ולמשלח

(... and to rule...)

for 5 flutes

Larry Polansky
1984

for Ann LaBerge
and
David Rosenboom

(Cantillation Study #2)

ולמשל *(V'leem'shol) (And to rule....) (Cantillation Study #2)*

five flutes

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ולמשל may be played by five live flutists, or one or two live flutists and tape. If performed by one player, Flute I should be played. If performed by two players, parts I and V (the "trope") should be played. Part V may also be doubled by a second C or alto flute if it is pre-recorded, but should not be any louder. Careful attention should be paid to overall balance of the parts, and live parts should be miked and combined into the tape mix.

The tempo is flexible, and should be based on the trope (Flute V) begin played in a natural, singing manner, in much the same way that it might be sung on Shabbat mornings in synagogue. The other four parts should rely on Flute V for rubati and other tempo changes.

ולמשל is a computer-composed canon, using routines written for morphological transformation of the primitive cantillation forms. The flutist should try and bring out the internal repetitions and correspondences as much as possible. Each voice has a proportionally decaying "density" envelope on it. This can serve as an overall gestural guide.

In those verses in which a chorale texture appears, the feeling should be markedly calmer and quieter, but not slower. The piece may optionally include an introduction, in which the 17-verse section of בראשית is sung (preferably by a woman).

Thanks to Anne La Berge for her significant collaboration in the work. The score was copied by Richard Povall, and funds for the mss. preparation were generously provided by Mills College. Jack Love and Todd Silverstein of Lerhaus in Berkeley, California, were my teachers in biblical cantillation, and I greatly appreciate their knowledge and patience.

Larry Polansky, Berkely 1984/Oakland, 1988

׃ ולמשל ביום ובלילה ולהבדיל בין האור
ובין החשך ויראׄ אלהים כי טוב ויהי ערב ויהי
בקר יום רביעי׃
ויאמר אלהים ישרצו המים שרץ נפש חיה׃
ועוף יעופף על הארץ על פני רקיע השמים׃
ויברא אלהים את התנינם הגדלים ואת כל נפש
החיה הרמשת אשר שרצו המים למיניהם ואת׃
כל עוף כנף למינהו ויראׄ אלהים כי טוב ויברך
אתם אלהים לאמר פרו ורבו ומלאו את המים
בימים והעוף ירב בארץ ויהי ערב ויהי בקר
יום חמישי׃
ויאמר אלהים תוצא הארץ נפש חיה למינה
בהמה ורמש וחיתו ארץ למינה ויהי כן ויעש
אלהים את חית הארץ למינה ואת הבהמה למינה
ואת כל רמש האדמה למינהו ויראׄ אלהים כי טוב
ויאמר אלהים נעשה אדם בצלמנו כדמותנו וירדו
בדגת הים ובעוף השמים ובבהמה ובכל הארץ
ובכל הרמש הרמש על הארץ ויברא אלהים את
האדם בצלמו בצלם אלהים ברא אתו זכר ונקבה
ברא אתם ויברך אתם אלהים ויאמר להם אלהים
פרו ורבו ומלאו את הארץ וכבשה ורדו בדגת
הים ובעוף השמים ובכל חית הרמשת על הארץ
ויאמר אלהים הנה נתתי לכם את כל עשב זרע
זרע אשר על פני כל הארץ ואת כל העץ אשר
בו פרי עץ זרע זרע לכם יהיה לאכלה ולכל חית
הארץ ולכל עוף השמים ולכל רומש על הארץ
אשר בו נפש חיה את כל ירק עשב לאכלה ויהי
כן ויראׄ אלהים את כל אשר עשה והנה טוב מאד
ויהי ערב ויהי בקר יום הששי׃
ויכלו השמים והארץ וכל צבאם ויכל אלהים ביום
השביעי מלאכתו אשר עשה וישבת ביום השביעי
מכל מלאכתו אשר עשה ויברך אלהים את יום
השביעי ויקדש אתו כי בו שבת מכל מלאכתו
אשר ברא אלהים לעשות

B'rey'sheet: Verses 1:18-31; 2:1-3

And to rule by day and by night, and to divide between the light and the darkness, and elohim saw that it was good.
And there was evening, and there was morning, the fourth day.
And elohim said let the waters be full of swarms of living creatures, and let the birds fly over the earth and on the face of the expanse of the sky.
And elohim created large creatures and all living souls that crawl, which the waters were full of after their own kind, and all winged birds after their own kind, and elohim saw that it was good.
And elohim blessed them and said "Be fertile and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.
And there was evening, and there was morning, the fifth day.
And elohim said the earth will produce the living soul after its own kind; beast, crawling things, and animals of the earth after their own kind, and it was so.
And elohim made the animal of the earth after its own kind, and beasts after their own kind, and all the crawlers on the ground after their own kind and elohim saw it was good.
And elohim said we will make man in our likeness and he will dominate the fish in the sea, and the birds in the sky, and the beasts and all the earth and all the crawling things on the earth.
And elohim created man in his likeness, in his likeness he created him, male and female he created them.
And elohim blessed them and said to them "Be fertile and reproduce, fill the earth and subdue it, dominate the fist in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the living things on the earth.
And elohim said "Look, I give you all the seed bearing plants and all the trees that give fruit, will be yours for food.
And to all the living things on the earth and to all the birds in the sky and to all the crawling things on the earth are all the green things for food," and it was so.
And elohim saw all that he made, and found it very good and there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.
The heavens and the earth were finished and all their things.
And on the seventh day elohim finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.
And elohim blessed the seventh day and made it holy because in it he rested from all his works that he created to do it.

(Translation adapted freely by the composer from sources: *Pentateuch with Rashi Commentary*, M. Rosenbaum, A.M. Silbermann, Silbermann Family Publications, Jerusalem, 5733; and *Genesis*, translated by E.A Speiser, Anchor Bible, Doubleday, 1964)

as fast as possible, so that Flute V singing.....

I

(Trope) V

1)

(sing) 5 7:4 ff 5:4 sing

6:5 sing sing 5:4

poco

Calmly

poco

2) Flute V a little louder than I both mp — mf

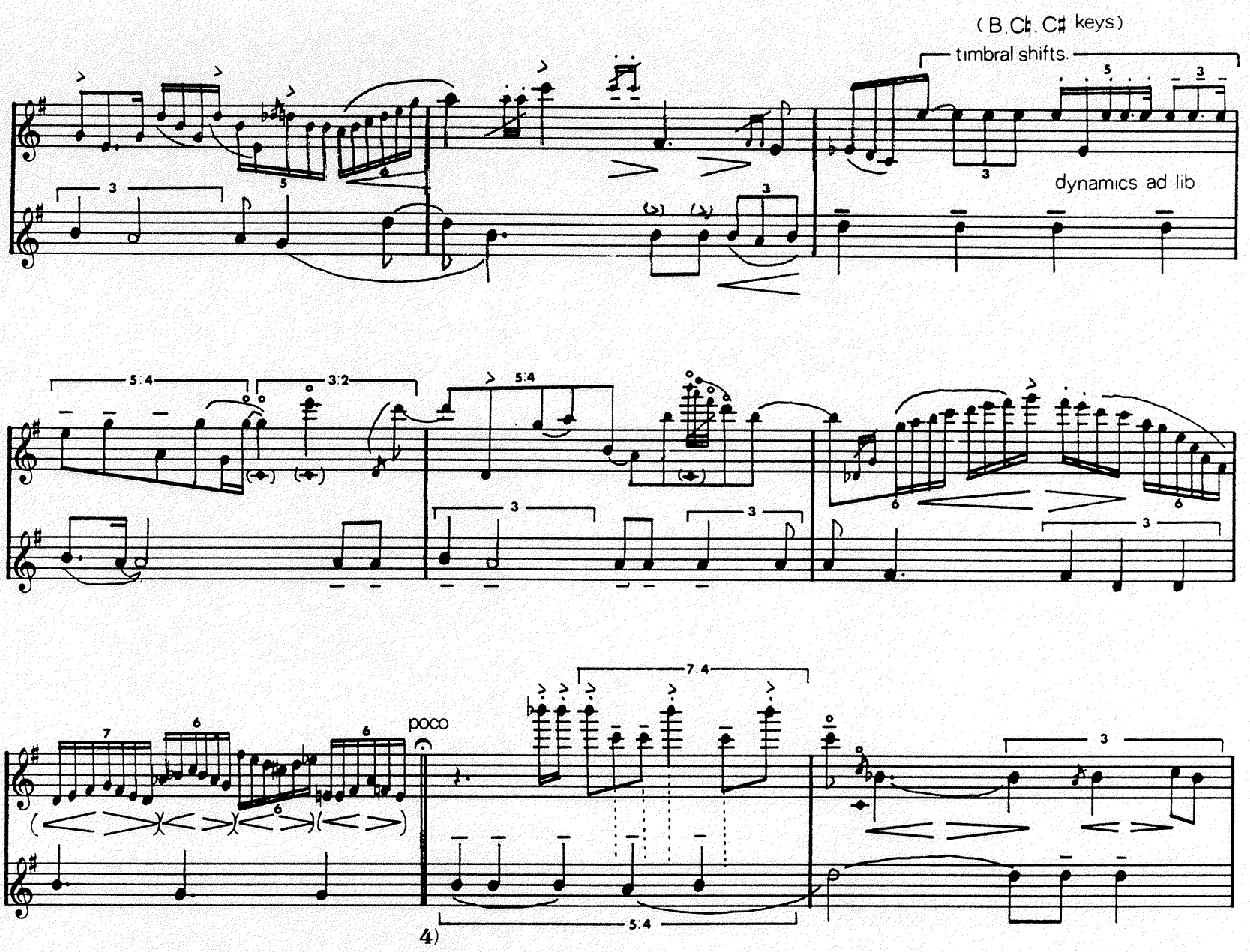
pp

19:12

p mp sub pp

5:4

• first 8ve "harmonics" should be played as airy tones


(B, C♮, C♯ keys)
timbral shifts
dynamics ad lib
poco
4)
timbral shifts
sing

sing
gliss
gliss
sing
7:4
13 8
(13:8)
hold fingering
gliss
poco
9:8
7:4
11:8
sub prev. level
5)
I
II
V

5:4 11:8 7:4 5:4 sing sing

5:4 5:4 7:4

timbral shifts 6 5:4 7:4

poco p–mp p–mp mp–mf

7)

timbral shifts

8)

(.....top two flutes in close synchrony.....)

5:4

I

II

III

V

quieter

with V

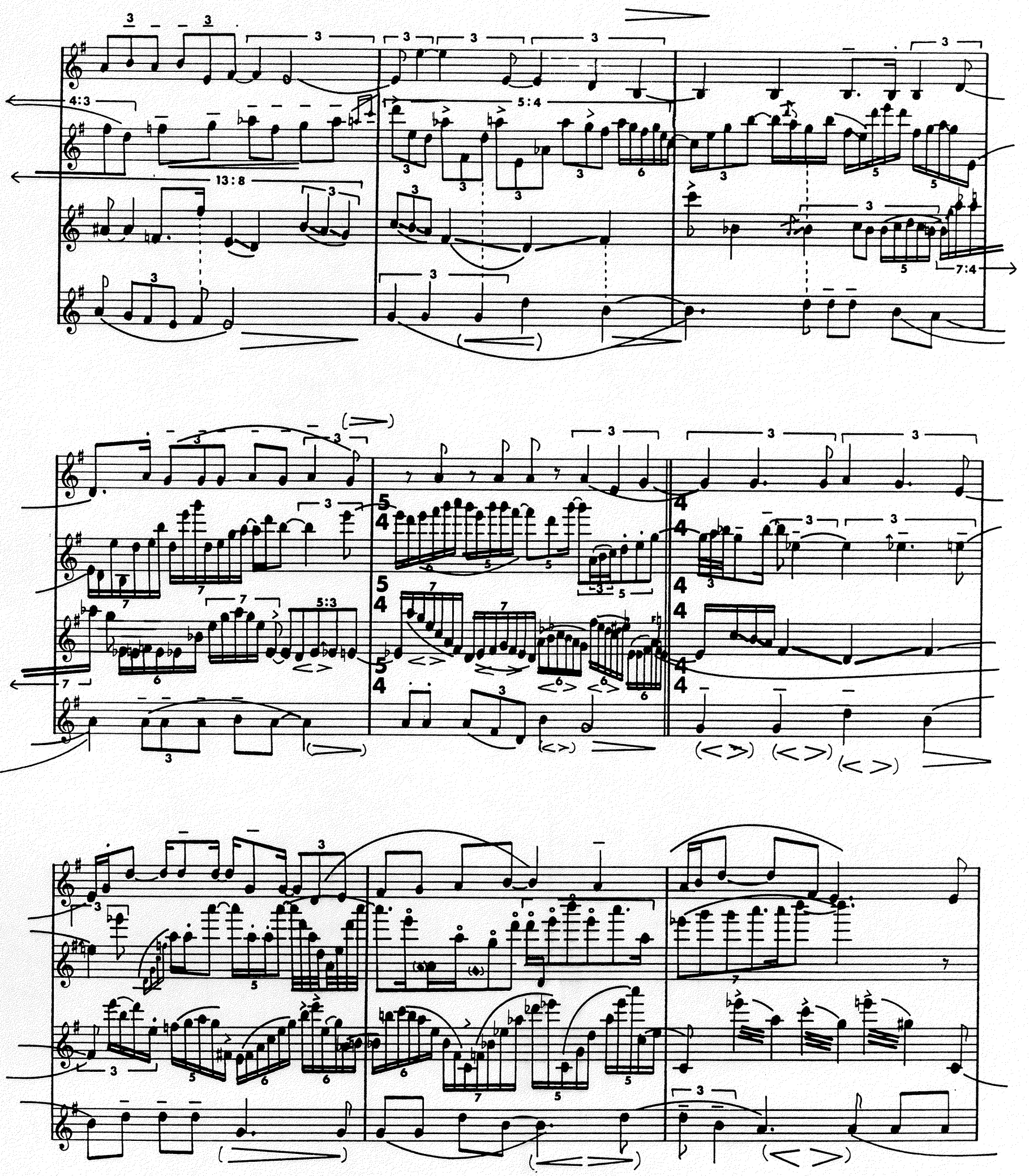
legato

free dynamics

9)

timbral shifts

sing


4:3
13:8
5:4
7:4
5:3

quieter, with V

bring out

in general softer than V

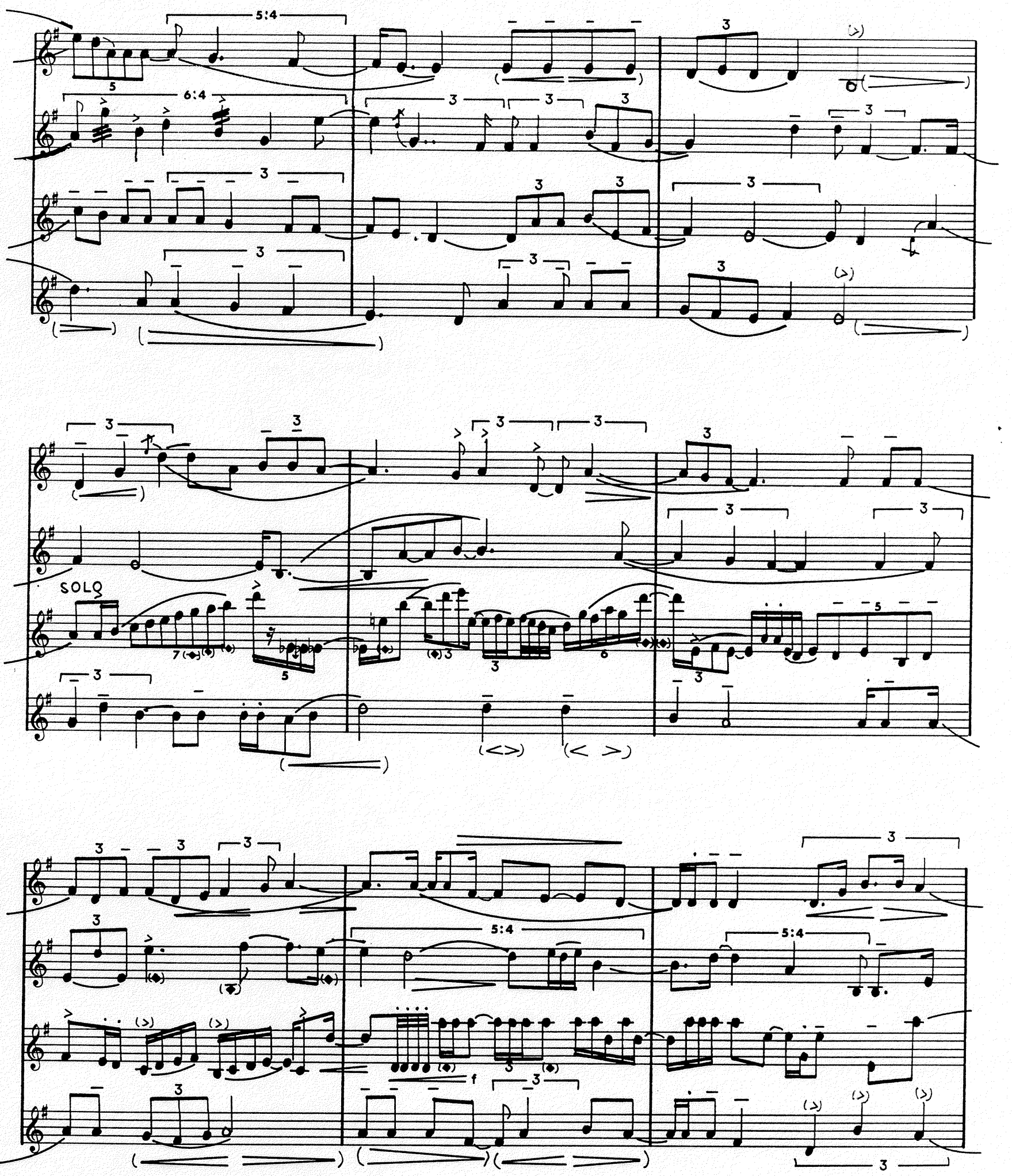
sing

quiet

sing

all softer than V

12)


5:4
6:4
SOLO
f

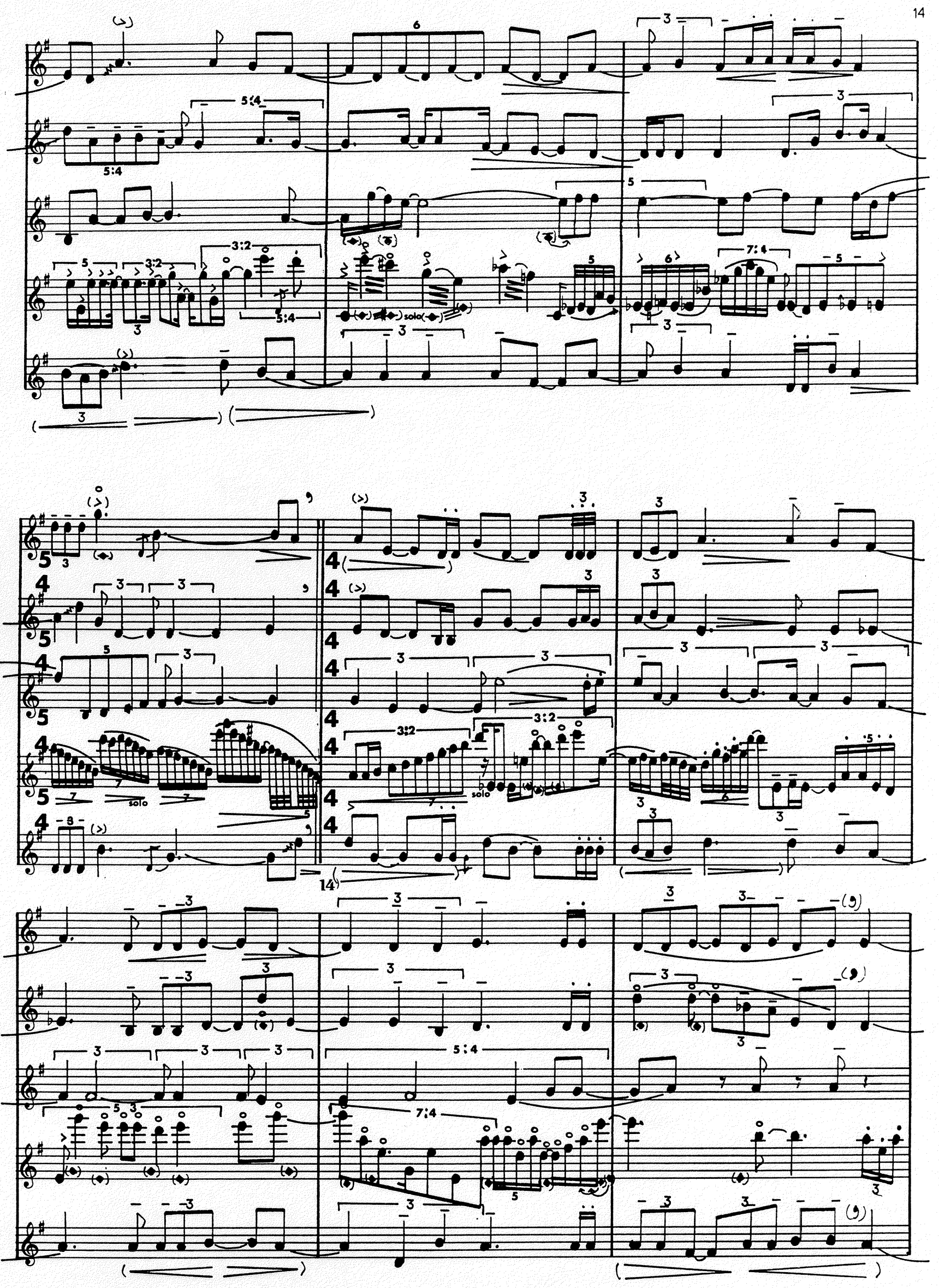
I
II
III
IV
V

13)

quiet

sing

hold fingering


5:4
3:2
7:4
solo
14

rit

rit

rit very soft

rit

a tempo

legato

legato

legato

legato

legato

all flutes as one. V loudest

15) I softest

poco rit

poco rit

slightly tongued

poco rit

slightly tongued

poco rit

slightly tongued

a little softer

a little softer

a little softer

a tempo

16)

at a constant dynamic (all)

17) fairly strong (all)

calmer & softer (all)

let fade

(1.1)