Full Score

HOWARD HANSON

YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO THE SIX-TONE SCALE

A Suite for Solo Piano, Winds and Percussion

Score and Parts available on Rental.

CARL FISCHER®
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Howard Hanson, Director of the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester from 1924 to 1964, wrote *Young Person's Guide to the Six-Tone Scale* in 1971-72 on commission by the School for its 50th anniversary. The "Guide," a Suite for Solo Piano, Winds, and Percussion, was first performed at the Eastman Theatre by Barry Snyder, pianist, with the Eastman Wind Ensemble, Donald Hunsberger conducting, on November 17, 1972.

In a short introduction to the "Guide," Hanson described the motivation and processes involved in his work as follows:

> "My purpose has been to write a composition embracing every possible category of the six-tone scale. For this reason, each variation is necessarily short, the longest lasting one minute and fifteen seconds, the shortest twenty seconds.
>
> The variations number thirty-five because there are thirty-five different categories of six-tone scales. This means that there are thirty-five types of different tonal mixtures in terms of the intervals used.
>
> The thirty-five are divided into seven sub-divisions. The first four are dominated by the consonant interval of the perfect fifth, or its inversion, the perfect fourth. Scales five through ten are dominated by the mild dissonance of the major second, or its inversion, the minor seventh. Scales eleven through fifteen are dominated by the mild consonance of the minor third, or its inversion, the major sixth. Scales sixteen through twenty-one are dominated by the "bright" sound of the consonance of the major third, or its inversion, the minor sixth. Scales twenty-two through twenty-five are dominated by the harsh dissonance of the minor second, or its inversion, the major seventh. Scales twenty-six through thirty-two are dominated by the mysterious interval of the "tritone," the interval which the ancients termed the *diabolus in musica* — the musical "Devil." Scales thirty-three through thirty-five are neutral in color with no one interval dominating.
>
> Summarized in table form:
>
> 1-4: the consonant interval of the perfect fifth/its inversion, the perfect fourth
> 5-10: the mild dissonance of the major second/minor seventh
> 11-15: the mild consonance of the minor third/major sixth
> 16-21: the brilliant consonance of the major third/minor sixth
> 22-25: the harsh dissonance of the minor second/major seventh
> 26-32: the mysterious tritone, the "devil's interval"
> 33-35: neutral, with no dominating interval
>
> Certain of the six-tone scales may sound strange for the reason that they have rarely been used. Others contain certain colors which illuminate the tonal vocabulary of some of my favorite composers! I hope that my listeners will forgive me for variation 22.
>
> I suppose that I might sum up by saying that *Young Composer's Guide to the Six-Tone Scale* is a light-hearted approach to a serious subject requiring considerable cerebration on the part of the composer and concentration on the part of his audience. If my listeners have even a fraction as much fun listening to it as I had in writing it I shall be amply repaid."

INSTRUMENTATION

3 Flutes (3rd alternating Piccolo)
2 Oboes
English Horn (alternating 3rd Oboe)
3 Bb Clarinet
Bass Clarinet
2 Bassoons
Contrabassoon

4 Horns in F
3 Bb Trumpets
3 Trombones
Tuba

Piano
Celesta
Percussion: Xylophone, Marimba, Bells, Gong,
Suspended Cymbal, Snare Drum, Bass Drum

N.B. There is to be no doubling of any instrumental part.

●

The official title of this work is noted in Grove's Dictionary of American Music, with all authentic bibliographic details, as *Young Person's Guide to the Six-Tone Scale*. It was, however, upon occasion referred to by the composer (and appeared on the original manuscript score and parts) as *Young People's Guide to the Six-Tone Scale*. The work has been recorded on Mercury, SRI 75132, by the Eastman Wind Ensemble, conducted by Donald Hunsberger, under the title *Young Composer's Guide to the Six-Tone Scale.*

●

Duration: *ca.* 25 minutes

●

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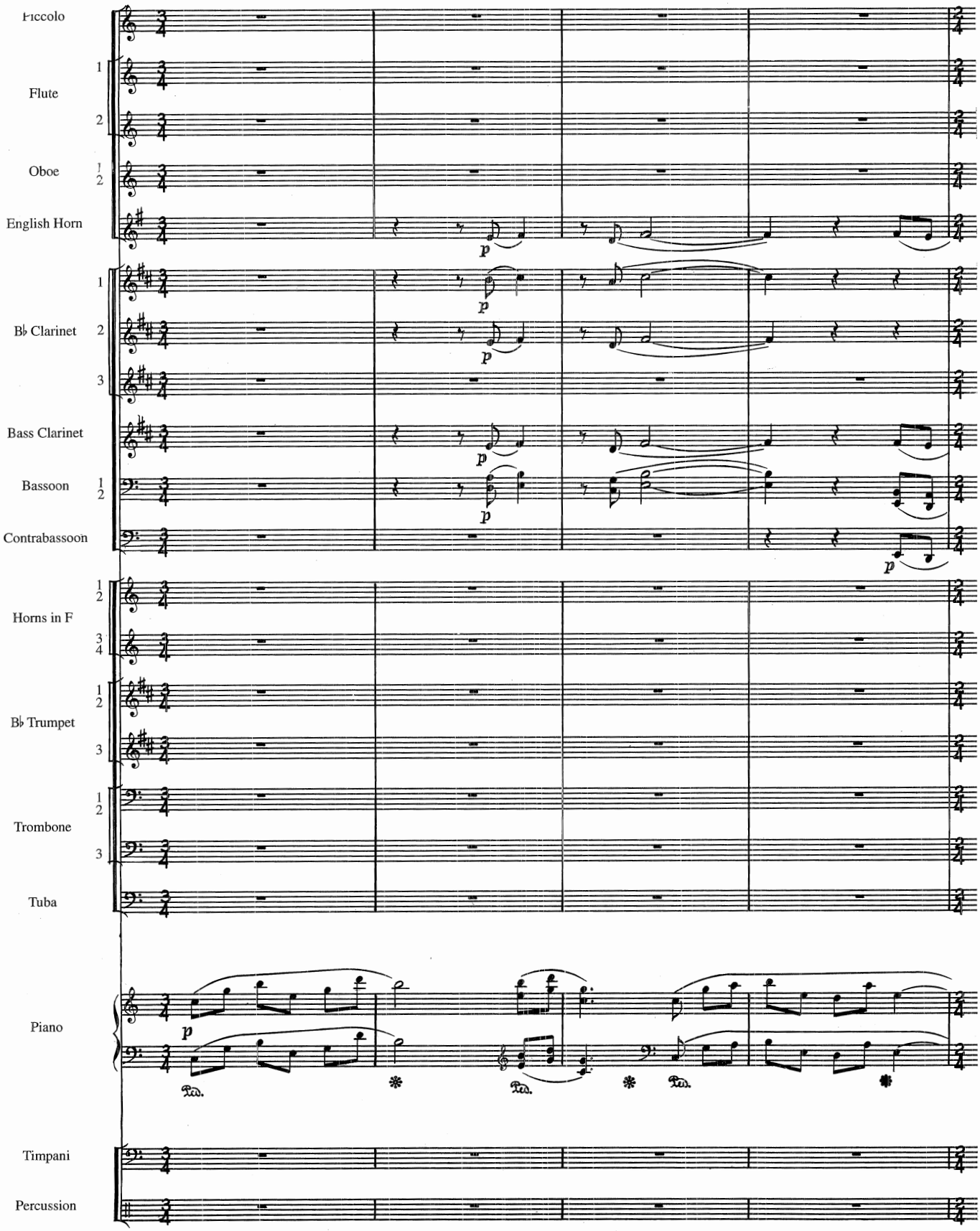
Full Score

YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO THE SIX-TONE SCALE

A Suite for Solo Piano, Winds and Percussion

HOWARD HANSON

No. 1: Andante semplice (♩ = 66)



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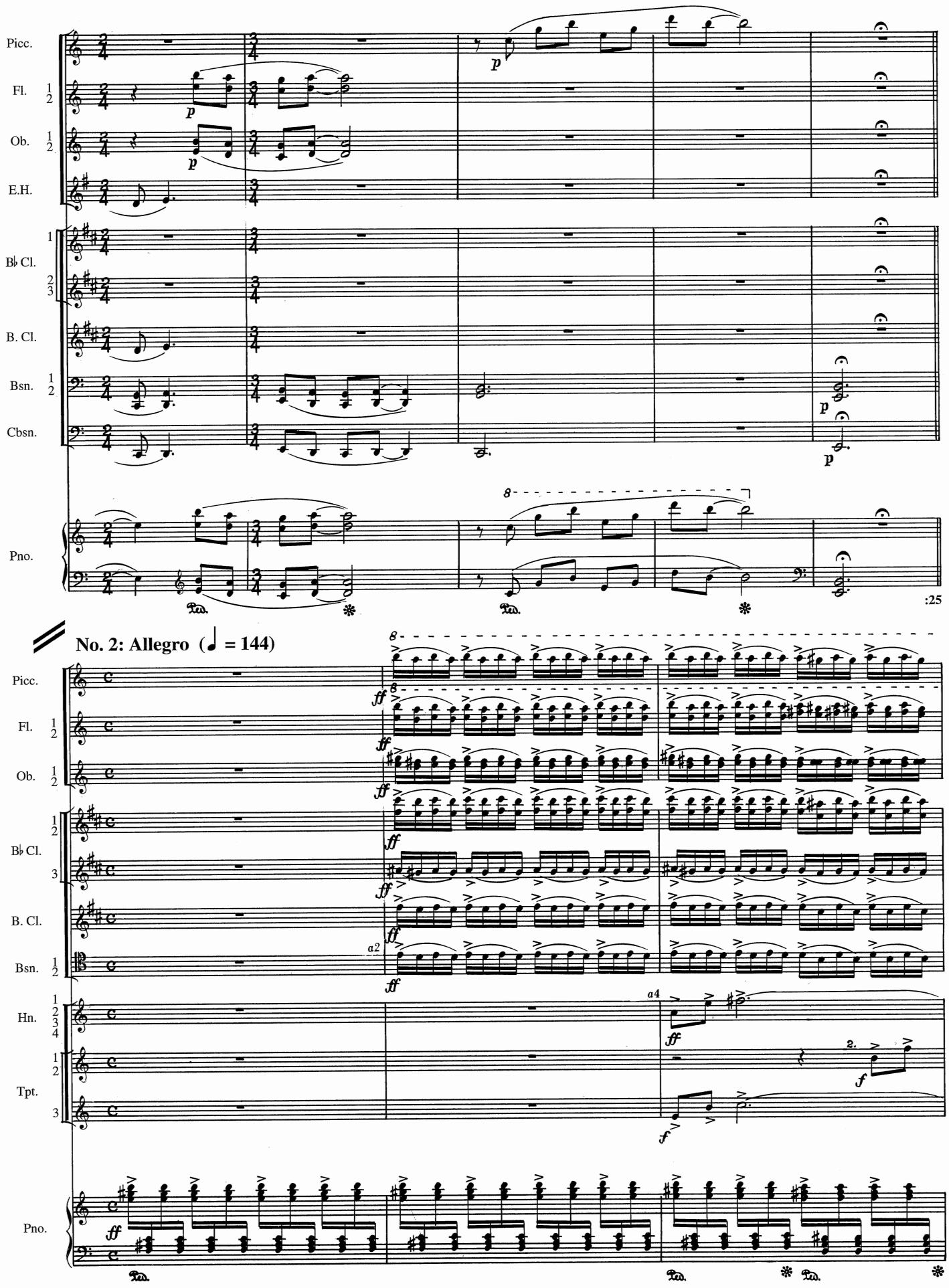
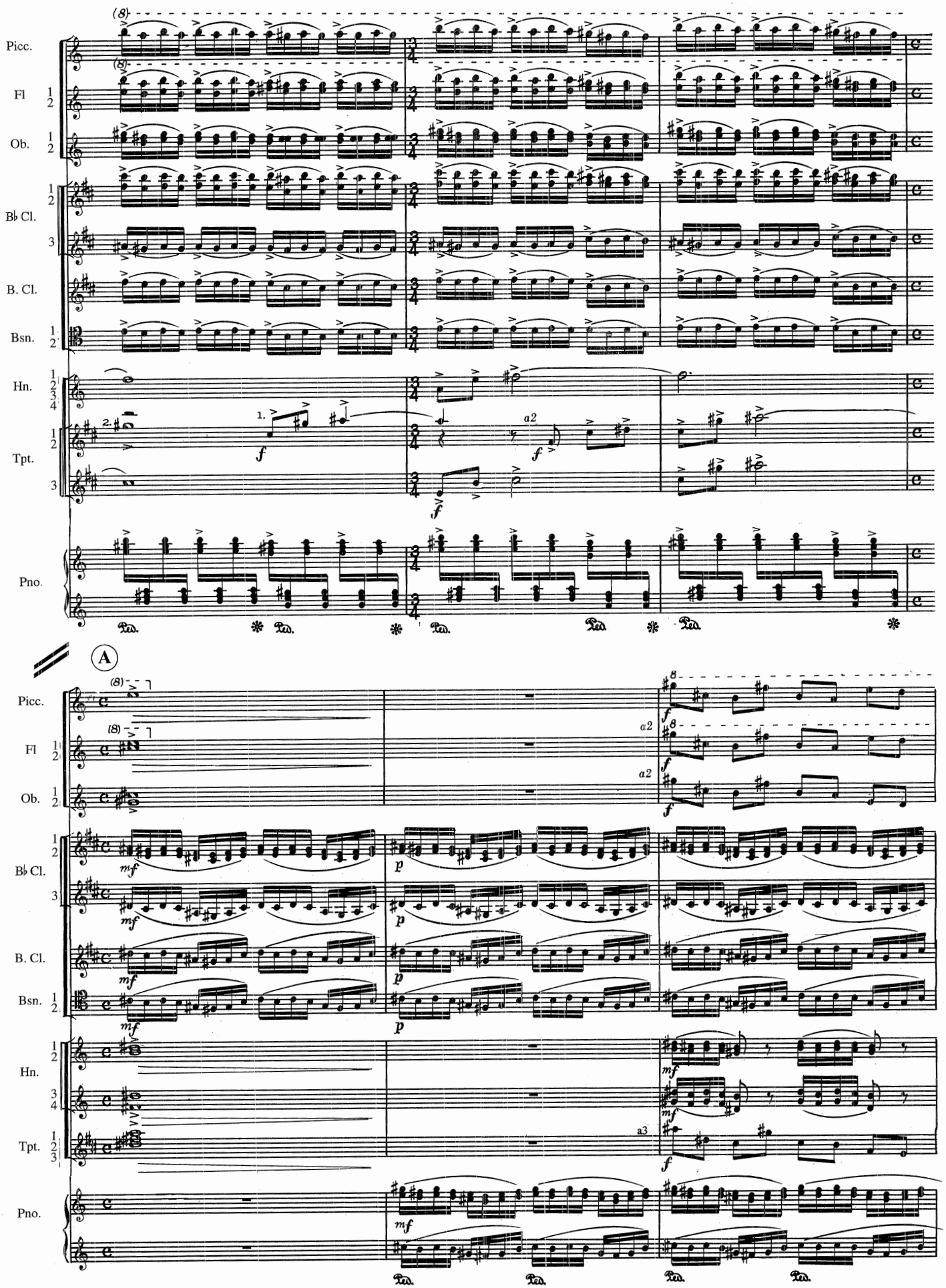
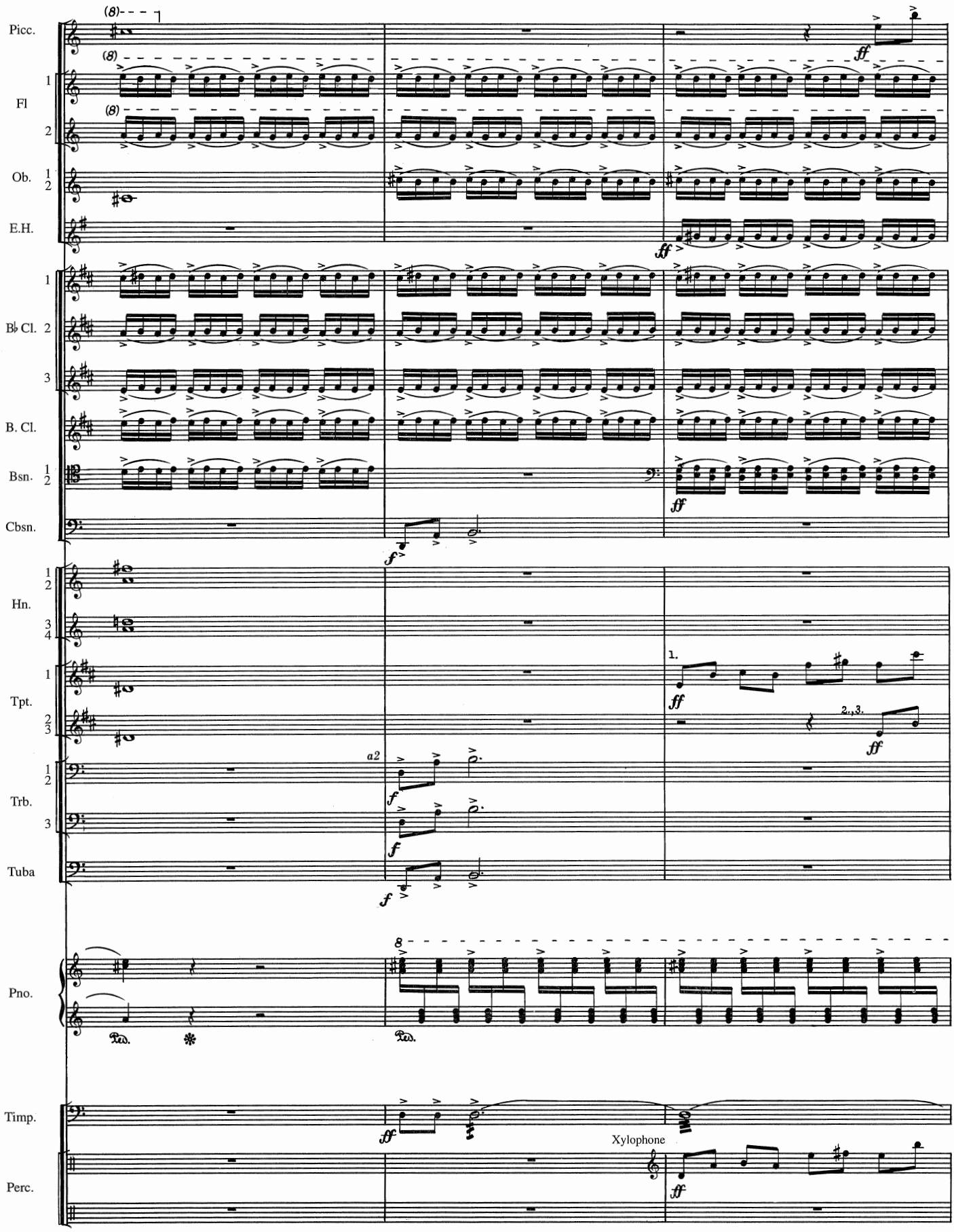
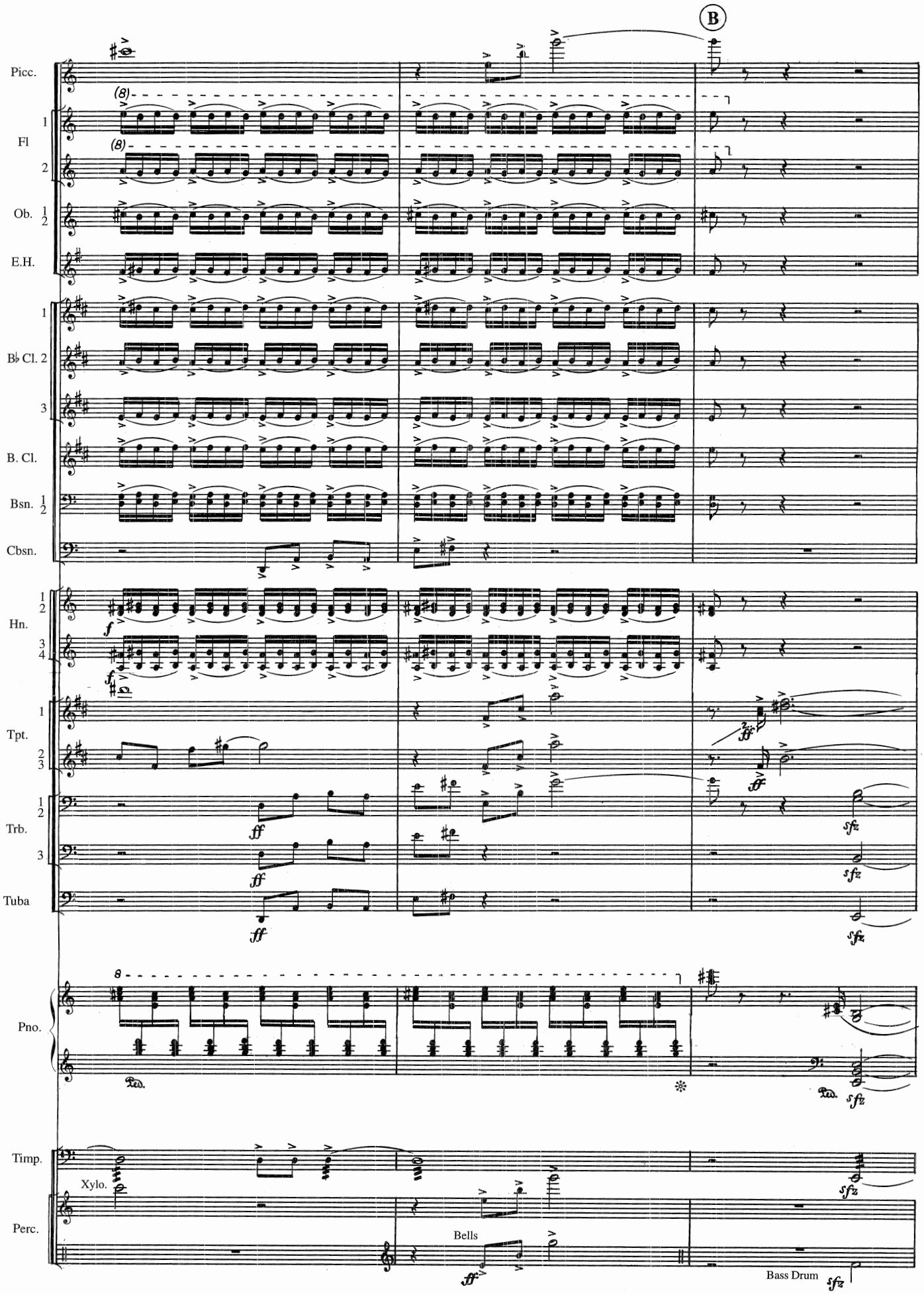
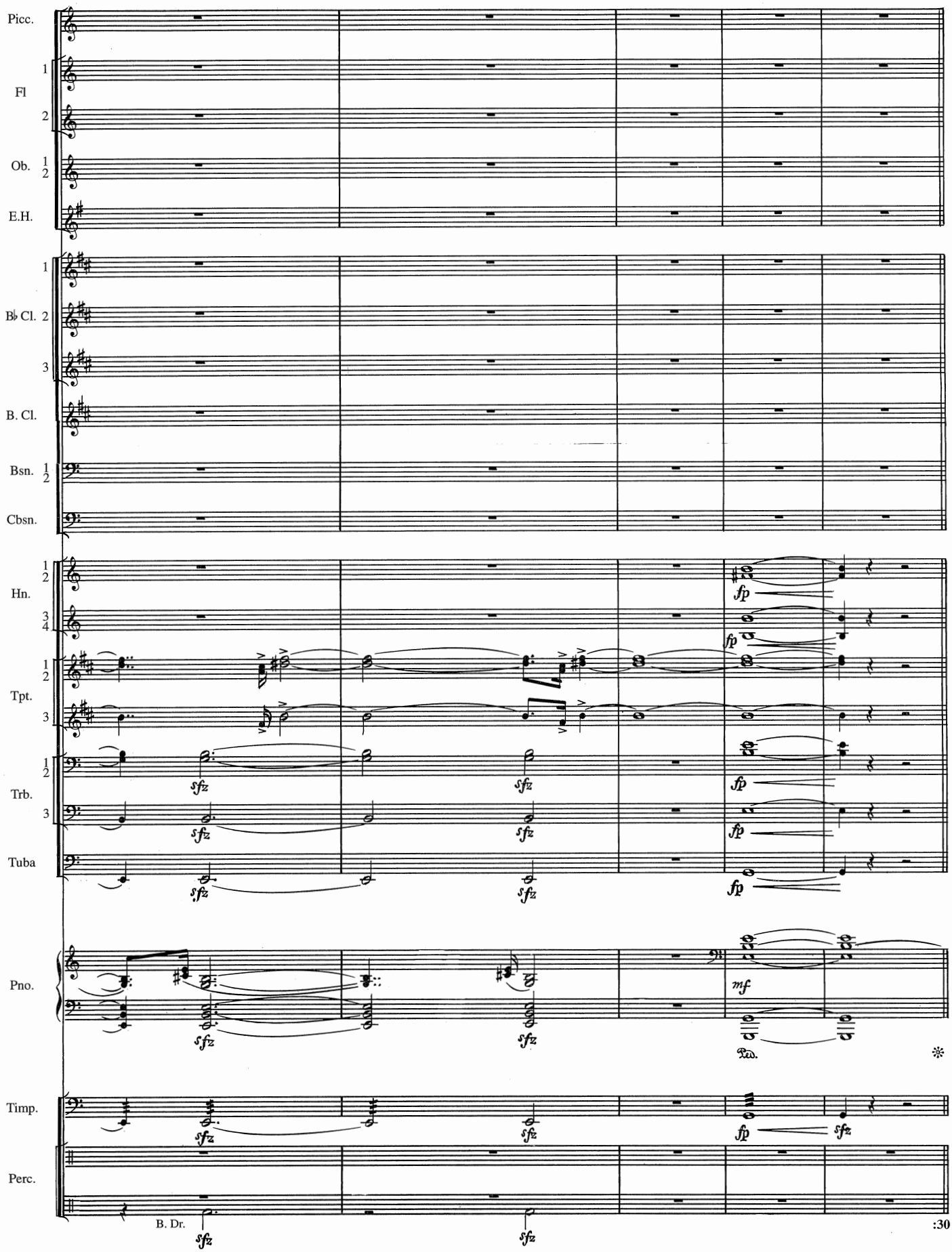
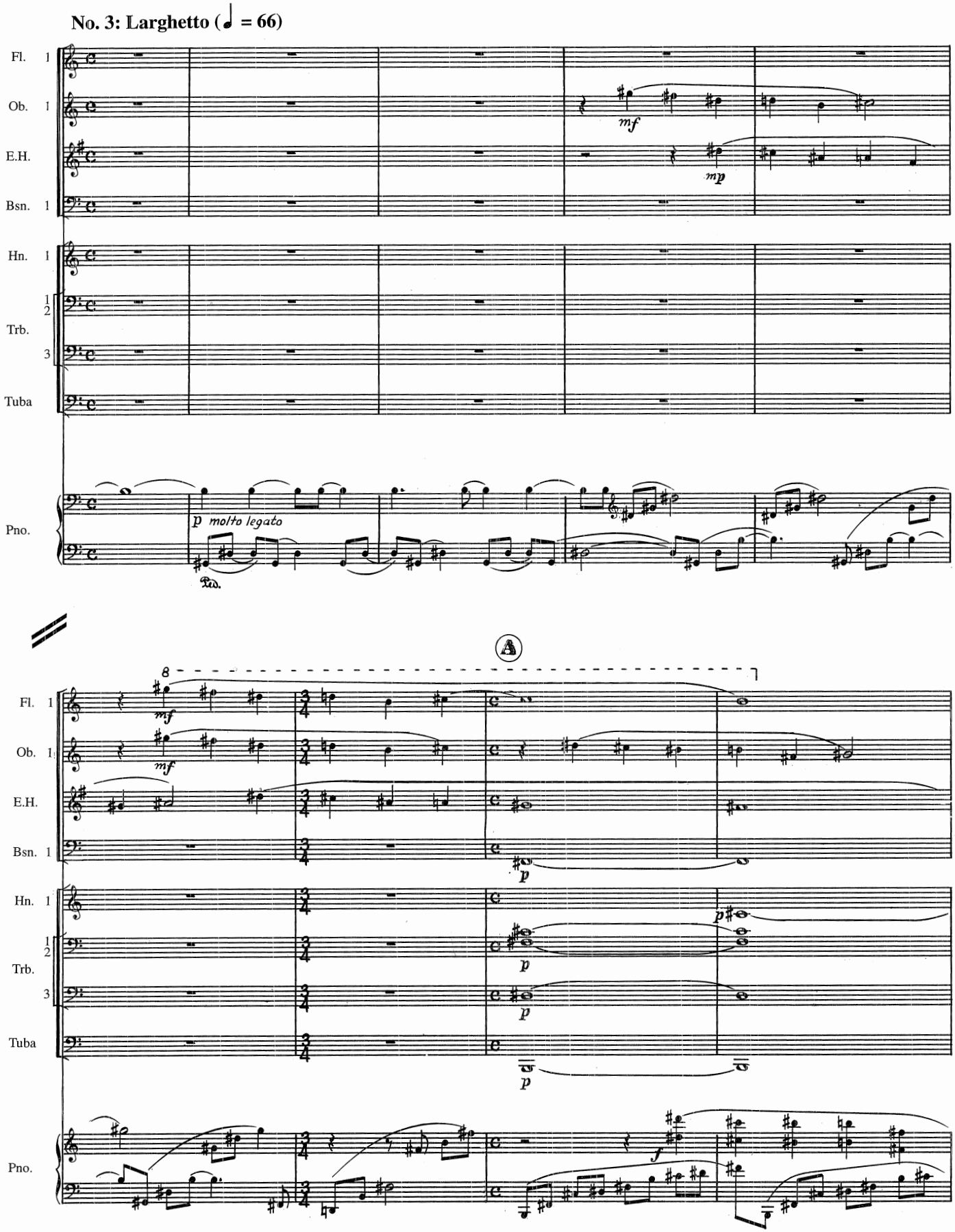

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1 2
E.H.
B♭ Cl. 1 2 3
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1 2
Cbsn.
Pno.
:25
No. 2: Allegro (♩ = 144)
Hn. 1 2 3 4
Tpt. 1 2 3

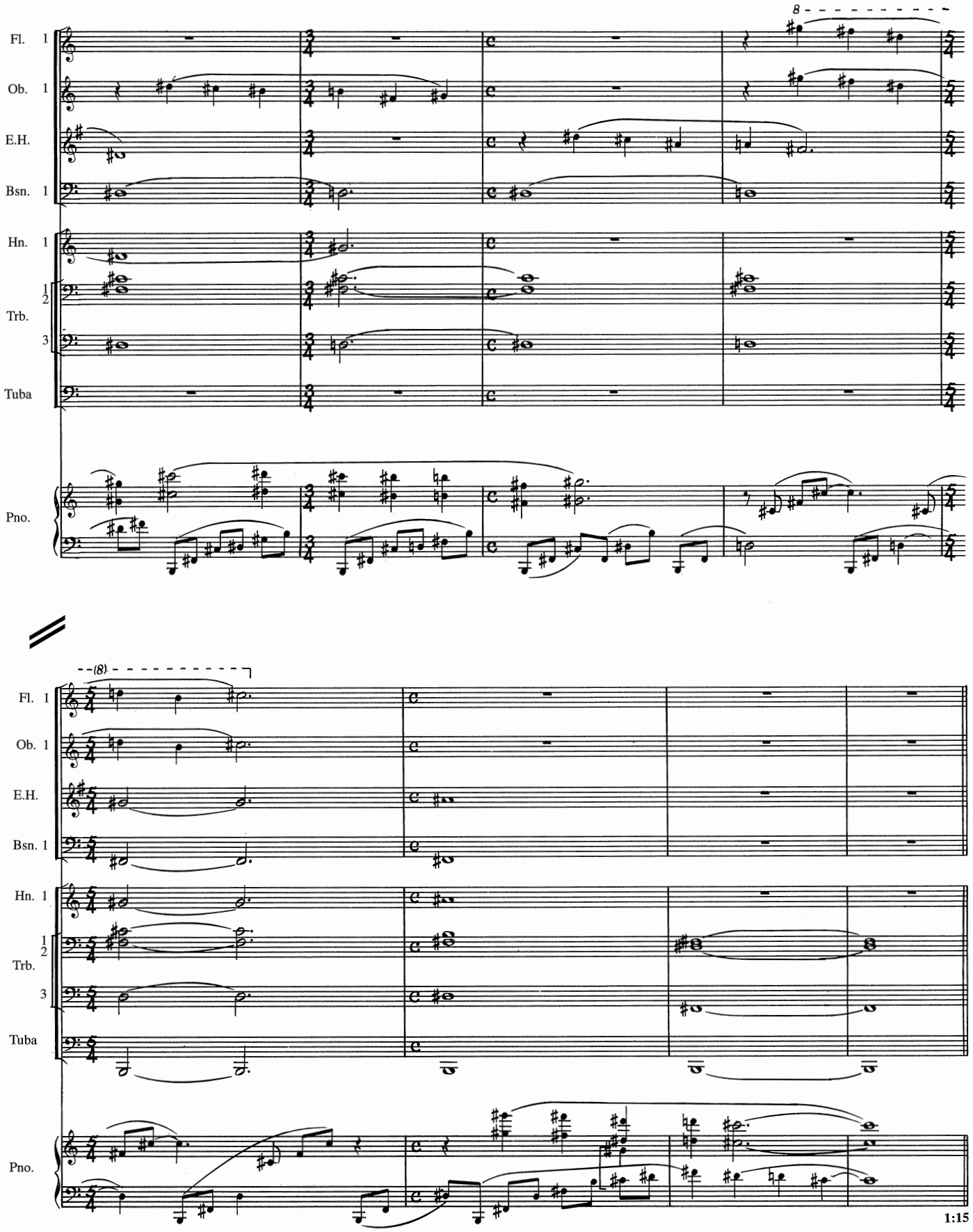

Picc.
Fl
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Tpt.
Pno.
A
a2
a3

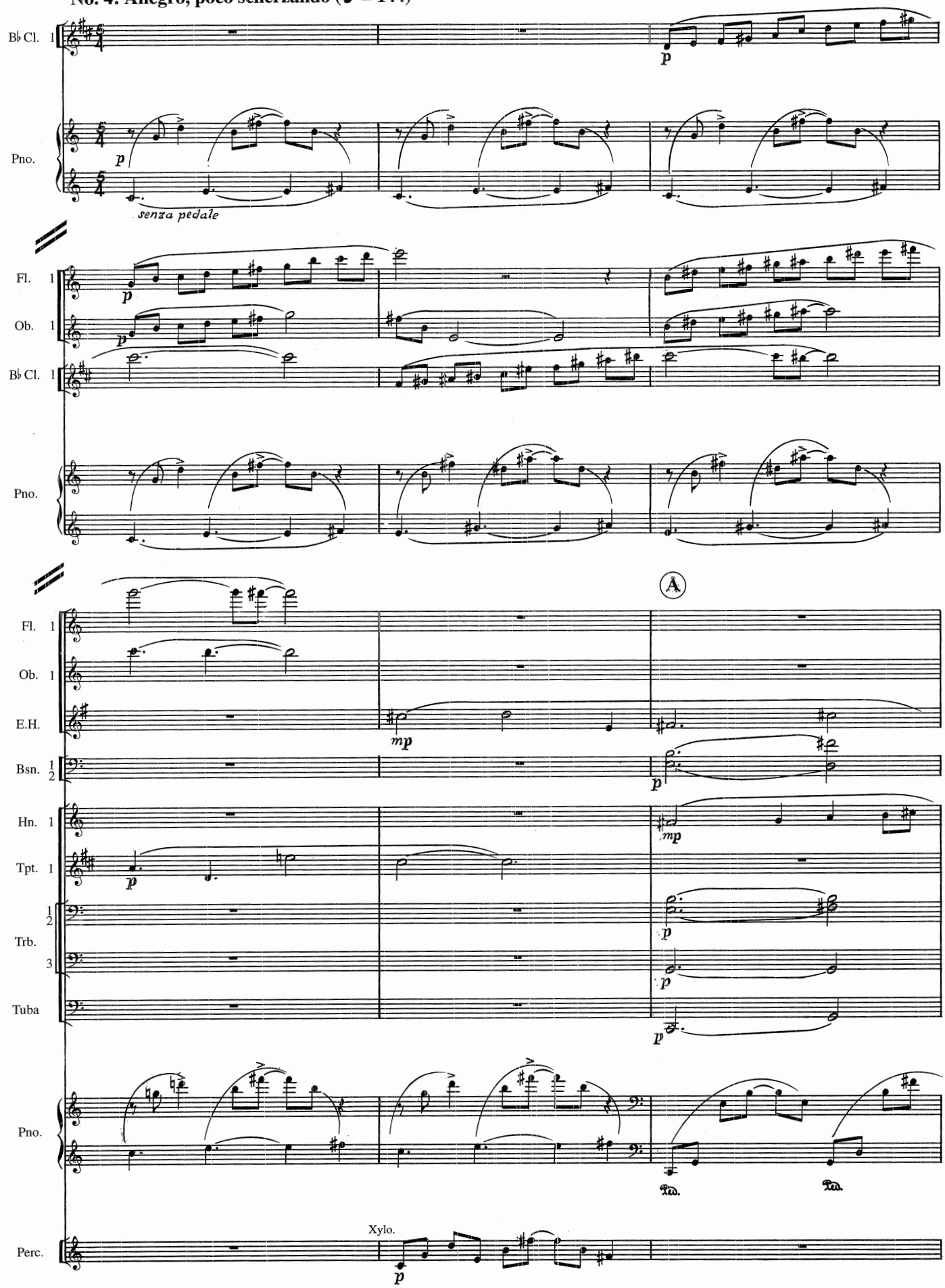

Picc.
Fl
Ob.
E.H.
B♭ Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn.
Tpt.
Trb.
Tuba
Pno.
Timp.
Perc.
Xylophone
ff
f
a2
1.
2.,3.

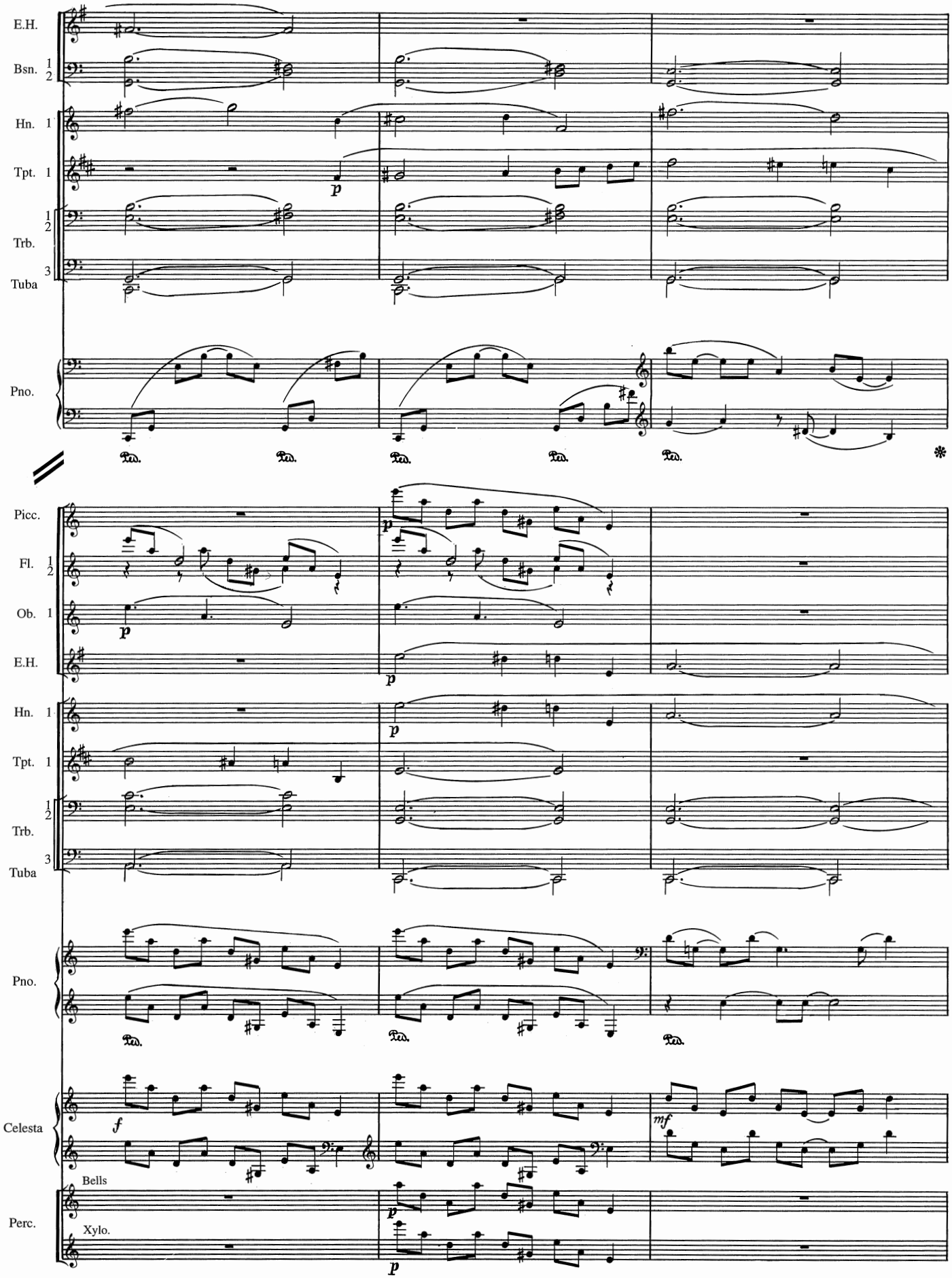

B
Picc.
Fl
Ob.
E.H.
B♭ Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn.
Tpt.
Trb.
Tuba
Pno.
Timp.
Xylo.
Perc.
Bells
Bass Drum


Picc.
Fl
Ob.
E.H.
B♭ Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn.
Tpt.
Trb.
Tuba
Pno.
Timp.
Perc.
B. Dr.
sfz
fp
mf
Ped.
:30


No. 3: Larghetto (♩ = 66)
Fl. 1
Ob. 1
E.H.
Bsn. 1
Hn. 1
1
2
Trb.
3
Tuba
Pno.
mf
mp
p molto legato
Ped.
A
8
mf
mf
p
p
p
p
p
f


Fl. 1
Ob. 1
E.H.
Bsn. 1
Hn. 1
1
2
Trb.
3
Tuba
Pno.
8
(8)
1:15


No. 4: Allegro, poco scherzando (♩ = 144)
B♭ Cl. 1
Pno.
senza pedale
Fl. 1
Ob. 1
B♭ Cl. 1
Pno.
A
Fl. 1
Ob. 1
E.H.
Bsn. 1 2
Hn. 1
Tpt. 1
Trb. 2 3
Tuba
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Perc.
Xylo.


E.H.
Bsn. 1 2
Hn. 1
Tpt. 1
Trb. 1 2
Tuba 3
Pno.
Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1
E.H.
Hn. 1
Tpt. 1
Trb. 1 2
Tuba 3
Pno.
Celesta
Bells
Perc.
Xylo.