Go ask Alice

Portrait of the Artist as a Cosmopolitan Exile with Dodgson, Groucho and Chico (and Harpo is also there)

Wind Quintet

(Slide whistle and bicycle horn)

Antonio Celaya

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"I am in a prison: one wall is the avant-garde, the other wall is the past, and I want to escape." - Ligeti, György

Notes Regard the Spoken Text

The texts without notted rhythms may be spoken freely, but naturally.
The texts with rhythms notated should not be spoken mechanically or in sing-song manner. But the notated rhytms should by approximated to provide a sense of the meter.
If the performers are really concerned about speaking the text the compsoer will come the performance and do the spoken sections.

Notes Regarding the Rhythms

The portions of the rhythms that evoke Ligeti's micropolyphony should not put the performer into a state of high anxiety. If the tuplets, and quintuplets are not precisely coordianted civilization as we know it will not end. Let them create a smeared texture.
The descending figures at the end need not be precisely coordinated.
Start with flute and end with bassooon. The effect of the descending fiures near the end should should be free, chatoic, and like things falling out of a closet.

NB: Ligeti loved Lewis Carroll's Alice Books. He also loved the Marx Brothers, whho who gave him inspiration. Let the spirit of Groucho, Chico, and Hapo reign thorughout the piece.

Jabberwocky
Lewis Carroll
(Through the Looking Glass, Chpt. 1)

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.

"Beware the Jabberwock, my son!
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun
The frumious Bandersnatch!"

He took his vorpal sword in hand;
Long time the manxome foe he sought—
So rested he by the Tumtum tree
And stood awhile in thought.

And, as in uffish thought he stood,
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,
Came whiffling through the tulgey wood,
And burbled as it came!

One, two! One, two! And through and through
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!
He left it dead, and with its head
He went galumphing back.

"And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"
He chortled in his joy.

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.

"And two hard boiled eggs!"

Score

Go ask Alice

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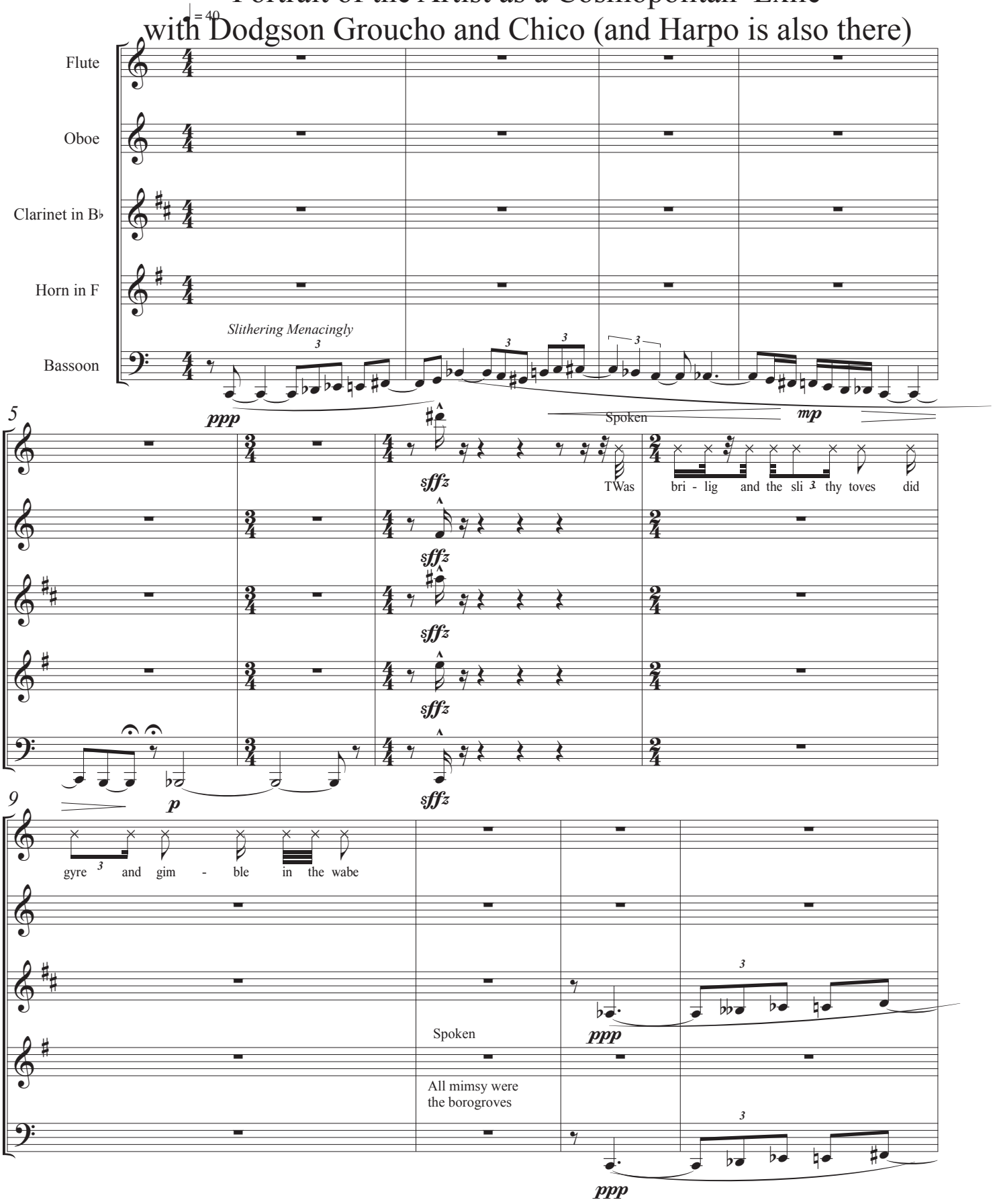

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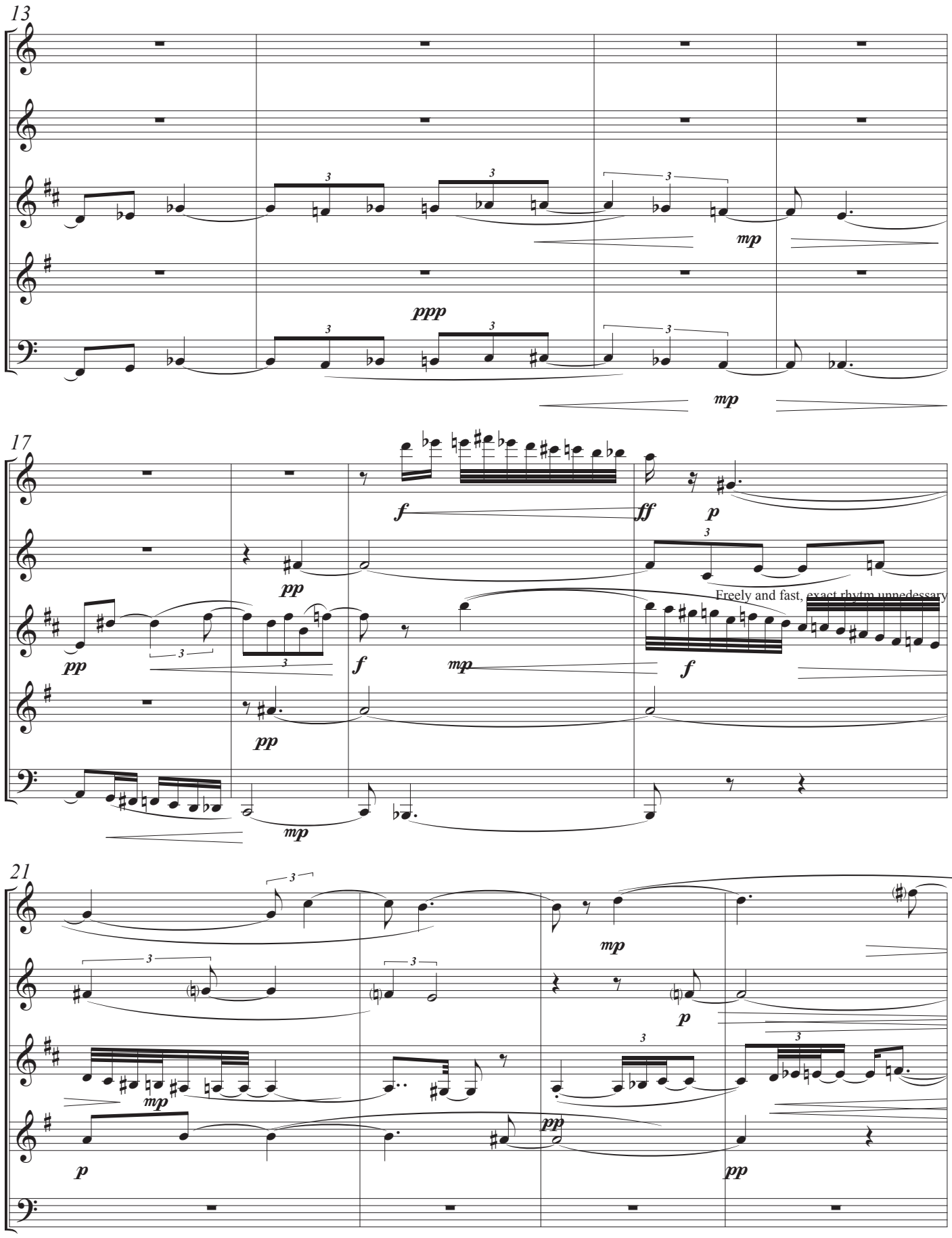
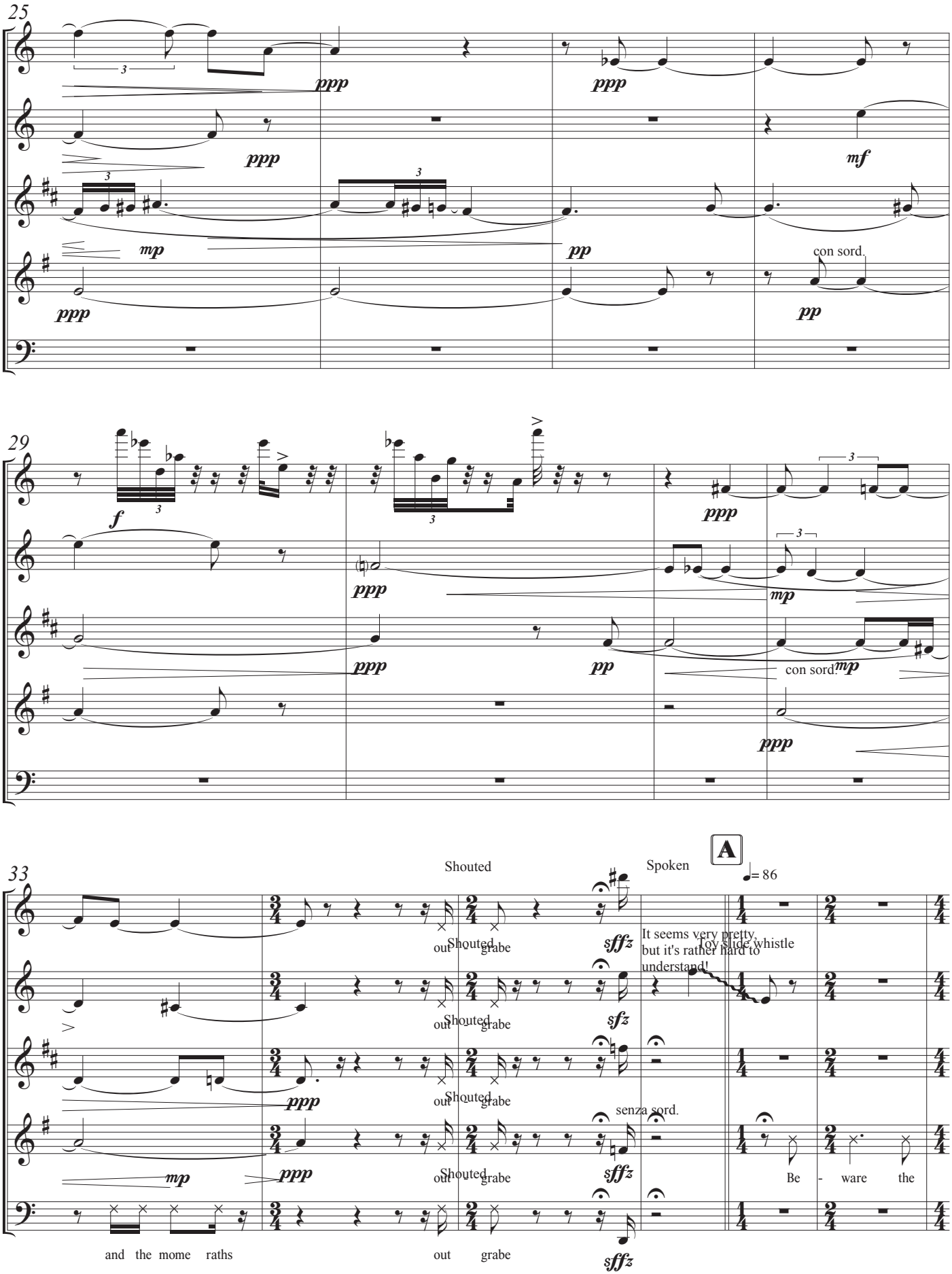
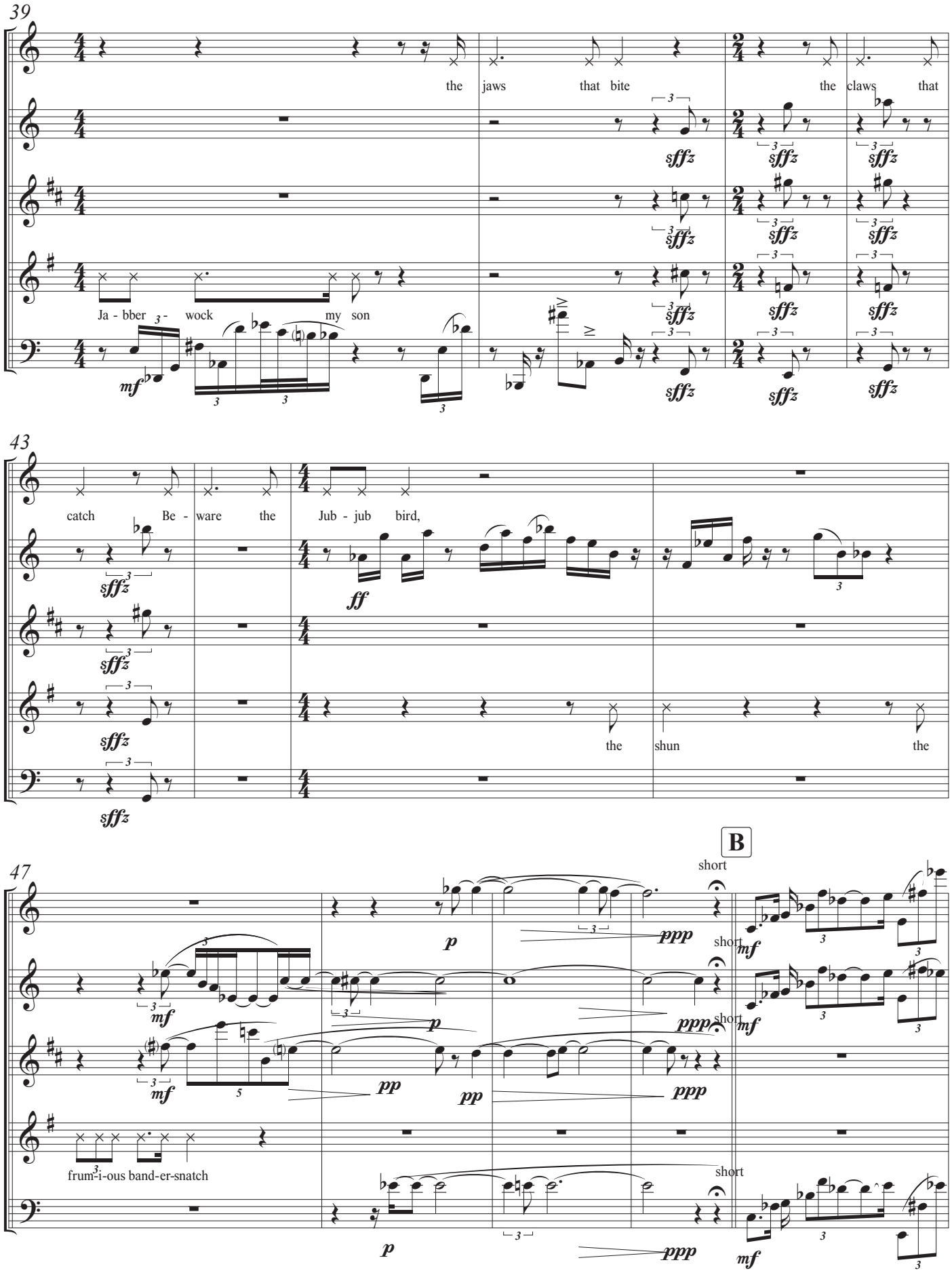
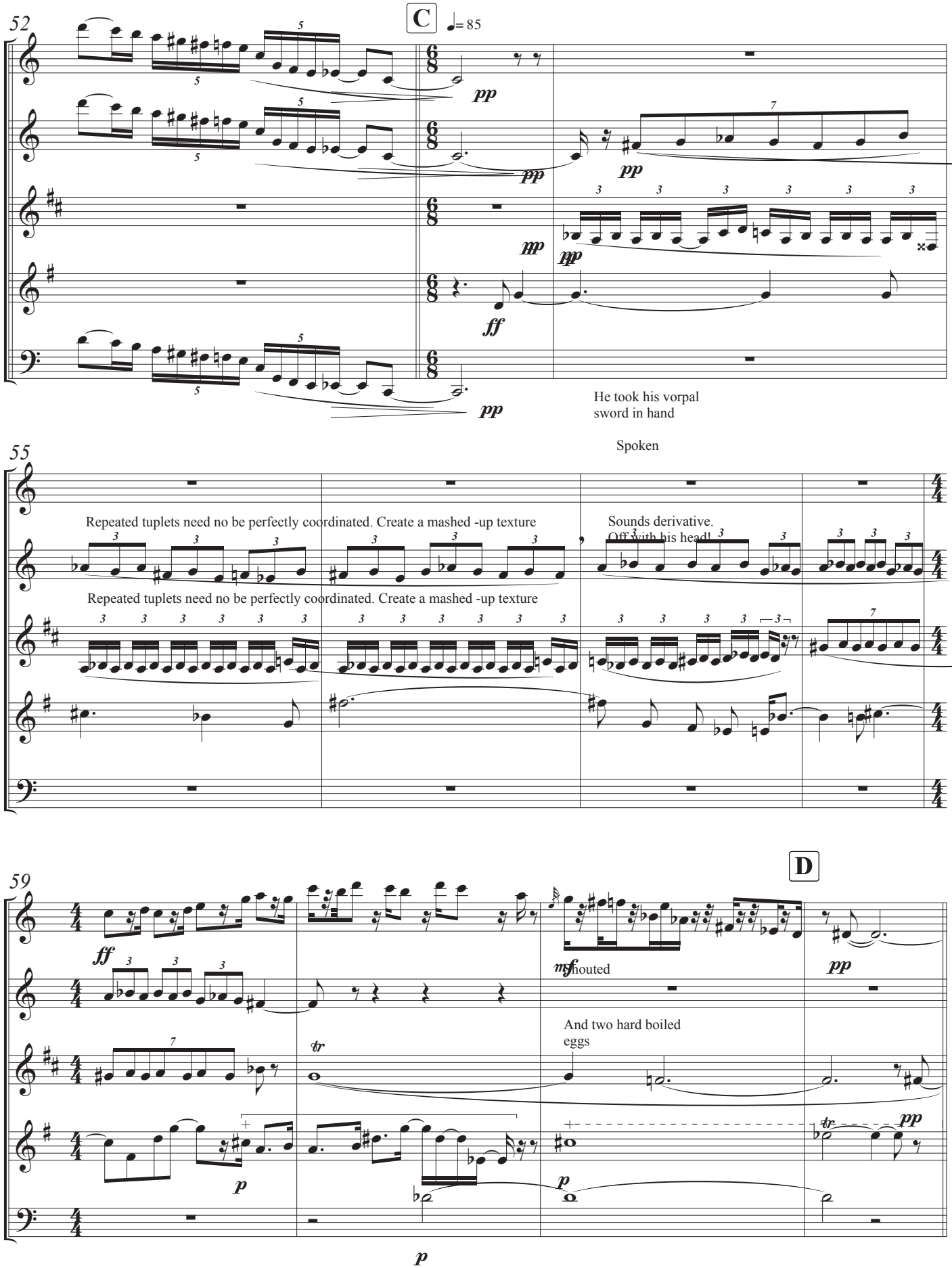
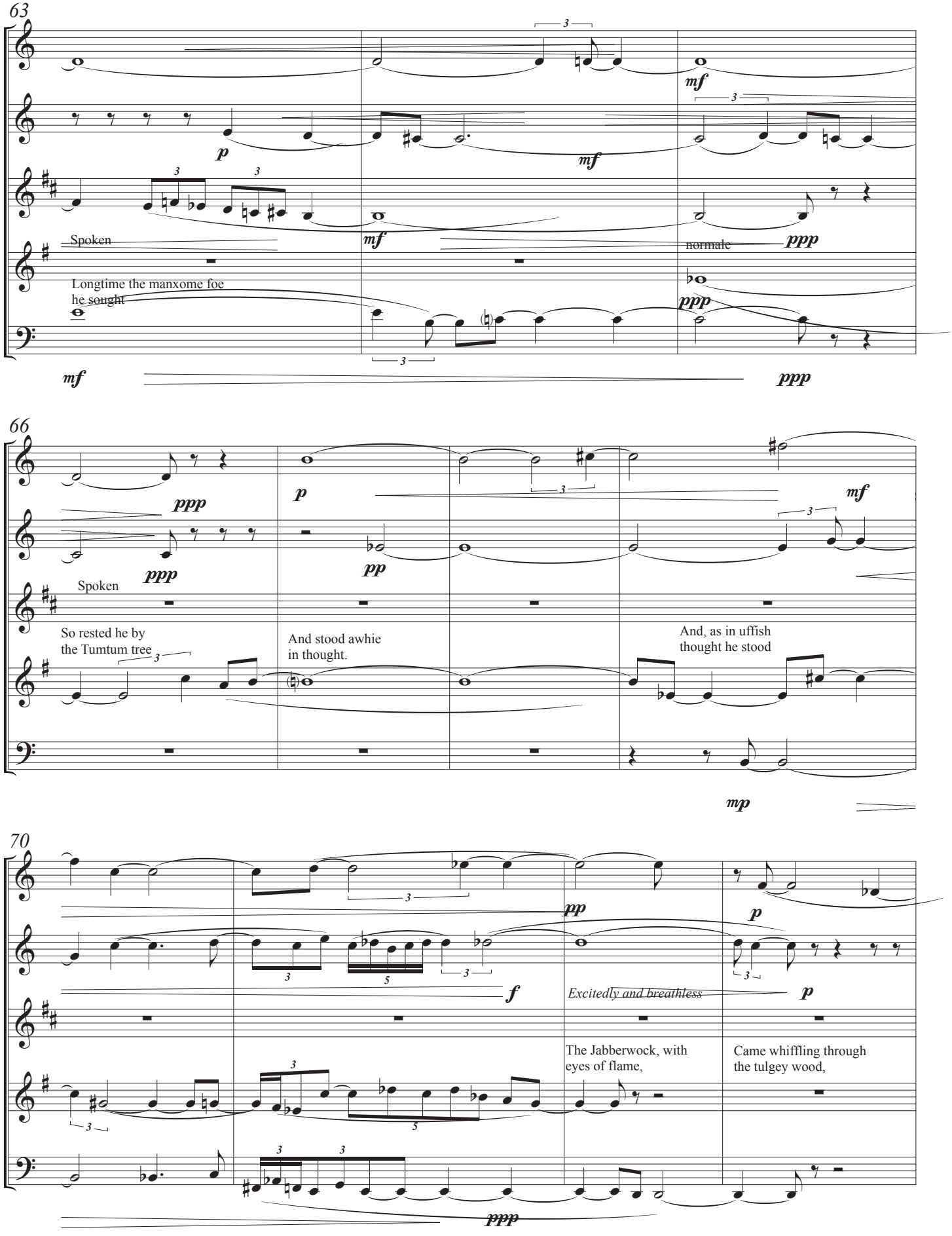
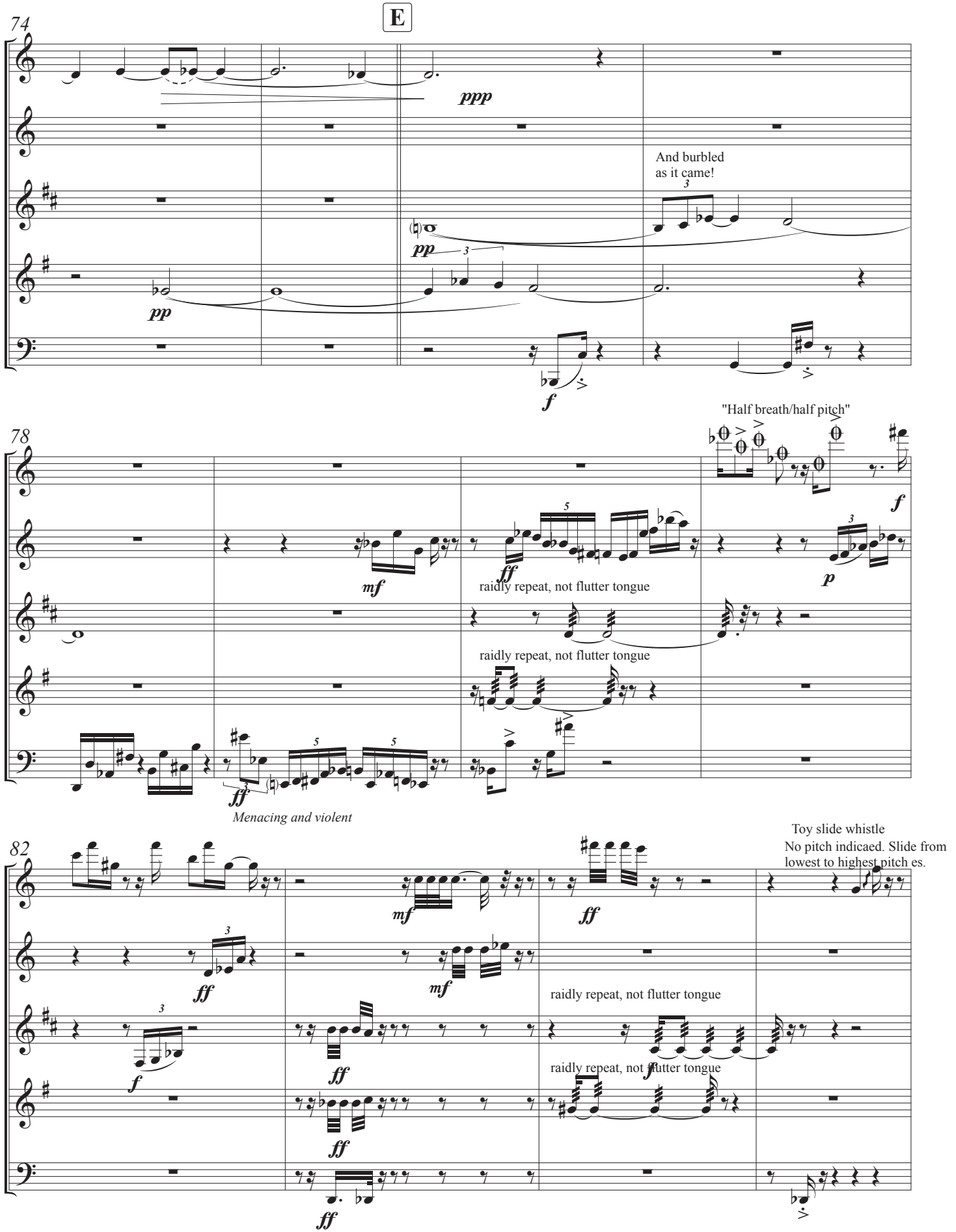

13
ppp
mp
17
f
ff
p
pp
mp
Freely and fast, exact rhytm unnedessary
21
mp
p
pp

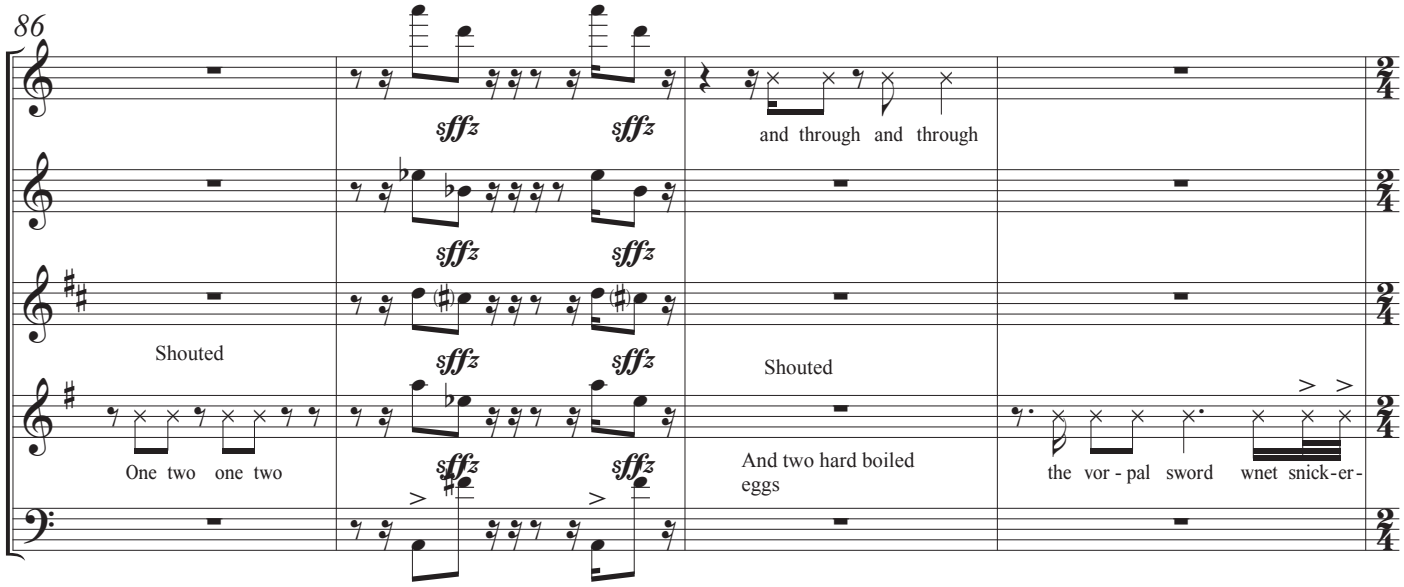

25
ppp
ppp
ppp
mf
mp
pp
ppp
con sord.
pp
29
f
ppp
ppp
pp
mp
con sord.
mp
ppp
33
Shouted
Spoken
A
♩= 86
out grabe
sffz
It seems very pretty,
but it's rather hard to
understand!
Toy Slide whistle
sfz
senza sord.
mp
ppp
Be - ware the
and the mome raths
out grabe

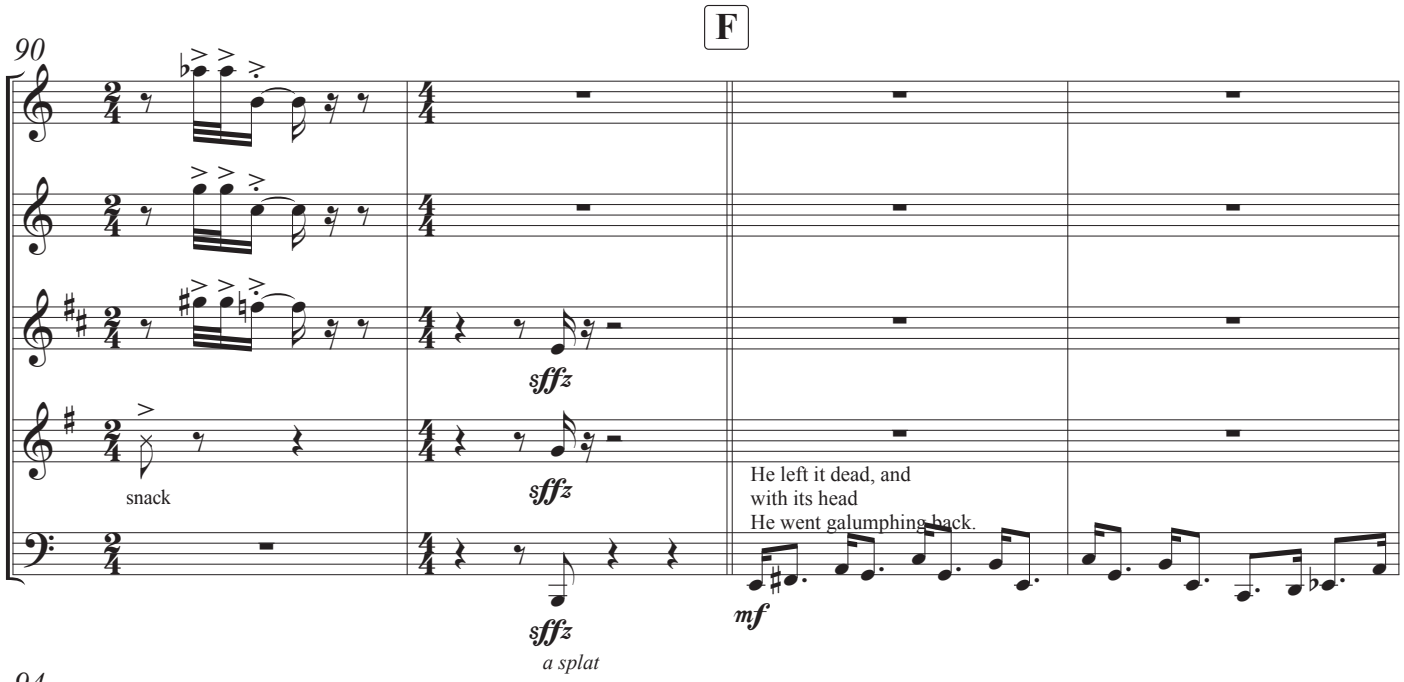

39
the jaws that bite the claws that
Ja - bber - wock my son
43
catch Be - ware the Jub - jub bird,
the shun the
47
B
short
frum-i-ous band-er-snatch

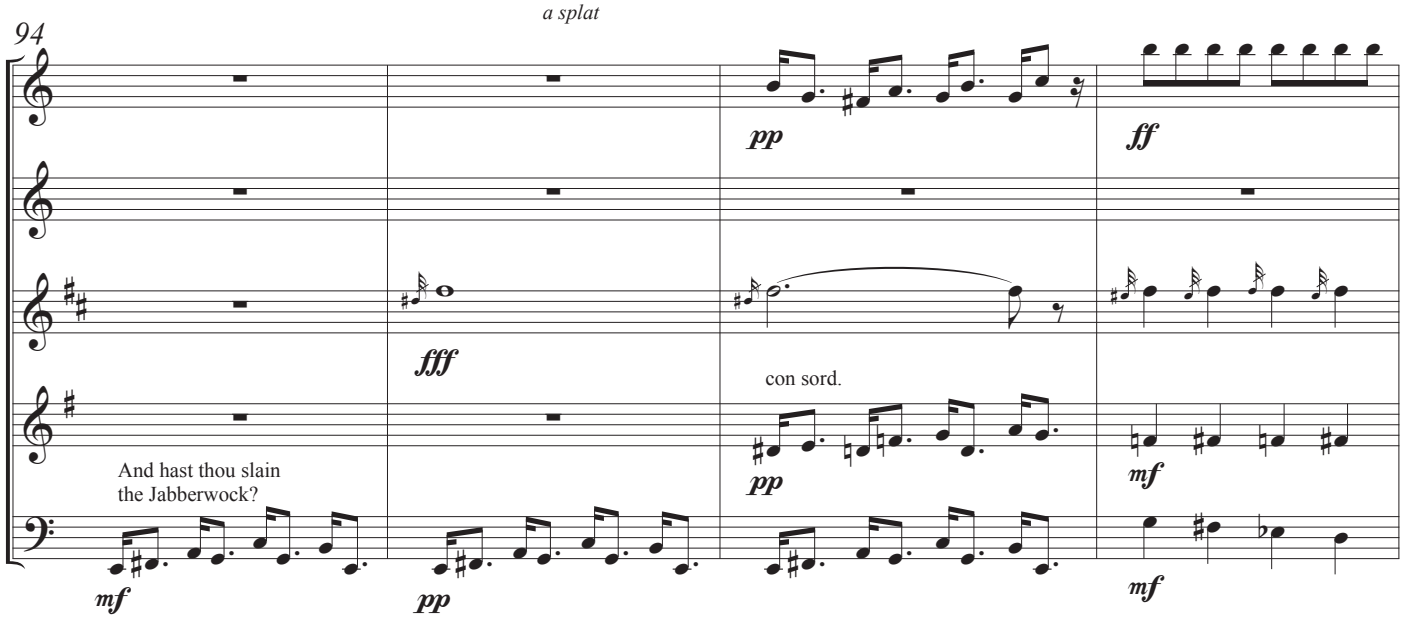

52
C
= 85
pp
ff
He took his vorpal sword in hand
55
Spoken
Repeated tuplets need no be perfectly coordinated. Create a mashed -up texture
Sounds derivative.
Off with his head!
Repeated tuplets need no be perfectly coordinated. Create a mashed -up texture
59
D
ff
msf shouted
pp
And two hard boiled eggs
p

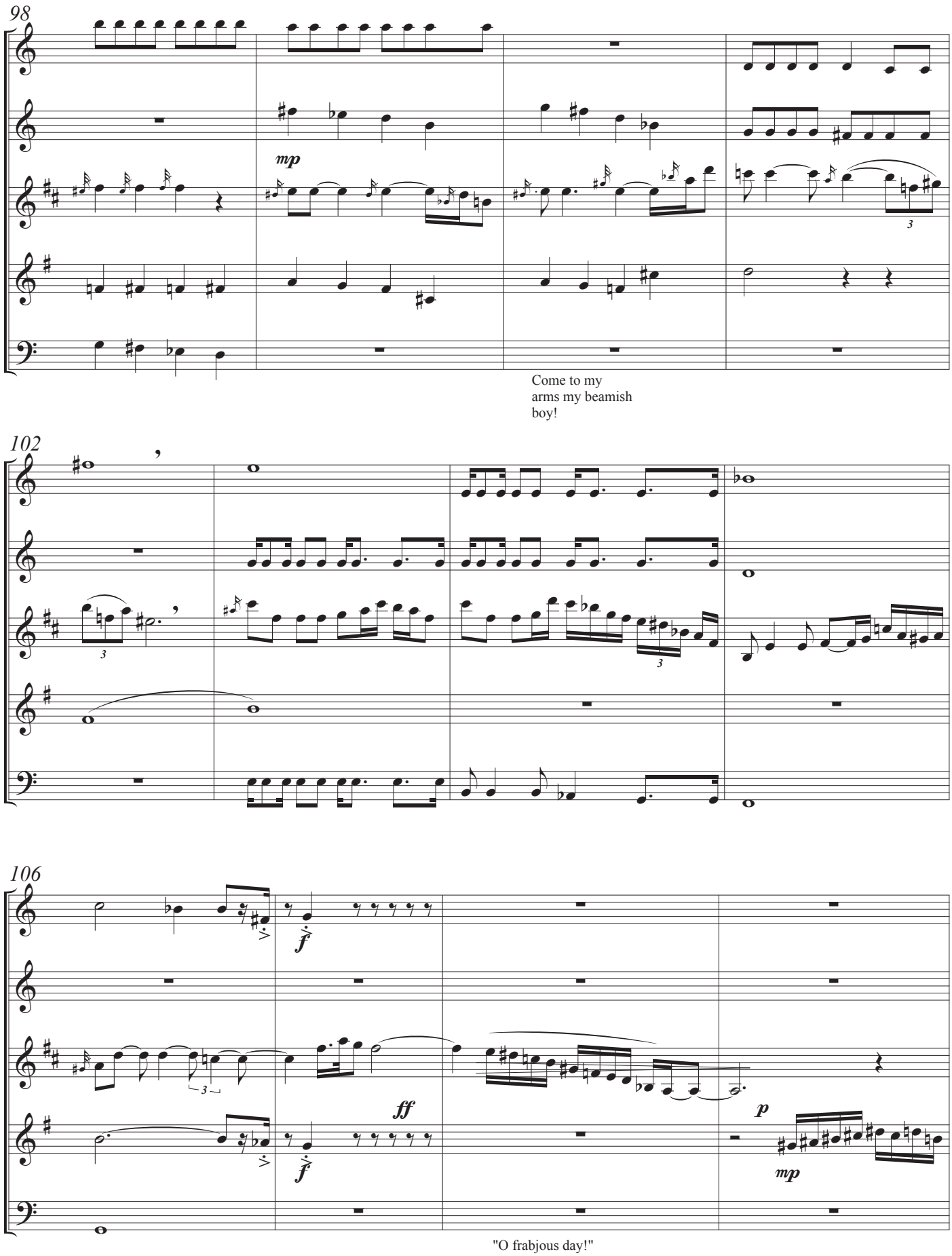

63
mf
p
mf
mf
Spoken
Longtime the manxome foe
he sought
normale
ppp
ppp
mf
ppp
66
ppp
ppp
p
pp
mf
Spoken
So rested he by
the Tumtum tree
And stood awhie
in thought.
And, as in uffish
thought he stood
mp
70
pp
p
f
Excitedly and breathless
p
The Jabberwock, with
eyes of flame,
Came whiffling through
the tulgey wood,
ppp

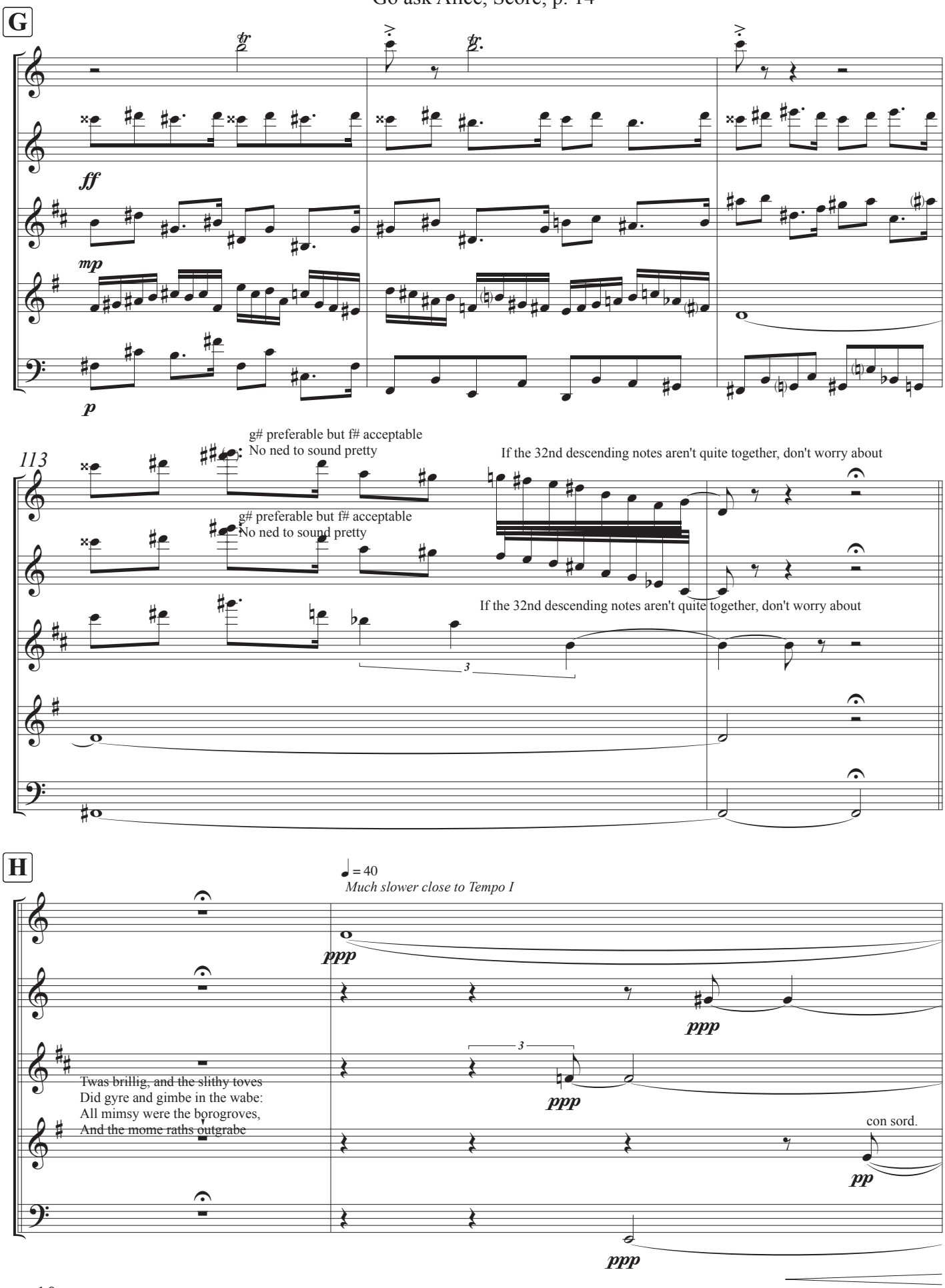

E
74
ppp
And burbled
as it came!
pp
pp
f
78
"Half breath/half pitch"
f
mf
ff
raidly repeat, not flutter tongue
p
raidly repeat, not flutter tongue
ff
Menacing and violent
82
Toy slide whistle
No pitch indicaed. Slide from
lowest to highest pitch es.
mf
ff
ff
mf
raidly repeat, not flutter tongue
f
ff
raidly repeat, not flutter tongue
ff

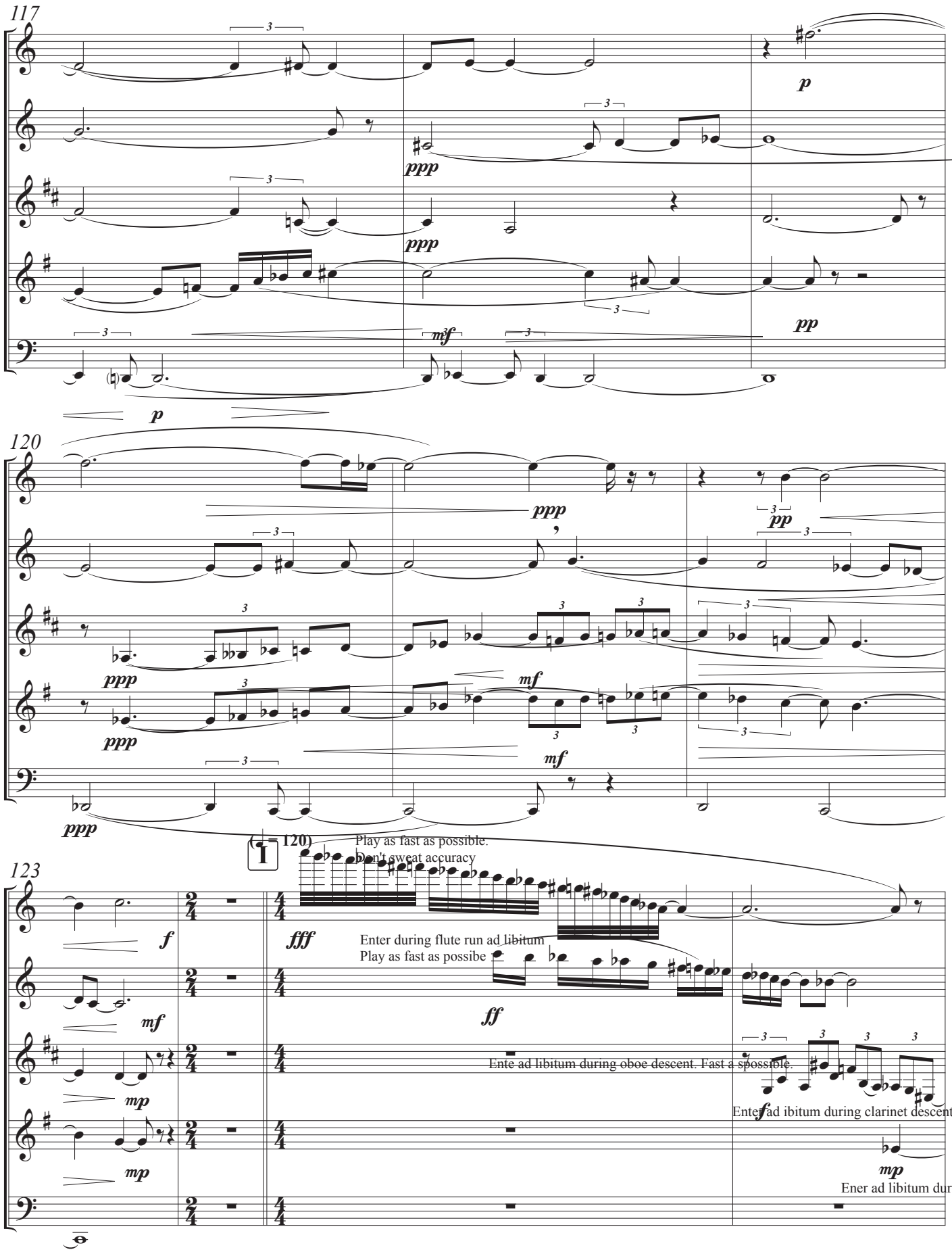

86
sffz
sffz
and through and through
Shouted
Shouted
One two one two
And two hard boiled eggs
the vor - pal sword wnet snick-er-

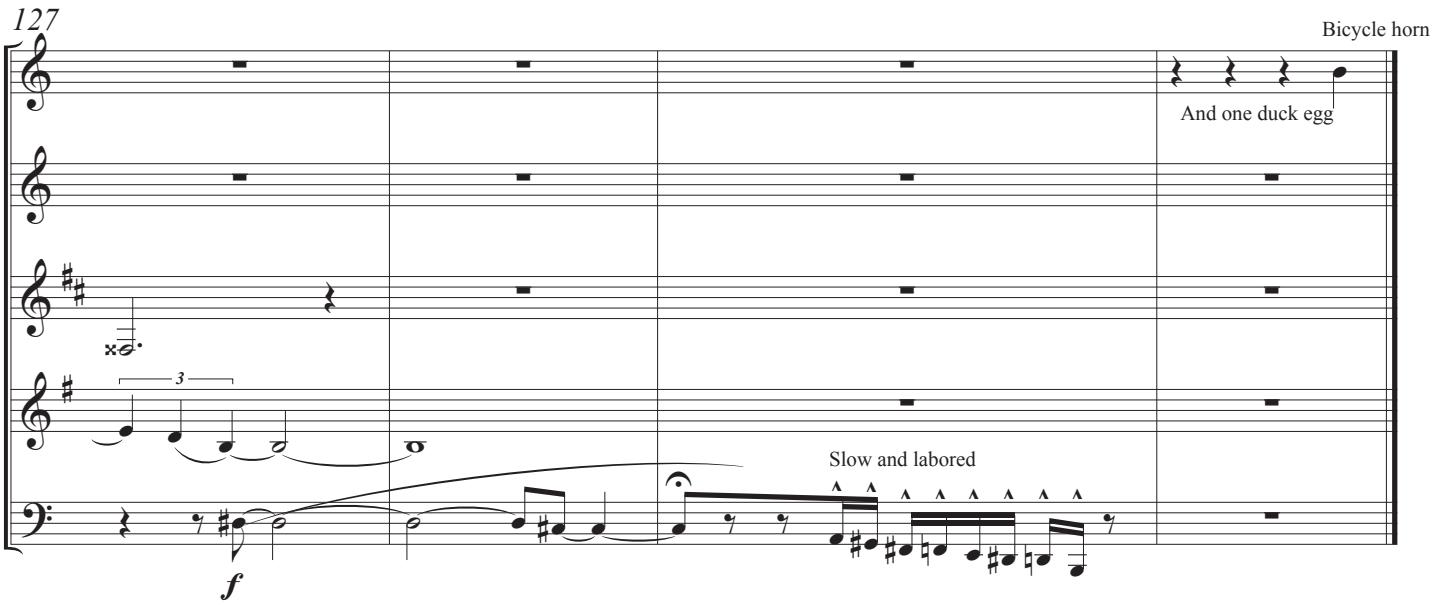

F
90
sffz
snack
He left it dead, and with its head He went galumphing back.
mf
a splat


94
pp
ff
fff
con sord.
And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?
mf
pp
mf


98
mp
Come to my
arms my beamish
boy!
102
106
ff
f
p
mp
"O frabjous day!"
"Callooh! Callay!"
He chortled in his joy.
Exuberant and loud


G
ff
mp
p
113
g# preferable but f# acceptable
No ned to sound pretty
g# preferable but f# acceptable
No ned to sound pretty
If the 32nd descending notes aren't quite together, don't worry about
If the 32nd descending notes aren't quite together, don't worry about
3
H
= 40
Much slower close to Tempo I
ppp
ppp
3
ppp
Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimbe in the wabe:
All mimsy were the borogroves,
And the mome raths outgrabe
con sord.
pp
ppp


117
p
ppp
ppp
mf
pp
p
120
ppp
pp
ppp
mf
ppp
mf
ppp
123
(♩= 120)
1
Play as fast as possible.
Don't sweat accuracy
f
fff
Enter during flute run ad libitum
Play as fast as possibe
mf
ff
mp
Ente ad libitum during oboe descent. Fast a spossible.
mp
Enter ad ibitum during clarinet descent
mp
Ener ad libitum during horn desc


127
Bicycle horn
And one duck egg
3
Slow and labored
f