The Flying Apsaras

for

String Quartet

(2006)

Wing-wah CHAN

The Flying Apsaras for String Quartet (2006) **Wing-wah Chan**

The Apsaras are celestial nymphs in the Hindu myths. They are described as very talented artistically and dance for the gods. In early 2006, the composer visited the city of Dunhuang along the Silk Road in Gansu Province of China. There are numerous caves inside full of wonderful sculptures and drawings of Buddhism stories. These artworks date back as early as the 3rd century when Buddhism started to arrive China. Most of these caves contain many Apsaras holding different kinds of musical instruments in flying and dancing postures. Even orchestras of various sizes are found. They become one of the most important traits of music making at that time.
The composer envisions that they are dancing and playing for peace, something that this modern world is missing!

This piece was written for the Ensemble Antipodes for the ISCM World Music Days Festival 2006 in Stuttgart.

Approximate Duration : 8' 20"

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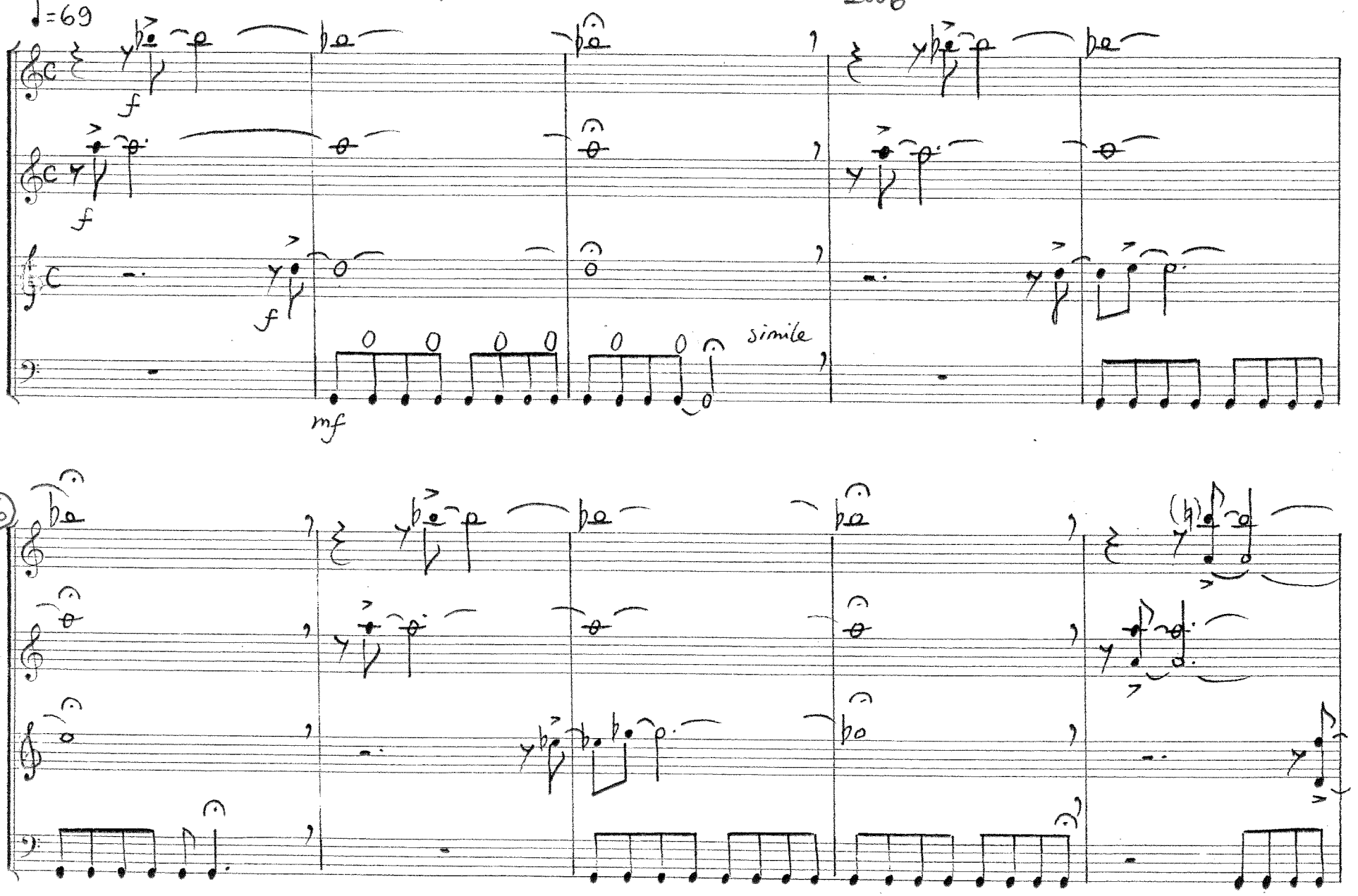
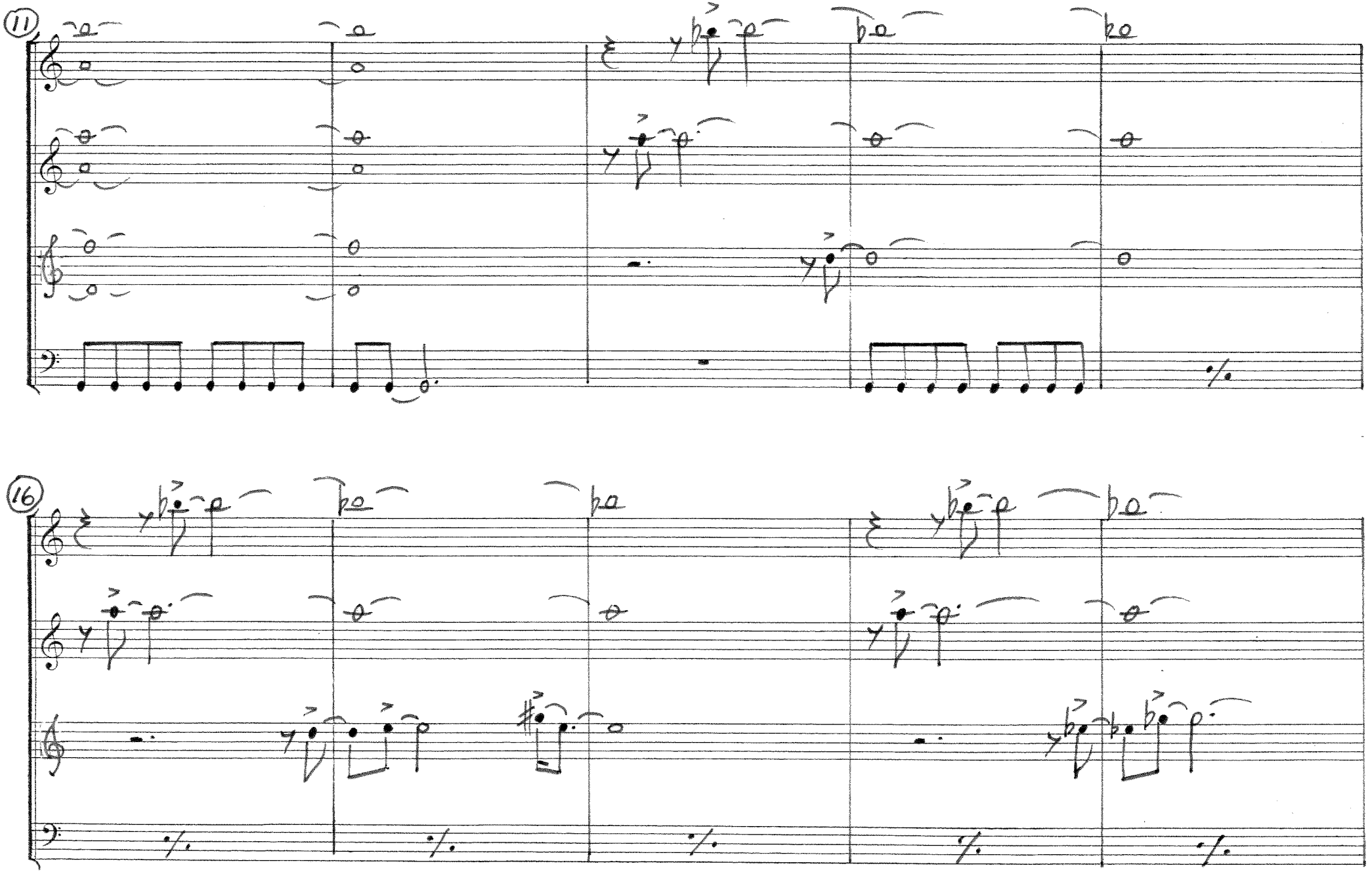
WING-WAH CHAN

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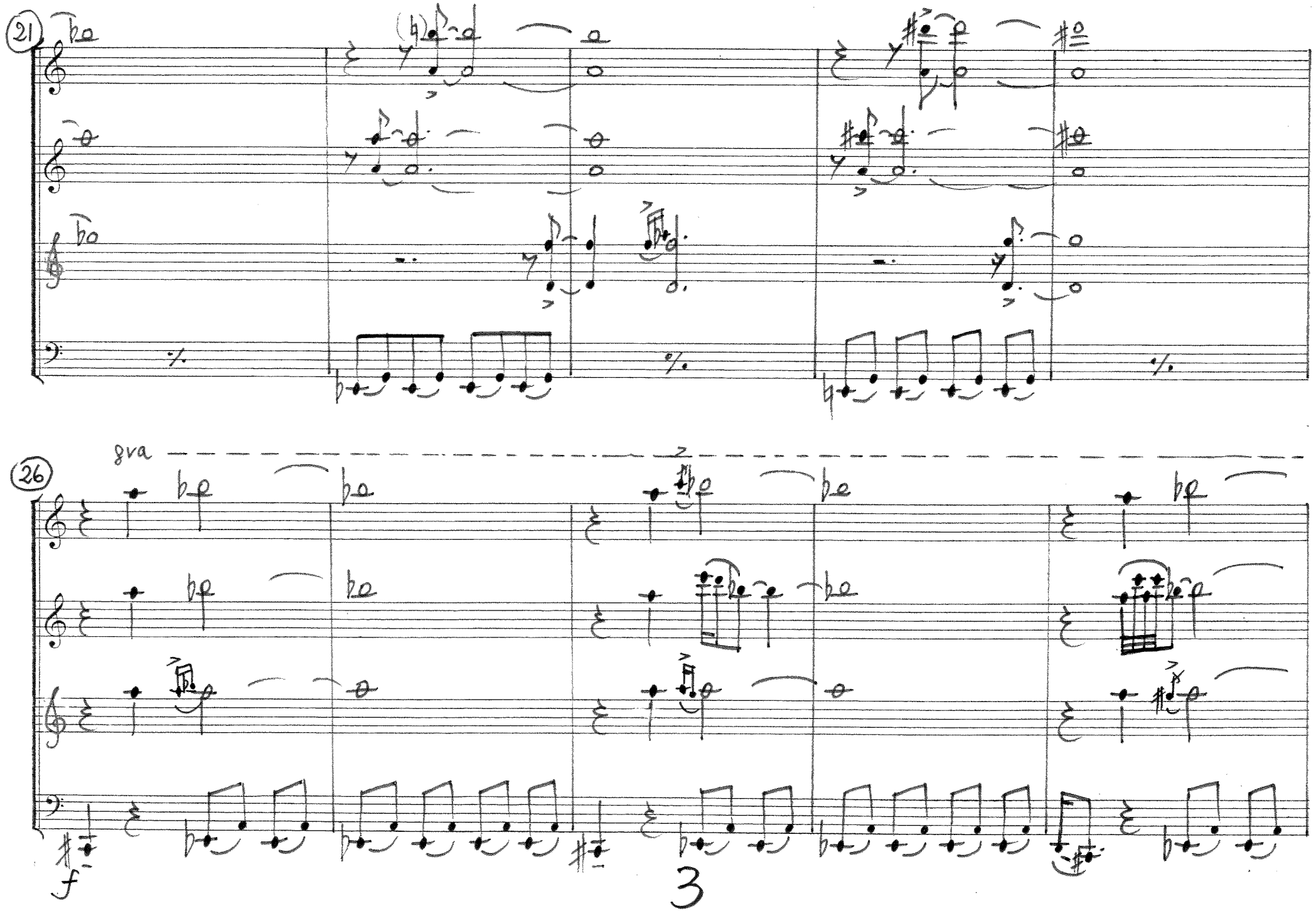
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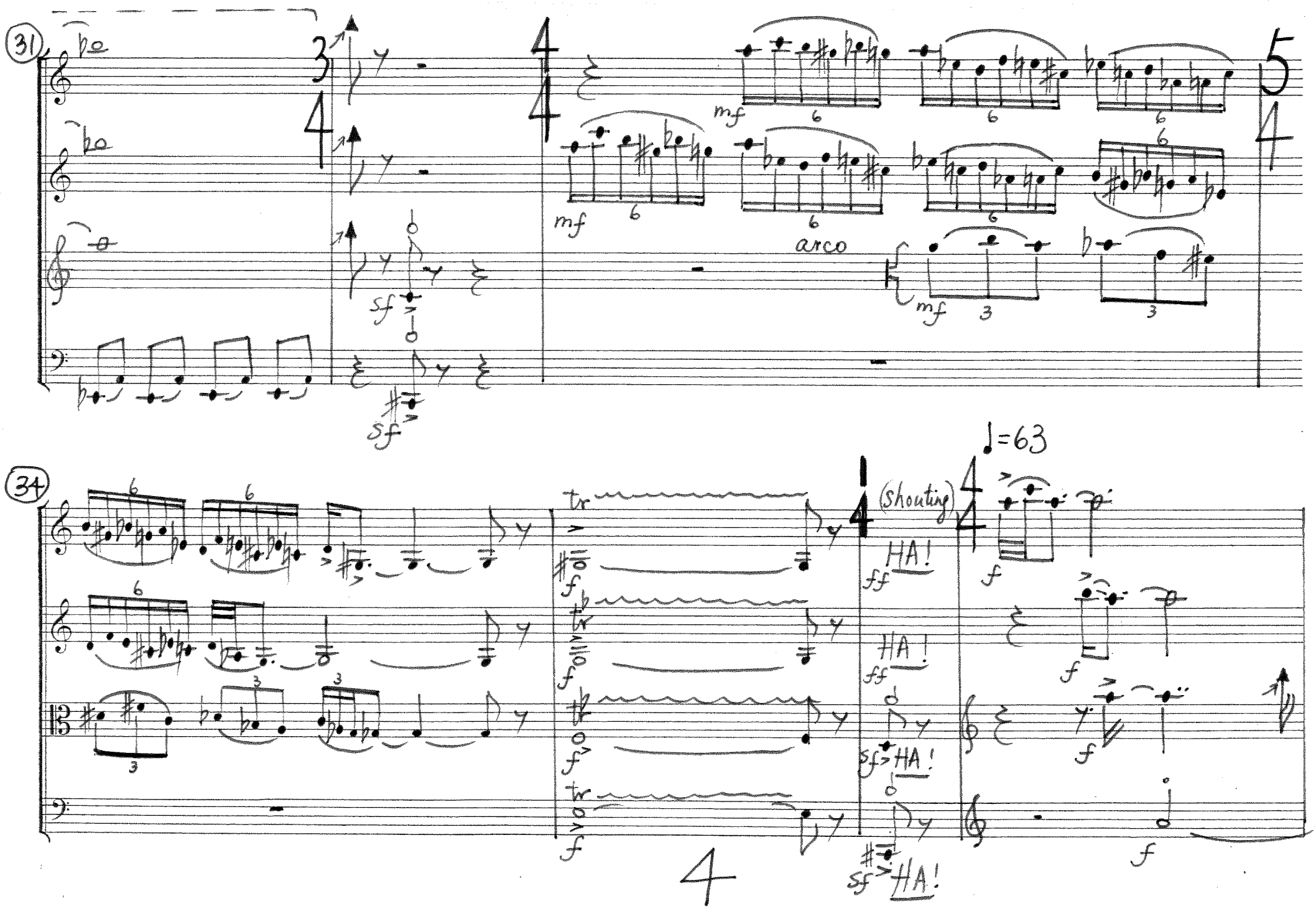
31
mf
arco
sf
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f
(Shouting)
HA!
ff
♩=63
4