Andreas Tsiartas

Terra Incognita

for piano solo

2019

Terra Incognita *for piano solo* (2019)

Terra Incognita (Latin for 'unknown land') was a term used by cartographers to describe an area, which was yet to be mapped or explored.

Terra incognita *for piano solo* resembles a hypothetical space, where time does not exist linearly, or even ceases to exist; it is rather fractured into scattered pieces, which occur simultaneously. On a psychoanalytical level, this space may well reflect the subconscious, where memories co-exist as components of an individual's greater narrative without subduing to a linear timeframe. Within this piece, memories are denoted by various sound ideas, juxtaposed within this unknown space.

Terra Incognita is an indirect homage to the instrument's long and iconic history as well as to the great masters. Finally, it is my attempt to reconcile with the instrument of my childhood and youth.

-Andreas Tsiartas, July/ August 2019

Duration: ca. 8 min.

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www.andreastsiartas.net

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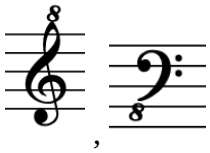
Additional items required:

- *1 metal chain (small size), a small piece of rope (to tie it firmly on the one side of the chain) and a cloth upon which the chain will be placed, when not in use*
- *1 plectrum/ pick (medium-hard/ plastic)*
- *Loose bow hair (2 sets) firmly bound on both edges*
- *1 E-bow*
- *1 small metallic object (e.g. a coin)*

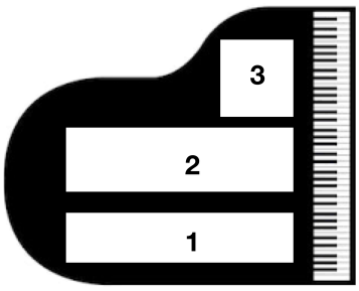
(For further explanation of the above, see notes below)

General glossary (structure)



Clefs with octave markings:
octave higher for treble clef and octave lower for bass clef.

‘Slur-like’ symbols above arrows, indicate
the beginning and ending of a non-metrical passage.
The crossed sign cancels the previous one,
returning thus to time signature as indicated.



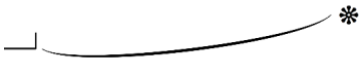
The interior of
the piano is to be divided roughly in three major range parts,
indicated where applicable, as ①, ②, ③, from lowest to highest range.

keyboard interior

Indications of whether performing at the keyboard
or inside the interior of the piano.

Sound specific glossary

Indication to apply the chain, as explained above and further on.



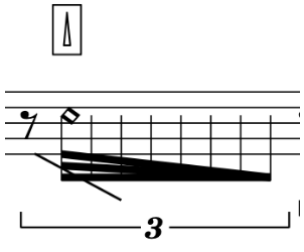
Gradually lifting up the right pedal
allowing the sound and its overtones to die out gradually.

Bowed string (see guidelines below)/
Velocity of bowing: slow and steady,

Feathered figures indicate a relative number
of pulsating beats and are not to be taken literally.
The culmination of each feathered figure usually lies in the centre
and it matches with a respective dynamic marking.
This kind of pulsation, should be performed vividly and in a fast
speed, independently from the passage's tempo.

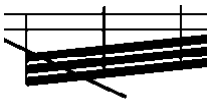
Cluster:
range indicated (highest and lowest pitch)

Plectrum (pick): to be applied on the specified pitch
in the piano interior as a tremolo.
Choose a medium-hard plectrum that is more easily controlled.

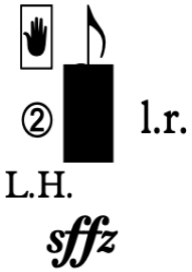


Lightly touch the vibrating string (from the cluster before).
Allow the natural rattling resonance to create the desired effect.

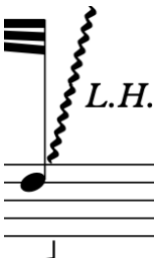
Repeat the figure
within the repetition bars as long
as suggested by the horizontal curve
(within the time and tempo given).



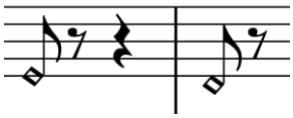
Diagonally crossed figures:
Perform the figure rapidly.



Slap the interior strings of the piano with the left hand (L.H.) palm,
on the range area indicated (numbers: see above).



Glissando on white keys
(Left hand- L.H. or right hand- R.H.)



Harmonics in the interior of the instrument

Acute *sforzando* and subito piano
(quasi *pp*) with gradual crescendo to the next acute sforzando etc.
(NB: *sfz* accentuations always in relation to the respective context of the dynamics).

Piano Preparation Guidelines

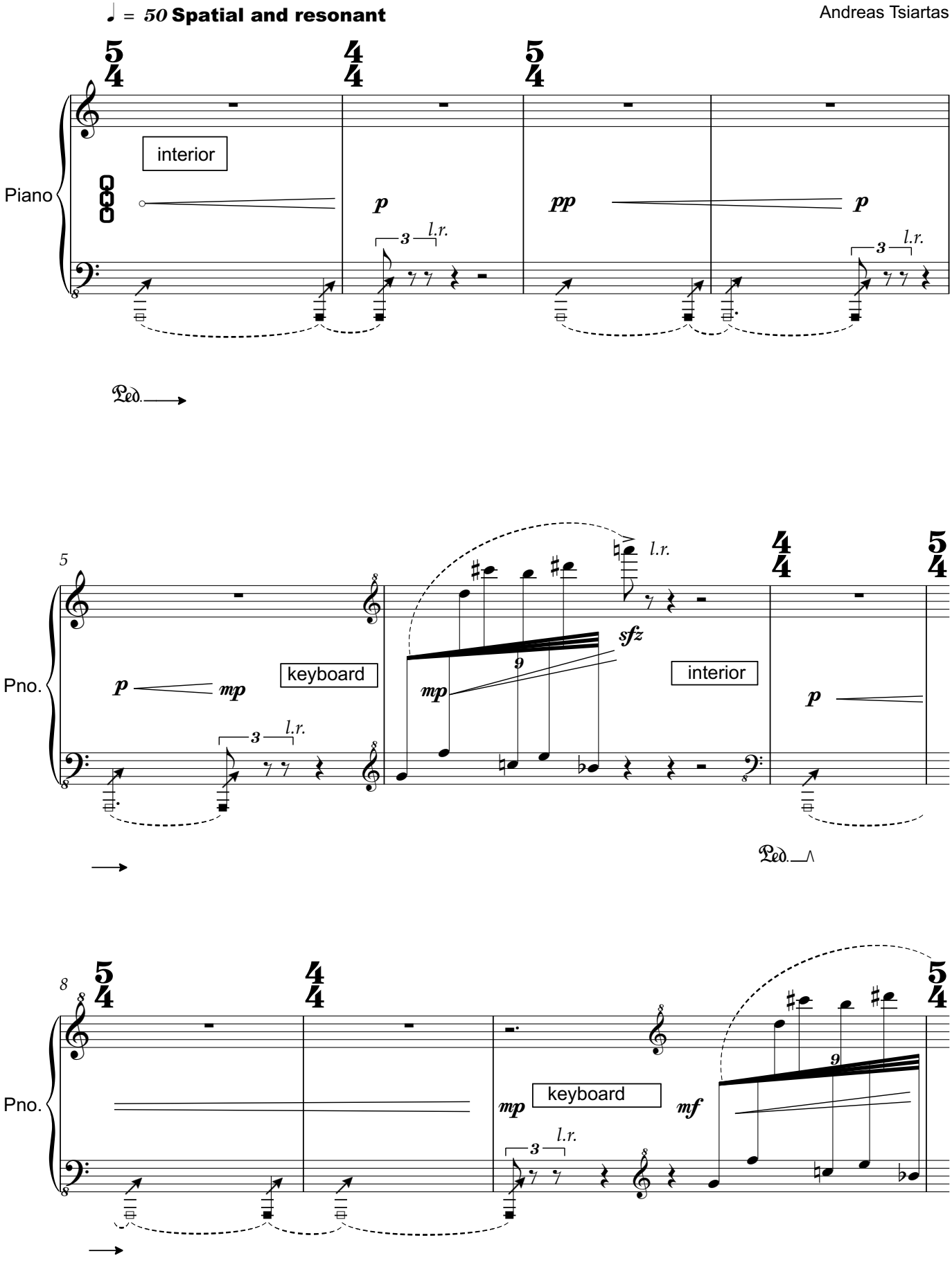
• On all occasions, please press and pre-hold the right pedal in order to perform in the interior of the piano and to avoid any damage to the dampers' sensitive felts.
• To perform the passages with the bow hair: prepare the 2 sets in advance. To insert and remove the hair, you may use any palpable object of less than 5 mm width. You may attach pins to the sides of the hair (since the hair must be firmly bound on both sides) to make it easier. For performing the passage, ideally the string should be bowed in a 90-degree angle (as held by both hands). Make sure the sets have not much hair in order to be easily inserted, but also in order to produce a more resonant, vibrant, airy sound. The use of rosin might be required in order to facilitate sound production. Please, do not use fishing net, as this will create a different sound!
• Consider the use of small, coloured stickers to distinguish pitches in the interior BUT ONLY within the space between the tuning pin and the agraffes (above the red felt) and certainly not on the dampers.
• Chain: Use a small sized chain, firmly bound on the piano on one side. Use a cloth to place the chain upon nearby, when requested to remove the chain in order to avoid undesired noises.
• Metallic object: any metallic object (e.g. coin) to lightly touch on the vibrating strings indicated as harmonic pitches in the score.

General notes

• Rests: the smallest rest in the piece is the single caesura ’ (like a breathing rest).
• Accidentals apply for a single bar.
• Trills throughout the piece as fast as possible.
• Tempo albeit fixed it may swing in some parts for the sake of the general flow of the piece.

Terra Incognita

(2019)



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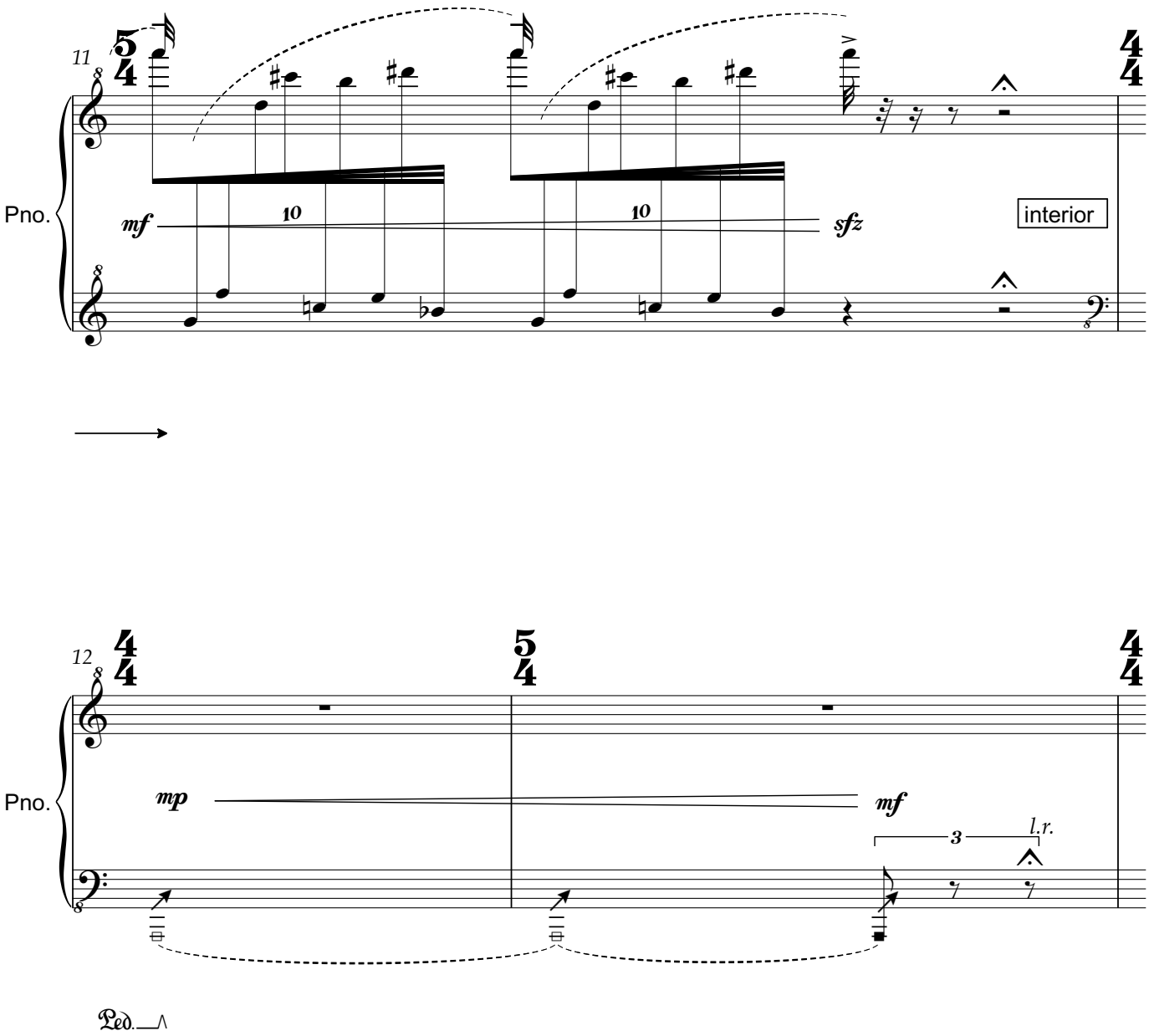
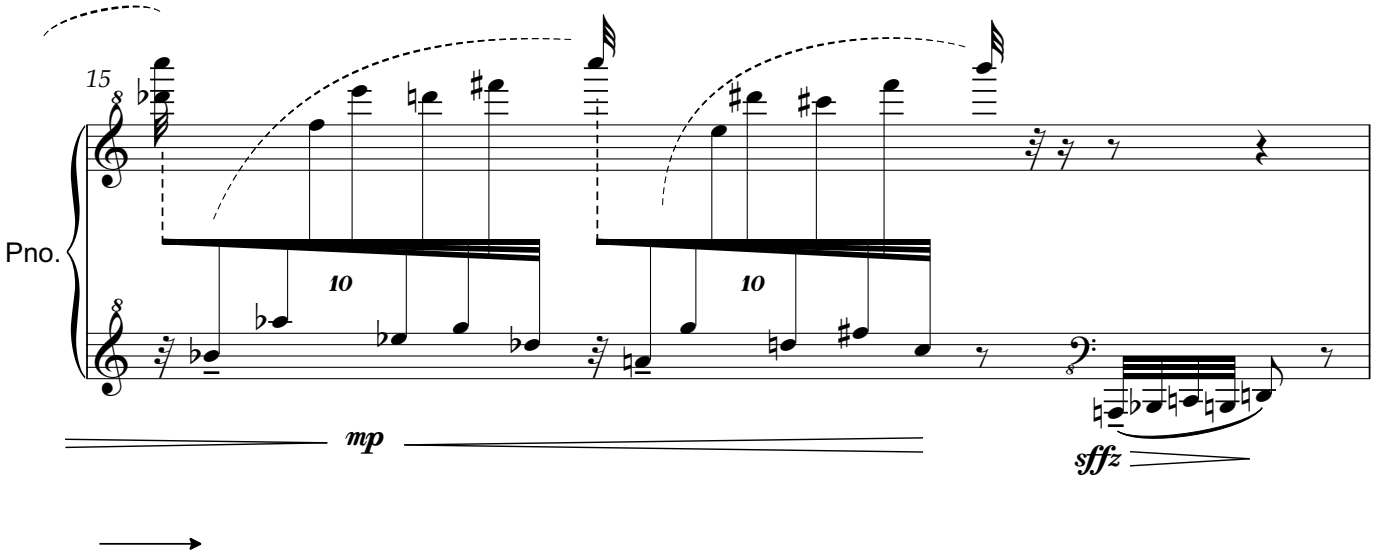
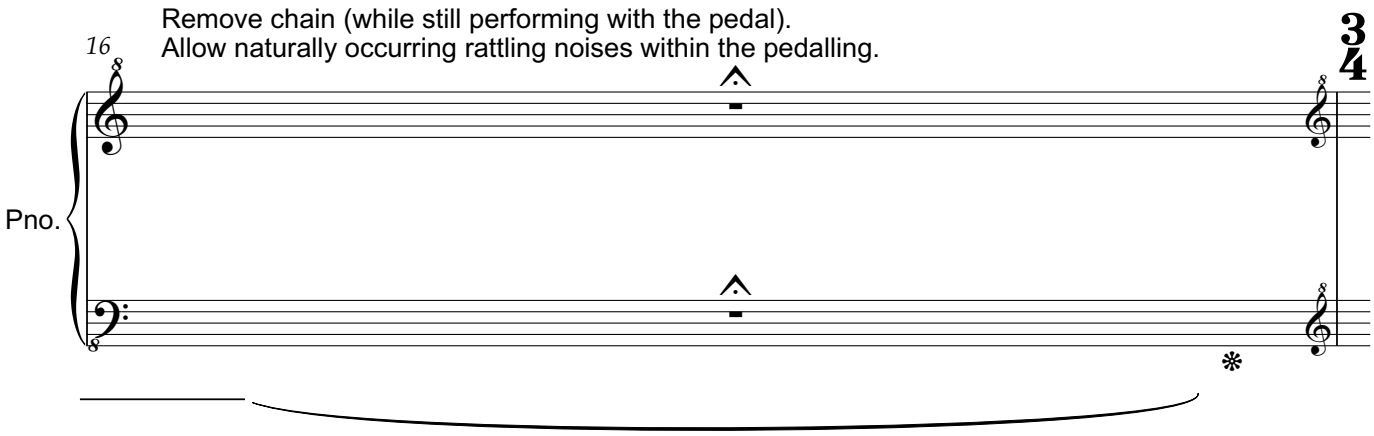
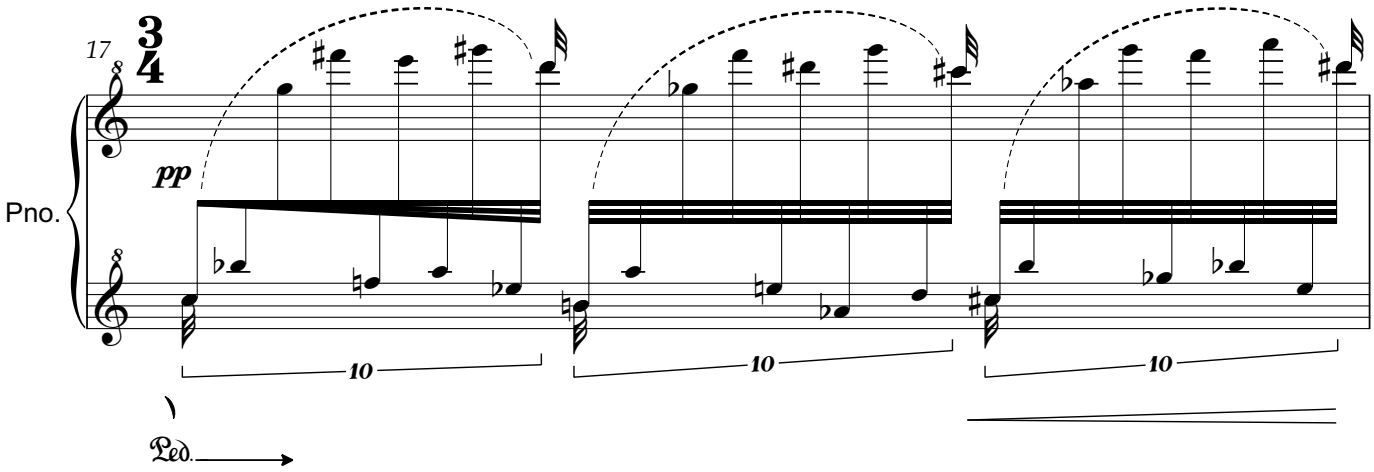
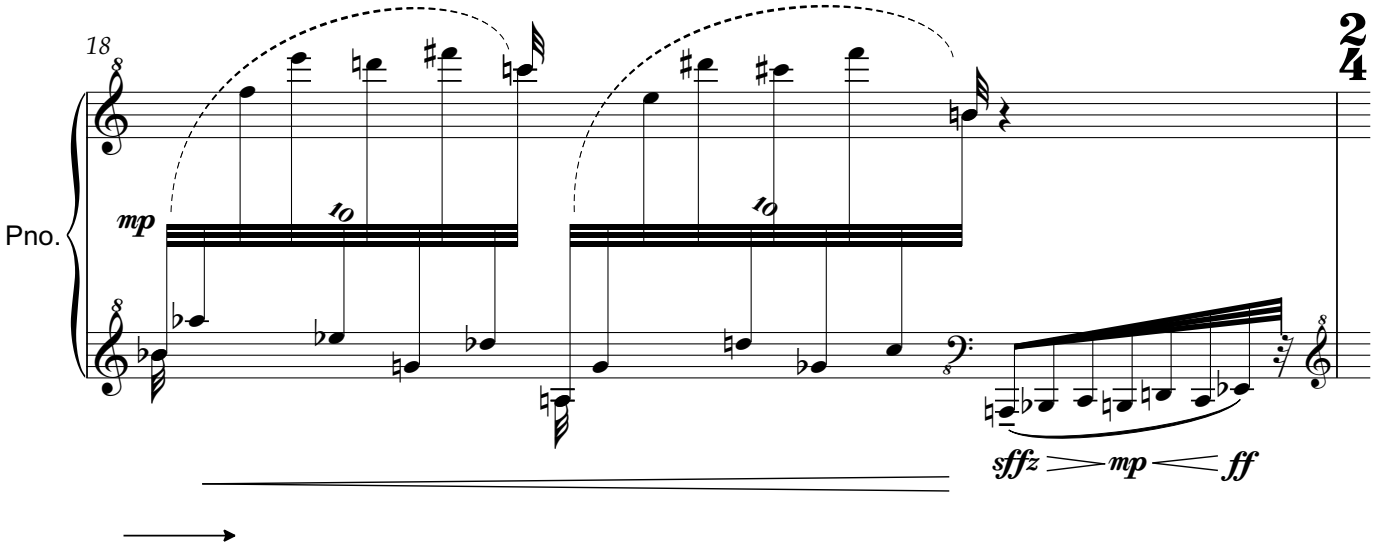
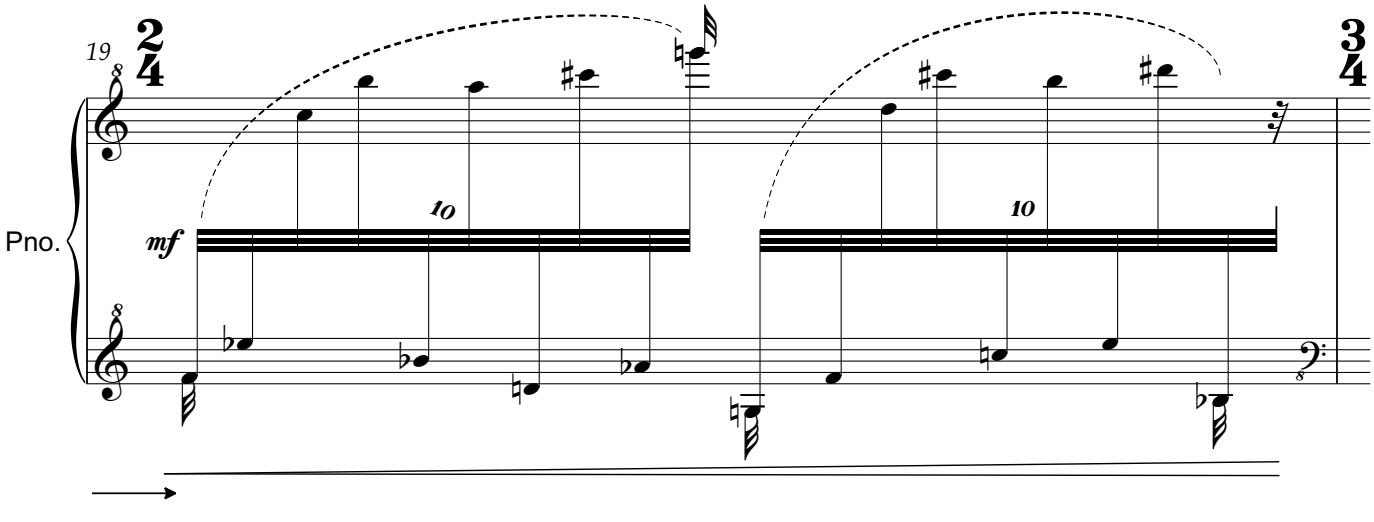

11
Pno.
mf
10
10
sfz
interior
12
Pno.
mp
mf
3
l.r.
Ped.
14
Pno.
keyboard
l.r.
9
10
10
sffz
p
sffz

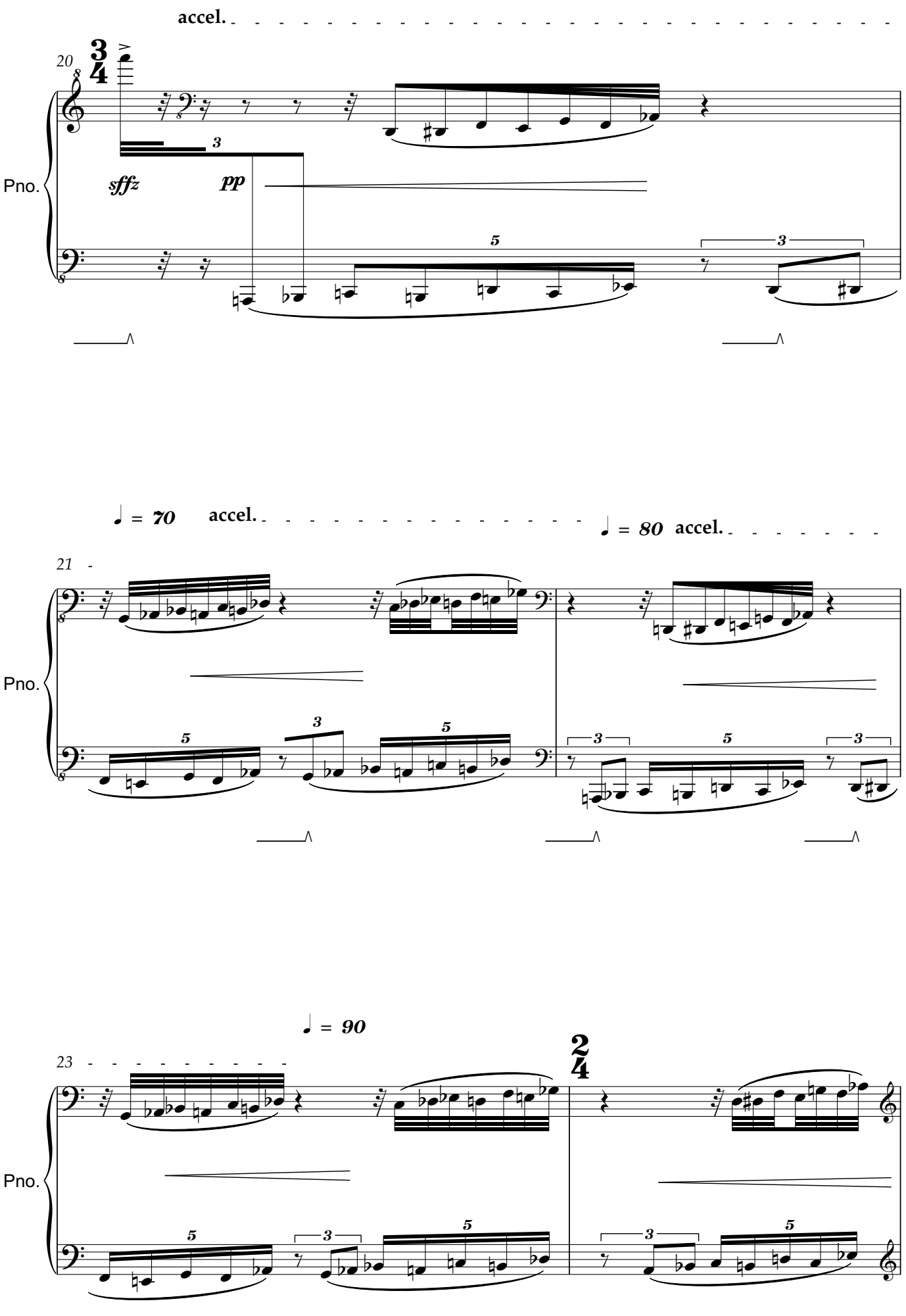

15
Pno.
10
10
mp
sffz

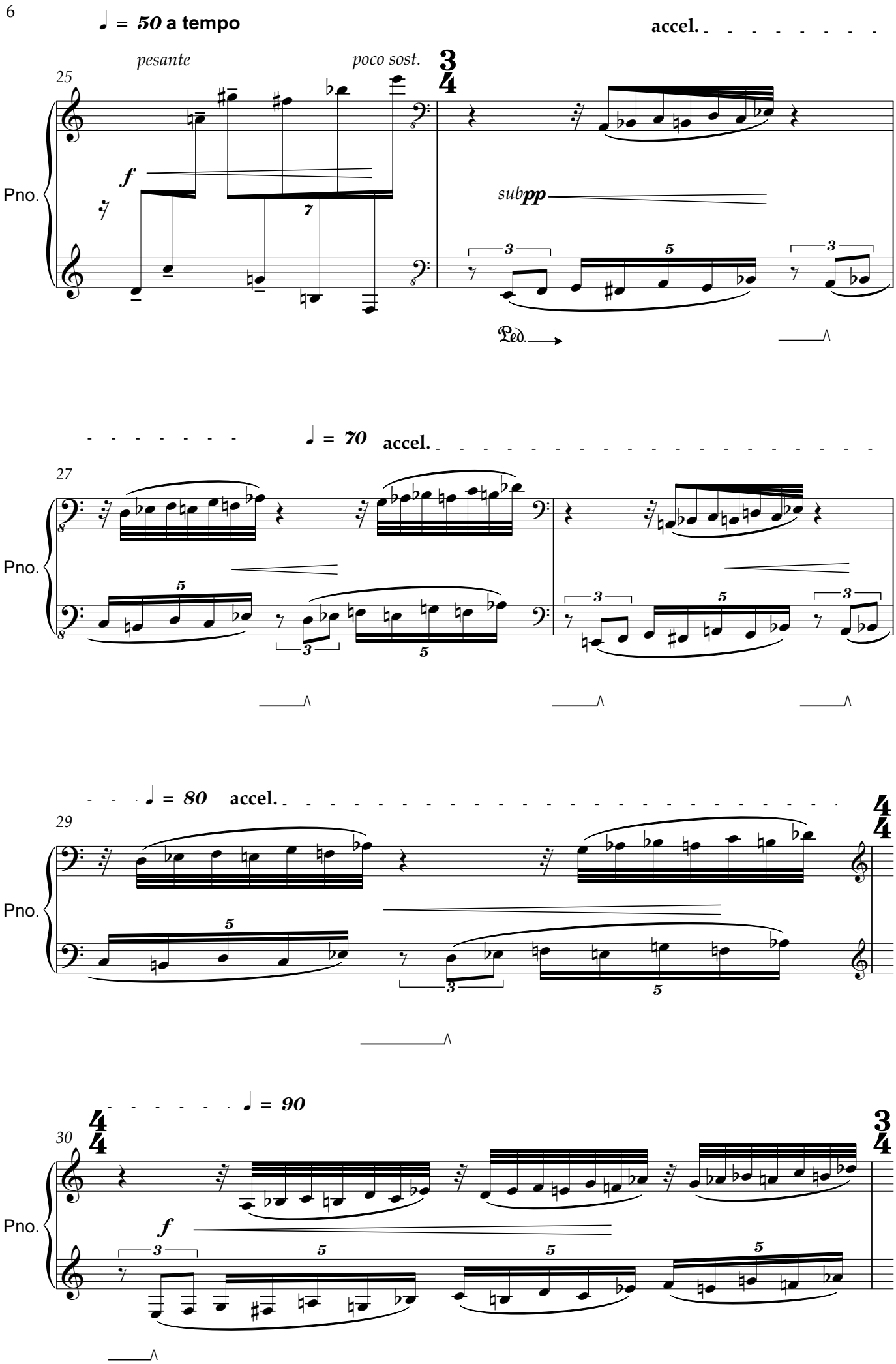

Remove chain (while still performing with the pedal).
Allow naturally occurring rattling noises within the pedalling.
16
Pno.
3
4

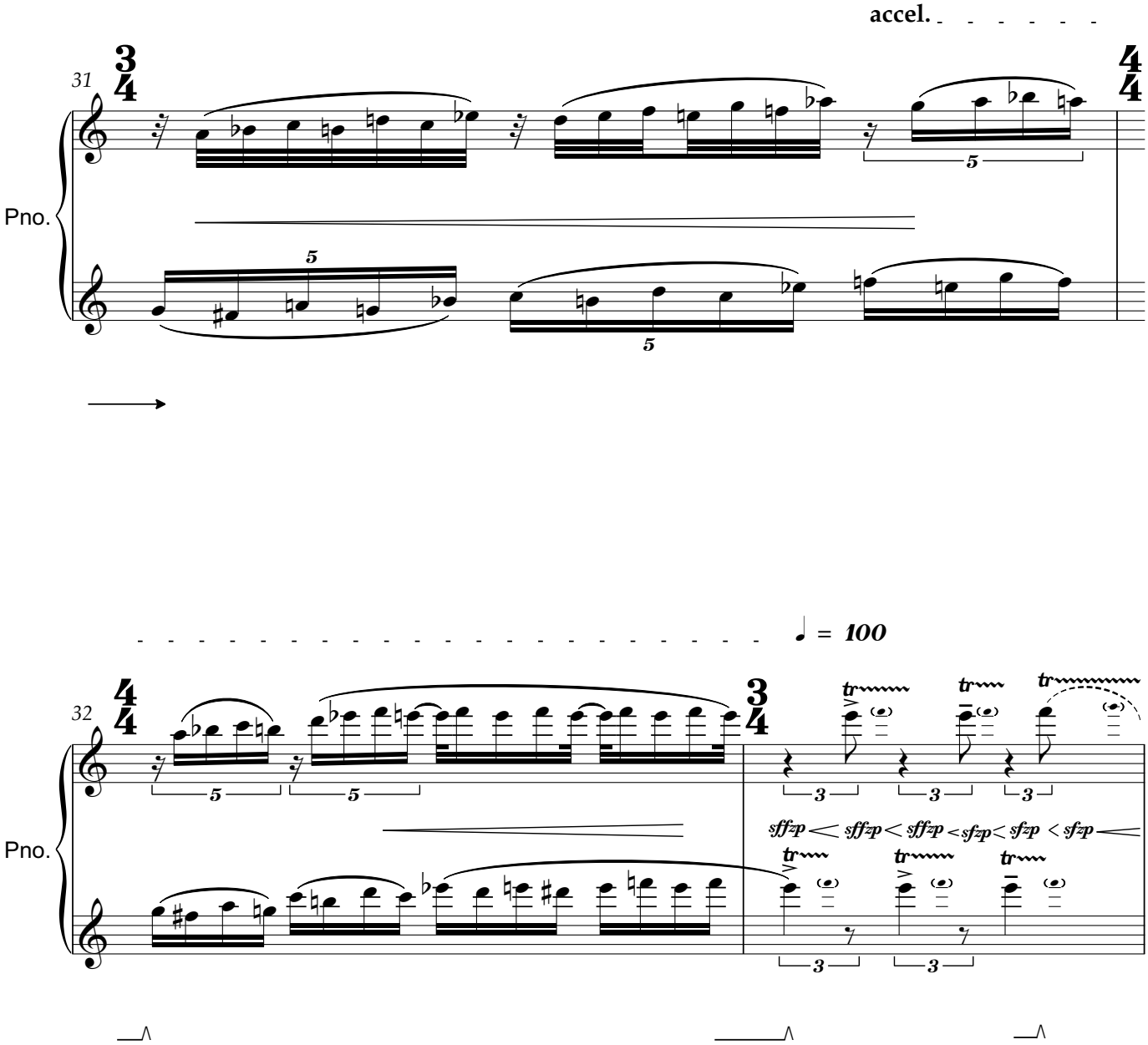

17
Pno.
pp
10
10
10
Ped.

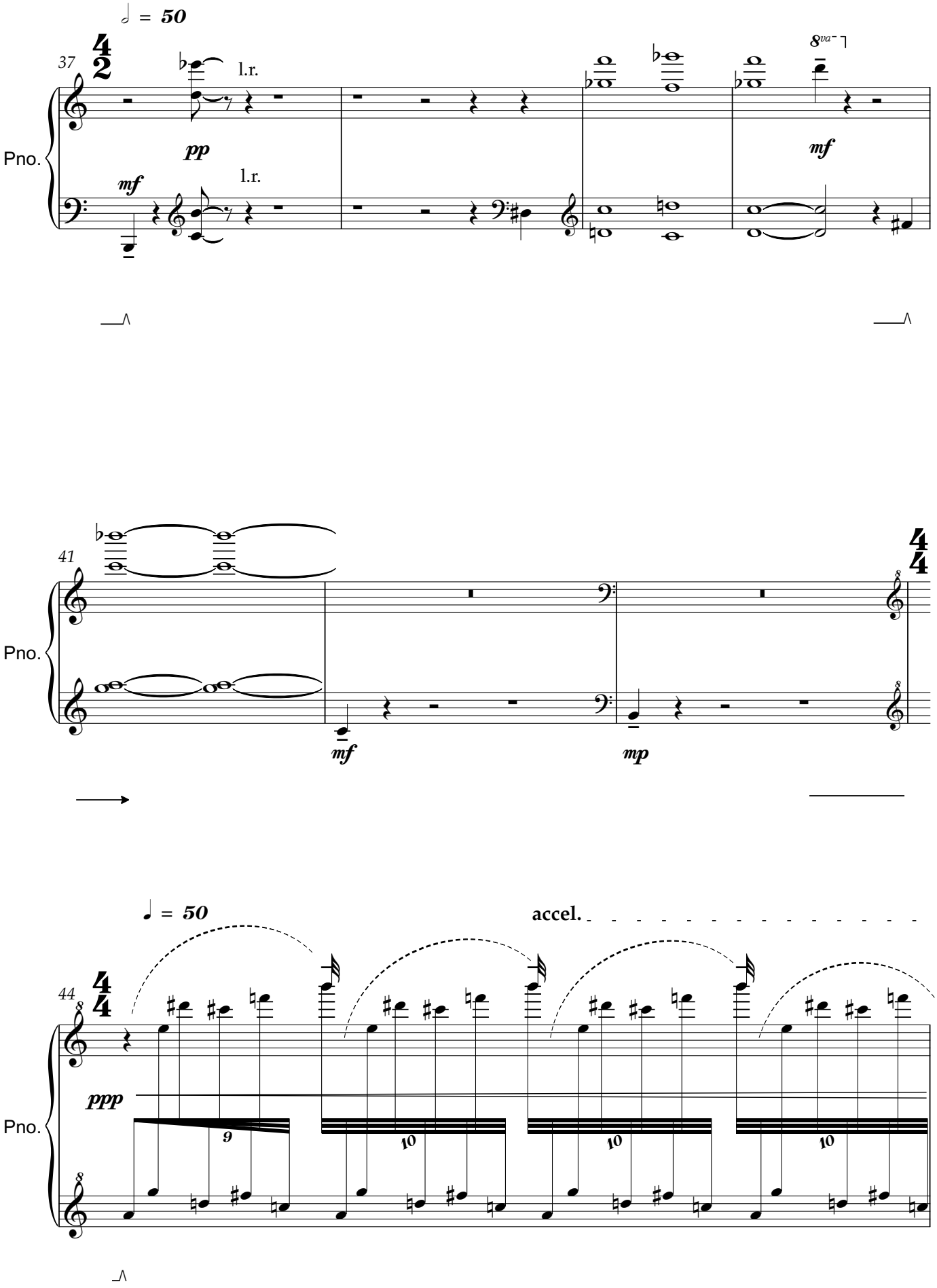

18
Pno.
mp
10
10
sffz
mp
ff

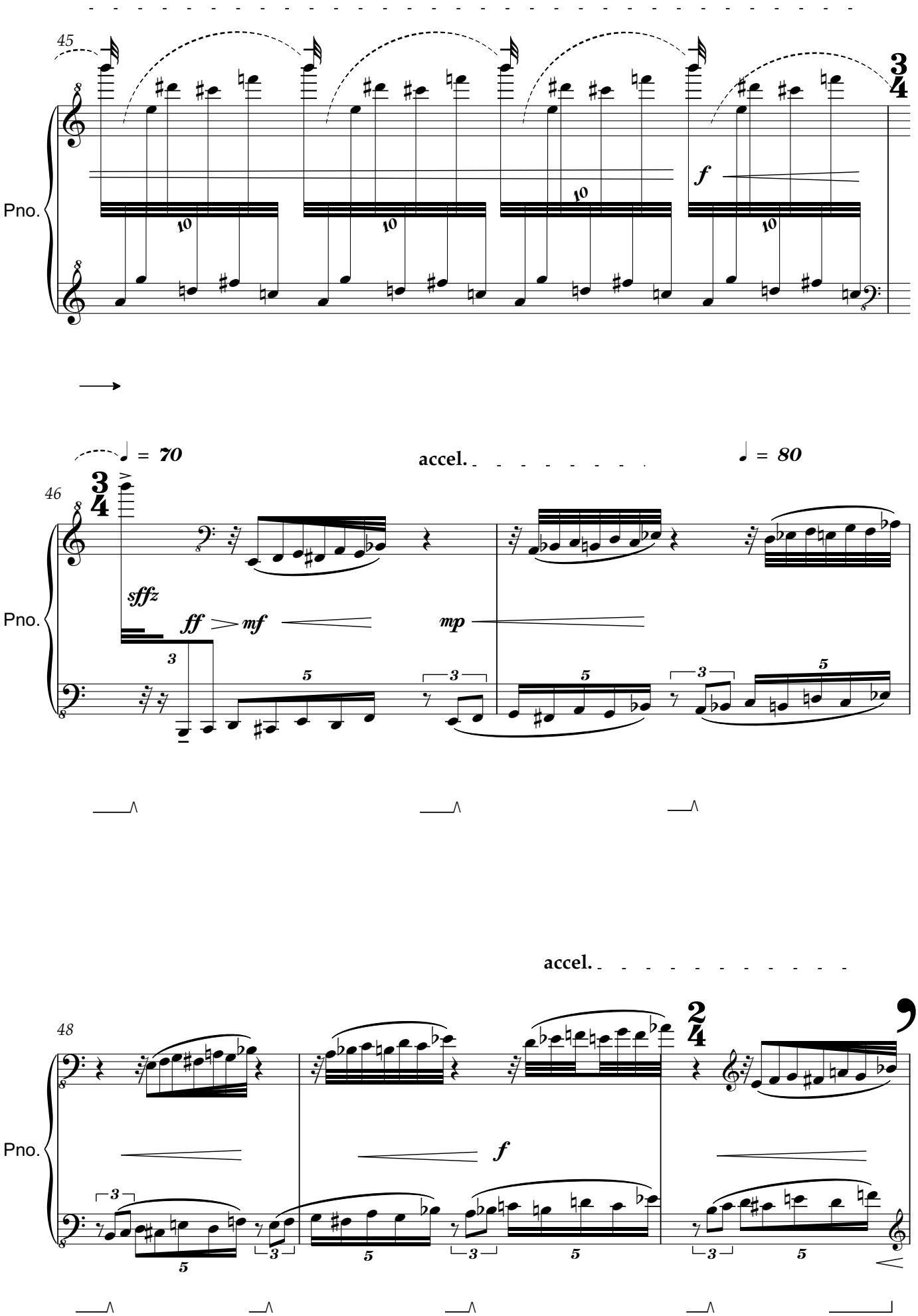

19
Pno.
mf
10
10

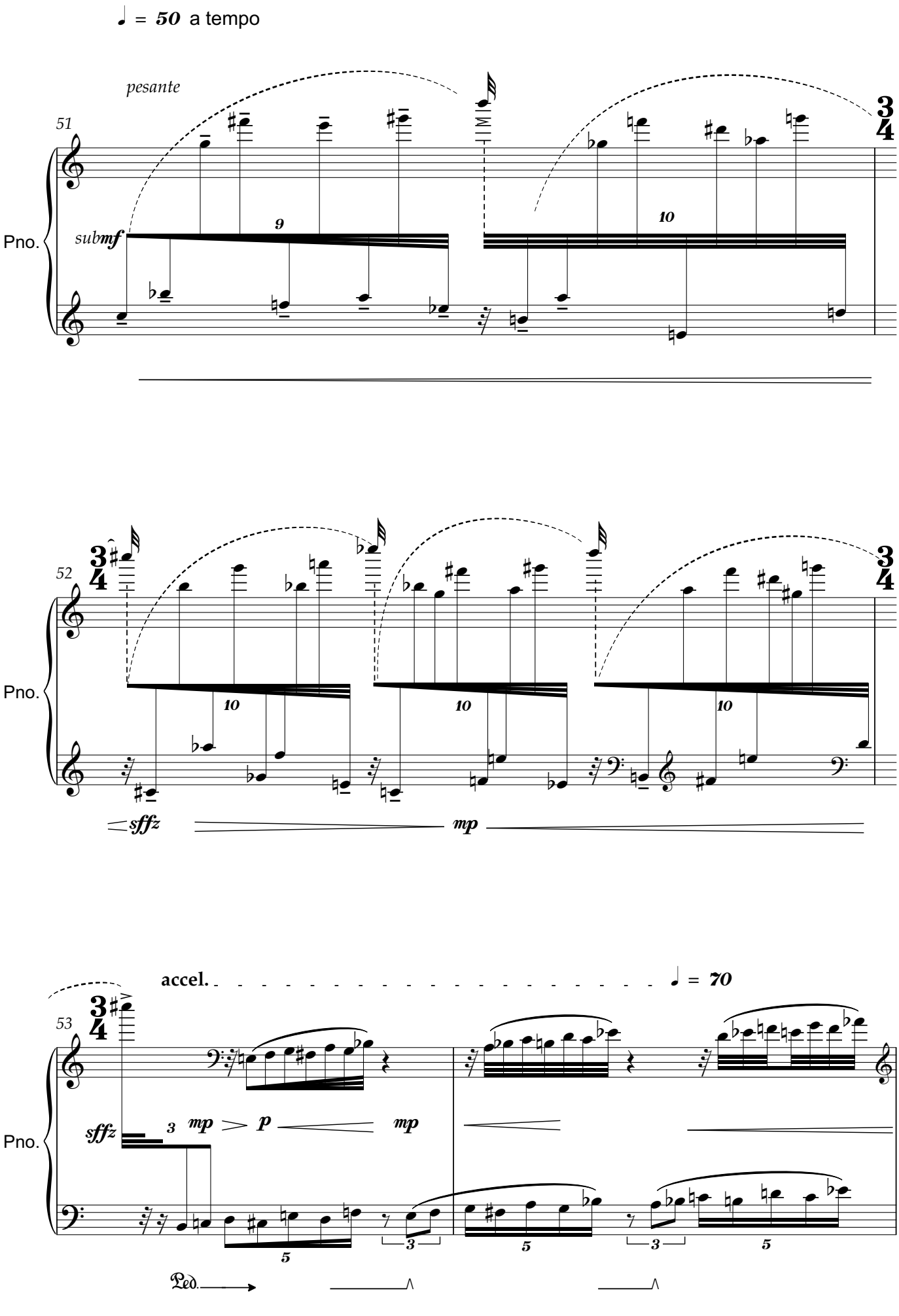

accel.
20
Pno.
sffz
pp
♩ = 70
accel.
♩ = 80
accel.
21
Pno.
♩ = 90
23
Pno.

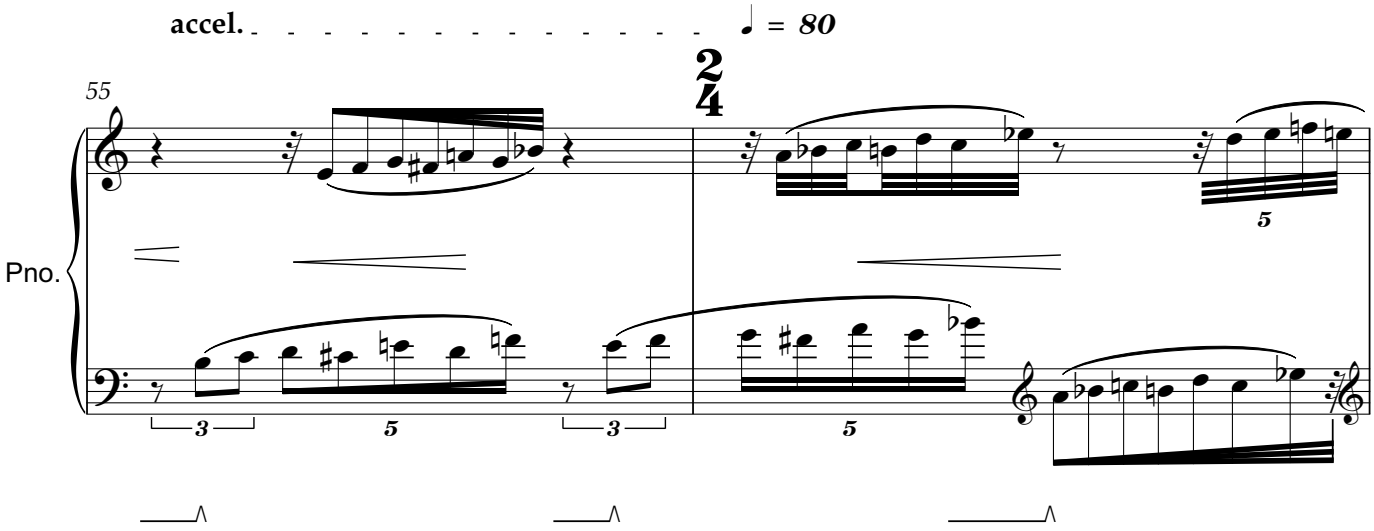

♩ = 50 a tempo
accel.
pesante
poco sost.
25
Pno.
f
sub pp
Ped.
♩ = 70
accel.
27
Pno.
♩ = 80
accel.
29
Pno.
♩ = 90
30
Pno.
f

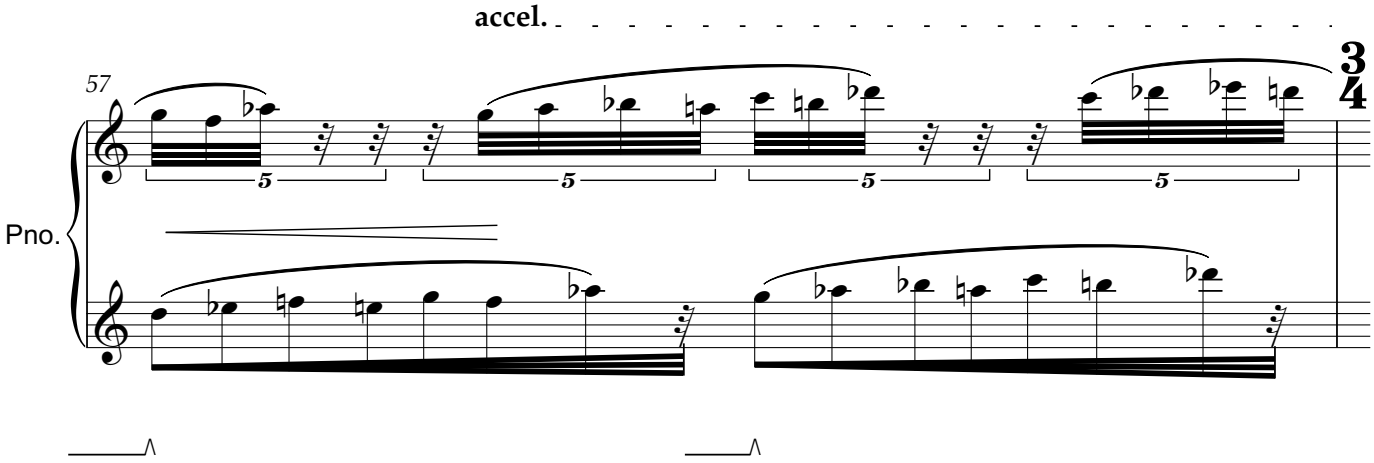

accel.
31
Pno.
♩ = 100
32
Pno.
sffzp sffzp sffzp sfzp sfzp sfzp
34
Pno.
sfzp sfzp sfzpp
sfzpp sfzpp
sfzpp

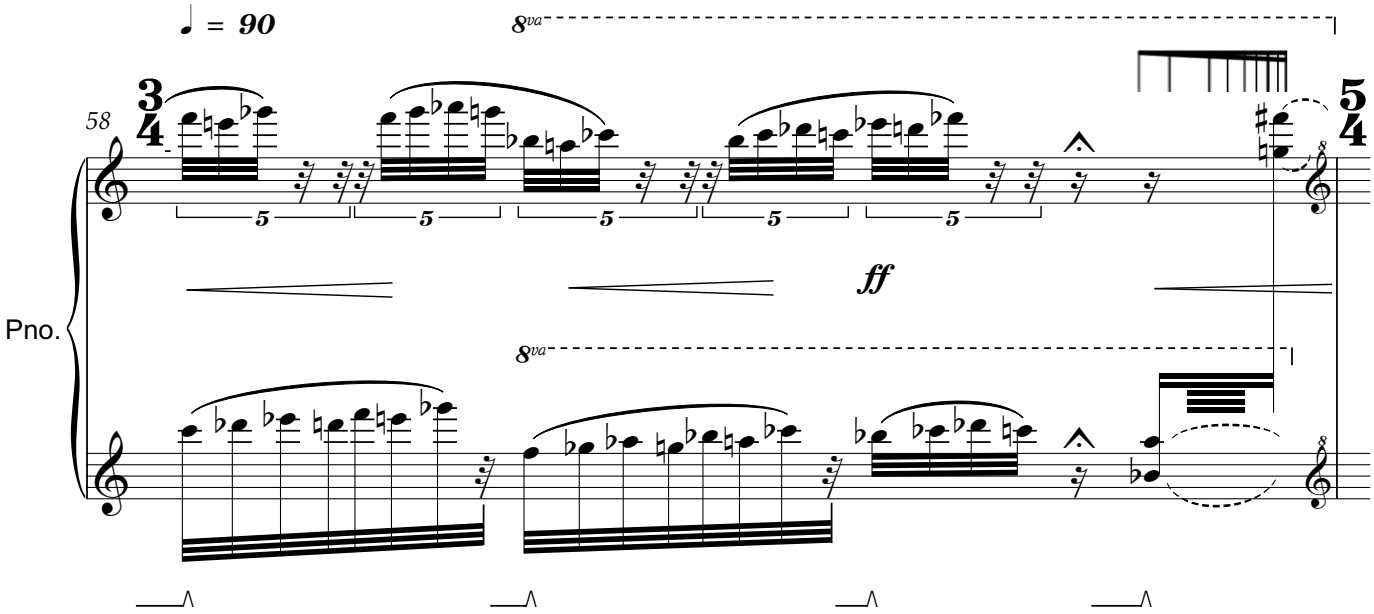

♩ = 50
37
Pno.
pp
l.r.
mf
l.r.
8va
mf
41
Pno.
mf
mp
♩ = 50
accel.
44
Pno.
ppp
9
10
10
10

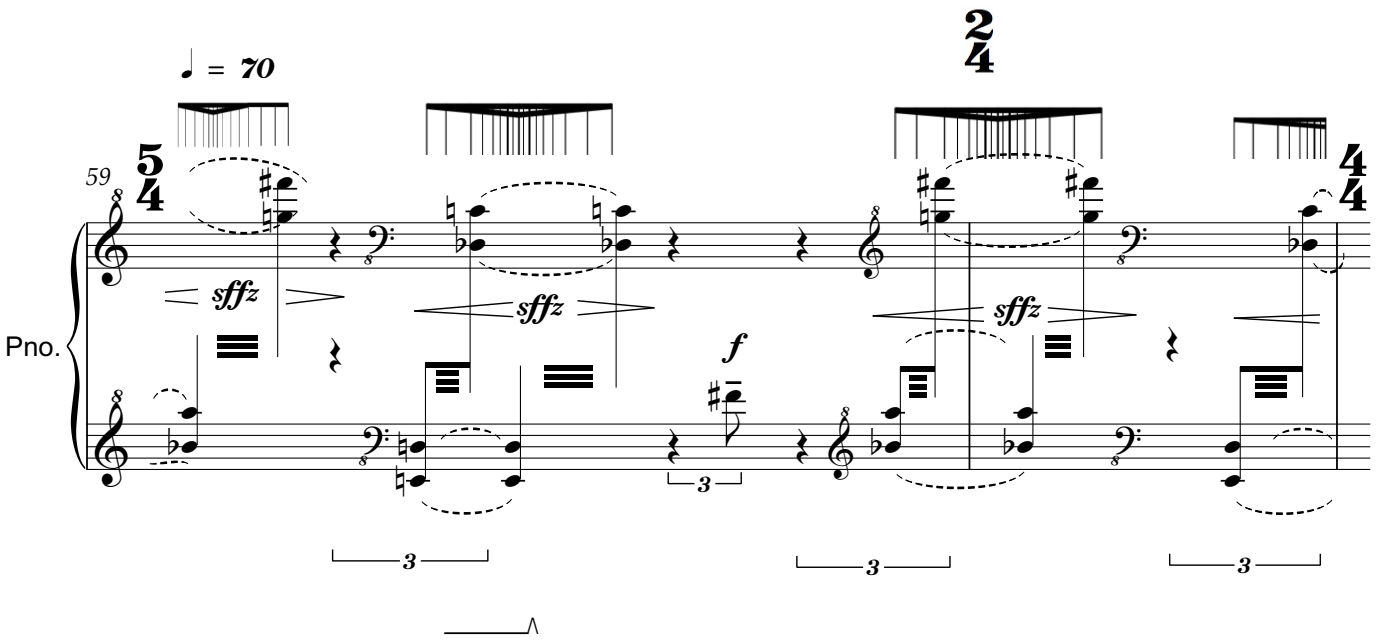

45
Pno.
f
46
♩ = 70
accel.
♩ = 80
sffz
ff
mf
mp
48
accel.
f

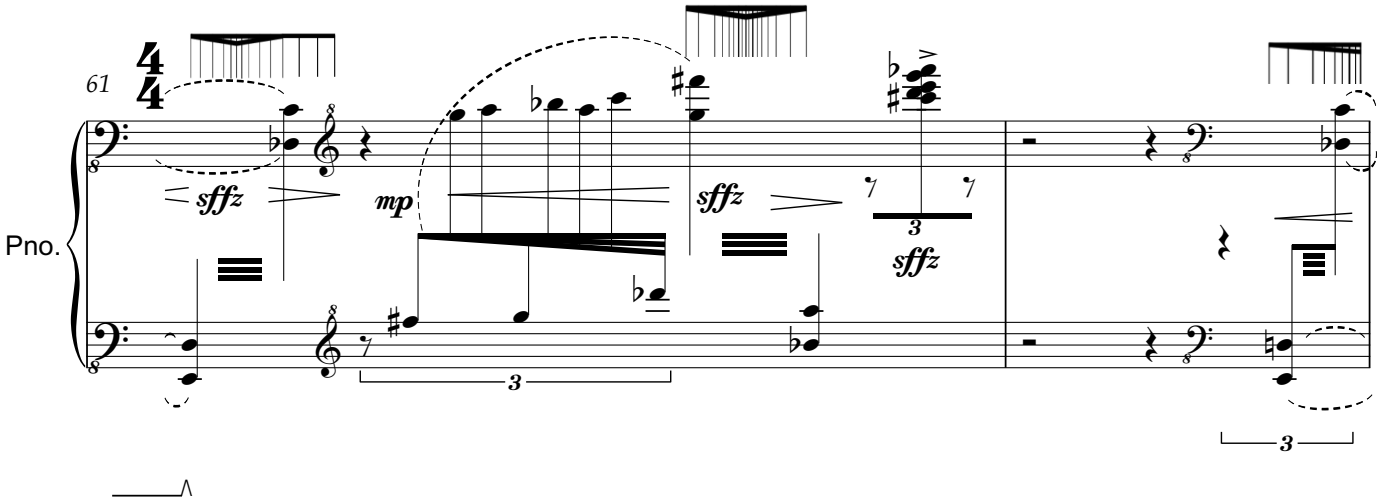

♩ = 50 a tempo
pesante
51
Pno.
sub mf
9
10
3/4
52
sffz
mp
accel.
♩ = 70
53
3
mp
p
mp
5
Ped.

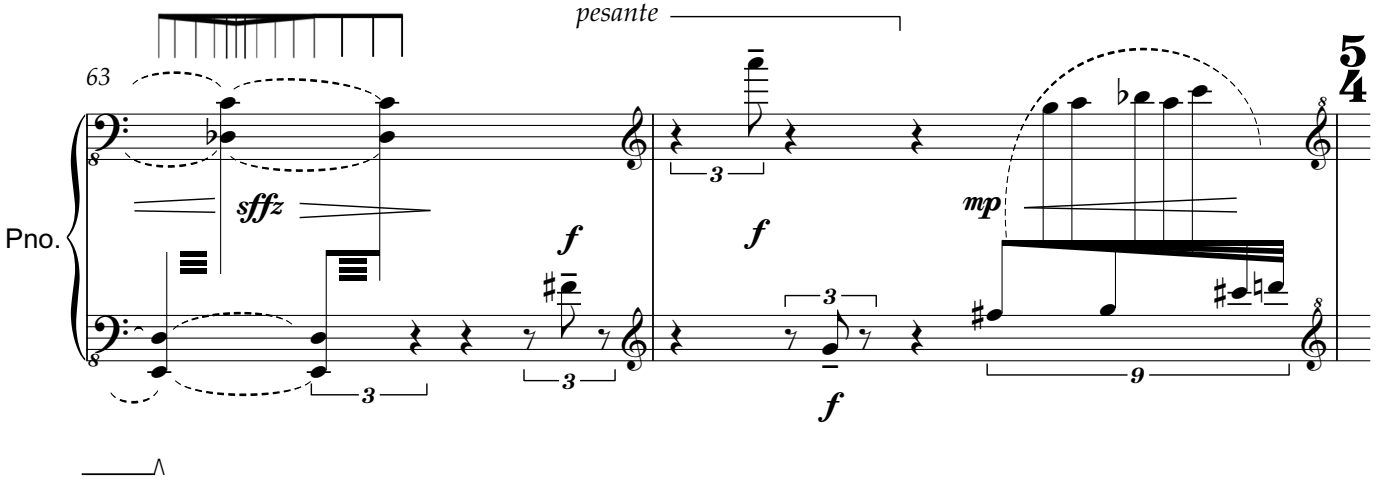

accel.
♩ = 80
55
Pno.

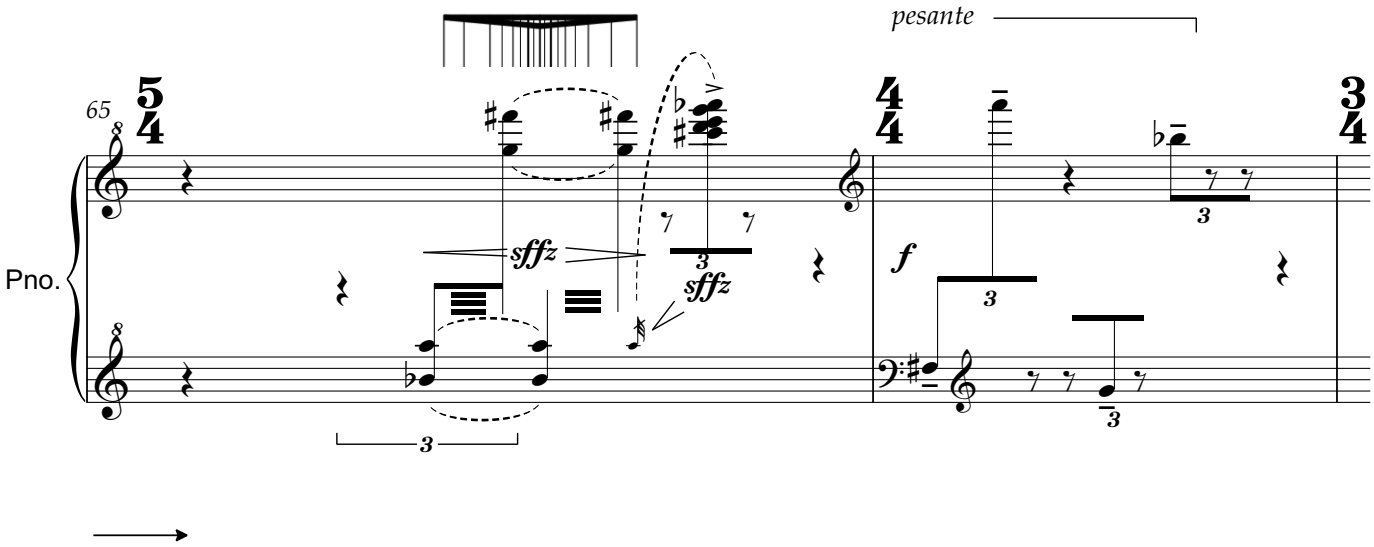

accel.
57
Pno.

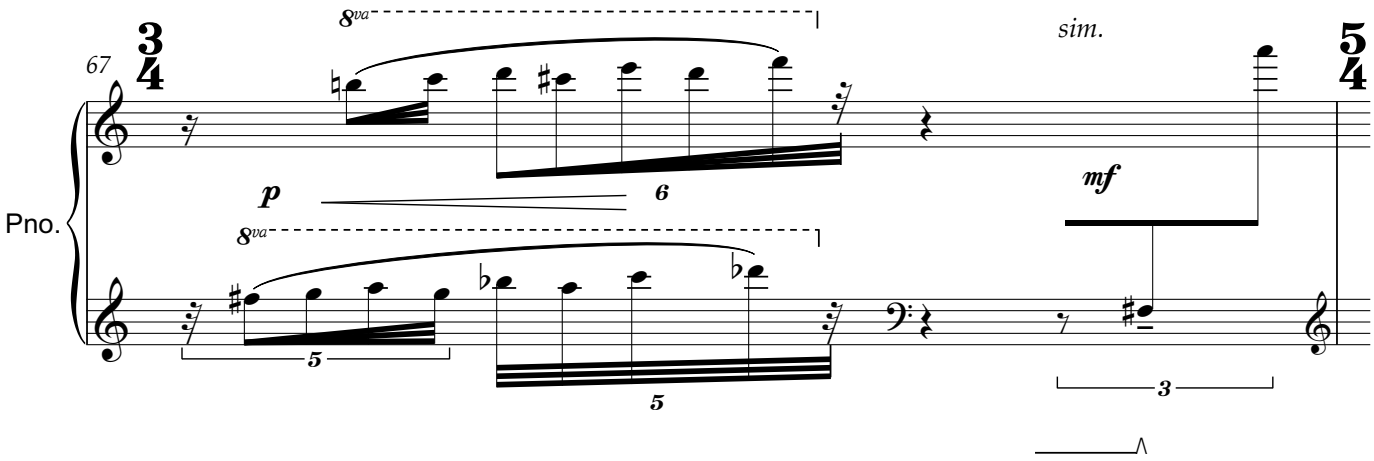

♩ = 90
8va
58
ff
Pno.

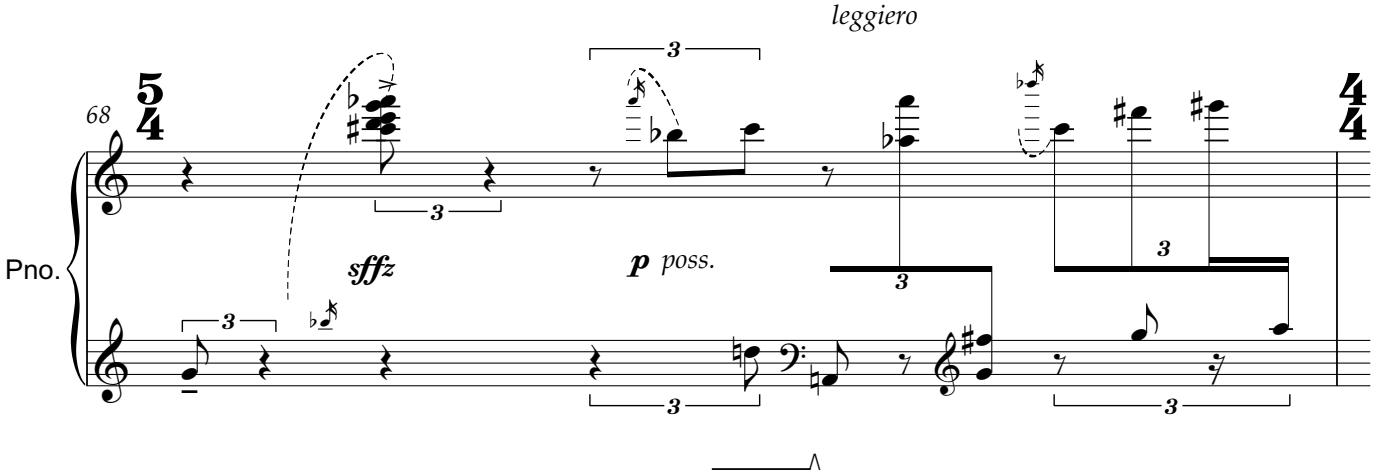

♩ = 70
59
Pno.
sffz
sffz
f
sffz
3

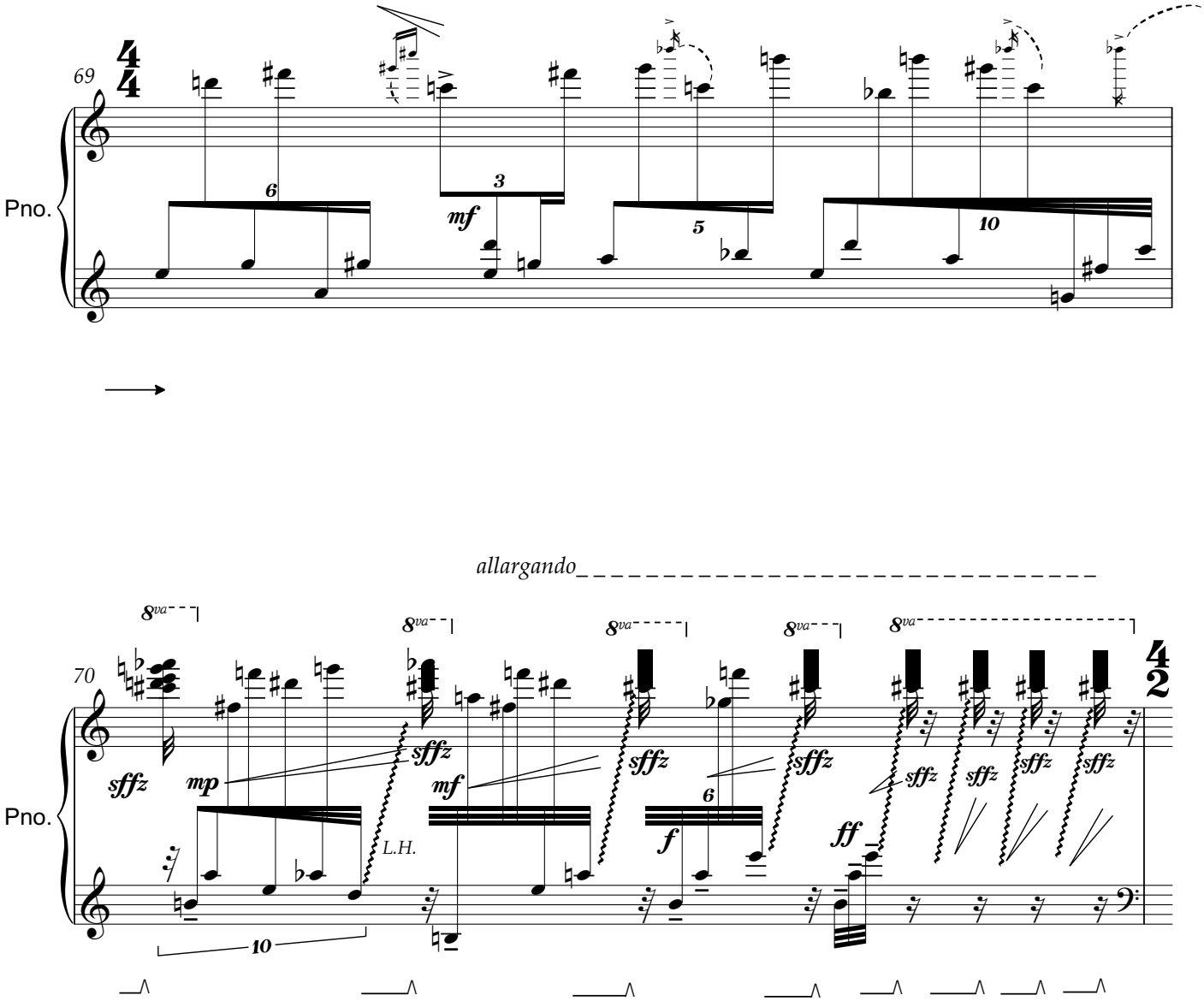

61
Pno.
sffz
mp
sffz
3
sffz
3

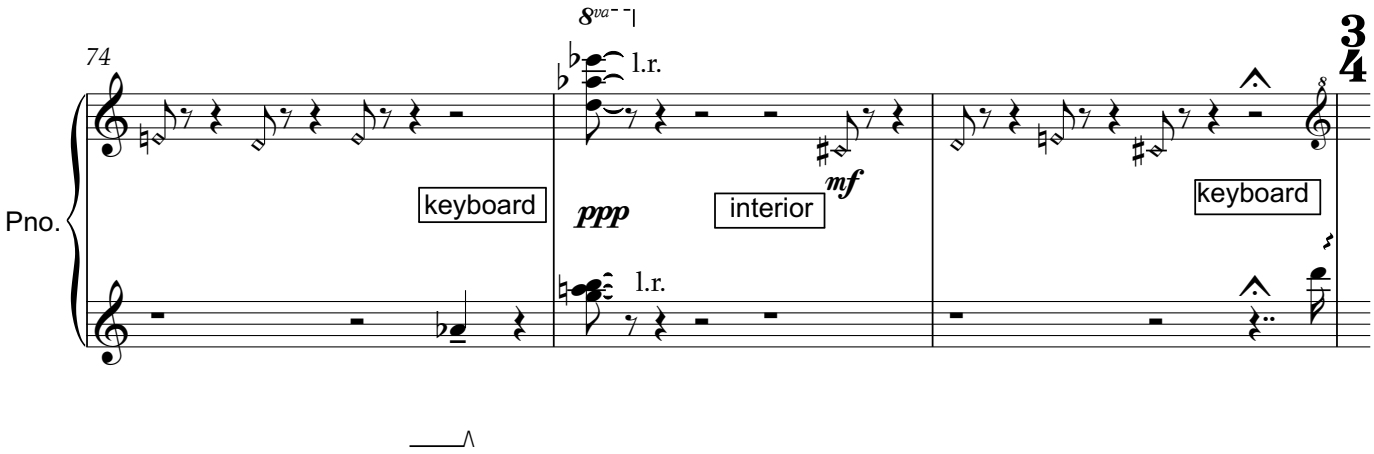

pesante
63
Pno.
sffz
f
3
f
3
f
mp
9

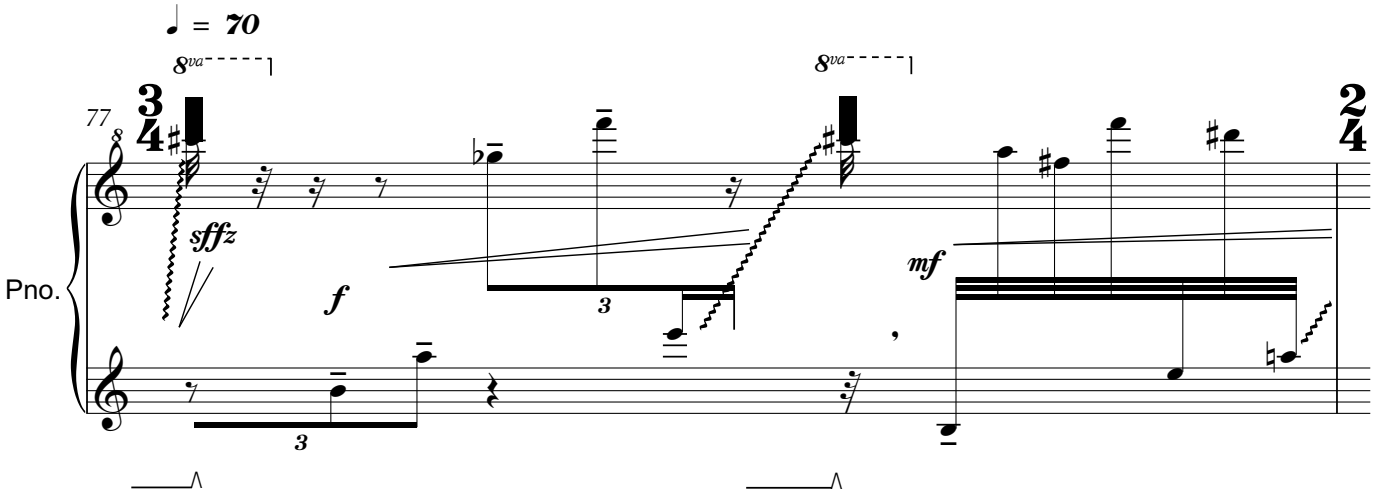

pesante
65
Pno.
sffz
sffz
f

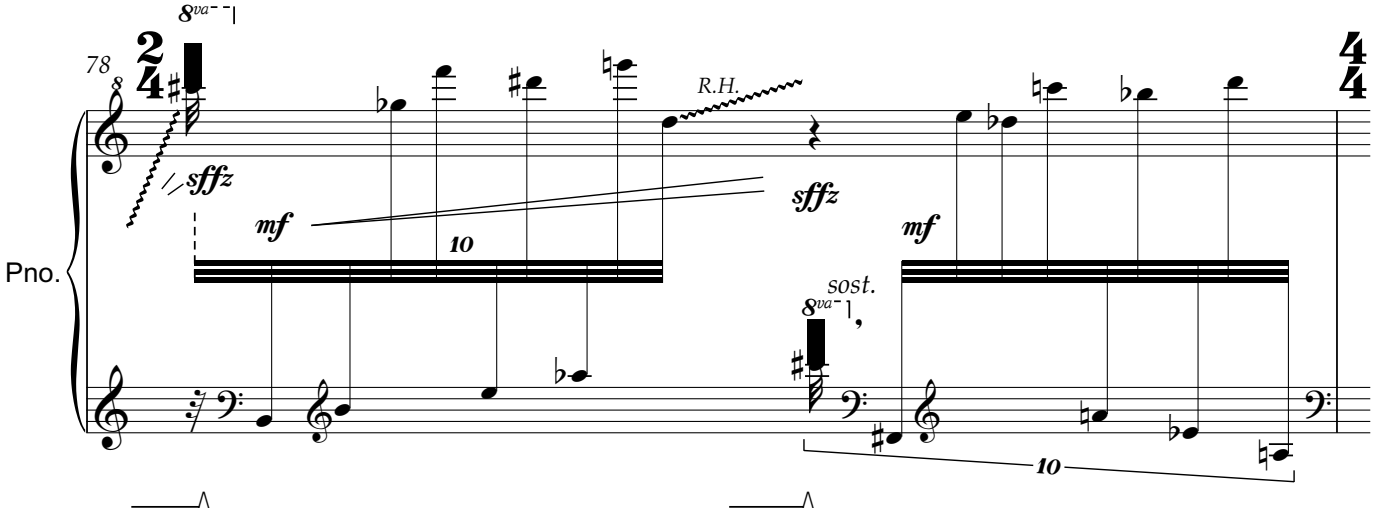

8va
sim.
67
Pno.
p
6
8va
mf
5
5

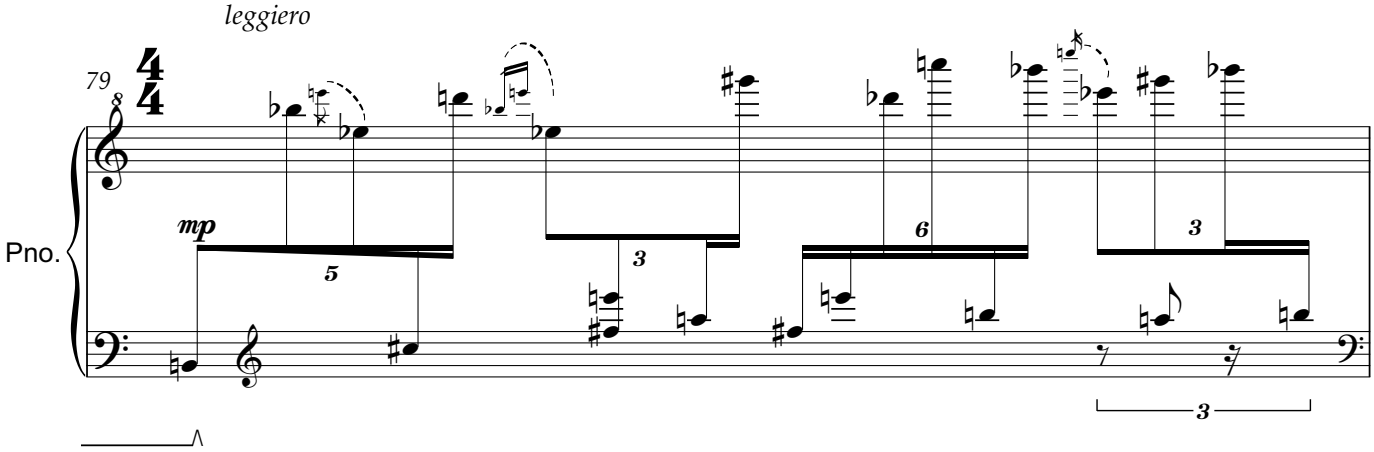

leggiero
68
Pno.
sffz
p poss.

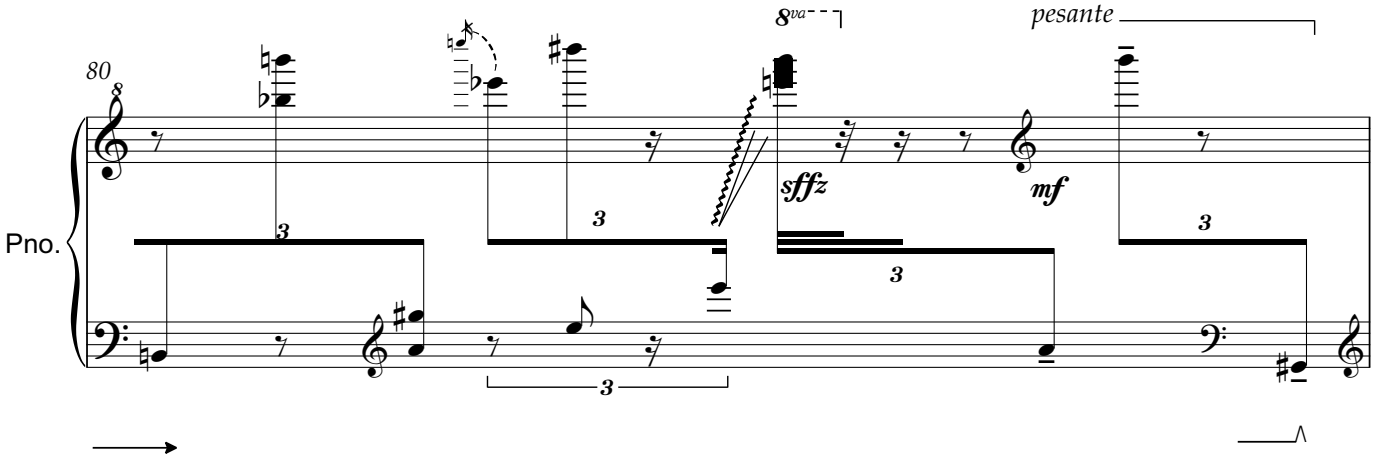

69
Pno.
mf
allargando
70
Pno.
sffz
mp
mf
f
ff
L.H.
71
Pno.
p
ppp
mf
interior
keyboard
l.r.


74
8va
l.r.
keyboard
ppp
interior
mf
keyboard
l.r.
Pno.


♩ = 70
77
8va
8va
sffz
f
3
3
mf
Pno.


78
8va
sffz
mf
10
R.H.
sffz
mf
sost.
8va
10
Pno.


leggiero
79
Pno.
mp
5
3
6
3
3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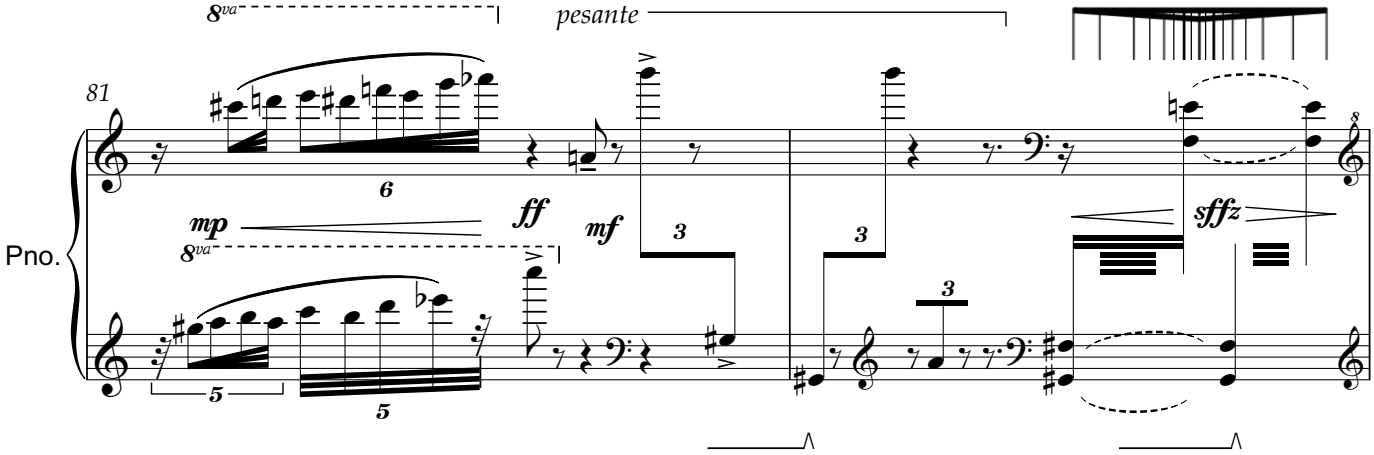
Pno.
8va
pesante
sffz
mf
3
3
3
3
3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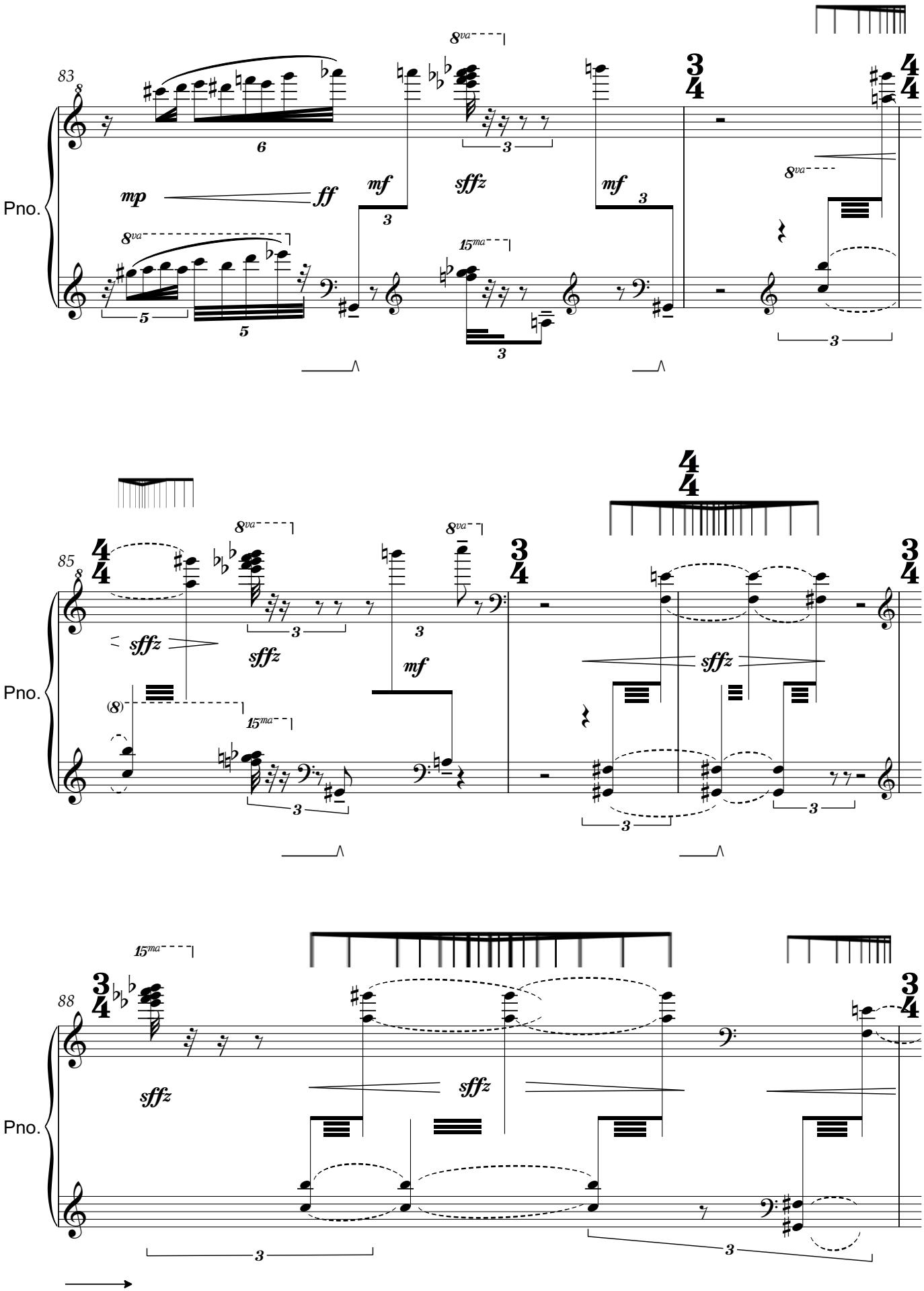
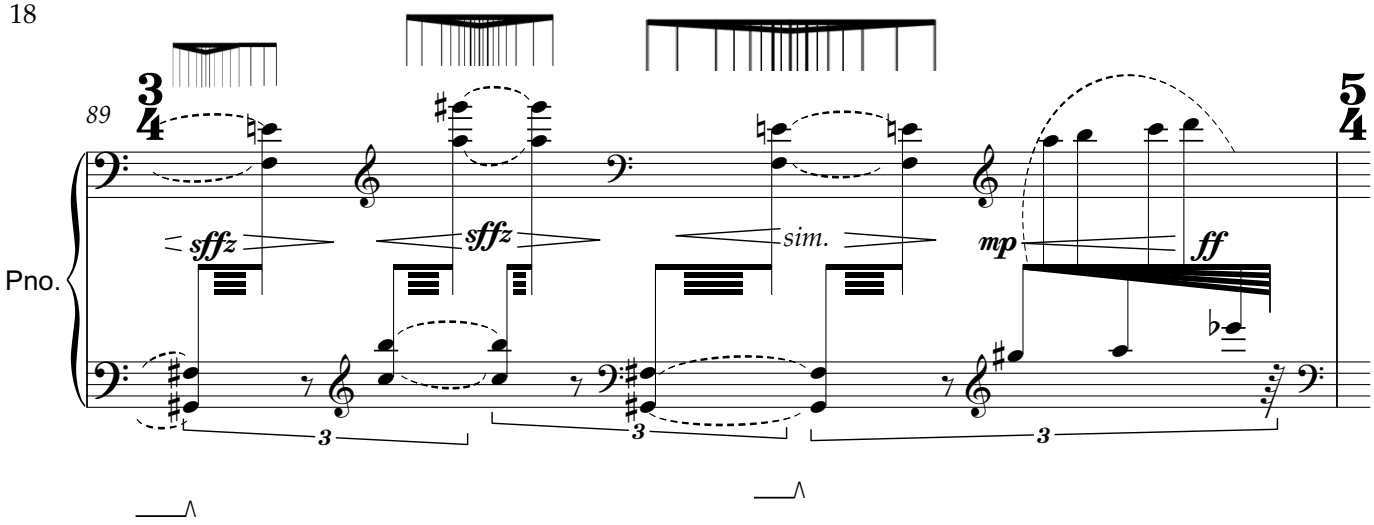
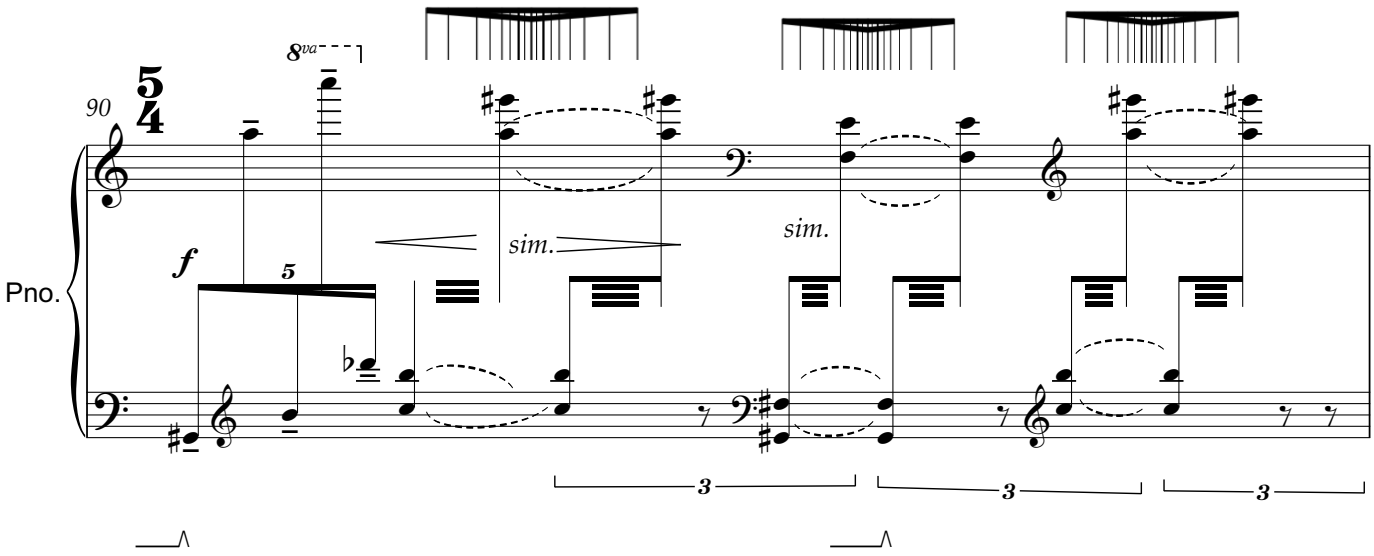
Pno.
8va
pesante
6
mp
ff
mf
8va
3
3
3
5
5
sffz


83
Pno.
mp
ff
mf
sffz
mf
8va
15ma
85
sffz
sffz
mf
sffz
88
sffz
sffz

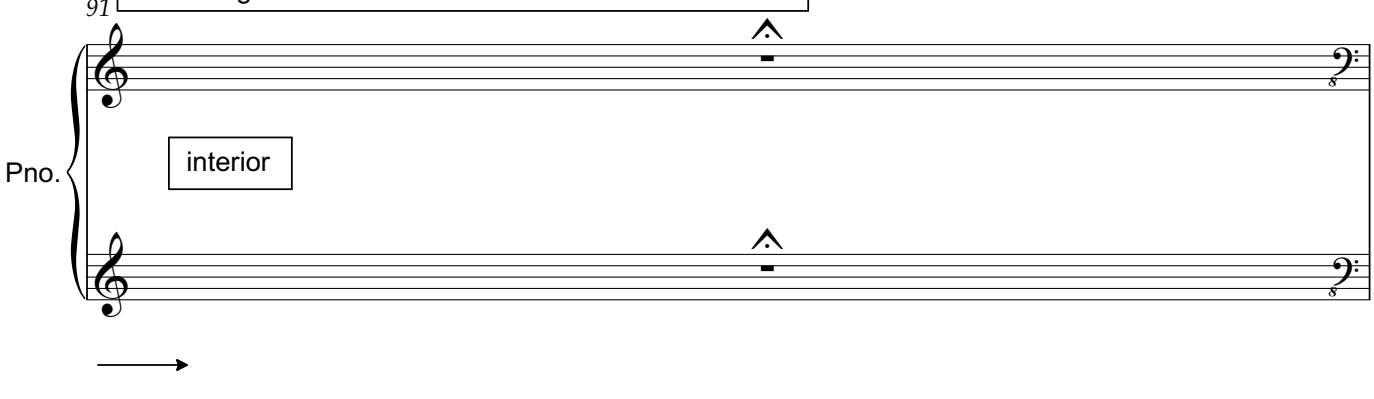
Volando

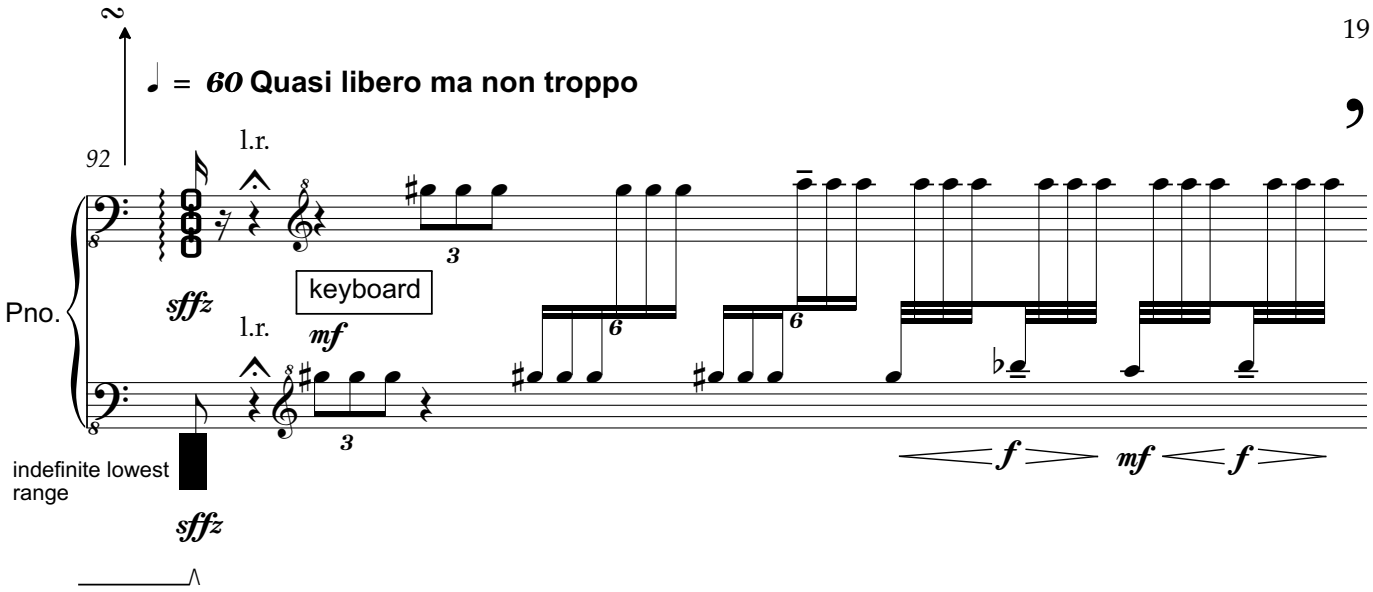


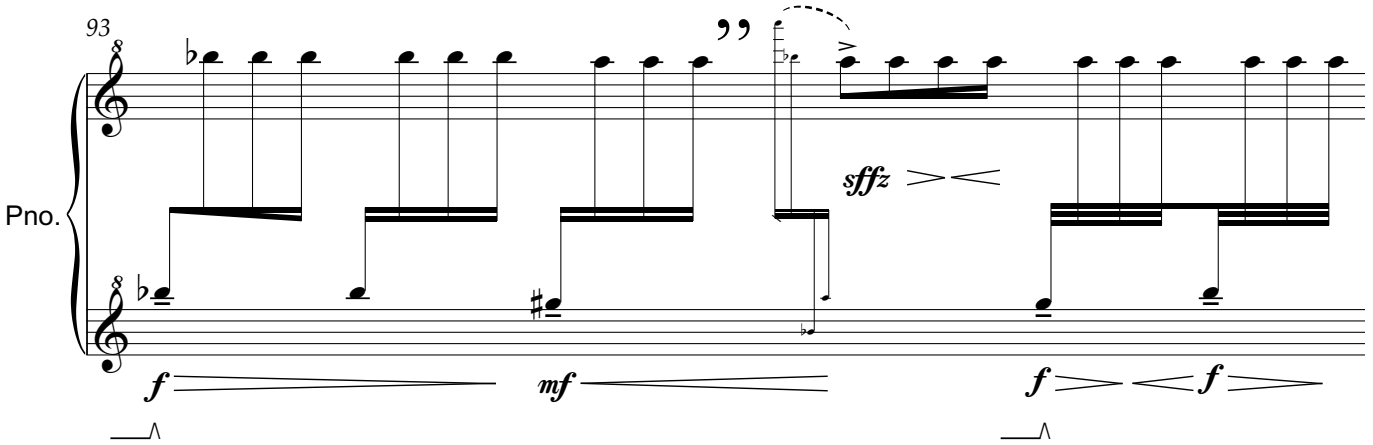
allargando

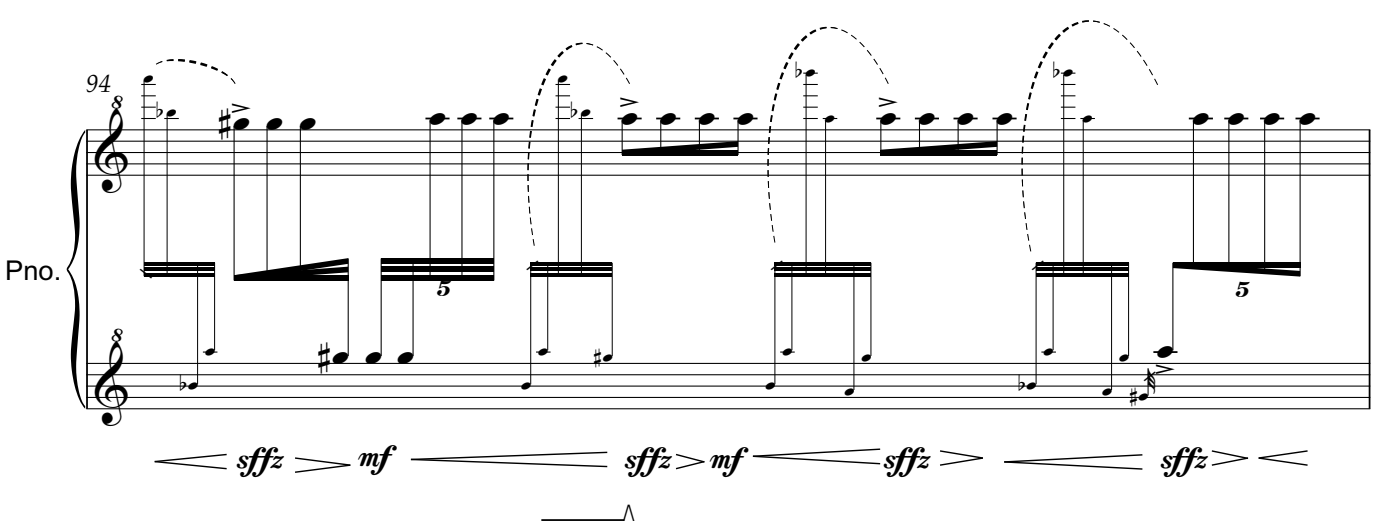


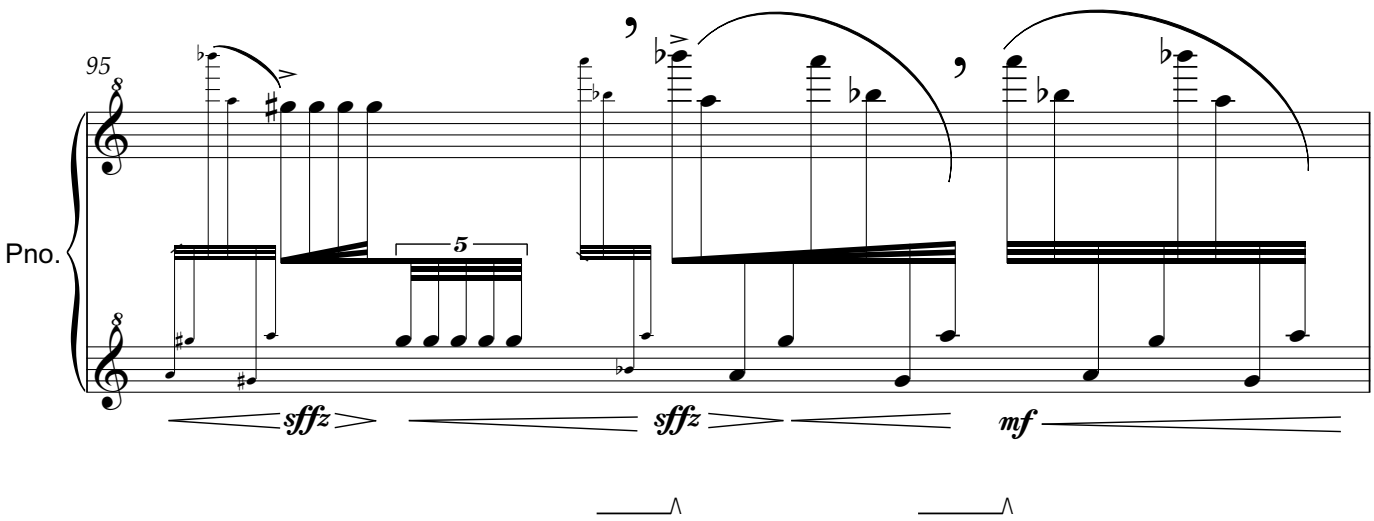
As quickly as possible, proceed to the next bar/action:
LH: cluster on lowest strings (as indicated).
RH: Throws the chain. Both: at the same time.
Let rattling sounds resonate.

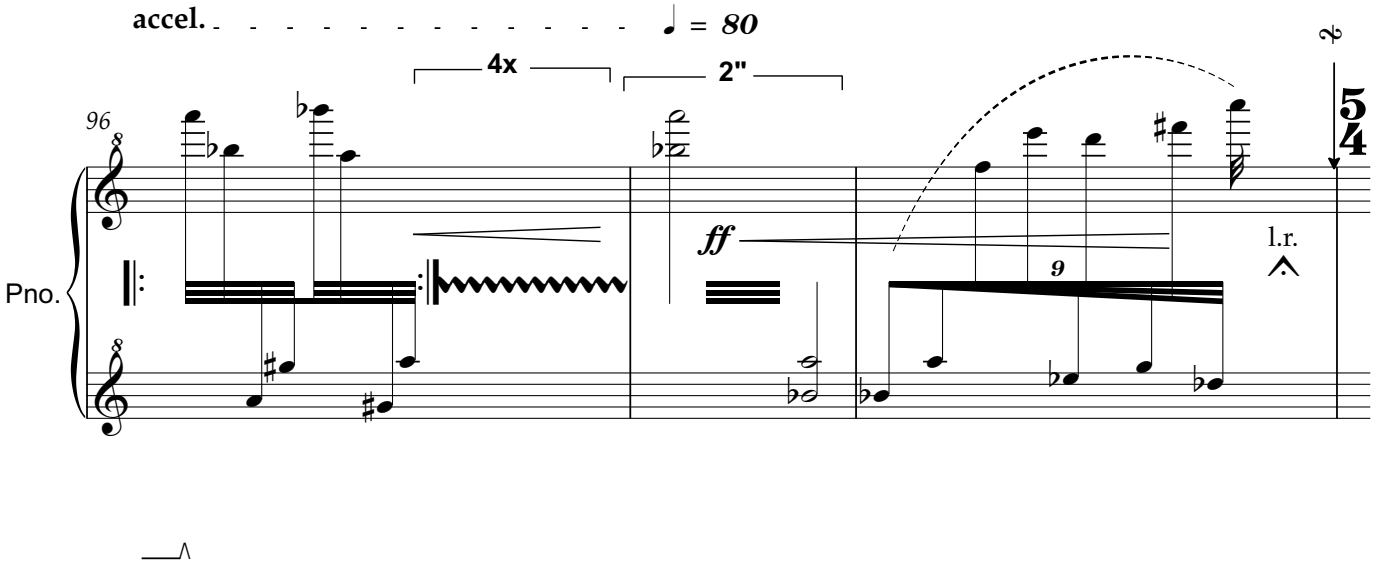


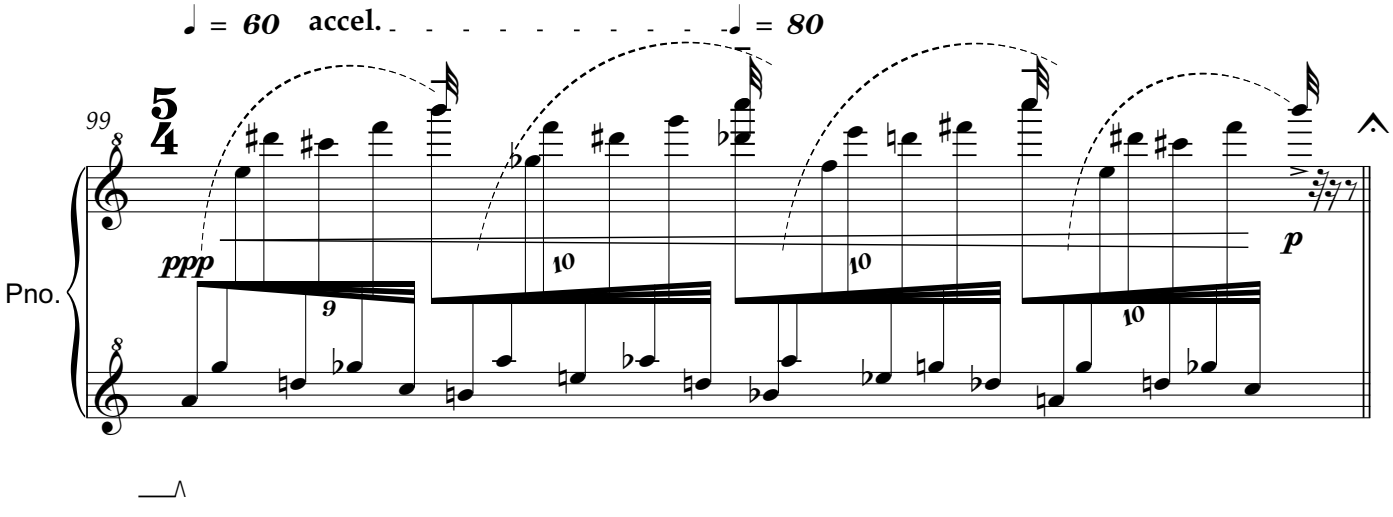

♩ = 60 Quasi libero ma non troppo
92
l.r.
keyboard
l.r.
Pno.
sffz
mf
indefinite lowest range
sffz
f
mf
f

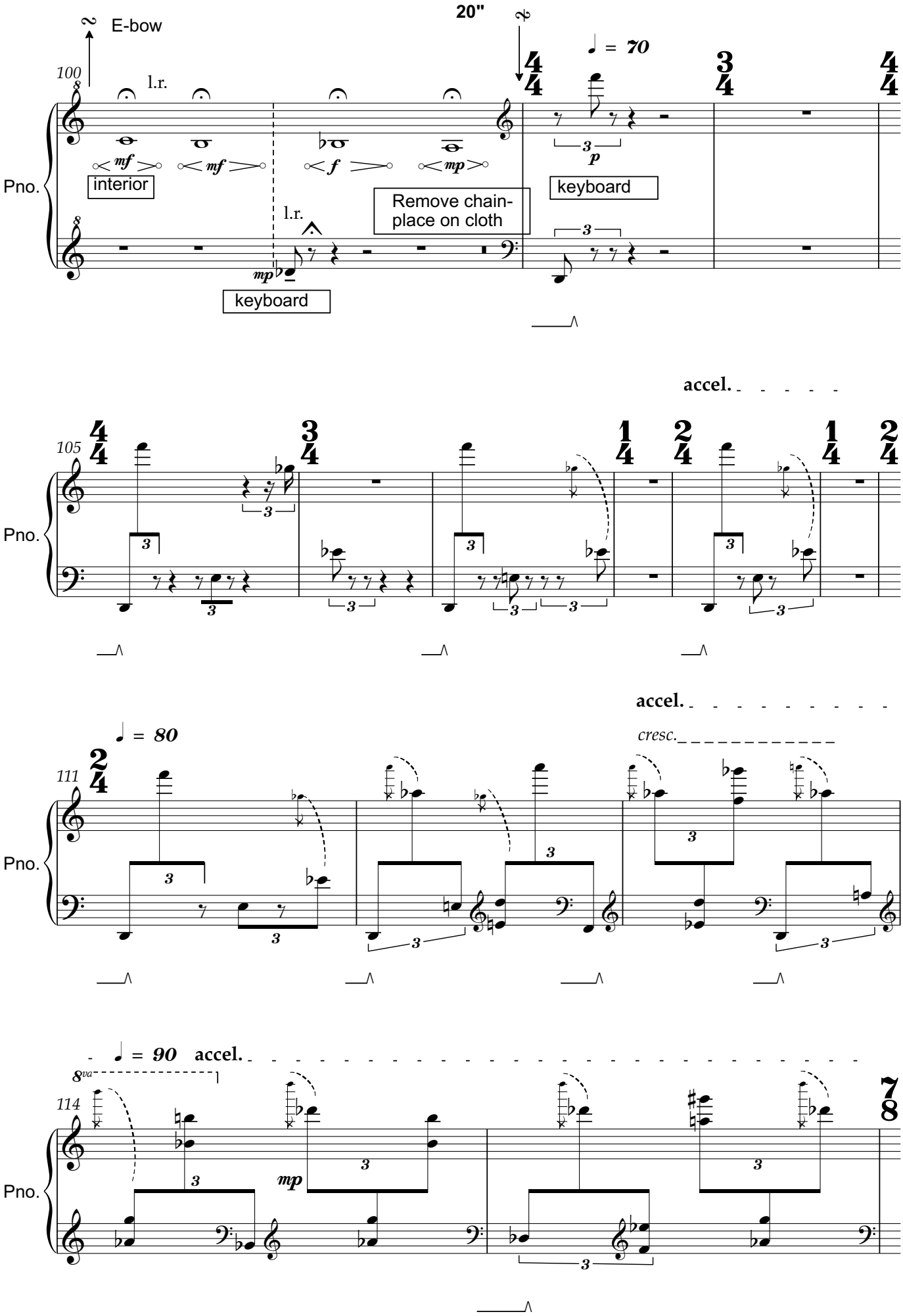

93
Pno.
sffz
f
mf
f
f

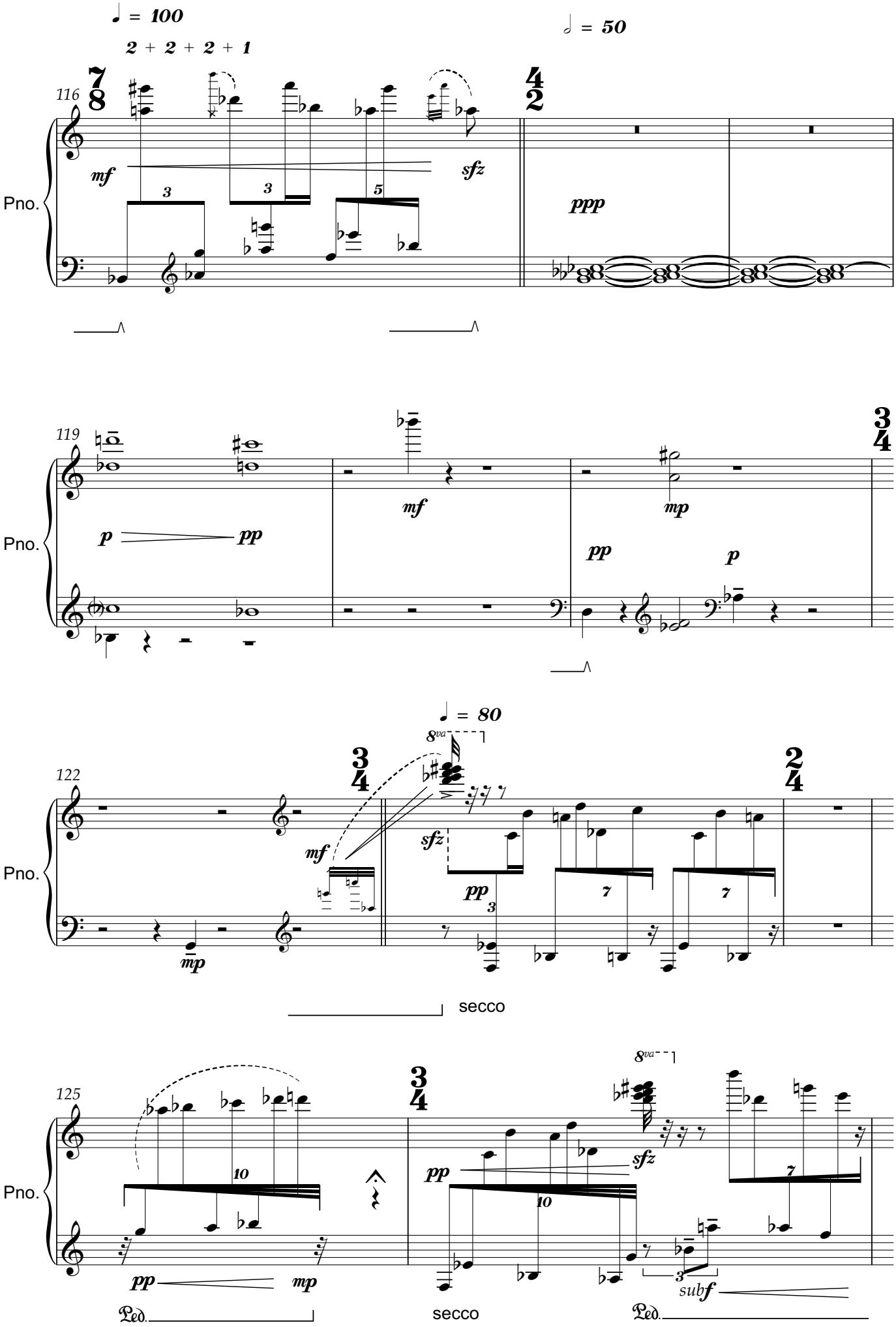

94
Pno.
sffz
mf
sffz
mf
sffz
sffz

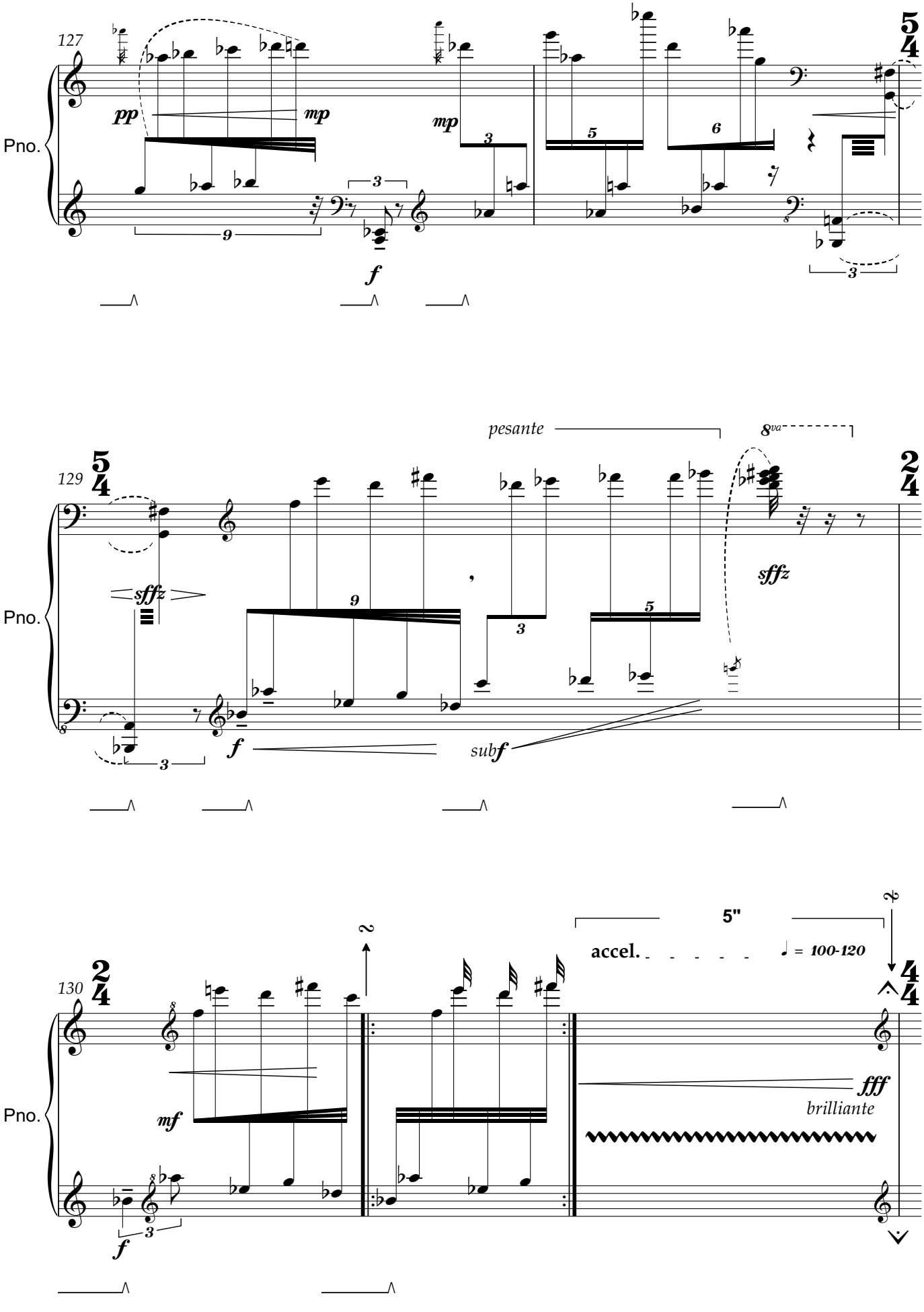

95
Pno.
5
sffz
sffz
mf

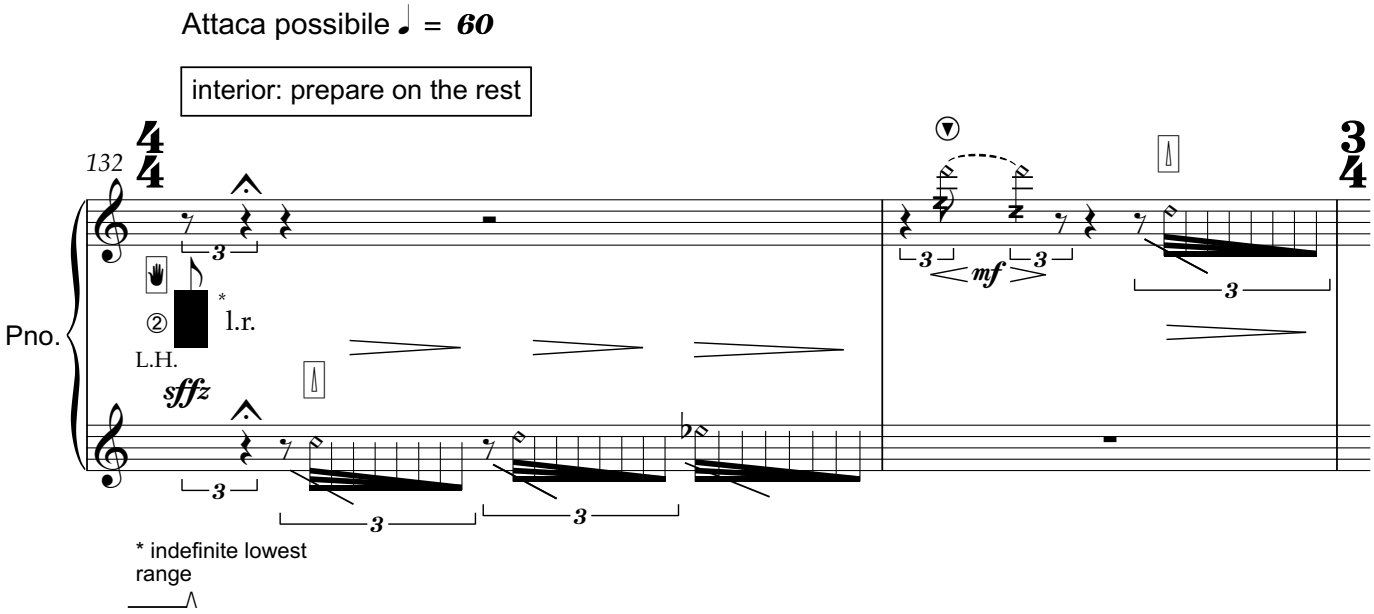

accel.
♩ = 80
4x
2"
96
Pno.
ff
9
l.r.
5
4

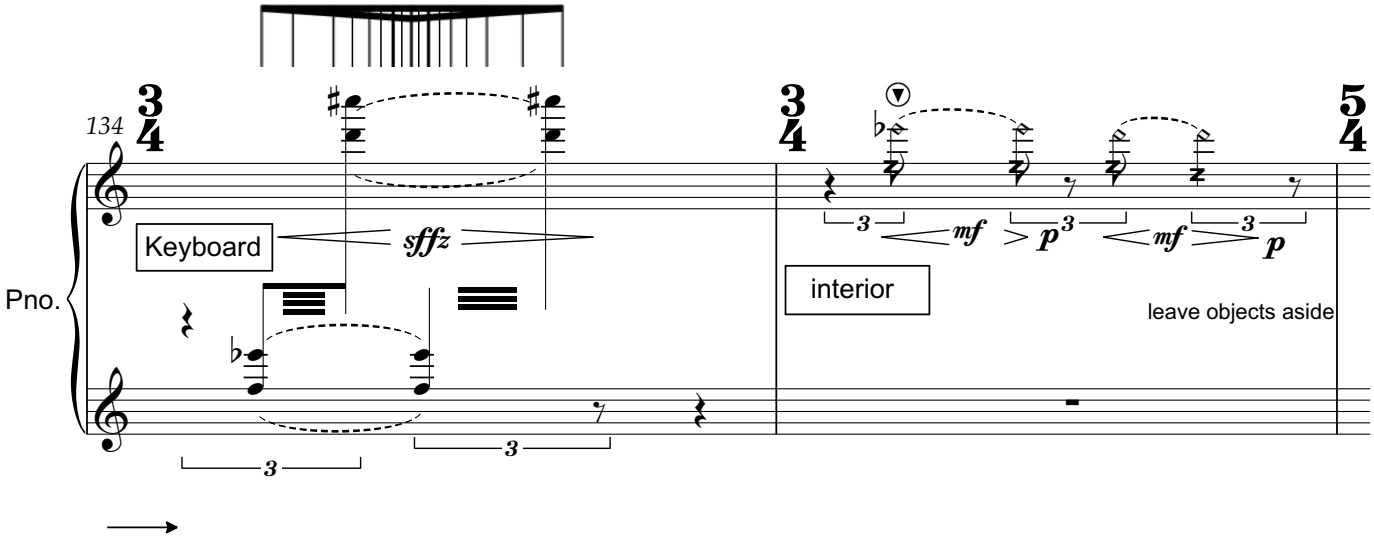

♩ = 60
accel.
♩ = 80
99
5
4
Pno.
ppp
9
10
10
10
p

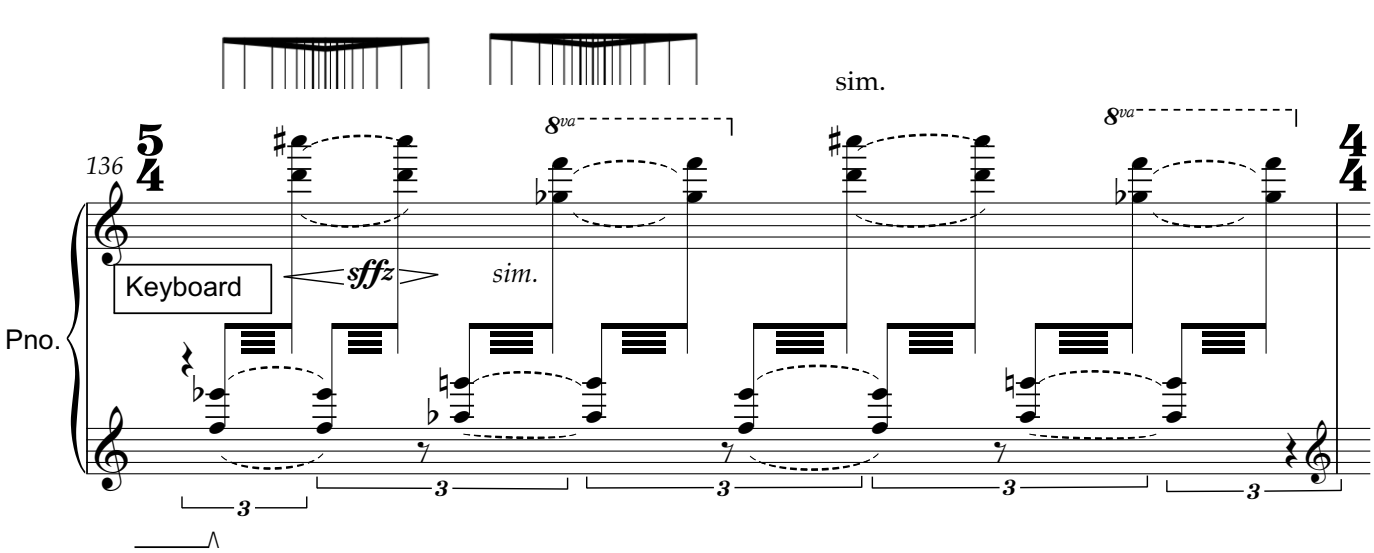

E-bow
20"
100
l.r.
mf
mf
f
mp
interior
keyboard
Remove chain-
place on cloth
l.r.
mp
keyboard
♩ = 70
4/4
3/4
4/4
p
Pno.
accel.
105
4/4
3/4
1/4
2/4
1/4
2/4
Pno.
accel.
cresc.
♩ = 80
111
2/4
Pno.
♩ = 90
accel.
8va
114
mp
7/8
Pno.

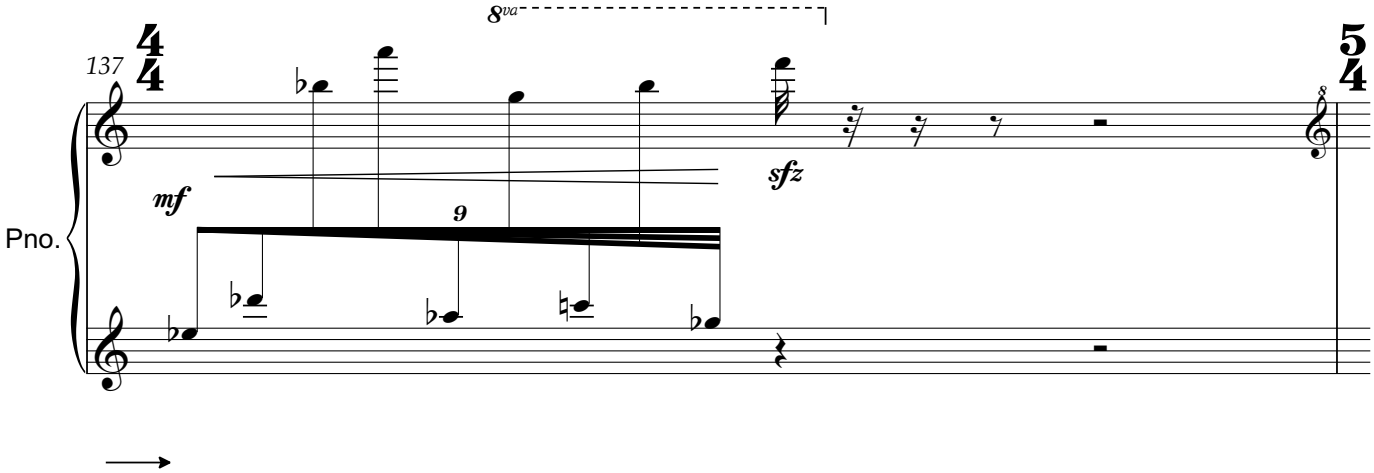

♩ = 100
2 + 2 + 2 + 1
♩ = 50
116
Pno.
mf
sfz
ppp
119
p
pp
mf
mp
pp
p
122
♩ = 80
8va
mf
sfz
pp
mp
secco
125
pp
mp
Ped.
secco
8va
pp
sfz
subf
Ped.

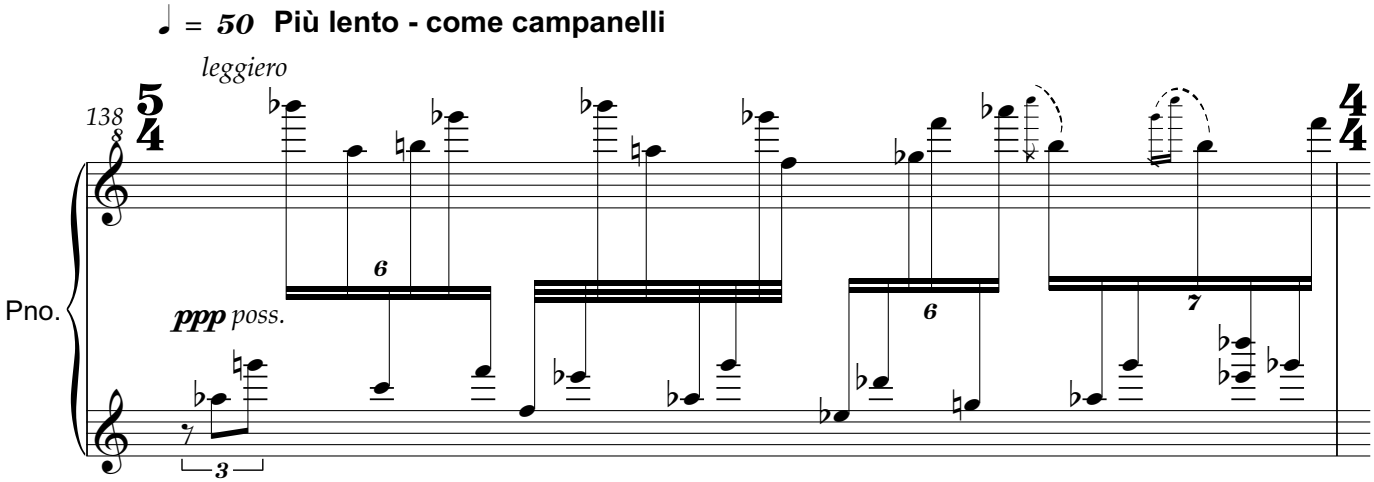

127
Pno.
pp
mp
mp
f
5
4
129
Pno.
sffz
f
pesante
8va
sffz
subf
2
4
130
Pno.
mf
f
2
5"
accel.
♩ = 100-120
4
4
fff
brilliant

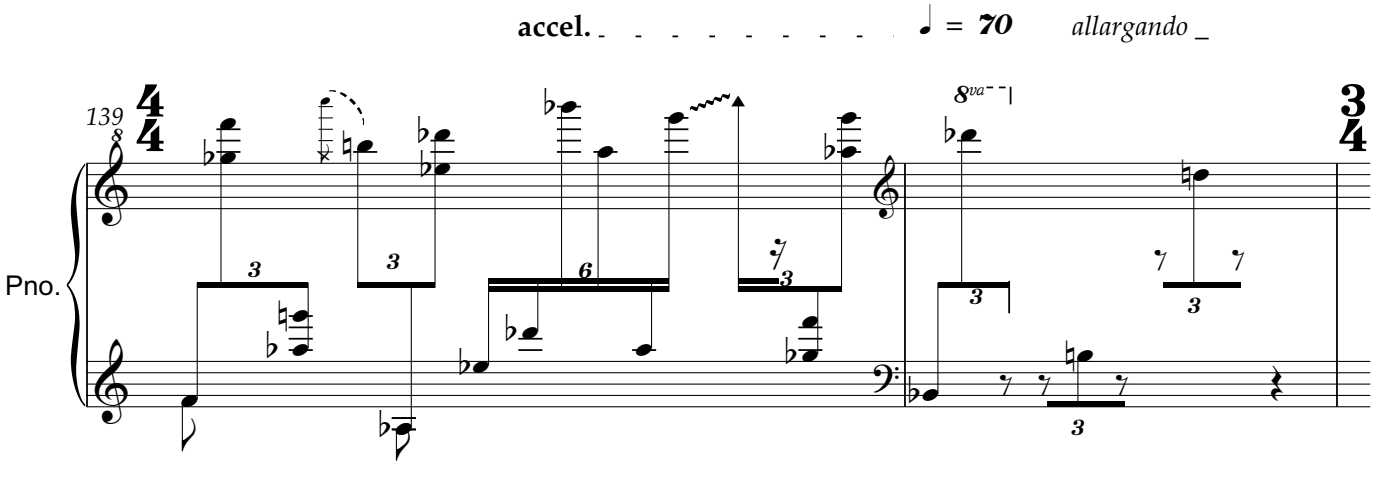

Attaca possibile ♩ = 60
interior: prepare on the rest
132
Pno.
L.H.
sffz
l.r.
mf
* indefinite lowest range

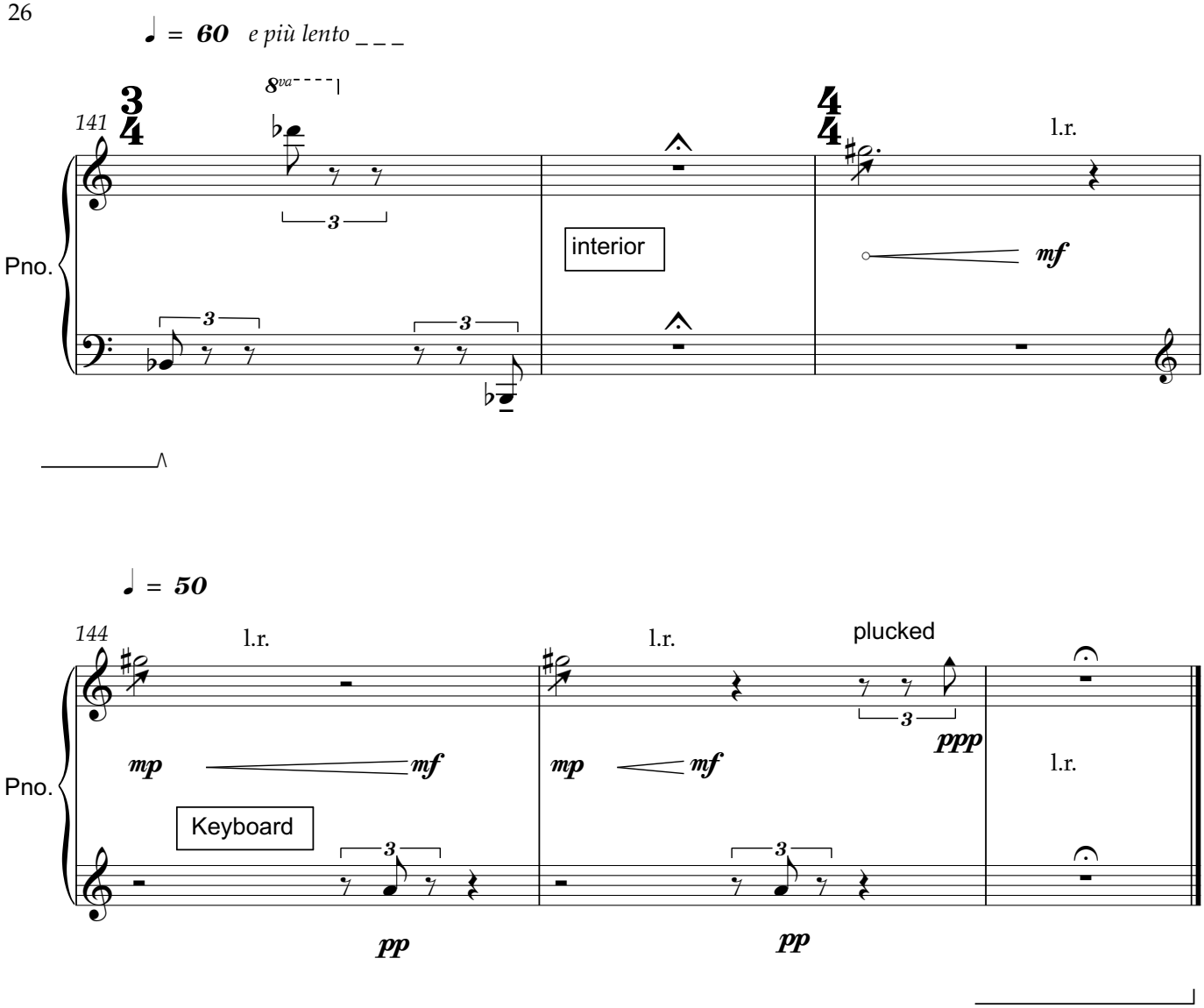

134
Pno.
Keyboard
sffz
mf
p
interior
leave objects aside


Volando
136
Pno.
Keyboard
sffz
sim.
8va


137
8va
mf
9
sfz
Pno.


♩ = 50 Più lento - come campanelli
leggiero
138
6
ppp poss.
3
6
7
Pno.


accel.
♩ = 70
allargando
139
8va
3
3
6
3
3
3
3
Pno.



York, UK/
Sept. 2018-July 2019.
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