WALTER ROSS

VARIATIONS

ON

'AUPRES DE MA BLONDE '

Oboe, Oboe d'amore (Cor anglais) and Bass Oboe (Bassoon)

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A EN 004

Walter Ross

(1936-)

Walter Ross was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, USA, in 1936. He began to study the French horn at the age of twelve and, by seventeen, was performing professionally with the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra.

Although spending four years at the University of Nebraska studying mechanical engineering and astronomy, he continued playing with the orchestra. Ross decided to return to university to study music. After his master's degree, he went on to Cornell University for his doctorate. There, he was awarded an Organization of American States Fellowship to study composition privately under Alberto Ginastera at the Instituto Torcuato de Tella (Buenos Aires). He has been the recipient of significant grants and fellowships, numerous awards and prizes.

Ross began teaching composition and theory in the Music Department at the University of Virginia in 1967. He established the Charlottesville University and Community Orchestra, which he conducted for two years. Later, he formed a Baroque trio sonata ensemble in which he played flute and recorder.

During his tenure at the University of Virginia he served as Chairman of the Department of Music and was awarded a University Outstanding Teaching Award. He participated in regional, national, and international juries of composition and performance.

Walter Ross has composed over 150 works, which have been widely performed in over forty countries. Many of his compositions have been published, recorded and broadcast. He is, perhaps, best known for his compositions featuring brass and woodwinds. The influences of his own extensive performance background and diverse musical training (with composers who stressed bright orchestration and rhythmic excitement) can be detected in many of his works. Many of his recent pieces are representative of his current interest in neo-modal, pan-diatonic composition.

He has been a visiting composer at the Aspen Music Festival, a featured composer at several universities and forums, and a board member of the Capital Composers Alliance.

In 1997 he wrote a cantata featuring the poetry of Rita Dove, the American Poet Laureate. Recent choral works include 'Lux Aeterna' to honour the victims of 9/11, which has been performed upon a number of occasions.

Retired from full time teaching, Walter Ross currently performs on double bass in the Blue Ridge Chamber Orchestra. In addition to composing, he continues his interest in chess (in 1969 he won a trophy in the U.S. Open Chess Tournament), astronomy, and the History of Science.

Variations
on
'Auprès de ma blonde'

Oboe, Oboe d'amore (Cor anglais), and Bass Oboe (Bassoon)

A EN 004

This work, composed in 1997 and dedicated to Jennifer Paull, is a set of seven frolicking variations based upon the joyous version of the well-known French *chanson* of the same name. There is much comical imitation between the three instruments. Their lines are woven into a rich texture of oboe family *timbres*.

There existed two versions of the original song: the above (meaning 'Next to My Sweetheart') and a somewhat less amusing *'Le Prisonnier de Hollande'* ('The Prisoner of Holland'). Both became extremely popular towards the end of the XVIIth century. They made their way into widespread custom at the conclusion of (or shortly after) the Franco-Dutch War, which took place during the early reign of Louis XIV. French soldiers, sailors and hostages were frequently held prisoner in the Netherlands; hence the alternative words and title. The composition is widely attributed to André Joubert without any formal proof, however. The music has evolved over centuries of repetition into the style we know today.

The lively tempo and melody made it eminently suitable for military marches for which it is still employed. *'Auprès de ma blonde'* gained widespread regard as both a nursery rhyme and drinking song shedding its more disconsolate variation along its well-sung swagger through time. It even made an apparition in two episodes of 'Star Trek: The Next Generation'!

Walter Ross
1997

❖❖❖

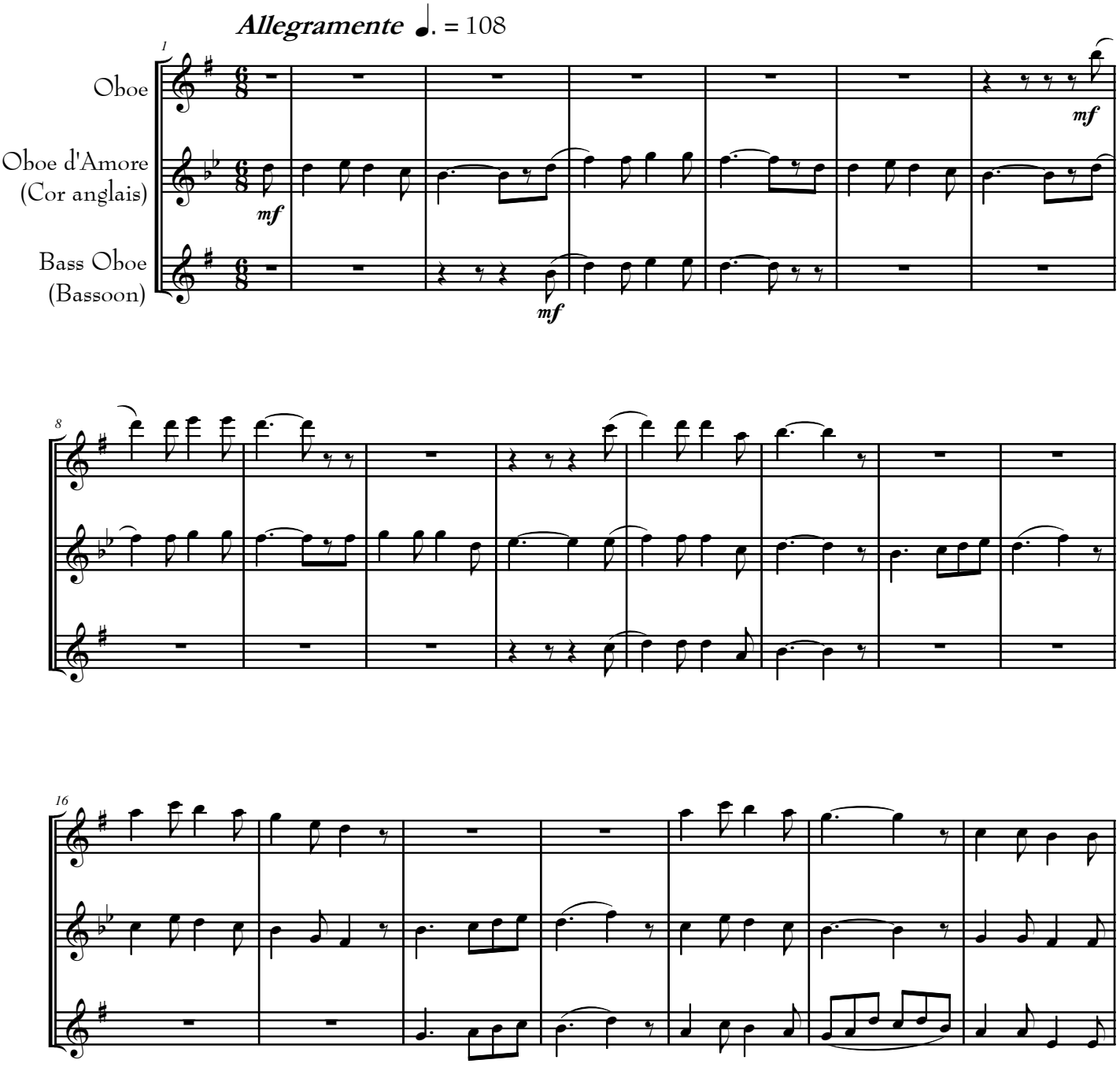
Works by Walter Ross published by Amoris International.

Autumn Pastoral	A SI 012
Portraits from *La Commedia dell'Arte*	
I *Punchinello's Scherzino*	A SI 016
II *Trio di fantasia*	A CM 004
Concerto for Oboe d'amore - Keyboard Reduction	A SI 022
Old Joe Clark's Musical Offering	A CM 006
Concerto for Oboe d'amore and String Orchestra	A OR 004

for Jennifer Paull

VARIATIONS ON
'*AUPRES DE MA BLONDE*'

Walter Ross
(1936 -)



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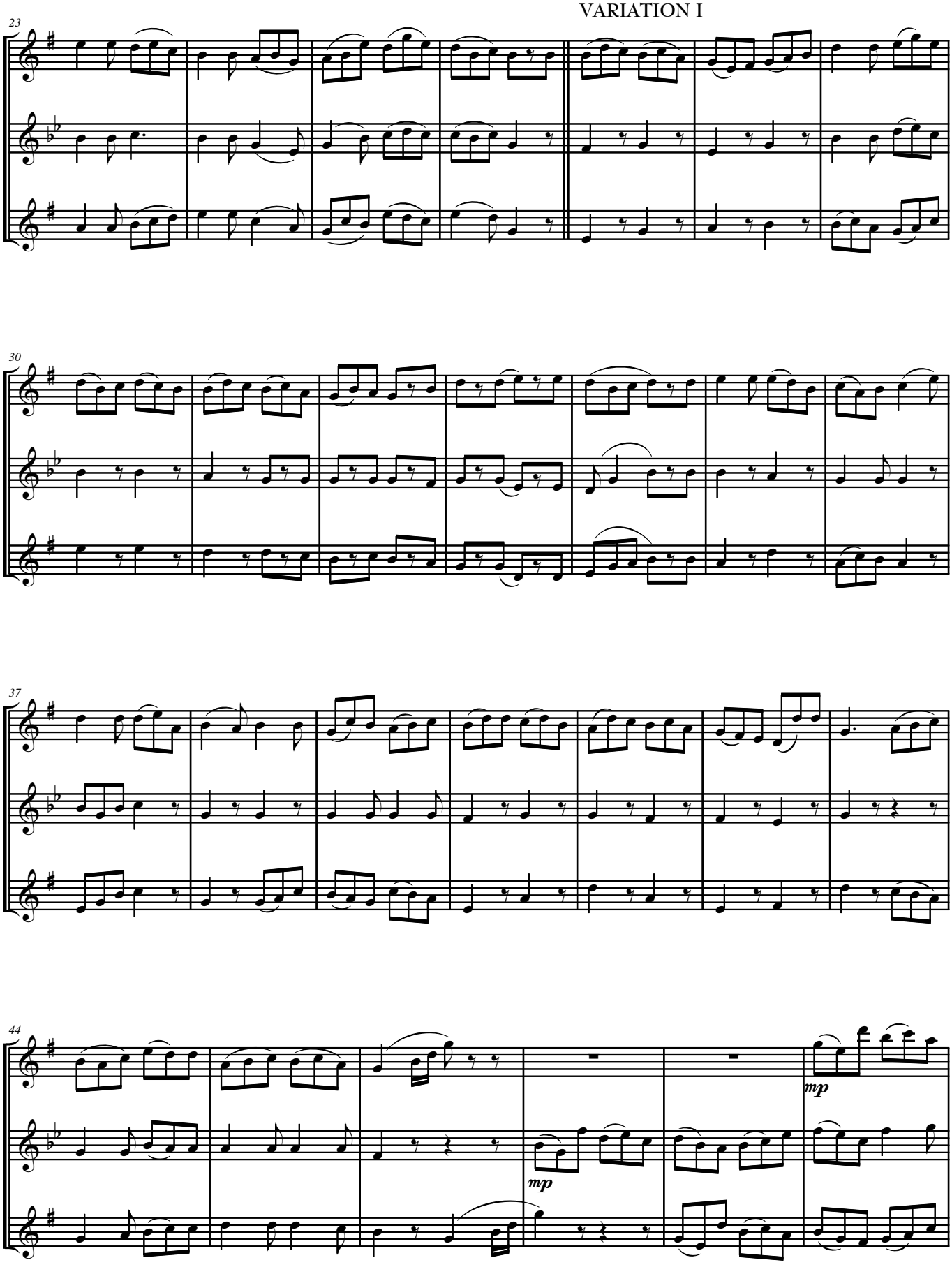
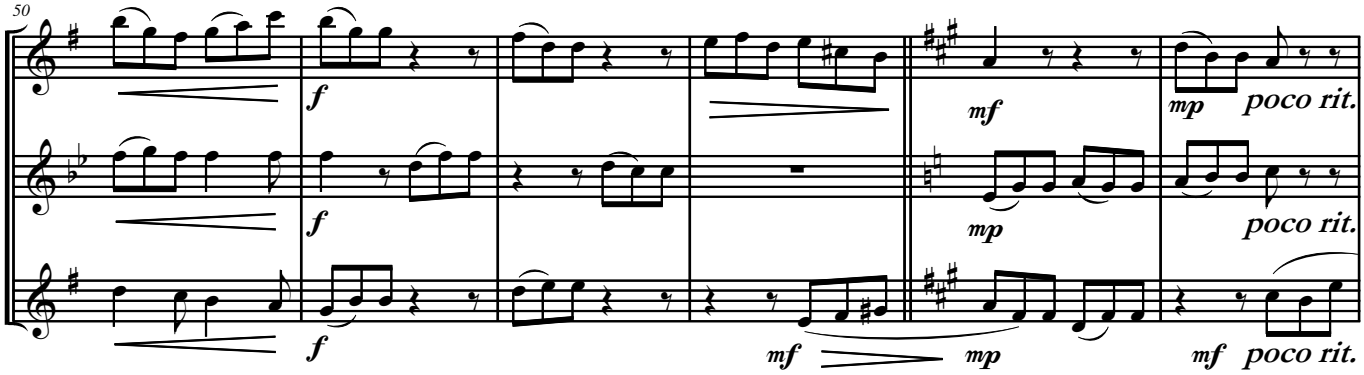
VARIATION I





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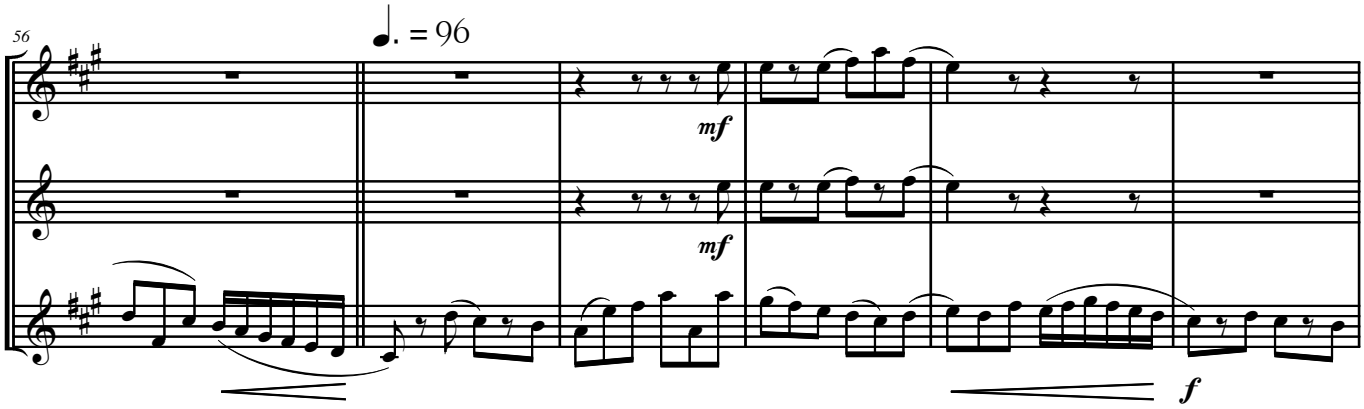
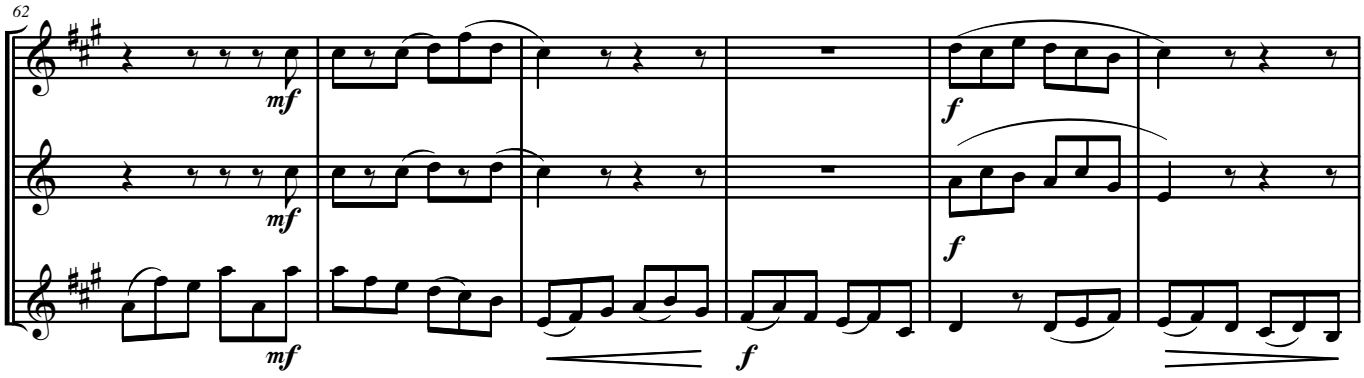
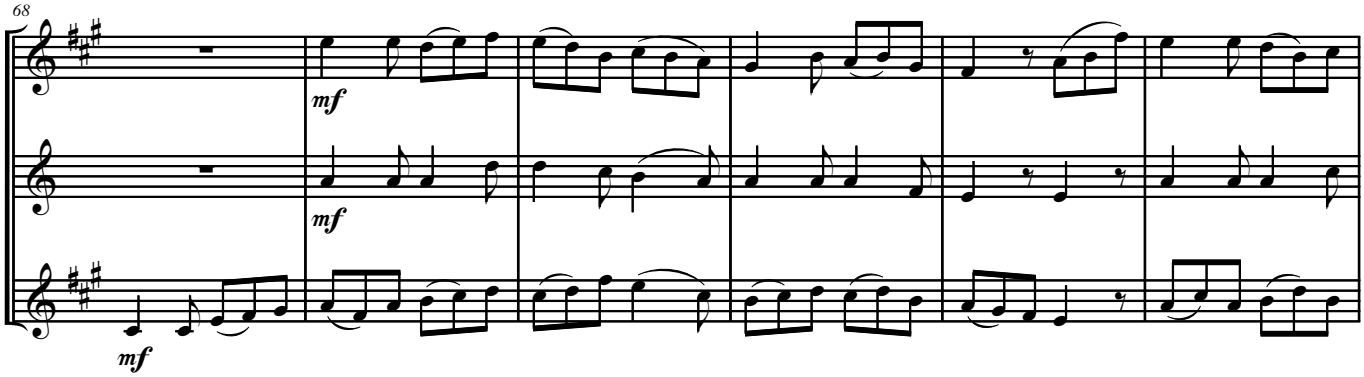
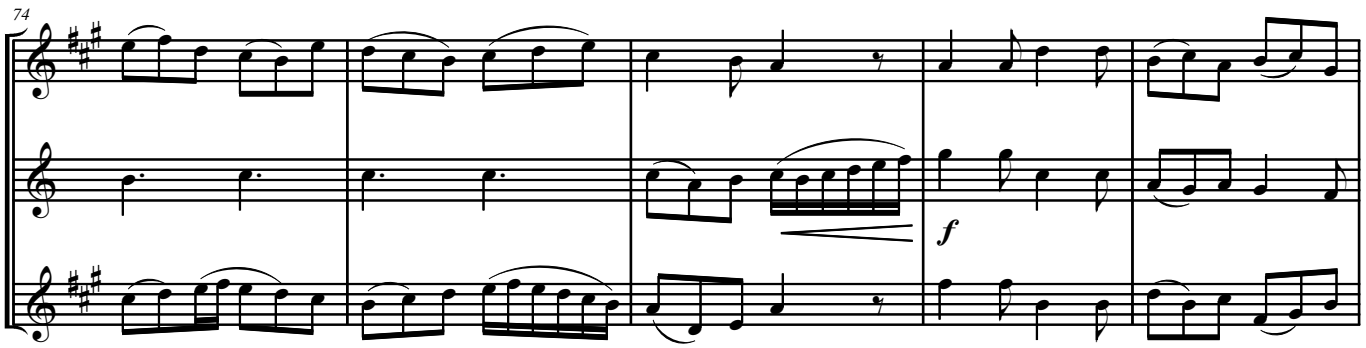
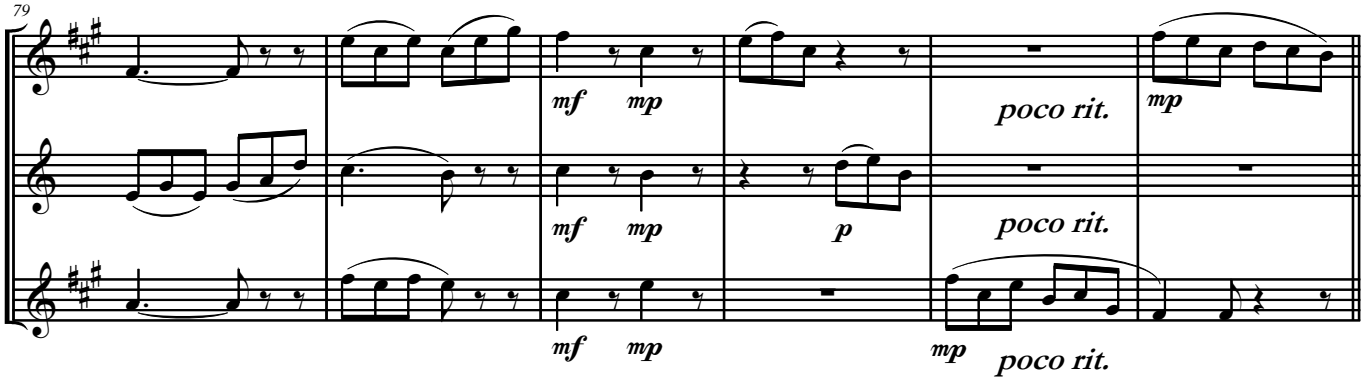


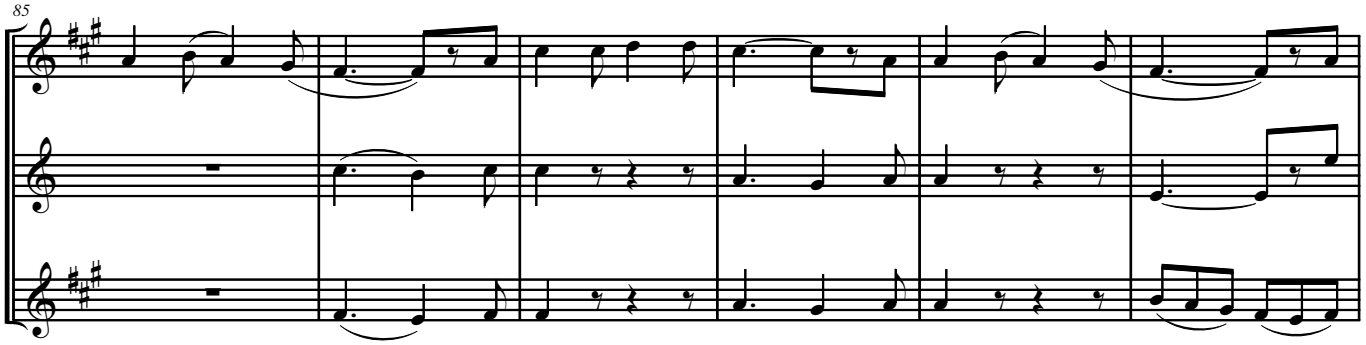


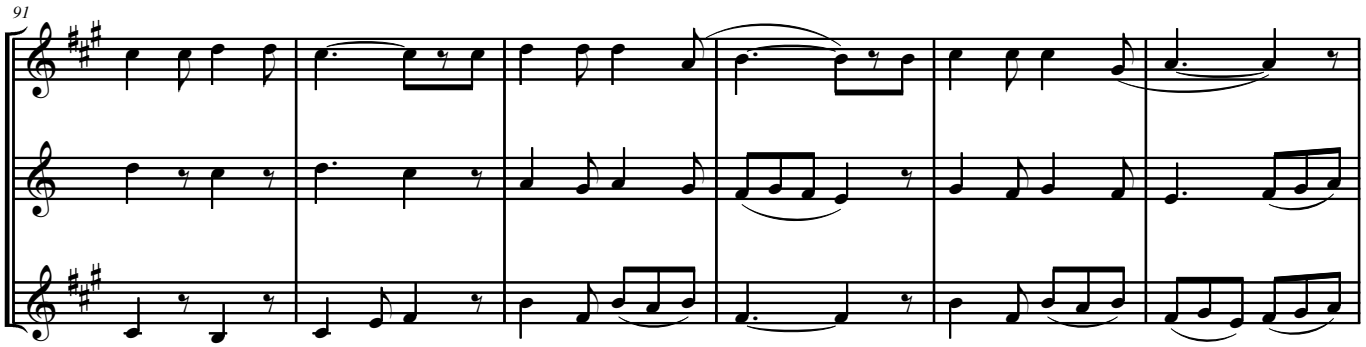


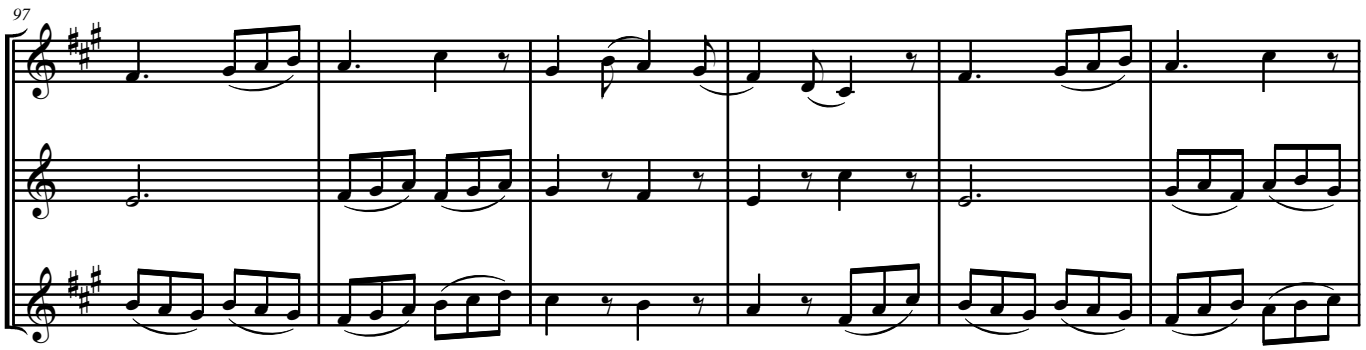




♩. = 90 VARIATION III



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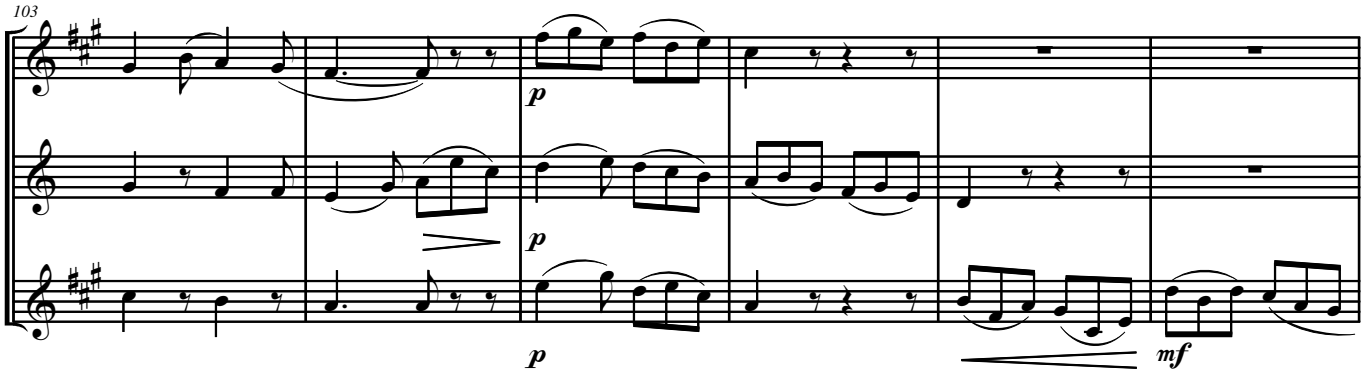
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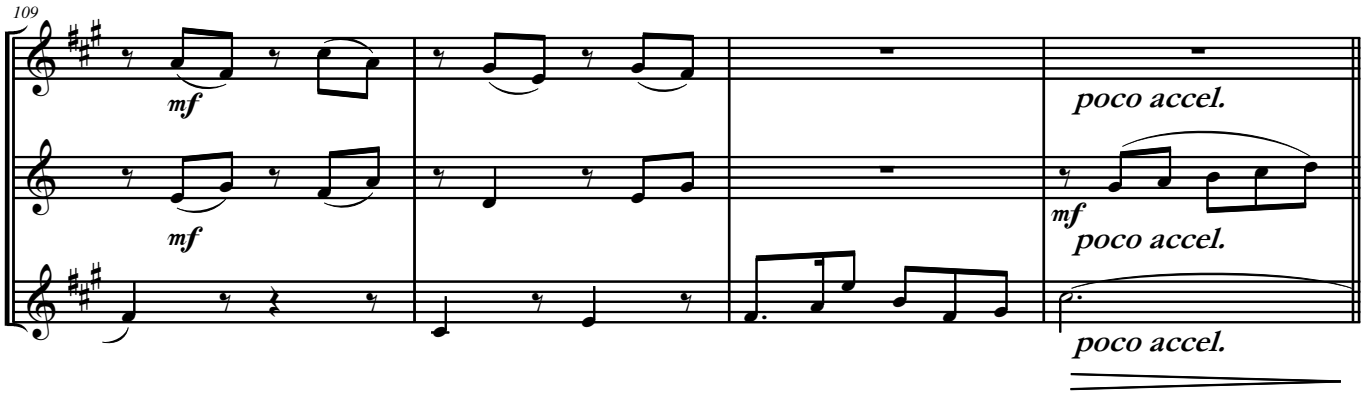
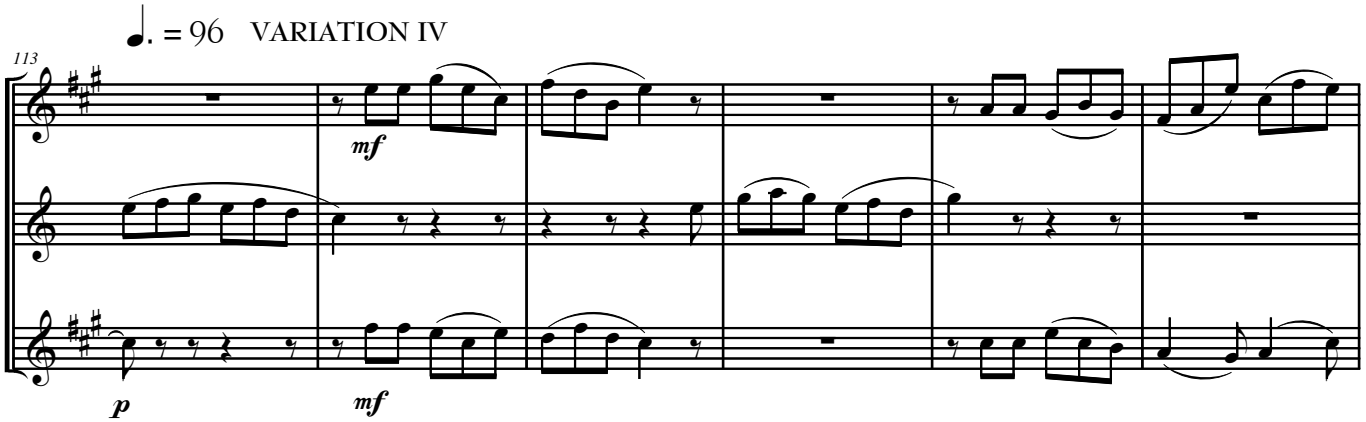
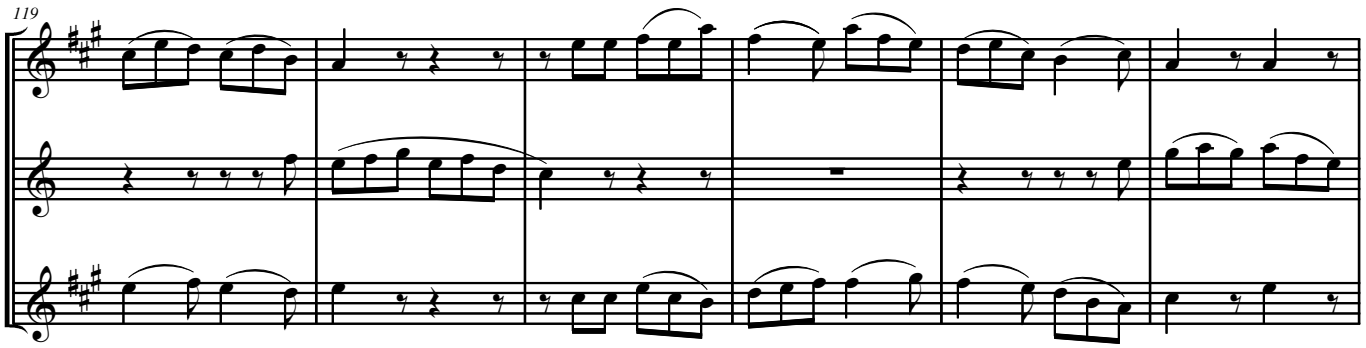
p
p
p
mf


109
mf
mf
poco accel.
mf
poco accel.
poco accel.


♩. = 96 VARIATION IV
113
mf
p
mf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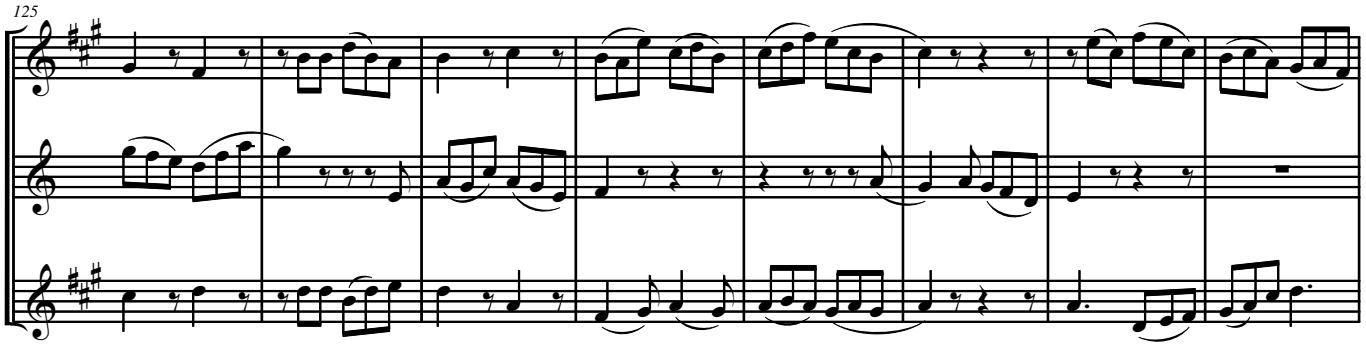
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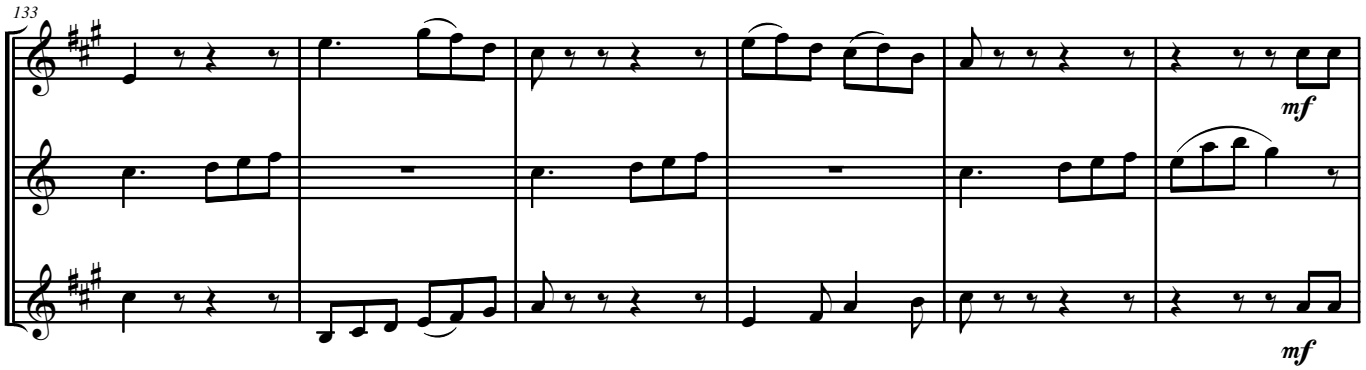
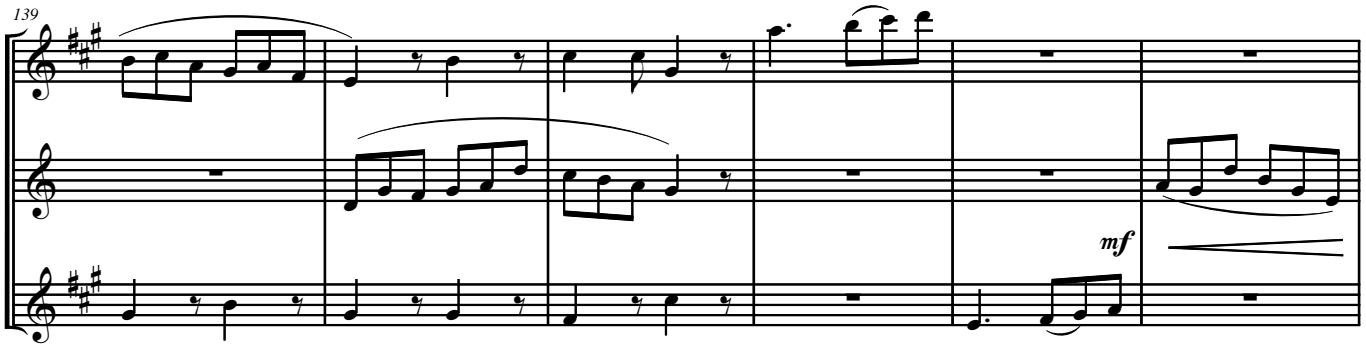

133
mf
mf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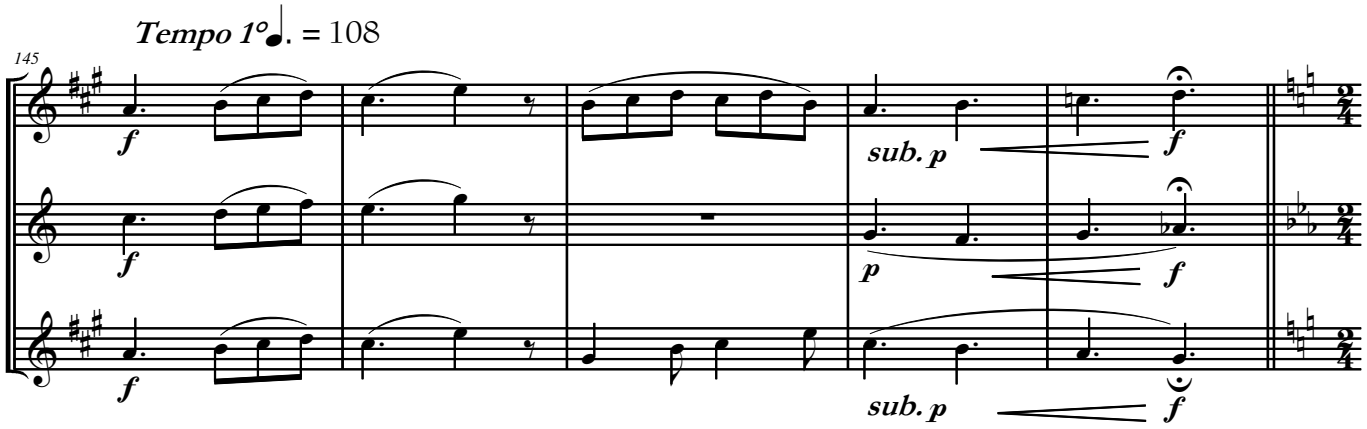
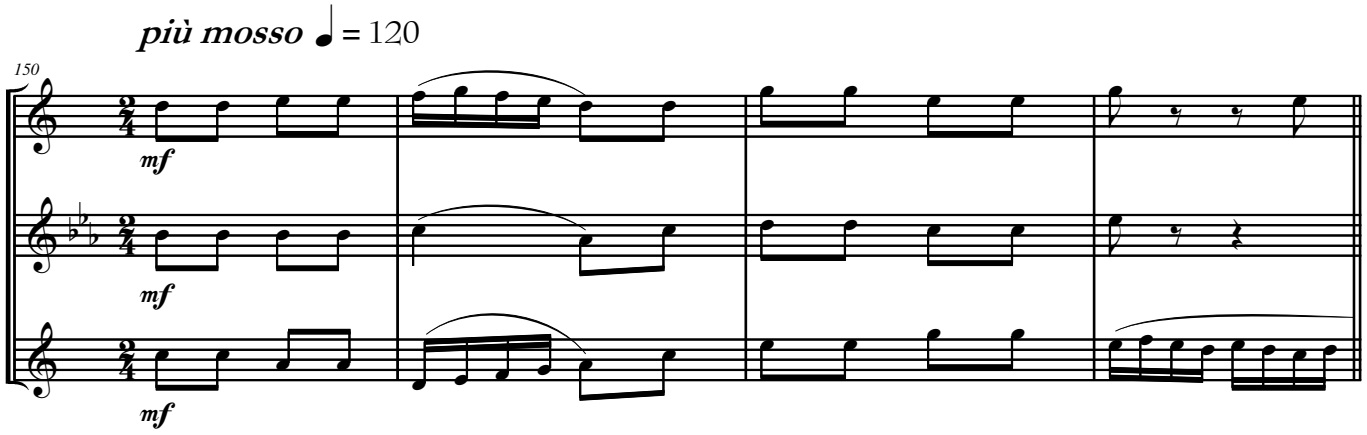
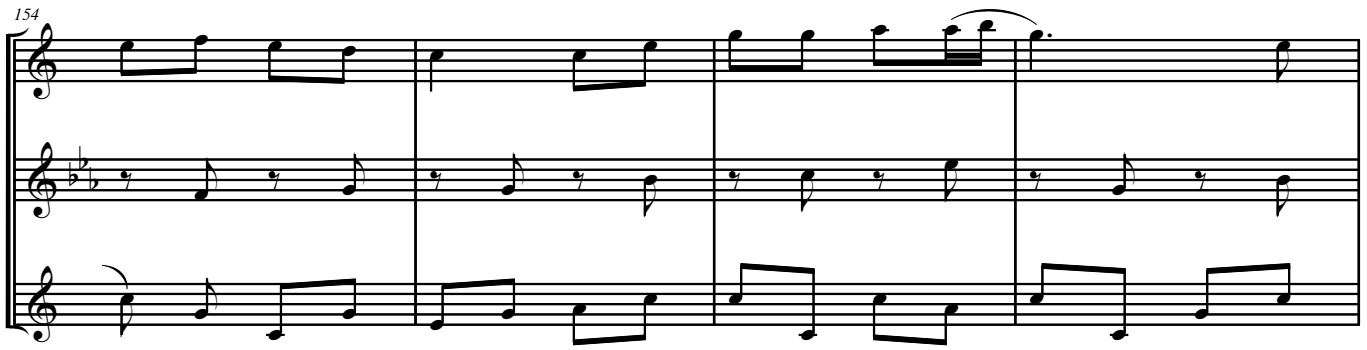
mf


Tempo 1° = 108
145
f
f
f
sub. p
p
f
f
sub. p
f


più mosso = 120
150
mf
mf
mf

VARIATION V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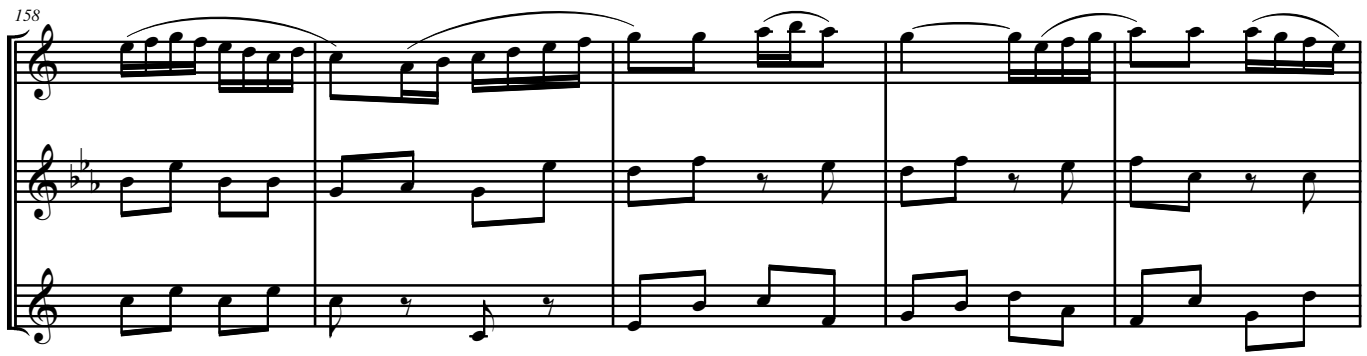
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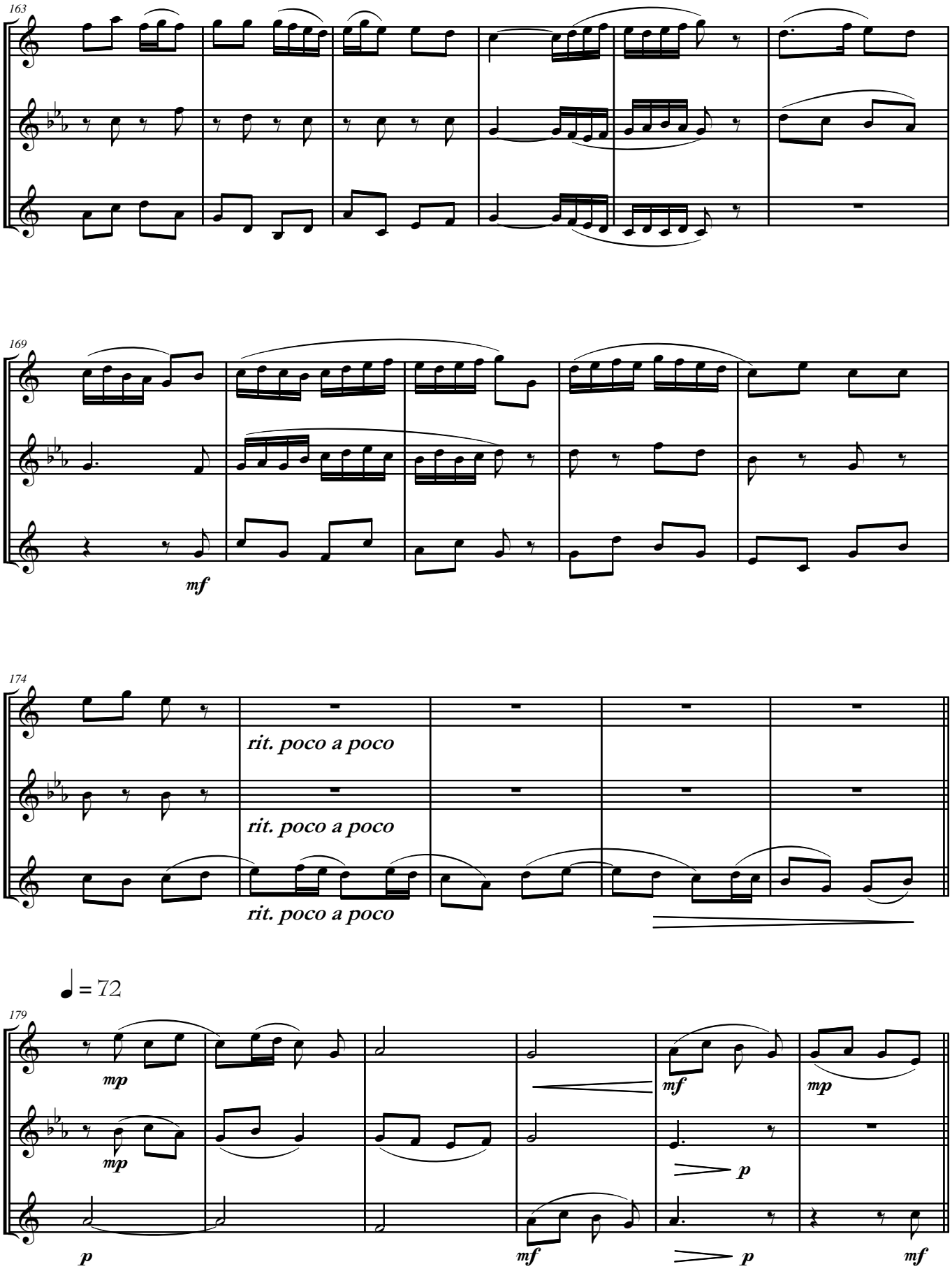
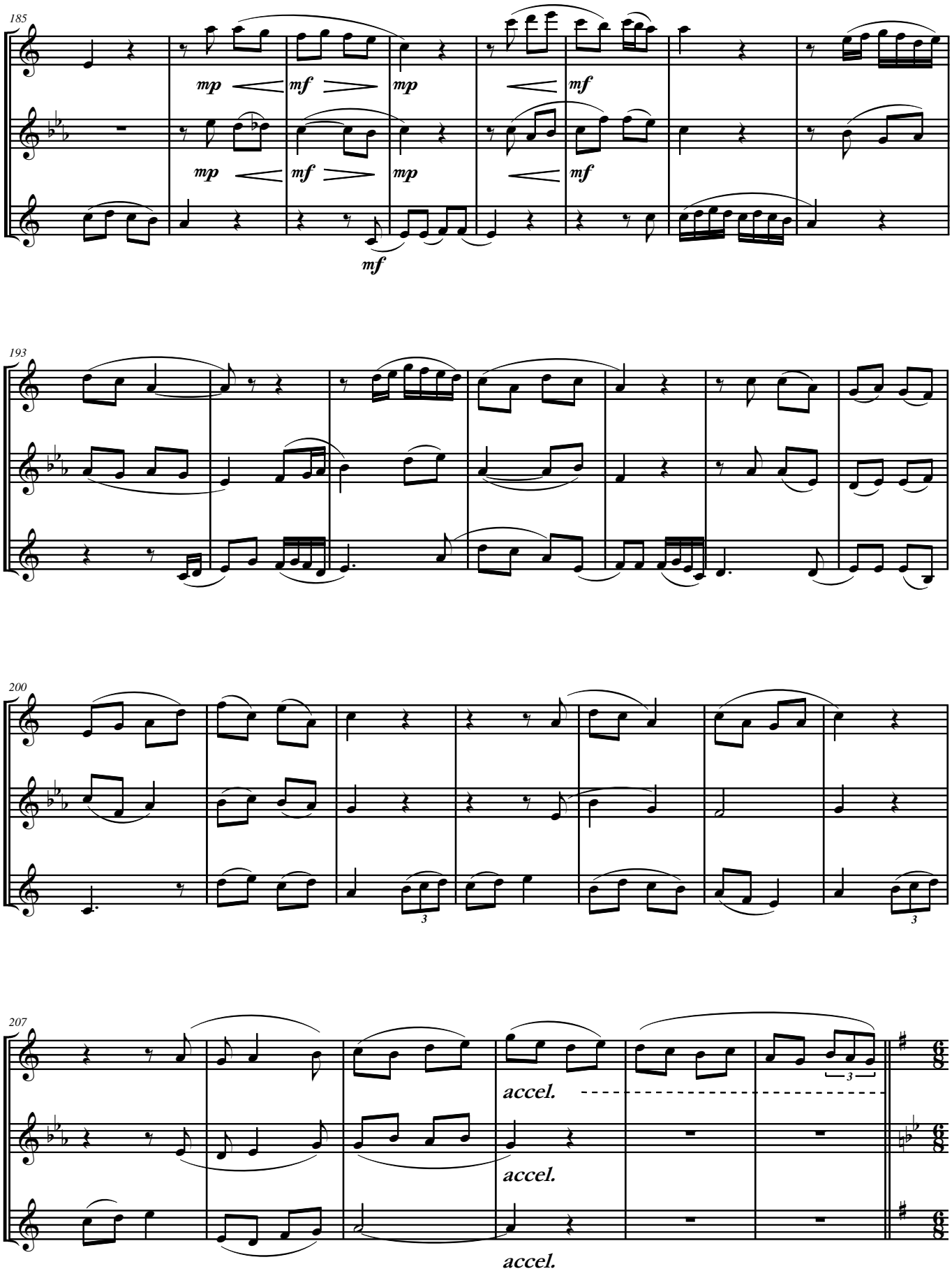
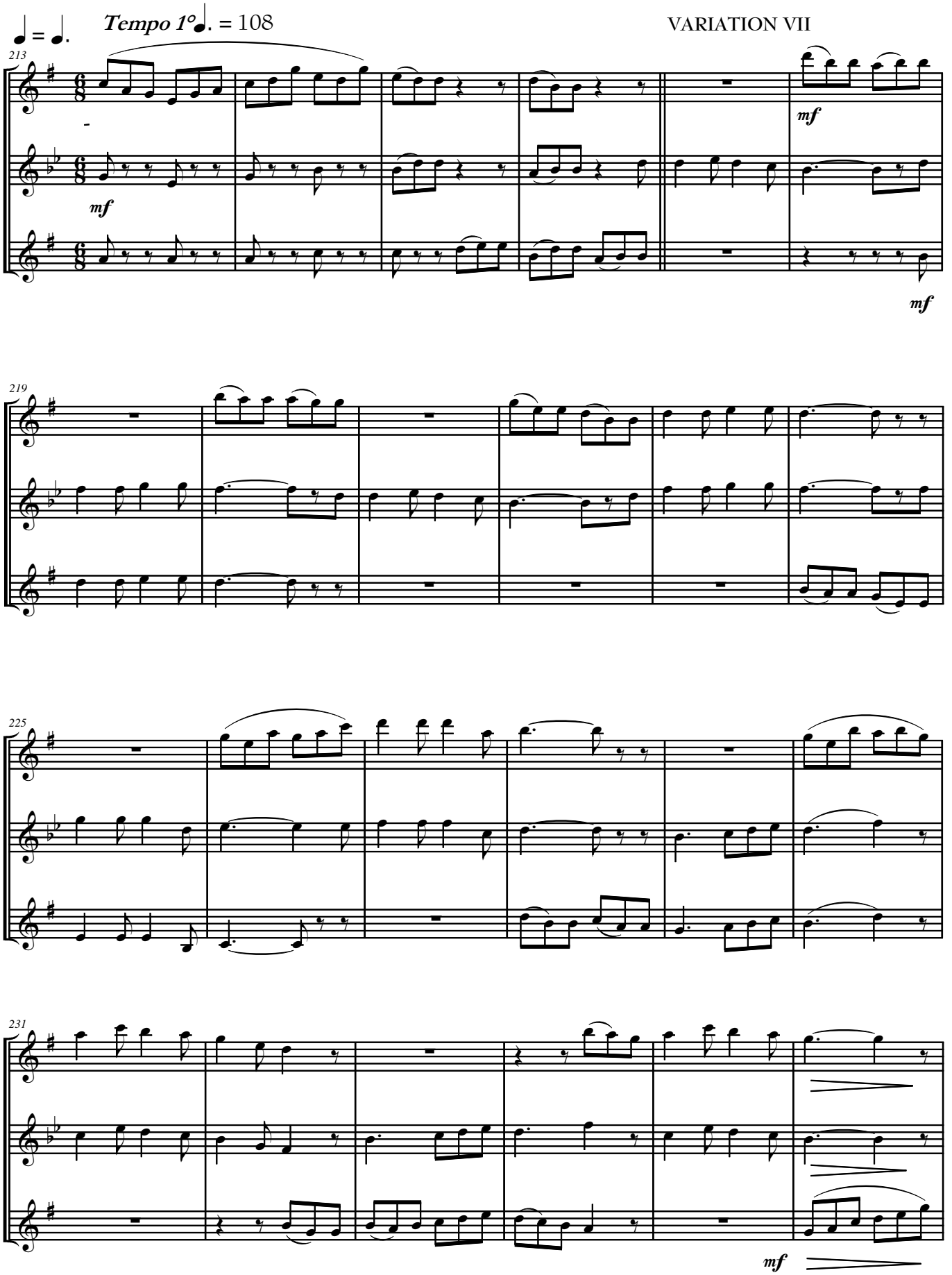
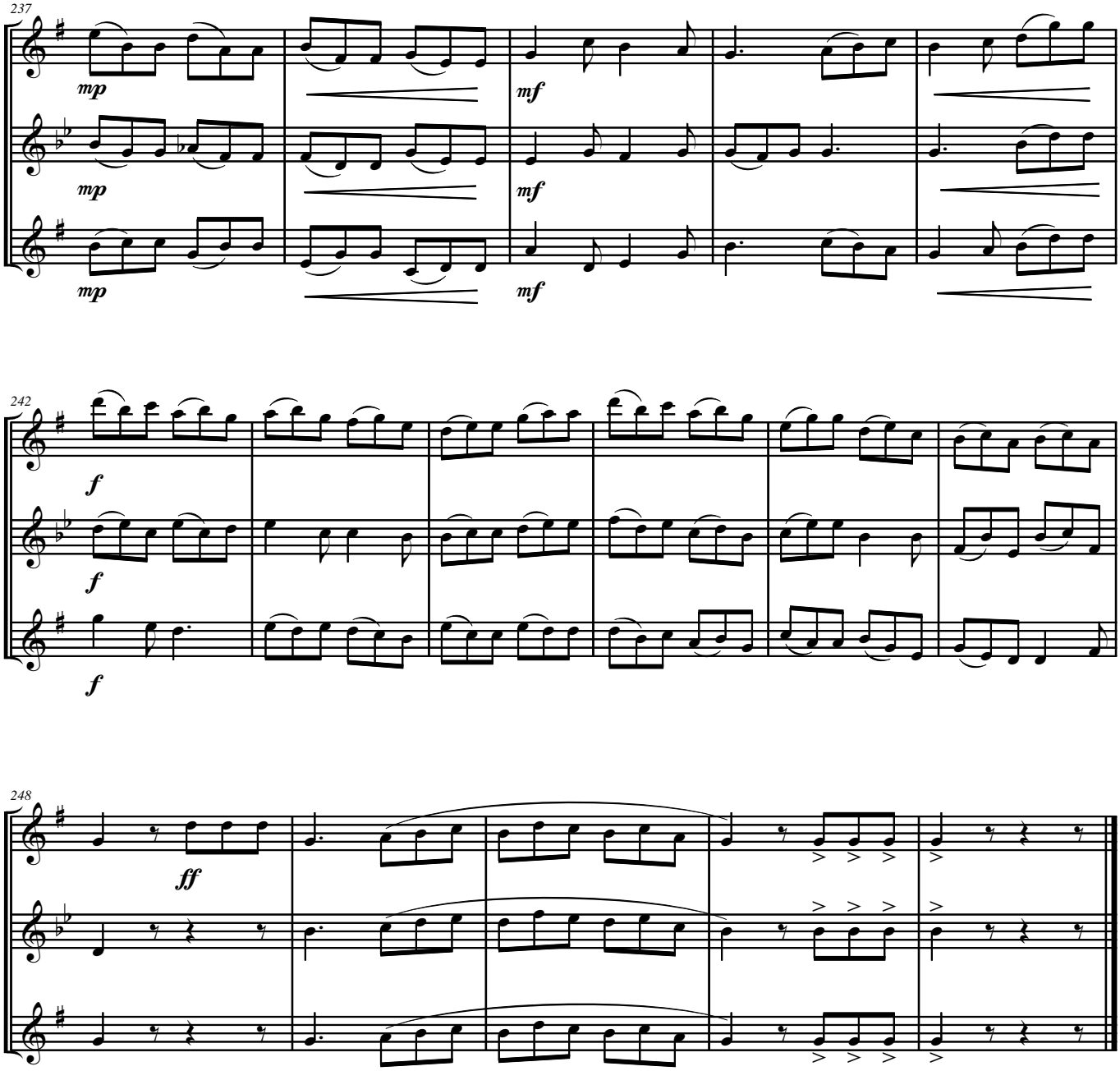

163
169
mf
174
rit. poco a poco
rit. poco a poco
rit. poco a poco
♩ = 72
179
mp
mp
mf
mp
p
p
mf
p
mf

VARIATION VI




♩ = ♩.
Tempo 1° ♩. = 108
VARIATION VII
213
mf
mf
mf
219
225
231
mf

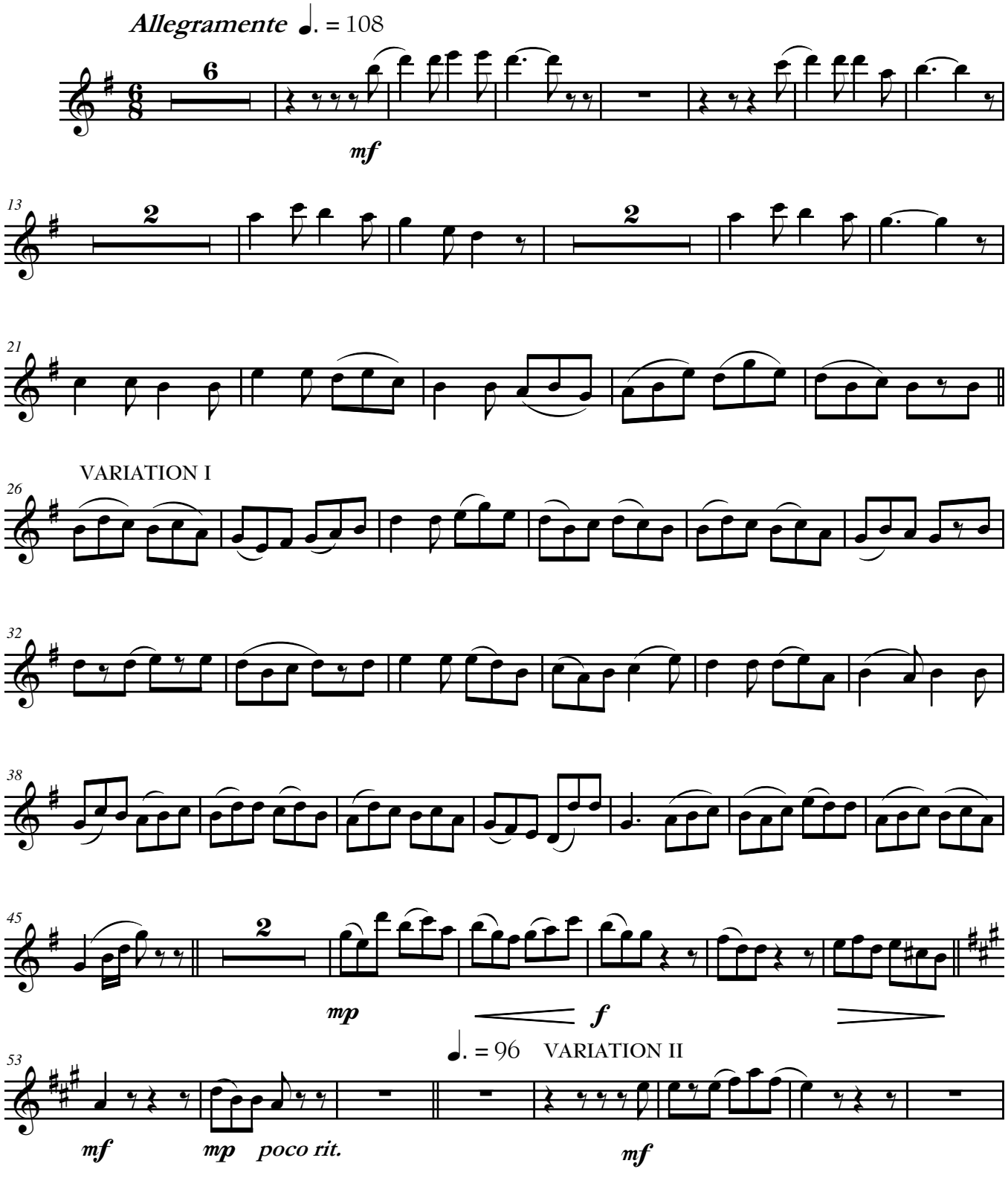

237
mp
mp
mp
mf
mf
mf
242
f
f
f
248
ff

for Jennifer Paull

Oboe

VARIATIONS ON
'AUPRES DE MA BLONDE'

Walter Ross
(1936 -)



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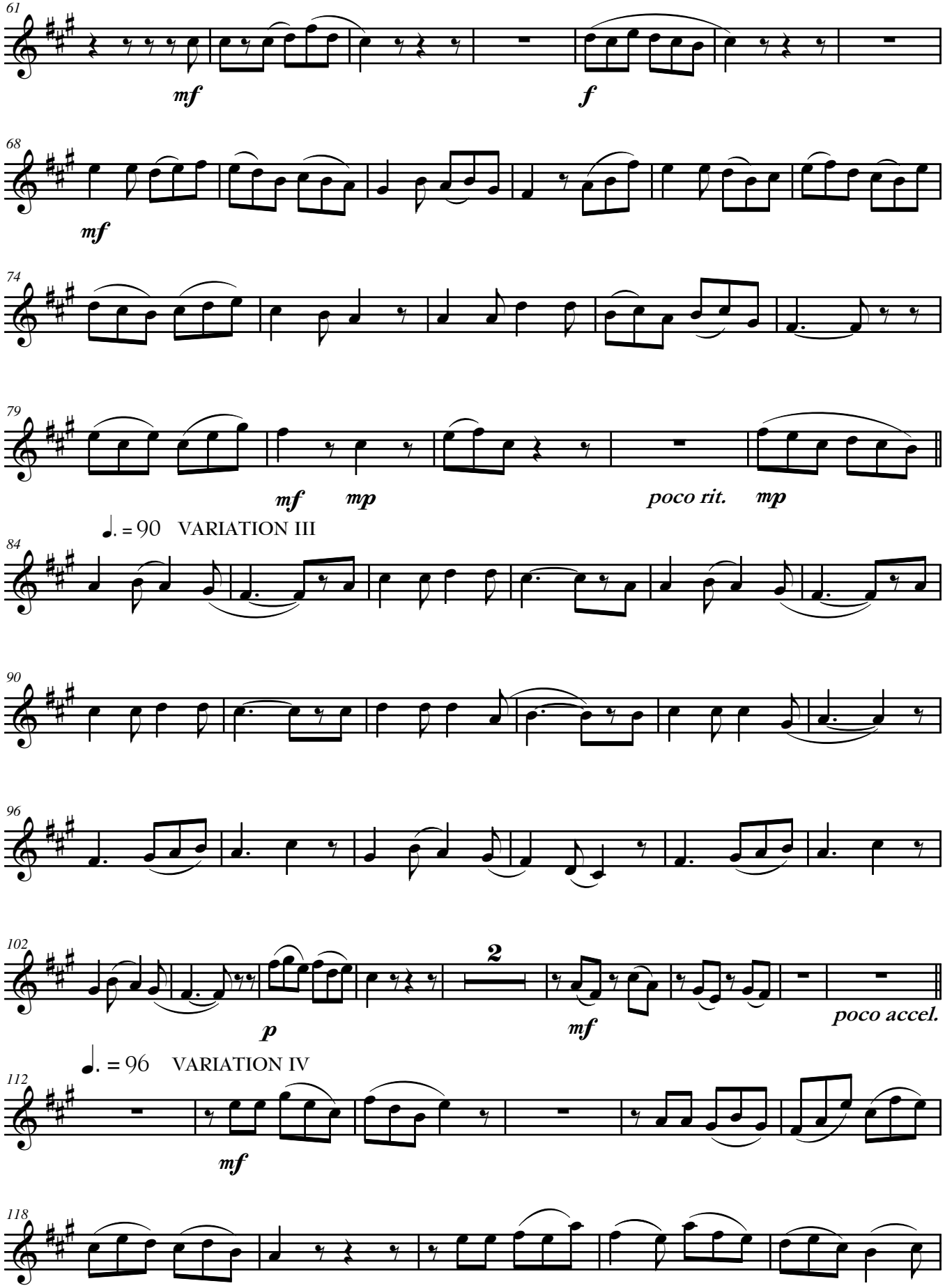
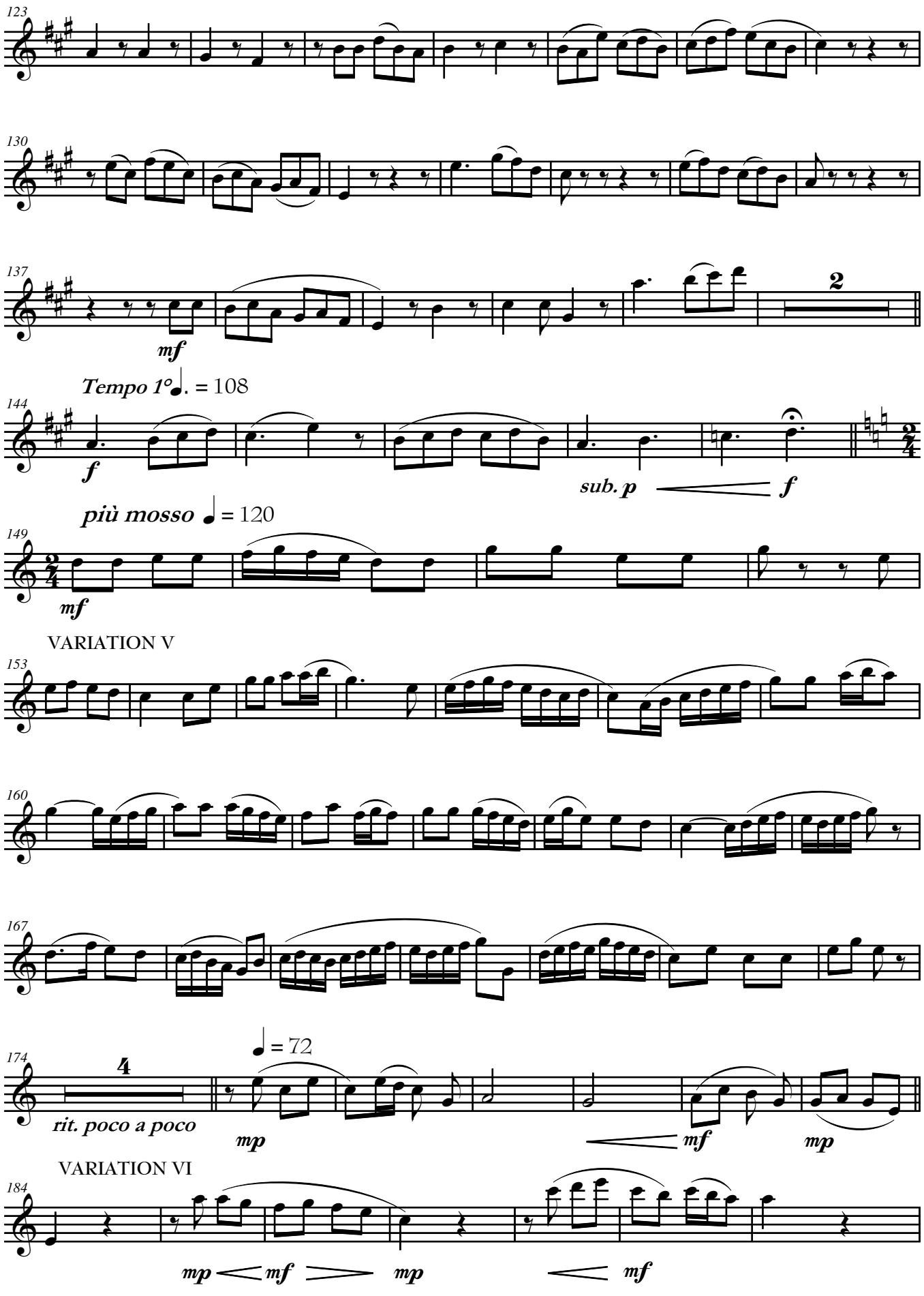
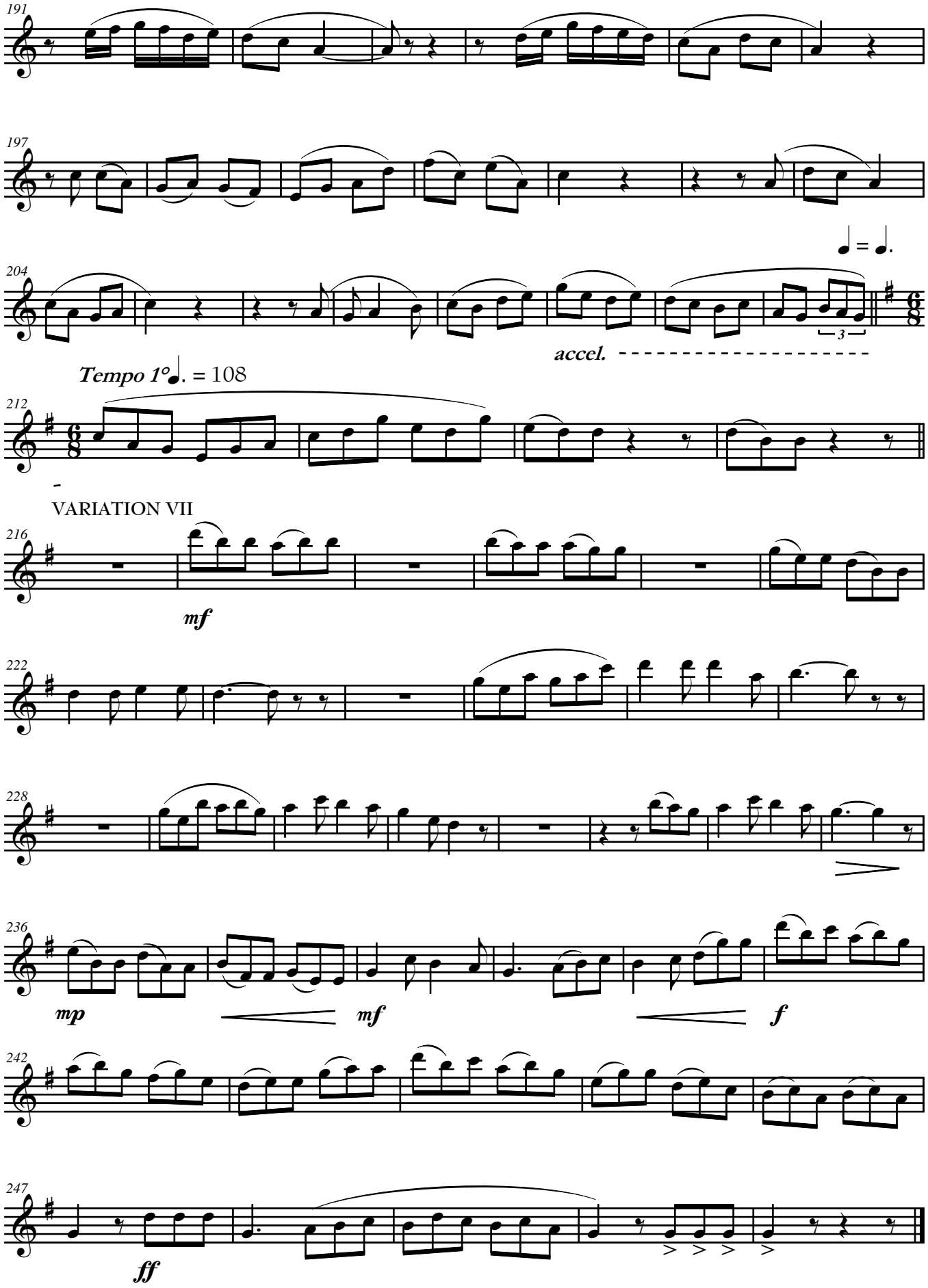

61
mf
f
68
mf
74
79
mf
mp
poco rit.
mp
♩. = 90 VARIATION III
84
90
96
102
p
2
mf
poco accel.
♩. = 96 VARIATION IV
112
mf
118


123
130
137
mf
2
Tempo 1° ♩. = 108
144
f
sub. p
f
più mosso ♩ = 120
149
mf
VARIATION V
153
160
167
174
4
rit. poco a poco
♩ = 72
mp
mf
mp
VARIATION VI
184
mp
mf
mp
mf

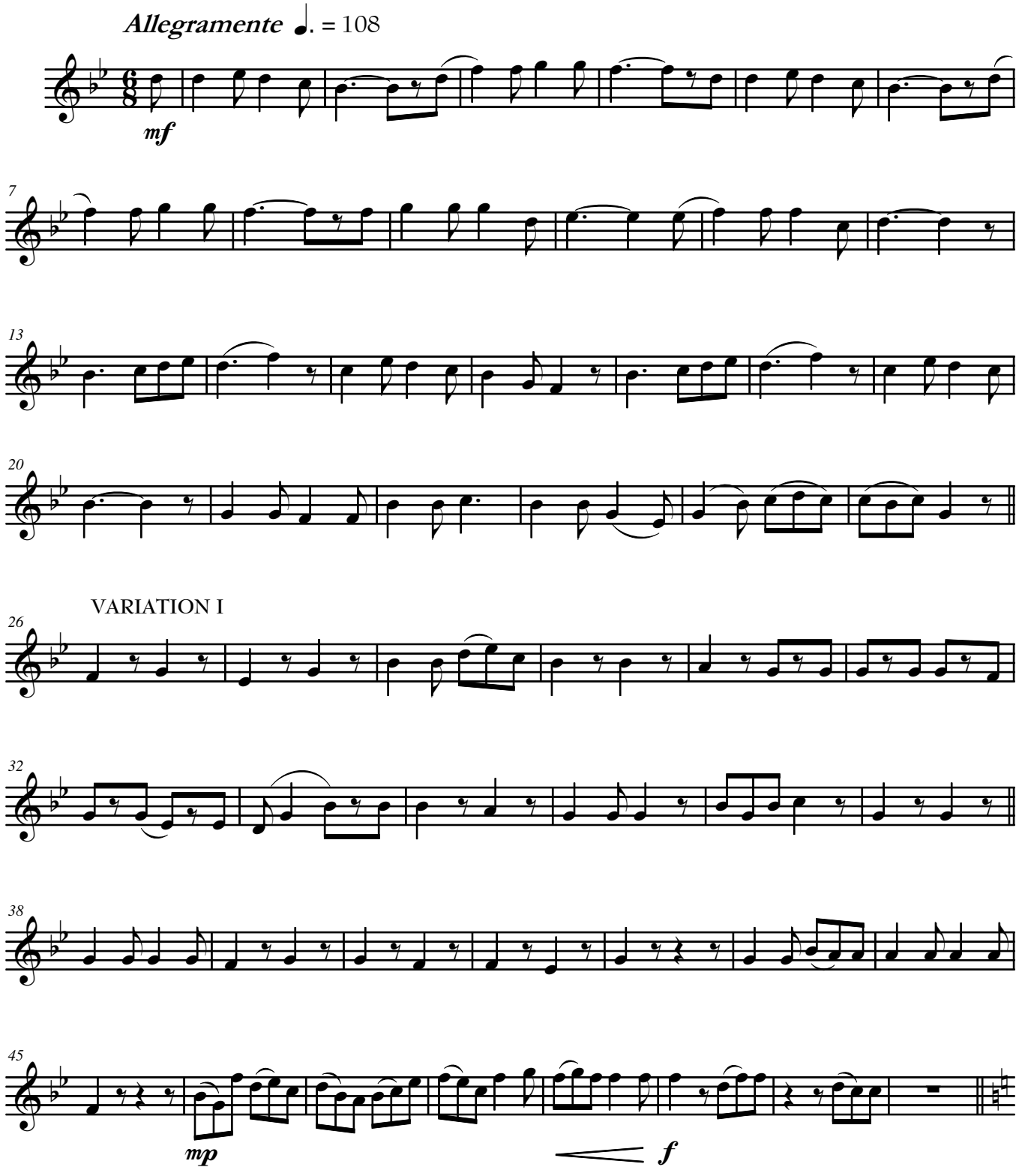

191
197
204
accel.
Tempo 1°. = 108
212
VARIATION VII
216
mf
222
228
236
mp
mf
f
242
247
ff

for Jennifer Paull

Oboe d'amore

VARIATIONS ON
'AUPRES DE MA BLONDE'

Walter Ross
(1936 -)



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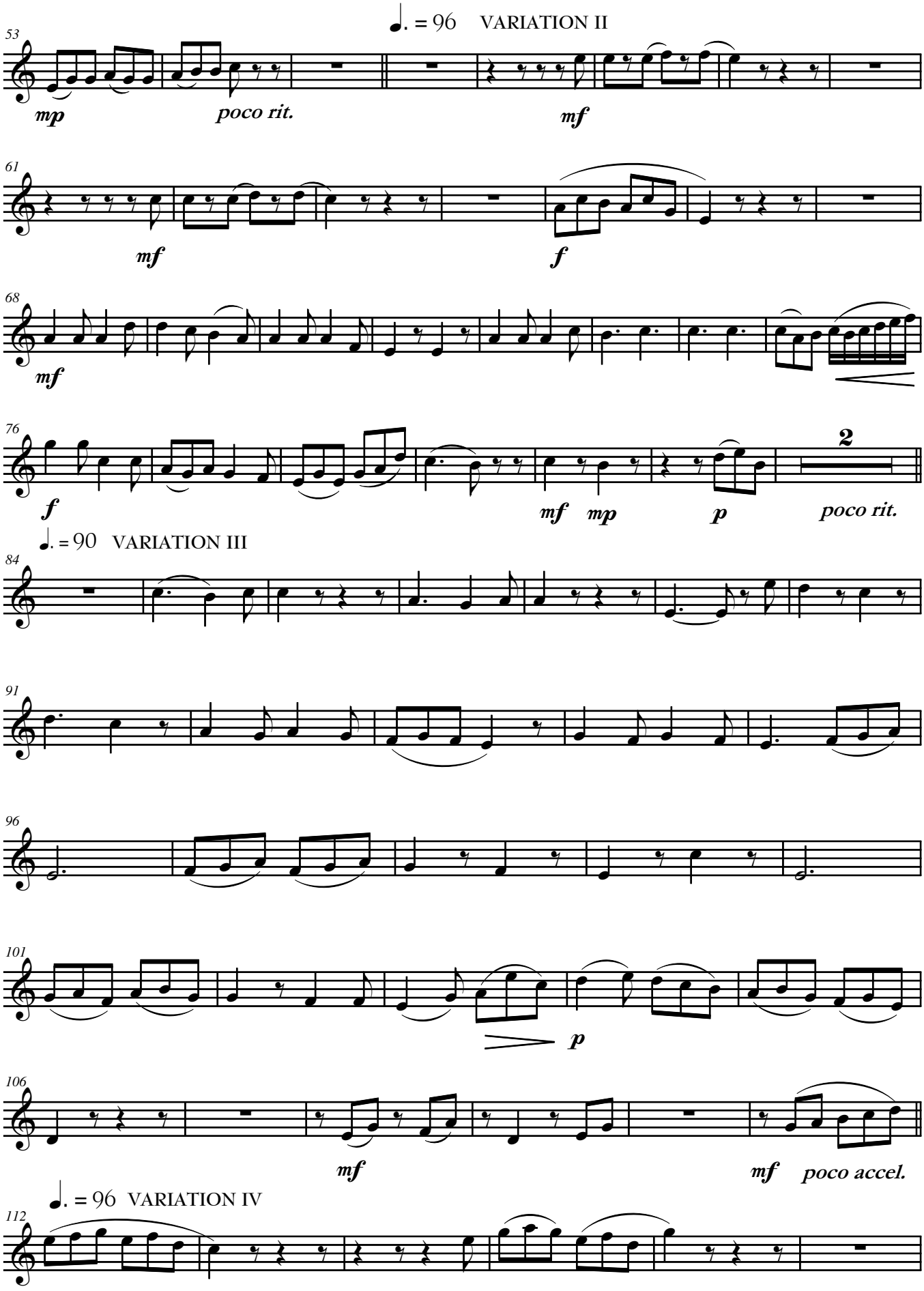
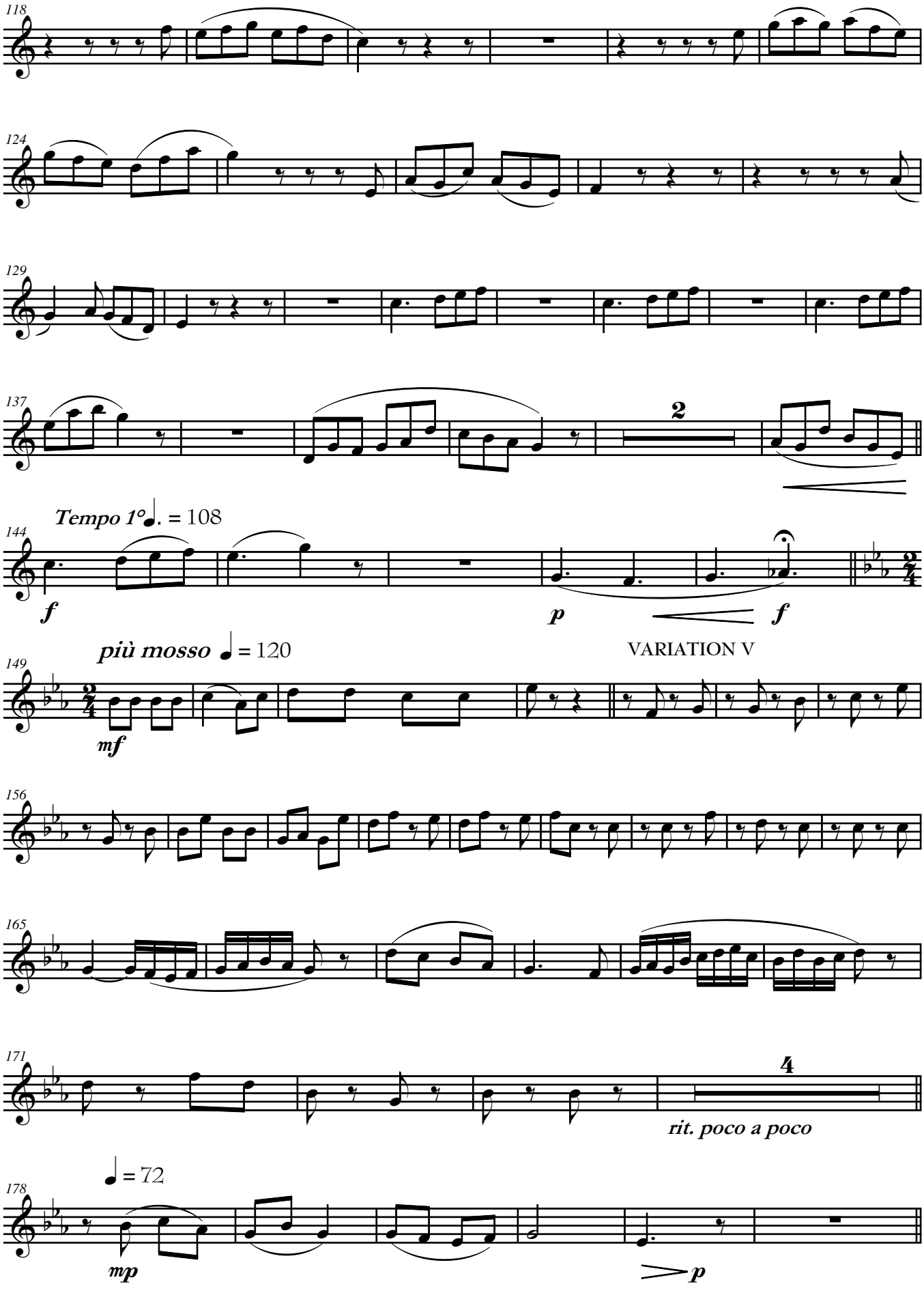
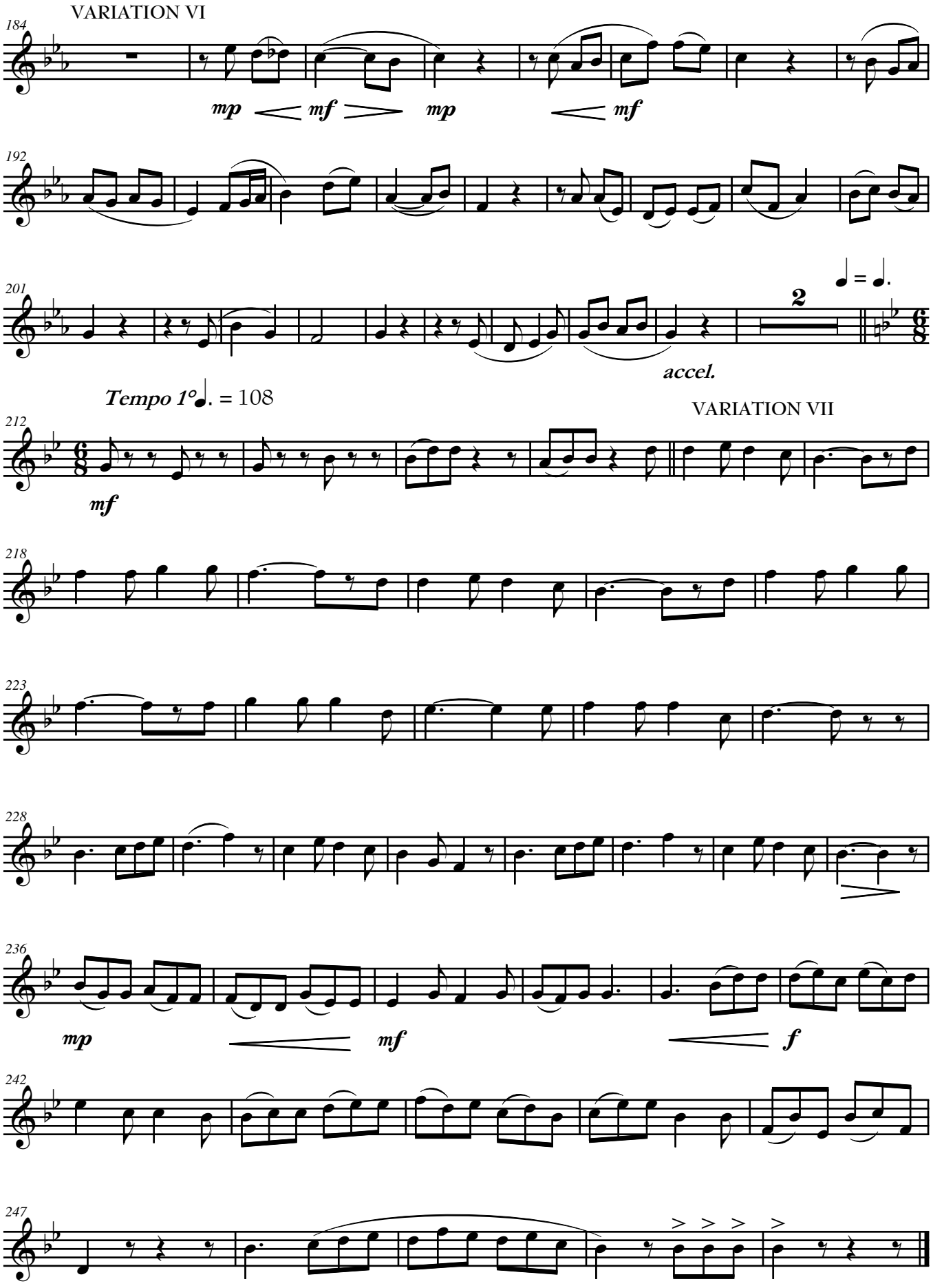

♩. = 96 VARIATION II
53
mp
poco rit.
mf
61
mf
f
68
mf
76
f
mf mp
p
poco rit.
2
♩. = 90 VARIATION III
84
91
96
101
p
106
mf
mf poco accel.
♩. = 96 VARIATION IV
112


118
124
129
137
2
Tempo 1° = 108
144
f
p
f
più mosso = 120
VARIATION V
149
mf
156
165
171
4
rit. poco a poco
= 72
178
mp
p

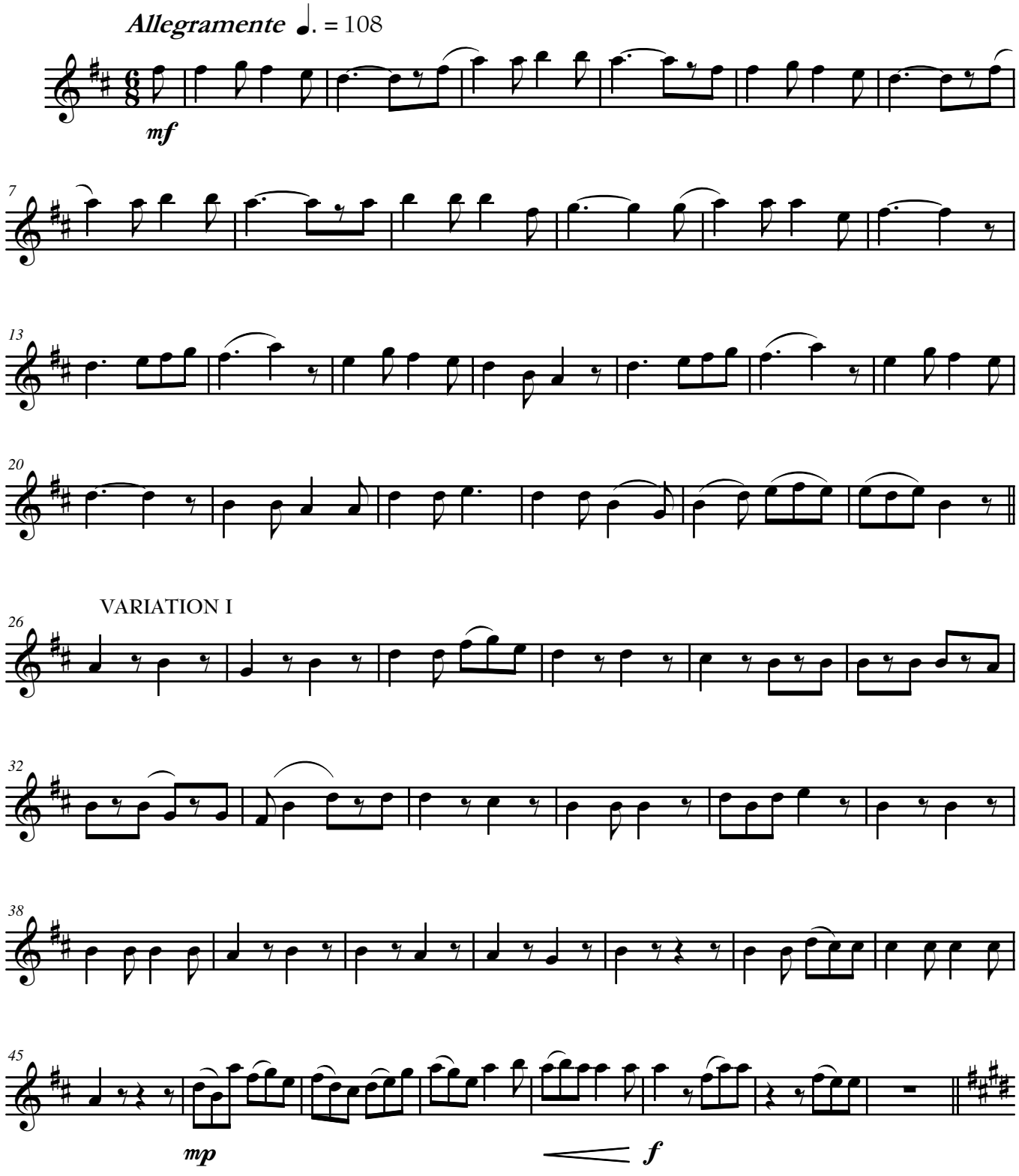

VARIATION VI
184
mp
mf
mp
mf
192
201
2
accel.
Tempo 1°. = 108
VARIATION VII
212
mf
218
223
228
236
mp
mf
f
242
247

for Jennifer Paull

Cor anglais

VARIATIONS ON
'AUPRES DE MA BLONDE'

Walter Ross
(1936)



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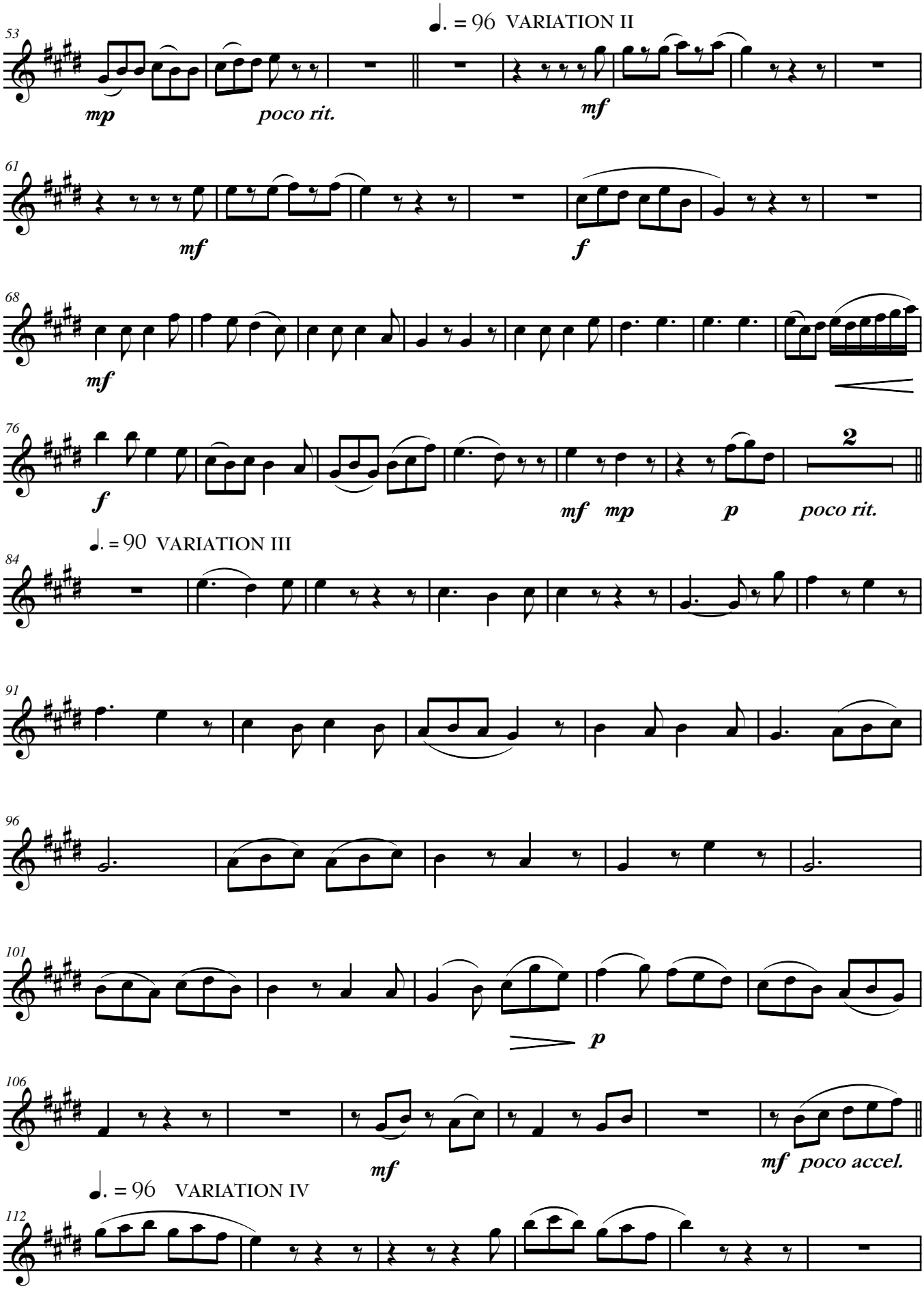
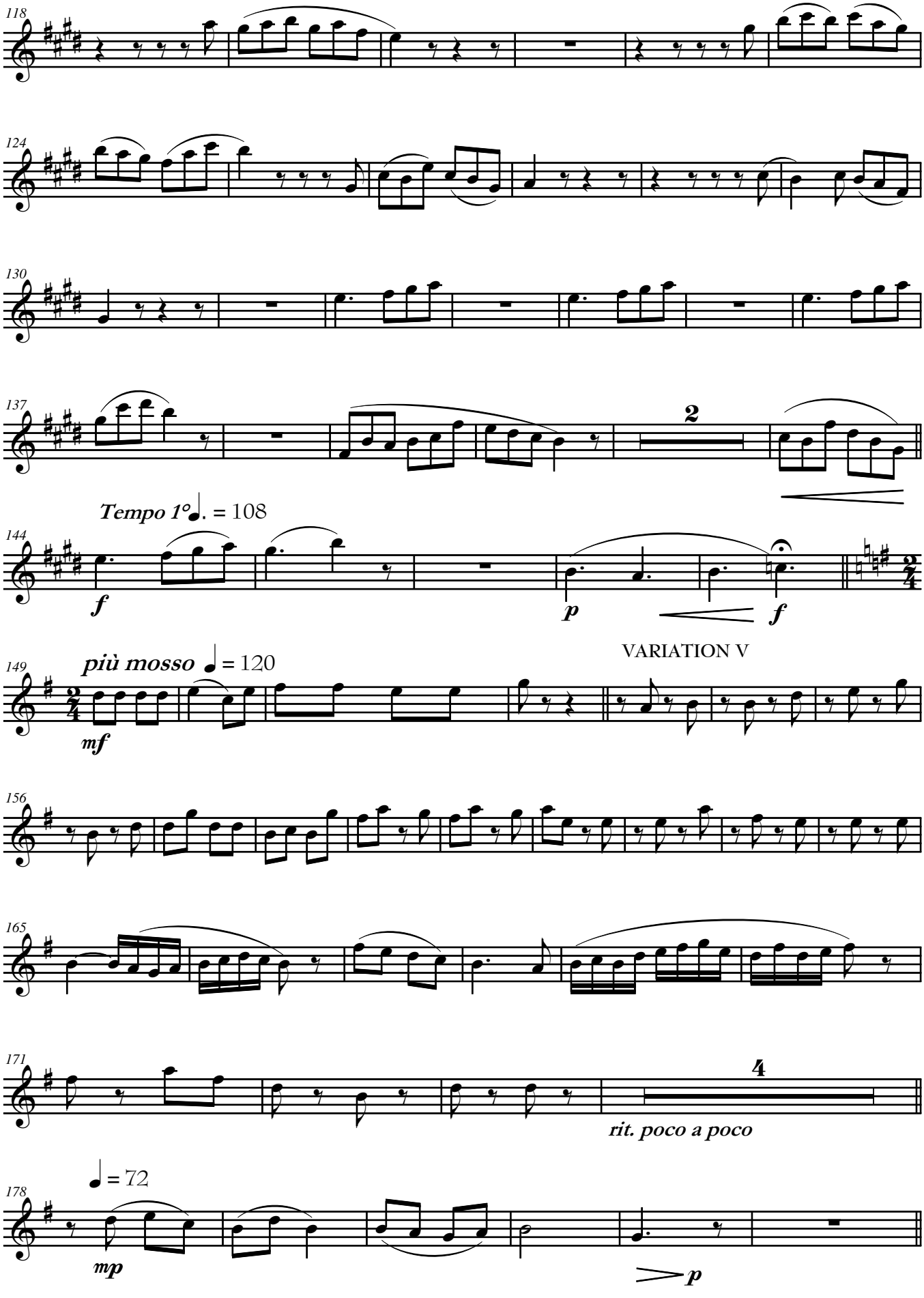

♩. = 96 VARIATION II
53
mp
poco rit.
mf
61
mf
f
68
mf
76
f
mf mp
p
poco rit.
2
♩. = 90 VARIATION III
84
91
96
101
p
106
mf
mf poco accel.
♩. = 96 VARIATION IV
112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124
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2
Tempo 1° = 108
144
f
p
f
VARIATION V
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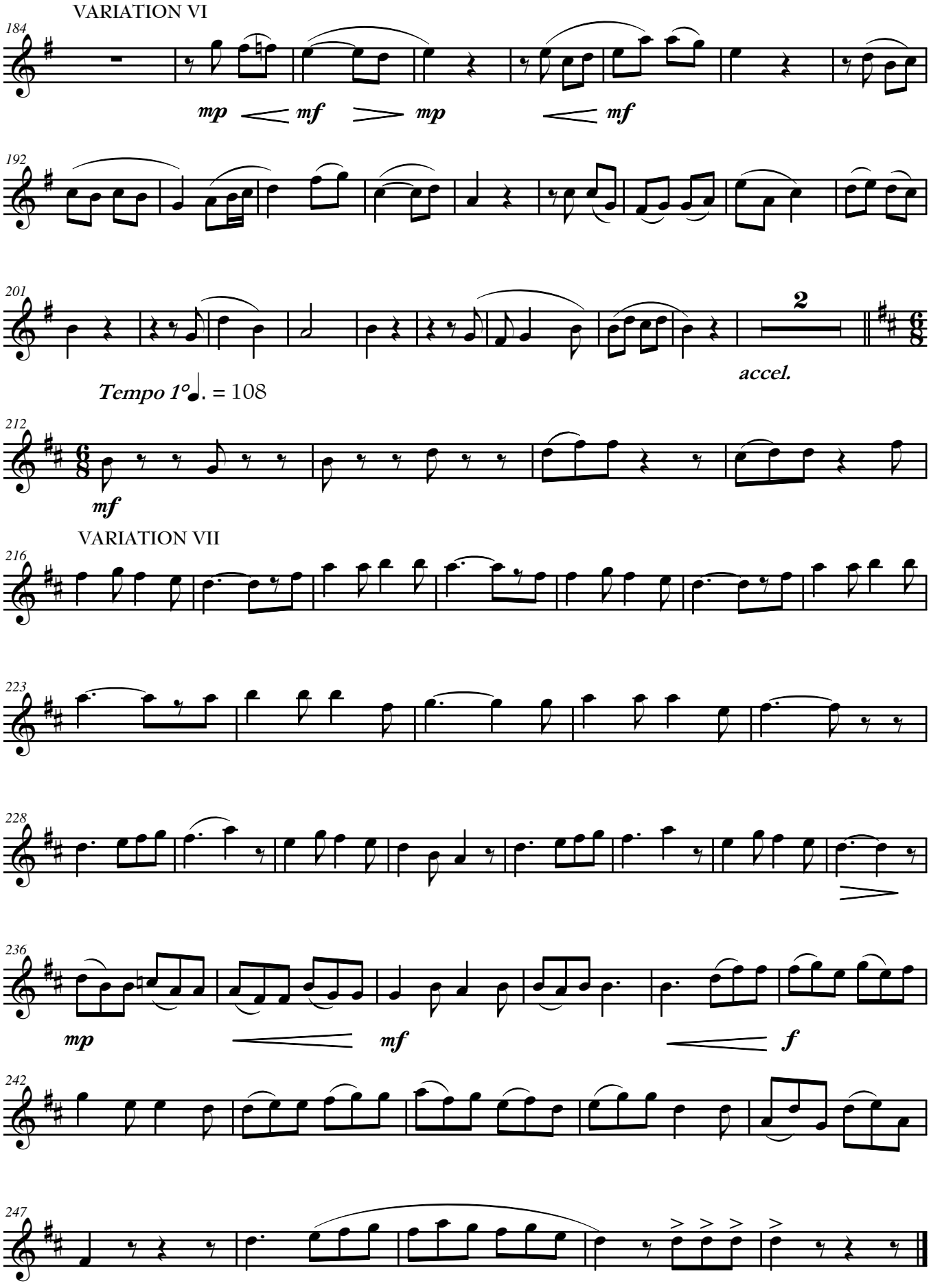
più mosso = 120
mf
156
165
171
4
rit. poco a poco
178
= 72
mp
p

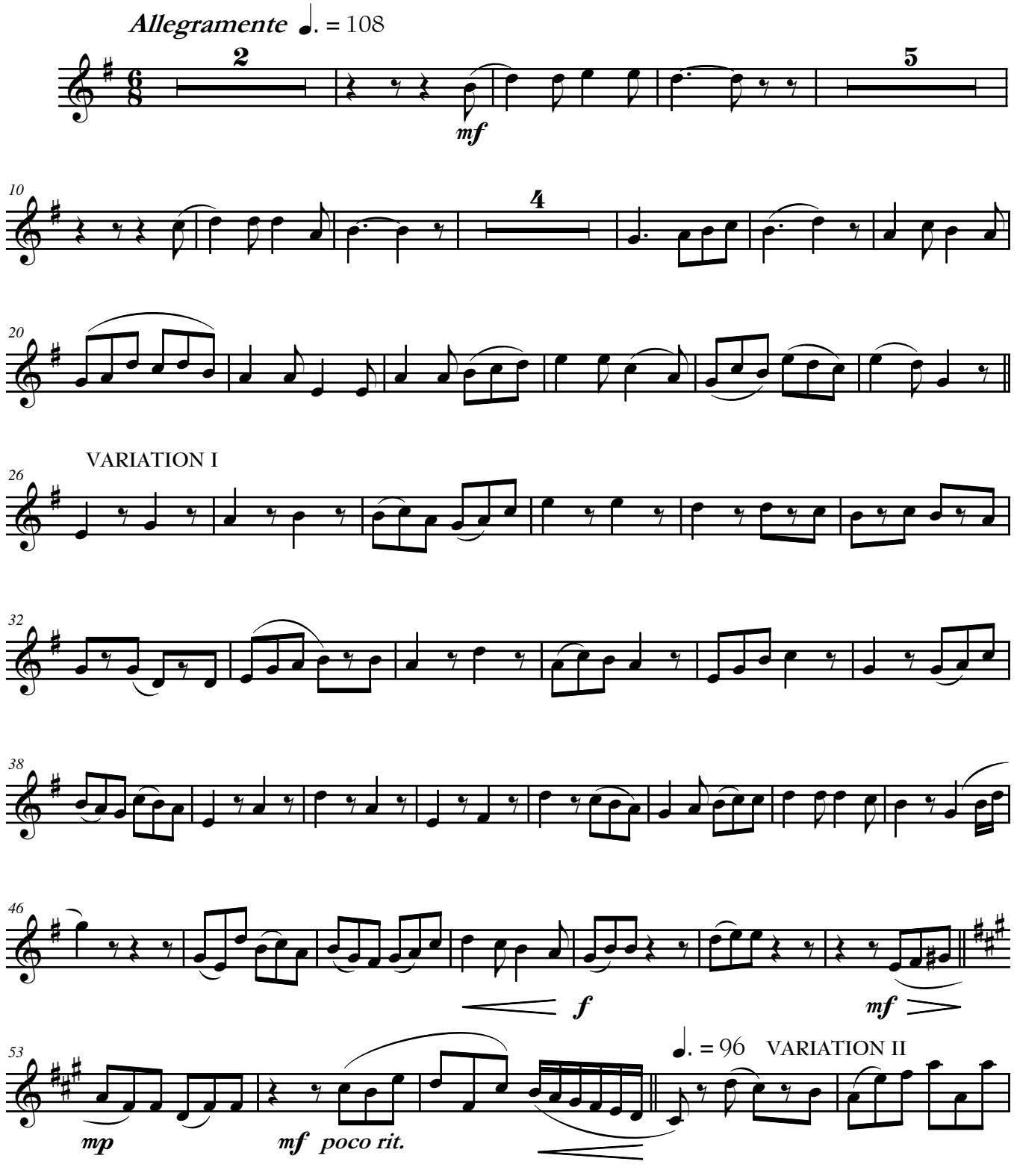

VARIATION VI
184
mp
mf
mp
mf
192
201
2
accel.
Tempo 1° ♩. = 108
212
mf
VARIATION VII
216
223
228
236
mp
mf
f
242
247

for Jennifer Paull

Bass Oboe

VARIATIONS ON
'AUPRES DE MA BLONDE'

Walter Ross
(1936 -)



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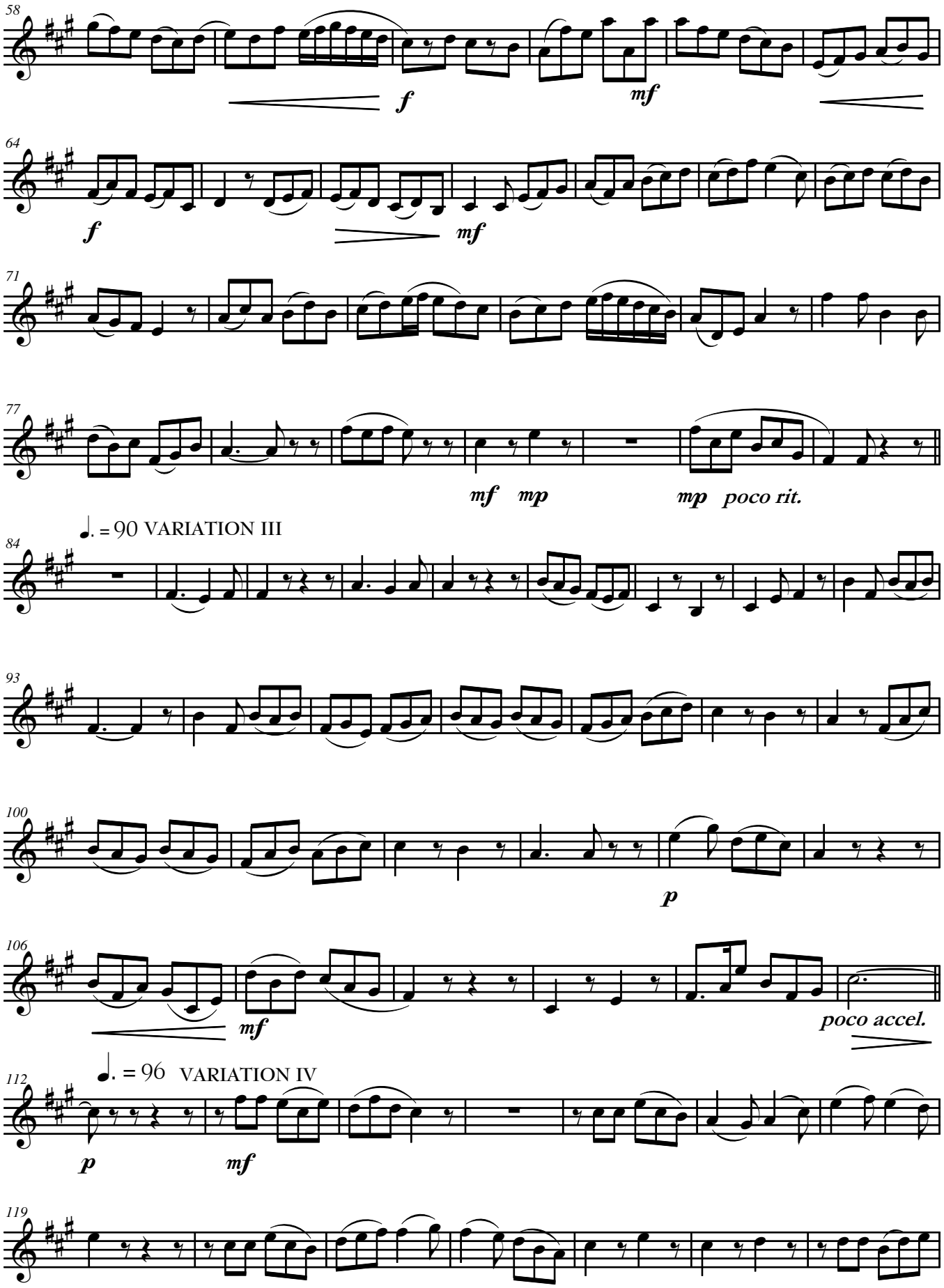
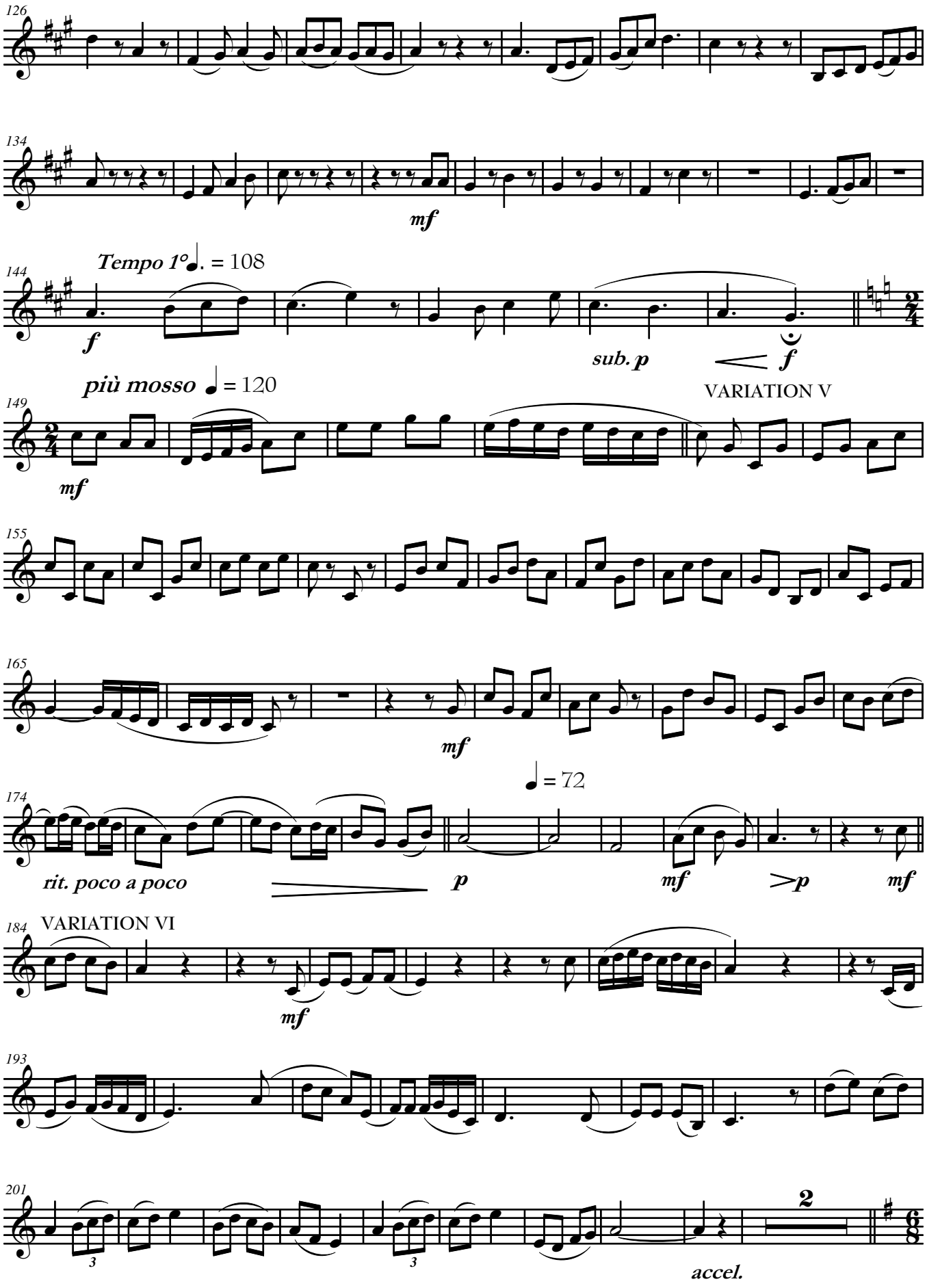
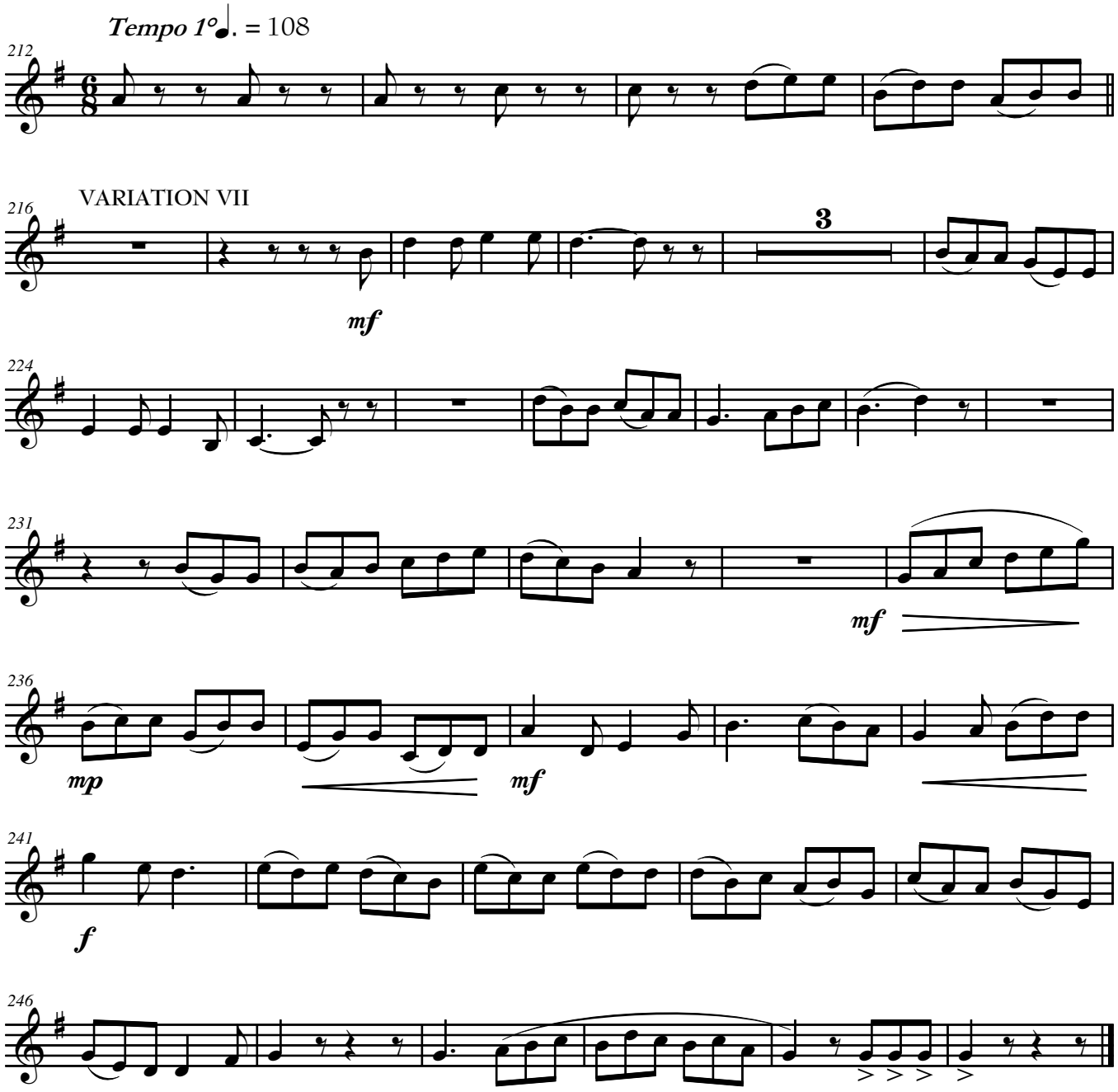

58
f
mf
64
f
mf
71
77
mf mp
mp poco rit.
♩. = 90 VARIATION III
84
93
100
p
106
mf
poco accel.
♩. = 96 VARIATION IV
112
p
mf
119


126
134
mf
144
Tempo 1°. = 108
f
sub. p
f
149
più mosso = 120
VARIATION V
mf
155
165
mf
174
= 72
rit. poco a poco
p
mf
>p
mf
184
VARIATION VI
mf
193
201
3
3
2
accel.

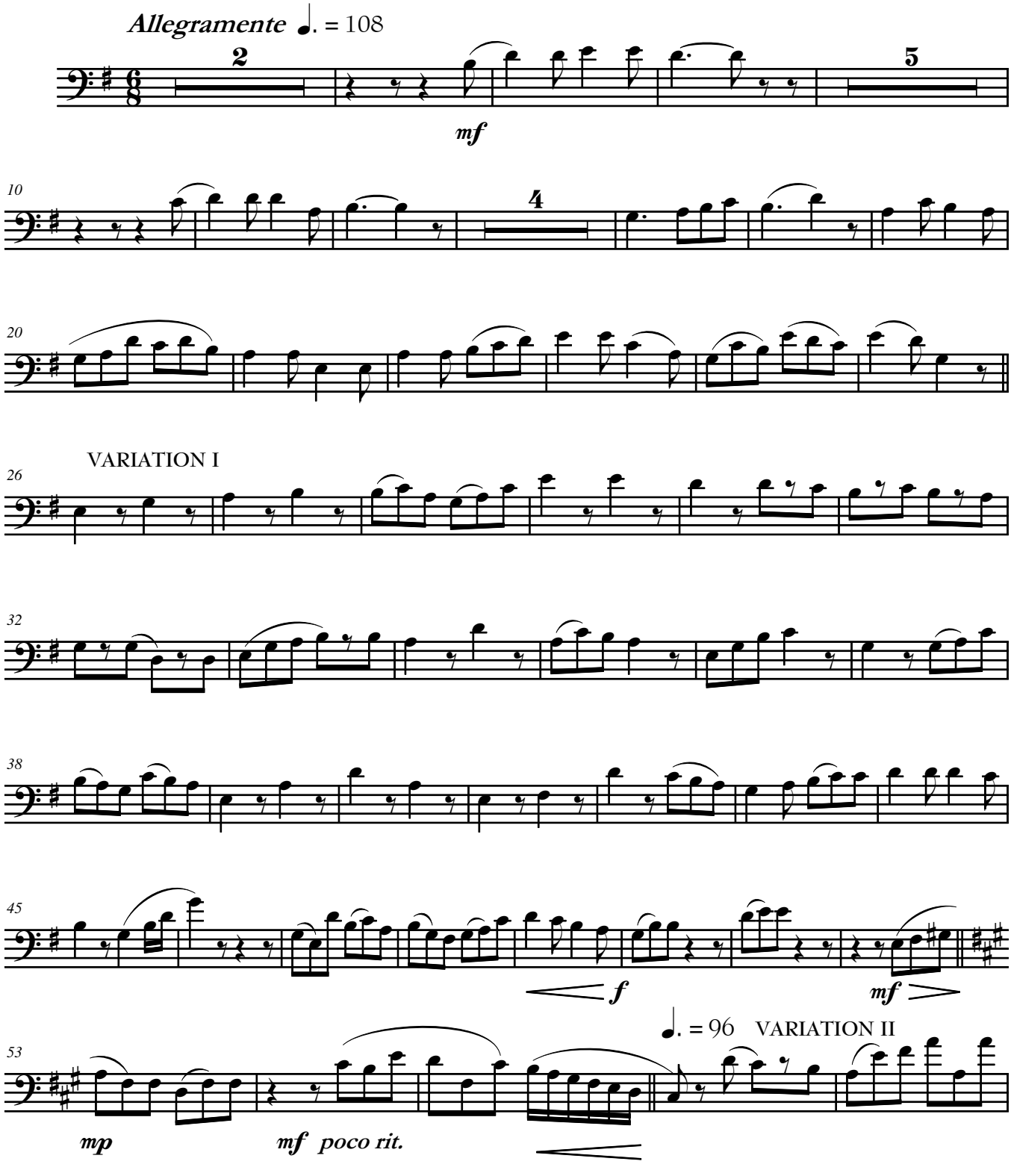

Tempo 1° = 108
212
VARIATION VII
216
3
mf
224
231
mf
236
mp
mf
241
f
246

for Jennifer Paull

Bassoon

VARIATIONS ON
'AUPRES DE MA BLONDE'

Walter Ross
(1936)



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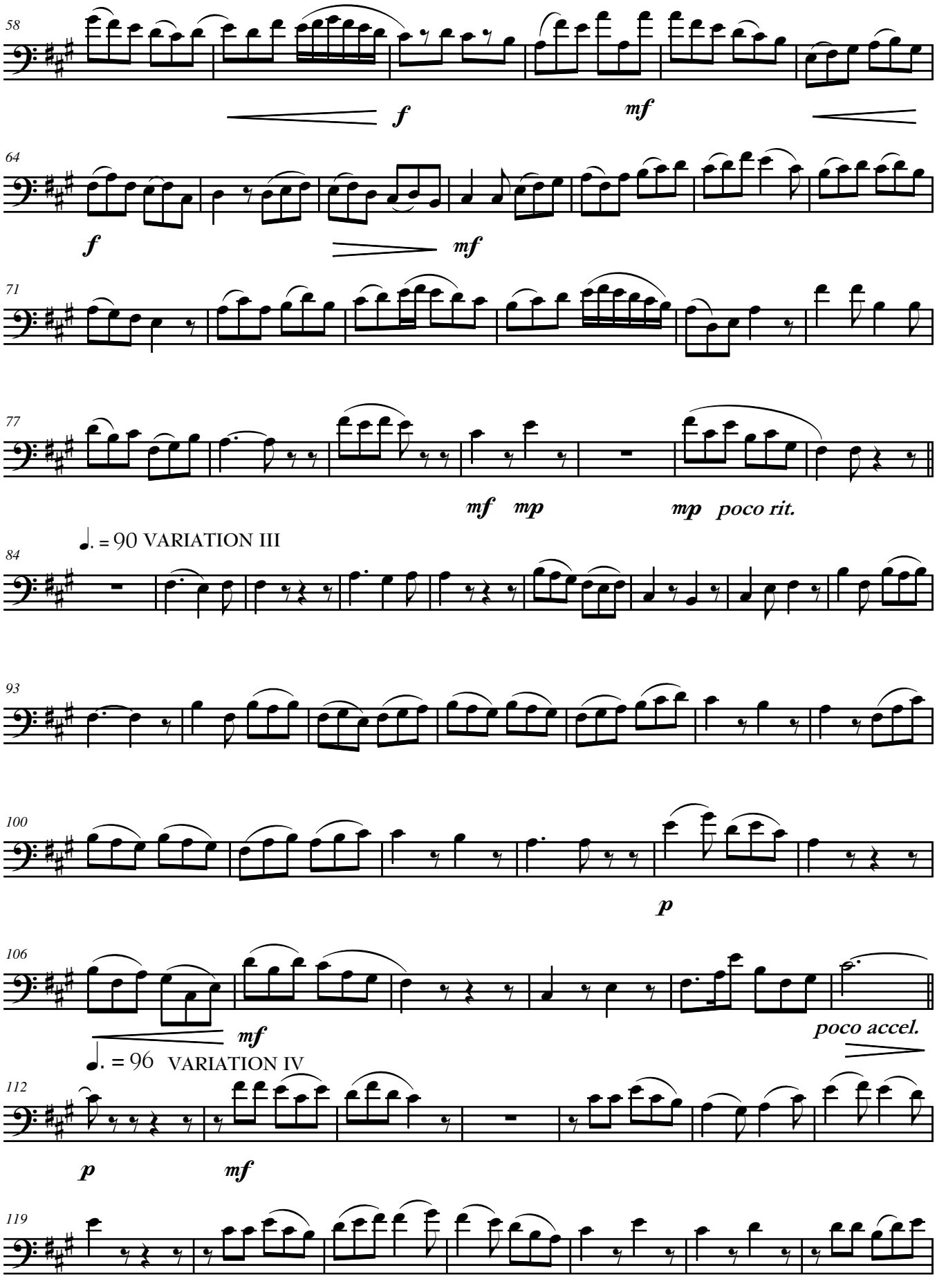
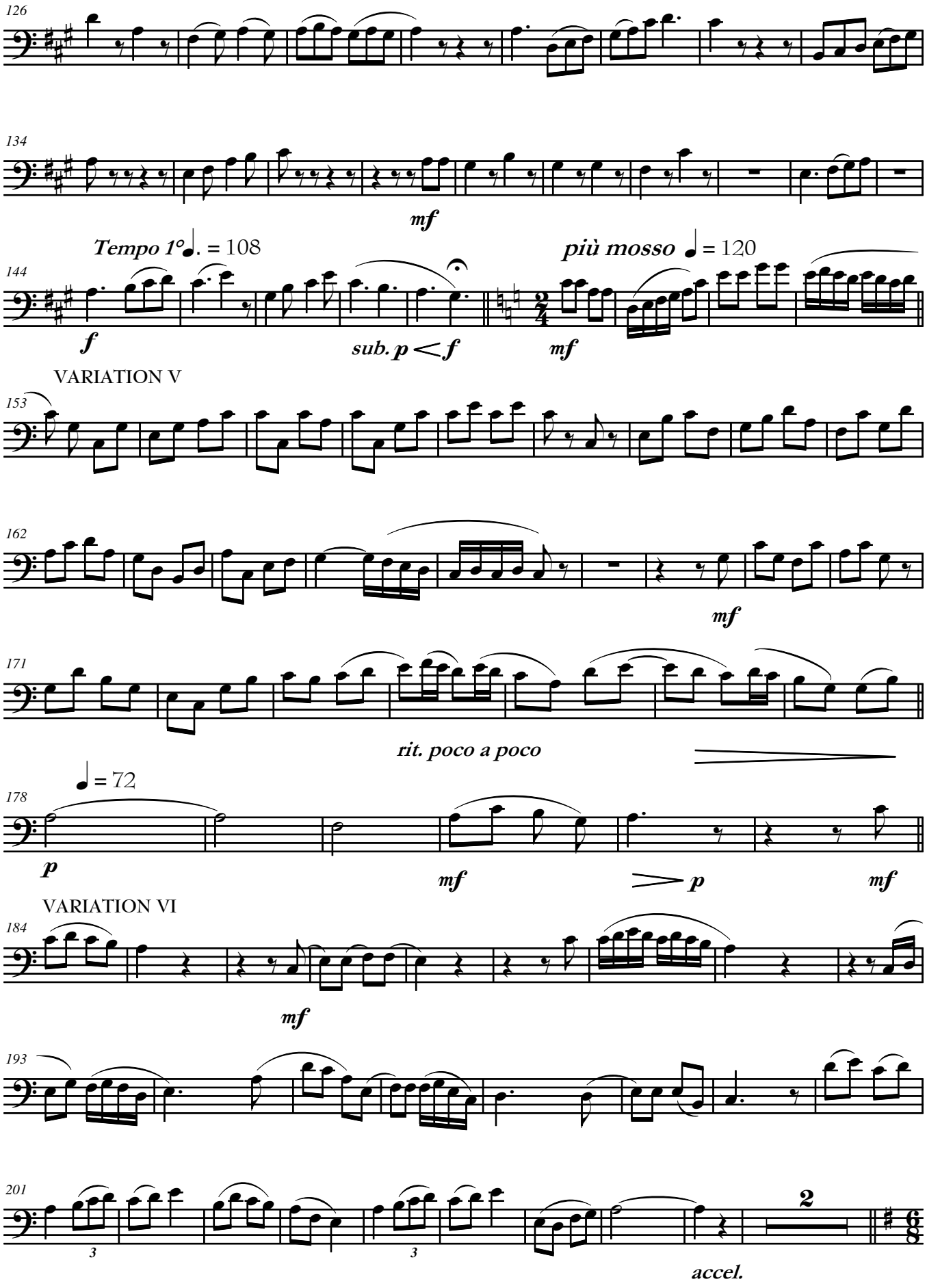
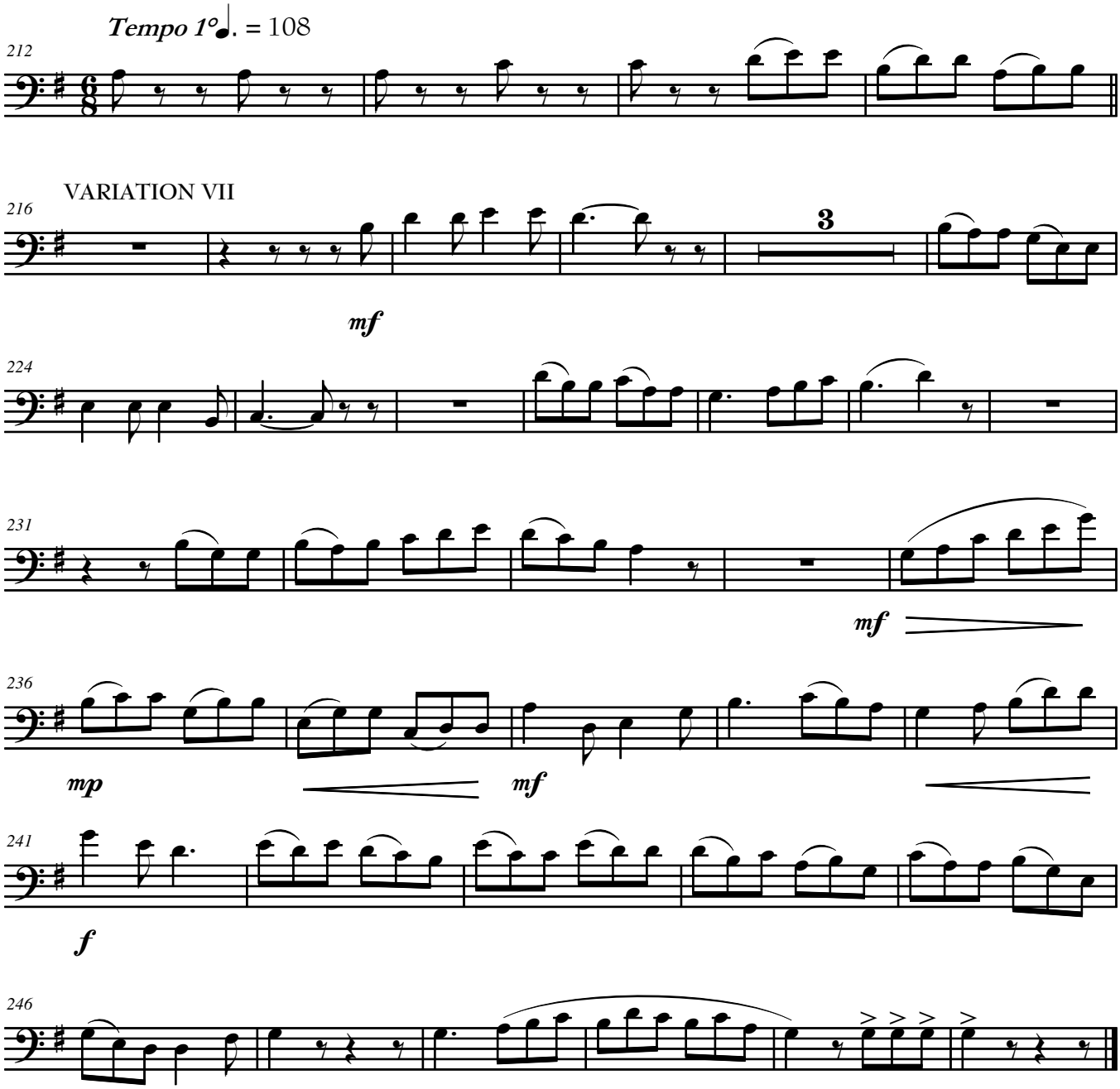

58
f
mf
64
f
mf
71
77
mf mp
mp poco rit.
♩. = 90 VARIATION III
84
93
100
p
106
mf
poco accel.
♩. = 96 VARIATION IV
112
p
mf
119


126
134
mf
Tempo 1° ♩. = 108
più mosso ♩ = 120
144
f
sub. p < f
mf
VARIATION V
153
162
mf
171
rit. poco a poco
♩ = 72
178
p
mf
p
mf
VARIATION VI
184
mf
193
201
3
3
2
accel.


Tempo 1°. = 108
212
VARIATION VII
216
3
mf
224
231
mf
236
mp
mf
241
f
246