Drowning

Drowning is a scary idea. The thought of not being in any control and being engulfed in water as you try to fight to the surface is an extremely frightening one. This piece doesn't explore the physical act of drowning as much as it focuses more on the mental processes that take place. The beginning demonstrates a combination of panic and instinct as the brain creates a cacophony of instructions in an attempt to keep its body afloat. After a few seconds of exhaustive flailing the body slows down, starts to lose oxygen, and the brain starts to release chemicals that start shutting down senses and whatnot. This is where the brain creates a sort of illusion. In this part of the piece the eyes start to see the sun from under the water and it fades into a familiar scenario, the replaying of important life moments. This starts off softly but as it starts to take effect, the moments get stronger and clearer until our character succumbs to the darkness of the cold, dark ocean.

- Alejandro Guardia, Jr.

Alejandro Guardia, Jr.

Alejandro Guardia, Jr. has been performing, educating, and composing for nearly two decades. His musical background began at the age of 11 when he was introduced to the euphonium. He then expanded his musical limits to the trombone and tuba, and is currently an active studio musician in southern Florida. Alejandro has studied privately with Calvin Jenkins and Jay Hunsberger along with performing in master classes for Brandon Jones, Gail Roberston, Jason Ham, Marc Dickman, and others. He has performed with several bands and orchestras in Florida and was most recently appointed Principal Euphonium of the Miami Wind Symphony. Alejandro began composing music at the age of 15. Since then his original works have been performed several times throughout the United States and other countries. Alejandro is currently the Assistant Director of Bands at Miami Killian Senior High School and a member of the International Tuba and Euphonium Association, National Association for Music Education, and the Florida Bandmasters Association.

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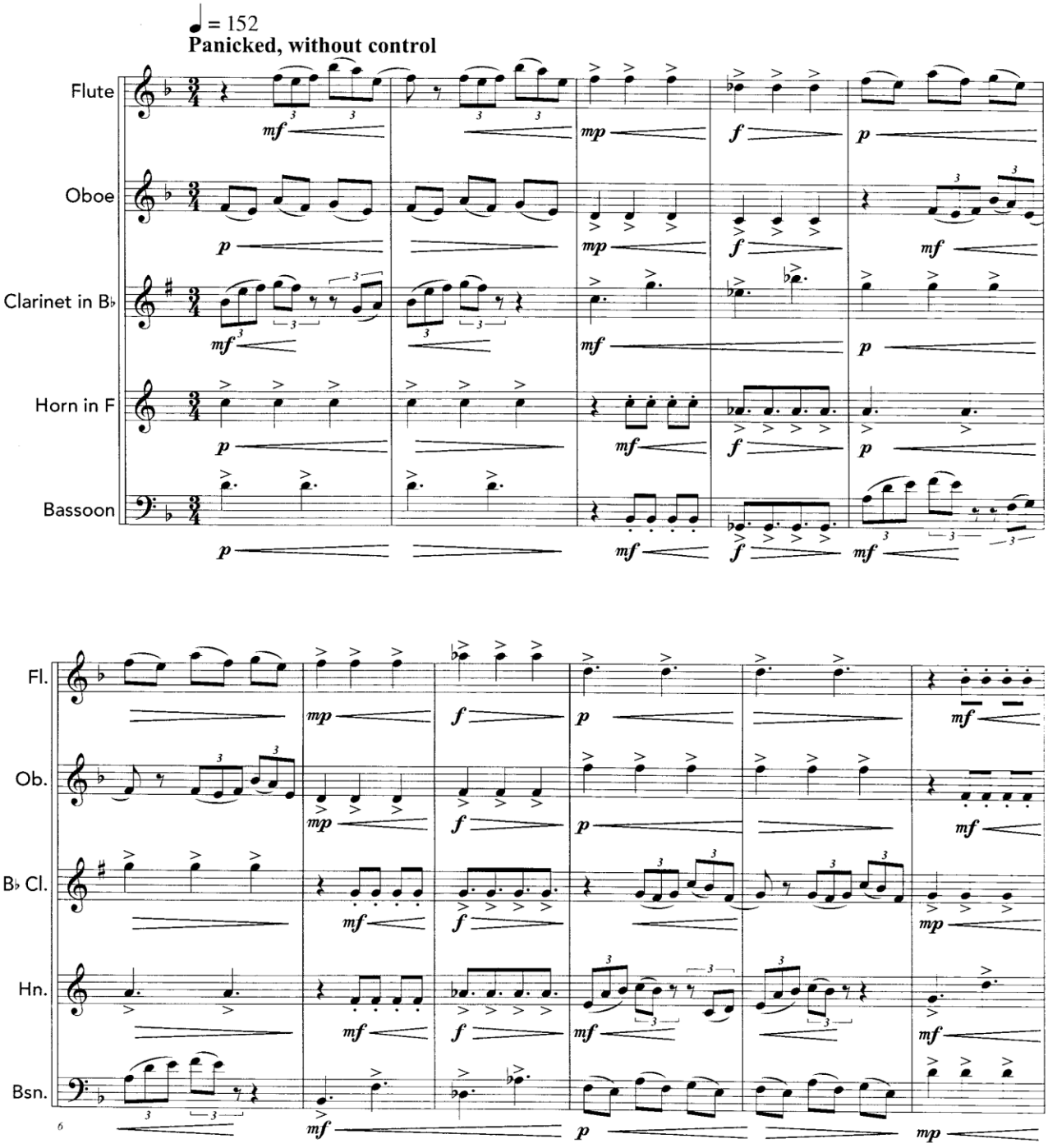
Drowning

a chronicle of a man's final thoughts
for woodwind quintet

Alejandro Guardia, Jr.



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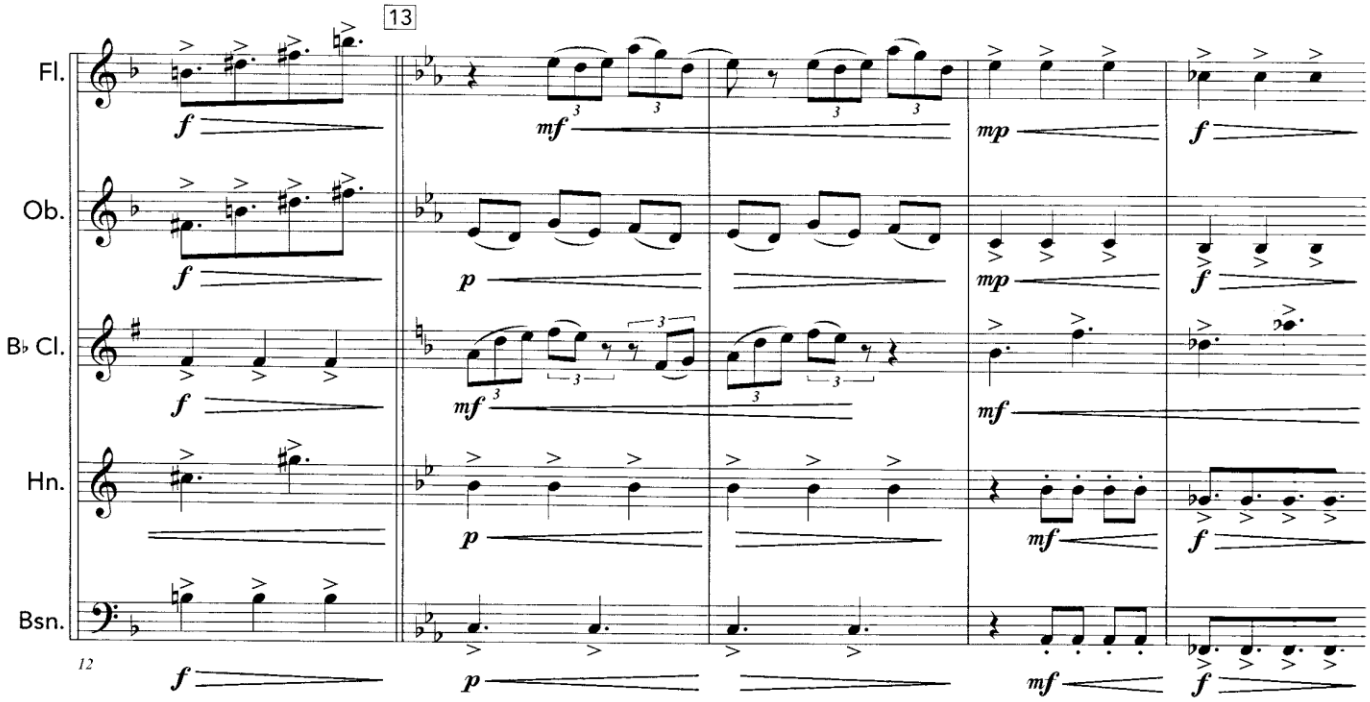
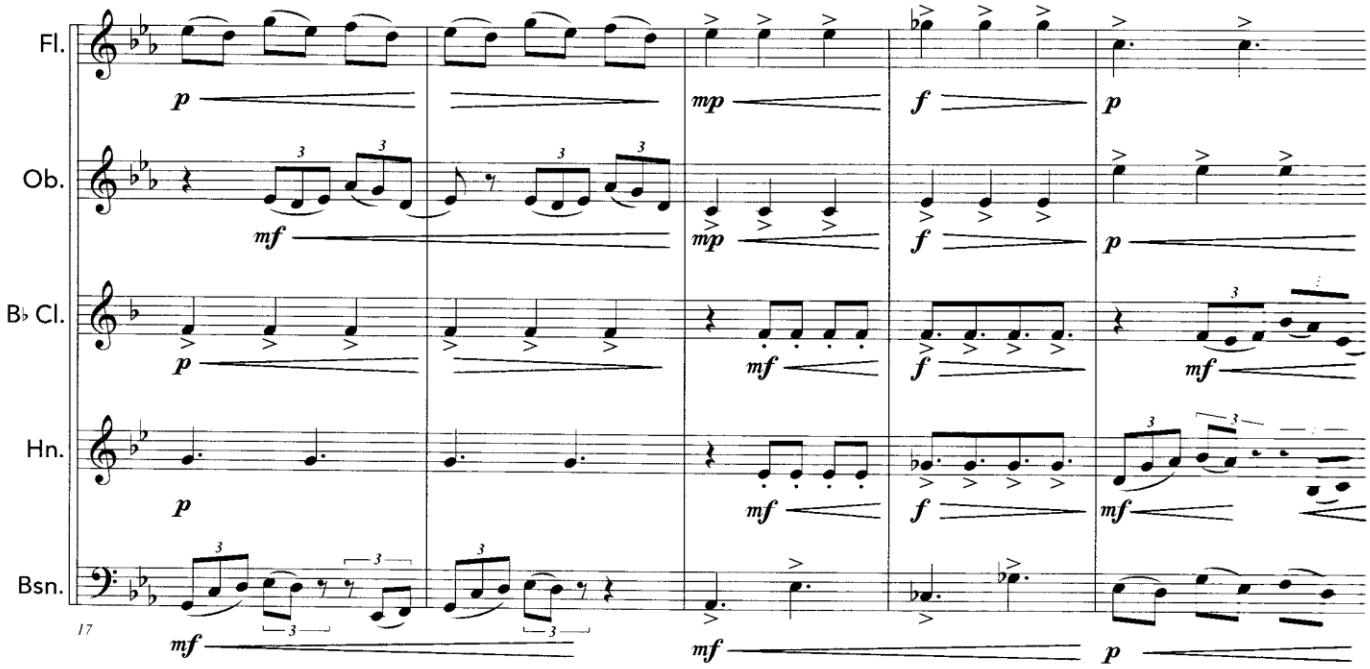
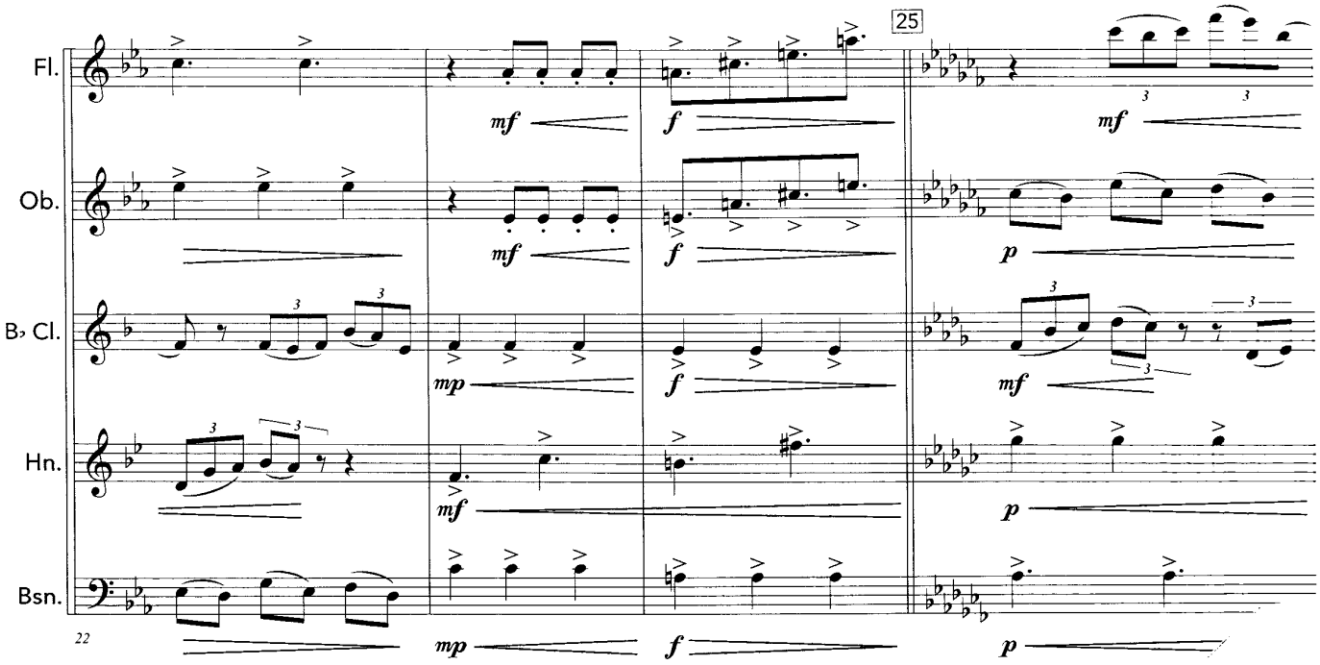
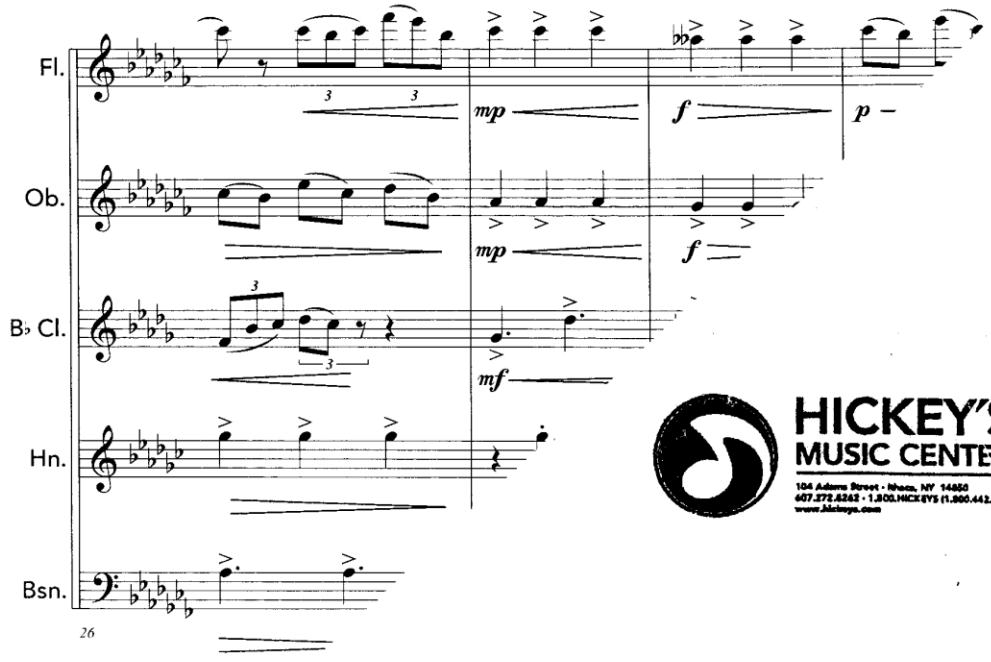

13
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
12


Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
17





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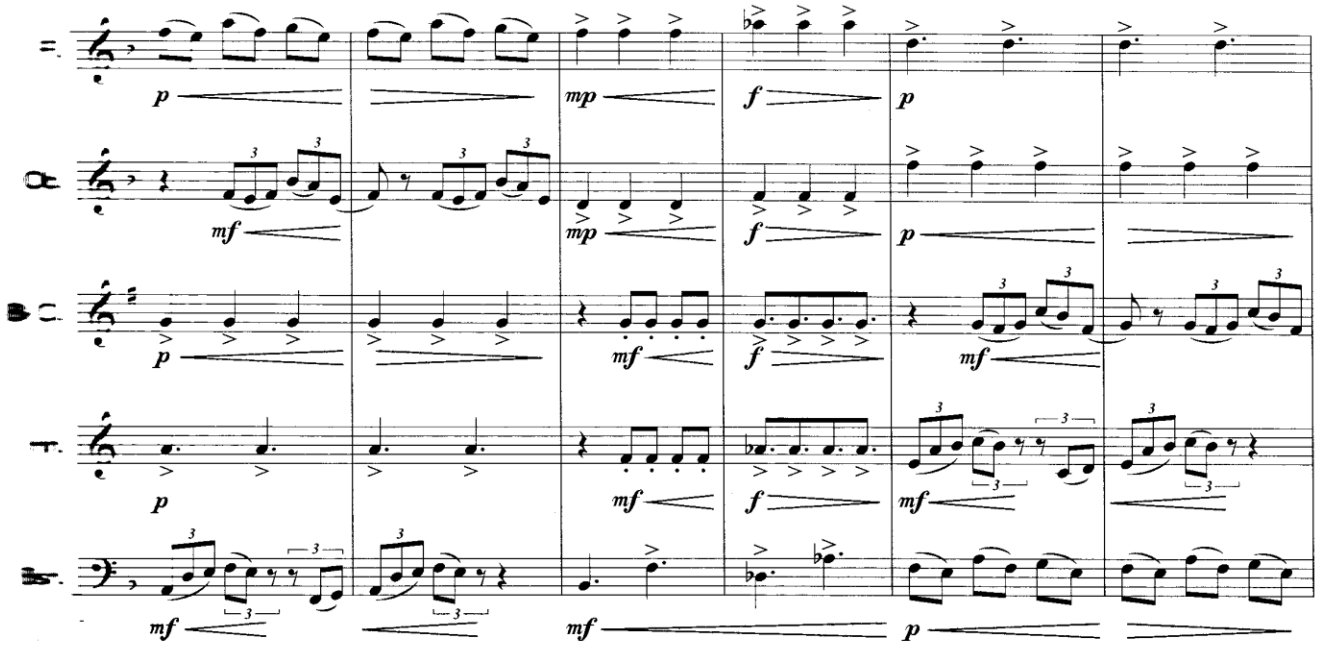

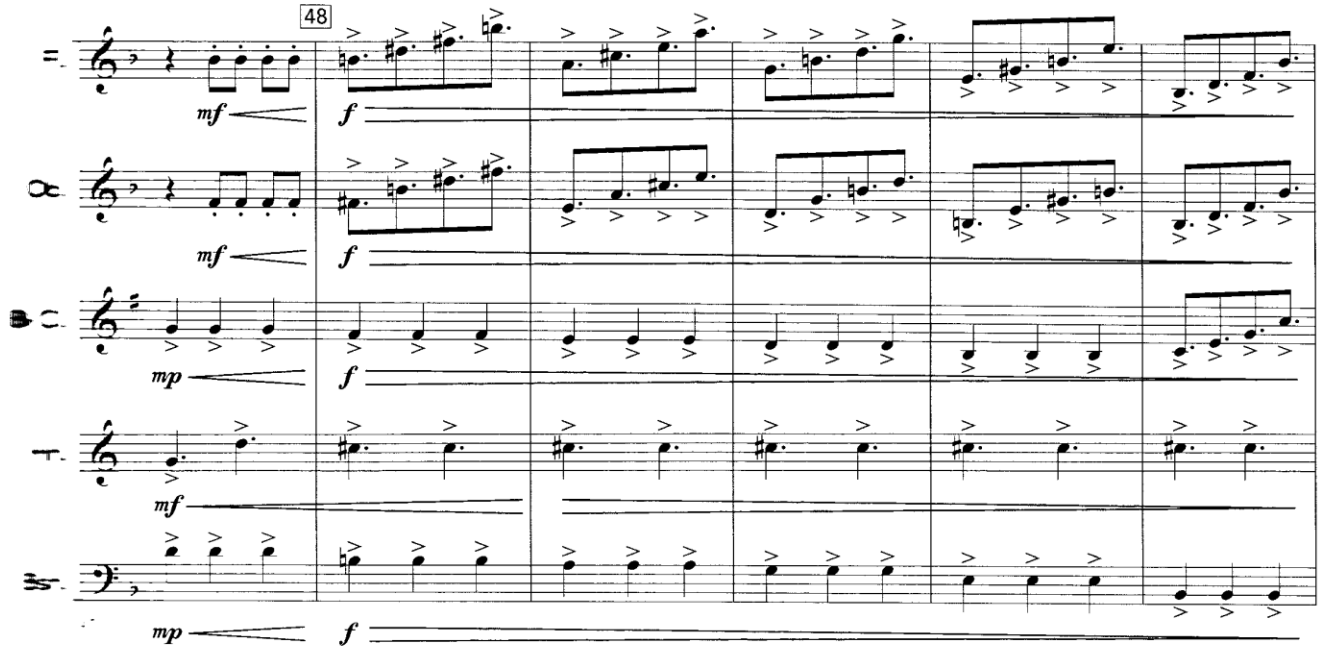
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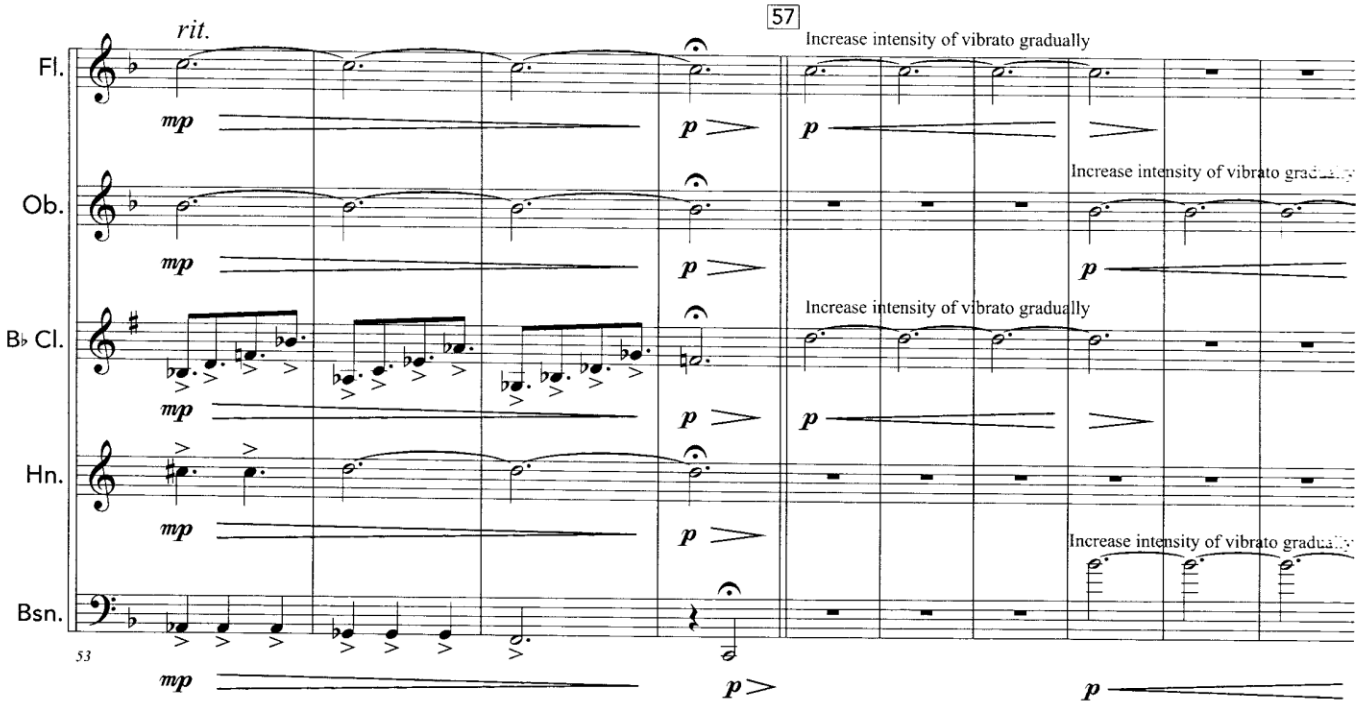
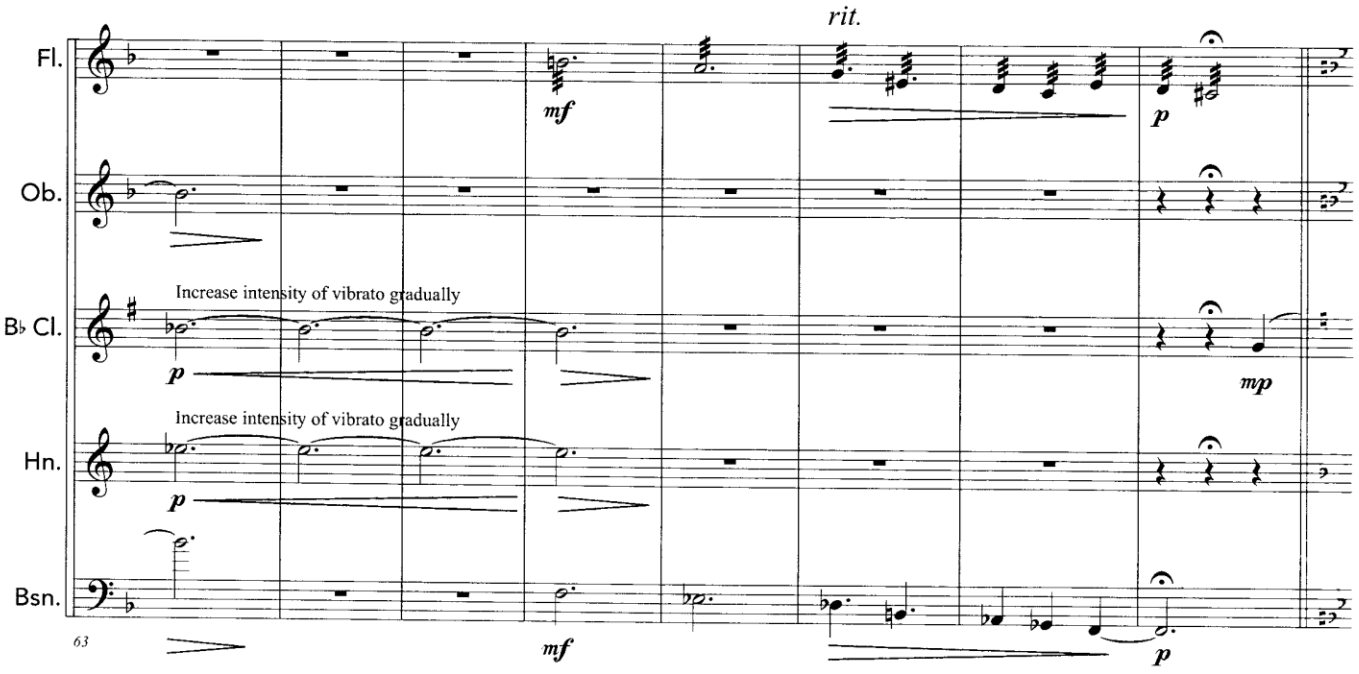

rit.
57
Increase intensity of vibrato gradually
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
53
mp
p


rit.
Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.
Increase intensity of vibrato gradually
63
mf
p
mp