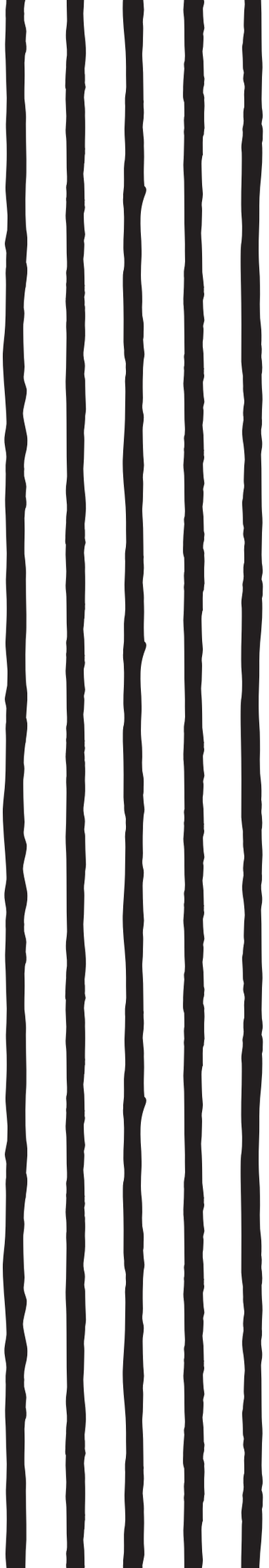


KIAN RAVAEI

THE LITTLE THINGS

for string quartet

(score)

ÆI edition

KIAN RAVAEI

THE LITTLE THINGS

for string quartet

(2023)

(score)

I. I'll Tell You How the Sun Rose 1
II. High from the Earth I Heard a Bird 2
III. Two Butterflies Went Out at Noon 14
IV. A Narrow Fellow in the Grass 17
V. The Moon Was But a Chin of Gold 28
VI. A Spider Sewed at Night 30
VII. If I Can Stop One Heart From Breaking 39

ÆI edition

Commissioned by the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, Chamber Music Northwest, and Seattle Chamber Music Society.

PROGRAM NOTE

All seven titles which comprise *The Little Things* come from Emily Dickinson, who never fails to direct our attention toward nature's easily overlooked wonders. Movements II, III, IV, and VI evoke various animal life, while I and V portray the sun and moon respectively. The order of the movements suggests the cyclic journey of all living things from morning to night and back to a new morning.

In the final movement, we hear the voice of Nature singing Dickinson's famous lines:

If I can stop one heart from breaking,
I shall not live in vain;
If I can ease one life the aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin
Unto his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.

—Kian Ravaei

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

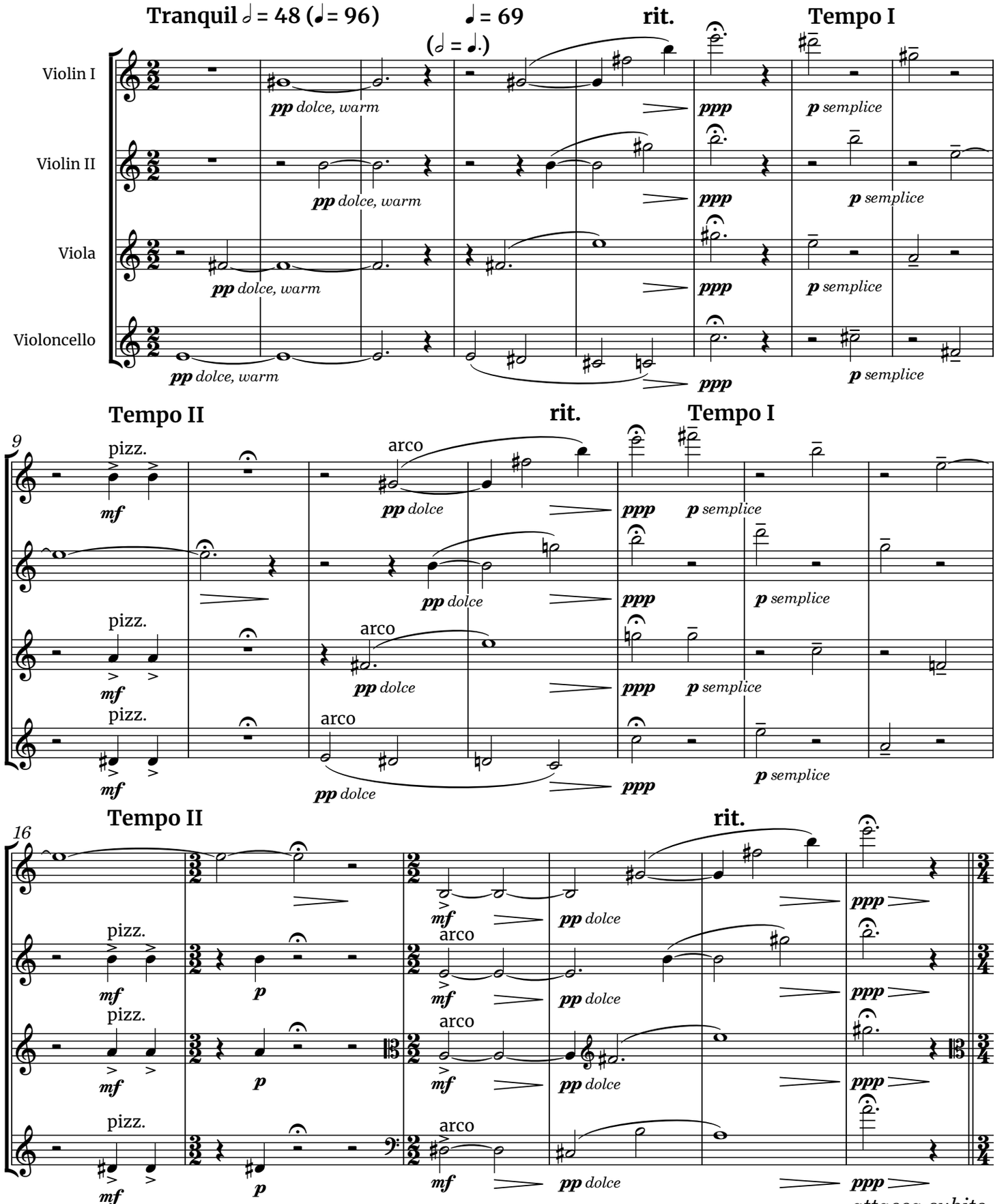
My sincerest thanks to my musical mentors, colleagues, and collaborators, all of whom were essential in the creation of this work: Kelsea Au, Don Freund, Emilie-Anne Gendron, Christian Gonzales, Stephanie Griffin, Michael Haas, Haley Hedegard, Yoshika Masuda, Thomas Mathias, Ross McIntosh, Manuel Papale, Marienn Sánchez, Alex Shiozaki, and Tien-Hsin Cindy Wu.

duration ca. 19'

THE LITTLE THINGS

Kian Ravaei
(2023)

I. I'll Tell You How the Sun Rose



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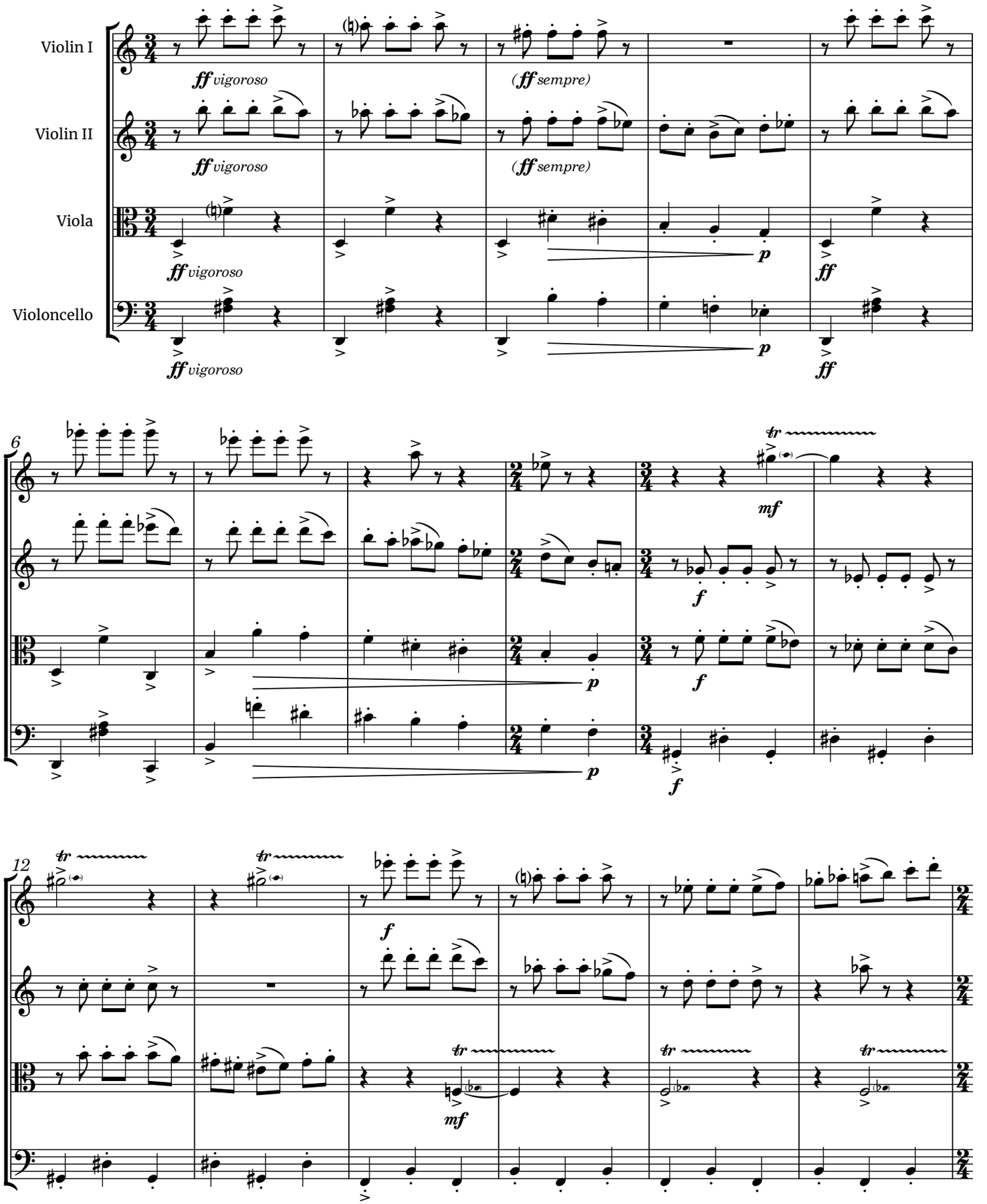
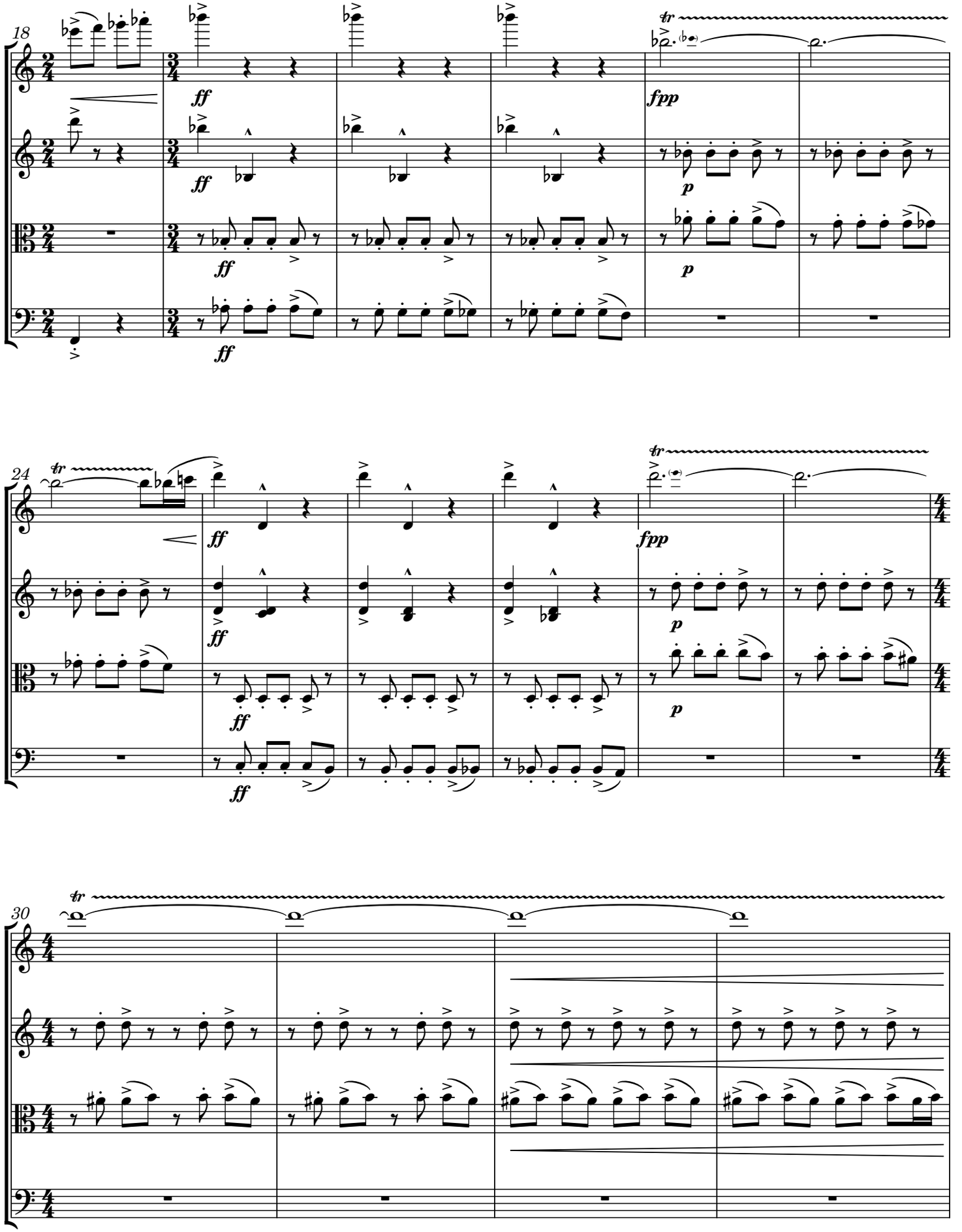
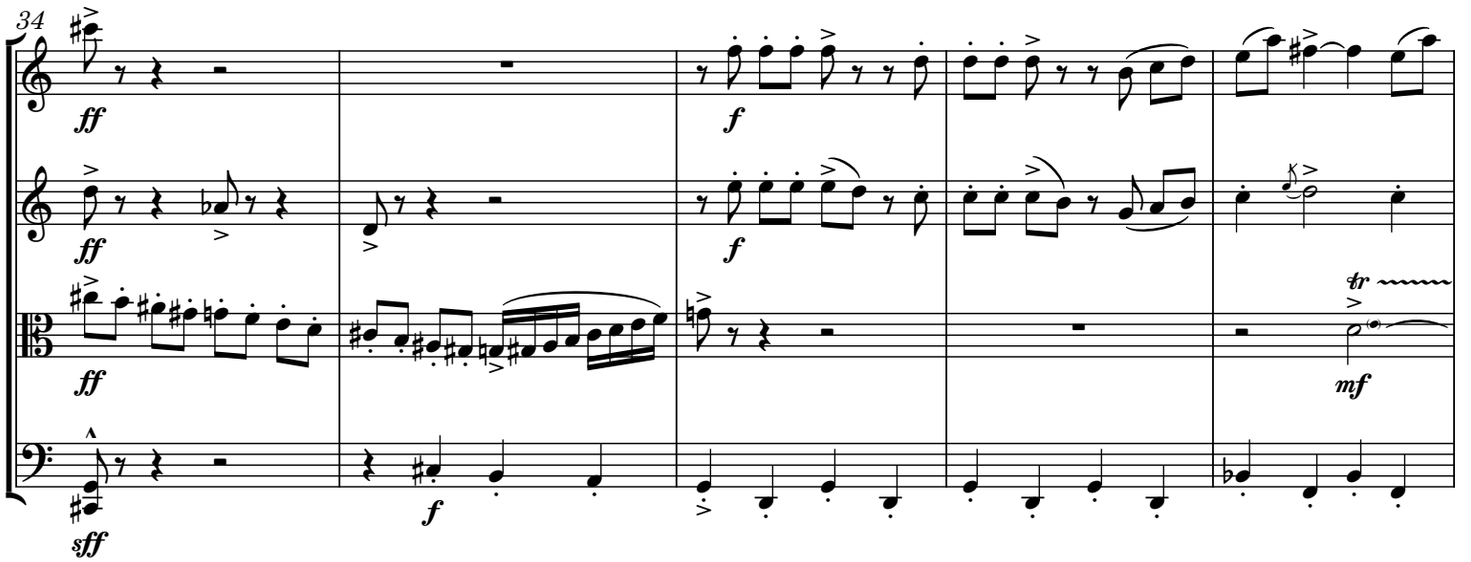
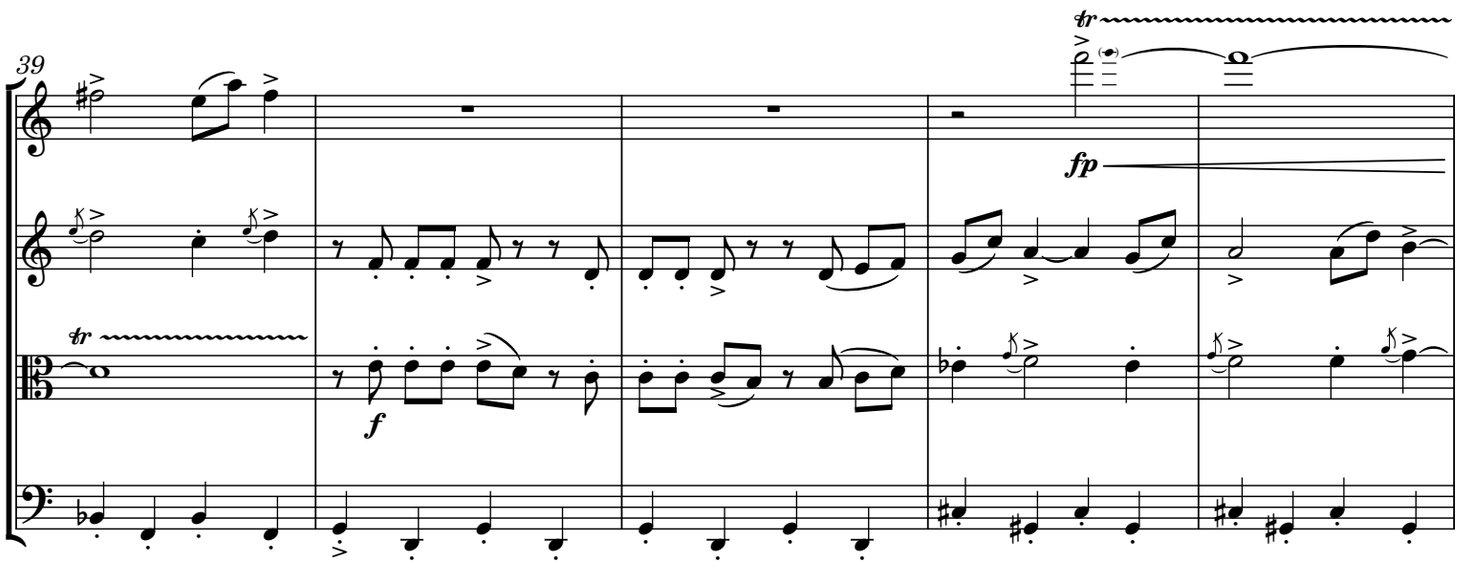
II. High from the Earth I Heard a Bird

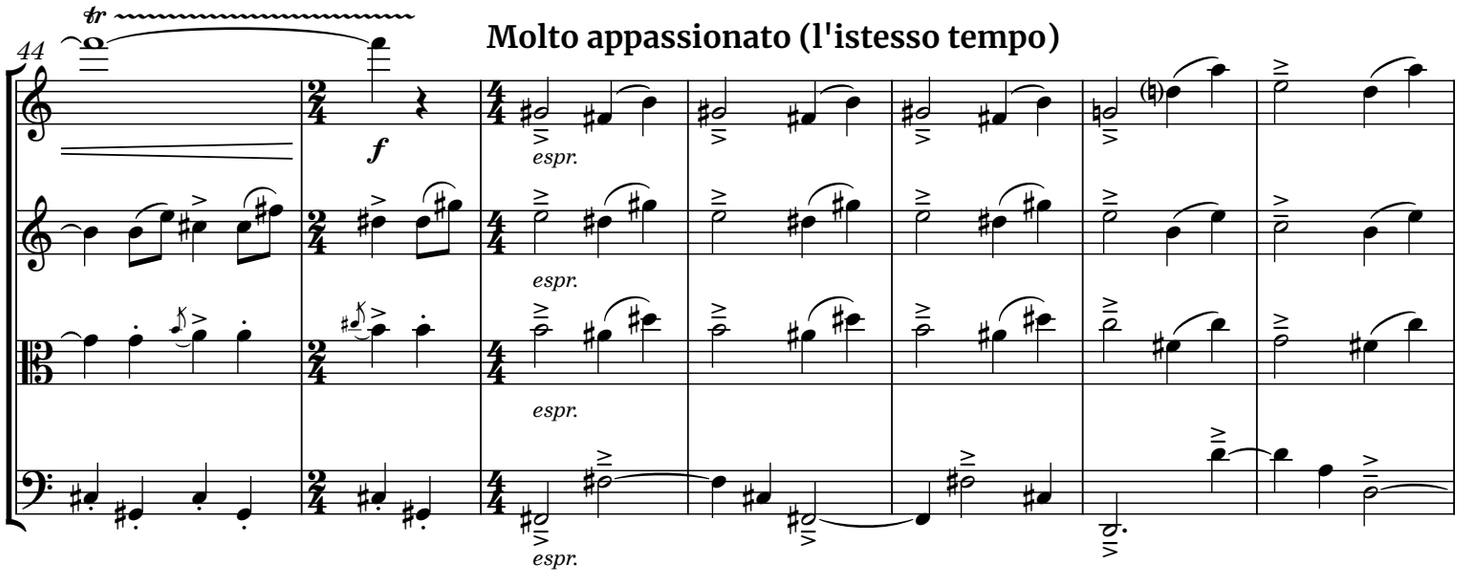
Scherzando con brio 𝅗𝅥. = 69 (♩ = 208)

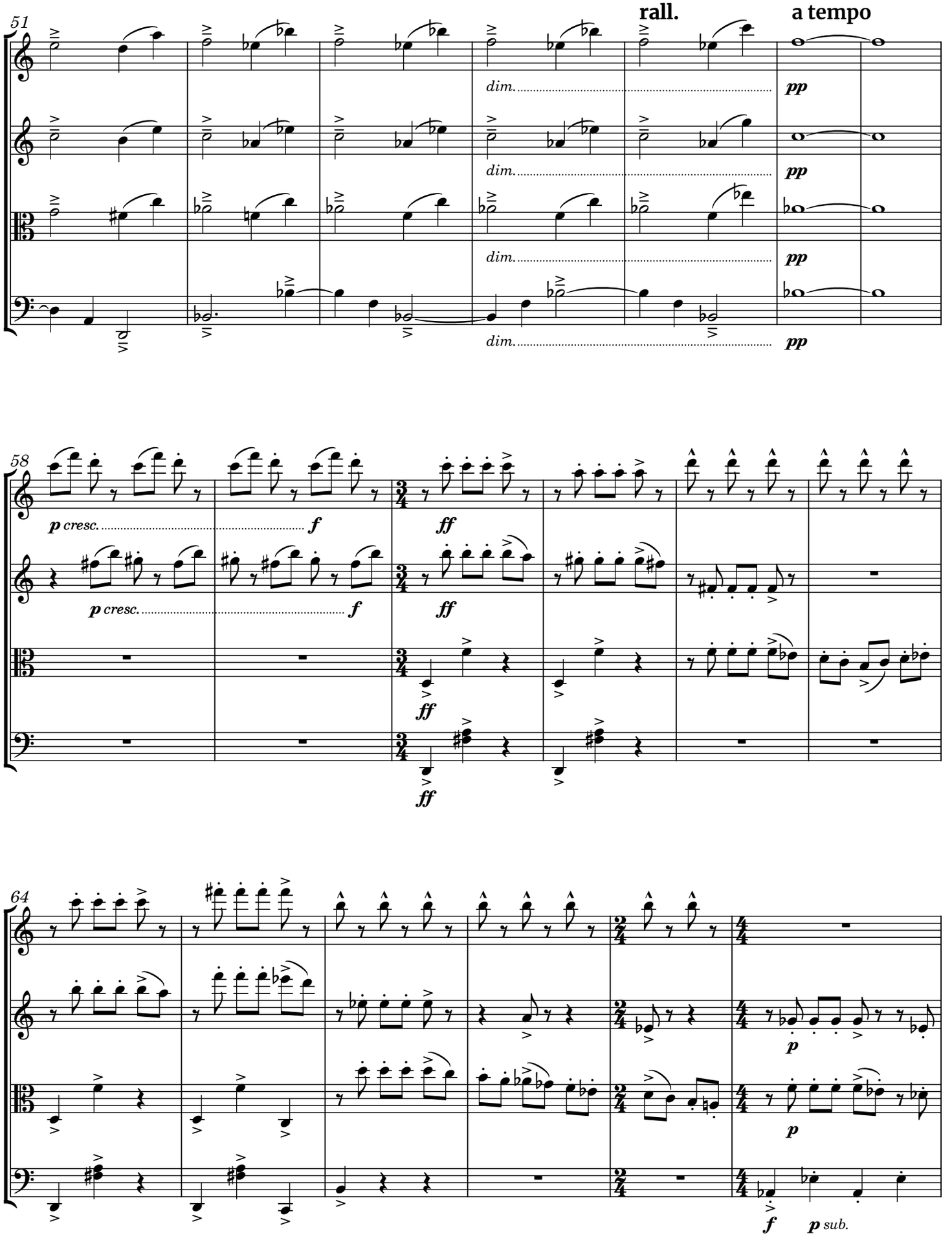


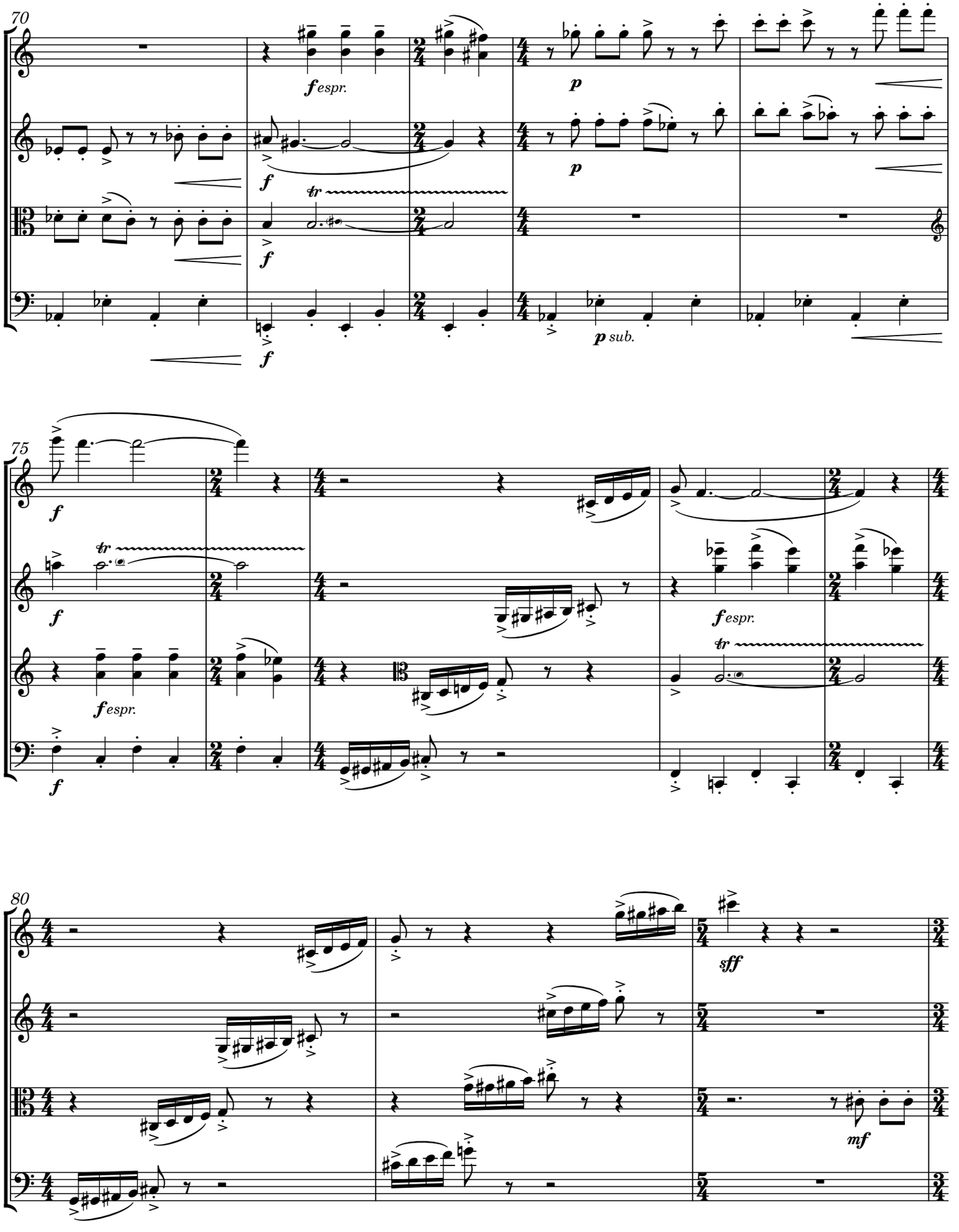

18
ff
fpp
p
24
tr
30


34
ff
ff
ff
sff
f
f
f
tr
mf

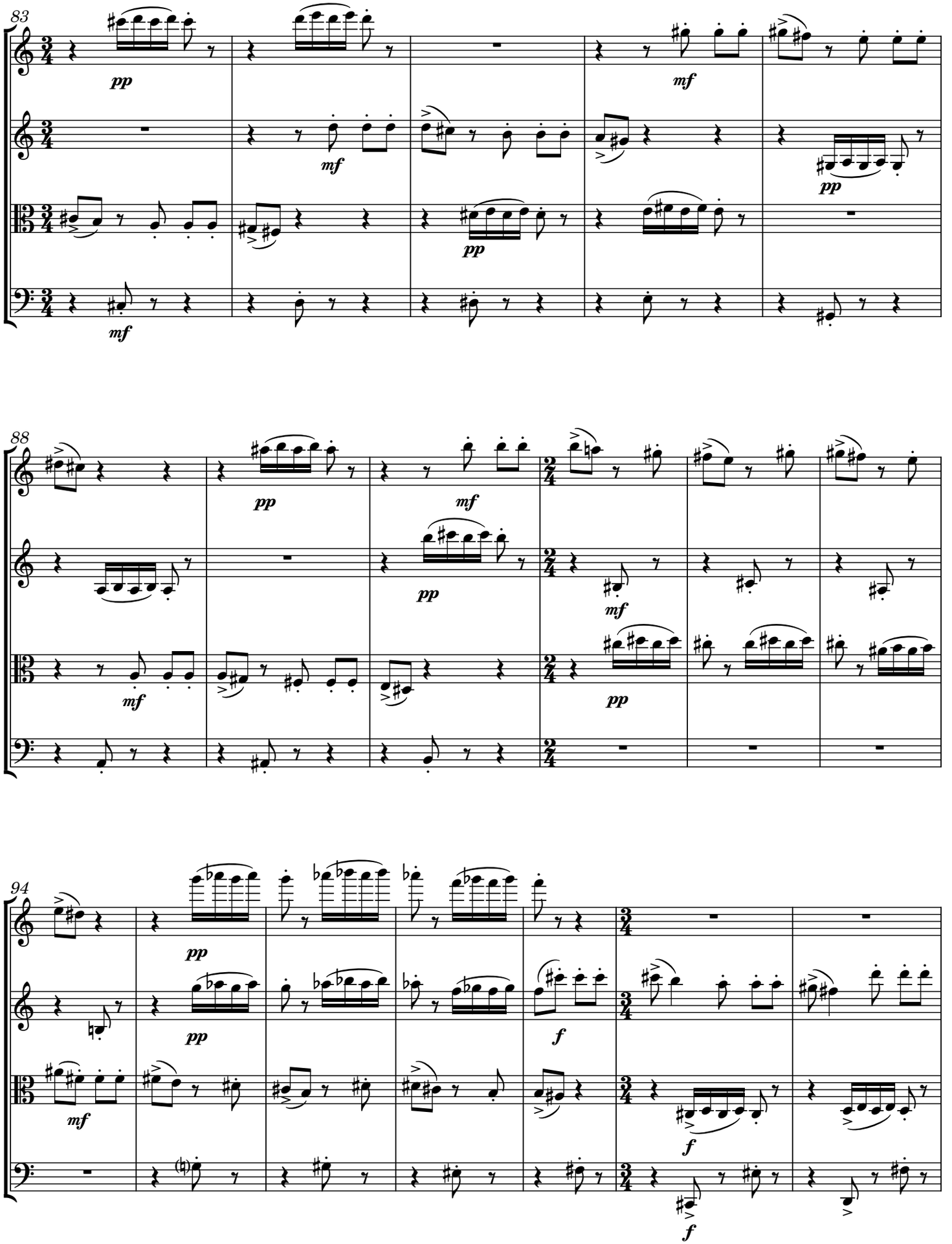

39
tr
fp
tr
f

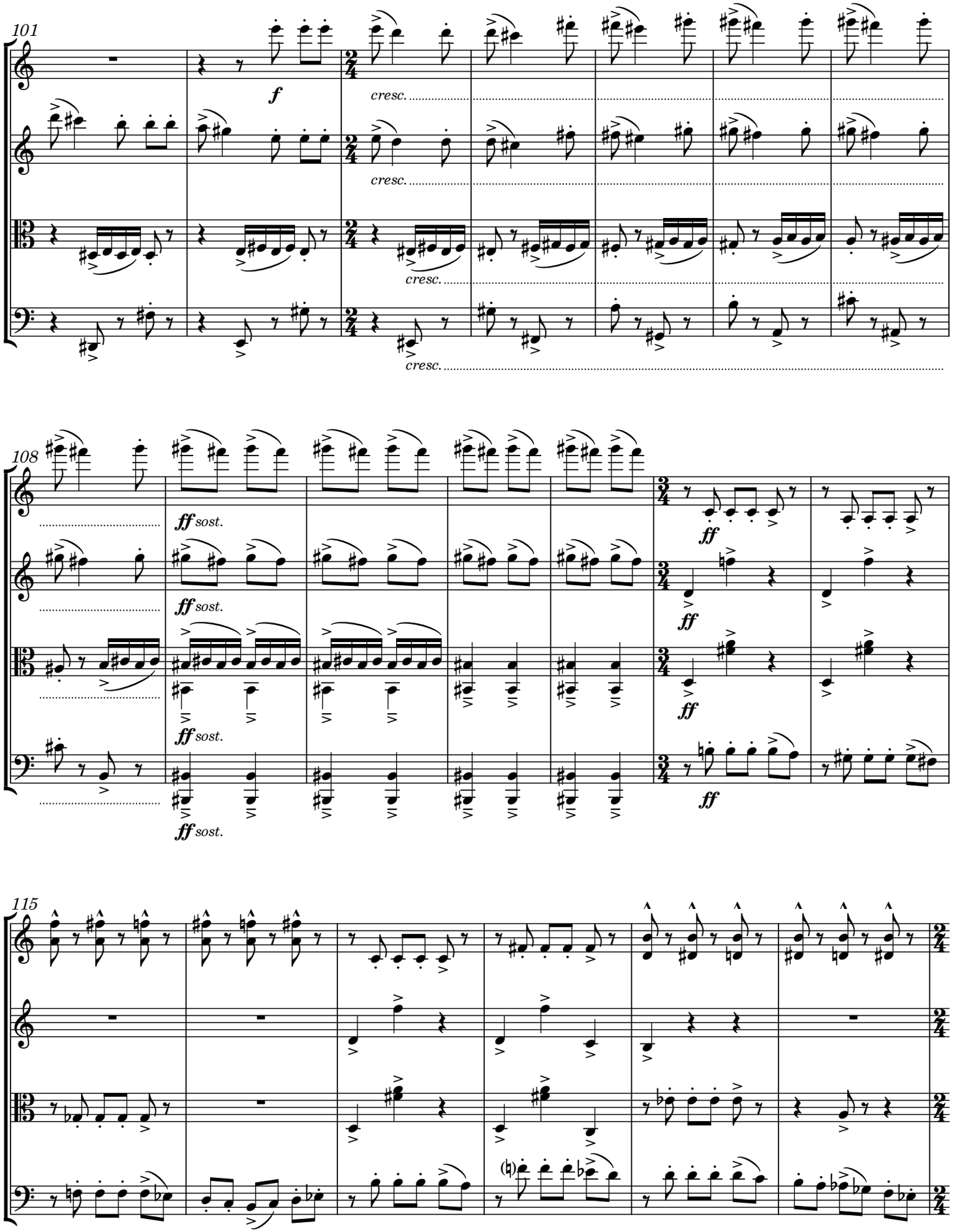

44
tr
f
Molto appassionato (l'istesso tempo)
espr.
espr.
espr.
espr.

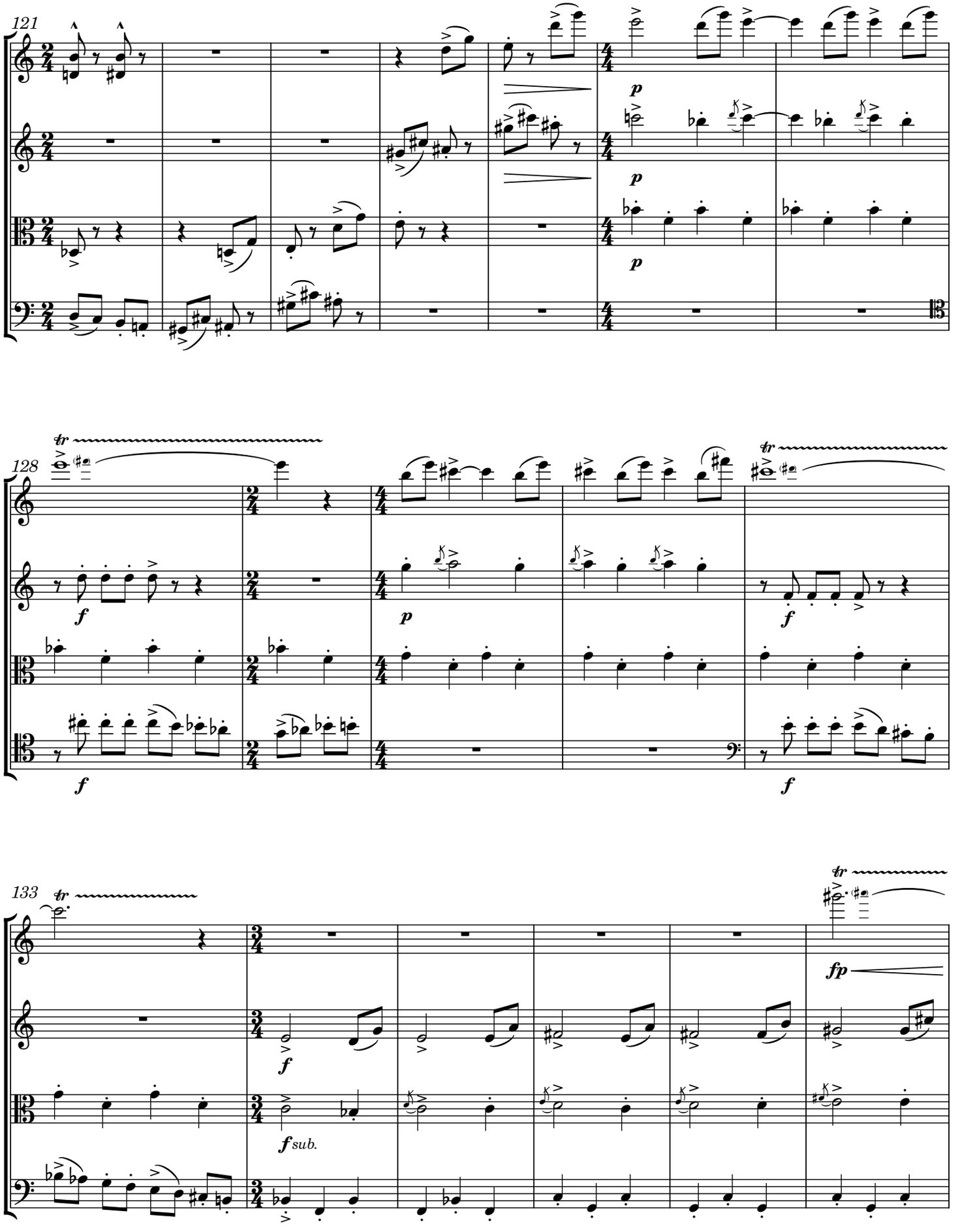

51
rall.
a tempo
dim.
pp
58
p cresc.
f
ff
64
p
f
p sub.

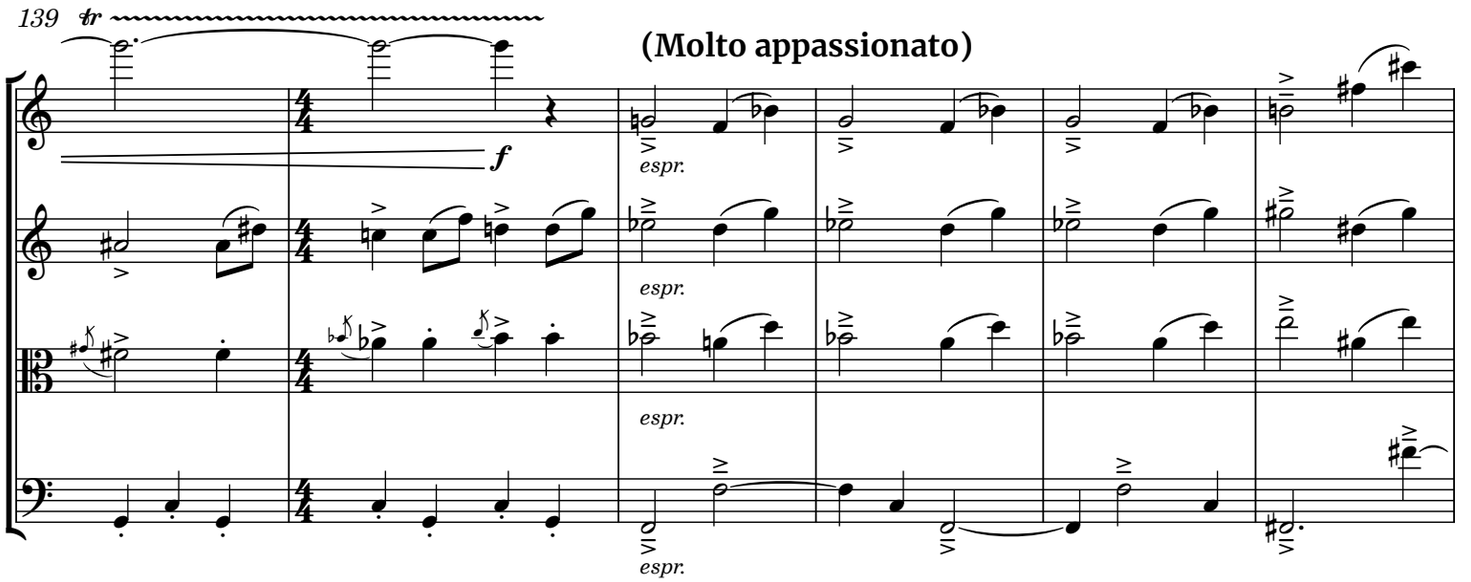

70
f espr.
p
f
p
tr
f
f
p sub.
75
f
tr
f
f espr.
f espr.
tr
f
80
sff
mf

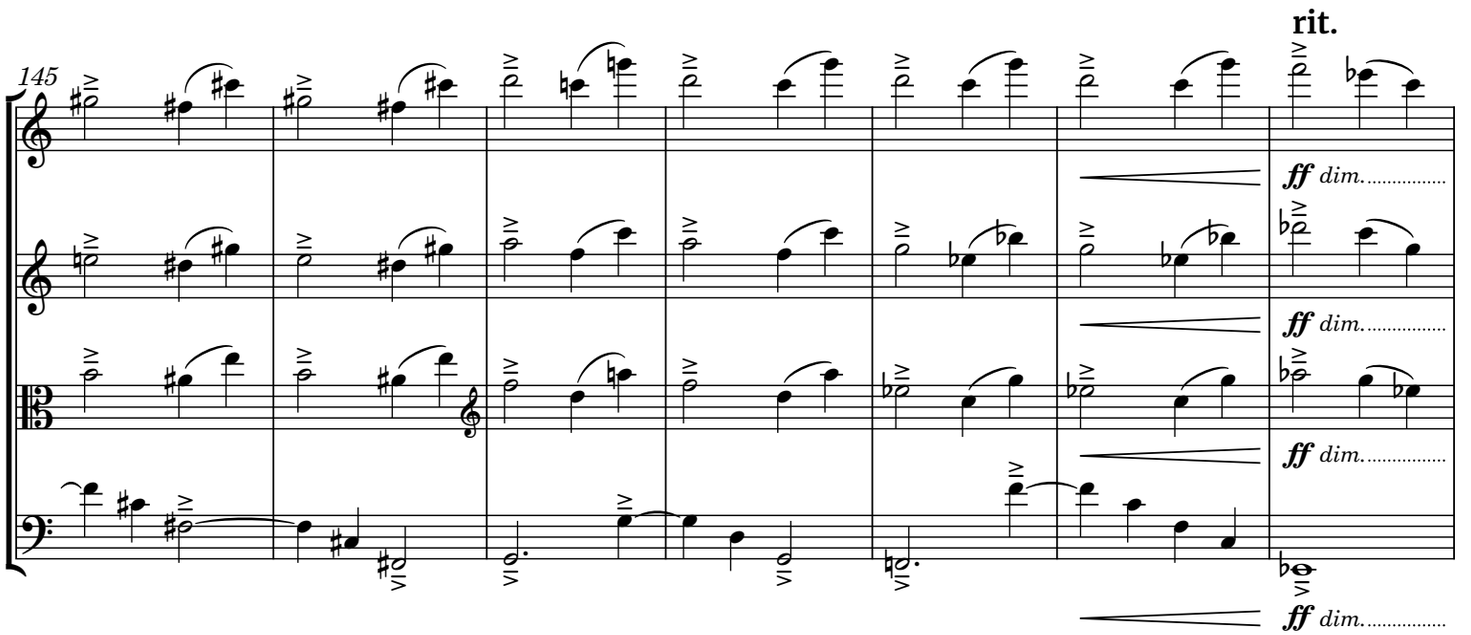
Grazioso ma poco agitato (l'istesso tempo)

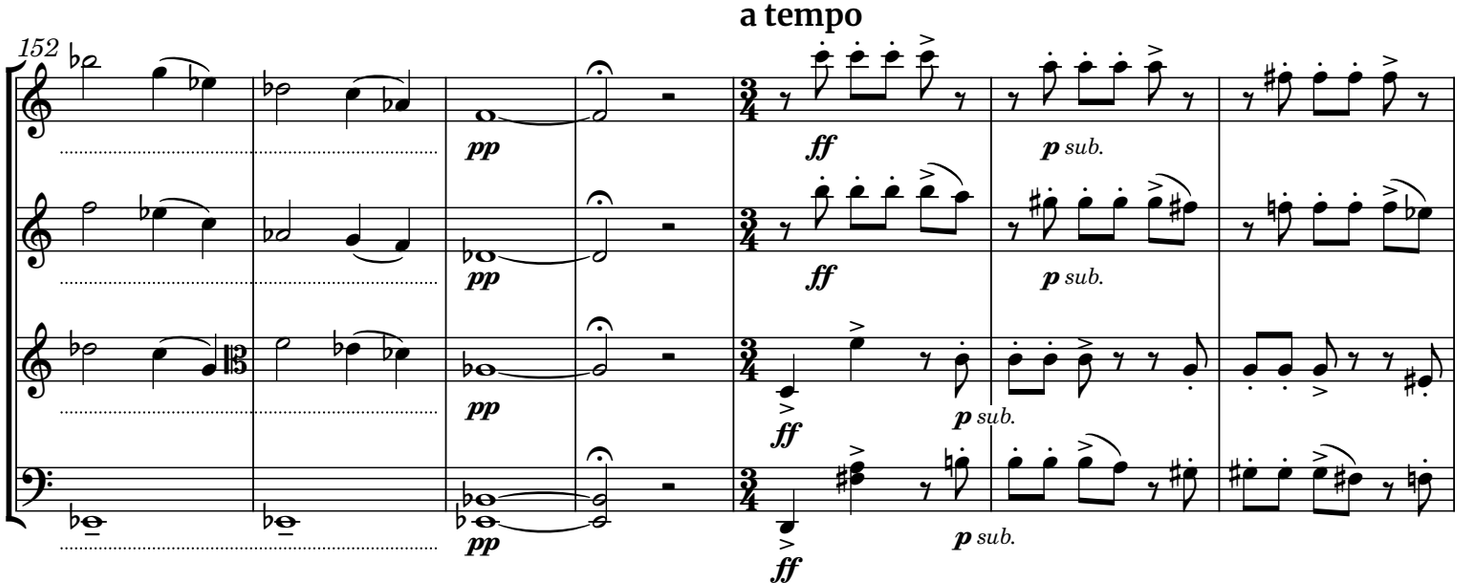


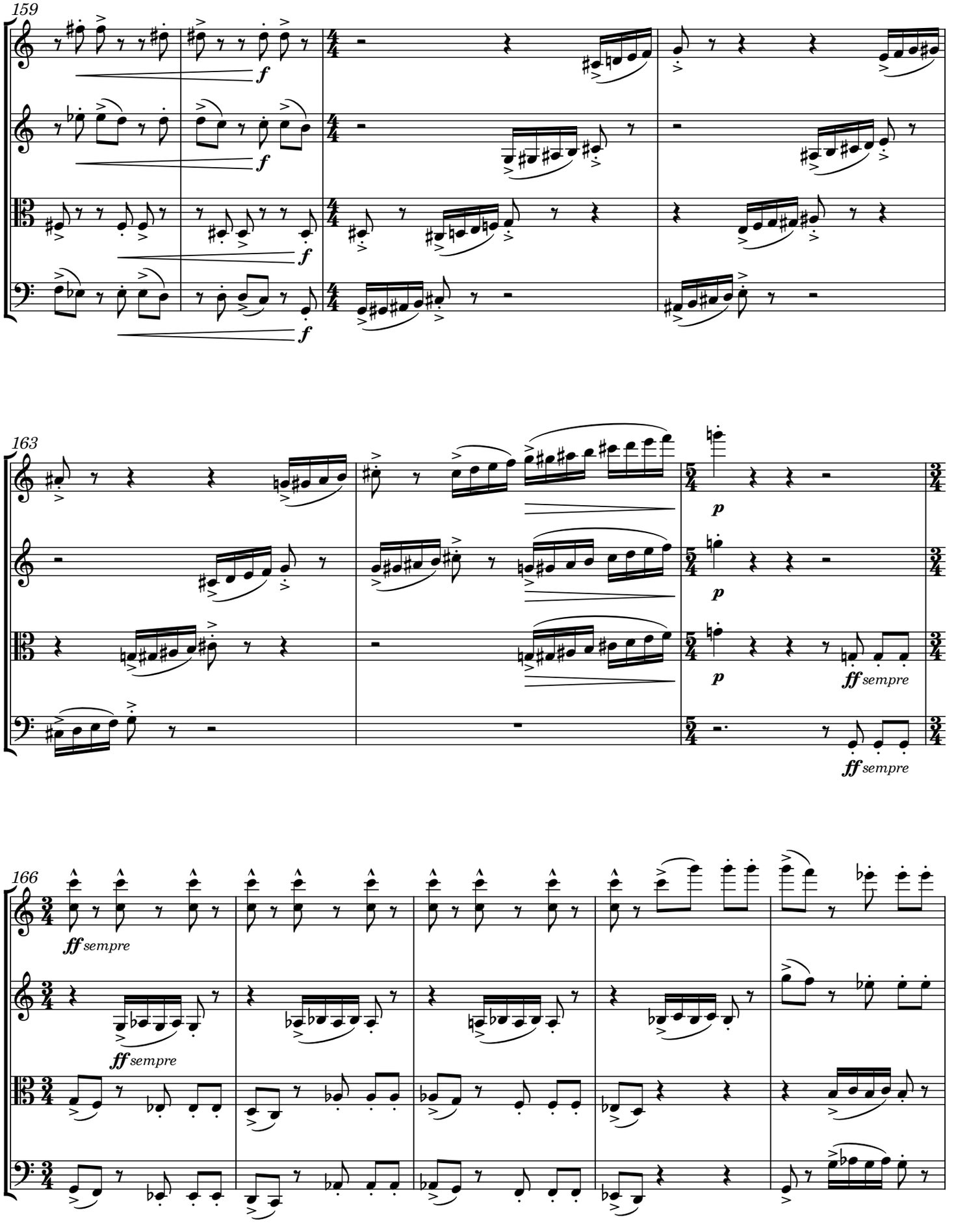

101
f
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
108
ff sost.
ff sost.
ff sost.
ff sost.
ff
ff
ff
ff
115

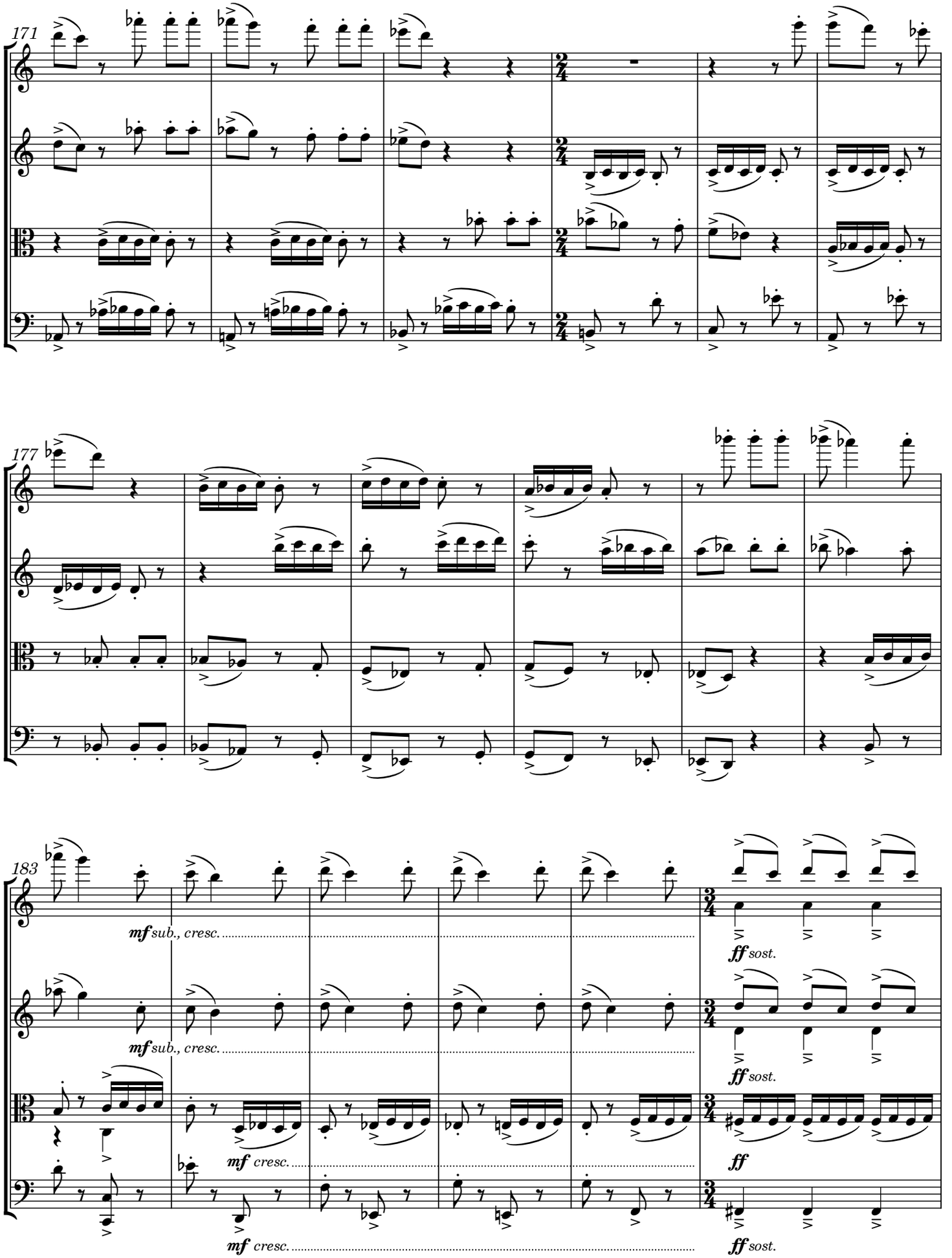

121
p
p
p
128
tr
f
p
f
f
f
133
tr
f
f sub.
fp

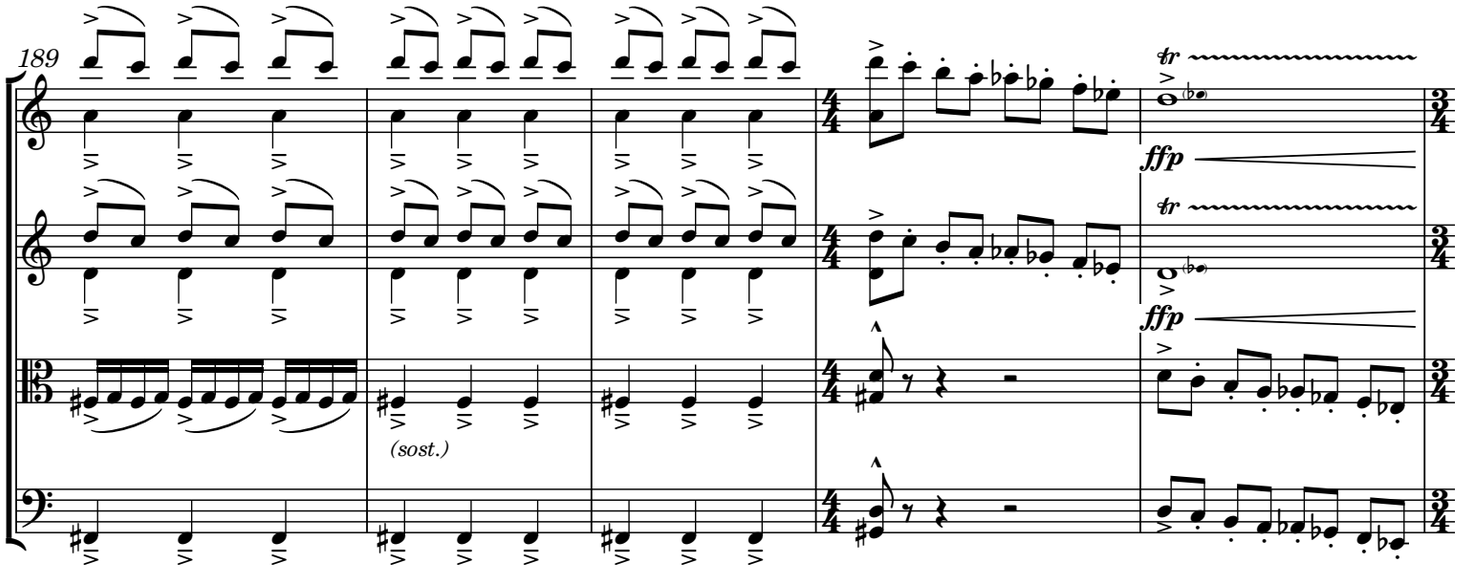

139
tr
(Molto appassionato)
f
espr.
espr.
espr.
espr.

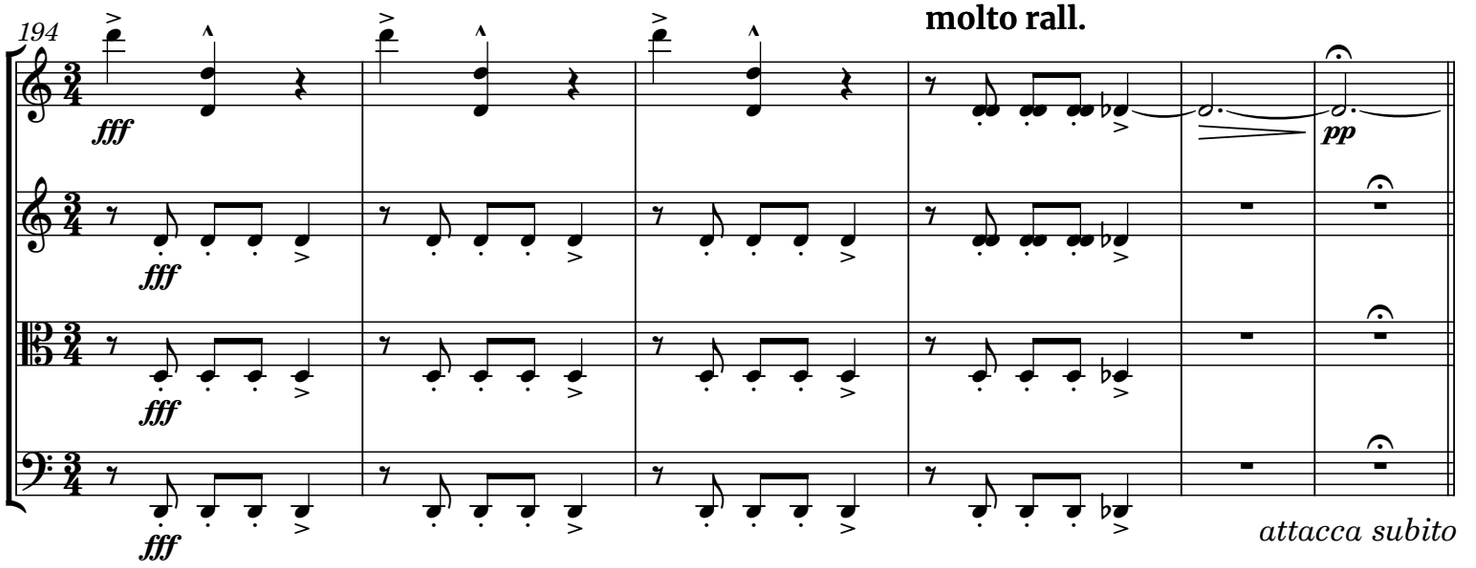

145
rit.
ff dim.
ff dim.
ff dim.
ff dim.


152
a tempo
pp
pp
pp
pp
ff
ff
ff
ff
p sub.
p sub.
p sub.
p sub.

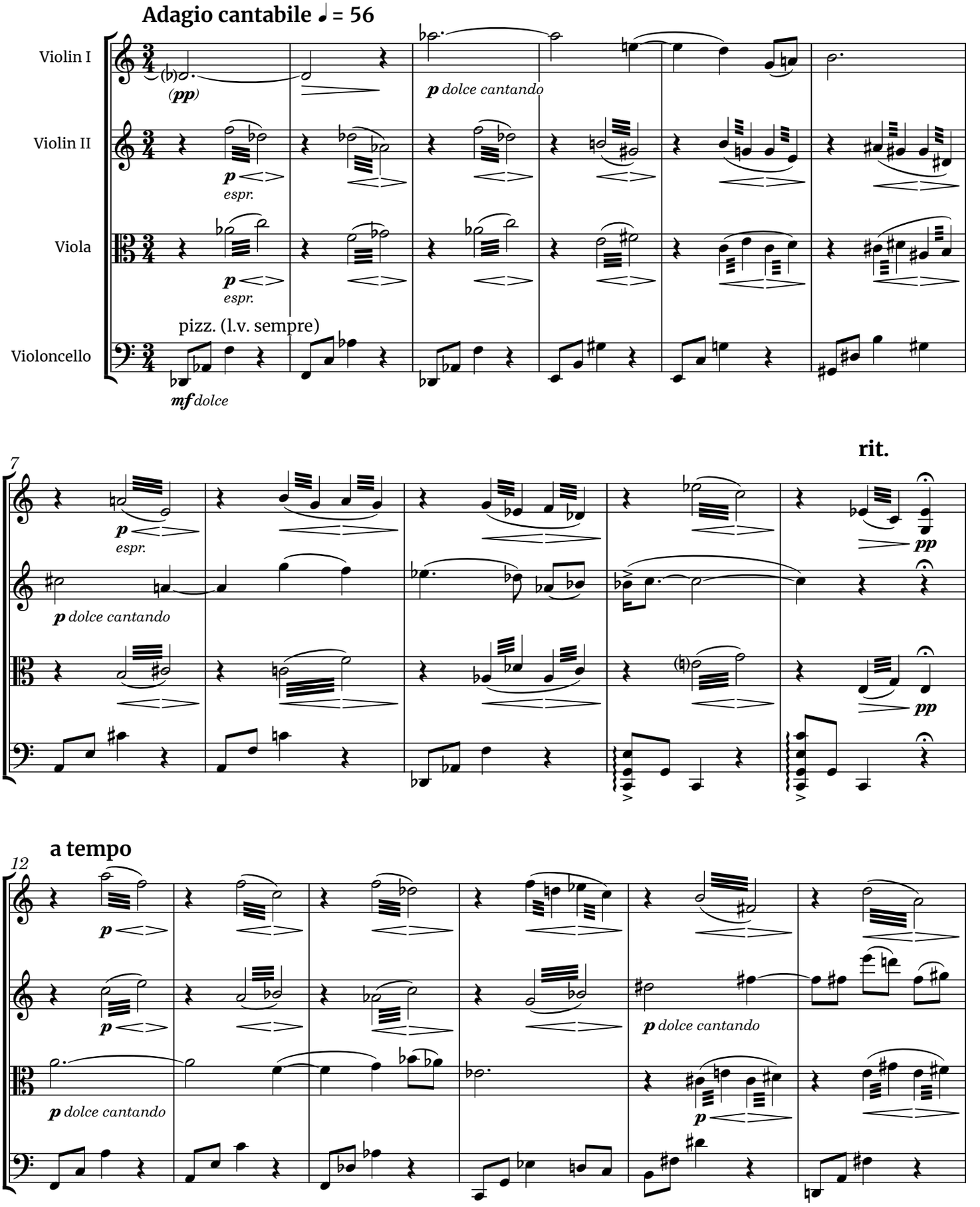

159
f
163
p
ff sempre
166
ff sempre

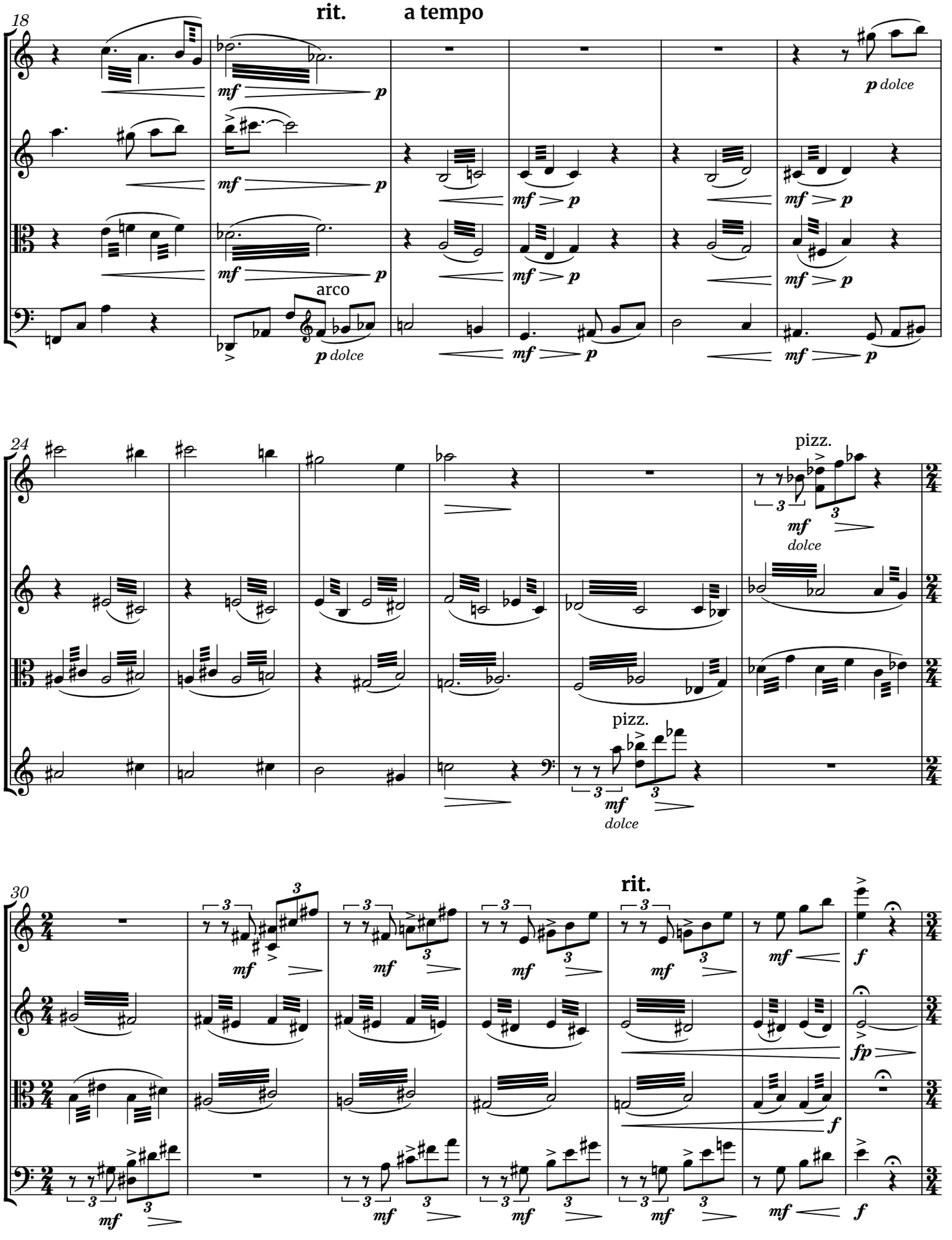

171
177
183
mf sub., cresc.
mf sub., cresc.
mf cresc.
mf cresc.
ff sost.
ff sost.
ff
ff sost.


189
tr
ffp
tr
ffp
(sost.)

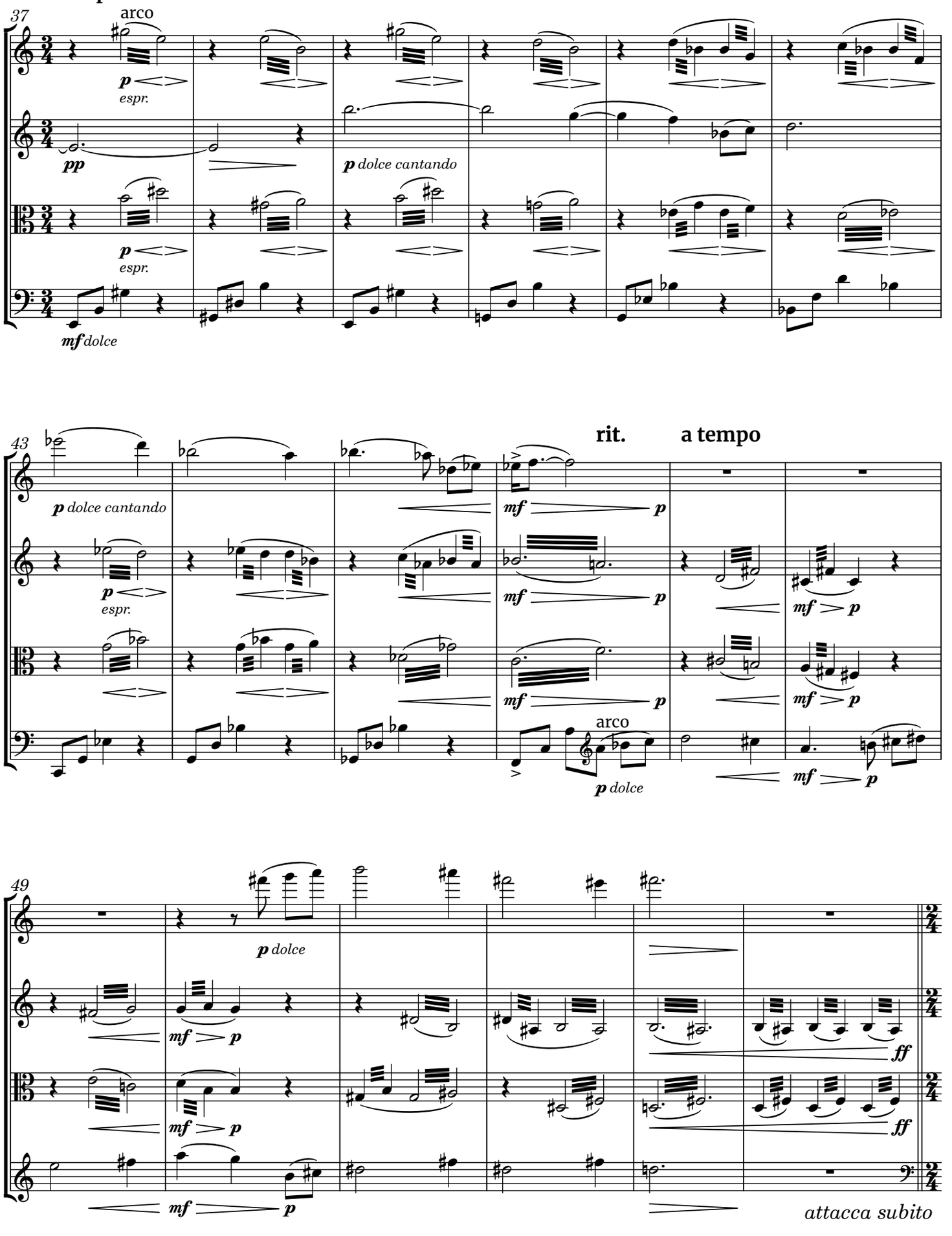

194
molto rall.
fff
fff
fff
fff
pp
attacca subito

III. Two Butterflies Went Out at Noon



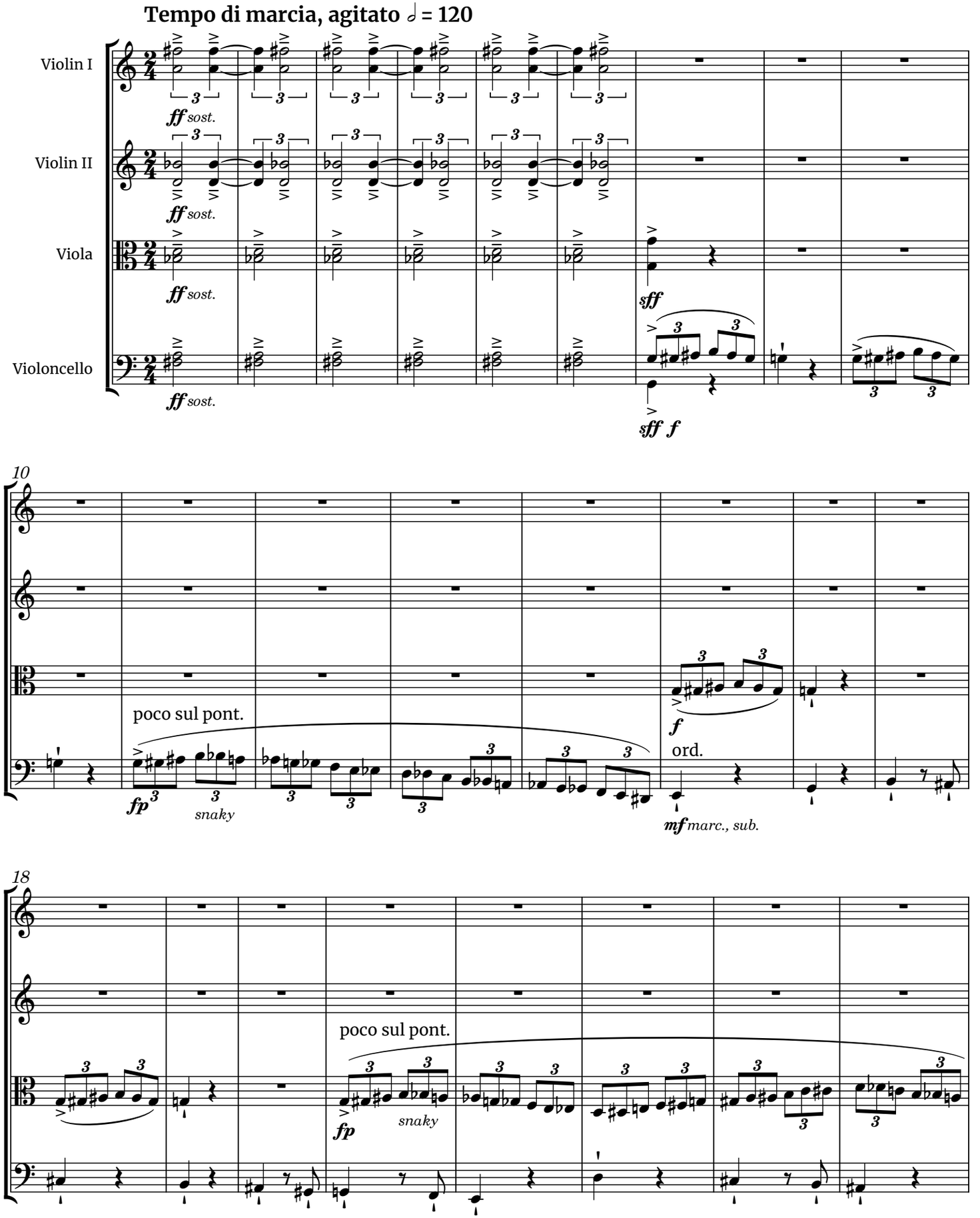

18
rit.
a tempo
mf
p
p dolce
arco
24
pizz.
mf
dolce
30
rit.
fp
f

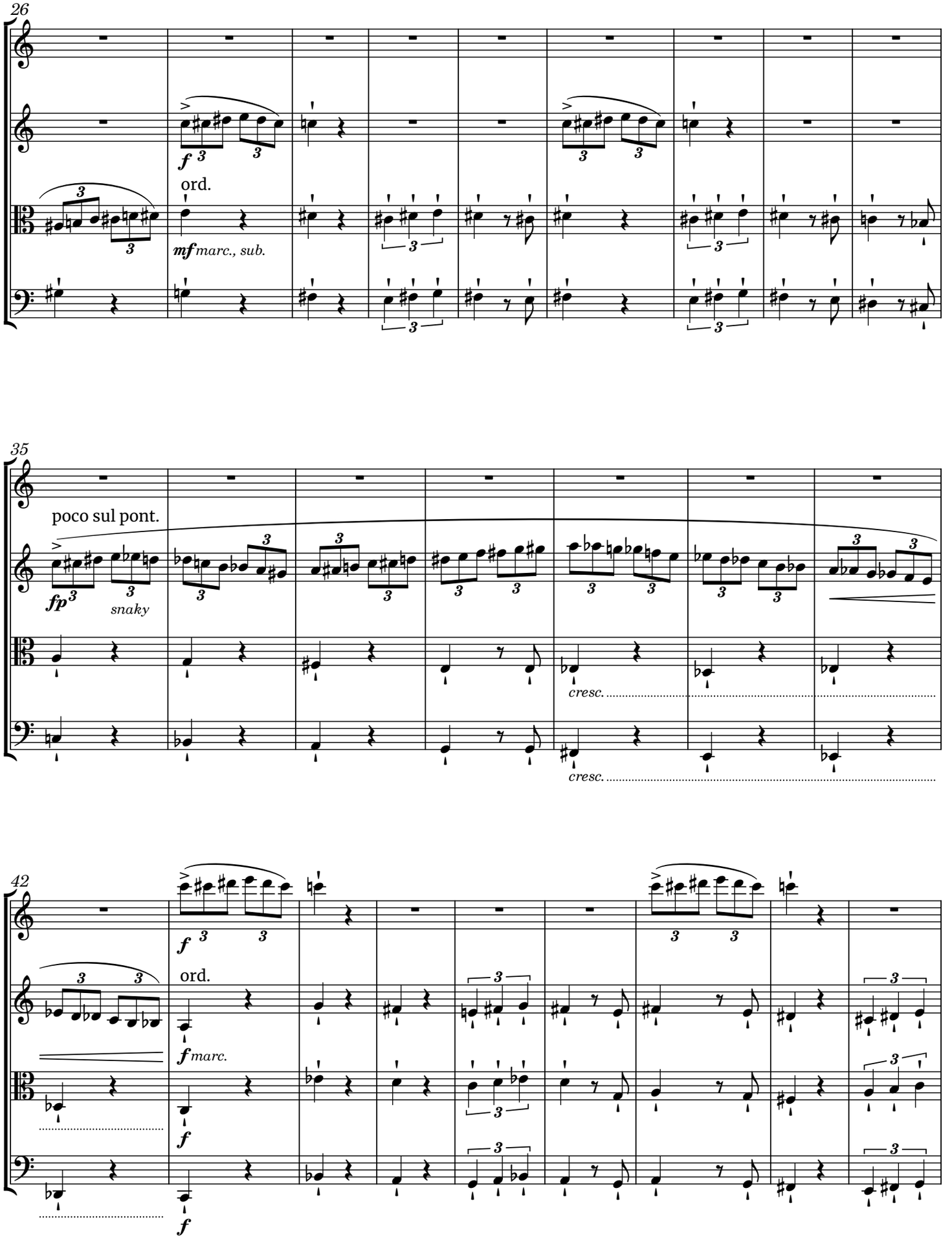
a tempo

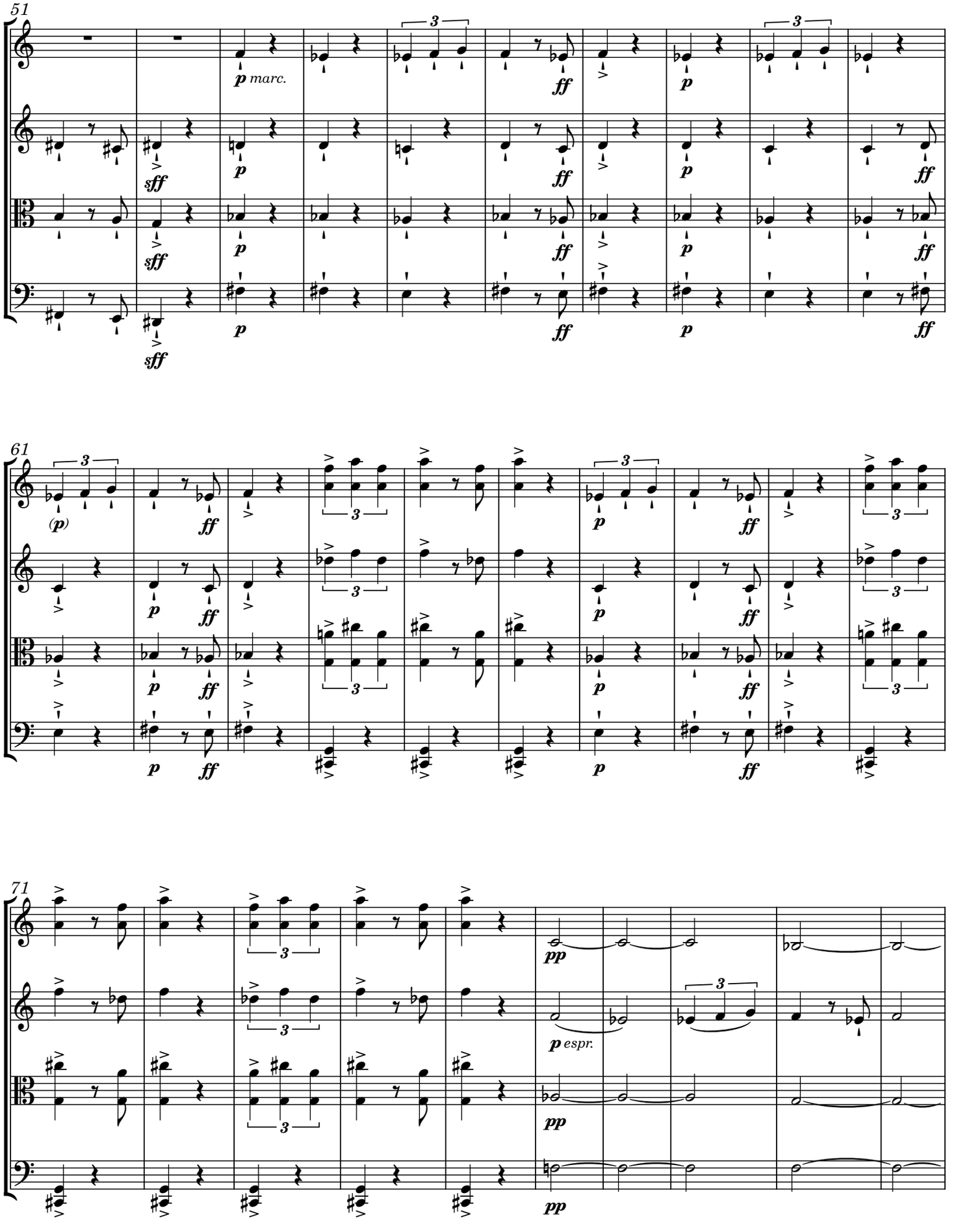

37
arco
p espr.
pp
p dolce cantando
p espr.
mf dolce
43
p dolce cantando
p espr.
mf p
rit.
a tempo
arco
p dolce
49
p dolce
mf p
ff
attacca subito

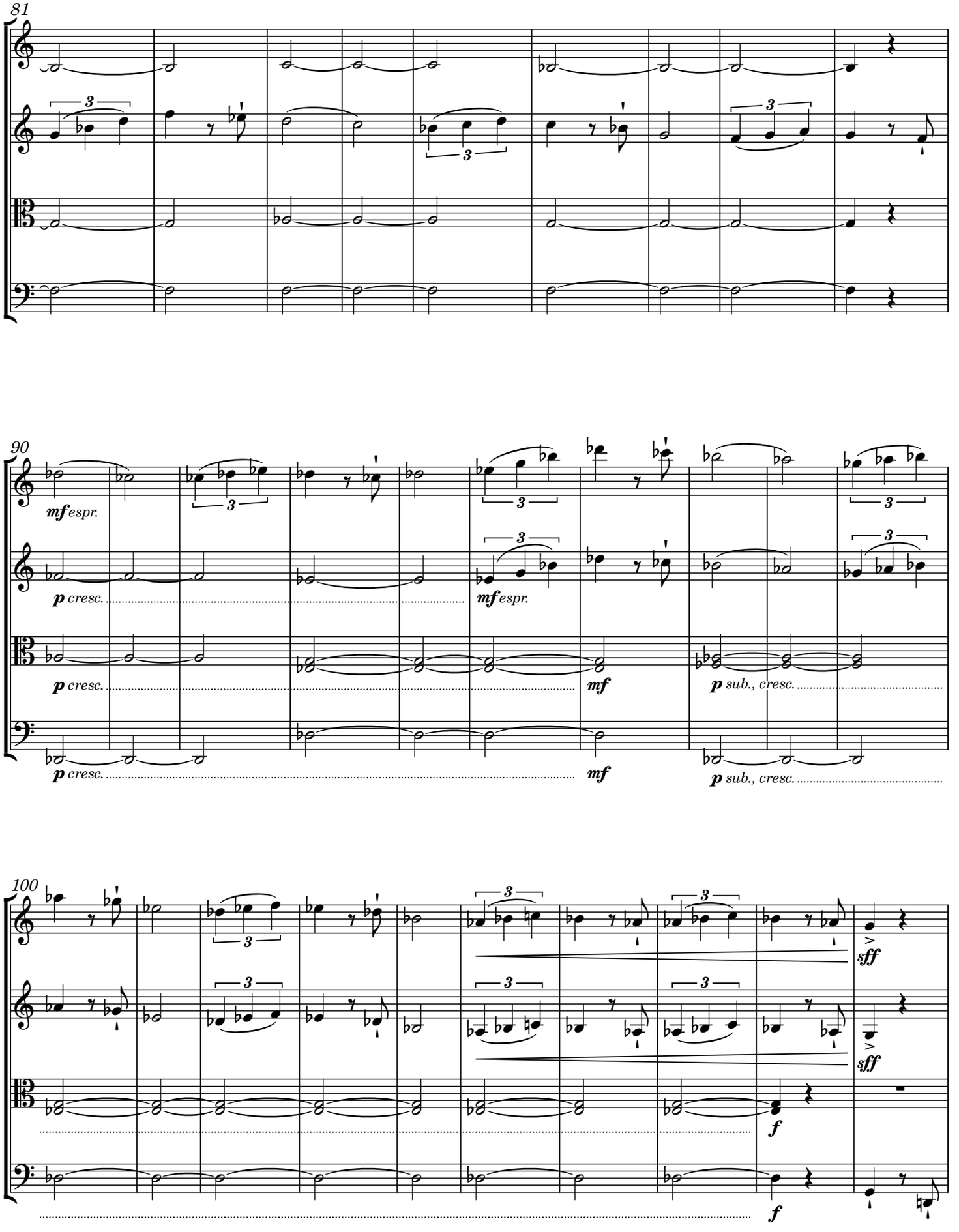
IV. A Narrow Fellow in the Grass

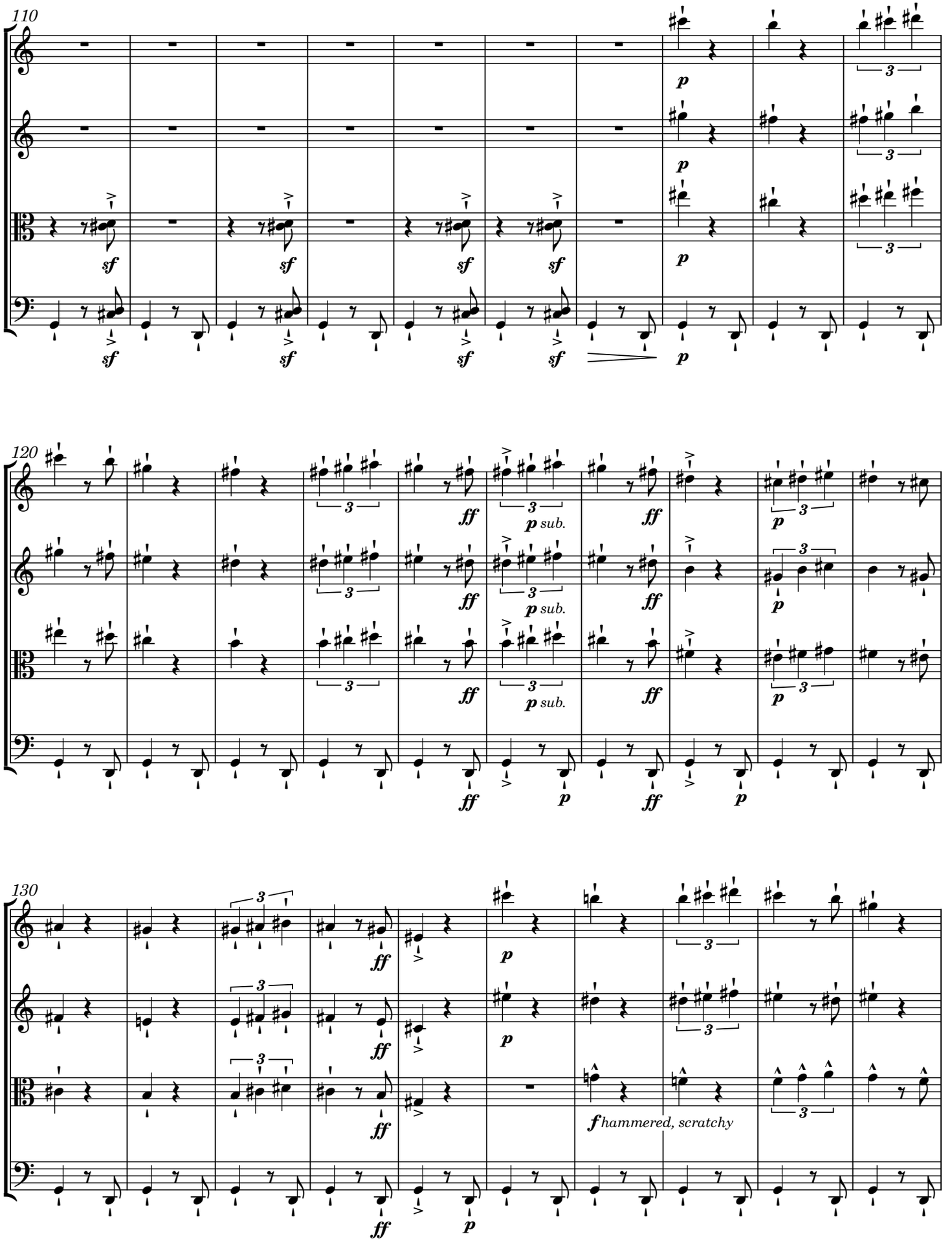
Tempo di marcia, agitato ♩ = 120

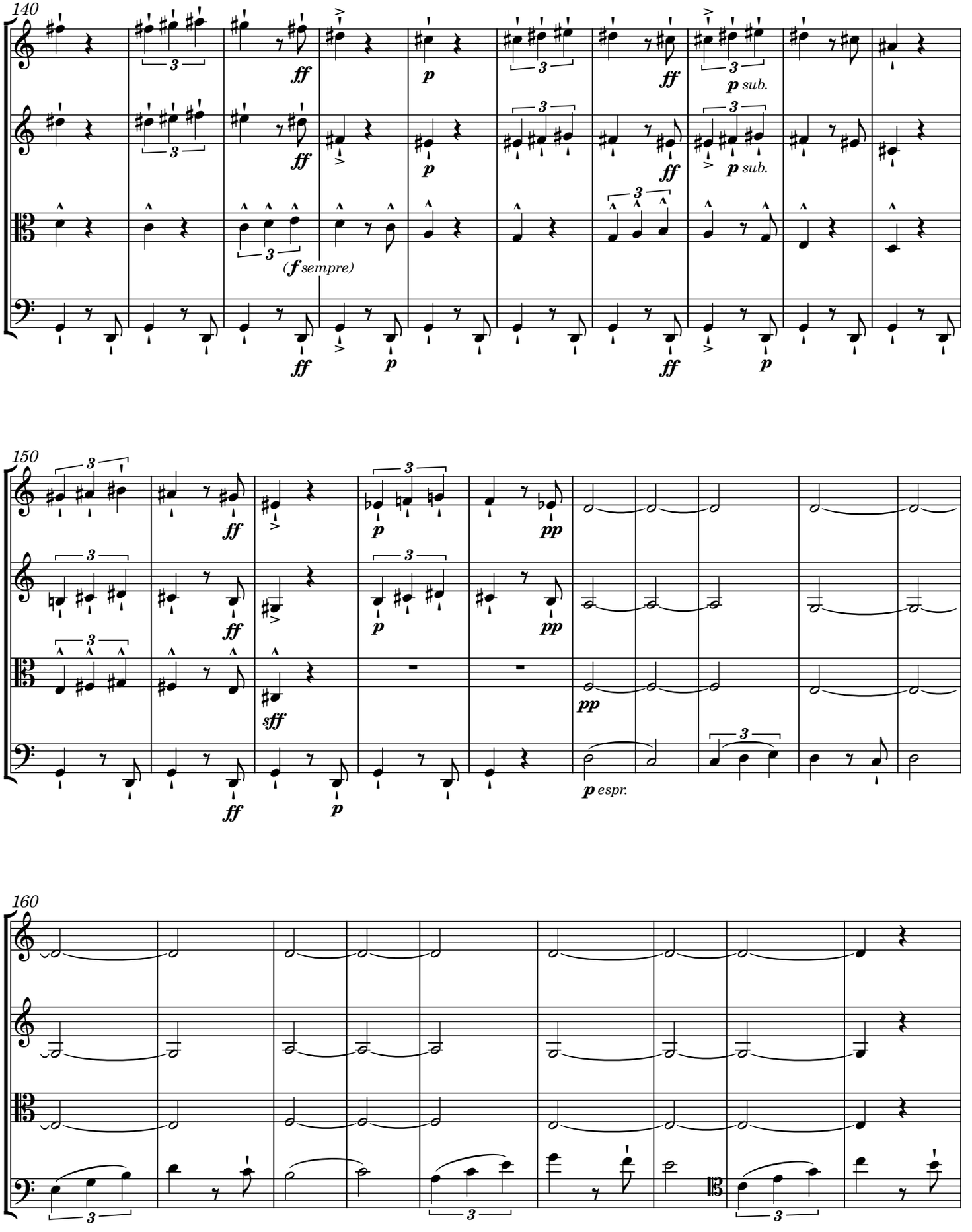


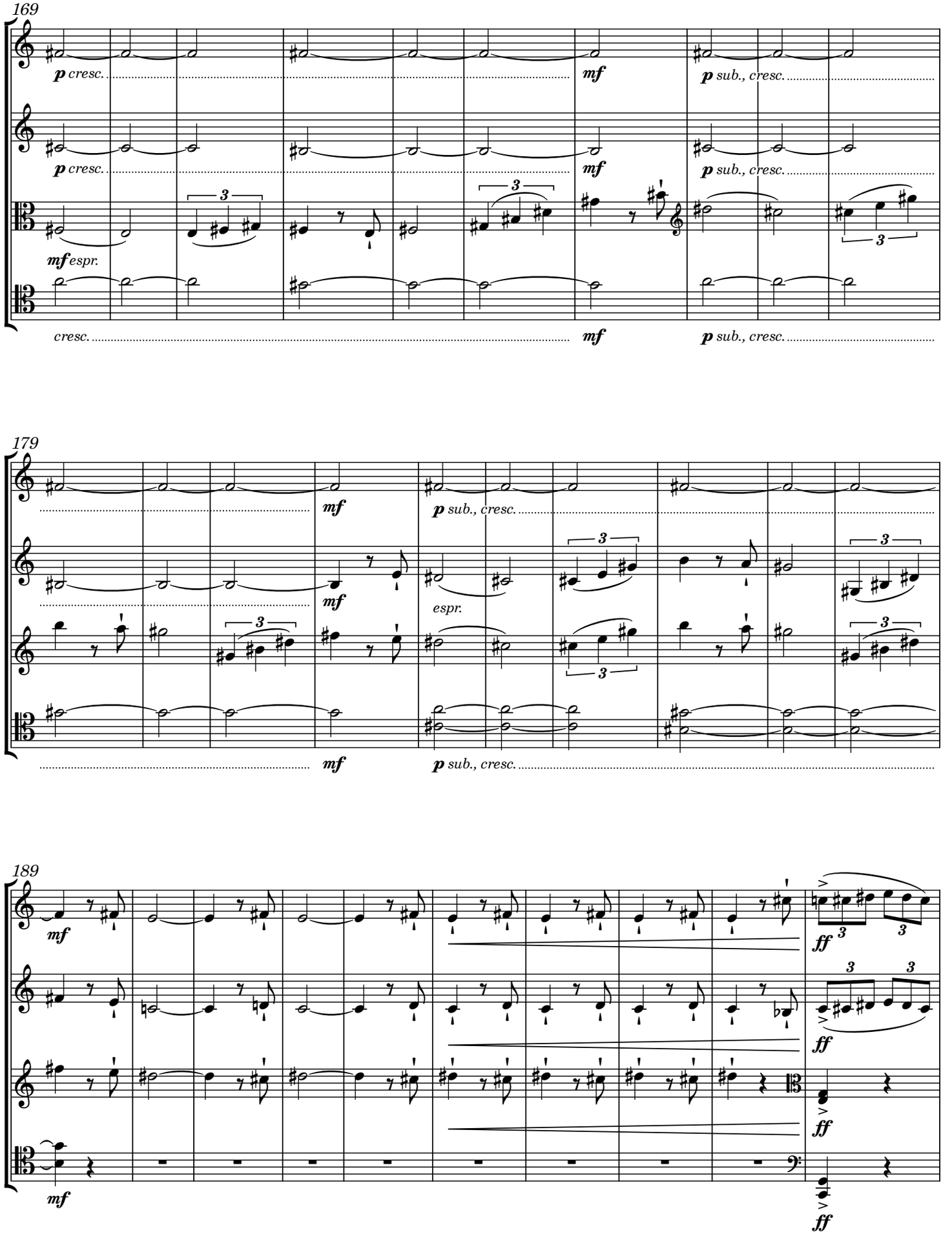

26
ord.
mf marc., sub.
35
poco sul pont.
fp
snaky
cresc.
cresc.
42
f
ord.
f marc.
f
f

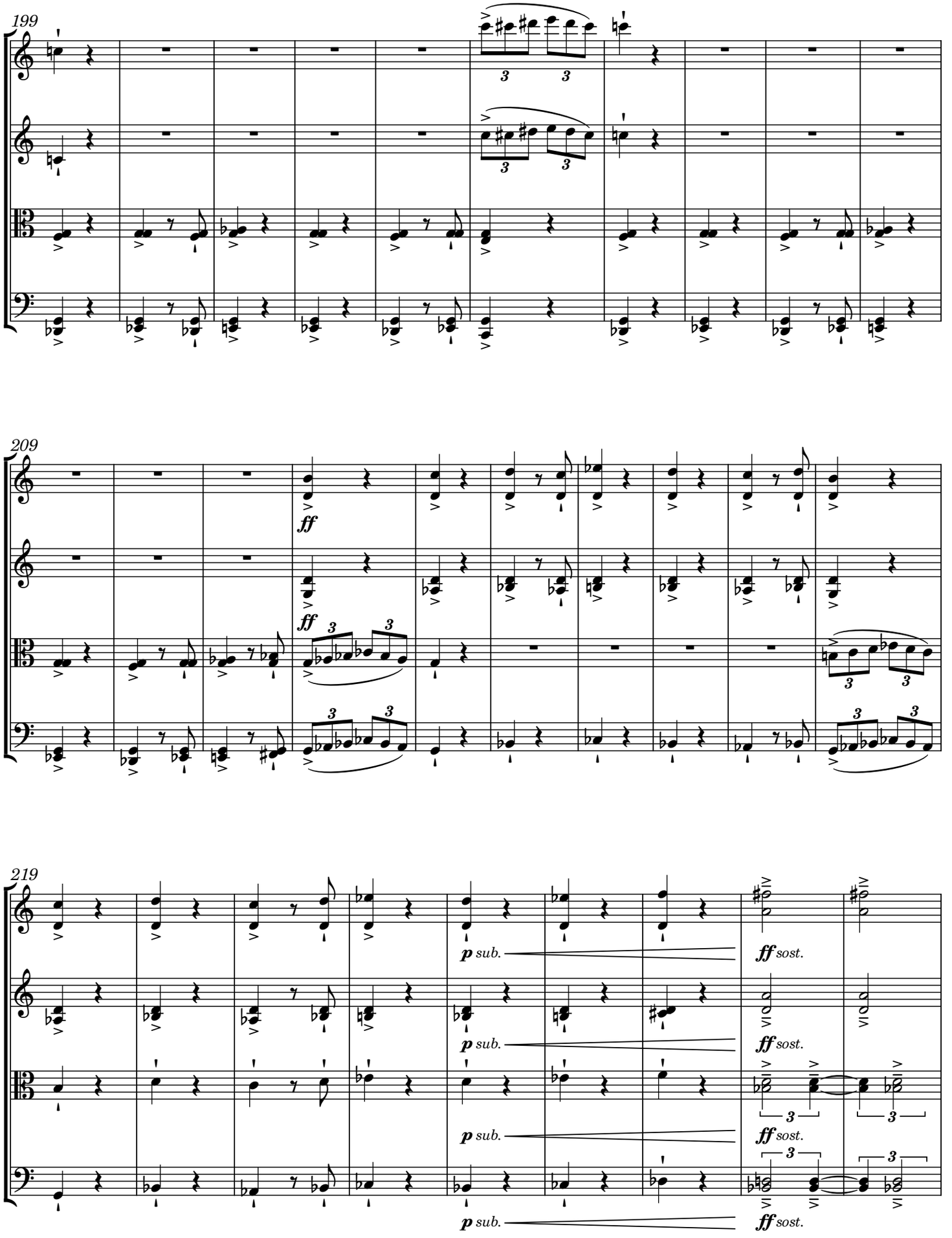

51
p marc.
sff
ff
61
(p)
71
pp
p espr.

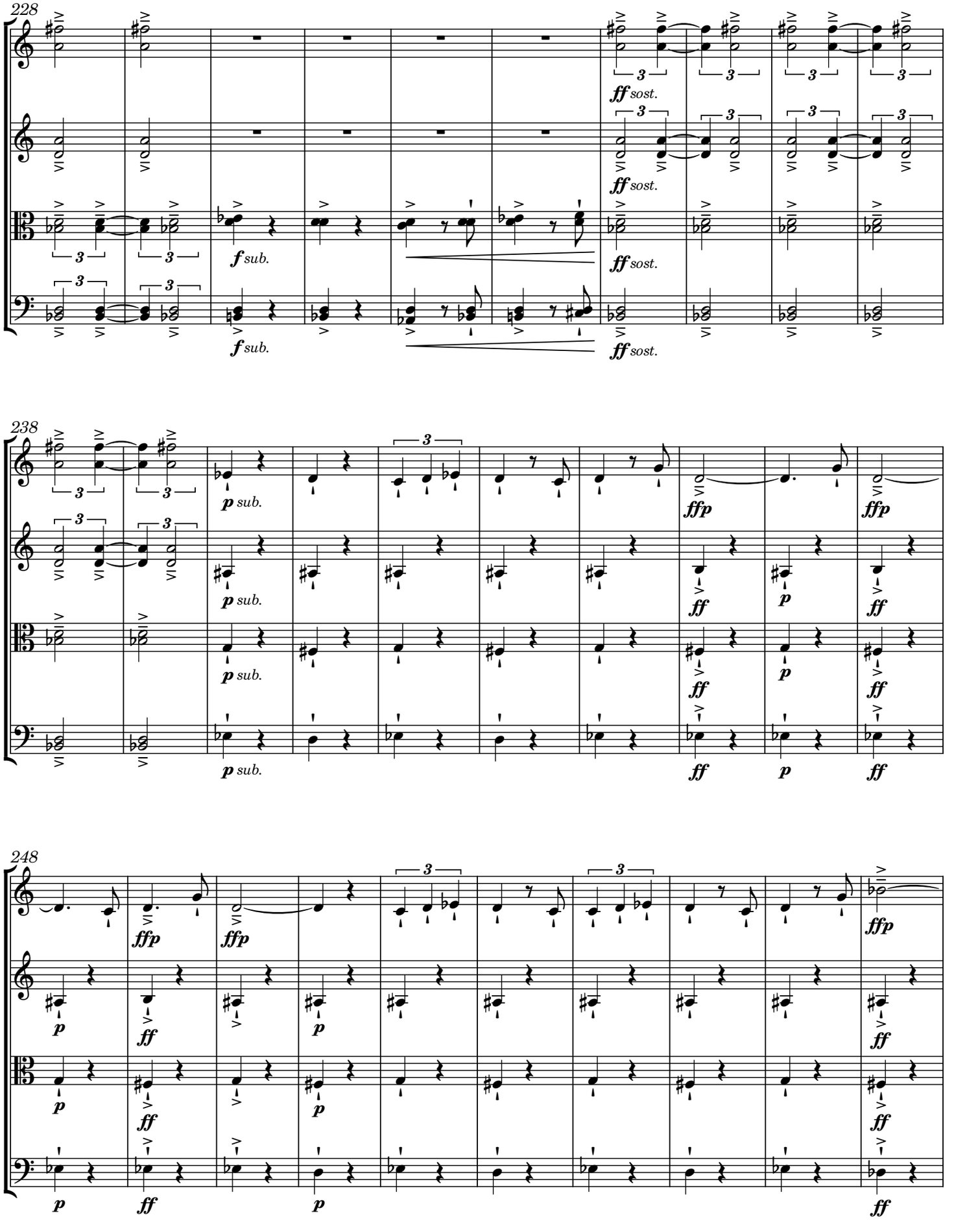

81
90
mf espr.
p cresc.
mf espr.
mf
p sub., cresc.
100
sff
f

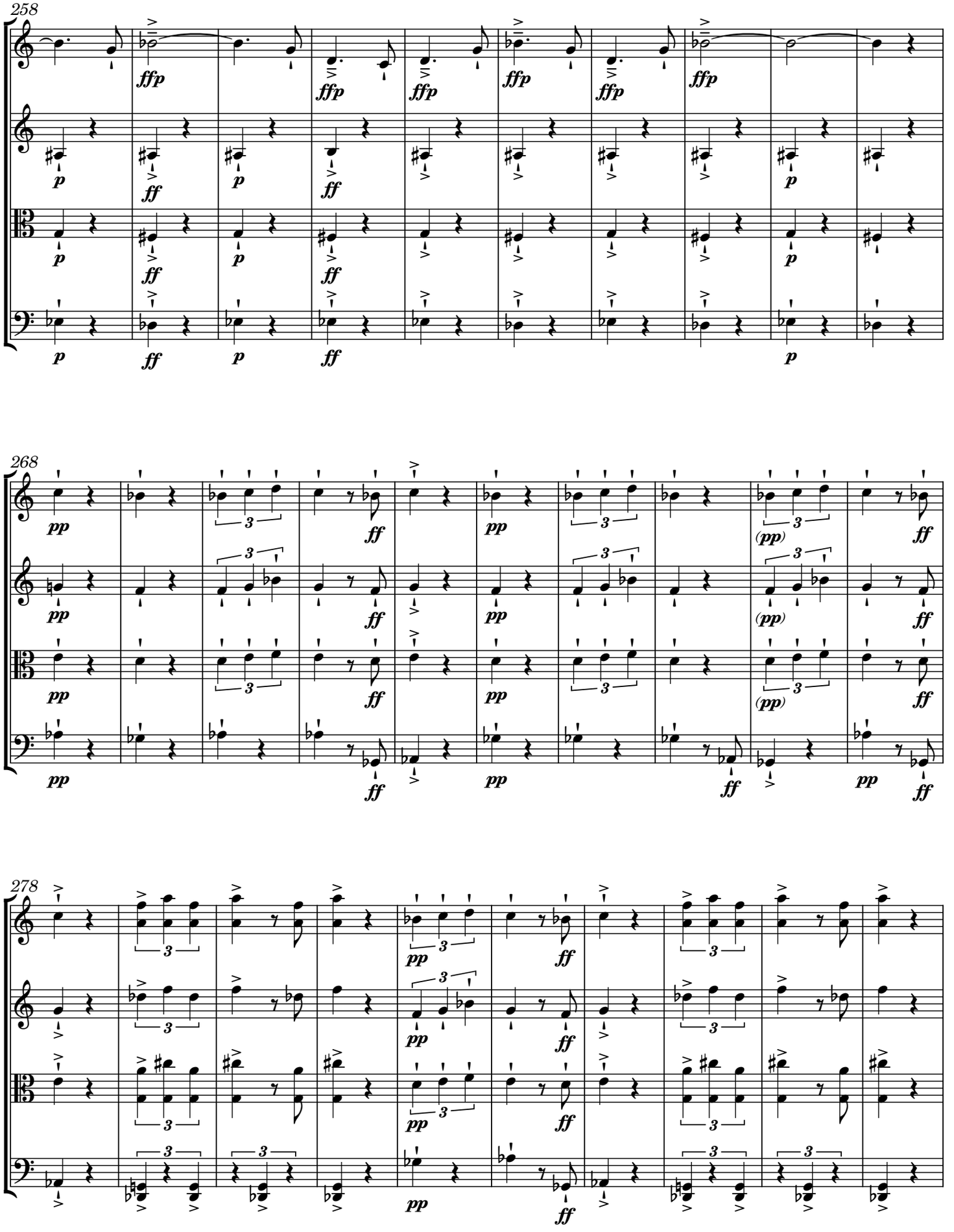

110
sf
p
120
ff
p sub.
p
130
hammered, scratchy

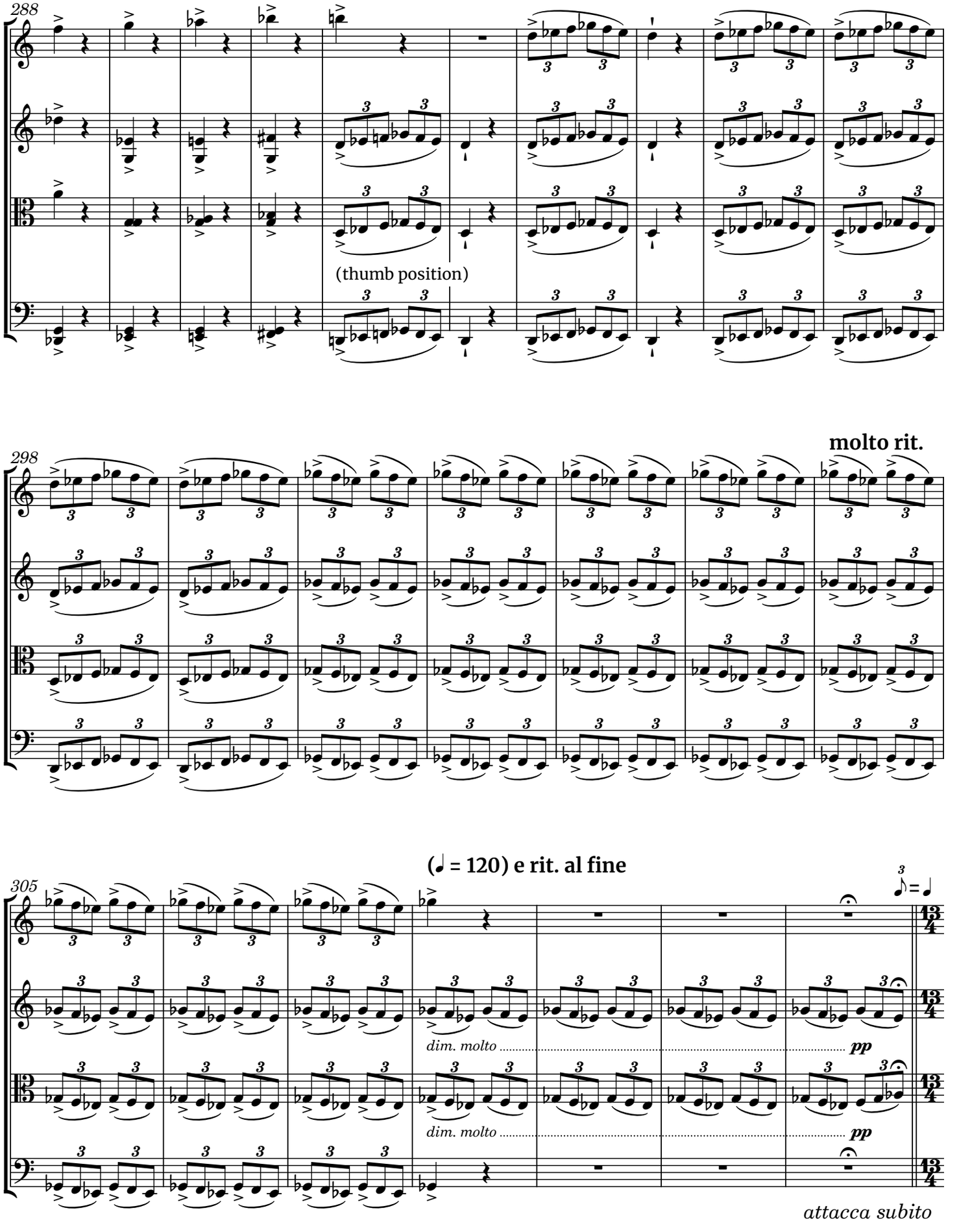

140
ff
p
ff
p sub.
(f sempre)
150
sff
pp
p espr.
160


169
p cresc.
mf
p sub., cresc.
mf espr.
cresc.
179
espr.
189
ff

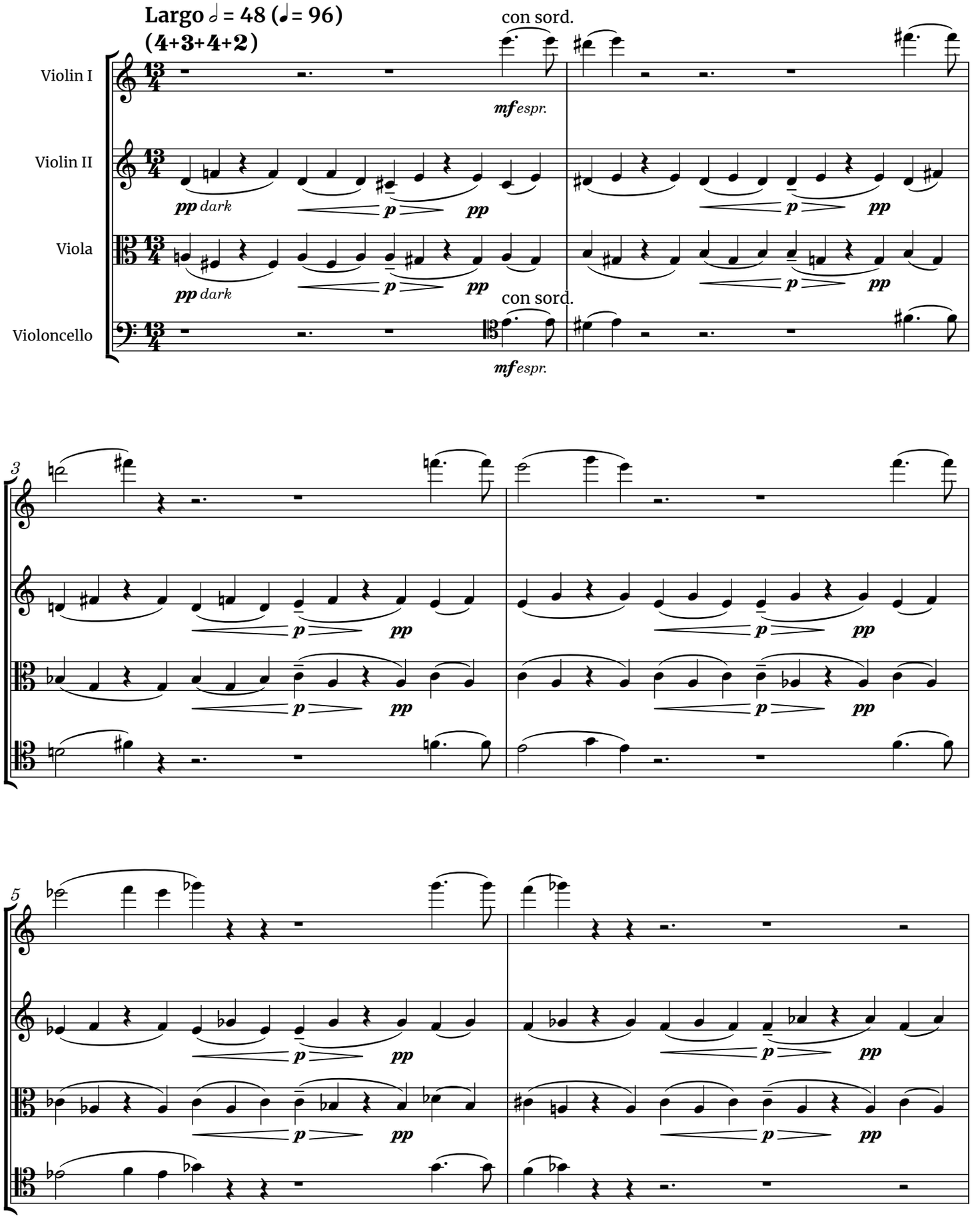

199
209
ff
ff
219
p sub.
p sub.
p sub.
p sub.
ff sost.
ff sost.
ff sost.
ff sost.

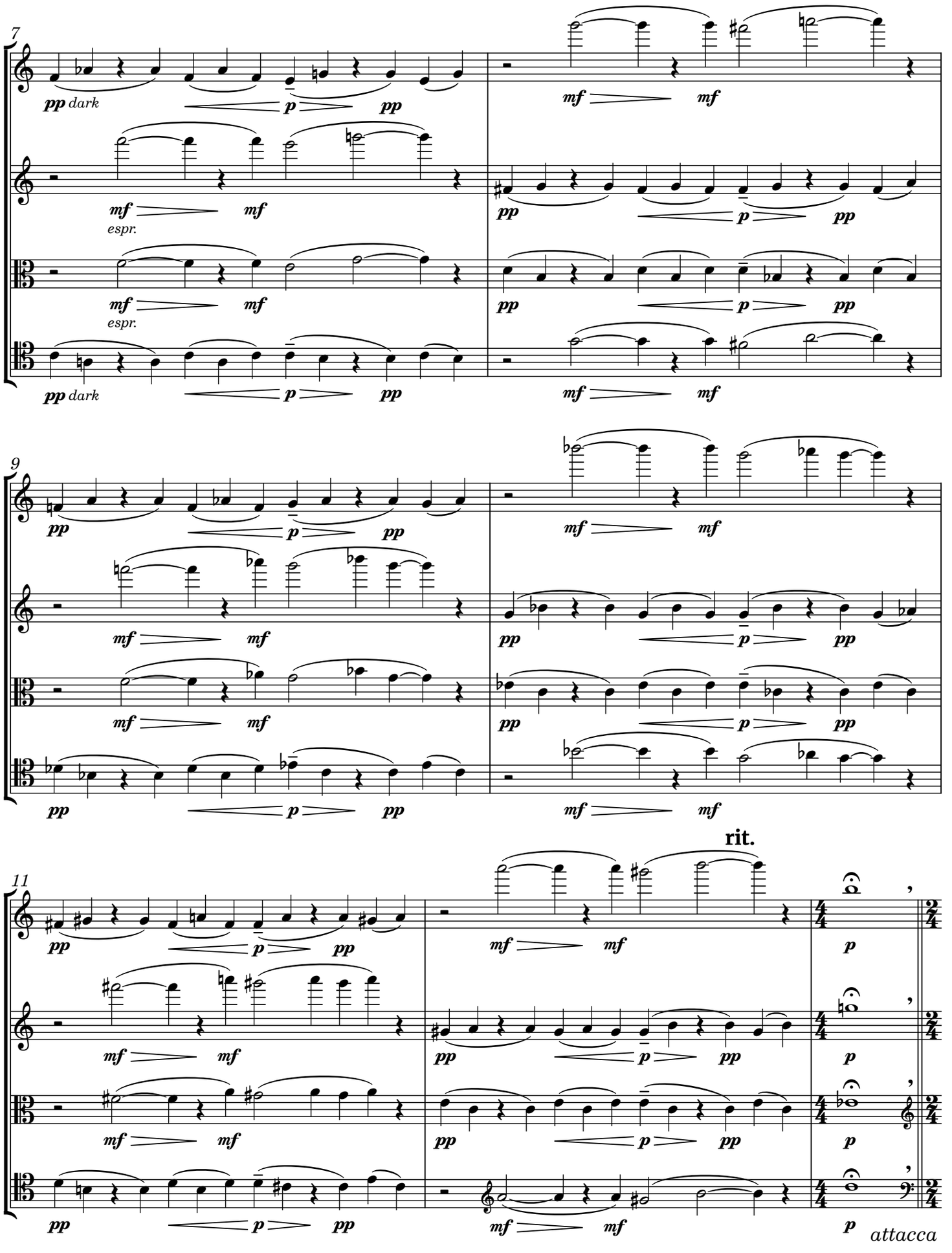

228
ff sost.
f sub.
238
p sub.
ffp
ff
p
248


258
268
278


288
(thumb position)
298
molto rit.
305
(𝅗𝅥 = 120) e rit. al fine
dim. molto
pp
dim. molto
pp
attacca subito

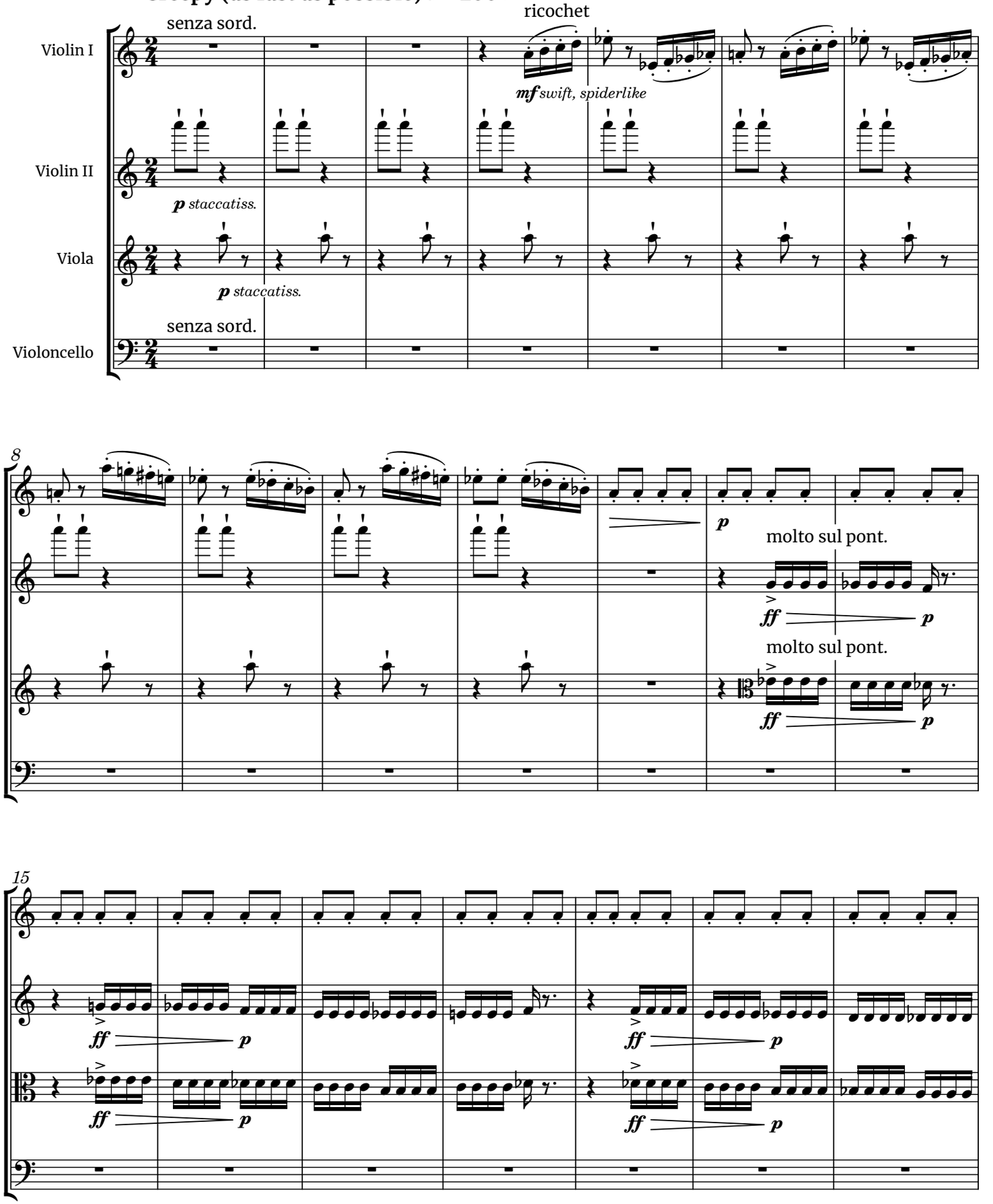
V. The Moon Was But a Chin of Gold

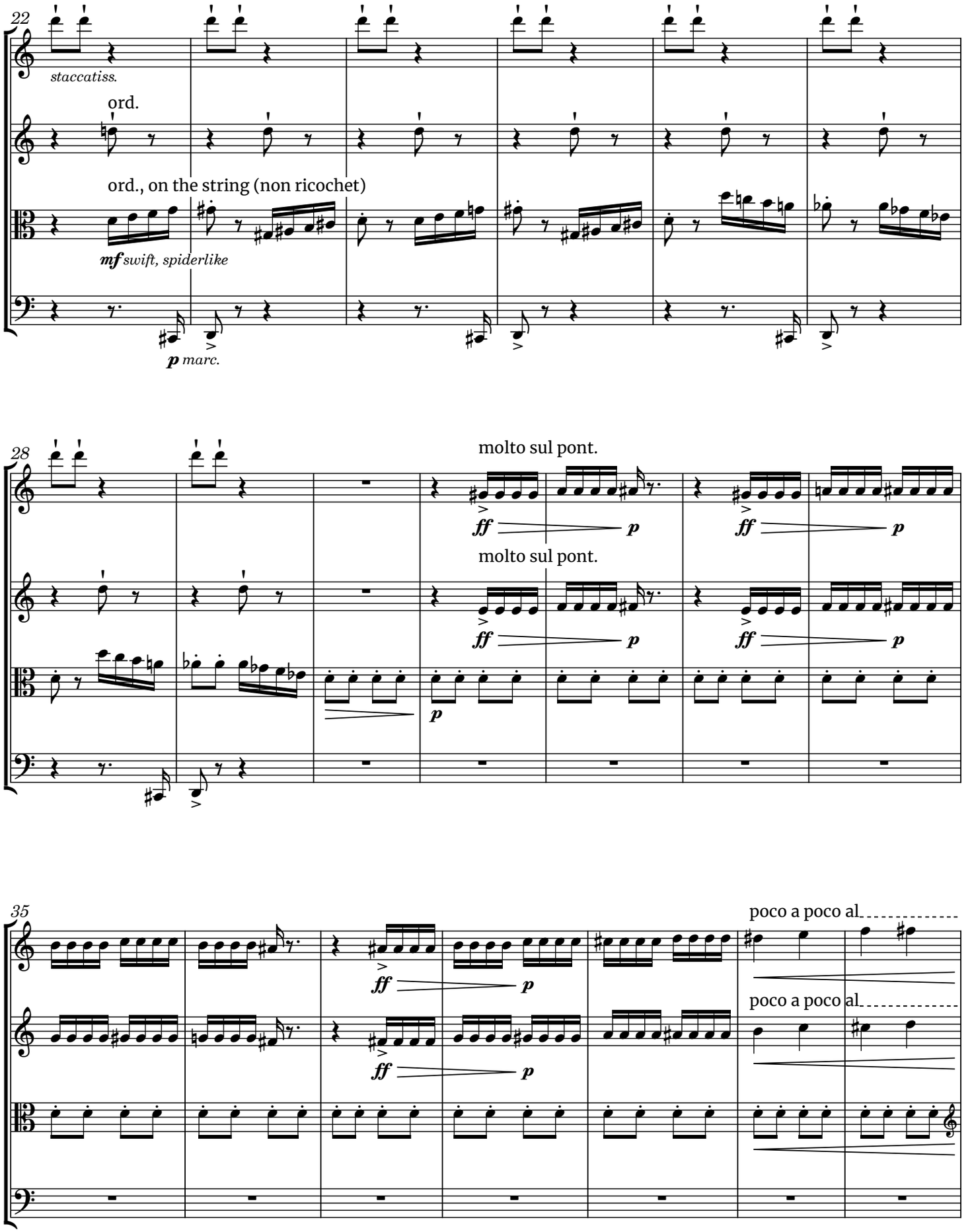



7
pp dark
p
pp
mf
mf
espr.
9
11
rit.
attacca

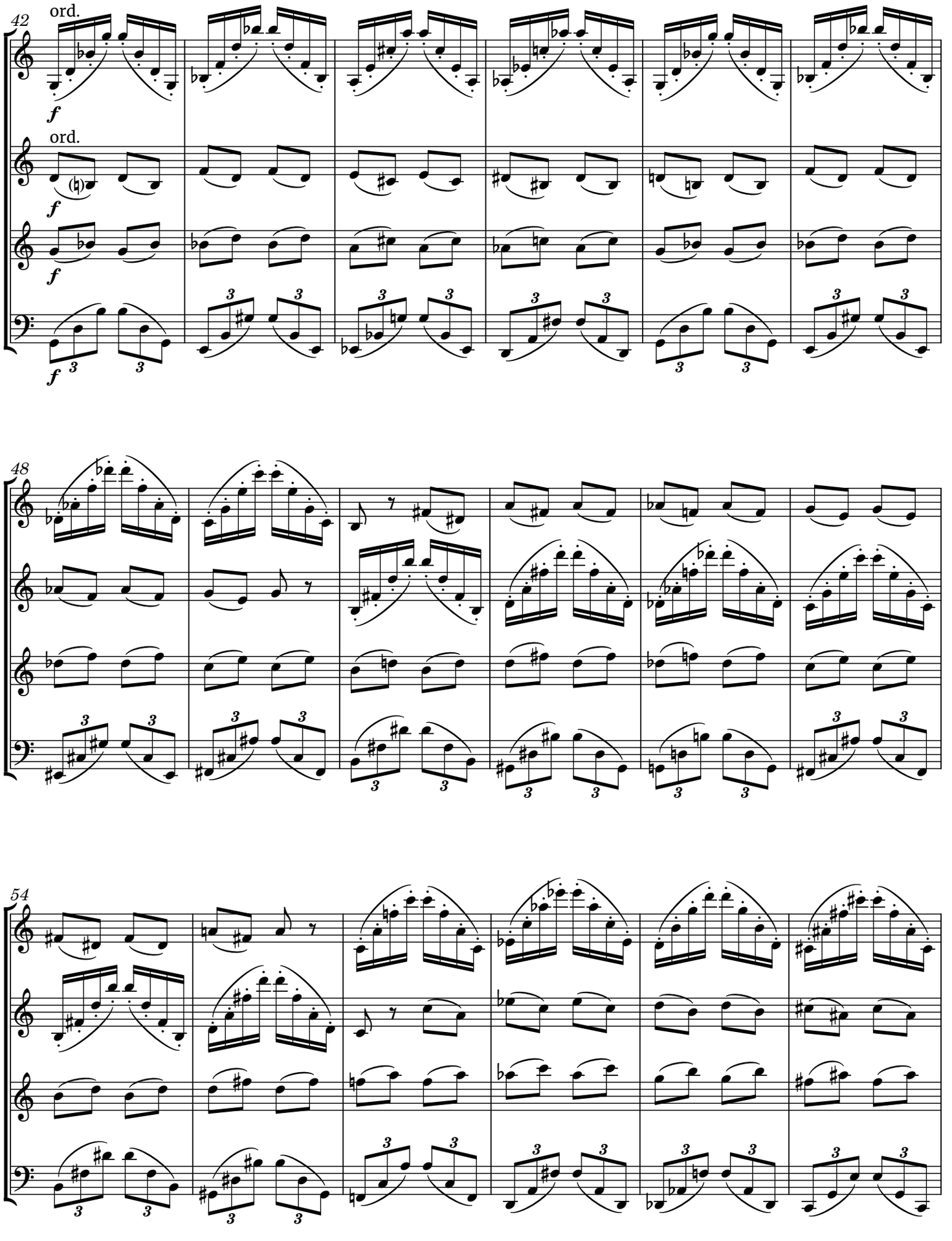
VI. A Spider Sewed at Night

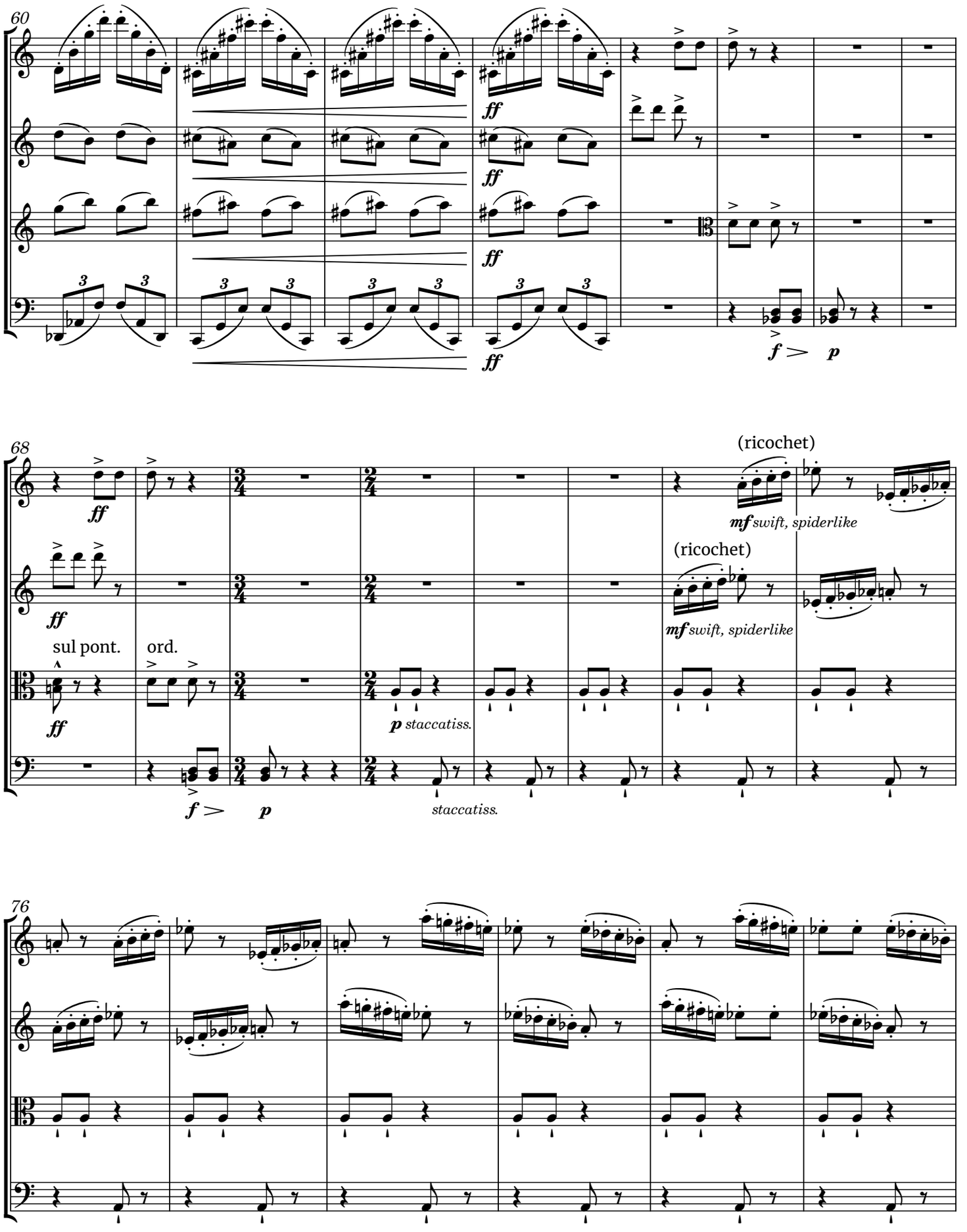
Creepy (as fast as possible) ♩ = 200+

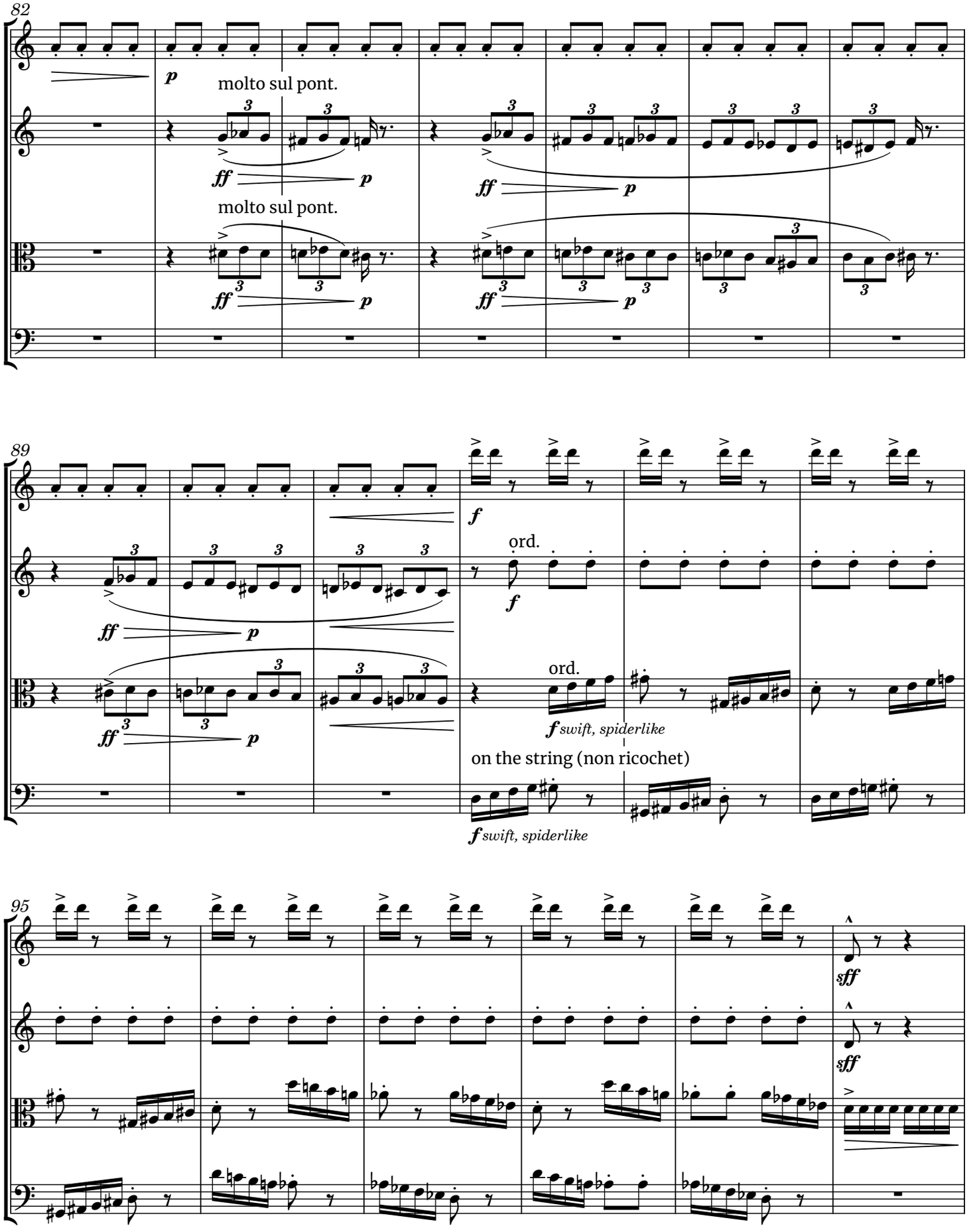


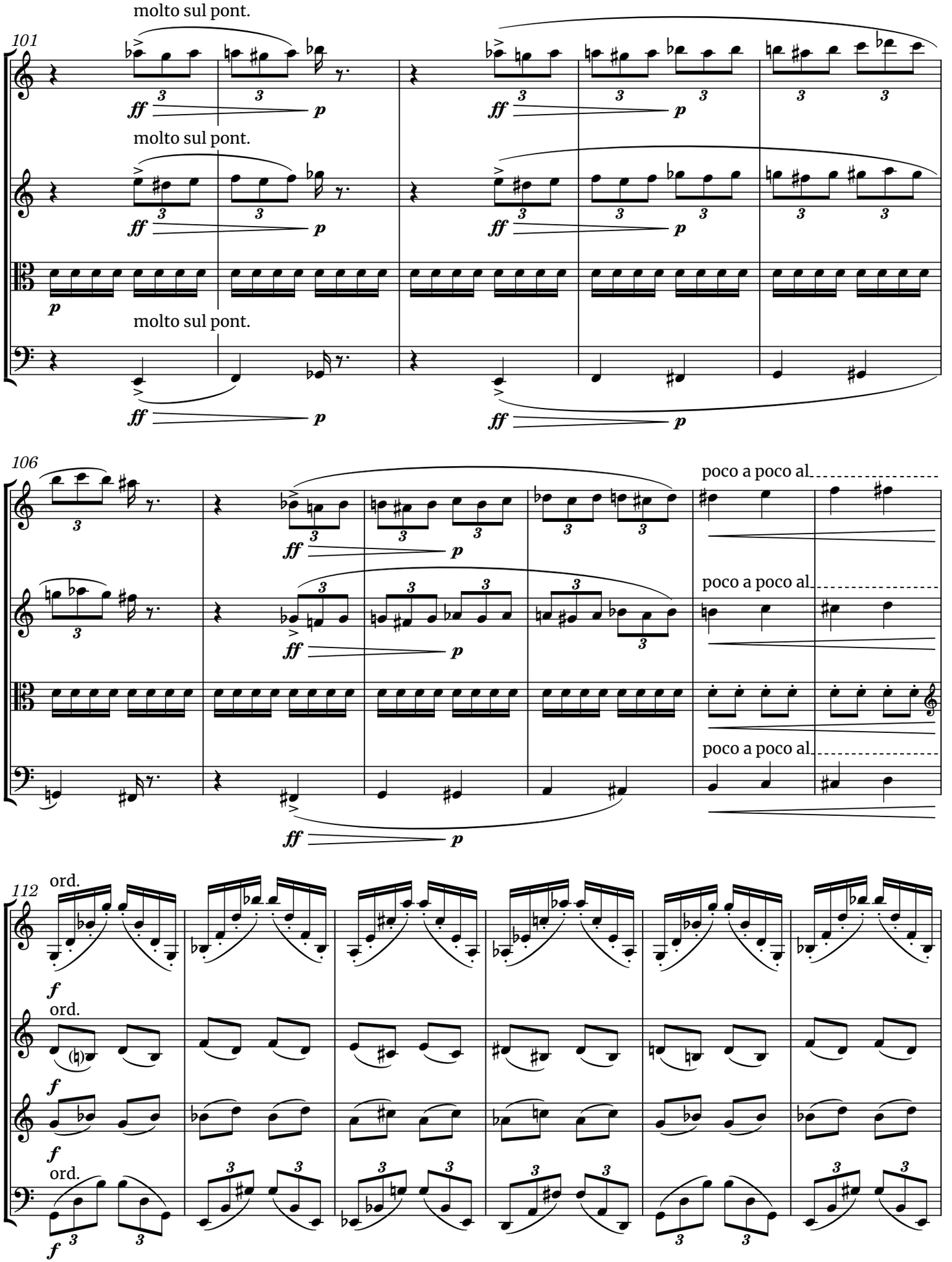

22
staccatiss.
ord.
ord., on the string (non ricochet)
mf swift, spiderlike
p marc.
28
molto sul pont.
molto sul pont.
ff
p
35
poco a poco al
poco a poco al

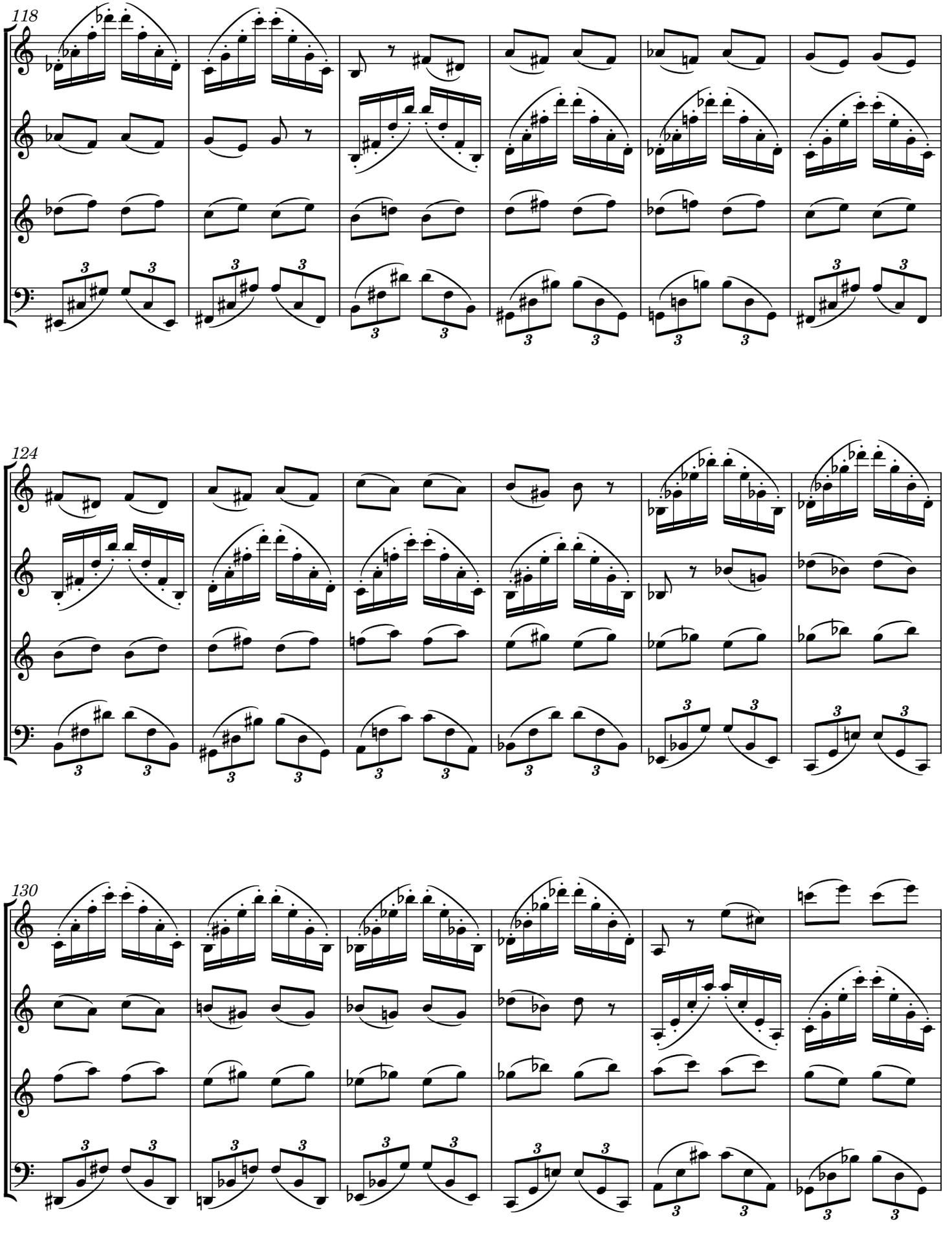
Wild, frenzied (l'istesso tempo)

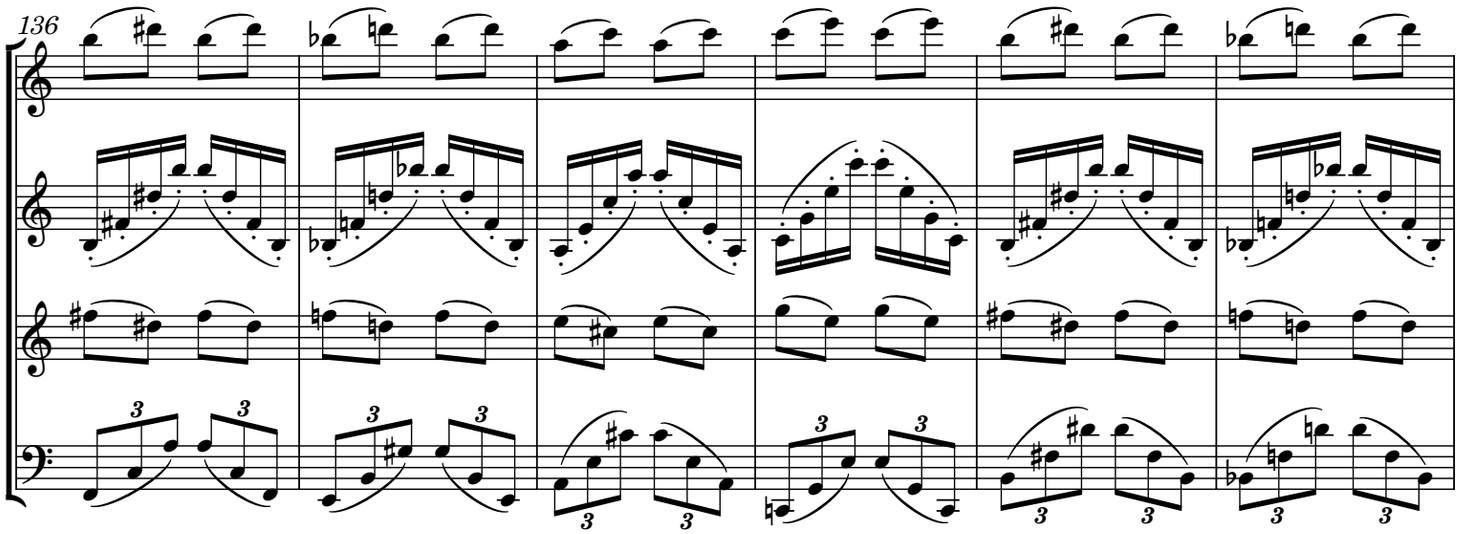


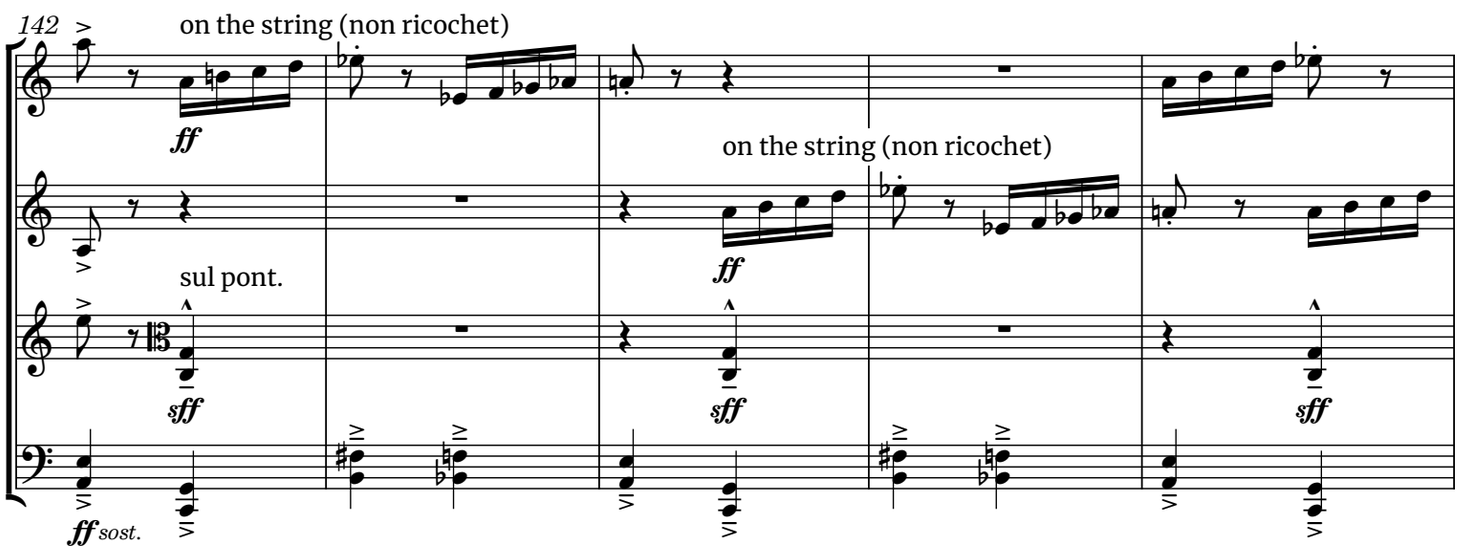

60
ff
ff
ff
ff
f
p
68
ff
ff
(ricochet)
mf swift, spiderlike
(ricochet)
mf swift, spiderlike
sul pont.
ord.
ff
p staccatiss.
f
p
staccatiss.
76

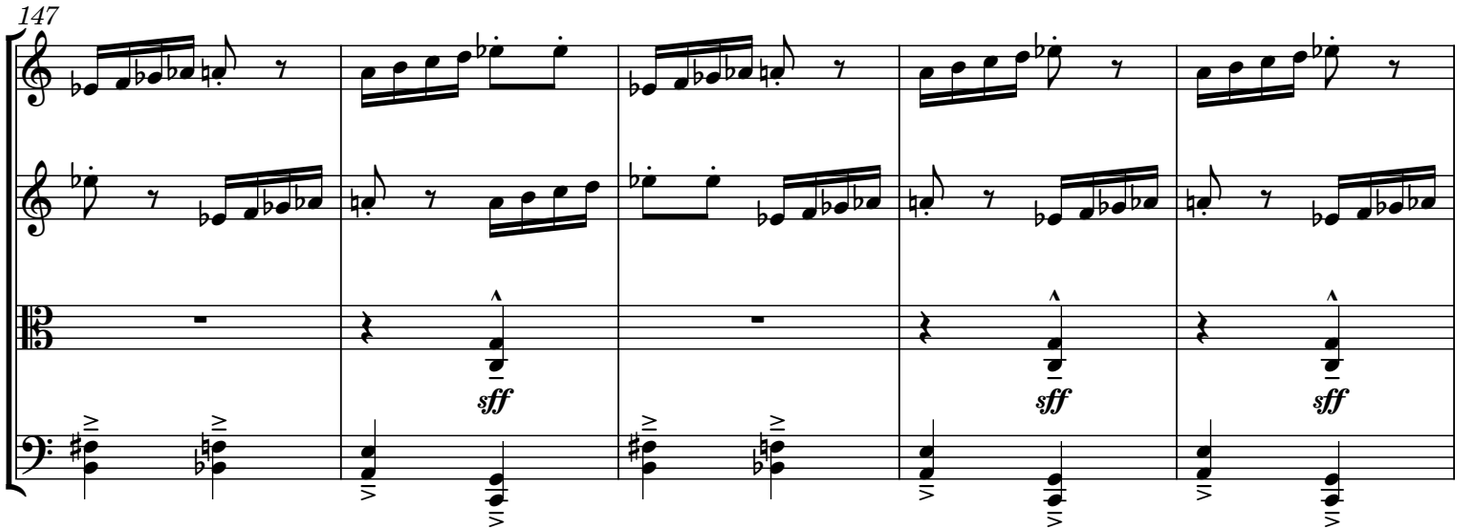

82
p
molto sul pont.
ff
p
molto sul pont.
ff
p
ff
p
89
f
ord.
f
ff
p
ord.
f swift, spiderlike
on the string (non ricochet)
f swift, spiderlike
ff
p
95
sff
sff

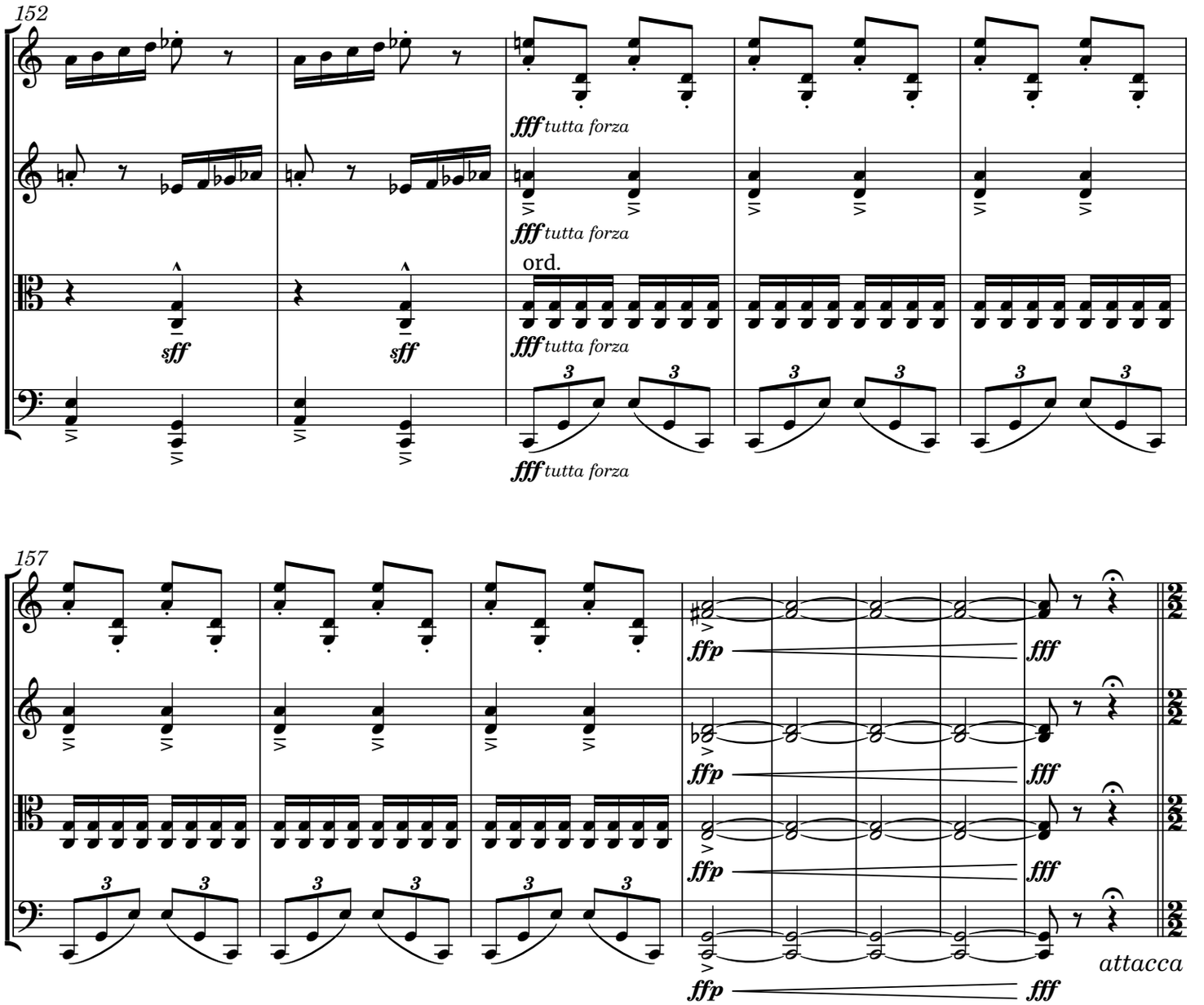

101
molto sul pont.
molto sul pont.
molto sul pont.
106
poco a poco al
poco a poco al
poco a poco al
112
ord.
ord.
ord.


118
124
130

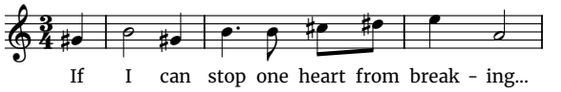

136

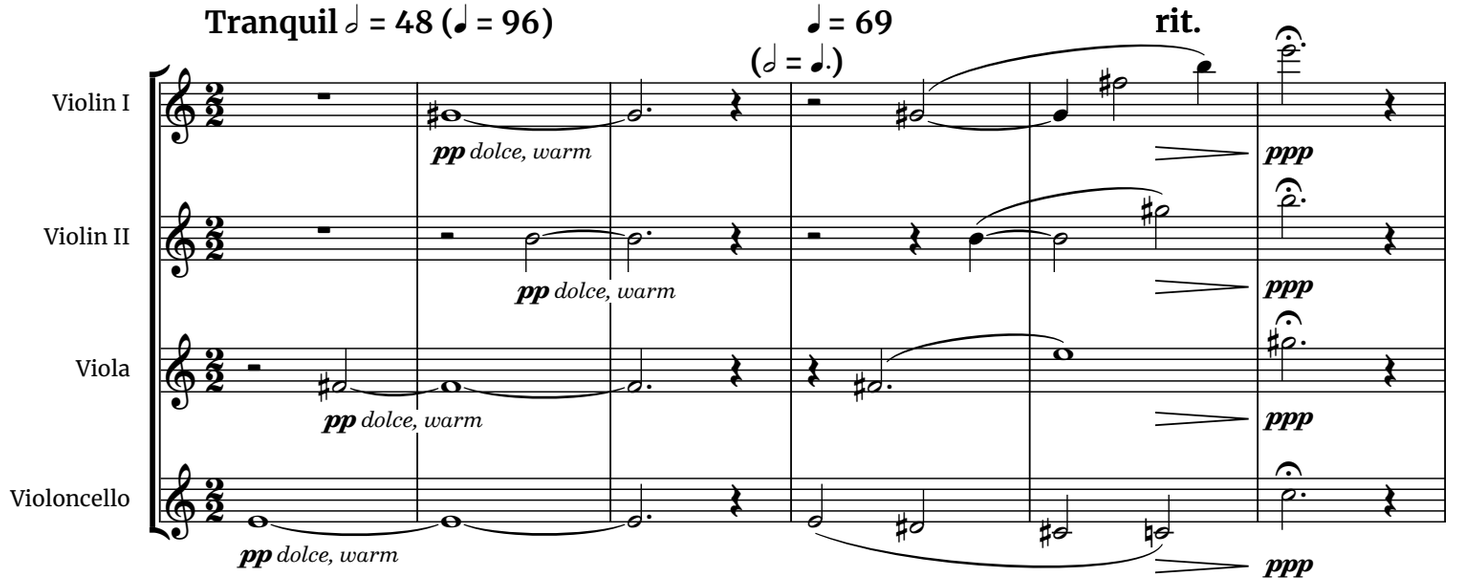

142
on the string (non ricochet)
ff
sul pont.
sff
on the string (non ricochet)
ff
sff
sff
sff
ff sost.

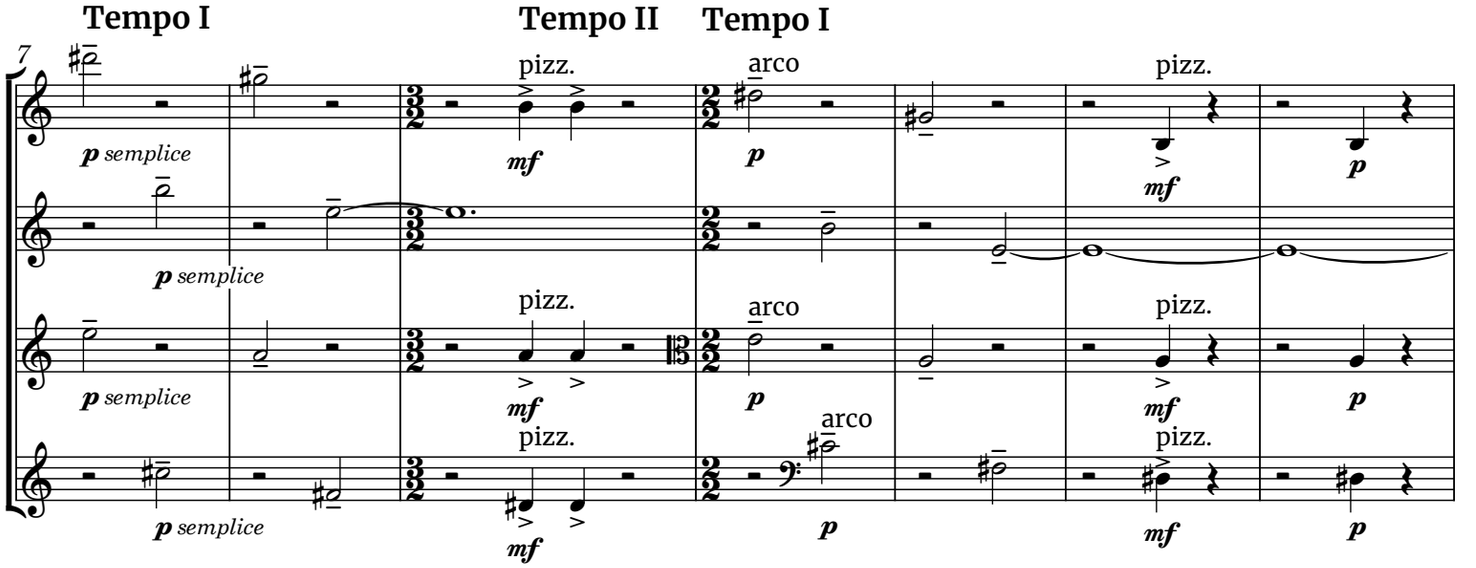

147
sff
sff
sff

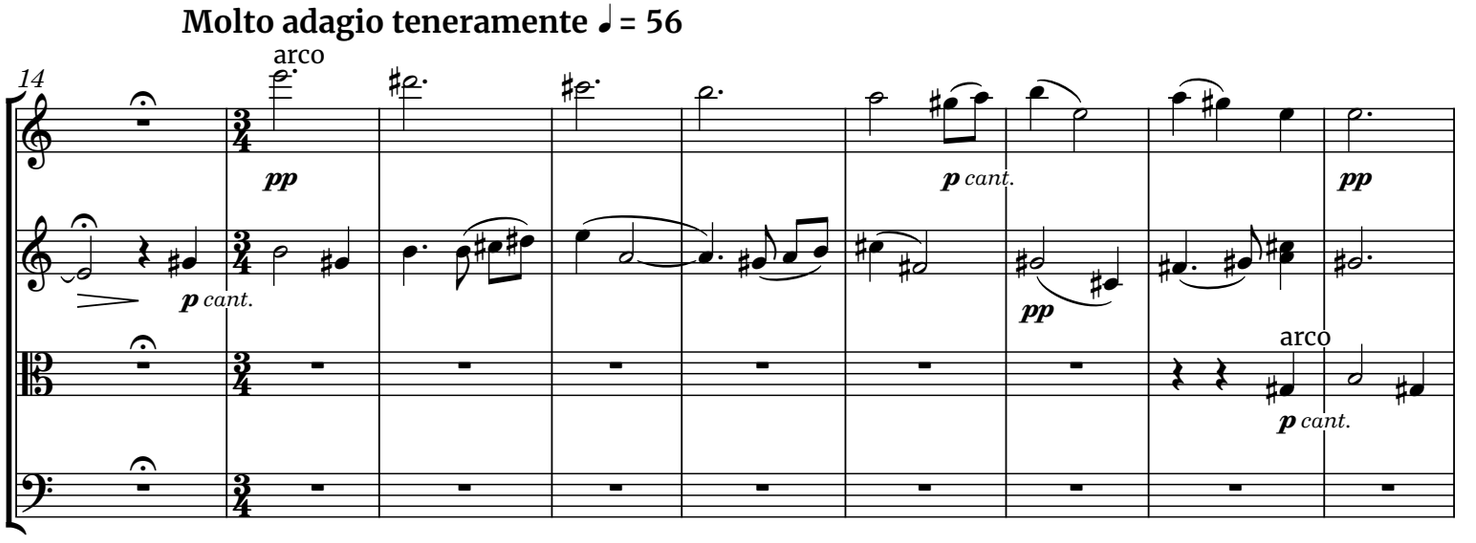

152
fff tutta forza
fff tutta forza
ord.
sff
sff
fff tutta forza
fff tutta forza
157
ffp
fff
ffp
fff
ffp
fff
ffp
fff
attacca

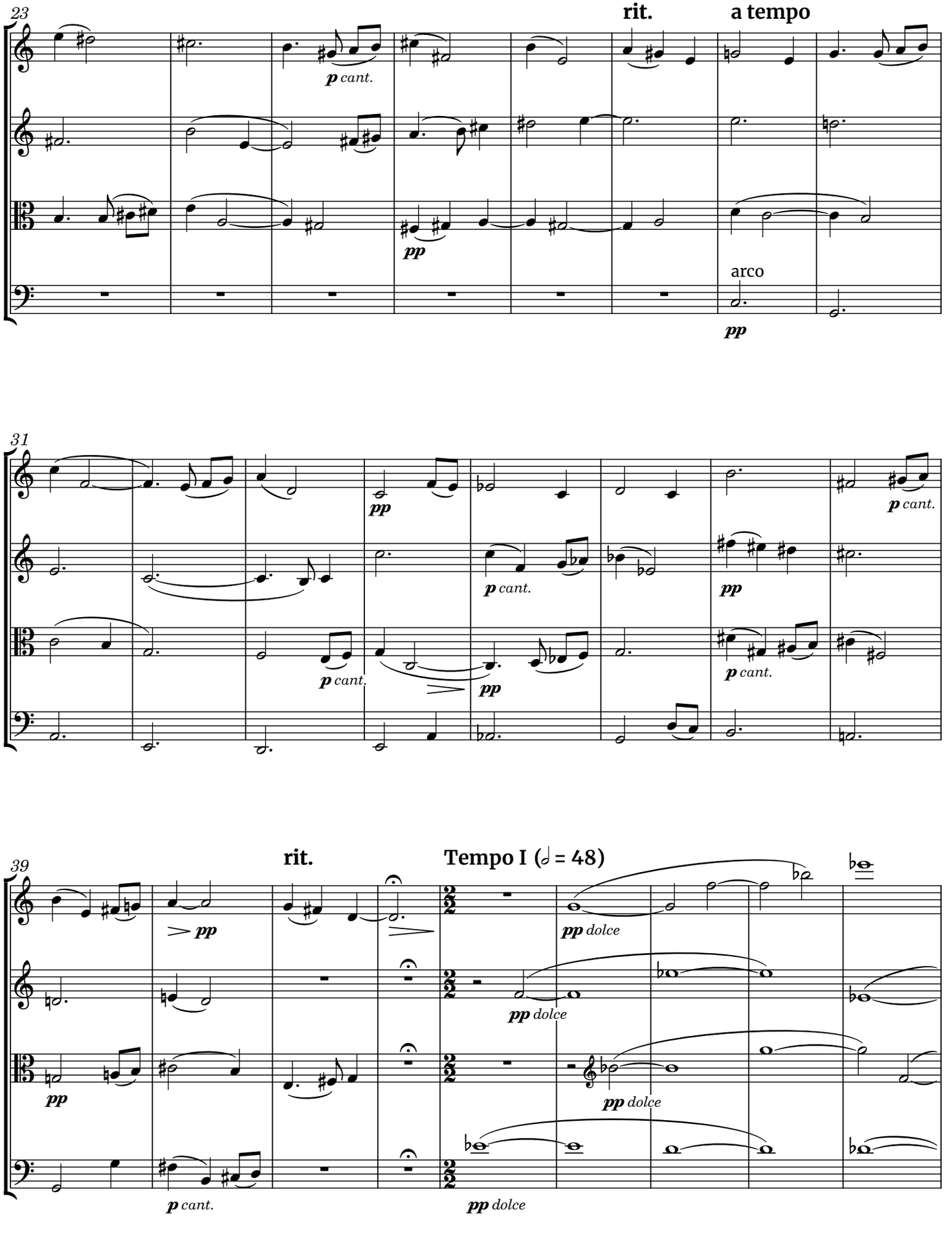
VII. If I Can Stop One Heart from Breaking










23
rit.
a tempo
p cant.
pp
arco
pp
31
pp
p cant.
p cant.
pp
p cant.
p cant.
pp
39
rit.
Tempo I (𝅗𝅥 = 48)
pp
pp dolce
pp
pp dolce
pp dolce
p cant.
pp dolce

rall. Suddenly faster 𝅗𝅥 = 69, stringendo poco a poco

48

cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco

58

(𝅗𝅥 = ca. 88) **rit.** **𝅗𝅥 = 69**

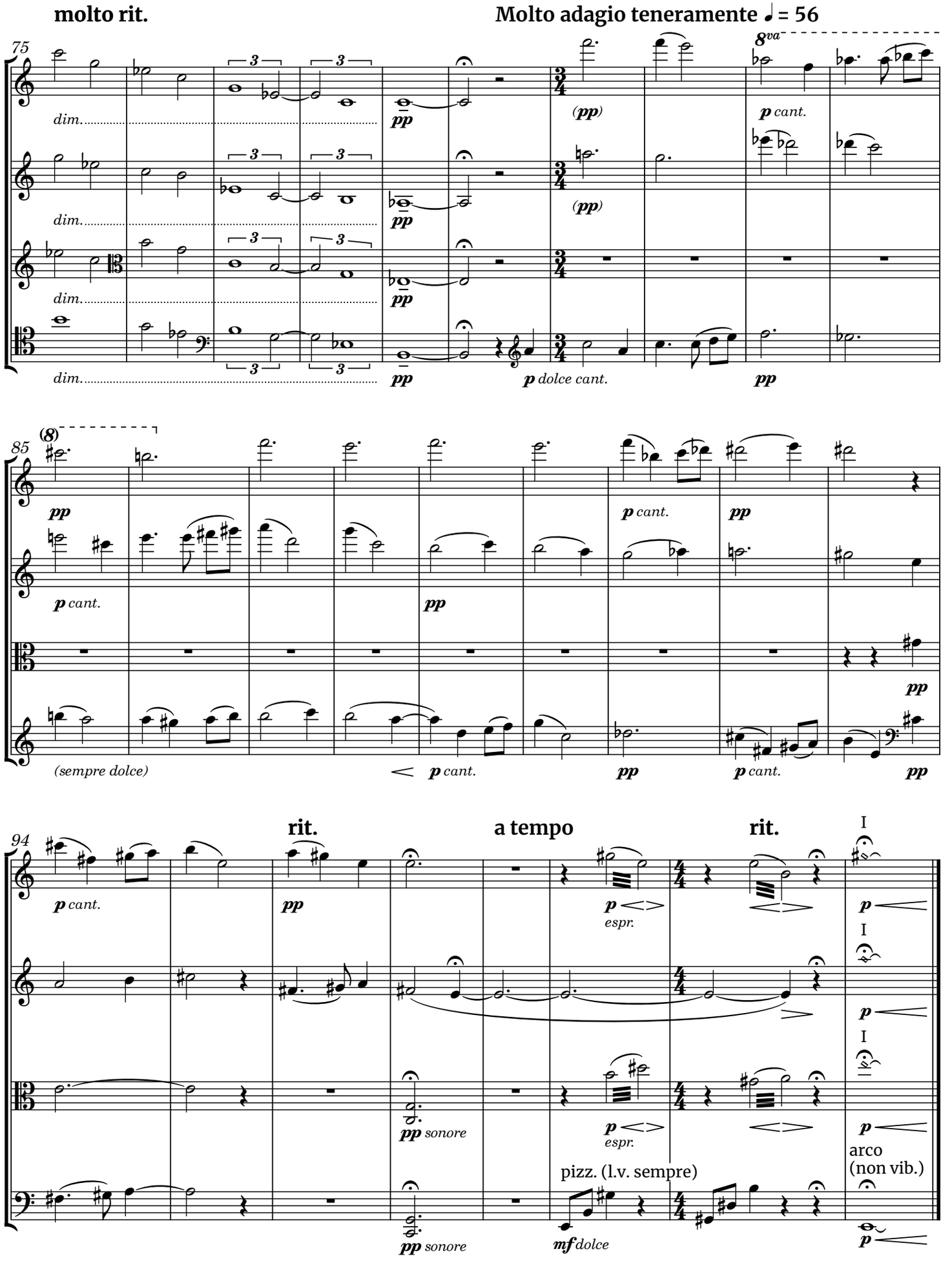
67

f *(cresc.)* ***ff***

f *(cresc.)* ***ff***

f *(cresc.)* ***ff***

f *(cresc.)* ***ff***


molto rit.
Molto adagio teneramente ♩ = 56
75
dim.
pp
(pp)
8va
p cant.
p dolce cant.
85
(8)
(sempre dolce)
94
rit.
a tempo
rit.
espr.
pp sonore
mf dolce
pizz. (l.v. sempre)
arco
(non vib.)