Hongwei Cai

String Quartet No.2

"*poppies bursting into bloom in the wind and rain*"

(2020)

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Scores: https://issuu.com/hongweicai
SoundCloud: https://soundcloud.com/cai-hongwei
Website: https://hongweicai.com

Program Note

Poppies, tied deeply to sleep, peace, and death, has long been a symbol to fallen soldiers. My second string quartet, ***“poppies bursting into bloom in the wind and rain”***, is a response to Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae’s war poem *In Flanders Fields*. May the world be at peace forever and may you and my heart be at peace forever. The work is dedicated to those spirits who have suffered from war.

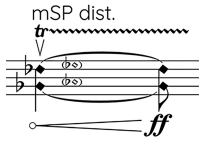
The piece received its first performance by the JACK Quartet at Merkin Concert Hall, NYC, on Mar.18, 2021.

Duration: ca. 10 min

Performance Notes

(m)SP = (molto) sul ponticello
ST = sul tasto
ord. = ordinary bow position
c.l.b. = col legno battuto
ric. = ricochet
mVib. = molto vibrato
nVib. = non vibrato

Change gradually from one sound or one way of playing (etc.) to another.



Play around the area of the 4th - 9th harmonic and seek double layers of overtones, with distortion.

1/4-tone sharp
3/4-tone sharp
1/4-tone flat

String Quartet No.2

"*poppies bursting into bloom in the wind and rain*"

♩ = ca. 66-70

Hongwei Cai

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

con sordino
sul ponticello w/ *flautando*

Violoncello

con sordino
sul ponticello w/ *flautando*

pizz.

arco
SP

ord.

pizz.
(gliss.)

ric.

arco
mSP

pizz.

ric.

arco
mSP

sul ponticello w/ *flautando*

mSP

sul ponticello w/ *flautando*

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7

mSP distort

mSP distort

9

mSP dist.

mSP dist.

SP w/ *flautando*

SP w/ *flautando*

11

13

SP

c.l.b.

pizz.

SP

c.l.b.

arco
ric.

15

mSP dist.

mSP dist.

mSP dist.

mSP dist.

17

SP w/ *flautando*

SP w/ *flautando*

19

21

gliss.

mSP

ad lib.

mSP

23

SP w/ *flautando*

SP w/ *flautando*

25

15ma

/mp

cresc. poco a poco

15ma

/mp

cresc. poco a poco

mf

mf

27

(15)

mf

f sempre

(15)

mf

f sempre

gliss.

III
IV

pp mf p mp pp

III gliss.
IV

II
III

pp mf p mp pp

29

(15)

(I)

gliss. / free bowing

/pp ff p

(15)

(I) gliss. / free bowing

ff p ff

II
III

III
IV

f p mf mp ff pp

senza sordino

8va

I

pp pp

III
IV

senza sordino

f p mf mp ff pp

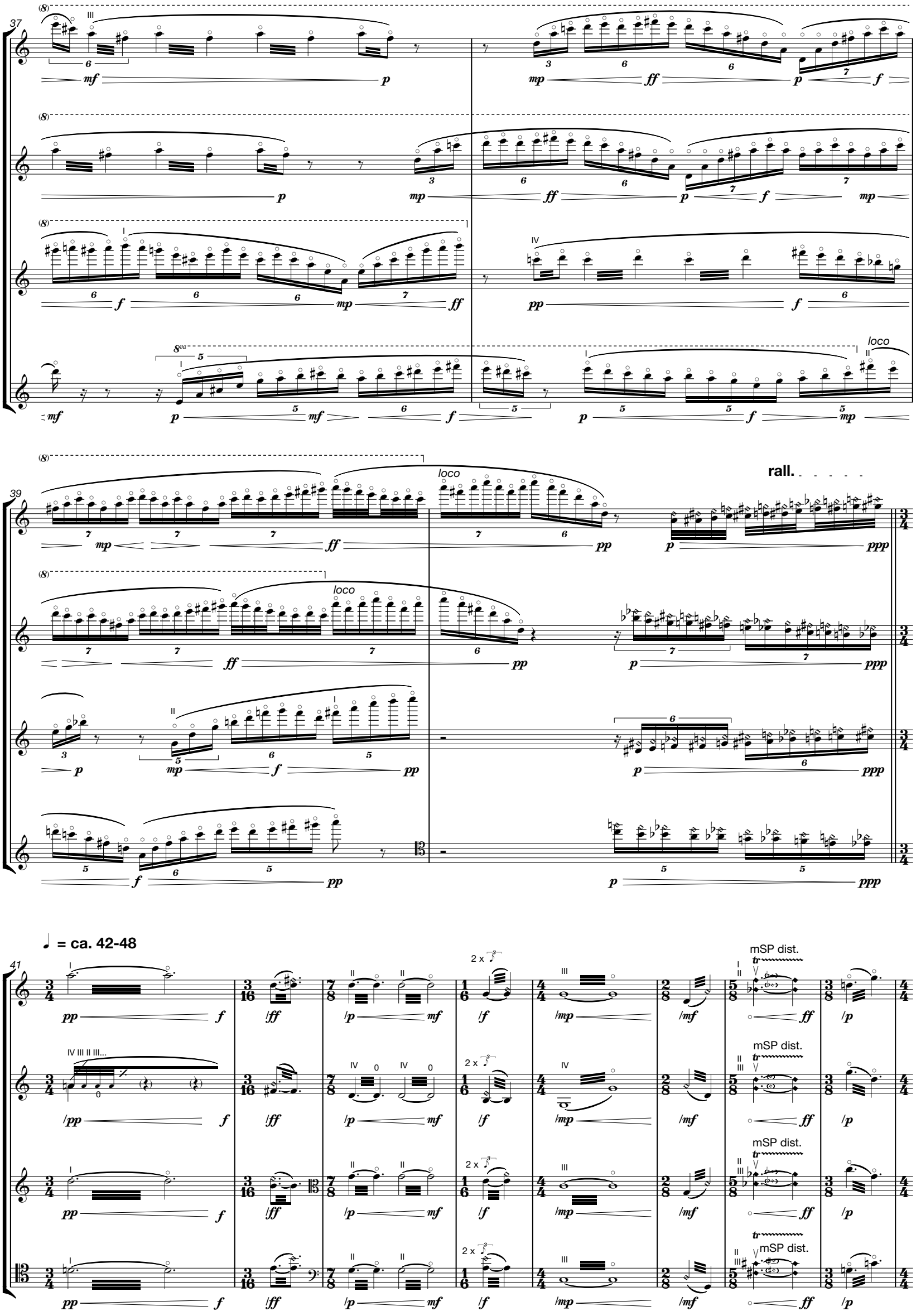
31

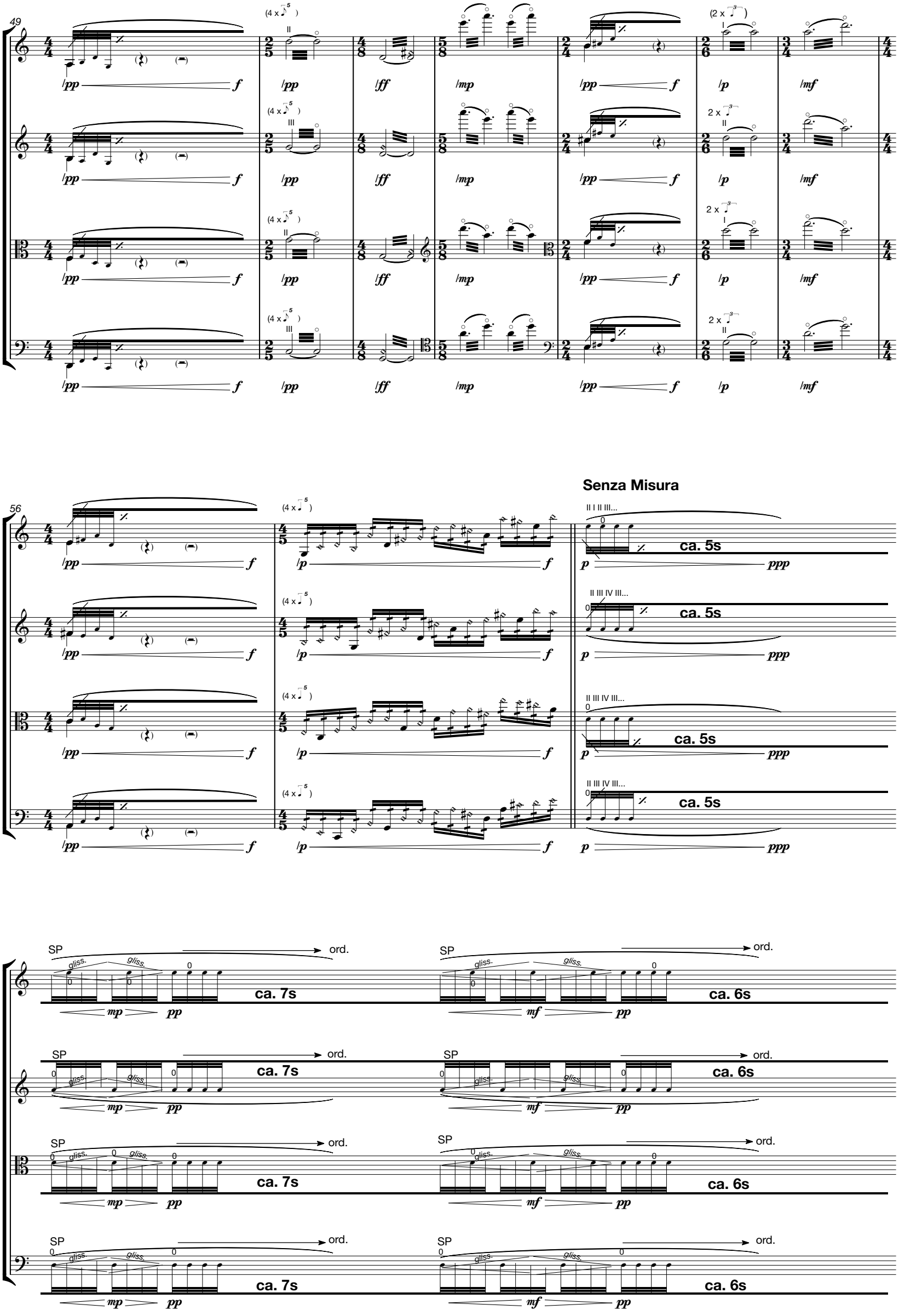
gliss. / free bowing

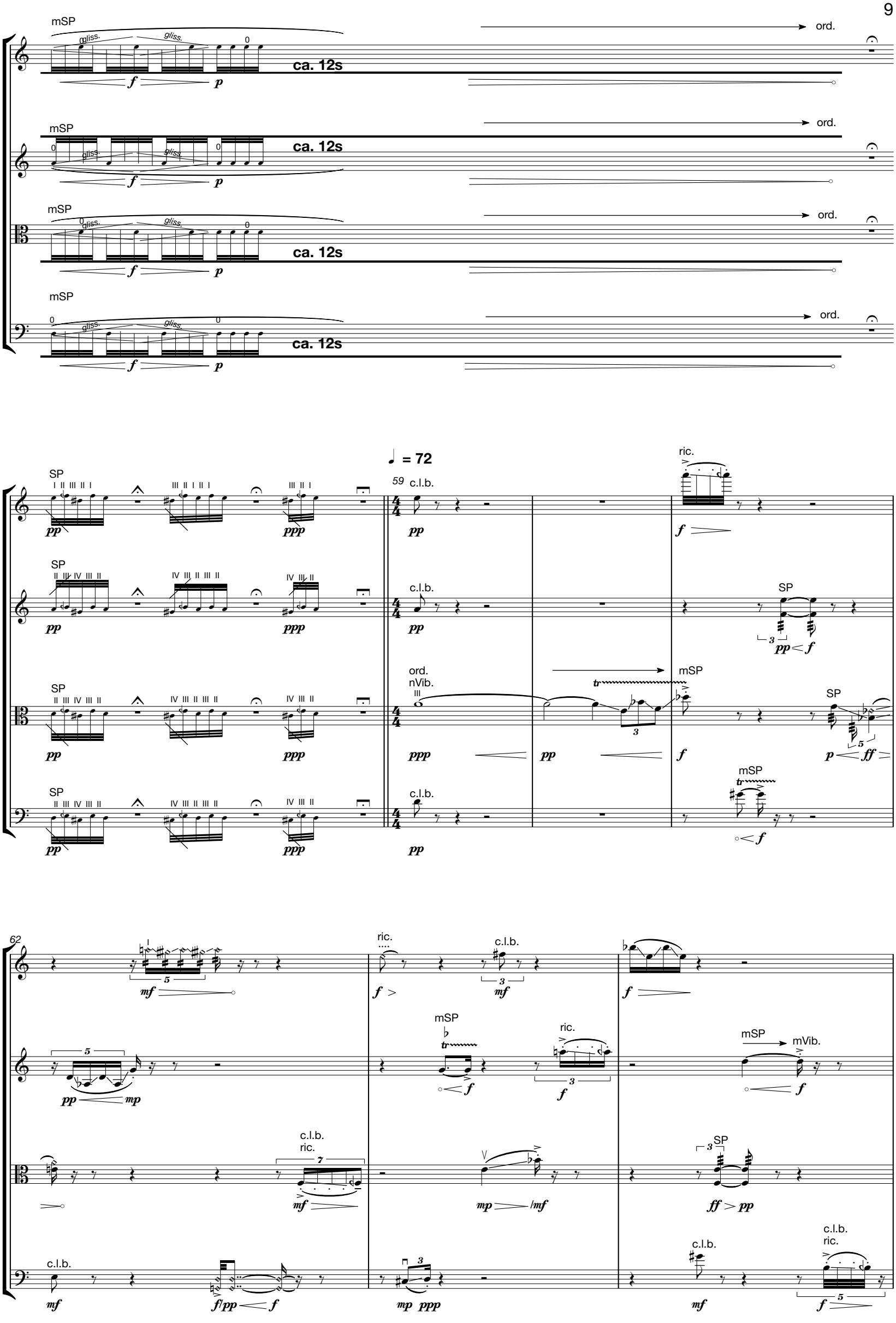
gliss. / free bowing

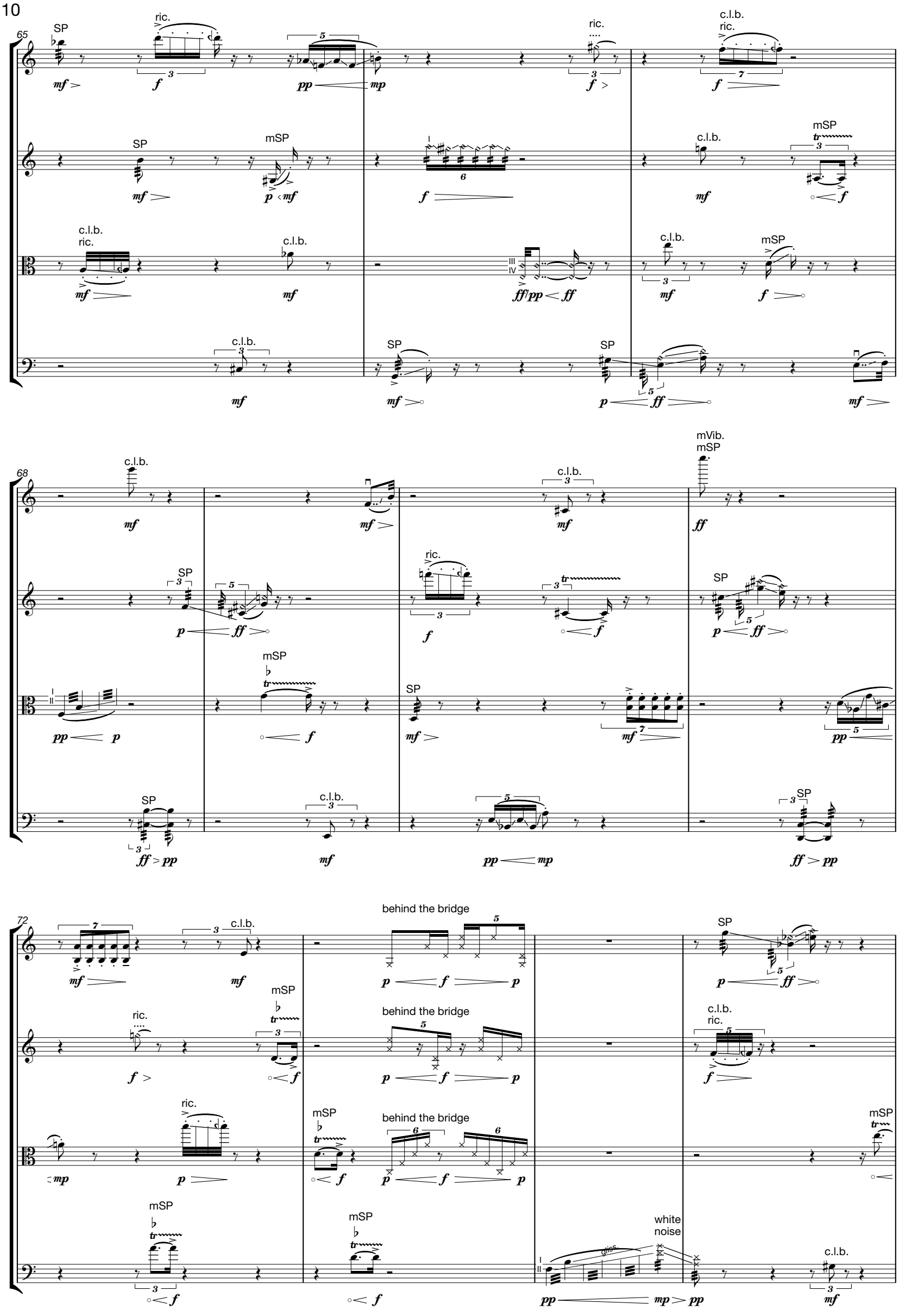
33

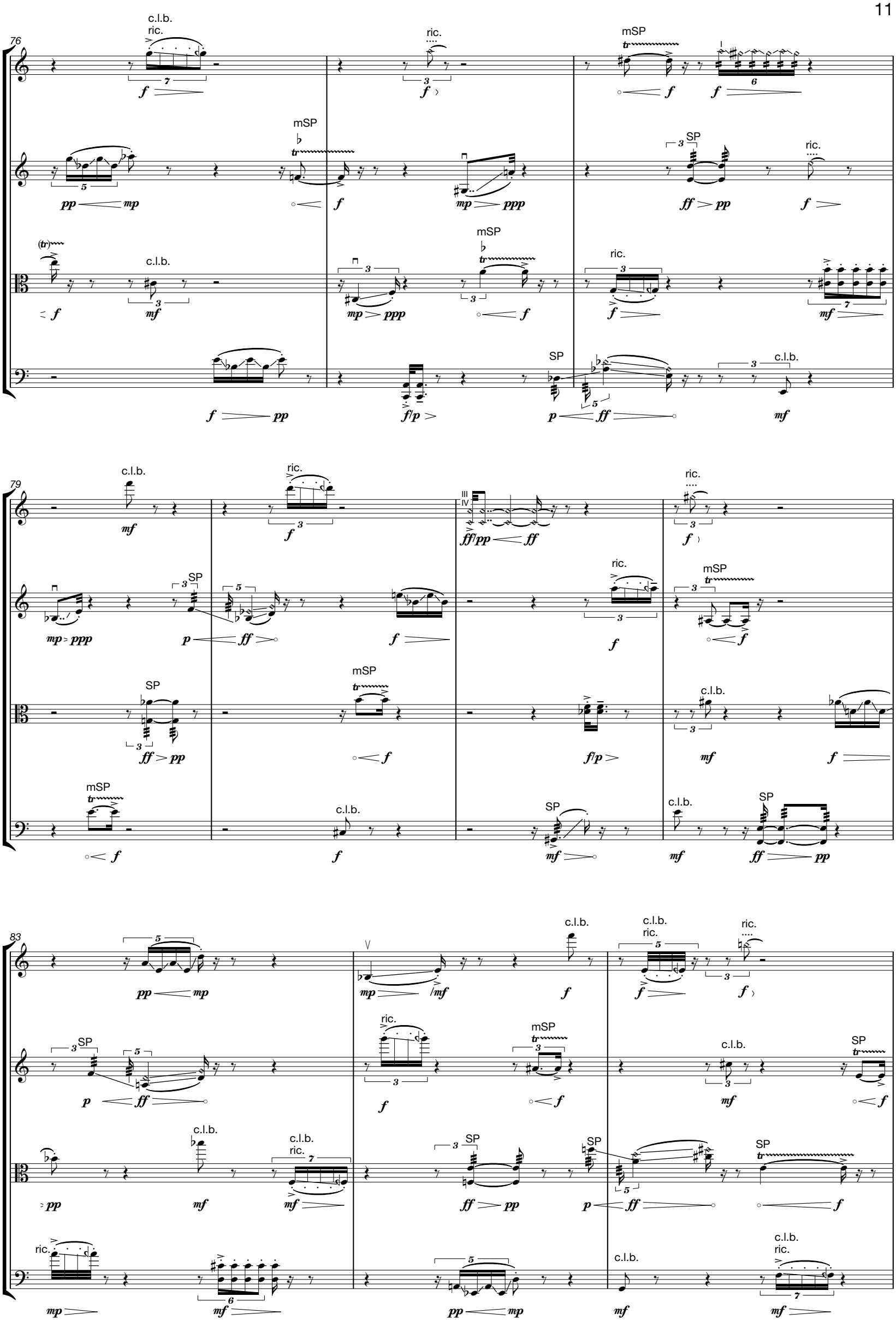
35


37
39
41
loco
rall.
♩ = ca. 42-48
mSP dist.
2 x


49
56
Senza Misura
ca. 5s
ca. 7s
ca. 6s
SP
ord.
gliss.


mSP
gliss.
ca. 12s
ord.
SP
♩ = 72
59
c.l.b.
ric.
nVib.
mVib.
62


65
SP
ric.
mSP
c.l.b.
68
mVib.
72
behind the bridge
white noise
gliss.


76
c.l.b.
ric.
mSP
SP
79
83

♩ = 60

86

behind the bridge

(⊓ ∨⊓ ad lib.)

SP

mSP dist.

ord.

c.l.b.

91

ord.

ST

gliss.

97

102

SP ord. ST

SP ord. ST

SP ord. ST

(⊓∨⊓ ad lib.)
SP ord. ST

107

SP ord.

SP ord.

SP ord.

mSP dist. ord.

mSP dist. ord.

mSP dist. ord.

111

ST

ST

ST

SP

SP

SP

mSP dist. ord.

mSP dist.

115

SP ord. ST

ord. ST

ord. ST

ord. ST

mSP dist.

gliss.

119

SP ord. ST

SP ord. ST

SP ord. ST

ord. ST

(tr)

124

Senza Misura, as fast as possible, like raindrops

pizzicati *lasciate vibrare*

ca. 30s →

indefinite repeat

p–mf unsynchronized with others

poco ritardando fino a ♩=ca.58

poco ritardando fino a ♩=ca.67

poco ritardando fino a ♩=ca.50

poco ritardando fino a ♩=ca.83

♩ = 50

126

p-mf

7:6

4:3

5:3

Poco ritardando al fine

132

al niente

FINE