LEONARD SALZEDO

IBERIAN IMPROVISATIONS, Op. 143

Musette or Alternative Double Reed Instrument and Piano

AI SI 010

AMORIS INTERNATIONAL
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Leonard Salzedo
(1921-2000)

Leonard Salzedo, the most Spanish of British composers, was born in London in 1921. He began the violin at the age of six and started to compose when he was twelve.

He was awarded the Cobbett Prize (1942) after only two years as a student at the Royal College of Music, London, for his first string quartet (he would eventually compose ten). Again, during his studies, he was commissioned to write the score for a ballet, *The Fugitive* (1944), which was performed more than four hundred times by Ballet Rambert.

The most renowned of Salzedo's seventeen ballet scores, *The Witch Boy*, received its première in Amsterdam (1956). Since then, ballet companies around the world have given in excess of three thousand performances in more than thirty-three countries. *The Witch Boy* has featured on television in many of these including Germany, Japan and New Zealand.

From 1947 - 1950 Leonard Salzedo was a member of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. He then moved to the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (until 1966). Its illustrious conductor, Sir Thomas Beecham, gave the premières of two of his compositions at the Royal Festival Hall. As well as playing violin in the orchestra, Leonard Salzedo became his assistant conductor. In 1964 he joined the London Soloists Ensemble and composed *Concerto Fervido* especially for it.

In 1967, Salzedo abandoned the violin to become Musical Director of Ballet Rambert (now the Rambert Dance Company), a post he held until 1972. The same year, he moved to Scottish Ballet as their Principal Conductor (-1974). He was later to become Music Director of London City Ballet (1982 -1986).

Thereafter, until his death in May 2000, Leonard Salzedo devoted himself almost entirely to prolific composition. Although performing continuously for many years, he composed more than 160 works including two symphonies.

The opening six bar fanfare of his *Divertimento for Three Trumpets and Three Trombones* (1959) was used by the BBC as the theme music for all Open University educational programmes broadcast on radio and television (1970s -1990s). He composed eighteen film scores including Hammer's 'The Revenge of Frankenstein' (1959).

Leonard Salzedo was a wine connoisseur and member of the Confrèrie des Chevaliers du Sacavin, a Loire-based wine brotherhood with a London Chapter. For many years he was their Chef des Beaux Arts and wrote fanfares, which were performed at dinners and inductions

Iberian Improvisations,

Opus 143, AI SI 010
Musette or Alternative Double Reed Instrument and Piano

Iberian Improvisations (Opus 143) was the last work ever composed by Leonard Salzedo. He completed it in November 1997 (publ.AI.1998). During the many years of our friendship he wrote six pieces for me. The first, *Cantiga Mozárabe*, Opus 79, for oboe d'amore (oboe) and piano, was composed in 1970. Amoris International publishes all six.

In the same way as the first of these haunting compositions, *Iberian Improvisations* is steeped in Moorish chromatic melody. The Spain of his ancestors was ever-present in Salzedo's style and imagination. *Iberian Improvisations*, as the title suggests, is full of the sun and the history of the Iberian Peninsula. Here, the musette invokes a shawm, nasal but sweet, steeped in the traditions of Islam. The voices of the past are caged in a contemporary idiom.

Although conceived initially for musette, the piece works equally well for oboe. A drone of repeated parallel figures portrays the unison of Arabic Music omnipresent in the native Spanish style prior to 1492. A backwash of triads paints a watercolour soundscape through which the soloist weaves his mysterious incantation like a bird on the wing. Once again the unison drone returns and the music fades to stillness, to the *morendo* marking of the very last bar. The bird flies away to the distant heavens, freed at last, never to return to this earthly plane.

Leonard Salzedo's works published by Amoris International ©:

Bailables AI EN 001 © Amoris International 1997
Cantiga Mozárabe AI SI 001 © Amoris International 1997
Canto de Sibila AI EN 003 © Amoris International 1997
Iberian Improvisations AI SI 010 © Amoris International 1998
Cuatro Canciónes Españolas AI SI 011 © Amoris International 1998
Sonata a Tré AI CM 001 © Amoris International 1998

Details of these compositions, their programme notes and recordings (where available), can be found at www.amoris.com in the Scores and CD sections.

for Jennifer Paull

IBERIAN IMPROVISATIONS

Op. 143

Musette or Alternative Double Reed Instrument and Piano

Leonard Salzedo
(1921 - 2000)

Andante ♩= c.74

Musette
(Concert Pitch)

Piano

p

p espressivo

p

p

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AI SI 010

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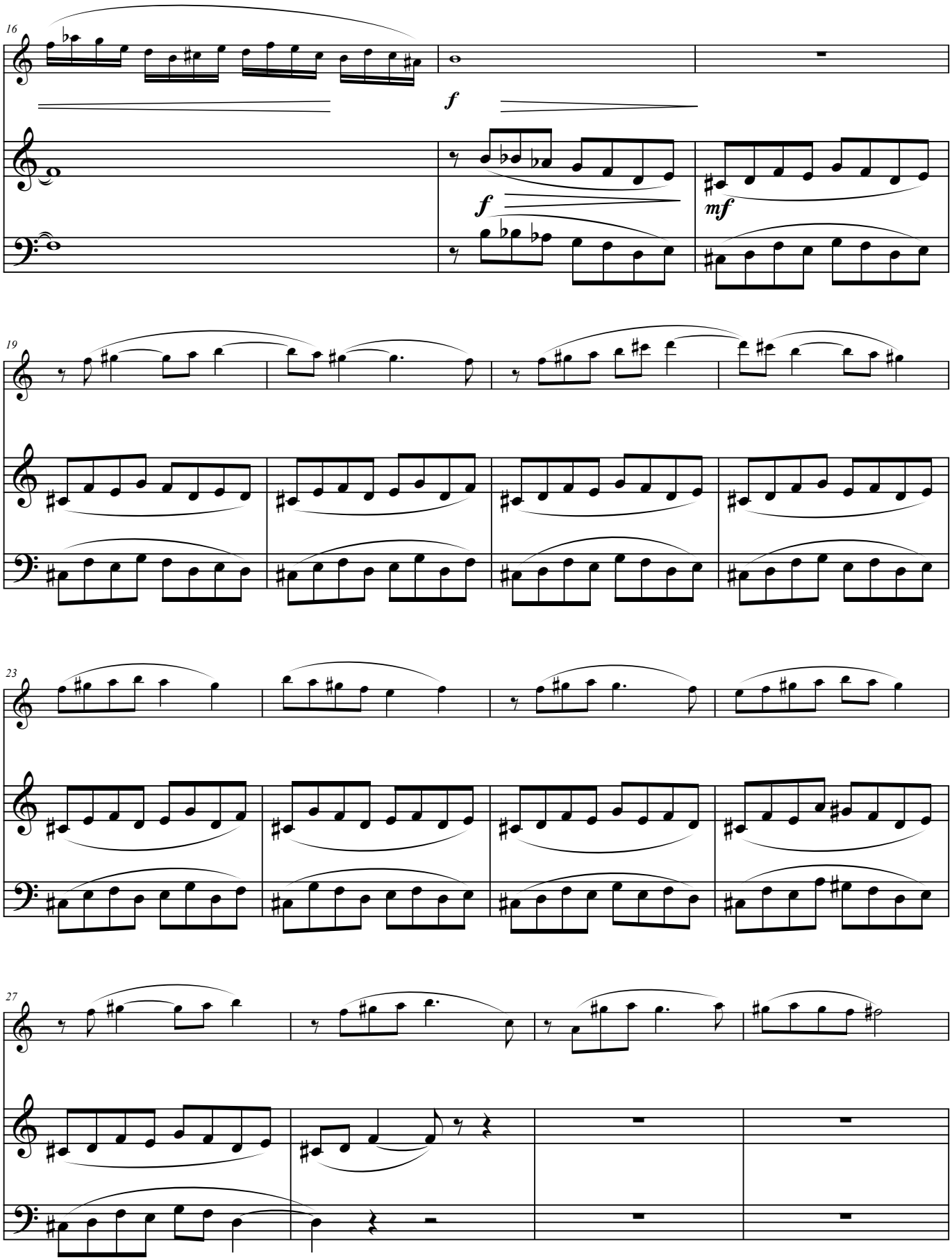
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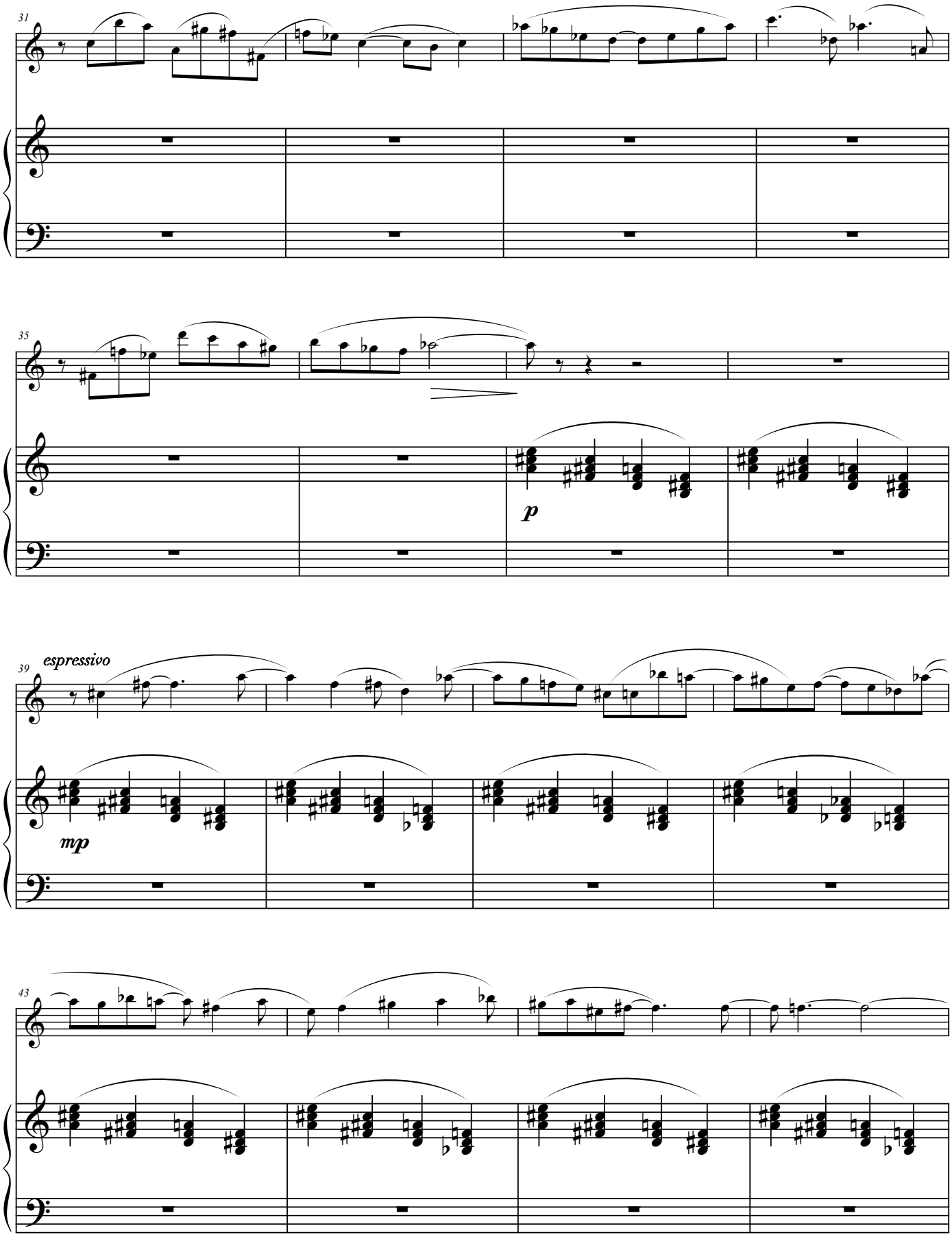
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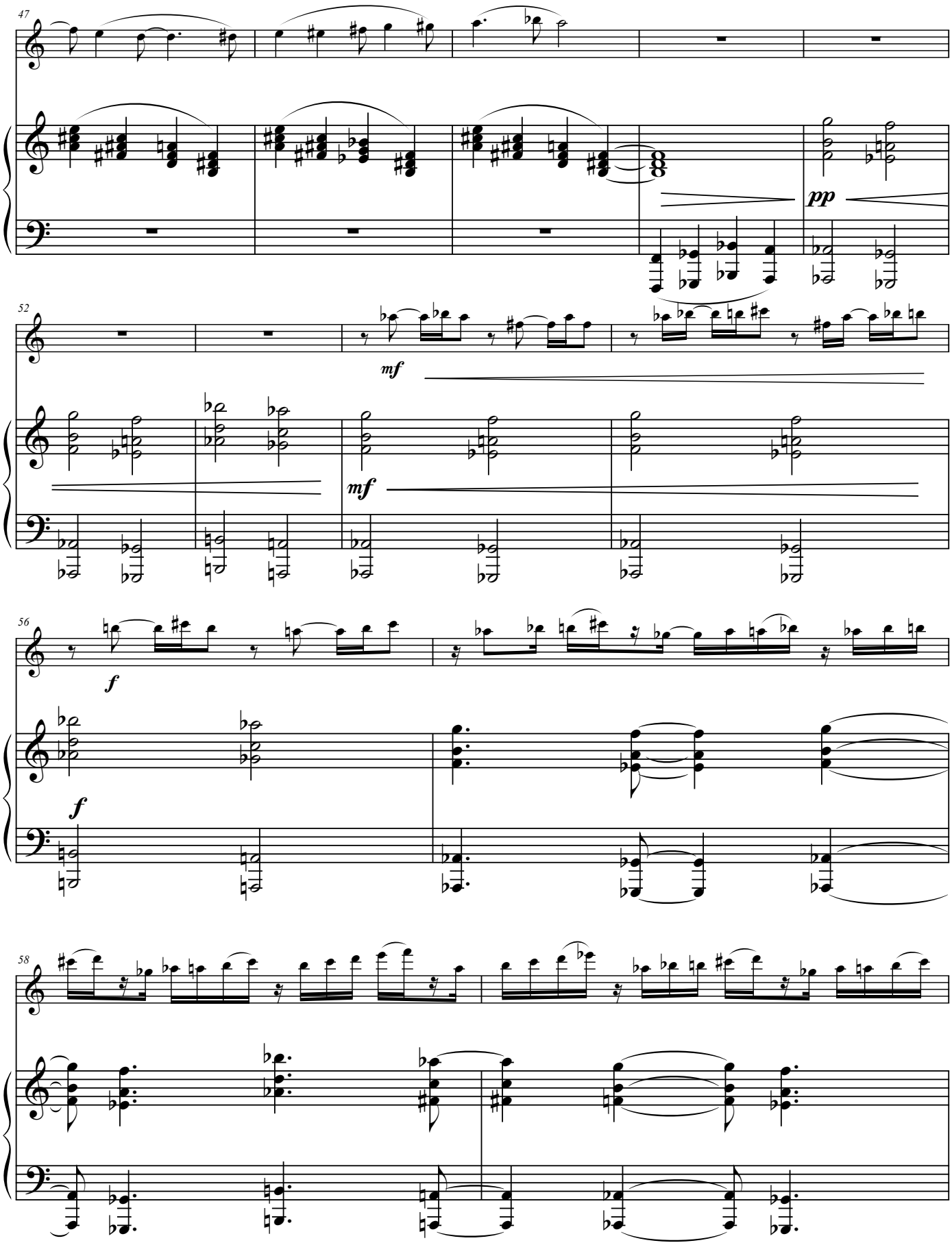
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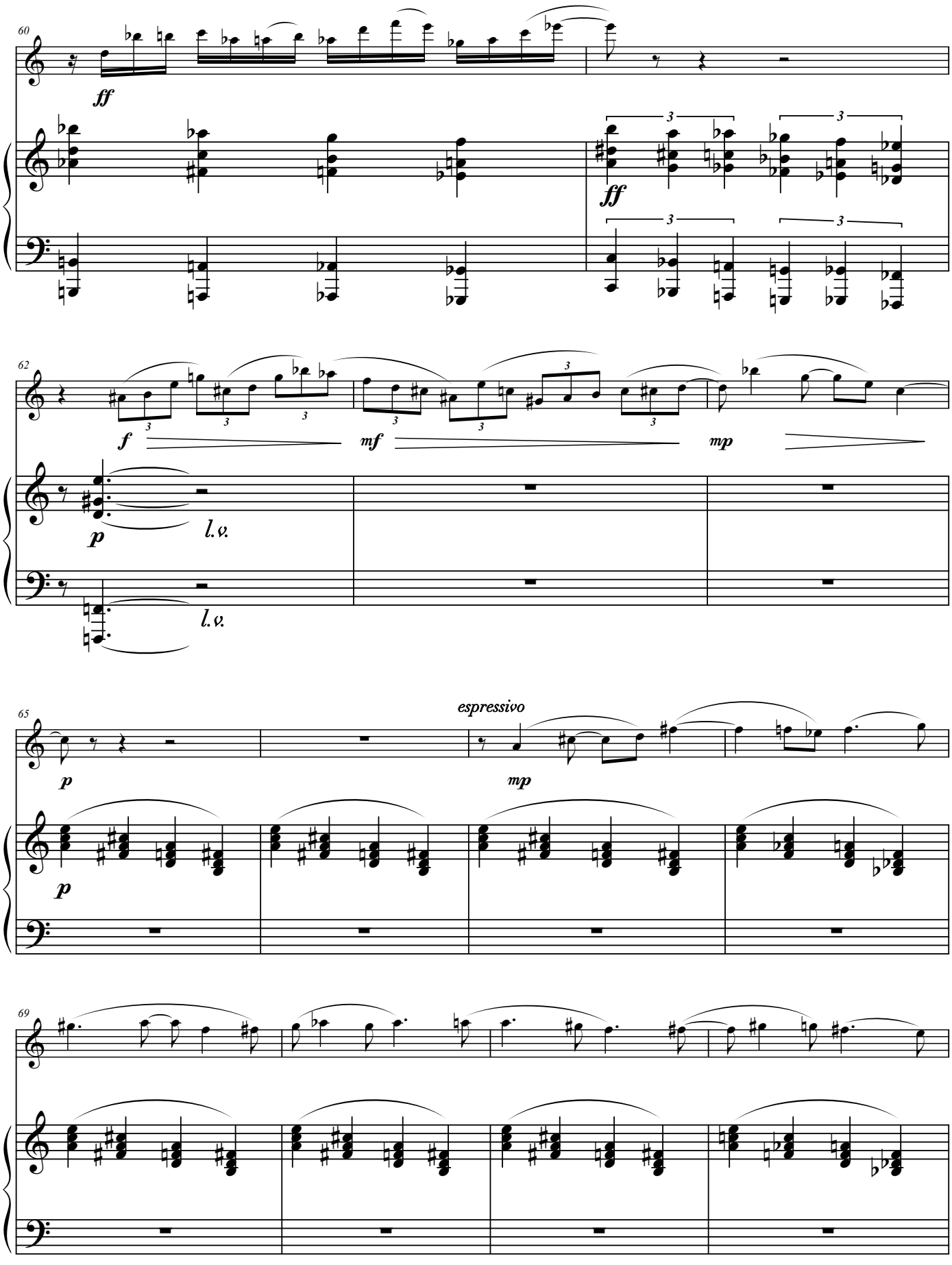
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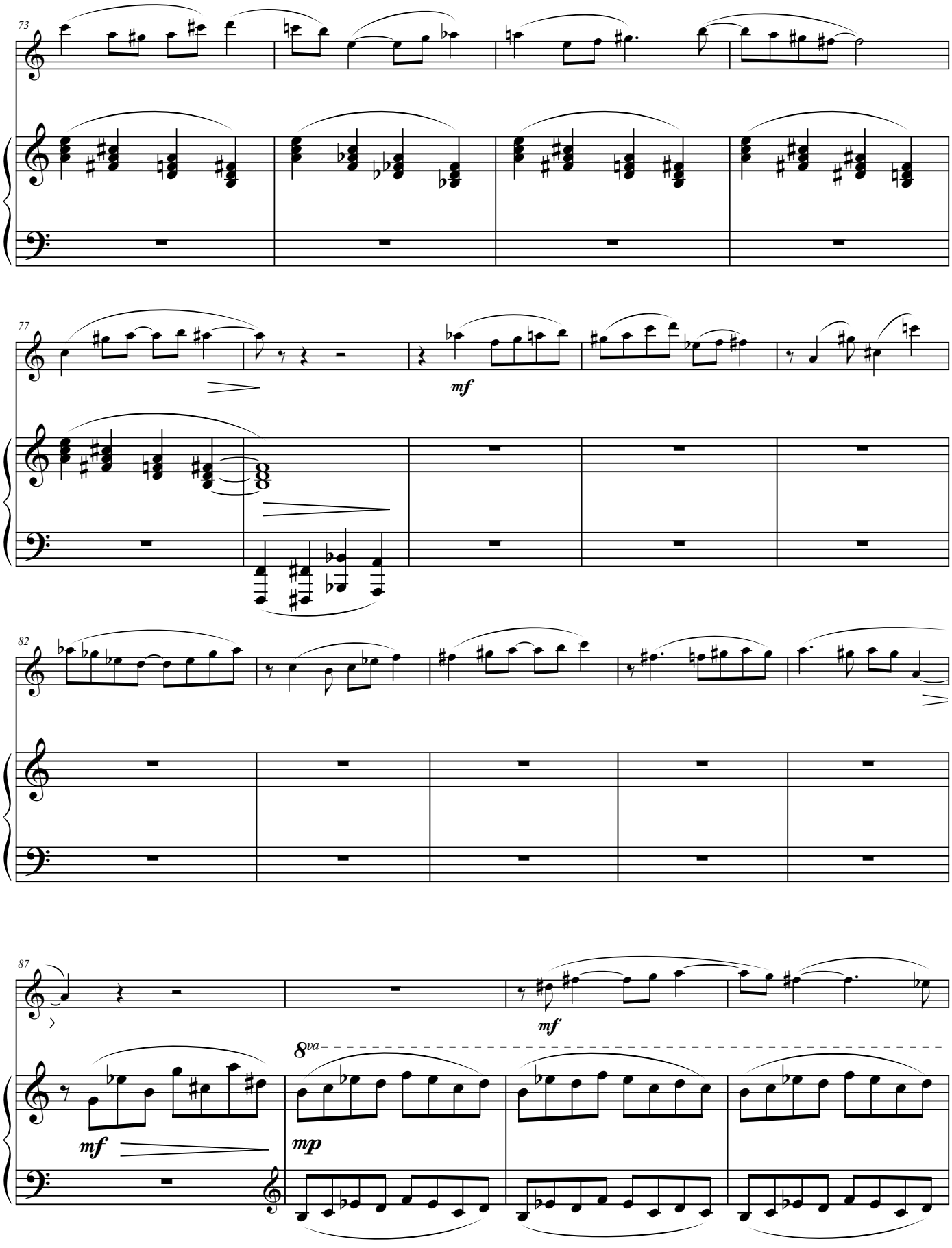
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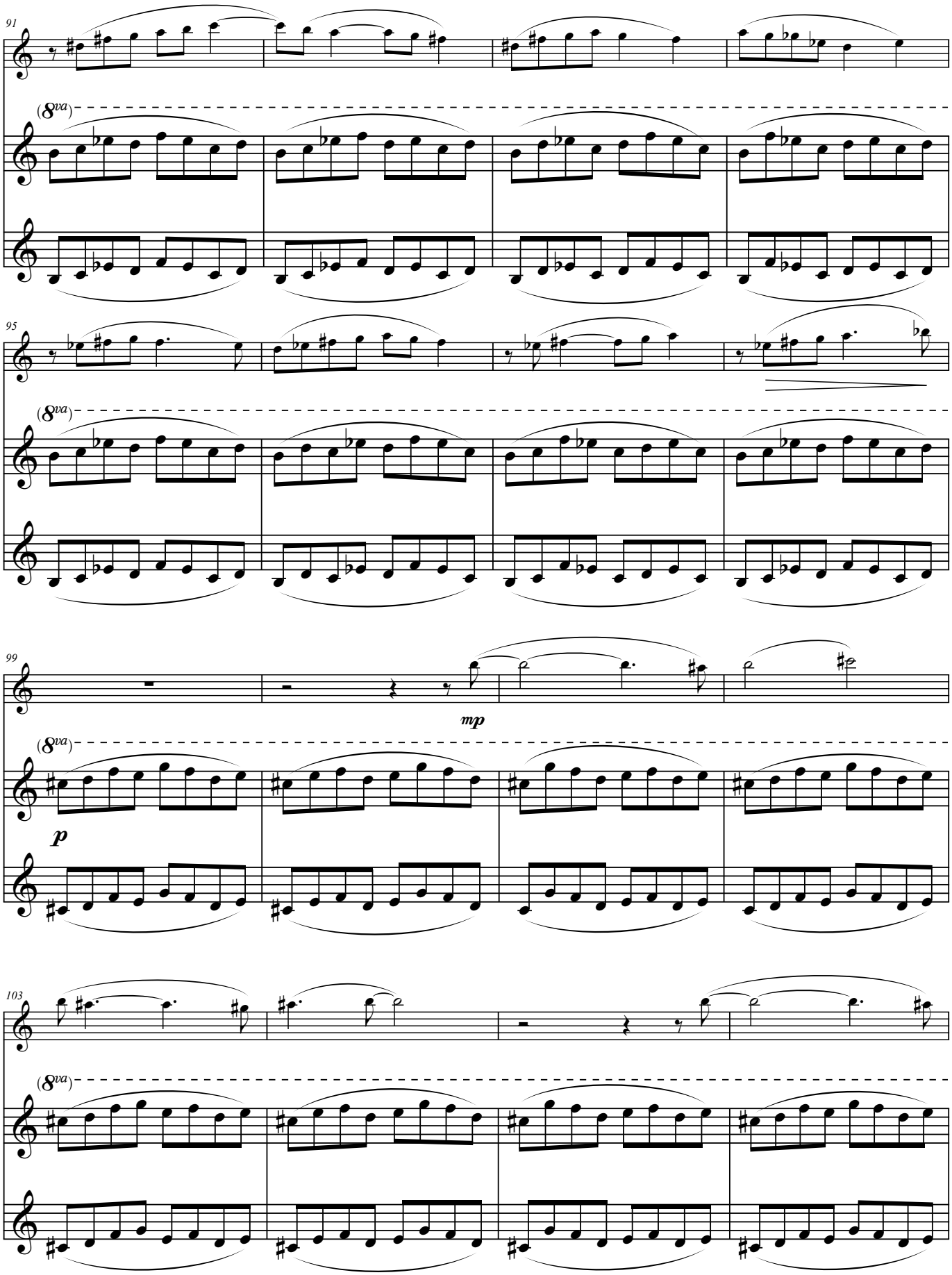
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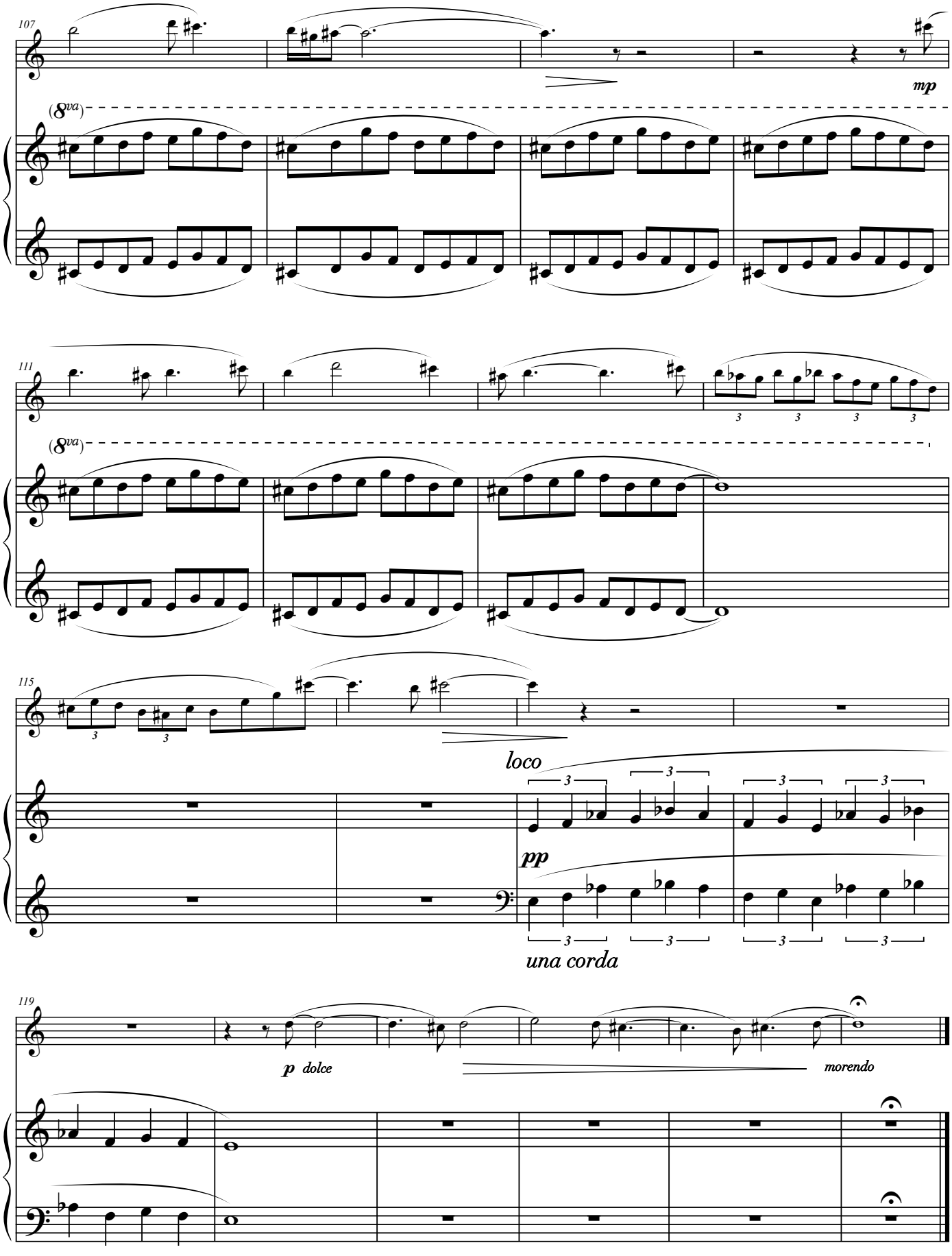
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Musette in E♭

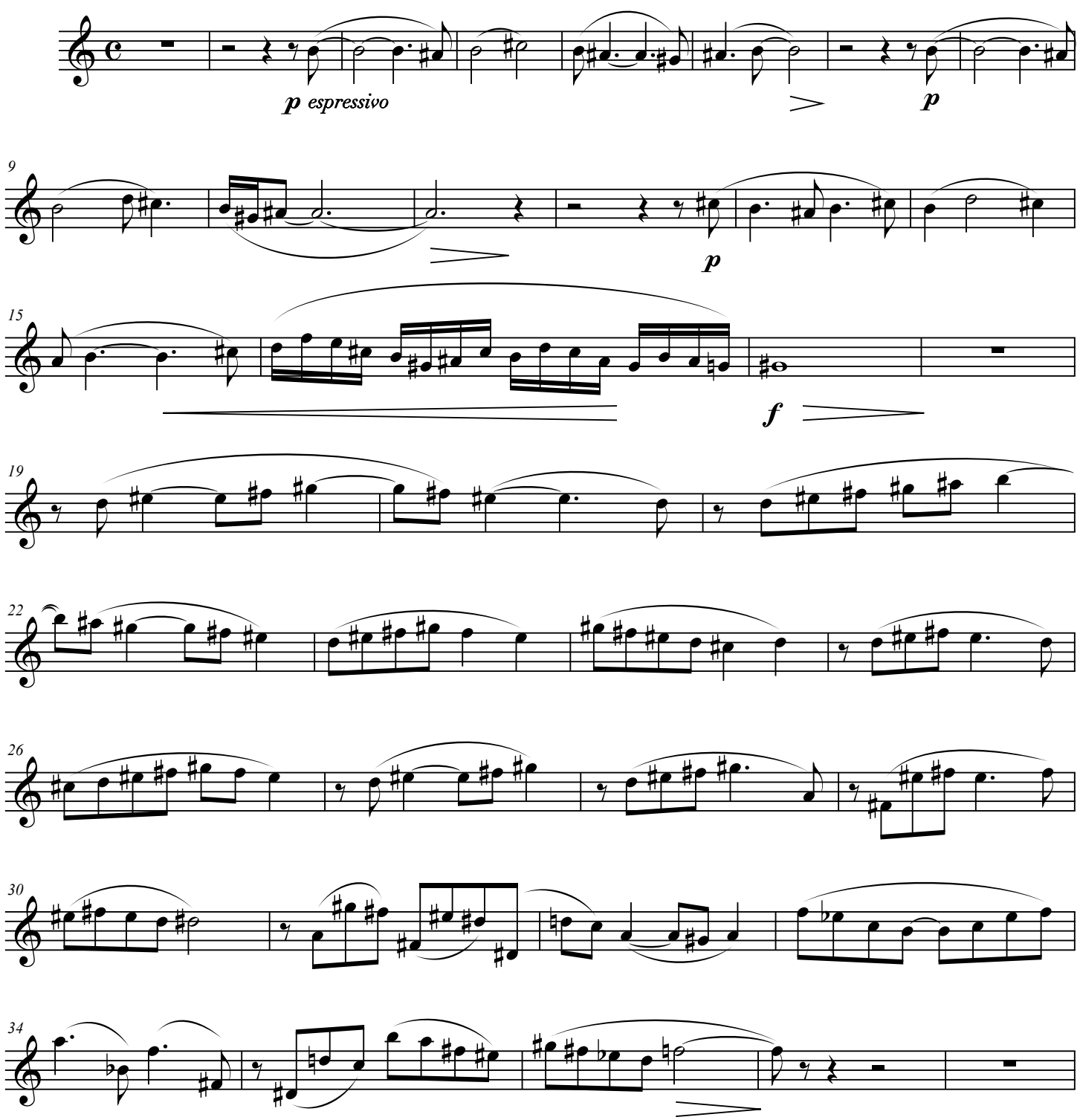
for Jennifer Paull

IBERIAN IMPROVISATIONS

Op. 143

Musette or Alternative Double Reed Instrument and Piano

Leonard Salzedo
(1921 - 2000)



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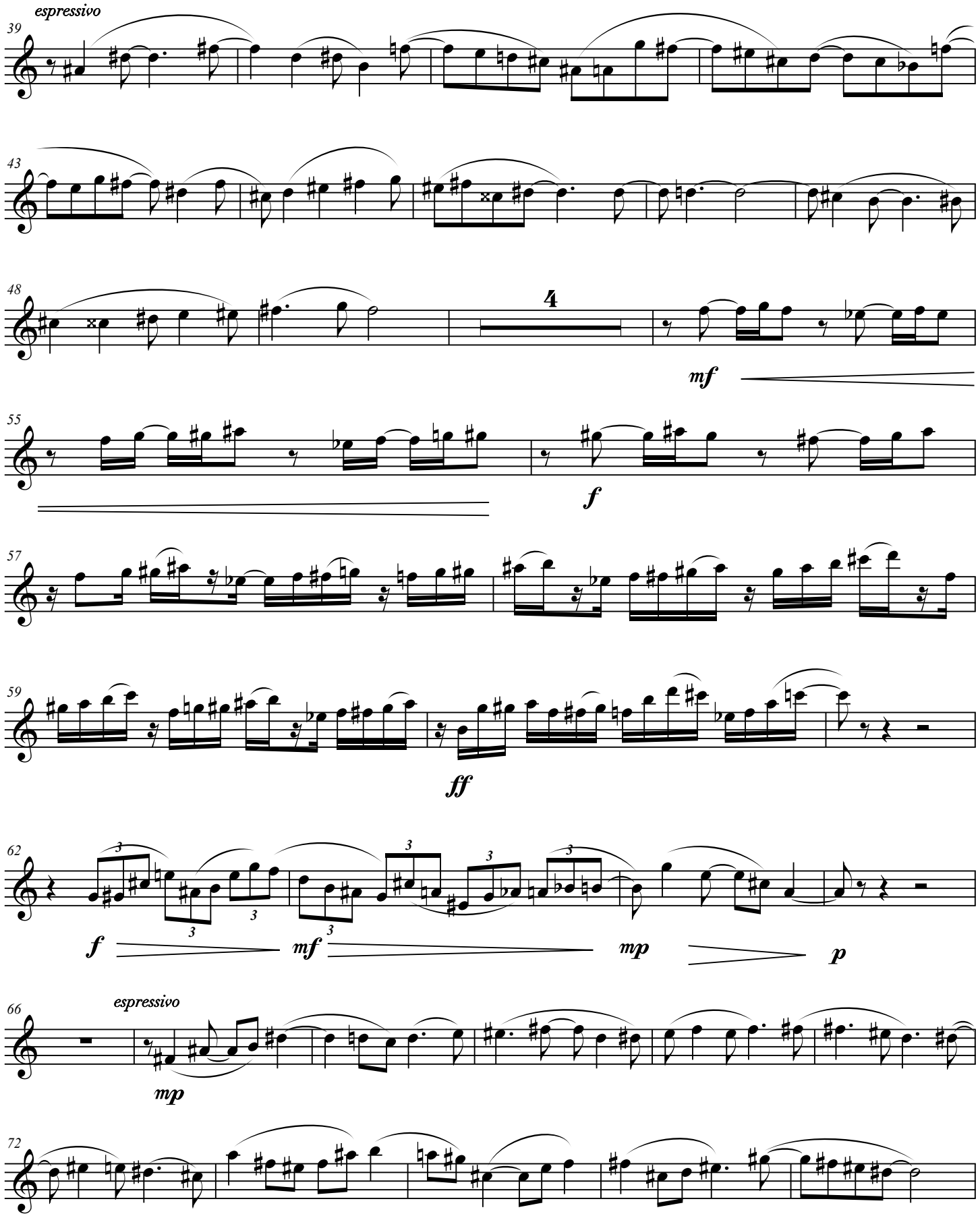
Musette in E♭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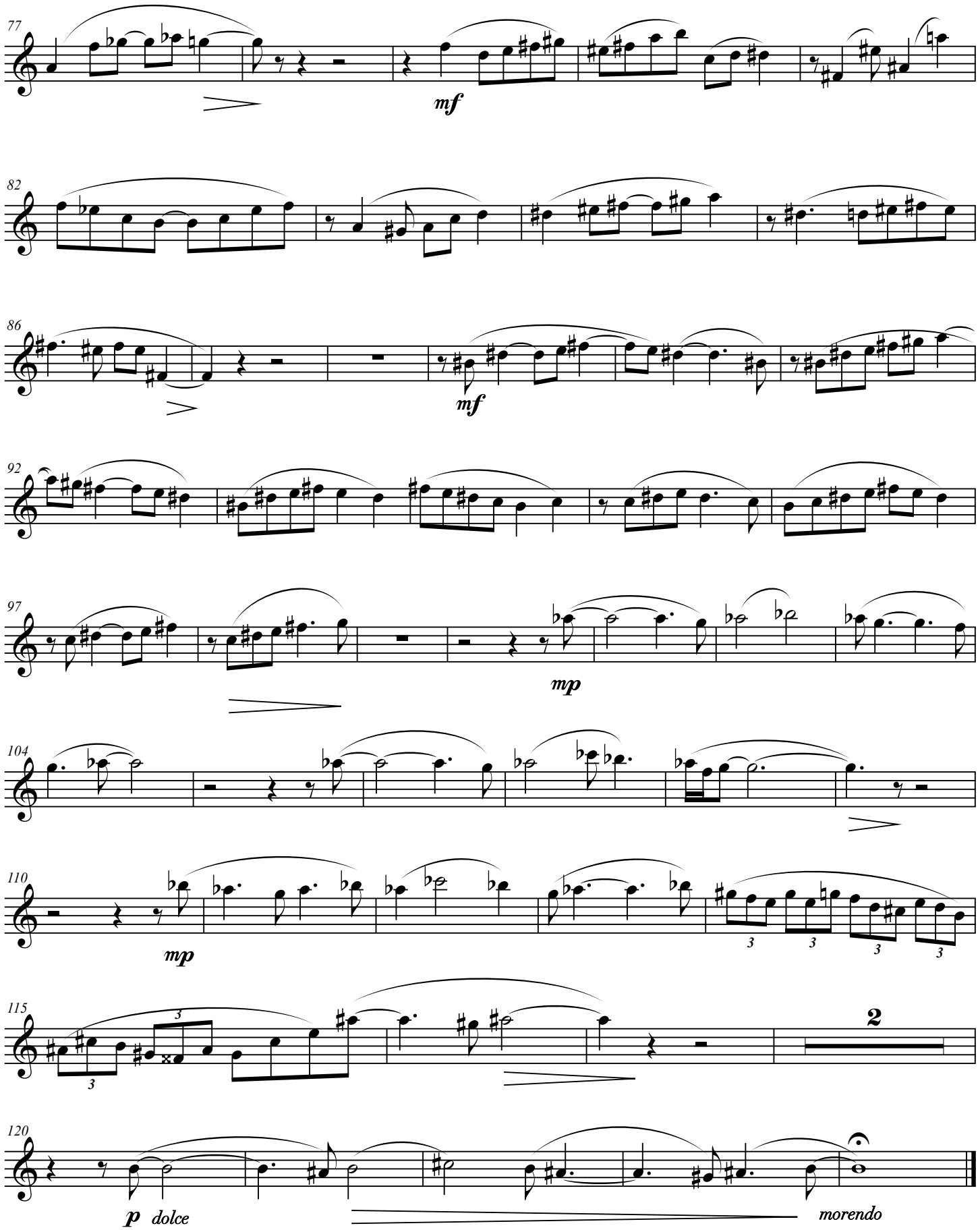
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Musette in F

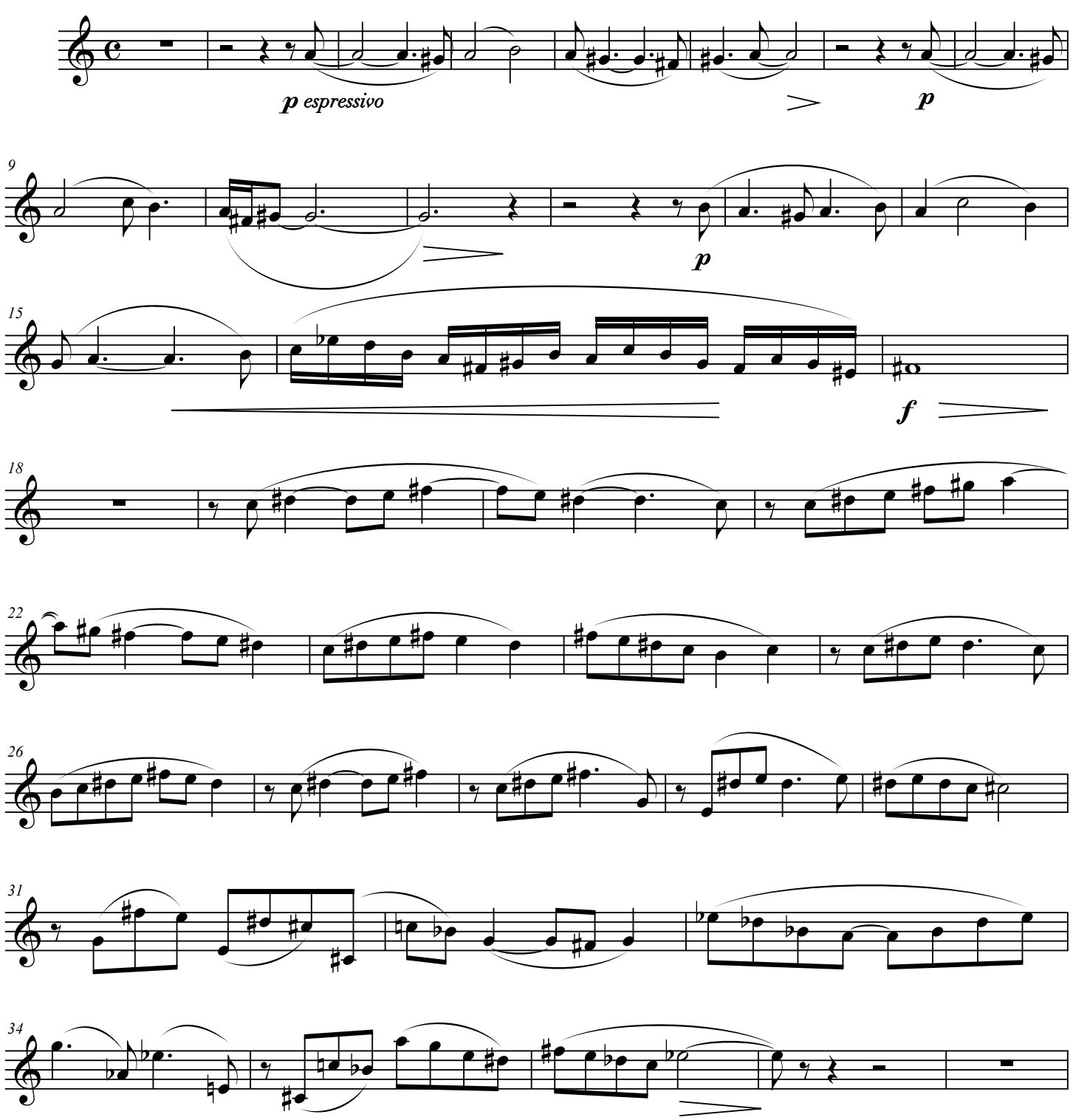
for Jennifer Paull

IBERIAN IMPROVISATIONS

Op. 143

Musette or Alternative Double Reed Instrument and Piano

Leonard Salzedo
(1921 - 2000)



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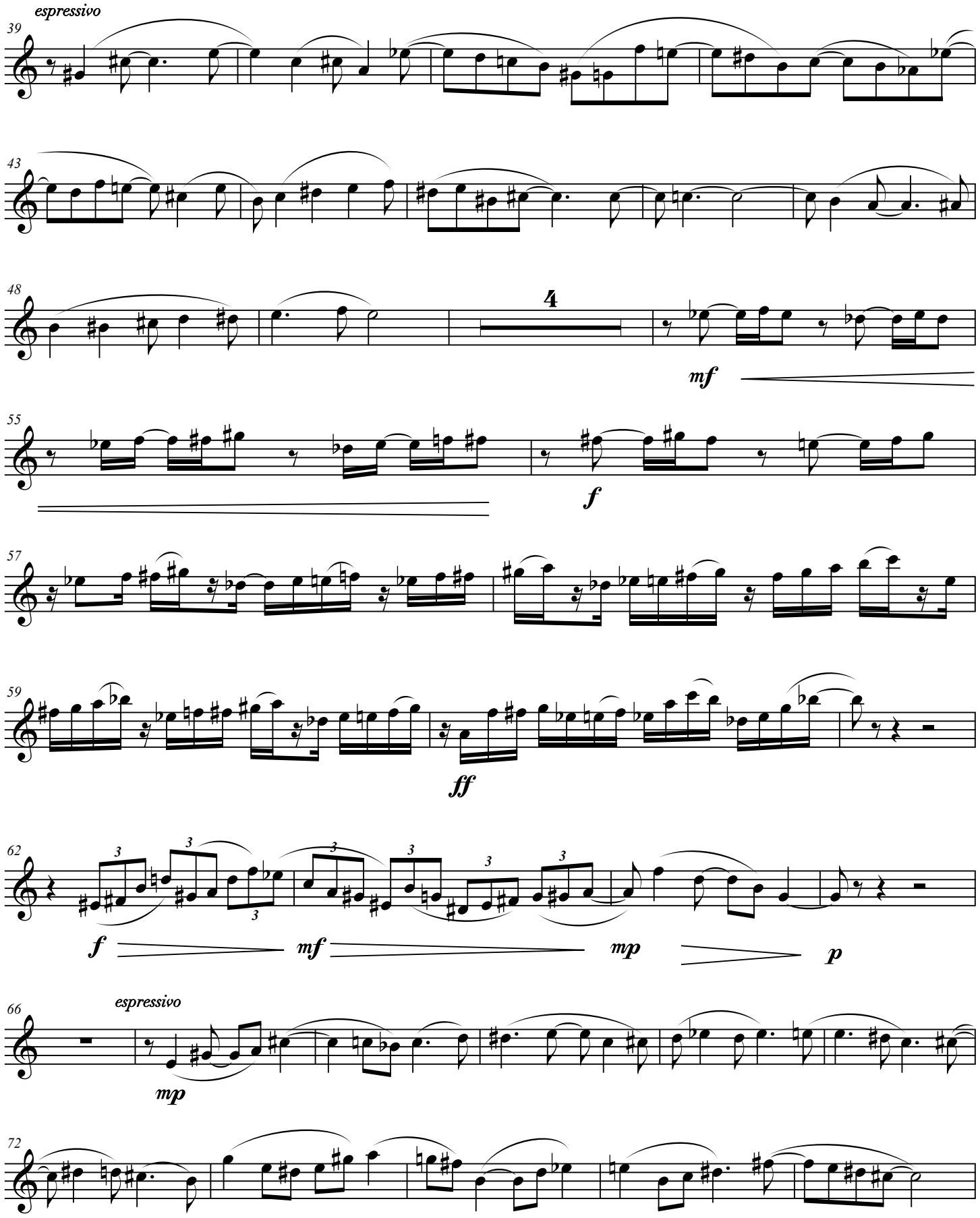
Musette in F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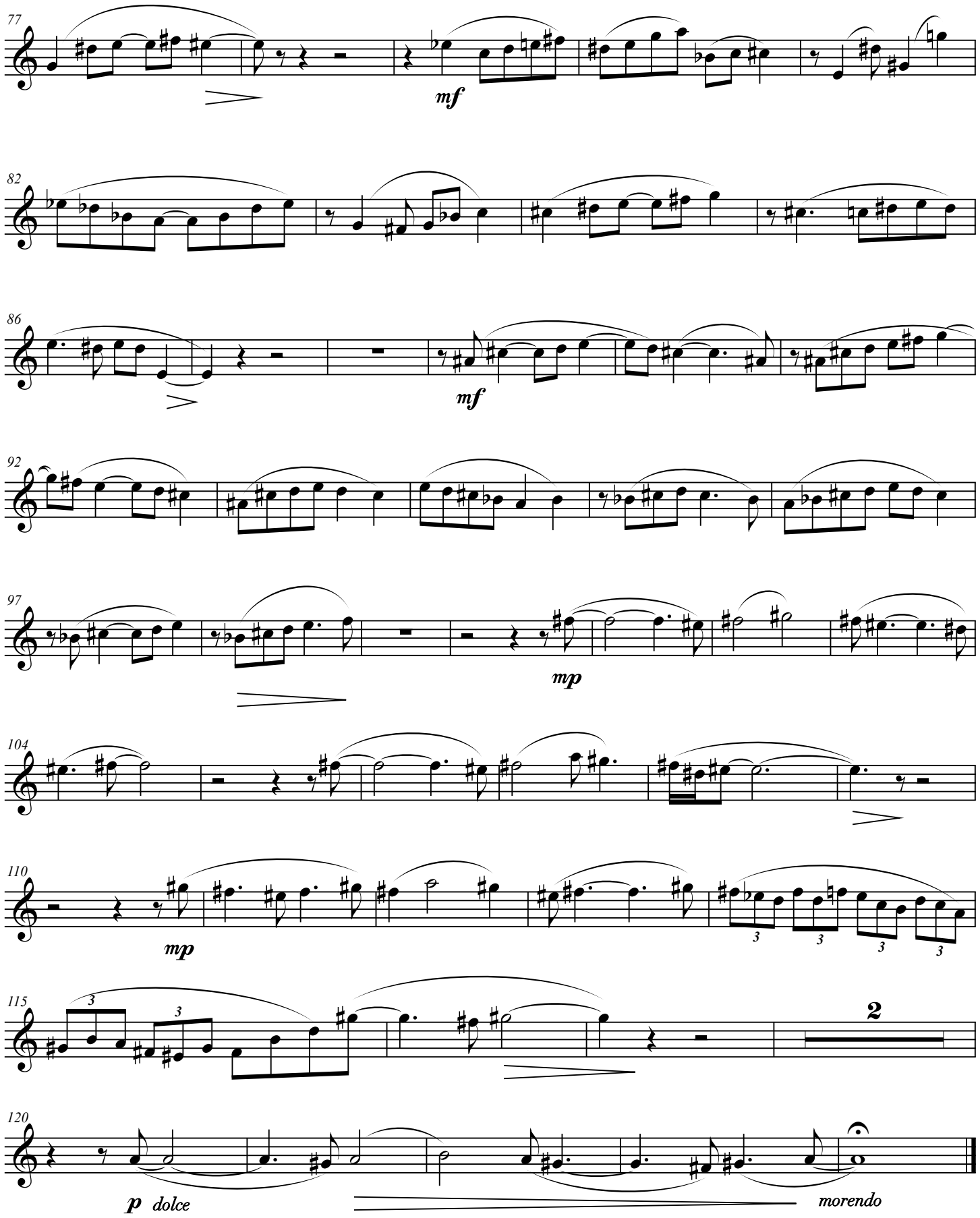
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Oboe

for Jennifer Paull

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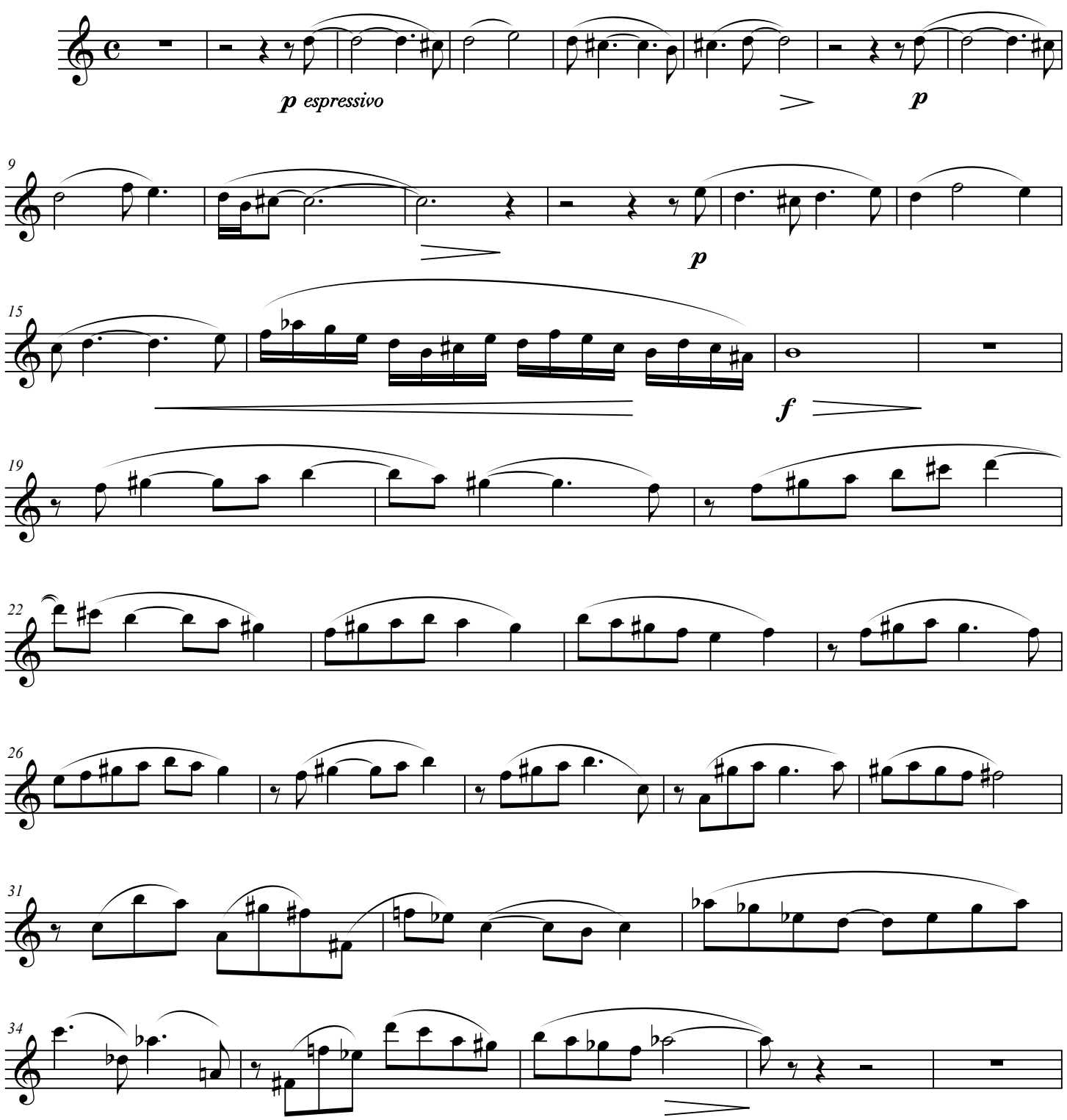

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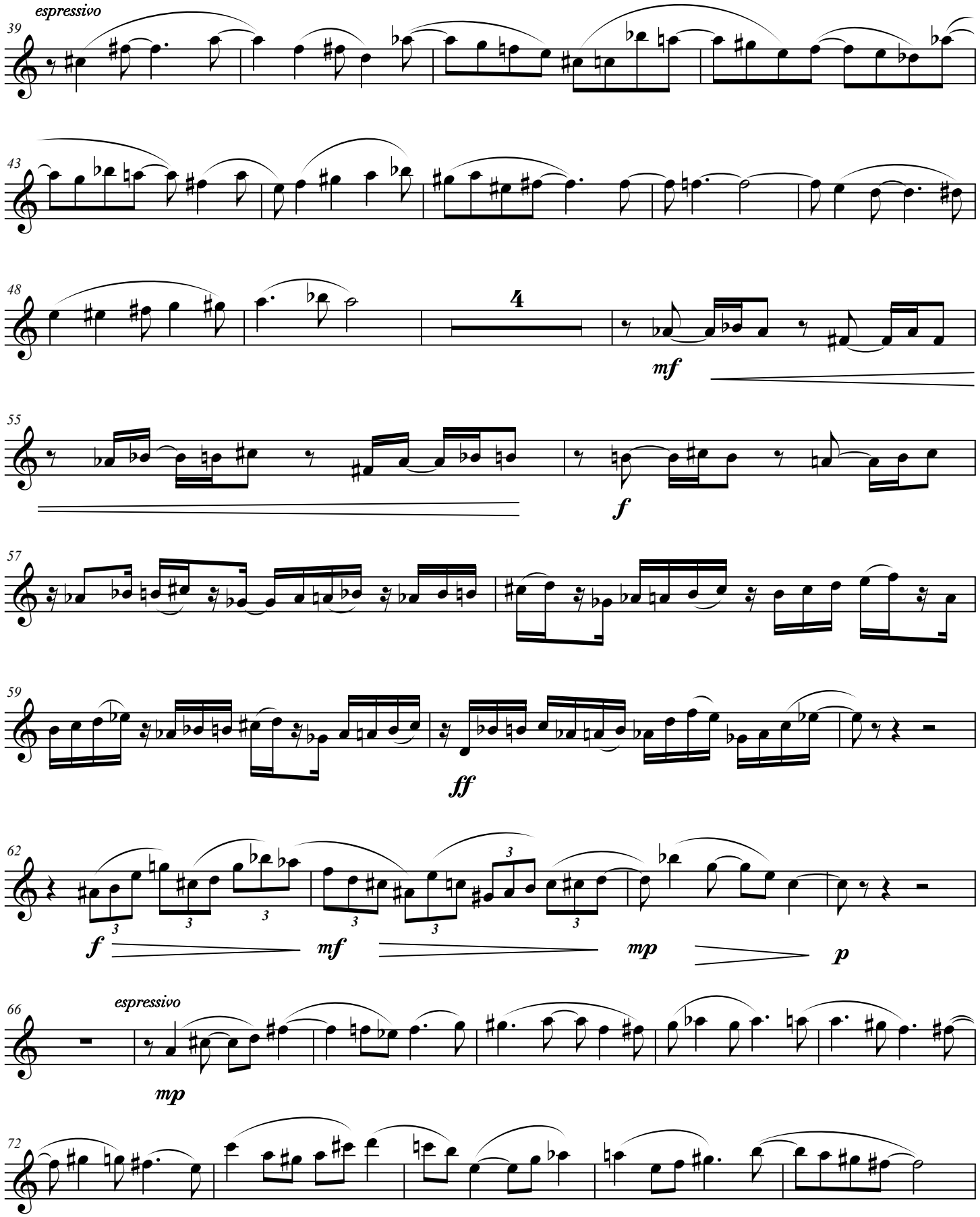
Oboe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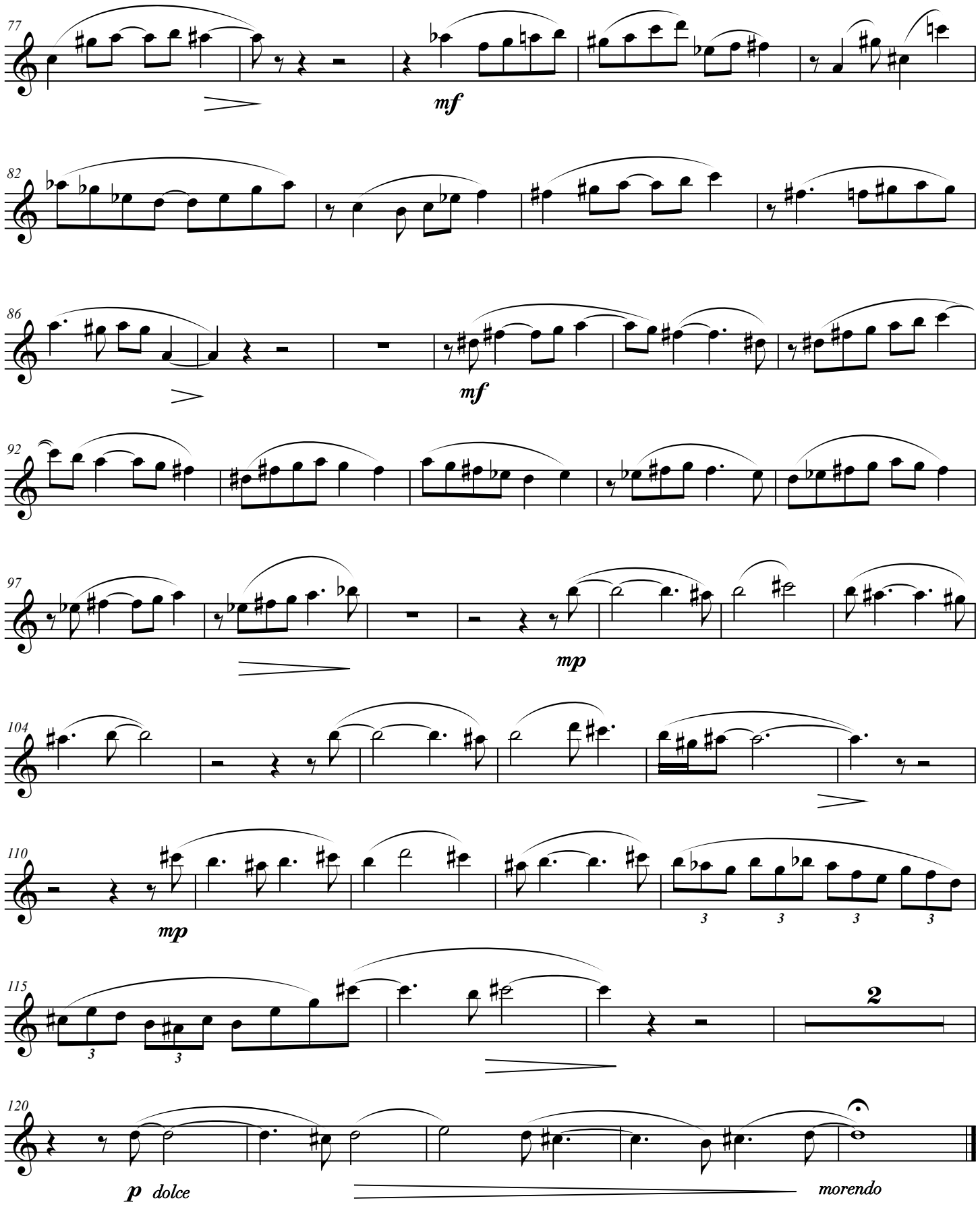
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Oboe d'Amore

for Jennifer Paull

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Op. 143

Musette or Alternative Double Reed Instrument and Piano

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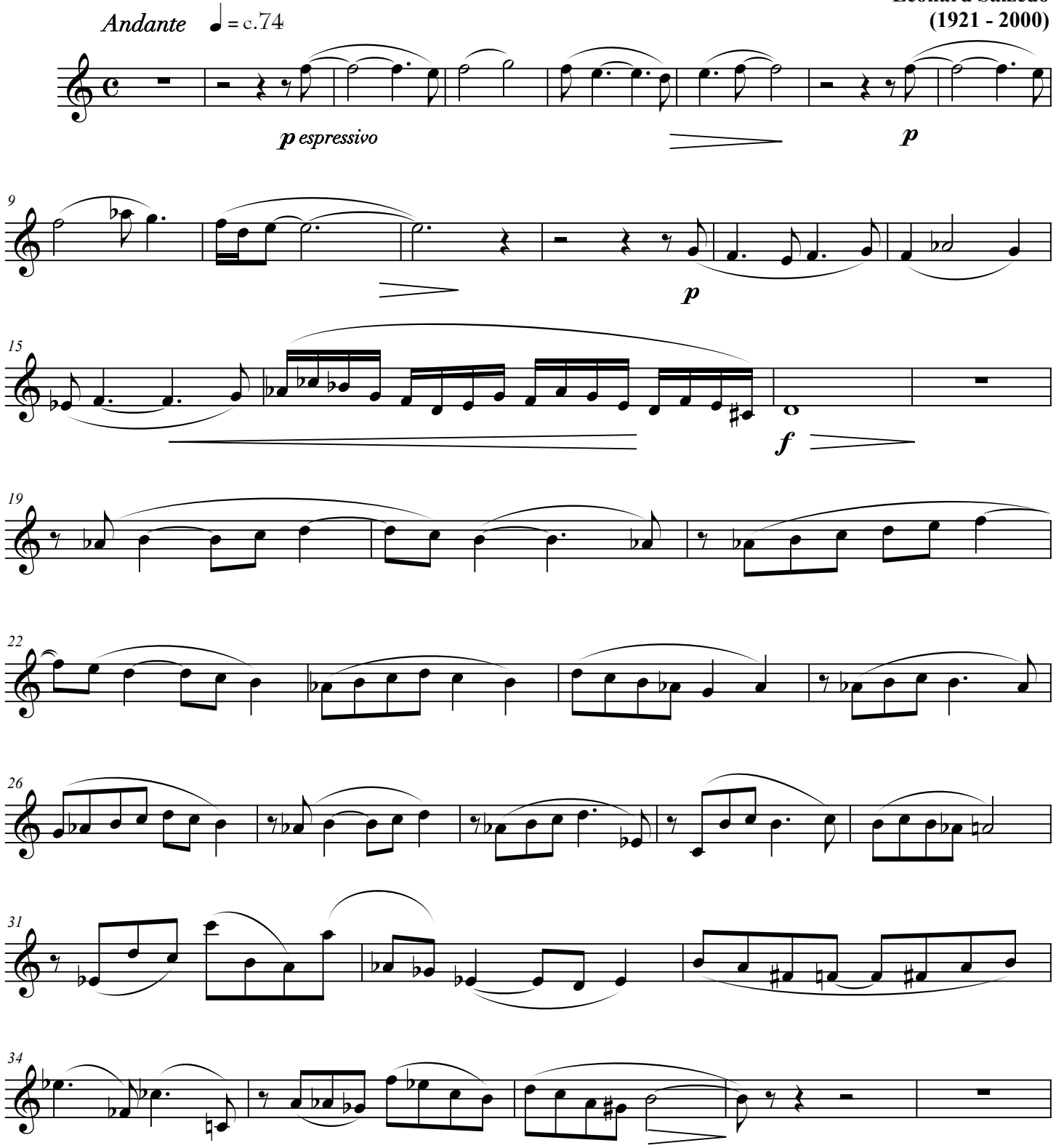
(1921 - 2000)



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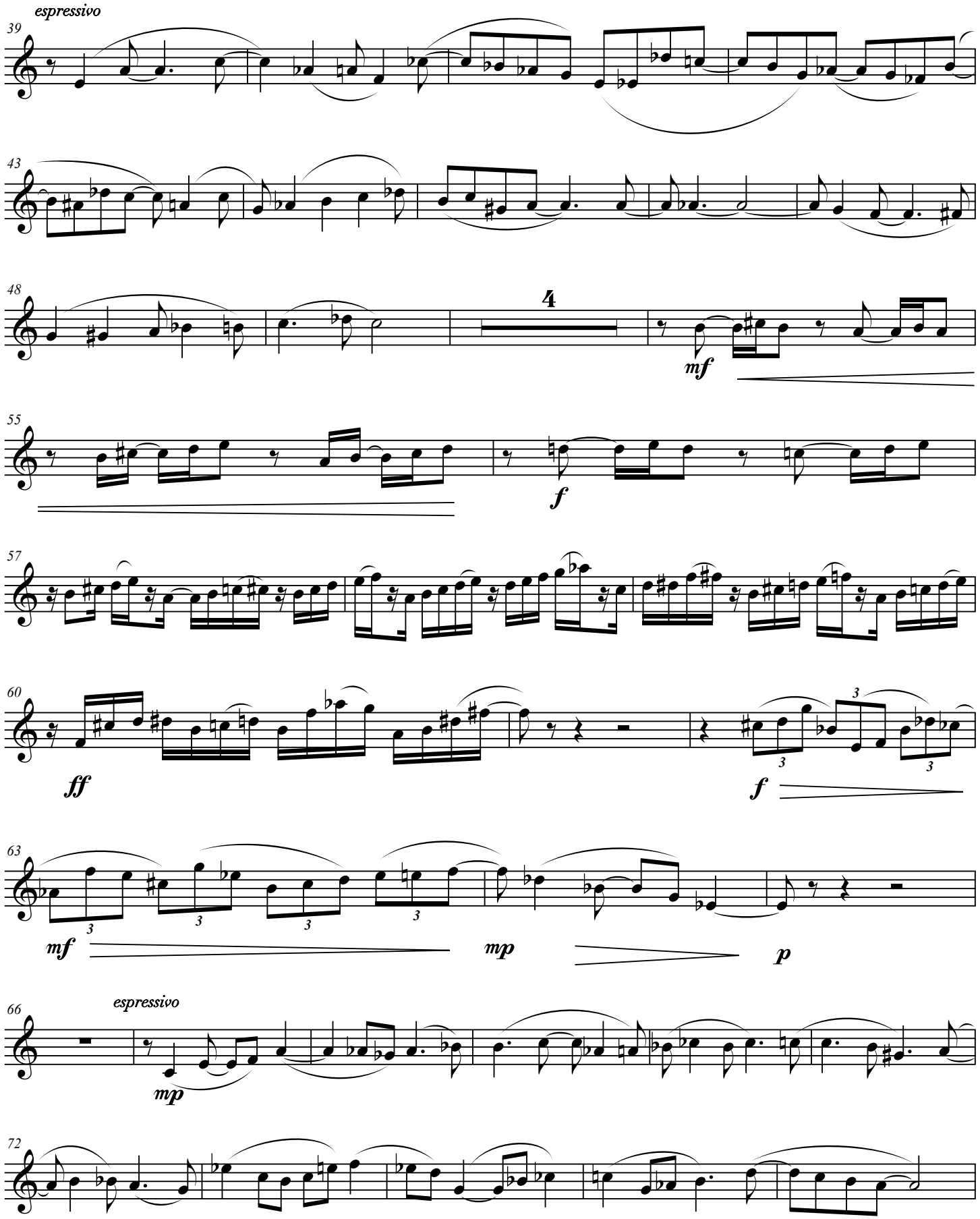
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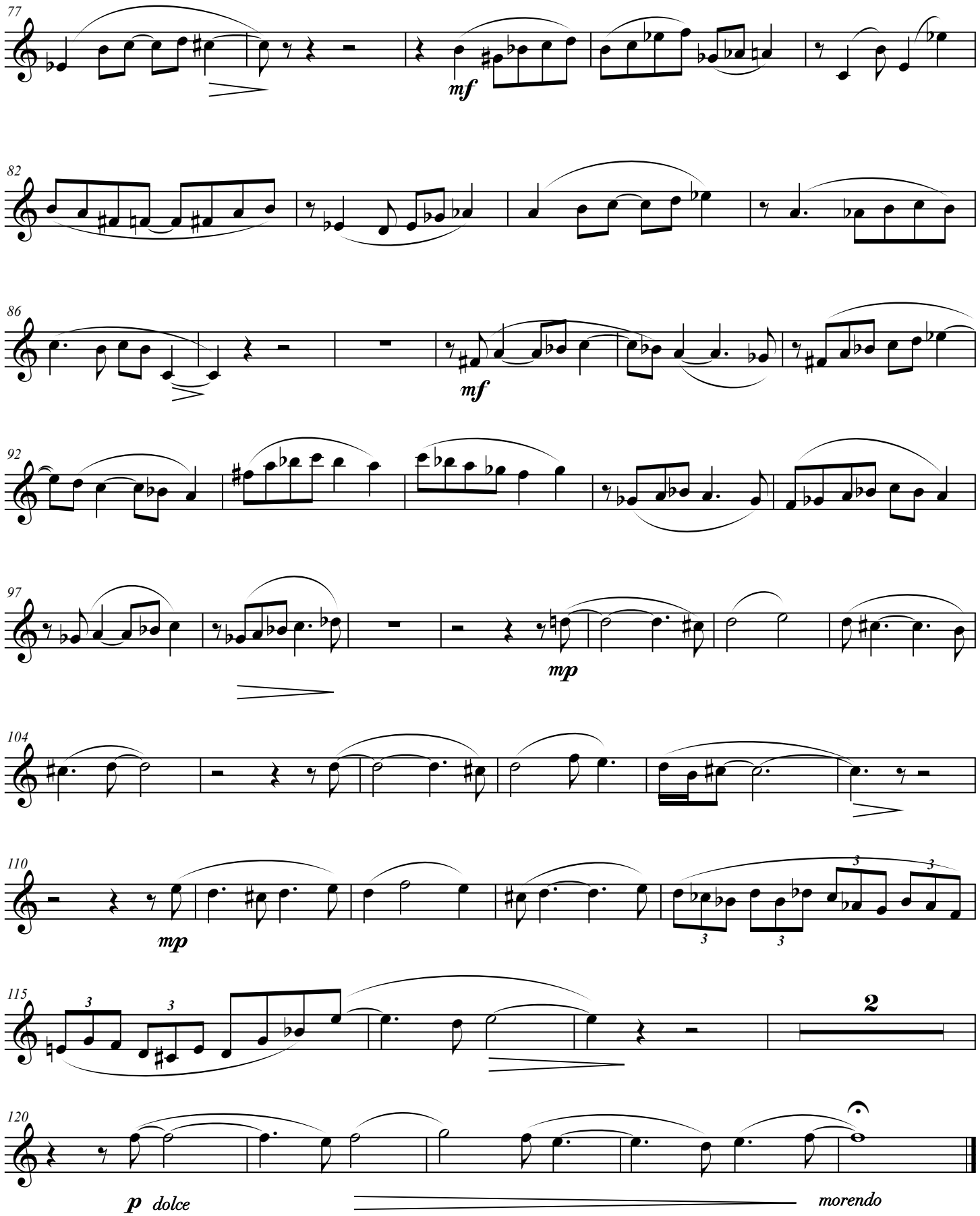
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Cor anglais

for Jennifer Paull

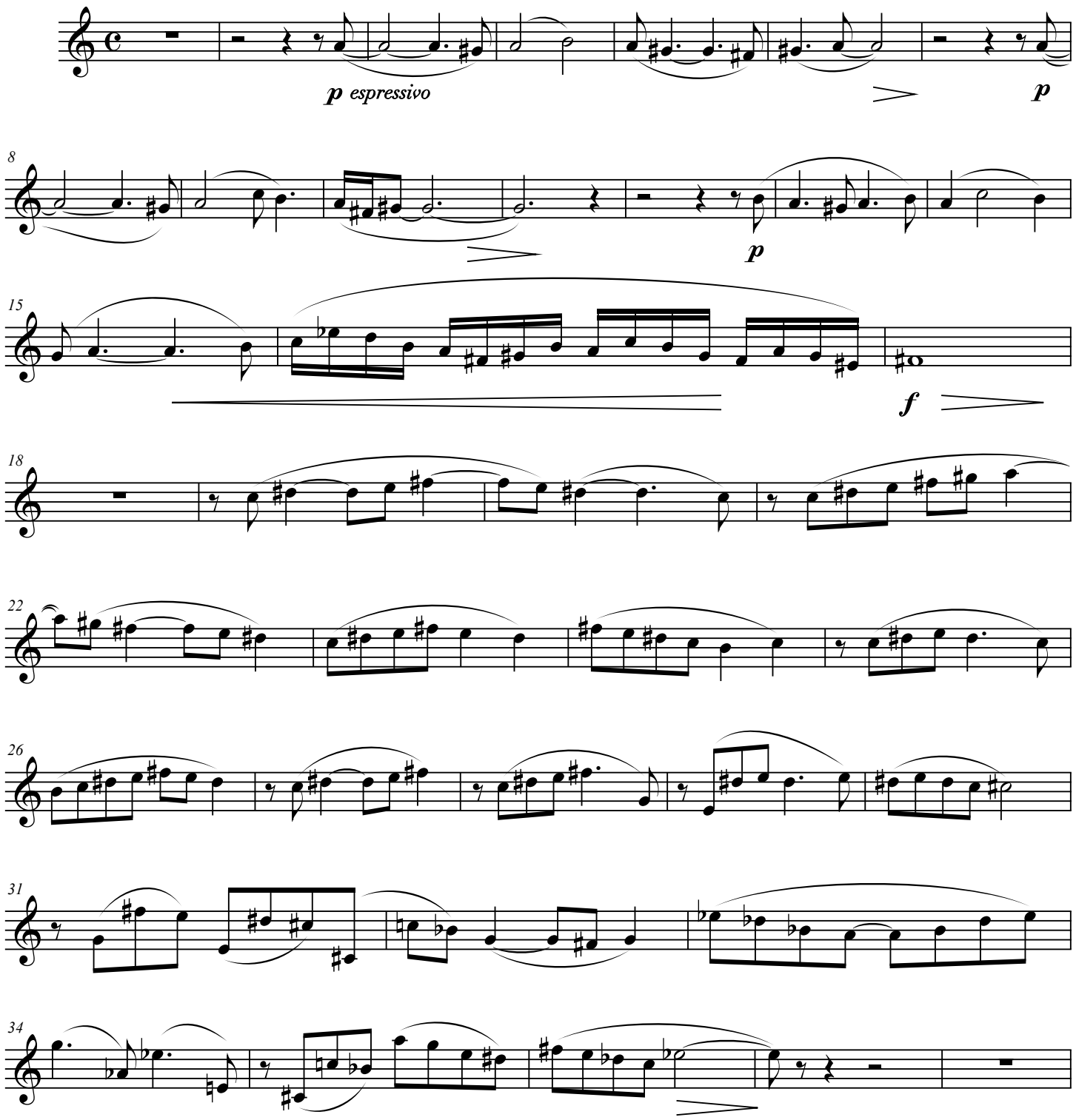
IBERIAN IMPROVISATIONS

Op. 143

Musette or Alternative Double Reed Instrument and Piano

Leonard Salzedo
(1921 - 2000)

Andante ♩ = c.74



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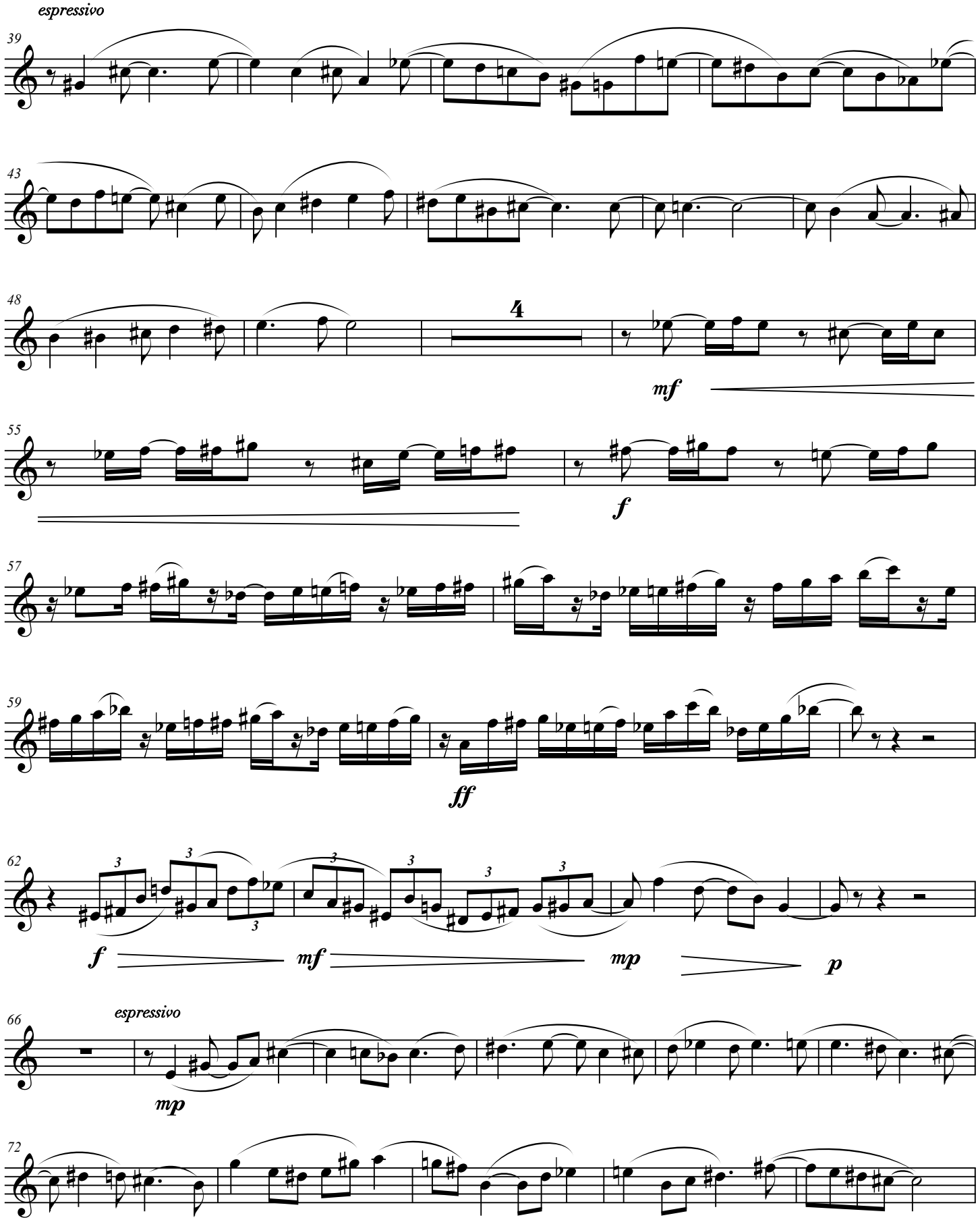
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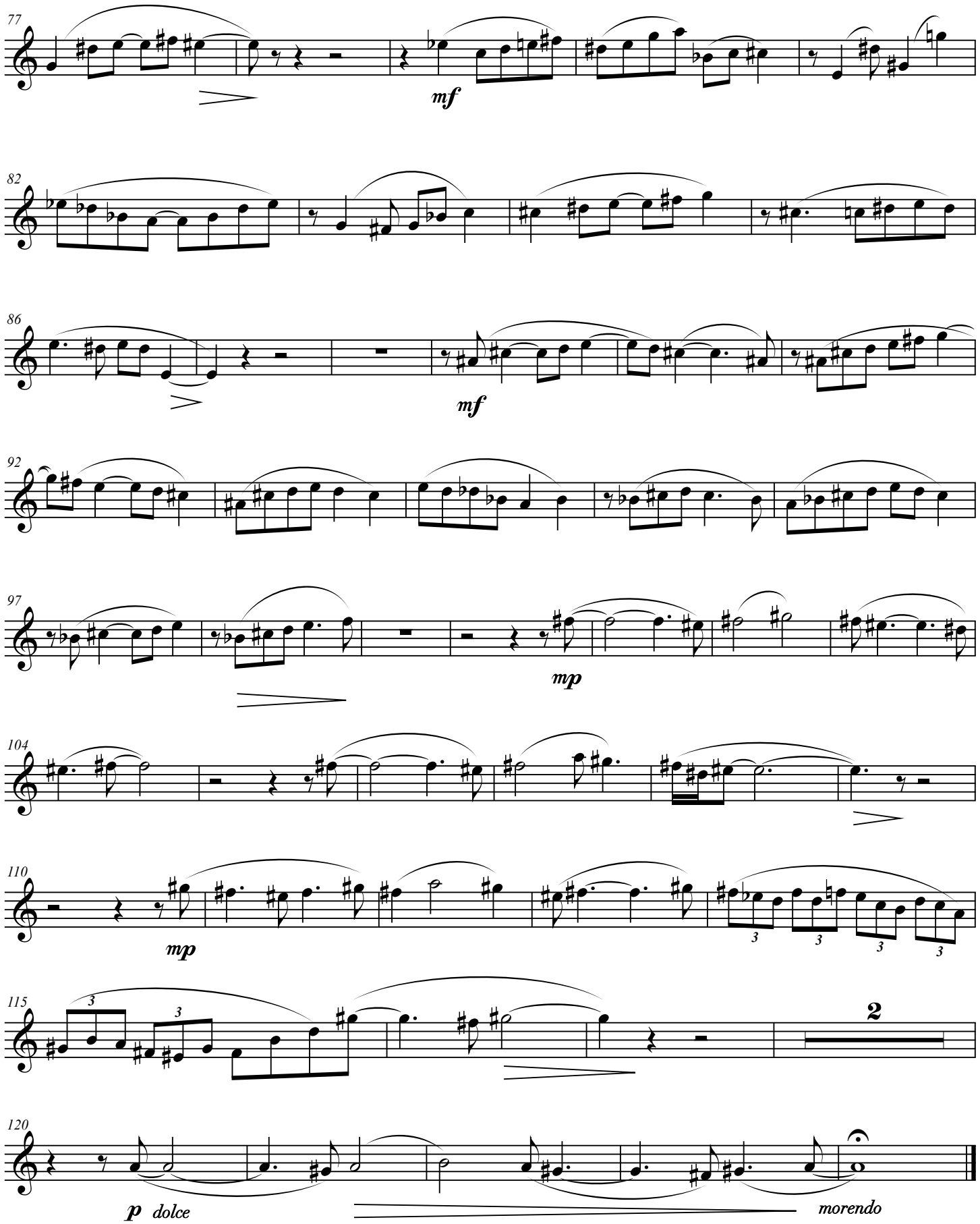
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Bass oboe

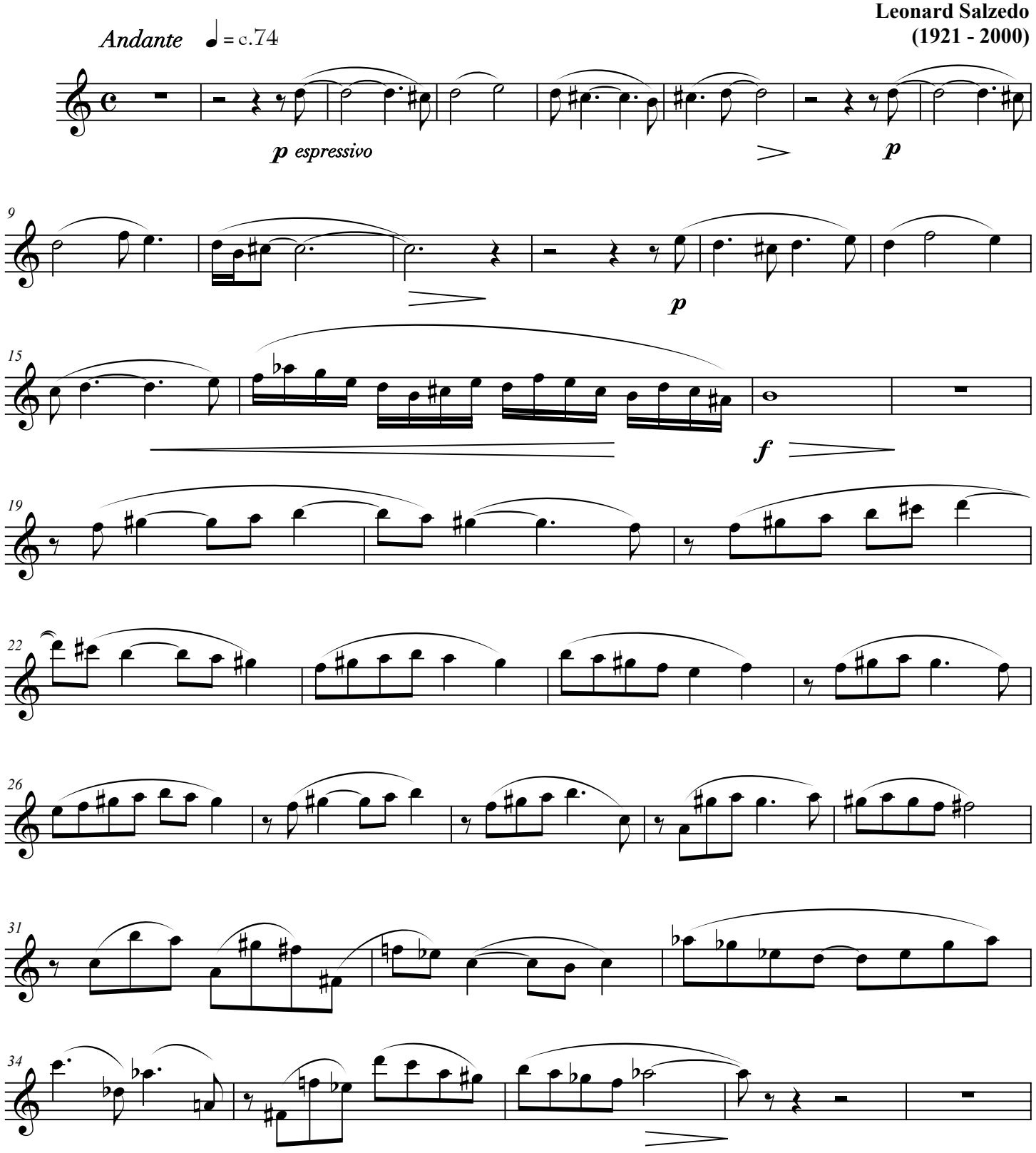
for Jennifer Paull

IBERIAN IMPROVISATIONS

Op. 143

Musette or Alternative Double Reed Instrument and Piano

Leonard Salzedo
(1921 - 2000)



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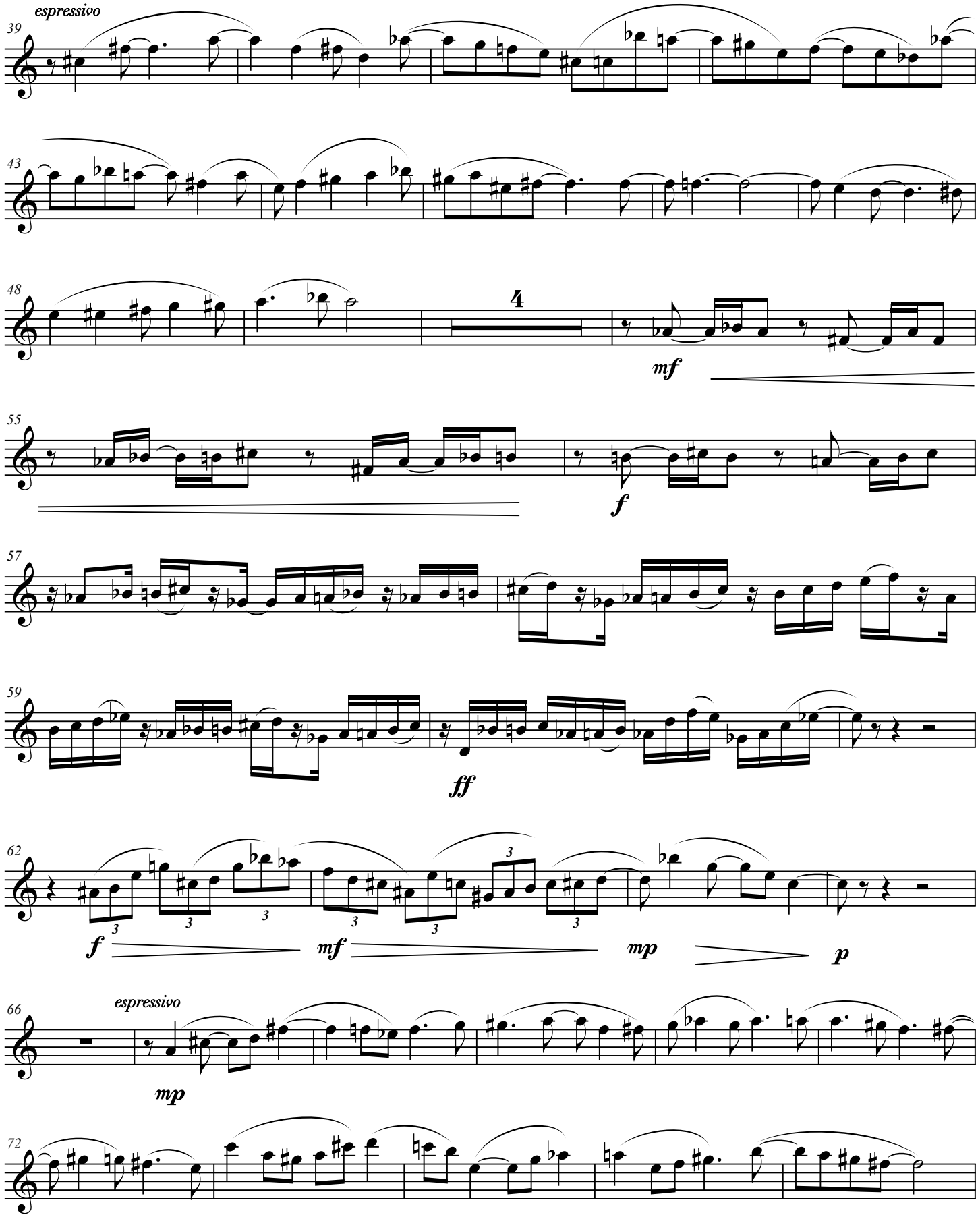
Bass Oboe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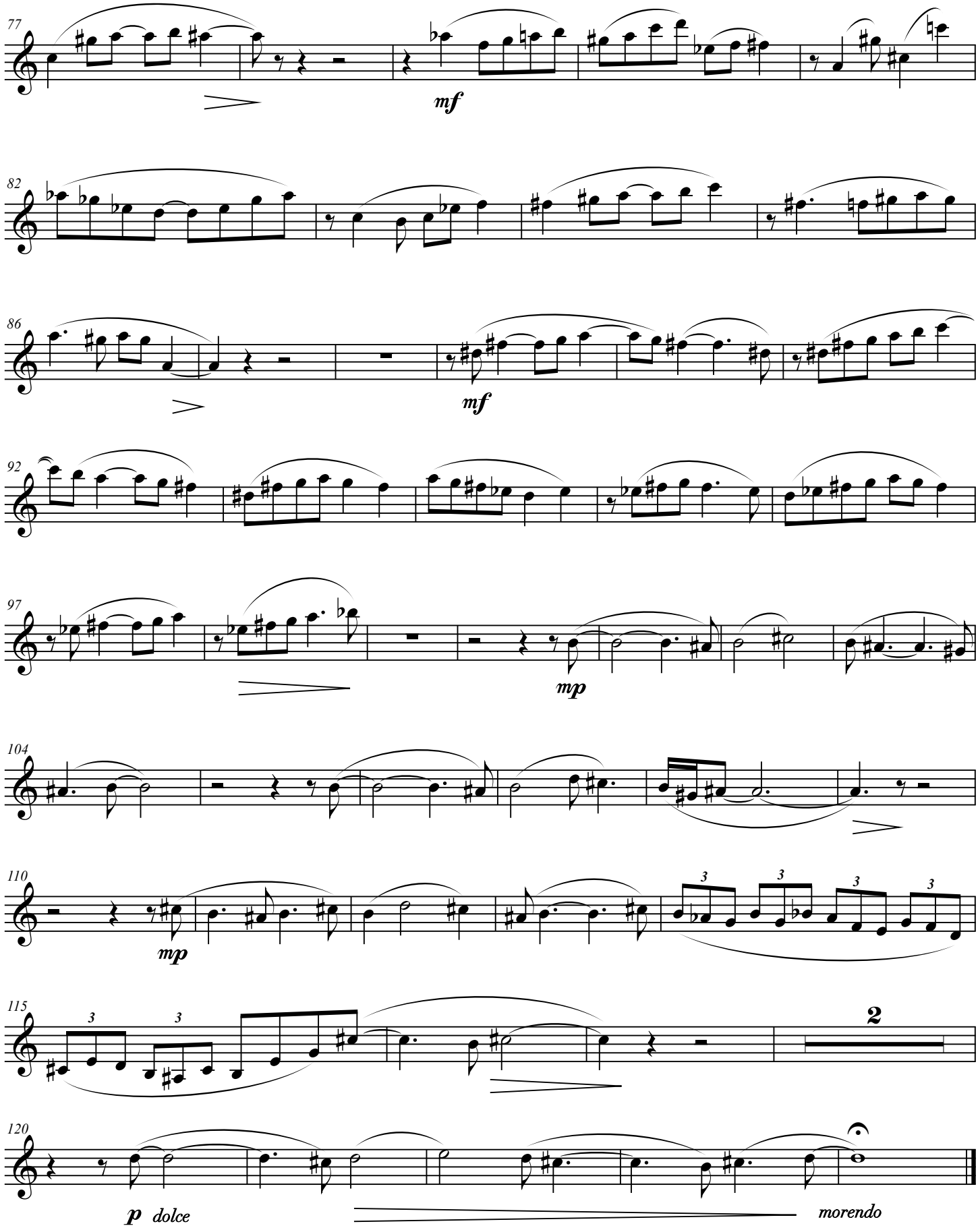
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Bassoon

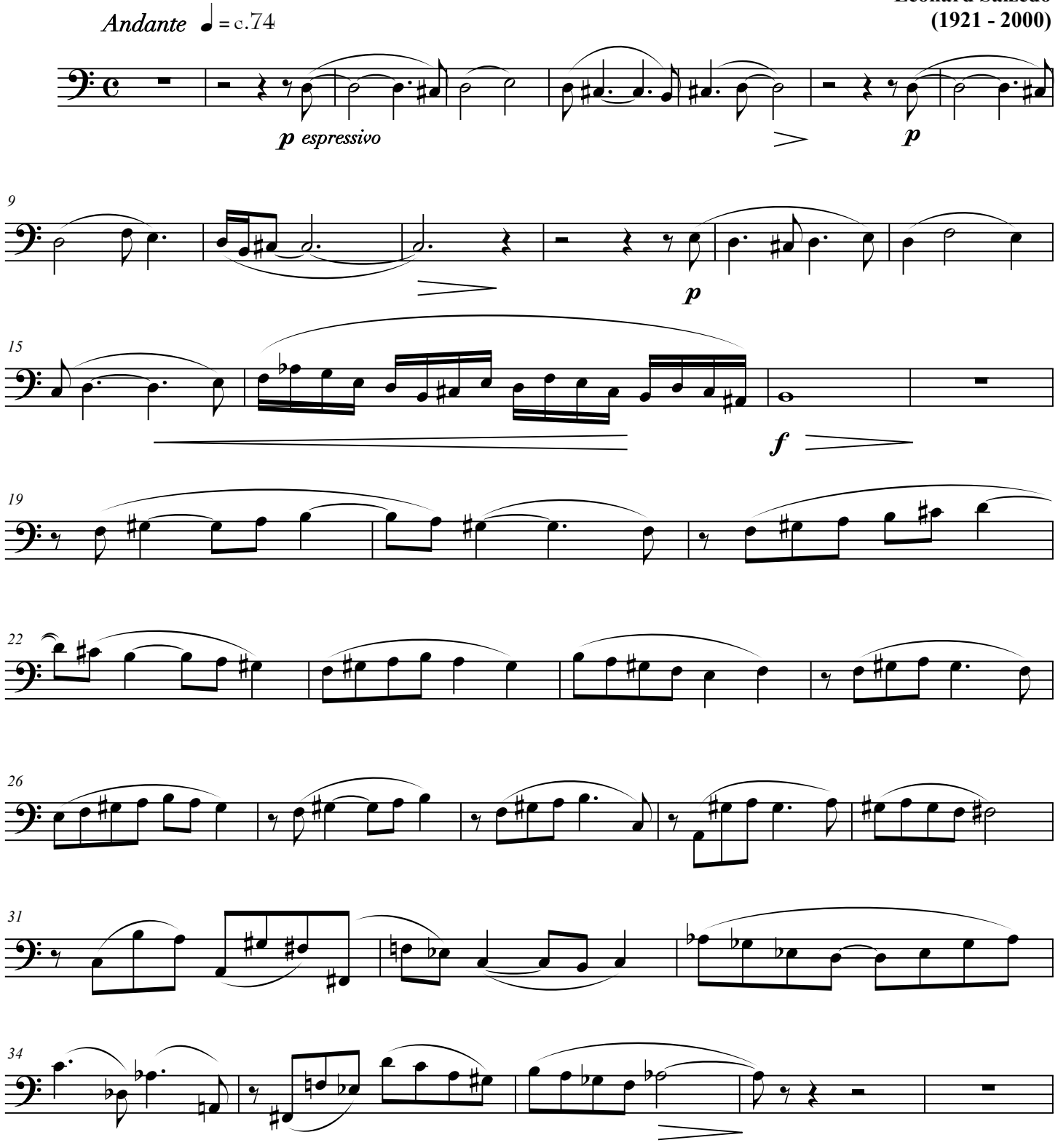
for Jennifer Paull

IBERIAN IMPROVISATIONS

Op. 143

Musette or Alternative Double Reed Instrument and Piano

Leonard Salzedo
(1921 - 2000)



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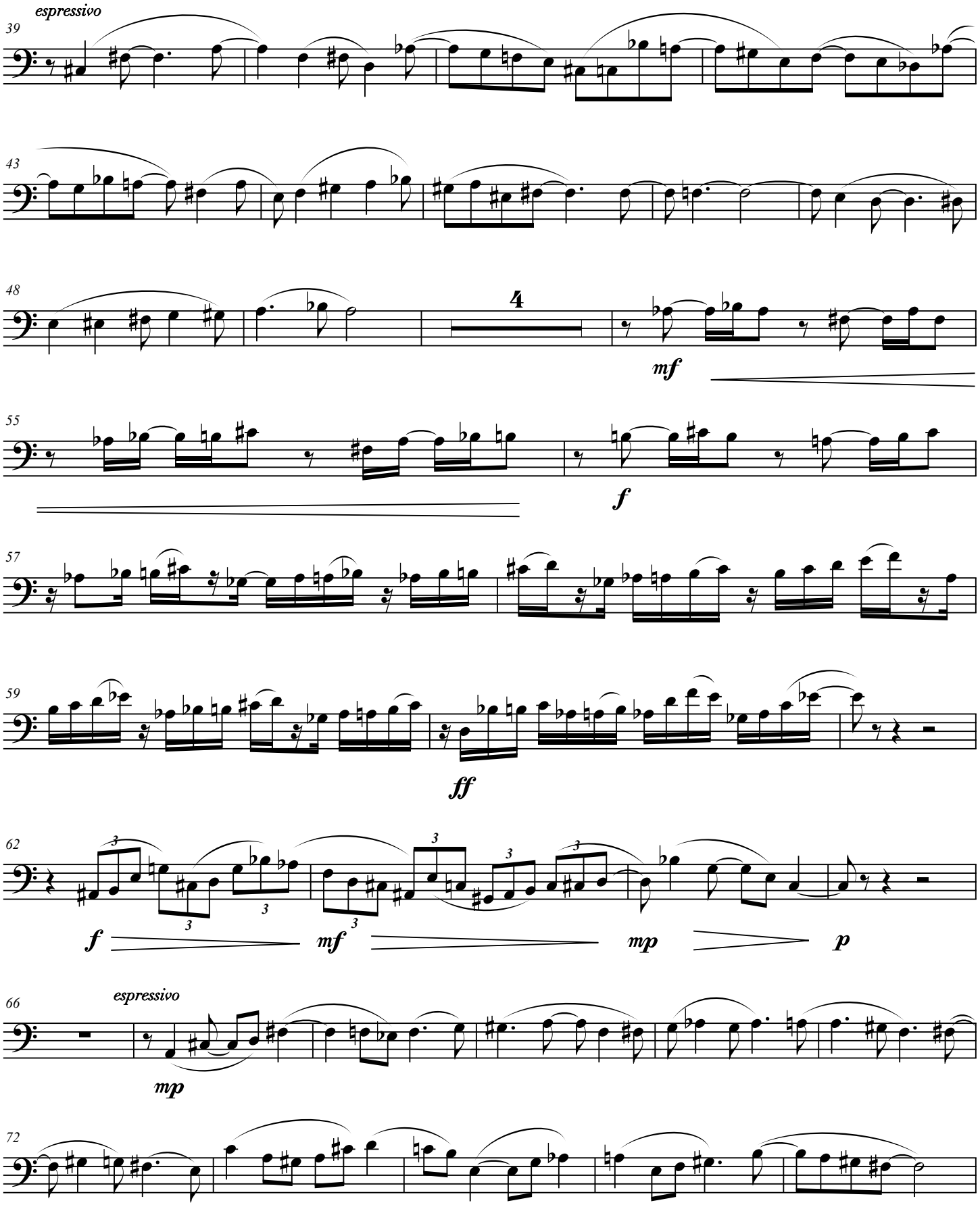
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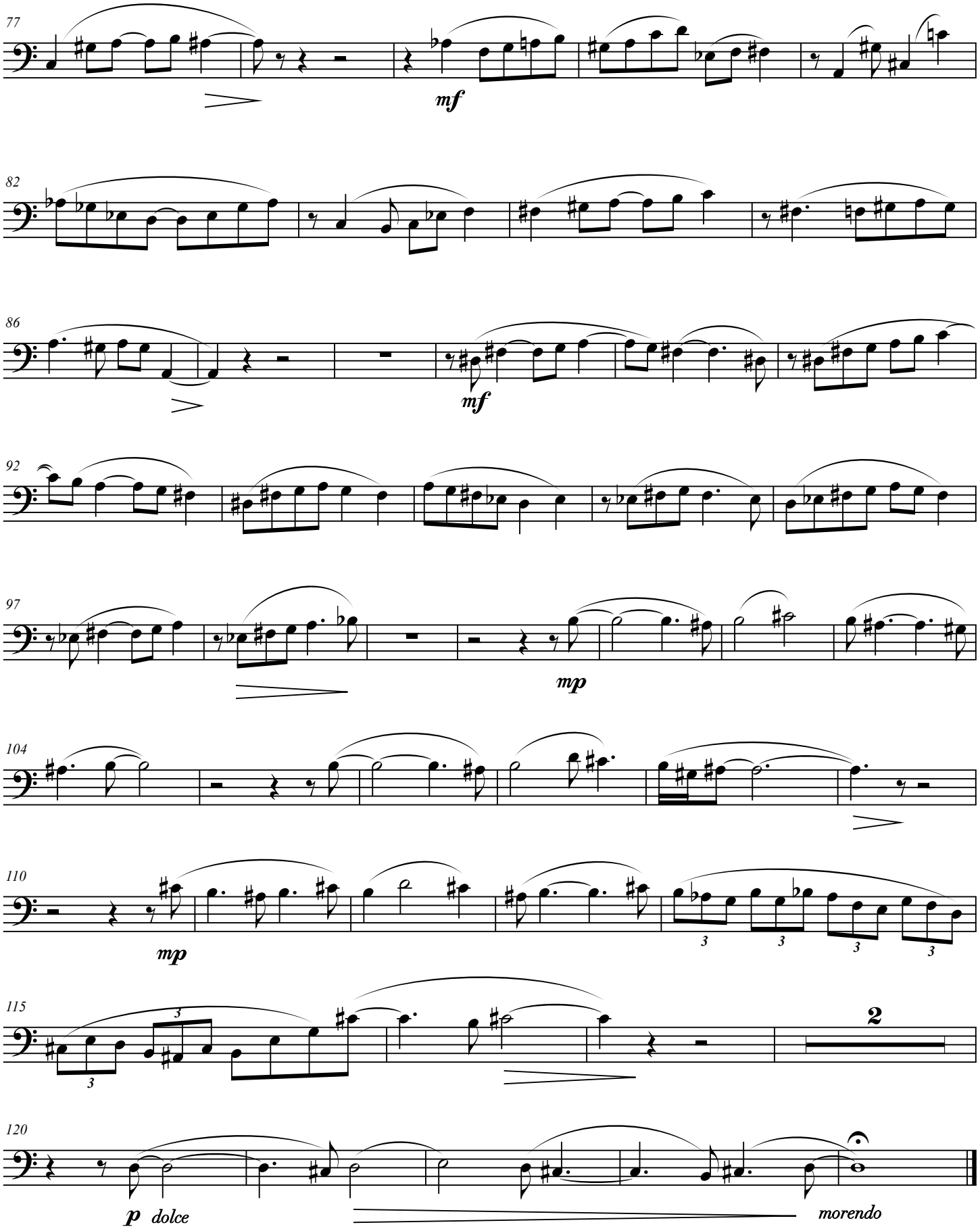
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