Gwyneth Walker

Duos by the Lake

for Flute and Piano

"Clear Lake"
"Where the Great Heron Feeds"
"Footprints"
"Above the Waves"

Program Notes:

During the summer of 2016, the composer attended a beautiful concert (including flute and piano) in a cathedral by Lake Champlain, in Burlington, Vermont. It was a sunny day. The light filled the sanctuary as the musicians played.

With this imagery in mind, the composer has created a set of **Duos by the Lake**. Each movement is inspired by water themes.

#1. "Clear Lake" opens with rapid patterns in piano, as the mist rising. Flute lines are sparse and open, with clarity. Floating, *filigree* patterns emerge. The mist rises once again.

#2. "Where the Great Heron Feeds" opens with with expanding arpeggios, adding extra beats to successive measures, as a heron opening large wings in flight. The flute theme moves slowly, stepwise, as the movement of a great bird.

#3. "Footprints" is marked *stealthily, daintily*. Perhaps these are the tracks left by small birds in the sand by the lake shore. At the end, the creature scurries away!

#4. "Above the Waves" is based on a Celtic ballad, "The Great Silkie." This is the story of a creature which is half-seal, half-man. He comes upon the land to mate, and then returns to the sea. In this interpretation, he comes back to claim his son, teaching him to swim in the ocean, to soar above the waves.

This music explores both the *floating upon the waves* and the *depths of the sea* sonorities.

I am a man upon the land, I am a silkie (seal) on the sea.
And I shall teach my little young son to swim above the waves with me.

Duos by the Lake

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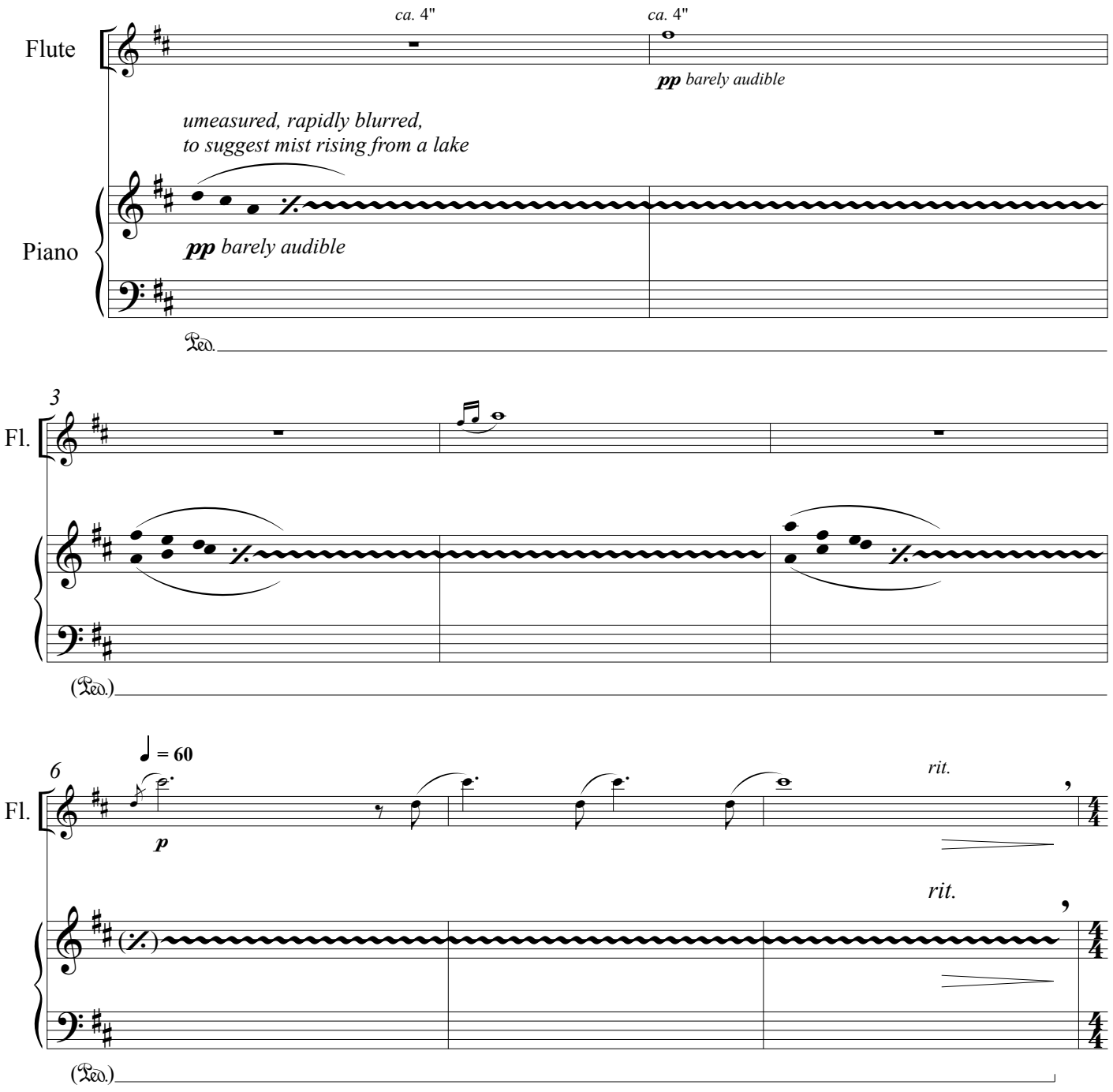
1. Clear Lake



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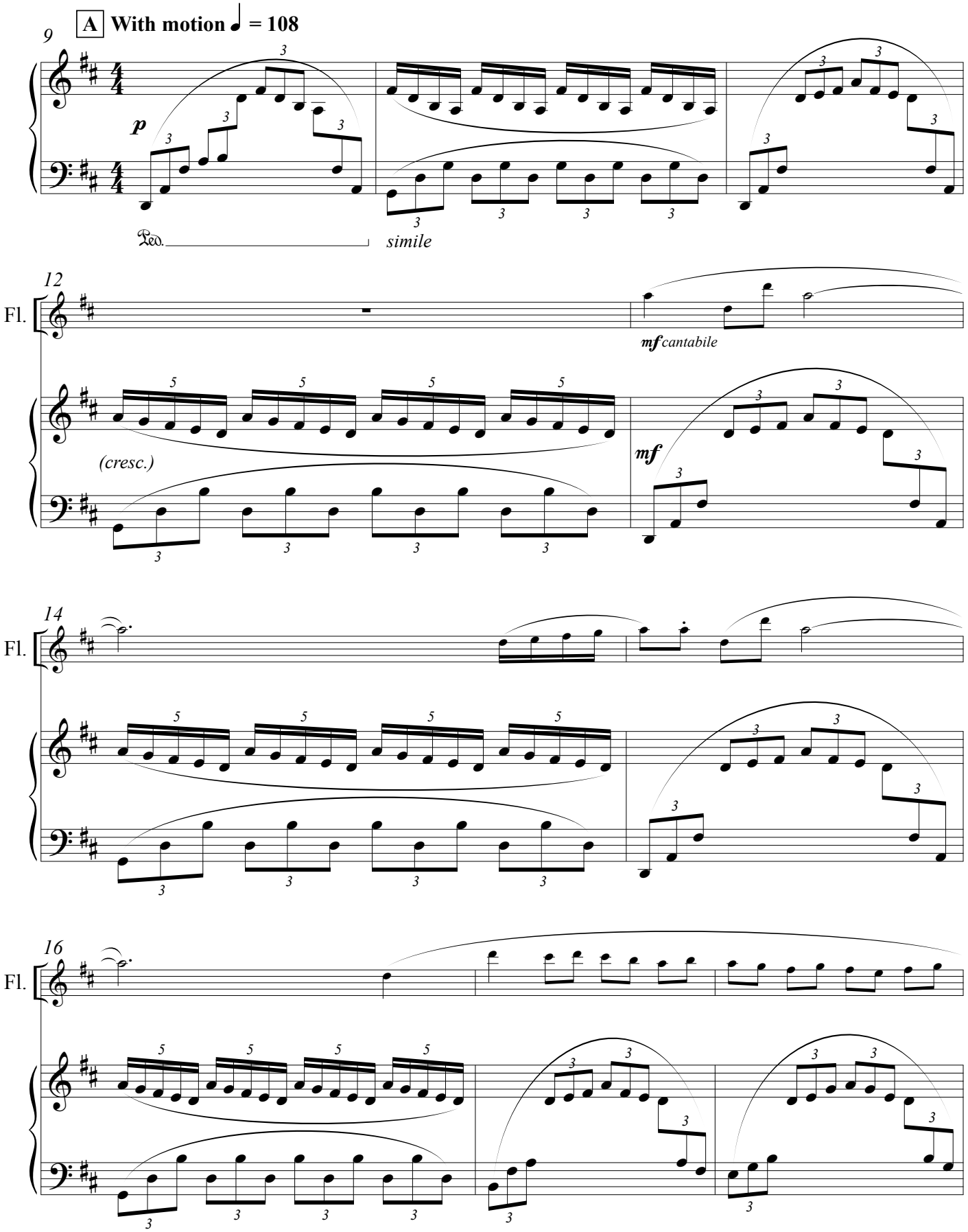
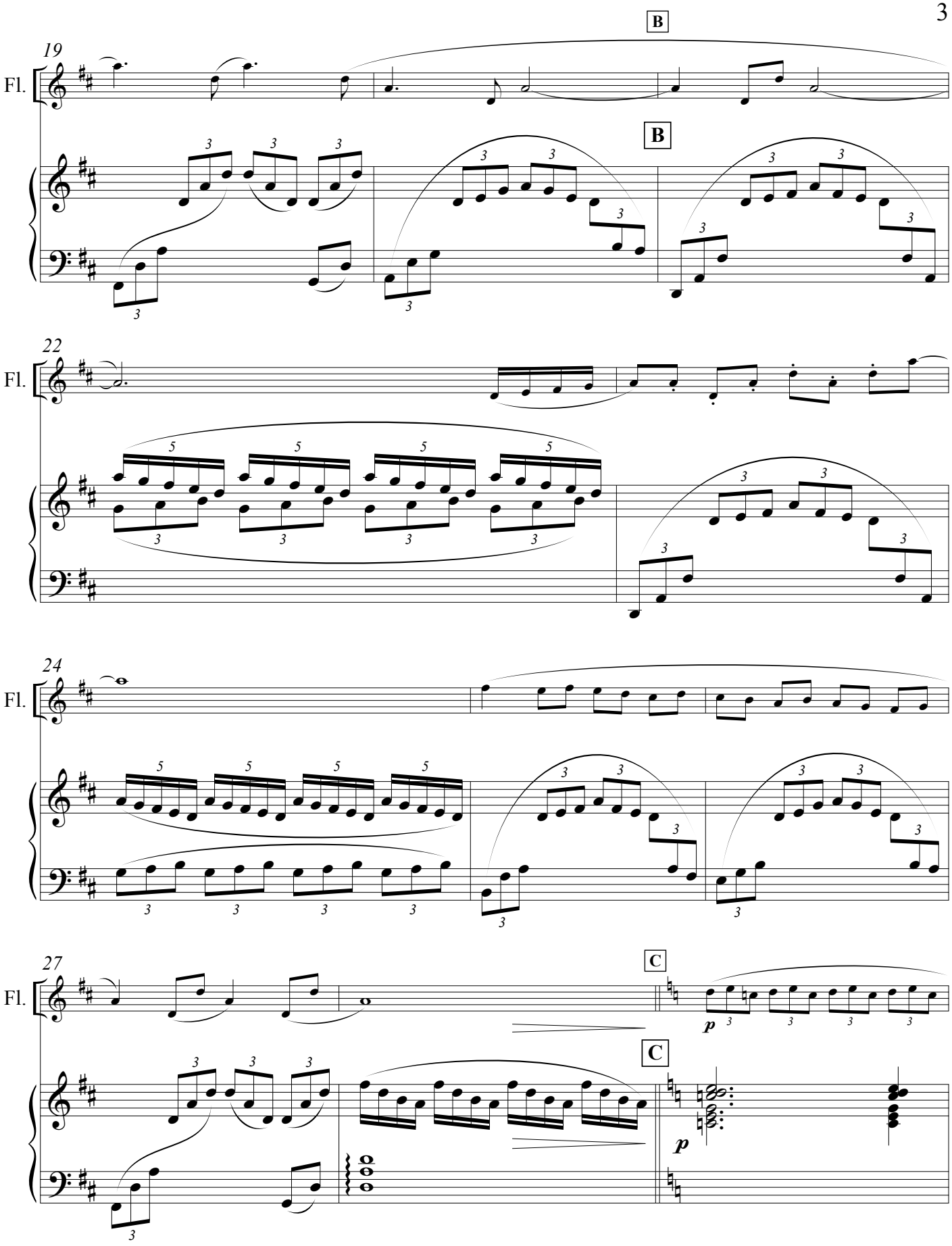
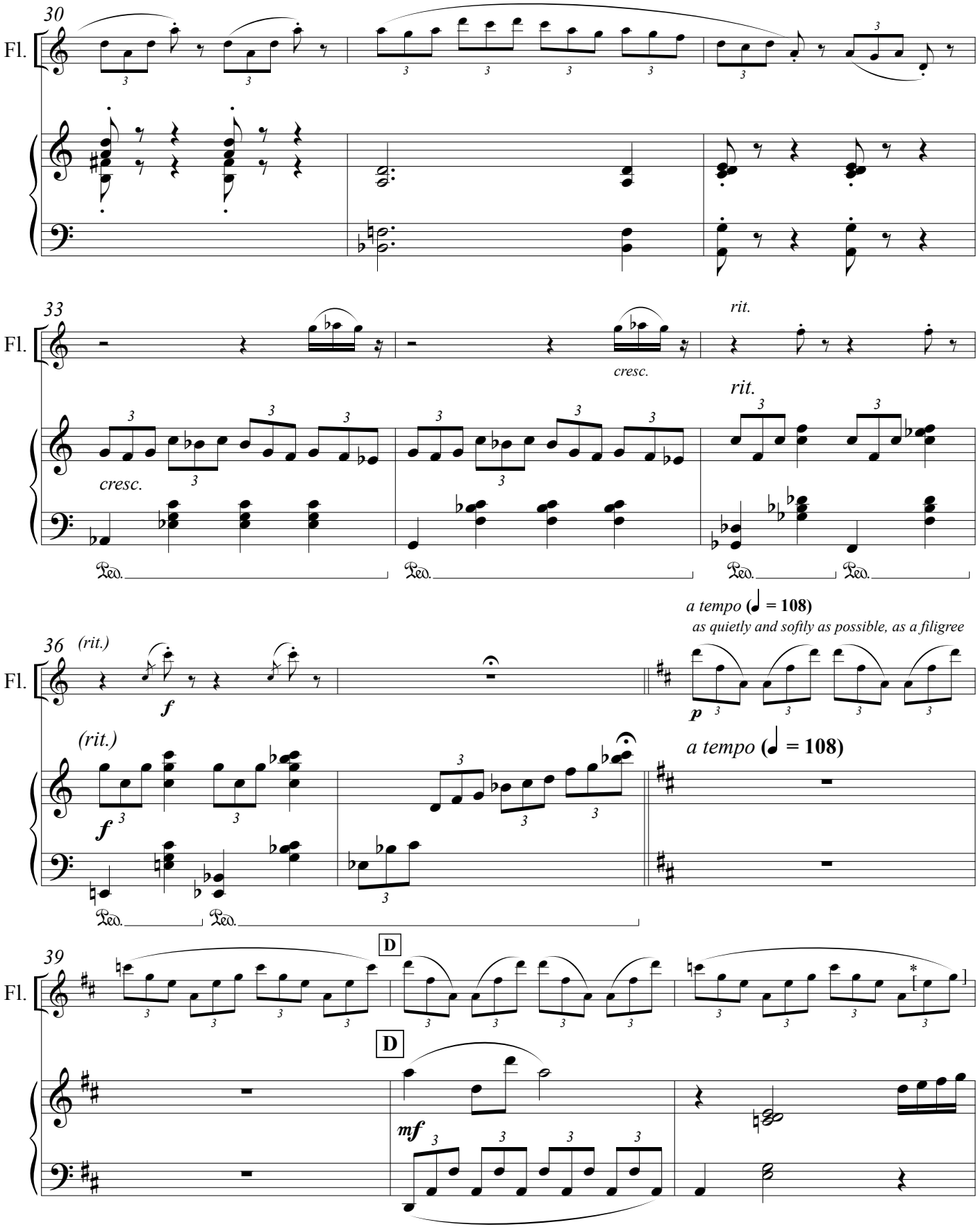
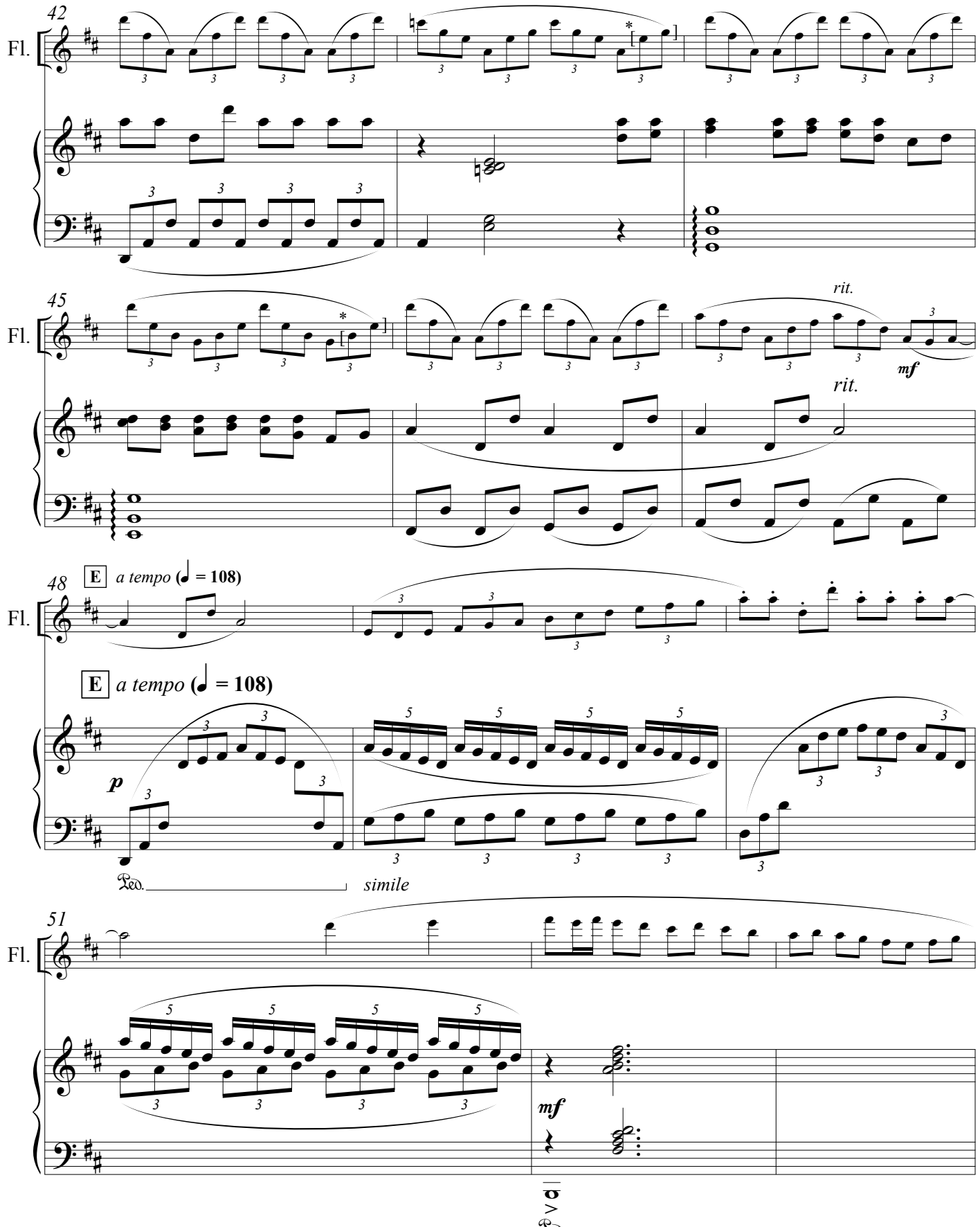

A With motion ♩ = 108
9
p
Ped.
simile
12
Fl.
mf cantabile
(cresc.)
mf
14
Fl.
16
Fl.

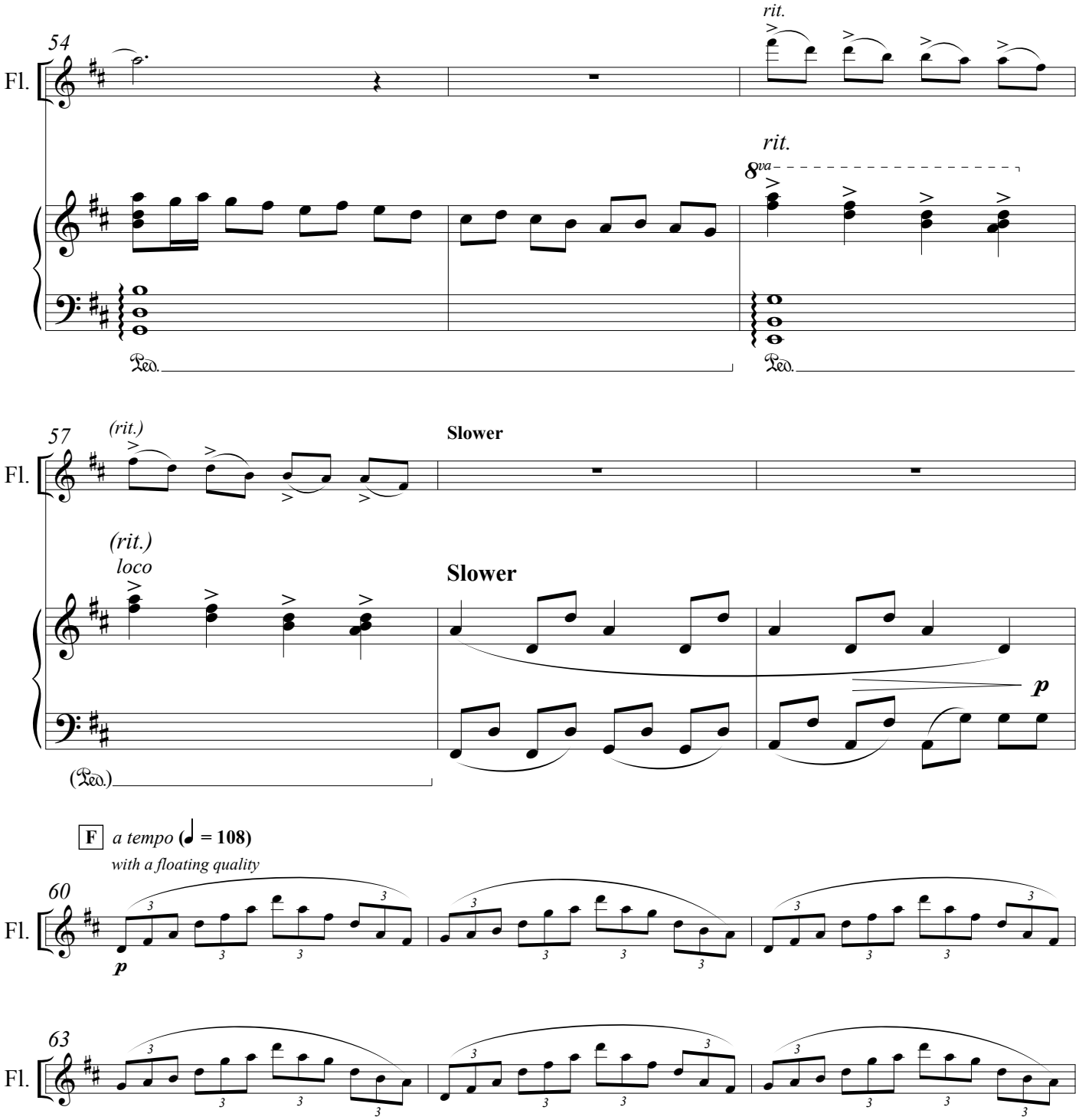

B
19
Fl.
B
22
Fl.
24
Fl.
27
Fl.
C
C
p
p

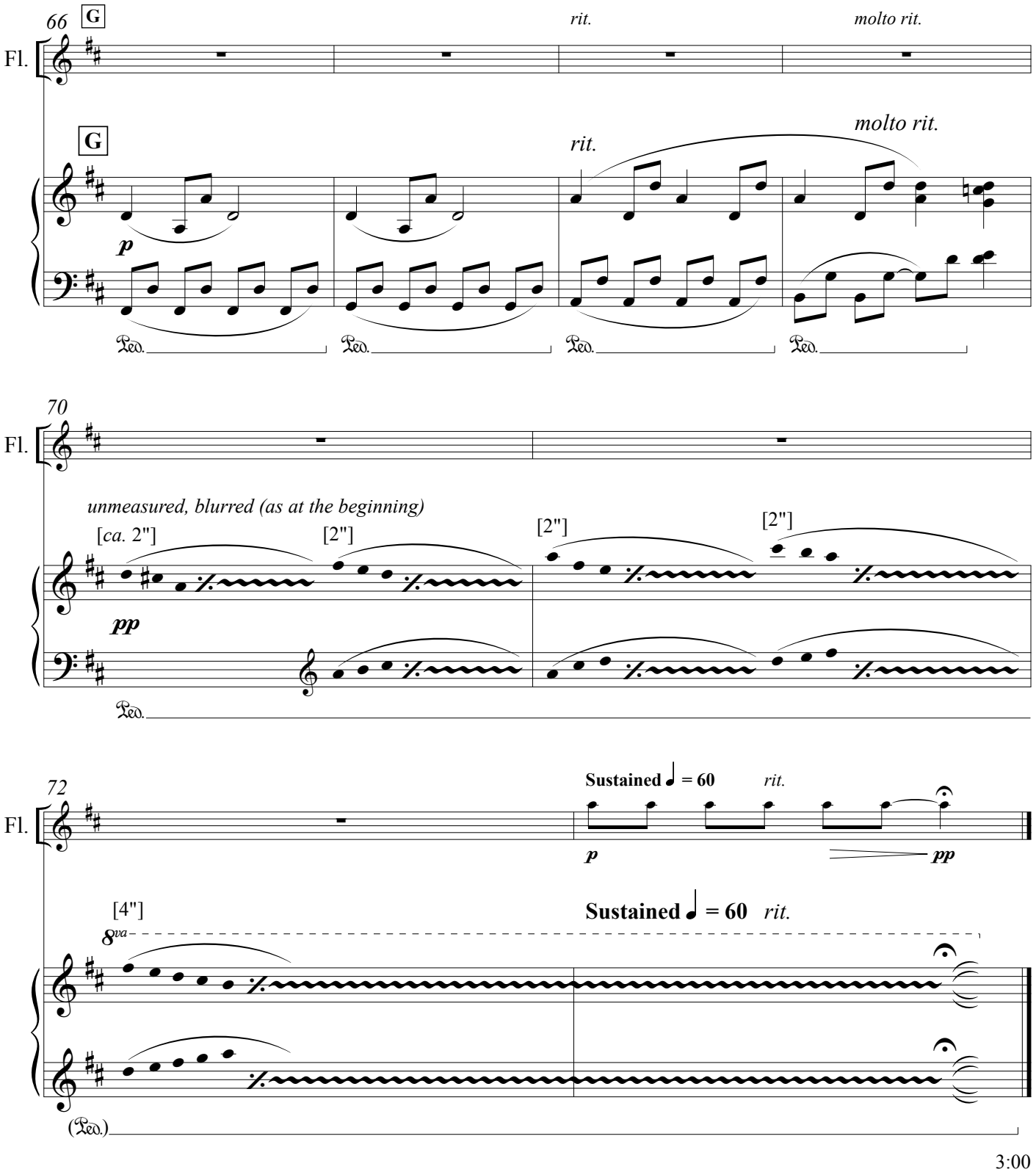


*The last two notes of this measure may be omitted if needed for a good breath.



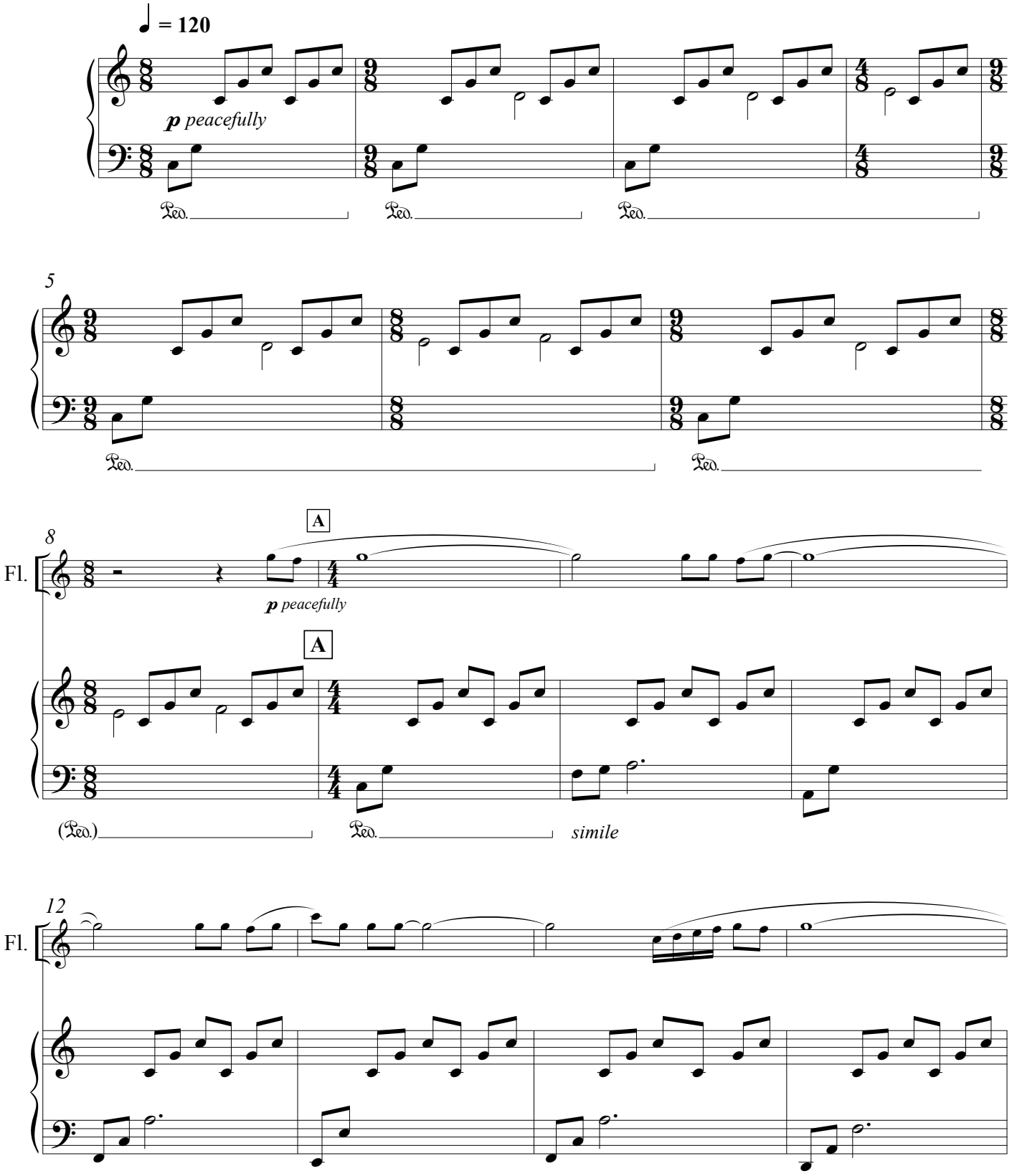
*The last two notes of this measure may be omitted if needed for a good breath.

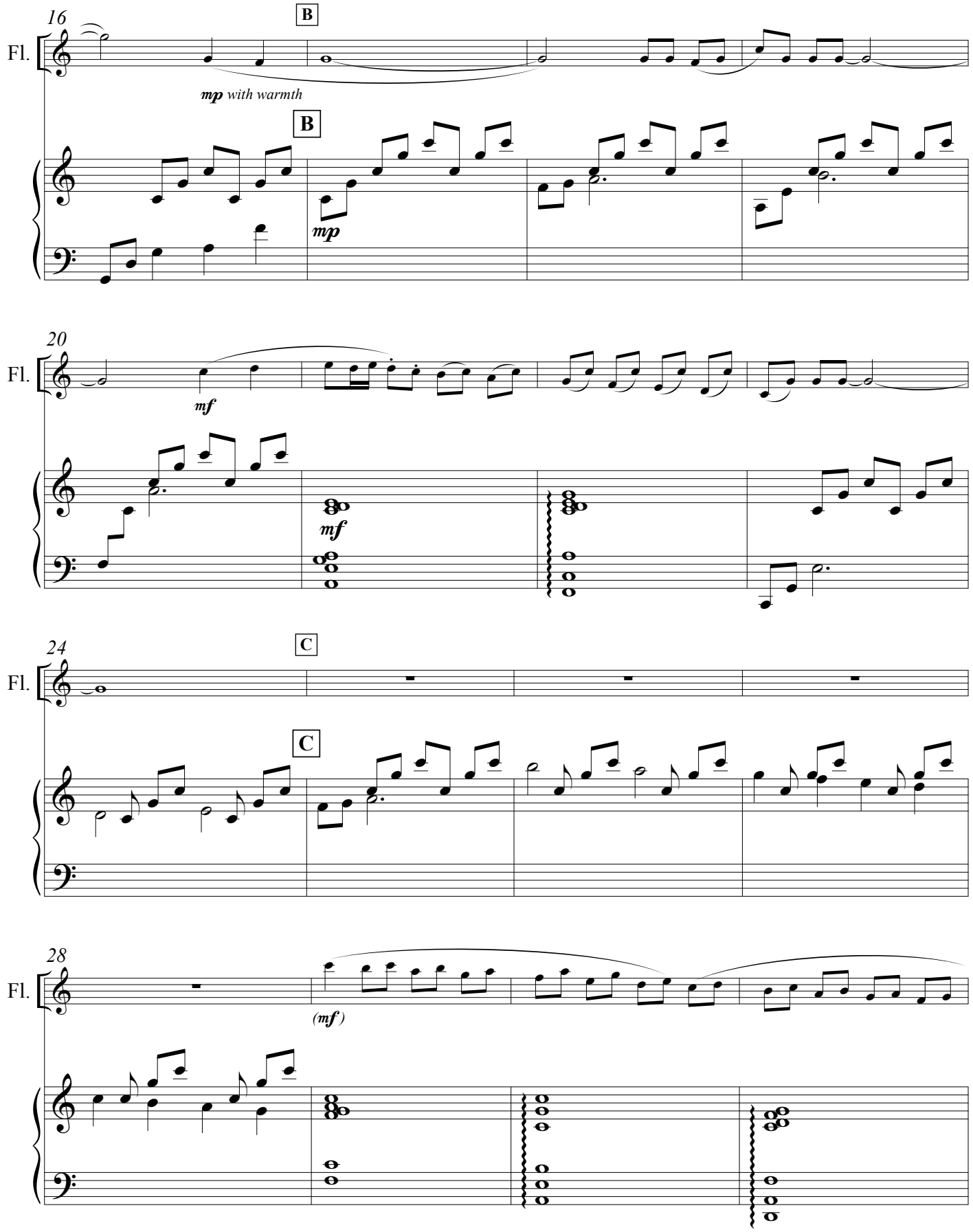

54
Fl.
rit.
rit.
8va
Ped.
Ped.
57
Fl.
(rit.)
Slower
(rit.)
loco
Slower
p
(Ped.)
F
a tempo (♩ = 108)
with a floating quality
60
Fl.
p
63
Fl.

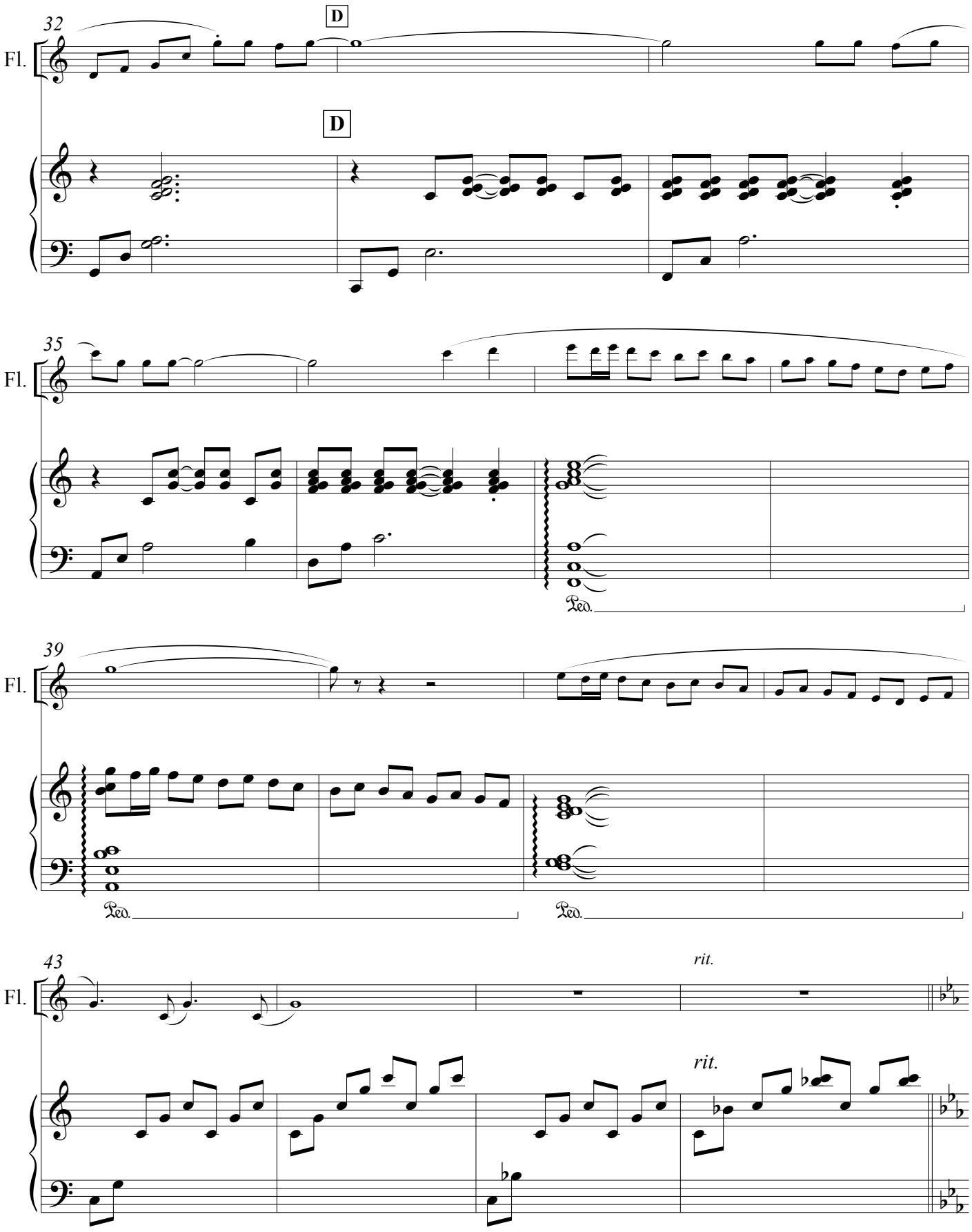

66
G
rit.
molto rit.
Fl.
G
molto rit.
rit.
p
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
70
Fl.
unmeasured, blurred (as at the beginning)
[ca. 2"]
[2"]
[2"]
[2"]
pp
Ped.
72
Fl.
Sustained ♩ = 60
rit.
p
pp
[4"]
Sustained ♩ = 60
rit.
8va
(Ped.)

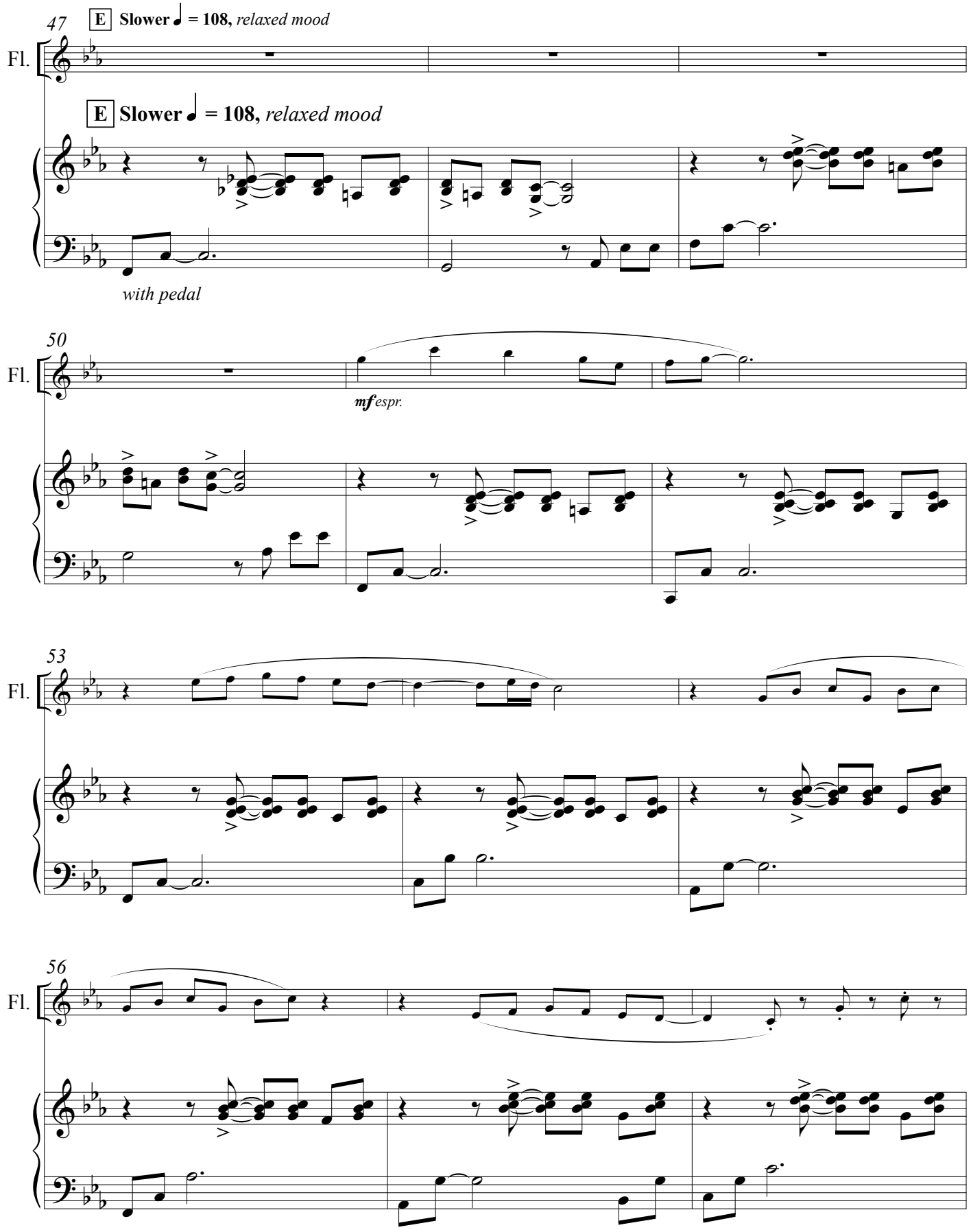
3:00

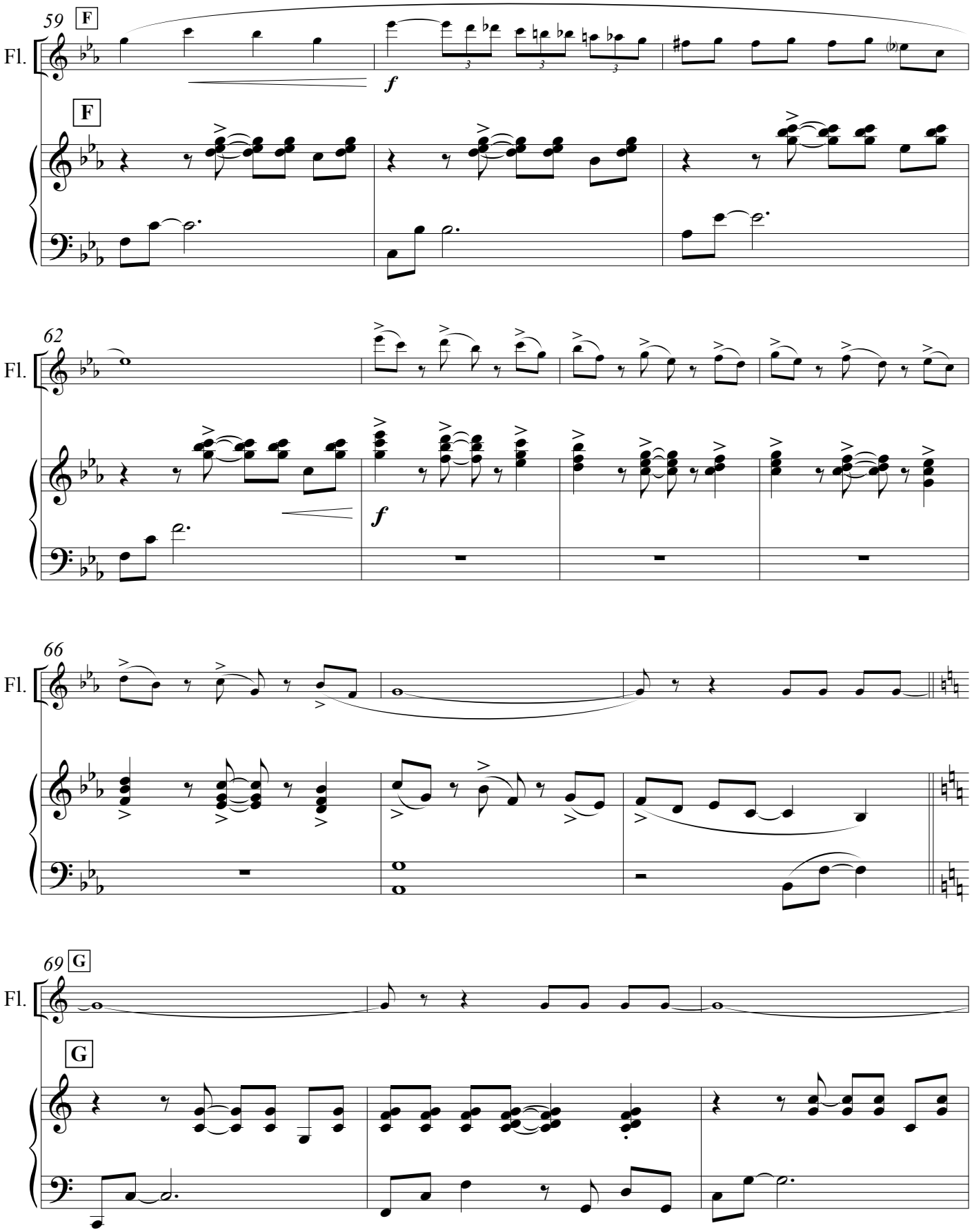
2. Where the Great Heron Feeds

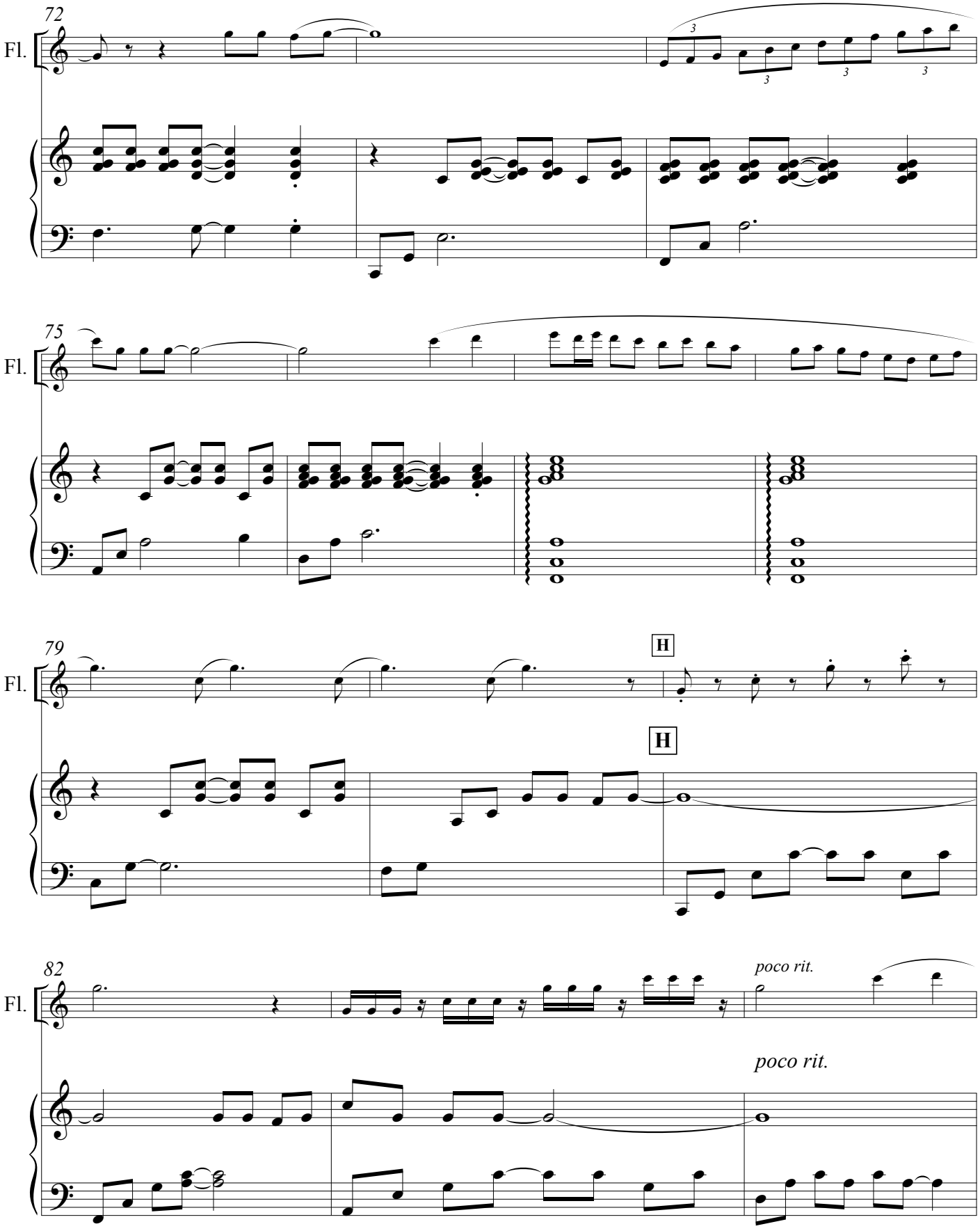


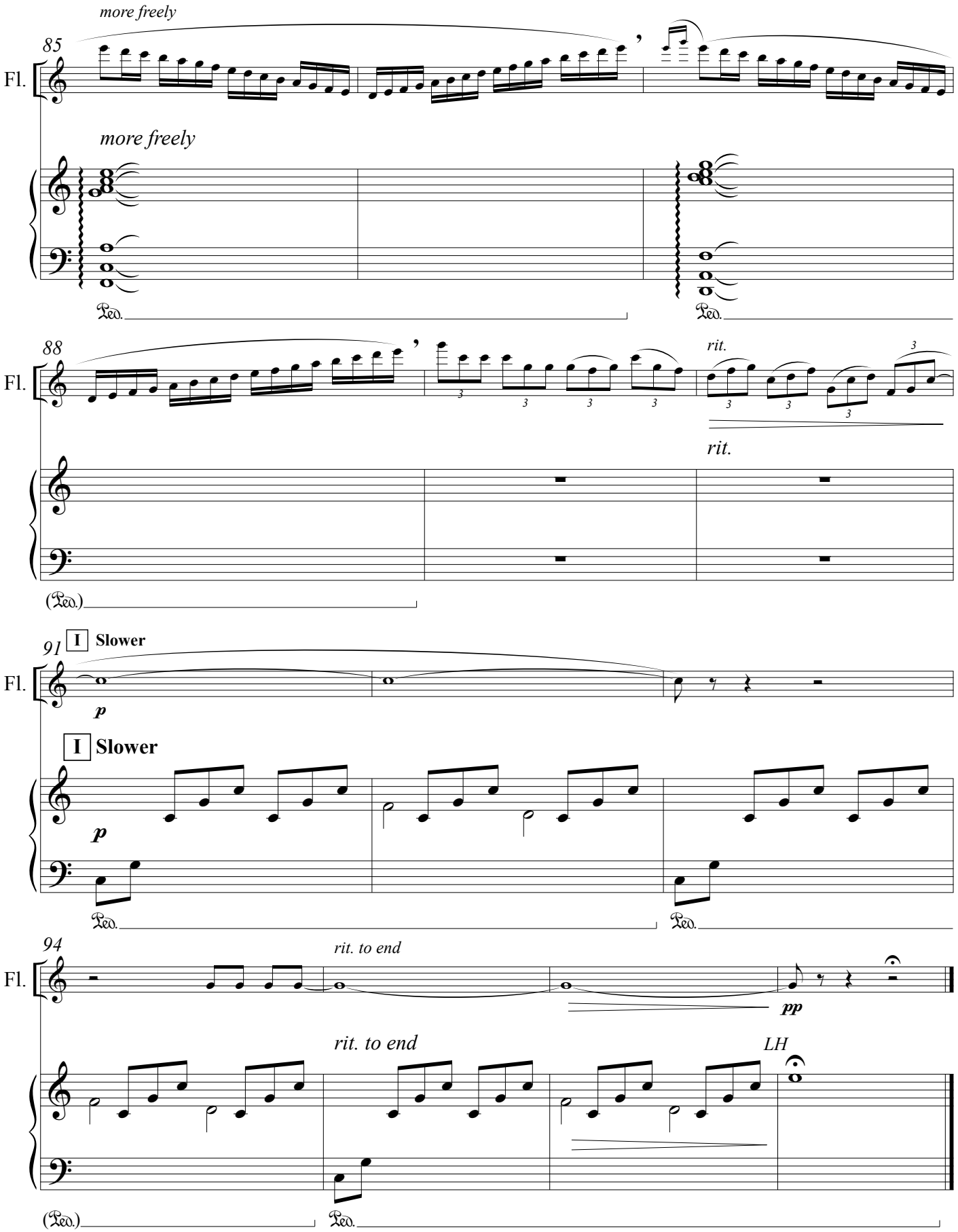

16
B
Fl.
mp with warmth
B
mp
20
Fl.
mf
mf
24
C
Fl.
C
28
Fl.
(mf)


32
D
Fl.
D
35
Fl.
Ped.
39
Fl.
Ped.
Ped.
43
rit.
Fl.
rit.

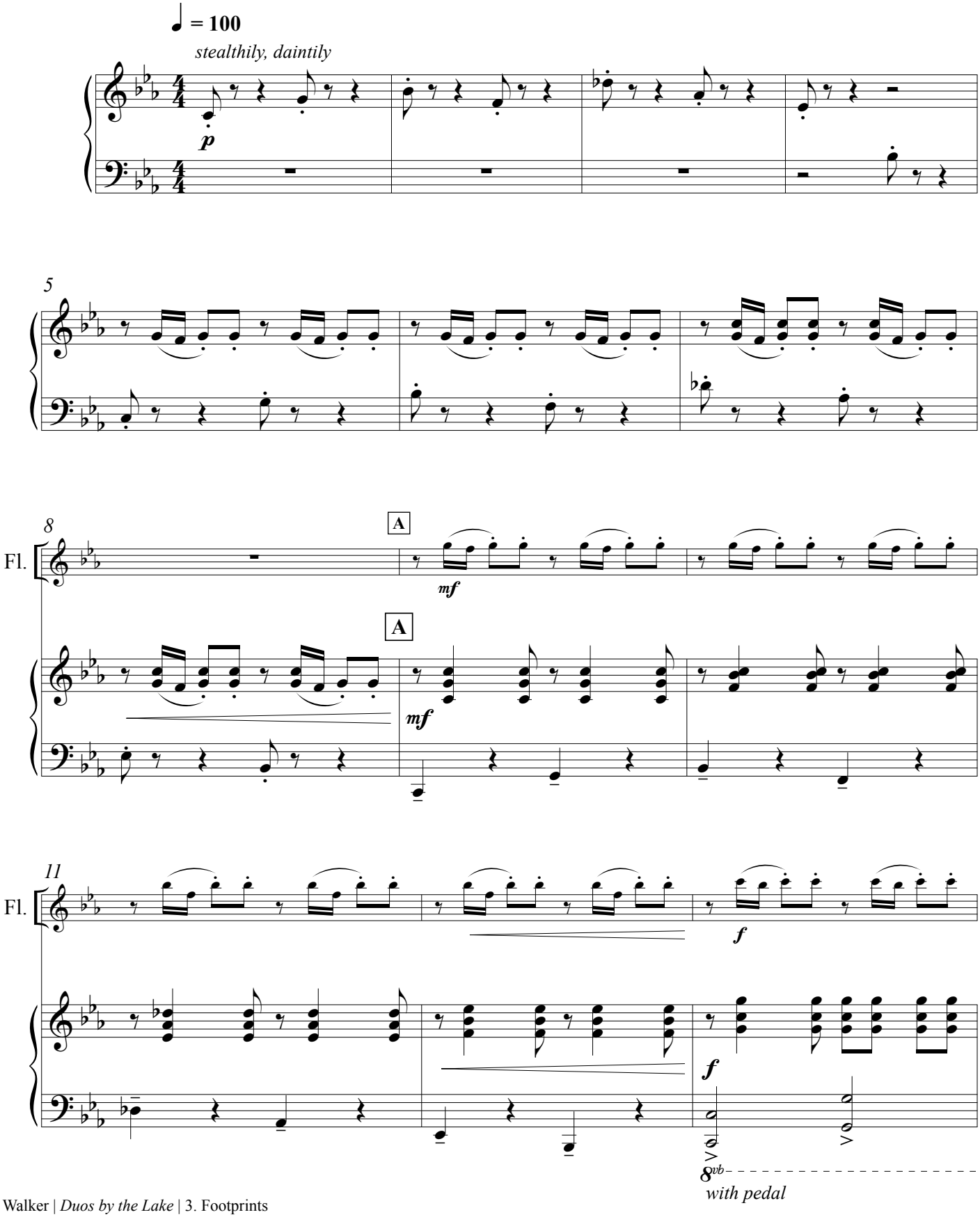

47
E Slower ♩ = 108, relaxed mood
Fl.
E Slower ♩ = 108, relaxed mood
with pedal
50
Fl.
mf espr.
53
Fl.
56
Fl.

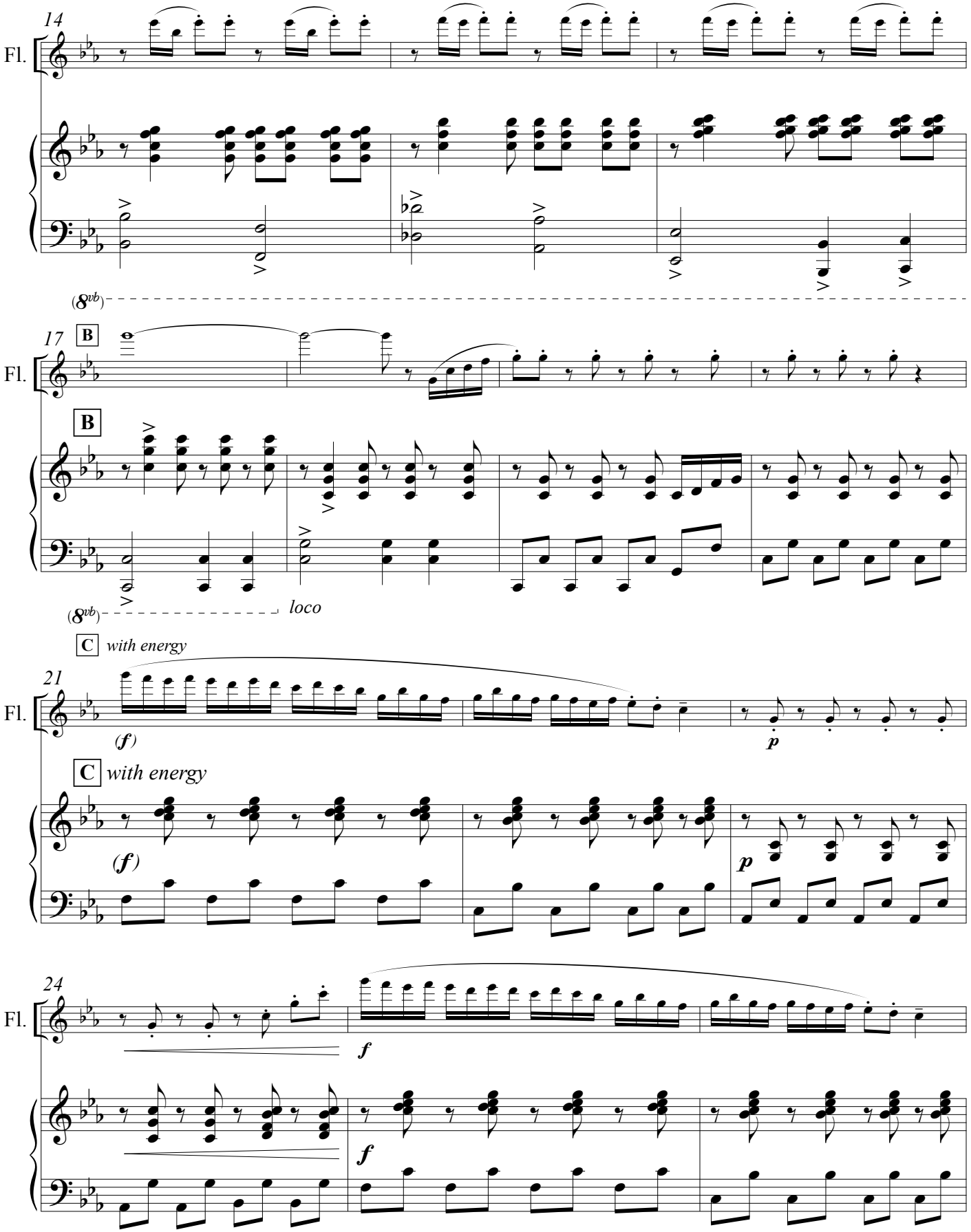

59
F
Fl.
f
62
66
69
G

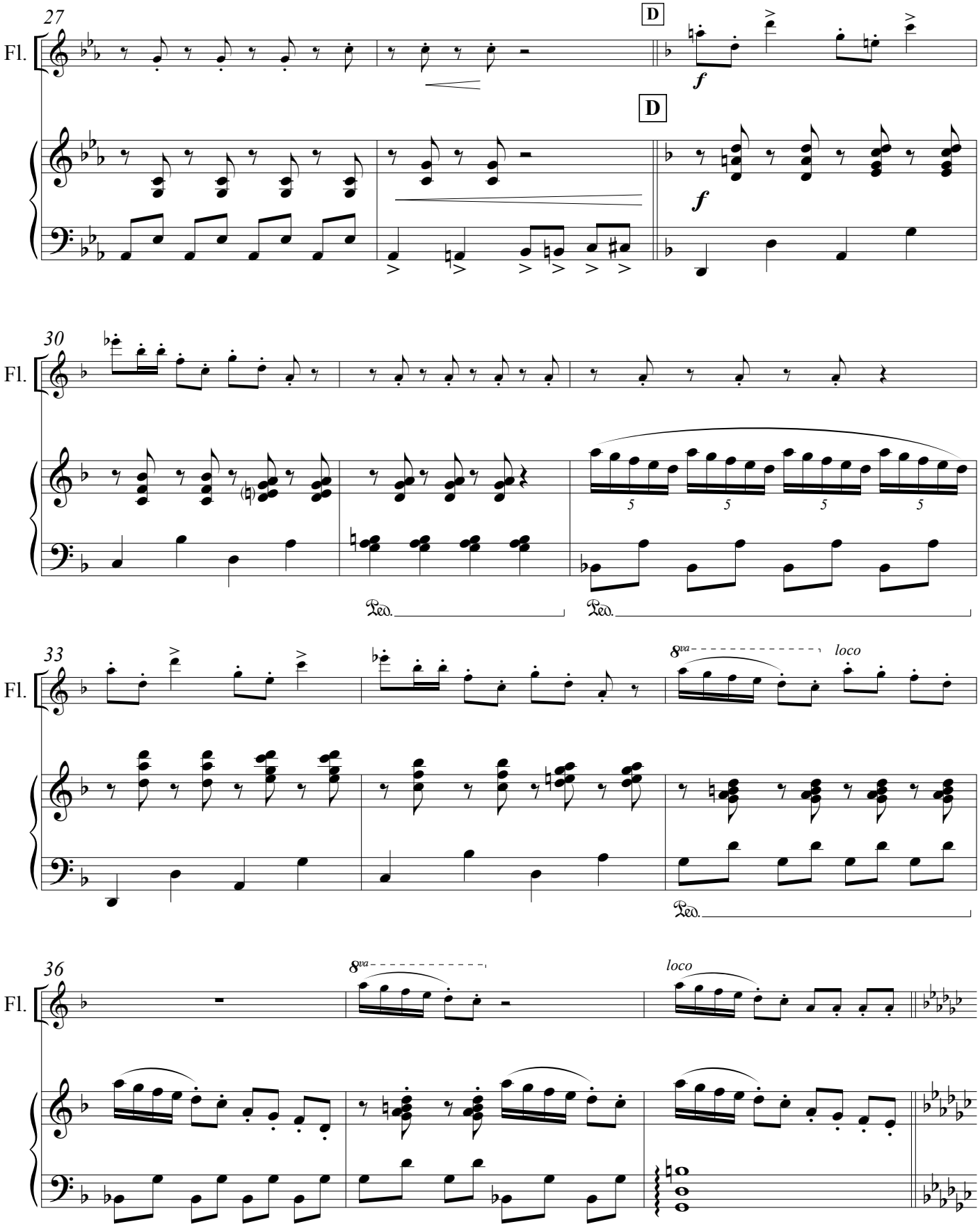

72
Fl.
75
Fl.
79
Fl.
H
H
82
Fl.
poco rit.
poco rit.

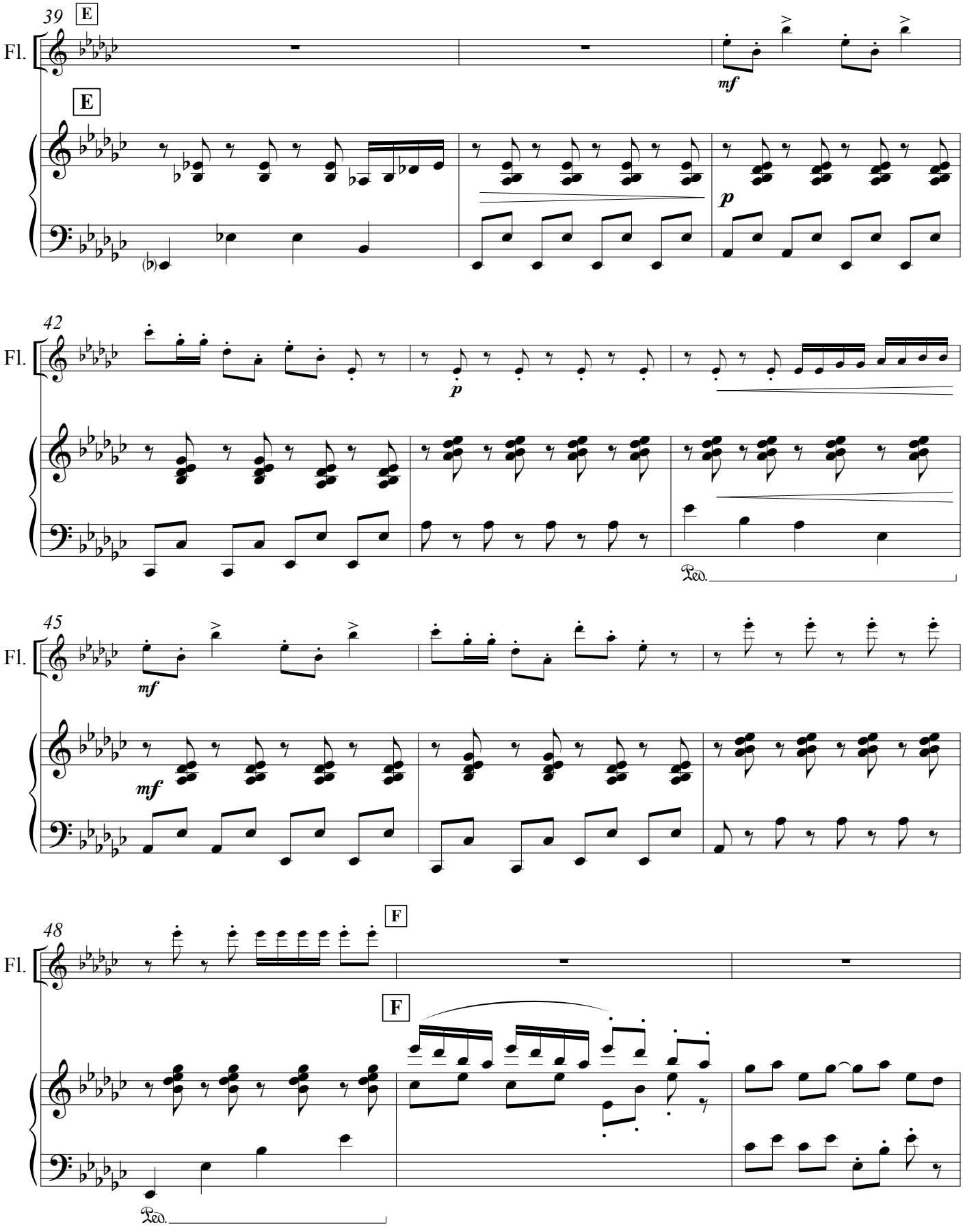

more freely
85
Fl.
more freely
Ped.
Ped.
88
Fl.
rit.
rit.
(Ped.)
91
I Slower
Fl.
p
I Slower
p
Ped.
Ped.
94
rit. to end
Fl.
pp
rit. to end
LH
(Ped.)
Ped.

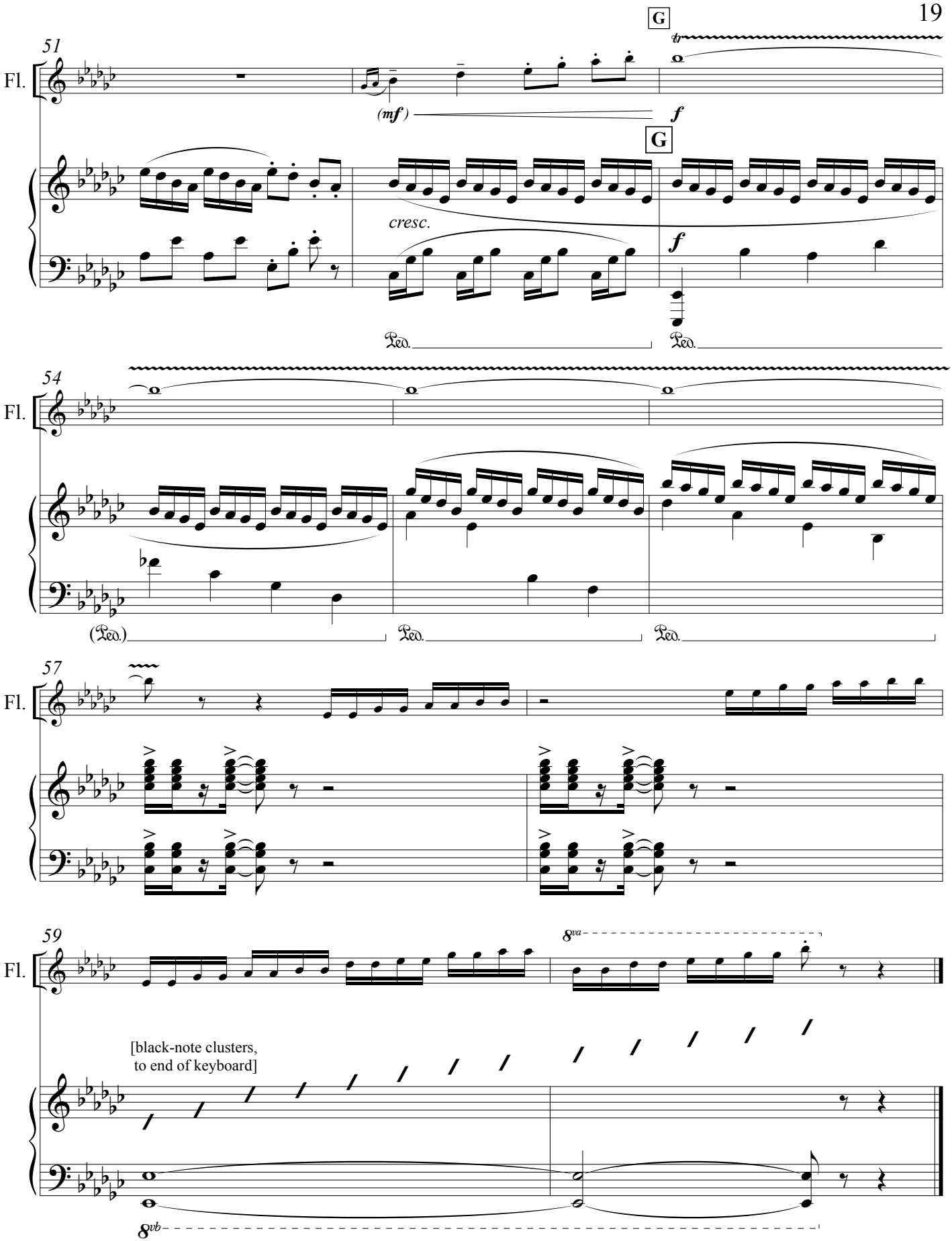
3. Footprints



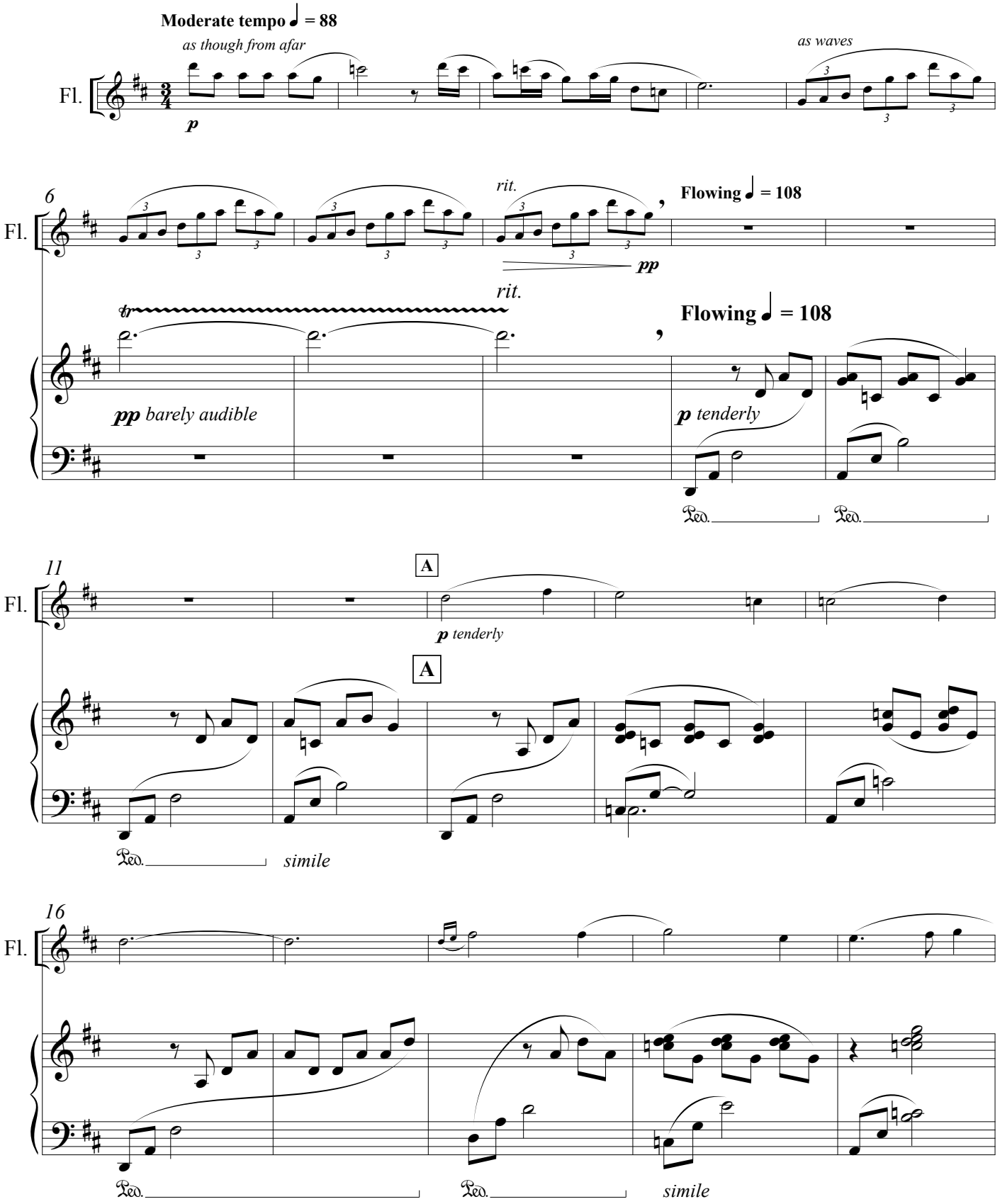

14
Fl.
(8vb)
17
B
Fl.
B
(8vb)
loco
C with energy
21
Fl.
(f)
p
C with energy
(f)
p
24
Fl.
f
f

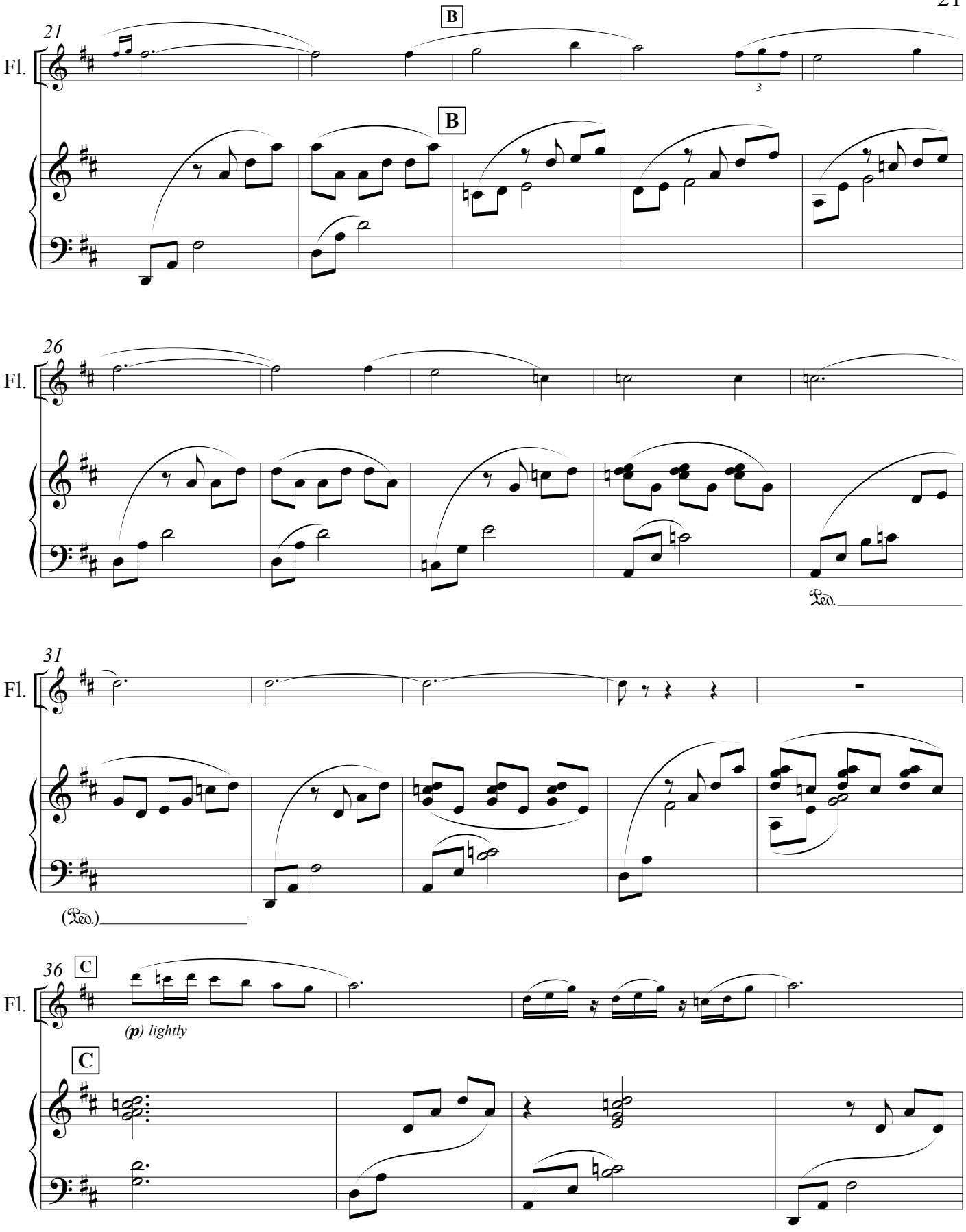

27
Fl.
D
f
D
f
30
Fl.
5
5
5
5
Ped.
Ped.
33
Fl.
8va
loco
Ped.
36
Fl.
8va
loco

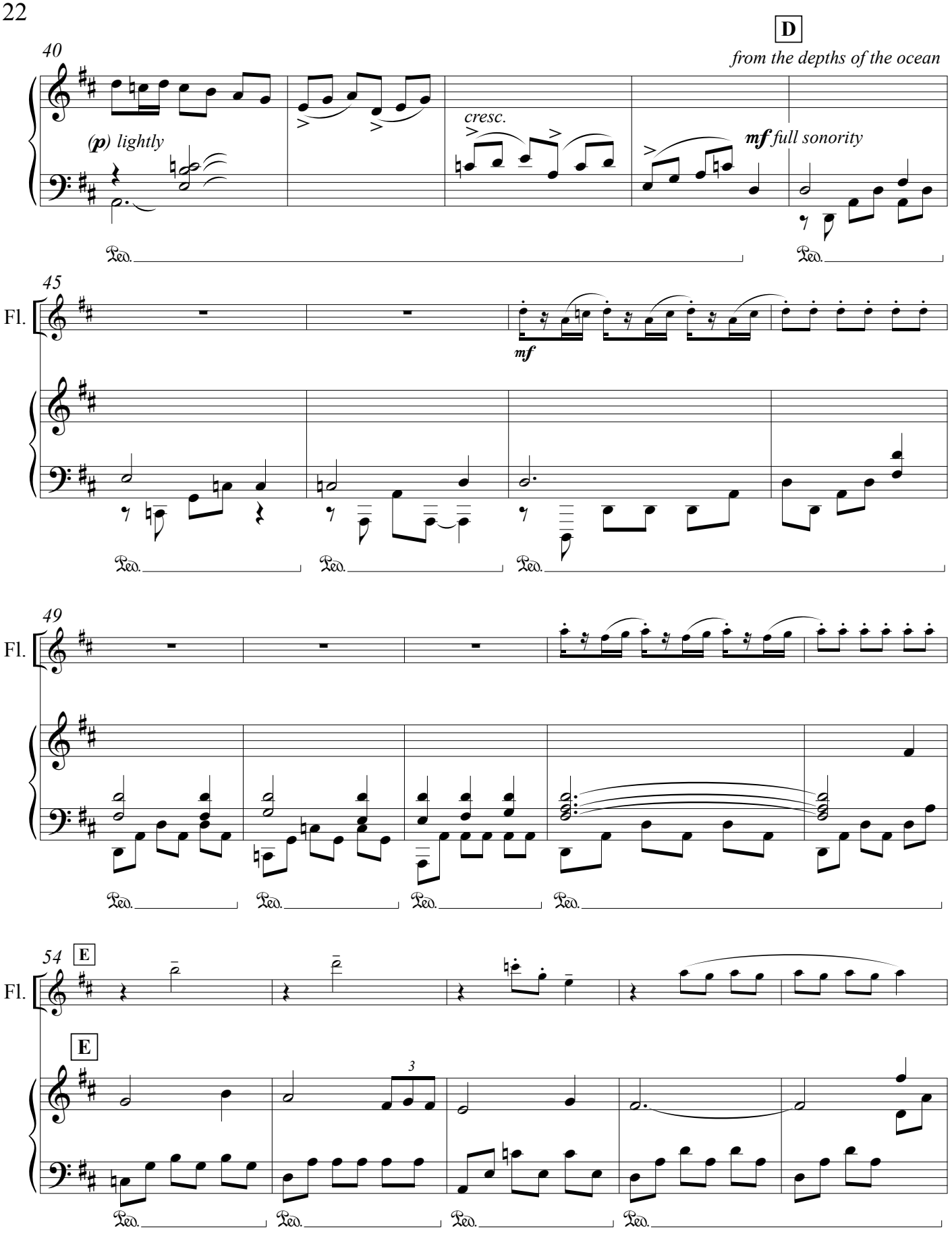

39
E
Fl.
E
mf
p
42
Fl.
p
Ped.
45
Fl.
mf
mf
48
F
Fl.
F
Ped.

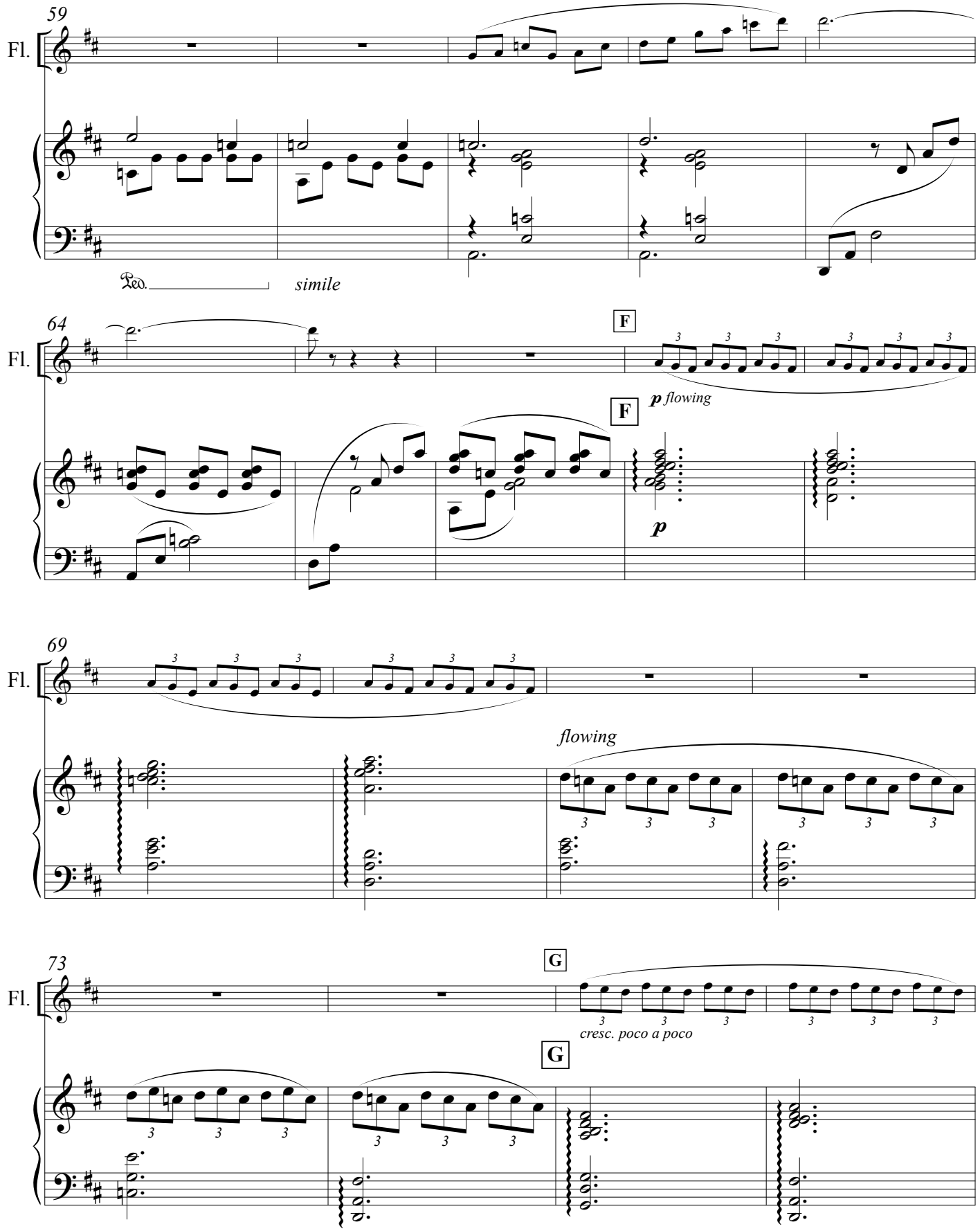

G
51
Fl.
tr
(mf)
f
G
cresc.
f
Ped.
Ped.
54
Fl.
(Ped.)
Ped.
Ped.
57
Fl.
59
Fl.
8va
[black-note clusters,
to end of keyboard]
8vb

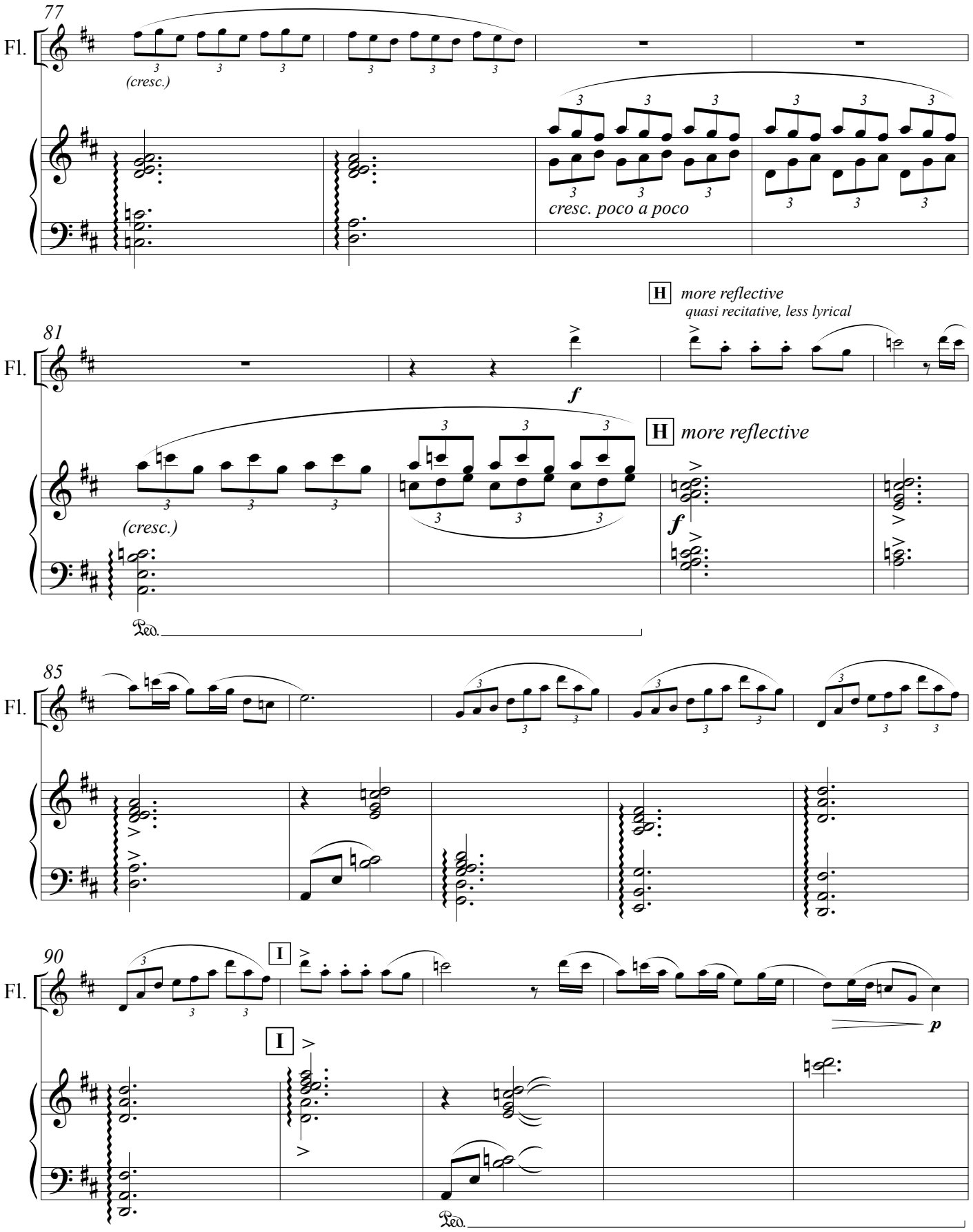
4. Above the Waves

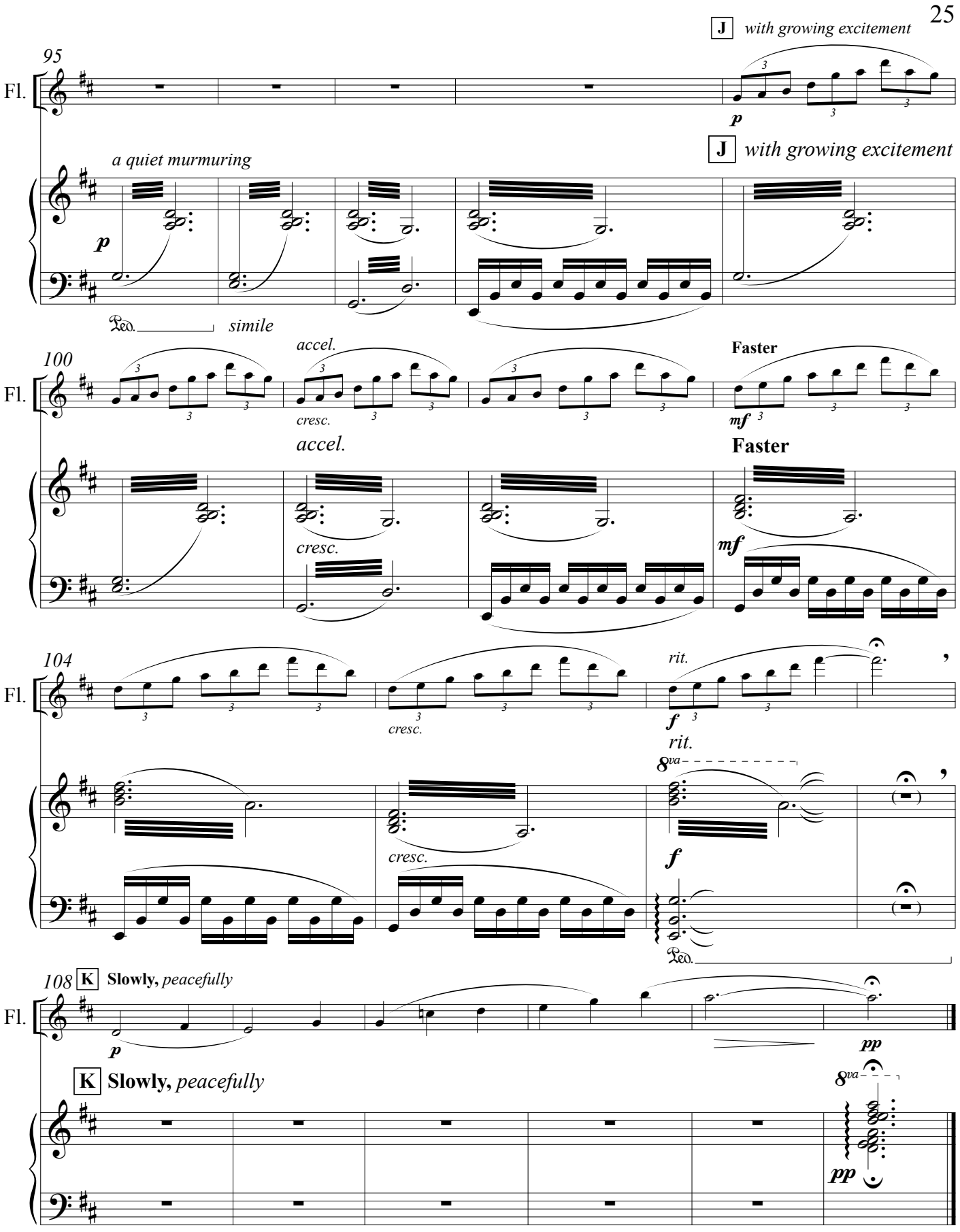



21
B
Fl.
B
26
Fl.
Ped.
31
Fl.
(Ped.)
36
C
Fl.
(p) lightly
C


D
from the depths of the ocean
40
(p) lightly
cresc.
mf full sonority
45
Fl.
mf
49
Fl.
54
E
Fl.
E
3


59
Fl.
Ped.
simile
64
Fl.
F
F
p flowing
p
69
Fl.
flowing
73
Fl.
G
G
cresc. poco a poco


77
Fl.
(cresc.)
cresc. poco a poco
H more reflective
quasi recitative, less lyrical
81
Fl.
f
H more reflective
(cresc.)
f
Ped.
85
Fl.
90
Fl.
I
I
p
Ped.


J with growing excitement
95
Fl.
p
J with growing excitement
a quiet murmuring
p
Ped.
simile
100
Fl.
accel.
cresc.
Faster
mf
accel.
Faster
cresc.
mf
104
Fl.
cresc.
rit.
f
rit.
8va
cresc.
f
Ped.
108 K Slowly, peacefully
Fl.
p
pp
K Slowly, peacefully
8va
pp