~Commissioned by Music From China~

Fantasie

~for erhu and recorded virtual ensembles~

Paul Rudy

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Fantasie (2000)

for erhu and recorded virtual ensembles

Program Notes

When I listen to music of cultures different from my own, I am drawn to similarities rather than disparities. When I first heard the erhu, some of the sonic qualities and techniques reminded me of Texas swing fiddle (from Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys or Roy Benson and Asleep at the Wheel), the bluegrass fiddle (the Flying Dog Bluegrass Band or Alison Krause and Union Station), the Irish Fiddle (of Natalie MacMaster), and even the Western classical fiddle of Tchaikovsky and Brahms. These styles intermingle with the traditional Chinese erhu sounds, including a quote from composer Liu Chang-Fu "New Herdsmen in Grassland" in the Mongolian folk music style. Sound worlds in Fantasie emerge from qualities of the erhu, such as the opening where the recorded sounds come from Chinese inflections and ornaments stretched out and elongated while others suggest imagined bandstands with virtual players. This work, hence, is a fantasia of styles and sound worlds from a variety of sources, all brought together in the computer, with the erhu as the common element in a virtual fantasie of fiddling! Special thanks to Xu Ke who generously contributed all of the erhu samples.

Duration: 13'

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Fantasie

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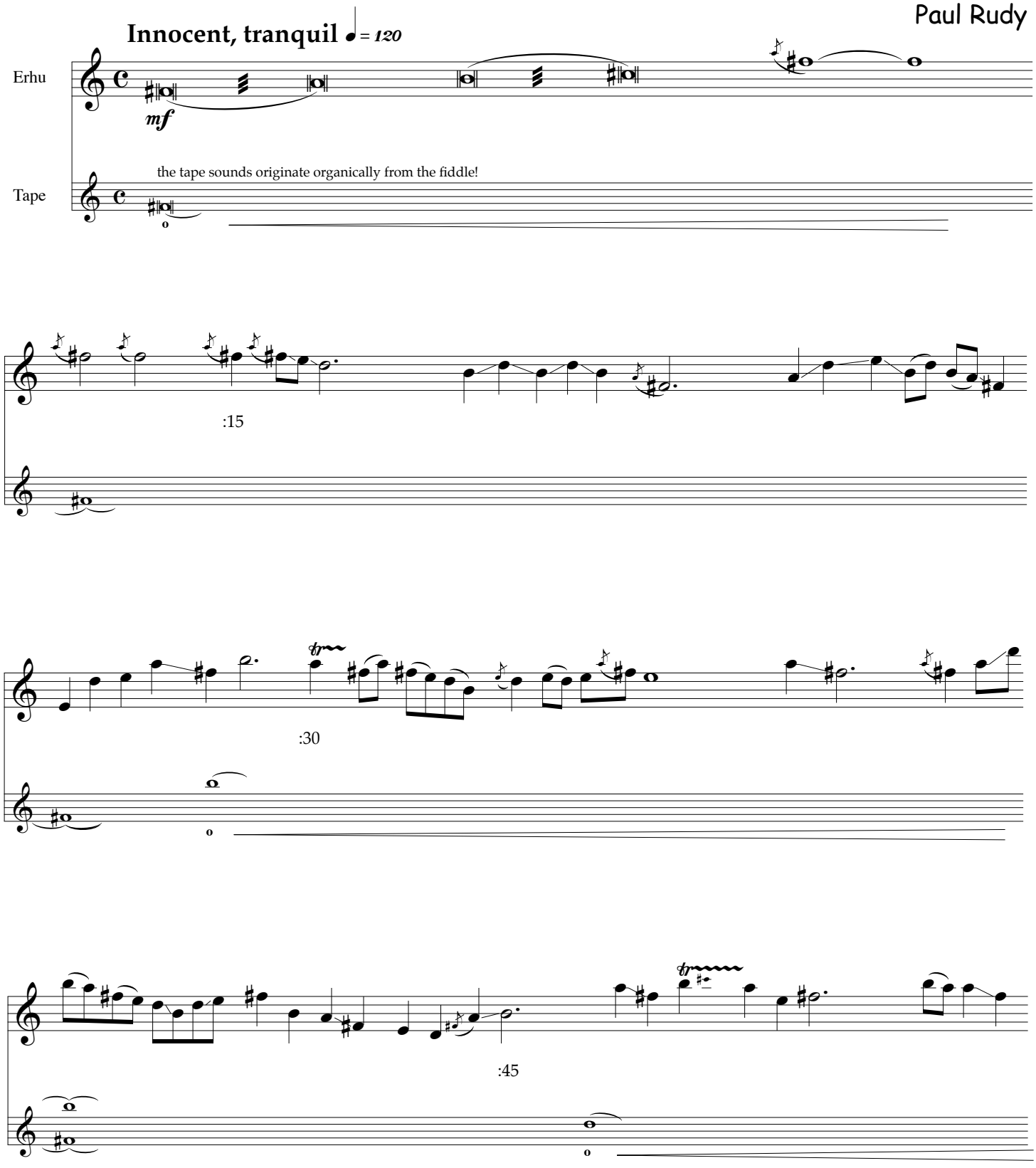

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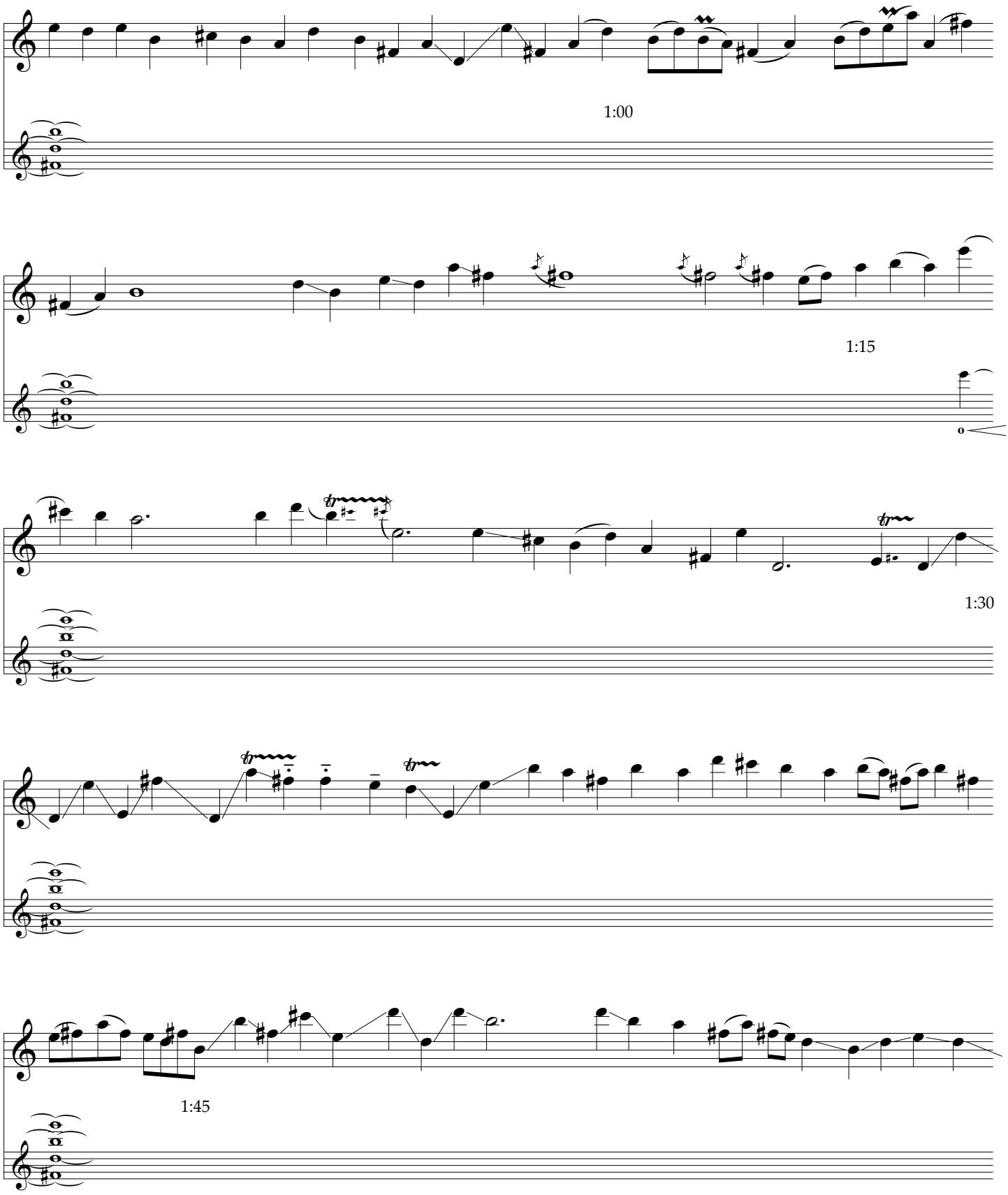
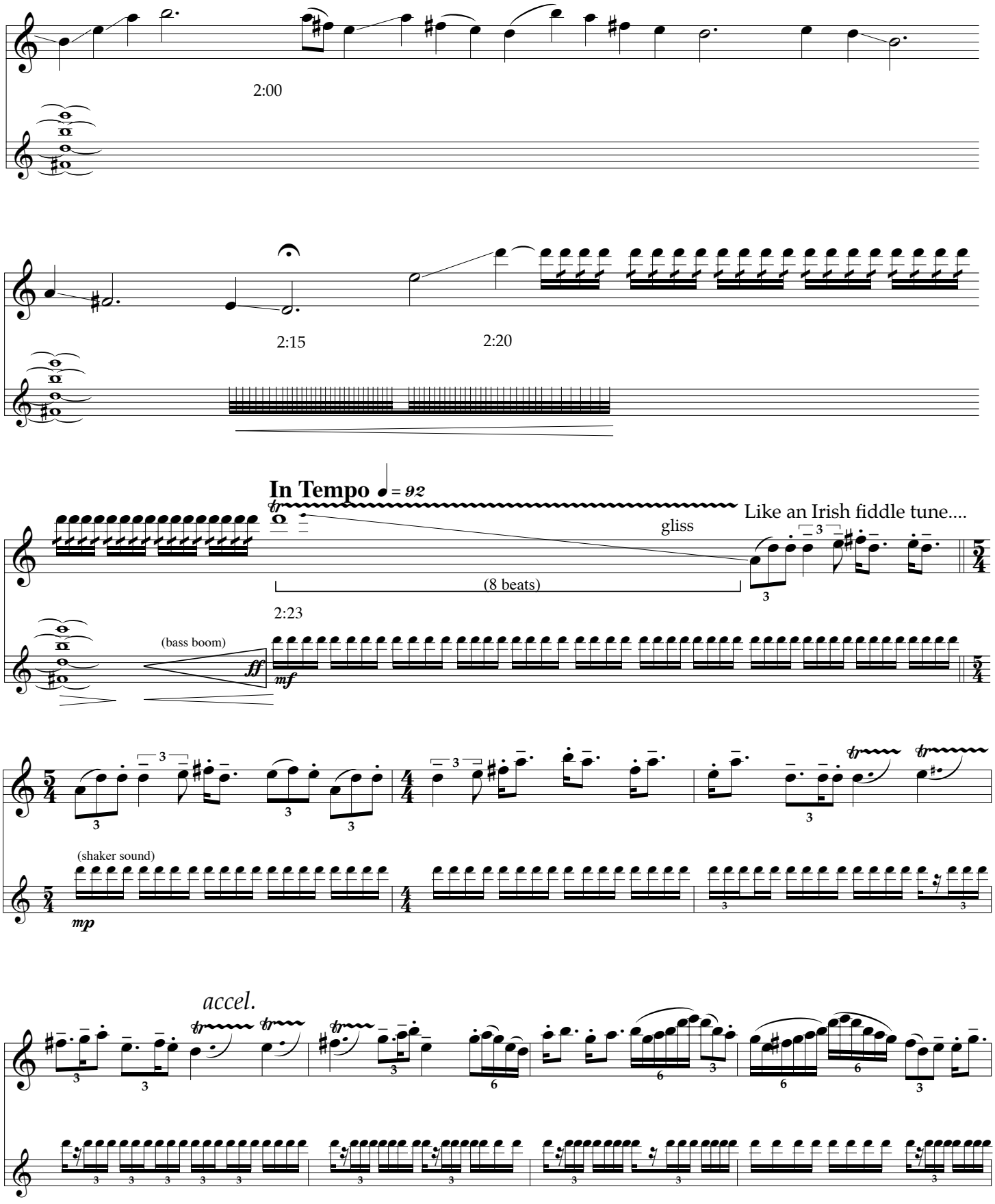
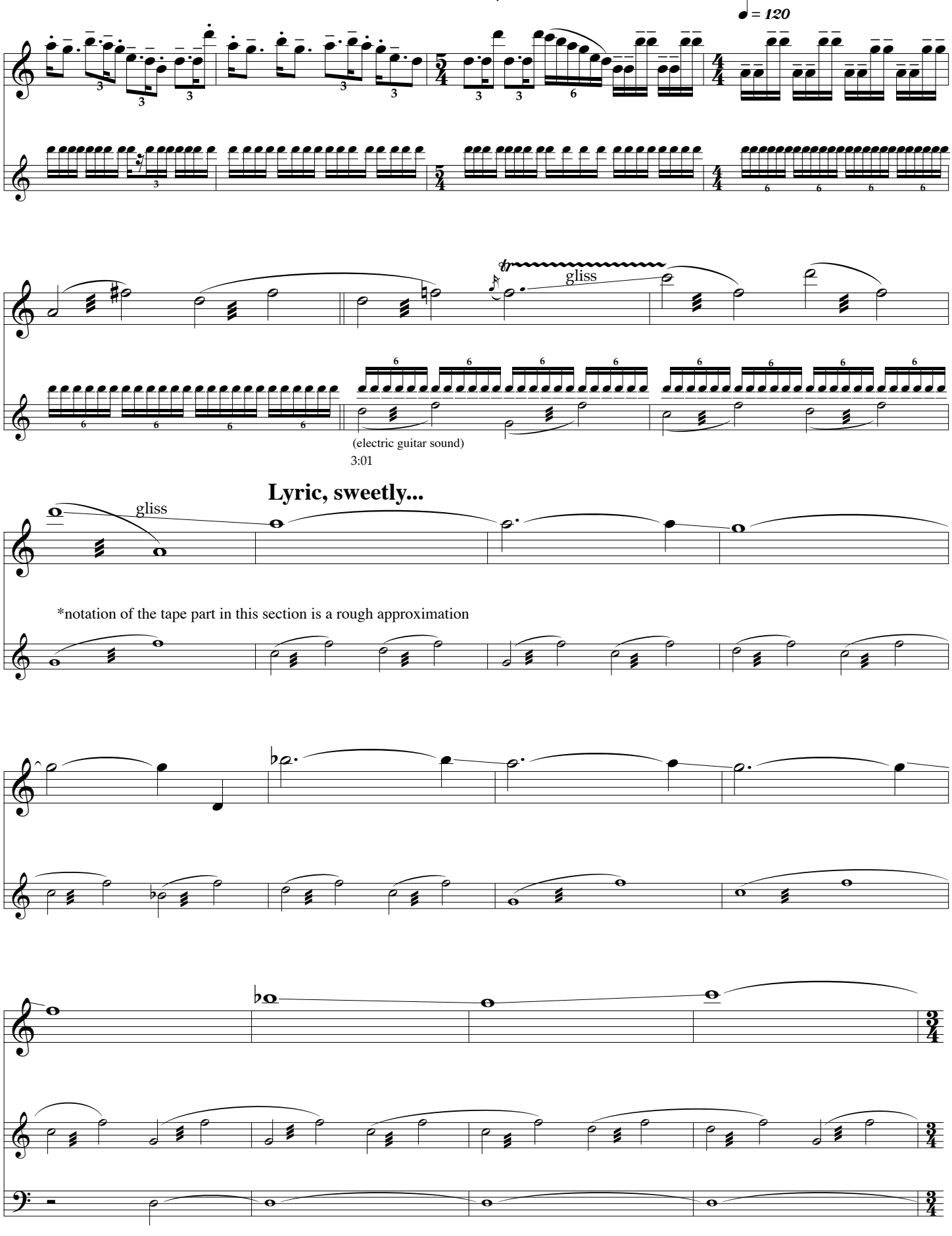
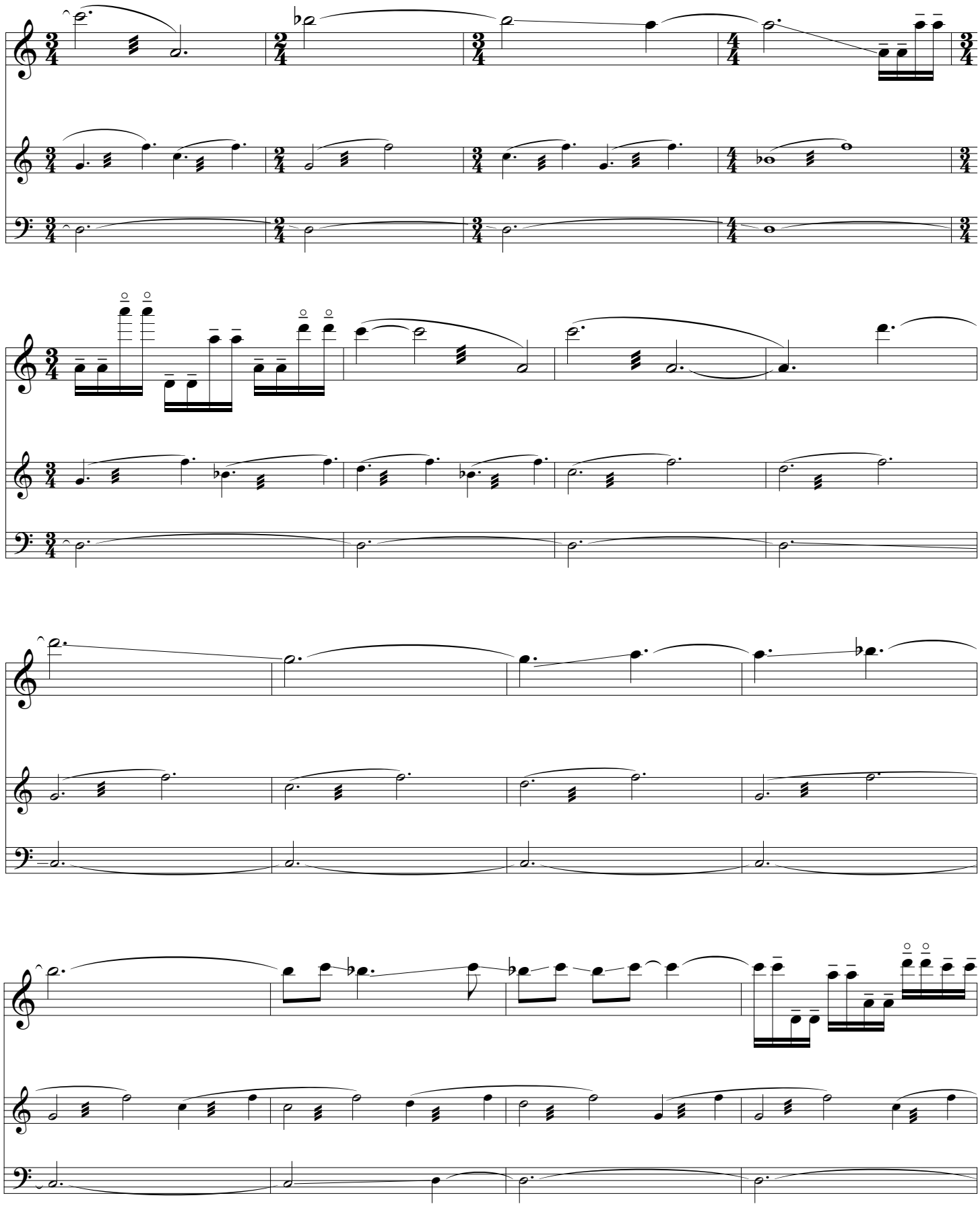
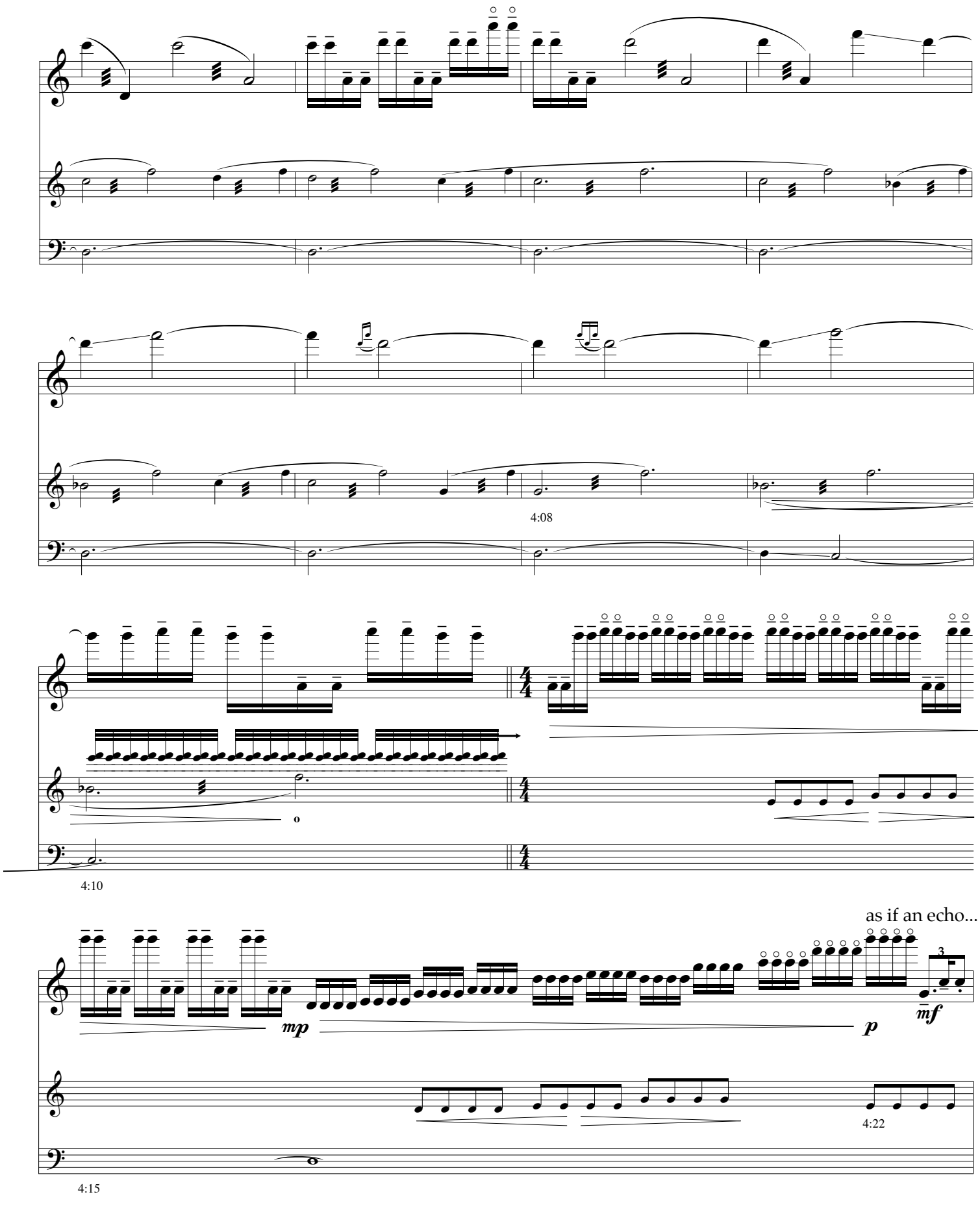

1:00
1:15
1:30
1:45

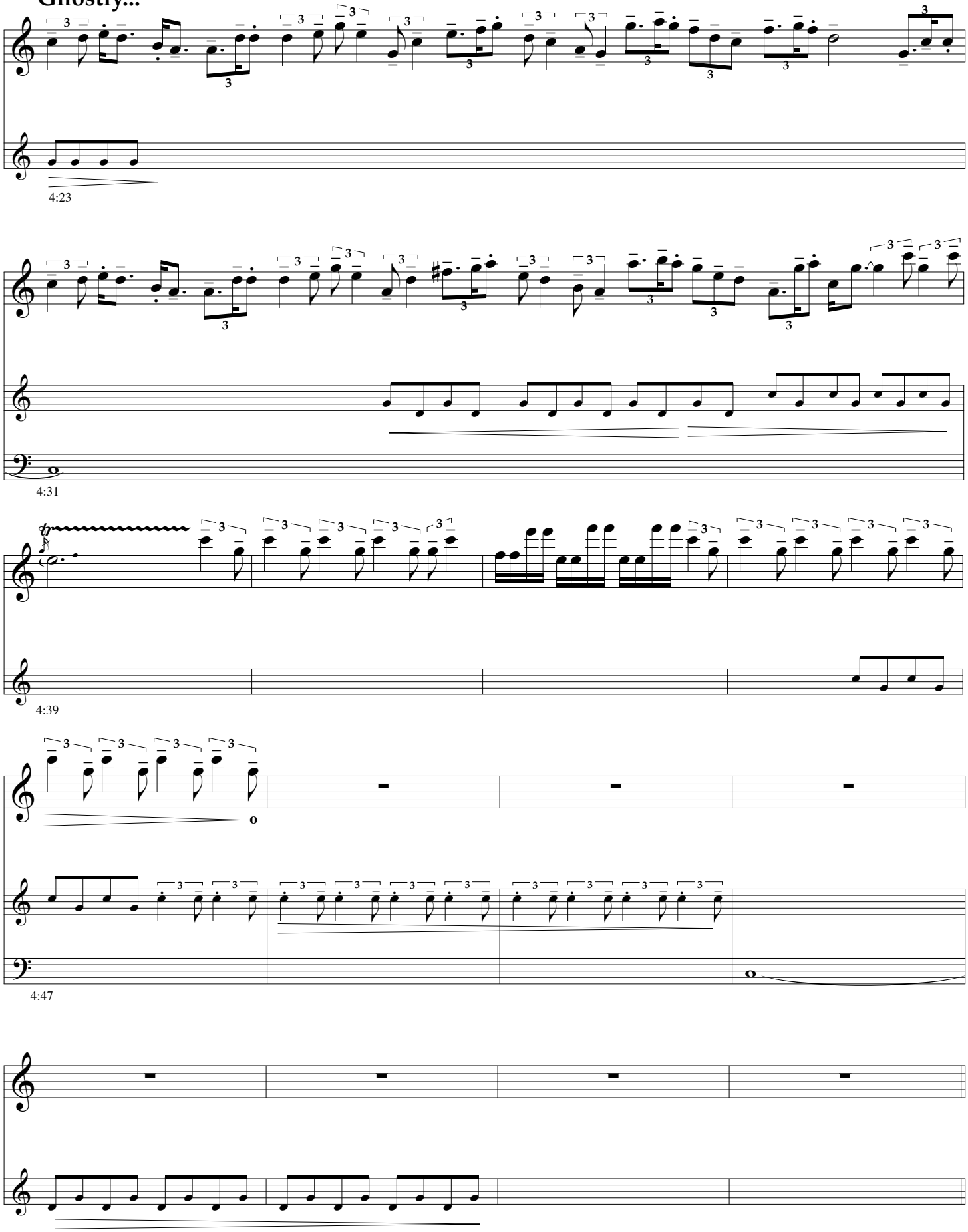

2:00
2:15
2:20
In Tempo ♩= 92
Like an Irish fiddle tune....
gliss
(8 beats)
2:23
(bass boom)
ff
mf
(shaker sound)
mp
accel.

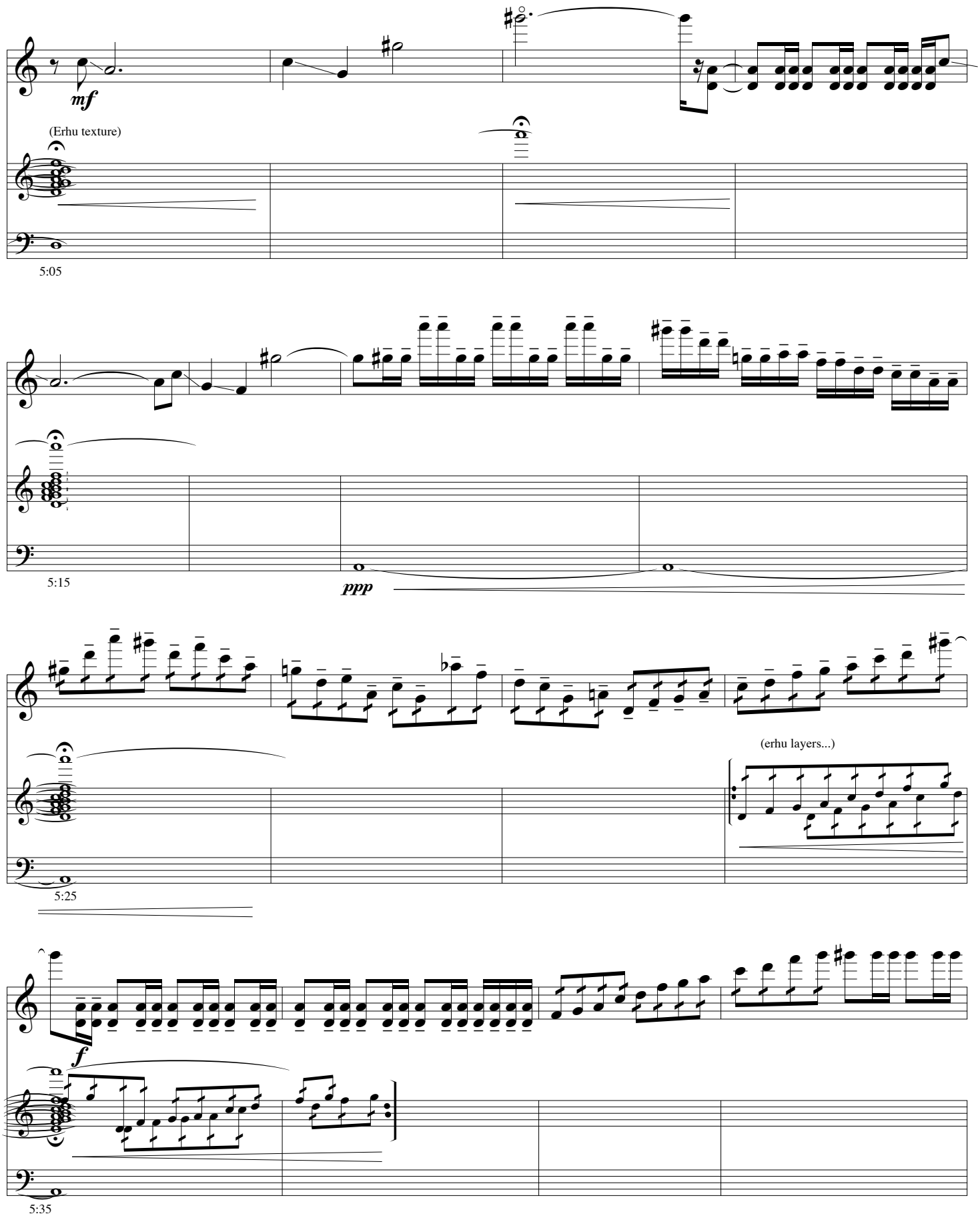

♩ = 120
gliss
(electric guitar sound)
3:01
Lyric, sweetly...
gliss
*notation of the tape part in this section is a rough approximation

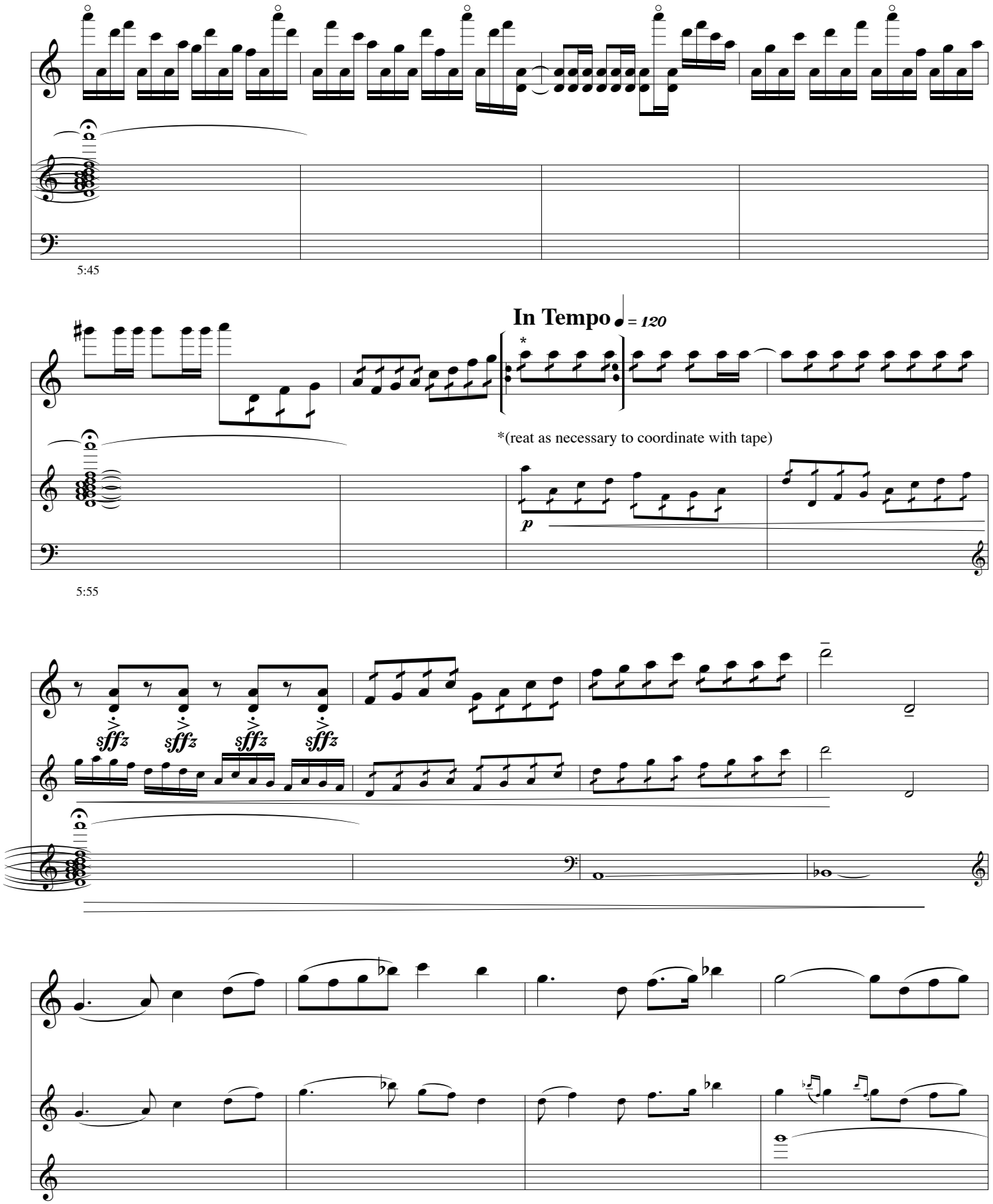


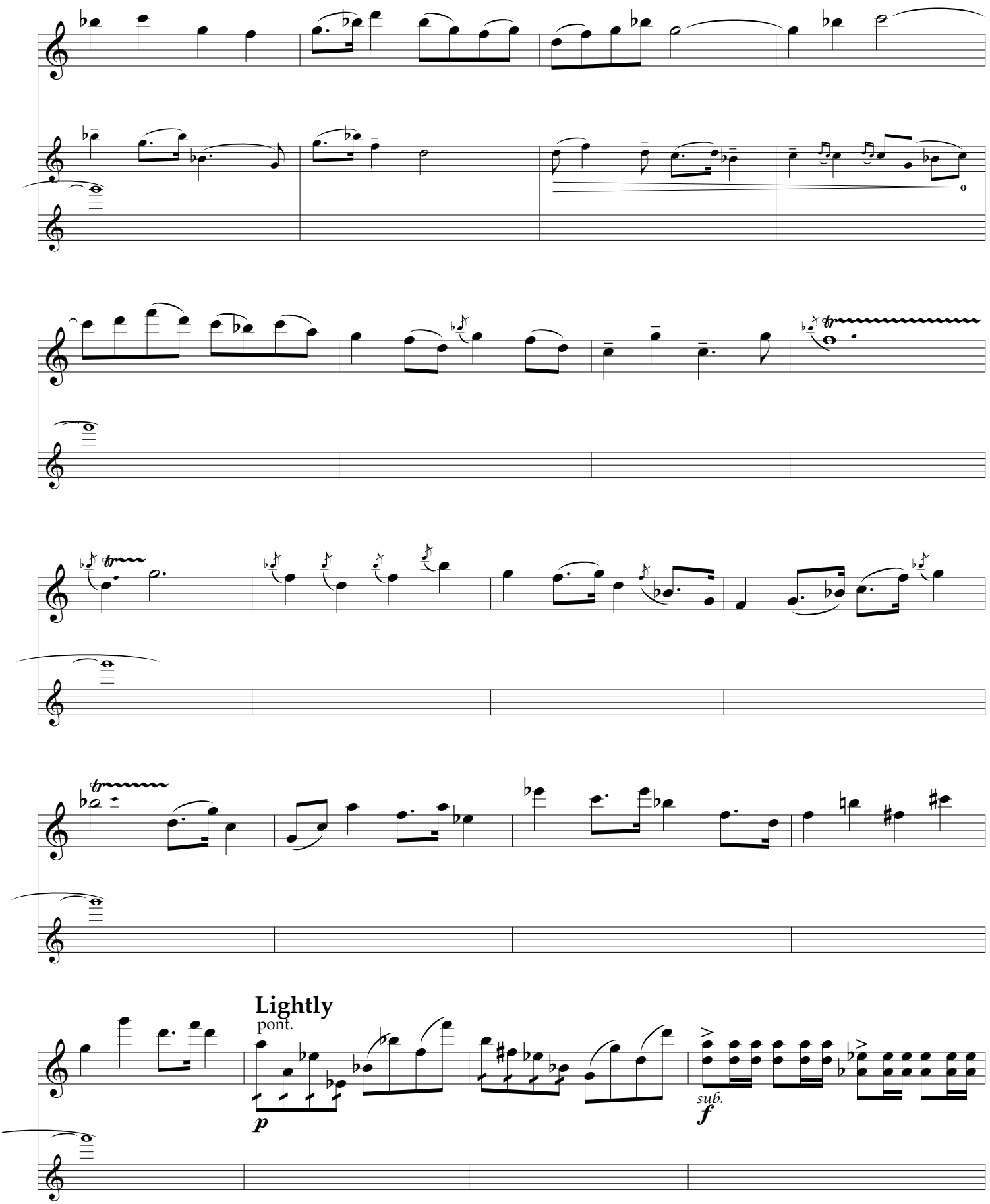

4:08
4:10
as if an echo...
mp
p
mf
4:22
4:15

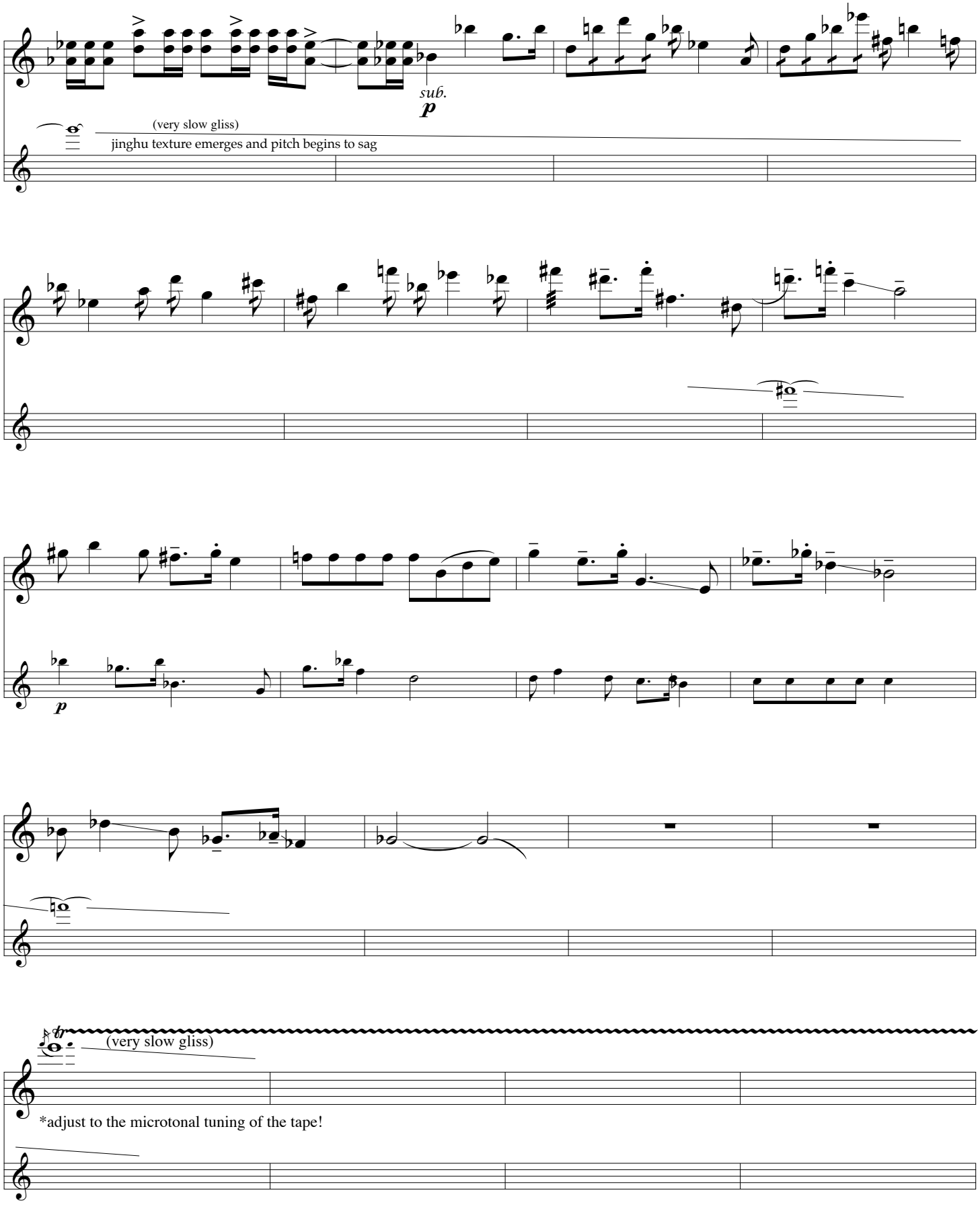
Ghostly...

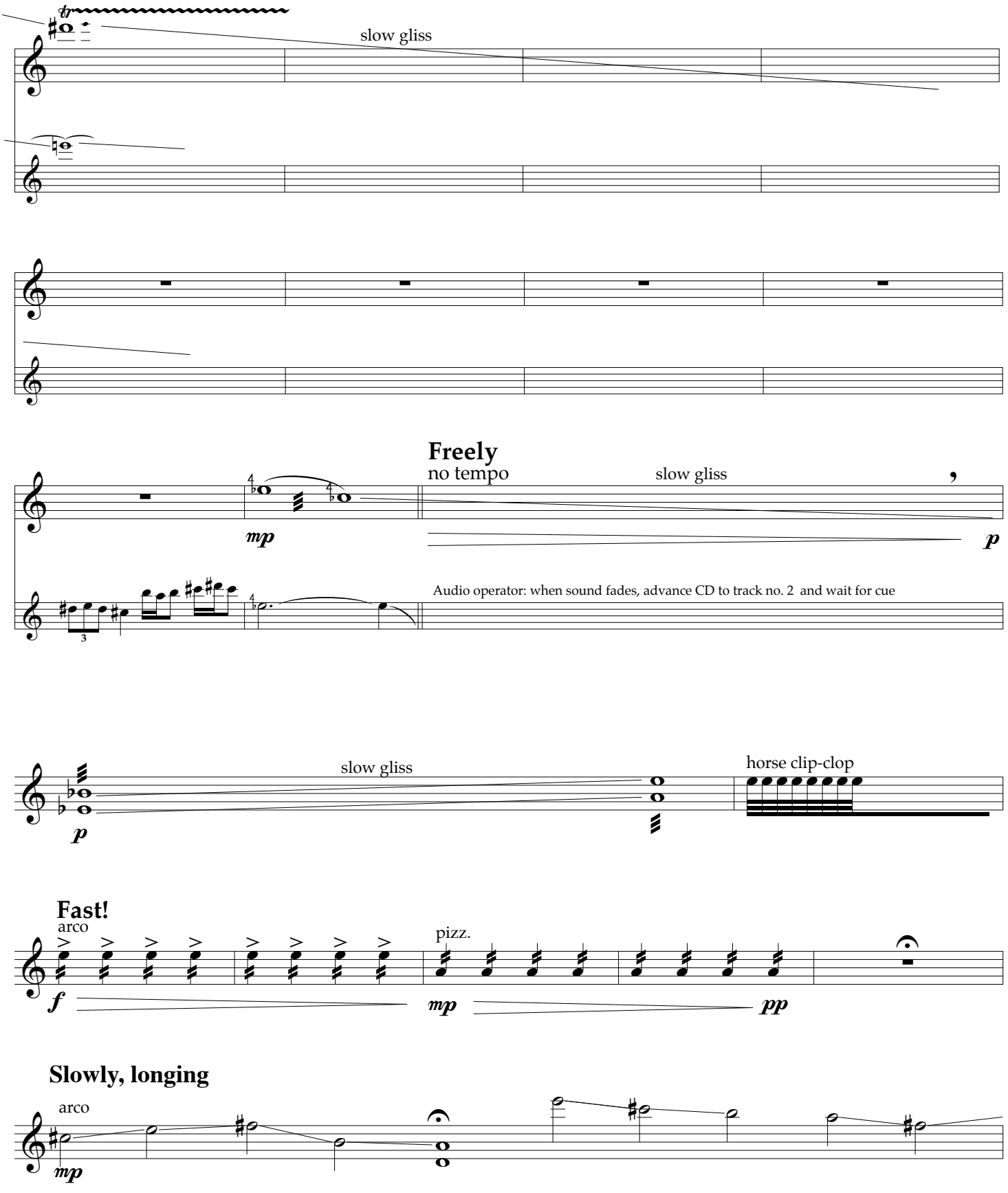


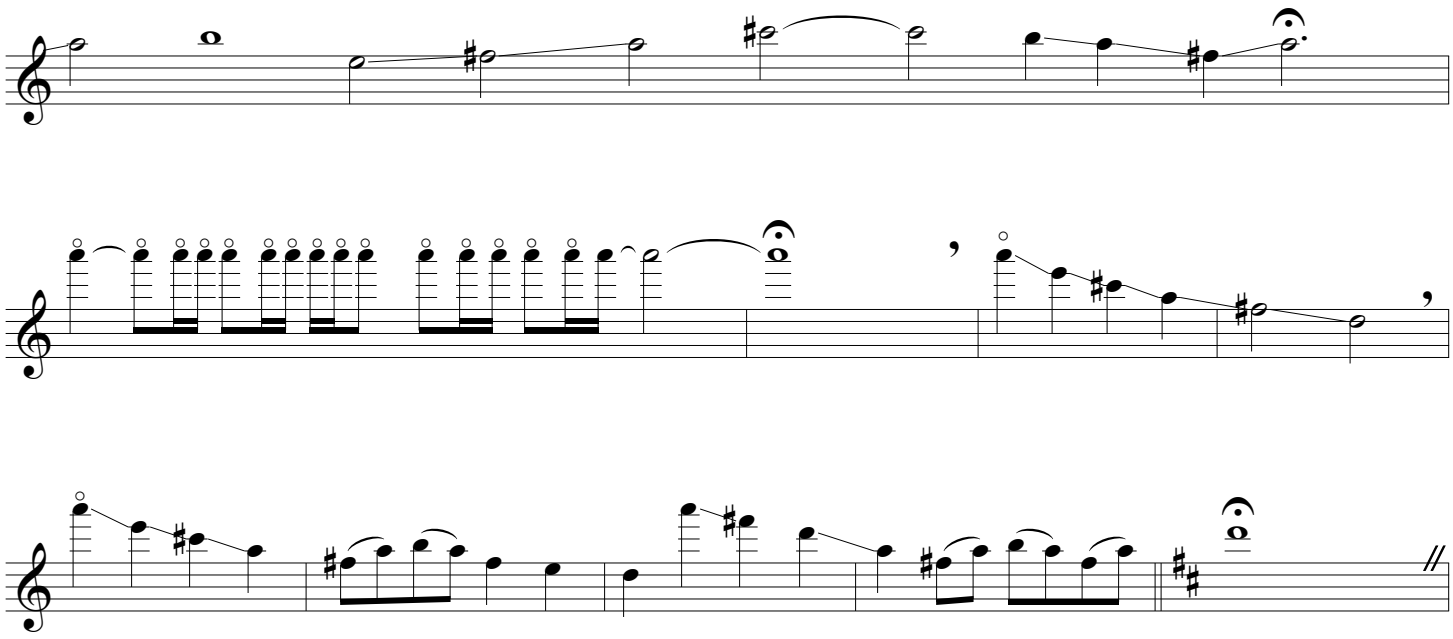

mf
(Erhu texture)
5:05
5:15
ppp
(erhu layers...)
5:25
f
5:35


5:45
In Tempo
= 120
*(reat as necessary to coordinate with tape)
p
5:55
sfffz
sfffz
sfffz
sfffz


Lightly
pont.
p
sub.
f

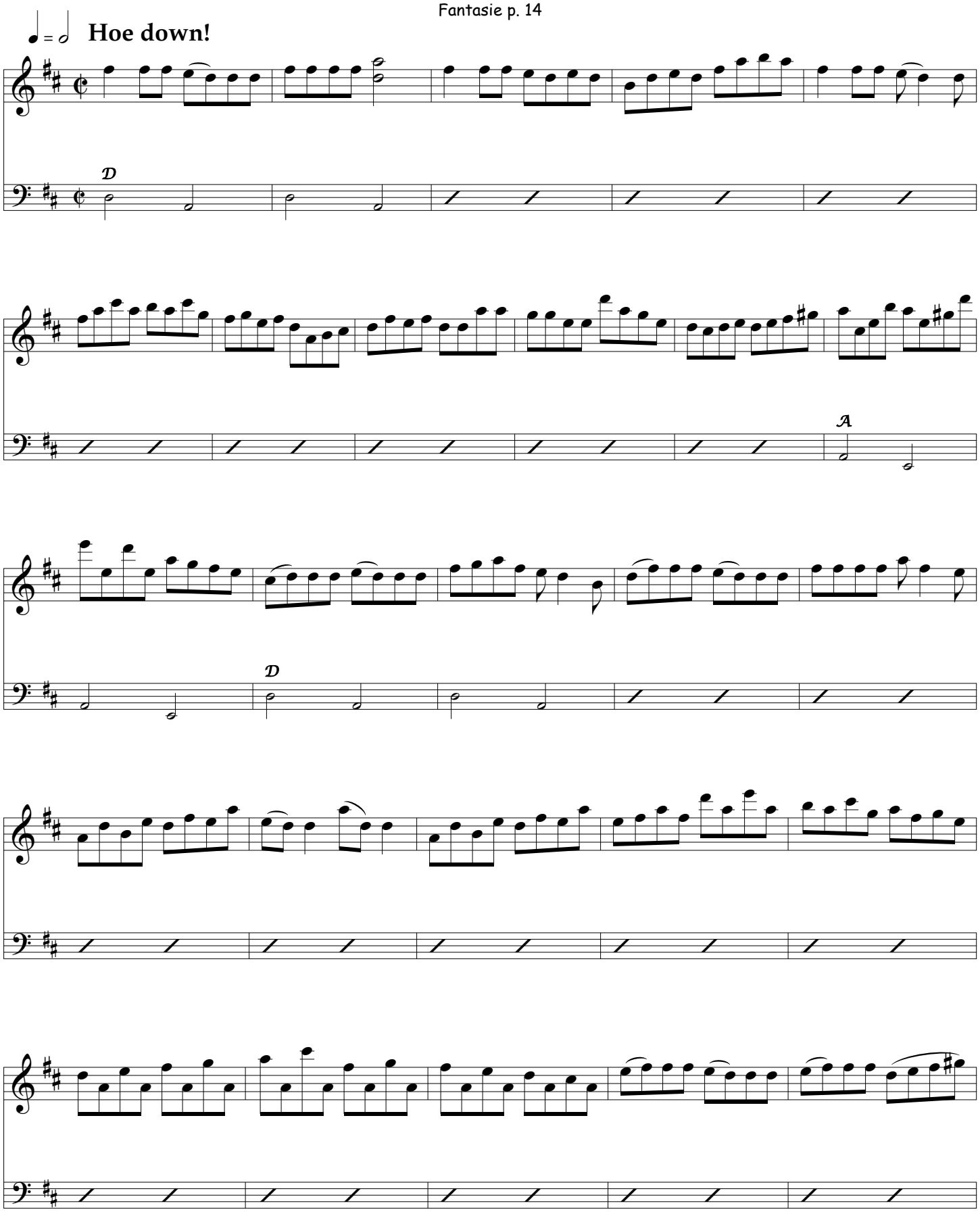

sub.
p
(very slow gliss)
jinghu texture emerges and pitch begins to sag
p
(very slow gliss)
*adjust to the microtonal tuning of the tape!

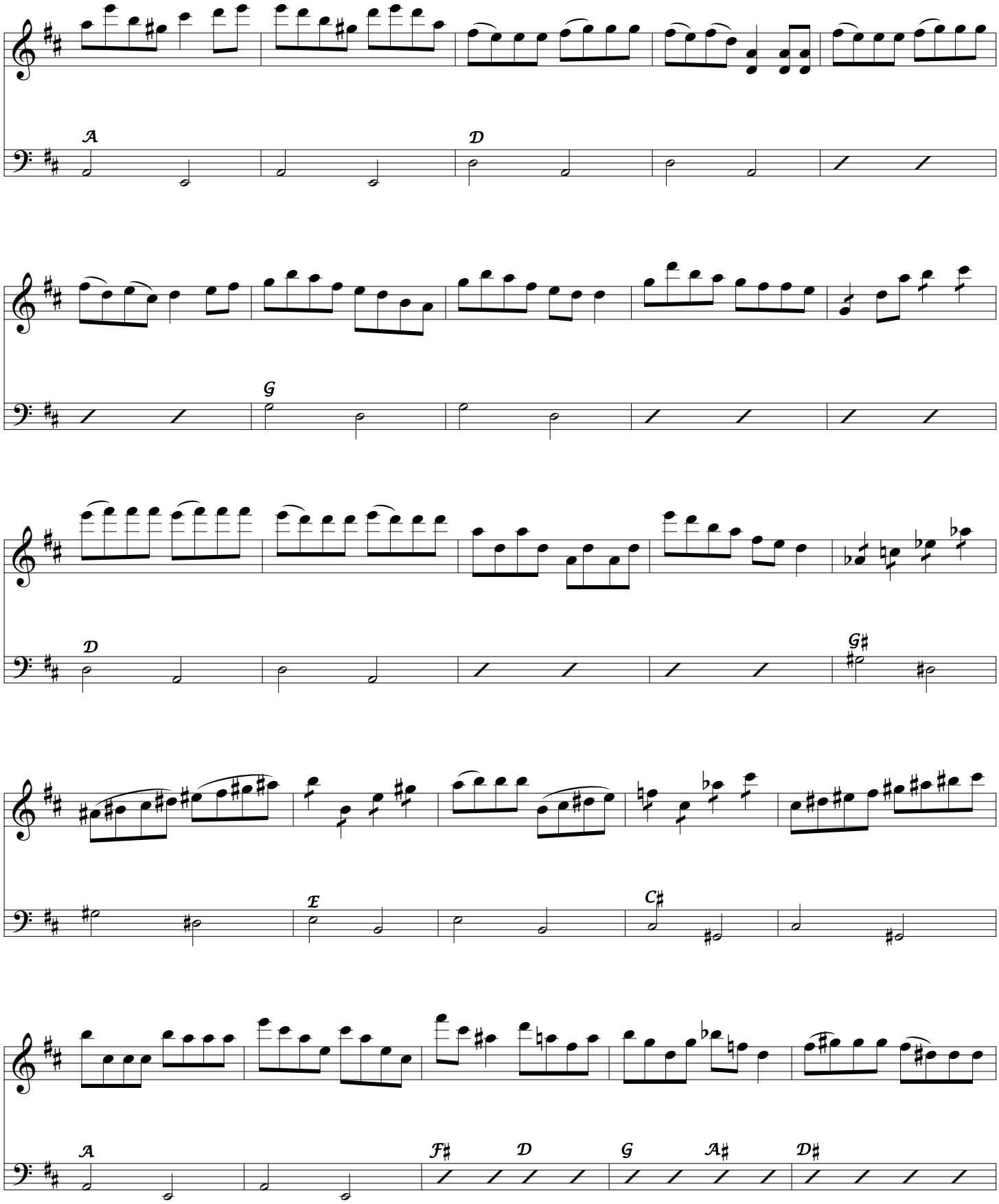

tr
slow gliss
Freely
no tempo
slow gliss
mp
p
Audio operator: when sound fades, advance CD to track no. 2 and wait for cue
slow gliss
horse clip-clop
p
Fast!
arco
pizz.
f
mp
pp
Slowly, longing
arco
mp

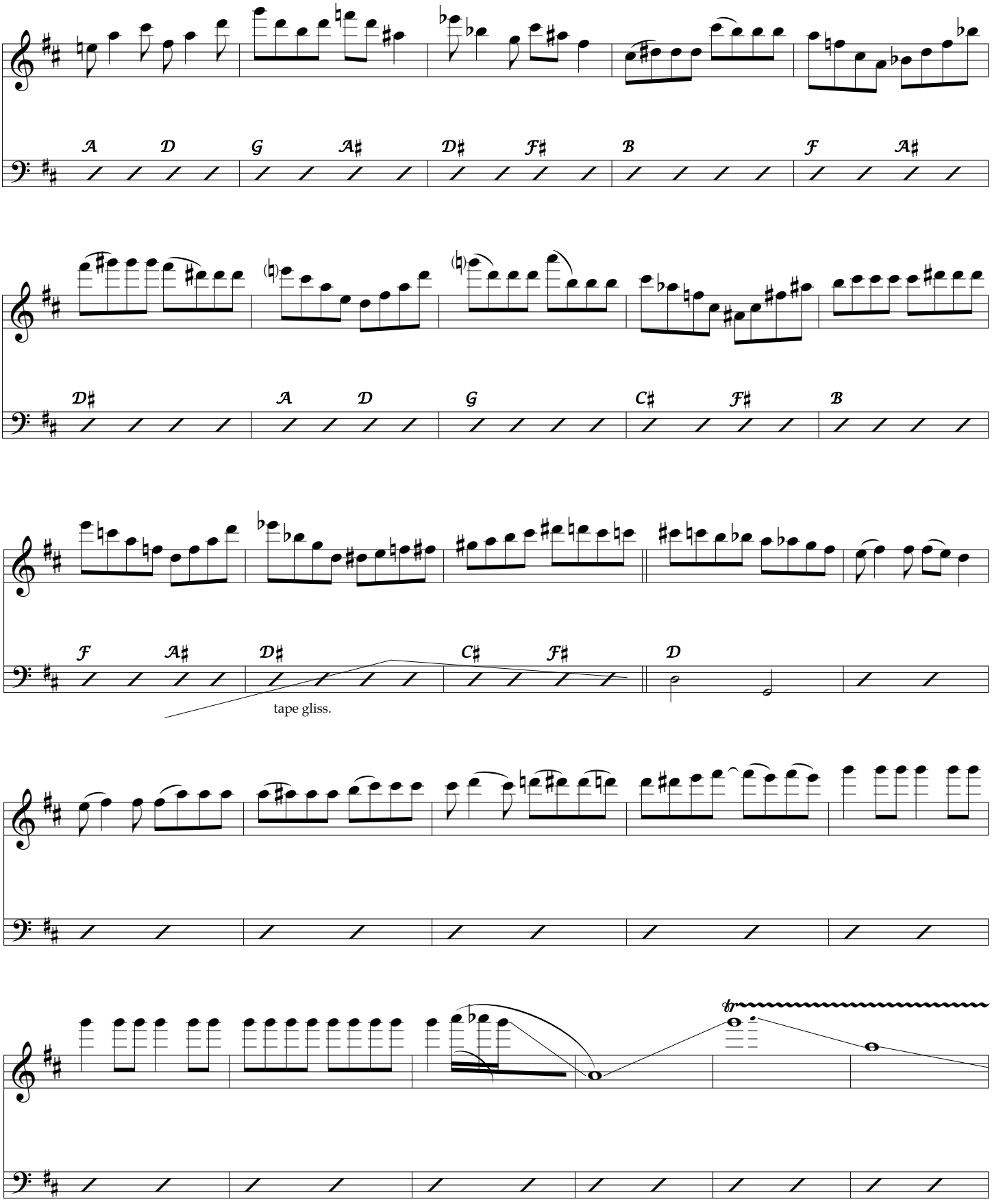


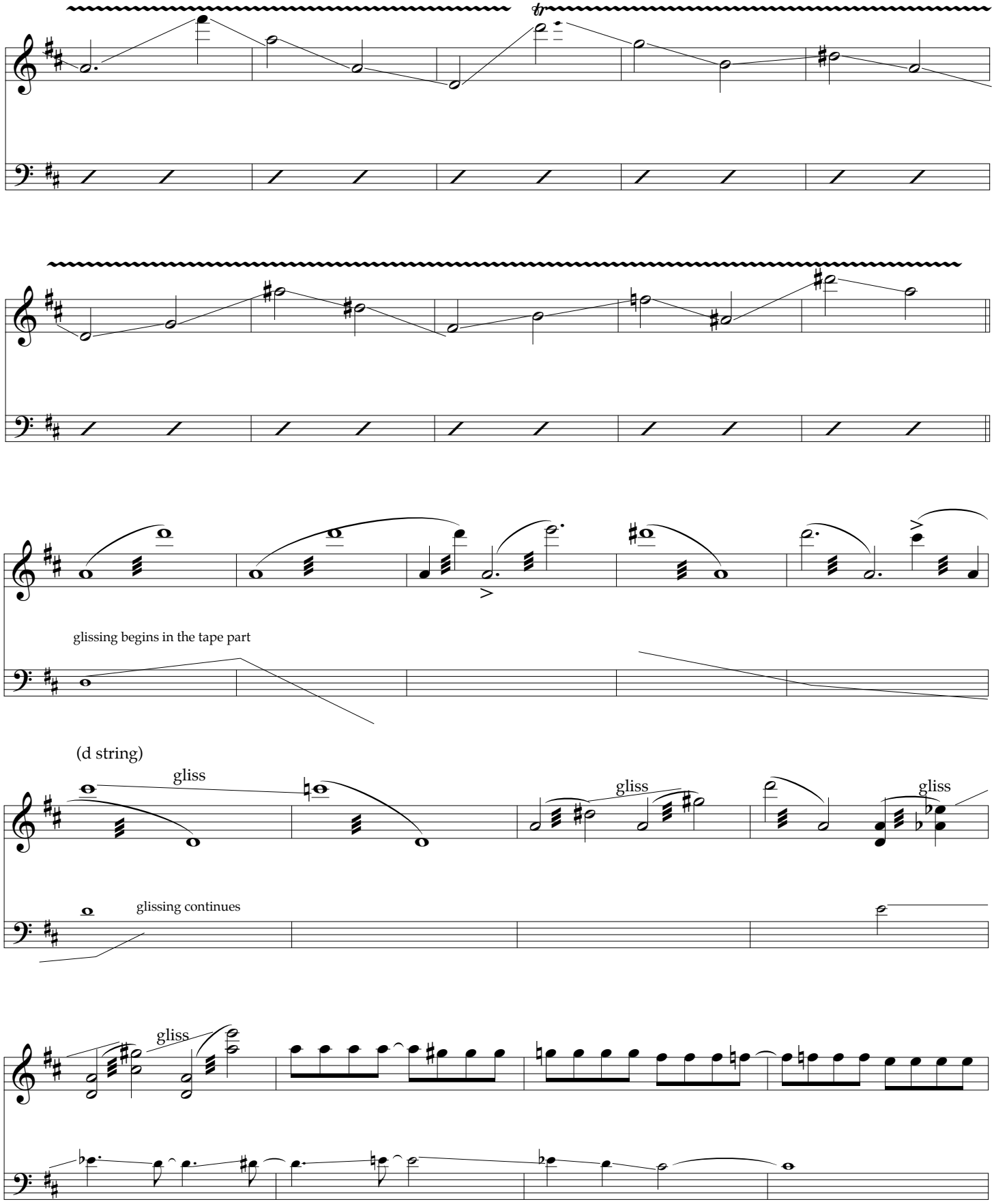
Moderate tempo

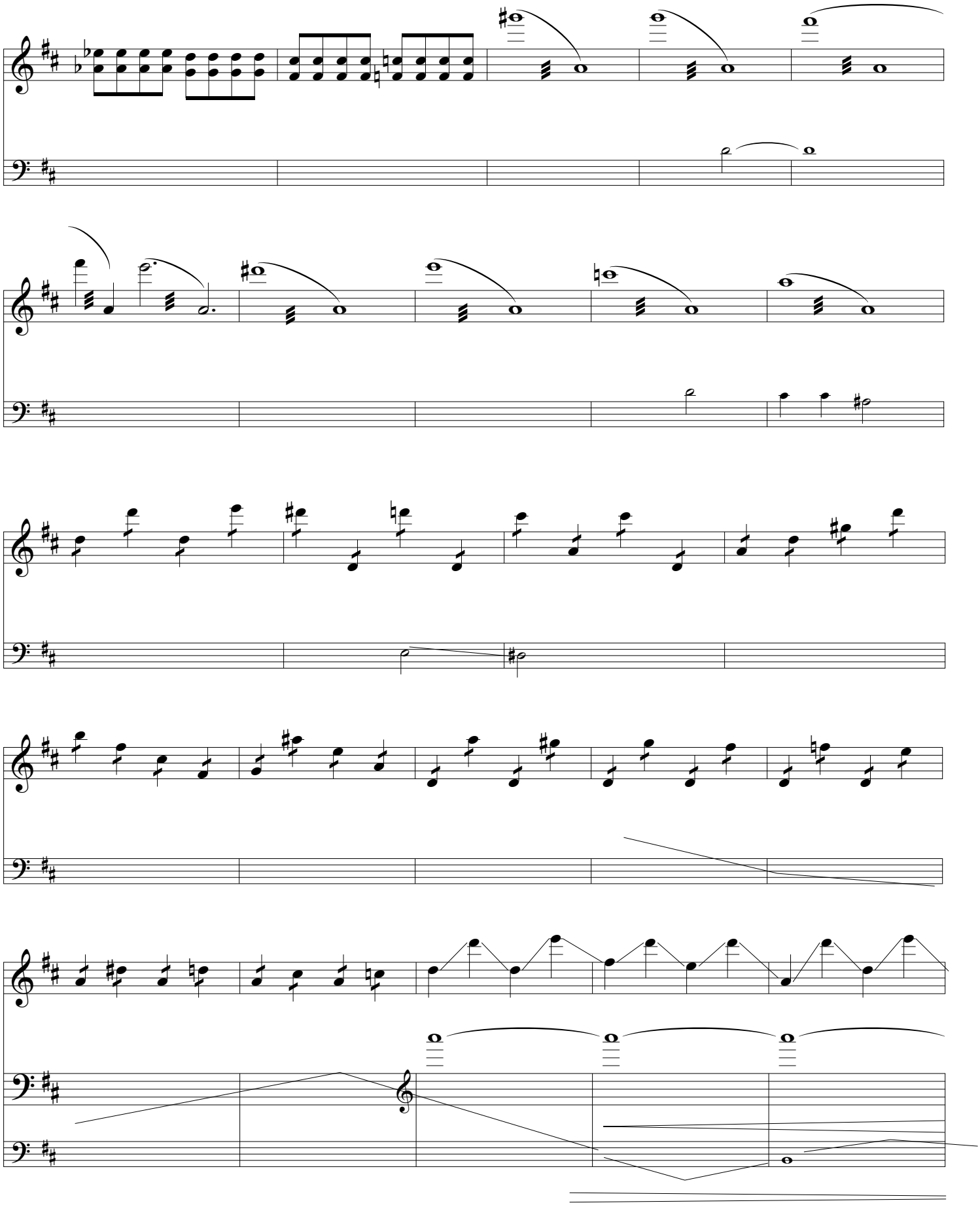
*CD tracks 3, 4, and 5, may be used for optional tempos of 144, 152, and 160 beats per minute

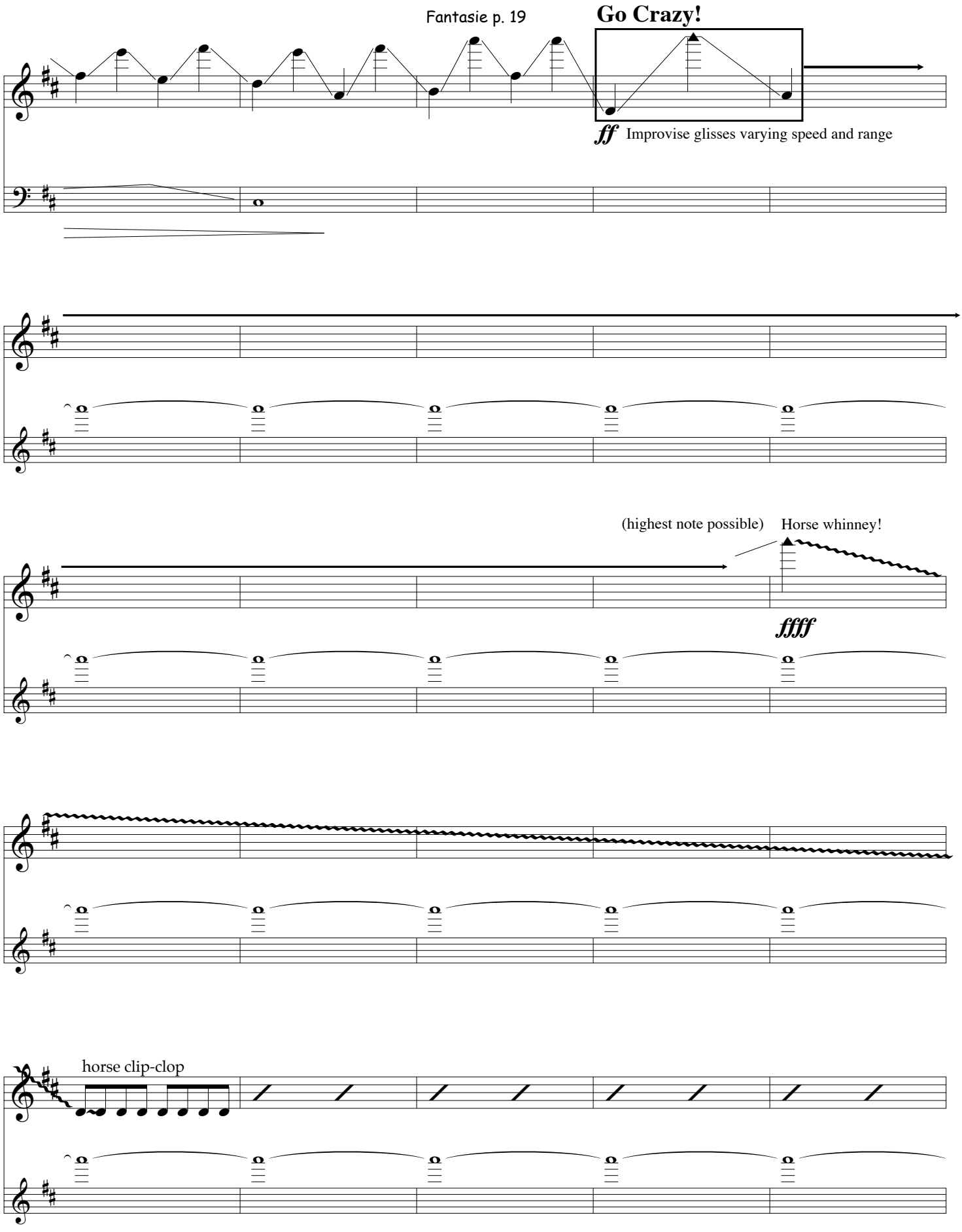

Hoe down!
D
A
D

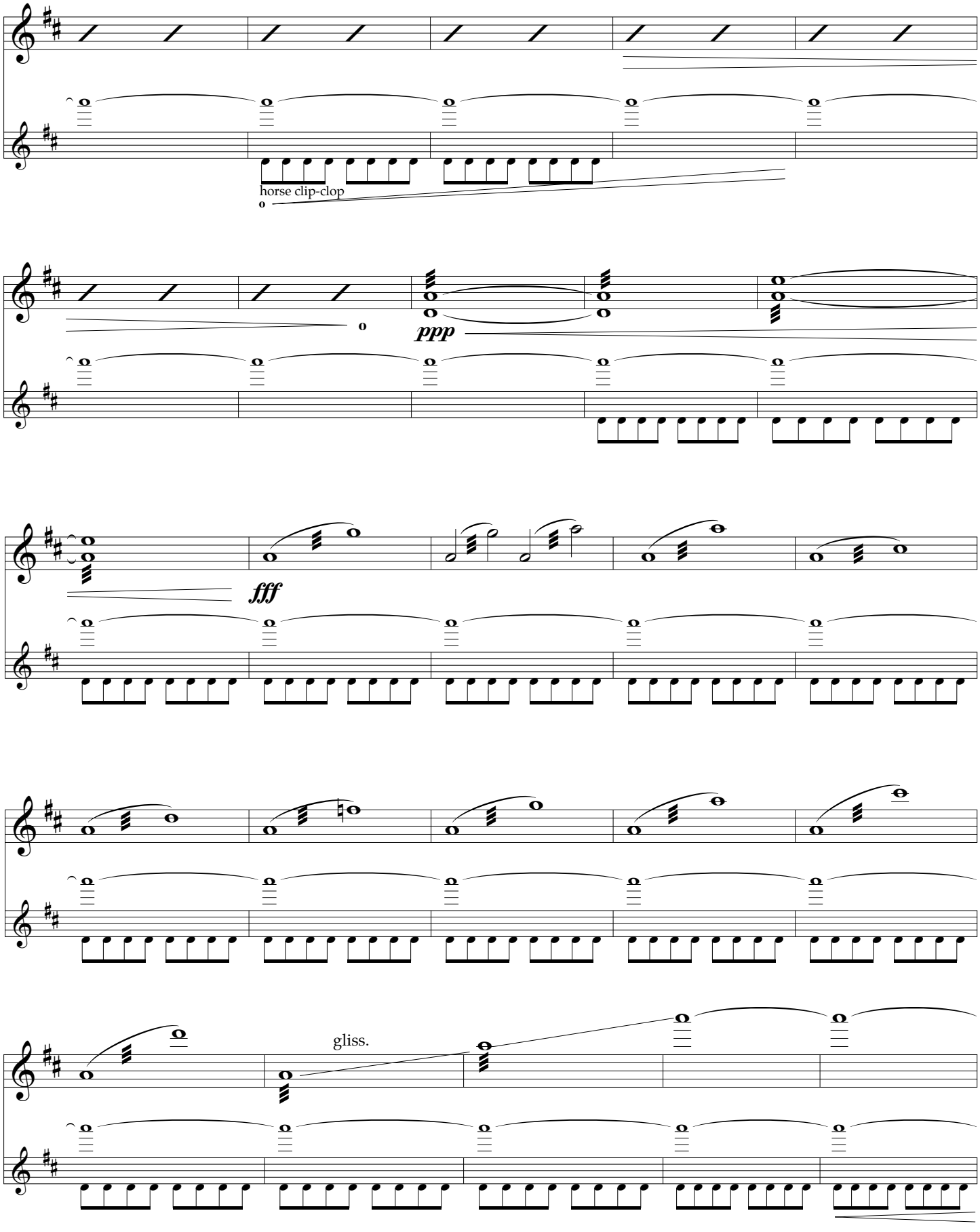

A
D
G
D
G♯
E
C♯
A
F♯
D
G
A♯
D♯

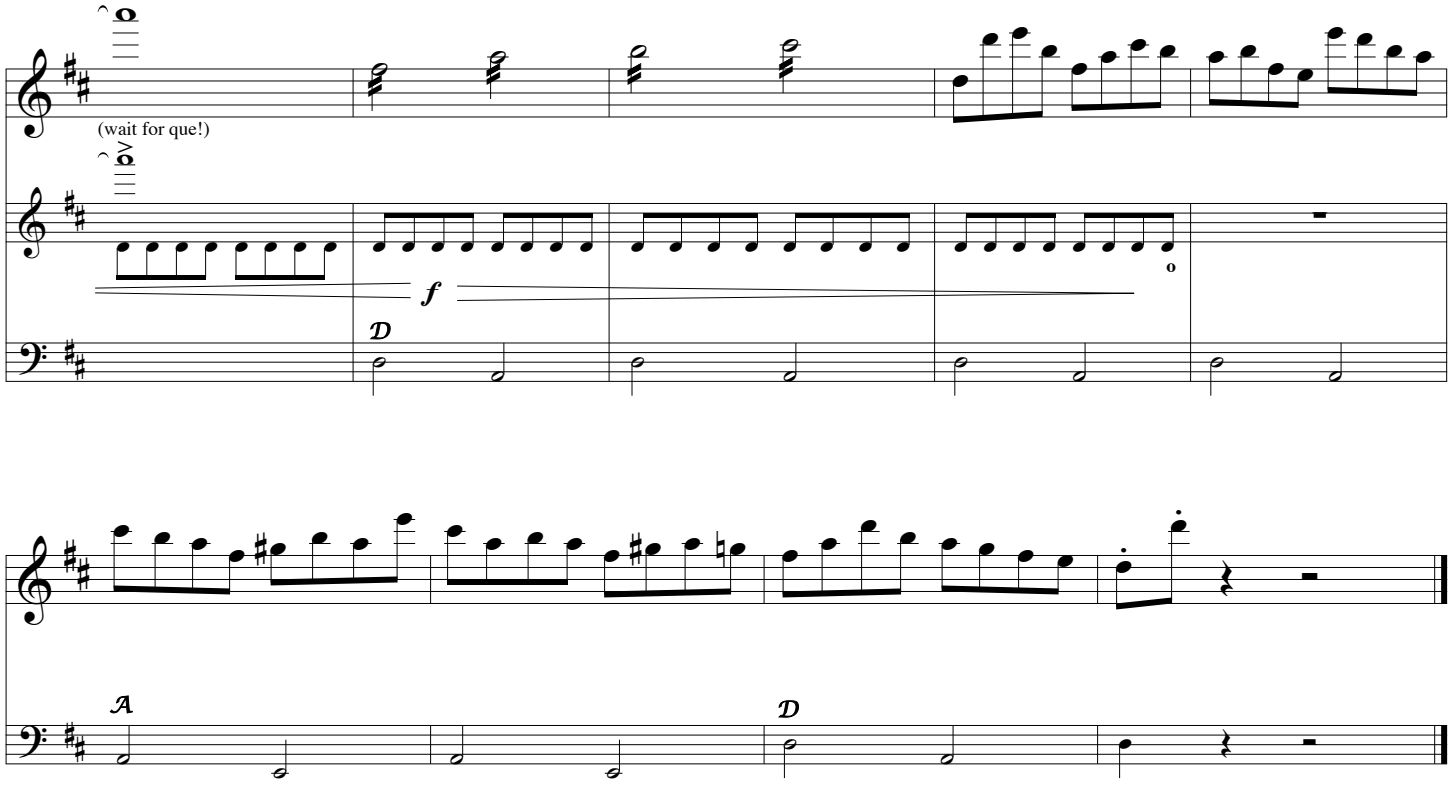

A D G A♯ D♯ F♯ B F A♯
D♯ A D G C♯ F♯ B
F A♯ D♯ C♯ F♯ D
tape gliss.
tr


tr
glissing begins in the tape part
(d string)
gliss
gliss
gliss
glissing continues
gliss




Go Crazy!
ff Improvise glisses varying speed and range
(highest note possible)
Horse whinney!
fffff
horse clip-clop


horse clip-clop
ppp
fff
gliss.


(wait for que!)
f
D
A
D