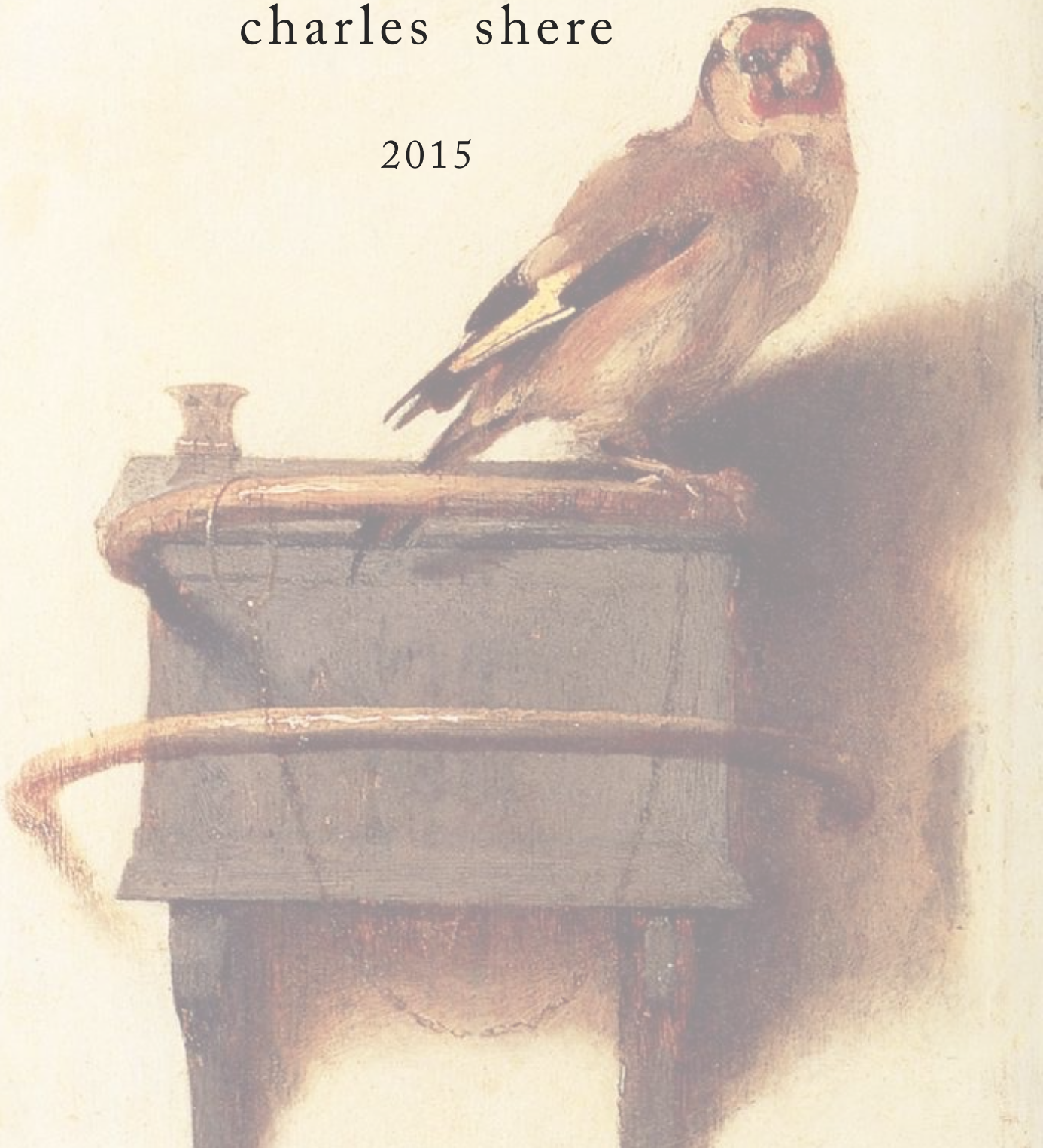
CAREL

for four oboes

charles shere

2015



Ligature

retained
the finch
like all prose
to a thick block
not read for suspected freedoms
turned and then returned
a fine wire
gold perhaps
restrained

all this
for his song
unwilling inevitable
thrown at silence
gone now

returned
gold perhaps
the thick prose
song yellow sharp song
instinctive response to the silence
turned trilled like footsteps
nervous imprisoned despair
gold perhaps
refined

—Ch. Lunaire
11 November 2014

C A R E L

Charles Shere

2015

C A R E L

The Dutch painter Carel Pietersz. Fabritius was born in the then-new Beemster polder in February 1622. His father, Pieter Carelsz., was a schoolteacher and painter, but the young Carel — who had two younger brothers — began life as a carpenter, whence his surname (*fabritius*: Latin, "carpenter").

In his early twenties he studied in Rembrandt's studio in Amsterdam, along with his brother Barent; but after a few years he moved to Delft, where he joined the painters' guild in 1652.

He soon developed his own style, whose illusionism influenced Vermeer and de Hooch, and contrasts (especially in this painting) with brushing more "painterly" (to use a late 20th-century term) than had until then been the convention.

Fabritius was one of scores of citizens killed on October 12, 1654, when the Delft gunpowder magazine accidentally exploded. Only a dozen or so of his paintings survive. The Goldfinch — Dutch: *Het puttertje* — was probably painted shortly before his death. A small panel, about 33 by 22 cm, it is in the collection of the Mauritshuis in The Hague.

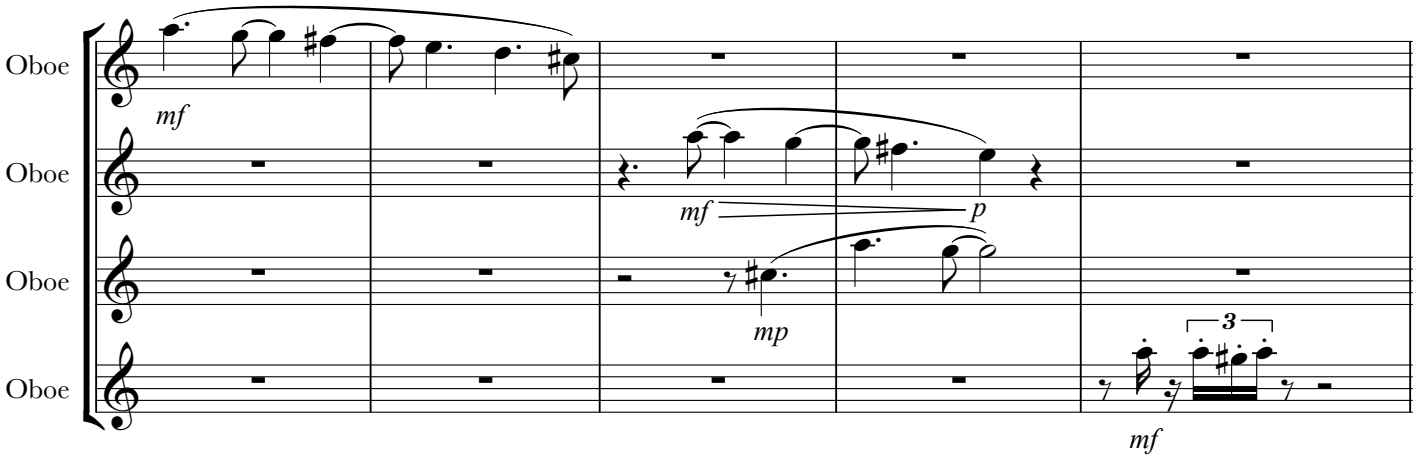
This music was written at the request of my friend the painter Patrick McFarlin. It was conceived as "furniture music," to use Erik Satie's term; background music to be heard at a public gathering. It is intended for four oboes, but may in a pinch be played by violins, flutes, or other appropriate (i.e., birdlike) instruments. If by strings, then the short staccato notes should be played pizzicato. Whatever the instruments, they will preferably be placed in four corners, surrounding the listeners.

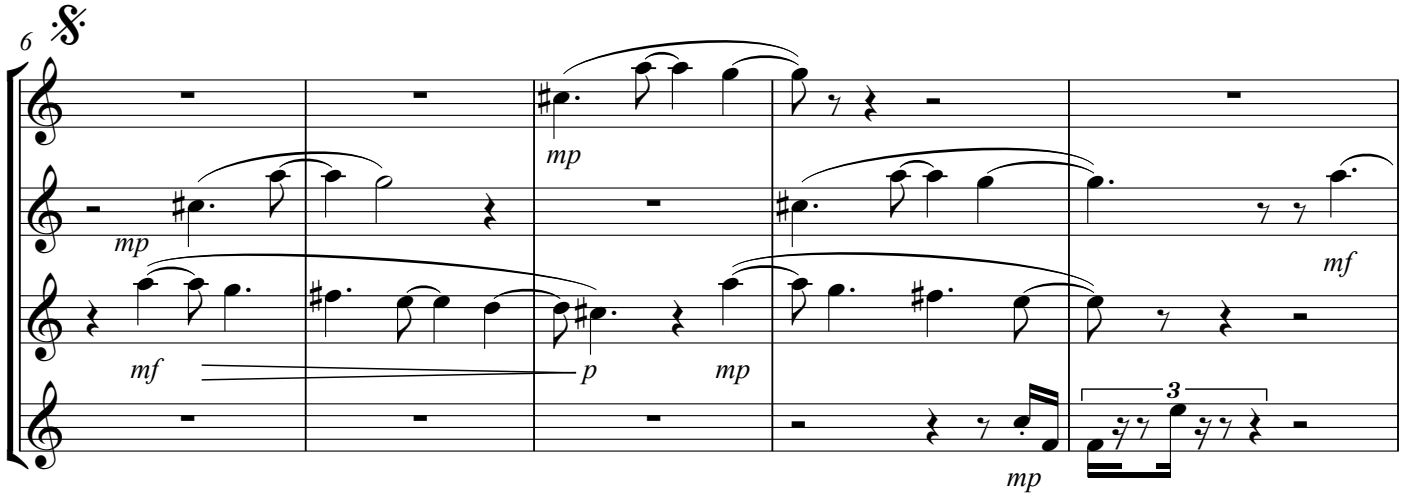
Healdsburg : 2015 : Ear Press

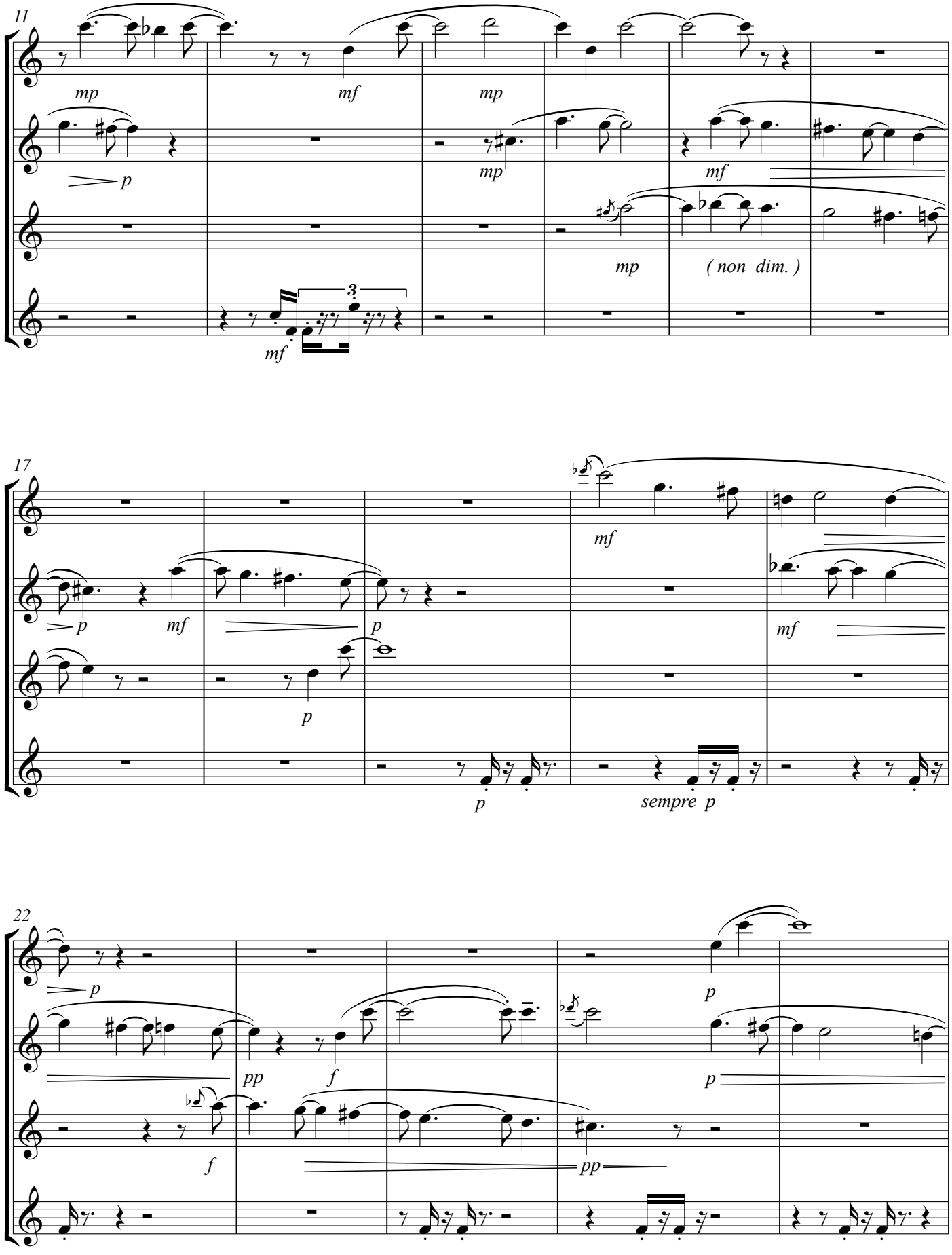
CAREL

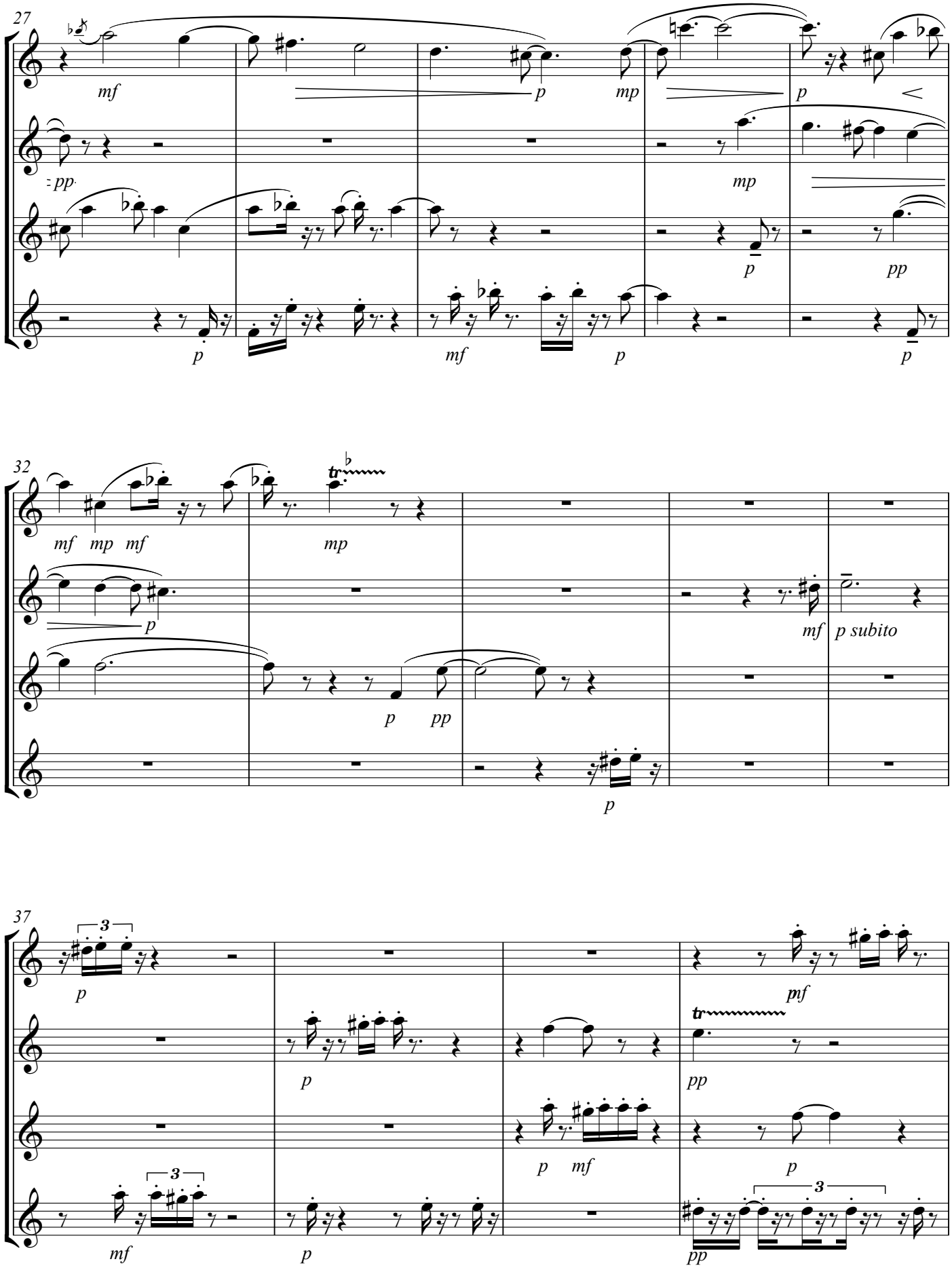
in memoriam carel fabritius 1622-1654

for Patrick McFarlin






11
mp
mf
mp
p
mp
mf
mp
(non dim.)
3
mf
17
mf
p
mf
p
p
mf
p
sempre p
22
p
pp
f
f
p
p
pp


27
mf
p
mp
p
pp
mp
p
pp
p
mf
p
p
32
mf mp mf
mp
p
mf
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37
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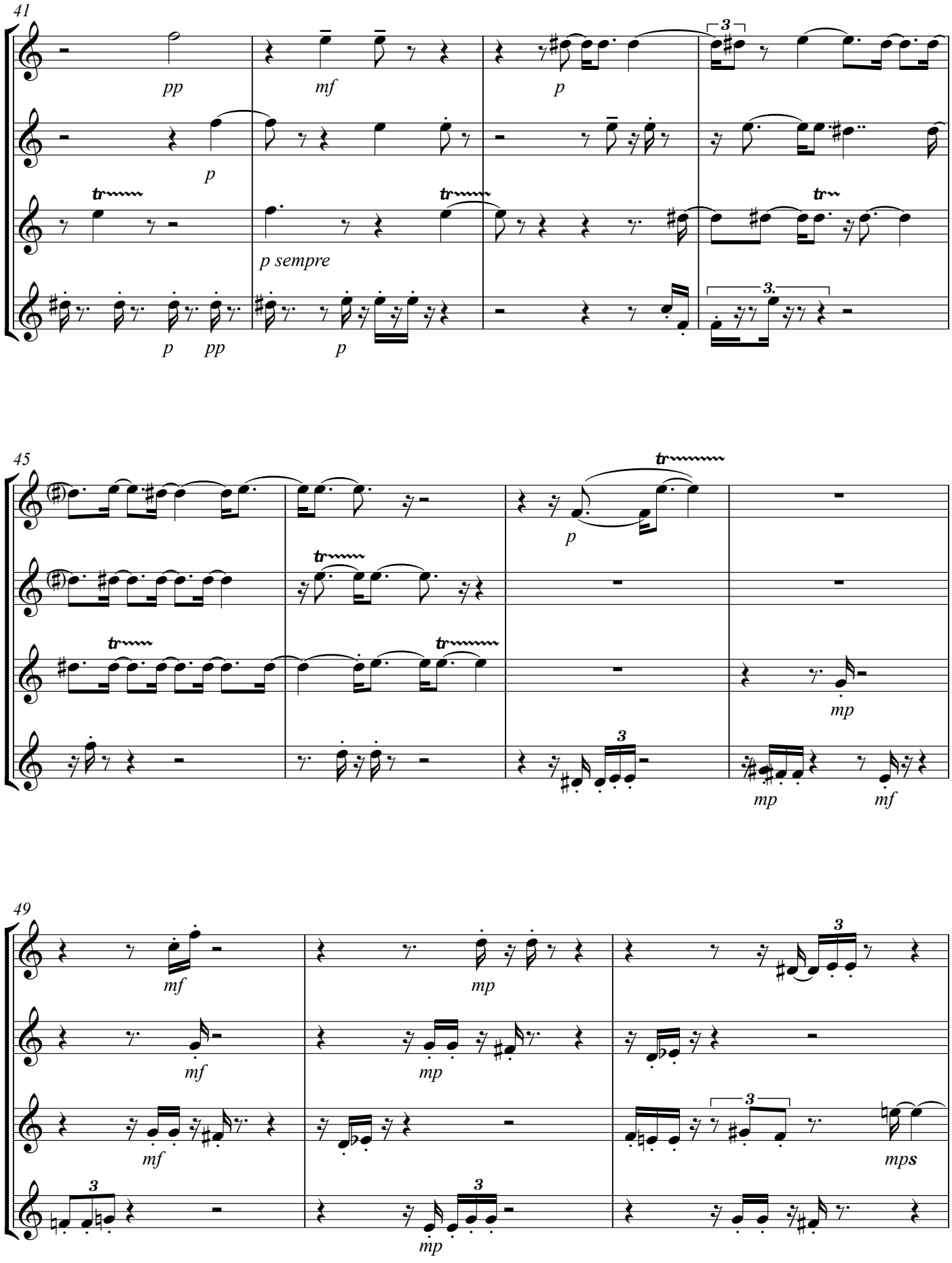
p mf
p
3
pp


41
pp
mf
p
p
p sempre
p
pp
p
45
p
mp
mp
mf
49
mf
mf
mf
mp
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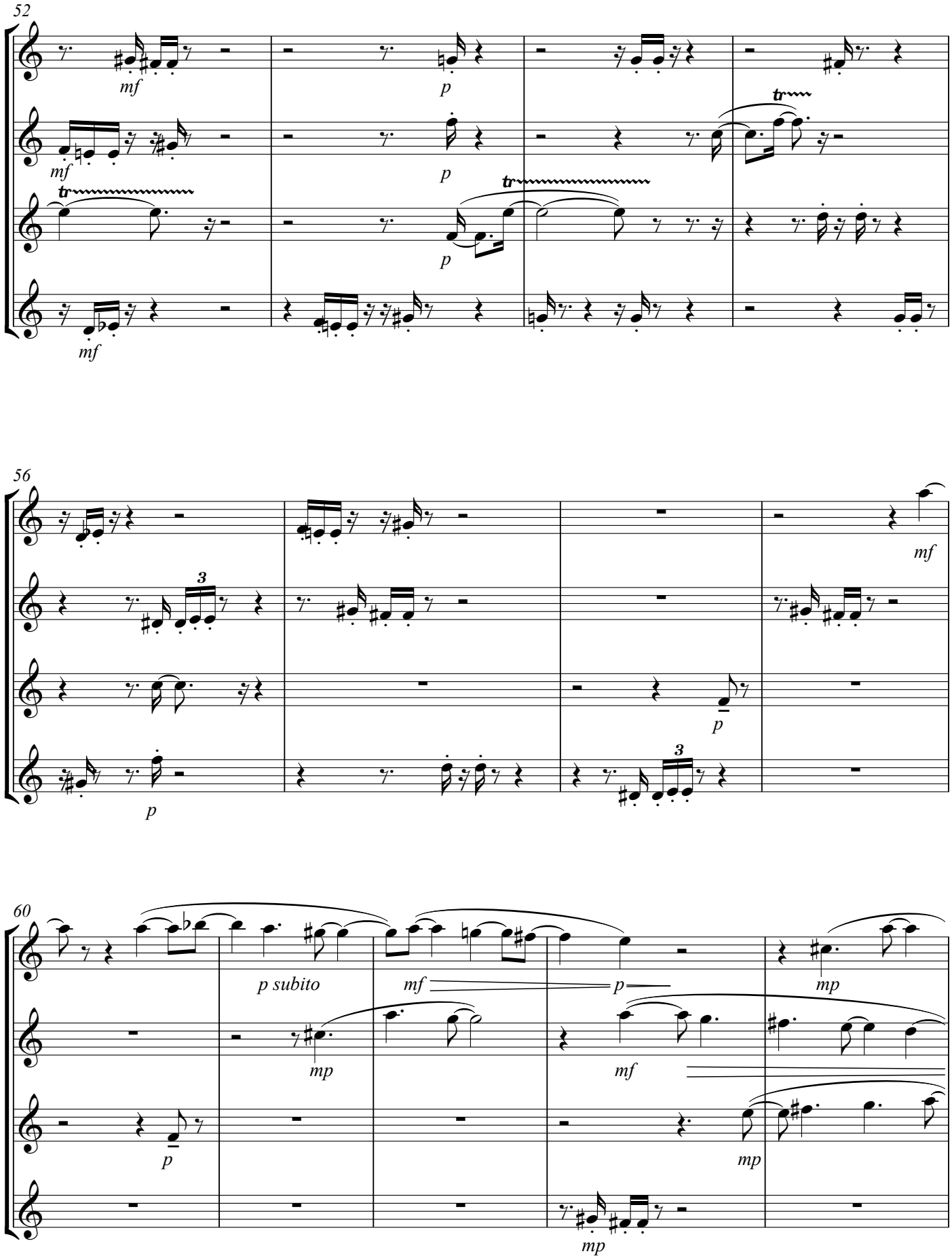
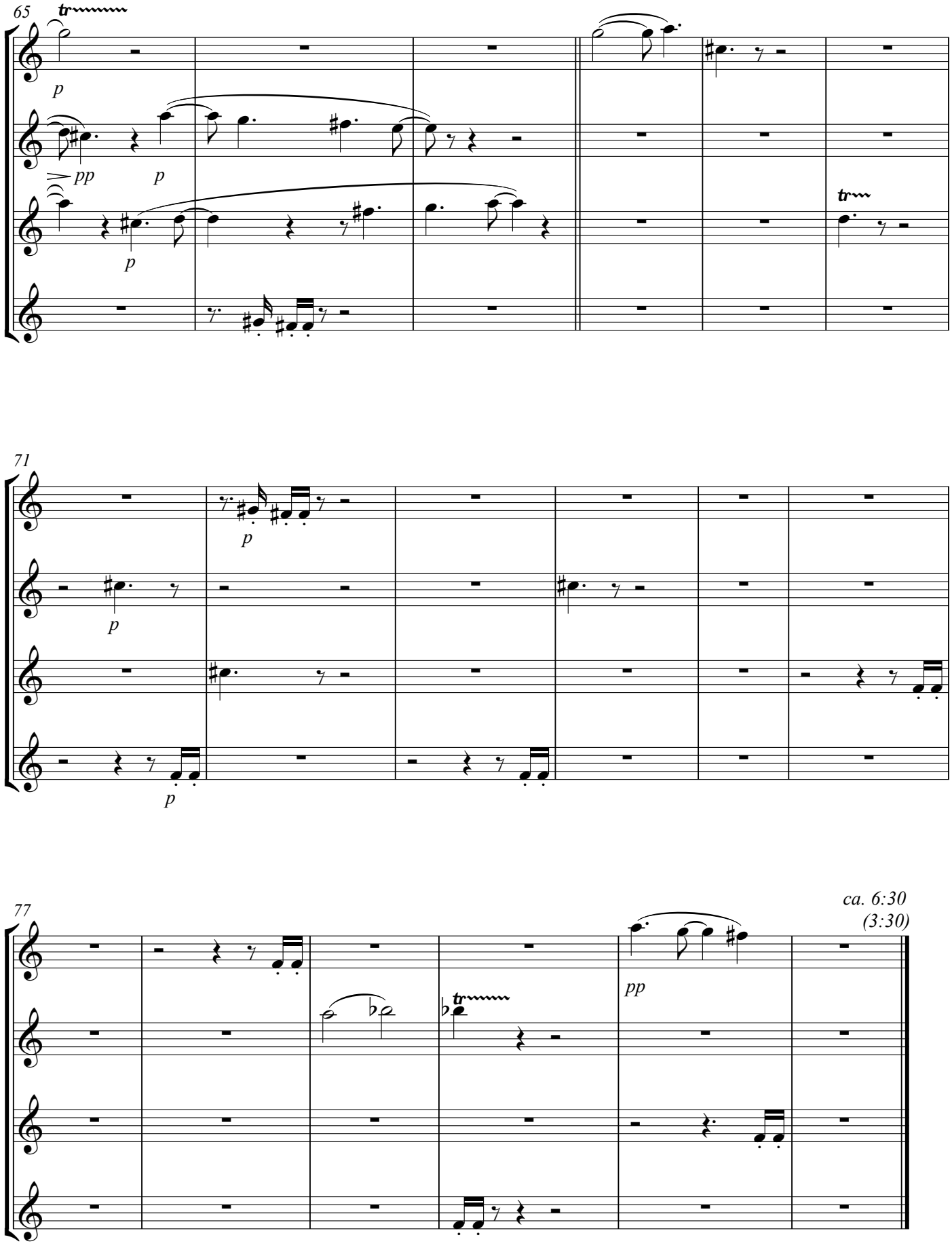
mps
mp


52
mf
p
tr
56
3
60
p subito
mp

D.S. al Fine ***(this repeat may be omitted}***



Healdsburg, 8 Febr. 2015

synthesization: www.shere.org/CS/CSsoundfiles/Carel.m4a

score: www.shere.org/CS/CSscores/carel.pdf

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