

JEAN SIBELIUS
EN SAGA
TONDICHTUNG FÜR GROSSES ORCHESTER
TONE POEM FOR FULL ORCHESTRA
OP. 9



BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL

STUDIENPARTITUR PB 3876

STUDIENPARTITUREN (AUSWAHL)

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Johannes Brahms

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JEAN SIBELIUS

(1865 – 1957)

En saga

Tondichtung für großes Orchester
Tone Poem for full Orchestra

op. 9

Aufführungsmaterial leihweise lieferbar
Performance material on hire



BREITKOPF & HÄRTEL

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Vorwort

Die Tondichtung „En Saga“, entstanden 1892 und uraufgeführt am 16. Februar 1893 in Helsinki, ist das erste einsätzige Orchesterwerk von Jean Sibelius. Es markiert damit einerseits einen entscheidenden Abschnitt in der Entwicklung des jungen finnischen Komponisten, der sich nach dem Abschluß der groß angelegten, kühn konzipierten *Kullervo-Sinfonie* einer rein instrumentalen Orchestersprache zuwendet und nach den in *En Saga* gewonnenen Erfahrungen 1893 mit dem *Lemminkäinen-Zyklus* und der *Karelia-Musik* wieder mehrteilige Werke in Angriff nimmt. Andererseits besitzt *En Saga* (übersetzt: „Eine Legende“) durch die programmatische Absolutheit grundsätzliche Bedeutung für die nationale finnische Musik, was den Sibelius-Biographen Cecil Gray sehr viel später zu der emphatischen Aussage veranlaßt hat, mit *En Saga* sei Finnland erst in die Musikgeschichte eingetreten.

Das Thema „Sibelius und die Programmmusik“ ist vielfältig diskutiert worden – nicht zuletzt deshalb, weil Sibelius selbst zu einigen seiner „Tondichtungen“ konkrete programmatische Stichworte gab, zu anderen – und hierzu zählt *En Saga* – entweder das Programm verschwieg oder keine konkrete literarische bzw. inhaltliche Bezugsebene benötigte. Eine rein innermusikalische Logik wäre bei *En Saga* sehr wohl denkbar. Das Wort „Tondichtung“ ist in diesem Fall wörtlich zu nehmen und charakterisiert ein Werk, das seinen poetischen Gehalt nur in der mehrdeutigen Sprache der Musik ausdrücken kann – angeregt bestenfalls durch eine nicht näher zu definierende poetische Keimzelle aus den naturverbundenen finnischen Sagen.

An phantasievollen Ausdeutungen hat es jedoch in der Sibelius-Literatur trotz der Abneigung des Komponisten gegenüber allzu konkreten Interpretationen nicht gefehlt. Besonders plastisch erscheint dabei der Versuch des Sibelius-Biographen Ernst Tanzberger, der in *En Saga* das Hauptthema (in Horn II und IV ab Seite 11, Mitte) als „Symbol für den Stammvater des Heldengeschlechtes“, einen kurzen Seitengedanken (Fagott, tiefe Streicher, S. 19) als „Sinnbild für einen jugendlichen Helden desselben Geschlechtes“ und das markante Seitenthema (S. 30, Buchstabe „H“) als „Symbol für den Helden aus der feindlichen Sippe“ betrachtet. Ein solch heroischer „Aufmarsch“ hätte kriegerische und letztlich tragische Auseinandersetzungen (*En Saga* beginnt und endet in Moll) zur Folge, die in den durchführungsartigen Verläufen von S. 32 an zwischen den beiden Themenblöcken ausgetragen werden müßten – laut Tanzberger schließt das Werk dann mit einer „feierlichen Totenklage“ ab. Der Partiturbefund deckt sich mit diesen Vermutungen jedoch nicht. Die beiden Hauptthemen bieten allzu wenig Reibungsflächen. Mit ihrem auftaktloser Beginn und den insistierenden Tonwiederholungen sind sie alles andere als kontrastierend angelegt. Folglich erscheint das erste Thema erst wieder in der „Reprise“ (S. 67), die thematische Arbeit zuvor vermittelt über weite Strecken einen ruhigen Eindruck. Klangfarbenarbeit steht allgemein in *En Saga* im Vordergrund, wobei auf die mehrfach unterteilten Streicher in den ersten Takten der Partitur und auf den ausgedehnten „sul ponticello“-Klangteppich (S. 47/48) besonders hingewiesen sei. All dies steht zu Tanzbergers Ausdeutung in Widerspruch.

Die vorliegende Partitur basiert auf der Erstausgabe, die 1903 bei Breitkopf & Härtel erschien. Zuvor, im Jahre 1901, hatte Jean Sibelius die Erstfassung grundlegend überarbeitet, formal gestrafft und dabei auch die Instrumentierung durchsichtiger gestaltet.

Wiesbaden, Frühjahr 1994

Frank Reinisch

Afterword see last page

Afterword

The symphonic poem “En Saga” (A Legend), written in 1892 and first performed in Helsinki on 16 February 1893, is Jean Sibelius’s first orchestral work in one movement. It marks an important turning point in the development of the young Finnish composer who, after completing the sweeping and boldly conceived *Kullervo Symphony*, turned to a purely instrumental symphonic language. After the experience gained in *En Saga*, he was to focus anew on works in several sections in 1893 with the *Lemminkäinen* cycle and the *Karelia* music. However, the programmatic absoluteness of *En Saga* assigns the work to a key position within Finnish national music, to the extent that, much later, the Sibelius biographer Cecil Gray emphatically proclaimed that *En Saga* signalled Finland’s entrance into music history.

The topic “Sibelius and program music” has given rise to multifarious discussions, not least because Sibelius himself offered specific programmatic explanations to some of his “symphonic poems” and either – for example, *En Saga* – withheld explanations about the programs of other works or did without any concrete literary or conceptual frame of reference. In *En Saga*, a purely inner-musical logic is perfectly plausible. In this case, the concept “symphonic” or “tone” poem can be interpreted literally as referring to a work which can express its poetic contents only through the multi-faceted language of music. At best, it is stimulated by some indeterminate poetic germ cell derived from nature-oriented Finnish sagas.

There has been no want of imaginative interpretations of *En Saga* in Sibelius literature despite the composer’s aversion to all too definite explanations. Sibelius’s biographer Ernst Tanzberger has provided a particularly vivid depiction. He regards the main theme (in Horns II and IV, beginning on page 11, middle) as a “symbol for the founder of a dynasty of heroes”, a short subsidiary theme (bassoon, low strings, p. 19) as an “emblem for a youthful hero of the same dynasty”, and the striking secondary theme (p. 30, cue letter “H”) as the “symbol of a hero from the enemy clan”. According to Tanzberger, such a parade of heroes results in war-like and ultimately tragic confrontations (*En Saga* does begin and end in minor) between the two thematic blocks in a development-like section beginning on page 32. The work then closes with a “solemn dirge”. The score, however, has little in common with these speculations. The two main themes offer too few possibilities of friction: each beginning without an upbeat, each abounding in insistently repeated notes, they can hardly be said to contrast in mood and structure. Consequently, the first theme does not reappear until the “recapitulation” (p. 67), and the preceding thematic work conveys a generally calm impression over broad stretches. On the whole, *En Saga* seems to be dominated by a refined treatment of tone color, whereby one should note the multiply divided strings in the first bars of the score and the extended “sul ponticello” sound fabric (p. 47/48). All this contradicts Tanzberger’s interpretation of the contents.

The present score is based on the first edition which was published by Breitkopf & Härtel in 1903. Two years previously, in 1901, Sibelius had thoroughly revised the first version of the score by formally tautening it and making the instrumentation more transparent.

Wiesbaden, Spring 1994

Frank Reinisch

Tondichtung für großes Orchester

Moderato assai

Moderato assai

Fag. II

Cor.

The first system of the score shows the Fag. II and Cor. parts. The Fag. II part is in the top staff, and the Cor. part is in the second staff. Both parts feature a melodic line with a long, sustained note in the first measure, followed by a series of eighth notes. The Cor. part has a more complex, rhythmic pattern in the subsequent measures.

Ob. *mp*

mp

Clar. *mp*

Fag. *mp*

The second system of the score shows the Ob., Clar., and Fag. parts. The Ob. part is in the top staff, the Clar. part is in the second staff, and the Fag. part is in the third staff. All three parts feature a melodic line with a long, sustained note in the first measure, followed by a series of eighth notes. The Clar. part has a more complex, rhythmic pattern in the subsequent measures.

Fl. *mp* *dim. pp*

Ob. *fz* *pp* *dim.* *mf fz*

Clar. *fz* *pp* *dim.* *mf fz*

Fag. *fz* *pp* *dim.* *mf fz*

Cor. *pp* *dim.*

Tr. I. II *CON SUONO* *pp* *dim.*

Tromb. I. II *mp* *dim.*

Piatti *ppp* *dim.*

The first system of the musical score covers measures 1 through 4. The woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon) and strings (Cor, Trombone, Trumpet) have melodic lines, while the Percussion (Piatti) provides a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics range from *ppp* to *fz*. The woodwinds and strings show a gradual decrease in volume from measure 1 to 4, indicated by *dim.* markings.

pp *dim.*

pp *dim.*

pp *dim.*

pp *dim.*

pp *div.* *pp* *dim.*

The second system of the musical score covers measures 5 through 8. The woodwinds and strings continue their melodic lines, while the Percussion (Piatti) provides a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics range from *pp* to *ppp*. The woodwinds and strings show a gradual decrease in volume from measure 5 to 8, indicated by *dim.* markings.

[illegible]

The image shows a page of a musical score for 'The Swan' by Camille Saint-Saëns. It consists of six staves of music. The first four staves are for the piano, and the last two are for the cello and double bass. The music is in 3/4 time and features a melody in the piano part. The dynamics are marked as *pp* (pianissimo) and *dim.* (diminuendo). The section is marked 'A' at the end.

con bacchette di Timpani

p ————— *ppp* *quasi niente*

Violino I

pp *sim.*

Violino II

pp *sim.*

Viola

pp *sim.*

The musical score is written for four instruments: Violino I, Violino II, Viola, and Timpani. The top section shows the Timpani part, which is marked with a dynamic of *p* (piano) and then *ppp* (pianissimo) with the instruction *quasi niente* (almost nothing). The bottom section shows the Violino I, Violino II, and Viola parts, which are marked with a dynamic of *pp* (pianissimo). The Violino I and Violino II parts are marked with *sim.* (simile). The Viola part is marked with *sim.* (simile). The score is written in 4/4 time and features a complex, rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together in groups of four or eight. The key signature is one sharp (F#).

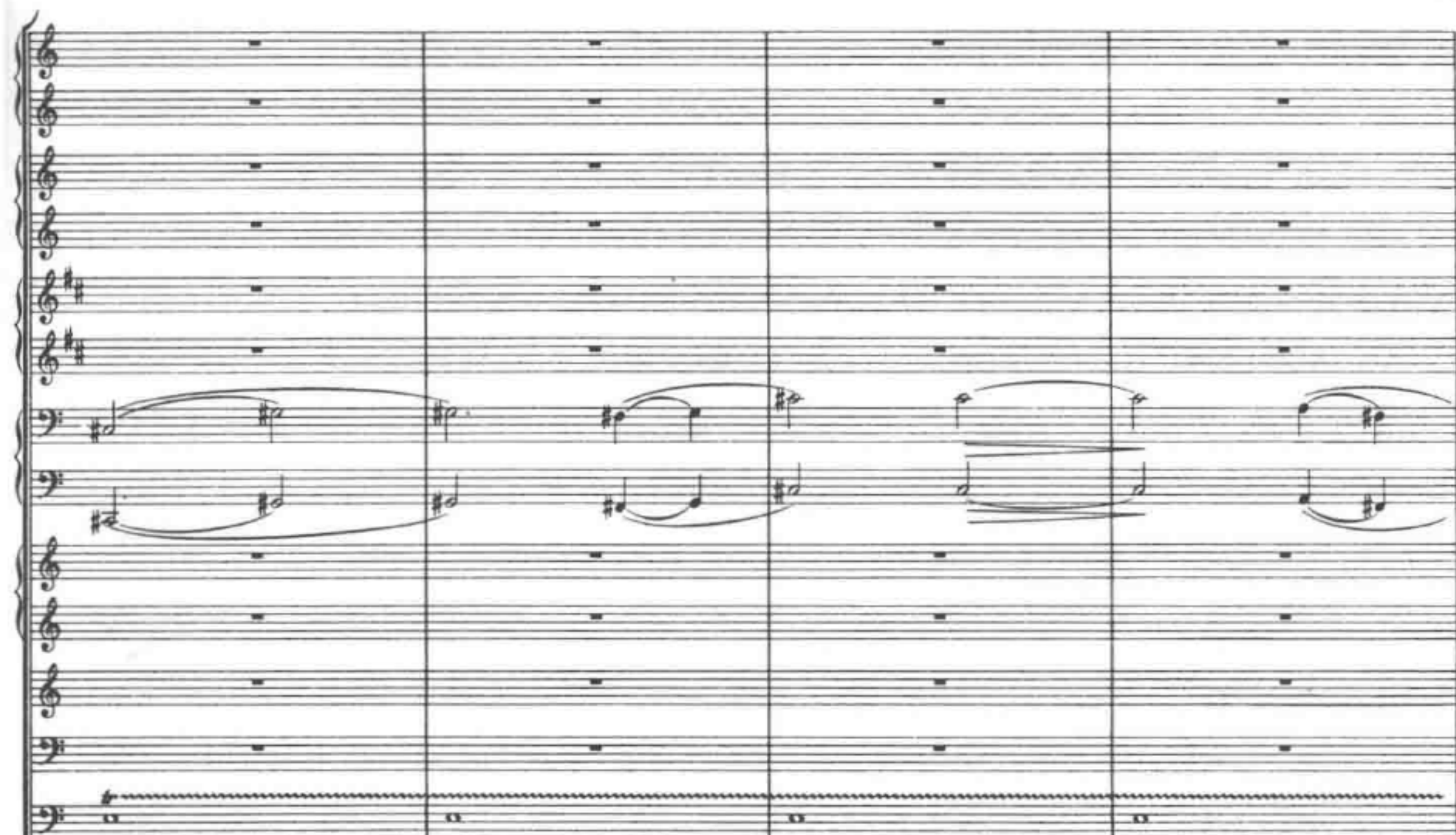
The musical score is presented on two systems of staves. The top system features 10 staves; the first four are empty, while the last six contain musical notation. The bottom system also has 10 staves, with the first four containing musical notation and the last six being empty. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'mp' and 'pizz.'

Top System:

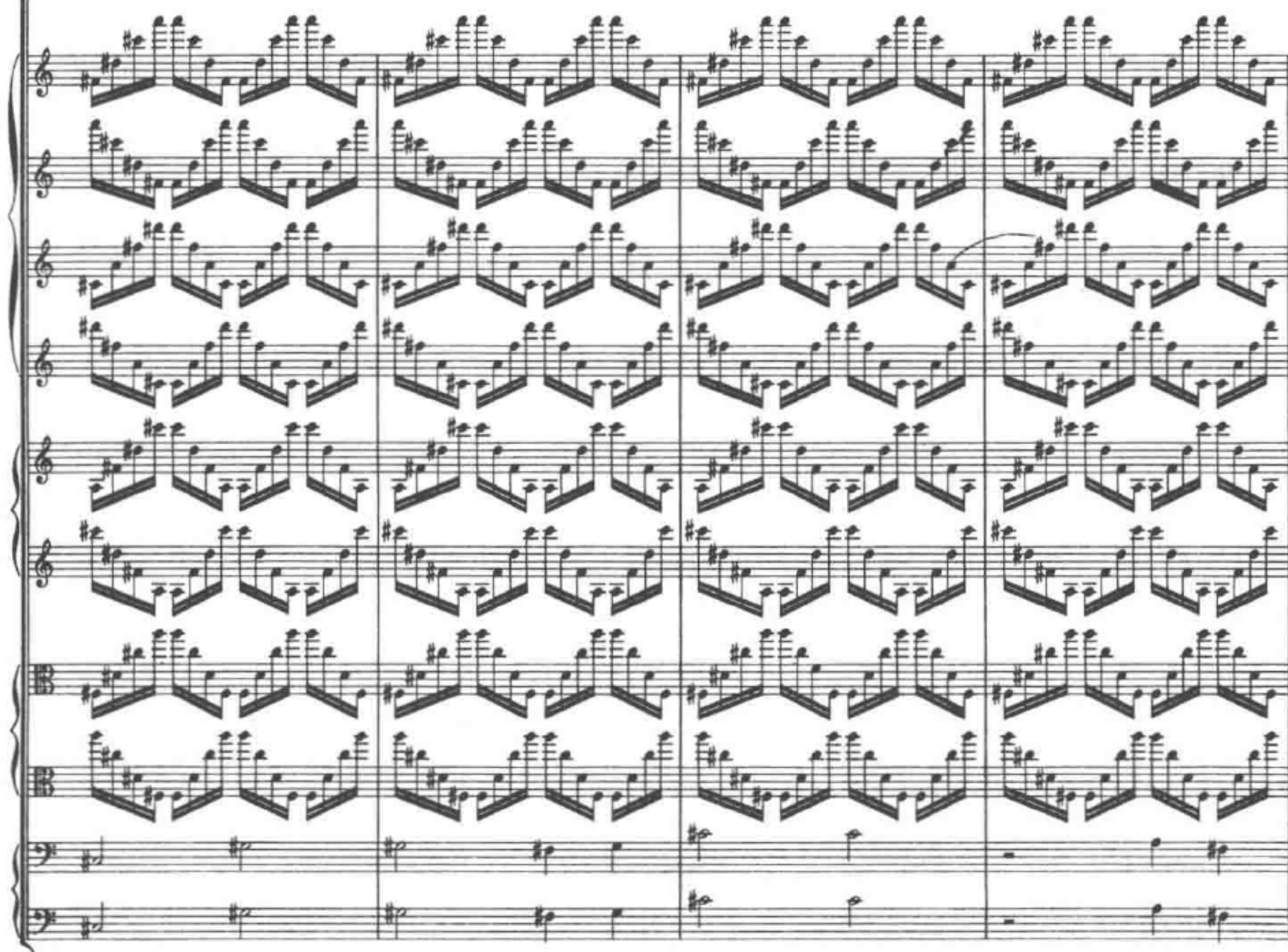
- Staff 1: Empty
- Staff 2: Empty
- Staff 3: Empty
- Staff 4: Empty
- Staff 5: Musical notation, starting with a half note and a slur, marked *mp*.
- Staff 6: Musical notation, starting with a half note and a slur, marked *mp*.
- Staff 7: Empty
- Staff 8: Empty
- Staff 9: Empty
- Staff 10: Empty

Bottom System:

- Staff 1: Musical notation, starting with a half note and a slur, marked *pizz.*
- Staff 2: Musical notation, starting with a half note and a slur, marked *pizz.*
- Staff 3: Musical notation, starting with a half note and a slur, marked *pizz.*
- Staff 4: Musical notation, starting with a half note and a slur, marked *pizz.*
- Staff 5: Musical notation, starting with a half note and a slur, marked *pizz.*
- Staff 6: Musical notation, starting with a half note and a slur, marked *pizz.*
- Staff 7: Musical notation, starting with a half note and a slur, marked *pizz.*
- Staff 8: Musical notation, starting with a half note and a slur, marked *pizz.*
- Staff 9: Musical notation, starting with a half note and a slur, marked *pizz.*
- Staff 10: Musical notation, starting with a half note and a slur, marked *pizz.*

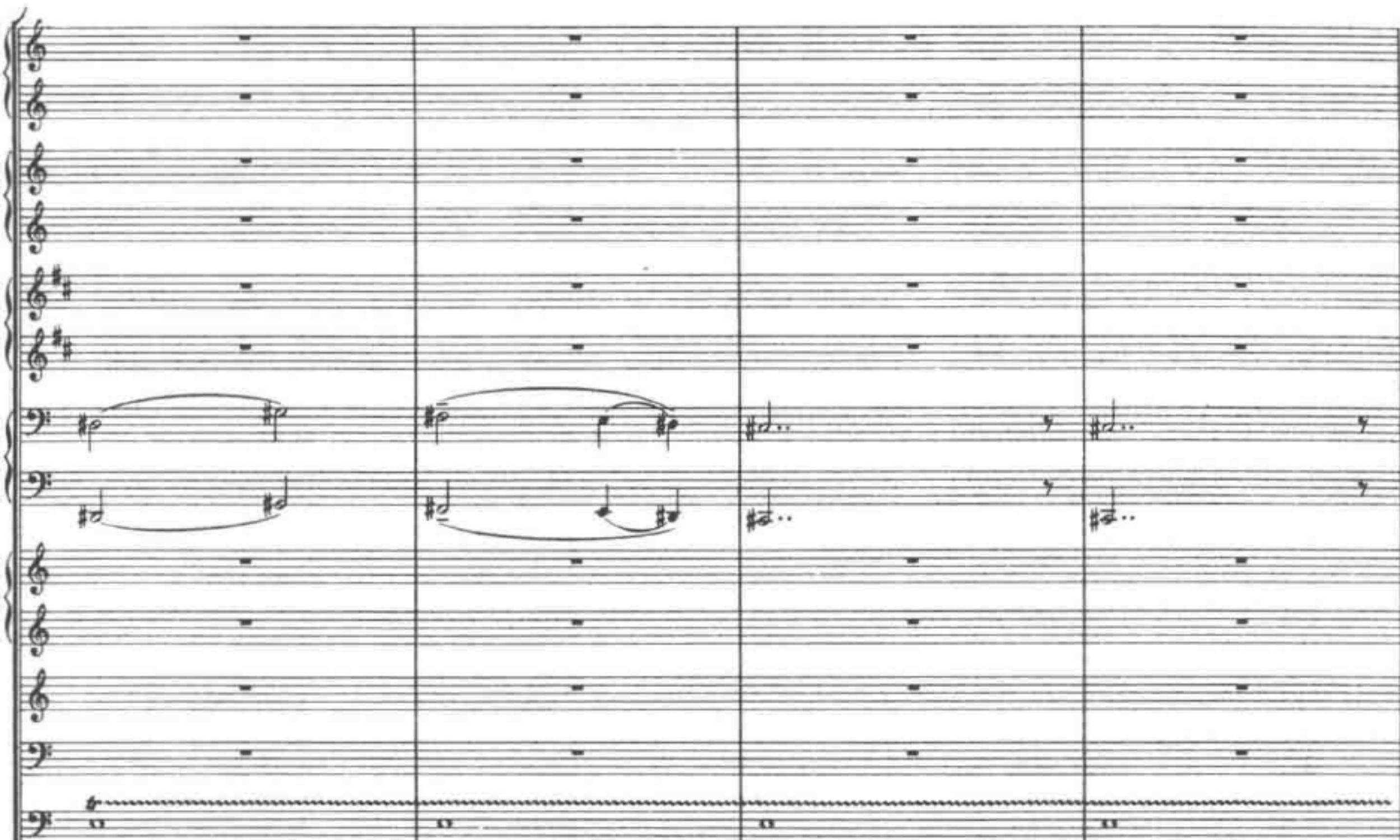


System 1 of a musical score, featuring 11 staves. The first five staves are treble clef, and the last six are bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first four measures show a melodic line in the bass clef staves, with notes G#2, A#2, B#2, and C#3. The first two staves are mostly empty, with some notes in the first measure. The last two staves show a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

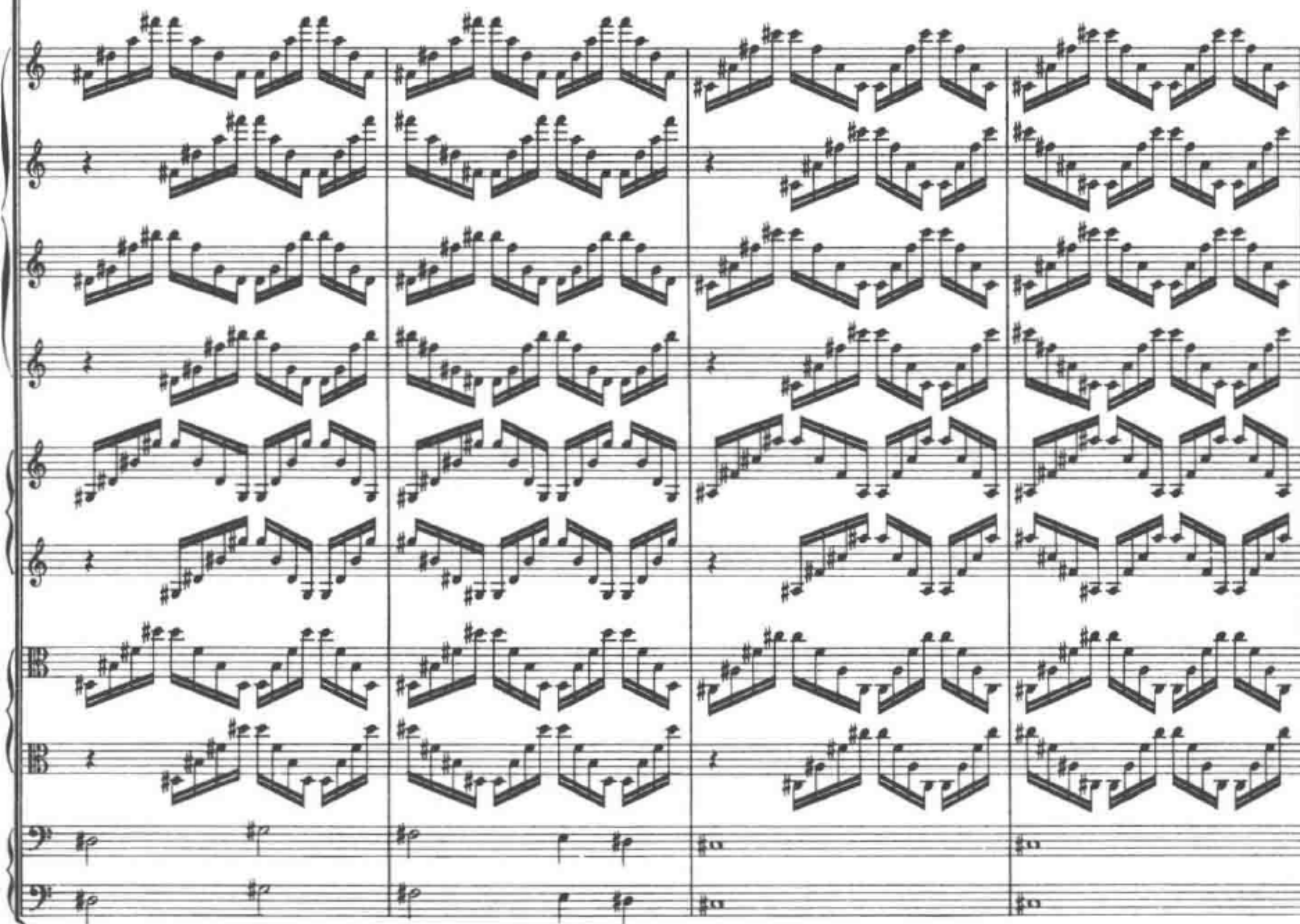


System 2 of a musical score, featuring 11 staves. The first five staves are treble clef, and the last six are bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first four measures show a complex melodic line in the bass clef staves, with notes G#2, A#2, B#2, and C#3. The first two staves are mostly empty, with some notes in the first measure. The last two staves show a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

This musical score page, numbered 8, features a piano accompaniment and a string ensemble. The piano part is written for four staves (two treble and two bass clefs) and includes a double bass line at the bottom. The string ensemble consists of four staves (two violins and two violas). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into four measures. The piano part features a complex, rhythmic melody in the right hand, characterized by frequent sixteenth and thirty-second notes, often beamed together. The left hand provides a steady, rhythmic accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes. The string ensemble part is written for four staves, with the violins and violas playing a similar rhythmic pattern to the piano's right hand, creating a dense, textured sound. The notation includes various musical symbols such as clefs, key signatures, time signatures, and note values, all rendered in a clear, professional style.



Musical score system 1, featuring ten staves. The first five staves are treble clef, and the last five are bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first two staves are empty. The third and fourth staves contain whole notes with a slur. The fifth staff contains a whole note with a slur. The sixth and seventh staves are empty. The eighth and ninth staves contain whole notes with a slur. The tenth staff contains a whole note with a slur.



Musical score system 2, featuring ten staves. The first five staves are treble clef, and the last five are bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first two staves contain eighth notes with a slur. The third and fourth staves contain eighth notes with a slur. The fifth staff contains eighth notes with a slur. The sixth and seventh staves contain eighth notes with a slur. The eighth and ninth staves contain eighth notes with a slur. The tenth staff contains eighth notes with a slur.

cresc. e string. un poco

B

Fl. *p*

Ob. *p*

Clar. *p*

Fag. *p*

Cor. *p*

Tr. *p*

Tromb. *p*

Tuba *p*

Viol. I. *p*

Viol. II *p*

Viola *p*

arco *p*

B *p*

cresc. e string. un poco

a tempo

Piatti con bacchette di Timpani.

p — *ppp* *quasi niente*

pp Viol. I

pp Viol. II

pp Viola

pp

a tempo

mp Cor.

mp Piatti

mp

senza sord

