Gayatri Sonata

for Viola and Piano

ॐ भूर्भुवः स्वः तत्सवितुर्वरेण्यं भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि
धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात् ॥

Bill Robinson

Gayatri Sonata

for Viola and Piano

Composed Dec. 27, 2004—May 11, 2005
Arranged from the original cello version July 13, 2007
Duration: about 20 minutes

The middle movement is based on a setting I wrote of the Gayatri Mantra, a sacred mantra in Hinduism from the *Rig Veda*, for six-string violin and baritone in 2002. I ended up using only the melody from that original composition as the main theme. The words in Sanskrit are:

Om Bhur bhuvah svahah
Tat savitur varenyam
Bhargo Devasya dheemahi
Dheeyo yo nah prachodayaat

Any translation is highly approximate, but it is something like; "Oh Divine Beings of all three worlds, we meditate on the glorious splendor of God. May He himself illumine our minds."

The tempo marking of the first movement, "IWHWIFATBS", stands for "It won't hurt when I fall off this barstool". Notice that this lyric fits the theme...

This sonata, originally for cello and piano, is in memory of my mother, Frances Vanderkooi Robinson Westman, who died in February 2005. She played both the cello and the piano. I also had in mind during the composition two cellists: David Vanderkooi, my uncle, and Jonathan Kramer, of the music department at NCSU.

The premiere performance was by Bonnie Thron, cellist, and Nancy Whelan, pianist, at Duke University in 2010.

The early editions of the score and part were in legal-size format. In 2022, I made a letter-size edition for score and part, as well as an edition of the viola part specifically for electronic music readers, with the part enlarged and including reduced piano staves.

Bill Robinson

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www.billrobinsonmusic.com

Viola

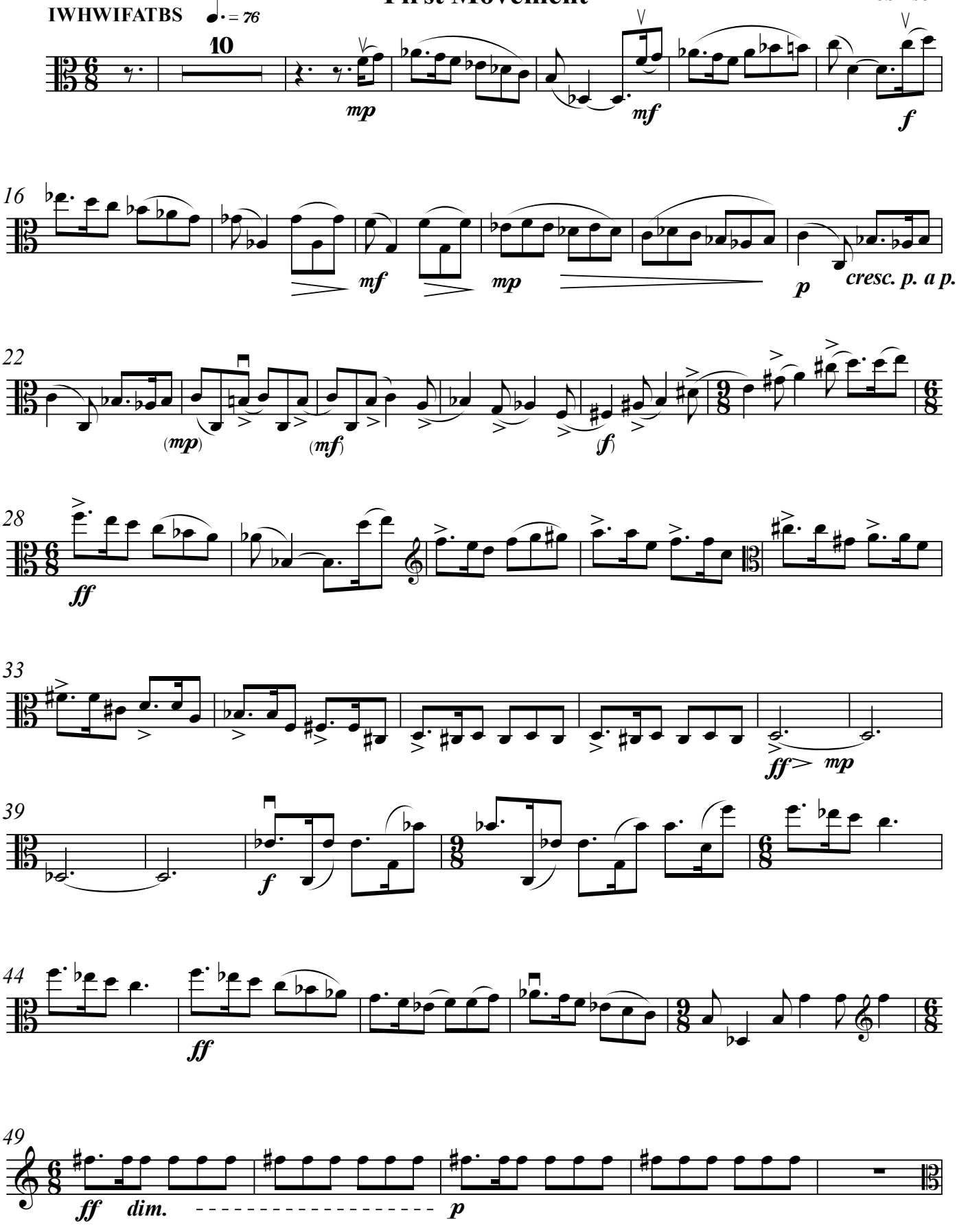
Gayatri Sonata

First Movement

[6']

Bill Robinson

IWHWIFATBS ♩. = 76



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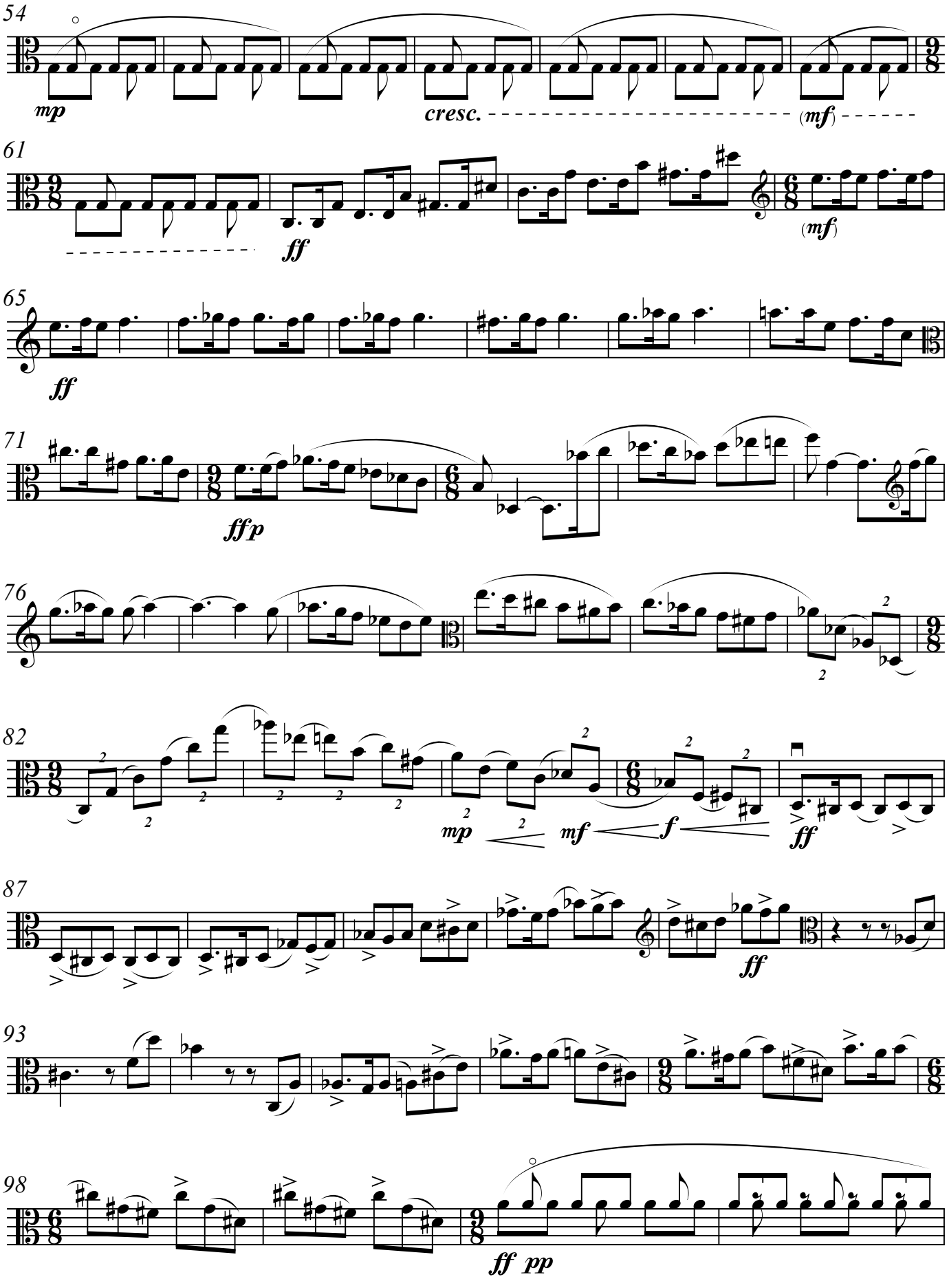
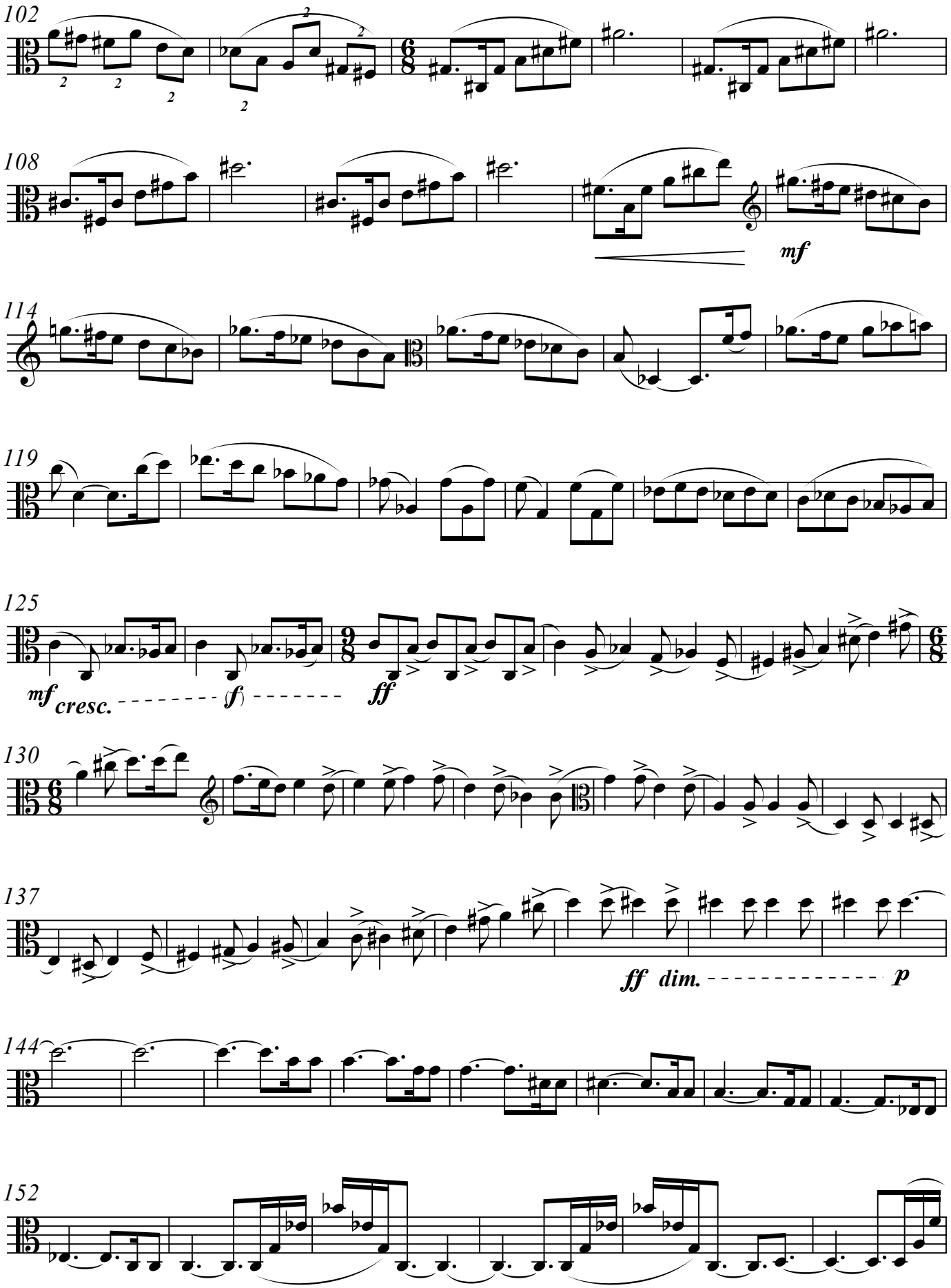
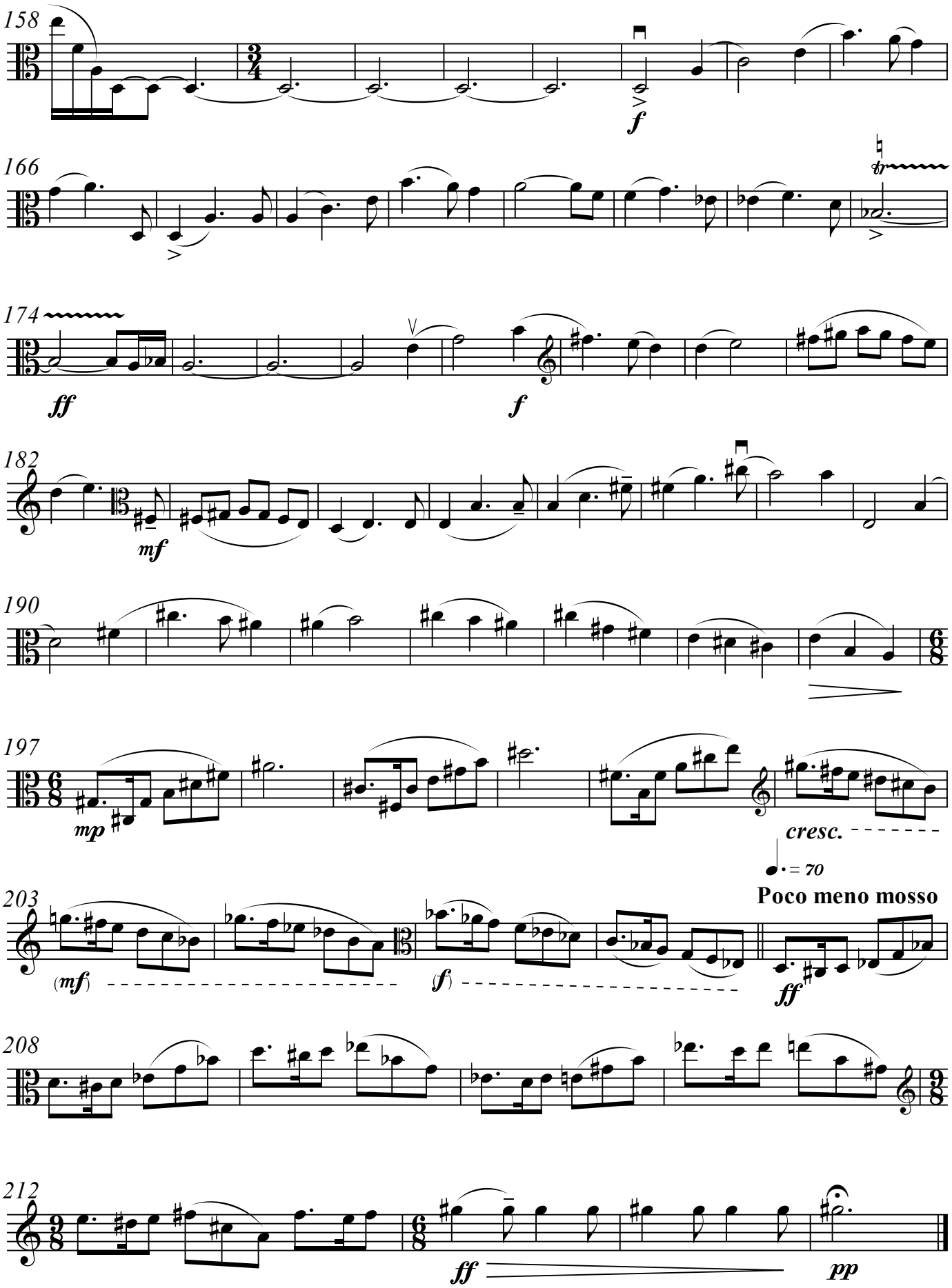
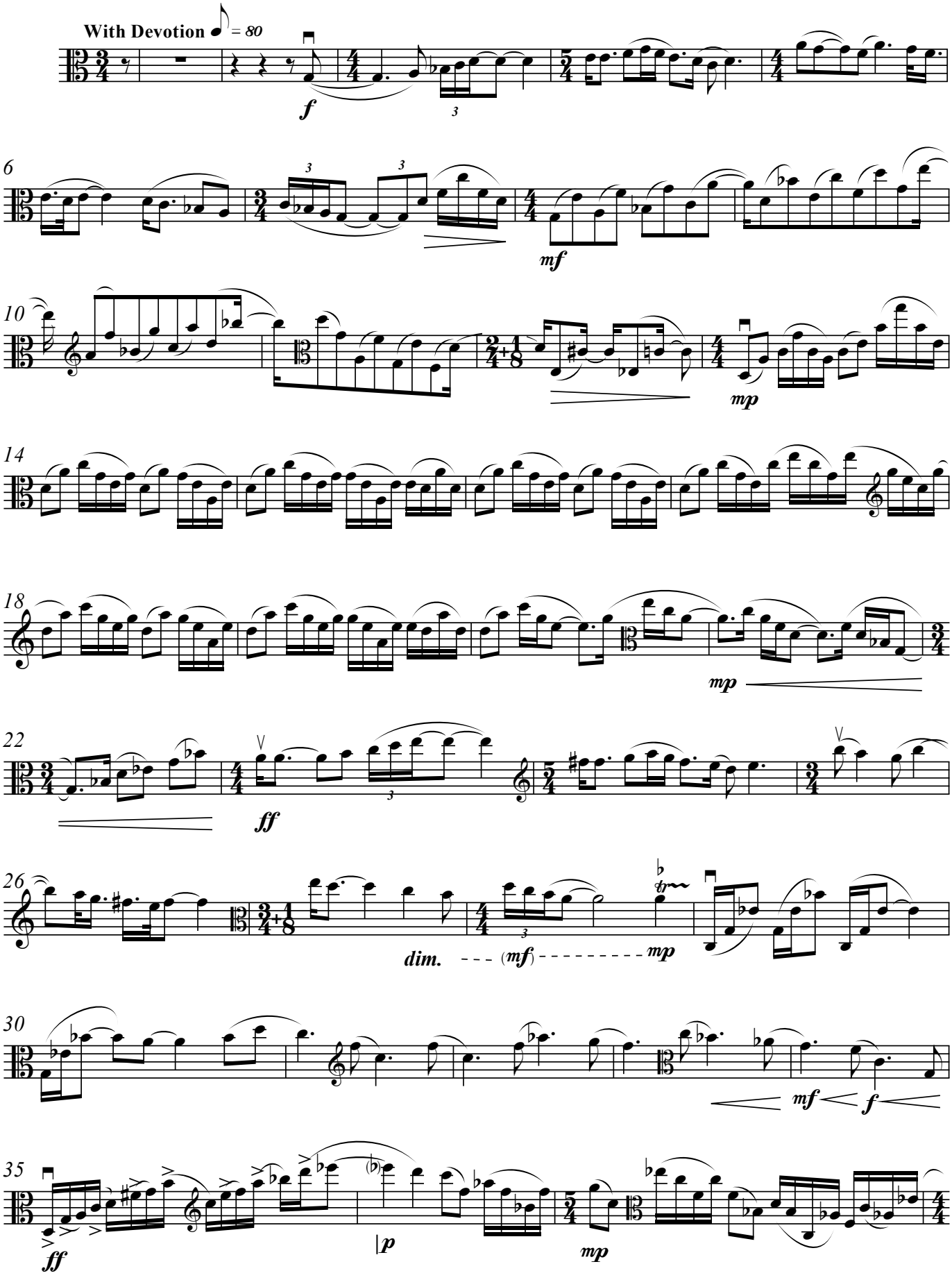

54
mp
cresc.
(mf)
61
ff
(mf)
65
ff
71
ffp
76
82
mp
mf
f
ff
87
ff
93
98
ff pp

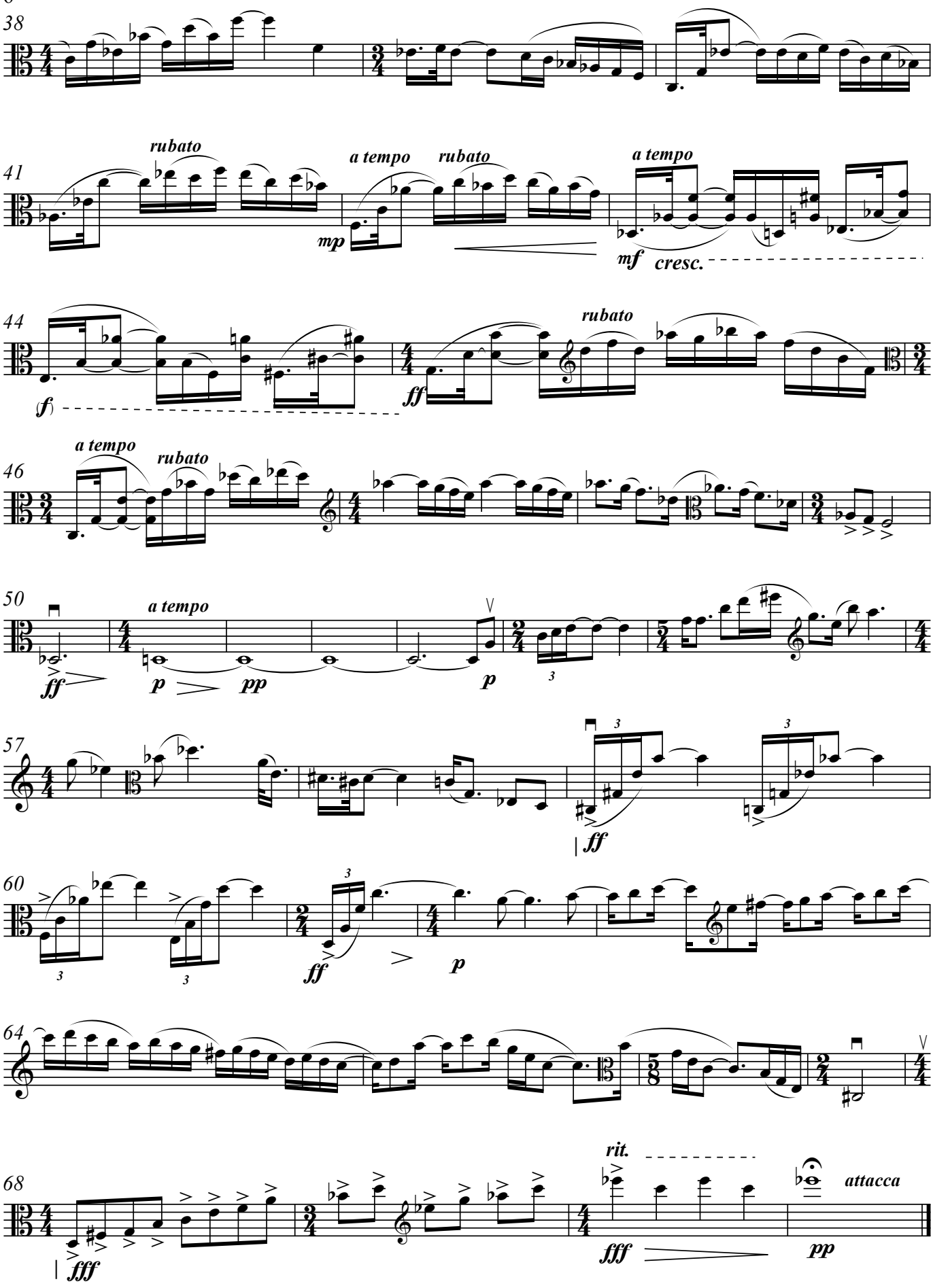

102
108
mf
114
119
125
mf cresc.
f
ff
130
137
ff dim.
p
144
152


158
f
166
tr
174
ff
f
182
mf
190
197
mp
cresc.
203
(mf)
(f)
ff
Poco meno mosso
208
212
ff
pp

Second Movement: Gayatri Mantra [6'40"]

Om bhur buvah(a) swah(a) tat savitur varenyam, bhargo devasia dimahi, diho yo nah(a) prachodayat

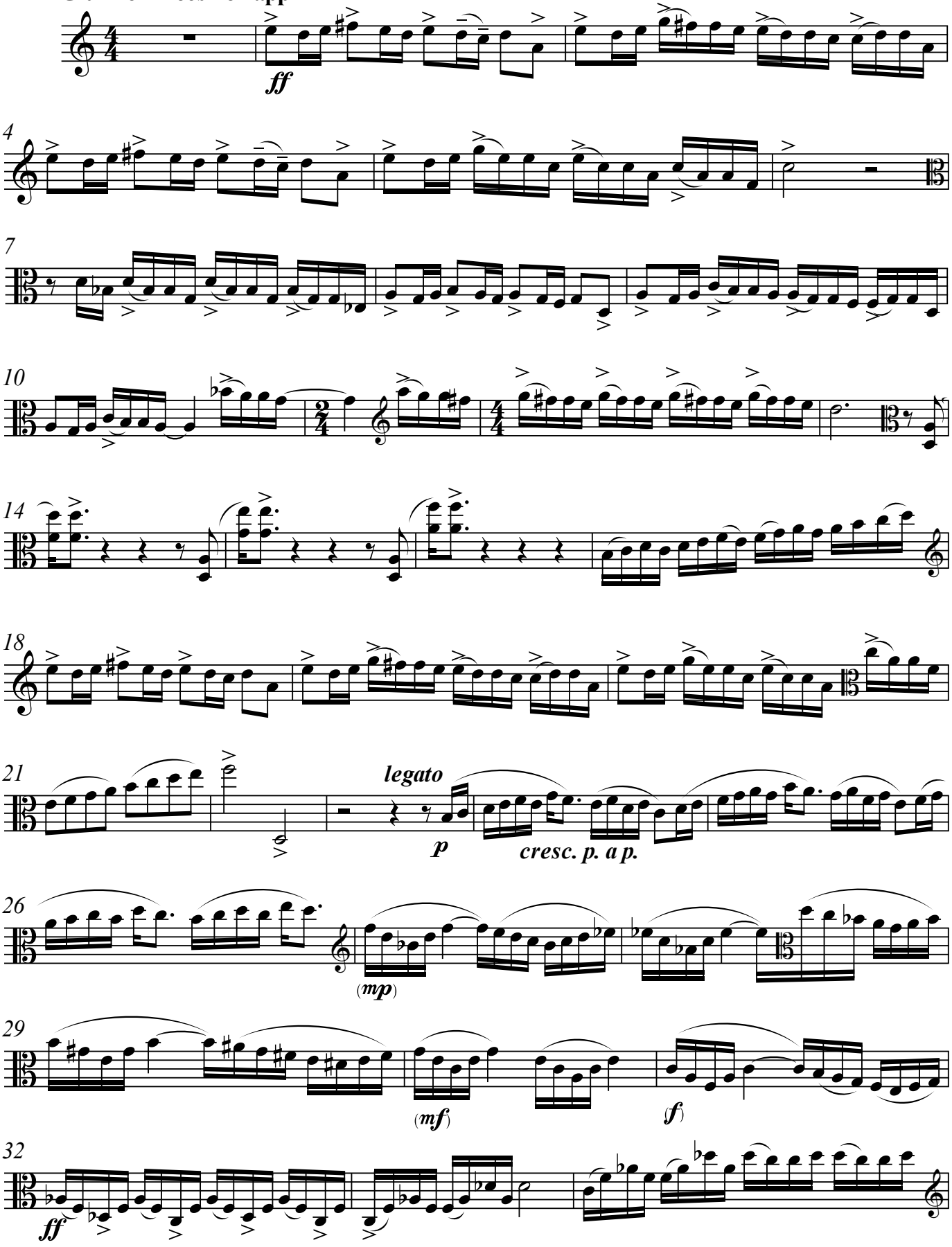


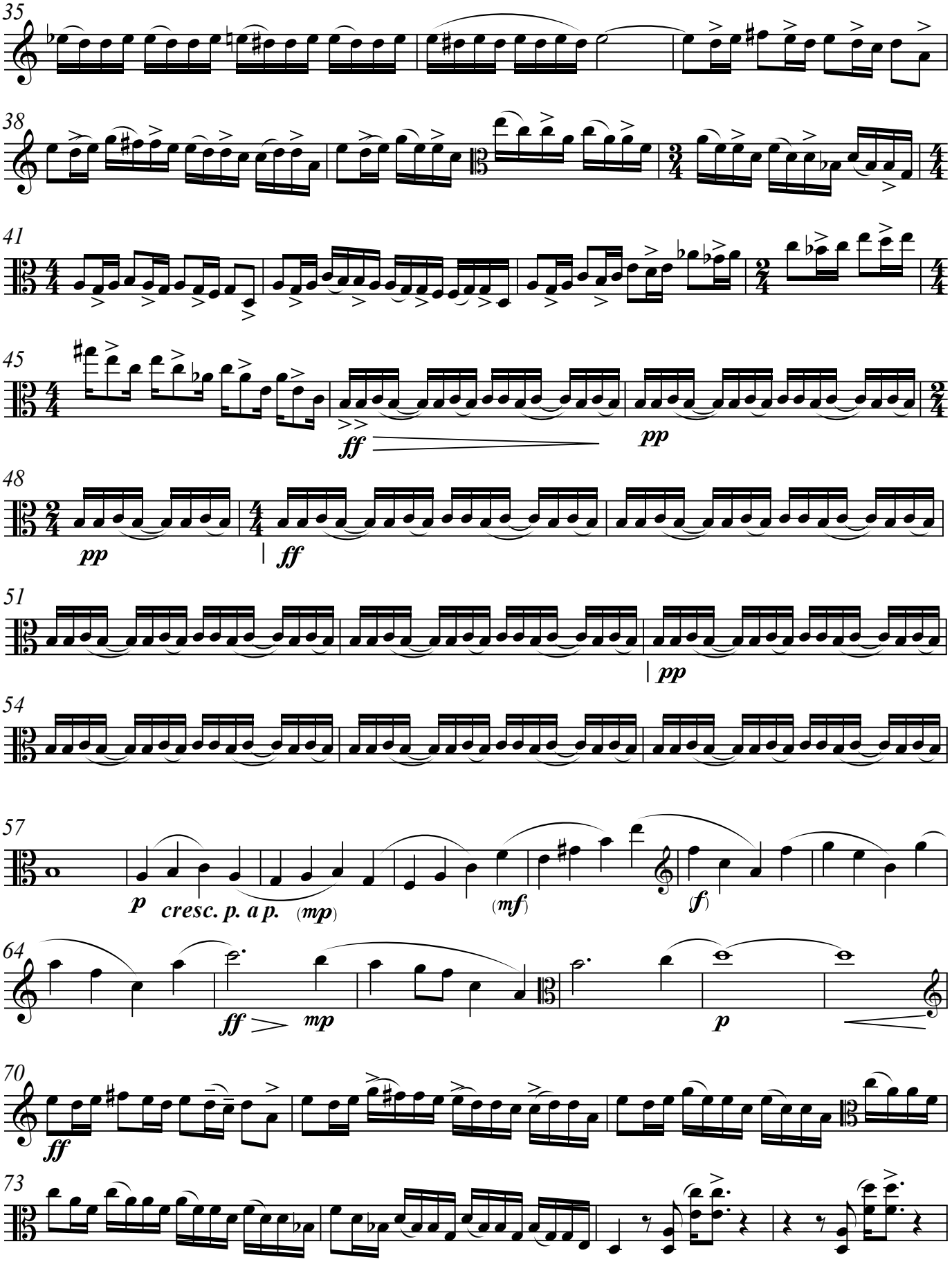

38
41
rubato
mp
a tempo
rubato
mf
cresc.
a tempo
44
f
ff
rubato
46
a tempo
rubato
50
ff
a tempo
p
pp
p
57
ff
60
ff
p
64
68
fff
rit.
fff
pp
attacca

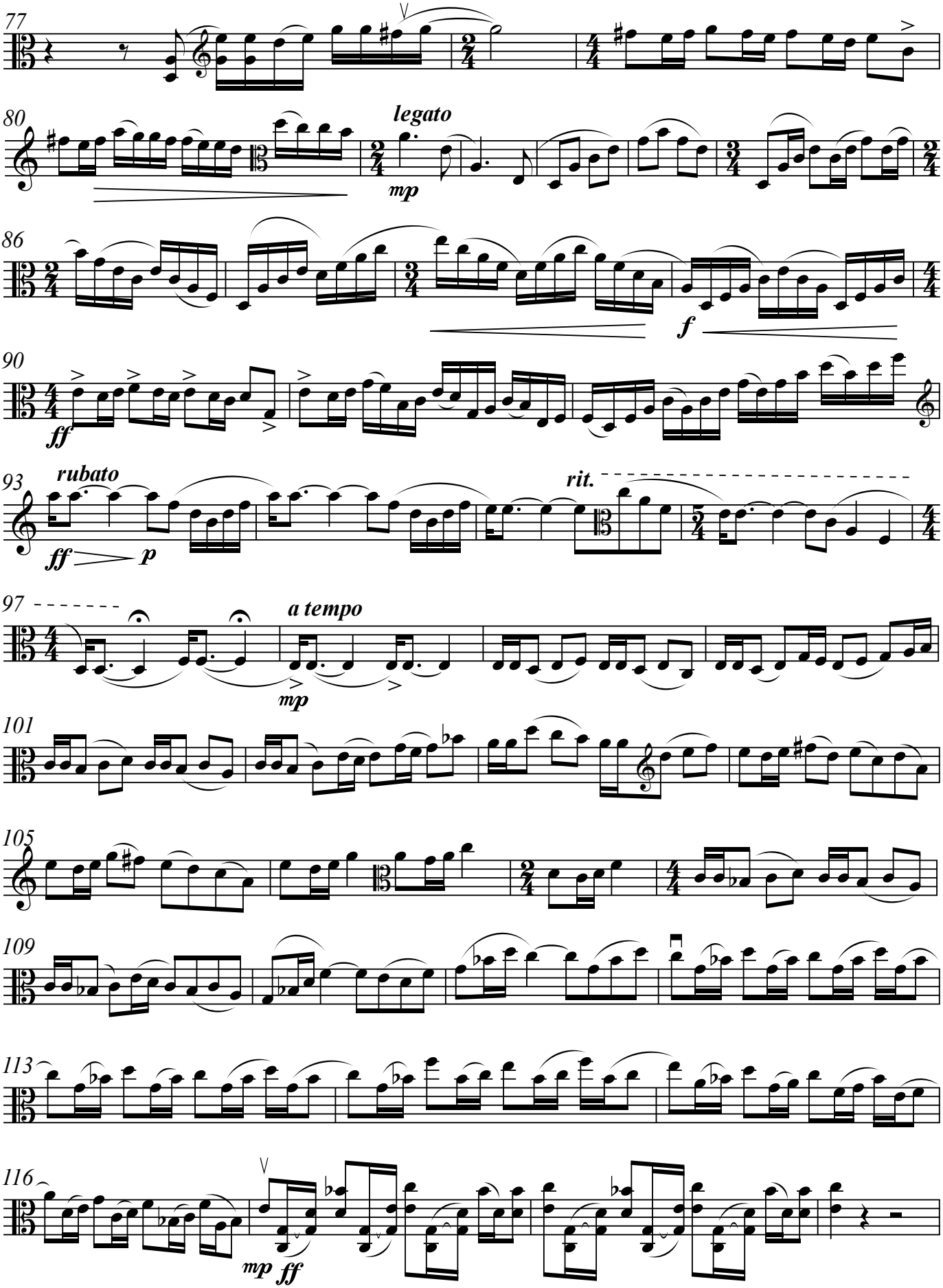
III. Rondo Cappuccino [7:15]

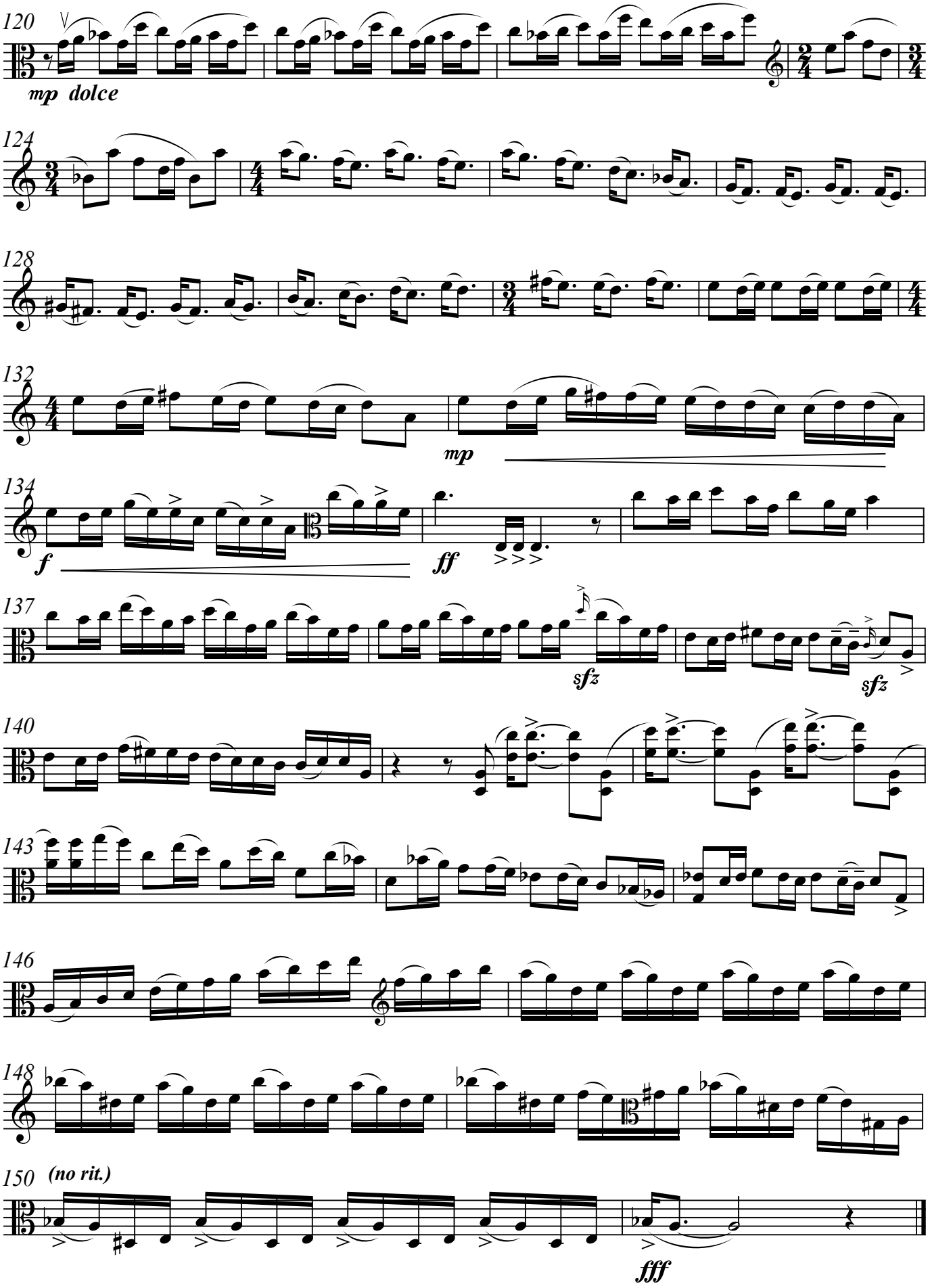
♩ = 80

Git Them Toes To Tappin'




35
38
41
45
ff
pp
48
pp
ff
51
pp
54
57
p
cresc. p. a p.
(mp)
(mf)
f
64
ff
mp
p
70
ff
73


77
80
legato
mp
86
f
90
ff
93
rubato
ff
p
rit.
97
a tempo
mp
101
105
109
113
116
mp
ff


120
mp dolce
124
128
132
mp
134
f
ff
137
sfz
sfz
140
143
146
148
150
(no rit.)
fff