Hard Boiled Capitalism and the Day Mr. Friedman Realized Google is a Verb is the title for my most recent commission
- a vibraphone solo for the esteemed young multiple percussionist, Michael Truesdell (www.miketruesdell.com).
This work will be premiered during Mr. Truesdell's solo recital at the Nancy Zeltsman Festival in the summer of 2009
and takes its title from a quirky observation I noticed in the summer of 2006.

At the time I had been reading Milton Friedman's book, Capitalism and Freedom, when I also finished Thomas Friedman's new masterpiece, The World is Flat.
In Thomas Friedman's book he observes that www.google.com has empowered the world with so much information and leveled the playing field of intellectual property
so much that he considered the launch date of www.google.com one of the ten most significant days in the world in the last 20 years.
Milton Friedman, on the other hand, was considered to be a grandfather of the "neo-con" movement with his ideas on capitalism - both new and old
- and I am tickled to think of him reading Thomas Friedman's book. I wonder what he thought would happen to capitalism
when the playing field of intellectual property had been so leveled by what we now call "googling". Surely this old economist would have bristled to have a hallowed number quickly stolen
and relegated to a flippant verb. Hard Boiled Capitalism…, while timely, given our country's state of financial affairs, was actually conceived before the popular notion of our country's current recession.

I aim to reflect the fervor so many Americans felt at the height of indulgence and the clean newness that a purging of outdated ideas has to offer the next generation of Americans.
I chose the medium of vibraphone, partly at Mr. Truesdell's request, but also because I feel that the simplicity of graduated metal bars is so often overlooked,
much like the fundamental concept of living within one's means - a lesson long overdue for much of America.

HARD-BOILED CAPITALISM
AND THE DAY MR. FRIEDMAN NOTICED
GOOGLE IS A VERB

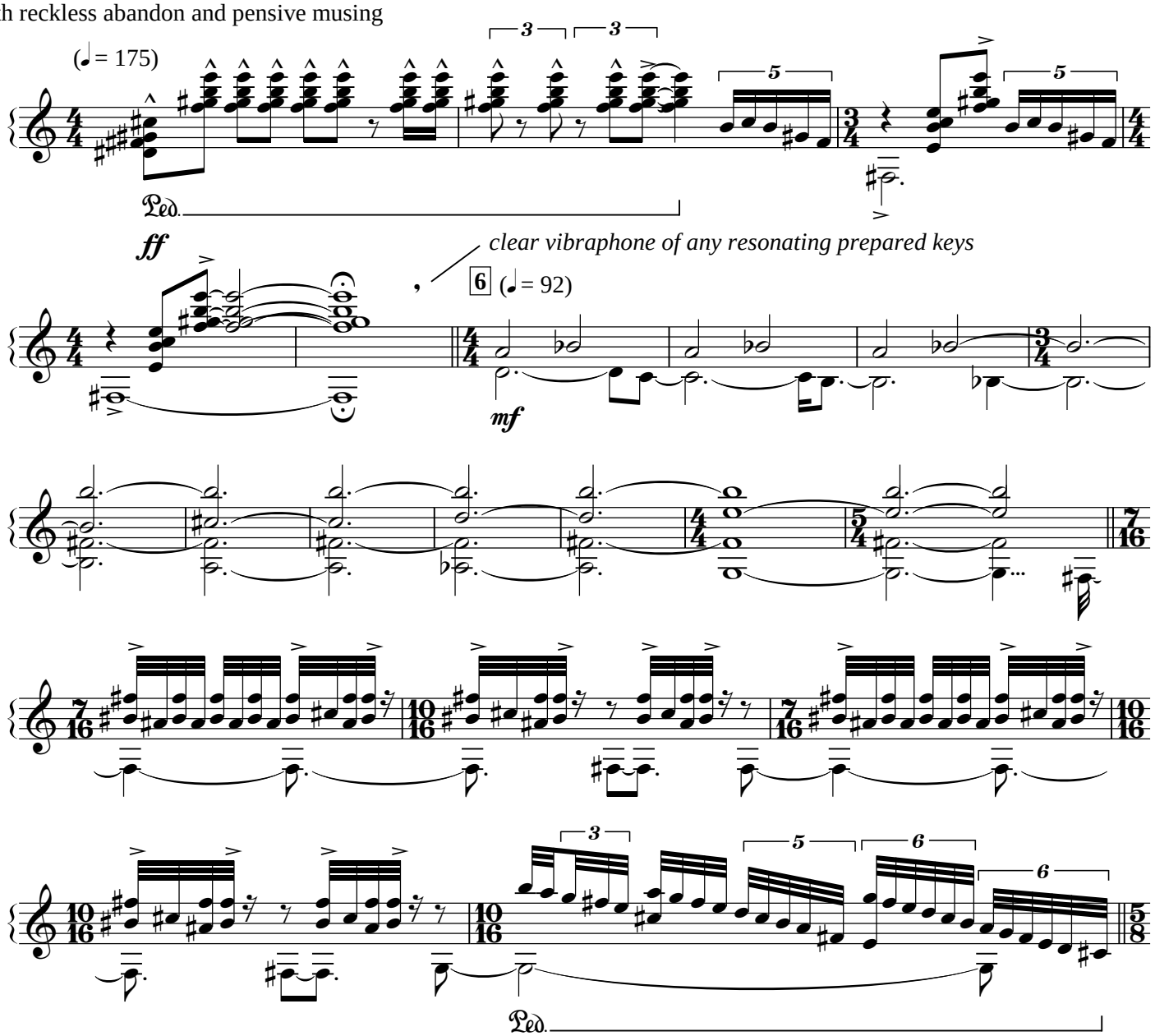
low F#, high D, Eb, E, and F keys placed above pegs,so as to leave dampener disfunctional for said notes

for solo vibraphone

Ben Wahlund
Fall, 2008

fan at lowest speed possible

with reckless abandon and pensive musing



22

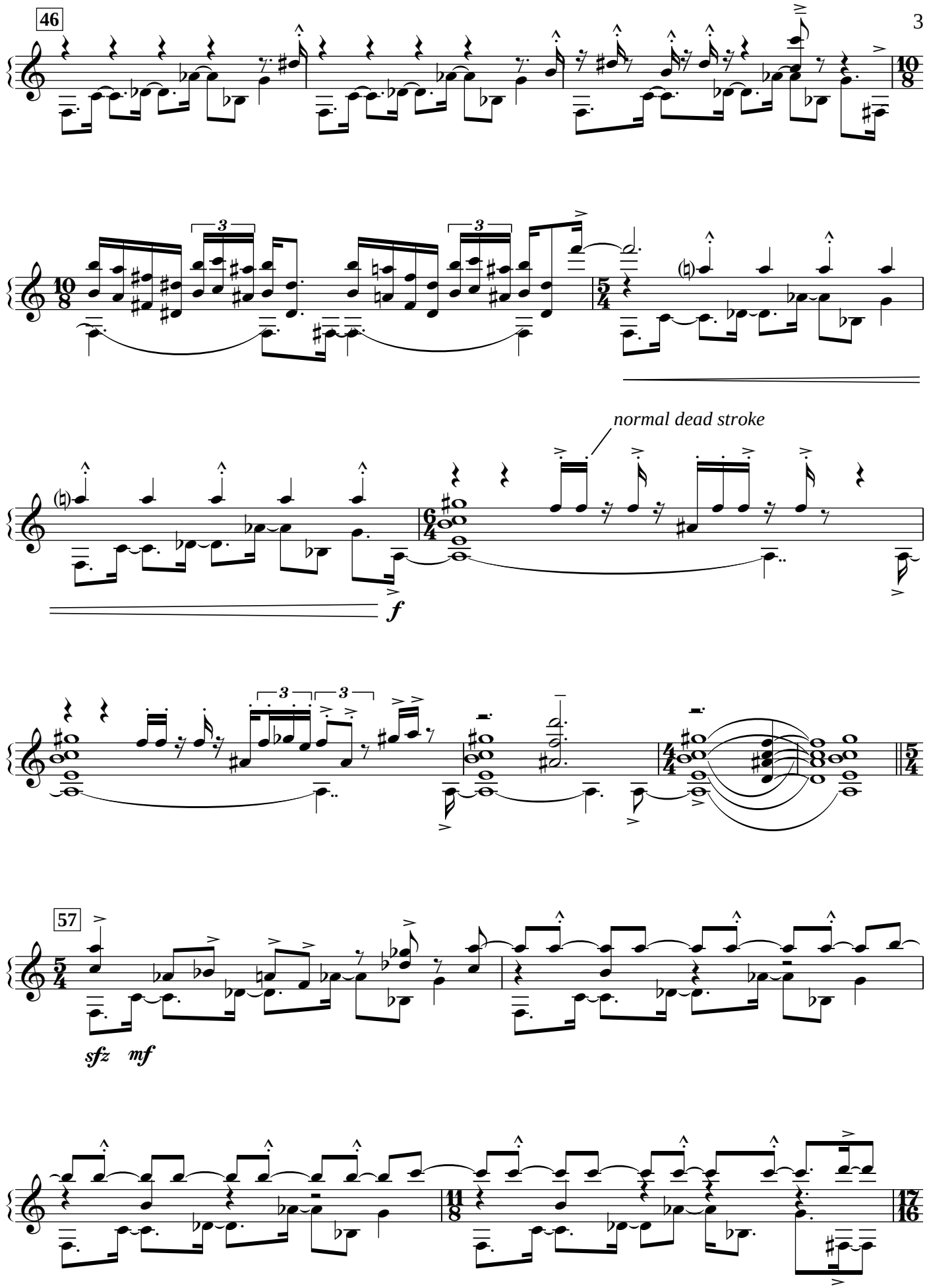
37 (♩ = 140)

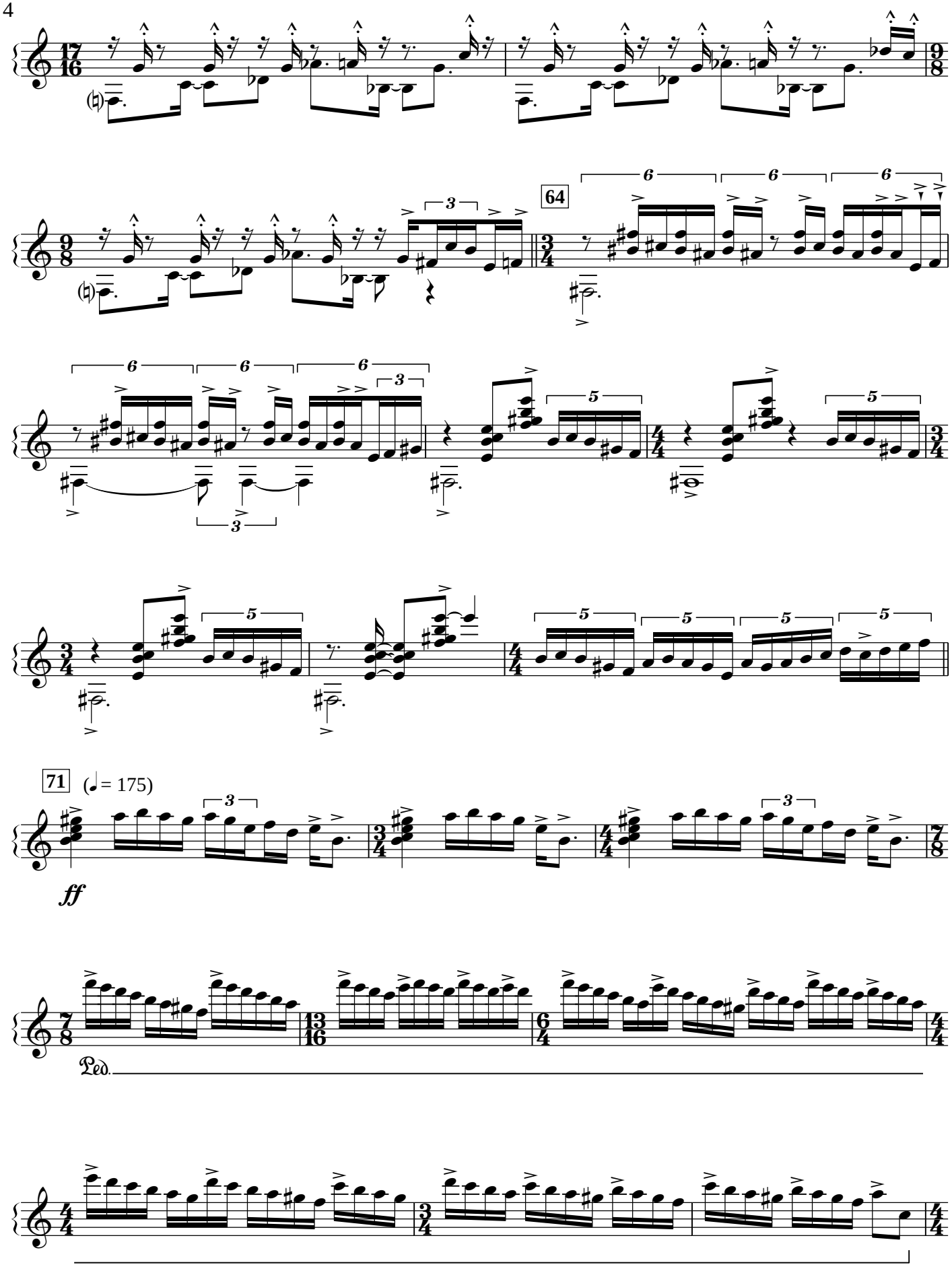
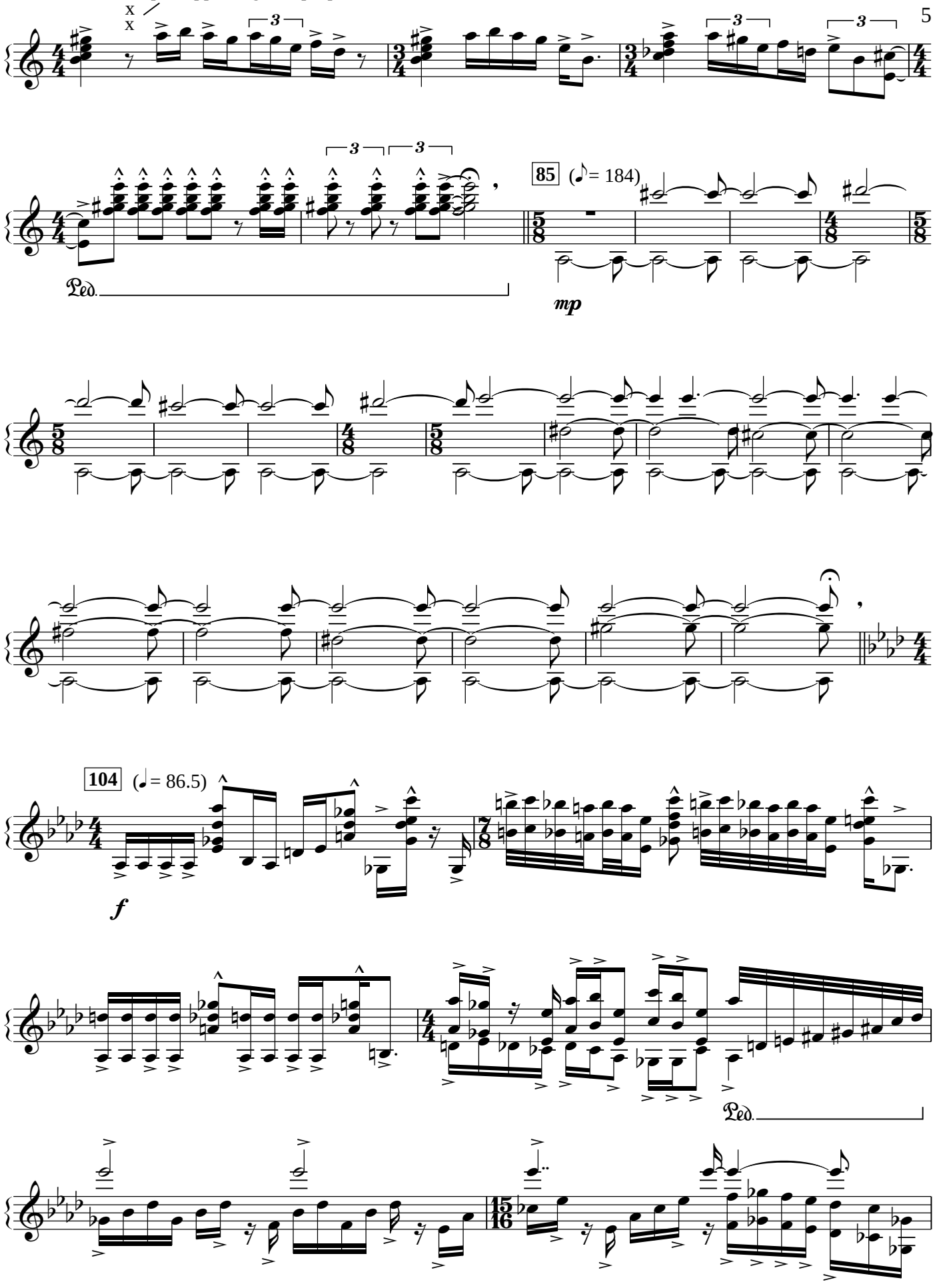
very aggressive (and accented) dead stroke
causing a slight pitch bend if possible

p

mf *pp* *mf*

mf


46
normal dead stroke
f
57
sfz
mf


64
71
(♩= 175)
ff
Ped.

mallet dampen upper register prepared notes