Jonathan Newman

Wapwallopen

(String Quartet No. 1)

(2000)

Composer's Note

This is my first major work for string quartet. In my schooling, I did everything *but* write a quartet: there is a trio, a double bass quartet, a *triple* string quartet, and several chamber works with a quartet included—but never The Beast itself. When it came time to work out the commission with the New York Youth Symphony, I pressed for this instrumentation; it was time, I thought, to confront this particular demon.

It is with this spirit of fear that I approached the project. I decided to concentrate on the elements of a string quartet that excite me: the ability to sound "as one voice"—like a giant quartet stop on an organ—juxtaposed with the ability to produce different (many more than four, even) colors simultaneously. The quartet also has (mysteriously, more than other instrumentations) an ability to bring rhythmic drive and syncopation to very exciting levels.

The work is structured in 2 movements: the first mostly deals with complicated counterpoint within a slow harmonic rhythm, and later with that same music as a steady groove. The second movment is about motoric rhythm and syncopation, mostly in the form of mixed (irregular) meters. Quartets always seem to have so much *fun* when they play, so the second movement is my way of adding The Composer as a fifth participant in the game.

My title choices tend to derive from Delaware Indian words from Northeastern Pennsylvania, especially when the title is demanded before the piece is written. "WAPWALLOPEN," besides sounding quite alliteratively exciting, is also a dirty little town southwest of Wilkes-Barre, PA, across the Susquehanna River from a nuclear power plant.

—Jonathan Newman

Duration: 10:30

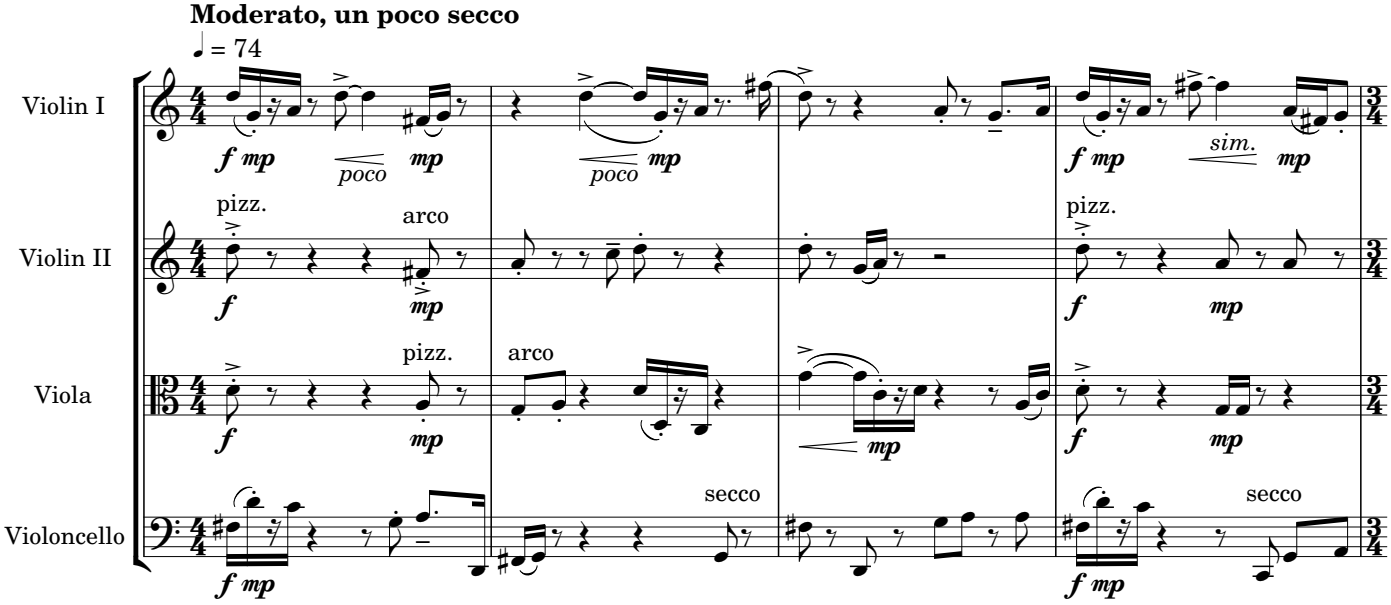
Commissioned by and dedicated to the
2000-2001 New York Youth Symphony Chamber Music Program

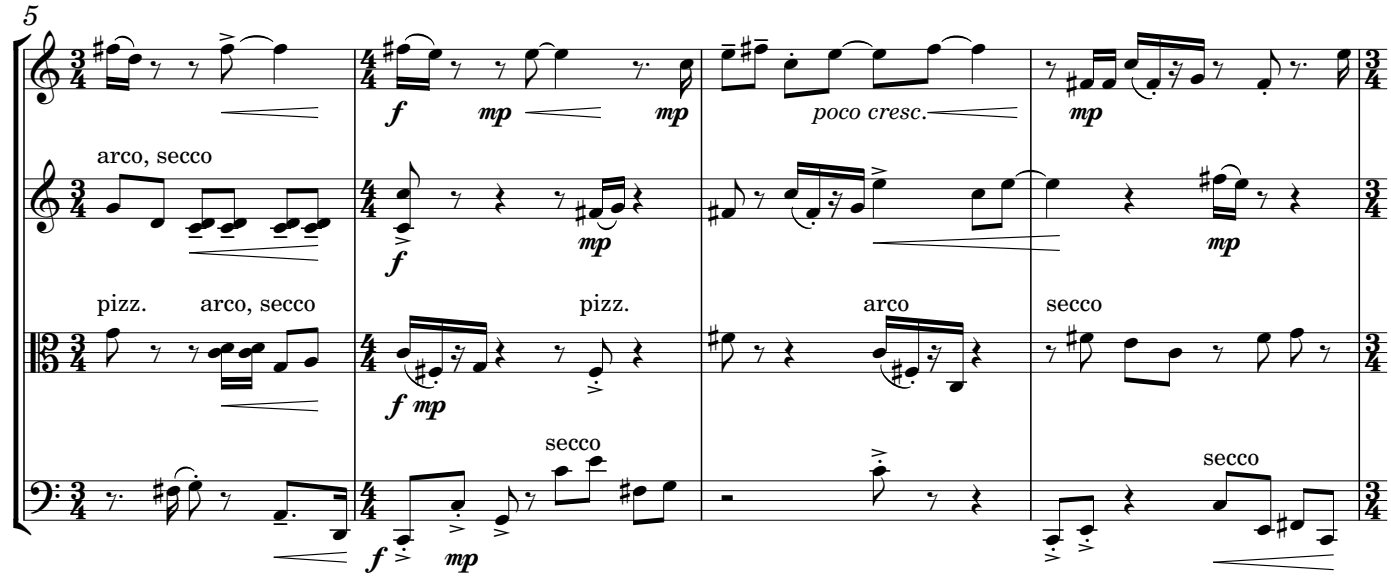
Wapwallopen

(String Quartet No. 1)

JONATHAN NEWMAN
(2000)

I





3rd Ed., 5/01

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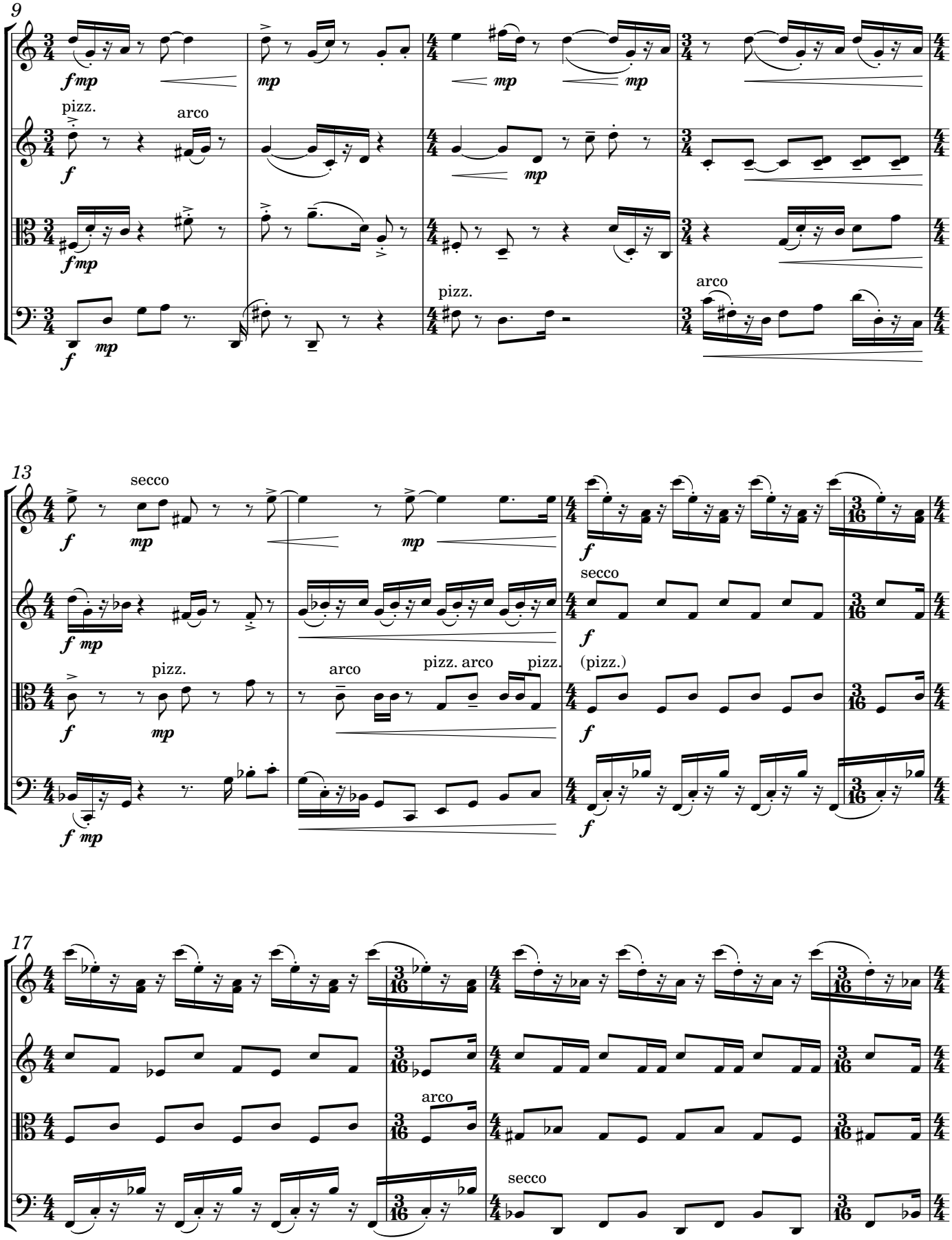
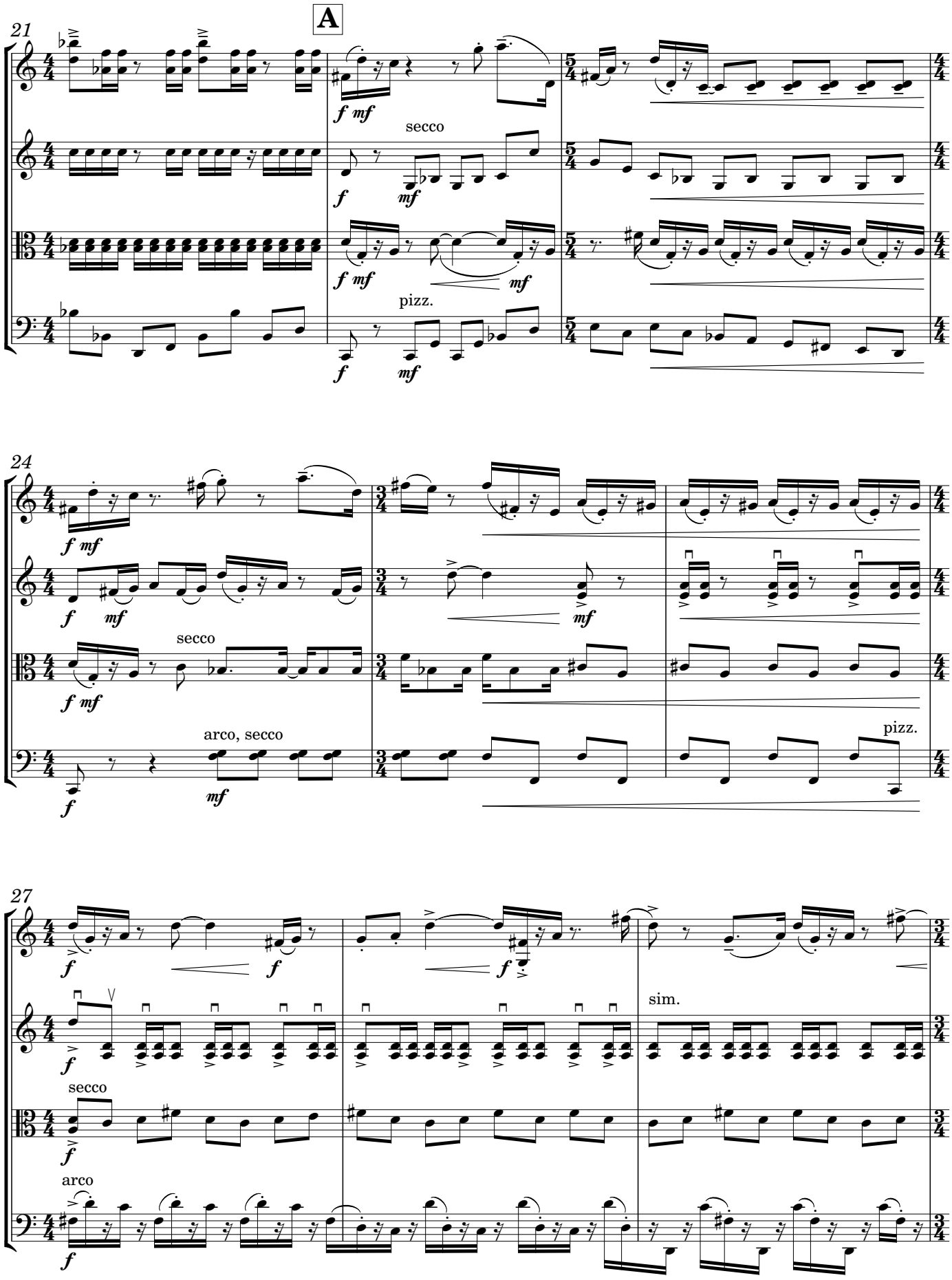
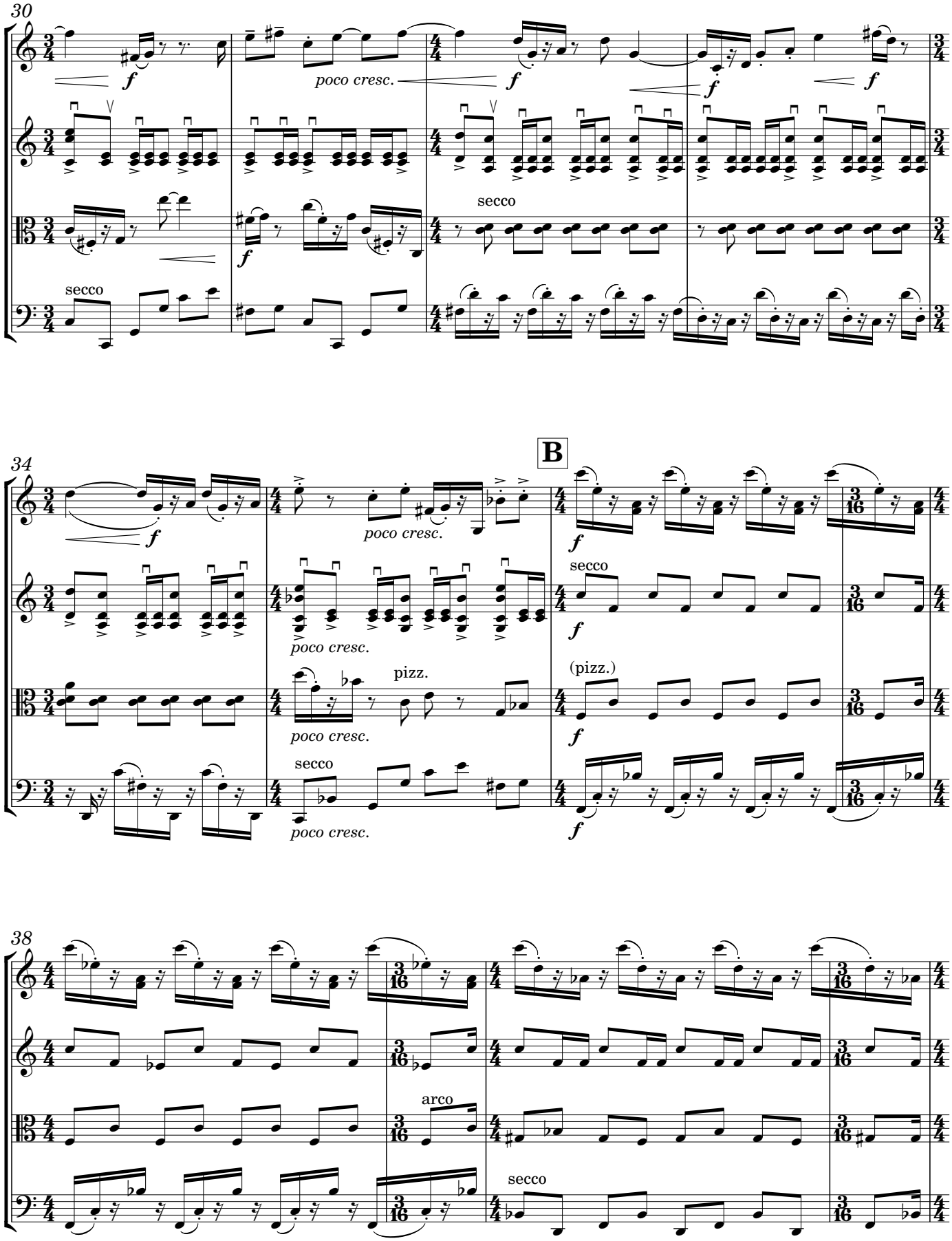
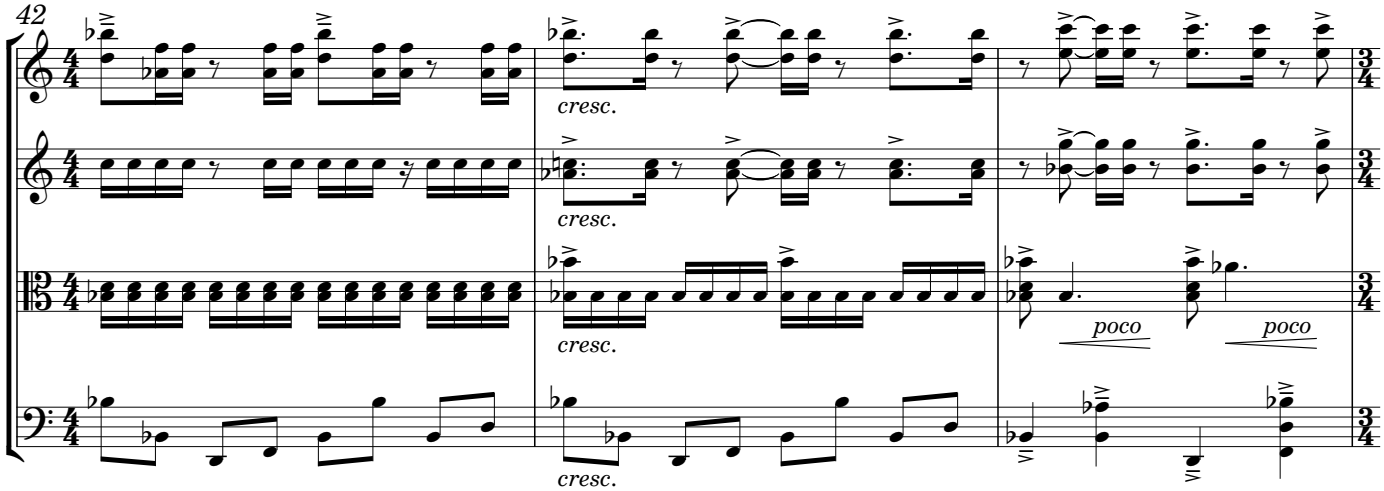
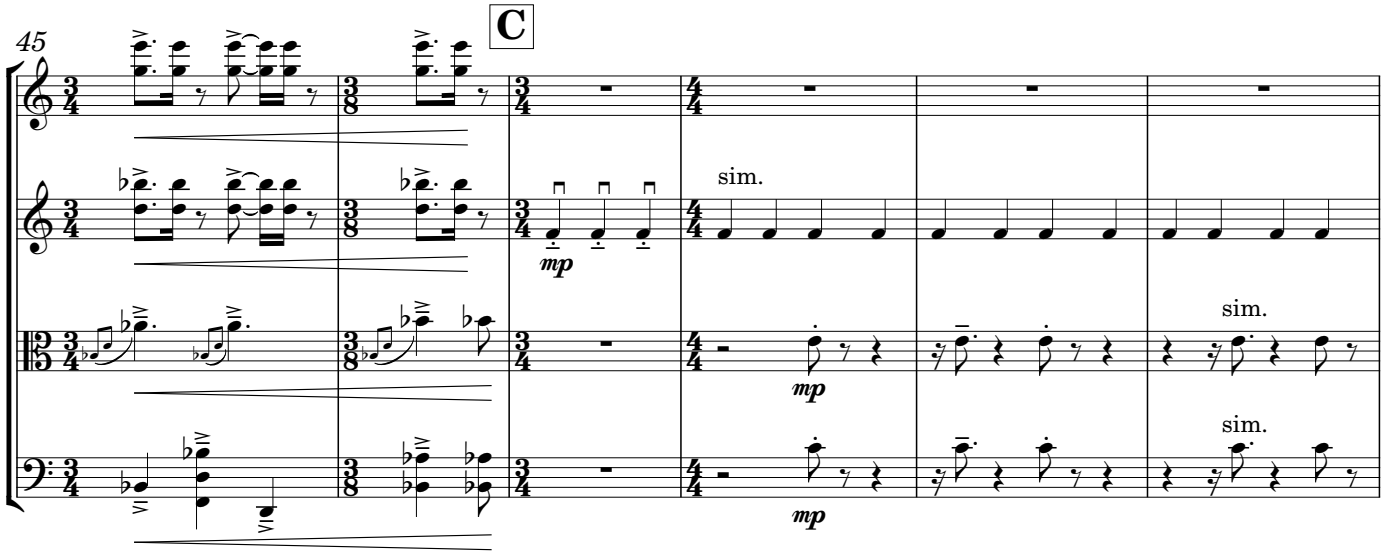
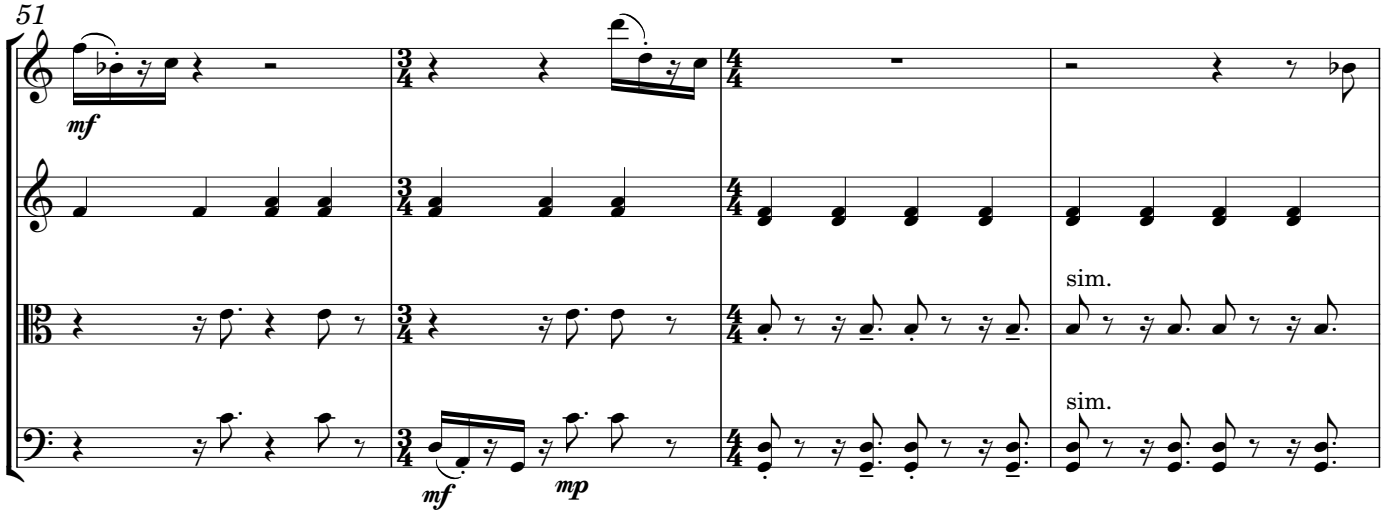

9
pizz.
arco
13
secco
pizz.
arco
pizz. arco
pizz.
(pizz.)
17
arco
secco

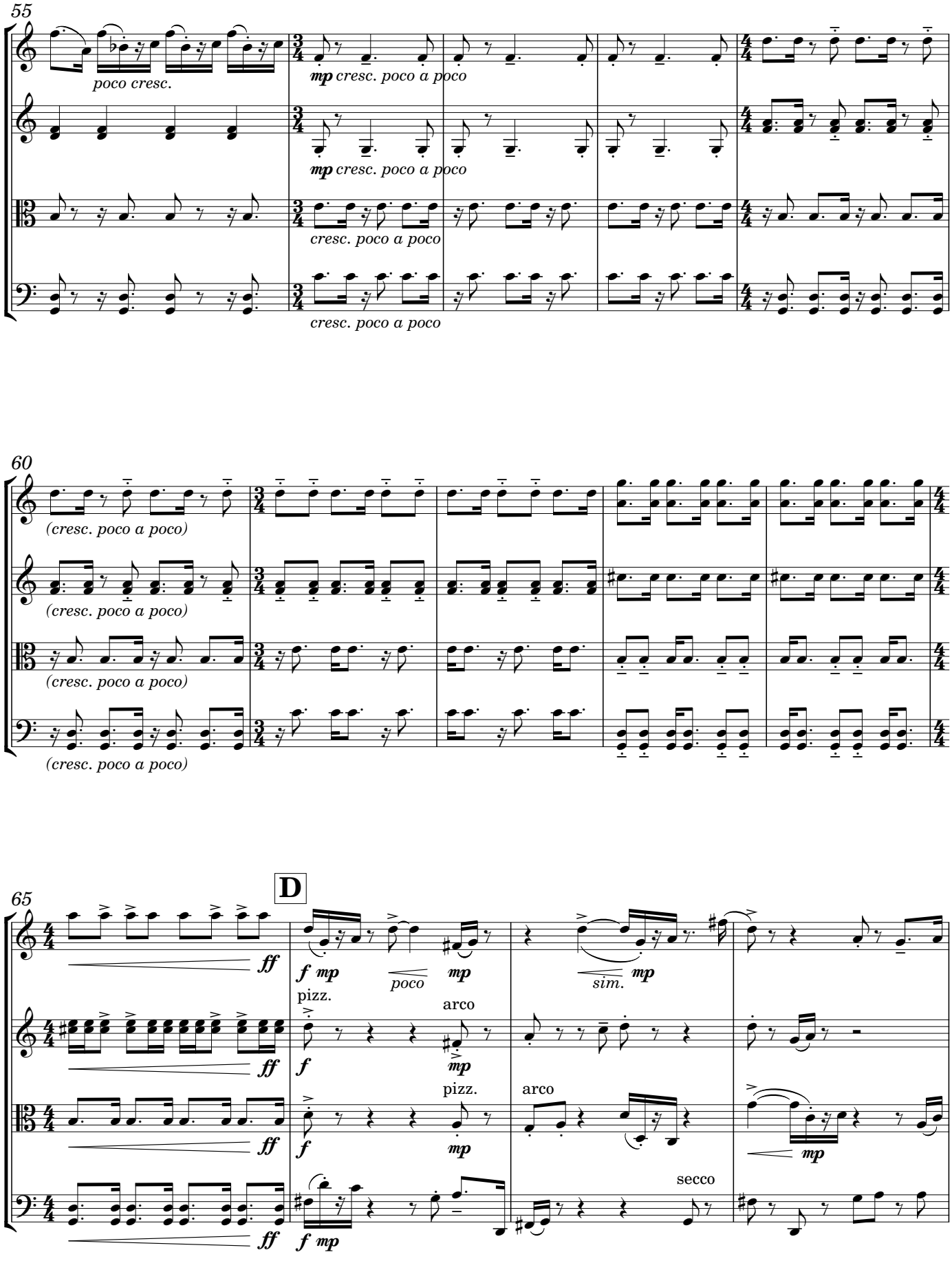

A
21
secco
pizz.
24
secco
arco, secco
pizz.
27
sim.
secco
arco

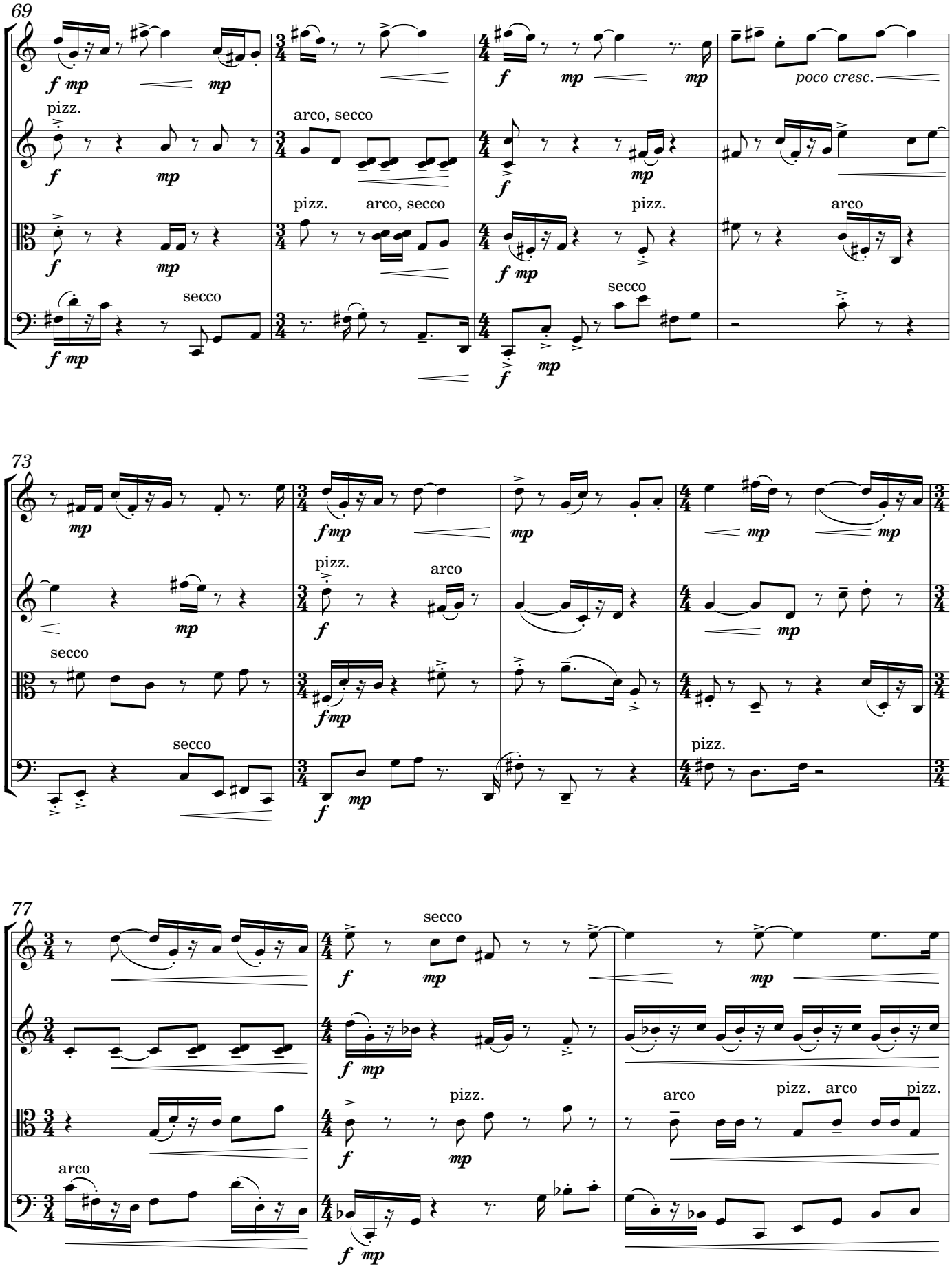

30
f
poco cresc.
secco
34
B
pizz.
(pizz.)
38
arco

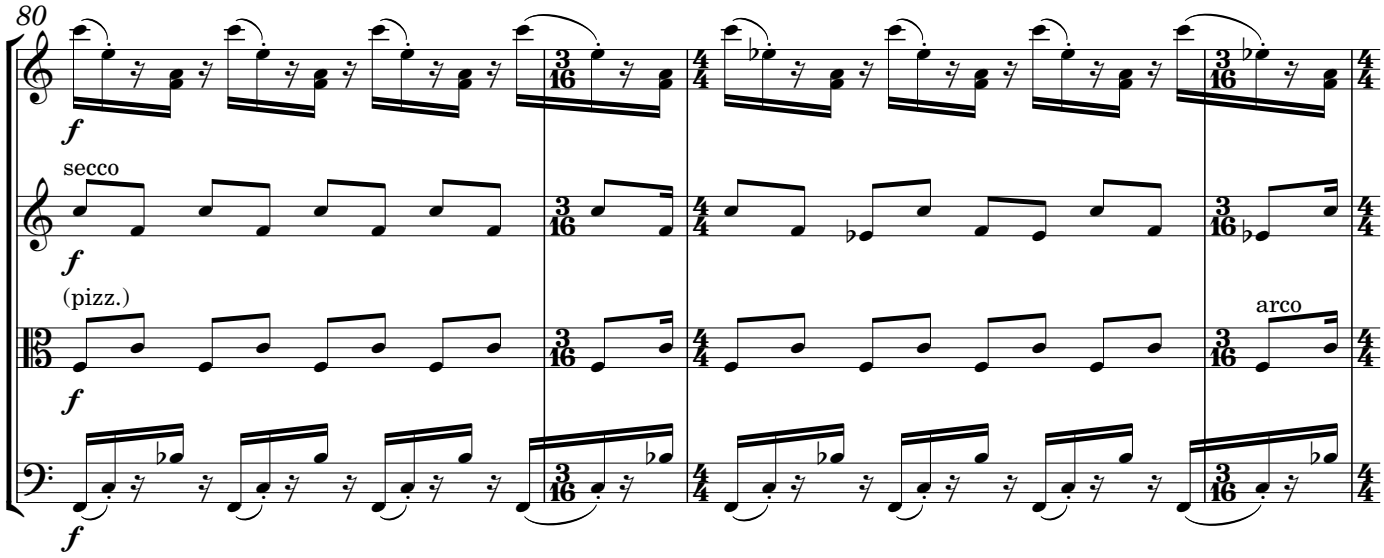

42
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
poco
poco

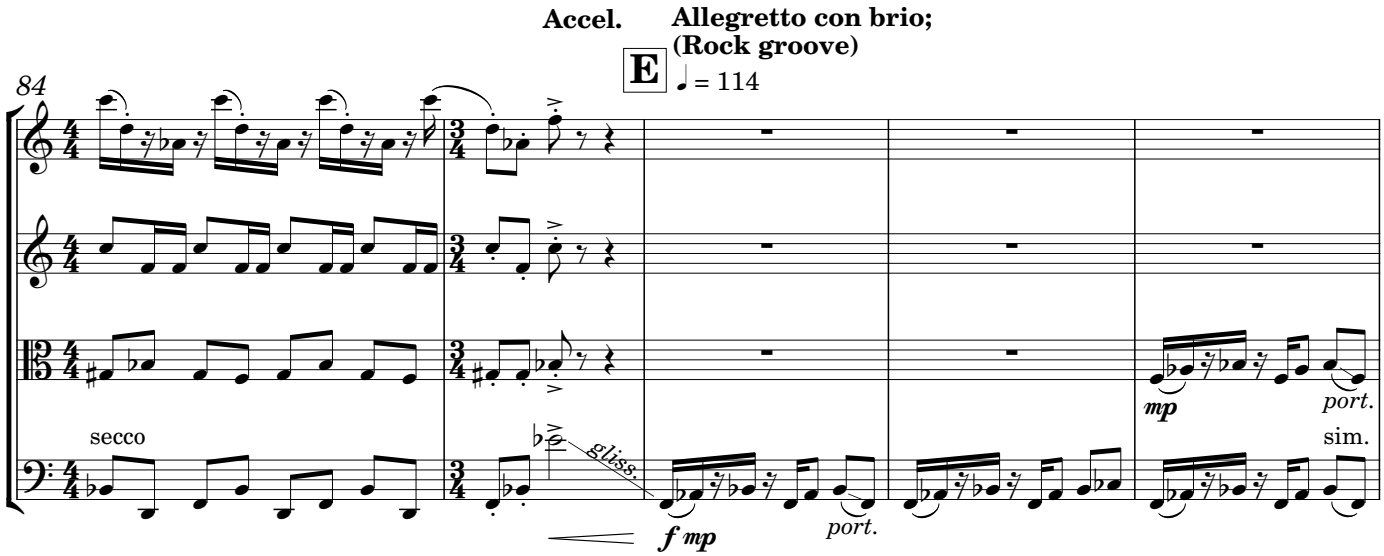

45
C
sim.
mp
mp
mp
sim.
sim.

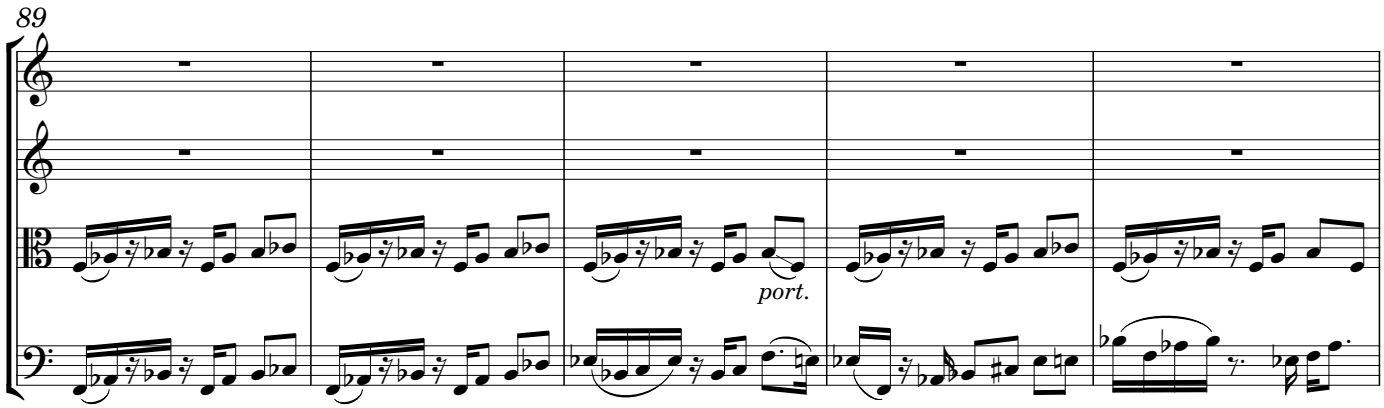

51
mf
mf
mp
sim.
sim.

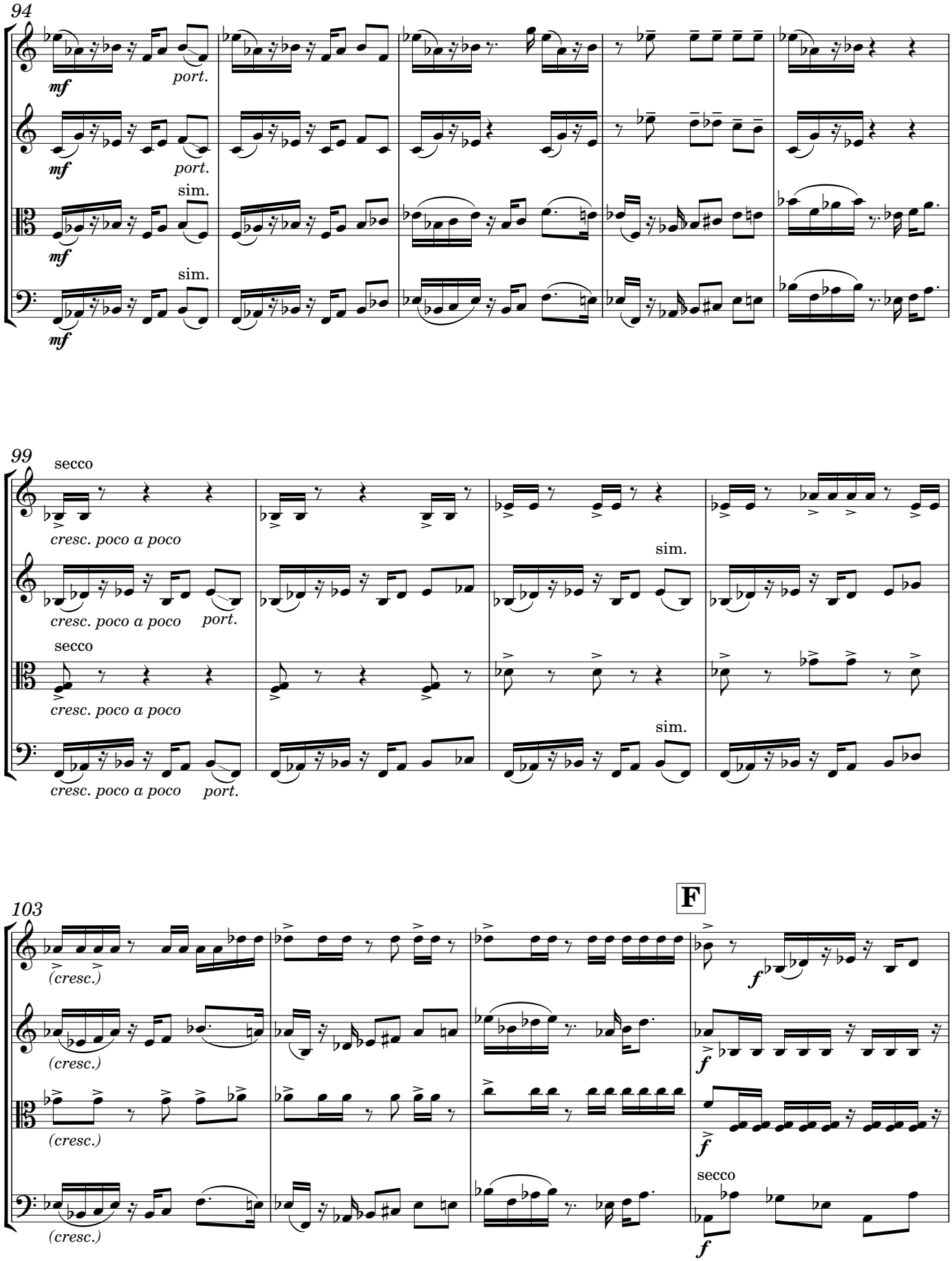

55
poco cresc.
mp cresc. poco a poco
mp cresc. poco a poco
cresc. poco a poco
cresc. poco a poco
60
(cresc. poco a poco)
(cresc. poco a poco)
(cresc. poco a poco)
(cresc. poco a poco)
65
D
ff
f mp
poco
mp
sim.
mp
pizz.
arco
ff
f
mp
pizz.
arco
ff
f
mp
mp
secco
ff
f mp

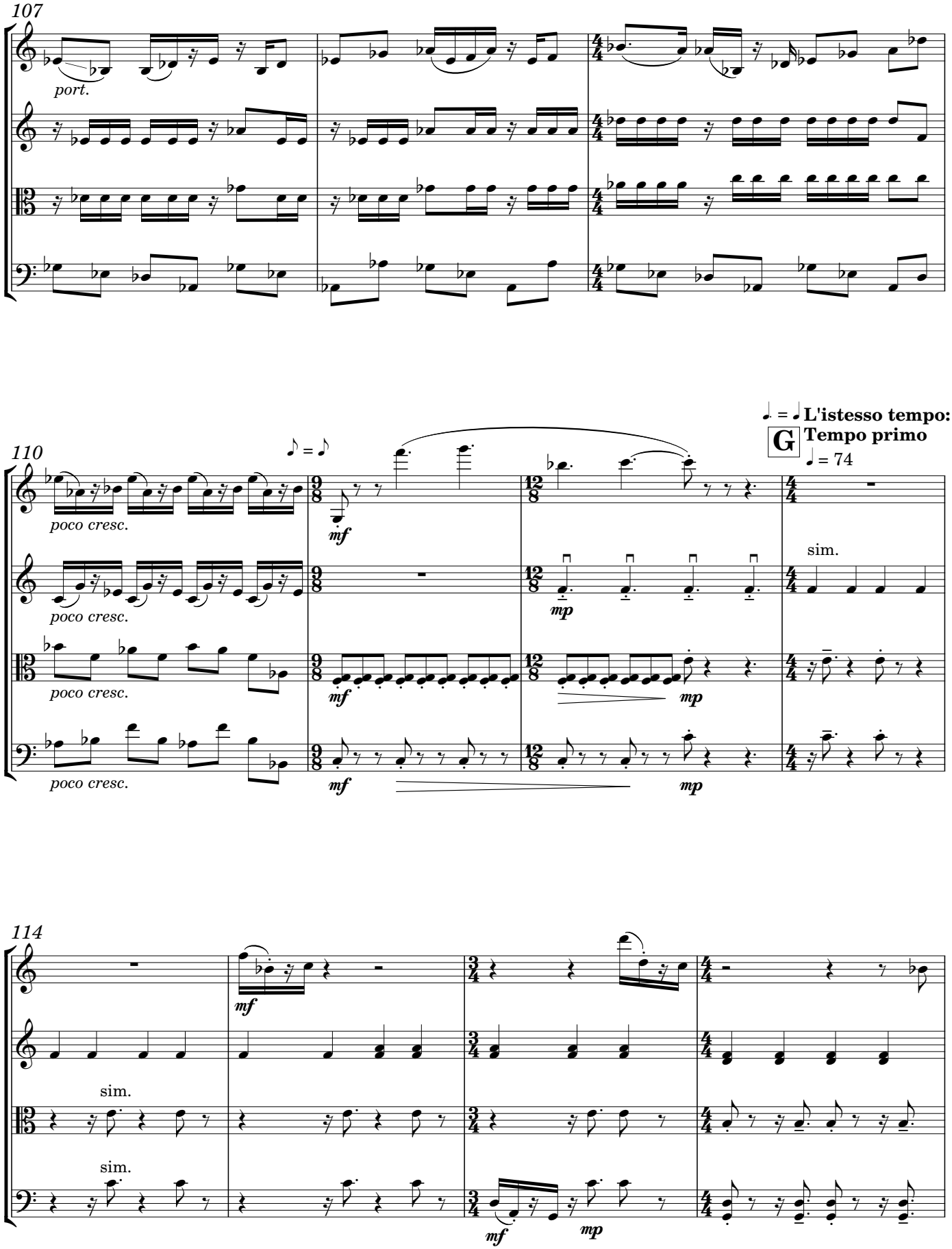

69
pizz.
arco, secco
pizz.
arco, secco
pizz.
arco
secco
poco cresc.
73
pizz.
arco
secco
secco
pizz.
77
secco
pizz.
arco
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.

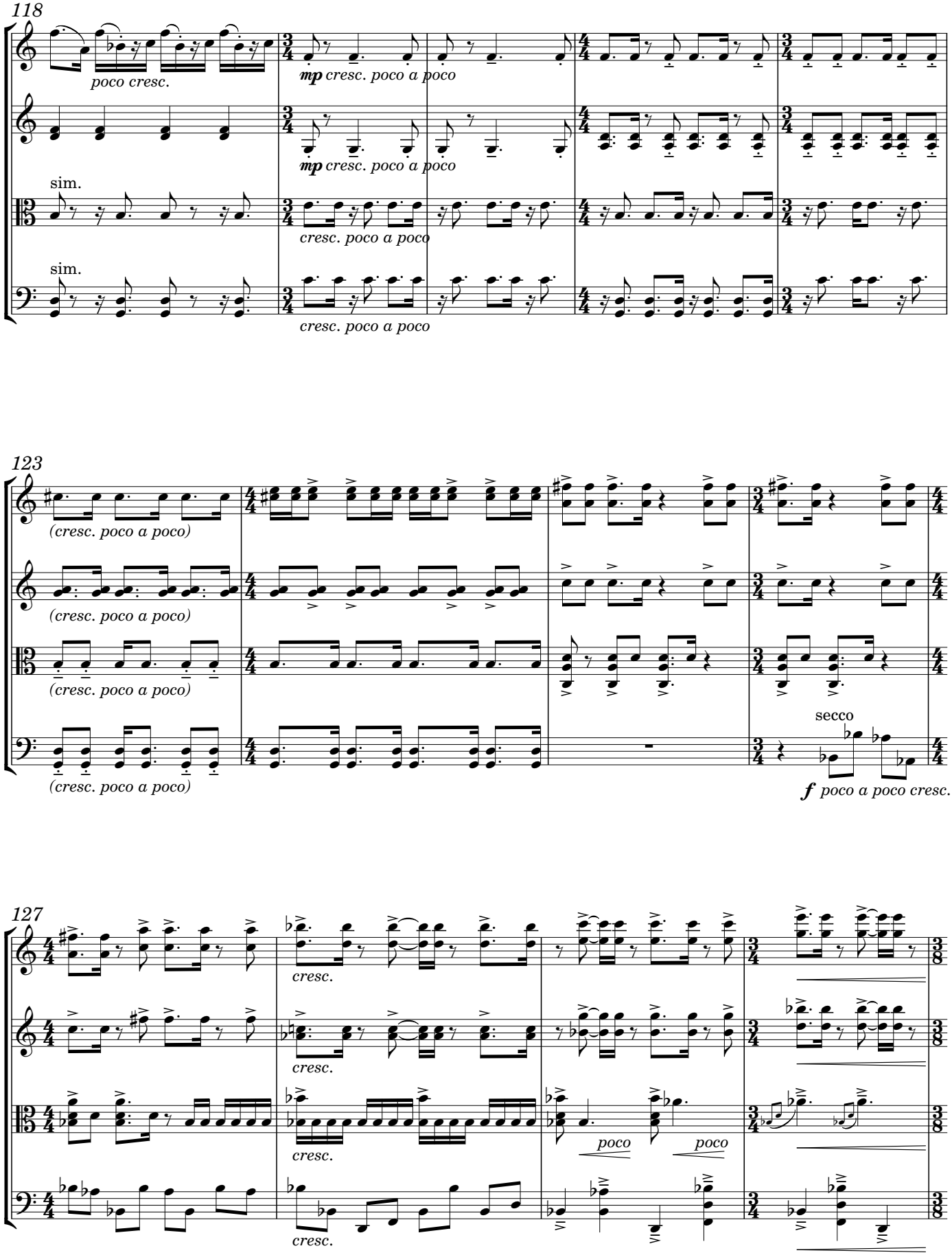

80
secco
(pizz.)
arco

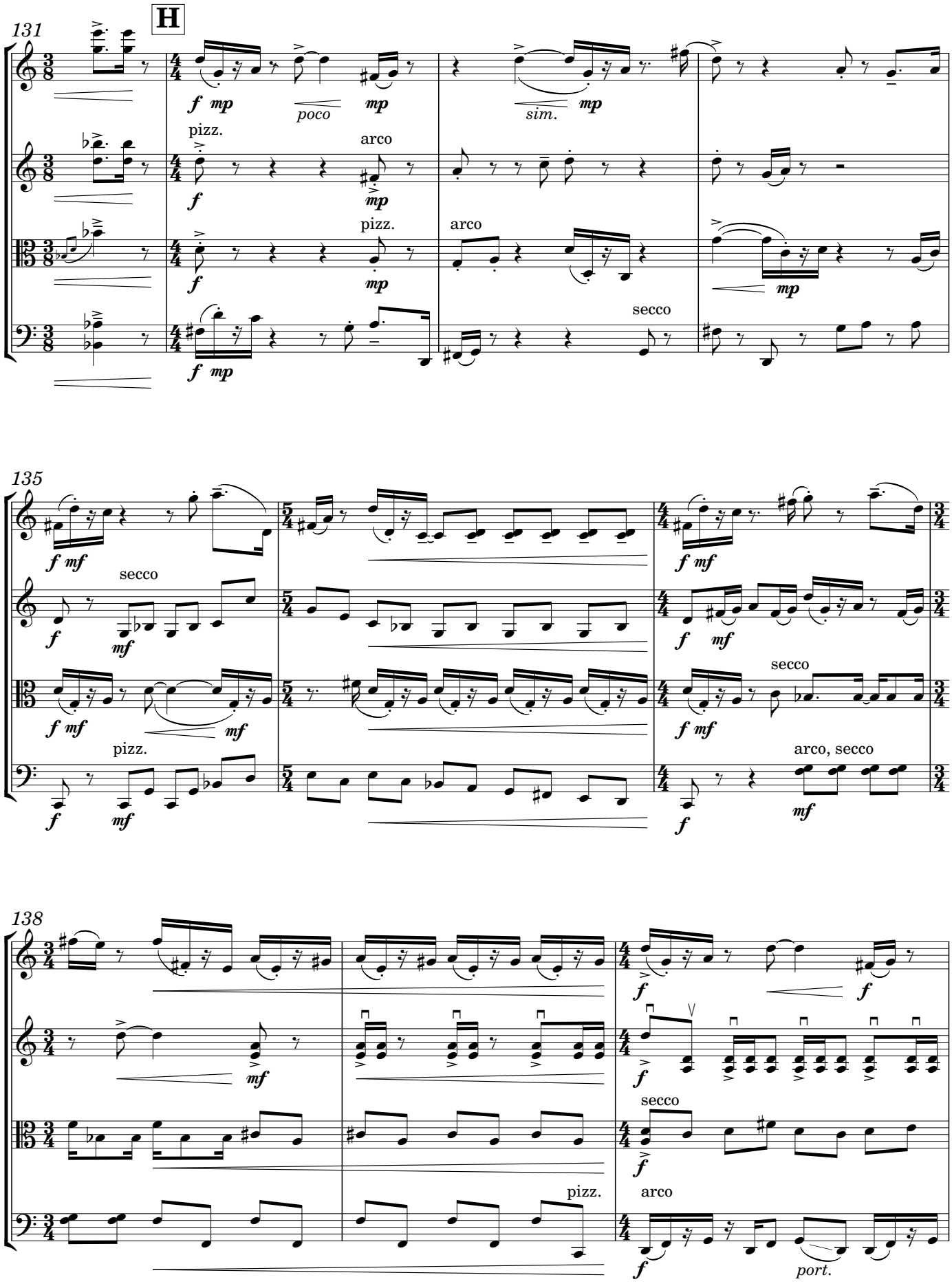

Accel.
Allegretto con brio;
(Rock groove)
E
♩ = 114
84
secco
gliss.
port.
sim.

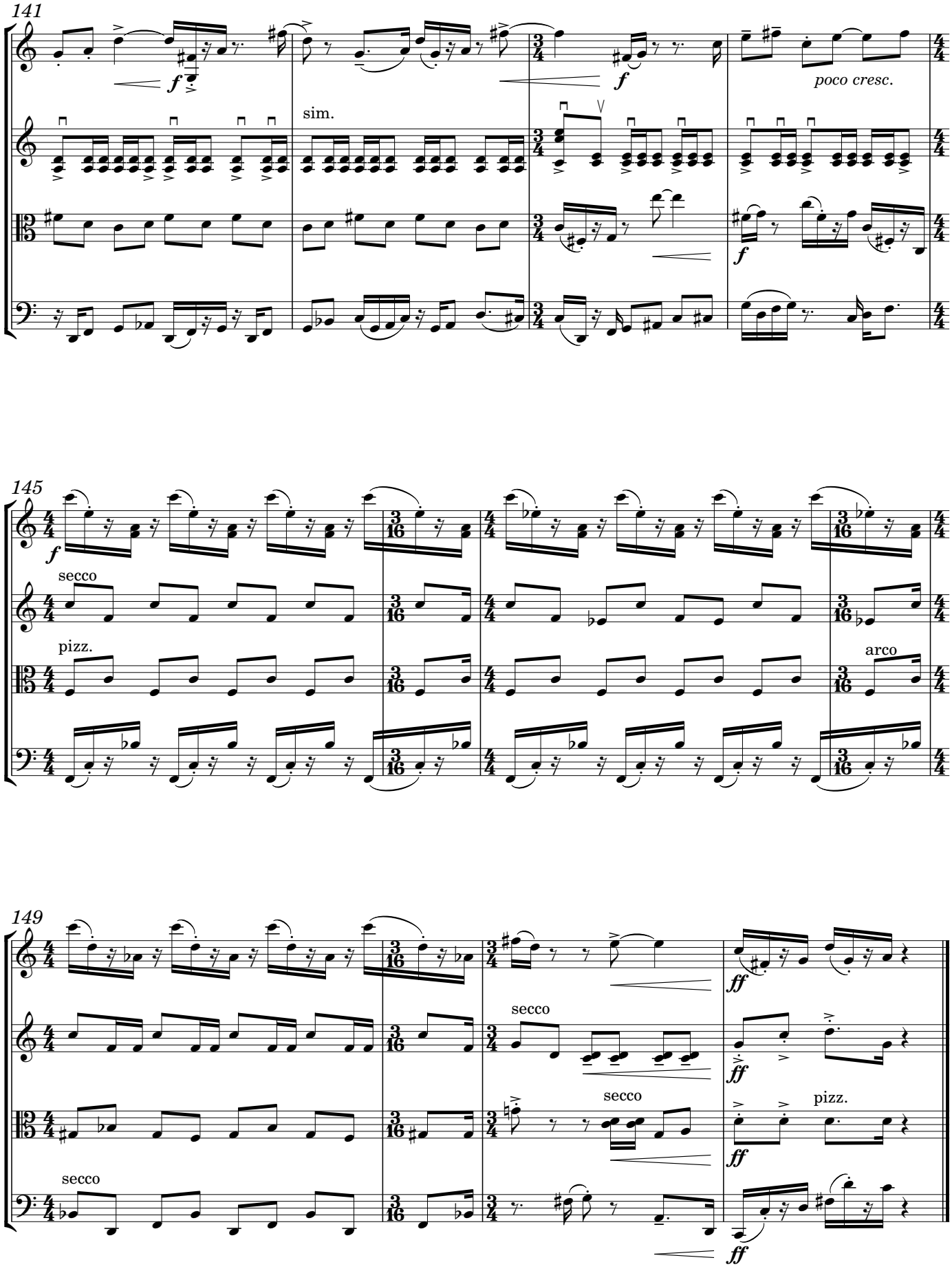

89
port.


94
mf
port.
sim.
99
secco
cresc. poco a poco
103
(cresc.)
F
f
secco


107
port.
110
poco cresc.
poco cresc.
poco cresc.
poco cresc.
mf
mp
sim.
G
L'istesso tempo:
Tempo primo
♩ = 74
114
sim.
sim.


118
poco cresc.
mp cresc. poco a poco
mp cresc. poco a poco
sim.
cresc. poco a poco
sim.
cresc. poco a poco
123
(cresc. poco a poco)
(cresc. poco a poco)
(cresc. poco a poco)
secco
f poco a poco cresc.
127
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
poco
poco
cresc.

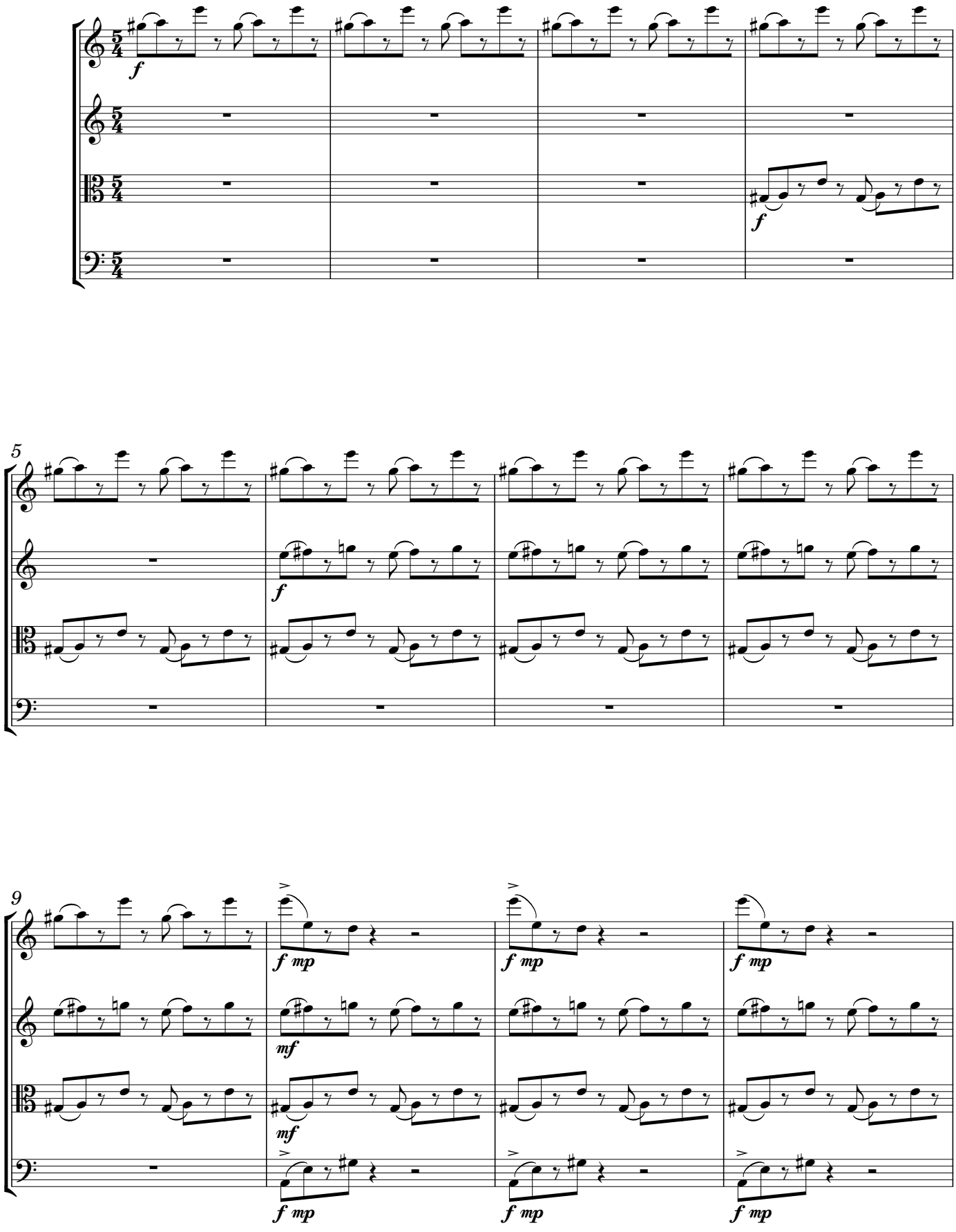

H
131
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
secco
poco
sim.
135
secco
pizz.
secco
arco, secco
138
pizz.
arco
secco
port.

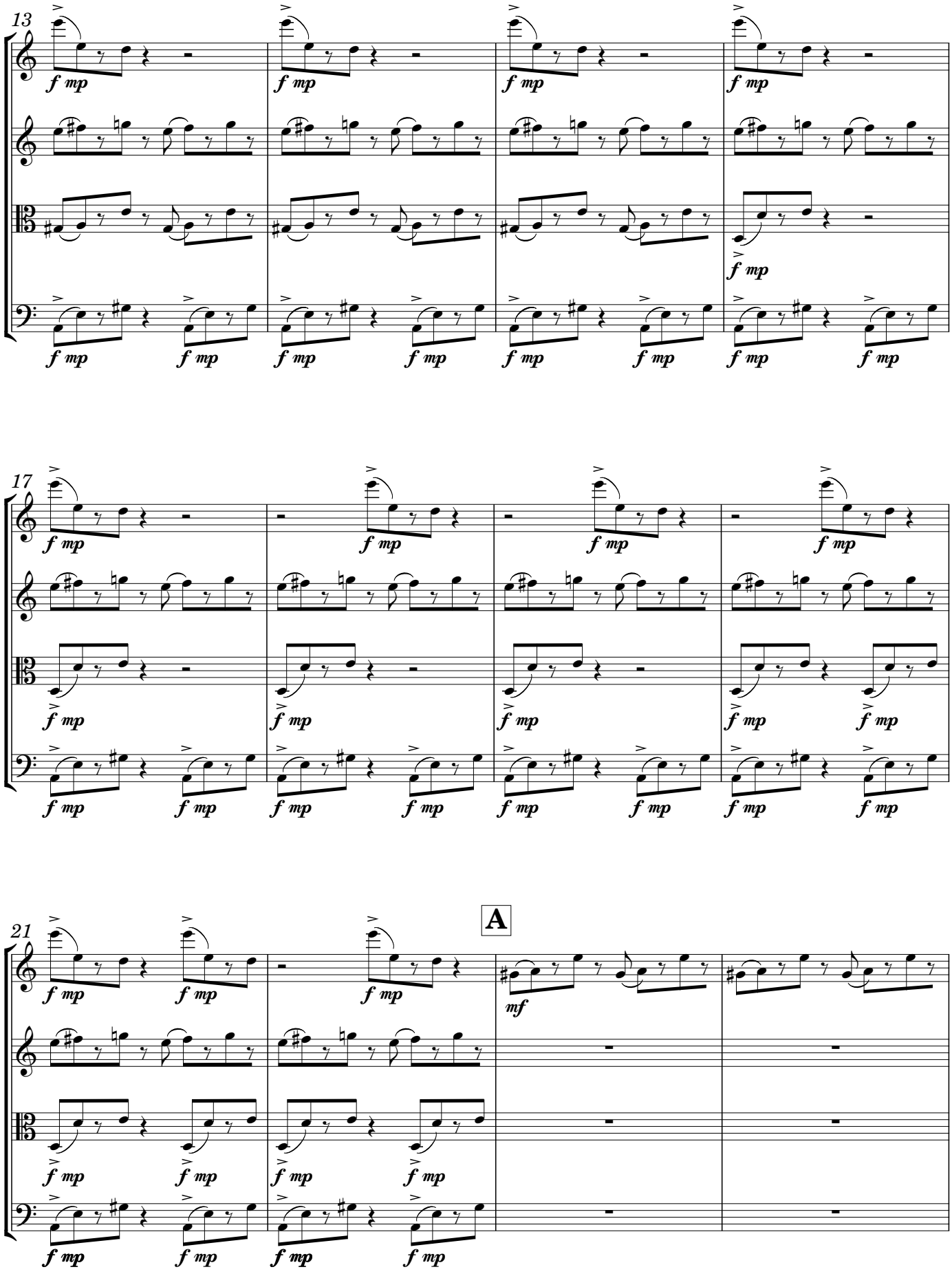

141
sim.
poco cresc.
145
secco
pizz.
arco
149
secco
secco
secco
pizz.

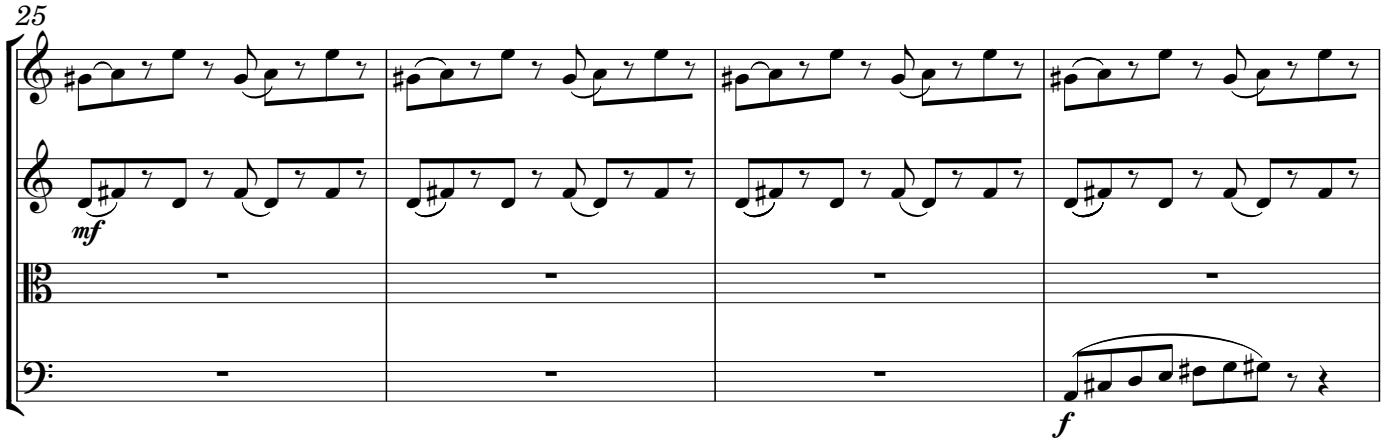
II

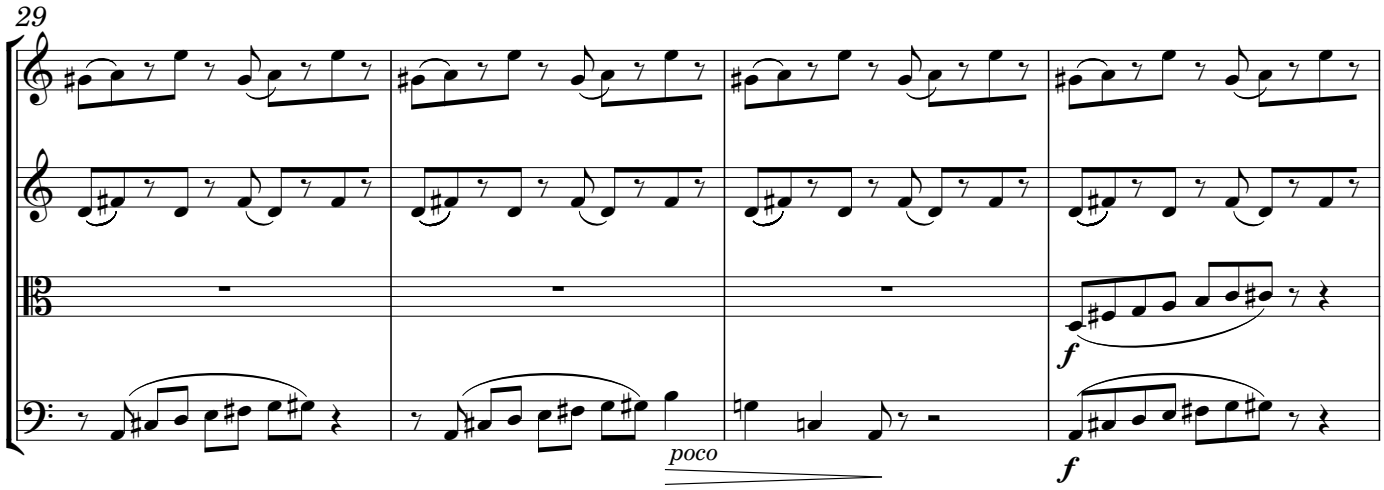
Presto

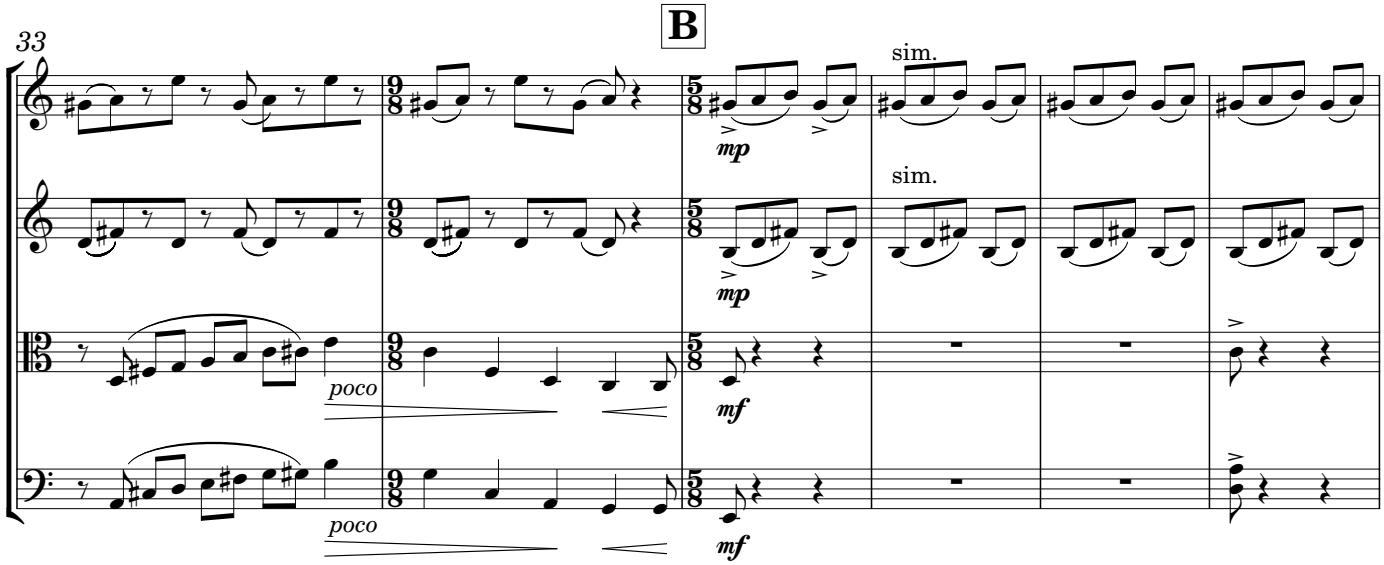
♩ = ca. 200

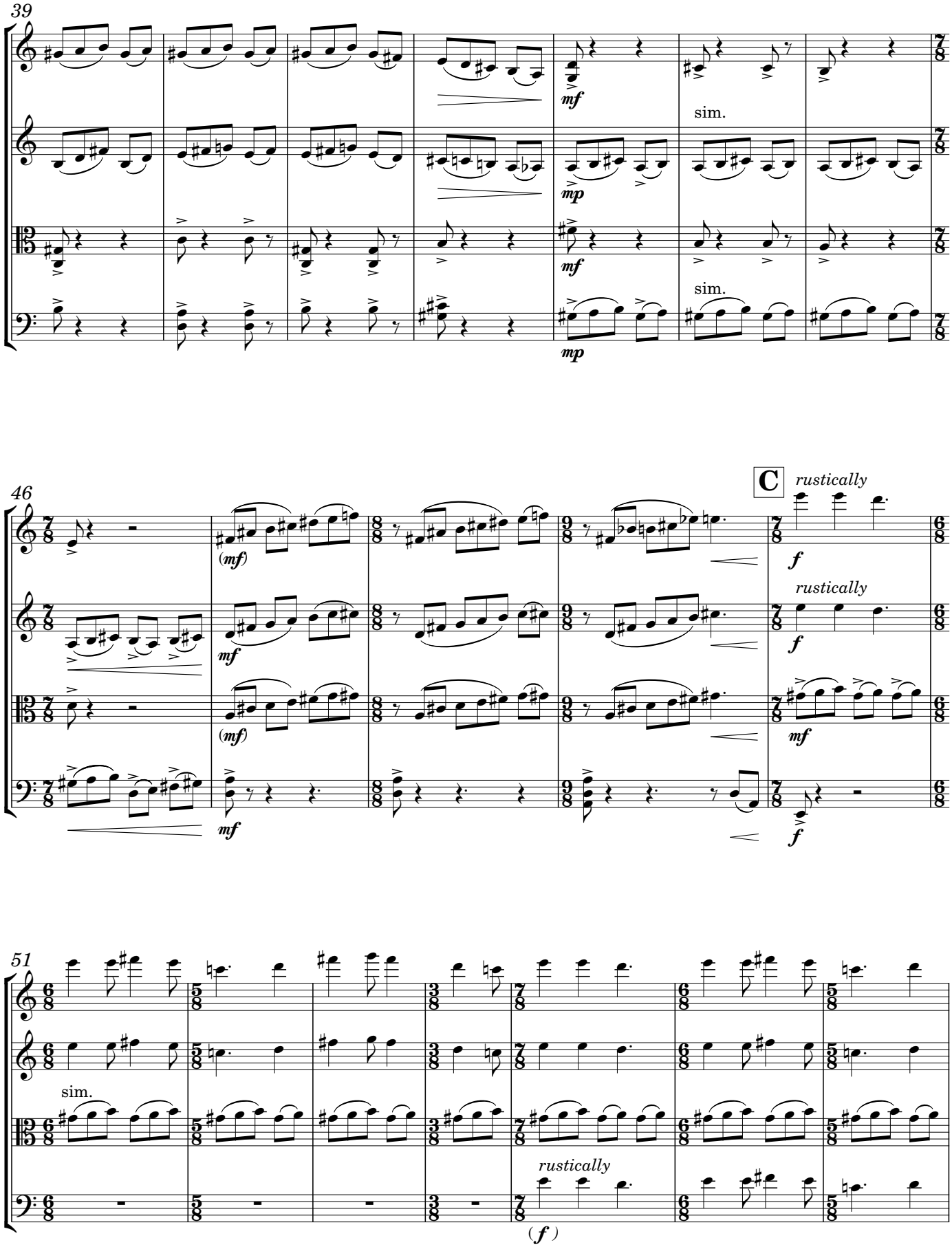


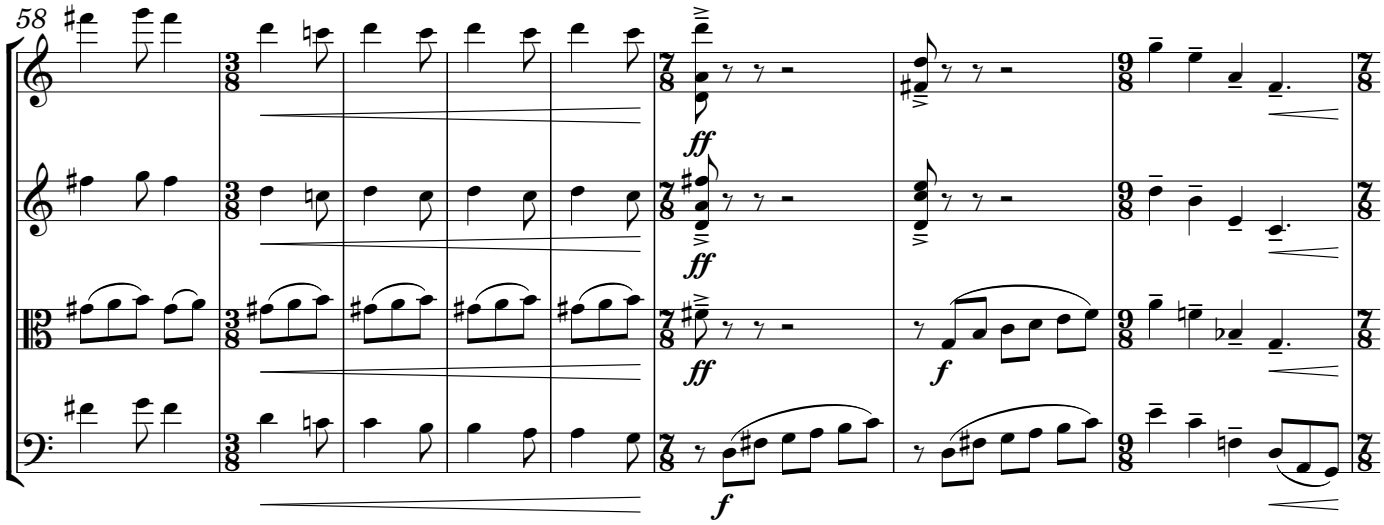

13
17
21
A
f mp
mf

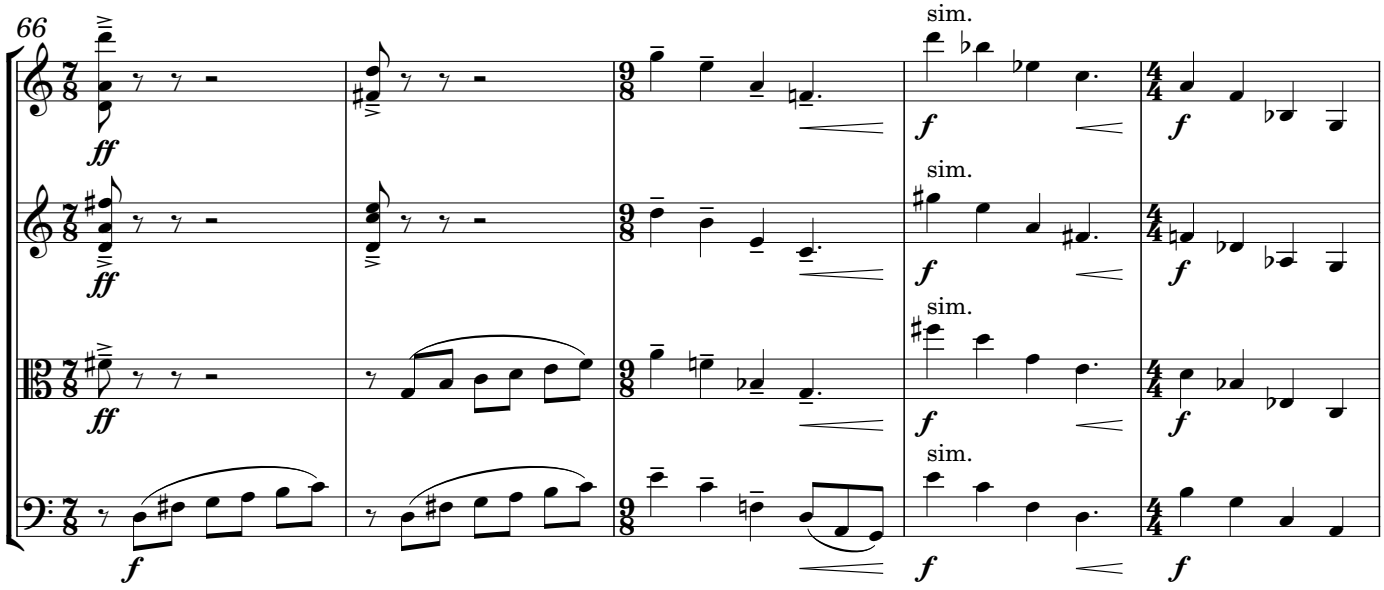

25
mf
f

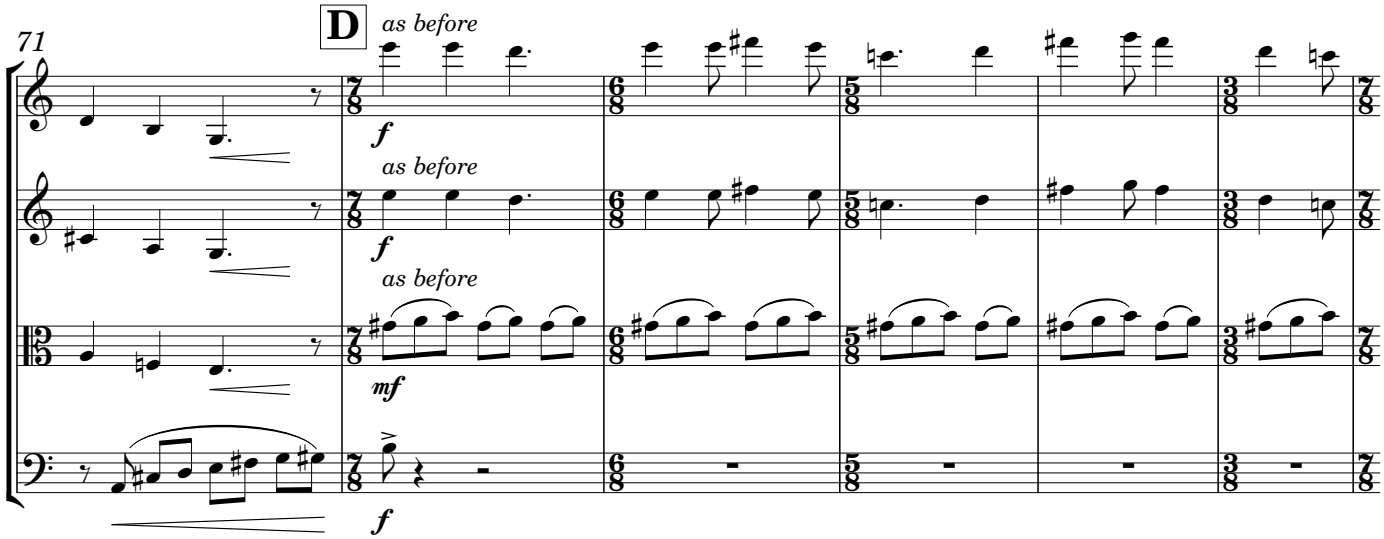

29
poco
f
f

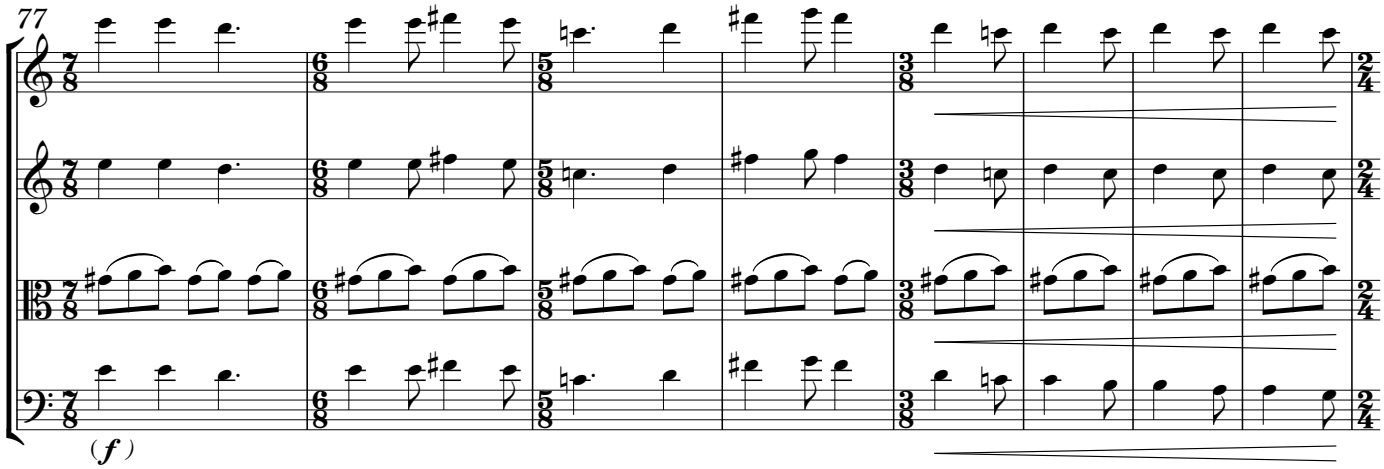

B
33
sim.
sim.
mp
mp
poco
poco
mf
mf

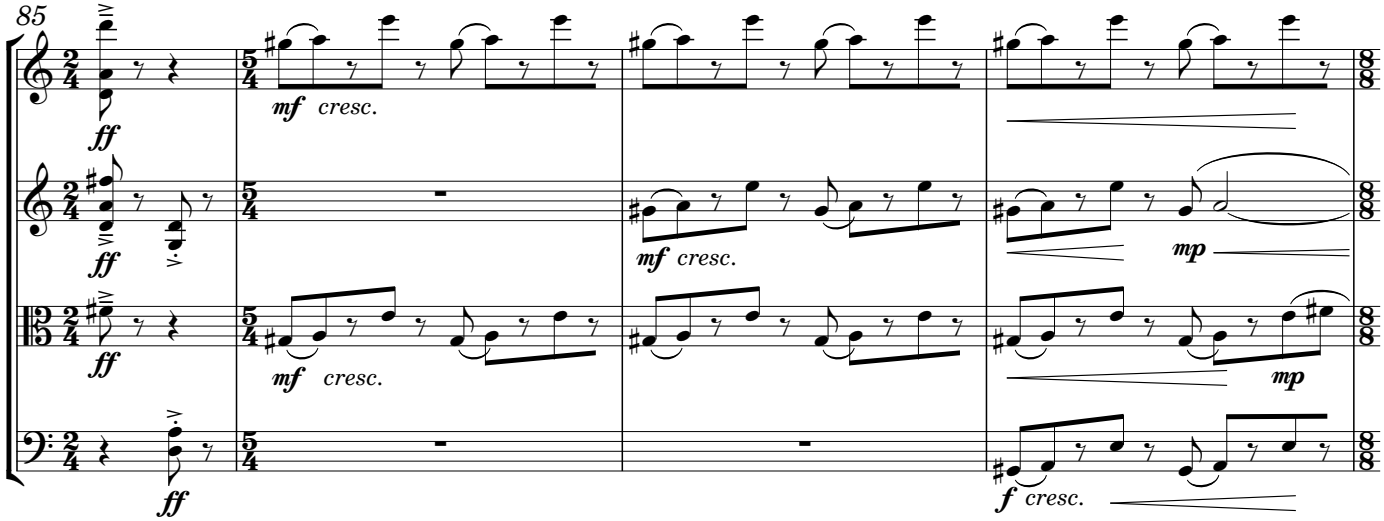

39
mf
mp
sim.
mf
mp
sim.
46
C
rustically
(mf)
mf
(mf)
mf
f
rustically
f
mf
f
51
sim.
rustically
(f)

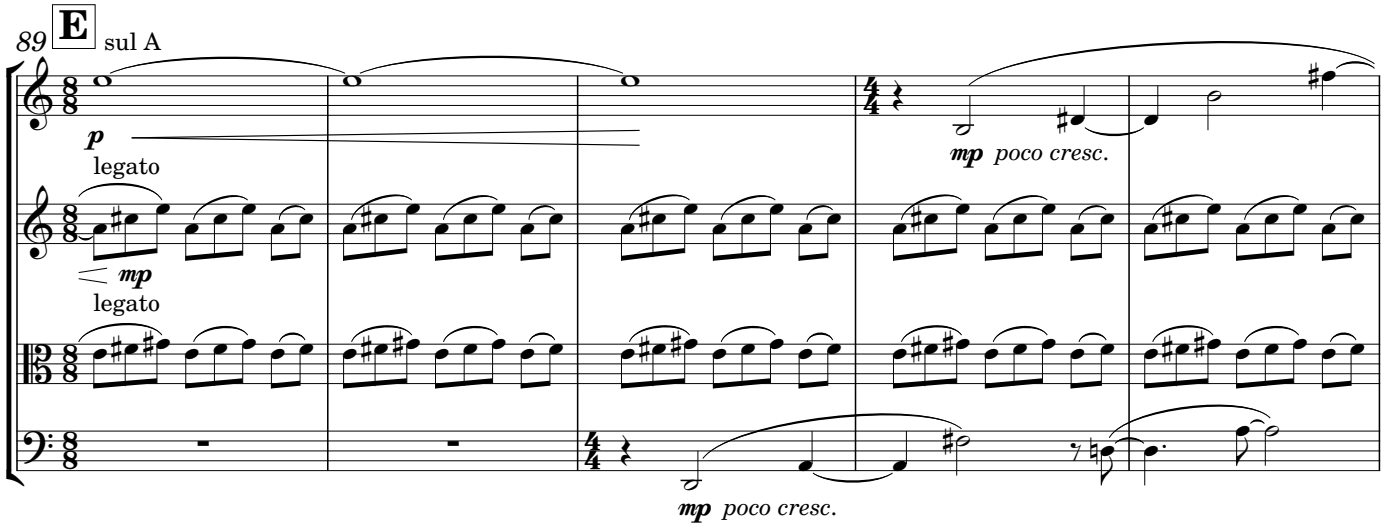

58
ff
ff
ff
f
f

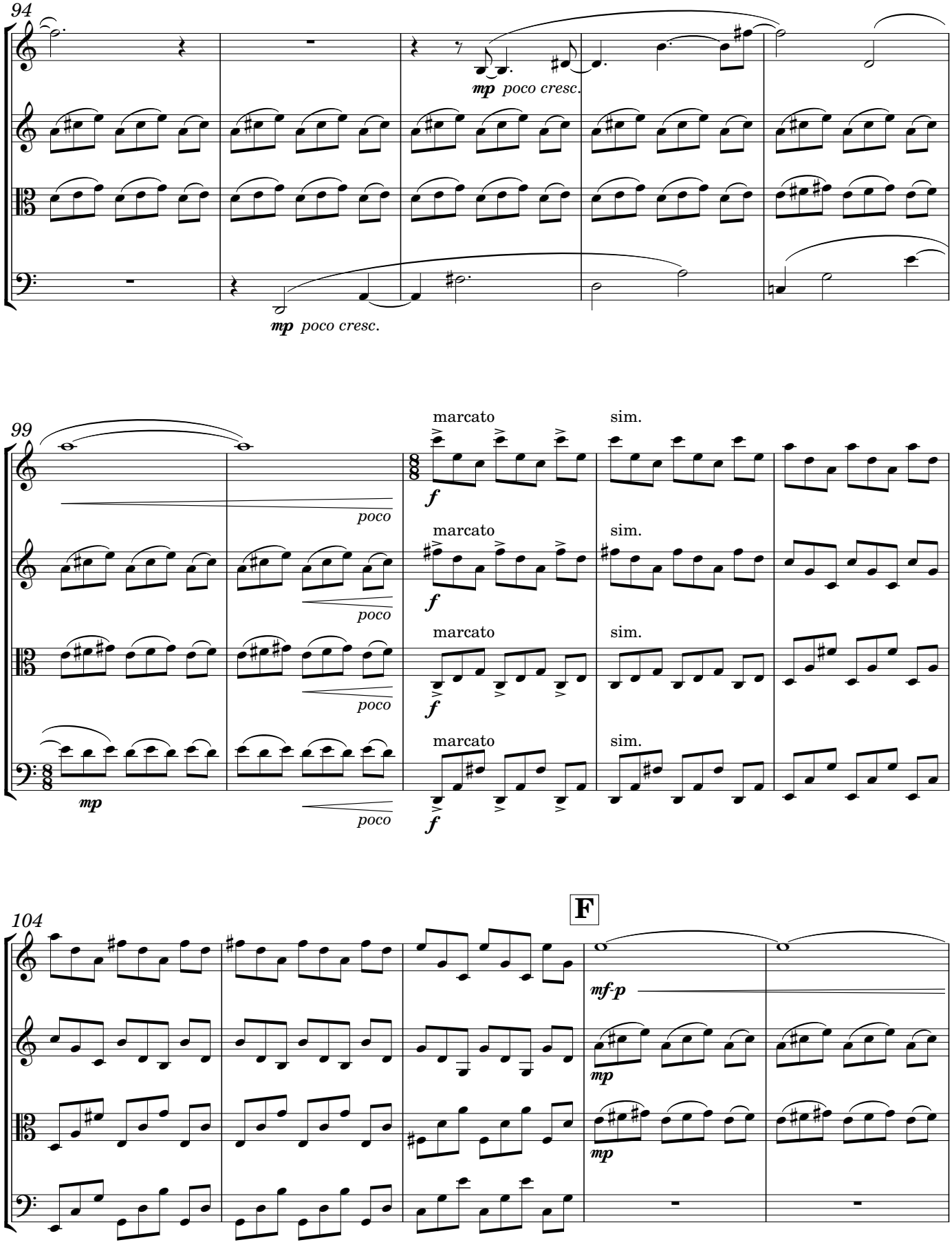

66
ff
ff
ff
f
f
sim.
sim.
sim.
sim.
f
f
f
f

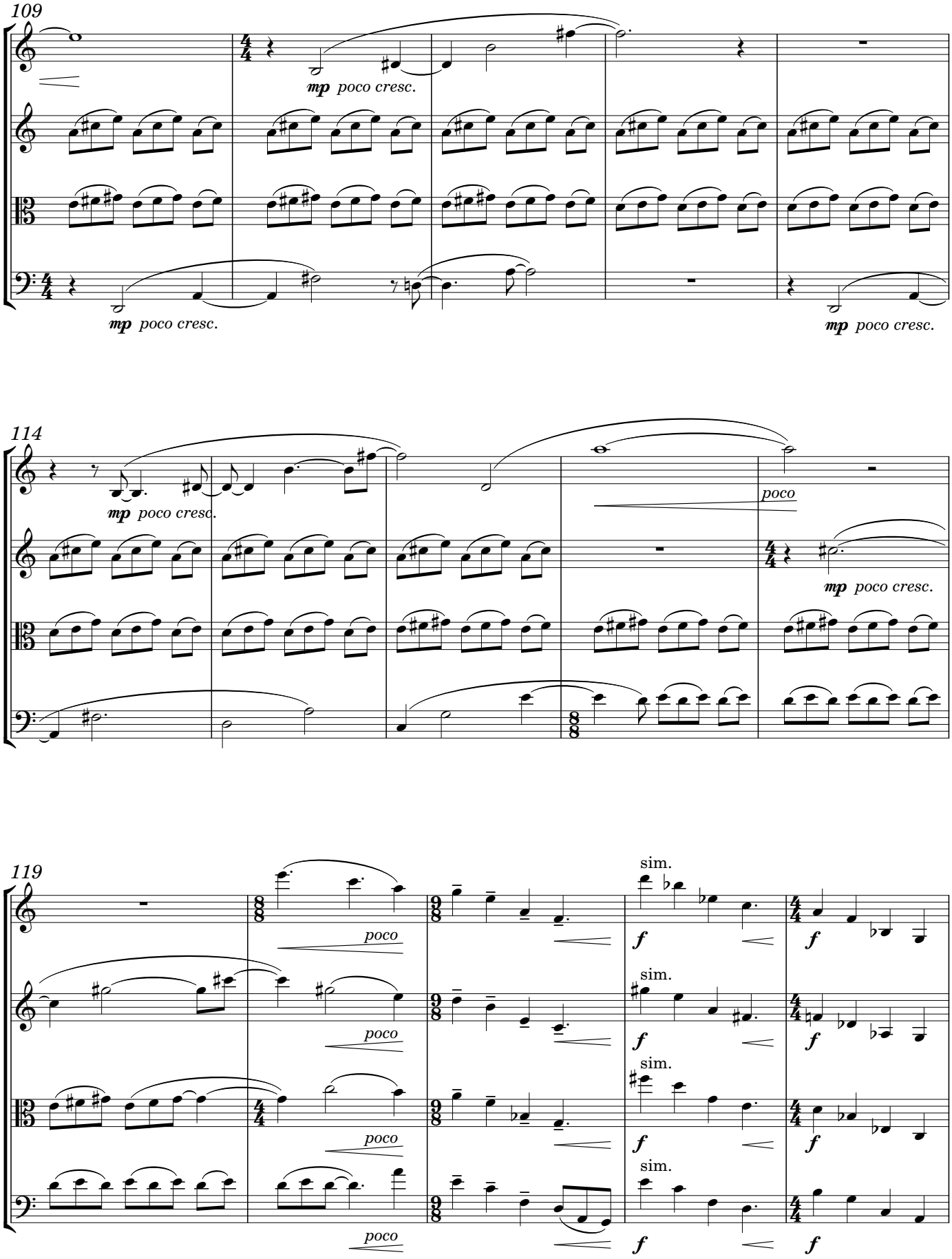

71
D
as before
as before
as before
f
f
mf
f

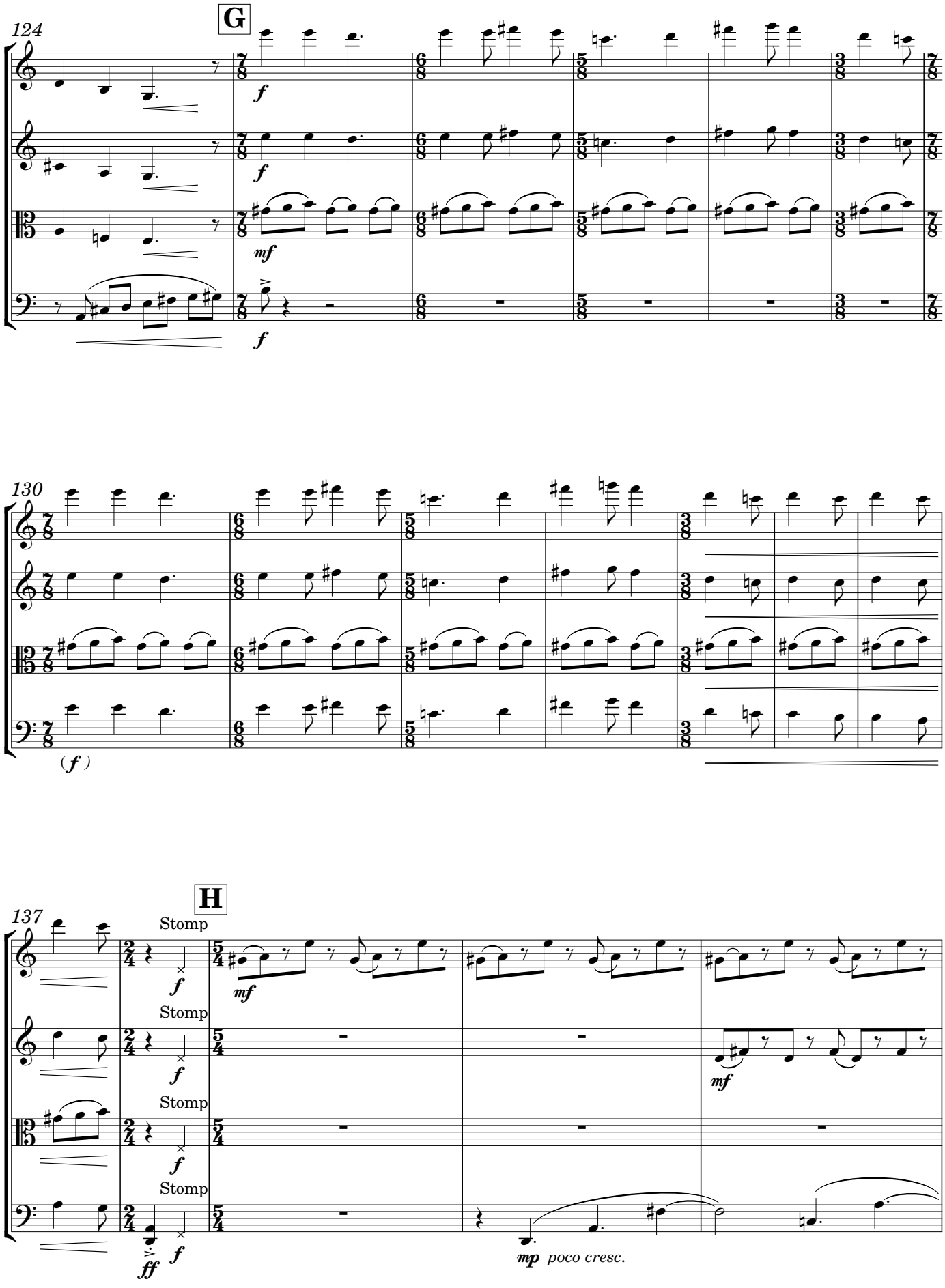

77
(f)


85
ff
mf cresc.
mp
f cresc.


89
E
sul A
p
legato
mp
legato
mp poco cresc.
mp poco cresc.


94
mp poco cresc.
mp poco cresc.
99
marcato
sim.
f
poco
mp
104
F
mf-p
mp


109
mp poco cresc.
mp poco cresc.
mp poco cresc.
114
mp poco cresc.
poco
mp poco cresc.
119
poco
poco
poco
poco
sim.
sim.
sim.
sim.
f
f
f
f
f
f
f
f


124
G
f
mf
f
130
(f)
137
H
Stomp
f
mf
ff
mp poco cresc.

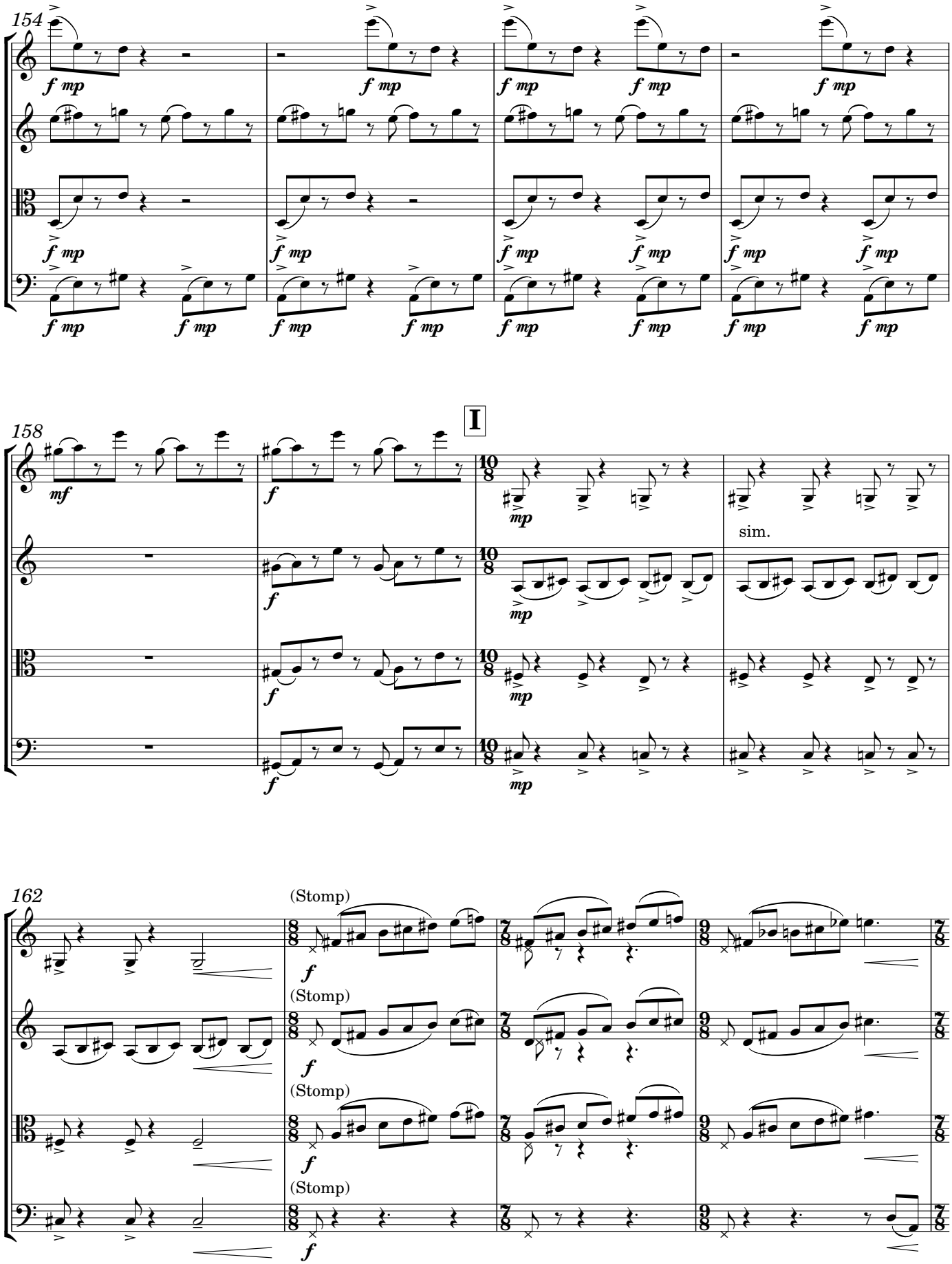
142

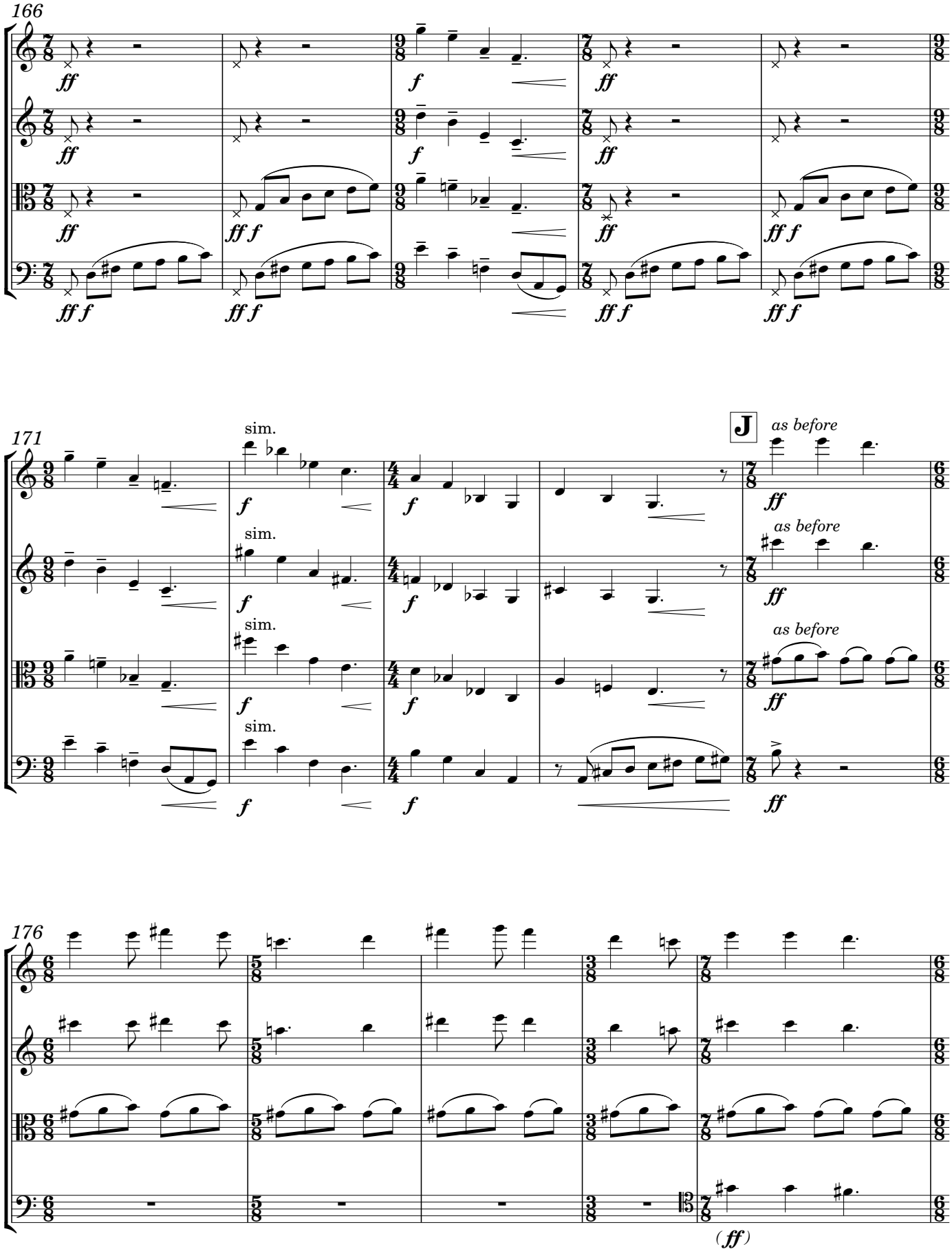
pizz.

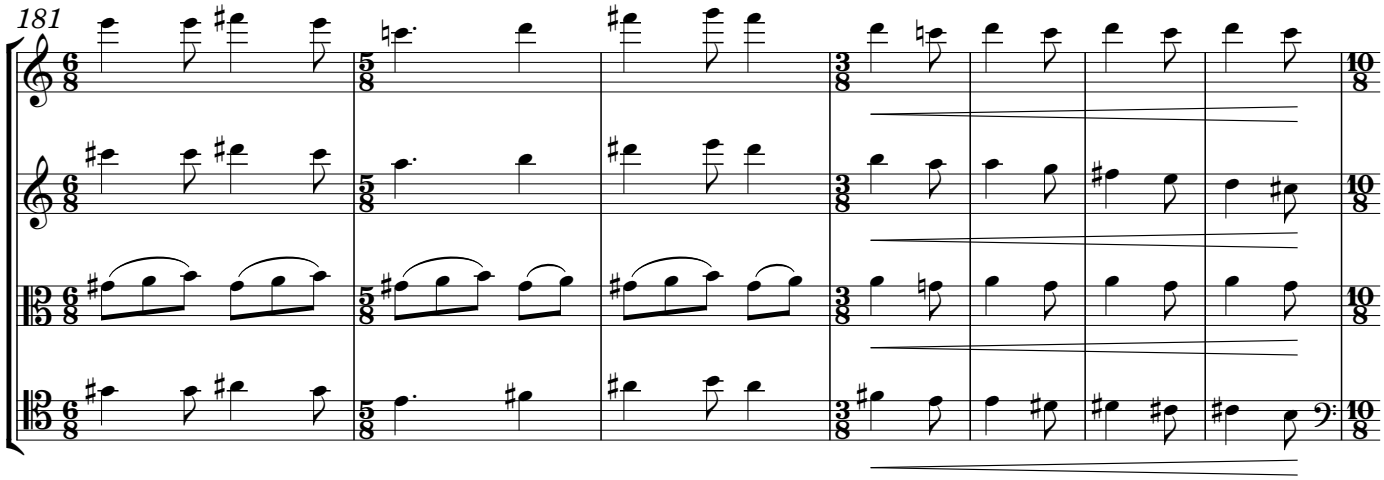
146

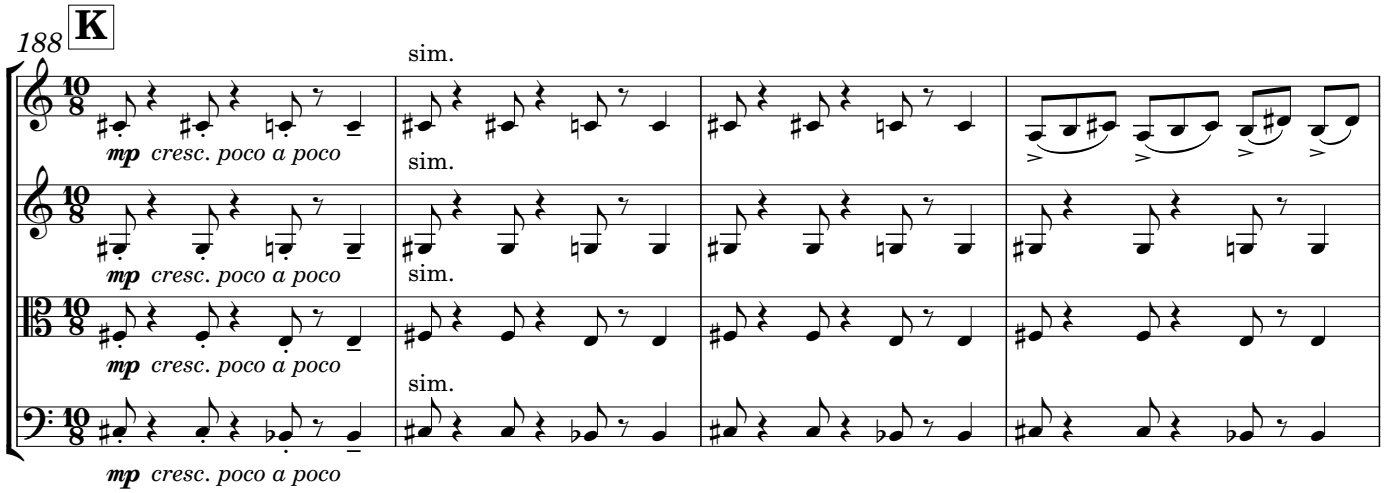
arco

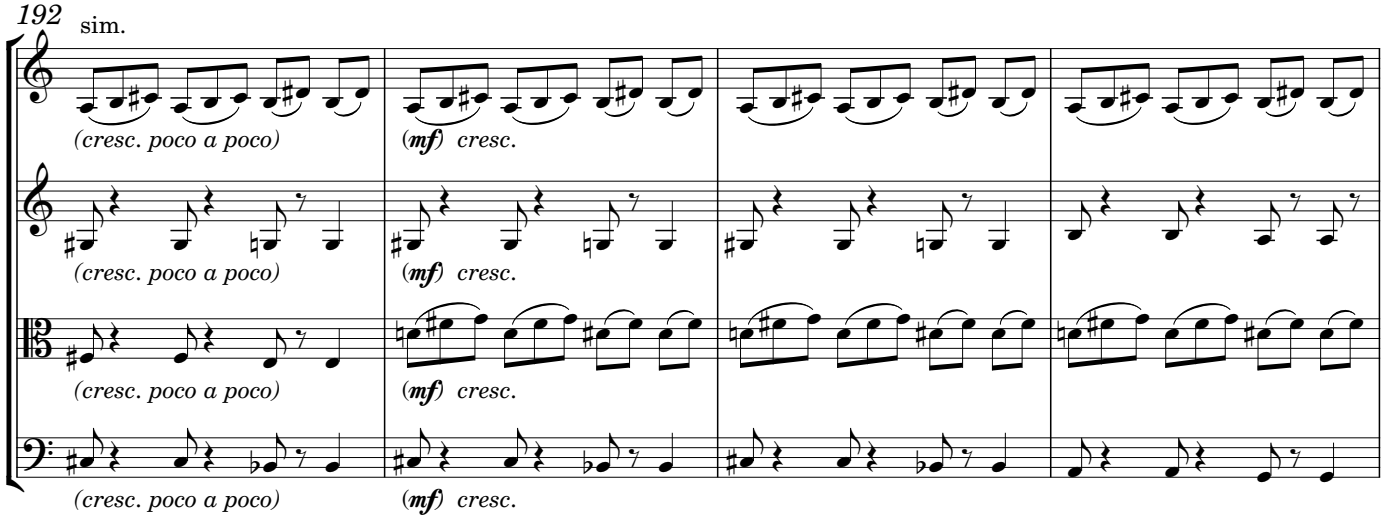
150


154
158
I
sim.
162
(Stomp)

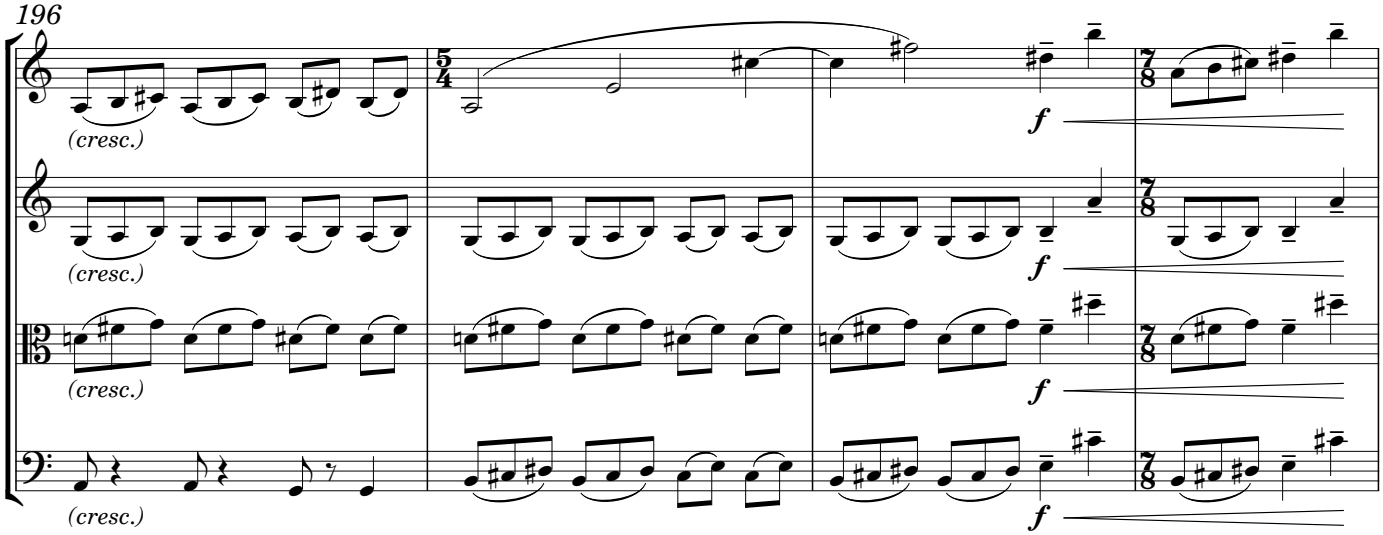

166
ff
ff f
f
171
sim.
J
as before
176
(ff)


181


188
K
sim.
mp cresc. poco a poco
sim.
mp cresc. poco a poco
sim.
mp cresc. poco a poco
sim.
mp cresc. poco a poco


192
sim.
(cresc. poco a poco)
(mf) cresc.
(cresc. poco a poco)
(mf) cresc.
(cresc. poco a poco)
(mf) cresc.
(cresc. poco a poco)
(mf) cresc.

196



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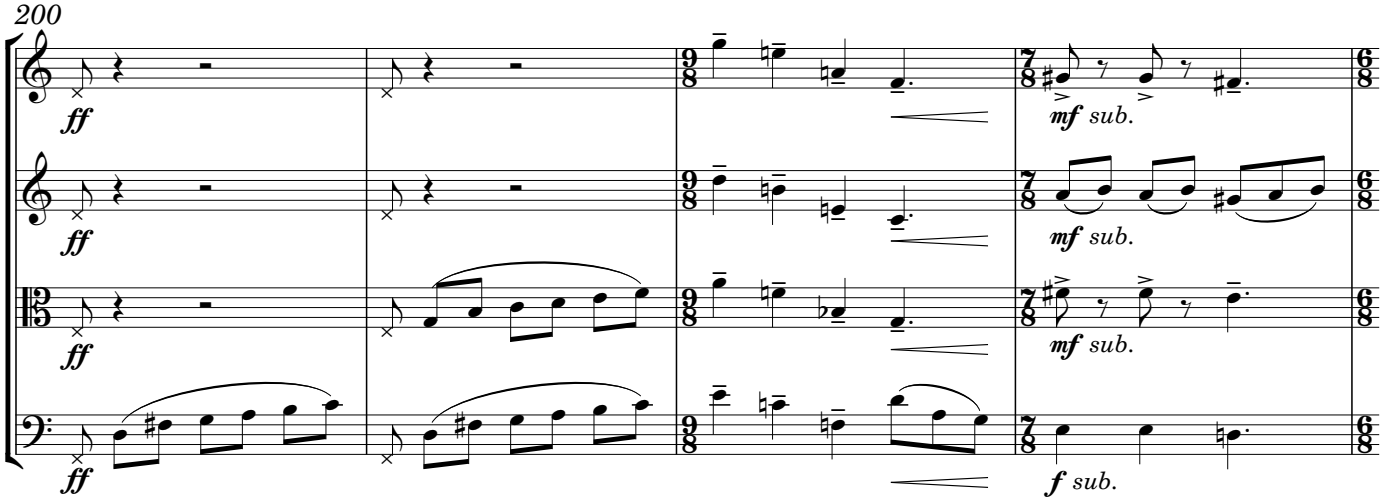
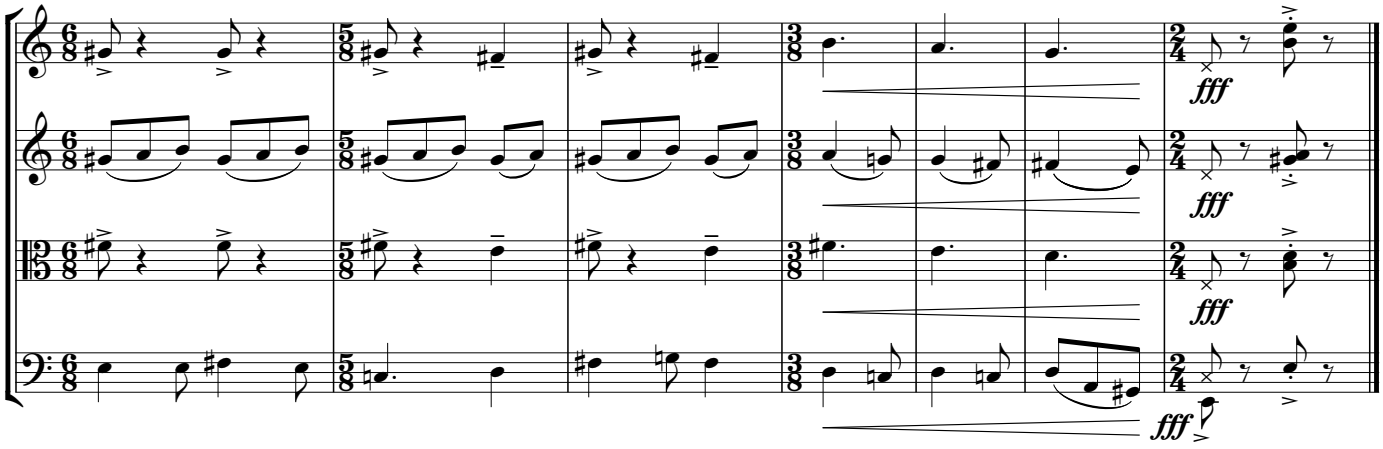


204



New York City, October, 2000