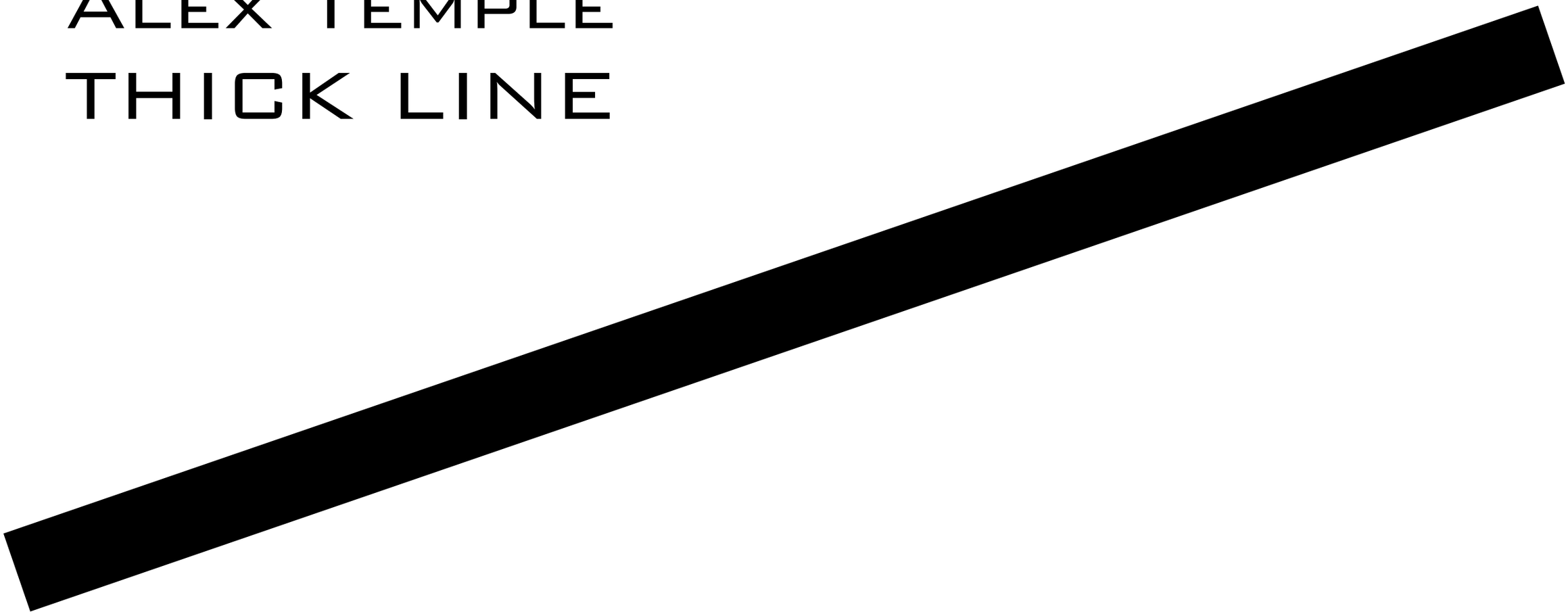
# Alex Temple
# THICK LINE



FOR THREE OR MORE
WIND / BRASS INSTRUMENTS

# PERFORMANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Thick Line is for a group of wind and/or brass instruments. It can be played by any size ensemble, from a brass quintet to a concert band, as long as there are at least three players.

Every performer plays from the same score, which gives melodic contours, but no specific pitches. Horizontal lines divide the pitch space into four registers: very high, high, middle and low. How you interpret these terms will depend on how your instrument is constructed. For instance, a clarinetist might choose the break as the dividing point between the middle and high registers. Regardless, the very high register should be extreme. Ugly tone, inconsistent sound and unstable pitch are all OK, even desirable.

Melodic contours are approximate. A leap that looks like it's about the size of a fifth doesn't have to be played as a fifth. However, if a specific figure appears to repeat exactly (as in mm. 47–9), play the same notes for each repetition.

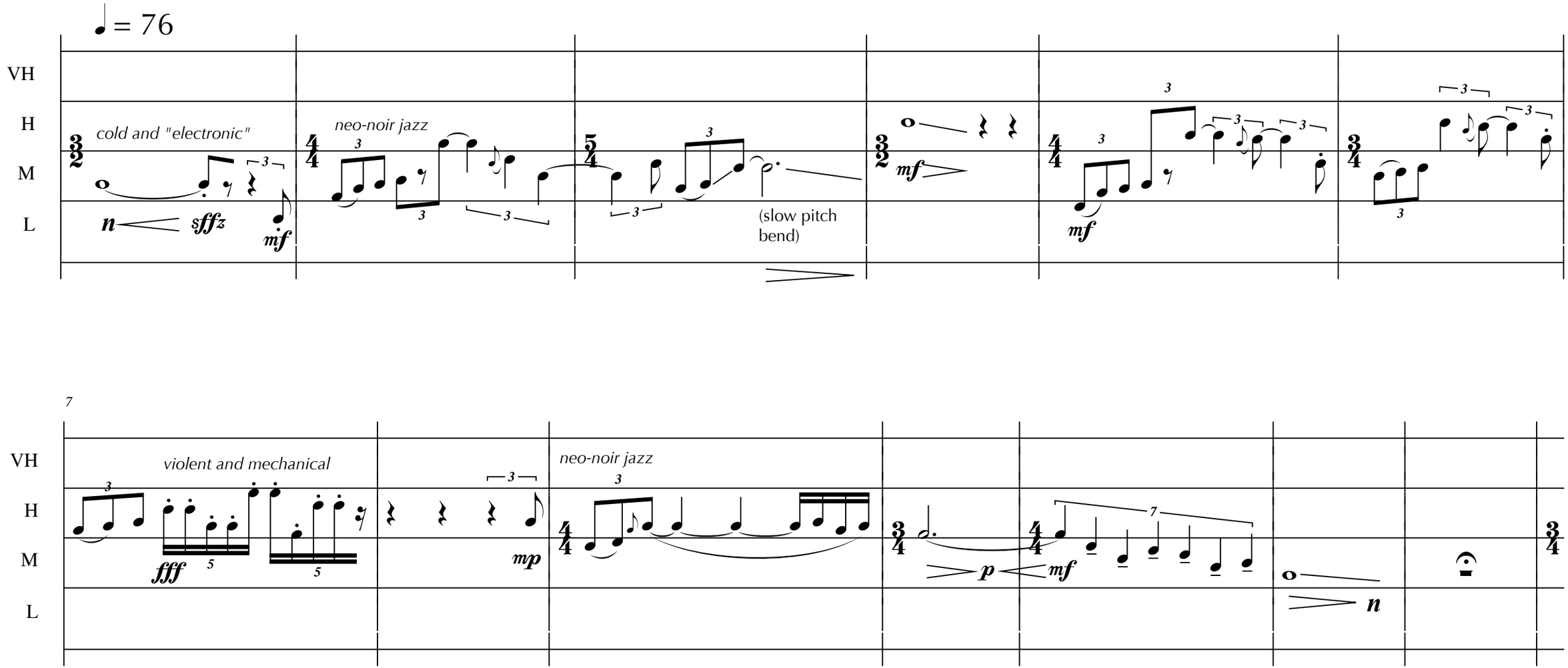
Use the entire chromatic set as much as possible. Avoid clear tonal implications. If you find yourself in unison or octaves with another player, move up or down a half step.

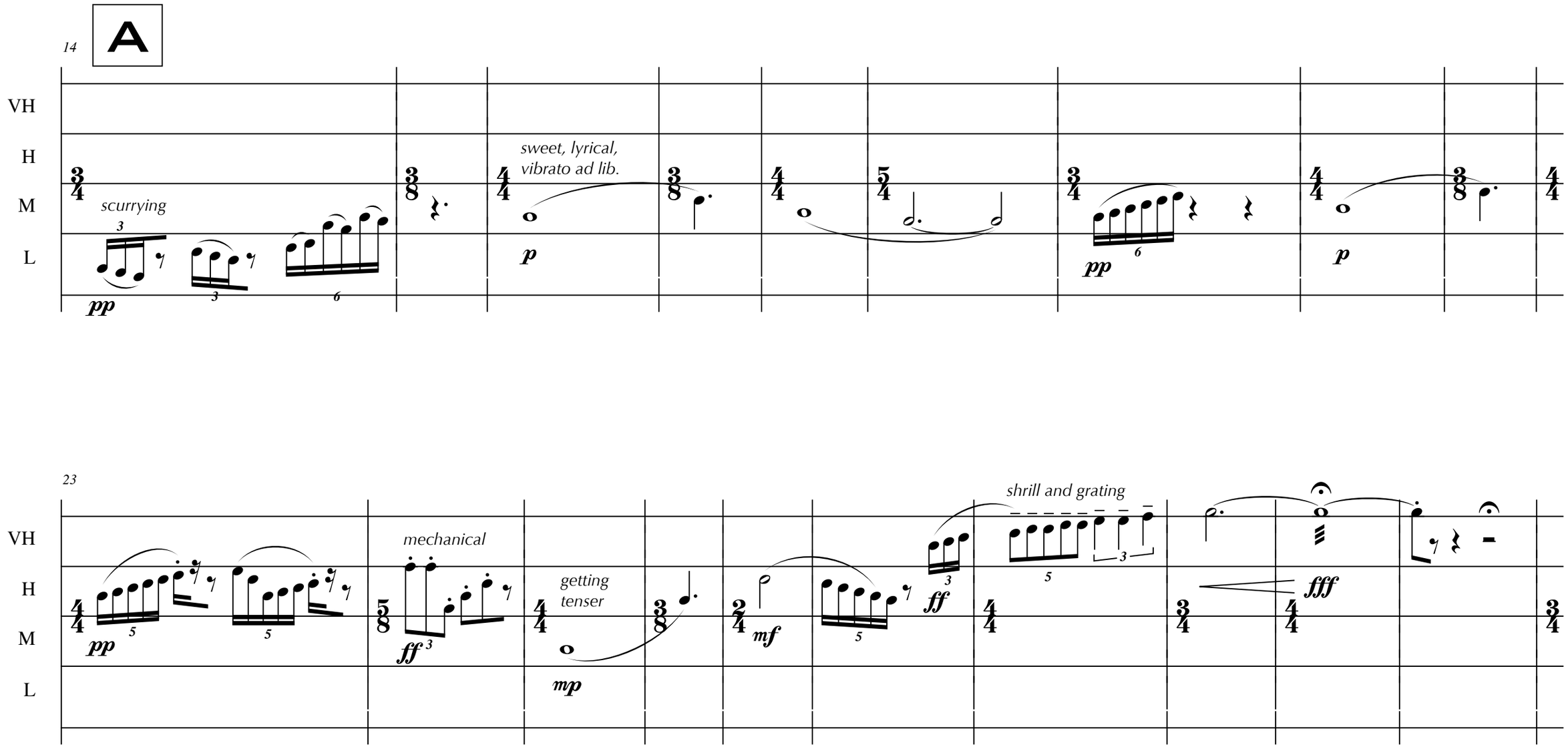
Although the notation is designed to give each player some freedom to pick notes spontaneously, you may want to make some decisions in rehearsal in order to give preference to rich, full harmonies.

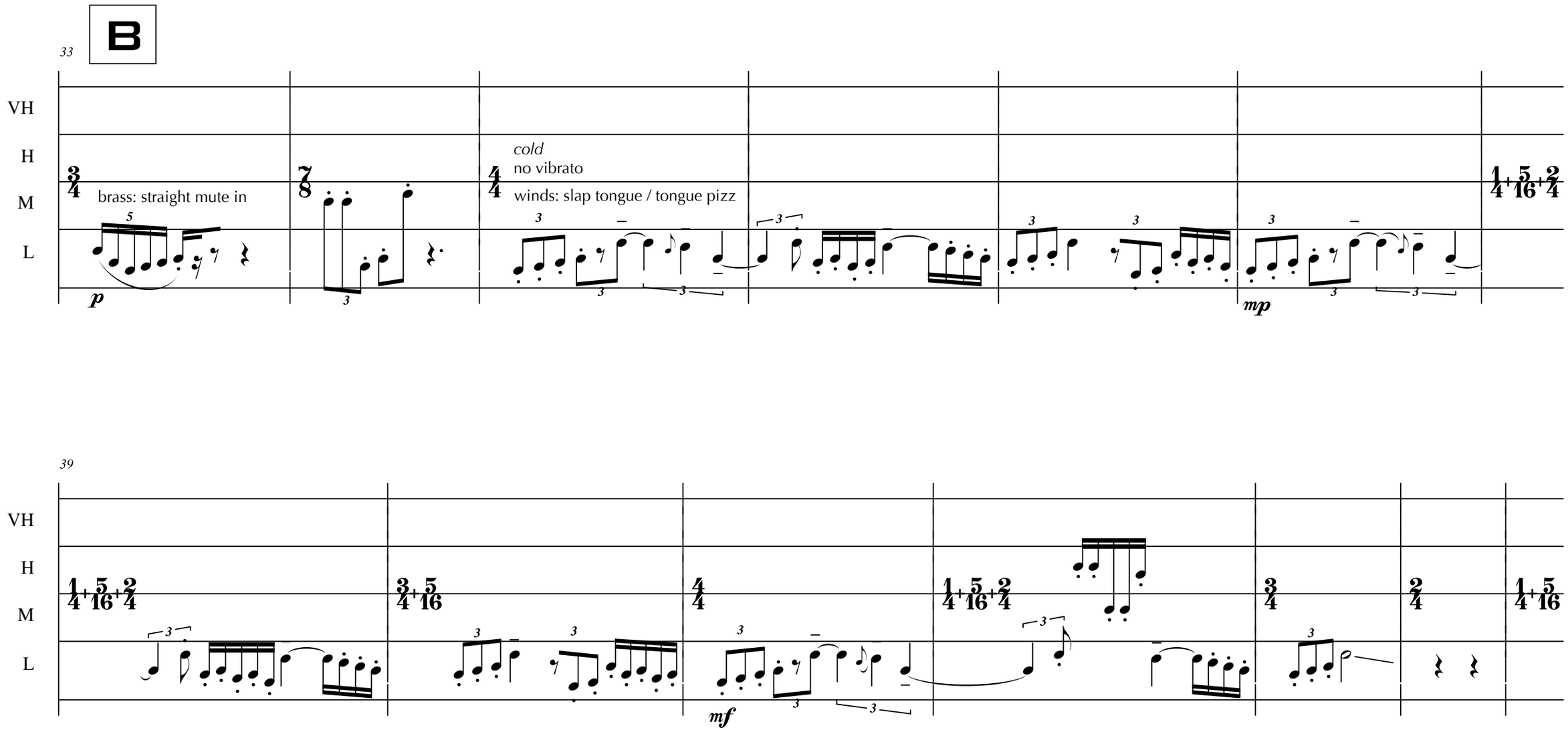
In order to make sure that the piece doesn't come across as fragmentary and episodic, treat each section (as indicated by the rehearsal letters) as a single long phrase. The short pause (just two beats!) between sections B and C means that they can be treated as an even longer "super-phrase." Be precise with rest lengths, except where there's a fermata.

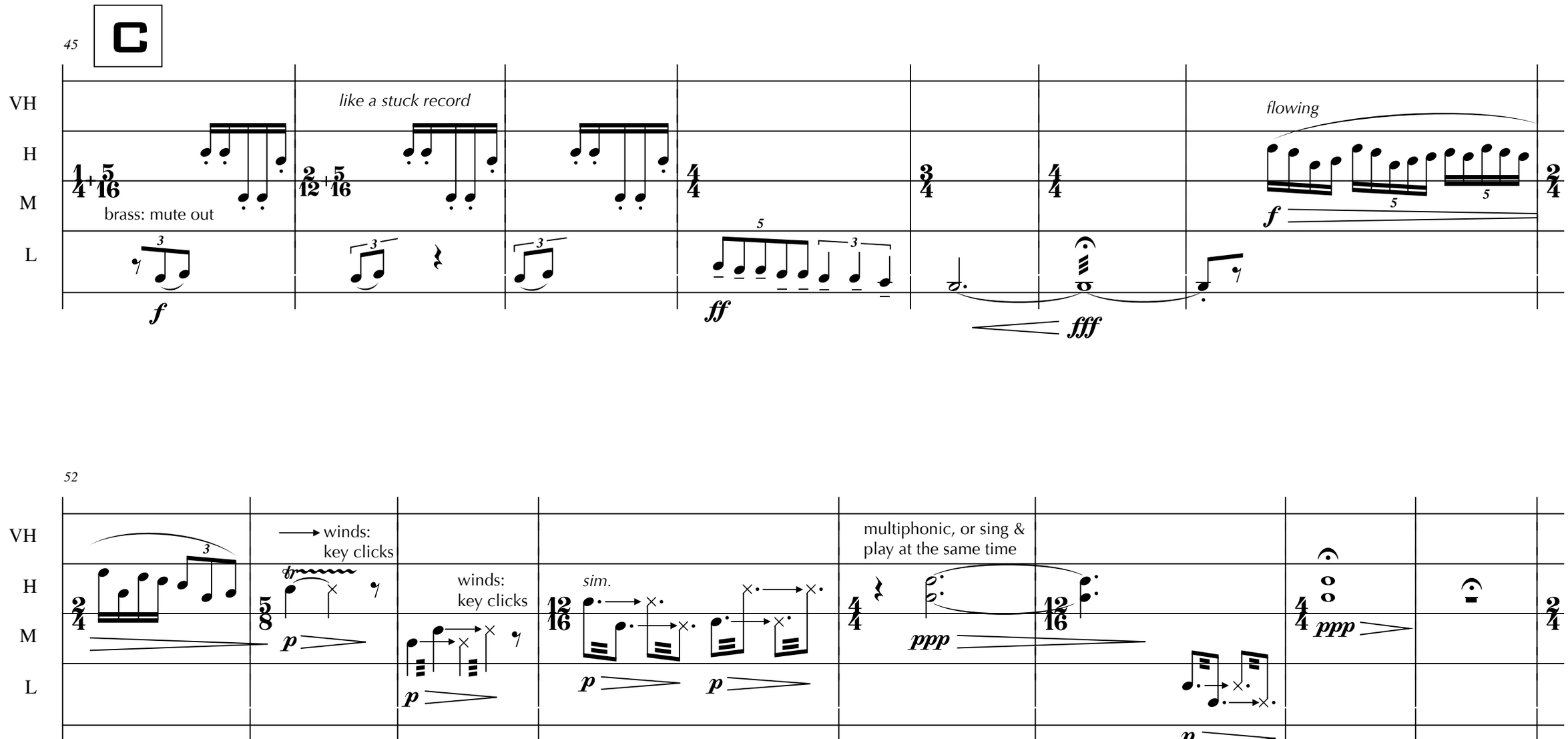
FOR THE ECLIPSE WIND TRIO

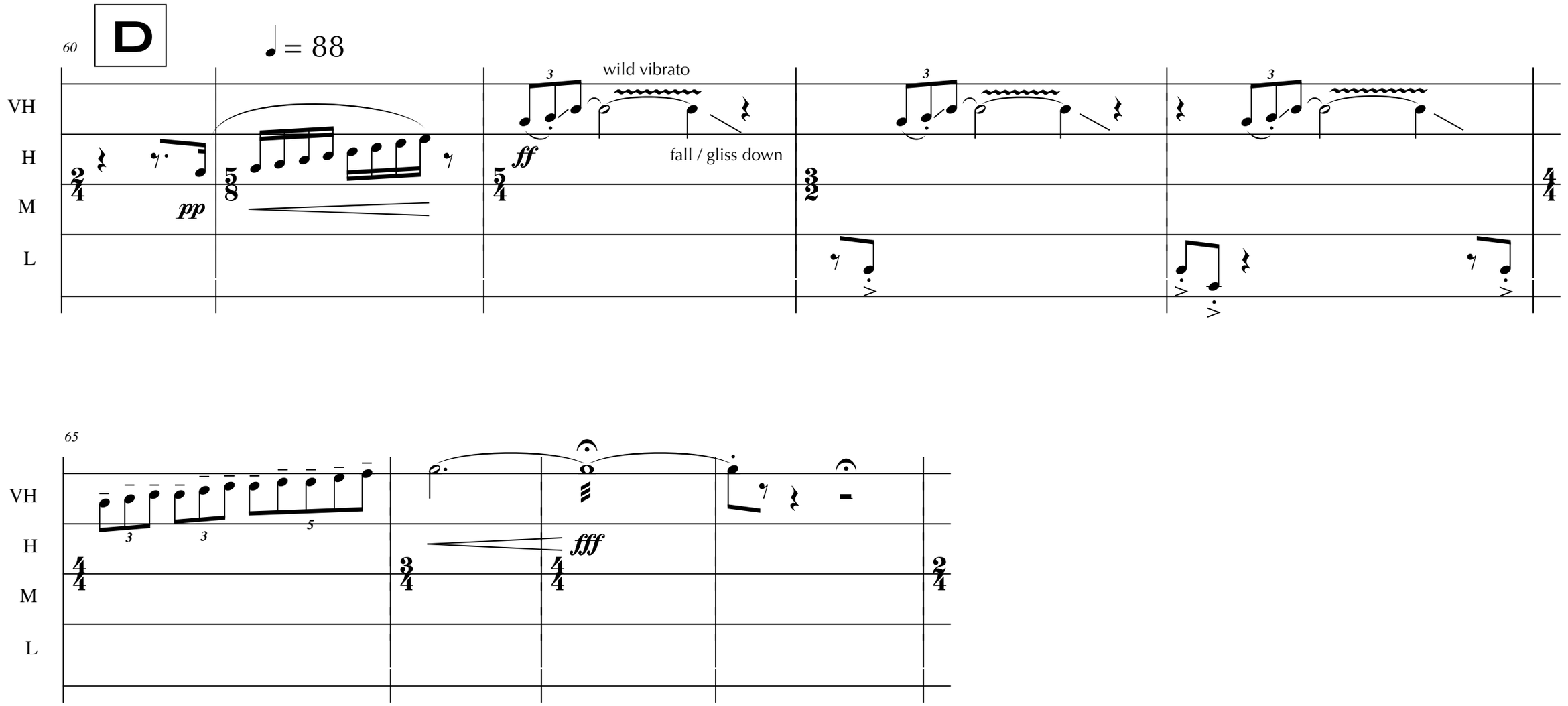
# THICK LINE

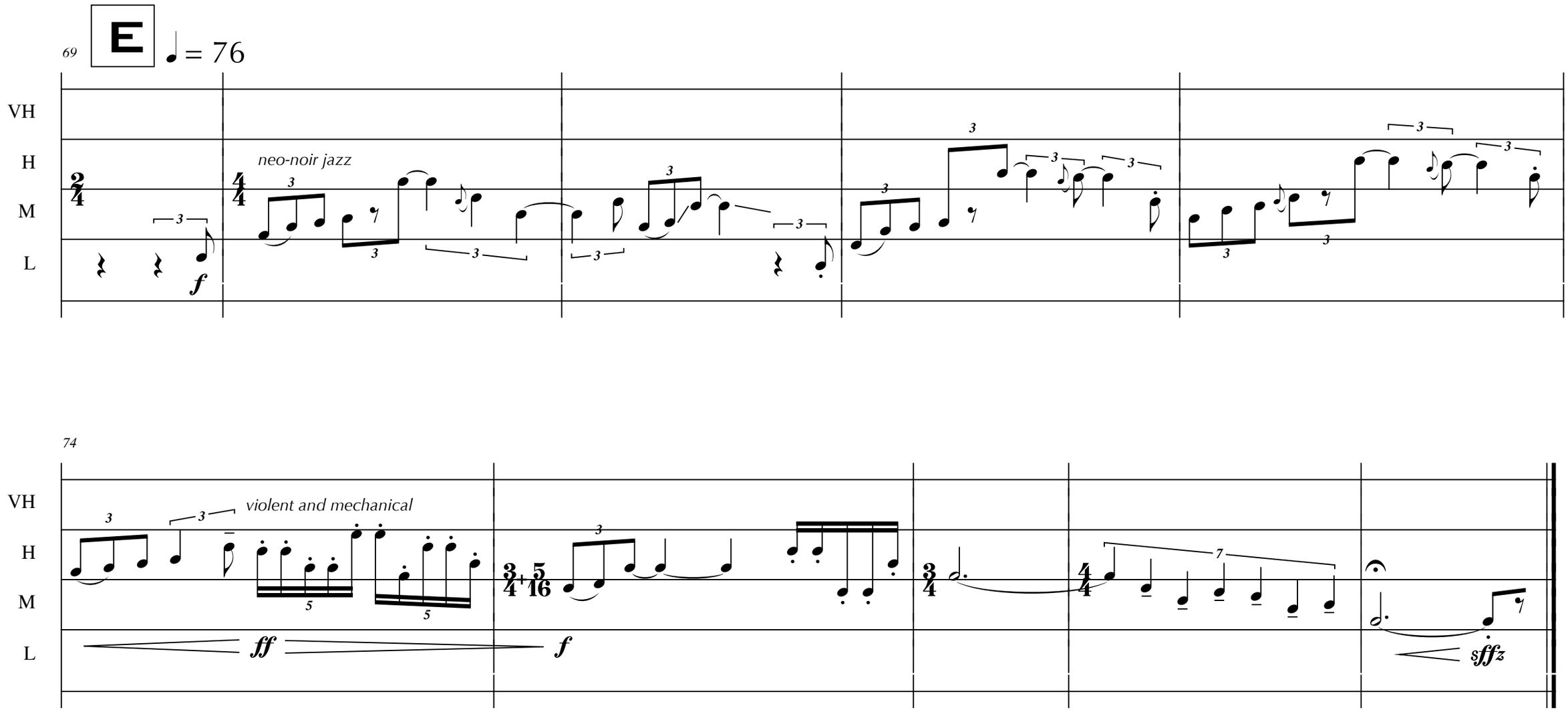



14
A
VH
H
M
L
scurrying
sweet, lyrical,
vibrato ad lib.
23
mechanical
getting
tenser
shrill and grating


B
33
VH
H
M
L
brass: straight mute in
p
cold
no vibrato
winds: slap tongue / tongue pizz
mp
39
mf


45
C
VH
H
M
L
like a stuck record
brass: mute out
flowing
52
winds:
key clicks
winds:
key clicks
sim.
multiphonic, or sing &
play at the same time


60
D
♩ = 88
wild vibrato
fall / gliss down
VH
H
M
L
pp
ff
65
fff


69
E
♩ = 76
VH
H
M
L
neo-noir jazz
f
74
violent and mechanical
ff
f
sffz