Neil Buckland

Sylvan

duet

for two flutes,
alto recorders
or
clarinets

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"**Sylvan**: [n.] … a deity or spirit of the woods.
[adj.] pertaining or relating to a wood or woods"
(OED)

Many people experience a sense of awe or mystery in forests, sometimes almost a sense of numinous presence. In the especially rich and complex environment of a rainforest this experience can be particularly intense.

This piece arose from reflections in the New England rainforest of northern New South Wales, and reflections, in both senses of the word, are essential to the music. It was written originally in 1991 as a duet for two similar instruments and later expanded into an orchestral piece. In this revision of the original version, made in 2012, I have extended the central section and made some other minor changes.

Performance notes

The sections without time signature should be played with an air of reflective spontaneity, as if being improvised.

The symbol indicates a short pause – i.e. the note should be held *slightly* longer than written.

The grace notes in parentheses are optional, but must be played or omitted in both parts, so the players need to make a joint decision as to whether to play them or not.

When played on recorders, a tongued legato should be used for most of the slurred notes.

N.B., Melbourne, 2012

Duration: approx. 8'45

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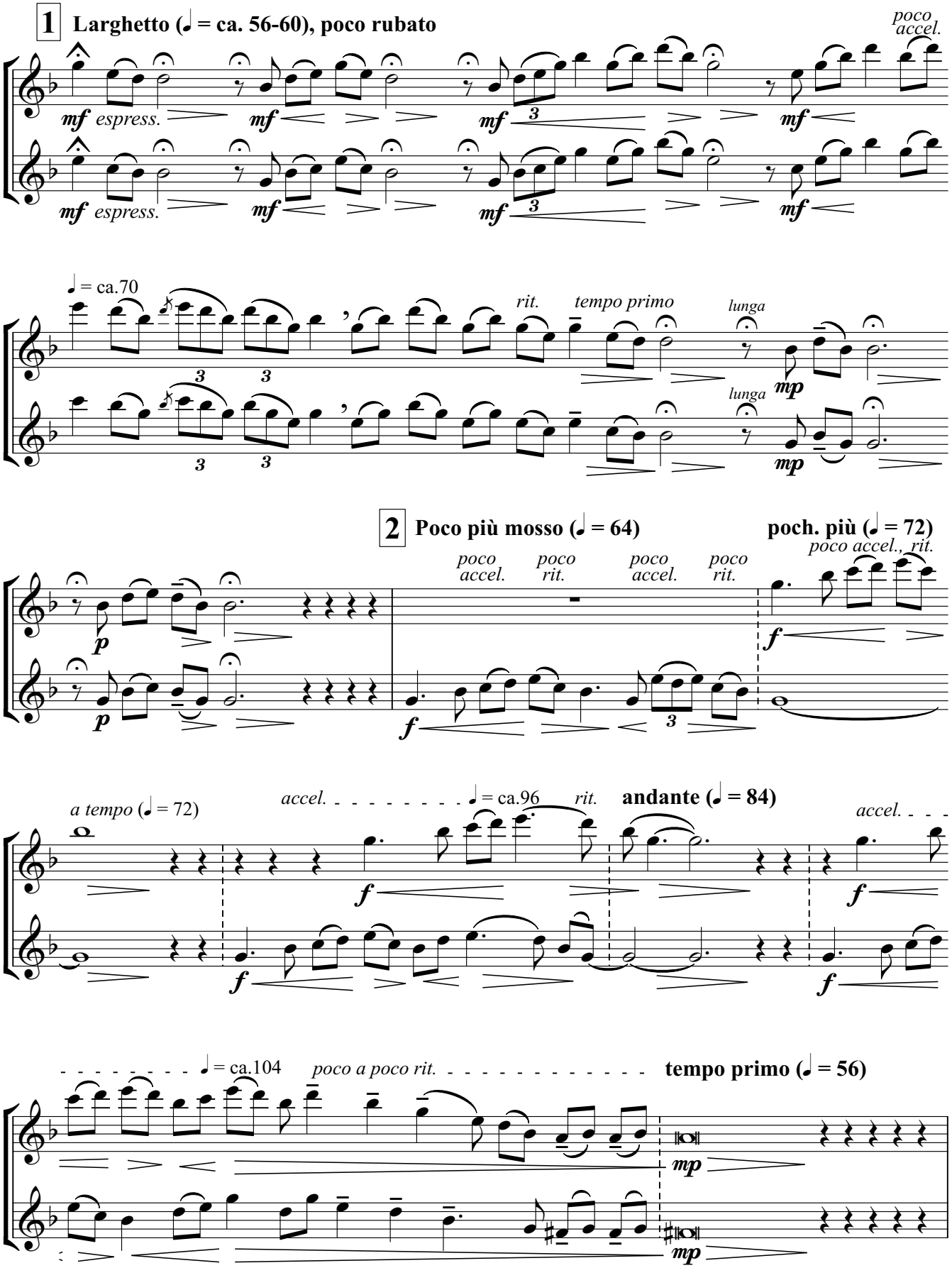

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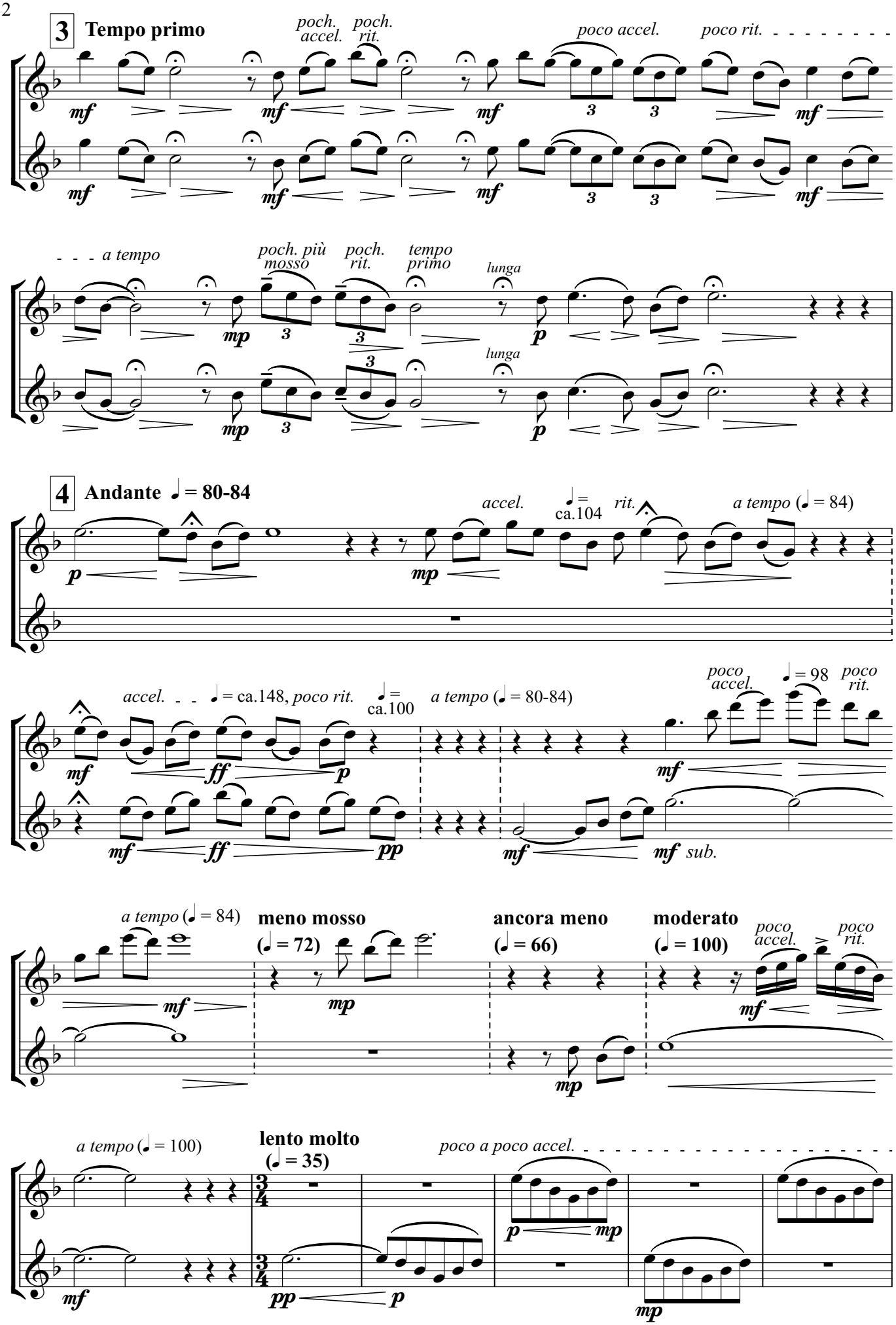
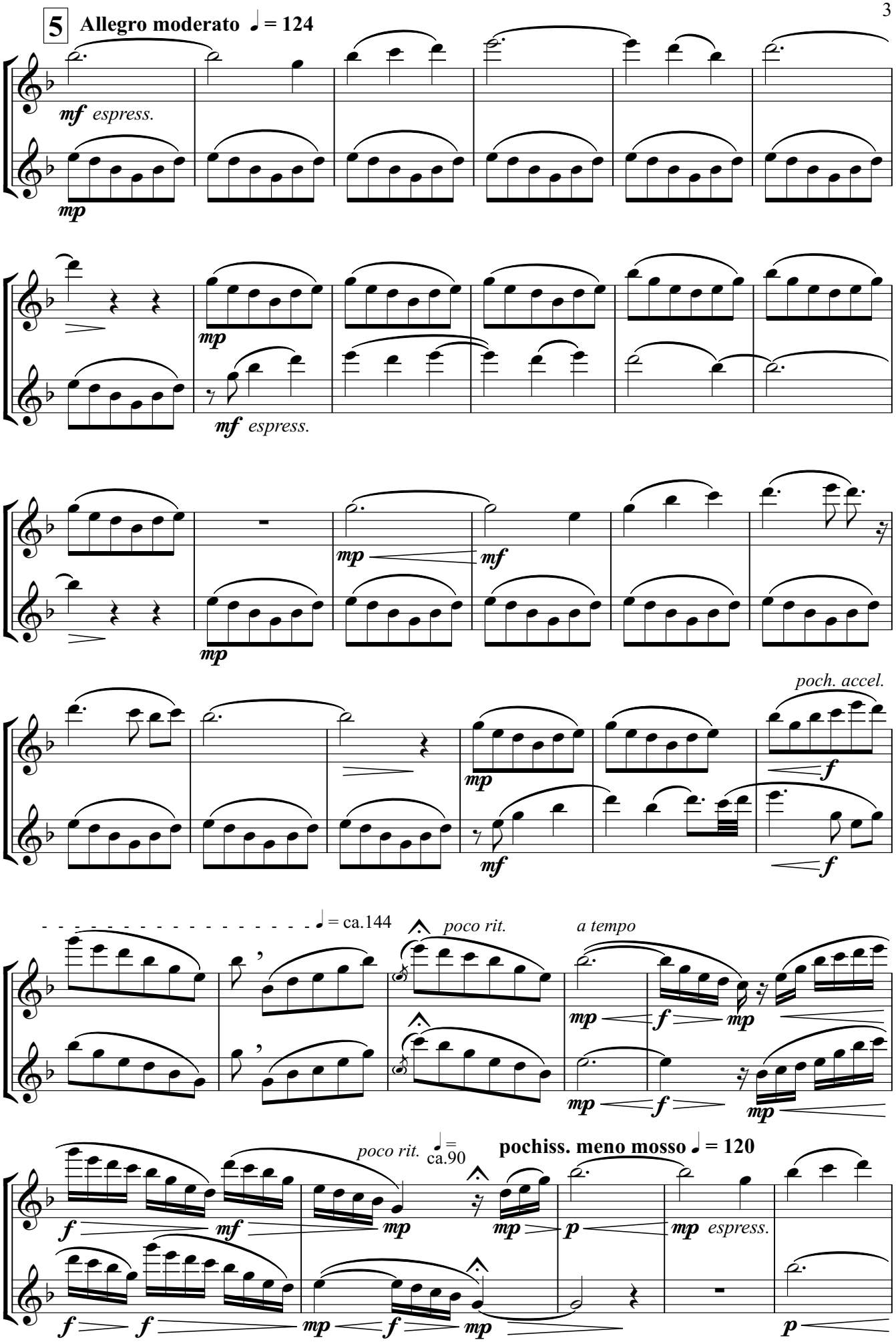
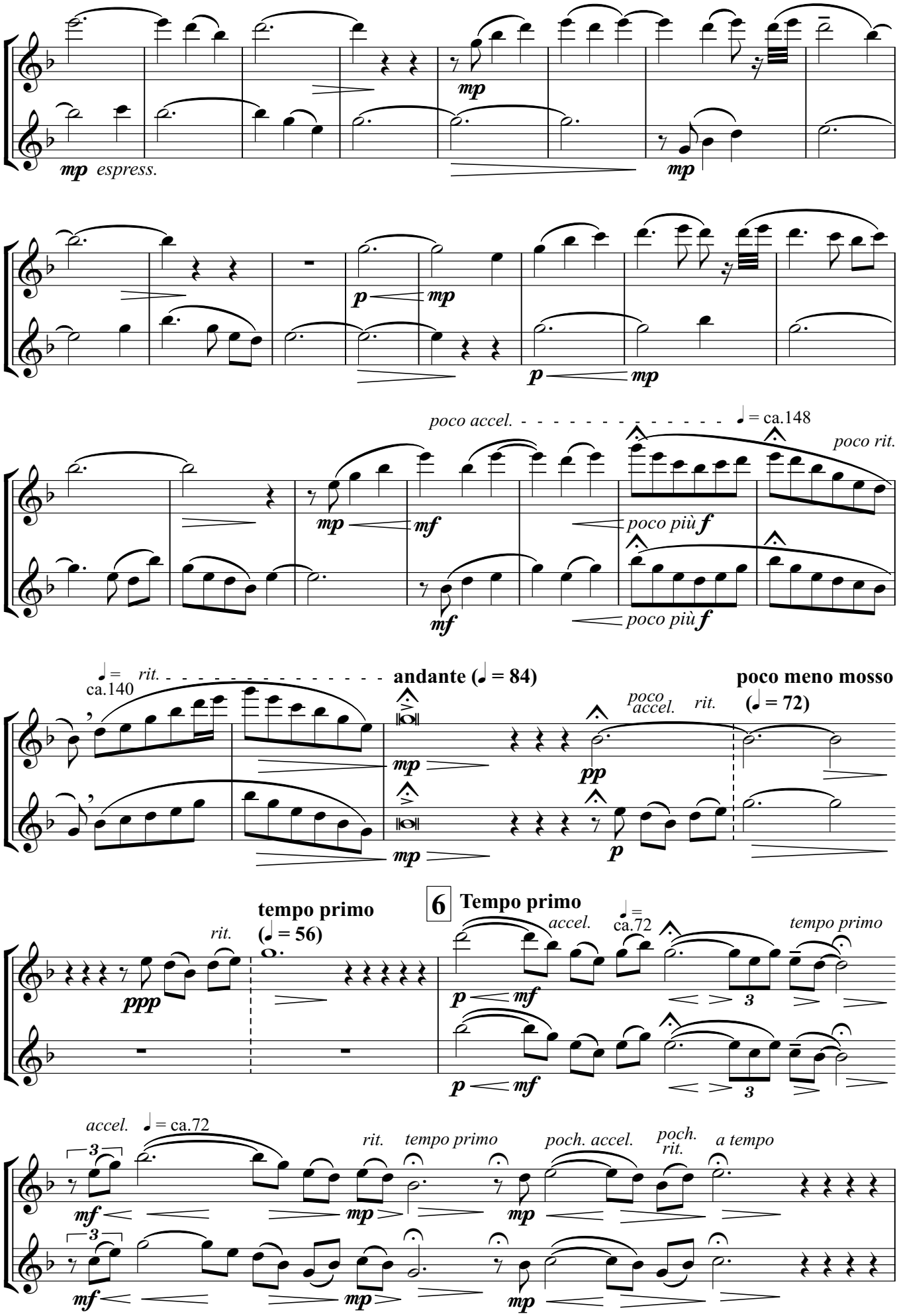
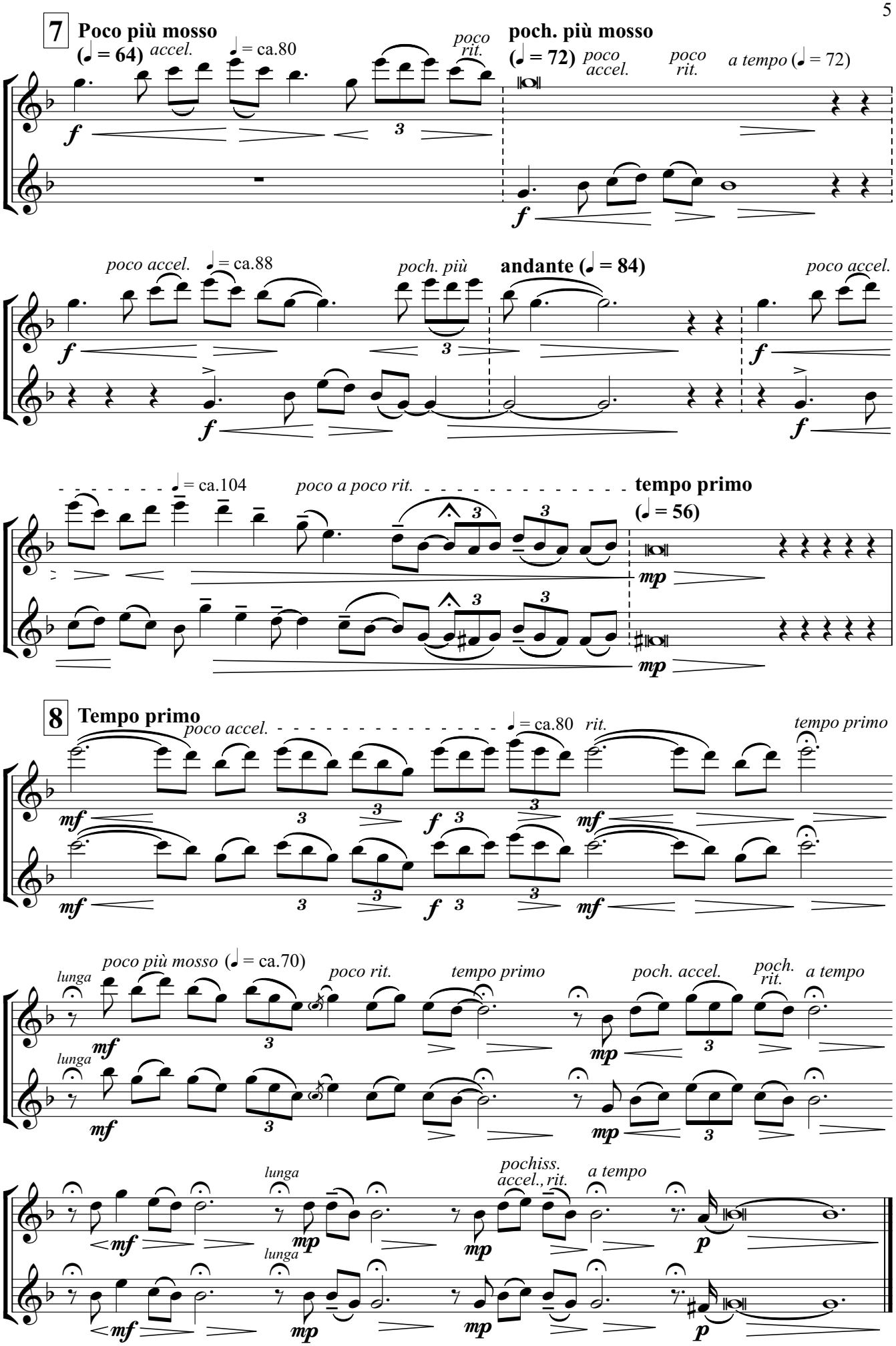

3 Tempo primo
poch. accel.
poch. rit.
poco accel.
poco rit.
a tempo
poch. più mosso
poch. rit.
tempo primo
lunga
4 Andante ♩ = 80-84
accel.
♩ = ca.104
rit.
a tempo (♩ = 84)
accel.
♩ = ca.148, poco rit.
♩ = ca.100
a tempo (♩ = 80-84)
poco accel.
♩ = 98
poco rit.
sub.
a tempo (♩ = 84)
meno mosso
(♩ = 72)
ancora meno
(♩ = 66)
moderato
(♩ = 100)
poco accel.
poco rit.
a tempo (♩ = 100)
lento molto
(♩ = 35)
poco a poco accel.


5
Allegro moderato ♩ = 124
mf espress.
mp
mp
mf espress.
mp
mf
mp
poch. accel.
mp
f
mf
f
♩ = ca.144
poco rit.
a tempo
mp
f
mp
mp
f
mp
poco rit.
♩ = ca.90
pochiss. meno mosso ♩ = 120
f
mf
mp
mp
p
mp espress.
f
f
mp
f
mp
p


mp espress.
mp
mp
p
mp
p
mp
poco accel.
♩= ca.148
poco rit.
mp
mf
poco più f
mf
poco più f
♩= ca.140
rit.
andante (♩= 84)
poco meno mosso
(♩= 72)
poco accel.
rit.
mp
pp
mp
p
tempo primo
(♩= 56)
rit.
6
Tempo primo
accel.
♩= ca.72
tempo primo
ppp
p
mf
3
p
mf
3
accel.
♩= ca.72
rit.
tempo primo
poch. accel.
poch. rit.
a tempo
3
mf
mp
mp
3
mf
mp
mp


7
Poco più mosso
(♩ = 64)
accel.
♩ = ca.80
poco rit.
poch. più mosso
(♩ = 72)
poco accel.
poco rit.
a tempo (♩ = 72)
poco accel.
♩ = ca.88
poch. più
andante (♩ = 84)
poco accel.
♩ = ca.104
poco a poco rit.
tempo primo
(♩ = 56)
8
Tempo primo
poco accel.
♩ = ca.80
rit.
tempo primo
poco più mosso (♩ = ca.70)
lunga
poco rit.
tempo primo
poch. accel.
poch. rit.
a tempo
lunga
pochiss. accel., rit.
a tempo