AUTOMATON VARIATIONS

on a Theme of Stephen Paxton
(1735-1787)

for guitar ensemble (or trio)

by
Steven Paxton

commissioned by the 2012 Nevada Music Educators Association
Honor Guitar Ensemble
Ricardo Cobo, Director

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PREFACE

STEPHEN PAXTON (1735-1787) was an English composer, known for his glees, catches, and a large number of works for his own instrument, the cello. His brother, William Paxton (1737–1781), was also a composer, and the works of the two brothers are often confused or improperly attributed. The themes used in *Automaton Variations* are from a cello sonata by Stephen Paxton.

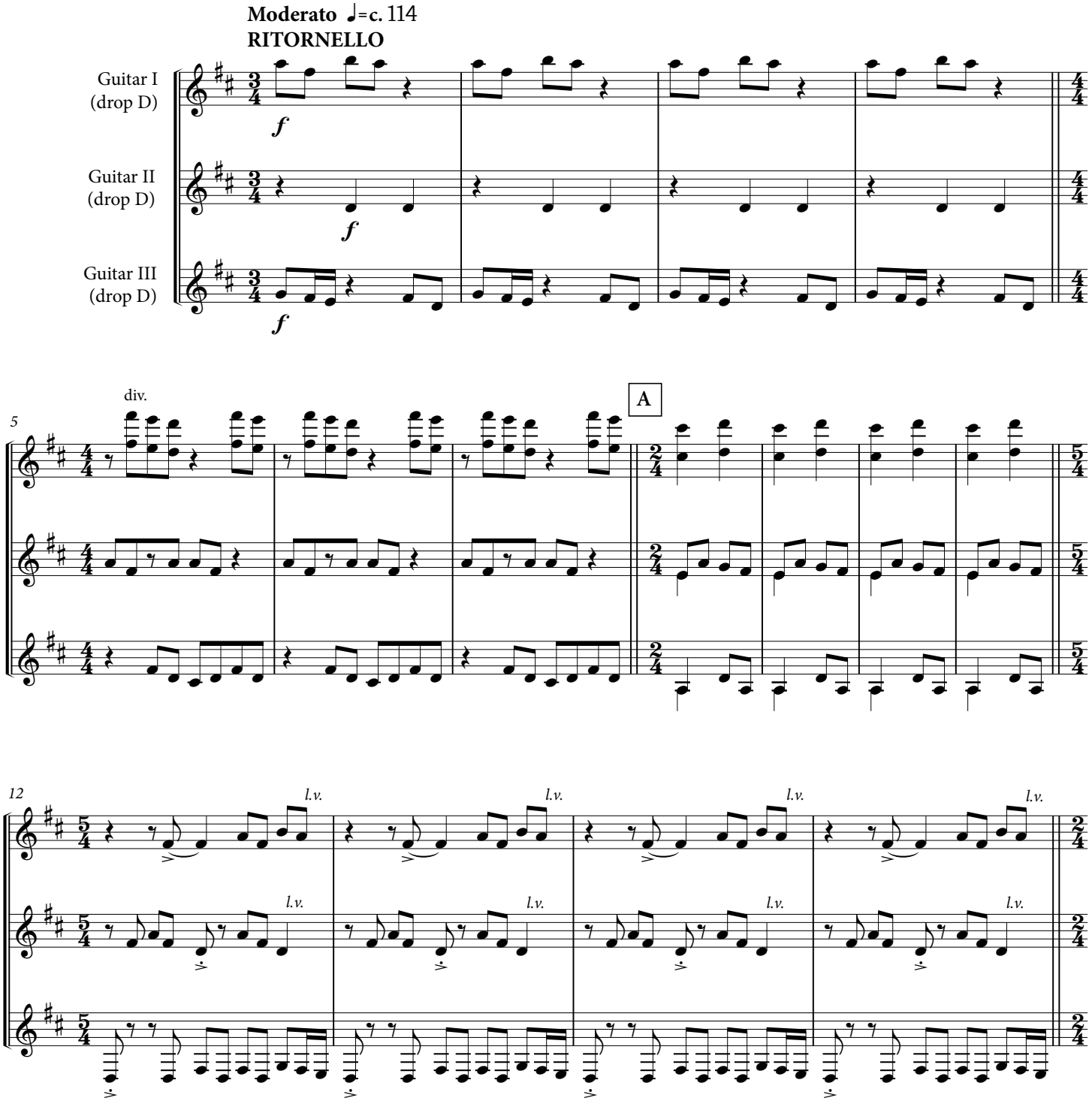
Composer and conductor STEVEN PAXTON is on the faculty of the Contemporary Music Program at Santa Fe University of Art and Design, where he teaches composition, music technology, music theory, and conducts choral and new music ensembles. He formerly held teaching posts at Texas Tech University and West Texas A&M University, and has degrees from University of North Texas and Texas Tech. He has received awards, commissions and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Wurlitzer Foundation, the Nevada Music Educator's Association, Atlantic Center for the Arts, LaCrosse Chamber Chorale, Lubbock Youth Symphony Orchestra, and Twentieth Century Unlimited of Santa Fe.

An AUTOMATON is a self-operating machine, or a computing process which generates complexity through a repetitive series of simple, finite steps.

AUTOMATON VARIATIONS

ON A THEME OF
STEPHEN PAXTON (1734-1787)

STEVEN PAXTON



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B **VAR. 1**

16

mf

mf

mf

24

ppp

mf

30

36

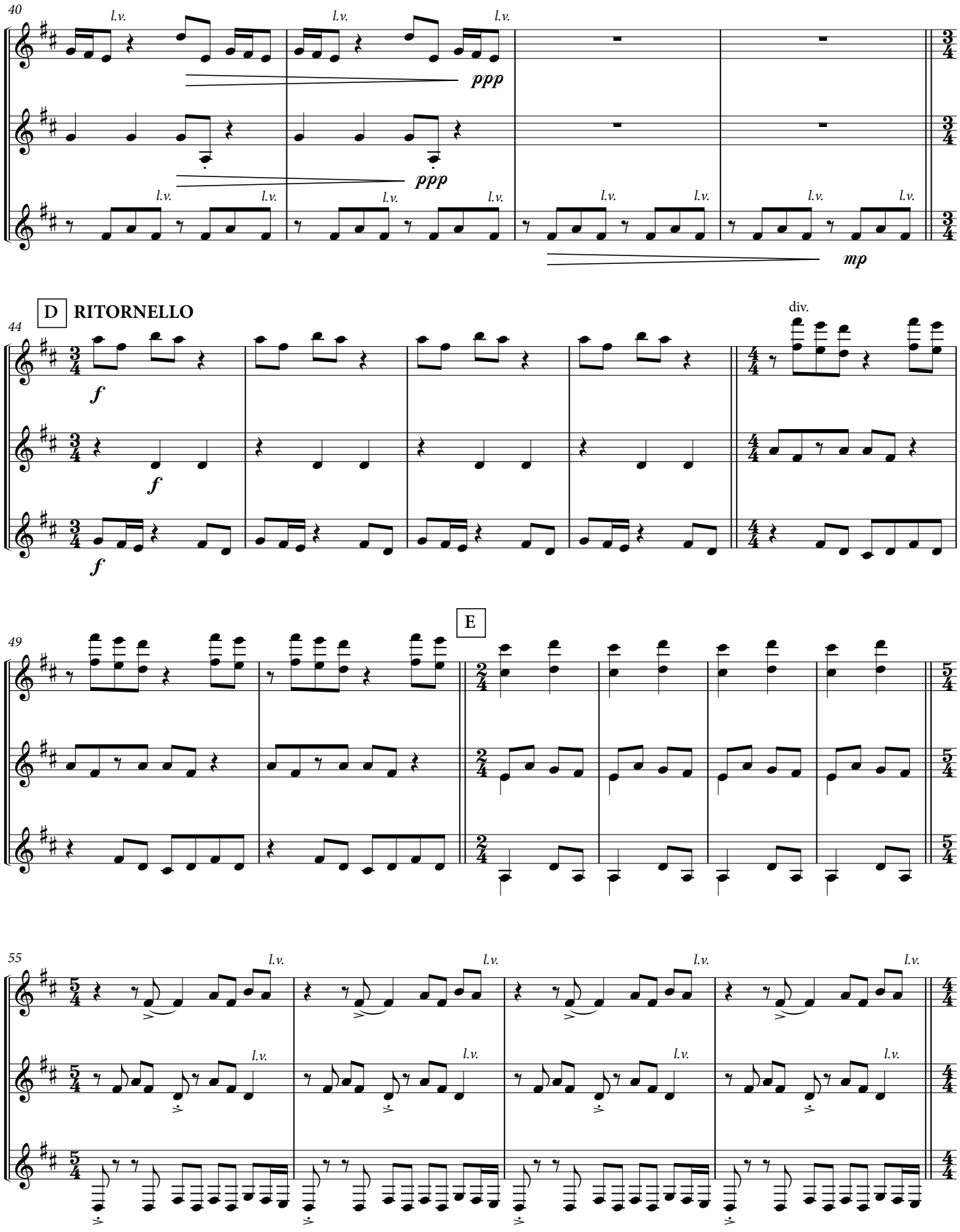
C

l.v.

mp

mp

mp


40
l.v.
ppp
mp
D
RITORNELLO
44
f
div.
49
E
55

F VAR. 2

59

mf

mp

mp

62

ppp

65

mp

mf

mf

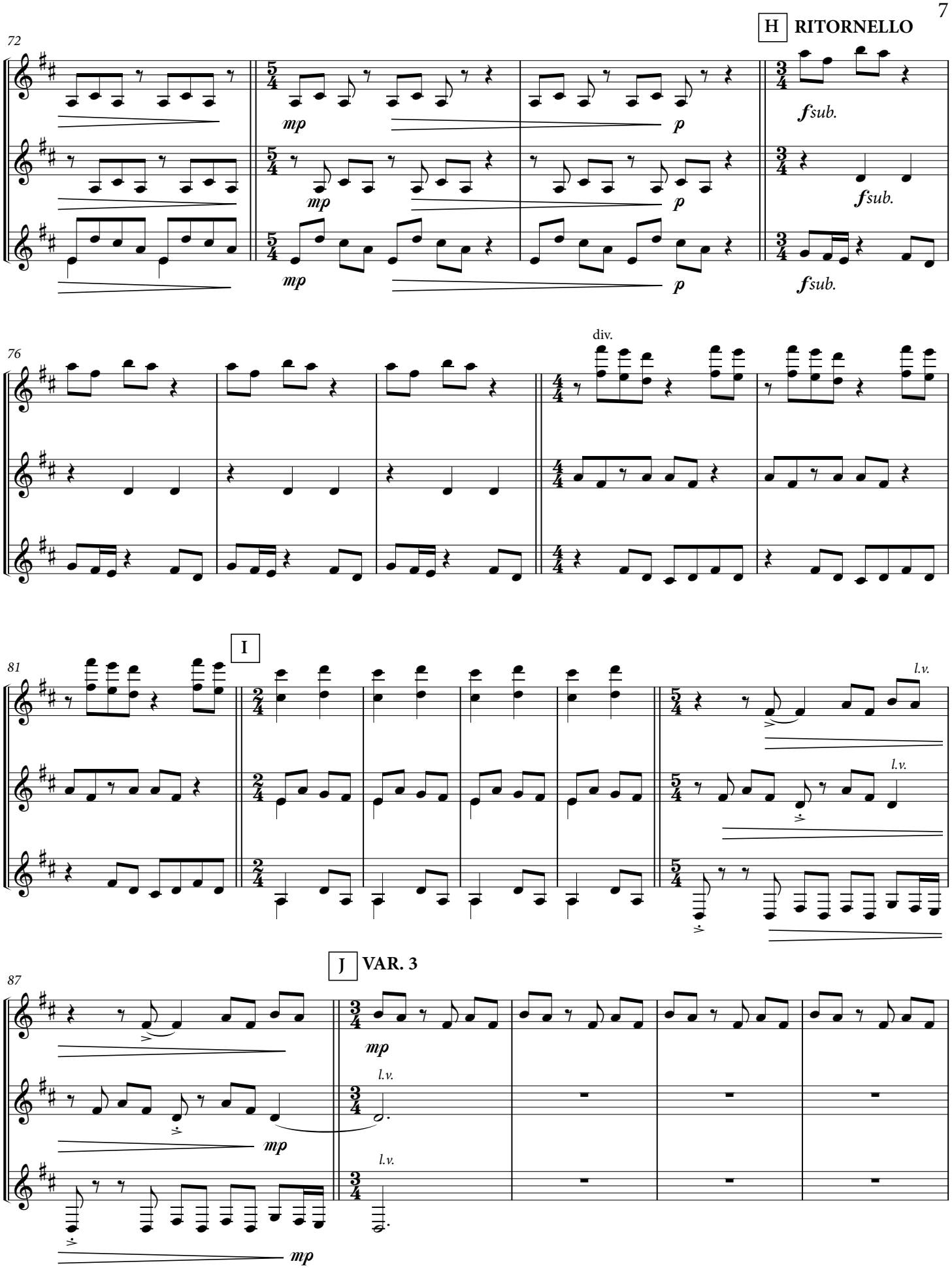
G

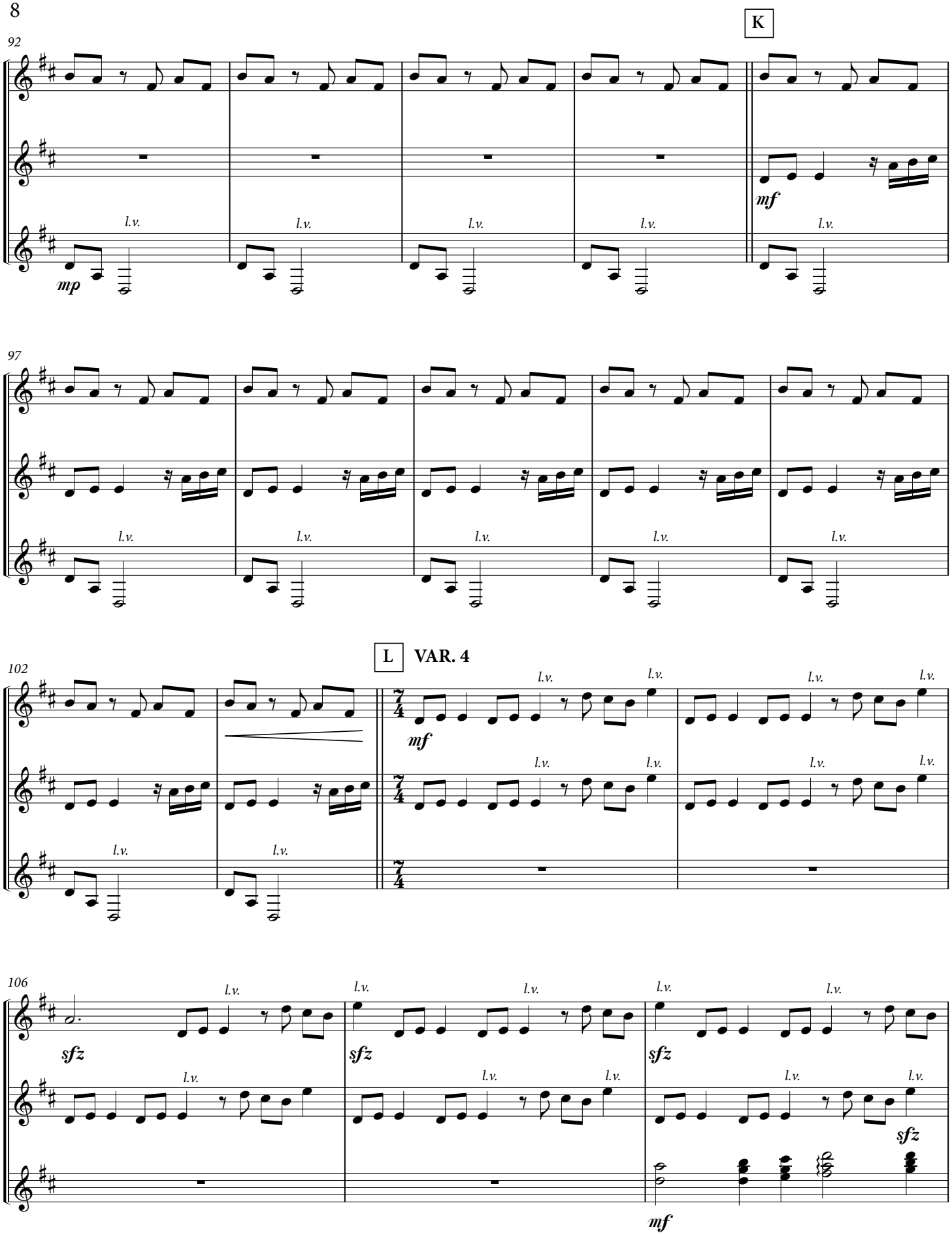
68

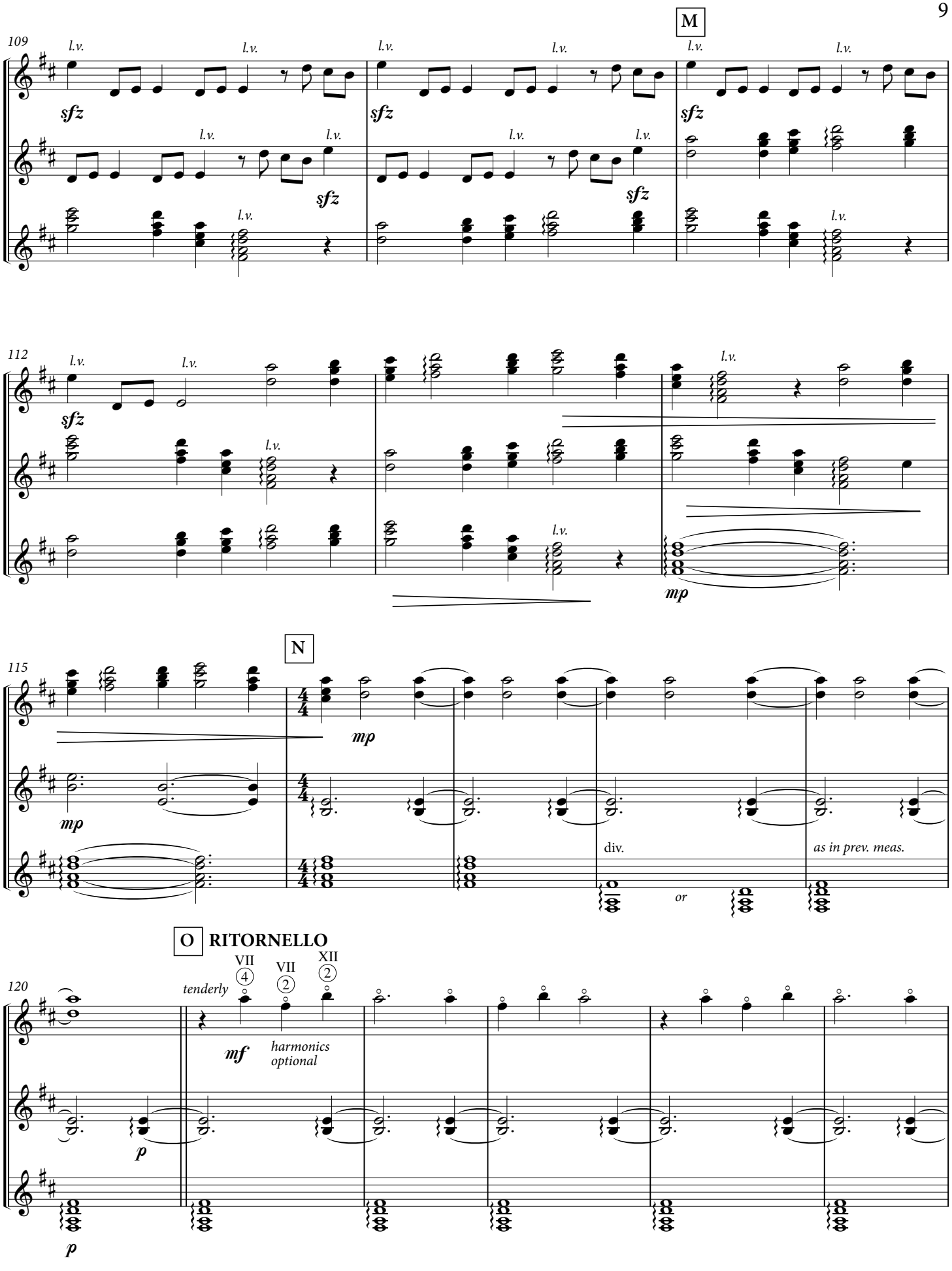
f

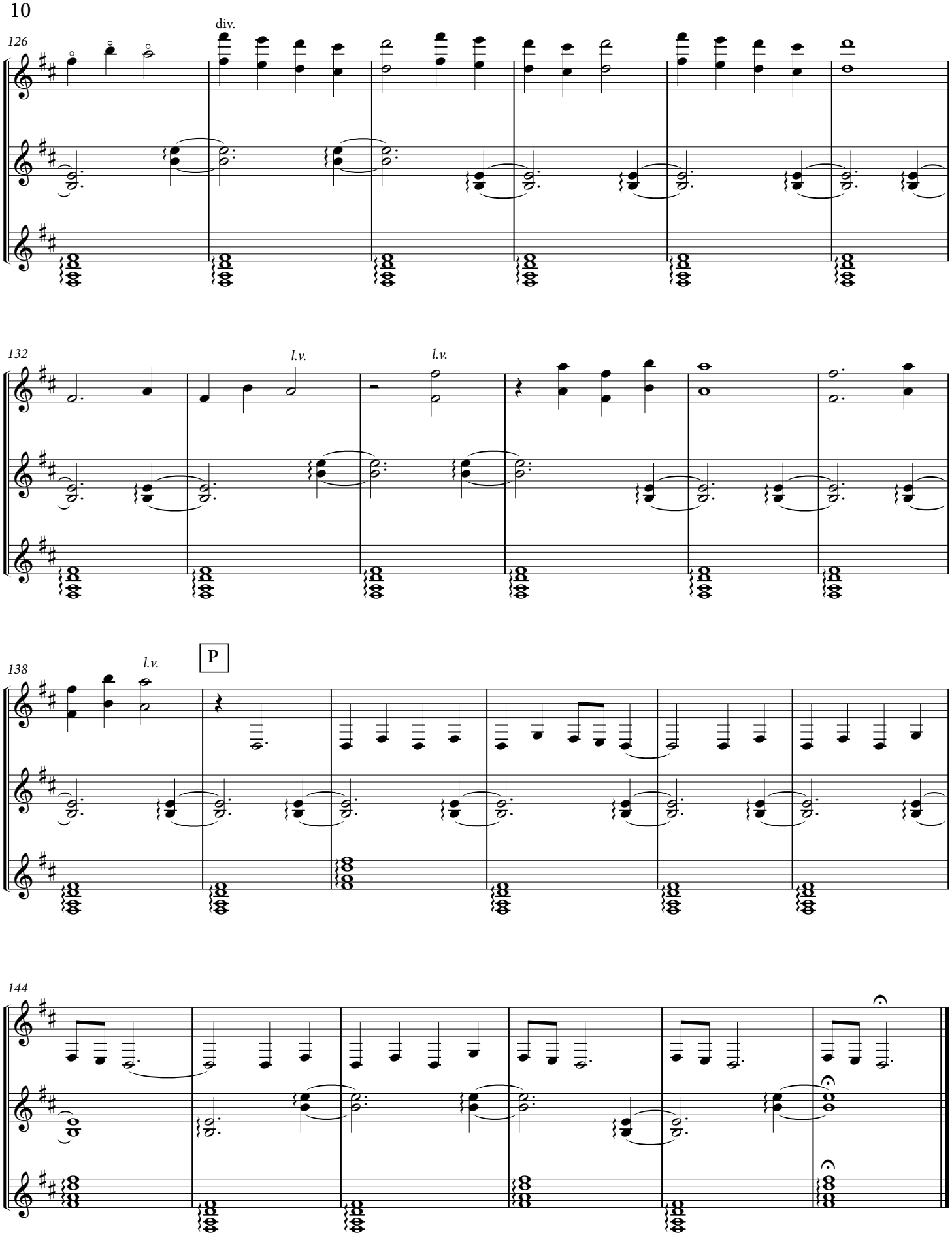
f

f


H RITORNELLO
72
mp
p
fsub.
76
div.
81
I
l.v.
87
J VAR. 3
mp


K
92
mp
l.v.
mf
97
L
VAR. 4
102
mf
106
sfz
mf


109
M
l.v.
sfz
112
mp
115
N
mp
div.
or
as in prev. meas.
O RITORNELLO
120
tenderly
VII 4
VII 2
XII 2
mf
harmonics optional
p


126
div.
132
l.v.
l.v.
138
l.v.
P
144

Guitar I
(drop D)

AUTOMATON VARIATIONS

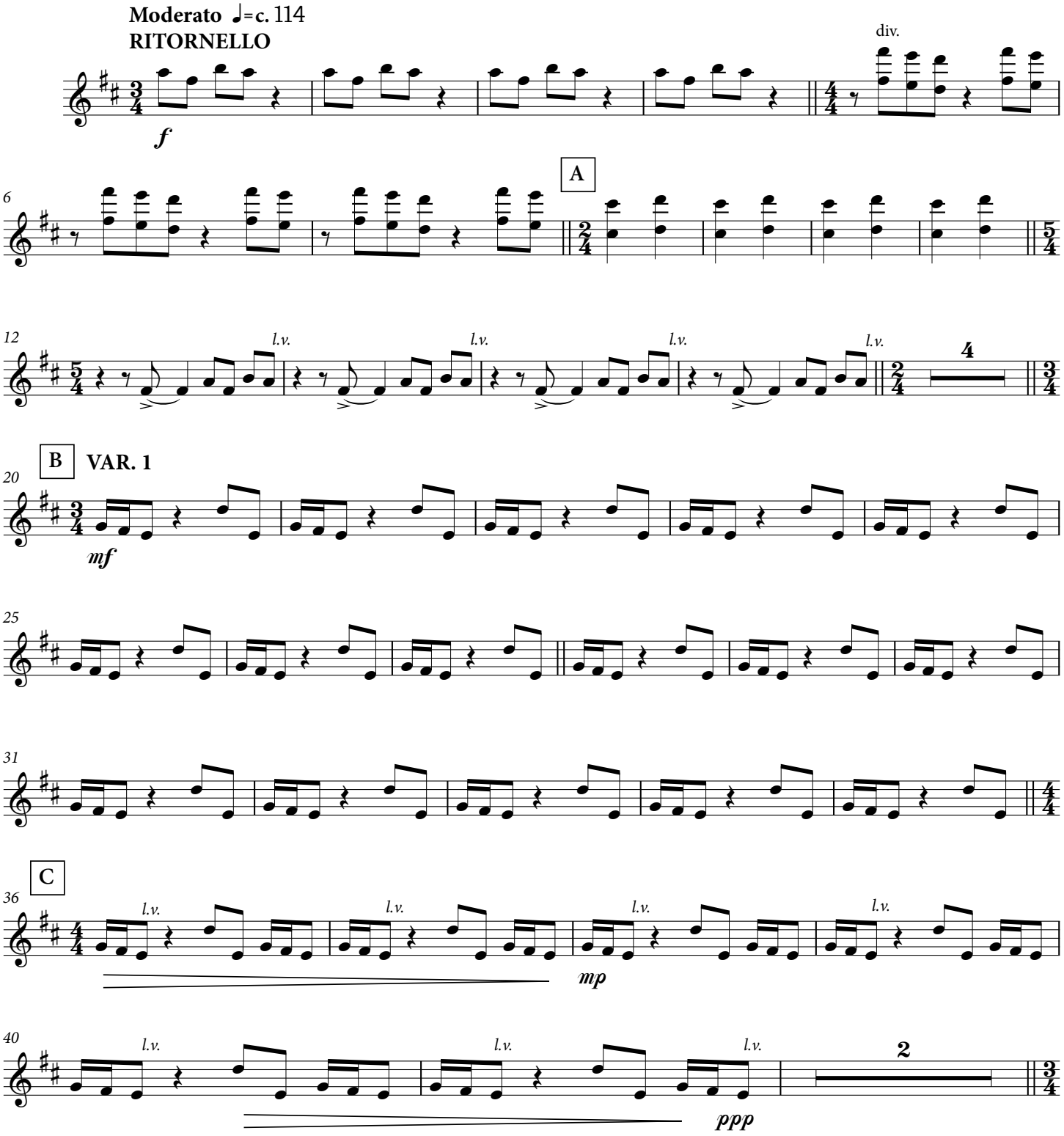
ON A THEME OF

STEPHEN PAXTON (1734-1787)

STEVEN PAXTON

Moderato ♩=c. 114

RITORNELLO



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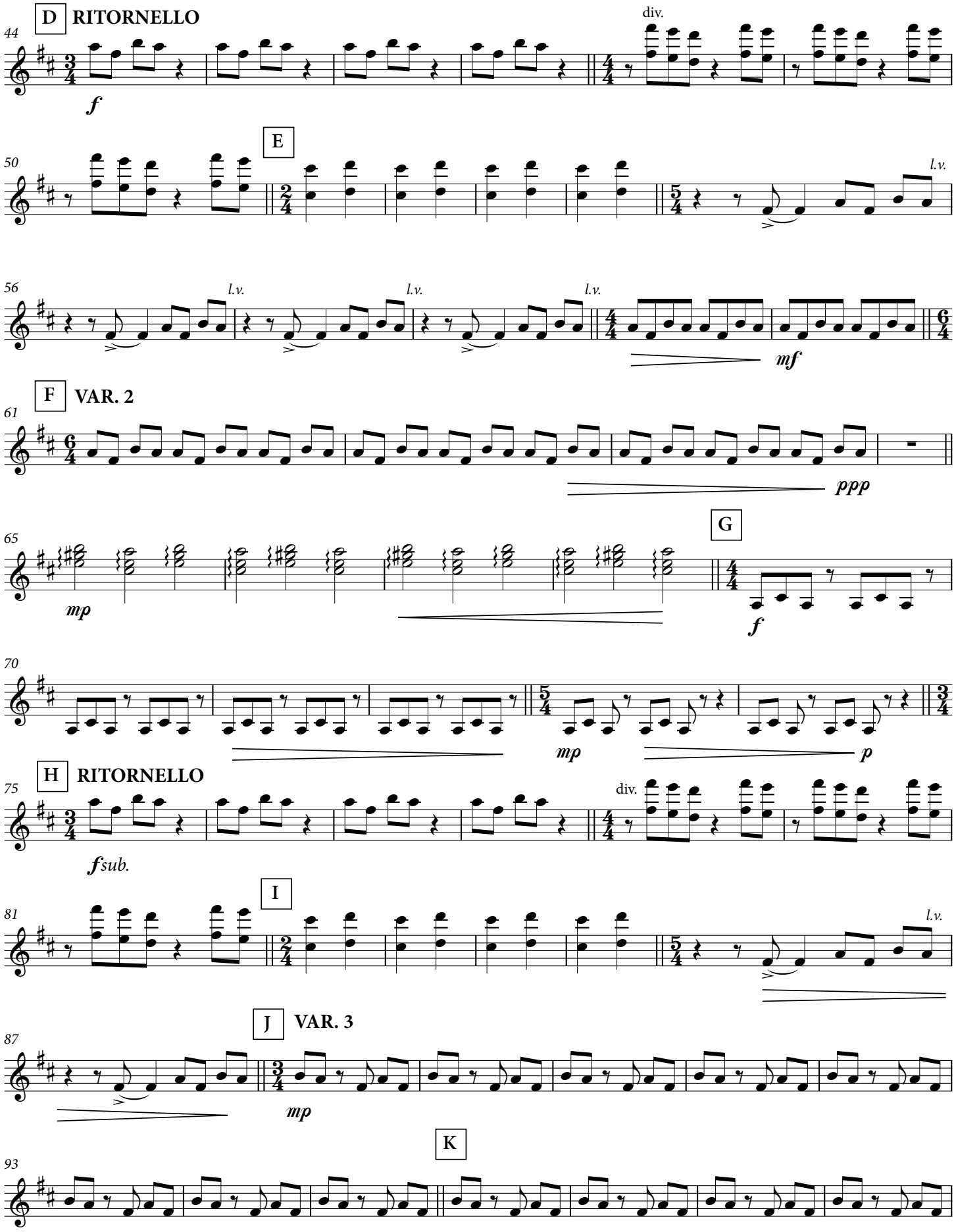
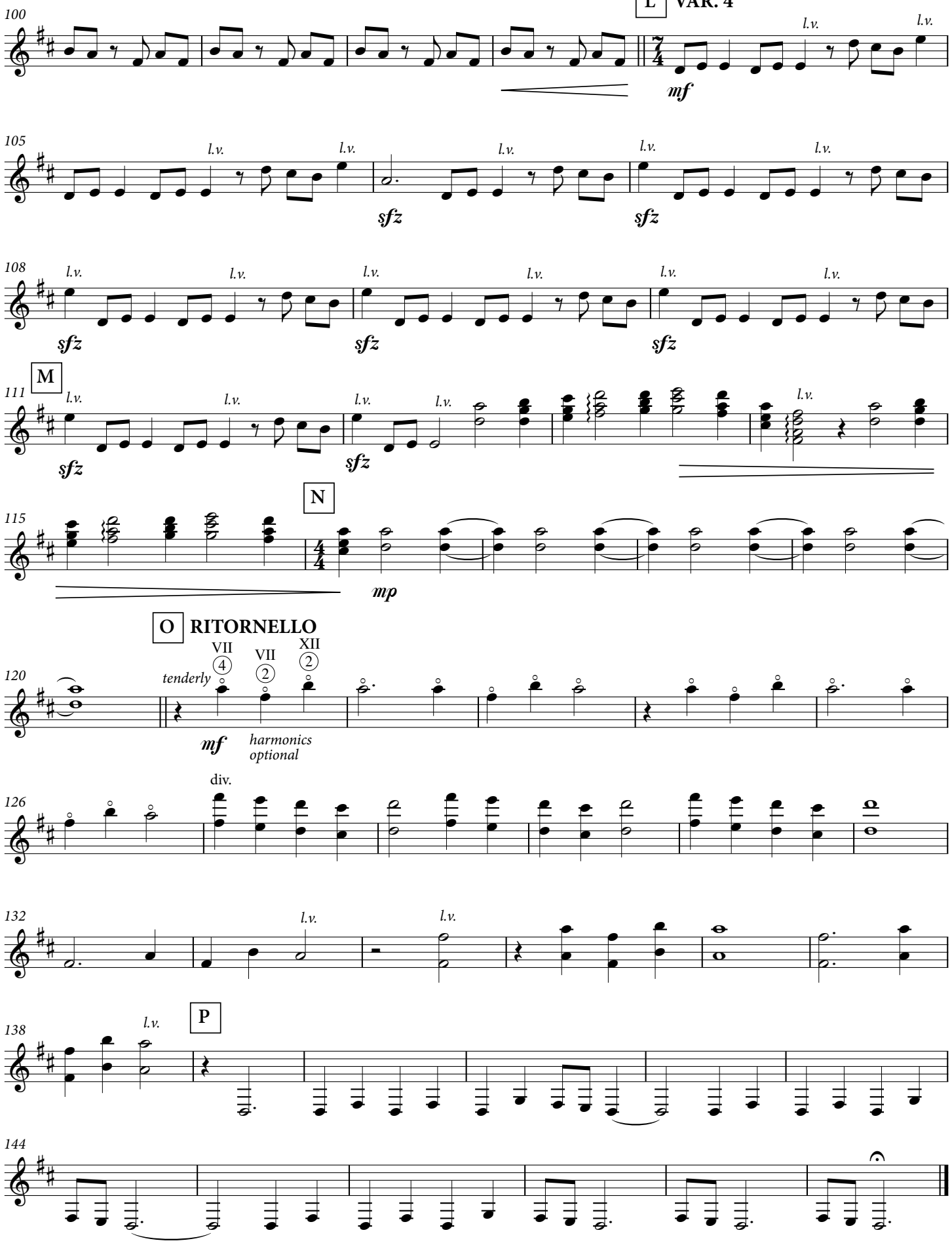

D RITORNELLO
44
f
div.
E
50
l.v.
56
l.v.
l.v.
l.v.
mf
F VAR. 2
61
ppp
G
65
mp
f
70
mp
p
H RITORNELLO
75
fsub.
div.
I
81
l.v.
J VAR. 3
87
mp
K
93


L VAR. 4
100
l.v.
mf
105
sfz
108
M
111
N
115
mp
O RITORNELLO
120
tenderly
VII 4
VII 2
XII 2
harmonics optional
126
div.
132
P
138
144

Guitar II
(drop D)

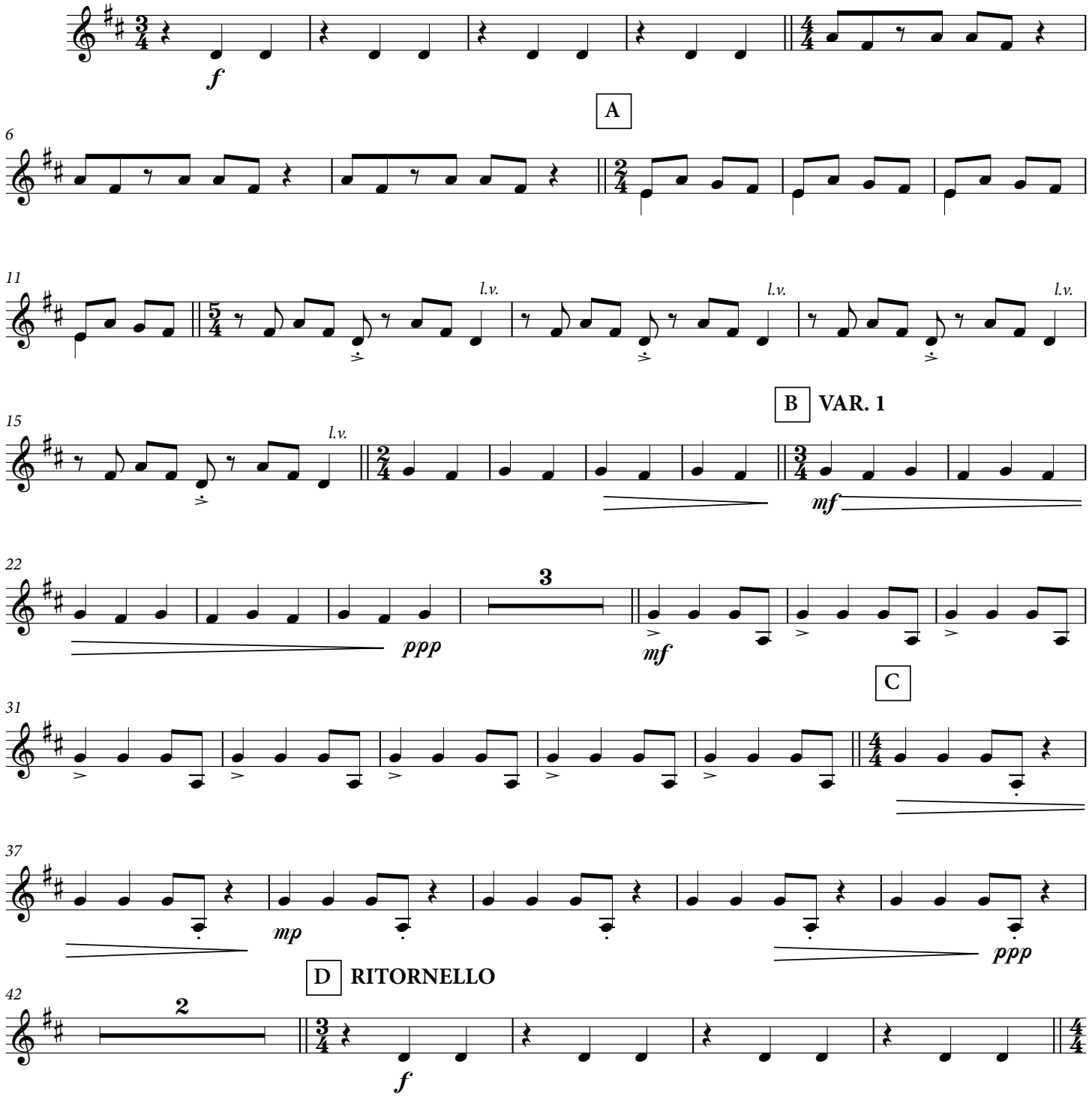
AUTOMATON VARIATIONS

ON A THEME OF

STEPHEN PAXTON (1734-1787)

STEVEN PAXTON

Moderato ♩=c. 114
RITORNELLO



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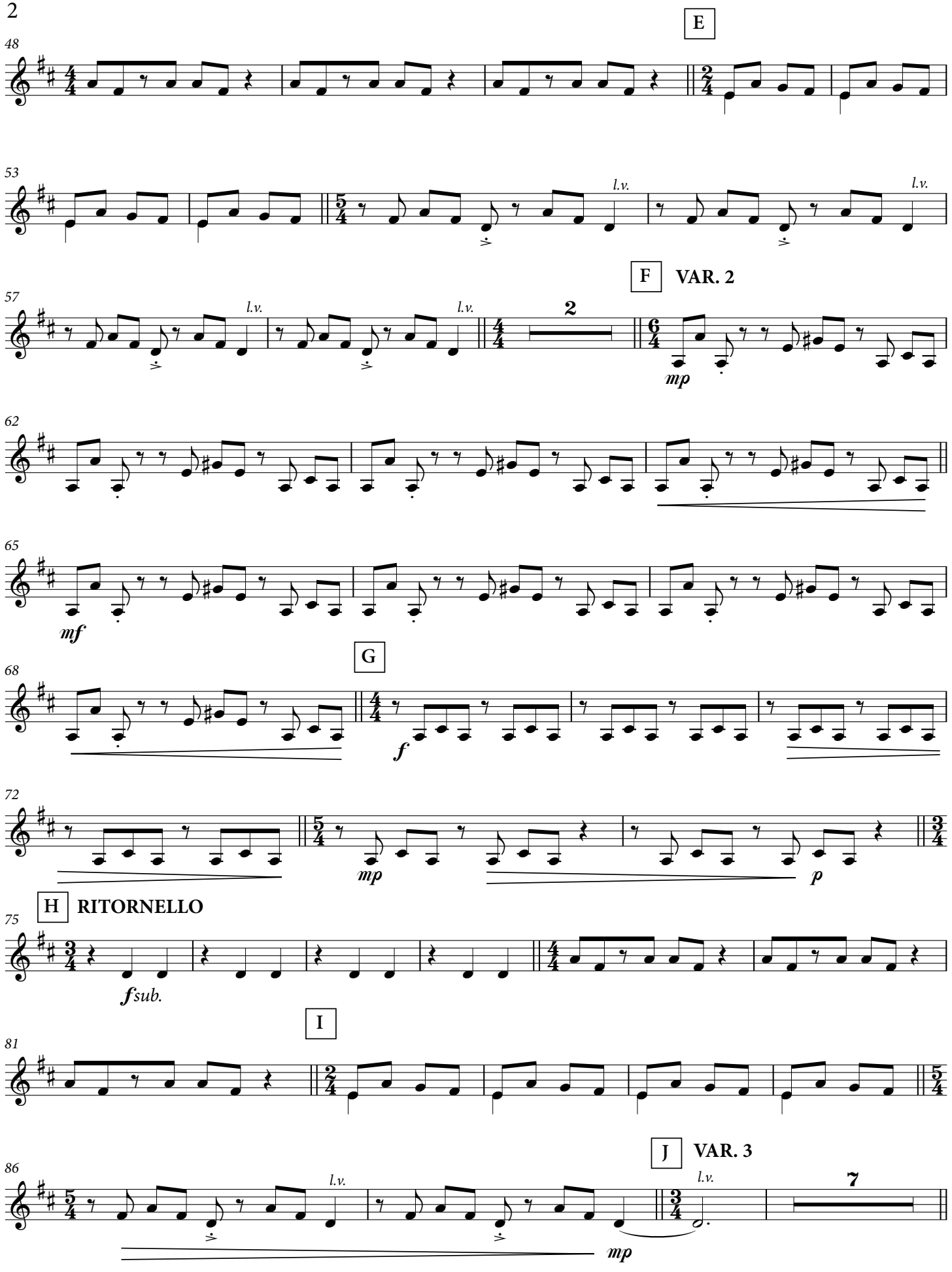
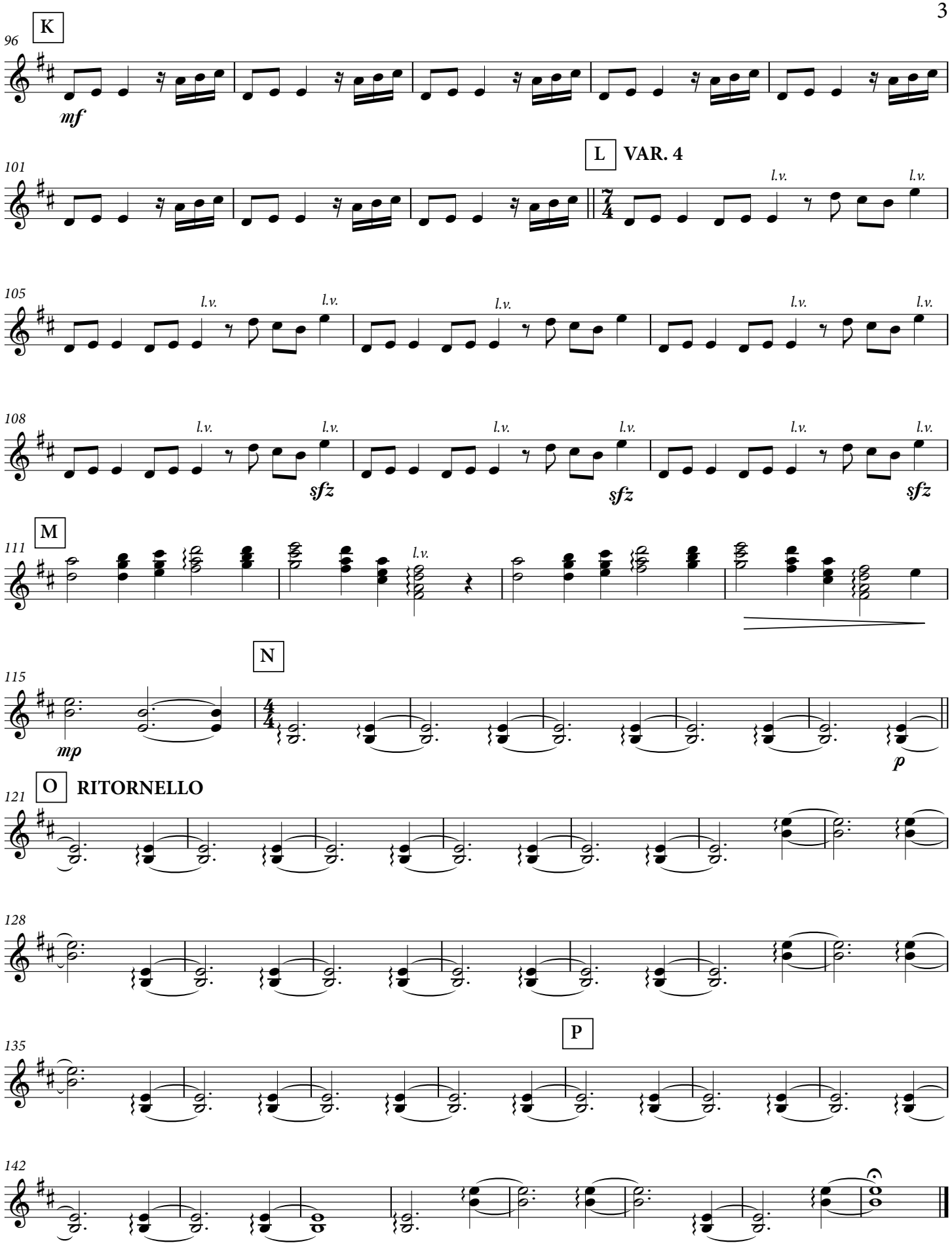

E
48
53
l.v.
l.v.
F
VAR. 2
57
l.v.
l.v.
2
mp
62
65
mf
G
68
f
72
mp
p
H
RITORNELLO
75
fsub.
I
81
J
VAR. 3
86
l.v.
l.v.
7
mp


K
96
mf
L
VAR. 4
101
l.v.
105
108
sfz
M
111
N
115
mp
p
O
RITORNELLO
121
128
P
135
142

Guitar III
(drop D)

AUTOMATON VARIATIONS

ON A THEME OF

STEPHEN PAXTON (1734-1787)

STEVEN PAXTON

Moderato ♩=c. 114

RITORNELLO

f

A

5

10

14

4

B **VAR. 1**

20

mf

25

30

C

36

l.v. l.v. l.v. l.v. l.v. l.v. l.v. l.v. l.v. l.v. l.v. l.v.

mp

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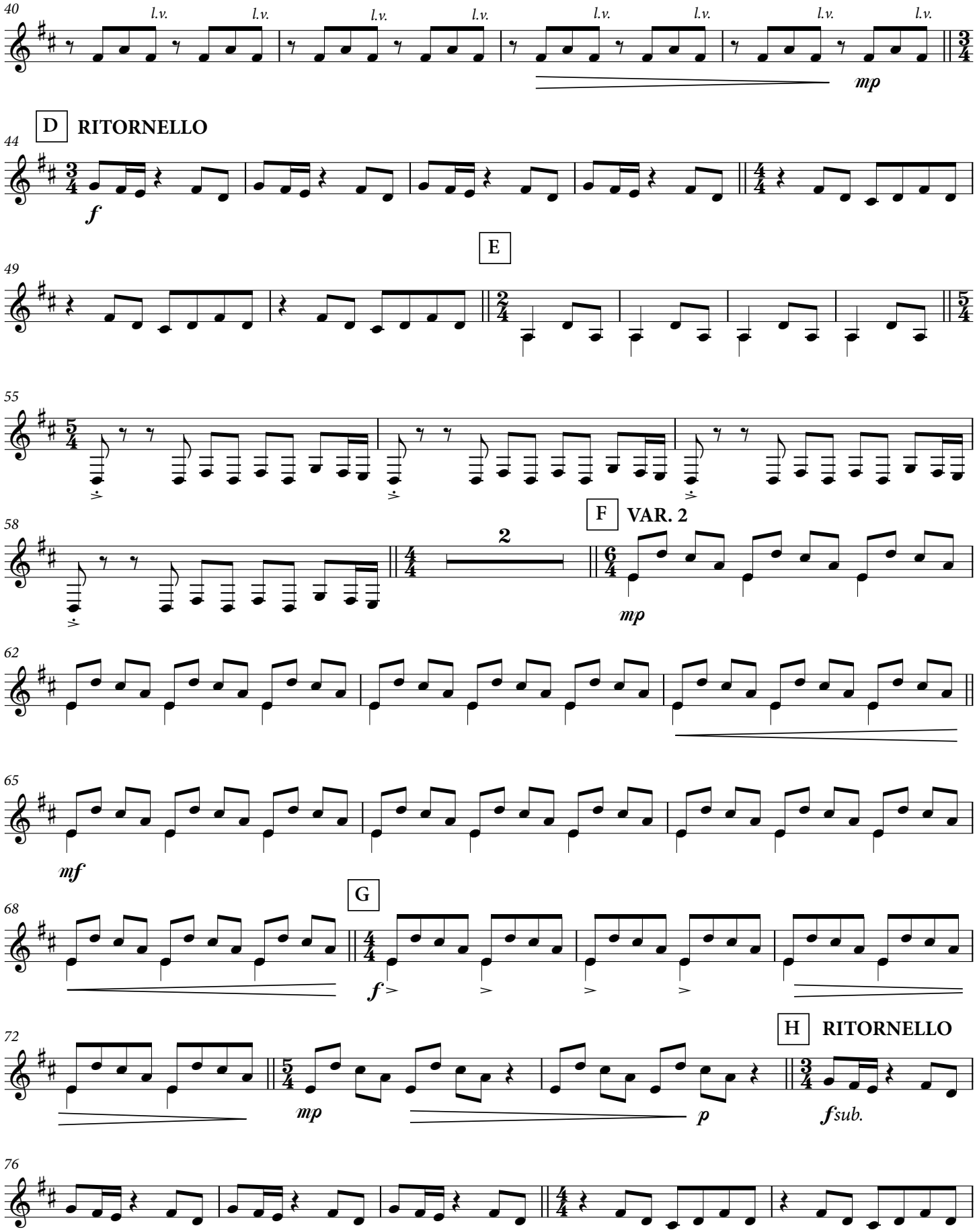
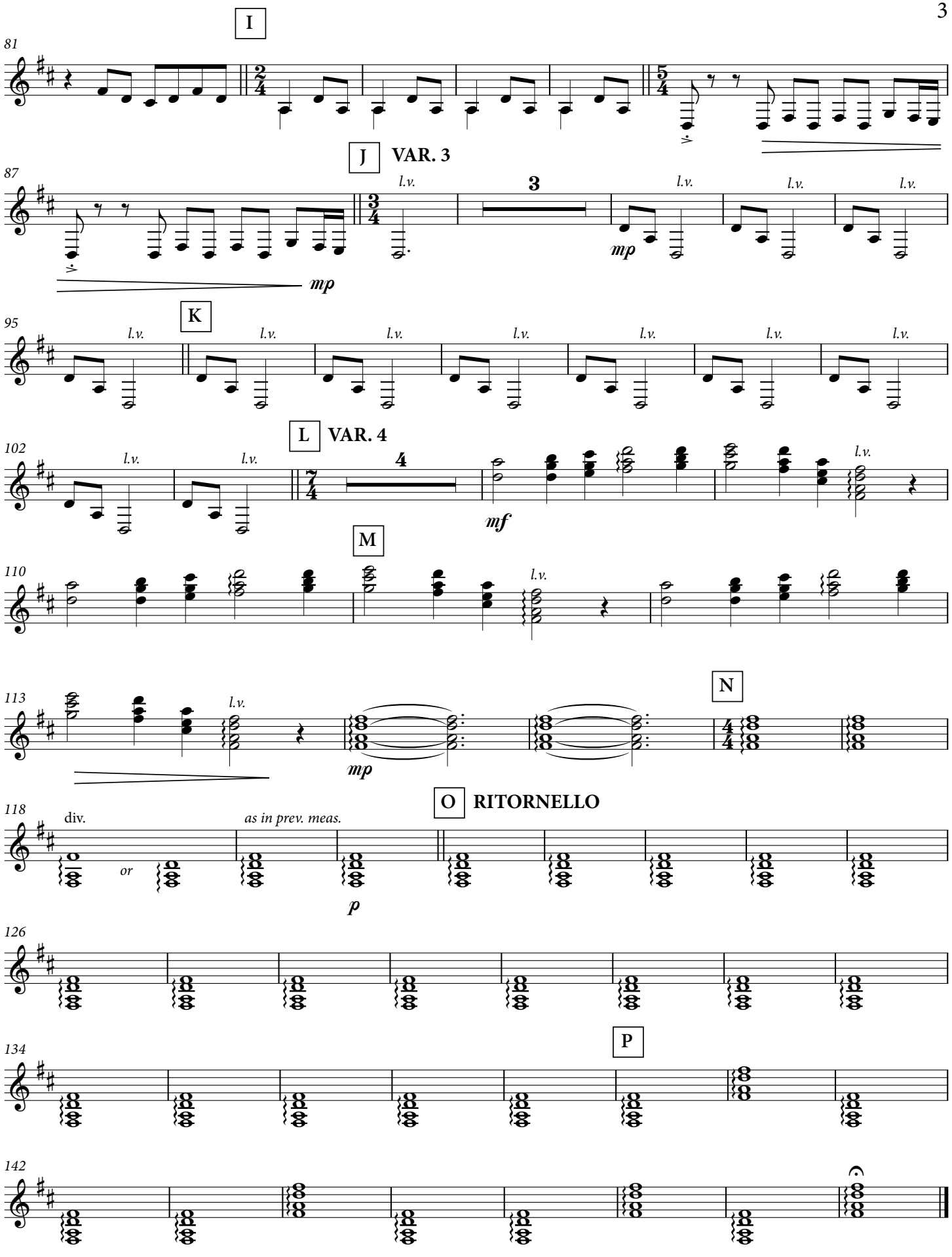

40
l.v.
mp
D
RITORNELLO
44
f
E
49
55
F
VAR. 2
58
2
mp
62
65
mf
G
68
f
72
H
RITORNELLO
mp
p
fsub.
76


I
81
J
VAR. 3
87
l.v.
3
mp
K
95
L
VAR. 4
102
4
mf
M
110
N
113
mp
O
RITORNELLO
118
div.
or
as in prev. meas.
p
126
P
134
142