Forward/Still

(2023)

Omar Thomas

Commissioned by the Oswego School District #308 Bednarcik, Murphy, Plank, Thompson, and Traughber Junior High School Bands.

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INSTRUMENTATION GRADE 3.5

2 Flutes
Oboe
Bassoon

3 Clarinets in Bb
Bass Clarinet

2 Alto Saxes
Tenor Sax
Baritone Sax

3 Trumpets in Bb
2 Horns in F
2 Trombones
Euphonium
Tuba

Timpani

Vibraphone/Glockenspiel/Marimba (medium mallets)

Percussion 1 – Ride Cymbal w/ sizzler, Snare w/ brushes, Hi-hat
Percussion 2 – Snare (12" splash on snare head eventually), Ride Cymbal,
Bass Drum (extremely dry, mute bottom head, chamois bass drum mallets), Clap Stack (if no clap stack, use 2-3 stacked splash cymbals, preferably with hole cutouts), Chopper Cymbal (*use Burton grip to facilitate playing both the bass drum and chopper cymbal (one chamois mallet and one regular drum stick for the chopper – section begins at m. 101)*
Tam-Tam/Suspended Cymbal
Tambourine

**This piece can be played a few clicks below the marked tempo.*

PROGRAM NOTES

"The kind of tired sleep can't fix."

There is an inherent dichotomy built into the title of this work; the first word, "*forward*," implying motion while the second word, "*still*," implies non-motion. Equally dichotomous is the notion that while we move forward in time, there are conflicts, prejudices, tribalist tendencies, and antiquated, non-inclusive ideas that prevent us from *truly* moving forward – that hold us still. The first half of this work presents a hymn – or a requiem? – that is saturated with weight and burden, reflecting a level of soul weariness that sleep simply cannot fix. Realizing that the only option we have is hope-made-action, the hymn gives way to a soaring effort, seeking to resume the fight towards progress, safety, and collective humanity. The piece eases into an ending with unsettling echoes of the original hymn and a return to the very first chord which should bring comfort and resolution yet leaves us with a feeling of uncertainty. This uncertainty is analogous to our current moment in time - one that humanity has faced at many inflection points throughout our story. If there is any lesson to be gleaned from our cyclical history of struggle and progress, however, it is that regardless how heavy, burdened, and hopeless we feel, we must move forward, still.

OPTIONAL SWING

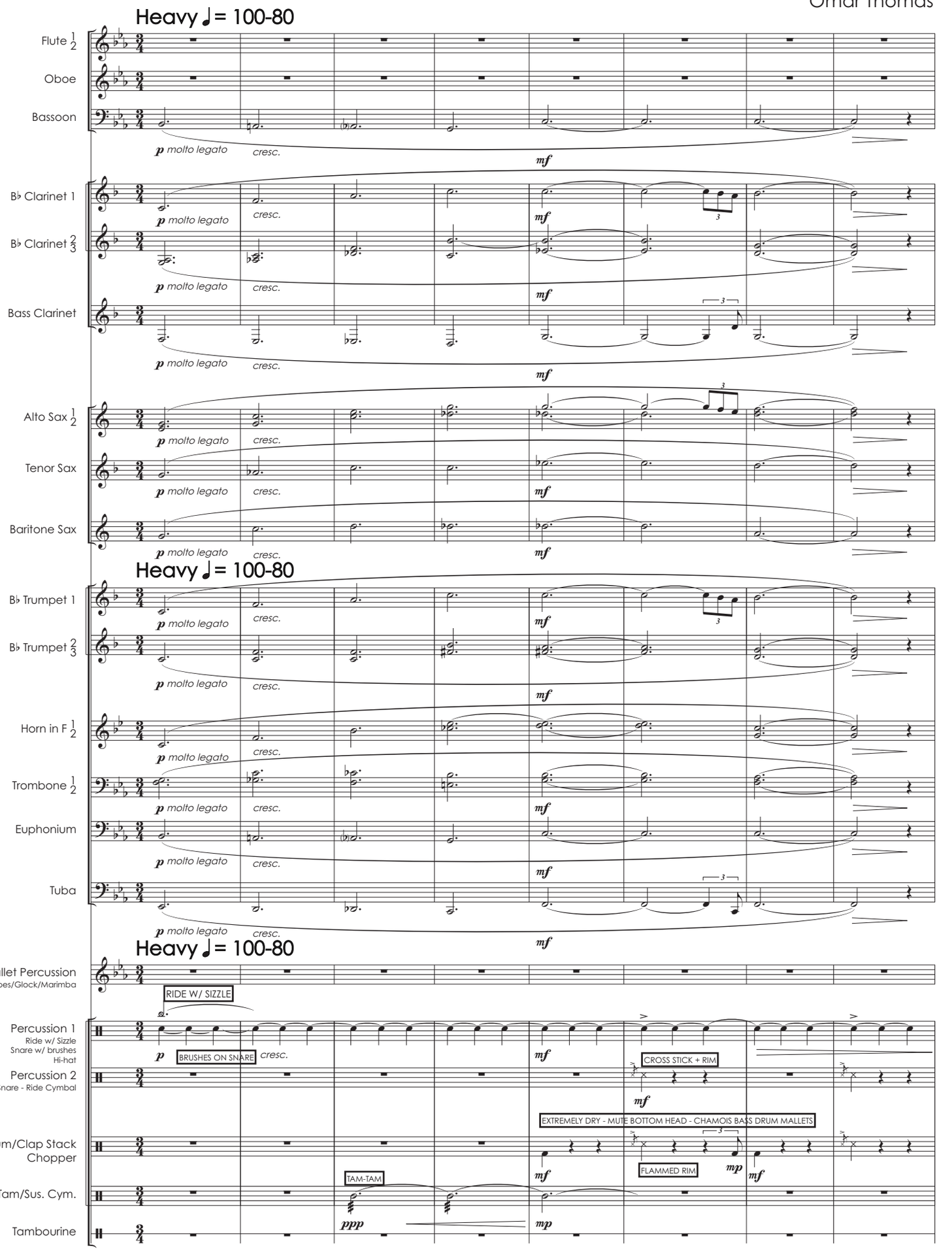
You have the option to perform this piece as a jazz waltz, allowing for the swinging of the eighth notes in all places EXCEPT for the eighth notes in m. 87 and in the descending cascade in mm. 120-123. In those two places, the eighth notes should remain straight.

Score

Forward/Still

Commissioned by the Oswego School District #308
Junior High School Bands, Rachel Maxwell, Project Coordinator

Omar Thomas



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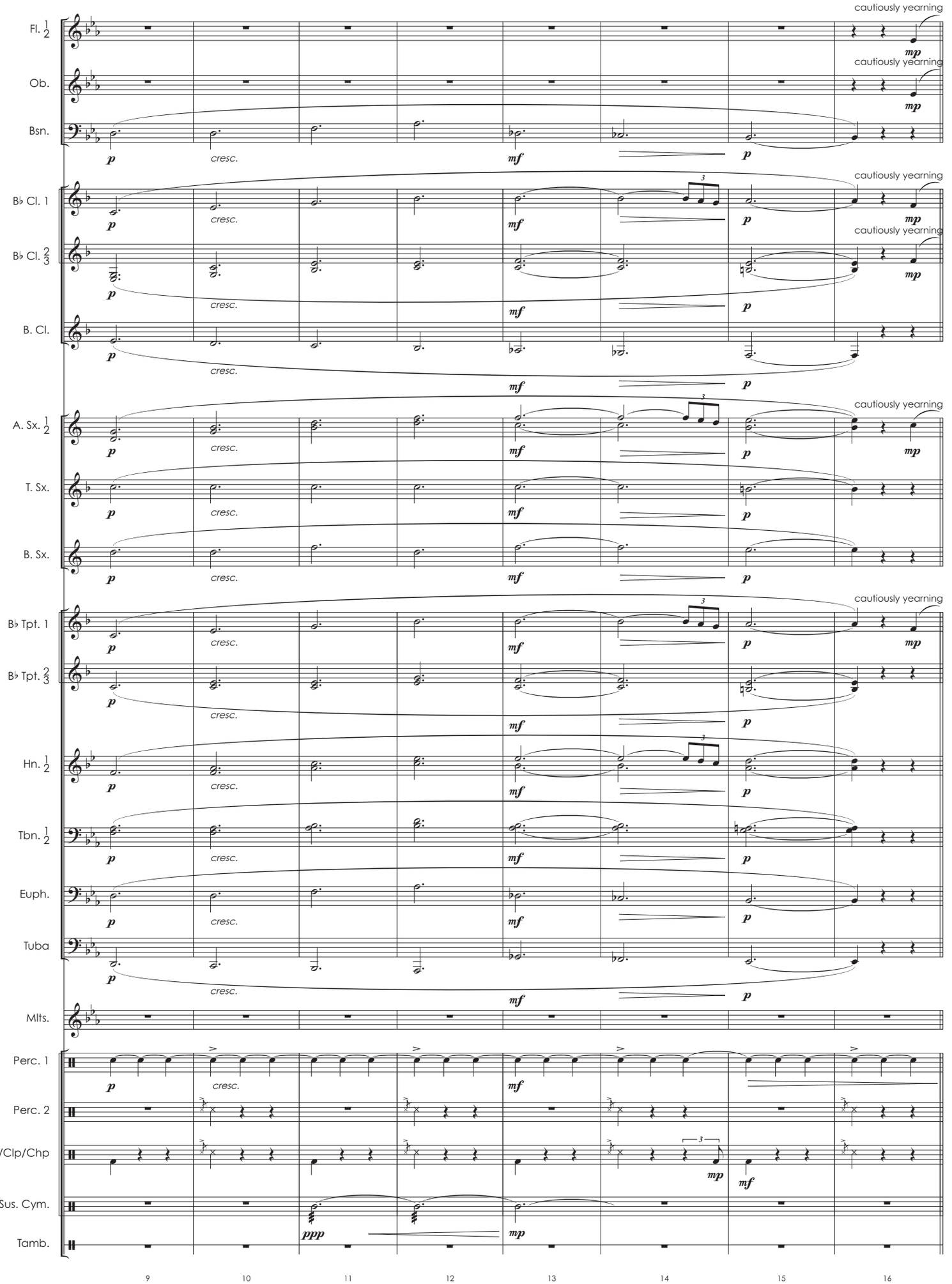
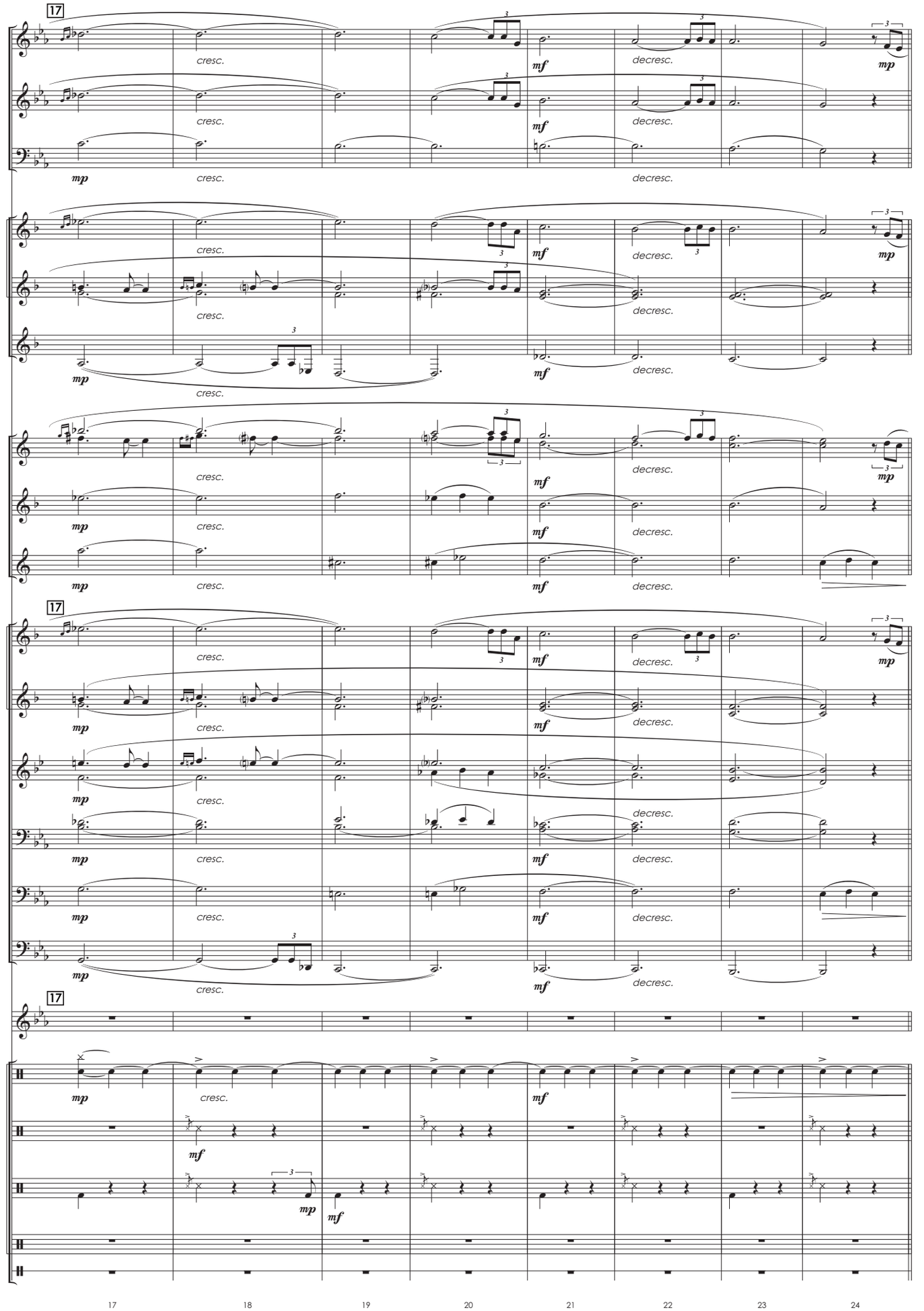
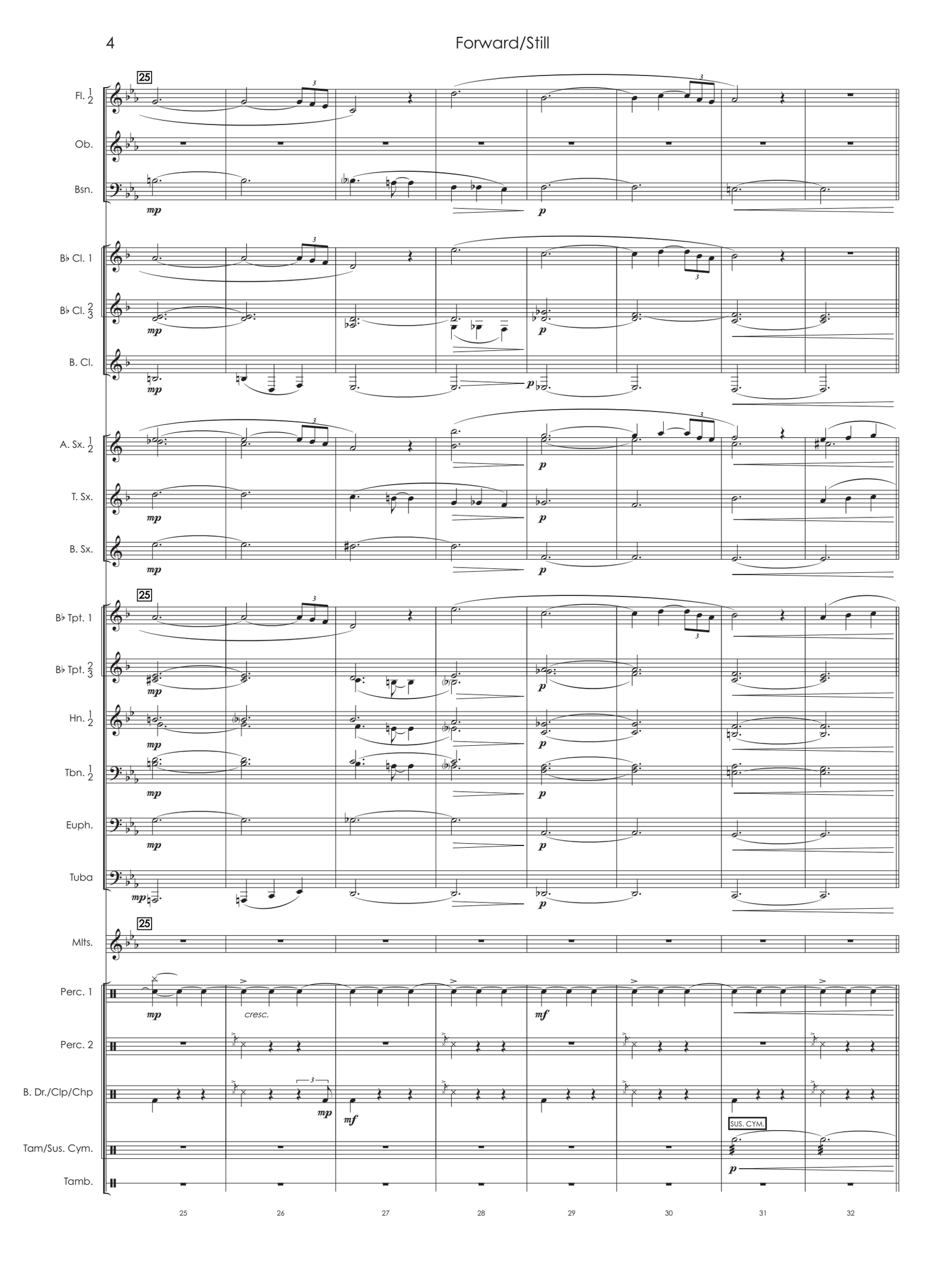
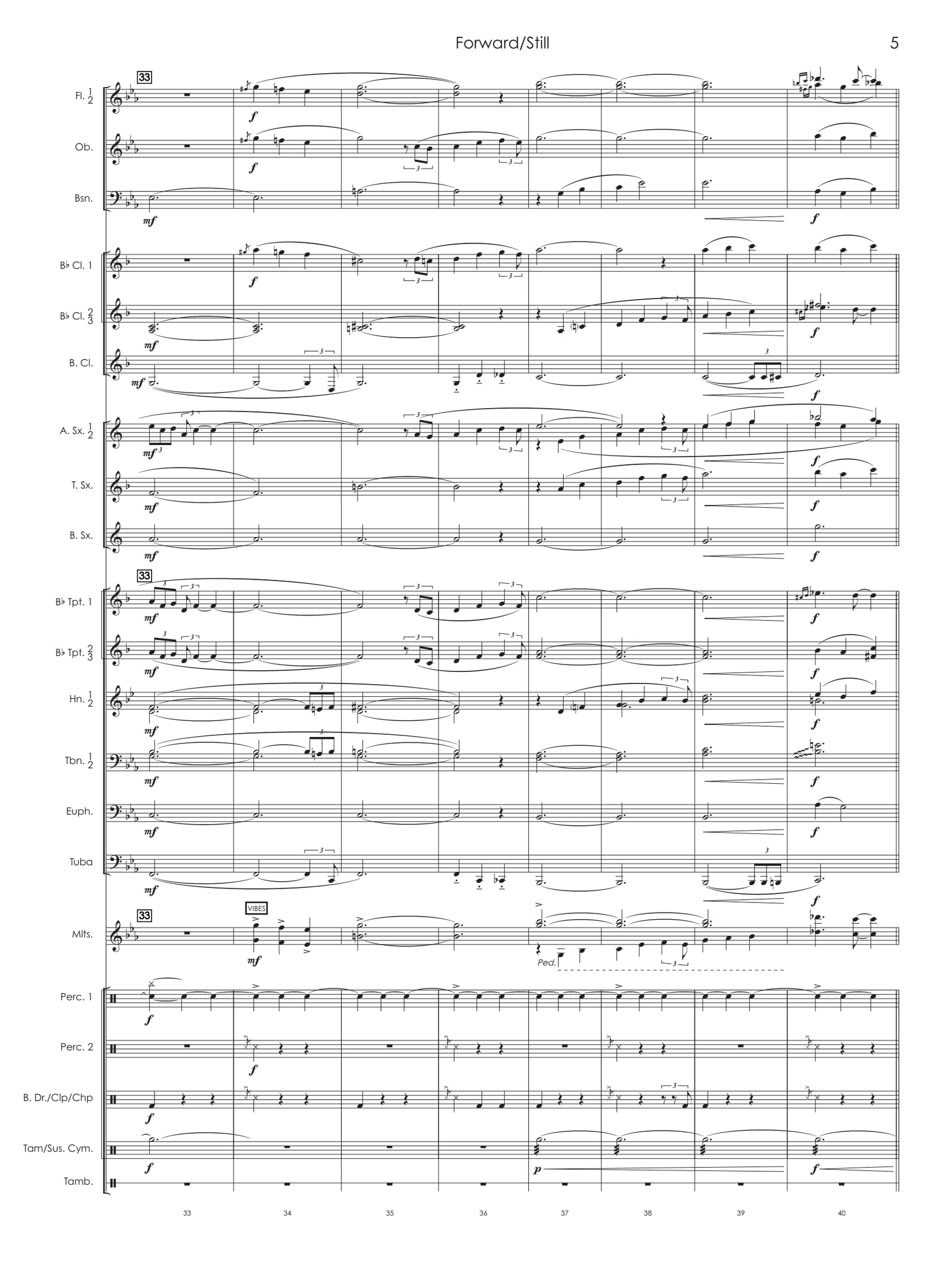
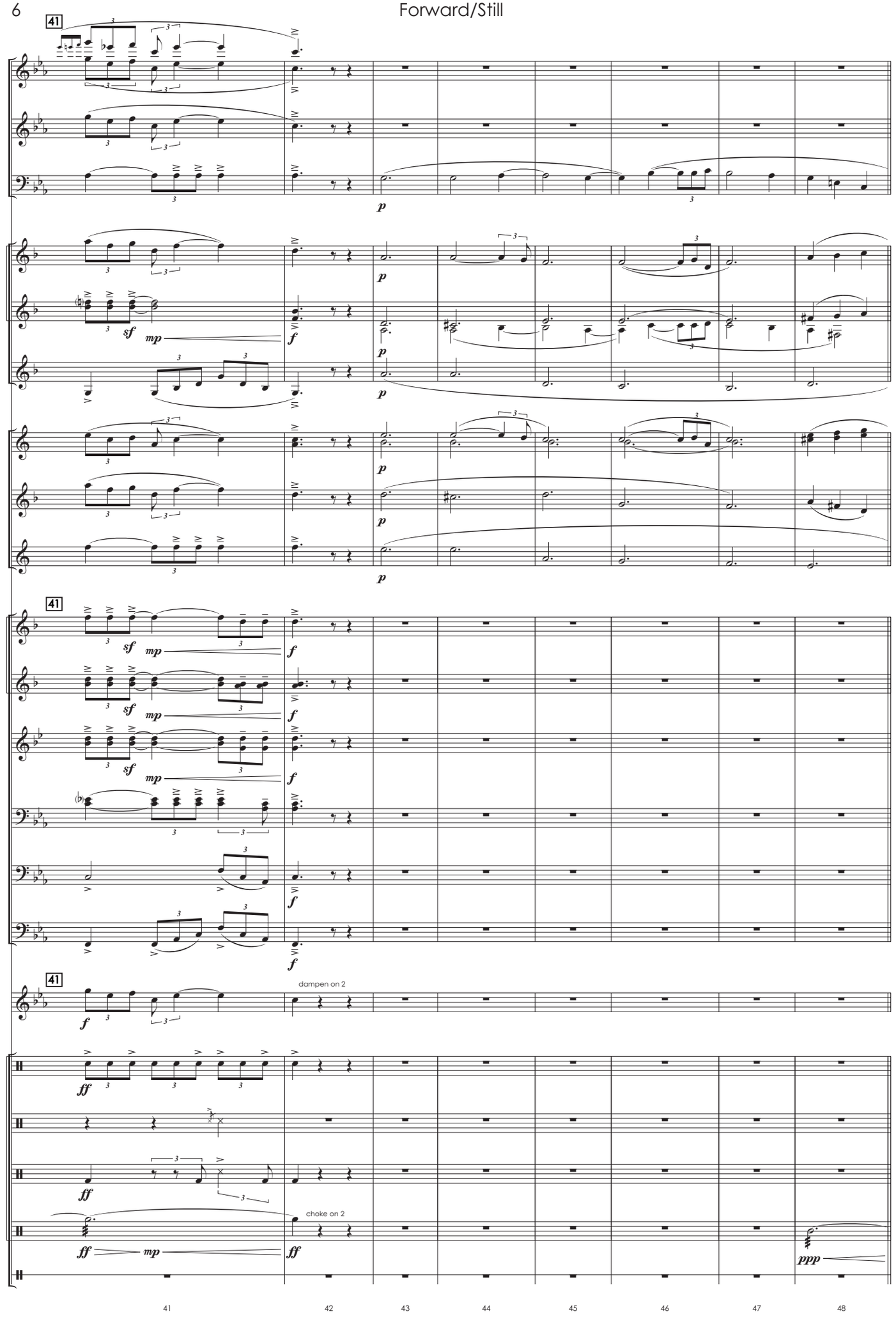
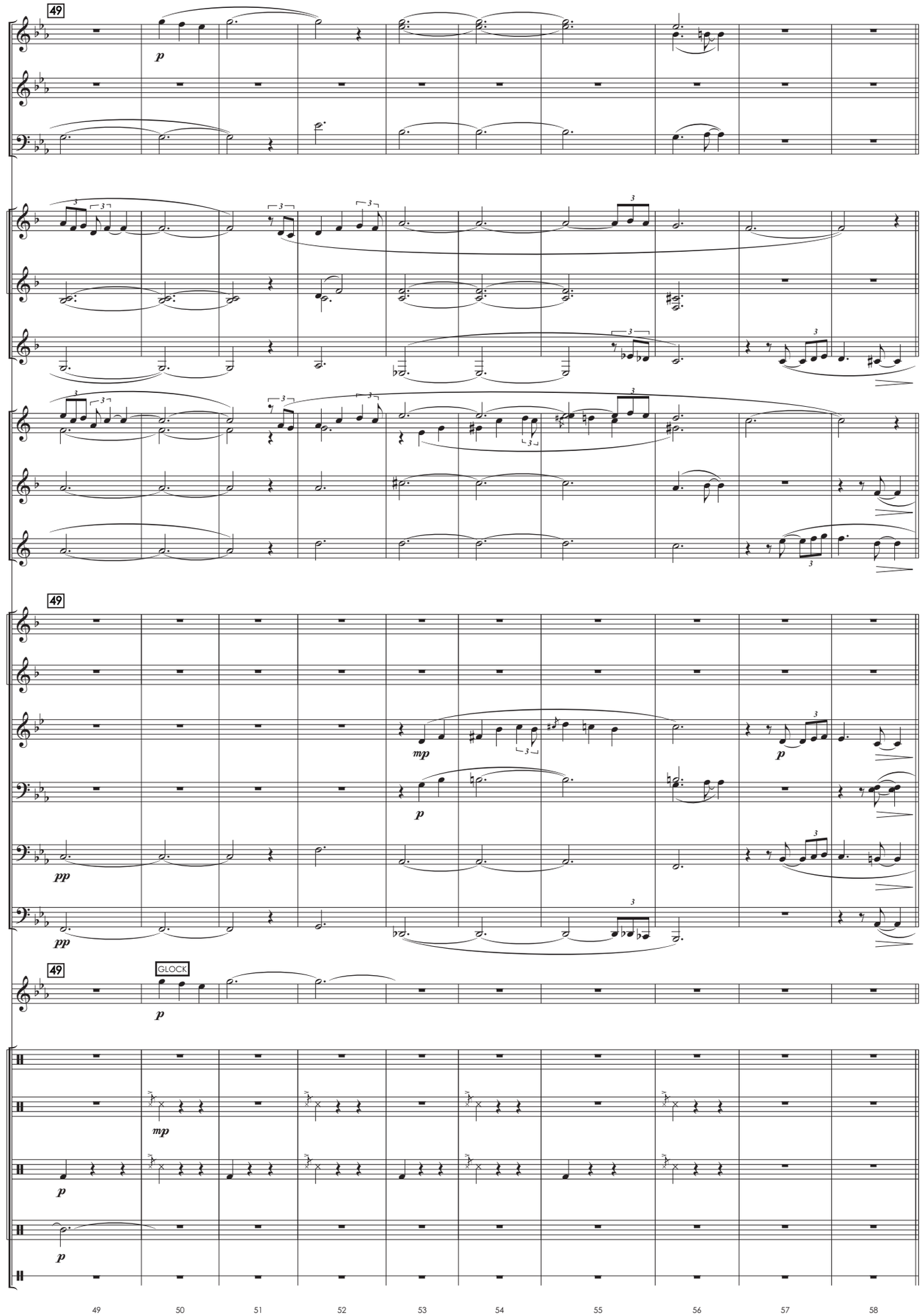

Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
Tuba
Mlts.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
cautiously yearning
p
cresc.
mf
mp
ppp
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16

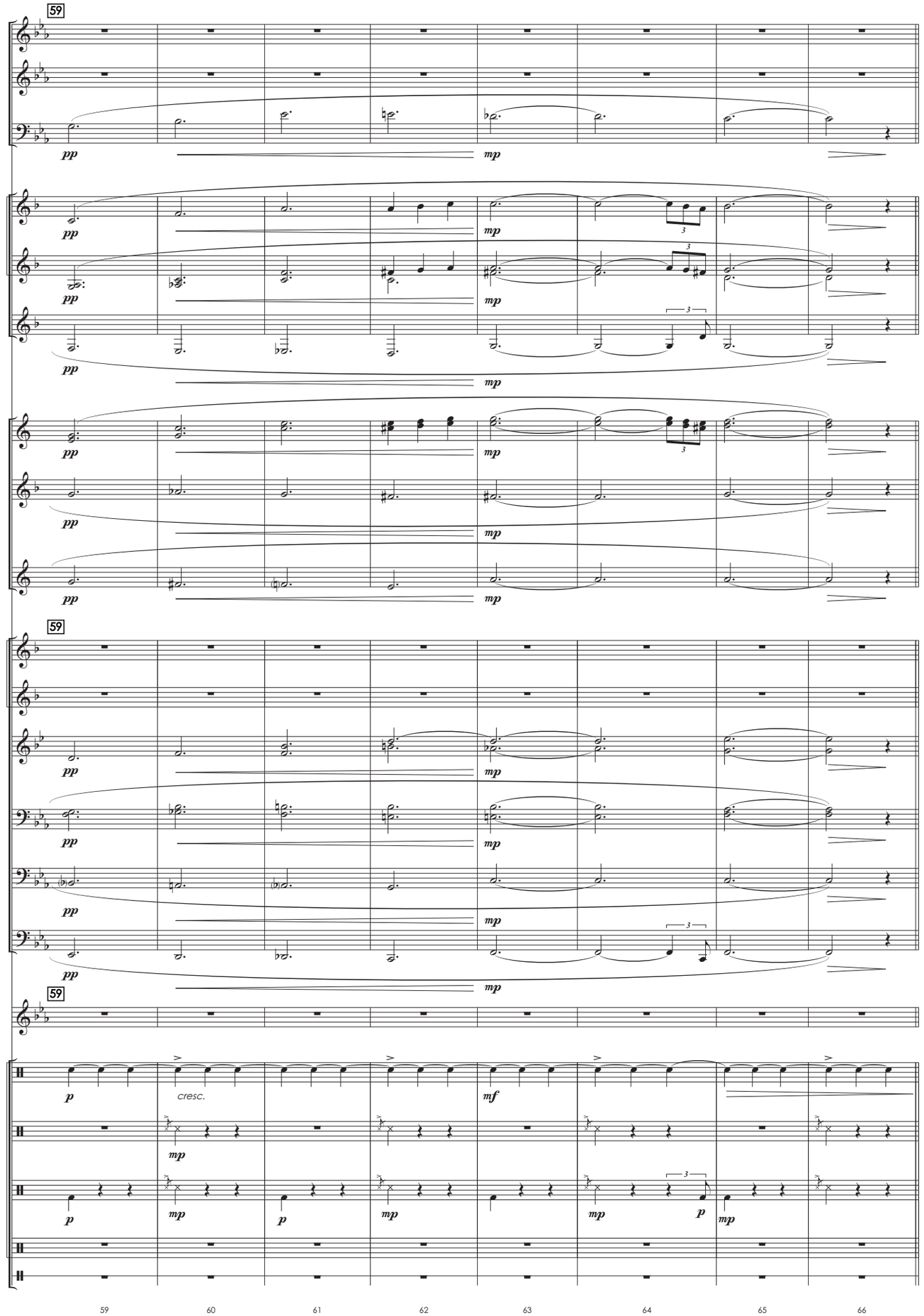

17
Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
17
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
Tuba
17
Mlts.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
mp
cresc.
mf
decresc.
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

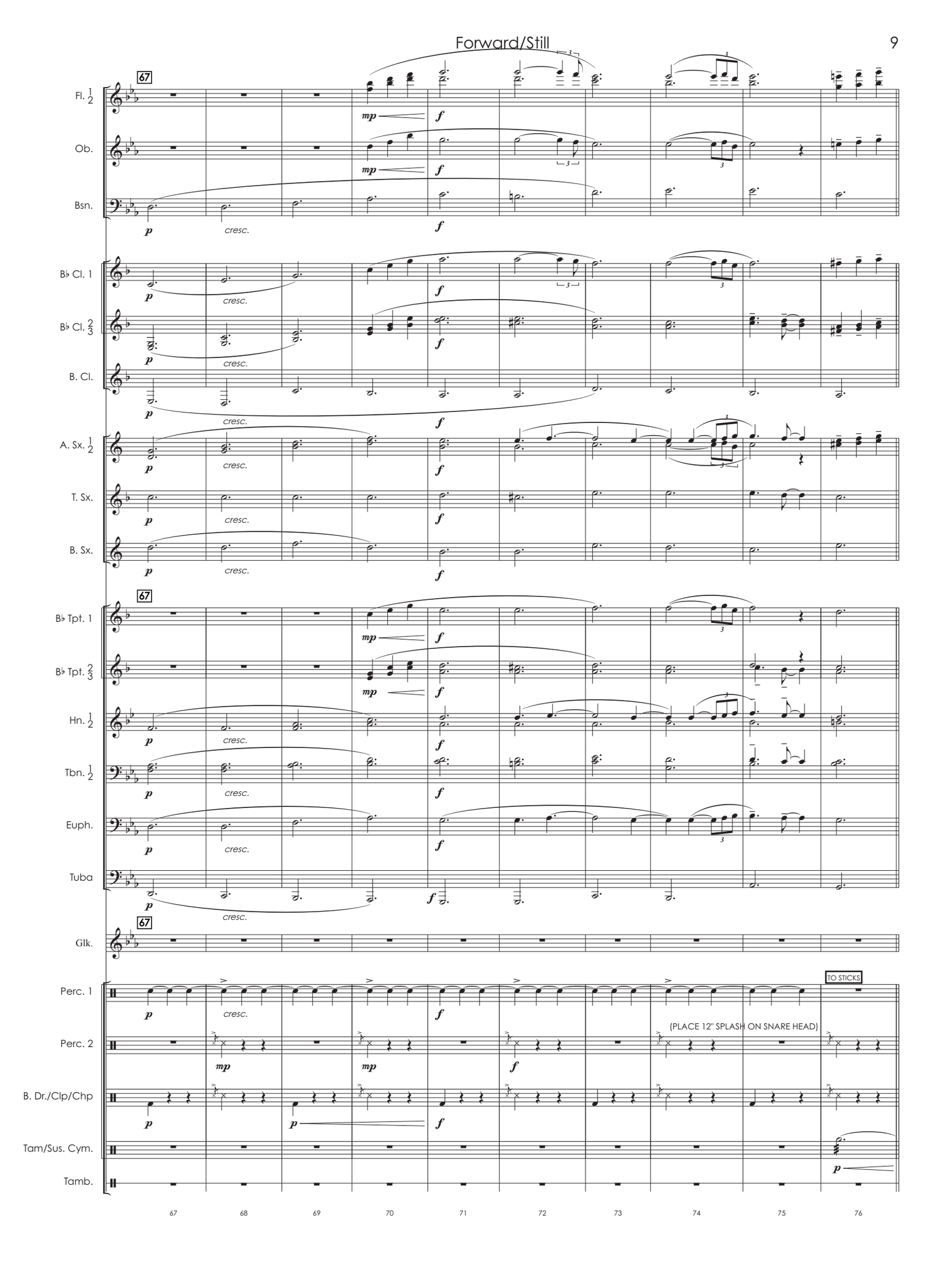

25
Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
mp
p
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
Tuba
Mlts.
Perc. 1
cresc.
mf
Perc. 2
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
SUS. CYM.
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

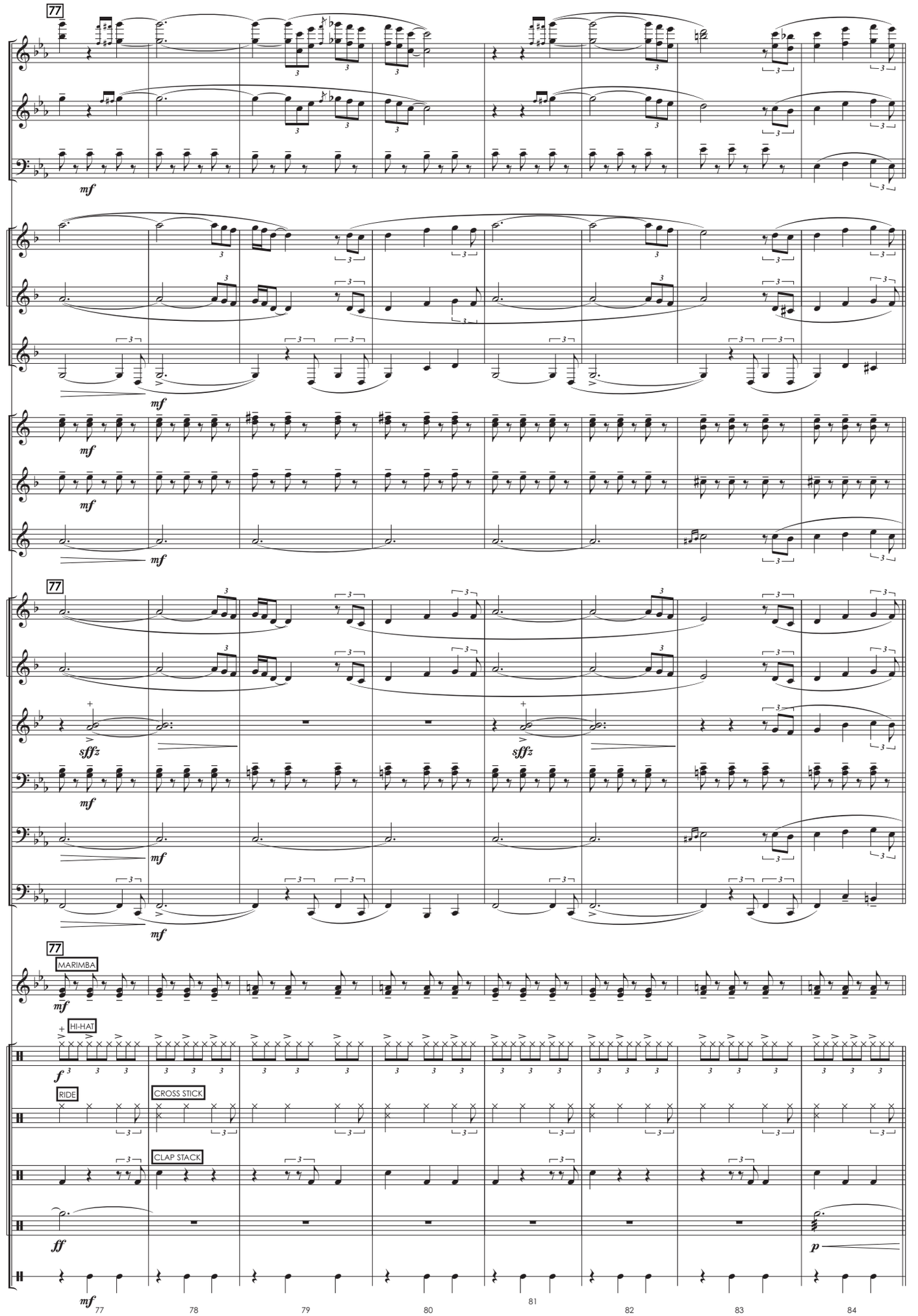

33
Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
33
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
Tuba
33
VIBES
Mlts.
Ped.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40

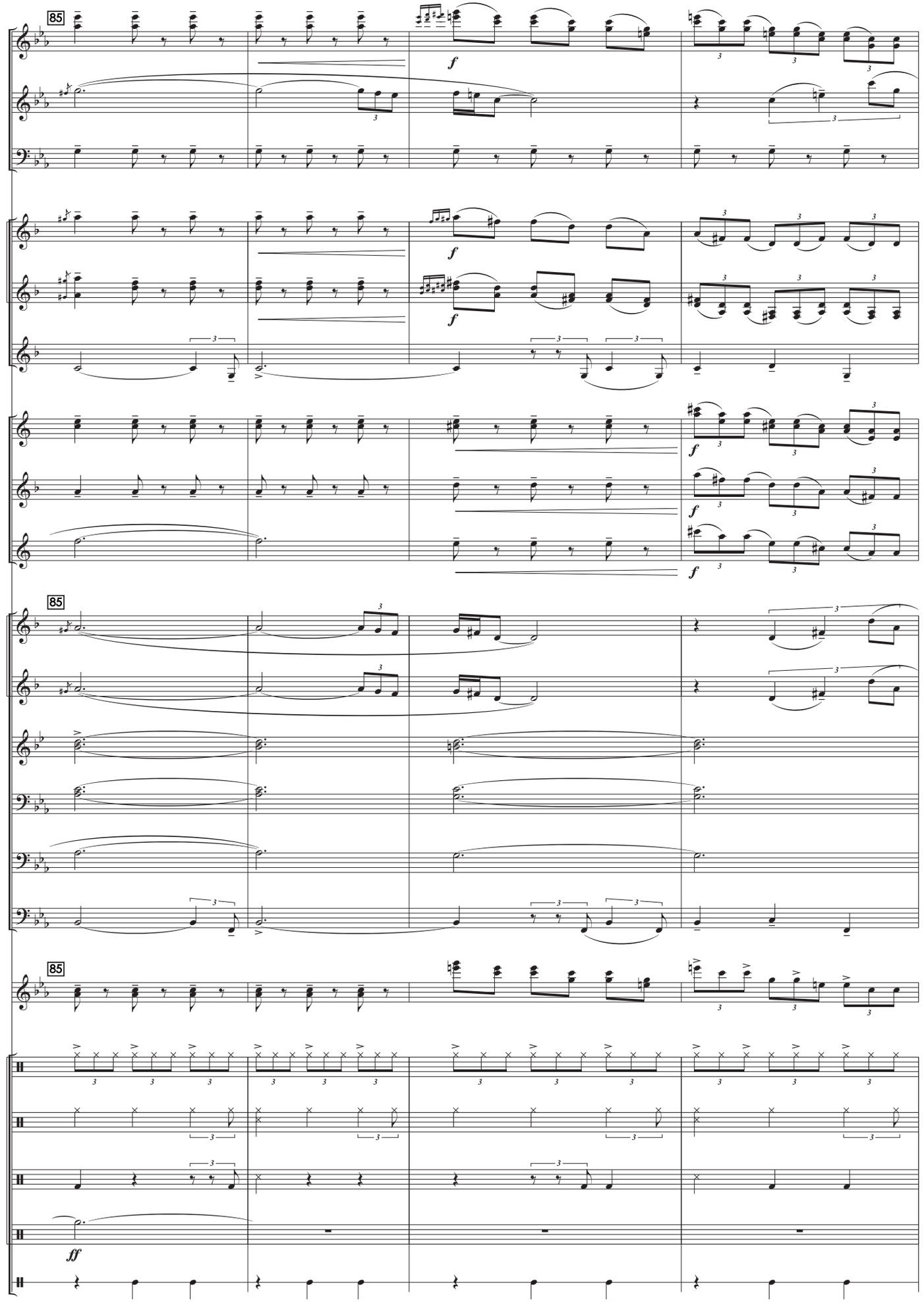

41
Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
p
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
sf
mp
f
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
Tuba
Mlts.
dampen on 2
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
choke on 2
Tamb.
ff
ppp
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48

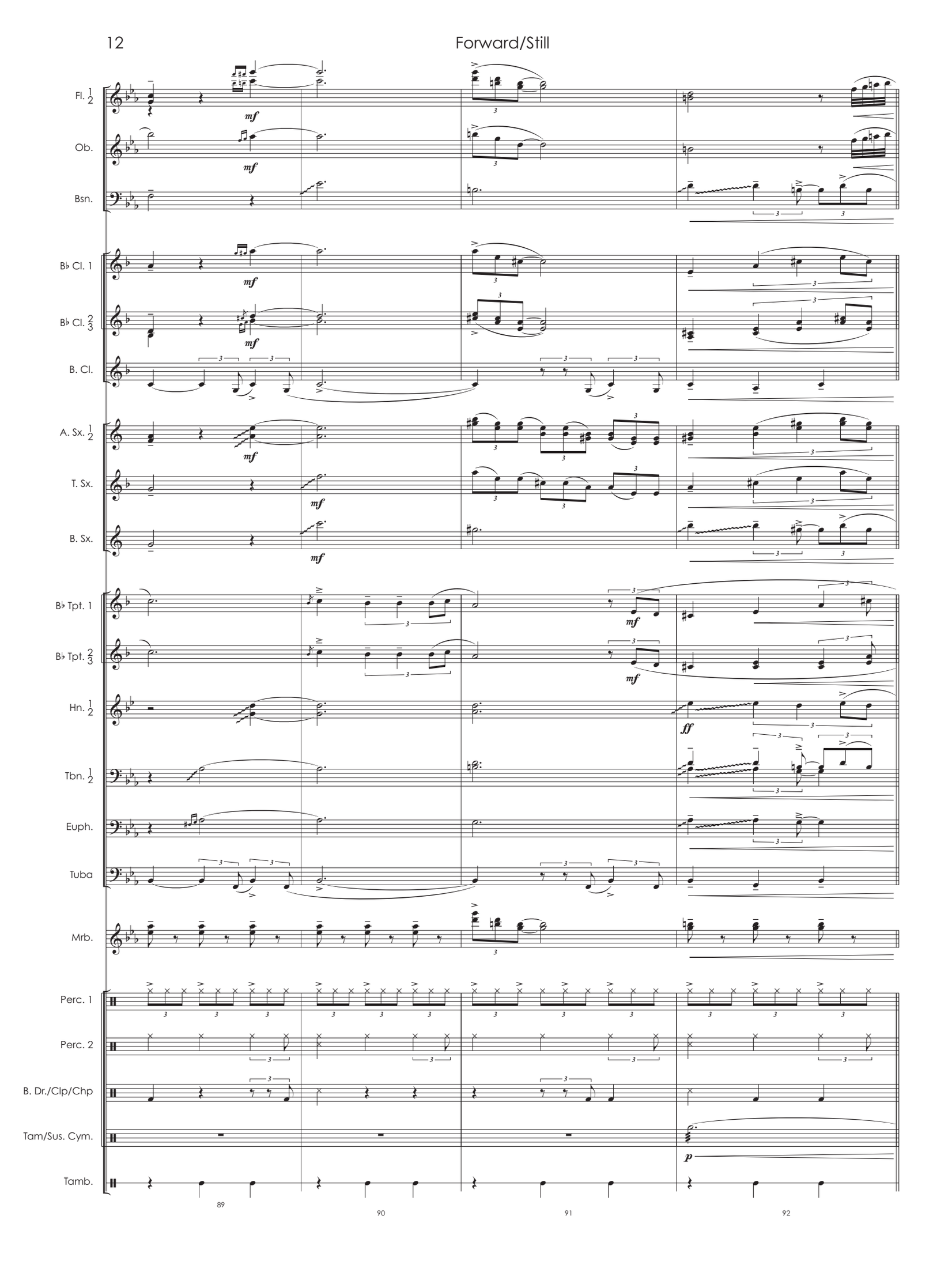

49
Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
49
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
Tuba
49
GLOCK
Mlts.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58

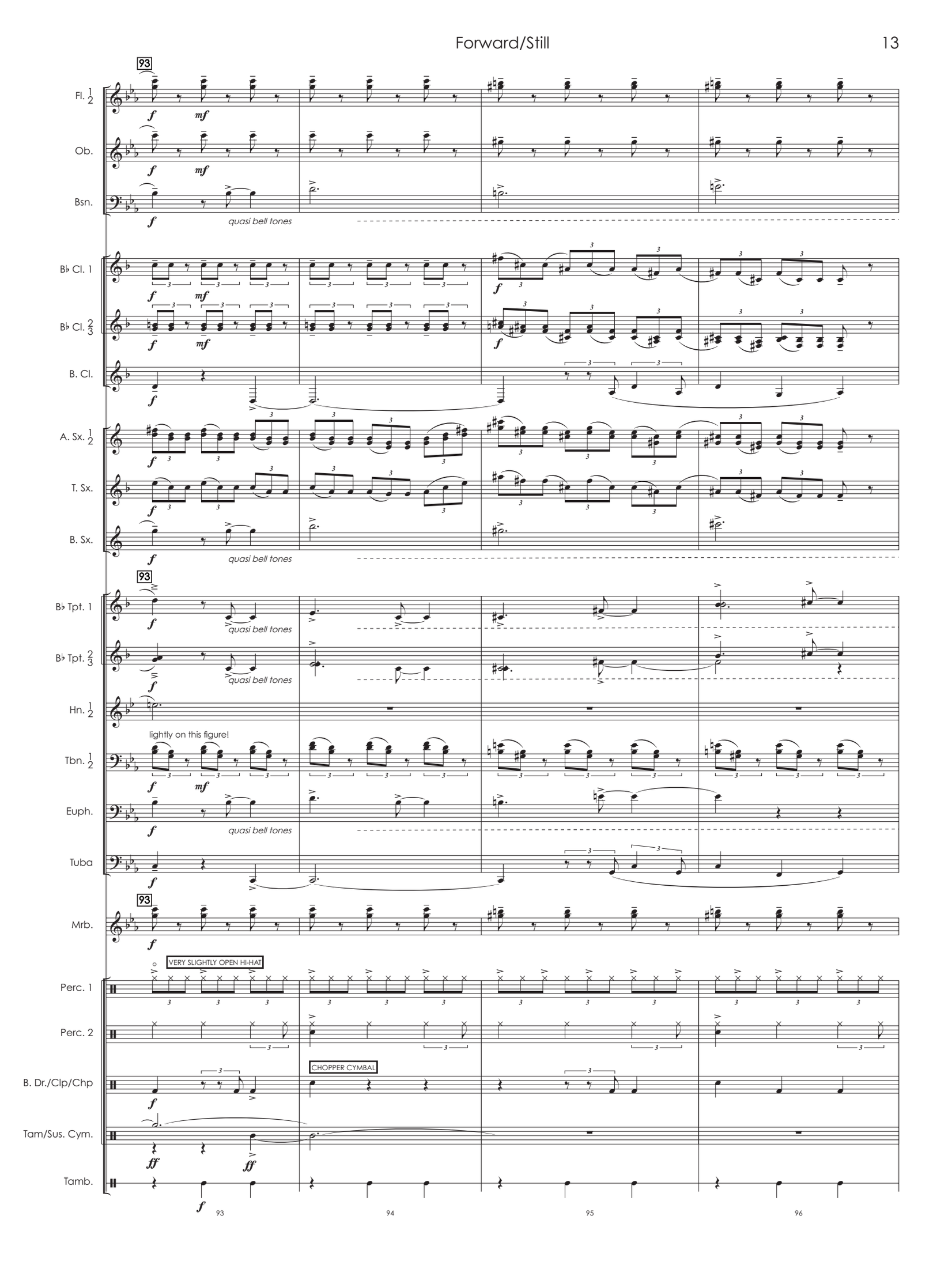

59
Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
pp
mp
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
Tuba
Glk.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
cresc.
mf
p
3
59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66

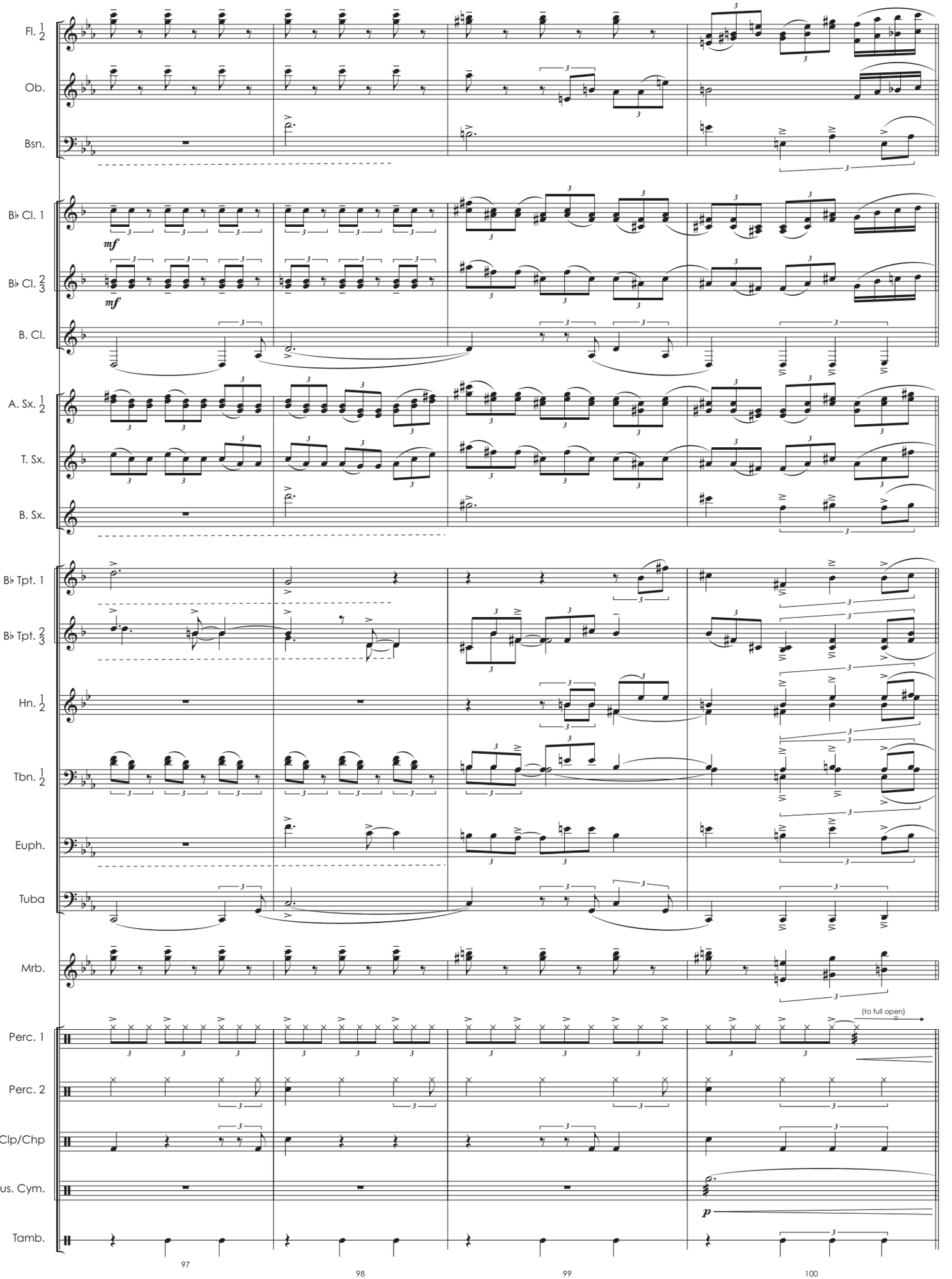

67
Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
Tuba
Glk.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
mp
f
p
cresc.
TO STICKS
(PLACE 12" SPLASH ON SNARE HEAD)
67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76

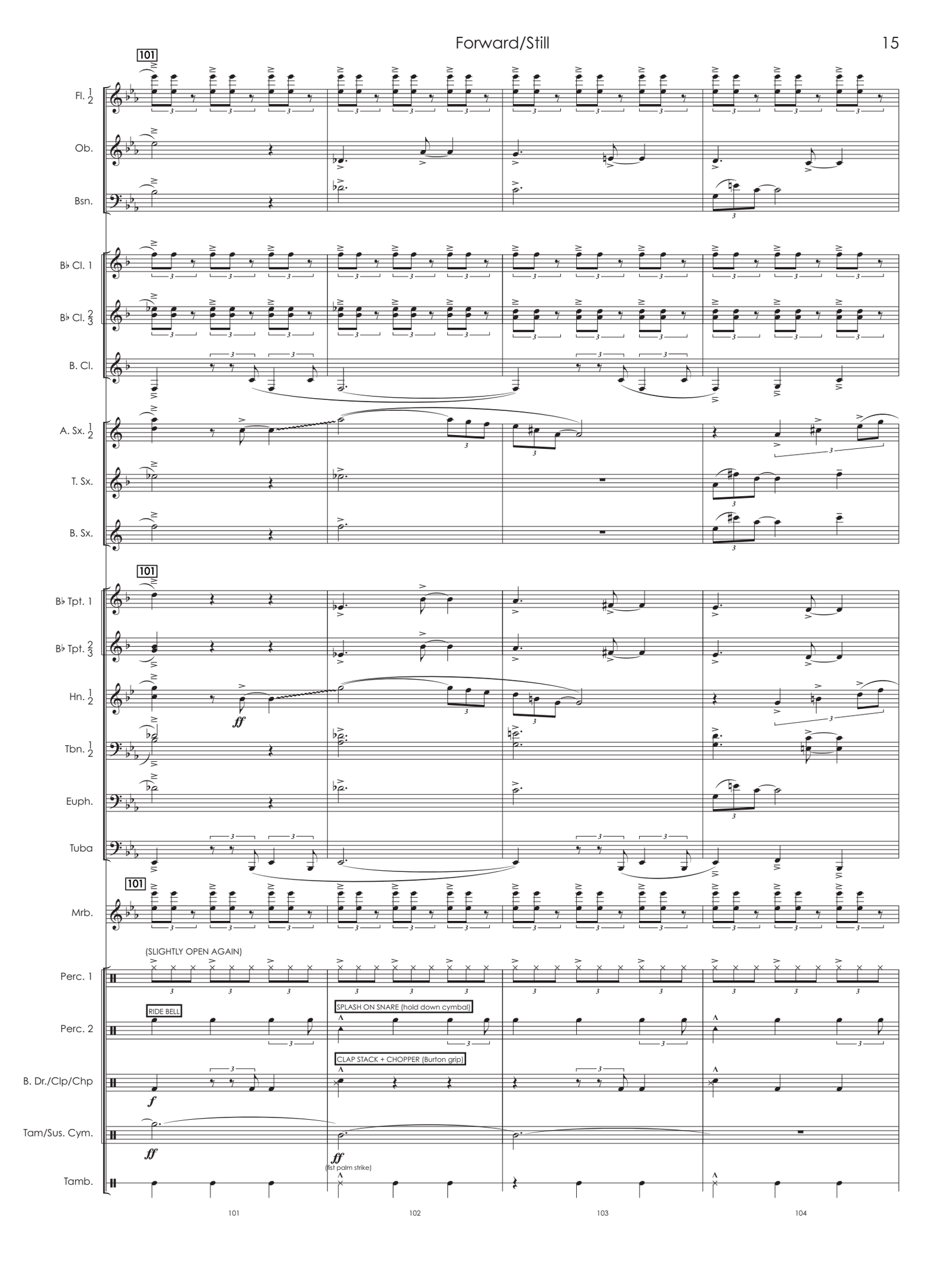

77
Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
mf
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
mf
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
mf
77
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
sffz
sffz
Tbn. 1 2
mf
Euph.
mf
Tuba
mf
77
MARIMBA
Mrb.
mf
HI-HAT
Perc. 1
f
RIDE
CROSS STICK
Perc. 2
CLAP STACK
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
ff
p
Tamb.
mf
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84

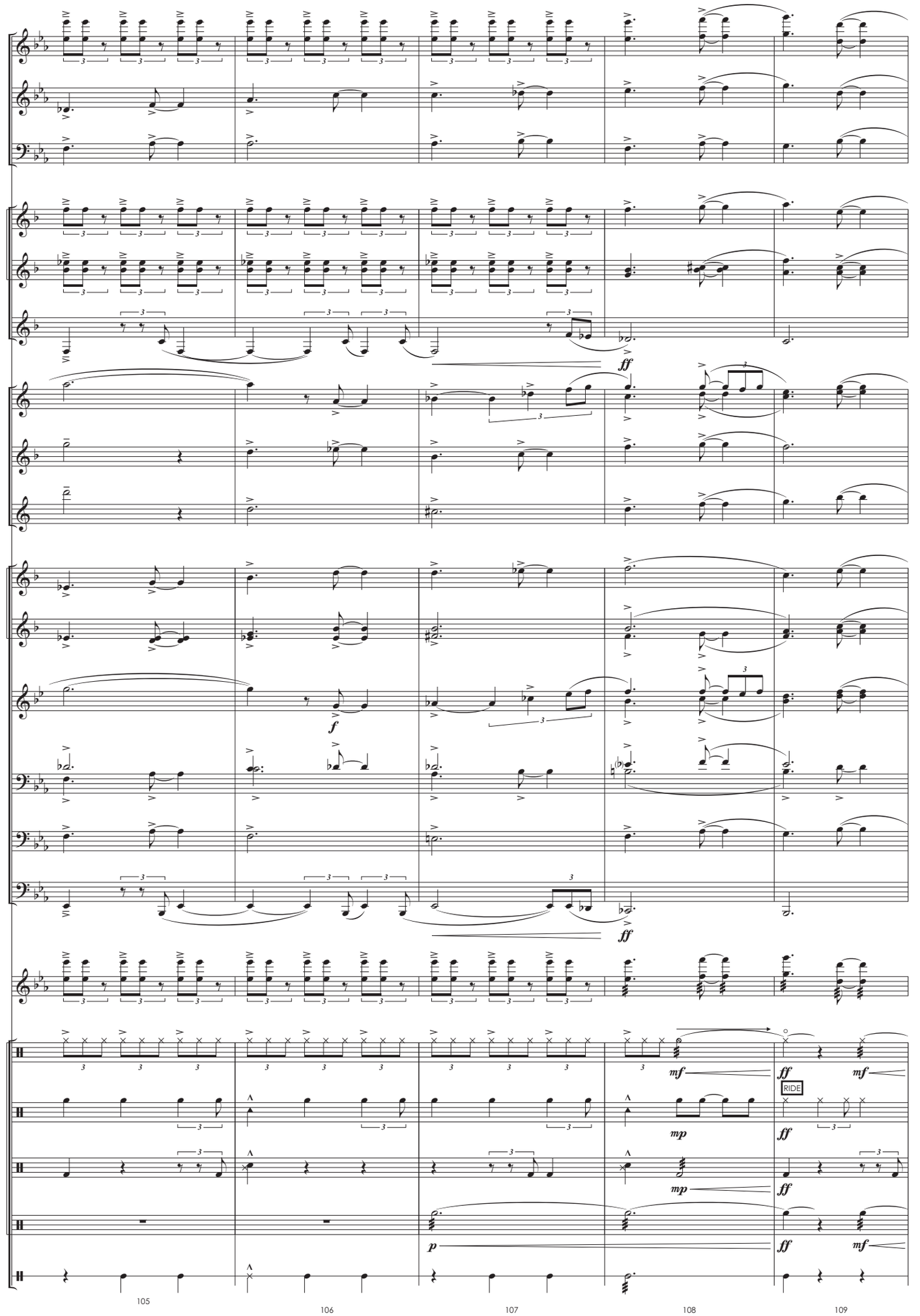

85
Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
85
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
Tuba
85
Mrb.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
ff
85
86
87
88

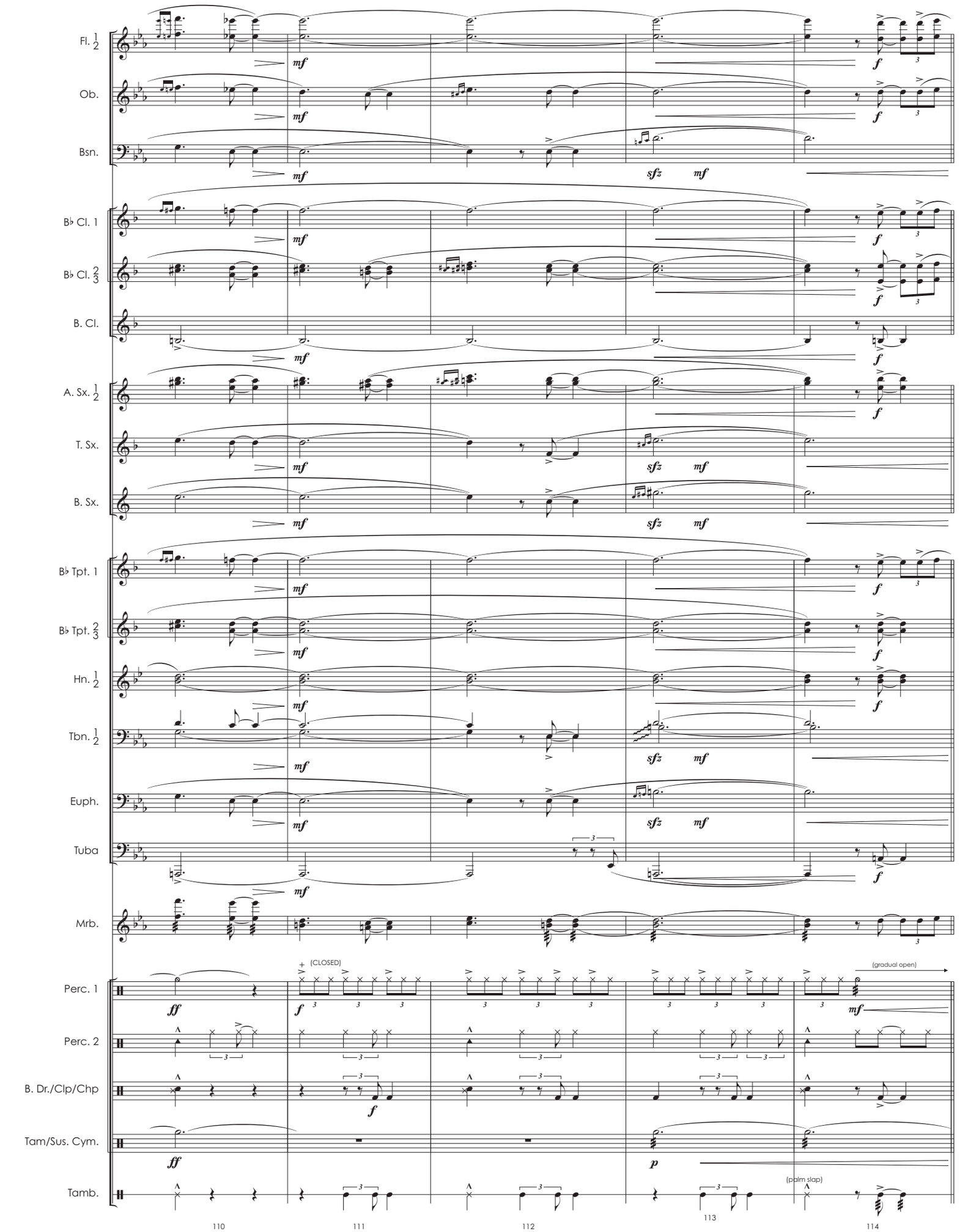

Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
Tuba
Mrb.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
mf
ff
p
89
90
91
92

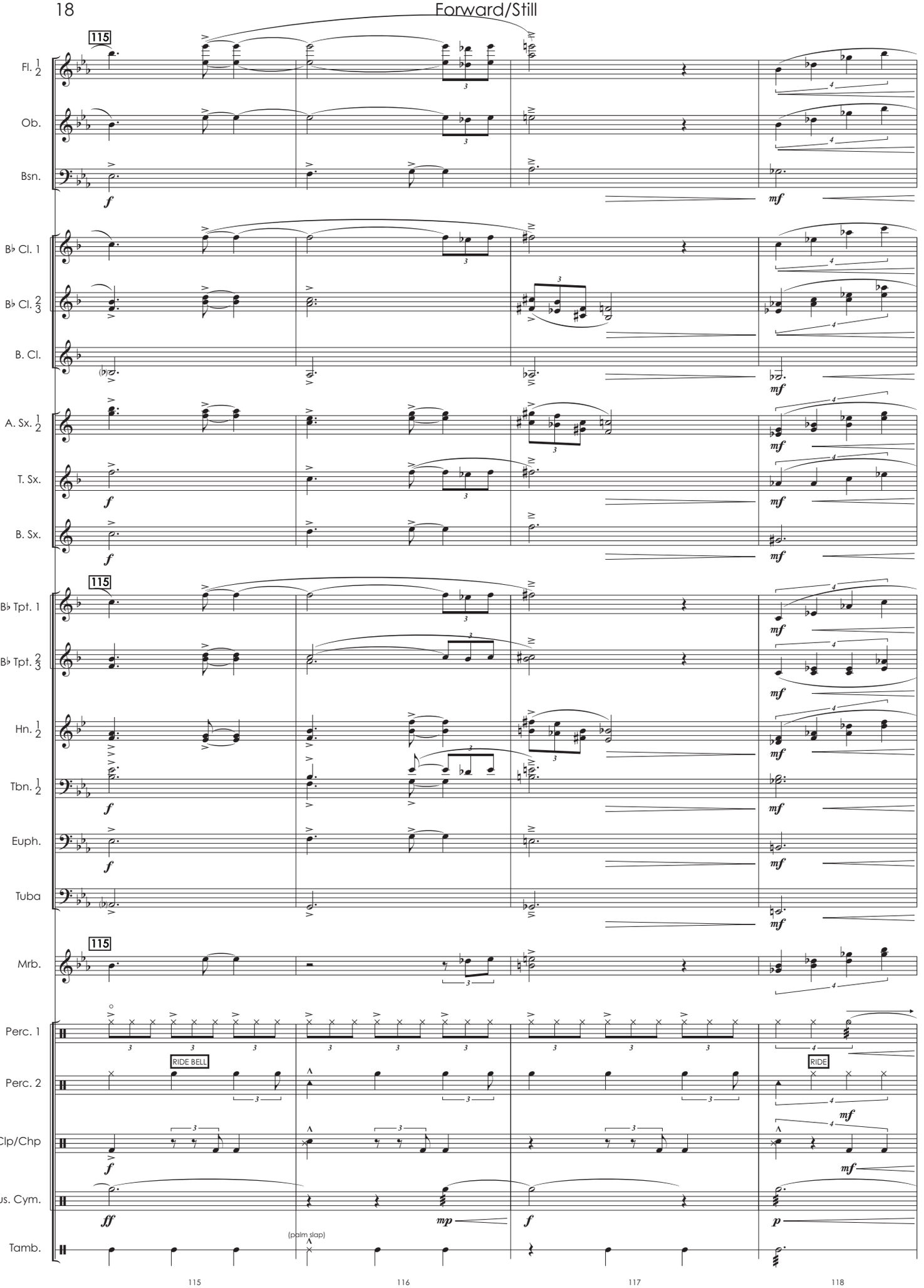

93
Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
quasi bell tones
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
quasi bell tones
93
B♭ Tpt. 1
quasi bell tones
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
quasi bell tones
Hn. 1 2
lightly on this figure!
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
quasi bell tones
Tuba
93
Mrb.
VERY SLIGHTLY OPEN HI-HAT
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
CHOPPER CYMBAL
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
93
94
95
96

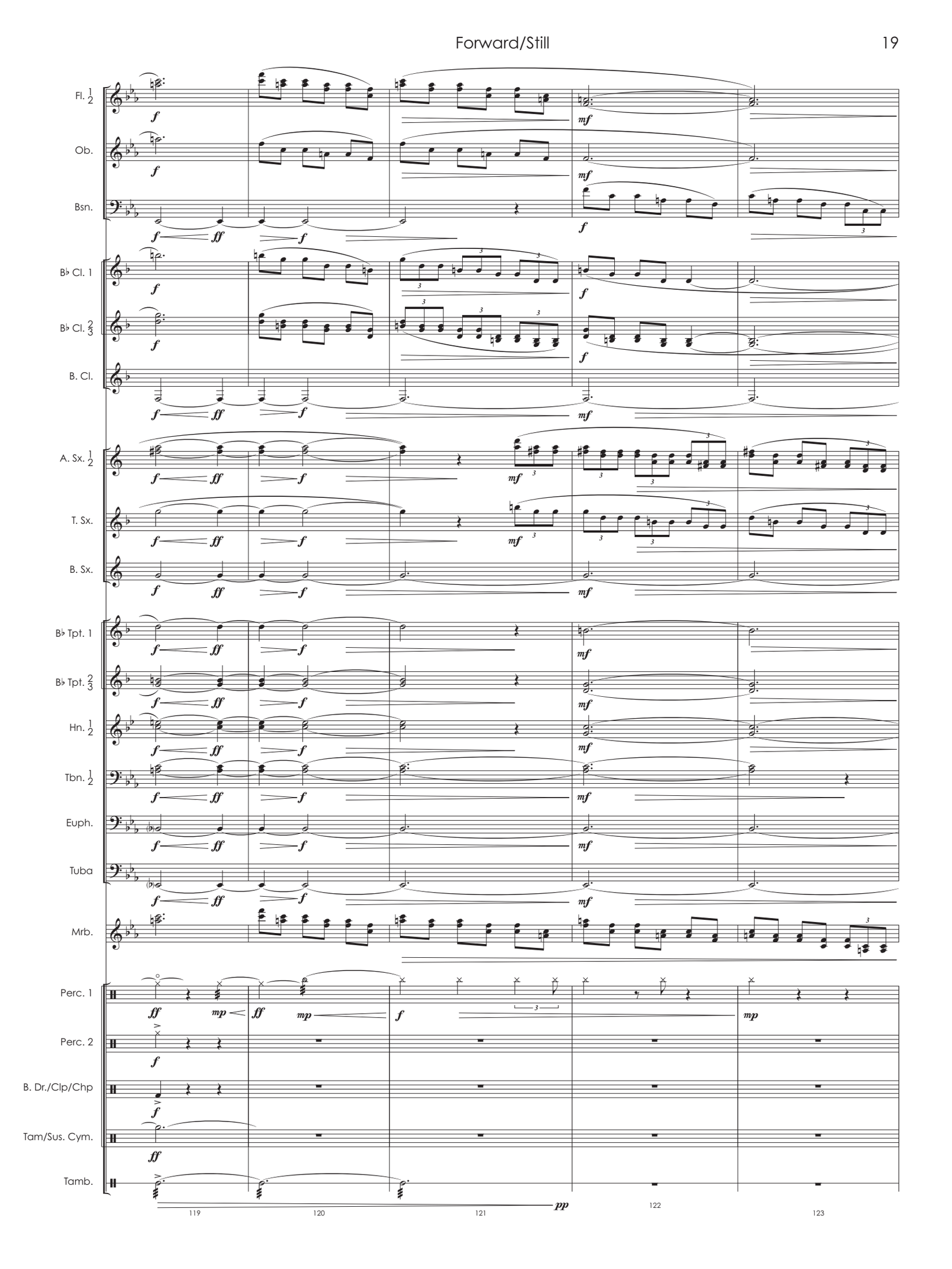

Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
Tuba
Mrb.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
mf
mf
(to full open)
p
97
98
99
100

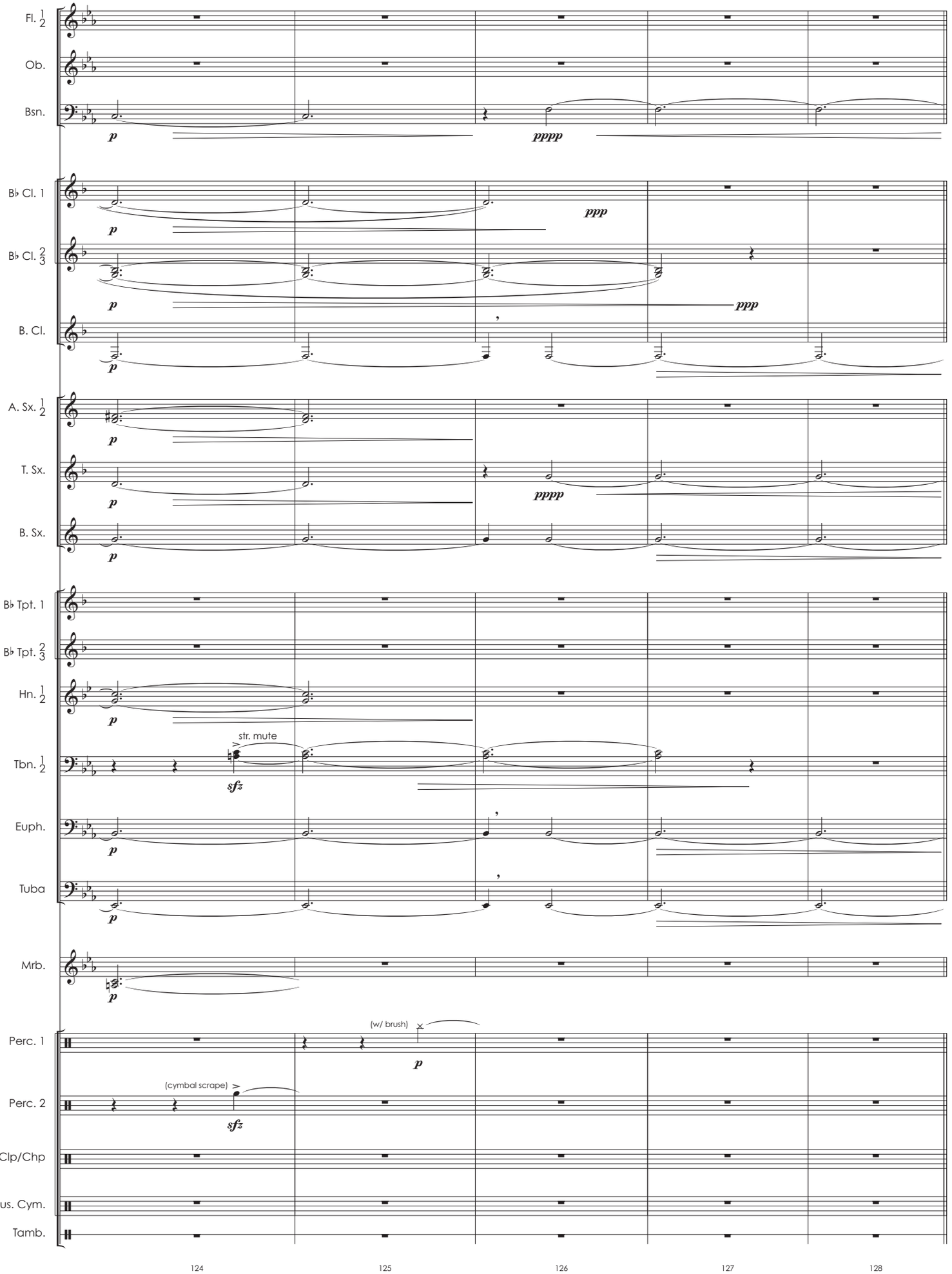

101
Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
101
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
ff
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
Tuba
101
Mrb.
(SLIGHTLY OPEN AGAIN)
Perc. 1
RIDE BELL
SPLASH ON SNARE (hold down cymbal)
Perc. 2
CLAP STACK + CHOPPER (Burton grip)
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
f
Tam/Sus. Cym.
ff
ff
(fist palm strike)
Tamb.
101
102
103
104

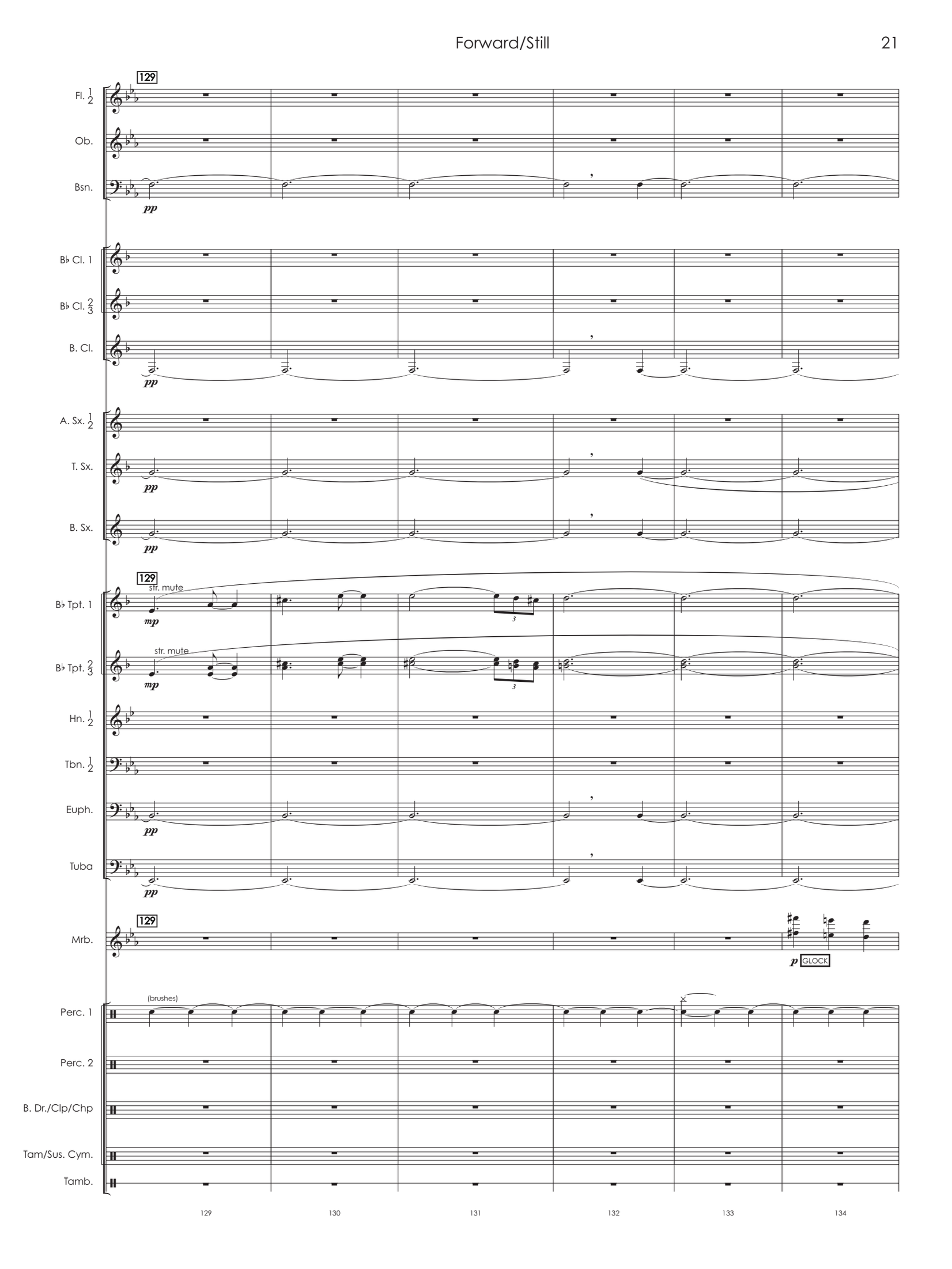

Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
Tuba
Mrb.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
ff
f
mf
mp
p
RIDE
105
106
107
108
109

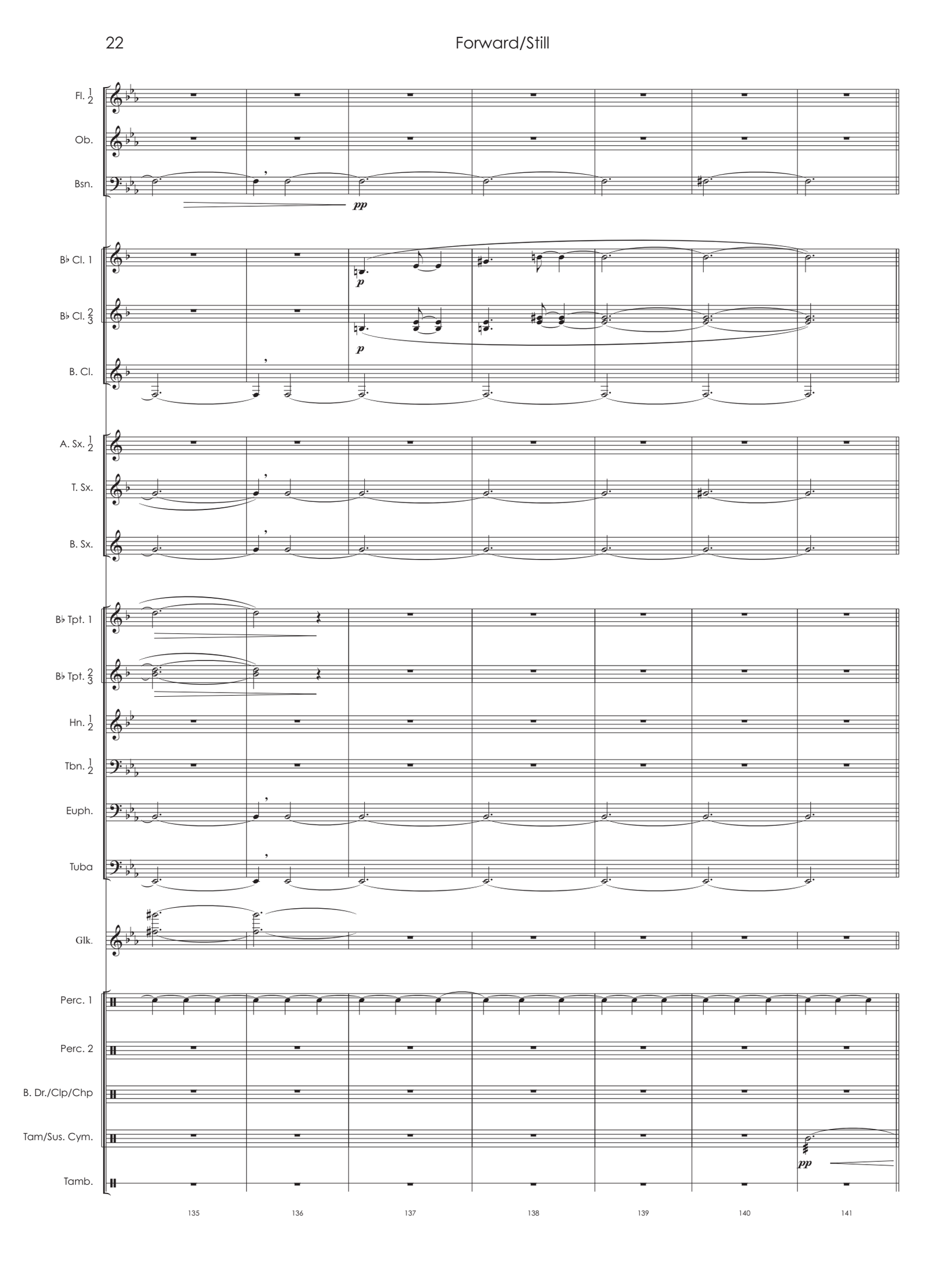

Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
Tuba
Mrb.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
(CLOSED)
(gradual open)
(palm slap)
110
111
112
113
114

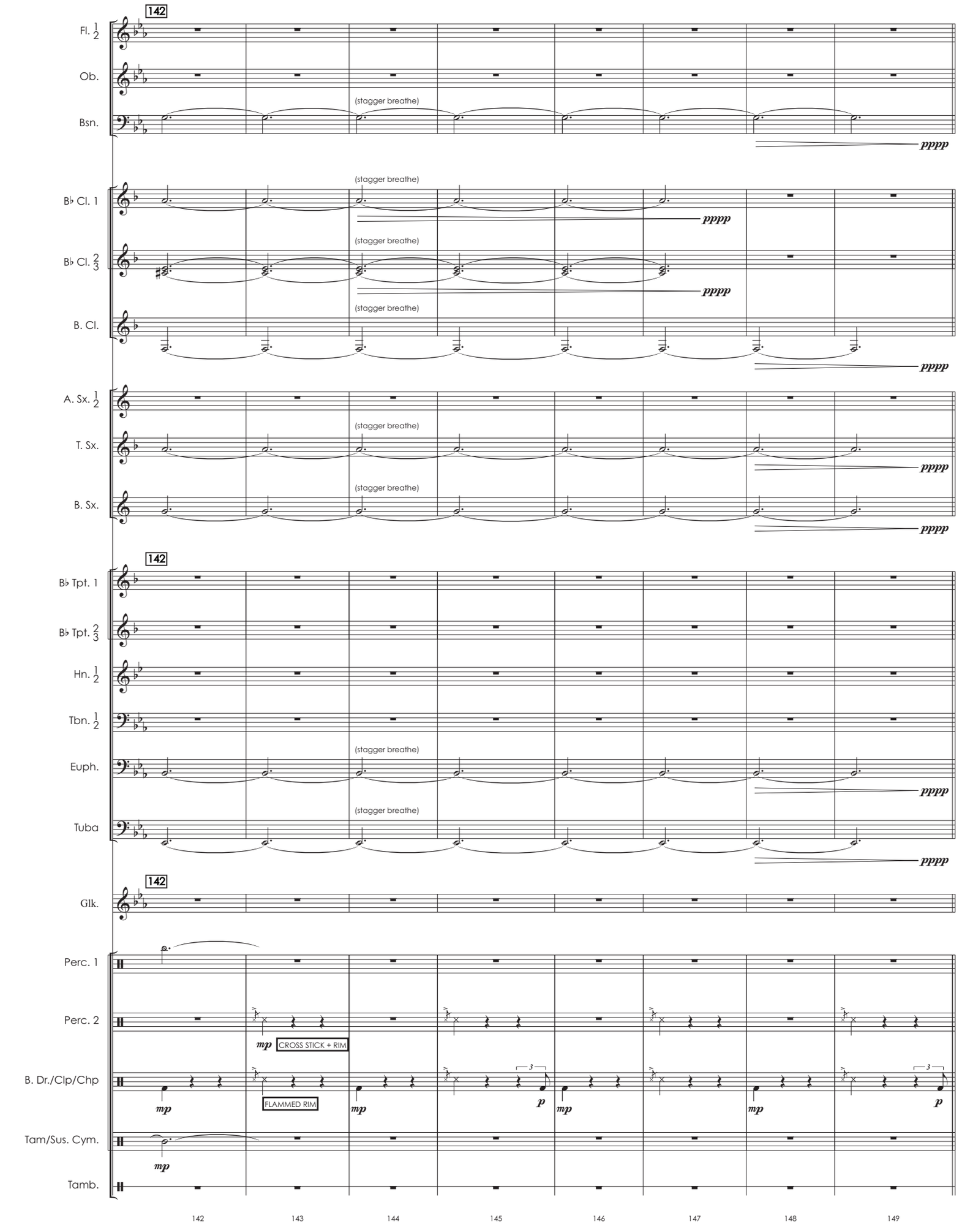

115
Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
Tuba
Mrb.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
RIDE BELL
RIDE
(palm slap)
115
116
117
118

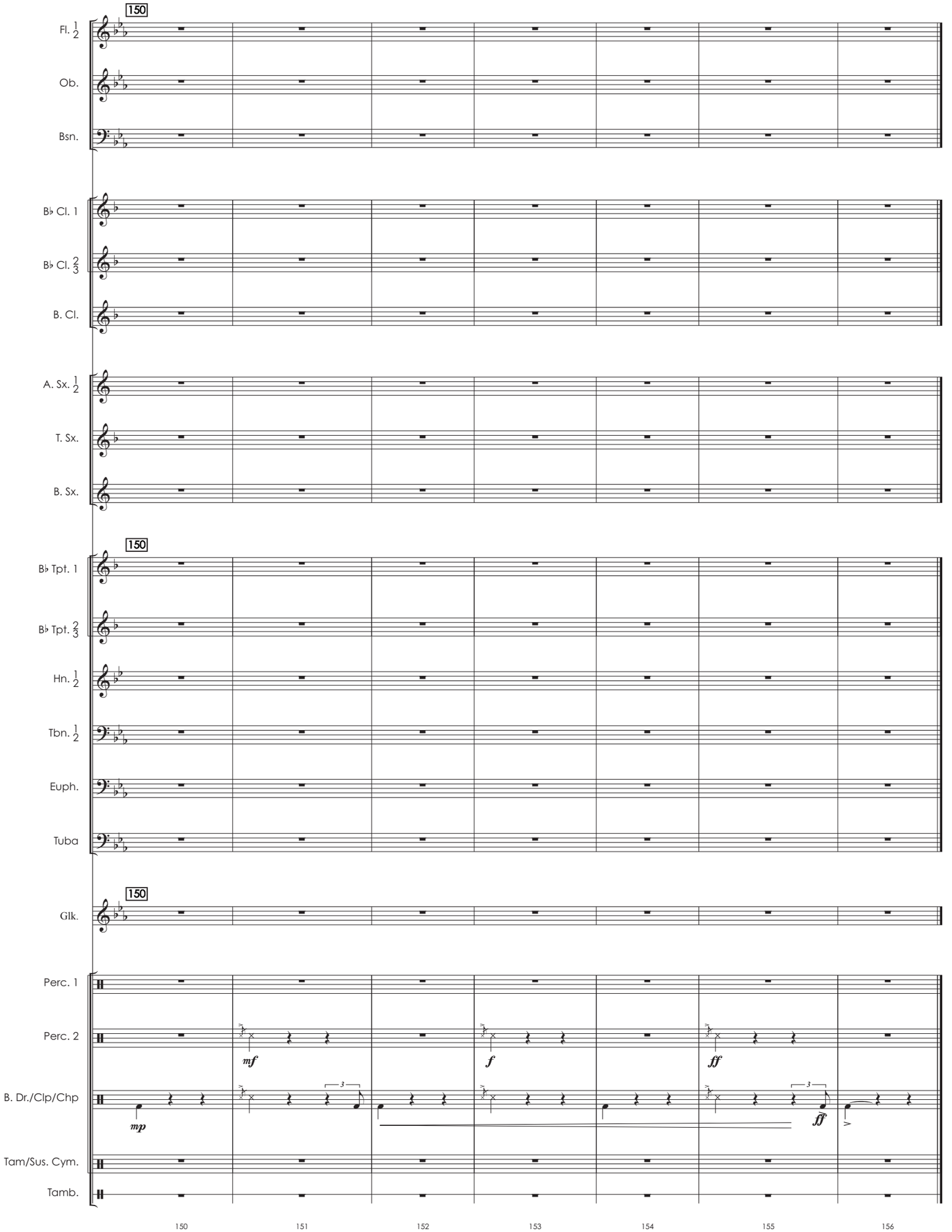

Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
Tuba
Mrb.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
119
120
121
122
123


Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
p
pppp
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
ppp
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
str. mute
sfz
Euph.
Tuba
Mrb.
Perc. 1
(w/ brush)
Perc. 2
(cymbal scrape)
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
124
125
126
127
128


129
Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
pp
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
pp
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
pp
B. Sx.
pp
129
str. mute
B♭ Tpt. 1
mp
str. mute
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
mp
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
pp
Tuba
pp
129
Mrb.
p GLOCK
(brushes)
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
129
130
131
132
133
134


Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
pp
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
p
p
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
Tuba
Glk.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
pp
135
136
137
138
139
140
141


142
Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
(stagger breathe)
pppp
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
Tuba
Glk.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
mp
CROSS STICK + RIM
FLAMMED RIM
p
3
142
143
144
145
146
147
148
149


150
Fl. 1 2
Ob.
Bsn.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2 3
B. Cl.
A. Sx. 1 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
150
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2 3
Hn. 1 2
Tbn. 1 2
Euph.
Tuba
150
Glk.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
mf
f
ff
B. Dr./Clp/Chp
mp
3
3
ff
Tam/Sus. Cym.
Tamb.
150
151
152
153
154
155
156