L’embarquement pour Cythère

Valse-Musette, original for two pianos

Francis Poulenc

arranged by Paul De Bra for
accordion quintet (1, 2,, 3, 4, bass)

Cythère is a Greek Island, known as a pilgrimage destination.
L’embarquement pour Cythère is a painting by Jean-Antoine Watteau (from around 1718). The painting has inspired music composers, including Claude Debussy (in 1904), and Francis Poulenc (in 1951), who wrote a lively piece for two pianos with this title.
This work is a nice Valse-Musette, with strange modulations, typical for Poulenc. This waltz, both in the original form and in this arrangement for accordion quintet, sounds deceptively simple, but is actually quite hard for a quintet. A larger ensemble can make it a bit easier by using diviso.

Note that as Poulenc died in 1963 this work is in the public domain in countries like Canada, but Europe has to wait until 2034.

A recording by Professor P is available on YouTube.

This arrangement is provided under the Creative Commons Attribution license (and so is the recording).

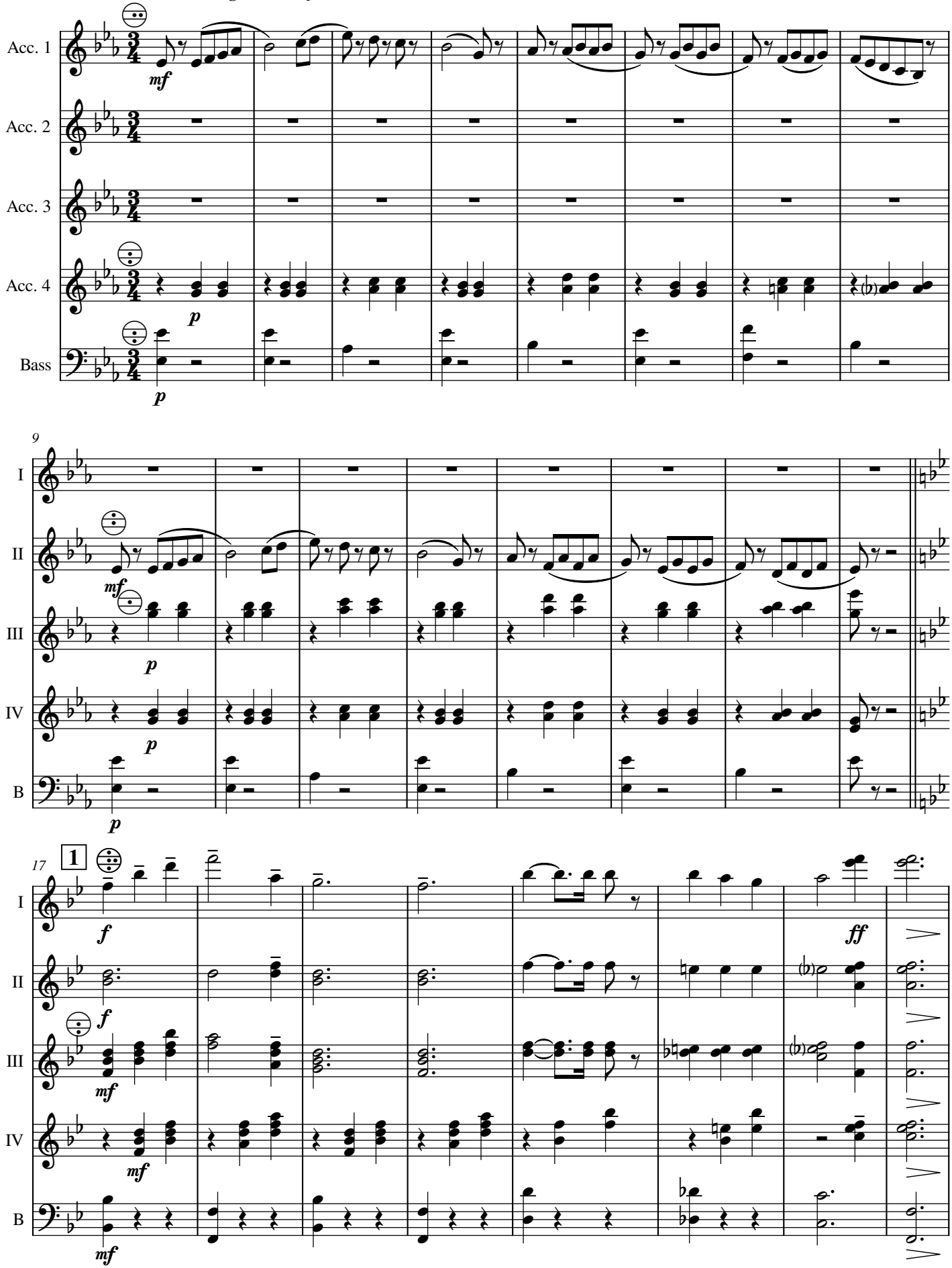
L'embarquement pour Cythère

Valse-Musette, original for two pianos

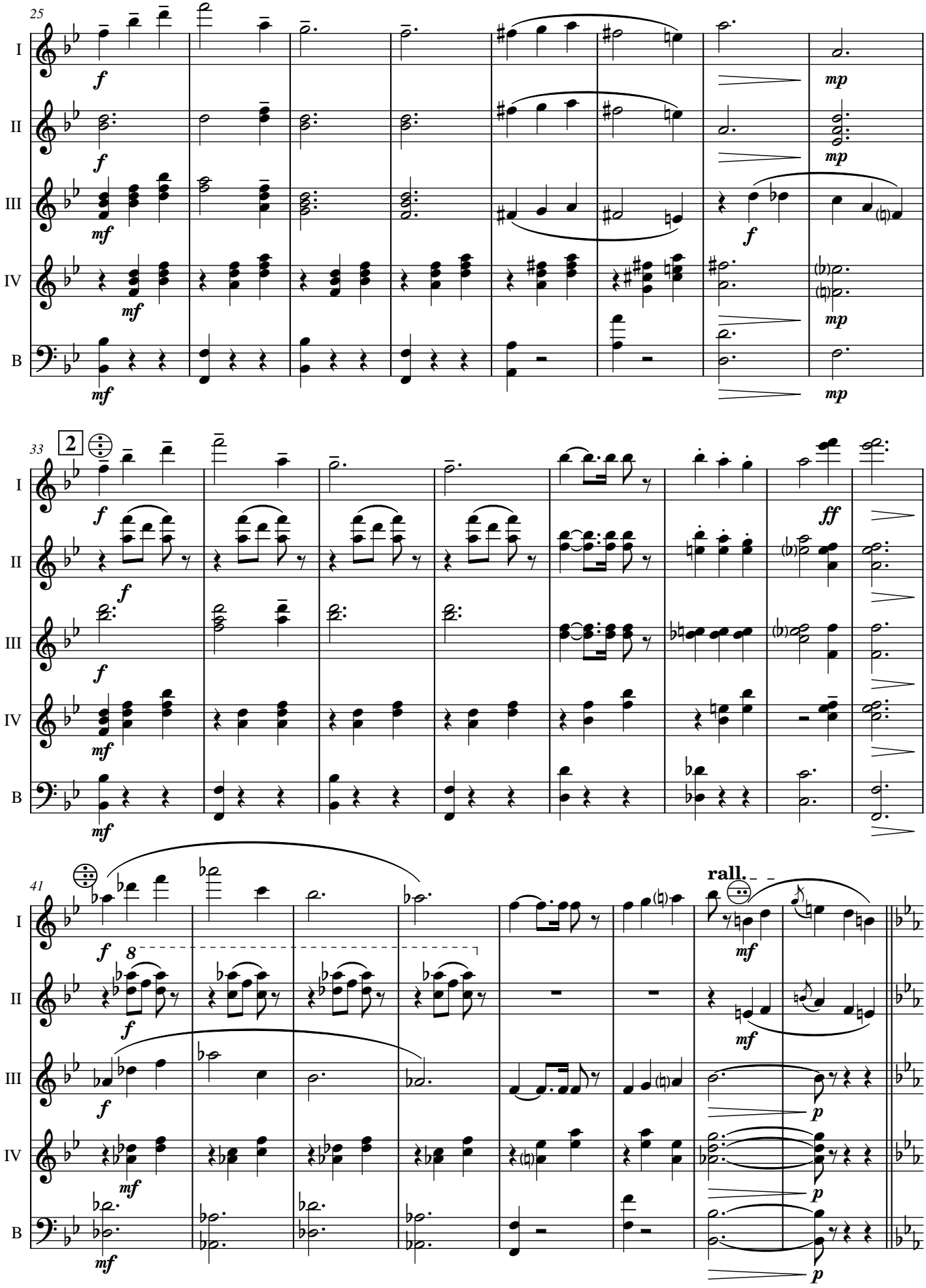
Francis Poulenc
arr. Paul De Bra

♩ = ca. 220-250 **Très vite et gai** (à 1 temps sans aucun rubato)

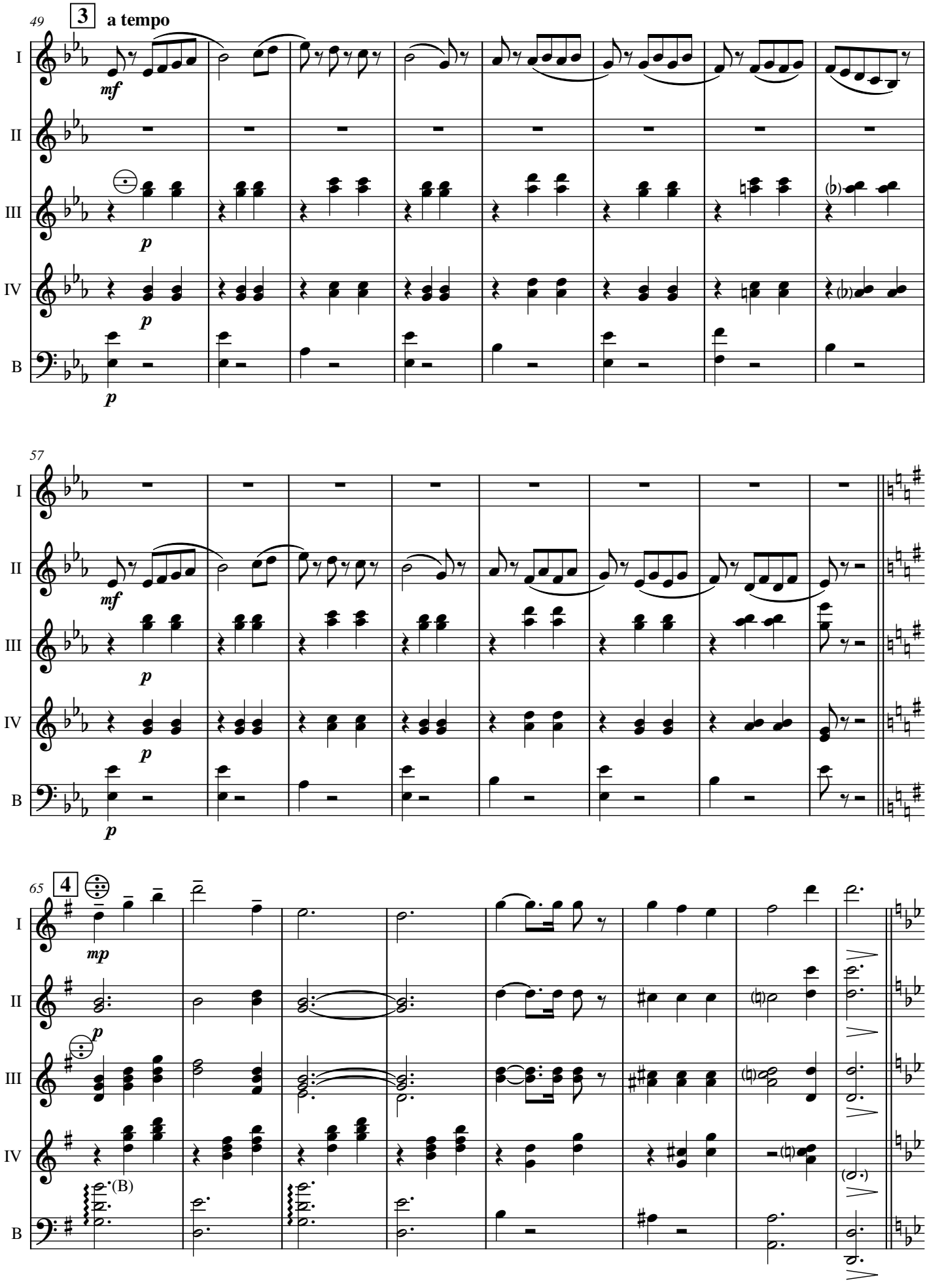
performance tip: play leggiero, and all long notes with decay



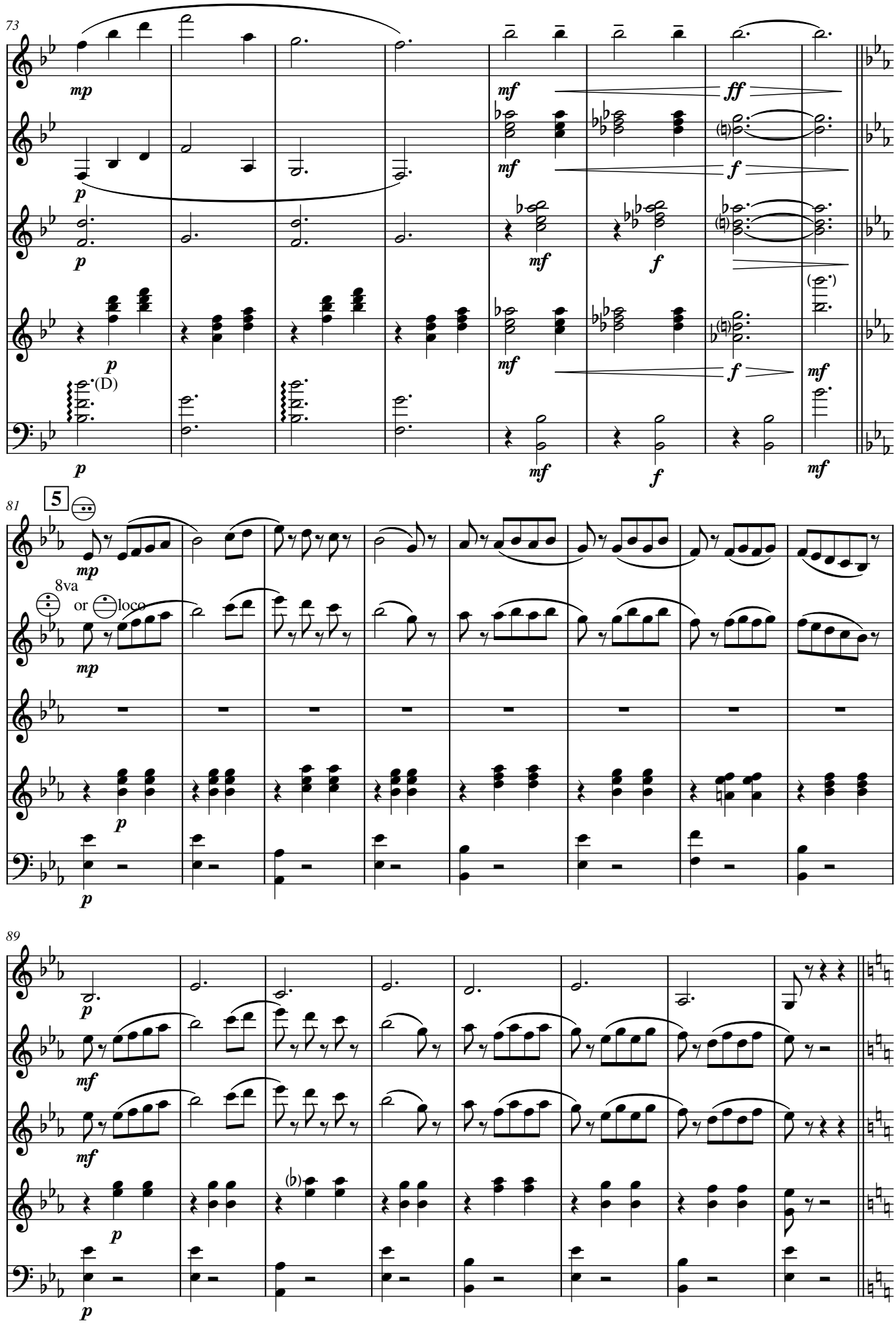
Creative Commons Attribution



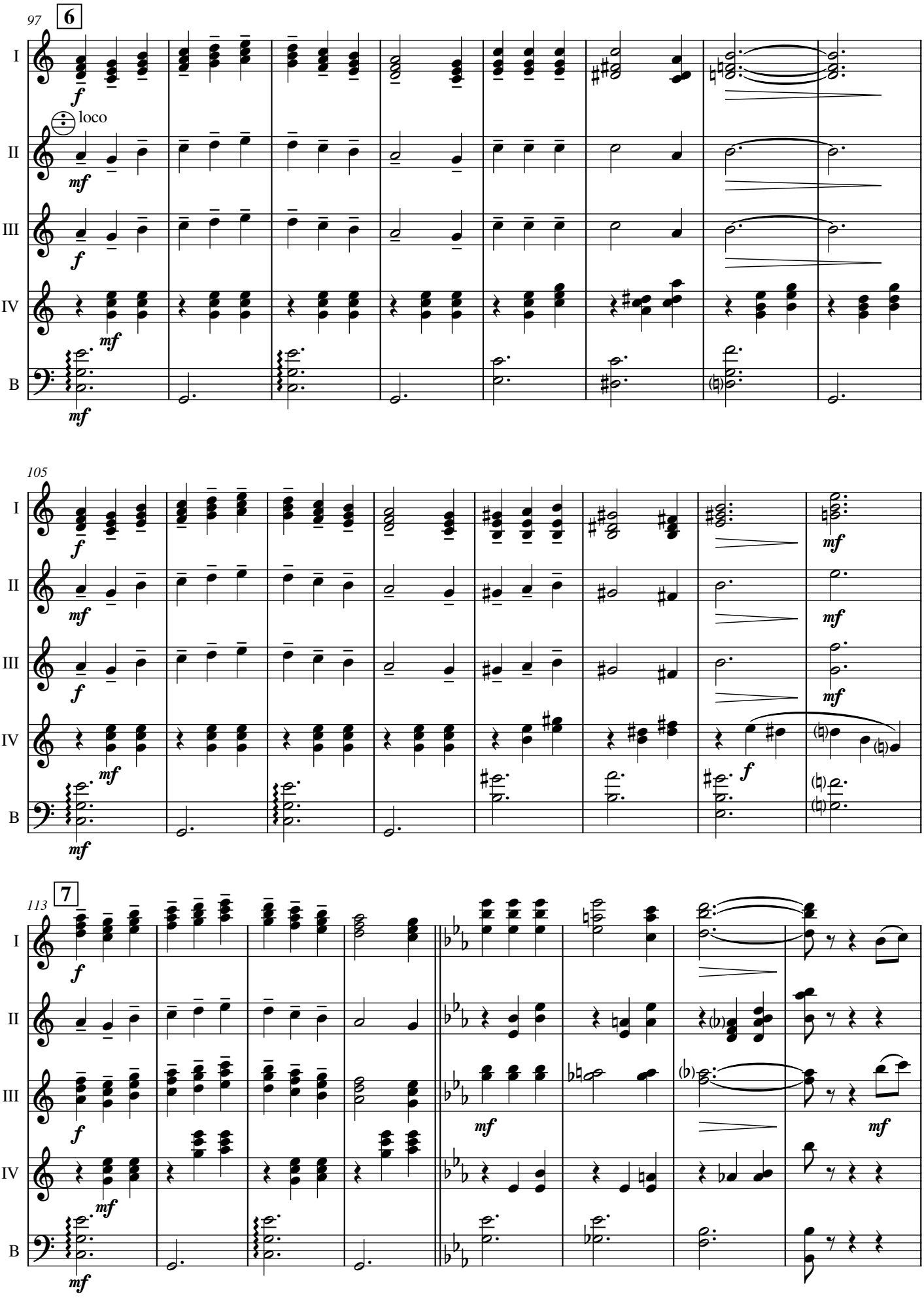
Creative Commons Attribution



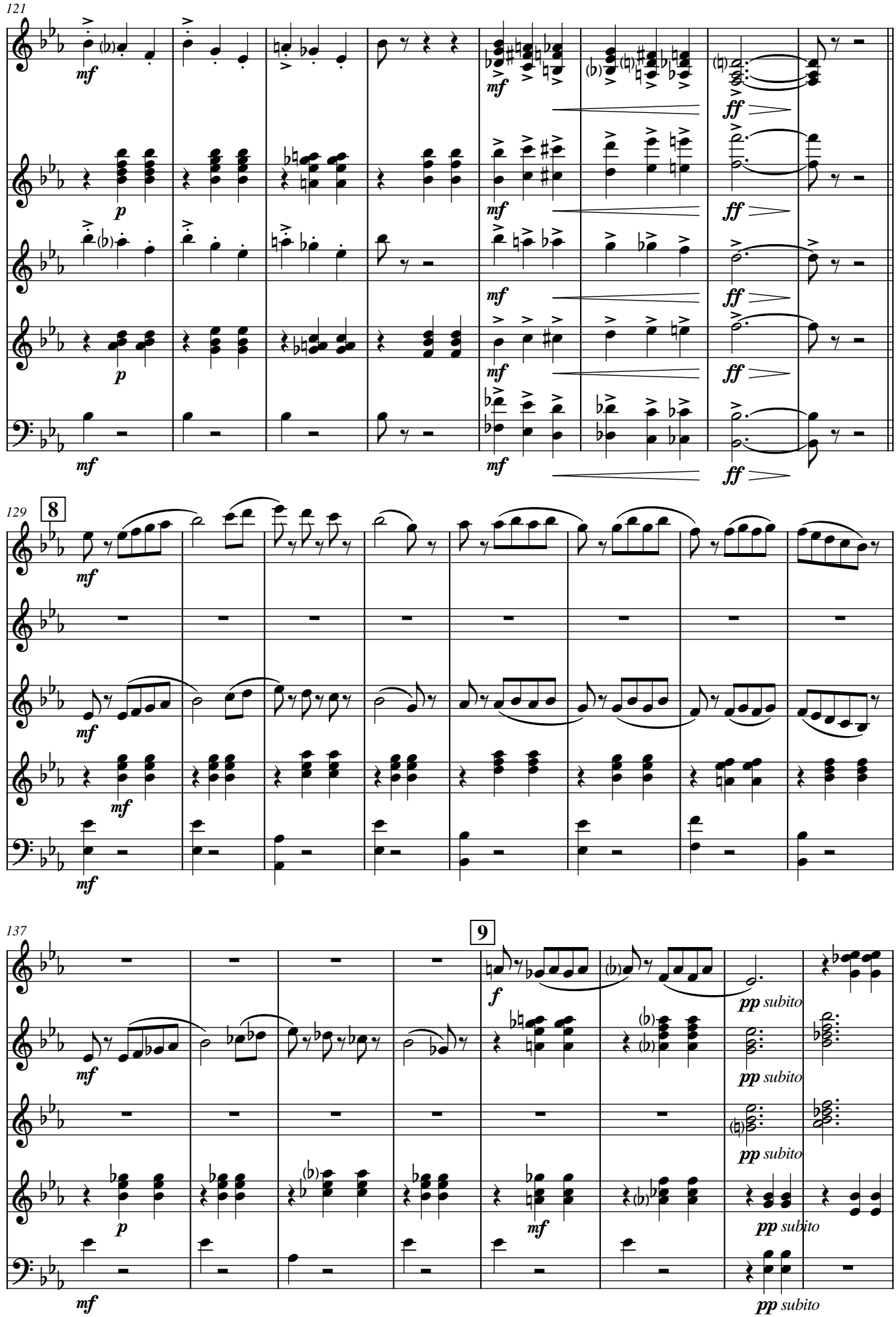
Creative Commons Attribution



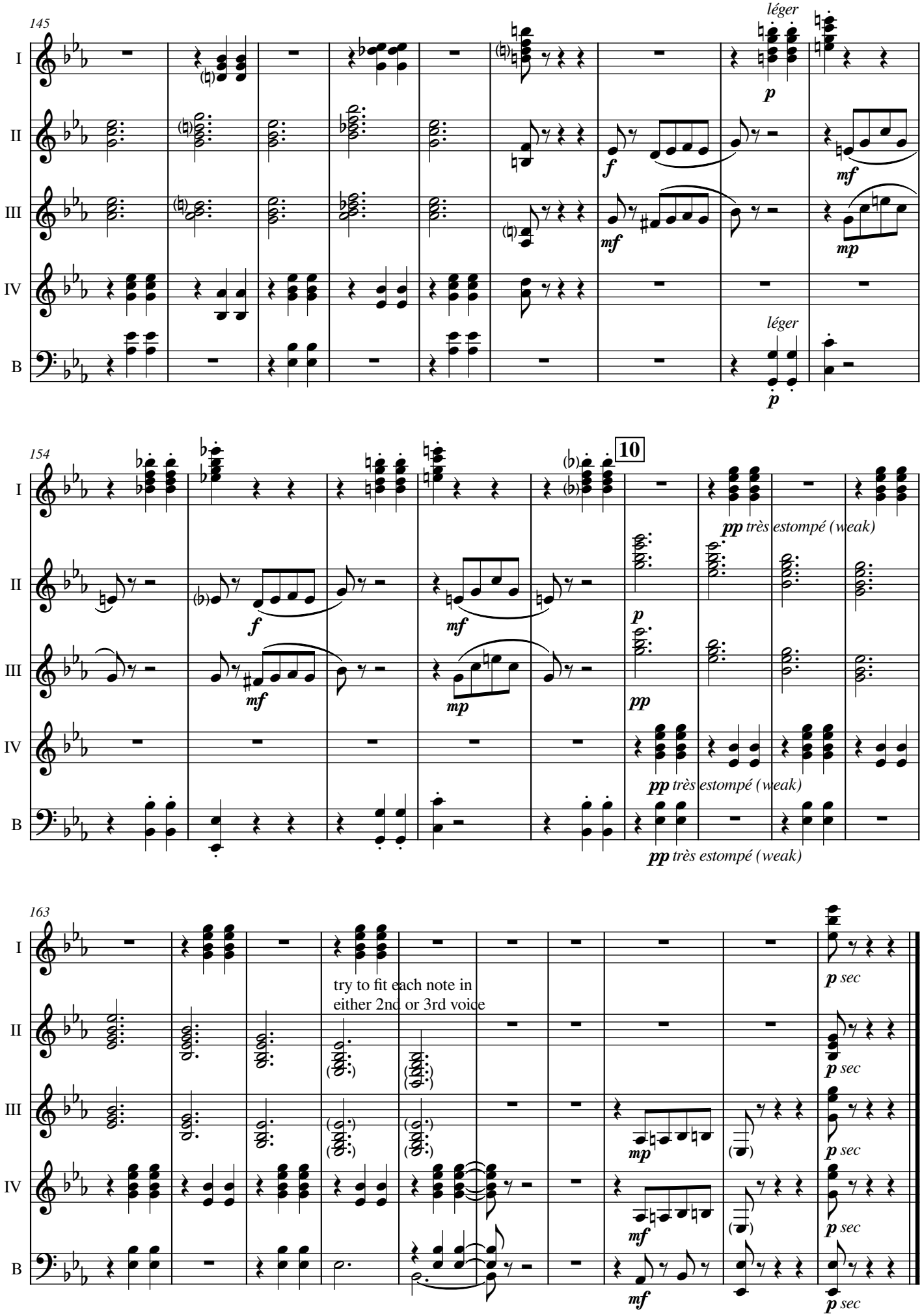
Creative Commons Attribution



Creative Commons Attribution



Creative Commons Attribution



Creative Commons Attribution