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MTO 26.3 Examples: Chen, Compositional Process and Technique in *Happy Rain on a Spring Night* (2004)

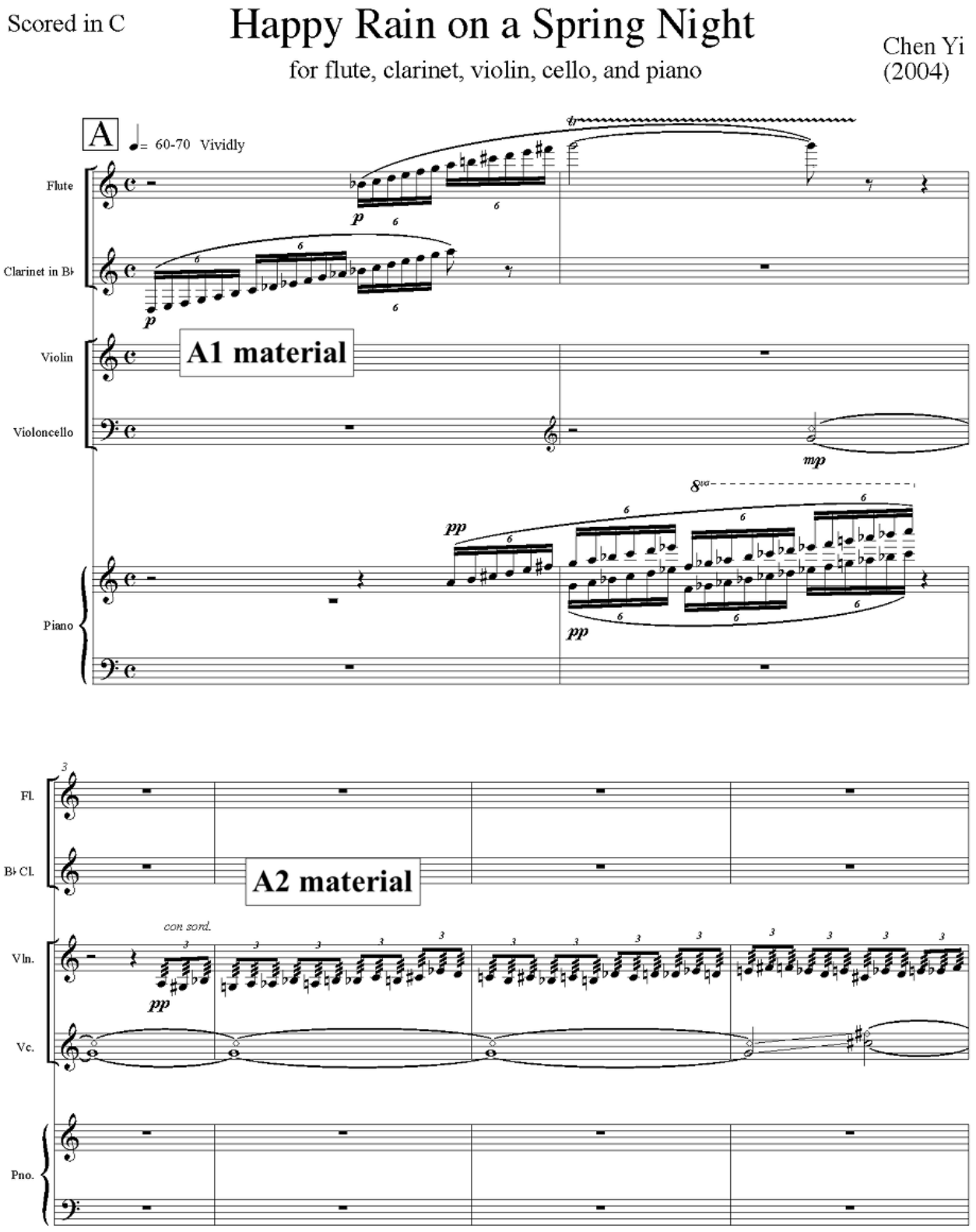
(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)
https://mtosmt.org/issues/mto.20.26.3/mto.20.26.3.chen.html

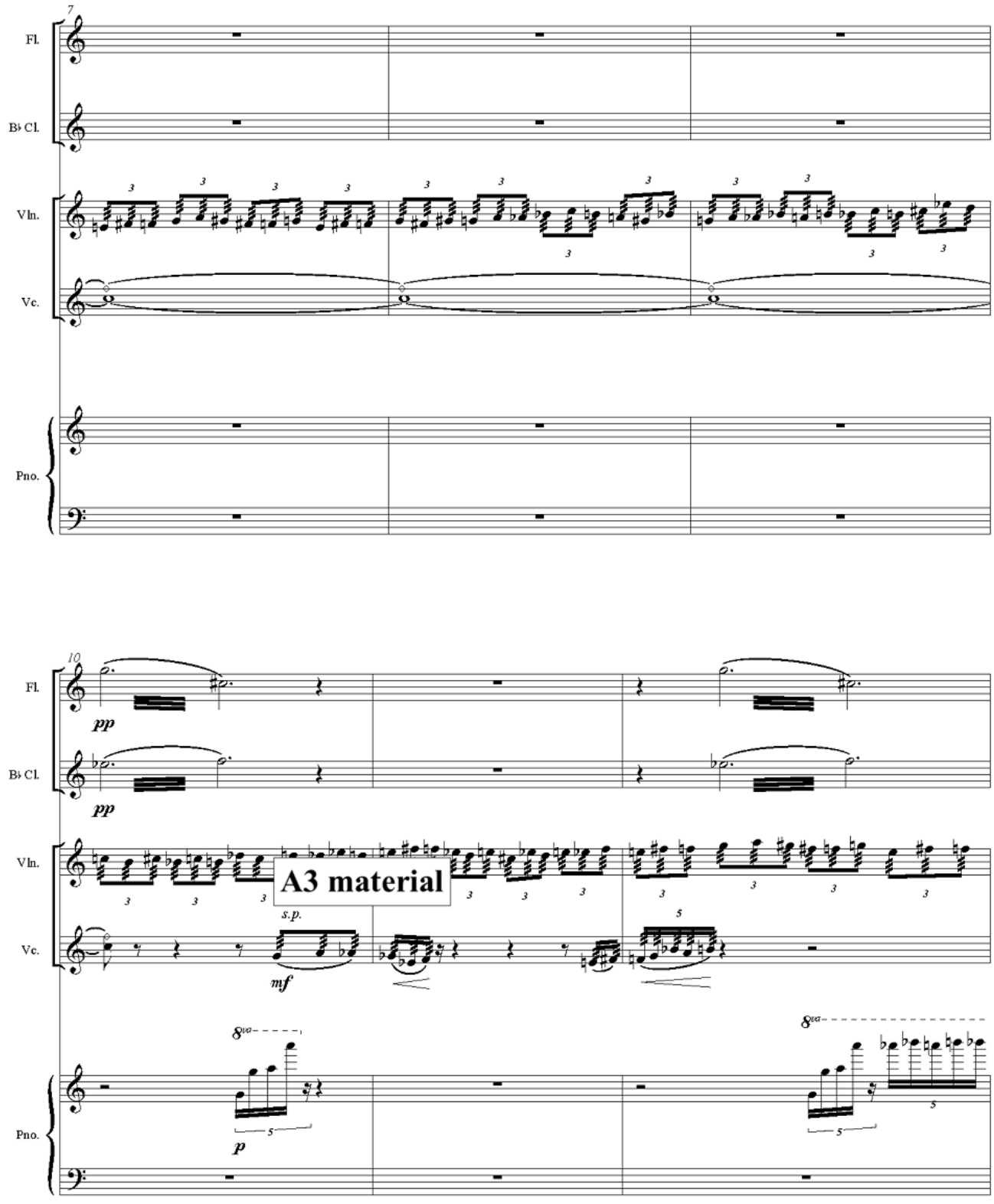
Example 1. Diagram of structure of *Happy Rain on a Spring Night* (2004) based on notes to the score

Part 1 (mm. 1–115, total 115 measures)
- Division I (mm. 1–69, total 69 measures), including two subdivisions
  - Subdivision I (mm. 1–41, total 41 measures)
    - Section A (mm. 1–25, total 25 measures): violin triplets + cello metallic sound in small intervals, followed by woodwinds.
    - Section B (mm. 26–41, total 16 measures): cello triplets + violin metallic sound in small intervals, overlapped by woodwinds.
  - Subdivision II (mm. 42–69, total 28 measures) = Section C: breathy key slaps on flute, in dark.
- Division II (mm. 70–115, total 46 measures)
  - Subdivision I (mm. 70–87, total 18 measures) = Section D, soft cello reciting, followed by string harmonics and woodwind "echo" passages.
  - Subdivision II (mm. 88–115, total 28 measures) = Section E: starts to build up the excitement, with piano toccata in the beginning. When it reaches the patterns on the top of the keyboard, the lowest passages on piano and cello punch in, and review the pitch material with small intervals.

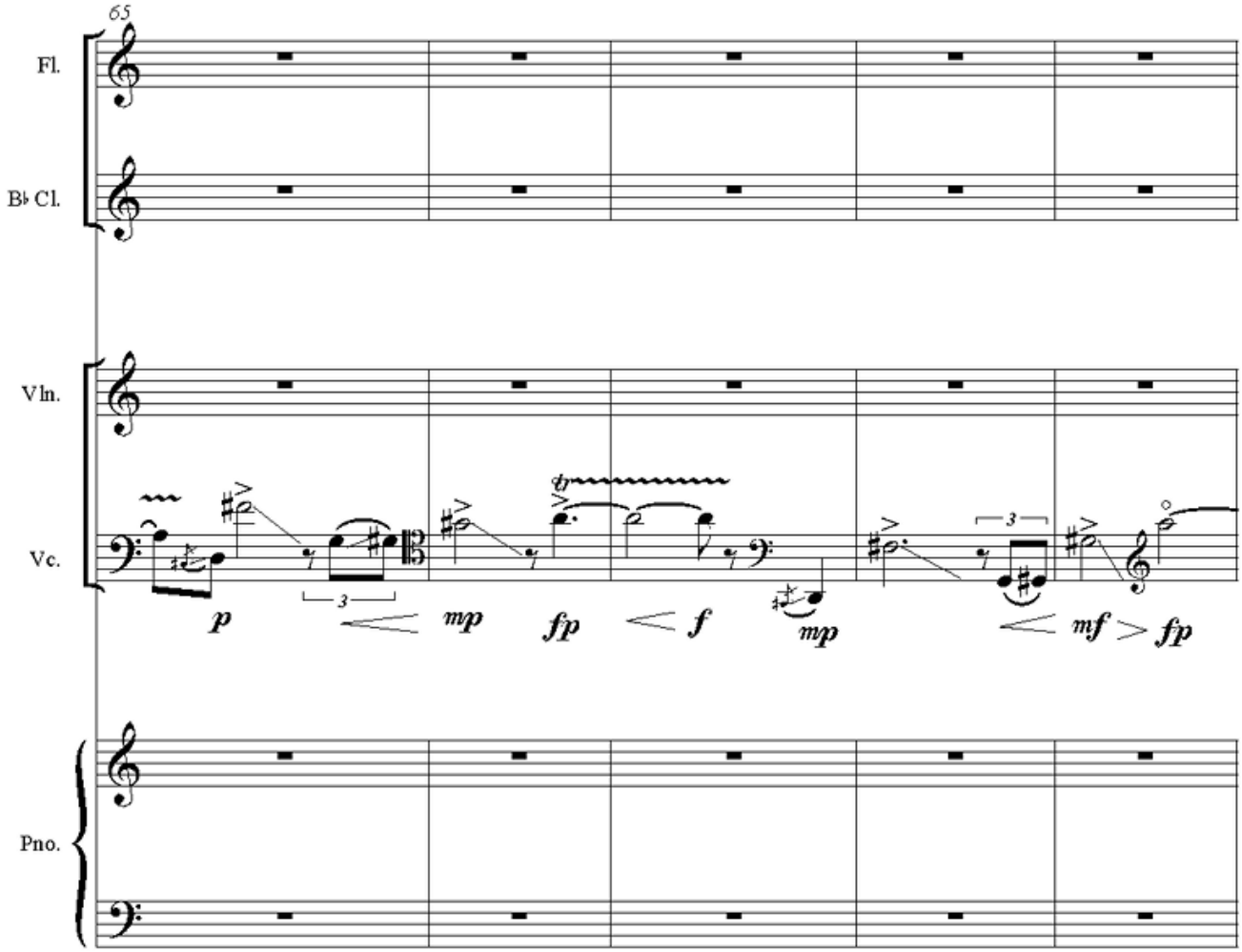
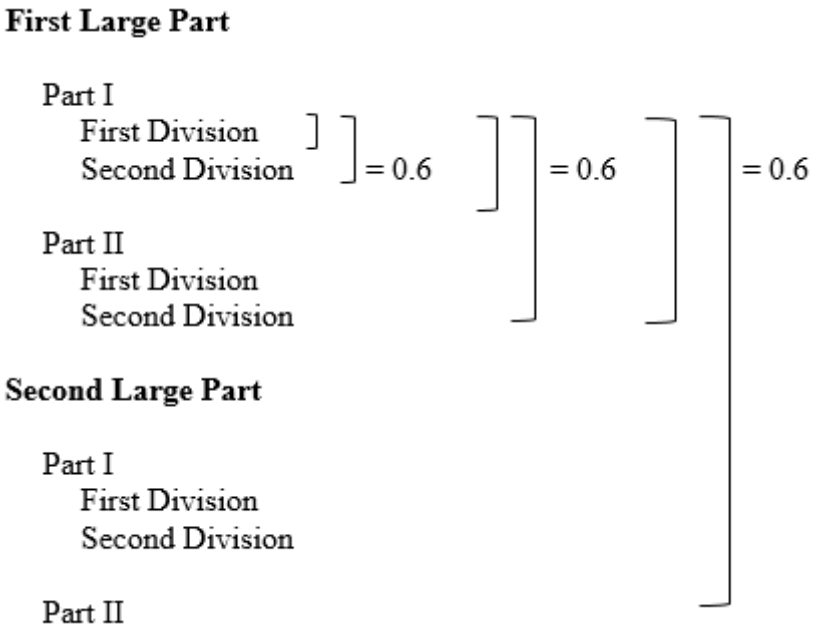
Part 2 (mm. 116–192, total 77 + 4 measures)
- Division I (mm. 116–161, total 46 measures)
  - Subdivision I (mm. 116–133, total 18 measures) = Section F, the excitement reaches the climax, GS located. All instruments join in.
  - Subdivision II (mm. 134–161, total 28 measures) = Section G, combination of E and F, continue to build up.
- Division II (mm. 162–192 + additional *senza tempo* ending, total 31+ 4 measures) = Section H, coda, keep the excitement on the peak.

Example 2. *Happy Rain on a Spring Night*, mm. 1–12




7
Fl.
B♭ Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
10
pp
pp
A3 material
s.p.
mf
8va
p
8va

Example 3. *Happy Rain on a Spring Night*, mm. 65–69



Example 4. Use of the Golden Section in *Happy Rain on a Spring Night*