Richard BELCASTRO

Storm Clouds Absinthe Green

for Clarinet in A flat, Clarinet in B flat, Basset Horn, Bass Clarinet and Sitar in D

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Performance notes for **"Storm Clouds Absinthe Green"**

"Storm Clouds Absinthe Green", for Clarinet in A flat, Clarinet in B flat, Basset Horn, Bass Clarinet and Sitar in D was completed in Wagontown, PA on January 8, 2013. The piece was commissioned by Joshua Kovach and Ensemble 54 for premiere at Delaware County Community College on March 3, 2013.

This work is among my first chamber works incorporating the Sitar, an instument I began when I was 18 but have not been brave enough to engage until recent years. Mr. Kovach, being both generous and brave, quickly accepted my suggestion that I include the sitar in this quartet. To further add interest to the ensemble's color, Kovach also suggested a keen interest in including less represented members of the clarinet family.

While in many ways this piece is a study that explores various ways in which this odd color palette can be realized, it is also a different compositional approach for myself. Shaped in no small part by my experience with the Sitar, the work is a mix of fragments of traditional Indian musical approaches and the modern western music I have long work with. The combination is both fresh and familiar.

This inspiration for the work is an weather phonomenon I have witnessed on only a handful of occassions, the latest was Oct 29, 2013 when I began writing this piece. It is the calm before the storm. Not just any storm, but the truly strage calm that precedes our most powerful weather phonomenon. It is hypnotic for me, a strange green hue tinting the clouds, no cars, no people, no birds, just wind and trees. Standing there, feeling warm wind swirling, leaves scatting through the fields, all seen through a fliter that makes it all seem so unusal, but it is also extremely relaxing to me. Even writing this I stuggle to get even the slightest hint of what I'm talking about on the page, but through the work, I hope to bring you back there with me. - RB

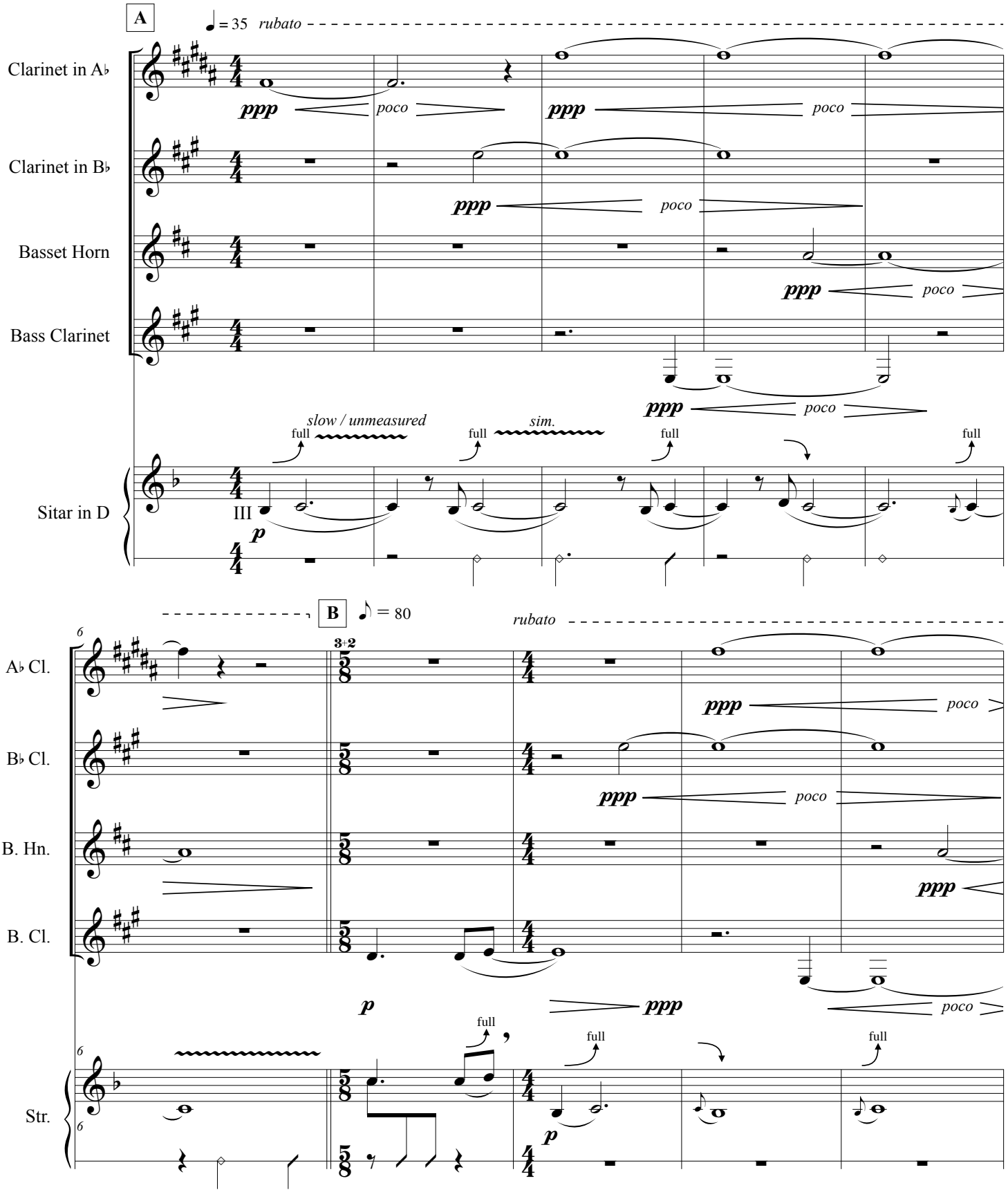
Written for Joshua Kovach and Ensemble 54

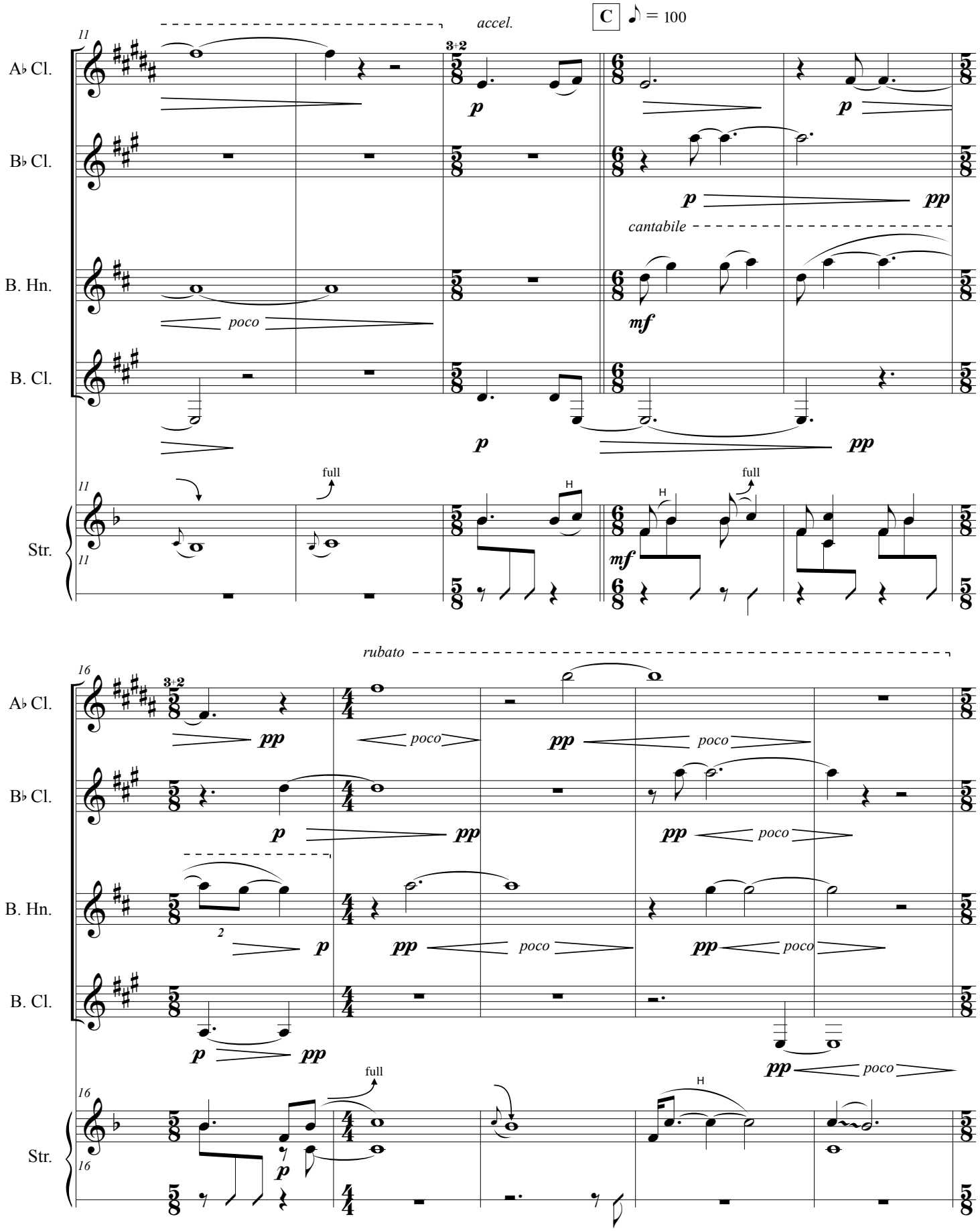
STORM CLOUDS ABSINTHE GREEN

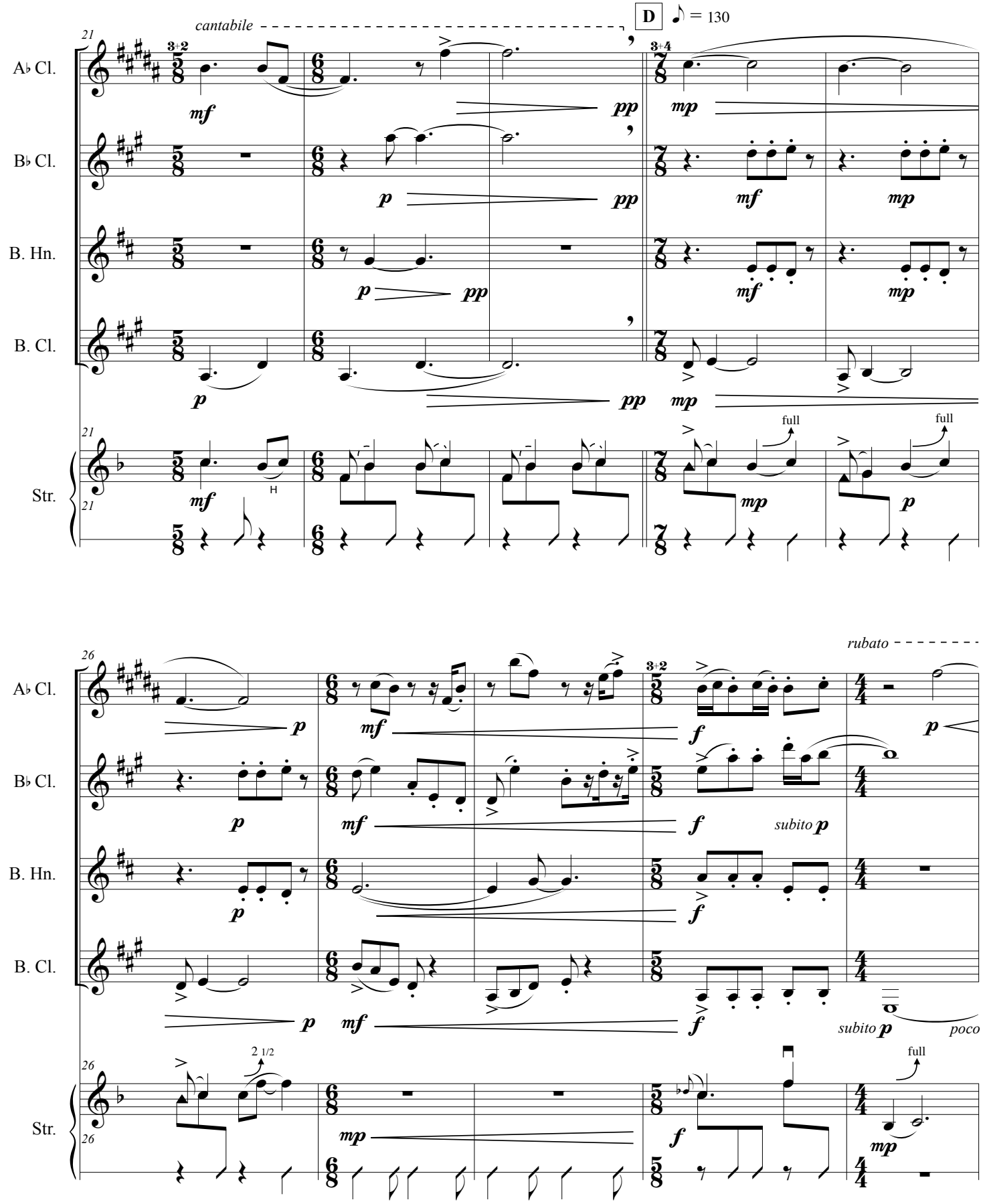
Transposed Score

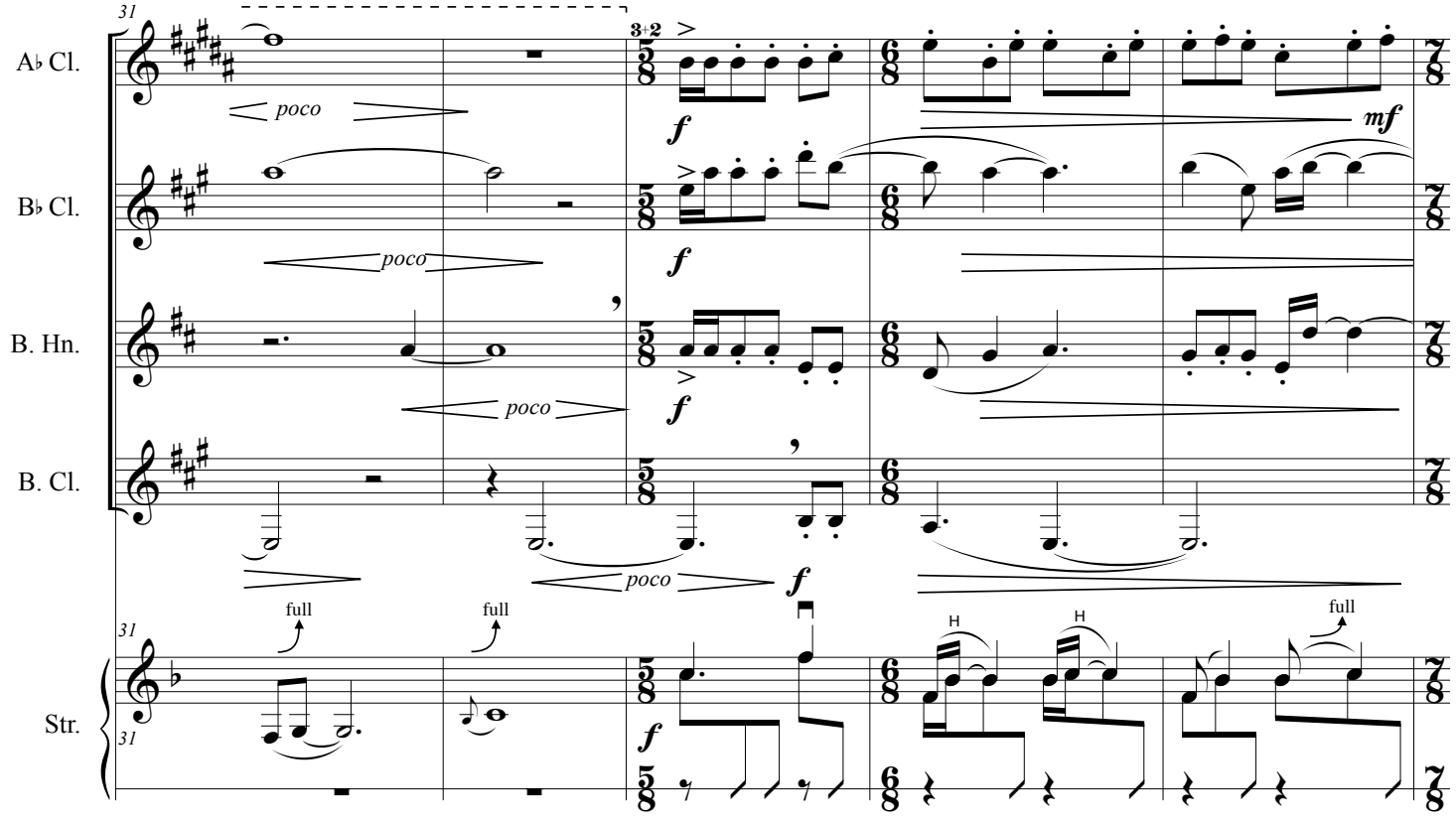
for Clarinet in A flat, Clarinet in B flat, Basset Horn, Bass Clarinet and Sitar in D

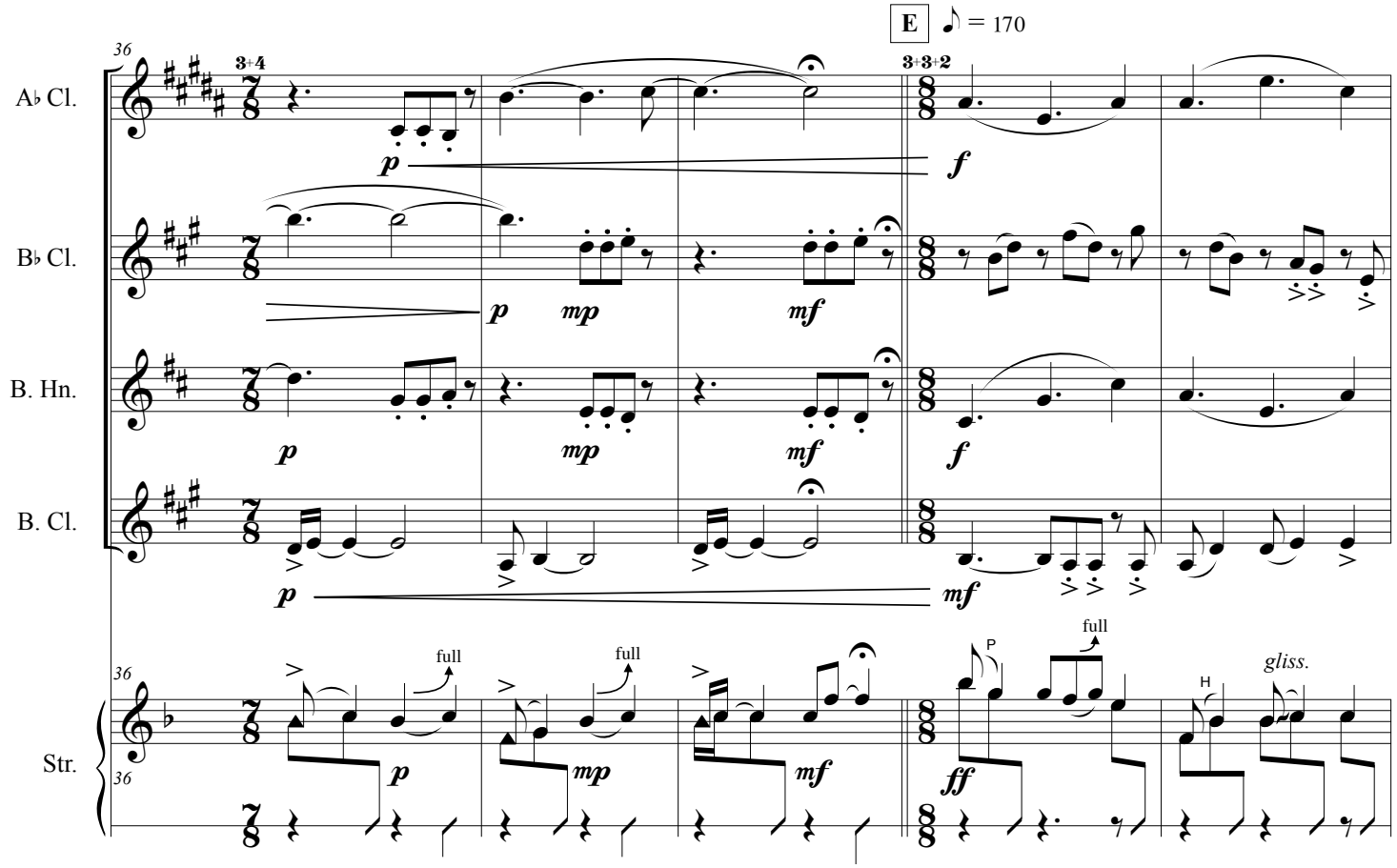
Richard Belcastro
2012

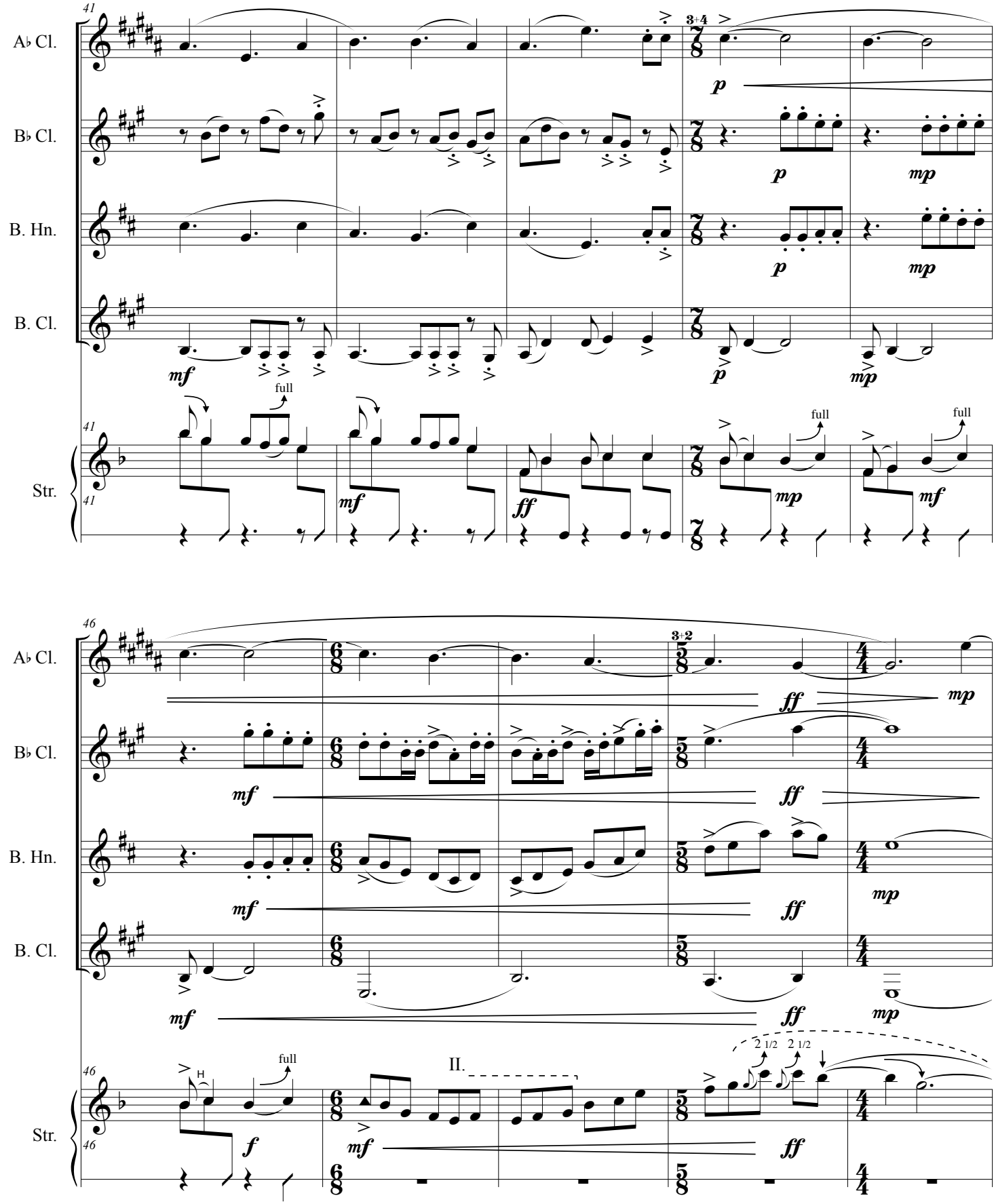


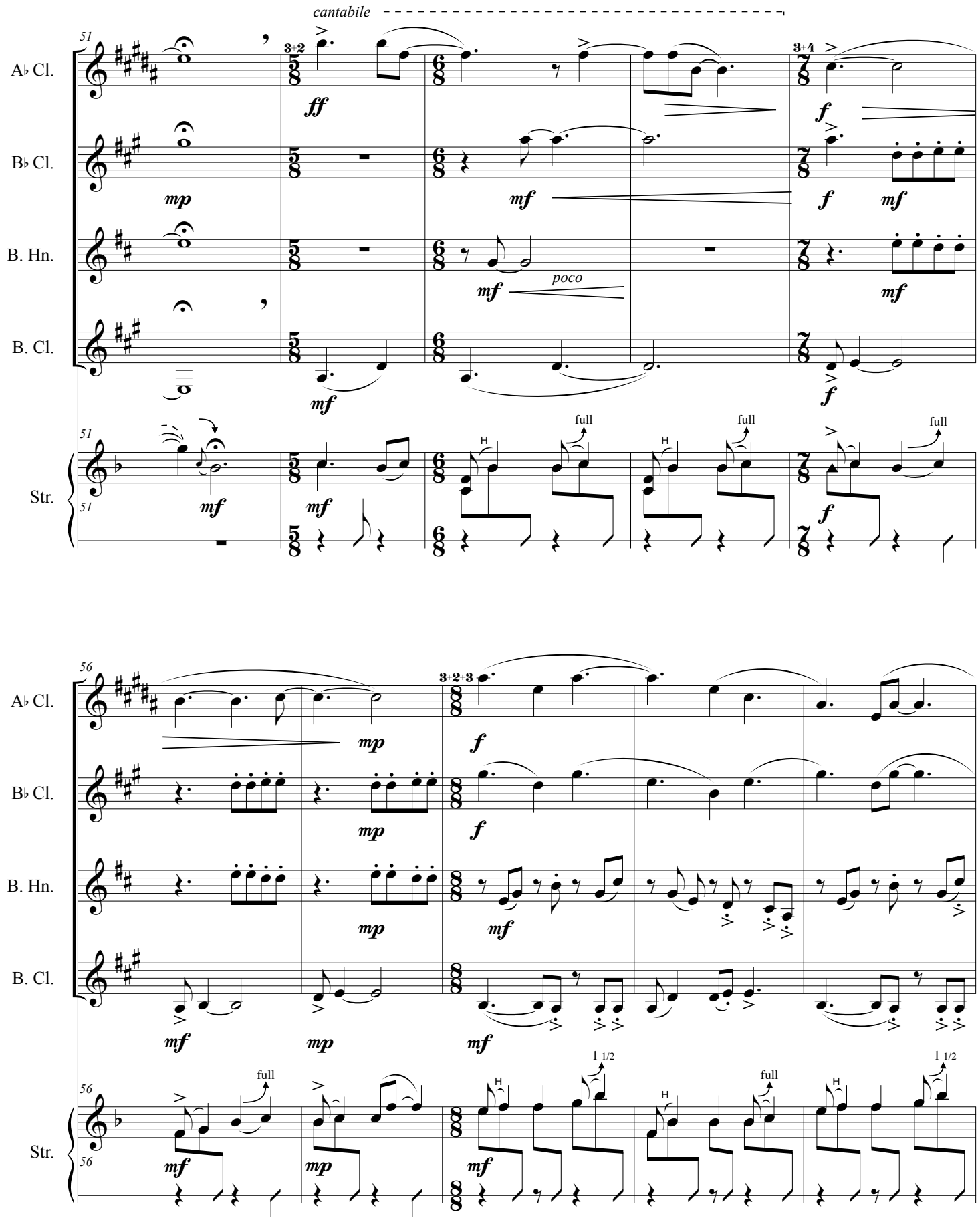

C
= 100
accel.
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
cantabile
poco
full
rubato
p
pp
mf

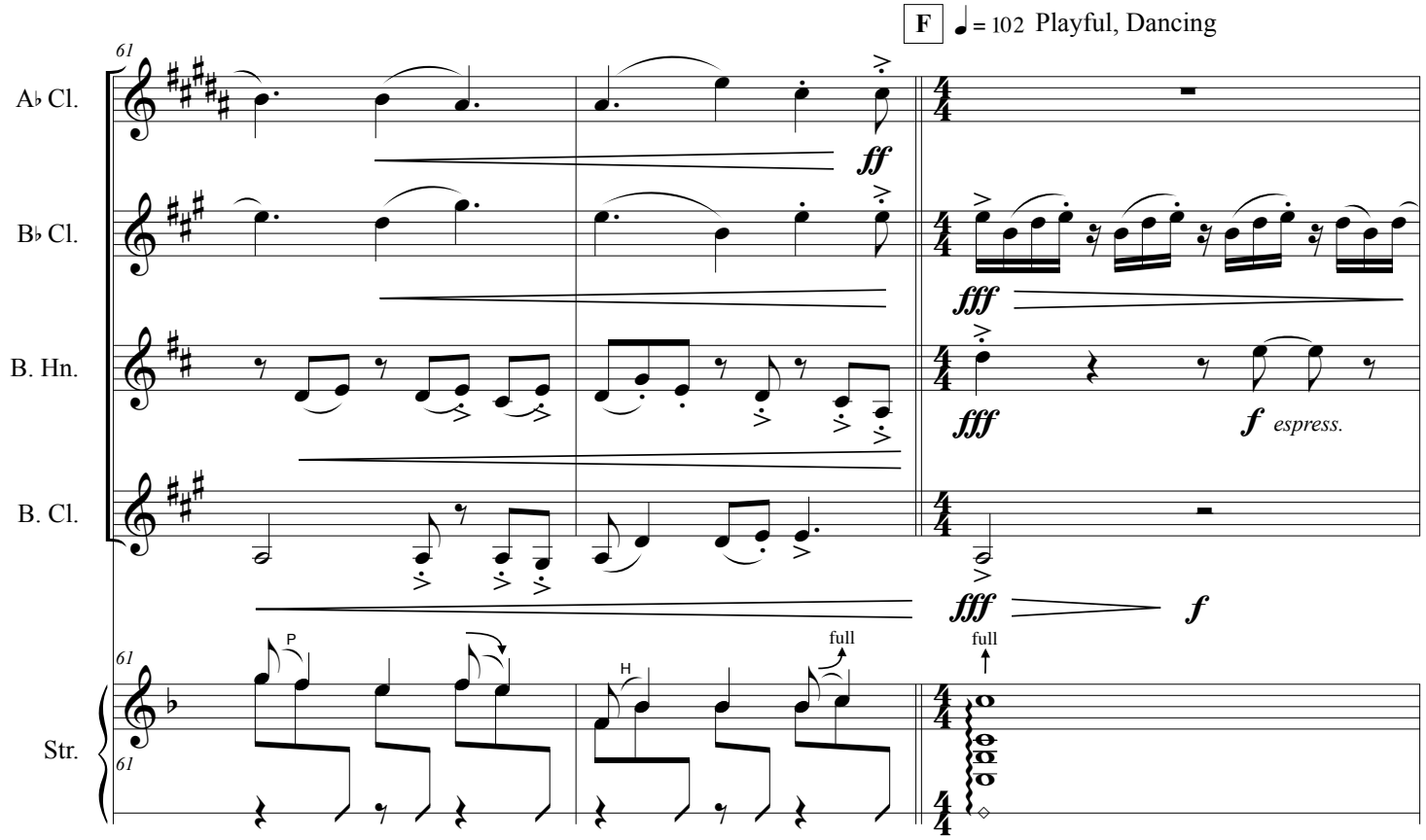

cantabile
D
♪ = 130
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
full
rubato
subito p
poco
2 1/2

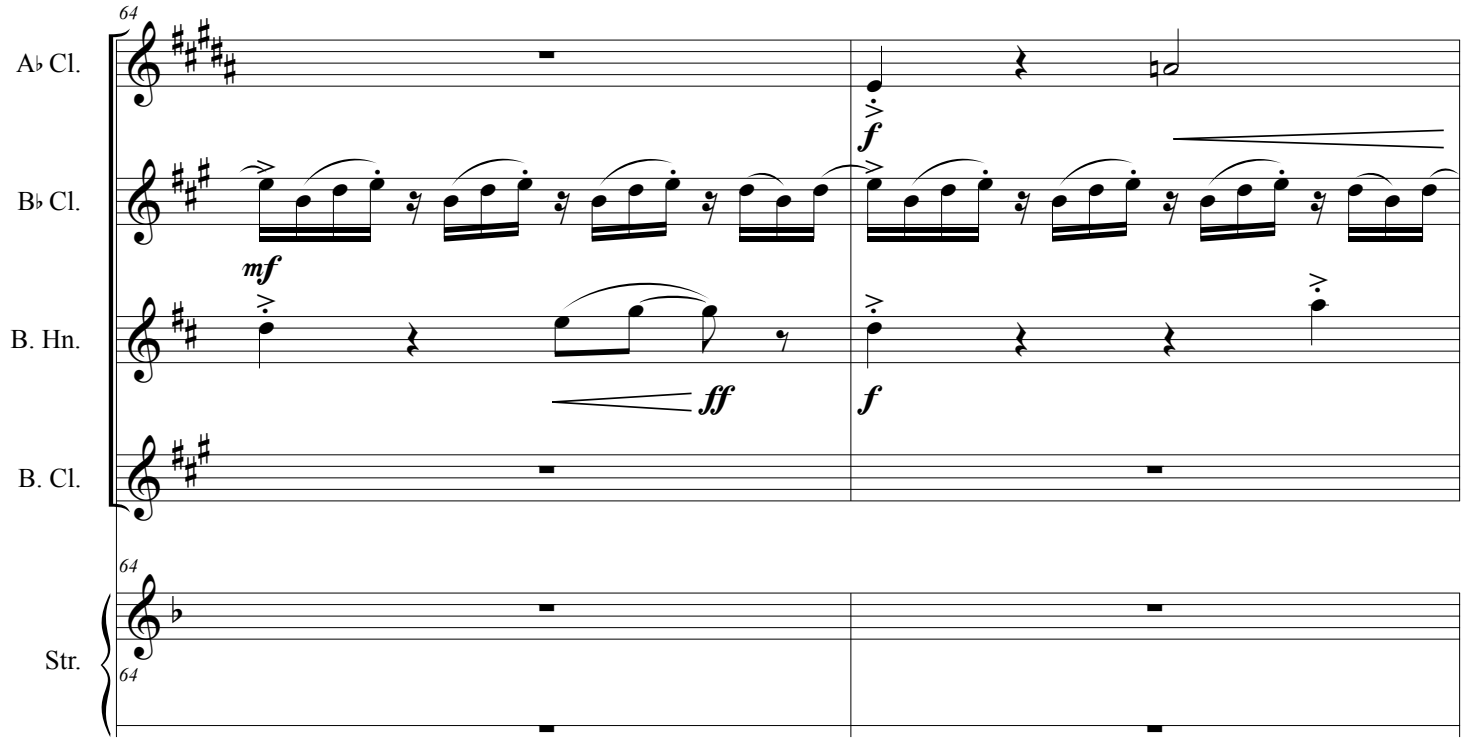

31
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
poco
f
mf
full
H

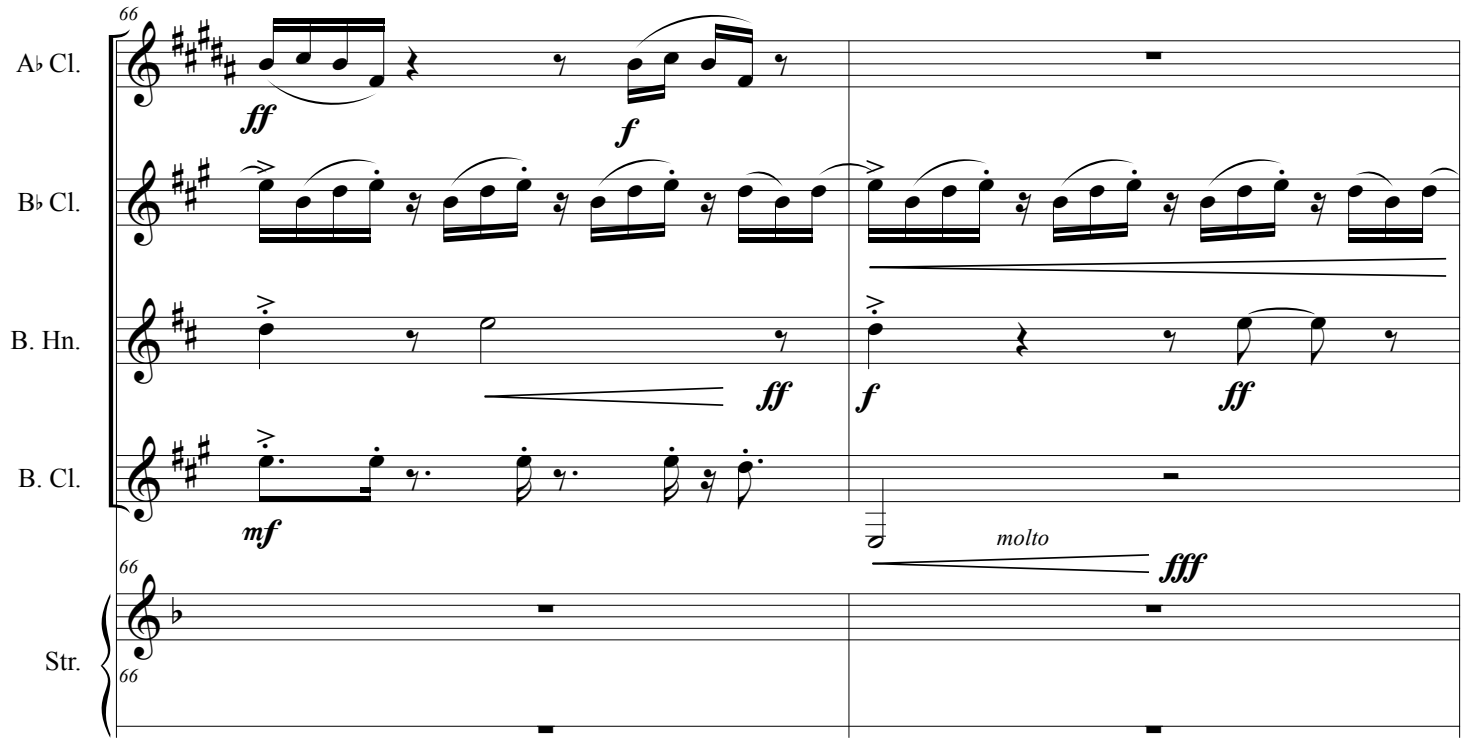

E
♪ = 170
36
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
p
mp
mf
f
ff
full
P
H
gliss.

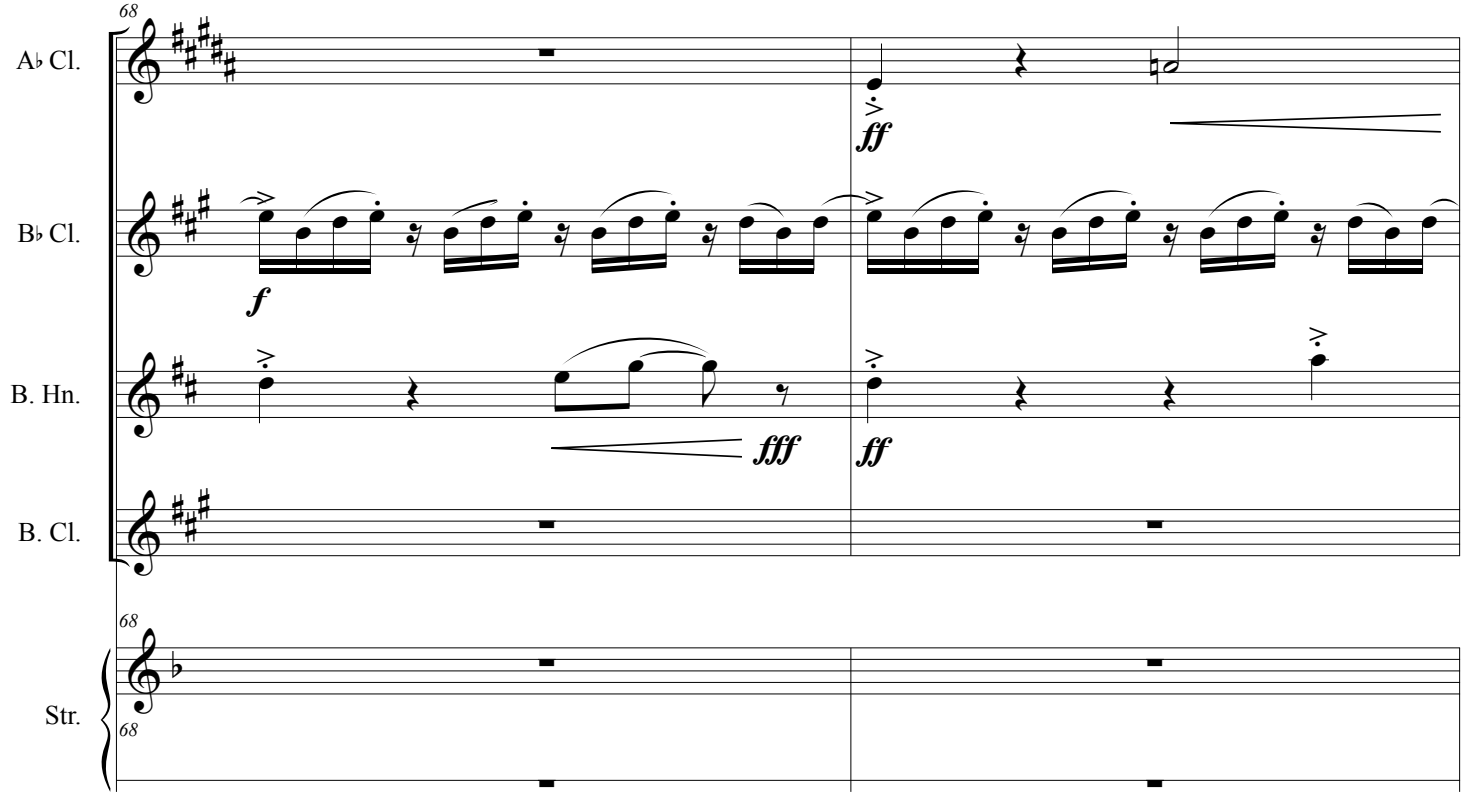

41
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
3+4
p
mp
mf
full
ff
46
3+2
II.
H
2 1/2

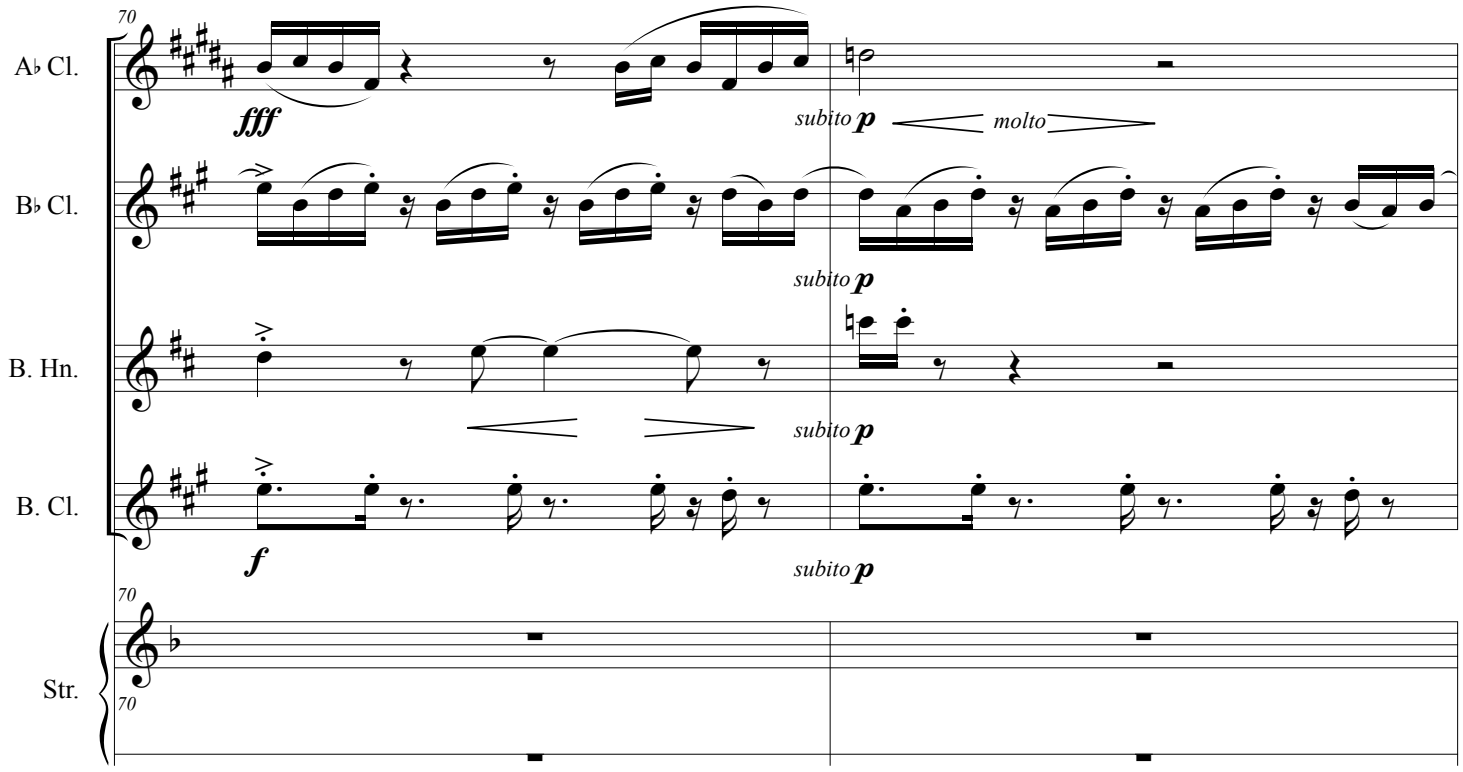

cantabile
51
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
3+2
3+4
poco
full
56
3+2+3
1 1/2

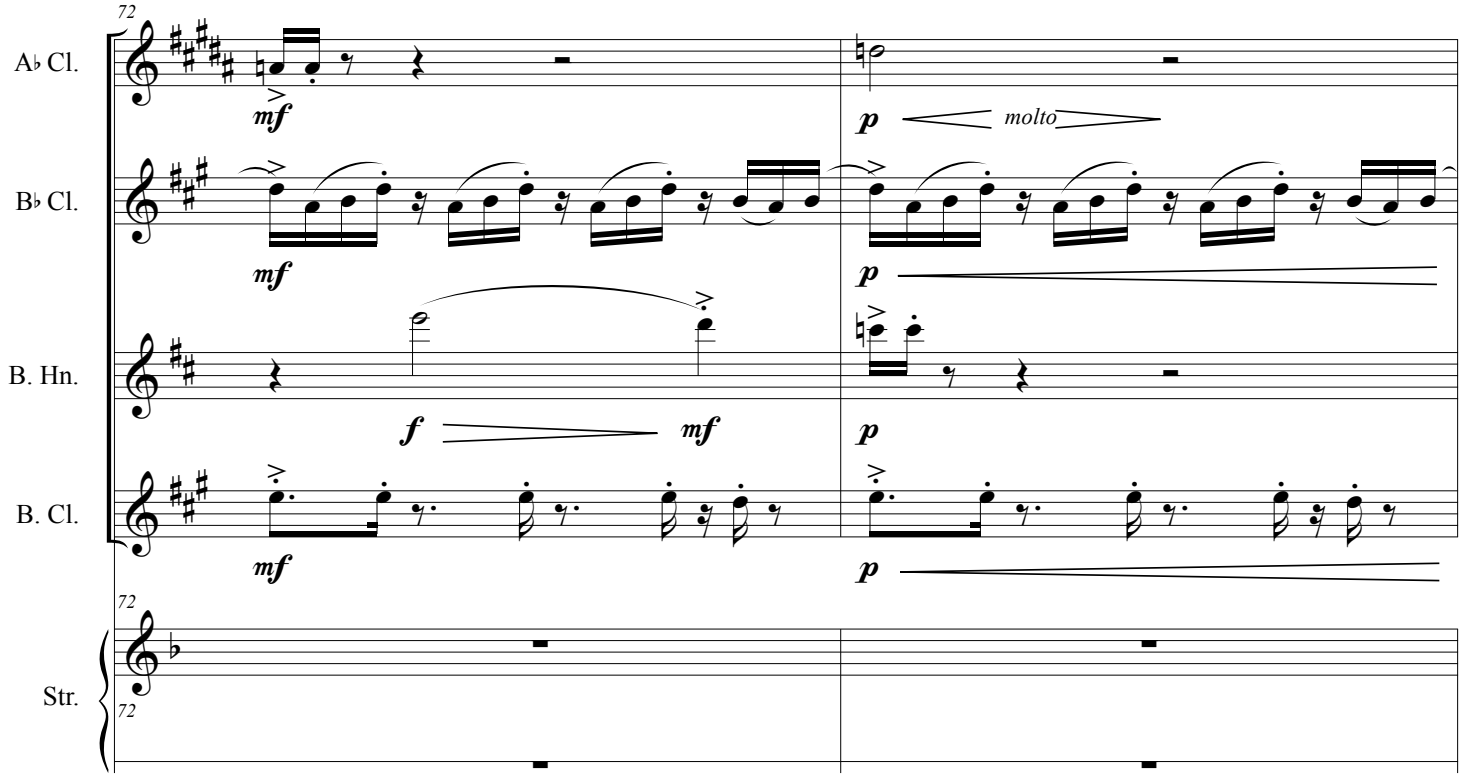

F
= 102 Playful, Dancing
61
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
ff
fff
fff
f espress.
fff
f
P
H
full
full

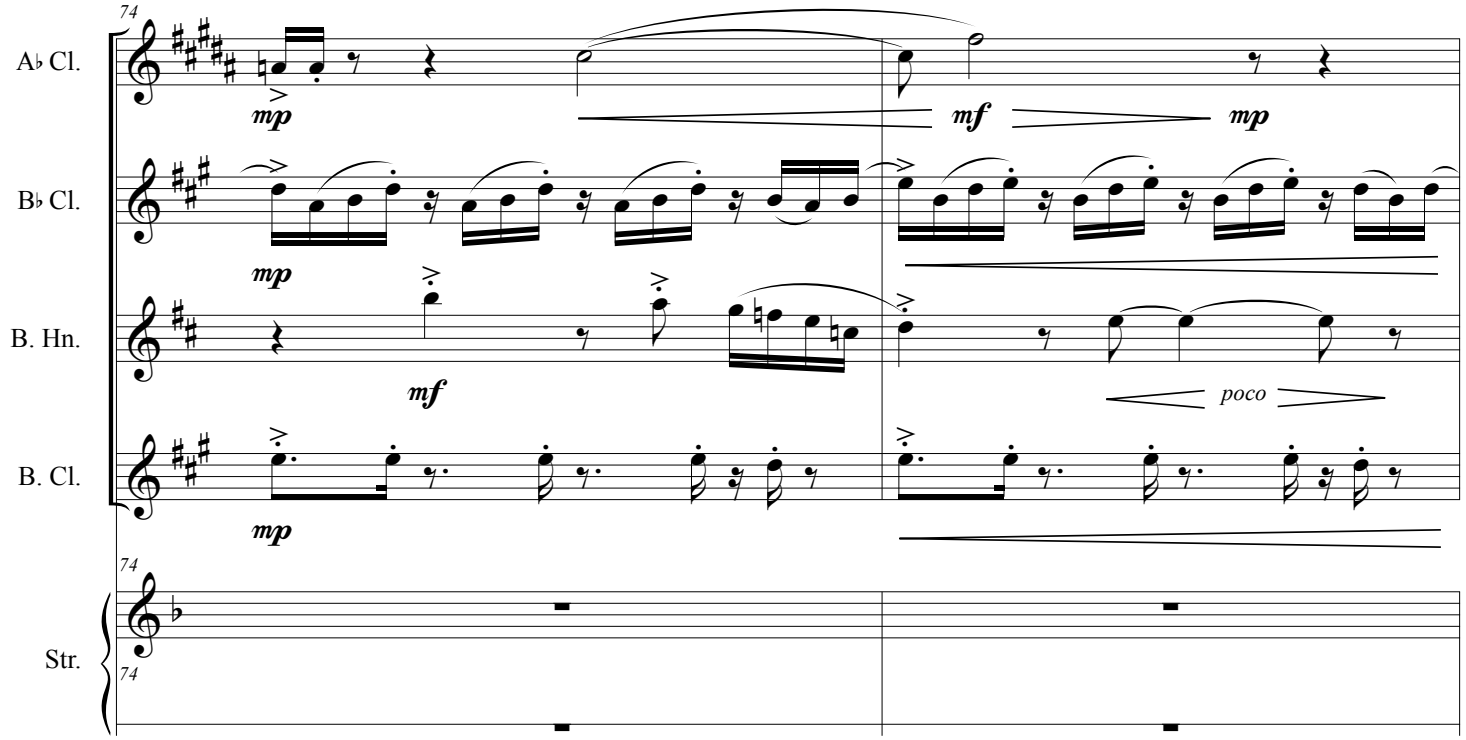

64
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
f
mf
ff
f

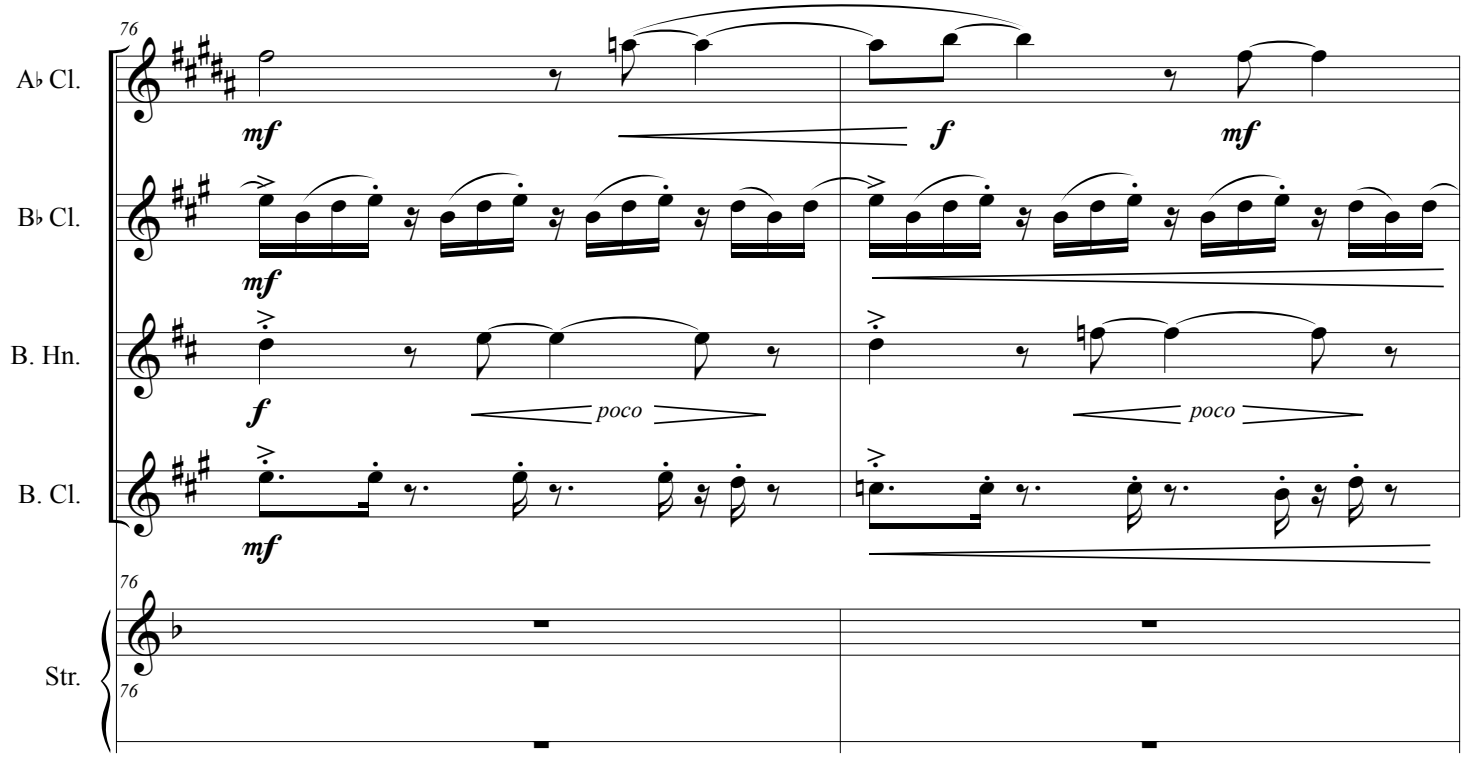

66
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
ff
f
ff
f
ff
mf
molto
fff

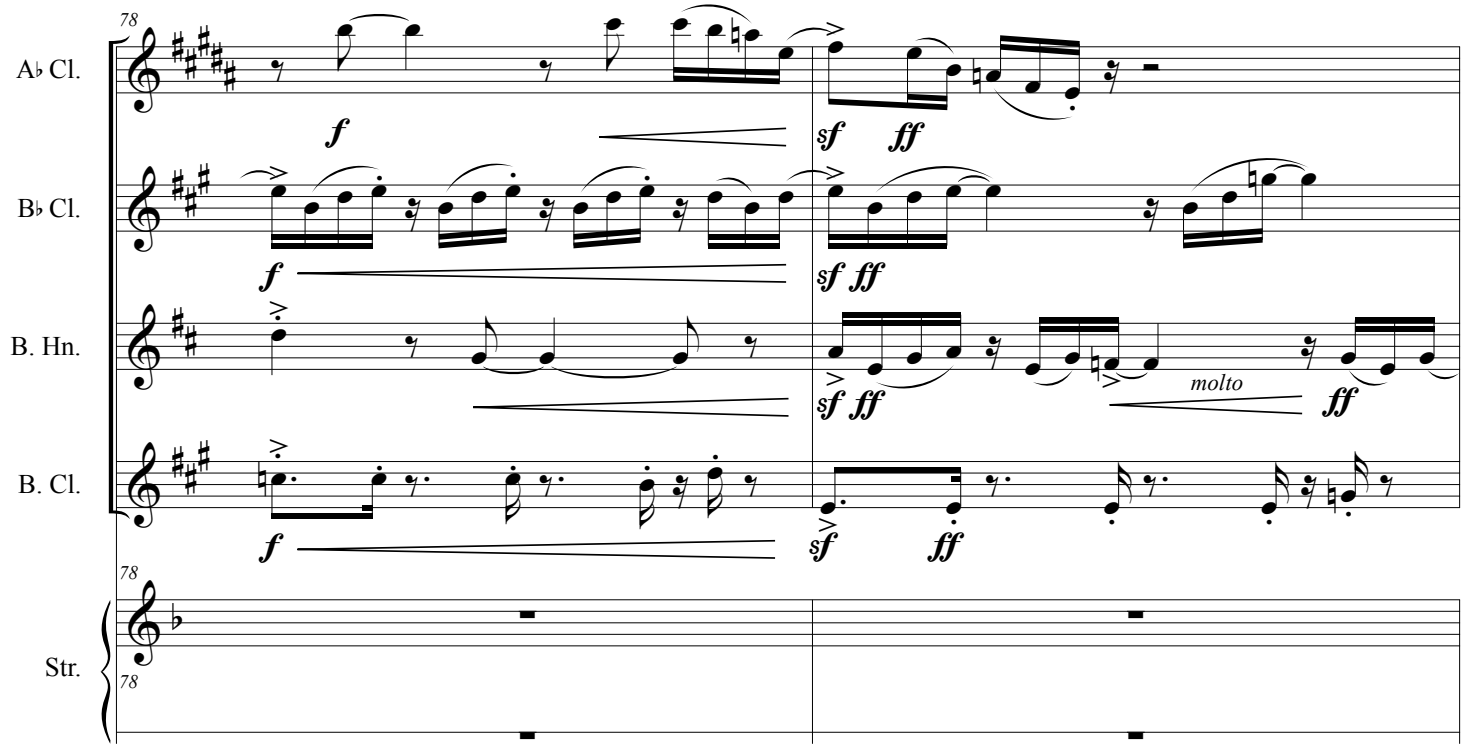

68
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
ff
f
fff
ff

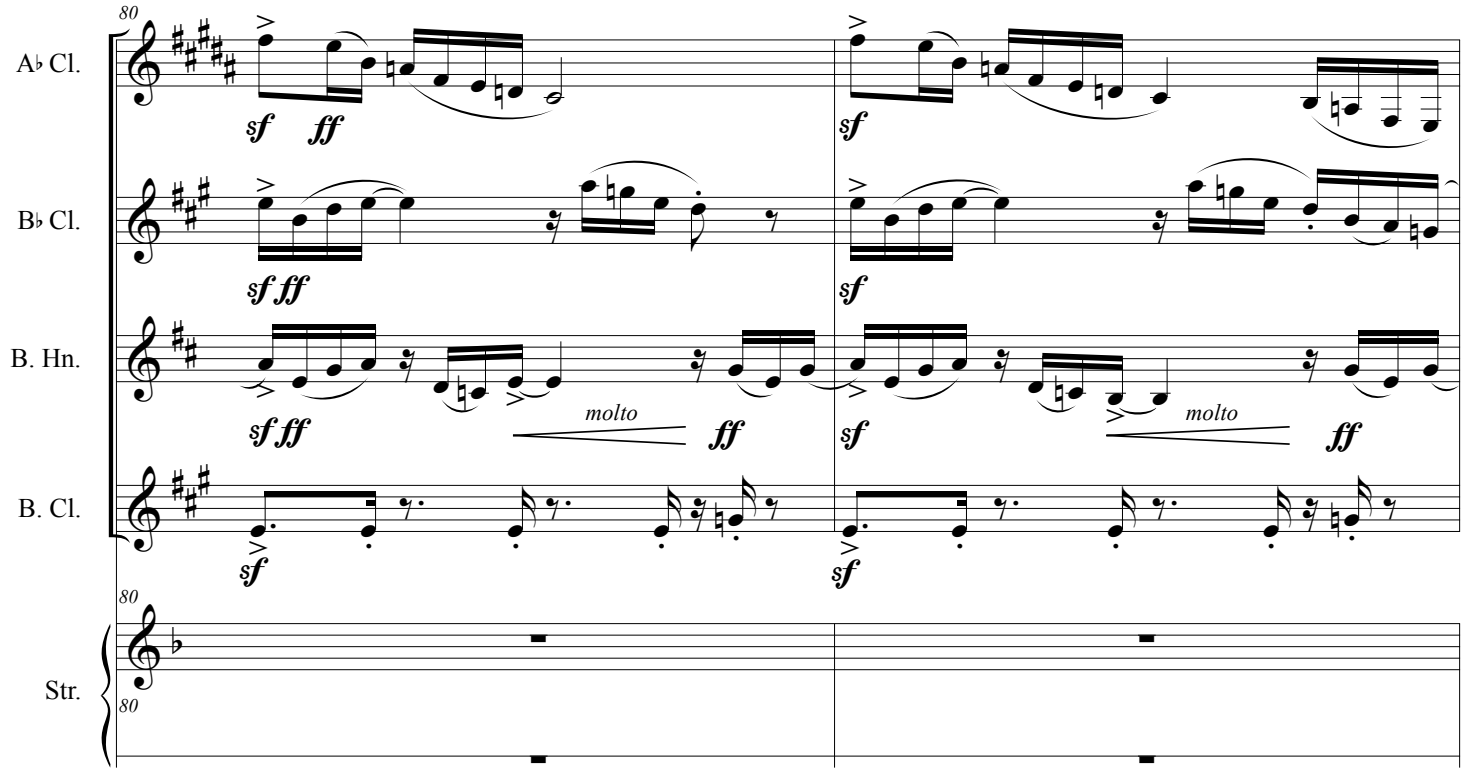

70
A♭ Cl.
fff
subito p
molto
B♭ Cl.
subito p
B. Hn.
subito p
B. Cl.
f
subito p
70
Str.
70

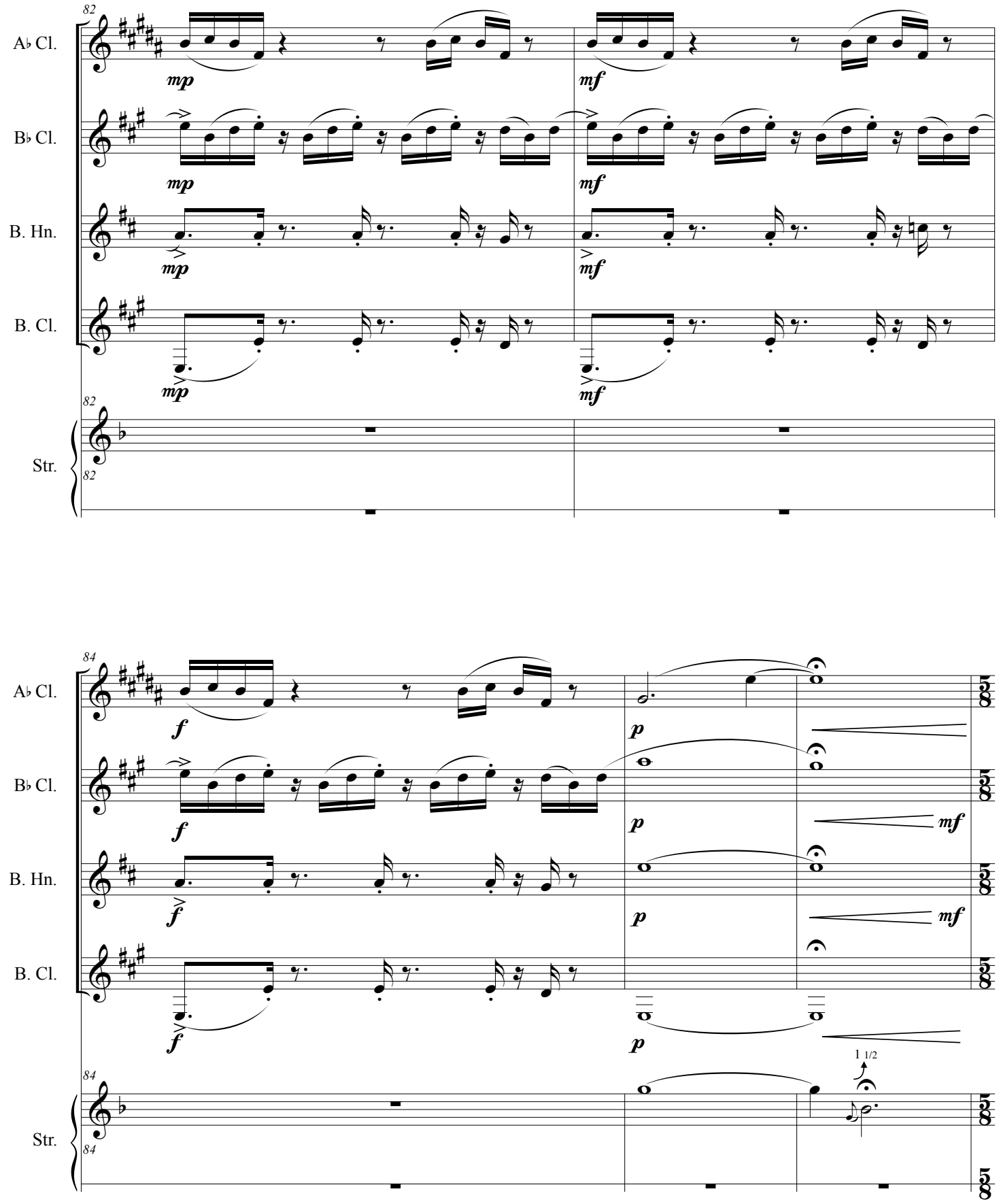

72
A♭ Cl.
mf
p
molto
B♭ Cl.
mf
p
B. Hn.
f
mf
p
B. Cl.
mf
p
72
Str.
72

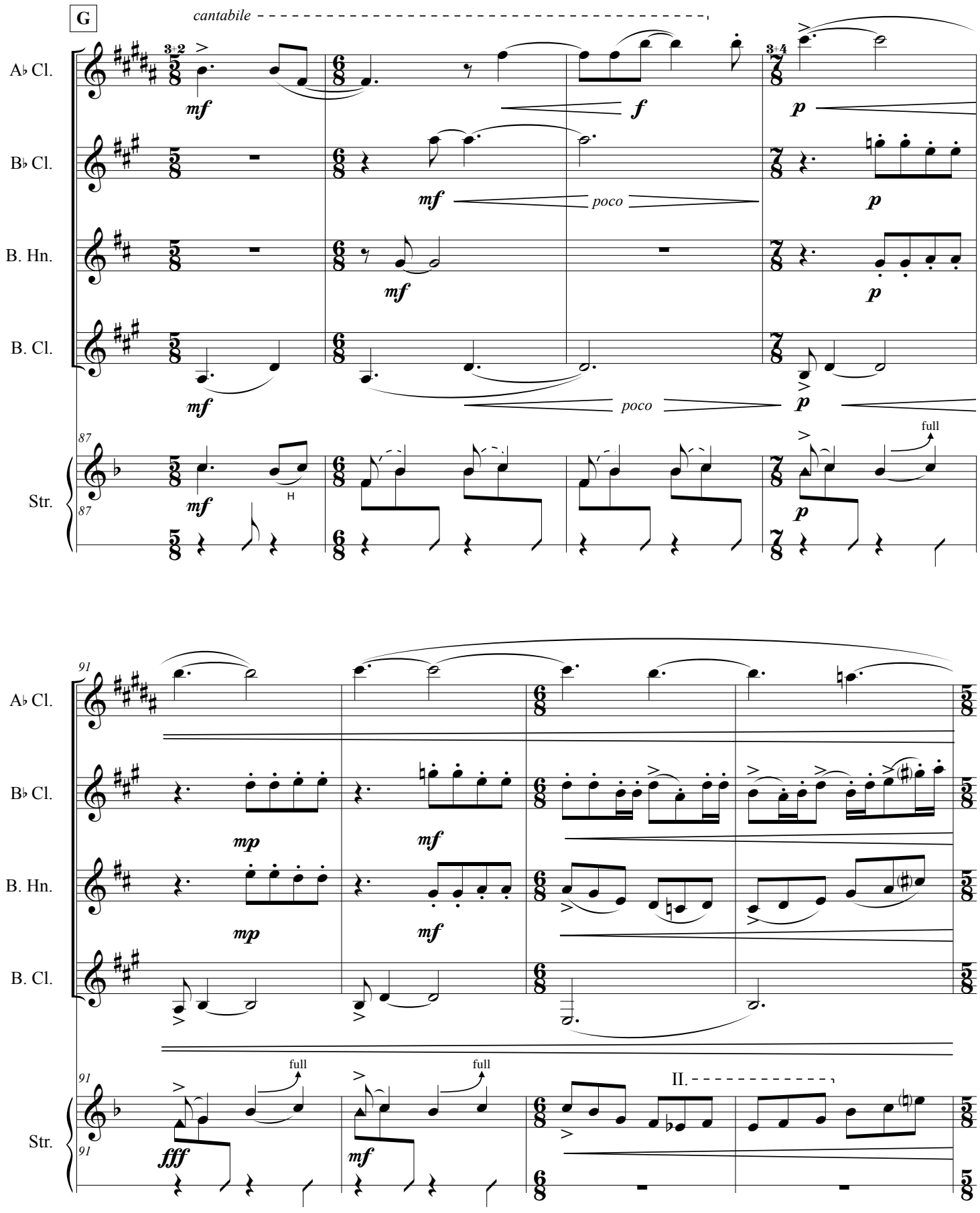

74
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
mp
mf
mp
poco

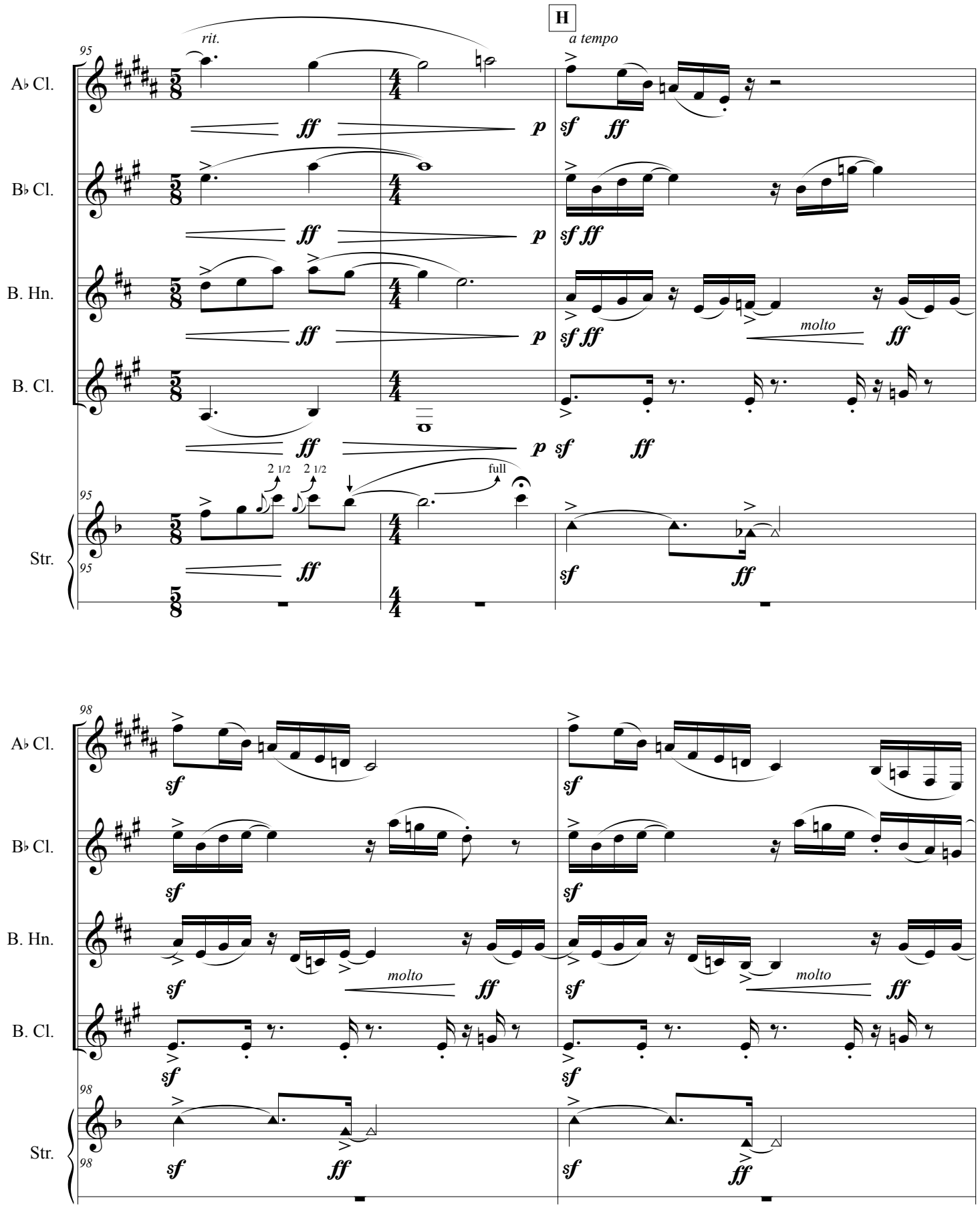

76
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
mf
f
mf
poco

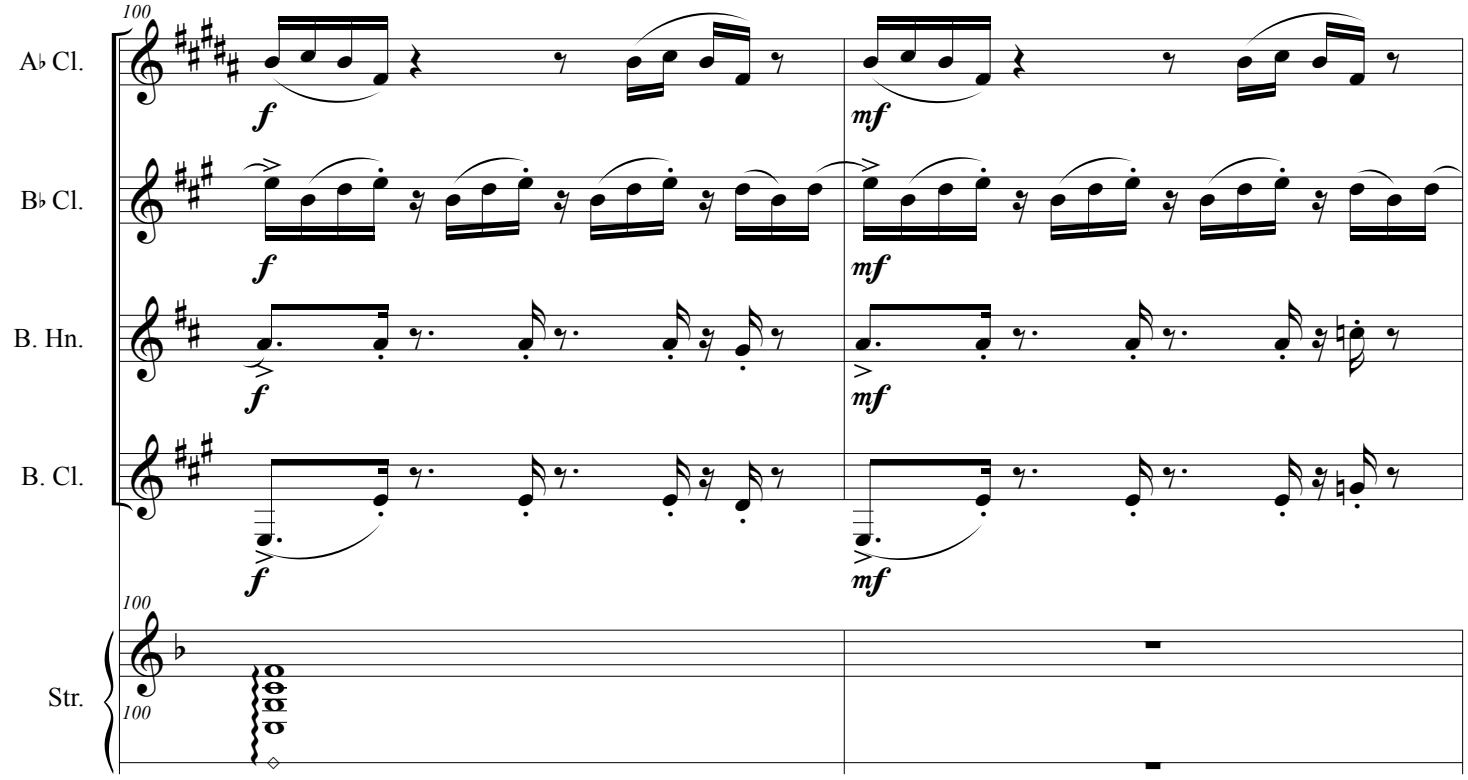

78
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
f
sf ff
molto

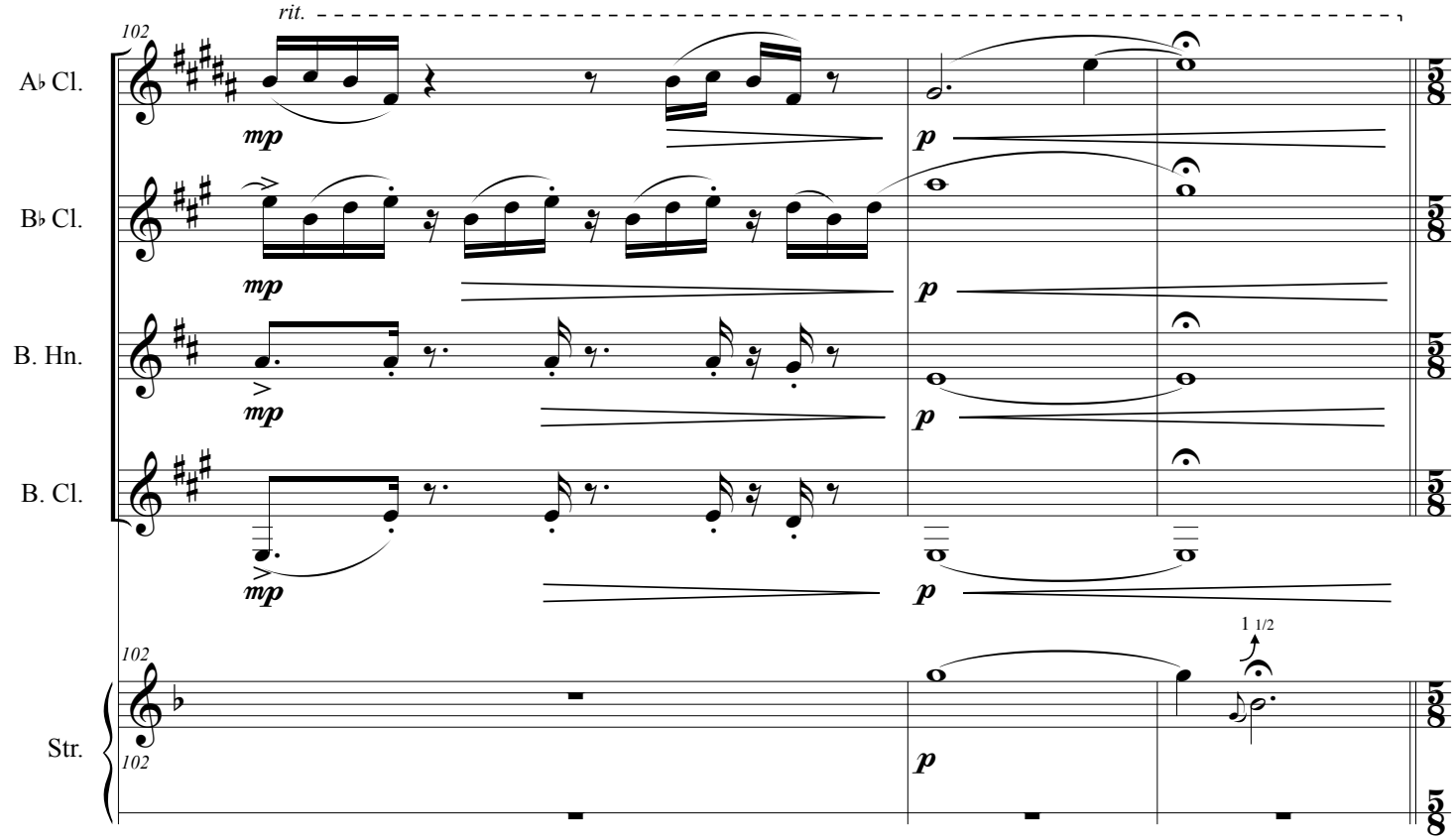

80
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
sf ff
sf
molto

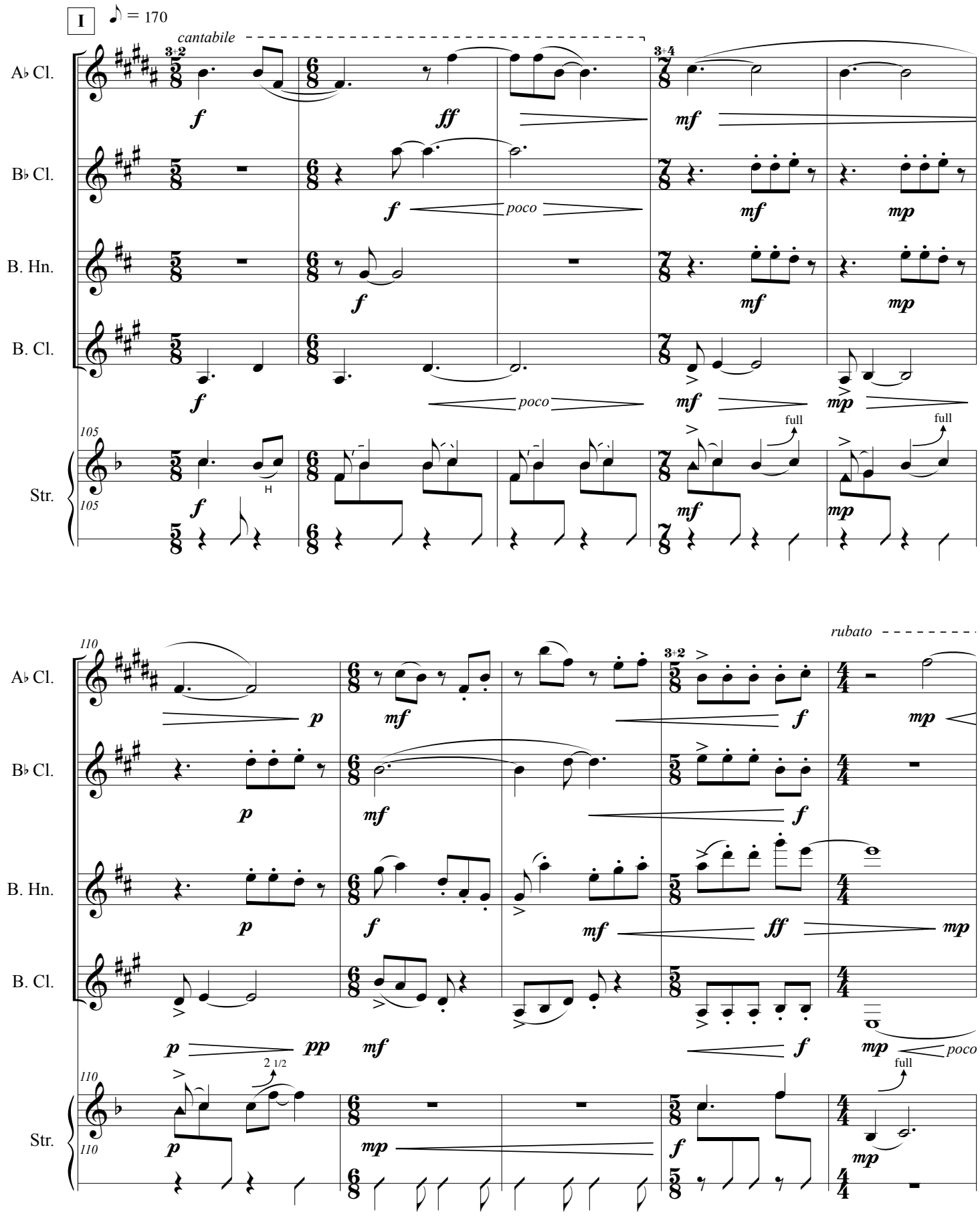

82
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
mp
mf
84
f
p
mf
1 1/2

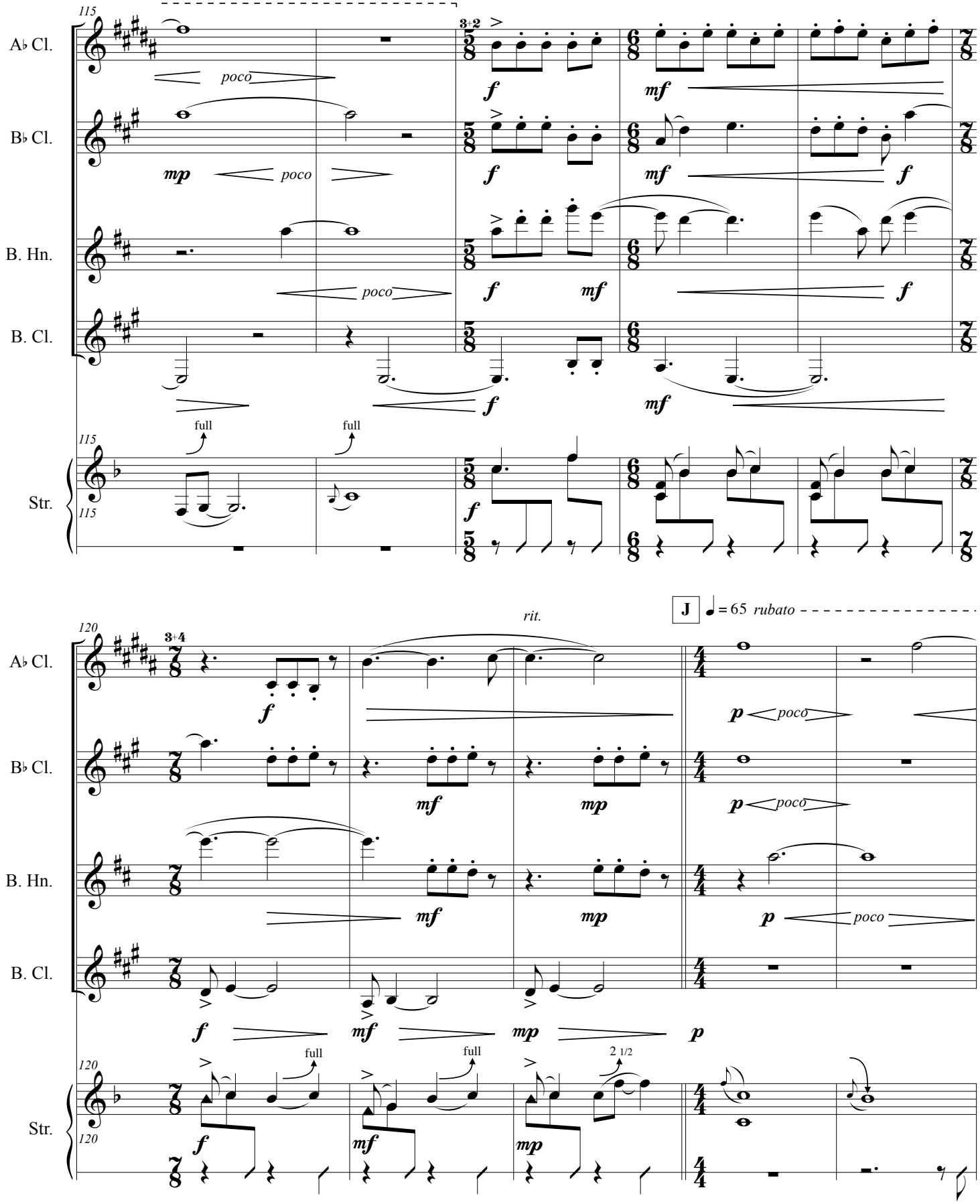

G
cantabile
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
87
mf
f
p
poco
H
full
91
mp
fff
II.

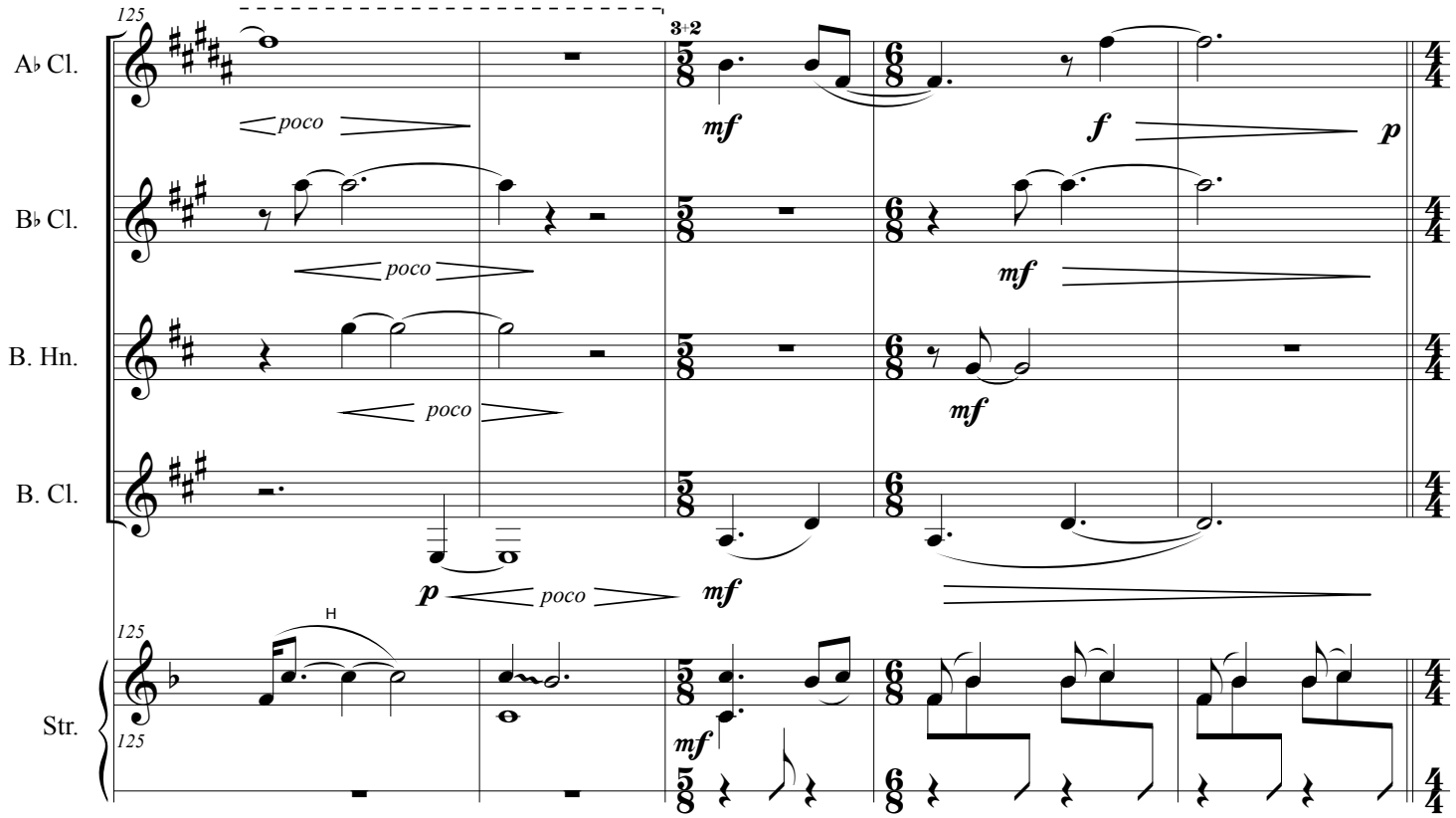

H
rit.
a tempo
95
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
ff
p
sf
molto
2 1/2
full
98

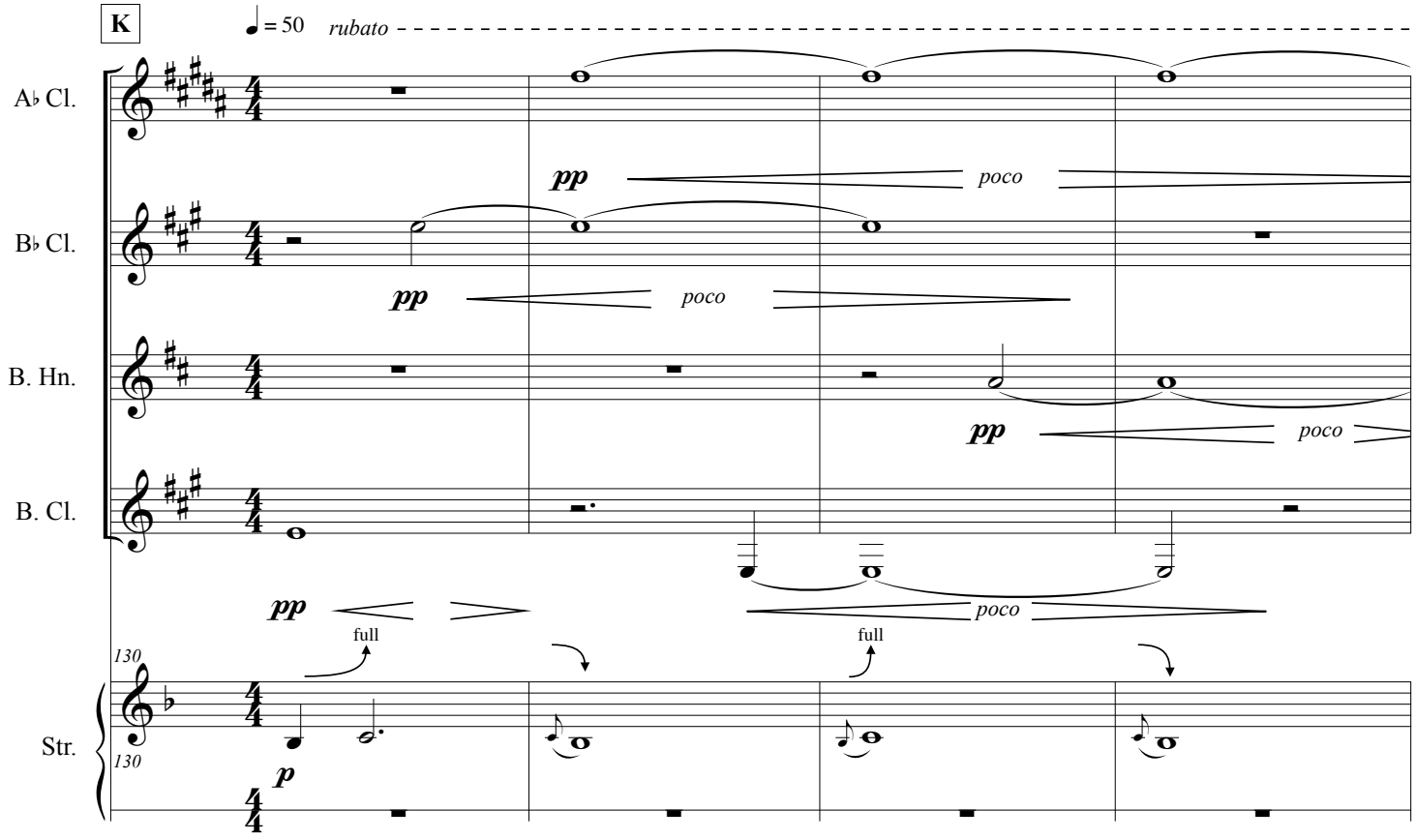

100
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
f
mf

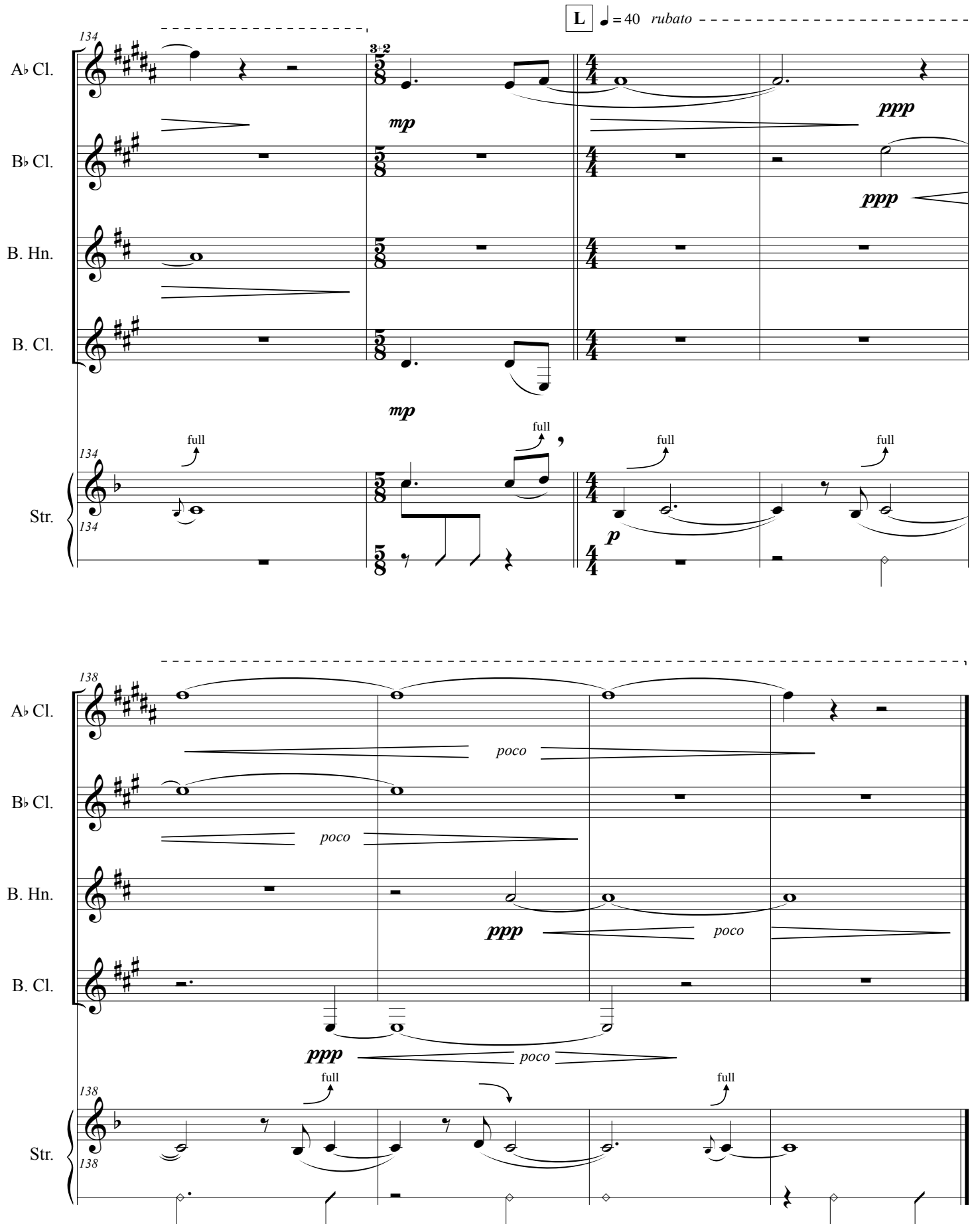

rit.
102
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
mp
p
1 1/2


I
♪ = 170
cantabile
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
poco
full
rubato
2 1/2


115
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
poco
mp
f
mf
full
120
rit.
J
♩ = 65 rubato
p
2 1/2


125
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
poco
mf
f
p
H


K
♩ = 50
rubato
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
pp
poco
full
130


L
♩ = 40 rubato
A♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
B. Hn.
B. Cl.
Str.
134
3+2
mp
ppp
full
p
138
poco
ppp