the clear architecture of the nerves

for solo horn with optional piano resonator

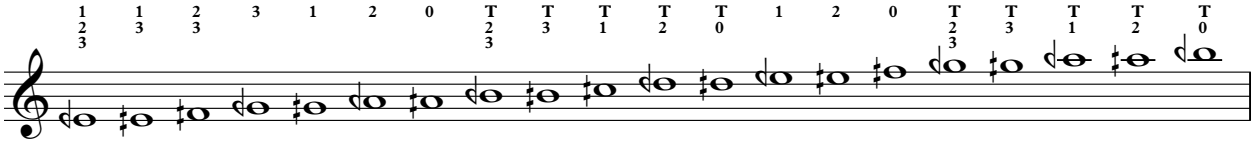
Robert Hasegawa
2000

Performance notes

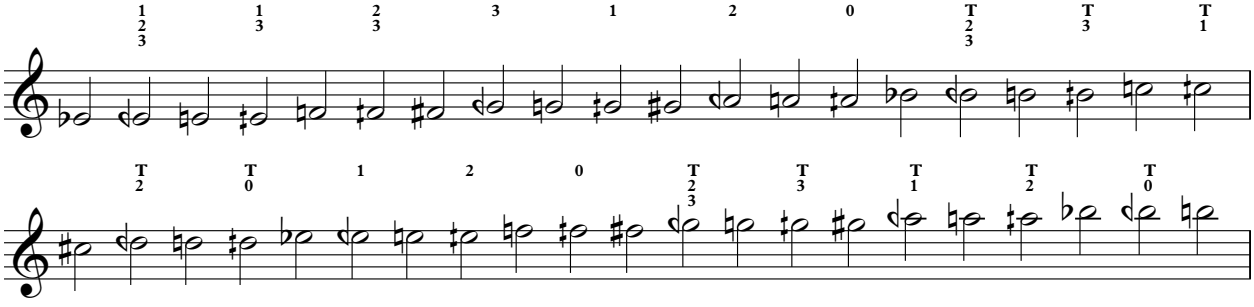
1. piano resonator (optional but recommended)
The hornist should play into an open grand piano, with the sustain pedal held down throughout the piece to allow sympathetic vibration of the strings. Except in small performance venues, amplification of the piano resonator is desirable: the resonance of the piano should be equal at its loudest point to a *mezzo-piano* dynamic in the horn. The best microphone location is under the piano, with the mic pointing upwards towards the area where bass and treble strings cross.

2. microtonal notation and fingerings
The microtonal pitches are approximated as quartertones for ease of reading, but in fact are based on the natural 7th and 11th partials of the harmonic series, transposed by the use of the valves on an F/B-flat double horn. Microtonal fingerings based on the 7th partial will sound slightly sharper than the notated quartertone. All fingerings for microtonal pitches are indicated in the score.

The chart below (transposed for Horn in F, sounding a perfect fifth lower) shows the fingerings for all microtonal pitches used in the score. "T" refers to the thumb trigger used to switch between the F and B-flat sides of the double horn: thus "T23" is the B-flat horn with valves 2 and 3 pressed, and "2" is the F horn with only valve 2 pressed.



These fingering allow a complete microtonal scale between the notated pitches E-flat$_4$ and B$_5$ (still sounding a perfect fifth lower):



3. rhythmic interpretation
All rhythmic indications may be interpreted quite freely. The performer should be aware of the resonance provided by the piano, adjusting the interpretation (and particularly the timing and dynamics) to react to the decay of the resonating strings. At all times, projecting the expressive shape of each gesture should take precedence over metronomic exactitude.

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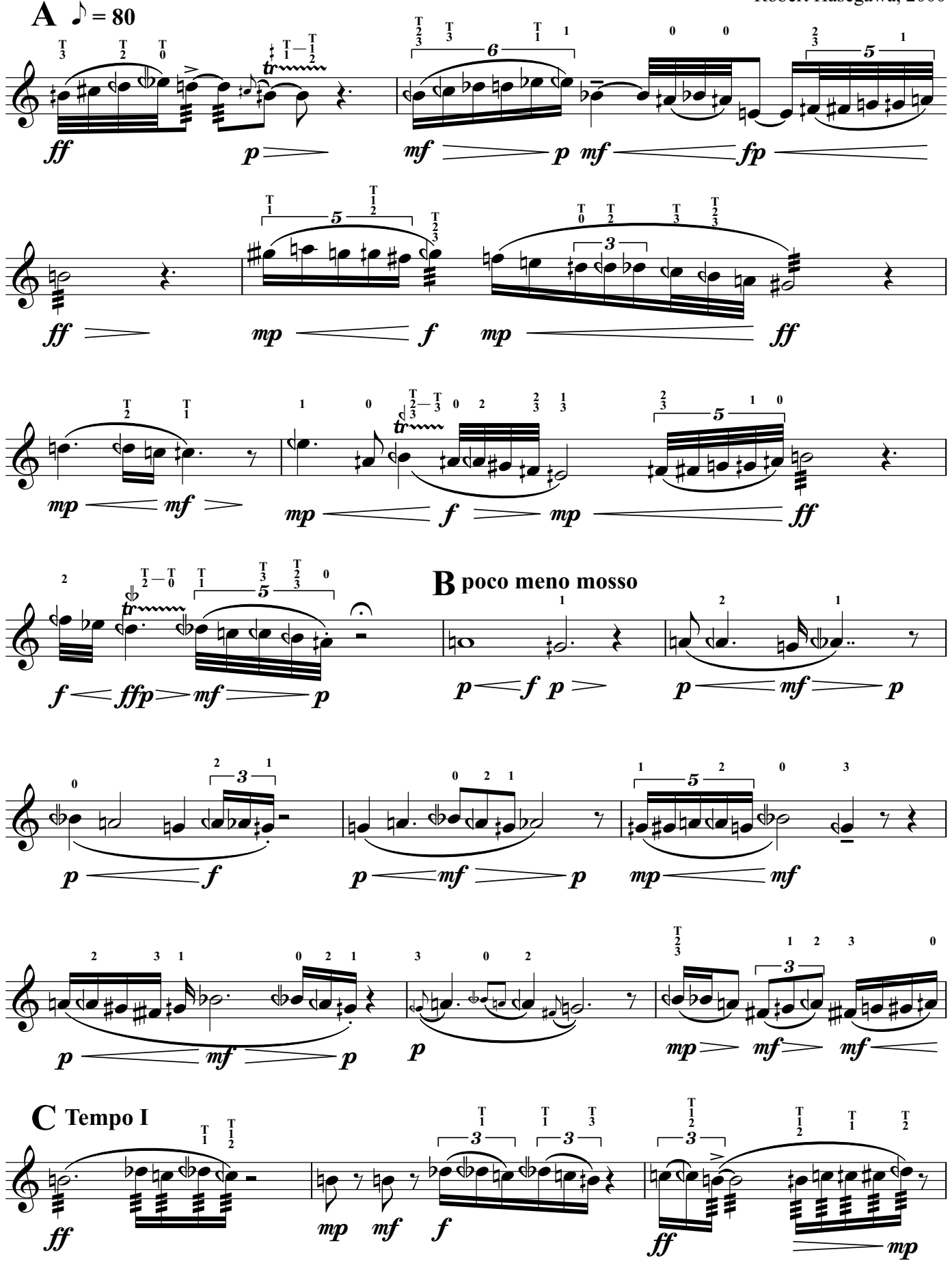
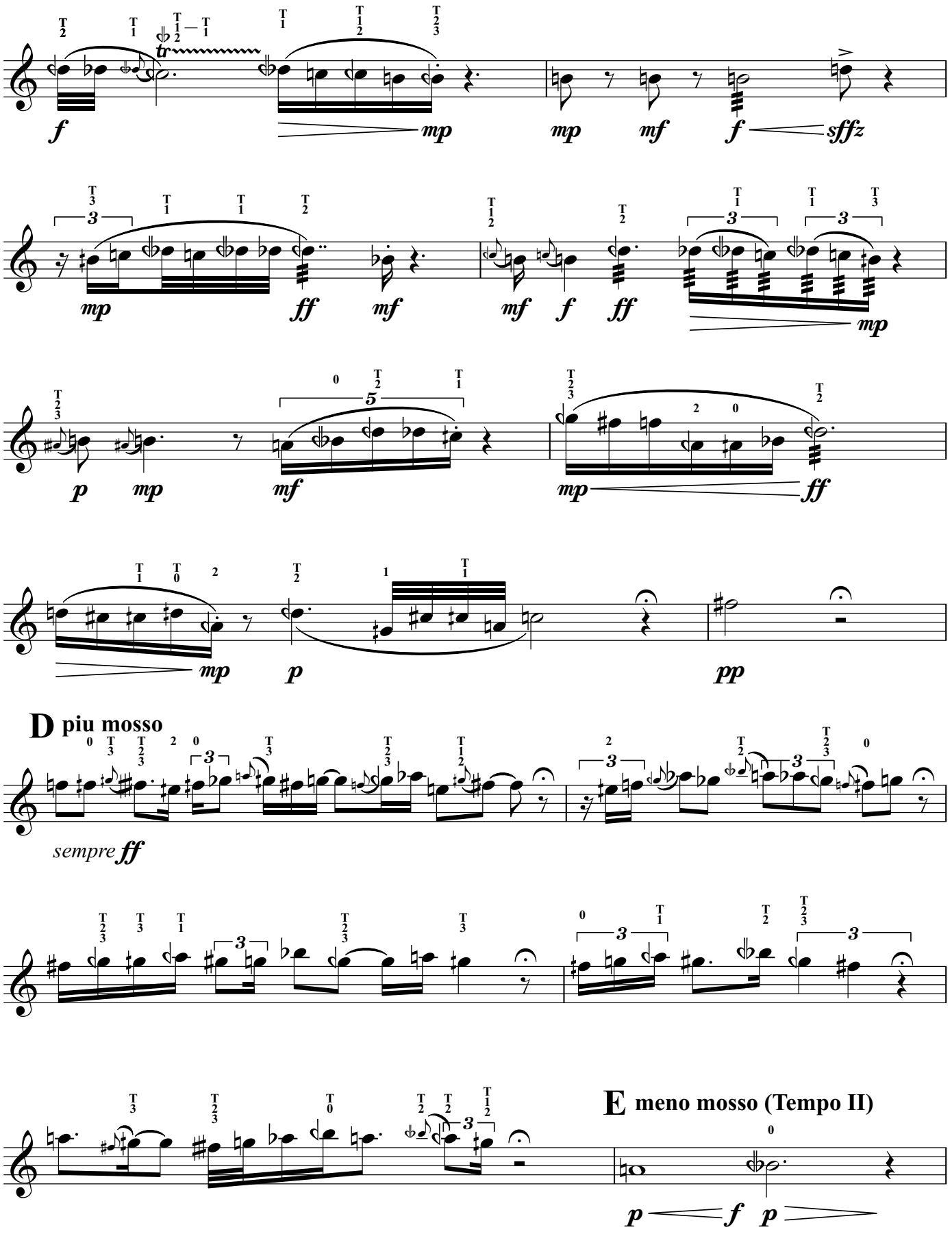
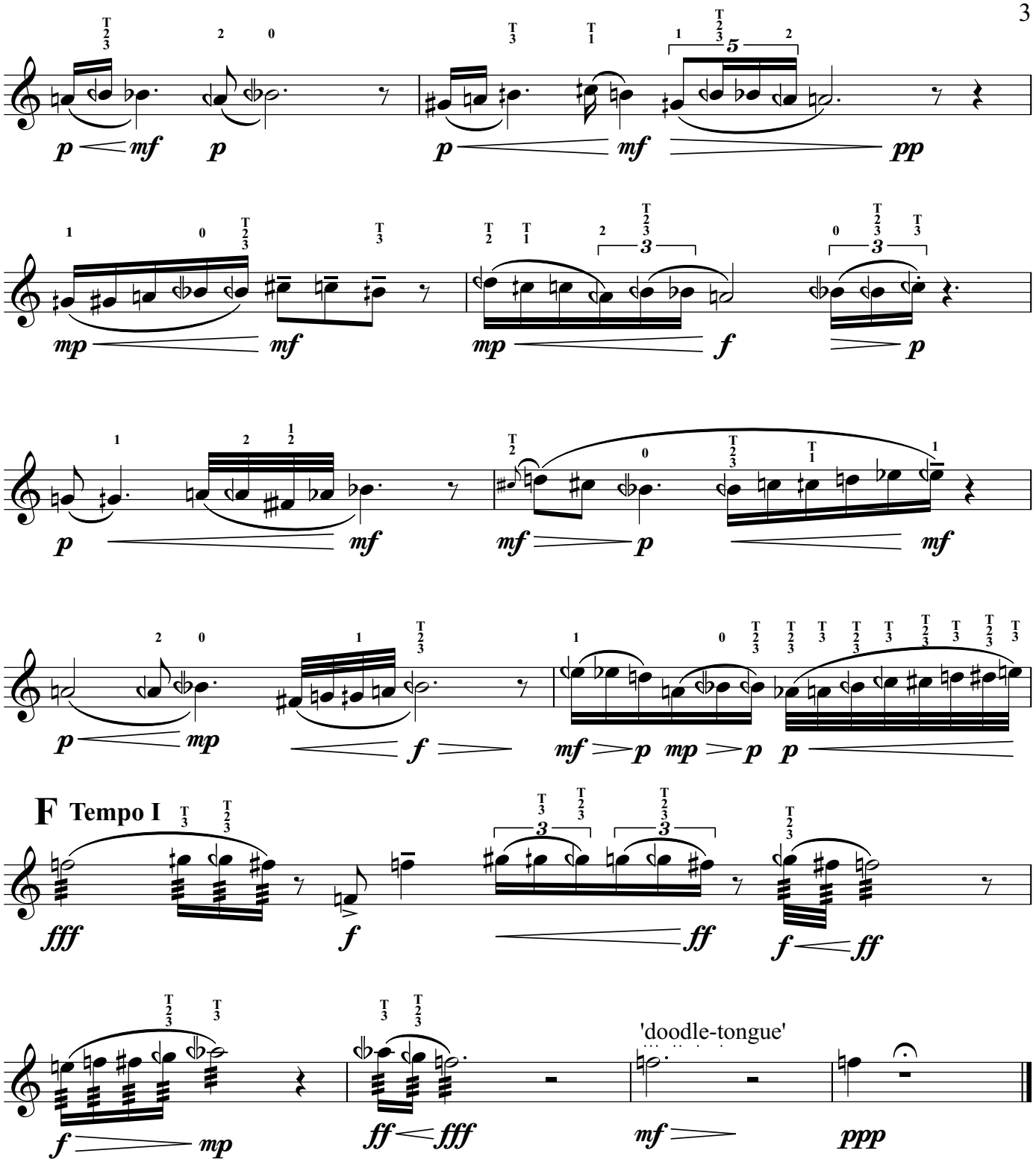



f
mp
mp
mf
f
sffz
mp
ff
mf
mf
f
ff
mp
p
mp
mf
mp
ff
mp
p
pp
D piu mosso
sempre ff
E meno mosso (Tempo II)
p
f
p


F Tempo I
'doodle-tongue'