Two Children's Songs

Larry Polansky

Two Children's Songs

for tuba and trombone;
or, two bass winds;
or, any two melody instruments

for Daniel Petit

Larry Polansky
1992

Two Children's Songs

Larry Polansky

Two Children's Songs is a computer–composed score for tuba and trombone; tuba and bassoon; tuba and euphonium; two bass winds (bass clarinets, bassoons, tuba and euphonium, etc.); or any two melody instruments. The score may be transposed to any key or register to suit the instrumentation used (various transpositions are available from the composer).

The tempo is fast, between mm = 96 and mm = 120 (or faster) for the dotted quarter. It should be played loudly, with dynamic interpretrations completely left to the players (no dynamics are indicated in the score). There are no breaks between mutants, although the end of each mutant may be played as a fermata.

The score is in "Eb," and should be read in the conventional manner with regard to accidentals. However, there are a great many courtesy accidentals indicated for the sake of clarity. An accidental in one octave, within a measure, does not imply anything about different octaves of that note (mostly, those situations are indicated with accidentals shown).

The work is composed using a system of melodic mutation functions, written in the computer music language HMSL. The mutation functions change one shape, or melody, into another in a wide variety of ways. The intermediary melodies are called mutants. *Two Children's Songs* uses a new set of functions, which I call *harmonic mutations.* These functions create melodies whose harmonic content is "between" the source and target, in ways specified by the composer.

The work was requested by Daniel Petit, a tubist and student at Dartmouth College. I asked Dan for a melody to mutate, and he supplied "Pop Goes the Weasel" (which became the target, top part). Since he had picked a children's song, I decided to use another one as well , one that I actually liked. I picked "Teddy Bears' Picnic" (the source, top part). I then arranged both tunes in two voices (source and target, both parts). In the pitch dimension, the piece is a progressive harmonic mutation from my arrangement of "Teddy Bears' Picnic" to my arrangement of "Pop Goes the Weasel." Rhythmically, the mutation used is an *ISIM (Irregular Signed Interval Magnitude)*, which essentially "swaps" more and more values from one duration set into another as the piece progresses (this mutation, and others, have been described in detail elsewhere in my writings and scores). Thus, the piece is a gradual, and somewhat odd, crossfade from bears to weasels.

The work was premiered by Daniel Petit (tuba) and Heather Buchman (trombone) at Dartmouth College, May, 1992. I am grateful to David Fuqua for his assistance in preparing the final copy of the score.

Larry Polansky
June, 1992. Lebanon, NH

HMSL itself is written by Phil Burk, myself and David Rosenboom.

Slight Revision: March 12, 1993.

Two Children's Songs

for Dan Petit

Larry Polansky

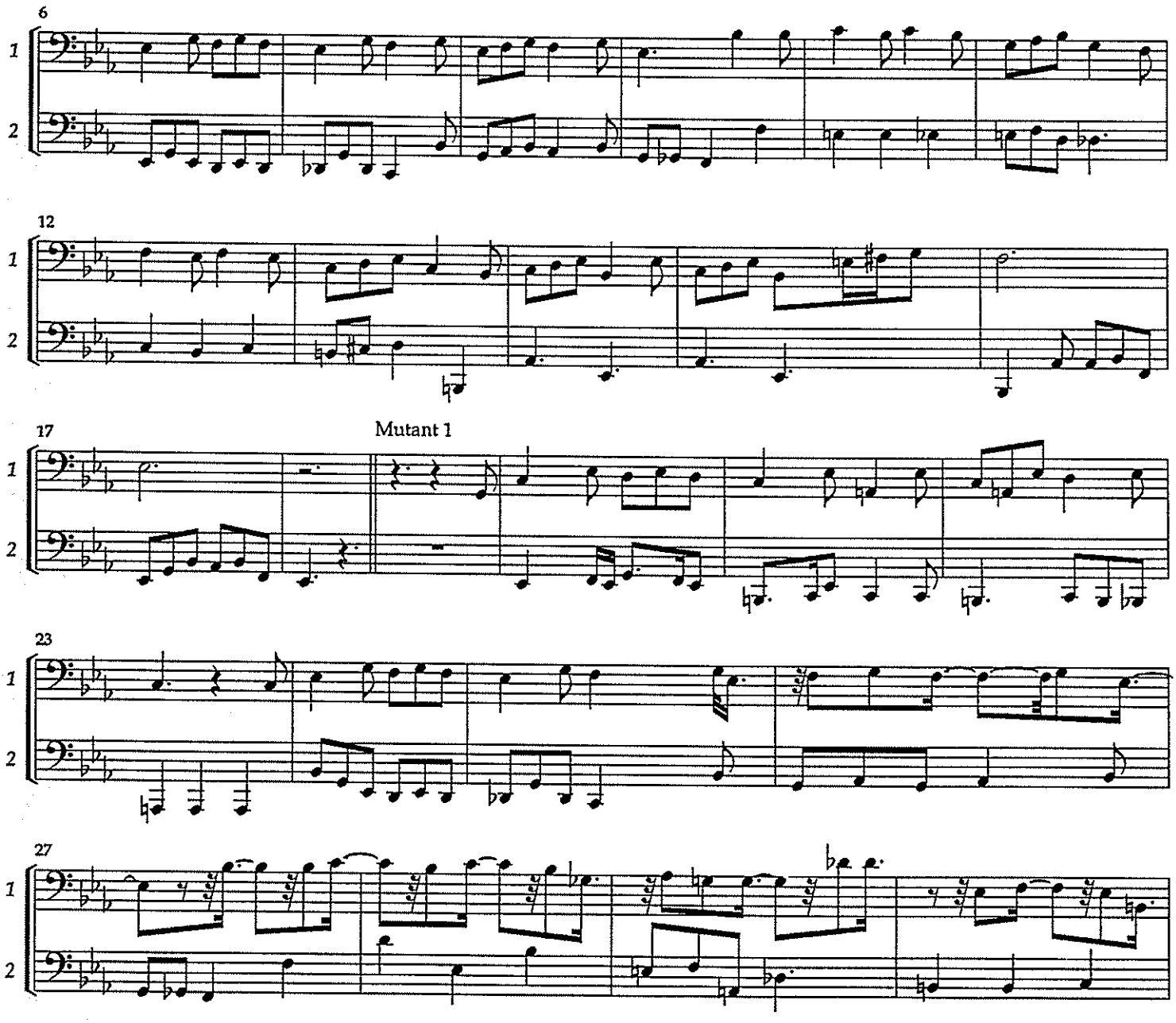
6/10/92

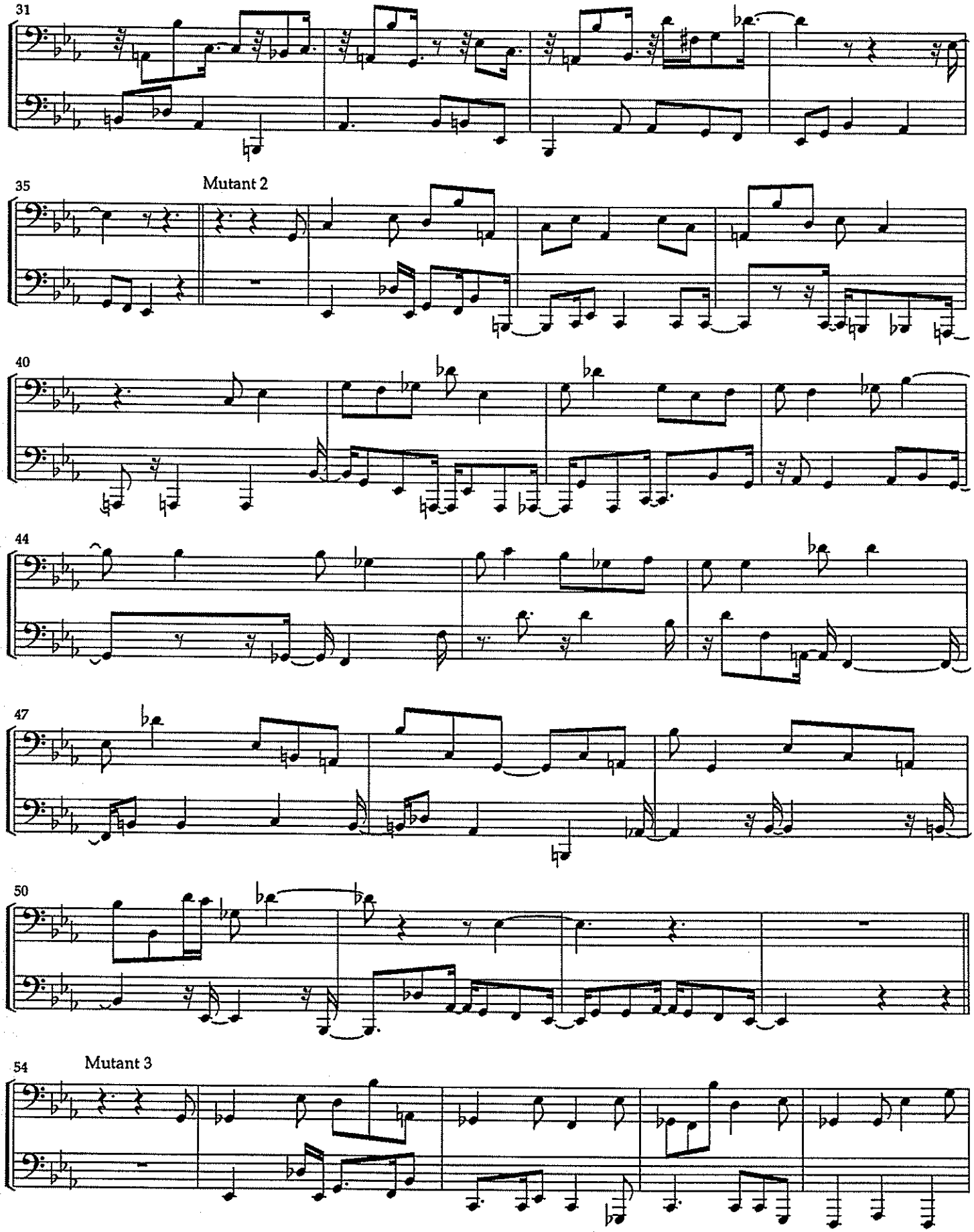
Quickly, strongly

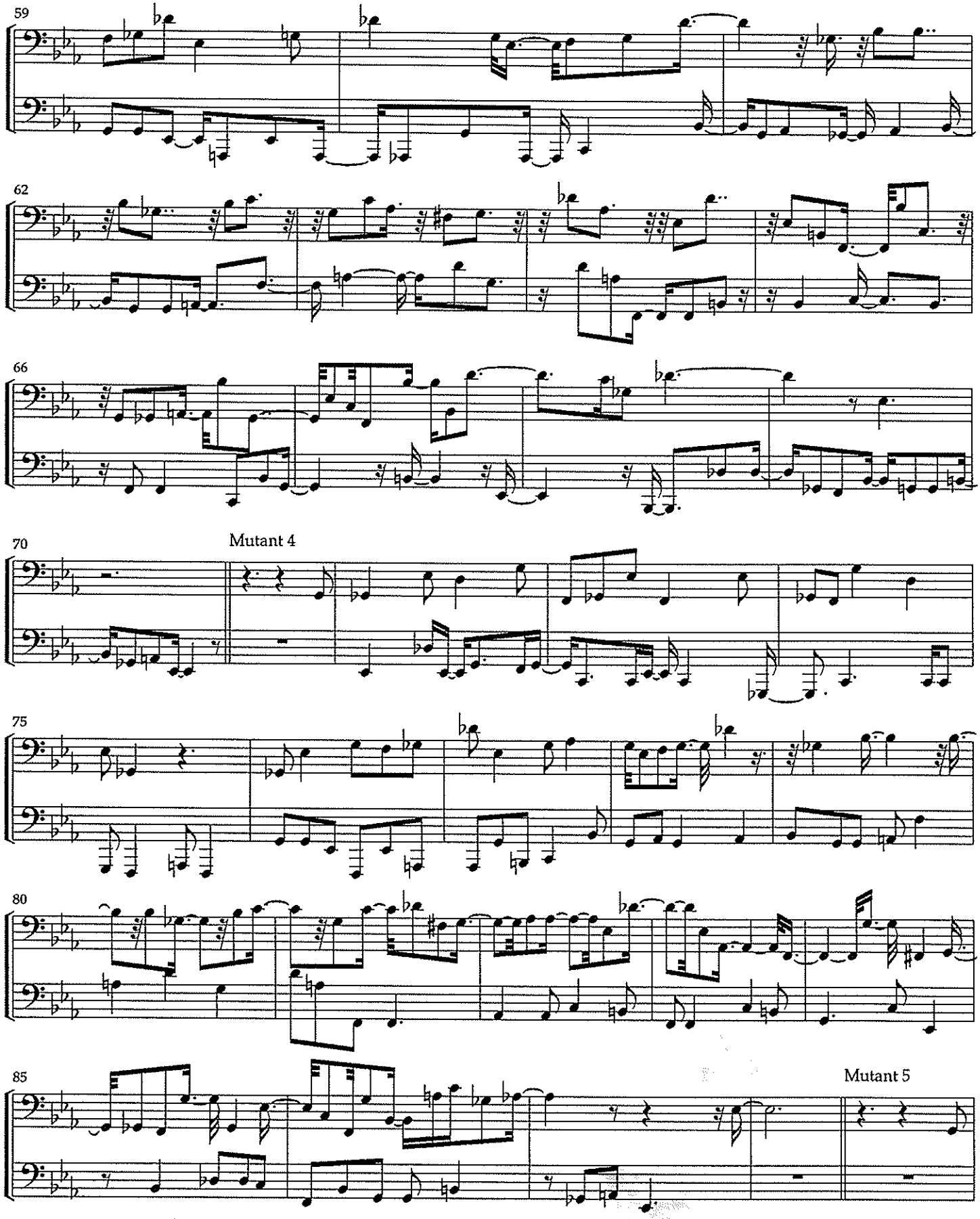
1 Source

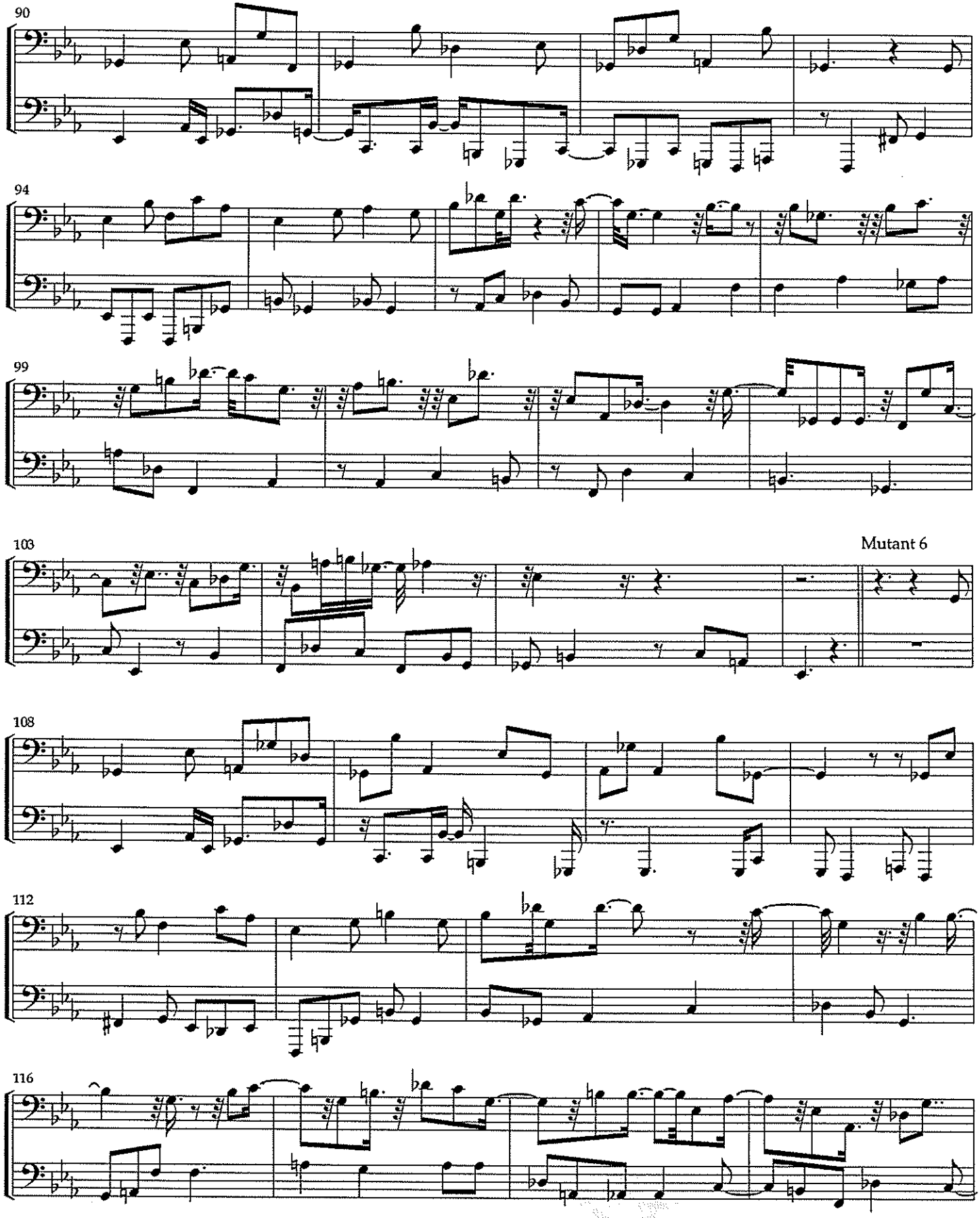
very staccato throughout

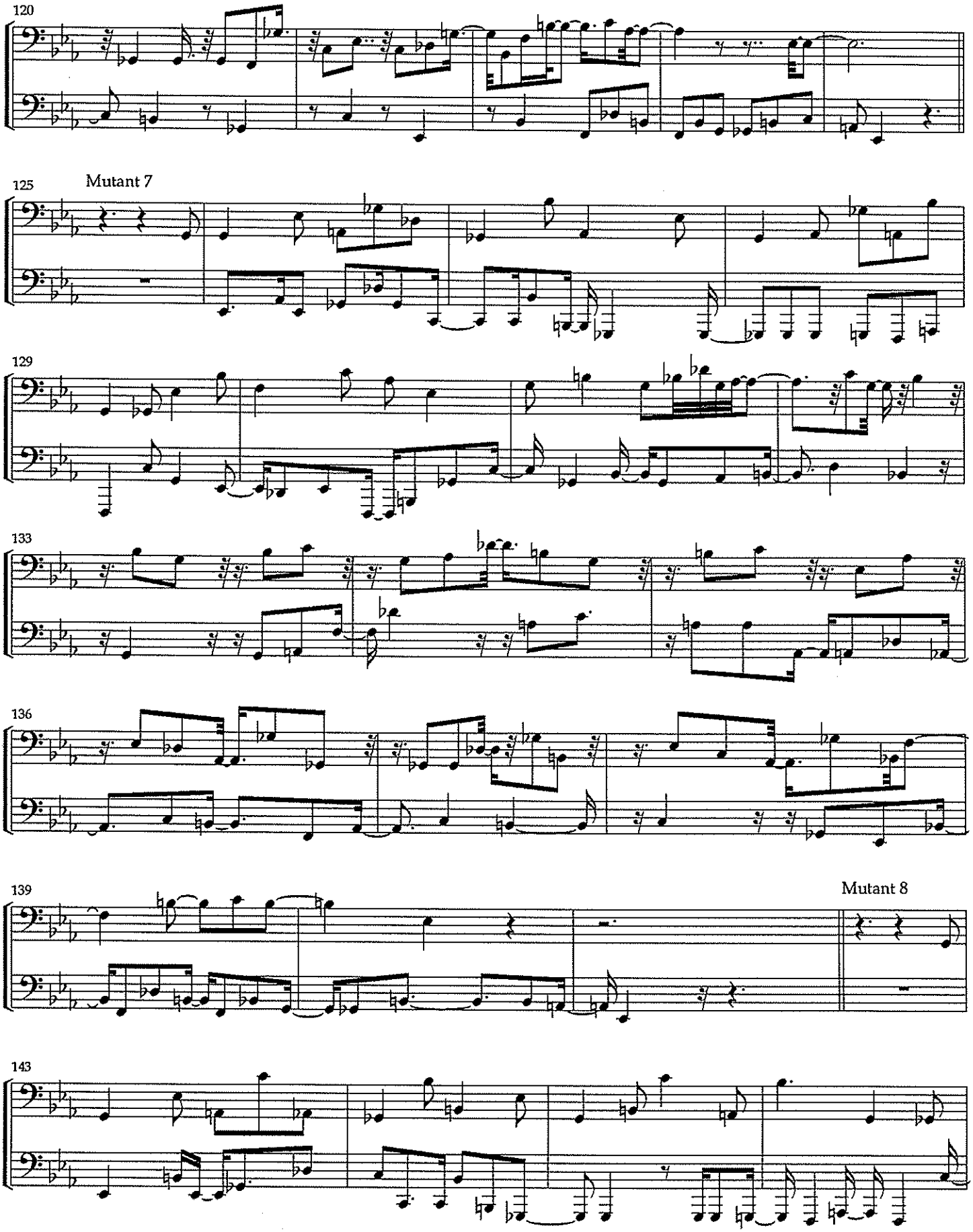
very staccato throughout

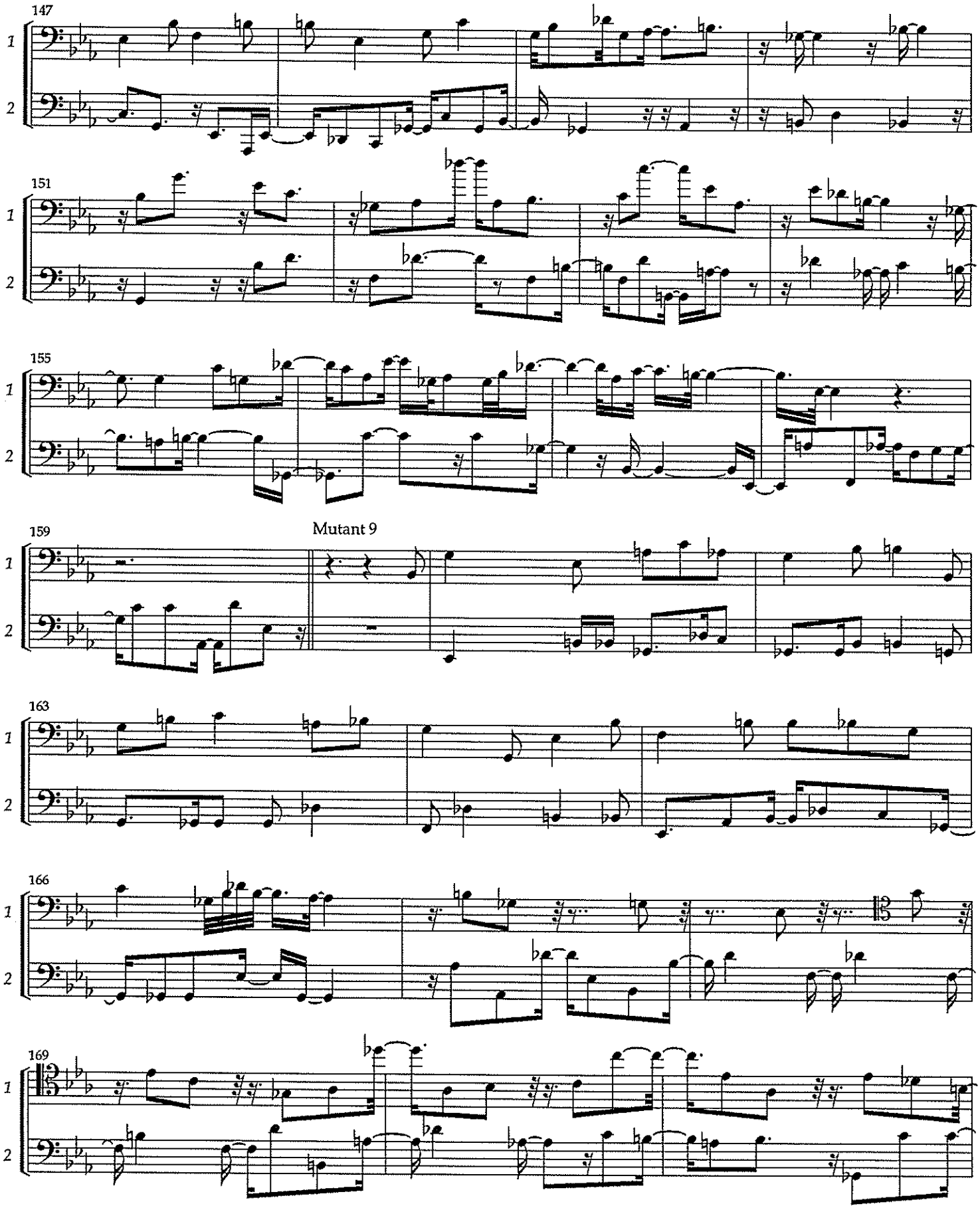


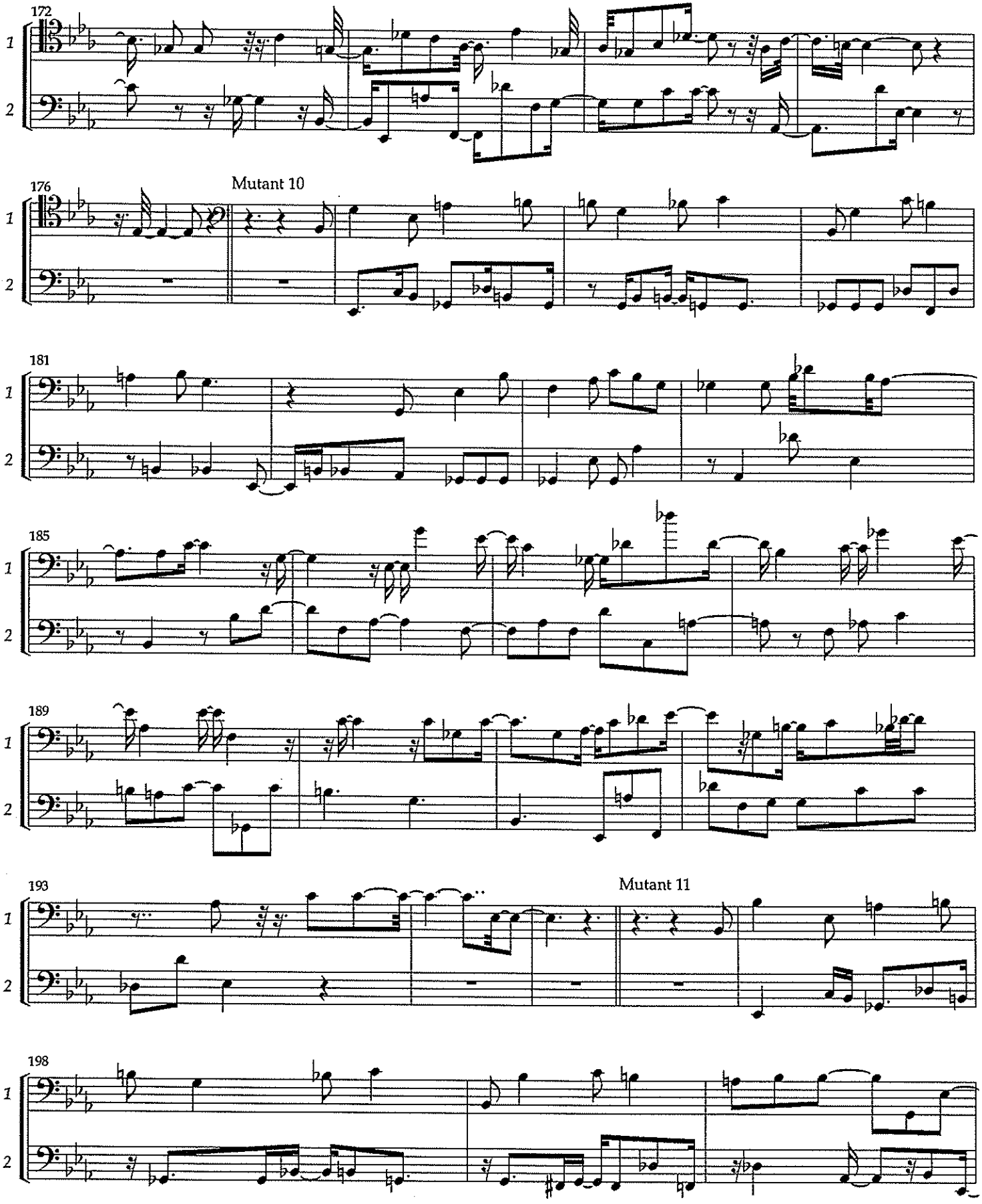

31
1
2
35
Mutant 2
1
2
40
1
2
44
1
2
47
1
2
50
1
2
54
Mutant 3
1
2

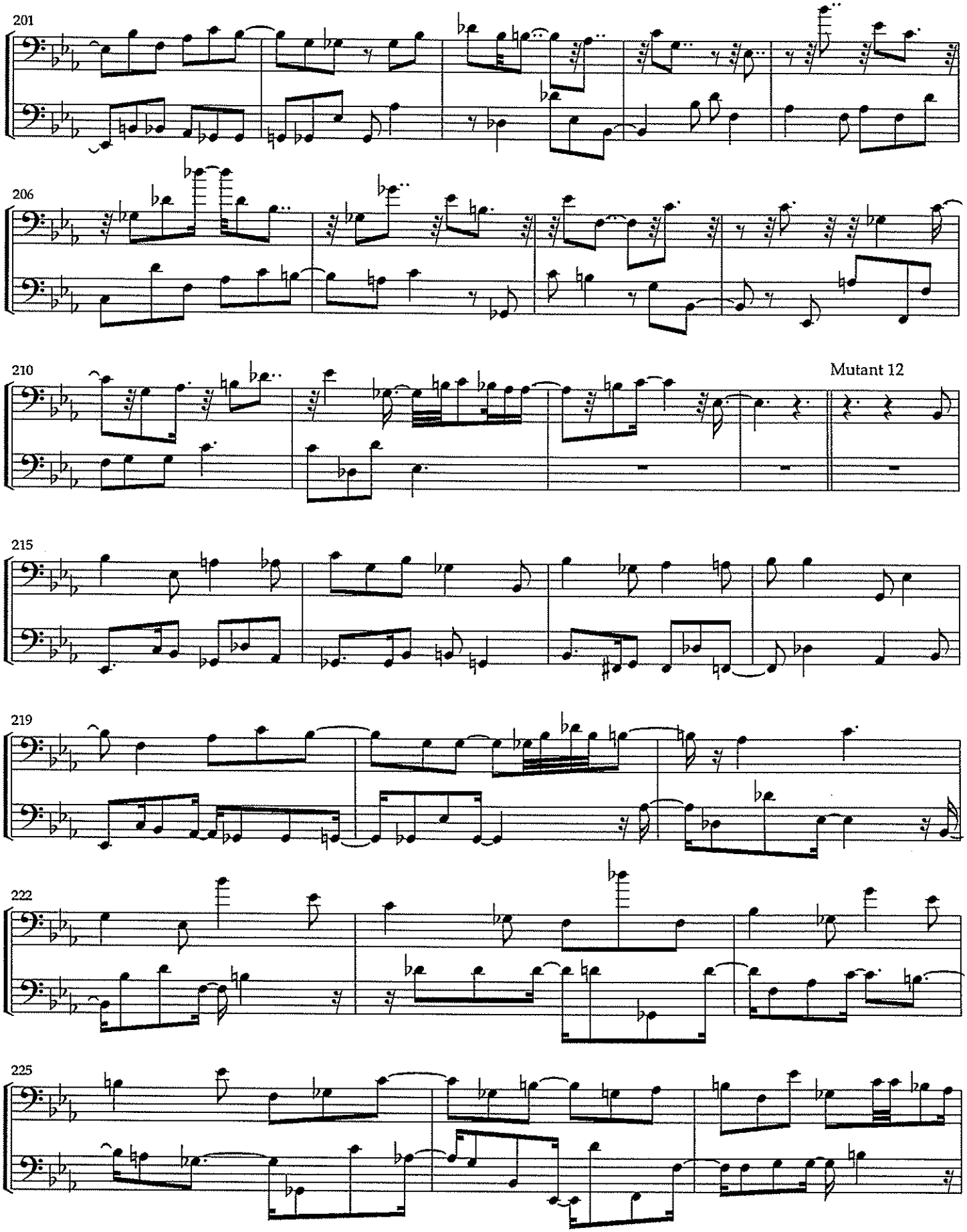

59
1
2
62
1
2
66
1
2
70
Mutant 4
1
2
75
1
2
80
1
2
85
Mutant 5
1
2

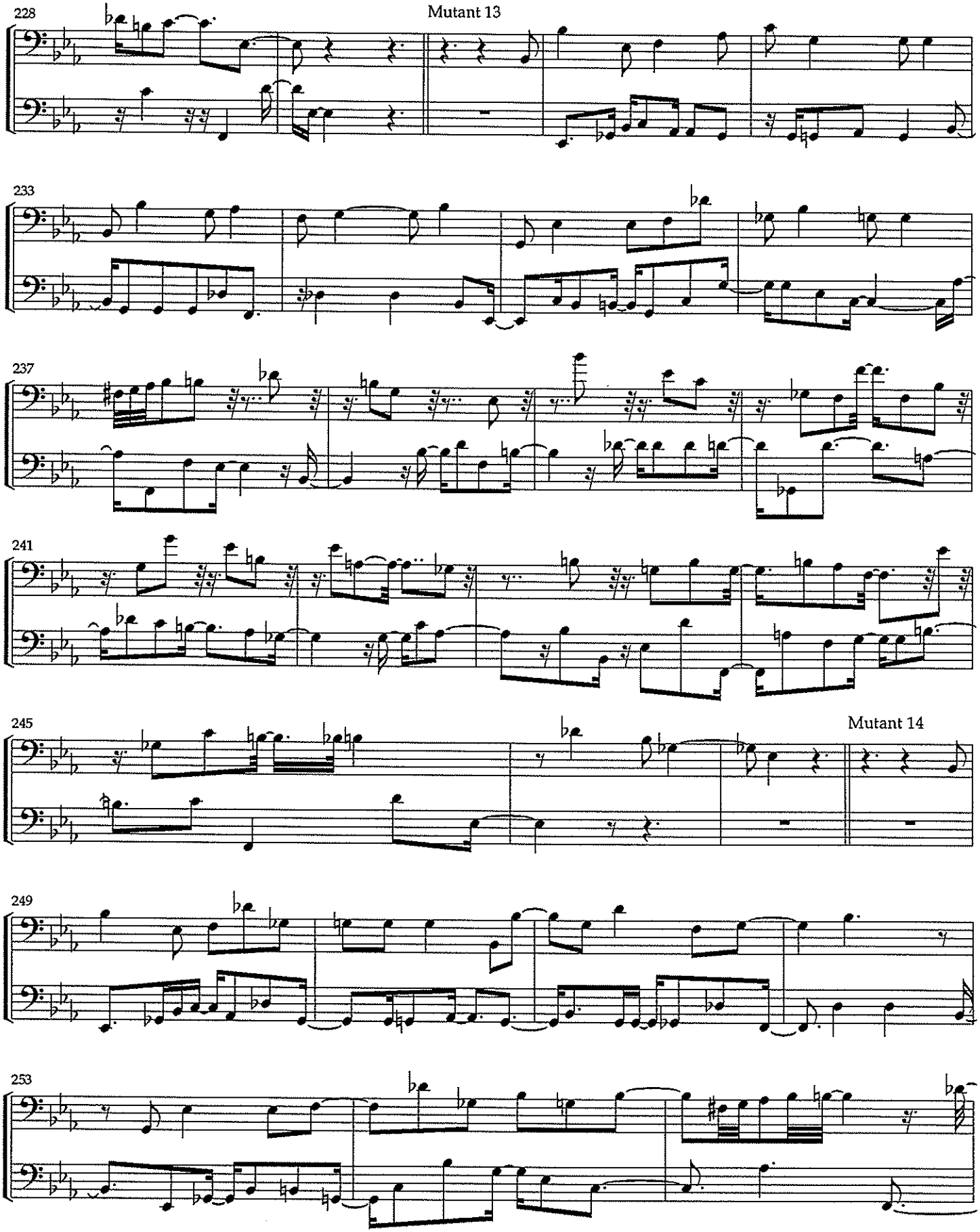

90
94
99
103
Mutant 6
108
112
116

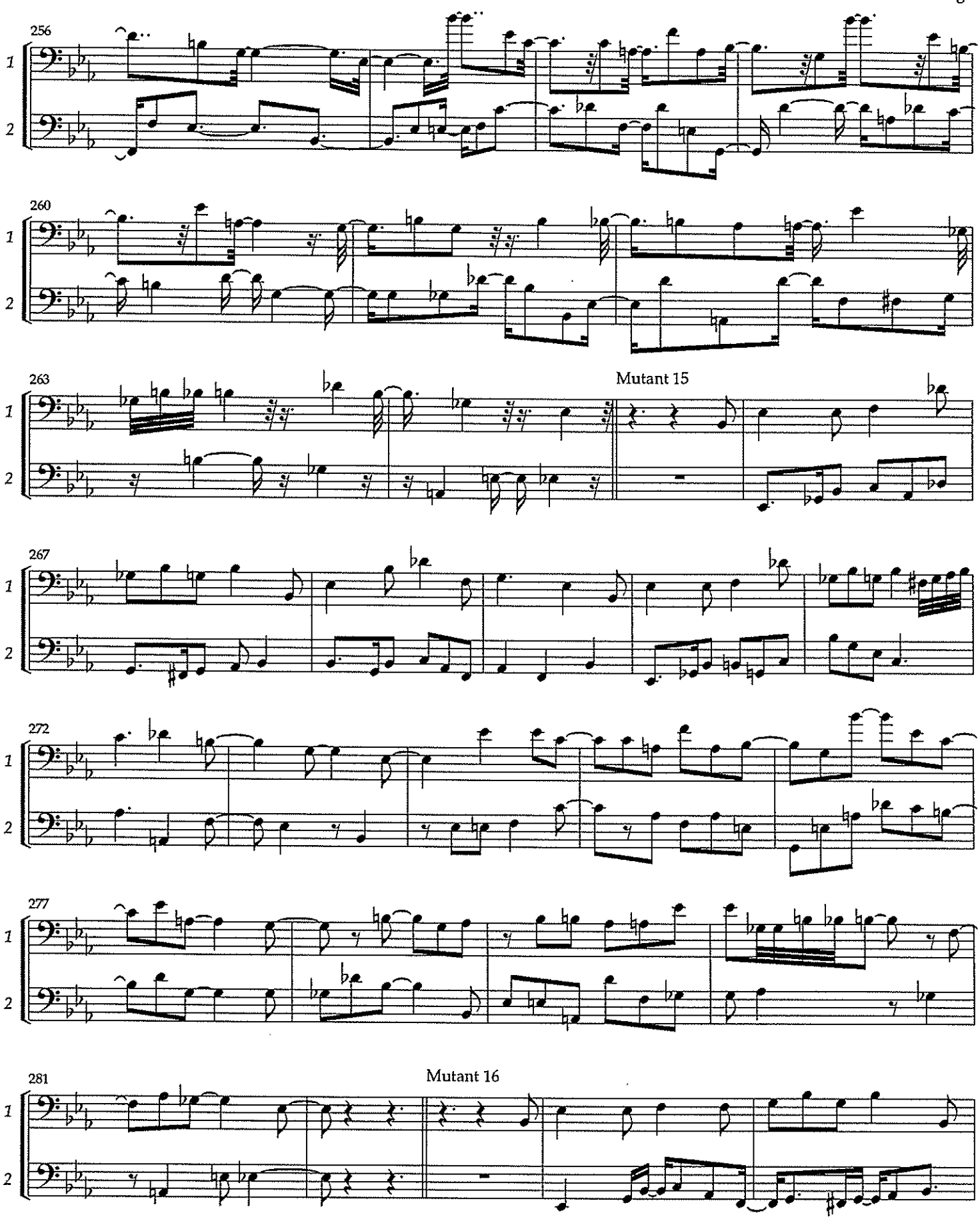

120
1
2
125
Mutant 7
1
2
129
1
2
133
1
2
136
1
2
139
Mutant 8
1
2
143
1
2

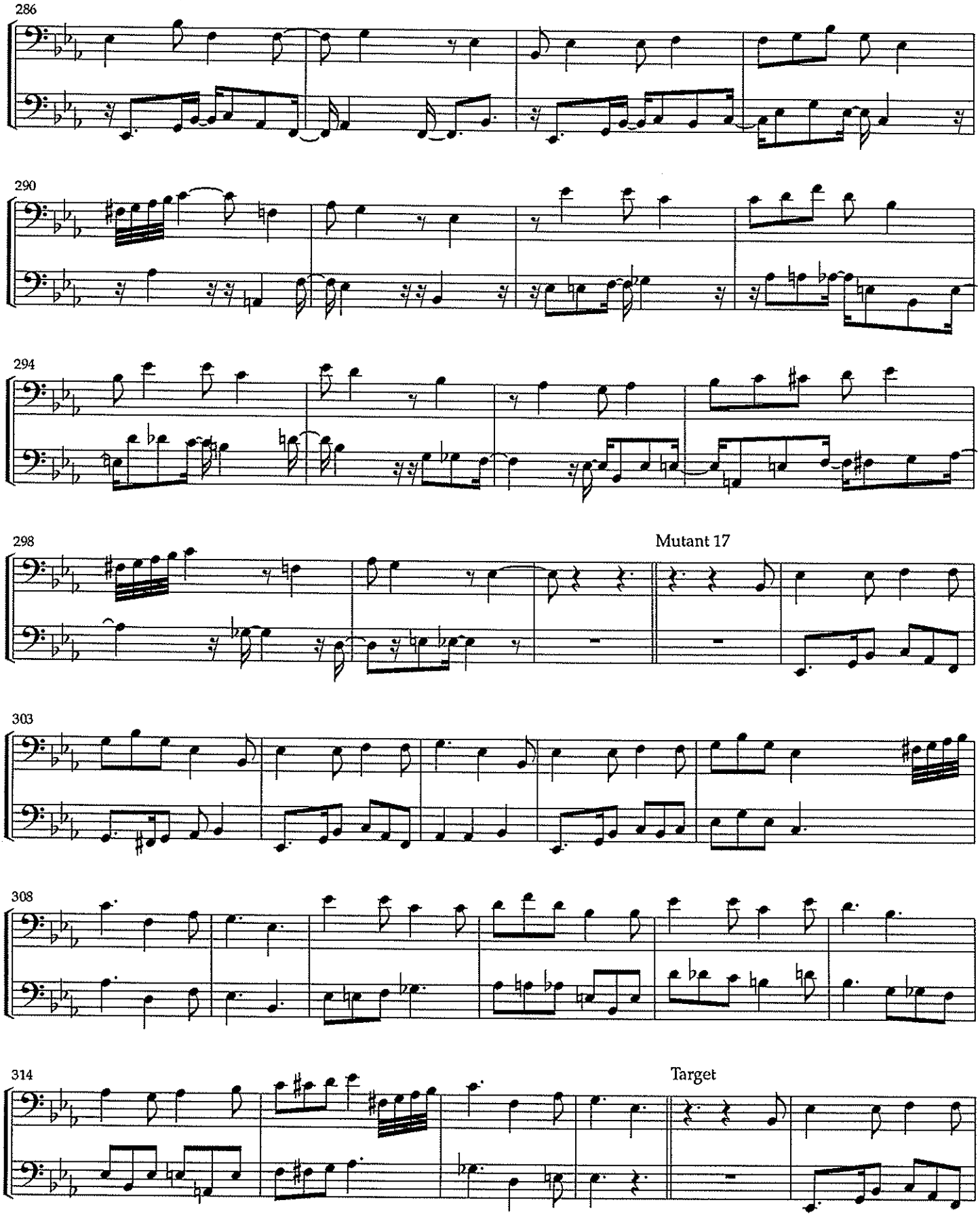

147
151
155
159
Mutant 9
163
166
169

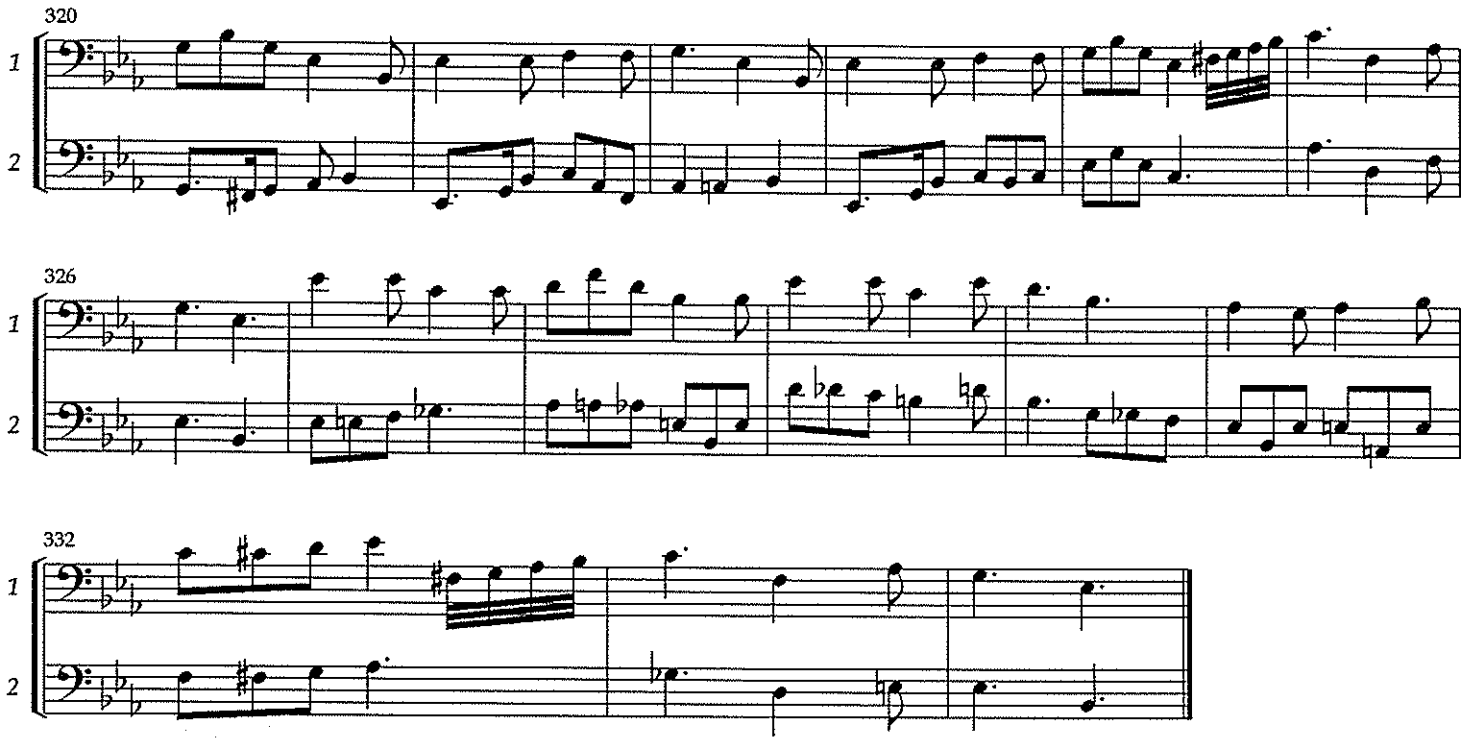

172
1
2
176
Mutant 10
181
185
189
193
Mutant 11
198


201
206
210
Mutant 12
215
219
222
225


228
Mutant 13
233
237
241
245
Mutant 14
249
253


256
1
2
260
1
2
263
Mutant 15
1
2
267
1
2
272
1
2
277
1
2
281
Mutant 16
1
2


286
1
2
290
1
2
294
1
2
298
Mutant 17
1
2
303
1
2
308
1
2
314
Target
1
2


320
1
2
326
1
2
332
1
2

FROG PEAK MUSIC
(a composers' collective)
Box 1052 Lebanon NH 03766
tel/fax: 603-448-8837
email: fp@frogpeak.org
http://www.frogpeak.org