Contrabass

Causeway

For Youth Orchestra, Children's Chorus and Folk Ensemble

Aileen Sweeney
Lyrics by Iona Lee

(2025)

Aileen Sweeney

Instrumentation

Causeway is scored for youth orchestra, children's chorus and folk ensemble, including these instruments:

Flutes
Oboes
Clarinets in Bb
Bassoons 1,2
Contra Bassoon

Horn in F 1,2
Trumpet in Bb 1,2,3
Tenor Trombone 1,2
Bass Trombone
Tuba

Timpani: C2, D2, E2, G2, A2, Bb2, C3

Percussion 1: Bass drum, wind chimes, cabasa, cowbell
Percussion 2: Suspended cymbal
Percussion 3: Tubular bells, tambourine
Percussion 4: Concert toms (x4), cowbell
Percussion 5: Shaker
Percussion 6: Drum kit (kick drum, hi-hat, snare, high tom, mid tom, low tom, floor tom, ride cymbal, 2x crash cymbals - mallets and brushes required.

Simple percussion parts are welcome to be doubled on similar instruments to allow for more performers
Groove percussion parts such as the drum kit can be embellished by the performer using the template given

Children's Chorus: (C4-D5) - to be split into Chorus 1 and Chorus 2 between Letter L and N. The stave for 'claps' also applies to the children's chorus.

Harp

Solo Low Whistle/Wooden Flute
Folk Ensemble (mixed instrumentation) - *suggested bowing/ornamentation have been added for fiddles which can be embellished. Ornaments can be added as to what best suits the instrument and player.*

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Cello
Double Bass

Ornaments can be removed from orchestral parts if required to simplify the part

Performance directions:

It is written to be suitable for instrumentalists that are of a grade 5+ standard and for young, primary school aged children to sing. A range of other instrumental parts suitable for beginner and intermediate players are available upon request.

Winds/brass: Cross head notation - unpitched air sound.
Strings: Natural harmonics - written at sounding pitch.
General: Play glissandi for the full duration of the given note so that microtonal differences can be heard.
Sound engineer: amplification should be used on certain parts of the ensemble is possible such as the solo low whistle/ wooden flute, folk group and drum kit.

Duration

c. 6’

Co-commissioned by the BBC, ABRSM, Music for Youth and the Royal Albert Hall as part of BBC 10 Pieces.

Causeway by Iona Lee

The endless sky, a ragged sail,
billowed o'er the sea.
Wind teased her waters green and blue
and it set the spindrift free.

Two islands loomed like castles carved
by nature's crafty hand,
and on each island lived a man
the other could not stand.

So long had passed since they first fought
that they'd forgotten why,
but habit is a well-trod path
and hate hard to deny.

CHORUS

We could brawl, we could fight, tooth and nail together.
We could clash, you I'd smite, let's travail together.
We could duel through the night, warring Gaels together.

Mighty I'd be,
if we faced as fate contends.

The giants yelled across the strait,
one jeered and shook his fist,
the other plucked a heavy stone
and threw it into the mist.

He hurled more stones into the sea
from along the hillside ridge.
In time, with all the rocks
and insults they'd thrown,
without having known,
they'd built themselves a bridge.

DANCE BREAK

A bridge exists for those who wish
to seek a better place.
The giants stormed across the sea
till they met face to face.

How similar the saw they were
reflected in a smile.
A breeze blew all the rage away
to help them reconcile.

CHORUS

We could roam, we could sail, and get by together.
We could dance, we could flail, you and I together.
We could sing, and wassail, let us try together.

Now I can see...
Maybe we could

We could roam, we could sail, and get by together.
We could dance, we could flail, you and I together.
We could sing, and wassail, let us try together.

Now I can see
We could be friends!

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Causeway

written for the BBC 10 Pieces series

Aileen Sweeney (b. 1994)
Lyrics by Iona Lee

Freely with rubato, moody with a sense of mystery

♩ = c. 68

optional divisi

p *pp*

5

p *pp* *p*

9

rit. **a tempo**

A **Verse 1**

mp

15

7

mp *mf* *mp*

B **Instrumental**

26

p

C **Verse 2: Dark and foreboding**

30

optional divisi

mp *mf*

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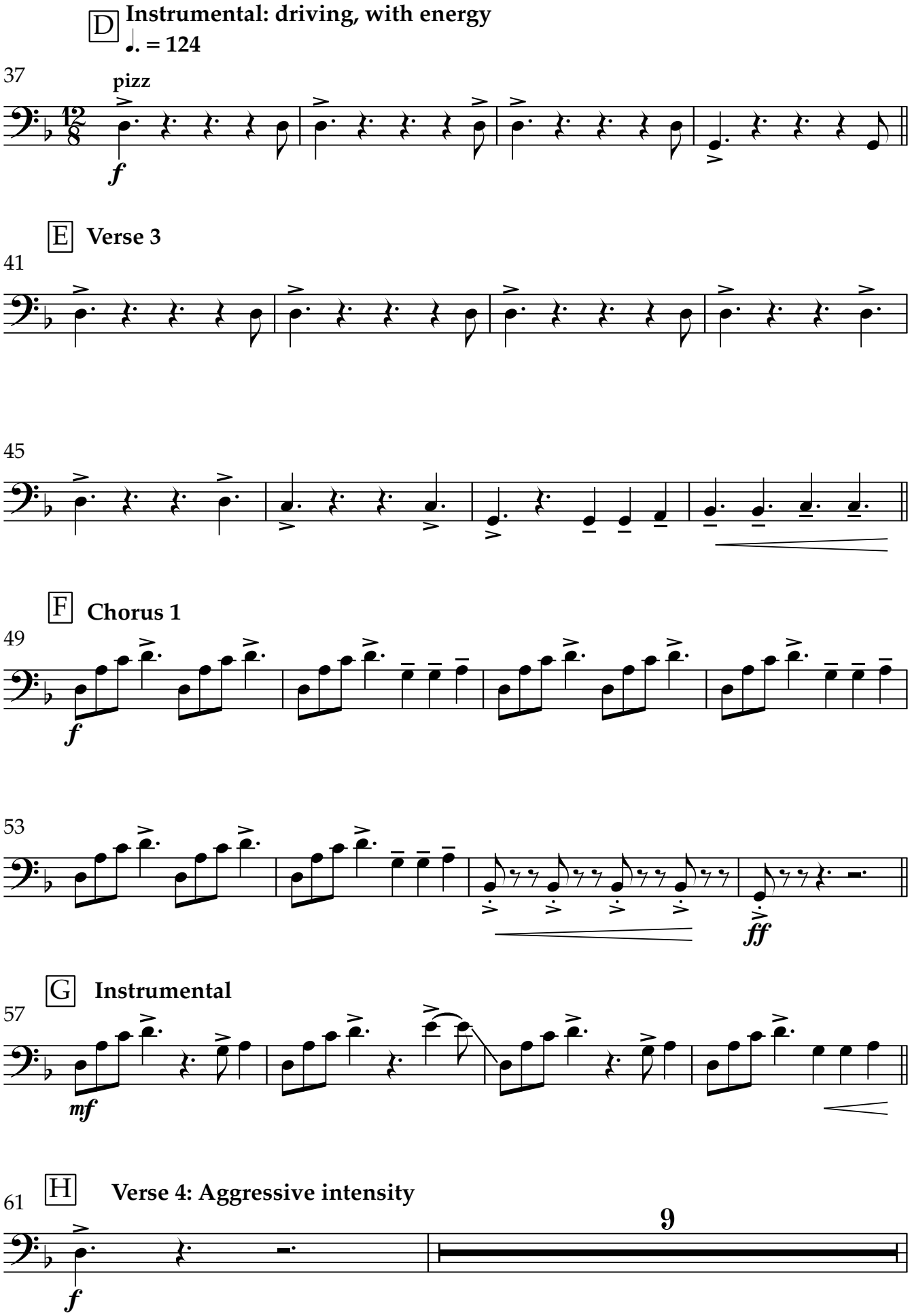
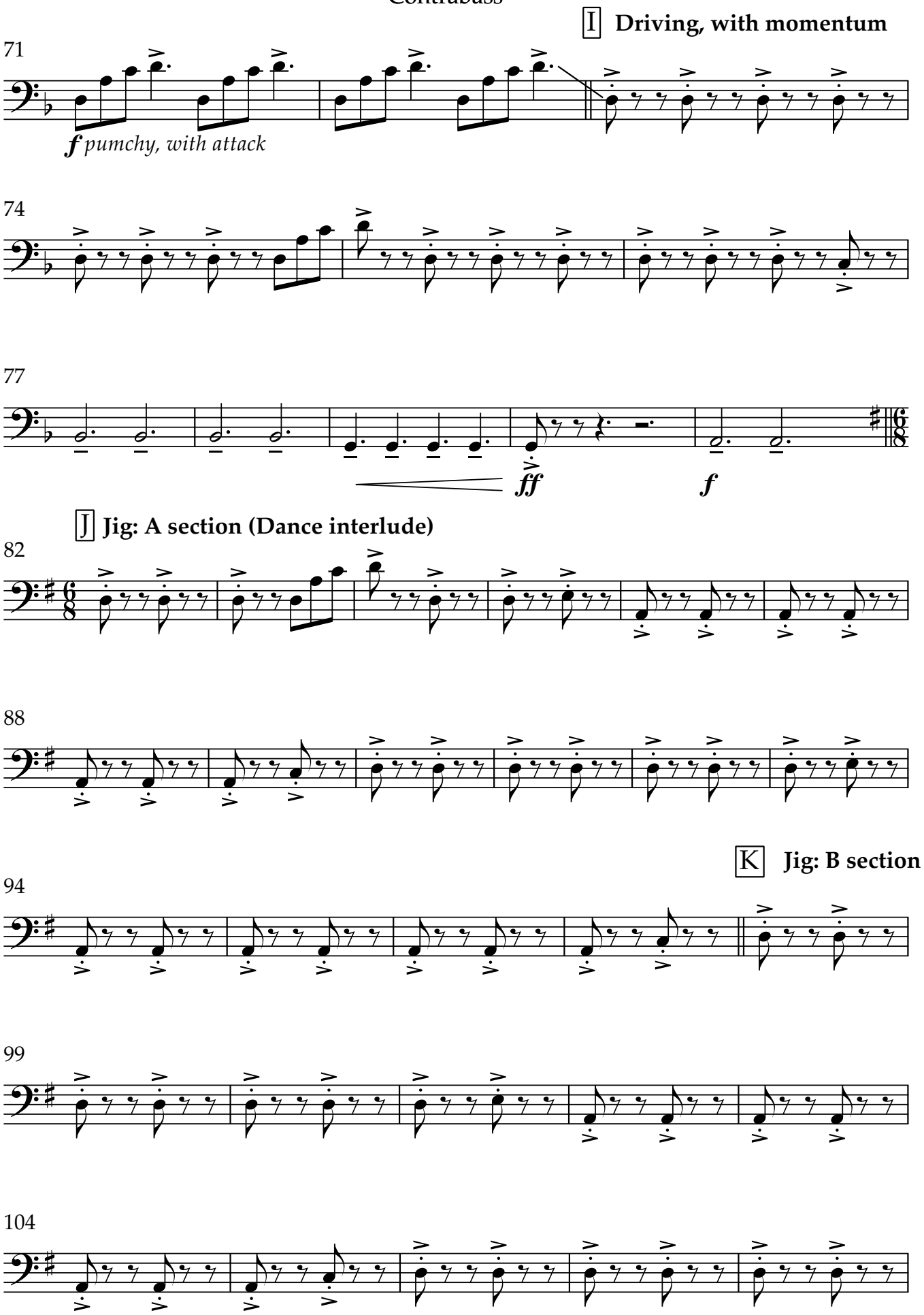
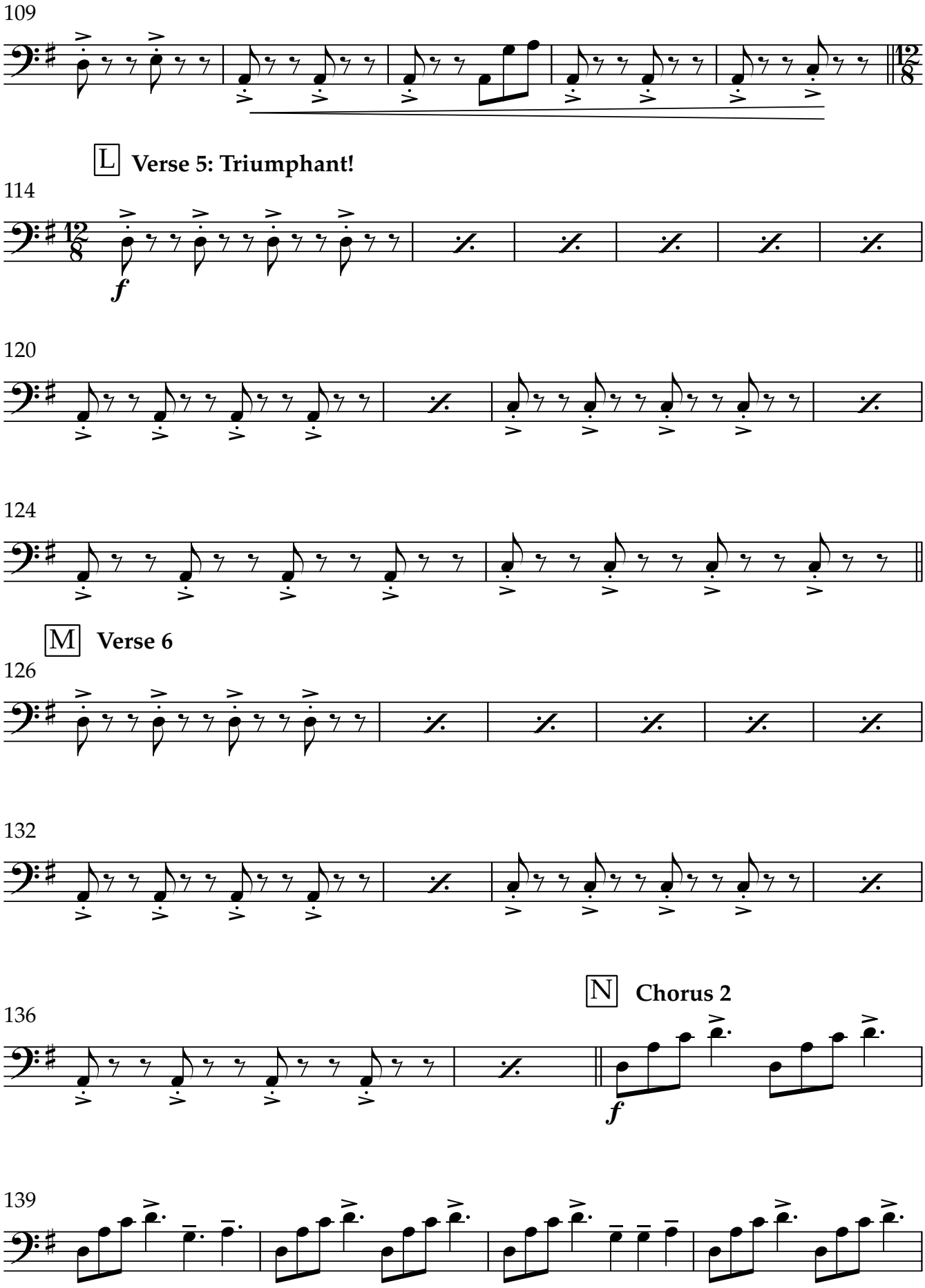
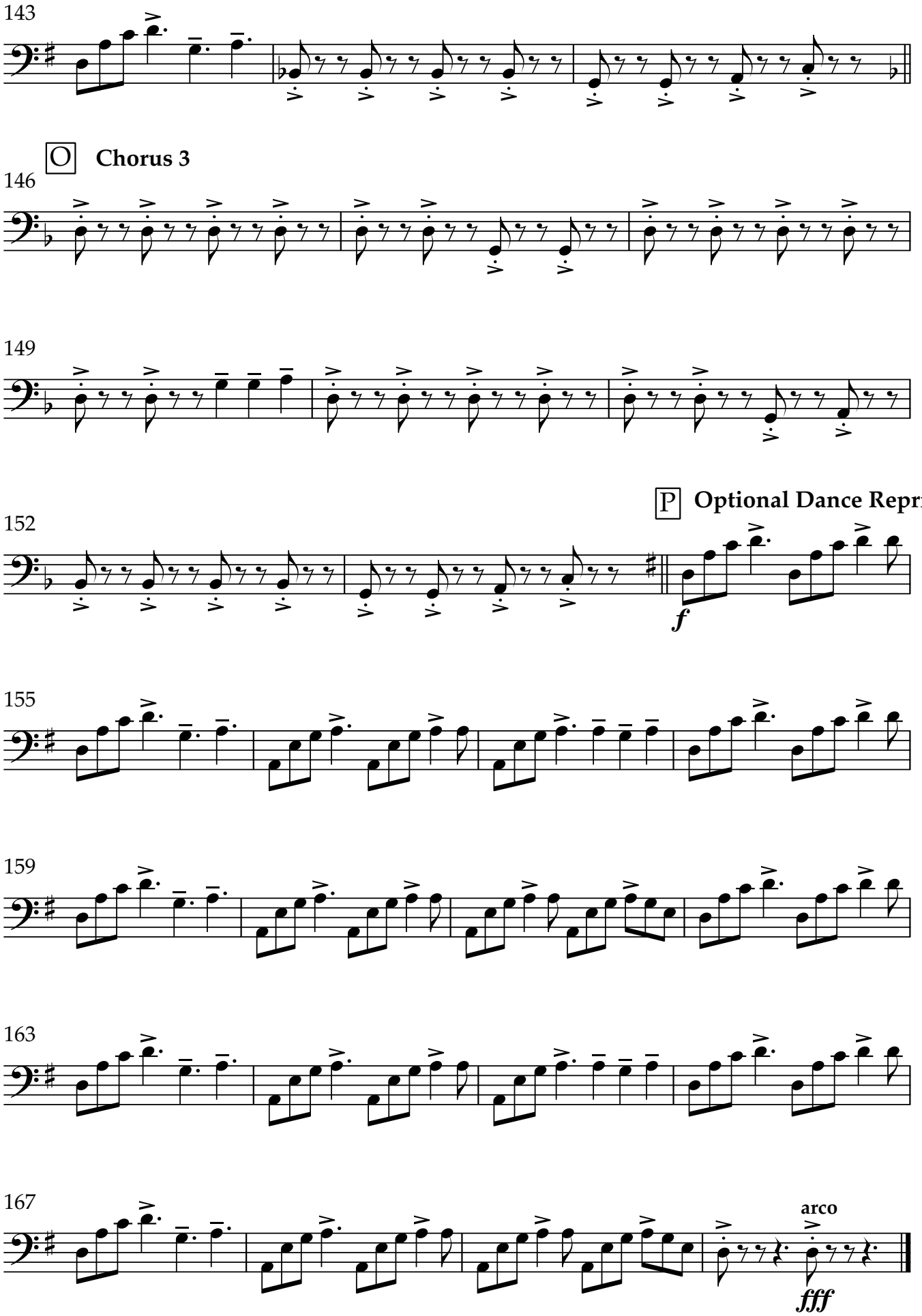

D
Instrumental: driving, with energy
♩. = 124
37
pizz
f
E
Verse 3
41
45
F
Chorus 1
49
f
53
ff
G
Instrumental
57
mf
H
Verse 4: Aggressive intensity
61
f
9


I Driving, with momentum
71
f pumchy, with attack
74
77
ff
f
J Jig: A section (Dance interlude)
82
88
K Jig: B section
94
99
104


109
L Verse 5: Triumphant!
114
f
120
124
M Verse 6
126
132
136
N Chorus 2
f
139


143
O
Chorus 3
146
149
P
Optional Dance Reprise
152
f
155
159
163
167
arco
fff