Hello everyone,

I hope your summers have been going well, and that, like me, you are starting to experience the conflicting emotions of wanting summer to continue but also looking forward to the fall.

This (LONG) message is going to everyone I know about who wants/needs to audition for large ensembles. The excerpts are attached in a PDF, but will also be posted on the department website. PLEASE read everything carefully and all the way to the end. Feel free to share it with any other folks who would like to audition for our ensembles. In case anyone wonders, majoring in music is NOT required to play.

HORN auditions will be held Wednesday, September 23 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. When ready, you will sign up for specific times through the Ensemble website.

As you will see in the PDF, there are two sets of excerpts. The first set of three is for everyone to play. These are used for seating—no one is left out, there is a place in an ensemble for everyone. The second set of excerpts are for those who wish to be considered for Wind Ensemble and/or Orchestra. You must play these if you want to be considered for one of those two groups. Here are some things to consider as you prepare for the audition itself:

All excerpts will be performed behind a screen.
You will be led in by the audition proctor (one of the grad students).
Do not make any noises that could be identifiable (coughs, comments, etc.)
If the audition panel asks you to play something again, please do—just don't make any personal noises (sighs, comments, coughs, etc.).
If you have any questions, the audition proctor will be there for you to ask (quietly)—do not speak to the panel.
I will be present at the auditions, so I will be able to provide feedback to you at some point.
To be considered for Wind Ensemble or Orchestra be sure to prepare ALL of the excerpts—it's possible we will not hear all of them, but you never know…
If this is new to you, I realize it all sounds a bit intimidating, but it allows us to maintain a good level of anonymity and objectivity when we listen to you. The audition panel does not find out who is who until after decisions are made. I can honestly say that our current process is one of the most objective, fair ways of doing this I have been a part of.

Finally, please remember the following:

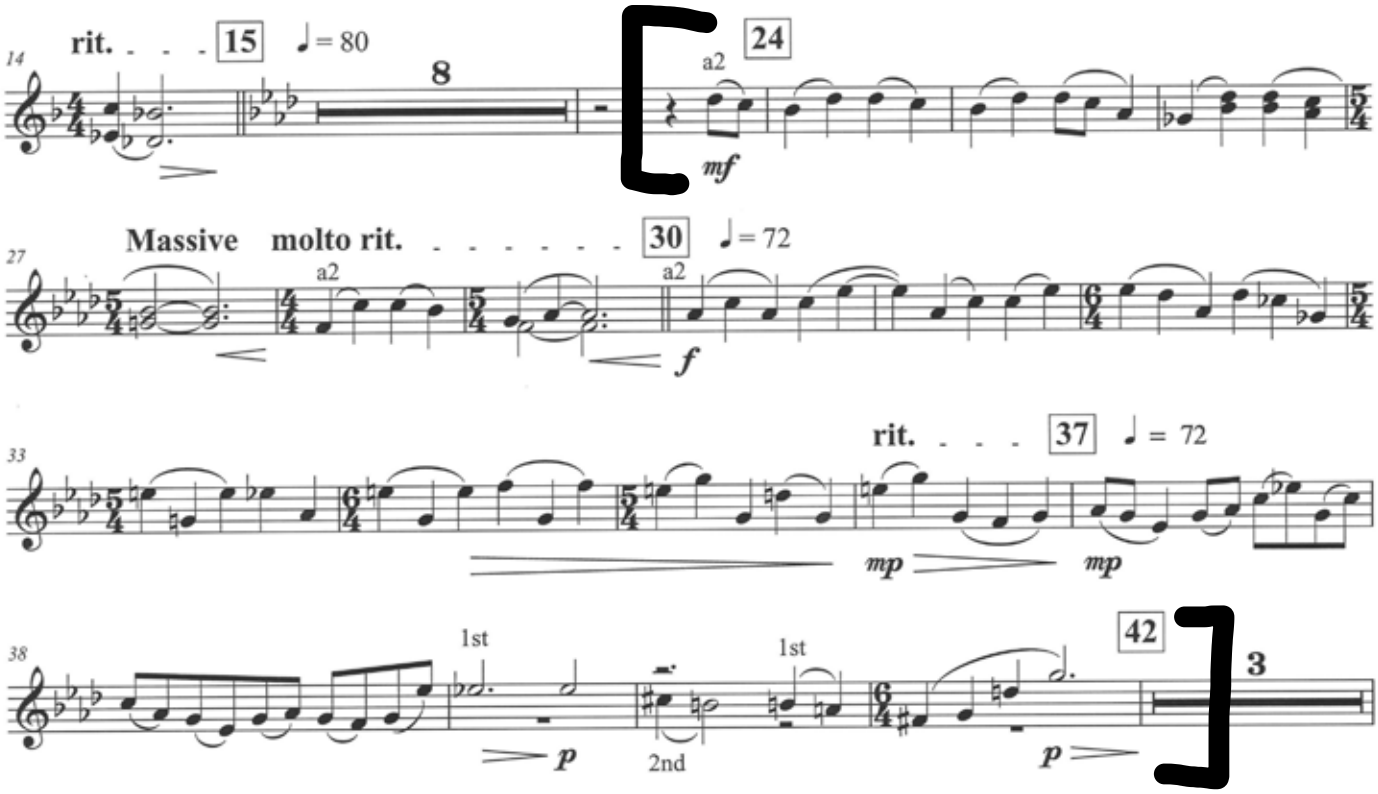
For these auditions, there is nothing else for you to prepare. You will only play these excerpts in the audition. Auditions are just a measure of your progress and suitability for a specific ensemble at this specific time. It is NOT a reflection of who you are as a person or your future success. It is definitely NOT a sign of how things will be forever (well, except if you don't practice...). There is a place for everyone to play. No one will be left out.
There will be more auditions later in the year—this will allow more opportunities for you to demonstrate your progress.
If you don't get into the group you are hoping for, it is not the end of the world. All of our groups are great. Your character is more reflective of your attitude toward the circumstances you are presented with, not the results of the audition itself. Make the most of the chances you are given in the group you are assigned, and things can always get better!
Let me know if you have any problems with the PDF attached. If you are unfamiliar with how to prepare excerpts for this type of audition (i.e., a professional one), the process is relatively simple—research the pieces for technical and musical choices thoroughly, and practice like crazy! And learning more about all this is part of what we study in college.

Take care, and look for more emails from me in the next week or so about lessons, Horn Ensemble, and more. Feel free to ask questions anytime—I will answer!

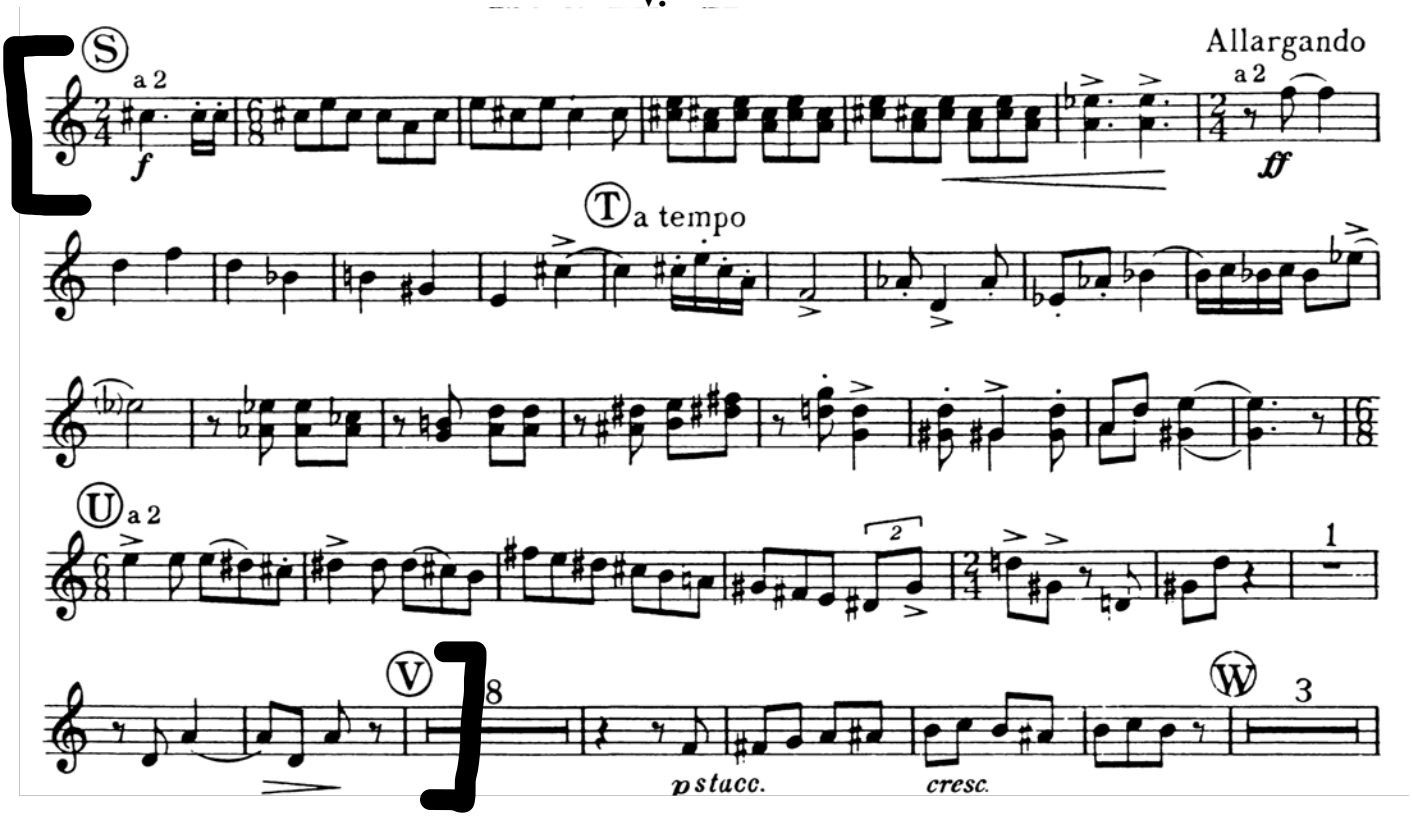
Dr S

CWU Large Ensemble Horn Auditions Fall 2026
ALL MUST PLAY THE FIRST <u>THREE</u> (3) EXCERPTS

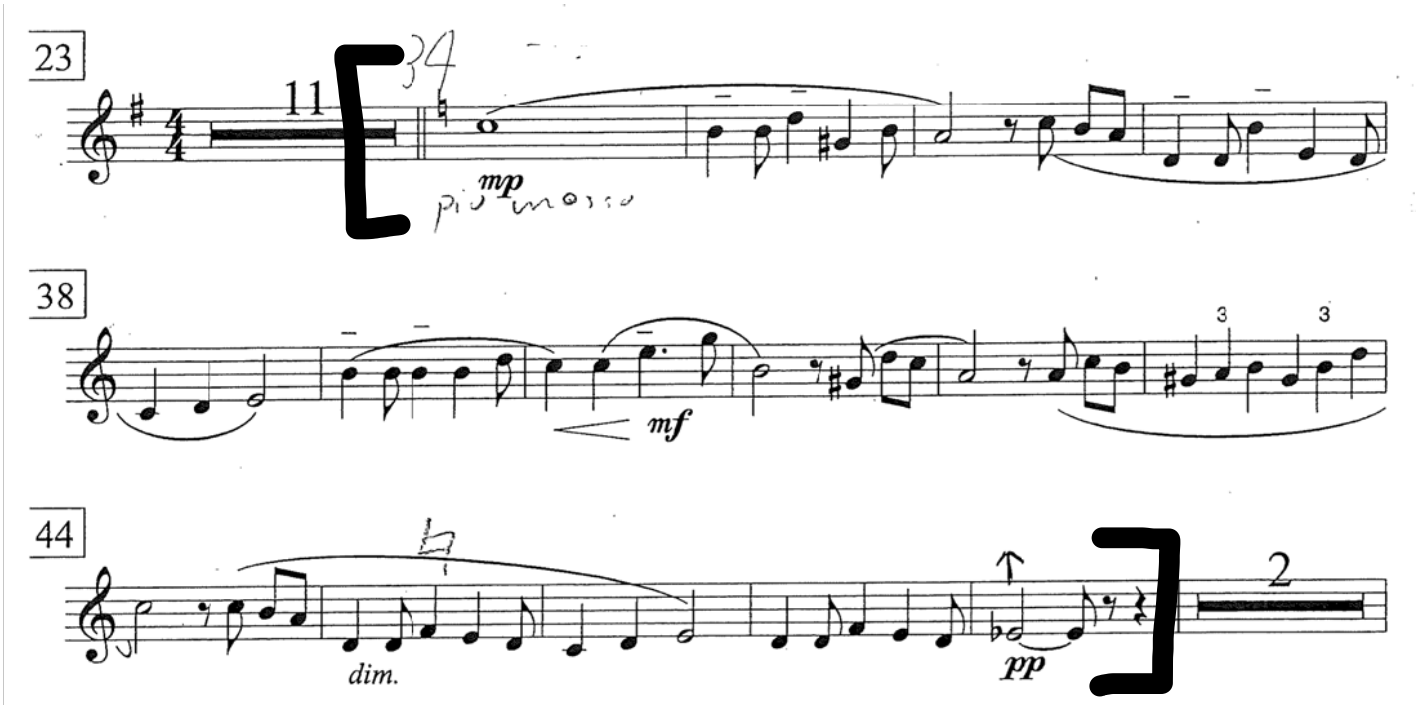
1. Julie Giroux, *One Beautiful Life*, Horn 1 in F, measures 24-42. Horn 1 in F.



2. Gustav Holst, *Hammersmith*, Horn 1 in F, Rehearsal S to Rehearsal V.

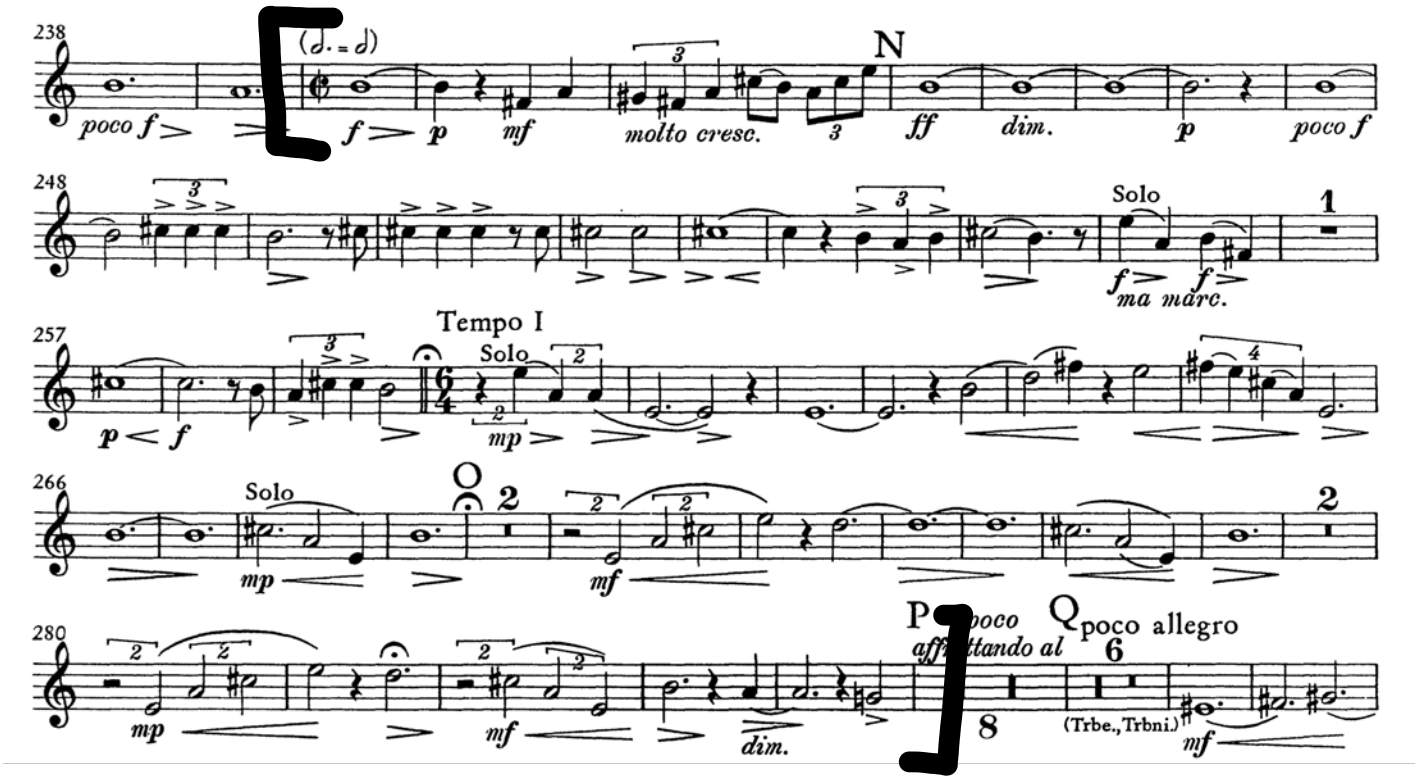


3. Arturo Marquez, *Danzon No. 2,* Horn 1, measures 34-48.

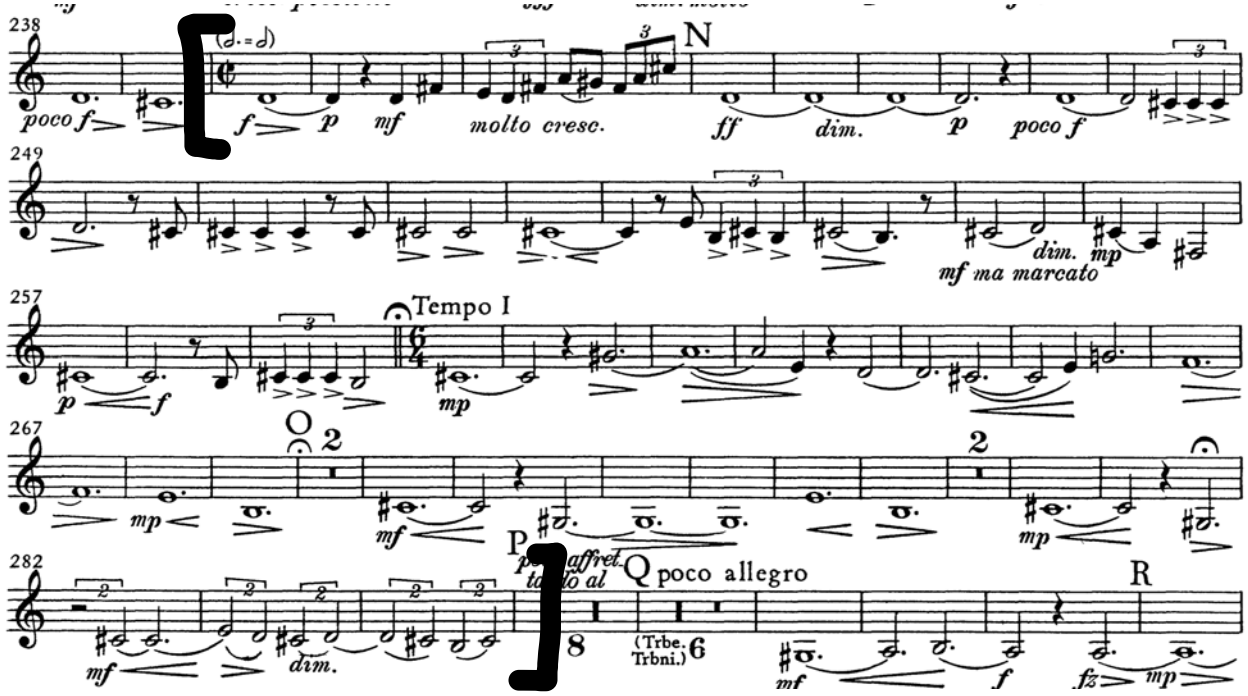


THOSE WHO WISH TO BE CONSIDERED FOR WIND ENSEMBLE OR ORCHESTRA MUST <u>ALSO</u> BE PREPARED TO PLAY ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS:

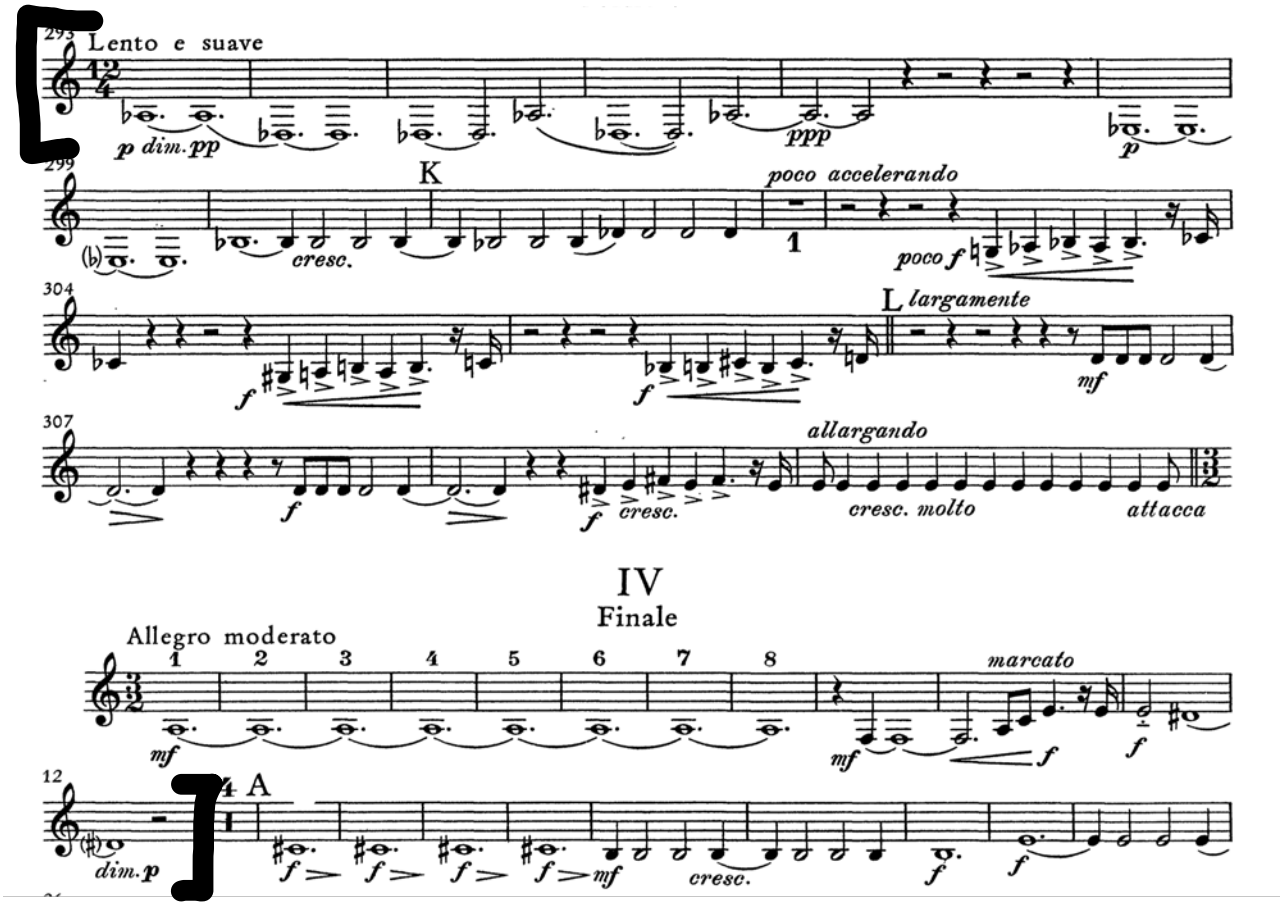
4. Jean Sibelius, *Symphony No. 2*, I. Allegretto, Horn 1 in F, three before Rehearsal N to Rehearsal P



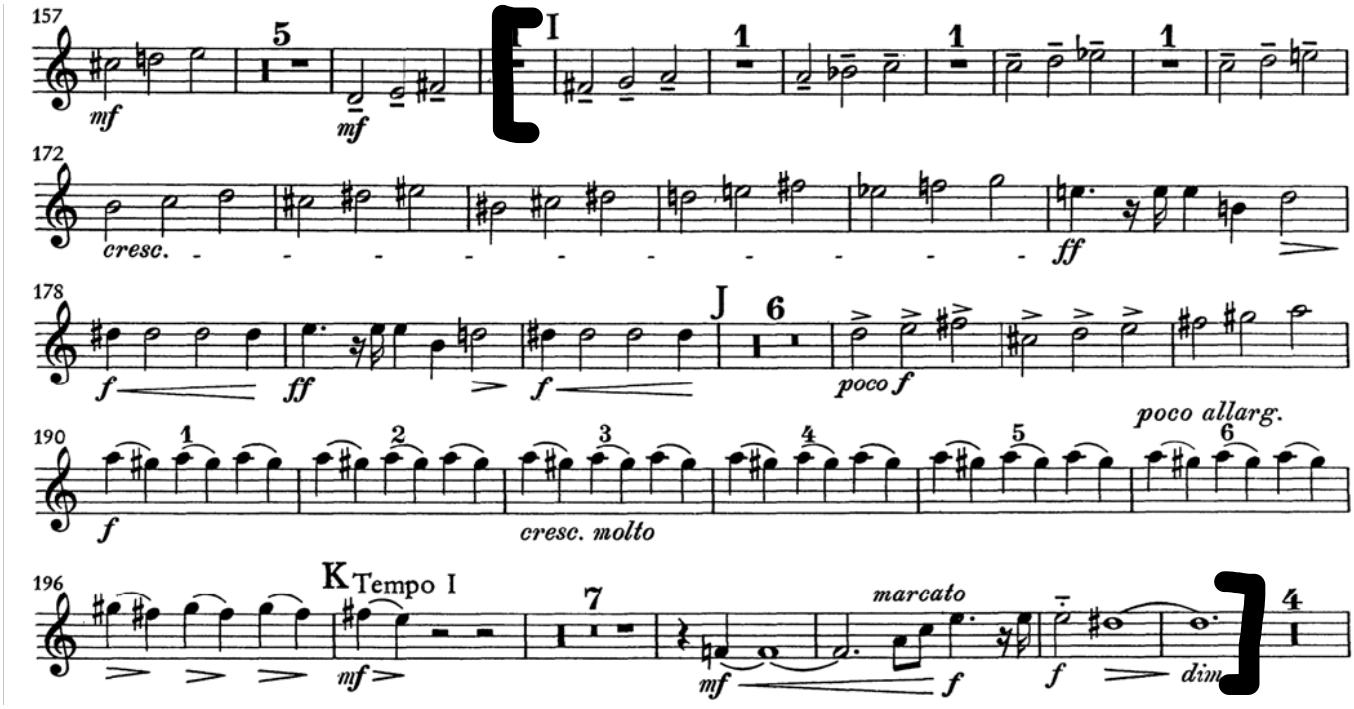
5. Sibelius, *Symphony No. 2*, I. Allegretto, Horn 4 in F, three before Rehearsal N to Rehearsal P



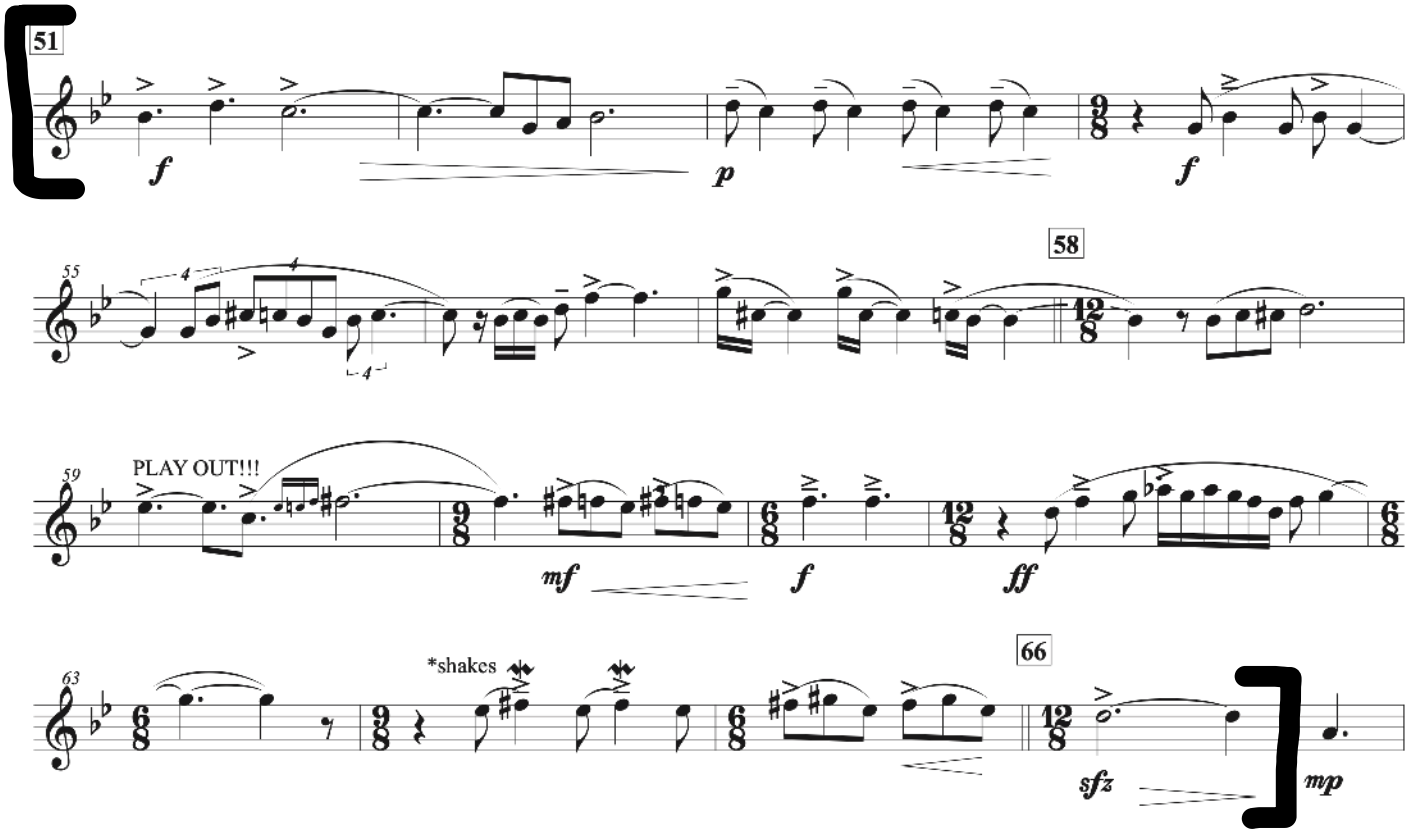
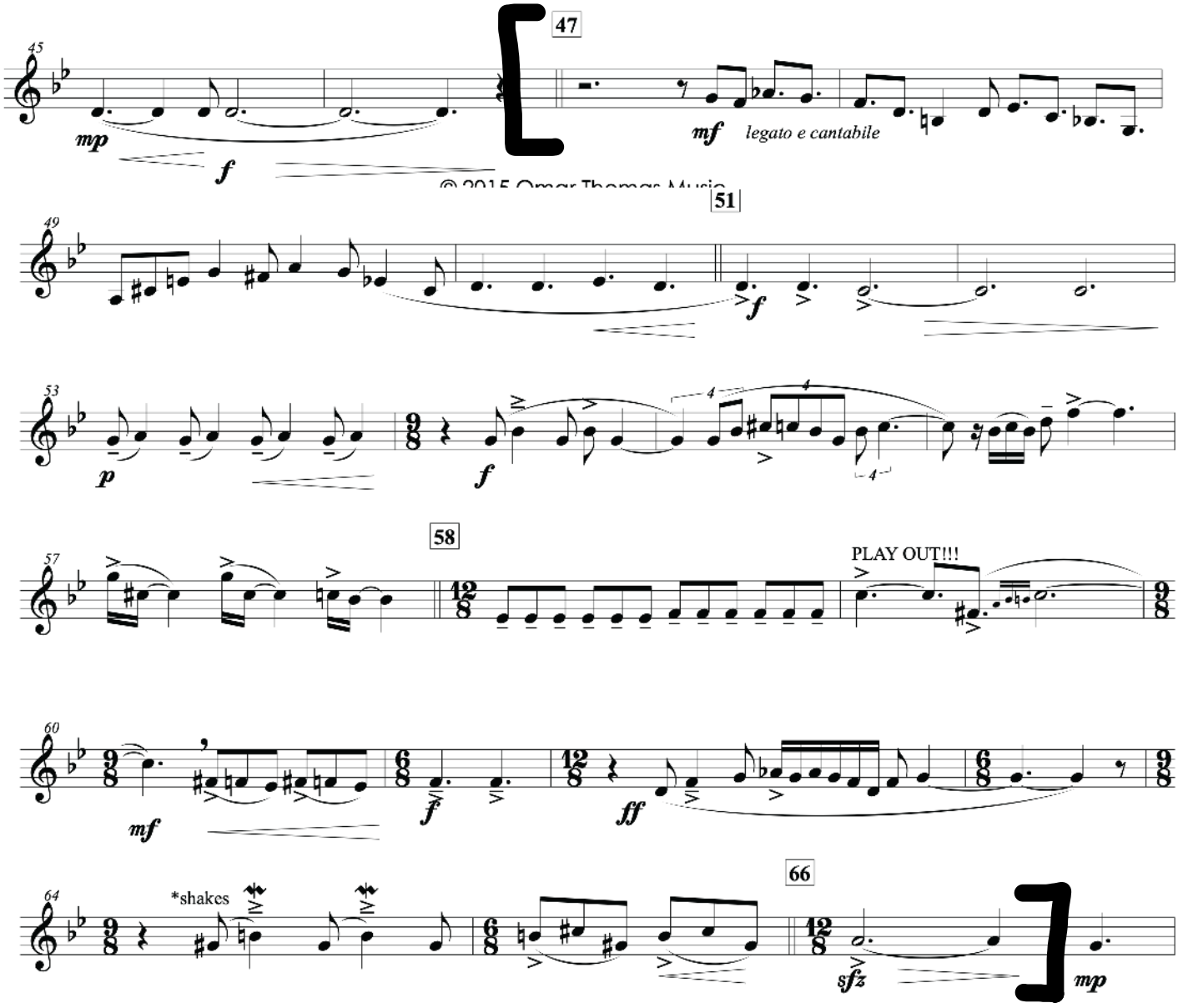
6. Sibelius, *Symphony No. 2*, III-IV. Horn 4, III. Lento e suave to IV. Rehearsal A



7. Sibelius, *Symphony No. 2*, IV. Horn 1, Rehearsal I to end of excerpt. Please count the rests.



8. Omar Thomas, *Of Our New Day Begun*, Horn 1, measures 51-66.



9. Omar Thomas, *Of Our New Day Begun*, Horn 4, measures 47-66.