Pyrenean Carol Suite

Marking the border of France and Spain, the mountains of the Pyrenees and the lands adjoining them play host to a rich history, both political and musical, where regional powers have come to be dominated by the larger nations in which they now sit. While Navarre, Catalonia, and Occitania have not existed as nation states for a long time, their cultural sensitivities have never disappeared, they retain their own languages, and their musical traditions offer familiarity combined with interesting differences of approach. From the Basque country in the northwest of the range, spanning the border, with its remarkably unique language, to Catalonia in the southeast's major position in the make-up of modern Spain, vibrant regional cultures continue to thrive. Occitania lost prominence more deeply, and has been more thoroughly absorbed into modern France, but still regional sensibilities are strongly felt and expressed, including a formidable body of folk music. It is perhaps through music that we can most easily identify with these cultures, and the long Christian history of these lands has produced a deep tradition of regional Christmas songs to draw on.

1. Nadal Tindaire ("Jingling Christmas") - Occitan traditional
This traditional Occitan Christmas song tells of musical instruments used to celebrate the Nativity - "fifes and trumpets, timpani and pipes, or you, clear little bells, along with the angels' choir".

2) Gabriel's Message ("Birjina Gaztetto Bat Zegoen") - Basque traditional
The most widely-known of the chosen carols, honouring Jesus's mother Mary, this is often sung in its English version, but the melody came from the Basque country. The Basque words were adapted from the Mediæval song "Angelus ad Virginem". Here, we feature the flugelhorn. This movement was originally written on its own, with organ accompaniment, for my wife Diane Scott.

3) El Noi de la Mare ("The Child of the Mother") - Catalan traditional
A beautiful Catalan carol celebrating the birth of Jesus, telling of the tasty gifts that the singer would bring - "Raisins and figs and nuts and olives; Raisins and figs and honey and mató [a Catalan dessert cheese traditionally served with honey]". Here we feature the euphonium. The tune was made famous by guitarist Andrés Segovia, who used it as a favourite encore, and by John Rutter, who made a widely-used setting for choir.

4) Paure Satan ("Poor Satan") - Occitan traditional
This rather unusual carol tells of the pain that Satan is put to by the arrival of the infant Jesus. Its mocking and sarcastic tone is reflected here, where the tuba soloist (as Satan) is given musical trouble throughout by the other parts, with whom they first conflict, then seek to make peace with, but finally give in to. There are plenty of opportunities for little theatrical touches here, if the tuba player is so inclined! The tuba part in this movement is notably more difficult than the rest of the music, and a number of optional changes have been marked to make the part easier to play, if so desired. The player is also welcome to add suitable extra embellishments to taste if they wish, within the character of the music.

5) Fum, Fum, Fum! - Catalan traditional
A favourite Catalan Christmas song for centuries, this rousing melody provides a fitting way to round off the suite, with its repeated rhythmic refrain of the nonsense title phrase. It tells of the Nativity, and then it tells of the celebratory feasting and good times that the singers look forward to to honour it. A brave MD may wish to exceed the marked metronome speeds during the approach to the final climax...

Total performance time 12-13 minutes.
David Taylor, January 2021

Pyrenean Carol Suite

for Holborne Brass

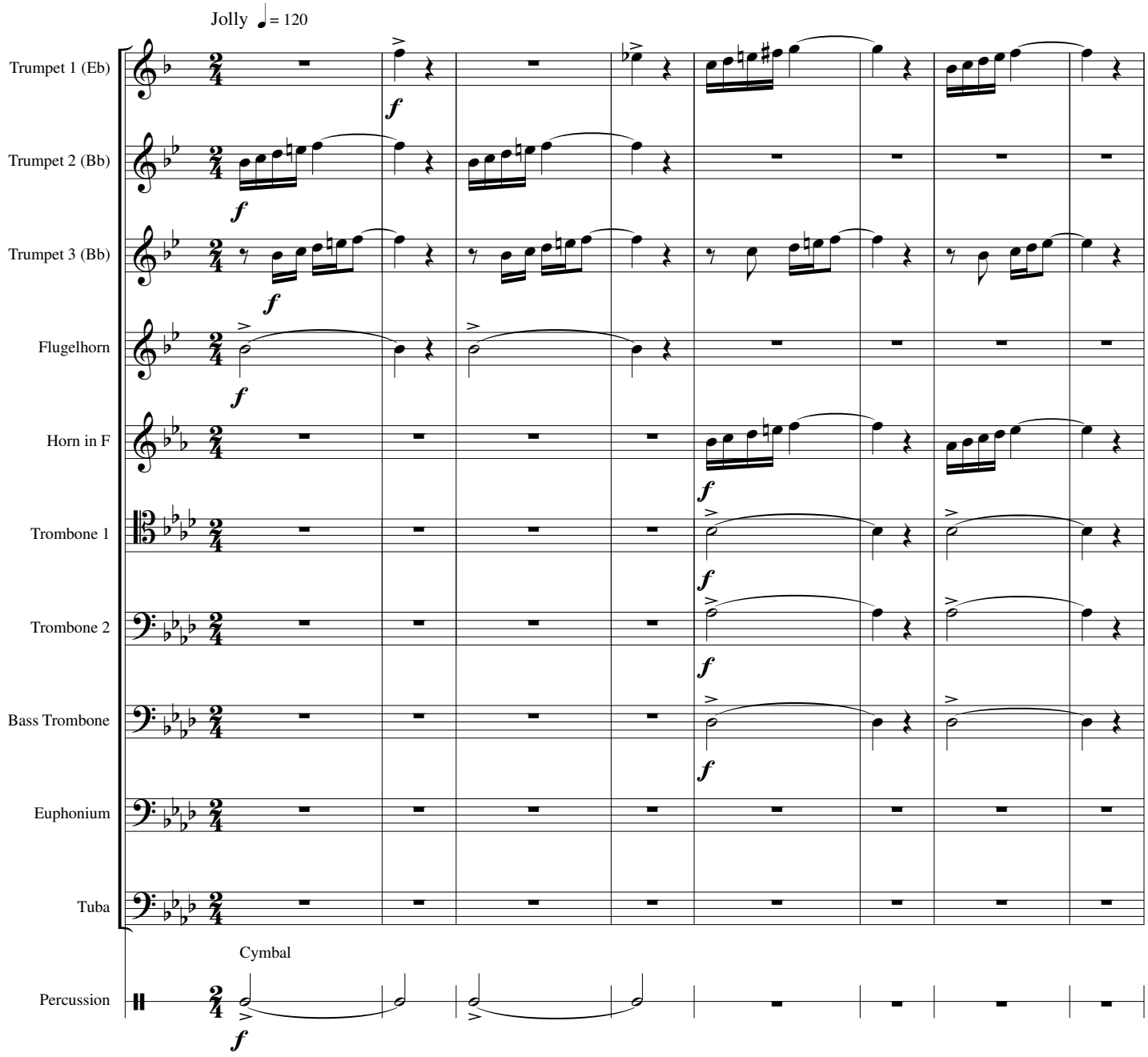
David Taylor

1.

Nadal Tindaire

Jingling Christmas

Occitan Traditional



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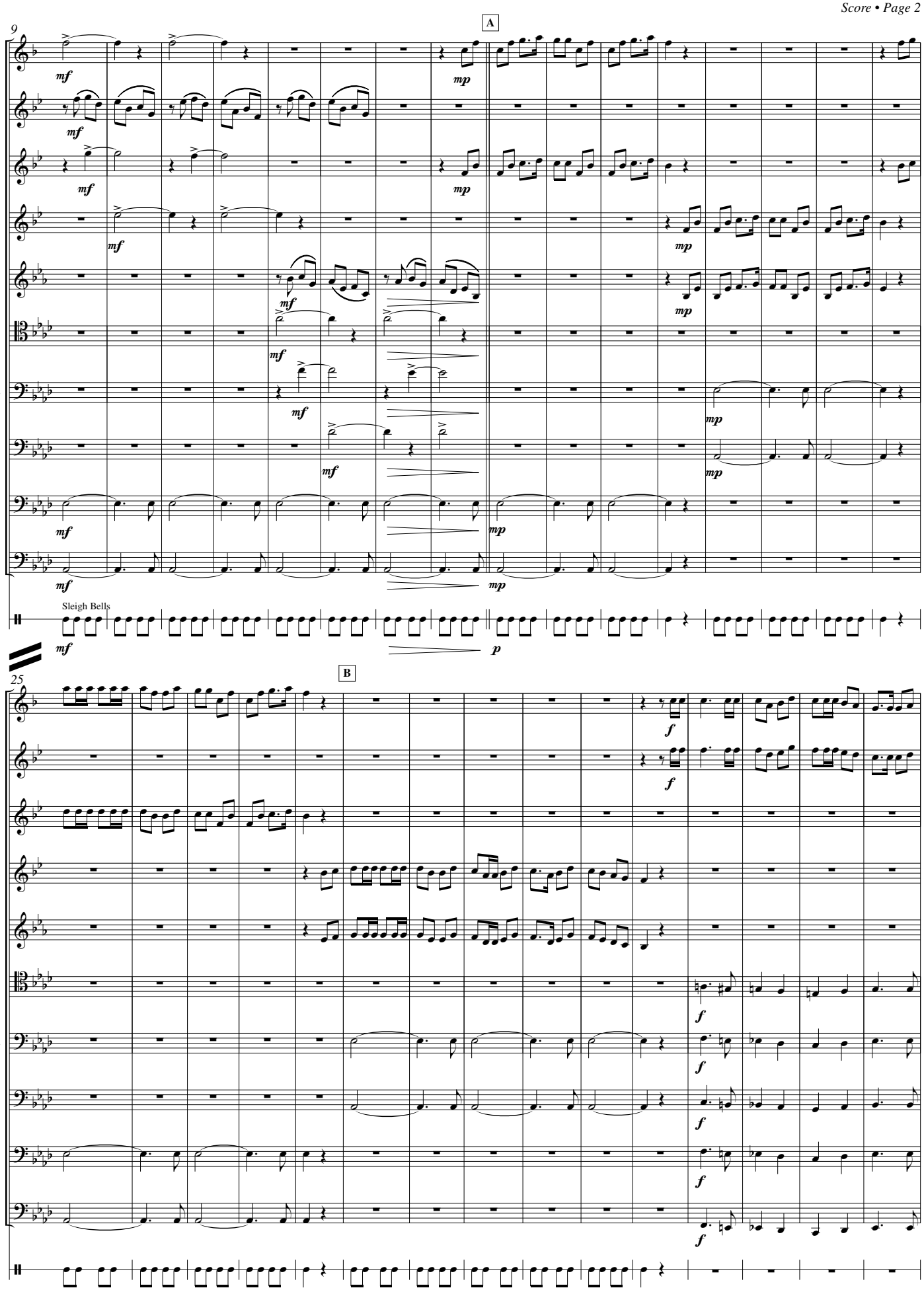

9
A
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Flghn.
Hn.
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Euph.
Tba.
Perc.
Sleigh Bells
mf
mp
p
25
B
f

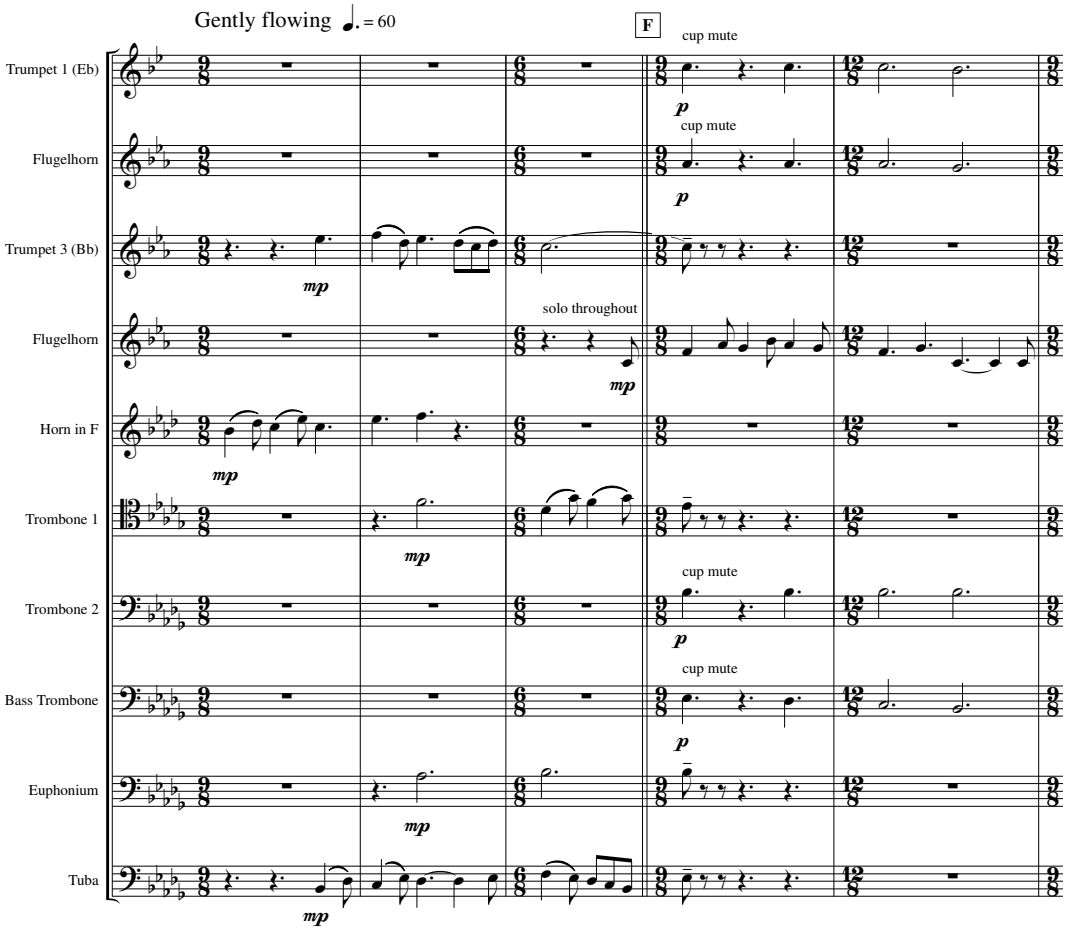
2.

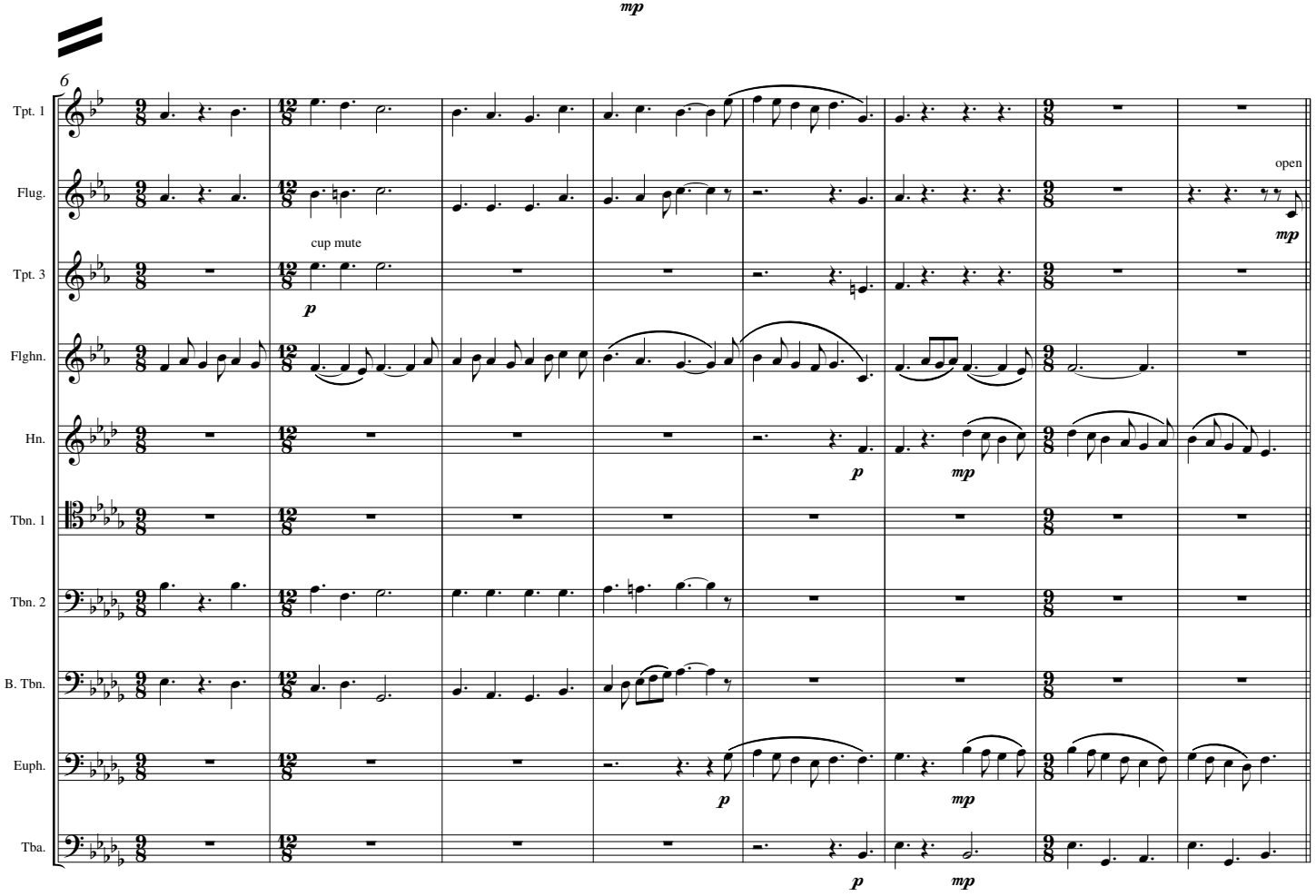
Gabriel's Message

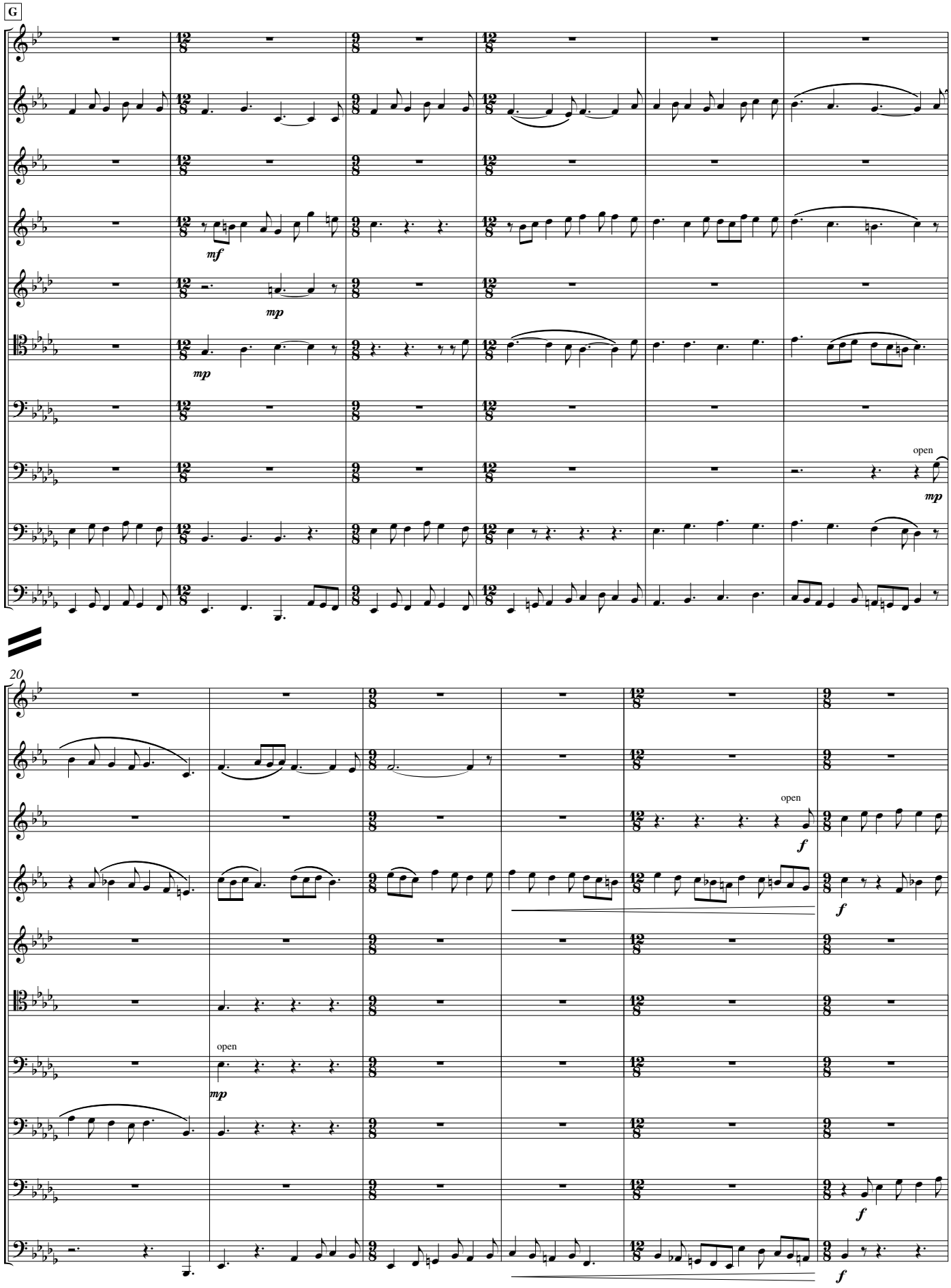
(Birjina Gaztetto Bat Zegoen)

Basque Traditional

Flugelhorn Solo






G
Tpt. 1
Flug.
Tpt. 3
Flghn.
Hn.
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Euph.
Tba.
mf
mp
mp
open
mp
20
open
f
f
open
mp
f
f

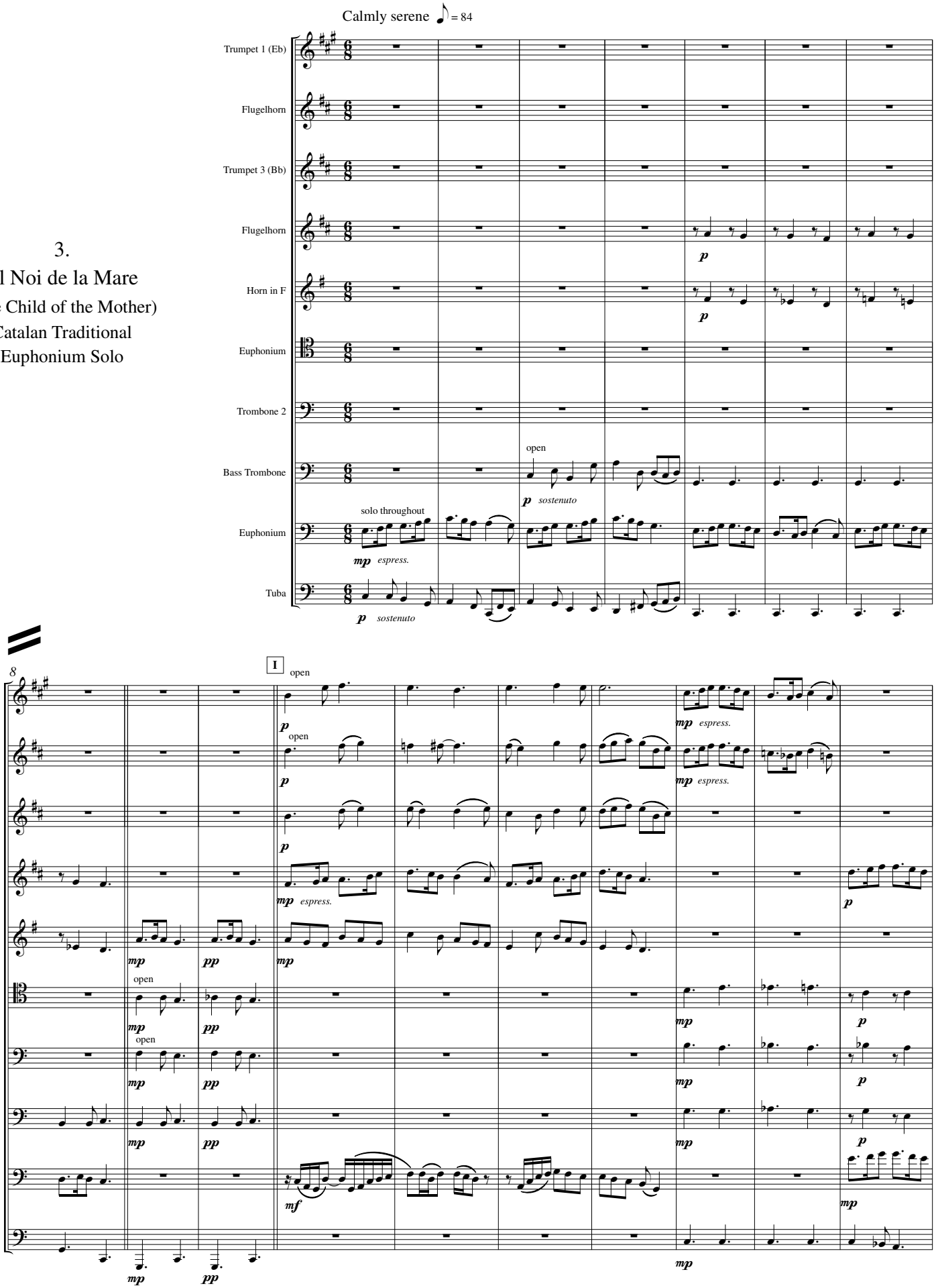
3.

El Noi de la Mare

(The Child of the Mother)

Catalan Traditional

Euphonium Solo



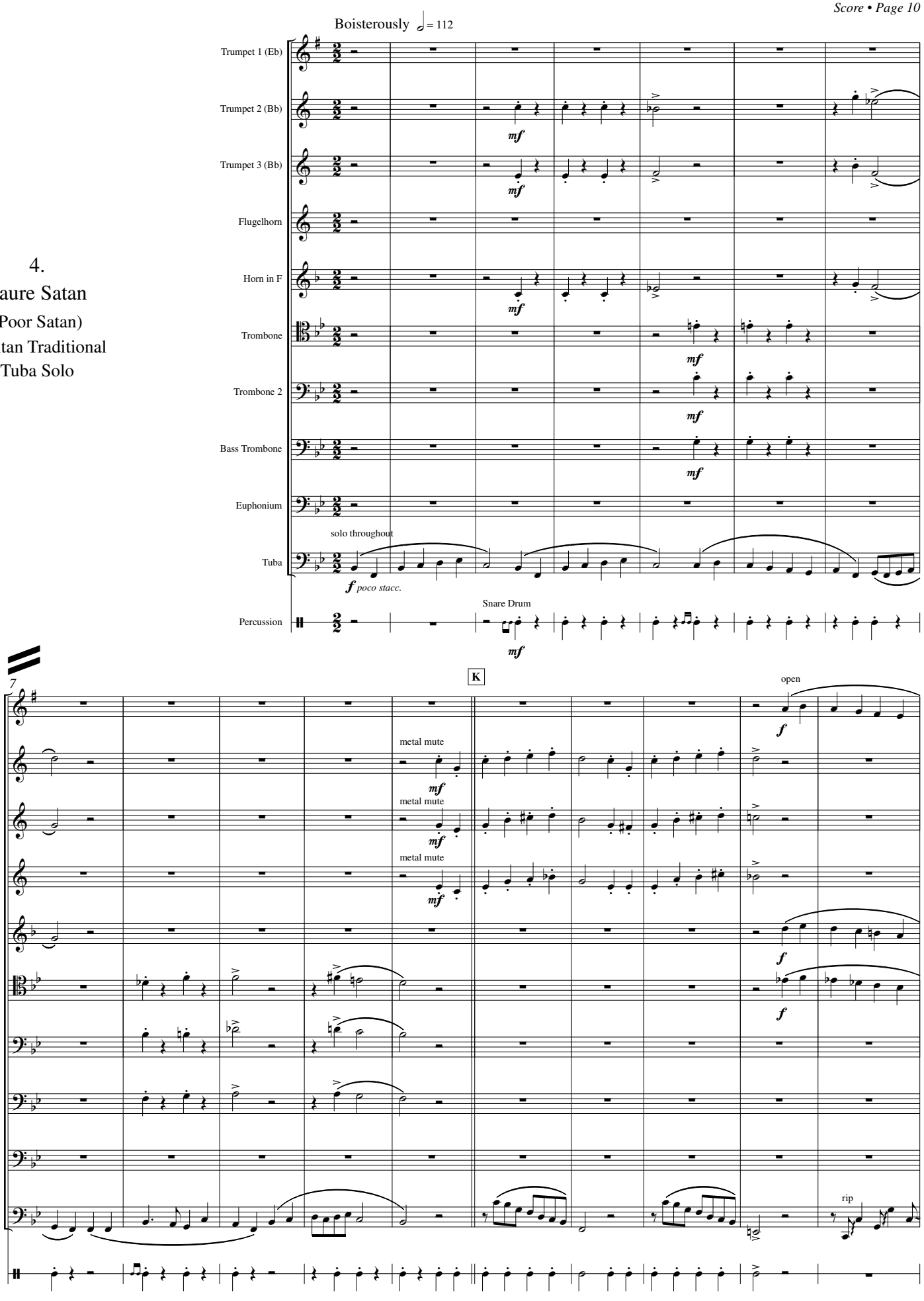
4.

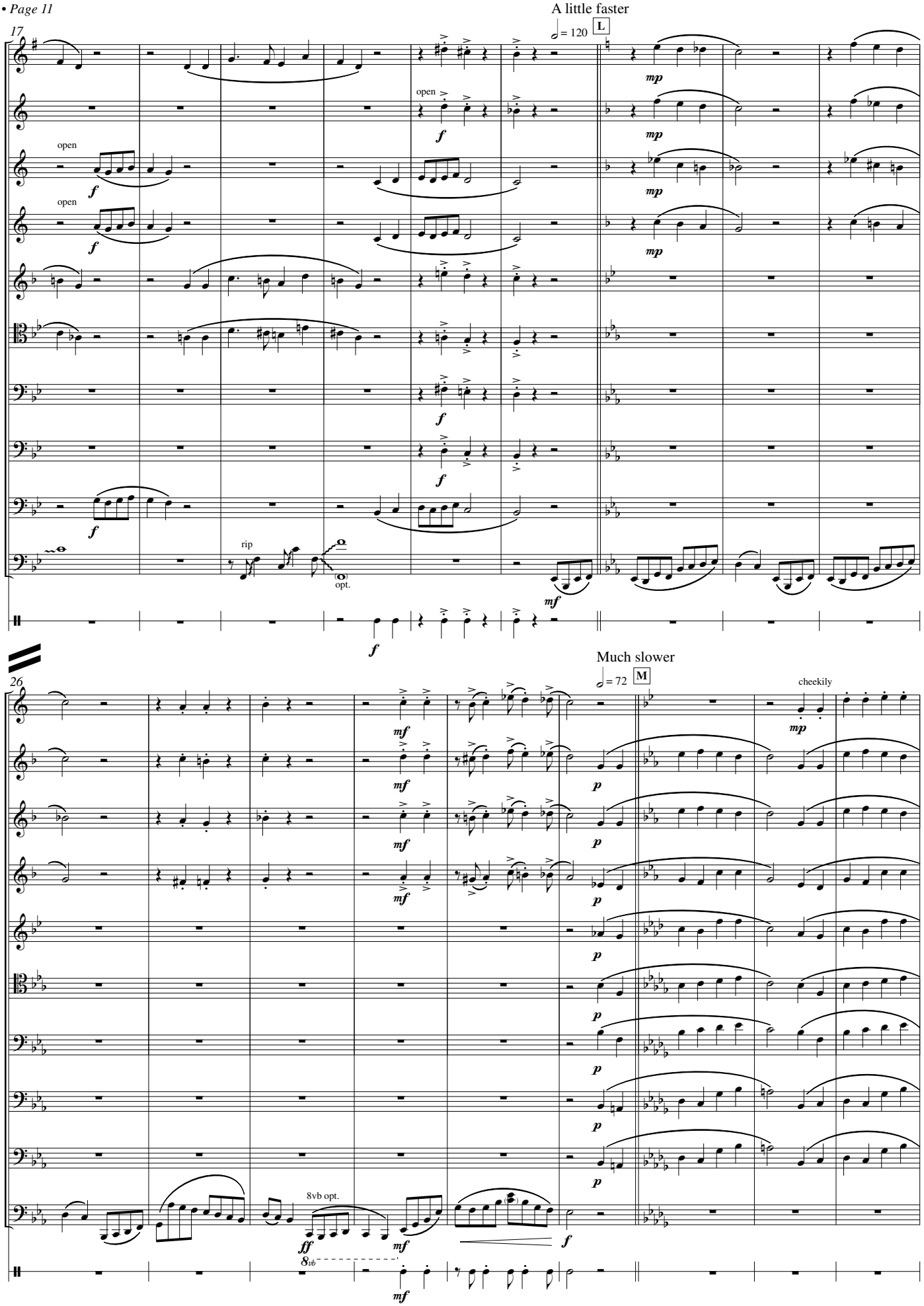
Paure Satan

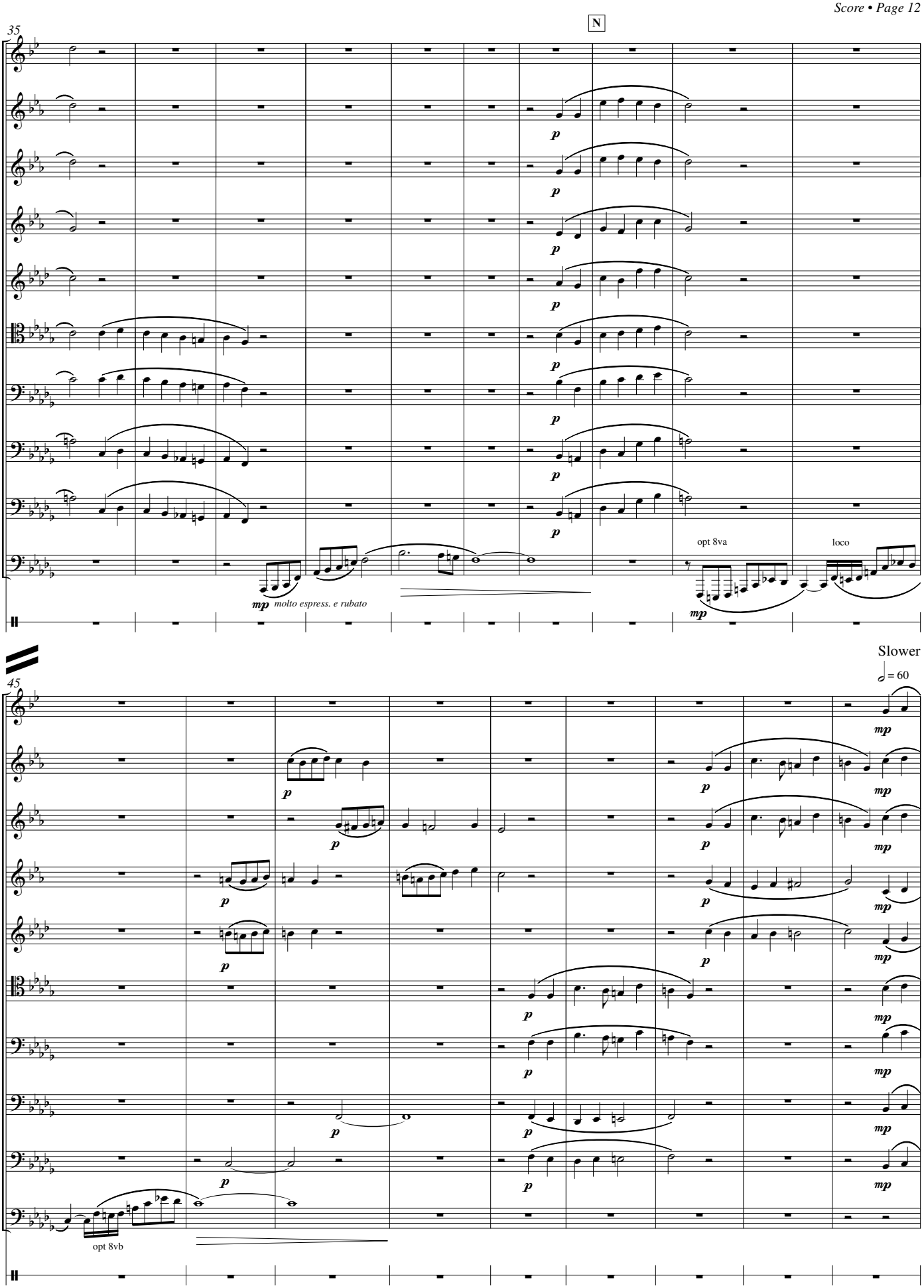
(Poor Satan)

Occitan Traditional

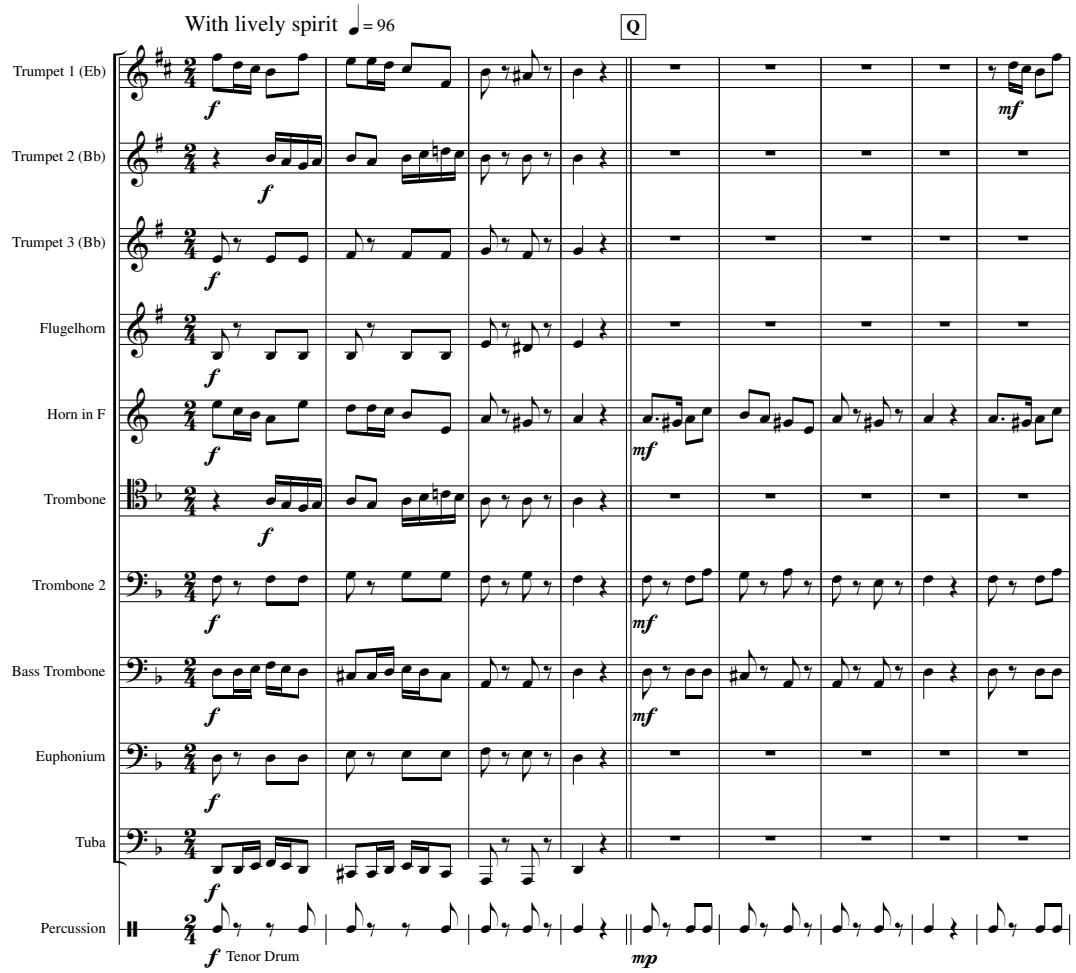
Tuba Solo

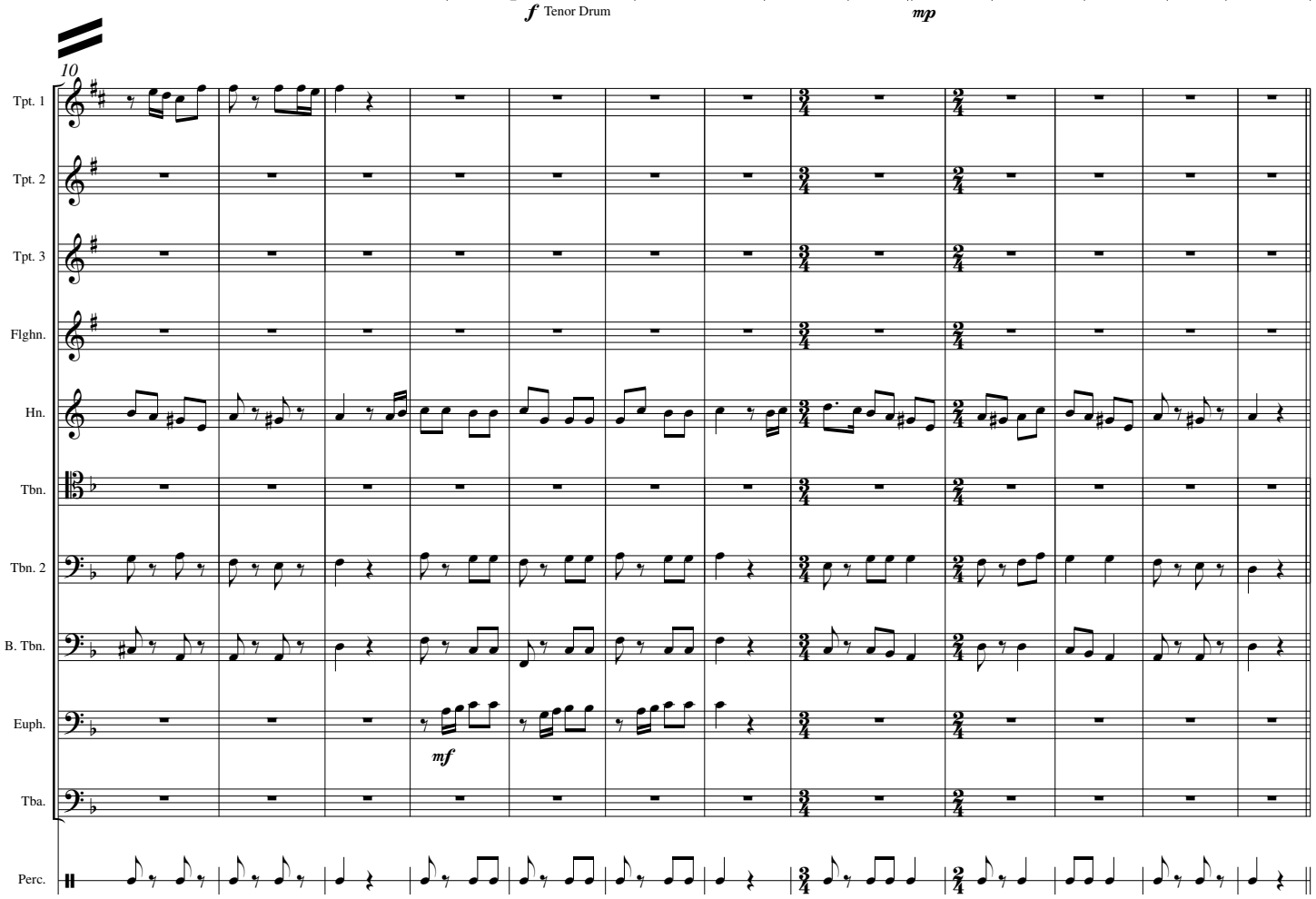


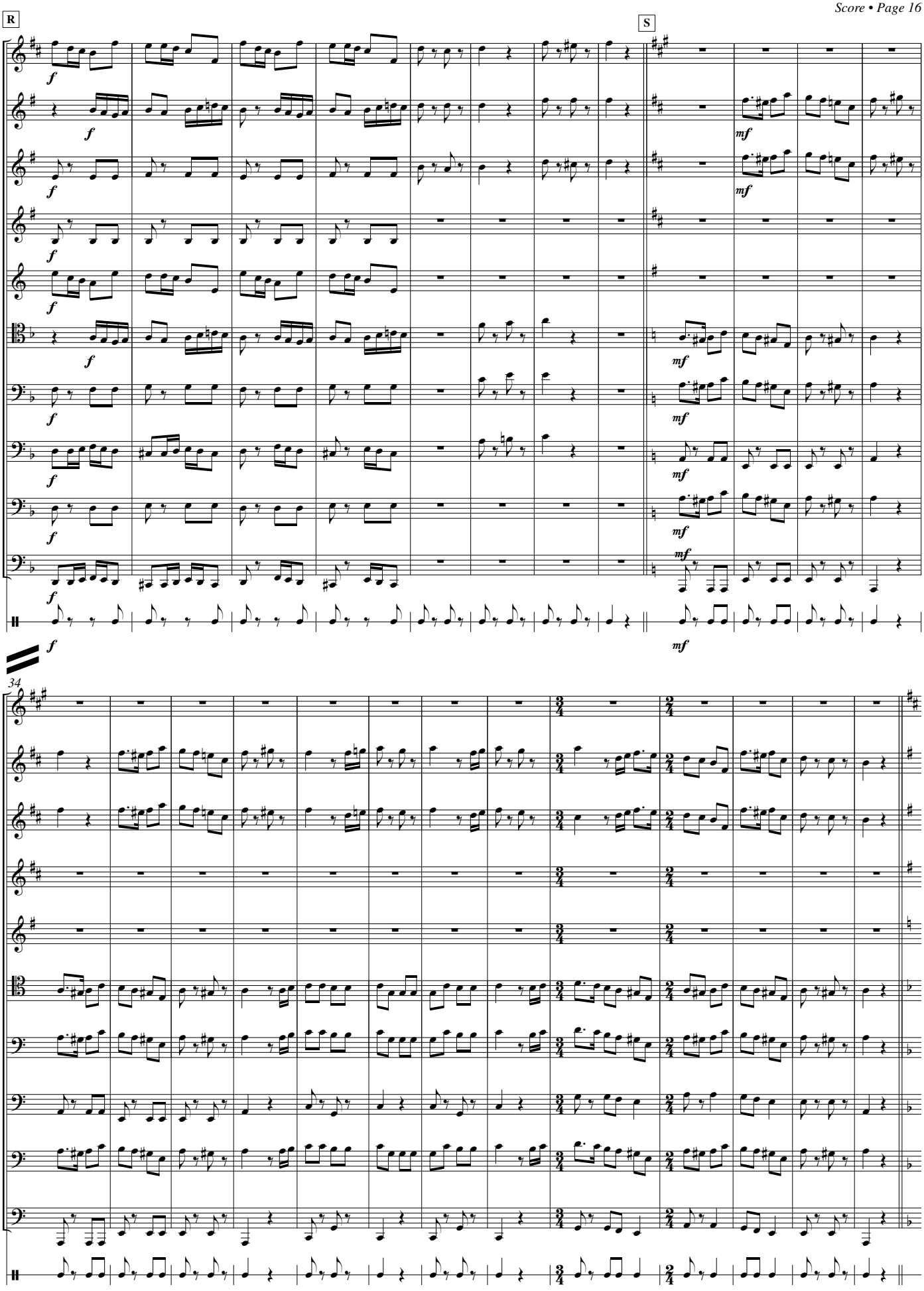

A little faster
= 120
L
17
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Flghn.
Hn.
Tbn.
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Euph.
Tba.
Perc.
open
rip
opt.
Much slower
= 72
M
26
cheekily
8vb opt.
8vb

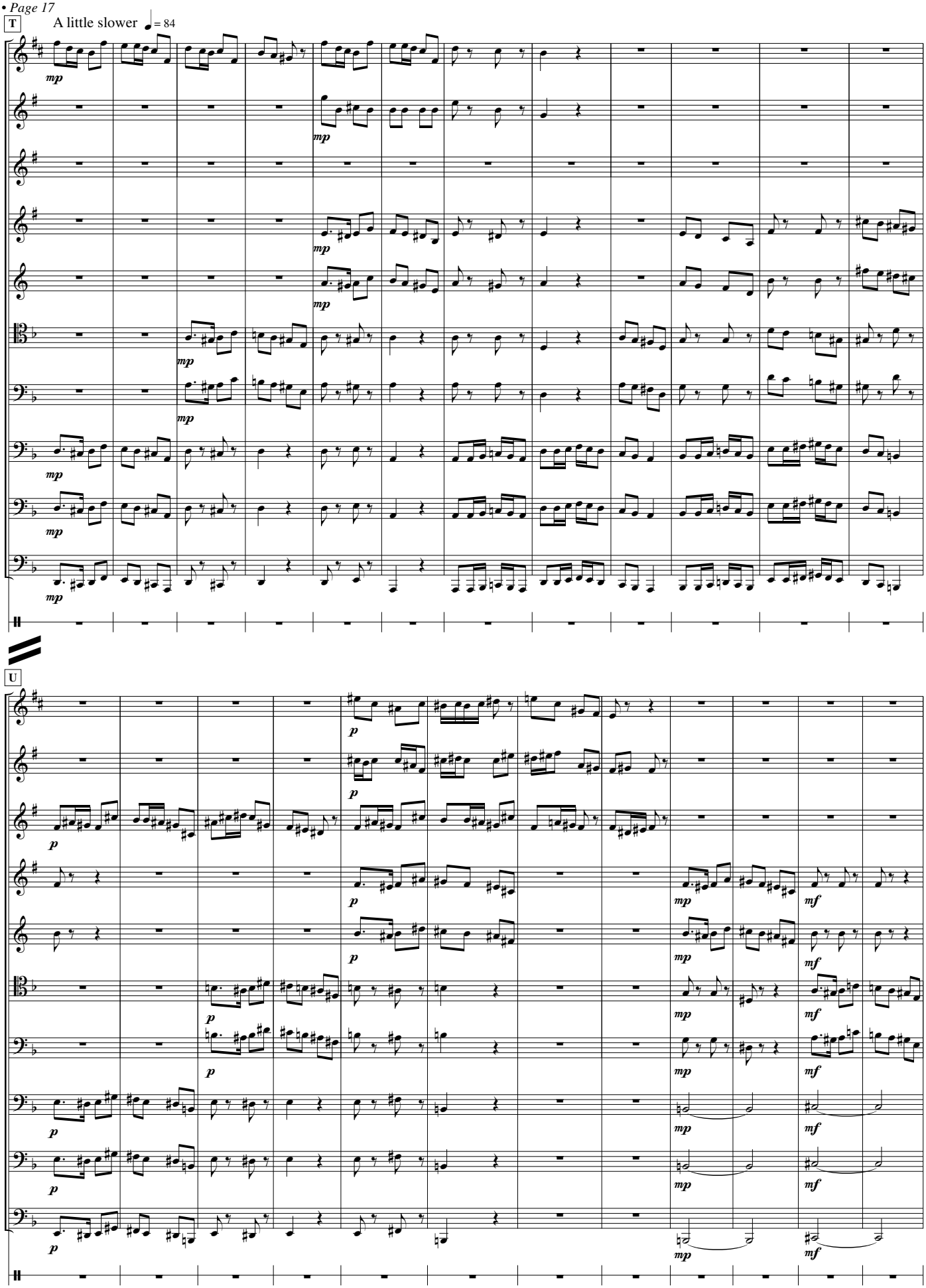

N
35
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Flghn.
Hn.
Tbn.
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Euph.
Tba.
Perc.
p
mp molto espress. e rubato
opt 8va
loco
mp
45
Slower
♩ = 60
mp
opt 8vb

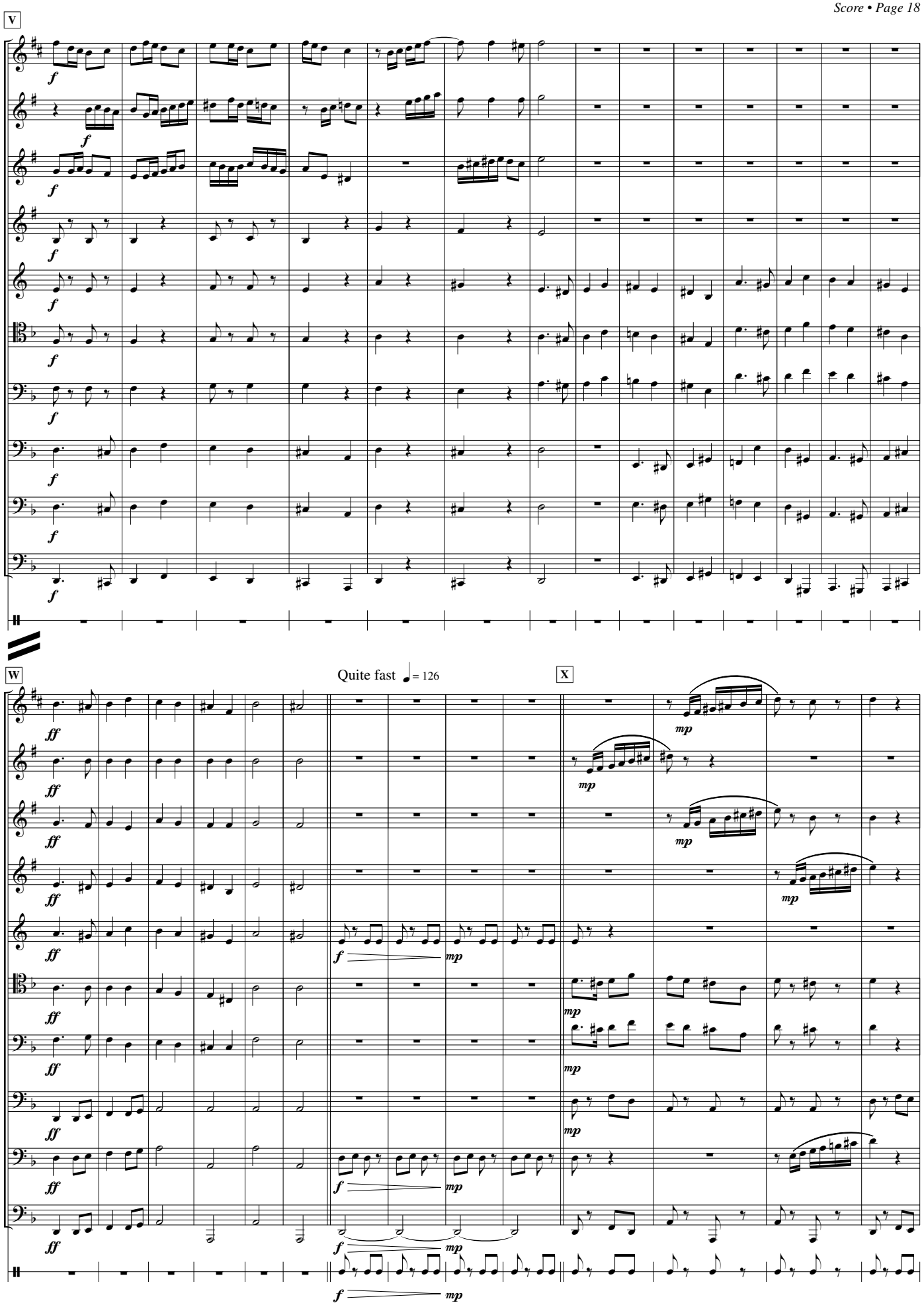
5.
Fum, Fum, Fum!
Catalan Traditional






R
S
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Flghn.
Hn.
Tbn.
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Euph.
Tba.
Perc.
f
mf
34


T
A little slower
♩ = 84
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Flghn.
Hn.
Tbn.
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Euph.
Tba.
Perc.
mp
U
p
mf


V
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Flghn.
Hn.
Tbn.
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Euph.
Tba.
Perc.
W
X
Quite fast ♩= 126

Trumpet 1 (Eb)

Pyrenean Carol Suite

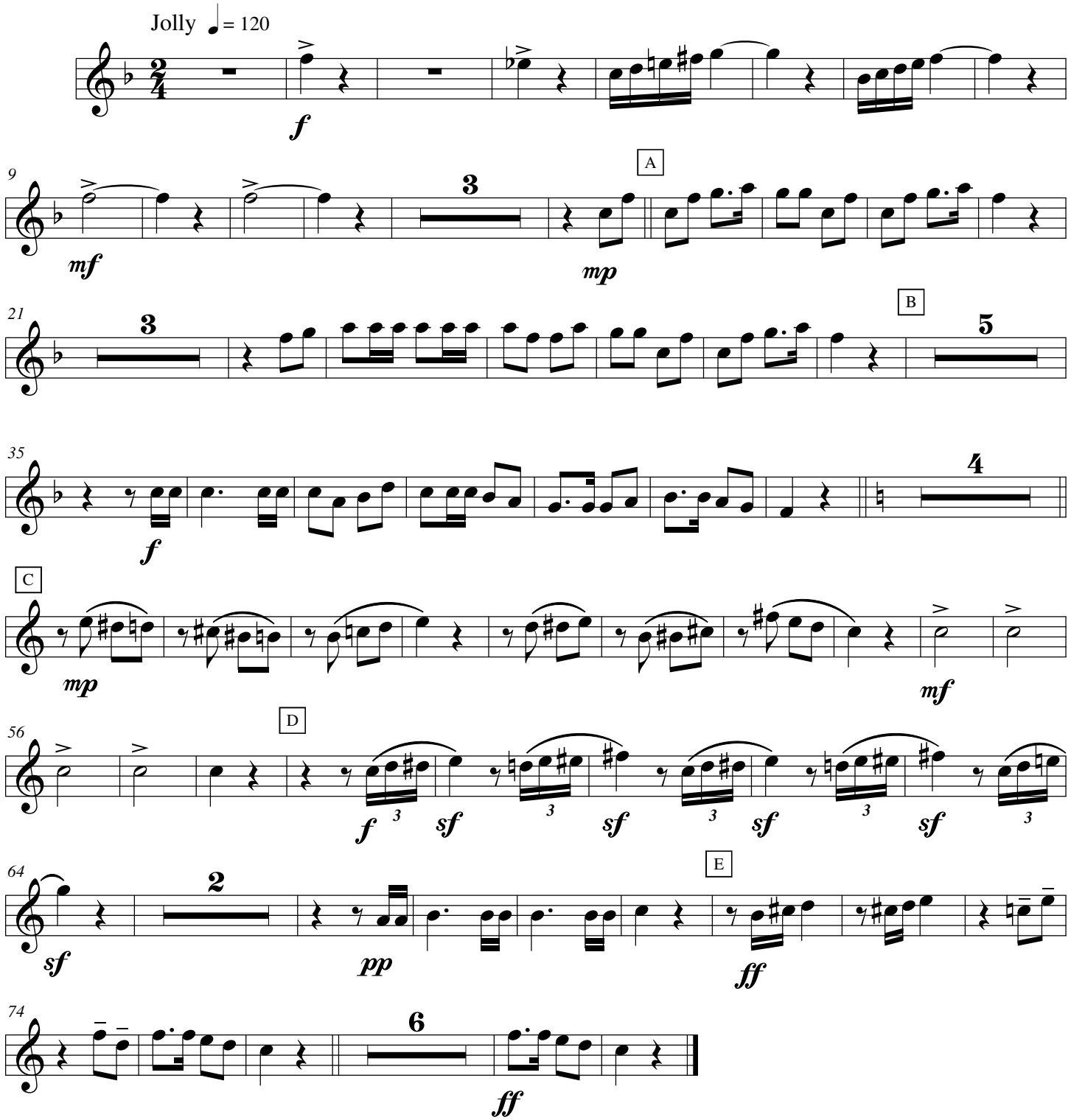
for Holborne Brass

David Taylor

1. Nadal Tindaire

Jingling Christmas

Occitan Traditional



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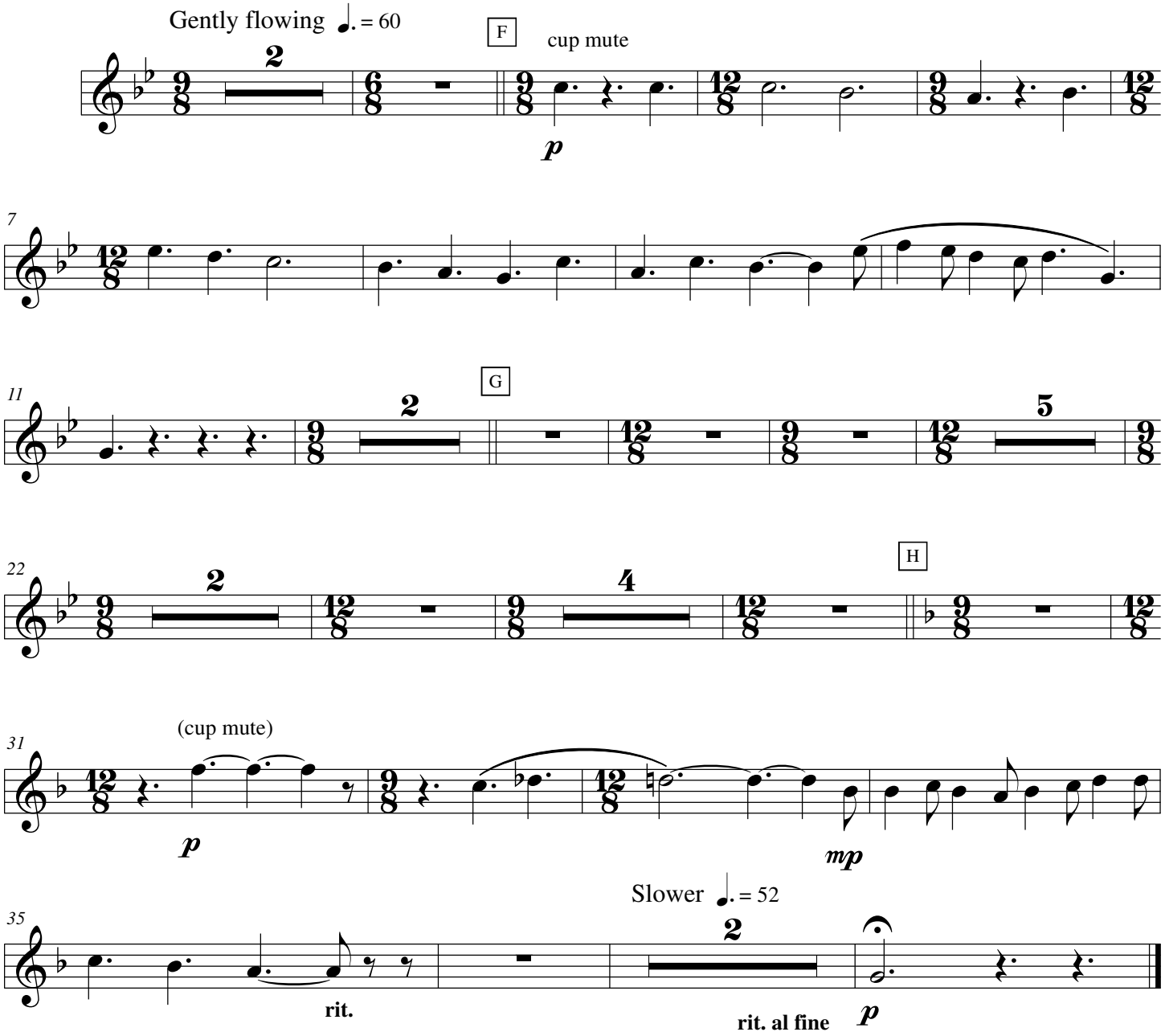
2. Gabriel's Message
(Birjina Gaztetto Bat Zegoen)

for Diane

Basque Traditional

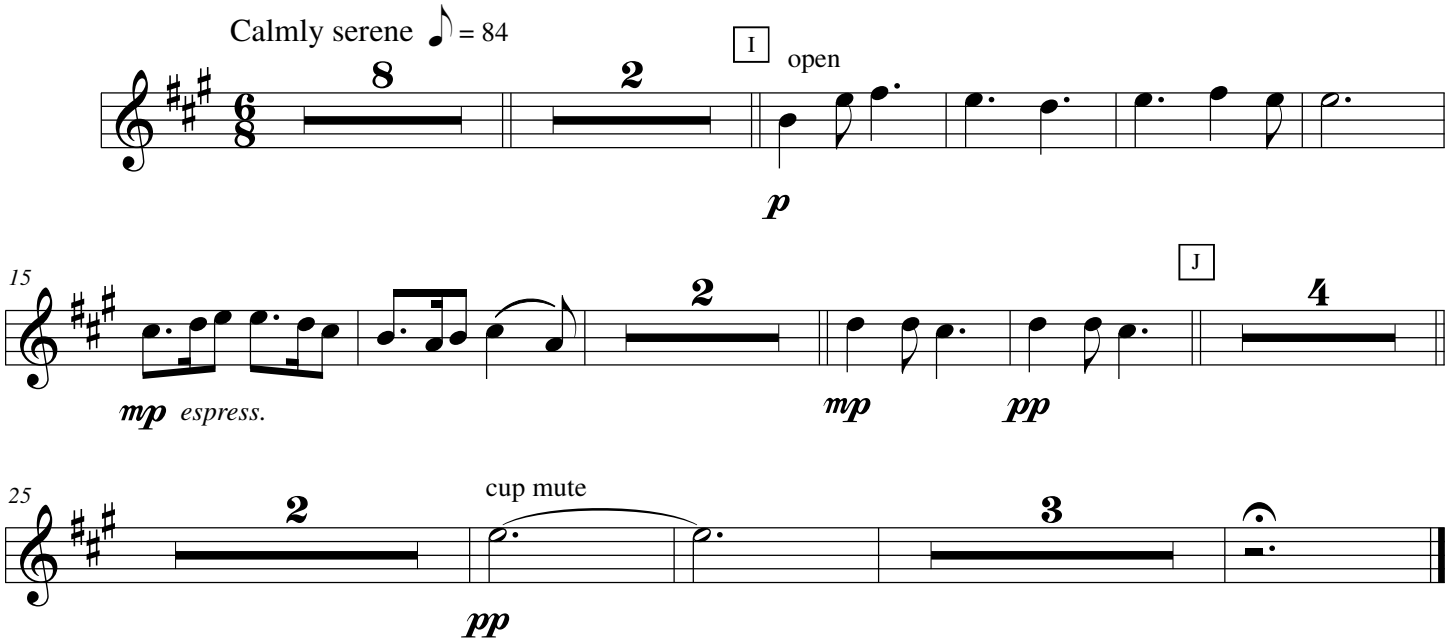
Flugelhorn Solo



3. El Noi de la Mare
(The Child of the Mother)

Catalan Traditional

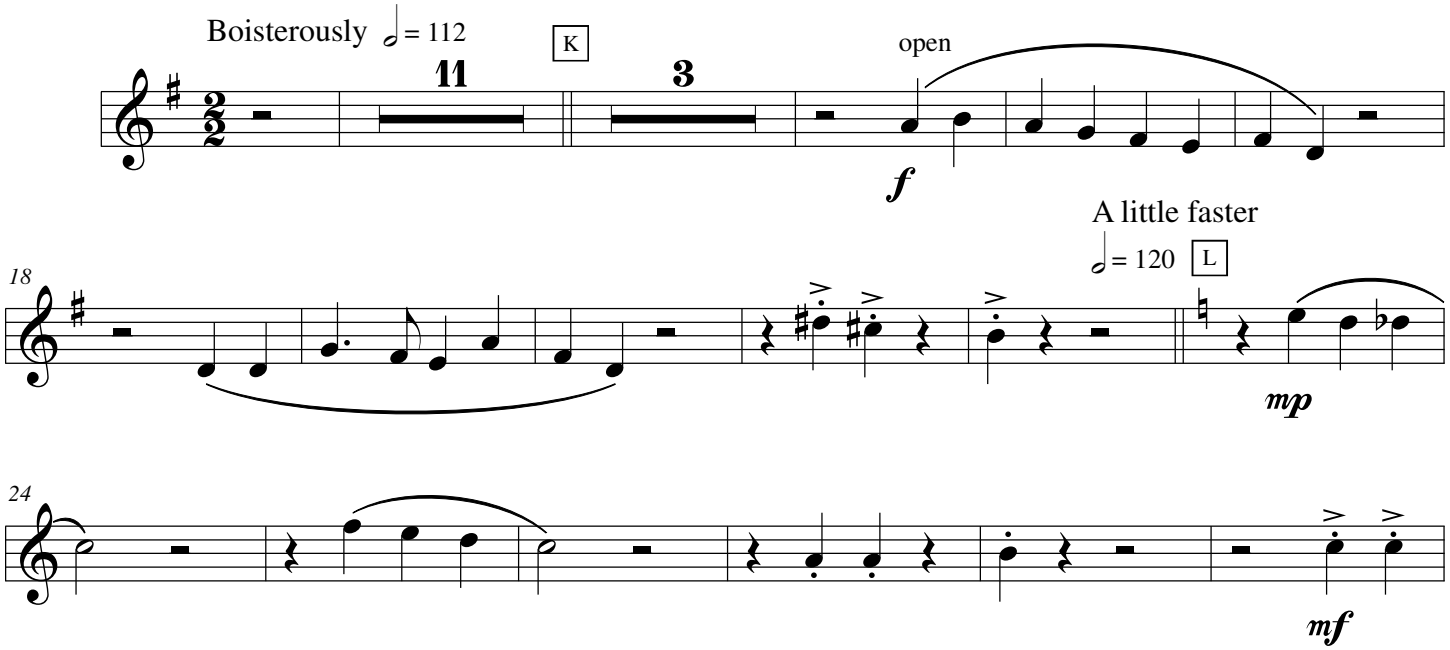
Euphonium Solo

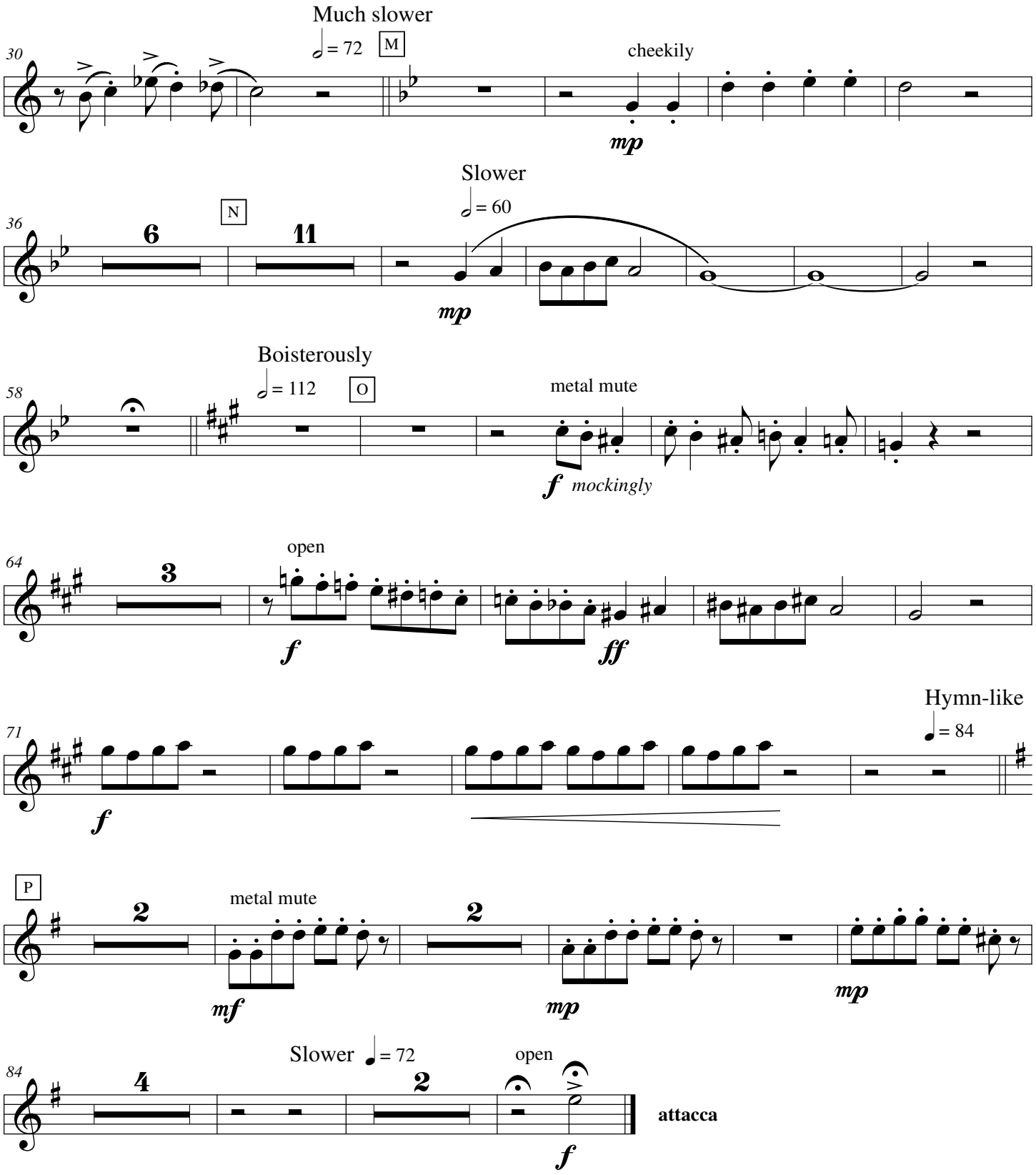


4. Paure Satan
(Poor Satan)

Occitan Traditional

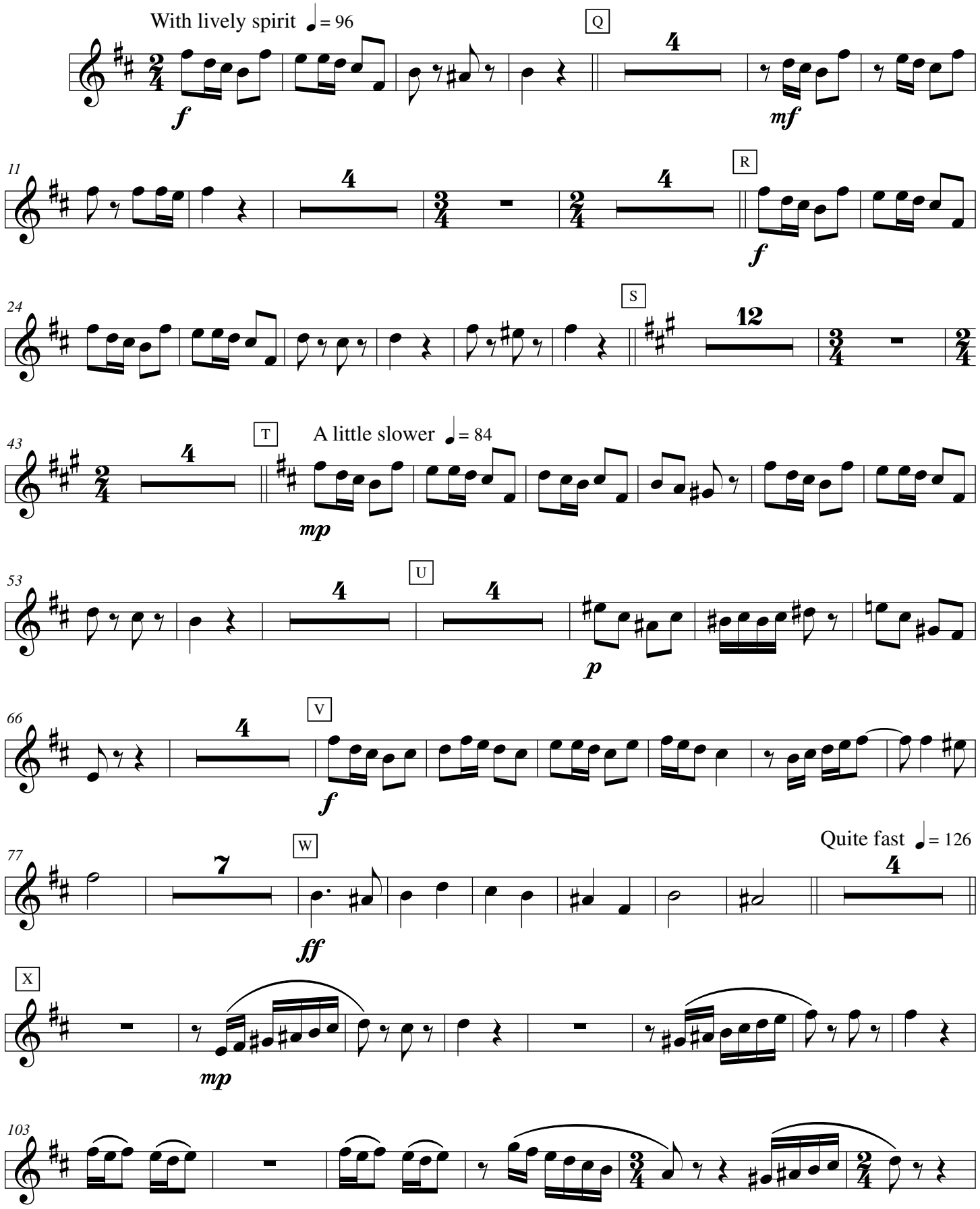
Tuba Solo

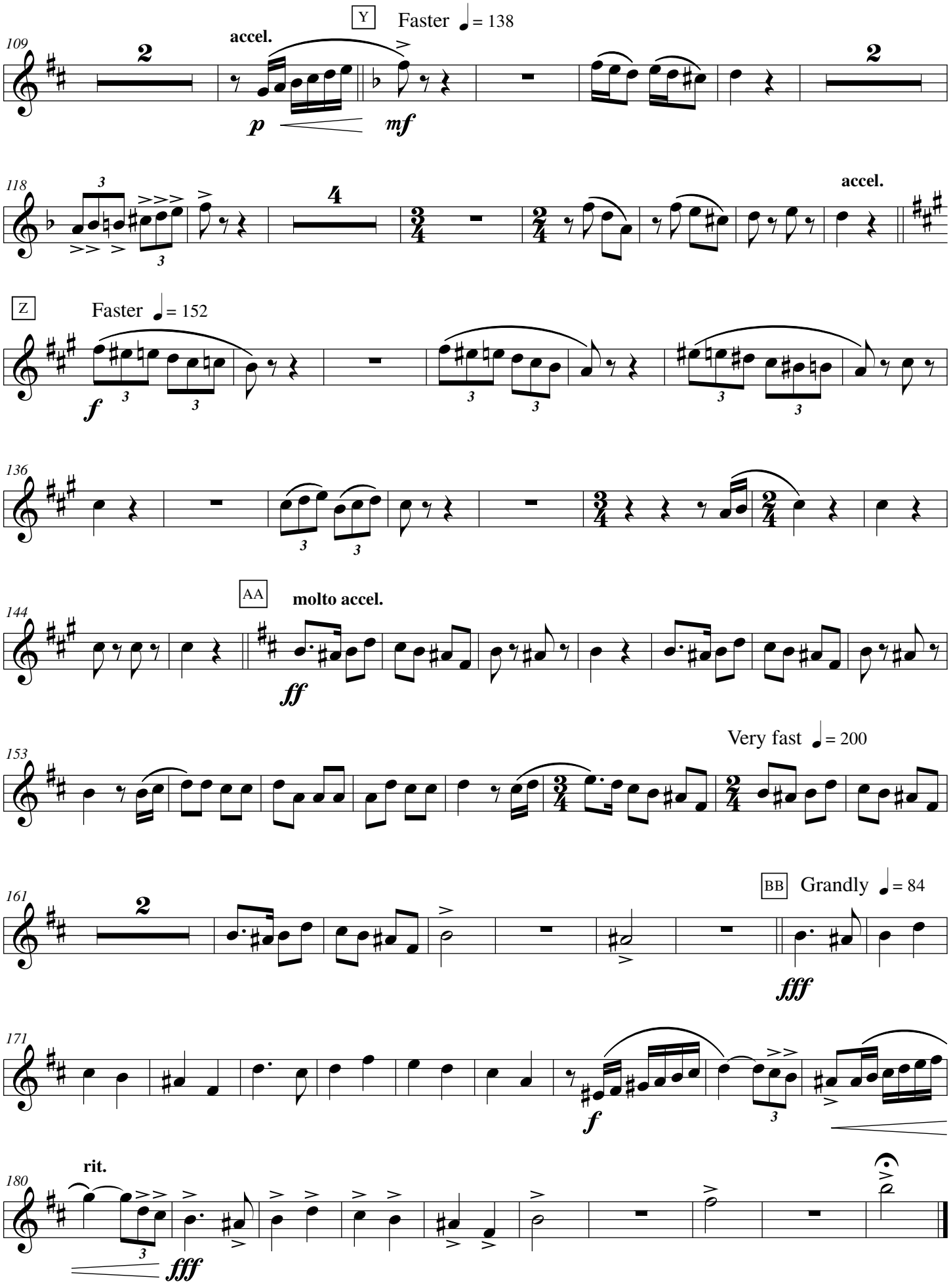



Much slower
♩ = 72
M
30
cheekily
mp
Slower
♩ = 60
N
36
6
11
mp
Boisterously
♩ = 112
O
58
metal mute
f mockingly
64
open
3
f
ff
Hymn-like
♩ = 84
71
f
P
metal mute
2
2
mf
mp
mp
Slower ♩ = 72
open
84
4
2
f
attacca

5. Fum, Fum, Fum!

Catalan Traditional




Y
Faster ♩= 138
109
accel.
p
mf
118
accel.
Z
Faster ♩= 152
f
136
AA
molto accel.
144
ff
Very fast ♩= 200
153
BB
Grandly ♩= 84
161
fff
171
f
rit.
180
fff