Josh Modney

BALLAD

2021

for soprano saxophone, violin, cello, and piano

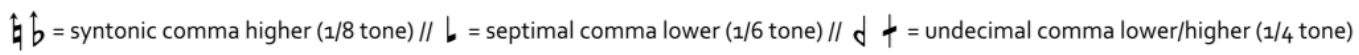
for Ingrid Laubrock, Mariel Roberts, and Cory Smythe

First Performance:
April 6, 2021
Modney/Laubrock/Roberts/Smythe Quartet
"Tues@7", Presented by International Contemporary Ensemble
Brooklyn, NY

Performance Notes

Ballad conjures an environment where Equal Tempered quarter tones and Just Intonation sonorities coexist, expressed through the typical jazz form of "head/solo/head".

Helmholtz-Ellis pitch notation is employed throughout the score to indicate just intonation relationships. Whole number ratios are also indicated above the first instance of each sonority.



Piano:
The piano part is performed on a setup devised by Cory Smythe, and is notated on three staves. The bottom two staves represent the piano. The top staff represents an auxiliary MIDI controller keyboard ("QT") that produces Equal Tempered quarter tones. The QT keyboard produces tone through a software patch which is routed to transducer speakers placed on the soundboard of the piano. The sounding pitch is one quarter tone higher than the notated pitch.

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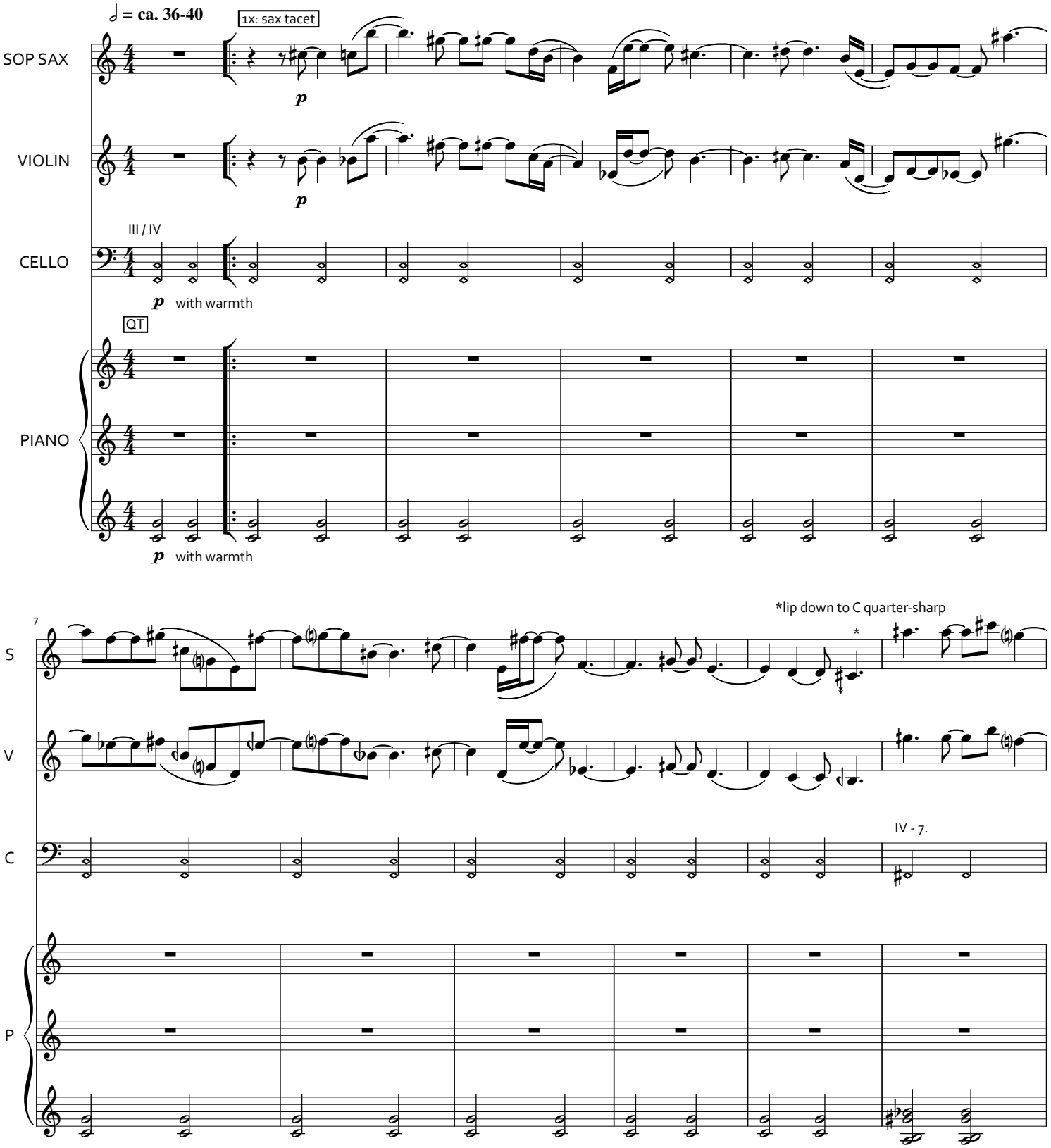
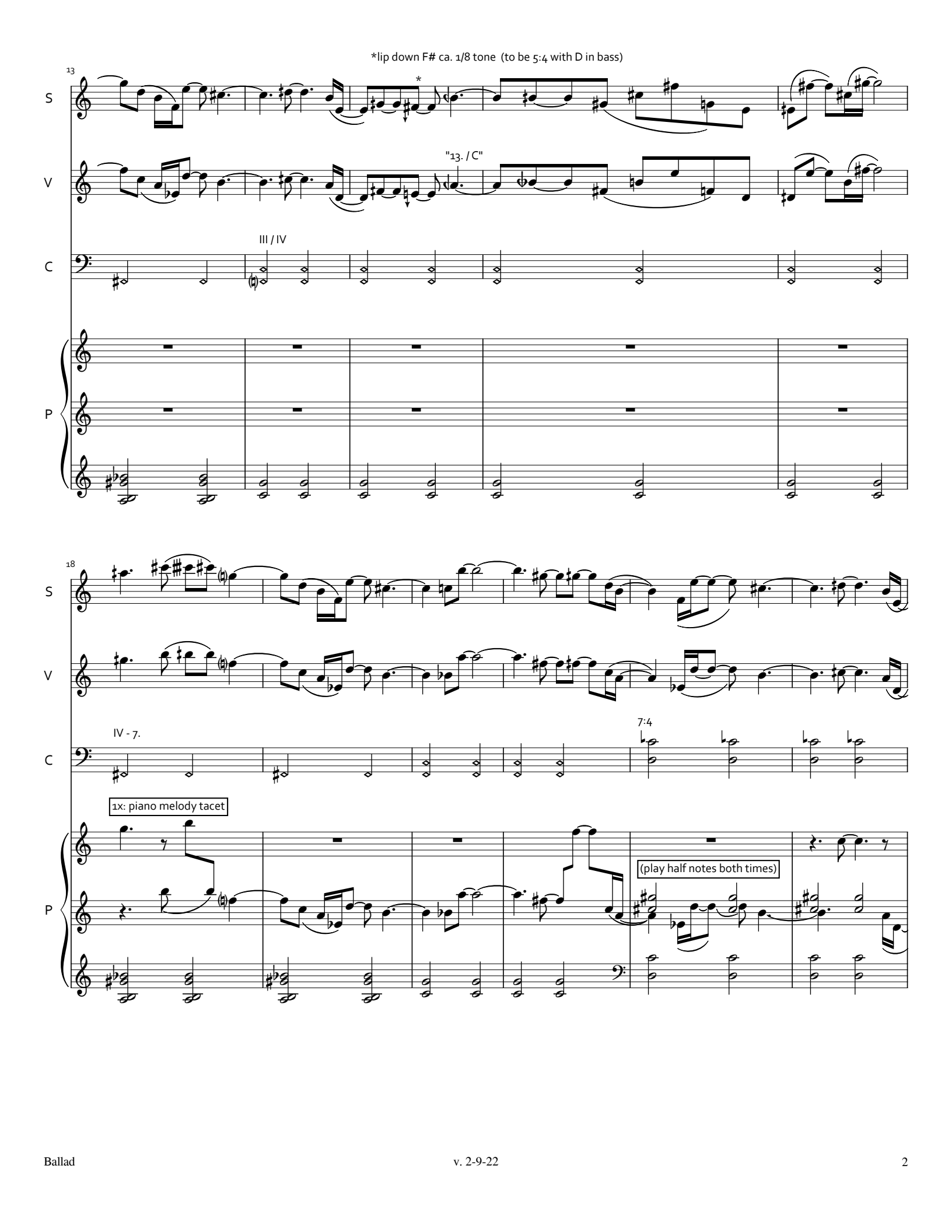
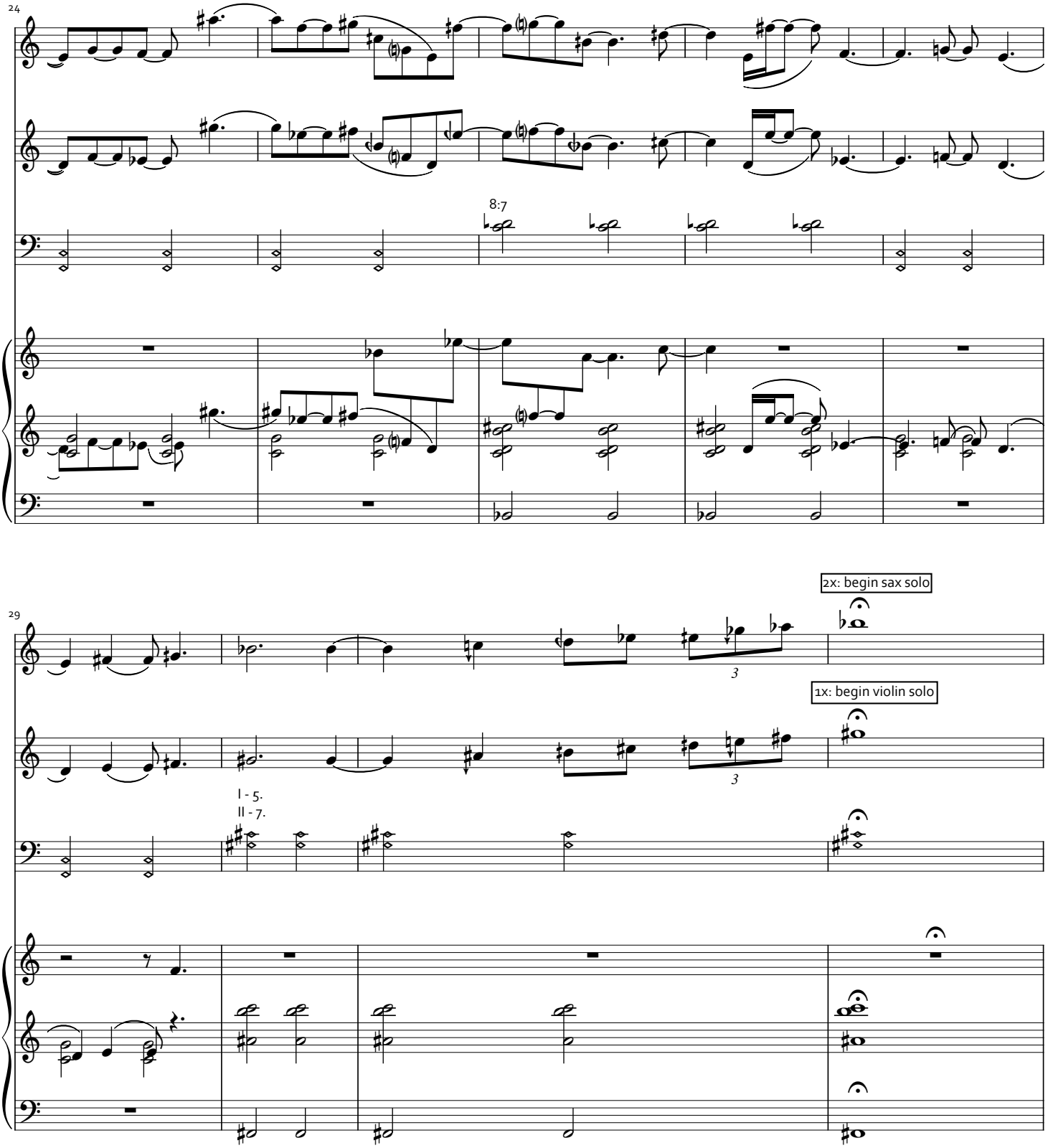
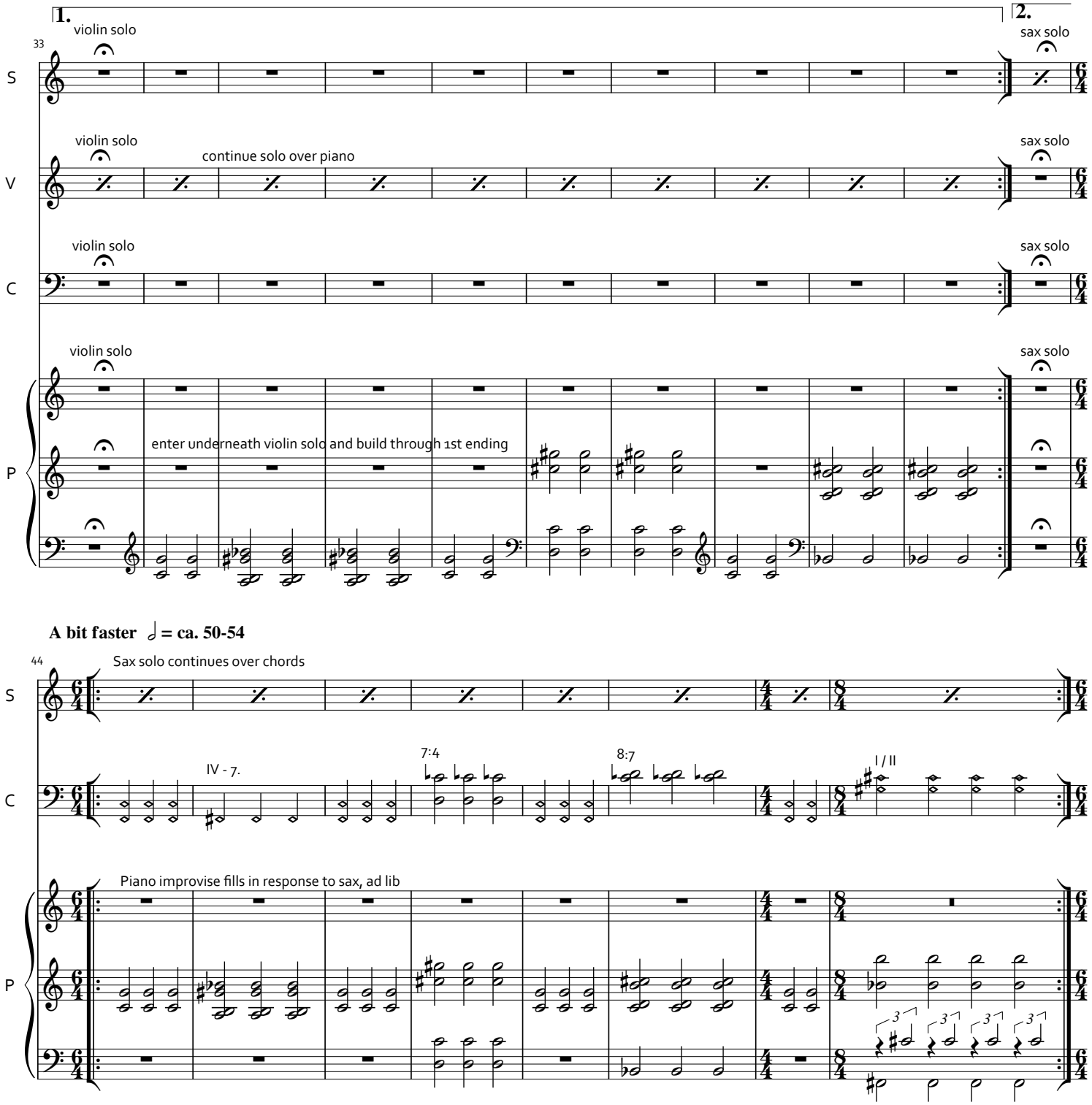
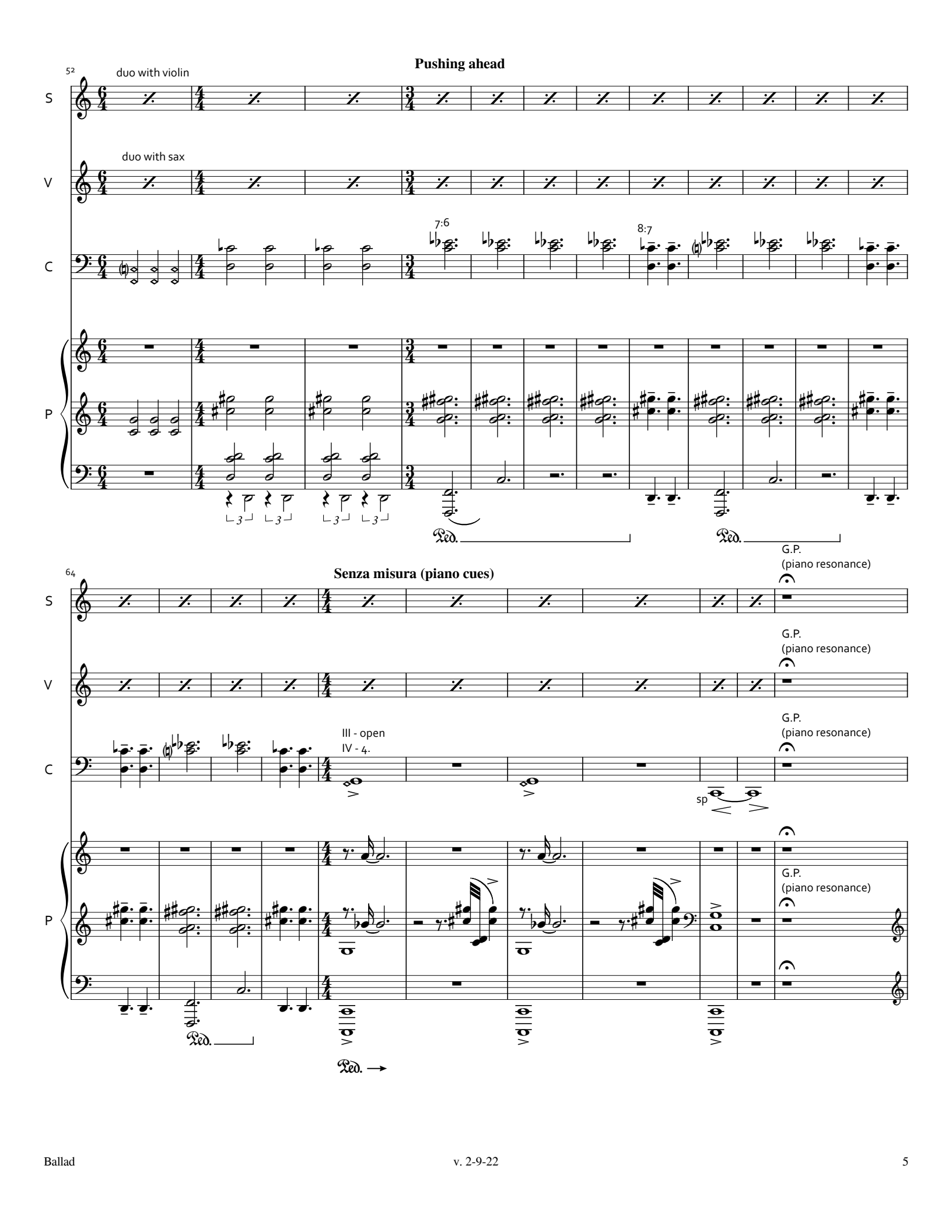
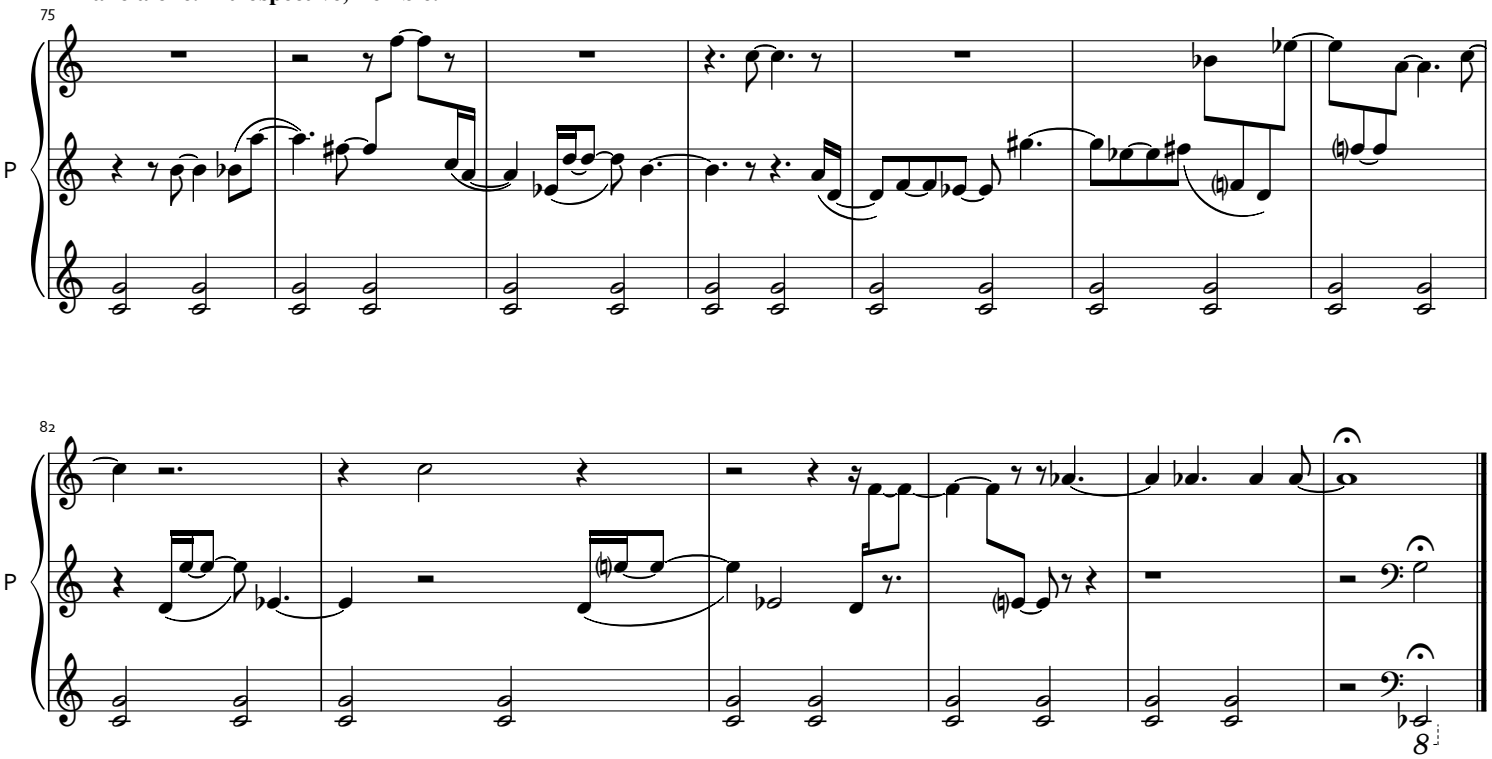



*lip down F# ca. 1/8 tone (to be 5:4 with D in bass)
13
S
V
C
P
"13. / C"
III / IV
18
IV - 7.
7:4
1x: piano melody tacet
(play half notes both times)


24
S
V
C
P
8:7
29
2x: begin sax solo
1x: begin violin solo
I - 5.
II - 7.


1.
2.
33
violin solo
sax solo
S
violin solo
continue solo over piano
sax solo
V
violin solo
sax solo
C
violin solo
sax solo
enter underneath violin solo and build through 1st ending
P
A bit faster ♩ = ca. 50-54
44
Sax solo continues over chords
S
IV - 7.
7:4
8:7
I / II
C
Piano improvise fills in response to sax, ad lib
P


Pushing ahead
52
duo with violin
S
duo with sax
V
C
7:6
8:7
P
Ped.
Ped.
64
Senza misura (piano cues)
G.P.
(piano resonance)
III - open
IV - 4.
sp
Ped.
Ped.

Piano alone. Introspective, flexible.