‘New Chaconnes for Old?’: Steve Reich’s Sketches for *Variations for Winds, Strings and Keyboards*, with some thoughts on their significance for the analysis of the composer’s harmonic language in the late 1970s

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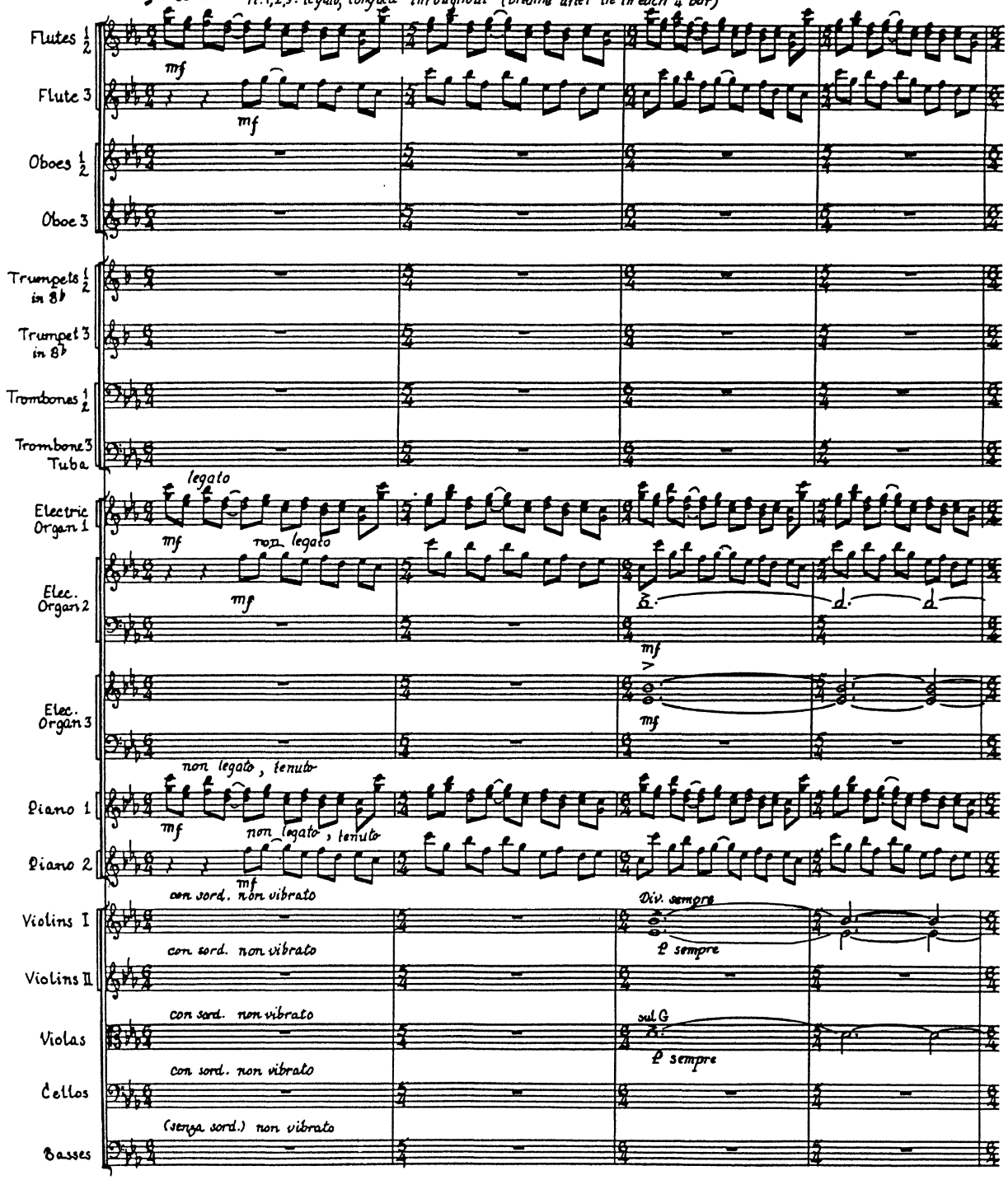
Figures

I

VARIATIONS FOR WINDS, STRINGS, AND KEYBOARDS

Steve Reich

♩ = ca. 132 *fl.1,2,3: legato, tongued throughout (breathe after tie in each 4 bar)*



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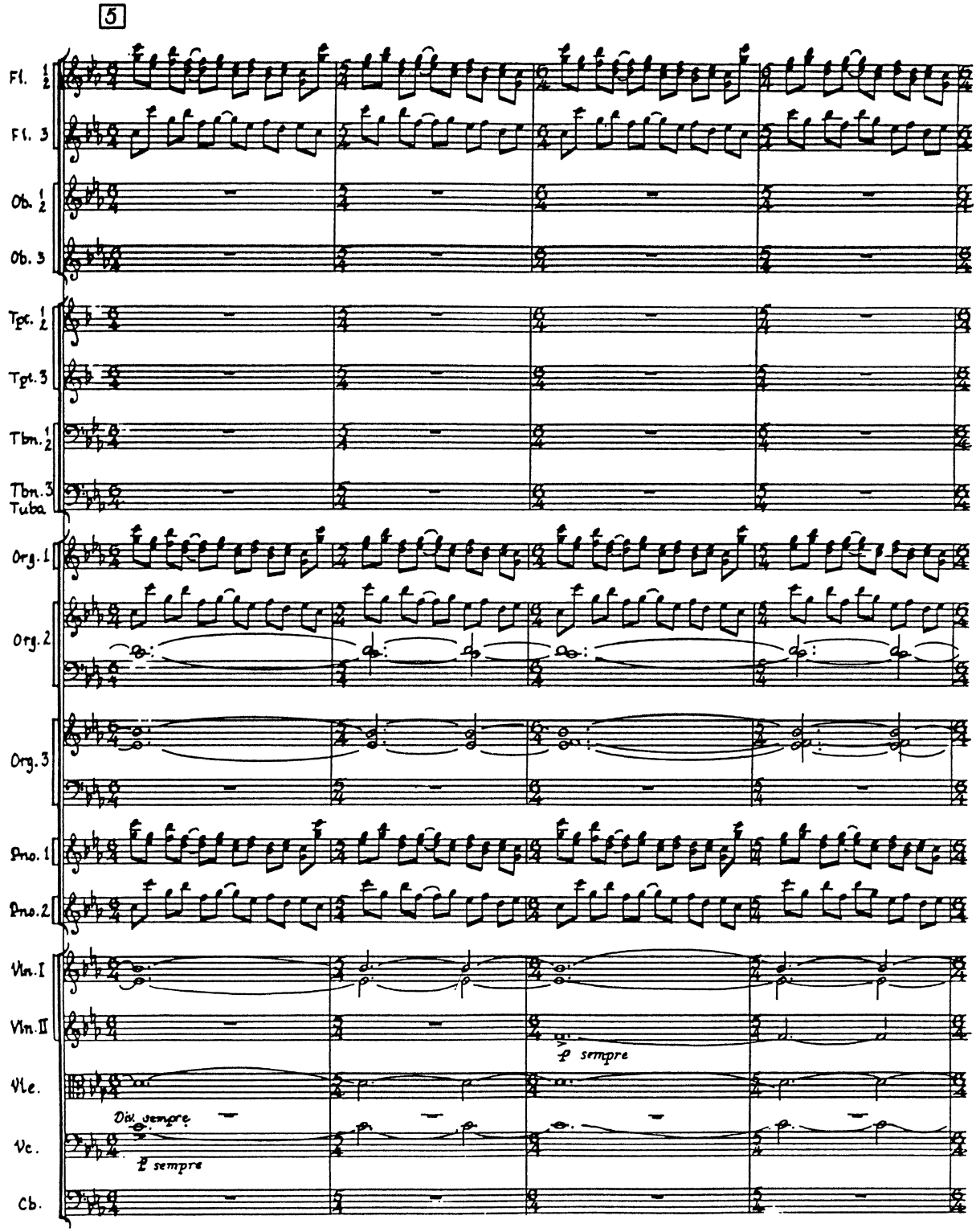

Figure 1: Steve Reich, *Variations for Winds, Strings and Keyboards*, bars 1-8

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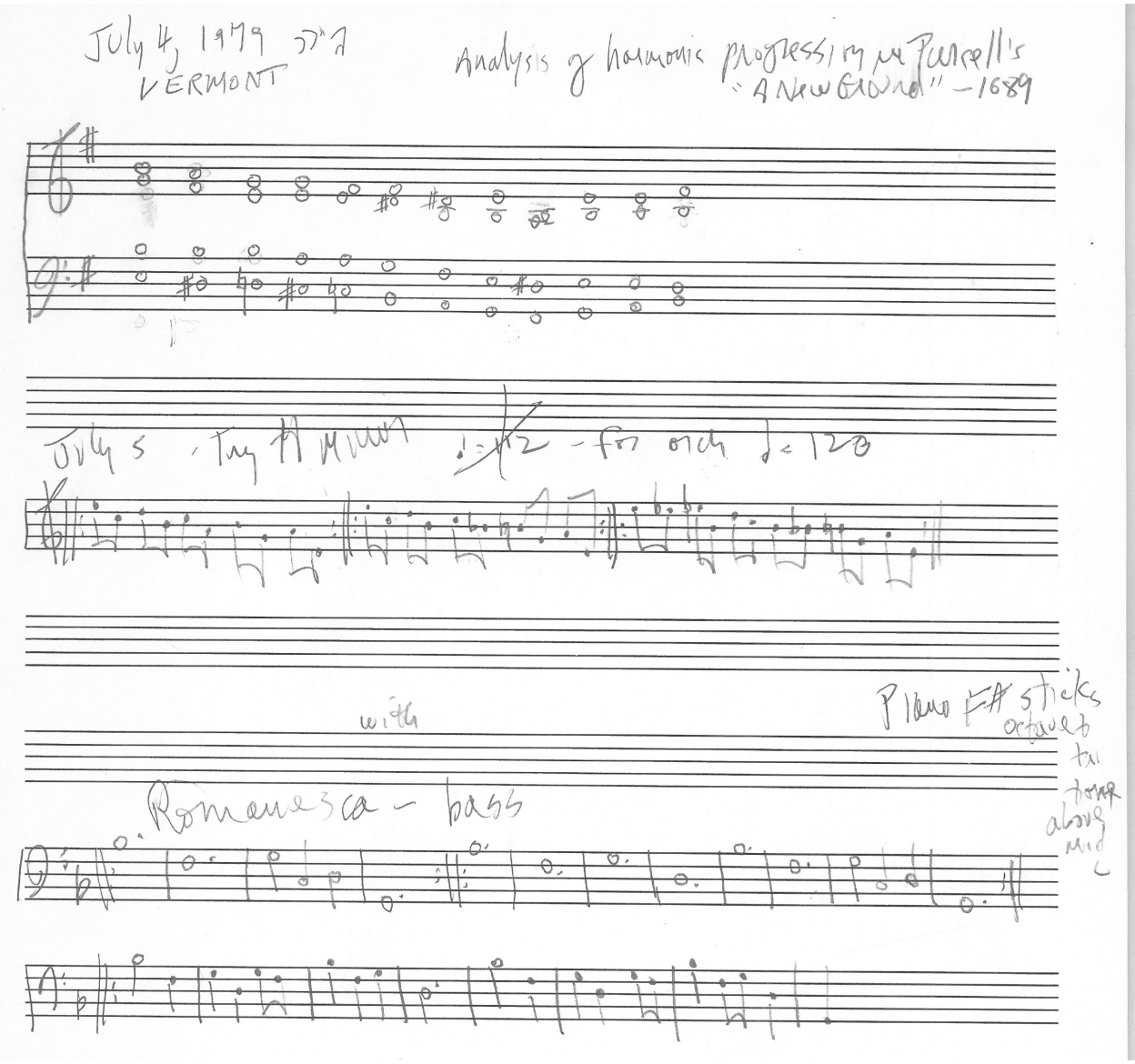


Figure 2: Steve Reich, sketches, 'July 4, 1979, VERMONT[:] Analysis of harmonic progression in Purcell's "A New Ground"–1689'; 'July 5 [including] 'Romanesca–bass' [Sketchbook 18]. Courtesy of the Steve Reich Collection, Paul Sacher Foundation, Basel.

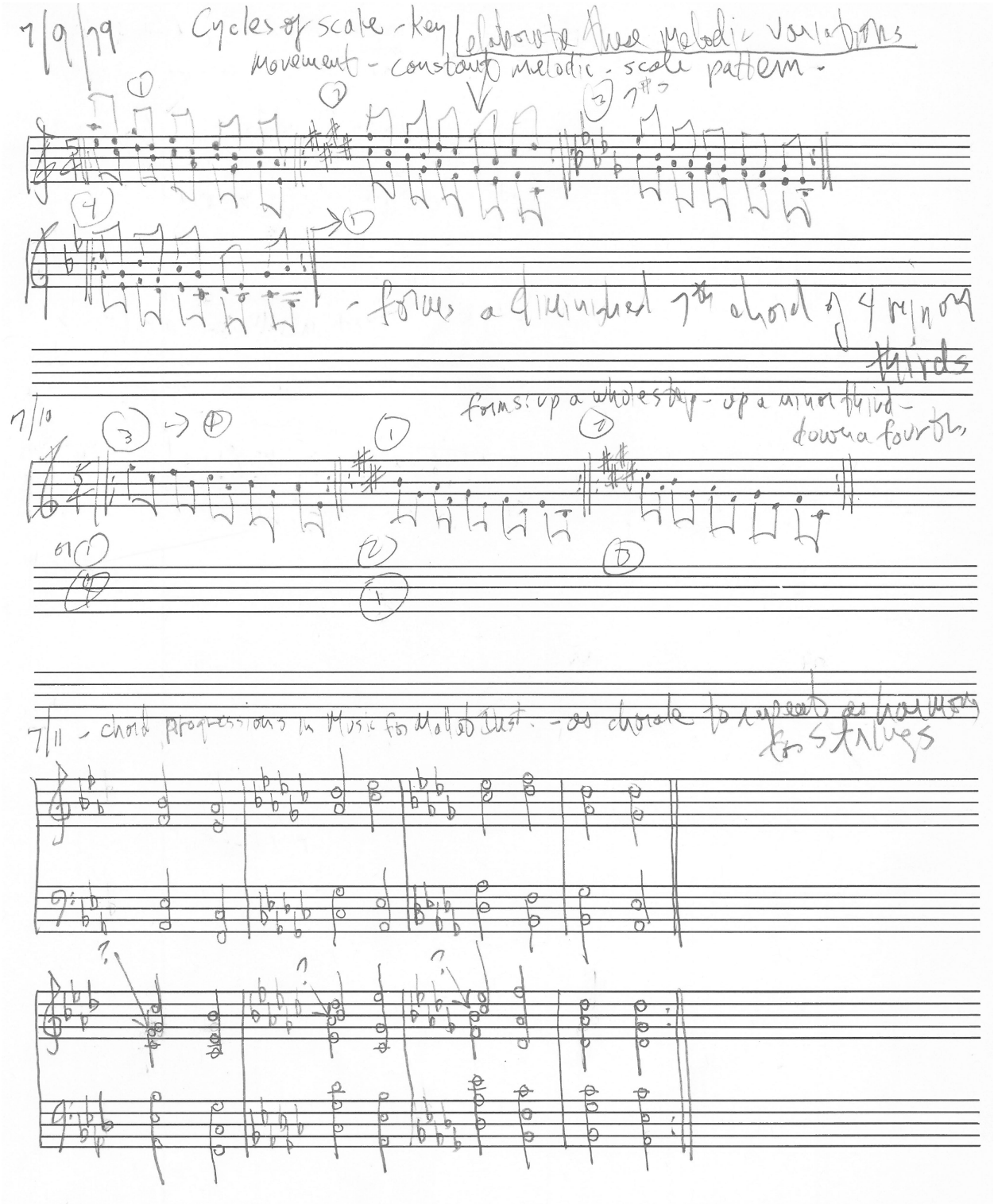


Figure 3: Steve Reich, sketches, '7/9/79 [= 9 July 1979:] Cycles of scale – key . . . constant melodic – scale pattern –'; '7/10 [= 10 July 1979]; and '7/11 [= 11 July 1979:] Chord progressions in Music for Mallet Inst. – as chorale to repeat as harmony for strings' [Sketchbook 18]. Courtesy of the Steve Reich Collection, Paul Sacher Foundation, Basel.

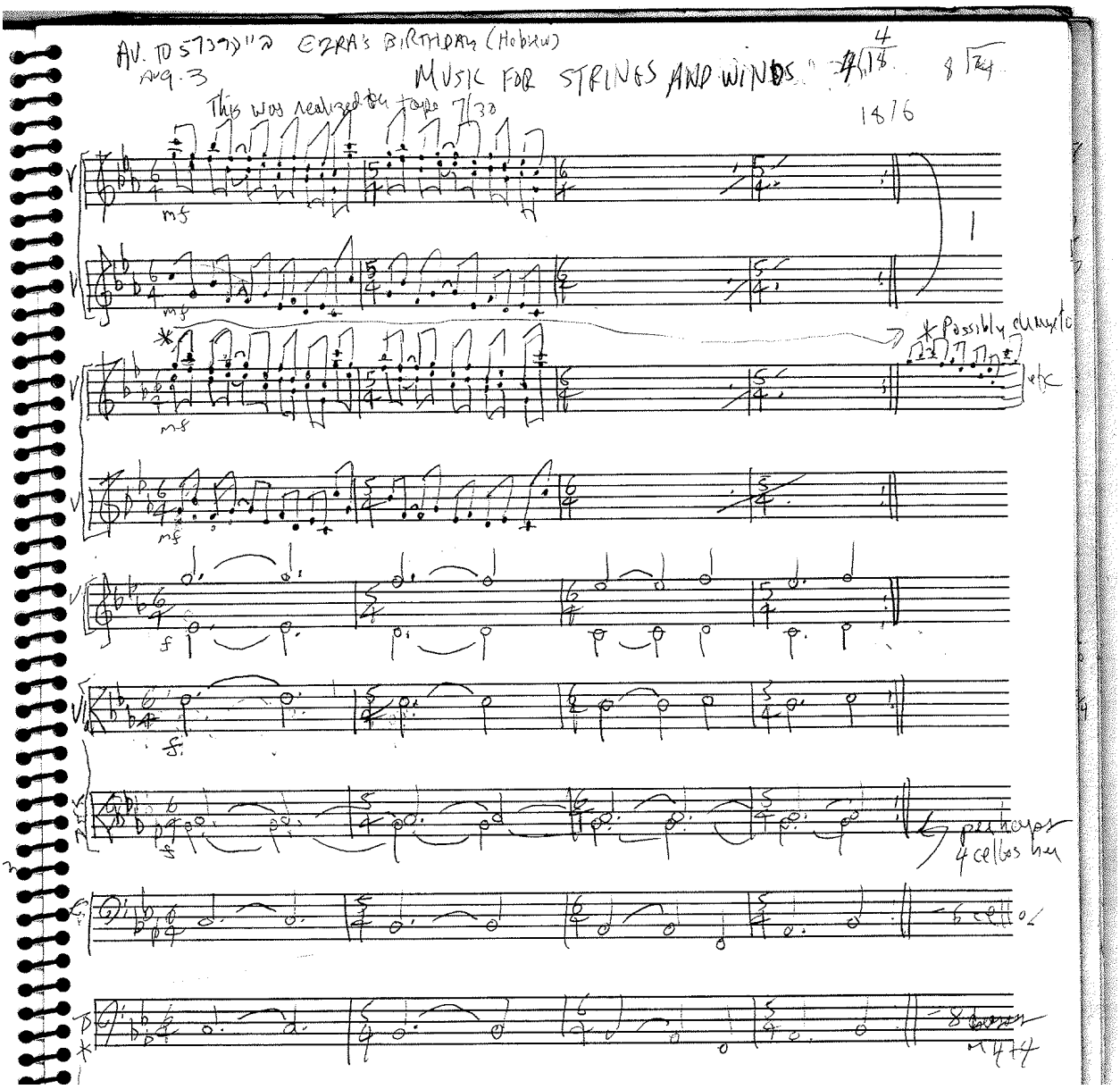


Figure 4: Steve Reich, sketch, 'Aug 3 [= 3 August 1979:] MUSIC FOR STRINGS AND WINDS' [Sketchbook 18, page numbered 14]. Courtesy of the Steve Reich Collection, Paul Sacher Foundation, Basel.

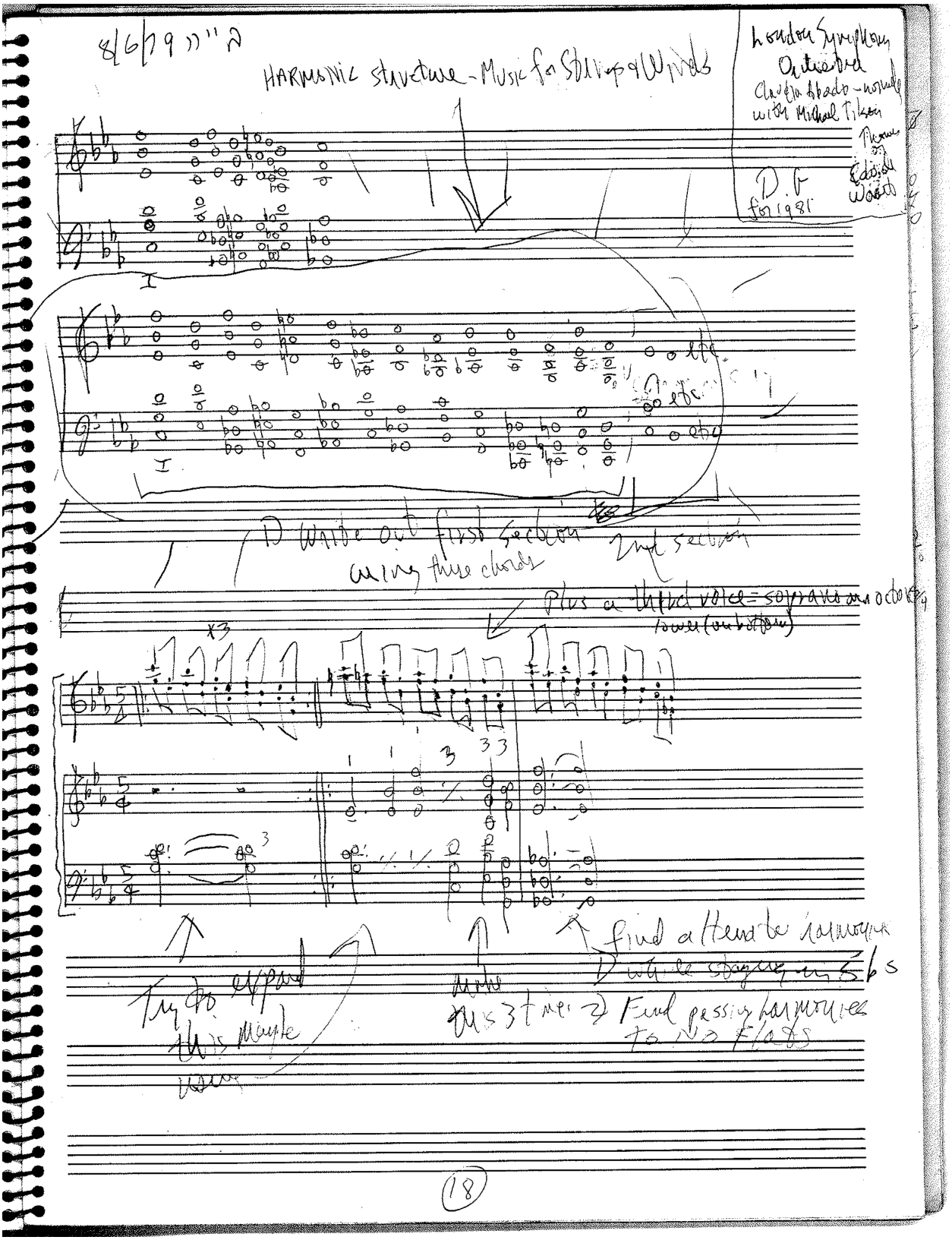
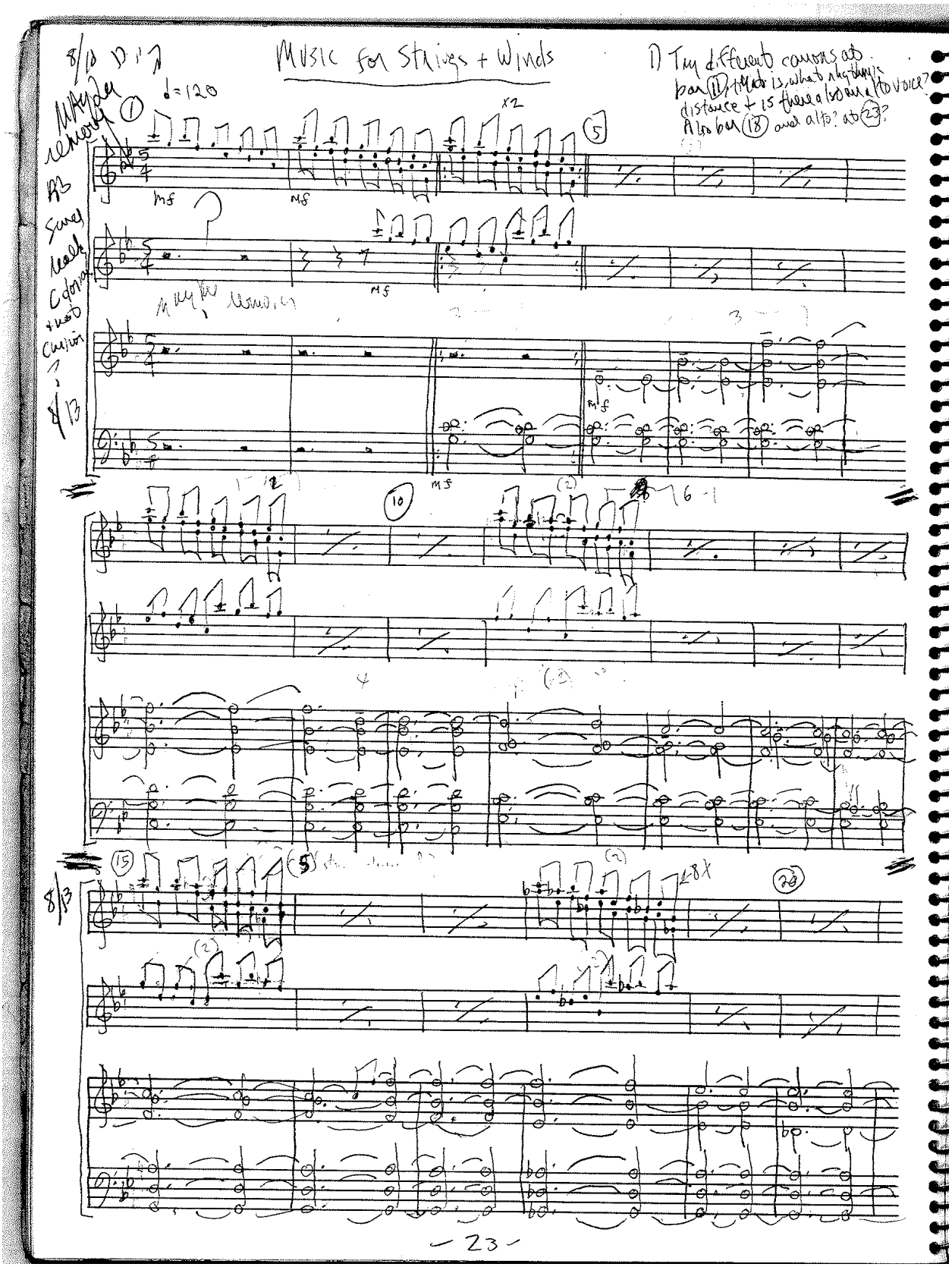


Figure 5: Steve Reich, sketch, '8/6/79 [= 6 August 1979:] Harmonic structure – Music for Strings and Winds' [Sketchbook 18, page numbered 18]. Courtesy of the Steve Reich Collection, Paul Sacher Foundation, Basel.



8/10 D.1

Music for Strings + Winds

1) Try different canons at bar (11), that is, what rhythm is distance + is there also an alto voice? Also bar (18) and alto? at (23)?

Maybe remove

AB sure reach C dorian + not Cmin ?

8/13

♩=120

x2

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

(2)

(2)

(2)

8/13

(2)

(2)

(2)

(2)

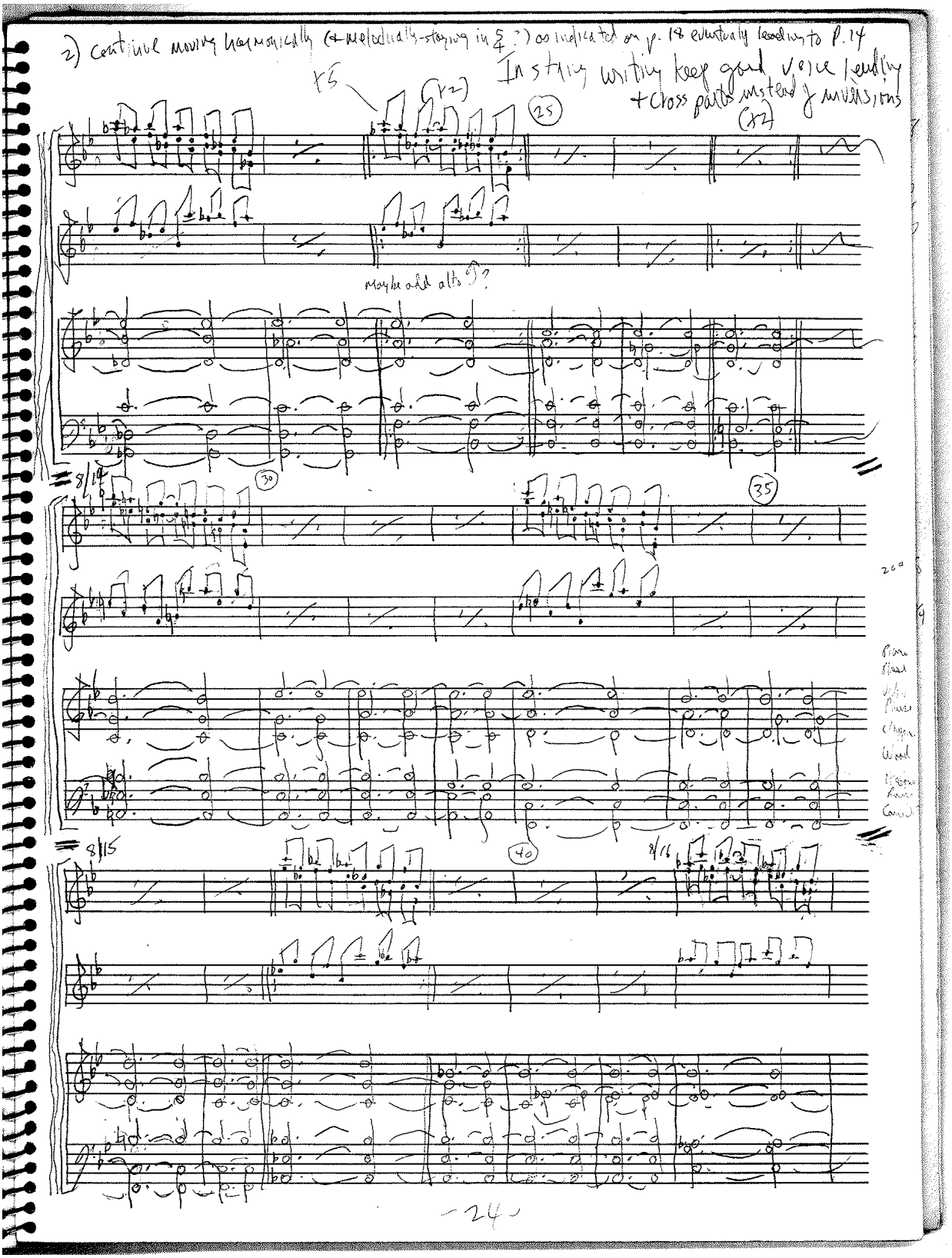
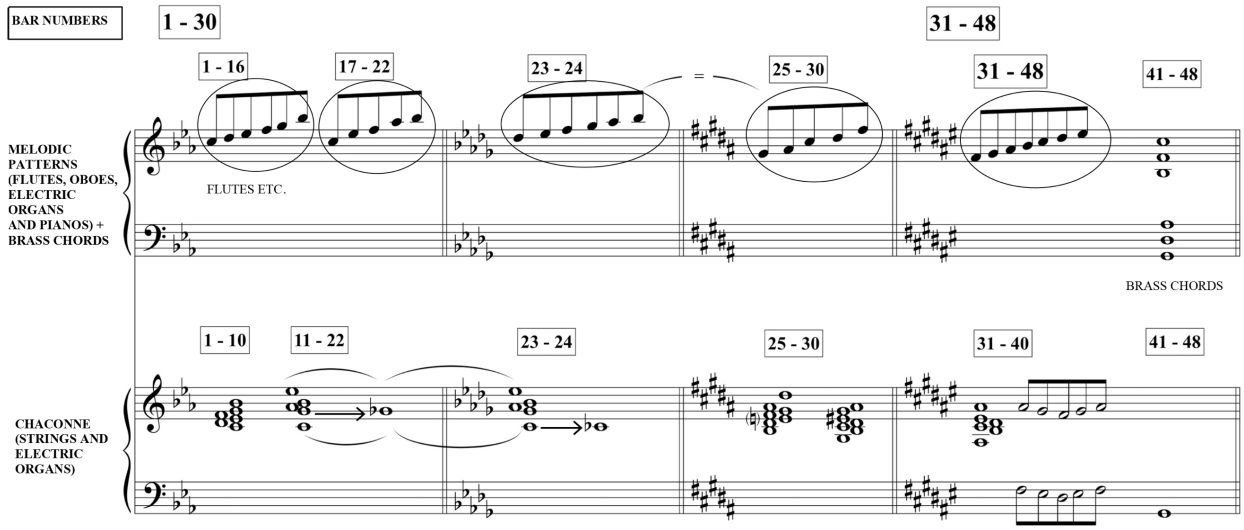
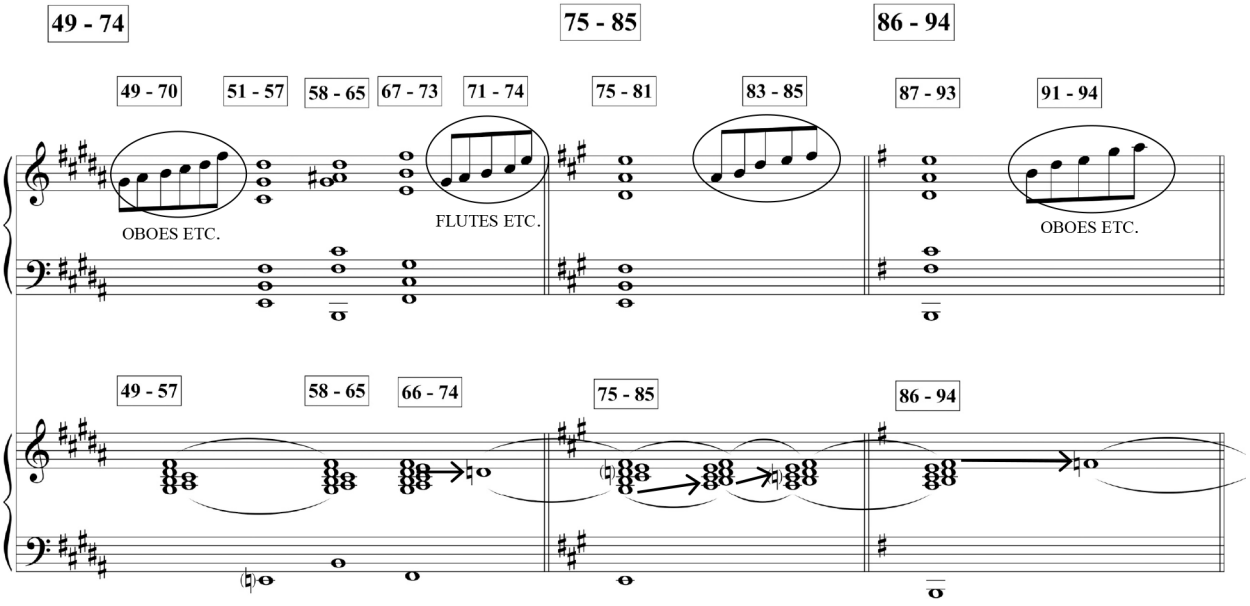


Figure 6: Steve Reich, sketches, '8/10', '8/13', '8/14' and '8/15' [= 10, 13, 14 and 15 August 1979:] 'Music for Strings + Winds' [Sketchbook 18, pages numbered 23 and 24]. Courtesy of the Steve Reich Collection, Paul Sacher Foundation, Basel


BAR NUMBERS
1 - 30
31 - 48
1 - 16
17 - 22
23 - 24
=
25 - 30
31 - 48
41 - 48
MELODIC PATTERNS (FLUTES, OBOES, ELECTRIC ORGANS AND PIANOS) + BRASS CHORDS
FLUTES ETC.
BRASS CHORDS
1 - 10
11 - 22
23 - 24
25 - 30
31 - 40
41 - 48
CHACONNE (STRINGS AND ELECTRIC ORGANS)


49 - 74
75 - 85
86 - 94
49 - 70
51 - 57
58 - 65
67 - 73
71 - 74
75 - 81
83 - 85
87 - 93
91 - 94
OBOES ETC.
FLUTES ETC.
OBOES ETC.
49 - 57
58 - 65
66 - 74
75 - 85
86 - 94

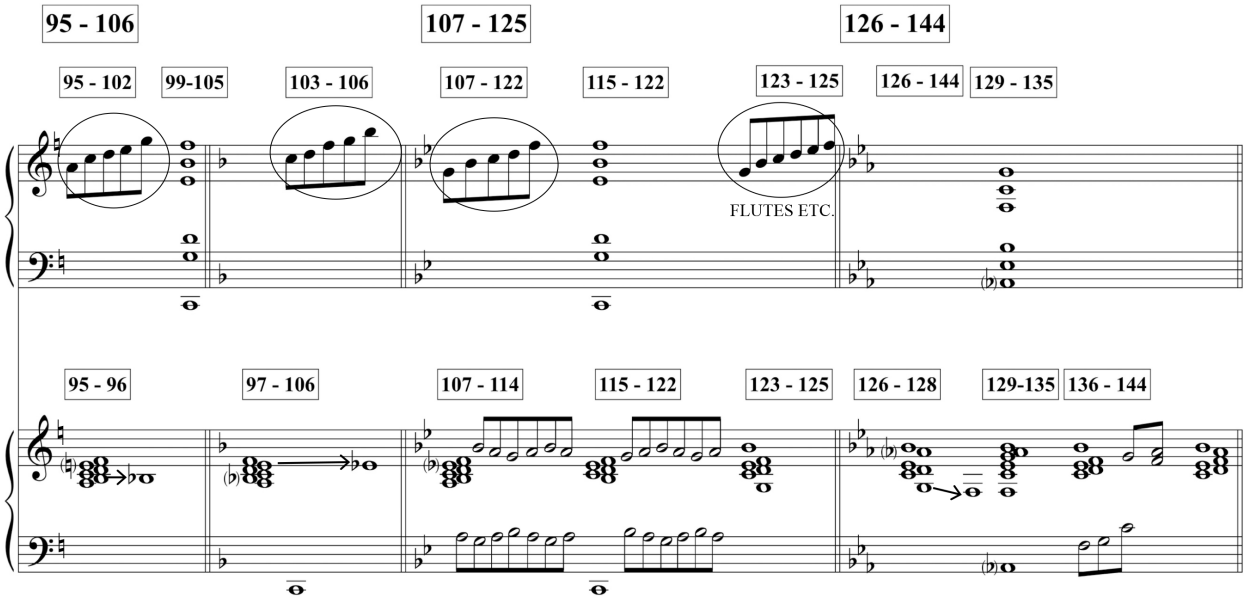


Figure 7: A Harmonic Analysis of Steve Reich's *Variations for Winds, Strings and Keyboards*, Section I (Bars 1-144)