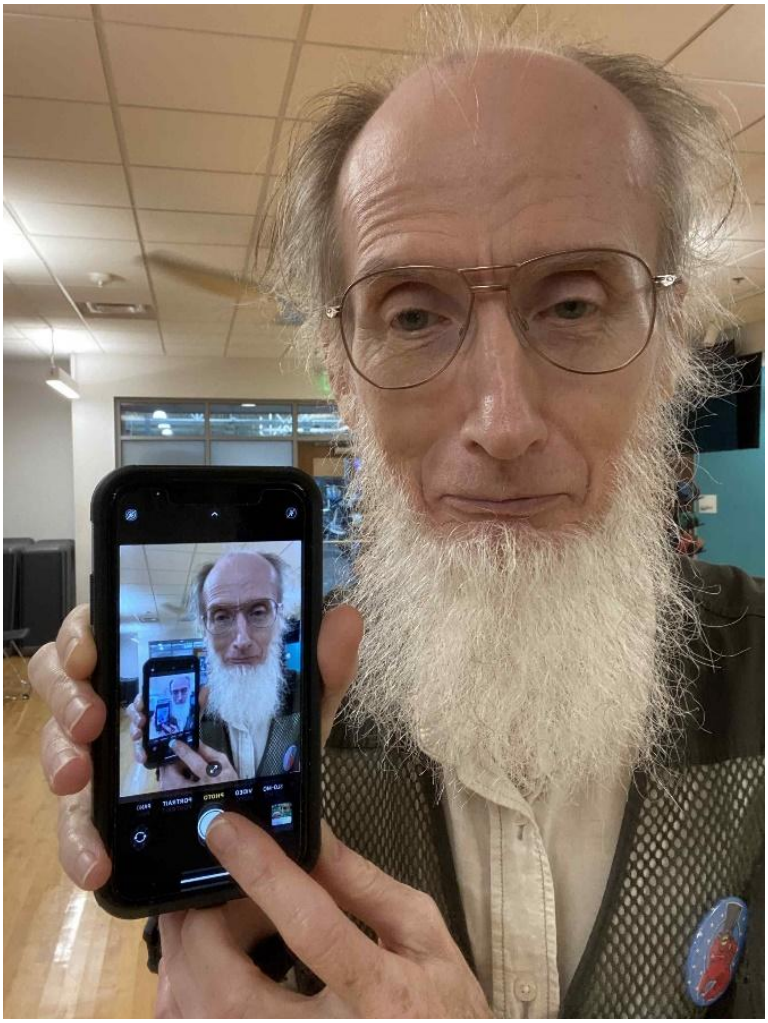
American Dances



for String Quartet

Fourth Edition

Bill Robinson

American Dances

for String Quartet

January 21—March 30, 2008; revised Sept.9—Nov. 24, 2024
Duration: ~24 minutes ***for Eric Pritchard***

In 2008, I wrote this quartet for my friend Eric Pritchard, first violinist of the Ciompi Quartet at Duke University. After the premiere performance of the string quartet in 2013, I was not satisfied with the first movement, and recomposed it in 2024, during the presidential election. This motivated me to give it a new title, *Harris Waltz*, in honor of Kamala Harris and Tim Walz, in their failed attempt to stop Donald Trump from having a second term as president. The second movement, *Texas Two Step*, pays at least nominal tribute to the state of my birth and home for many years. I can't claim much authenticity in its two-stepness but at least it's fairly up-tempo and in 4/4, and appropriate for a formal and rather crazed square dance. The third movement was originally written just before the birth of Aaron Pritchard, son of Eric and Laura; during the revisions of 2024, Aaron was quite sick and undergoing difficult treatments, thus the new title to this movement, *Dance for the seriously ill*. The last movement stems from the inspired fiddling and great musicianship of the Roma people, as well as barn dances.

At Eric's request, I have arranged this work for violin and piano (March 7—April 7 2009); during this arrangement I made minor changes to the quartet resulting in a second edition. Later, I adjusted the score format for a third edition; and in 2024, I revised and orchestrated it to make *Symphony No. 4: American Dances*.
Cover photo; the composer at the YMCA, August 29, 2024.

Bill Robinson

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billrobinsonmusic.com

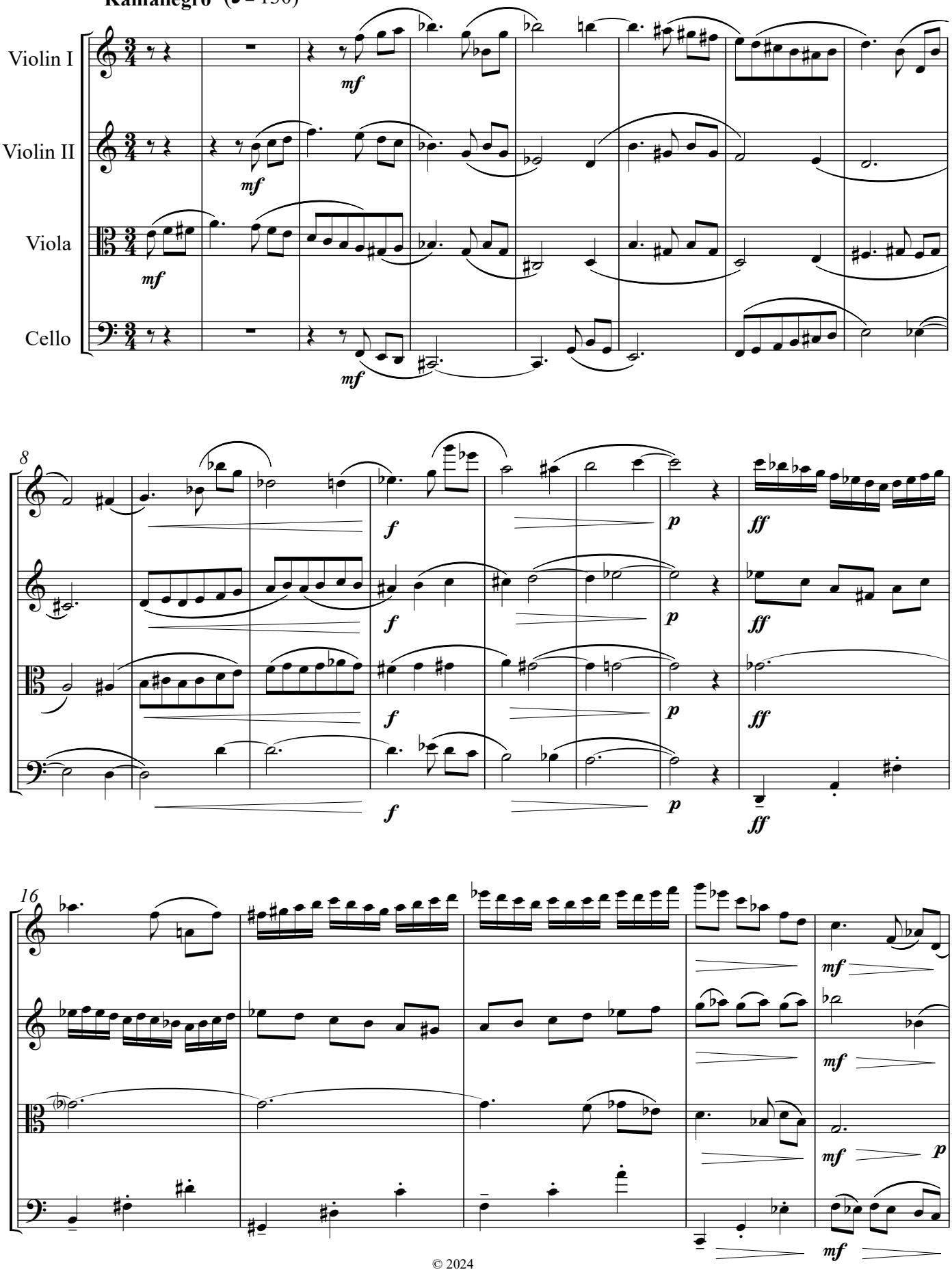
American Dances

I. Harris Waltz

[5:10]

Bill Robinson

Kamallegro (♩ = 130)



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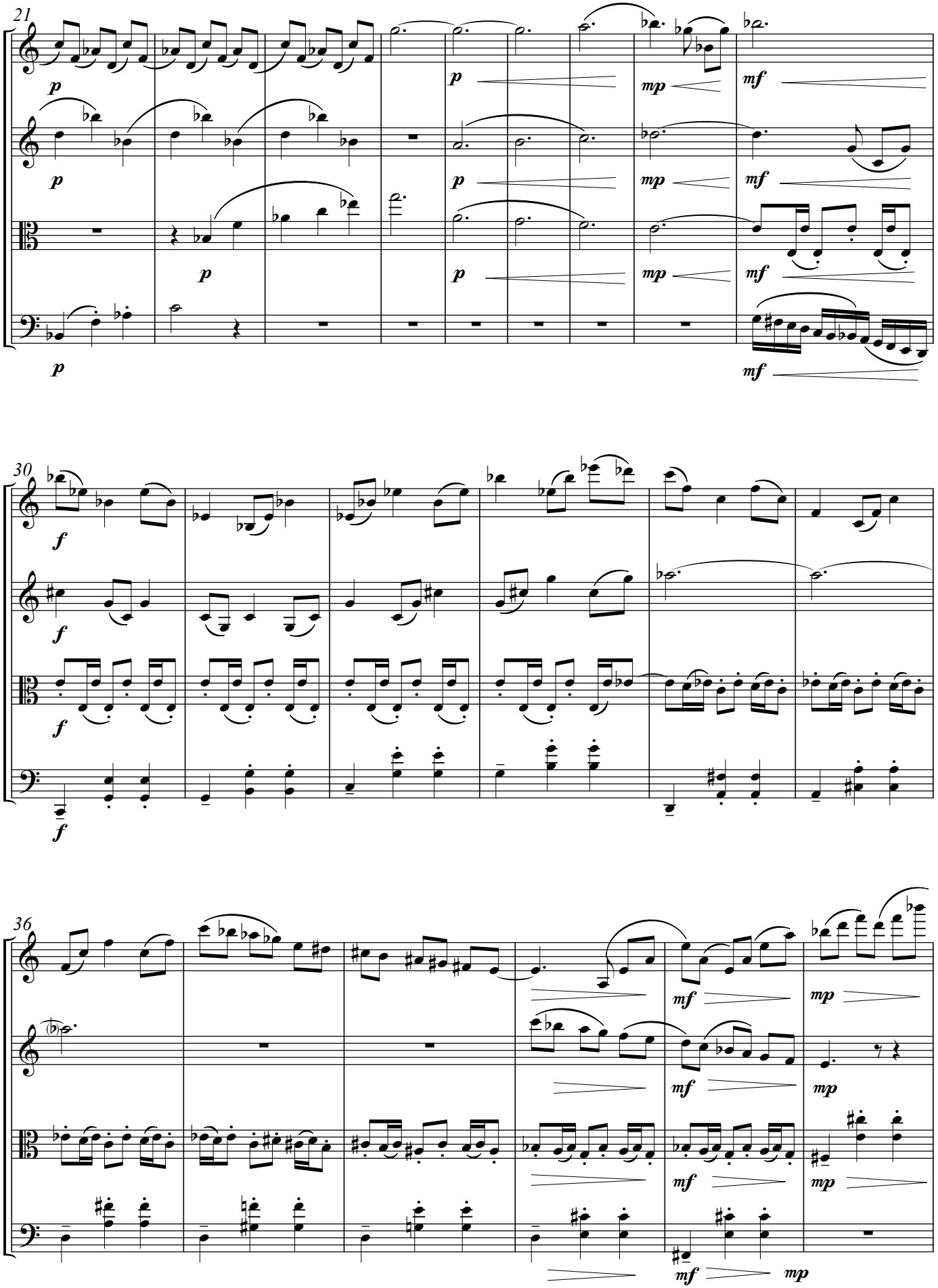
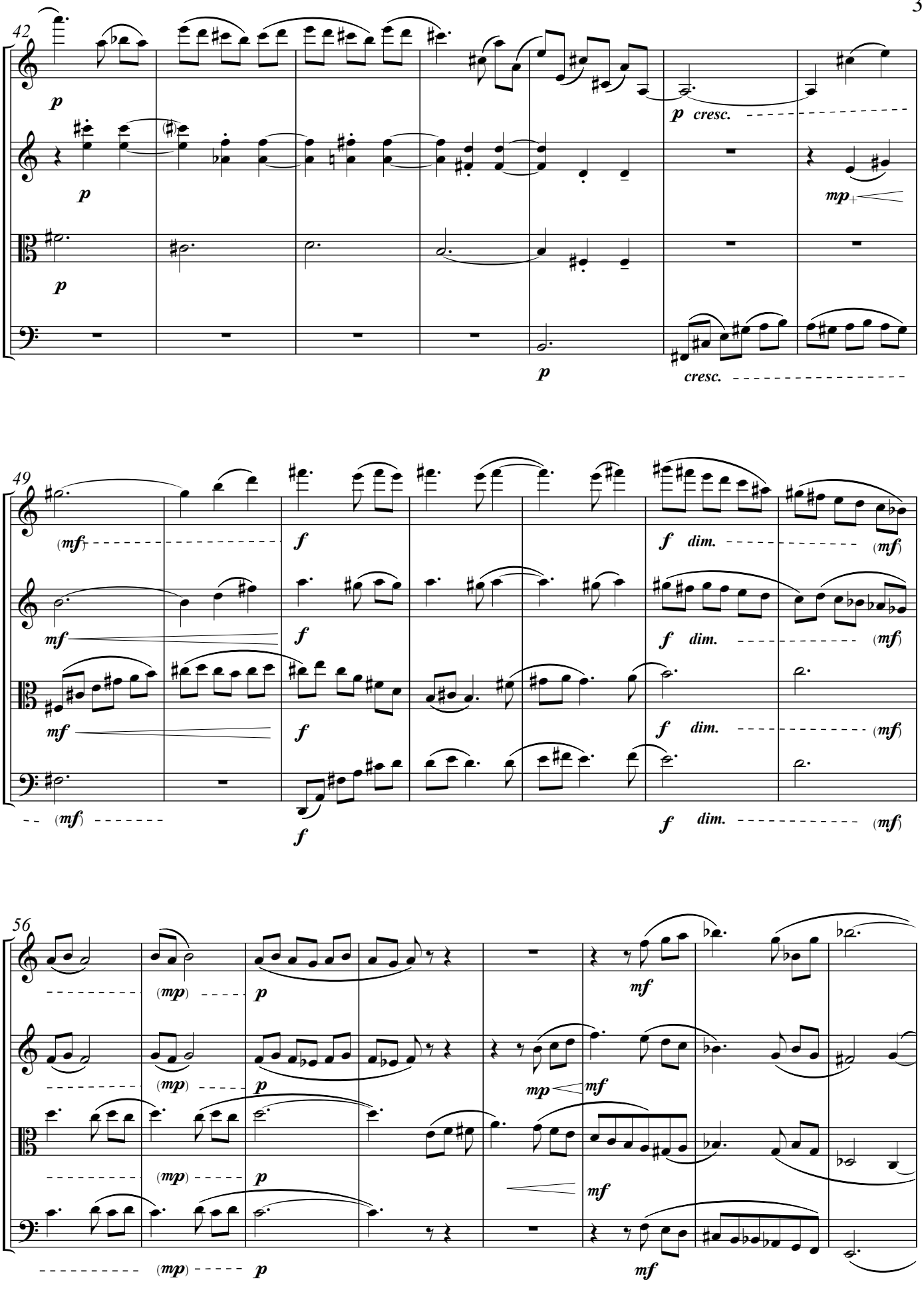
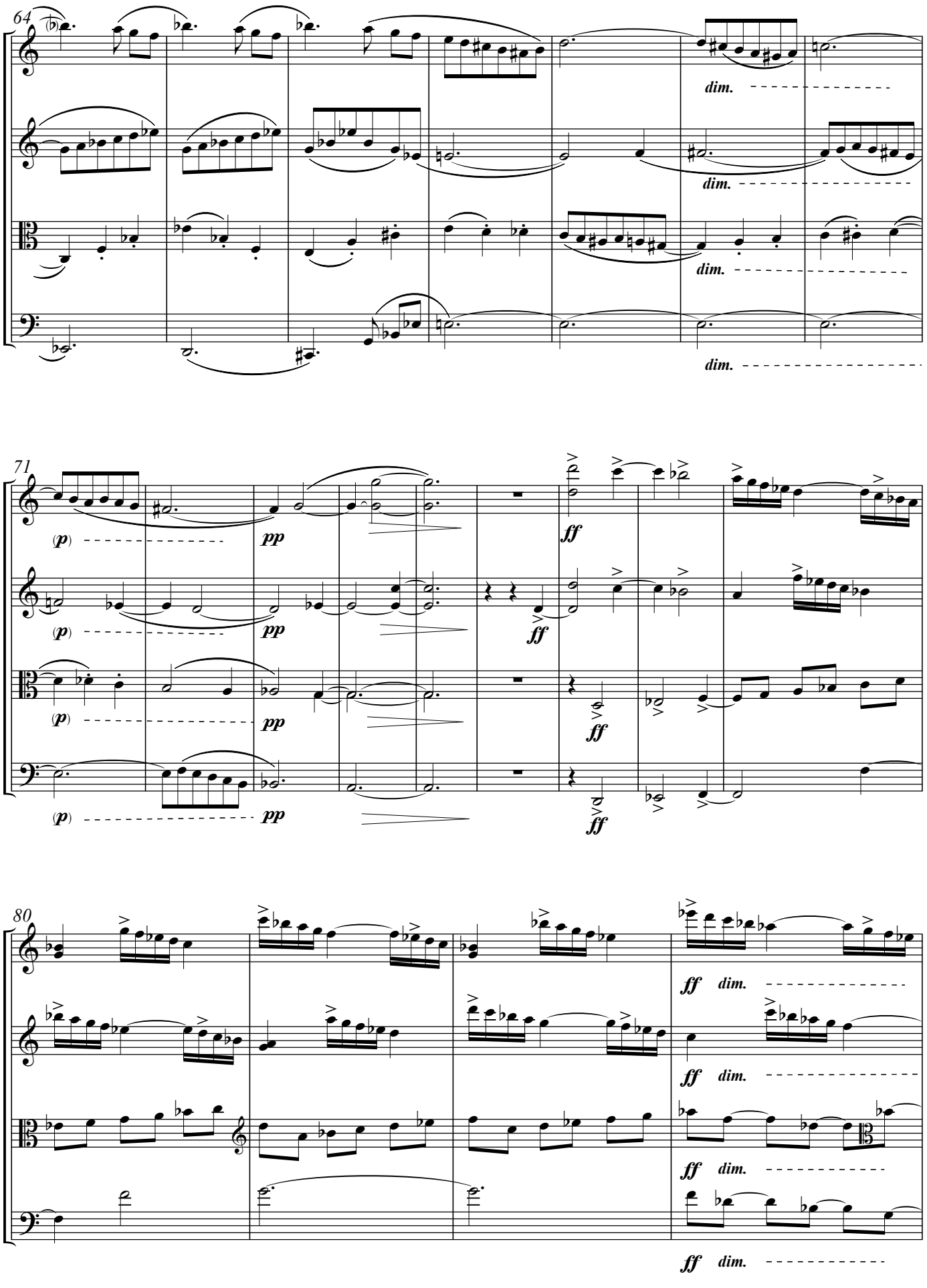
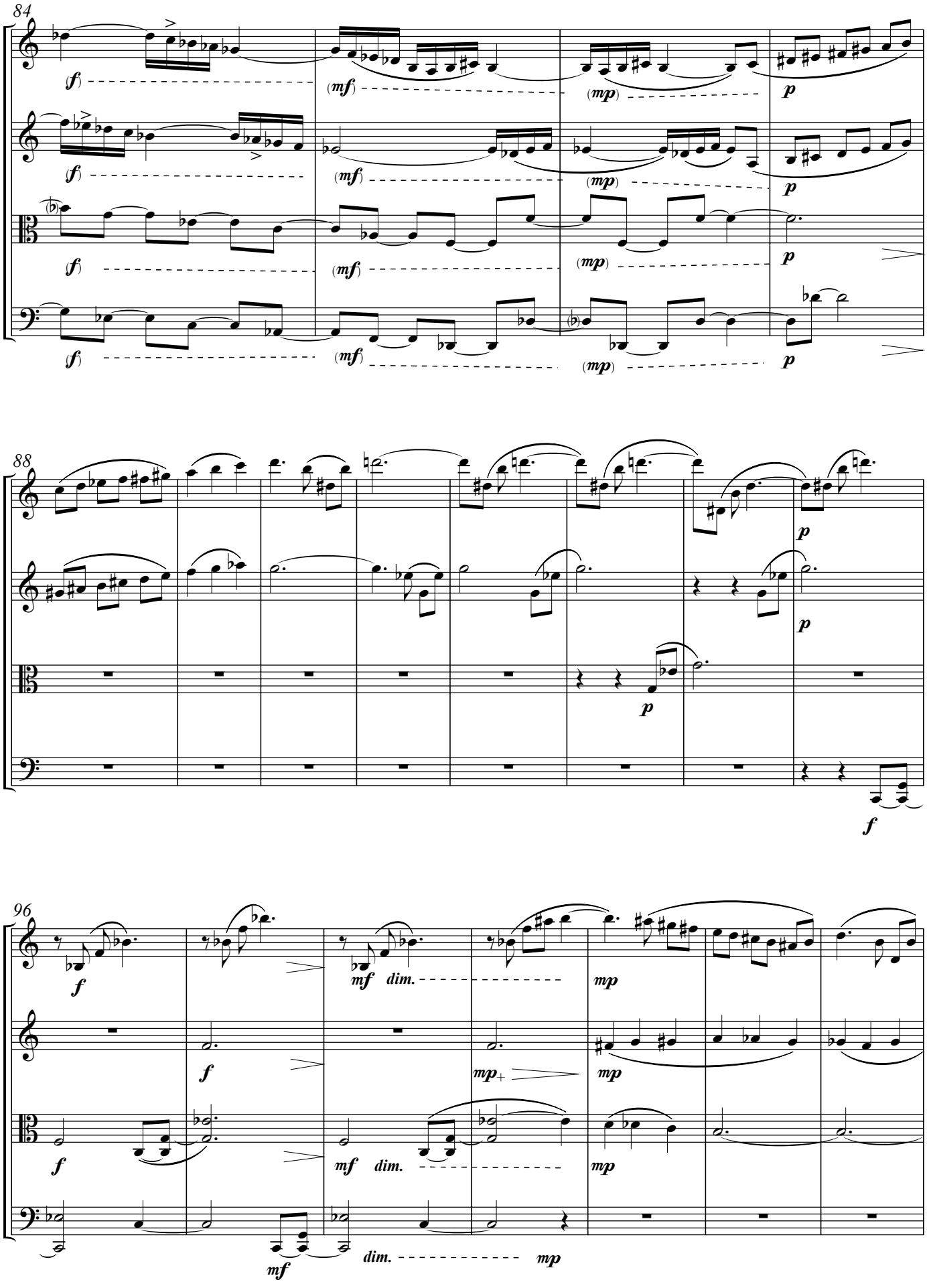
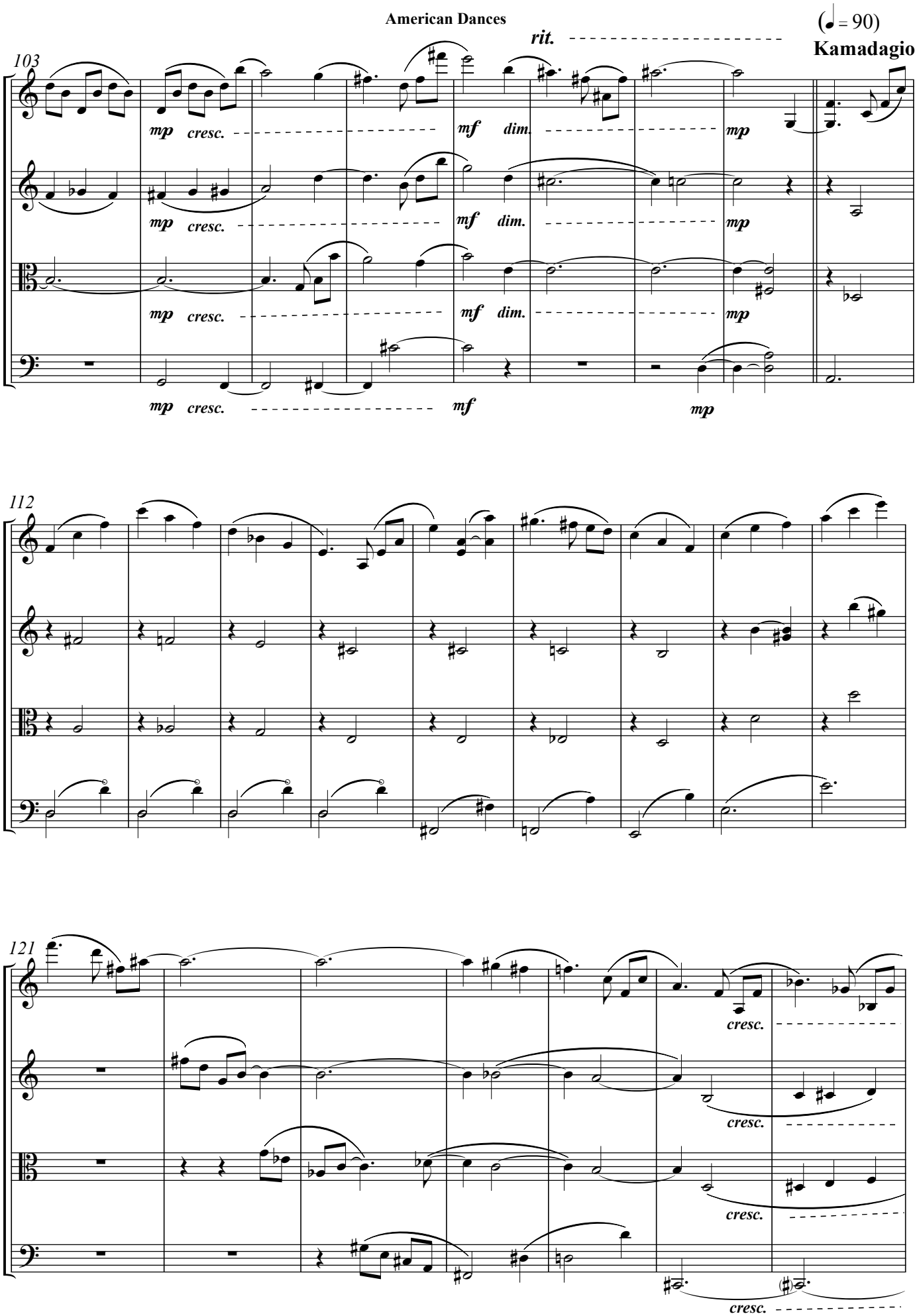
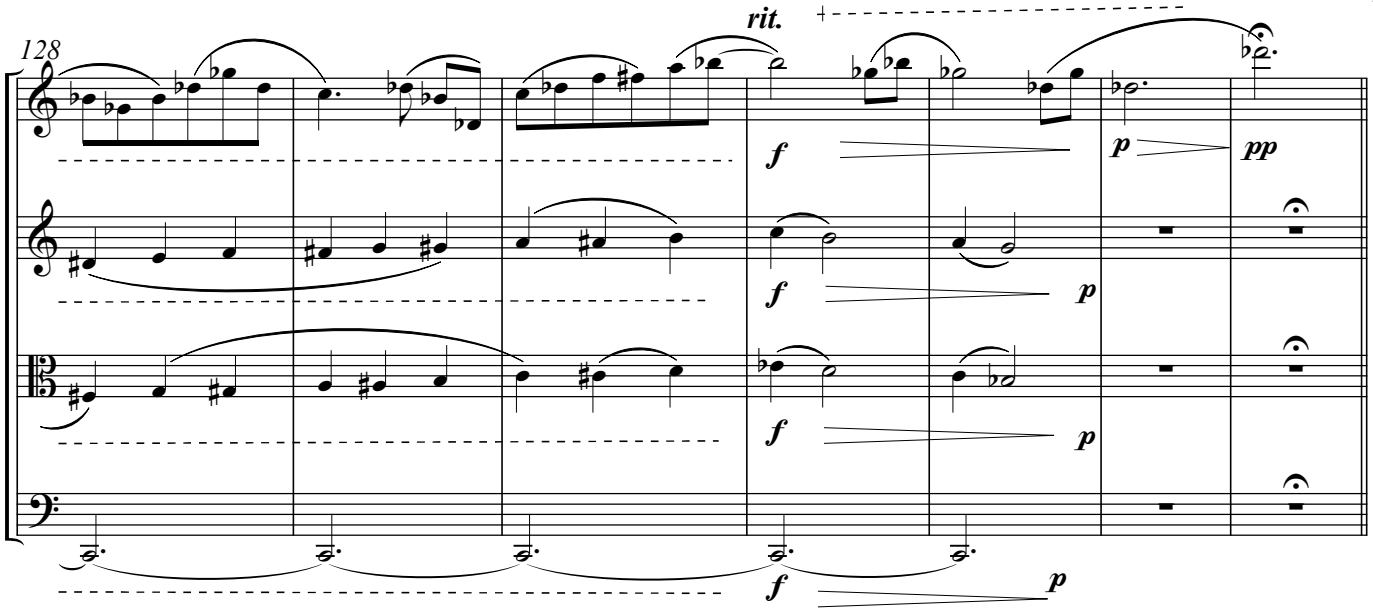

21
p
mp
mf
30
f
36
mf
mp


42
p
p
p
p
p cresc.
mp
cresc.
49
(mf)
mf
f
f dim.
(mf)
56
(mp)
p
mp
mf

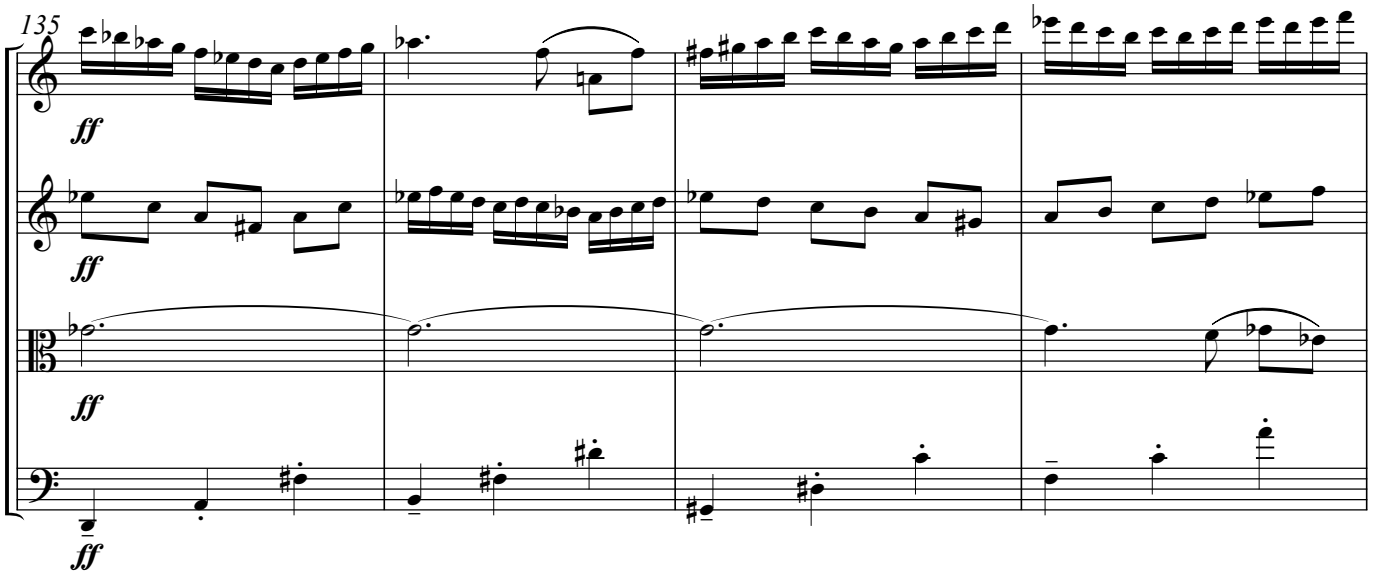

64
dim.
dim.
dim.
dim.
71
(p)
pp
ff
80
ff
dim.

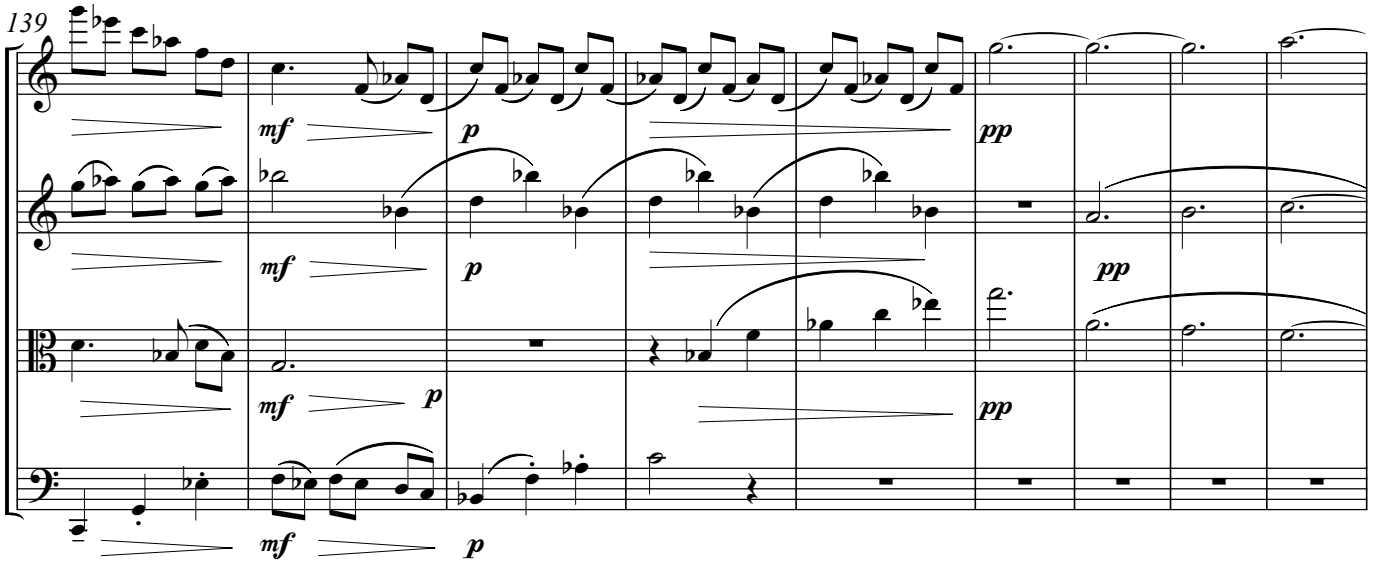

84
88
96
(f)
(mf)
(mp)
p
f
mf
dim.
mp
mp+

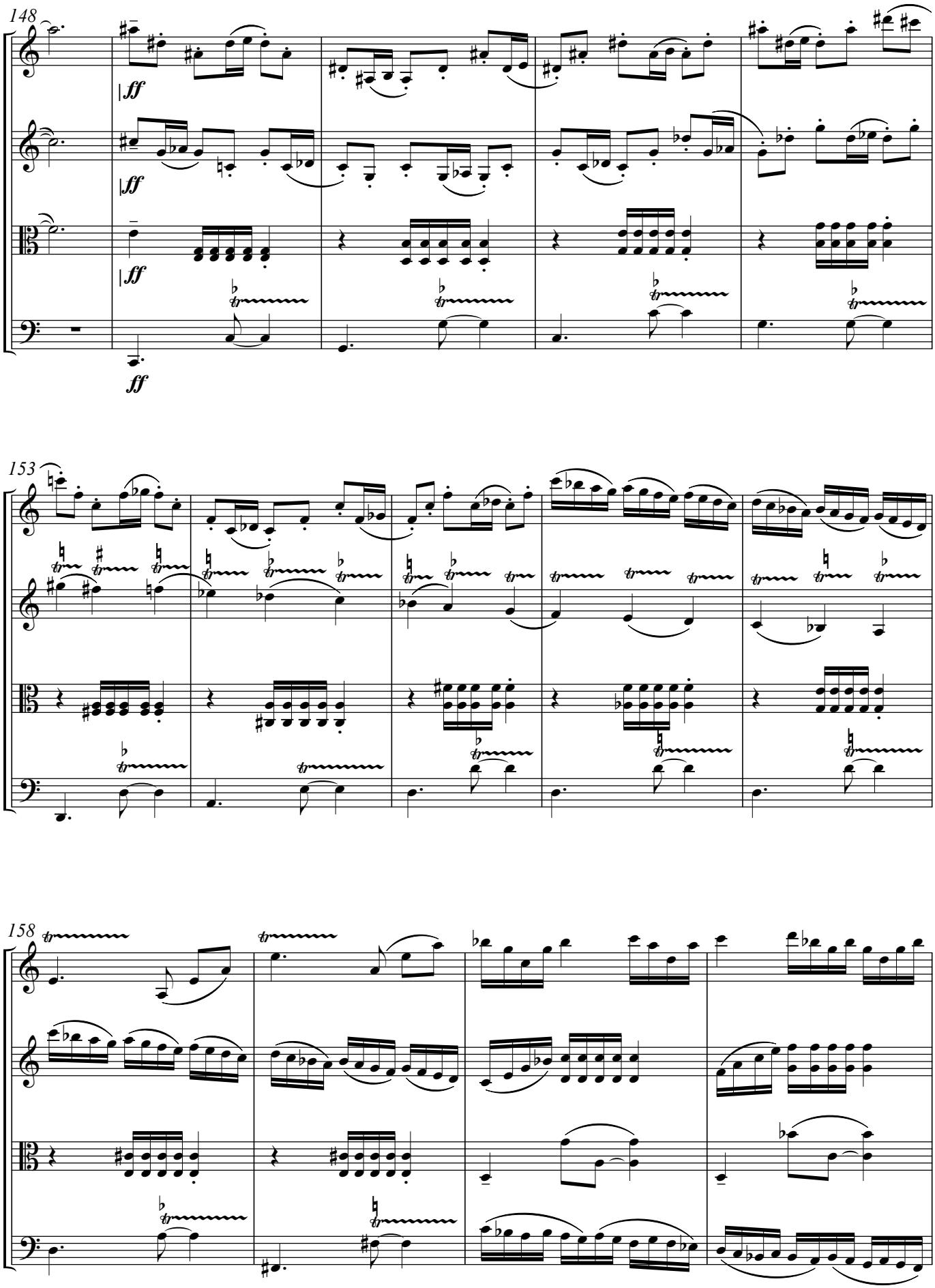

(♩ = 90)
Kamadagio
rit.
103
mp cresc.
mf dim.
mp
112
121
cresc.

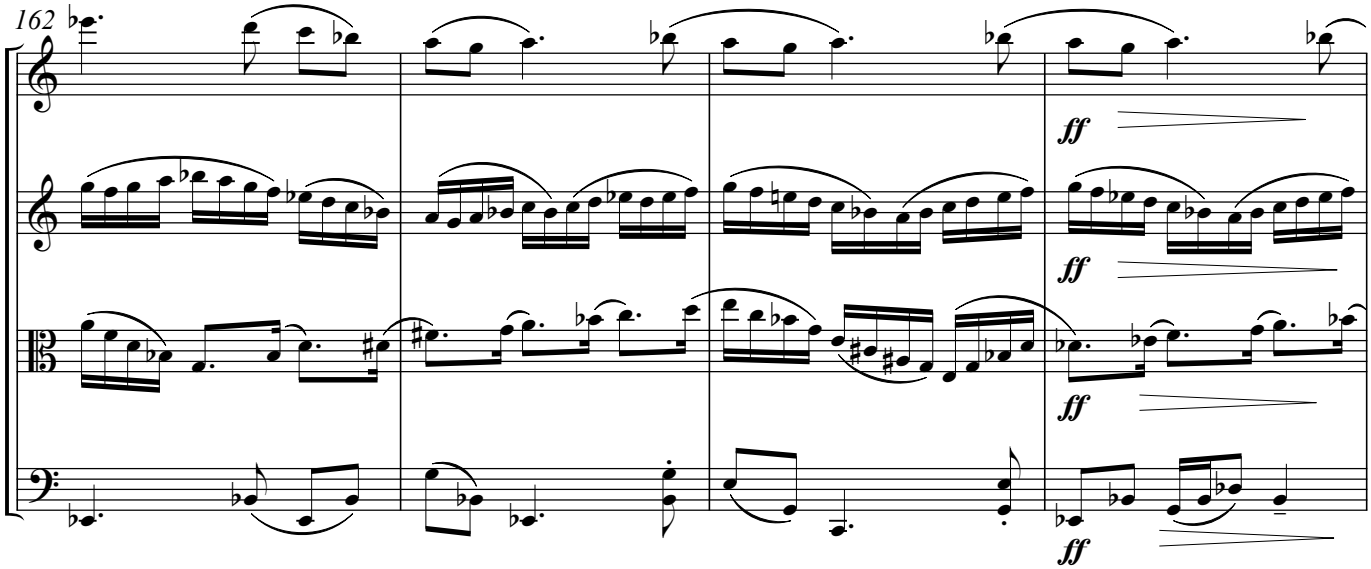


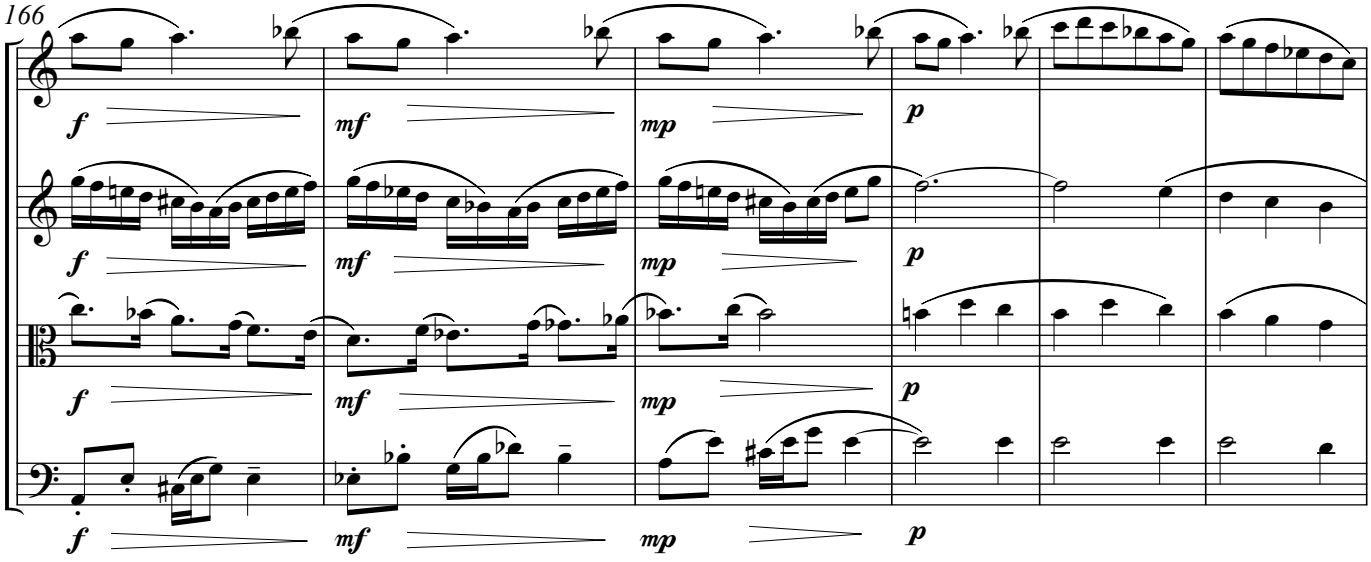
Tempo I (♩ = 130)

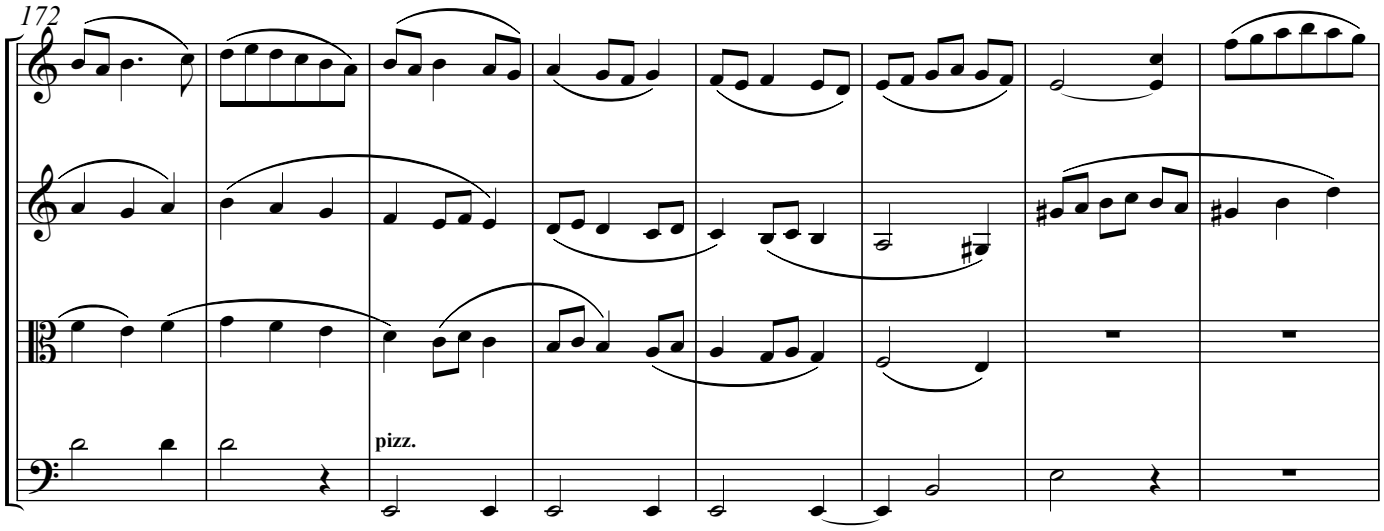


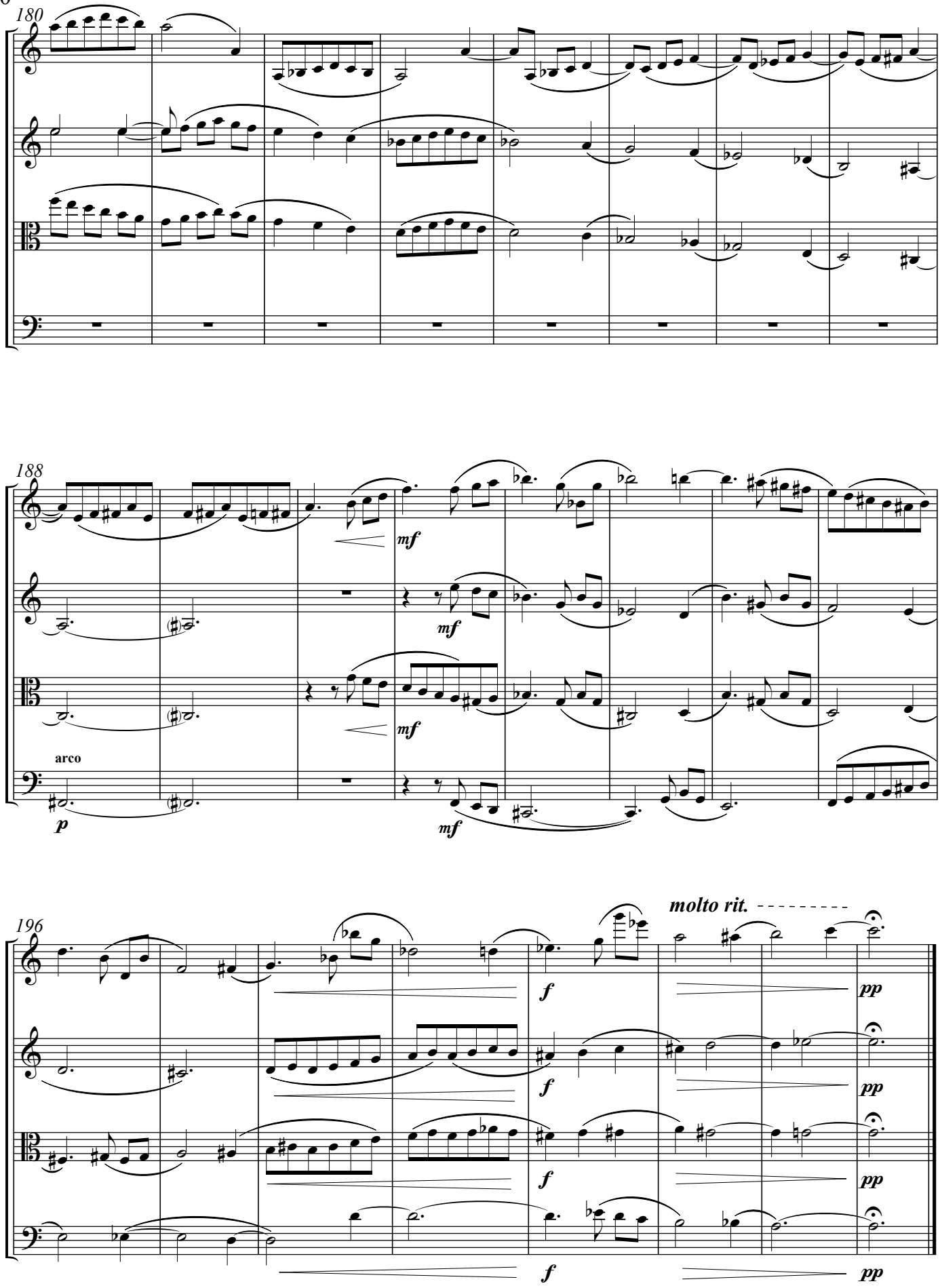



148
153
158


162
ff
ff
ff
ff

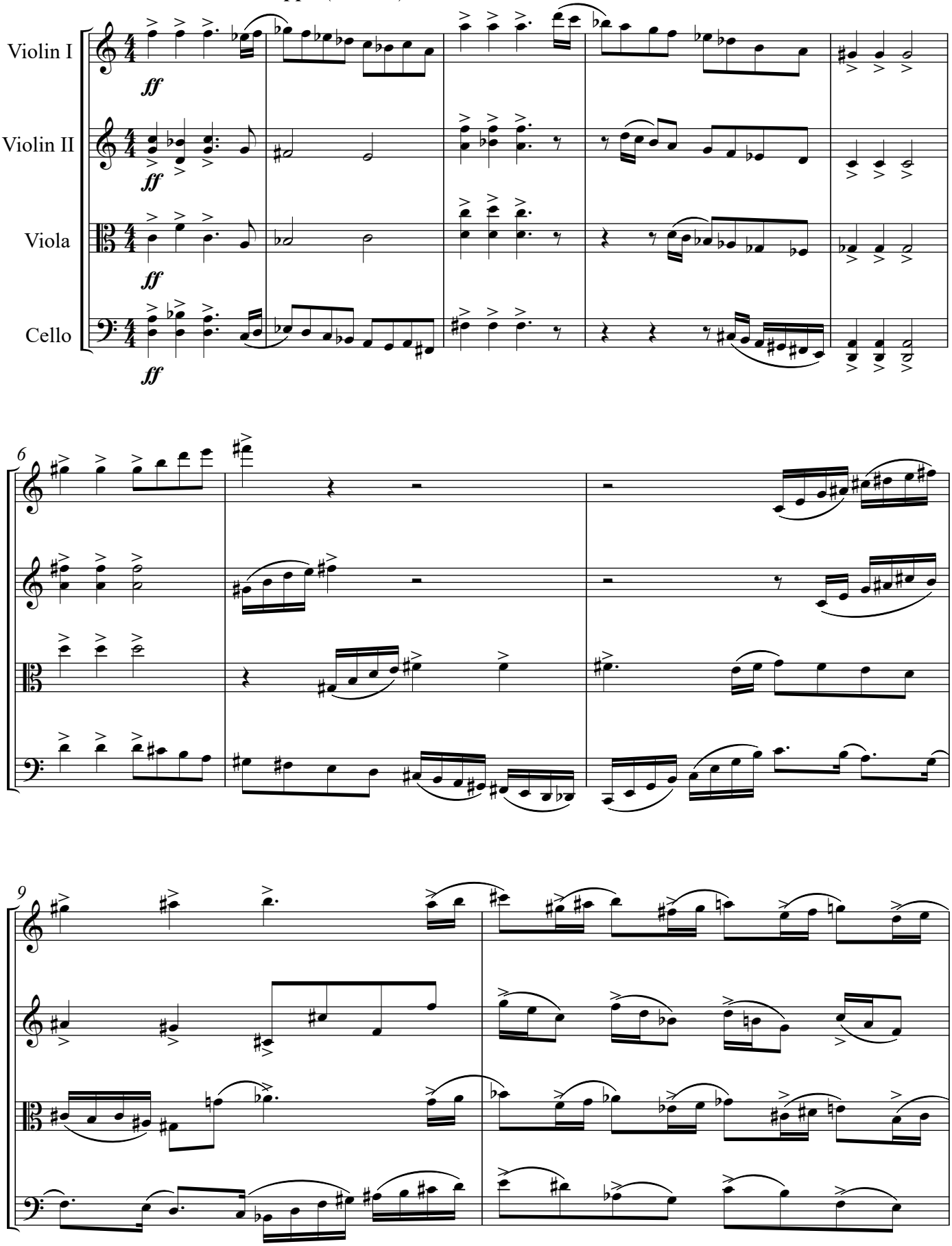

166
f
mf
mp
p
f
mf
mp
p
f
mf
mp
p


172
pizz.


180
188
mf
mf
mf
arco
p
mf
196
molto rit.
f
pp
f
pp
f
pp
f
pp

II. Texas Two Step [5:15]

Amarillo ma non troppo (♩ = 105)



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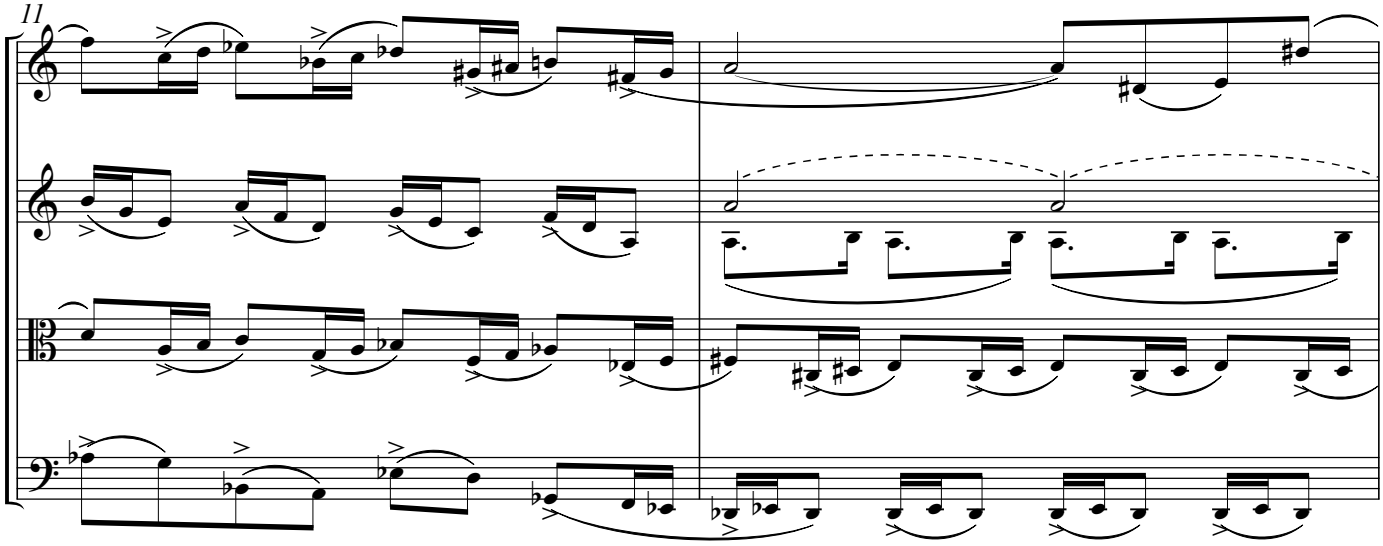

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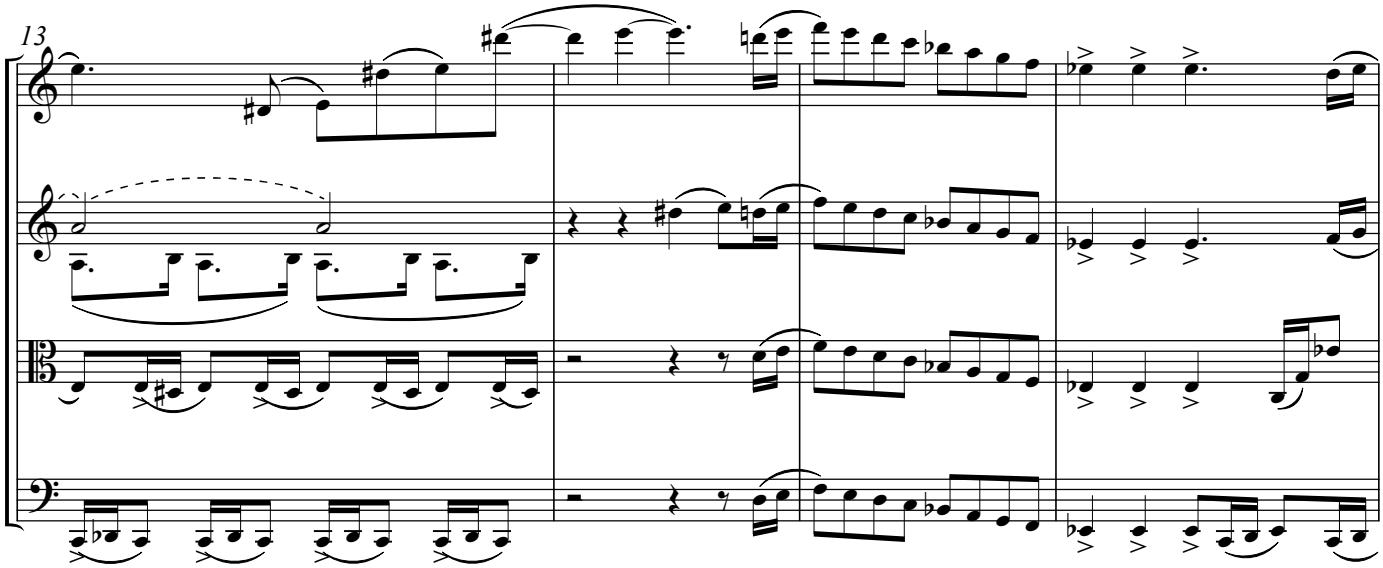
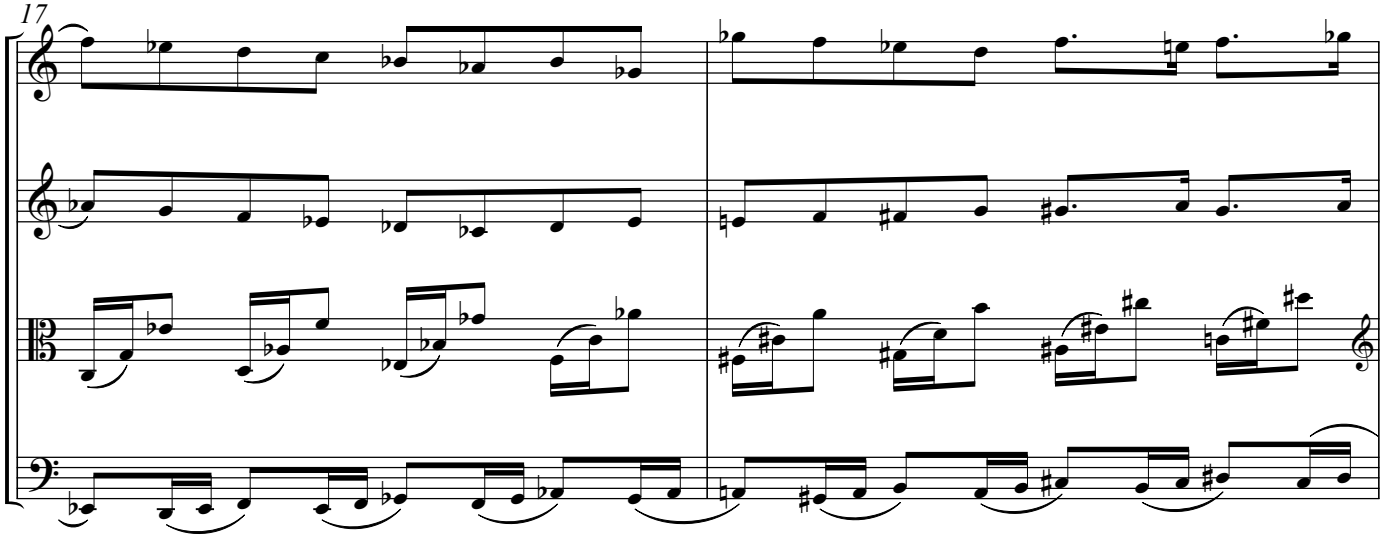
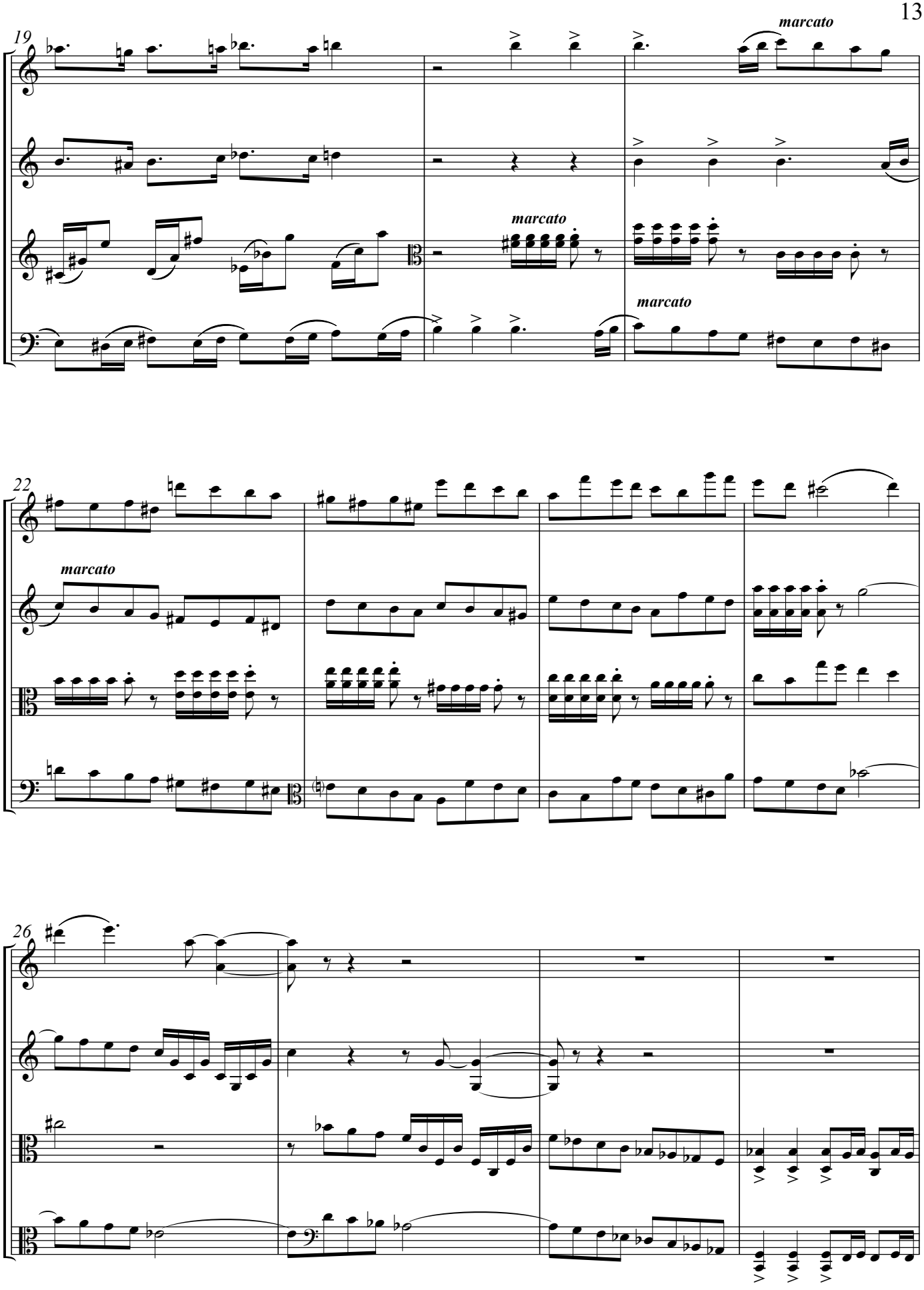
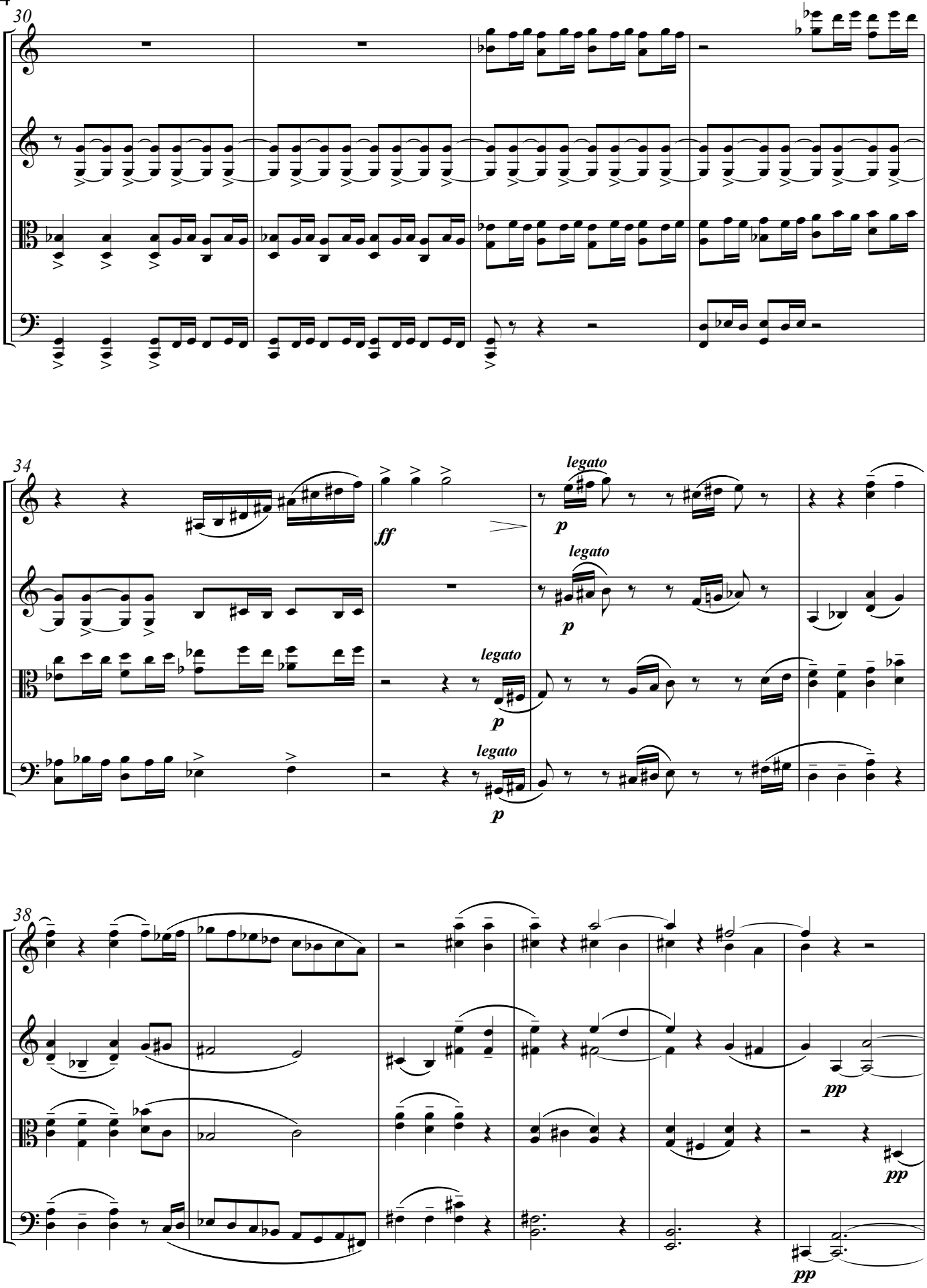
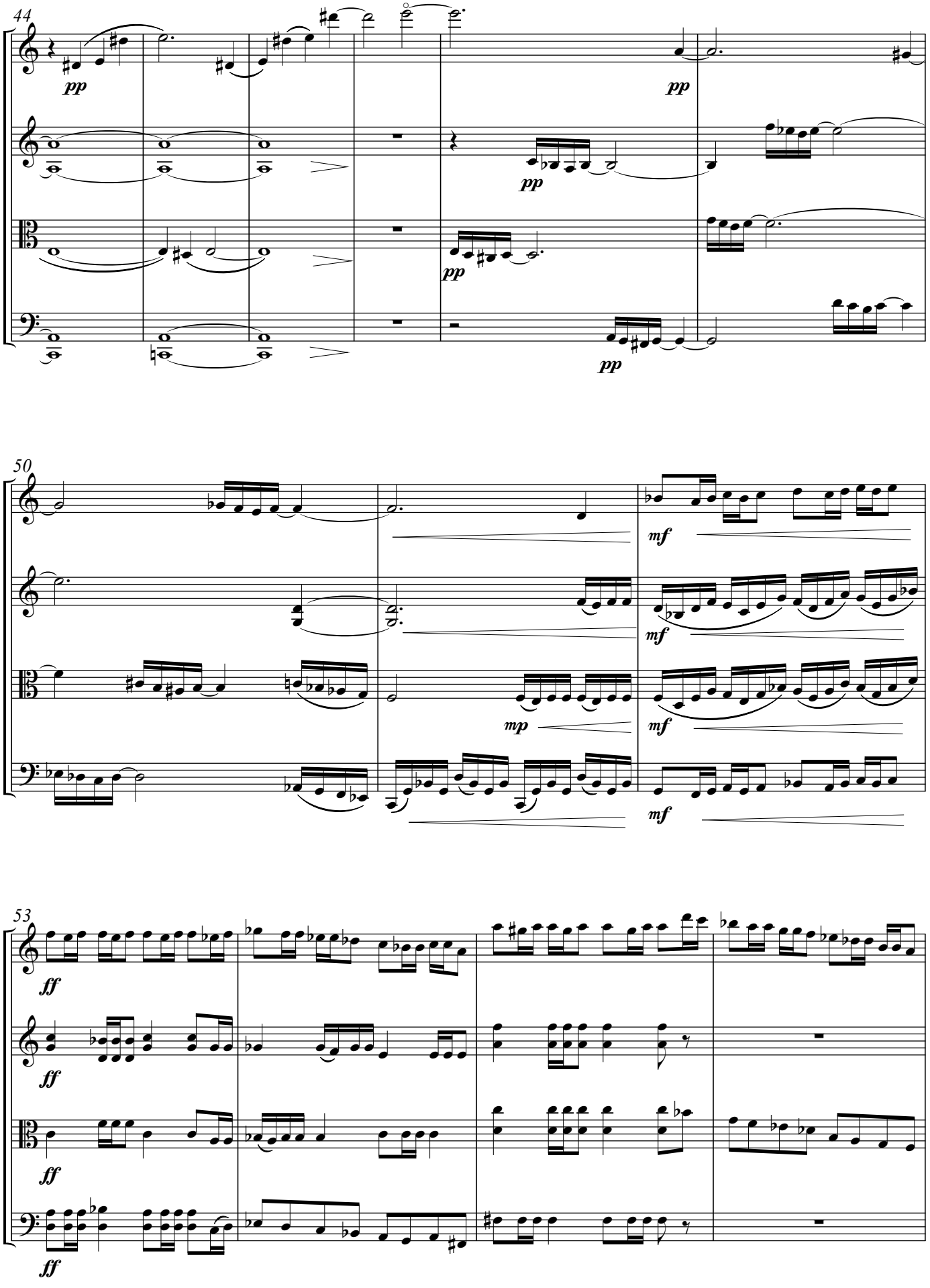


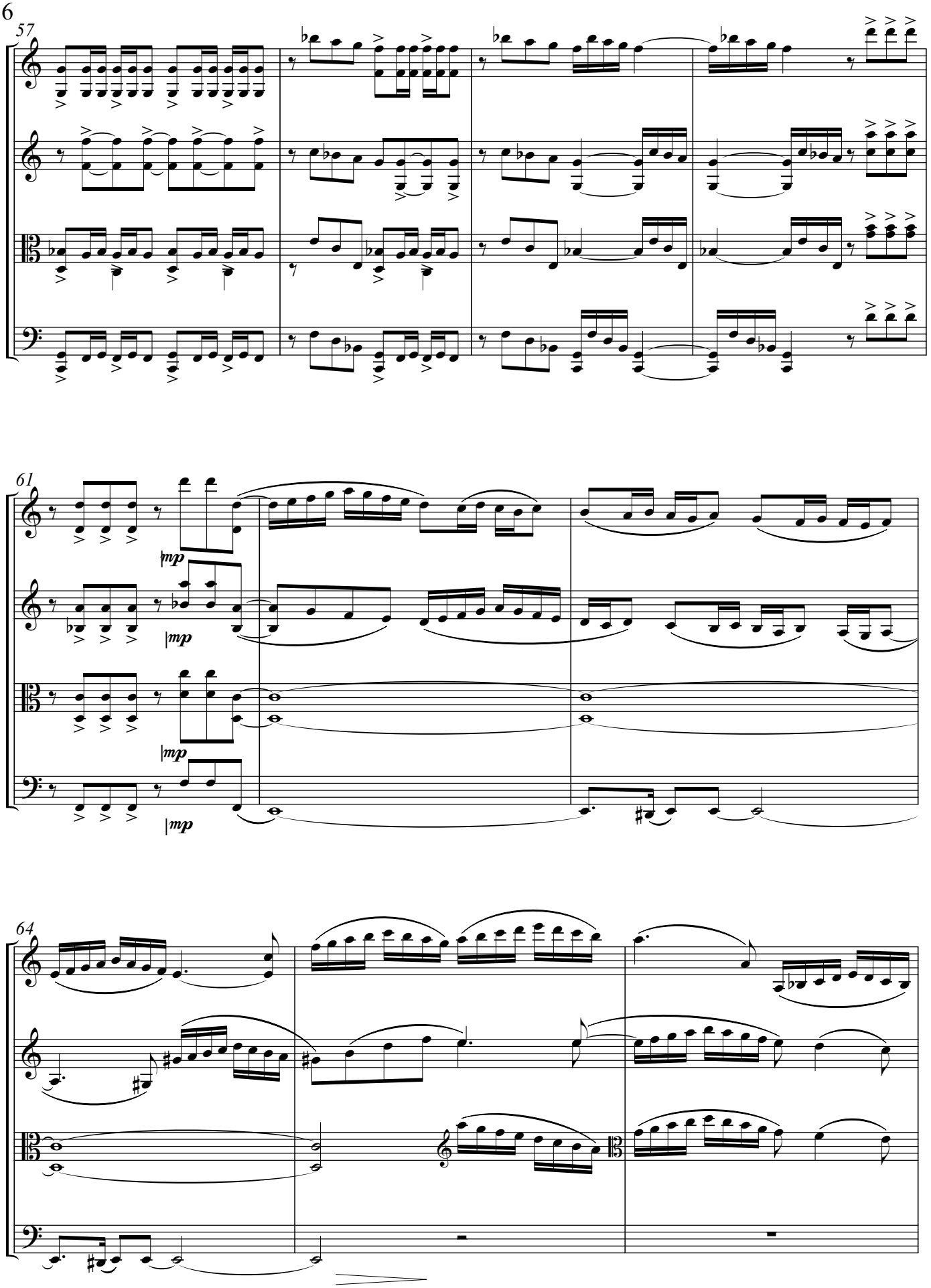
17

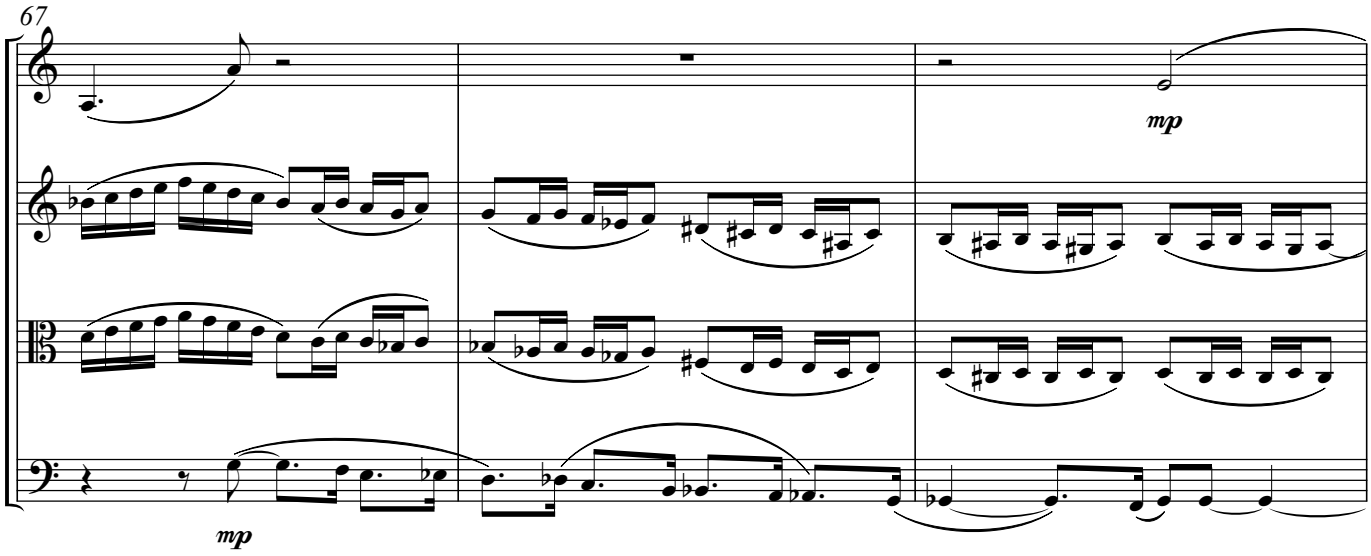


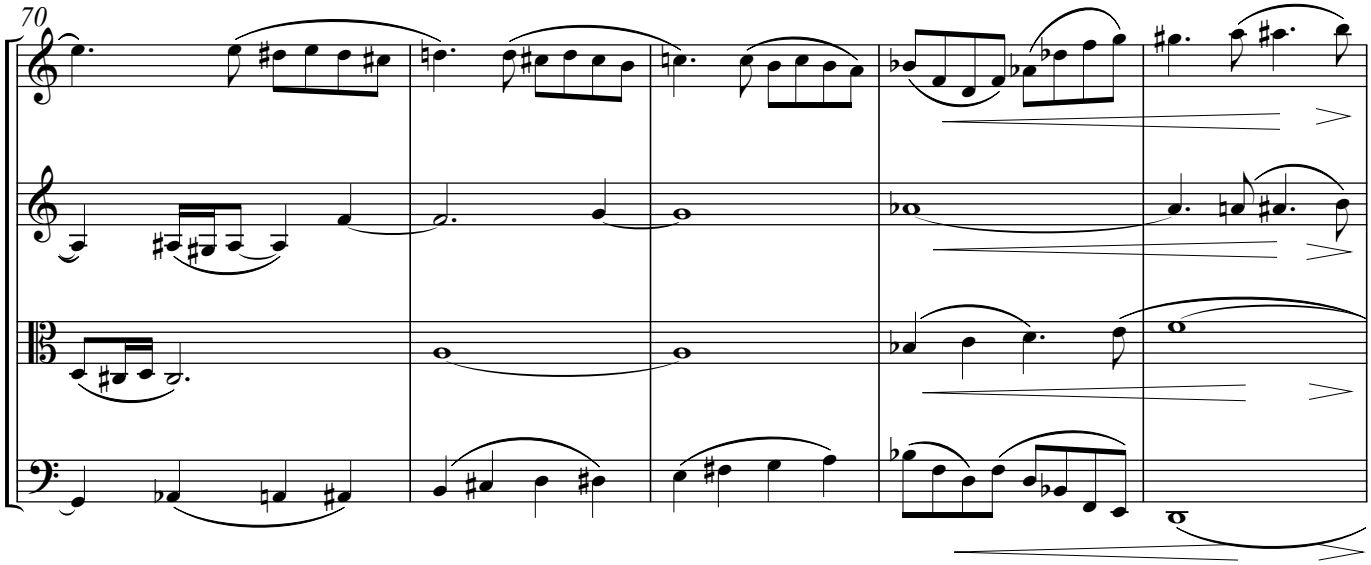

19
marcato
marcato
marcato
22
marcato
26


30
34
ff
legato
p
legato
p
legato
p
legato
p
38
pp
pp
pp


44
pp
pp
pp
pp
50
mf
mf
mp
mf
mf
53
ff
ff
ff
ff


57
61
mp
mp
mp
mp
64


67
mp
mp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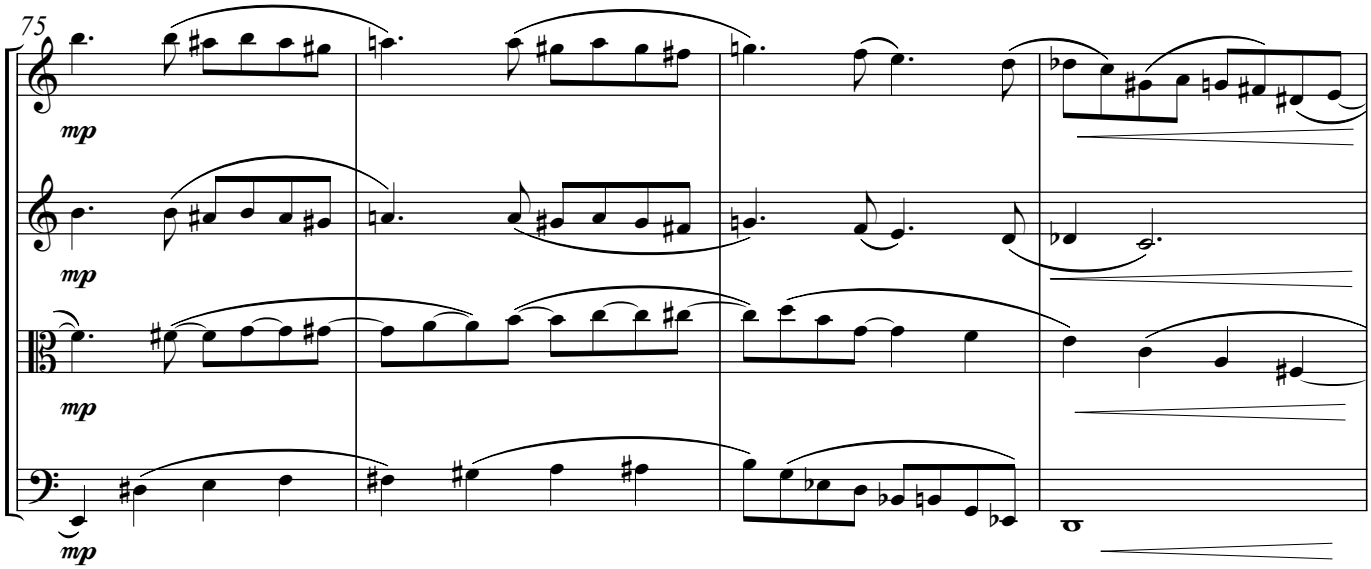
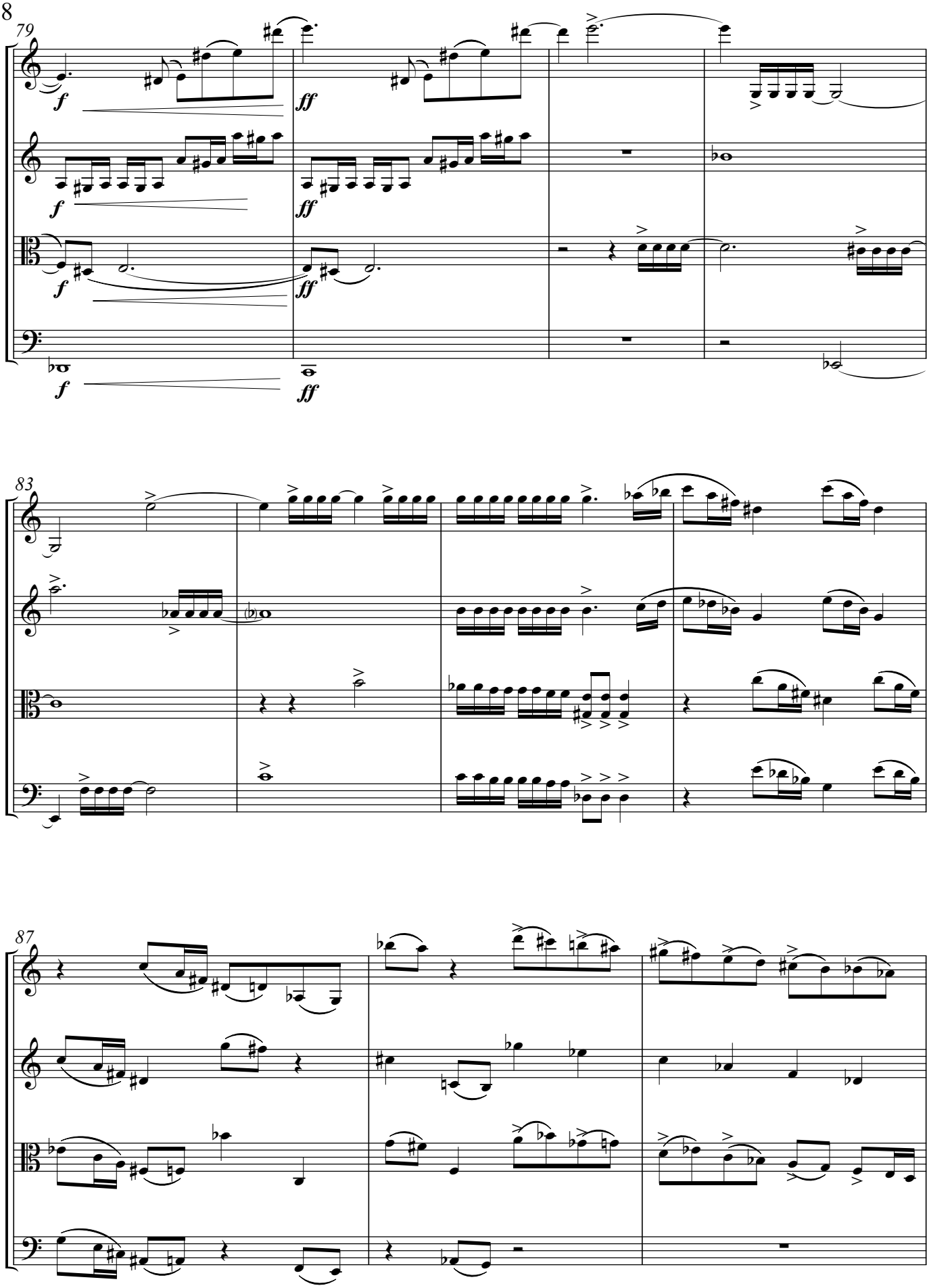
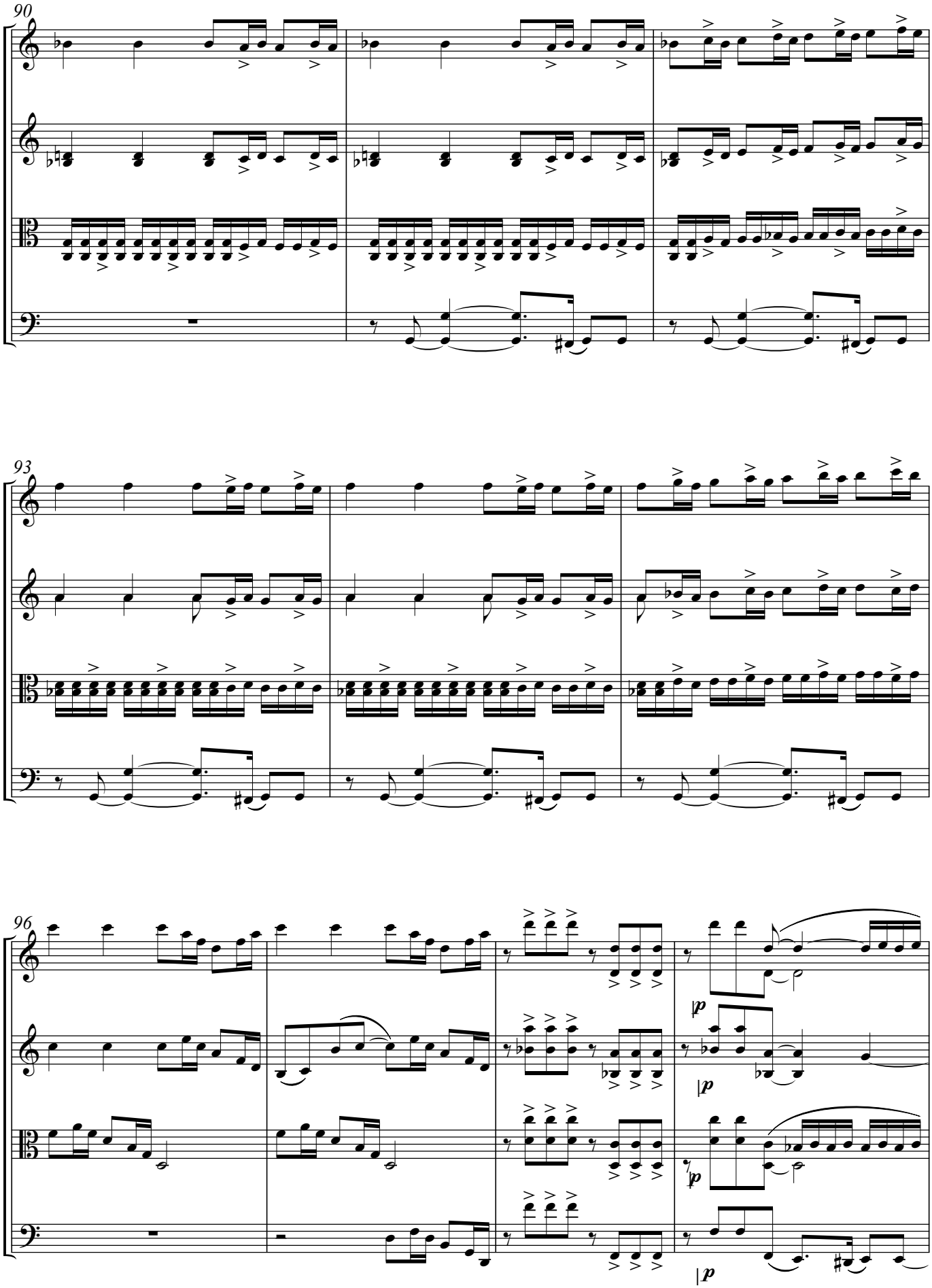
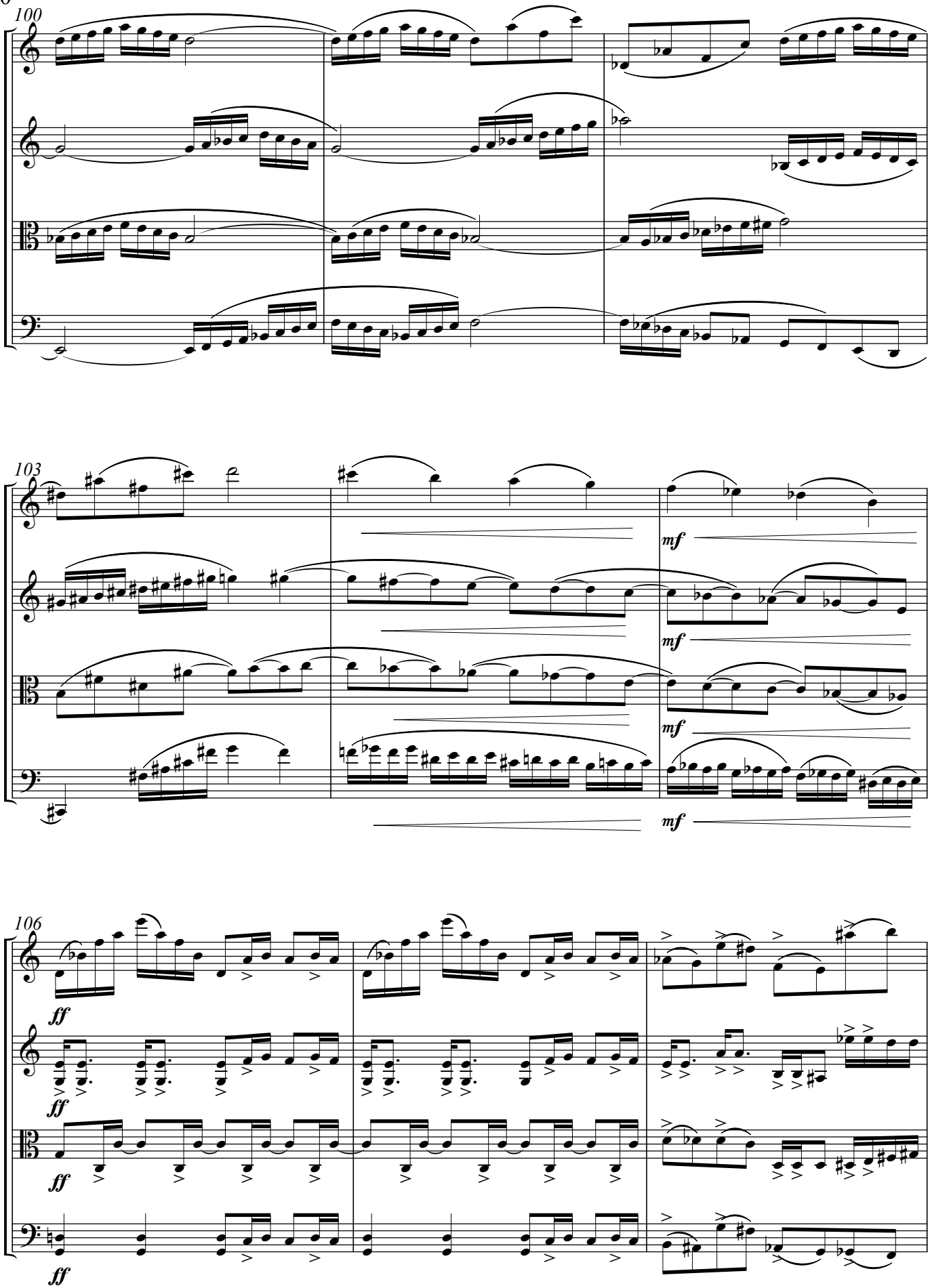
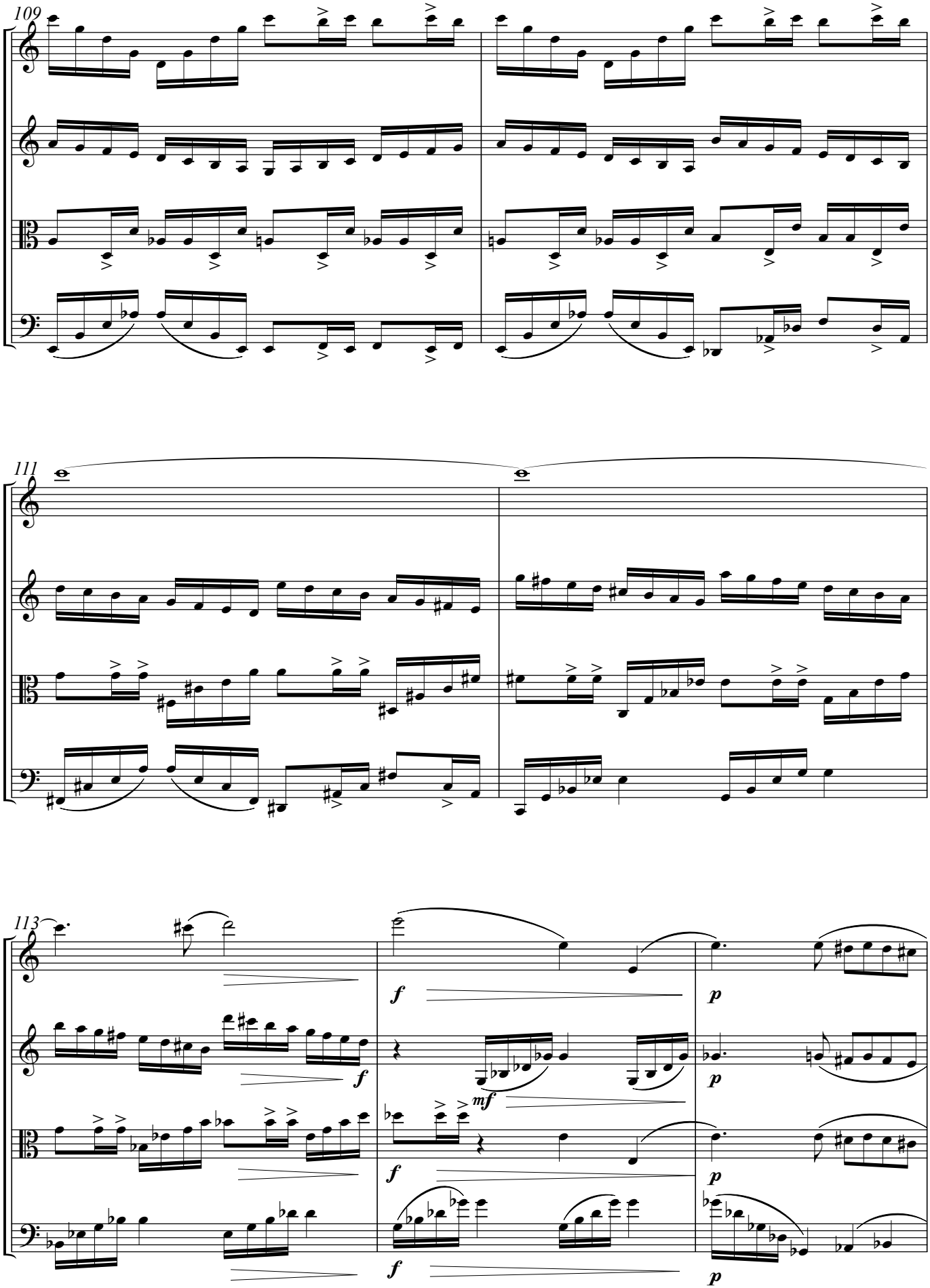
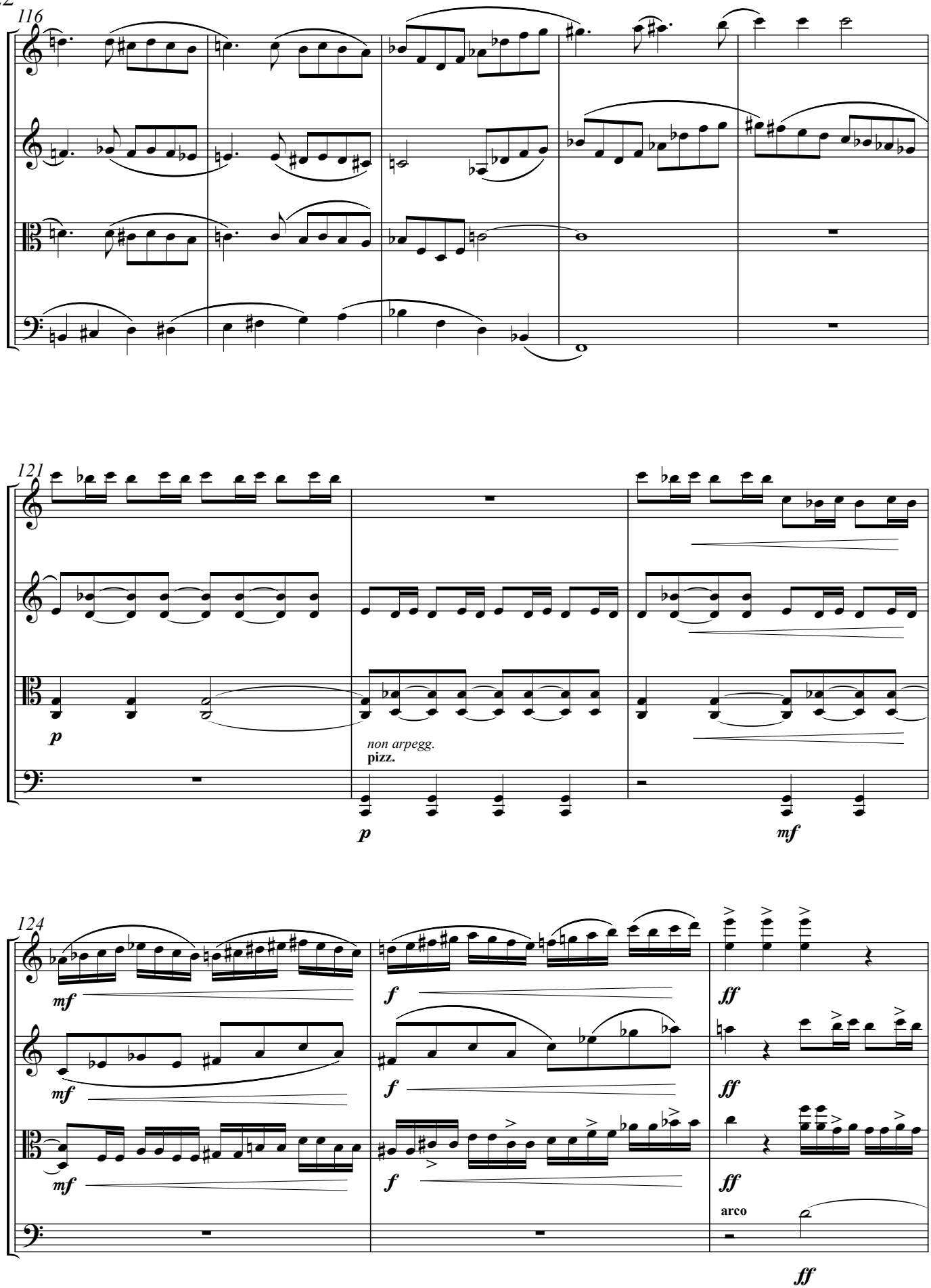

75
mp
mp
mp
mp

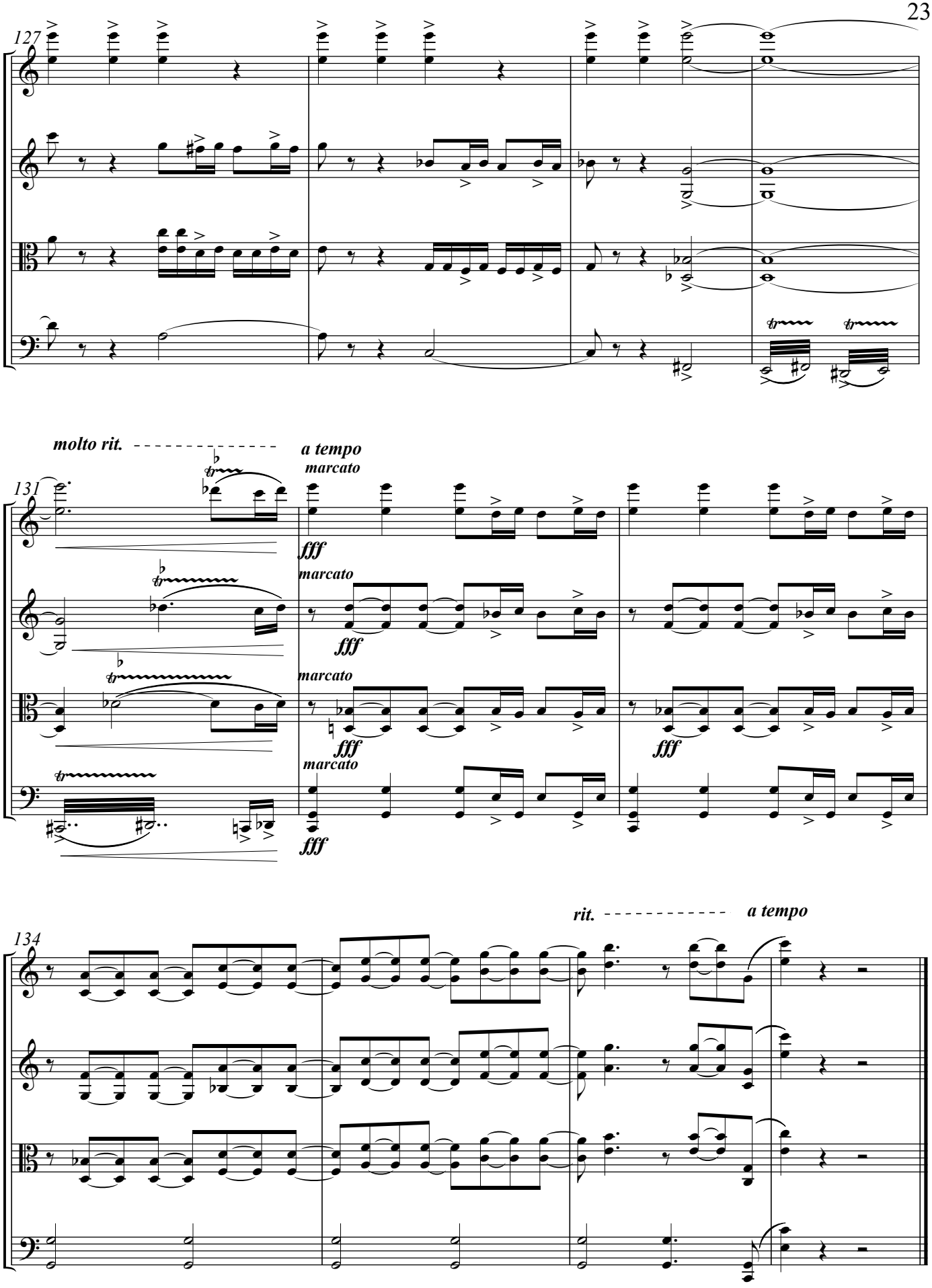

79
f
ff
83
87


90
93
96
p
p
p


100
103
mf
mf
mf
mf
106
ff
ff
ff
ff


109
111
113
f
mf
p


116
121
p
non arpegg.
pizz.
p
mf
124
mf
mf
mf
f
f
f
ff
ff
ff
arco
ff

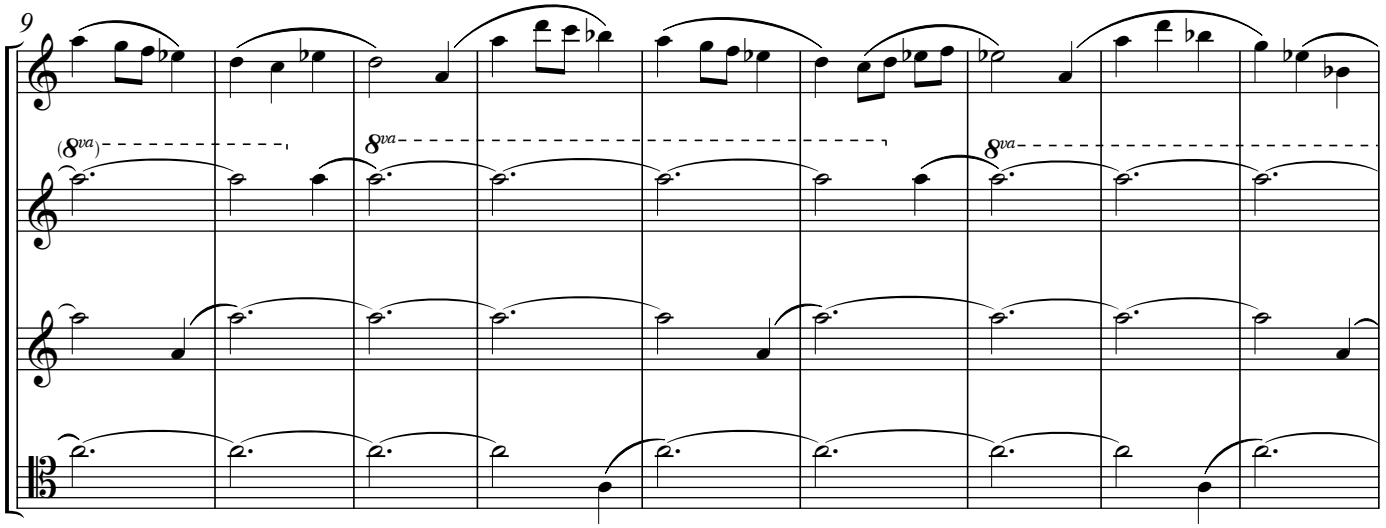

127
molto rit.
a tempo
marcato
131
fff
marcato
fff
marcato
fff
marcato
fff
rit.
a tempo
134

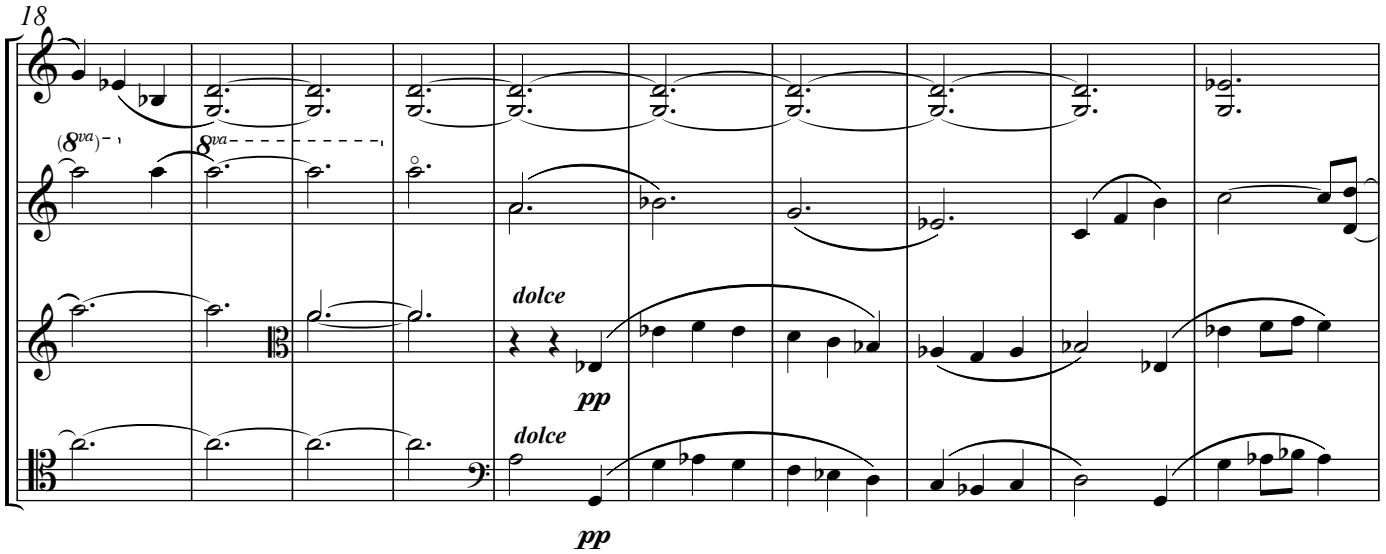
III. Dance for the seriously ill [6']

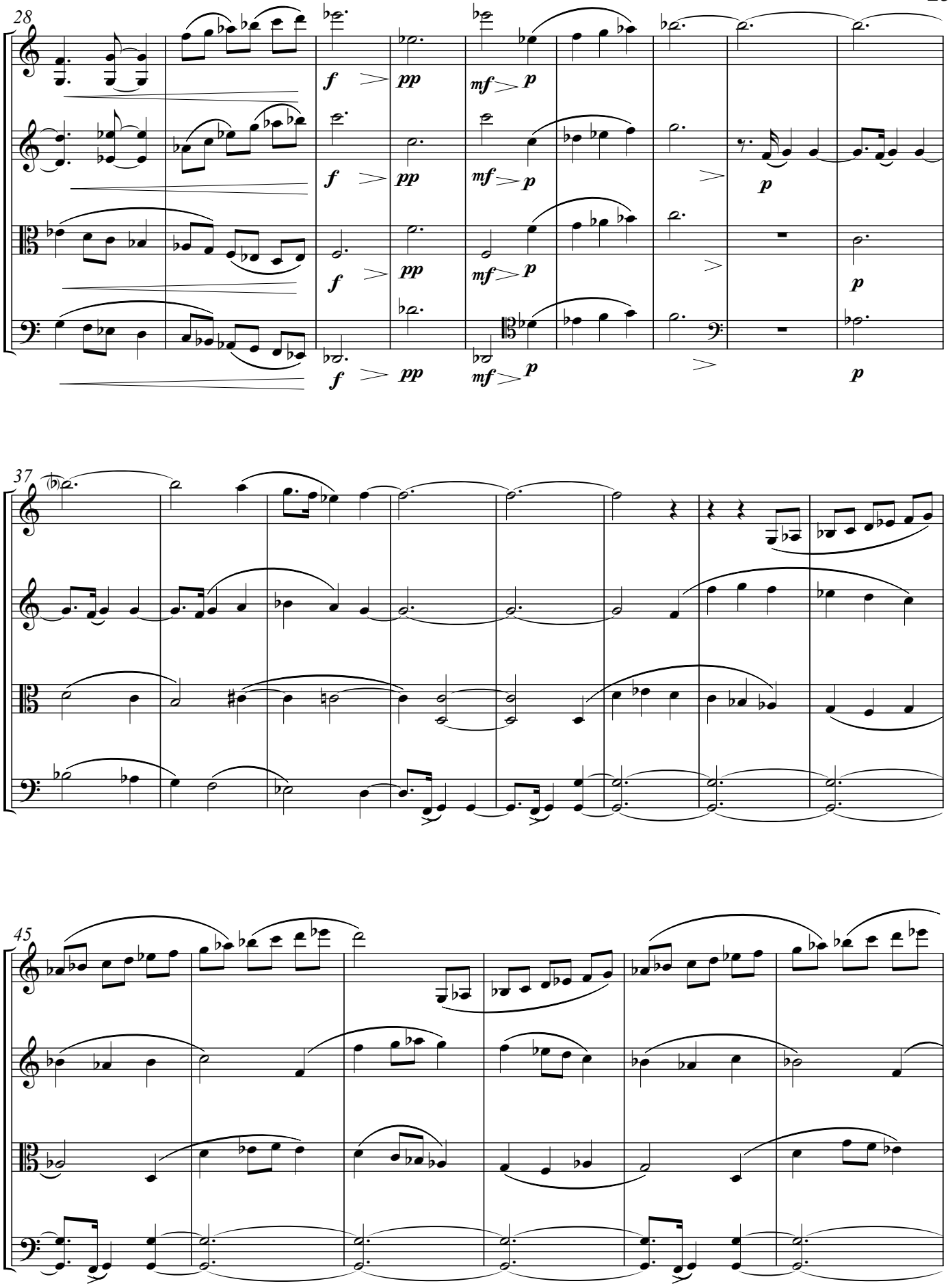
Largo (♩ = 60)

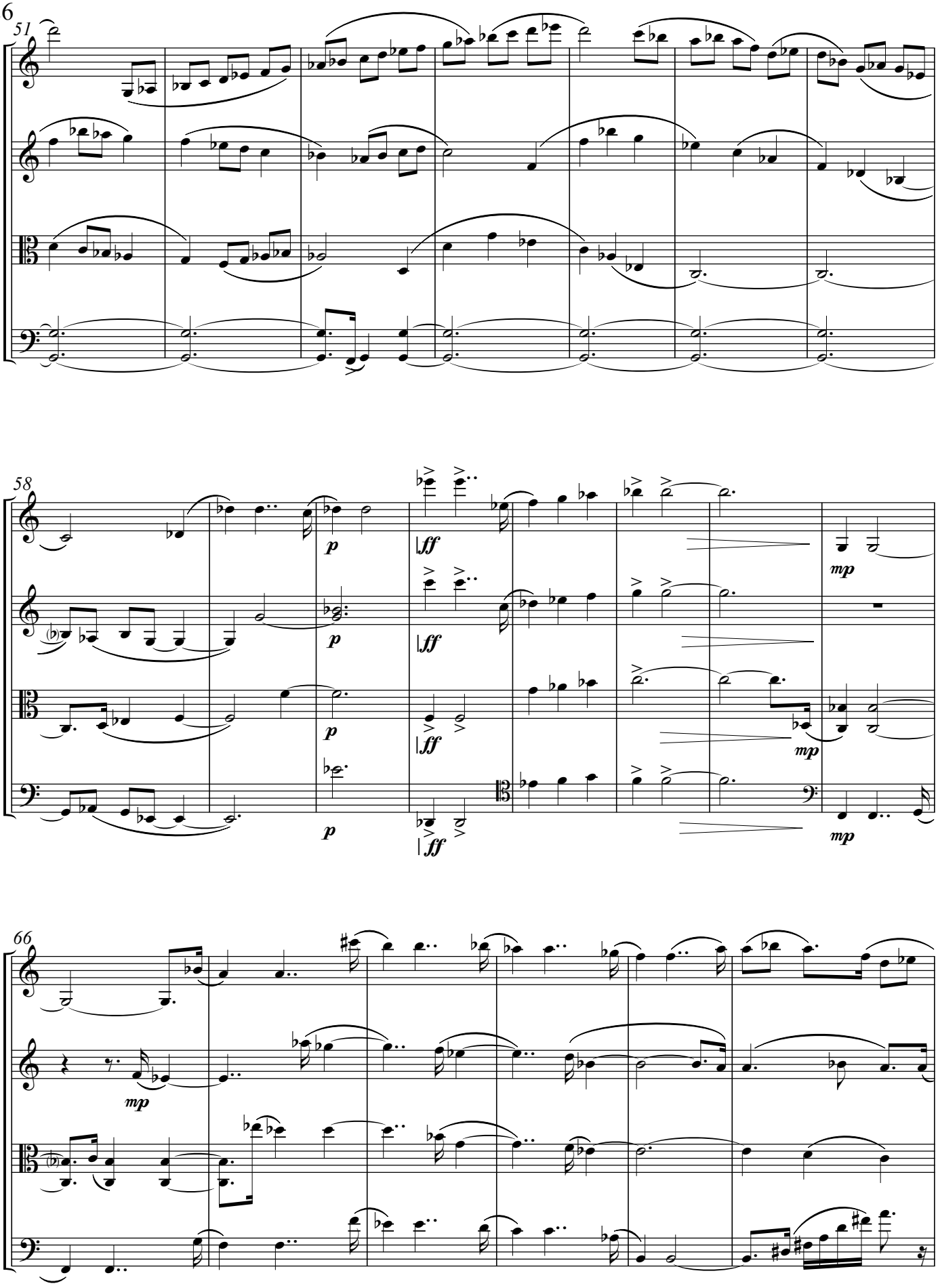
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello

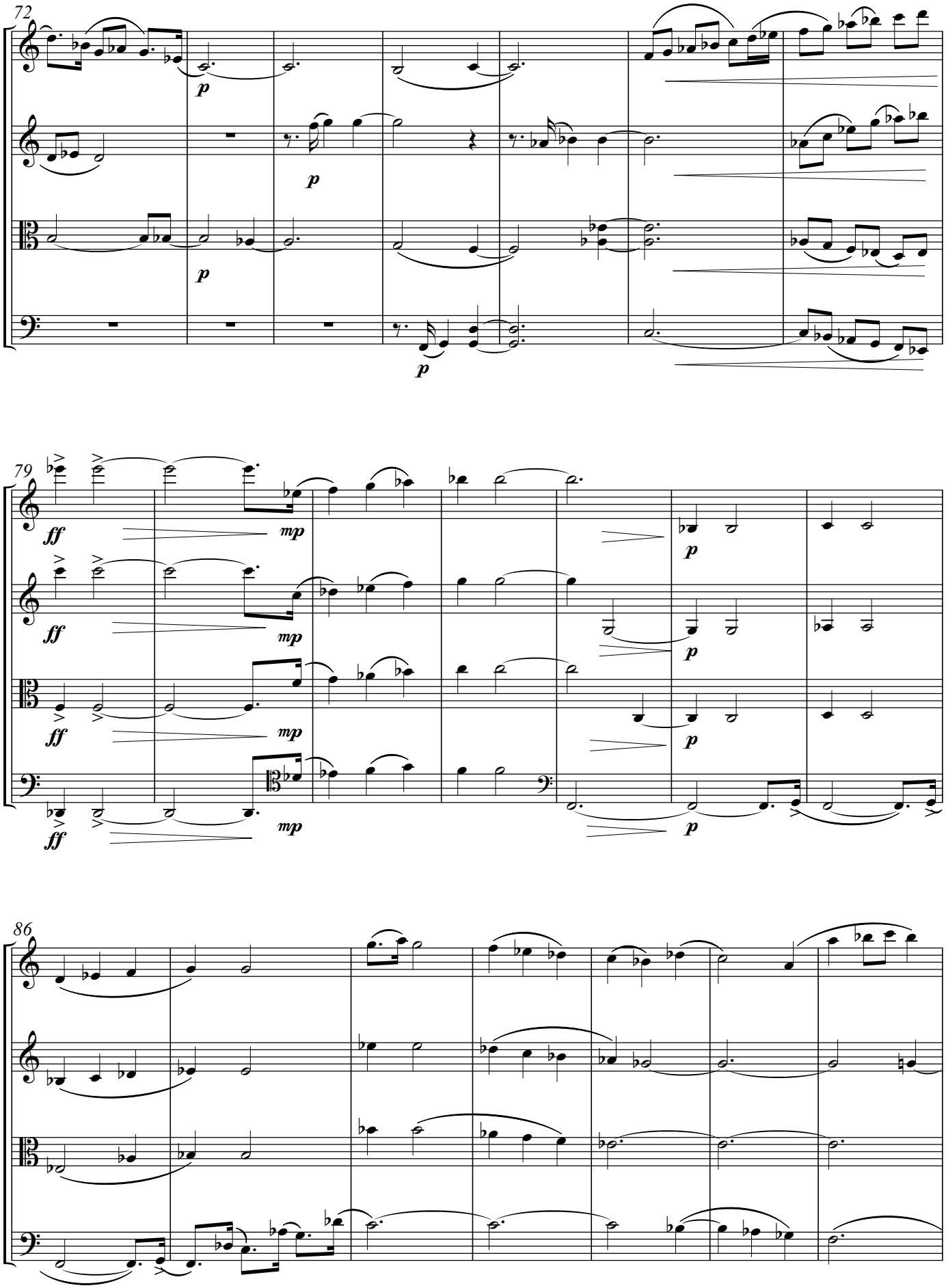
con sord. *pp* *dolce*

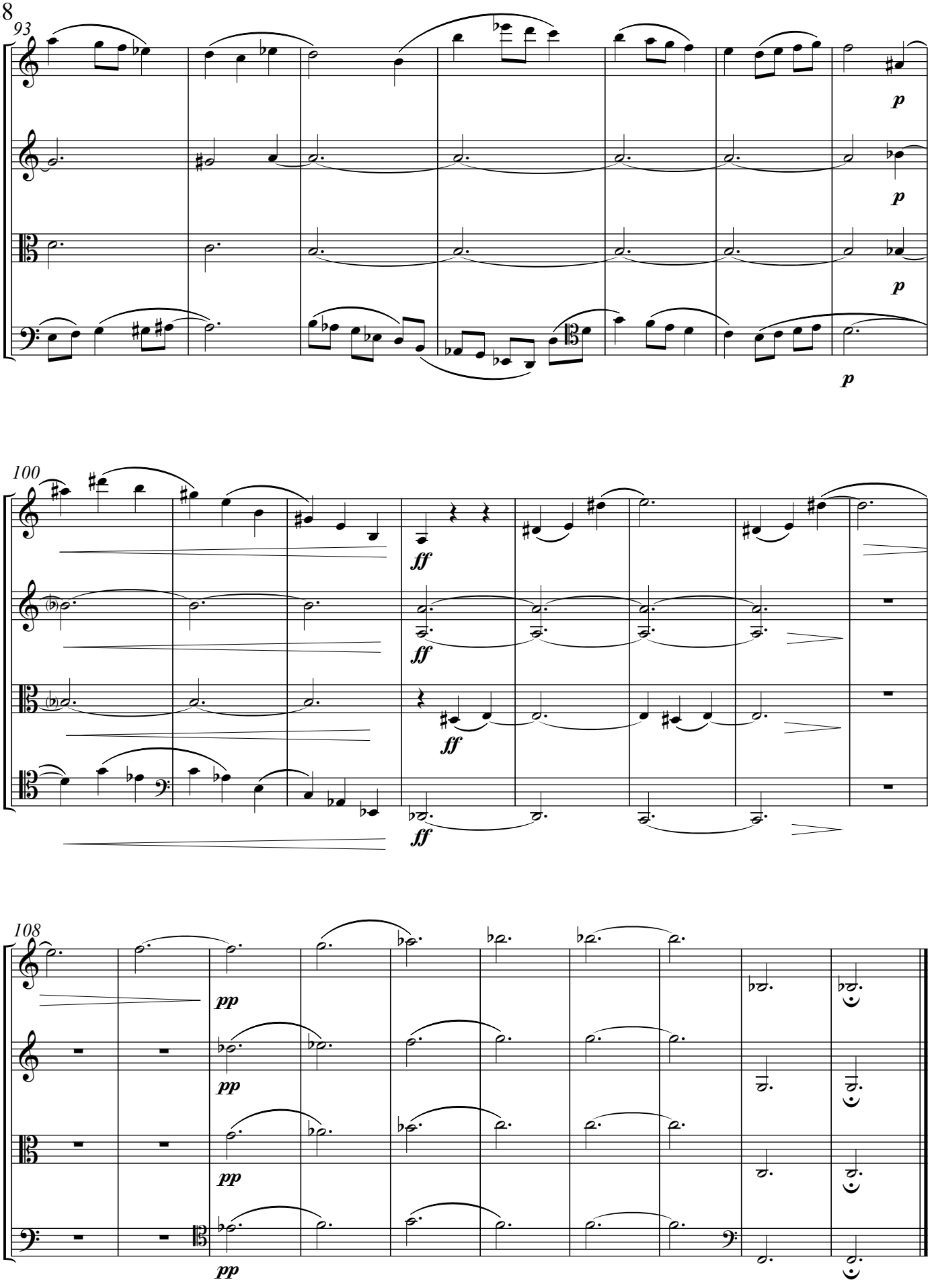





28
f
pp
mf
p
37
45

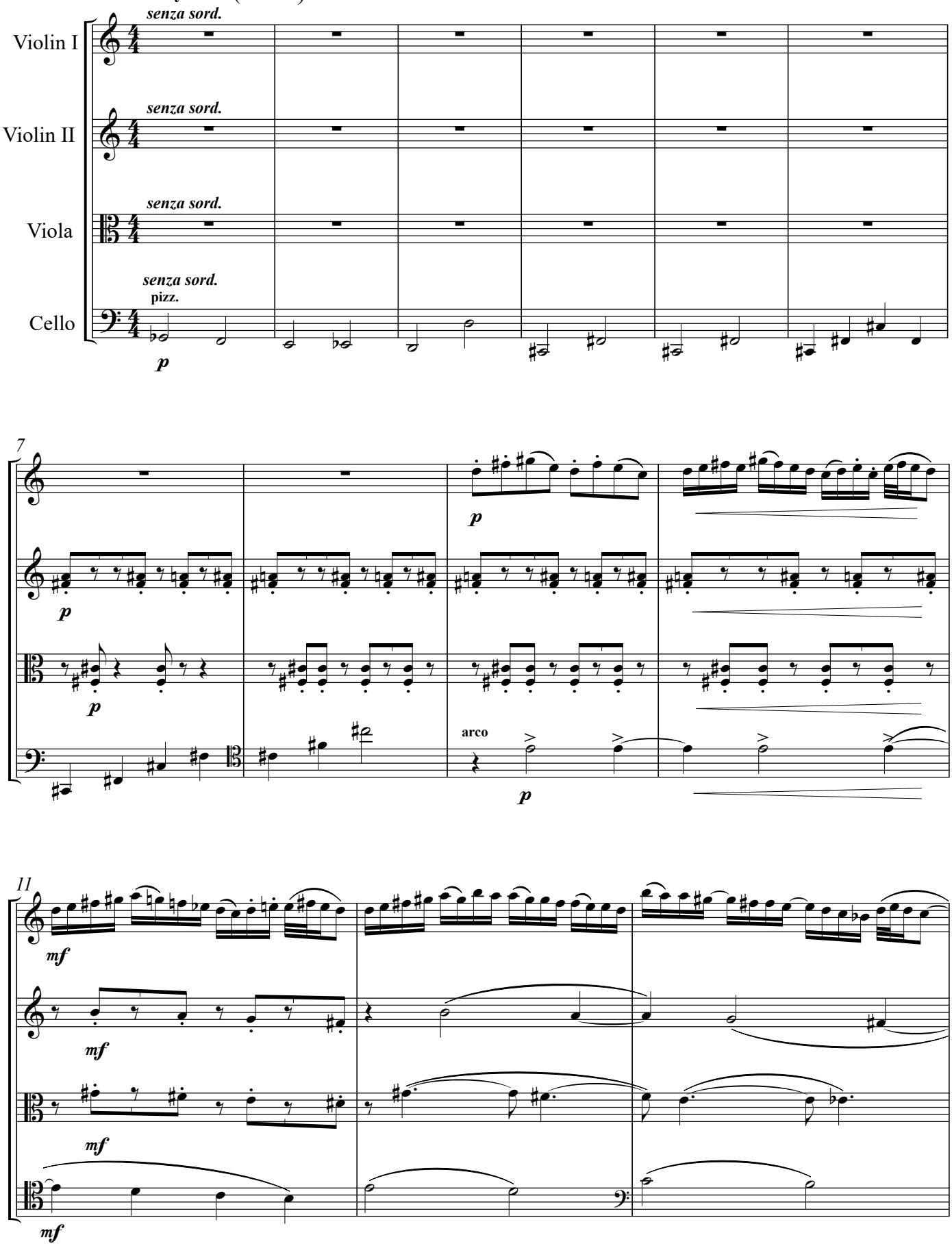

51
58
66
p
ff
mp

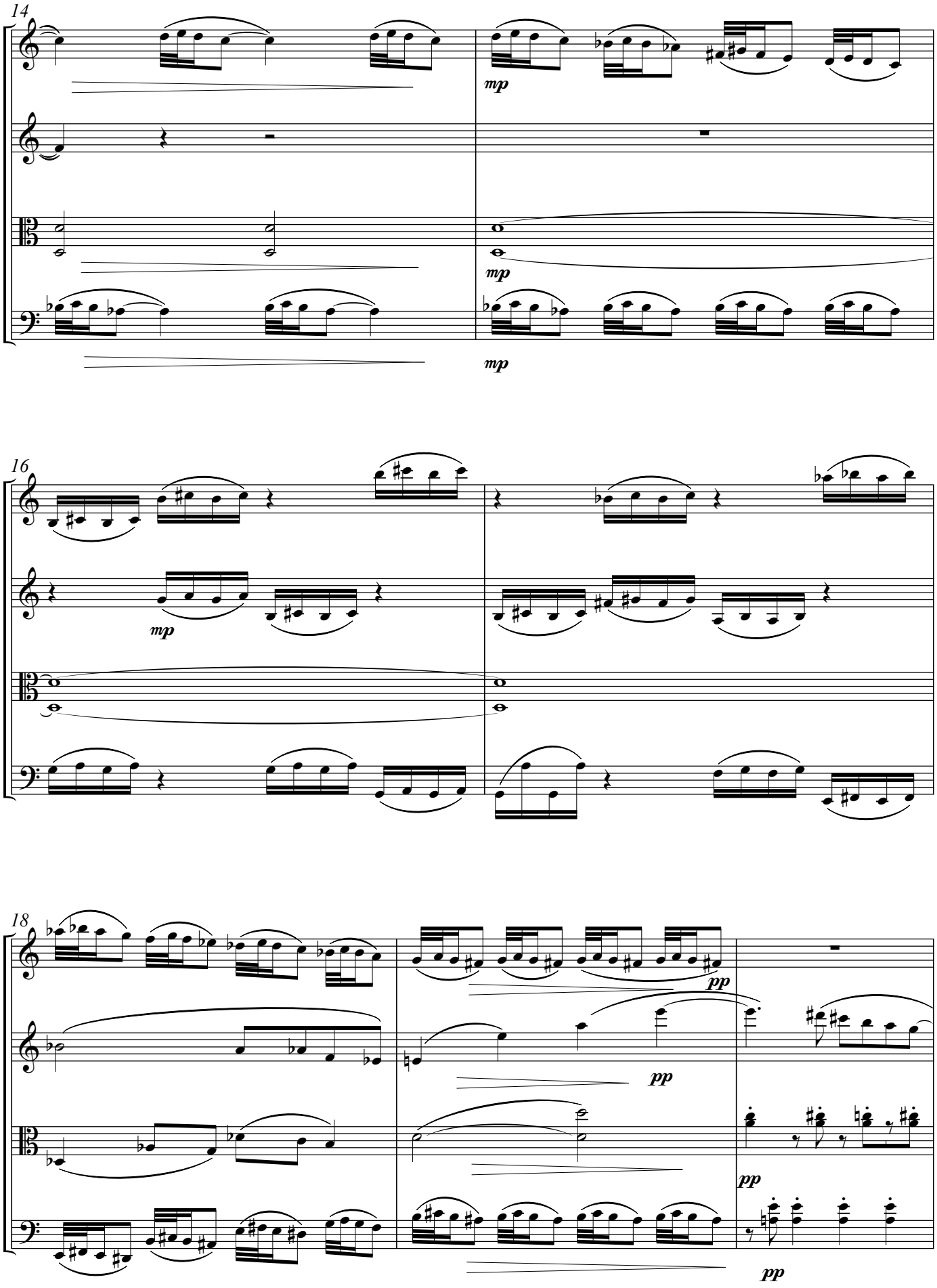

72
p
p
p
p
79
ff
mp
ff
mp
ff
mp
p
p
p
p
86

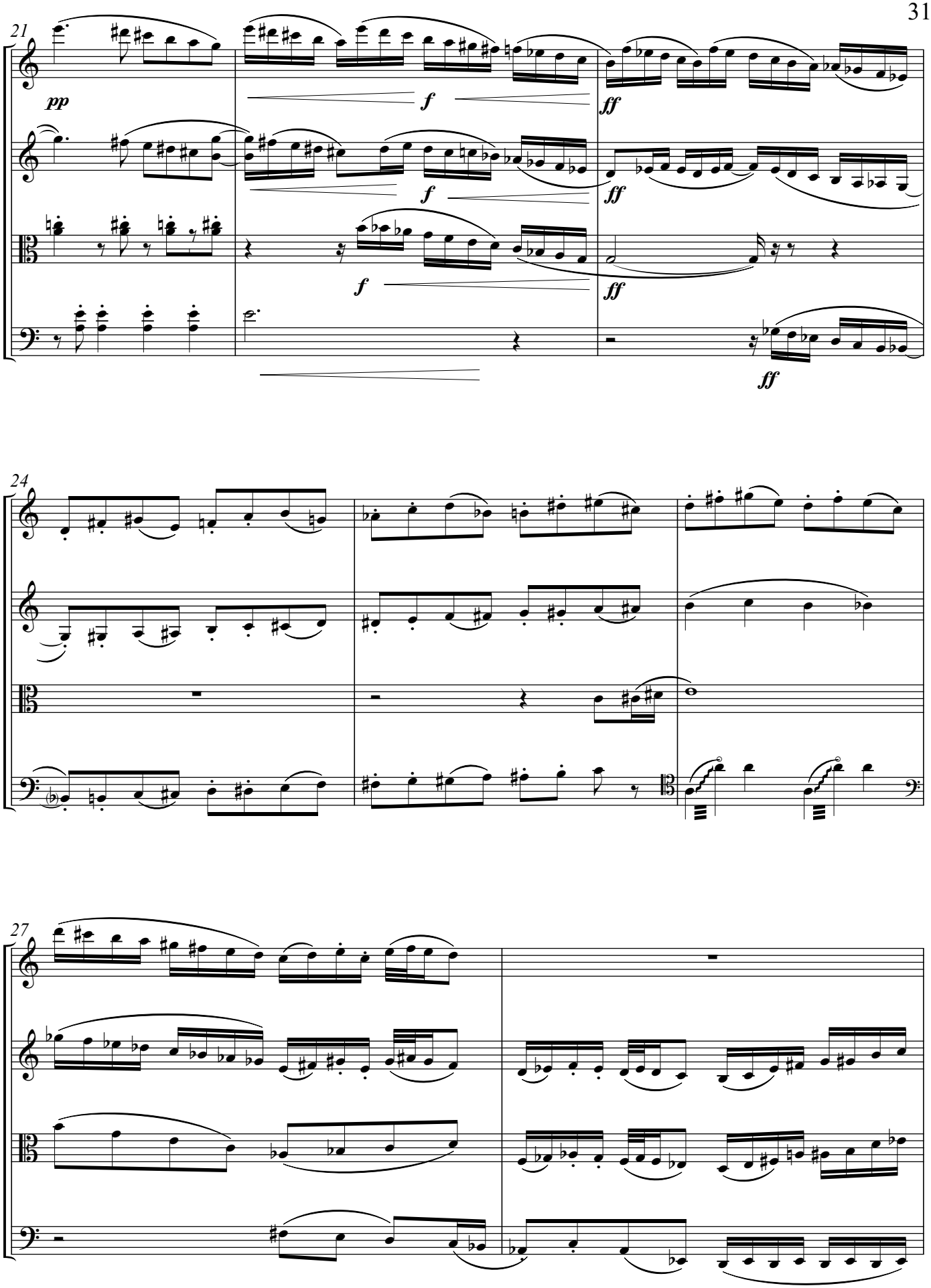

93
p
p
p
p
100
ff
ff
ff
ff
108
pp
pp
pp
pp

IV. Barn Dance with Gypsies [6']

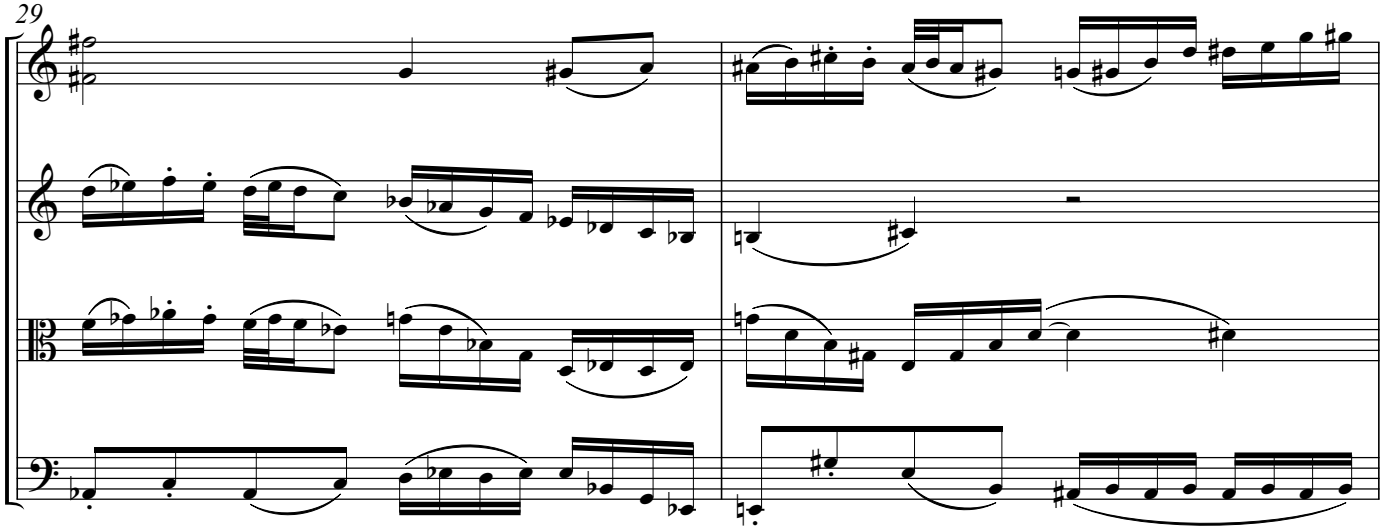
Romayana (♩ = 100)




14
mp
mp
mp
16
mp
18
pp
pp
pp
pp


21
pp
f
ff
f
ff
f
ff
ff
24
27

29



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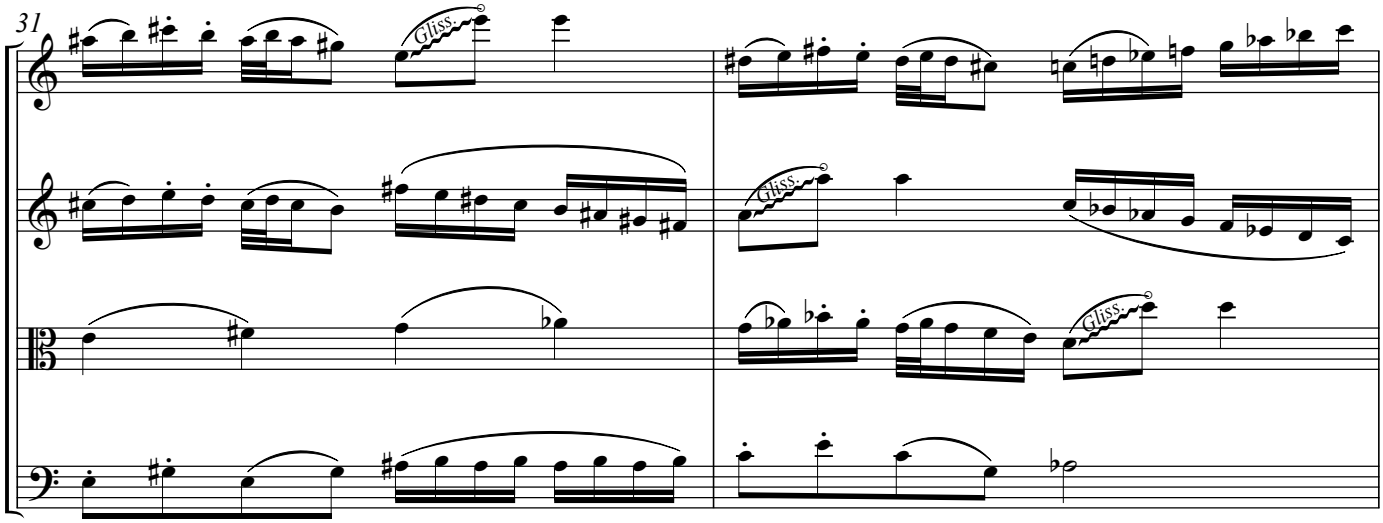

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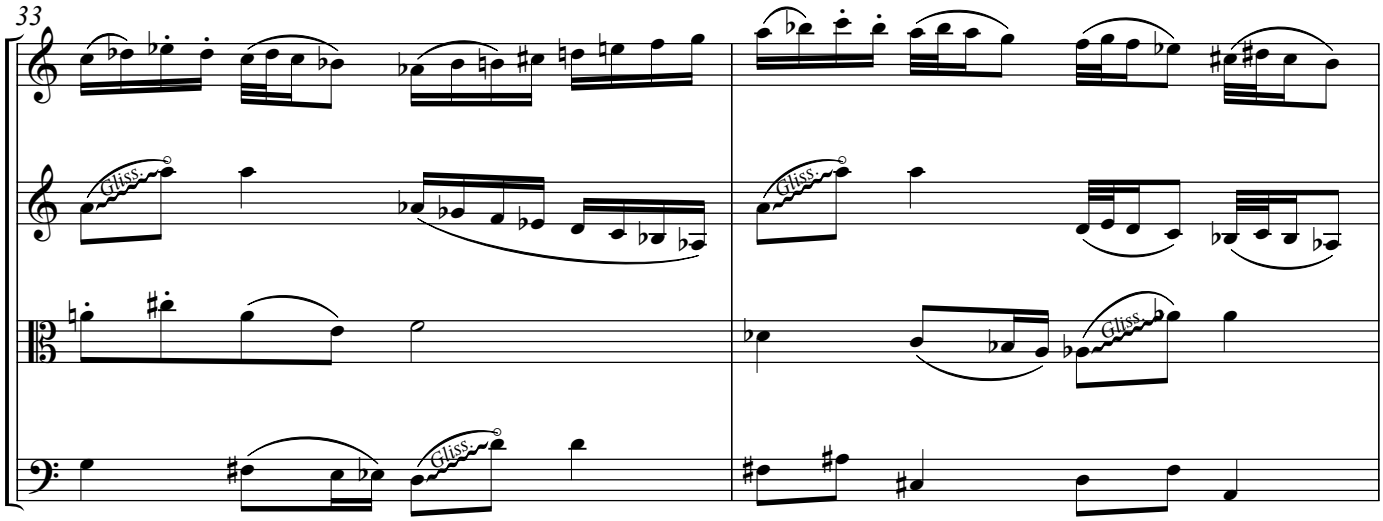
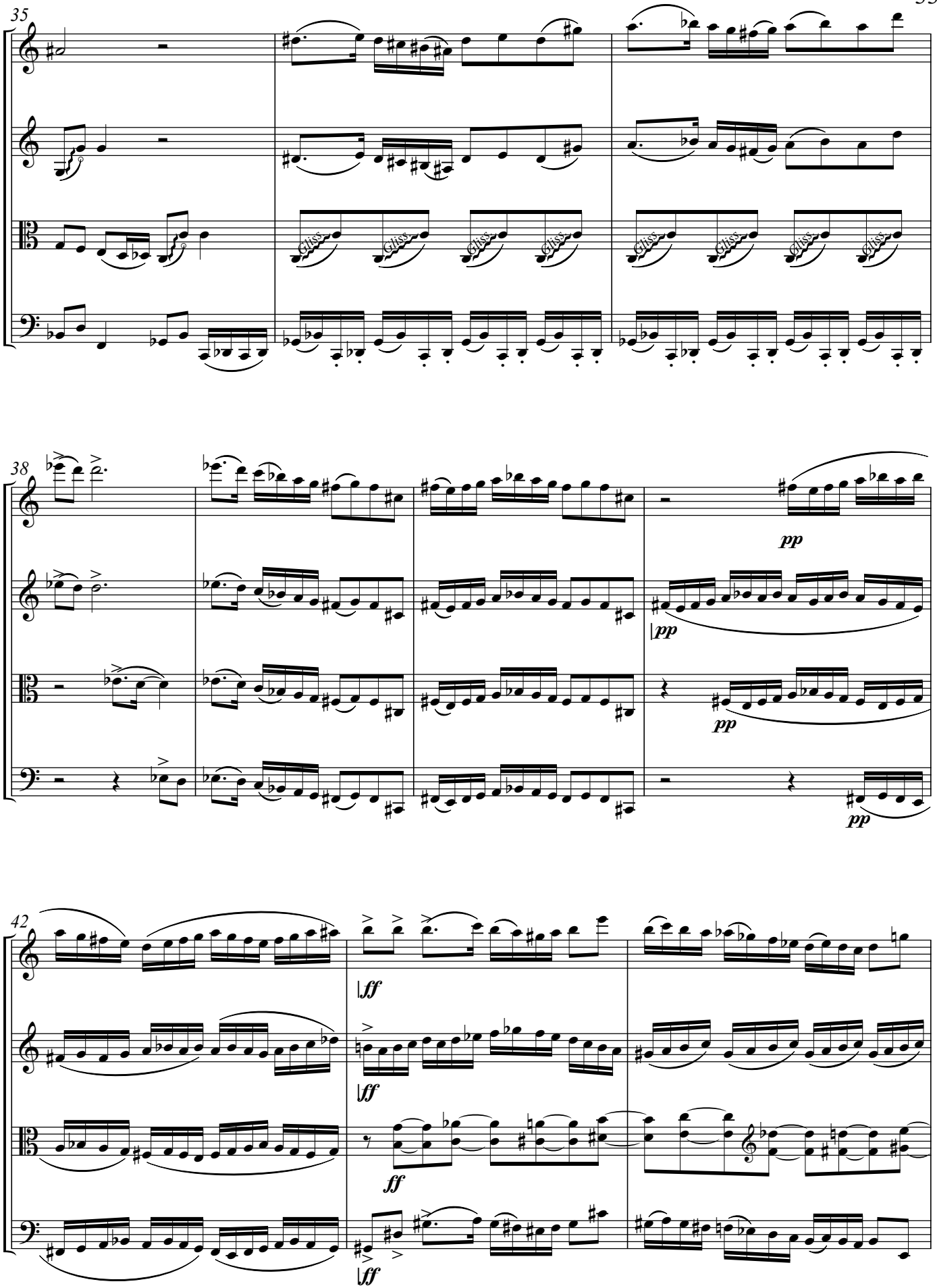
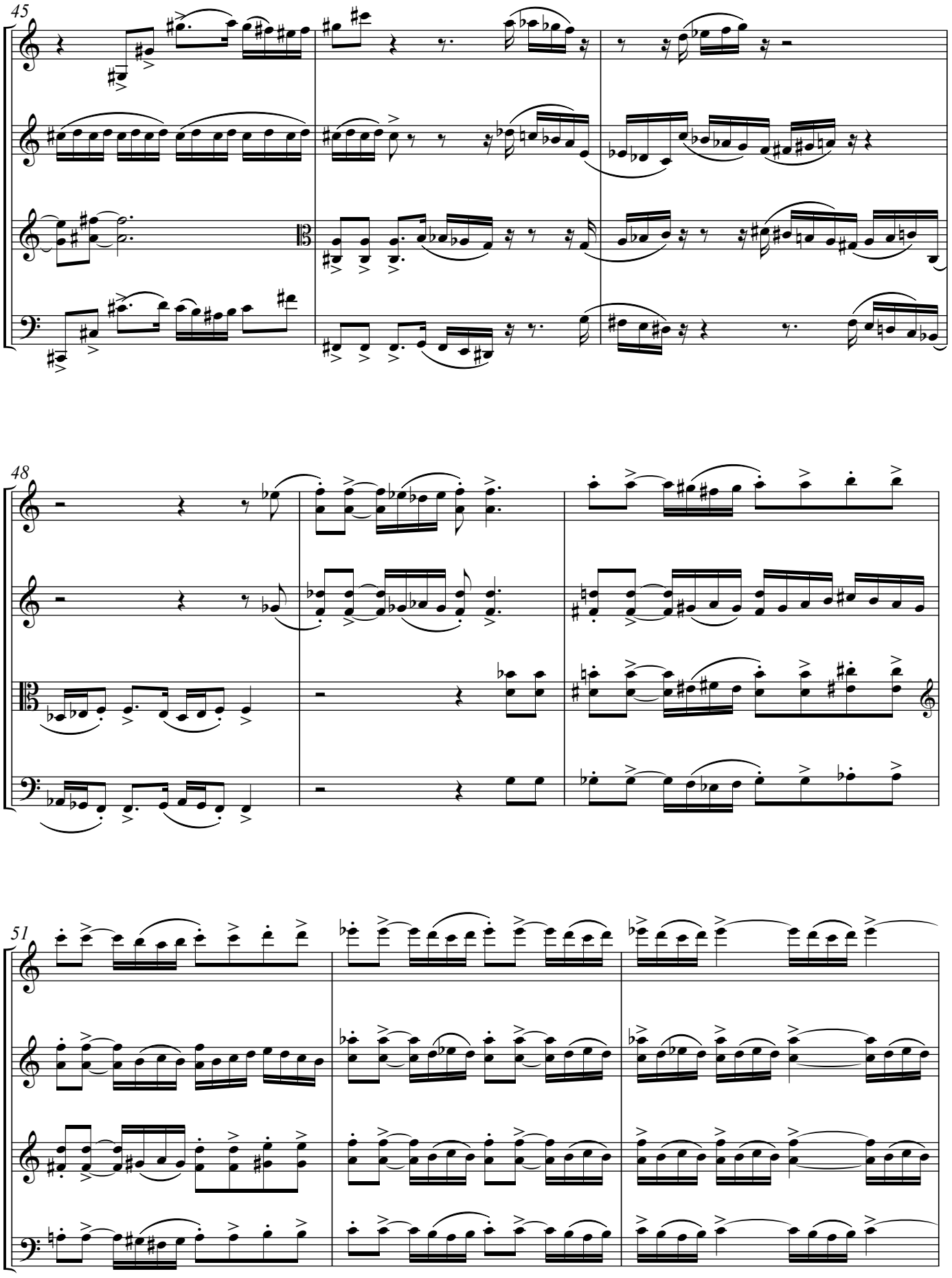
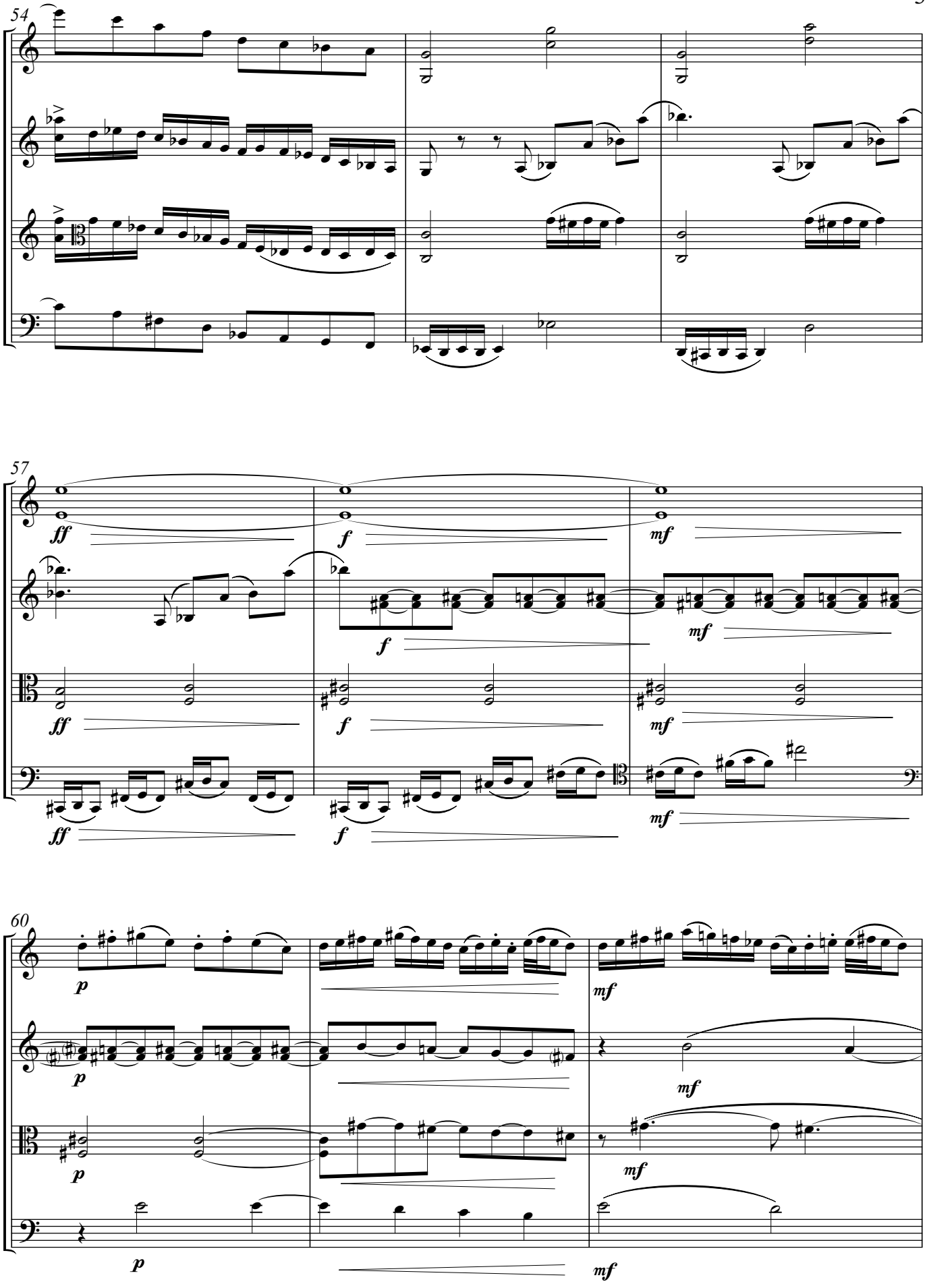
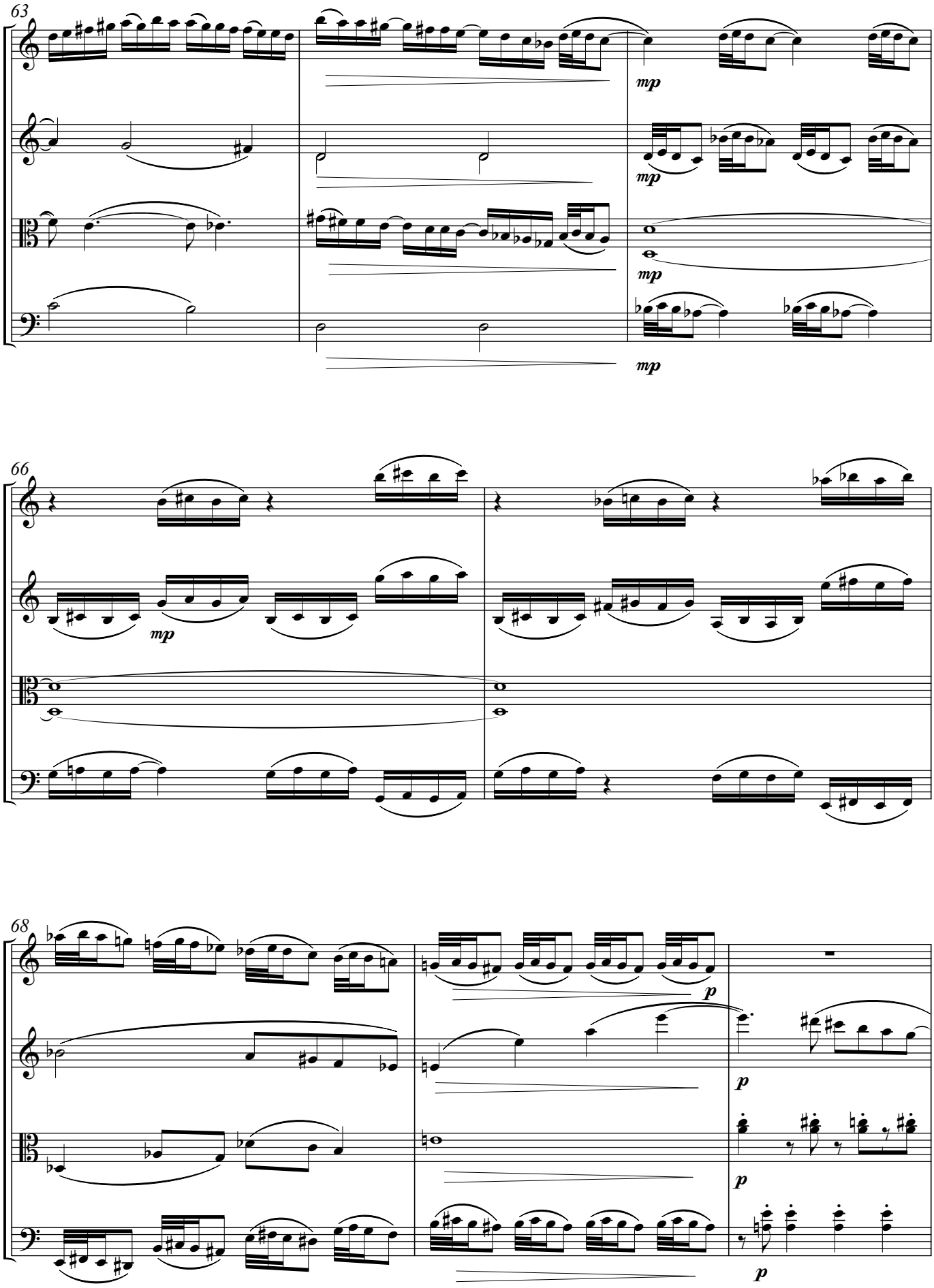



35
Gliss.
38
pp
42
ff


45
48
51


54
57
60
ff
f
mf
p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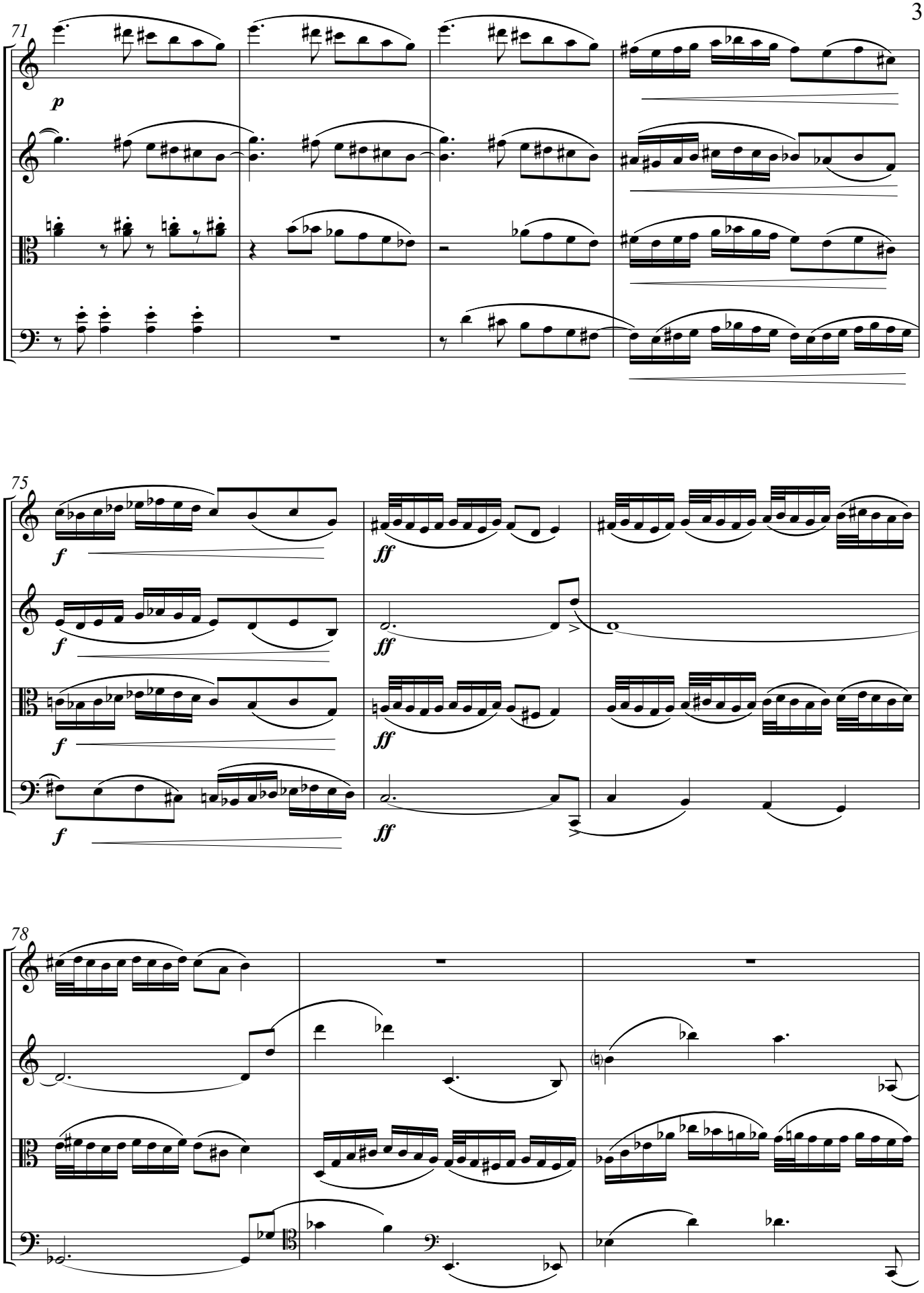
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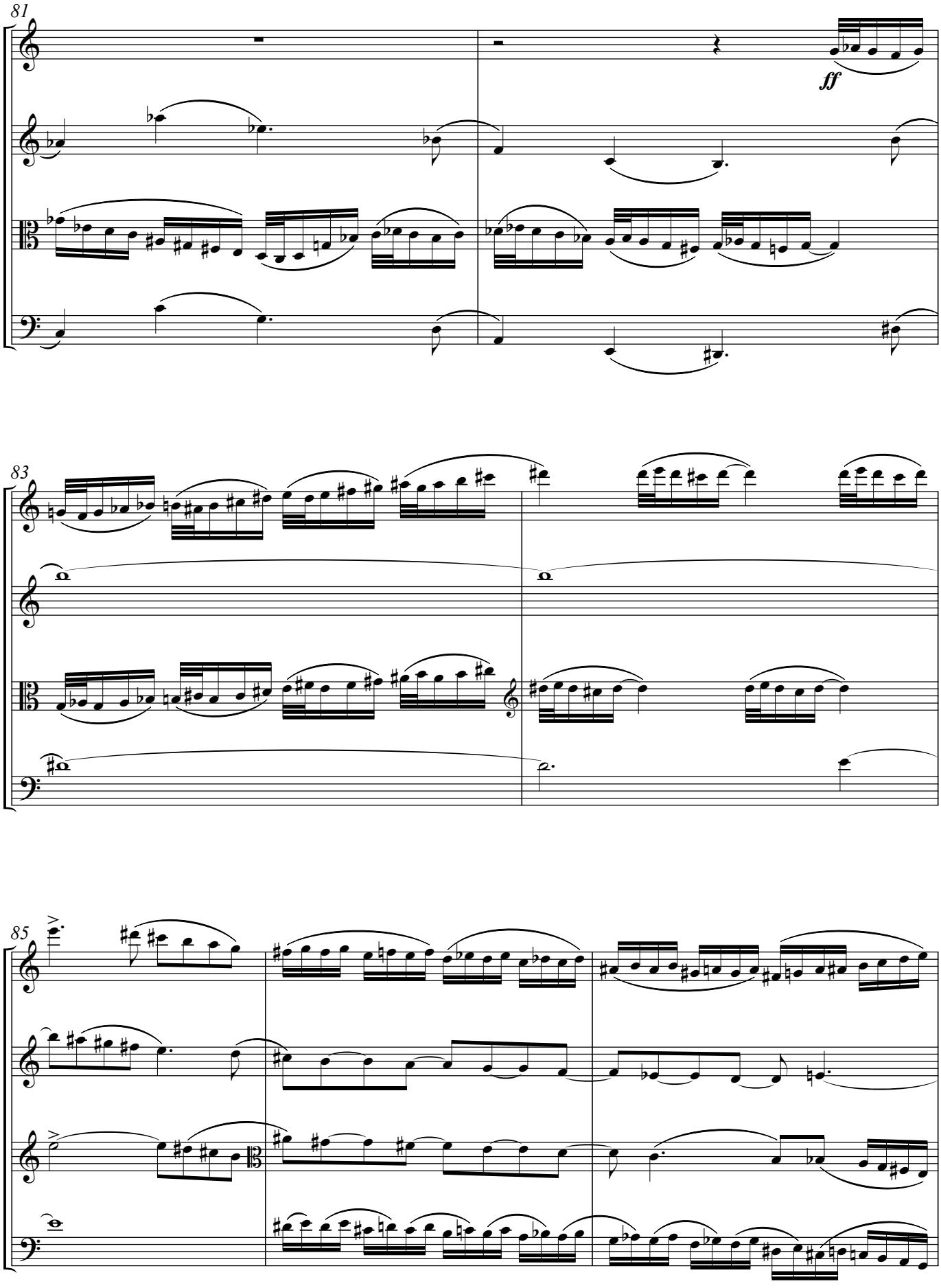
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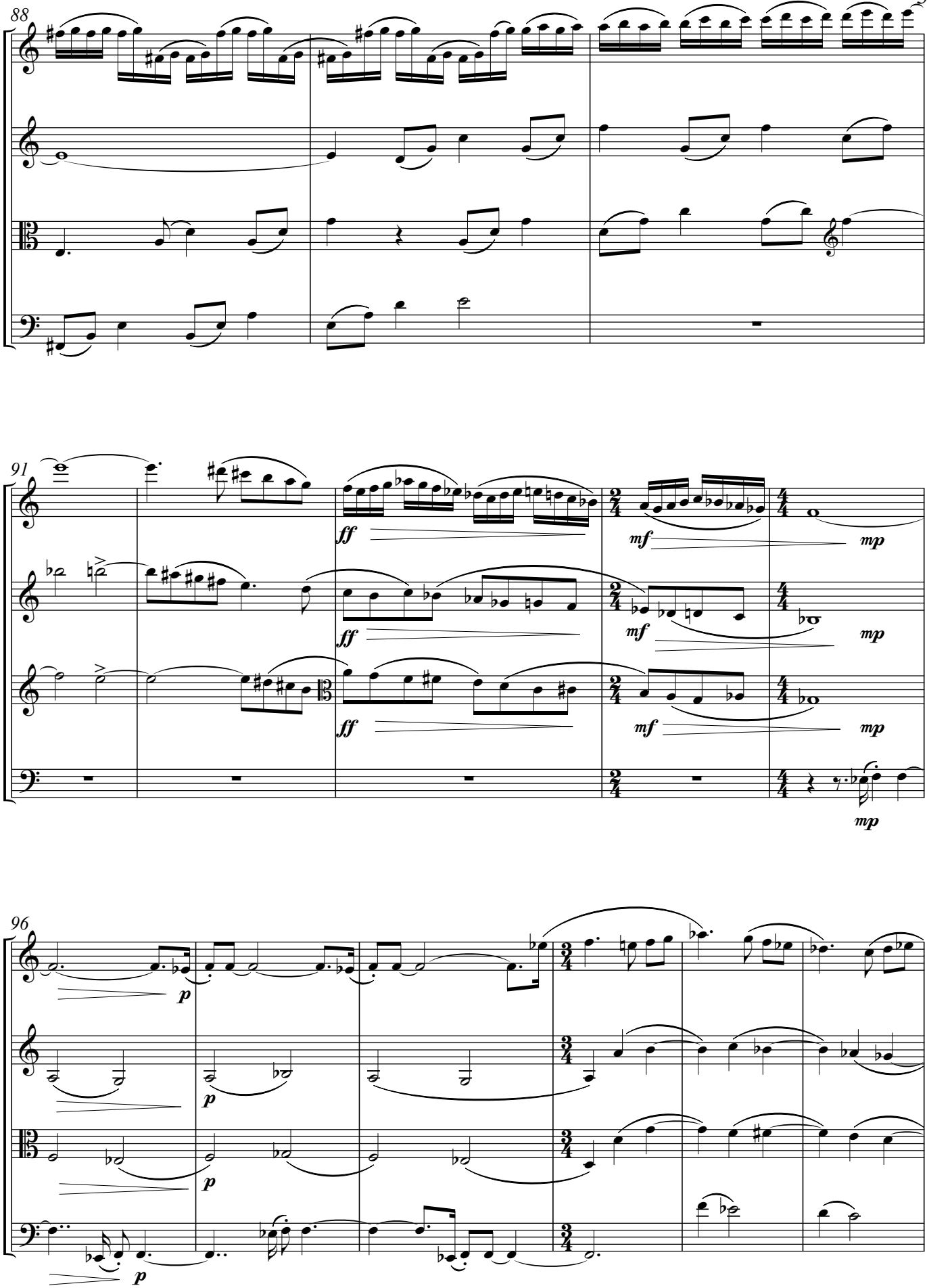
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mf
mp
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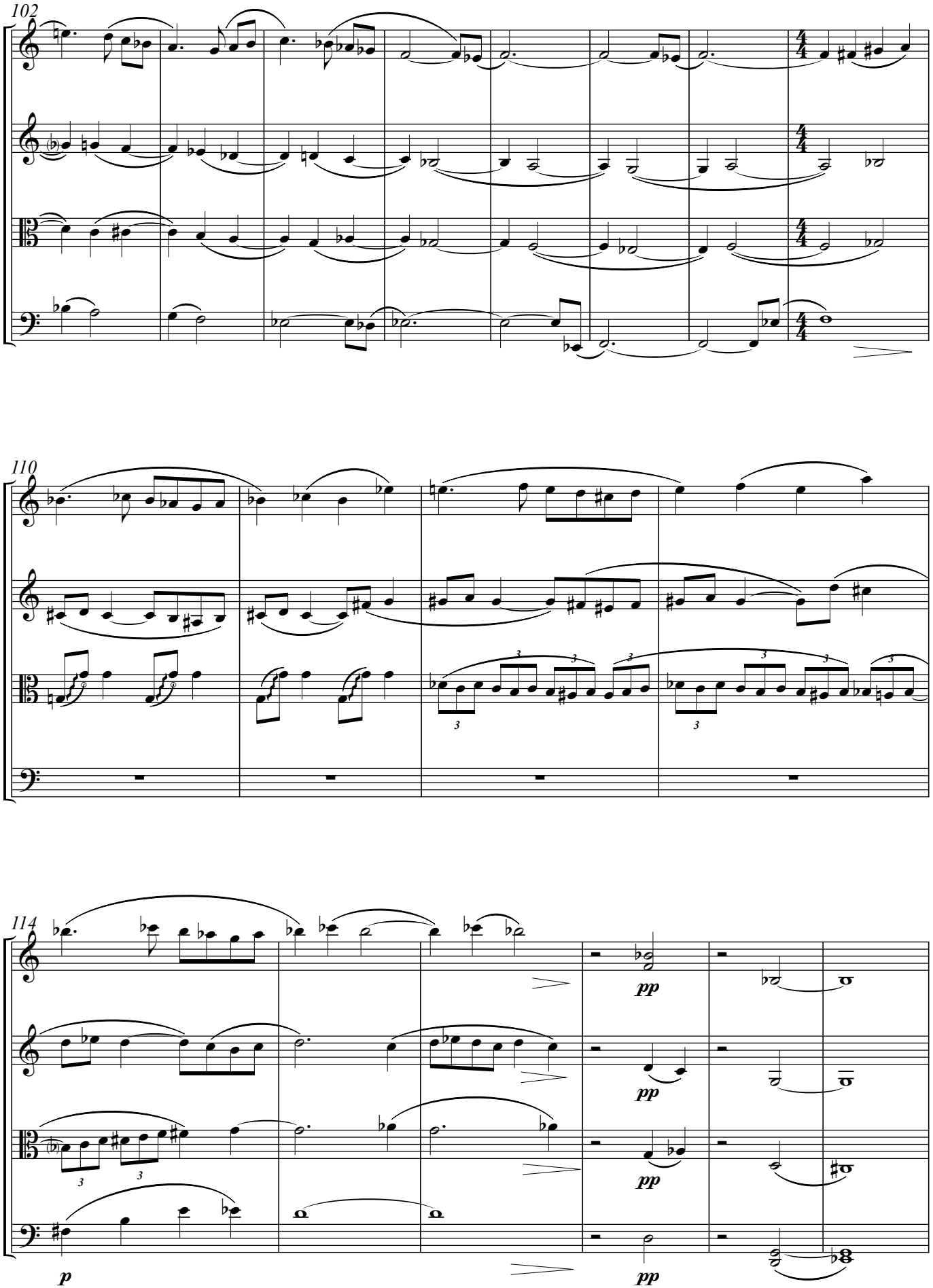
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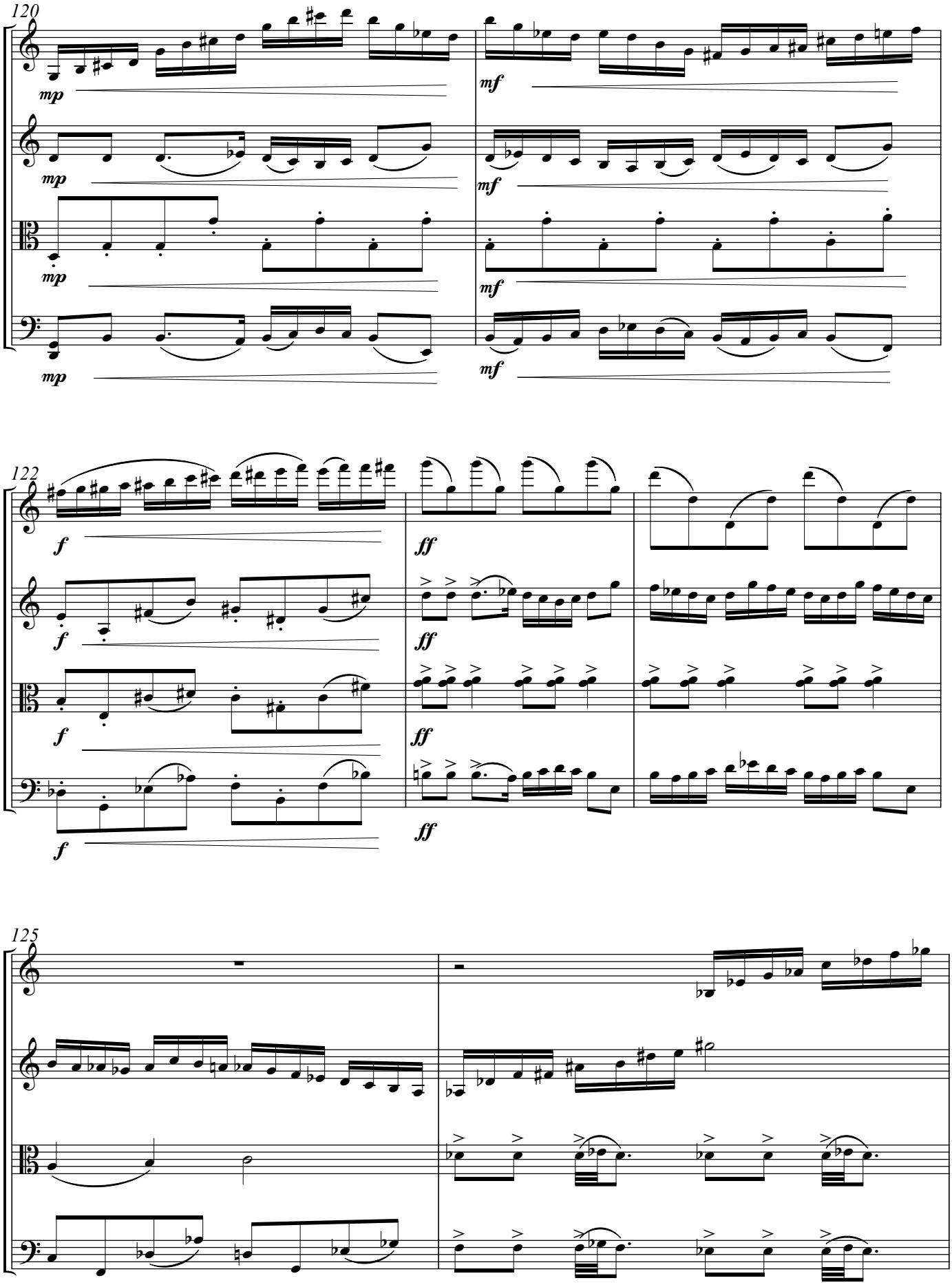
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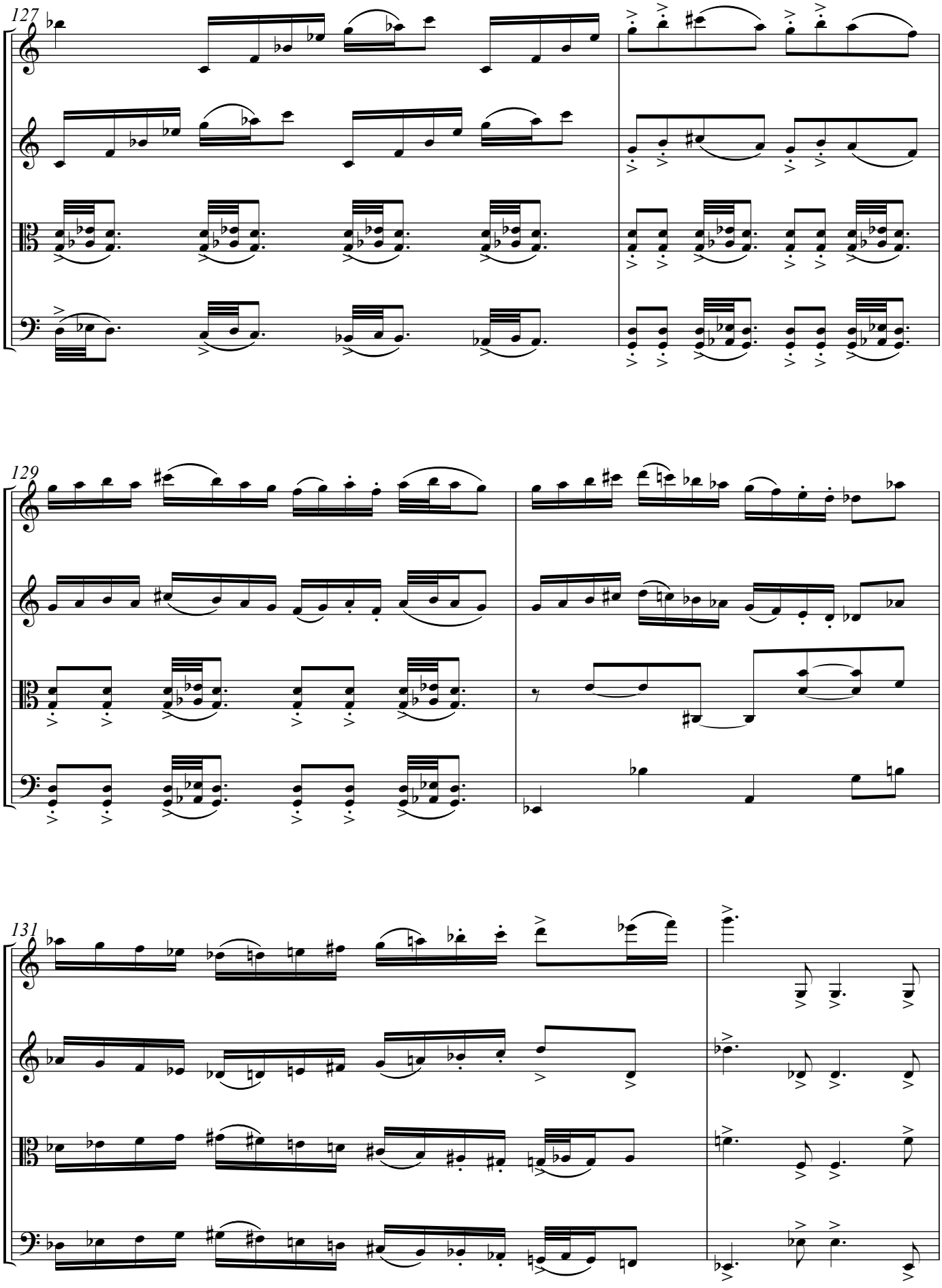
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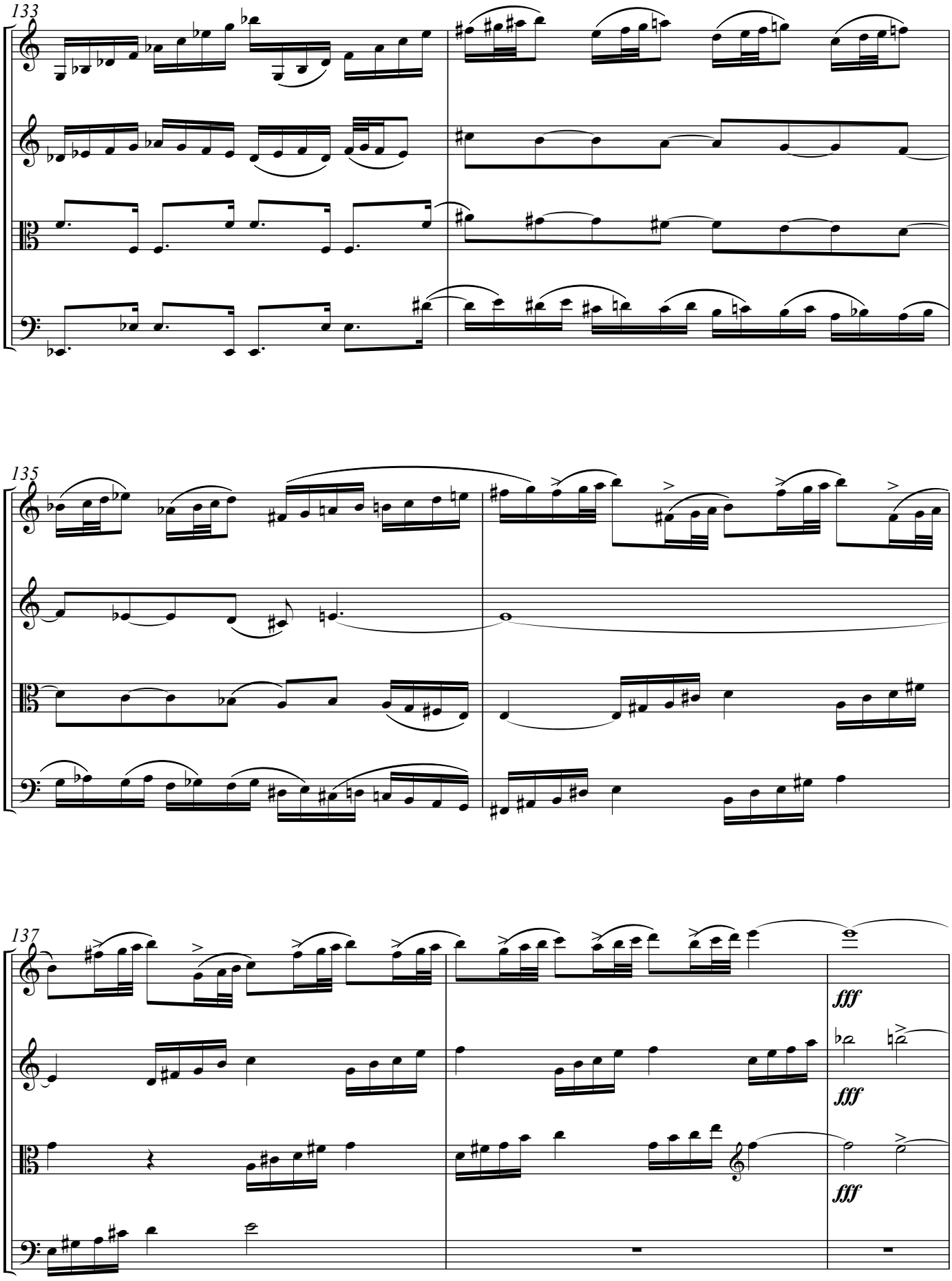
131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137
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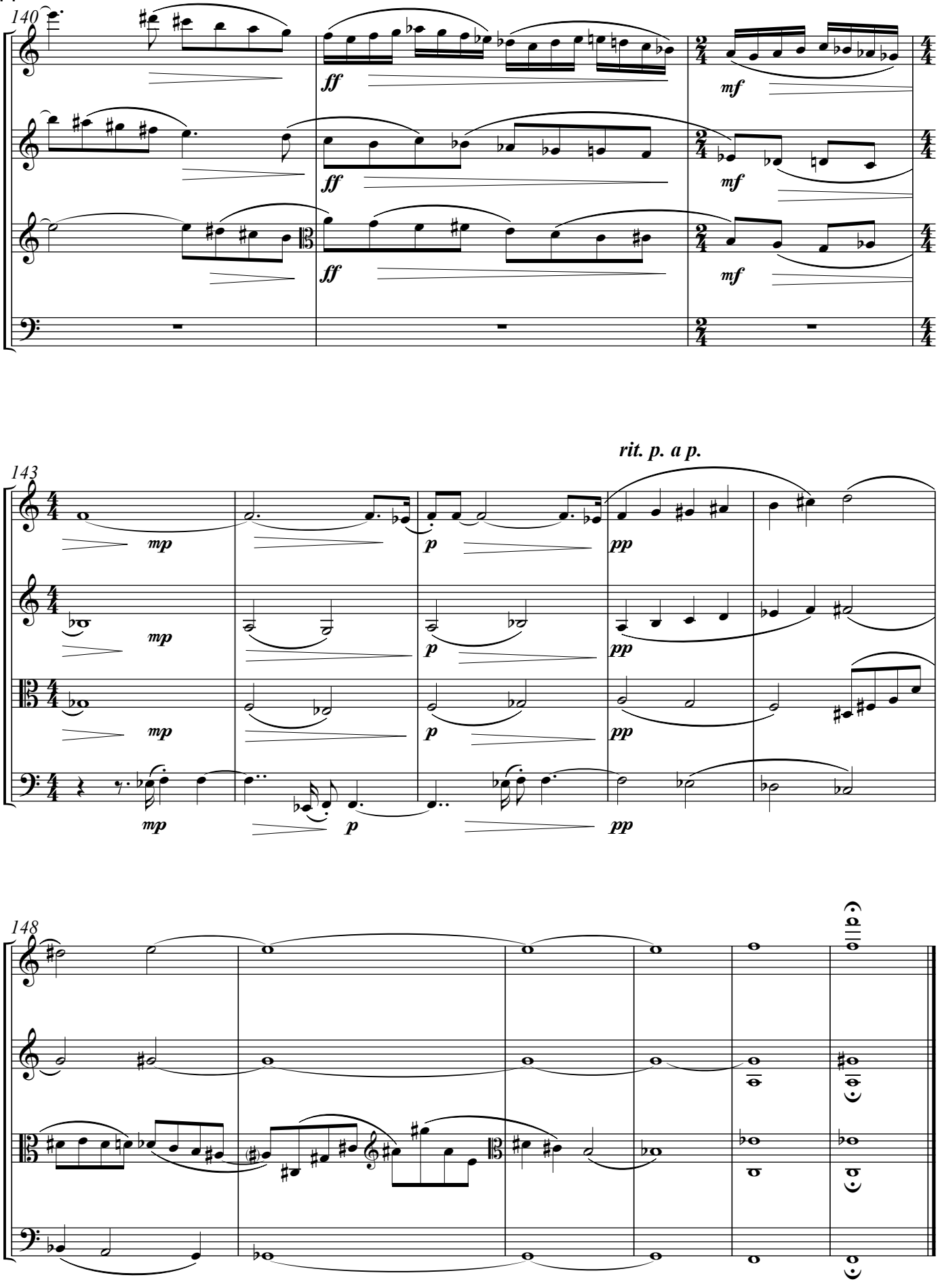
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148