Sports et Divertissements (Sports and Pastimes)

translation of Satie's written commentary in the music manuscript
(Satie wanted the texts read before the performance of each piece.)

Preface

This publication embodies two arts: drawing and music. The drawing part consists of lines – witty lines; the musical part of plain black dots. These two parts put together make an album. I suggest you turn its pages with a tolerant thumb and with a smile, for this is a work of pure whimsy. Let no one look for more.

For the dried up and stultified I have added a chorale, sober and suitable. This makes a sort of wormwood preamble, a way of starting out wholly austere and unfrivolous. I have put into it everything I know about boredom. I dedicate this chorale to those who already dislike me. And withdraw.

Erik Satie

Satie's written comments for individual pieces

UNAPPETIZING CHORALE. Hypocritically… Crabbed and cantankerous ... May 14, 1914, in the morning on an empty stomach

IN A SWING. My heart it is that swings and swing and never gets dizzy … What tiny feet it has … Will it want to come back to my breast?

COMMEDIA DEL 'ARTE. Scaramouche boasts about the charms of military life … "You get to know your way around," he says … "The civilians are afraid of you and as for romantic adventures and all that!" … "What a life!"

CARNIVAL. Confetti is falling around! ... That one has on a melancholy mask … A tipsy Pierrot tries walking straight … Enter gracefully some masked ladies … People push to see them … "Are they pretty?"

FISHING. Water purling at the bottom of a stream … A fish arrives, then another, two others … "What's up?" … "It's just a fisherman, a poor fisherman" … "Thanks"… They all go away, including the fisherman … Water purling at the bottom of a stream

THE OCTOPUS. The octopus sits in his cave … He is teasing a crab and chasing it around … He swallows it the wrong way … He turns pale, stumbles over his own feet … He takes a glass of salt water to settle his stomach … The drink does him good, makes him feel more cheerful

PICNIC. Everybody has brought cold veal … You have on a lovely white dress … Oh my! An airplane! ... Not at all; it's a storm coming up

PUSS IN THE CORNER. The four mice … The cat … The mice tease the cat … The cat stretches … He pounces … Pussy's got a corner

THE TANGO - ENDLESS. The tango is the Devil's dance ... His favorite one … He uses it for cooling off … His wife, his daughters, and his servants all cool off that way

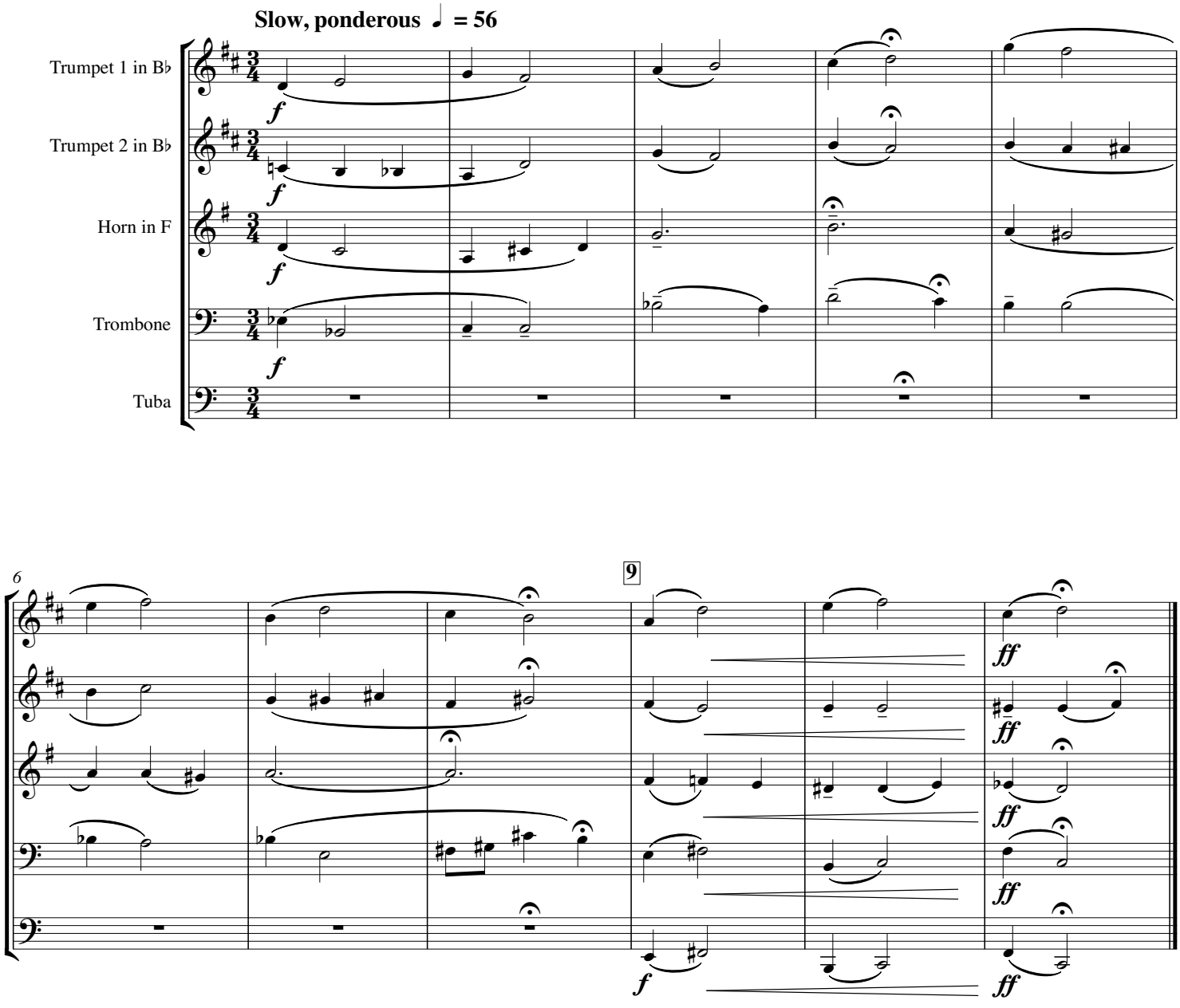
Sports et Divertissements

(Sports and Pastimes)

for Brass Quintet

Erik Satie
arr. Charles Decker

1. Choral Inappetissant (Unappetizing Chorale)



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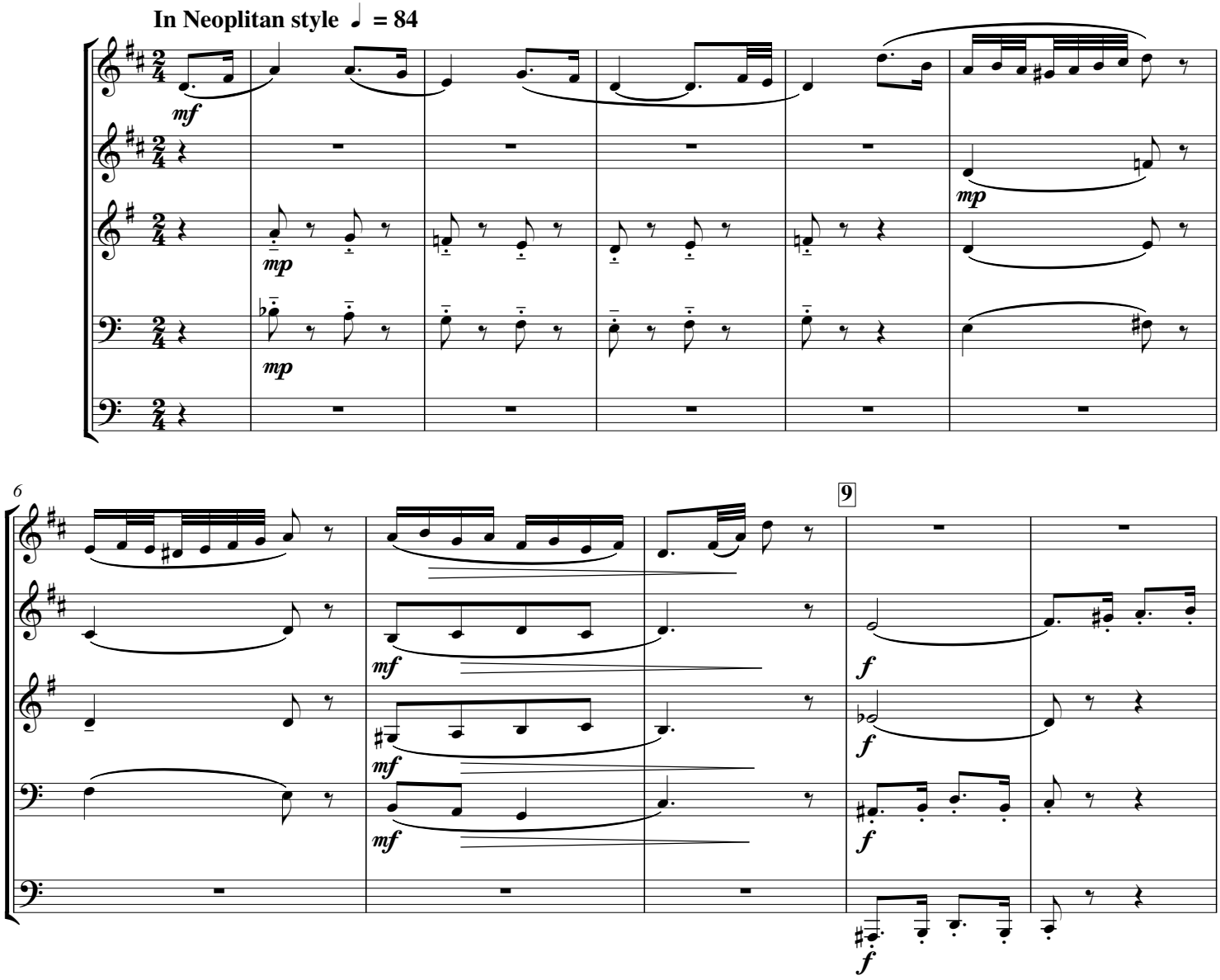
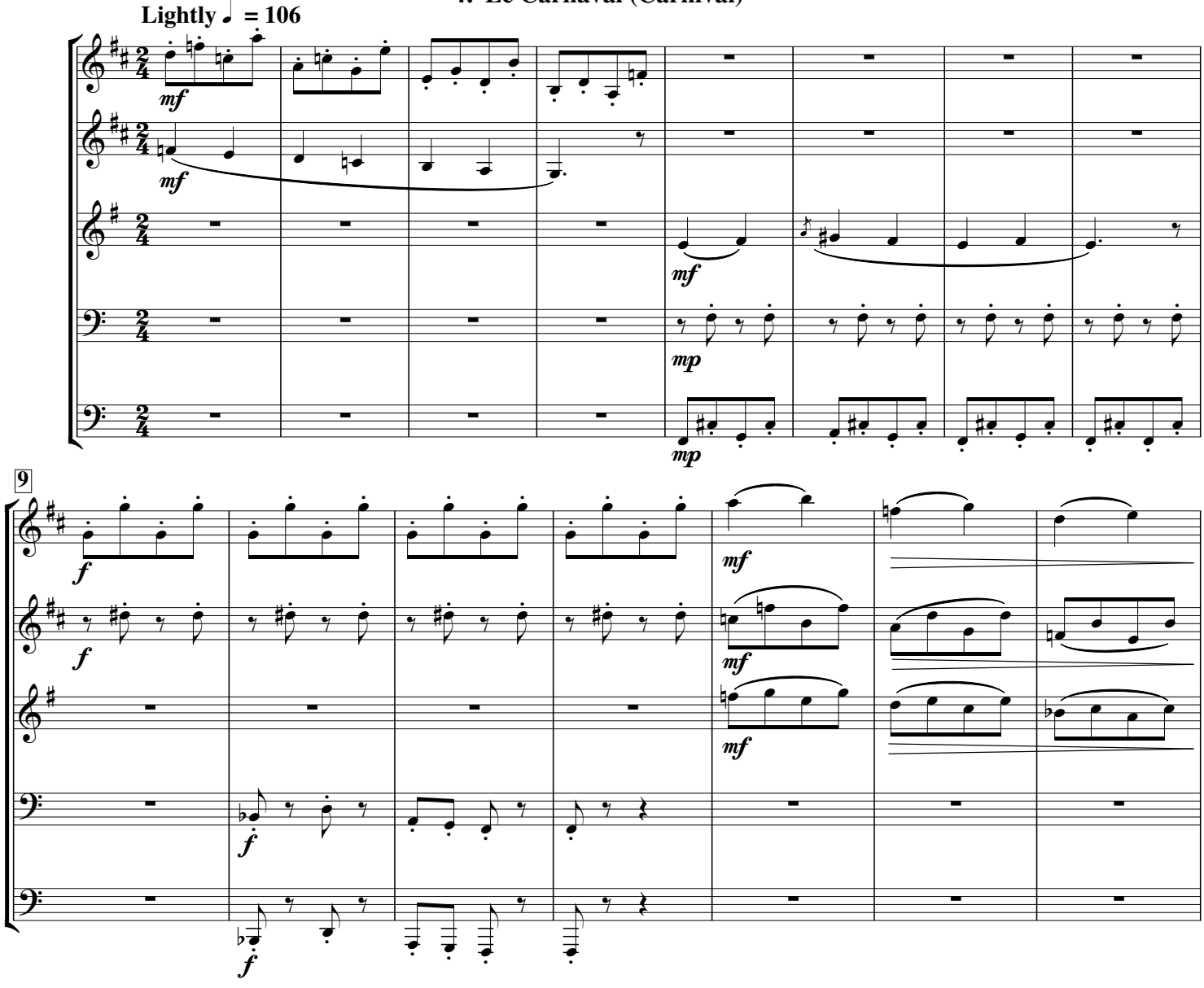
2. La Balancoire (In a Swing)

3. La Comedie Italienne (Commedia del 'Arte)

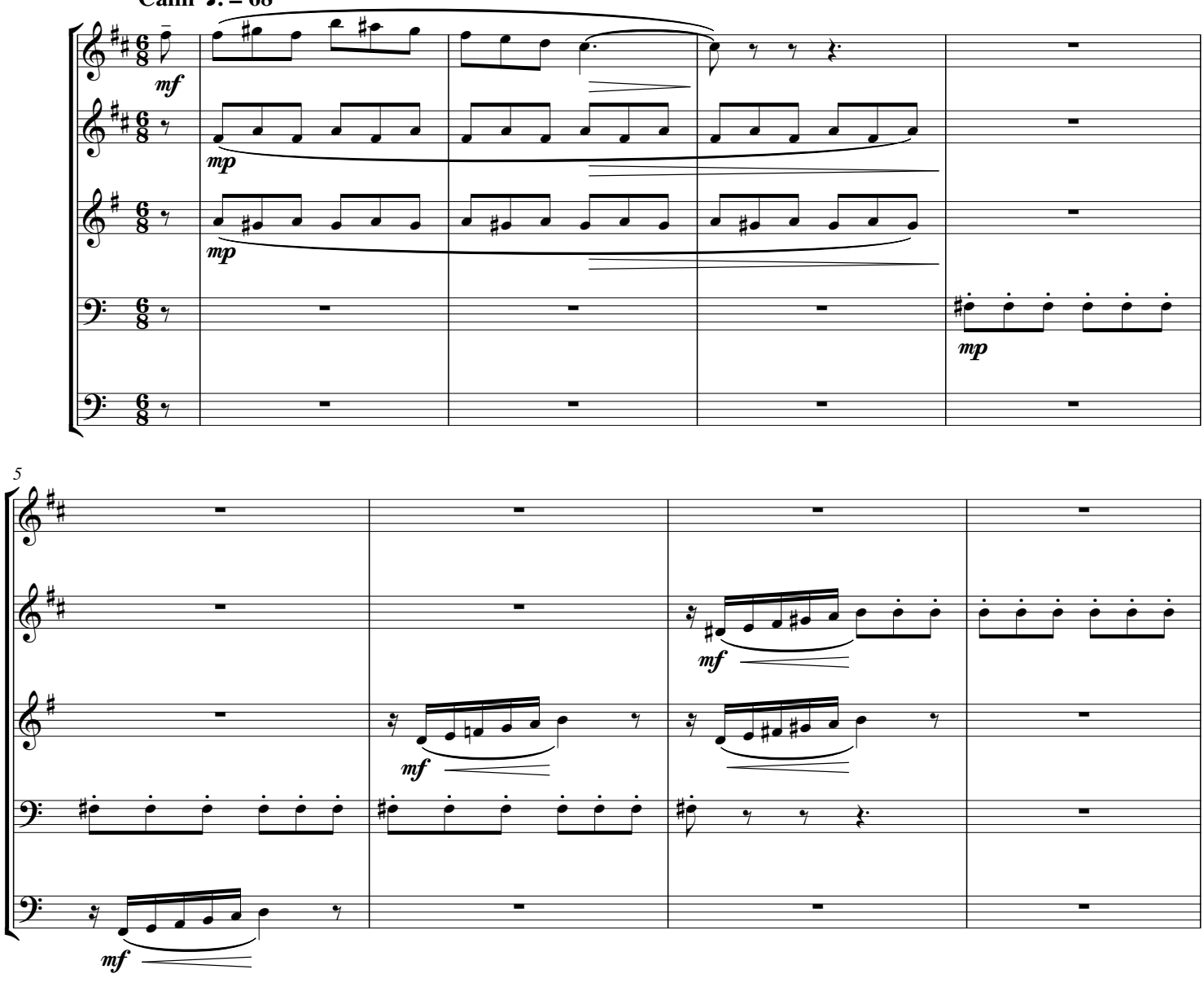


4. Le Carnaval (Carnival)



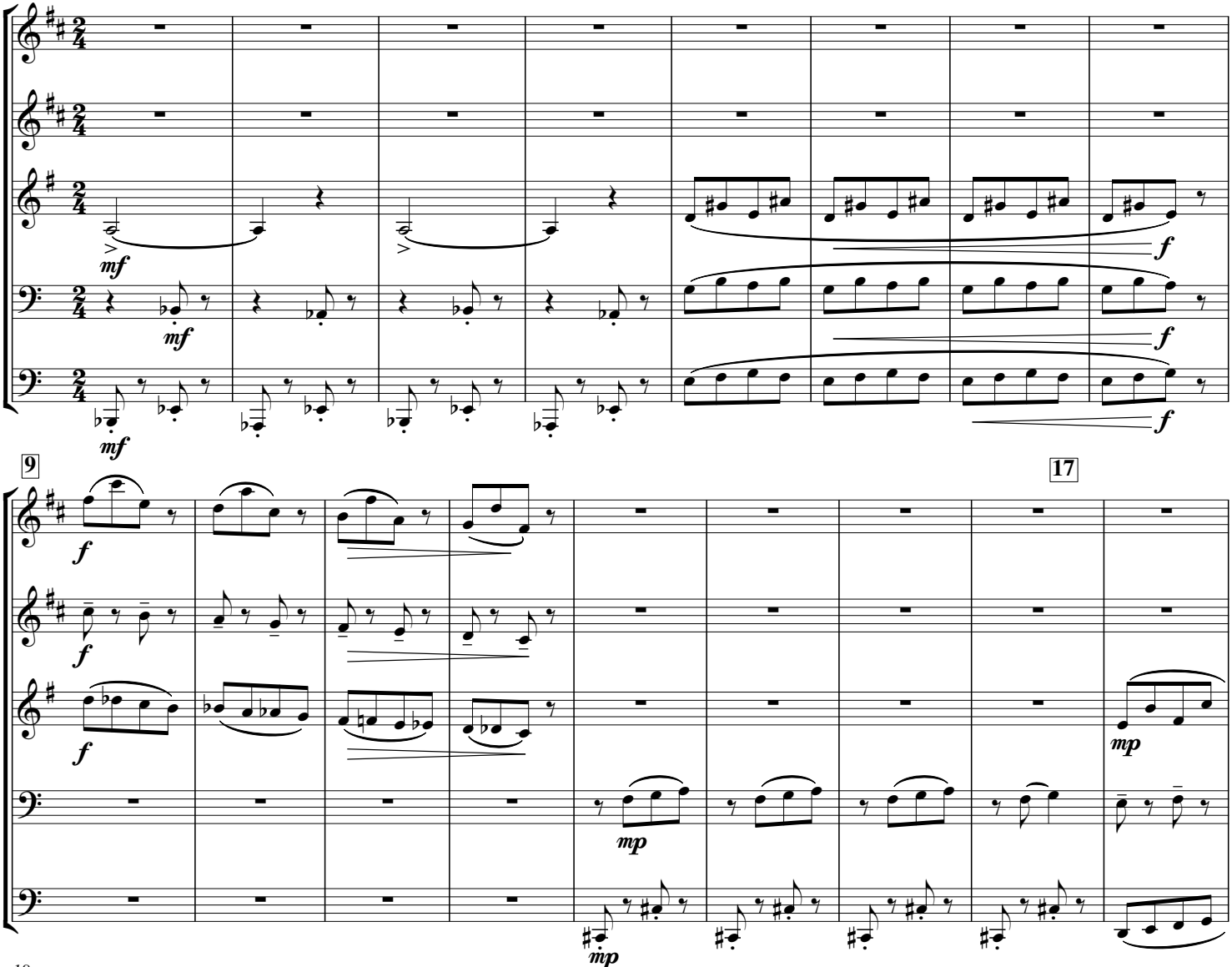
5. La Peche (Fishing)

Calm ♩. = 68

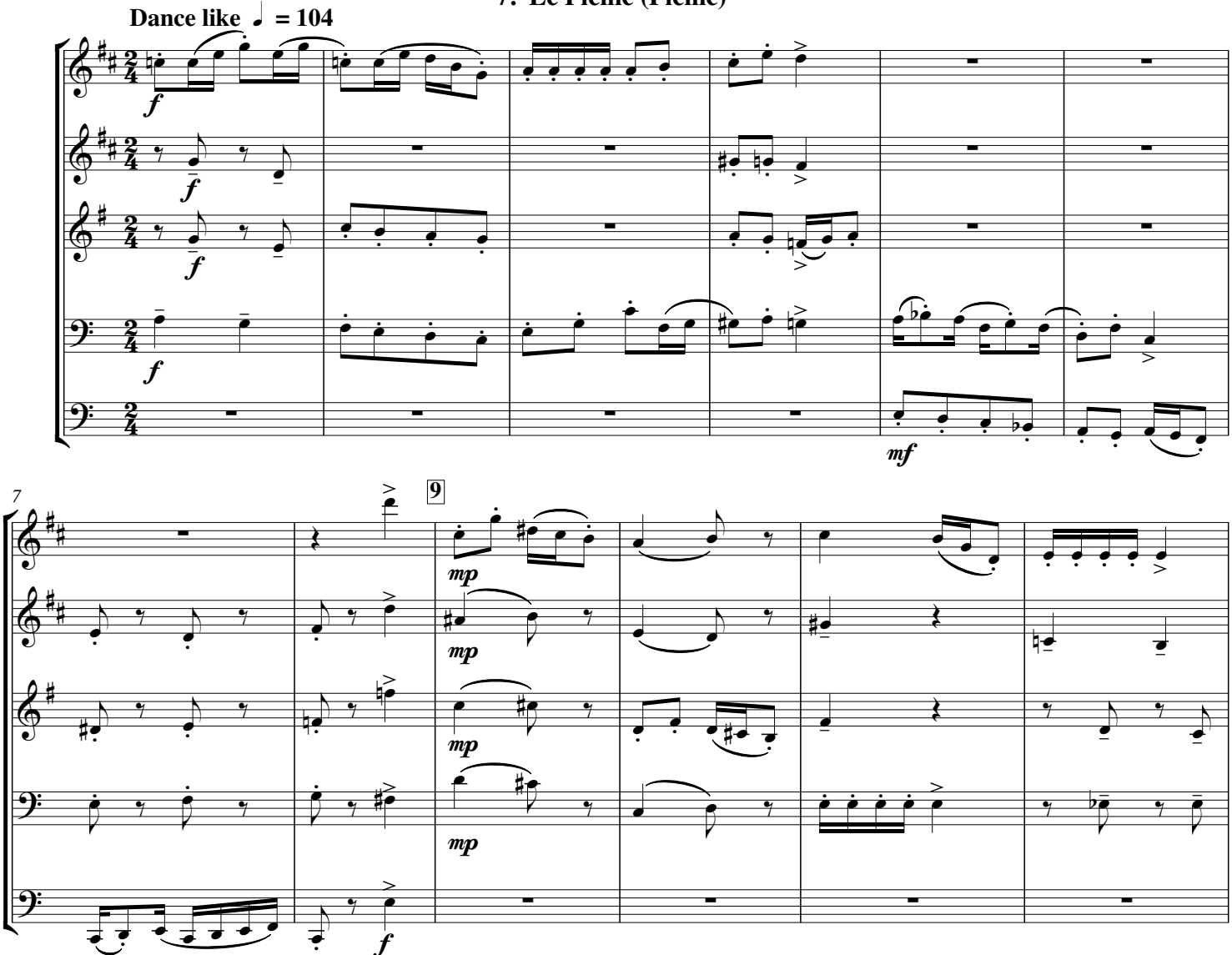


6. La Pieuvre (The Octopus)

Quite fast ♩ **= 120**

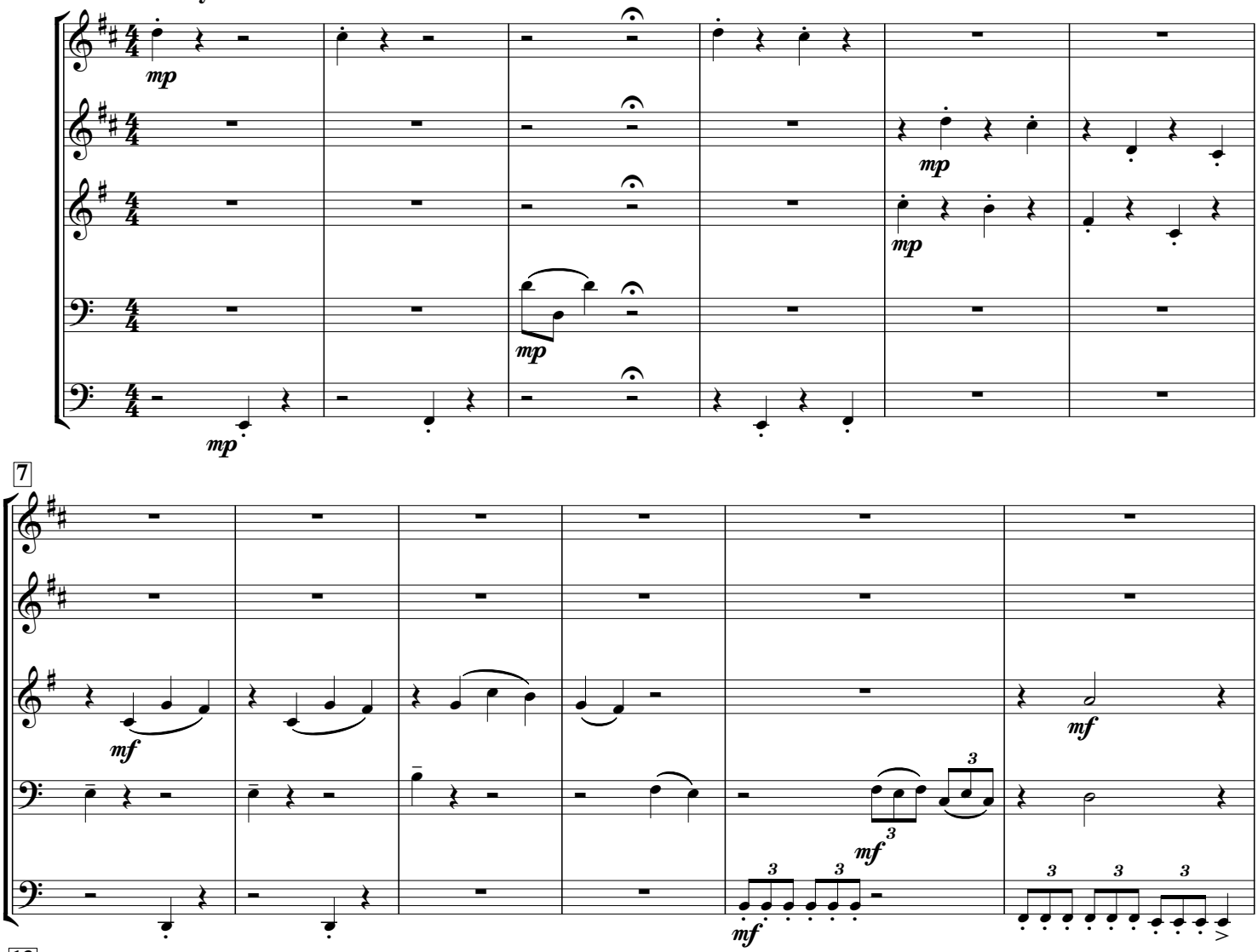


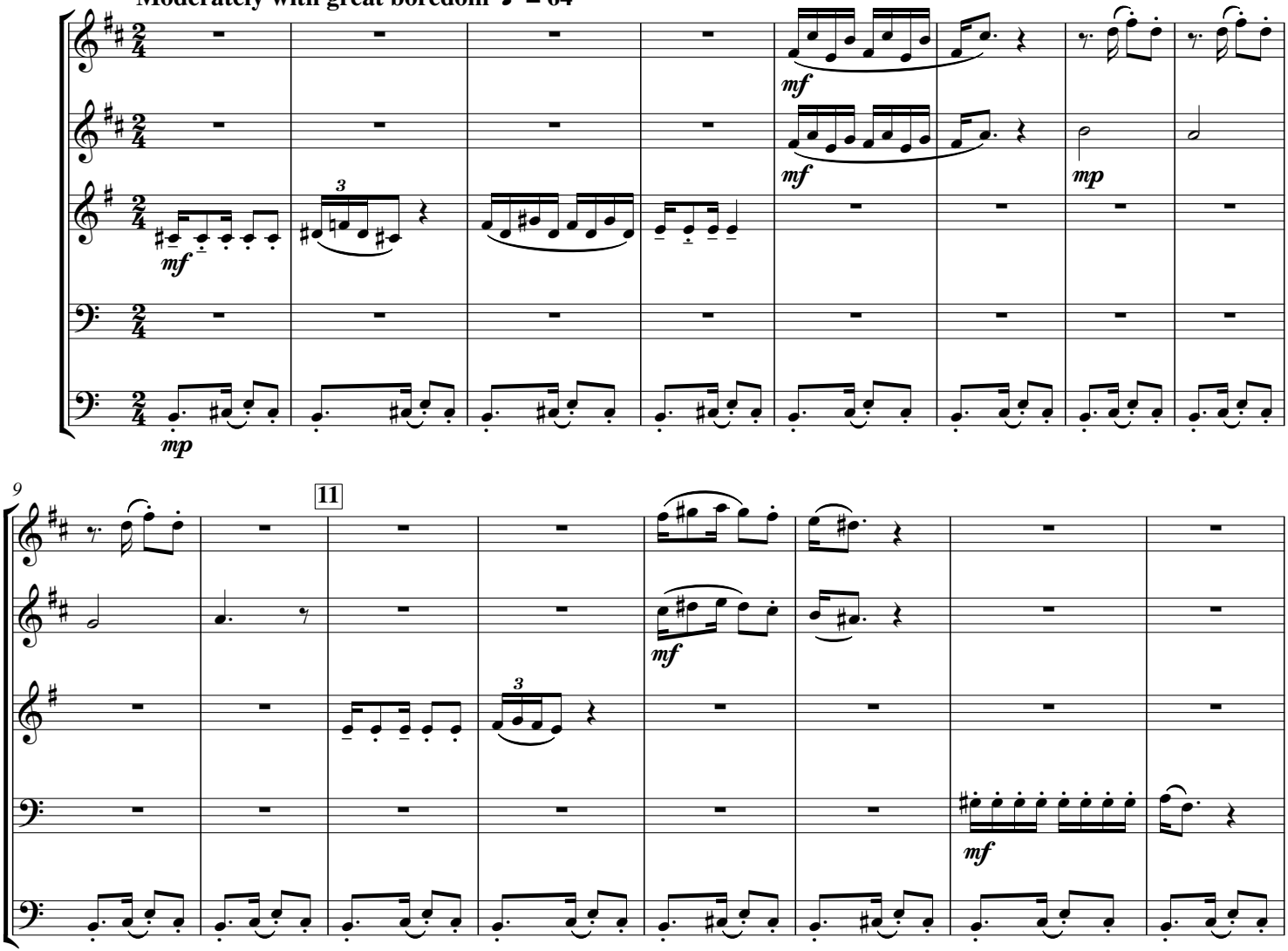
7. Le Picnic (Picnic)



8. Les Quatre Coins (Puss in the Corner)

Merrily ♩ = 120



9. Le Tango (The Tango - Endless)

Moderately with great boredom ♩ = 64