ORACLE

Fantasy – Variations

for flute & bassoon

2004

By

ROGER BRIGGS

PROGRAM NOTE

ORACLE for Flute and Bassoon is a set of seven variations on the ancient Greek melody, First Delphic Hymn, composed around 138 B.C. According to Davison Apel's Historical Anthology of Music, this melody is the most considerable example of Ancient Greek music known. Since the third part of the melody is incomplete, I have used only the first two parts. The tune is in a consistent quintuple meter (important to the Ancient Greeks and known as Cretic meter) with the first part being completely modal (diatonic) and the second part being highly chromatic. The Tune appears in the flute part of the second movement.

Delphi, for the Ancients, was the place of Apollo and formerly the place of Gaia, goddess of Earth. Apollo spoke through a Priestess, giving inspiration and guidance to all who sought help.

The work musically outlines the noble human experience of seeking the truth. The first movement, Invocation, is a plea and yearning after knowledge. The second, Ritual, is a festive ritual preparation for the experience. The third, Enchantment, represents the meditative, magical state prior to the epiphany. In the fourth movement, Oracle, the truth is revealed. The fifth movement represents disbelief and fear of the revelation. The sixth movement, Affirmation, represents the Oracles reassurance and consolation to the pilgrim. In the seventh movement, the seeker celebrates the new found understanding. Finally the eighth movement is a memorial to the event, a remembrance for the rest of ones life.

ORACLE was composed during 2003-04 in Bellingham, Washington. It is written for and dedicated to Lisa McCarthy, flutist and Patricia Nelson, bassoonist.

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Fantasy - Variations

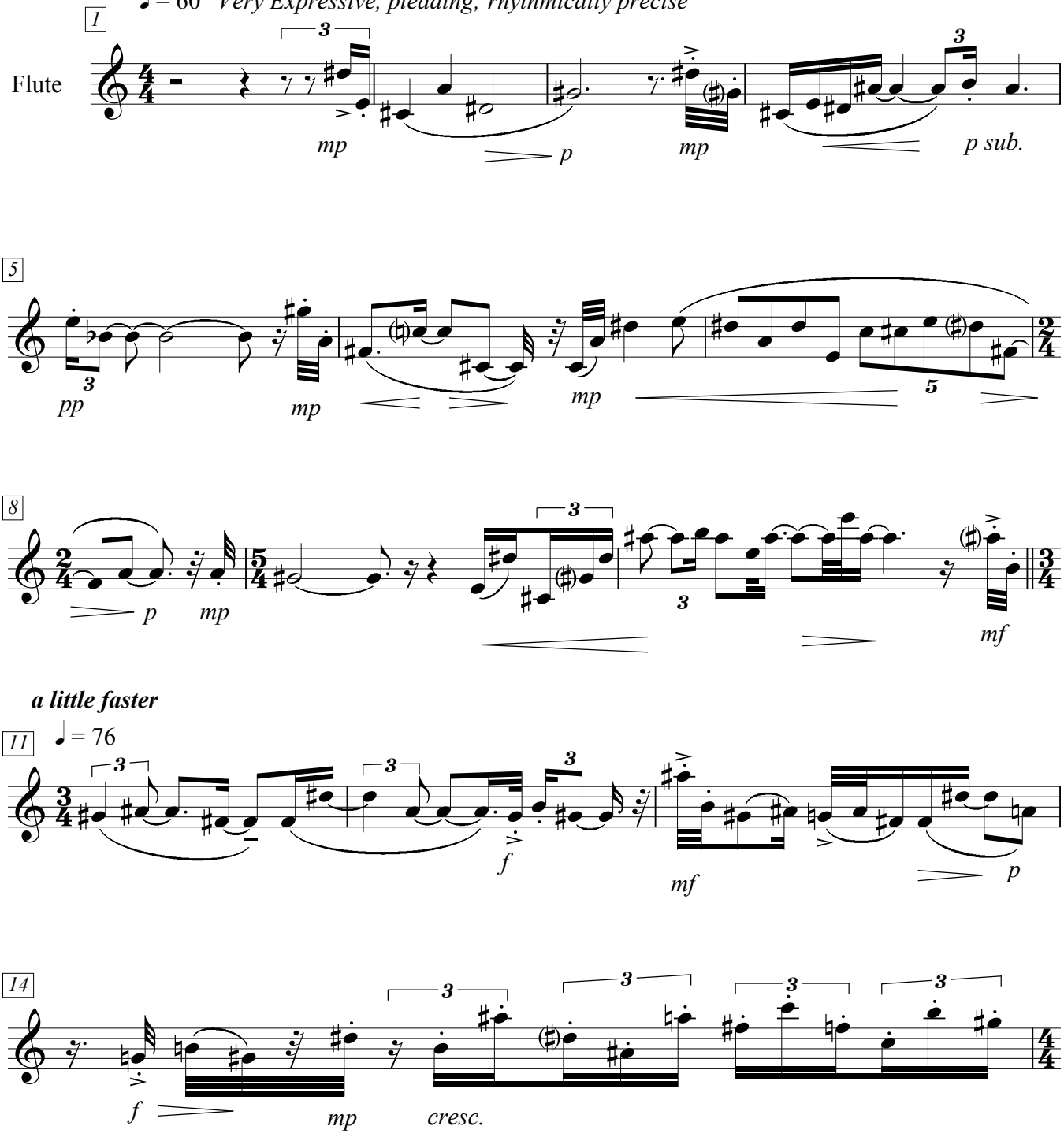
for Flute & Bassoon

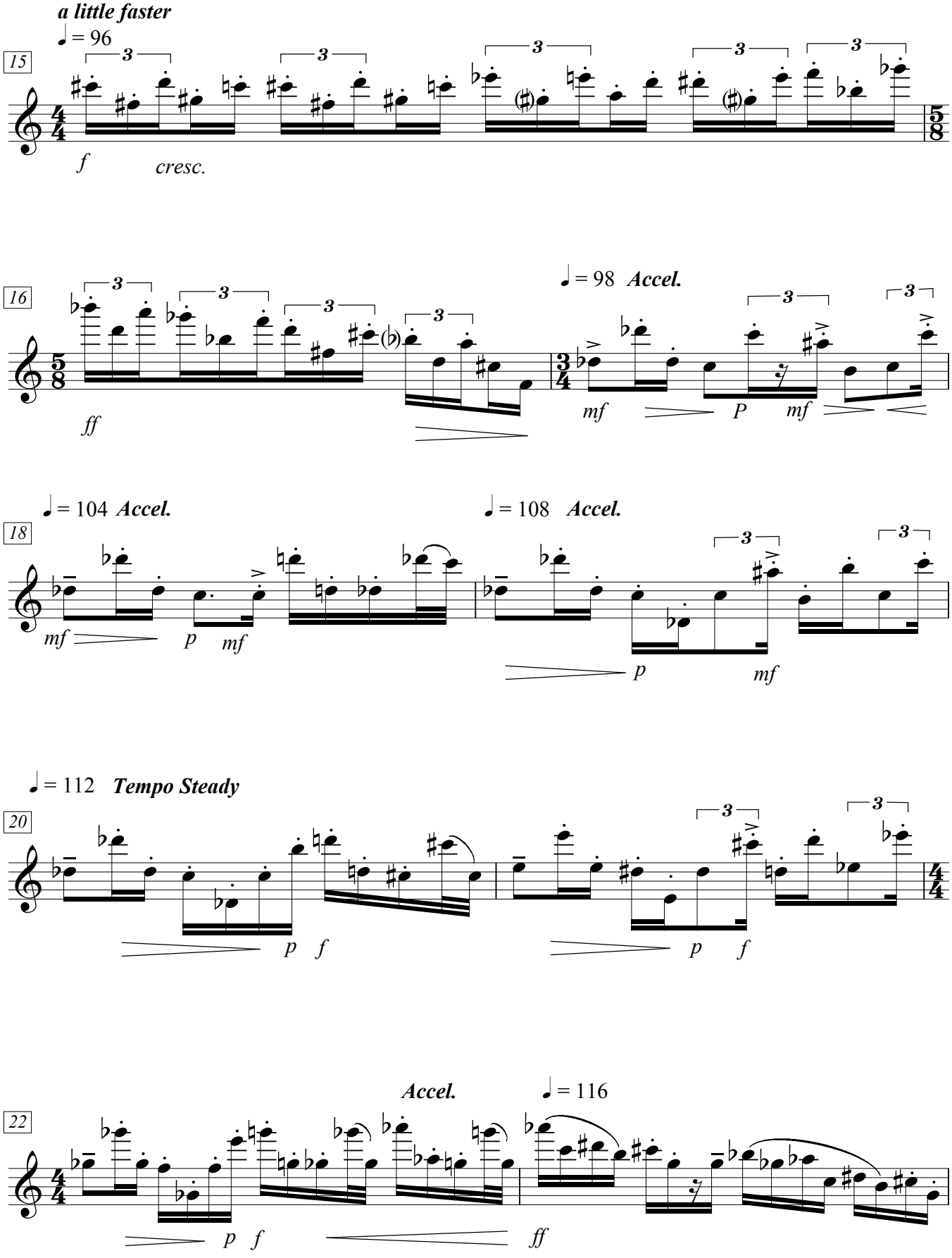
to my friends Lisa McCarthy & Patricia Nelson

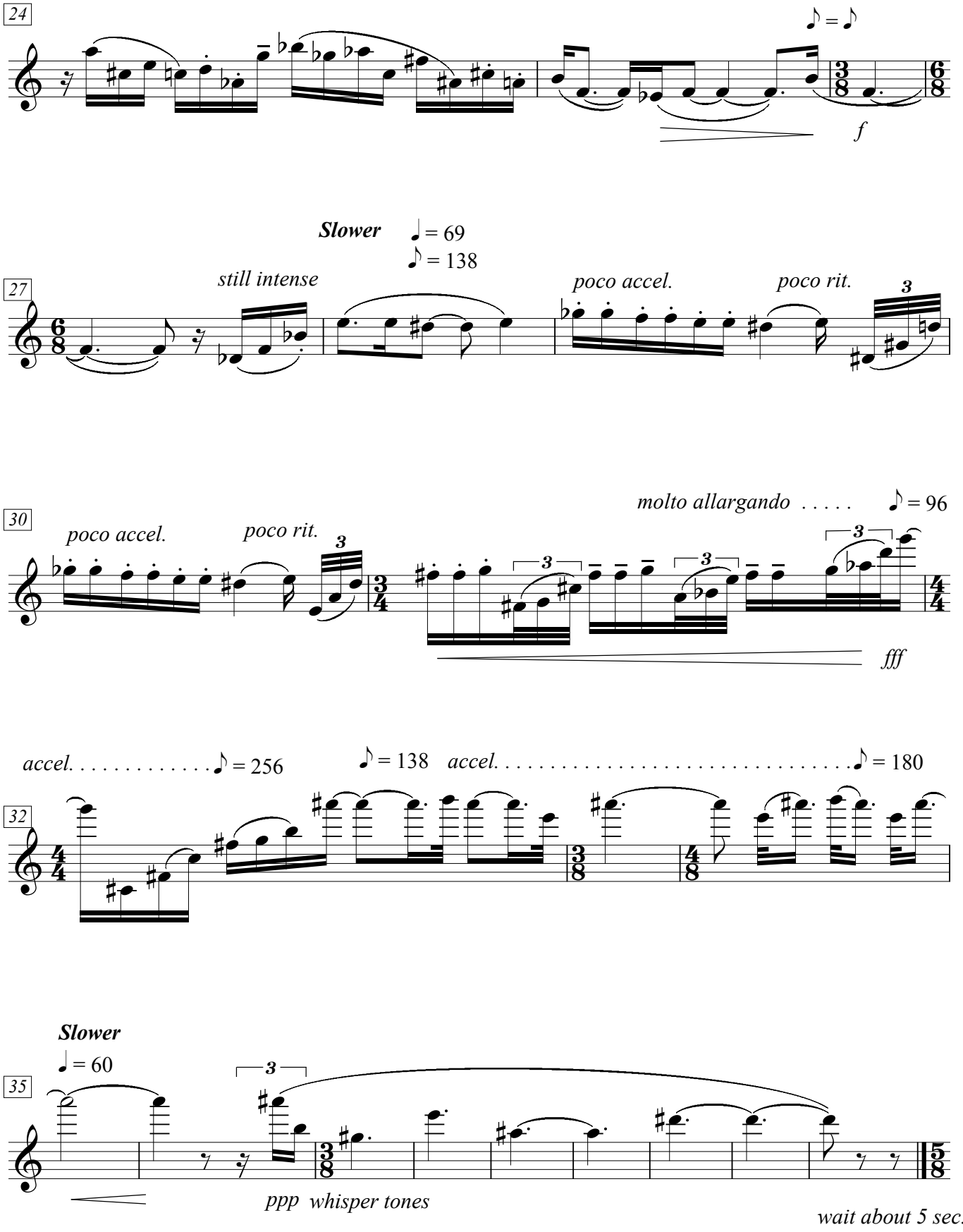
Roger Briggs

Variation I: *Invocation*

♩ = 60 *Very Expressive, pleading; rhythmically precise*

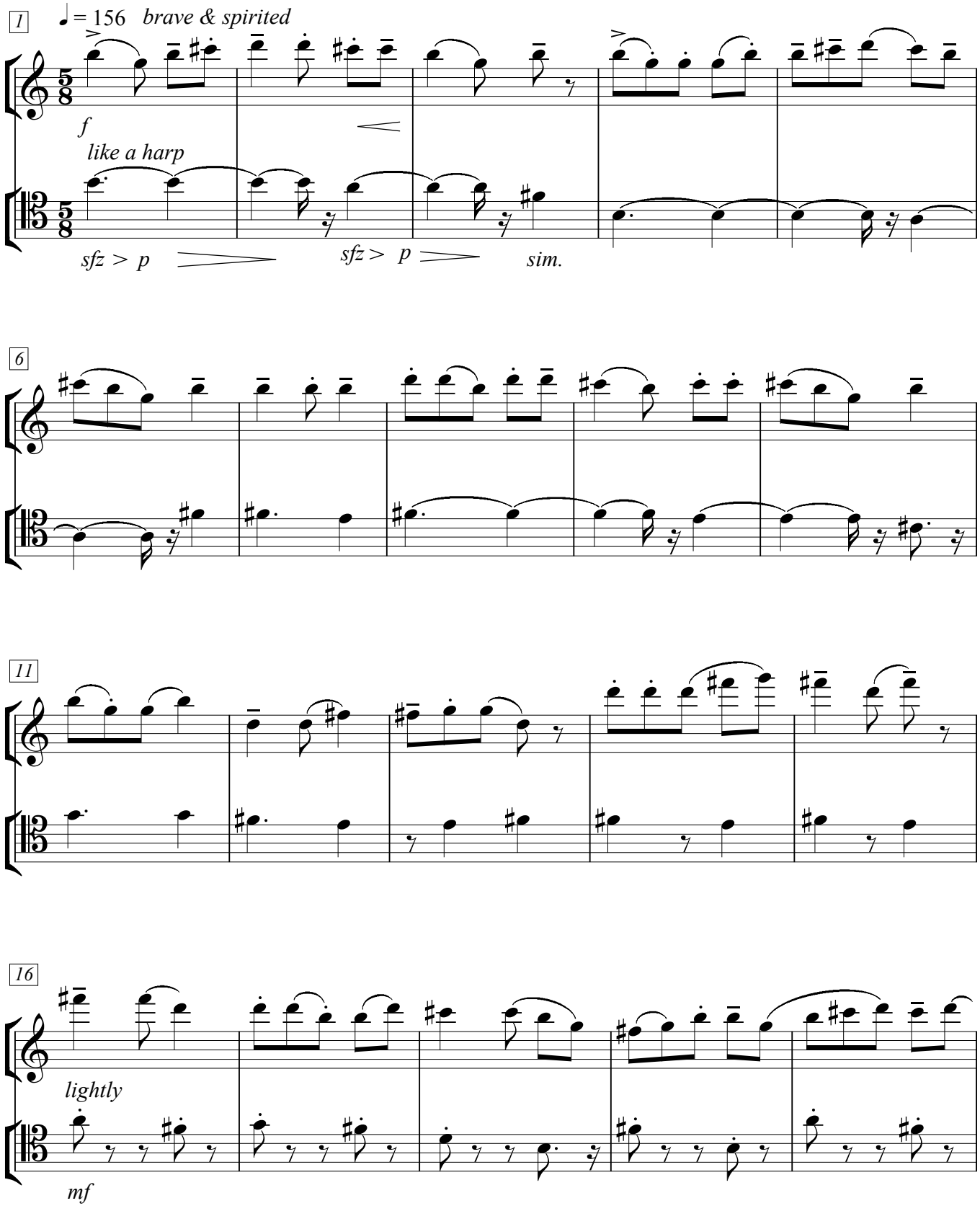


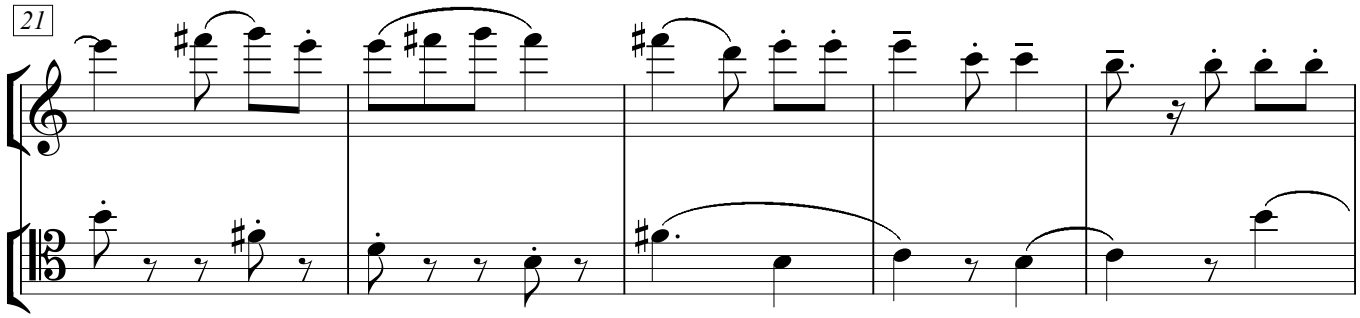

a little faster
♩ = 96
15
f
cresc.
16
ff
♩ = 98 Accel.
mf
P
mf
18
♩ = 104 Accel.
mf
p
mf
♩ = 108 Accel.
p
mf
20
♩ = 112 Tempo Steady
p
f
p
f
22
Accel.
♩ = 116
p
f
ff

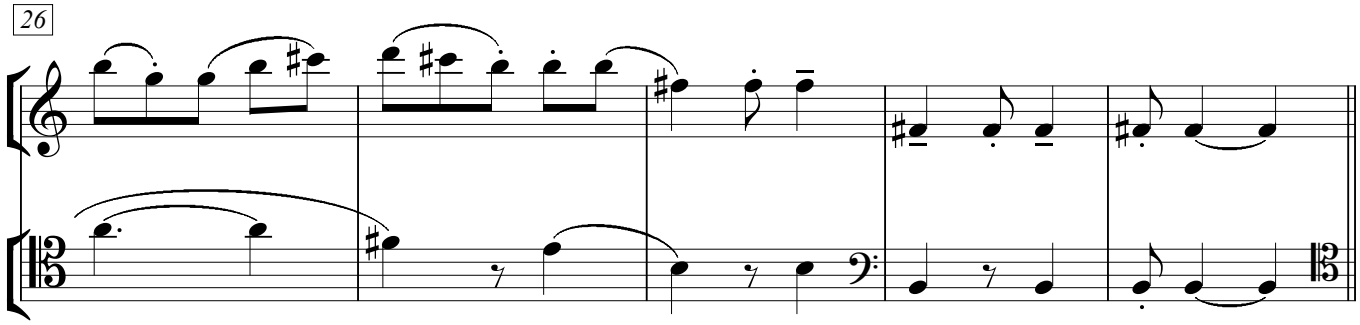

24
♪ = ♪
f
Slower
♩ = 69
♪ = 138
27
still intense
poco accel.
poco rit.
3
molto allargando . . . . .
♪ = 96
30
poco accel.
poco rit.
3
fff
accel. . . . . ♪ = 256
♪ = 138
accel. . . . . ♪ = 180
32
Slower
♩ = 60
35
3
ppp whisper tones
wait about 5 sec.

Theme: ***Festive Ritual***

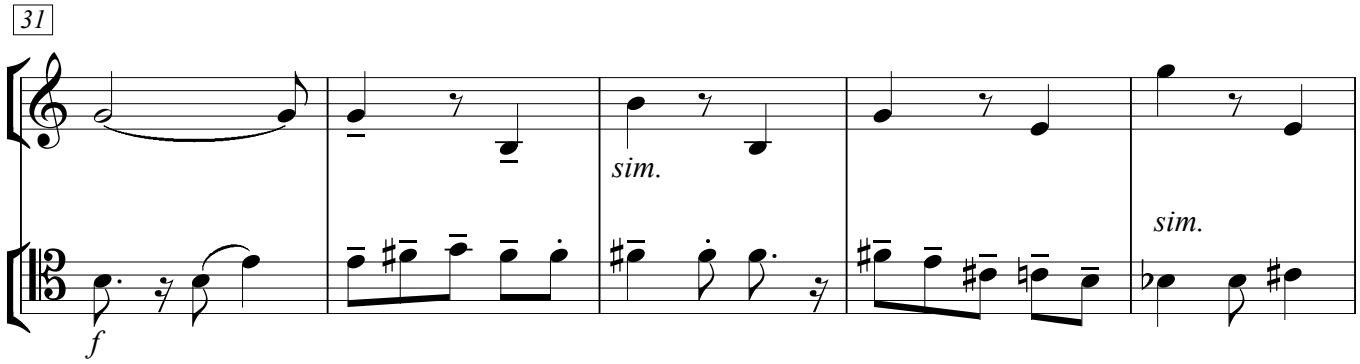
Part One

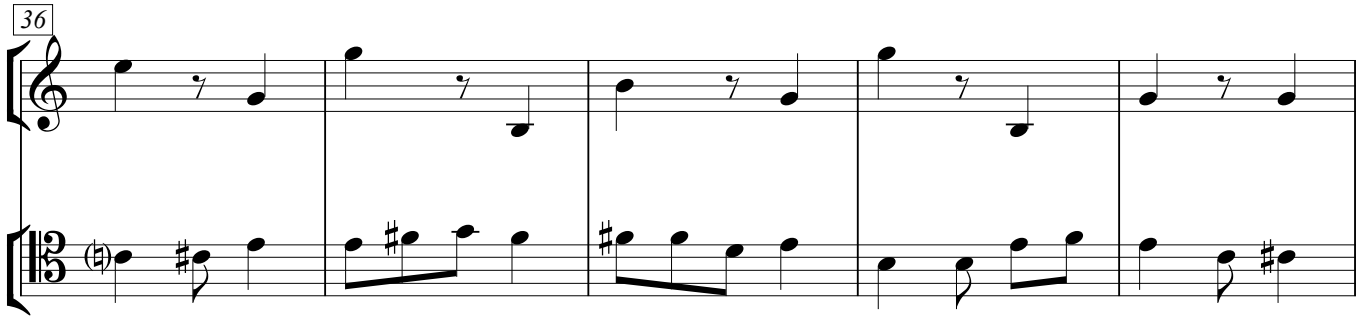


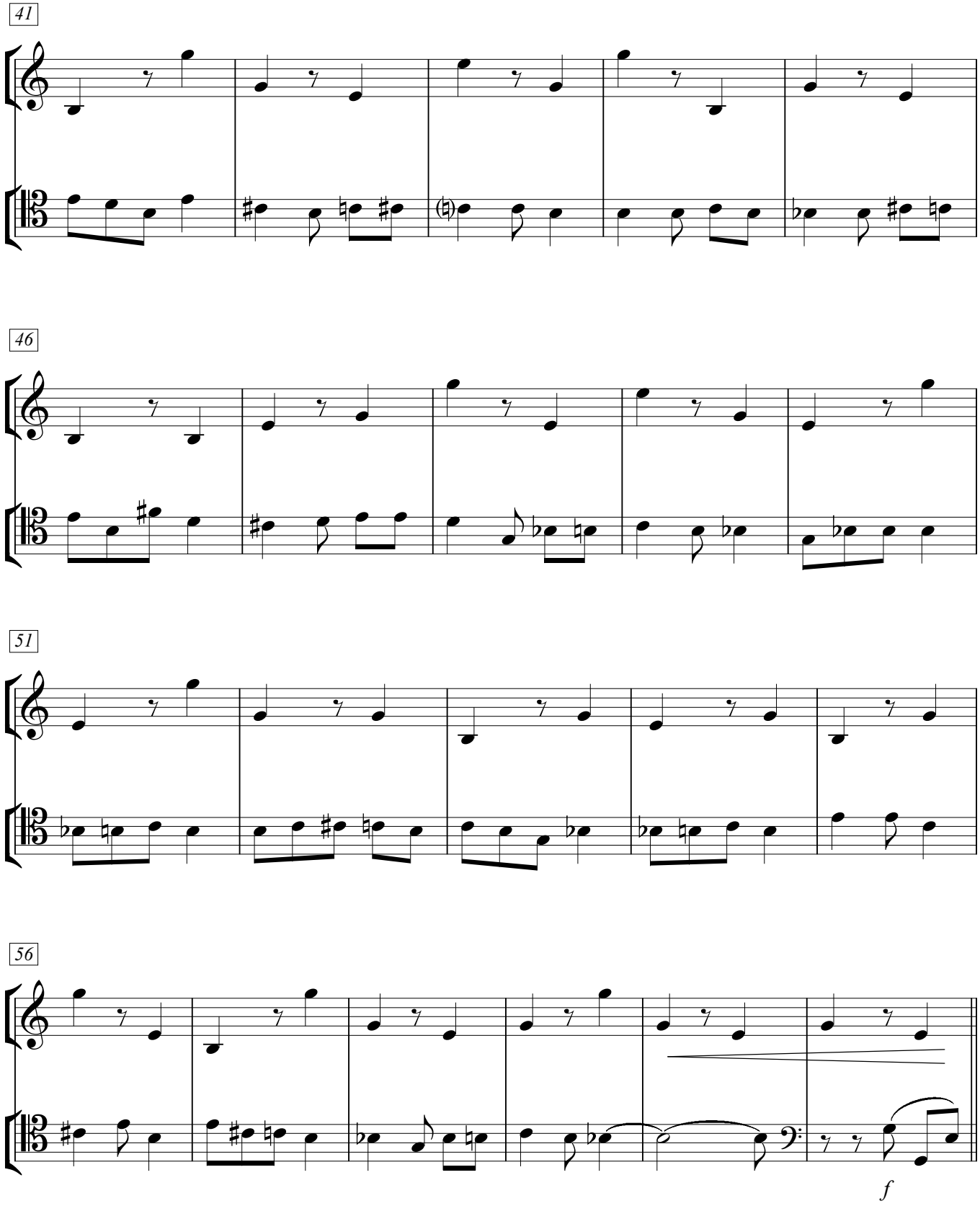




Part Two






41
46
51
56
f