smudge

a TUBA SOLO
with live electronics

Paul Schuette

2012

Program Note

smudge attempts to take the tuba's sound and blend, smear and shade it in the same way a visual artist would create a charcoal drawing. The two electronic effects used in the piece serve this goal. Reverb, which acts like the damper pedal of a piano, blurs the sound horizontally in time while ring modulation creates pitched sidebands around the tuba's sound, blurring the sound vertically. The melodic material is also "smudged" in a similar way. The materials always heard with reverb are musically expanded in a vertical direction while the materials associated with ring modulation are horizontally developed - creating a paradoxical and elastic experience with an instrument that usually draws in a straight line.

Performance Notes

All accidentals are good for one note only. Therefore, all natural signs are complimentary.

Contact the composer via his website, paulschuette.com, for required Max/MSP patches.

Required electronics: a computer running Max/MSP, audio interface, large diaphragm microphone, stereo speakers and optional MIDI foot pedal.

The foot pedal staff indicates when the performer should strike the MIDI foot pedal (or when the sound diffusionist should manually advance the program). This action cues the computer program to toggle between two effects. "Aimless" sections are heard with reverb; "agitated" sections are heard with ring modulation.

smudge

TUBA SOLO

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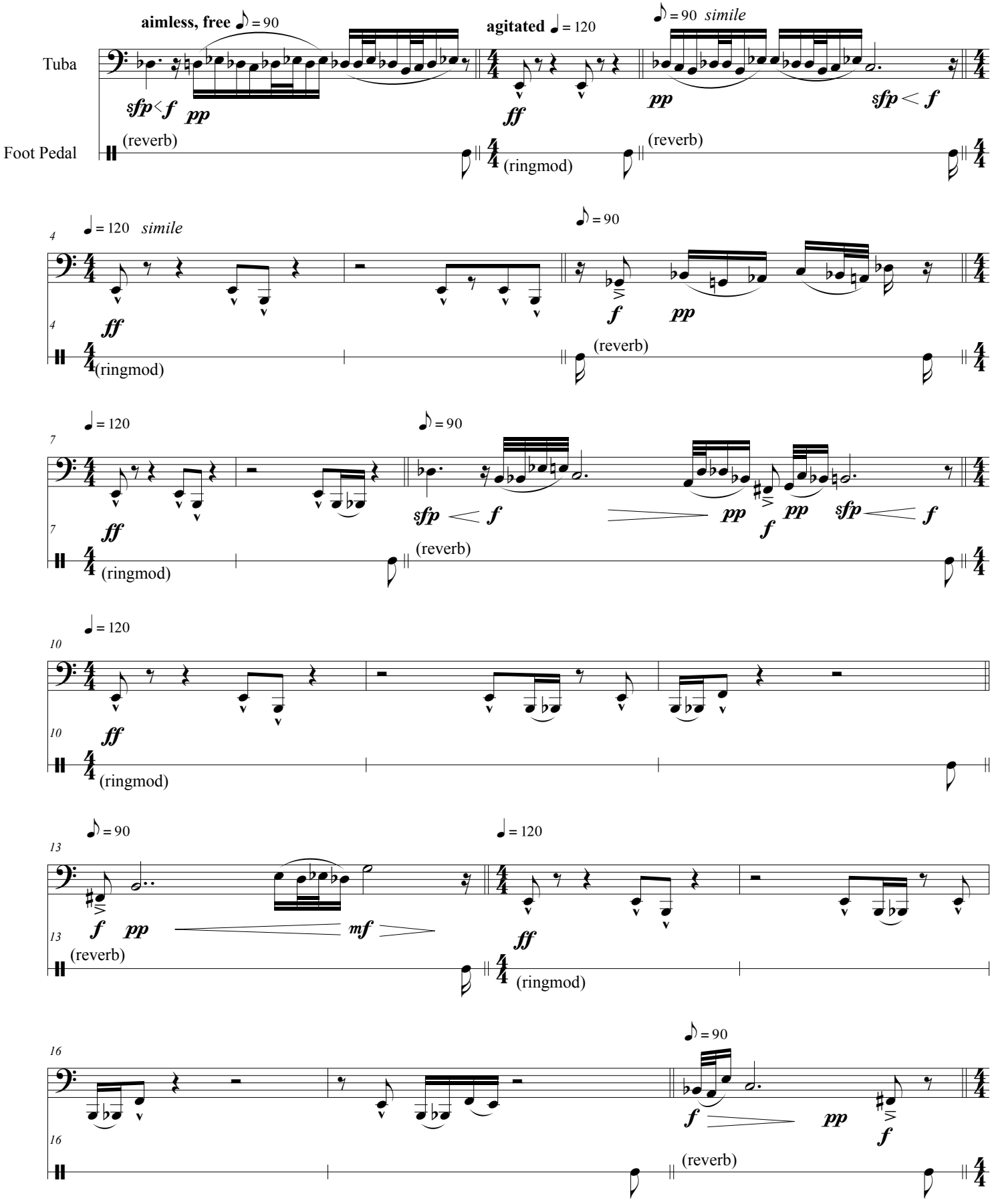
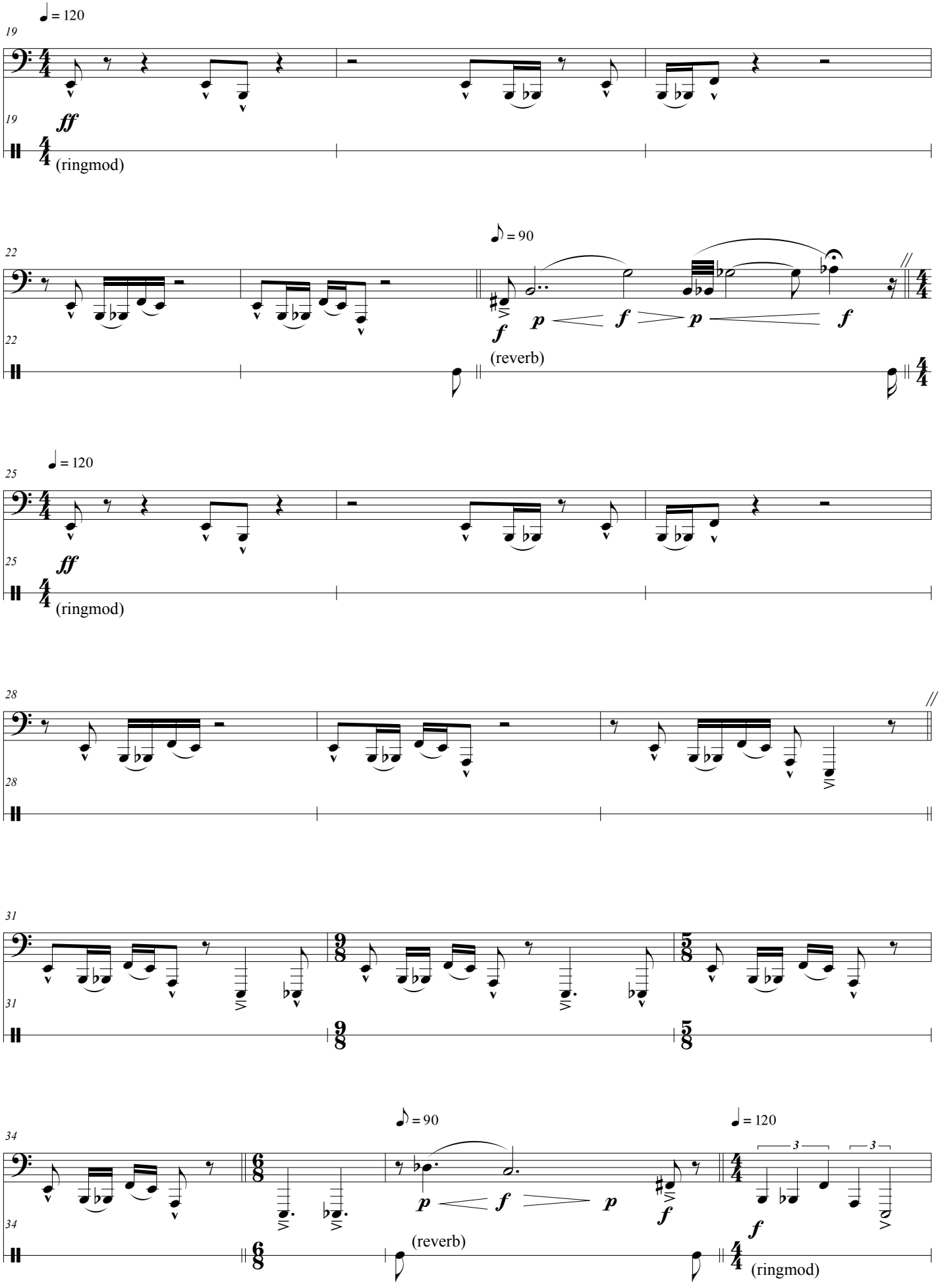
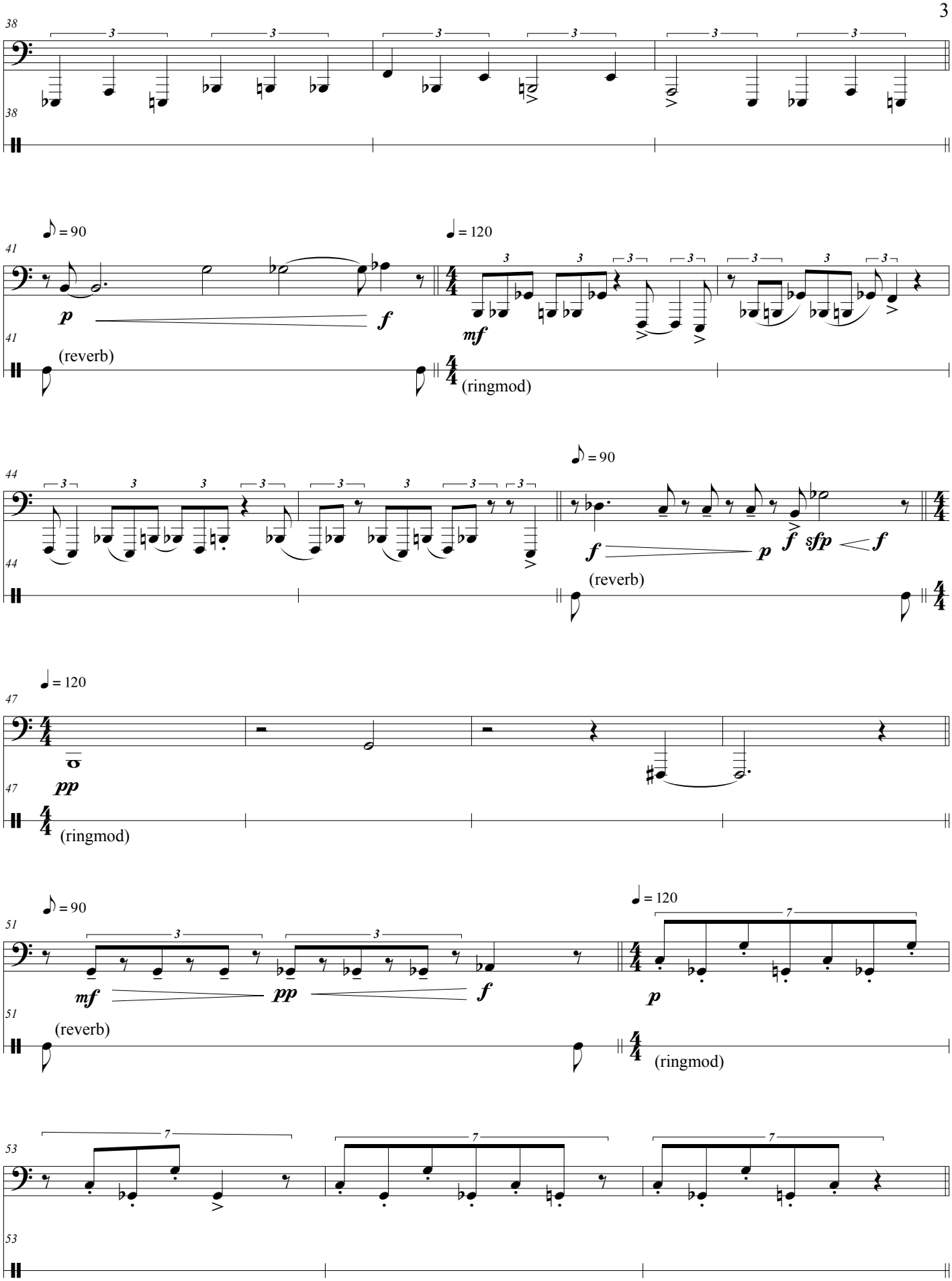
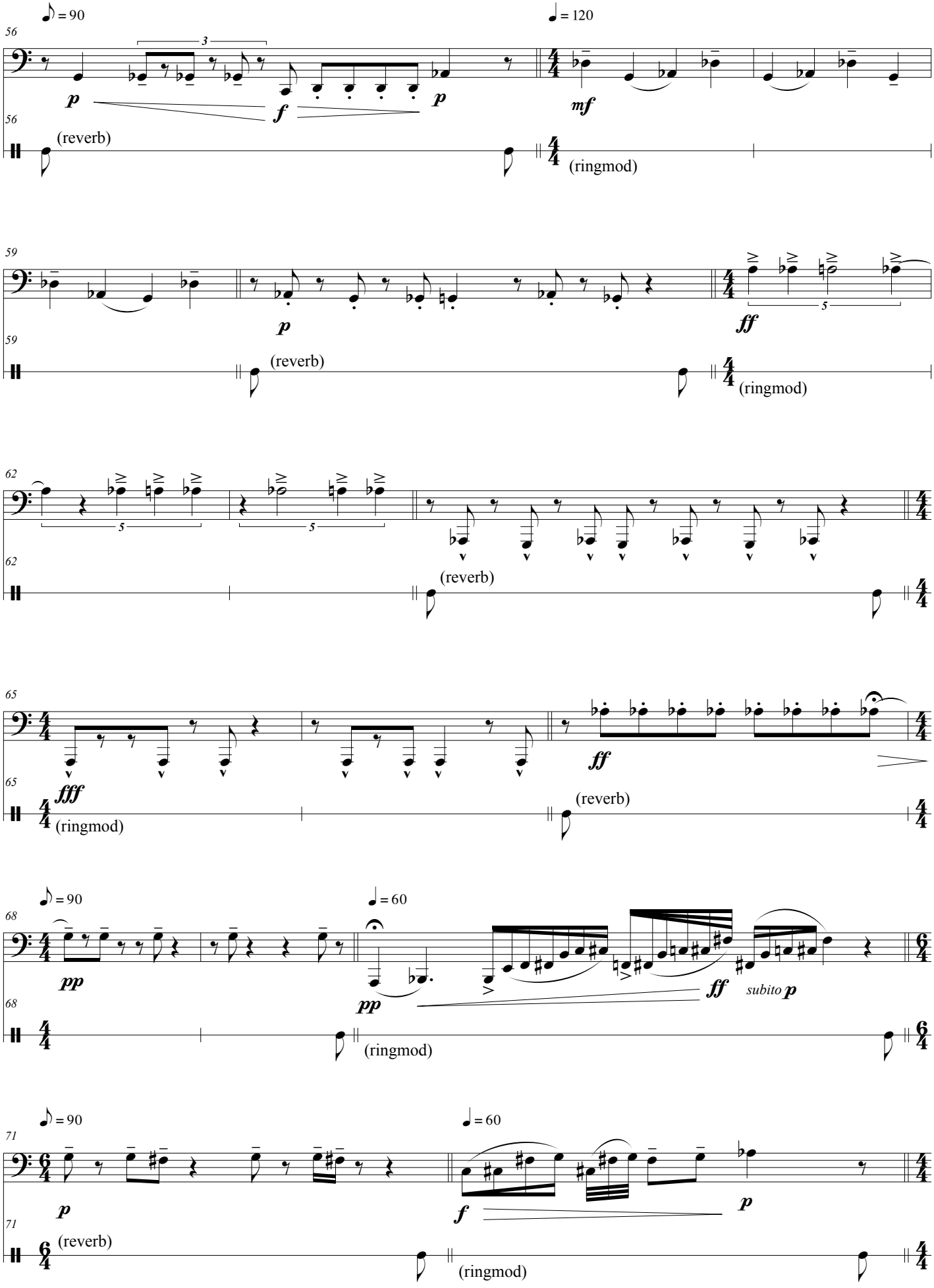
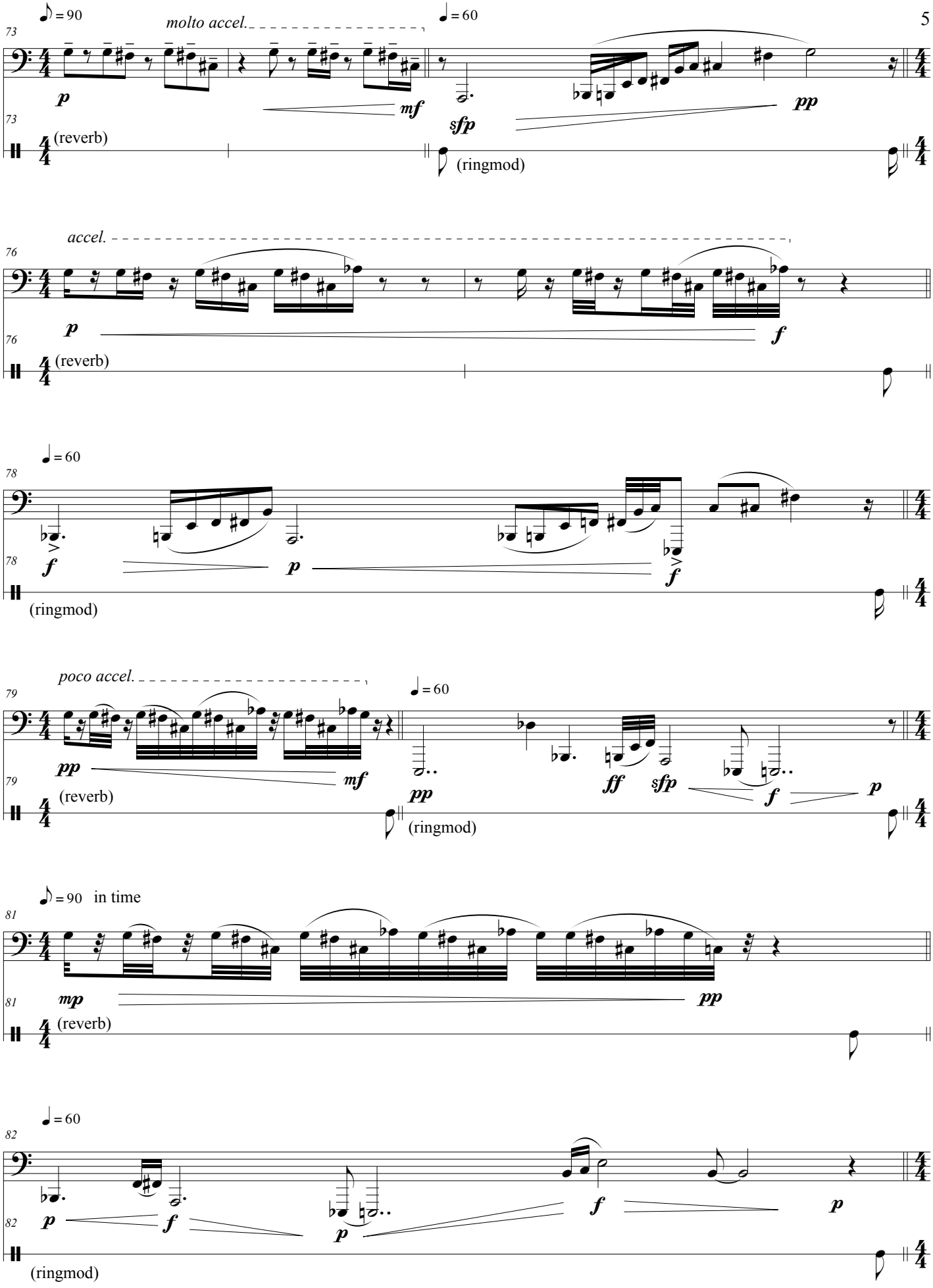
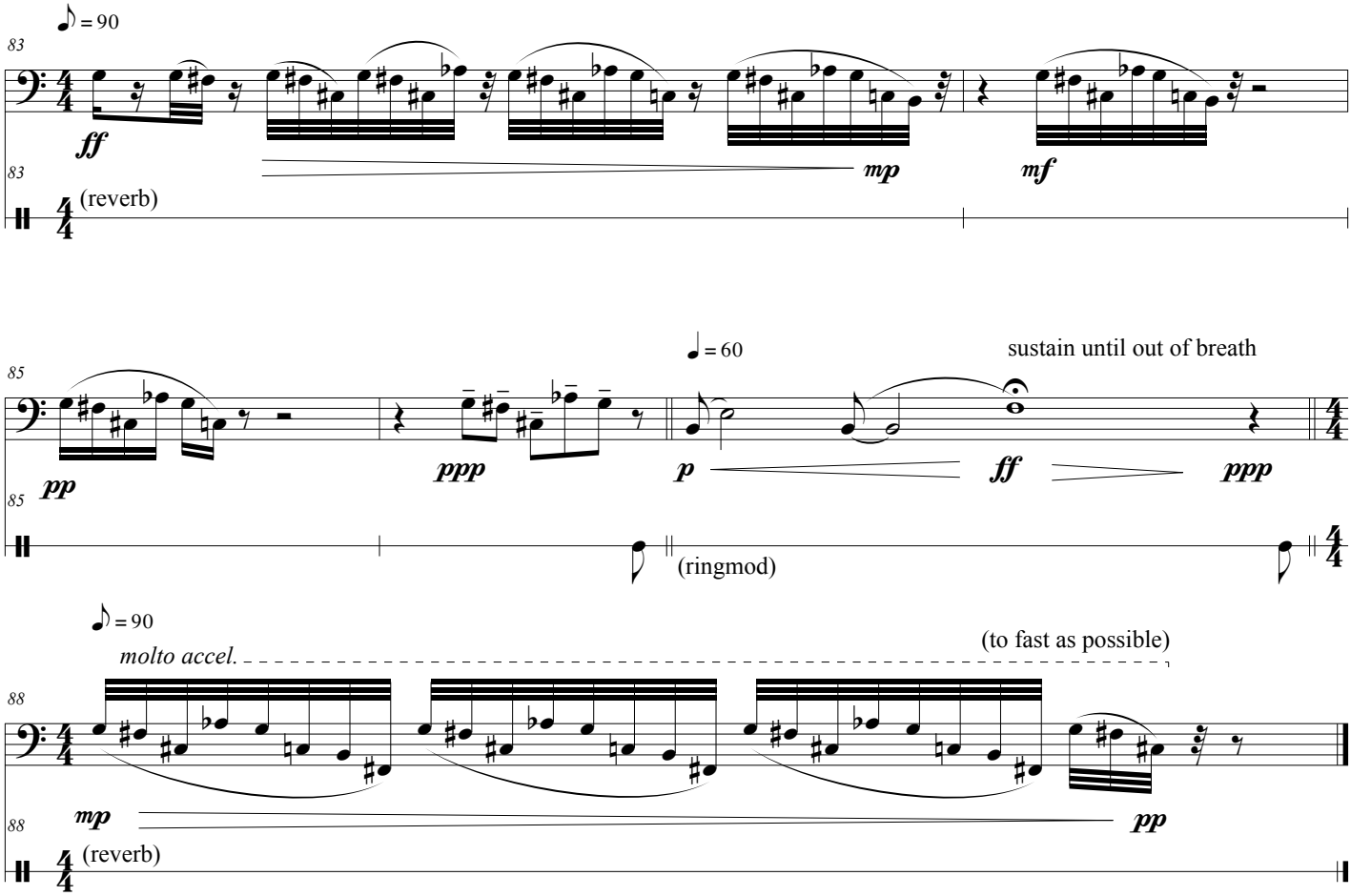



♩ = 120
19
ff
(ringmod)
♪ = 90
22
f
p
f
p
f
(reverb)
♩ = 120
25
ff
(ringmod)
28
31
♪ = 90
34
p
f
p
f
(reverb)
♩ = 120
3
3
f
(ringmod)


38
38
41
♪ = 90
p
f
(reverb)
♩ = 120
mf
(ringmod)
44
44
♪ = 90
f
p
f
sfp
f
(reverb)
47
♩ = 120
pp
(ringmod)
51
♪ = 90
mf
pp
f
(reverb)
♩ = 120
p
(ringmod)
53
53


♪ = 90
56
3
p
f
p
♩ = 120
mf
(reverb)
(ringmod)
59
p
(reverb)
5
ff
(ringmod)
62
5
5
(reverb)
65
fff
(ringmod)
ff
(reverb)
68
♪ = 90
pp
♩ = 60
pp
(ringmod)
ff
subito p
71
♪ = 90
p
(reverb)
♩ = 60
f
p
(ringmod)


♪ = 90
molto accel.
♩ = 60
73
p
mf
sfp
pp
(reverb)
(ringmod)
accel.
76
p
f
(reverb)
♩ = 60
78
f
p
f
(ringmod)
poco accel.
79
pp
mf
(reverb)
♩ = 60
pp
ff
sfp
f
p
(ringmod)
♪ = 90 in time
81
mp
pp
(reverb)
♩ = 60
82
p
f
p
f
p
(ringmod)


♪ = 90
83
ff
mp
mf
(reverb)
♩ = 60
sustain until out of breath
85
pp
ppp
p
ff
ppp
(ringmod)
♪ = 90
molto accel.
(to fast as possible)
88
mp
pp
(reverb)