(Los espejos) a mute theatre

for Bb clarinet, harp, mezzo-soprano and double bass

Alexander Kolassa

(2014/15)

Text by Jorge Luis Borges

Space, time and death also go out
As when light is no more,
And the simulacrum of mirrors fade… (*La Recoleta*)

Nos acecha el cristal. Si entre las cuatro
Paredes de la alcoba hay un espejo,
Ya no estoy solo. Hay otro. Hay el reflejo
Que arma en el alba un sigiloso teatro

[…]

Dio ha creado las noches que se arman
De sueños y las formas del espejo
Para que el hombre sienta que es reflejo
Y vanidad. Pore so nos alarman (*Los Espejos*)

At times in the evening a face
Looks at us out of the depths of a mirror;
[Art should be like that mirror
Which reveals to us our own face] (*Ars Poetica*)

(Los espejos) a mute theatre

Instrumentation

Clarinet in Bb (as written)

Harp

Mezzo-soprano

Double Bass (w/extension)

Performance Note/Instructions

Players should be positioned in an approximate semi-circle, with harp and mezzo-soprano on the inside (though the mezzo-soprano should be closer to the central point than the harp).

Passages in which rhythmic notation is approximate are designated by a bracket above the stave which has a number that indicates (in seconds) said passage's duration. In this context, space between notes indicates a relative duration. Lines and arrows align entrances of new parts to a main reference melody, after which they proceed independently.

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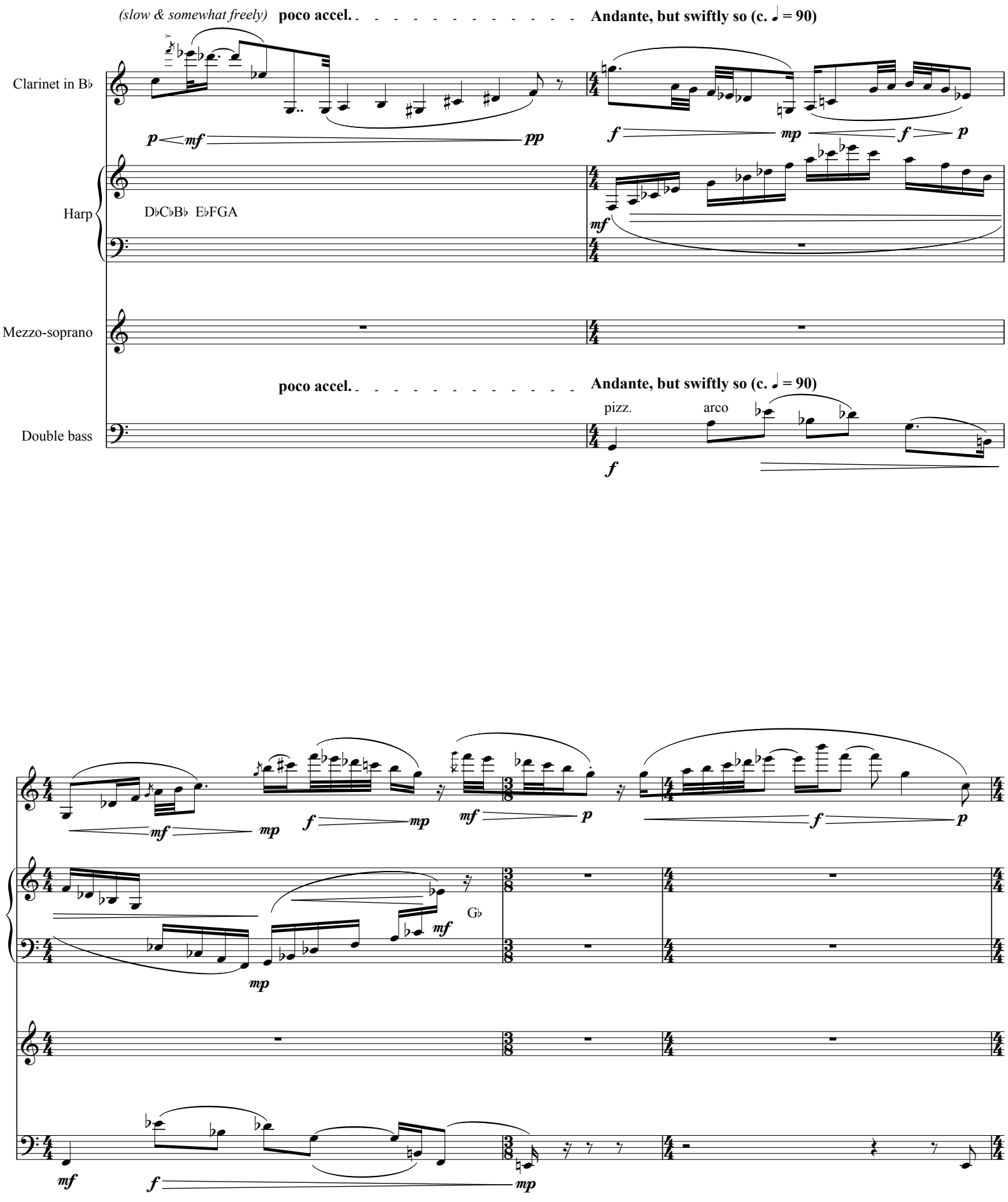


mf mp f pp

f G♮ (7) gliss. mf pp

mp

space,

pizz. arco

mf mp mf

A **Poco meno mosso**

20"

p

B♮ mp

molto expressivo (somewhat improvised)

cresc. poco a poco

, mp

— time and death al - so go out as when light is

A **Poco meno mosso**

pp f pp

mf

no more, and the sim - ul - la - crum of mir - ors fade

gliss. gliss.

mf ff

B **Più mosso**

D♮C♮B♭ E♮G♭A♭

normale

pp *mf* *mp* *pp*

mf *mp* *p* *mf* *mp*

Nos ac - - ec - ha el cris - tal. Si en - - tre

B **Più mosso**

10"

tr

p *f* *mp*

E♭ *mf*

gliss. *f*

mf *p* *fp* *pp*

las cua - tro

[oʊ]

sul pont norm. pizz. arco

f *pp* *mf* *pp*

A tempo **poco rit.**

pp *fp* *mp* *p* *mp*

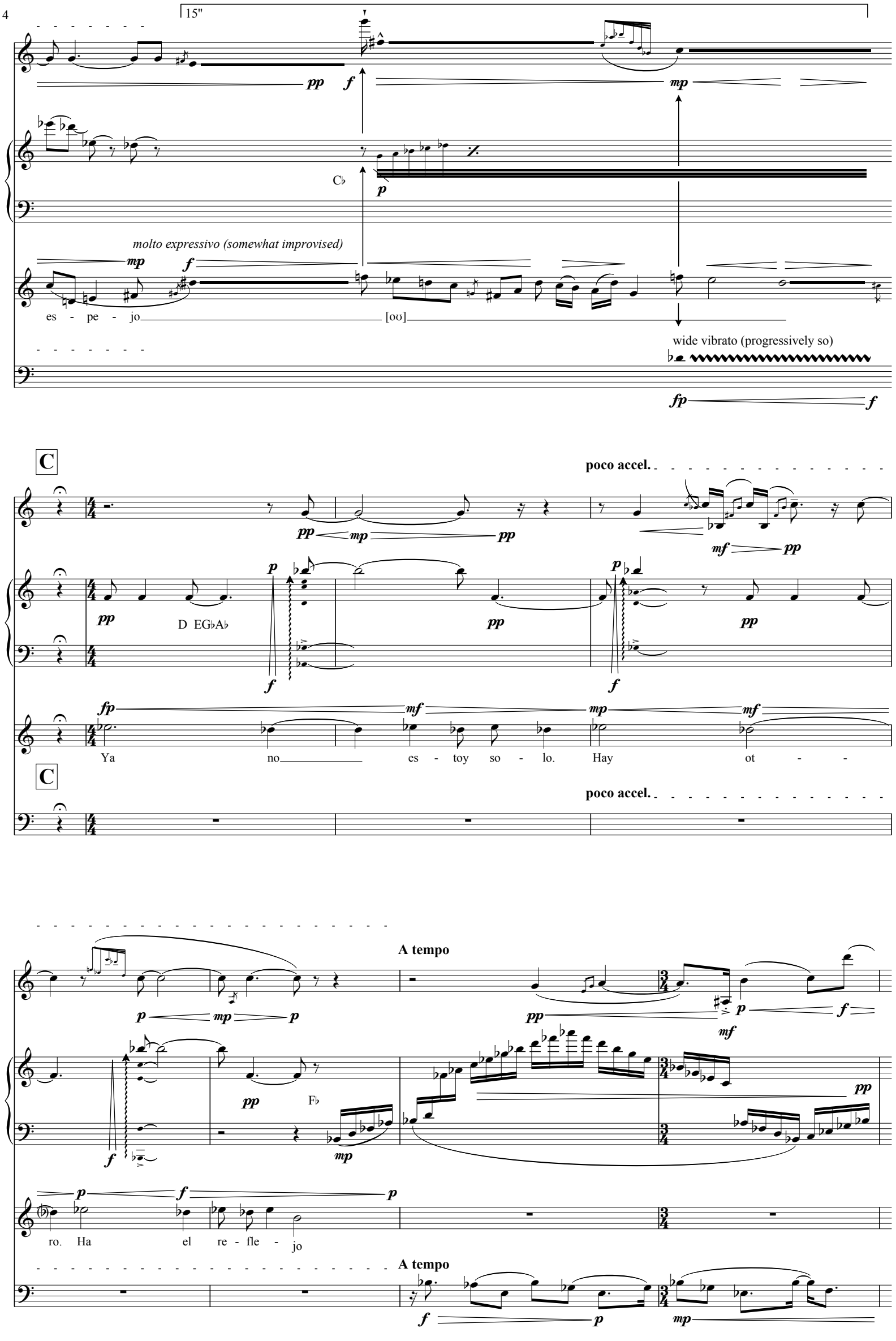
D♭ G♮A♮ *mp*

mf *mp* *mf*

Pa - - re - - des de la al - co - ba hay un

A tempo **poco rit.**

* multiphonics; here indicating just the first two overtones


15"
pp
f
mp
C♭
p
molto expressivo (somewhat improvised)
mp
f
es - pe - jo
[oʊ]
wide vibrato (progressively so)
fp
f
C
poco accel.
pp
mp
pp
mf
pp
p
D EG♭A♭
pp
p
pp
f
f
fp
mf
mp
mf
Ya no es - toy so - lo. Hay ot - -
C
poco accel.
A tempo
p
mp
p
pp
p
f
mf
pp
F♭
pp
f
mp
p
f
p
ro. Ha el re - fle - jo
A tempo
f
p
mp

20"

F♯G♯

molto expressivo (somewhat improvised)

Que ar - ma en el al - ba un - si - go - lo - so tea - tro

sul pont

gliss.

D **swiftly, but not too fast (c. ♩ = 86)**

F♯ F♮ F♮ F♯

D **swiftly, but not too fast (c. ♩ = 86)**

poco rit.

F♮ F♯

poco rit.

poco accel.

p

p mf pp

mp pp

D♭C♭B♭ E♭FGA

fp mf p f

[oʊ] [ɑ:]

mp

f p mf p

mp mp

sul tasto

pp mf

E Meno mosso

p pp p pp

mp mf mp

Dio ha cre - a - do las no - - - ces que

E Meno mosso

pizz.

pp mp

* the vibrato figure here indicates a gradual morphing between two different vowel sounds

15"

(glissando above the tuning peg)

B♮

se ar - man

arco.

F

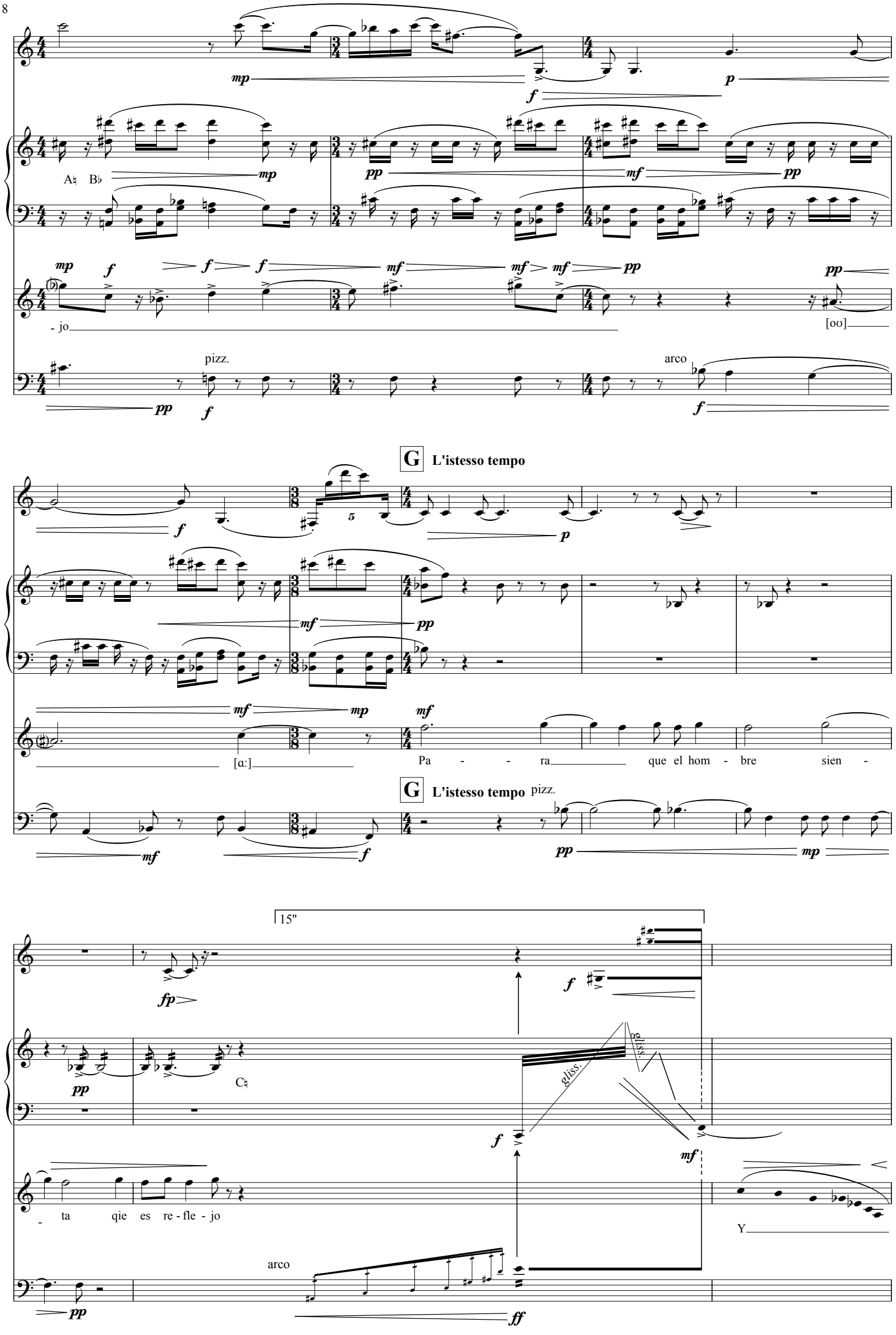
De su - - - - eñ - - os y las

F

arco

D♯C♯ E♭A♯

for - - - mas del es - pe - -


A♮ B♭
- jo
[oʊ]
pizz.
arco
G L'istesso tempo
[ɑ:]
Pa - - ra que el hom - bre sien -
G L'istesso tempo
pizz.
15"
C♮
gliss.
gliss.
- ta qie es re - fle - jo
Y
arco

pp

D♭C♭

pp

fp mf pp

va - - ni - dad. Po - re - so nos

sul pont.

pp

H Poco più mosso

f mf f

f

mf

al - ar man

H Poco più mosso

pizz. arco

f

p f mp

mp mp f

glissando

mp

mf

at times in the eve -

mf f mp f

pizz. arco

B♮

- ning a face looks at us out of

A♯

the depths of a mir - - ror

I Molto meno mosso, solemn

gliss.

(let ring)

pizz.

gliss.