matthew sergeant (2016)

Lichen

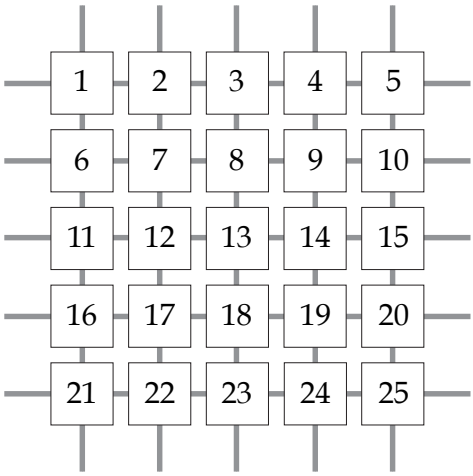
for electric lap-steel guitar

Commissioned by Daryl Buckley with funds generously provided by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT). Dedicated to Daryl in admiration and friendship.

Performance Instructions

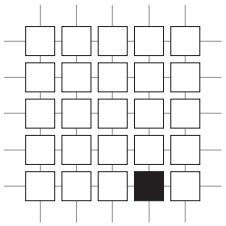
[lichen] is comprised from 25 modules of varying lengths (ranging from 10-90s). The module number is provided in the header of each module, for reference.

Crucially, the modules may not be performed in simple numerical sequence (3, 4, 5, 6, 7… etc). Instead the modules can be better visualised as occupying a 5x5 spatialized grid, diagrammatised below:



Prior to performance a route through this grid must be devised by the performer using only vertical and horizontal movements from module to module (diagonal movements are not permitted under any circumstance). By way of example, an iteration of module 7 could thusly be followed by an iteration of modules 2, 6, 8 or 12. In addition, the grid-structure is also *boundless*, meaning that one may leave an edge of the grid and arrive at the opposite side. Thusly, an iteration of module 25 could be followed by an iteration of modules 20, 24, 21 or 5 - or an iteration of module 11 could be followed by an iteration of modules 6, 15, 12 or 16 (etc).

Each page of the score contains a simplified version of the above diagram in place of a conventional page number, as seen below. These serve as an *aide-memoire* to the position within the imagined 5x5 grid space.

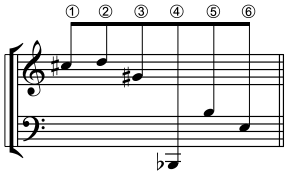


Note: The filled square indicates current location, here module 24.

In addition to the basic movements from module to module, the following points may also be useful to consider:

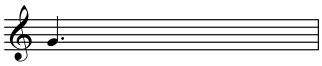
- A performance may begin and end on any module
- Modules may be returned to in a single performance (i.e. repeated, with at least one other module being iterated between the initial and subsequent statement of that module)
- One or more modules may be omitted entirely from a given performance (although the artistic intensions of the piece will be compromised if less than four modules are iterated)
- Please also review notes within the notation guide regarding the use of effects pedals

Scordatura:

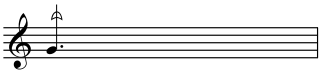


Note: All pitches sound one octave lower than written

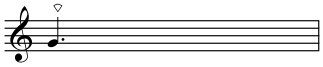
Articulations and Aggitations:



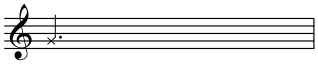
(a) with flesh of finger,



(c) with nail of finger,



(c) with pick,

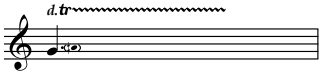


(d) articulation made by hammering slide on string,
[Note: where applied to multiple strings, it is expected and encouraged that non-specified strings will also sound.]

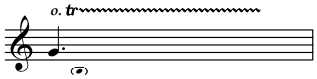
(d) linear glissando,

(e) vibrato,

(f) vibrato with glissando,



(g) double-slide trill,

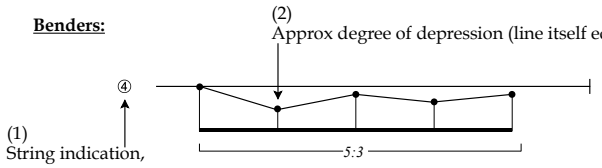


(h) trill to open-string,
[Note: Made by oscillating slide up and down]

(i) lateral trill,
[Note: twist slide left-to-right as fast as possible on notated strings]

(j) non-articulated,
[Note: normally indicates end point of a non re-articulated glissando]

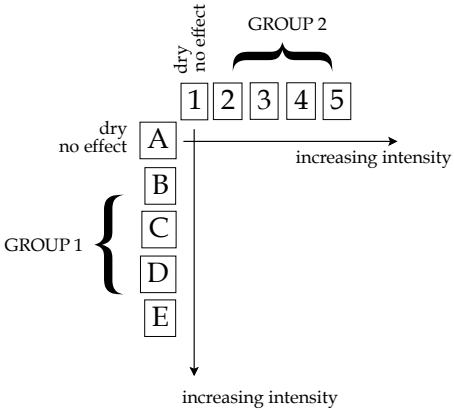
Benders:



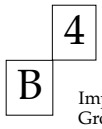
Effects:

Eight effects in two groups of four are required, each group internally sonically related but the two groups distinct from one another,
These could be eight daisy-chained individual pedals,
Or two pedals, each with four pre-programmed settings,

The effects can be visualised like this:
Group 1 has four effects, labelled B-E (A is dry, without effect),
Group 2 had four effects, labelled 2-4 (1 is als dry, without effect),



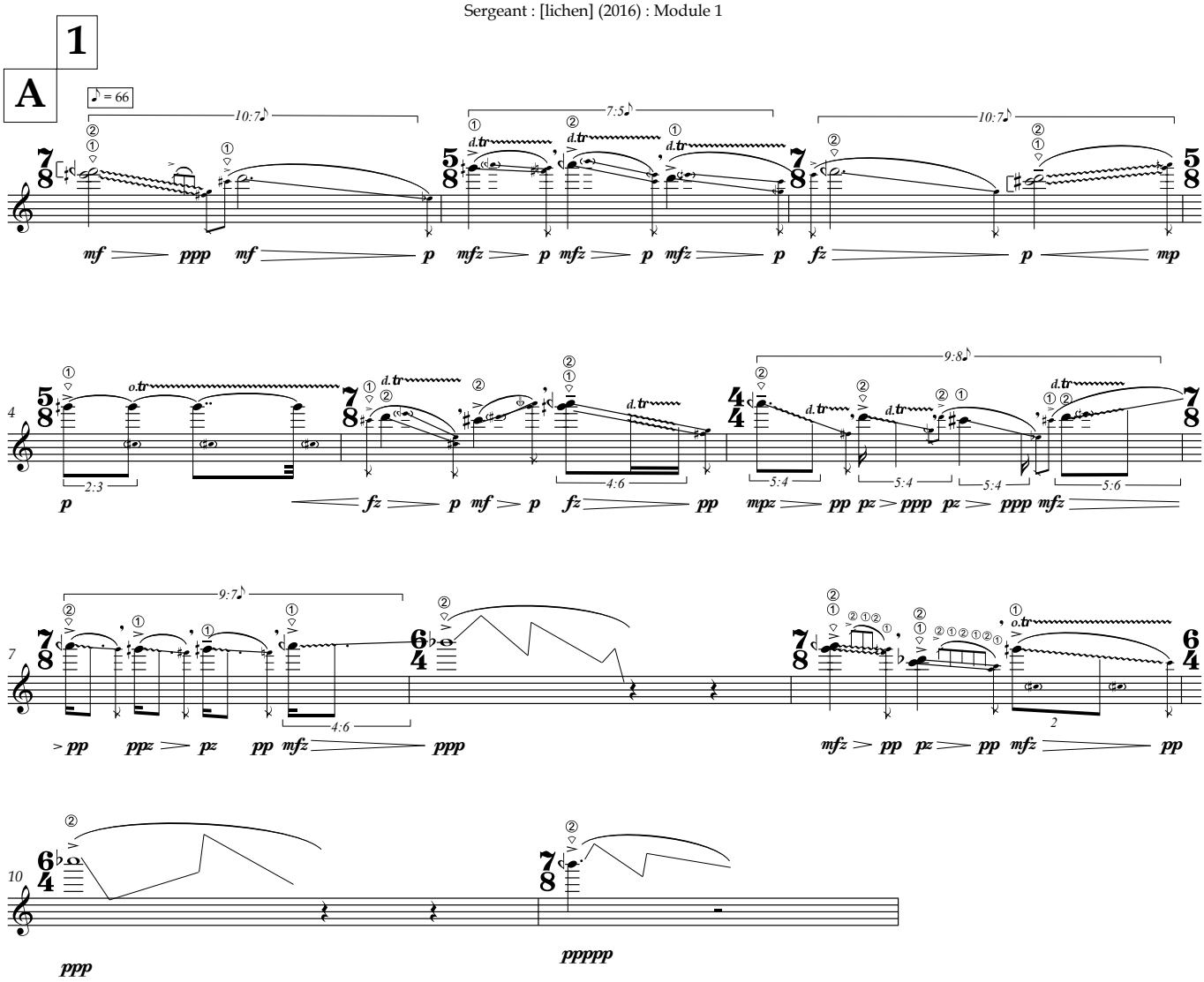
Each page of the score carries a designation, such as:



Implying that (in this example):
Group-1/pedal-B and Group-2/pedal-A are to be combined for this page,

Also note the following case:

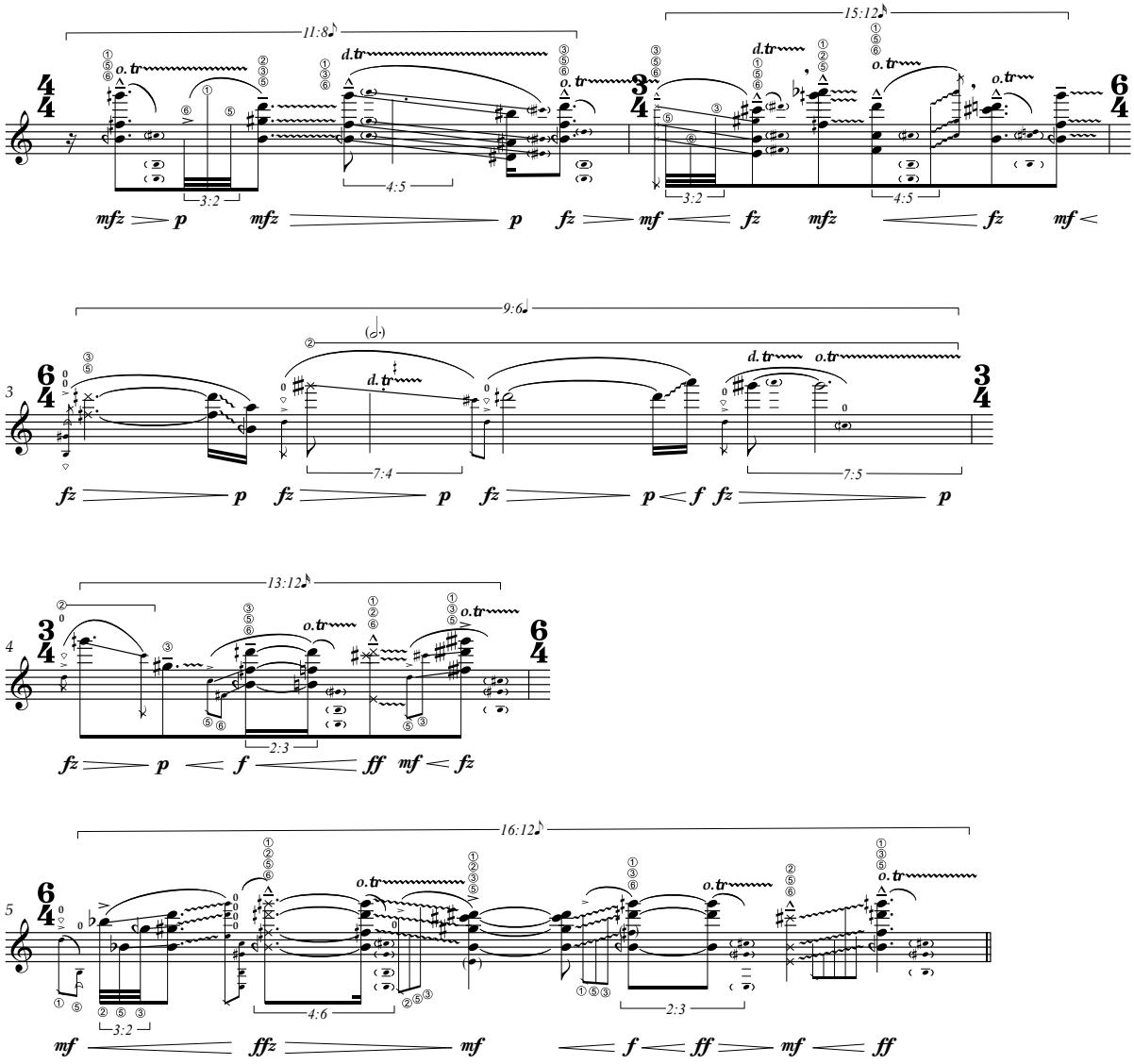
In this example:
Setting A is dry (without effect), so **only** Group-2/pedal-3 should be used,


1
A
♪ = 66
10:7♪
7:5♪
10:7♪
mf ppp mf p mfz p mfz p mfz p fz p mp
4
o.tr
d.tr
2:3
4:6
9:8♪
5:4
5:4
5:4
5:6
p fz p mf p fz pp mpz pp pz ppp pz ppp mfz
7
9:7♪
4:6
pp ppz pz pp mfz ppp
mfz pp pz pp mfz pp
10
ppp
ppppp

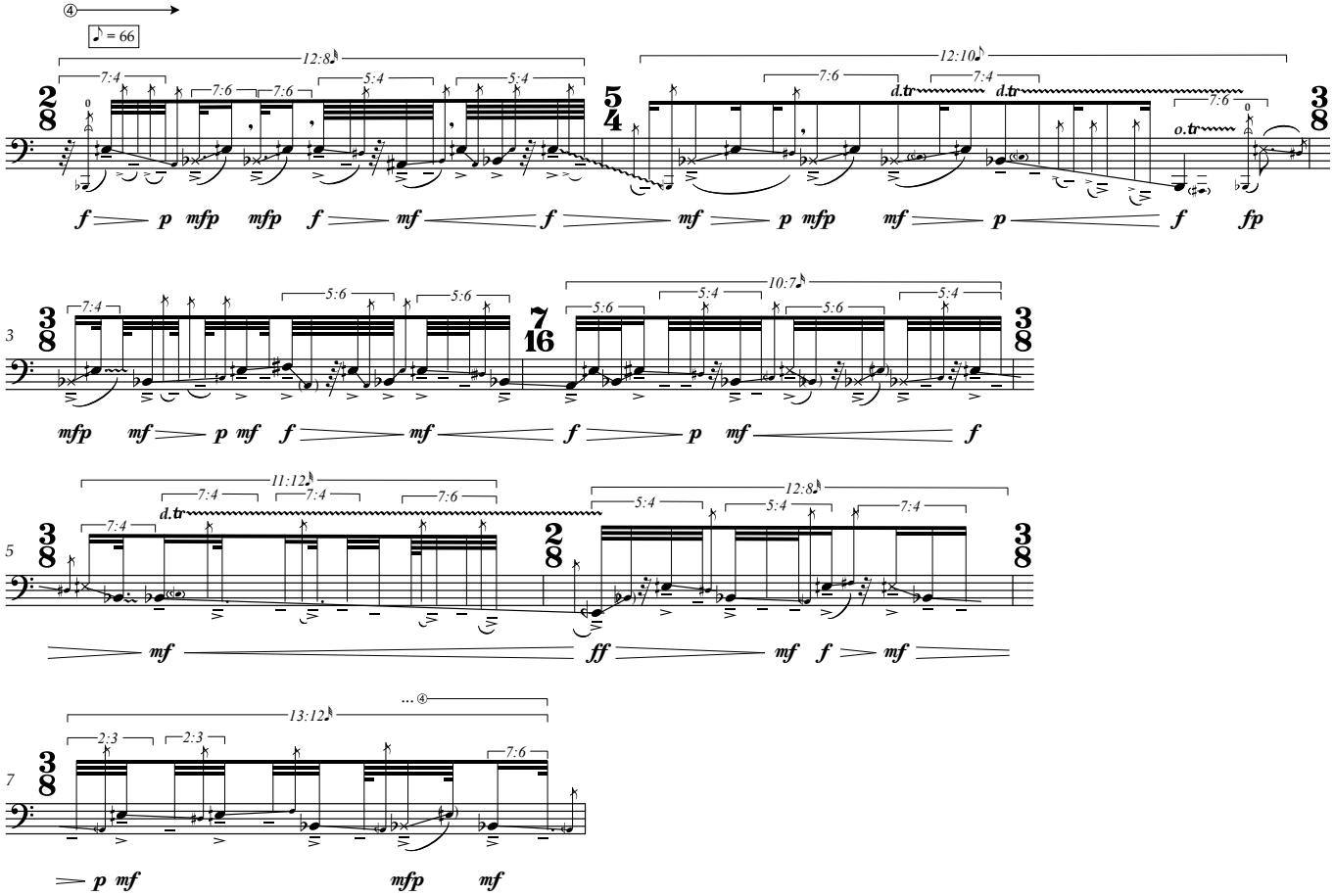
[lichen]

2
A

♪ = 66 [Note: all chords non-arpeggiated unless otherwise specified]



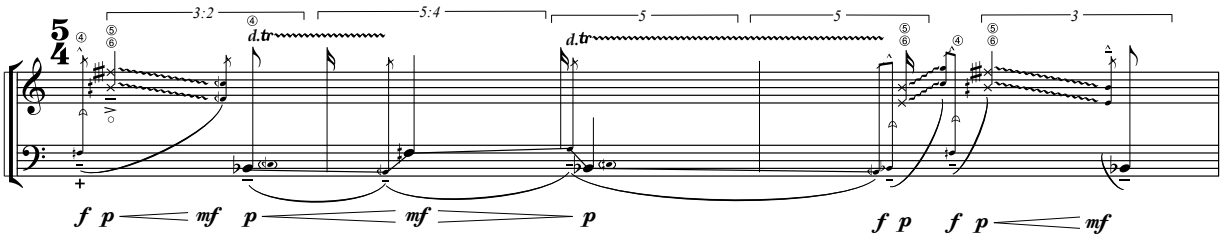
A 3


♪ = 66
12:8
7:4
7:6
5:4
12:10
d.tr
o.tr
f p mfp mfp f mf f mf p mfp mf p f fp
10:7
5:6
mfp mf p mf f mf f p mf f
11:12
12:8
mf ff mf f mf
13:12
2:3
mfp mf

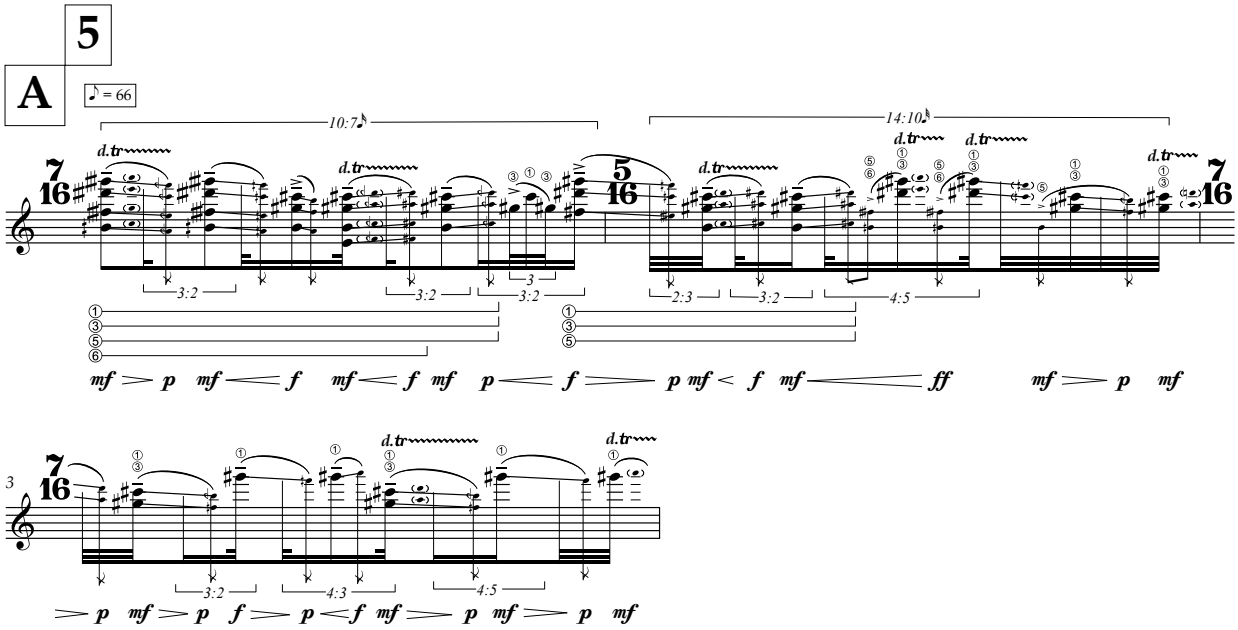
[lichen]

4

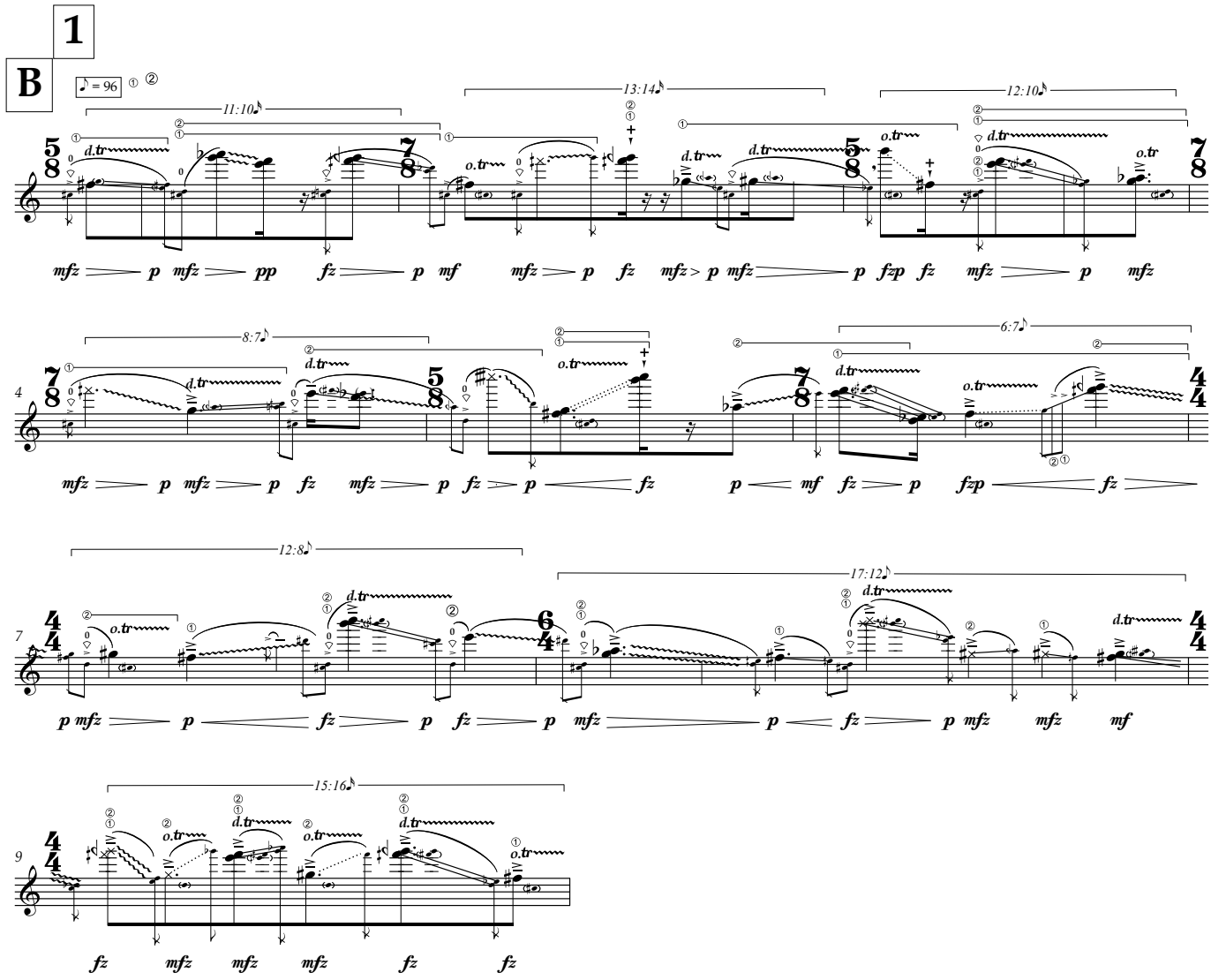
A



[lichen]


5
A
♪ = 66
10:7
14:10
d.tr
7/16
5/16
3:2
2:3
4:5
mf p mf f mf f mf p f p mf f mf ff mf p mf

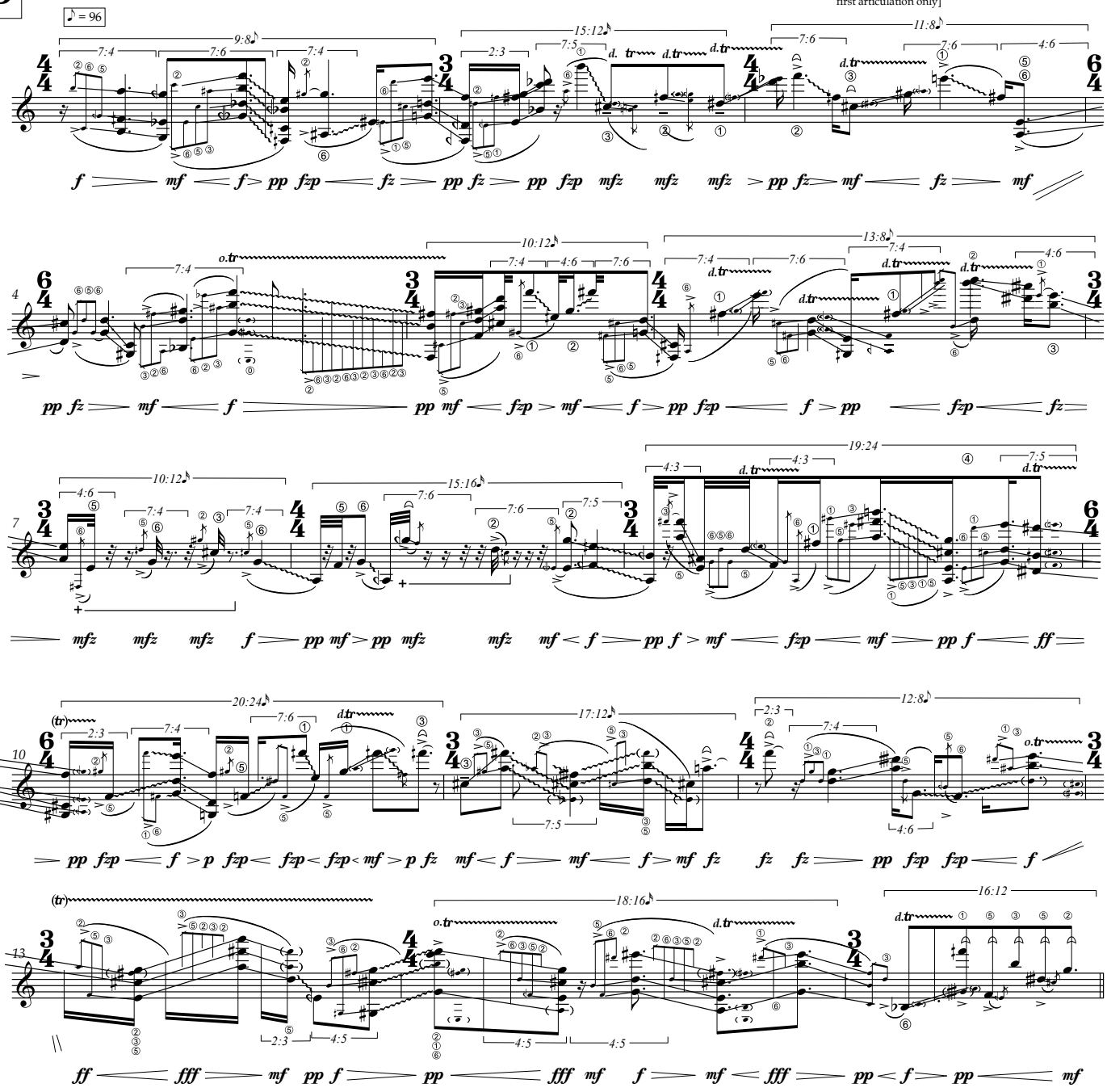
3
7/16
d.tr
3:2
4:3
4:5
p mf p f p f mf p mf p mf


1
B
♪ = 96
11:10
13:14
12:10
8:7
6:7
12:8
17:12
15:16
d.tr
o.tr
mfz p mfz pp fz p mf mfz p fz mfz p mfz p fzp fz mfz p mfz
mfz p mfz p fz mfz p fz p fz p mf fz p fzp fz
p mfz p fz p fz p mfz p fz p mfz mfz mf
fz mfz mfz mfz fz fz

2

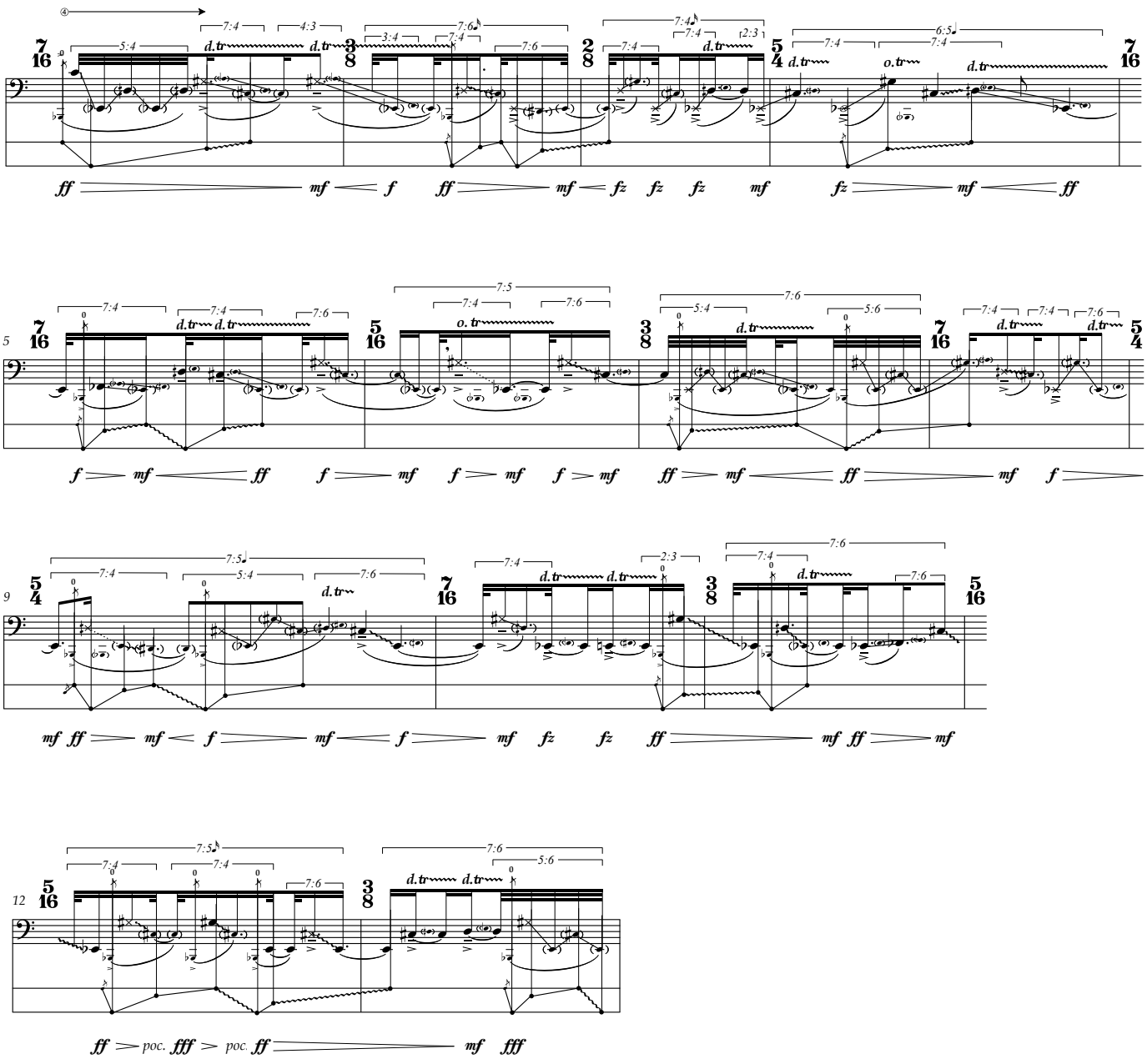
B

[Note: nail attack on
first articulation only]

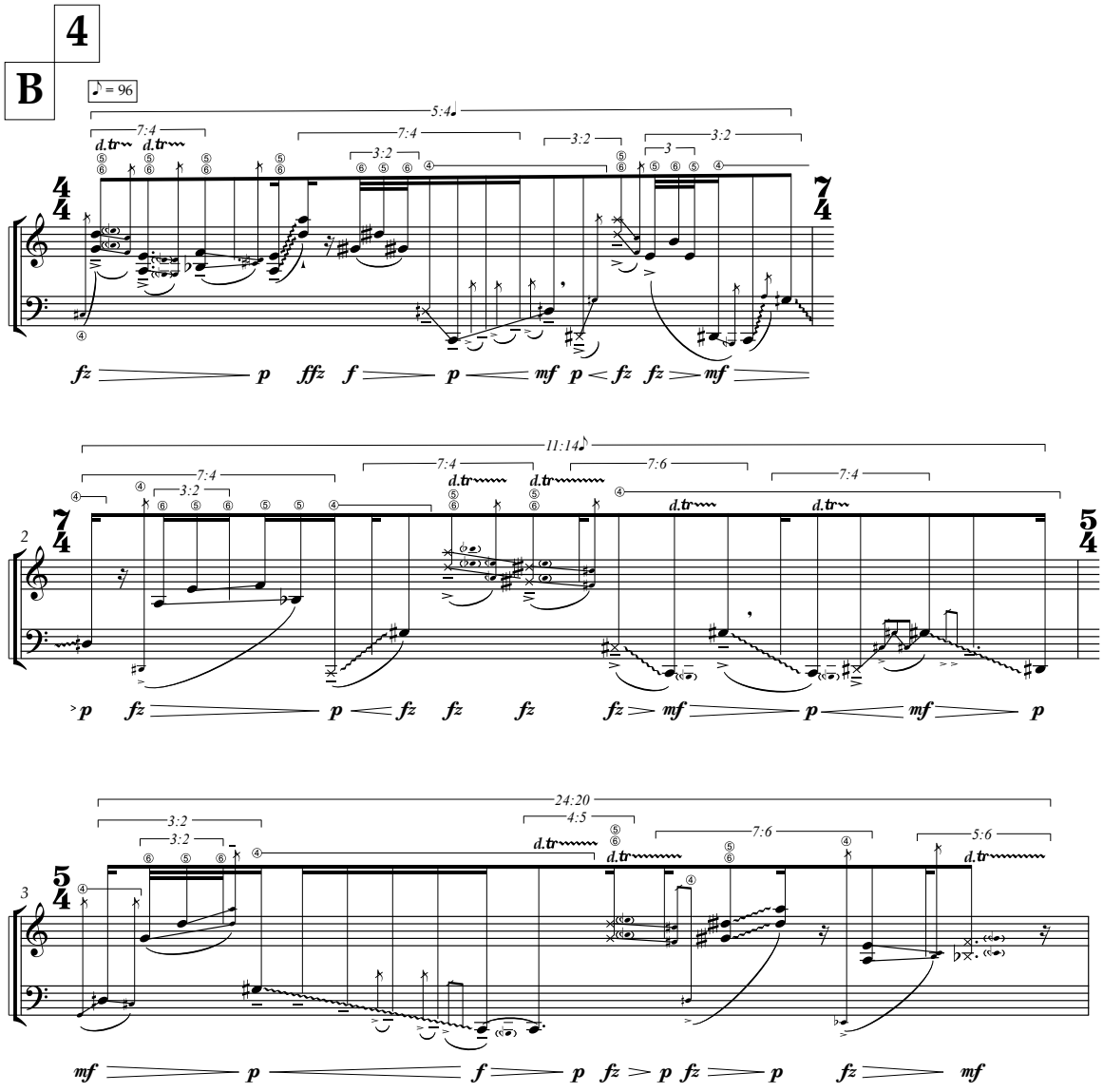


3

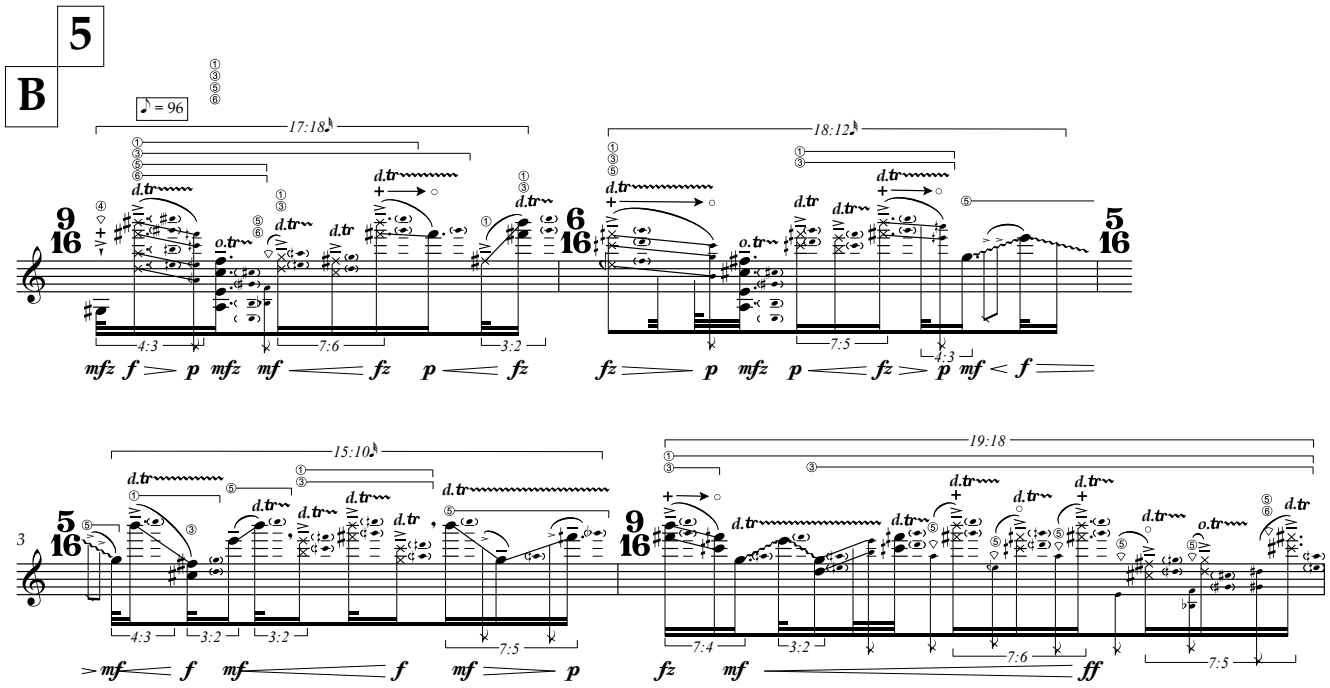
B ♪ = 96

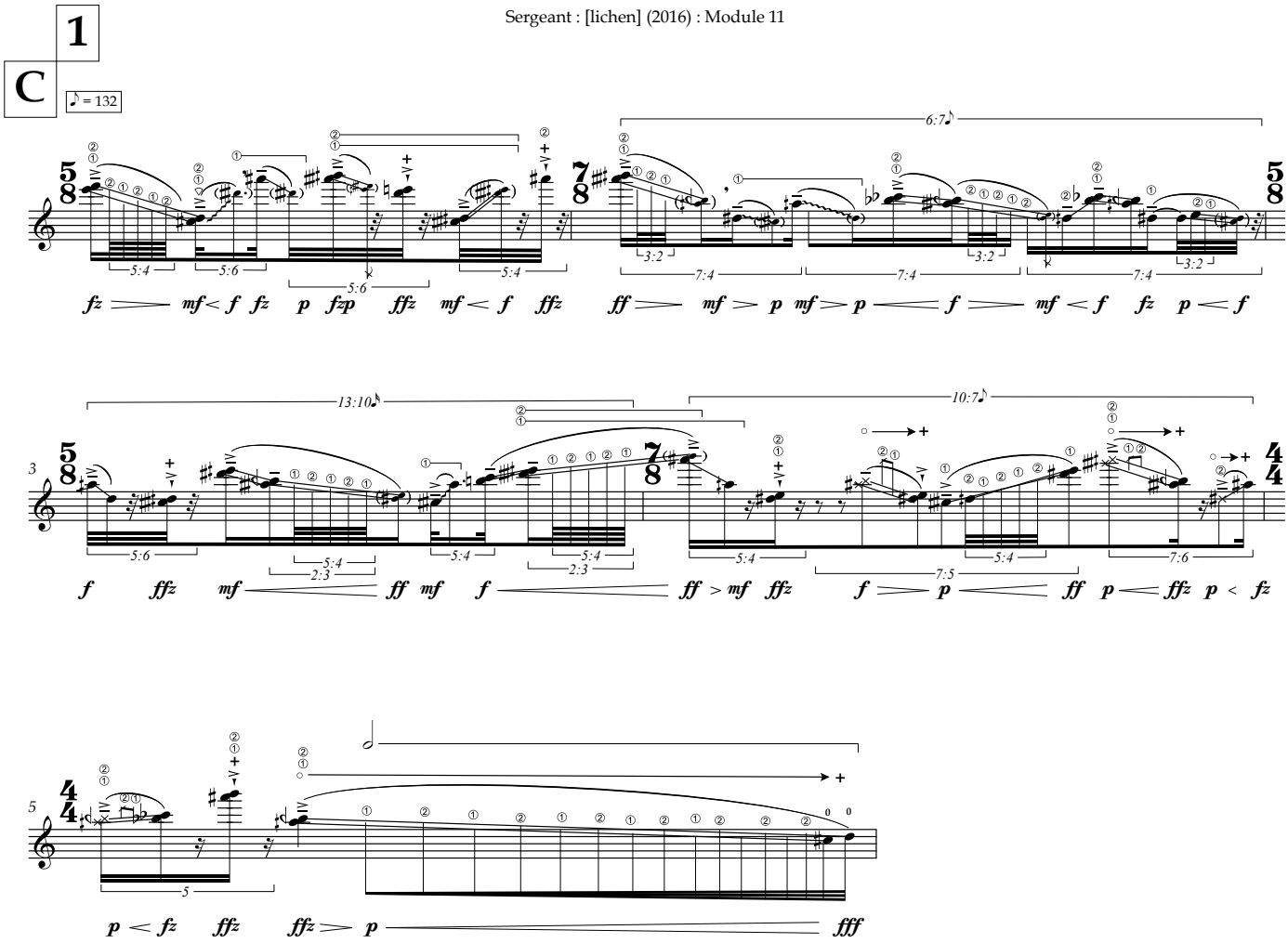

ff mf f ff mf fz fz fz mf fz mf ff
f mf ff f mf f mf f mf ff mf ff mf f
mf ff mf f mf f mf fz fz ff mf ff mf
ff poc. fff poc. ff mf fff

[lichen]


4
B
♪ = 96
5:4♩
7:4
3:2
3
d.tr
fz p ffz f p mf p fz fz mf
11:14♪
7:6
2
p fz p fz fz fz fz mf p mf p
24:20
4:5
5:6
3
mf p f p fz p fz p fz mf

[lichen]

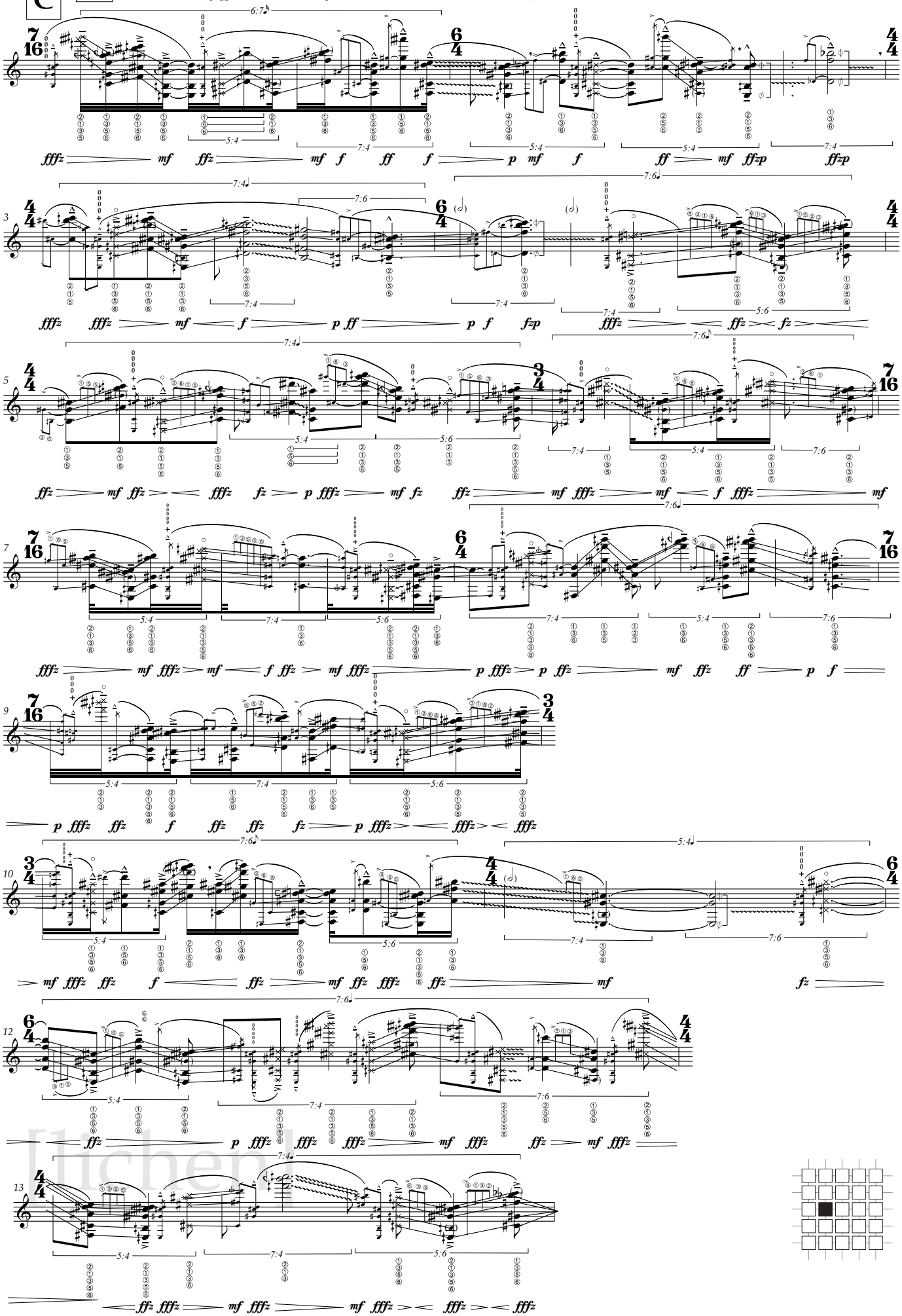

5
B
♪ = 96
17:18
18:12
15:10
19:18
d.tr
o.tr
4:3
7:6
3:2
7:5
7:4

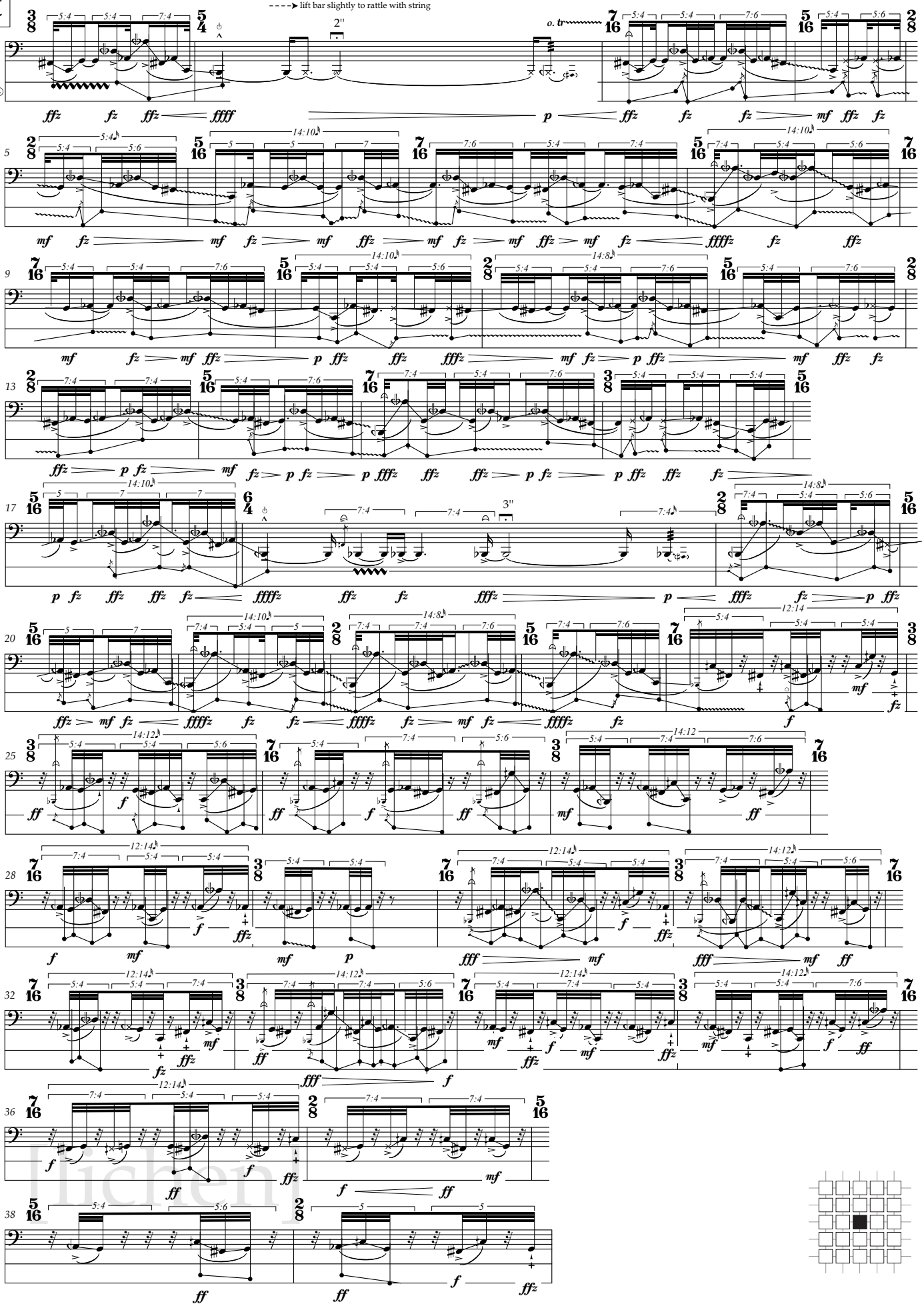

1
C
♪ = 132
6:7♪
fz mf< f fz p fzp ffz mf < f ffz ff mf > p mf > p f mf < f fz p < f
13:10♪
10:7♪
f ffz mf ff mf f ff > mf ffz f p ff p ffz p < fz
p < fz ffz ffz > p fff

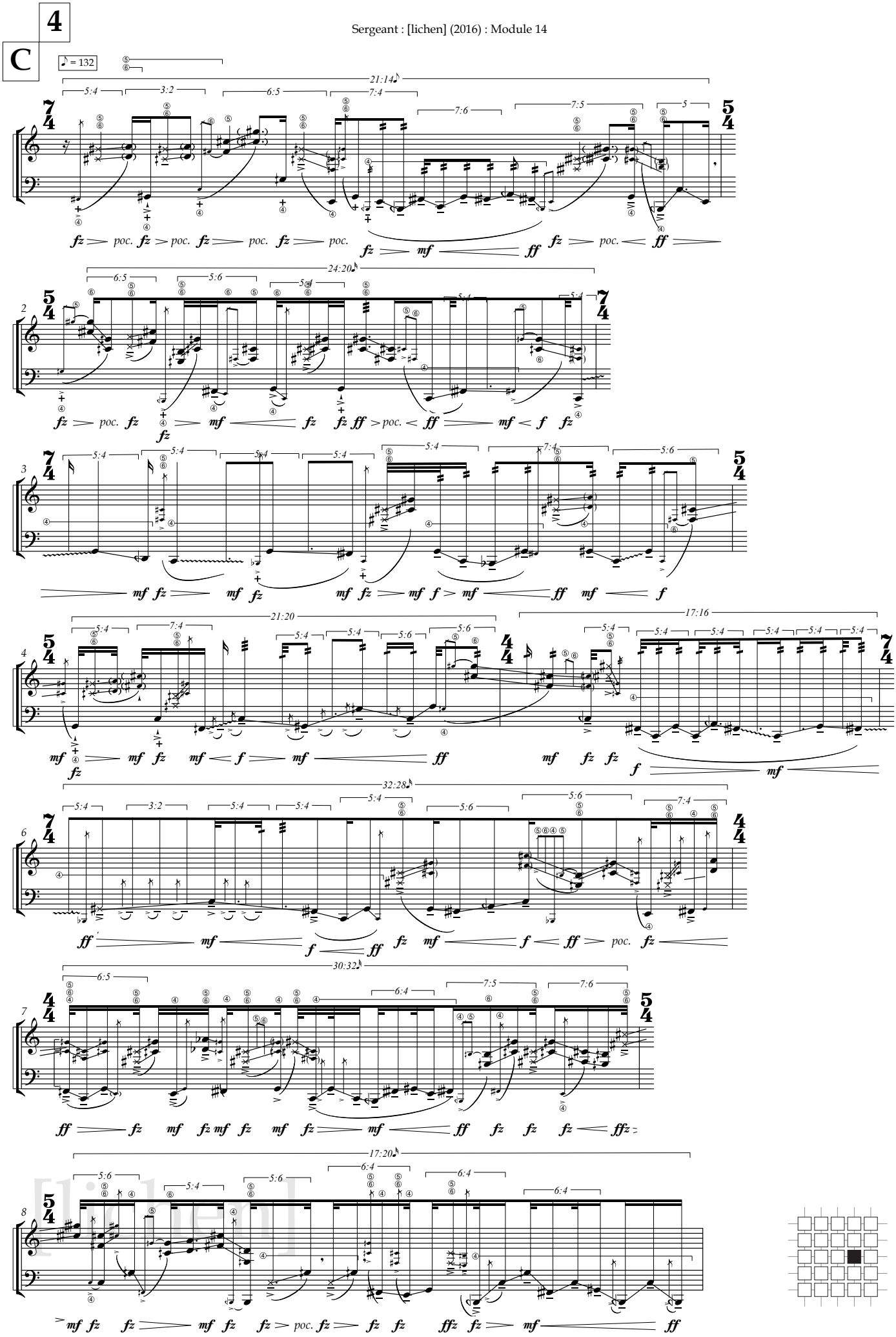
2

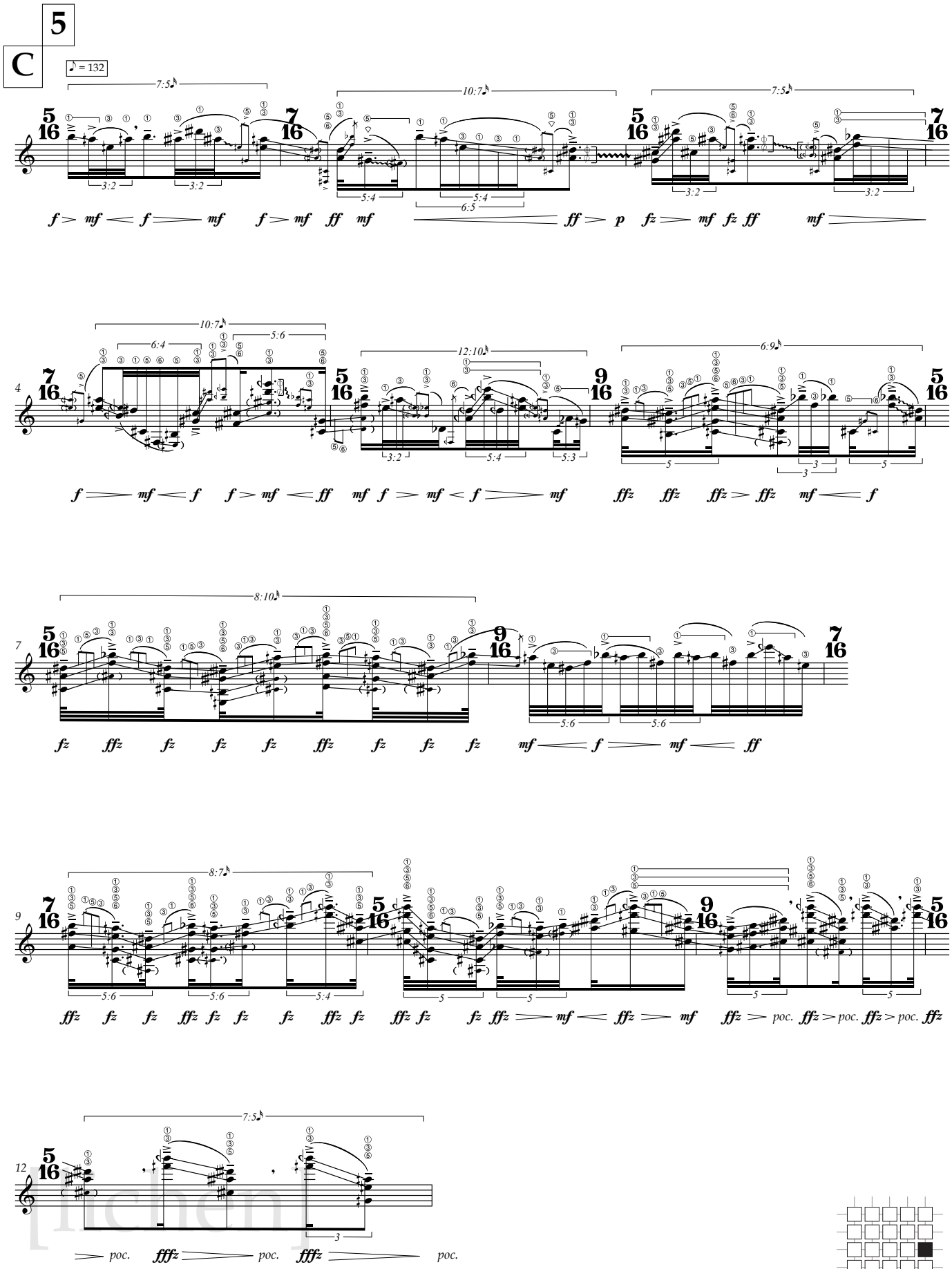
C

♪ = 132 [Note: all chords non-arpeggiated unless otherwise specified. Do not rearticulate bracketted noteheads.]




3
C
♪ = 132
[Note: this page is to be performed entirely on the 4th string]
lift bar slightly to rattle with string
B④
o. tr
[lichen]

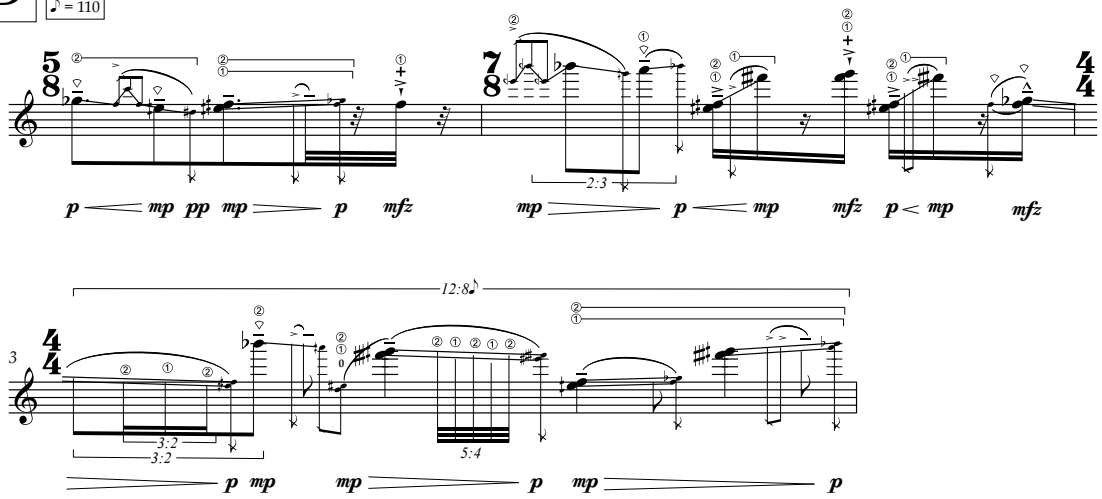

4
C
♪ = 132
21:14
24:20
21:20
17:16
32:28
30:32
17:20
poc.


5
C
♪ = 132
7:5
10:7
7:5
3:2
5:4
6:5
f mf f mf f mf ff mf ff p fz mf fz ff mf
4
10:7
6:4
5:6
12:10
6:9
3:2
5:4
5:3
f mf f f mf ff mf f mf f mf ffz ffz ffz ffz mf f
7
8:10
5:6
fz ffz fz fz fz ffz fz fz fz mf f mf ff
9
8:7
5:6
5:4
5
ffz fz fz ffz fz fz fz ffz fz ffz fz fz ffz mf ffz mf ffz poc. ffz poc. ffz poc. ffz
12
7:5
3
poc. fffz poc. fffz poc.
[lichen]

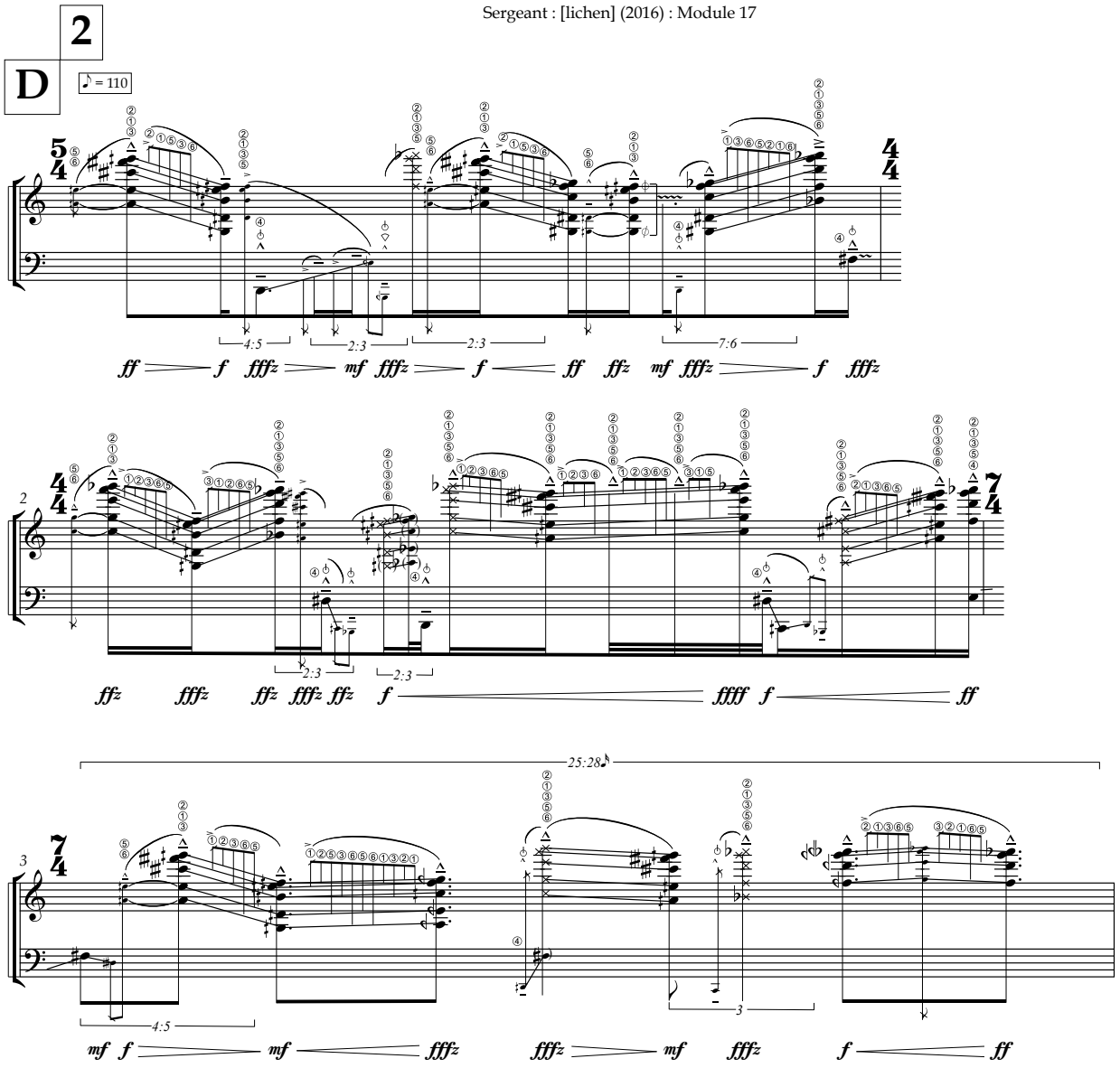
1

D

♪ = 110

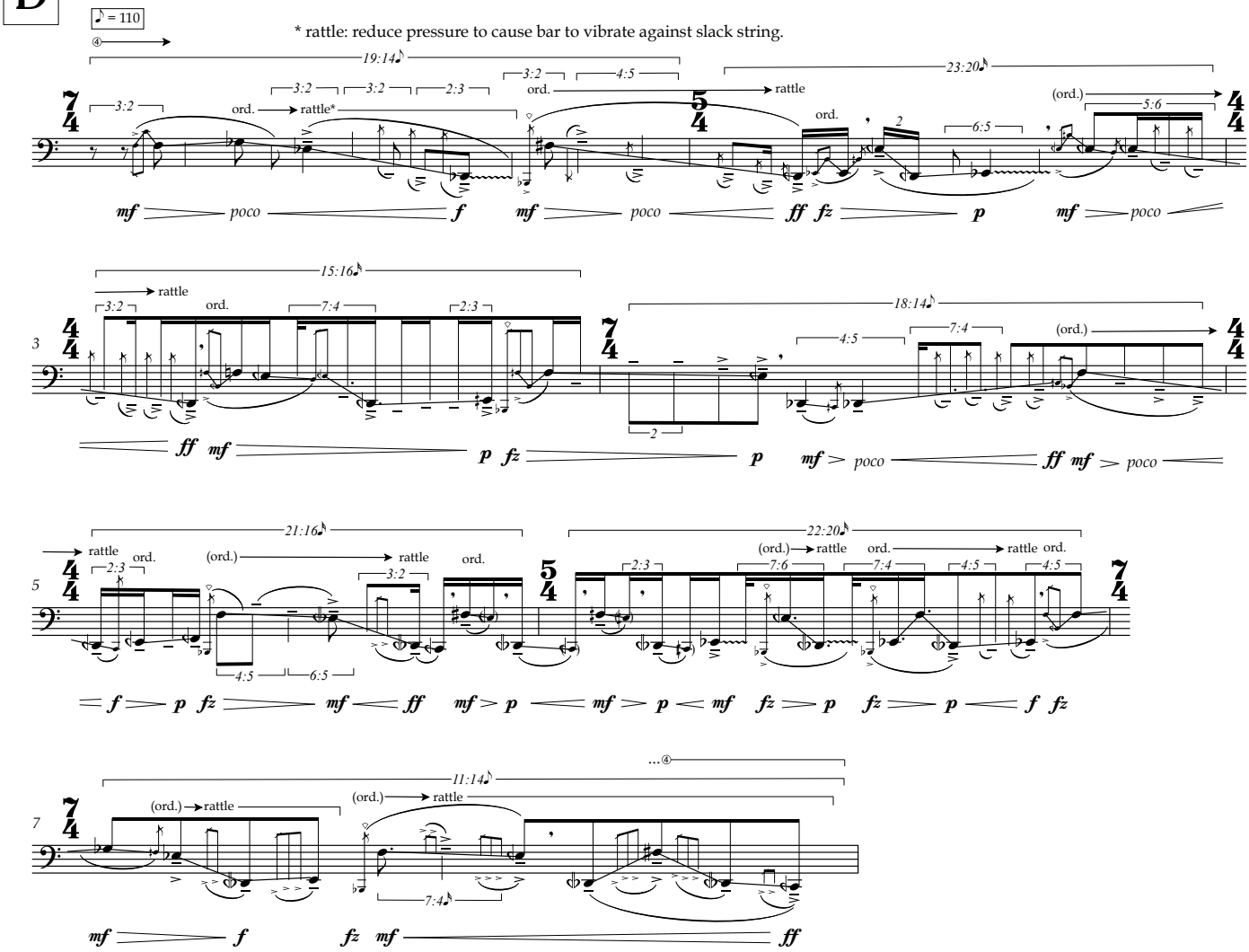


[lichen]

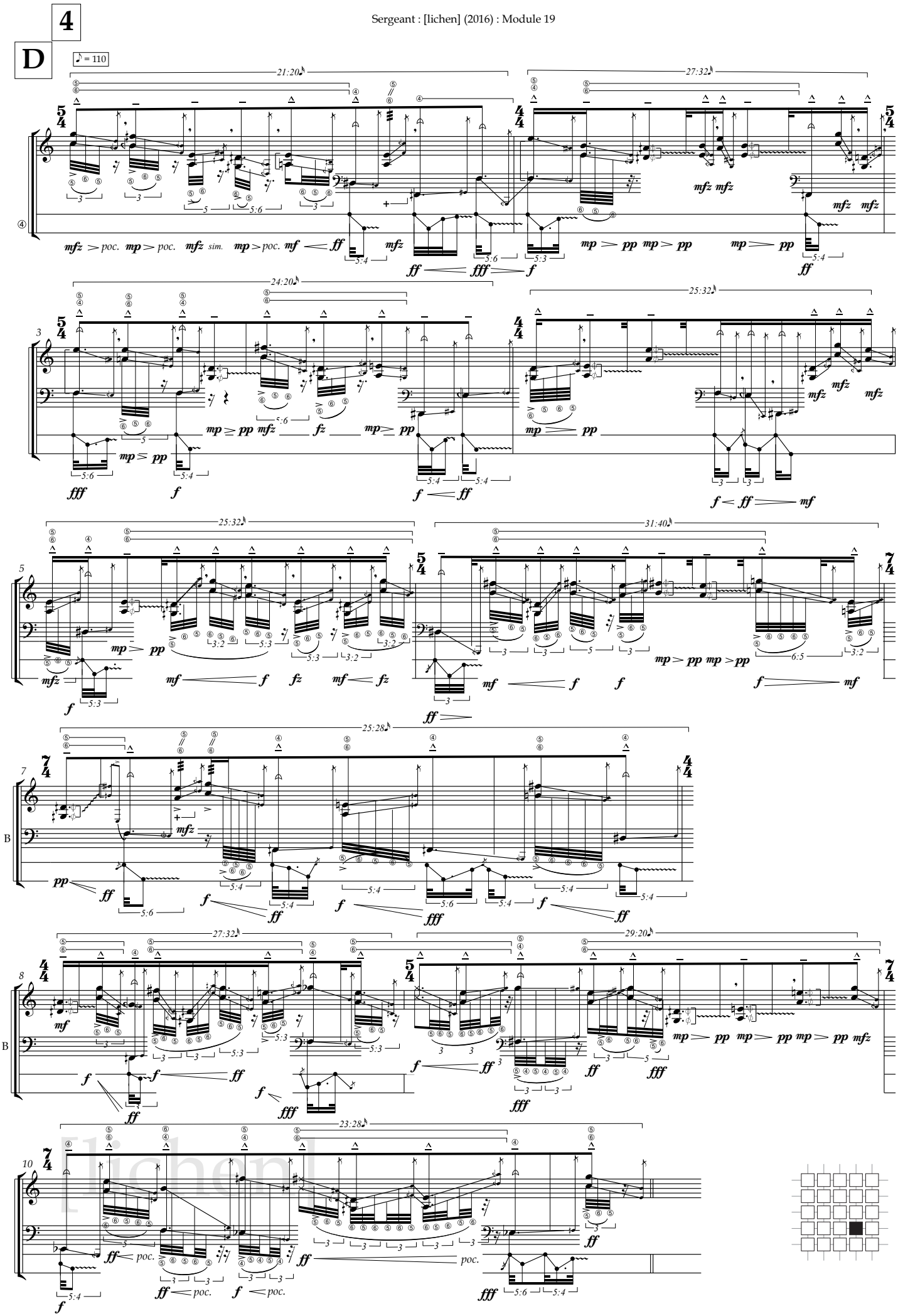

2
D
♪ = 110
4:5
2:3
2:3
7:6
ff f fffz mf fffz f ff ffz mf fffz f fffz
2
2:3
2:3
ffz fffz ffz fffz ffz f ffff f ff
3
25:28
4:5
3
mf f mf fffz fffz mf fffz f ff

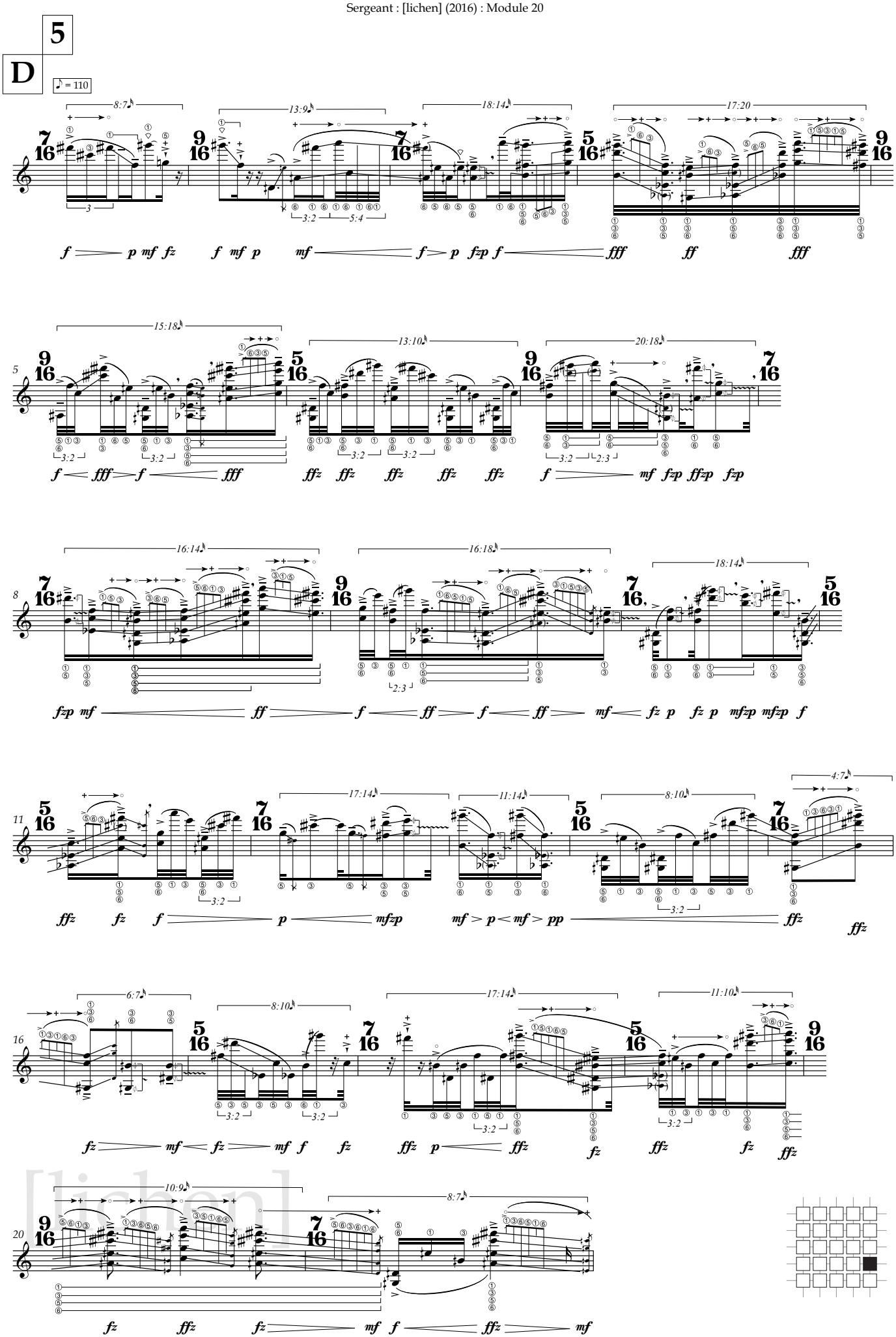
3

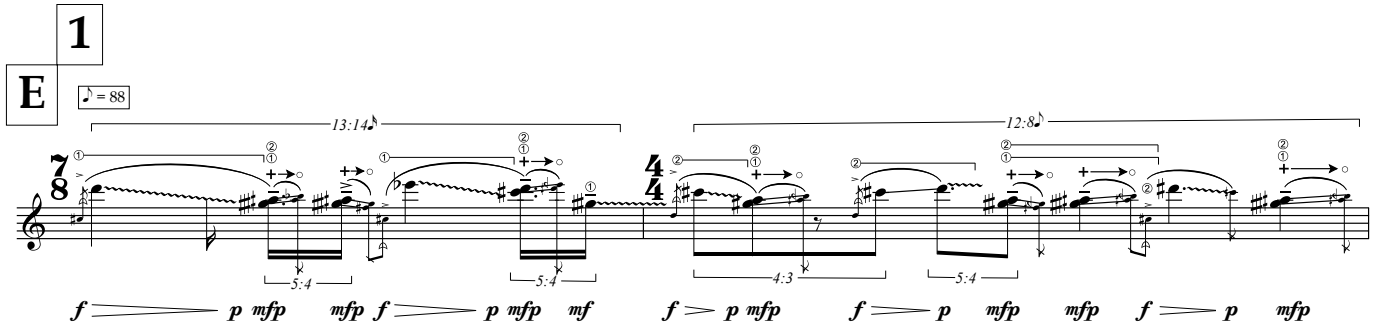
D

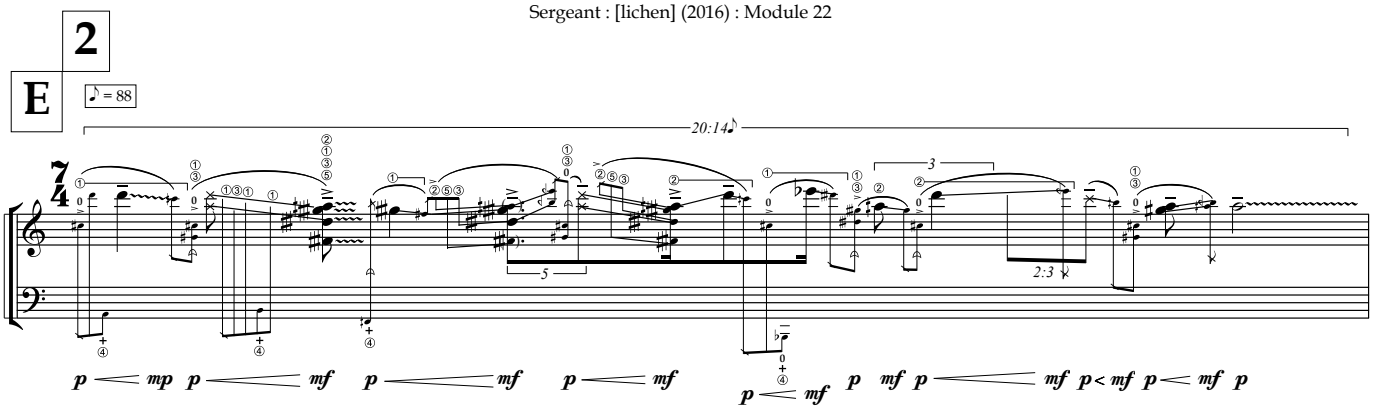

♪ = 110
* rattle: reduce pressure to cause bar to vibrate against slack string.
19:14
23:20
15:16
18:14
21:16
22:20
11:14
rattle
rattle*
ord.
(ord.)
poco
mf
f
ff
fz
p

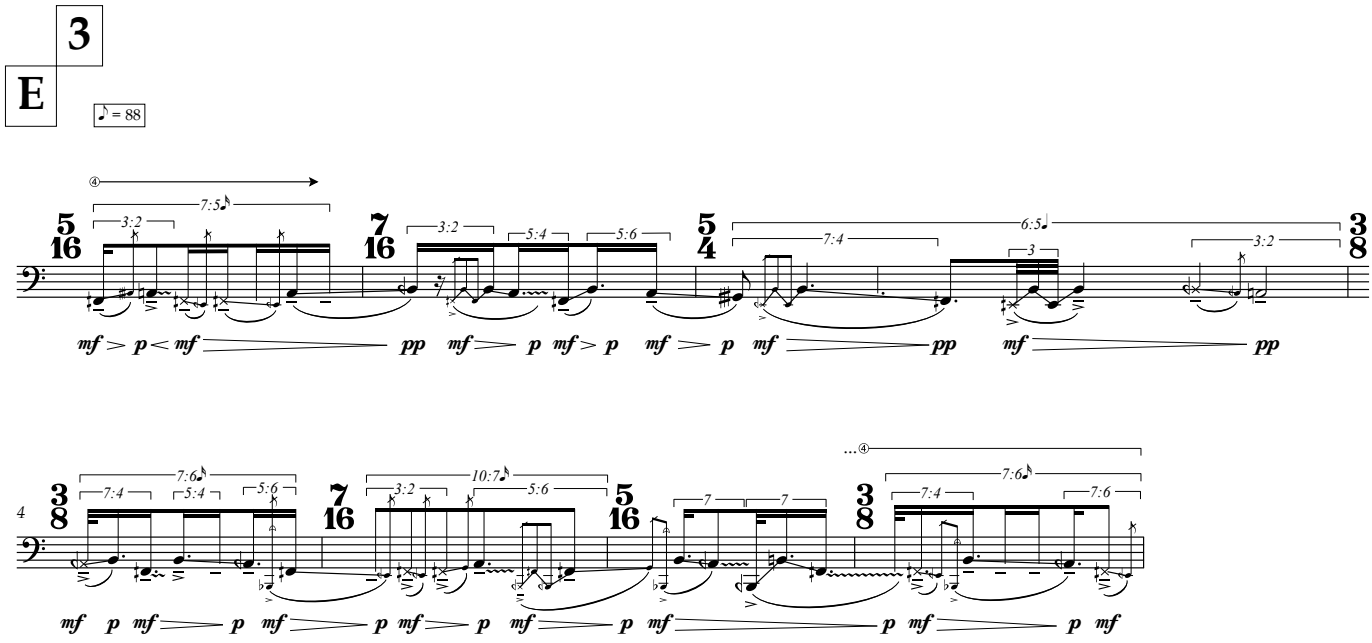
[lichen]


4
D
♪ = 110
21:20
27:32
24:20
25:32
25:32
31:40
25:28
27:32
29:20
23:28
[lichen]

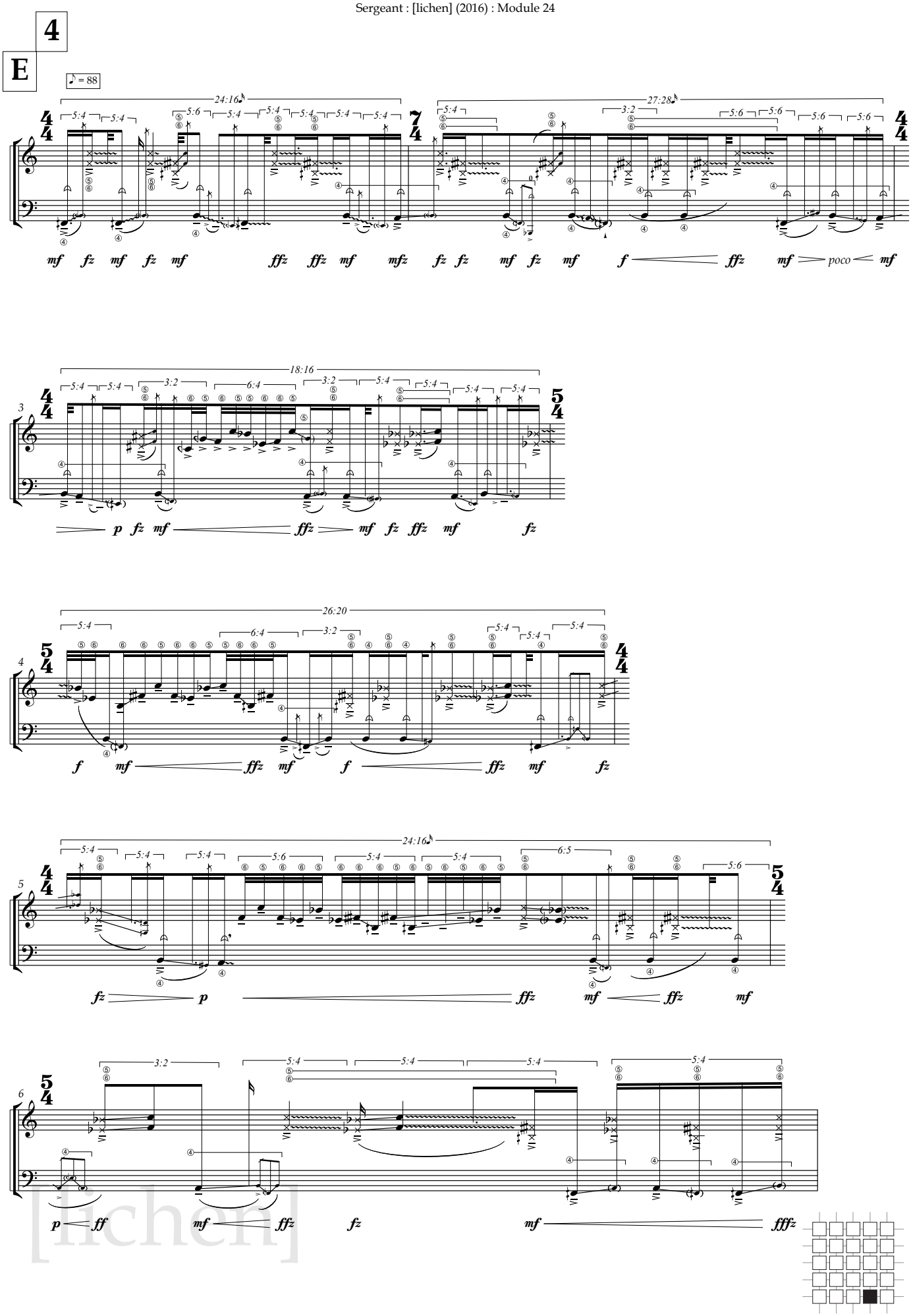

5
D
♪ = 110
8:7
13:9
18:14
17:20
15:18
13:10
20:18
16:14
16:18
18:14
17:14
11:14
8:10
4:7
6:7
8:10
17:14
11:10
10:9
8:7
[lichen]


1
E
♪ = 88
13:14
12:8
7/8
4/4
5:4
5:4
4:3
5:4
f p mfp mfp f p mfp mf
f p mfp f p mfp mfp f p mfp

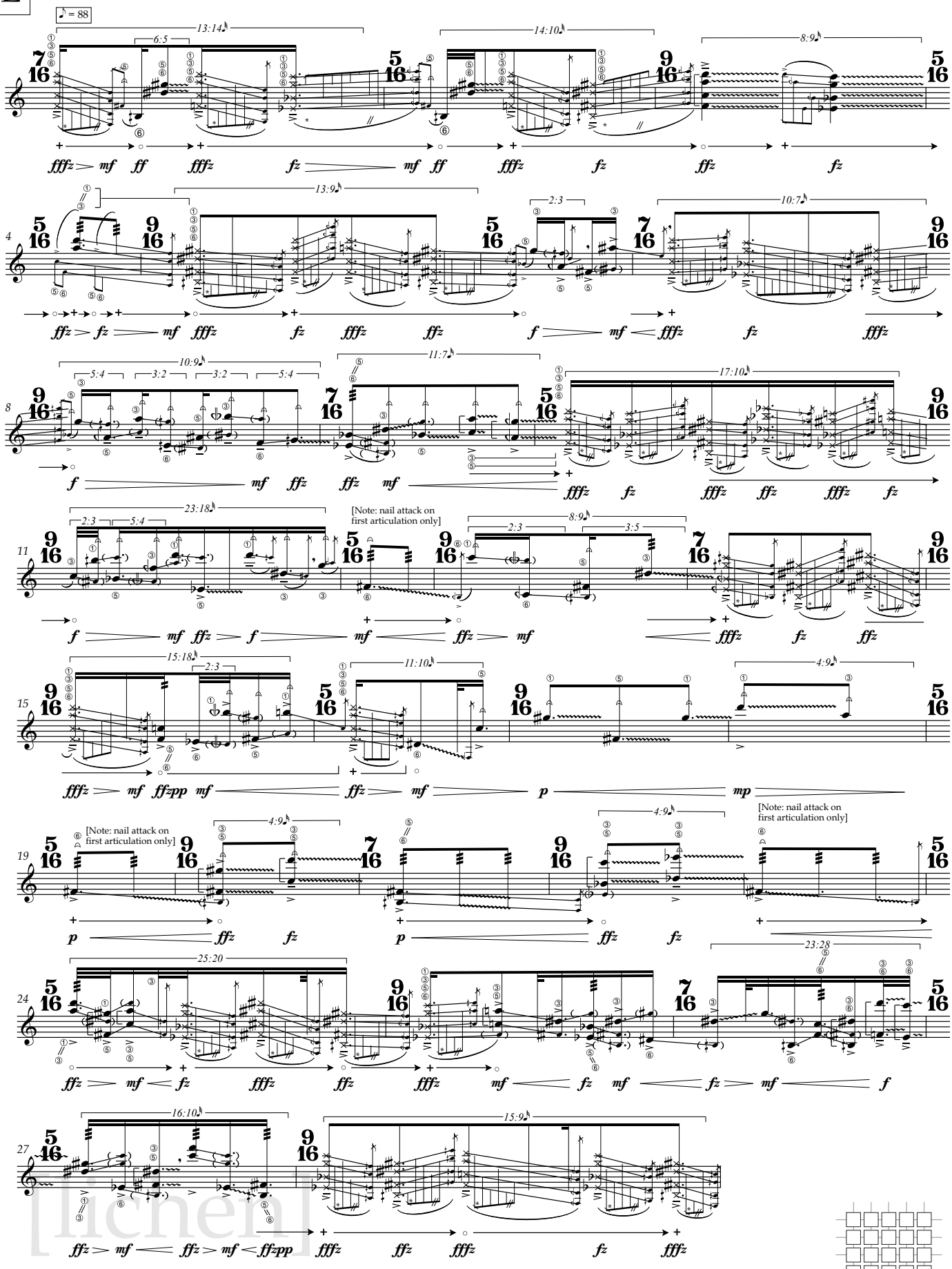

2
E
♪ = 88
20:14♪
7/4
5
3
2:3
p mp p mf p mf p mf p mf p mf p < mf p mf p


3
E
♪ = 88
5/16
3:2
7:5
7/16
3:2
5:4
5:6
5/4
7:4
6:5
3
3/8
3:2
mf > p < mf pp mf > p mf > p mf > p mf pp mf pp

4
3/8
7:6
7:4
5:4
5:6
7/16
10:7
3:2
5:6
5/16
7
7
3/8
7:6
7:4
7:6
mf p mf p mf p mf p mf p mf p mf p mf


4
E
♪ = 88
24:16
27:28
18:16
26:20
24:16
[lichen]

5

E

* Note: Random string crossing (as fast as possible) for duration of the gliss, using indicated strings.