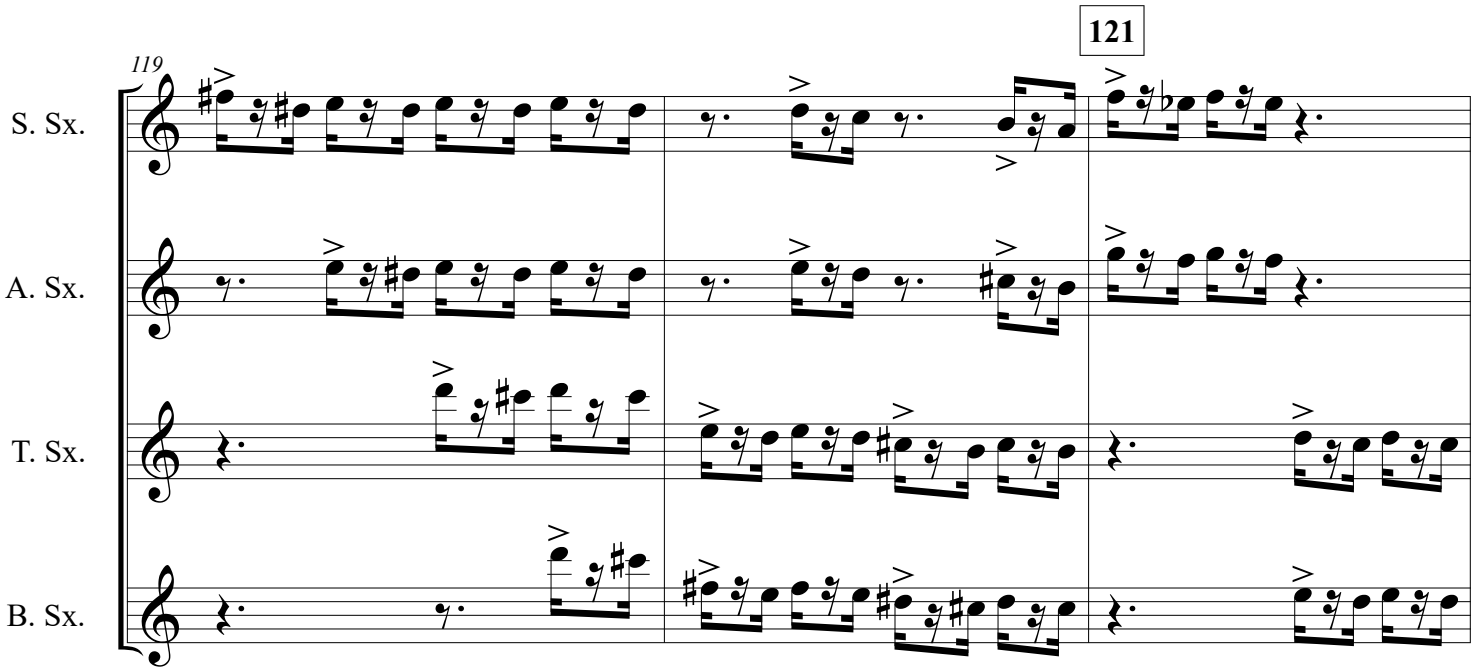
(♪=♩)

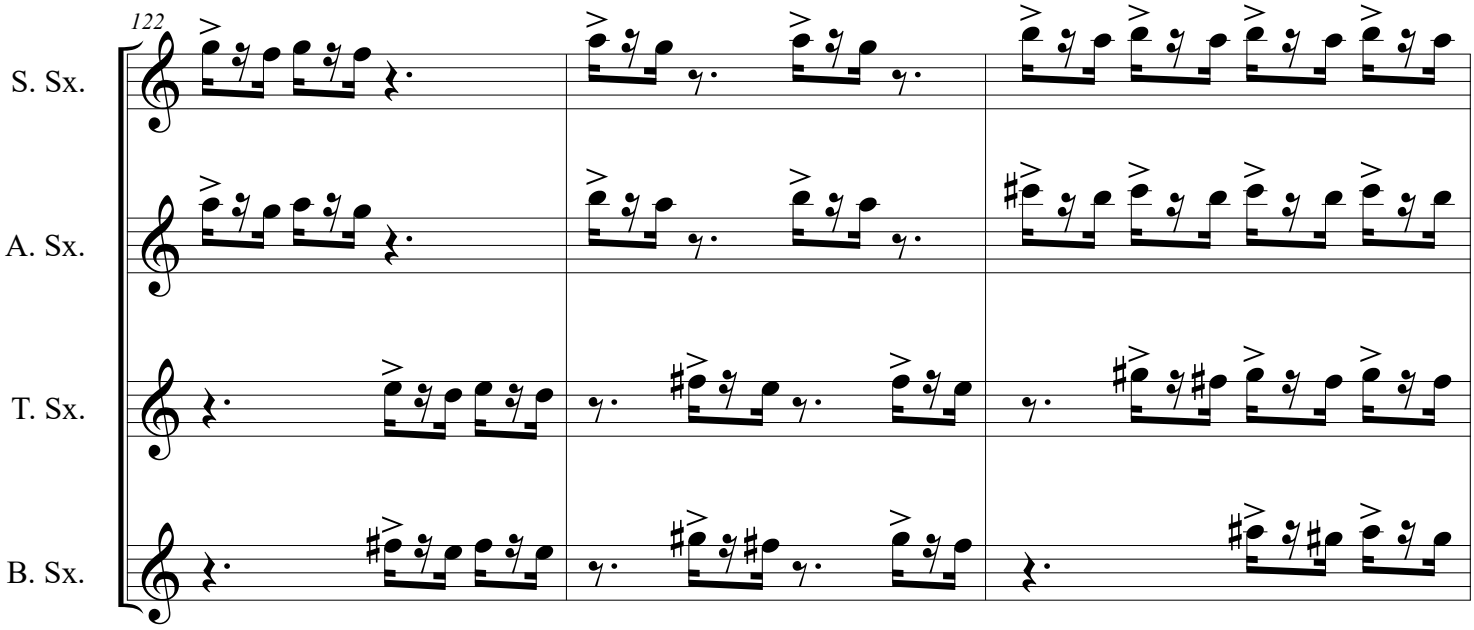

108
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
f

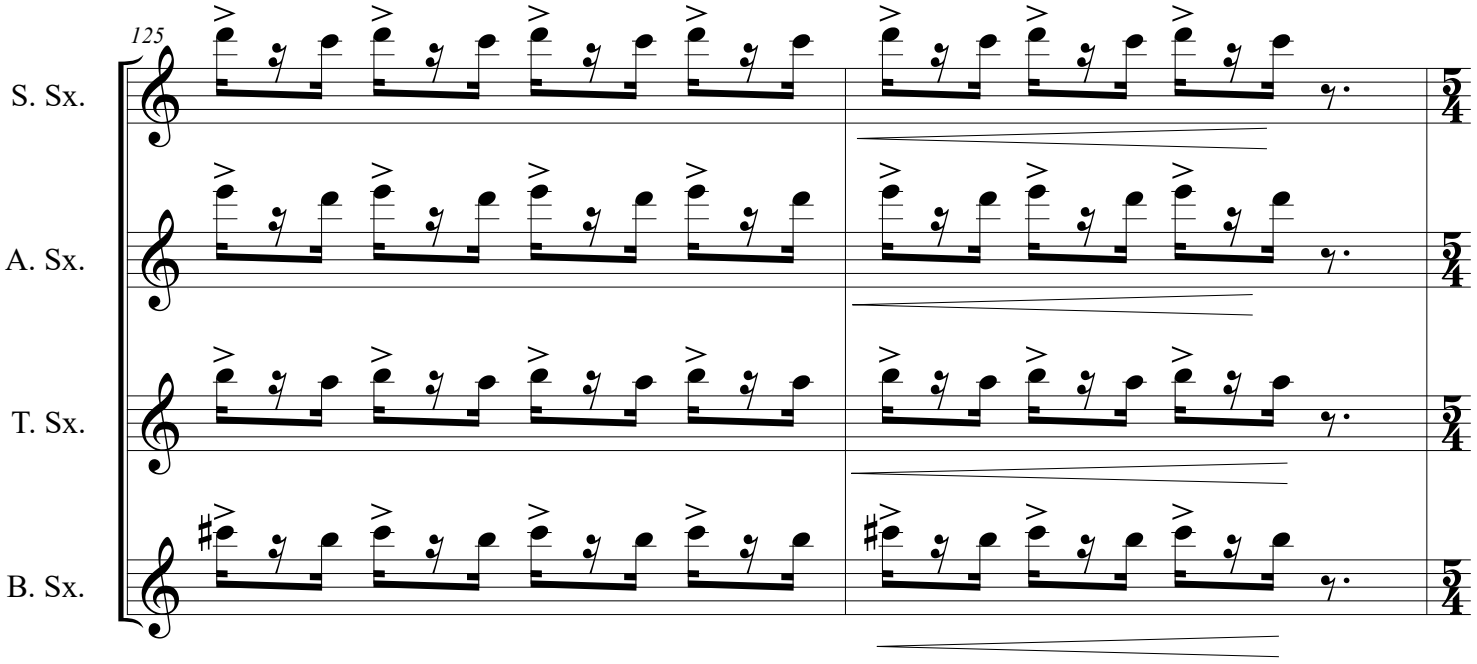

110
Presto ♩ = 176
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
ff

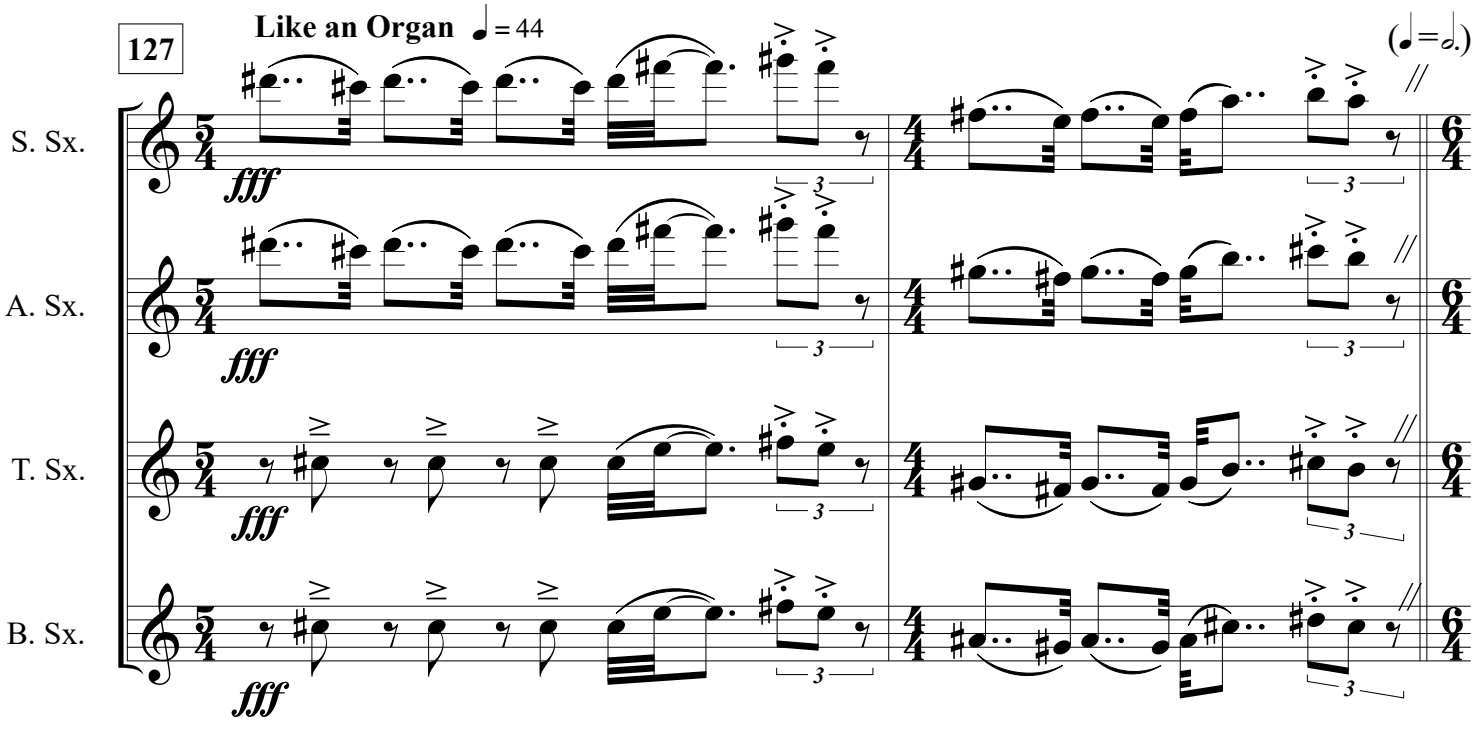

114
113
(♩ = ♪.)
(♪. = 176)
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.

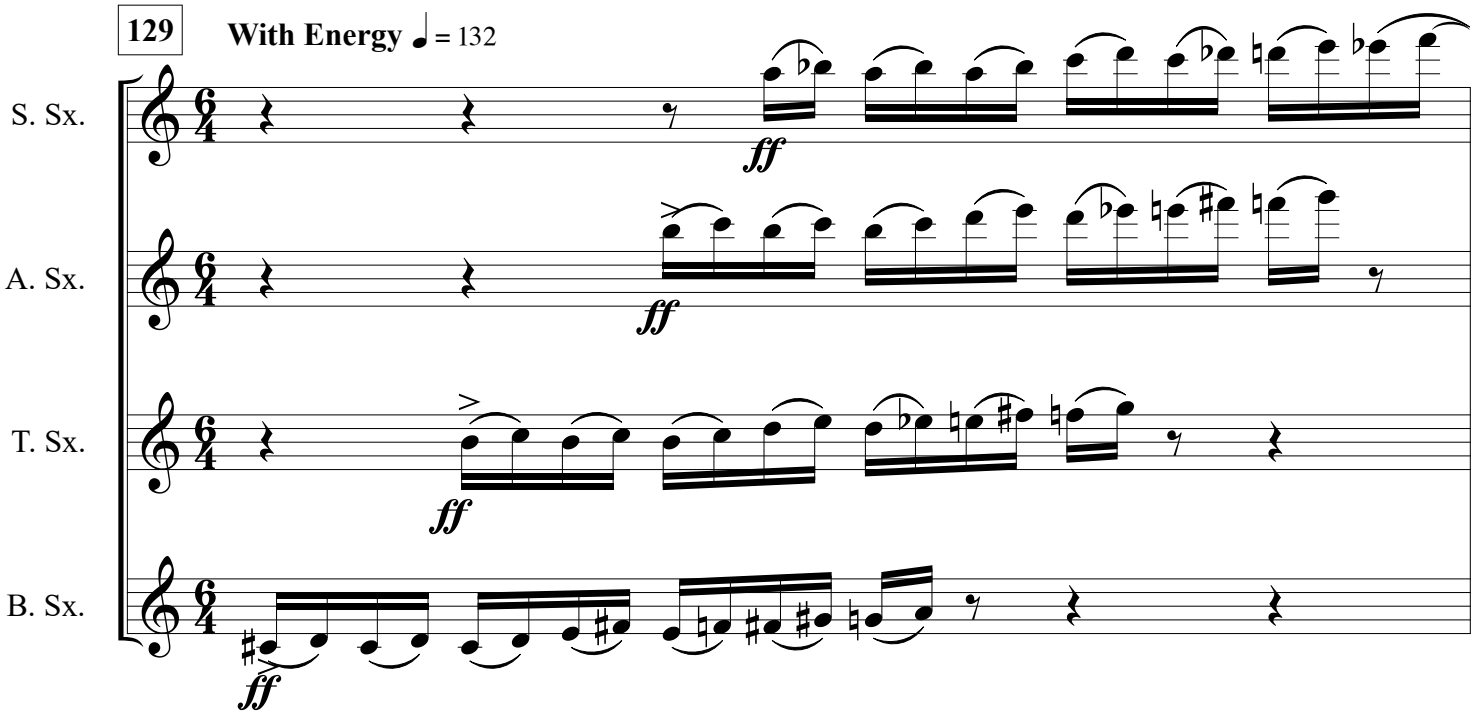

116
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.

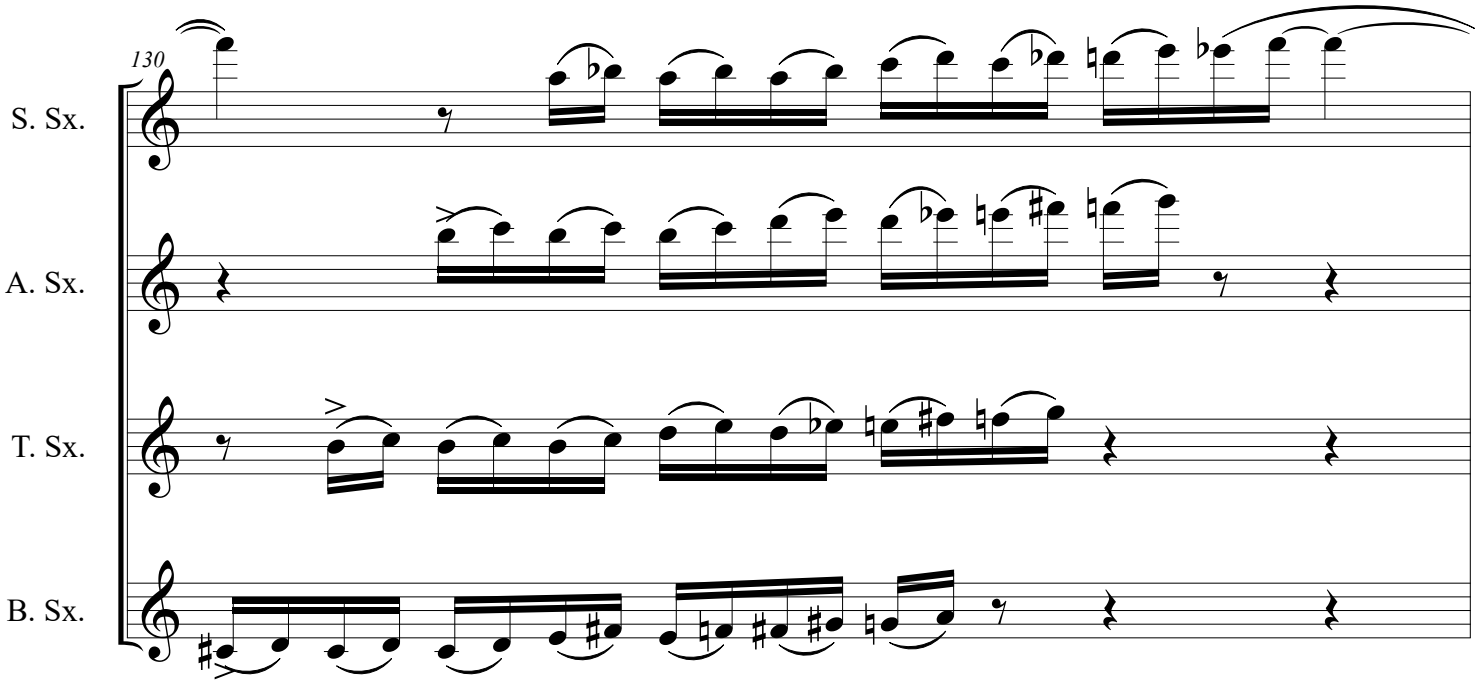

121
119
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.

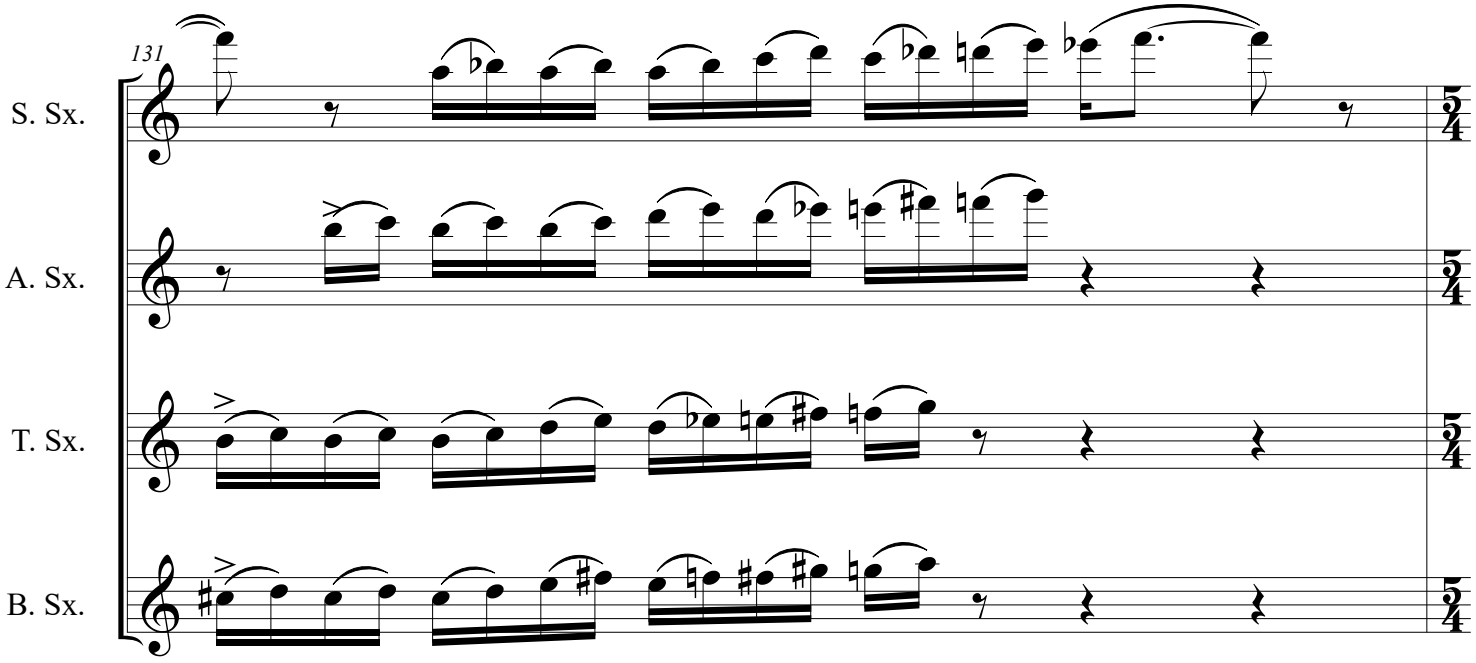

122
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.

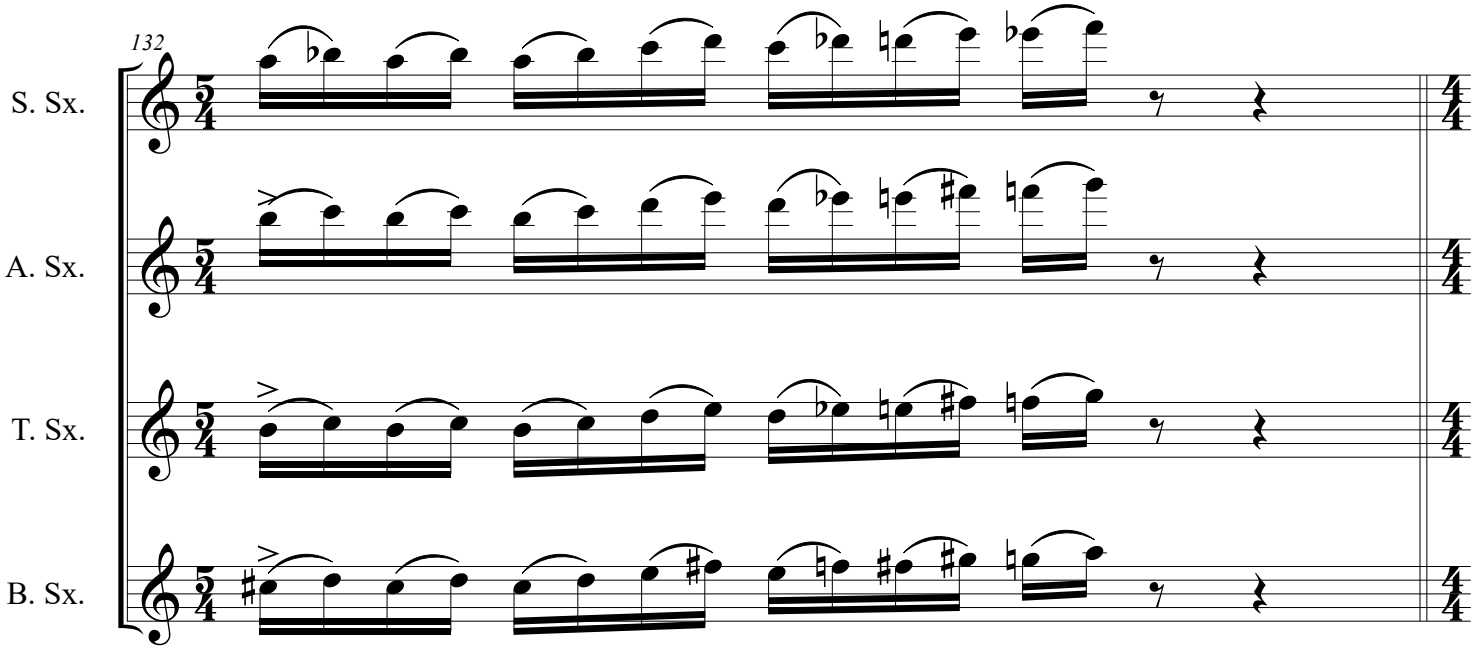

125
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.

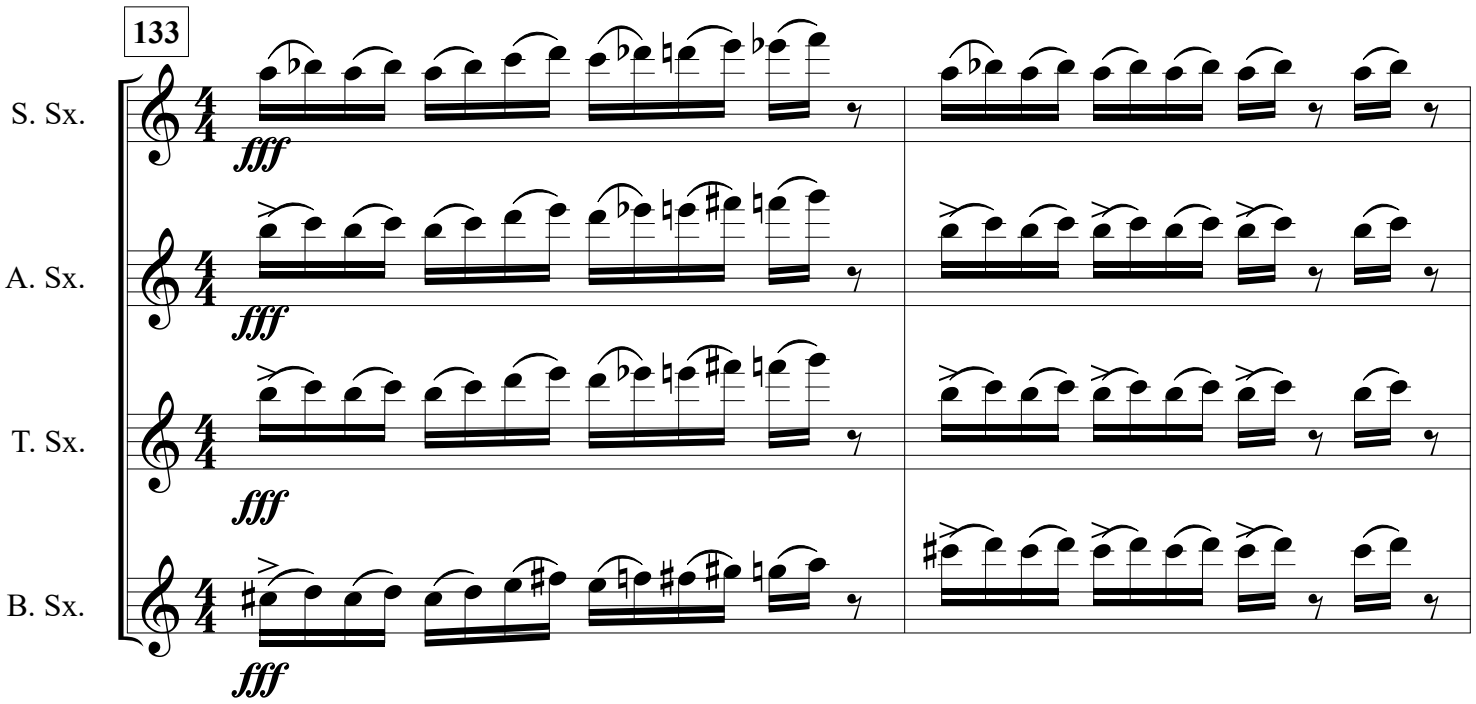

127
Like an Organ
= 44
(=)
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
fff

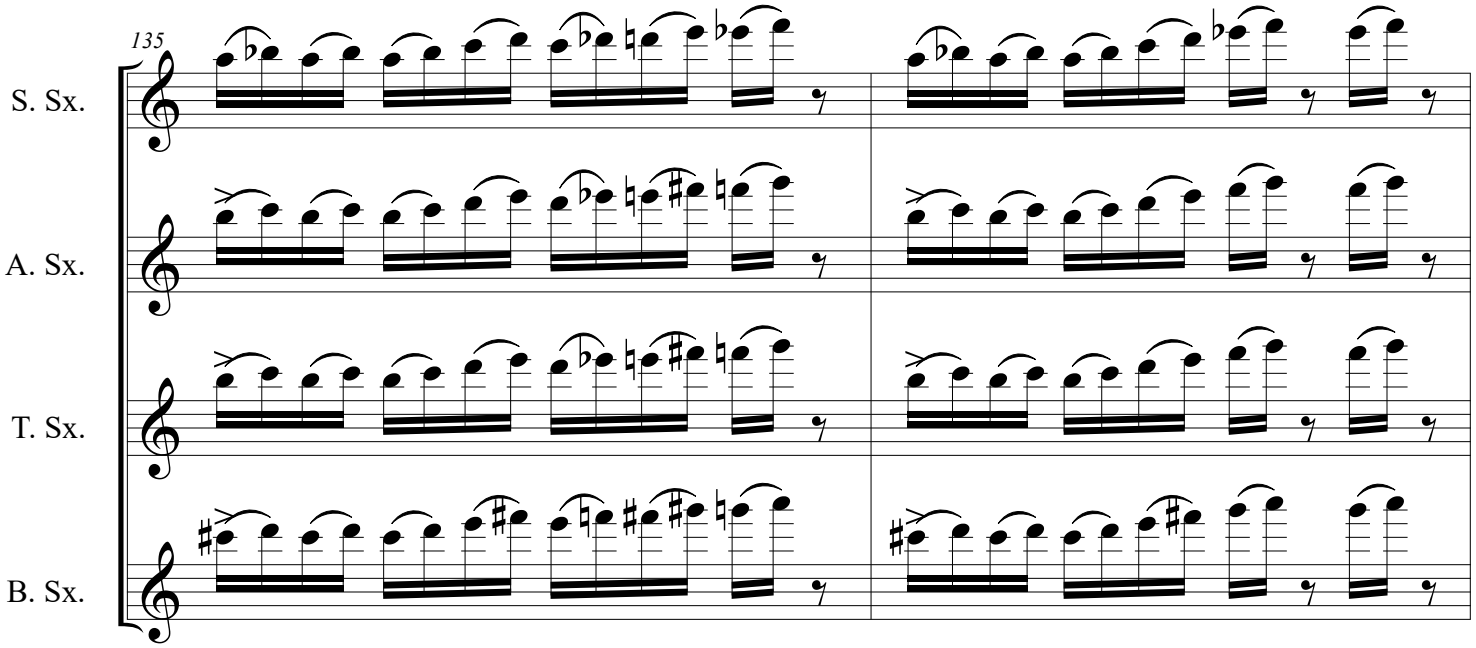

129
With Energy ♩ = 132
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
ff

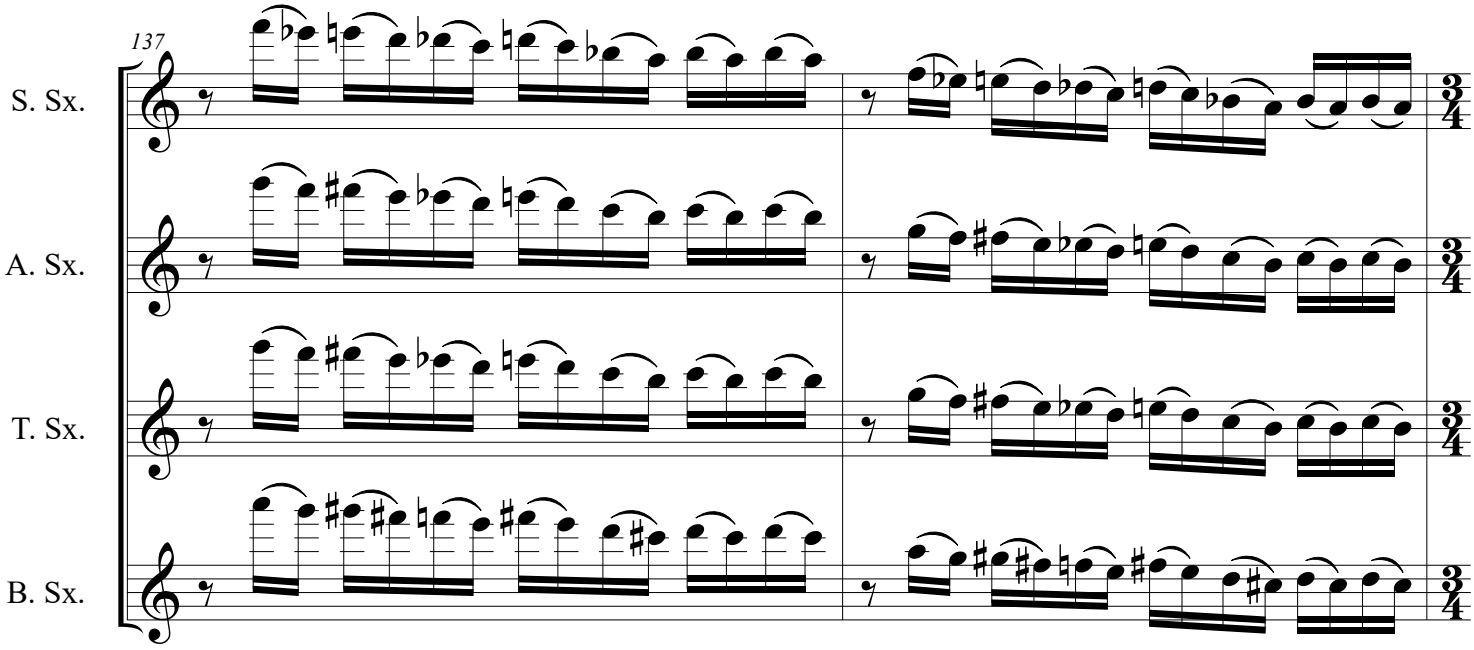

130
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.

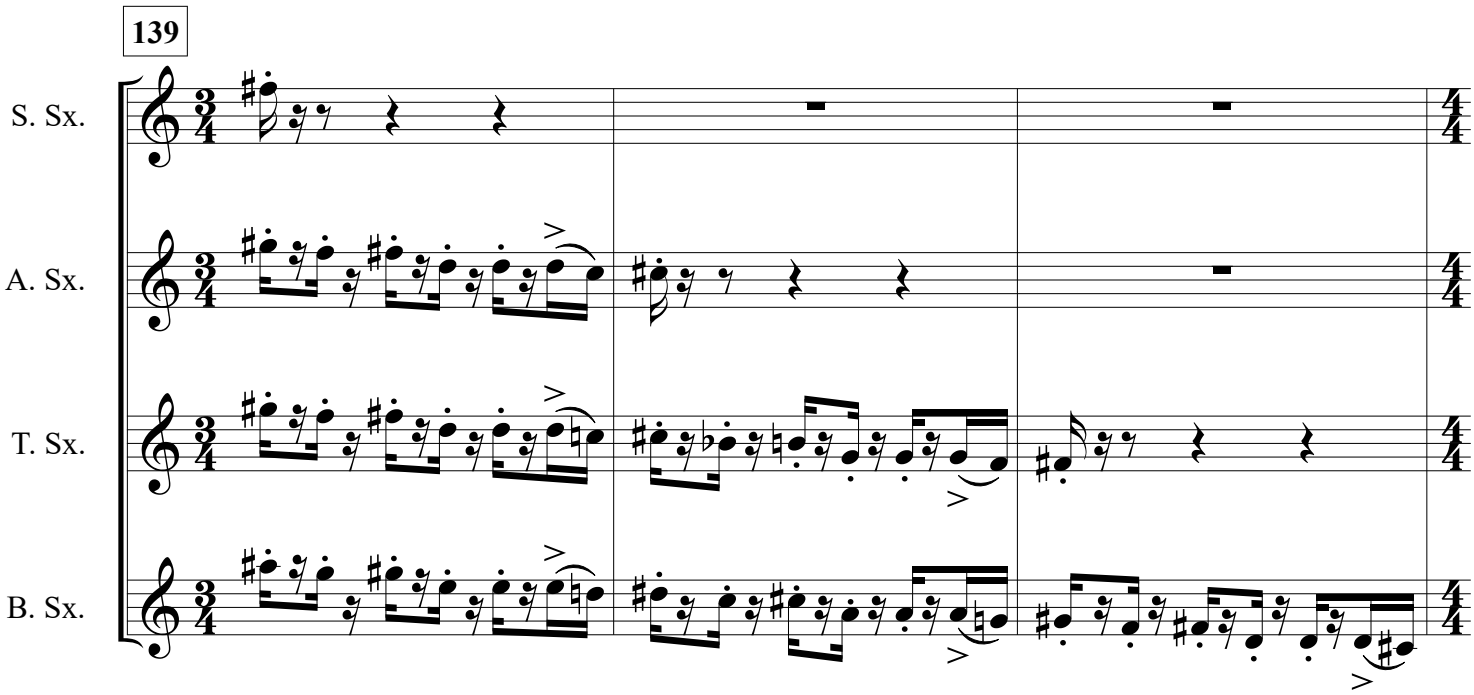

131
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.

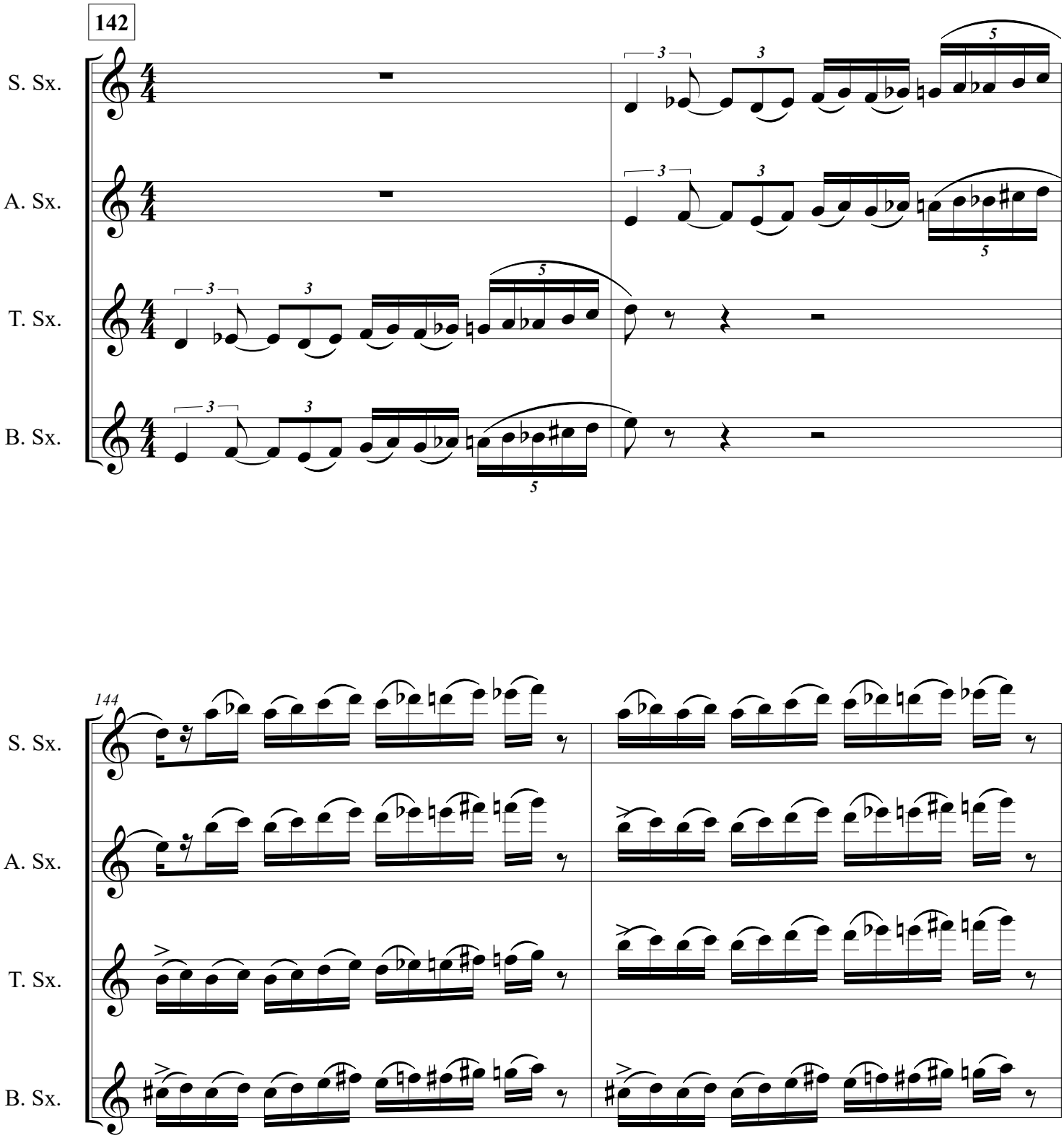

132
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.

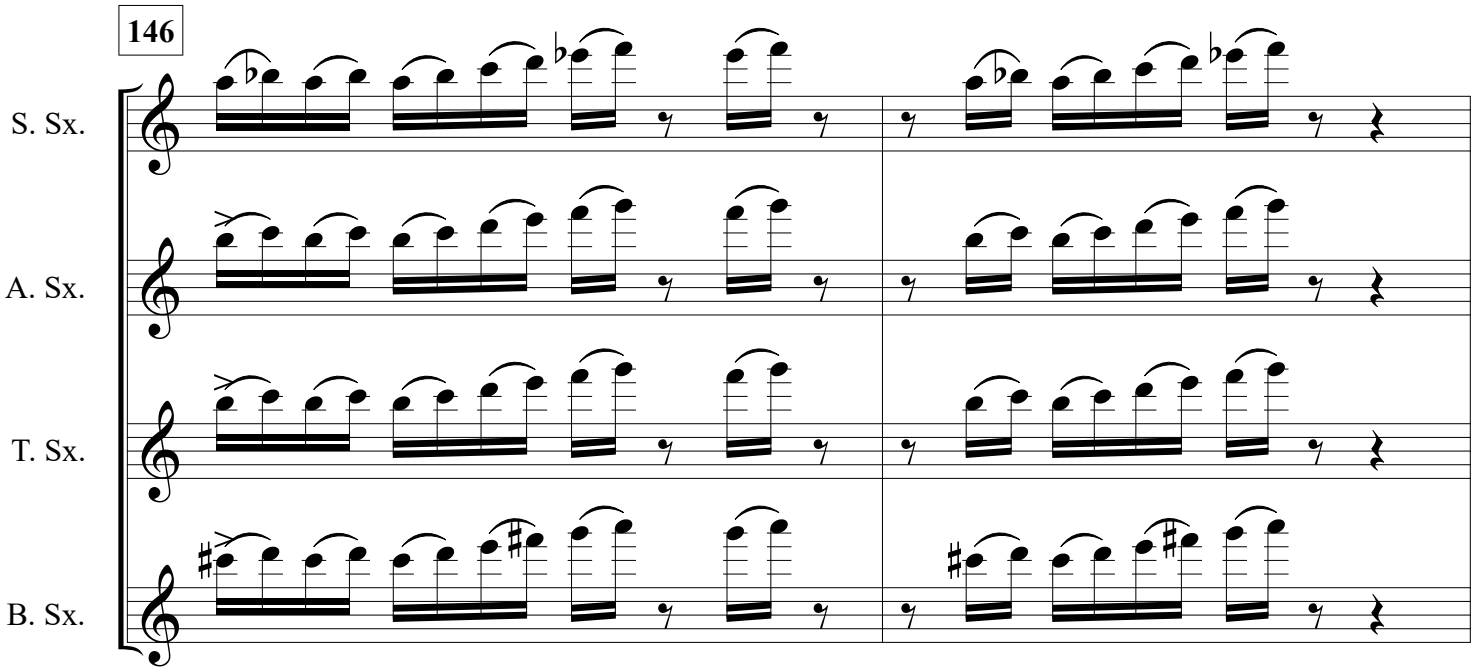

133
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
fff

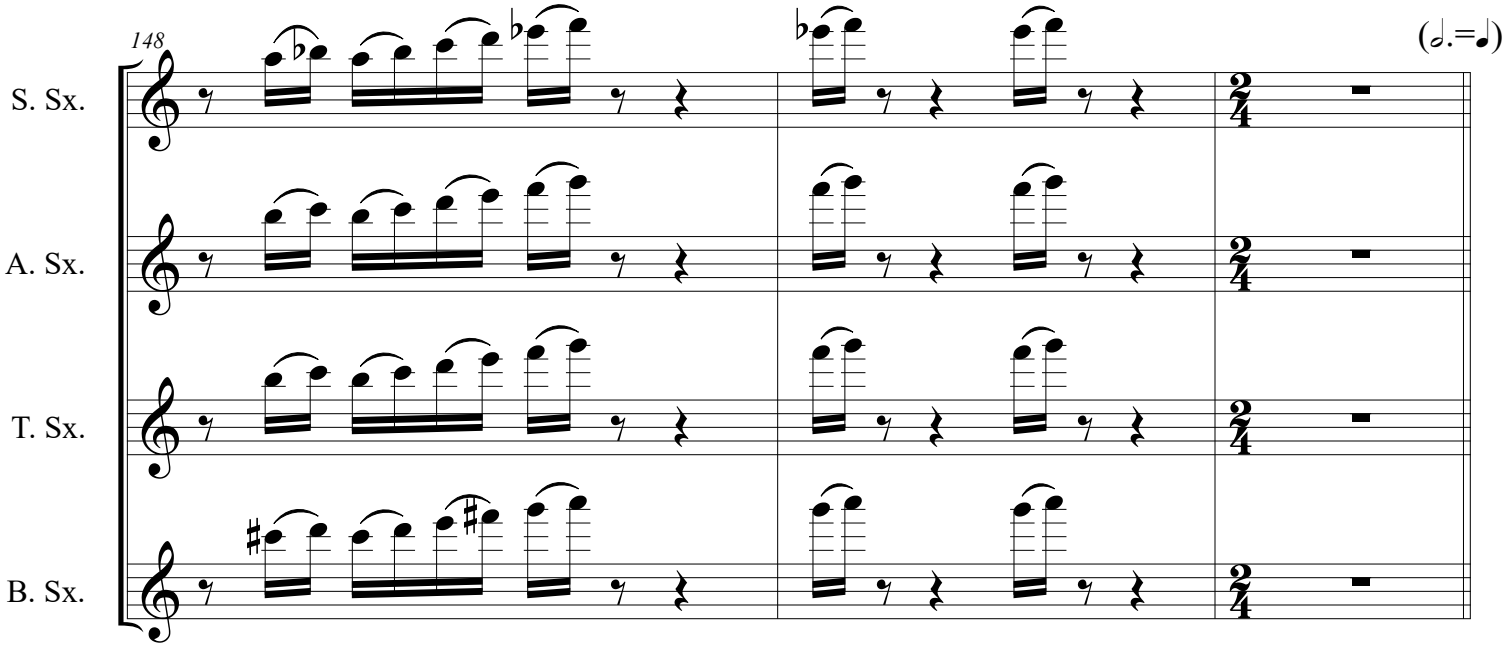

135
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.

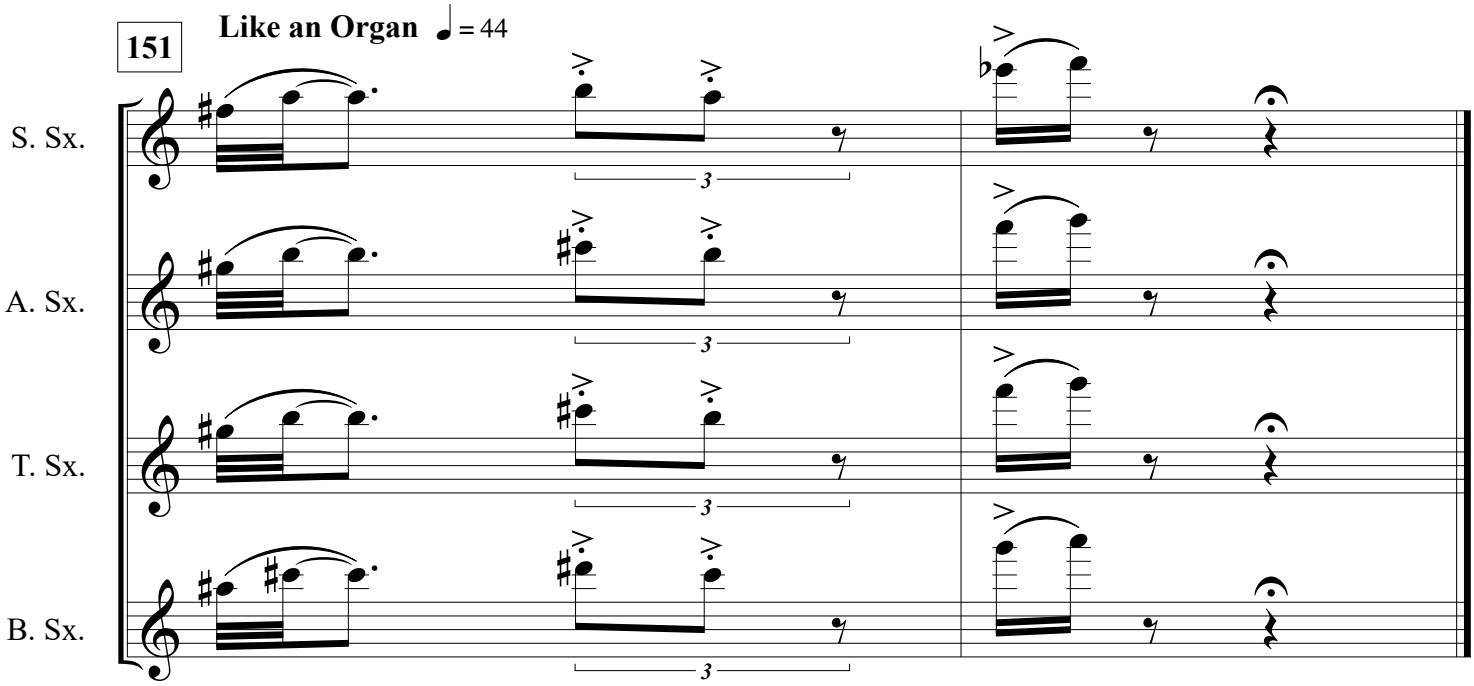

137
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.


139
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.


142
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
144
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.


146
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.


148
(𝅗𝅥.=𝅗𝅥)
S. Sx.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.



November 30, 2022
Jacksonville, Illinois