Steven Snowden

Profiles

For Euphonium and Percussion

Profiles

Commissioned by the
Moreau | VanTuinen Duo

Approximate duration: 9 min.

Program Notes

I've always had a bit of a fascination with old portrait photographs. Whether I find them in a library archive, museum, or at a thrift store, I like to wonder what the lives of these people were like. I imagine their careers, their hobbies, their temperament, or even what they might have eaten for breakfast that morning. One specific category of portraits that I find particularly intriguing is old mugshots. These are some of the only photos that come in pairs, one showing the subject face-forward, and one in profile. The original purpose of this was to provide the police or witnesses with a better understanding how this person would look from different angles. However, extraneous information, such as clothing, posture, and setting are intentionally placed out of frame. Without those clues, these pictures become more of a blank slate for my imagination.

I was recently looking through a set of mugshots from the early 1920's and found myself thinking mostly of character types found in old dime store crime novels. While the main hero and villain are often portrayed with a lot of detail and depth, secondary characters tend to be quite one dimensional. Petty thieves, con men, and getaway drivers simply serve to further the plot of the protagonist and are often just a short-lived caricature of their profession. Though not ontologically related, that made me think of the more common modern usage of the word profile. At its most basic level, this is the act of reducing a complex human being down to basic stereotypes. Profiling is certainly a heated and complicated topic to approach for any artist and I felt that it wasn't something that I wanted to tackle in this piece. Rather, I decided to go in the opposite direction by writing a set of character pieces based upon four types of criminals often found old crime novels. Sometimes poignant, sometimes comical, each one was written with that character's perspective in mind.

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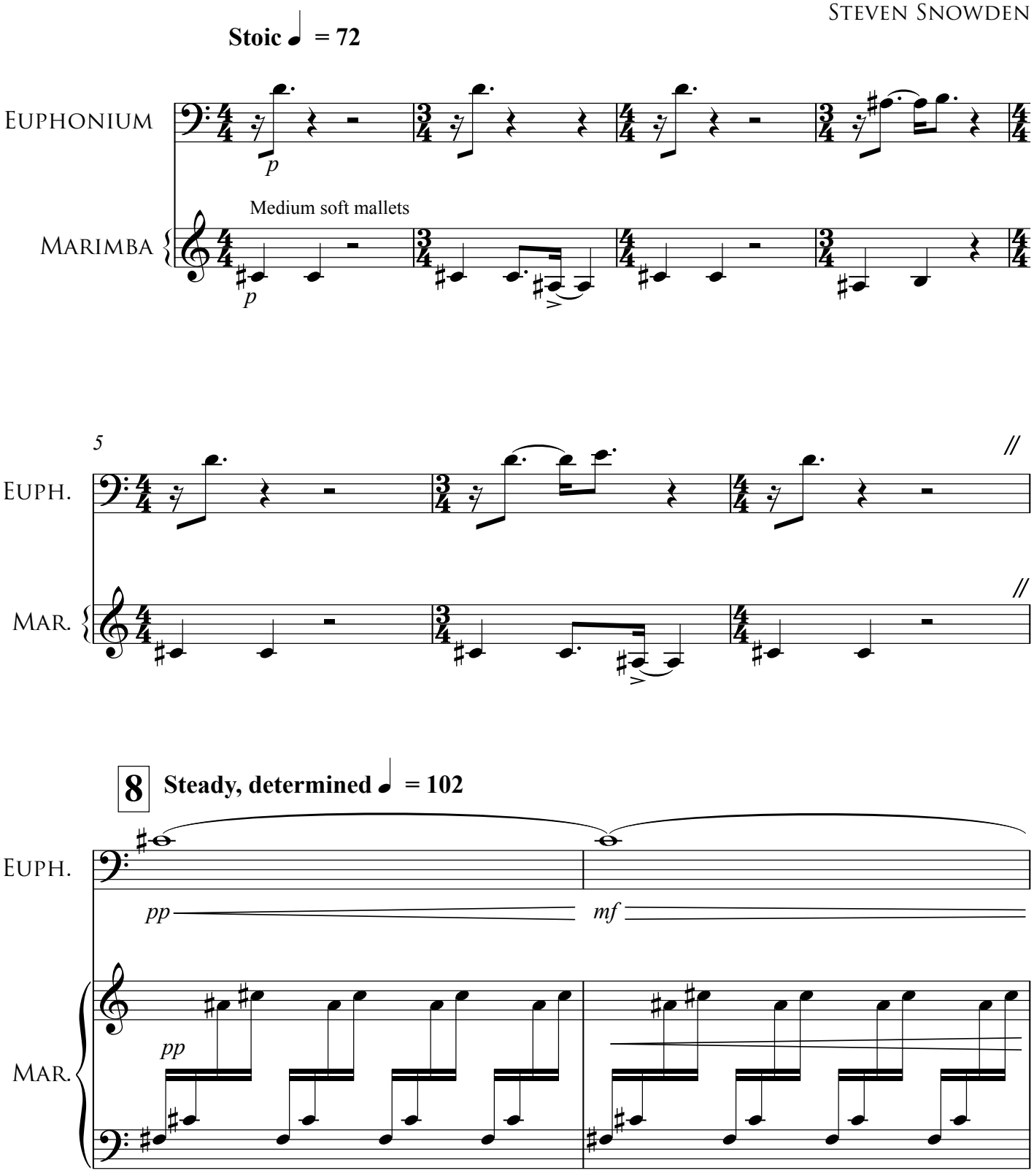
Profiles

I. The Wheelman

Steven Snowden



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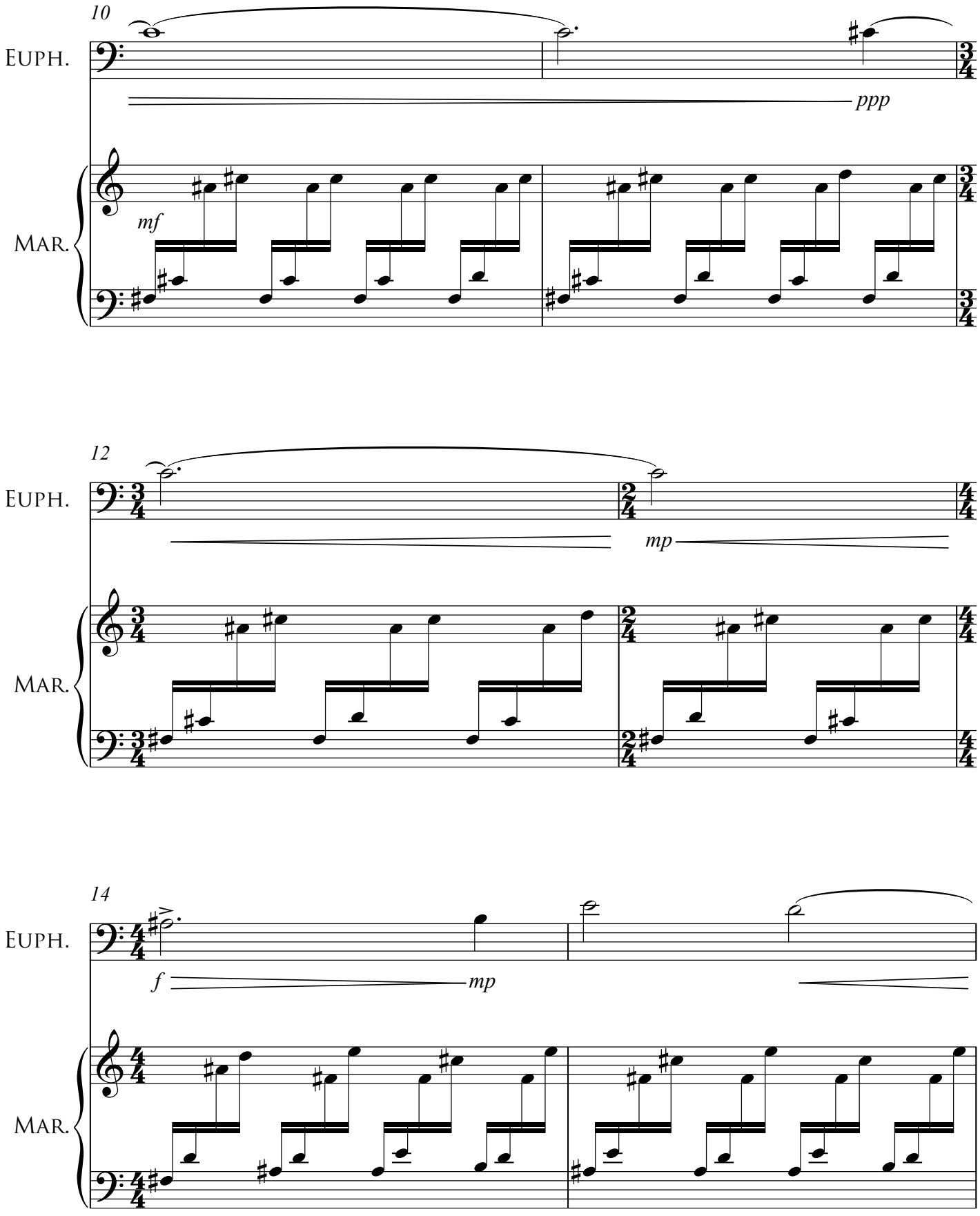
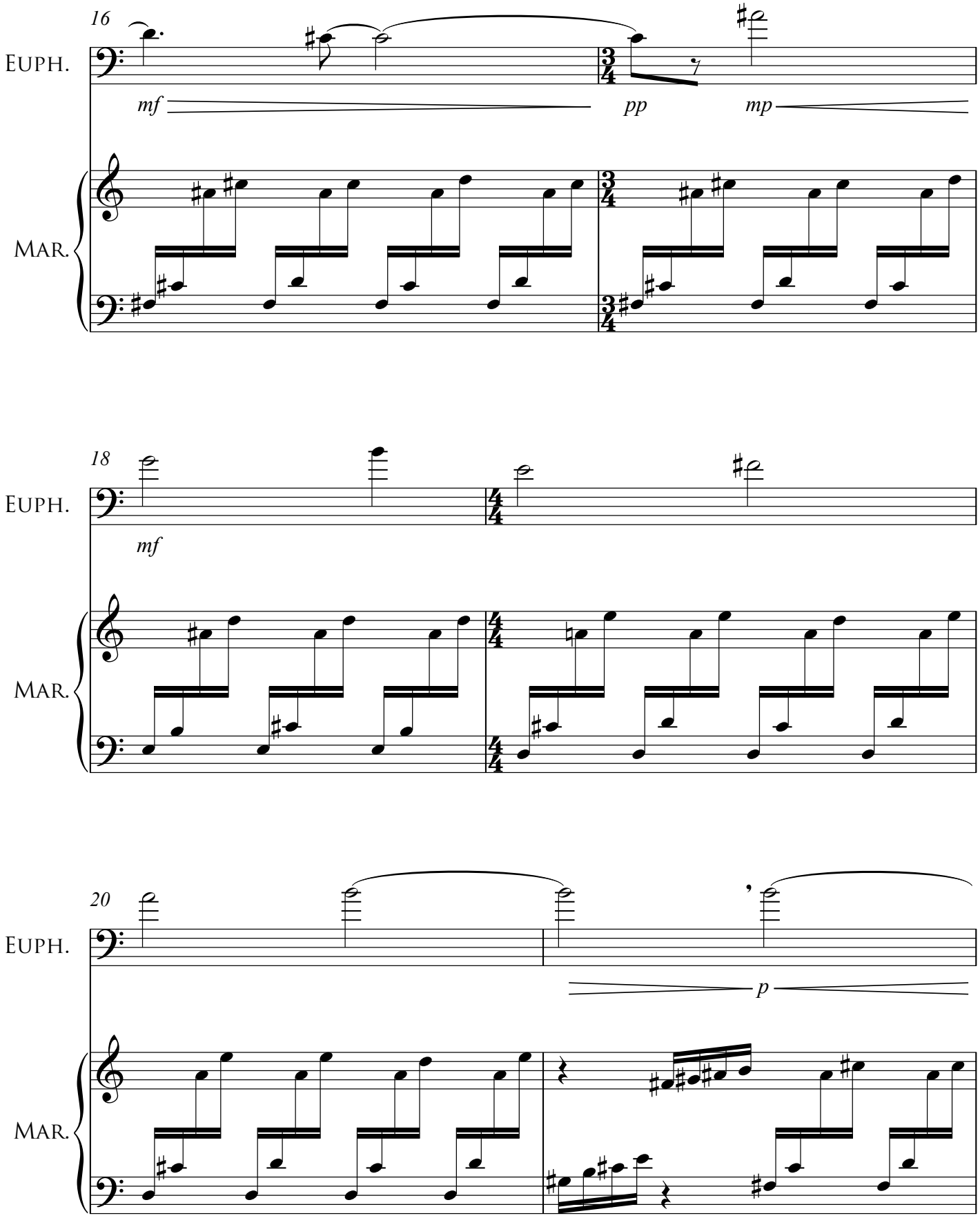
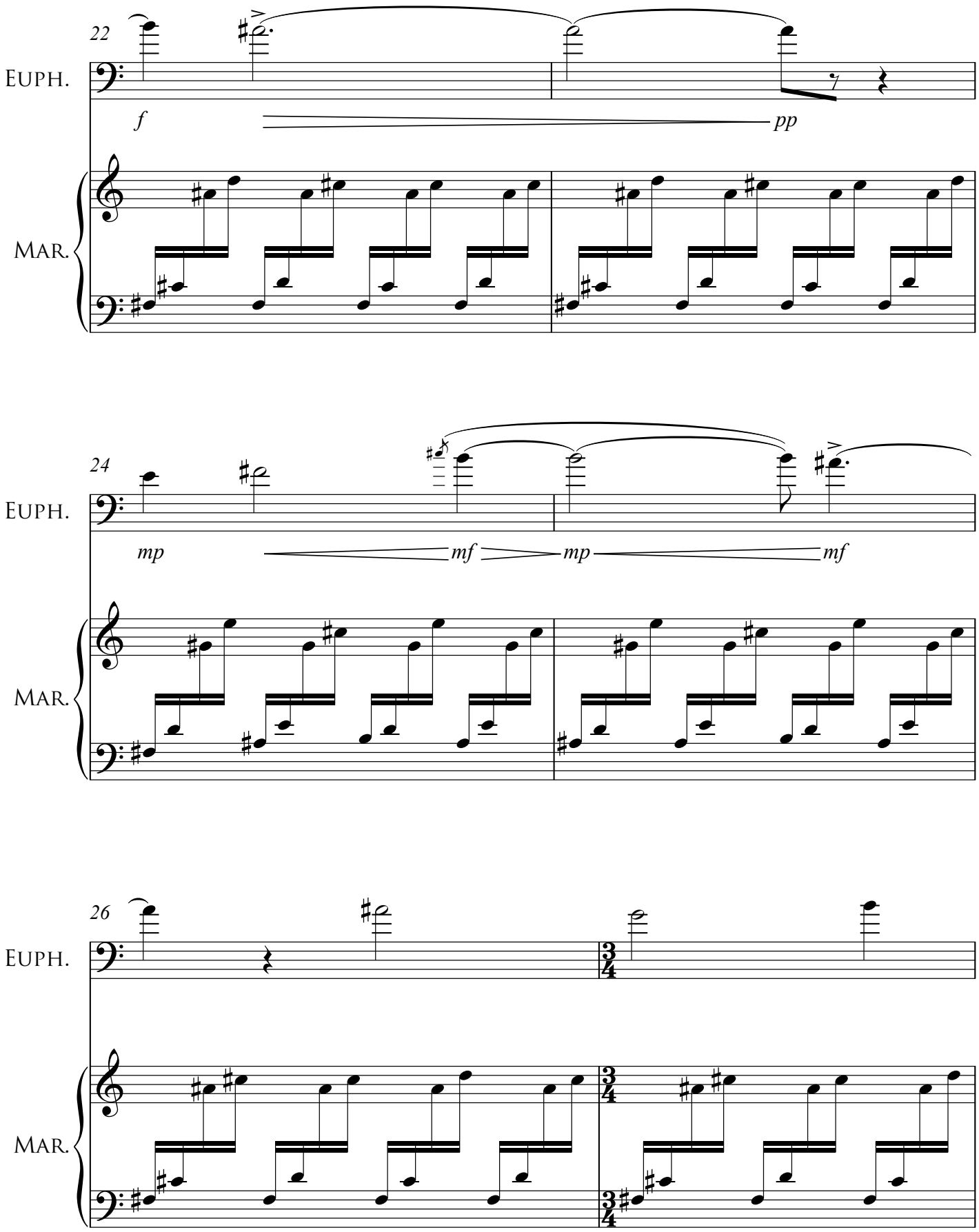
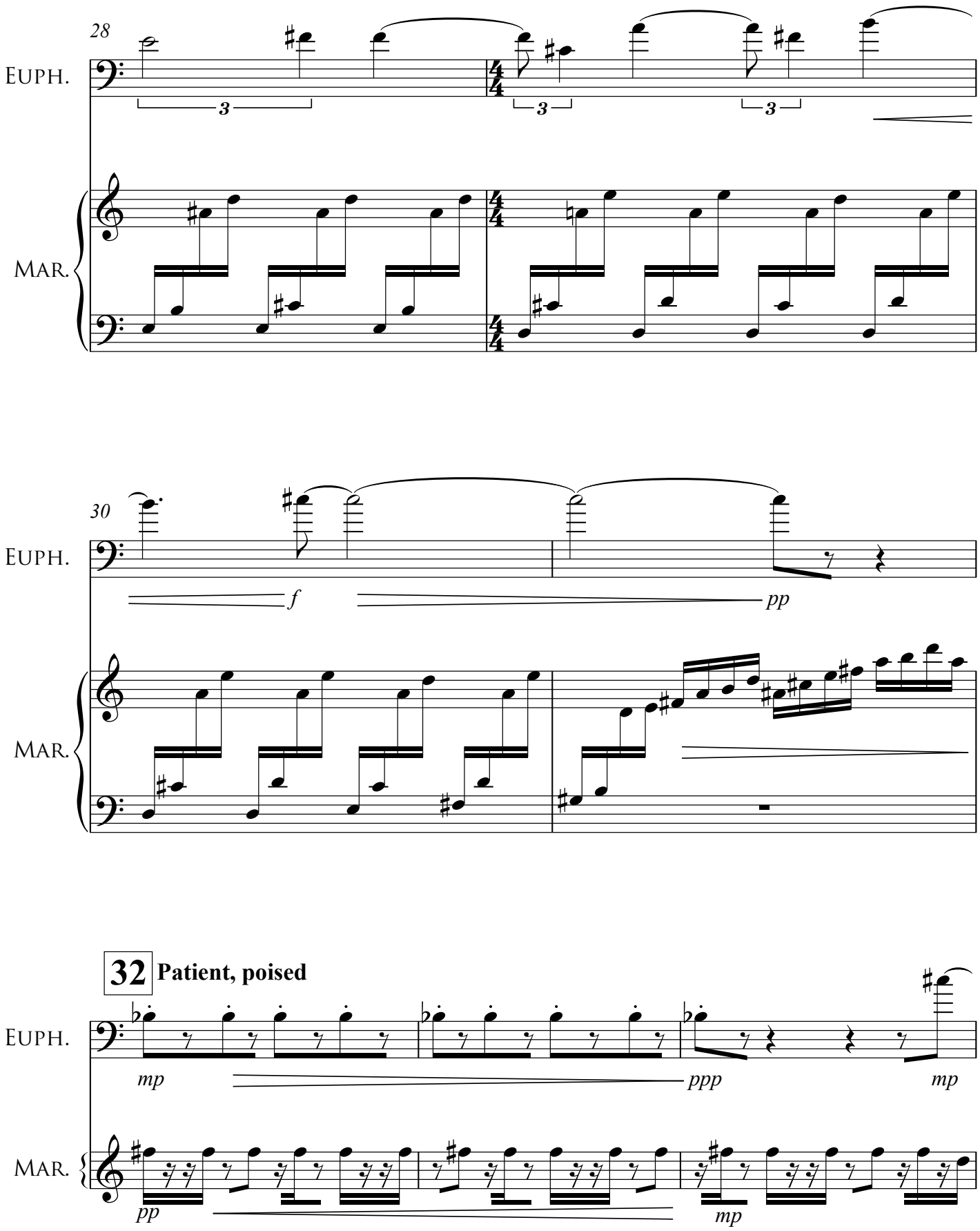
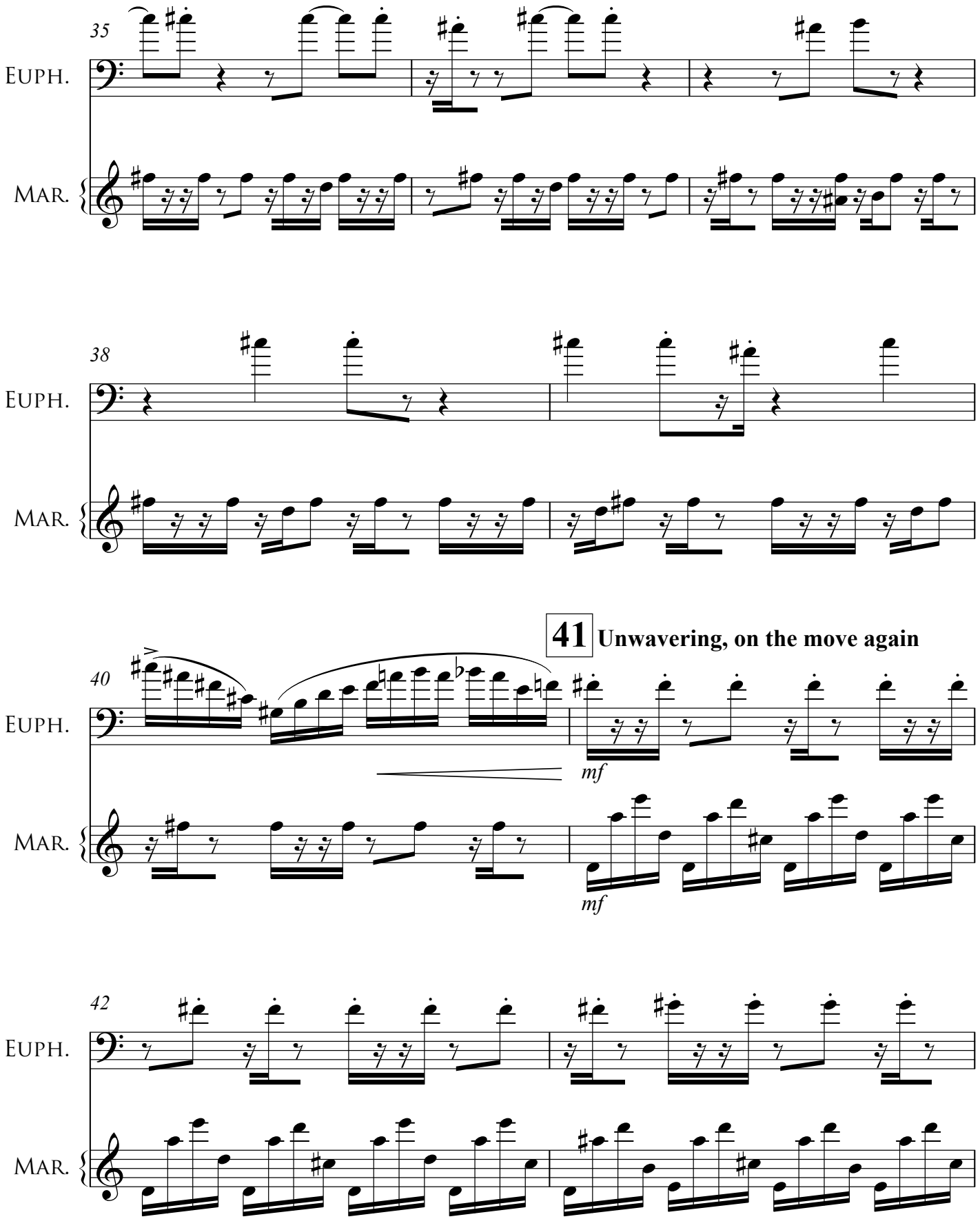
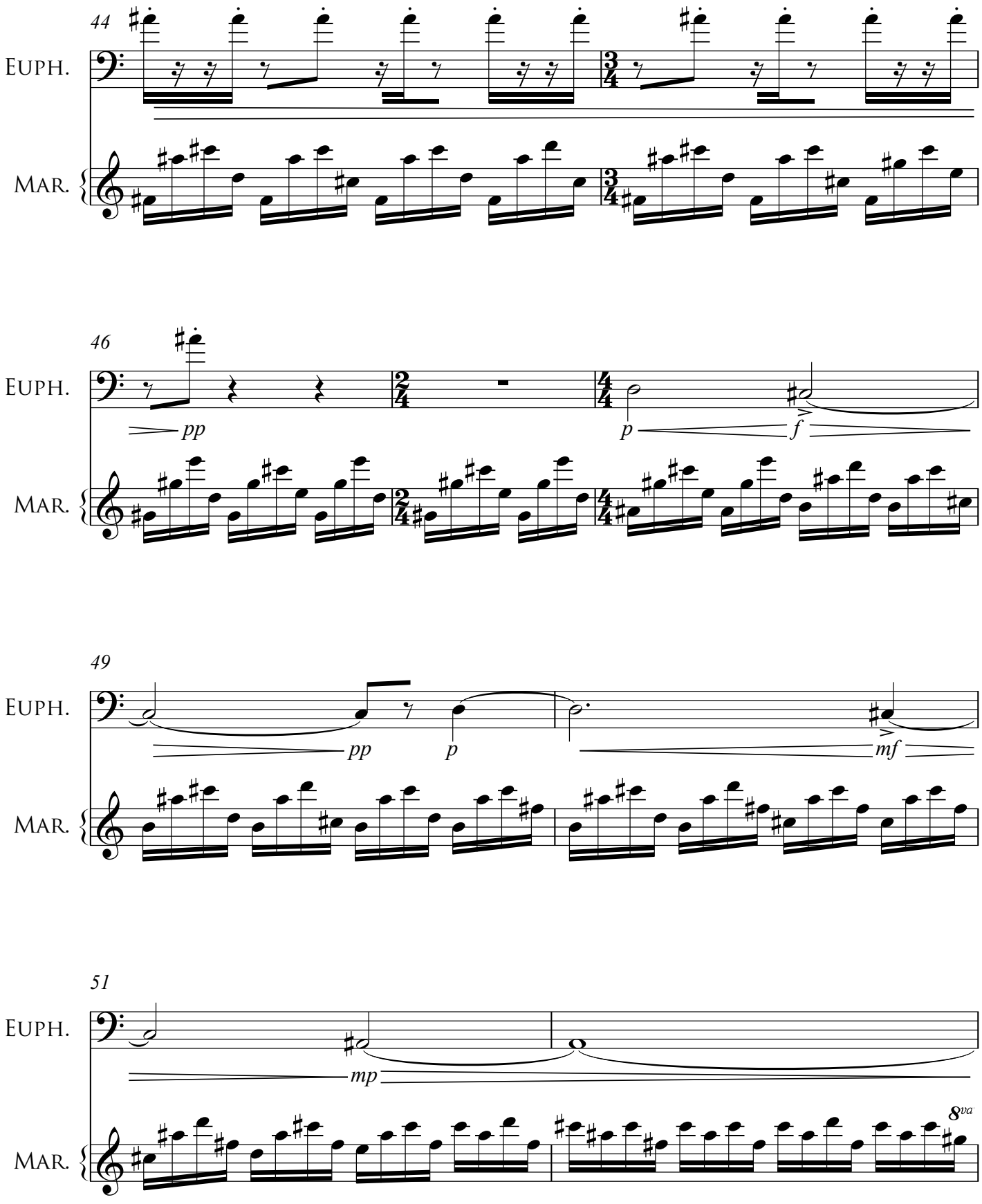

10
Euph.
ppp
Mar.
mf
12
Euph.
mp
Mar.
14
Euph.
f
mp
Mar.

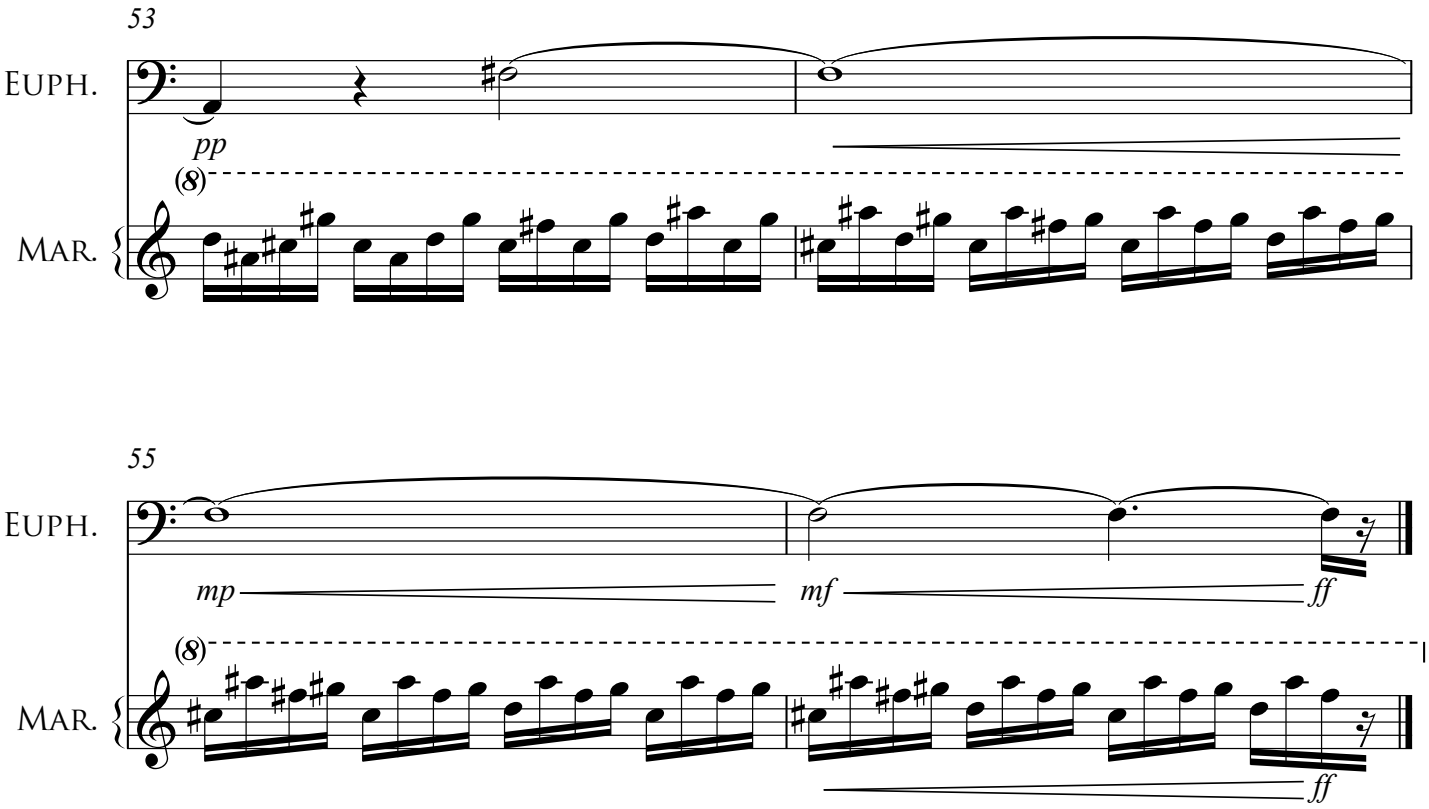

16
Euph.
mf
pp
mp
Mar.
18
Euph.
mf
Mar.
20
Euph.
p
Mar.


22
Euph.
f
pp
Mar.
24
Euph.
mp
mf
mp
mf
Mar.
26
Euph.
Mar.


28
Euph.
3
3
3
Mar.
30
Euph.
f
pp
Mar.
32
Patient, poised
Euph.
mp
ppp
mp
Mar.
pp
mp

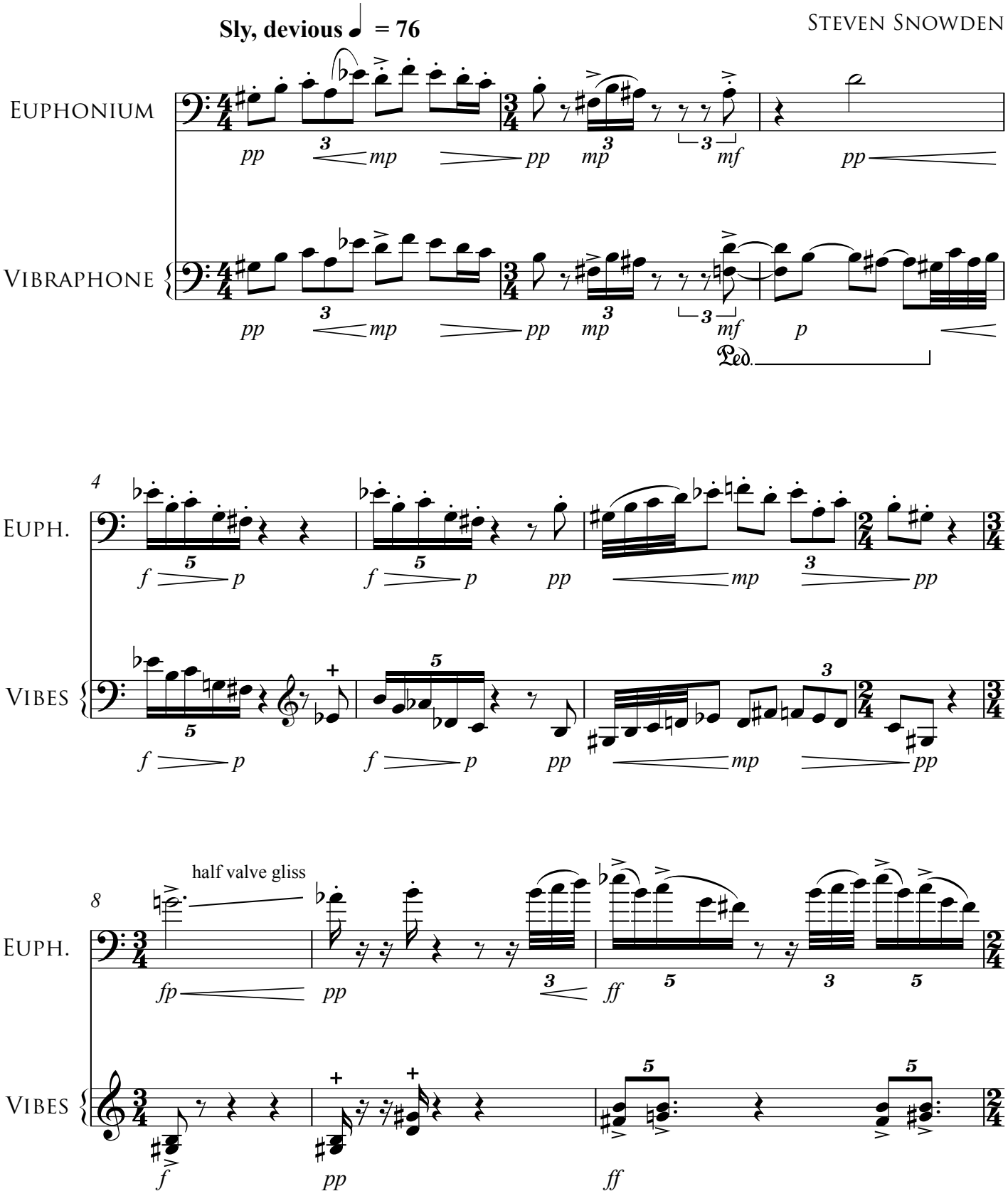

35
Euph.
Mar.
38
Euph.
Mar.
41 Unwavering, on the move again
40
Euph.
mf
Mar.
mf
42
Euph.
Mar.


44
Euph.
Mar.
46
Euph.
pp
p
f
Mar.
49
Euph.
pp
p
mf
Mar.
51
Euph.
mp
Mar.
8va


53
Euph.
pp
(8)
Mar.
55
Euph.
mp
mf
ff
(8)
Mar.
ff

Profiles

II. The Thief



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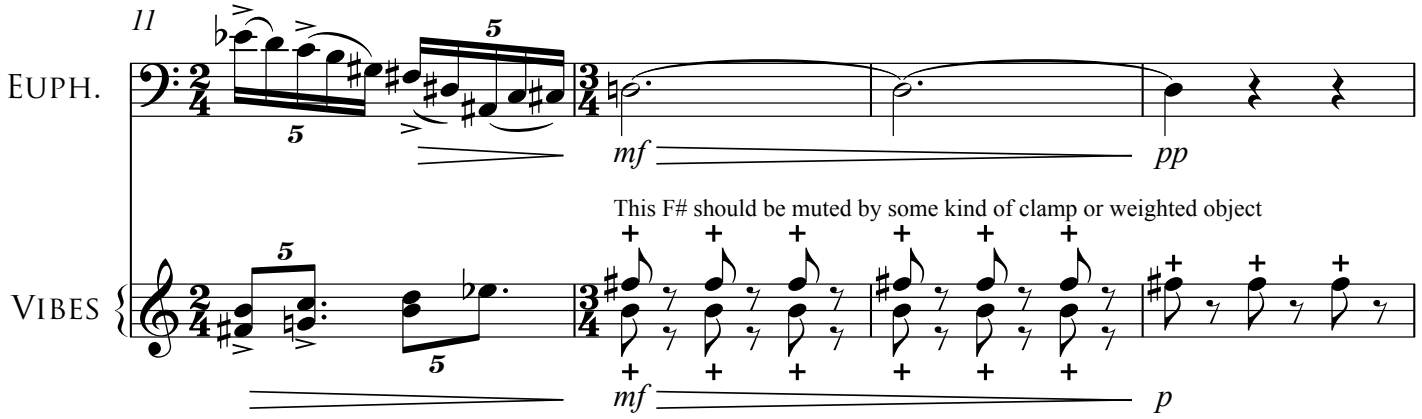
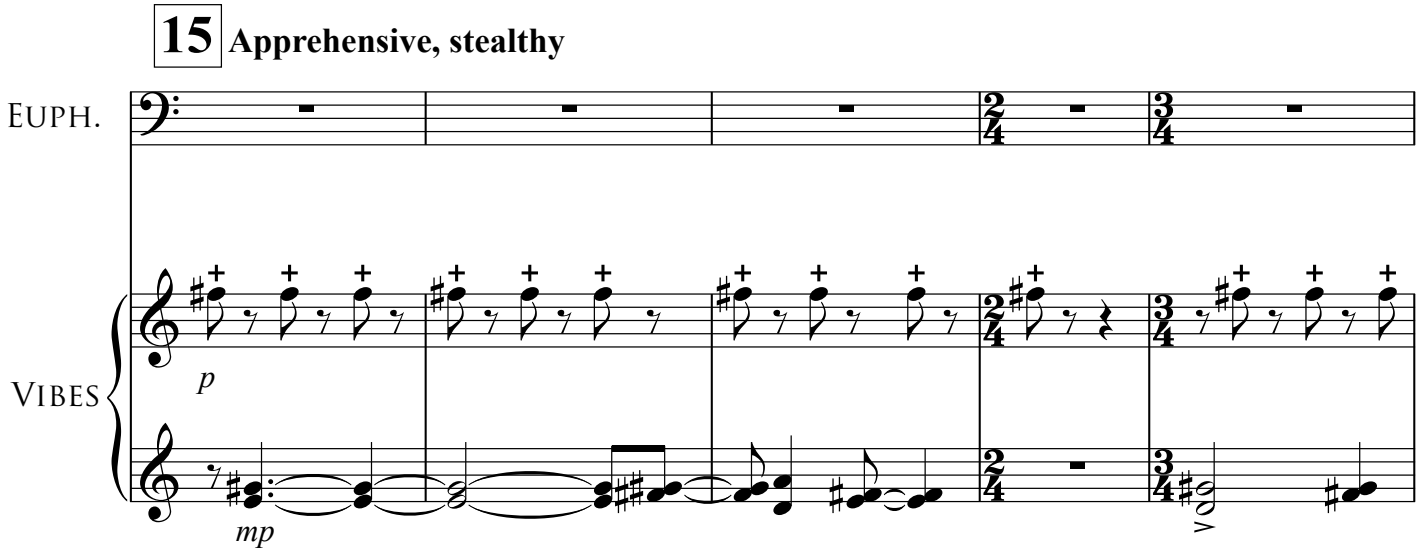
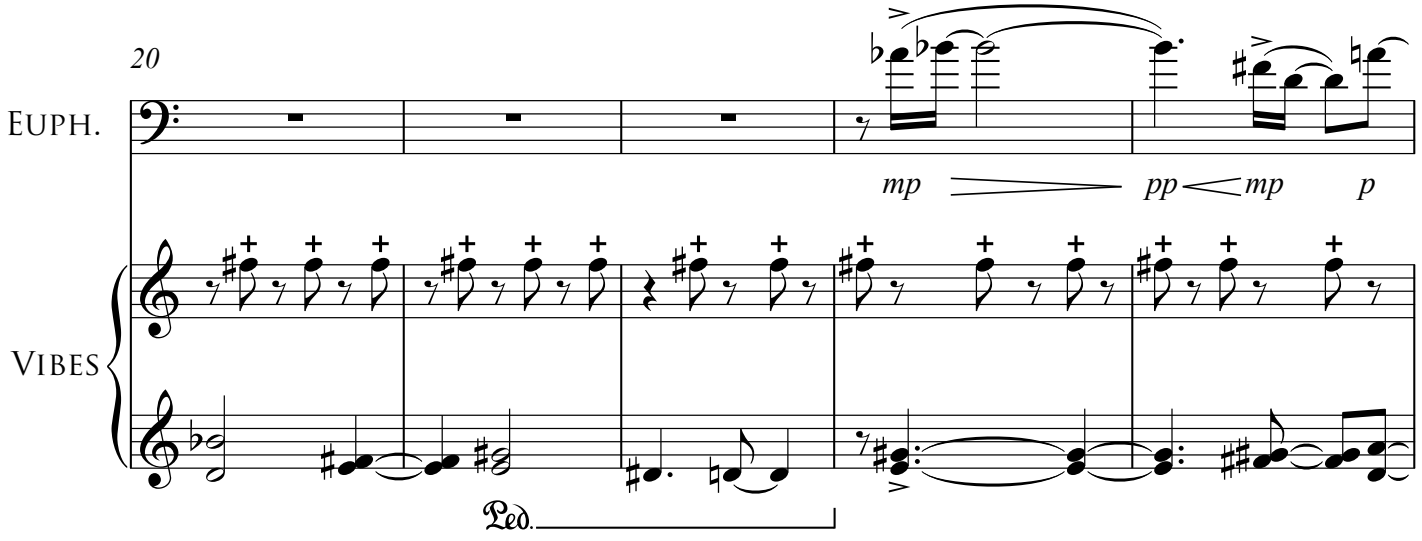
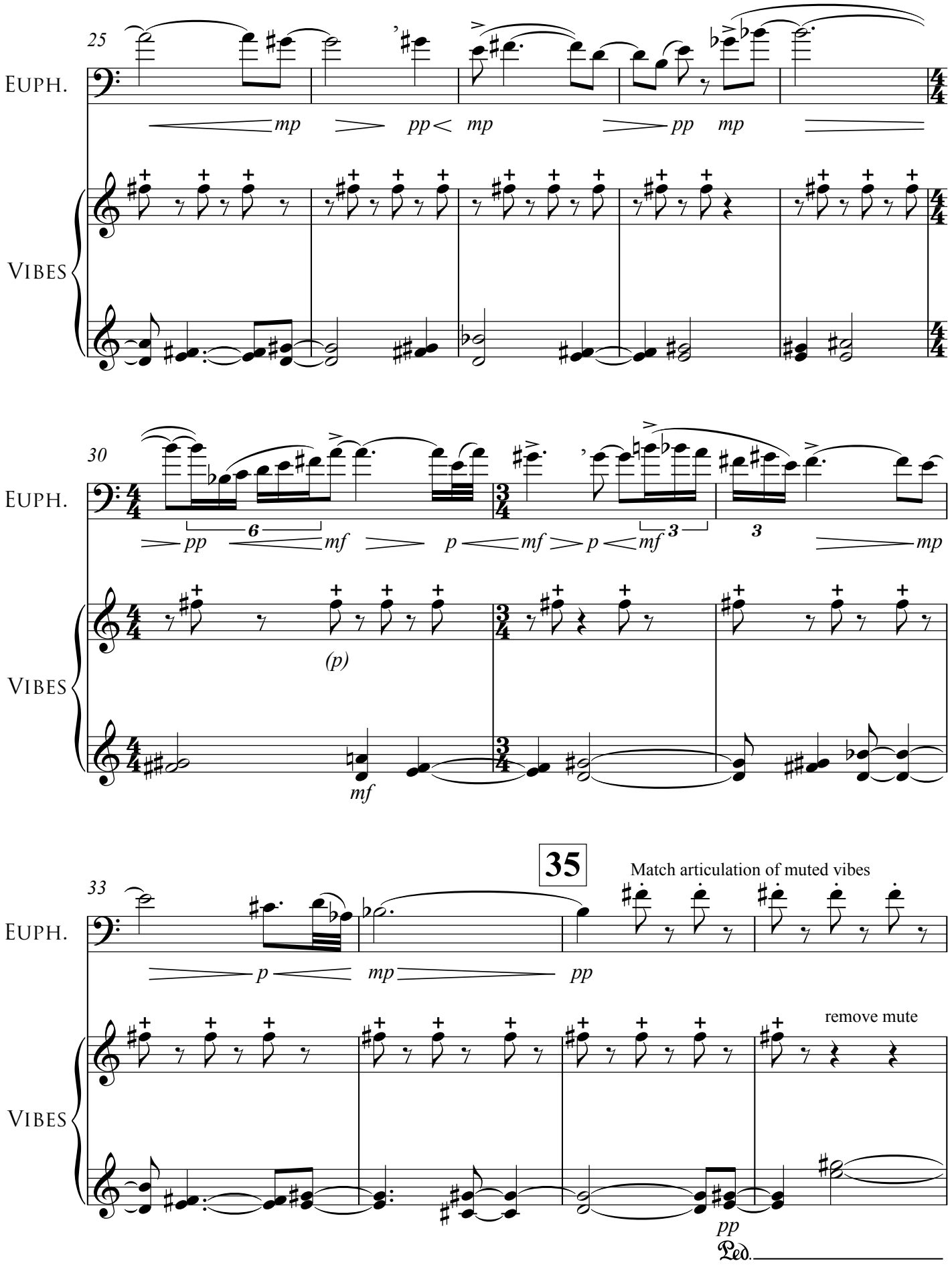
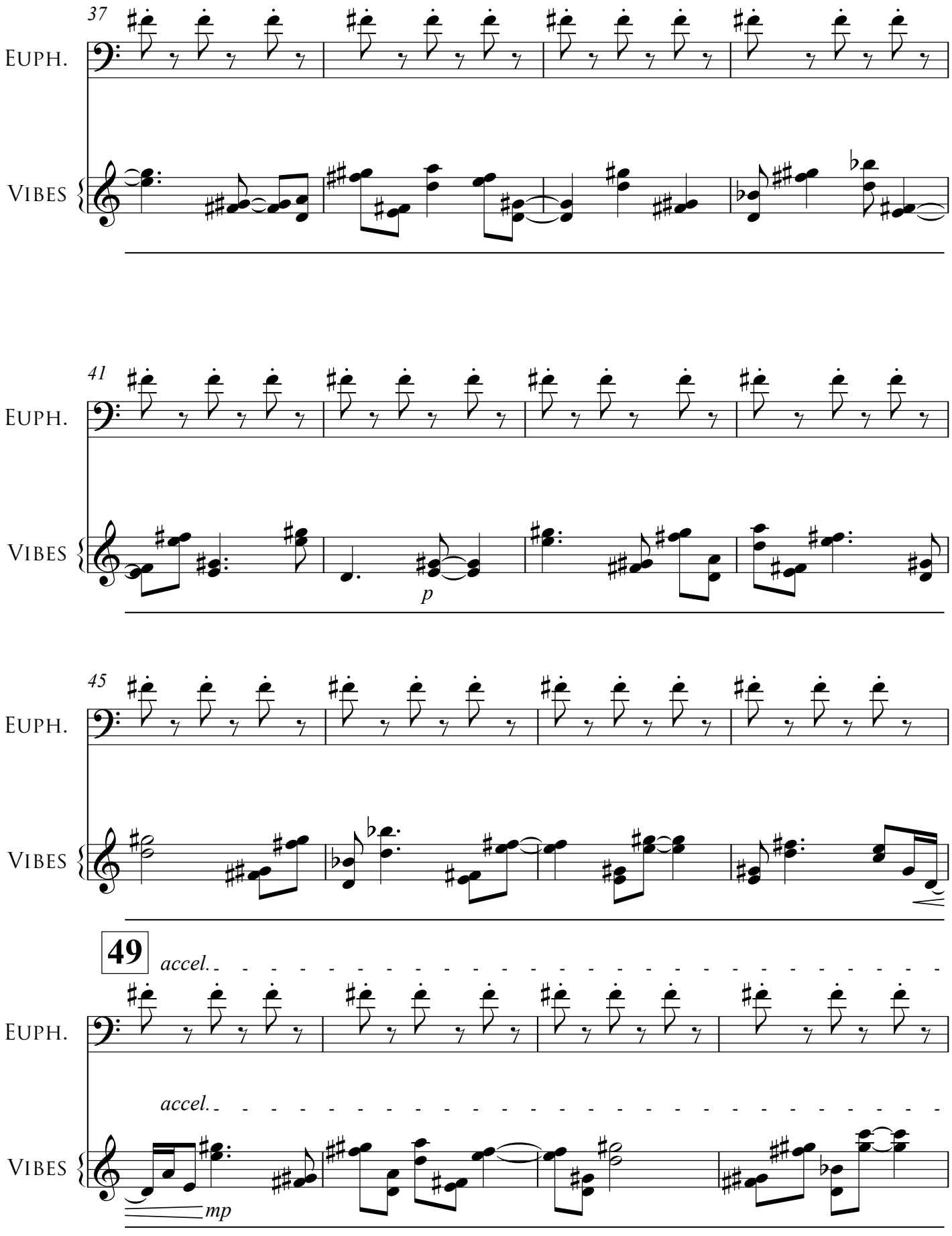
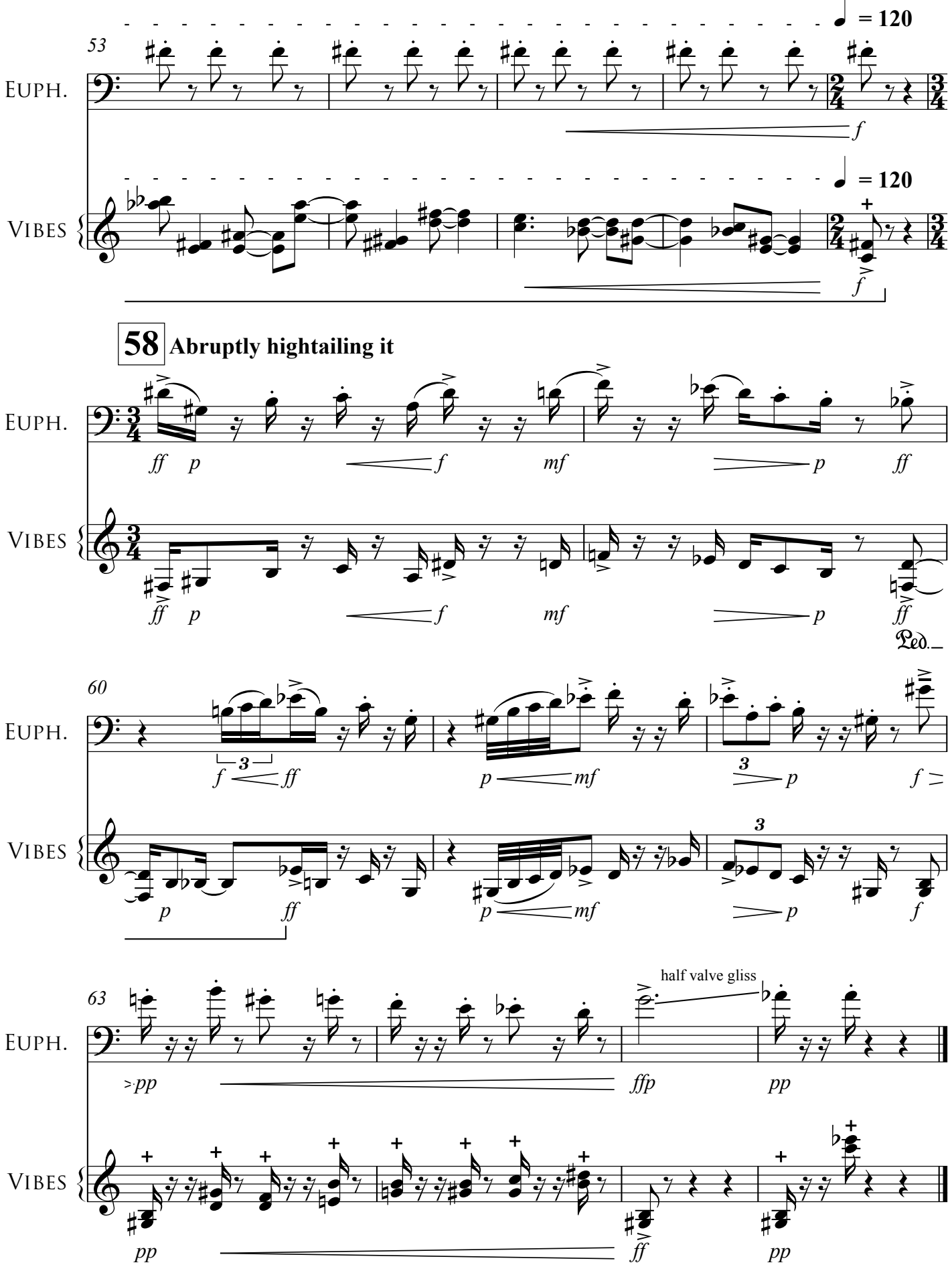

11
EUPH.
mf
pp
This F# should be muted by some kind of clamp or weighted object
VIBES
mf
p


15 Apprehensive, stealthy
EUPH.
VIBES
p
mp


20
EUPH.
mp
pp
mp
p
VIBES
Ped.

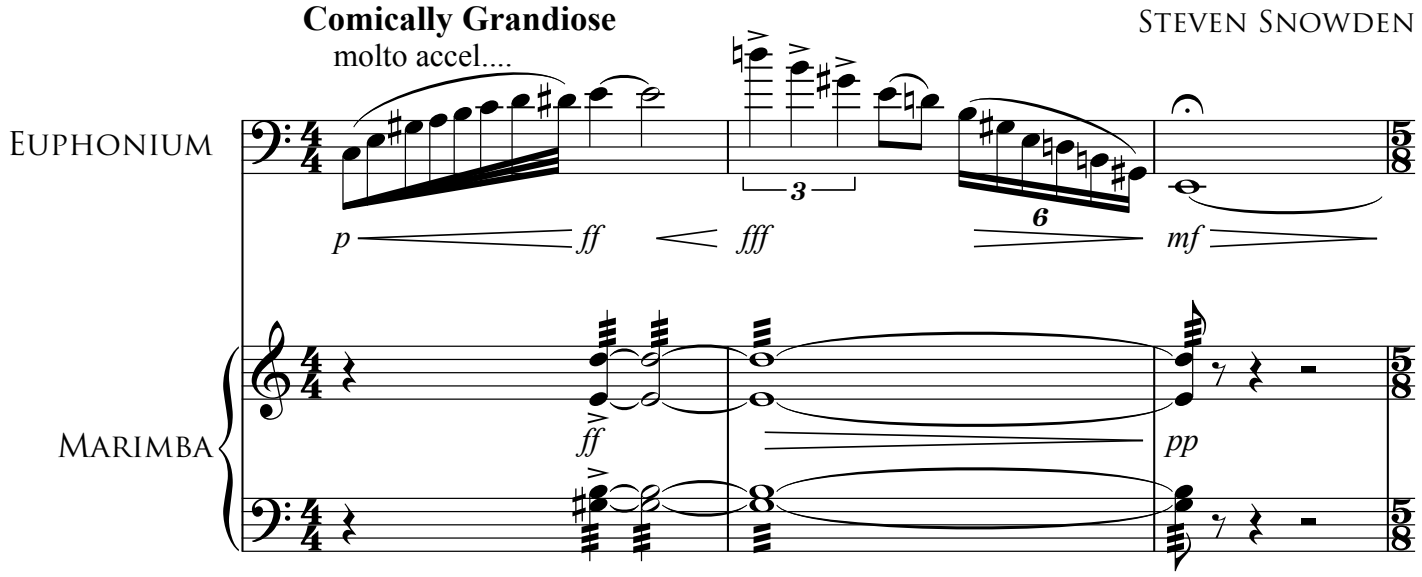

25
EUPH.
mp
pp
mp
pp
mp
VIBES
30
EUPH.
pp
6
mf
p
mf
p
mf
3
3
mp
VIBES
(p)
mf
35
Match articulation of muted vibes
33
EUPH.
p
mp
pp
VIBES
remove mute
pp
Ped.

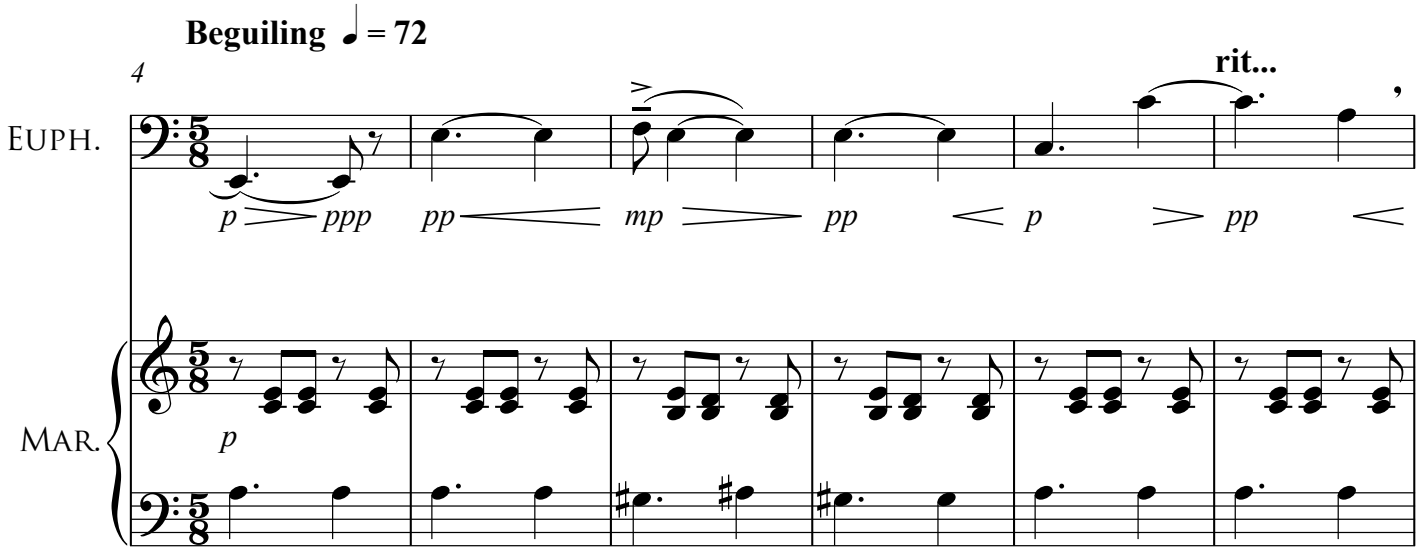

37
Euph.
Vibes
41
Euph.
Vibes
p
45
Euph.
Vibes
49
accel.
Euph.
accel.
Vibes
mp


53
= 120
Euph.
Vibes
f
58
Abruptly hightailing it
ff p f mf p ff
60
3
half valve gliss
ffp
63
pp

Profiles

III. The Grifter





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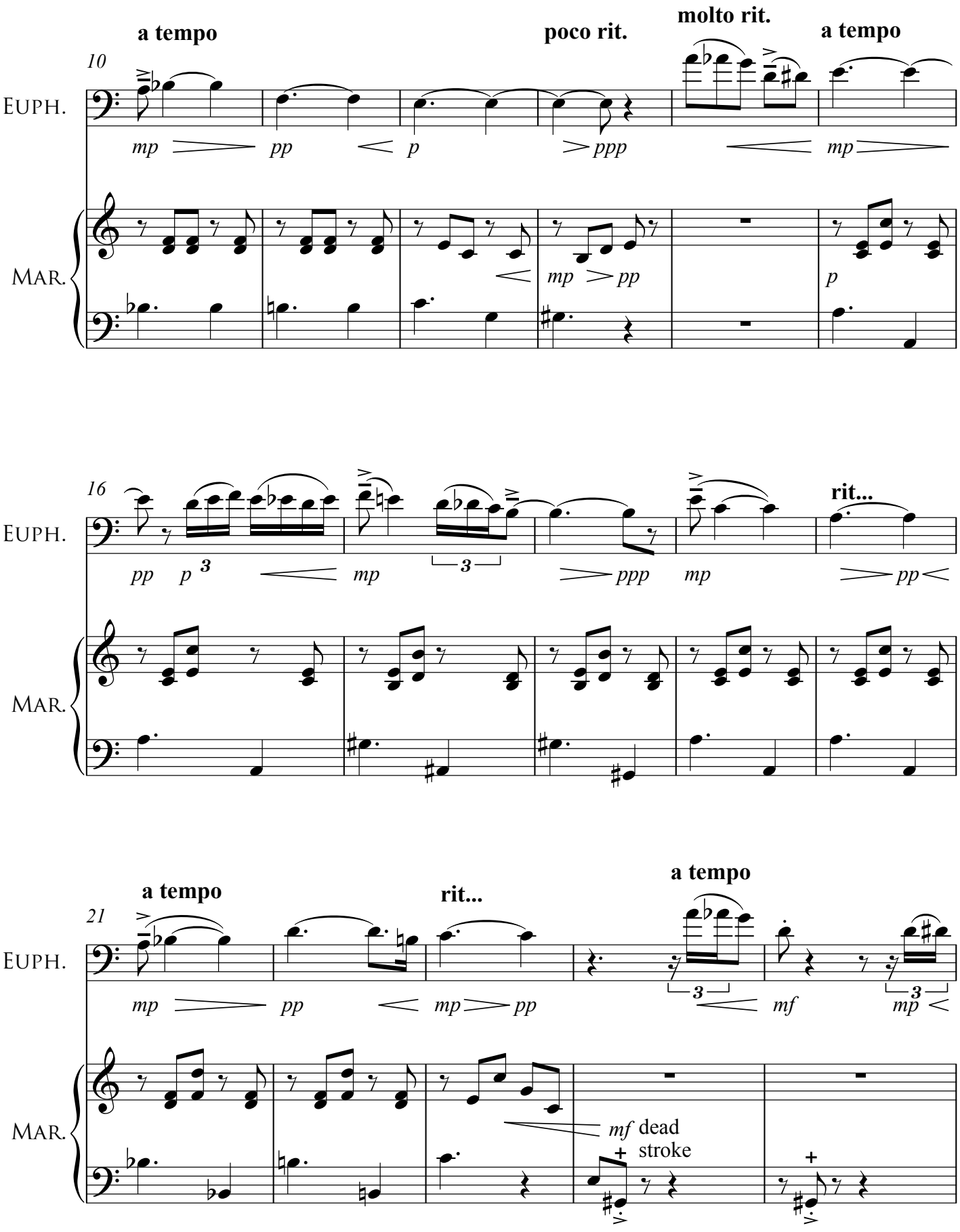
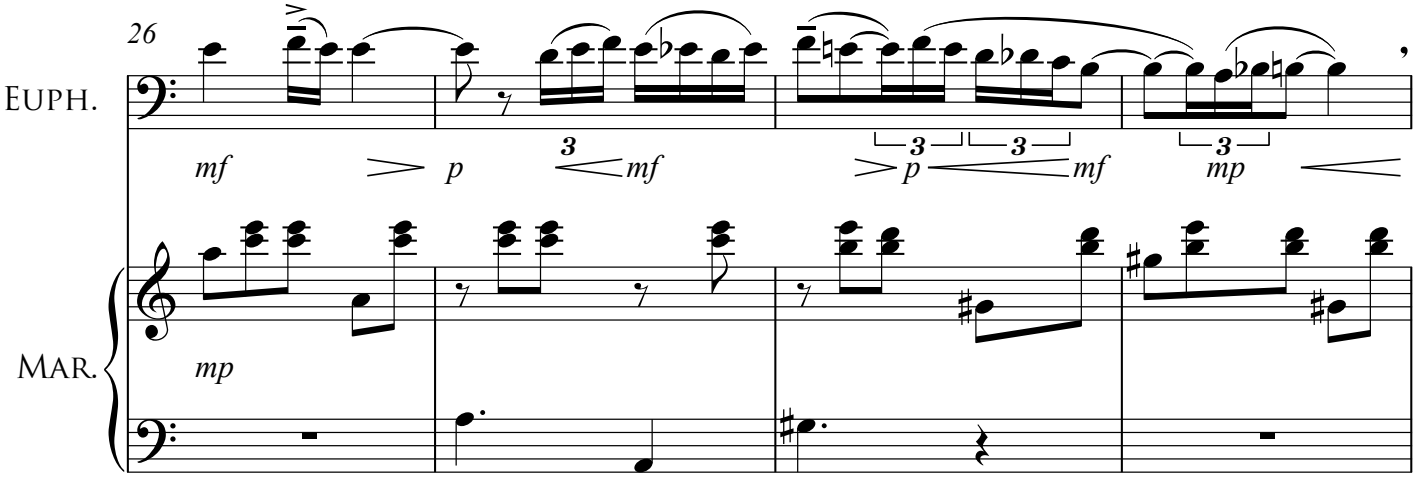
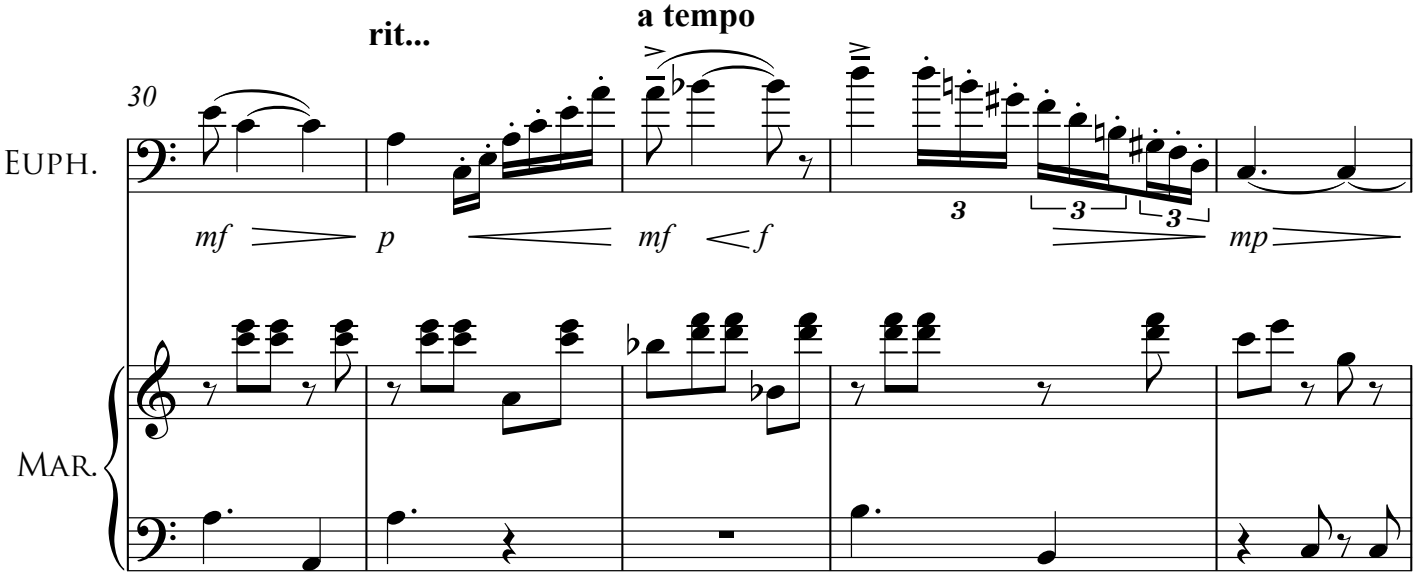

10
a tempo
poco rit.
molto rit.
a tempo
Euph.
mp
pp
p
ppp
mp
Mar.
mp
pp
p
16
Euph.
pp
p
mp
mp
ppp
mp
rit...
pp
Mar.
21
a tempo
rit...
a tempo
Euph.
mp
pp
mp
pp
mf
mp
Mar.
mf dead stroke

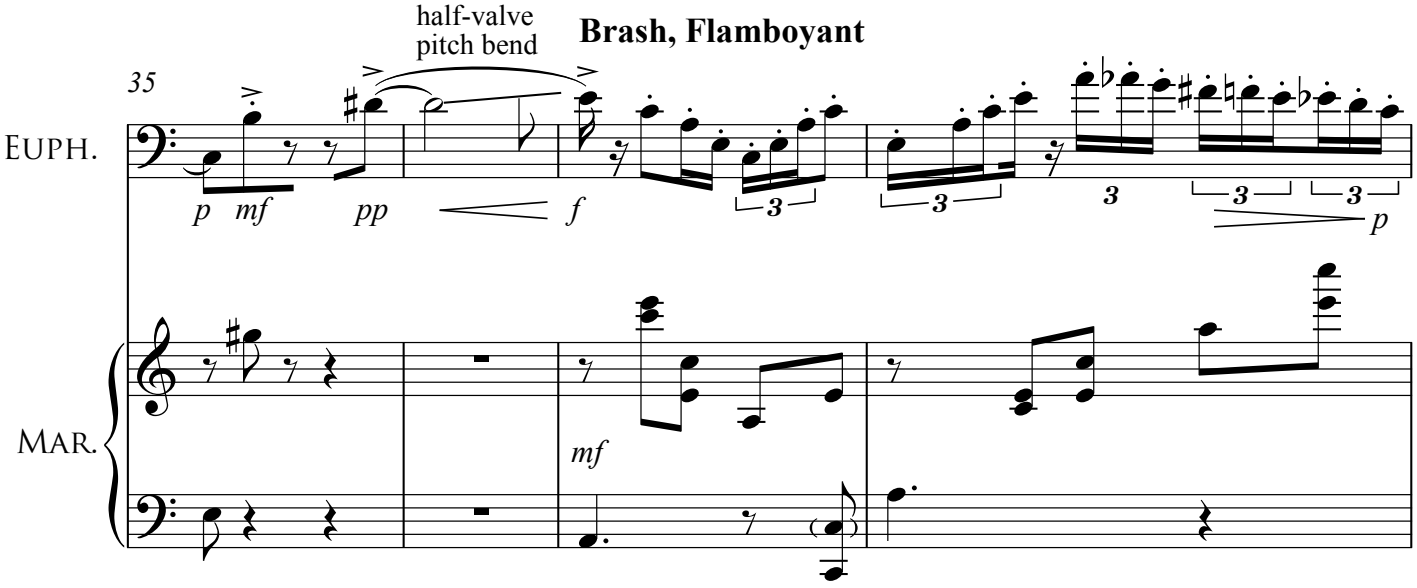
Coquettish, Showy

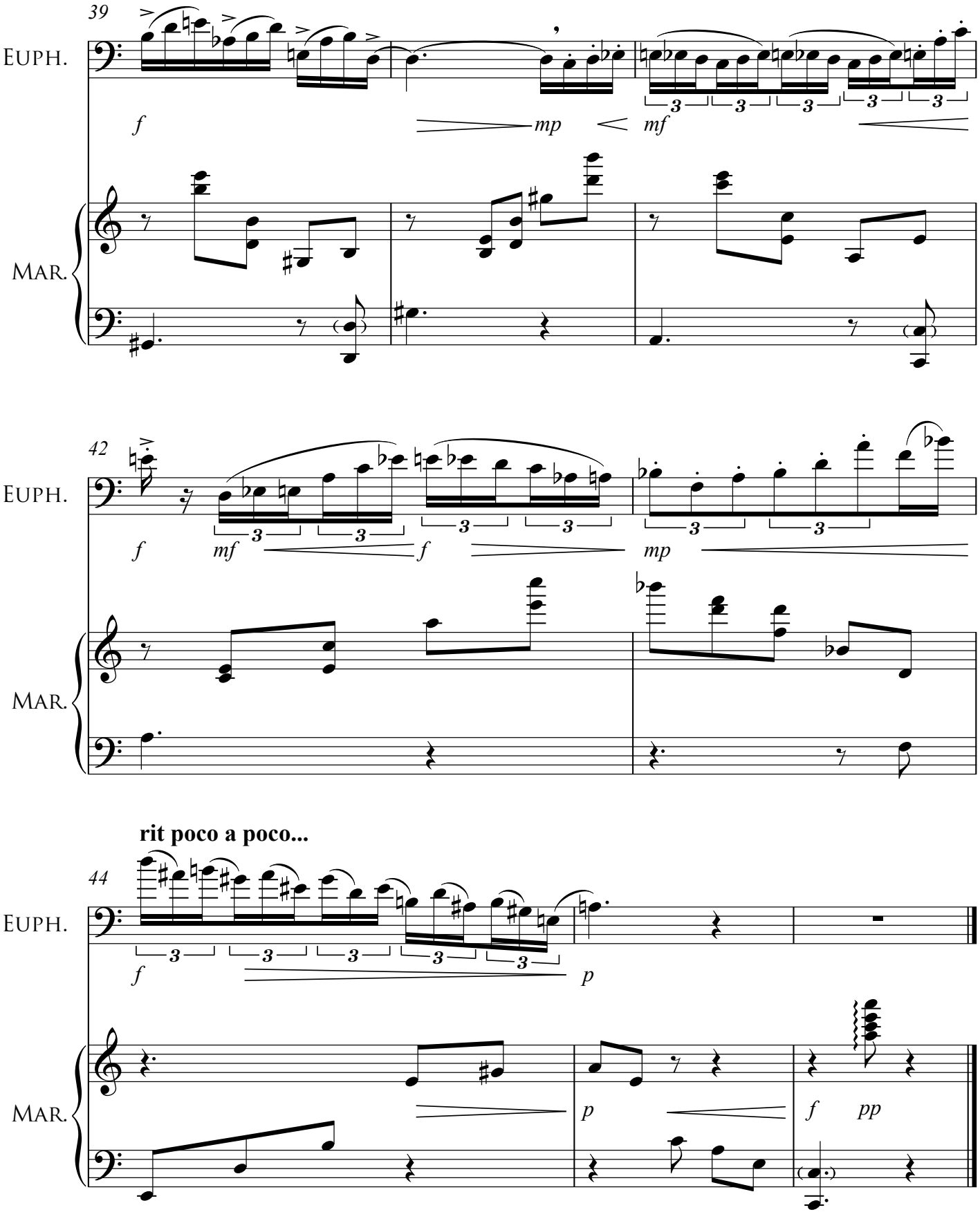


rit... **a tempo**



half-valve pitch bend **Brash, Flamboyant**

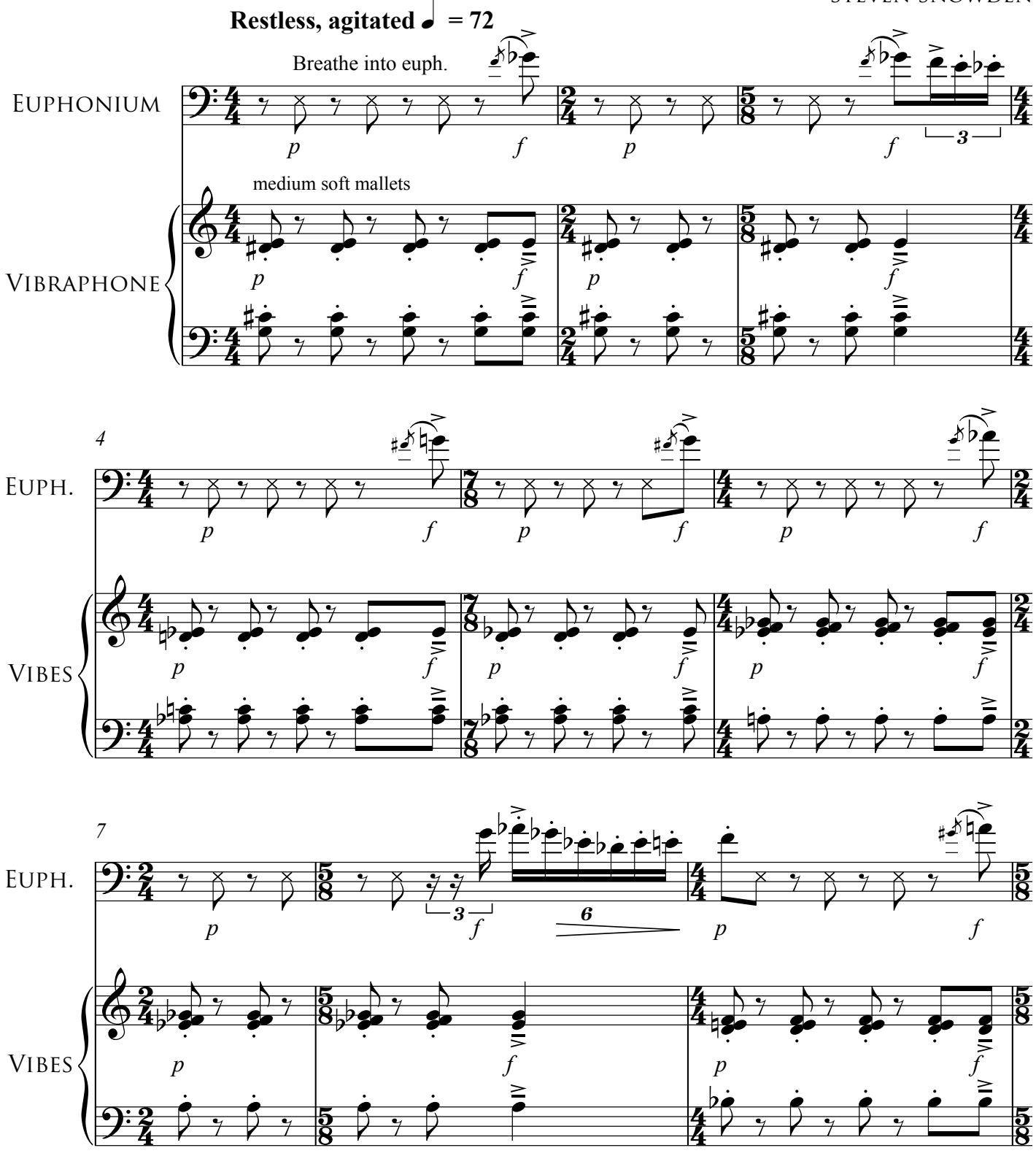



39
Euph.
f
mp
mf
Mar.
42
Euph.
f
mf
f
mp
Mar.
rit poco a poco...
44
Euph.
f
p
Mar.
p
f
pp

Profiles

IV. The Brute

Steven Snowden



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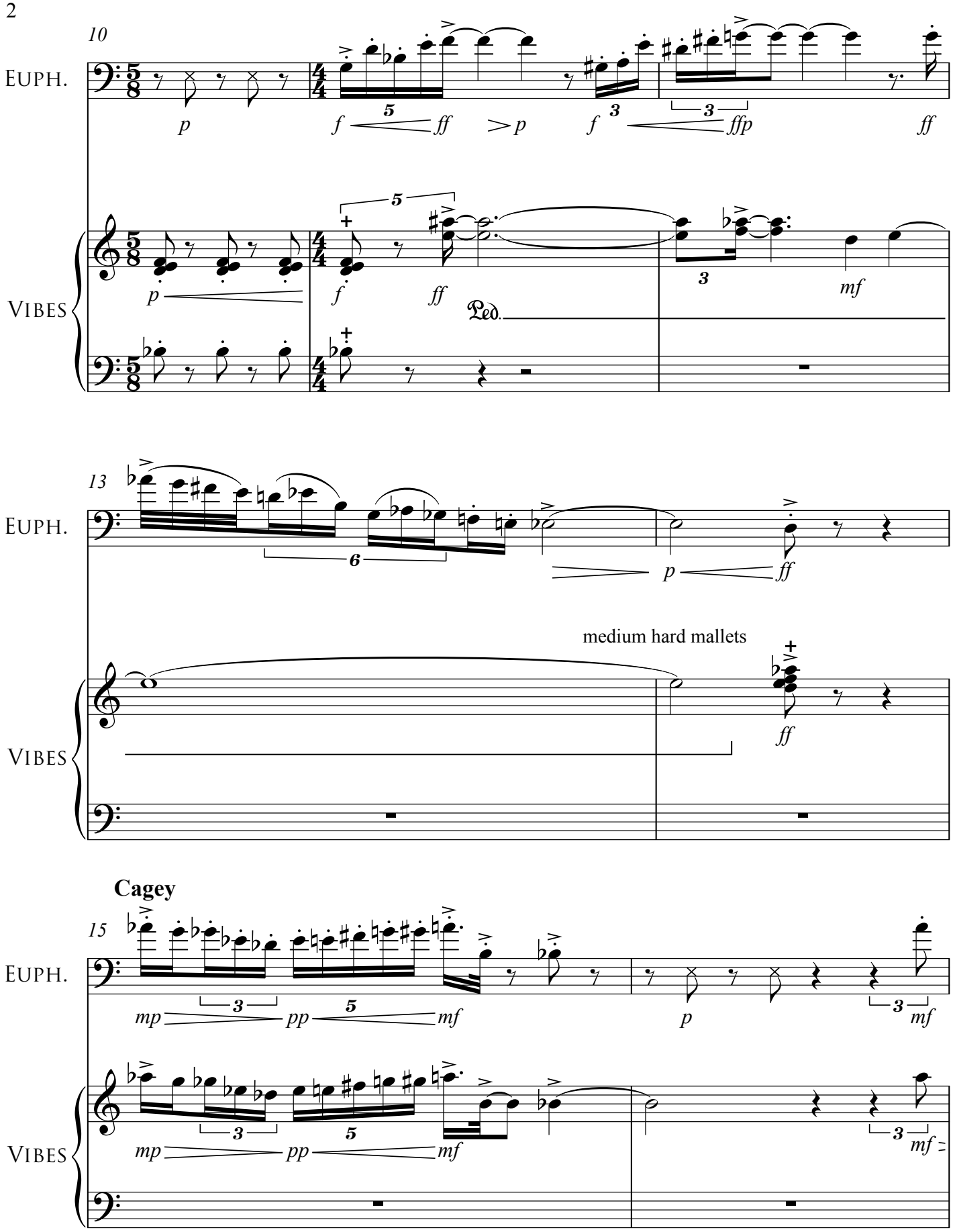
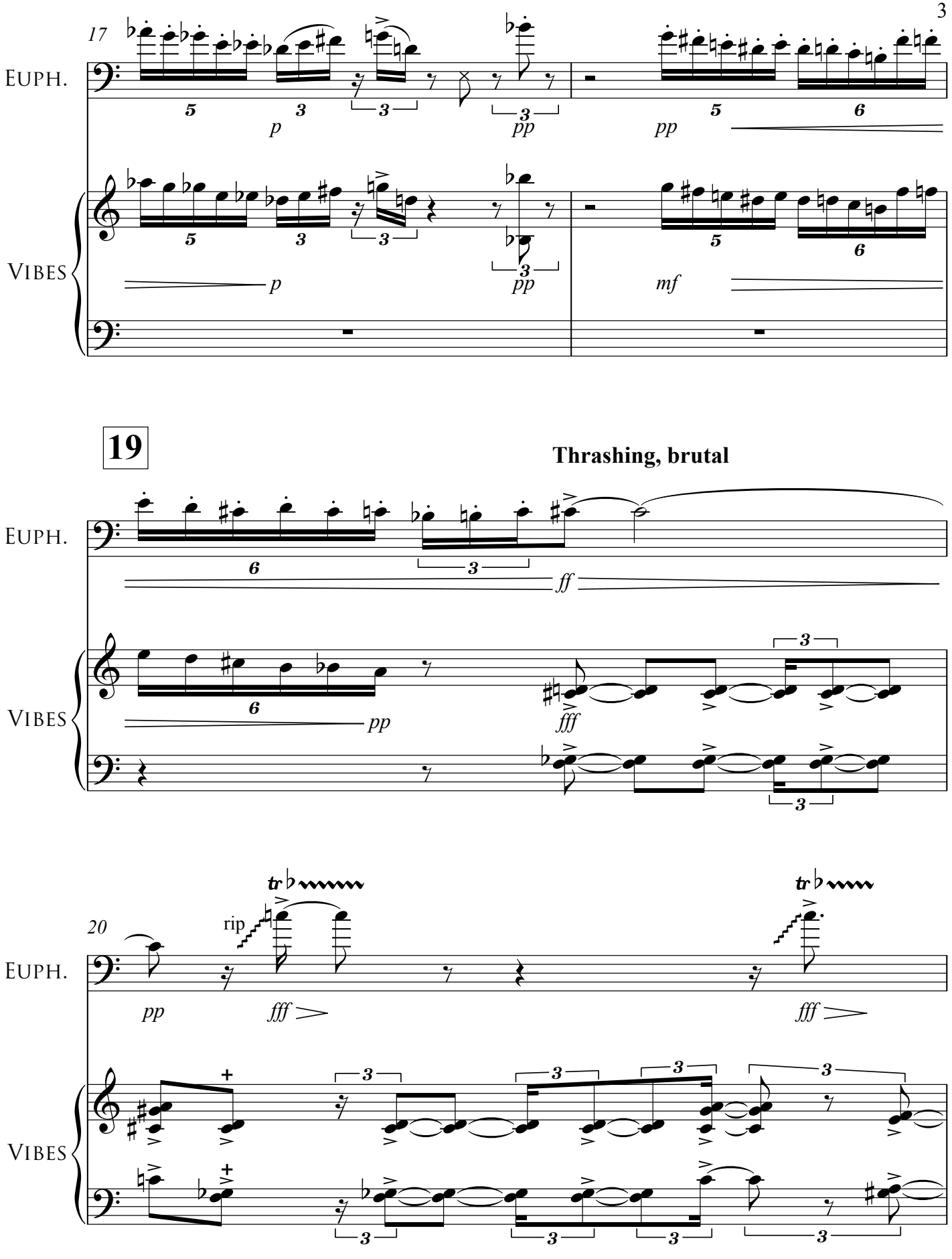
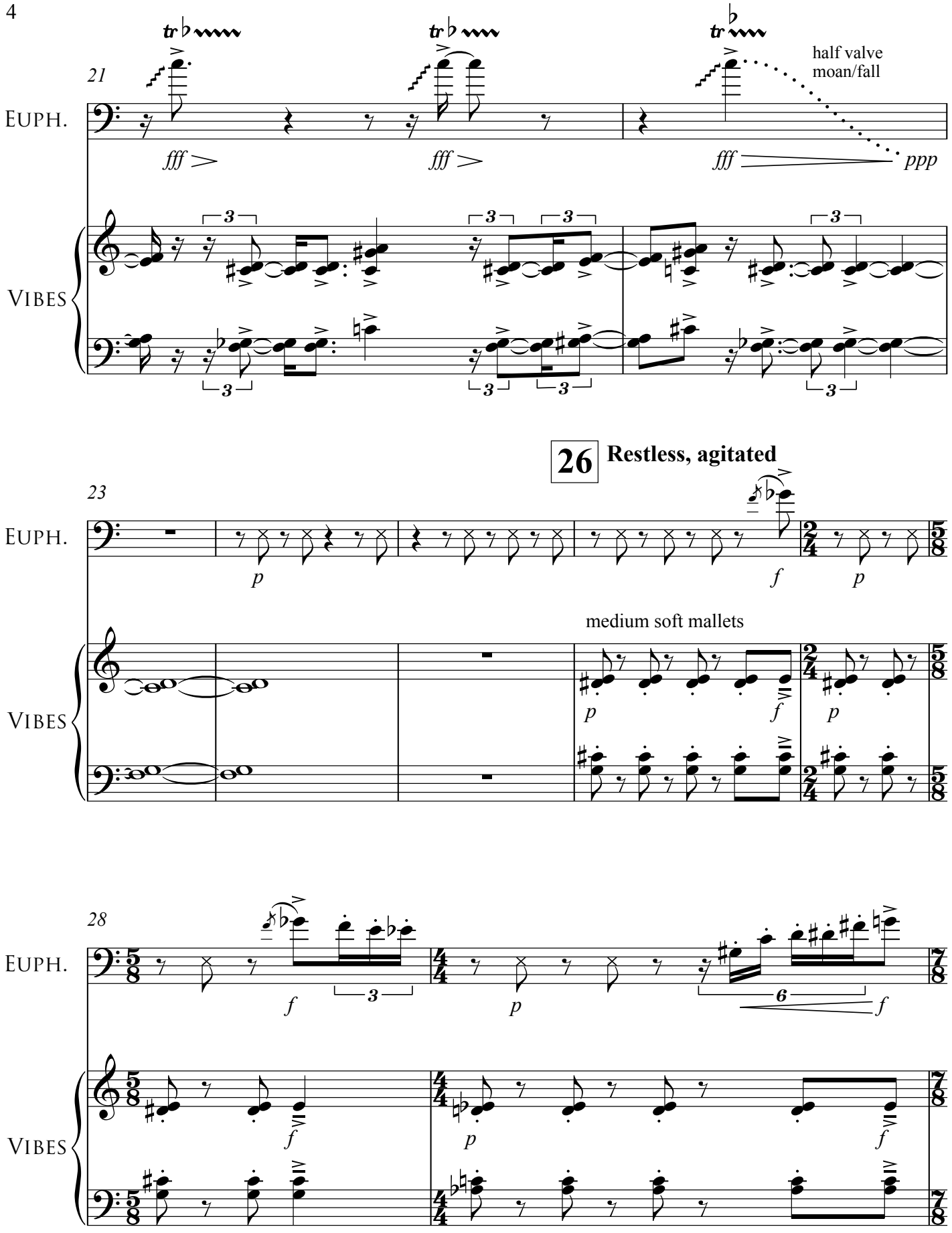
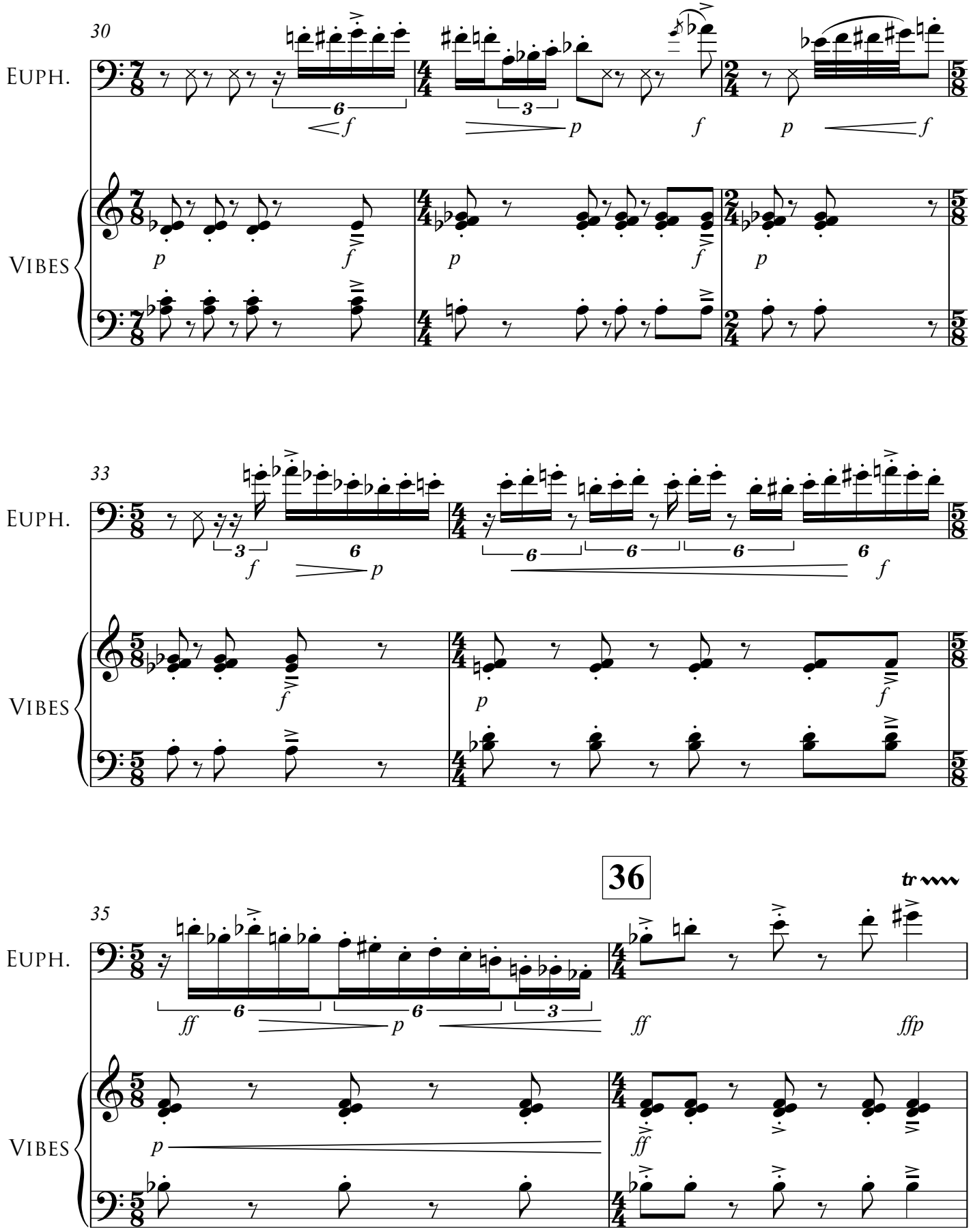
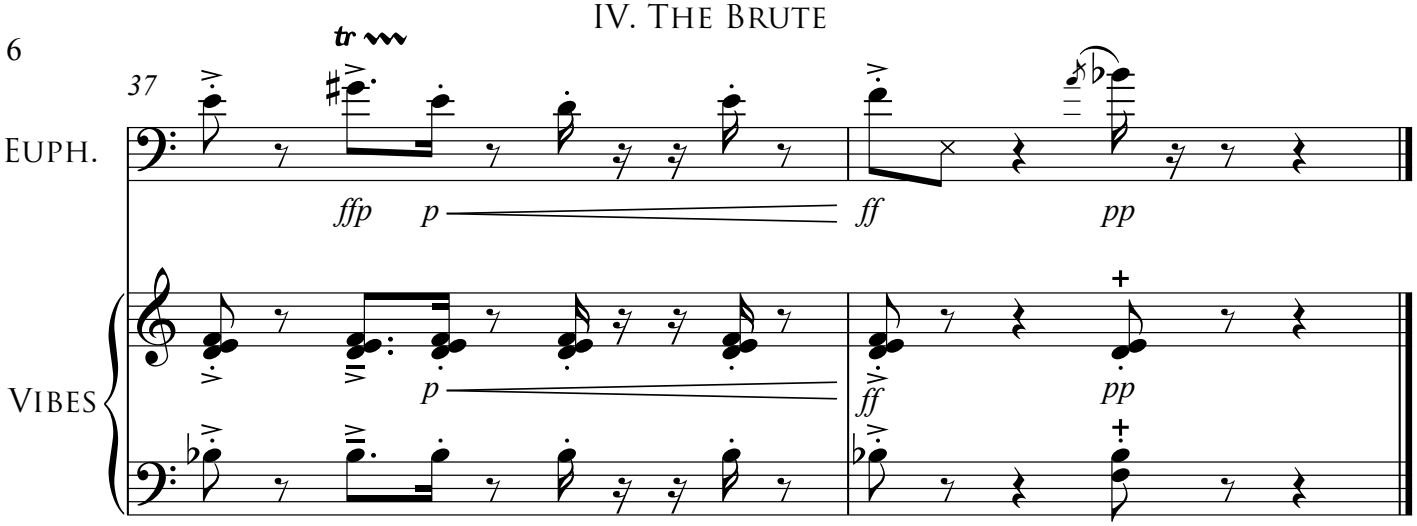
IV. The Brute


10
Euph.
Vibes
Ped.
13
Euph.
Vibes
medium hard mallets
Cagey
15
Euph.
Vibes


17
Euph.
Vibes
p
pp
mf
19
Thrashing, brutal
ff
fff
20
rip
tr

IV. The Brute


21
Euph.
half valve
moan/fall
fff
fff
fff
ppp
Vibes
26
Restless, agitated
23
Euph.
p
f
p
medium soft mallets
Vibes
p
f
p
28
Euph.
f
p
f
Vibes
f
p
f


30
Euph.
Vibes
33
Euph.
Vibes
36
35
Euph.
Vibes
tr

IV. The Brute