NOT LESS THAN THE GOOD

saxophone quartet & electronics

DAVID MORNEAU

I found in myself, and still find, an instinct toward a higher, or, as it is named, spiritual life, as do most men, and another toward a primitive rank and savage one, and I reverence them both. I love the wild not less than the good.

— Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*

Not Less Than the Good was composed for New Thread Quartet

Duration – 1 hour

learn more about the composer at http://5of4.com

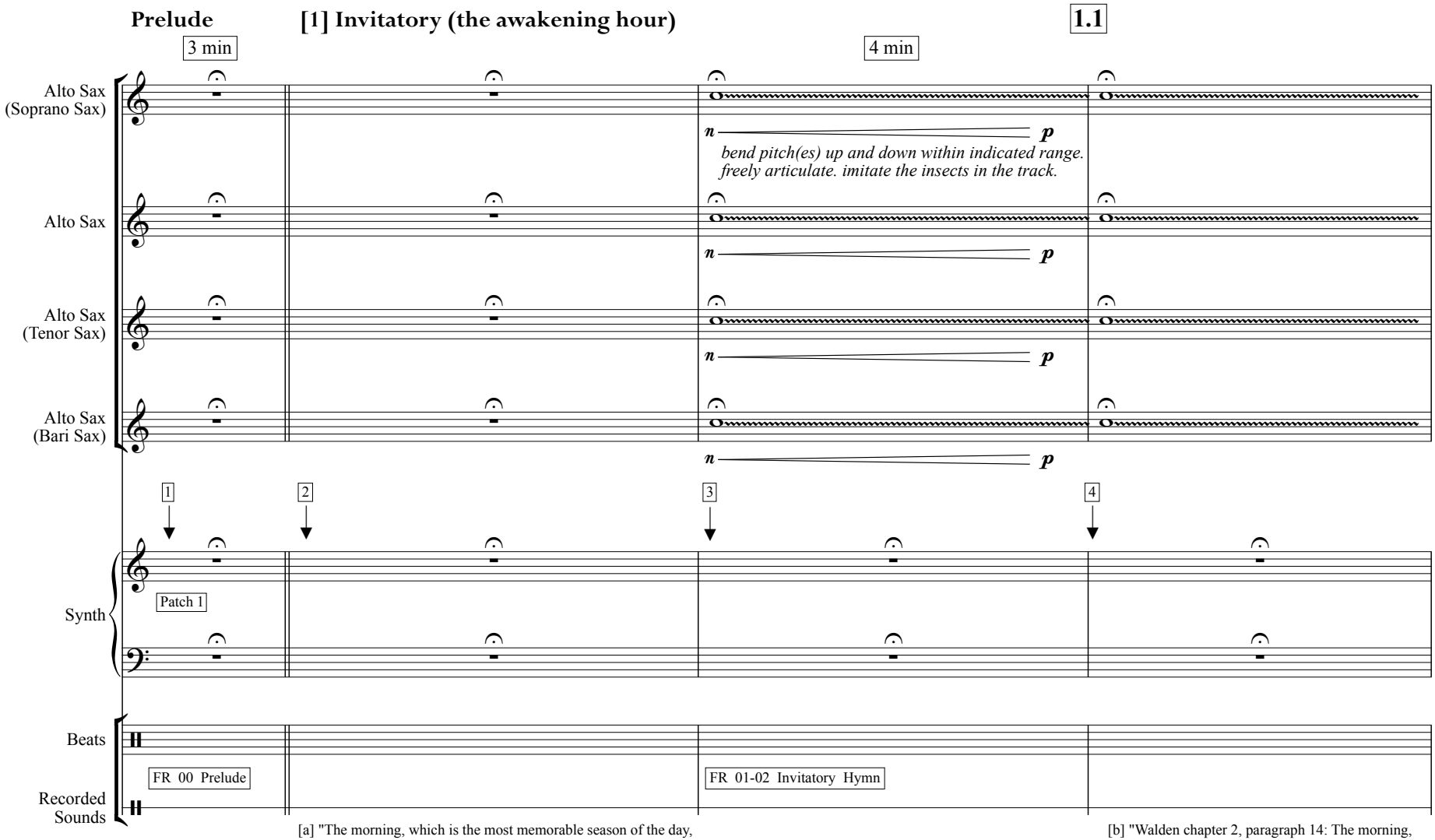
The multiphonics in this score are taken from “The Techniques of Saxophone Playing” by Marcus Weiss & Giorgio Netti
https://www.baerenreiter.com/materialien/weiss_netti/saxophon/multiphonics.html

The example numbers next to each occurrence in the score refer to the numbering system in this book.

NOT LESS THAN THE GOOD

composed for New Thread Quartet

David Morneau



[a] "The morning, which is the most memorable season of the day, is the awakening hour. "

[b] "Walden chapter 2, paragraph 14: The morning, which is the most memorable season of the day, is the awakening hour. Then there is least somnolence in us; and for an hour, at least, some part of us awakes which slumbers all the rest of the day and night."

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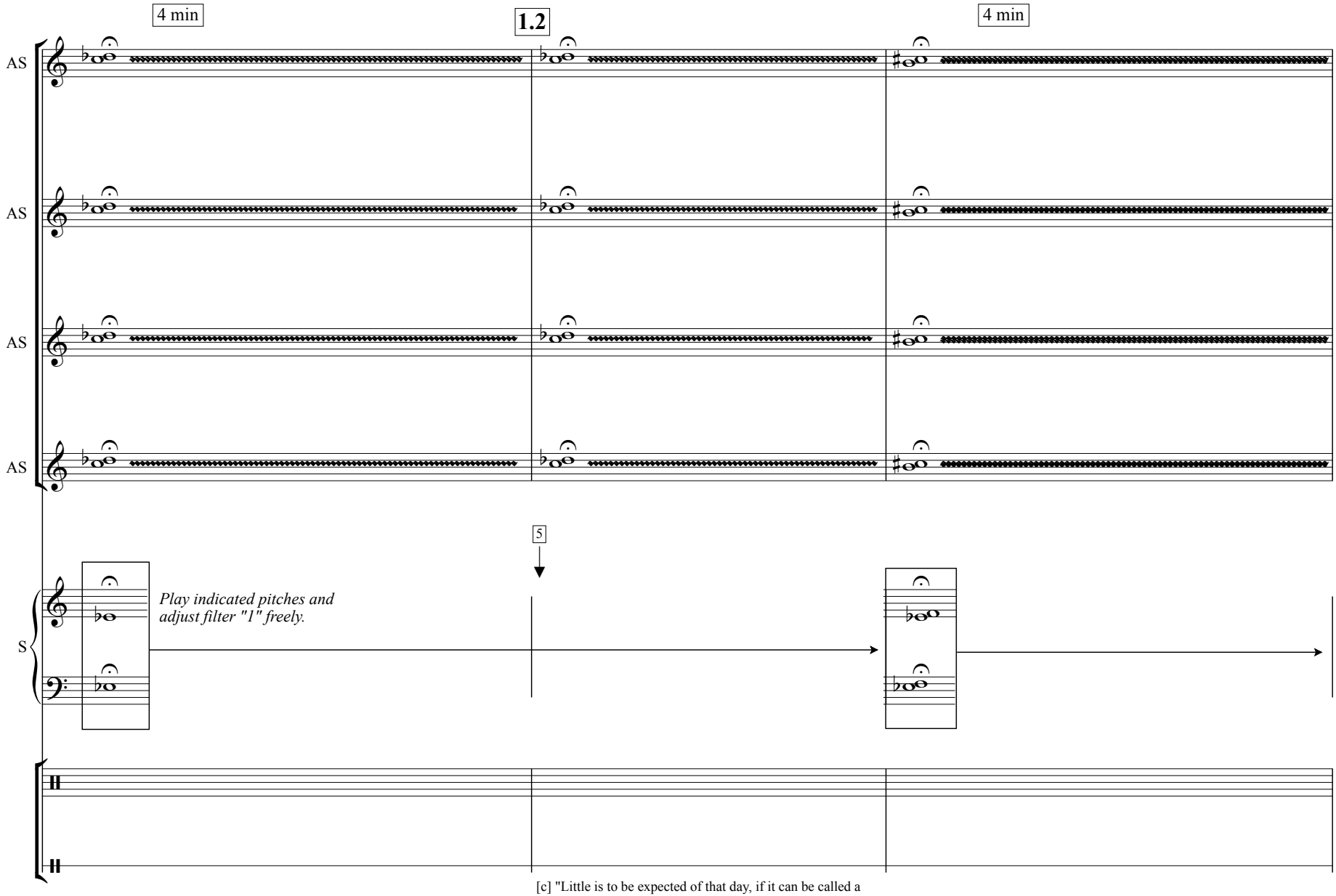
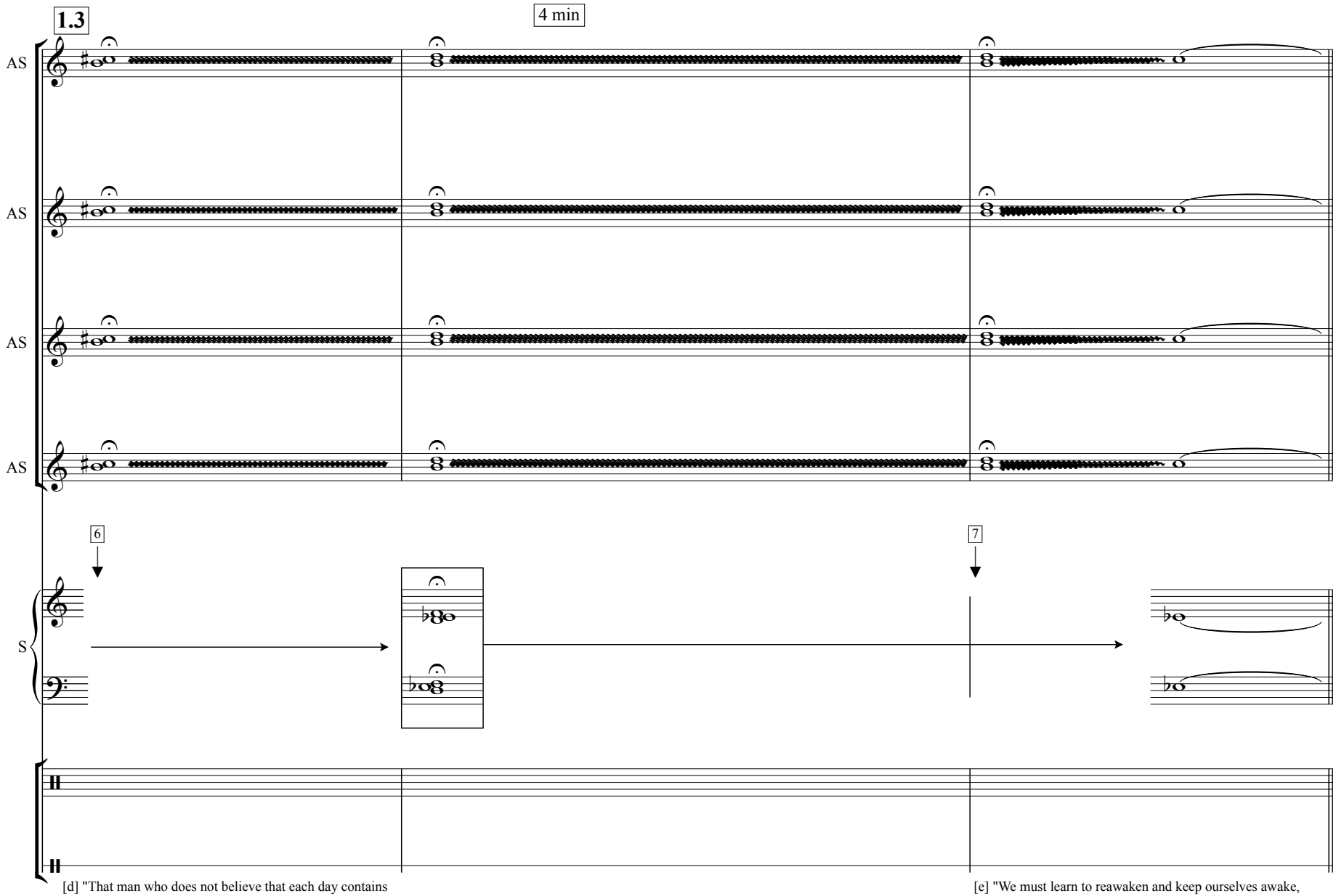


[c] "Little is to be expected of that day, if it can be called a day, to which we are not awakened by our Genius, but by the mechanical nudgings of some servitor—to a higher life than we fell asleep from; and thus the darkness bear its fruit, and prove itself to be good, no less than the light."

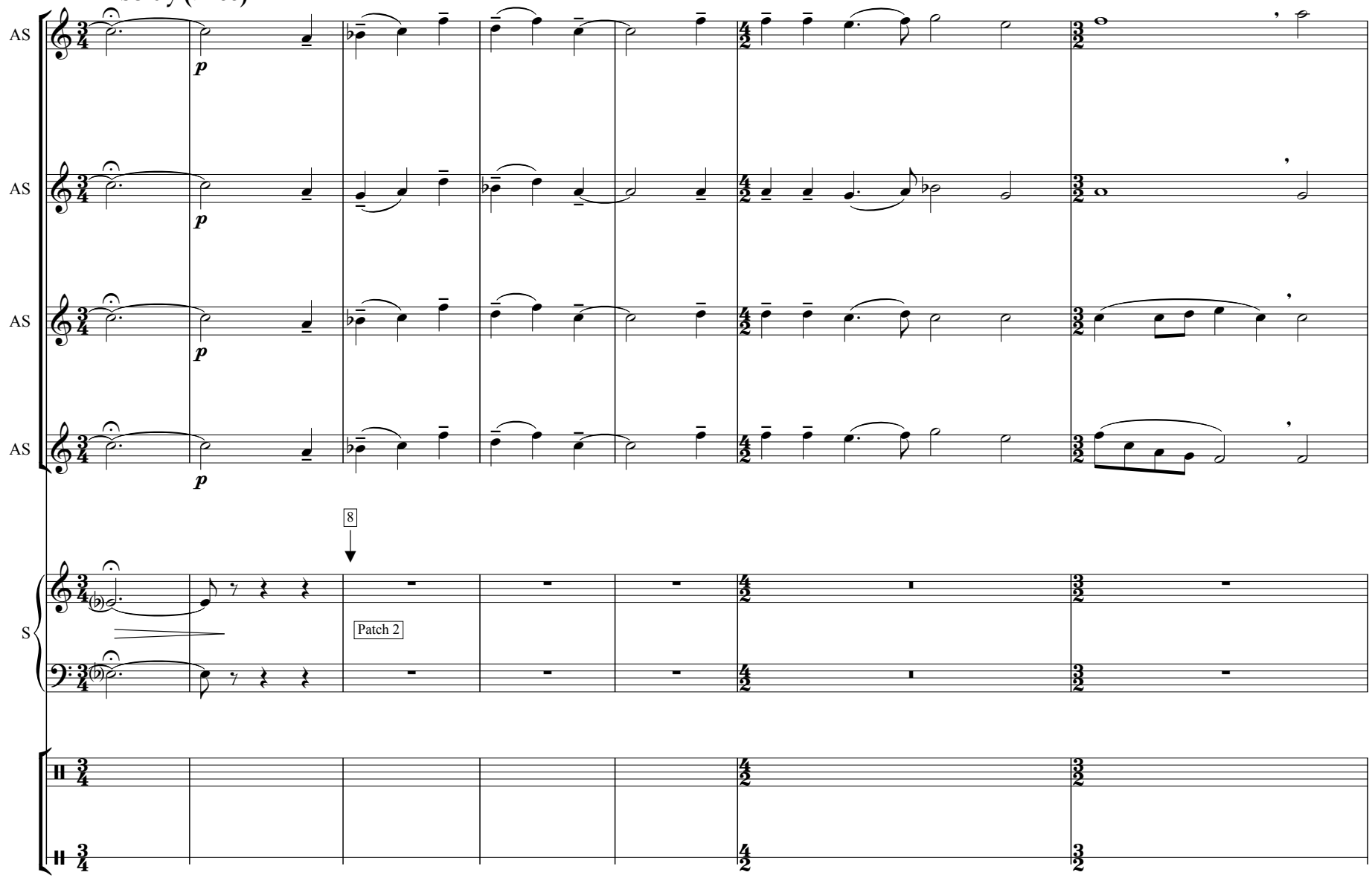


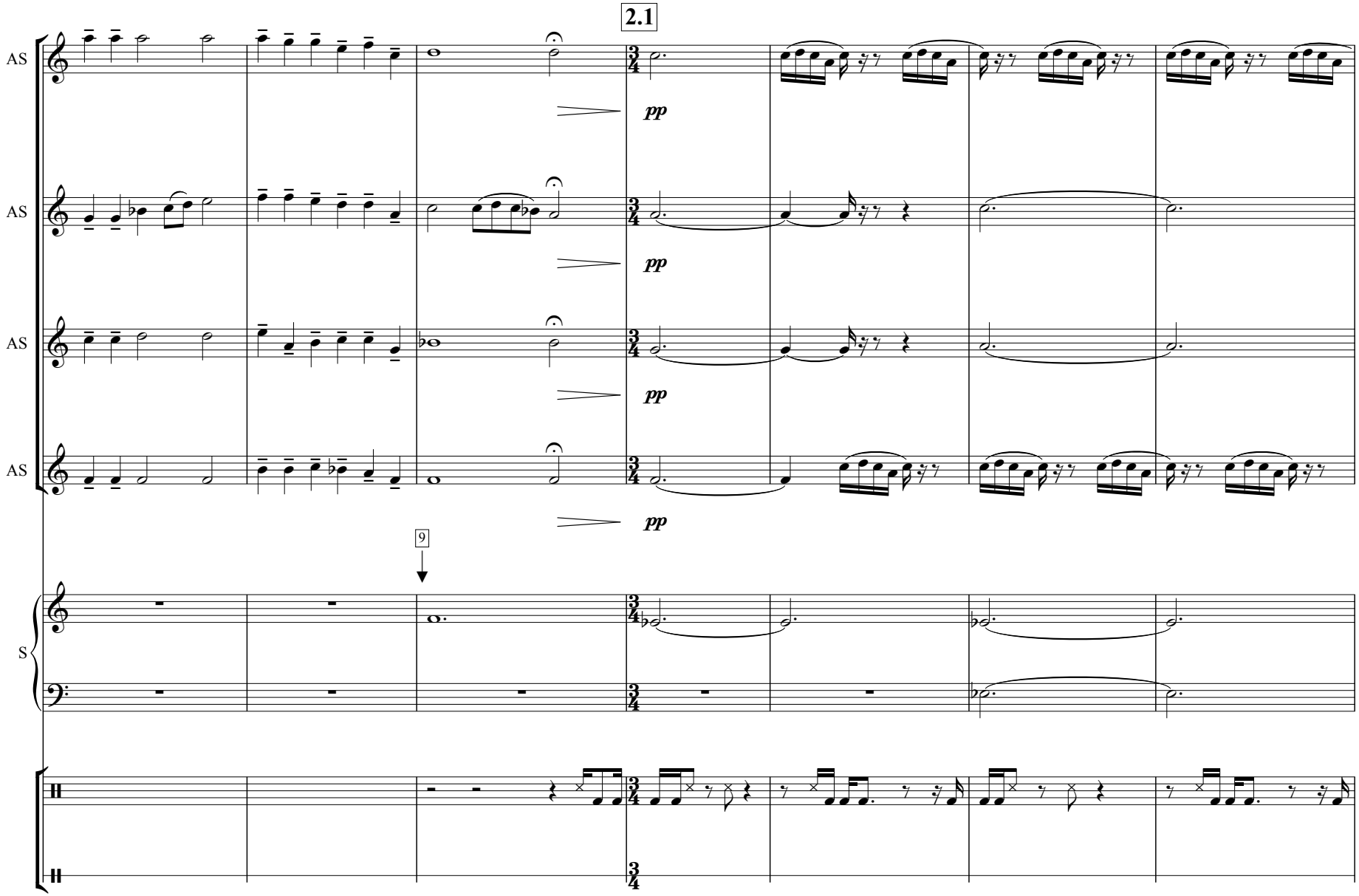
[d] "That man who does not believe that each day contains an earlier, more sacred, and auroral hour than he has yet profaned, has despaired of life, and is pursuing a descending and darkening way."

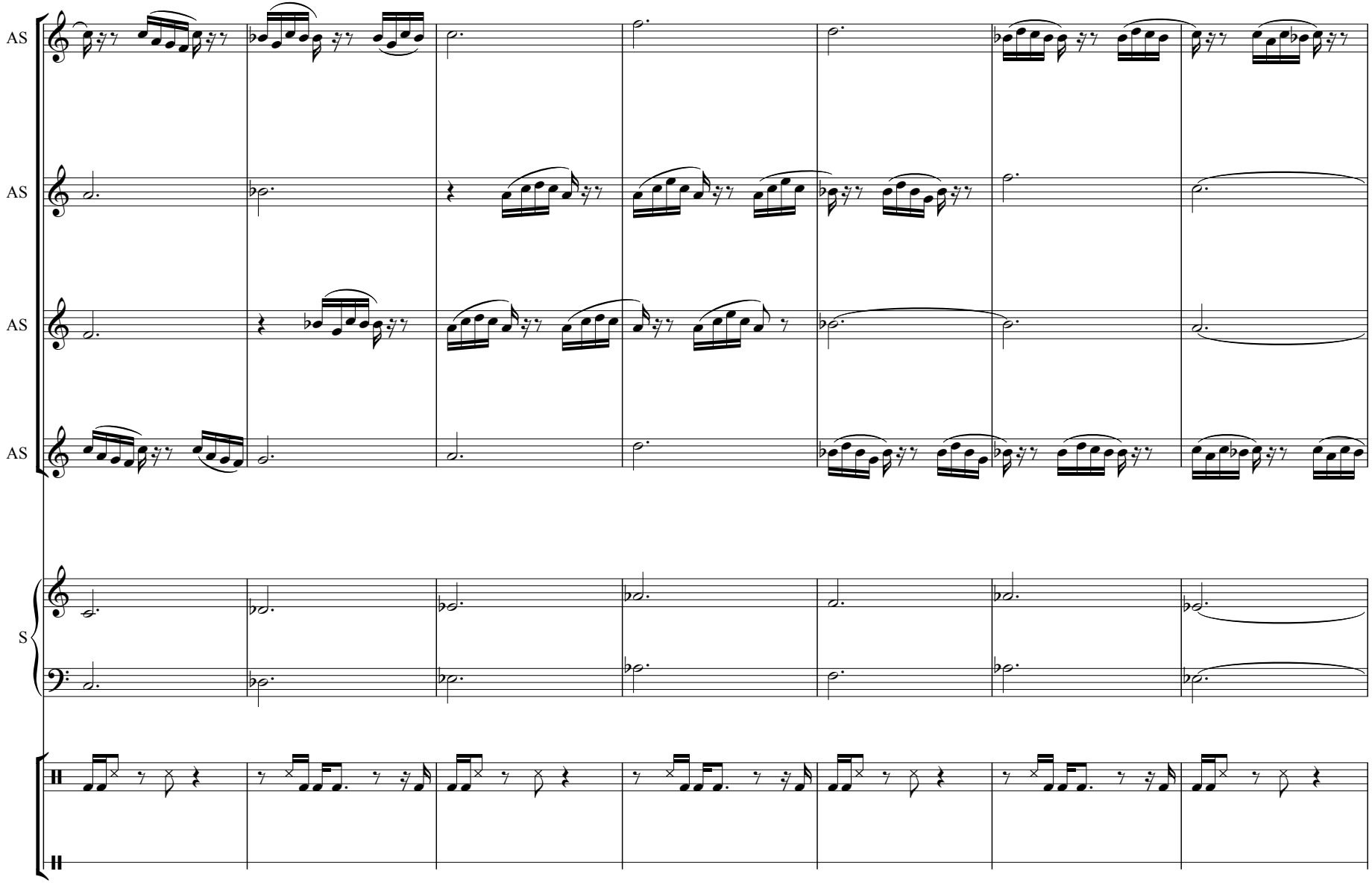
[e] "We must learn to reawaken and keep ourselves awake, not by mechanical aids, but by an infinite expectation of the dawn, which does not forsake us in our soundest sleep. I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by a conscious endeavor. "

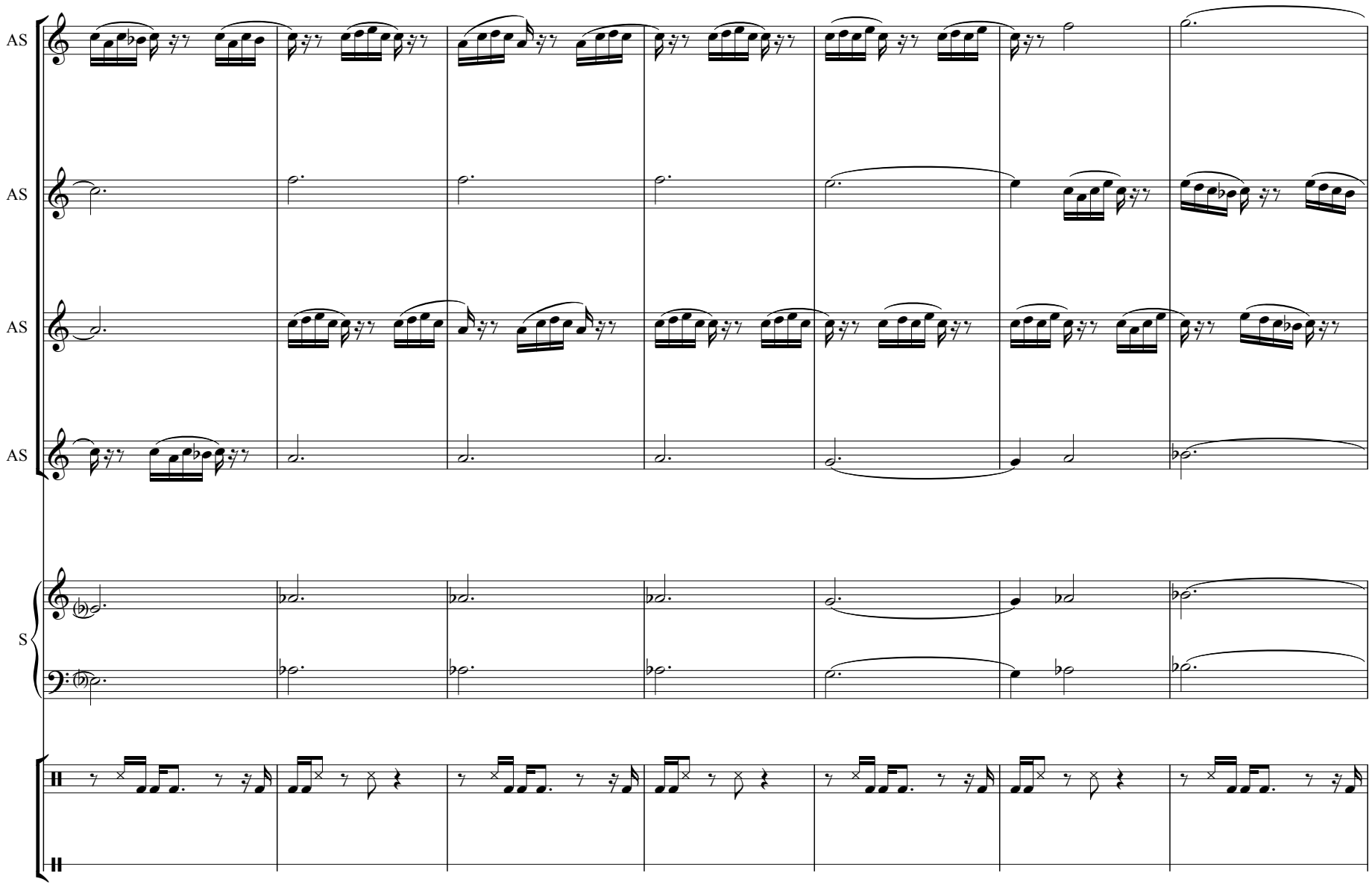
[2] Hymn: We Love the Venerable House

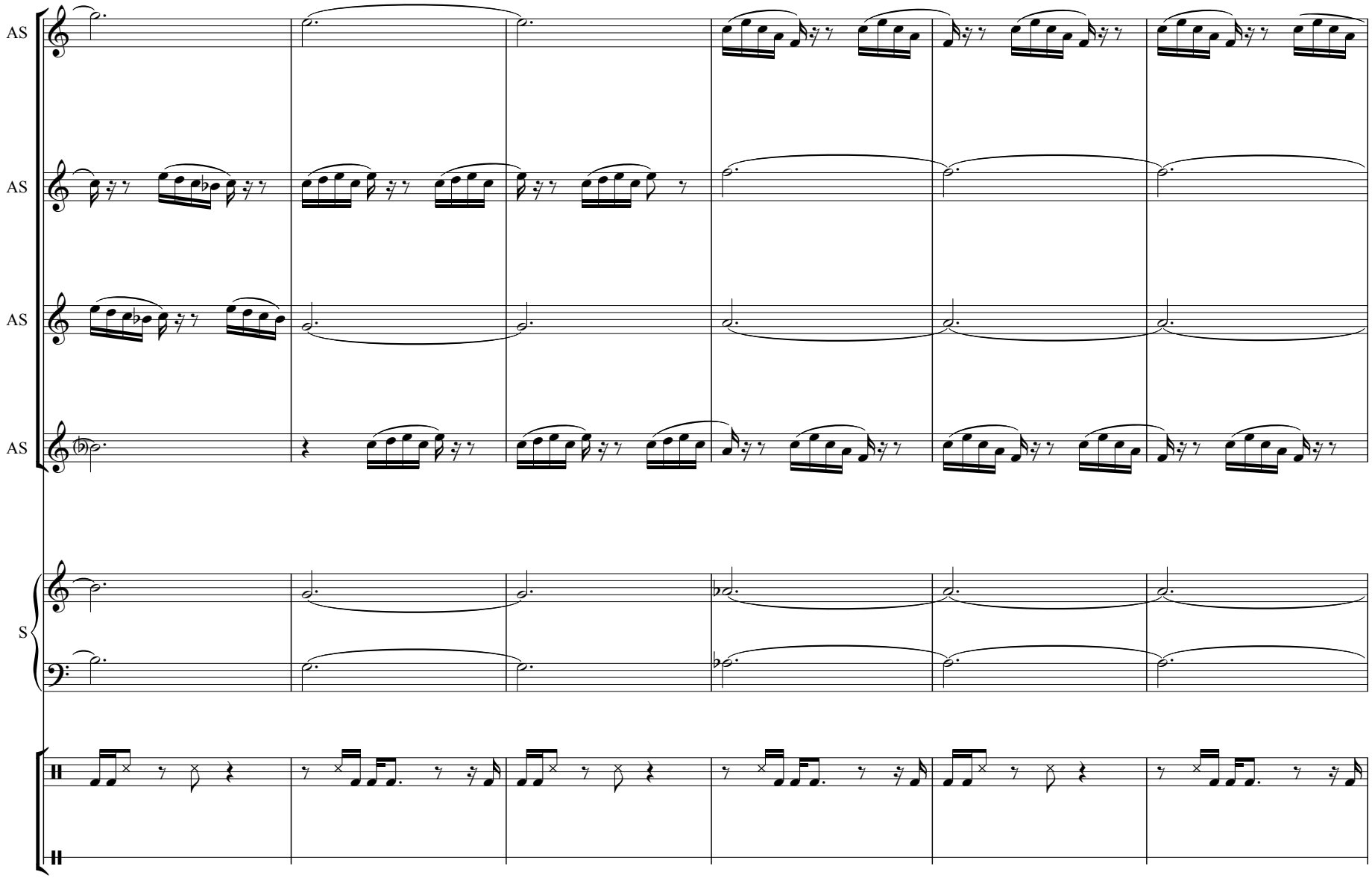
Softly (♩=66)

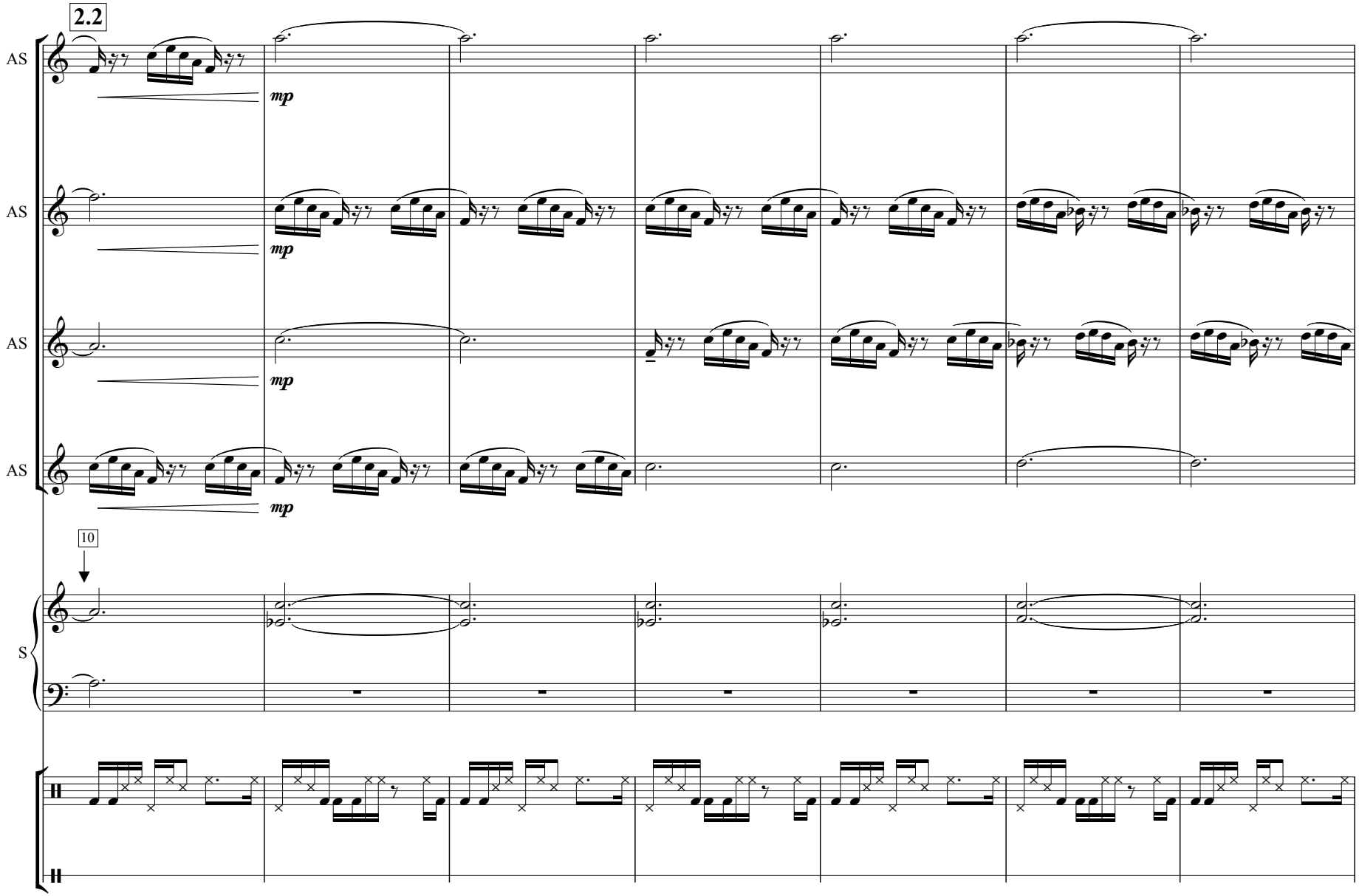


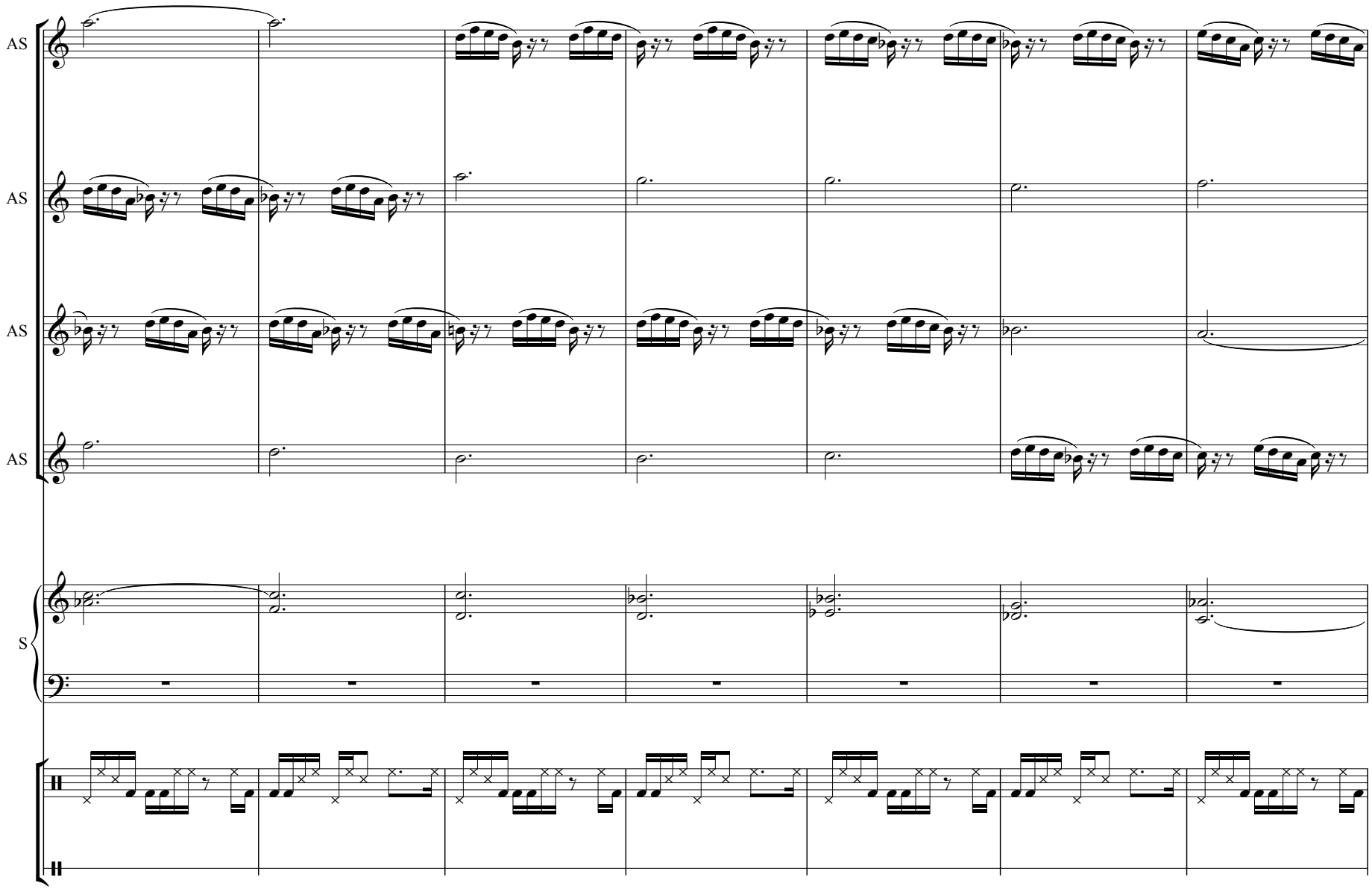

2.1
AS
AS
AS
AS
pp
pp
pp
pp
9
S

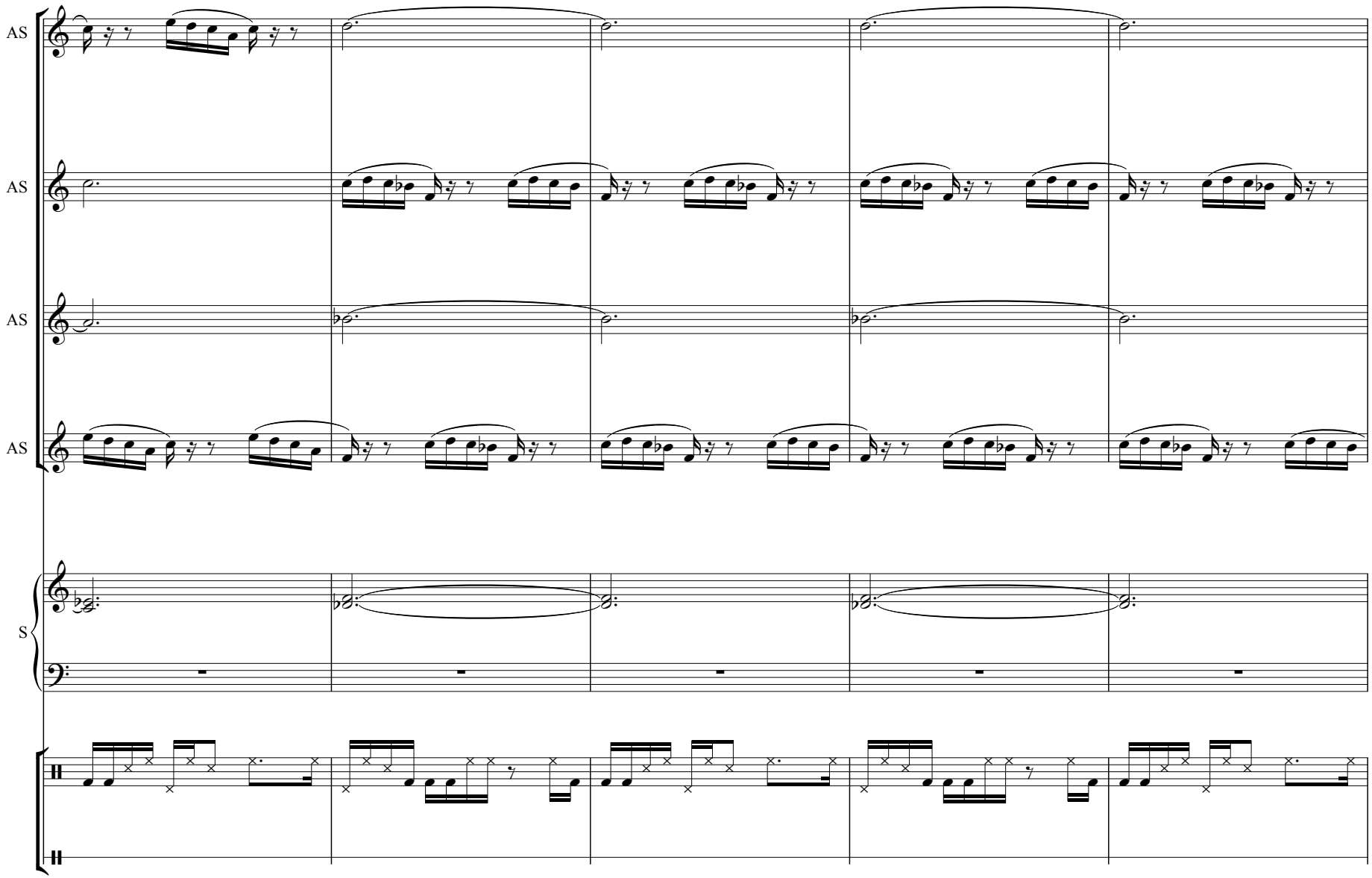

AS
AS
AS
AS
S

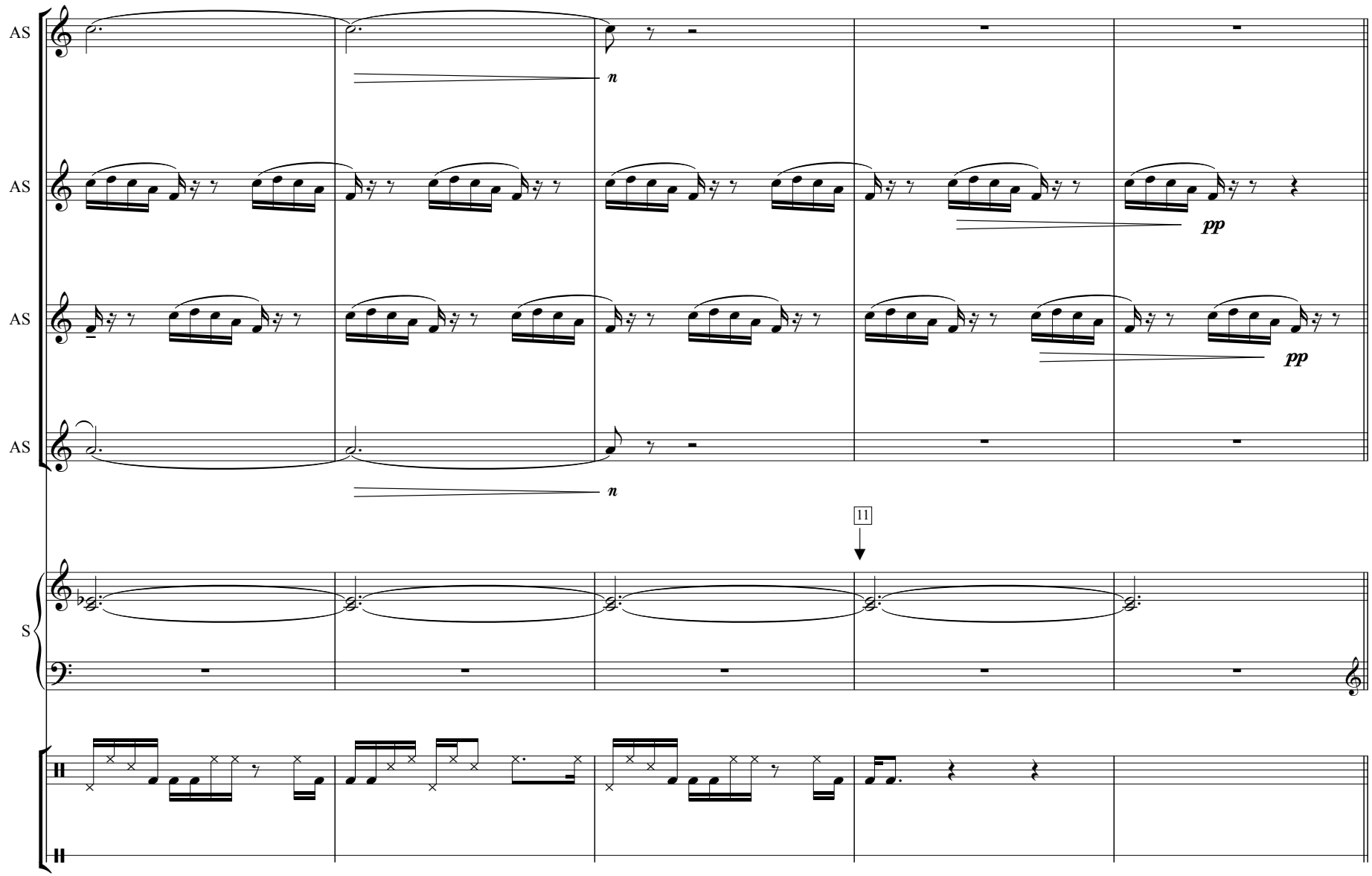

AS
AS
AS
AS
S


AS
AS
AS
AS
S


2.2
AS
AS
AS
AS
mp
mp
mp
mp
10
S

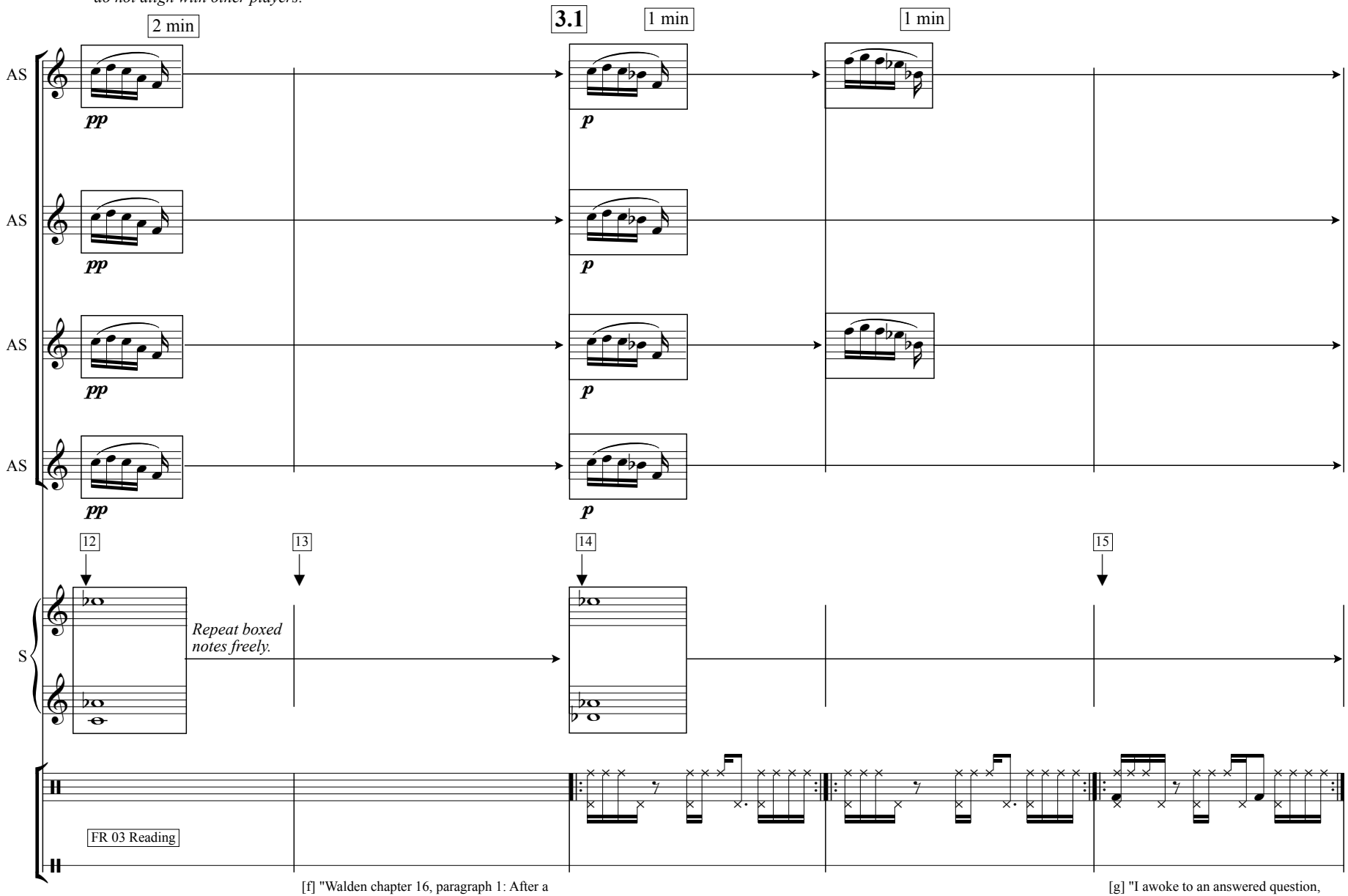

AS
AS
AS
AS
S


AS
AS
AS
AS
S


AS
AS
AS
AS
n
pp
pp
n
11
S

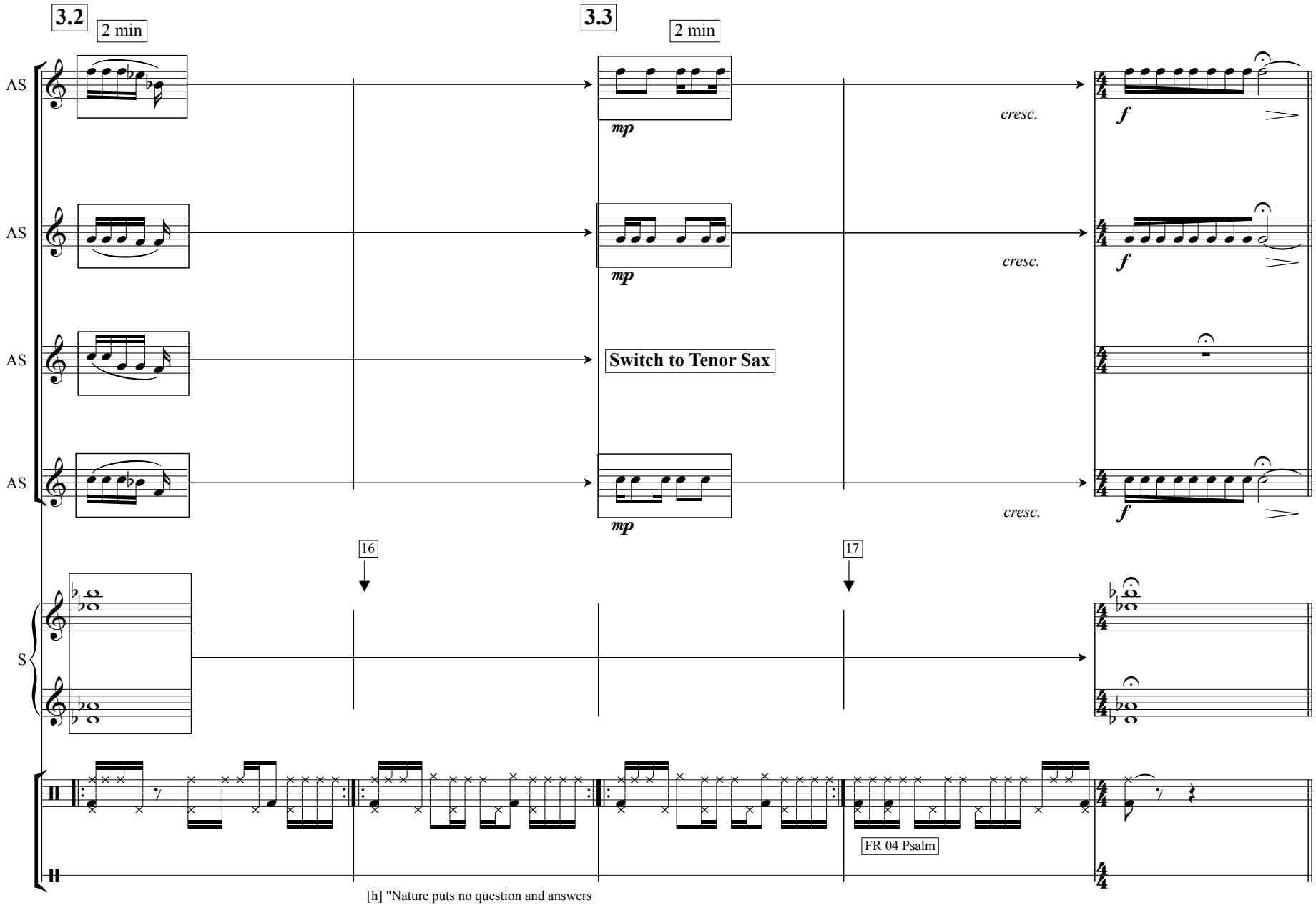
[3] Reading (After a still winter night)

Play the boxed figure at will. Play in tempo, do not align with other players.

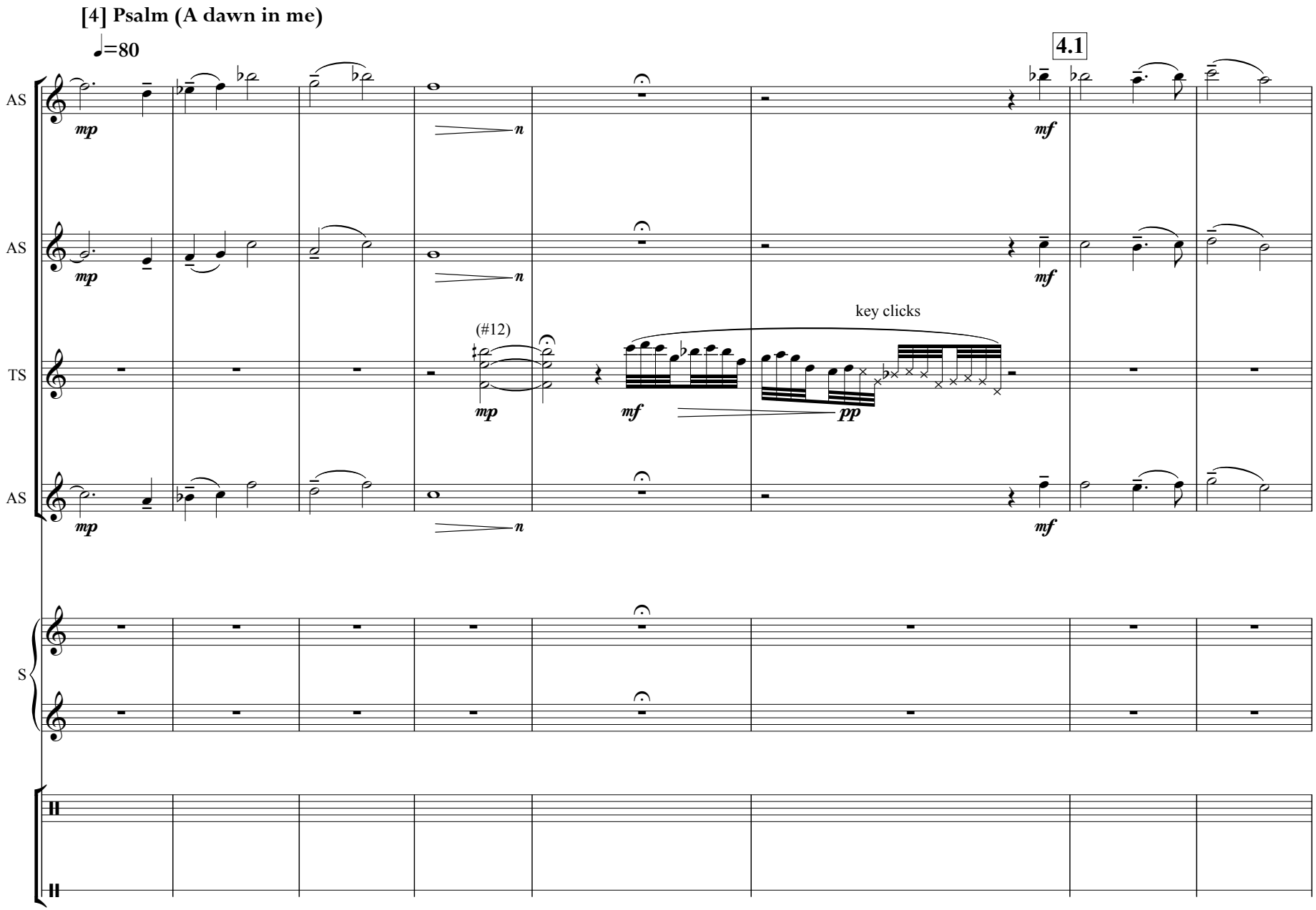


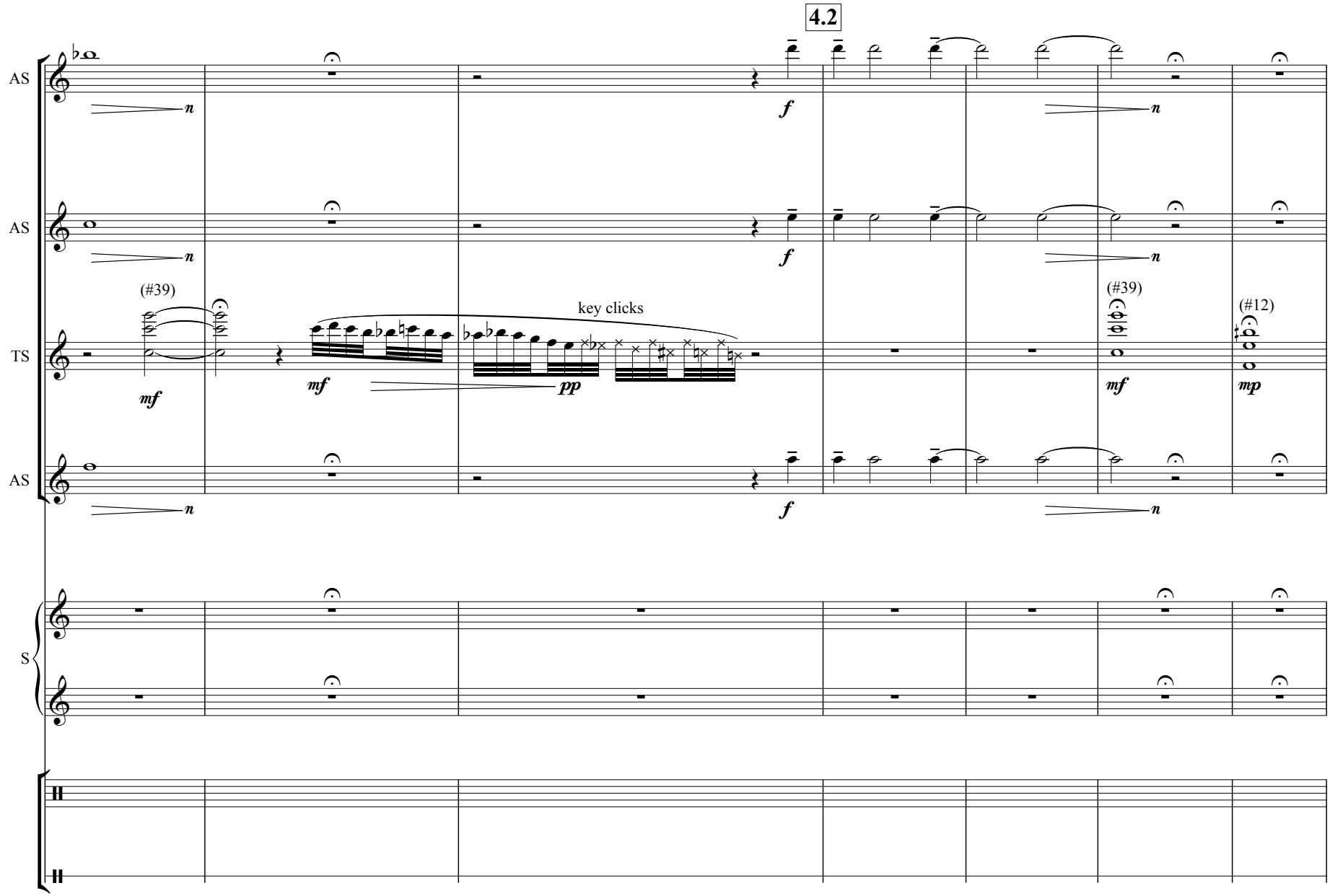
[f] "Walden chapter 16, paragraph 1: After a still winter night I awoke with the impression that some question had been put to me, which I had been endeavoring in vain to answer in my sleep, as what—how—when—where? But there was dawning Nature, in whom all creatures live, looking in at my broad windows with serene and satisfied face, and no question on her lips."

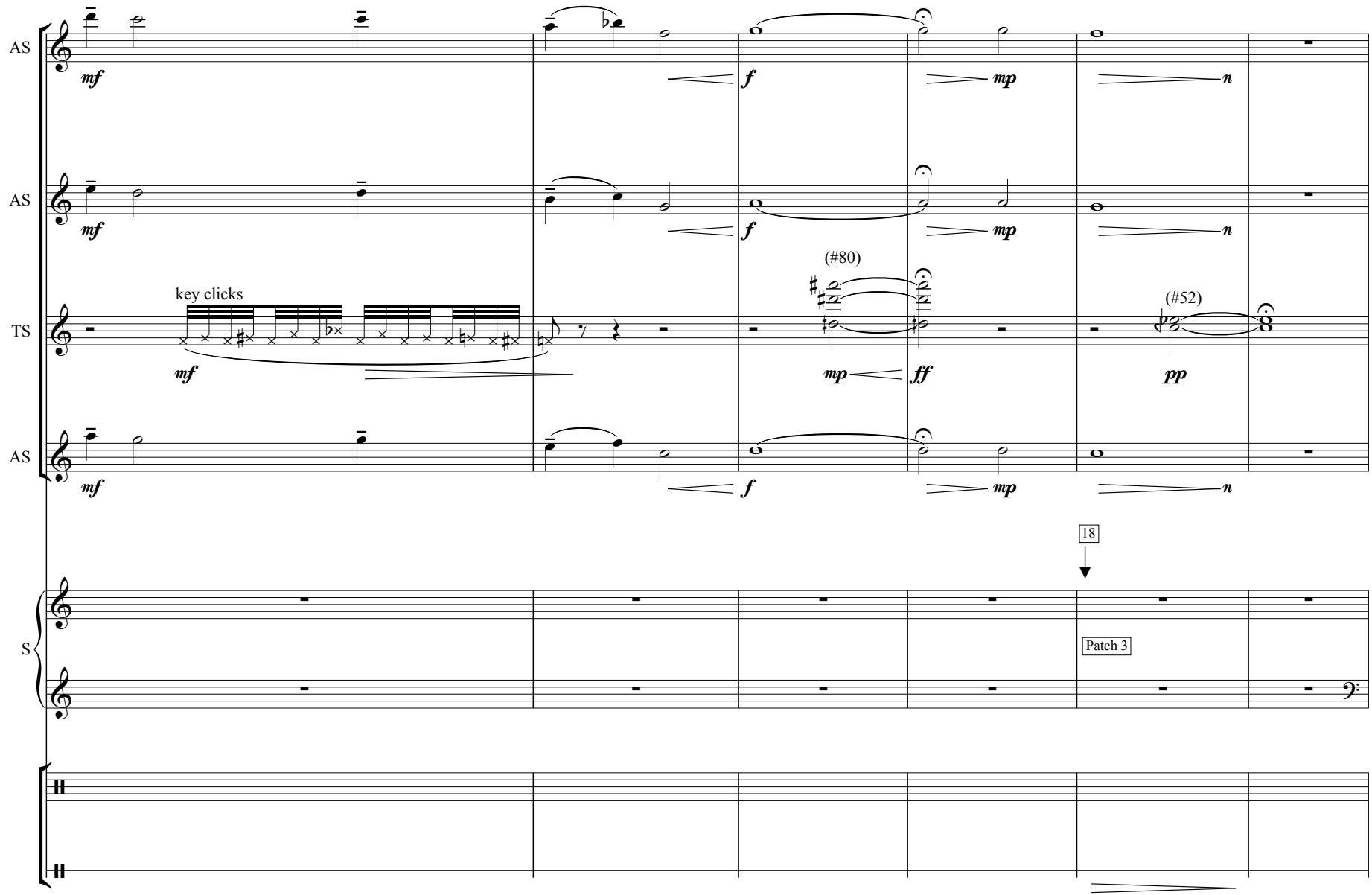
[g] "I awoke to an answered question, to Nature and daylight. The snow lying deep on the earth dotted with young pines, and the very slope of the hill on which my house is placed, seemed to say, Forward!"



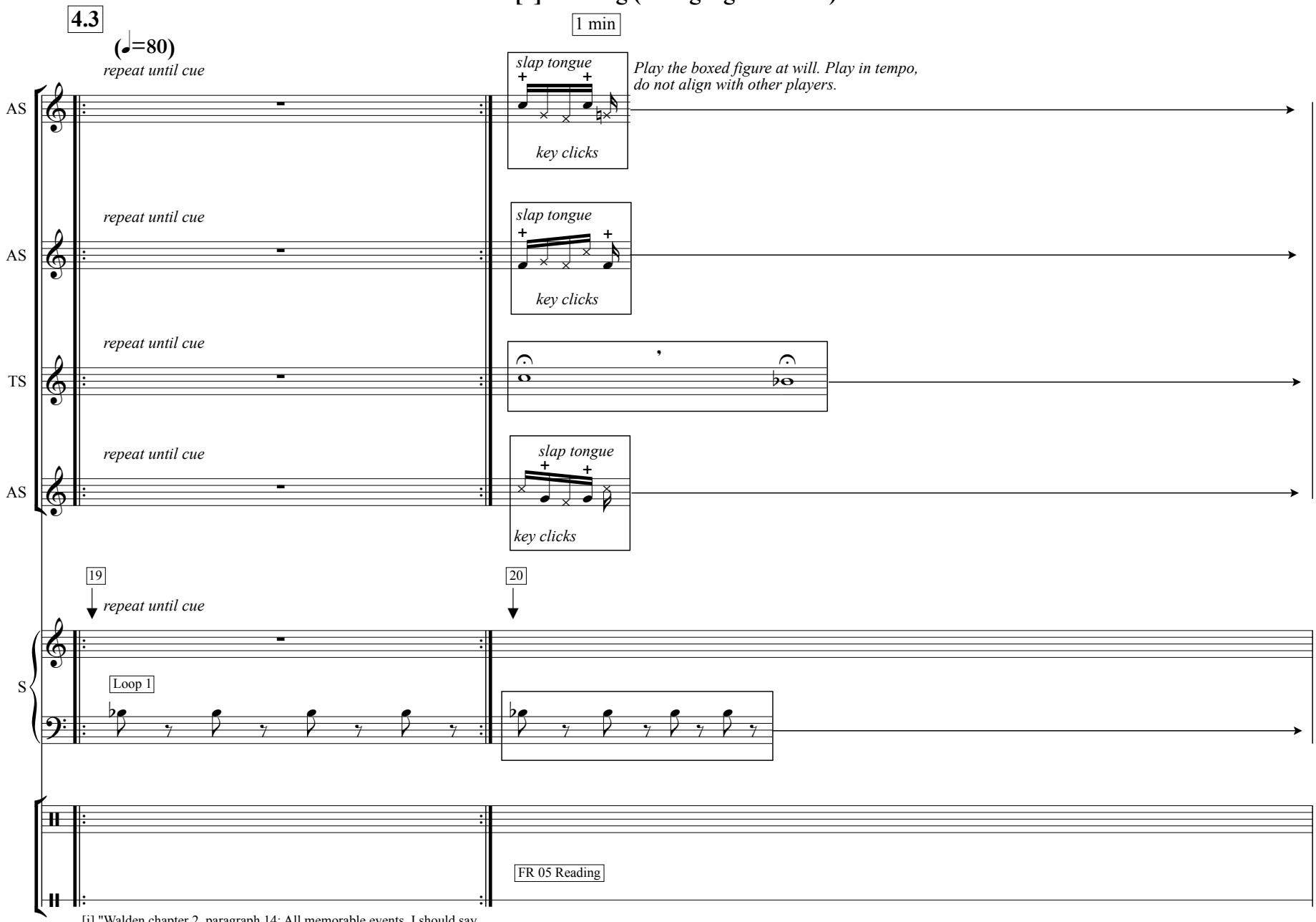
[h] "Nature puts no question and answers none which we mortals ask. She has long ago taken her resolution. “The night veils without doubt a part of this glorious creation; but day comes to reveal to us this great work, which extends from earth even into the plains of the ether."


[4] Psalm (A dawn in me)
♩=80
4.1
AS
AS
TS
AS
S
mp
n
mf
(#12)
key clicks
pp

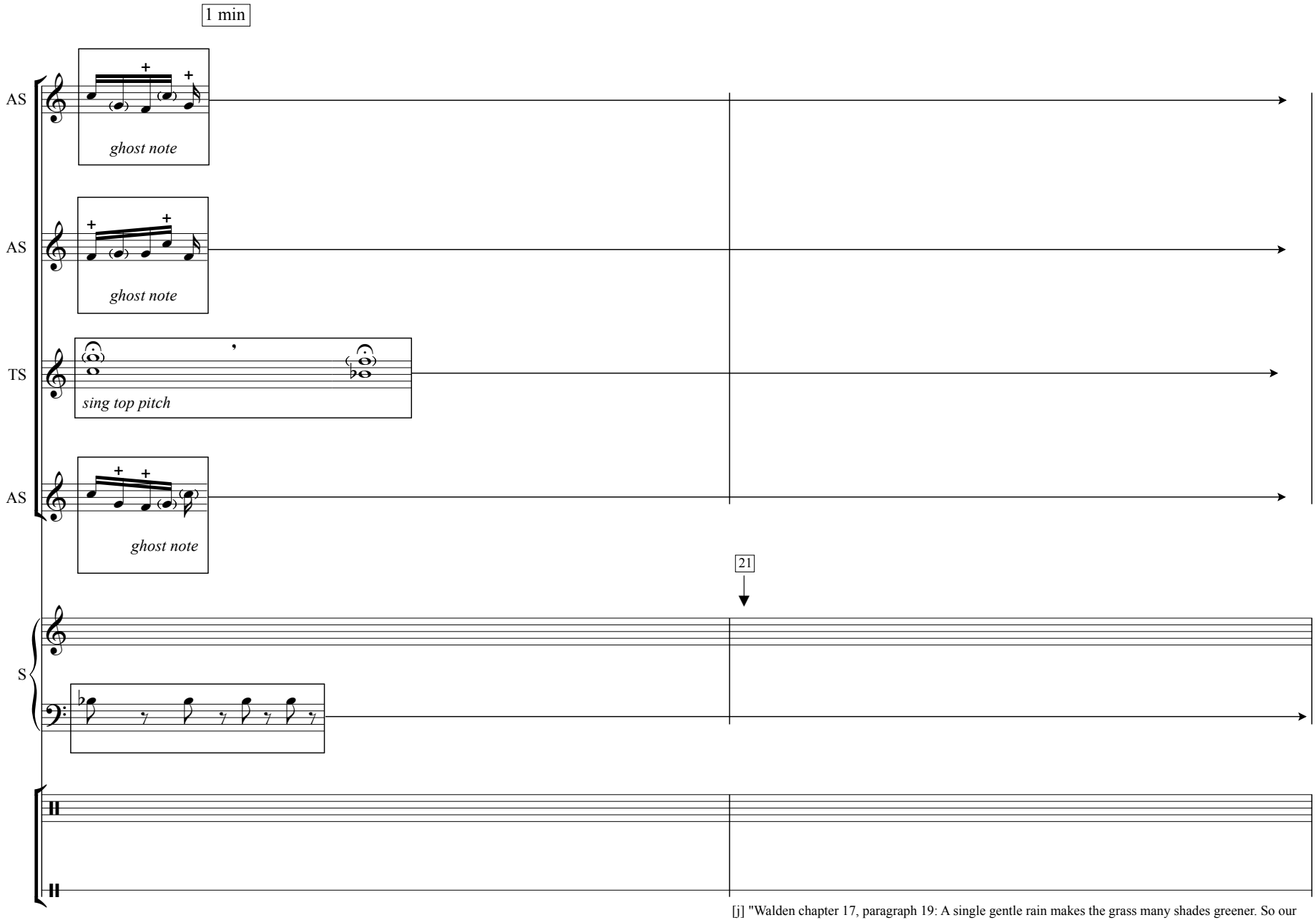

4.2
AS
AS
TS
AS
S
(#39)
key clicks
(#39)
(#12)
mf
mf
pp
mf
mp
f
f
f
n
n
n
n


AS
AS
TS
AS
S
mf
f
mp
n
key clicks
(#80)
(#52)
ff
pp
18
Patch 3

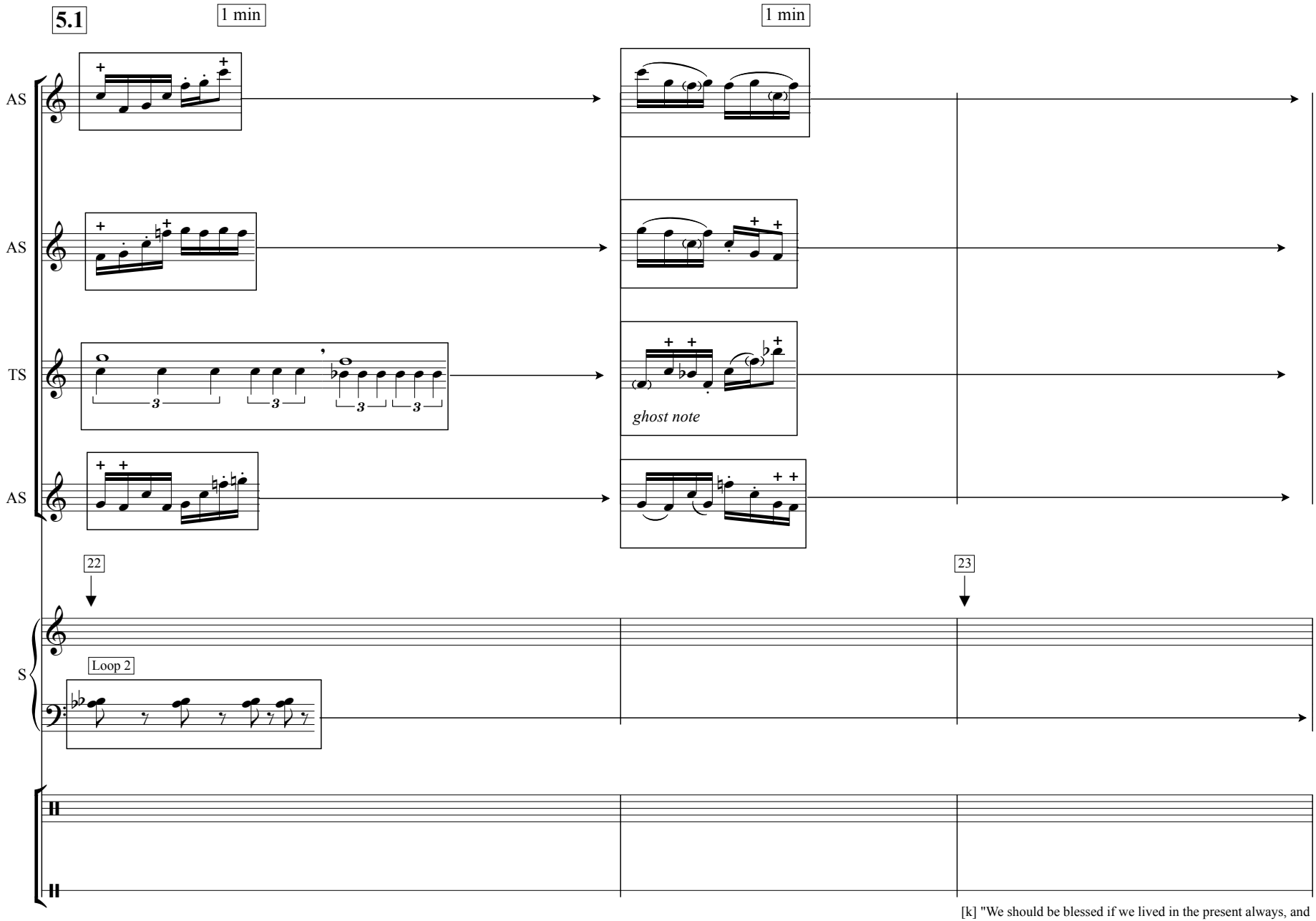
[5] Reading (A single gentle rain)



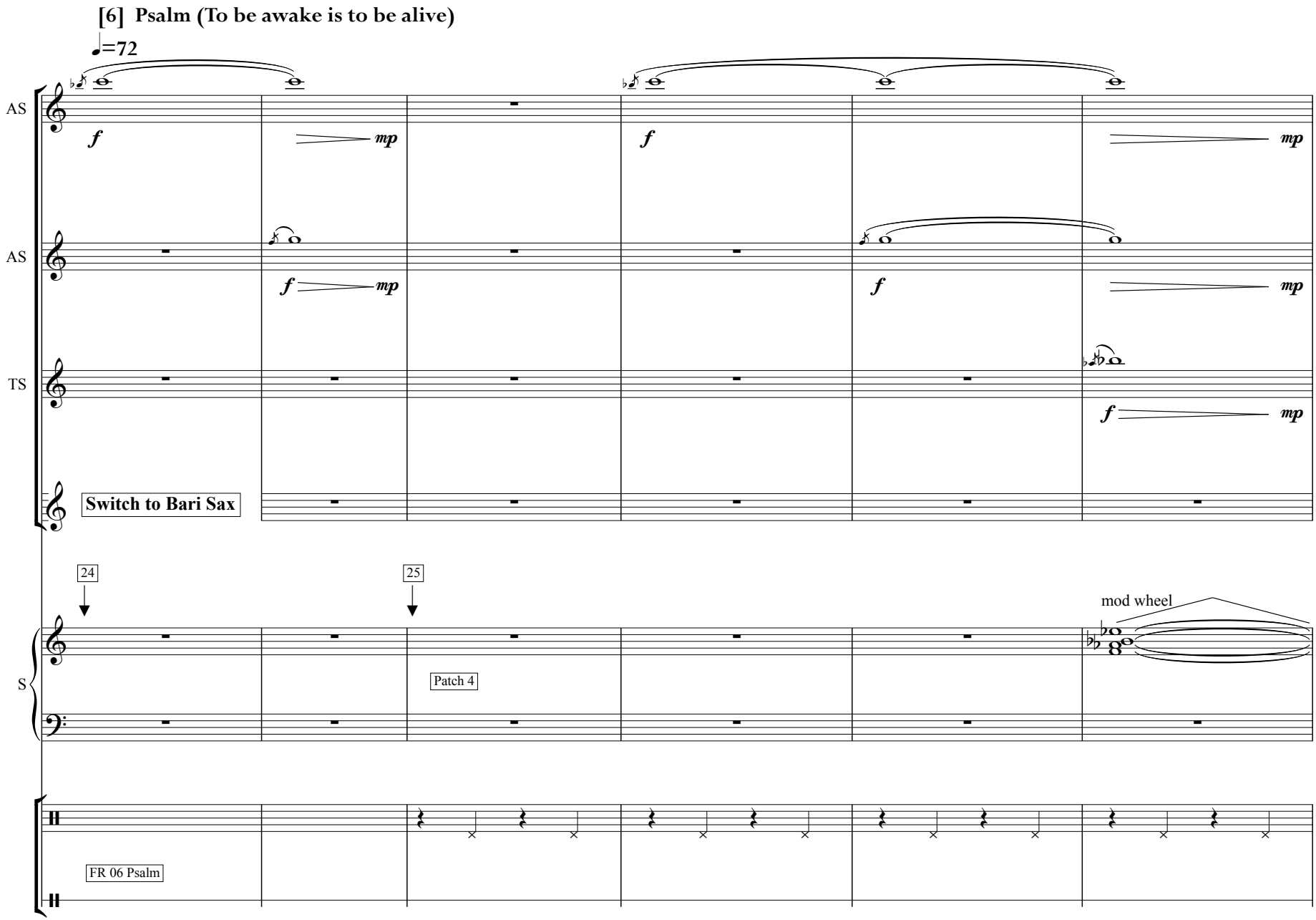
[i] "Walden chapter 2, paragraph 14: All memorable events, I should say, transpire in morning time and in a morning atmosphere. The Vedas say, "All intelligences awake with the morning." Poetry and art, and the fairest and most memorable of the actions of men, date from such an hour. To him whose elastic and vigorous thought keeps pace with the sun, the day is a perpetual morning. It matters not what the clocks say or the attitudes and labors of men. Morning is when I am awake and there is a dawn in me."

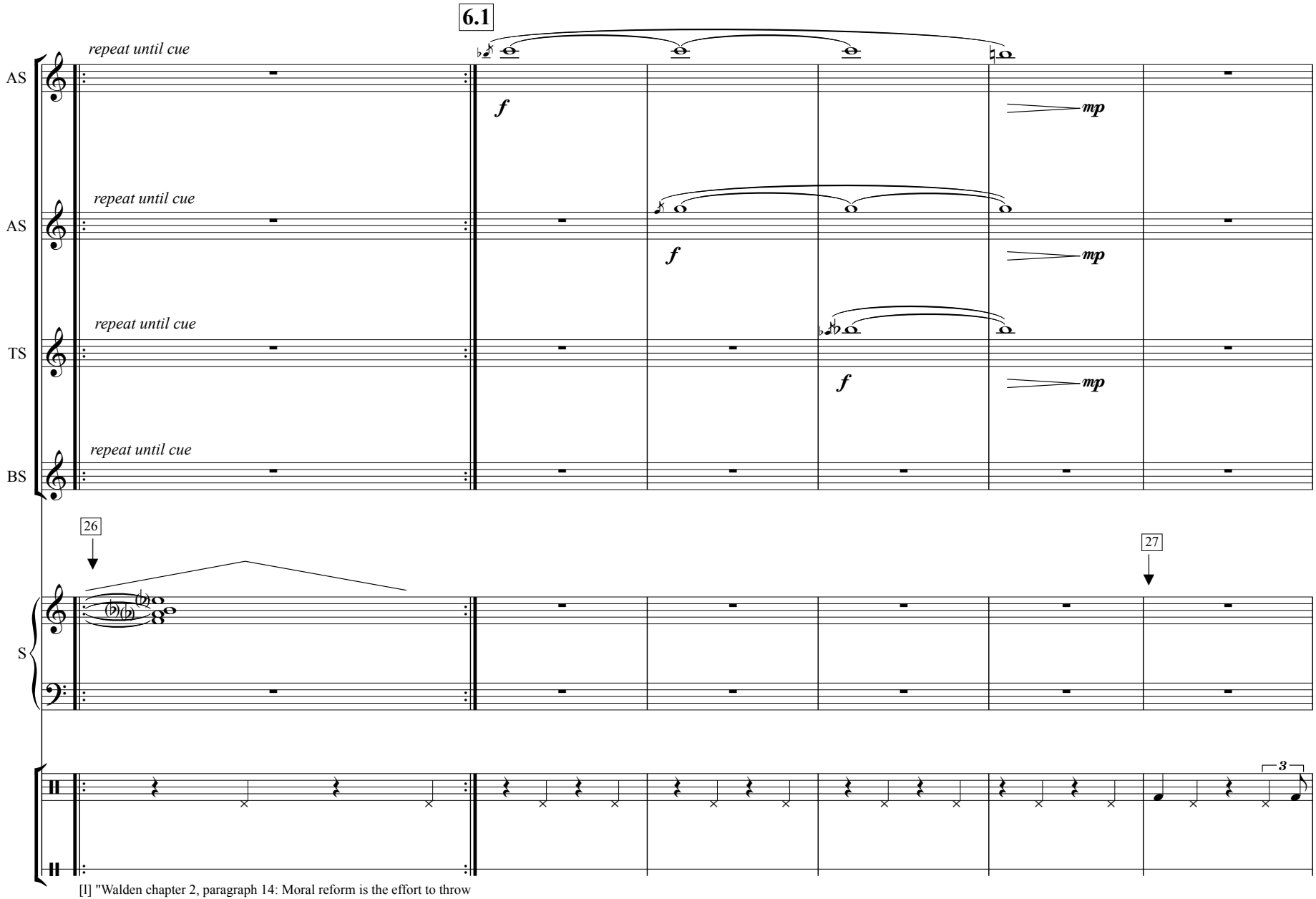


[j] "Walden chapter 17, paragraph 19: A single gentle rain makes the grass many shades greener. So our prospects brighten on the influx of better thoughts."

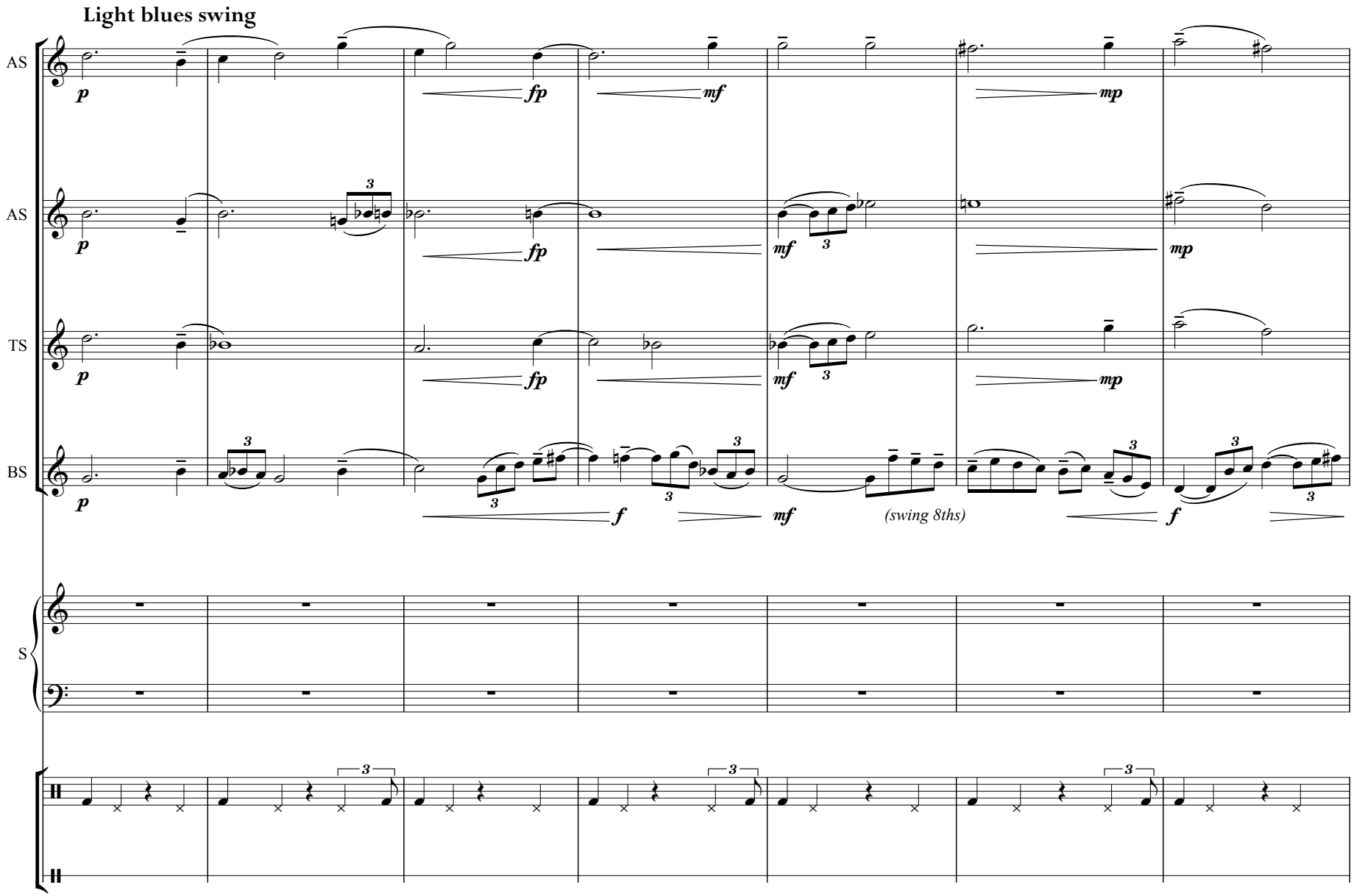


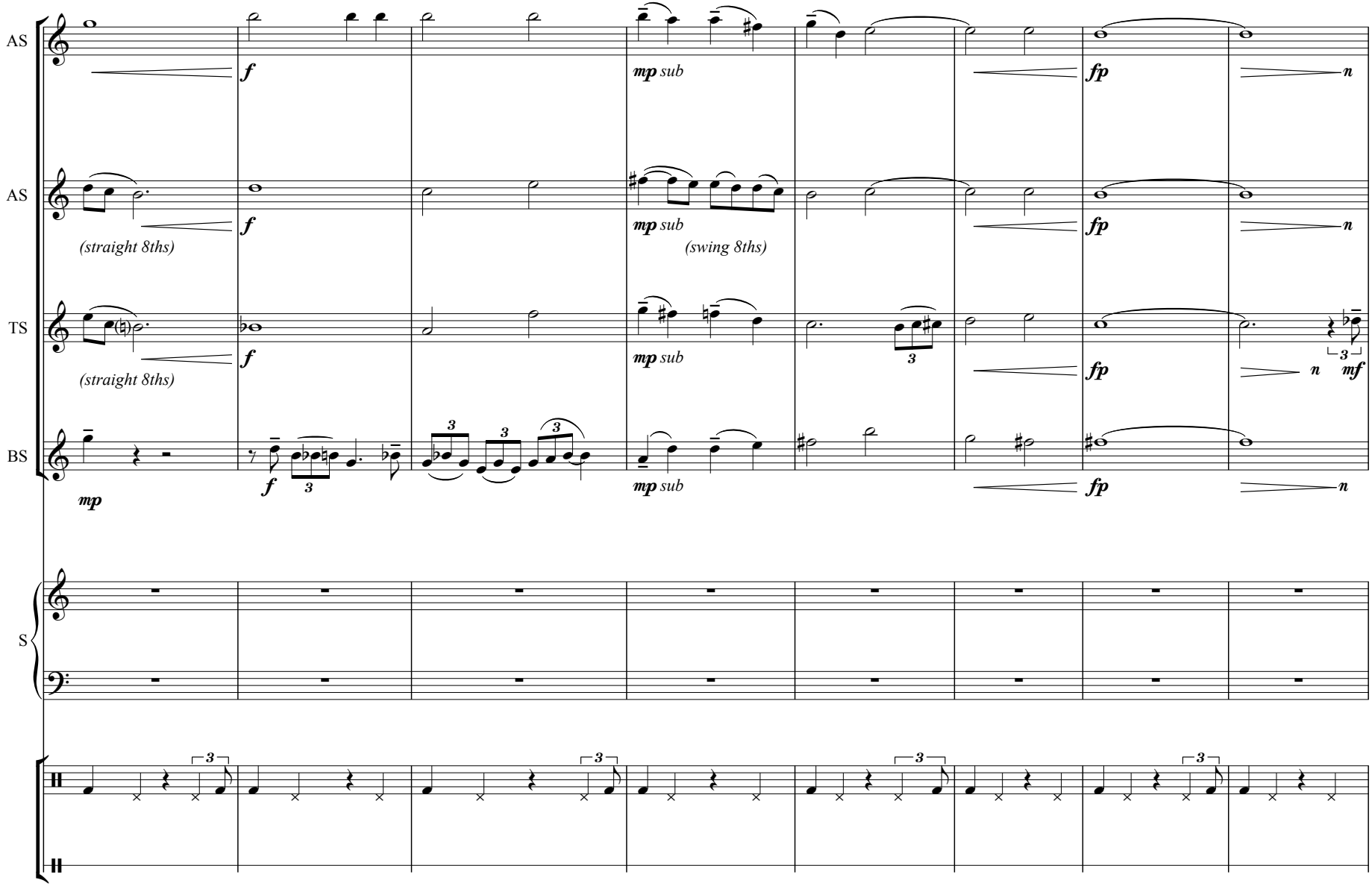
[k] "We should be blessed if we lived in the present always, and took advantage of every accident that befell us, like the grass which confesses the influence of the slightest dew that falls on it; and did not spend our time in atoning for the neglect of past opportunities, which we call doing our duty. We loiter in winter while it is already spring."

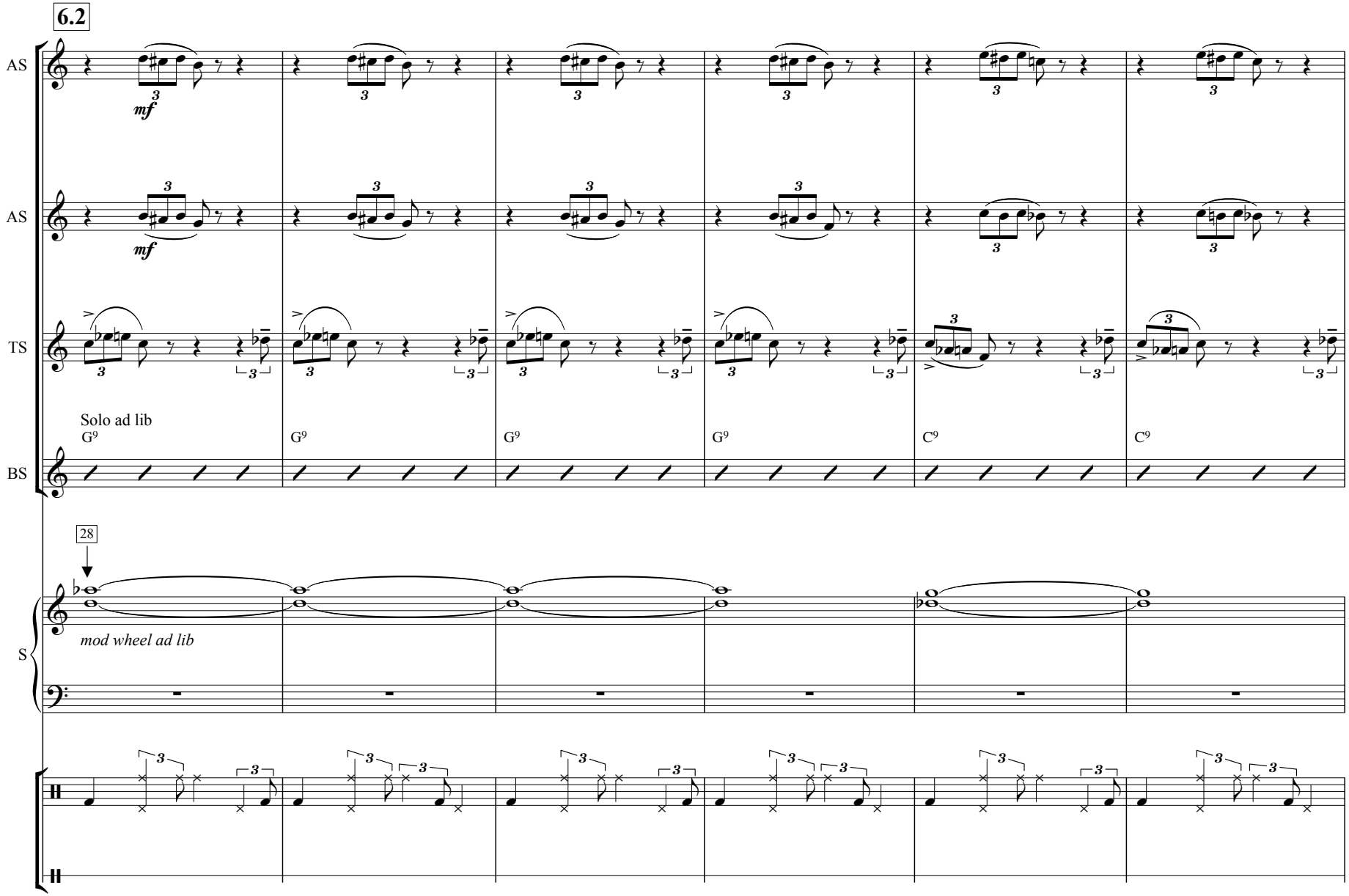

[6] Psalm (To be awake is to be alive)
♩=72
AS
AS
TS
S
f
mp
Switch to Bari Sax
24
25
Patch 4
mod wheel
FR 06 Psalm

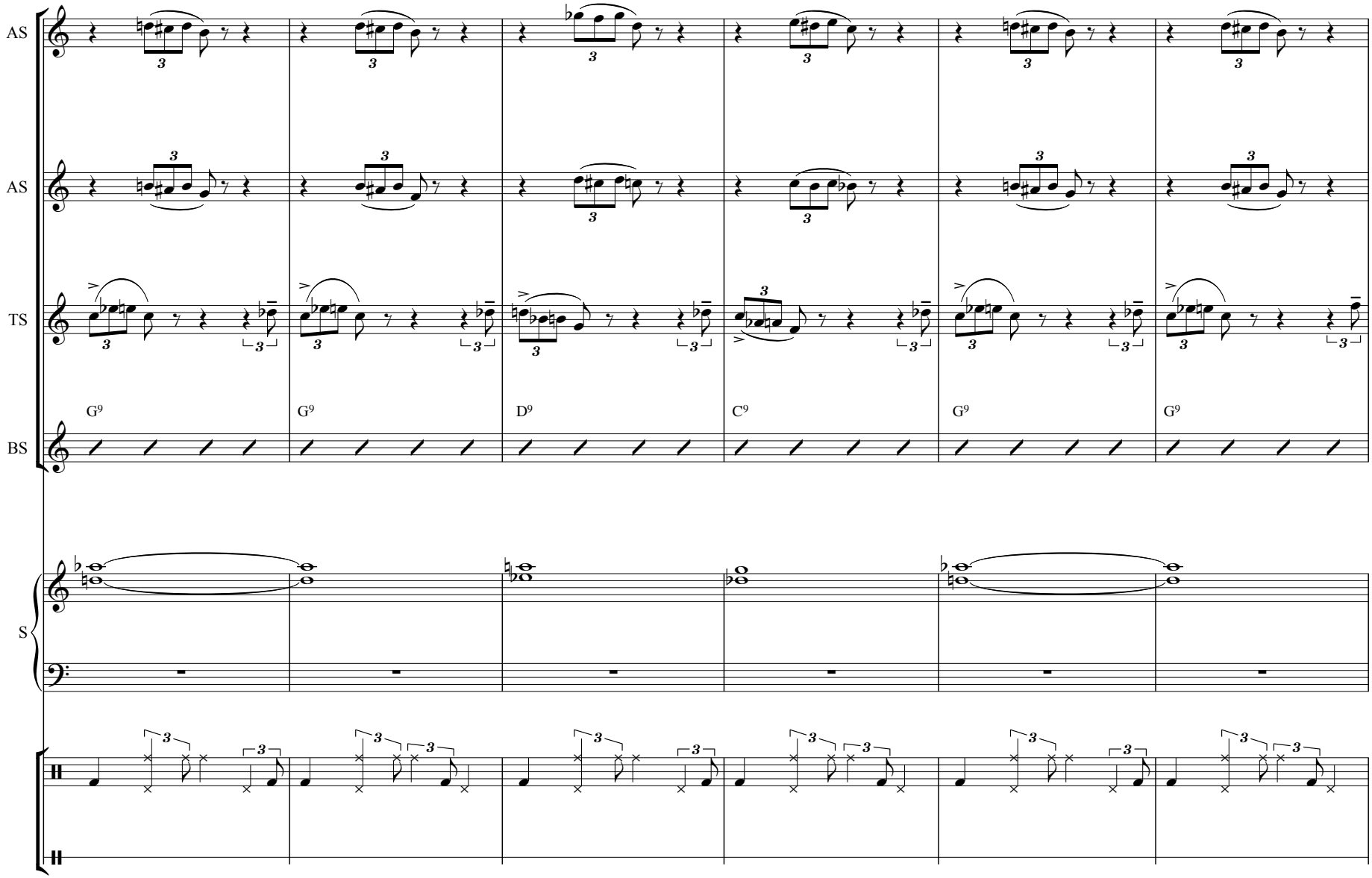


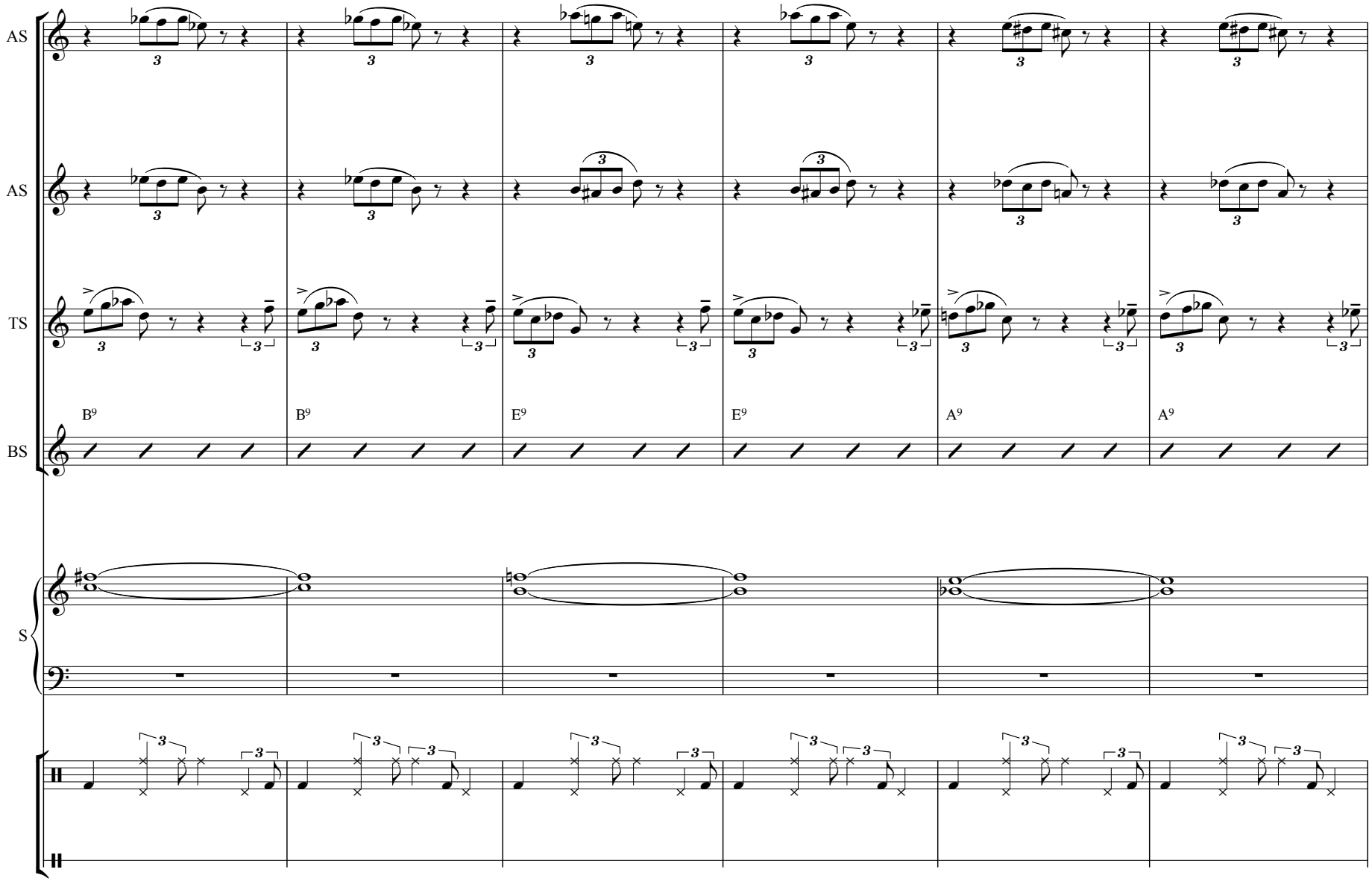
[l] "Walden chapter 2, paragraph 14: Moral reform is the effort to throw off sleep. Why is it that men give so poor an account of their day if they have not been slumbering? They are not such poor calculators. If they had not been overcome with drowsiness they would have performed something. The millions are awake enough for physical labor; but only one in a million is awake enough for effective intellectual exertion, only one in a hundred millions to a poetic or divine life. To be awake is to be alive. I have never yet met a man who was quite awake. How could I have looked him in the face?"

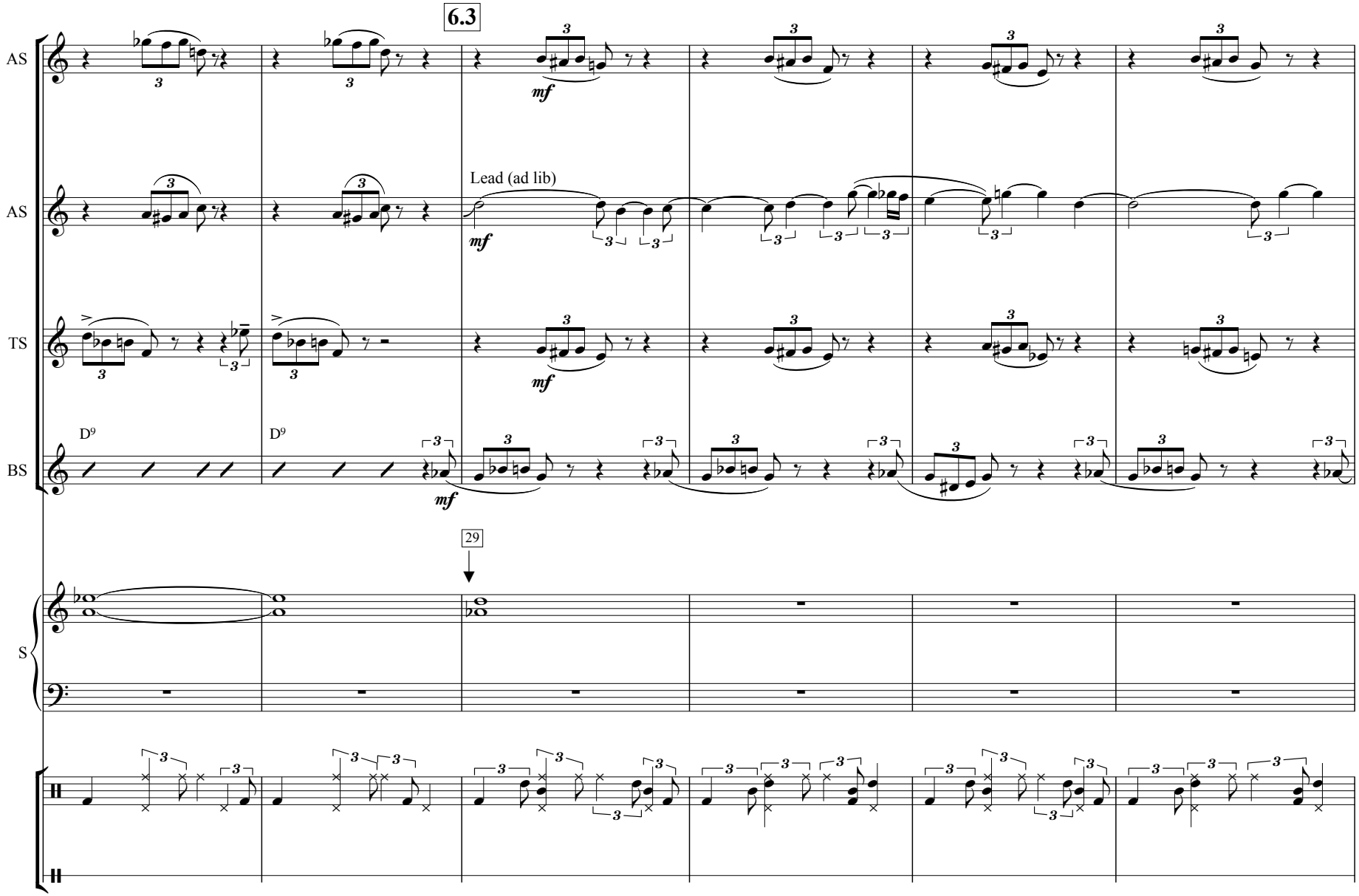

Light blues swing
AS
AS
TS
BS
S
p
fp
mf
mp
f
(swing 8ths)

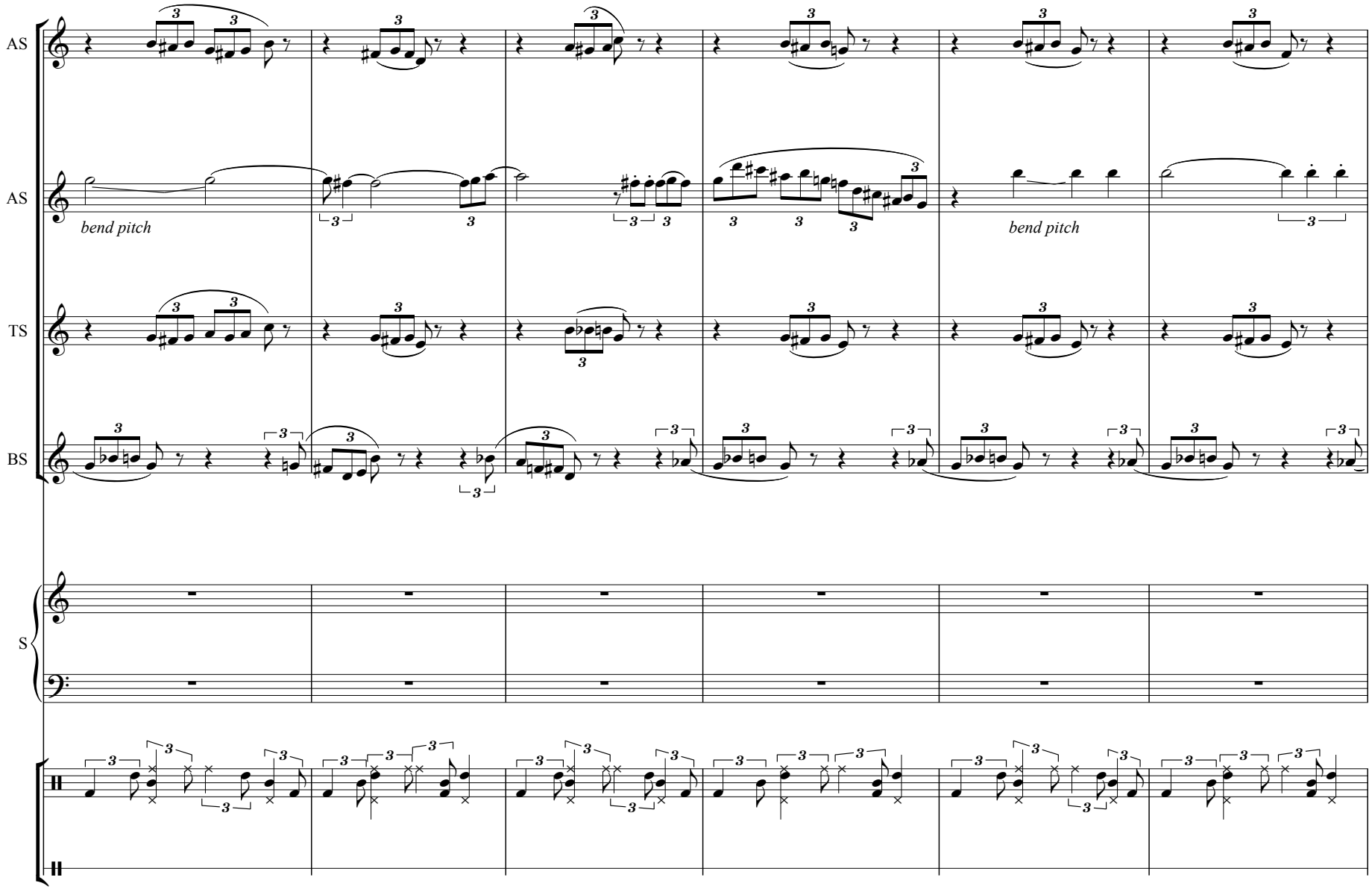

AS
AS
TS
BS
S
f
mp sub
fp
n
mf
(straight 8ths)
(swing 8ths)
mp
3

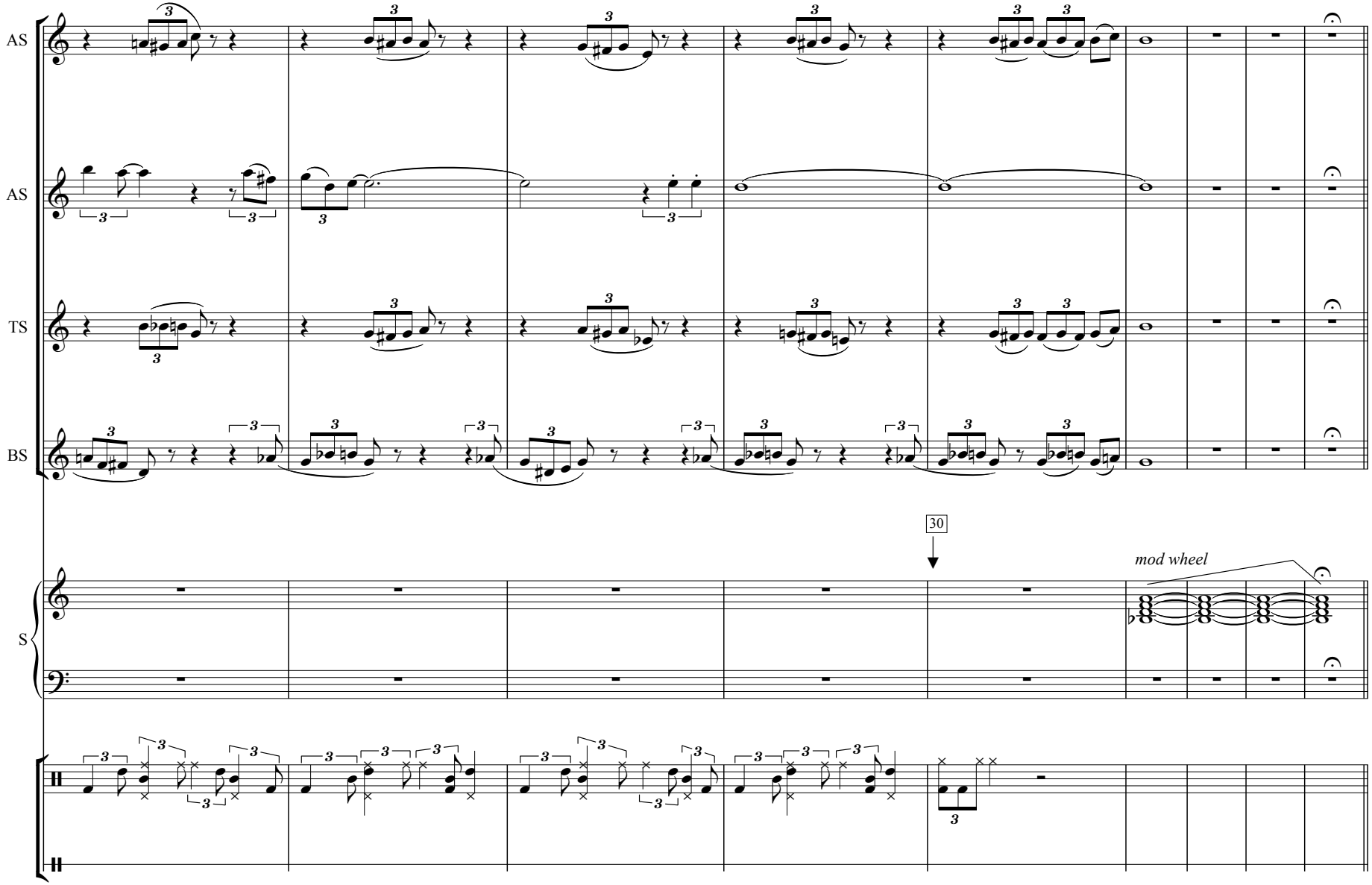

6.2
AS
AS
TS
BS
S
mf
mf
Solo ad lib
G9
G9
G9
G9
C9
C9
28
mod wheel ad lib


AS
AS
TS
G9
G9
D9
C9
G9
G9
BS
S

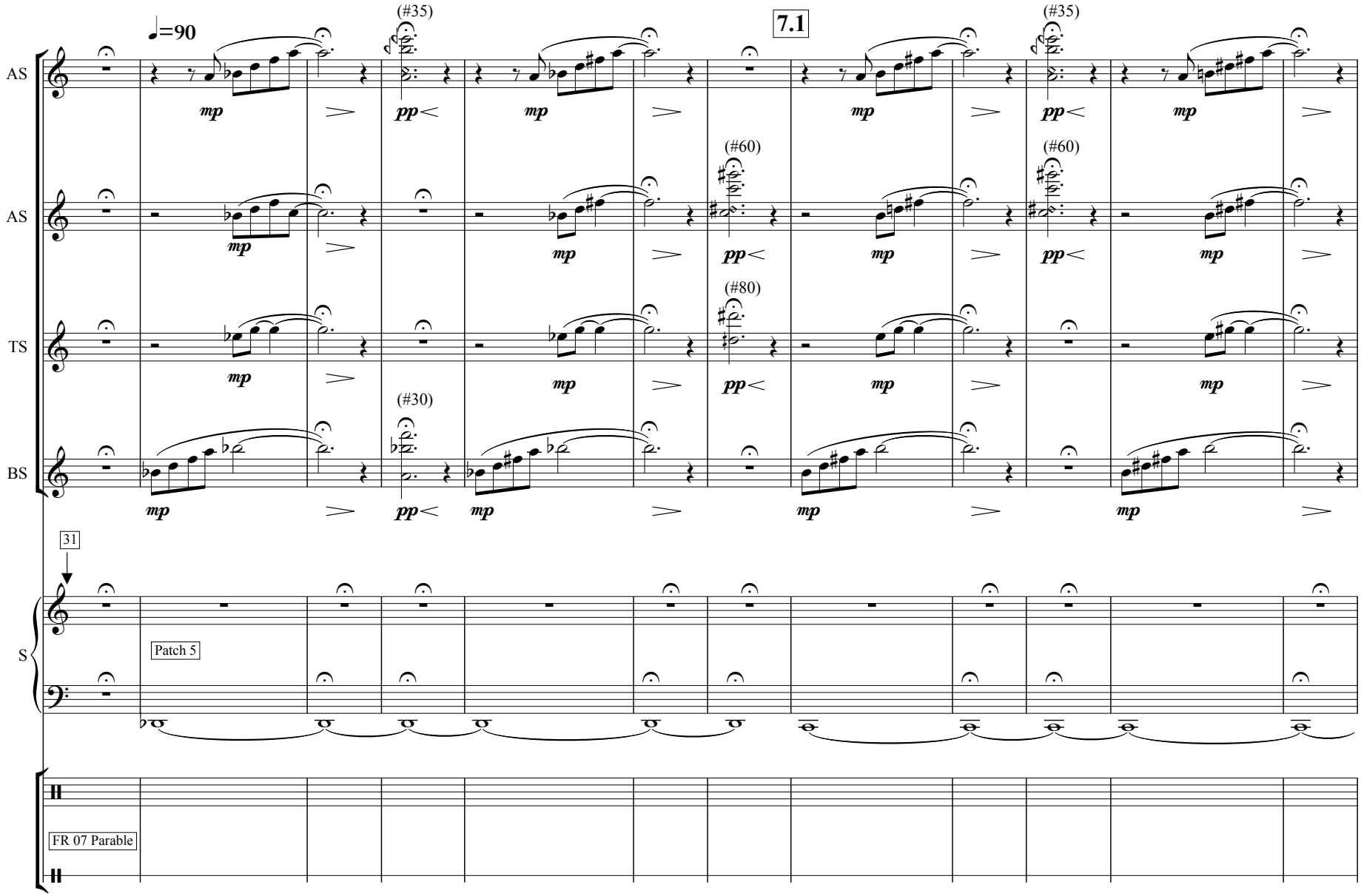

AS
AS
TS
B9
B9
E9
E9
A9
A9
BS
S

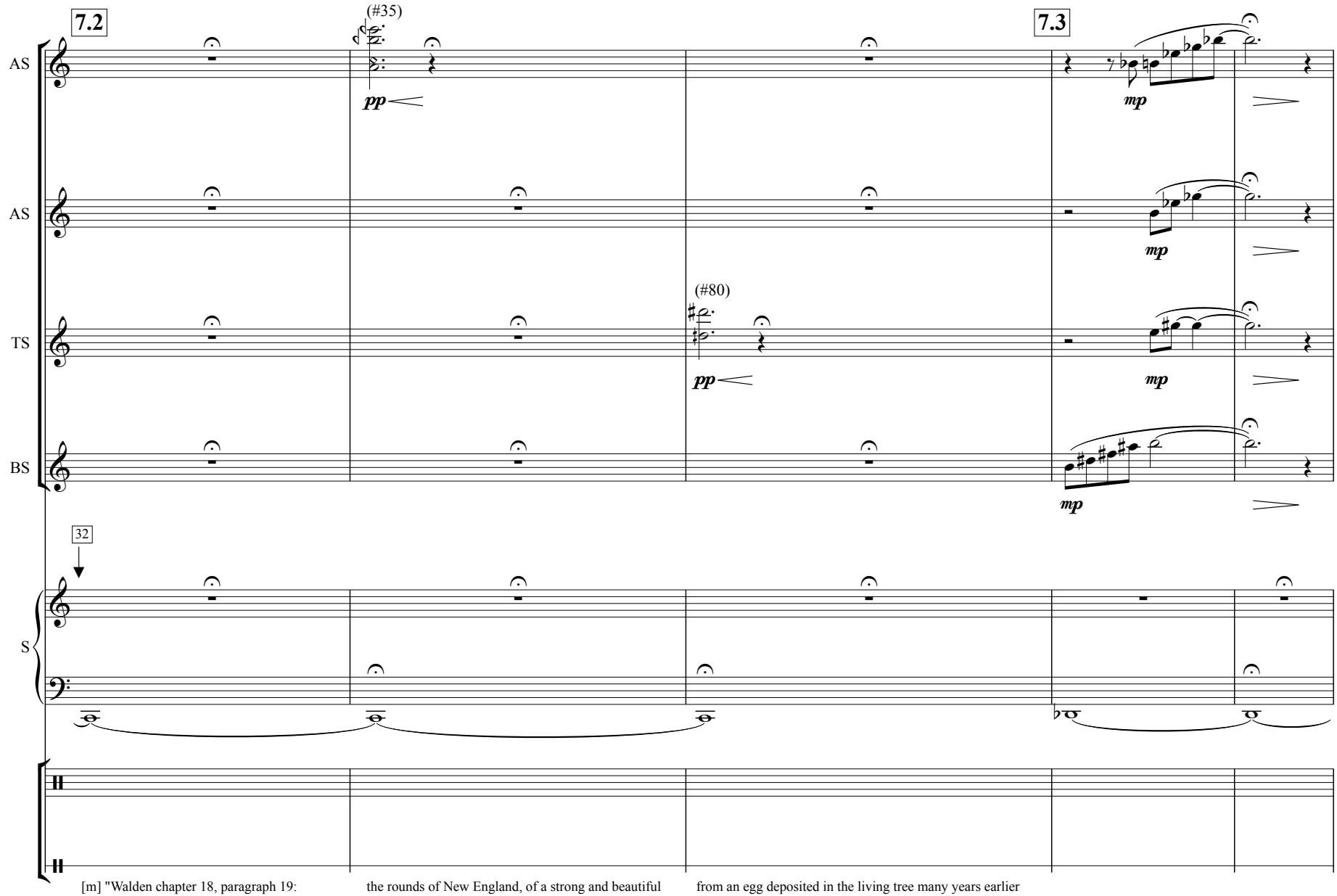

6.3
AS
AS
Lead (ad lib)
TS
BS
D9
D9
mf
29
S

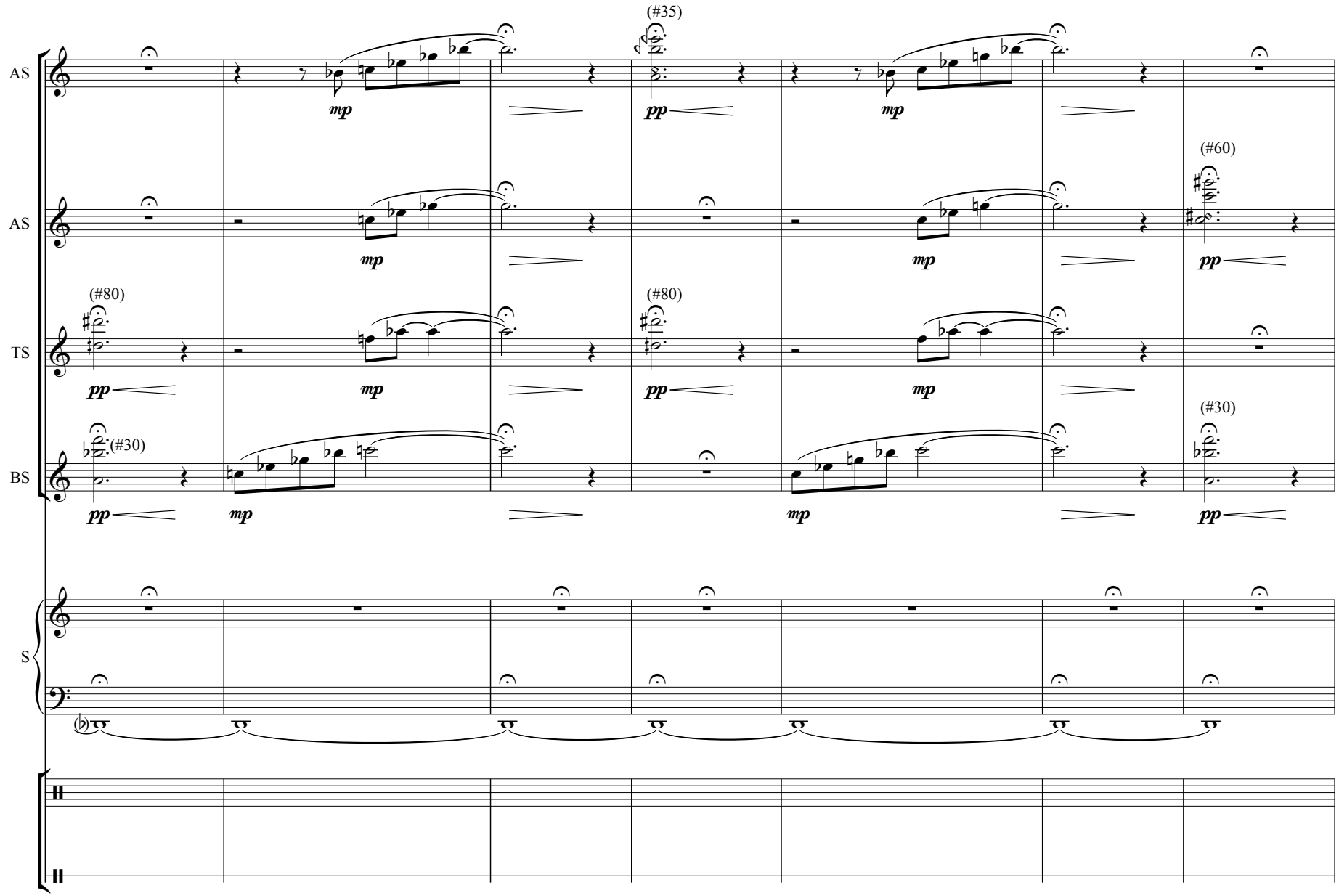

AS
AS
bend pitch
bend pitch
TS
BS
S

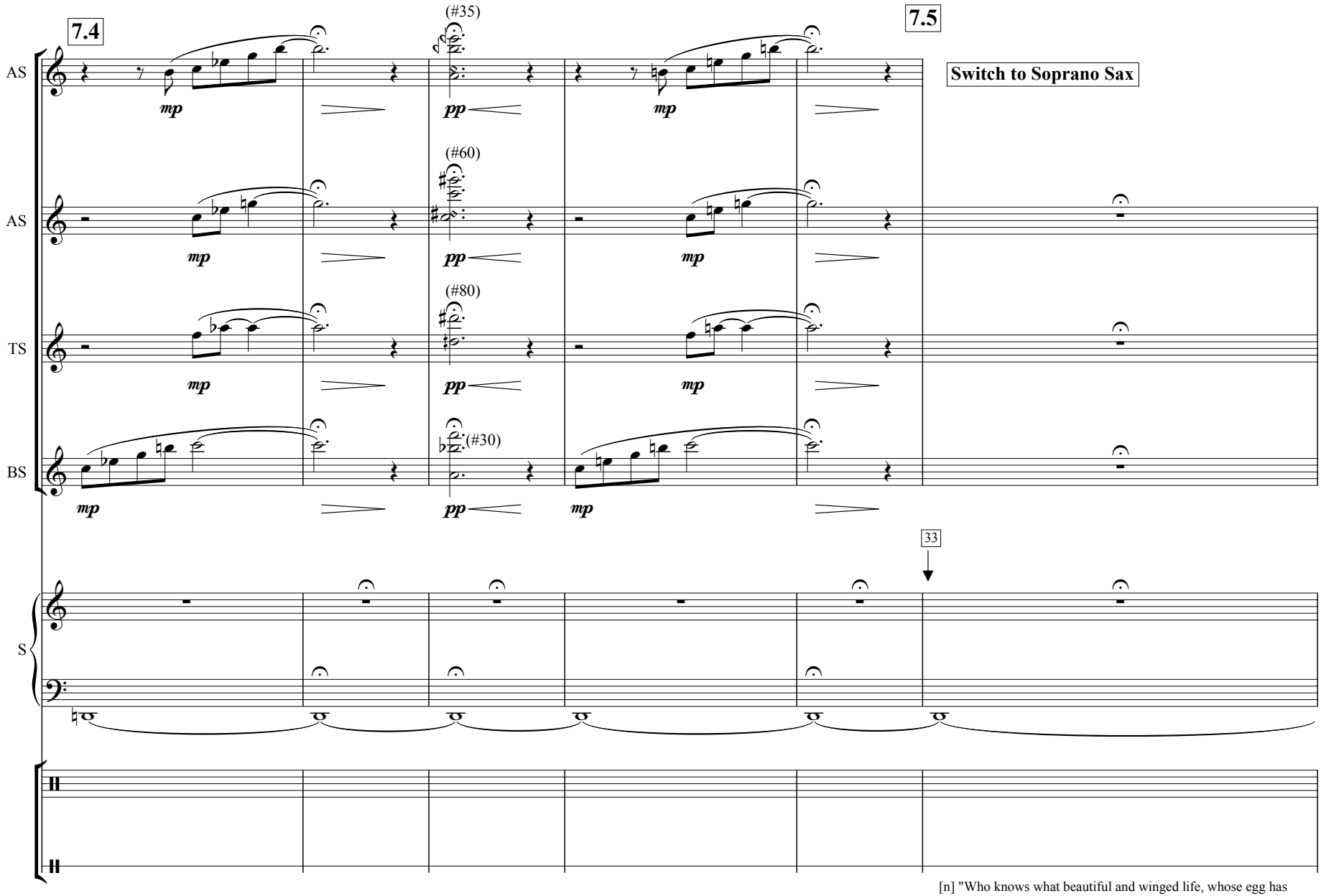

AS
AS
TS
BS
S
30
mod wheel

[7] Parable (A strong and beautiful bug)

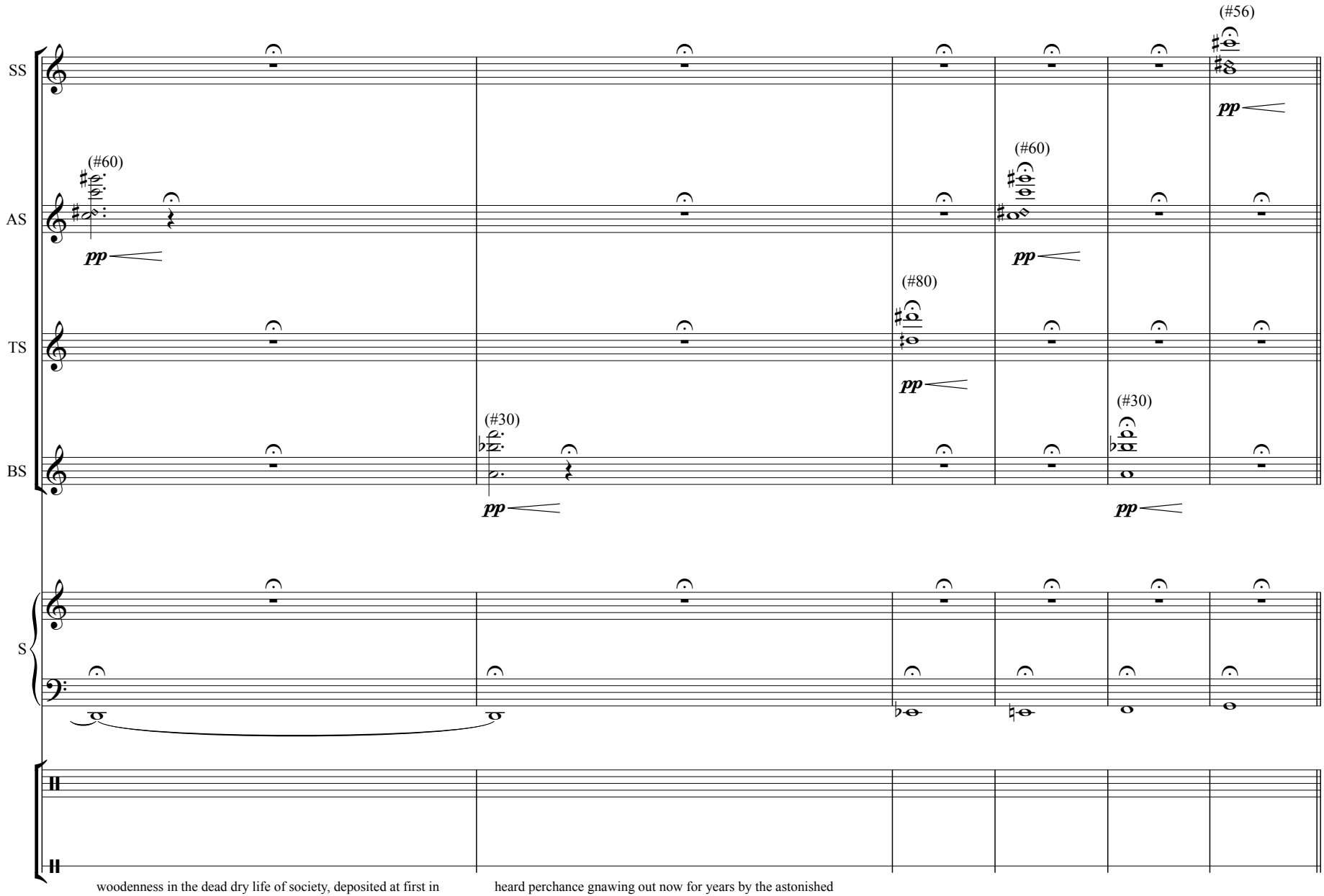



7.2
(#35)
7.3
AS
AS
TS
BS
S
32
(#80)
pp
mp
[m] "Walden chapter 18, paragraph 19:
Every one has heard the story which has gone
the rounds of New England, of a strong and beautiful
bug which came out of the dry leaf of an old table of
apple-tree wood, which had stood in a farmer's
kitchen for sixty years,
from an egg deposited in the living tree many years earlier
still, which was heard gnawing out for several weeks,
hatched perchance by the heat of an urn."


AS
AS
TS
BS
S
(#35)
(#60)
(#80)
(#80)
(#30)
(#30)
mp
pp



[n] "Who knows what beautiful and winged life, whose egg has been buried for ages under many concentric layers of

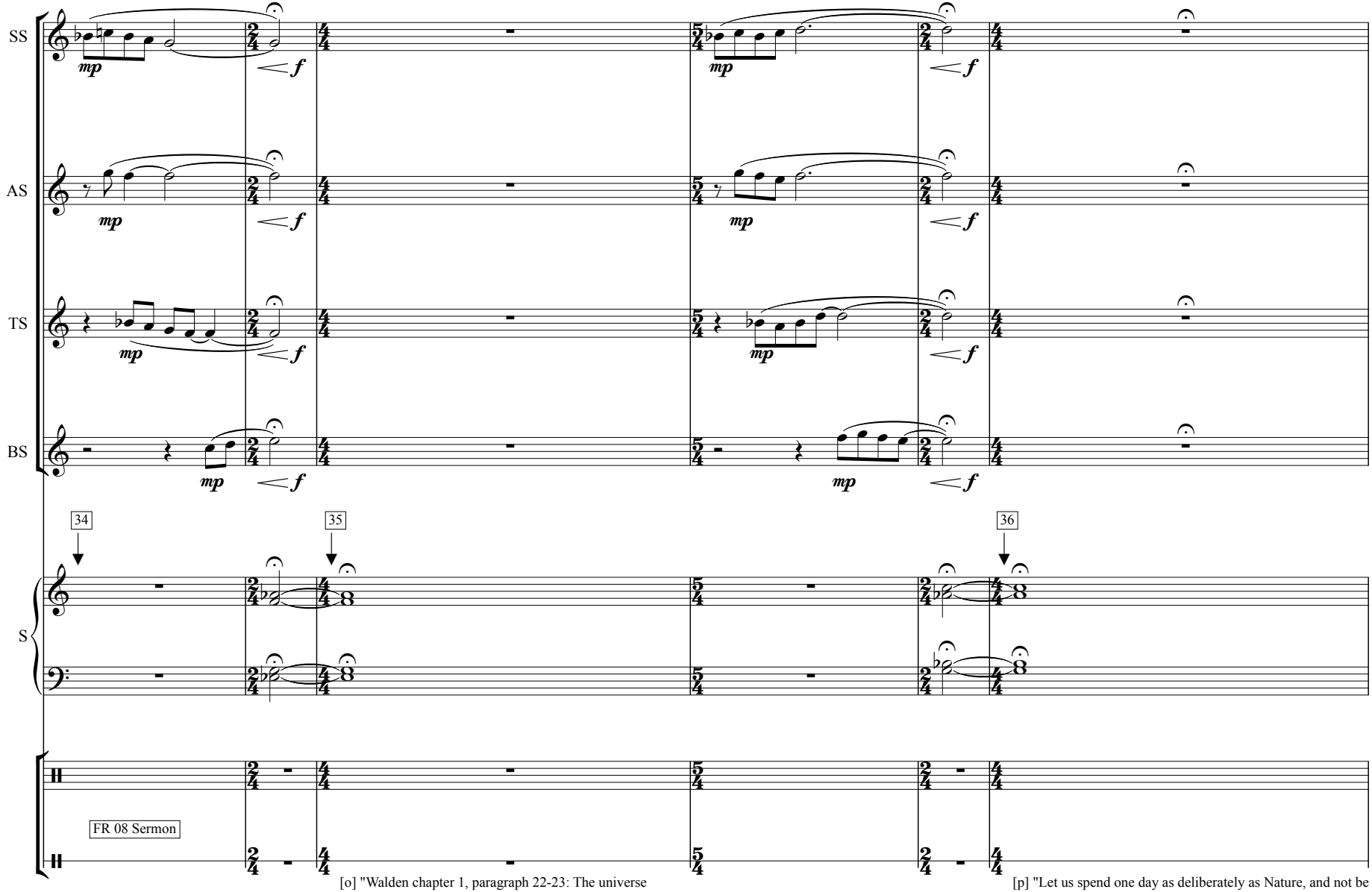


woodenness in the dead dry life of society, deposited at first in the alburnum of the green and living tree, which has been gradually converted into the semblance of its well-seasoned tomb,—

heard perchance gnawing out now for years by the astonished family of man, as they sat round the festive board,
—may unexpectedly come forth from amidst society's most trivial and handselled furniture, to enjoy its perfect summer life at last!"

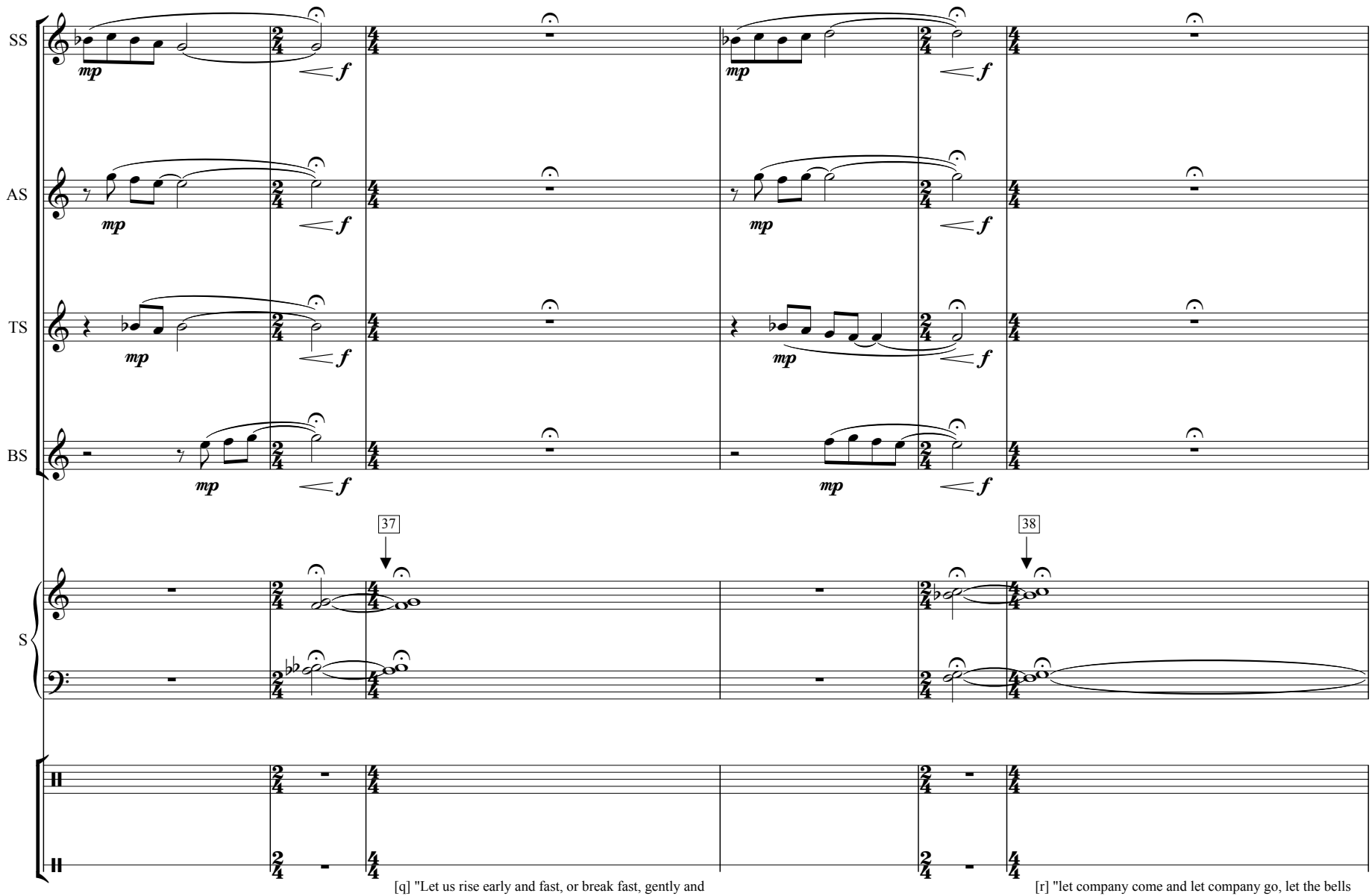
[8] Sermon (Let us)

♩=100



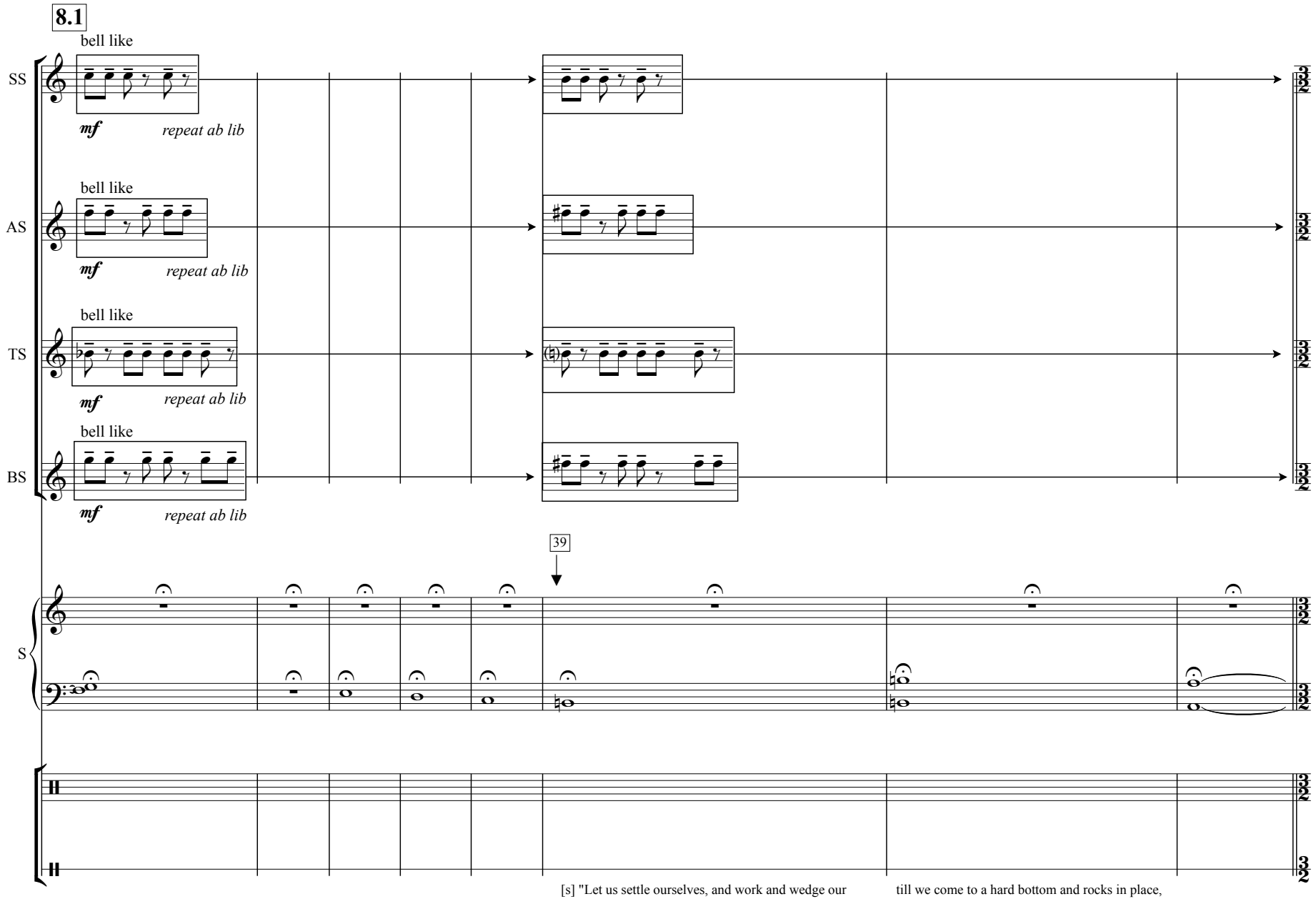
[o] "Walden chapter 1, paragraph 22-23: The universe constantly and obediently answers to our conceptions; whether we travel fast or slow, the track is laid for us. Let us spend our lives in conceiving then."

[p] "Let us spend one day as deliberately as Nature, and not be thrown off the track by every nutshell and mosquito's wing that falls on the rails."



[q] "Let us rise early and fast, or break fast, gently and without perturbation;"

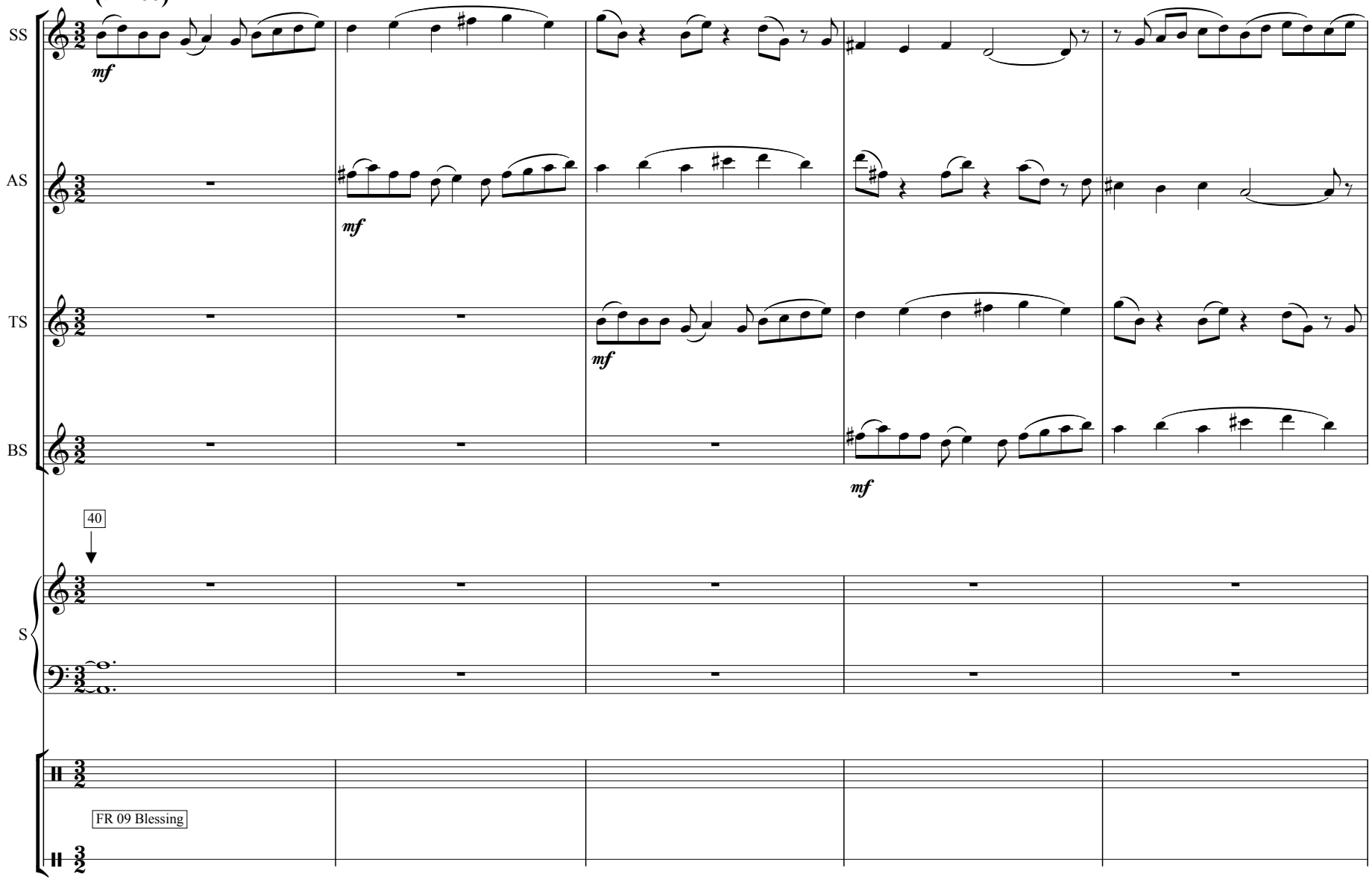
[r] "let company come and let company go, let the bells ring and the children cry"

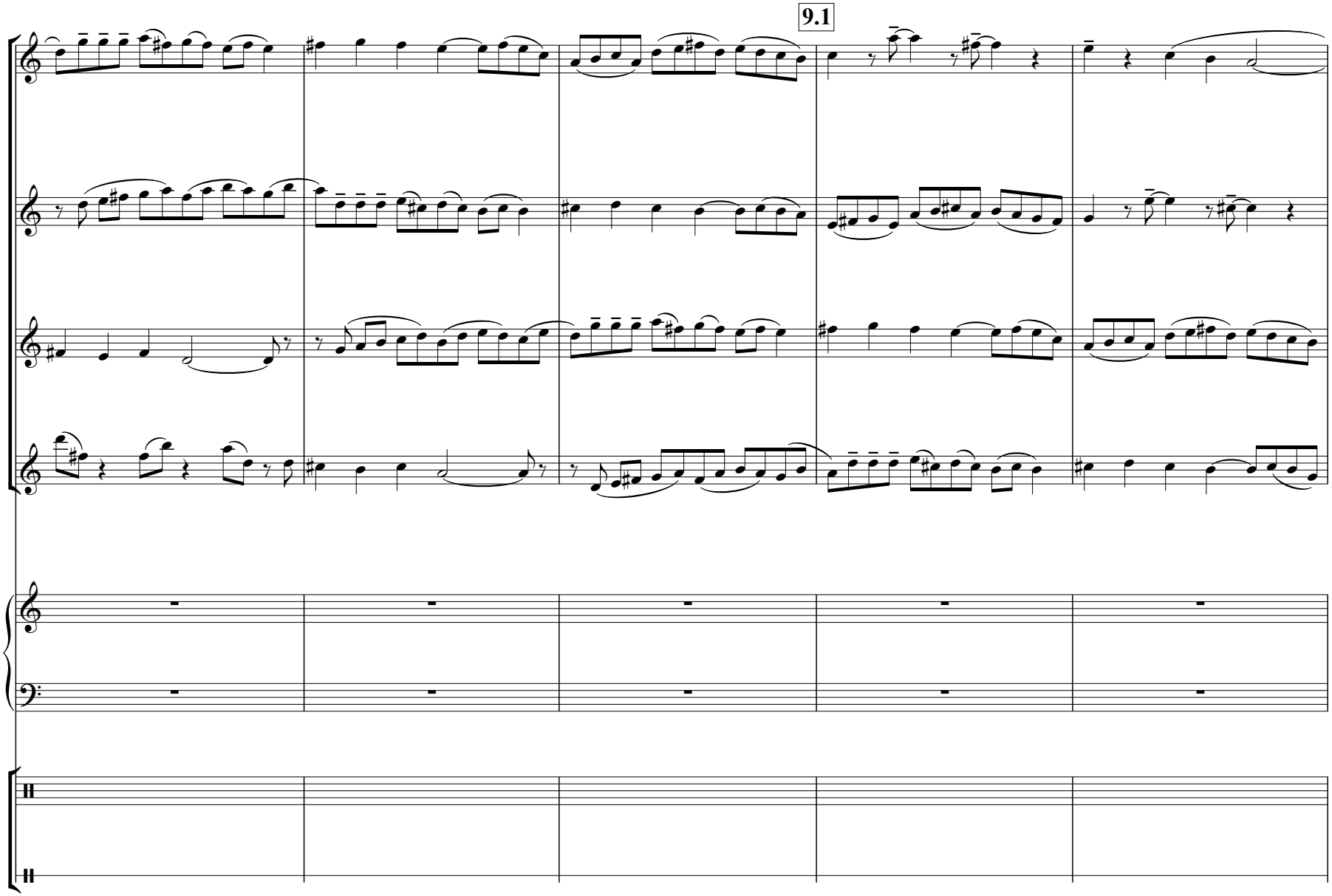


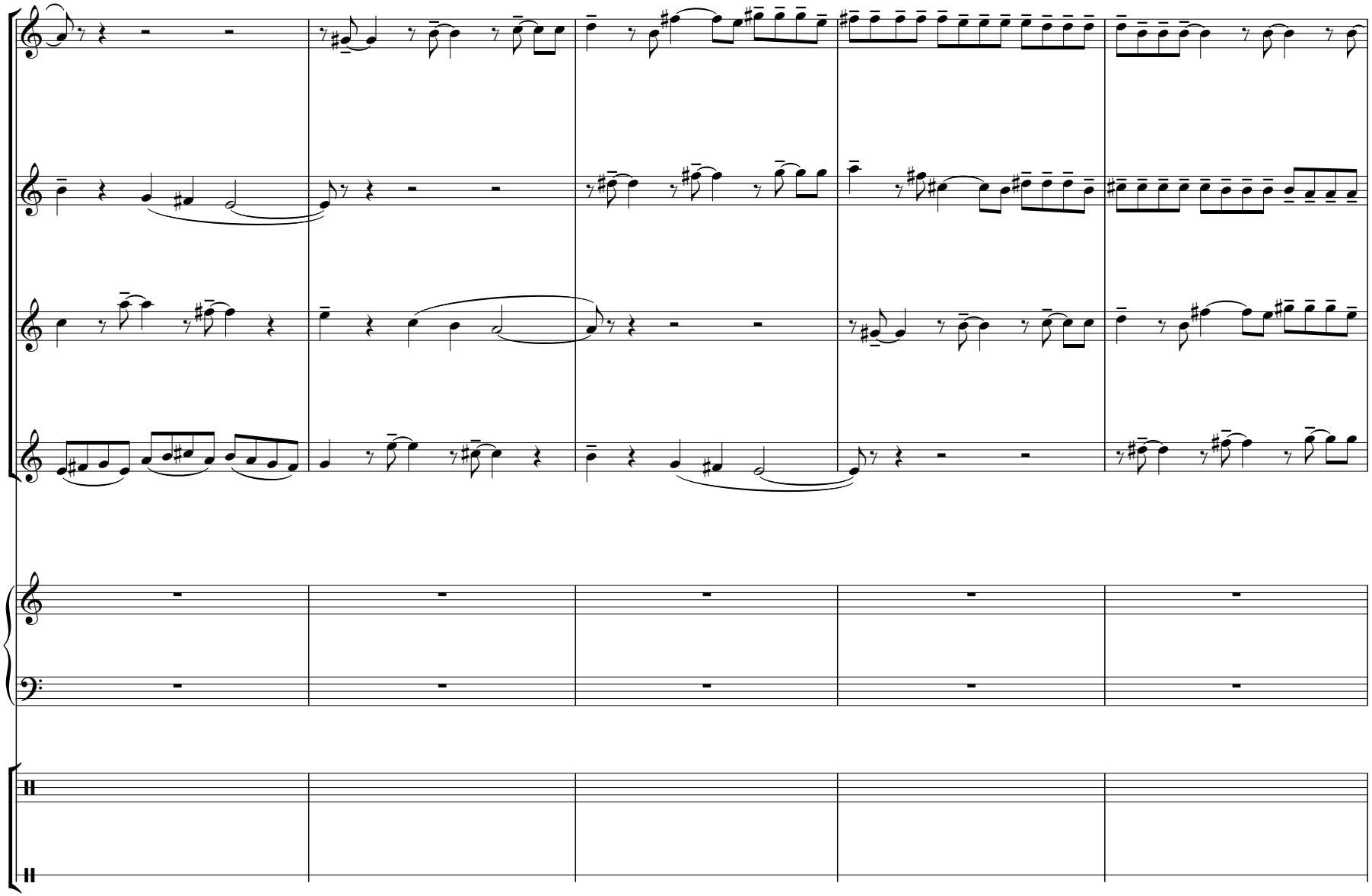
[s] "Let us settle ourselves, and work and wedge our feet downward through the mud and slush of opinion, and prejudice, and tradition, and delusion, and appearance, that alluvion which covers the globe, till we come to a hard bottom and rocks in place, which we can call reality, and say, This is, and no mistake; and then begin."

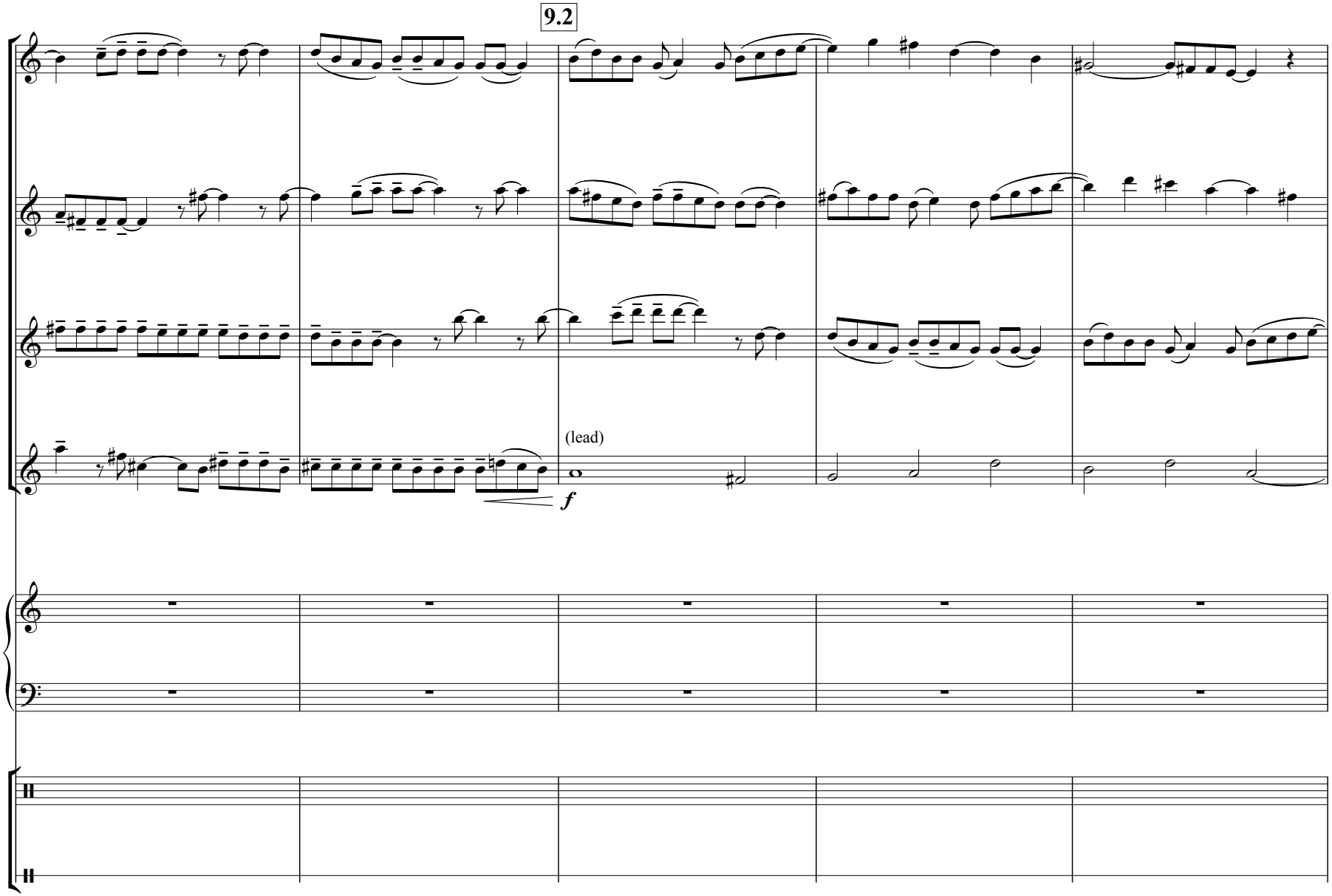
[9] Blessing (Castles in the air)

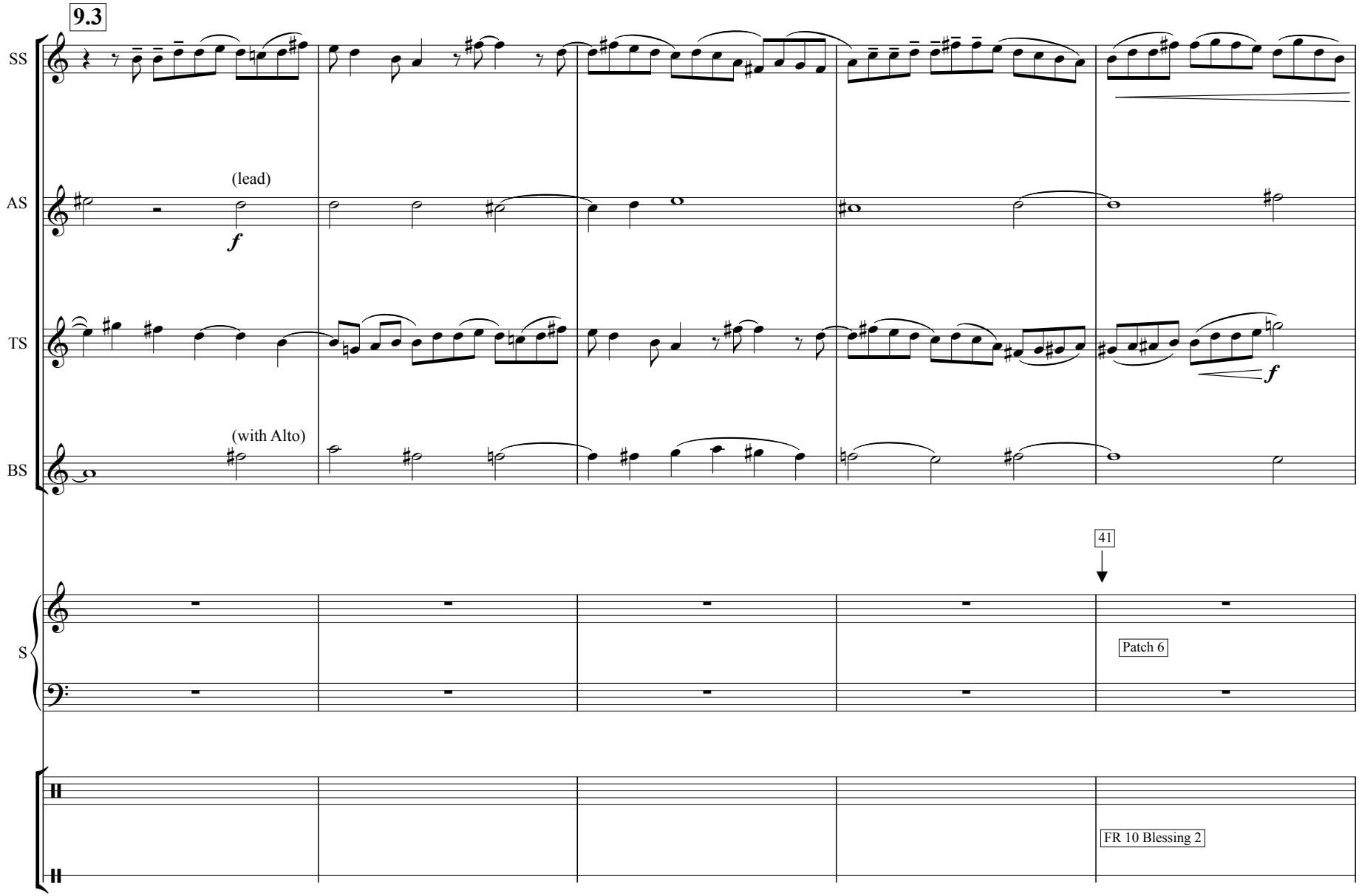
(♩=100)

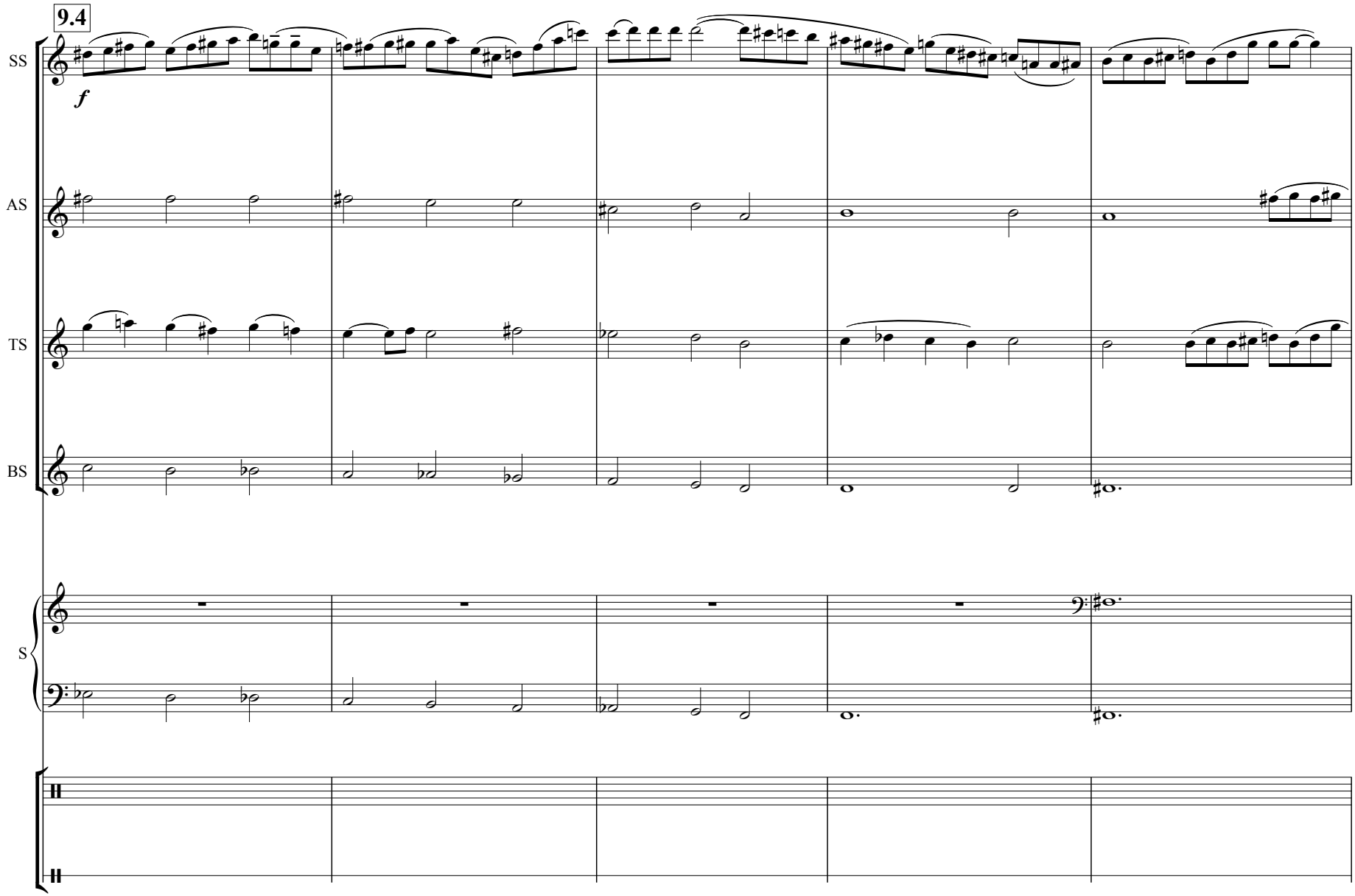


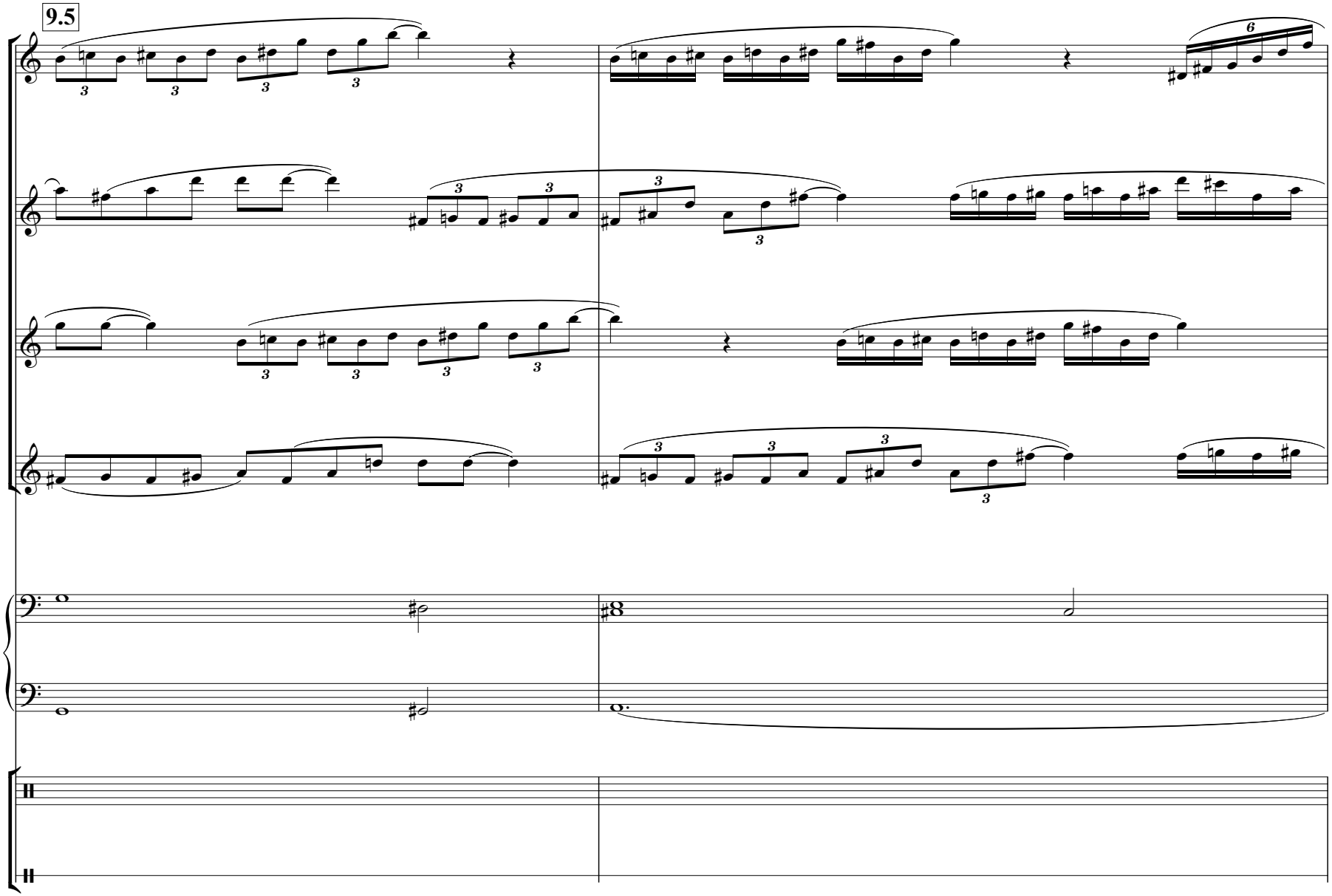

9.1
SS
AS
TS
BS
S

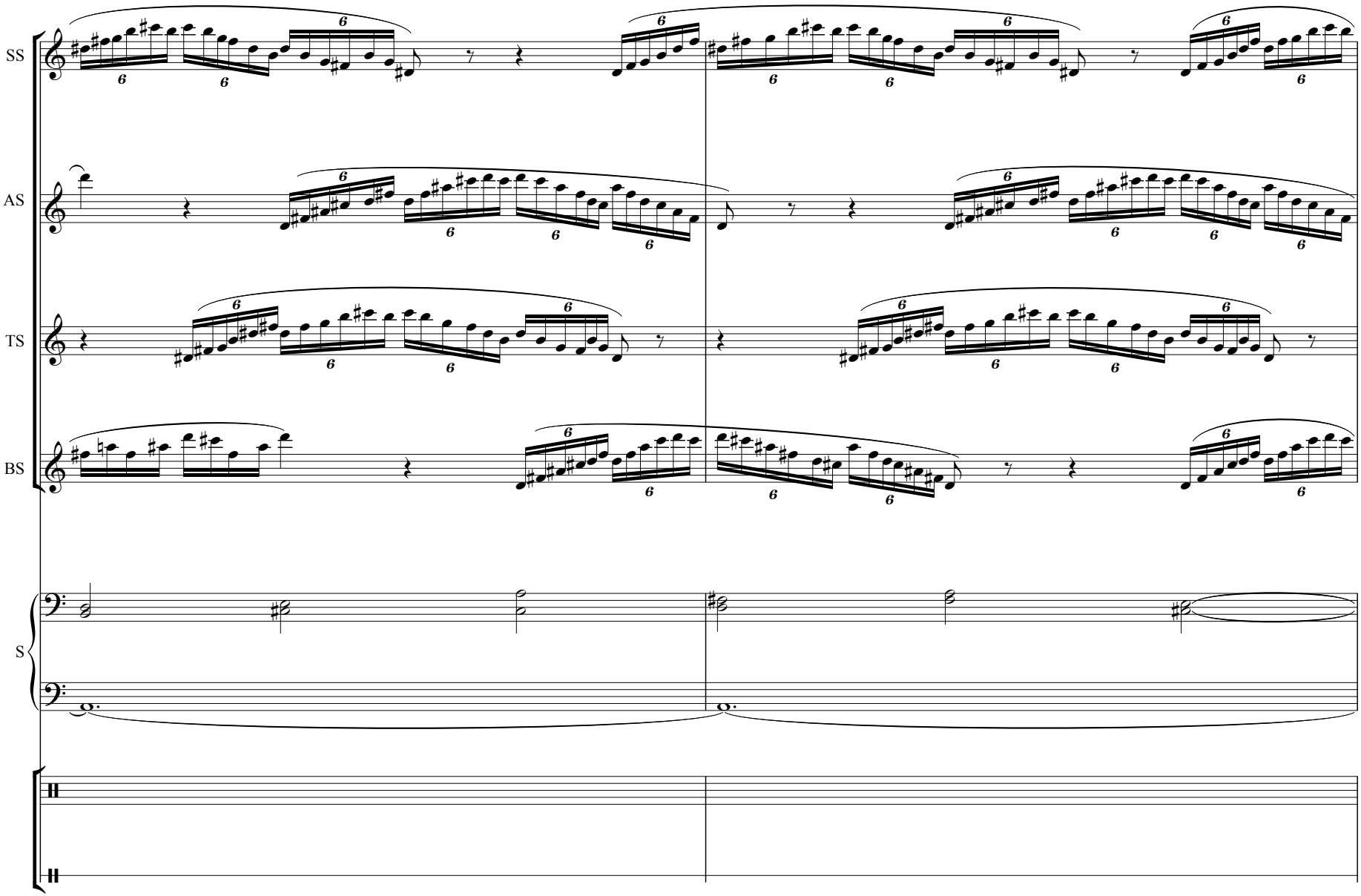

SS
AS
TS
BS
S

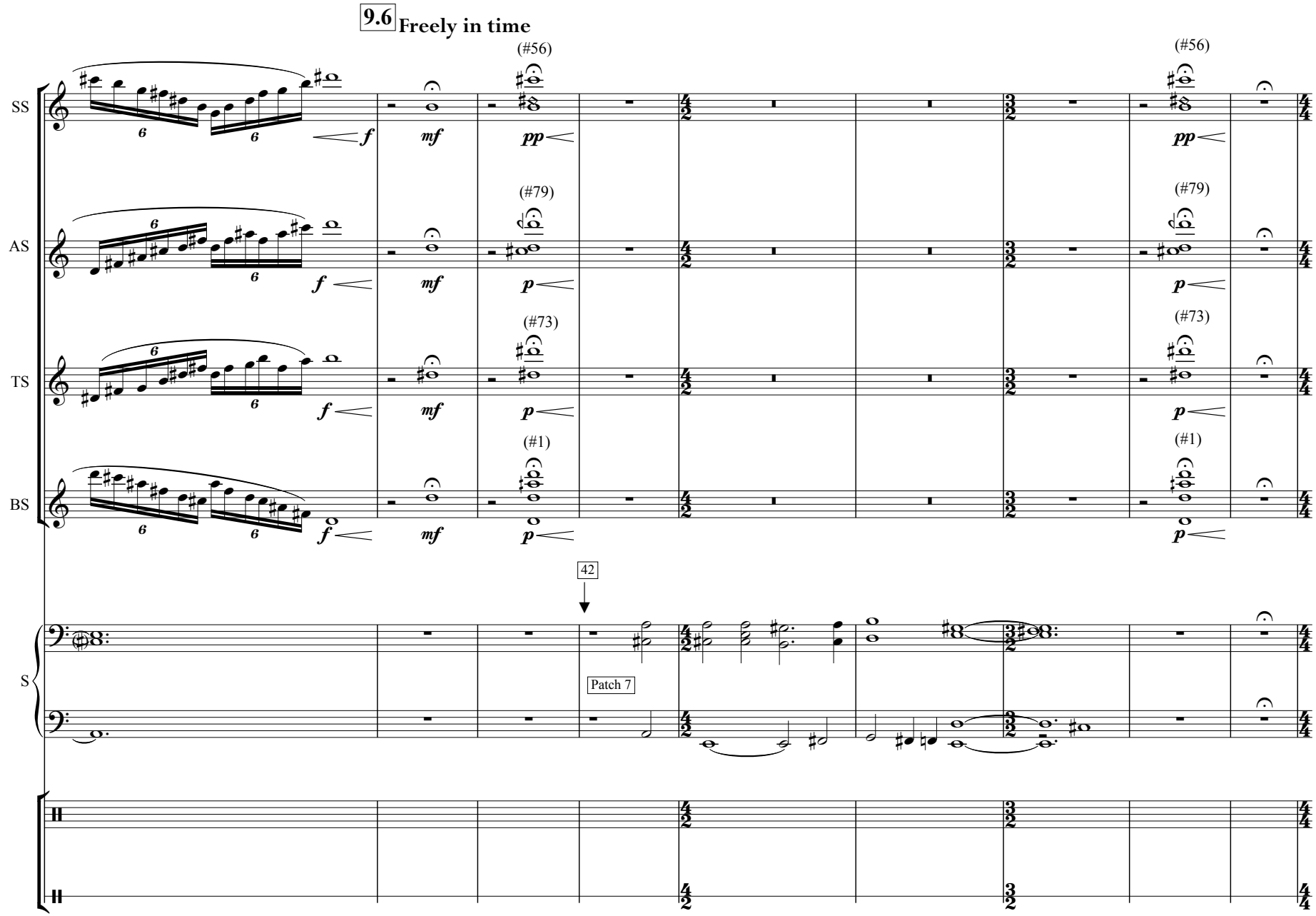

9.2
SS
AS
TS
BS
(lead)
f
S

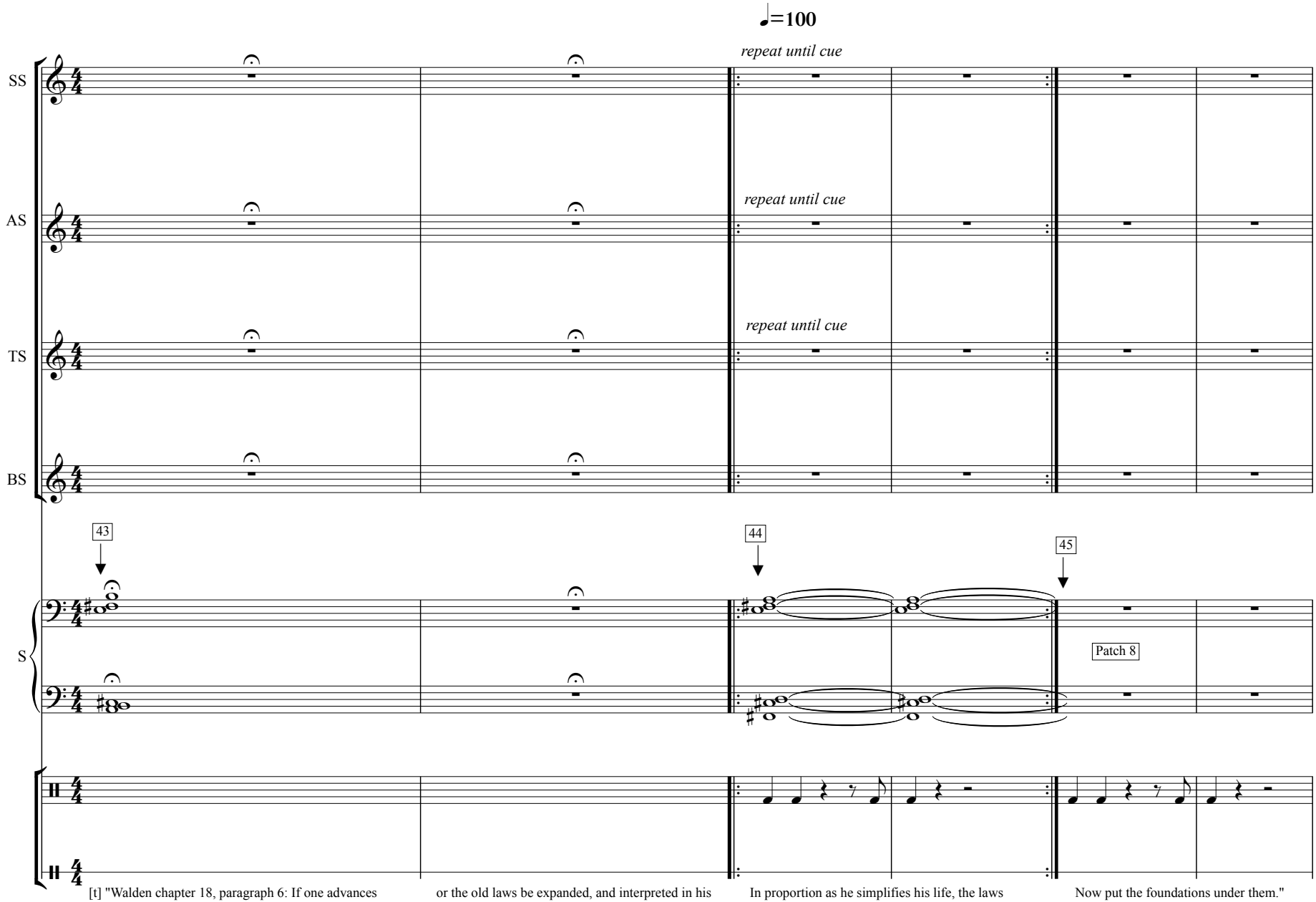

9.3
SS
AS
(lead)
f
TS
f
BS
(with Alto)
41
S
Patch 6
FR 10 Blessing 2


9.4
SS
AS
TS
BS
S
f

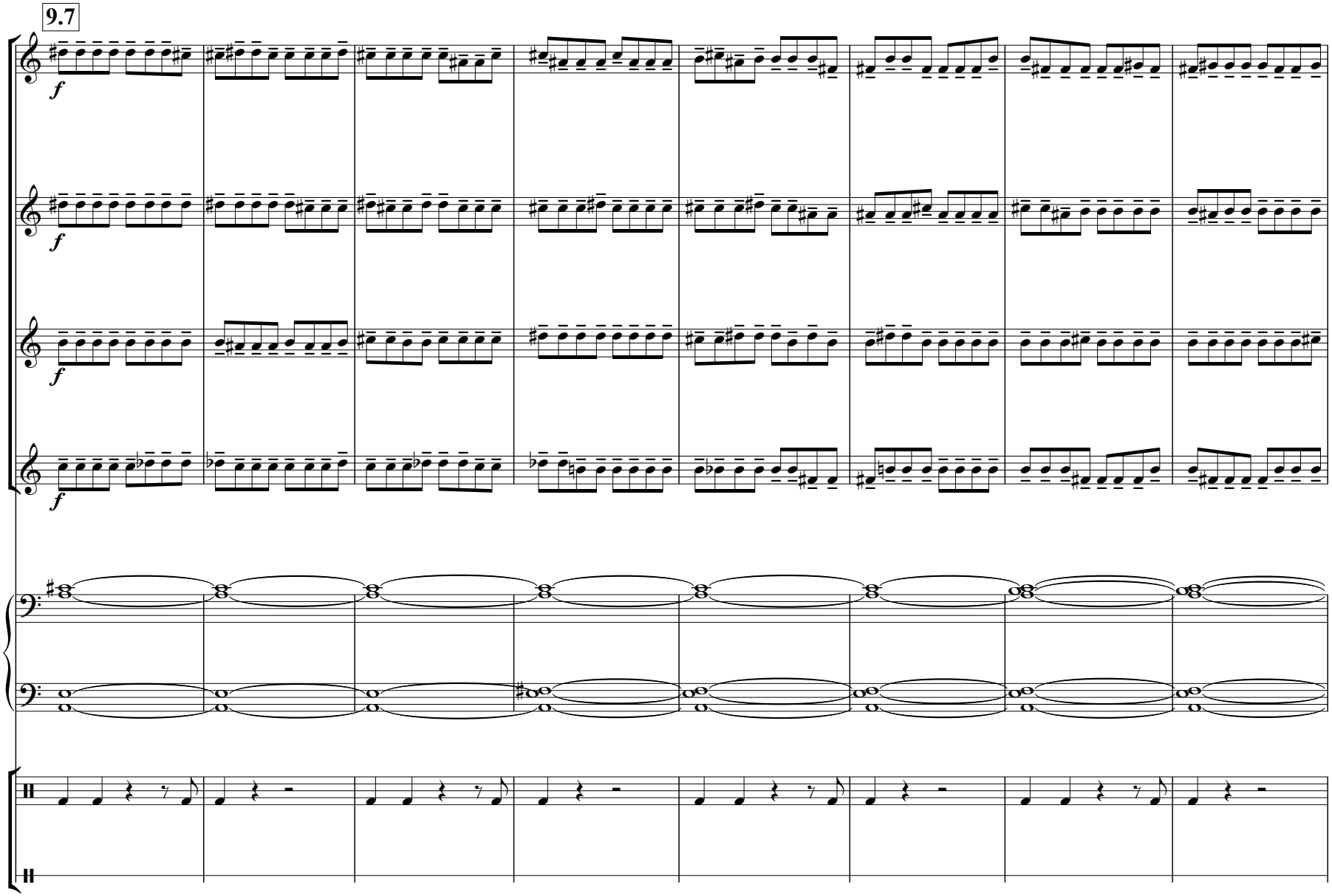

9.5
SS
AS
TS
BS
S

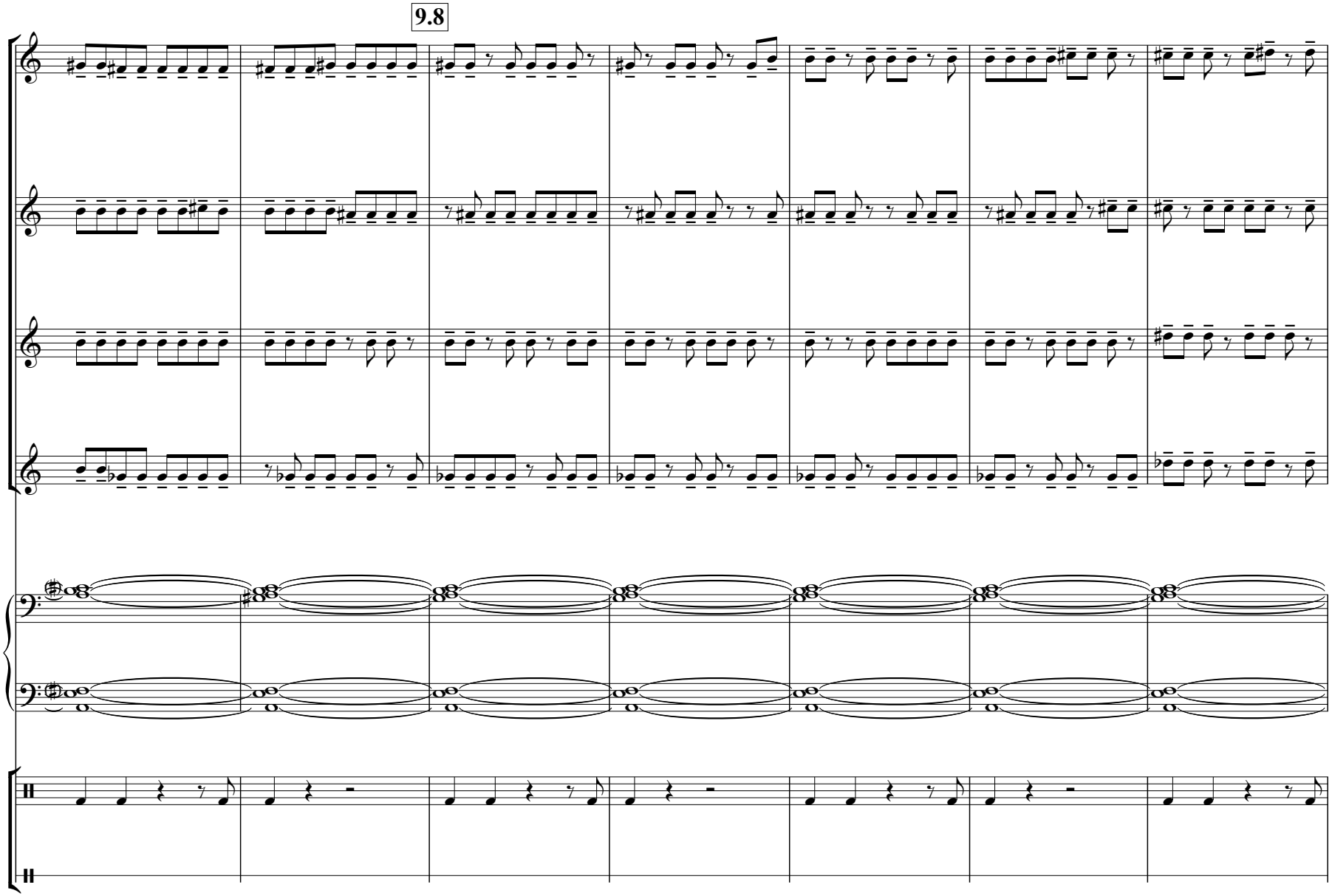

SS
AS
TS
BS
S

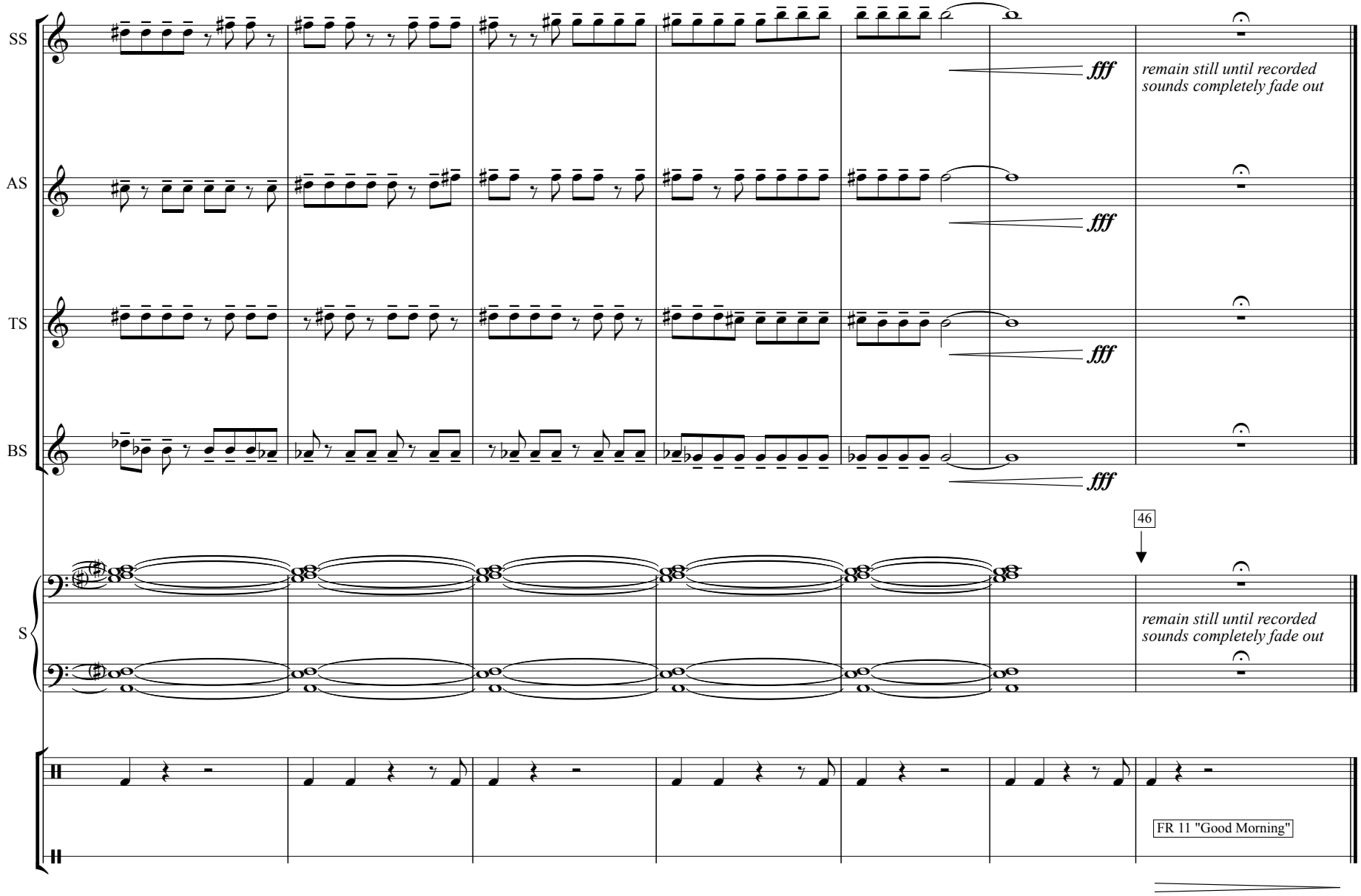

9.6 Freely in time
SS
AS
TS
BS
S
(#56)
(#79)
(#73)
(#1)
42
Patch 7



[t] "Walden chapter 18, paragraph 6: If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours. He will put some things behind, will pass an invisible boundary; new, universal, and more liberal laws will begin to establish themselves around and within him; or the old laws be expanded, and interpreted in his favor in a more liberal sense, and he will live with the license of a higher order of beings. In proportion as he simplifies his life, the laws of the universe will appear less complex, and solitude will not be solitude, nor poverty poverty, nor weakness weakness. If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them."


9.7
SS
AS
TS
BS
S
f


9.8
SS
AS
TS
BS
S


SS
AS
TS
BS
S
fff
remain still until recorded sounds completely fade out
46
FR 11 "Good Morning"