# *Annealed in Fire*

For string quartet

Kris Peysen

# Program Notes

Annealing is a process in metallurgy whereby a substance is heated to a specific temperature and then slowly cooled. This allows for several worthwhile processes to occur, including the removing of impurities, strengthening of the material, and relieving of internal stresses. This piece, containing as it does such a high degree of aggression and relentless momentum, seems to go through a similar type of transformation. As for what I might be "purifying" or changing within the piece, I leave to the audience to ponder. But there are definitely several processes that occur throughout.

Another element that helped form this piece was my exposure at a relatively young age to heavy metal. It is something that has affected all my works in some form or another, but in this piece it is...more apparent, I think. In particular, the band Tool has had a tremendous impact on my aesthetics and various elements of my writing—and in this piece, the influence goes further, as various musical ideas in the piece actually owe their origins, at least in part, to ideas that have appeared in some of their songs. It is thus with respect and gratitude that I dedicate this piece to Tool.

# Performance Notes

<u>All dynamics not preceded by a crescendo or decrescendo are subito.</u>

Hybrid dynamics (i.e. ***ffp***, ***ffmp***, etc.) should be effectively treated as accents in regards to timing, but with care taken towards achieving both dynamics as closely as possible.

Glissandi begin immediately on the note they are attached to.

Grace notes always occur before the beat. This includes the quadruple-stops notated at sections **R** and **S**.

always means unmeasured tremolo.

*n = niente.*

Accidentals behave traditionally, applying throughout the measure.

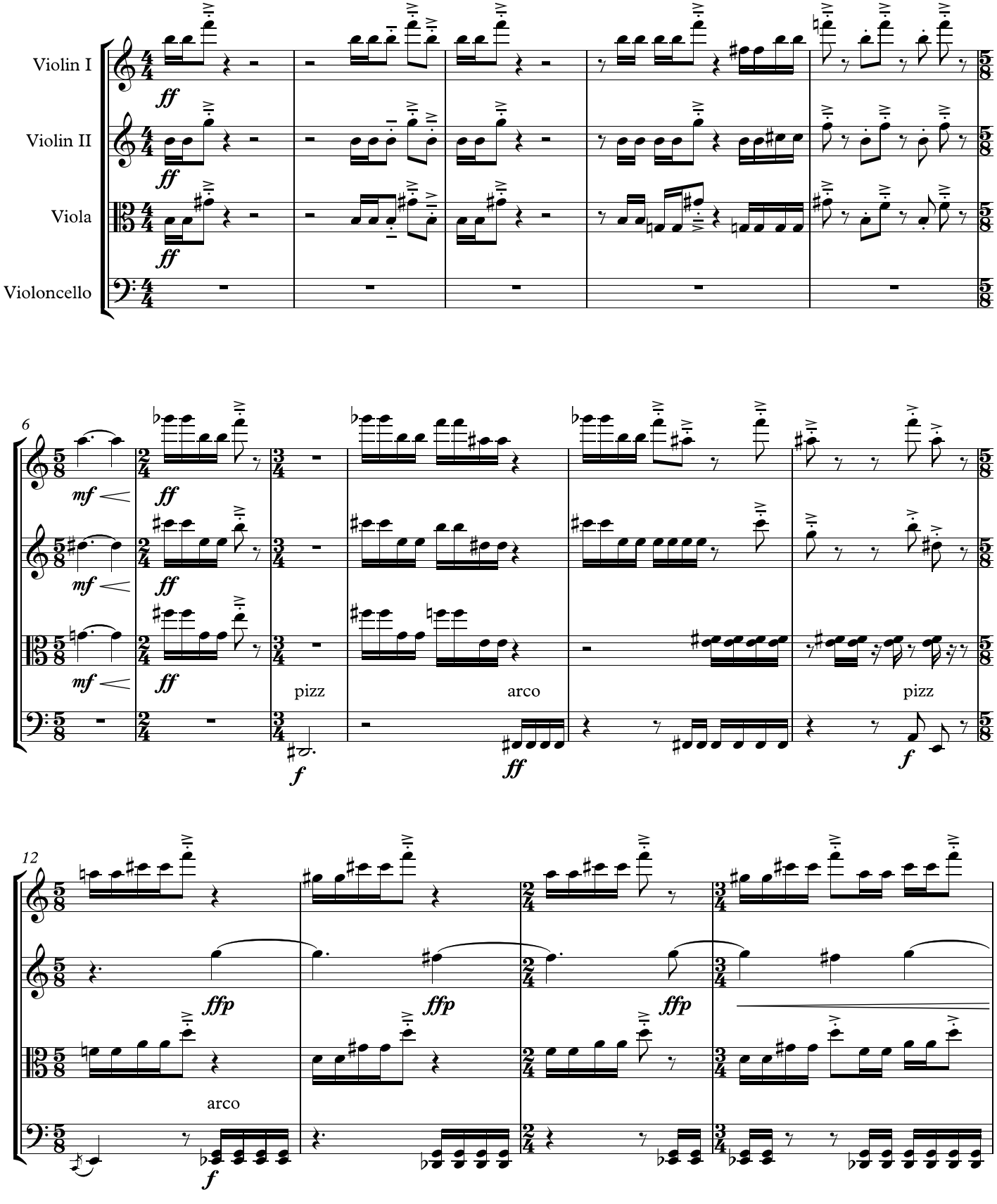
Duration: 9'30"

# Annealed in Fire

**observe strictly throughout**

♩=108 (♩.=72)

Kris Peysen



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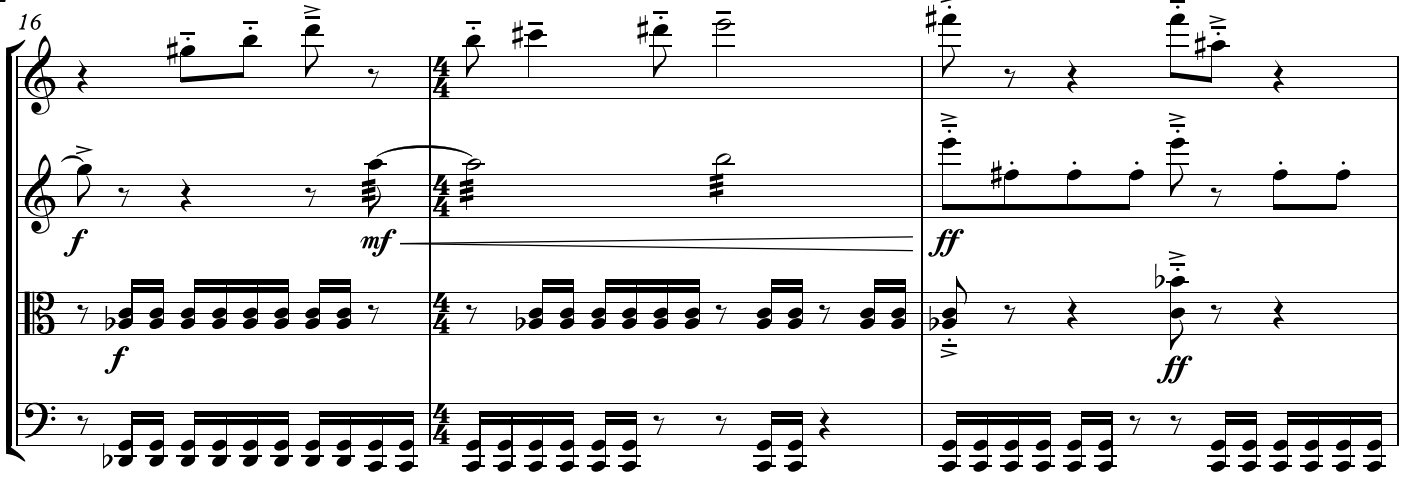
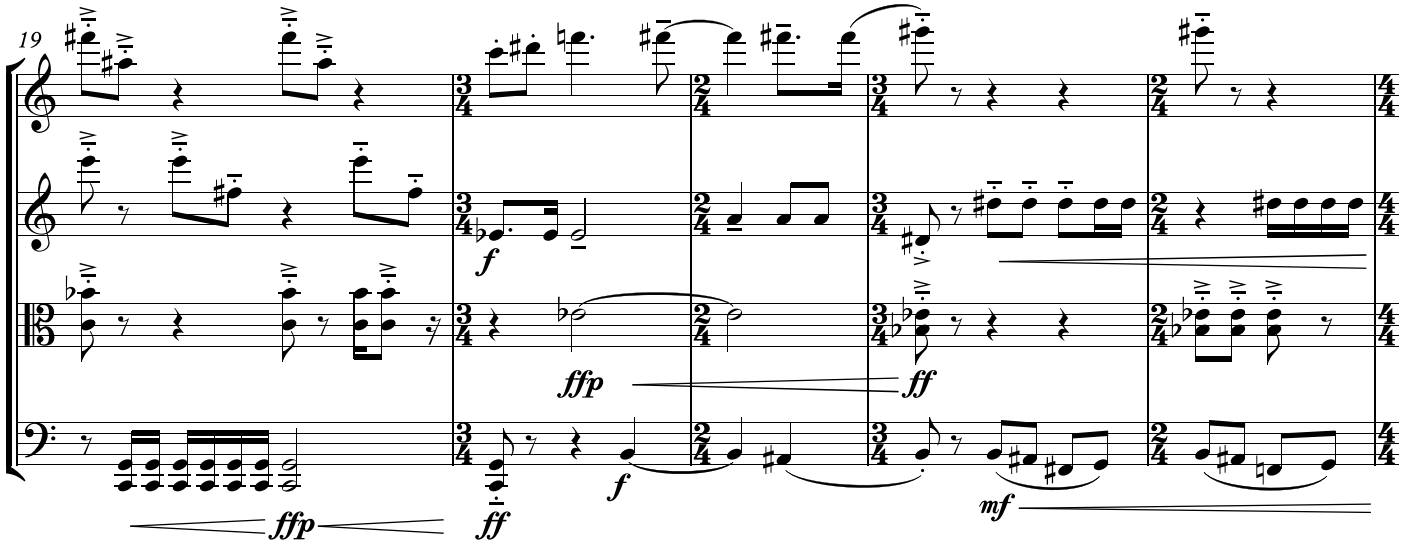
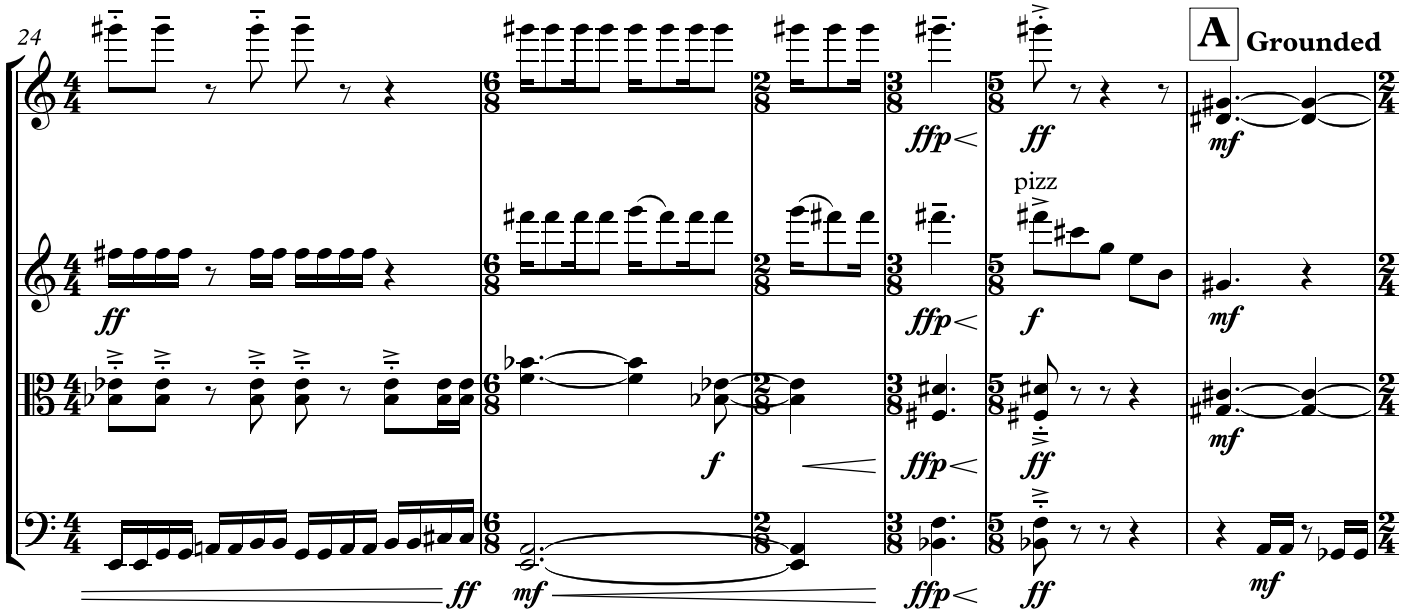

f
mf
ff
f
ff

19


f
ffp
ff
ffp
ff
f
mf

24


A
Grounded
ff
ffp
ff
mf
pizz
f
mf
f
mf
ff
ffp
ff
mf
ffp
ff
mf

30

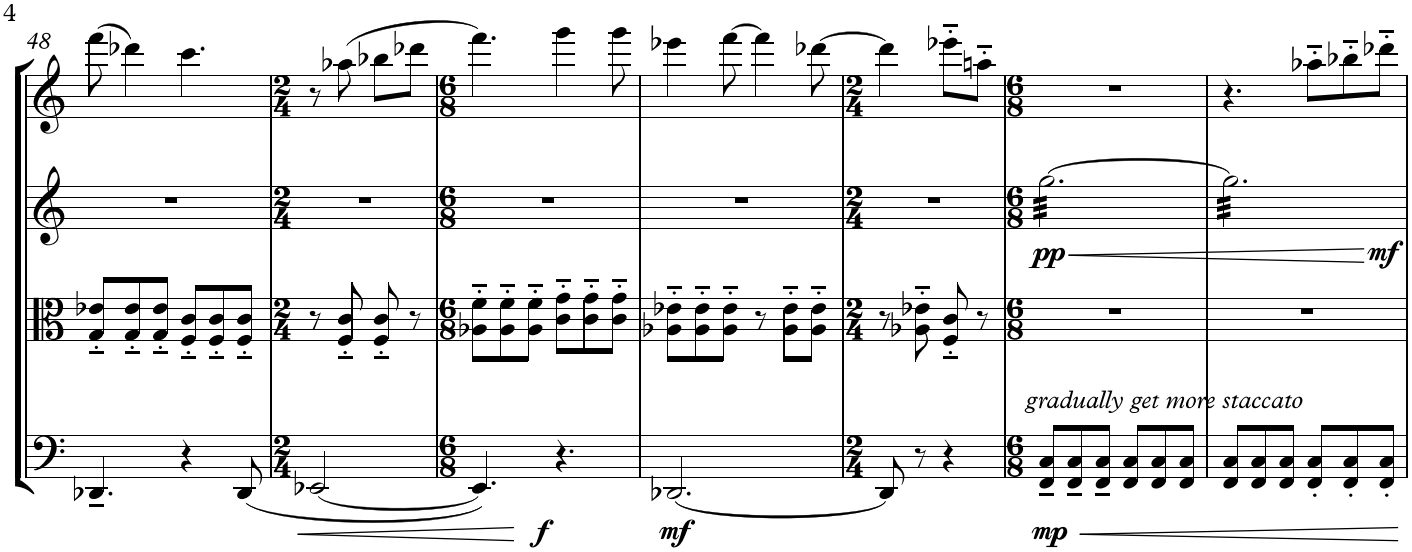
arco

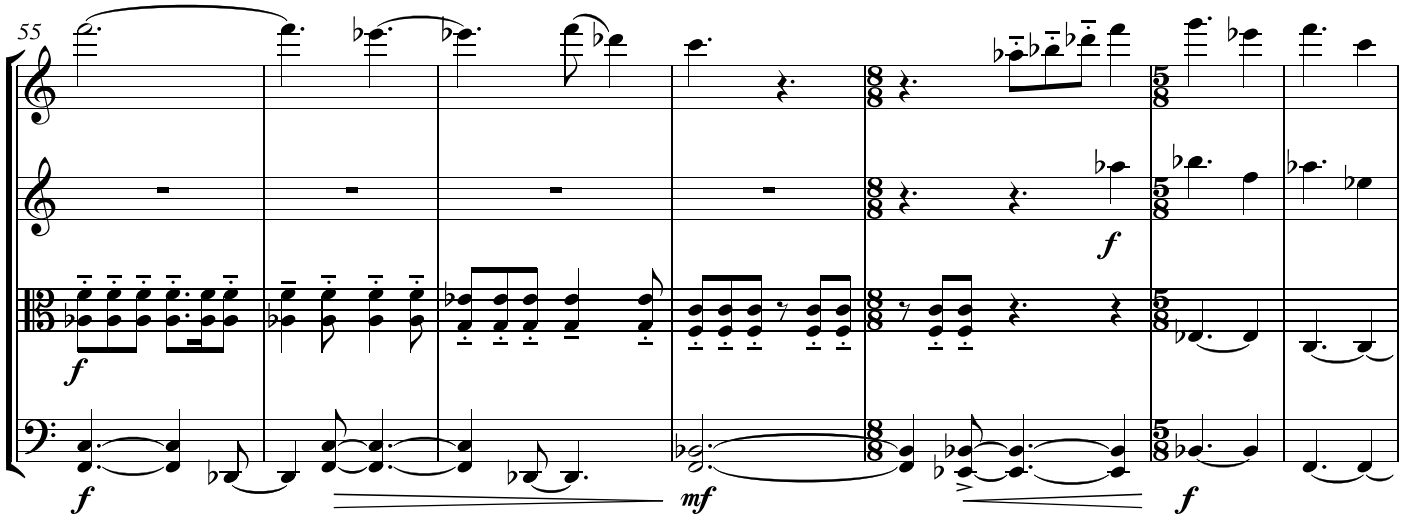
35

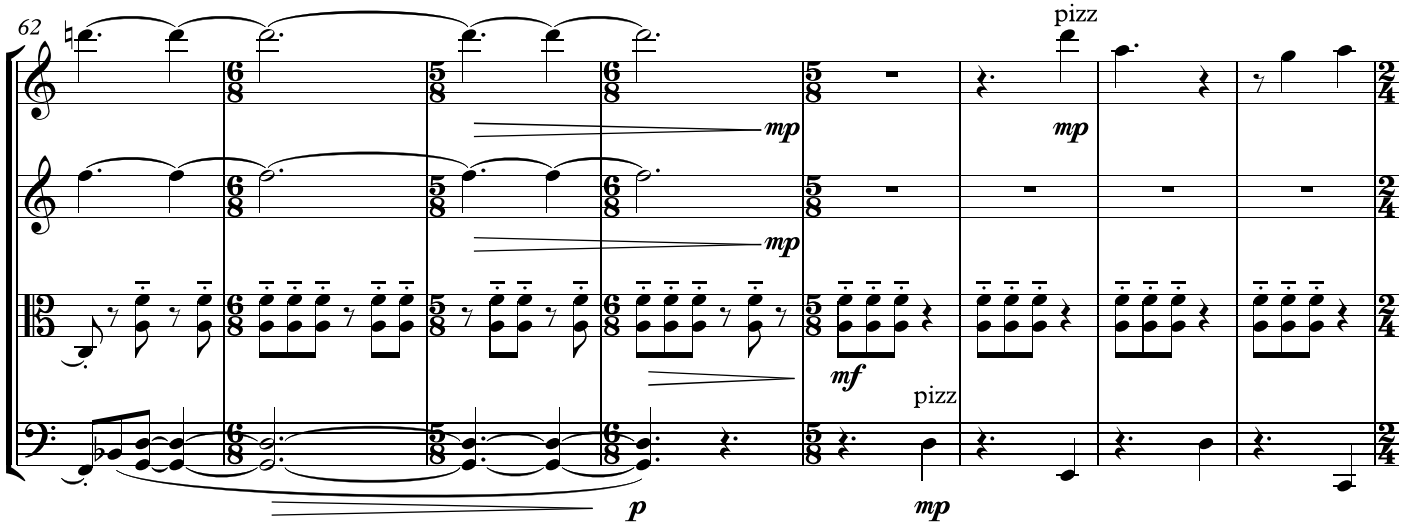
legato

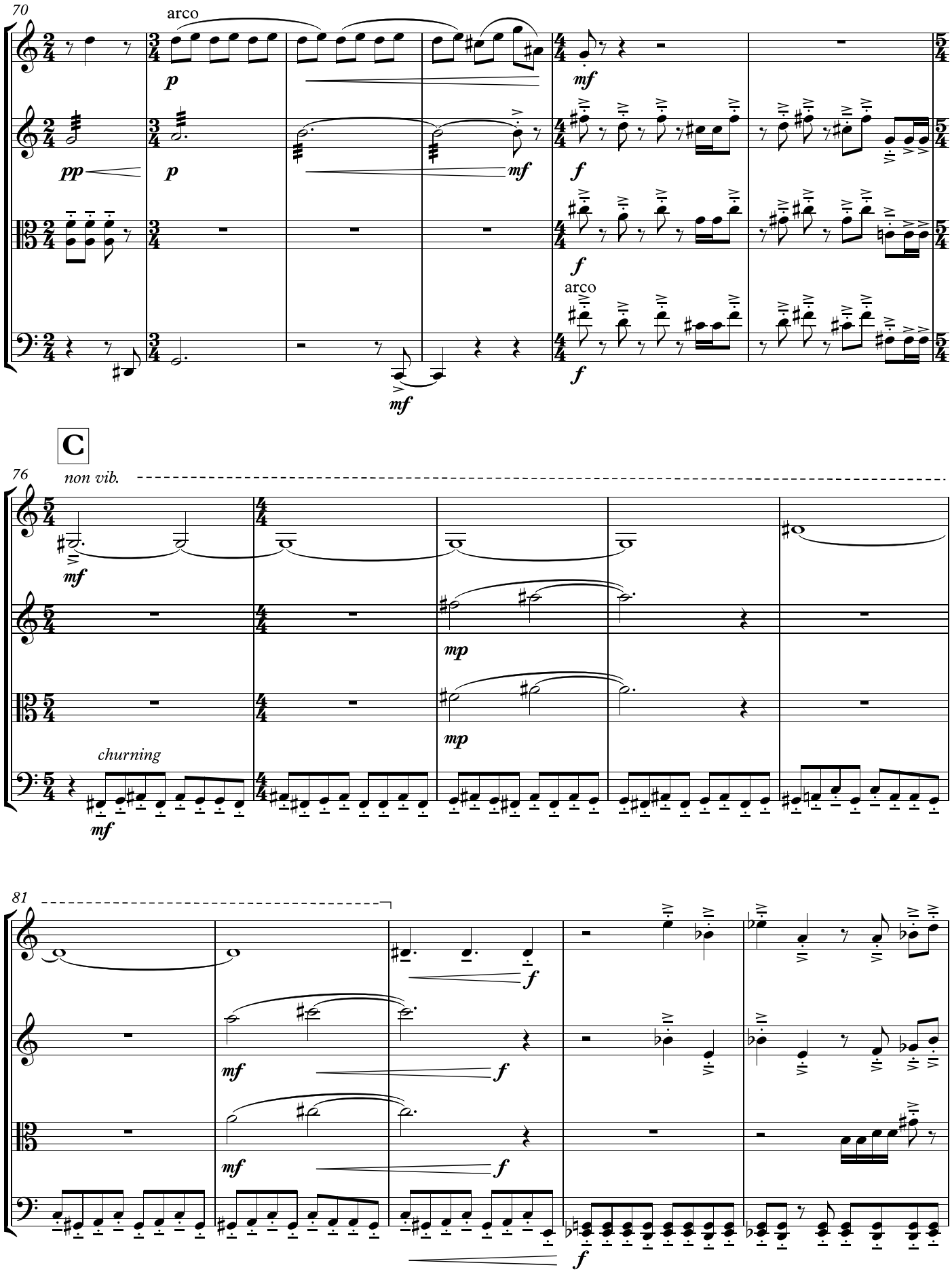
**B** **Light, Exuberant**

41

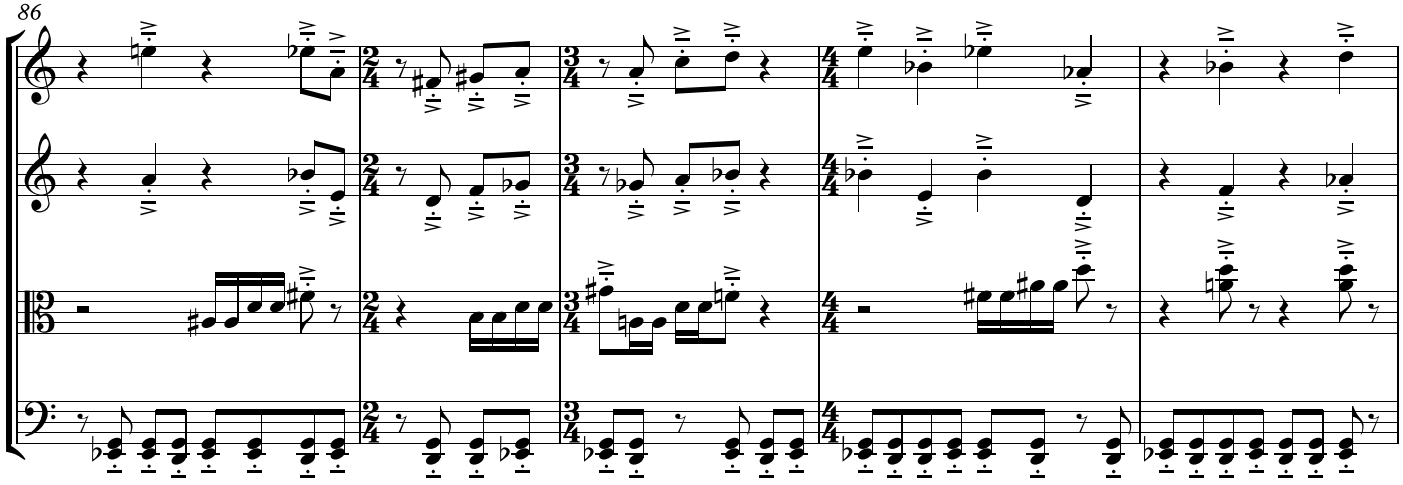

48
pp
mf
gradually get more staccato
f
mf
mp


55
f
f
mf
f
f


62
pizz
mp
mp
mp
mf
pizz
p
mp


70
arco
p
pp
p
mf
mf
f
f
arco
f
mf
C
76
non vib.
mf
mp
mp
churning
mf
81
f
mf
f
mf
f
f

86



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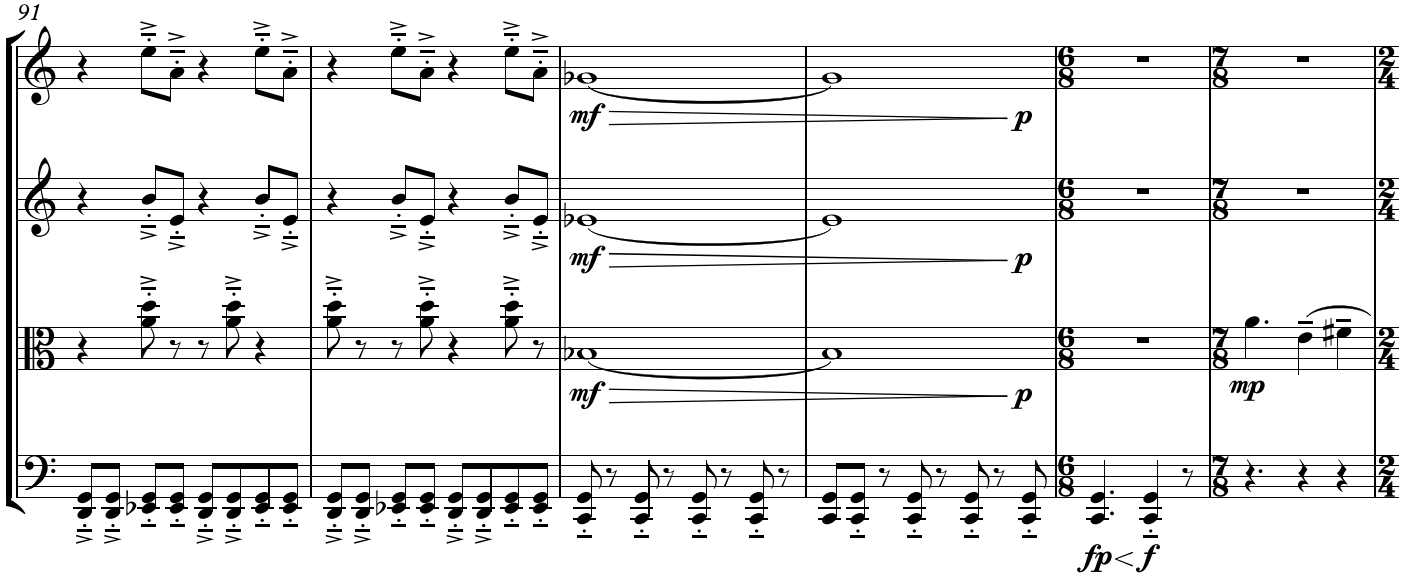
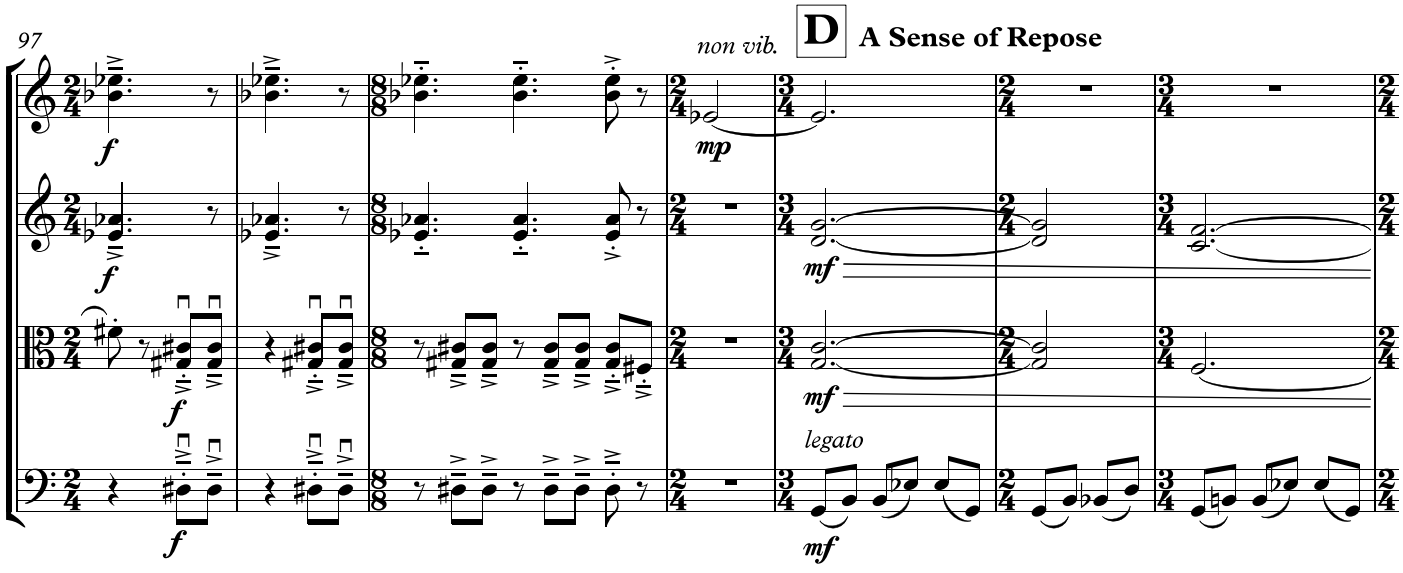
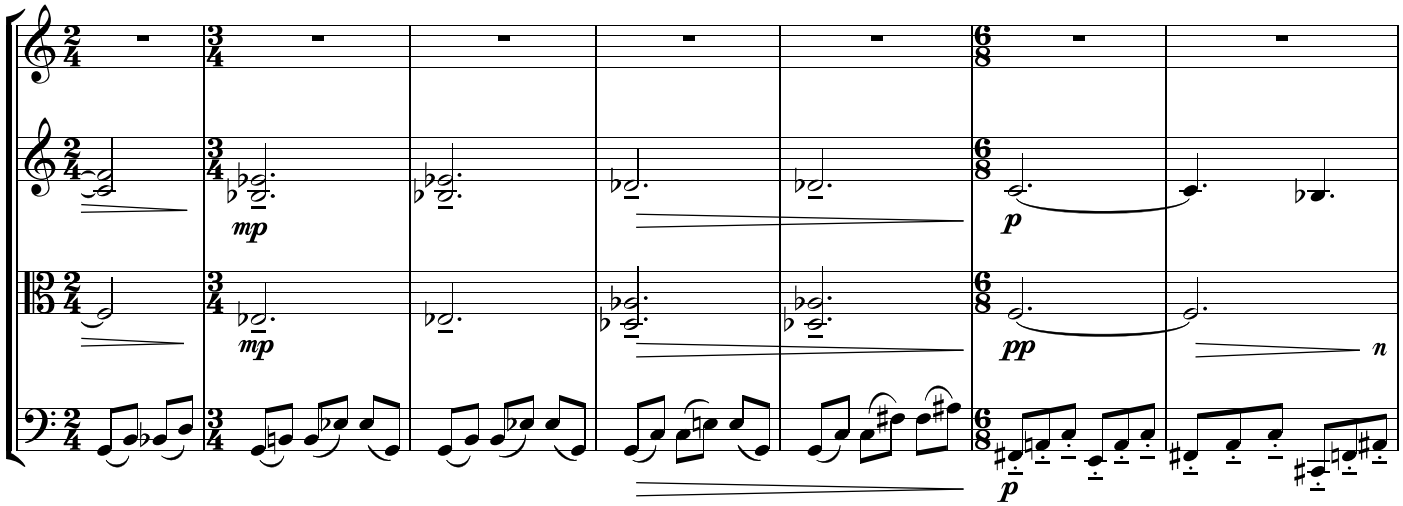

mf
p
mf
p
mf
p
mp
fp< f

97


f
f
f
f
non vib.
mp
D
A Sense of Repose
mf
mf
legato
mf

104

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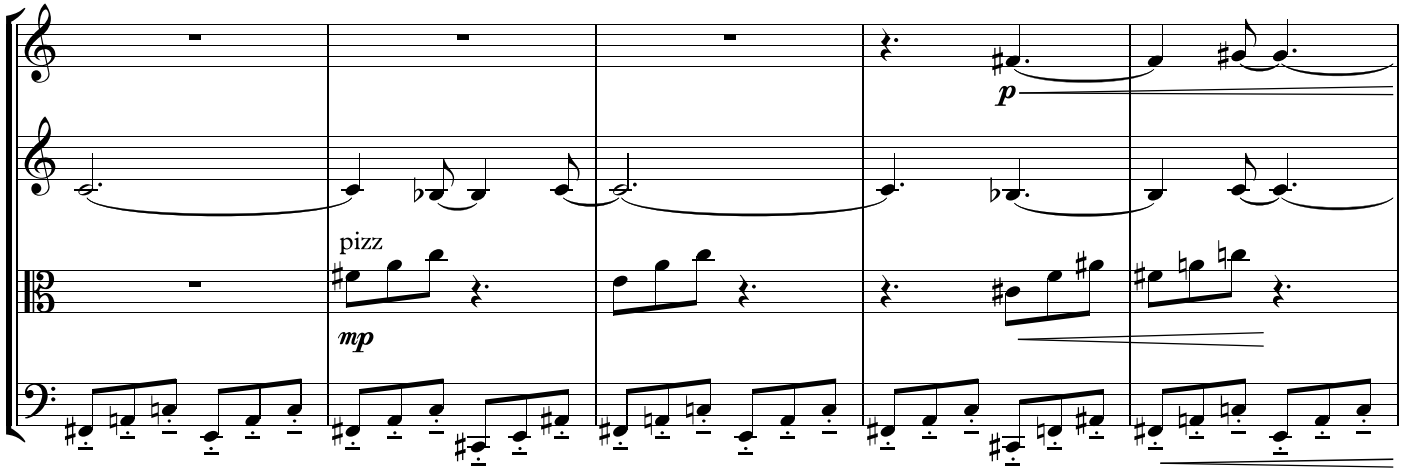
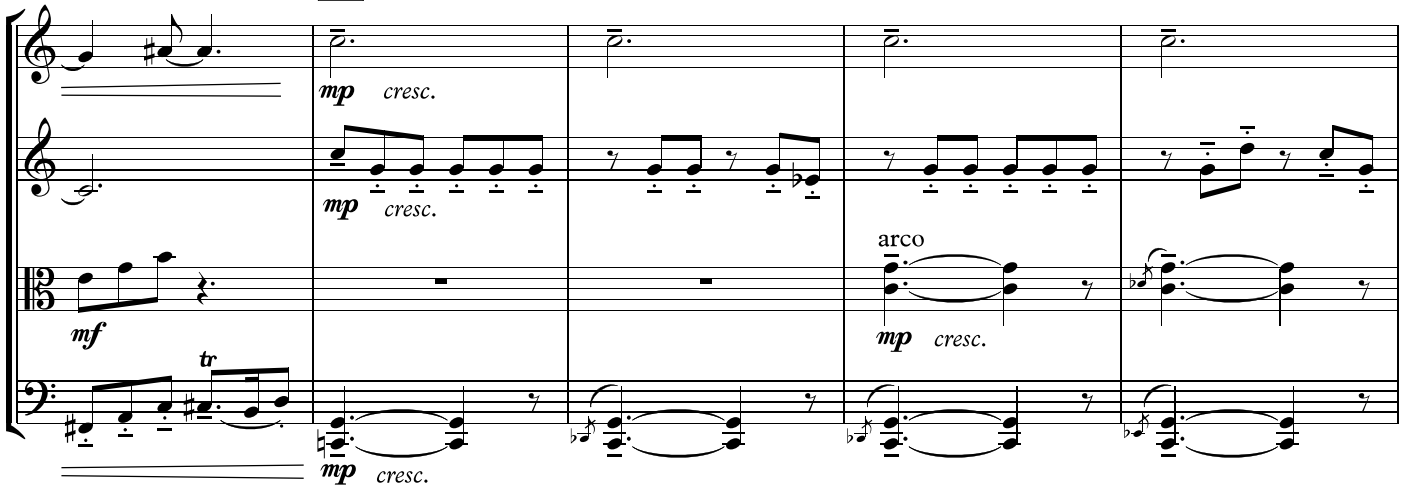



116

**E** **A Door Opens…**



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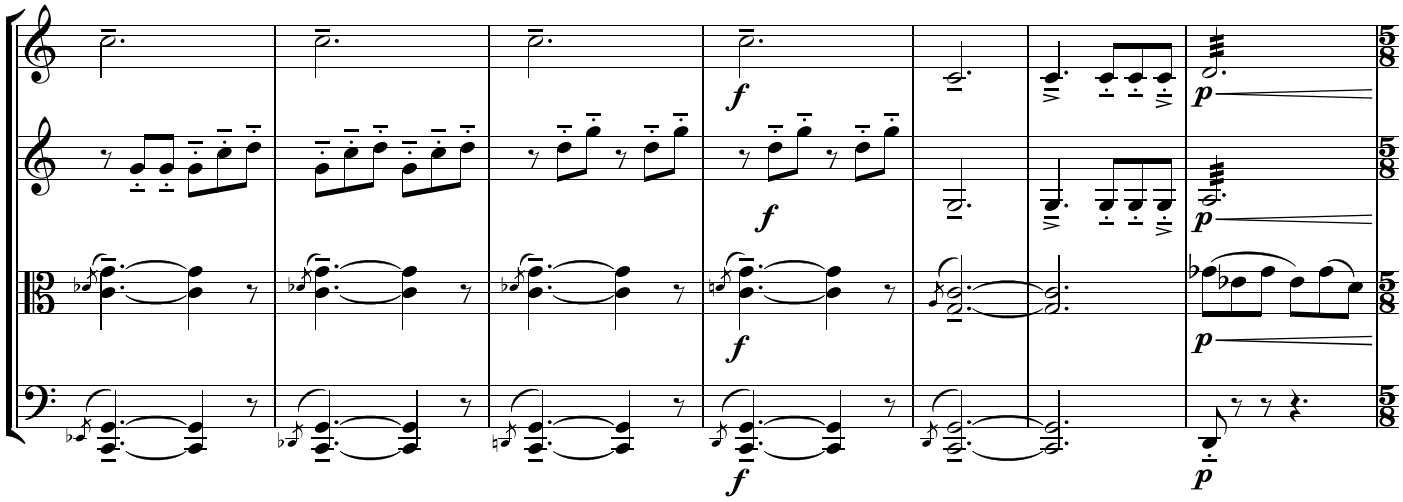
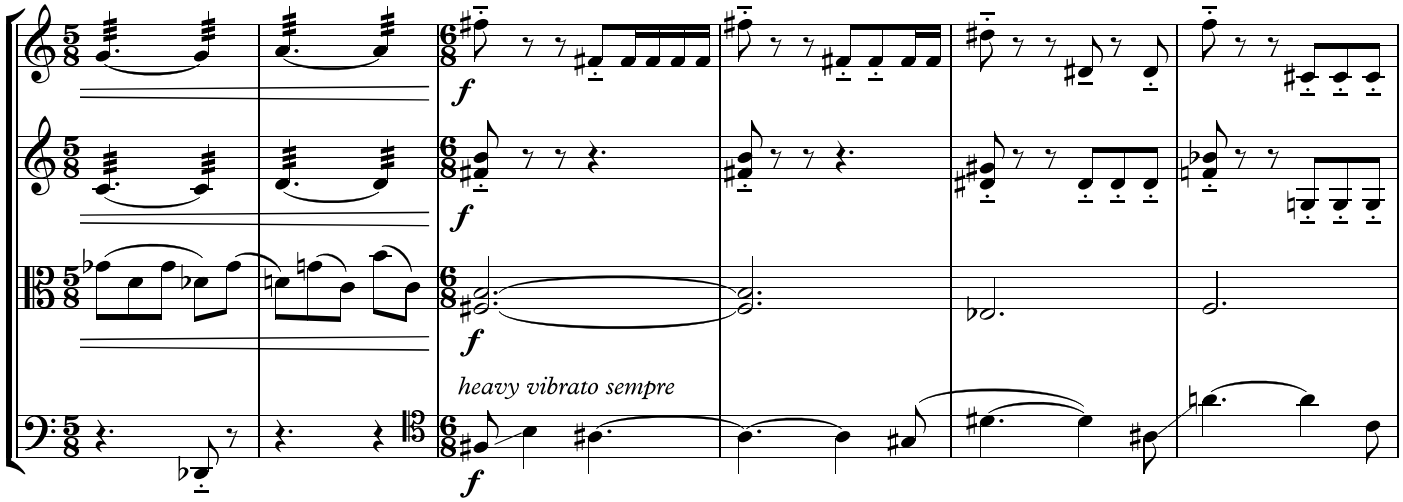



128

**F**

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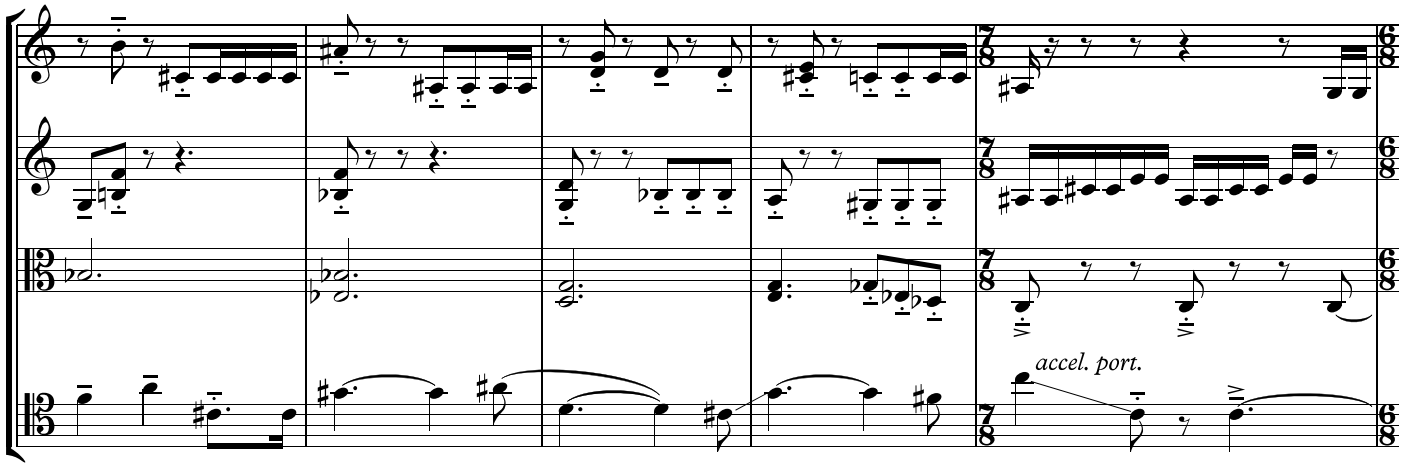

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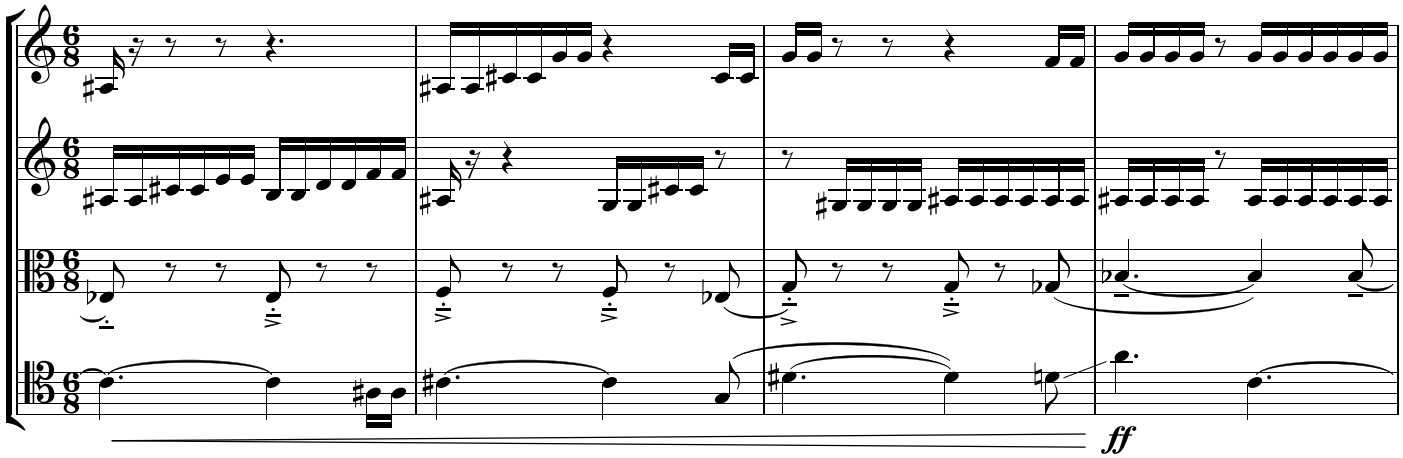


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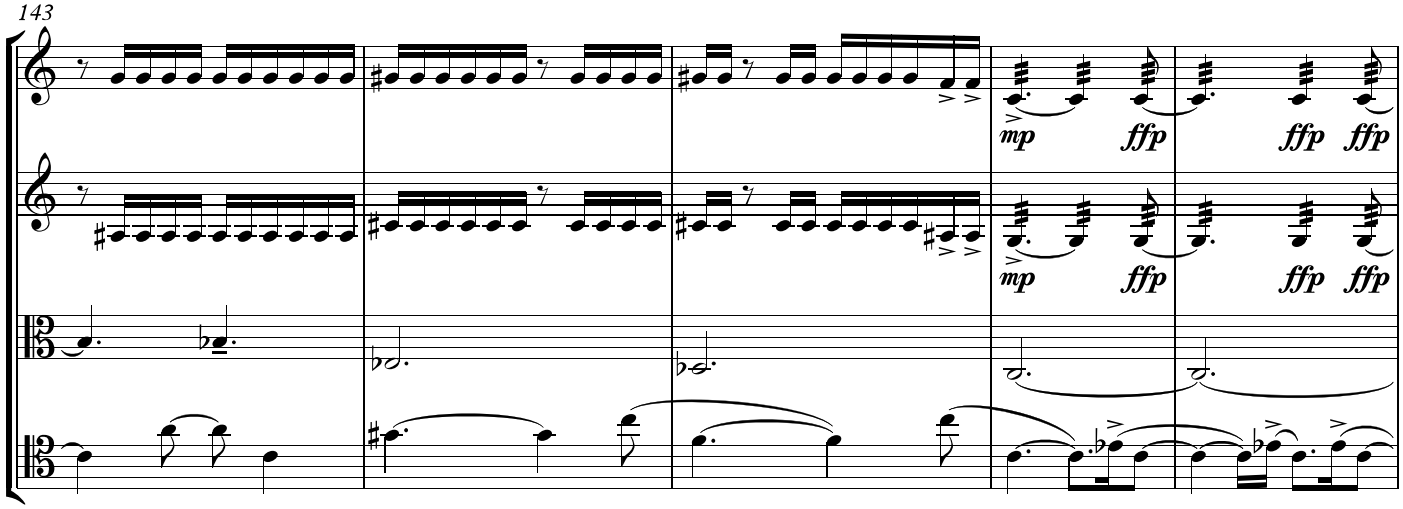


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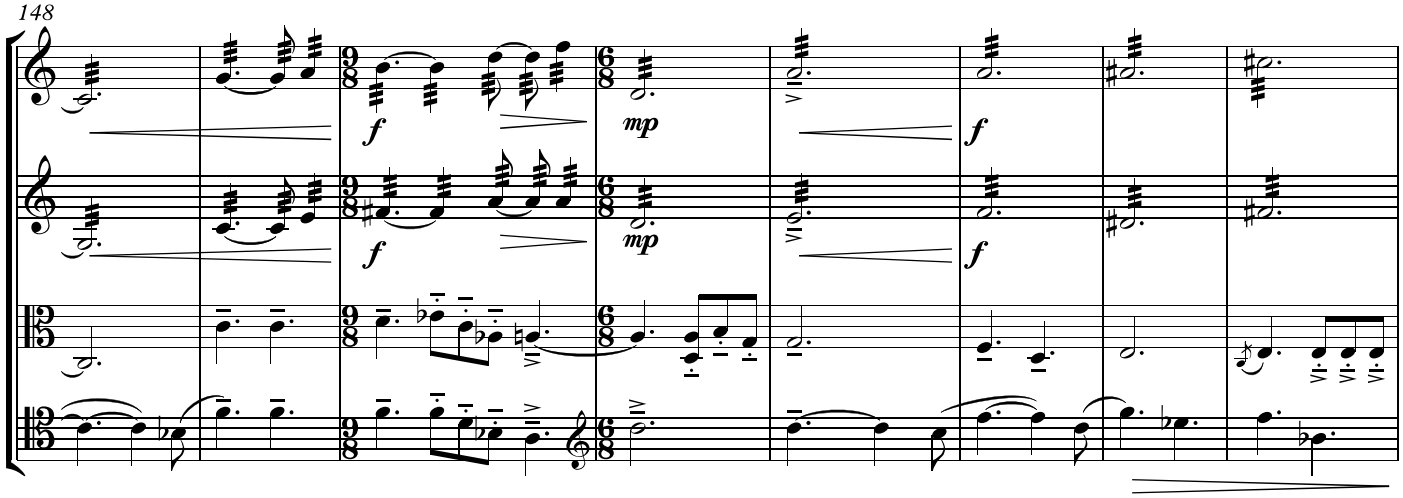
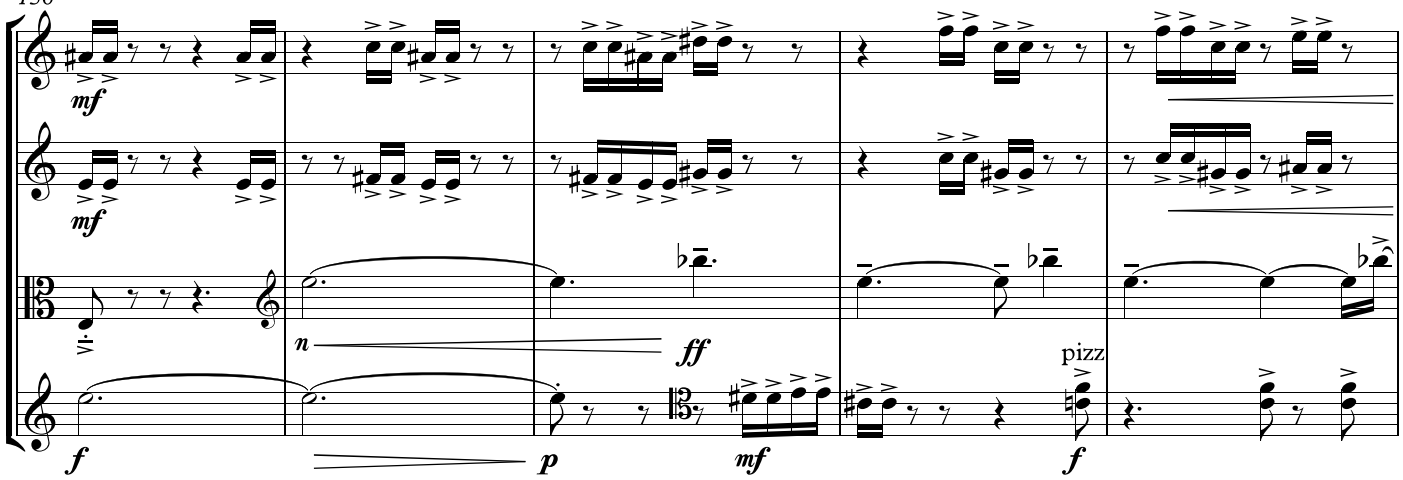


**G**

156

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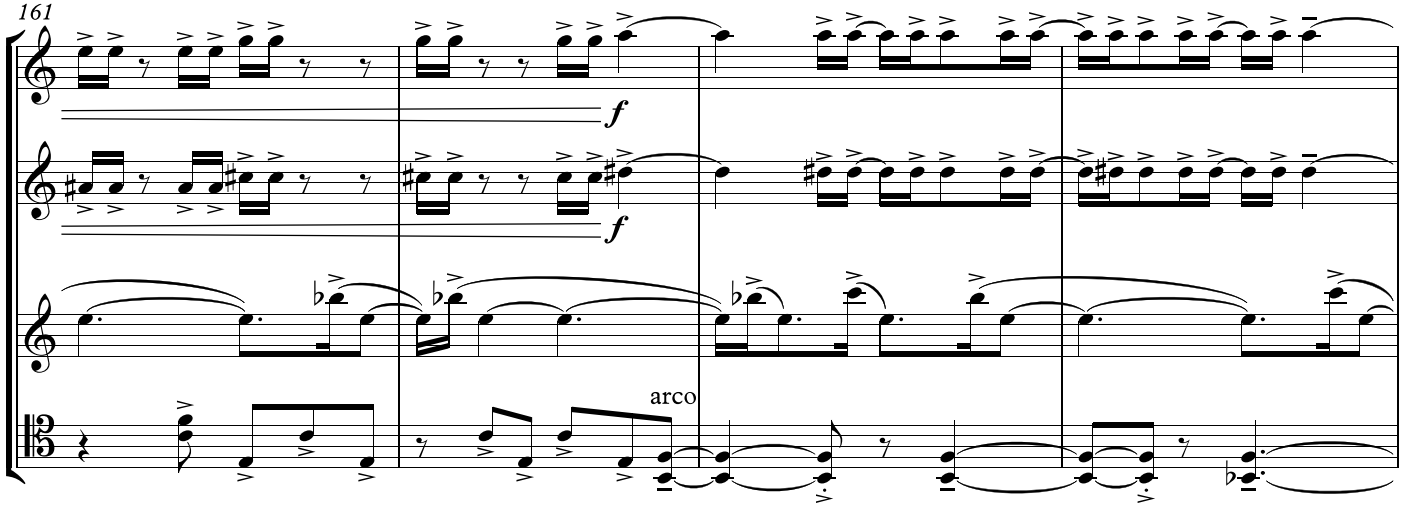
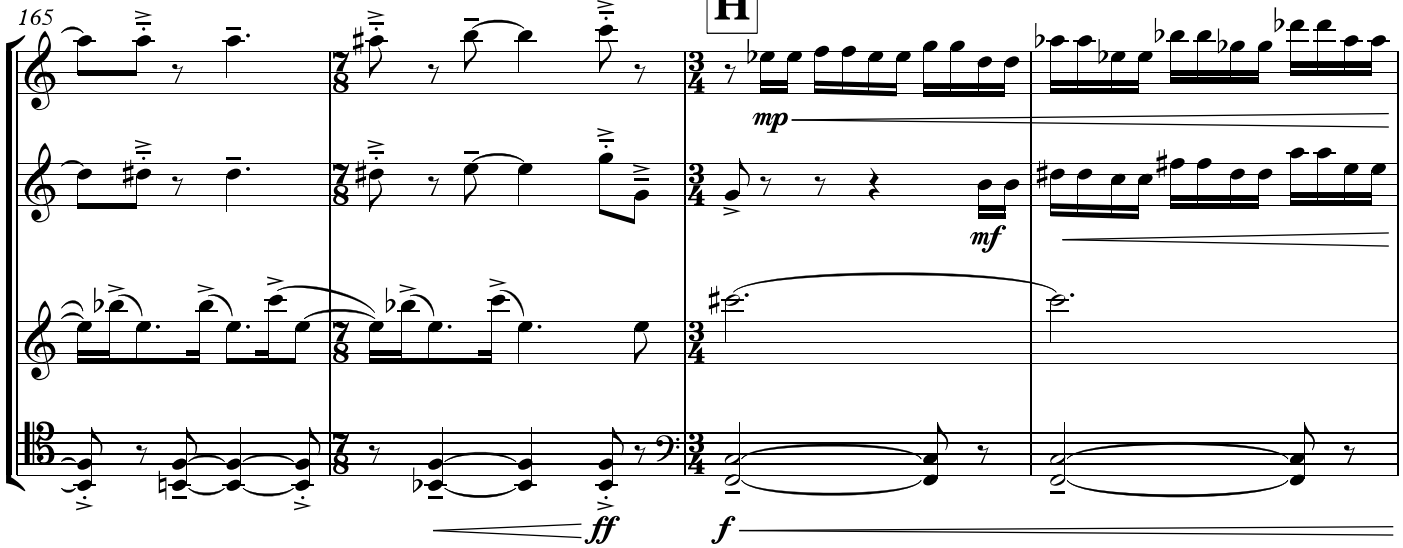
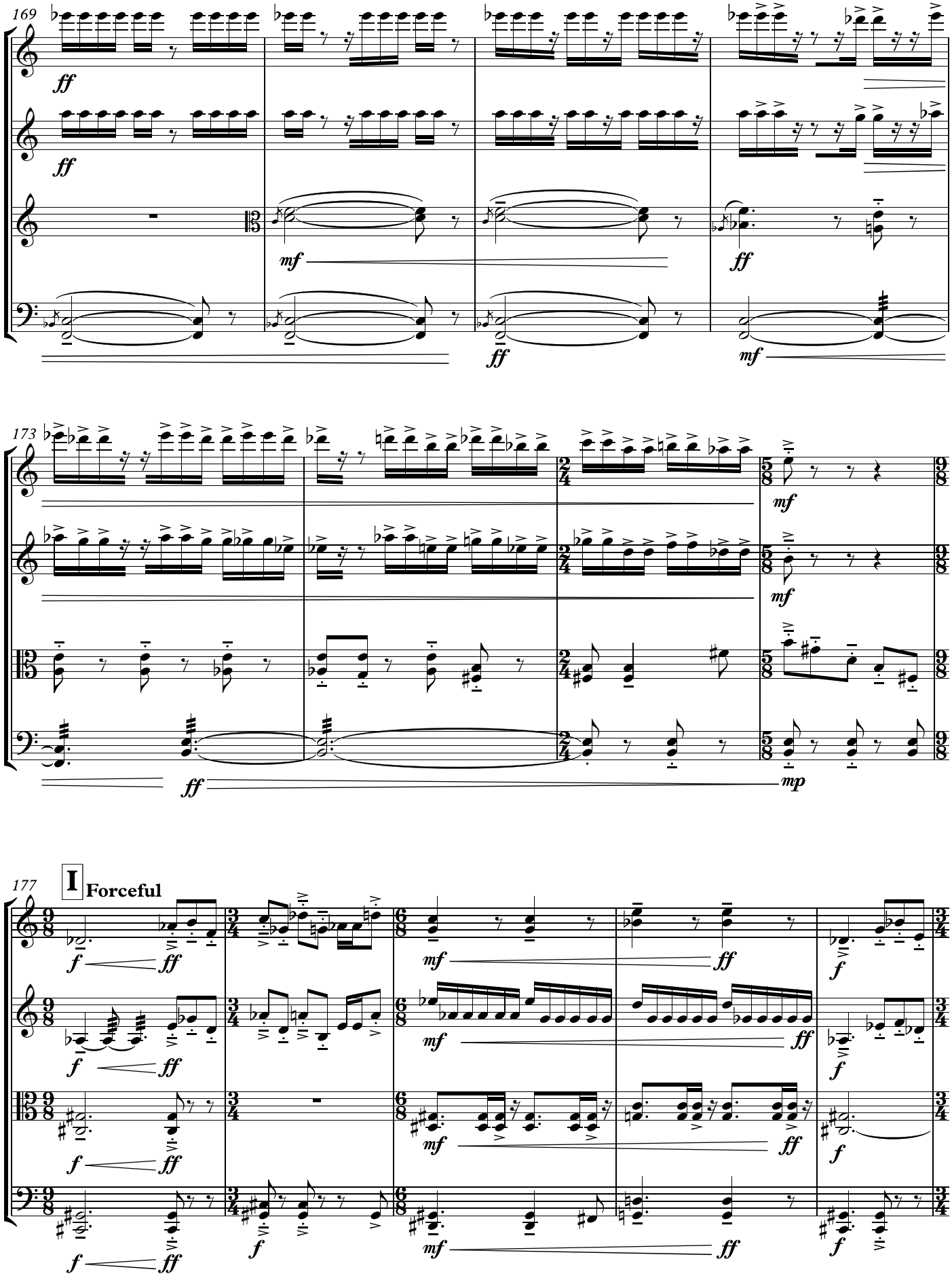
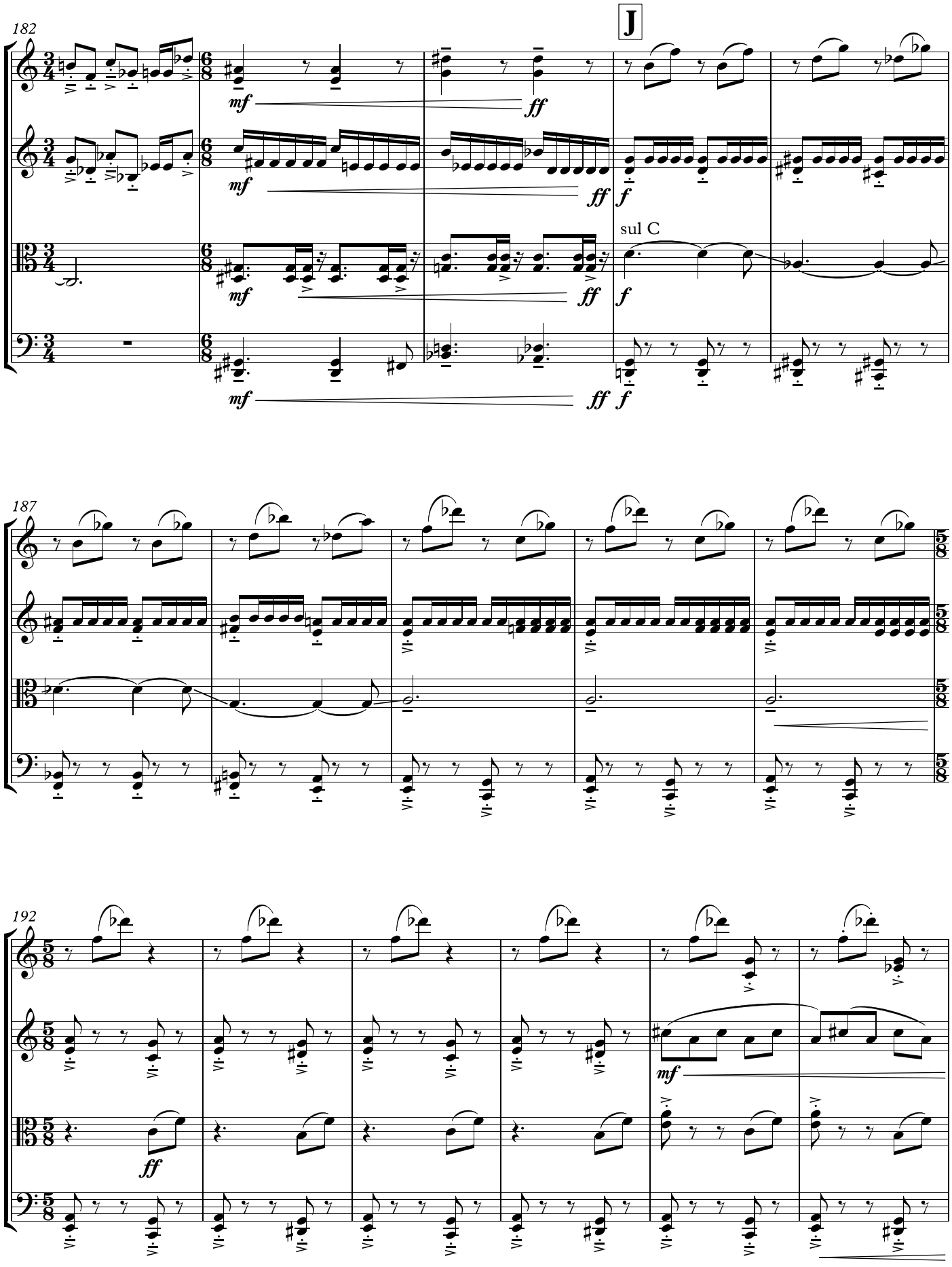



165

**H**




169
ff
ff
mf
ff
ff
mf
173
mf
mf
ff
mp
177
I
Forceful
f
ff
mf
ff
f


182
J
mf
ff
f
sul C
187
192

**K** **Reset**

198

*ff*

205

211

**L**

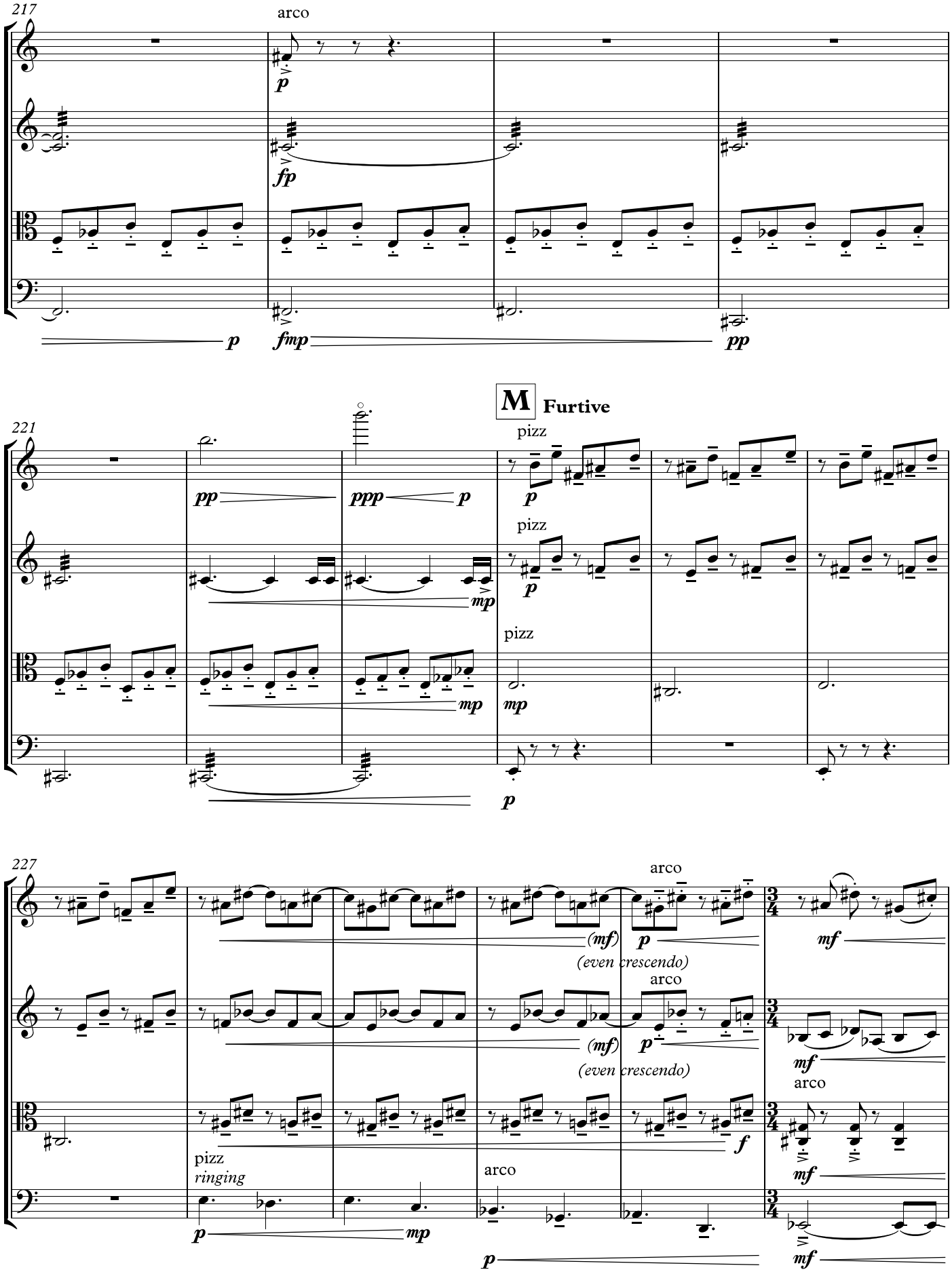
pizz

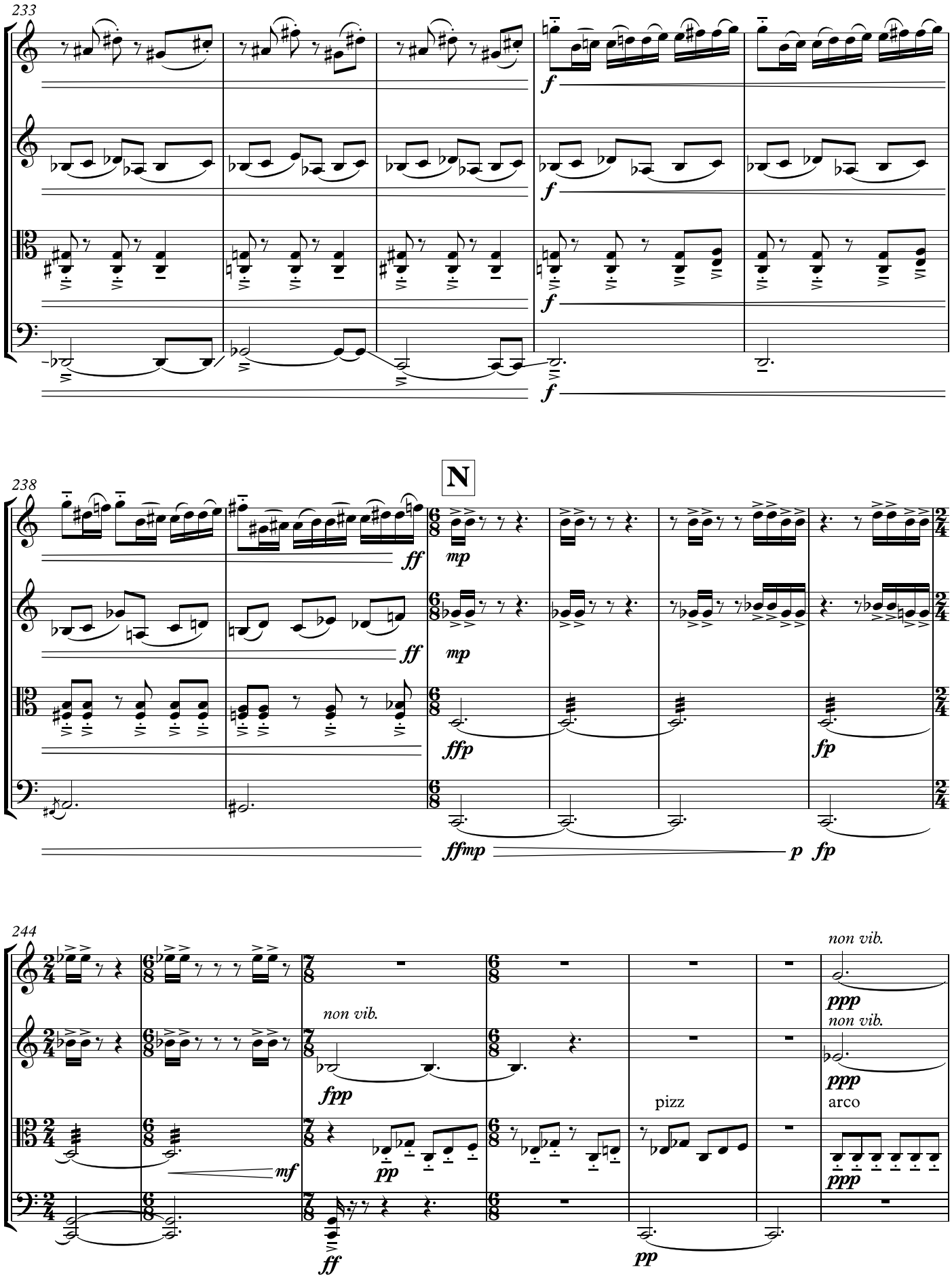
*ffp*

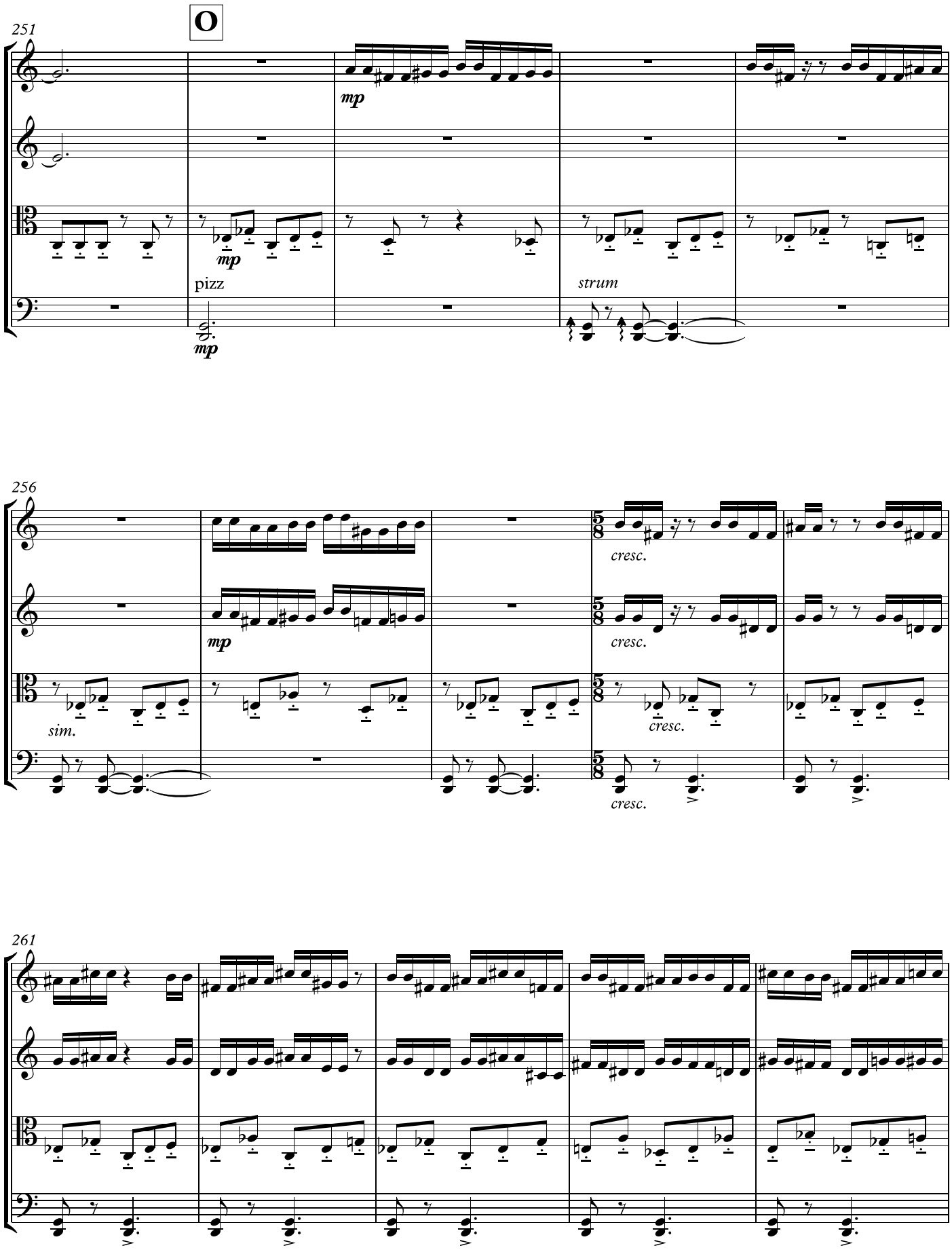
*emerging as though from fog*

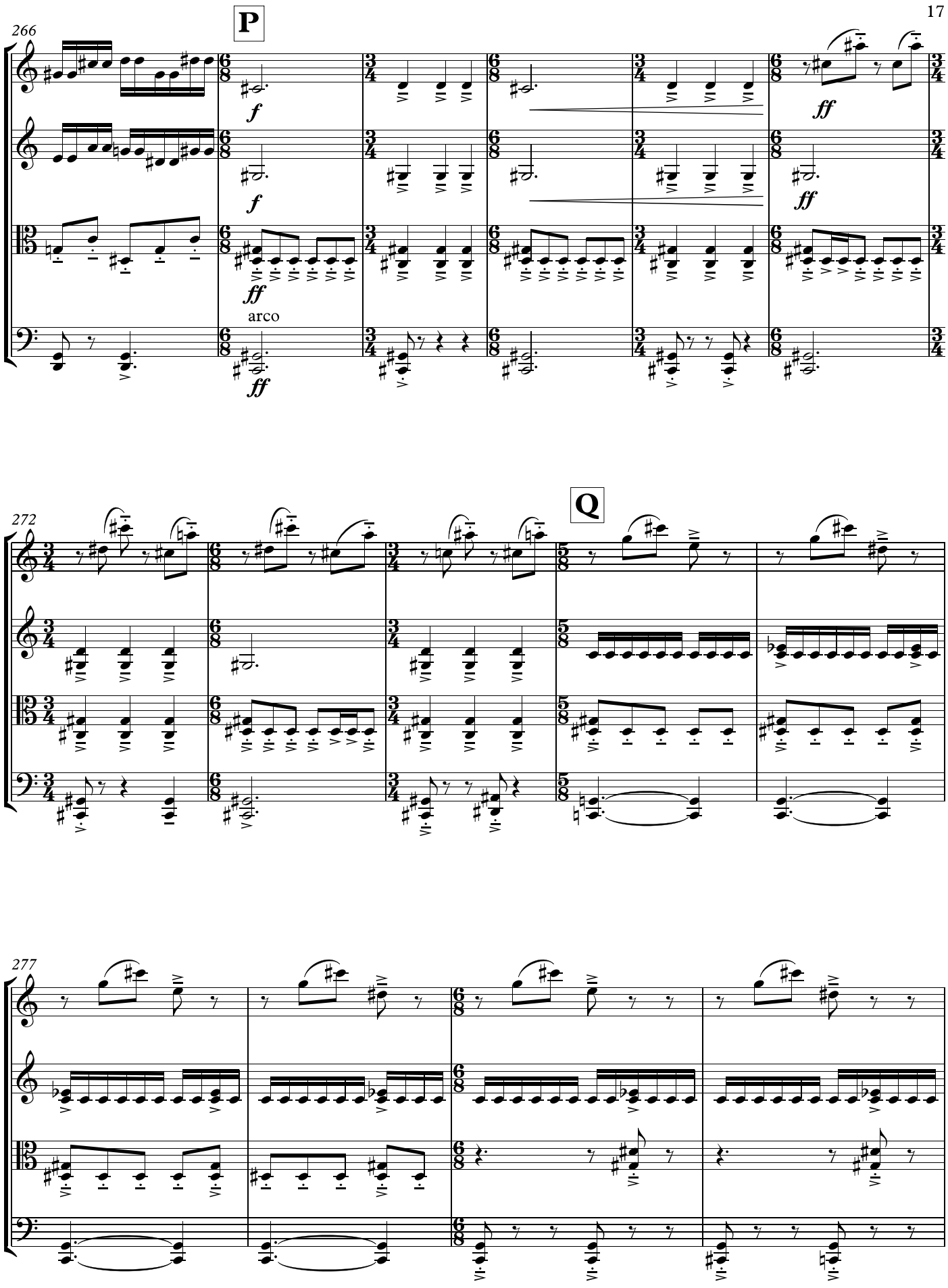
*p*

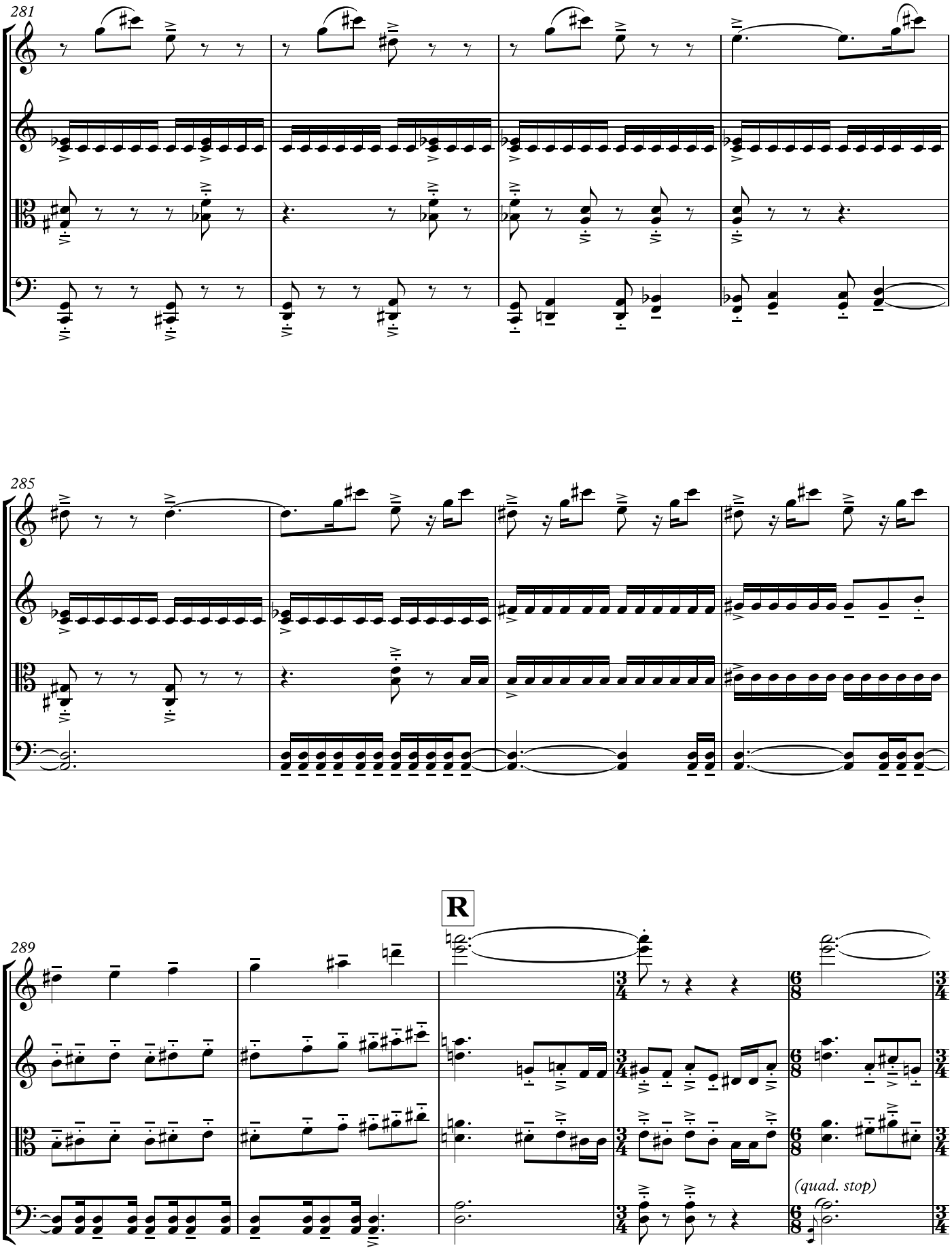
*ffmp*


217
arco
p
fp
p
fmp
pp
221
M
Furtive
pizz
pp
ppp
p
mp
227
arco
(mf)
(even crescendo)
mf
f
pizz
ringing


233
f
f
f
f
238
N
ff
ff
mp
mp
ffp
fp
ffmp
p
fp
244
non vib.
fpp
mf
pp
pizz
arco
non vib.
ppp
non vib.
ppp
ppp
ff
pp


251
O
mp
mp
pizz
mp
strum
256
mp
sim.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
261


266
P
f
ff
arco
272
Q
277


281
285
289
R
(quad. stop)

294

(quad. stop)

(quad. stop)

(quad. stop)

301

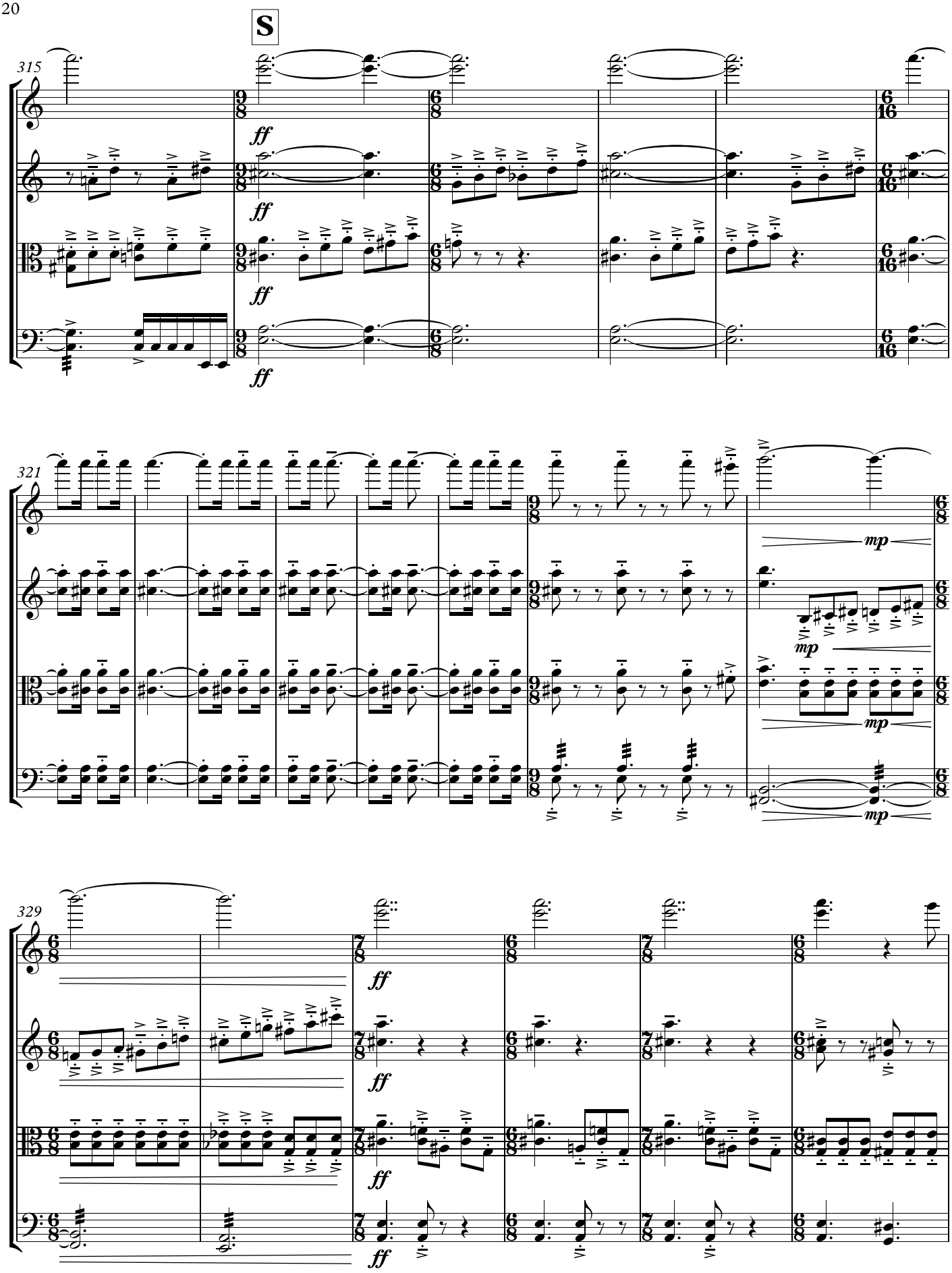
308

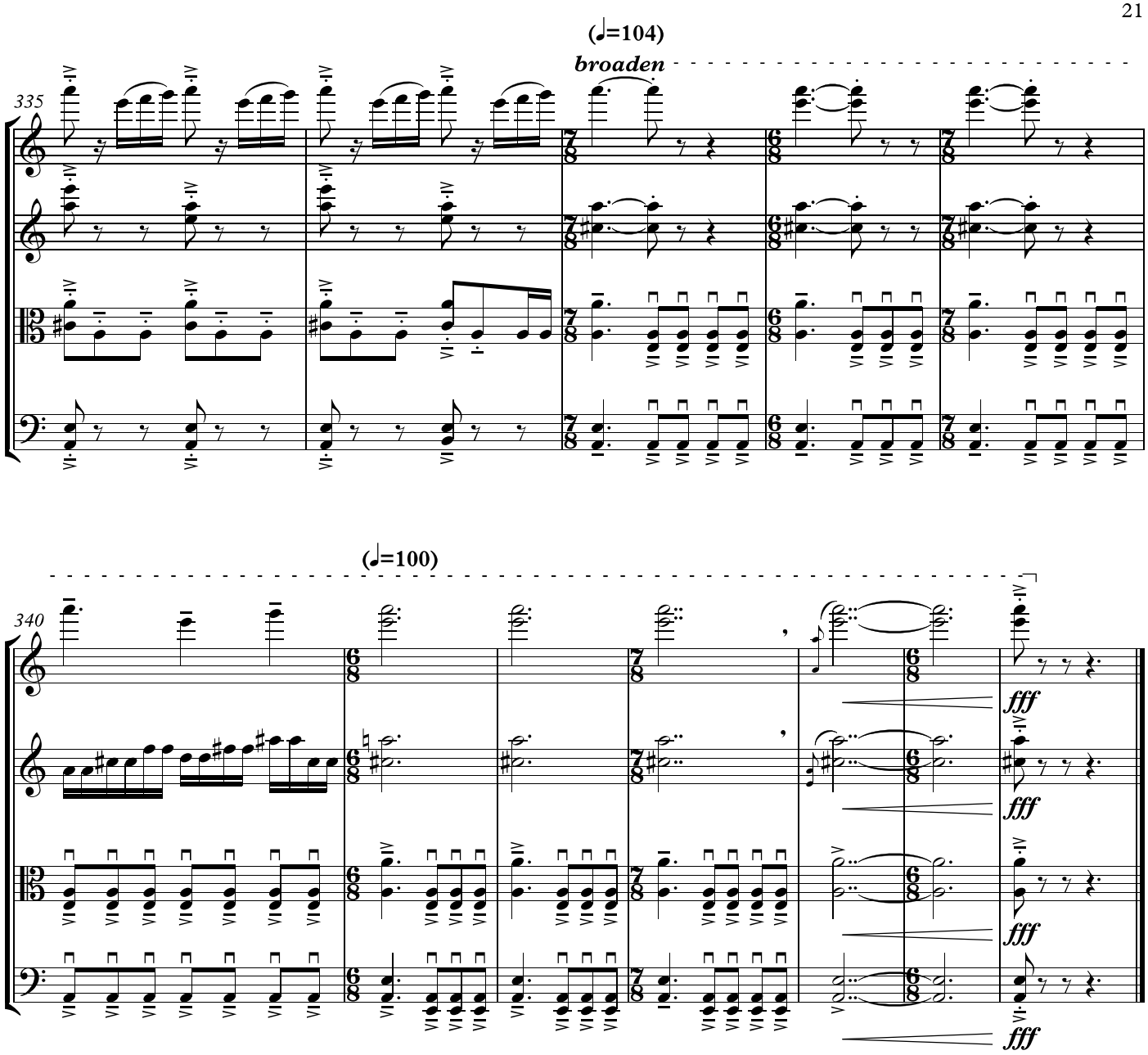
*ffmp* *cresc.*

*ffmp* *cresc.*

*ffmp* *cresc.*

*ffmp* *cresc.*


S
315
ff
321
mp
329
ff


(♩=104)
broaden
335
(♩=100)
340
fff