Program notes for

FOLIATIONS is a set of twenty variations on the well-known piece *La Folia,* the title being a contraction of *Folia* and *Variations.* It was written for the Stockholm Chamber Brass, who commissioned it in 1995 as a contemporary brass work to be included on a CD of Renaissance music which they planned to record. They premiered the work at the Lieksa Brass Week in Finland in live performances on July 25 and 28, 1998.

La Folia, literally meaning *mad* or *empty-headed,* is one of the most famous tunes ever written, due largely to its use as a basis for variations by over one hundred composers from 1600 to the present day (a website which is devoted exclusively to this work can be found at http://people.a2000.nl/pgabler/). It is generally considered to be a Baroque tune because of its first publication date of 1672 and its use by Corelli as the basis for a famous violin work written in 1700. However, other versions of the tune appeared in works of Spanish composers such as de Salinas as early as 1577, so it would not seem out of place on an album of Renaissance music.

The brass players of *Foliations* are instructed to choose any *number* and *order* of the variations as they wish, so long as the variations are introduced by the *Tema* and conclude with the *Chorale* and *Fuga.* This unique structural plan was found to be necessary originally because the performers and composer had no idea how much time on the CD could be devoted to the performance of *Foliations* after the other Renaissance works had been recorded. The only distinction between the Stockholm group's recording and live performances is that the variations must be broken slightly in live performances because of the page turns (on the recording these breaks are to be eliminated by the recording engineer). The titles of the variations have no meaning other than as a way of distinguishing among them.

Because of this unique format, *Foliations* would usually have a performance duration of anywhere from seven to fifteen minutes.

For the STOCKHOLM CHAMBER BRASS

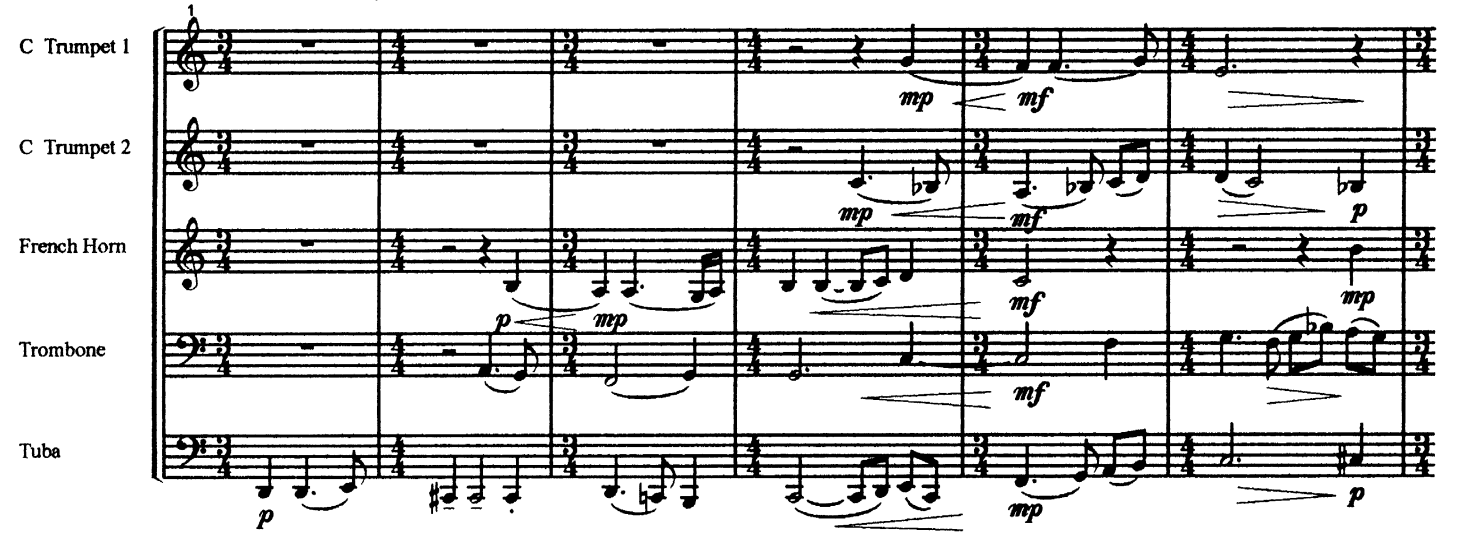
Foliations

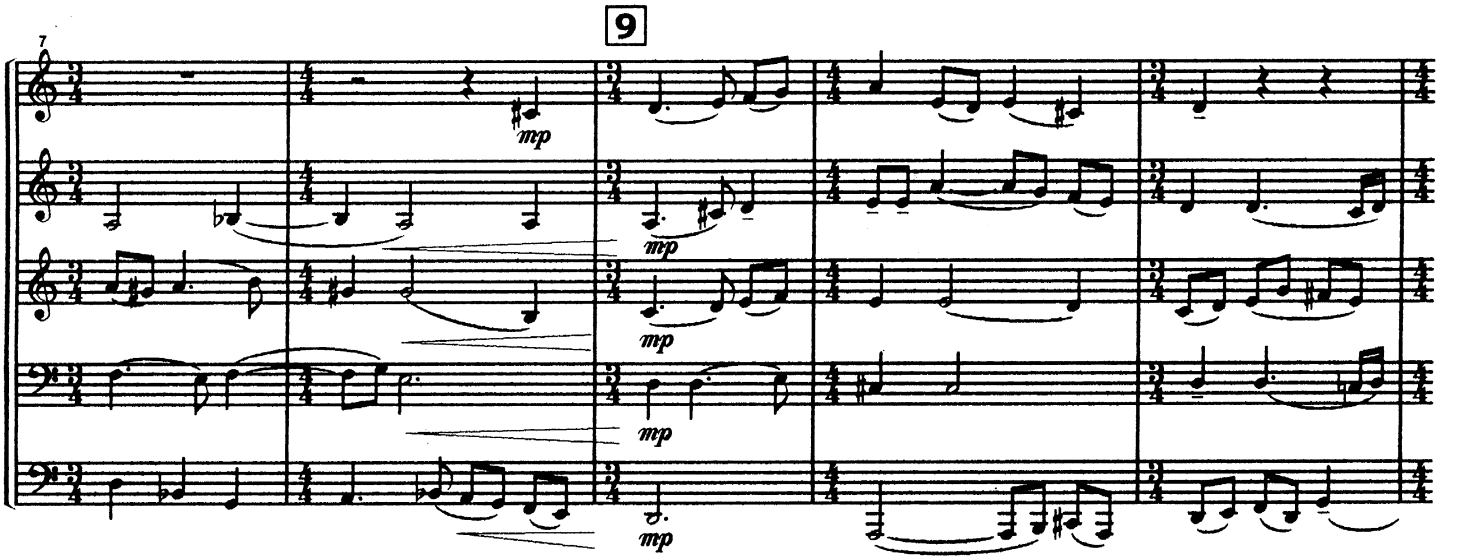
Variations on "La Folia" for Brass Quintet

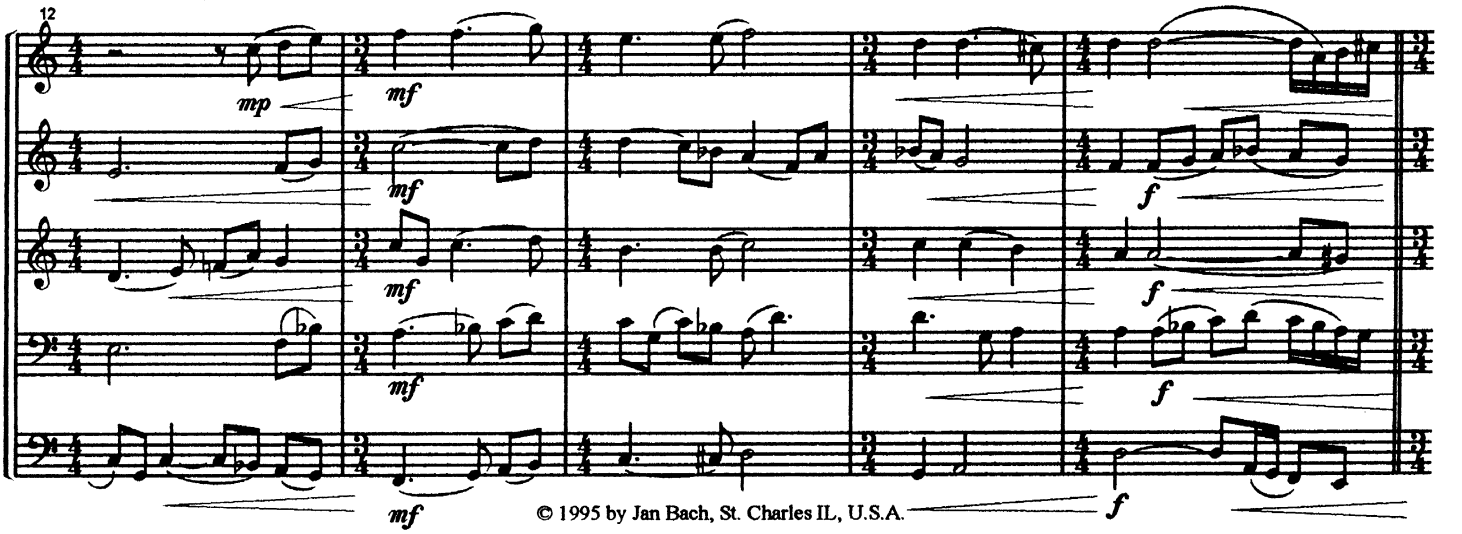
Jan Bach

Theme

Andante ♩ = 69







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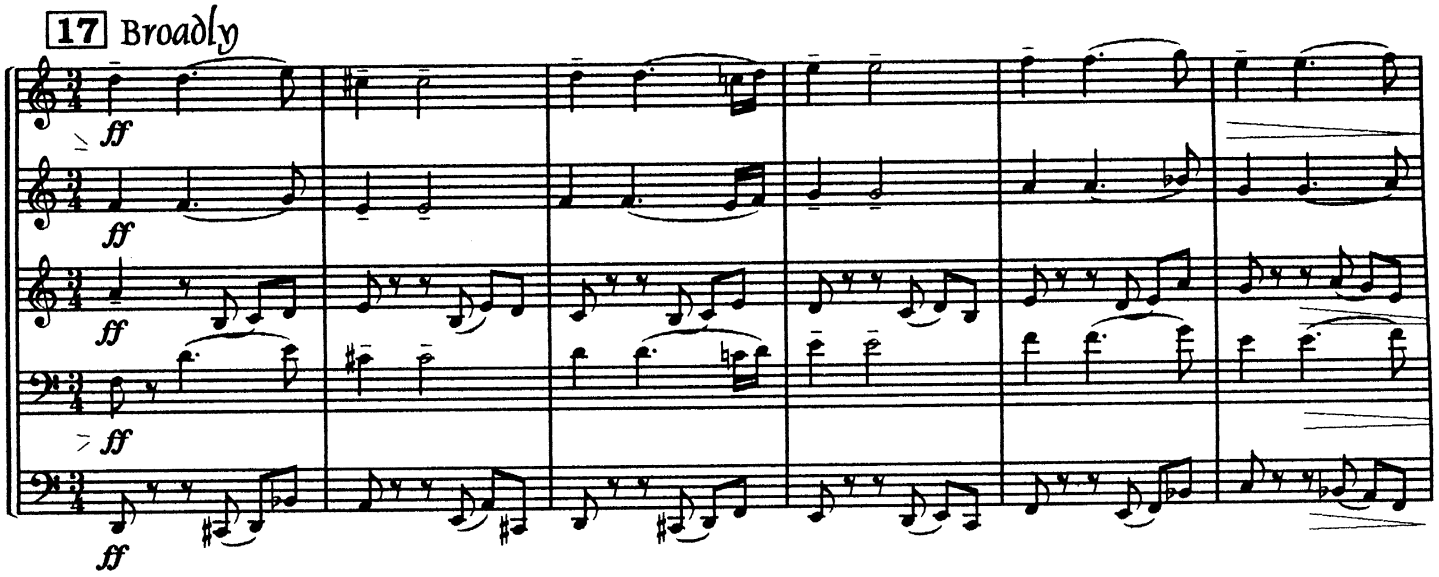
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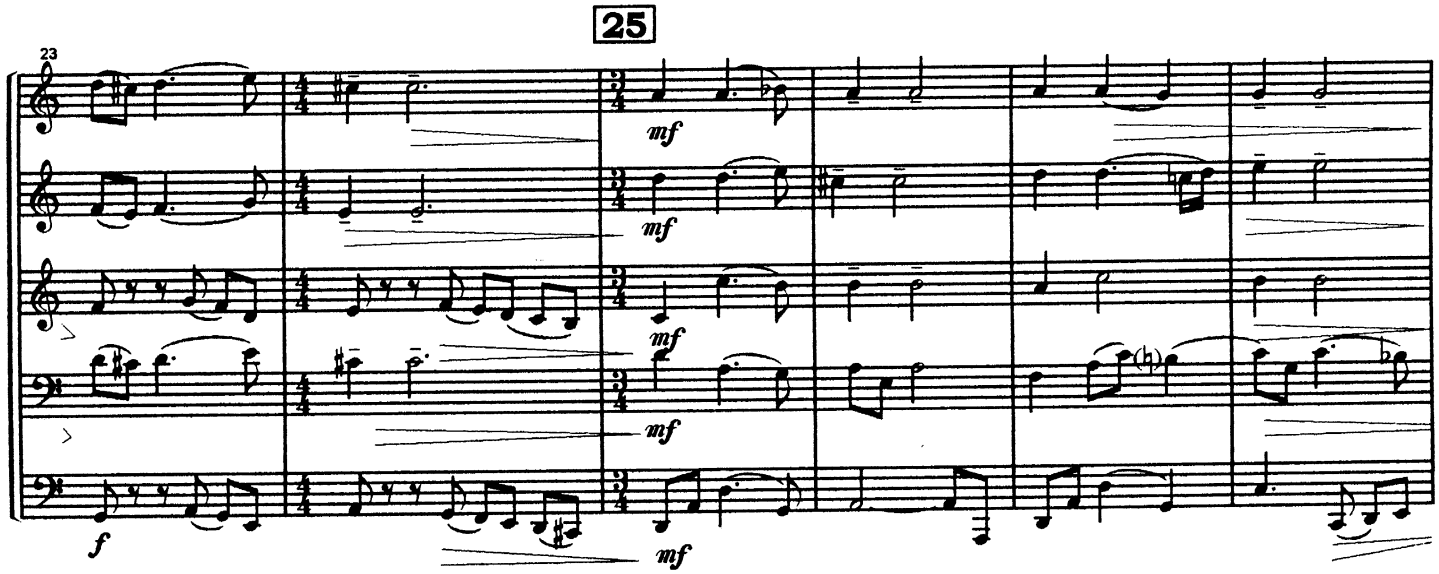
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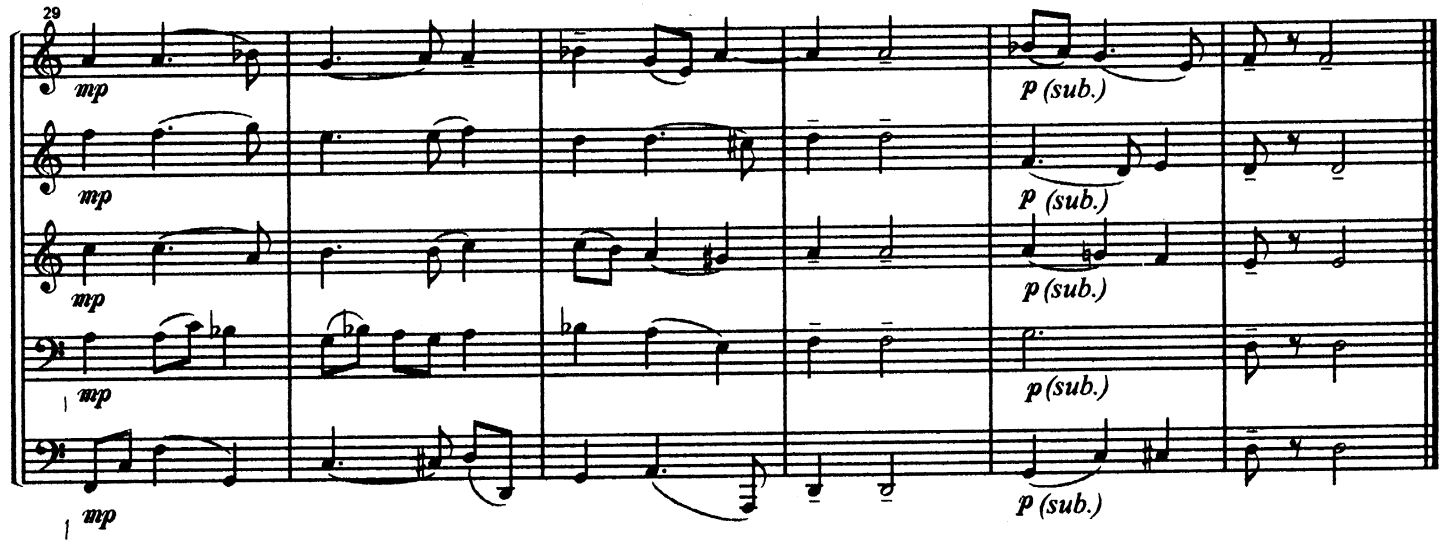
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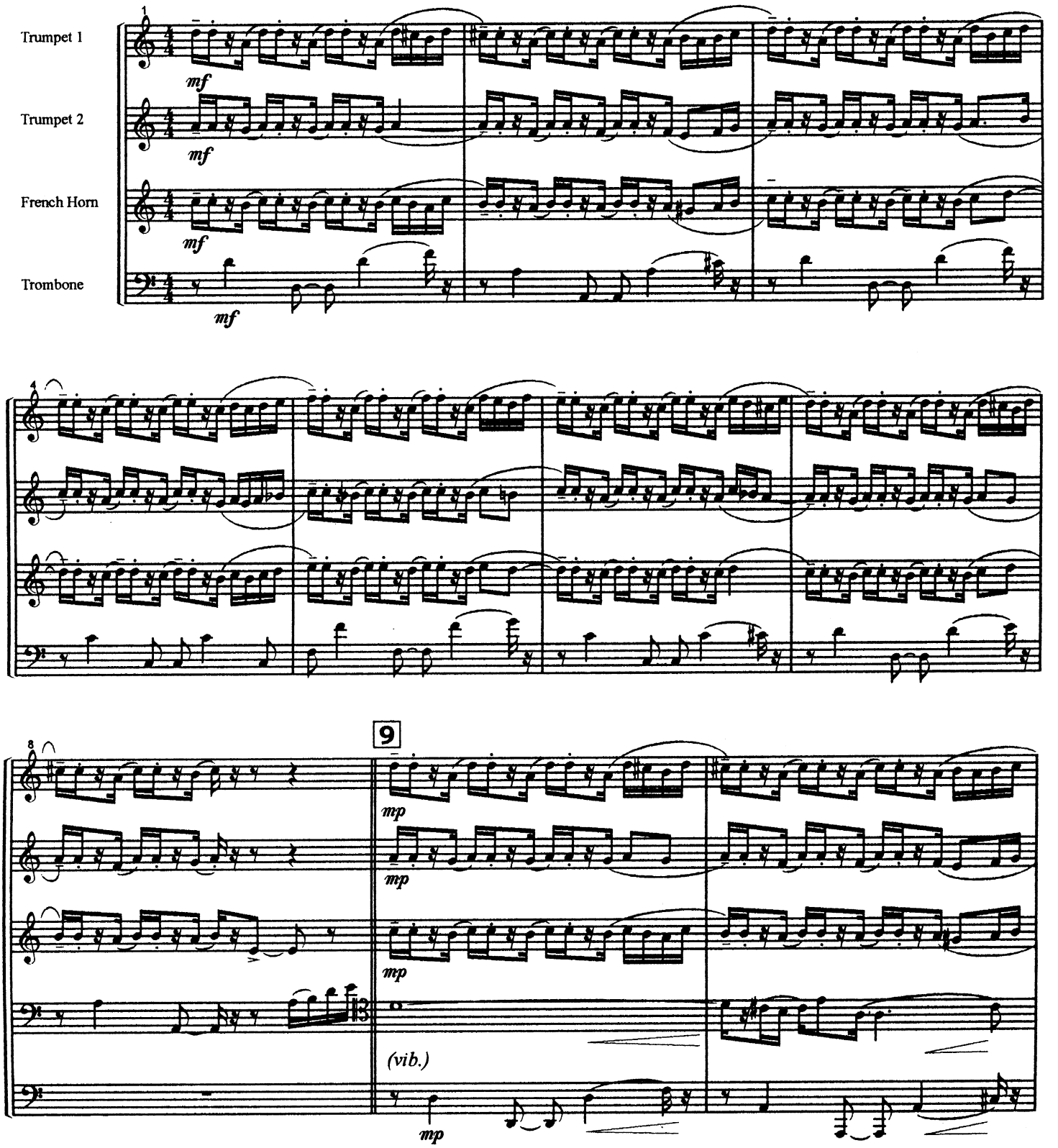
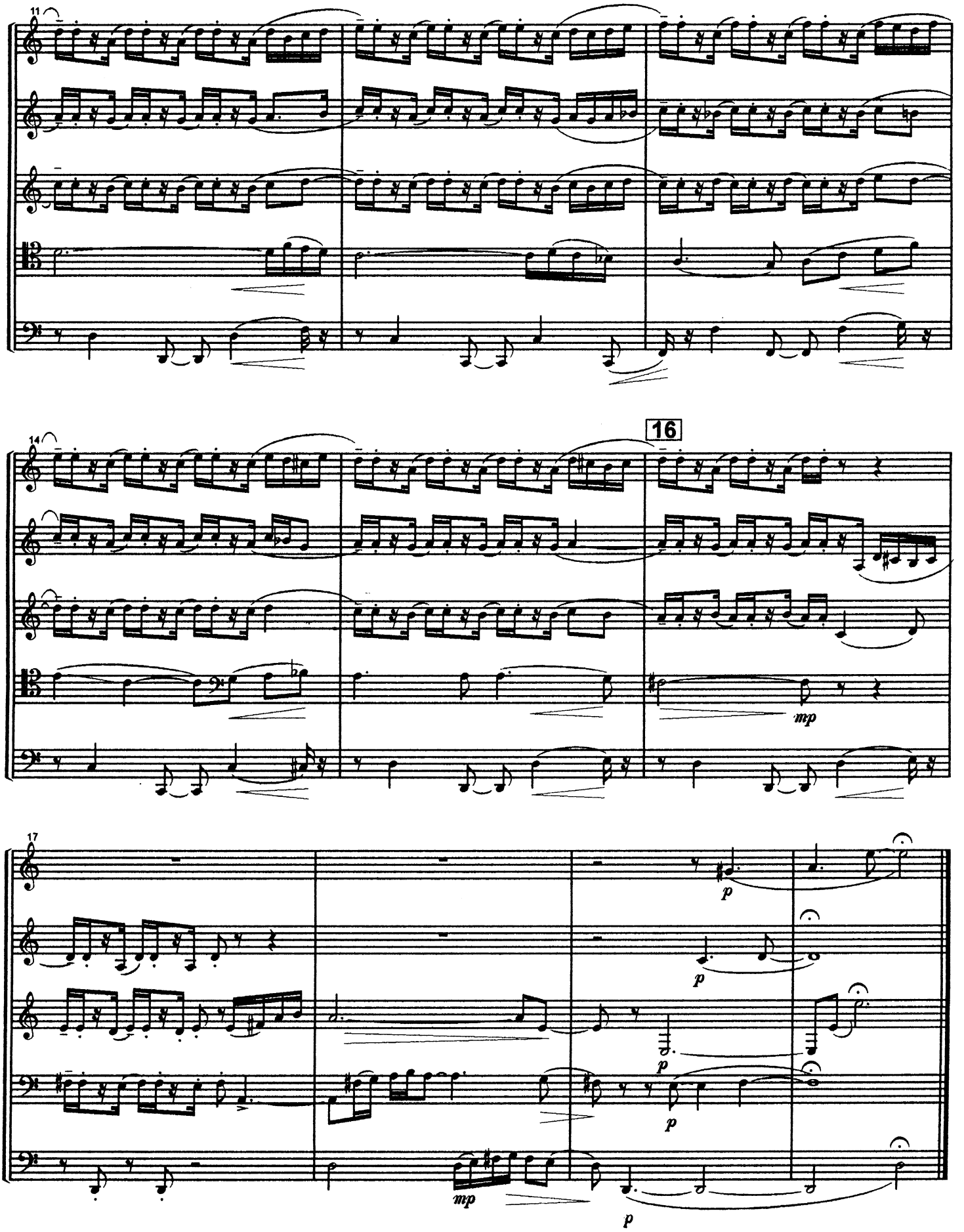
American

Jan Bach

Seventies' Teenybopper Tempo ♩= 80

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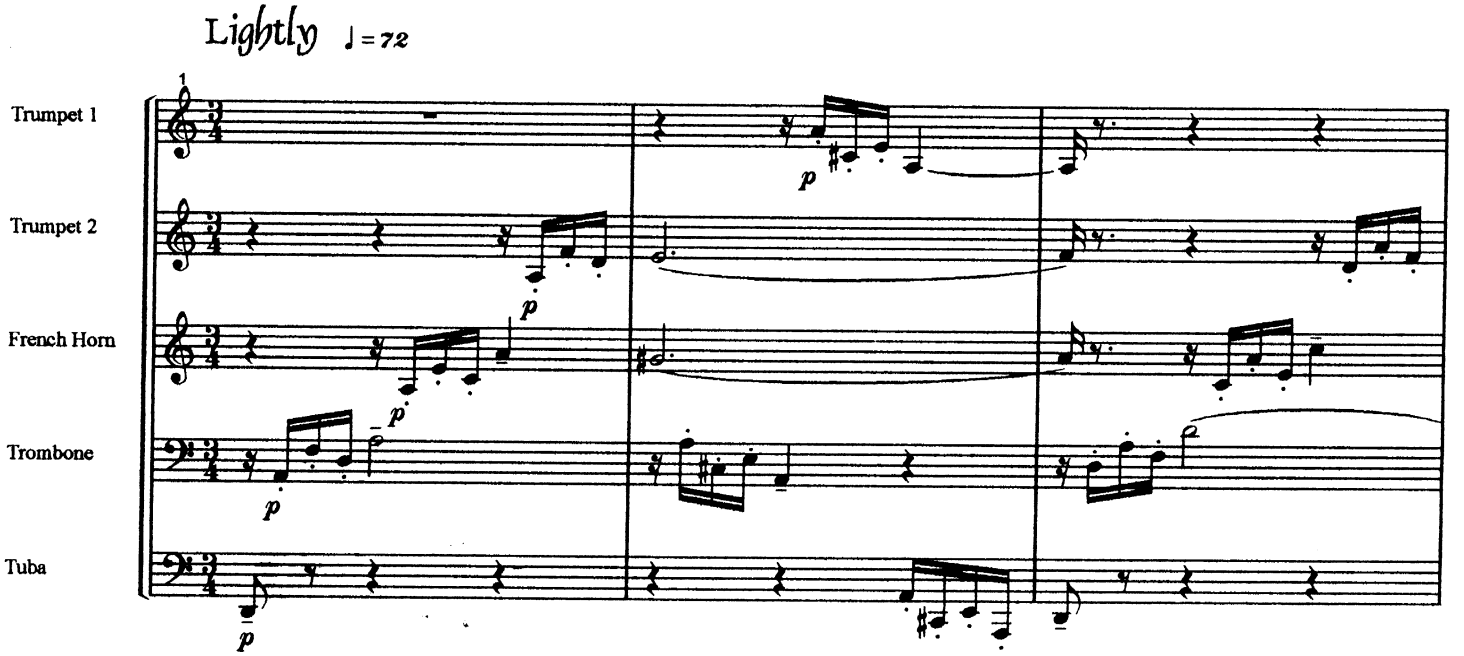
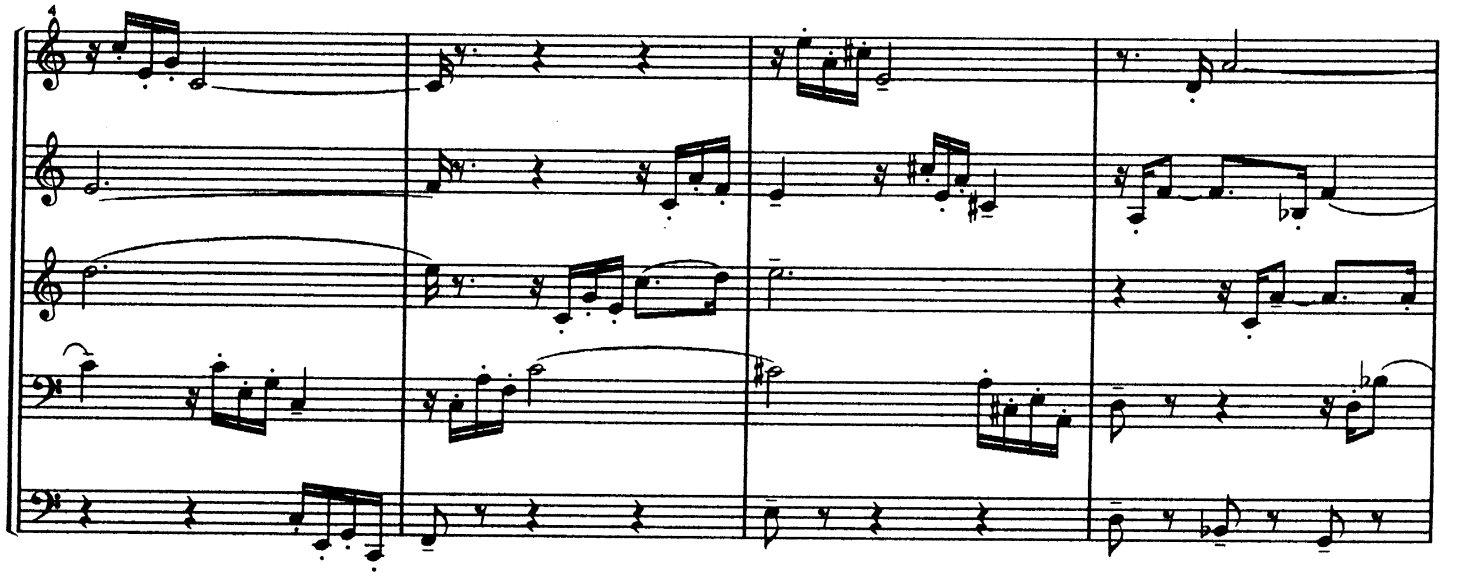
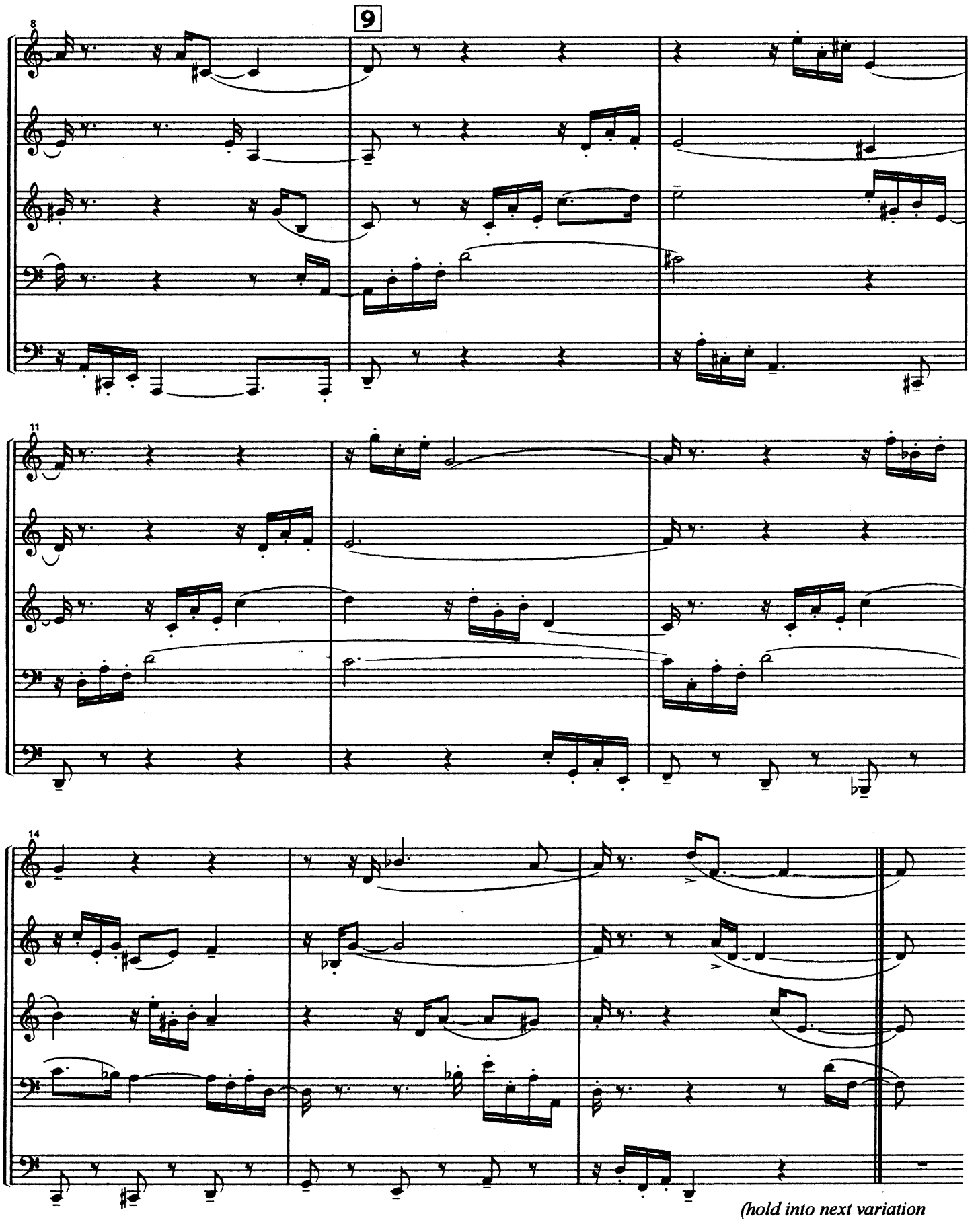
Arpeggione

Jan Bach







(hold into next variation unless you play on its downbeat)

Austrian

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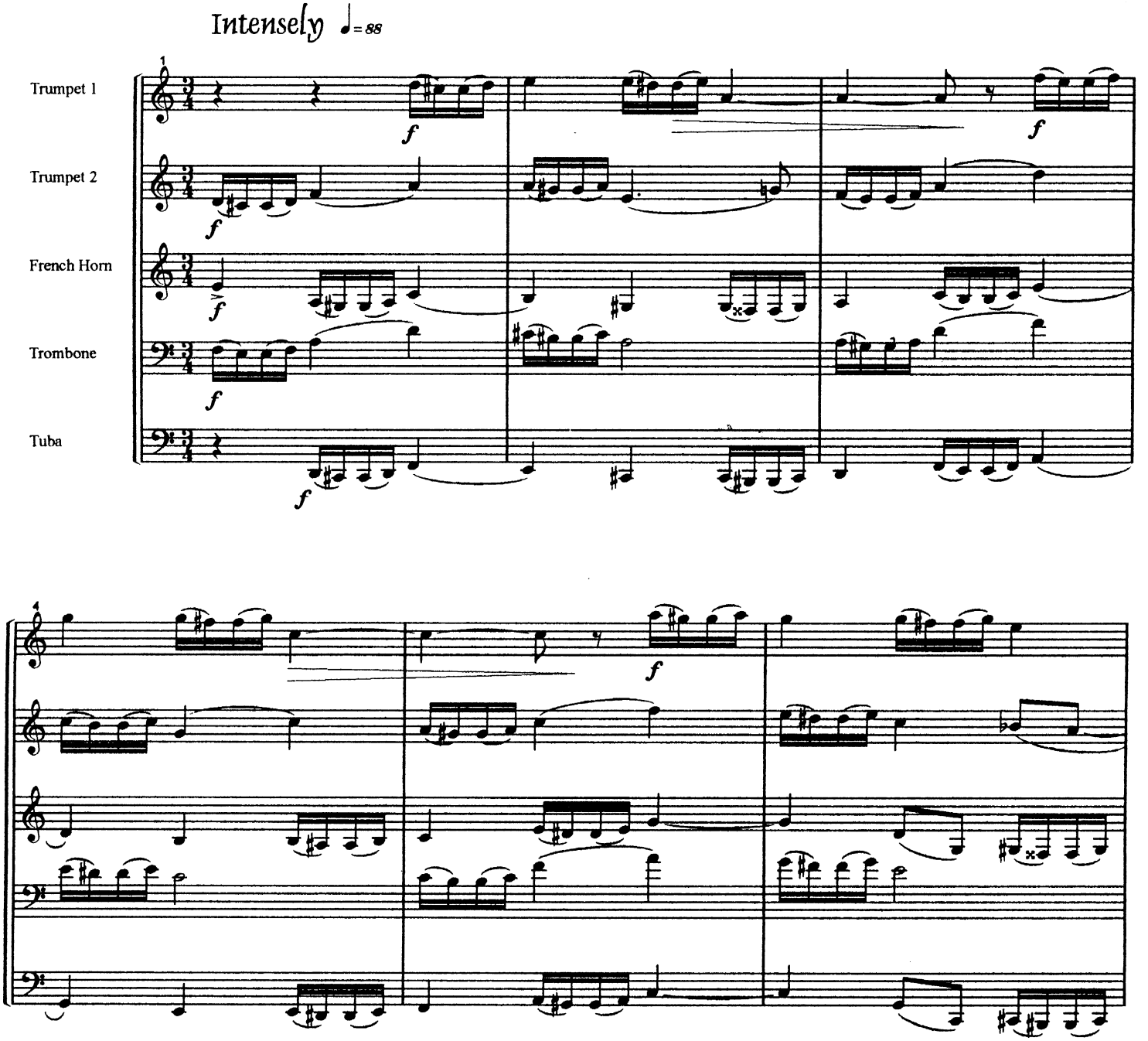
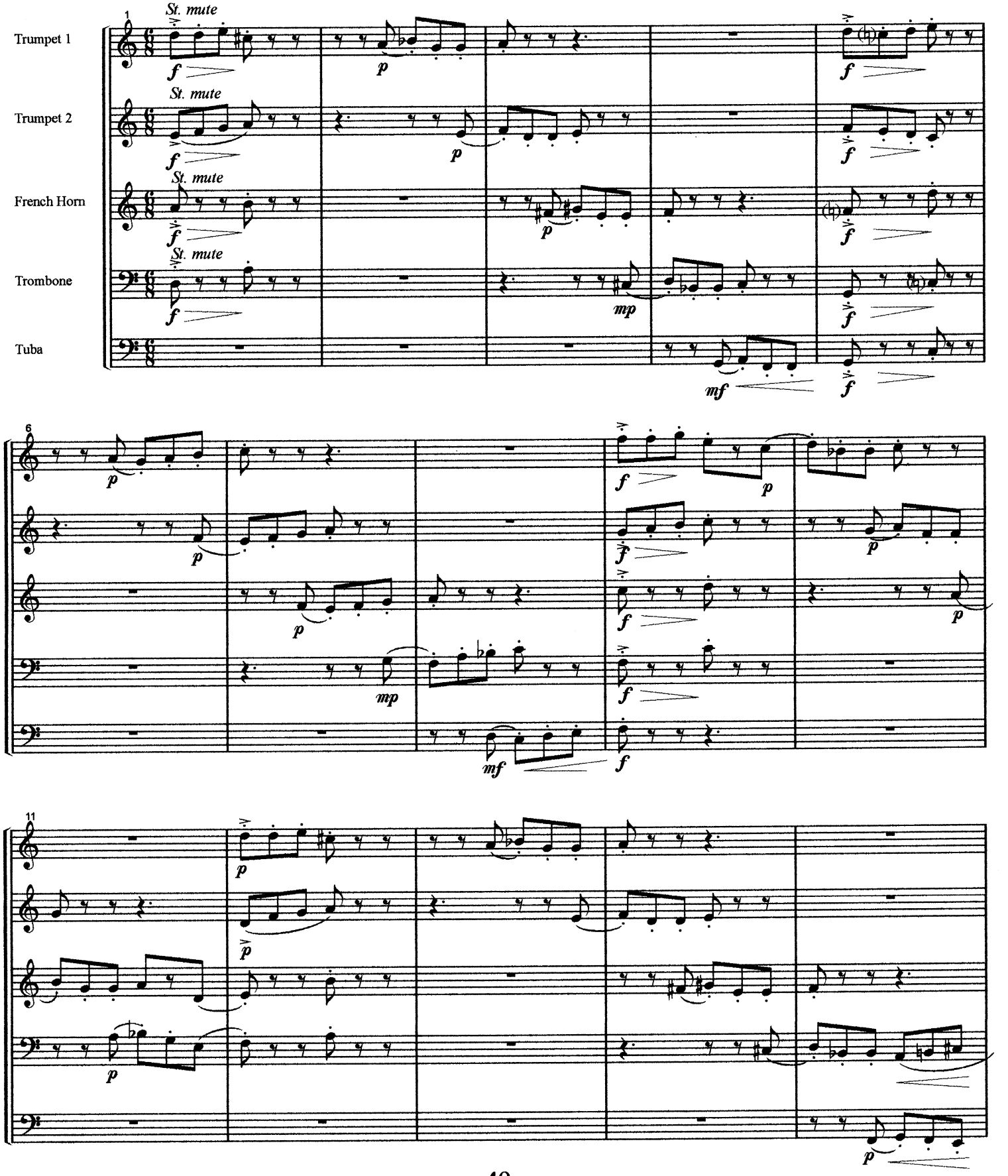
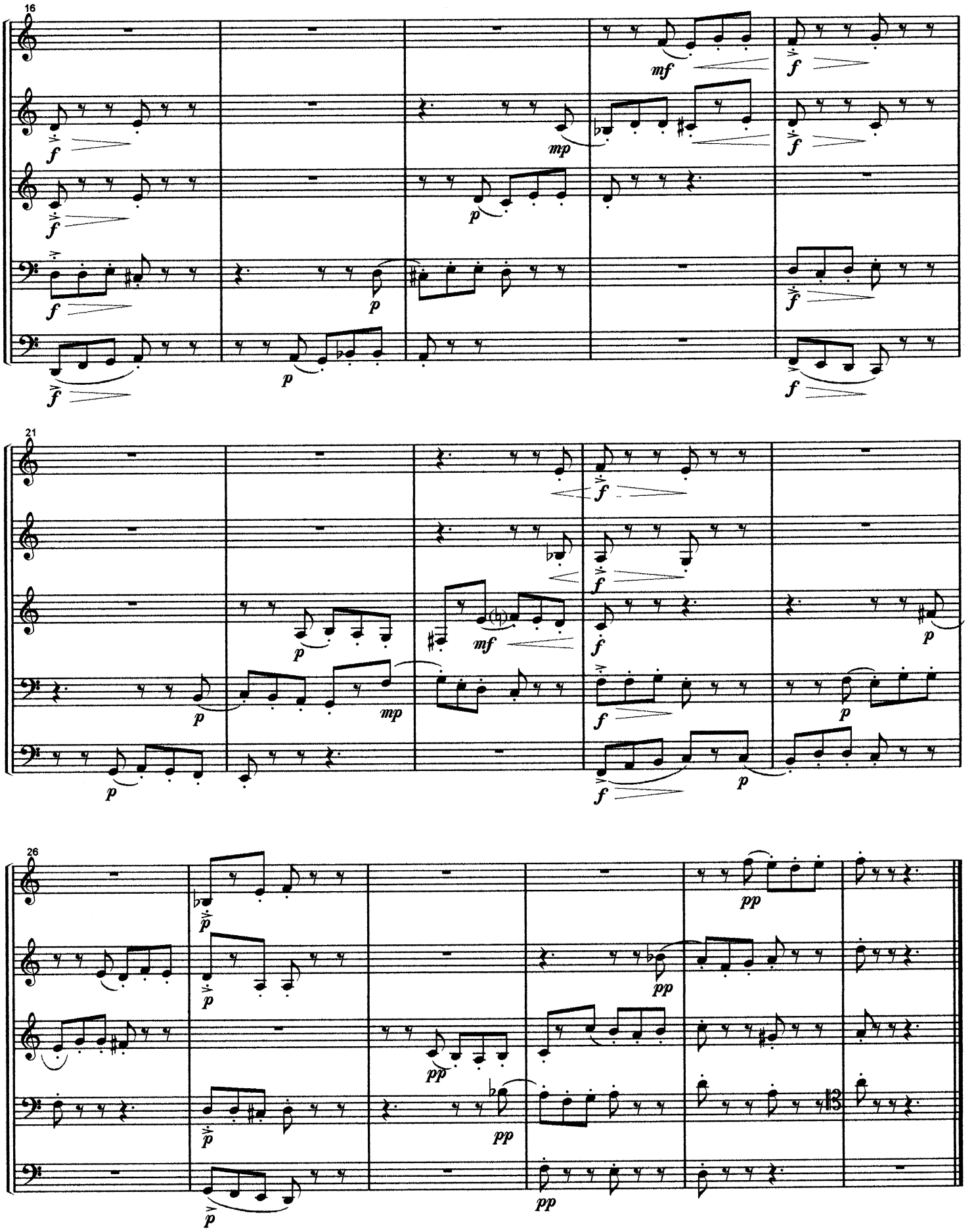


Tersely

Jan Bach

As Quickly and Cleanly as Possible ♩. = 164




16
21
26

Fugue

(Shorter version)

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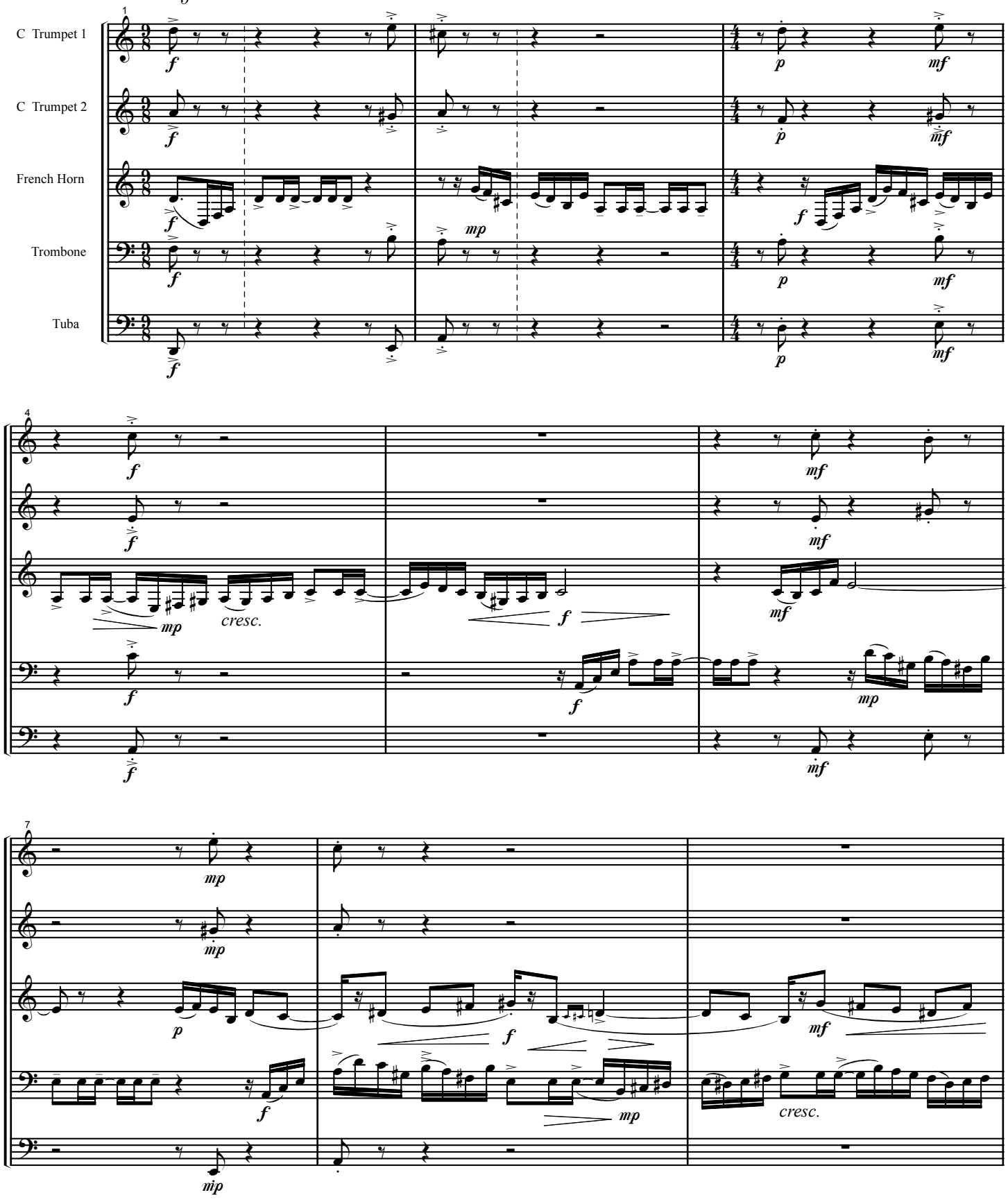
Allegro Vivace ♩= 112