String Walkers

Commissioned by SNU Haegeum Ensemble

2021

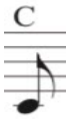
For Haegeum and Tenor Haegeum

Soo Yeon Lyuh

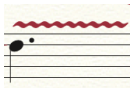
Program Note

Dedicated to a cellist colleague of mine (Joan Jeanrenaud), this piece is my attempt to recreate and flourish materials developed during our free improvisation sessions. Here we consider ourselves “string walkers,” playing string instruments together while imagining ourselves walking along a rope. In both senses of the word, the piece is about how two instrumentalists walking on a string are balancing each other out through careful juxtaposition and integration of different sections. Each section has been cherry-picked from a series of free improvisations we did back in 2017. Reverse-engineering parts from casually improvised music allowed me to compose a guideline piece that includes impromptu inserts for a variety of performers who wish to learn how to improvise. The duration of each improvisation section is subject to change according to the performer’s comfort level. In this process, extended techniques can be introduced, while leaving open the possibility of making adjustments on the non-improvisational parts with joy.

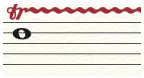
Performance Note



• c (symbol): Slide very quickly upwards from below the target note, typically through one half step.

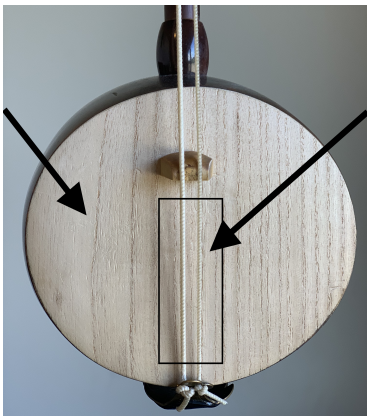


• Wide vibrato



• tr (symbol): Trill

• Tap the soundbox



• Behind bridge (pizz)

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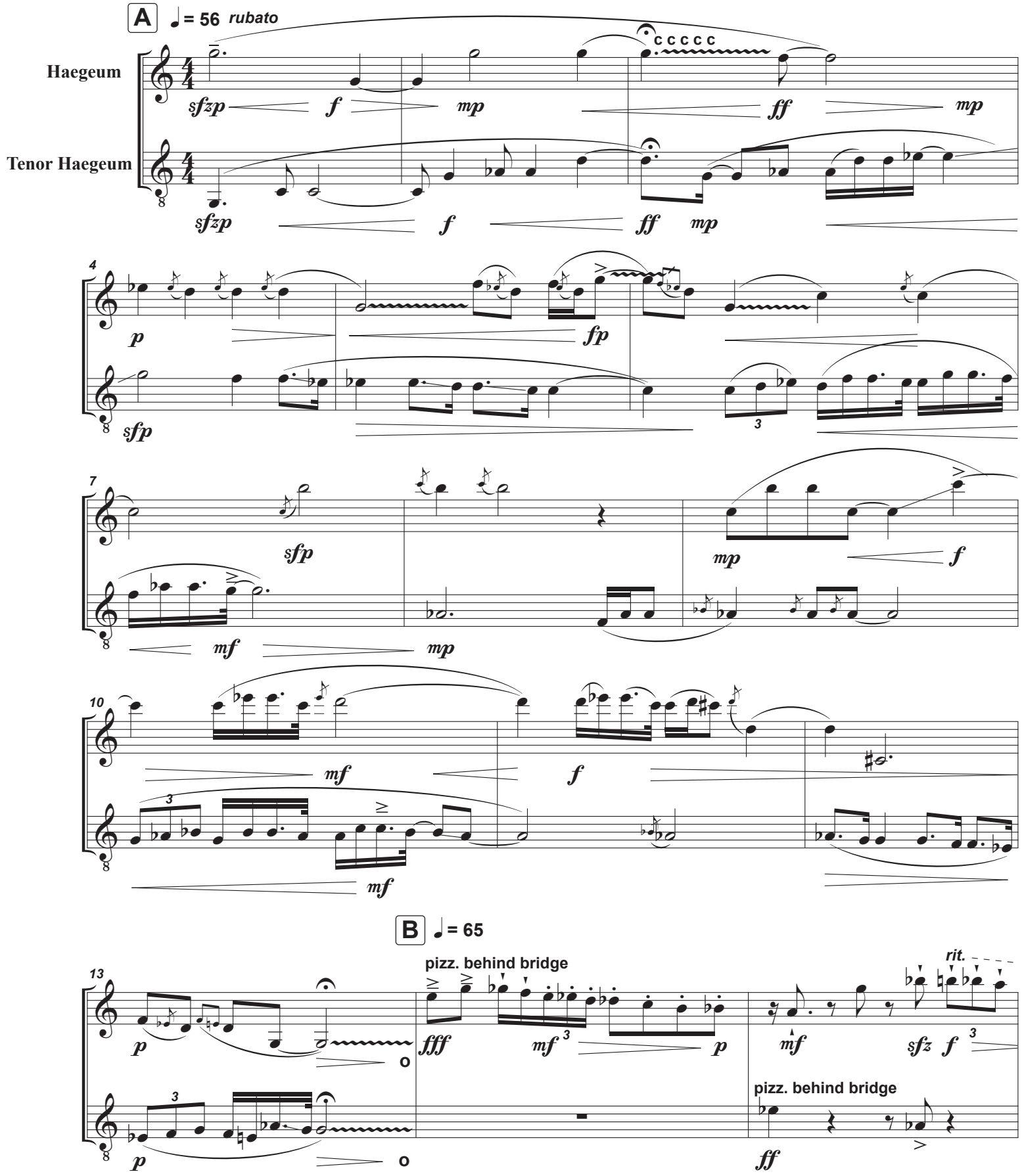
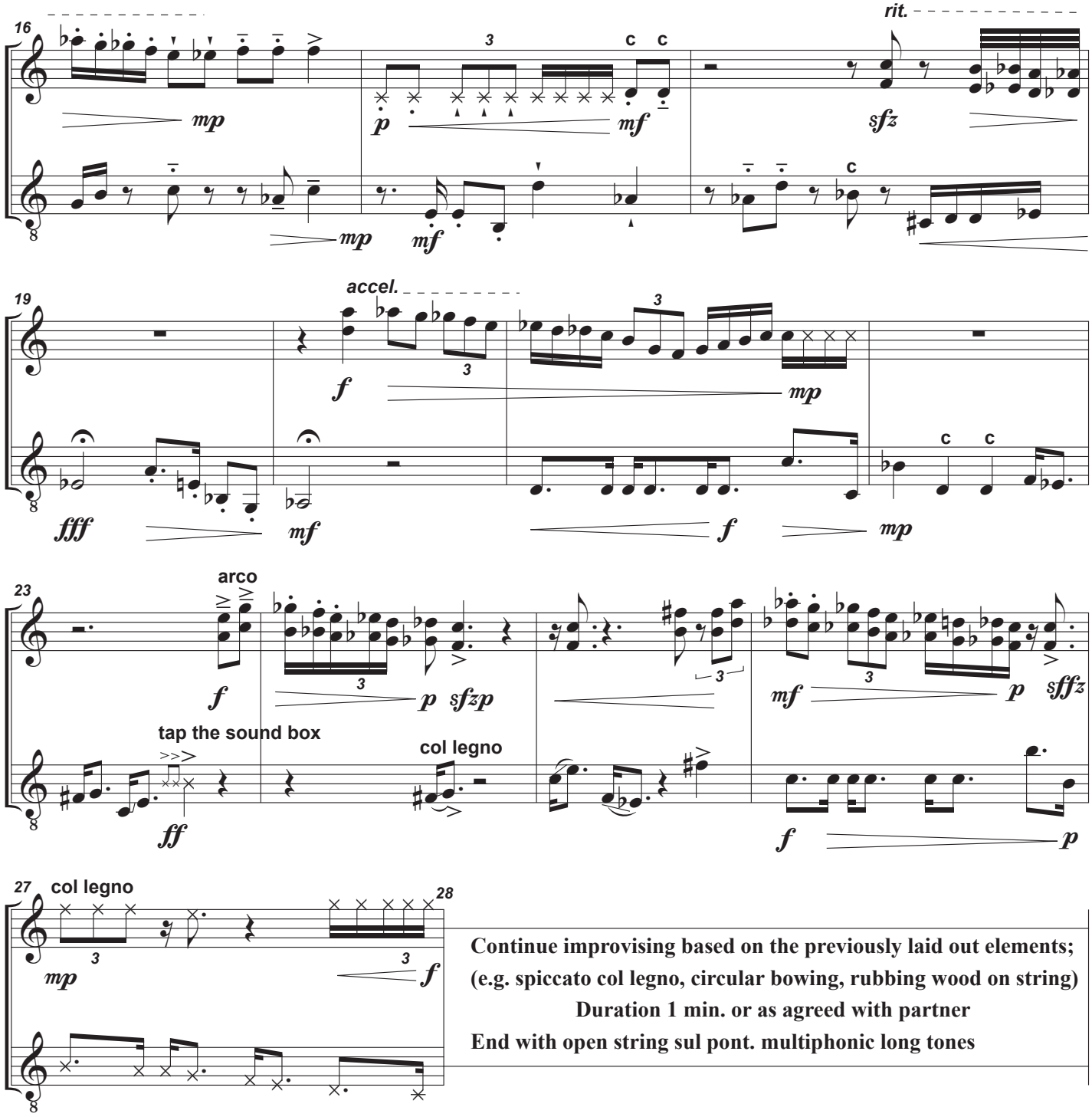
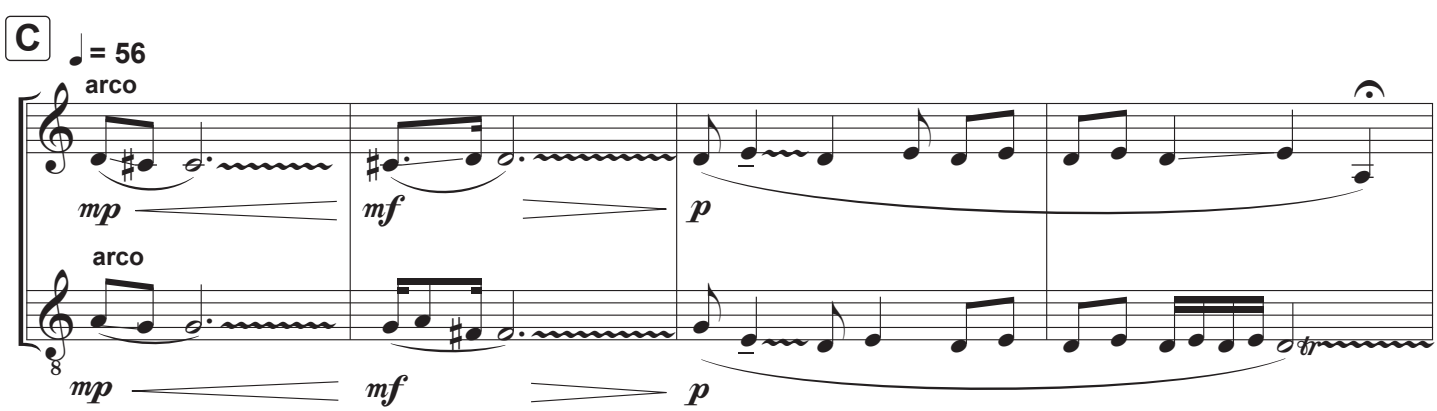
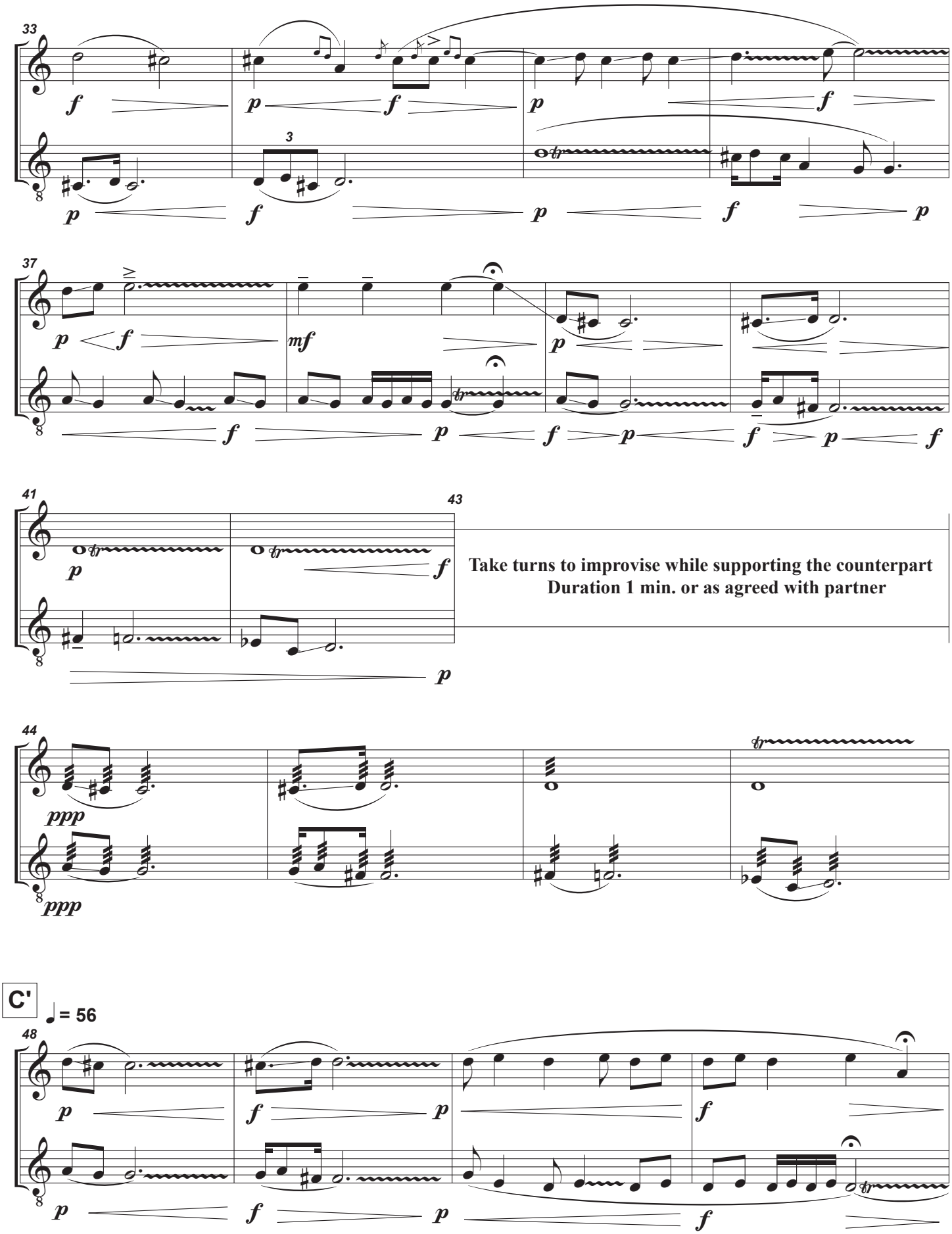
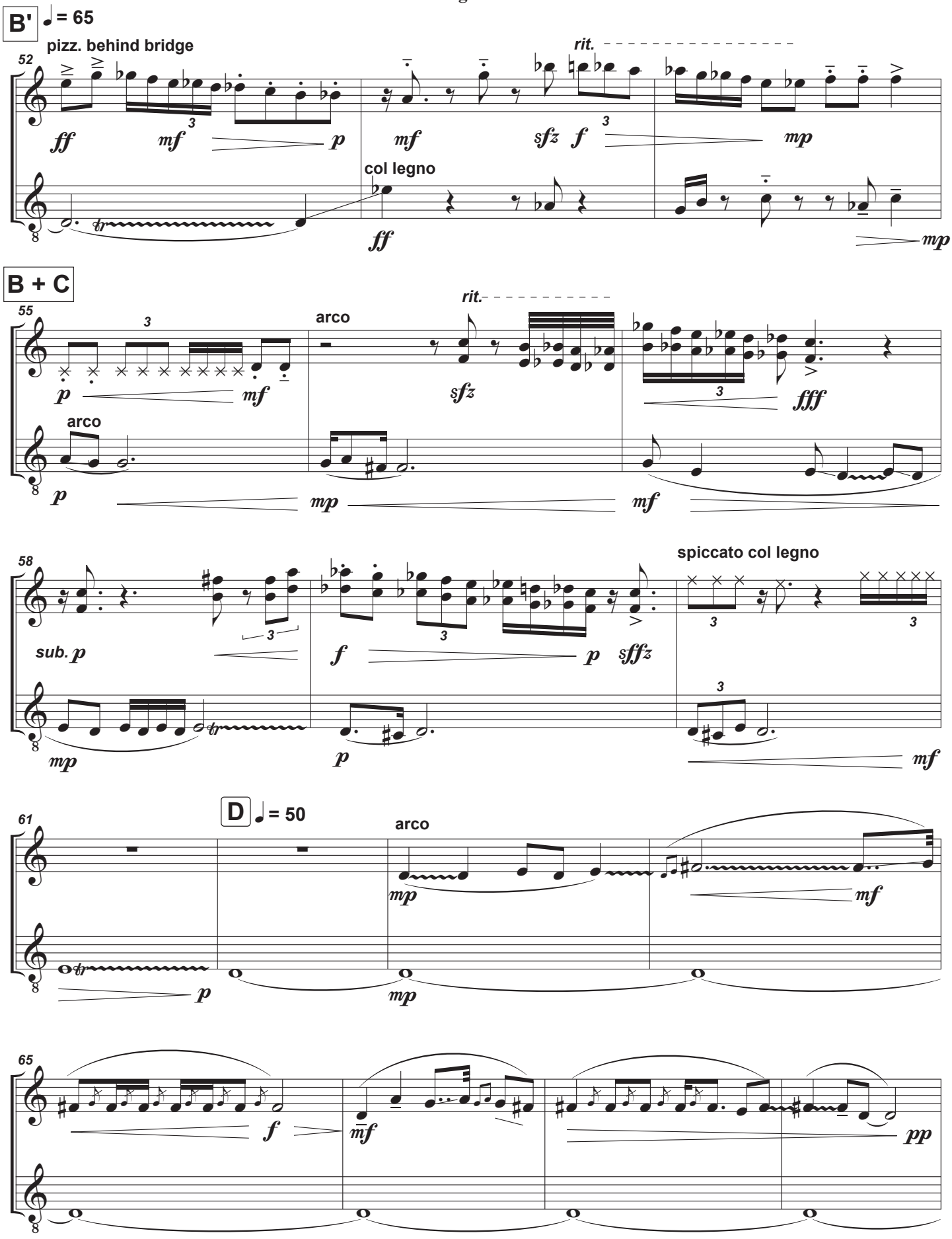


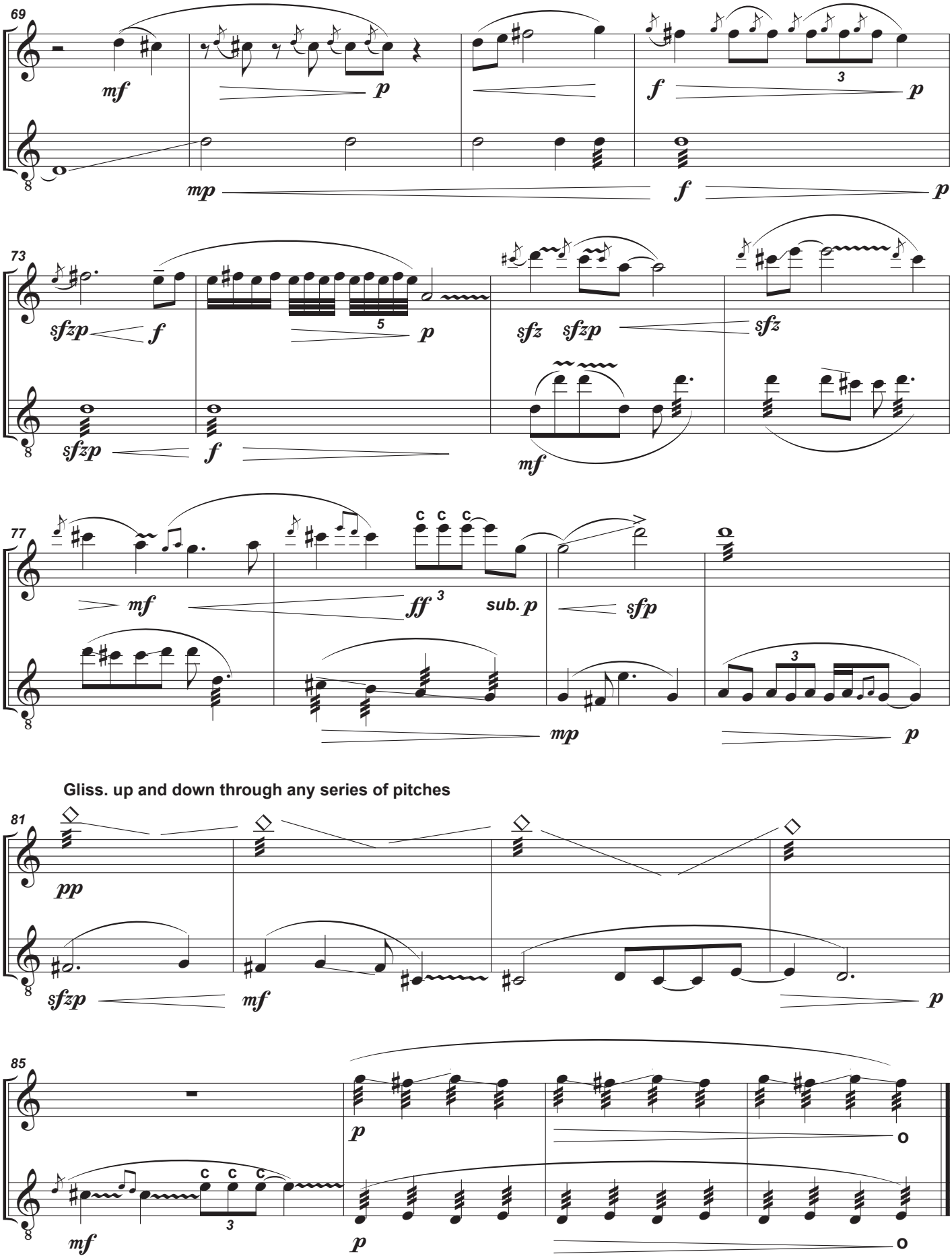


Continue improvising based on the previously laid out elements;
(e.g. spiccato col legno, circular bowing, rubbing wood on string)
Duration 1 min. or as agreed with partner
End with open string sul pont. multiphonic long tones




33
37
41
43
Take turns to improvise while supporting the counterpart
Duration 1 min. or as agreed with partner
44
C'
♩ = 56
48


B' ♩ = 65
pizz. behind bridge
52
rit.
ff
mf
p
mf
sfz
f
mp
col legno
ff
mp
B + C
55
rit.
arco
p
mf
sfz
fff
arco
p
mp
mf
58
spiccato col legno
sub. p
f
p
sffz
mp
p
mf
D ♩ = 50
61
arco
mp
mf
p
mp
65
f
mf
pp


69
mf
p
f
p
mp
f
p
73
sfzp
f
5
p
sfz
sfzp
sfz
sfzp
f
mf
77
mf
ff 3
sub. p
sfp
mp
p
3
Gliss. up and down through any series of pitches
81
pp
sfzp
mf
p
85
p
o
mf
3
p
o