Pamela J. Marshall

Loosely Blue

mandolin ensemble

dedicated to Marilynn Mair and Enigmatica

Spindrift Music Company
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Loosely Blue

by Pamela J. Marshall

for an octet of mandolins, mandolas, and mandocellos

I. Prelude
II. Mirage
III. Blue-Gold Variations

There are four parts: Mandolin I, Mandolin II, Mandola, Mandocello

Mandolin I requires 2 players. The other parts have occasional divisi and can be covered by one player if necessary. The mandola part is provided in treble clef (notated an octave higher) and alto clef. Some double-stops and chords are notated divisi. Double-stops that are not marked divisi can be played either way.

Loosely Blue is dedicated to Marilynn Mair, superb mandolinist and teacher at Roger Williams College in Rhode Island, and her ensemble Enigmatica, a group of skilled mandolinists, amateur and professional, from Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The music is inspired by folk music. The shape and tonalities of the melodies and the structure of the phrases remind me of our various ethnic musics, but nothing is explicitly derived from a particular culture.

The short first movement starts with an atmospheric tremolo and gradually introduces its syncopated, unevenly accented melody. The second movement recalls the augmented intervals of Middle Eastern music. The middle section, marked misterioso, starts as a dialog between the first mandolins and mandocello, until all join a unison climax, followed by a return to the more mellow music of the beginning.

The variations combine two tunes, a simple pentatonic phrase and a widely spaced languid bluesy tune. After several variations on the bluesy second tune, the pentatonic tune from the introduction returns and energizes the languid quality of the other tune. The resulting energy propells the music forward until it really gallops along at the end. I sometimes describe it as duelling variations, but maybe it's more that each tune eggs the other on in a complementary way.

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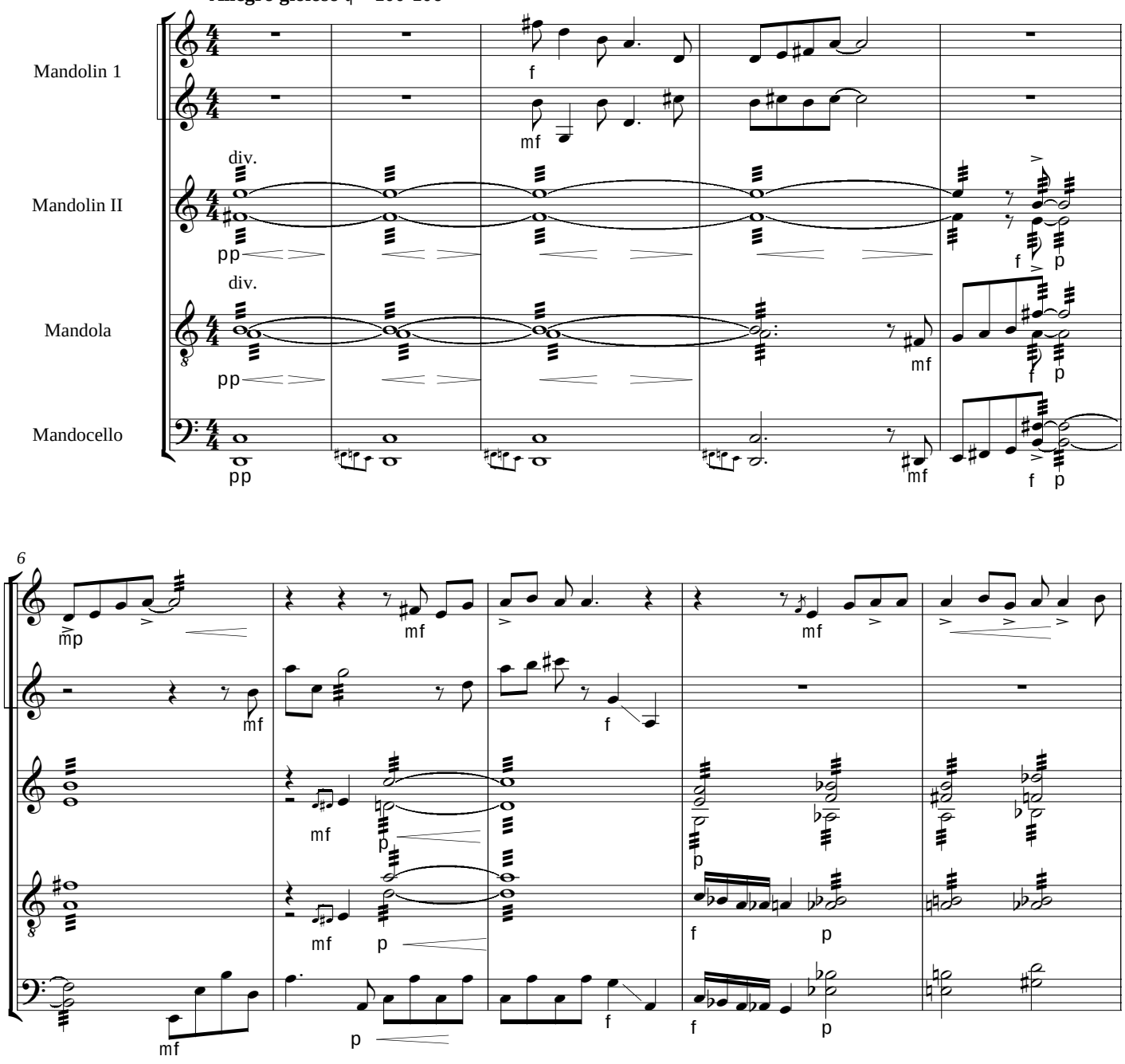
for mandolin octet

I. Prelude

Allegro gioioso ♩ = **100-106**



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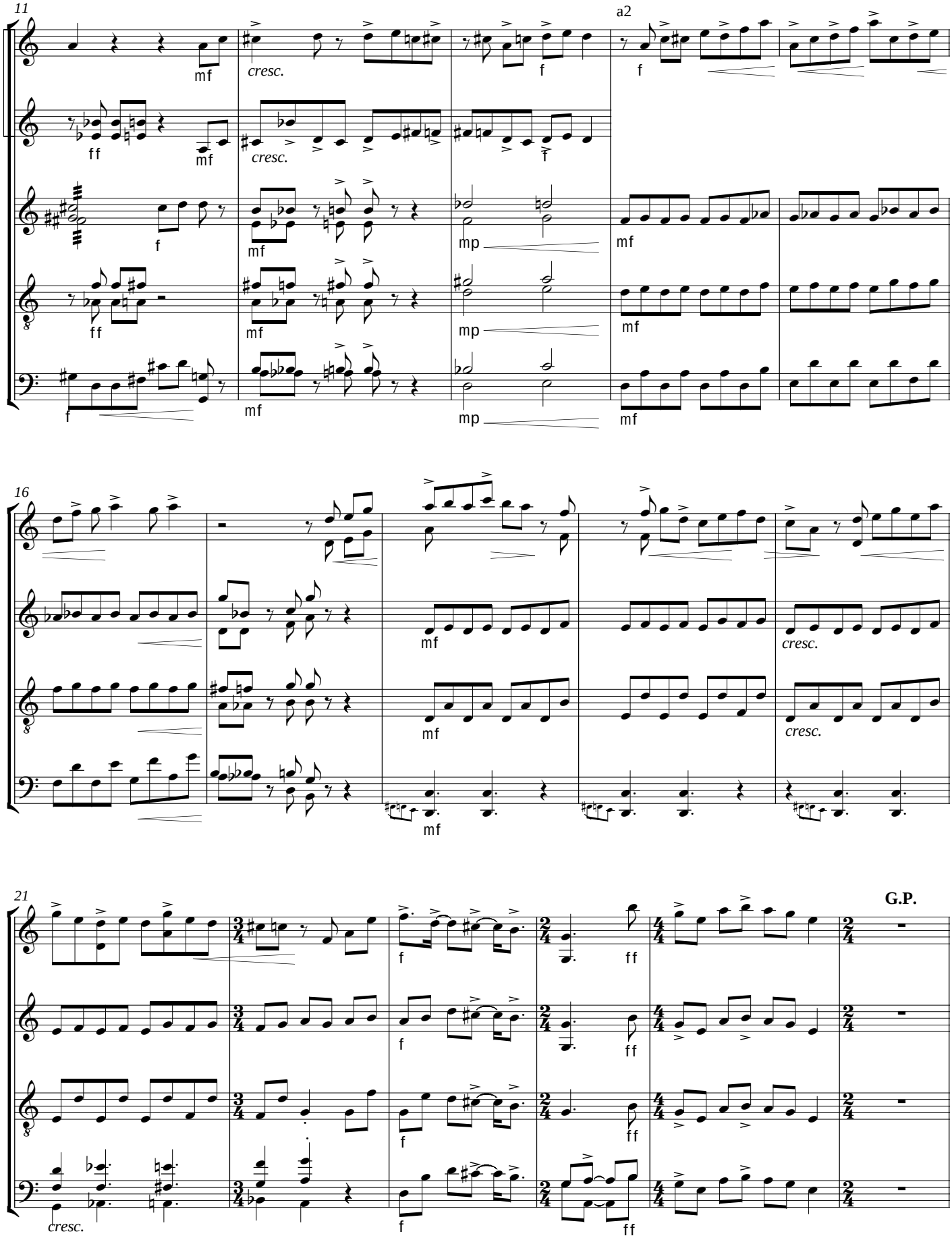
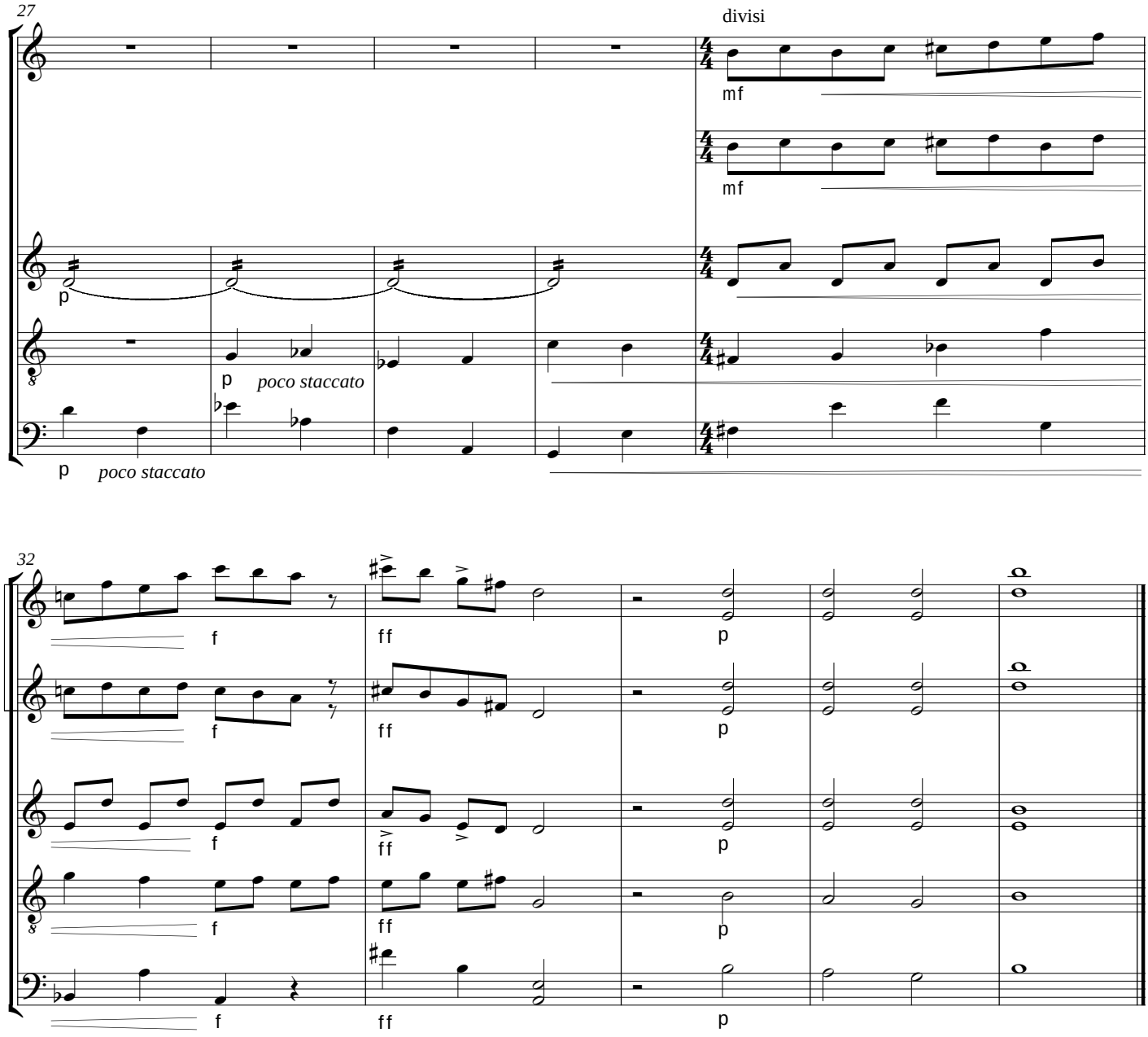
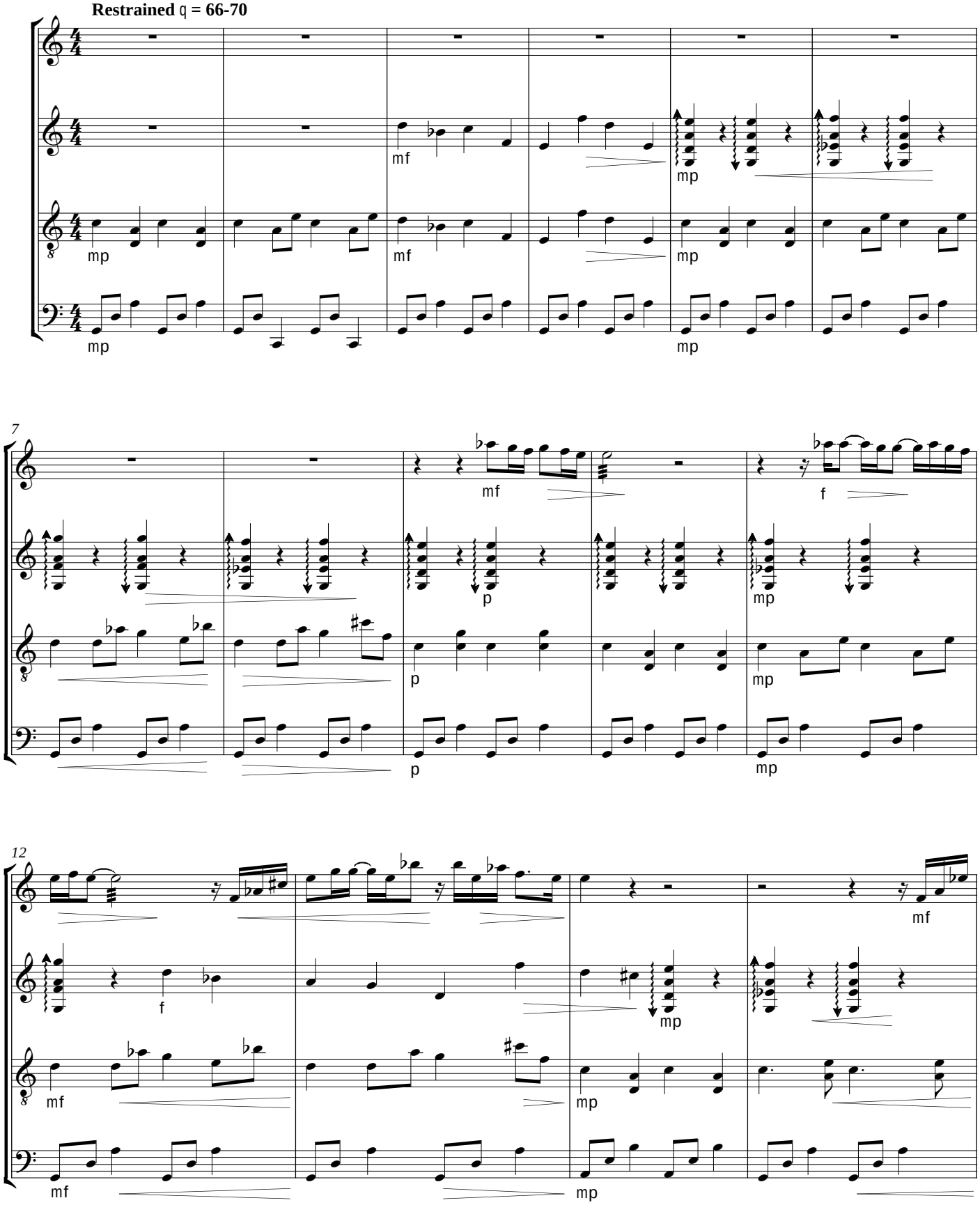
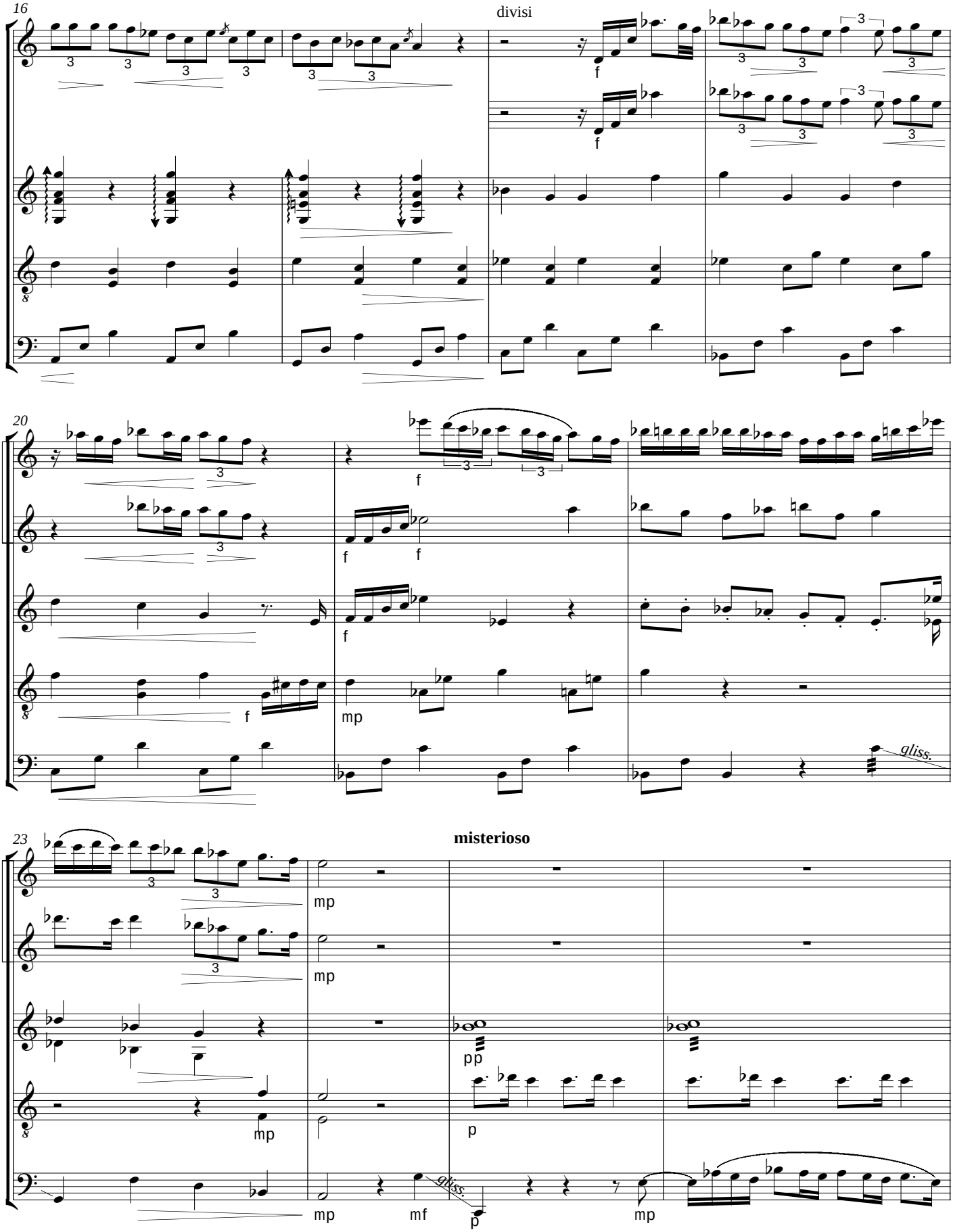
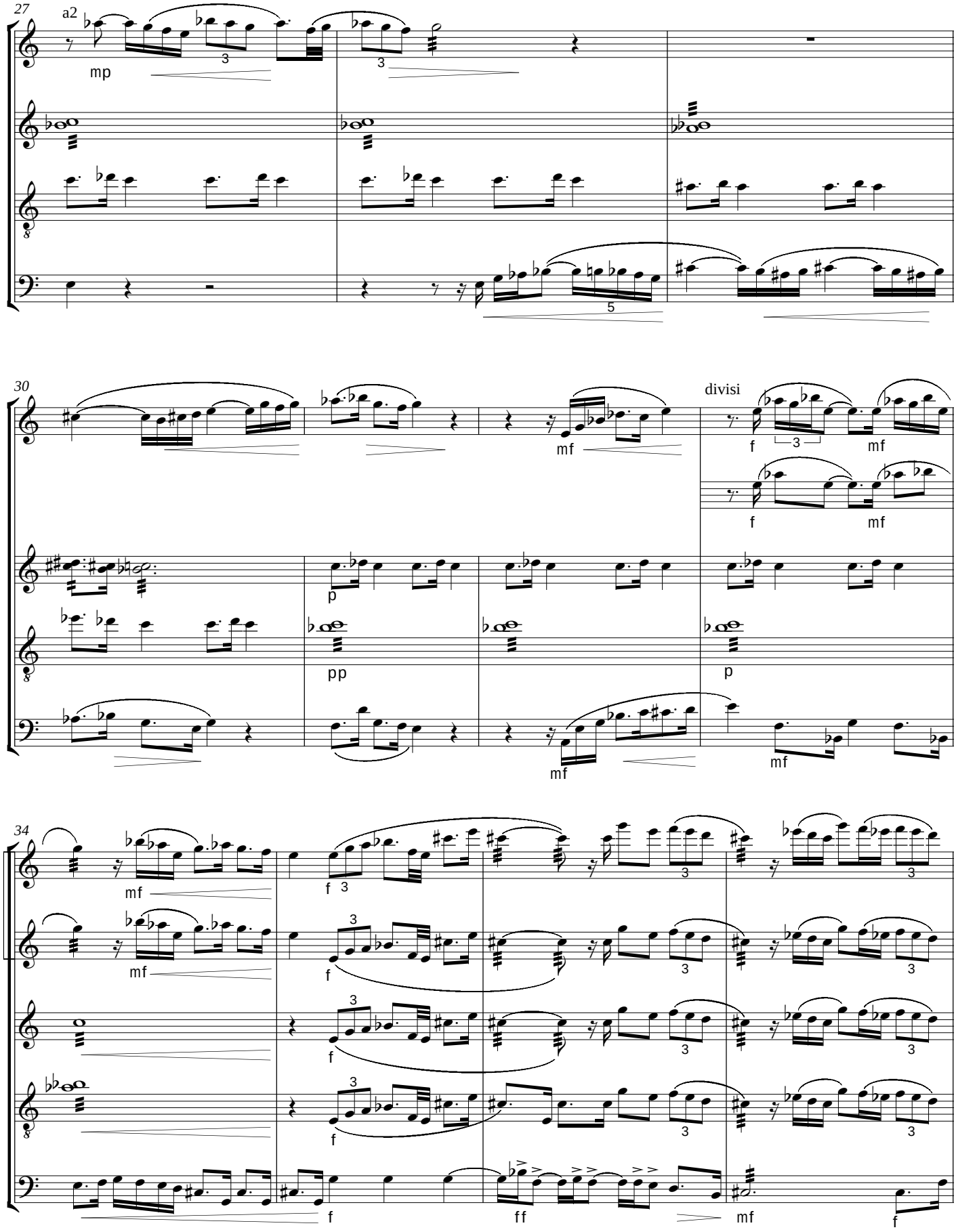

11
a2
16
21
G.P.

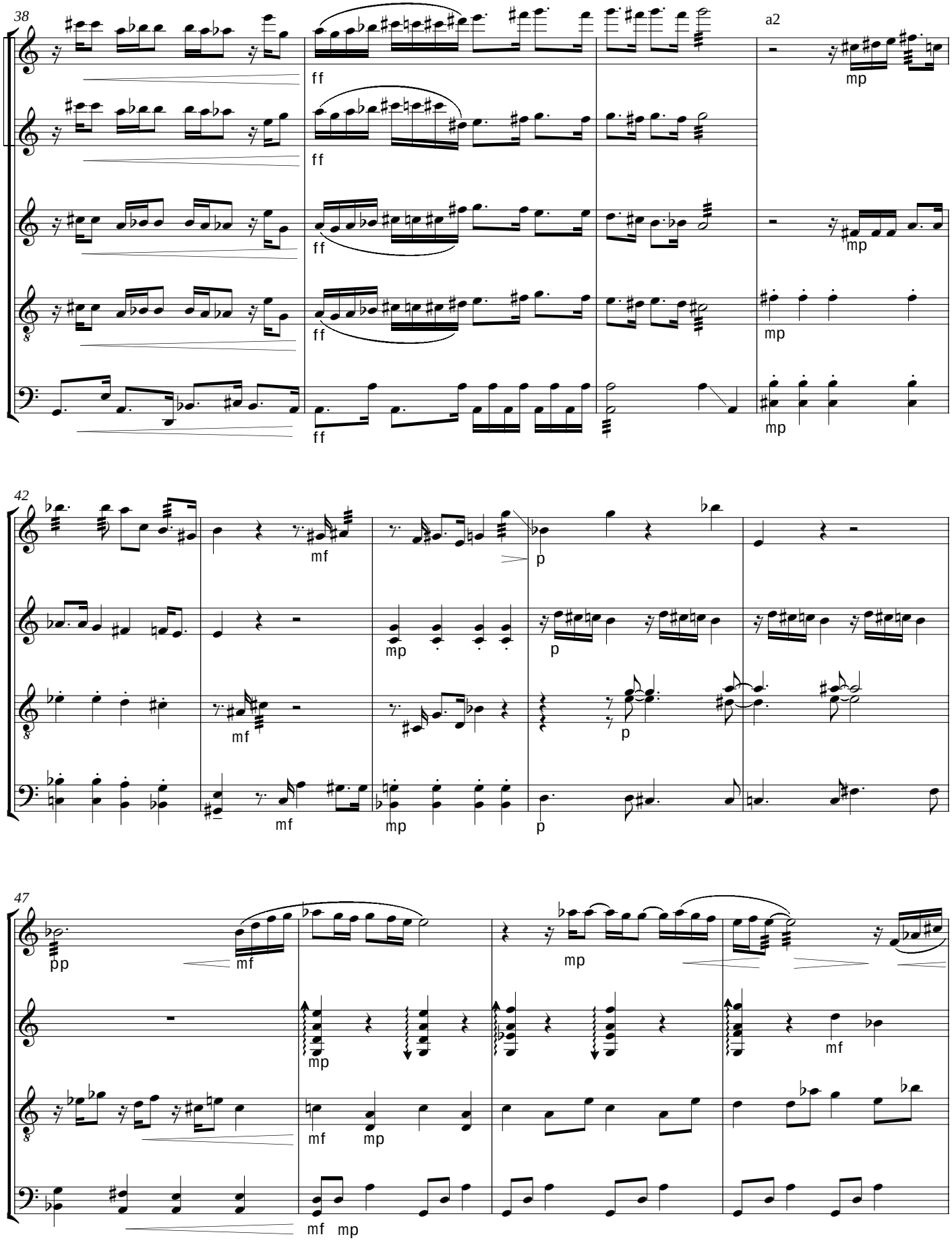

27
divisi
mf
mf
p
p
poco staccato
p
poco staccato
32
f
ff
p
f
ff
p
f
ff
p
f
ff
p
f
ff
p

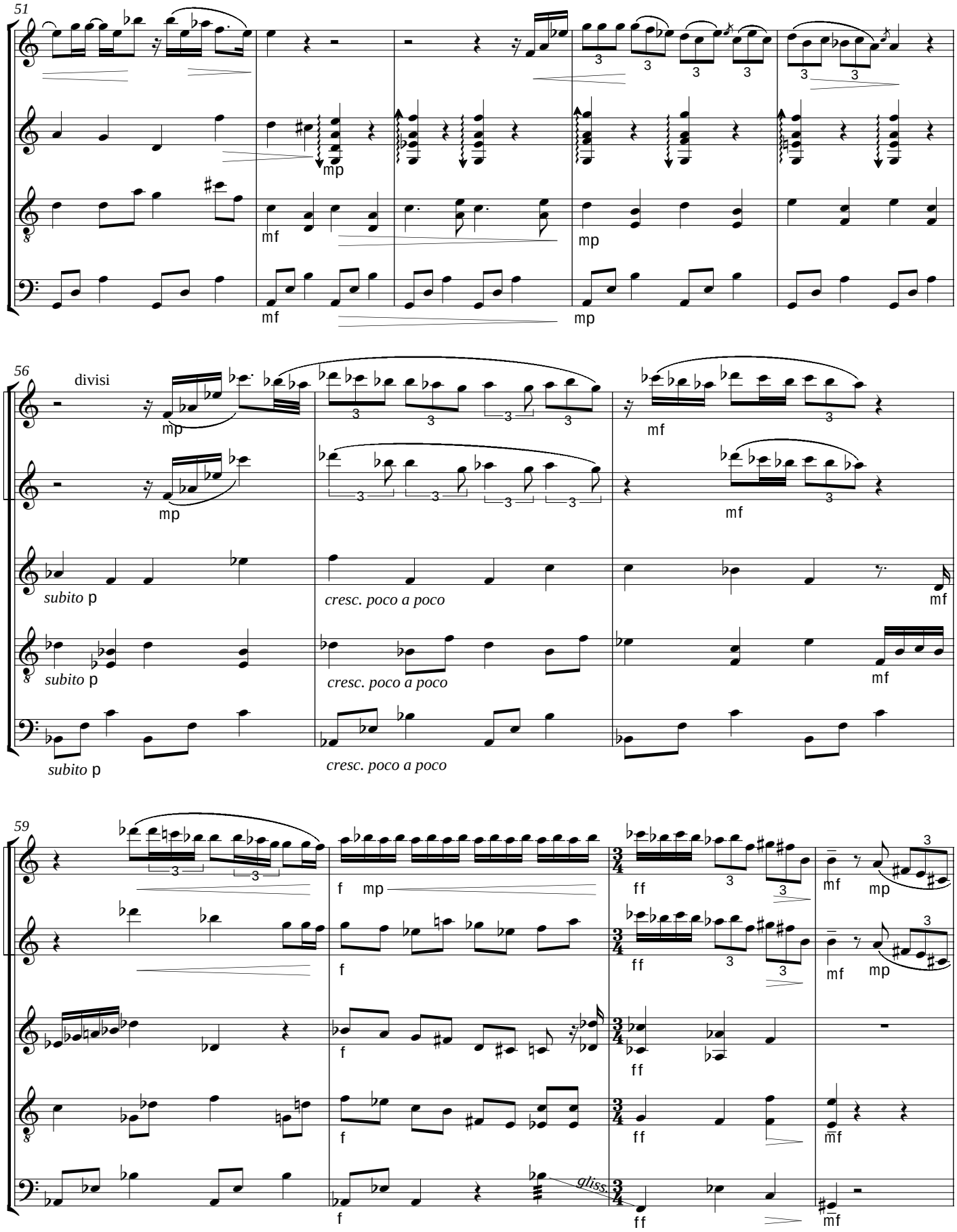
II. Mirage

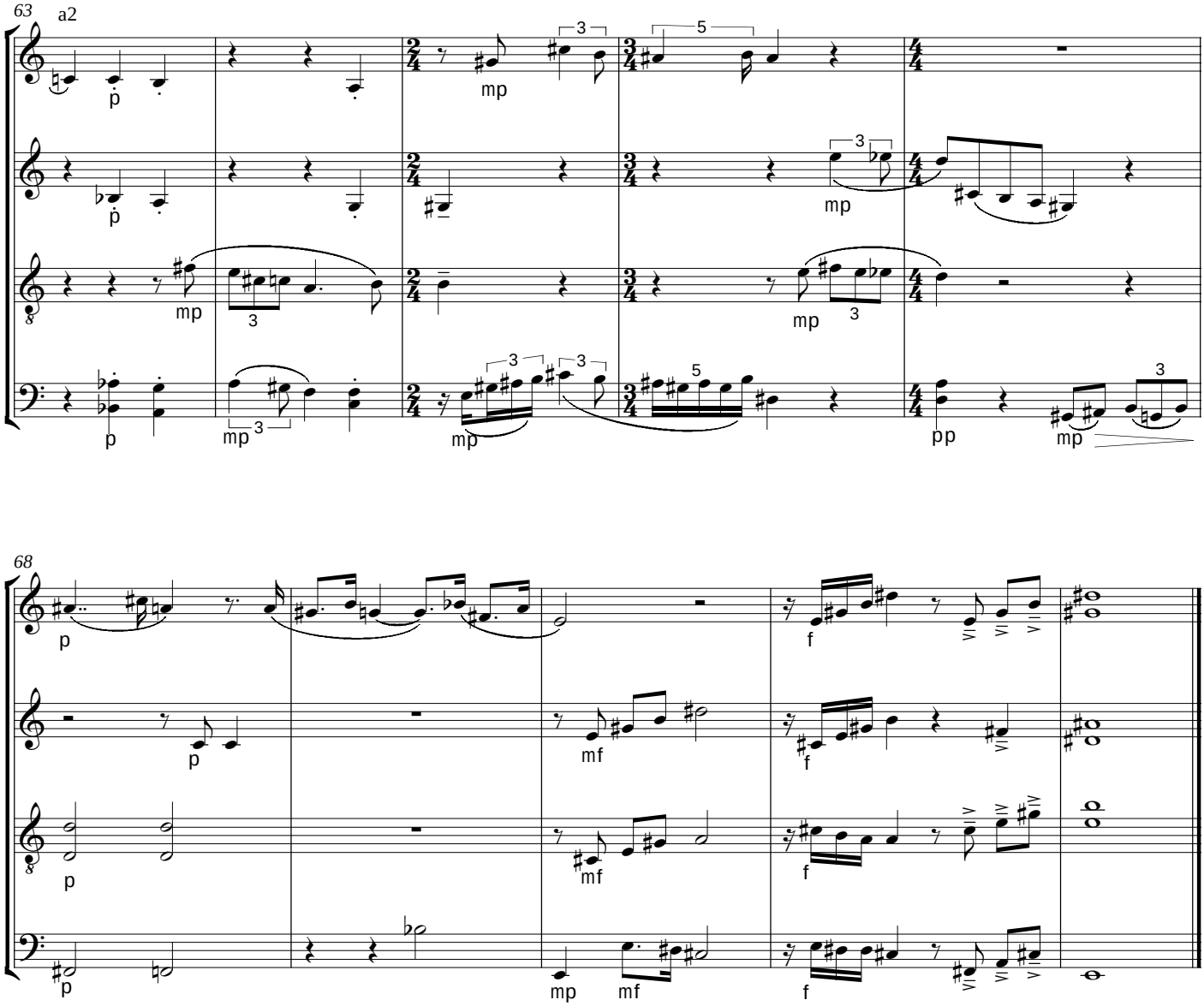



16
divisi
f
20
f
mp
gliss.
23
misterioso
mp
pp
p
mf
gliss.


27
a2
mp
30
mf
divisi
f
mf
p
pp
34
ff

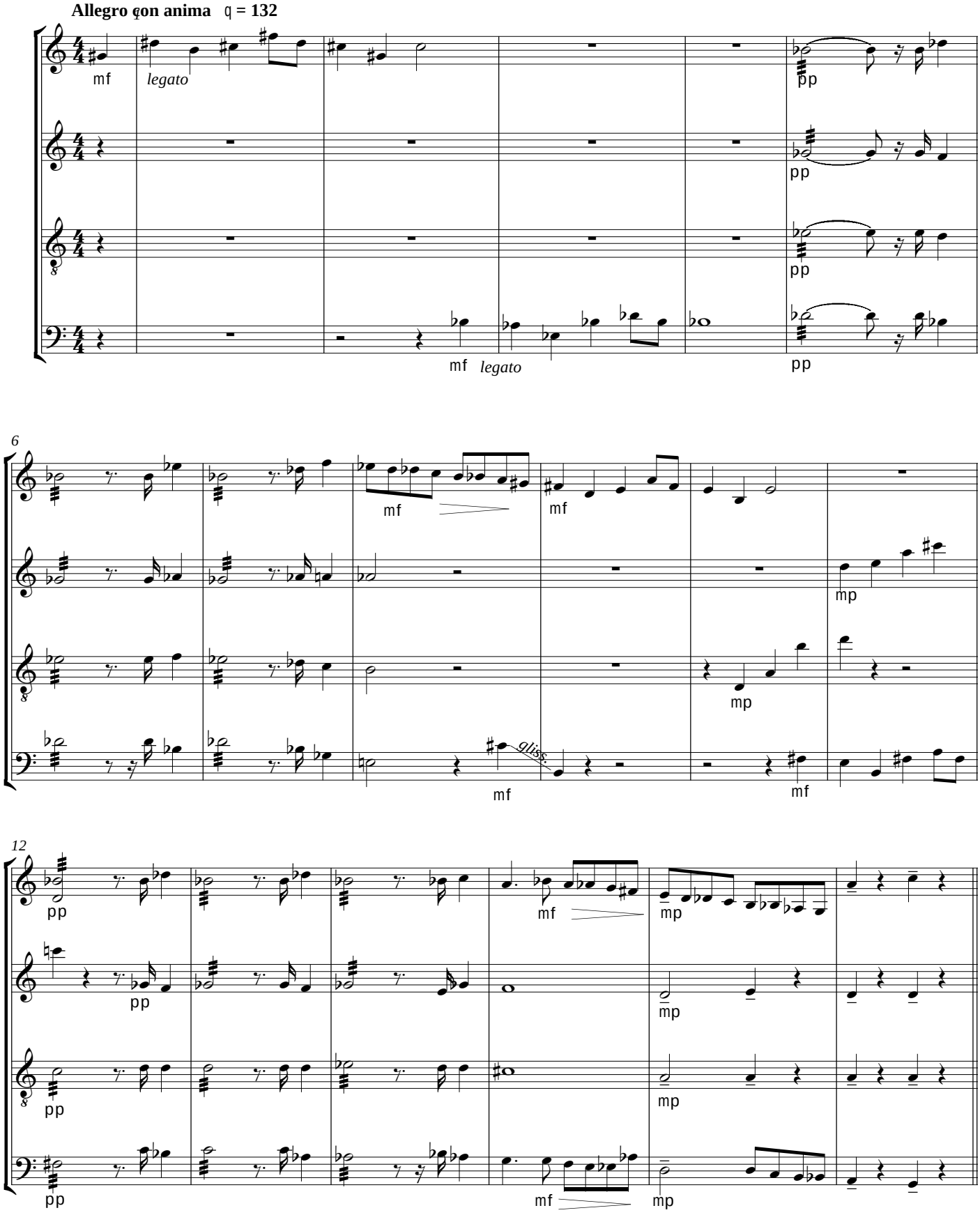

38
a2
ff
mp
42
mf
p
47
pp

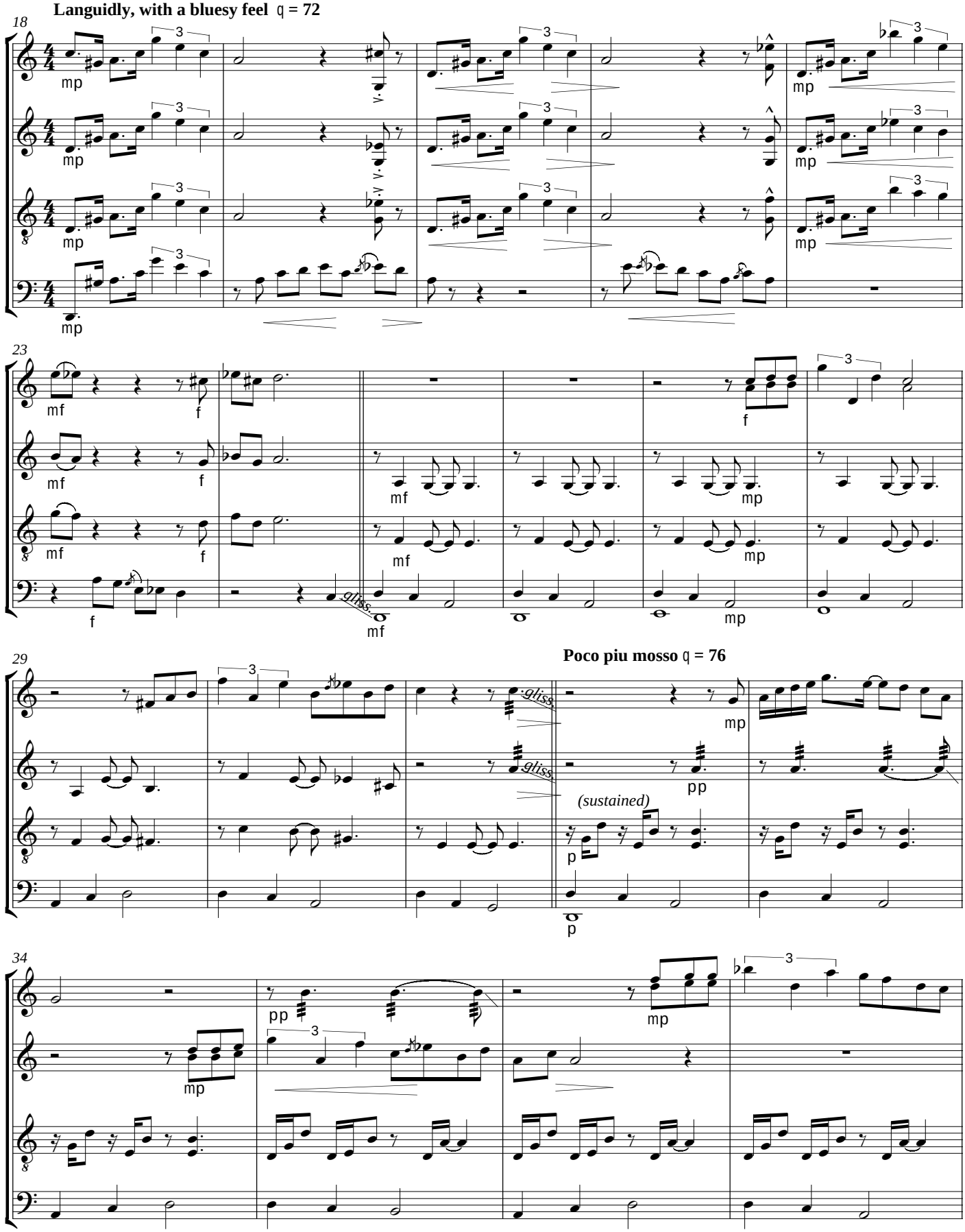

51
mp
mf
mf
mp
mp
56
divisi
mp
mp
mf
mf
subito p
subito p
subito p
cresc. poco a poco
cresc. poco a poco
cresc. poco a poco
mf
mf
mf
59
f
mp
f
f
f
ff
ff
ff
ff
mf
mp
mf
mp
mf
gliss.

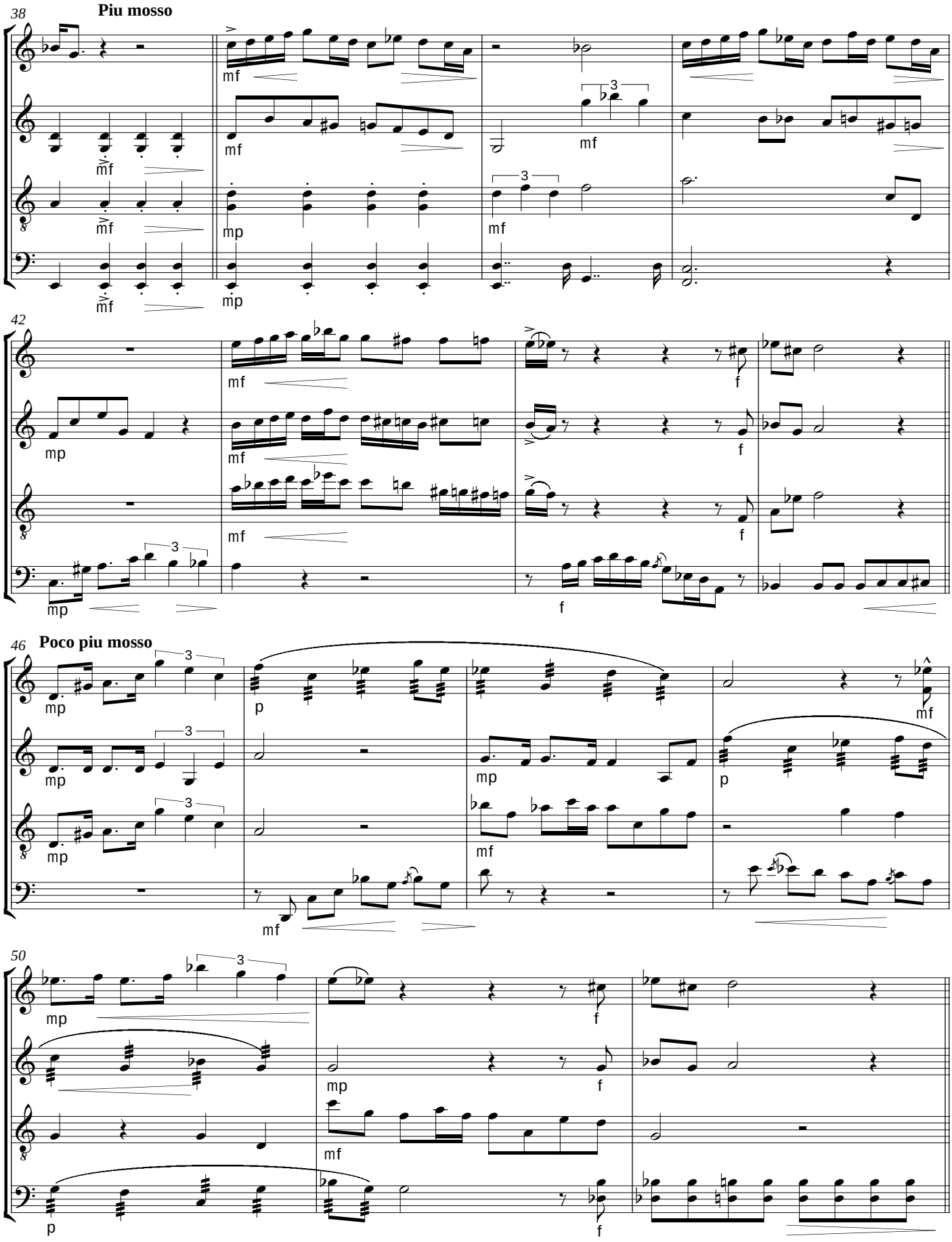

63
a2
p
mp
3
5
pp

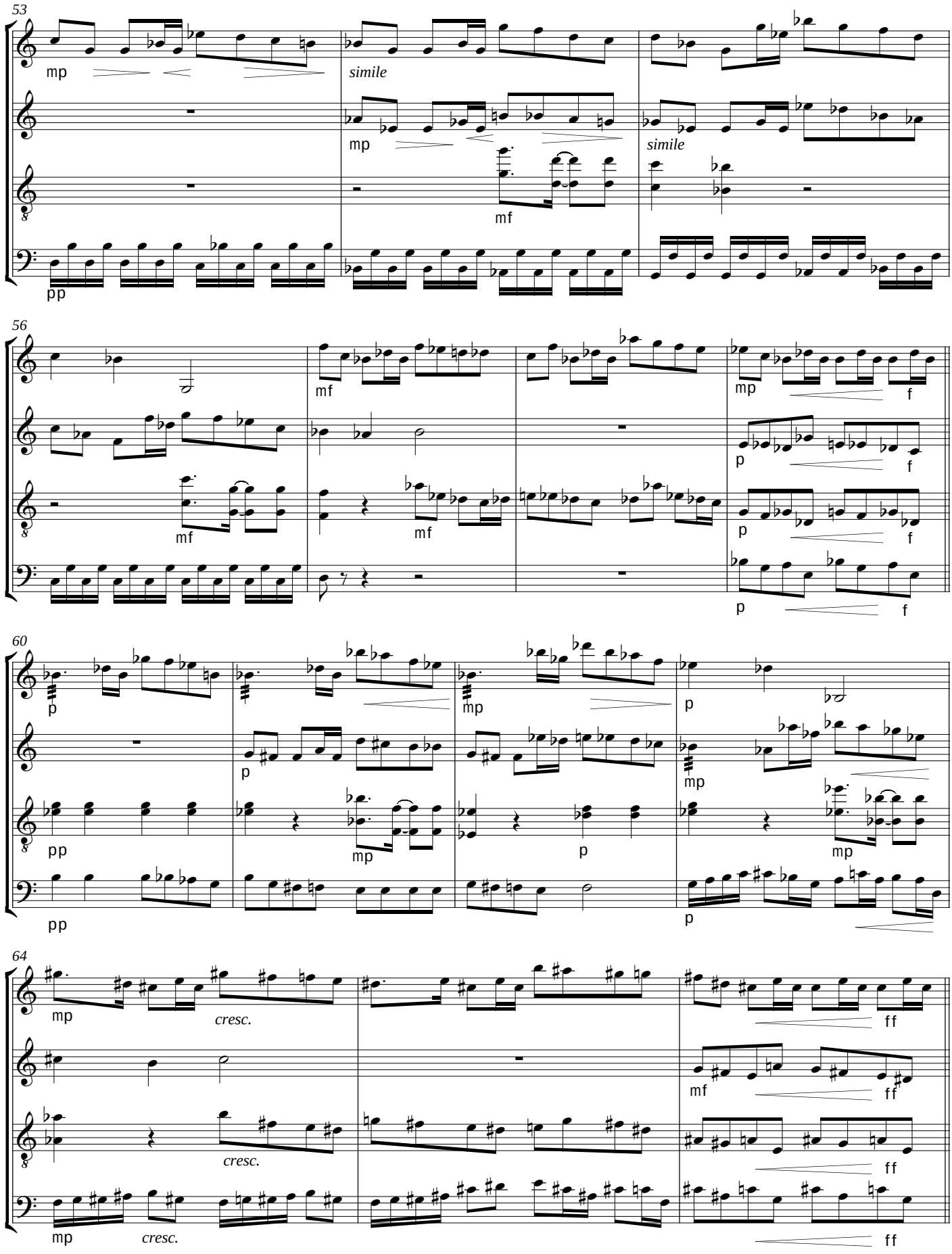
68
p
mf
f
mp

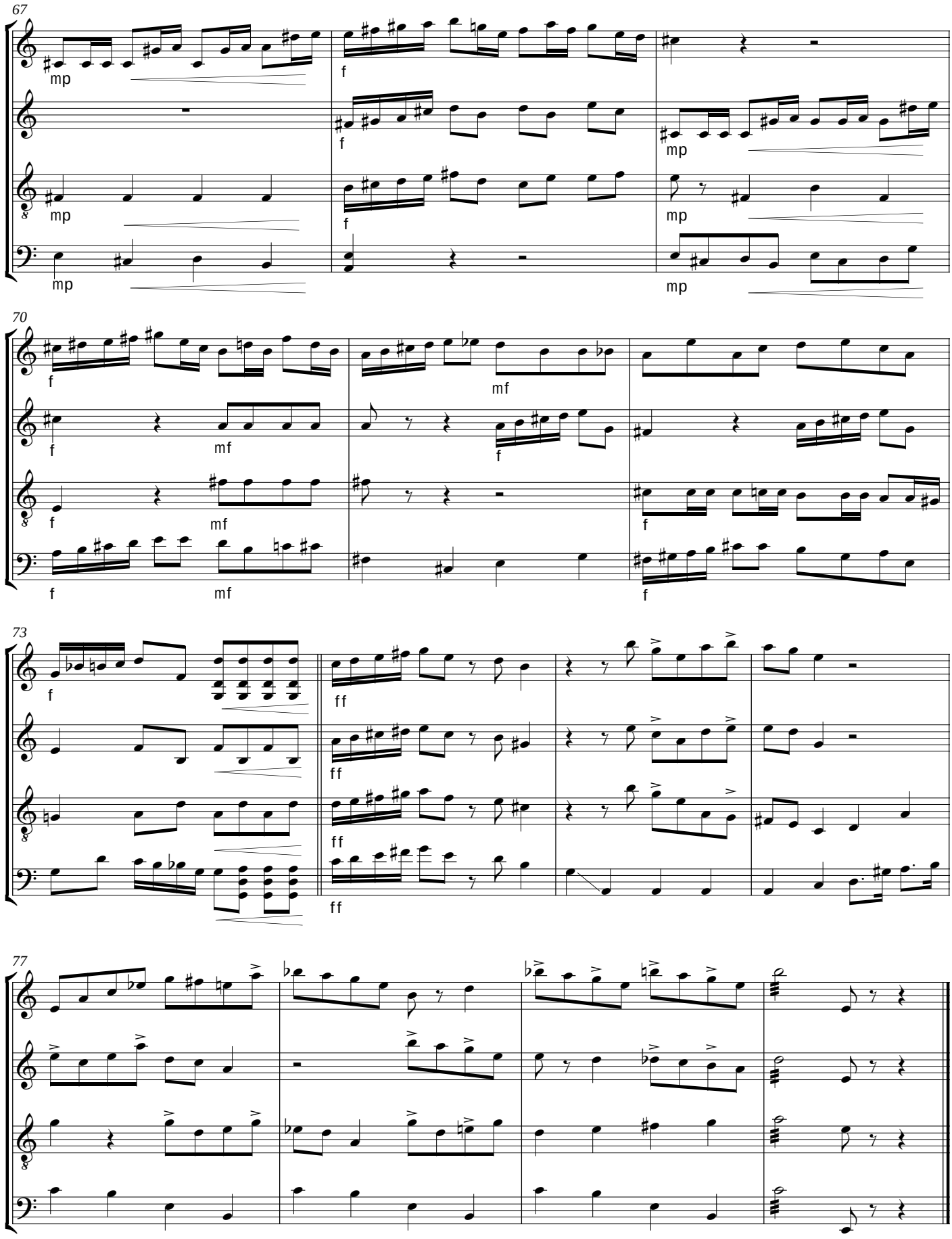
III. Blue-Gold Variations




Languidly, with a bluesy feel ♩ = 72
18
mp
23
mf
f
gliss.
mp
Poco piu mosso ♩ = 76
29
gliss.
pp
(sustained)
p
34
mp


38
Piu mosso
42
46
Poco piu mosso
50


53
mp
simile
mp
simile
mf
pp
56
mf
mf
mf
mp
f
p
f
p
f
p
f
60
p
p
mp
p
pp
mp
p
mp
pp
p
64
mp
cresc.
ff
mf
ff
cresc.
ff
mp
cresc.
ff


67
mp
f
mp
70
f
mf
73
ff
77

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Selected Music by Pamela J. Marshall

Orchestra

Through the Mist (2222-2220, harp, 3pc, timp, strings) in 3 mvts
A chill wind in autumn (solo voice, 2222-4221-3pc, strings)
Traditional Christmas (unison or 2pt chorus, 2222-4221, harp, 3pc, timp, strings)
Three Appalachian Carols (2222-4231, harp, 2pc, timp, strings)

Keyboard

Suite for harpsichord or piano
Daydream for piano
Wordless Prayer for piano
Imagine That Time Stops for piano
Stomp for piano

Vocal

Ariel's Songs for high or medium voice and piano
Remember the Old Songs for high voice and piano
Sky's Mirror for voice and cello
A chill wind in autumn for voice and piano

Strings

Arcanum for solo violin
Soliloquy for solo cello
Elusive Sleep for cello and piano
Pascal's Theorems for cello and doublebass
Triptoe Suite for intermediate violinist and piano
Truth Becoming for string quartet

Winds & Brass

Waves and Fountains for oboe, horn, piano
Wanderer for brass quintet
Hillslide for brass quintet
Colored Leaves for solo horn
Star in the East (traditional carol) for 8 horns
Also Sprach Zarathustra by R. Strauss - excerpts - for 8 horns

Recordings

Noises, Sounds & Strange Airs (Clique Track)
    includes Soliloquy and Sky's Mirror
    performed by D'Anna Fortunato and Emmanuel Feldman
Mandolin X 4 (Plucked String Inc.)
    includes Mandolin Night performed by Neil Gladd
Enigmatica (Uncommon Strings)
    includes "Blue-Gold Variations" from Loosely Blue for mandolin ensemble