A Shadow on the White

(2014)

for two pianos

Lou Bunk

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circ. 7’

Placement of Pianos: Position the two pianos as far apart as possible, while still remaining on stage, or in the standard performance area. The purpose is to enhance the inherent antiphonal/stereophonic nature of the music by increasing the sonic independence of each piano. If this distance is impairing the ability to perform accurately, then move the pianos closer.

Program Notes

I wrote this composition thinking about the drama of subtle and abrupt contrast; listening to the hushed sound of my neighborhood during a heavy snowfall, against its noisy yet static appearance; comparing the uncertainty of memory, against the vivid emotion of recalling; staring at my plain off-white wall long enough to see past its visual banality to a chiaroscuro like beauty in the shadows on the white.

This composition is written for pianists Marilyn Nonken and Augustus Arnone.

Notes

Accidentals carry through the measure. Though in many cases, courtesy accidentals are given.

Boxed Descriptions above tops staff are for both players. These are not programmatic, but are intended to aid interpretation.

Damper Pedal: only use when indicated.

Used near the end of the composition to indicate muting the strings (nearest the keys) inside the piano.

Page Turns should be avoided when both pianos are silent. If it must happen during the silences, then turn the page slowly and as quiet as possible, avoiding all unnecessary physical movement.

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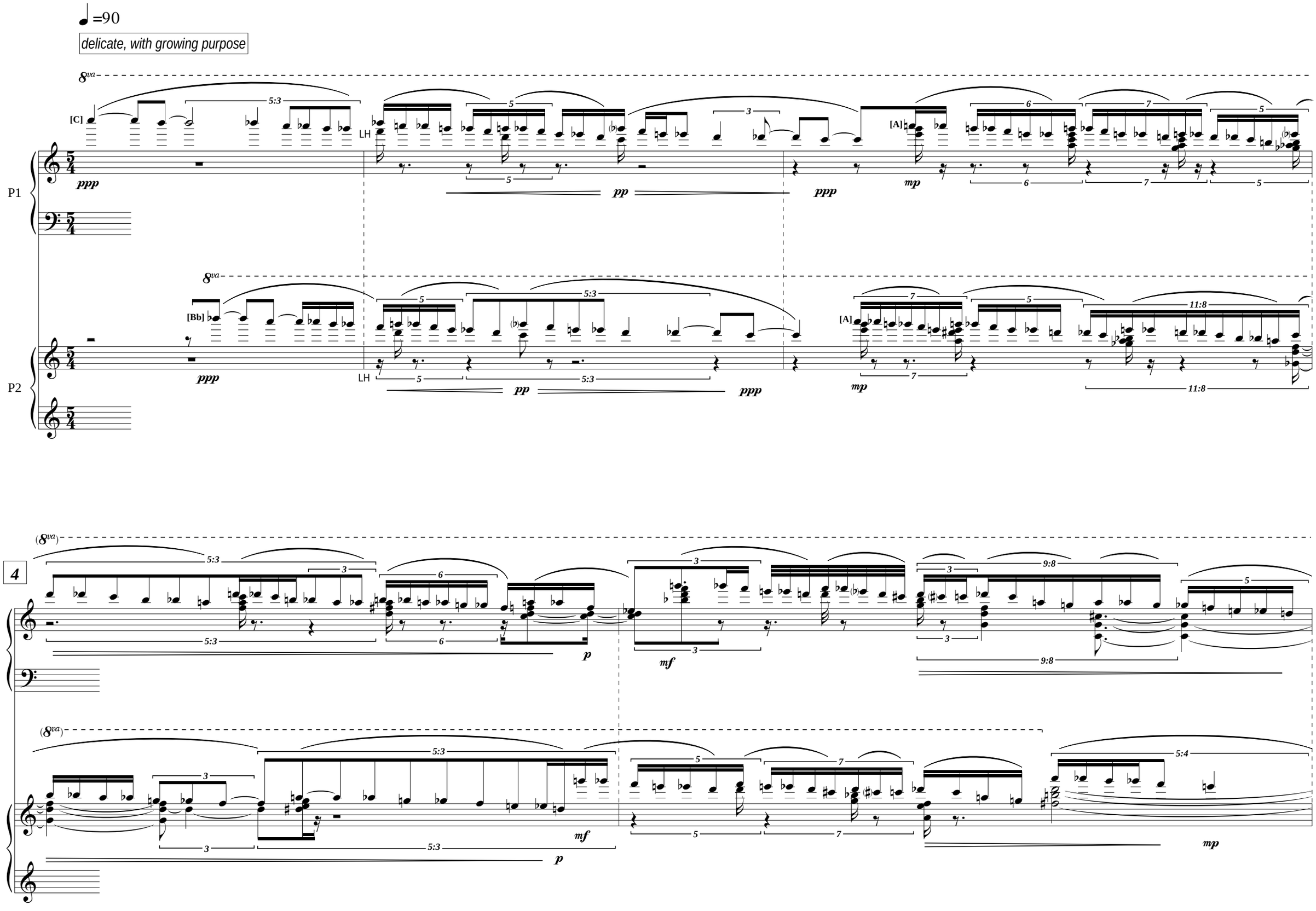
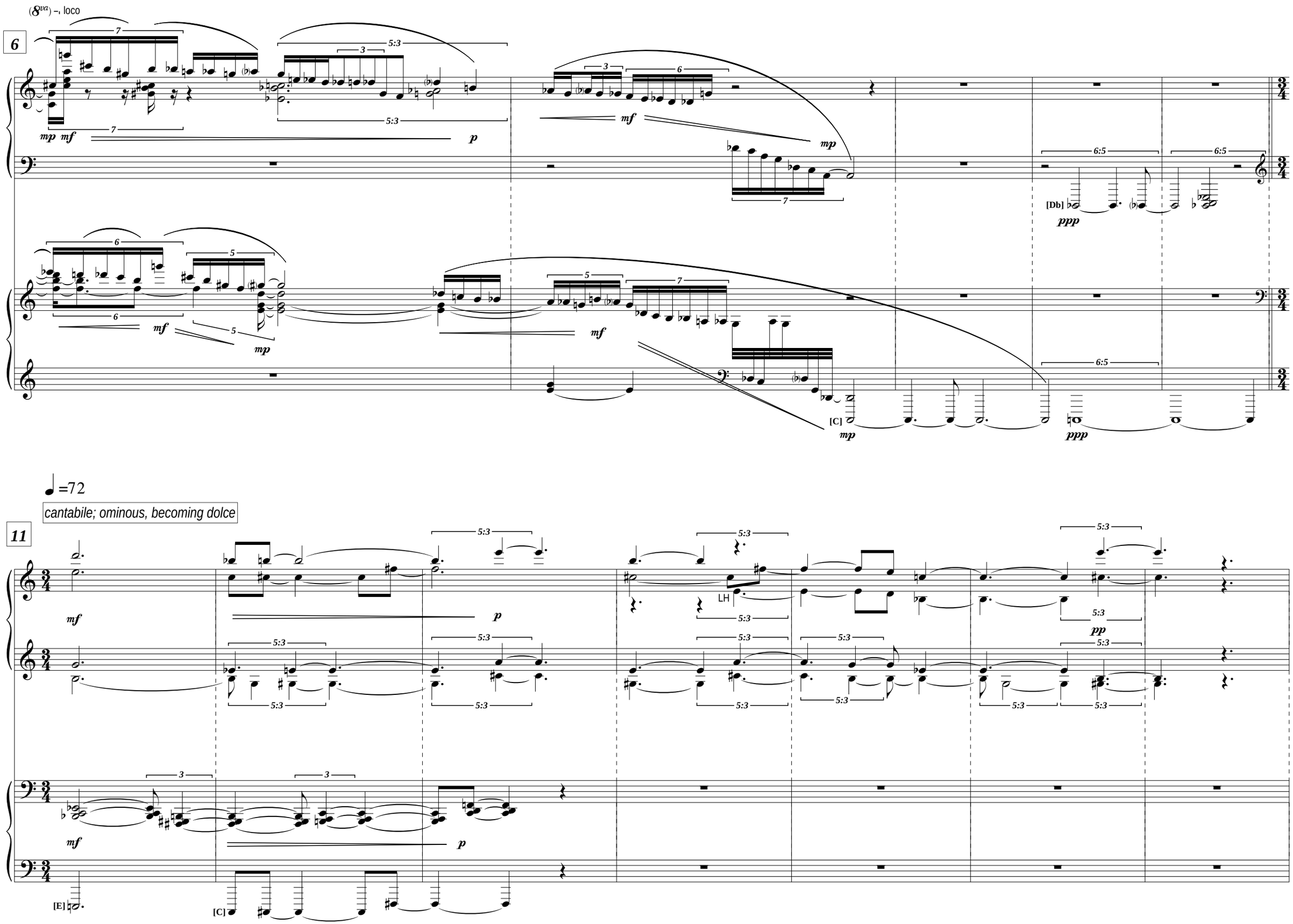
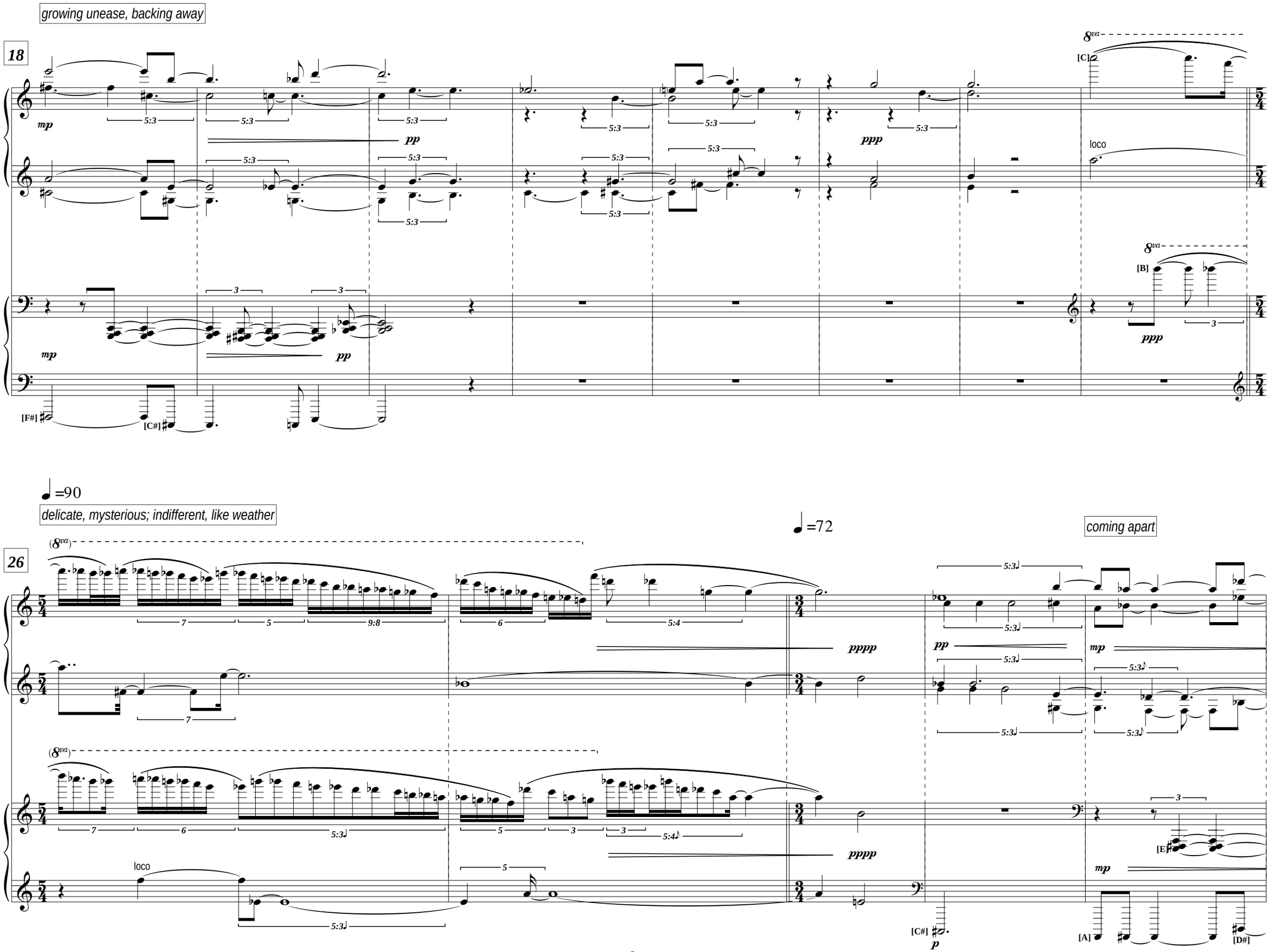
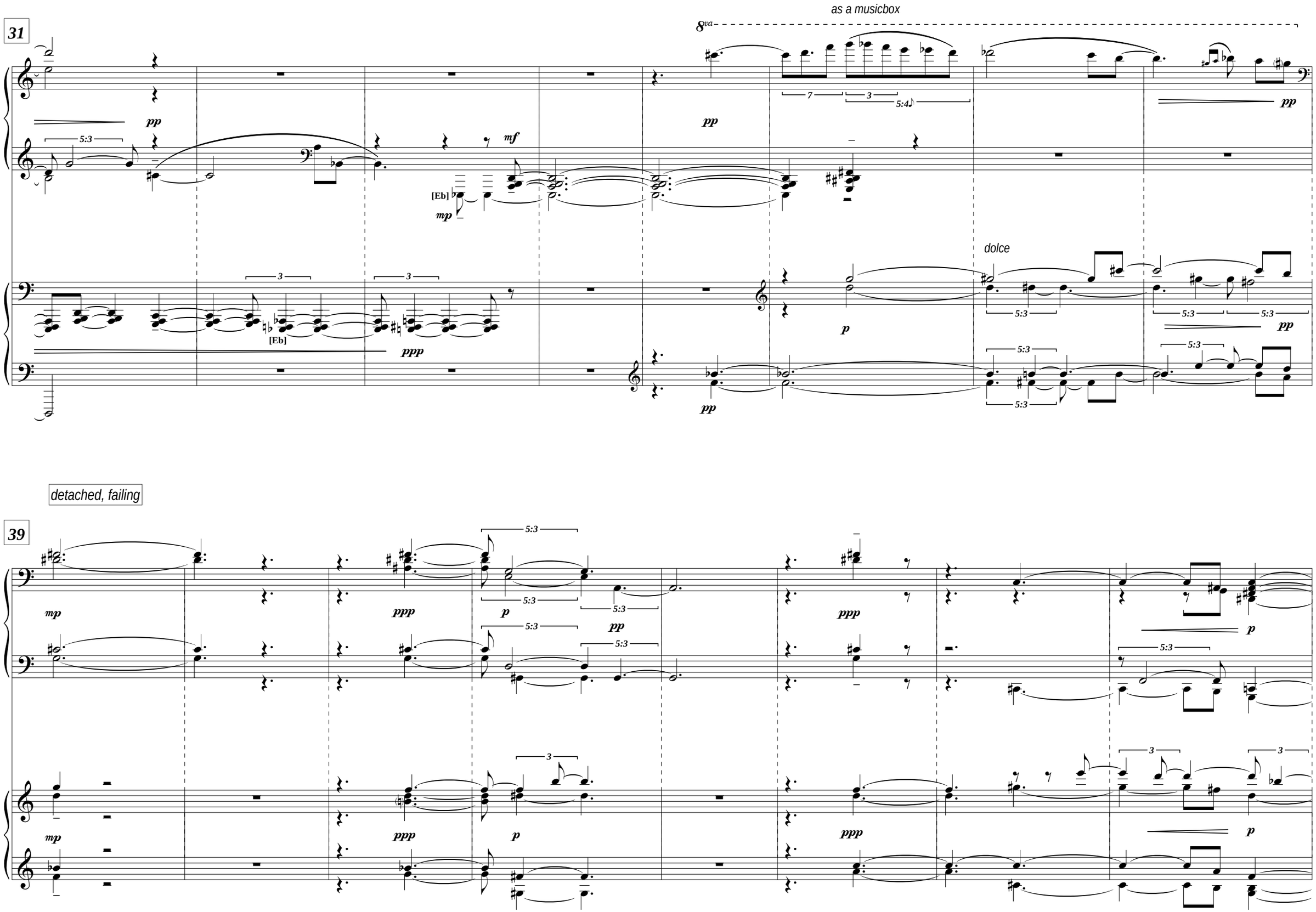
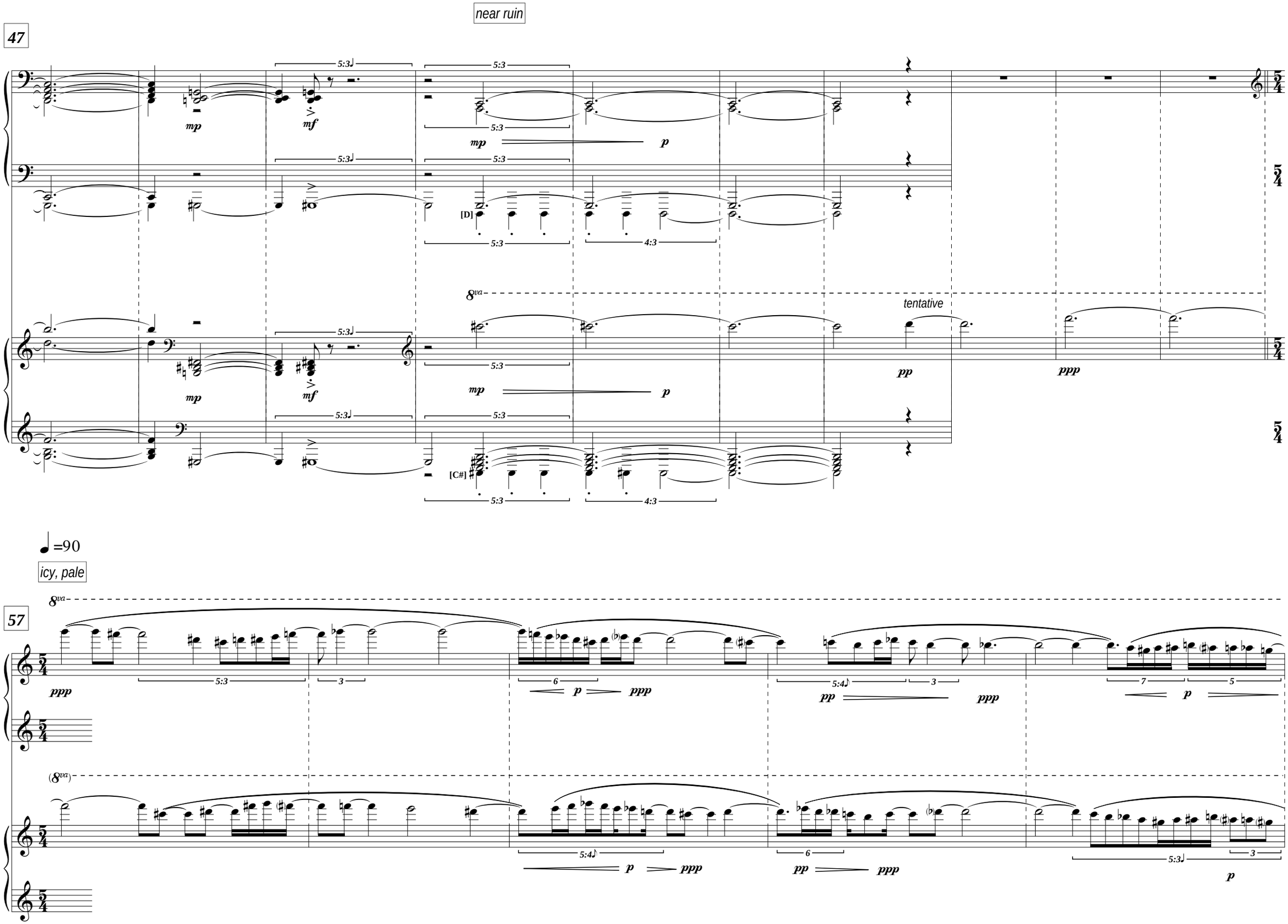



(8va) –, loco
6
mp mf
p
mf
mp
[Db]
ppp
mf
mp
mf
[C]
mp
ppp
♩=72
cantabile; ominous, becoming dolce
11
mf
p
LH
pp
mf
p
[E]
[C]


growing unease, backing away
18
mp
pp
ppp
loco
[C]
[B]
[F#]
[C#]
♩=90
delicate, mysterious; indifferent, like weather
26
(8va)
♩=72
coming apart
pppp
[E]
[A]
[D#]


31
as a musicbox
8va
pp
mf
[Eb]
mp
ppp
dolce
p
detached, failing
39
mp
ppp
p
pp


near ruin
47
5:3
mp
mf
p
[D]
4:3
8va
tentative
pp
ppp
[C#]
=90
icy, pale
57
(8va)
5:4
3
6
7
5

62

(8va)

ppp pp ppp

4:3 5 3

♩=72

arresting, indifferent, familiar

mf

Ped.

♩=90

icy, pale continued

8va

pp ppp pp ppp

5 6

(8va)

ppp pp ppp

3 7

mf

[E]

Ped.

8va

pp ppp pp ppp

6 5:4 3

68

(8va)

becoming

resonance

♩=72

p pp mf

5:3 3 6 3

(8va)

p pp mf

7 5 4:3 5

mp

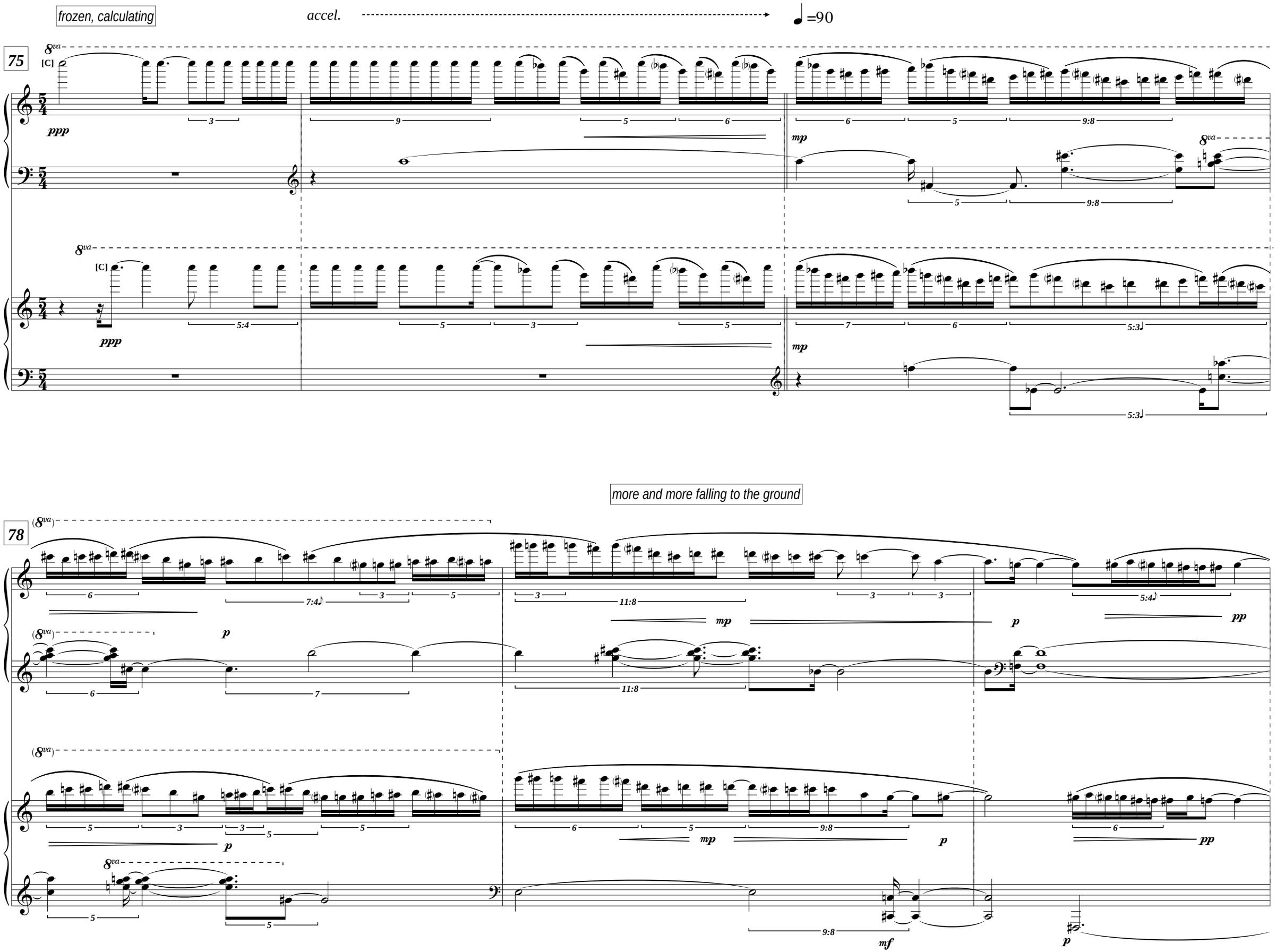
f mf

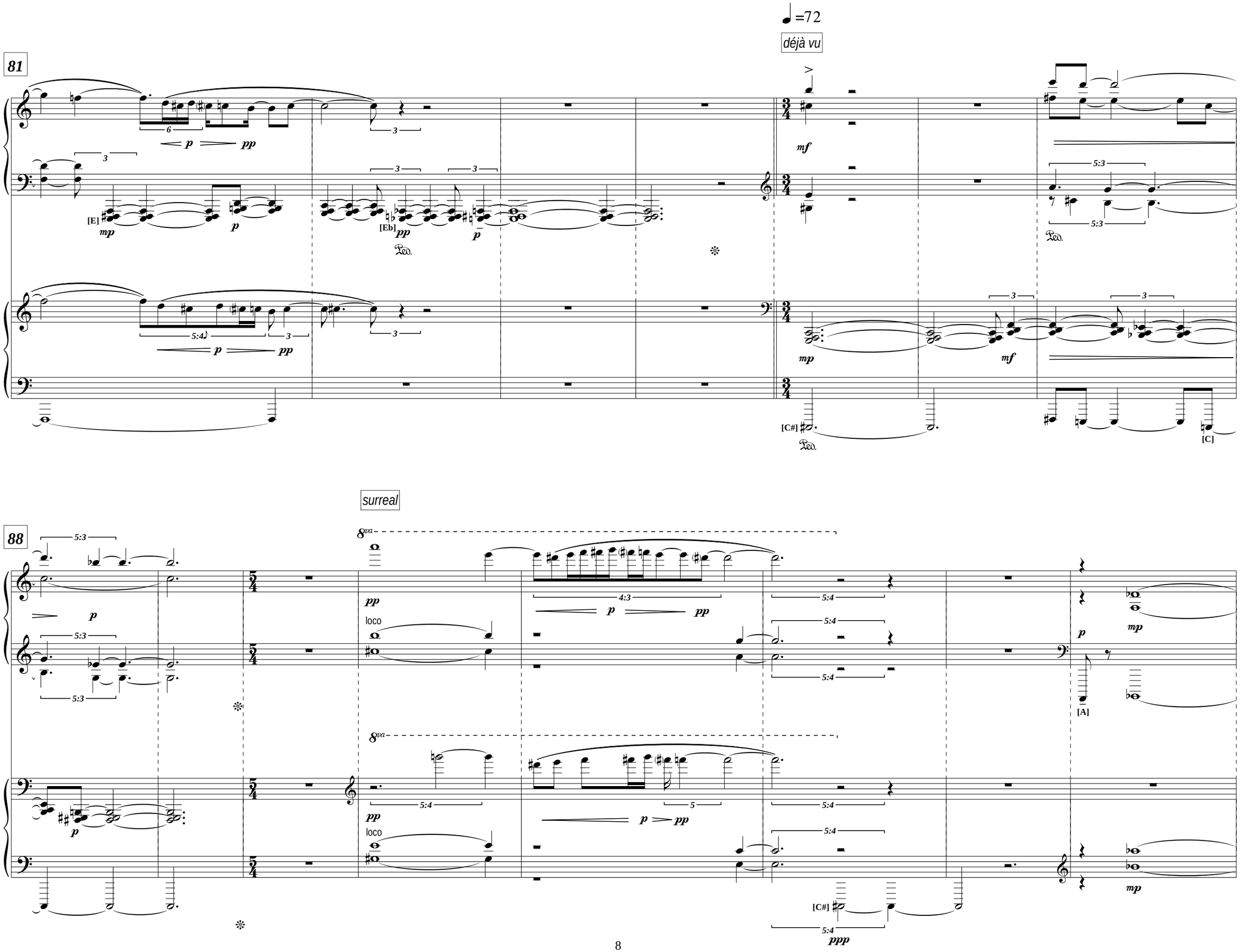
[C]

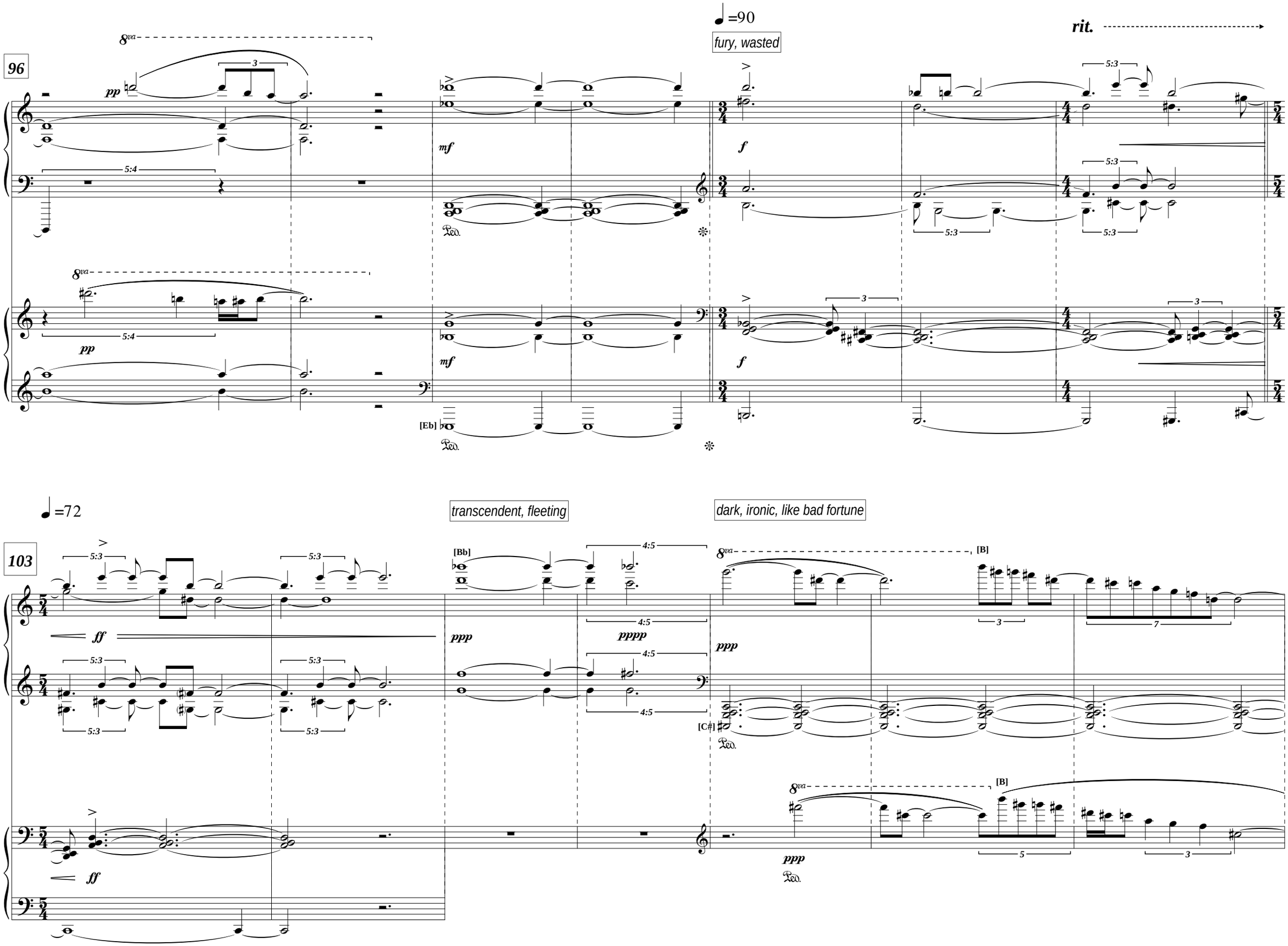
Ped.

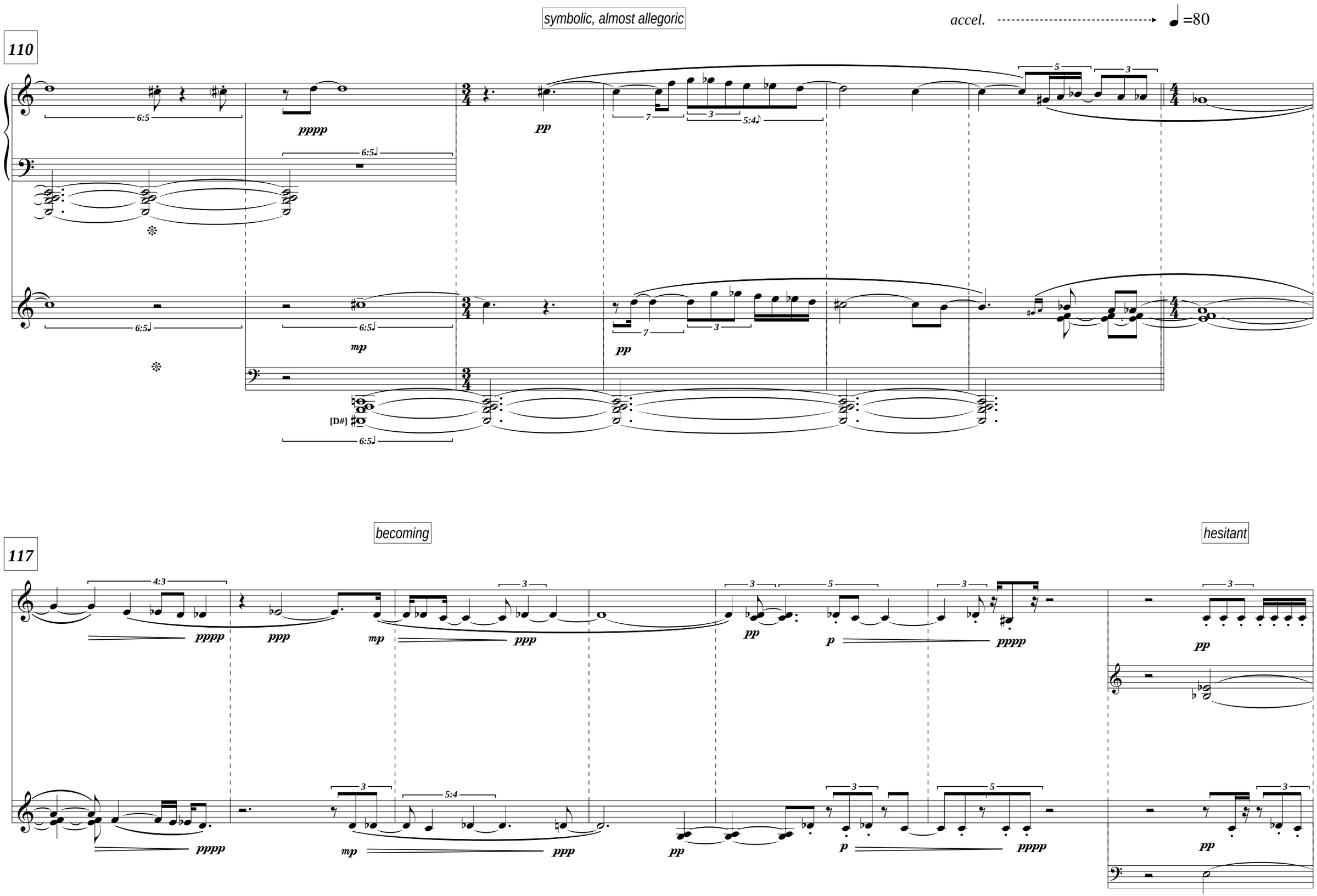
f mf

5:3


frozen, calculating
accel.
=90
75
8va
[C]
ppp
mp
more and more falling to the ground
78
(8va)
p
mp
pp
mf


81
♩=72
déjà vu
[E]
[Eb]
[C#]
[C]
88
surreal
loco
[A]
[C#]


96
♩=90
fury, wasted
rit.
8va
pp
mf
f
[Eb]
103
♩=72
transcendent, fleeting
dark, ironic, like bad fortune
ff
ppp
pppp
[Bb]
[C#]
[B]


symbolic, almost allegoric
accel.
=80
110
pppp
pp
mp
pp
[D#]
117
becoming
hesitant
pppp
ppp
mp
ppp
pp
p
pppp
pp
pppp
mp
ppp
pp
p
pppp
pp

124

ppp p mp pp mp pp mf

ppp p mp pp mp pp mf

129

mp mf

gradually release pedal

mp mf

gradually release pedal

132

mp

mf

mp

gradually release pedal

ord

mp

mf

mp

gradually release pedal

135

ord

gradually engage pedal

ord

gradually engage pedal

Somerville, MA
2/27/14