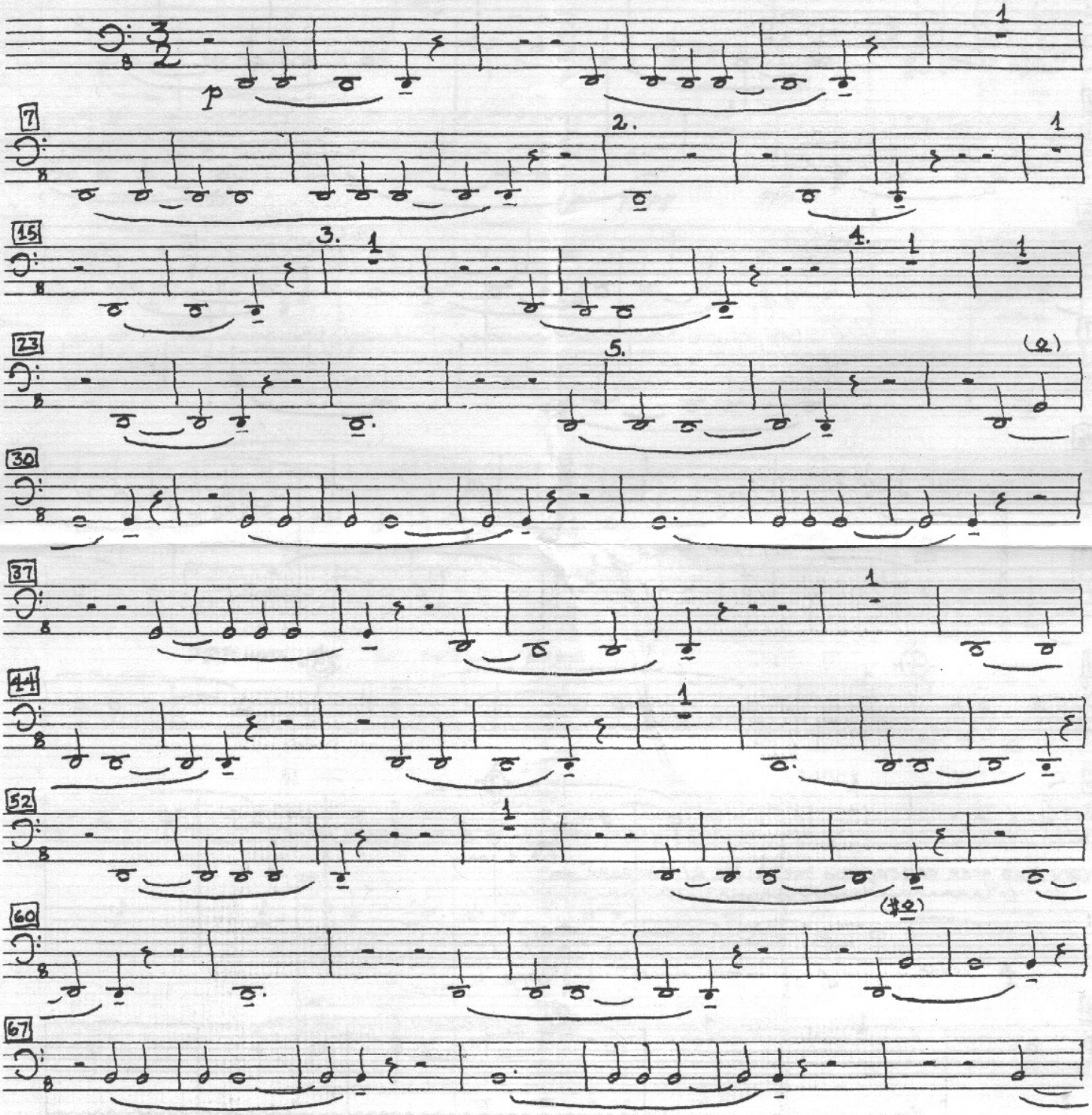
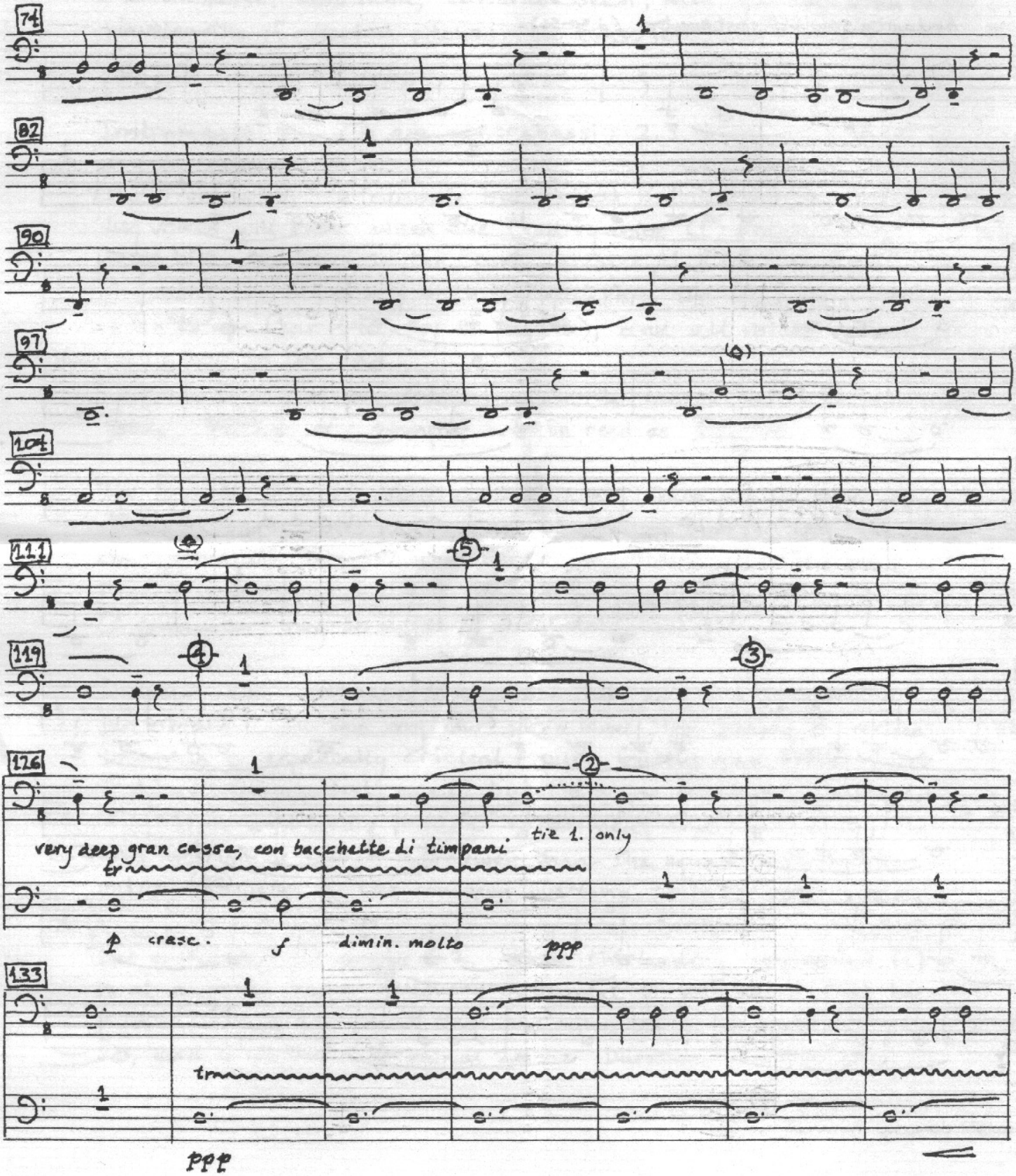
LONG-WAVE QUINTET

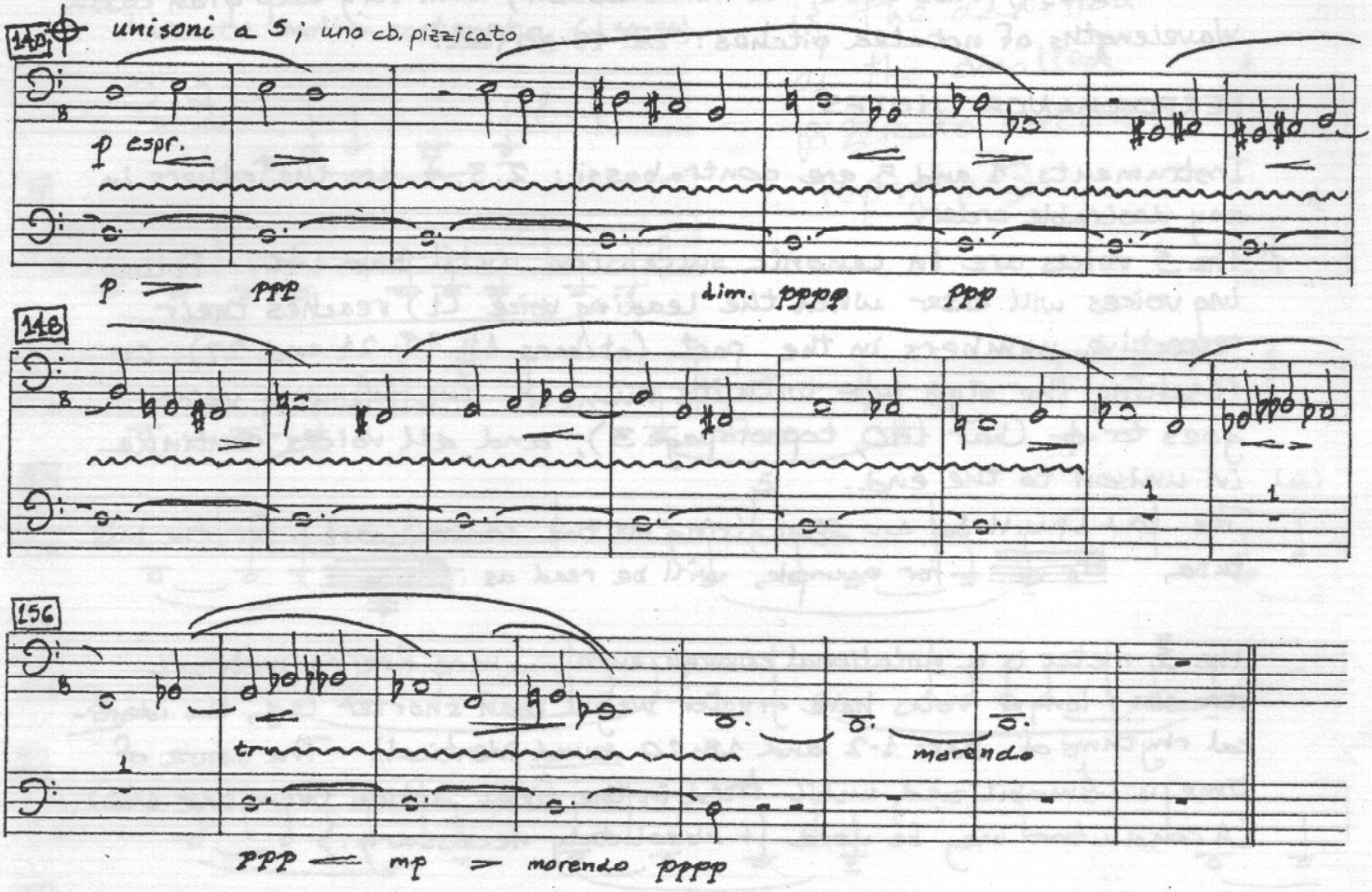
3 contrabassi, bass tuba and contrabassoon, with gran cassa

Andante molto sostenuto (♩ 50-56)



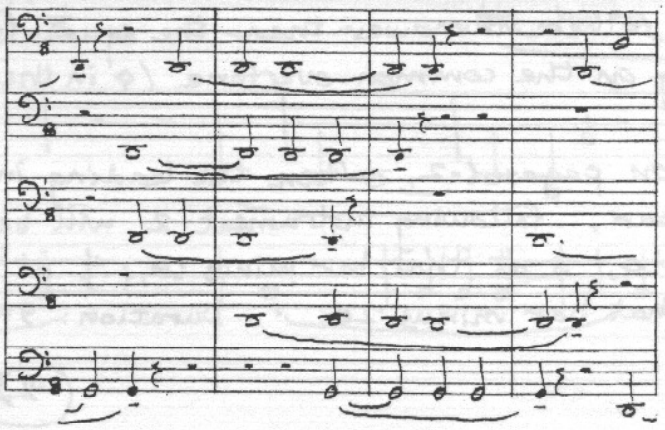
℗ public domain mmviii


74
82
90
97
104
111
119
126
very deep gran cassa, con bacchette di timpani
tie 1. only
tr
p
cresc.
f
dimin. molto
ppp
133
tr
ppp



Bhishma Xenotechnites
iii. 2008

Sample realization of the five voices, bars 62-65:



LONG-WAVE QUINTET

3 contrabassi, bass tuba, contrabassoon, with very deep gran cassa

Wavelengths of notated pitches: ca. 15-30 feet.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Instruments 1 and 5 are contrabassi; 2, 3, 4 are the others in any desirable order.

The 5 voices are in canonic succession until bar 140. Following voices will enter when the leading voice (1) reaches their respective numbers in the part (at bars 11, 17, 21 and 27). On reaching the sign ⊕ with its number, the following voice goes to ⊕ (bar 140, top of page 3), and all voices continue in unison to the end.

The low D will be an open string on the contrabassi; for the bass tuba, , for example, will be read as .

The $\frac{3}{2}$ meter is a notational convenience. There are no metrical stresses; longer notes have greater weight than shorter (e.g., the identical rhythms of bars 1-2 and 18-20 sound identical). The sense of time is immobilized until freed in the final section (from bar 140). (A conductor may be used if absolutely necessary.)

Dynamic level: not loud, but with a full, overtone-rich sound. No vibrato. At this very low pitch level, the tuning of vertical intervals is especially critical: pure fourths and fifths (D-G, D-A) will be relatively easy, but the major 6th D-B is more difficult and will likely require experiment and adjustment; the true interval is rather narrower than the equal-temperament value. Focusing on the common overtone (◇ in the part) is helpful.

Bar numbers: on pages 1-2, when the leading instrument (1) is at a given bar, following instrument 2 will be at that bar number minus 10, 3 at that bar minus 16, 4 at that bar minus 20, and 5 at that bar minus 26. · Duration: 9-10 minutes.

2E