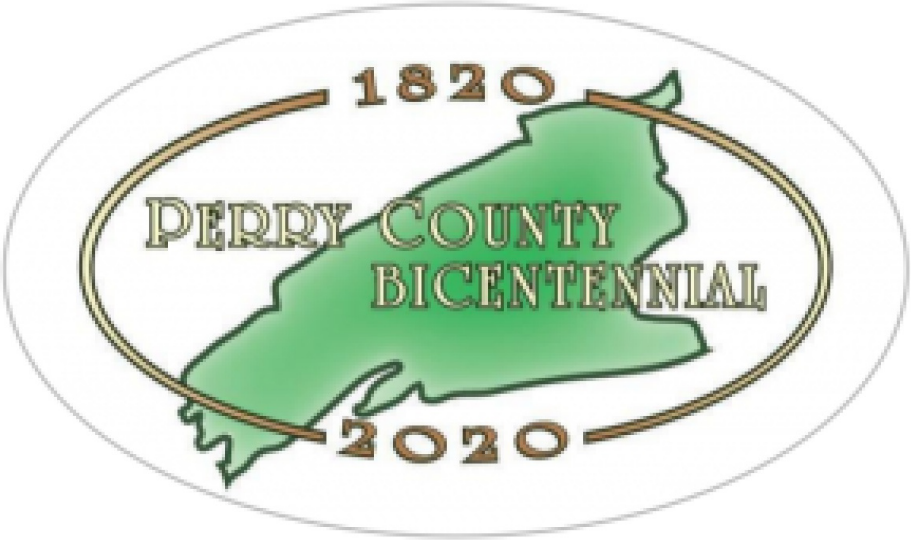
Tressler Orphans' Home Boys' Band

MARCH

Brass Quintet

P. S. Mitchell and H. C. Miller
Tr: B. Pitkin and S. Trevitz

Commemorating the 2020 Bicentennial Anniversary of Perry County Pennsylvania



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June 2020

--- BACKGROUND ---

In 1854, Col. John Tressler built the Loysville Academy on a portion of his farm near Loysville Pennsylvania in Perry County. In 1862, John Tressler entered the United States Army as an officer and was joined by most of his young men who also enlisted to combat the eminent dissolution of the Union. By 1865, the Civil War transformed the Loysville Academy into what was became commonly known as the Soldiers' Orphans' School.

The Lutheran Church began investigating the establishment of an orphanage around 1860 and ultimately acquired the Academy in 1868. The institution was then named Tressler Orphans' Home at the request of David L. Tressler, son of the founder, because he donated his share of the surrounding land. The institution existed "to provide a home for poor orphan children of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and such other poor children as the Board will find funds to justify; to have their temporal wants supplied; to educate them physically, intellectually, morally, and religiously; and to extend over them a wholesome guardianship." Over the following decades, the Tressler Orphans' Home served hundreds of children annually and grew into a community known as "Tresslertown".

Music had always been an important aspect of the home. By 1895, a boys' band was established which grew in size and quality over the ensuing years. By 1914, the boys' band had expanded its field of travel. Under the directorship of Prof. Claude Maxwell Stauffer, annual tours were organized which benefited from the new era of emerging transportation. The growing reputation of the boys' band gave inspiration for composers to write marches in their honor.

The "Tressler Orphans' Home Boys' Band March" was written by Palmer Sebastian Mitchell of Beaver Springs Pennsylvania. This march was copyrighted in 1918 and printed by composer and publisher H. C. Miller of Parkersburg Pennsylvania. Palmer S. Mitchell was a much beloved band director and musician who lived in Beaver Springs Pennsylvania. Mitchell could play all musical instruments and began his band work at the age of eight with the Beaver Springs Community Band. He organized and directed the Beaver Springs Ladies' Band, the V.F.W. Band of Lewistown, the Lewistown High School Band, the Alfarata Band, and the Biglerville Band. He served as orchestra and choir director in St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Beaver Springs for many years. In his later years, Mitchell performed his duties from a wheelchair as both of his legs were partially paralyzed from an affliction of the nervous system. In October 1946, Palmer Mitchell receive a birthday surprise when the V.F.W. band combined with the Ladies' Band of Beaver Springs and marched to his home and there played his "Tressler Orphans' Home Boys' Band March". The entire group then went to the fire hall where they presented a concert of the combined bands with 75 members present. At the age of 62, Palmer S. Mitchell passed peacefully in October 1948 having just returned home from directing the V.F.W. Band at a semi-pro football game in Lewistown. His church overflowed with more than 500 people in attendance for his funeral and more than 1,000 viewed the body. The Mitchell legacy of music continued with Palmer's son Eugene. Decades later, the football field at Lewistown Area High School was named in honor of Palmer S. Mitchell.

The Tressler Boys' Band was discontinued in 1947 because the students were now in public schools with bands. Acknowledging the changing face of children's services, the orphanage was closed in 1962.

As part of its 125th anniversary celebration in 1994, Tressler Lutheran Services commissioned the President's Own United States Marine Band to recreate Mitchell's "Tressler Orphans' Home Boys' Band March" from a partial score and produce a professional recording.

In commemorating the 2020 Perry County Bicentennial, this march as well as another by R. F. Seitz were transcribed for contemporary concert band, brass band, and brass quintet. This work was conducted on behalf of the Carlisle Brass Band by the Director, Bernie Pitken, and Arranger, Steve Trevitz.

References: Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries Daikon Child, Family & Community Ministries
https://www.diakon.org/about-us/history/historical-overview/ ,
Tressler Lutheran Services https://www.diakon.org/about-us/history/tressler-lutheran-services/
The Story of Tressler Orphans' Home in Word and Pictures, 1930-1931 https://archive.org/details/storyoftresslero43tres
The Daily Item (Sunbury, Pennsylvania): Thurs. 10/24/1946, Sat. 10/30/1948, Fri. 11/05/1948, Sat. 1/15/1949,
The Carlisle Town Band http://www.carlisleband.org/

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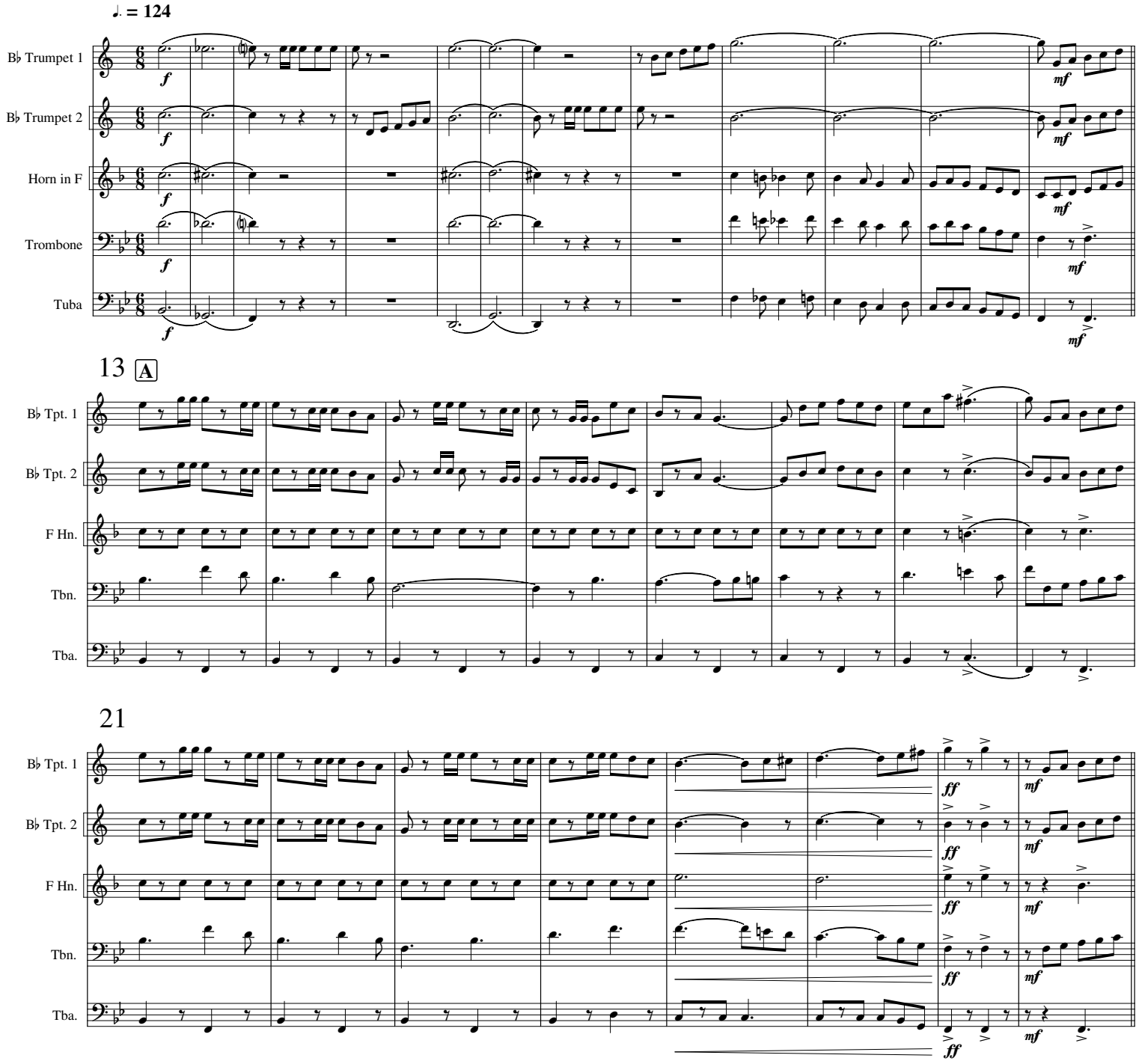
MARCH

Brass Quintet

P. S. Mitchell and H. C. Miller
Tr: B. Pitkin and S. Trevitz



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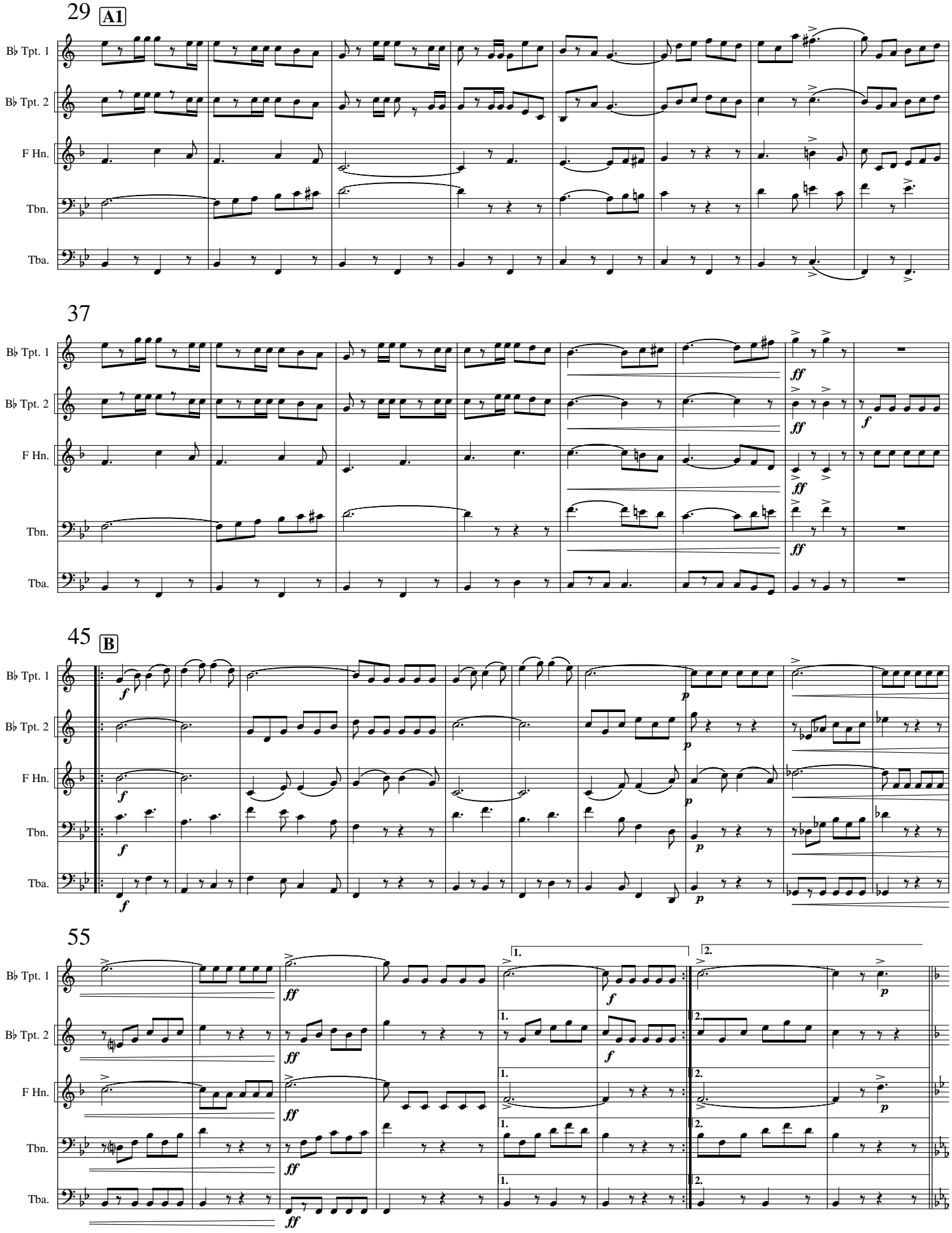
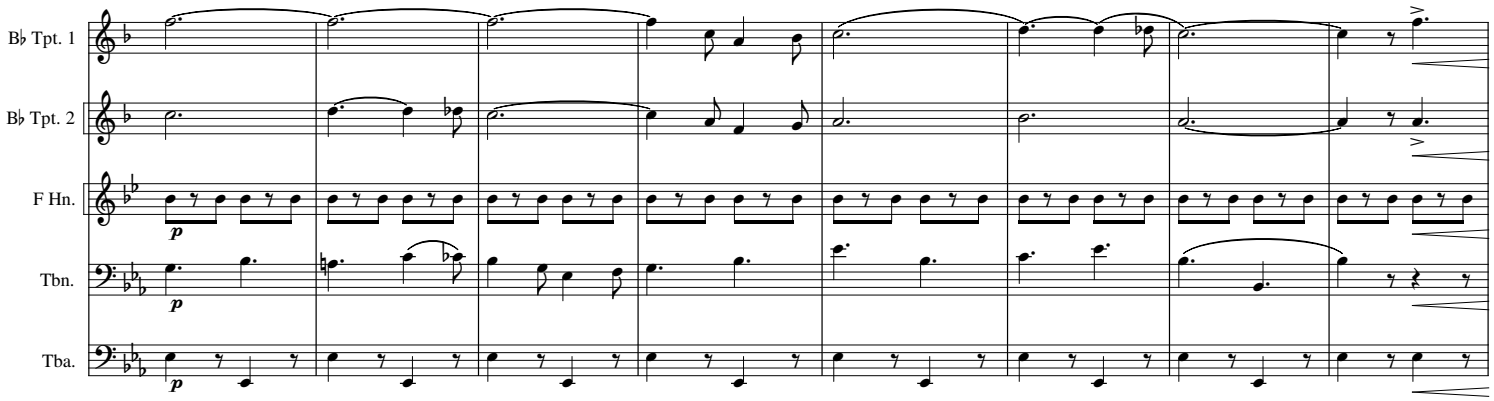

29
A1
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
F Hn.
Tbn.
Tba.
37
45
B
55
1.
2.

63 C **Trio.**



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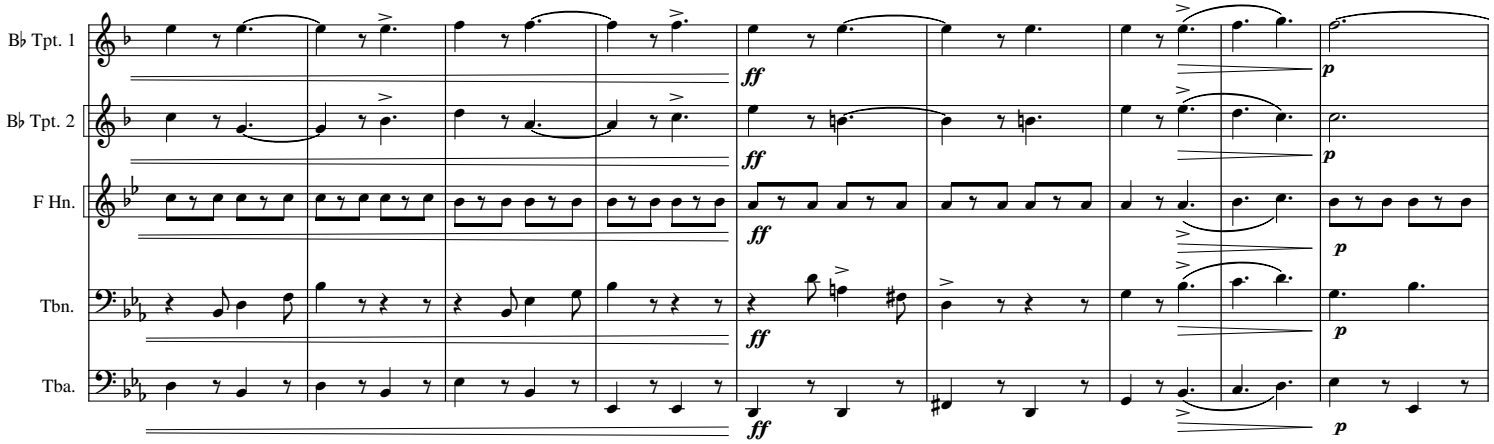

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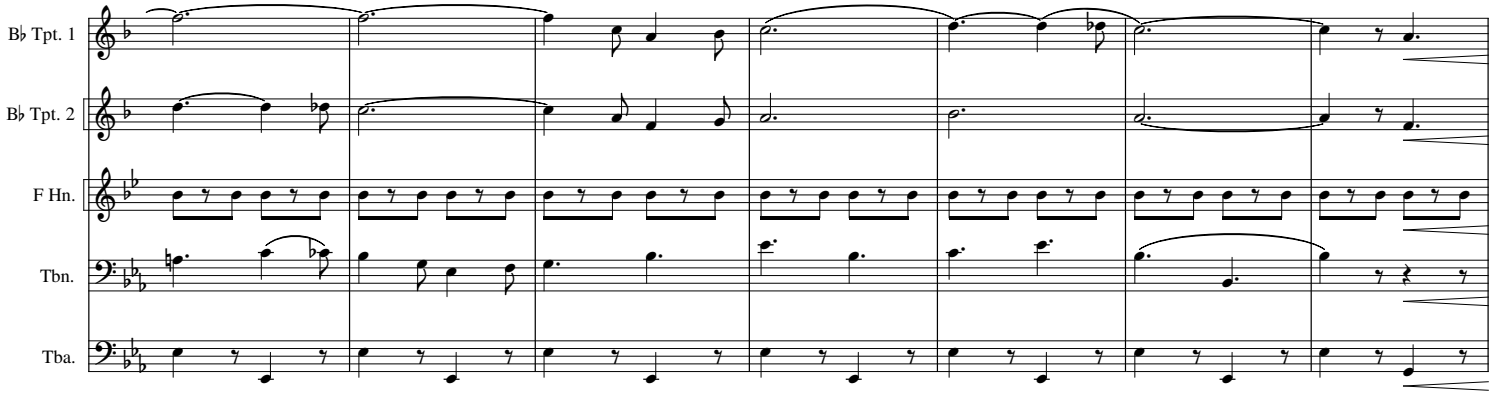

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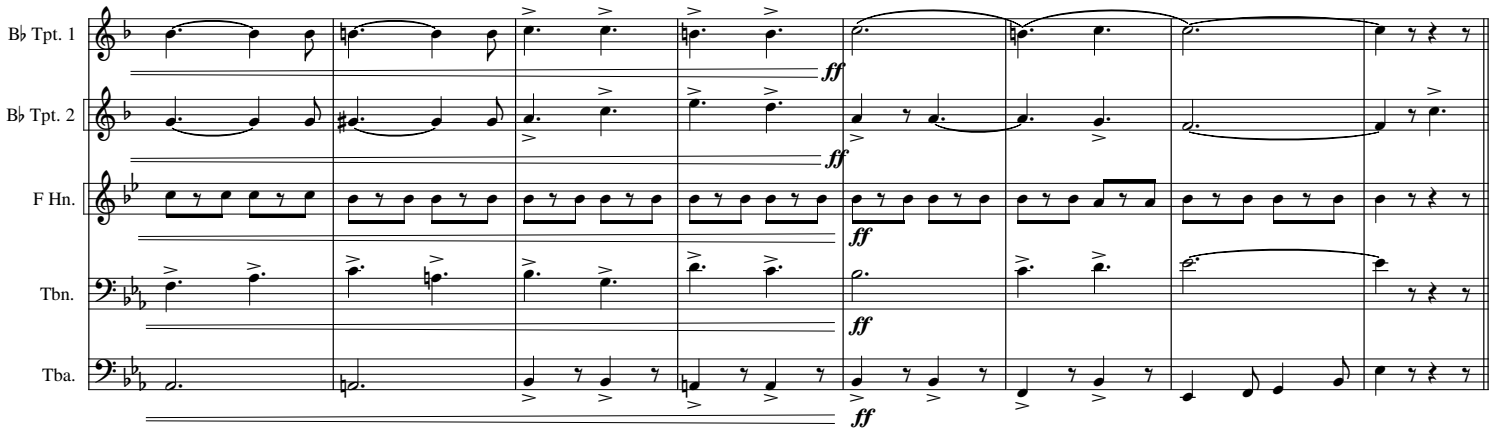

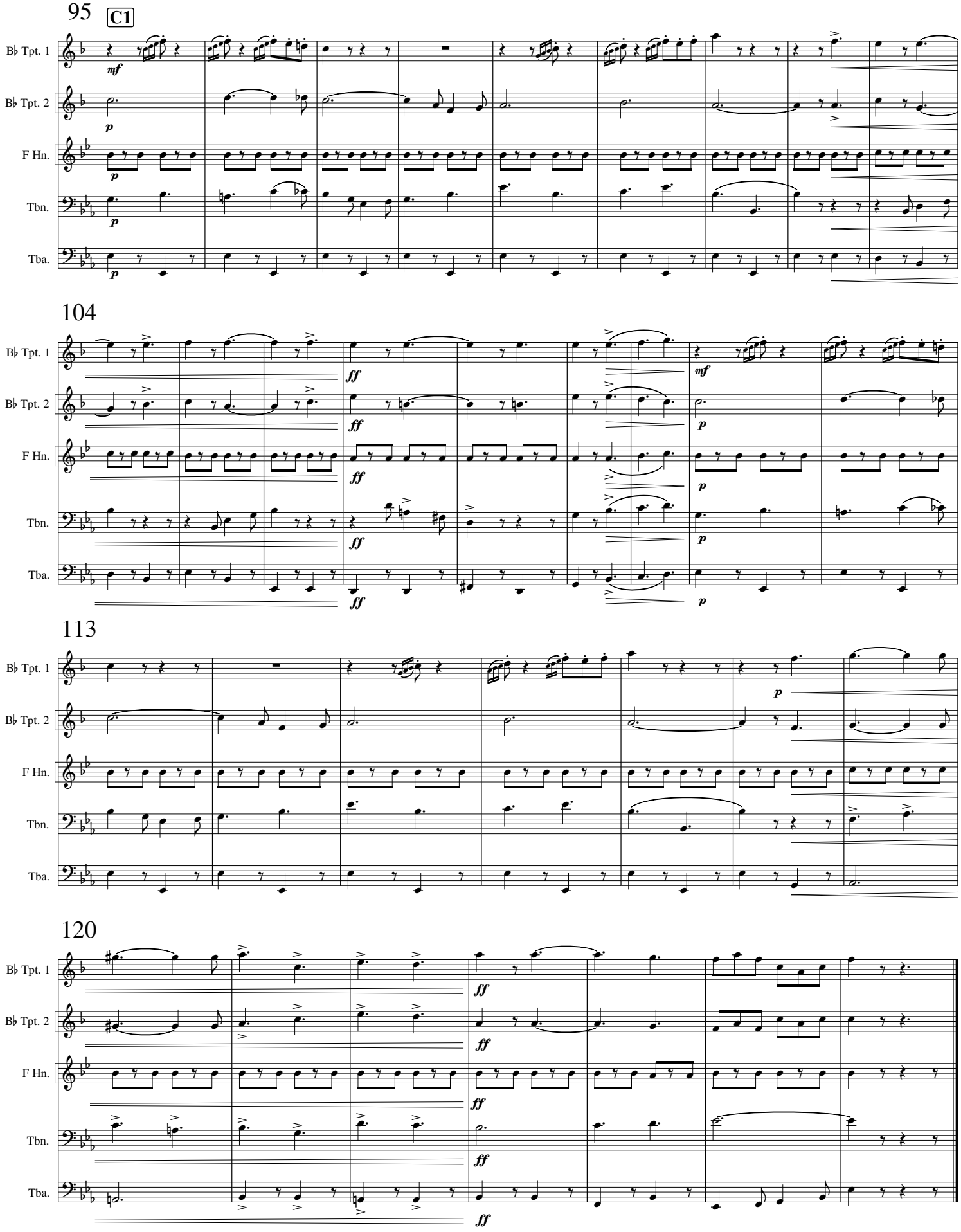
95
C1
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
F Hn.
Tbn.
Tba.
104
113
120

Tressler Orphans' Home Boys' Band March

BRASS QUINTET INSTRUMENTATION

B♭ Trumpet 1

B♭ Trumpet 2

F Horn

Trombone

Tuba

The co-transcribers gratefully acknowledge the contributions of E. Kenneth Bair II and Kenton Scott to this project. The original parts for this transcription were provided by the Lewistown Community Band, Lewistown PA. These original parts were donated to the Band Music PDF Library.

https://www.bandmusicpdf.org/tresslerorphanshome

Tressler Orphans' Home Boys' Band

MARCH

Brass Quintet

B♭ Trumpet 1

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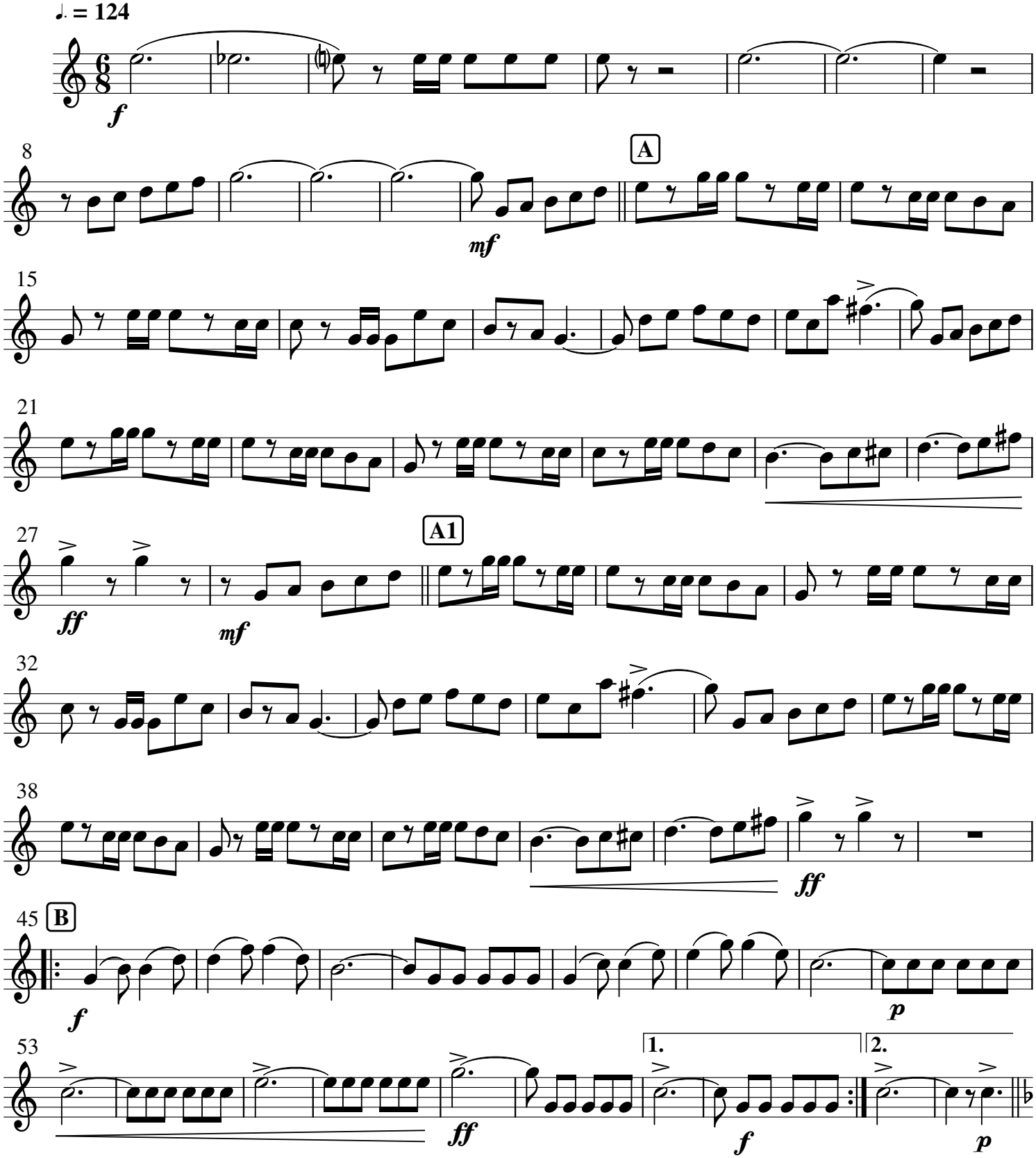

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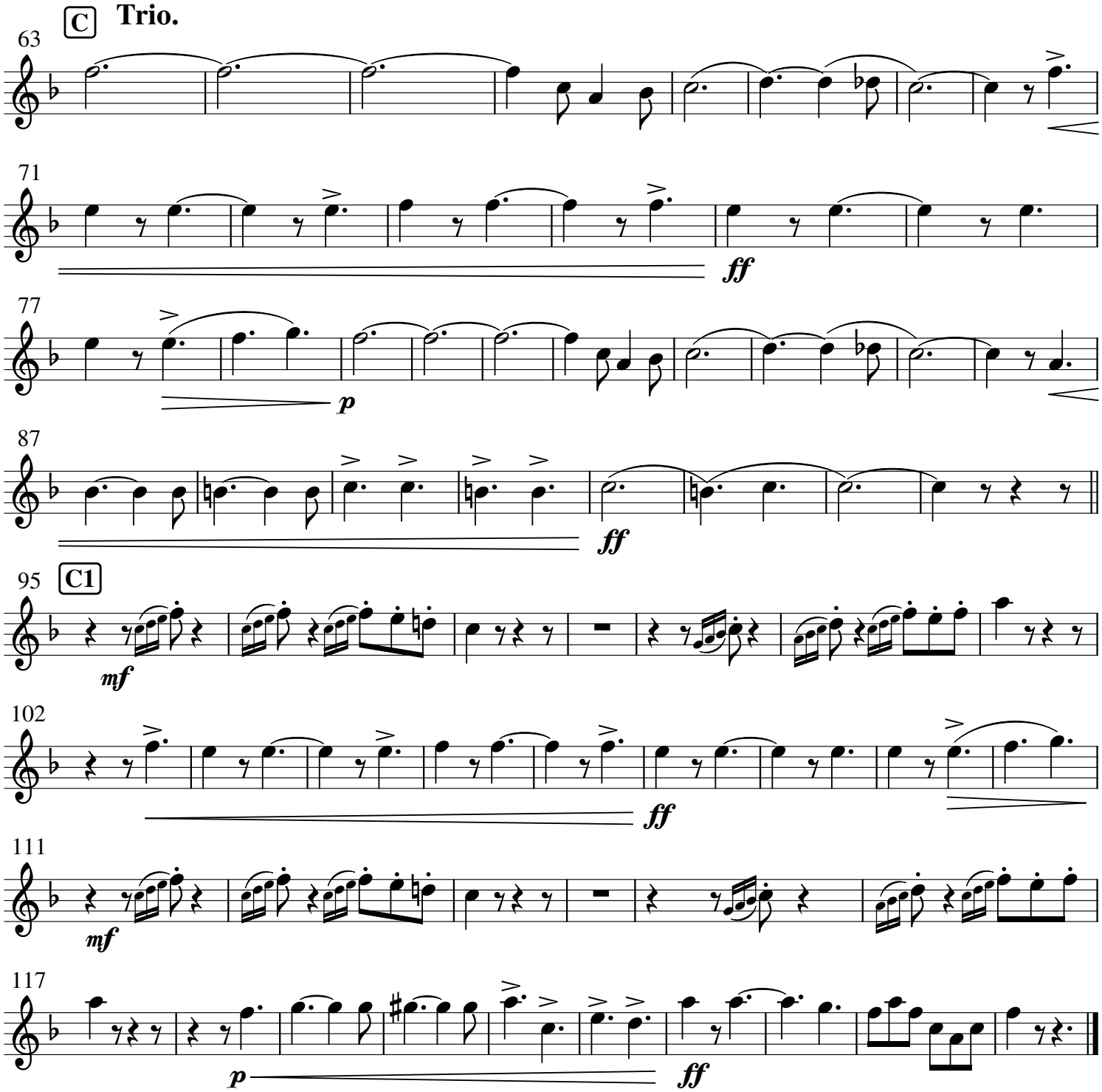

C
Trio.
63
71
ff
77
p
87
ff
95
C1
mf
102
ff
111
mf
117
p
ff

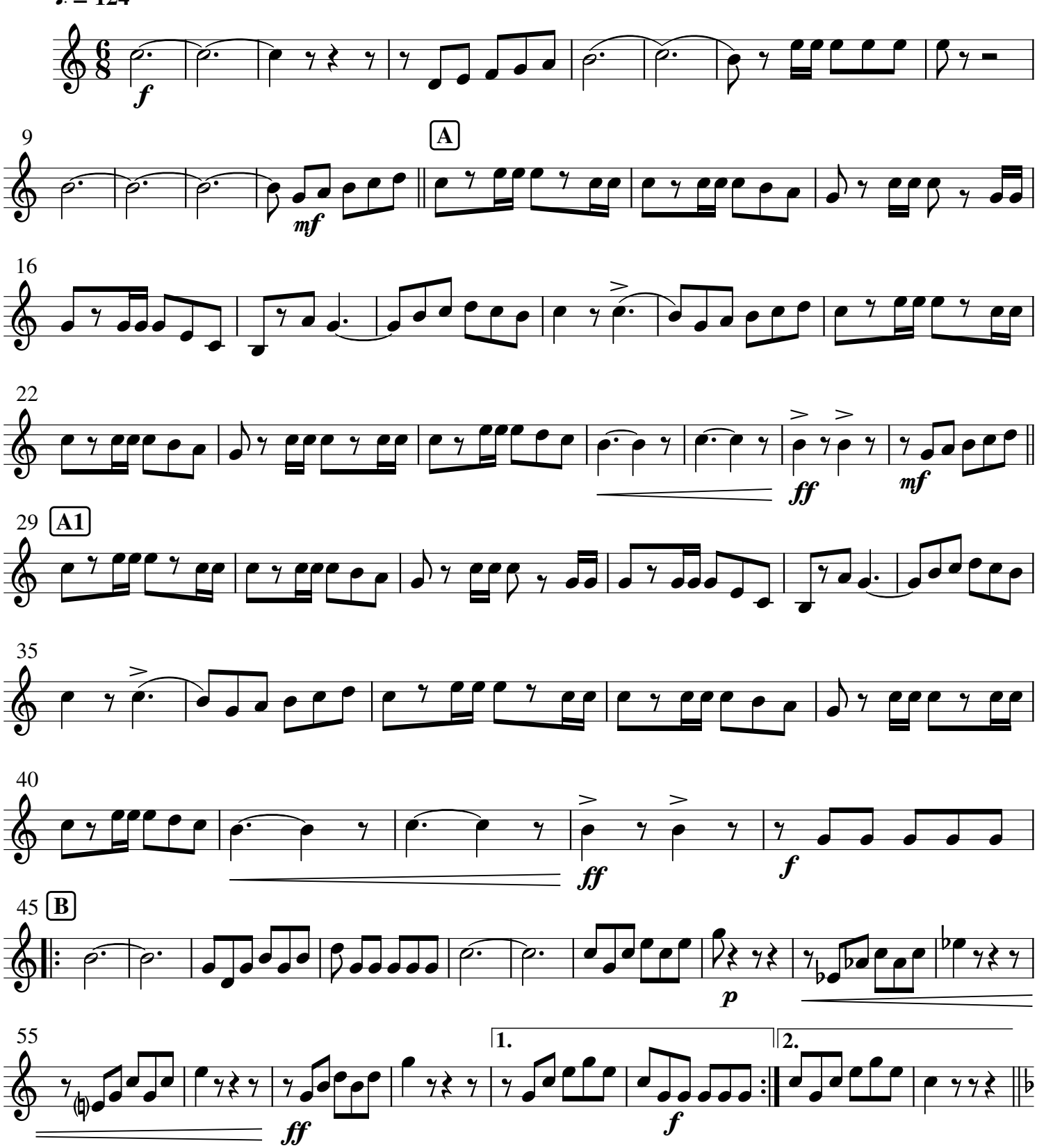
Tressler Orphans' Home Boys' Band

MARCH

Brass Quintet

B♭ Trumpet 2

P. S. Mitchell and H. C. Miller
Tr: B. Pitkin and S. Trevitz



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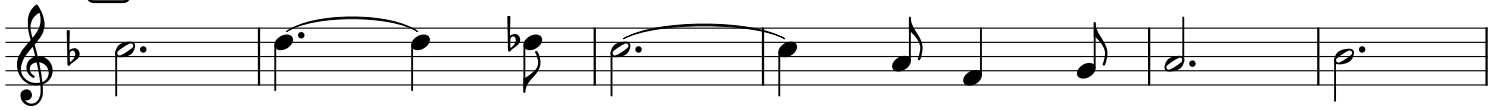
63 **C** **Trio.**



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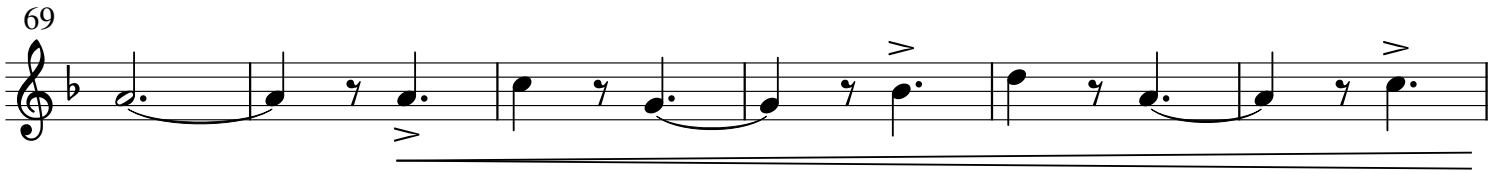

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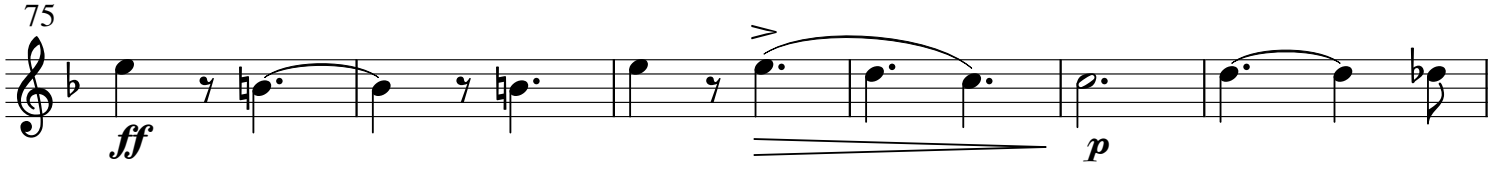

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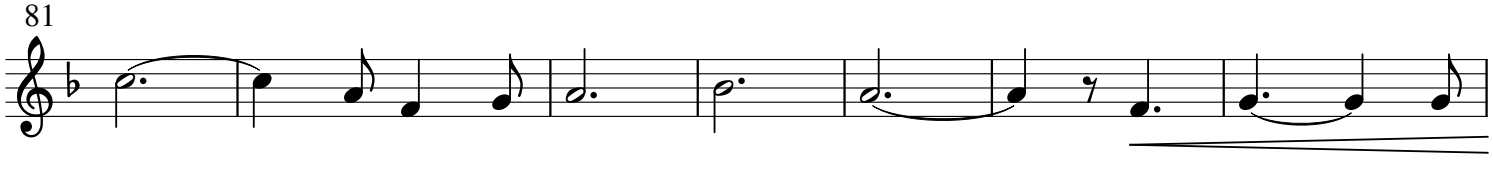

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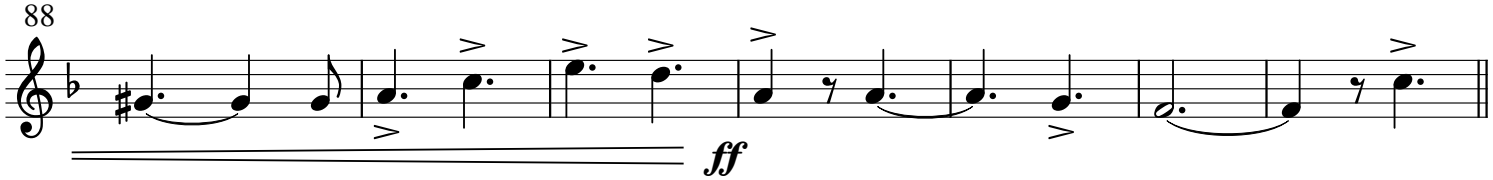
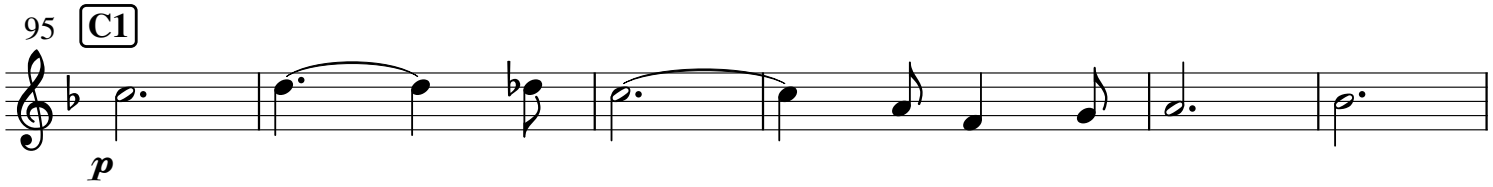


95 **C1**



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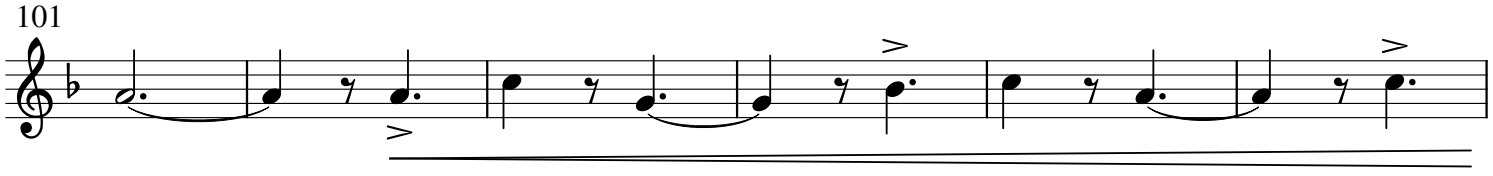

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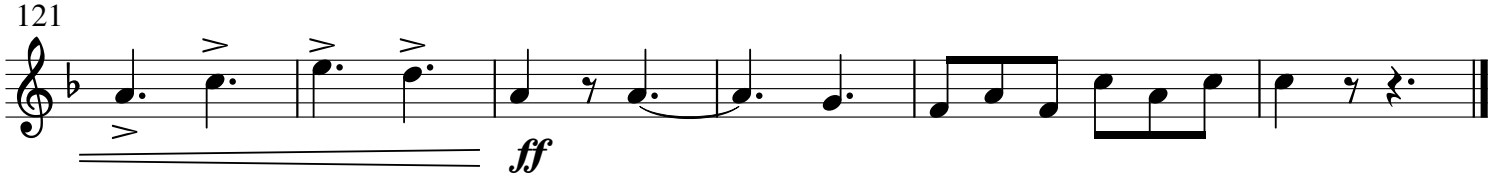
113

121



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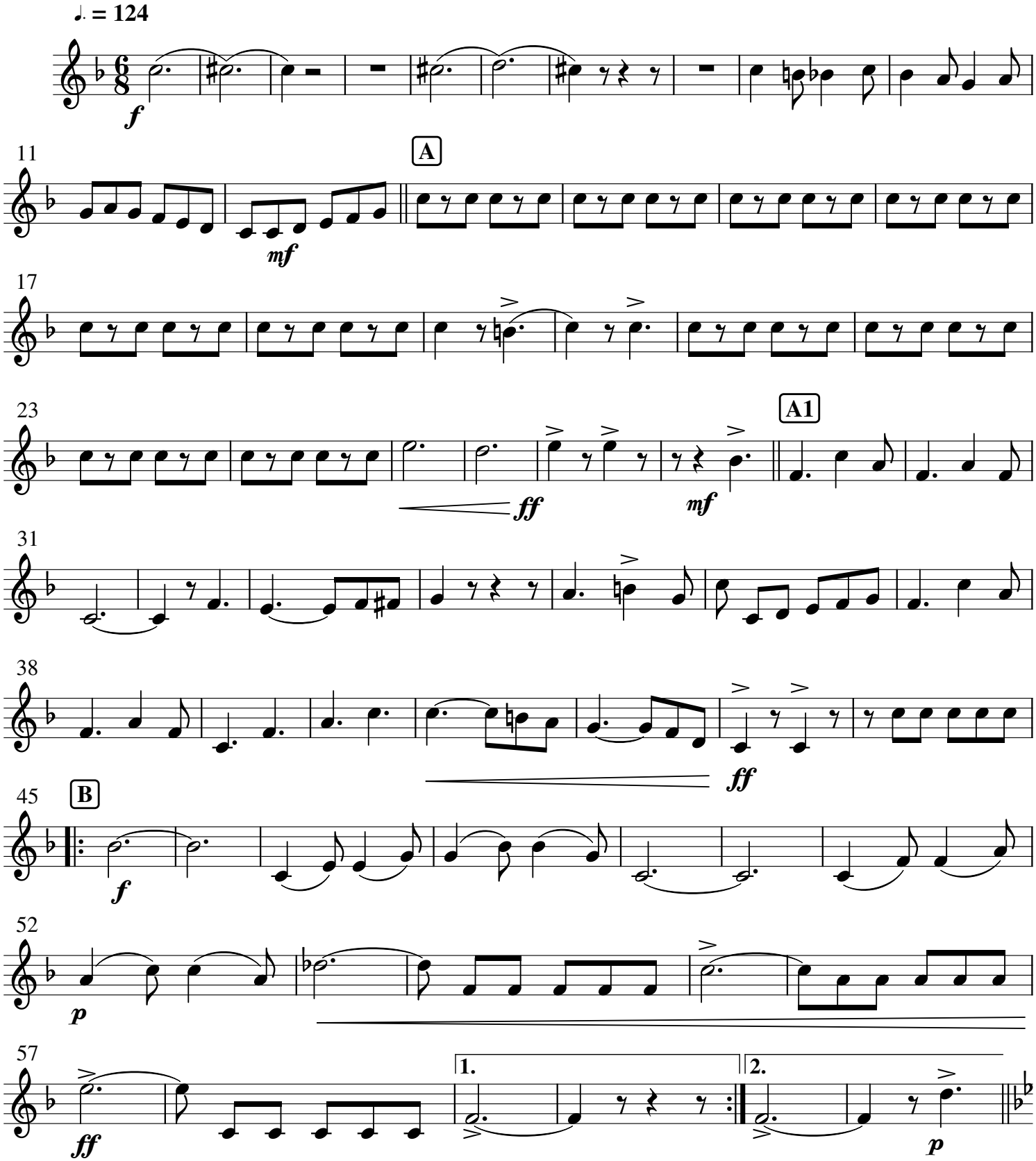
Brass Quintet

Horn in F

P. S. Mitchell and H. C. Miller
Tr: B. Pitkin and S. Trevitz



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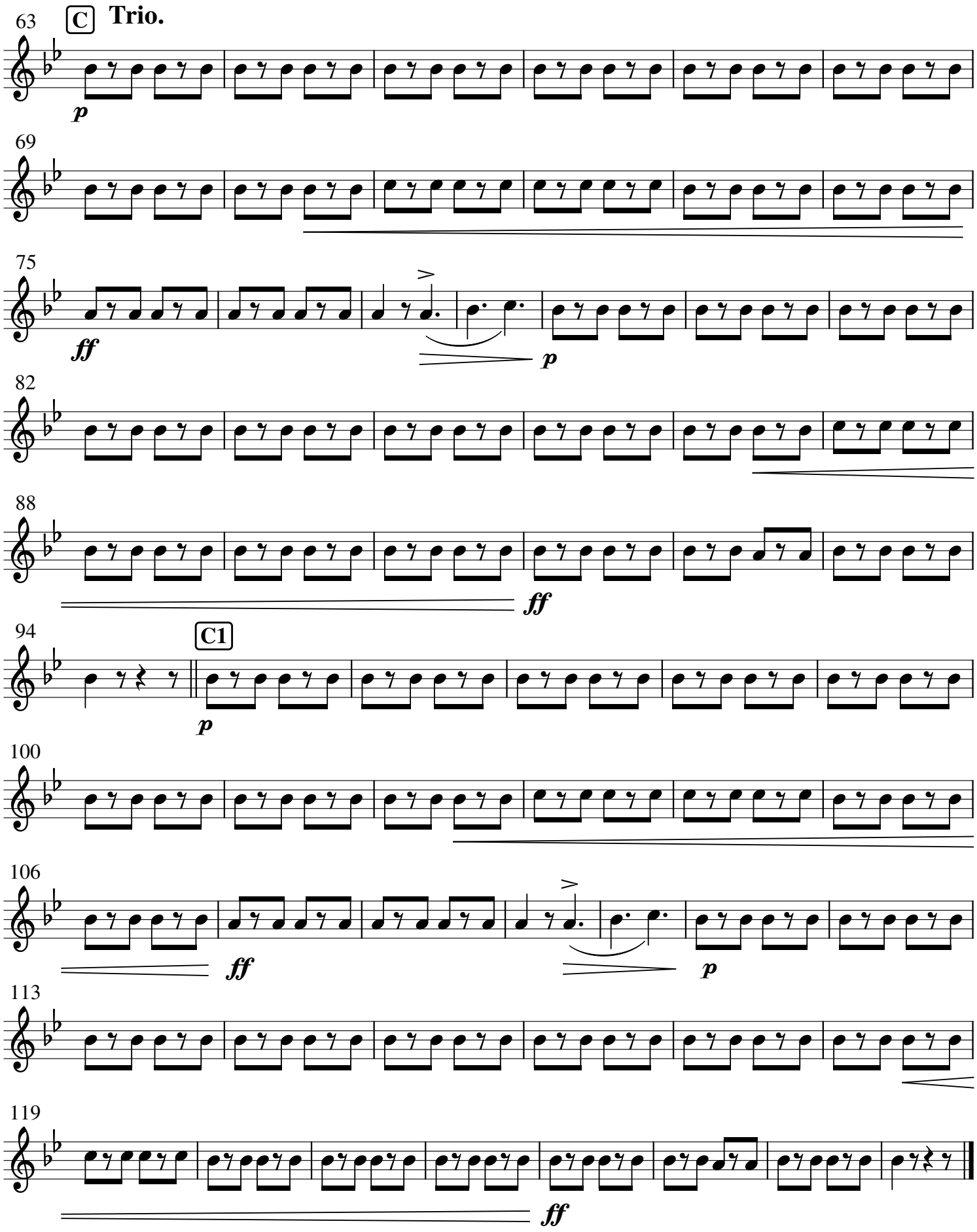
63
C
Trio.
p
69
75
ff
p
82
88
ff
94
C1
p
100
106
ff
p
113
119
ff

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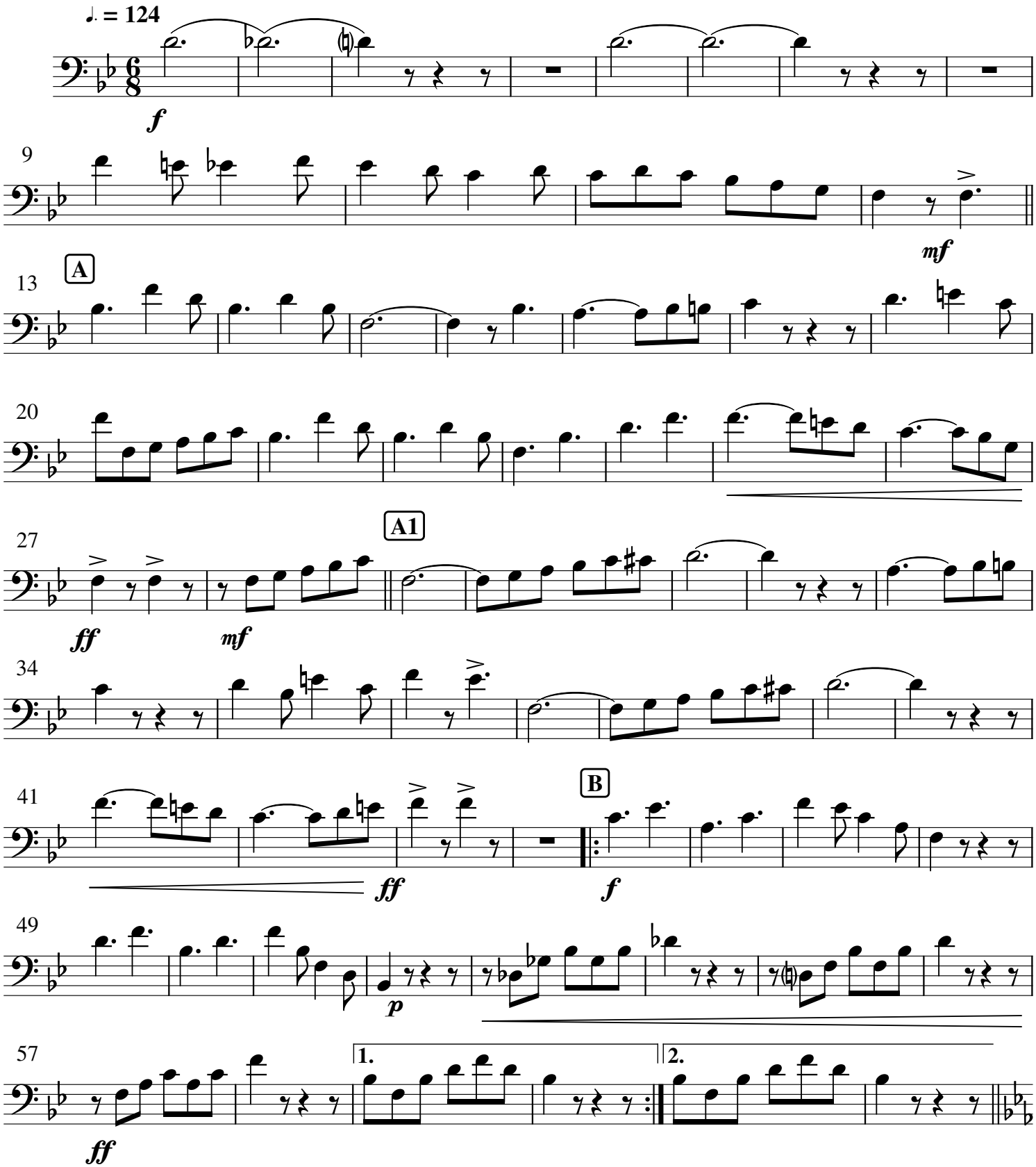
MARCH

Brass Quintet

Trombone

P. S. Mitchell and H. C. Miller
Tr: B. Pitkin and S. Trevitz



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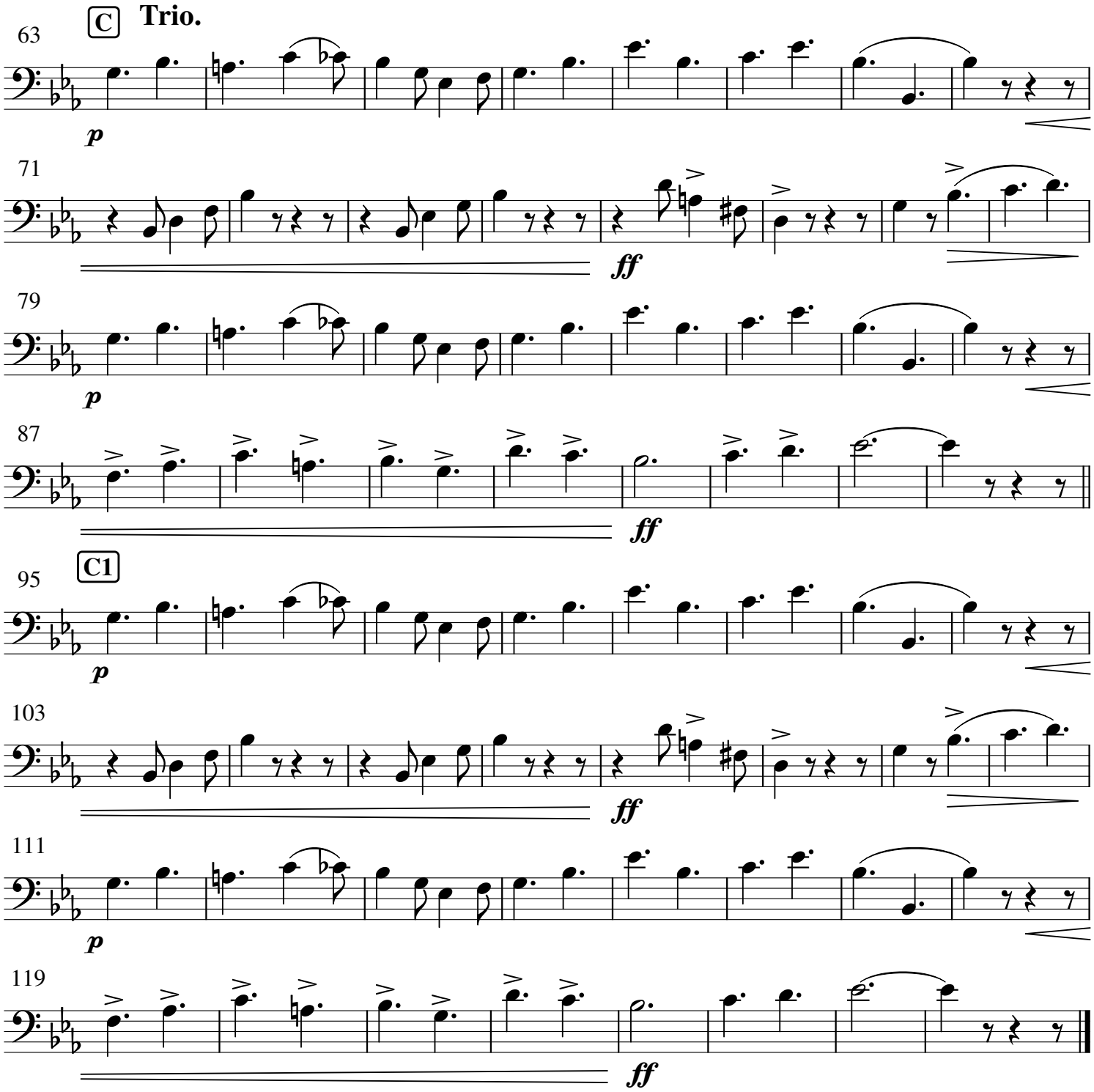
C
Trio.
63
p
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ff
79
p
87
ff
C1
95
p
103
ff
111
p
119
ff

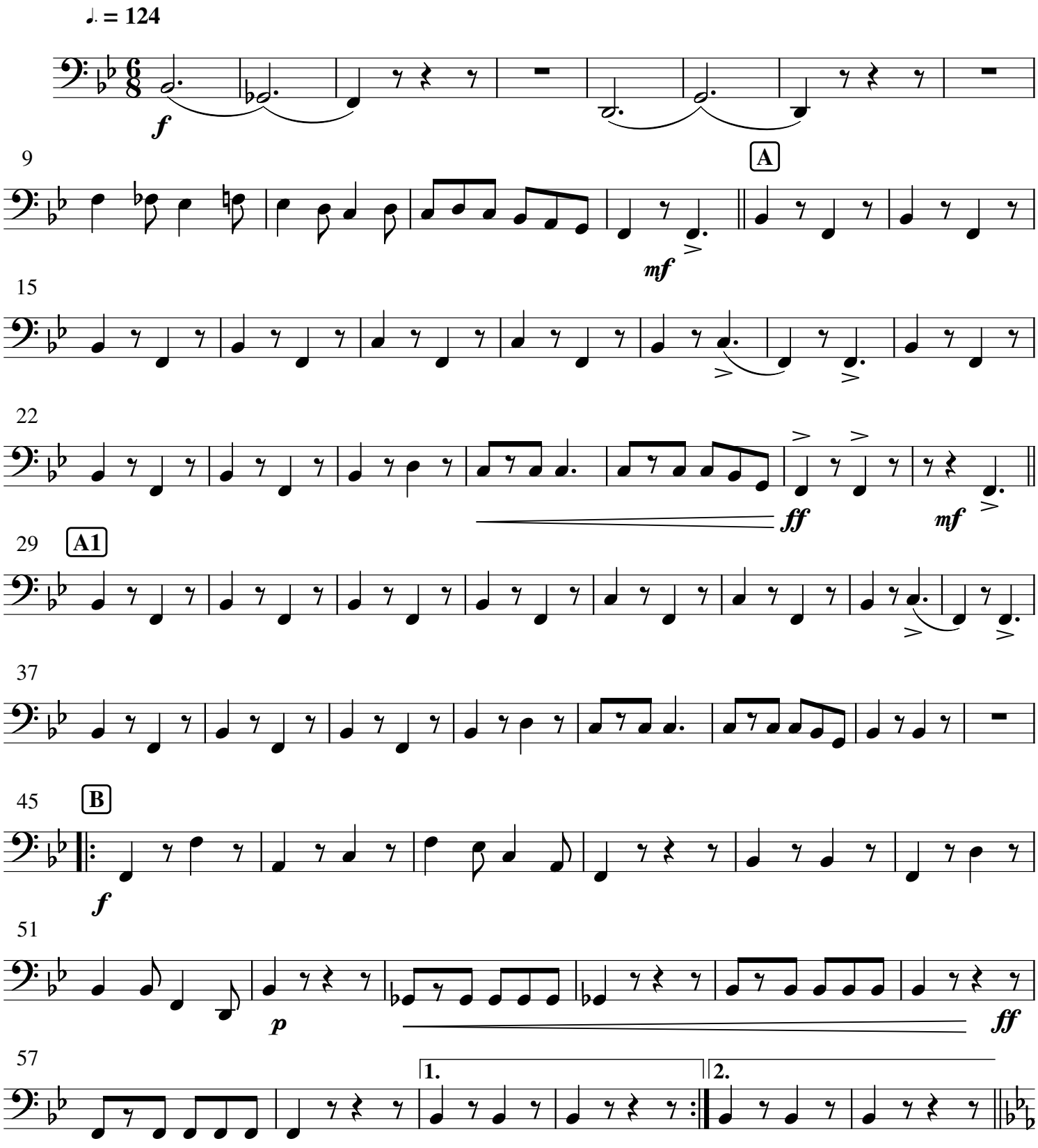
Tressler Orphans' Home Boys' Band

MARCH

Brass Quintet

Tuba

P. S. Mitchell and H. C. Miller
Tr: B. Pitkin and S. Trevitz



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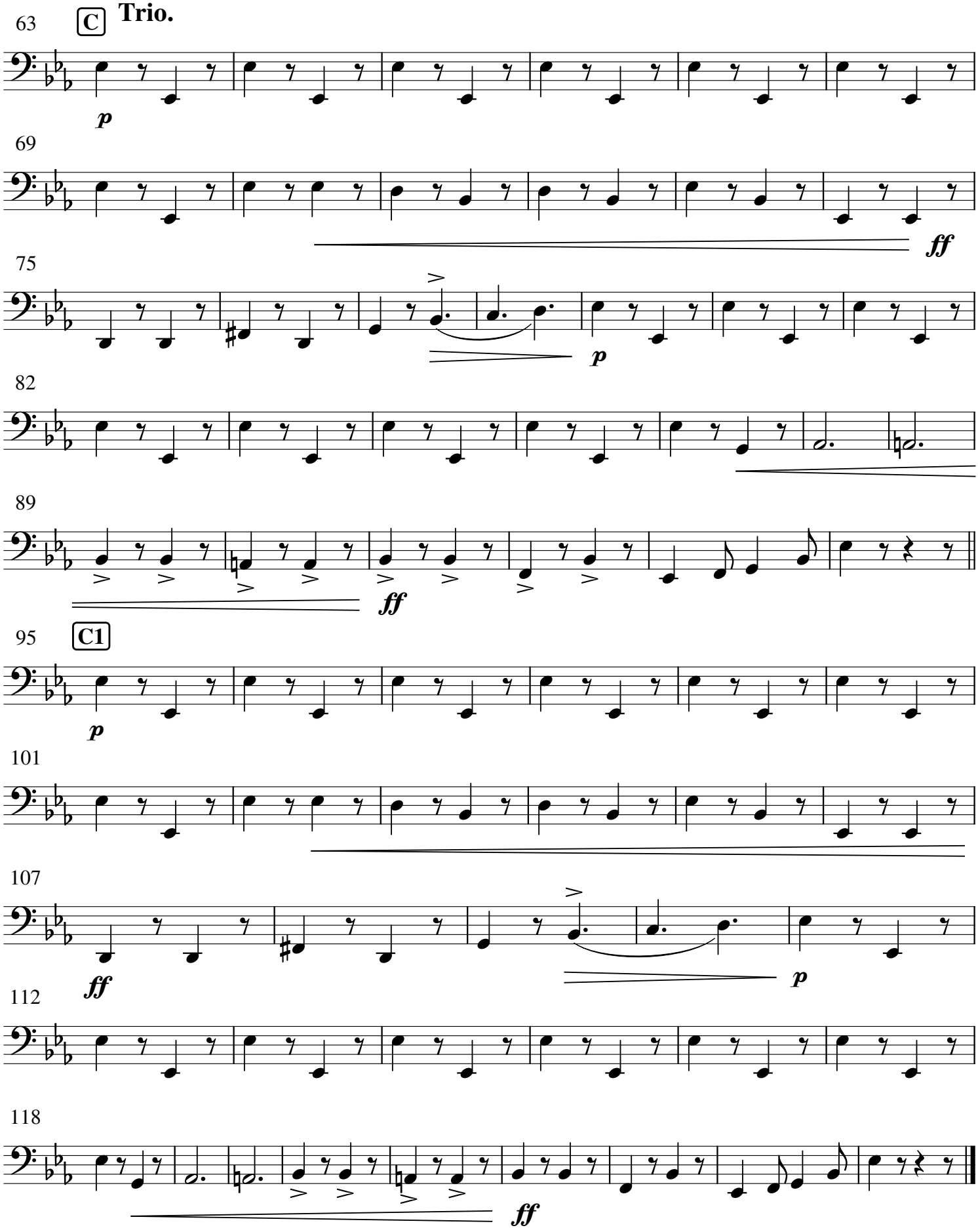
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Trio.
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ff