Departure

Brian Ellis

2015

For Classical Guitar Duo

Instructions for the Performers

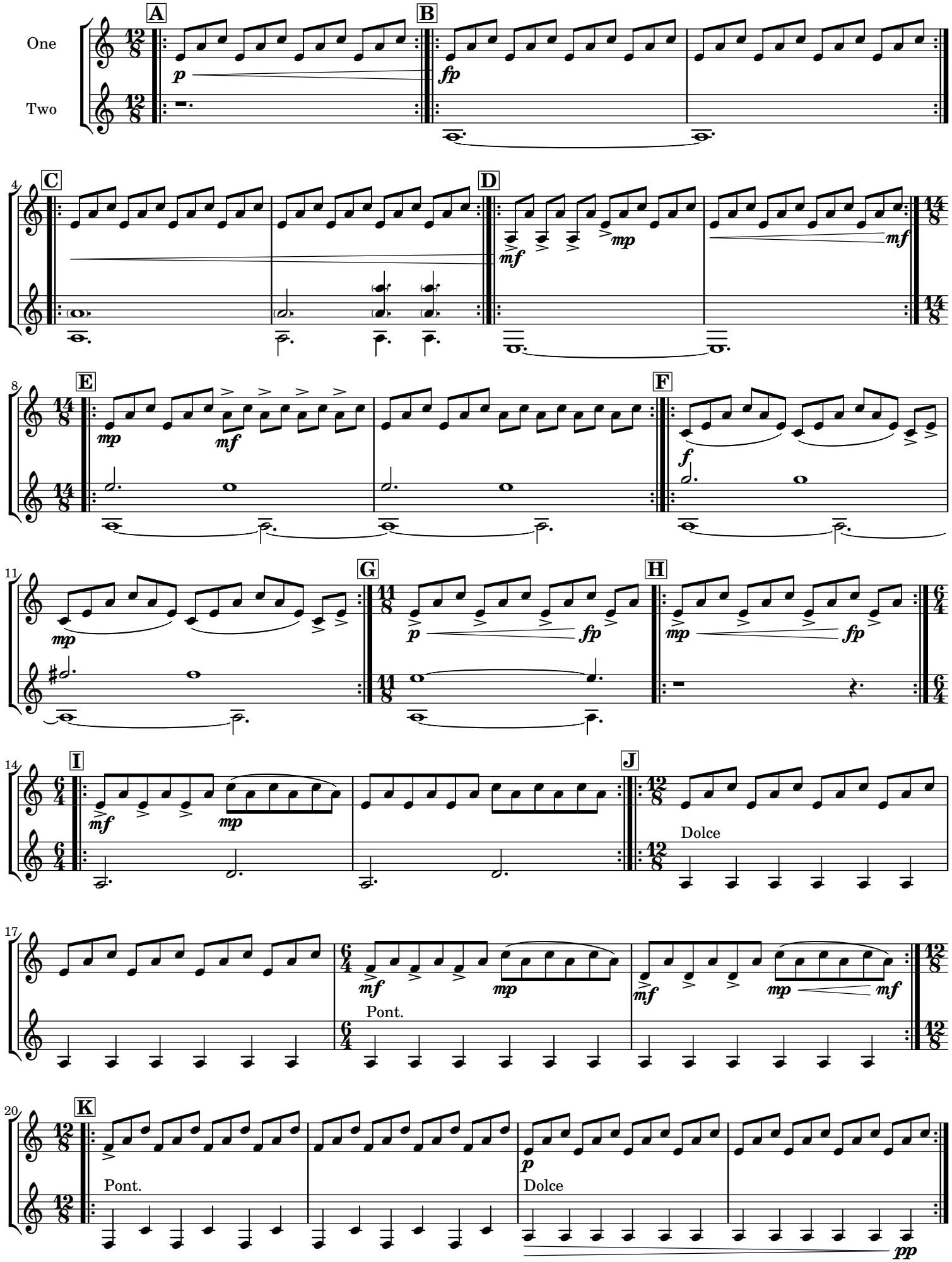
This work is in three movements that progress steadily away from traditional guitar technique. Little needs to be stated about the first movement, and all that needs to be said for the second movement is "yes, it is ALL harmonics." For the final movement however, some notation needs to be explained. The staff maps to a physical location on the guitar, with the "d" below the staff translating to the bottom wall of the guitar, "e" through "f" meaning varying positions across the sound board, and "g" on top of the staff meaning to hit on the top side of the instrument. The guitar bridge is located at "g" with the sound hole positioned at "c". Notes above the staff ("a" and higher) translate to varying positions on the back of the neck. Normal note heads translate to hitting the specified location with your thumb joint. Harmonic note heads indicate using the fingernail, and x notes imply using the flesh of your fingers. Each movement ends in a measure of material in the style of the next movement, so these percussive indications apply to the final measure of Movement 2. The final note of Movement 3 is produced by blowing across the sound hole from the upper side of the guitar, producing a haunting, echoing reverberation from the instrument.

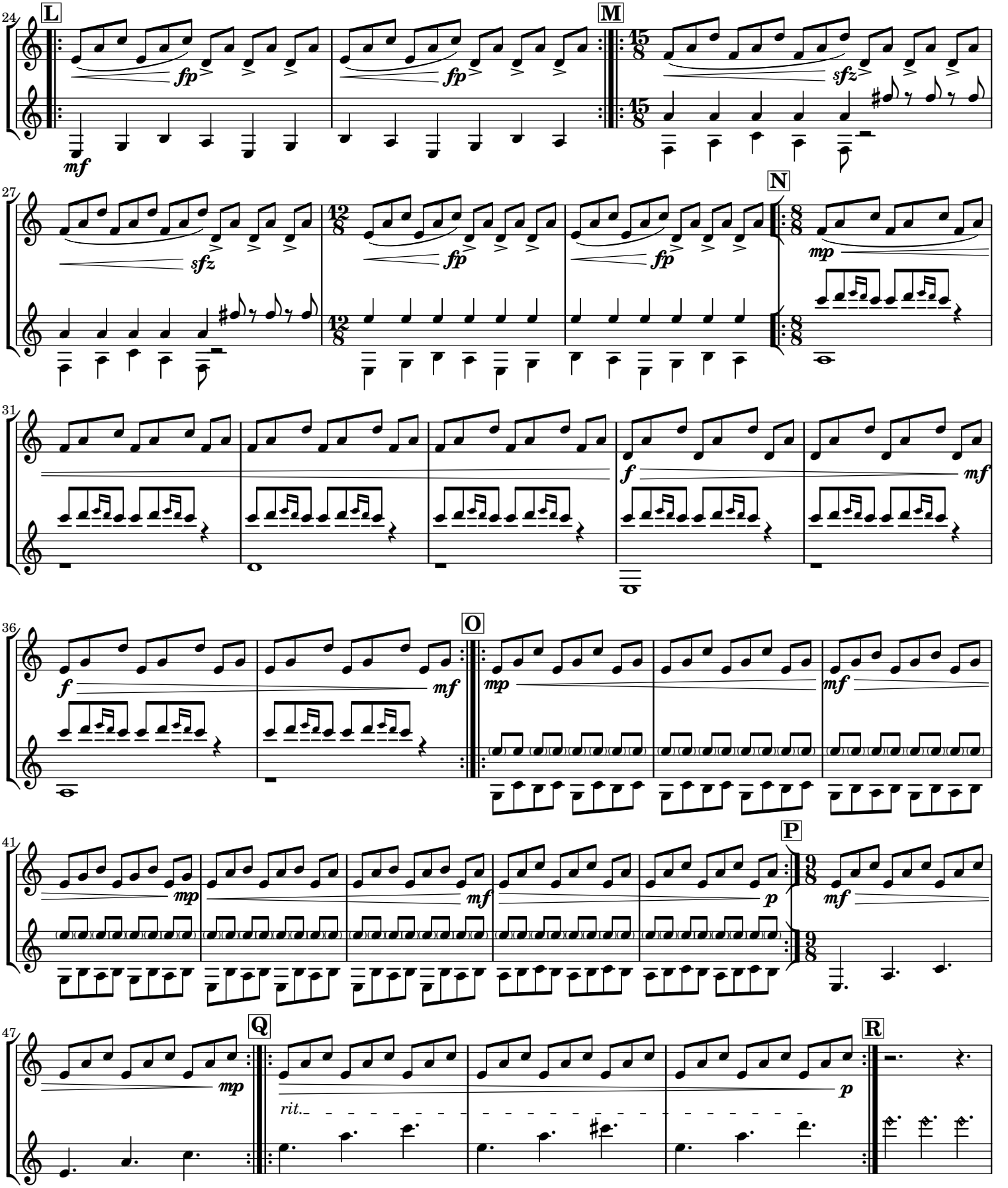
About the Composer

Brian Ellis is from Austin, and currently a Computer Science major at the University of Texas, class of 2018. His musical influences include composers and performers as diverse as Philip Glass, Jack Johnson, Mauro Giuliani, and John Williams. (both the guitarist and the film composer)

Movement 1

Brian Ellis

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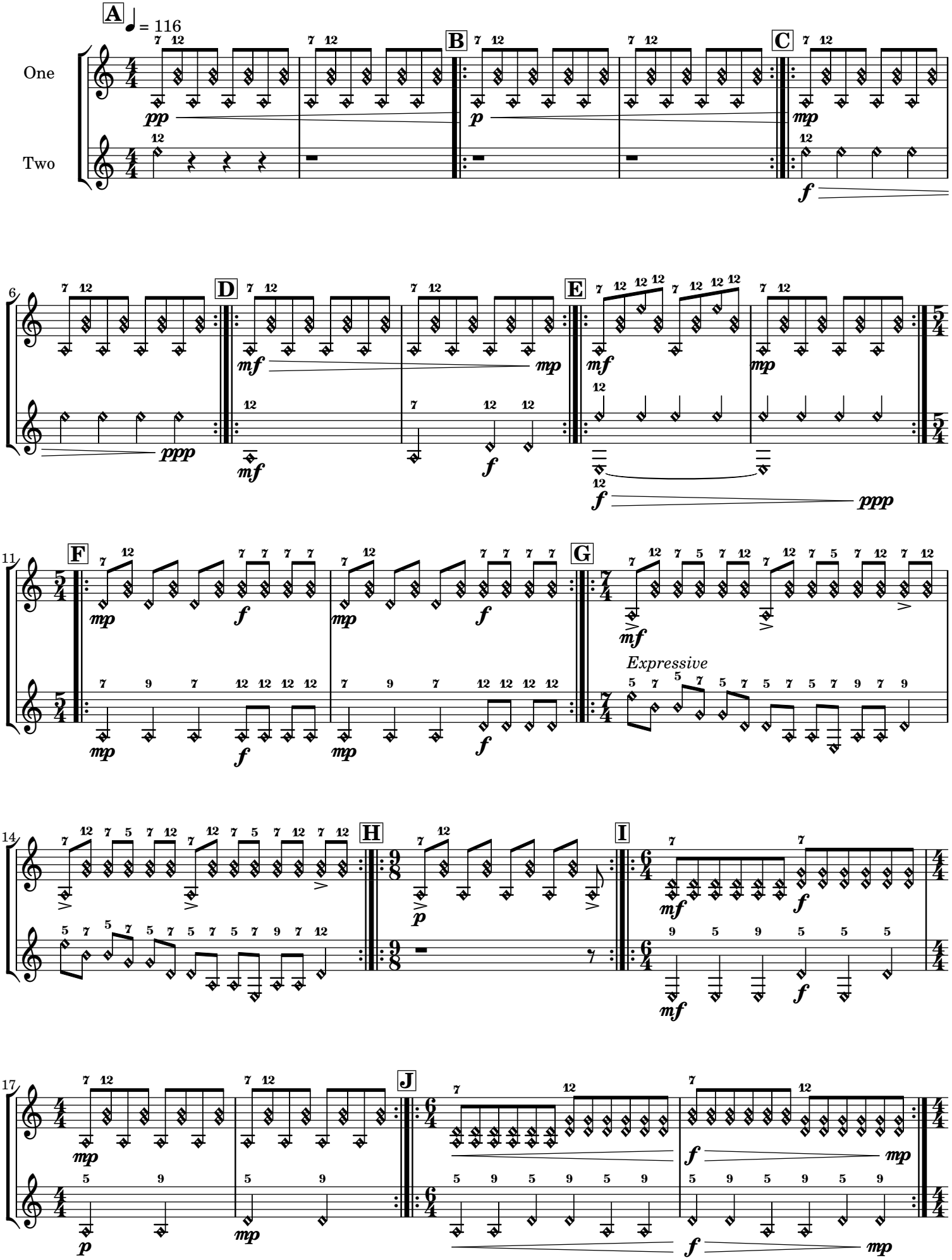
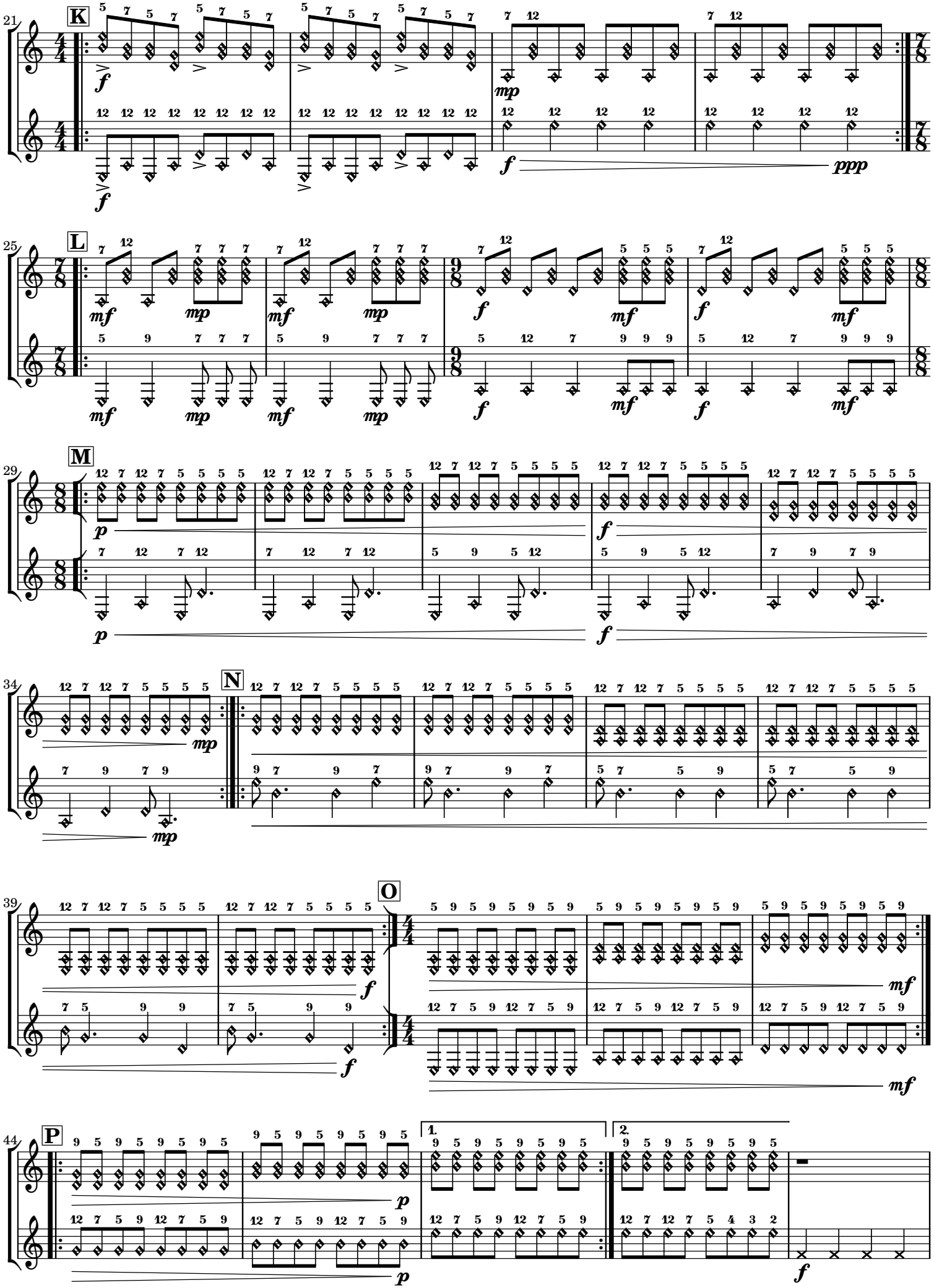
Movement 2

Brian Ellis

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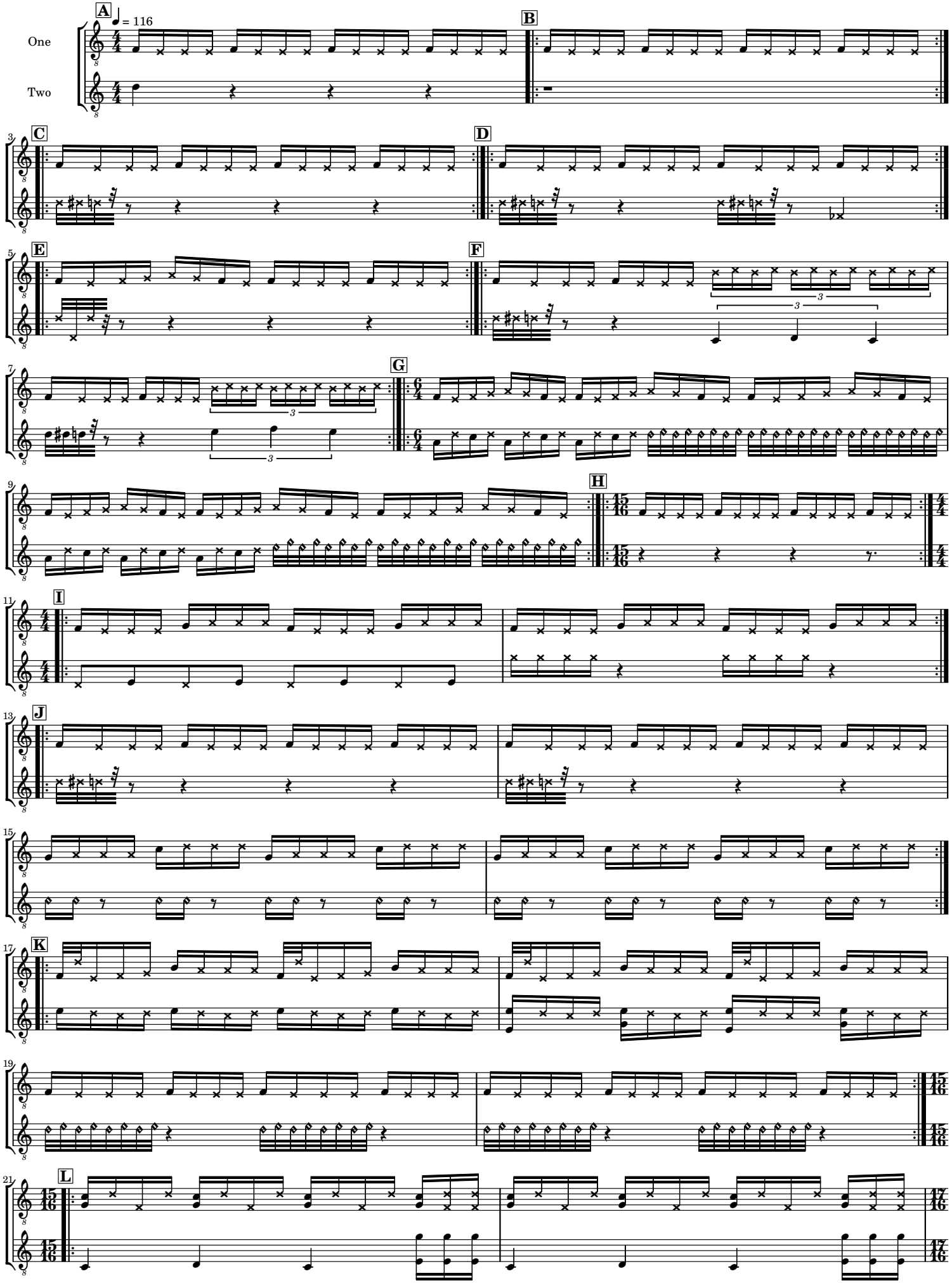
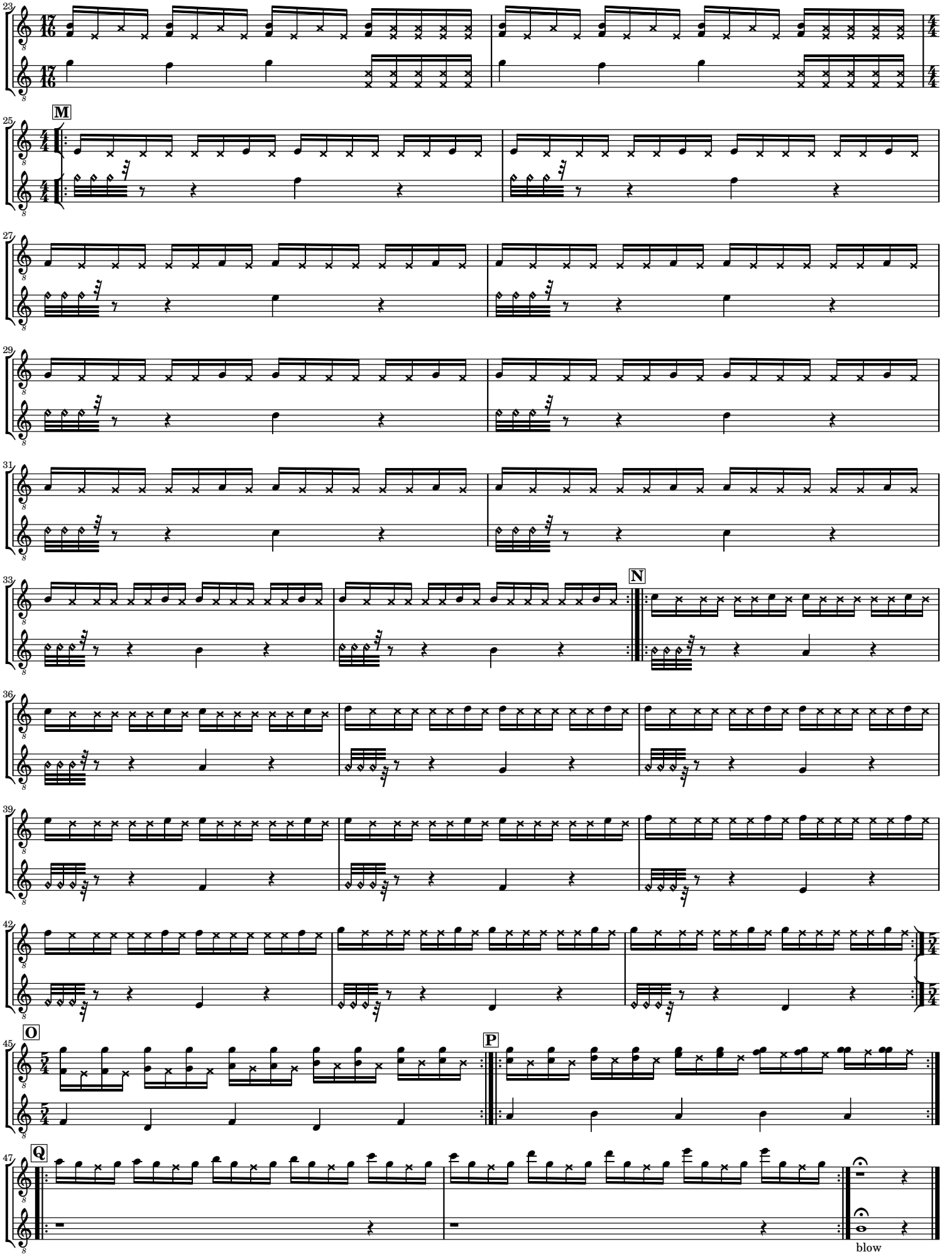
Movement 3

Brian Ellis

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Premiered by Michael Blake (Guitar One) and Brian Ellis (Guitar Two) on Sunday May 10th 2015 during the Engineering Chamber Orchestra Spring Concert Series.