Andrew Nathaniel McIntosh

Sheer

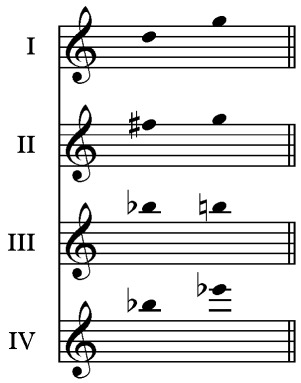
for solo violin and eight wine glasses (four players)

(2017)

PLAINSOUND MUSIC EDITION

commissioned for Movses Pogossian
through New Music USA's New Music Connect program
with generous support from Elizabeth and Justus Schlichting

Sheer was conceived as a work for solo violin, but with several other musicians (ideally other string players) assisting in the performance by bowing wine glasses in several of the movements. The piece could work well performed by a teaching violinist who could enlist the help of four students with the wine glasses. Each of the four bowers should have two glasses, tuned to the notes in the chart below, and use a violin or viola bow. Brandy snifters may sound better than wine glasses for the higher pitches.



The piece occasionally uses microtonal accidentals for just harmonies, which will be accompanied by a ratio for non-standard intervals (eg. 7/4, for a just minor seventh). It is assumed that major and minor thirds and sixths are tuned justly when possible, so smaller commas are not notated. The microtonal accidentals used are from the Helmholtz-Ellis JI pitch notation, designed by Marc Sabat and Wolfgang von Schweinitz.

notate a septimal comma, apr. 30 cents
(for intervals related to the 7/4 just minor seventh)

notate quarter-tones, apr. 50 cents

There are three kinds of fermatas in the piece:

short

medium

long

The violin soloist will need a wooden mute.

Duration: apr. 21 minutes

for Movses Pogossian

Sheer

I.

Fast, rubato (apr. ♩ = 90)

Andrew McIntosh

wooden mute

Violin

f *brash*

accel.

♩ = 60

non vib.

clear, resonant

5

Glass I

clear

Glass III

clear

♩ = 77

senza sord.

occaisional vib.

13

I II

louder, warm, resonant

sim.

22

I II

31

II III

(7/6)

(7/2)

(7/4)

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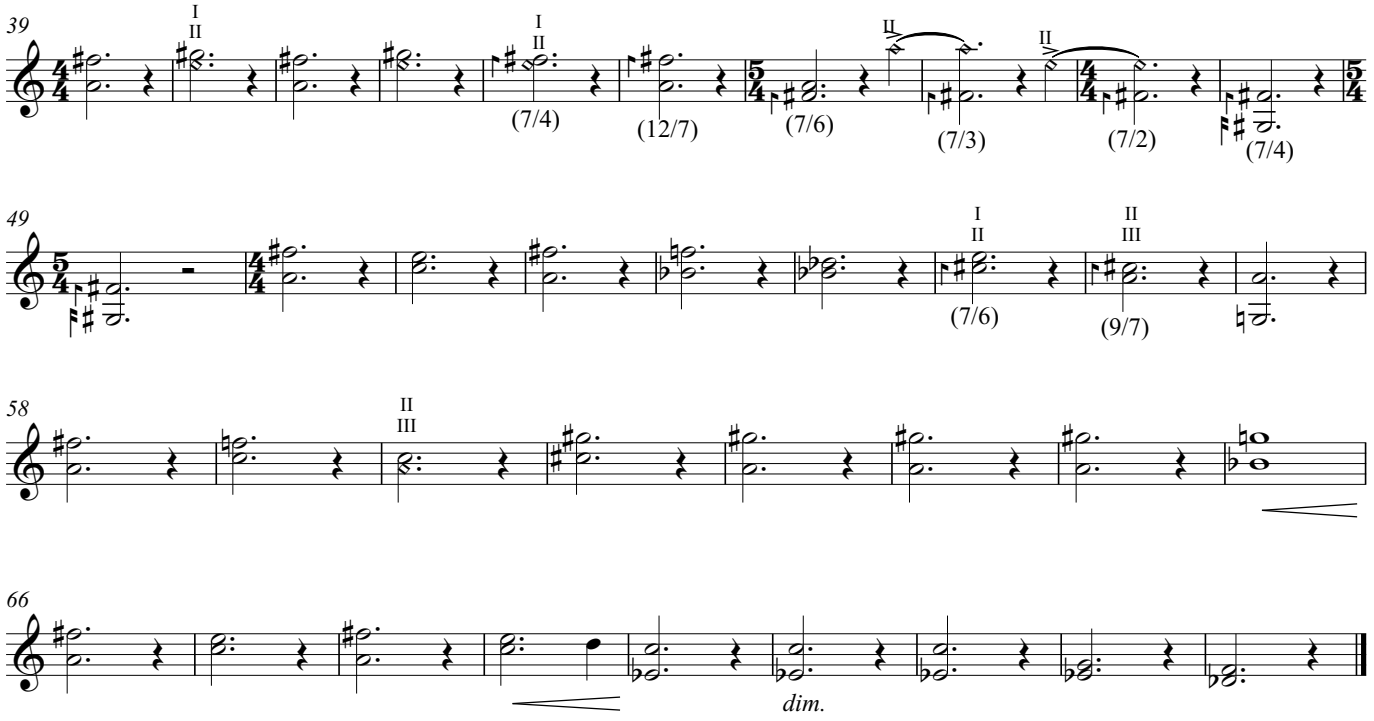
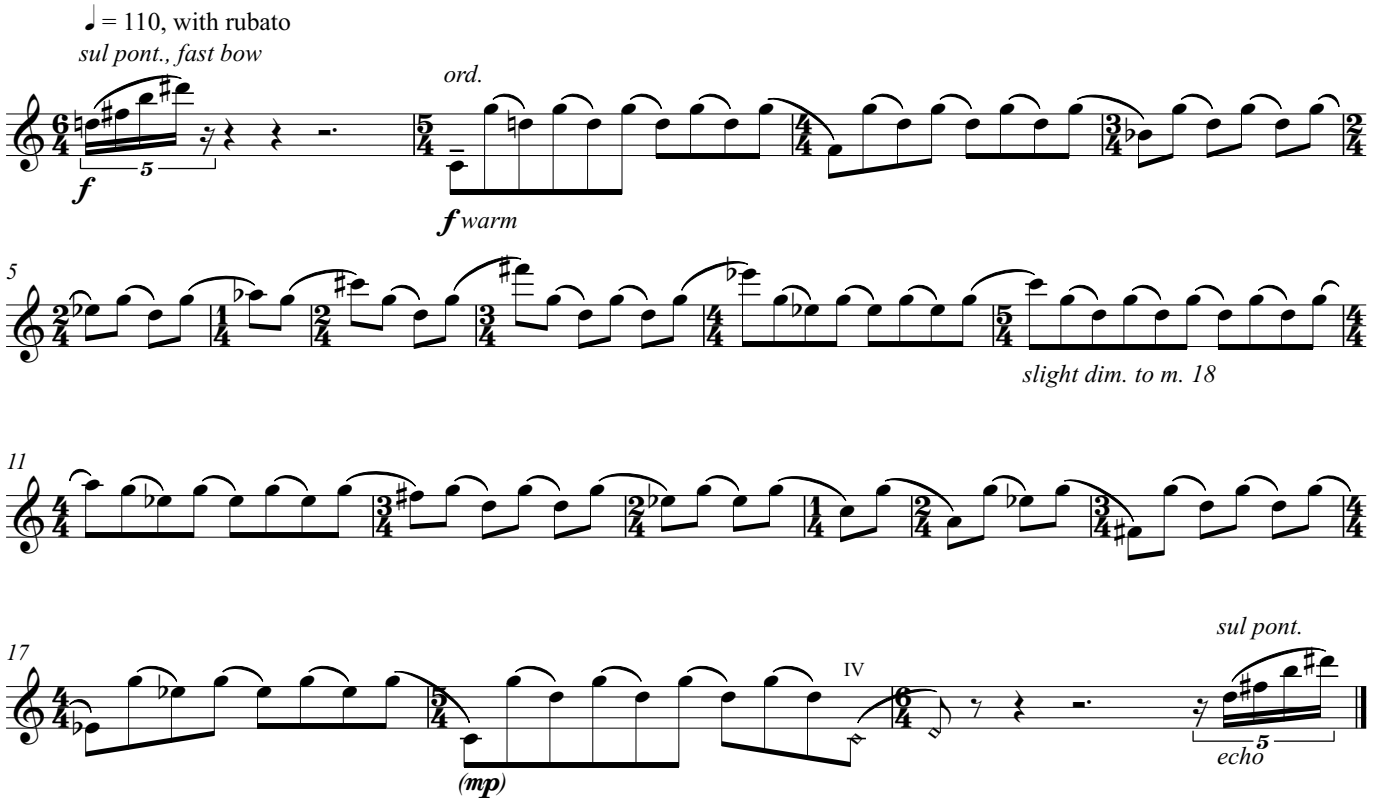
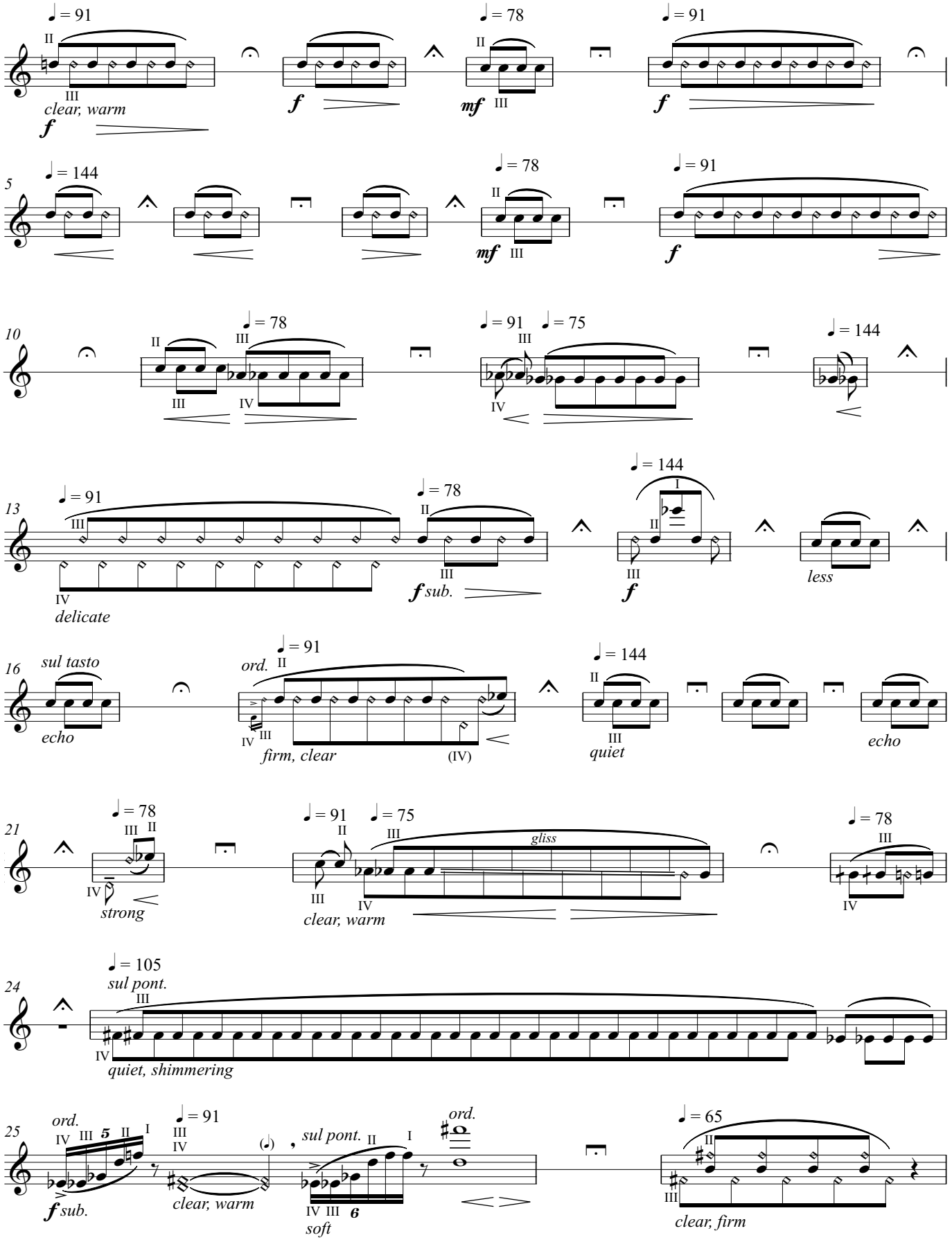
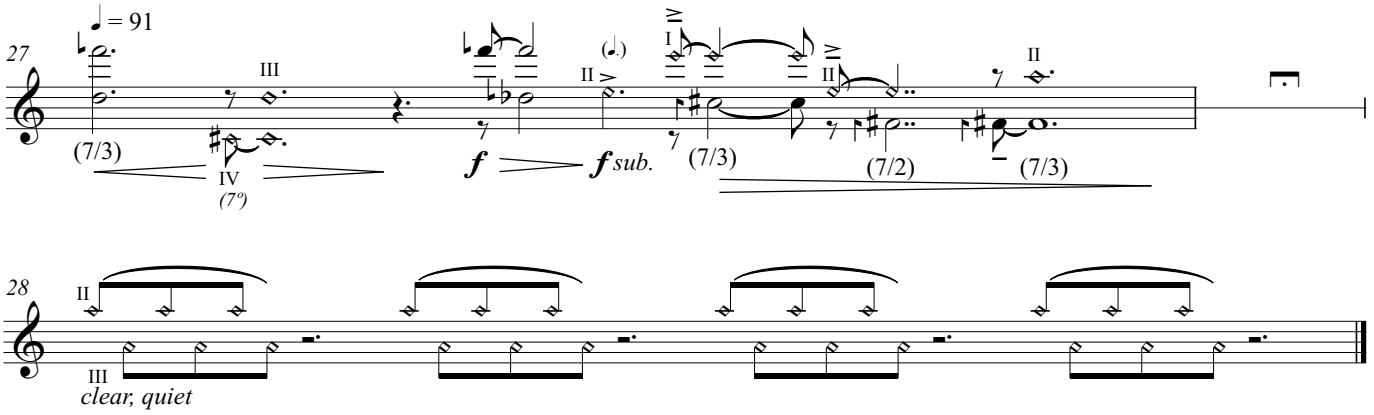

39
I
II
(7/4)
(12/7)
(7/6)
II
(7/3)
II
(7/2)
(7/4)
49
I
II
(7/6)
II
III
(9/7)
58
II
III
66
dim.

II.

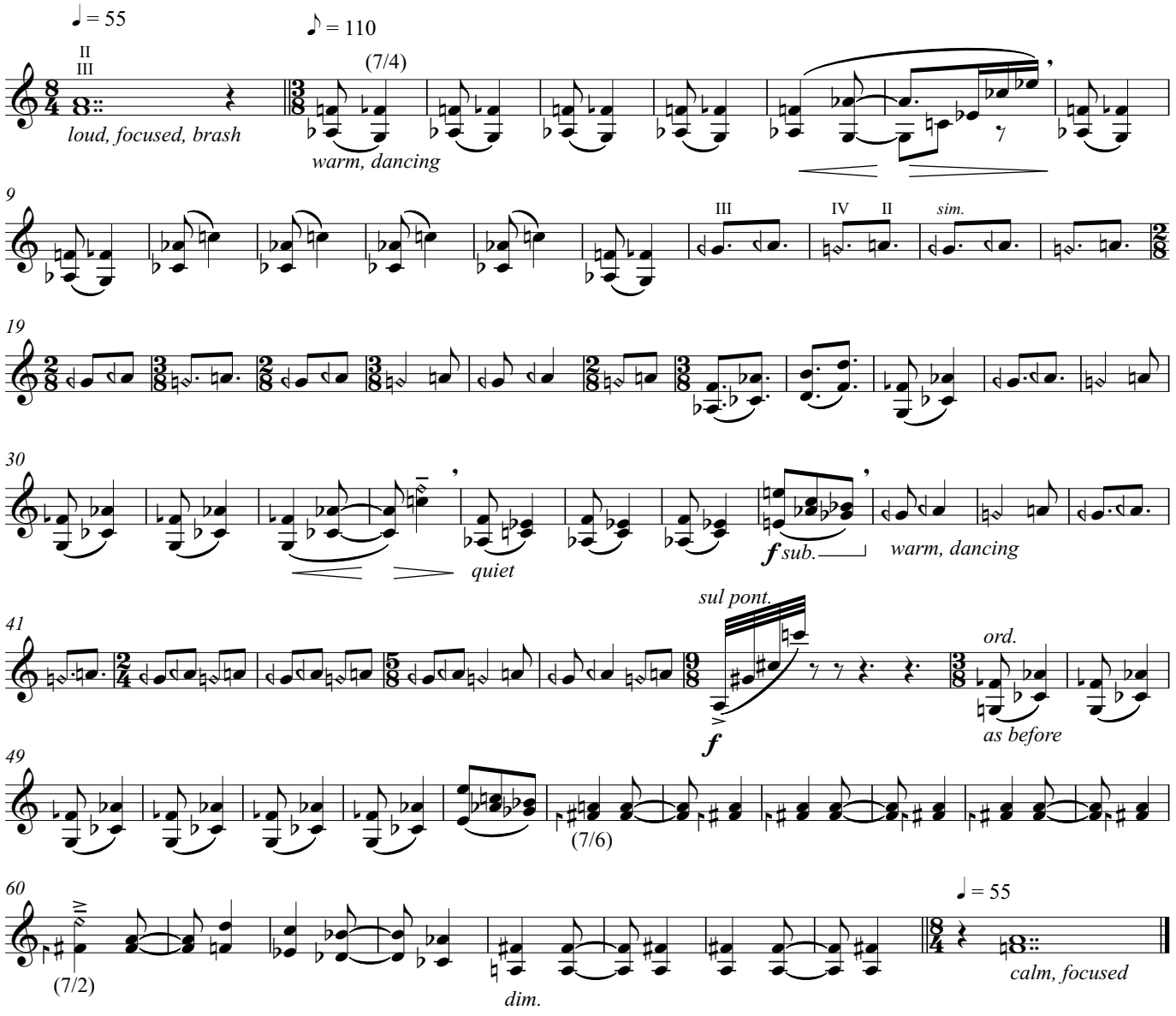

♩ = 110, with rubato
sul pont., fast bow
f
ord.
f warm
5
slight dim. to m. 18
11
17
IV
(mp)
sul pont.
echo

III.


♩ = 91
clear, warm
f
♩ = 78
mf
♩ = 91
f
5
♩ = 144
♩ = 78
mf
♩ = 91
f
10
♩ = 78
♩ = 91
♩ = 75
♩ = 144
13
♩ = 91
delicate
♩ = 78
f sub.
♩ = 144
f
less
16
sul tasto
echo
ord.
♩ = 91
firm, clear
(IV)
♩ = 144
quiet
echo
21
♩ = 78
strong
♩ = 91
♩ = 75
gliss
clear, warm
♩ = 78
24
♩ = 105
sul pont.
quiet, shimmering
25
ord.
f sub.
♩ = 91
clear, warm
sul pont.
soft
ord.
♩ = 65
clear, firm


♩ = 91
27
III
(7/3)
IV
(7º)
f
f sub.
(7/3)
(7/2)
(7/3)
28
II
III
clear, quiet

IV.


♩ = 55
♪ = 110
II
III
loud, focused, brash
(7/4)
warm, dancing
9
III
IV
II
sim.
19
30
quiet
f sub.
warm, dancing
41
sul pont.
f
ord.
as before
49
(7/6)
60
(7/2)
dim.
♩ = 55
calm, focused

V.

Fast, rubato (apr. ♩ = 90)

wooden mute

f

accel.

2

♩ = 60

poco vib.

II

clear, solid

Glass II

clear

Glass IV

clear

11

♩ = 110

senza sord.

I
II

III

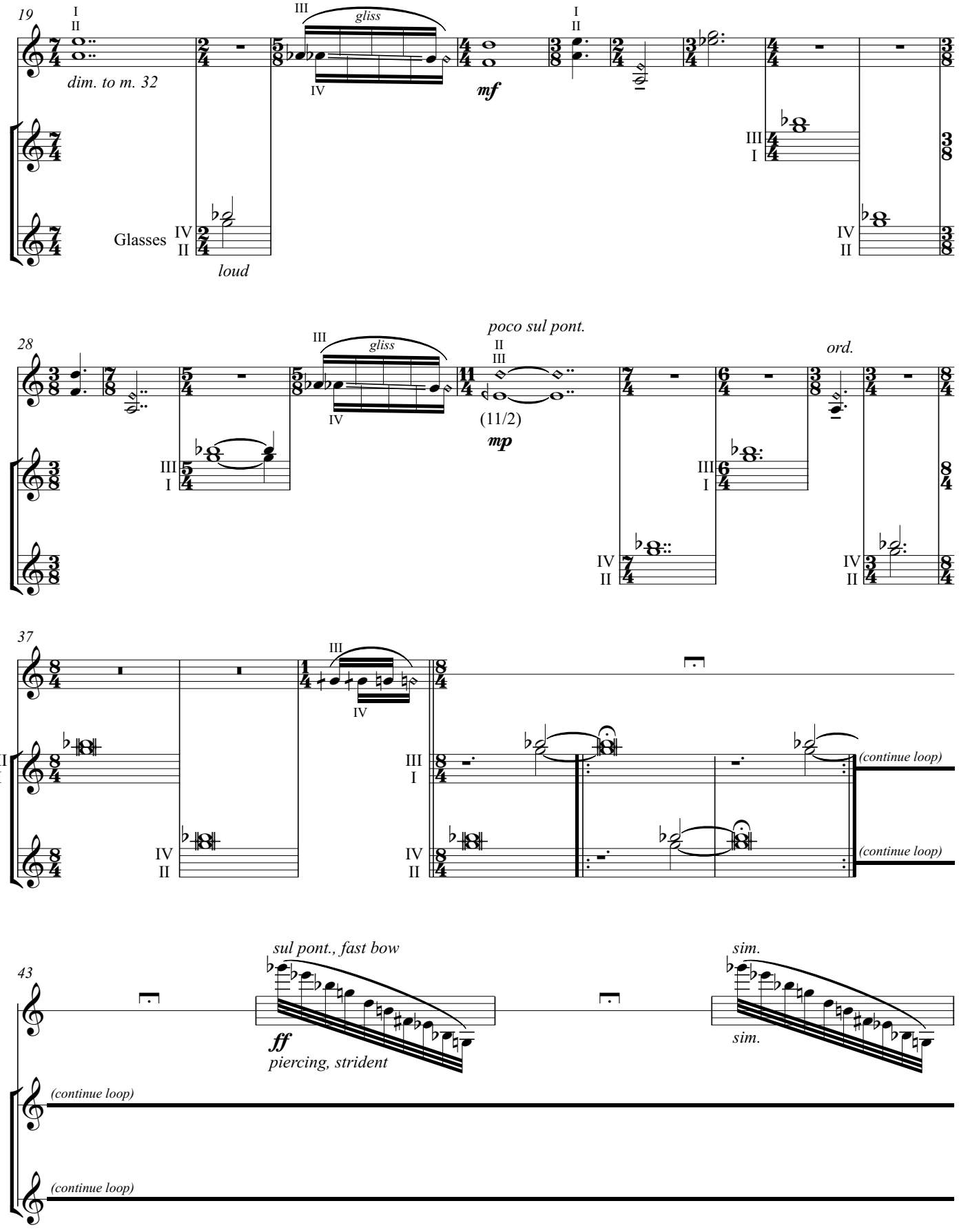
gliss

IV

f *sustained, like organ pipes*

Glasses III
I

loud


19
dim. to m. 32
gliss
mf
Glasses
loud
28
poco sul pont.
gliss
(11/2)
mp
ord.
37
(continue loop)
(continue loop)
43
sul pont., fast bow
ff
piercing, strident
sim.
sim.
(continue loop)
(continue loop)

45

(continue loop)

(continue loop)

46

(continue loop)

(continue loop)

48

(continue loop)

(continue loop)

49

loudest

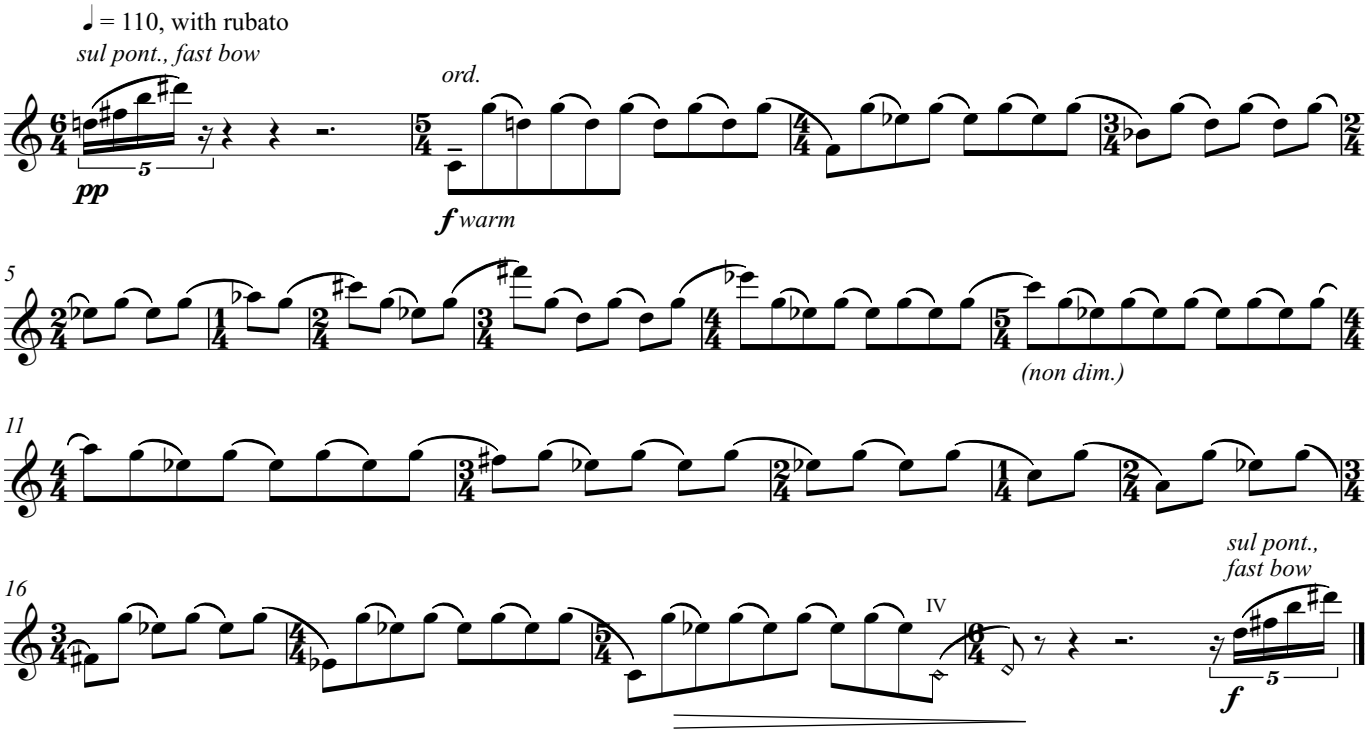
(continue loop)

(hold as long as possible)

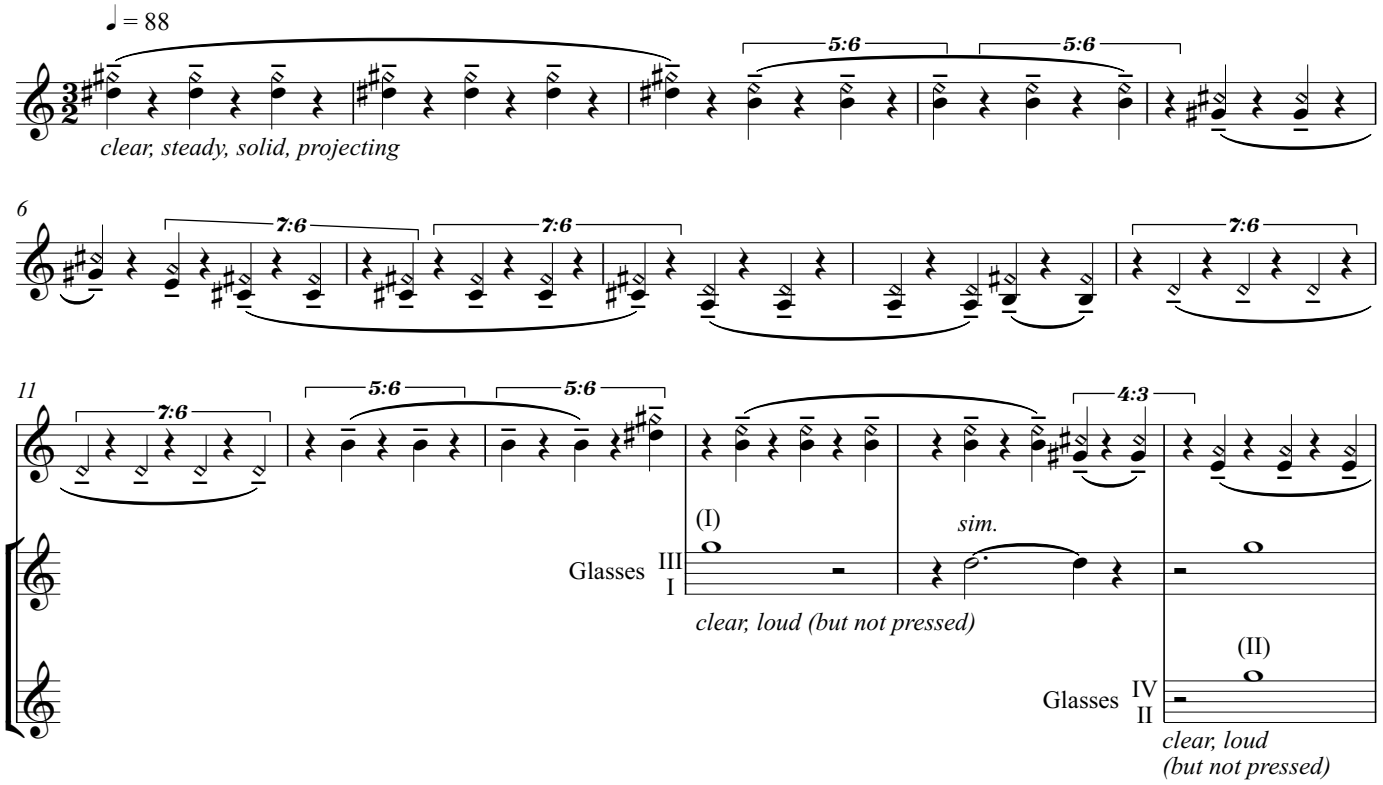
(continue loop)

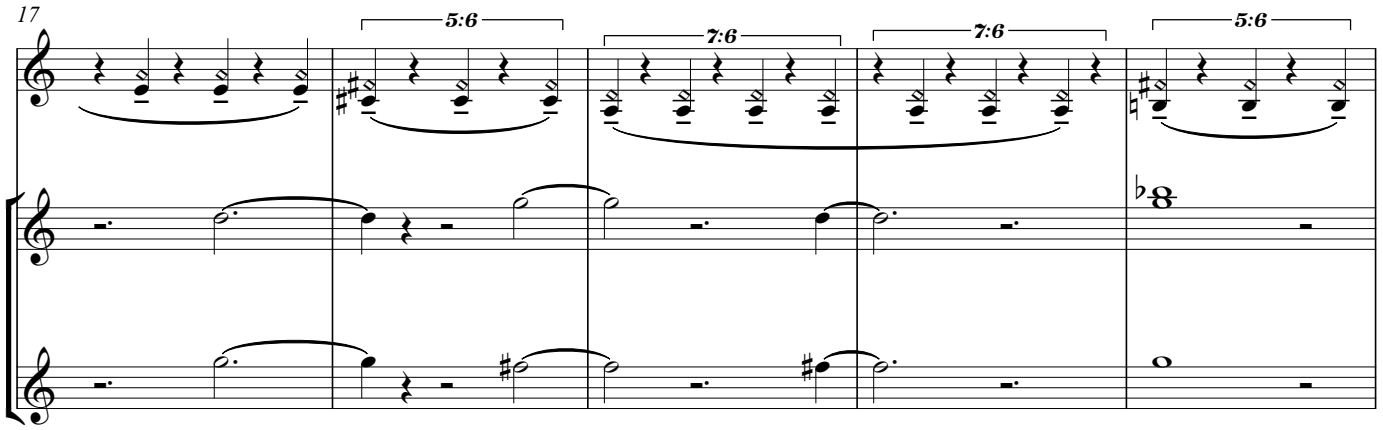
(abrupt cut-off)

VI.


♩ = 110, with rubato
sul pont., fast bow
pp
ord.
f warm
(non dim.)
sul pont.,
fast bow
f

VII.


♩ = 88
clear, steady, solid, projecting
Glasses
clear, loud (but not pressed)
sim.
Glasses
clear, loud
(but not pressed)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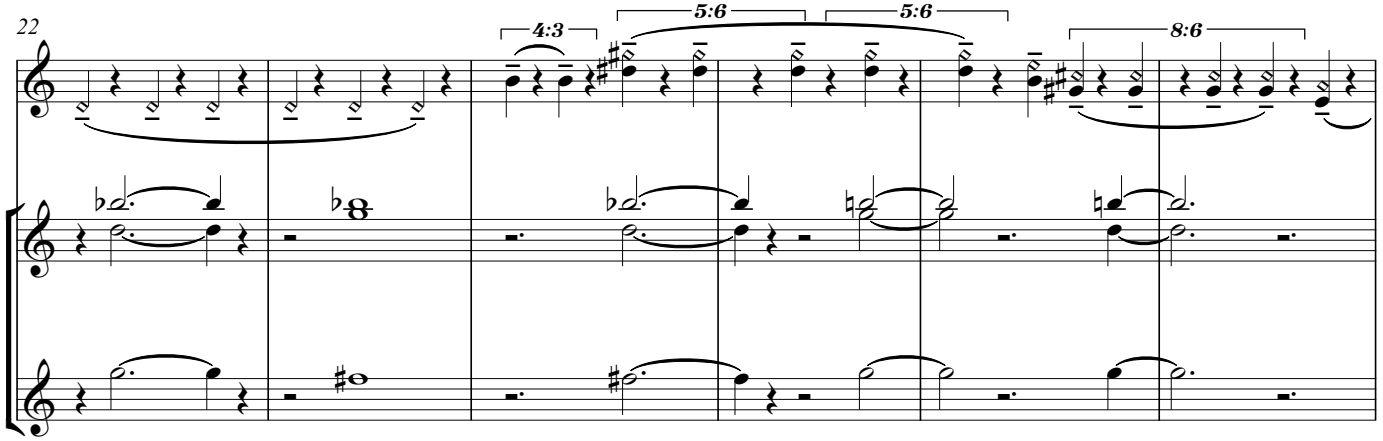
7:6
7:6
5:6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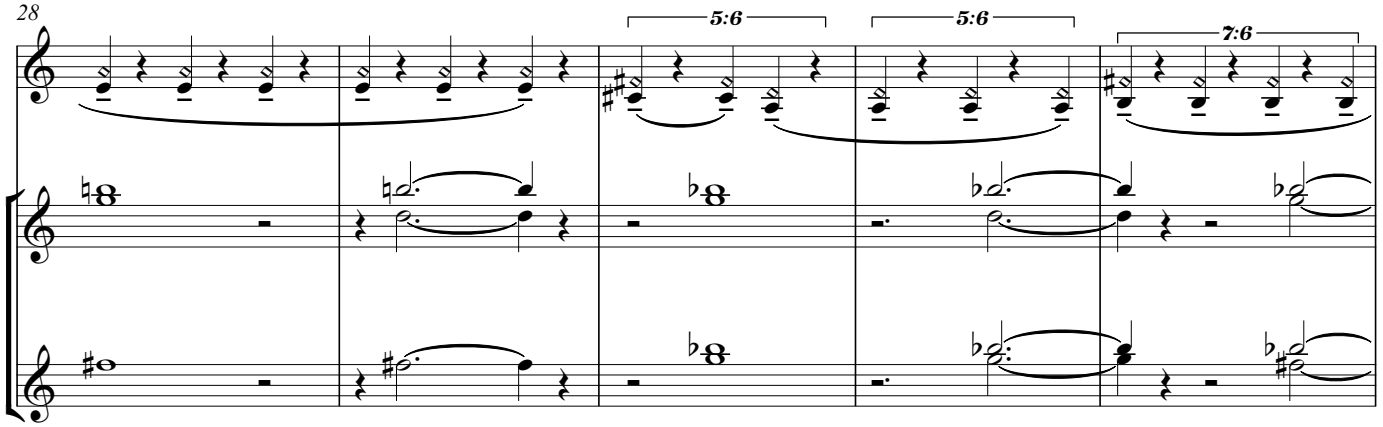
4:3
5:6
5:6
8:6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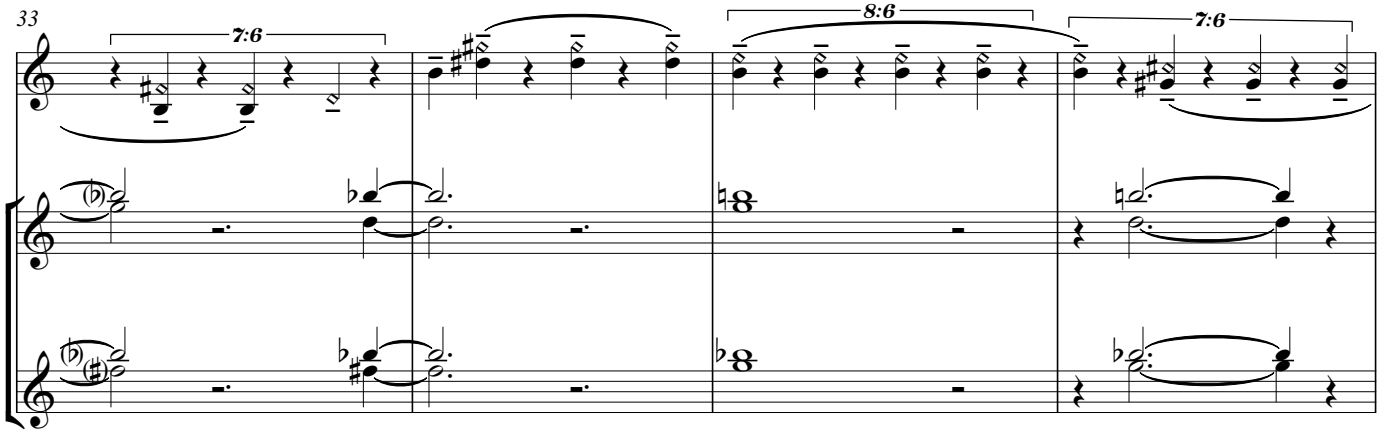
5:6
7:6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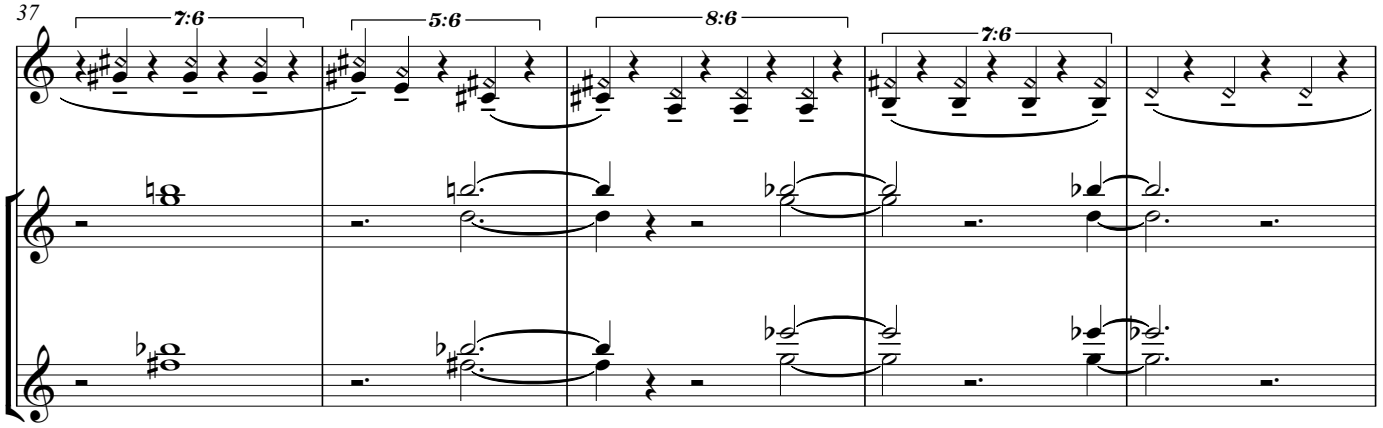
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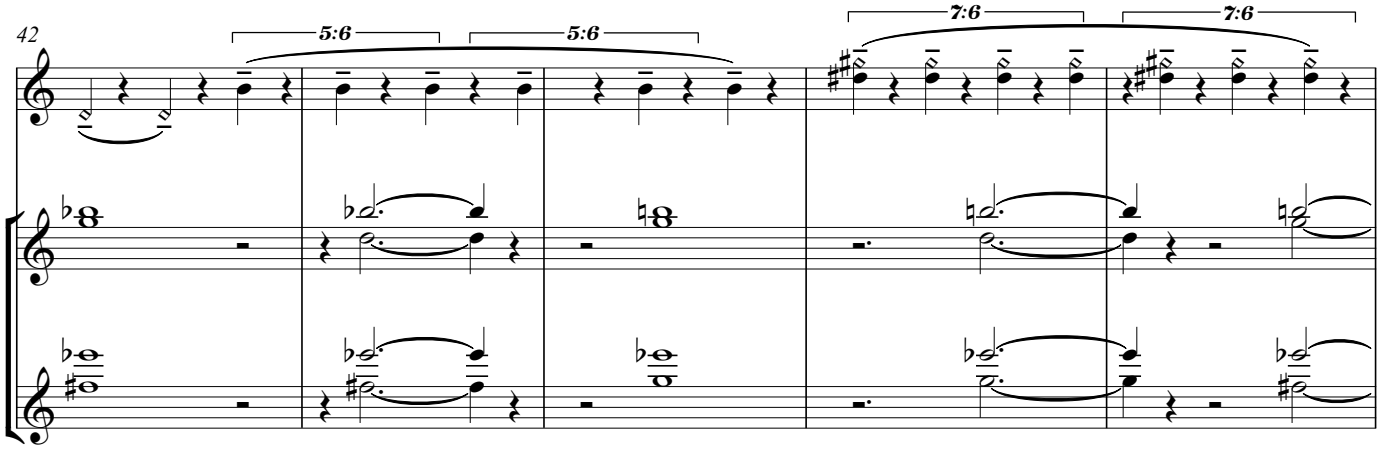
7:6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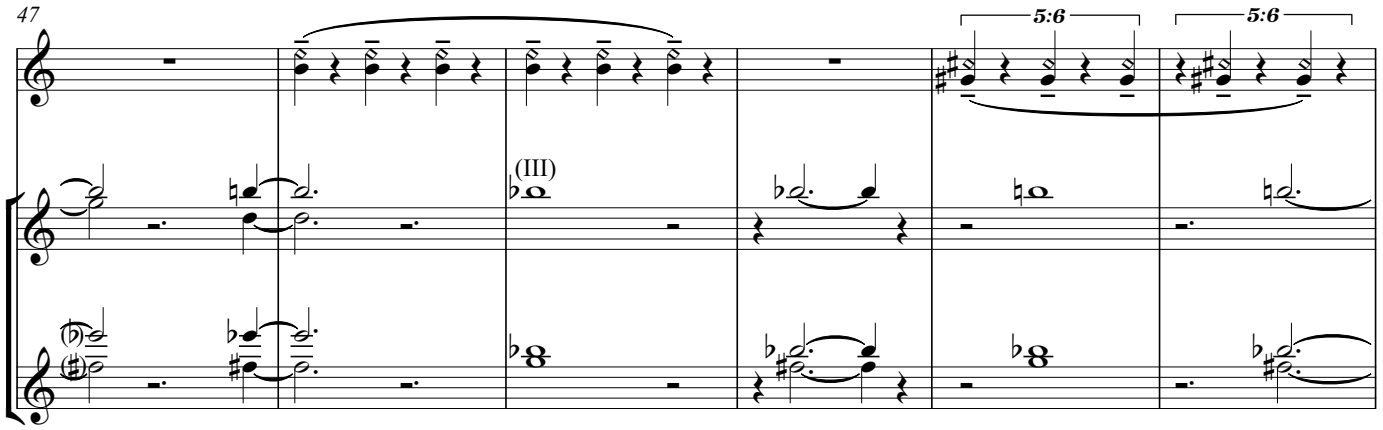
5:6
7:6
7:6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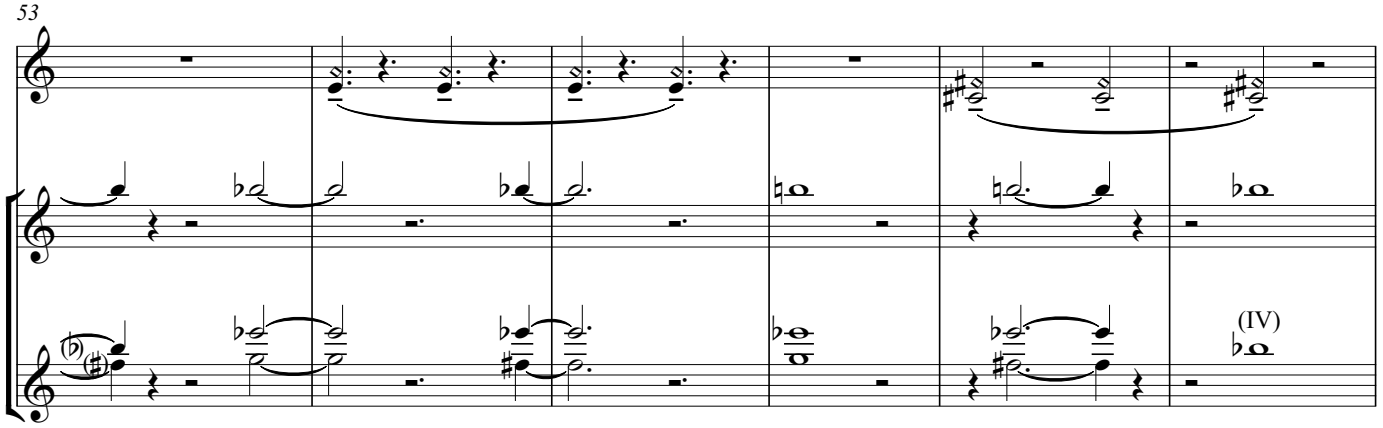
5:6
(III)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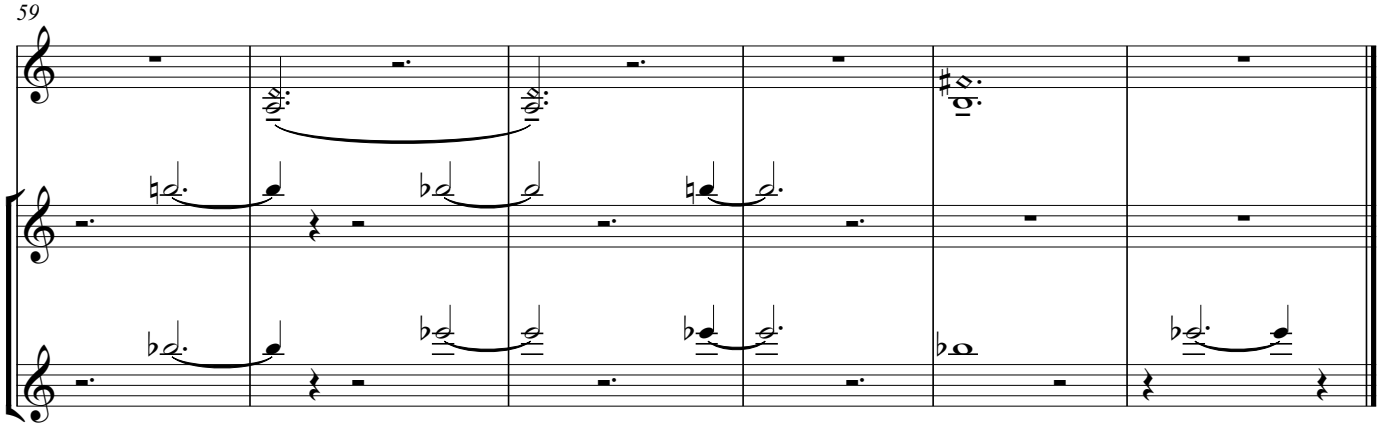
(IV)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