Stanley Grill

Composer & Pianist

6 CONTRAPUNTAL PIECES

for string quartet

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VOCAL MUSIC

The Snow Begins (W.C. Williams)	1975	soprano, piano	3 min
Earth and Sea (Eskimo texts)	1975	soprano, piano	3 min
Preludes (T.S. Eliot)	1978	soprano, violin, cello	10 min
6 Songs (W.B. Yeats)	1983	soprano, piano	15 min
To a Child (W.B. Yeats)	1987	soprano, string quartet	20 min
Crazy Jane Sings (W.B. Yeats)	1999	soprano, fl, vn, va, vc, pn	25 min
Vignettes/Flowers (W.C. Williams)	2002	SATB, cello	18 min
Love Poems (W.C. Williams)	2003	SSAA	10 min
Vignettes/Trees (W.C. Williams)	2004	2 voices, 2 cellos	15 min
Thinking of You (John MacKenzie)	2005	soprano, vc, harp	7 min
Ariettas without words	2005	soprano, vc, harp	9 min
Scetate (Ferdinando Russo)	2005	SSATTBB	6 min
In Their Flight (Mark Doty)	2006	soprano, mezzo soprano, vn, vc	6 min
5 Rilke Songs	2009	soprano, va d'amore, vc	15 min
4 Songs to Poems by Hart Crane	2010	tenor, piano	12 min
Seasons (W.C. Williams)	2010	SATB	11 min
Sonnets to Orpheus (Rilke)	2012	tenor, piano	35 min
Songs of Loss and Remembrance	2012	soprano, va d'amore, va, vc	12 min

MUSIC FOR STRINGS ALONE

6 Contrapuntal Pieces	1986	string quartet	20 min
For Laura	1987	string quartet	25 min
The Beckoning Stars	2001	string quartet	13 min
Imaginary Dances	2001	violin solo	18 min
Short Stories	2003	vn, va, vc, db	18 min
Passion (a love duet)	2003	va, vc	9 min
Pavanne (for a world without war)	2005	string orchestra	8 min
Meditations for String Orchestra	2006	string orchestra	8 min
American Landscapes	2007	string quartet	24 min
Ecstasy	2009	viola solo	9 min
Transformations	2009	viola da gamba solo	12 min
Sonatine	2010	3 violins	9 min
Lieder ohne worte	2011	vn, va, vc, theorbo	12 min
Middle Ground	2012	vn, 2va, vc	25 min
Afterwards, there were no more wars	2013	string quartet	21 min
At the Center of All Things	2013	string quartet	17 min

CHAMBER MUSIC

Three for Three	1992	vn, vc, pn	16 min
Civil War Songs	1992	va, pn	18 min
Take Five	1993	2 vns, va, vc, pn	25 min
Serenade	1999	fl, vn, va, vc	11 min
Distant Music	2000	cl, vn/va, vc, pn	20 min
Driven by the Wind	2001	fl, vc, pn	25 min
Nonet (for New York)	2002	fl, ob, cl, hn, bn, 2vns, va, vc	35 min
A Little Sweet	2003	fl, vc	10 min
On the edge of sleep & dreaming	2003	hn, vc, harp	31 min
5 Pastoral Scenes	2004	ob, bn, vn, va, vc	30 min
I was dreaming of the sea…	2004	vn (or fl), vc, pn	7 min
Little Tales of Mirth & Woe	2004	vn (or fl), vc, pn	6 min
An Ode to the Possibility of Peace	2005	cl, vn, vc	15 min
Elements	2006	fl, ob, cl, hn, bn	11 min
Motet for Brass Instruments	2006	2 trp, hn, trb, tu	7 min

ORCHESTRAL MUSIC

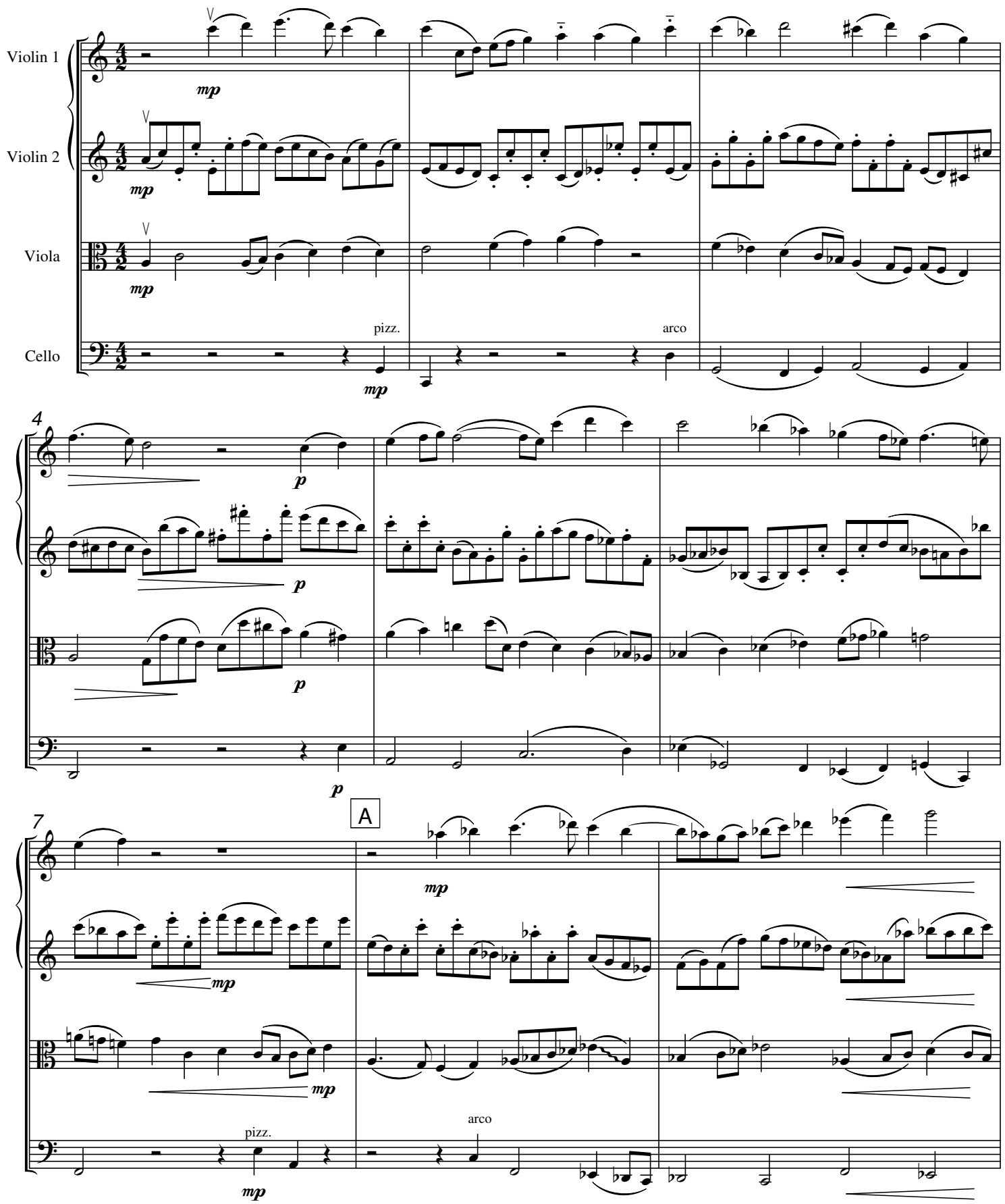
Appalachian Songs	1988	chamber orchestra	25 min
Morning Music	2001	cl, string orchestra	22 min
Two Sad Songs (W.B. Yeats)	2002	soprano, string orchestra	15 min
Invisible Ballet	2003	strings & diverse instruments	33 min
Pluto	2005	orchestra	15 min
Ophelia Songs (Shakespeare)	2005	soprano, harp, string orchestra	12 min
Love's Little Pleasures	2008	soprano, string orchestra	15 min
The Four Elements	2009	va, string orchestra	22 min
Mystical Songs	2009	soprano, va, string orchestra	18 min

Six Contrapuntal Pieces

I

music by Stan Grill

Allegro Moderato (♩ = 60)



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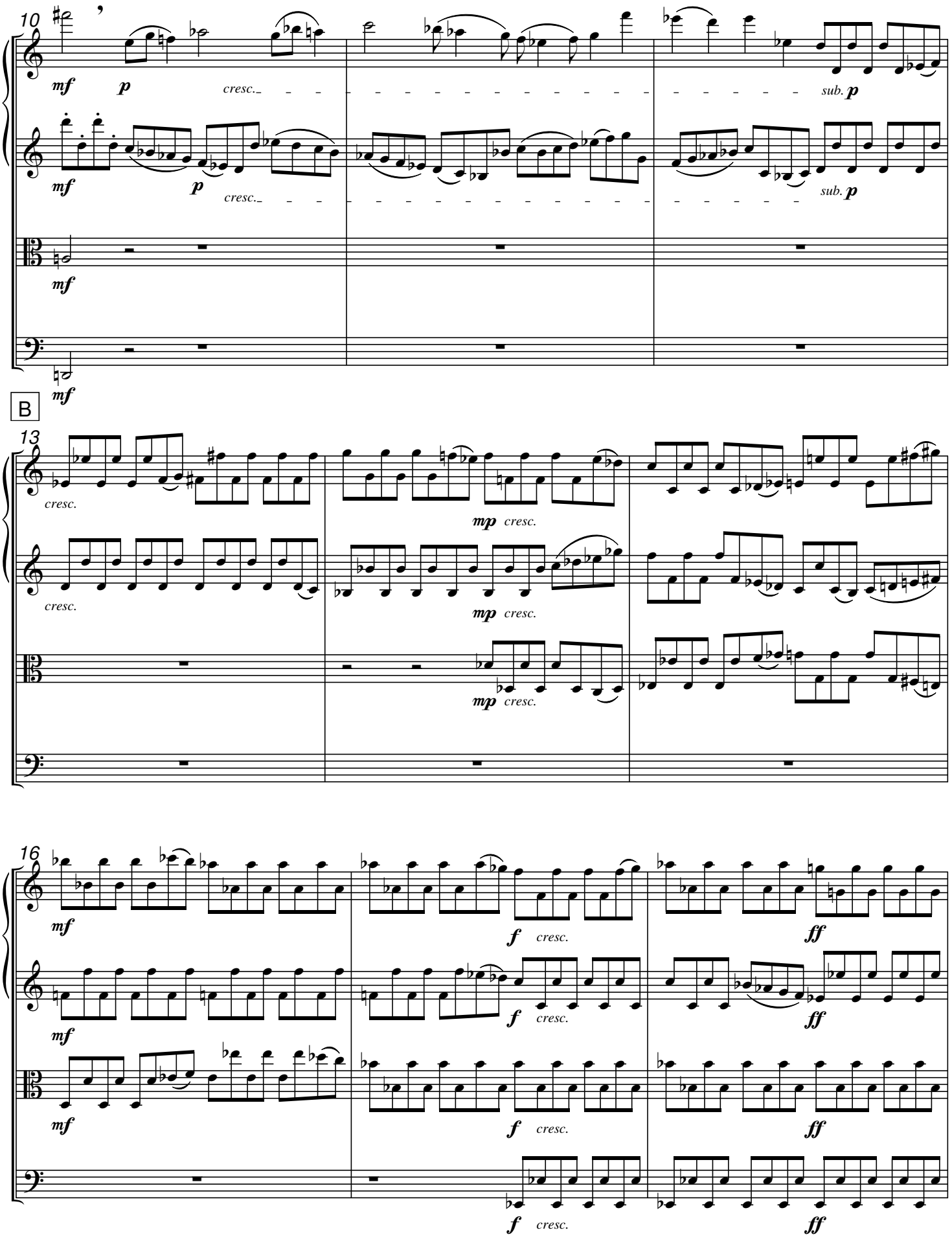
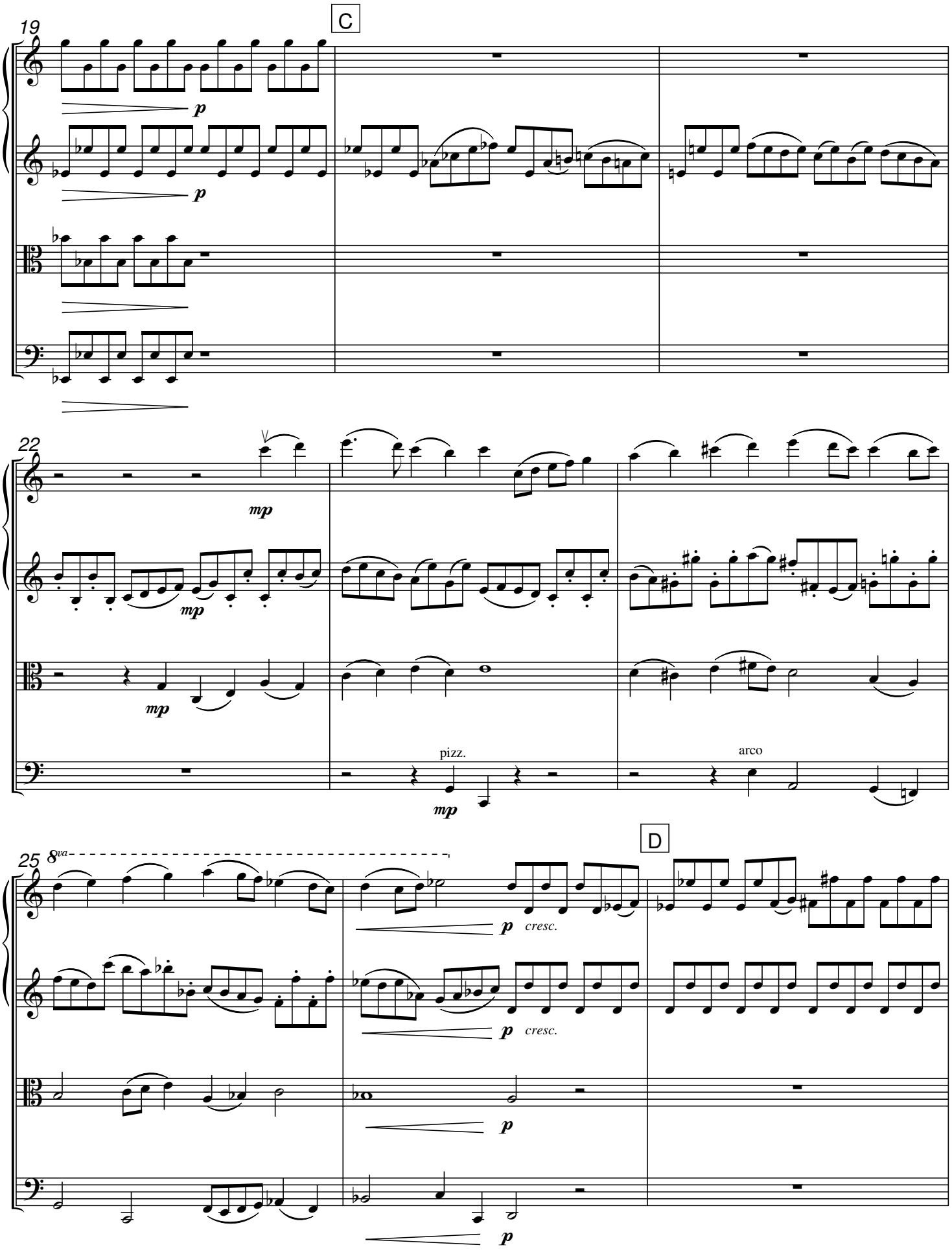
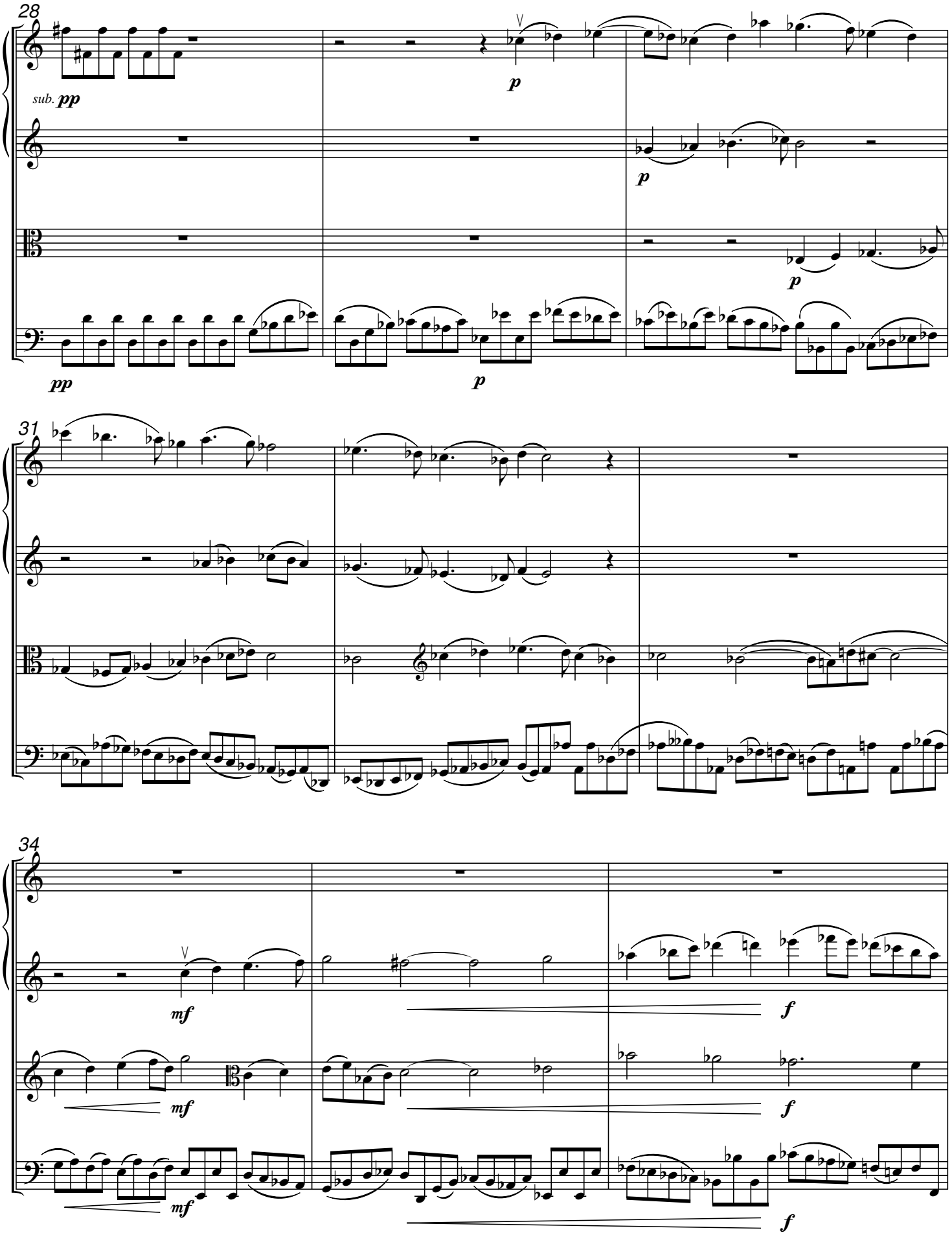
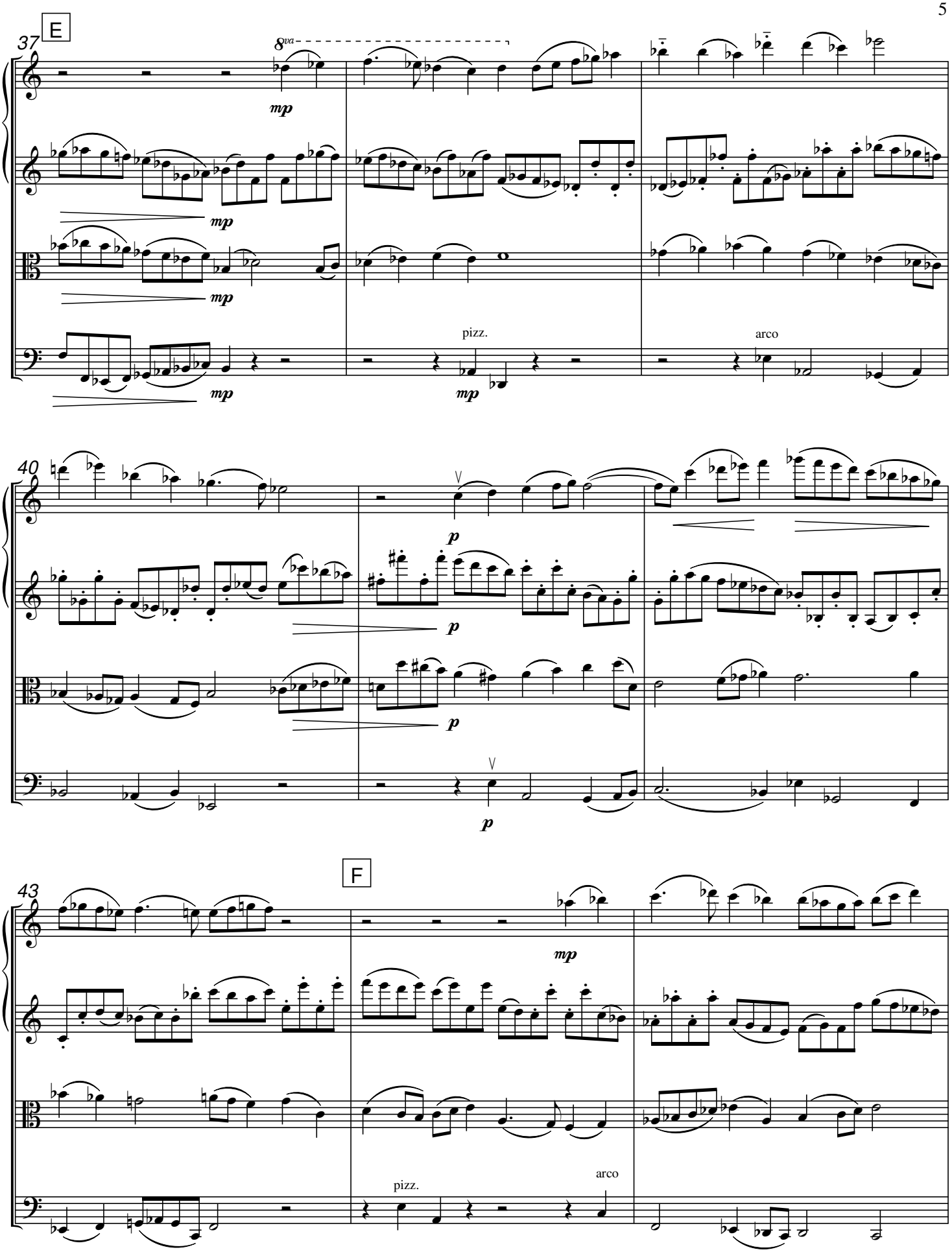
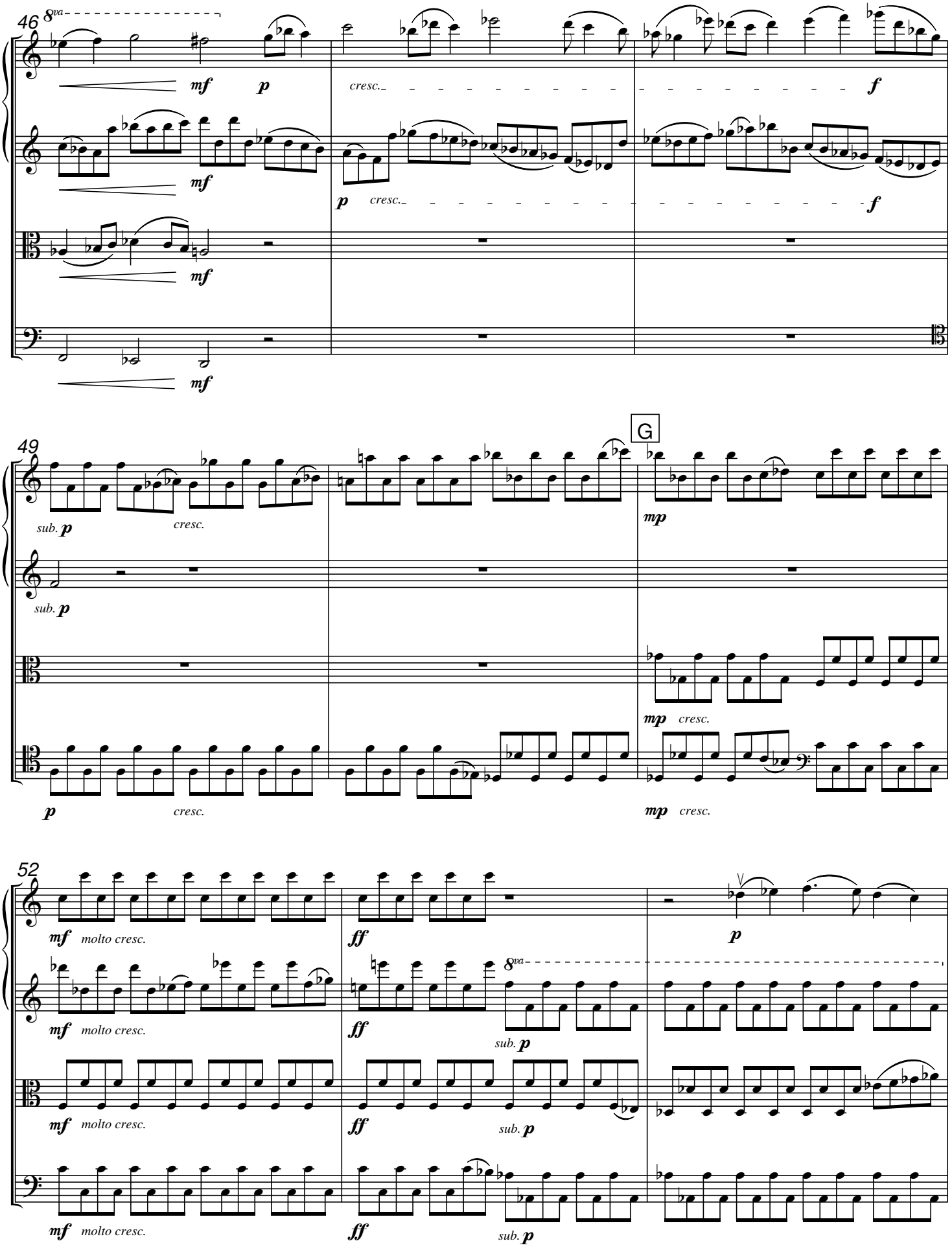
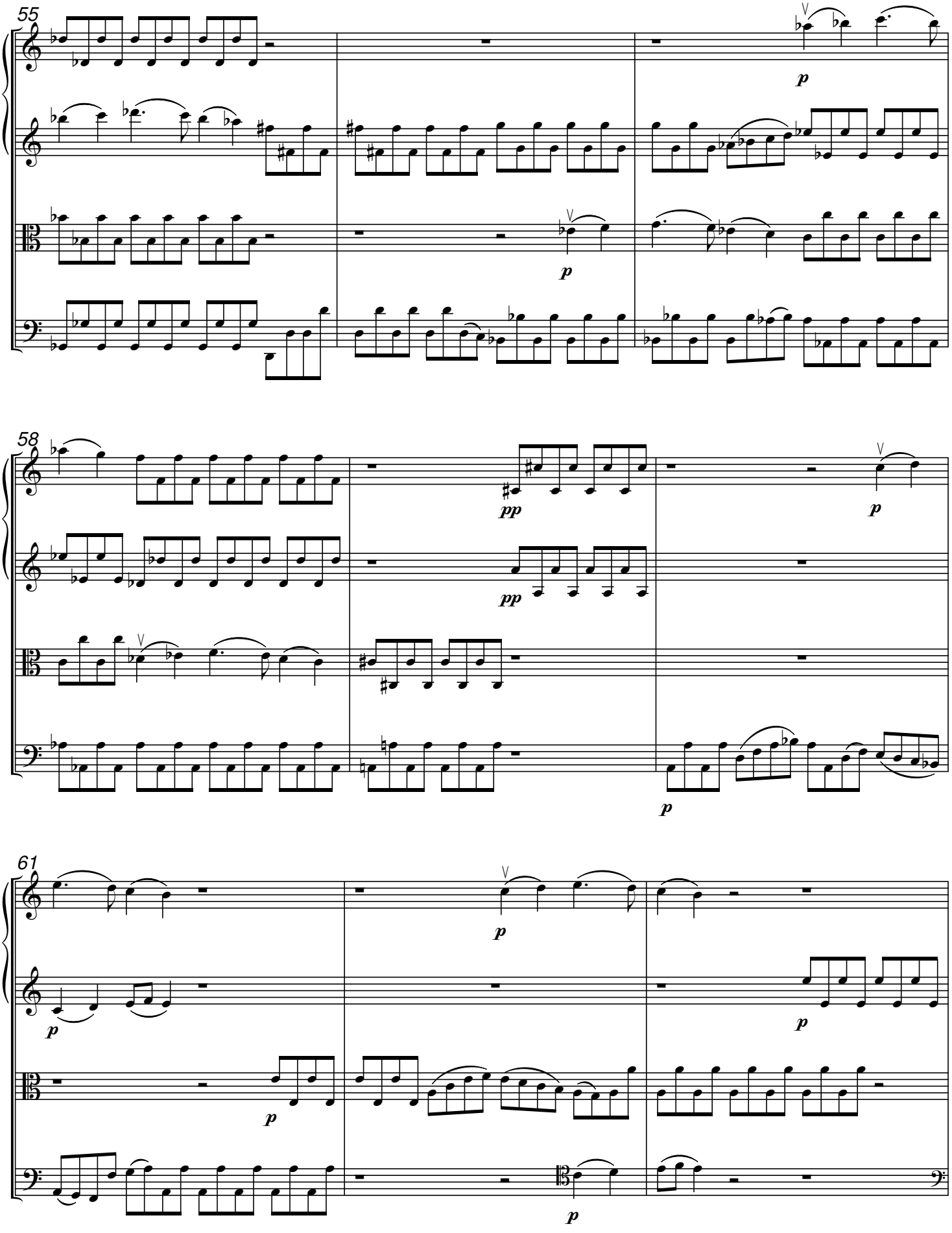

10
mf
p
cresc.
sub. p
mf
p
cresc.
sub. p
mf
mf
B
13
cresc.
cresc.
mp cresc.
mp cresc.
mp cresc.
16
mf
f cresc.
ff
mf
f cresc.
ff
mf
f cresc.
ff
f cresc.
ff

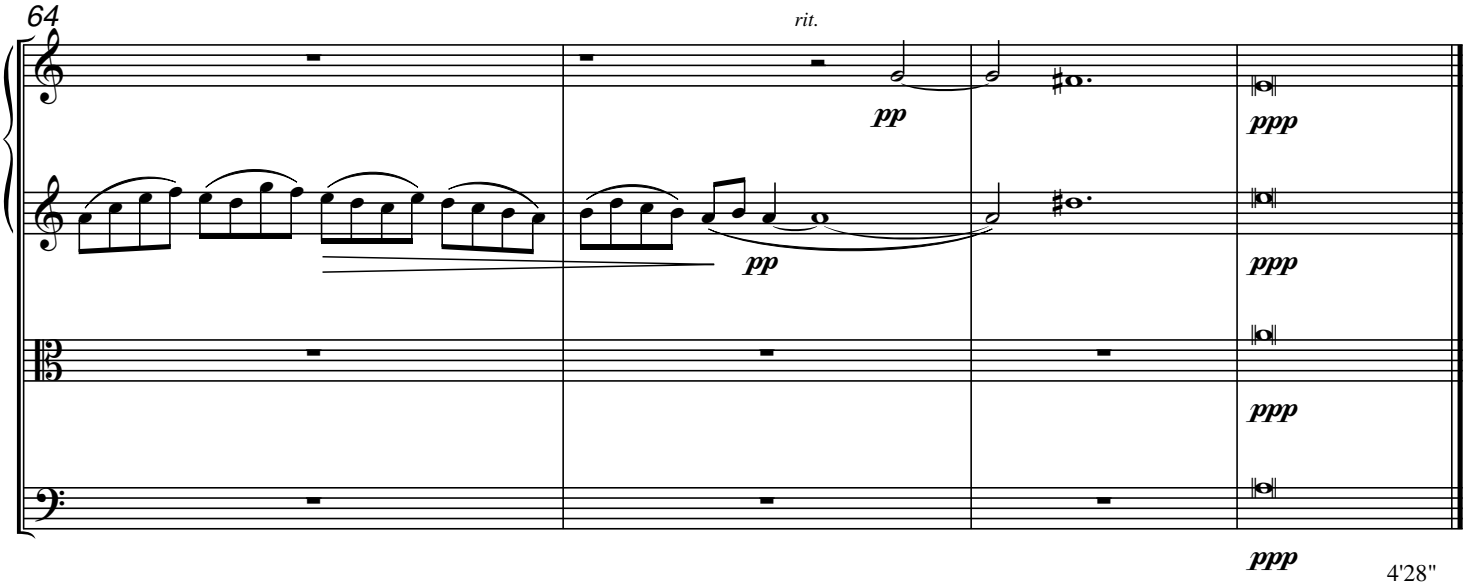

19
C
p
p
22
mp
mp
mp
pizz.
mp
arco
25
8va
D
p cresc.
p cresc.
p
p


28
sub. pp
p
p
p
pp
p
31
34
mf
f
mf
f
mf
f


E
37
8va
mp
mp
mp
mp
pizz.
arco
40
p
p
p
p
F
43
mp
pizz.
arco

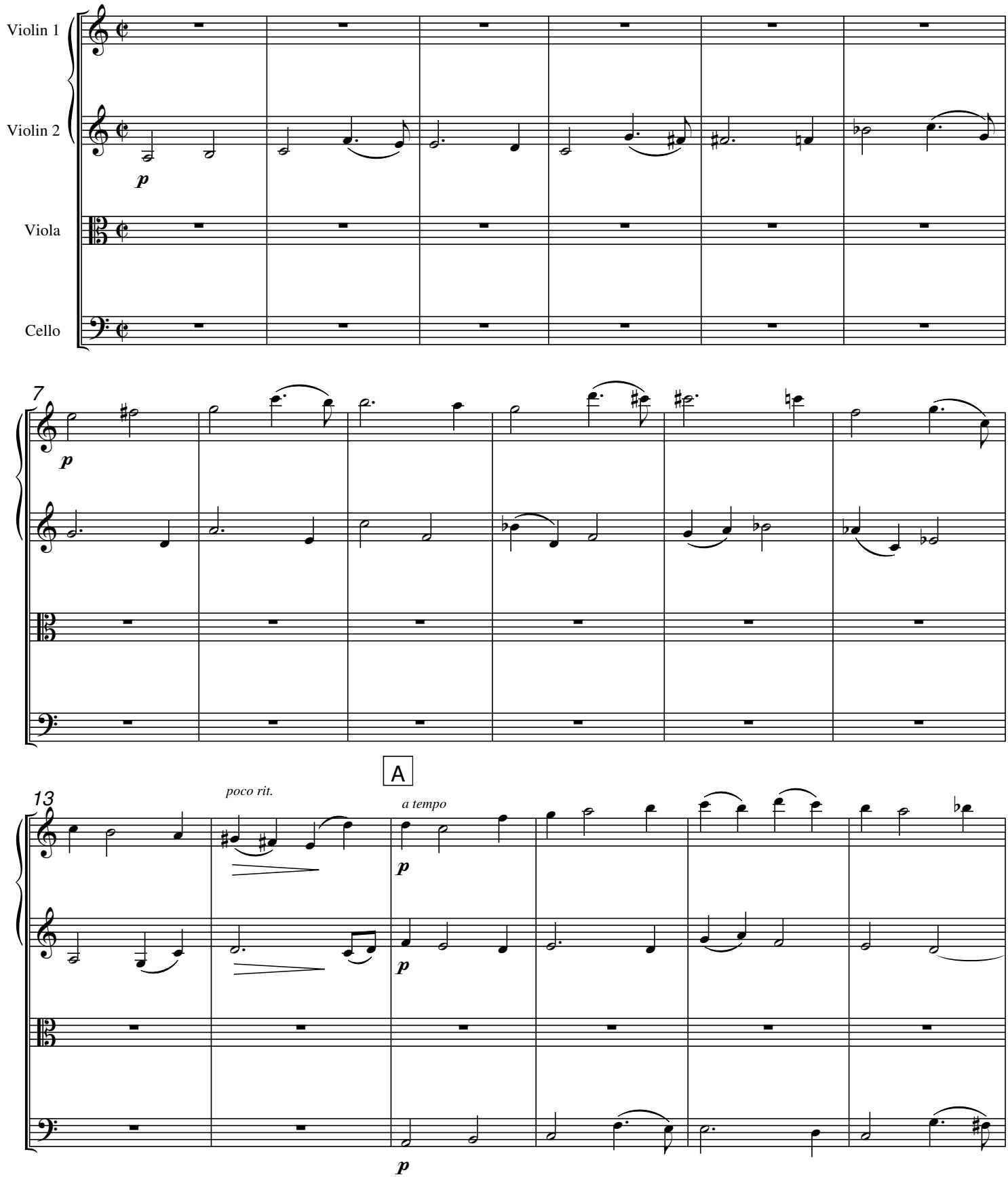

46
8va
mf
p
cresc.
f
mf
p
cresc.
f
mf
49
G
sub. p
cresc.
mp
sub. p
mp
cresc.
p
cresc.
mp
cresc.
52
mf
molto cresc.
ff
p
mf
molto cresc.
ff
8va
sub. p
mf
molto cresc.
ff
sub. p
mf
molto cresc.
ff
sub. p


55
p
p
58
pp
pp
p
p
61
p
p
p
p


64
rit.
pp
ppp
pp
ppp
ppp
ppp
4'28"

II

Molto Andante (𝅗𝅥 = 60)



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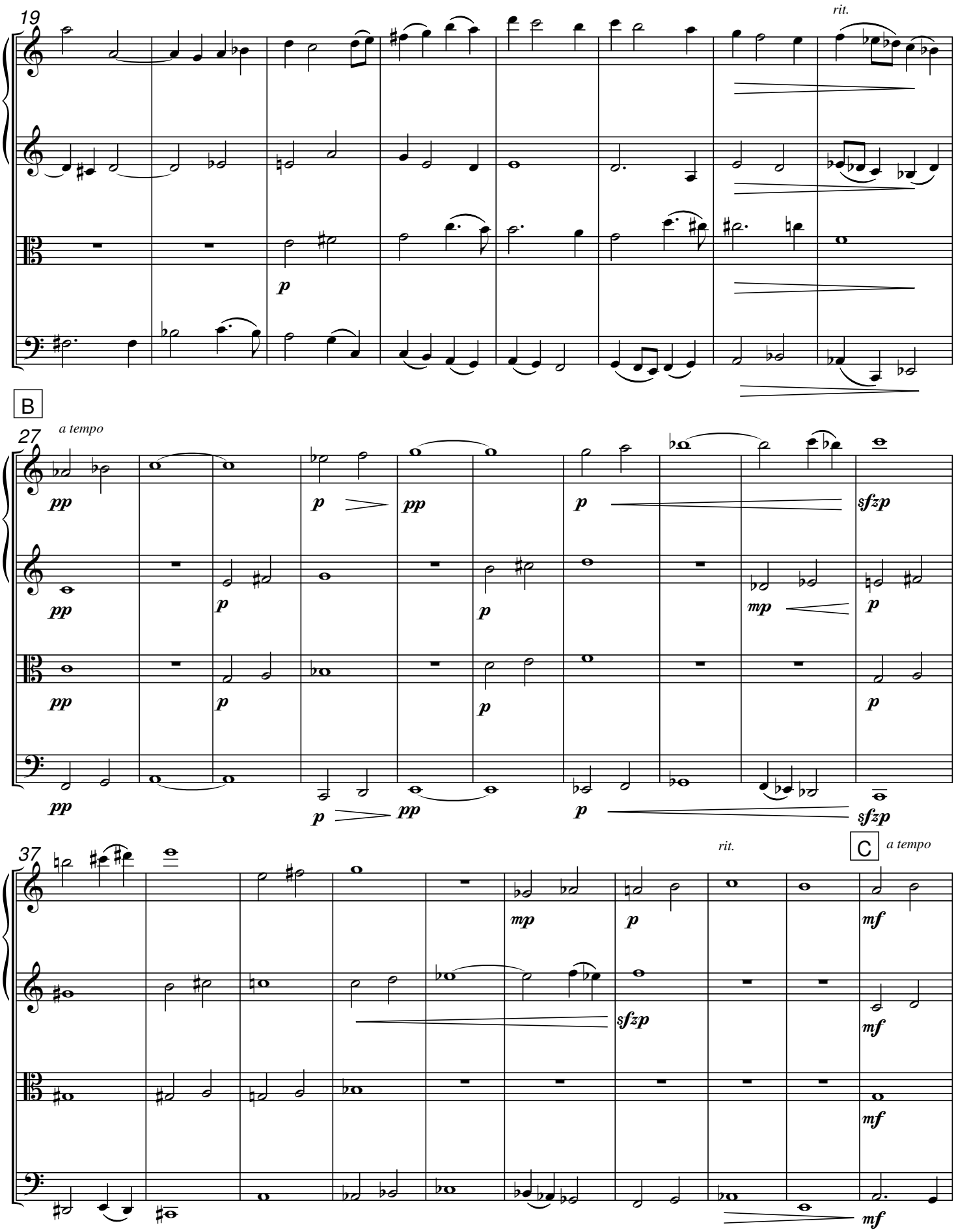
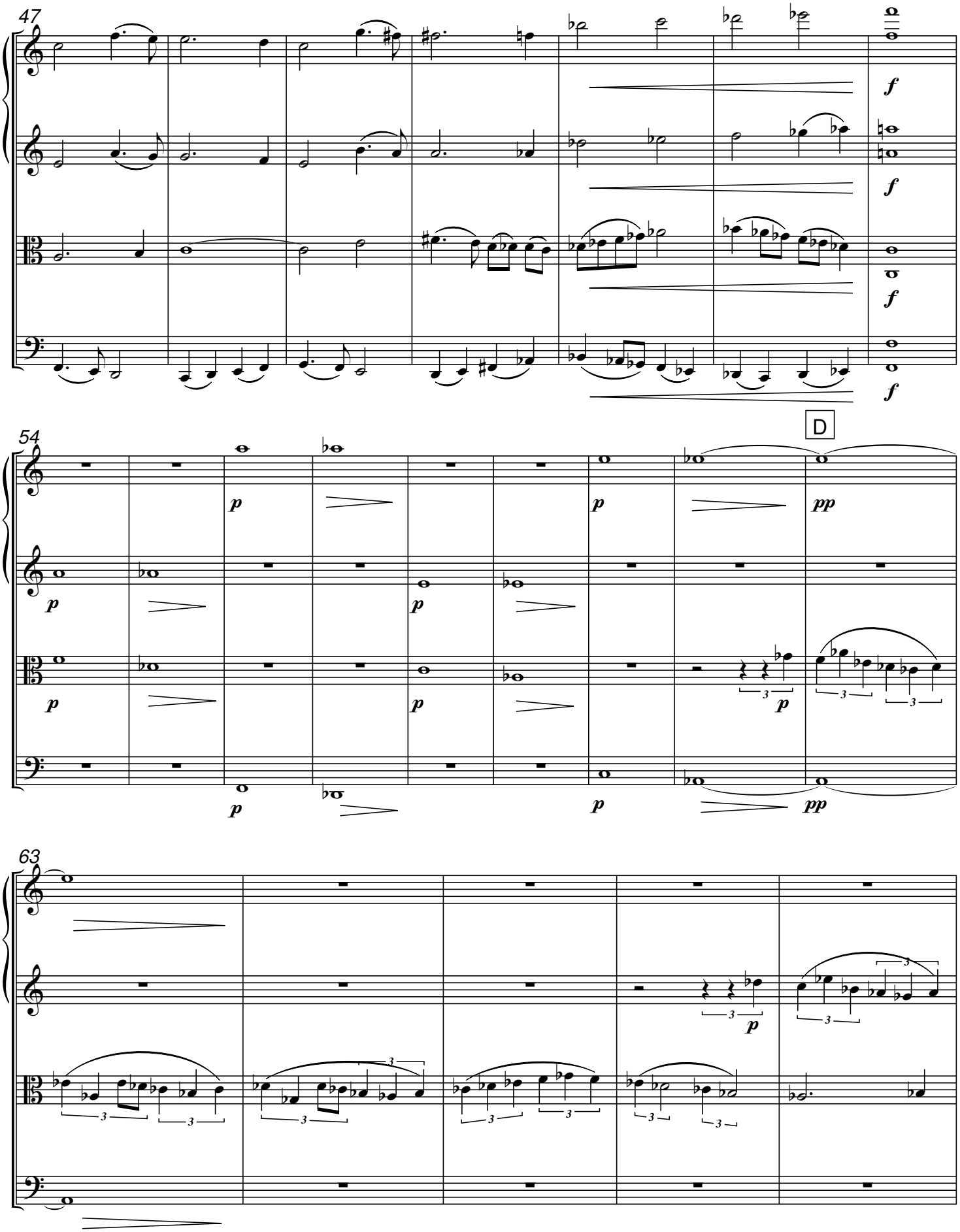
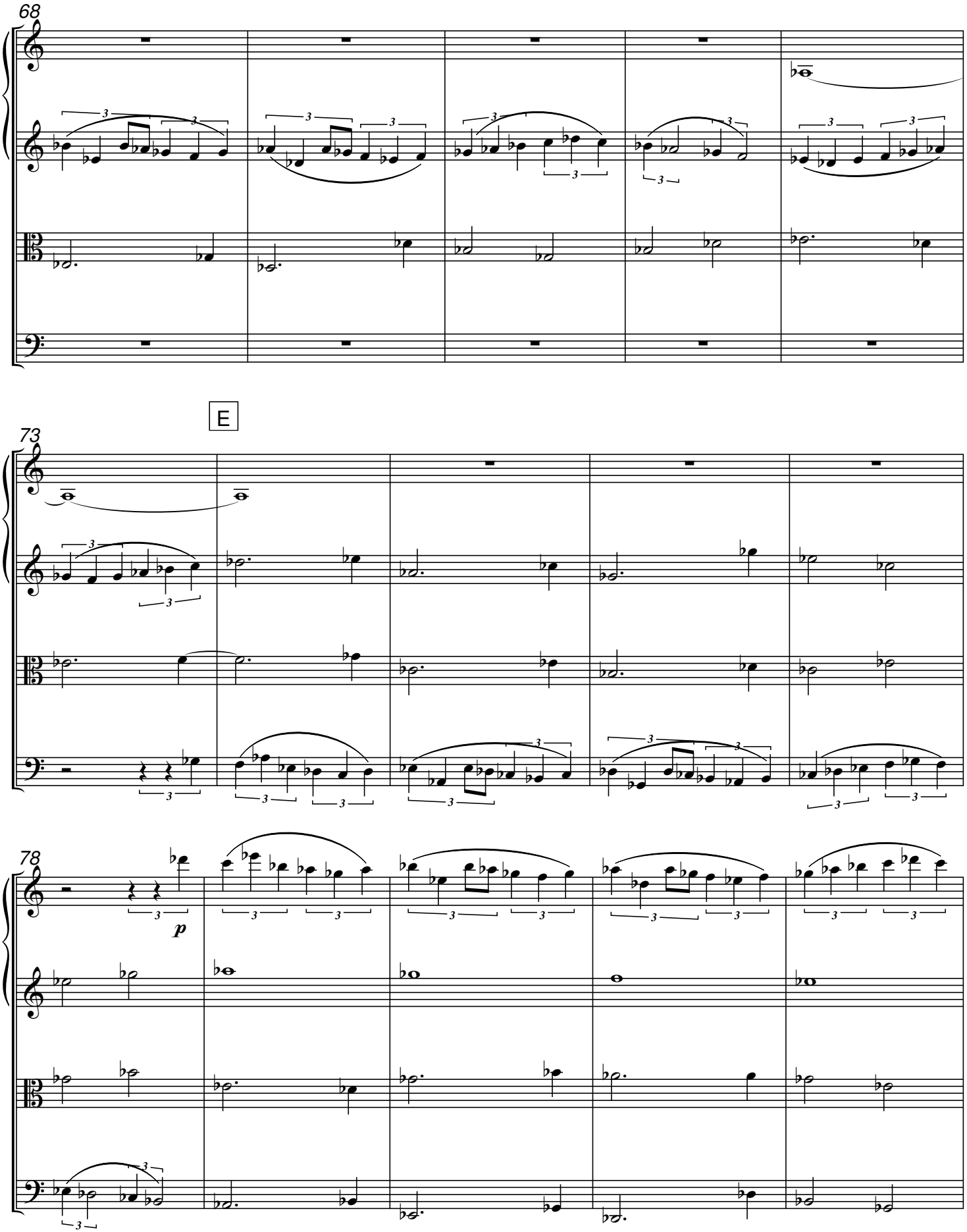
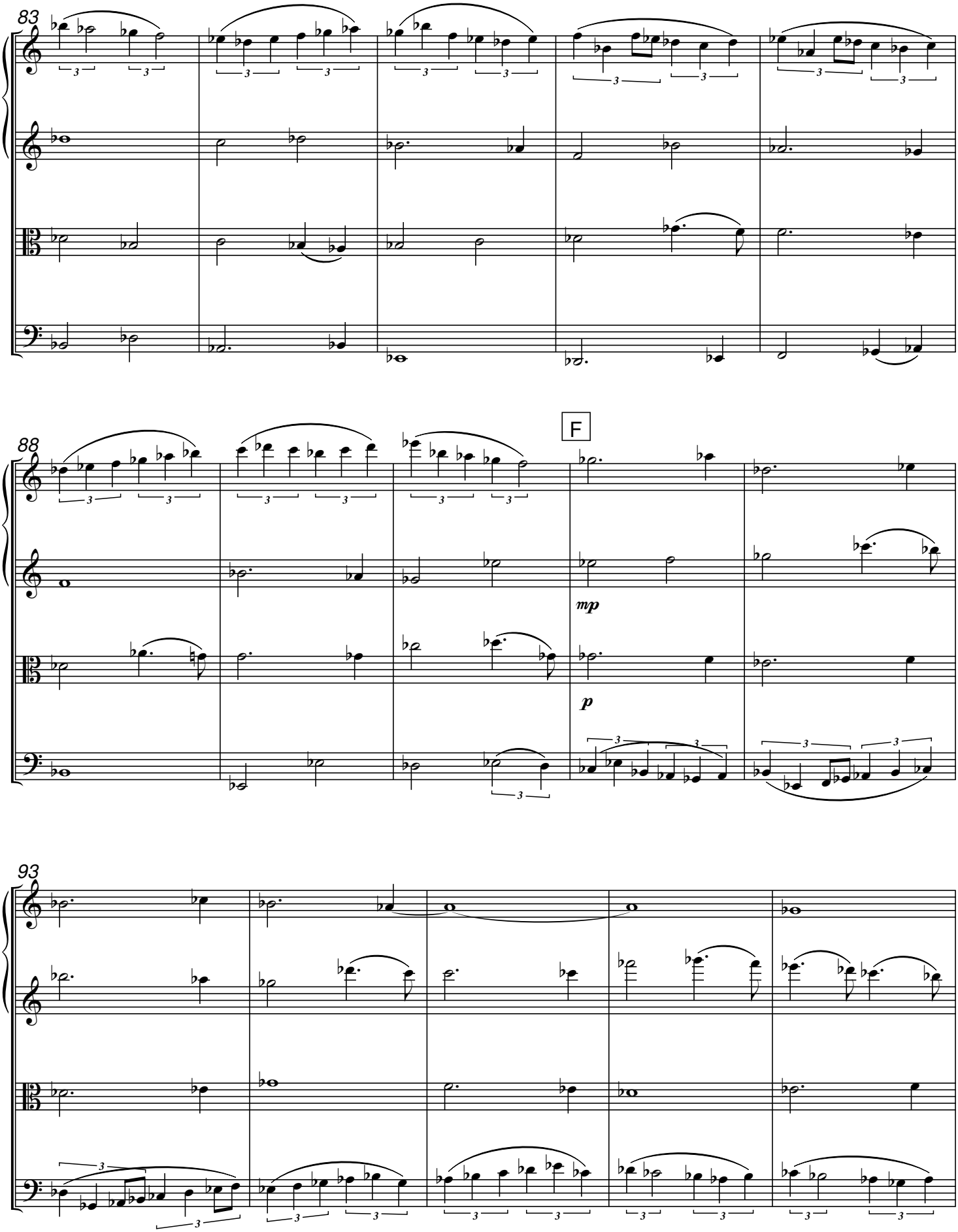
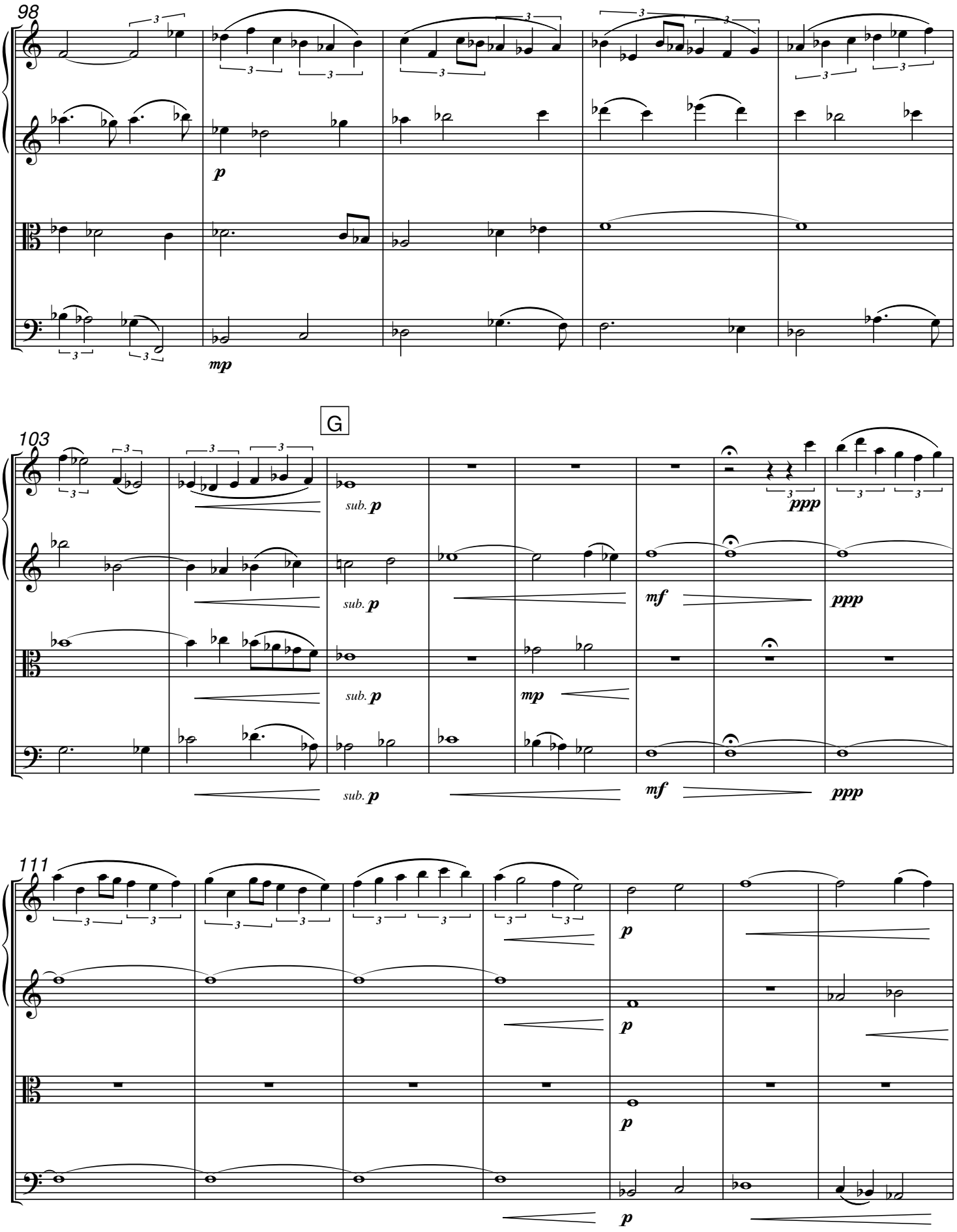
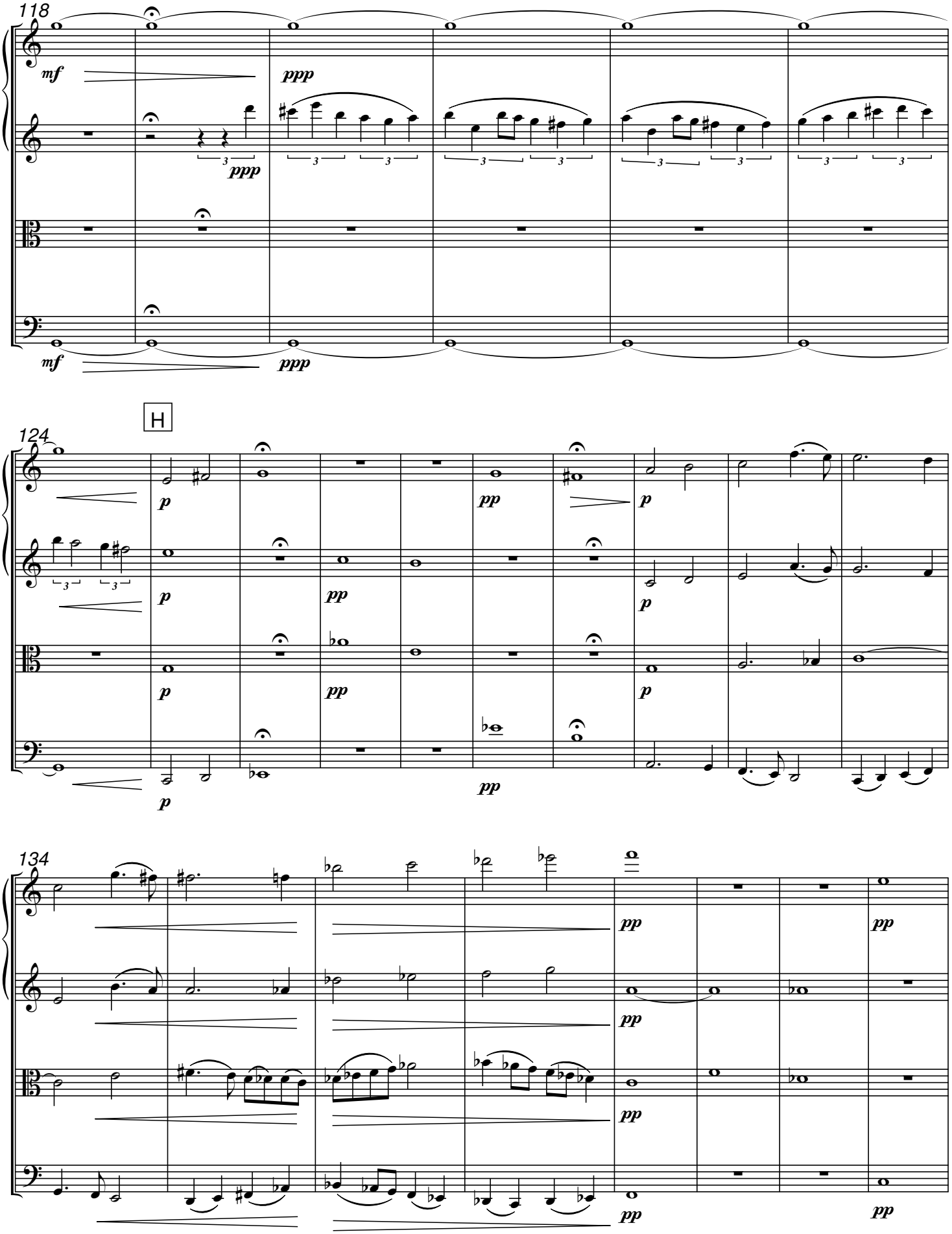

19
rit.
p
B
27
a tempo
pp
p
pp
p
sfzp
mp
37
rit.
C
a tempo
mf
sfzp

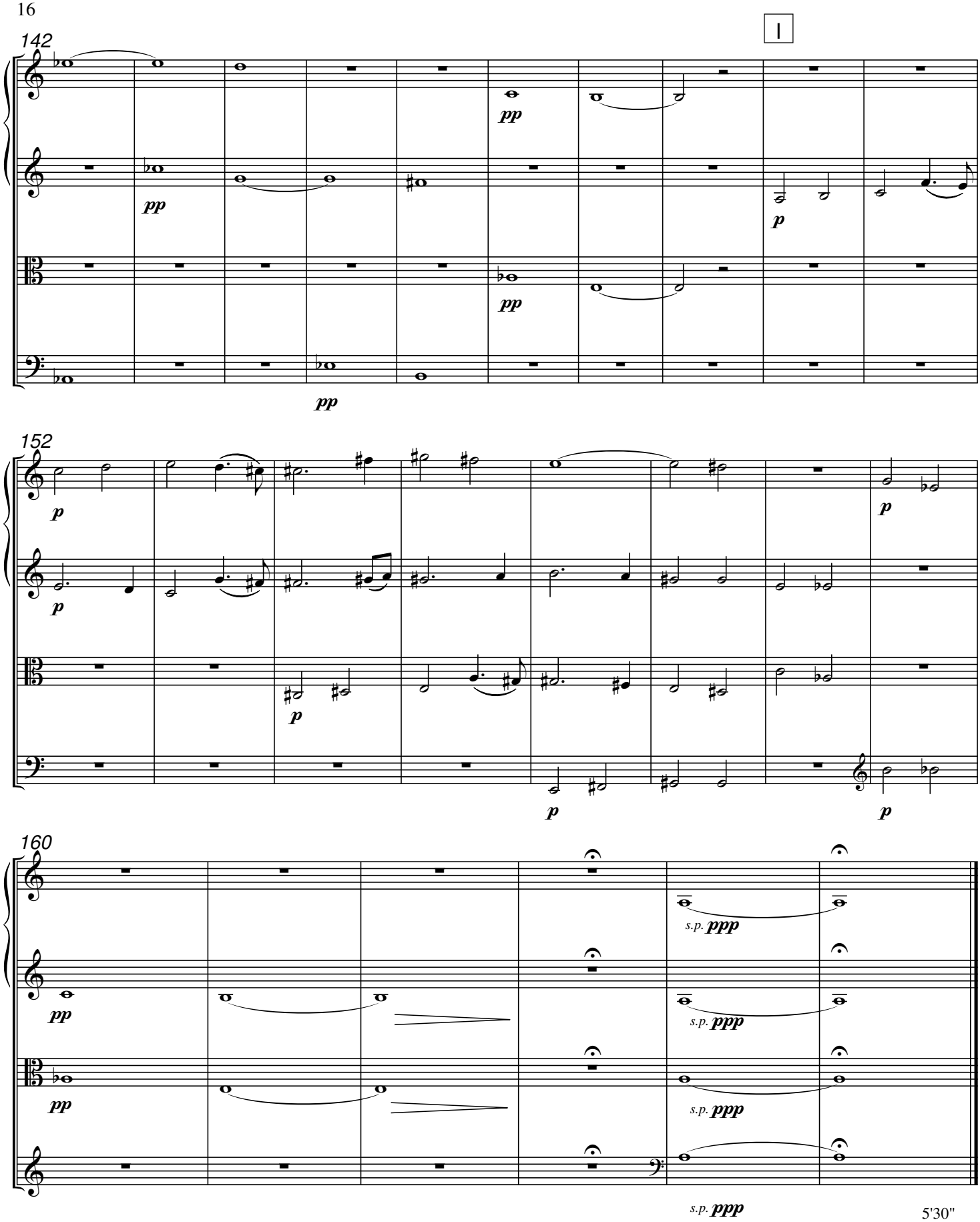

47
f
f
f
f
54
D
p
p
p
pp
p
p
p
p
p
pp
63
p


68
E
73
78
p


83
88
F
mp
p
93

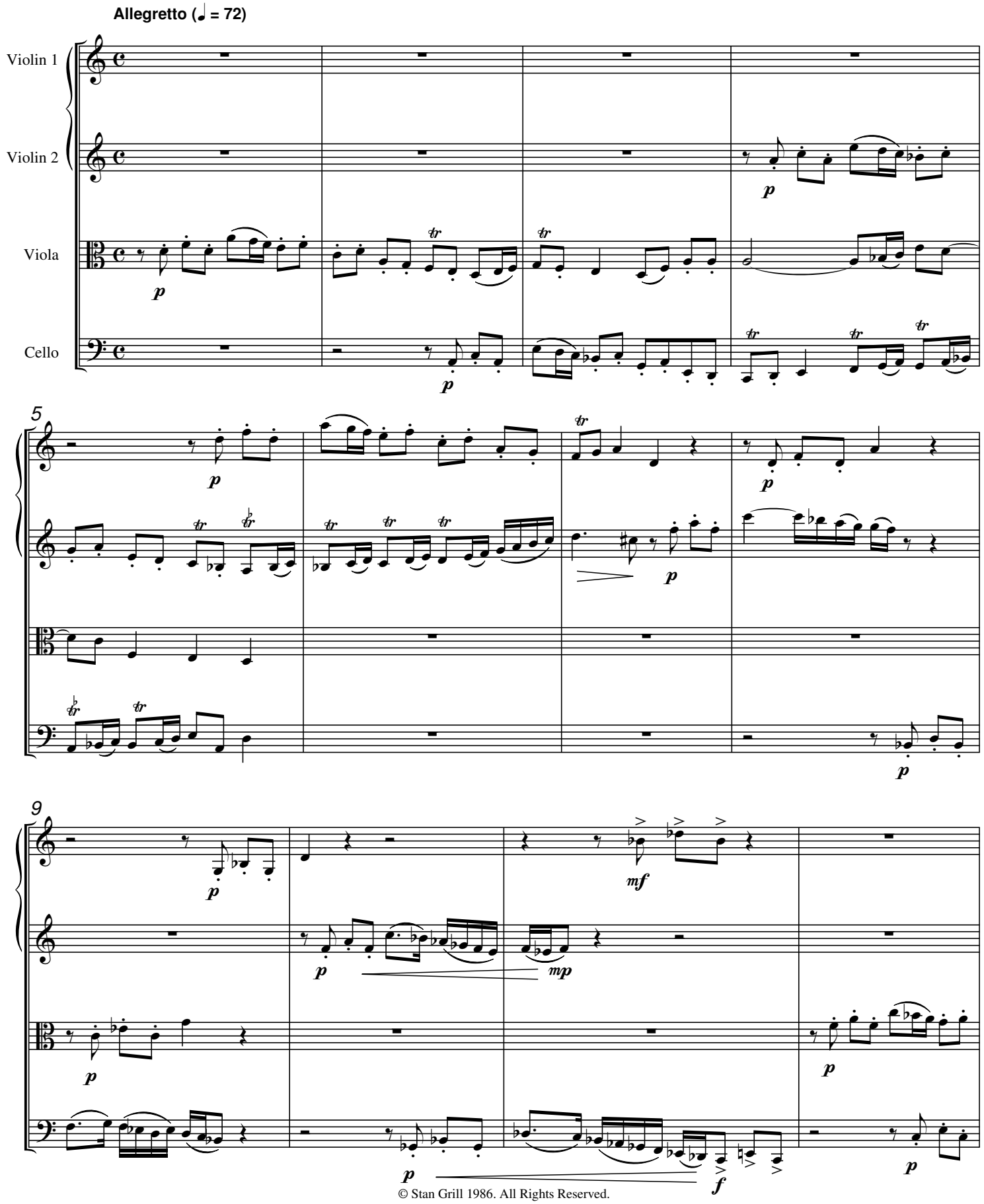

98
p
mp
G
103
sub. p
sub. p
sub. p
mp
sub. p
mf
ppp
mf
ppp
ppp
111
p
p
p
p


118
mf
ppp
ppp
mf
ppp
H
124
p
pp
p
p
pp
p
p
pp
p
134
pp
pp
pp
pp
pp



5'30"

III



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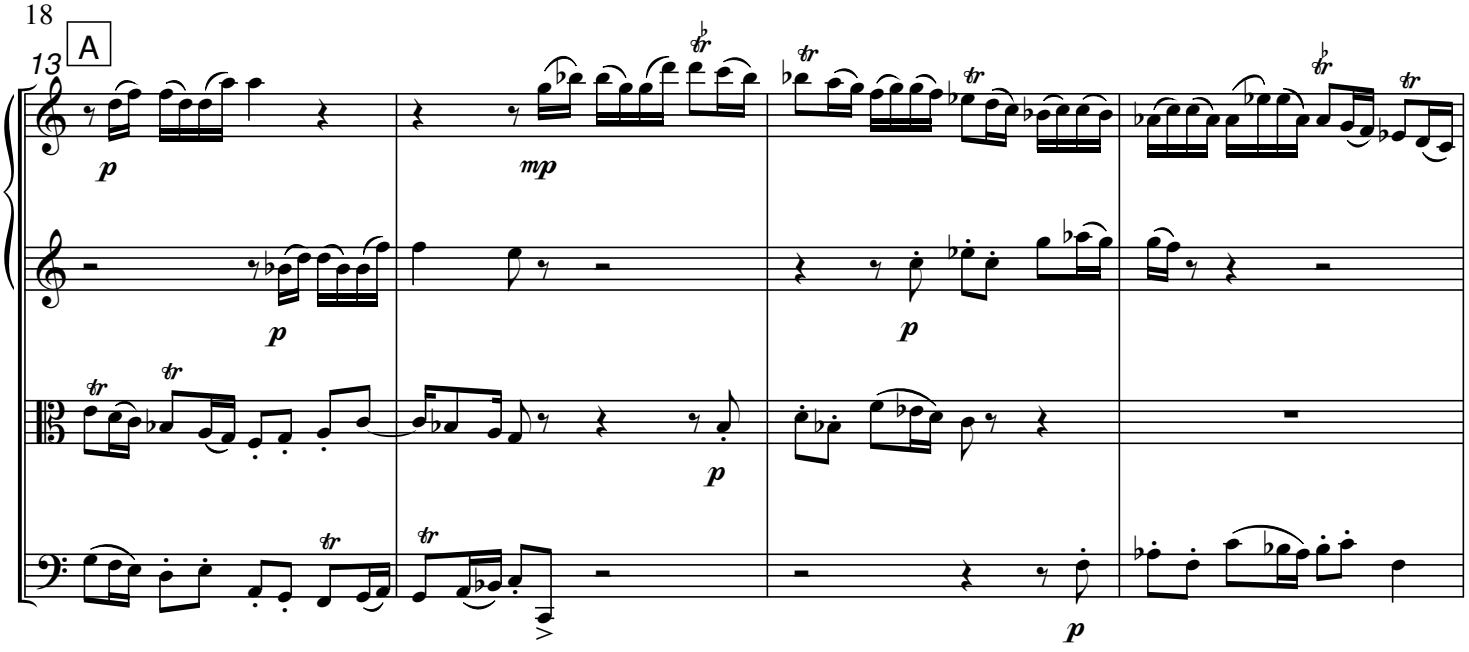
A

13



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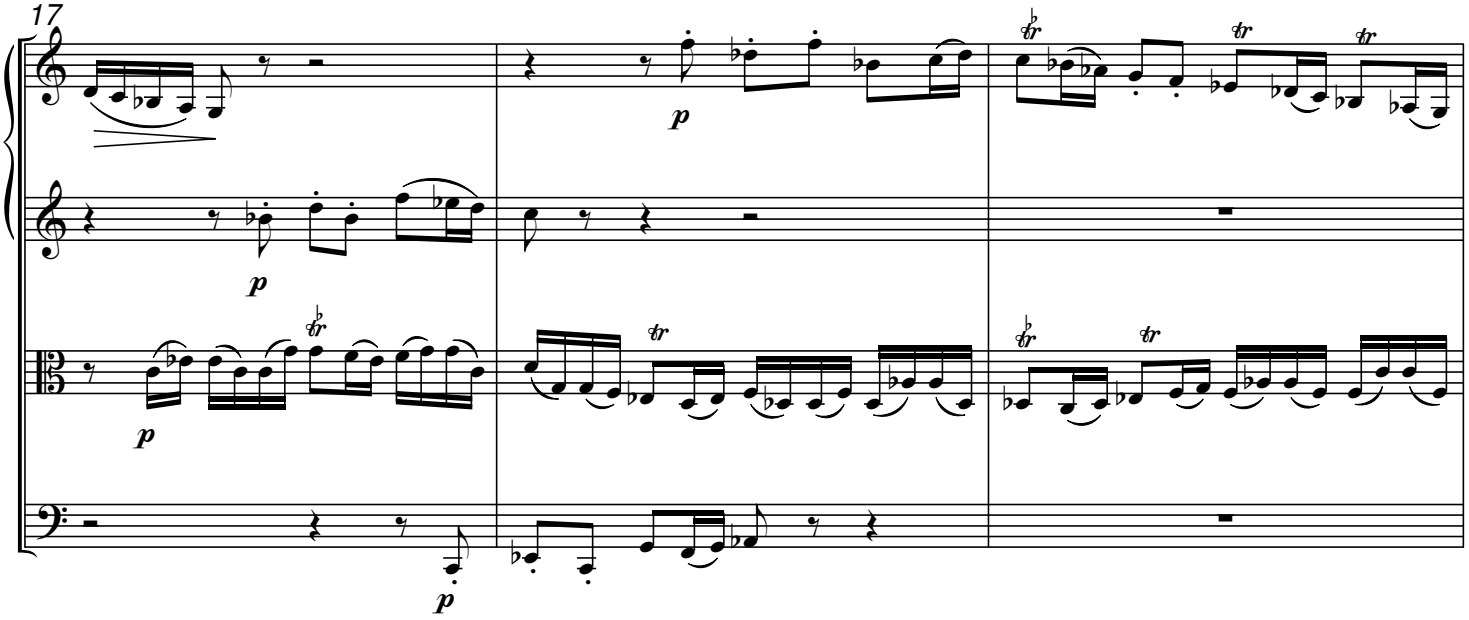

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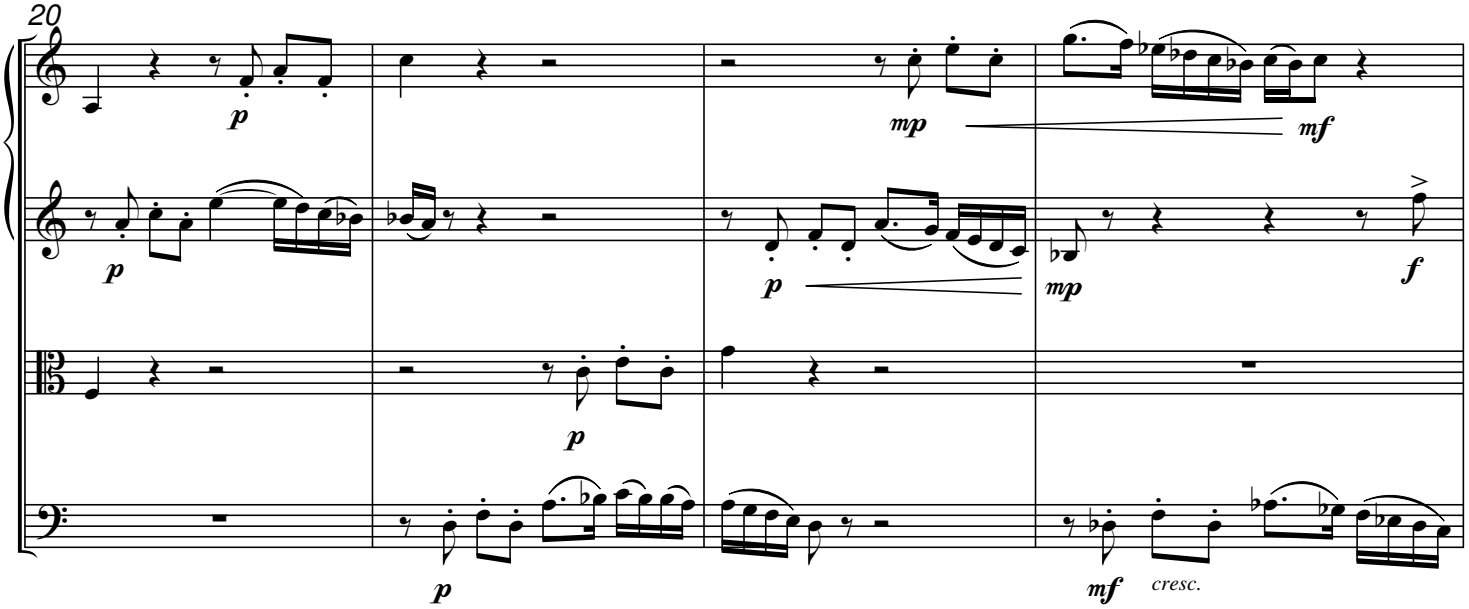
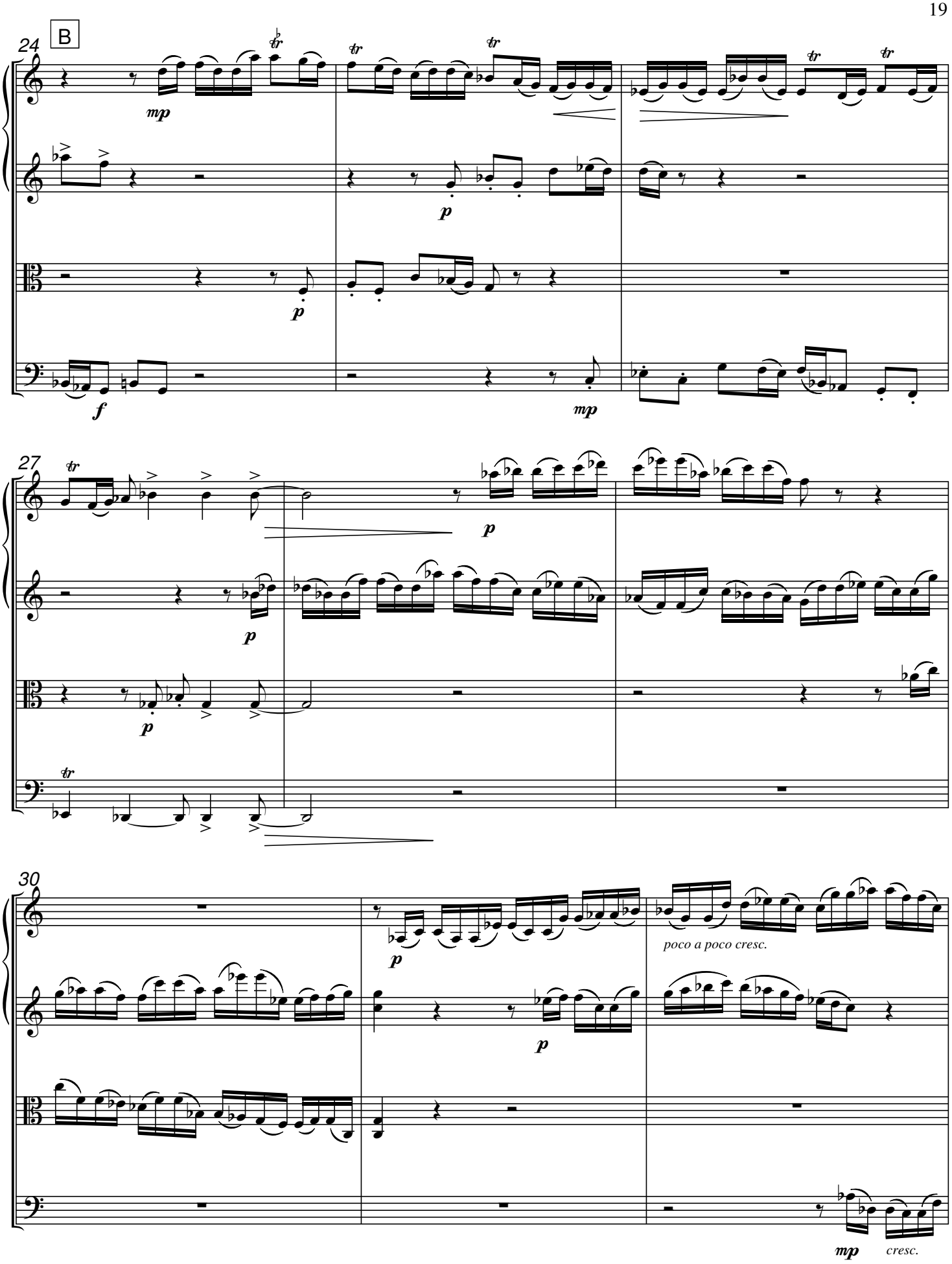
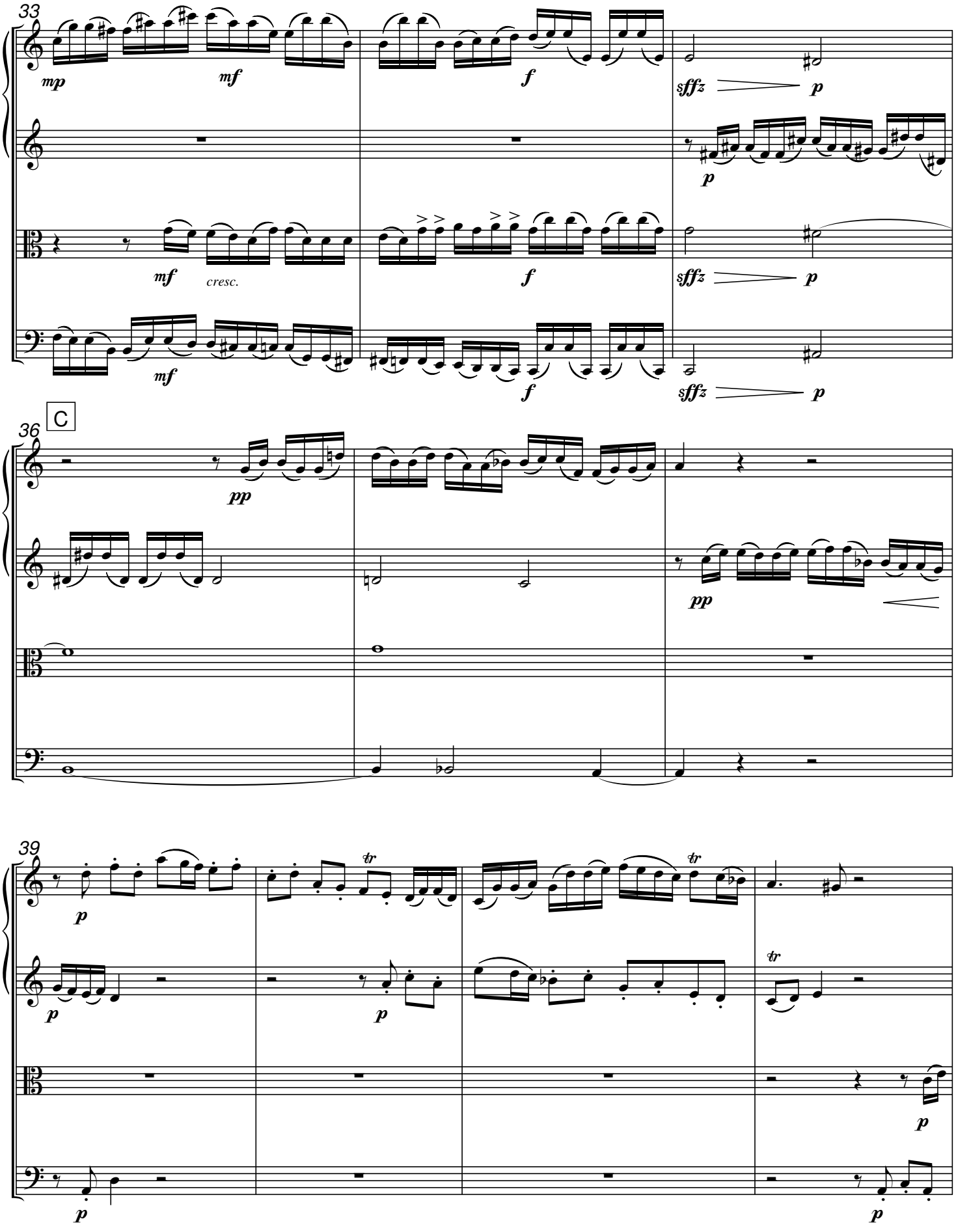
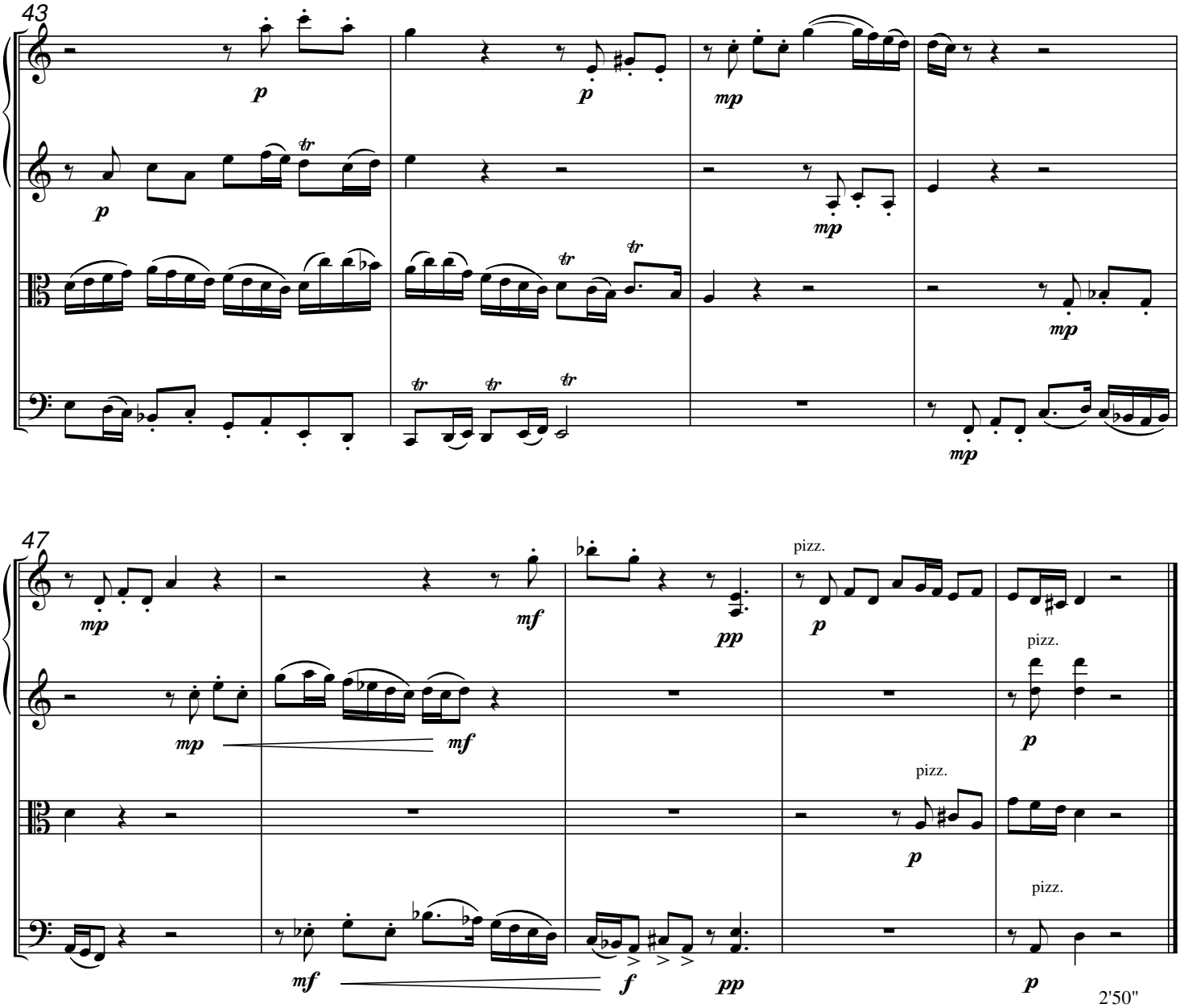
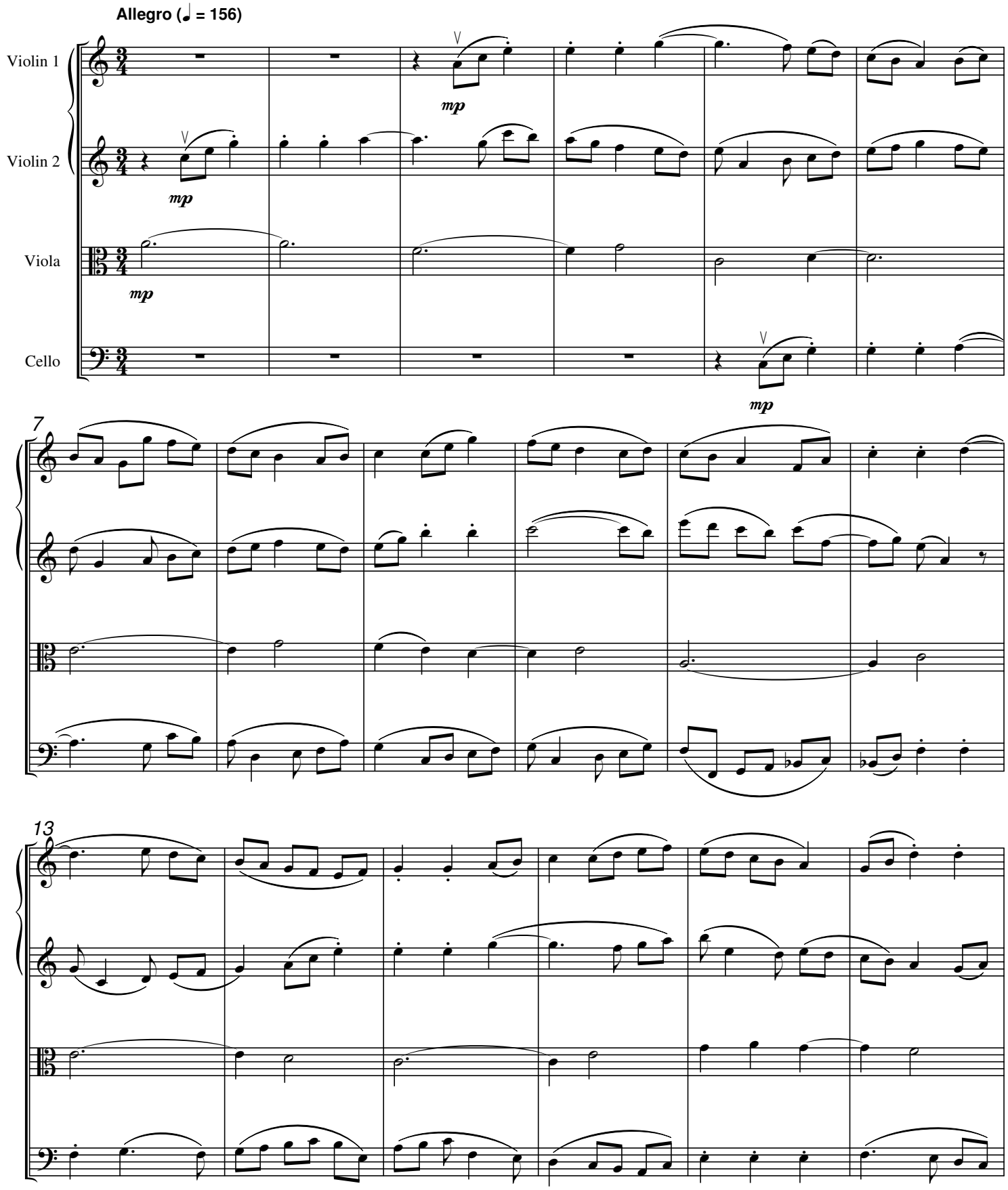



B
24
mp
p
p
f
mp
27
p
p
p
30
p
p
poco a poco cresc.
mp
cresc.


33
mp
mf
f
sffz
p
mf
cresc.
f
sffz
p
mf
f
sffz
p
C
36
pp
pp
39
p
p
tr
tr
p
p
p


43
p
p
mp
p
mp
mp
mp
47
mp
mf
pp
pizz.
p
mp
mf
pizz.
p
pizz.
p
mf
f
pp
pizz.
p
2'50"

IV



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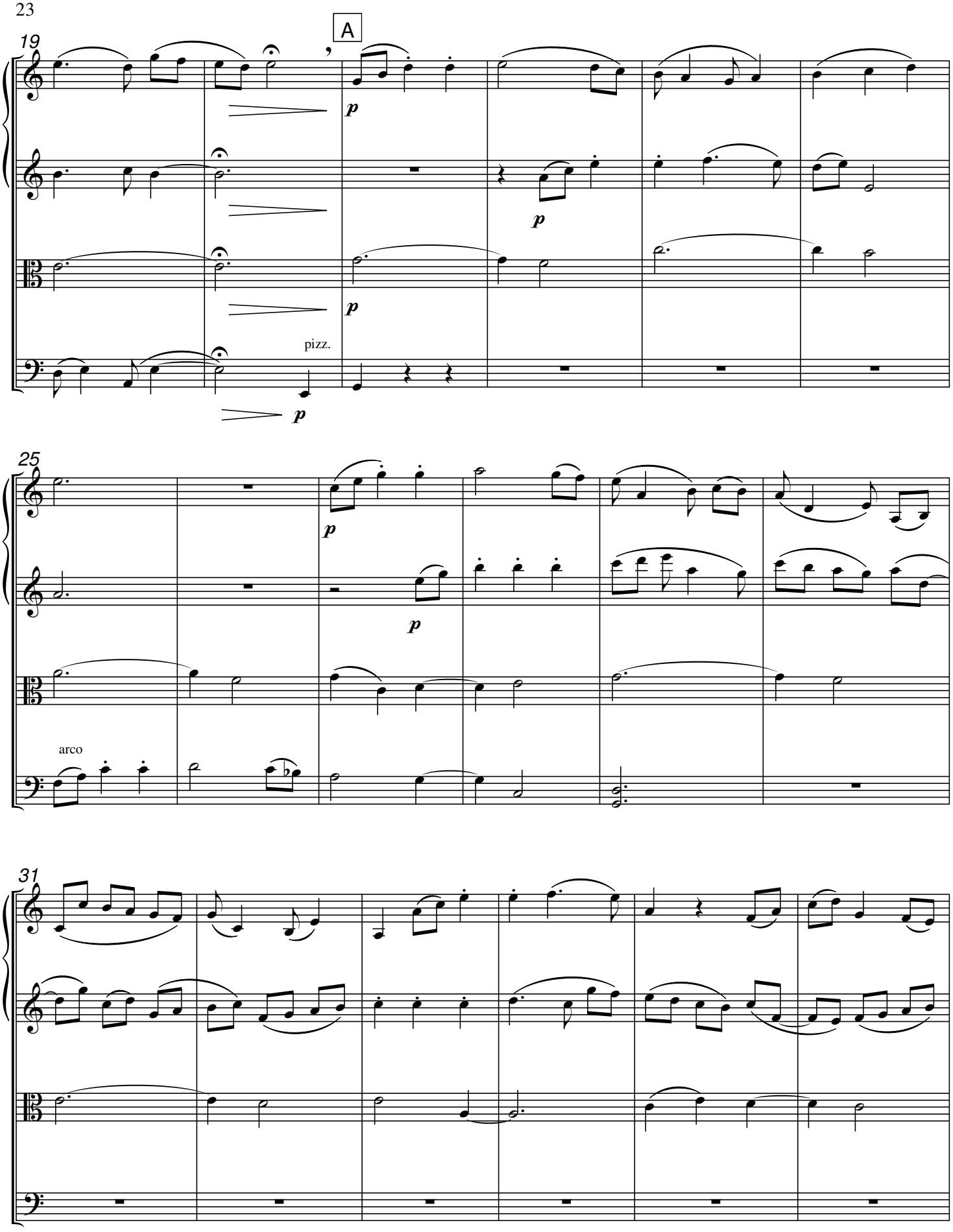
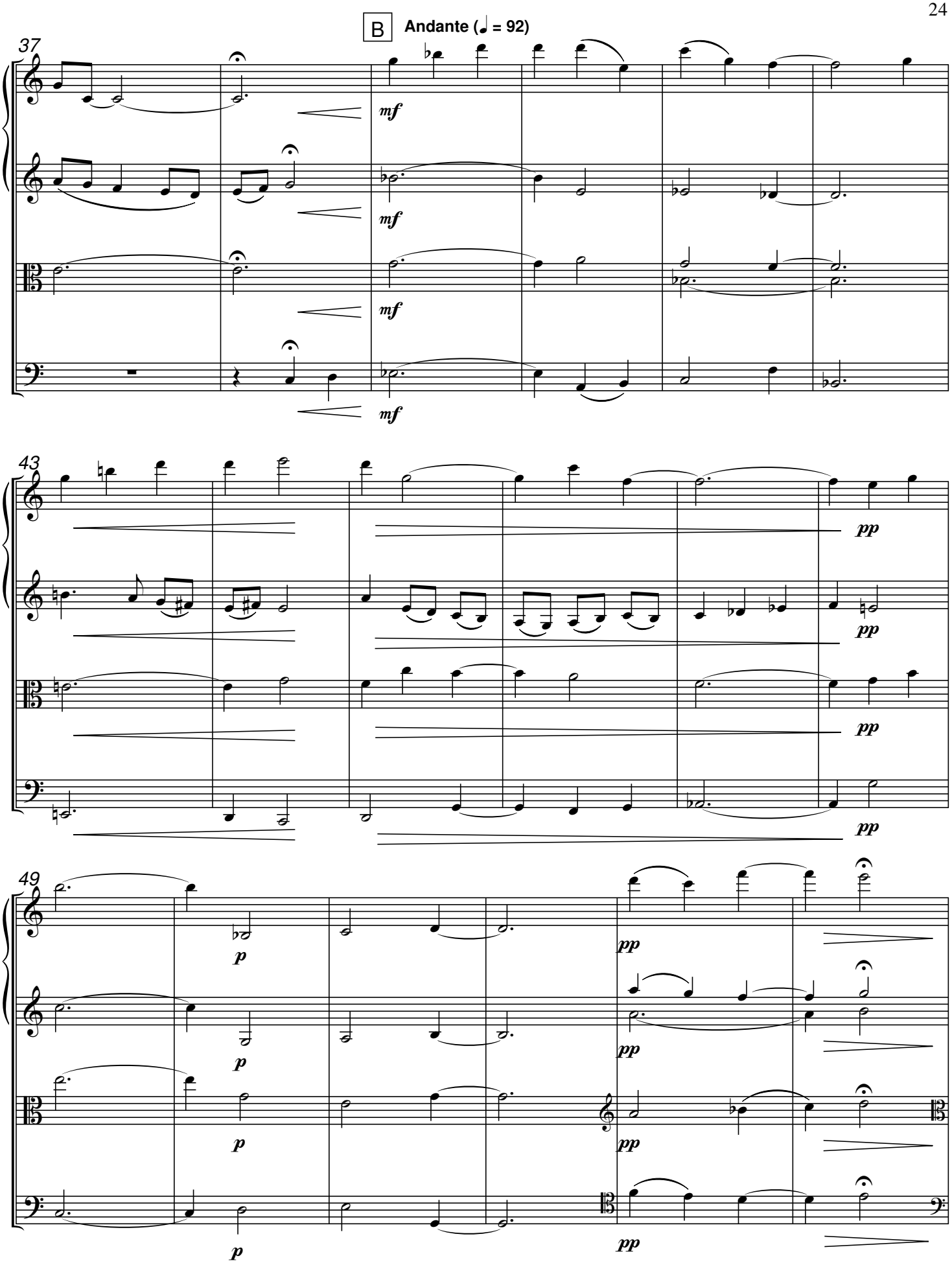
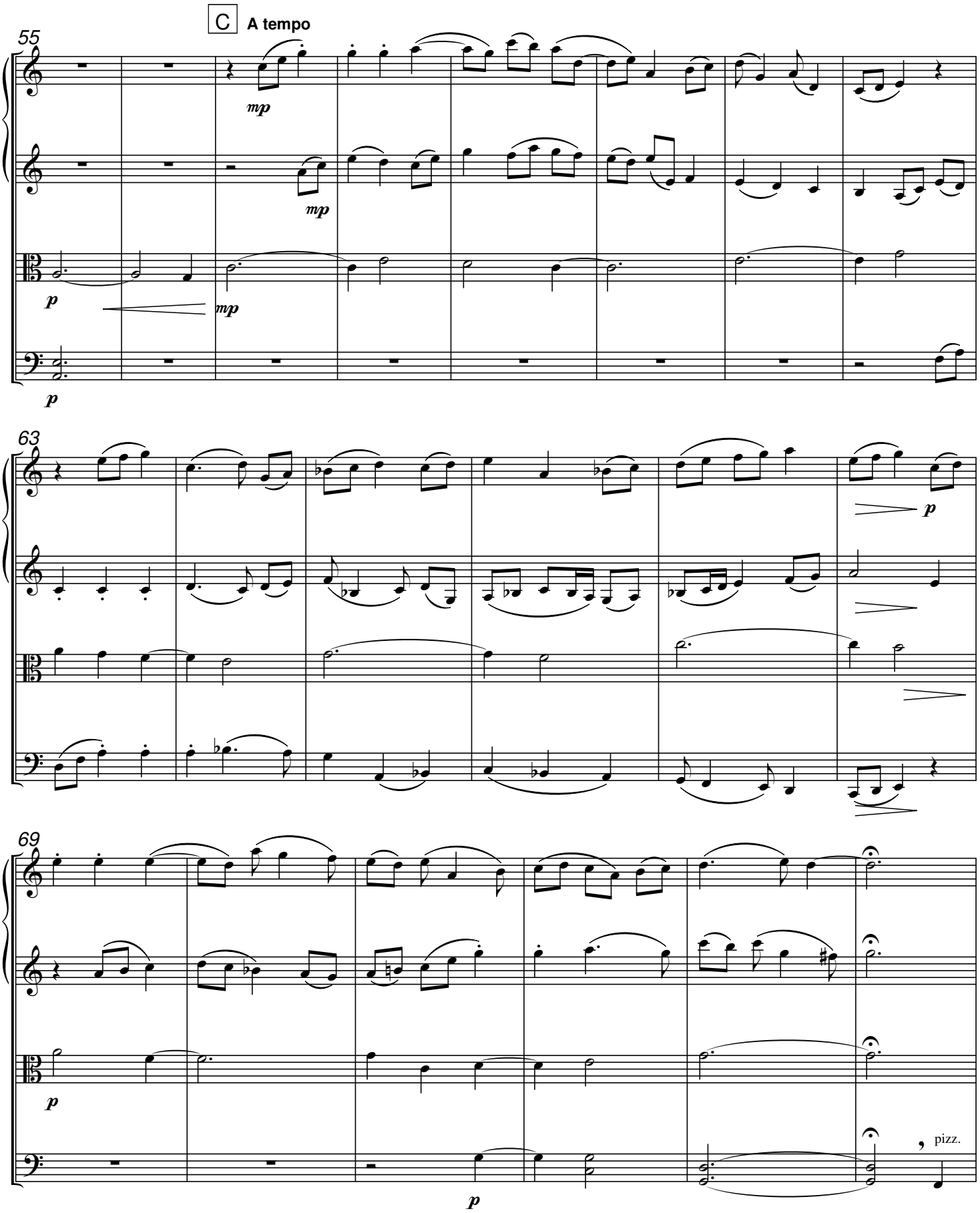
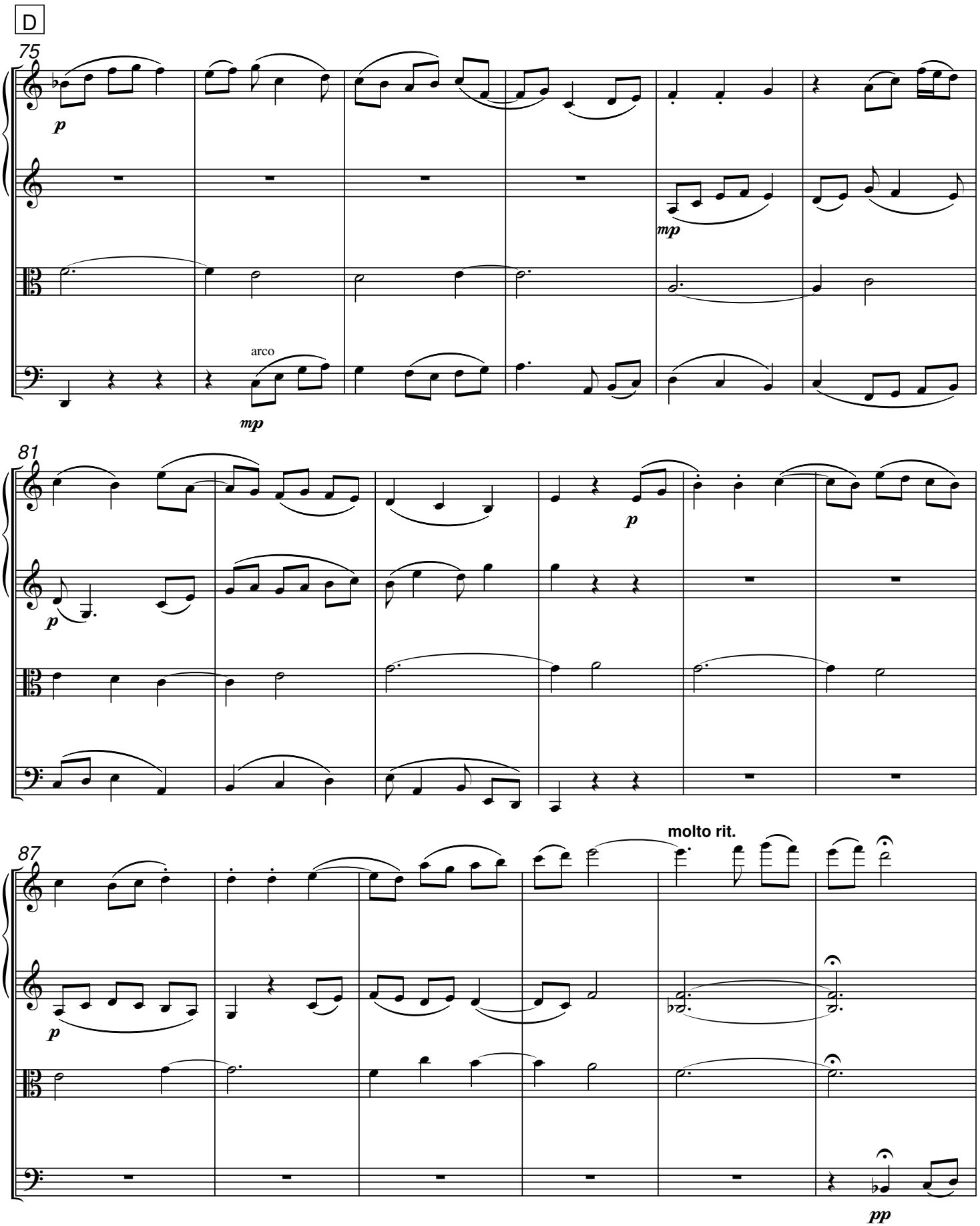

19
A
p
p
p
pizz.
p
25
p
p
arco
31

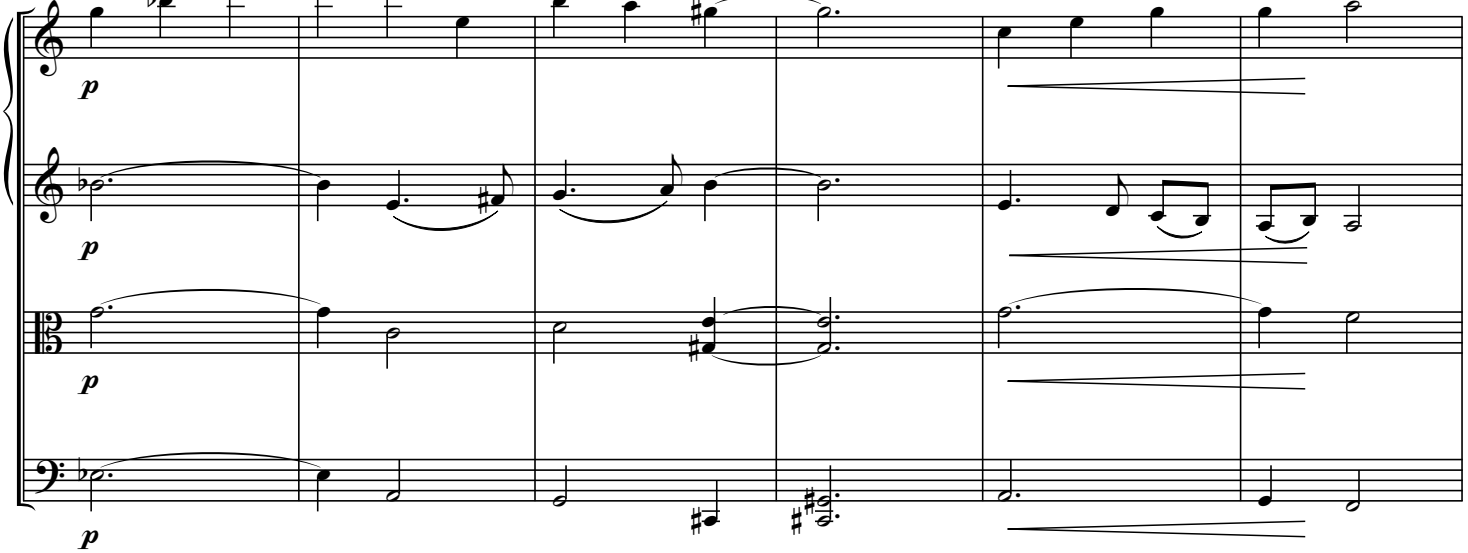

B
Andante (♩ = 92)
37
mf
mf
mf
mf
43
pp
pp
pp
pp
49
p
p
p
p
pp
pp
pp
pp


C
A tempo
55
mp
mp
p
mp
p
63
p
69
p
pizz.
p


D
75
p
mp
arco
mp
81
p
p
87
molto rit.
p
pp

E **Andante**

93



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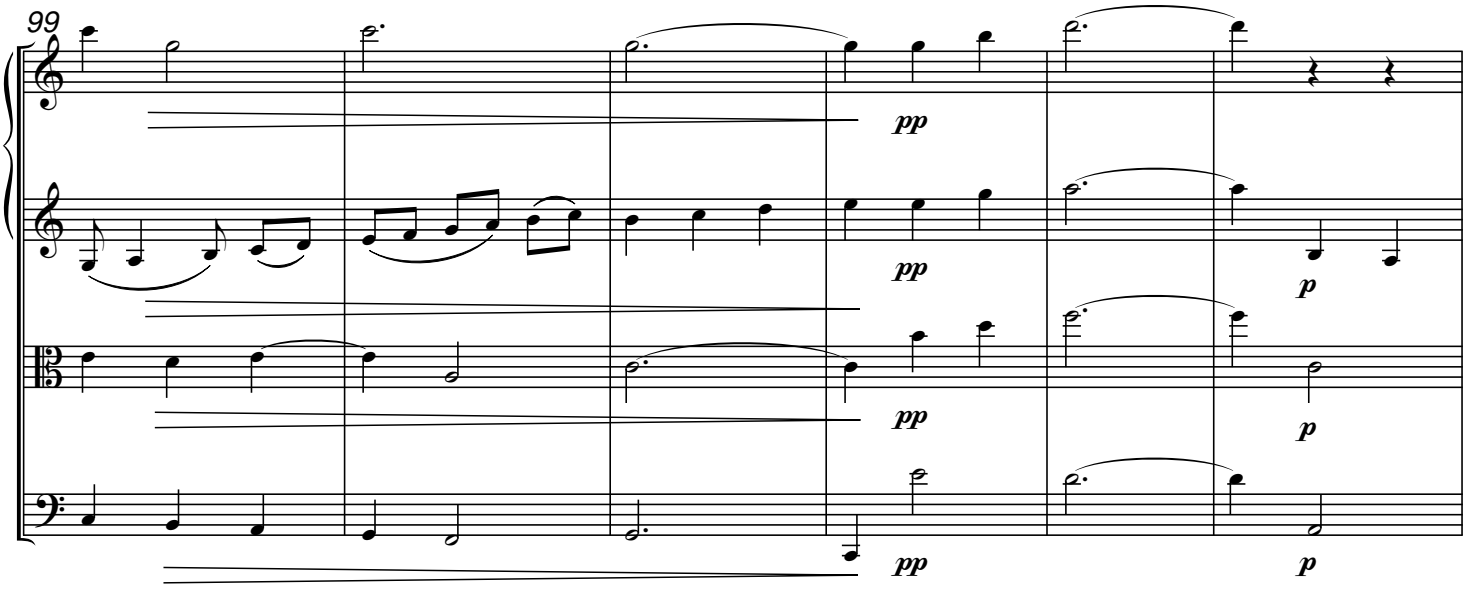
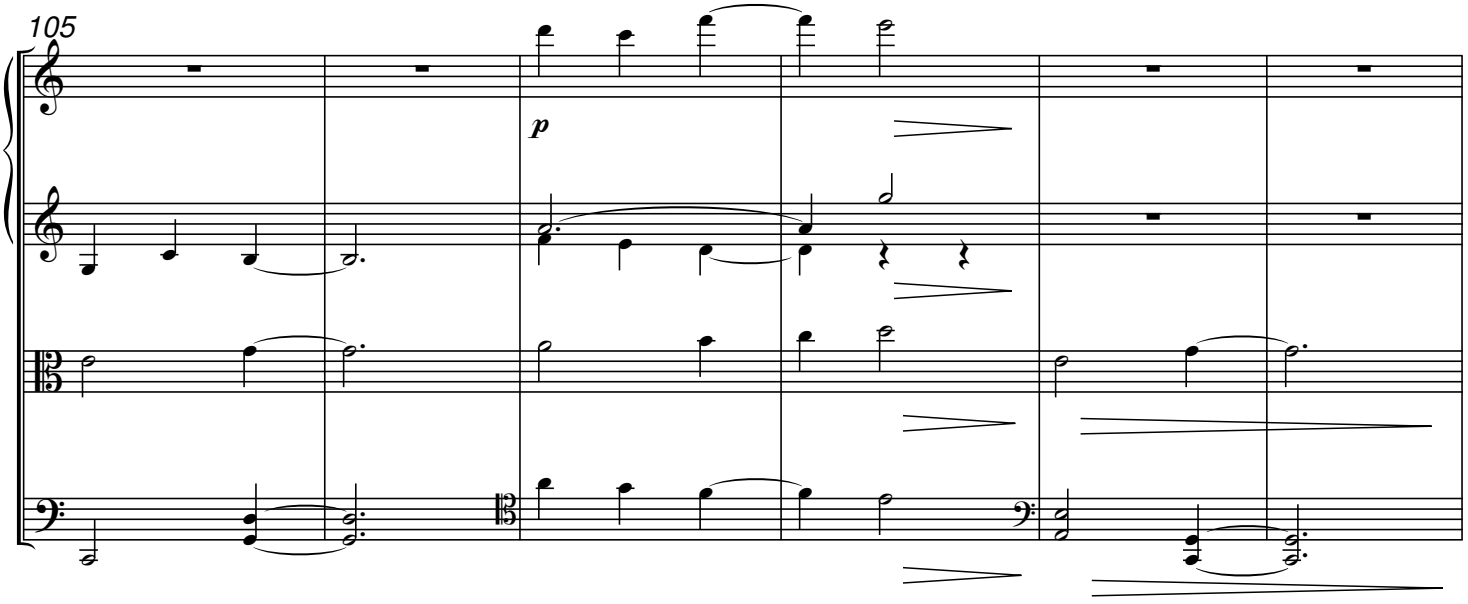
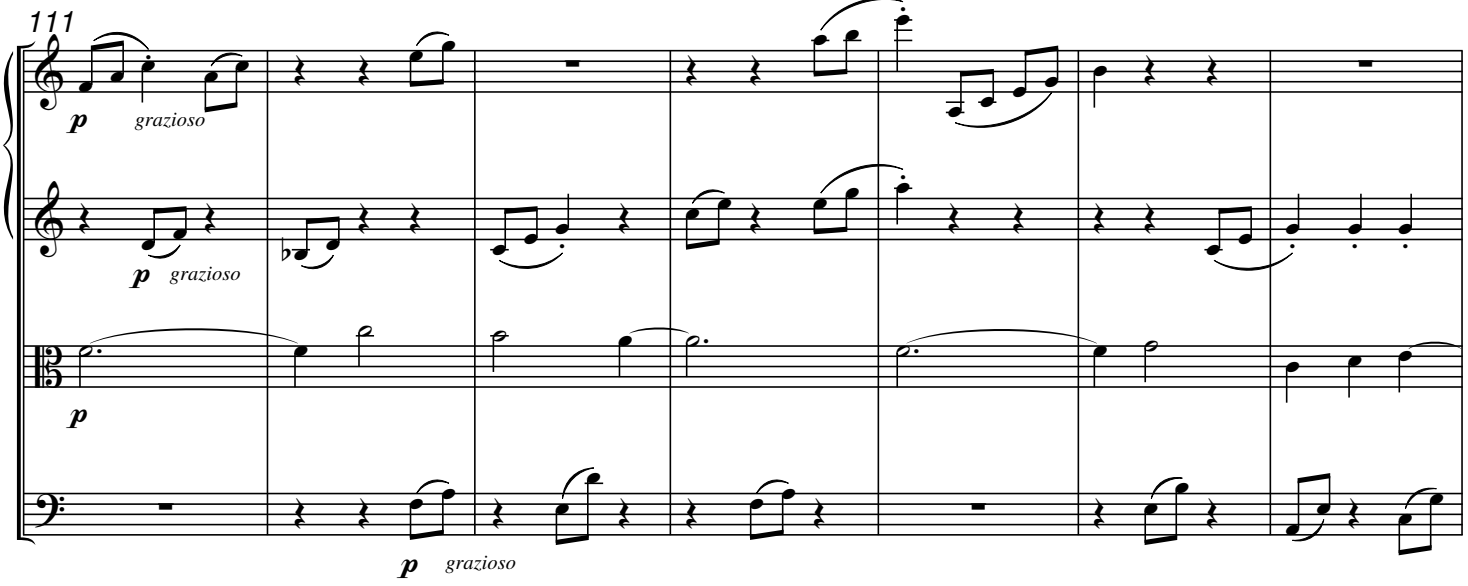
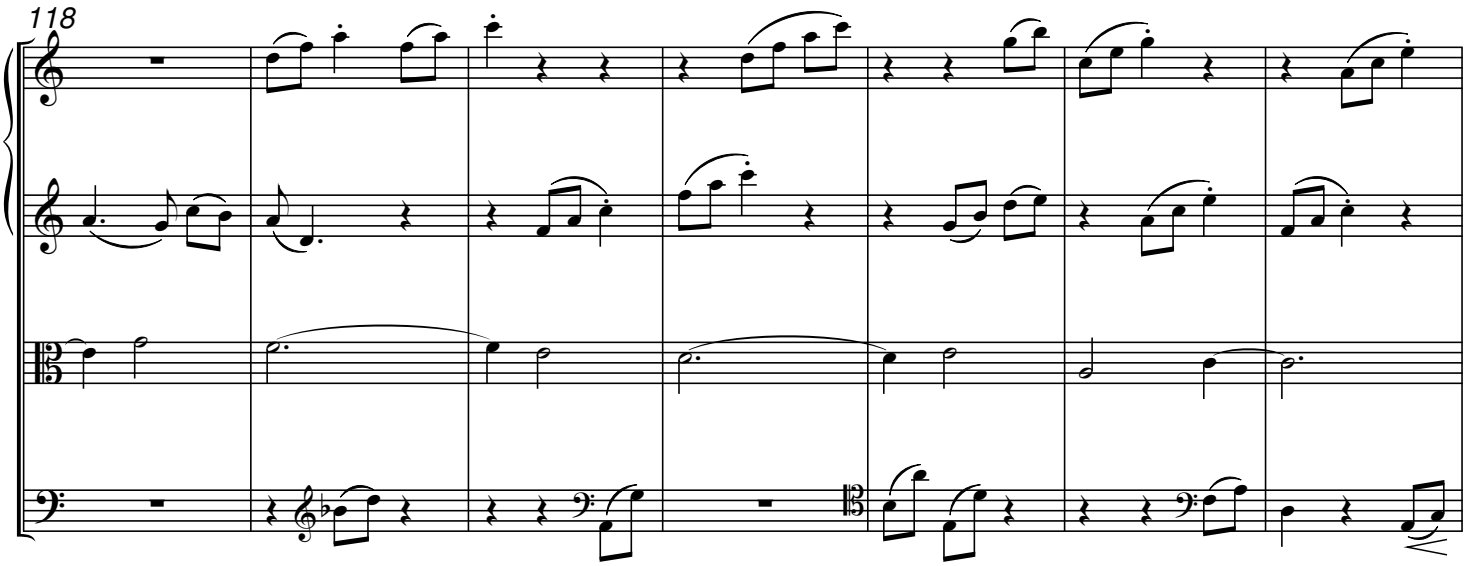


105

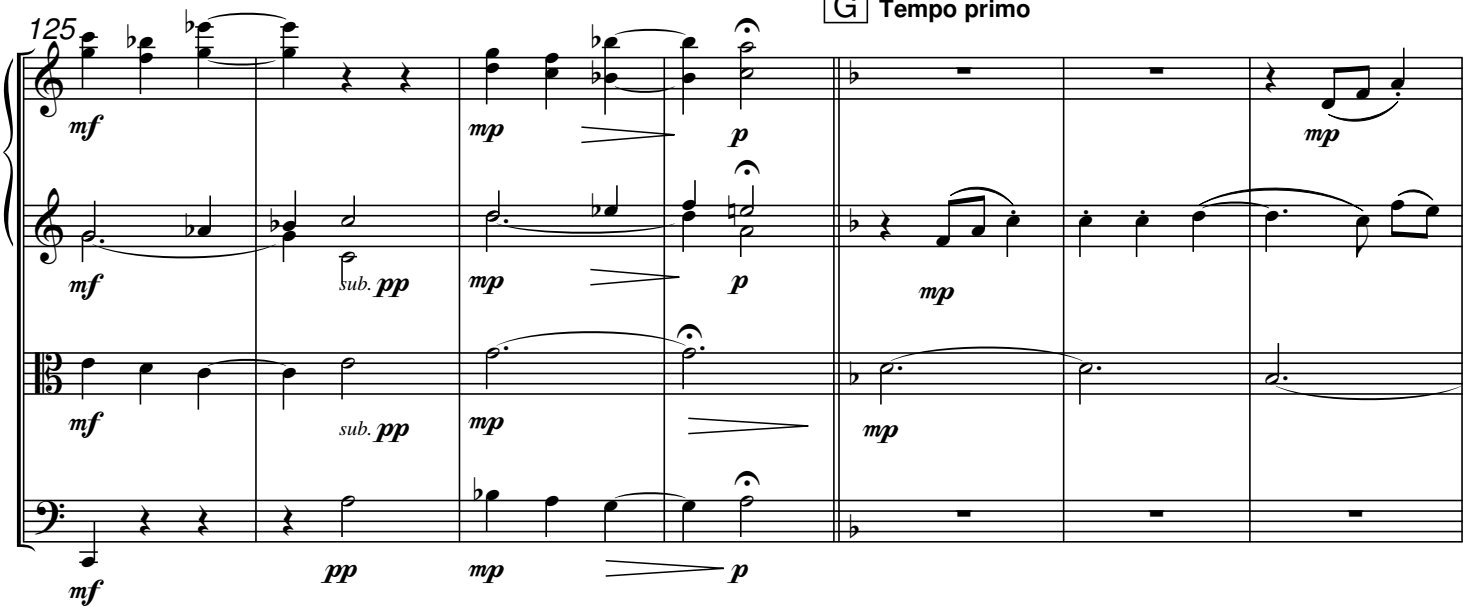


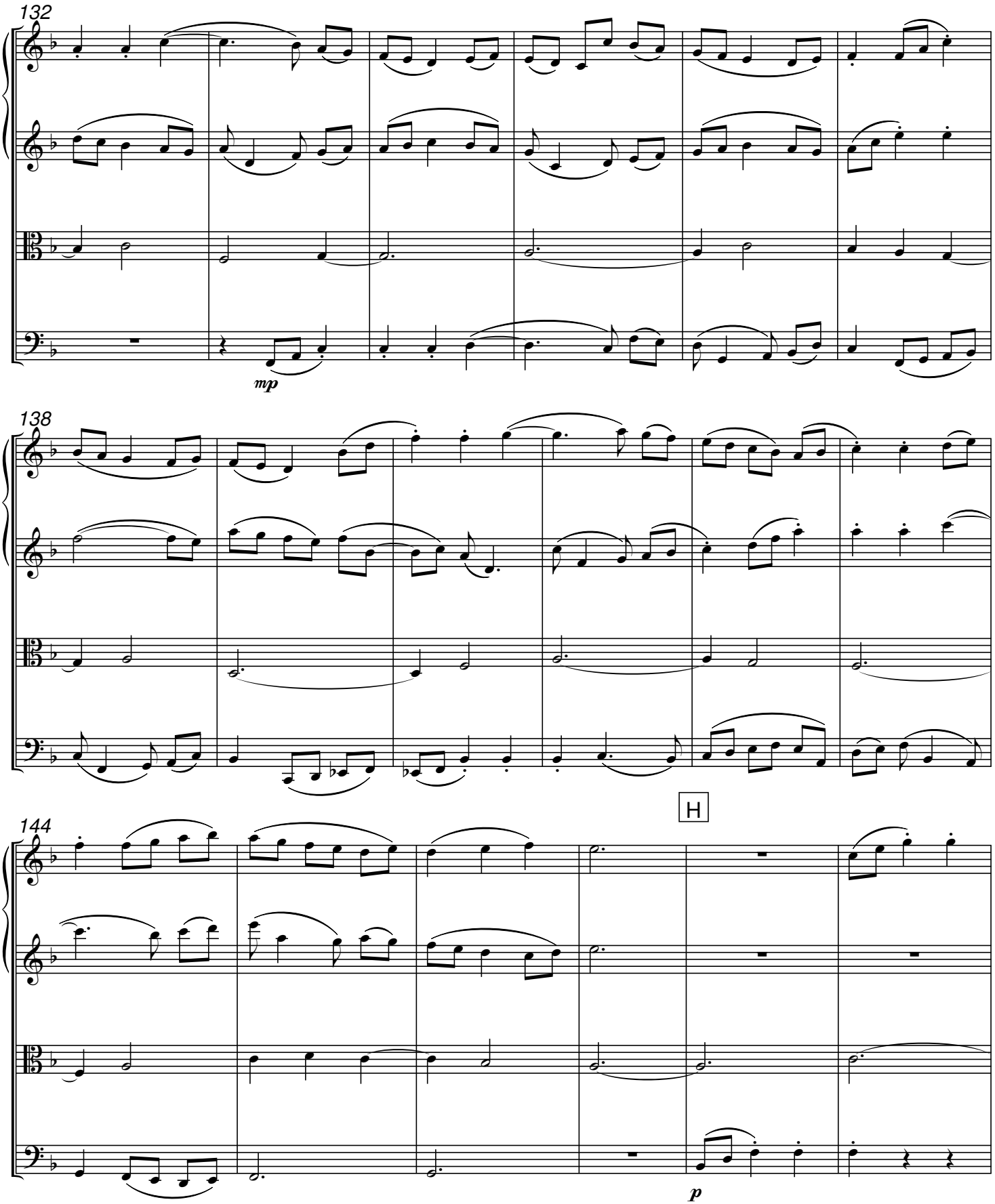
F **l'estesso tempo**

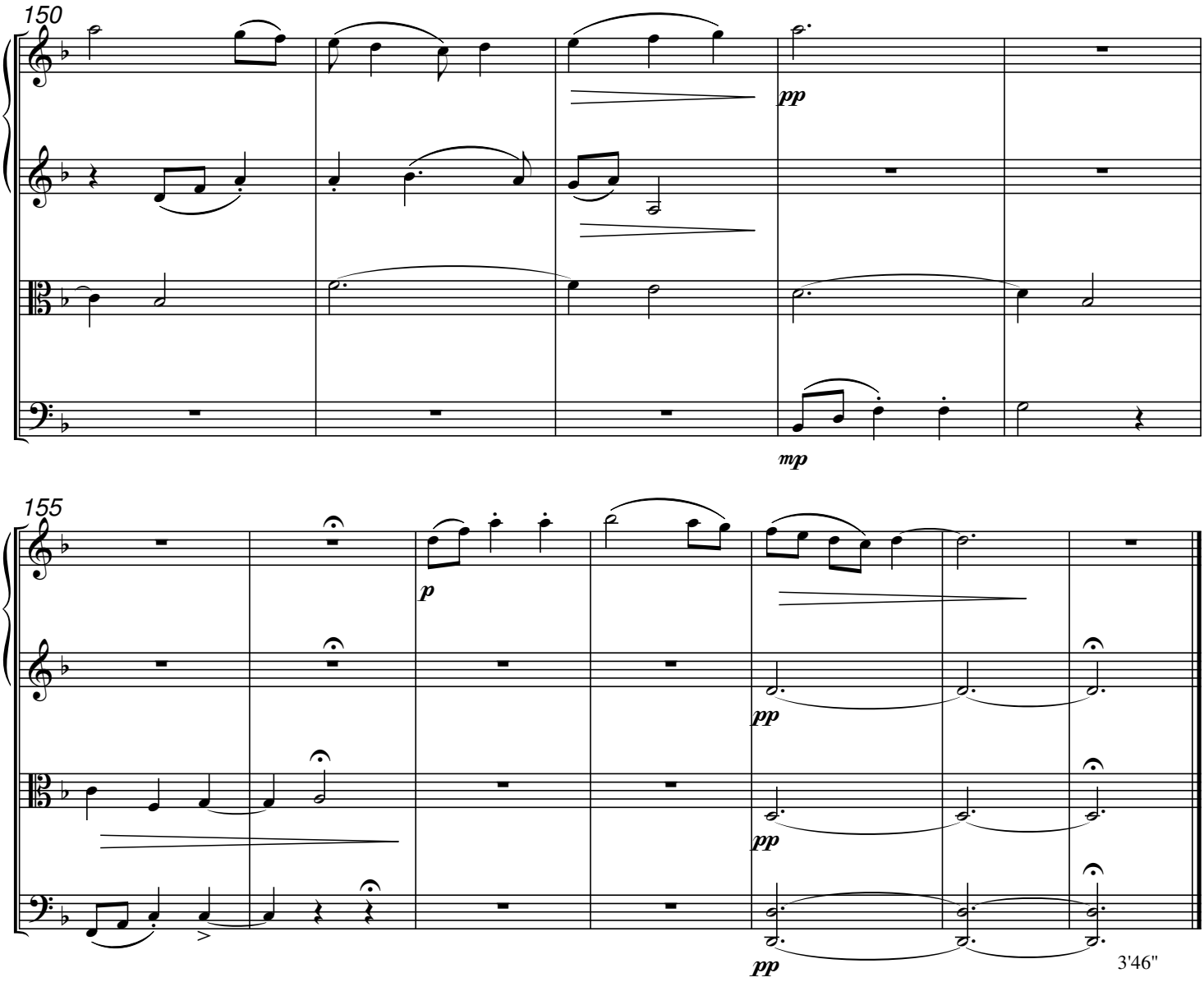




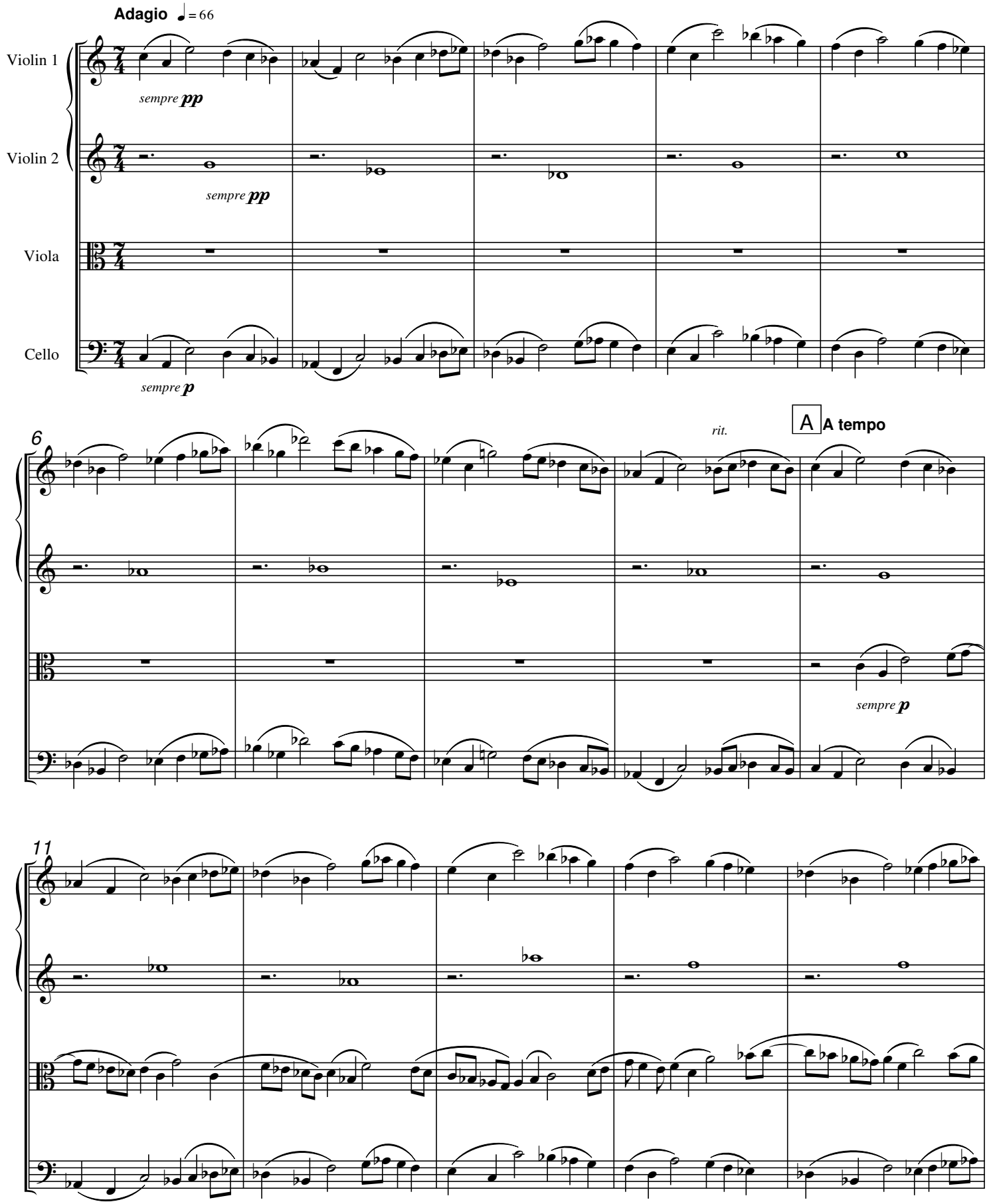
G **Tempo primo**




132
mp
138
H
144
p


150
pp
mp
155
p
pp
pp
pp
3'46"

V



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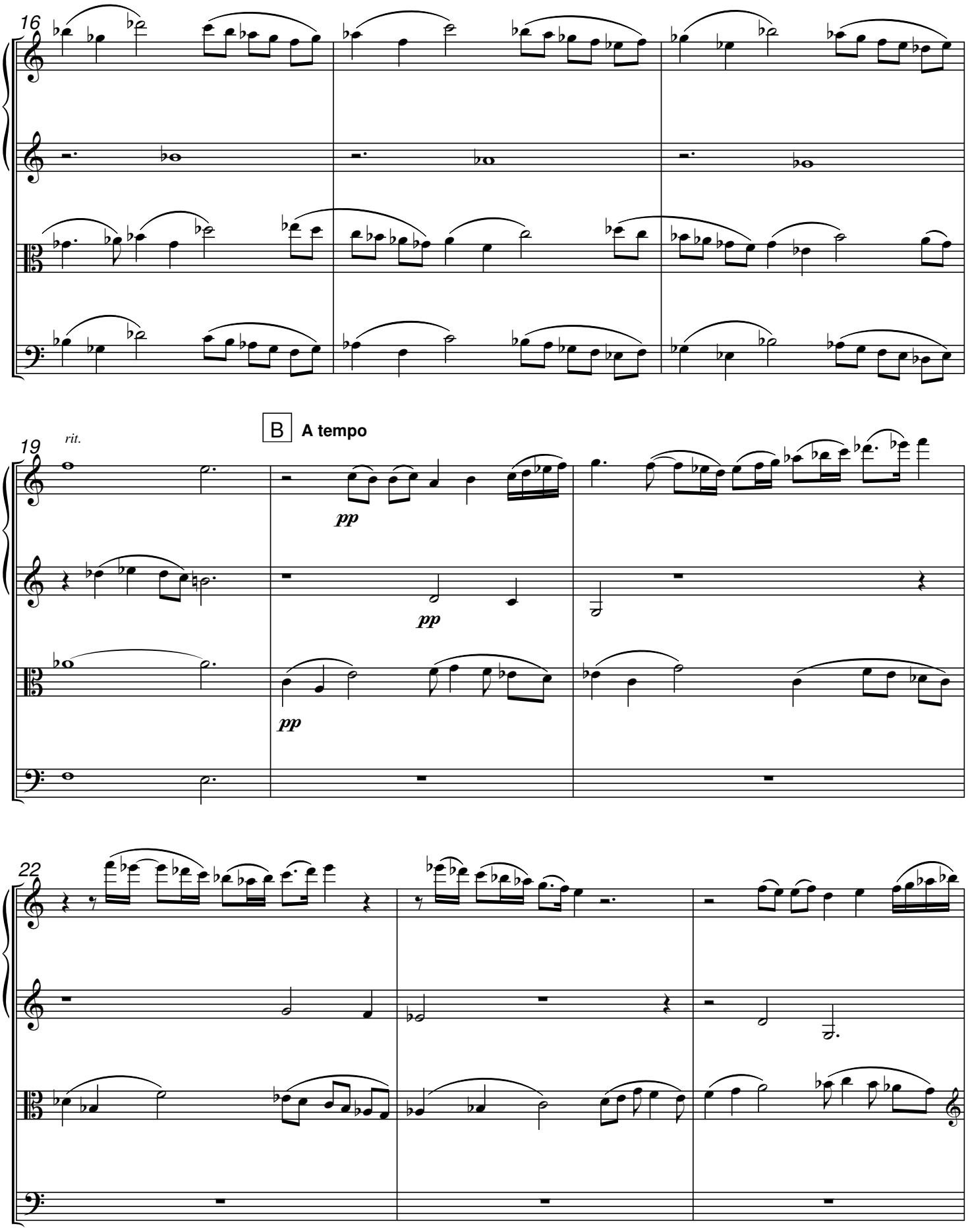
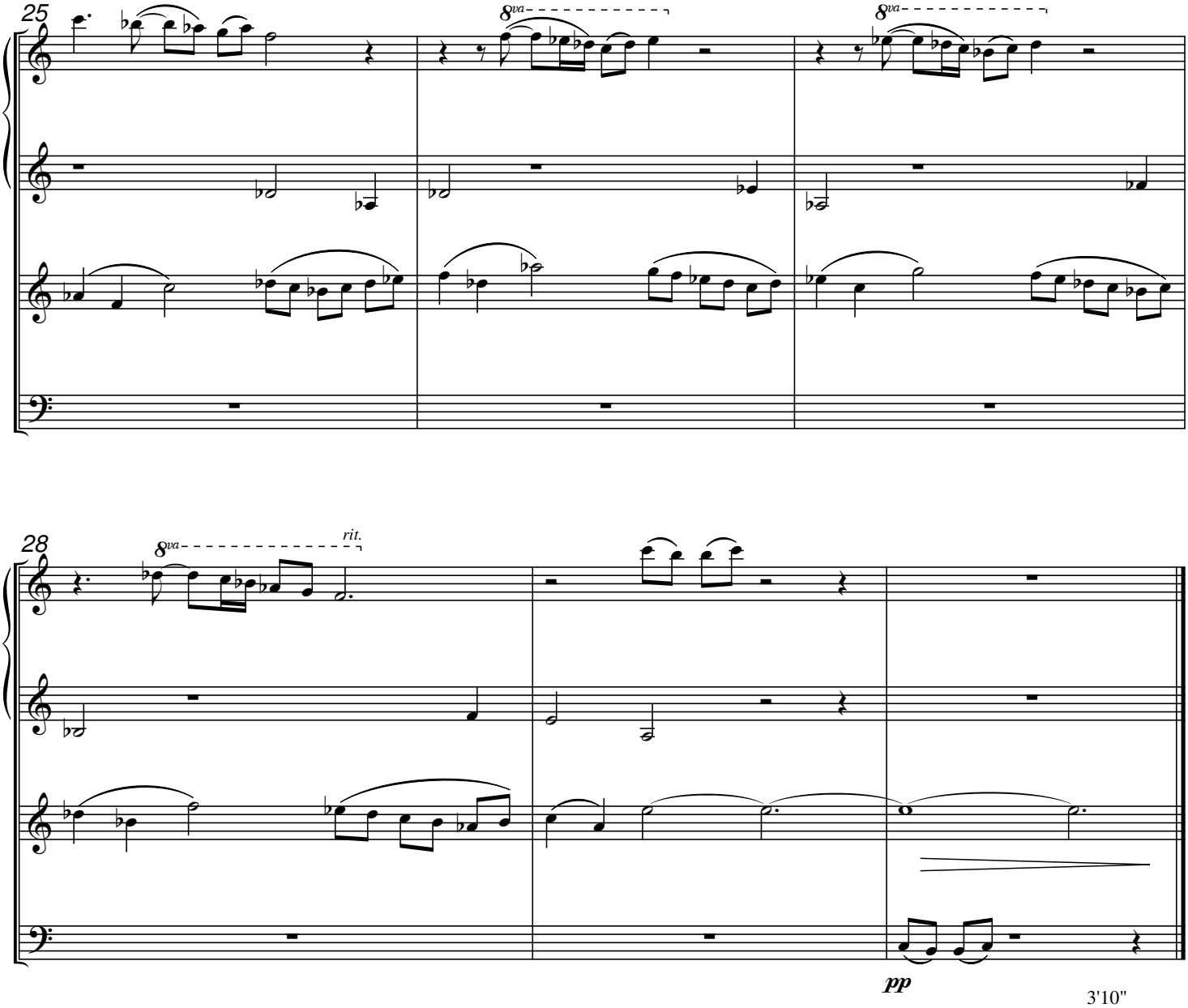
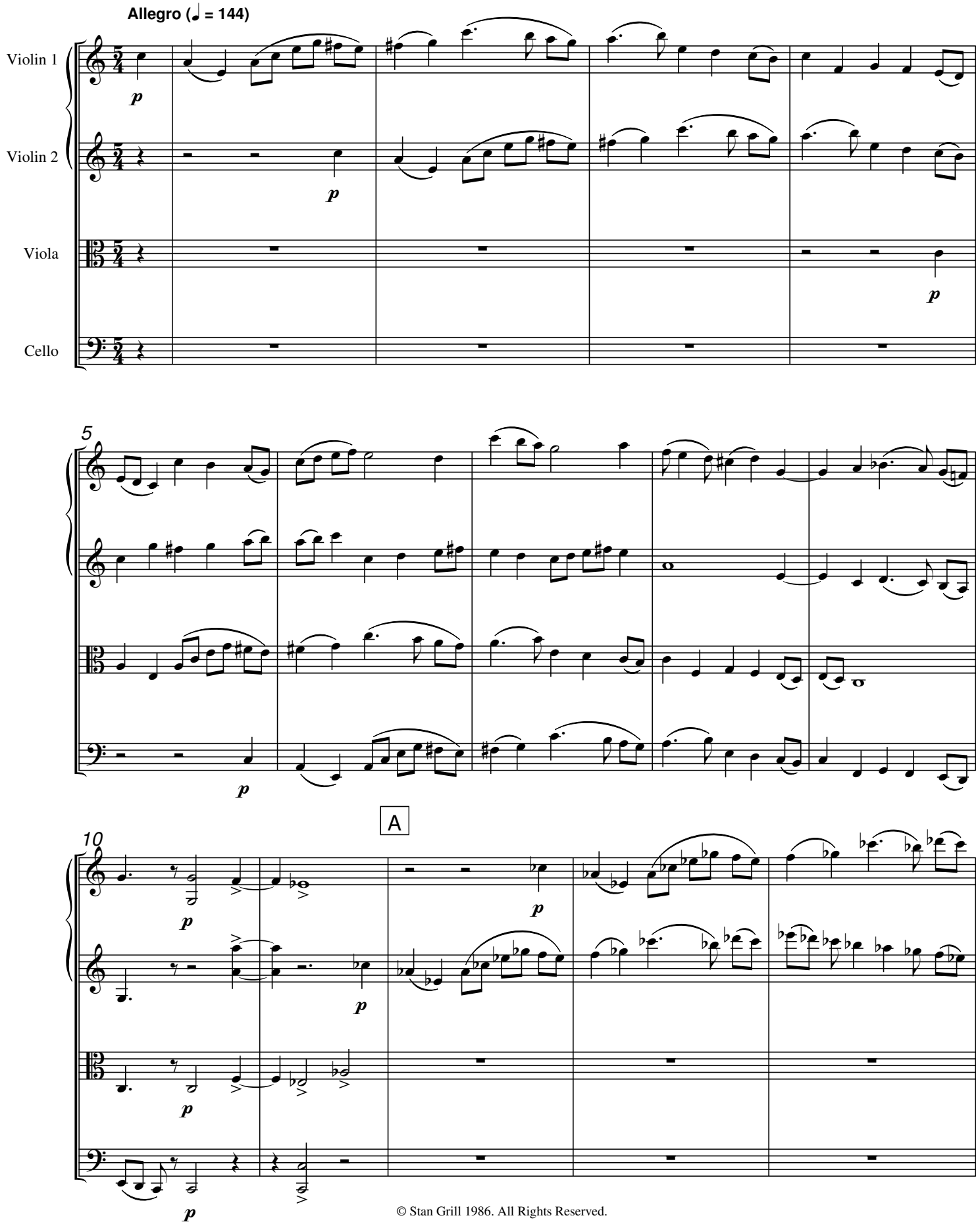

16
19
rit.
B
A tempo
pp
pp
pp
22


25
8va
8va
28
8va
rit.
pp
3'10"

VI



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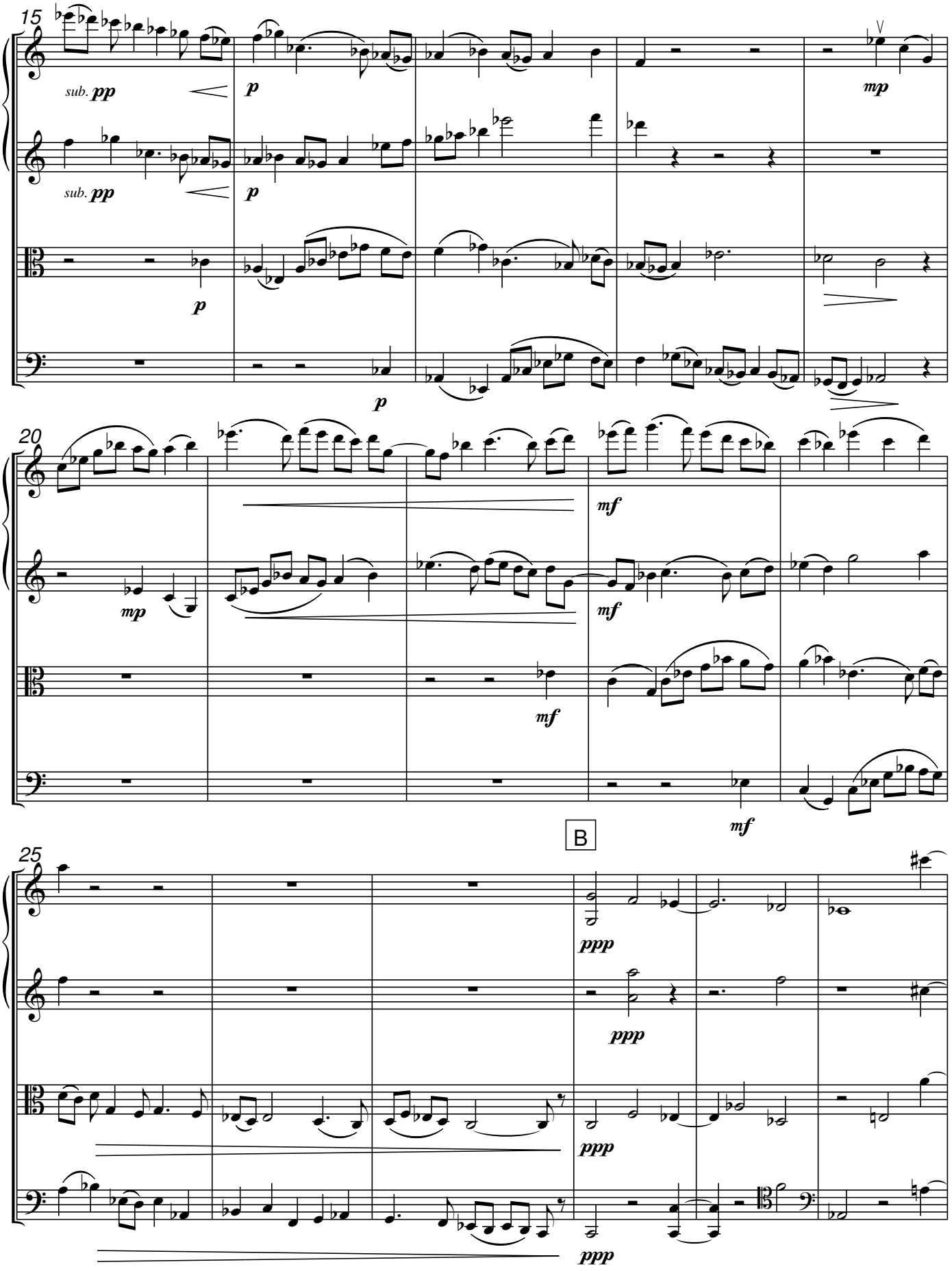
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sub. pp
p
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20
mp
mf
mf
mf
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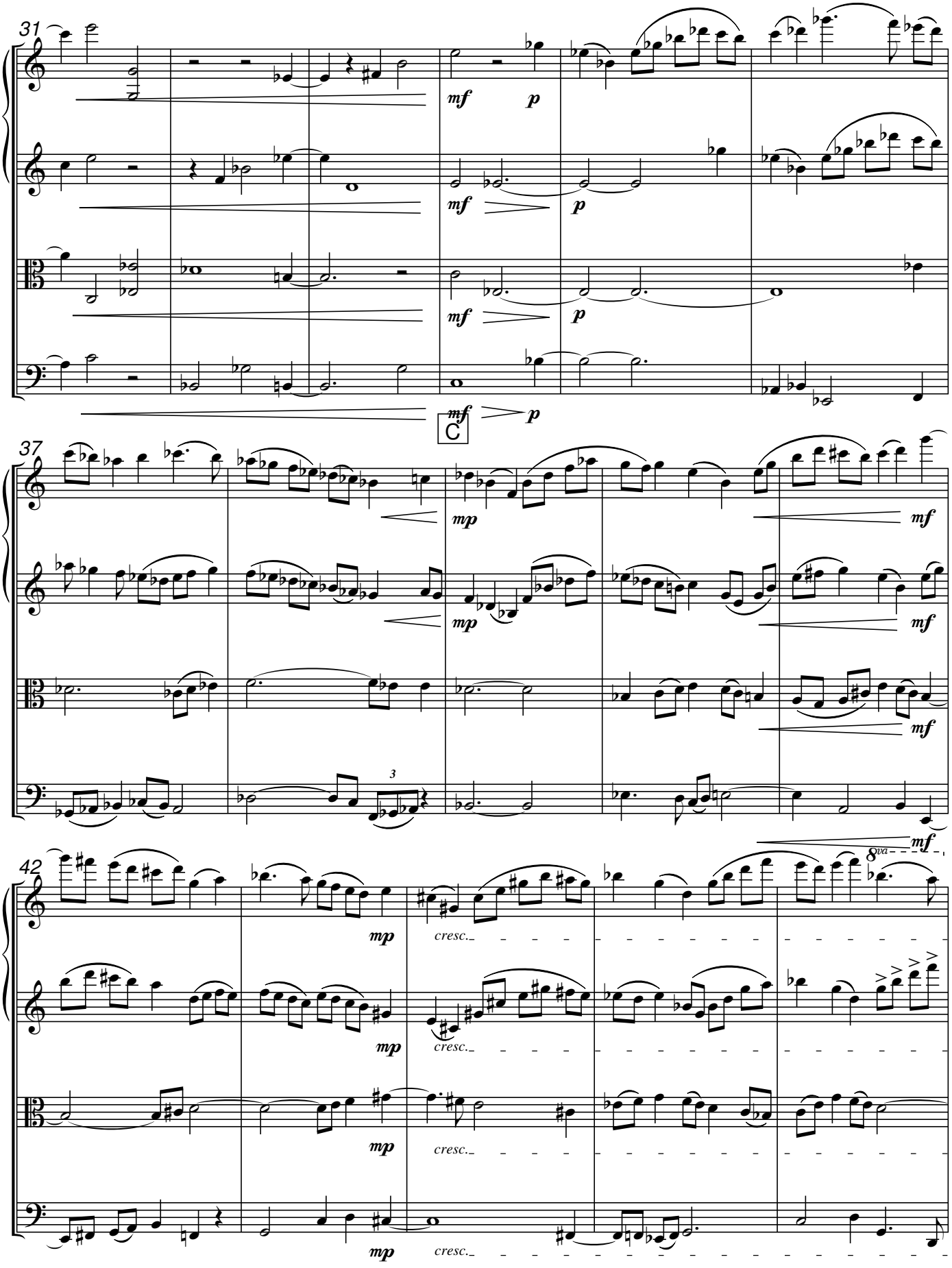
B
25
ppp
ppp
ppp
ppp


31
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p
mf
p
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p
mf
p
C
37
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3
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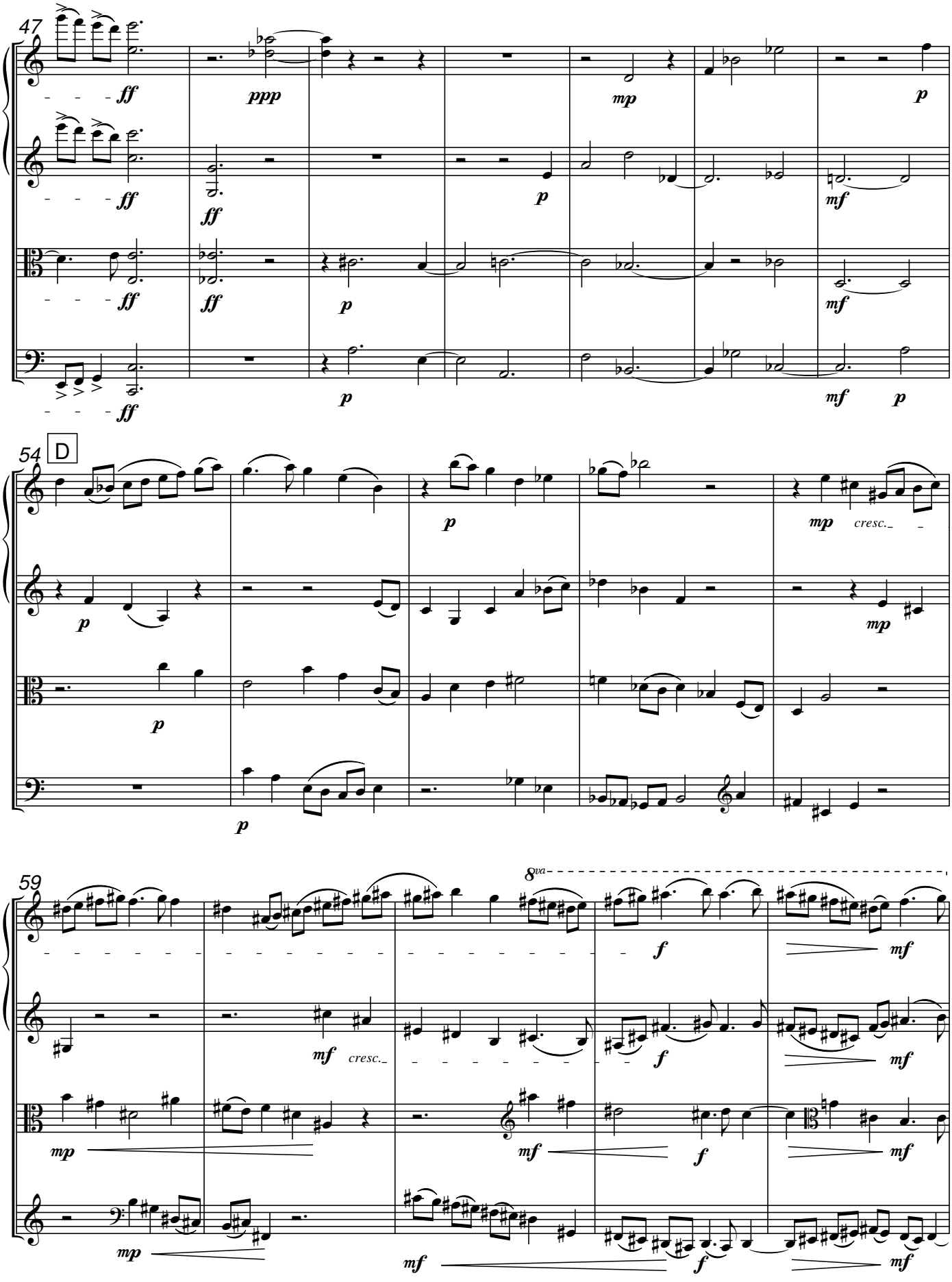
mp
cresc.
mp
cresc.
mp
cresc.
8va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p
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54
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59
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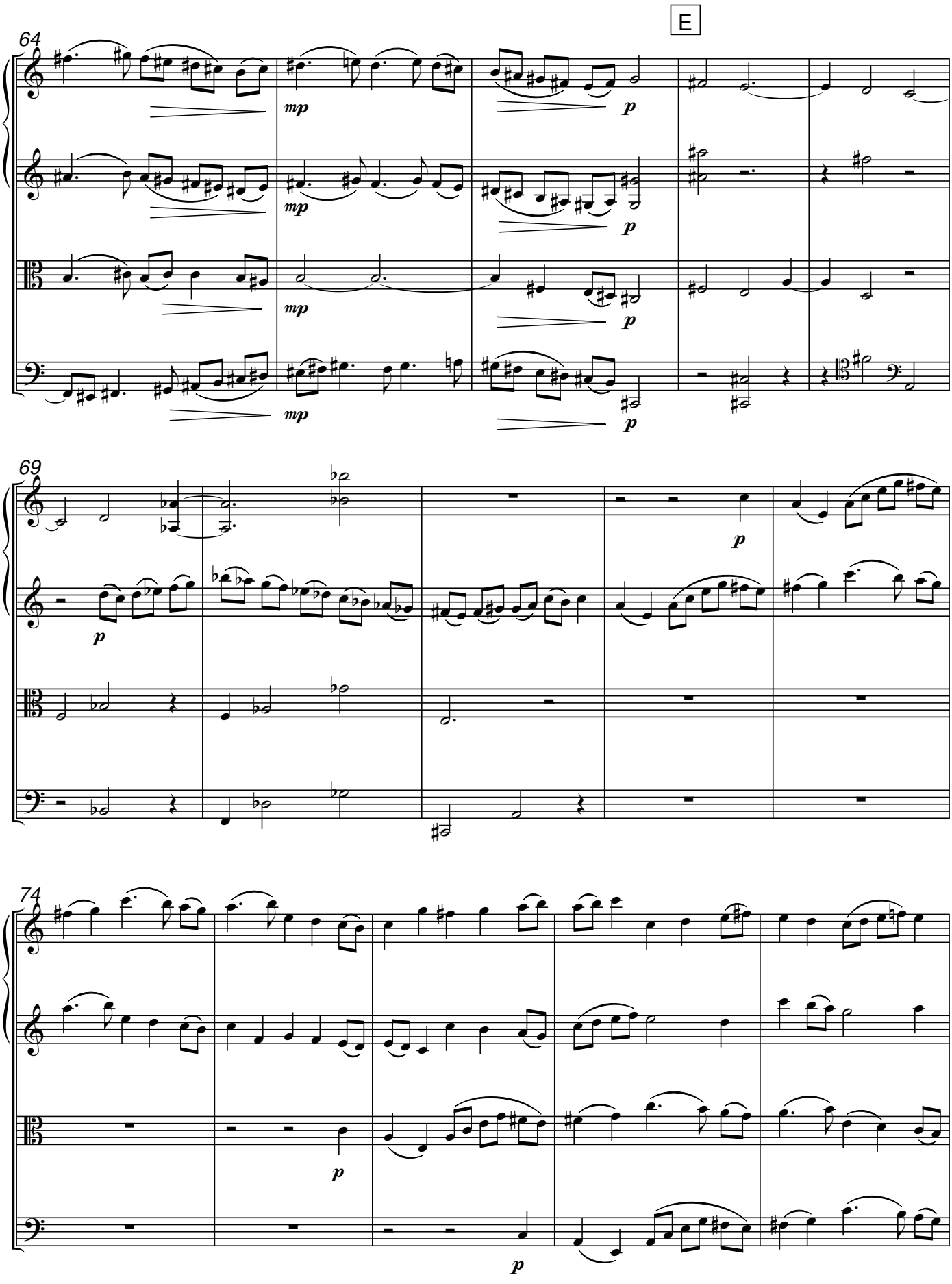
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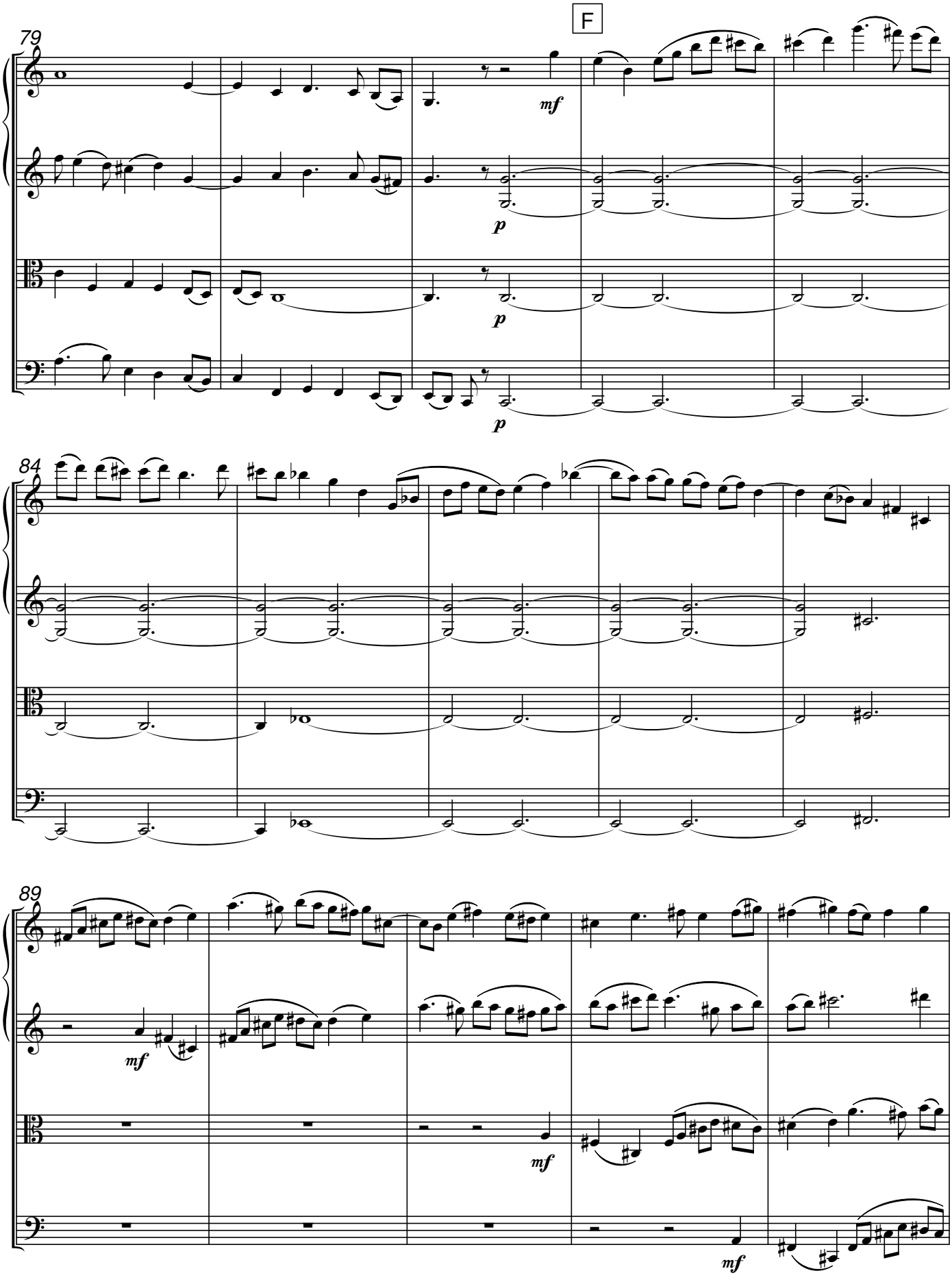
74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p
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89
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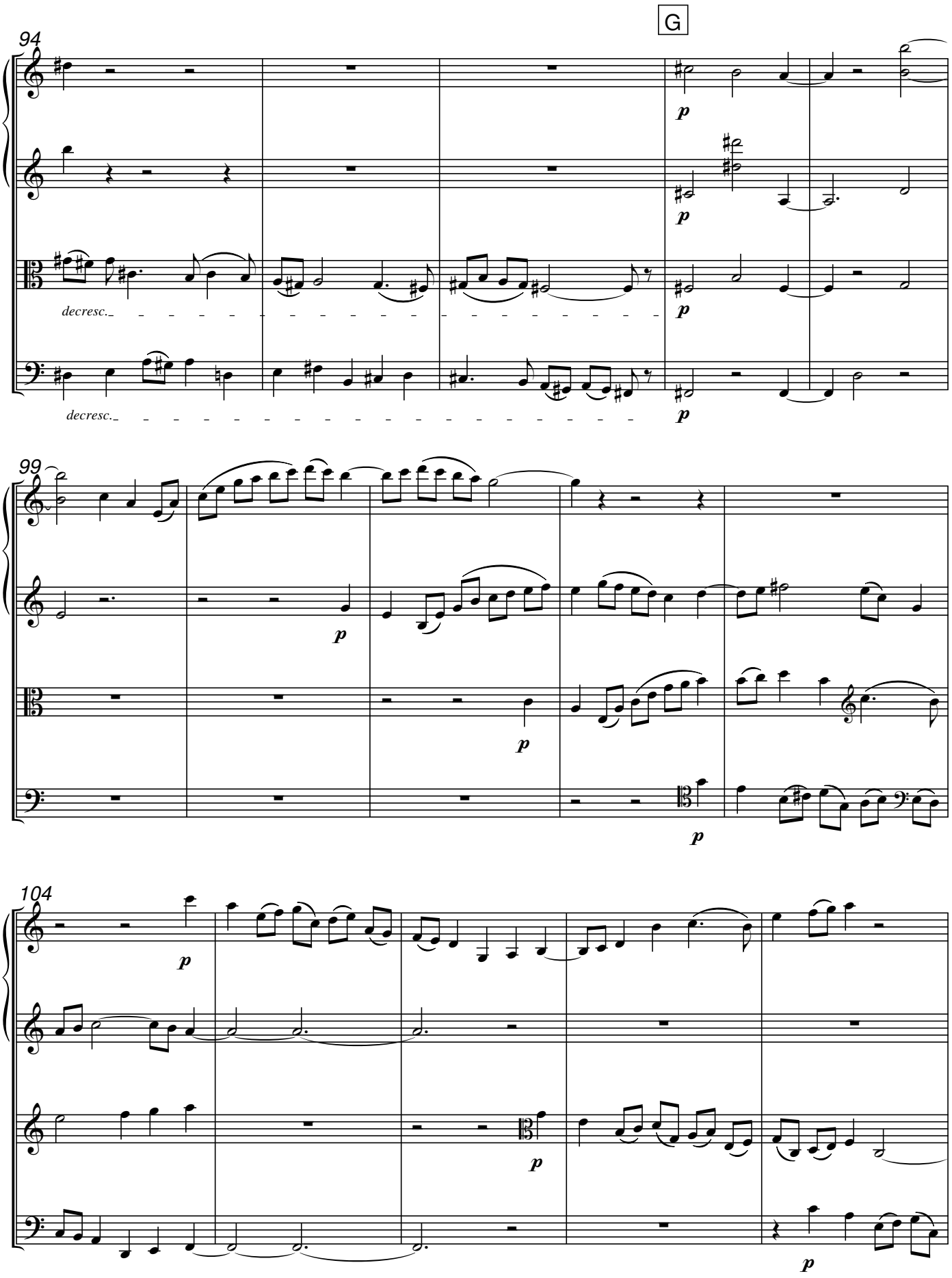
mf
mf


G
94
p
p
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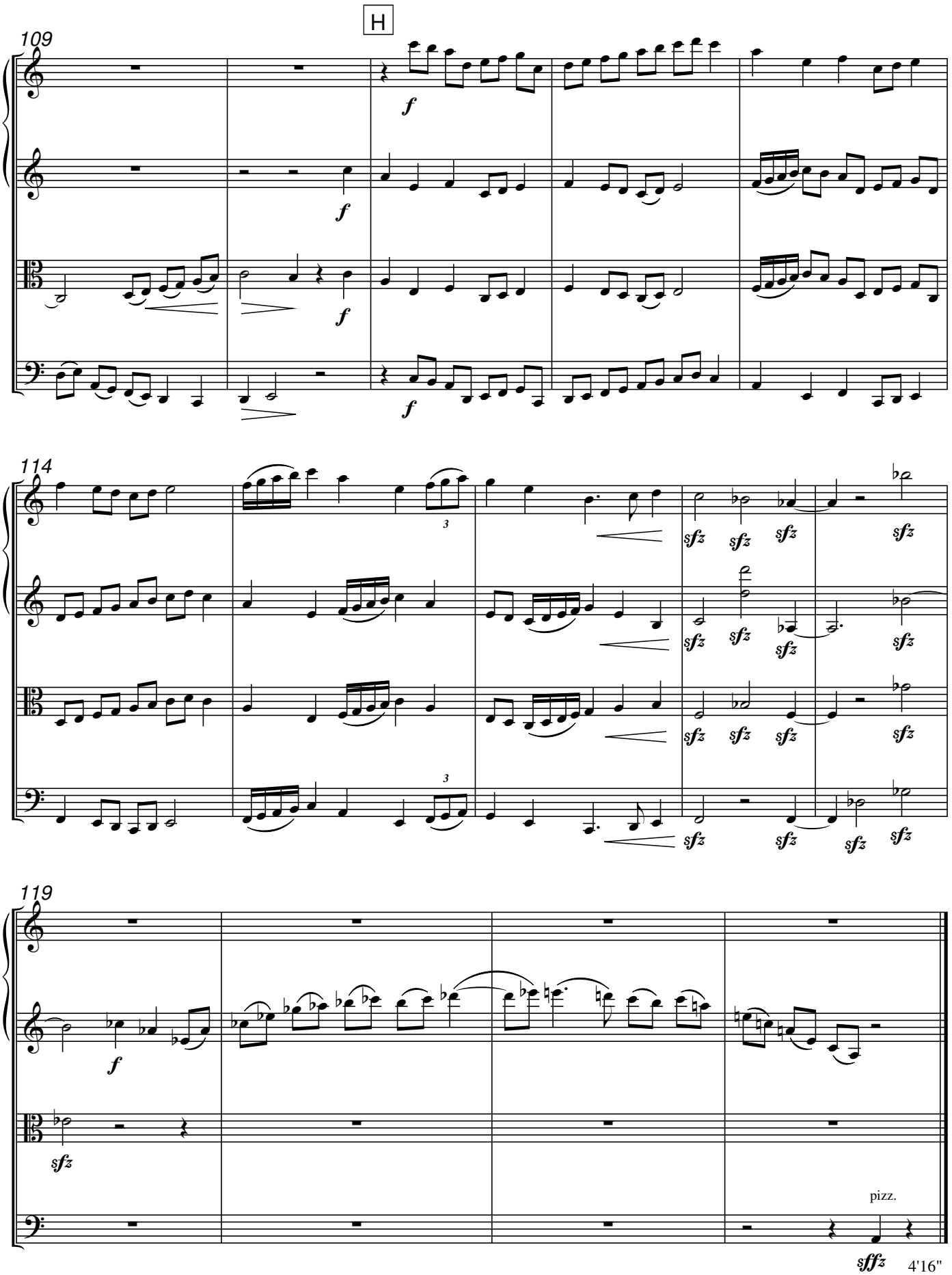
p
decresc.
p
99
p
p
p
104
p
p



4'16"

A few words about (and by) the composer

Stan Grill was raised in the Bronx, studied at the Bronx House School of Music, and later graduated from the Manhattan School of Music with undergrad and graduate degrees in music theory. He studied piano with Robert Helps and Leon Kushner and composition with Ursula Mamlok and Joseph Prostakoff. Major works include music for string orchestra and voice, string orchestra and clarinet, a nonet for winds and strings, and several song cycles for mixed voices and chamber ensemble. Performances have been produced by the composer, as well as presented by the Composers Guild of New Jersey, the St. Paul's Church Festival of the Arts, the Leonia Chamber Players, the New York Composers Circle, the Northern New Jersey Camerata, the Bronx Arts Ensemble and the Duo + Ensemble. During the 2004-06 seasons, he was composer in residence of One World Symphony, a New York City based orchestra. One World Symphony has premiered several major works, including "Invisible Ballet" for orchestra, "Two Sad Songs" setting poems by W.B. Yeats for soprano & string orchestra, and a cycle of songs for two cellos and two mezzo sopranos setting poems by the New Jersey poet William Carlos Williams. In 2006, One World commissioned three works – a setting of the Ophelia songs from Shakespeare's "Hamlet" for soprano, harp and string orchestra, an orchestral work, "Pluto," for a program featuring Holst's "The Planets," and a setting of poetry for a concert honoring those who lost their lives on 9/11. Recent works include "The Four Elements" for viola and string orchestra commissioned by violist Brett Deubner and "Mystical Songs" for soprano, viola and string orchestra commissioned by the Universidad Tecnica Particular de Loja. In 2009, an entire program of music by Stan Grill was performed in Tokyo by the Duo + Ensemble. In 2012, the Pandolfis Consort commissioned and performed new music for early instruments including "Rilke Songs" for soprano, viola d'amore and cello and "Lieder ohne Worte" for 2 violas, cello and theorbo. Also in 2012, Camerata Philadelphia performed "Pavanne to a world without war." Stan currently works in Philadelphia, and lives happily in New Jersey with his wife, cats and piano.

"As I see it, as much as we strive to find reason and purpose in our having been born into this amazing, mysterious and awe-inspiring universe, that attempt is largely futile. It is however, the best part of our nature that obliges us to make the attempt, though the most we can hope for is to gain some small degree of understanding of the world around us, and, more importantly, of ourselves. To achieve this, we each approach the problem in our own way, uniquely shaped by our cultural background, innate talents and abilities, education and so on. For some, science may be the window through which they best perceive and interpret the world, for others, religion. For those to whom the world seems to express itself most clearly and beautifully through sound, music is the voice that speaks to us and through which we, in turn, best express ourselves. Now, I can write notes that will make pretty music because I've been trained to do so – but the best of my music has arrived, rather inexplicably, as part of a personal effort to understand the world and myself. It is, in a way, an act of translation. The world says something, I try to understand it, and then translate it into musical language. The particular musical language which I speak, is, of course, a product of my conservatory training and personal musical tastes, but hopefully, the outcome, imperfect a translation as it may be, will convey to others something of its original intent."

Stan's music is melodic, modal, contrapuntal, characterized by extended, interweaving lines. His musical influences span the centuries, and include Machaut, Josquin, Palestrina, Monteverdi, Lassus, Britten, Ives, Vaughn Williams and Shostakovich. Two main themes permeate many of the pieces - music intended to influence the minds and hearts of those who hear it in such a way as to encourage thoughts about the possibility of world peace - and music composed in an attempt to translate something about the nature of the physical world.

Complete scores are available in the American Music Center's on-line library. Please go to Stan's web page at **American Music Center**.

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