The Distances

Piano Quartet No. 2

2016

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The title of this piano quartet refers both to the expressive arc of its two movements and to the movements' musical processes. The slow first movement is introspective, focused intently on the implications of a single, simple four-note motive. The second movement, a little more than twice as fast, is expansive, constantly reaching out into new dimensions. In the first movement, the piano and string trio are intimate, echoing and mirroring each other continually. The second movement reverses this arrangement: here the piano and strings play mainly in alternation at first and subsequently combine by degrees until each, prompted by its contact with the other, wends its way to a place far remote from its starting point. The second movement can thus be thought of as imagining the process by which the first movement becomes possible.

On reflection, it strikes me (writing this note a few years after composing the music), that at a time in our history rife with division, a piece affirming the powers and pleasures of reconciling differences may have an extra degree of resonance.

Duration: about 15 minutes.

I. ♩ = 63

Violin

Viola

Cello

Piano

p

p

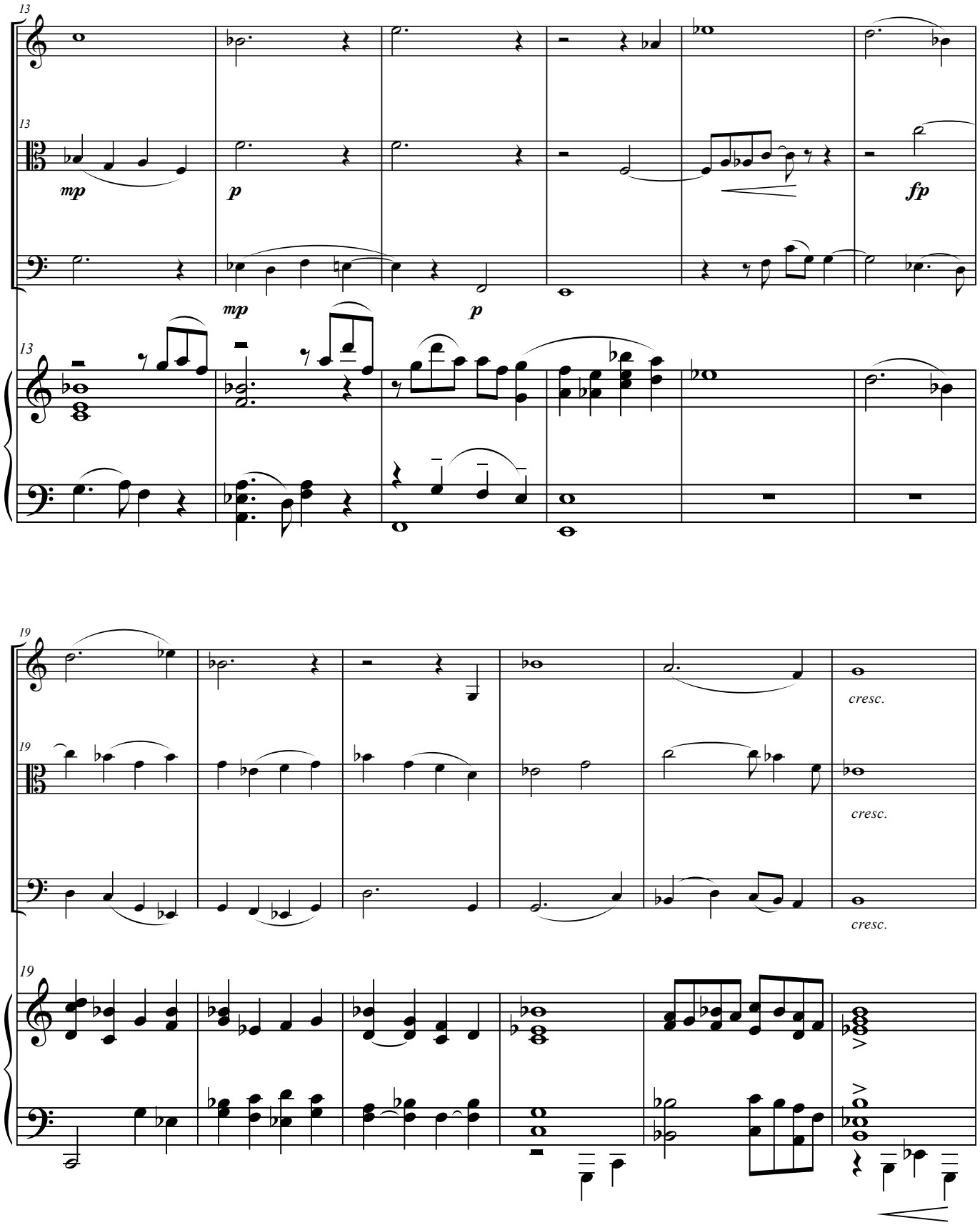
p

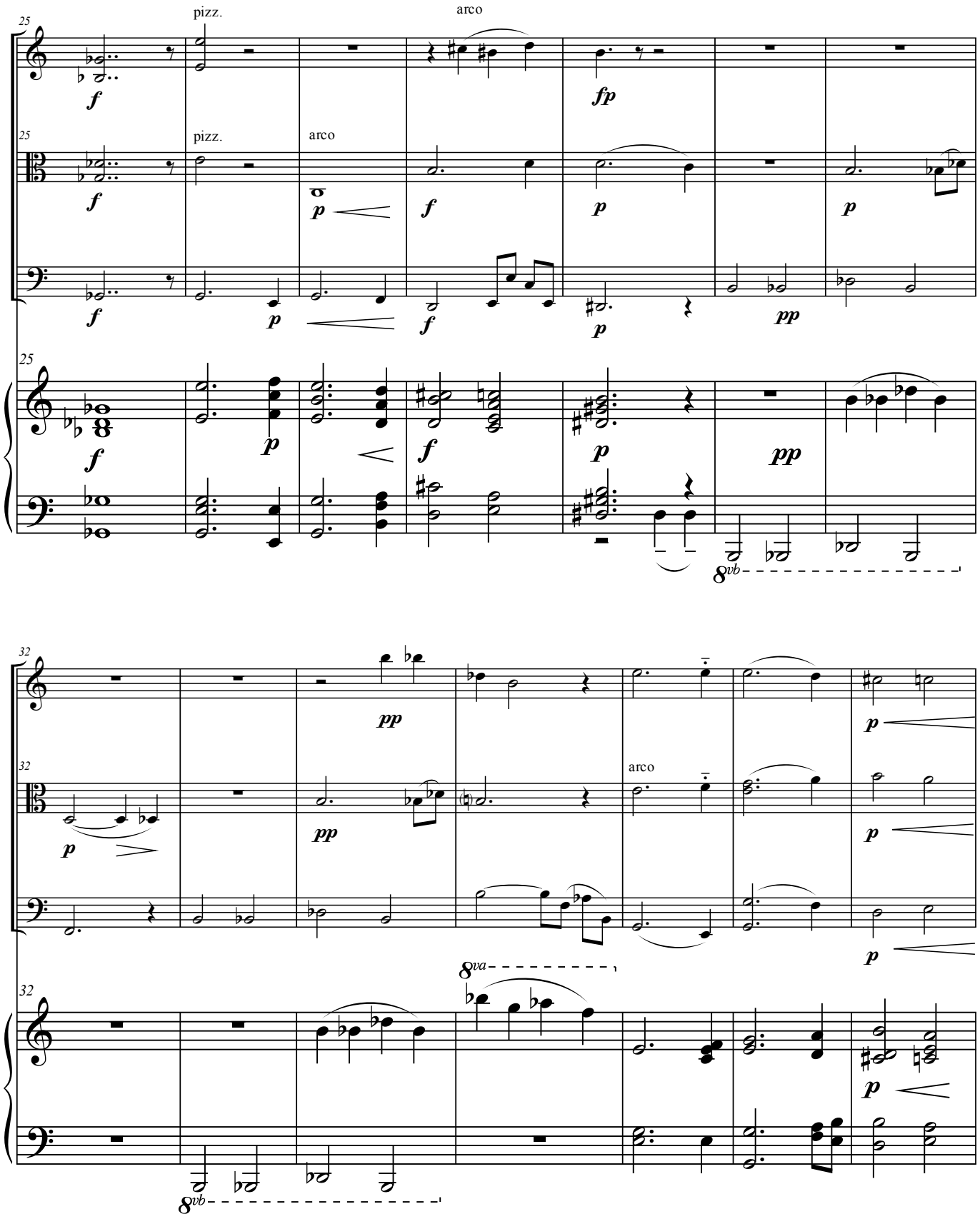
p

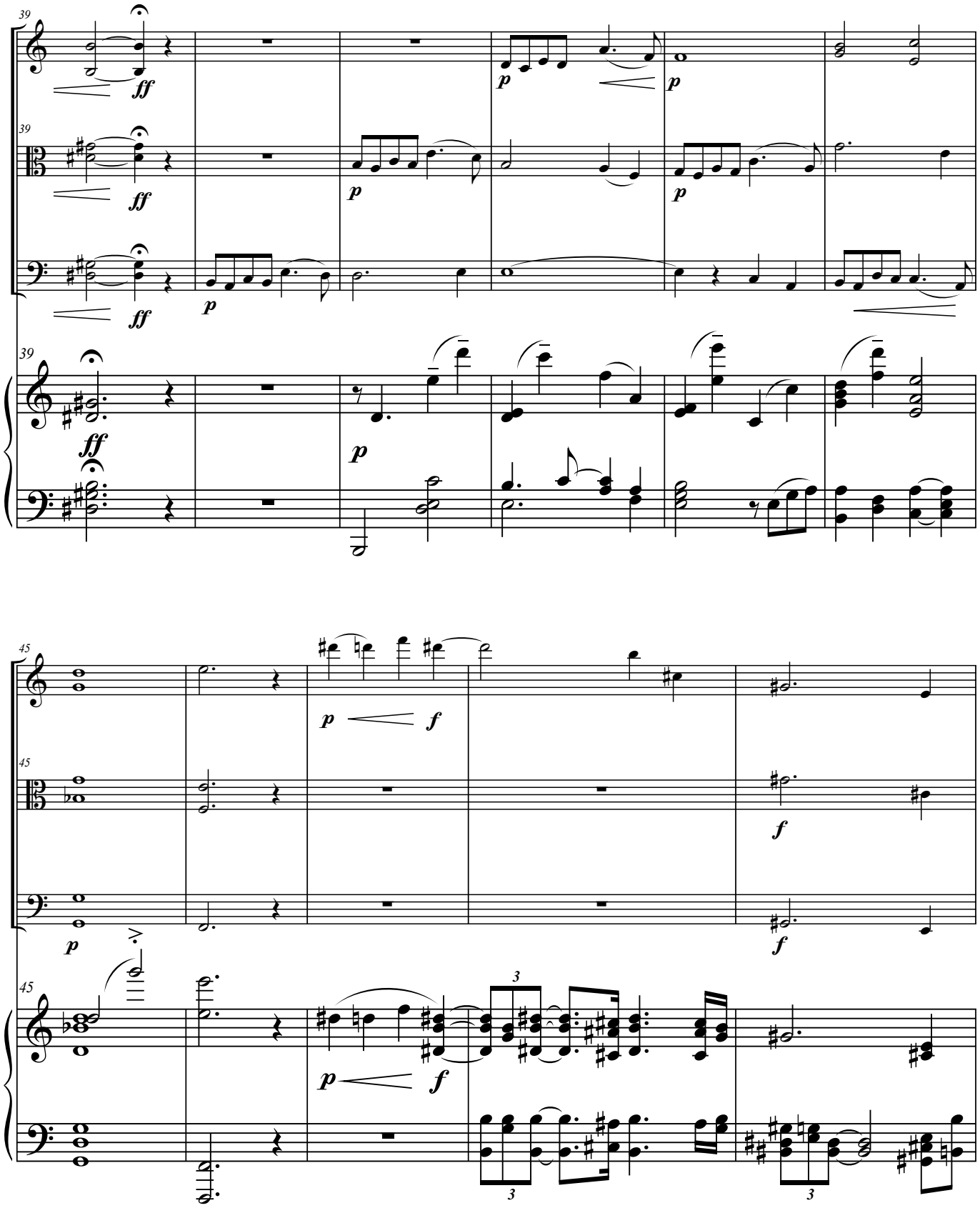
7

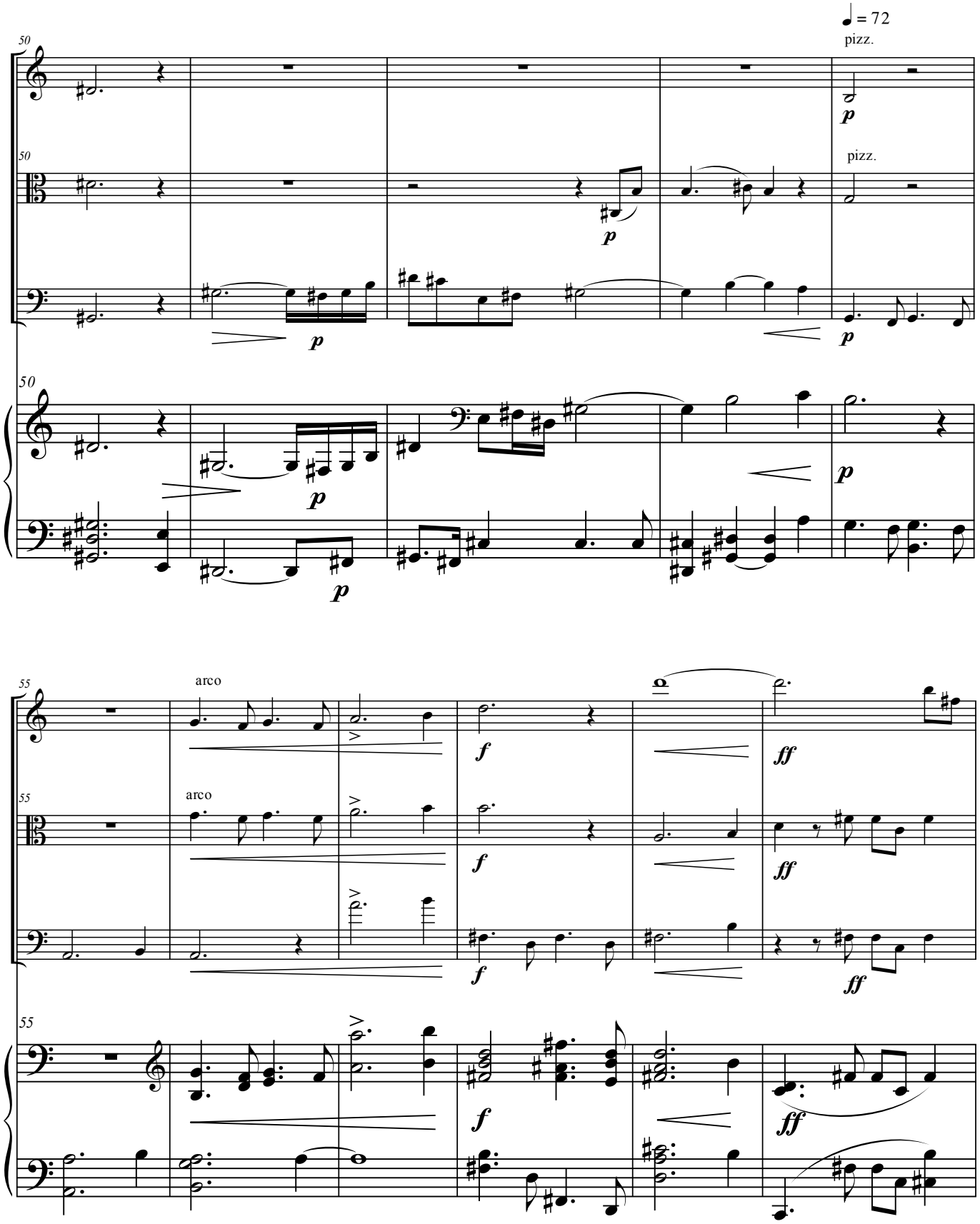
7

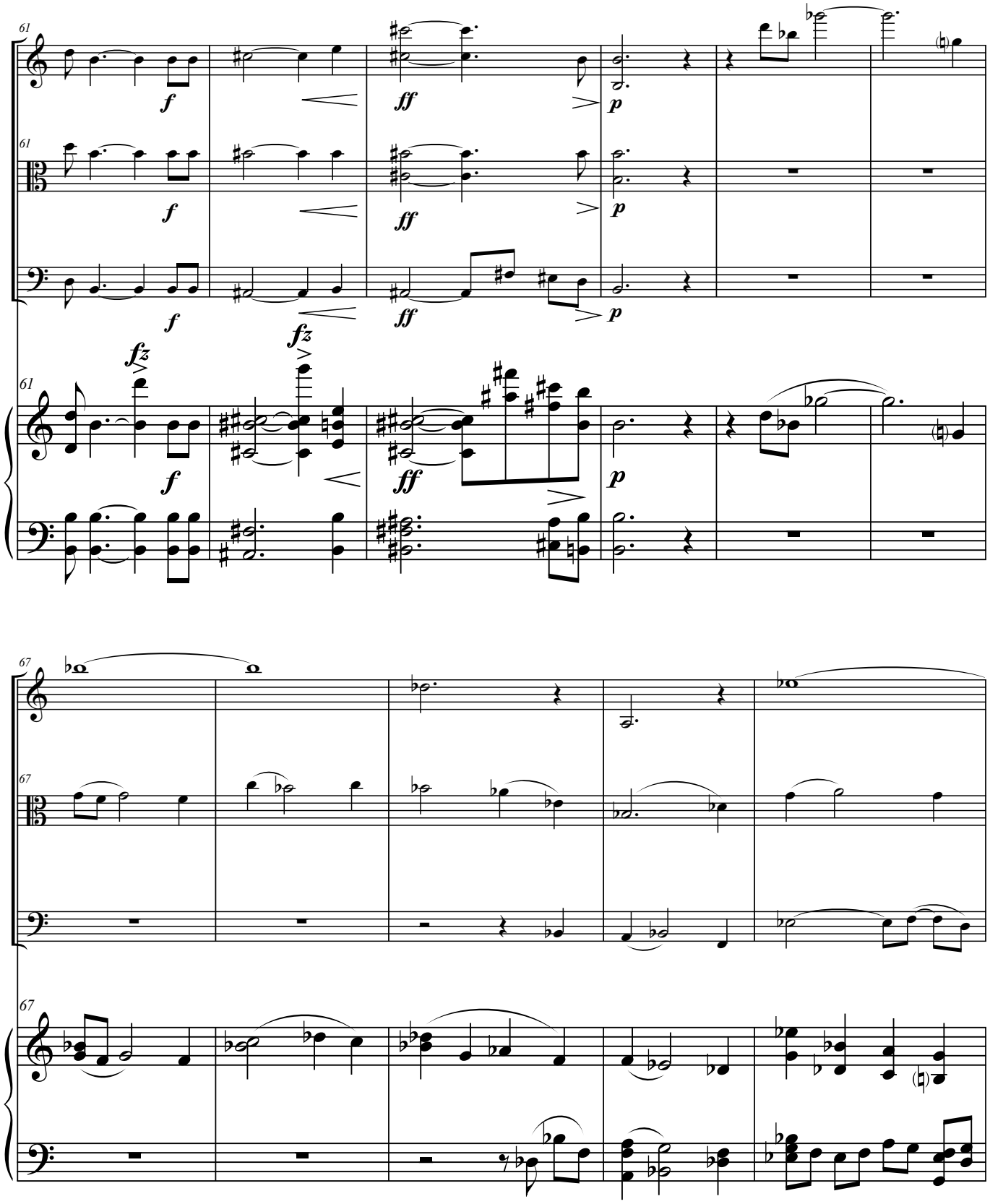
7

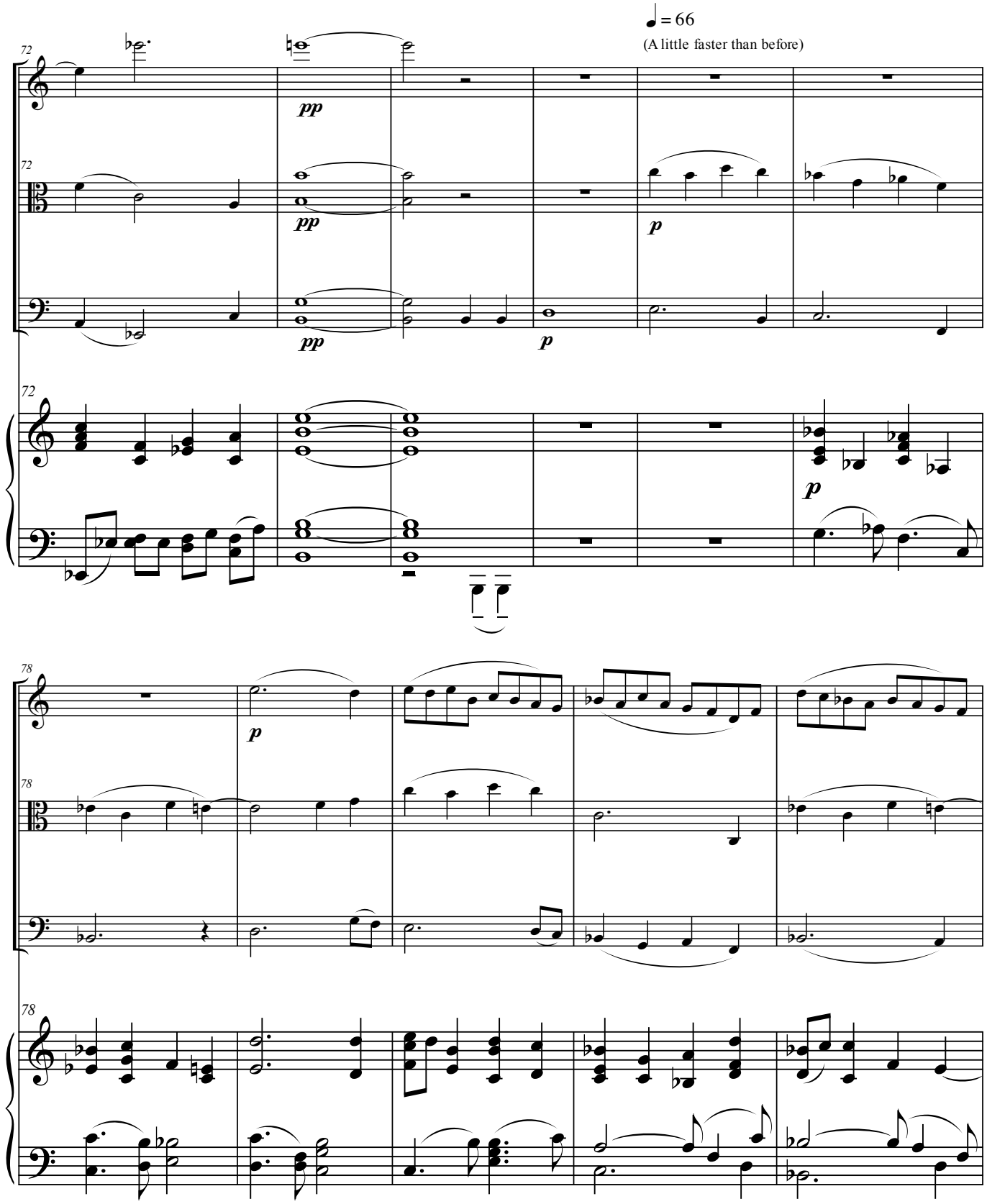

13
mp
p
fp
19
cresc.

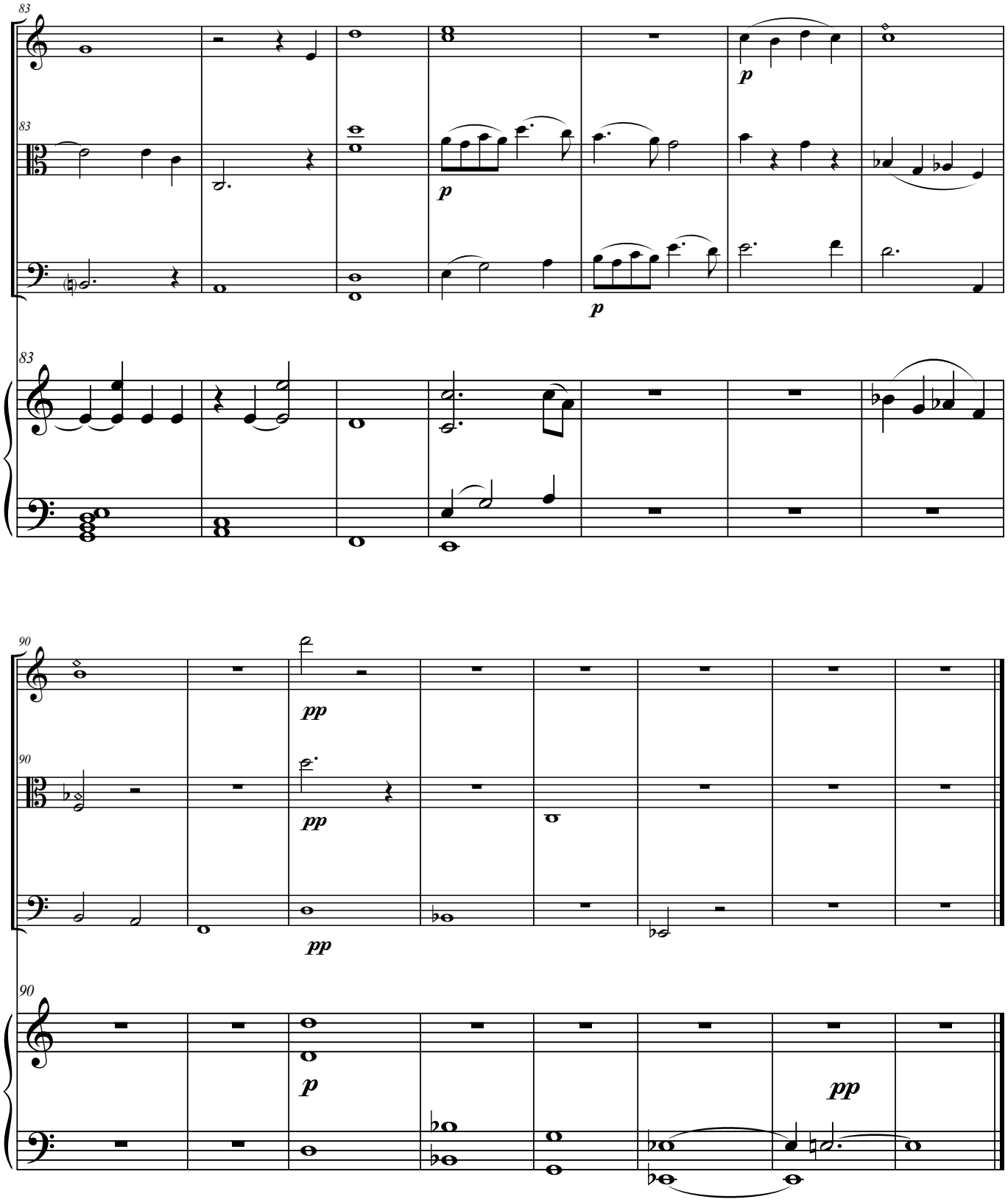

25
pizz.
arco
f
fp
p
pp
8vb
32
8va

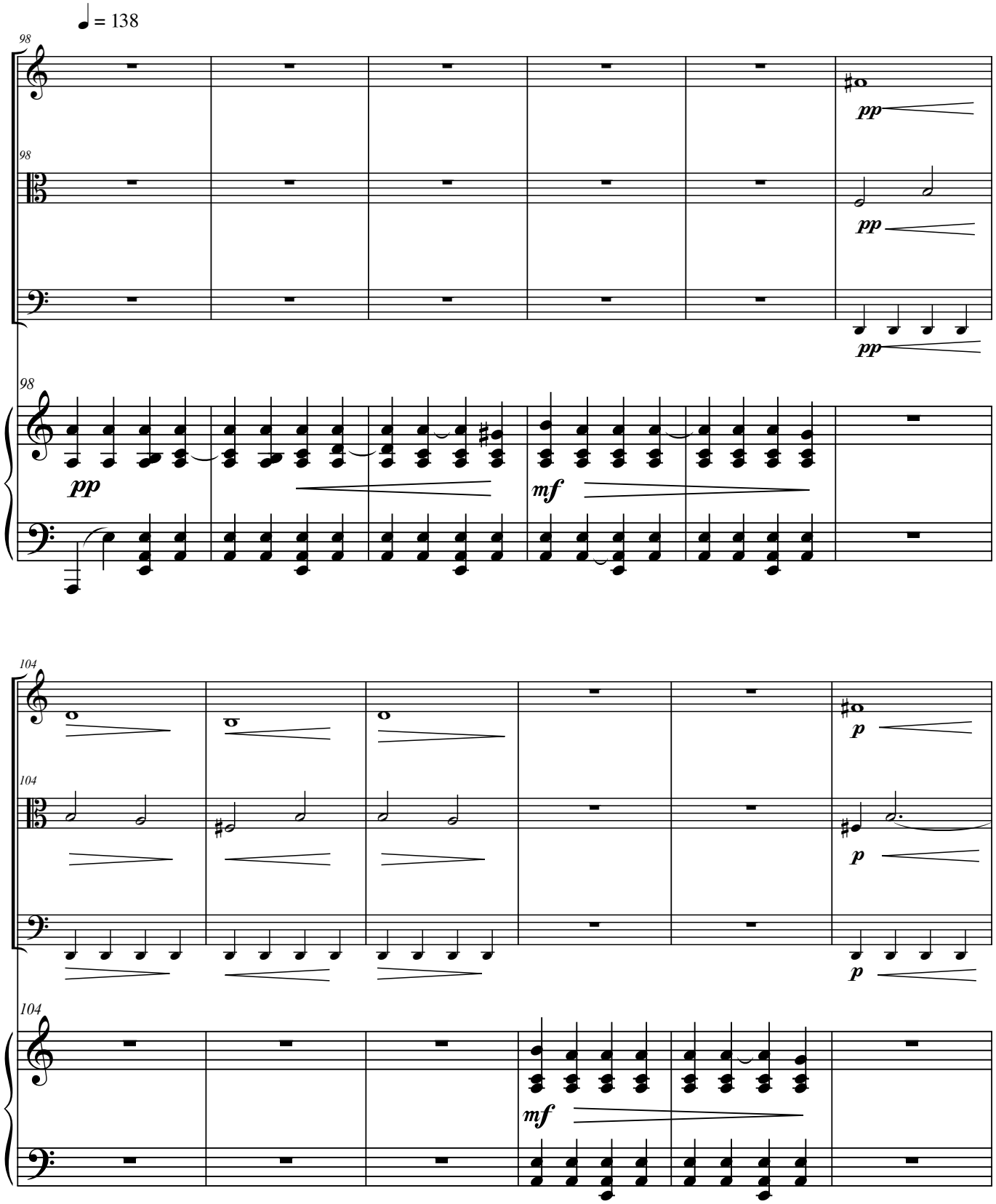

39
ff
p
45
f
3

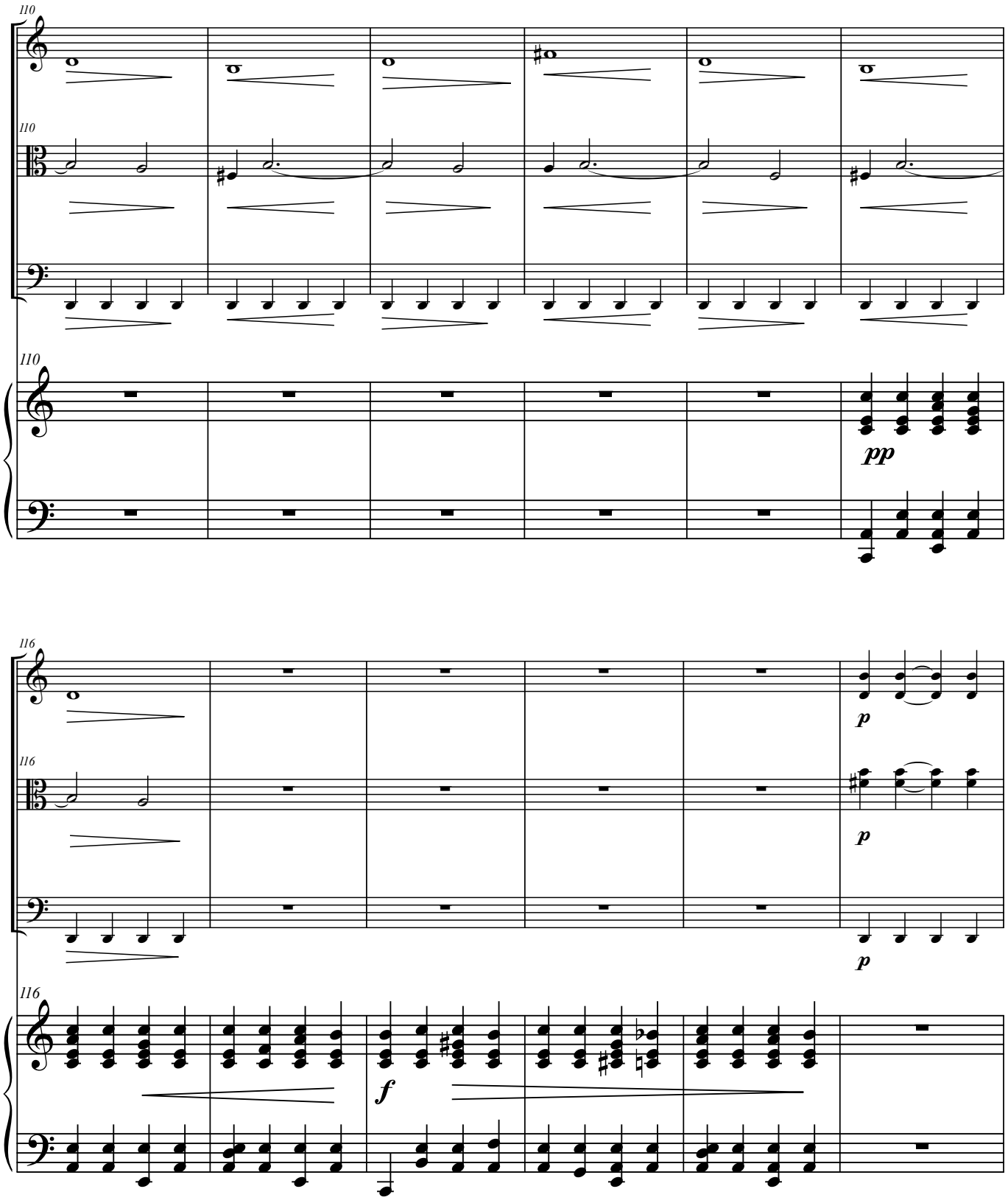

♩ = 72
pizz.
50
pizz.
p
55
arco
f
ff

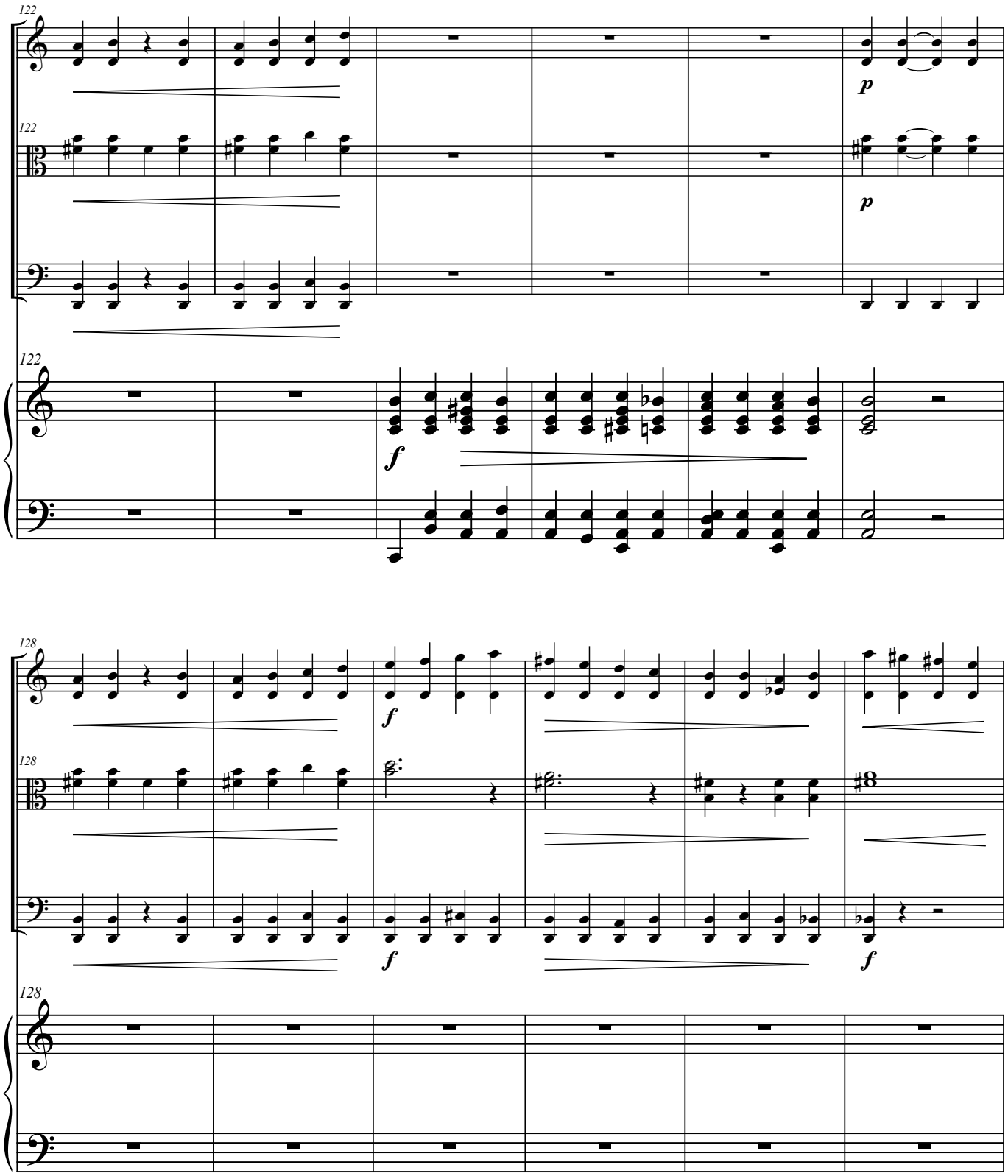

61
f
ff
p
fz
67

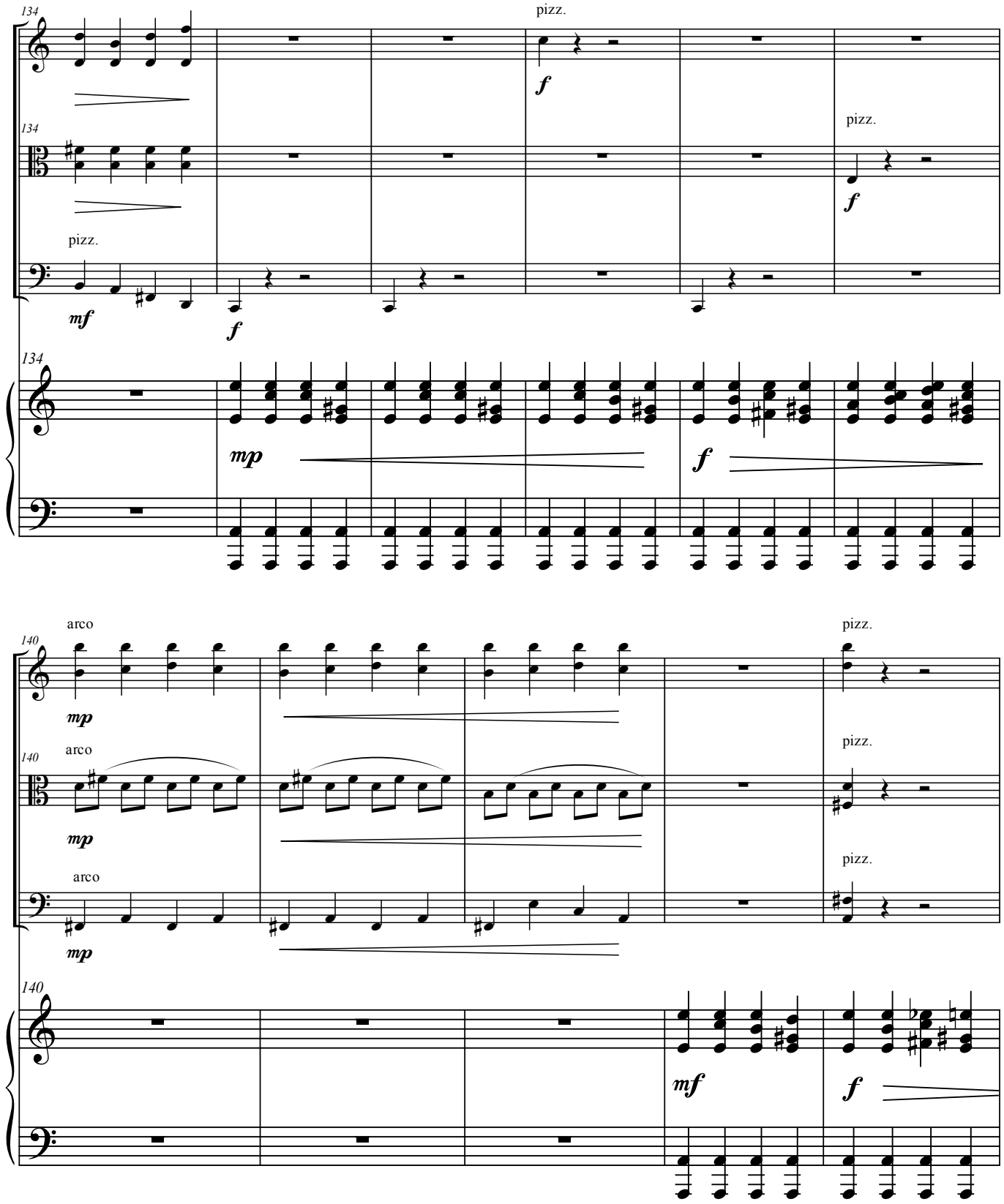

♩ = 66
(A little faster than before)
72
pp
p
78

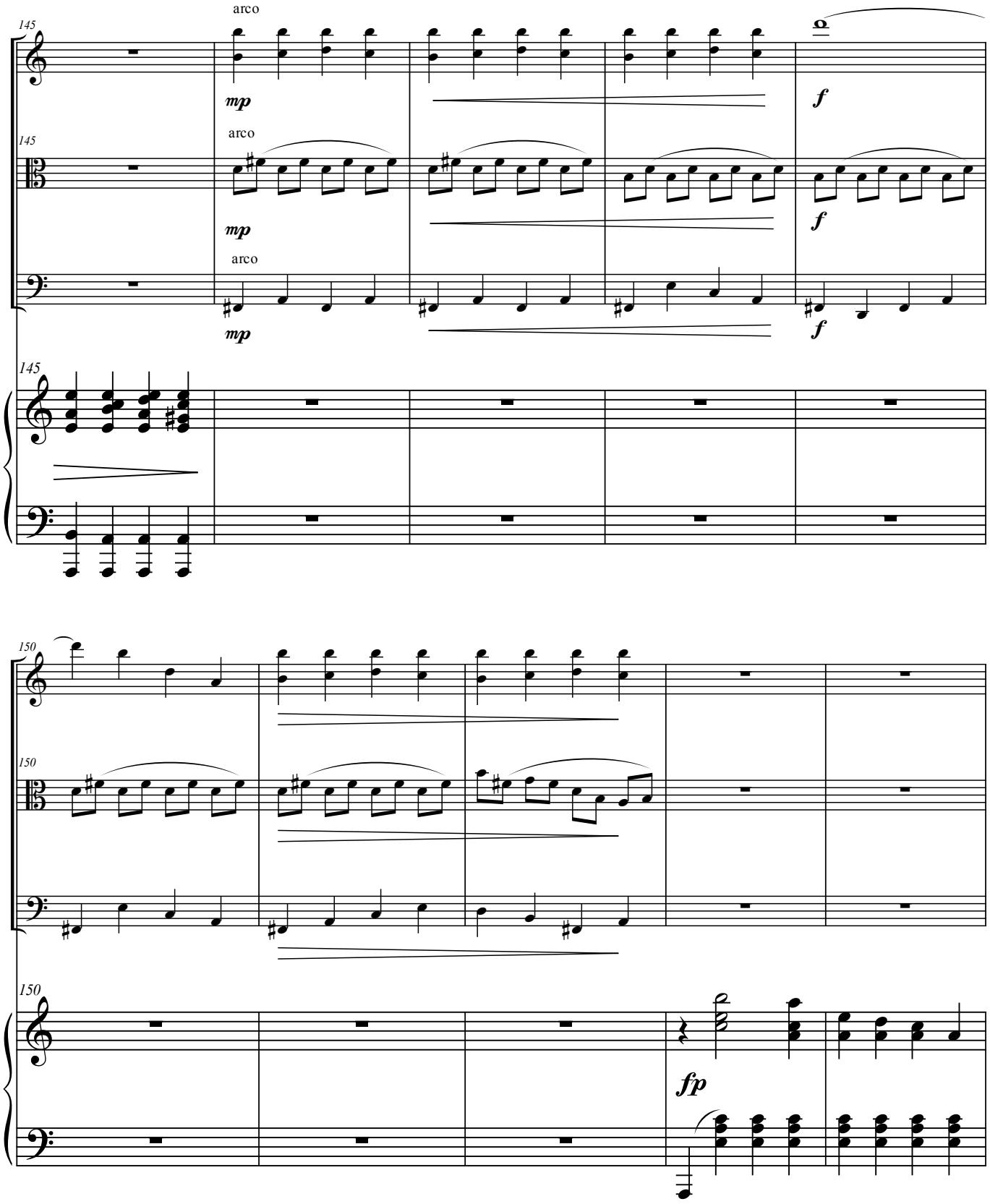

83
p
83
p
p
83
90
pp
90
pp
pp
90
p
pp

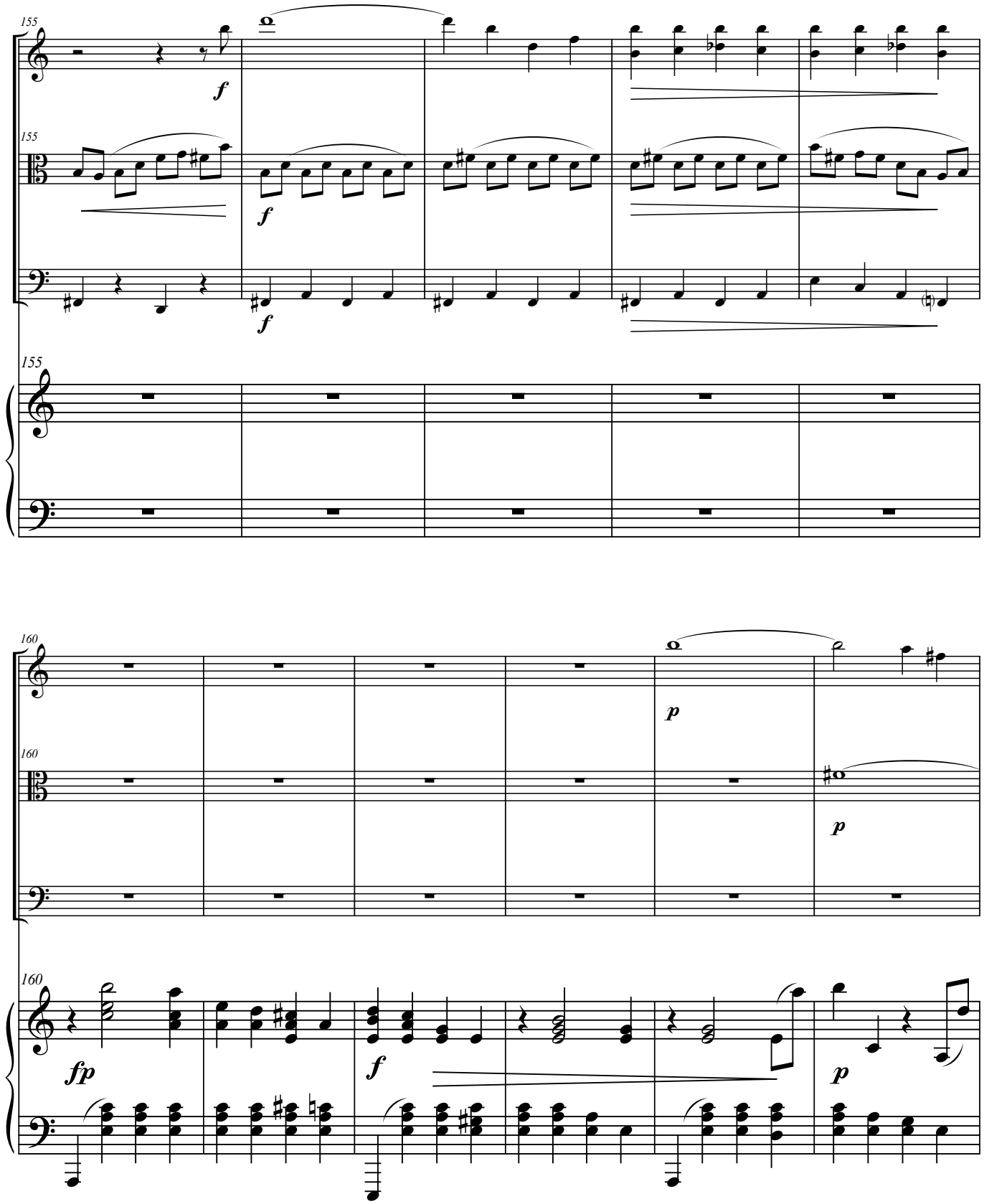

♩ = 138
98
pp
mf
104
p

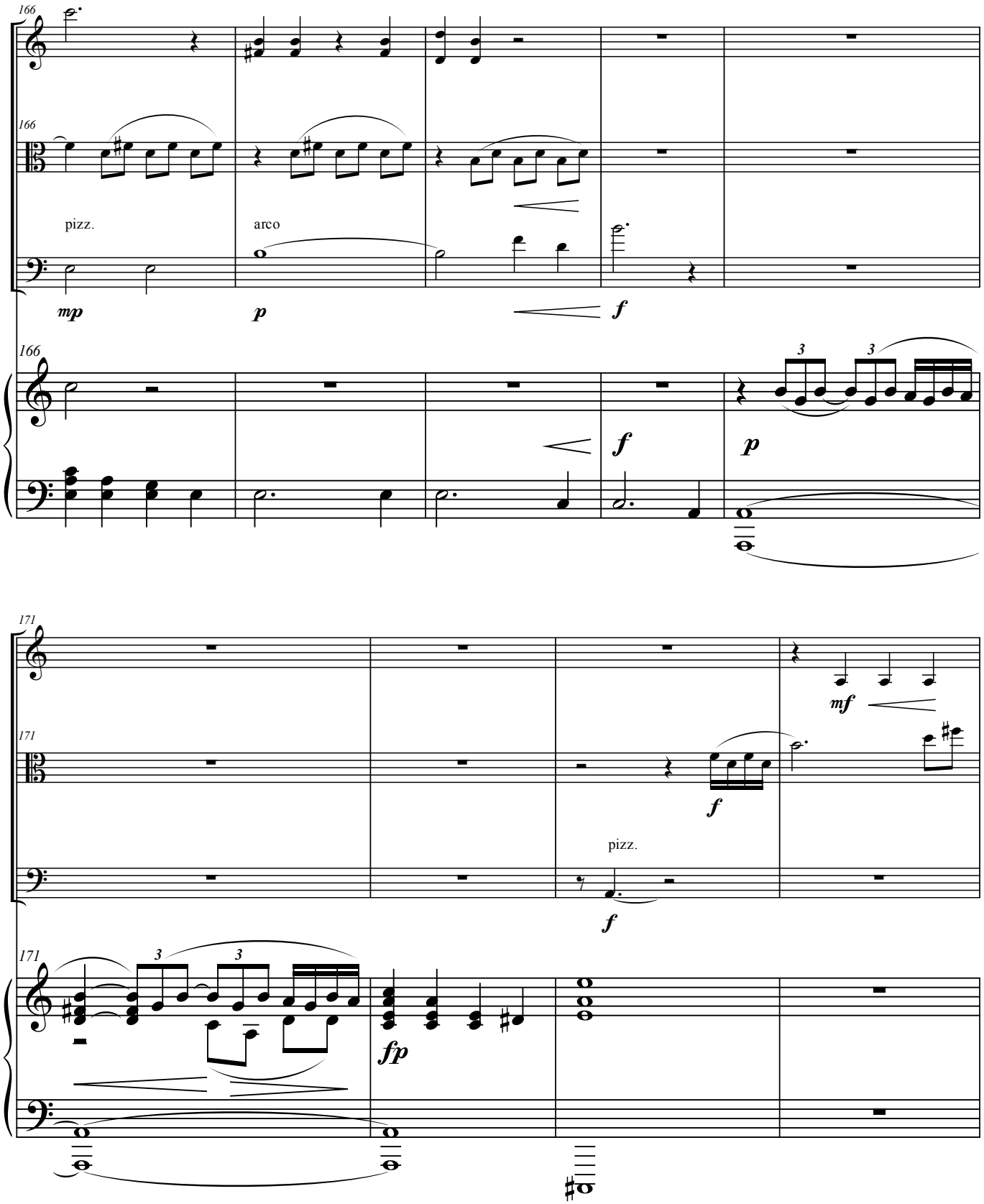

110
110
110
pp
116
116
116
p
p
p
f


122
p
122
p
122
f
128
f
128
f
f
128

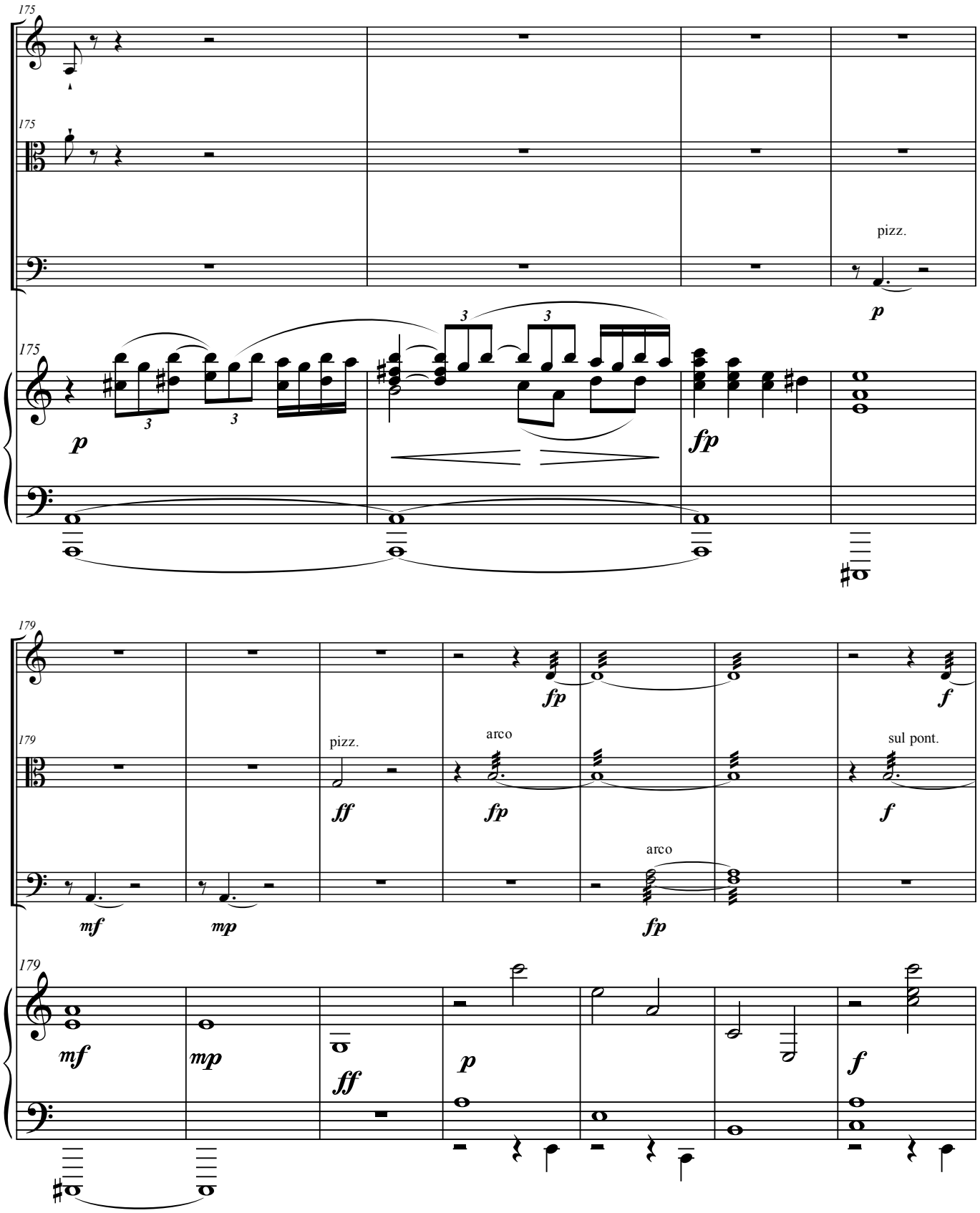

134
pizz.
f
134
pizz.
f
pizz.
mf
f
134
mp
f
140
arco
mp
pizz.
140
arco
mp
pizz.
arco
mp
pizz.
140
mf
f


145
arco
mp
f
145
arco
mp
f
arco
mp
f
145
150
150
150
fp


155
f
155
f
f
155
160
p
160
p
160
fp
f
p



3 3


175
pizz.
p
fp
179
fp
f
pizz.
ff
arco
fp
sul pont.
f
mf
mp
arco
fp
mf
mp
ff
p
f

186

pizz.

arco

slide to . . .

ordin.

pizz.

arco

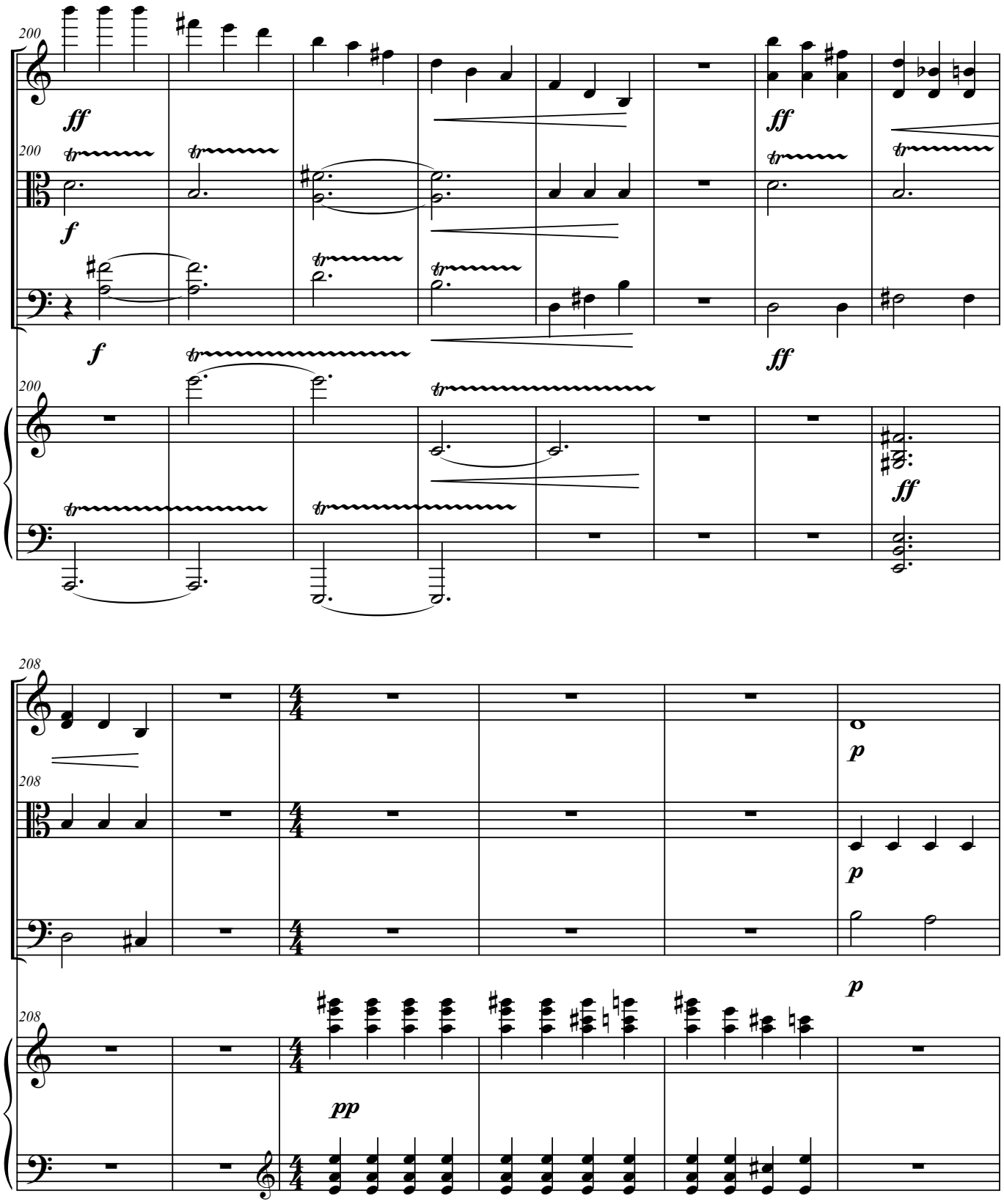
193

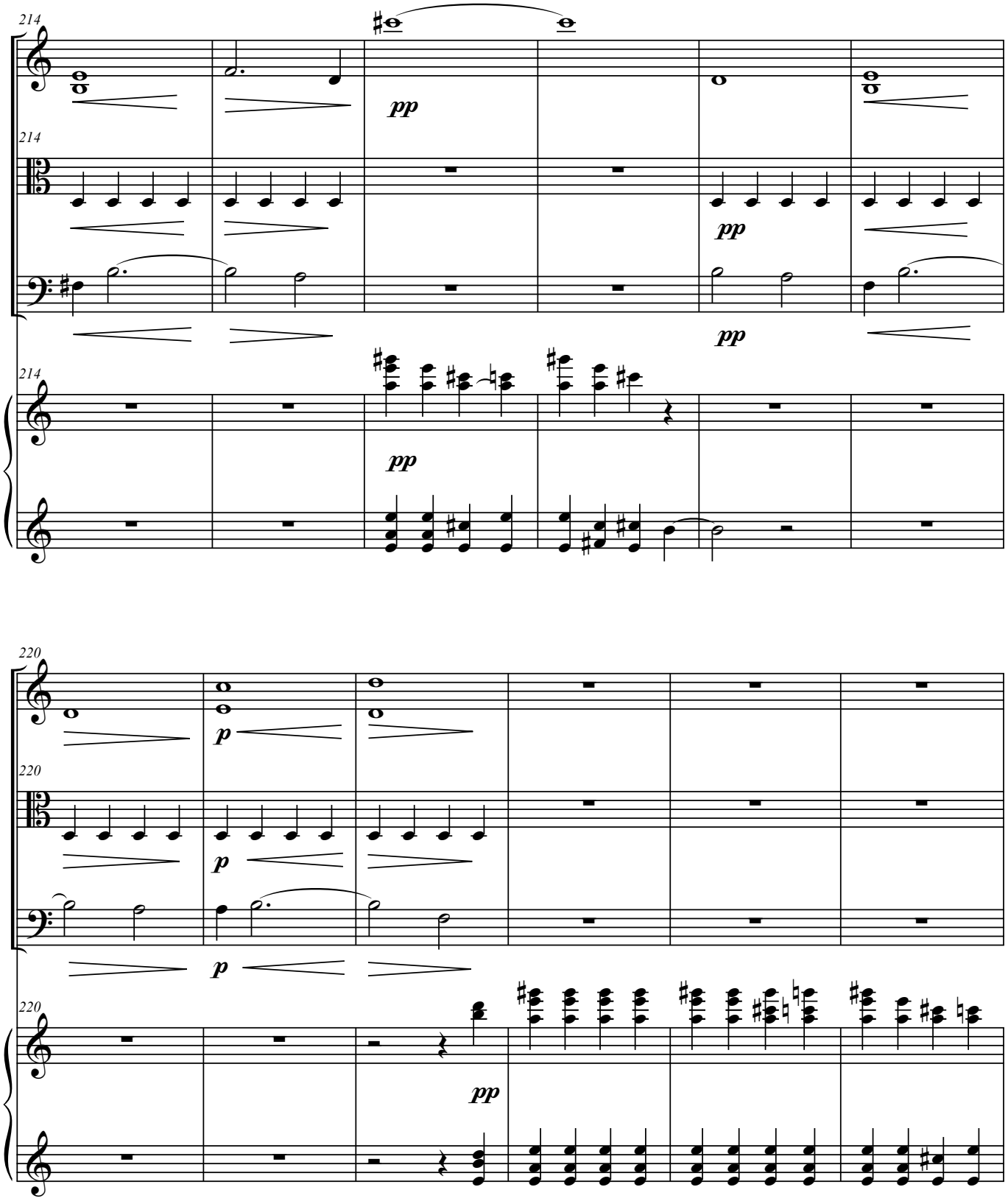
(♩ = ♩)

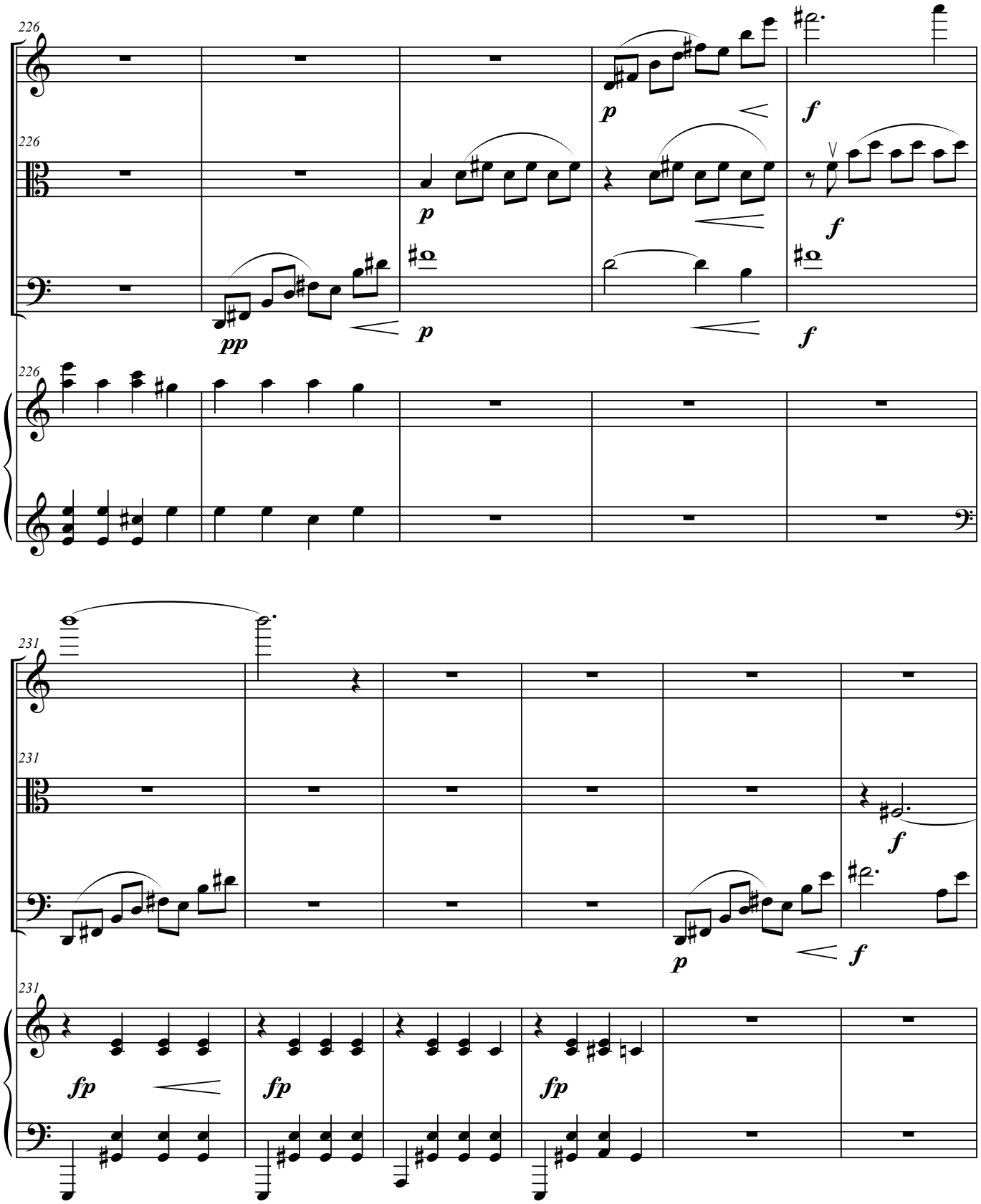
slide to . . .

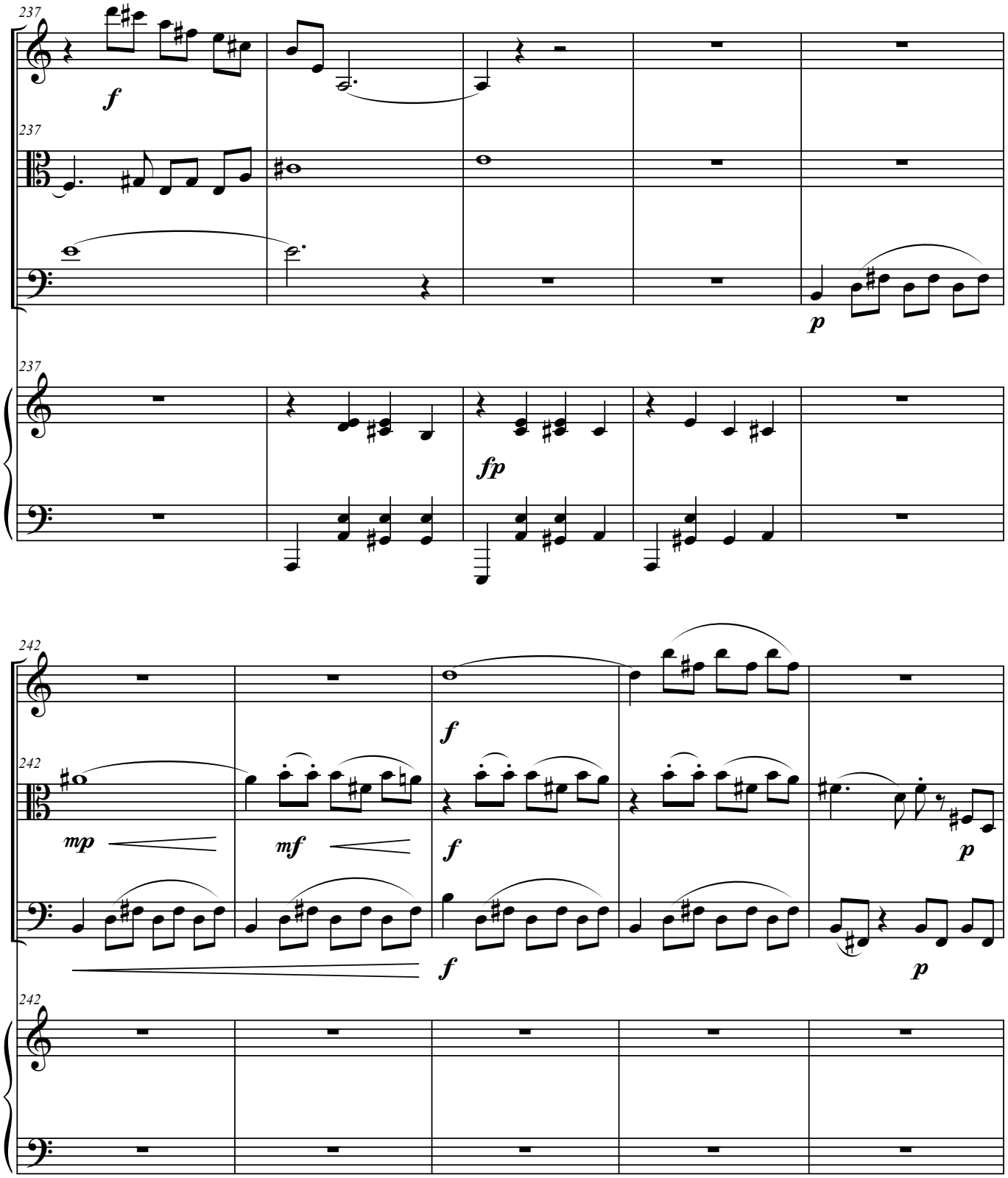
sul pont.

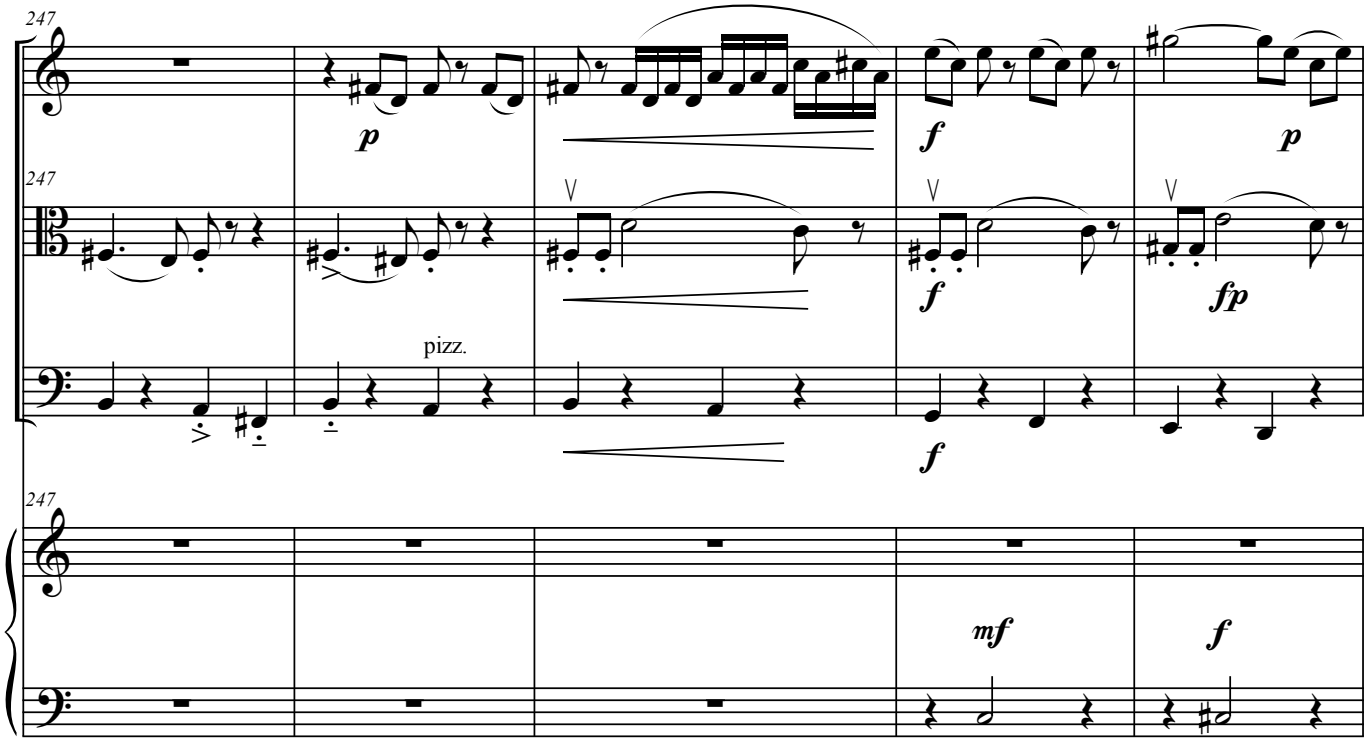
ordin.

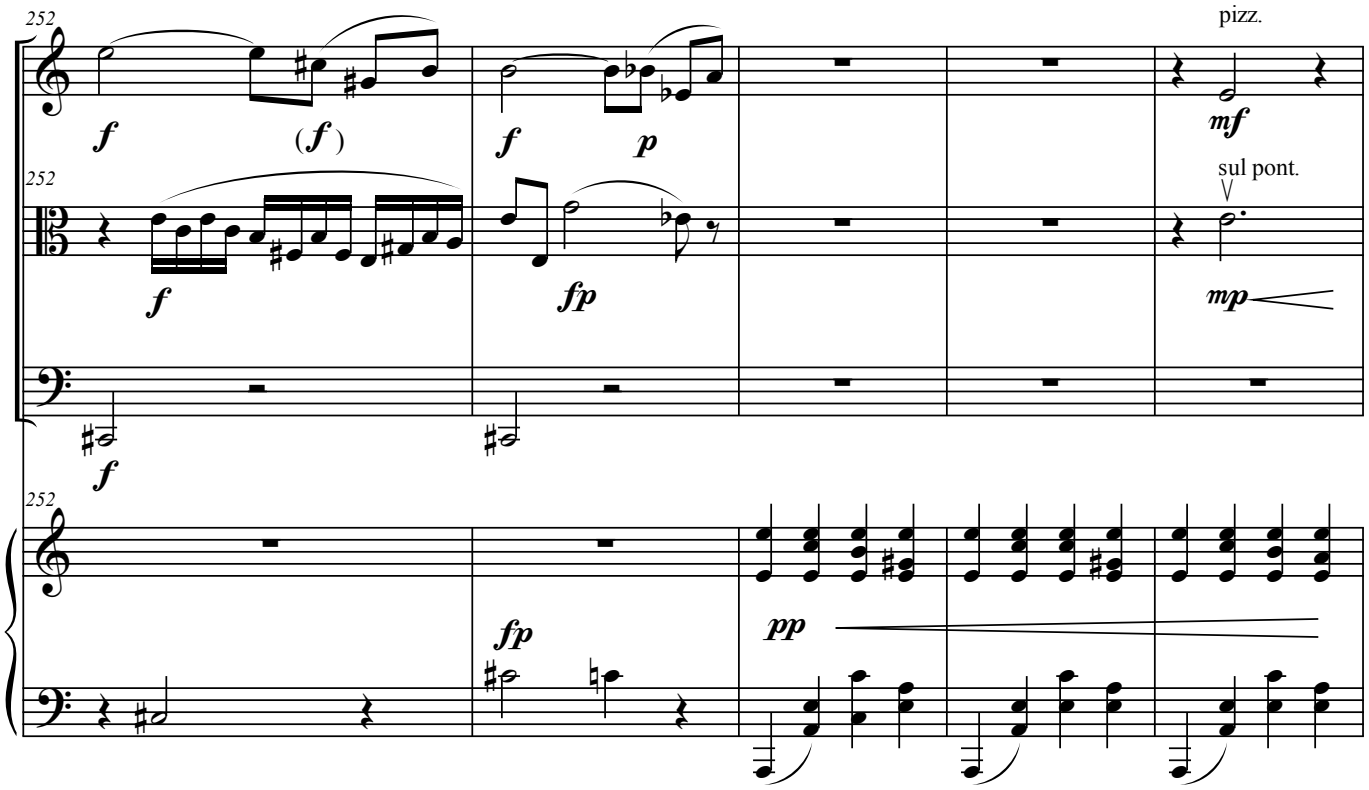

200
ff
ff
200
f
f
ff
200
ff
208
p
208
p
208
p
pp

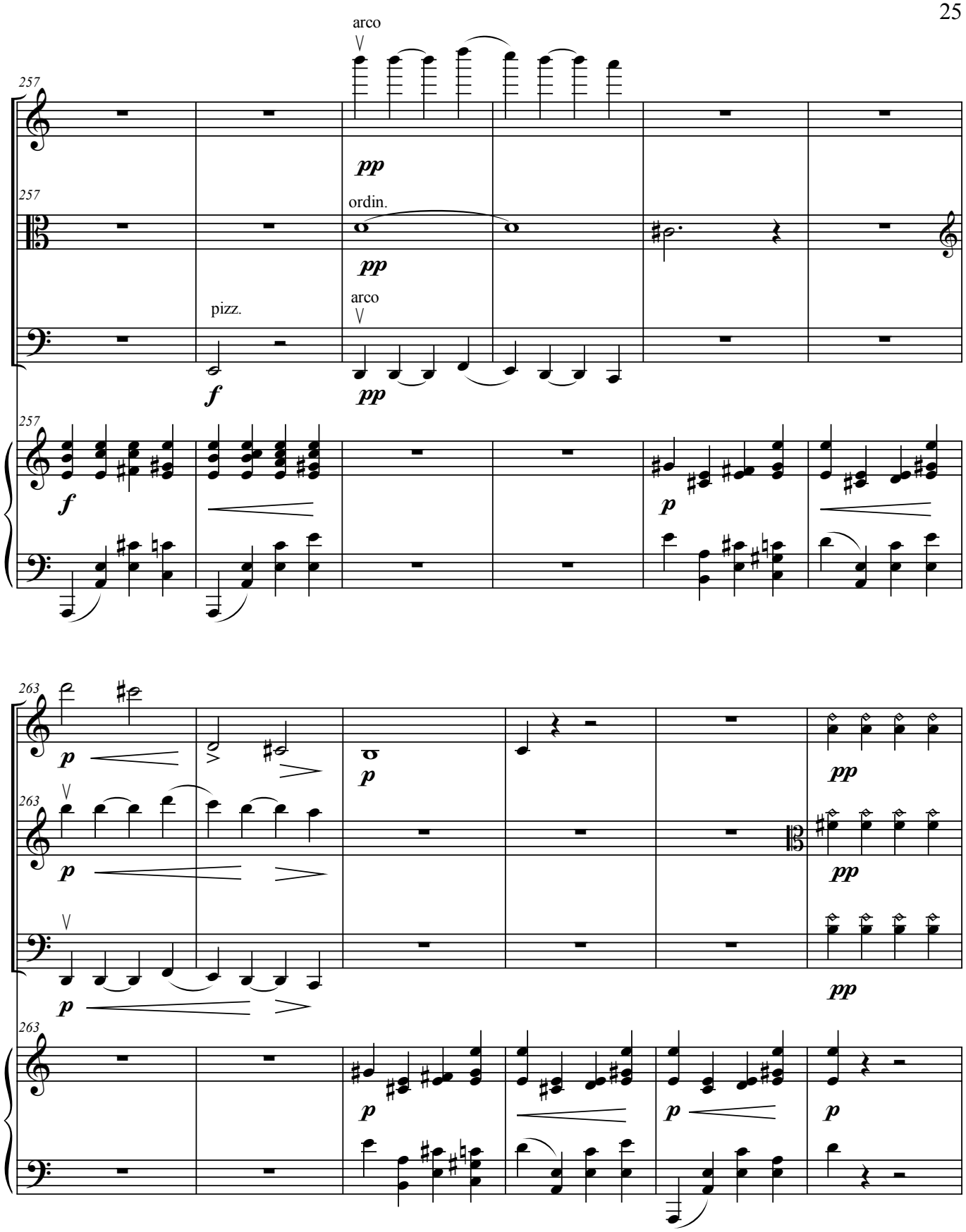

214
pp
214
pp
pp
214
pp
220
p
220
p
p
220
pp

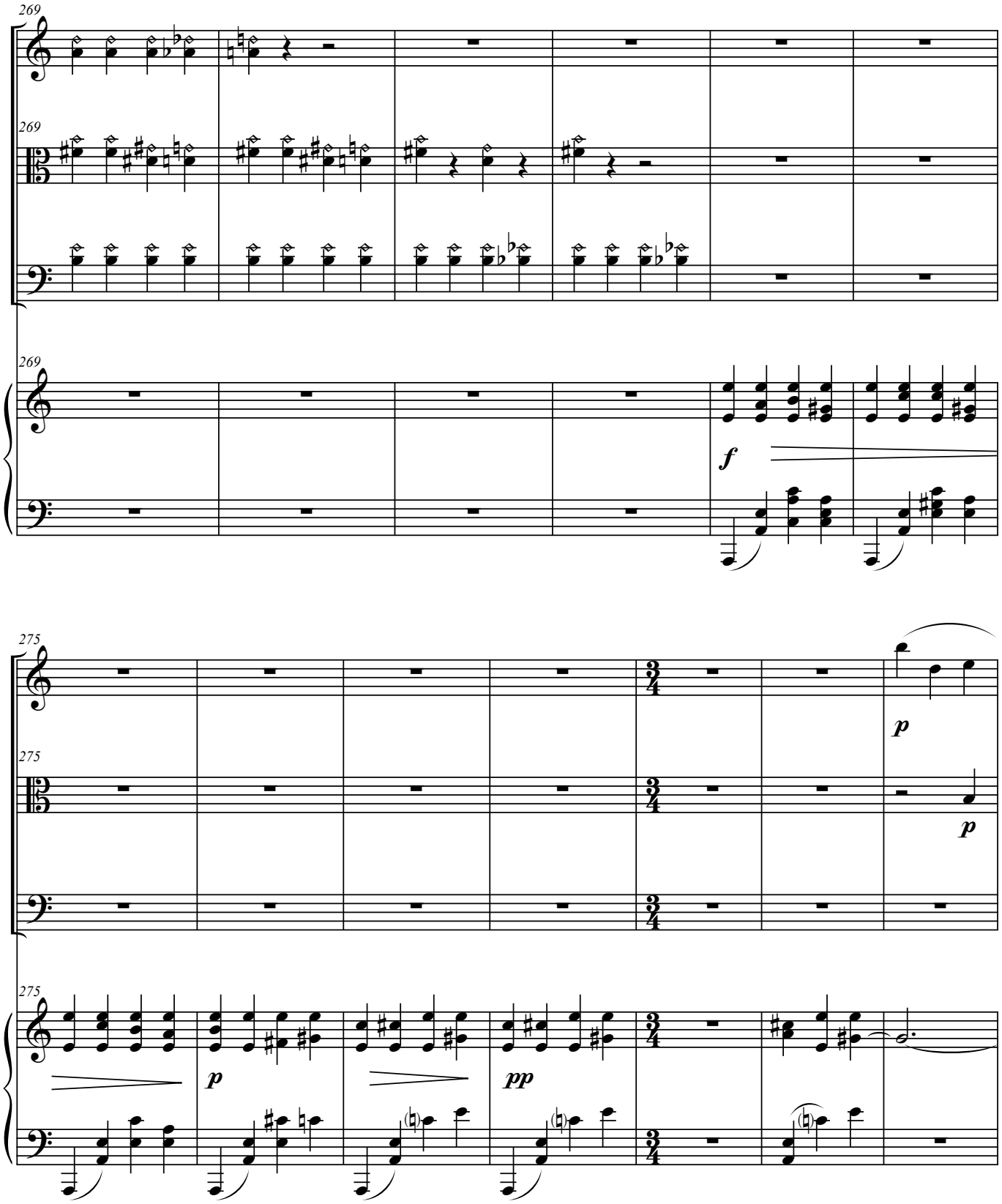

226
p
f
226
p
f
pp
p
f
226
231
f
231
p
f
231
fp
fp
fp

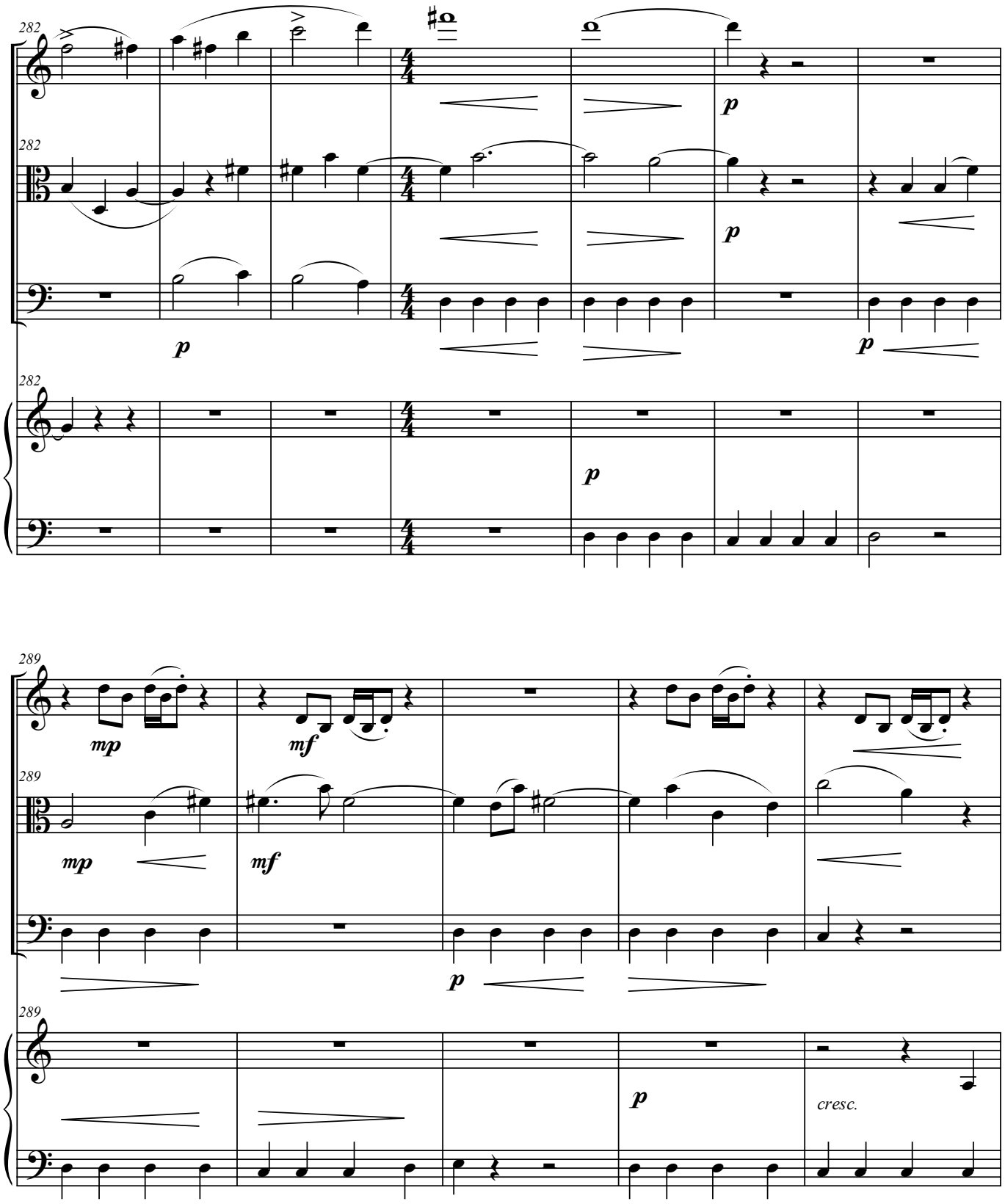

237
f
237
p
237
fp
242
f
242
mp
mf
f
p
f
p
242

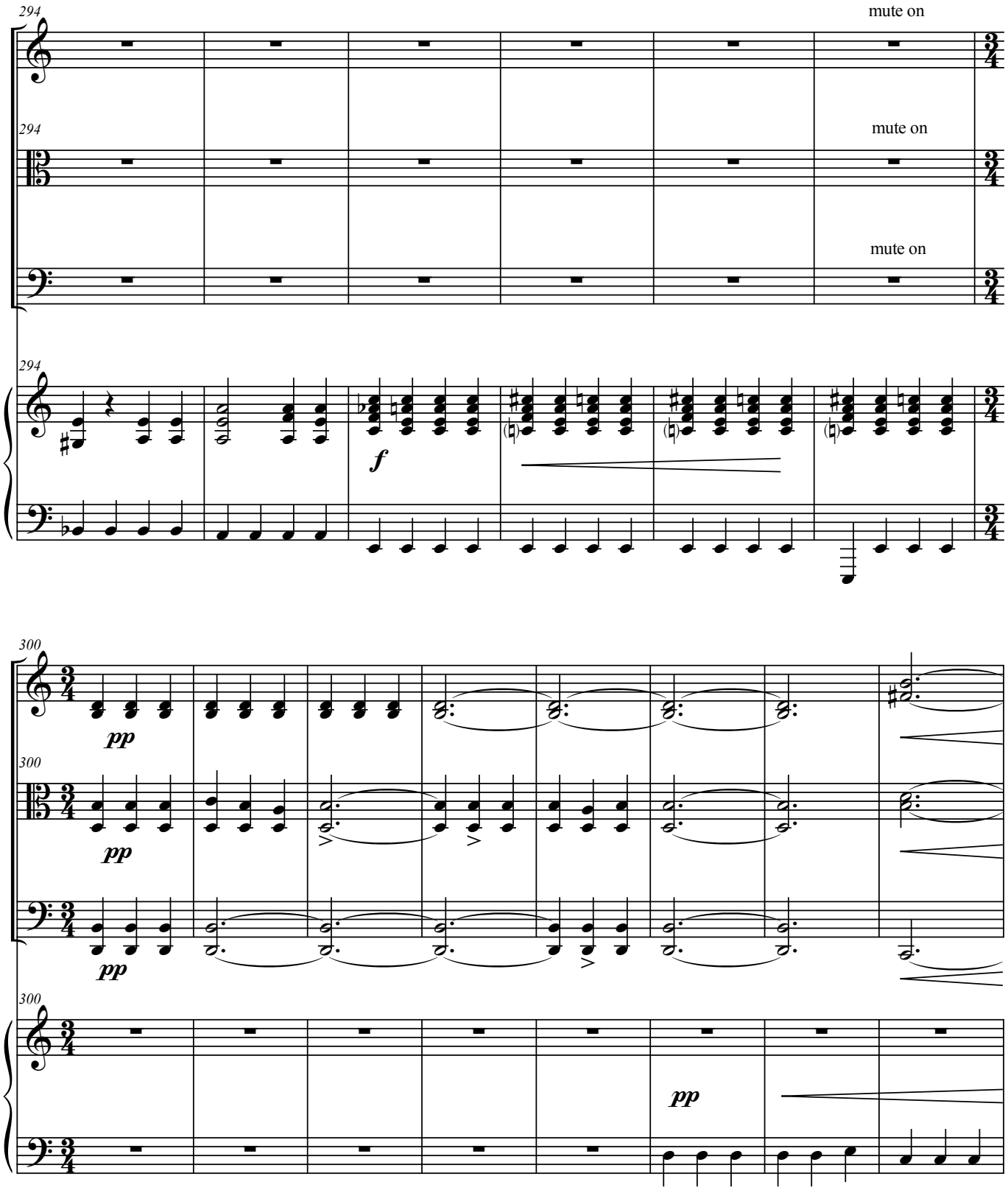

247
p
f
p
247
f
fp
pizz.
f
247
mf
f


252
f
(f)
f
p
pizz.
mf
252
f
fp
sul pont.
mp
f
252
fp
pp


257
arco
pp
257
ordin.
pp
pizz.
arco
f
pp
257
f
p
263
p
p
pp
263
p
pp
p
pp
263
p
p
p


269
f
275
p
p
p
pp


282
p
282
p
p
p
282
p
289
mp
mf
289
mp
mf
p
289
p
cresc.


294
mute on
294
mute on
mute on
294
f
300
pp
300
pp
pp
300
pp

308

mute off

mute off

mute off

fp

f

314

p

pizz.

arco

p

pizz.

arco

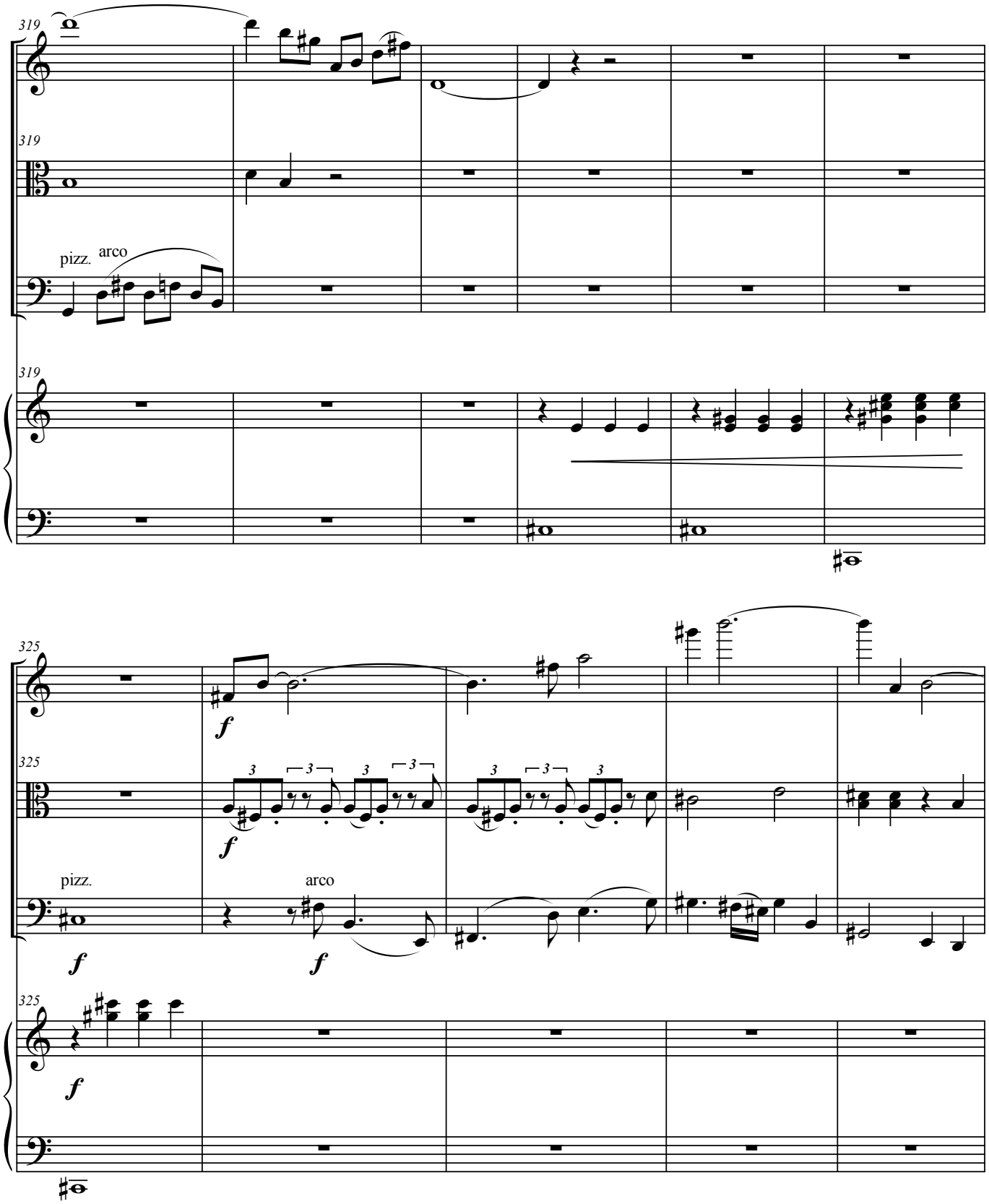
f *p*

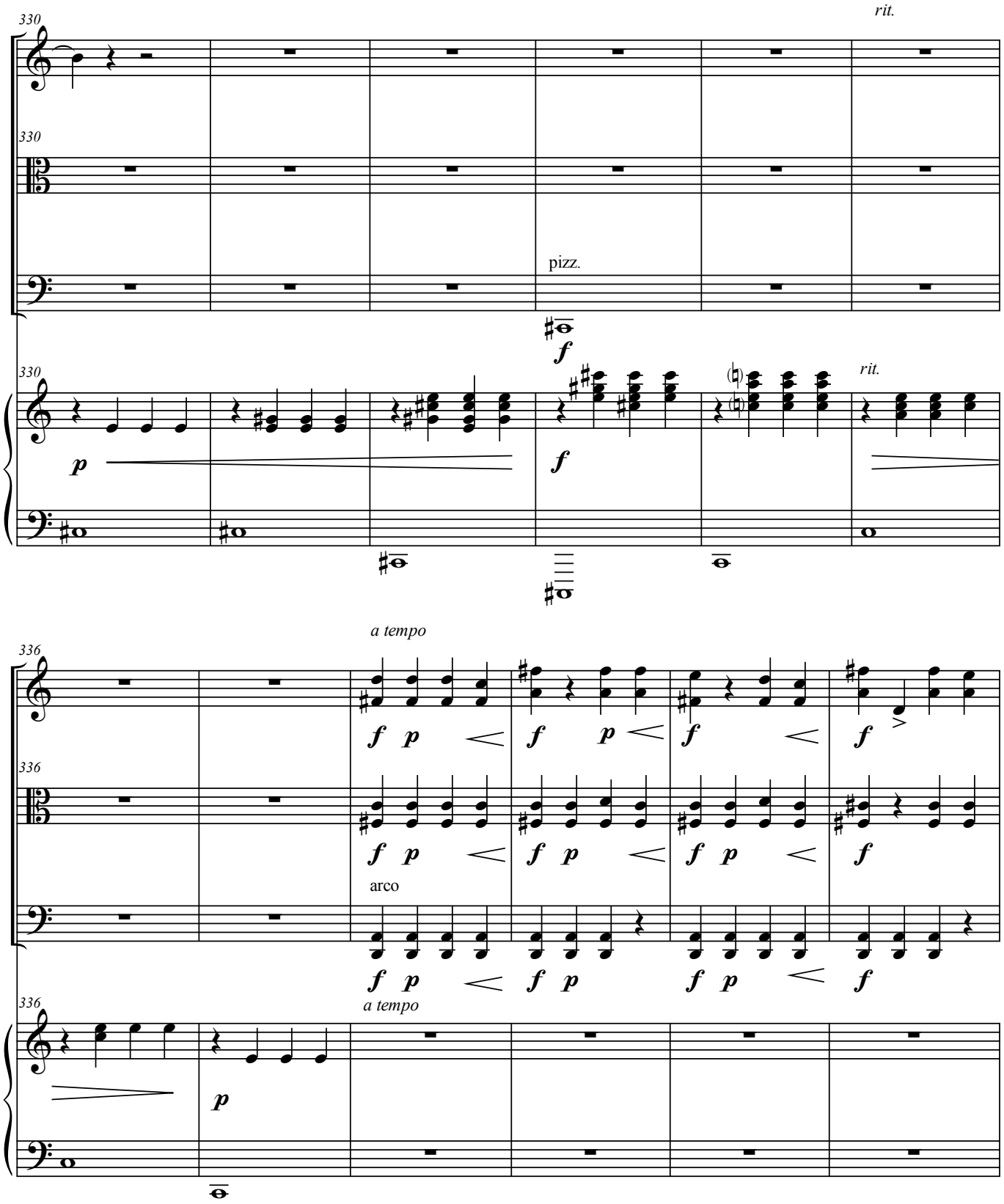
f *p*

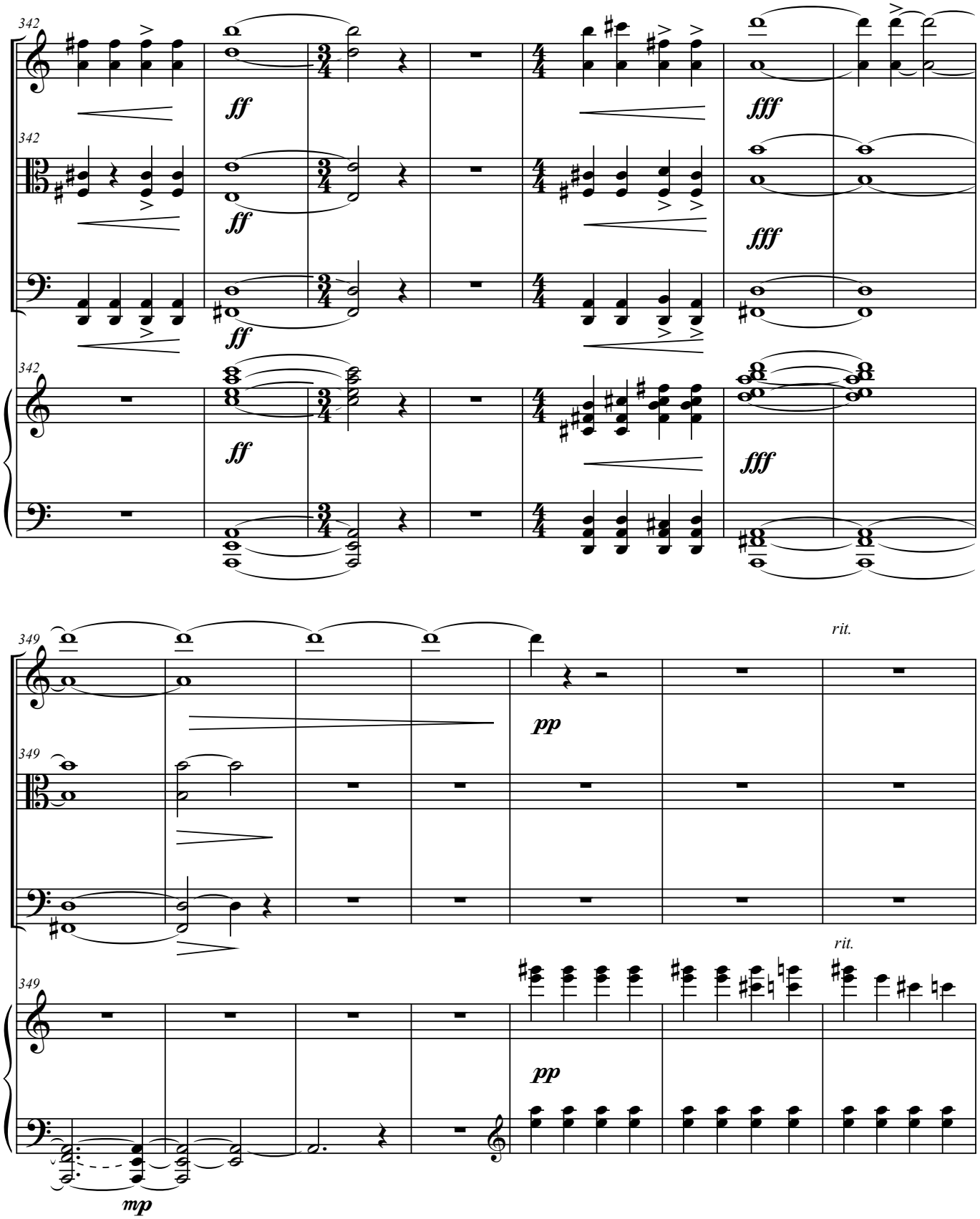
mf *p*

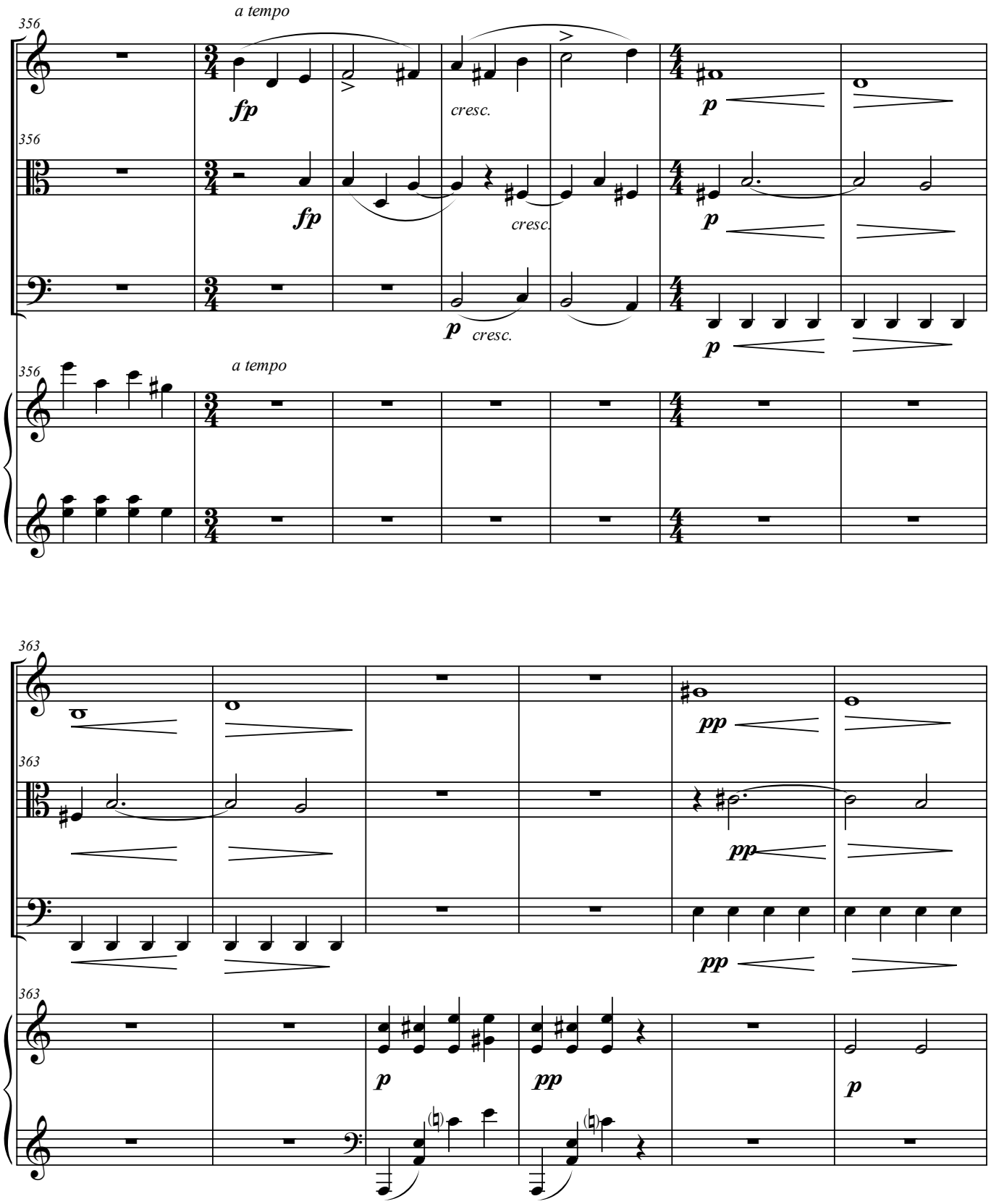
mp *p*

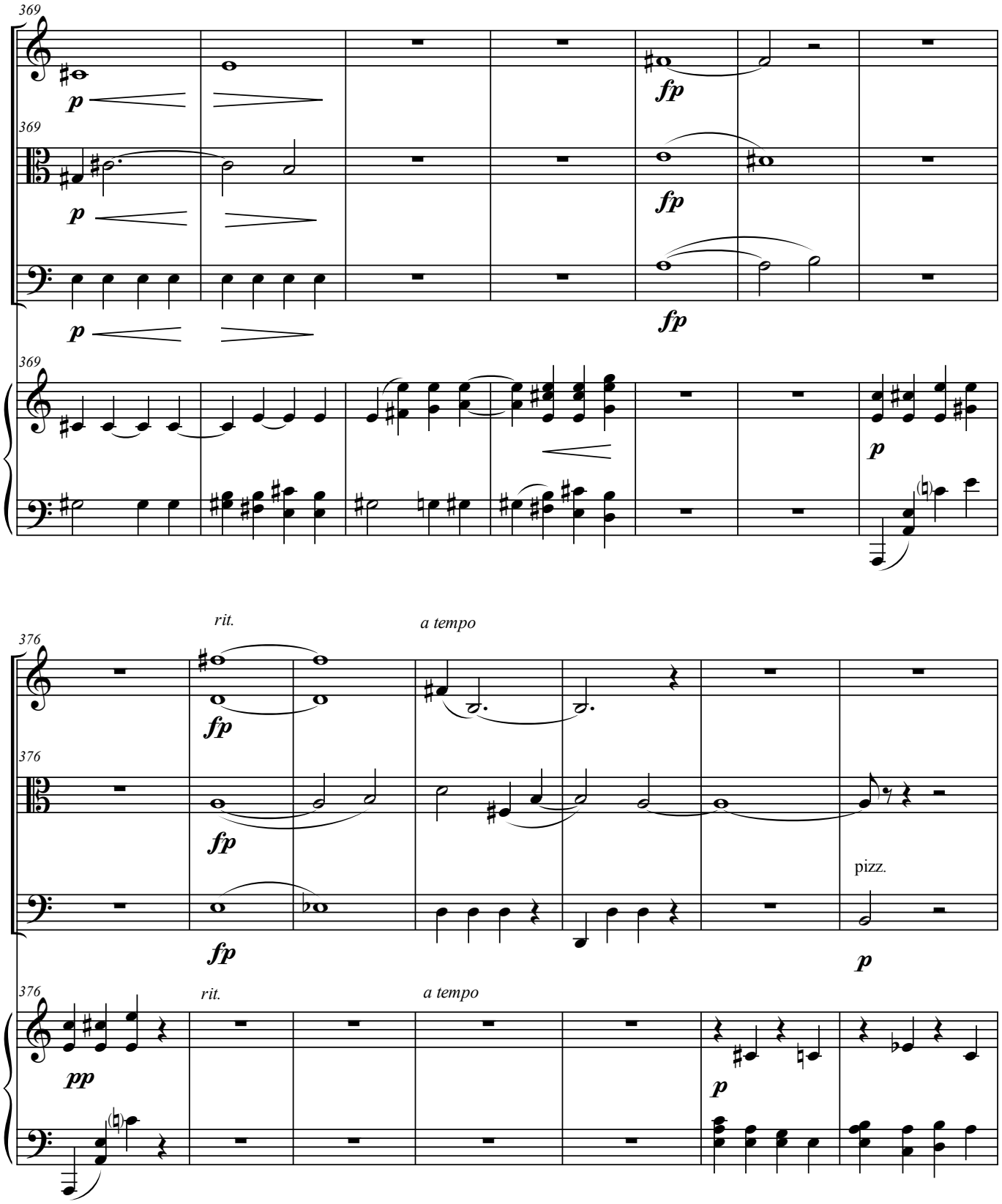
p

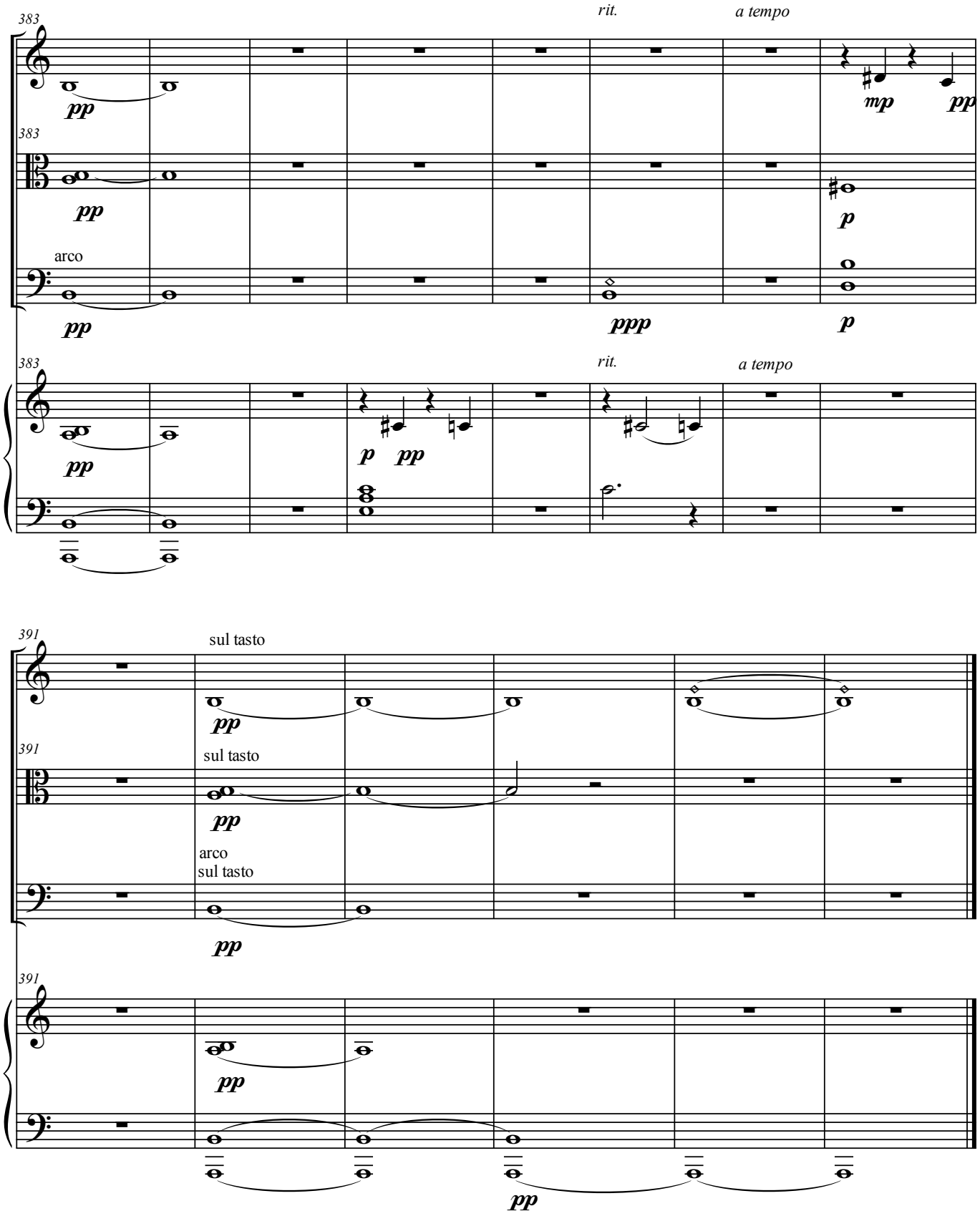

319
319
pizz.
arco
319
325
f
325
f
pizz.
arco
f
f
325
f


330
rit.
330
pizz.
f
330
p
f
rit.
336
a tempo
f p f p f f
336
f p f p f p f
arco
f p f p f p f
336
a tempo
p


342
ff
fff
349
pp
rit.
mp


356
a tempo
fp
cresc.
p
356
fp
cresc.
p
p
cresc.
p
356
a tempo
363
pp
363
pp
pp
363
p
pp
p


369
p
fp
369
p
fp
369
p
fp
369
p
rit.
a tempo
376
fp
376
fp
pizz.
376
fp
p
376
pp
rit.
a tempo
p


383
rit.
a tempo
pp
mp
pp
383
pp
p
arco
pp
ppp
p
383
rit.
a tempo
pp
p
pp
391
sul tasto
pp
391
sul tasto
pp
arco
sul tasto
pp
391
pp
pp