JAMES SELLARS

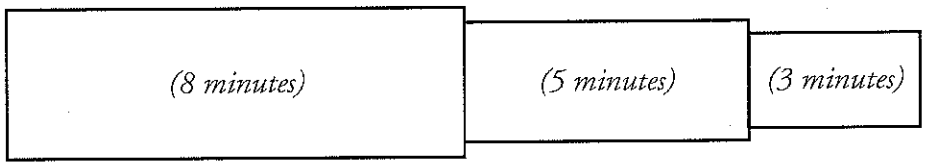
Trio

for Violin, Clarinet, and Violoncello

HOG RIVER MUSIC
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Program Notes

Formally, my *Trio* for violin, clarinet, and cello can be represented by a telescope of three sections:



These three sections are an analogue of the three movements in the *Trio*, performed here without pause. In the first movement (the large section of the telescope), the tempo is slow, and melodic leaps are large. The second movement (middle section of the telescope) is twice as fast as the first, and the melodic intervals are smaller. The third movement is half again as fast, and the melodic intervals are yet smaller. The first movement runs some eight minutes, at a tempo of ♩=50; the second, approximately five minutes, at ♩=100; the third, around three minutes, at a tempo of 150 beats per minute.

The content within this telescopic form consists of sustained melodic lines and short, gestural comments, each instrument singing and commenting in its own idiomatic way. There is, to my mind, a certain, ongoing, dramatic confrontation between the melodic and the gestural. Indeed, the instruments and their individual capabilities directly influenced most of the musical material. This highly individualized material is but an extension of the supreme tenet of counterpoint: that each line remain distinct in the musical texture and independently audible.

Thus, one approach the listener may take to this music is to focus on a single instrumental line; yet, although the separate lines may be independently audible, each of the three instruments is interwoven into an intricate textural whole. Each is heard in the context of the other. As composition, the resulting harmonic and rhythmic complexity demands from the performers a precision in ensemble playing, which, I hope, provides for the listener a high degree of musical immediacy.

The Trio was commissioned by the Society for Commissioning New Music and is dedicated to John W. Petersen. The first performance took place at University of North Texas on April 26, 1975, with the following performers:

Kenneth Schanewerk, violin
John Petersen, clarinet
Monte Knutson, cello

James Sellars

Performance Notes

This is a C score.

The following pizzicato signs are used:

- ⏀ slapped against fingerboard (Bartók pizzicato)
- ◡ pizzicato with fingernail
- \+ pizzicato with left hand

Parts are available from the publisher.

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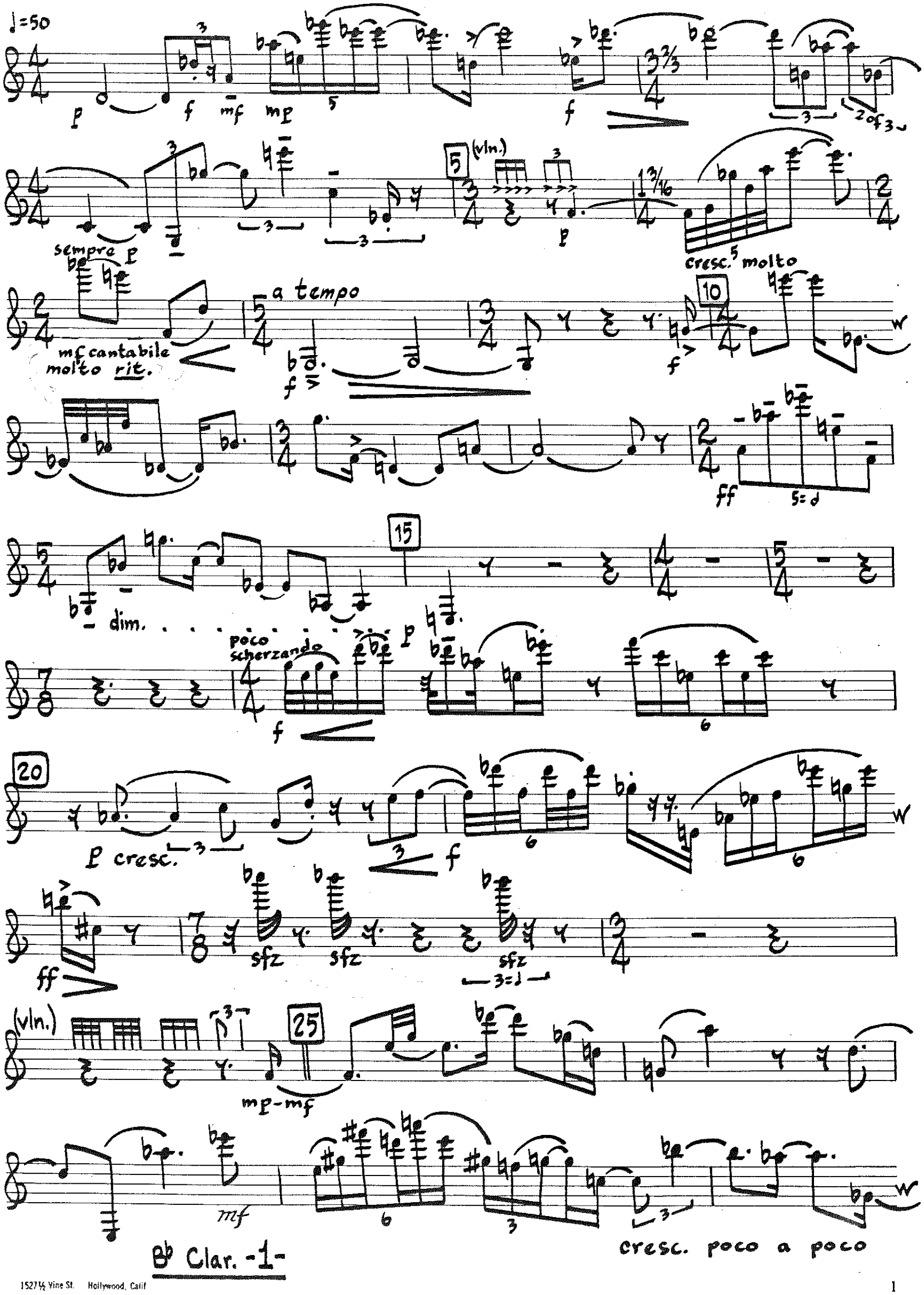

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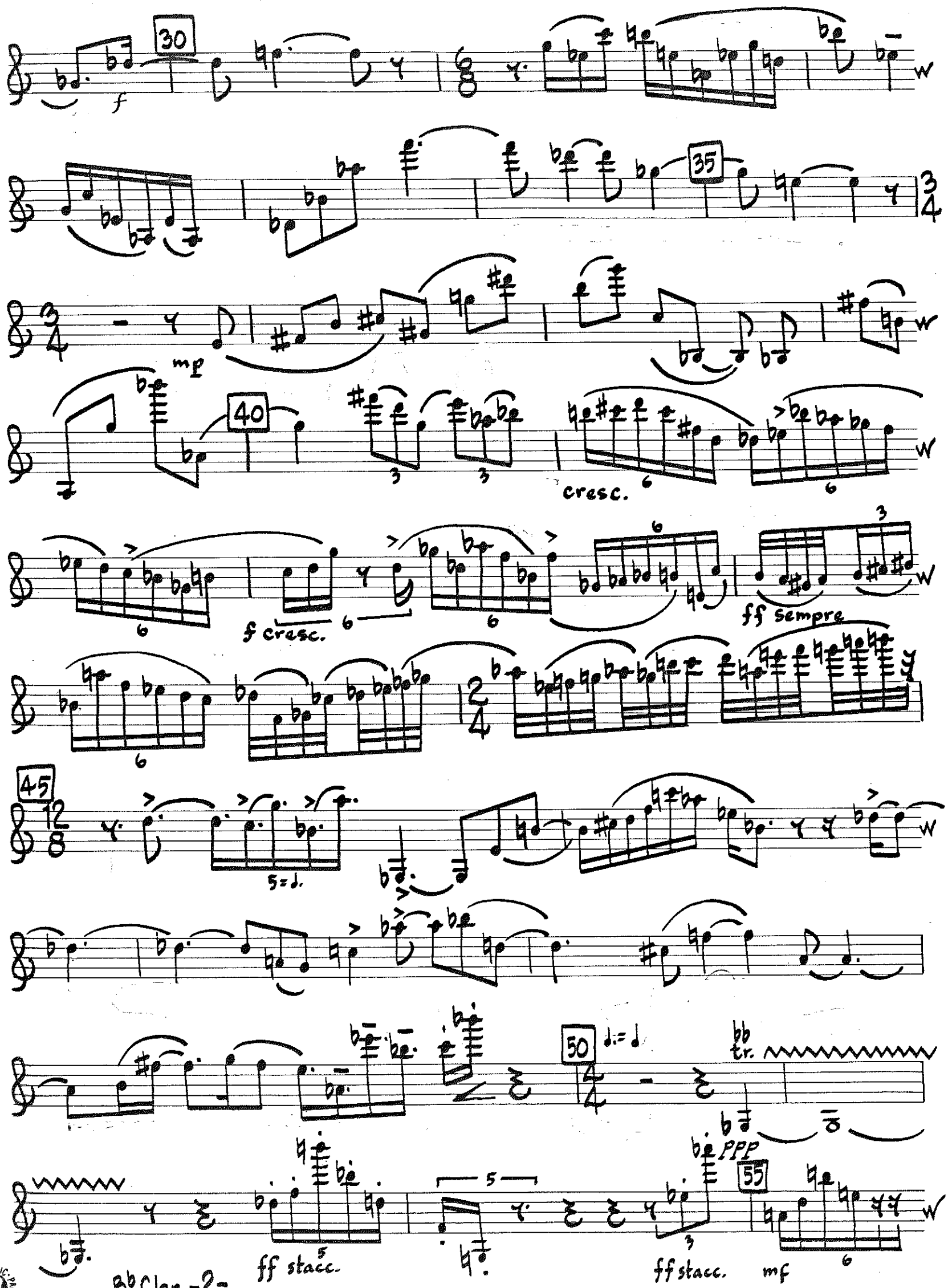

B♭ Clar. -2-

CAMEO MUSIC PAPERS
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p

mp

p leggiero

mp

mf

mp

60

2

mp

atempo

65

3

rit. . .

70

p

3

Sempre expressivo

in mp

in p

75

ff

sfz

p

ff

dim. poco a

(b)

poco

80

15

f

5

5

mf

Bb Clar. -3-

CAMCO MUSIC SERVICE
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piuf

mp

85

ff

PPP

♩ ♩ = 𝅗𝅥 = mm. 25

vln. cadenza

♩ = c. 100

mf

5

f

5

10

2

mp cresc. ff

15

sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz

20

f

ff ff

B♭ Clar. -4-

CAMEO-MUSIC-PAPER
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mp

25

mf

30

mp

p

ff- subito

p

mp

ff

p

f

35

f

f

f

ff

ff

mp

mp

40

f

2

pp

45

p sempre

50

Vc.

p

p

Bb Clar. -5-

HO. 5-3124 1527½ Vine St. Hollywood, Calif.

55

ppp

p

60

ff

ff

3

65

p

ff

ff

ff

pp

70

piu f

75

5=d.

ppp

80

85

3

90

espress.

mp

95

CAMCO MUSIC PAPER
HO. 5-3124 1527½ Vine St. Hollywood, Calif.

100

cresc.

105

mf

p

sfz

mp cresc.

110

mf-espress.

115

fff

120

(♩=100ca.)

125

poco rit.

fff

130

mf

f

135

ff

breve

mp-sub.

♩.=100

ff

Bb Clar. -7-

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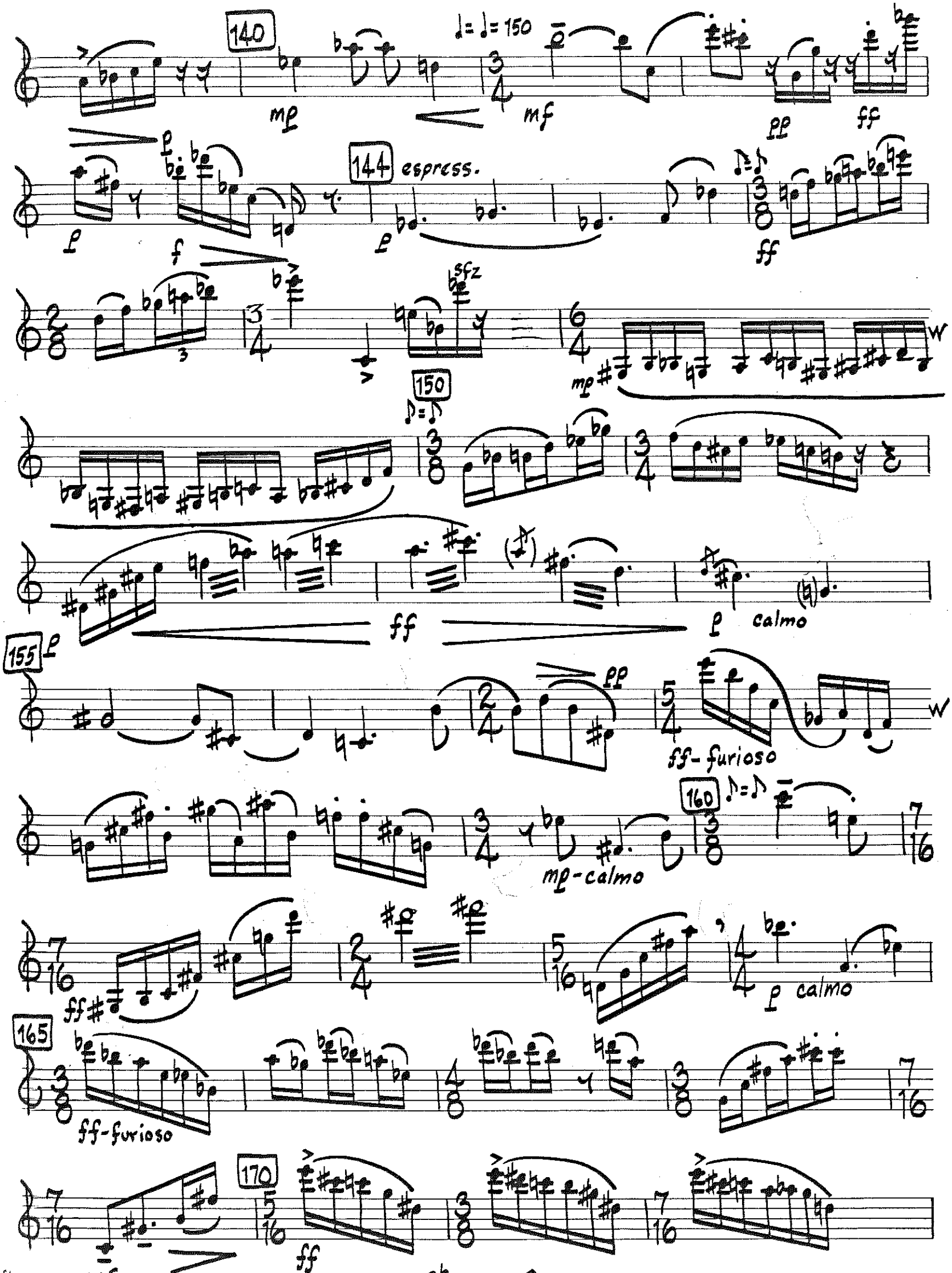

CAMEO MUSIC PAPERS
HO. 5-3124 1527½ Vine St. Hollywood, Calif.

175

fff

180

ff

185

poco legato

5

10

mf

15

20

ff

25

f

poco dim.

mf

30

sfz f sfz mf

Bb Clar.-9-

CAMCO MUSIC PAPER
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35

40

sempre ff

45

50

f

stacc.

ff sempre

55

sfz

f stacc.

60

65

f

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70

7=♩

75

2

ff

80

ff

85

90

95

ff

100

B♭ Clar.-11-

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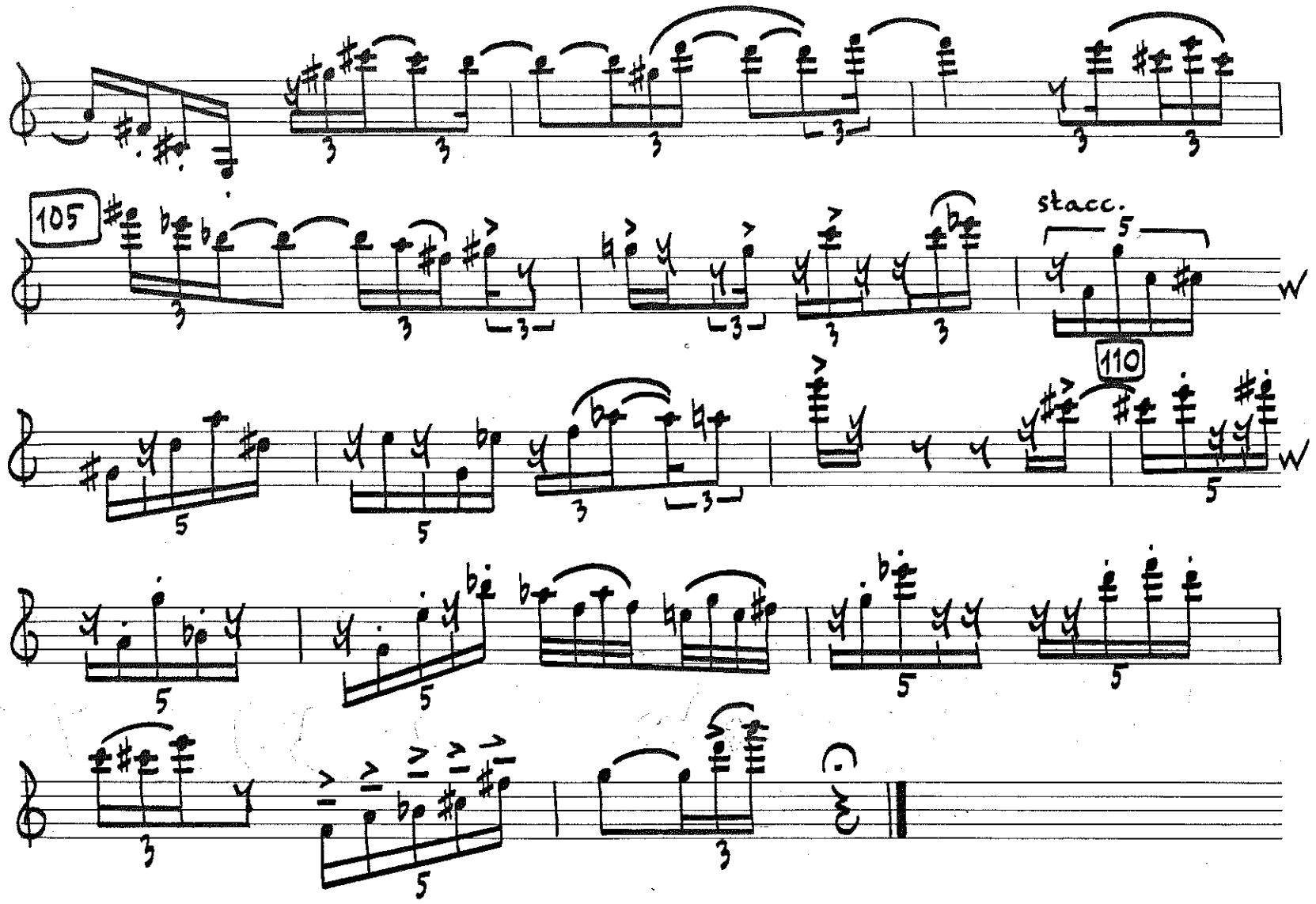

B♭ Clar. -12-

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