Y E N

For Feedback Tenor Saxophone

Greg Bruce 2022

~5:00

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Equipment and Setup Instructions

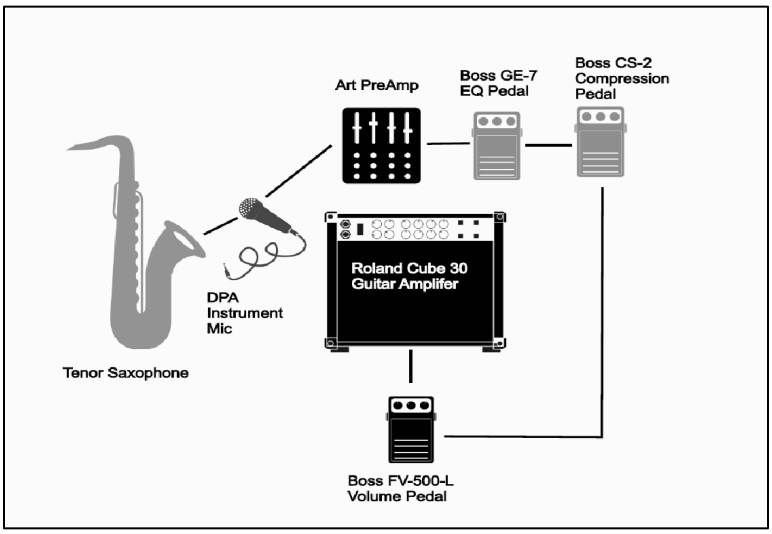
This is Etude No. 3 for the original feedback saxophone system that I developed during my doctoral studies at the University of Toronto. This piece combines saxophone-controlled feedback, conventional playing, and vocalization.

Yen (noun): a strong desire or propensity \ \ a yen to be heard.

Equipment

- DPA 4060 Instrument mic
- Art Preamplifier
- Boss GE-7 Pedal
- Boss CS-3 Compression Pedal
- Boss FV-50L Volume Pedal (or 500L)
- Roland CUBE 30 COSM or Behringer GM-108 Amplifier
- Stool (barstool height) or table for amplifier
- Power Bar
- 9V Power Supply with Daisy Chain
- Min. two short ¼" unbalanced patch cables
- Min. two 6' ¼" unbalanced patch cables
- Contact Mic, such as the AKG C411 (a cheap one from amazon will also work)
- Collar, chocker, or narrow piece of fabric (for affixing the contact mic to your neck)

Setup – feedback sax



- I *strongly* encourage the use of earplugs when first learning this system.
- The amp should be sitting on a table or stool that is waist high.
- The volume pedal must be on the floor, near the amp. The other pedals can be wherever is convenient.
- The performer should be facing the amp with their right side towards the audience and the bell of the tenor saxophone nearly touching the grill covering the speaker.
- The microphone must be deep in the bell of the instrument. Use a piece of tape or saxophone mute to ensure it stays in place.
- The ART preamp is used to give phantom power to the DPA mic and allows for fine tuning the gain, a different preamp or even mixer could be used – though they may affect the tuning of the feedback notes.
- While other pedals may work, those listed will allow you to interpret the piece as accurately as possible. These are the rough settings for these pedals – you will likely need to adjust depending on the room, the saxophone, etc.

- Always start your practice sessions with the amplifier off and the volume pedal heel down.
- Turn on the compression and EQ pedals, followed by the amp, and then slowly angle the toe downwards on the volume pedal until you hear feedback.
- Feedback is created without blowing into the instrument and will be combined with conventional operation of the saxophone.

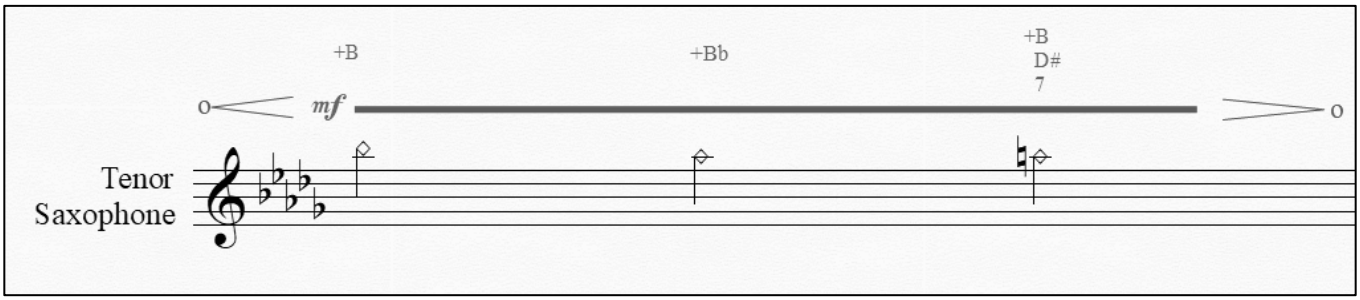
Setup – throat mic

- Affix the contact mic to the front of your throat by way of a piece of fabric, choker, etc.
- If using a contact mic that requires phantom power, it will need to be run through an external mixer or the preamp (if using one with multiple inputs).
- Take the output from the preamp and send it either to the Roland Cube 30 AUX in or an external output.
- If running it through the feedback amplifier, you will have reduced dynamic range, but it will work.

Notation

This is a transposing performance score, written for Bb tenor saxophone.

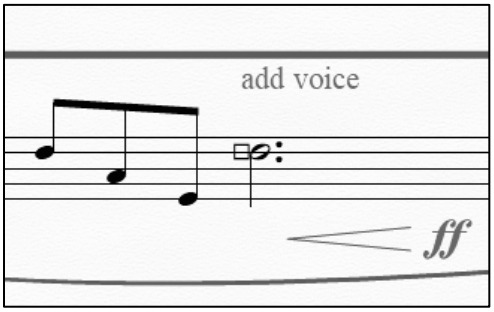
This piece is centred around the following feedback pitches and their required fingerings. You may discover more convenient key combinations to create these pitches. You will have to finely adjust the EQ between the amplifier, EQ pedal, and compression pedal to get these pitches to sound. This will take some practice. Do not expect equal temperament.



Above the staff will indicate what keys need to be added (eg. +Bb) to induce the feedback note, which is represented by a diamond notehead. The notation system for added keys use of the European/Londeix shorthand and are added in addition to any fingerings for conventional acoustic pitches.

The thick horizontal line indicates an ongoing feedback tone. Dynamics above the staff are for the feedback tone and are controlled with the volume pedal. Rests indicate breaks only for the conventional playing – brining the feedback tones in an out are represented by *niente* (“o”) markings and are controlled by the volume pedal.

The notes to be sang/yelled/hummed are indicated in the staff by a square notehead and should follow any dynamics below the staff. If the given note is below your range, choose any octave above.



Contact

If you have any questions, please email me at:
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You can see performances of this piece and my other feedback works on my YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/@gregthesquare4

Bb Tenor Saxophone

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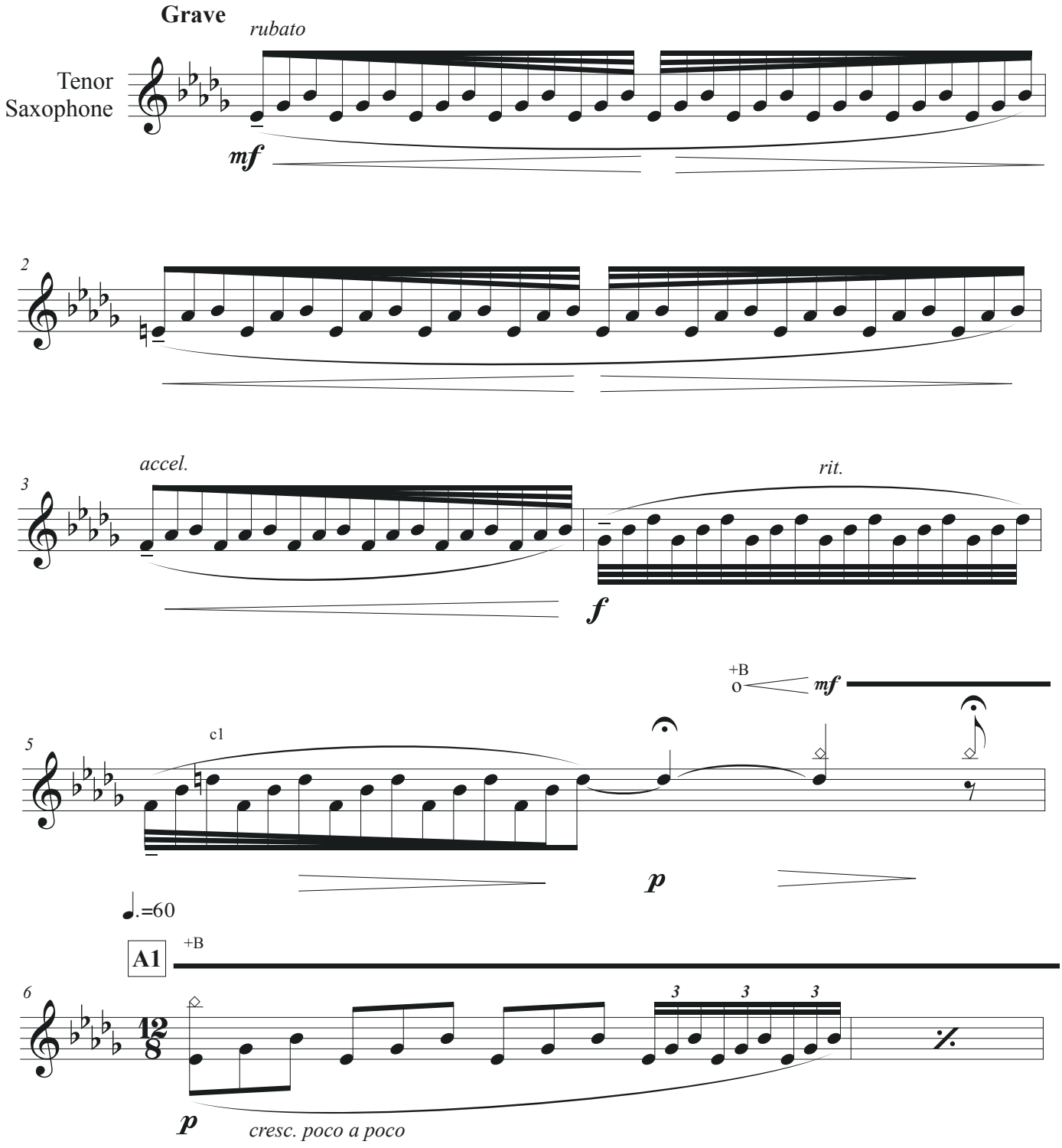

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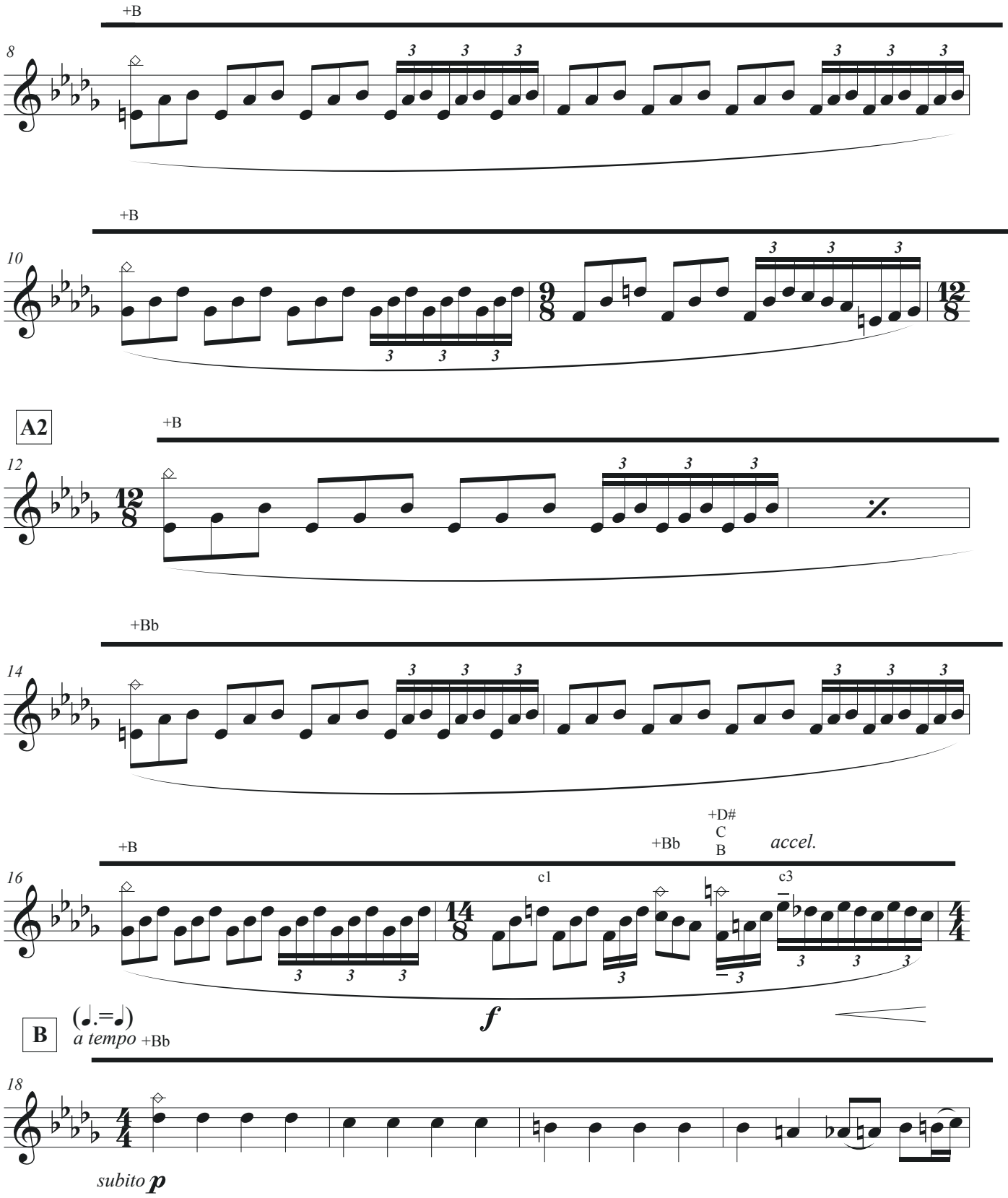
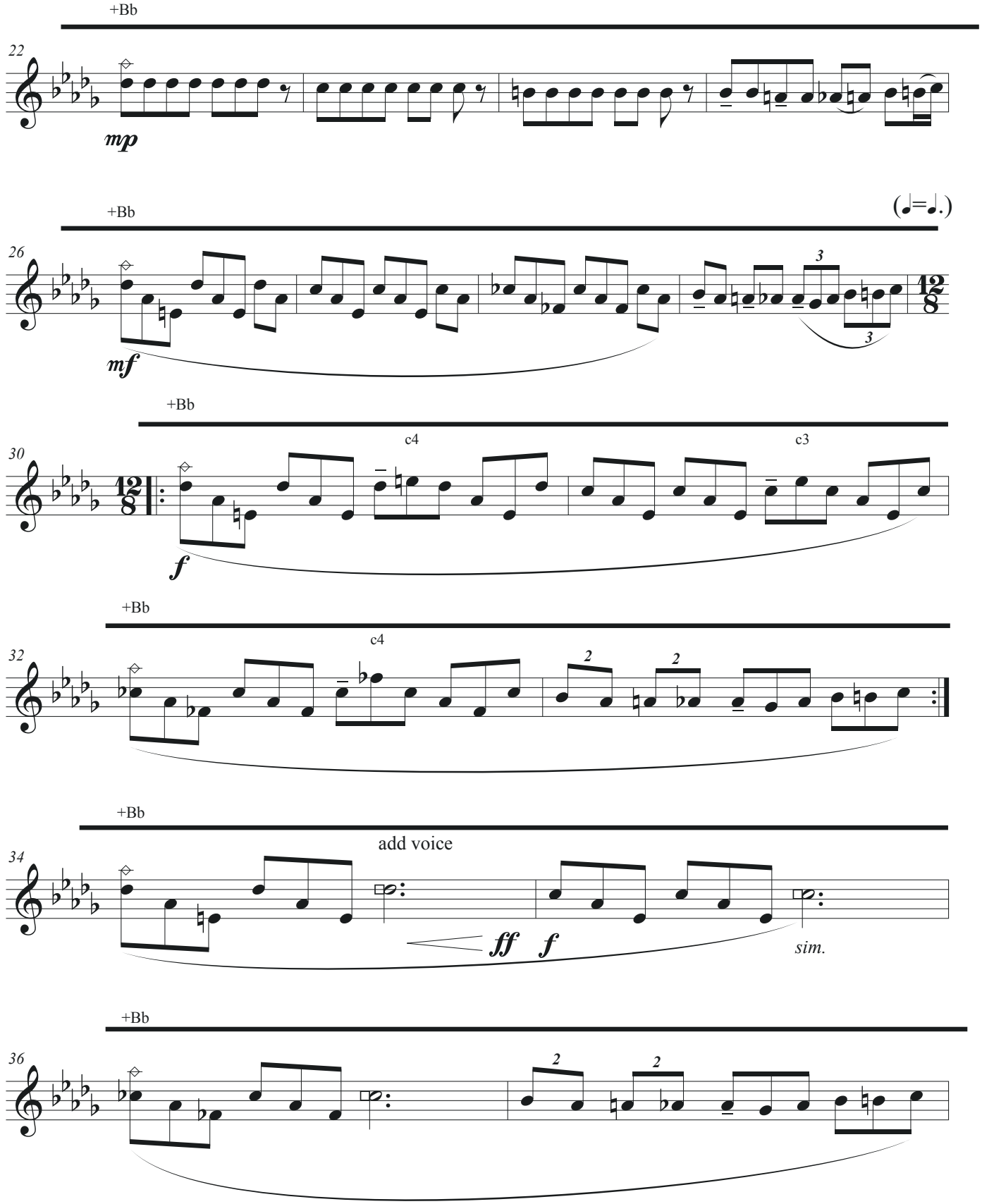
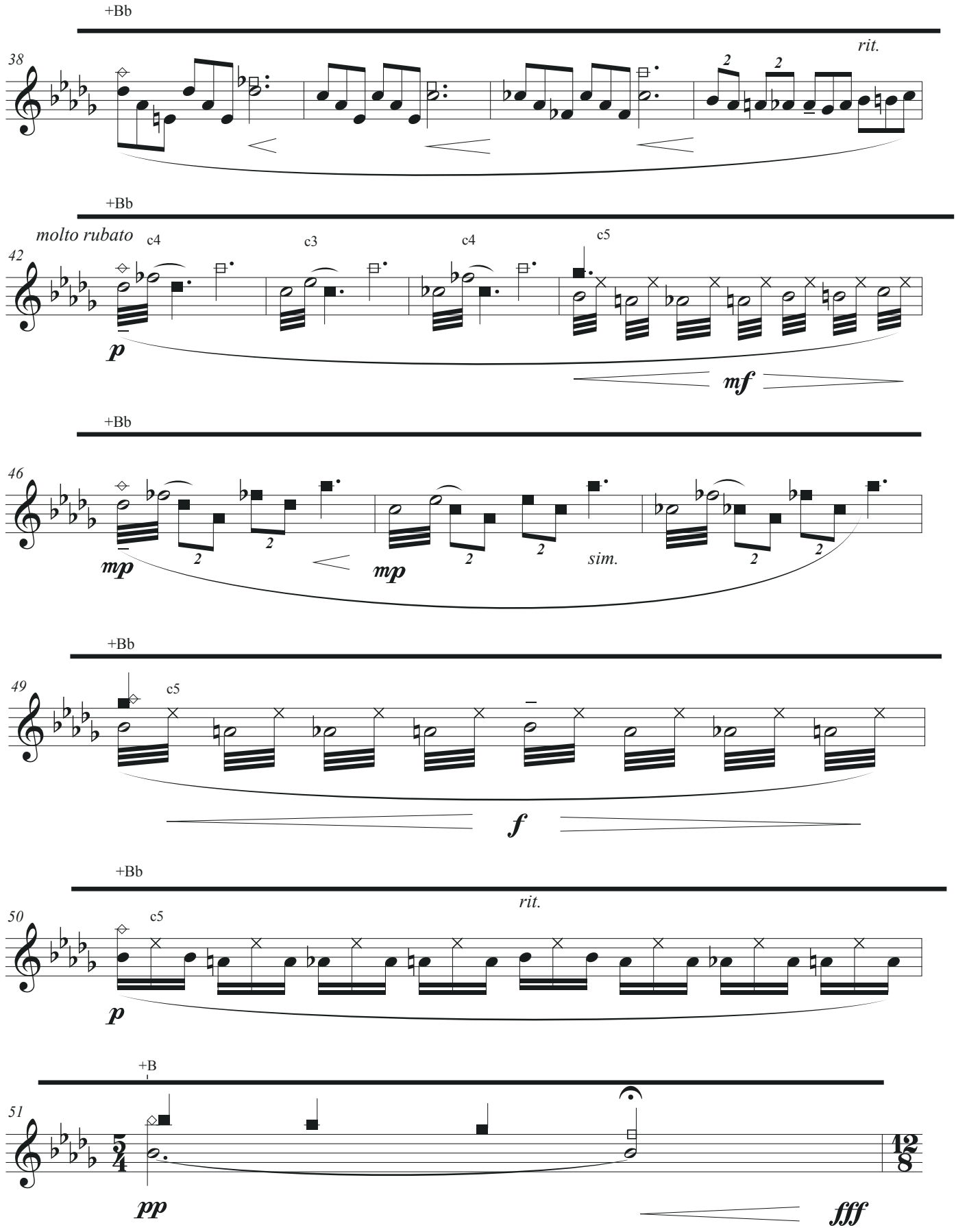
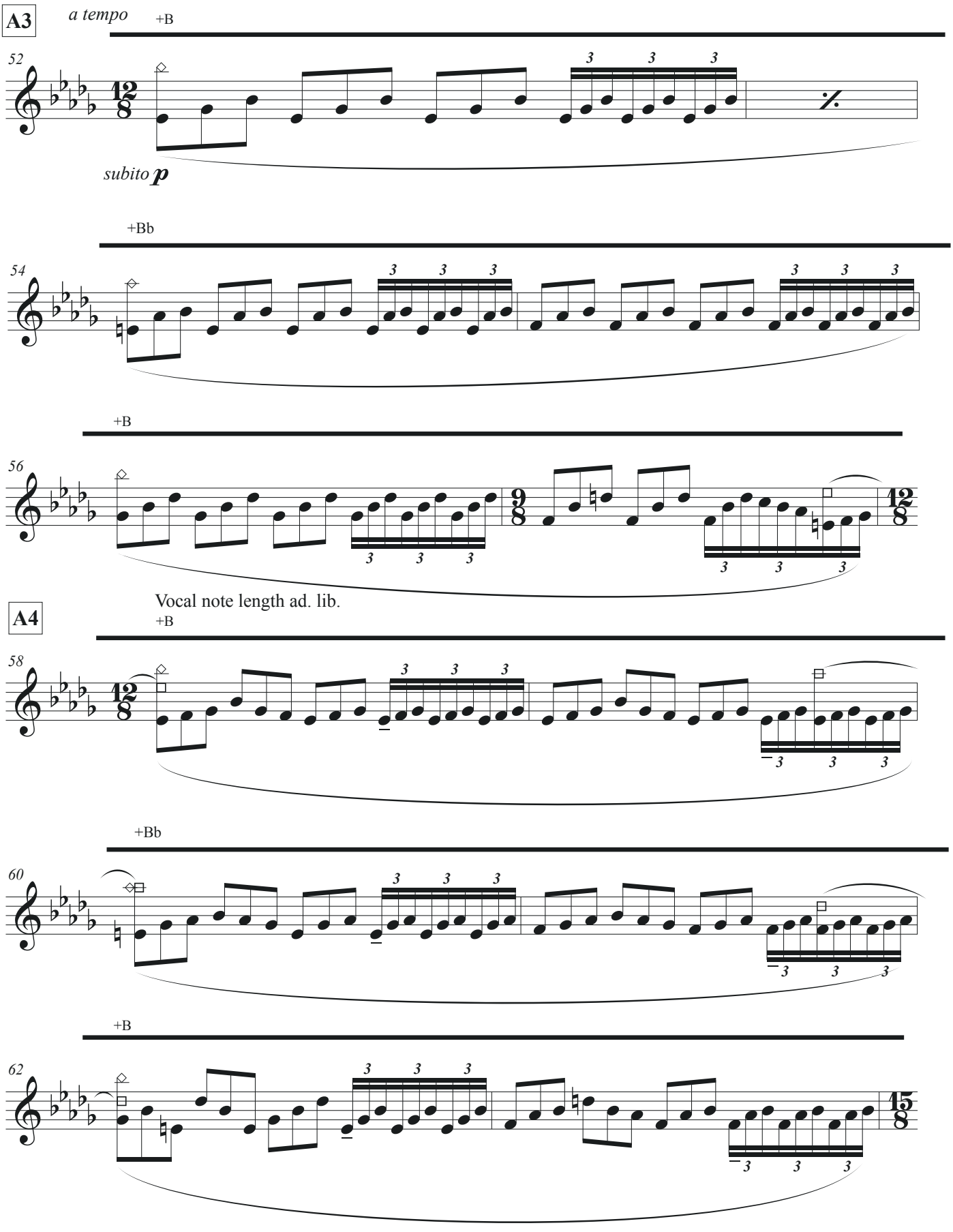
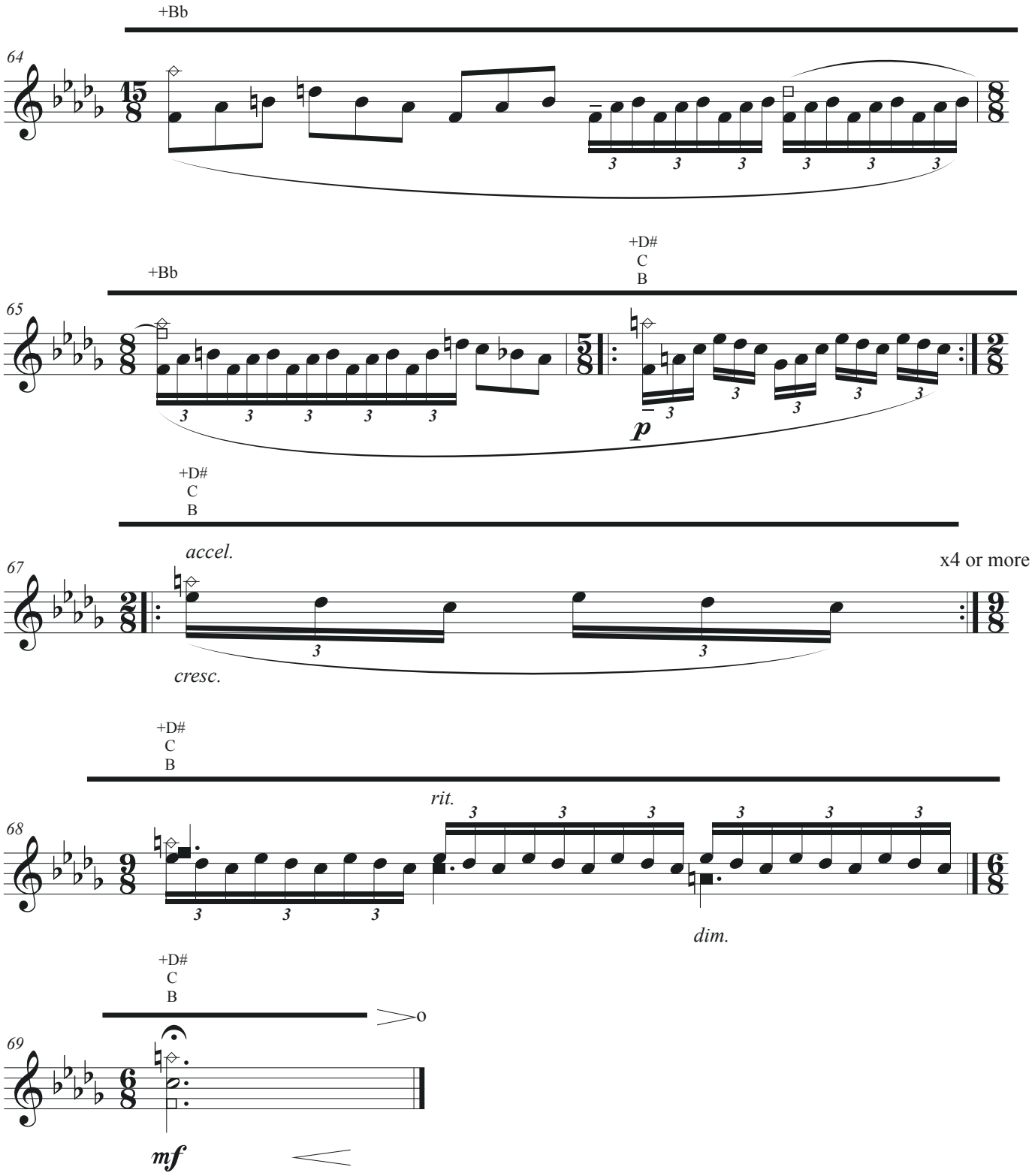

+B
8
+B
10
A2
+B
12
+Bb
14
+B
+Bb
+D#
C
B
accel.
16
c1
c3
f
B
(♩.=♩)
a tempo +Bb
18
subito p


+Bb
22
mp
+Bb
(♩=♩.)
26
mf
3
3
12/8
+Bb
30
12/8
f
c4
c3
+Bb
32
c4
2
2
+Bb
34
add voice
ff
f
sim.
+Bb
36
2
2


+Bb
38
rit.
+Bb
molto rubato
42
c4
c3
c4
c5
p
mf
+Bb
46
mp
mp
sim.
+Bb
49
c5
f
+Bb
rit.
50
c5
p
+B
51
pp
fff


A3
a tempo
+B
52
subito p
+Bb
54
+B
56
Vocal note length ad. lib.
A4
+B
58
+Bb
60
+B
62


+Bb
64
+Bb
+D#
C
B
65
p
+D#
C
B
accel.
67
x4 or more
cresc.
+D#
C
B
rit.
68
dim.
+D#
C
B
69
mf