Torch Song | Matthew Chamberlain

| *score*

for String Quartet | March 2017 | Buffalo, NY

Notation

This piece uses the standard quarter-tone accidentals. In addition, arrows are frequently attached to an accidental so as to raise or lower it by an approximate eighth-tone. The precise alteration of pitch called for by an arrow may range from 15¢ – 31¢, in accordance with the performer's sensibility and interpretation of the harmony to which the pitch contributes.

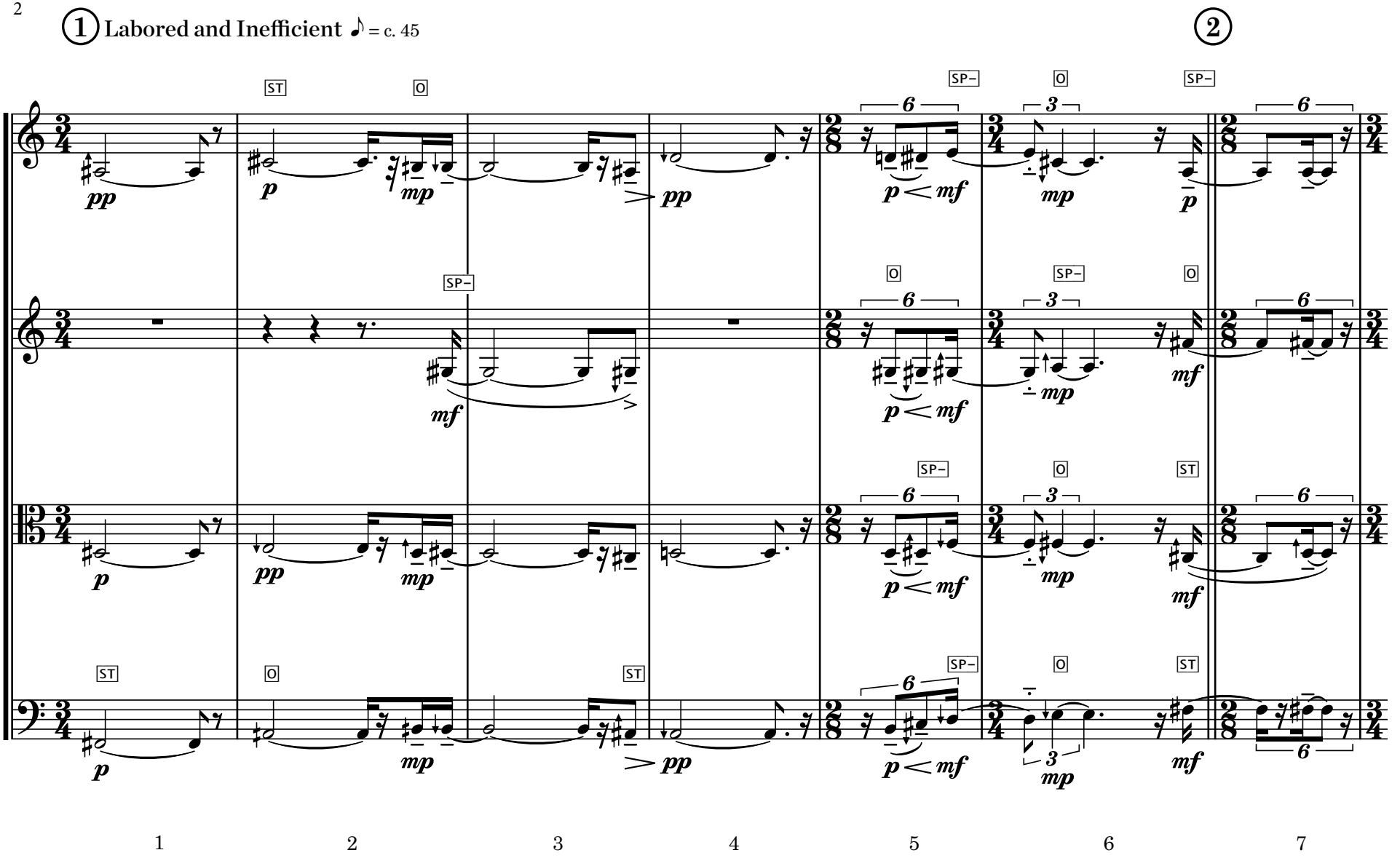
In this piece, marcato pitches do not necessarily indicate an accented attack. Rather, the dynamic of marcato tones should be somewhat exaggerated, marking them as particularly significant. Towards this end, the performer may also modify the timbre and/or articulation of a marcato note, although they must then take care to distinguish it from other accented sounds.

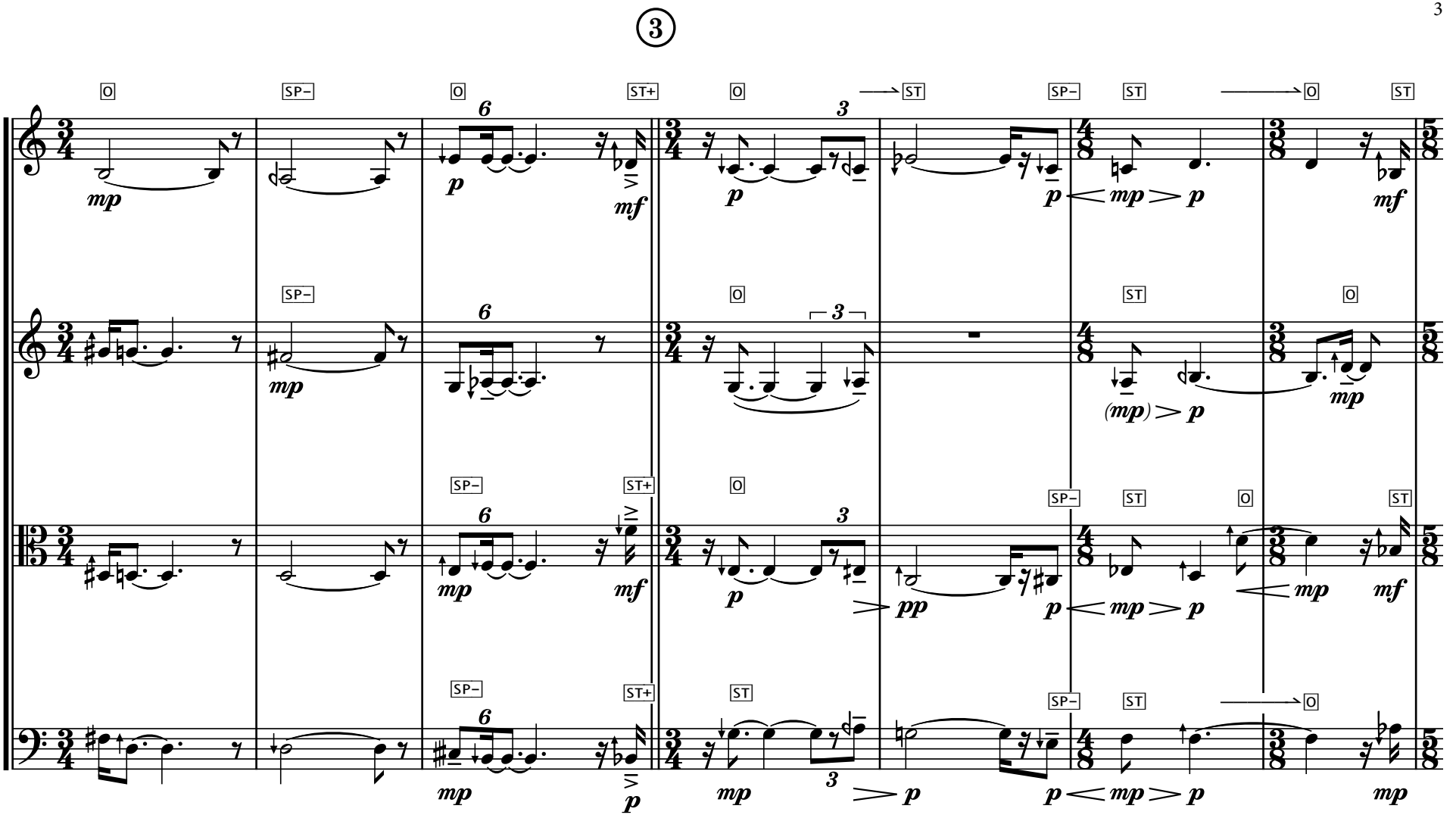
'Reverse accents' call for a rapid crescendo and diminuendo at the onset of a sound — sounding something like '*wah.*' The starting and ending dynamic of the reverse accent are the prevailing dynamic; the intensity of the crescendo should be similar to that of a normal accent in the context.

The 'bow fermata' calls for each player to sustain the sound until the end of their current bow stroke. No effort should be made to exaggerate the bow speed so as to prolong the sound. Each player should finish independently of the rest. The ensemble moves on together once the last player has dropped out.

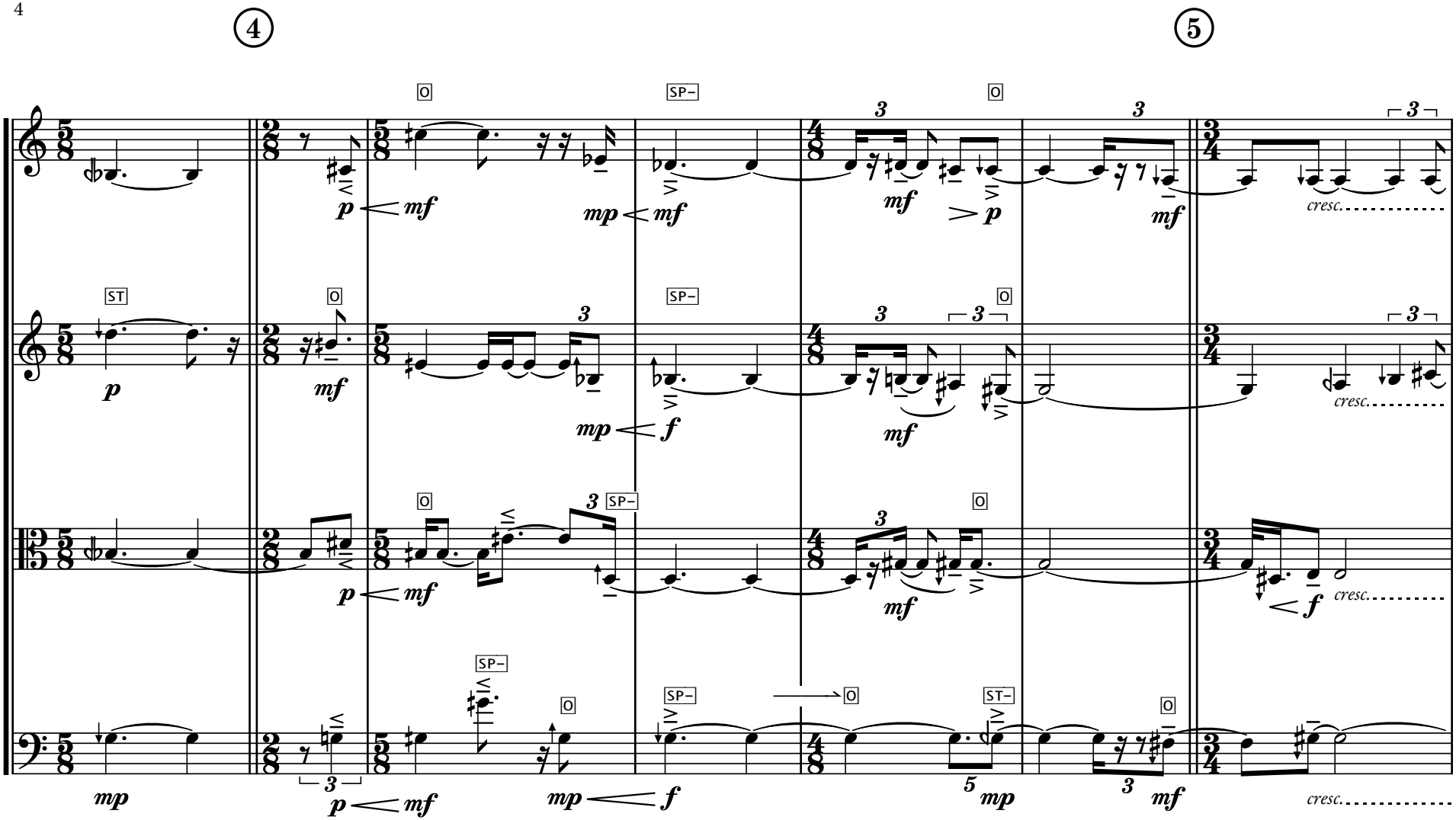
Details

duration: ca. 4:30
completed: 6 March 2017


1 Labored and Inefficient ♪ = c. 45
2
ST
O
SP–
pp
p
mp
mf
6
3
1
2
3
4
5
6
7

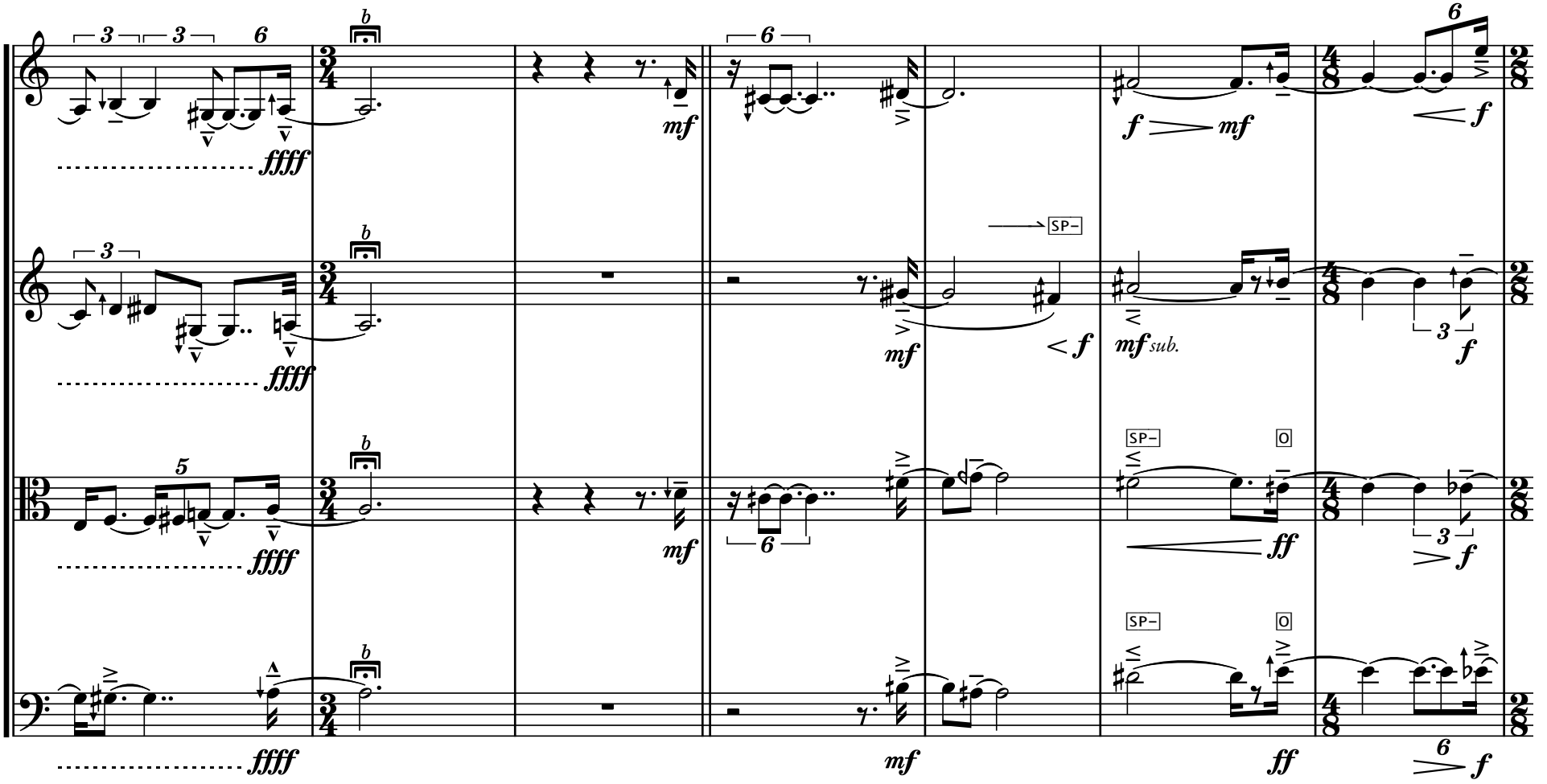


8 9 10 11 12 13 14

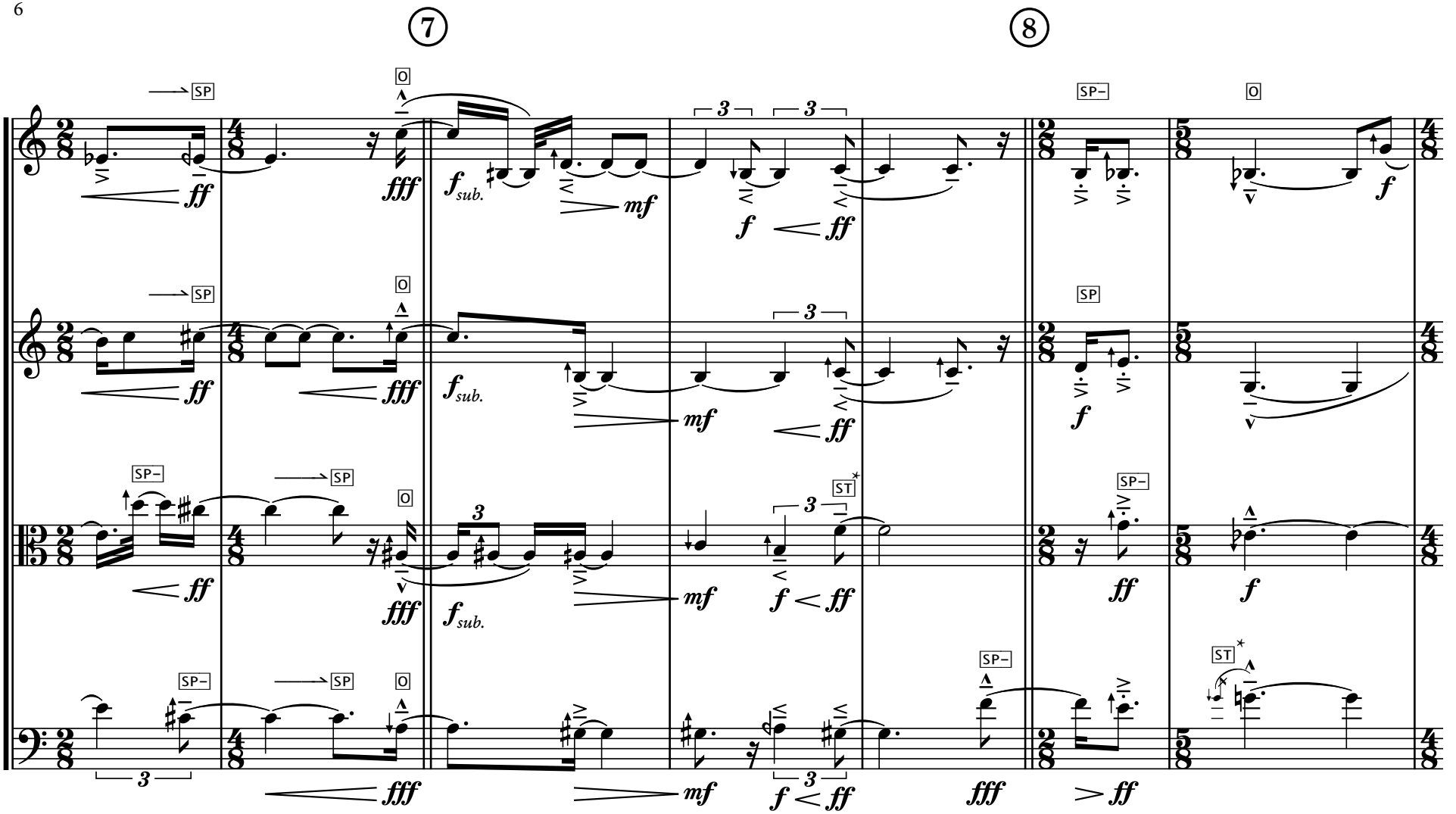


15 16 17 18 19 20 21

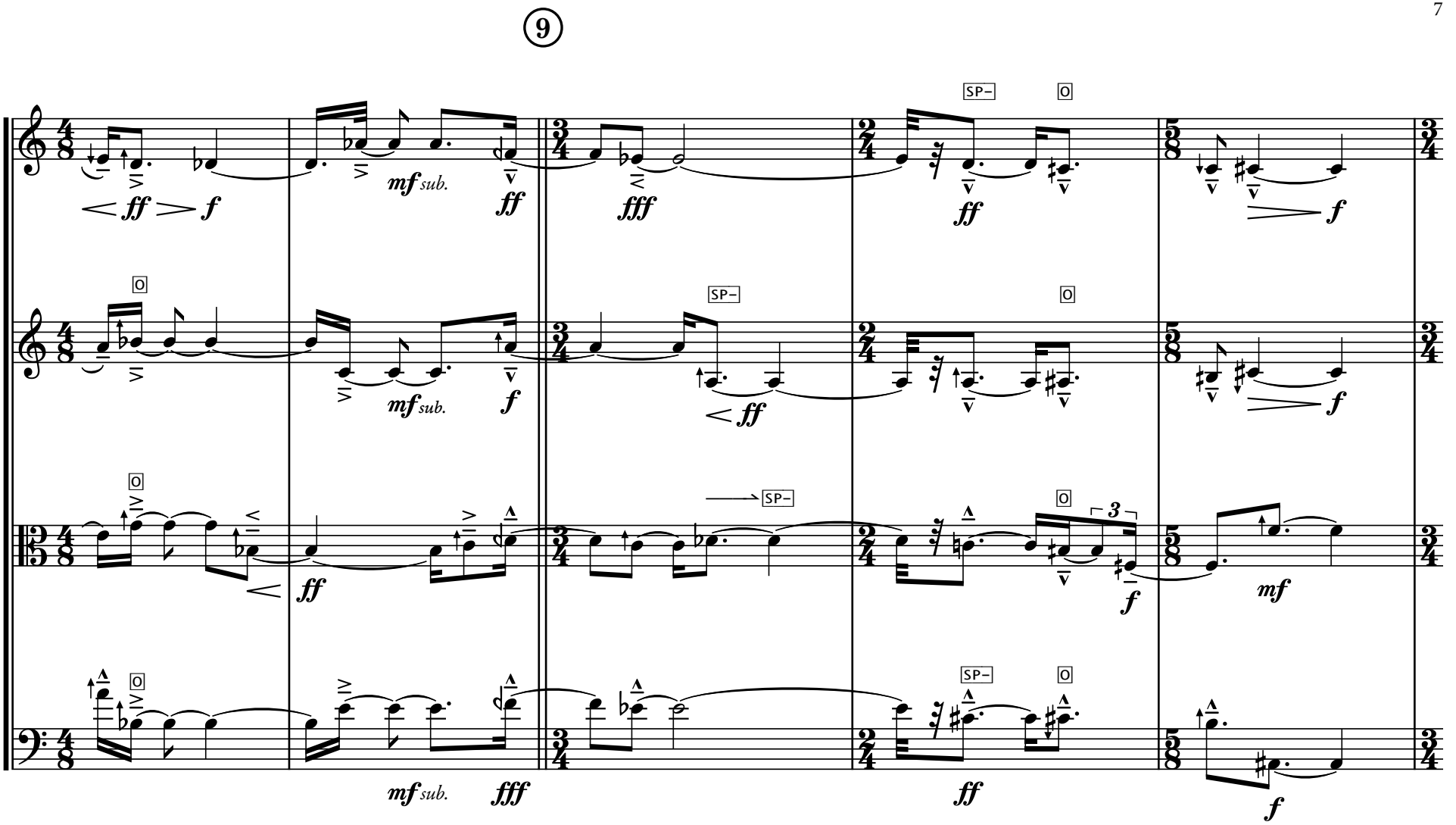
6 Less Patiently ♪ = c. 60



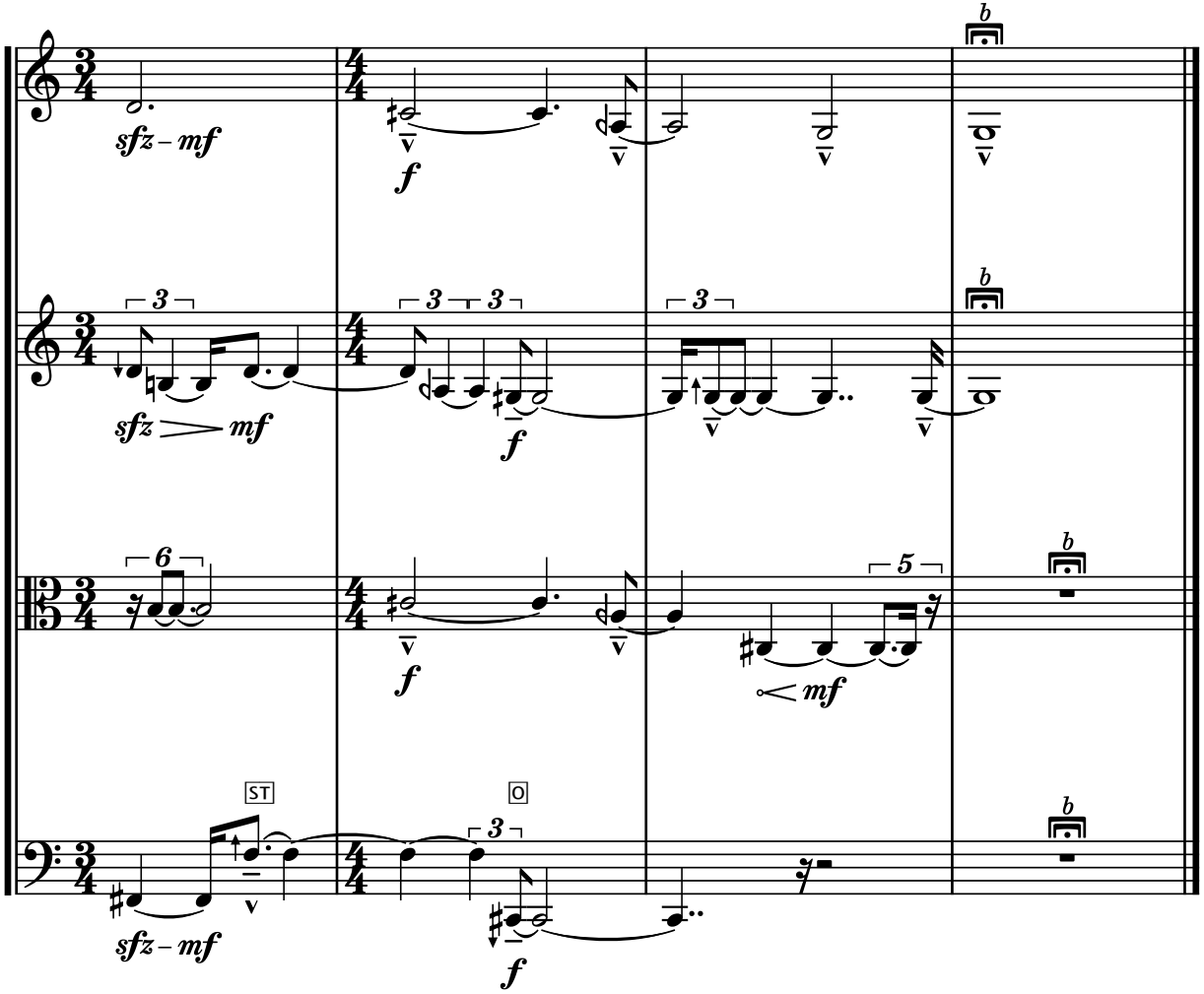
22 23 24 25 26 27 28



*Moderate bow position as needed to avoid sustained scratch-tone.



36 37 38 39 40



41 42 43 44