The Short Fear (2020)

for actor and bass clarinet

Jamie Elless (b. 1998)

The Short Fear (2020)

for actor and bass clarinet

My awkward grossness grows: I go down, through

I maintain my self in the conviction
that I may have as much to say as others
and more apposite ways of saying it

Certainly I feel it has all been said

The short fear is that even saying it
in my own way is equally worthless

The Short Fear, B. S. Johnson (1933-1973)

Notes for performance

The actor is encouraged to add their own dramatic expression and flair to their performance. Small directions - "**matter of fact**," "**loud and aggressive,**" "**short and sharp**" - are given within their part, but the actor may interpret and extend these however they choose.

The actor is also encouraged to experiment with vastly different styles of address to see which most suits their own voice and expression. Examples may include: sitting behind a desk as a newsreader; performing with exaggerated and dynamic actions as a thespian; sitting or standing amongst the audience, engaging with individual members directly; or standing completely still on stage with as little expression as possible.

Although the clarinettist may visibly cue the actor and lead the musical direction of the performance, especially if the actor is not musically trained, the actor must ultimately take charge of and control the performance space.

The clarinettist may perform on stage with the actor, or may go elsewhere in the space, as long as they are static throughout. The actor is free to move around as they wish.

Amplification for both performers may be used if needed, although this is not preferred if they are performing amongst the audience.

Duration: c. 5 minutes.
Transposing score.

The Short Fear

for actor and bass clarinet

B. S. Johnson (1933-1973)

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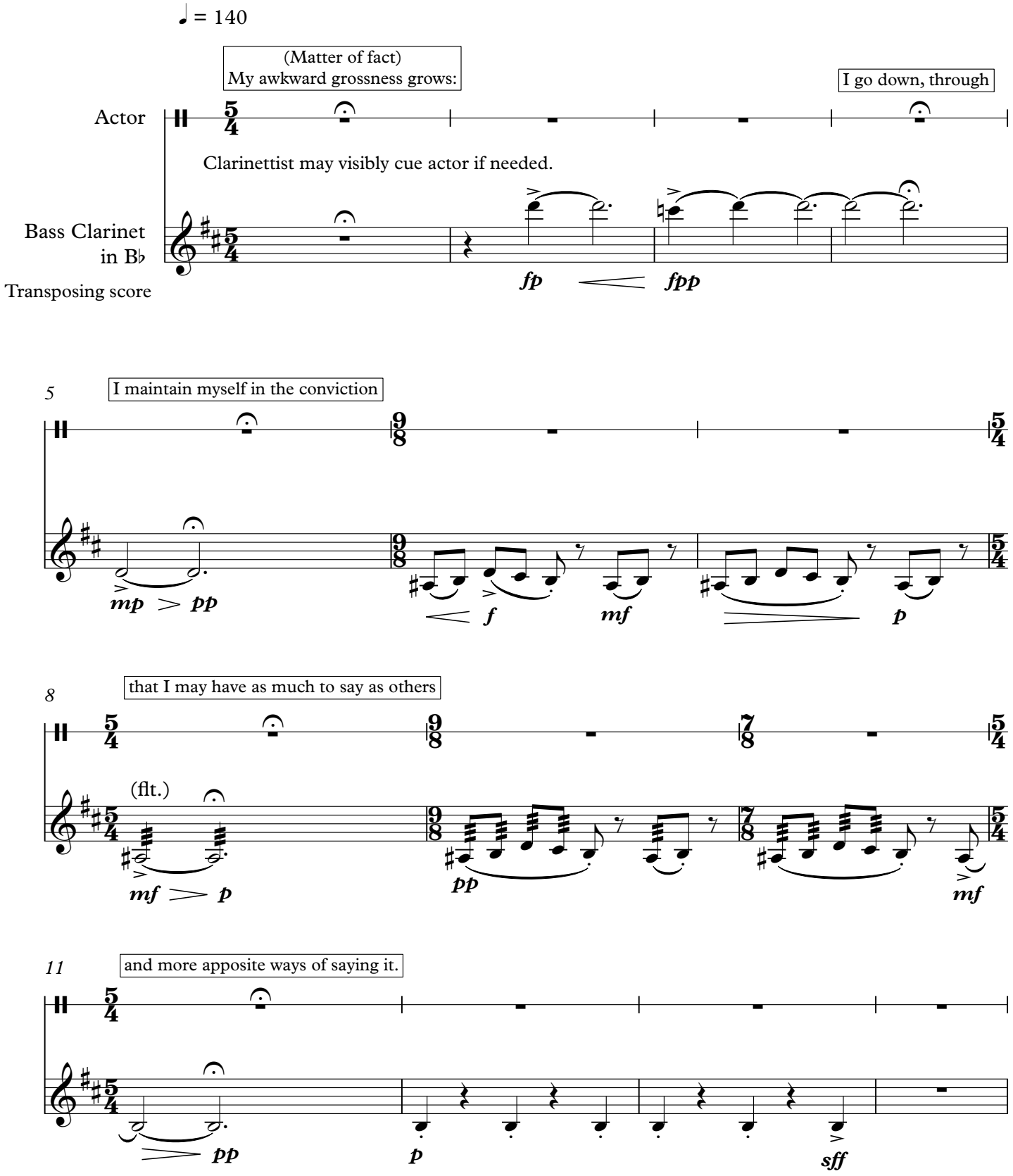
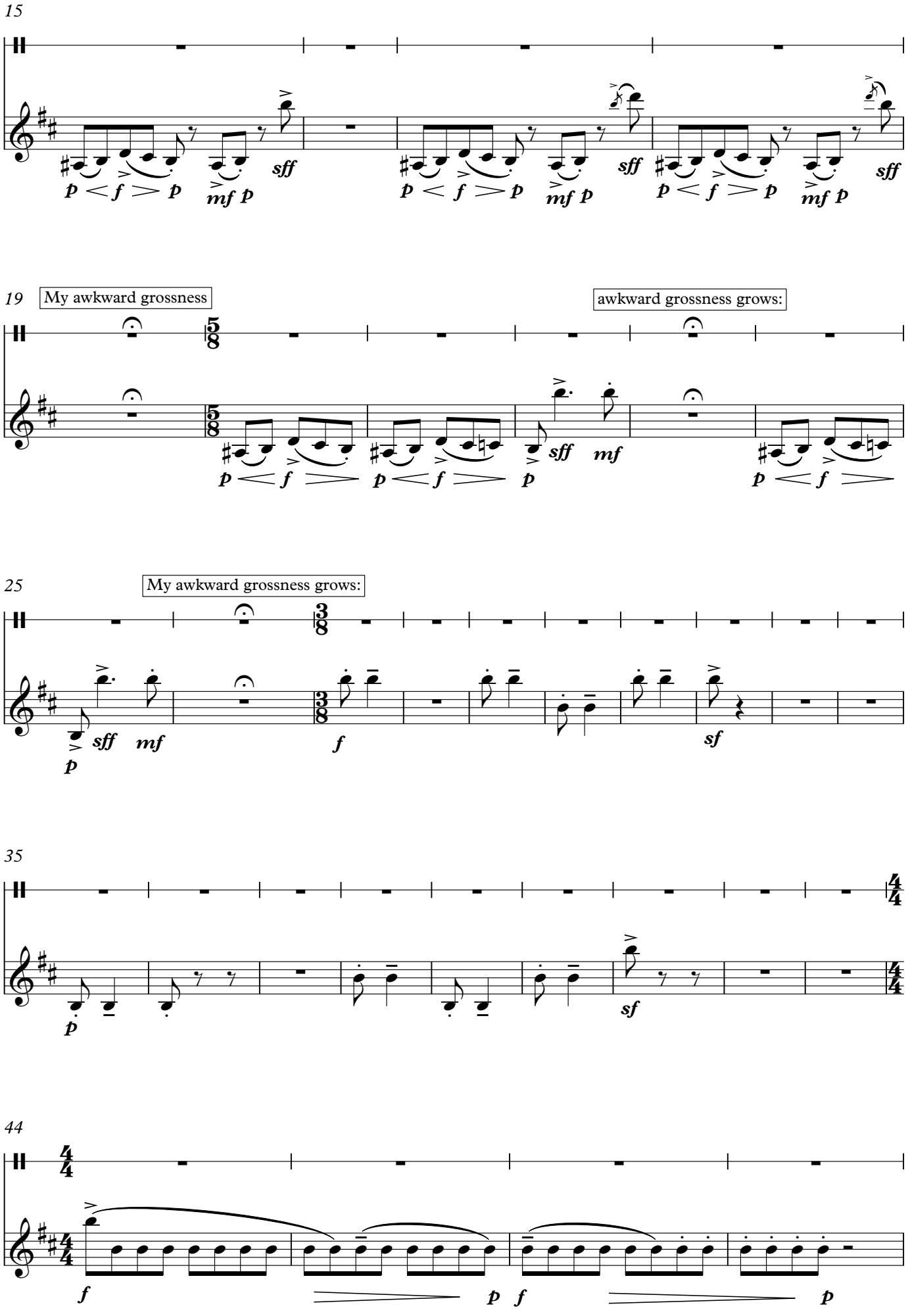
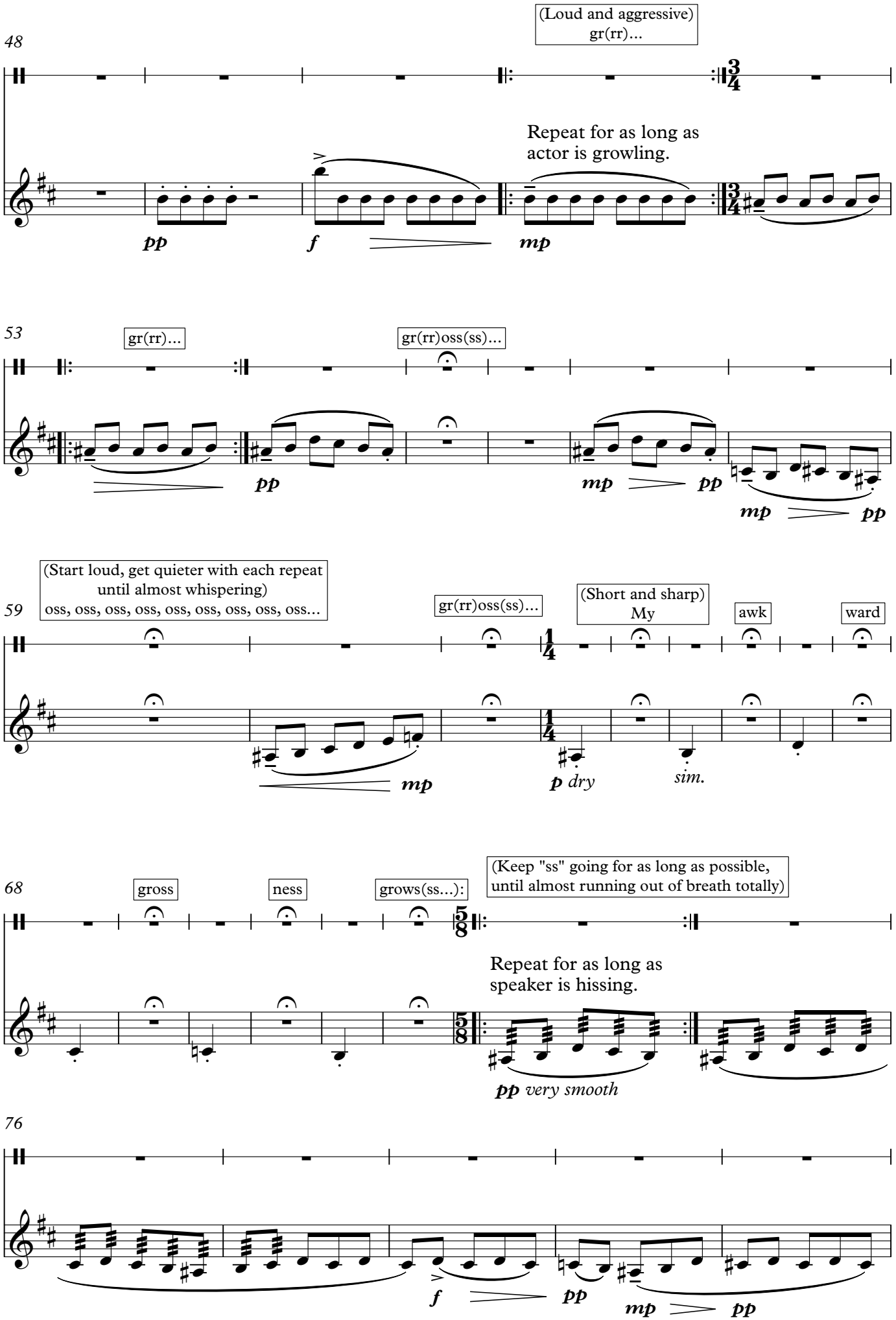
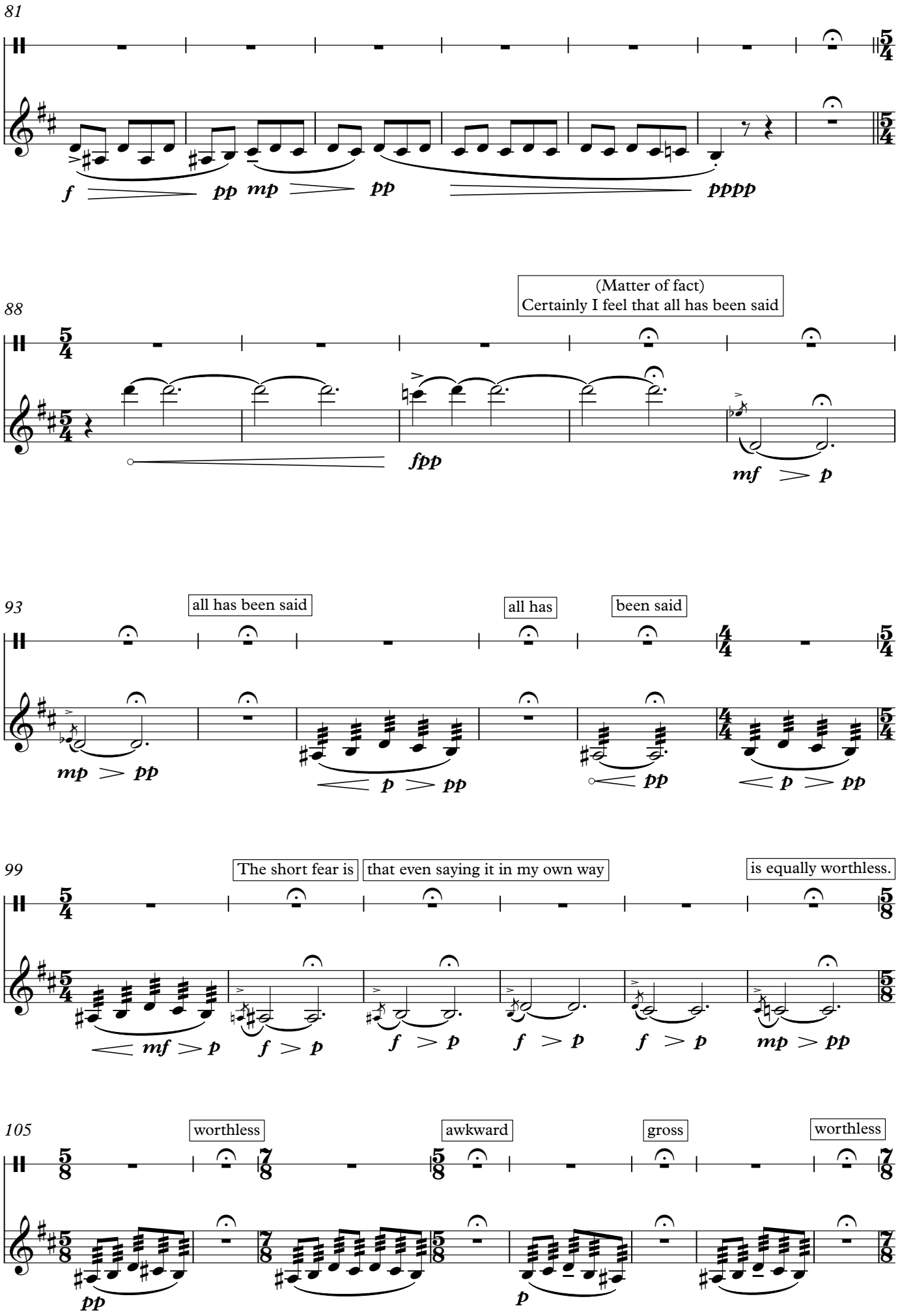
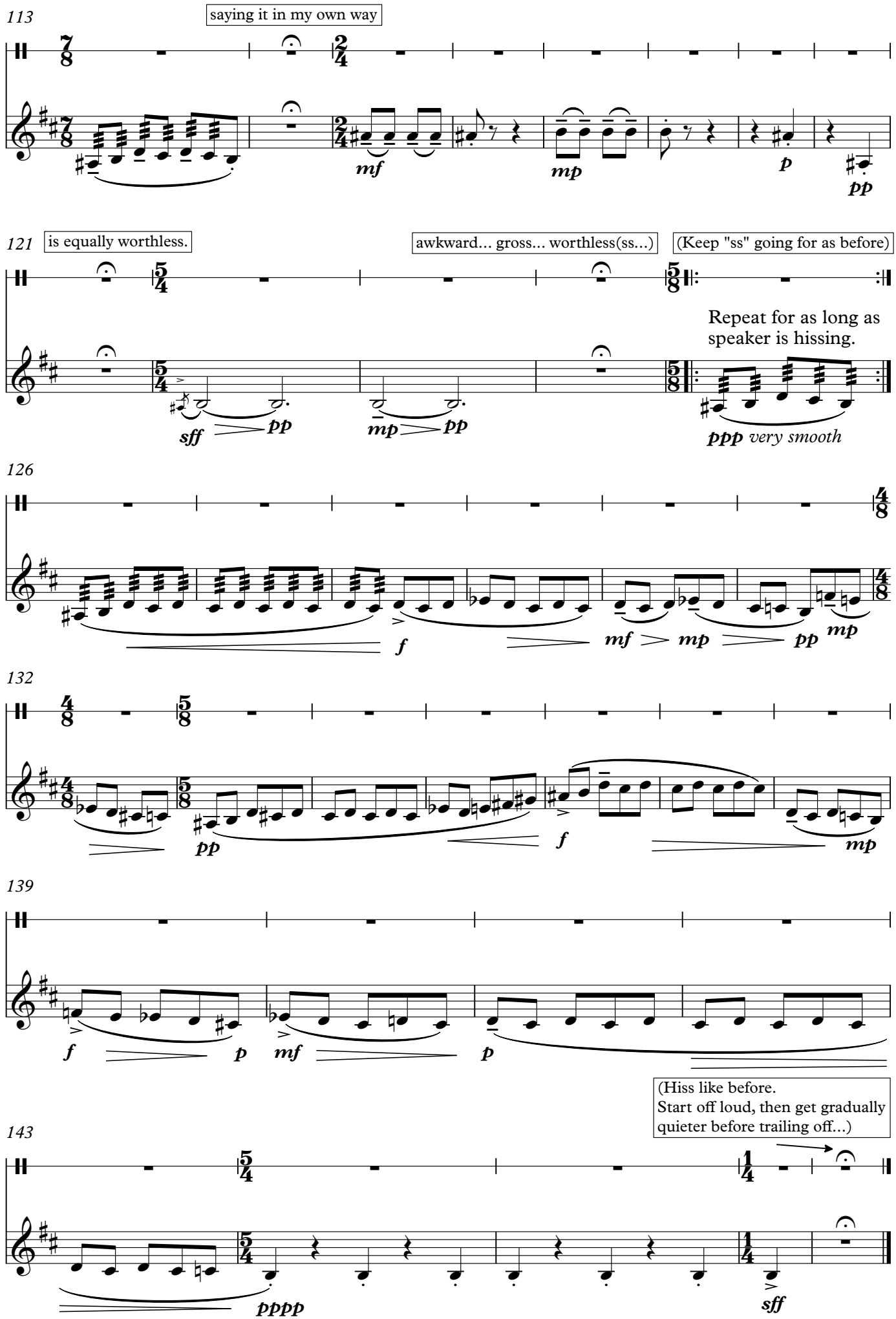



15
19
My awkward grossness
awkward grossness grows:
25
My awkward grossness grows:
35
44


48
(Loud and aggressive)
gr(rr)...
Repeat for as long as
actor is growling.
pp
f
mp
53
gr(rr)...
gr(rr)oss(ss)...
pp
mp
pp
mp
pp
59
(Start loud, get quieter with each repeat
until almost whispering)
oss, oss, oss, oss, oss, oss, oss, oss, oss...
gr(rr)oss(ss)...
(Short and sharp)
My
awk
ward
mp
p dry
sim.
68
gross
ness
grows(ss...):
(Keep "ss" going for as long as possible,
until almost running out of breath totally)
Repeat for as long as
speaker is hissing.
pp very smooth
76
f
pp
mp
pp


81
f
pp
mp
pp
pppp
88
(Matter of fact)
Certainly I feel that all has been said
fpp
mf
p
93
all has been said
all has
been said
mp
pp
p
pp
pp
p
pp
99
The short fear is
that even saying it in my own way
is equally worthless.
mf
p
f
p
f
p
f
p
f
p
mp
pp
105
worthless
awkward
gross
worthless
pp
p


113
saying it in my own way
mf
mp
p
pp
121
is equally worthless.
awkward... gross... worthless(ss...)
(Keep "ss" going for as before)
Repeat for as long as speaker is hissing.
sff
pp
mp
pp
ppp very smooth
126
f
mf
mp
pp
mp
132
pp
f
mp
139
f
p
mf
p
(Hiss like before.
Start off loud, then get gradually quieter before trailing off...)
143
pppp
sff