Takaya’s Epic Journey

Chamber Orchestra and Narrator

Playing Time: about 20 minutes

Instrumentation

Flute
Oboe
Clarinet in Bb
Bassoon
Horn in F
Trumpet in C
Trombone
Tuba
Timpani
Percussion (Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Suspended Cymbal, Glockenspiel)
Harp
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Contrabass

Pages

Score: 42 pages (A4 size)

Parts: 75 pages (Letter size)

About the Piece

Takaya's Epic Journey was inspired by the CBC documentary *Takaya: Lone Wolf*, which tells the story of a wolf that managed to survive and thrive for seven years living on Discovery and Chatham Islands, just a few kilometres from Victoria, BC Canada (a major urban centre). It imagines what his journey to the islands may have been like – including iconic Vancouver Island wildlife he may have met on the way – and depicts his relocation to Port Renfrew and subsequent death at the hands of a hunter. *Takaya's Epic Journey* is intended to be performed on "kid's concerts," and could be paired with other pieces such as *Peter and the Wolf*.

Takaya was named by wildlife photographer Cheryl Alexander, who formed a close bond with the wolf, and is featured in the above documentary.

The following resources might be provided to students before the concert, if interested in learning more about Takaya:

CBC documentary *Takaya: Lone Wolf*
(on *The Nature of Things*)
https://www.cbc.ca/natureofthings/episodes/takaya-lone-wolf

Takaya Lone Wolf - The Wolf of Discovery Island
(Cheryl Alexander's Website)
https://takayalonewolf.com/

VI Wilds
(For information about Vancouver Island wildlife)
http://www.geog.uvic.ca/viwilds/index.html

Performance Notes

No. 1 of the narration could be spoken by the conductor, who might also introduce the narrator.

Regarding the trombone solo in Measure 308: this can be played as written, which is quite beautiful and sounds like the name "Takaya," or the trombonist could use glissandi to imitate a wolf howling. I have no preference.

Brad Howland

Narrator

In general, you speak during the fermatas and the conductor should cue you. There is music between each number in the narration. However, a few important points in the music are noted in ***bold/italic***.

(No. 1 may be spoken by the conductor, who introduces the narrator)

1. Takaya. A solo howl that fills our souls with shivers. A tale of a lone wolf that captivates our hearts as we attempt to unravel the mystery of his solitary existence.

   His name means “wolf” in the language of the Coast Salish First Nation. His life is lovingly documented by conservation photographer Cheryl Alexander, who fell under his spell after being held in his gaze.

   This is a musical tribute to his epic journey and solitary existence, enlivening his experiences and encounters along the way.

(Wait for cello, bass entry)

2. The air is still as day gathers just beneath the horizon; a pack of wolves shares warmth curled together, asleep in the pre-dawn chill. Golden rays peek over the horizon and begin to gradually warm the day.

3. Takaya awakens, filled with boundless energy and enthusiasm. The other wolves are not so keen to leave the pack, and caution him to go back to sleep. He becomes increasingly restless, and bounds about trying to awaken the pack. They respond with growls and snarls, making their opinions known.

4. Takaya decides to set off on his own and begins his journey south.

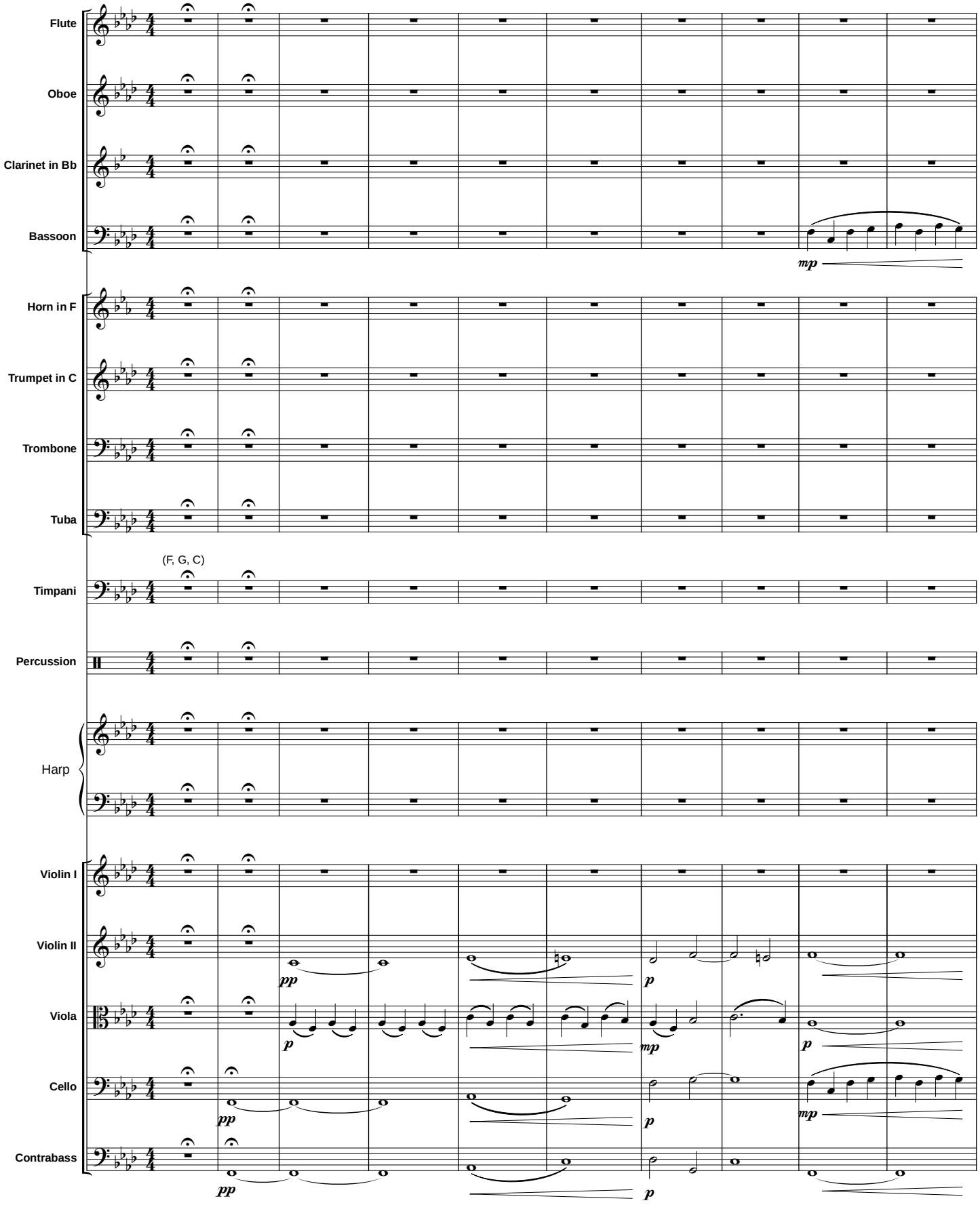
Takaya’s Epic Journey

Words by Michelle Cox • Music by Brad Howland (SOCAN)

...encounters
along the way.

...gradually
warm the day.

Andantino ♩ = 90



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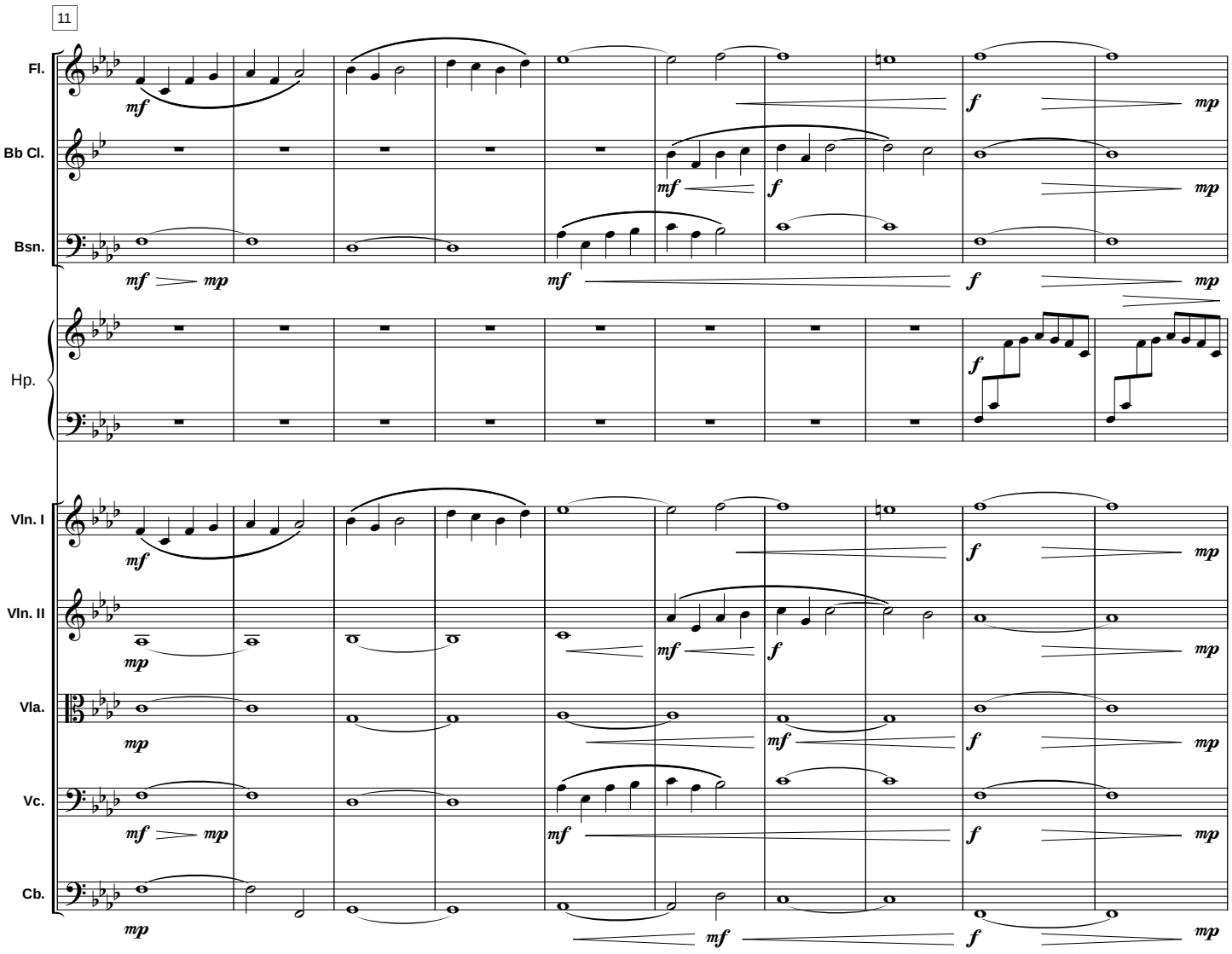
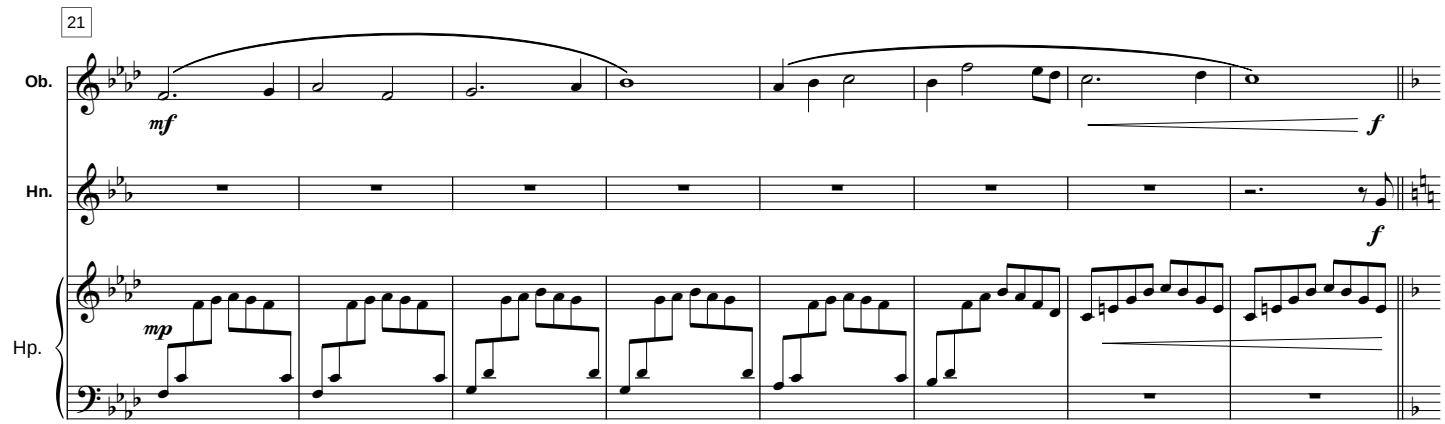
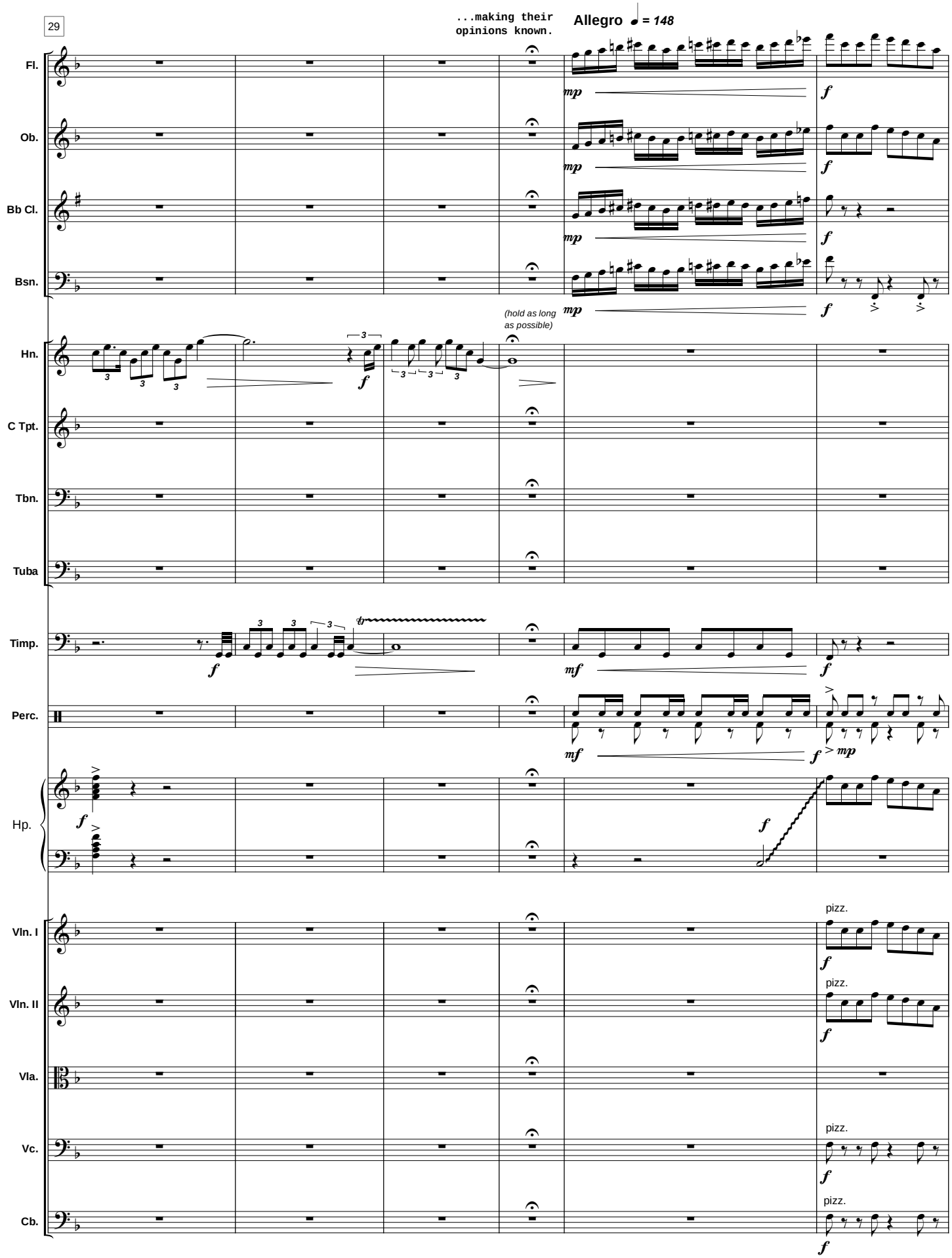
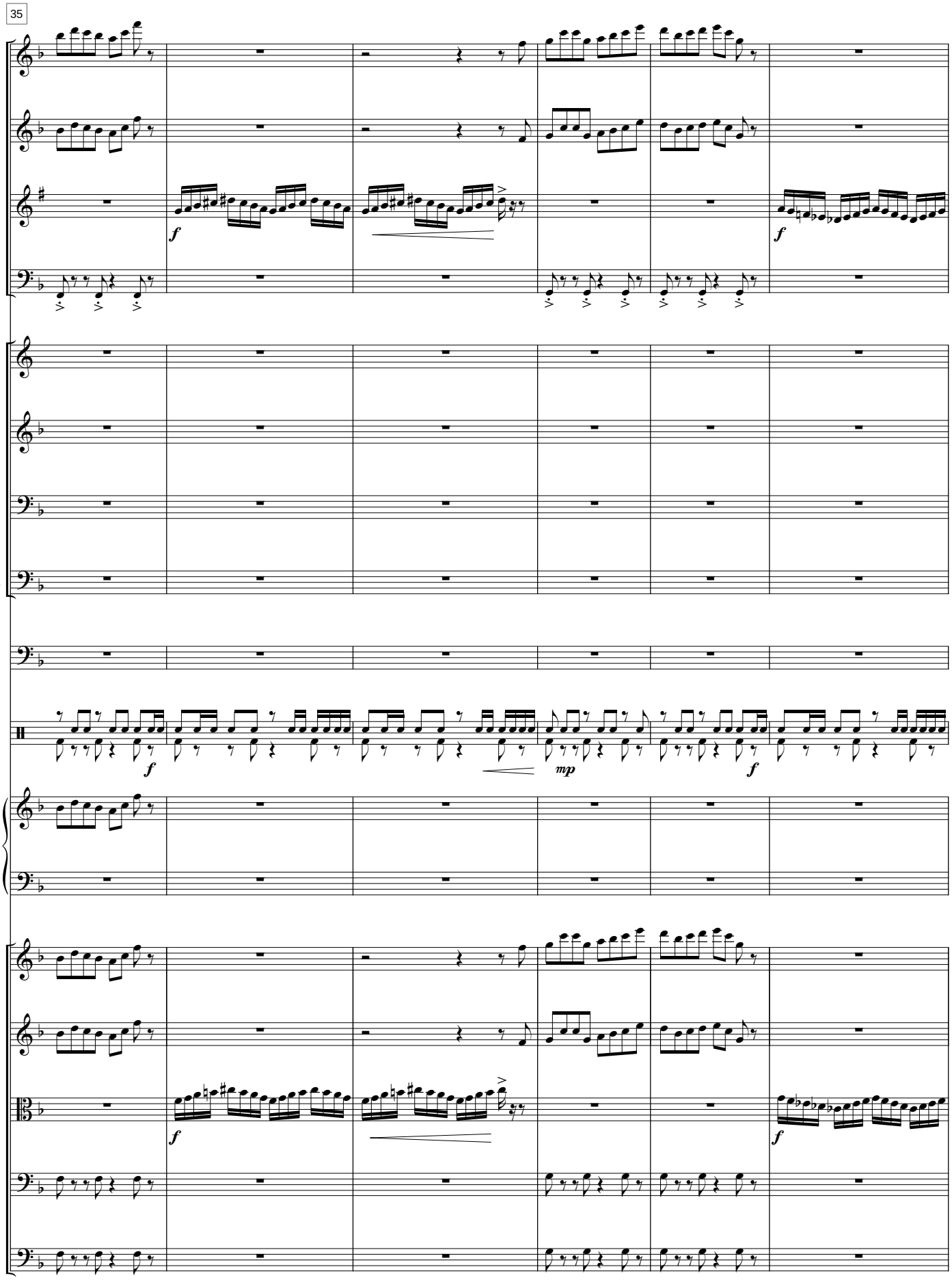
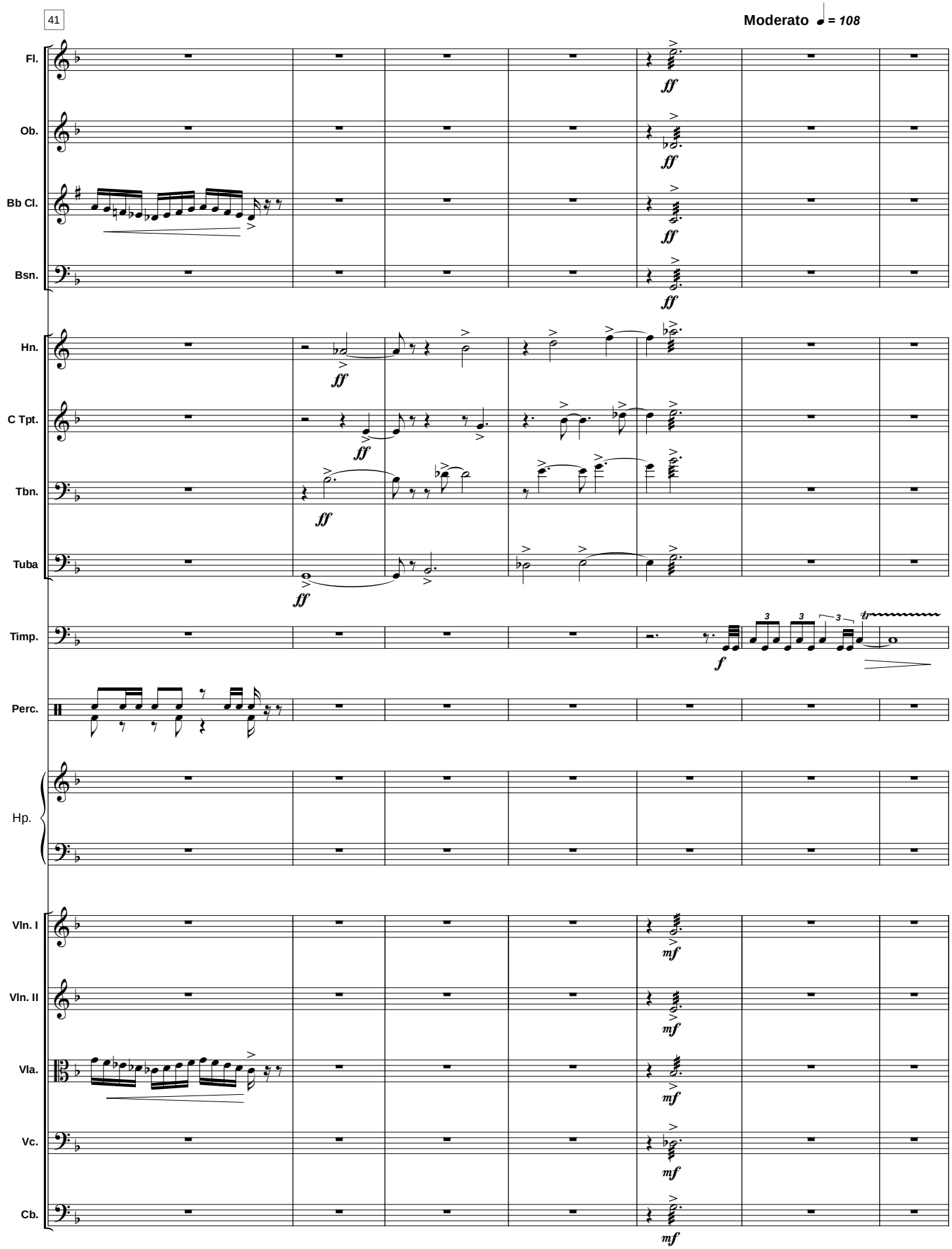

11
Fl.
Bb Cl.
Bsn.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.


21
Ob.
Hn.
Hp.


29
...making their opinions known.
Allegro ♩ = 148
Fl.
Ob.
Bb Cl.
Bsn.
(hold as long as possible)
Hn.
C Tpt.
Tbn.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pizz.


35
Fl.
Ob.
Bb Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
C Tpt.
Tbn.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
mp


41
Moderato ♩ = 108
Fl.
Ob.
Bb Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
C Tpt.
Tbn.
Tuba
Timp.
Perc.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
ff
mf
f
3
tr

48

Takaya decides to set off on his own and begins his journey south.

Fl.

Ob.

Bb Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

solo

Vln. I

pizz.

Vln. II

pizz.

Vla.

pizz.

Vc.

pizz.

Cb.

pizz.

57

Bsn.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Horn in F

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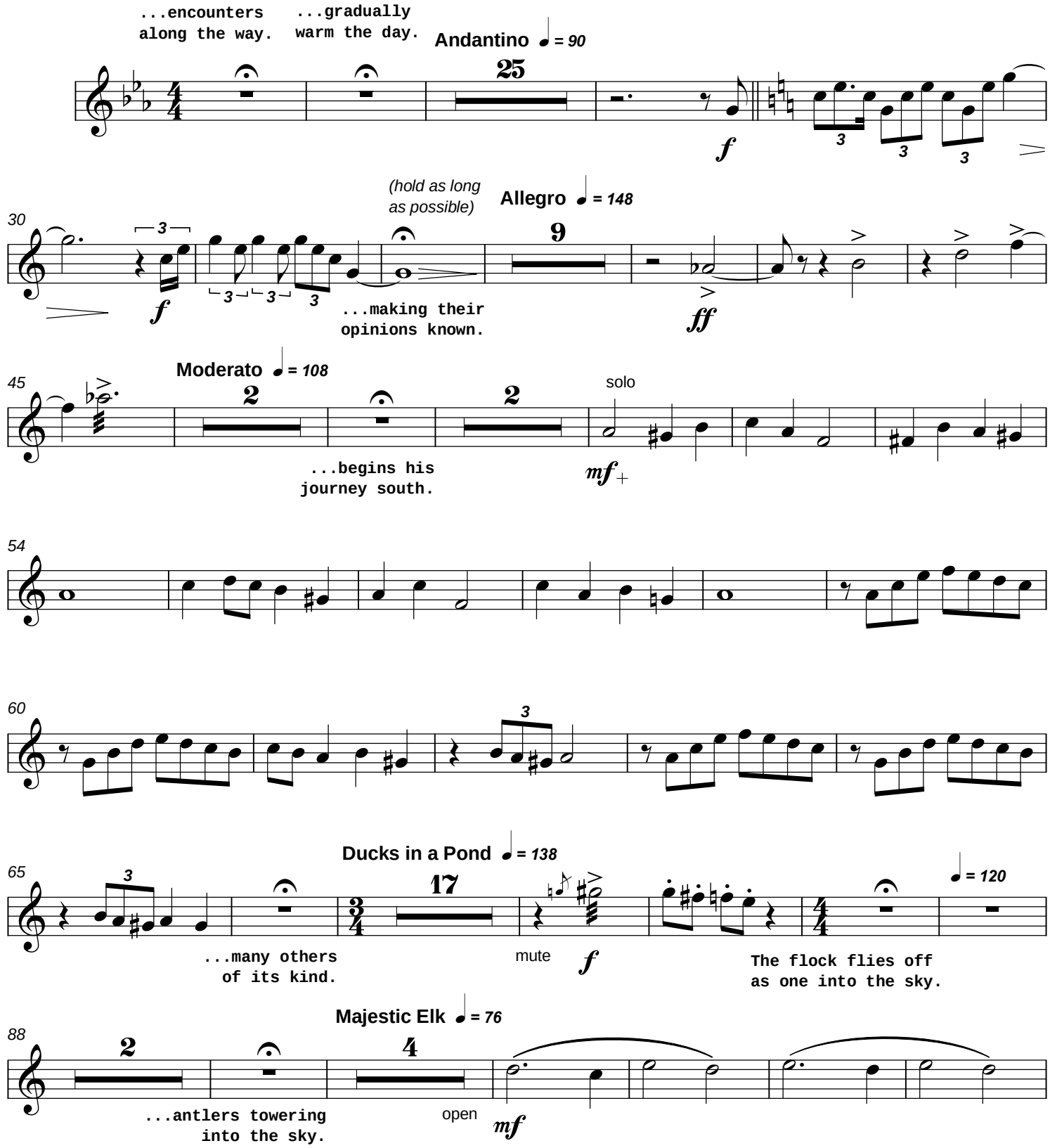

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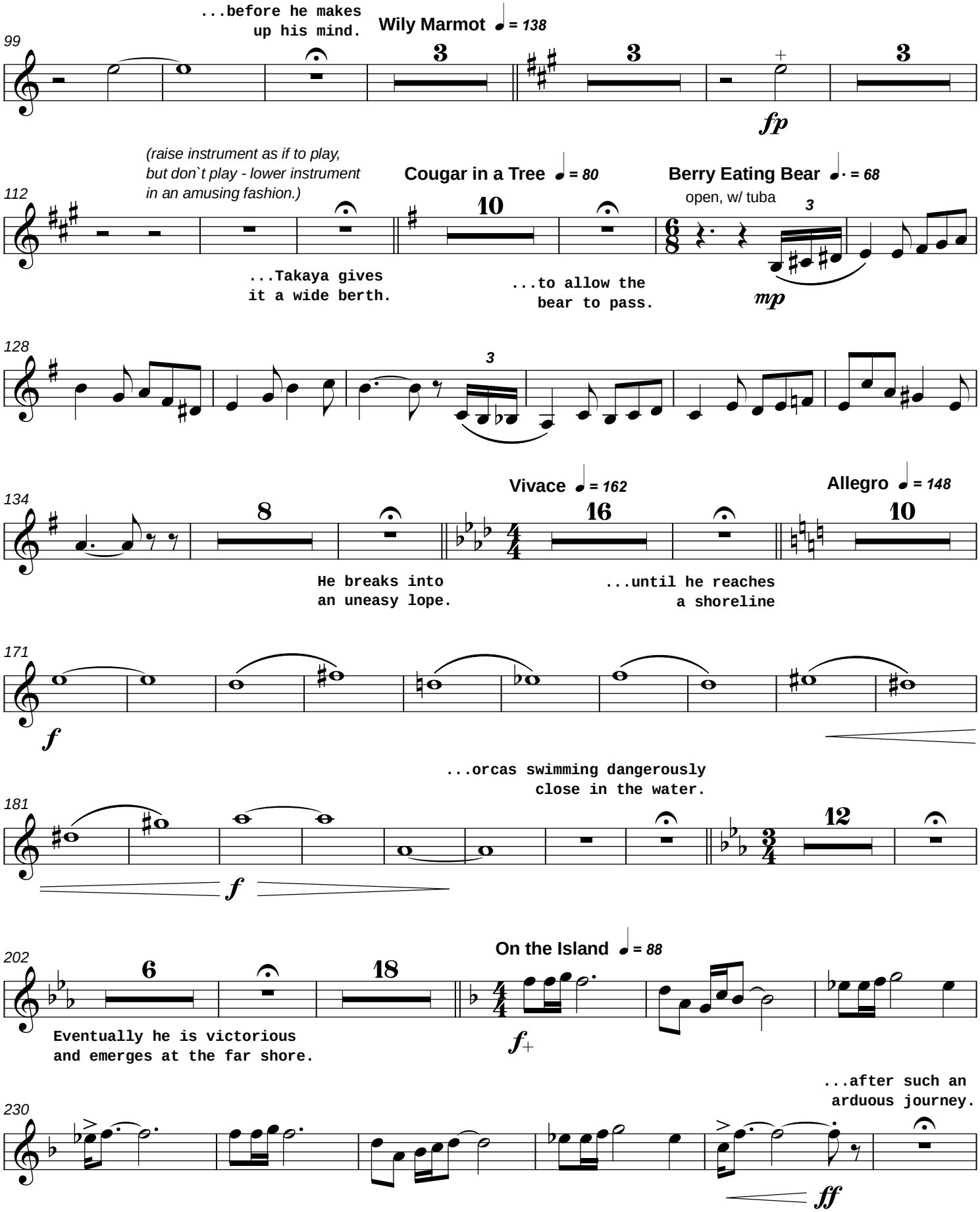
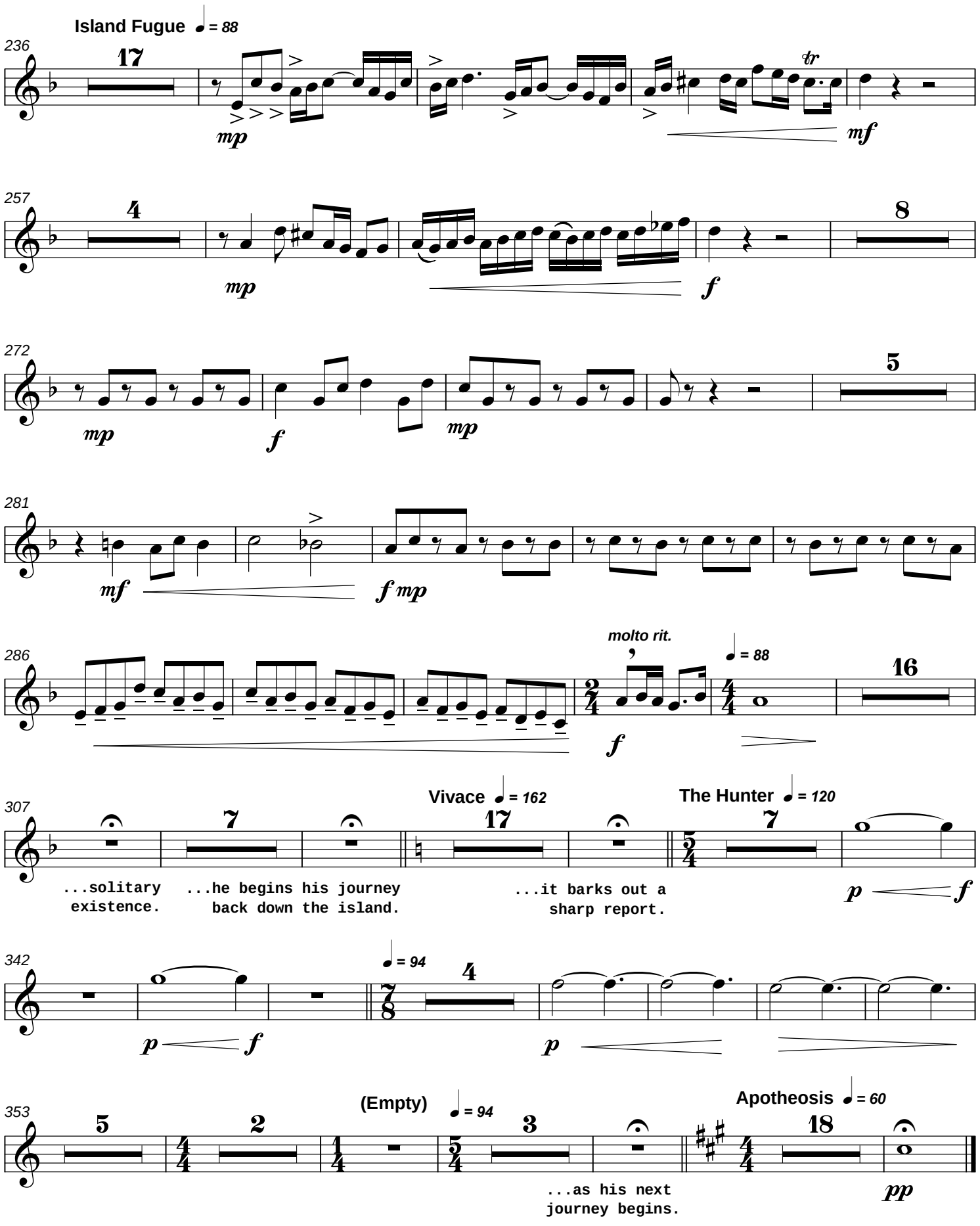

...before he makes up his mind.
Wily Marmot ♩ = 138
99
3
3
3
fp
(raise instrument as if to play, but don`t play - lower instrument in an amusing fashion.)
Cougar in a Tree ♩ = 80
Berry Eating Bear ♩. = 68
open, w/ tuba
112
10
3
...Takaya gives it a wide berth.
...to allow the bear to pass.
mp
128
3
Vivace ♩ = 162
Allegro ♩ = 148
134
8
16
10
He breaks into an uneasy lope.
...until he reaches a shoreline
171
f
...orcas swimming dangerously close in the water.
181
f
12
On the Island ♩ = 88
202
6
18
Eventually he is victorious and emerges at the far shore.
f+
...after such an arduous journey.
230
ff


Island Fugue ♩ = 88
236
17
mp
mf
tr
257
4
mp
f
8
272
mp
f
mp
5
281
mf
f mp
286
molto rit.
♩ = 88
f
16
307
7
17
Vivace ♩ = 162
The Hunter ♩ = 120
7
...solitary existence.
...he begins his journey back down the island.
...it barks out a sharp report.
p
f
342
p
f
♩ = 94
4
p
353
5
2
(Empty)
♩ = 94
3
...as his next journey begins.
Apotheosis ♩ = 60
18
pp