Dedicated to Aaron Copland

THE MERRY GUIDE

Suite with Narration

Sellars - Mikhashoff

1960 - 1980

Poems by A. E. Housman

JAMES SELLARS

The Merry Guide

SIX PIECES FOR CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
WITH OPTIONAL INTERLUDES WITH NARRATION
(TAKEN FROM THE POEM OF THAT NAME
BY A.E. HOUSMAN)

PROLOGUE, INTERLUDES,
ORCHESTRATION, SETTING AND ADAPTATION
BY
Yvan Nikheshoff
16 IX 80

1960 – 1980

THE ORCHESTRATION

FLUTE I
FLUTE II (ALT. PICC.)
OBOE
CLAR. I IN A
CLAR. II IN A
BASSOON
HORN I (F)
HORN II (F)
OFFSTAGE TRUMPET IN C
STRINGS
(Chamber Orch.)

NARRATOR*

*IF NO NARRATOR, THEN SECTIONS A, B, C, D, E
AND INTRODUCTION ARE NOT PLAYED.

INTRODUCTION

1

FL. I

FL. II

OBOE

CL. I IN A

CL. II IN A

BSSN.

HN I IN F

pp, distant, freely

HN II IN F

pp

Narrator

Once in the wind of morning
I ranged the heather fold;
The world-wide air was azure
And all the brooks ran gold.

SOLO VLN I

SOLO VLN II

pp II

SOLO VA.

IV
pp

SOLO VC.

SOLO CB.

5

pp

pp

ppp

mf

There through the dews beside me
Behold a youth that trod,
With feathered cap on forehead,
And poised a golden rod.

Ittaca →

mf

mf

I THE WIND OF MORNING

10

mf

delicato

p

mp

pp

pp

TUTTI

pp

TUTTI

pp

Solo

pizz.

Solo

pizz

TUTTI

arco

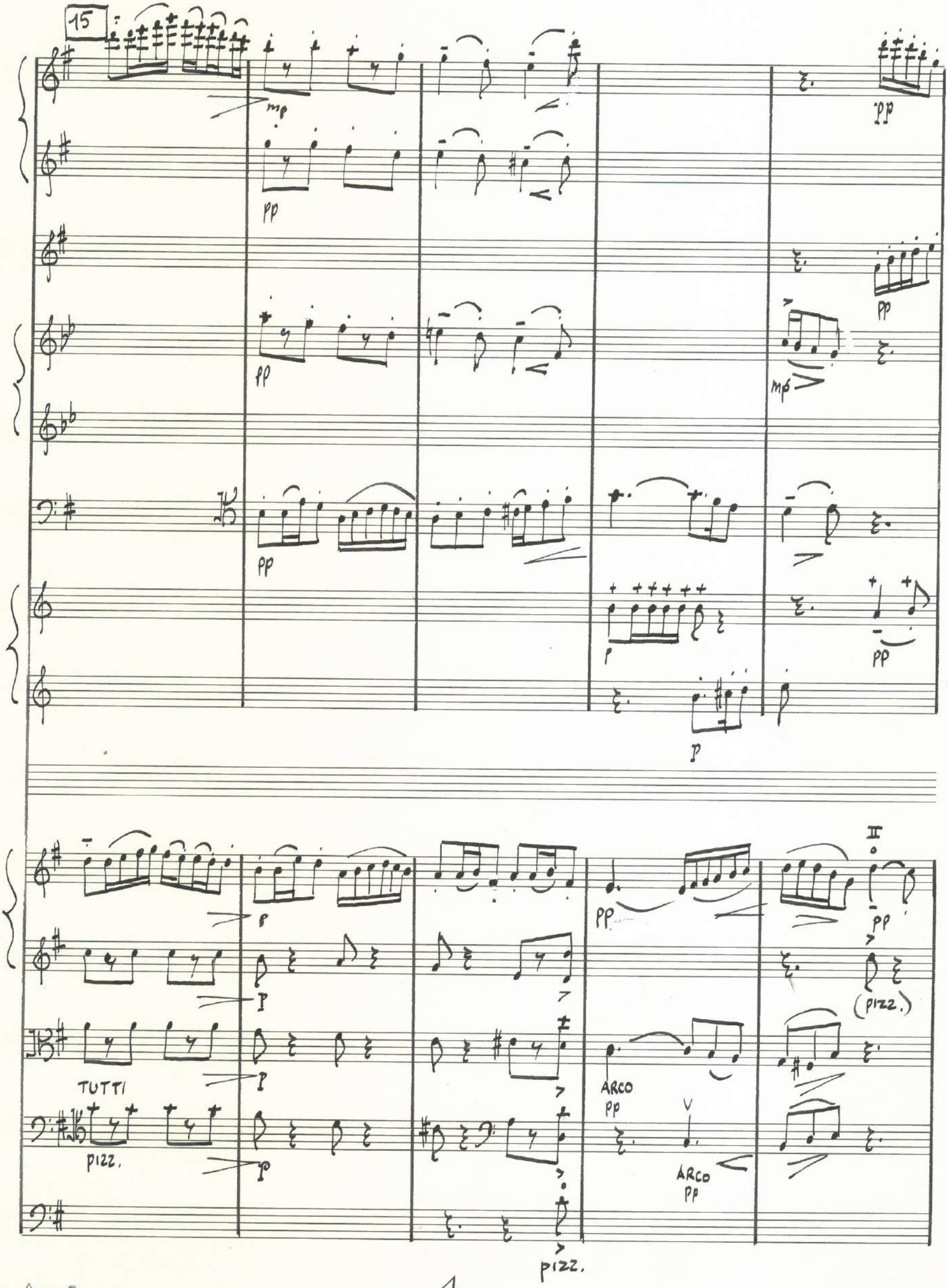
mf

pizz.

mf

pizz.

* ONLY IF INTRODUCTION IS PLAYED.


15
mp
pp
pp
pp
mp
pp
pp
p
p
p
p
p
TUTTI
pizz.
pp
ARCO
pp
ARCO
pp
pizz.
II
pp
(pizz.)

20

mf

p

mp

mf

p

f

pp

p

nat.

mp

mf

mp

pp

gva

CON SORD.

ARCO

PIZZ.

ARCO

CON SORD

ARCO

PIZZ.

ARCO

pp

PIZZ.

pp

PIZZ

CON SORD.

pp

PIZZ

CON SORD.

25

pp

pp

mp

pp

pp

(+)

(+)

(+)

ARCO
PPP

PP

ARCO
PPP

PP

ARCO
PPP

PP

PPP

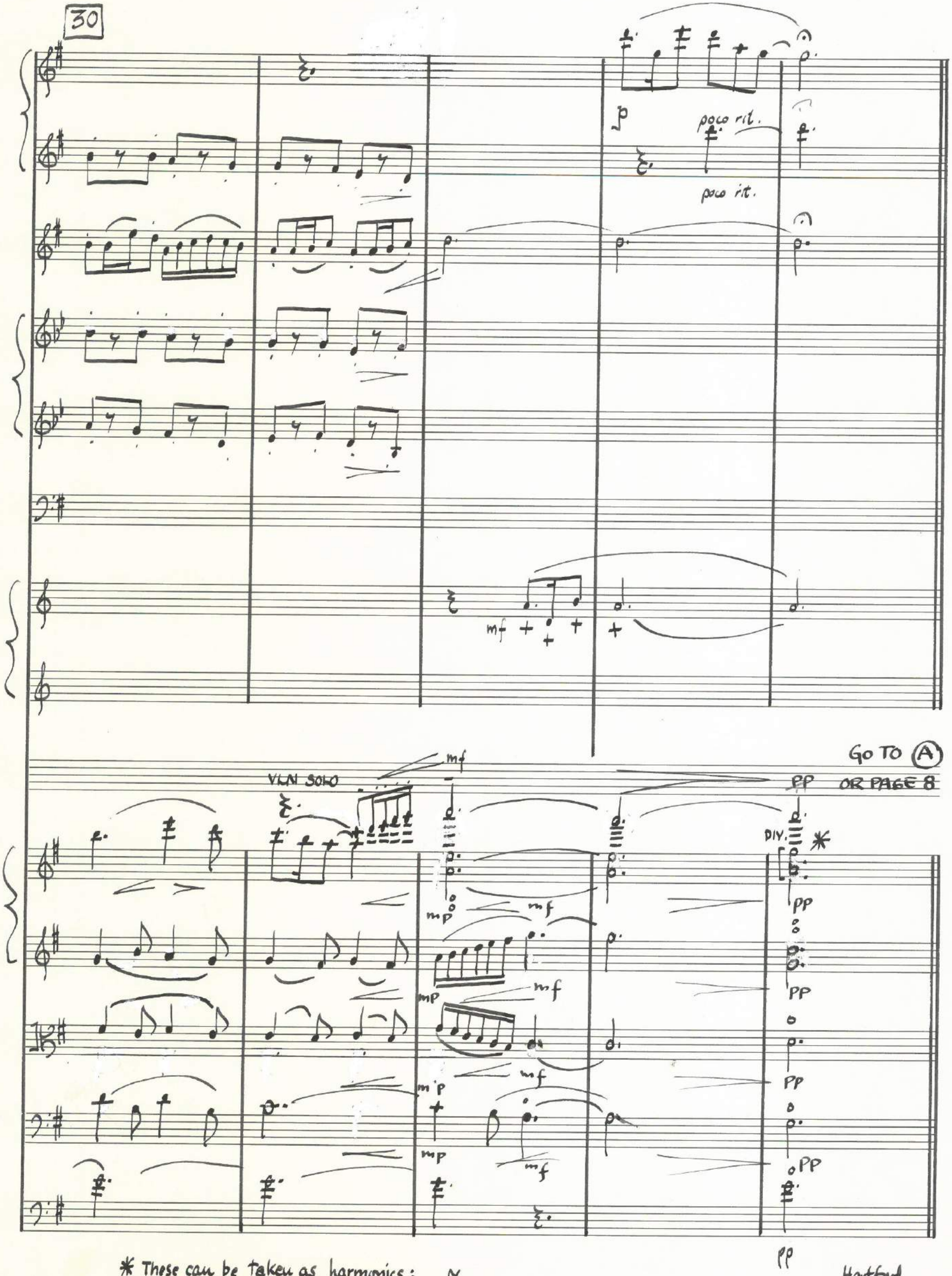
PP

ARCO

PPP

PP

AZTEC® C – 14



* These can be taken as harmonics; lower note on G string, fingered B. upper note on G string, fingered C.

Hartford
June 27, 1980 4:30 PM

(A) 1

INTERLUDE NO. 1

Offstage

TRPT. SOLO (IN C)

pp CON SORD.

NARRATOR

With mien to match the morning
And gay delightful guise
And friendly brows and laughter
He looked me in the eyes.

SOLO VLN I

CON SORD.

pp

SOLO VLN II

CON SORD

pp

SOLO VIOLA

CON SORD.

pp

SOLO CELLO

CON SORD.

pp

Oh whence, I asked, and whither?
He smiled and would not say,

And looked at me and beckoned
And laughed and led the way.

p

mp

molto espressivo

(A) 1 Between 7 and 8

(A)2

Più lento, colla parte

And with kind looks and nought to say
laughter, And beside, We

molto espressivo

two went on together, I and my happy guide.

SEGUE:

(Attacca senza pausa)

(A)2 Between 7 and 8

35

mp solo

PICCOLO

mp solo

mp solo

pp

pp

pp

mf solo

mf solo

solo

p

This chord is played by the solo quartet only if (A) has been played.

pizz

pp

pizz.

pp

pizz

pp

pizz

pp

solo senza sord.

solo senza sord.

solo senza sord.

solo senza sord.

tutti

tutti

tutti

tutti

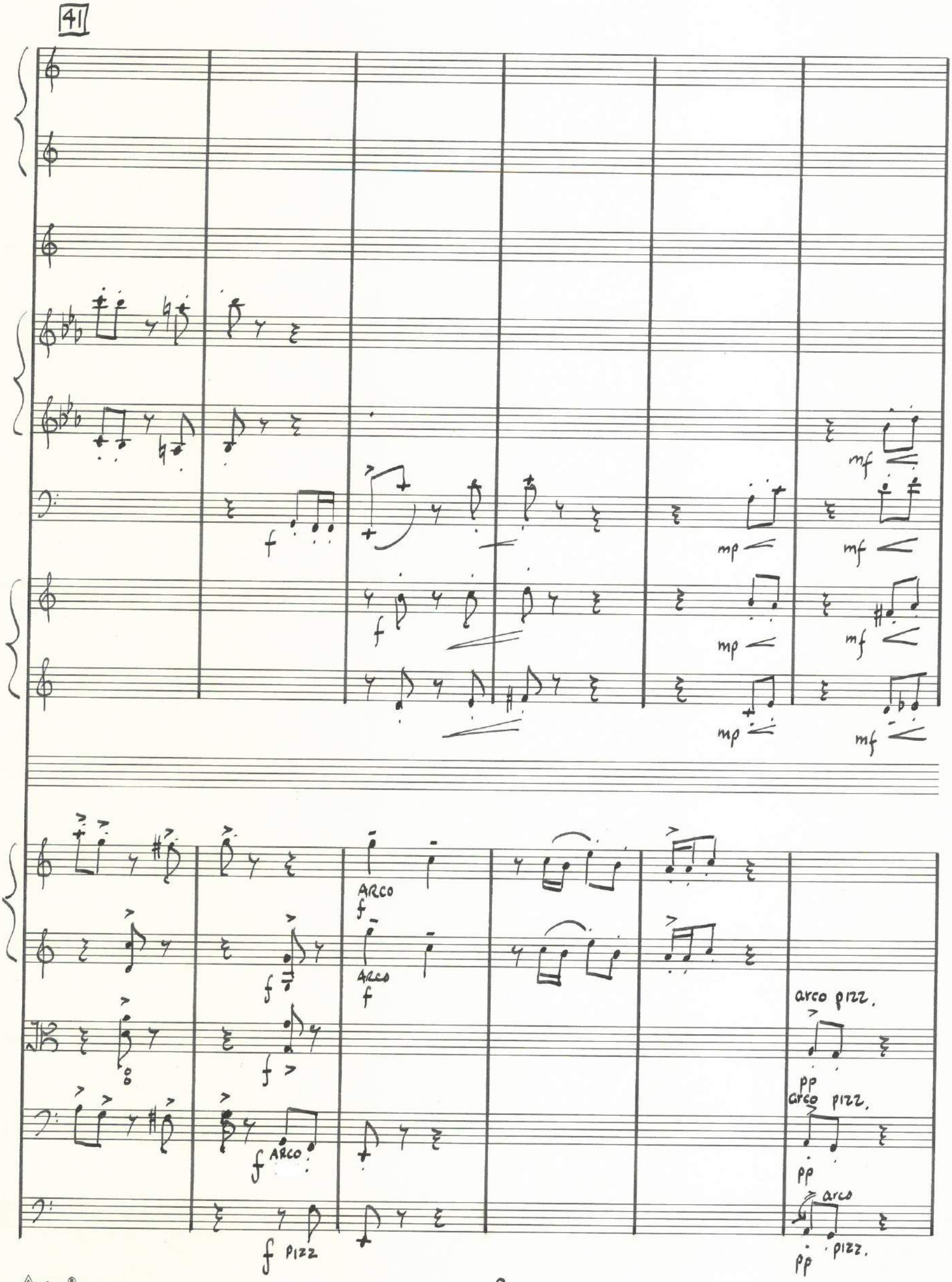
Pizz. mf

Pizz mf

Pizz

Pizz mf

mf


41
mf
mp
mf
f
mp
mf
mp
mf
ARCO
f
ARCO
f
f
f
f ARCO
f PIZZ
arco pizz.
pp
arco pizz.
pp
arco
pp
pizz.

47

pp

f sub.

f sub

f sub.

mp

pp

pp pizz.

pp pizz.

pp (pizz.)

f (pizz)

f (pizz)

pizz. (+)

f

f pizz

mp, cantabile
arco

arco, p

p, arco

arco

mf cantabile

arco

mf

53

f

f

f

pp

mf

p

pp

mf

p

f

pizz.

pp

pizz.

pp

pizz

arco

arco

f pizz

pizz

59

(PICCOLO)

pp solo

pp solo

pp

pp solo

pp solo

pp

pp

BASSOON AD LIB.
pp

arco

pizz.

pizz

pizz

f

65

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

GO TO
(B) OR PAGE
14

con sord.

pp

con sord.

pizz pp

con sord.

pp

con sord.

pp

ppp

f sub

f sub

f sub

(f)

sub f

sub f

(B)

Offstage

INTERLUDE NO. 2

Ulysses Kay

TRPT. con sord. pp

NARR.

Across the glittering pastures
And empty upland still
And solitude of shepherds
High on the folded hill.

By hanging woods and hamlets
That gaze thru orchards down
On many a windmill turning
And far-discovered town,

SOLO I con sord. mp

SOLO II con sord. mp

SOLO VLA. con sord. mp

SOLO VLC. con sord. mp

With gay regards of promise
and sure unslackened stride
And smiles and nothing spoken
Led on my merry guide.

ritard

sfz pp

pp

Segue

Attacca senza pausa

sfz-p

sfz-p

sfz-p

sfz-p

(B) Between 13 and 14

71

mp

P

mp

P

TRPT (only if B is played)

(TUTTI)

flautando

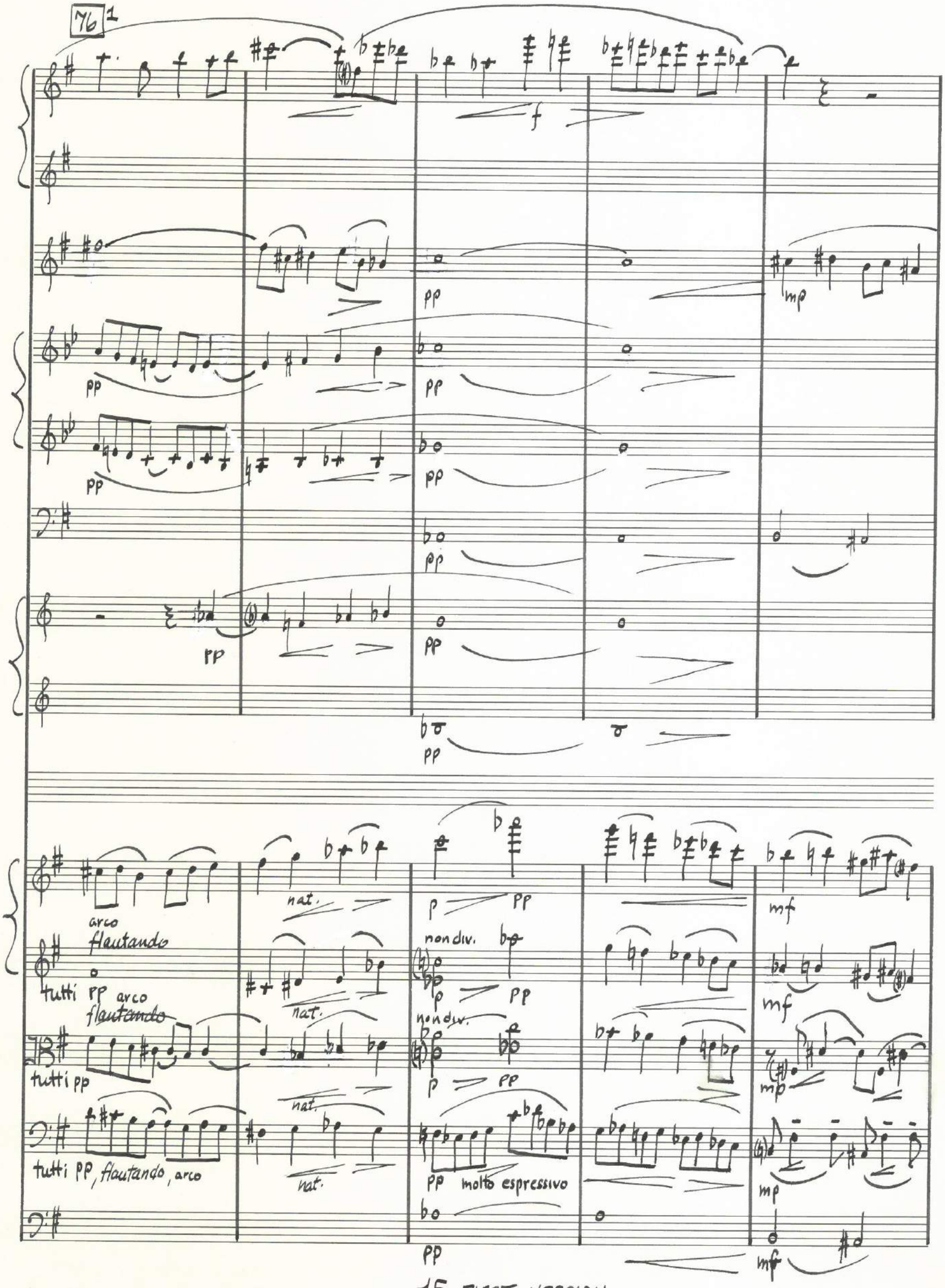
mp, arco

(senza sord.)

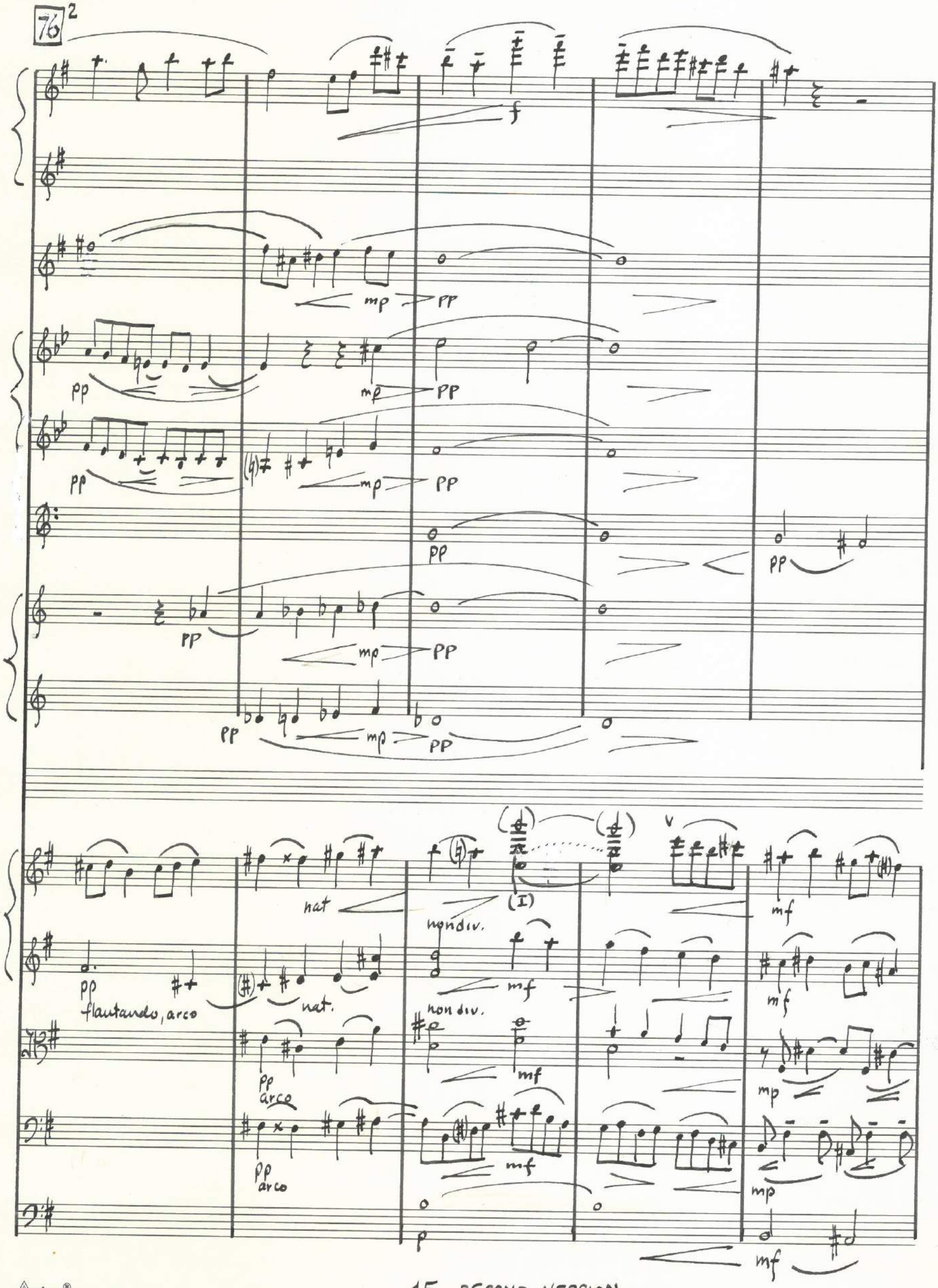
(senza sord.)

(senza sord.)

(senza surd.)



15 FIRST VERSION



15 SECOND VERSION

81

f, molto intenso, espressivo

p

pp

mp

poco a poco

cresc.

ff intenso

86

(P)

(Piccolo)

pp, like an echo

ppp

niente

pp

niente

pp

niente

ppp

GO TO ©
OR PAGE 18

p

pp esp.

mp

mf

pp

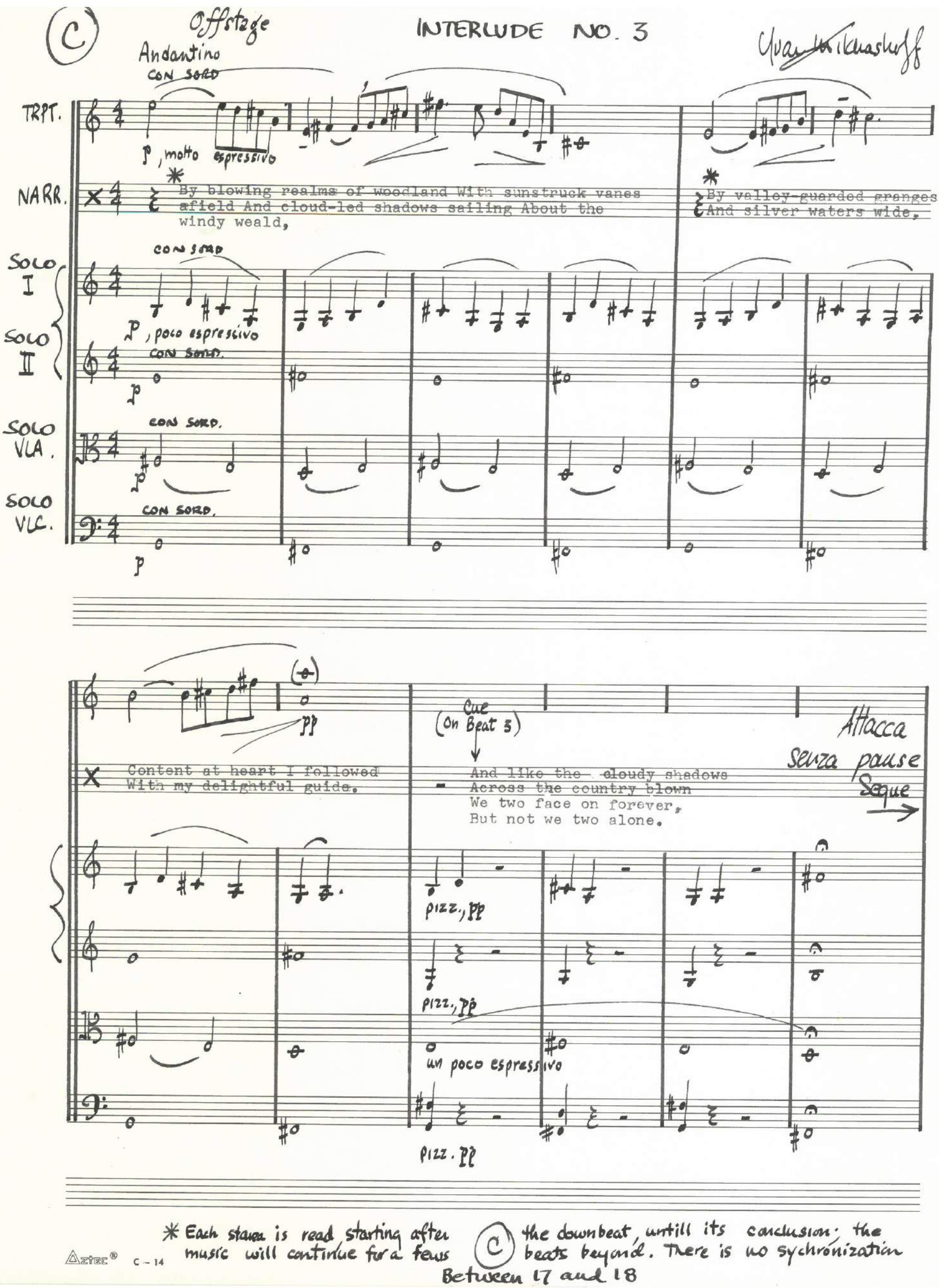
niente

p

pp

niente

Hartford
June 27, 1980 11:45 p.m.



* Each stanza is read starting after the downbeat, untill its conclusion; the music will continue for a few beats beyond. There is no sychronization Between 17 and 18

91

FLUTE

pp

p

mp

mf

mp pizz

mp

mp

mp pizz

mp

arco

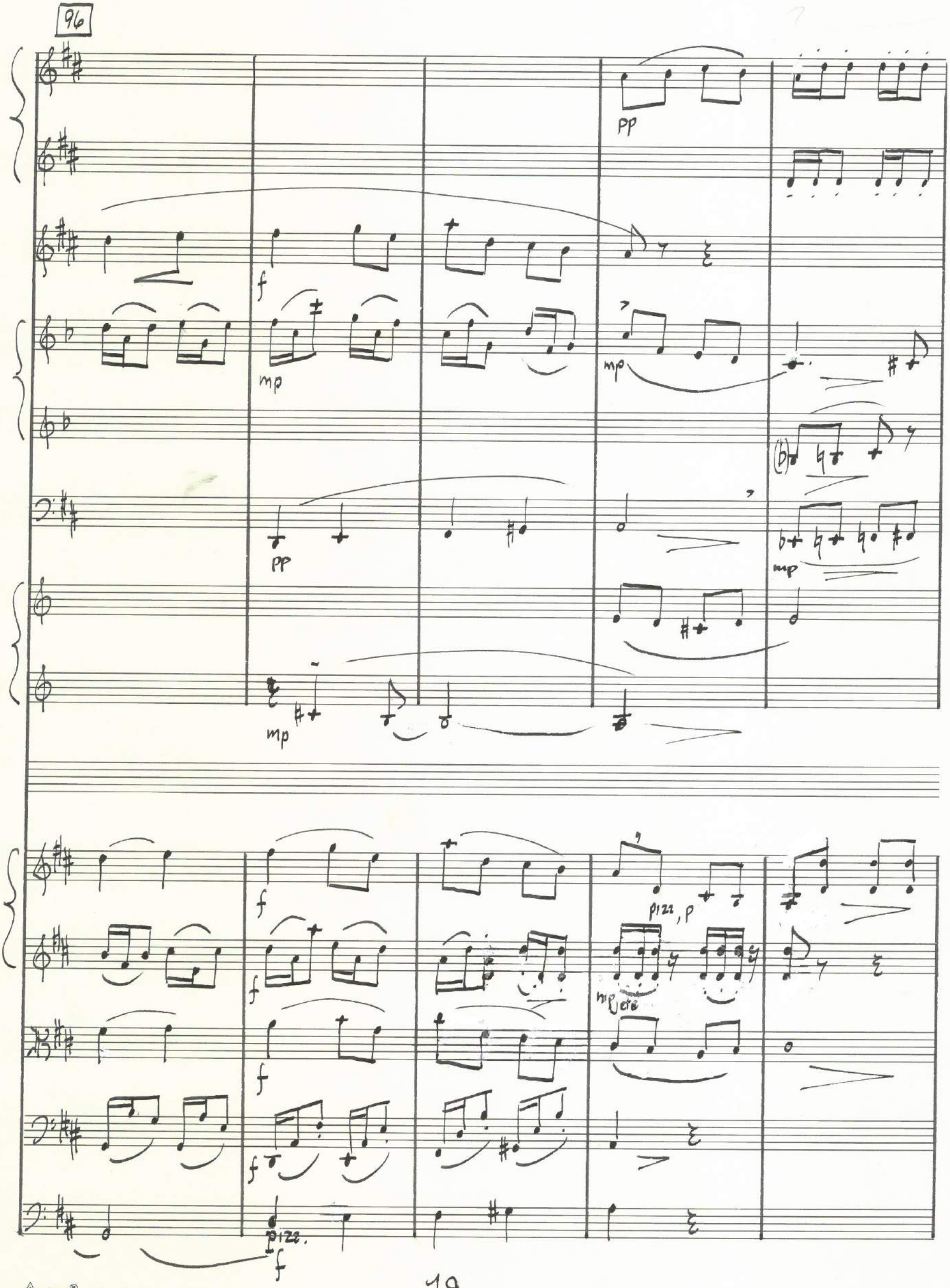
p

p

p

arco

p


96
pp
f
mp
mp
pp
mp
mp
f
f
f
f
pizz, p
mp
pizz.
f

101

mf

mp

p, leggiero

p, leggiero

SOLO, ARCO

p

SOLO

p

SOLO

p

SOLO

p

TUTTI ARCO

pp

TUTTI

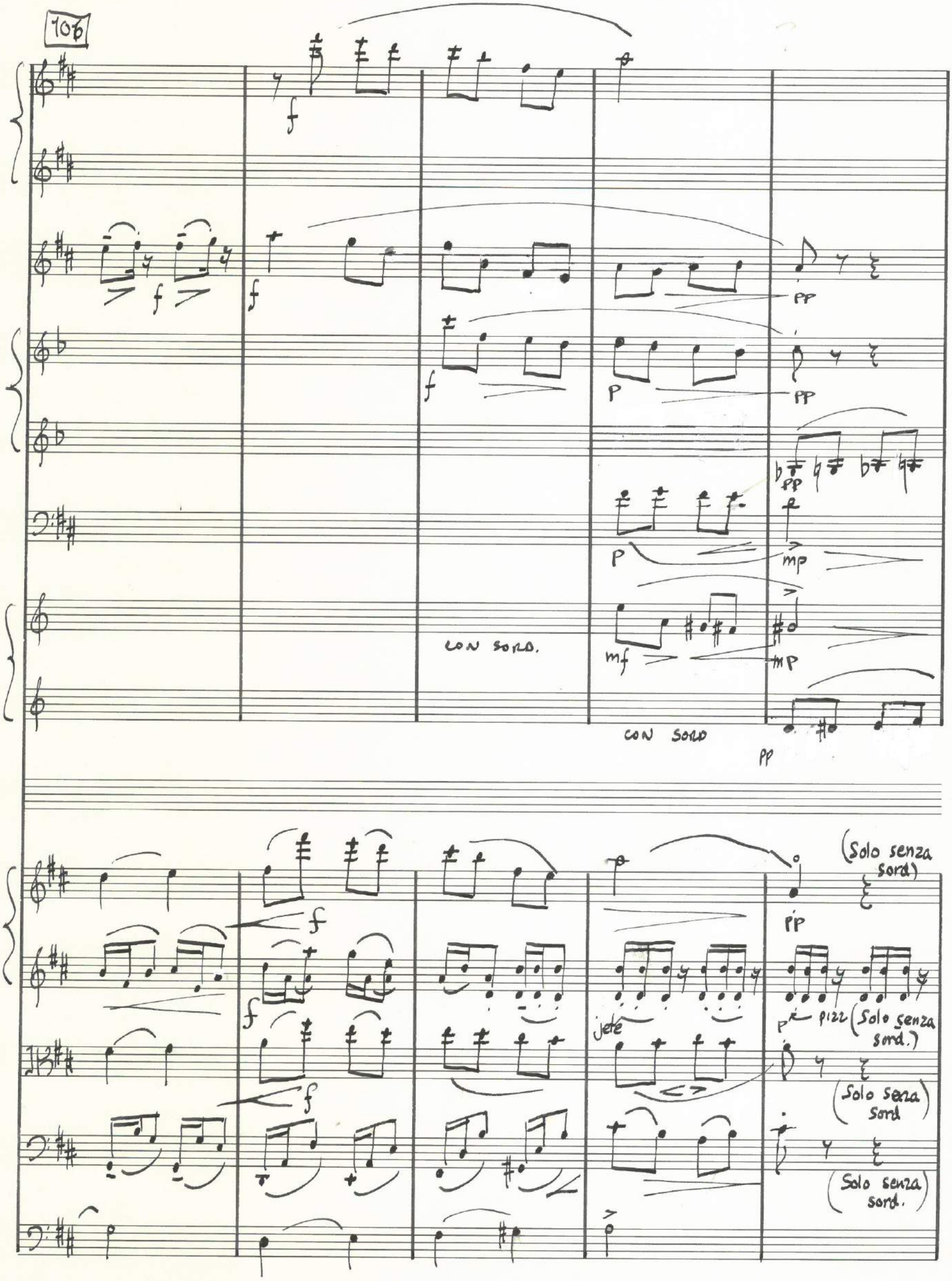
pp

TUTTI

pp

TUTTI pp

pp ARCO


106
f
f
f
f
f
f
f
pp
p
pp
pp
p
mp
CON SORD.
mf
mp
CON SORD
pp
(Solo senza sord)
pp
jete
p
pizz
(Solo senza sord.)
(Solo senza sord)
(Solo senza sord.)

117

mp, SOLO

pp

p

pp

mp SOLO

mf

pp

mp, SOLO

pp

mp, SOLO

mf

* pp

pp INSTEAD OF CLARINET

sf - pp

CON SORD.

CON SORD.

sf - pp

SOLO, PIZZ

ppp

SOLO (PIZZ)

SOLA, PIZZ.

ppp

SOLO, PIZZ

ppp

TUTTI, PIZZ

mf

TUTTI, PIZZ

mf

TUTTI, PIZZ

mf

TUTTI, PIZZ

mf

Ia SOLA, ARCO

mp

pp I SOLO (PIZZ)

pp

I SOLO, ARCO

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* BASSOON PLAYS ONLY IF CLARINET PLAYS MEASURES 117 – 120.

* INSTEAD OF BASSOON

pp

mp

pp (CON SORD)

* INSTEAD OF VIOLAS

(ARCO)

cresc.

V

ARCO

pp TUTTI ARCO

cresc.

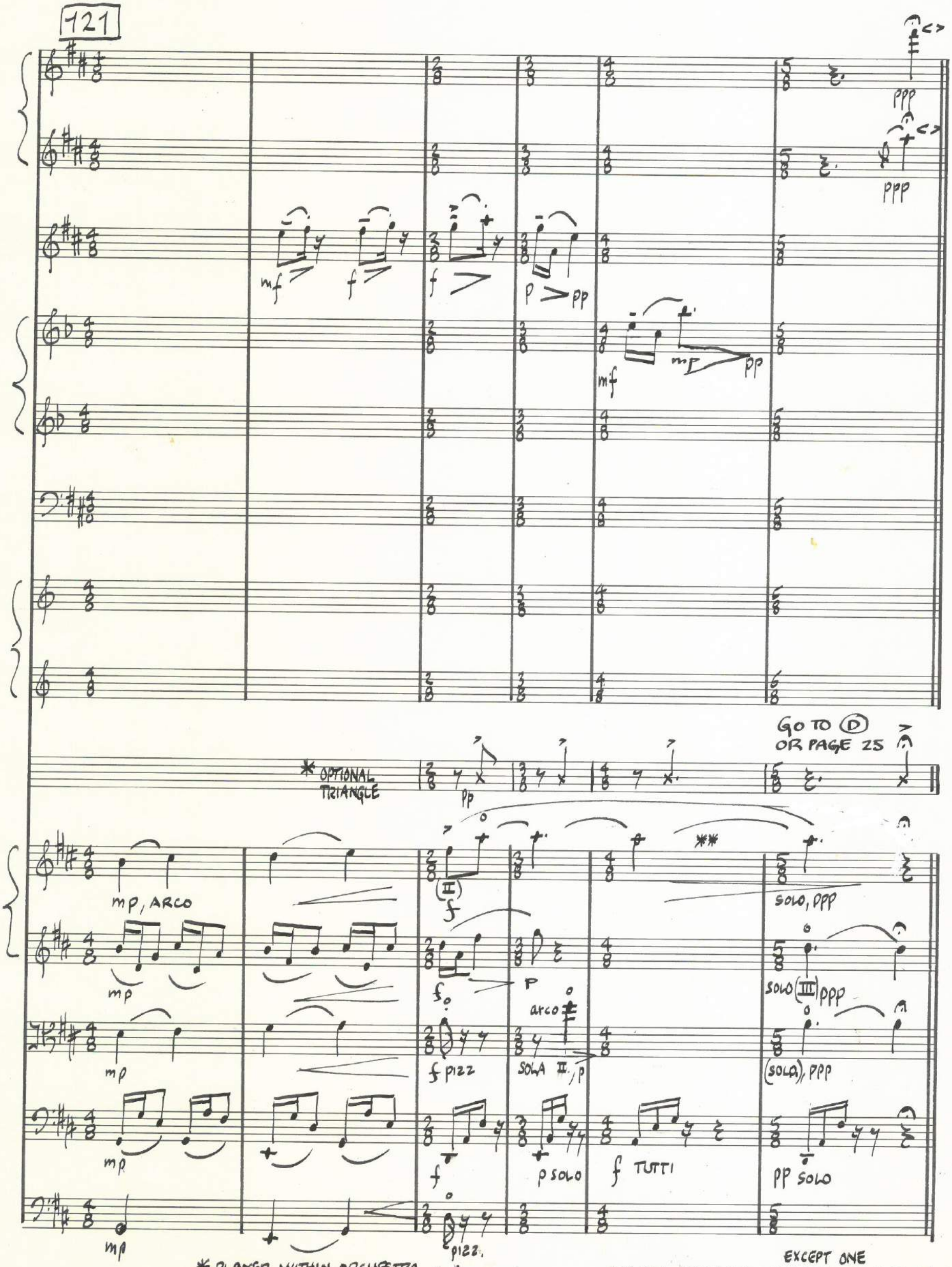
pp, TUTTI ARCO

cresc.

PPP, TUTTI

cresc.

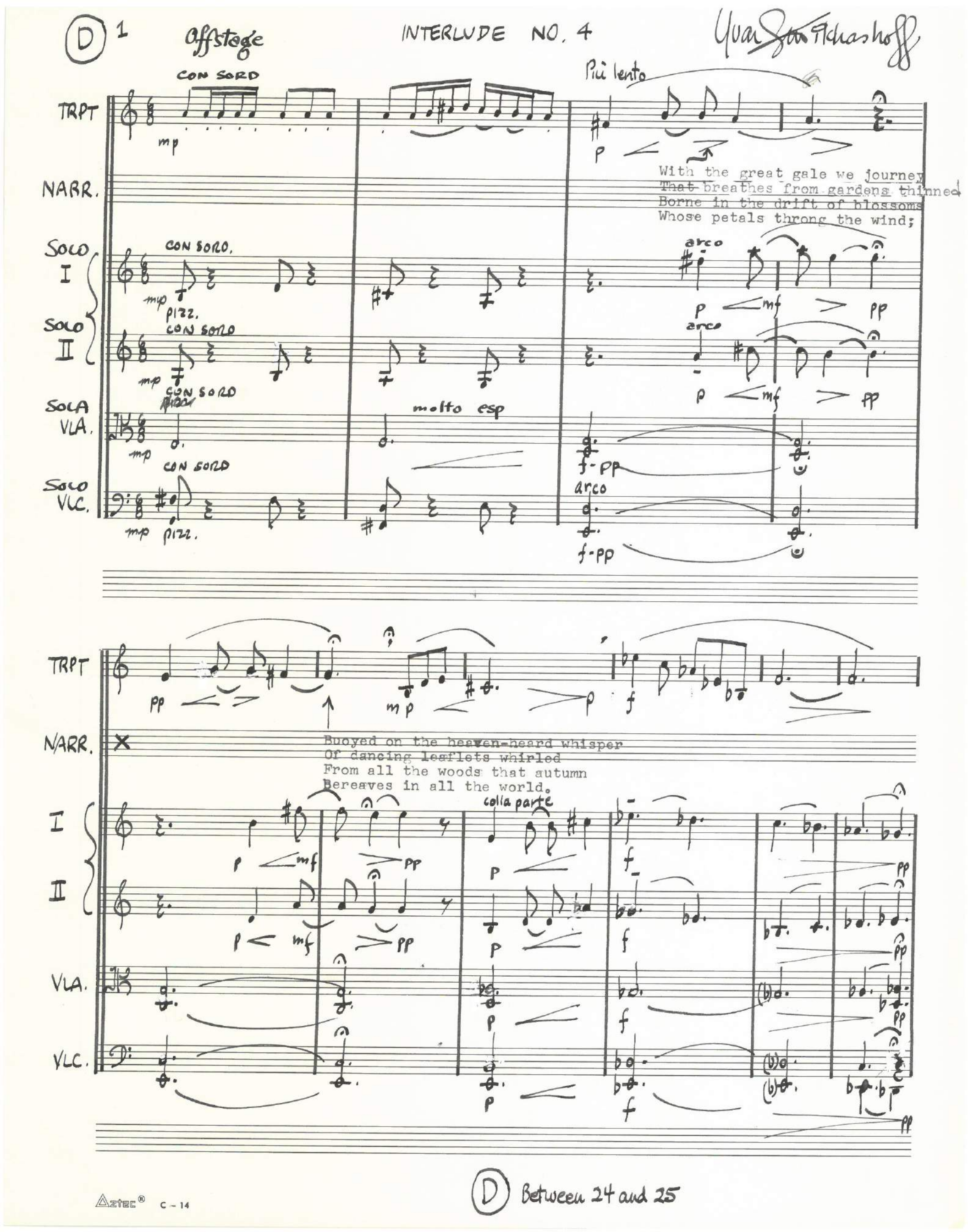
* CLARINET & FIRST VIOLINS PLAY ONLY IF BASSOON AND/OR VIOLA TOO DIFFICULT.



* PLAYED WITHIN ORCHESTRA BY ONE OF THE PLAYERS IN THE STRING SECTION

** ALL FIRST VIOLINS EXCEPT ONE DROP OUT DURING THE LAST BEATS.

Hartford CT June 28, 1980 5:57 P.M.


D 1
Offstage
INTERLUDE NO. 4
Yvar Sten Ikhashoff
CON SORD
Più lento
TRPT
NARR.
With the great gale we journey
That breathes from gardens thinned
Borne in the drift of blossoms
Whose petals throng the wind;
SOLO I
CON SORD.
pizz.
arco
SOLO II
CON SORD
SOLA VLA.
molto esp
SOLO VLC.
pizz.
Buoyed on the heaven-heard whisper
Of dancing leaflets whirled
From all the woods that autumn
Bereaves in all the world.
colla parte
I
II
VLA.
VLC.
D Between 24 and 25

V. THE DRIFT OF BLOSSOMS

127

pp

espr. molto

PPP, appena

PPP, appena

DIVISI
CON SORD.

PP, mormorando

PPP, PIZZ, appena audibile
CON SORD.

* I SOLA PIZZ

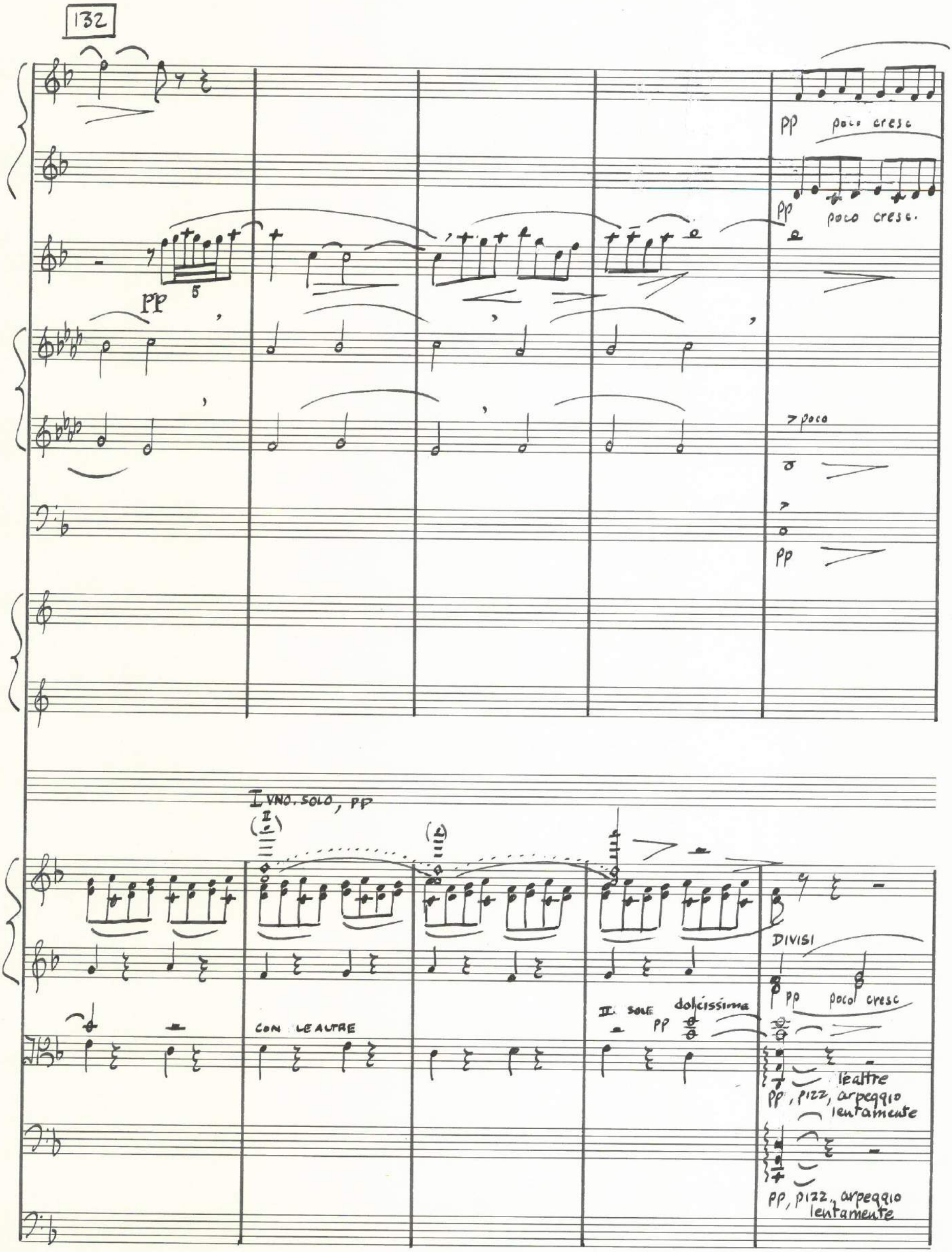
PPP, PIZZ, appena audibile
CON SORD.

Solo * PIZZ.

I SOLA, ARCO PP

GLI ALTRI

* Play if Ⓓ has been played.


132
pp
5
pp poco cresc
pp poco cresc.
poco
pp
I VNO. SOLO, pp
II
CON LE ALTRE
II. SOLE dolcissima
pp
DIVISI
pp poco cresc
l'altre
pp, pizz, arpeggio lentamente
pp, pizz., arpeggio lentamente

137

ppp

ppp

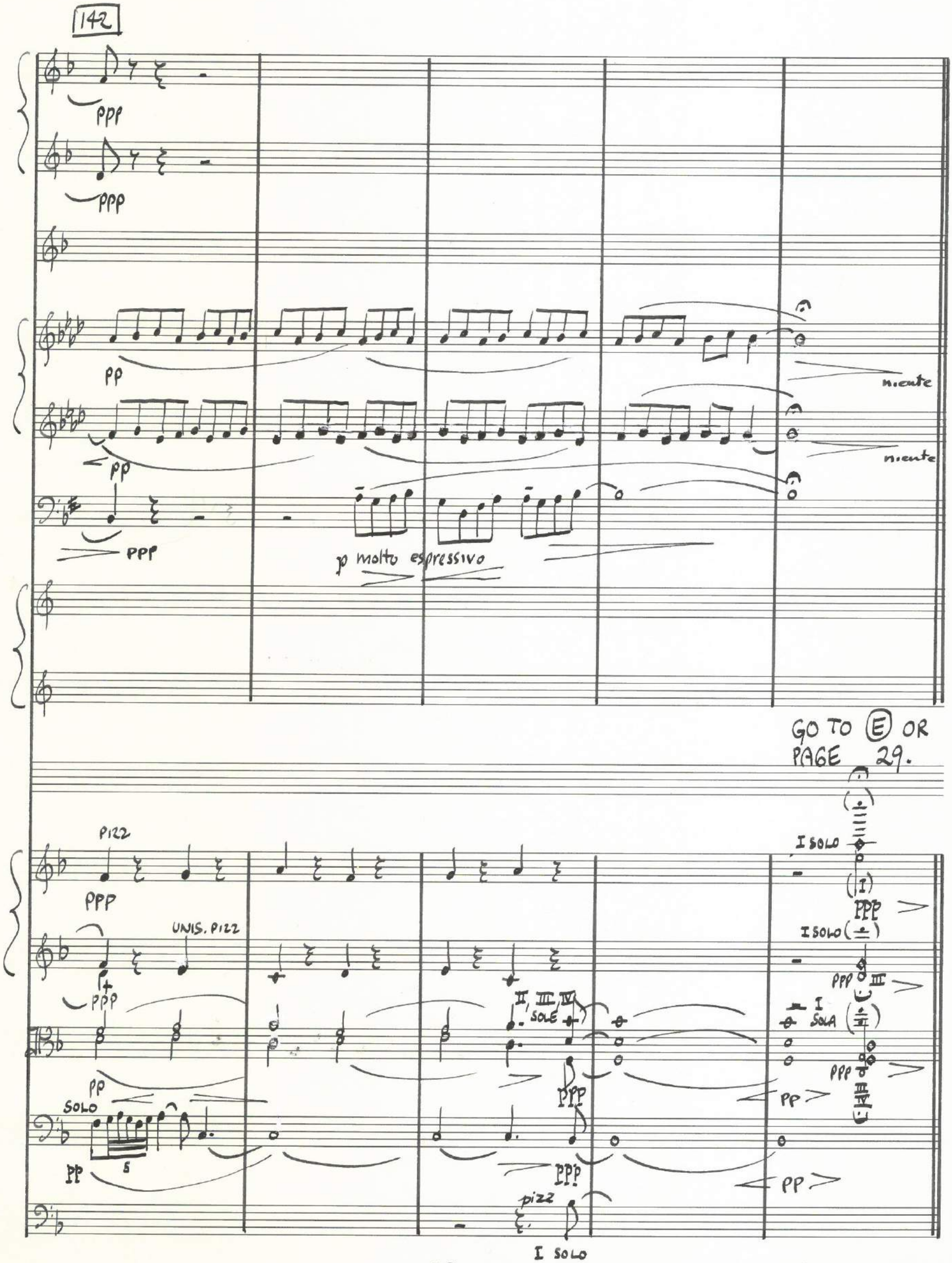
ppp

UNIS

mp, molto espressivo

UNIS

mp molto espressivo



Hartford CT, June 29, 1980

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(E) 1

Adagio

INTERLUDE NO. 5

Ivan Wyschnegradsky

TRPT

NARR

And midst the fluttering legion
Of all that ever died
I follow, and before us
Goes the delightful guide.

With lips that brim with laughter
But never once respond,
And feet that fly on feathers,
And serpent-circled wand.

SOLO I

SOLO II

SOLA III

SOLO IV

pp, con sord., crescendo al ff

pp, con sord., crescendo al ff

pp, con sord., crescendo al ff

pp, con sord., crescendo al ff

mp

f

(E) 1 Between 28 and 29

(E)2

allarg. a tempo

quasi ff

f

allarg. a tempo

And with kind looks

mf

mf

mf

mf

ff

ff

ff

f simile

f simile

f simile

f

dimin

dimin

dimin

dimin

mf

mp

mp

and laughter And naught to say beside We two went on together, I and my merry guide.

p

Attacca senza pause

mp

mp

mp

mp

pp

pp

pp

pp

Sept 16, 1980
Hartford

(E)2 Between 28 and 29

147

mp

mp

mf SOLO

p

violini, viole, celli
tutti, senza sord.

p

p

p

p

PP

II

(Solo senza sord.)

(Solo senza sord.)

SOLA ARCO

p

(Solo senza sord.)

(Solo senza sord.)

PIZZ

PP (III)

mp

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152

pp

pp

pp

mp, molto espressivo

pp

p

p

mp

TUTTI

mp

p, pizz

pp

p leggiero

pizz., pp

arco.

p

158

mp

pp

mf

p

pp

mf

mp

mf

poco marcato

mp, espr

mp

mf

V

pp

I, II Soli

tutti arco

mp

f

pizz.

pp

pp

mp

f

TUTTE ARCO pp

pizz.

arco

mp

f

pizz, pp

arco

pp

mp

f

pizz

pi

rallent.... molto allargando

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172

p

p

PPP

PPP

PP

mp

PP

(allarg molto) - - - - - - - Tempo I° poco rit. - - - a tempo

p

flautando

pp

p

pp flautando

p

pp flautando

p

IV

pp

arco

nat.

mp

mp, nat

mp, nat

p, pizz

III

178

183

p

PICCOLO

pp

mp

ppp

ppp

ppp

CON SORD

GLI ALTRI

I SOLO molto espressivo

I SOLO
p molto espressivo

GLI ALTRI

molto espr.

I SOLA

molto espressivo

I SOLO, arco

CON SORD II
TUTTI

pp

CON SORD
TUTTI

pp

CON SORD
TUTTI

pp

espr.

ARCO
TUTTI CON SORD

pp

CON SORD