Peripheral Vision

flute | oboe | computer

2021

Brad Decker

Peripheral Vision:
Often we lose sight of the beauty around us, while we are focused only on what's right in front of us. Modern life often forces us to live within blinders, and we too easily lose sight of the nuances of our peripheral vision. This project aims to symbolize beauty in a dark world. Flute and oboe explore gestures and musical idioms that suggest a beautiful, blissful transcendance of a plastic society, which is continuously filled with alarm and tension. The computer part captures this tense reality: test sirens reverberating in empty spaces, sudden disruptions, unlikely snarls of percussive elements, and swirling rhythms.

Duration: 7 minutes 11 seconds

This piece was commissioned by Rebecca Johnson and Elizabeth Sullivan, and is dedicated to them.

Performance Notes:

All accidentals carry through each bar.

Large circled numbers refer to the cueing of audio samples via MIDI footpedal.

Square Caesuras have boxed numbers, suggesting wait times in seconds.

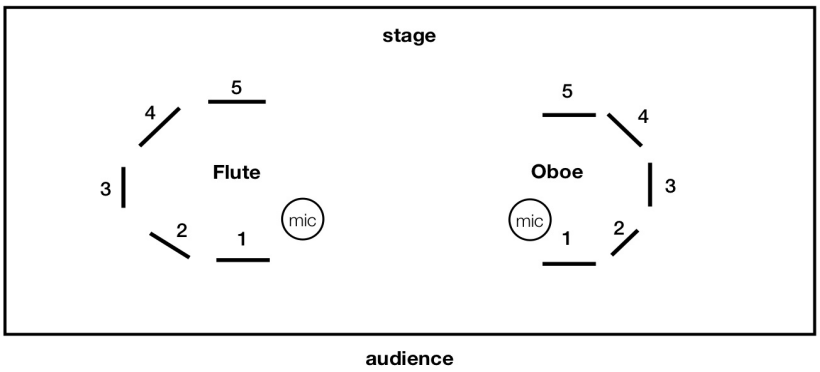
Suggested elapsed time is provided at the outset of each cue, in boxed rectangles.

* denotes timbral trill, using alternate fingering for the goal pitch (see fingerings below)
+ denotes abrupt articulation
"o" indicates to use a fingering that produces a different tone color than normal
"n" indicates to use normal fingering

Specific fingerings for multiphonics and timbral trills are given in the score.

Microphones should be located near each performer, and sent to computer (and house).

Stage: Arrange instruments and microphone according to the diagram below. Each number is associated with five music stands positioned around the microphone. Performers should move to one of these five positions at the beginning of each cue, during the performance.



Brad Decker is a composer, educator, and performer of contemporary concert music, whose works often incorporate electronic, electroacoustic, or interactive media. His recent works explore the interaction of acoustic instruments and electronics to create immersive composite textures. His instrumental works combine virtuosic flourishes, polyrhythmic interplay, and extended techniques. Electronic elements include interactive computer processing and sampling, multichannel diffusion, and fixed-media accompaniments. Multimedia projects range from traditional film soundtracks to live-performed improvisations with video. As a double bassist, he regularly performs his own compositions and improvisations that incorporate computer interactivity. His teachers include Peter Hestermann, Kenneth Jacobs, Erik Lund, Heinrich Taube, Steven Taylor, and Scott Wyatt. He has attended masterclasses and lessons with composers Agostino DiScipio, Stefano Gervasoni, Lee Hyla, and Tristan Murail. He currently teaches music composition and technology at Eastern Illinois University. His music is distributed through his website www.braddecker.org.

Peripheral Vision

for flute, oboe, and computer

For Rebecca Johnson and Elizabeth Sullivan

Brad Decker
2020
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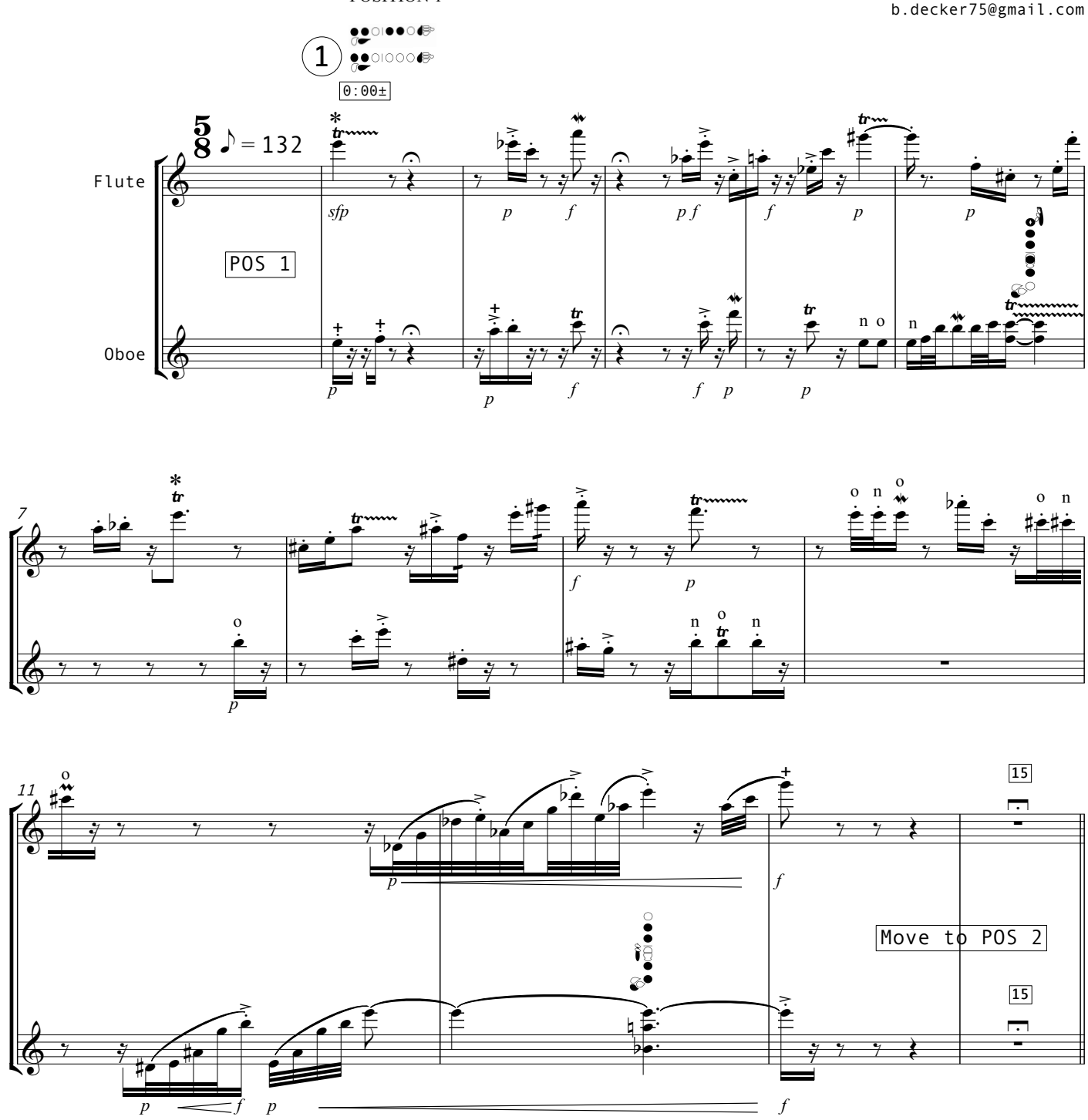
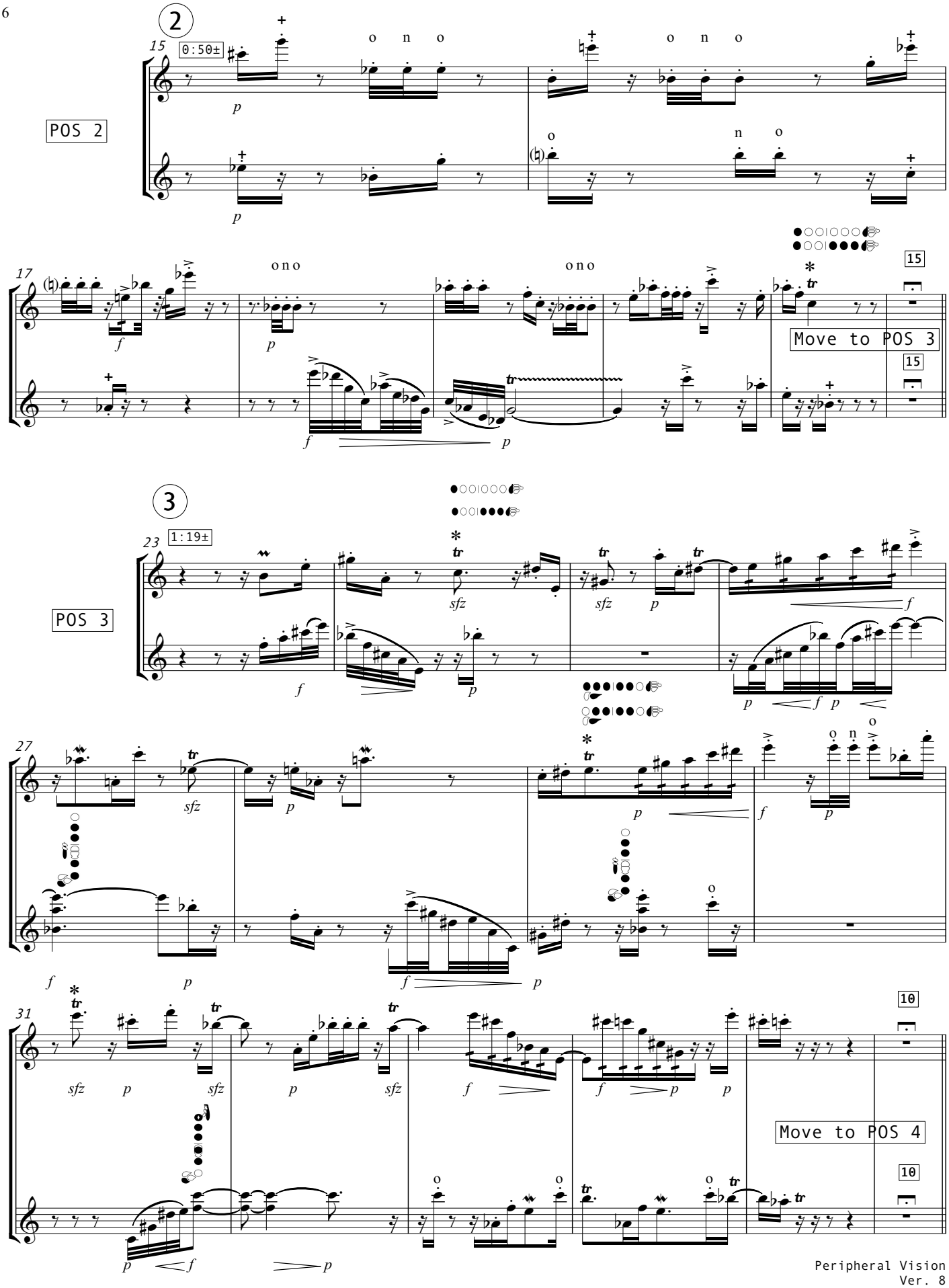
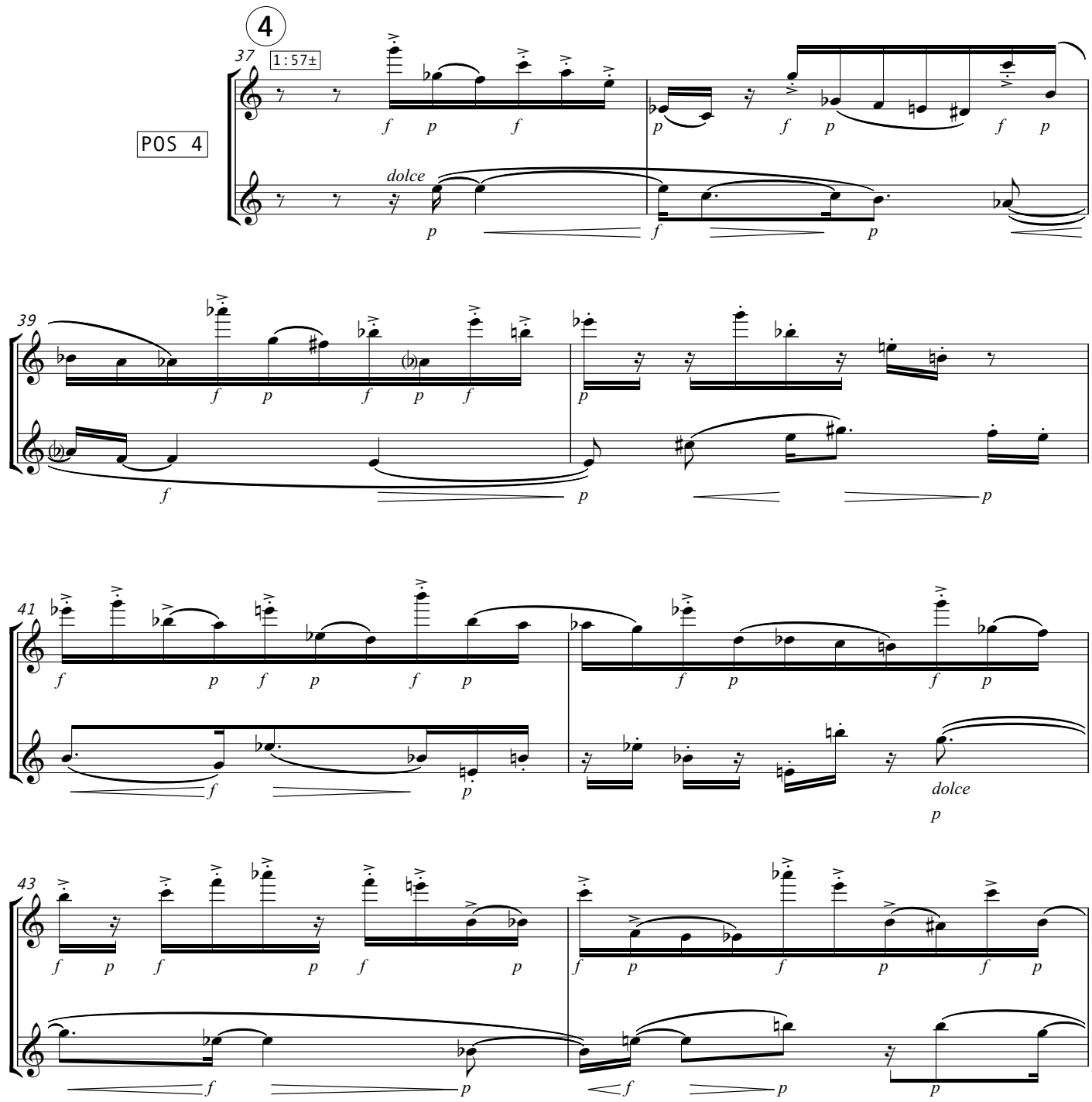
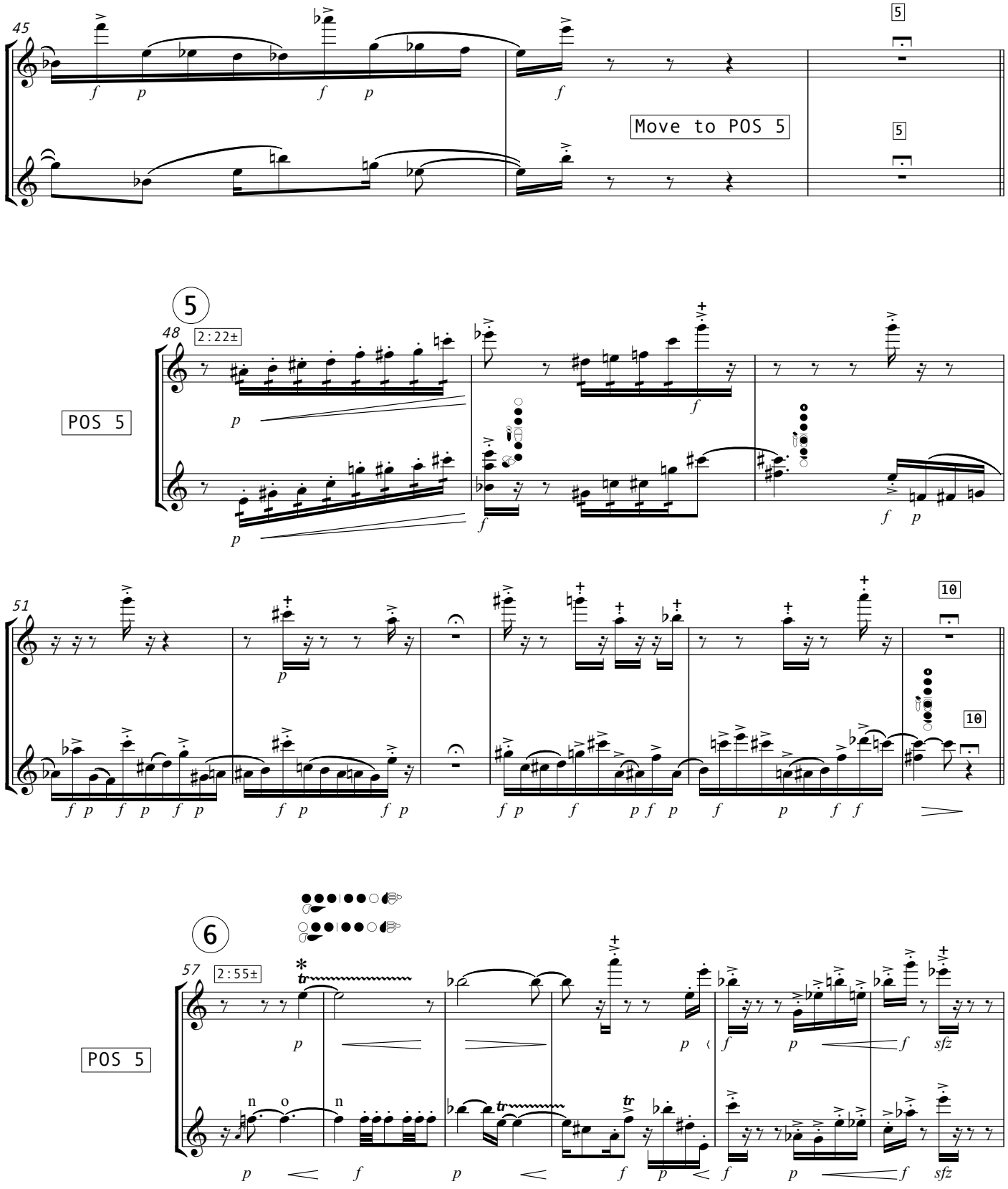
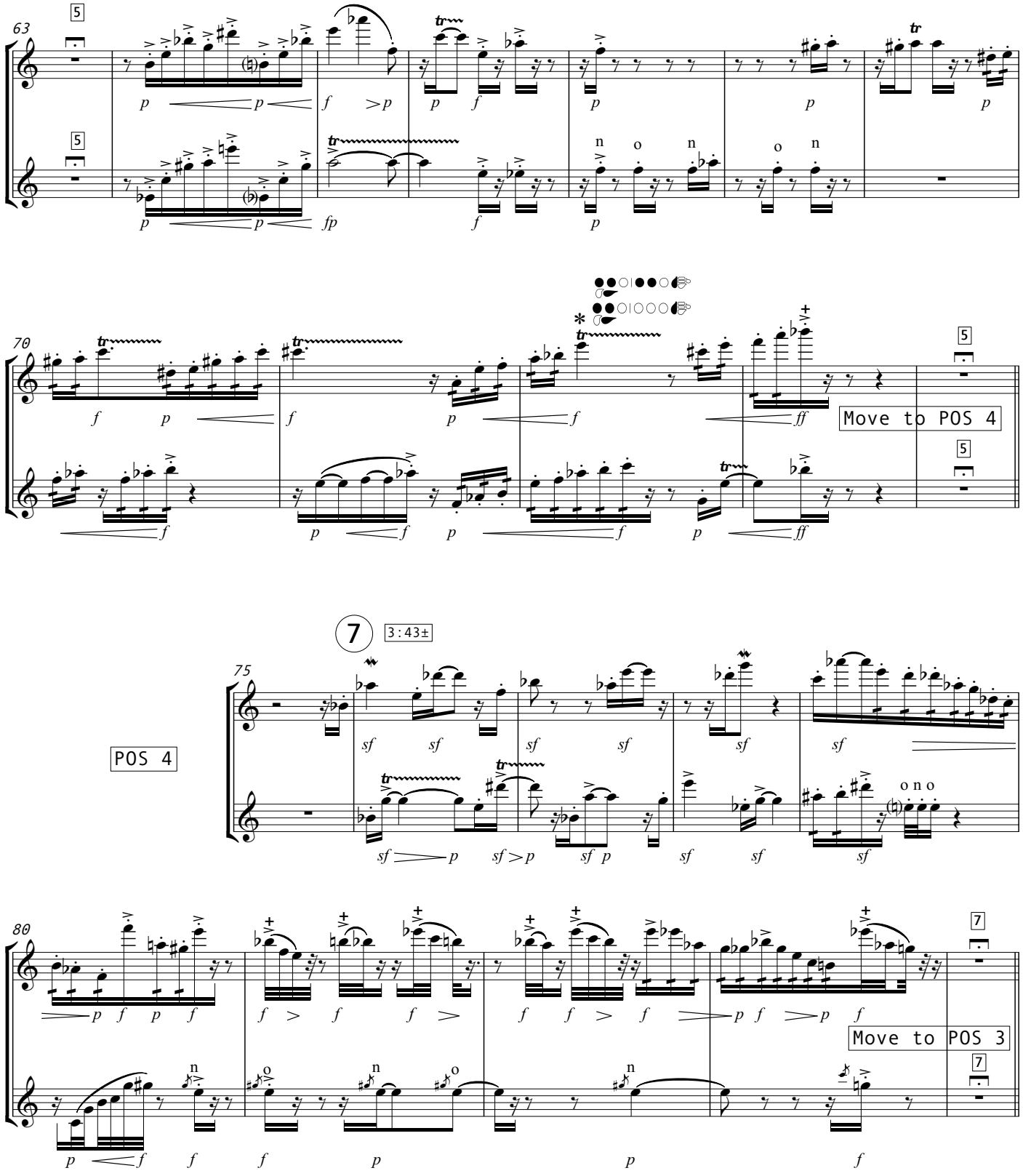
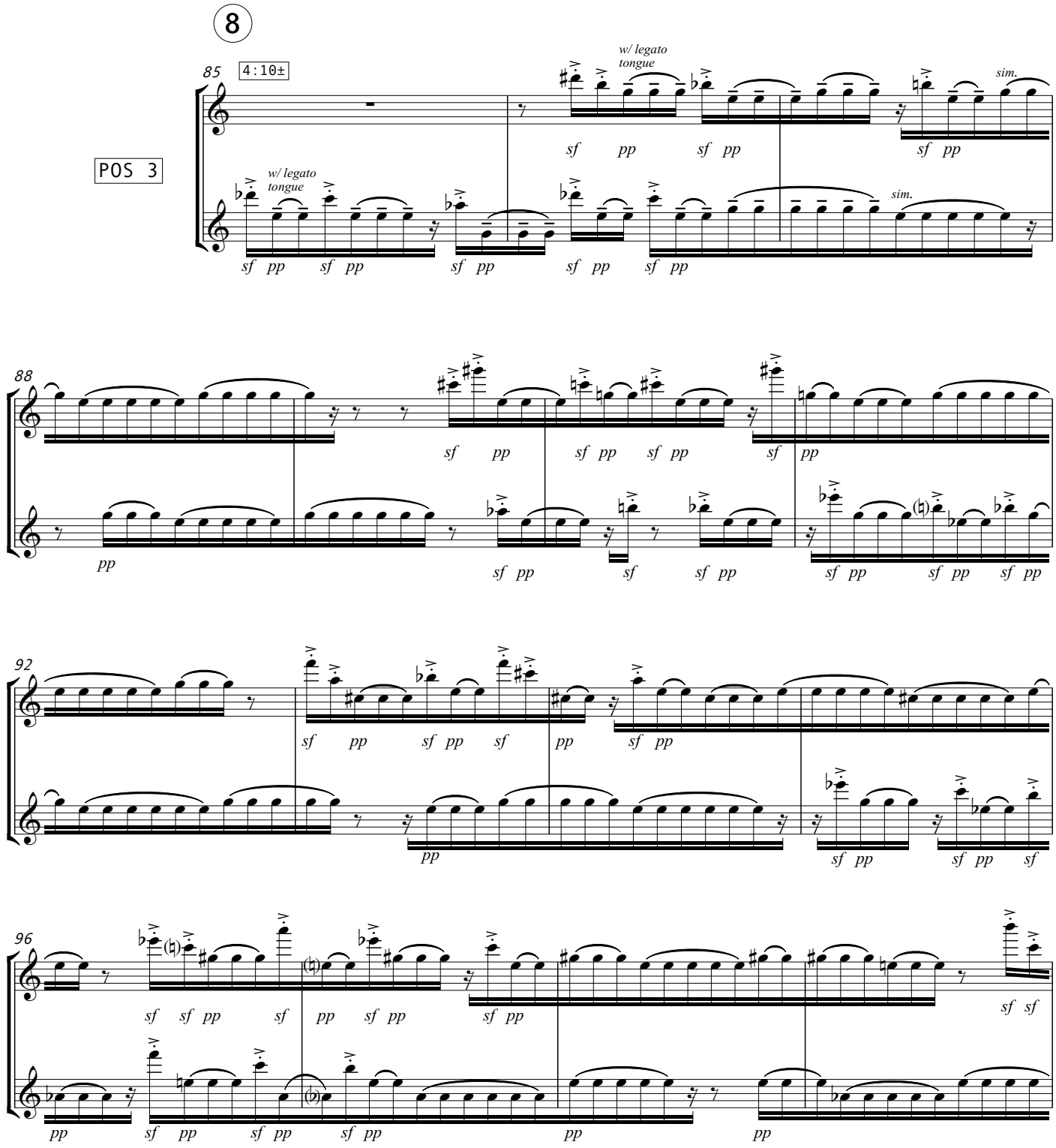


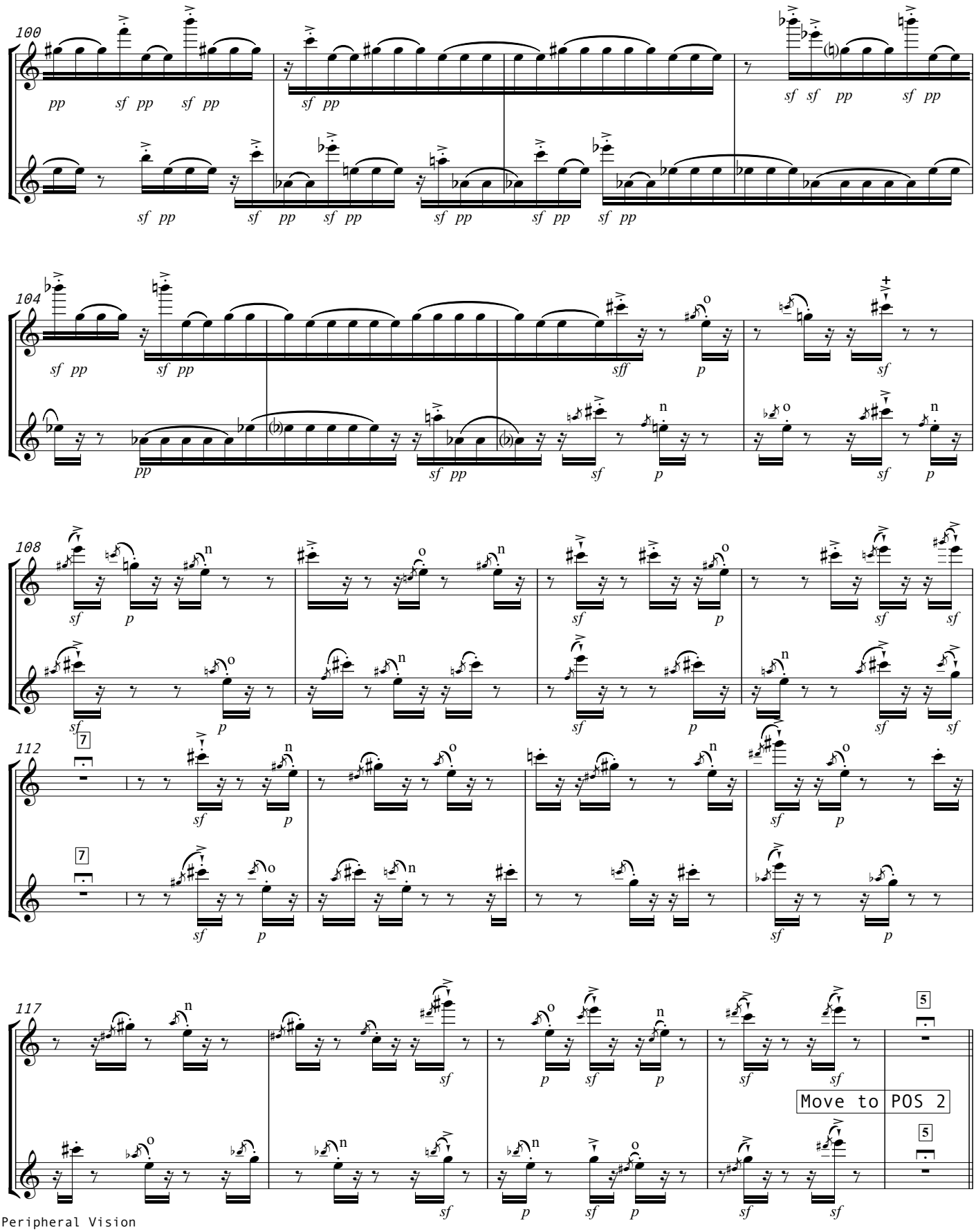

2
15
0:50±
o n o
o n o
POS 2
o n o
17
ono
ono
15
Move to POS 3
15
3
23
1:19±
POS 3
27
31
10
Move to POS 4
10

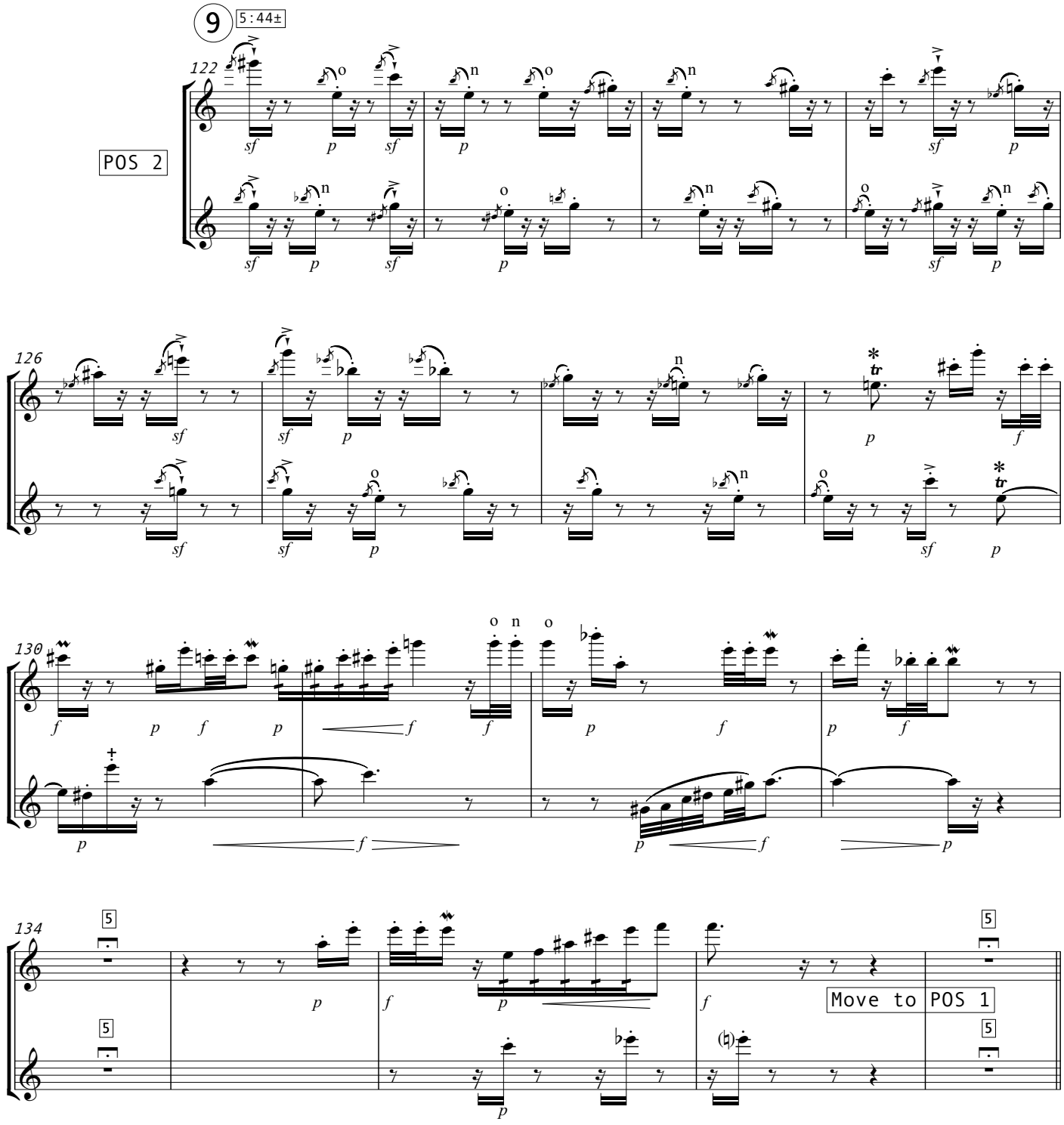

4
37
1:57±
POS 4
dolce
39
41
dolce
43

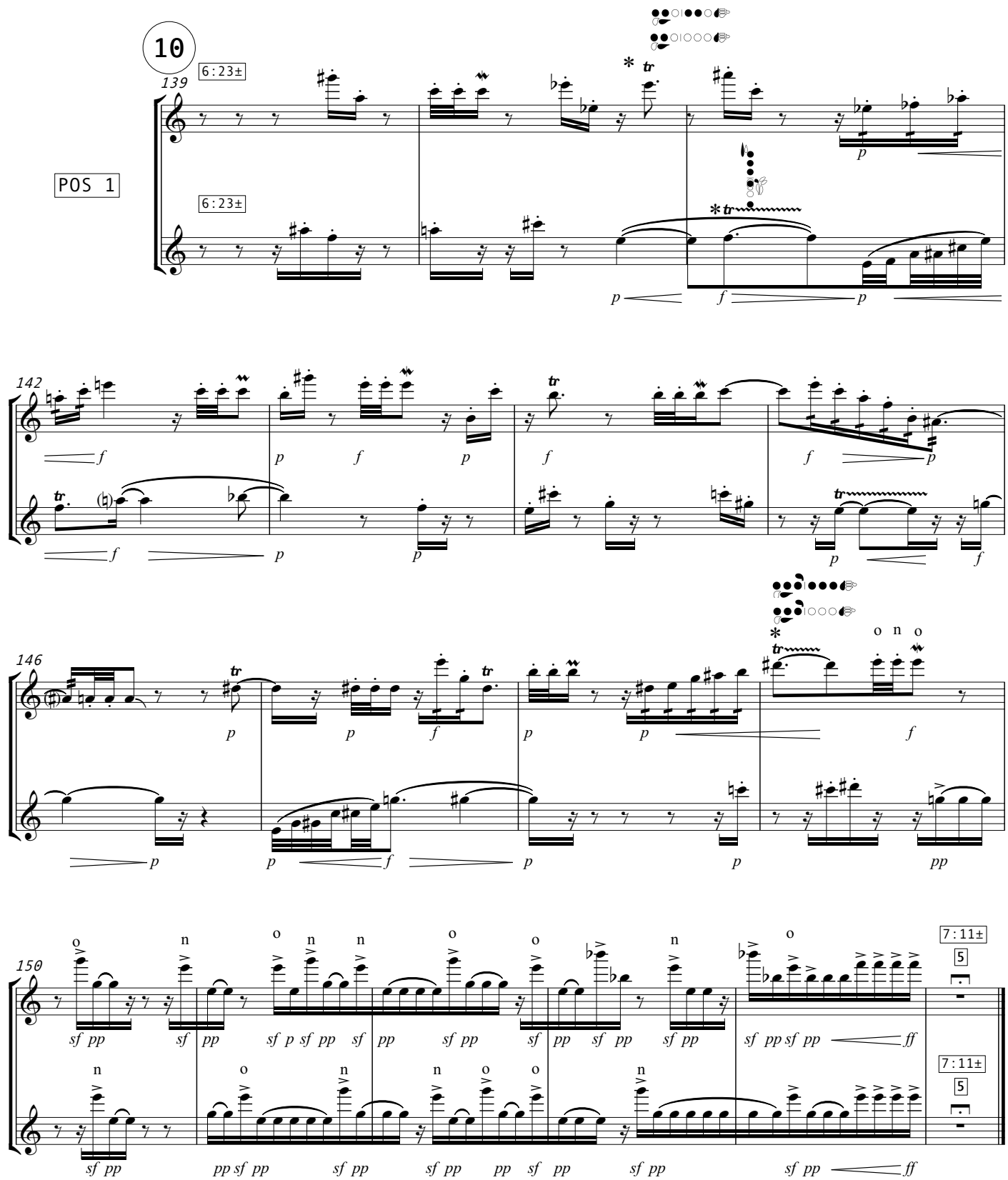

45
Move to POS 5
5
48
2:22±
POS 5
51
10
6
57
2:55±
POS 5


63
70
Move to POS 4
7
3:43±
POS 4
75
80
Move to POS 3


8
85
4:10±
POS 3
w/ legato tongue
sim.
88
92
96


100
104
108
112
117
Move to POS 2


9
5:44±
122
POS 2
126
130
134
Move to POS 1


10
139
6:23±
6:23±
POS 1
142
146
150
7:11±
7:11±