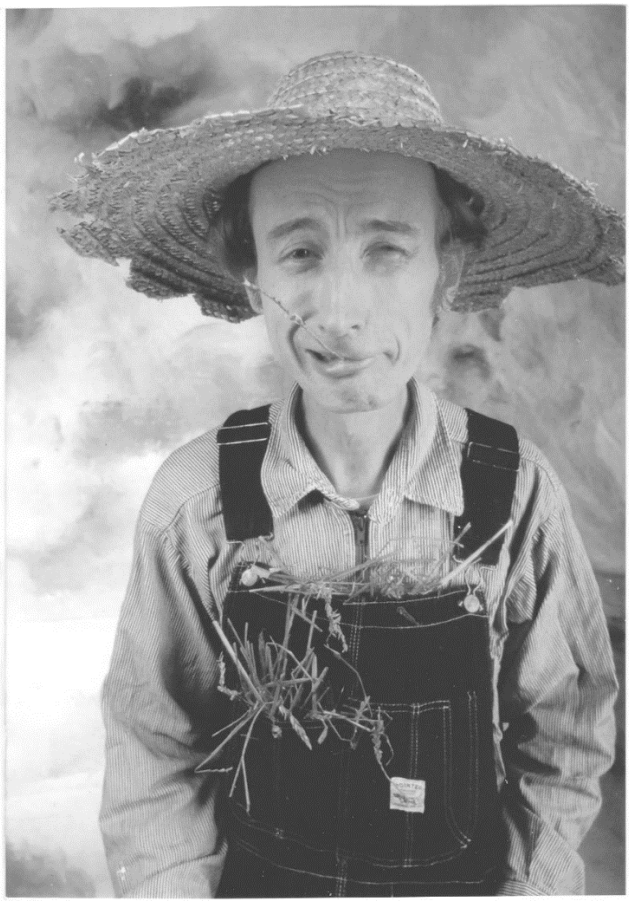
From God's Back 40

for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano

Viola

(edition for electronic music readers)



Bill Robinson

From God's Back 40 for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano

June 22—October 7, 2017 Duration: ~28 minutes

In June 2017, clarinetist Fred Jacobowitz and pianist Carl Banner, director of Washington Musica Viva, asked me to write a trio for clarinet, viola, and piano. I had just moved to the little town of Cleveland, North Carolina, in rural western Rowan County, nestled in the bucolic Piedmont about an hour drive from the nearest big cities. I had lived in Raleigh since 2001, and retired in May after seven years teaching physics at NCSU.

So I settled in with an old friend who had some extra space in his home, where I had time to do what I like and take care of my health. I couldn't compose during my final months in Raleigh, but the new environment proved fertile for creativity. After two years, in 2019, I moved back to the Raleigh area (Garner) to rent-assisted senior housing; it took a couple of years on the wait list.

The first movement is based on various tetrachords, which is very common in my music—not from some theoretical plan, but just because that seems to be how things work out and sound right. I have written a piece before titled *Diatonic Phrygian Tetrachord*, which was more specific about that particular type. There is a somewhat baroque flavor to this section, as I came up with the basic ideas after listening to Bach violin concertos.

The second movement is "Yet Another Waltz", as I have written altogether too many already. I wouldn't recommend trying to dance to this one.

The third movement has a touch of country roots music to it; I am trying my hand at old fiddle tunes, and it's well-suited to the rural surroundings.

The finale is a big fast ending, inspired by my inspiration of albuterol as an inhaled medication for bronchiectasis. One of the main problems of this disease (as well as my arthritis) is extreme fatigue; albuterol is a potent stimulant, as well as helping breathing. Only lasts three or four hours, but does the job.

This trio is the basis for *Symphony No. 2: From God's Back 40* for full orchestra. The orchestration in 2023 resulted in a long list of corrections, adjustments, and a few improvements for this fourth edition.

Performance notes

My usual style of piano playing is heavy on the sostenuto pedal; the indicated pedal marks are really required, but please use freely. Notes that do not have dots are not short. Individual movements may be performed by themselves or in any combination.

It is fine with me if the viola is either amplified or electric, such as an electric 5 string violin.

The score is available in either legal- or letter-size formats. Parts are either conventional in letter format, or in a special edition for electronic music readers, with the part full size and the rest of the score included in reduced size.

Cover photo: "Country Boy" from Jim McGuire's studio, 1997, Charlotte NC.

Bill Robinson

Publisher Parrish Press Garner NC 4th Edition November 2023

billrobinsonmusic.com

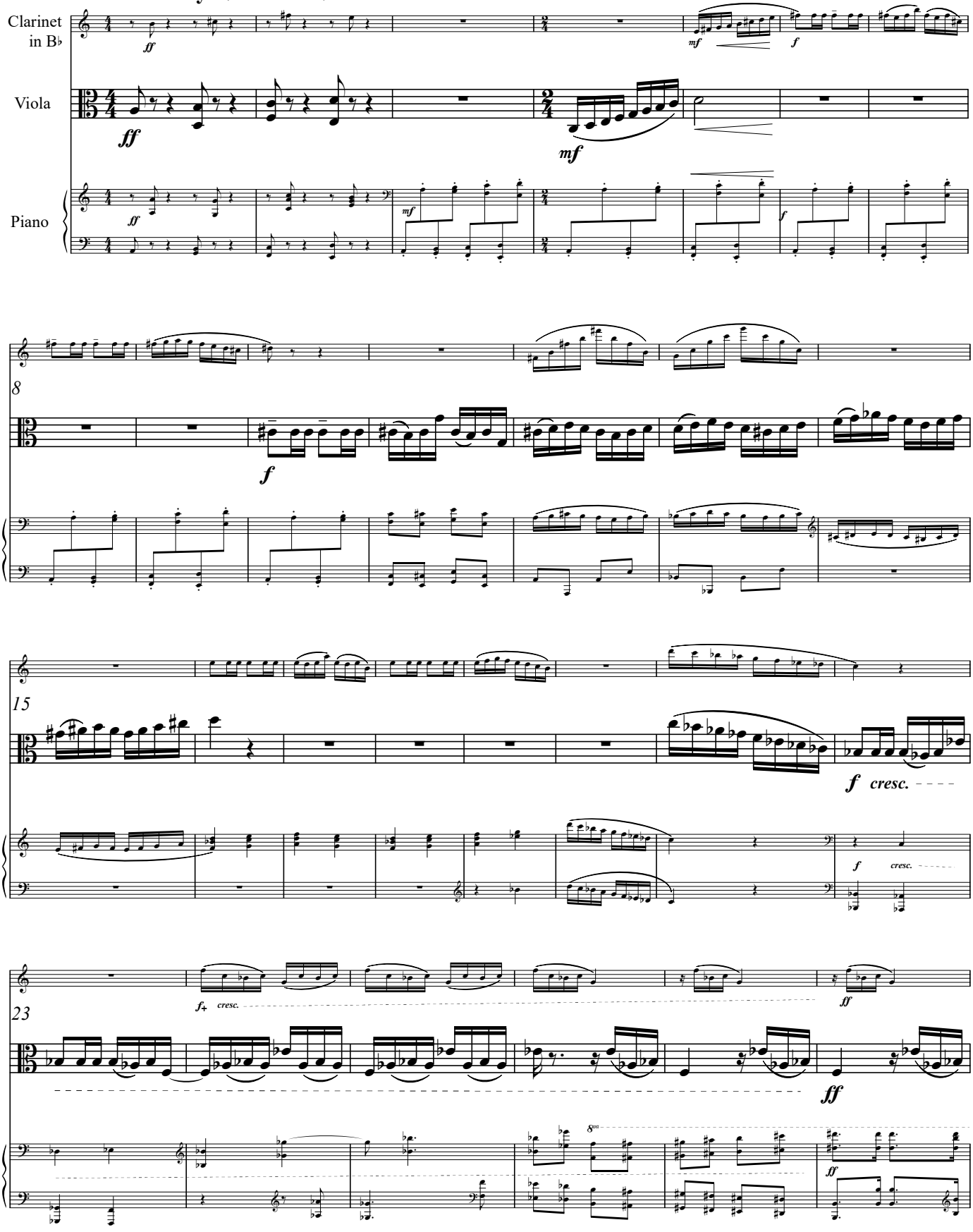
Viola part for
electronic music readers

From God's Back 40

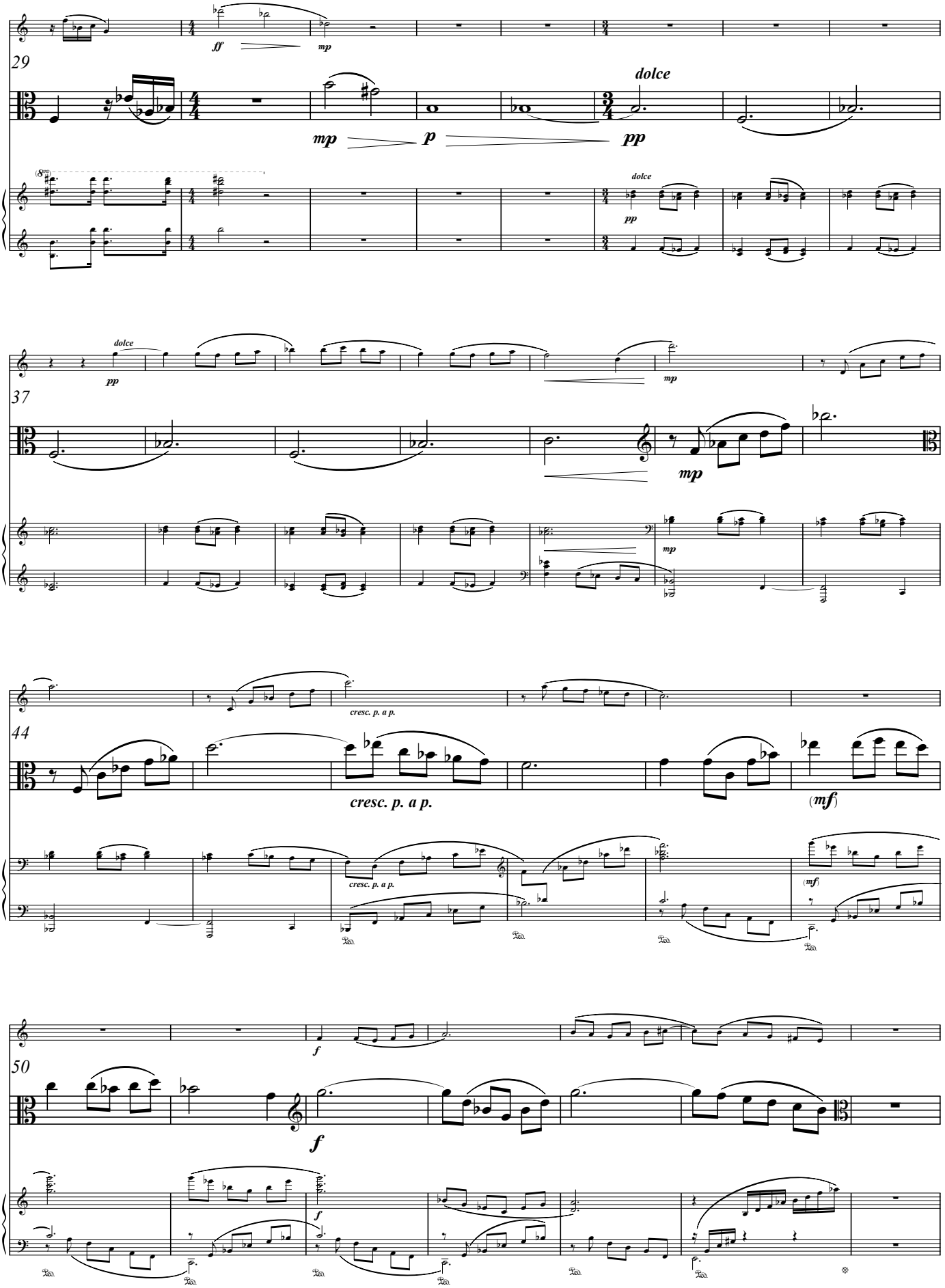
I. Gimme that Old-Time Tetrachord [7:40]

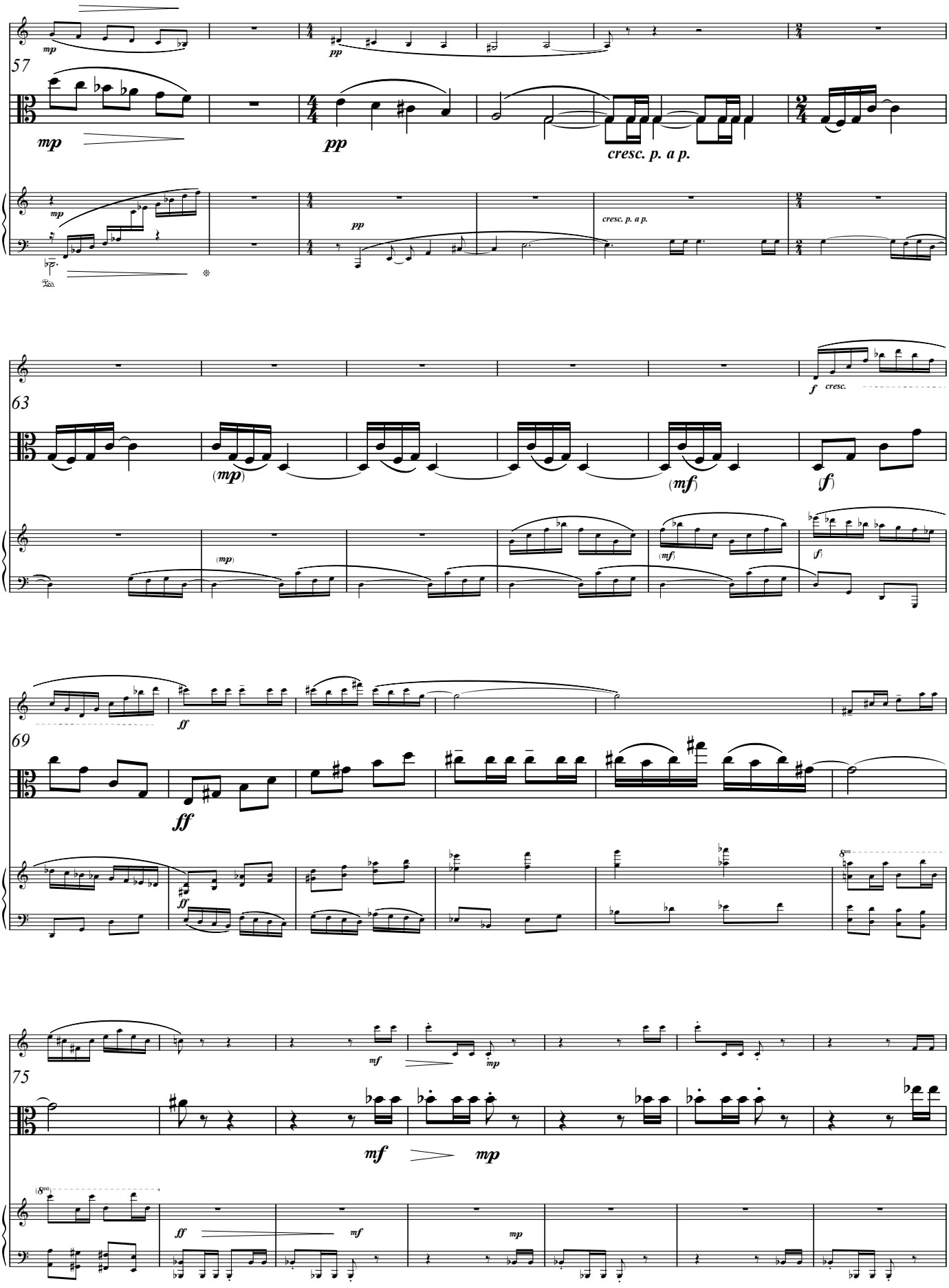
Bill Robinson

Don't Be Shy (♩ = 94-100)



© 2017


29
ff
mp
dolce
mp
p
pp
dolce
pp
37
dolce
pp
mp
mp
mp
44
cresc. p. a p.
cresc. p. a p.
(mf)
cresc. p. a p.
(mf)
50
f
f
f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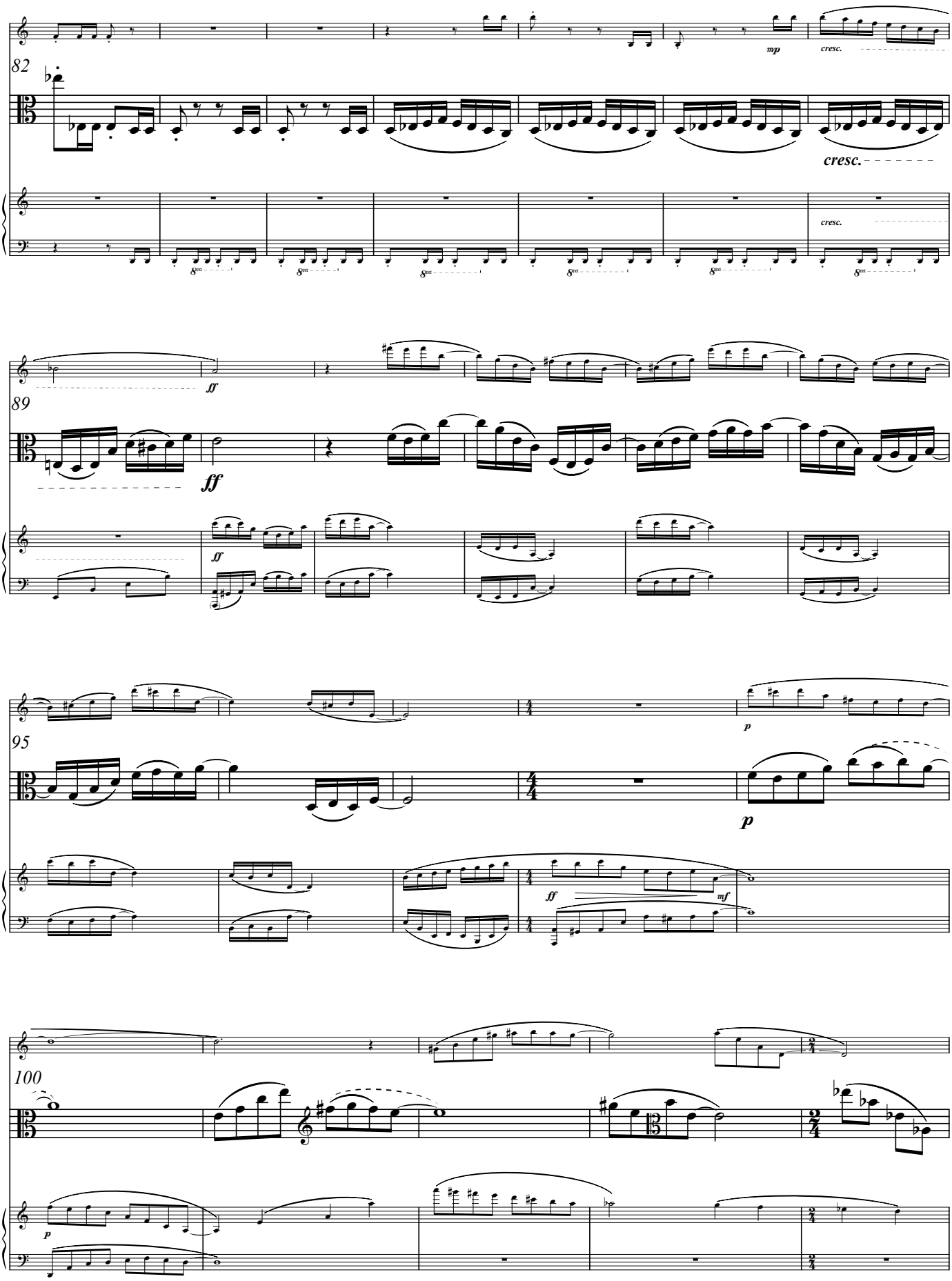
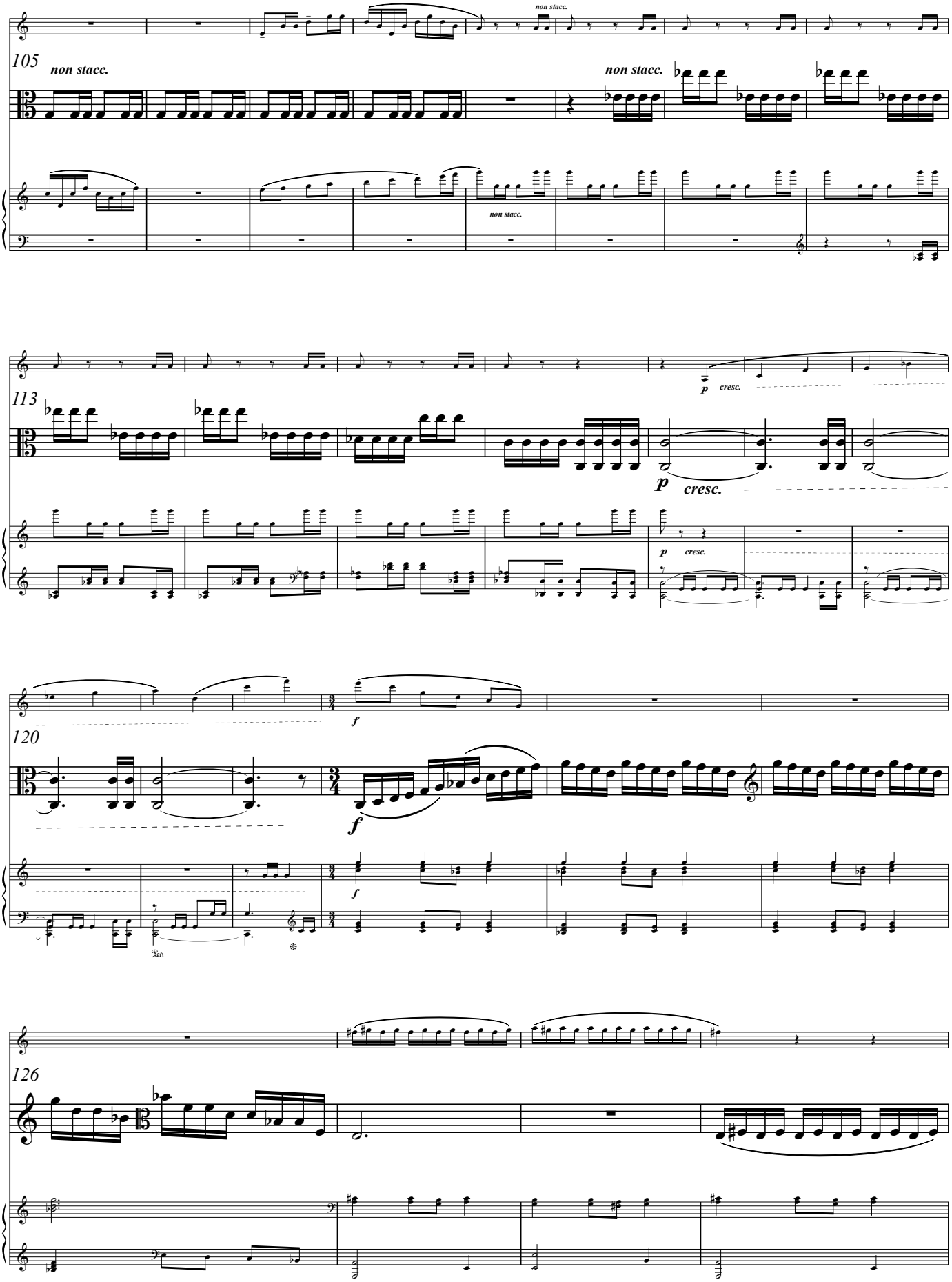
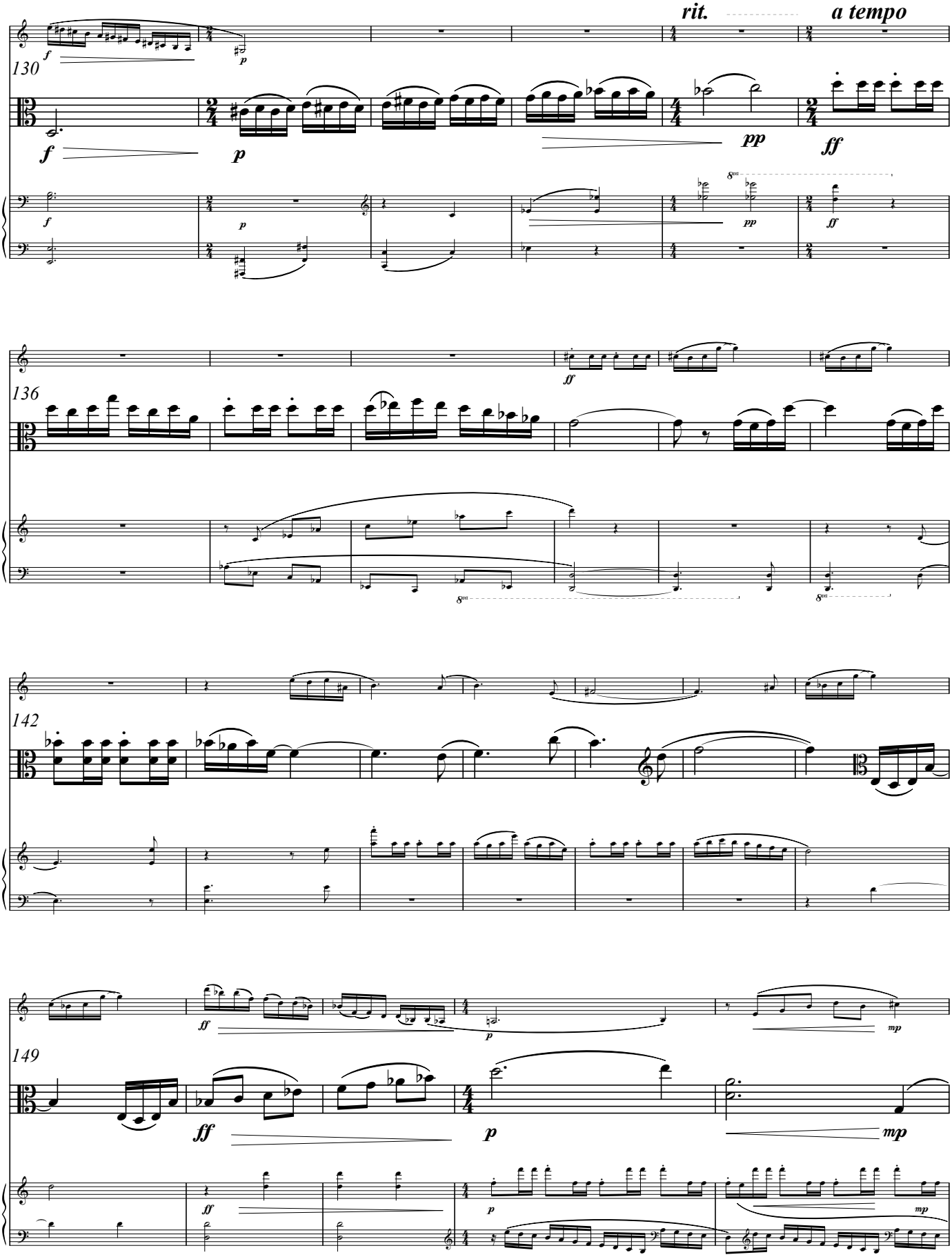
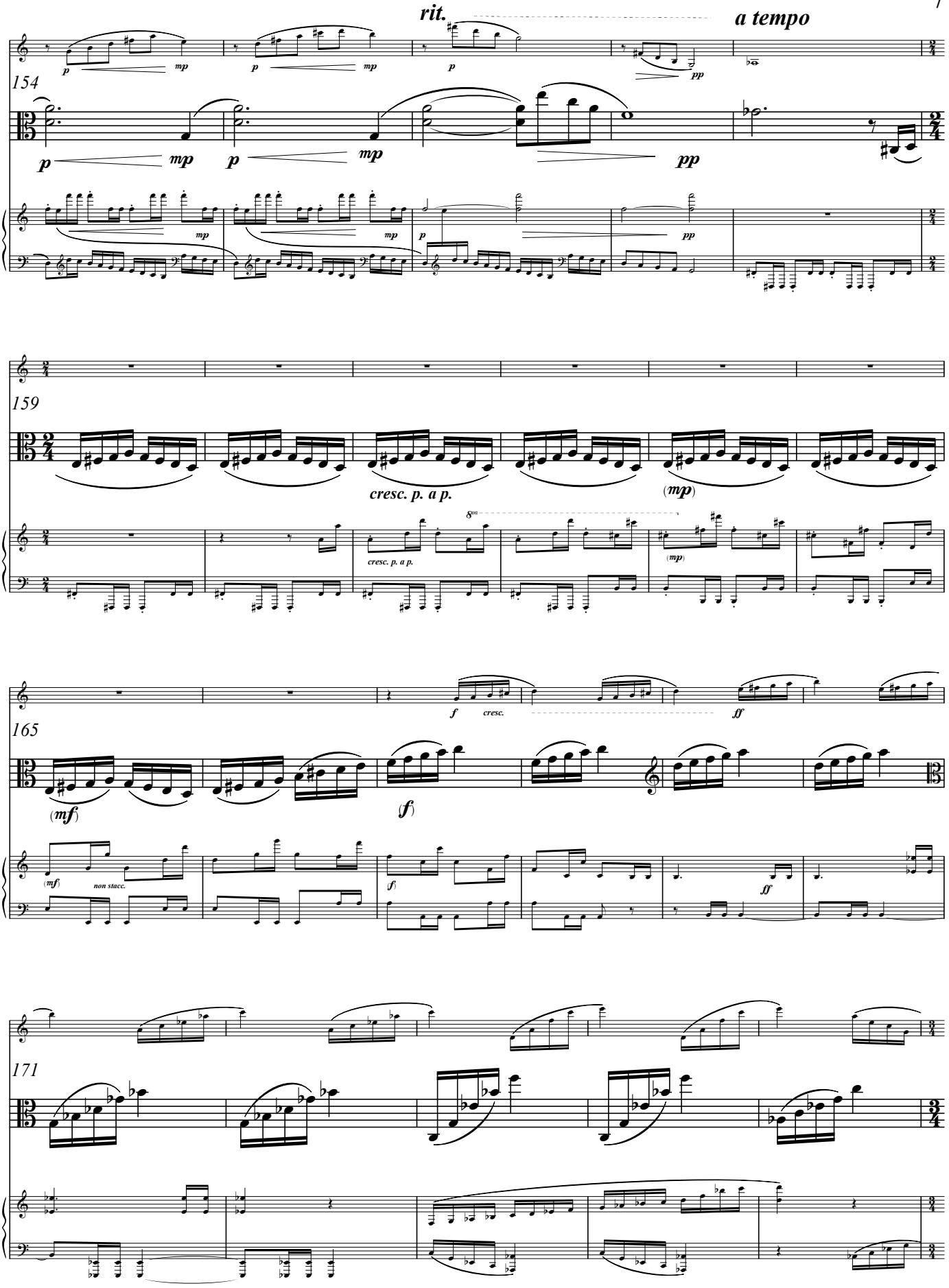
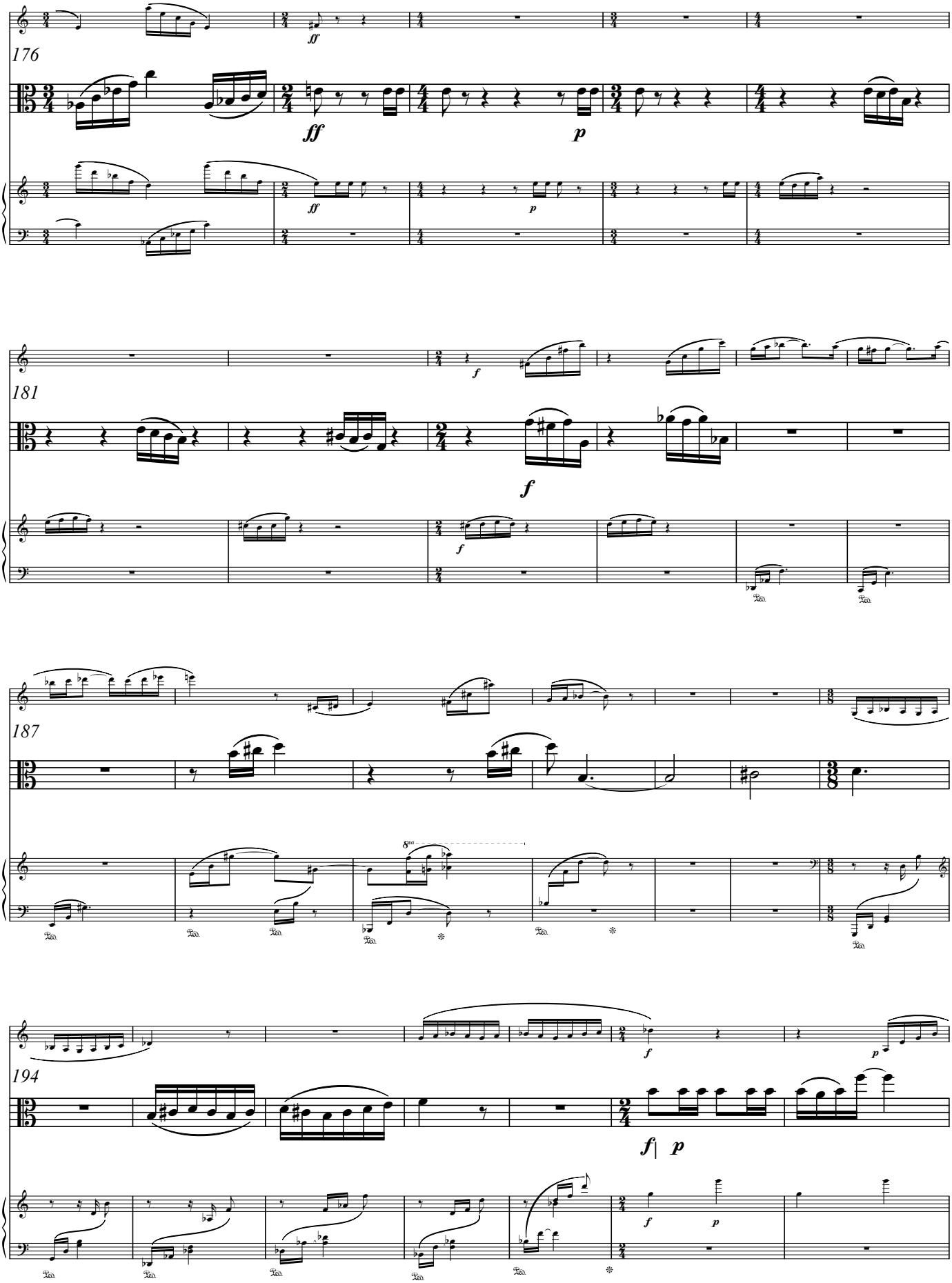
mp
pp
cresc. p. a p.
63
(mp)
(mf)
f
cresc.
69
ff
75
mf
mp


82
mp
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
89
ff
ff
ff
95
p
p
ff
mf
100
p


105
non stacc.
non stacc.
non stacc.
non stacc.
113
p
cresc.
p
cresc.
p
cresc.
120
f
f
f
126


rit.
a tempo
130
136
142
149


rit.
a tempo
154
p
mp
pp
159
cresc. p. a p.
(mp)
165
f
cresc.
ff
(mf)
(f)
non stacc.
171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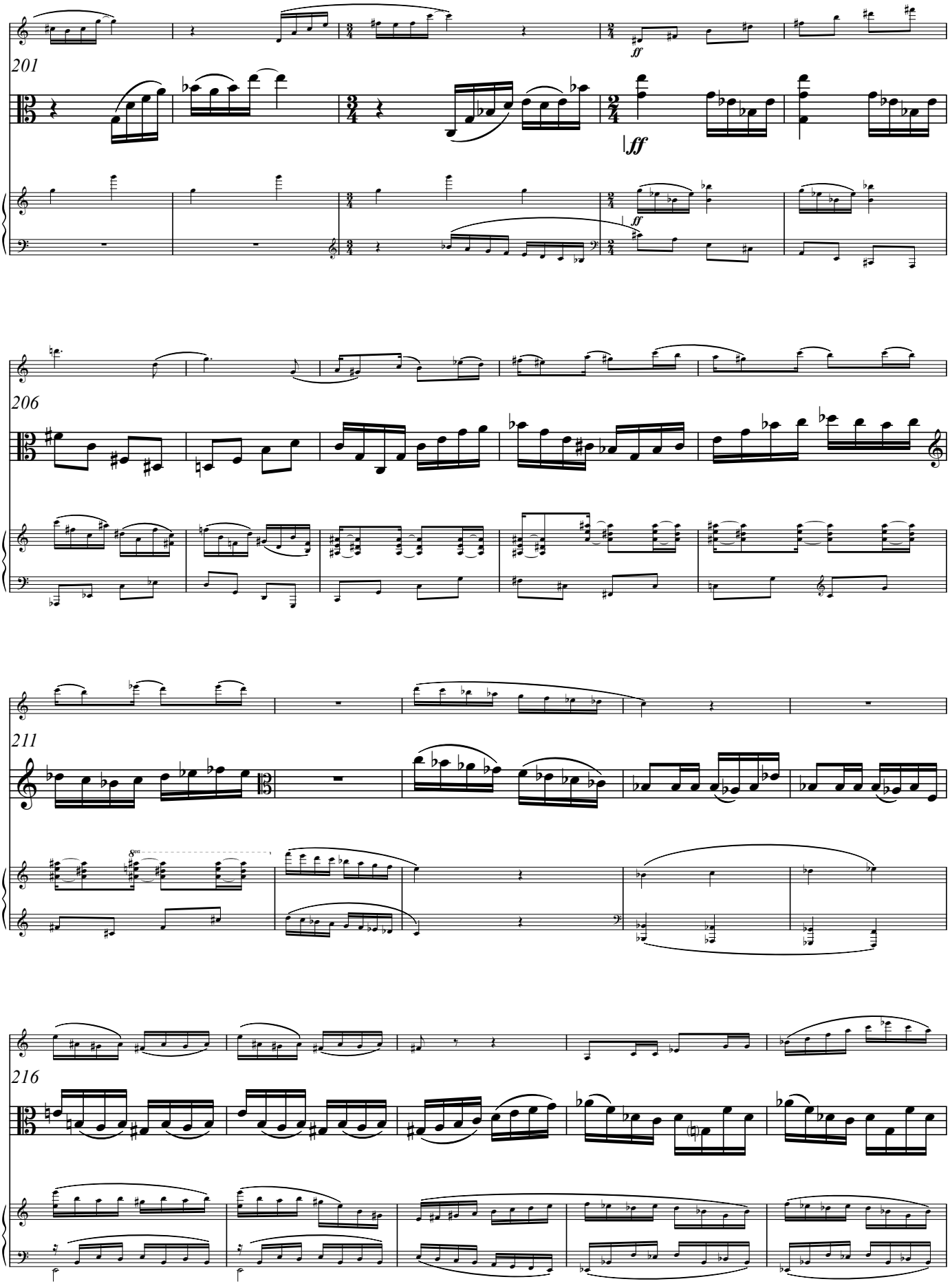
ff
ff
p
ff
p
181
f
f
f
187
194
f
p
f
p
f
p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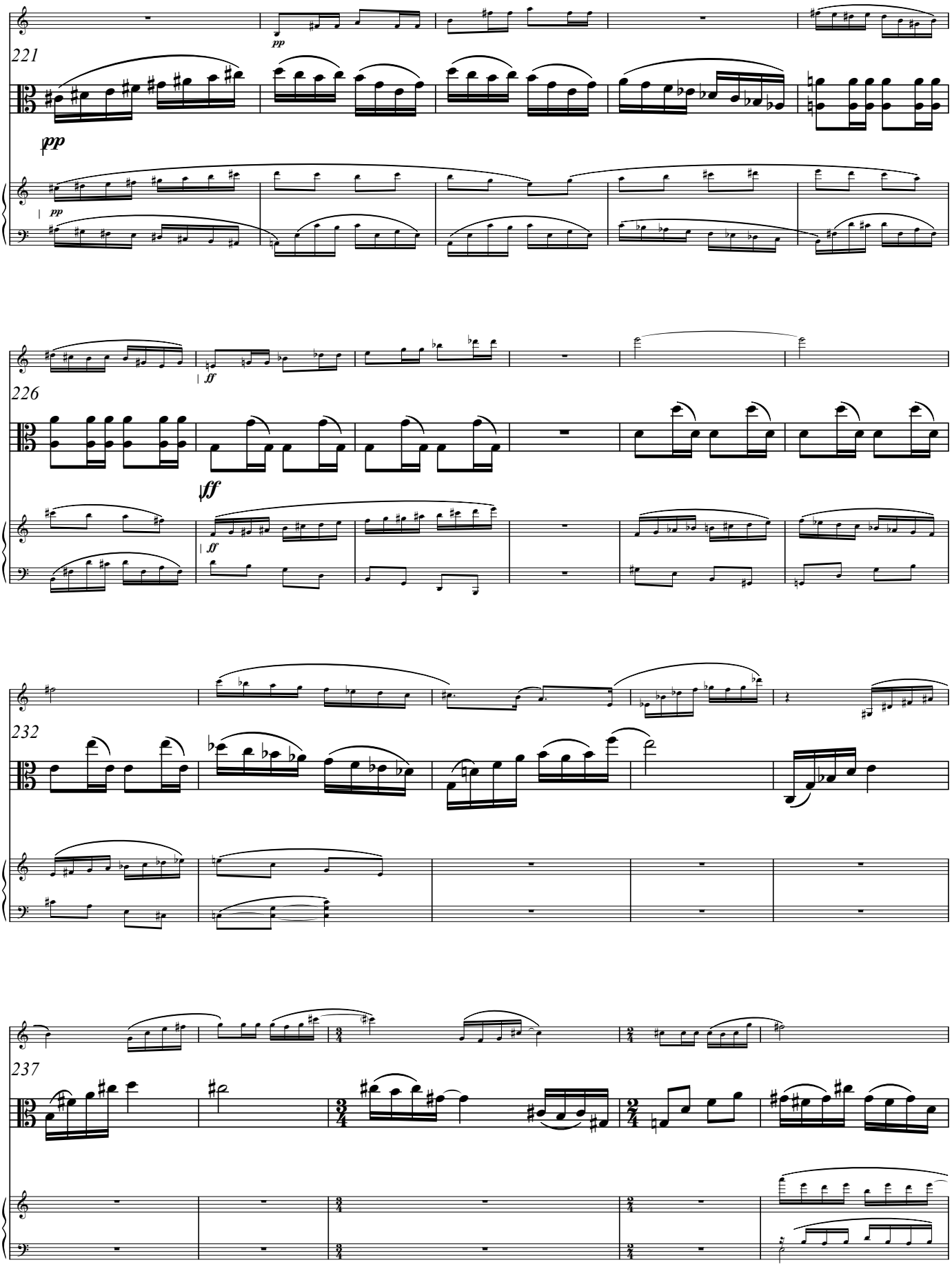
ff
206
211
216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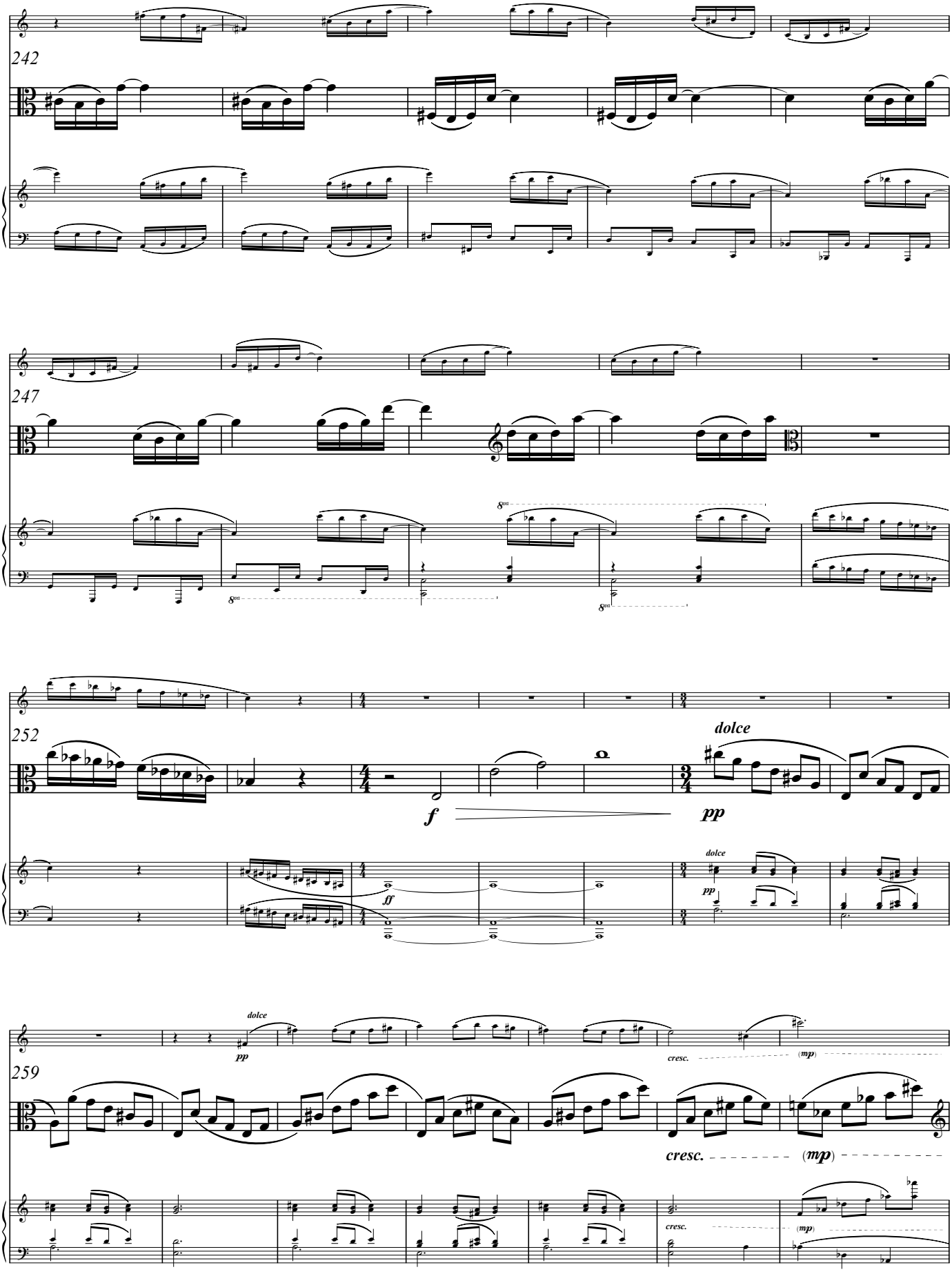
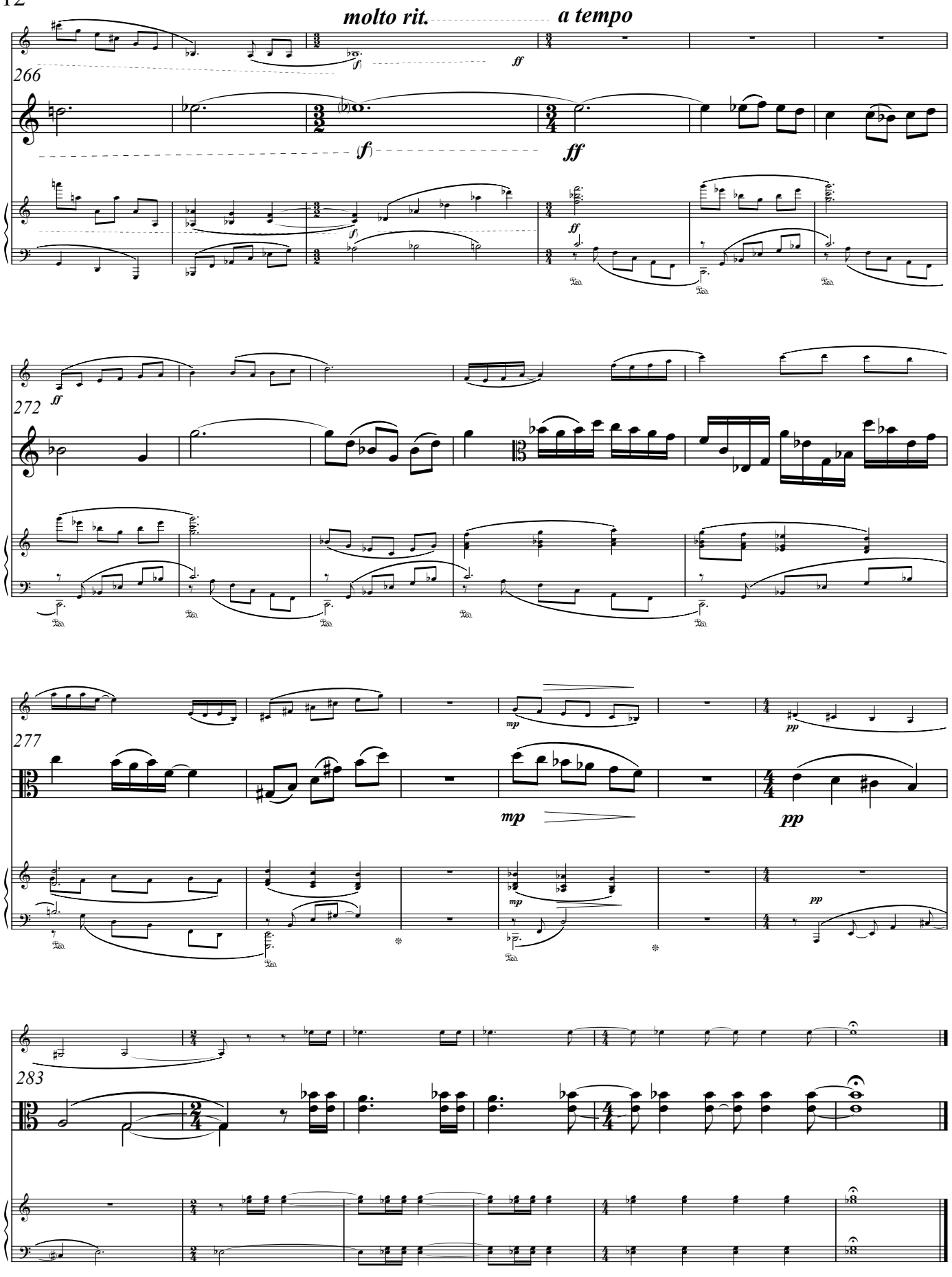
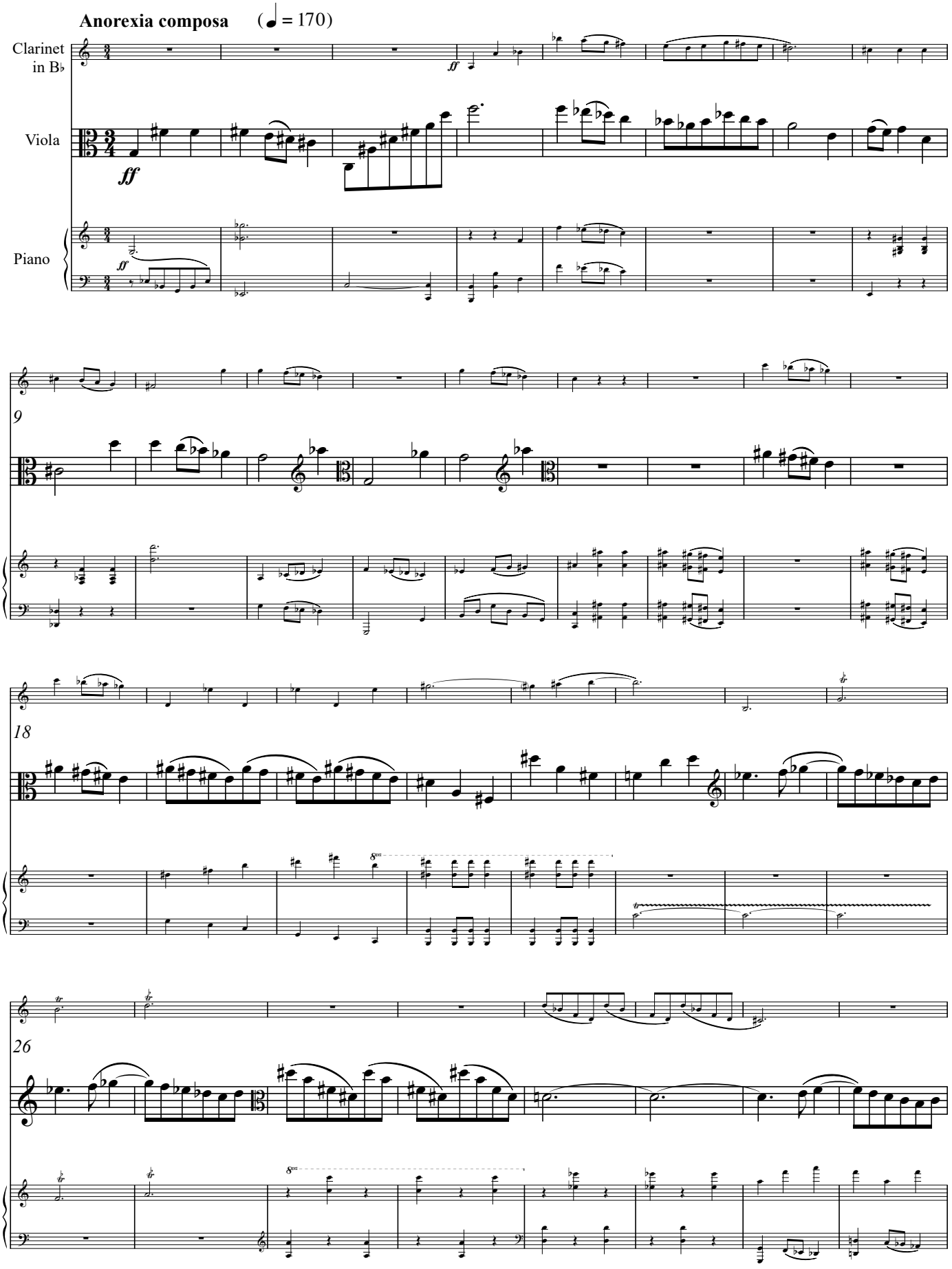
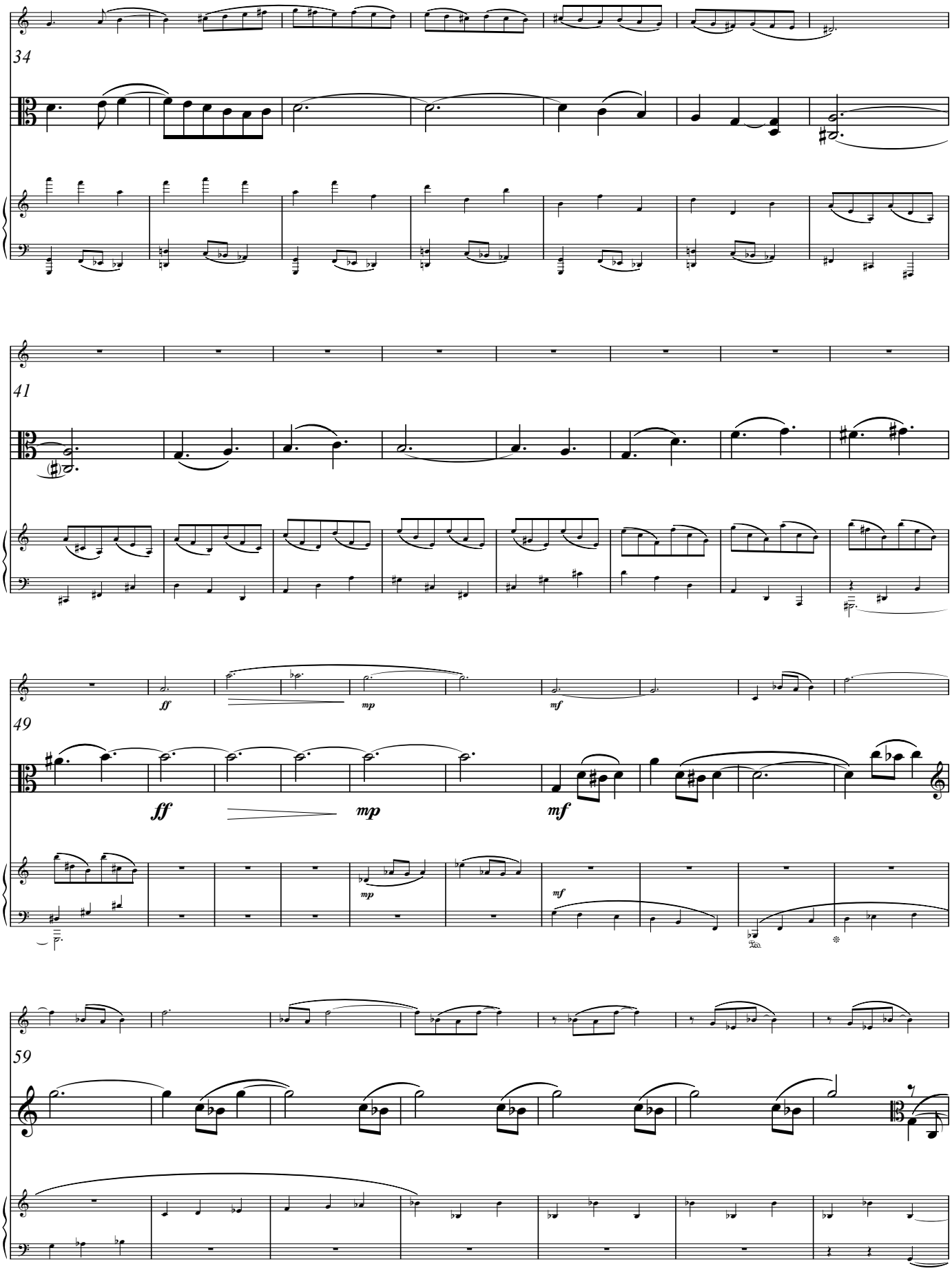
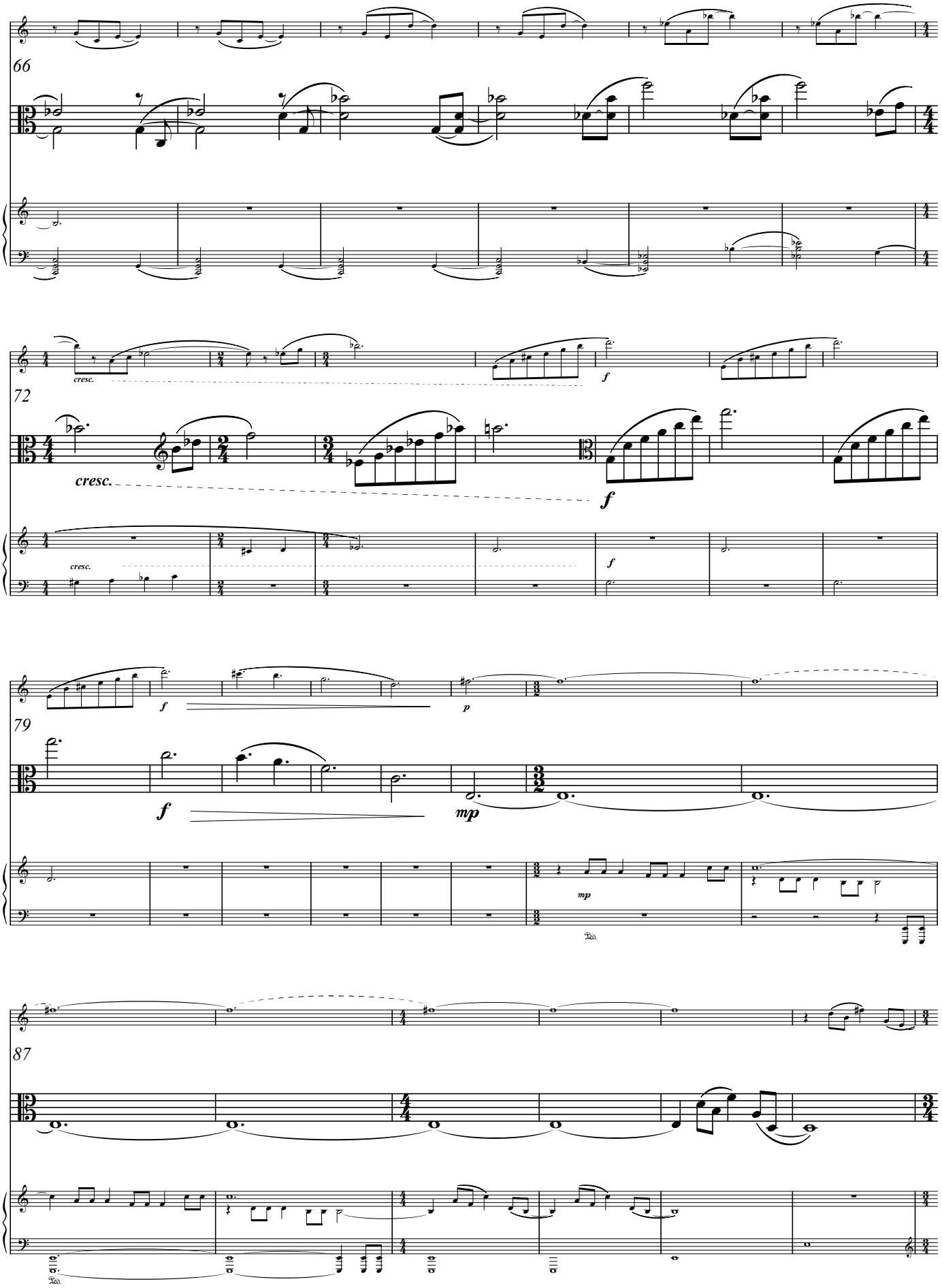
pp
pp
226
ff
ff
232
237

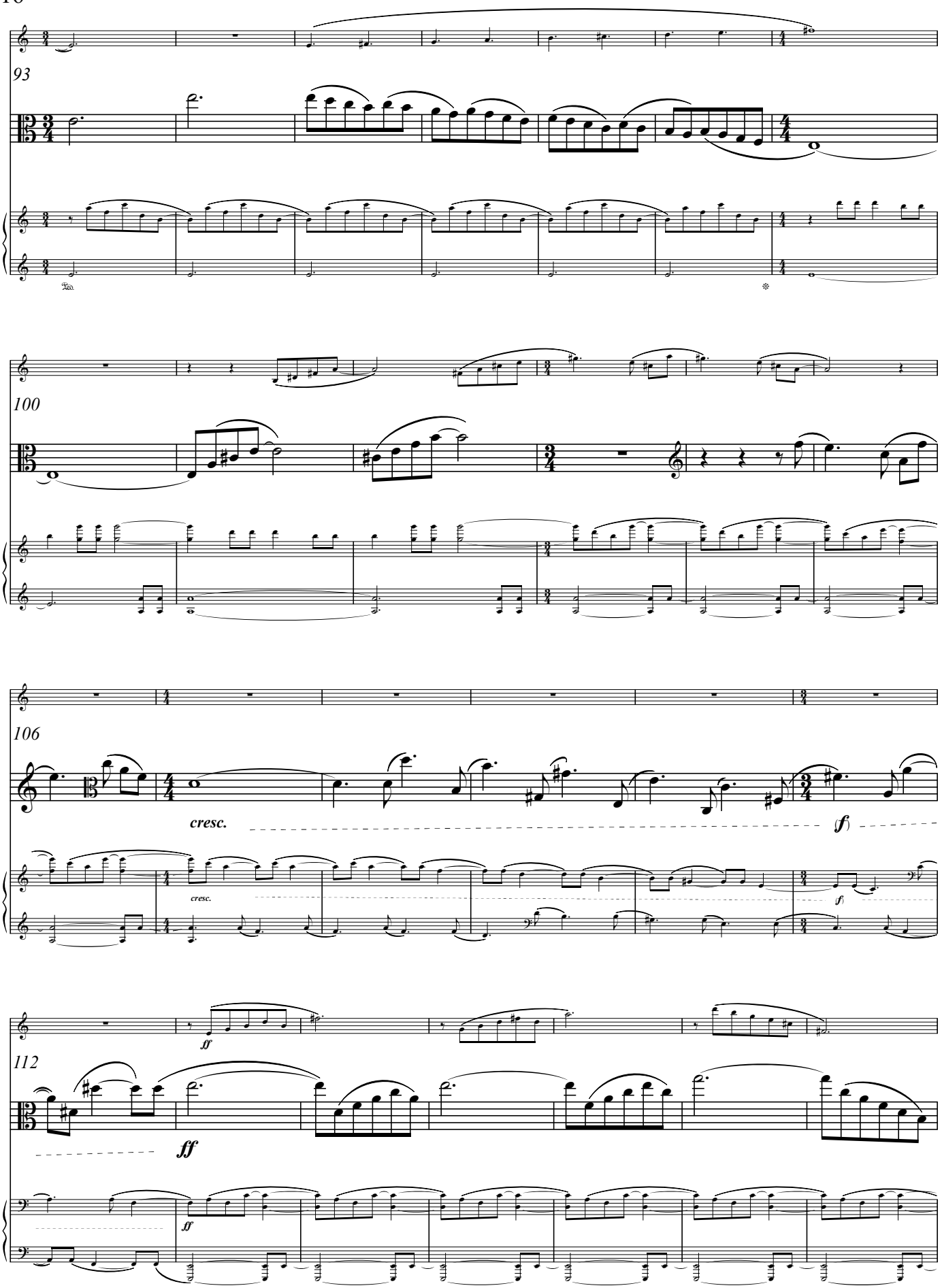

242
247
252
dolce
f
pp
ff
dolce
pp
259
dolce
pp
cresc.
(mp)
cresc.
(mp)
cresc.
(mp)

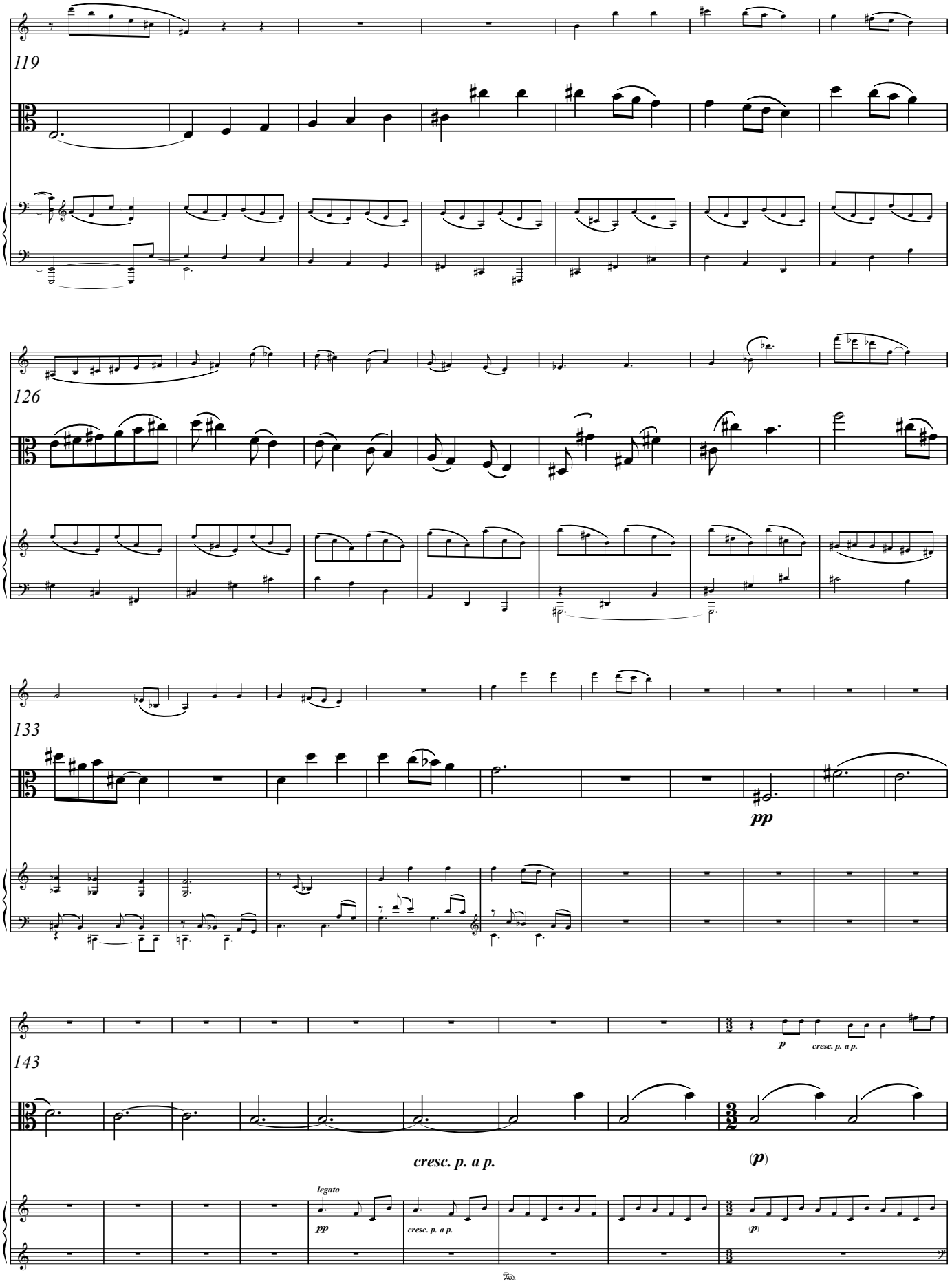

molto rit.
a tempo
266
272
277
283

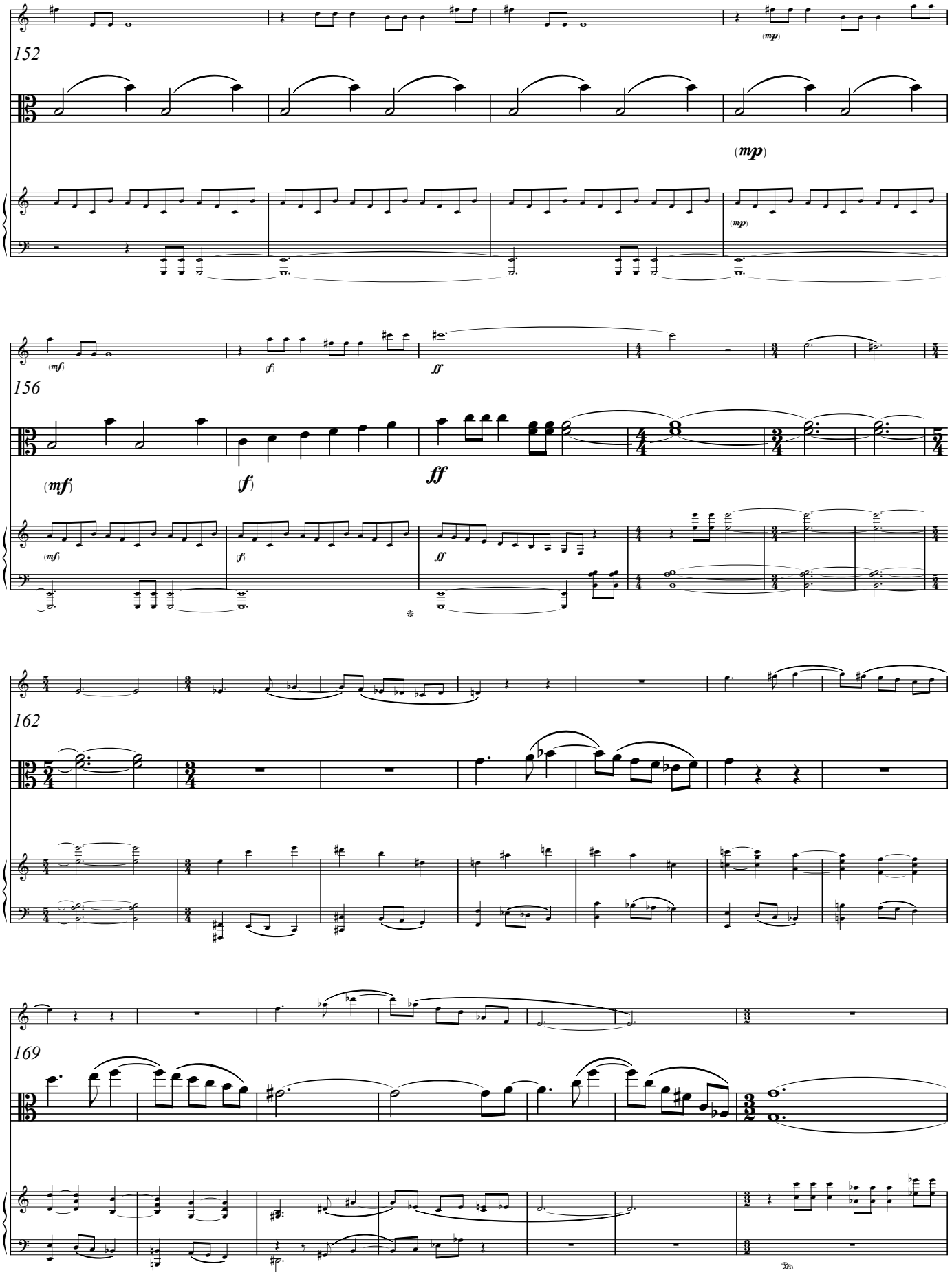

Anorexia composa
(= 170)
Clarinet in B♭
Viola
Piano
ff
9
18
26

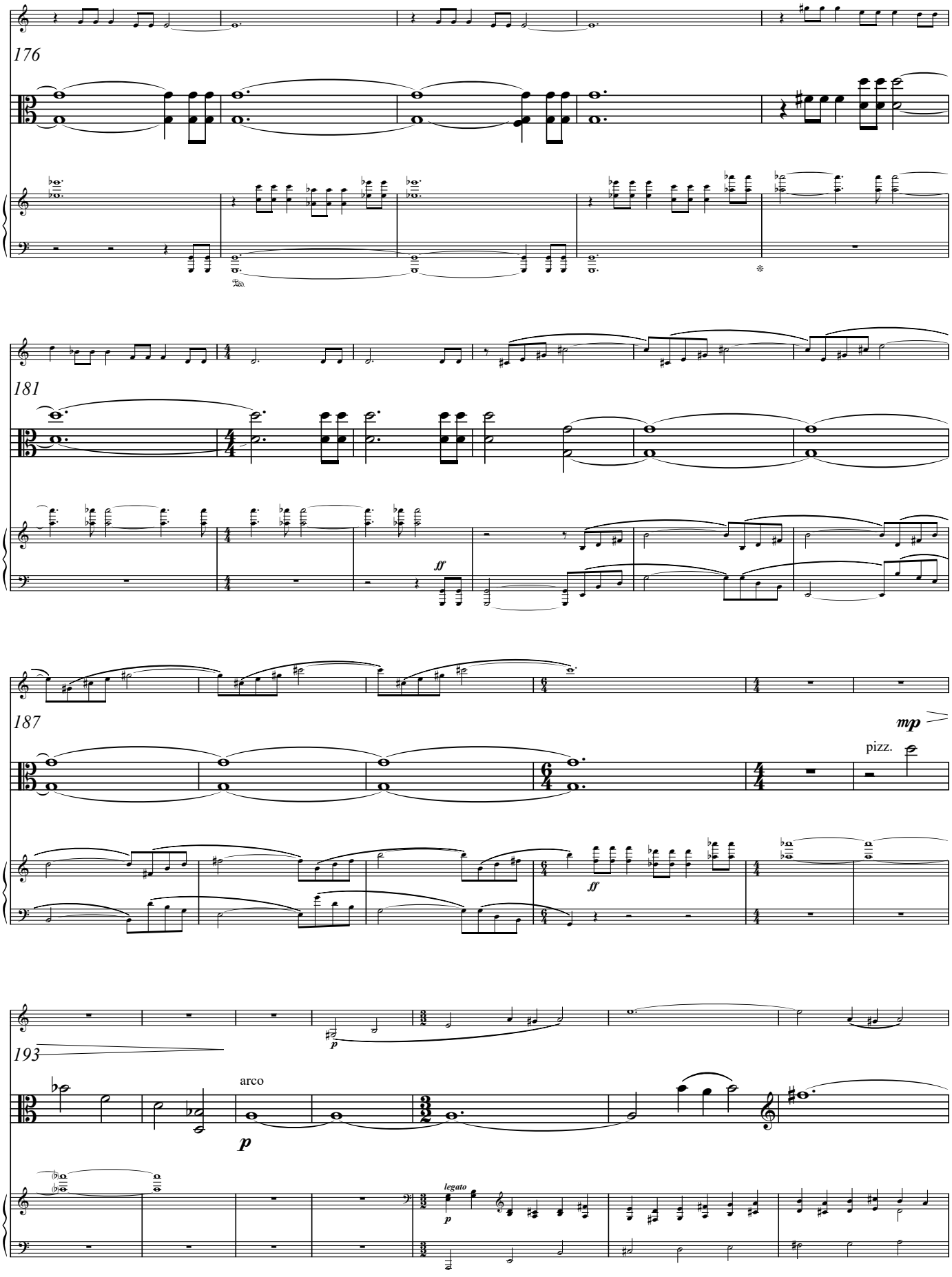

34
41
ff
mp
mf
49
ff
mp
mf
mp
mf
59

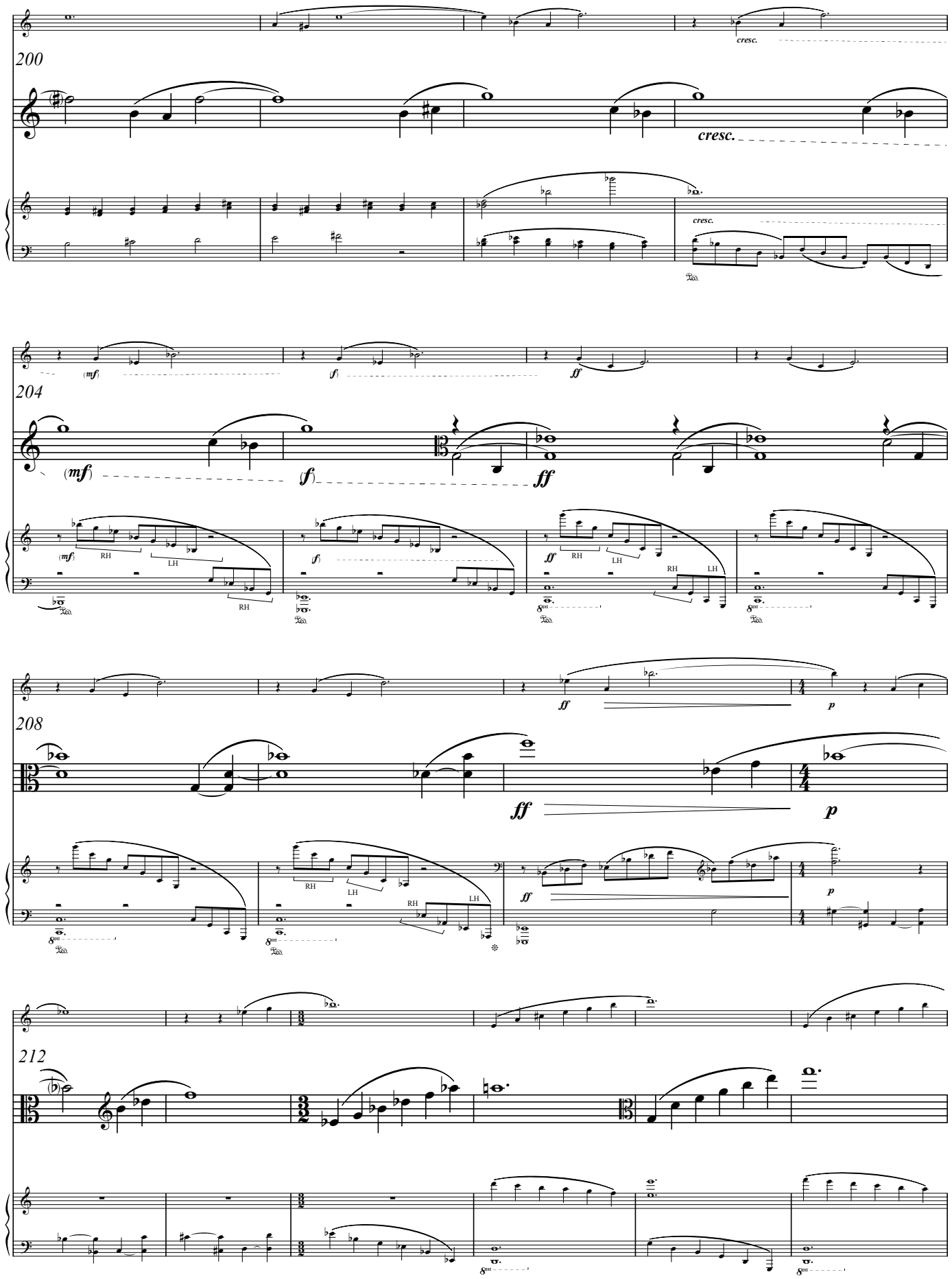

66
72
cresc.
f
79
mp
87

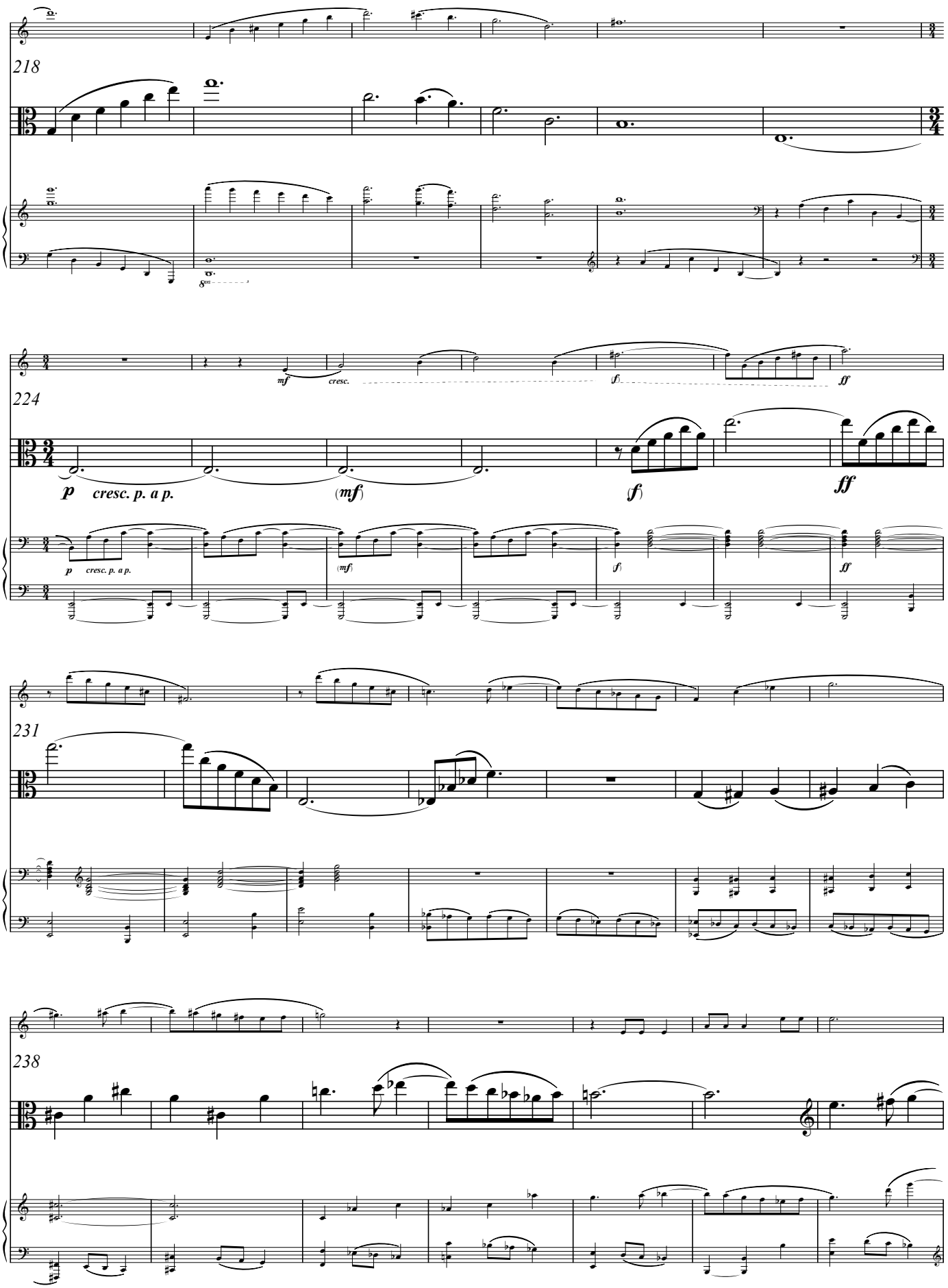

93
100
106
cresc.
f
cresc.
f
112
ff
ff
ff


119
126
133
pp
143
p
cresc. p. a p.
cresc. p. a p.
(p)
legato
pp
cresc. p. a p.
(p)


152
(mp)
(mp)
156
(mf)
(f)
ff
(mf)
(f)
ff
162
169


176
181
187
mp
pizz.
ff
193
arco
p
legato


200
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
204
(mf)
(f)
ff
(mf)
(f)
ff
RH
LH
208
ff
p
ff
p
RH
LH
212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mf
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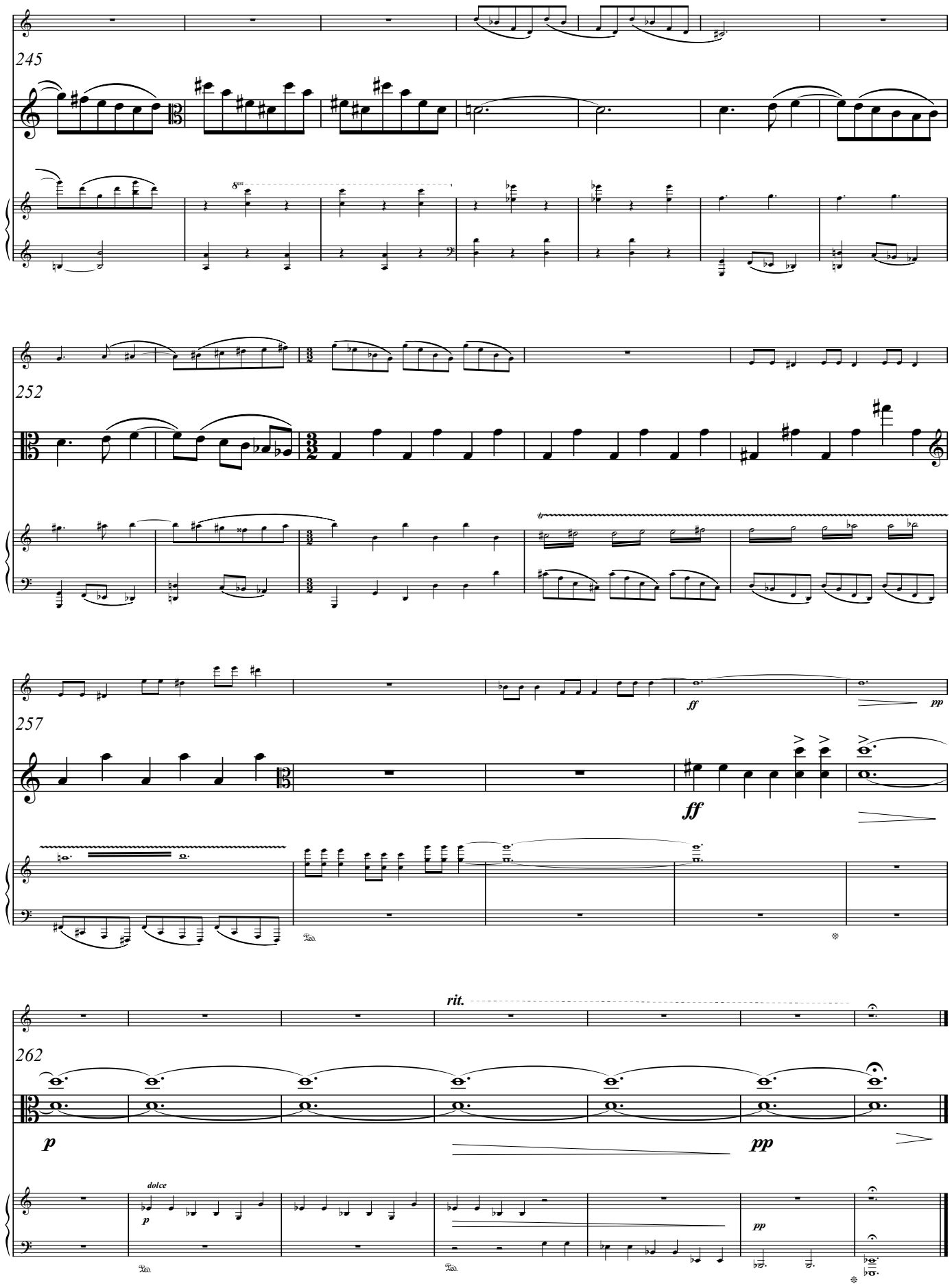
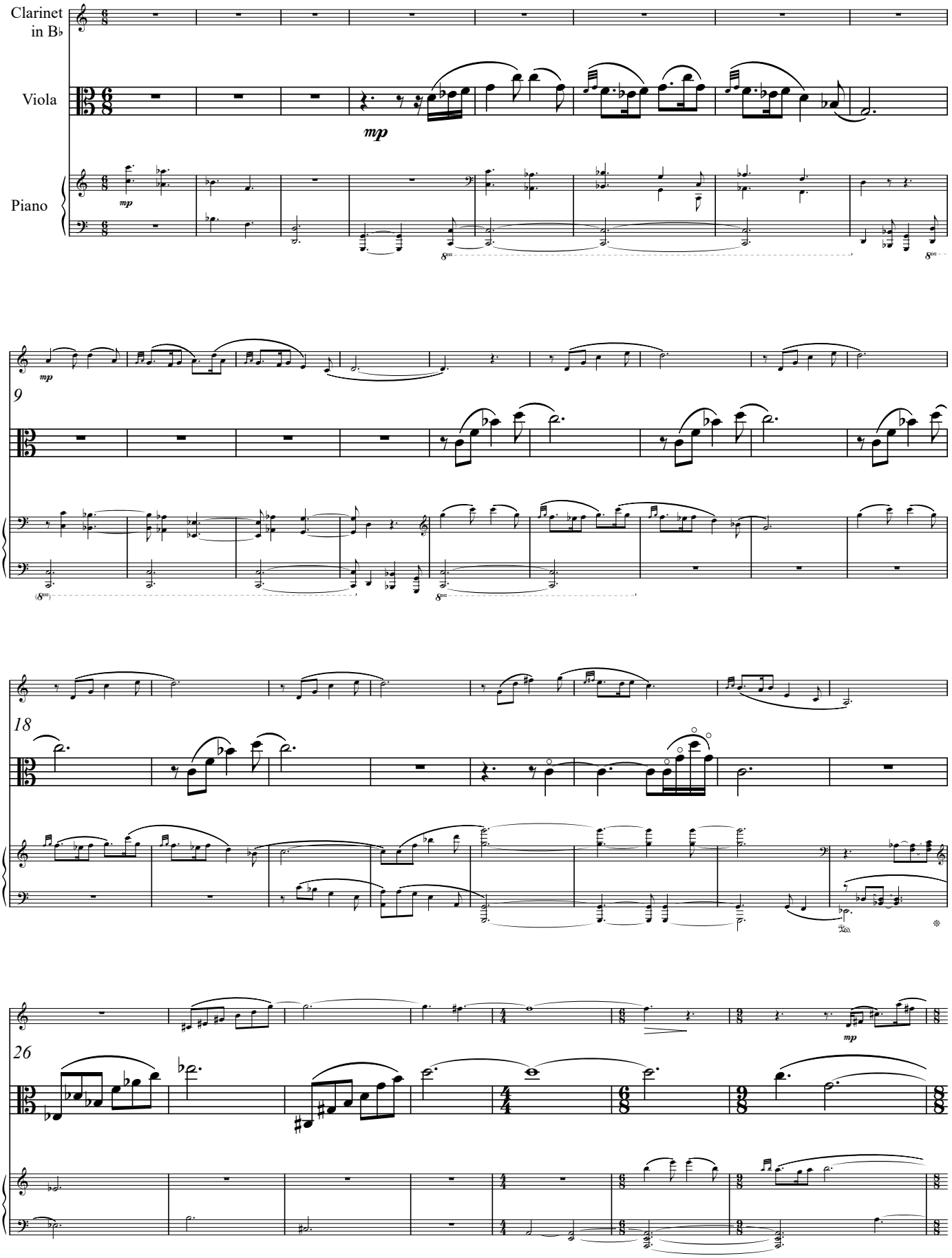
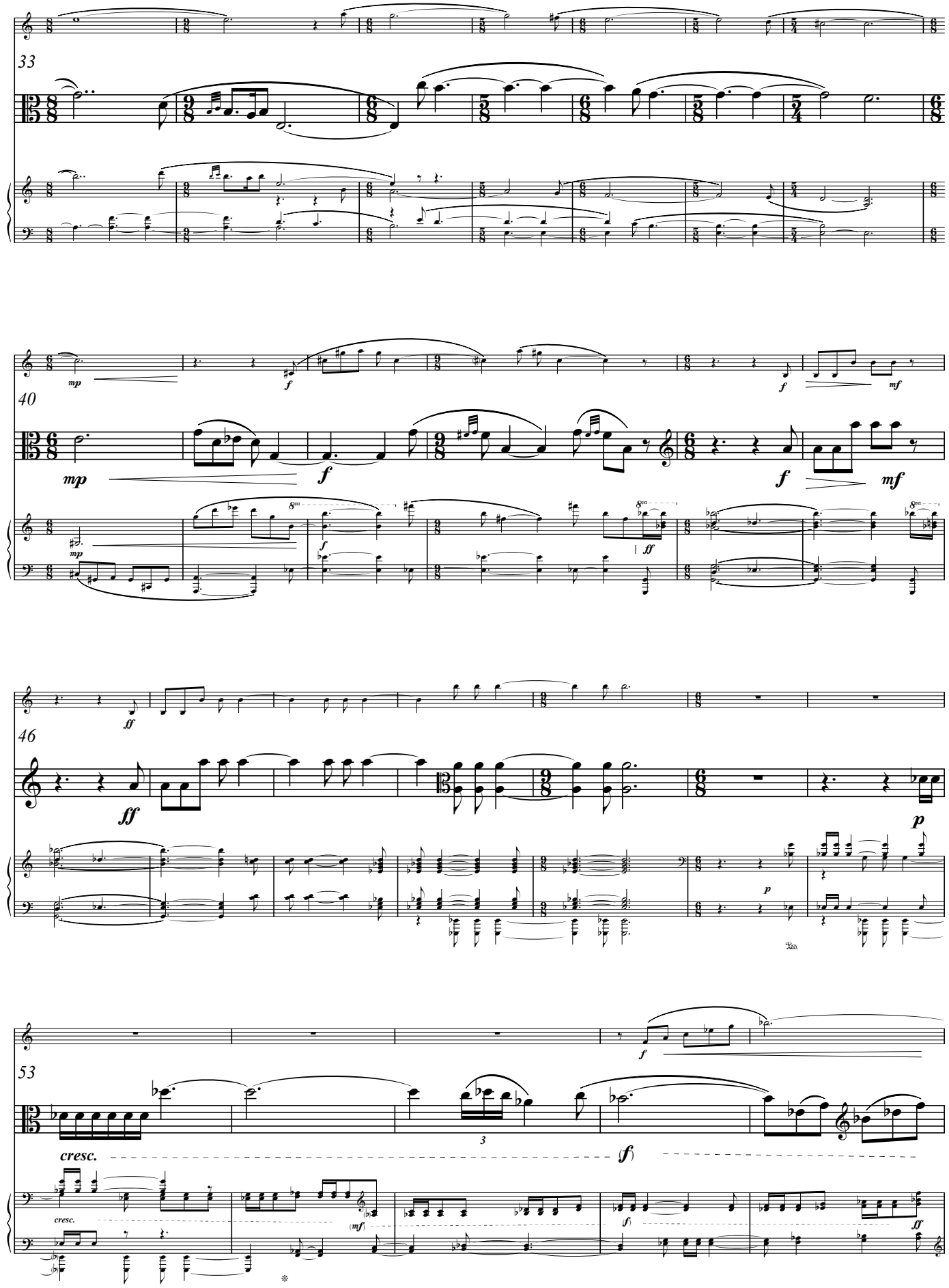
(f)
ff
p
cresc. p. a p.
(mf)
(f)
ff
231
238


245
252
257
ff
pp
ff
262
rit.
p
pp
dolce
p
pp


Lento (♩. = 46)
Clarinet in B♭
Viola
Piano
mp
9
18
26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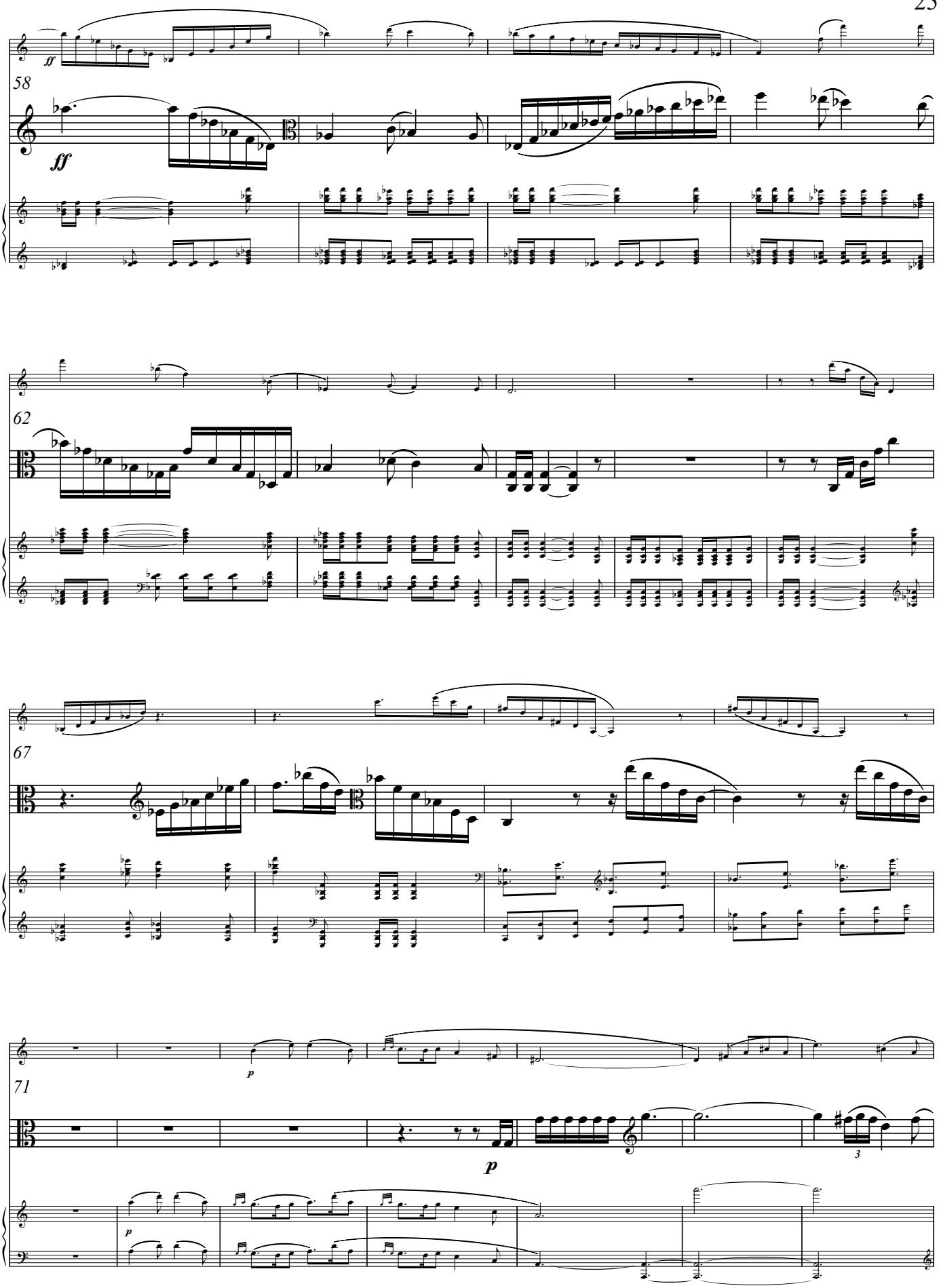
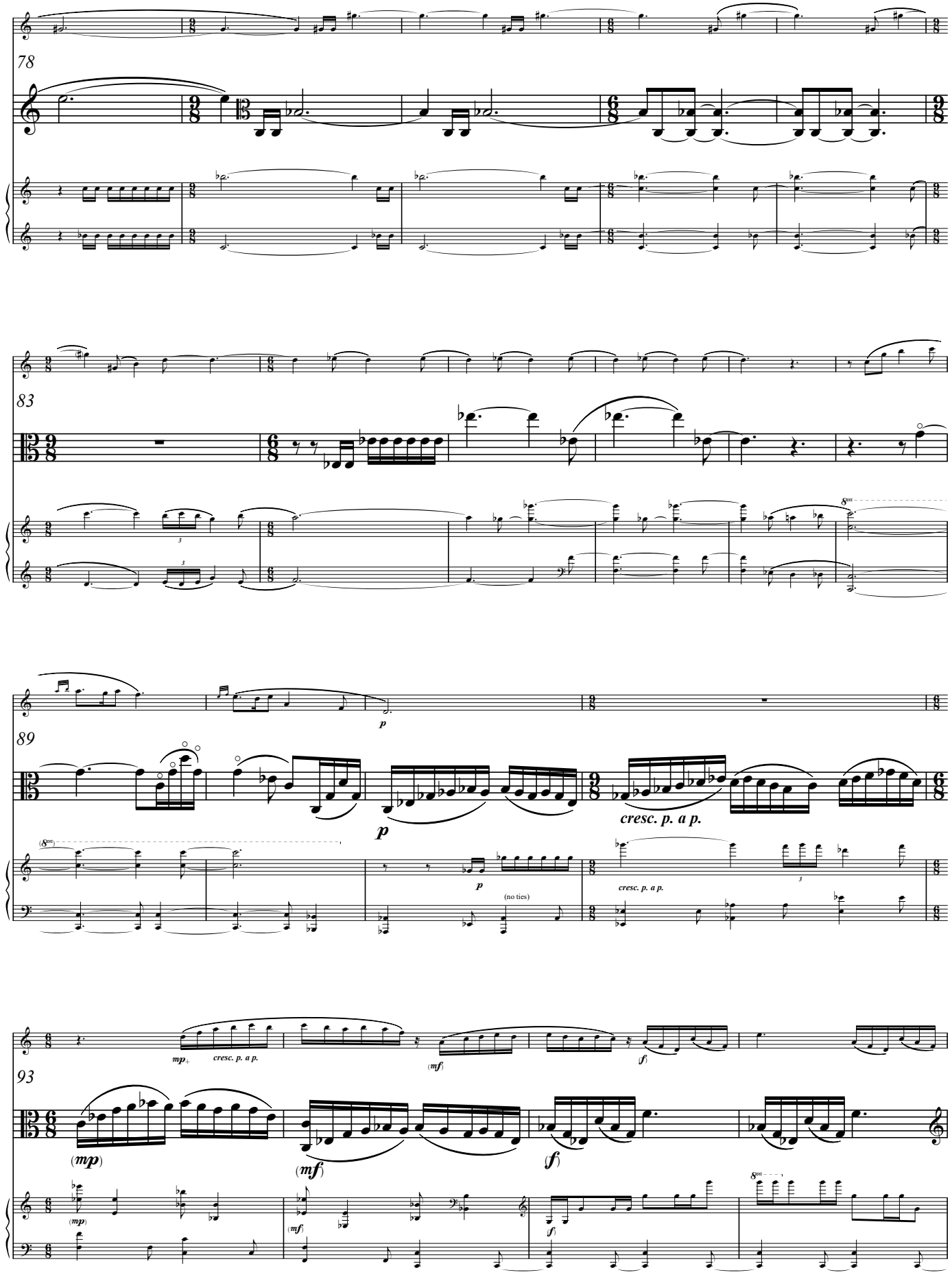
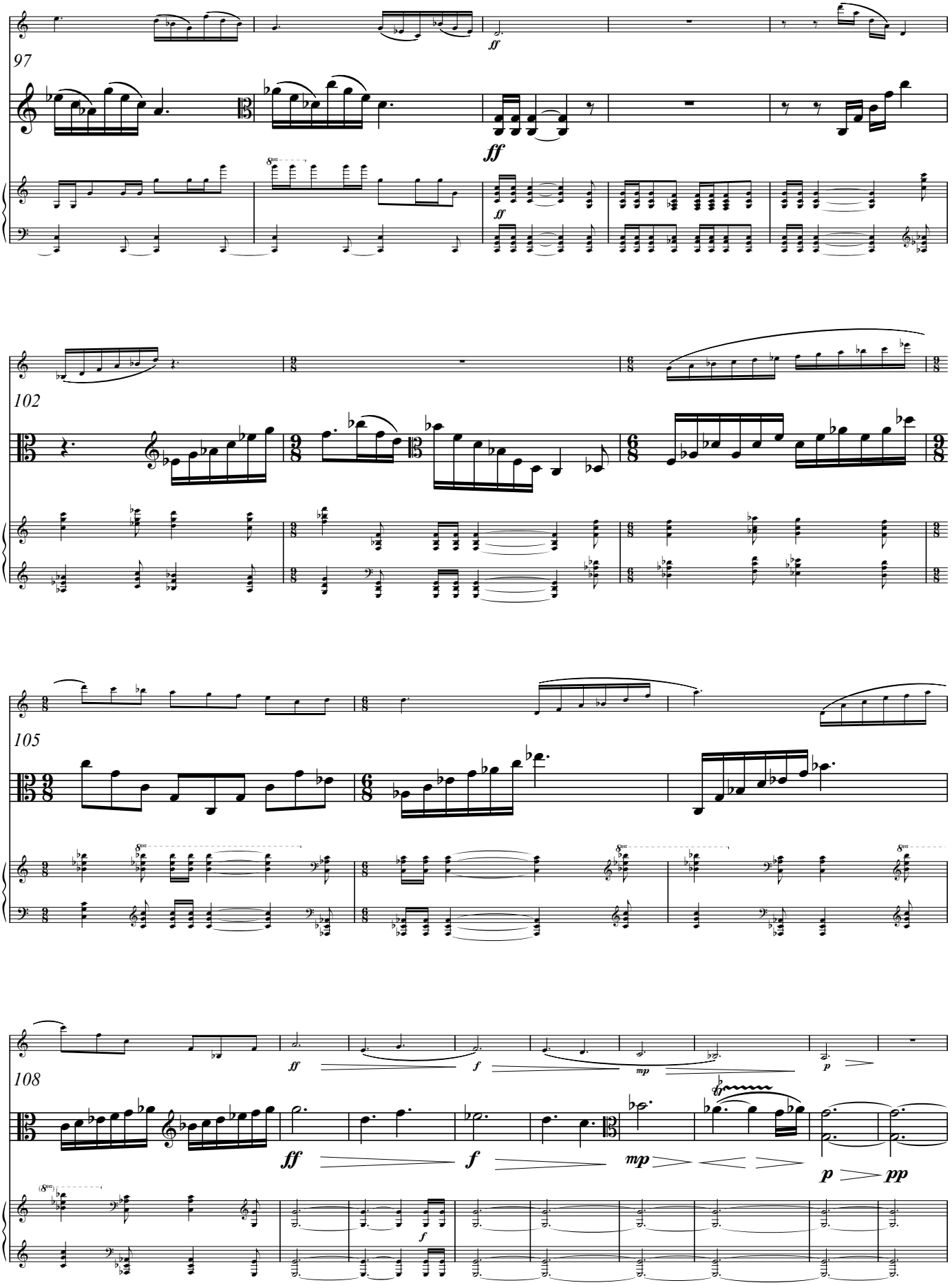
40
mp
f
mf
ff
46
p
53
cresc.
(f)
3


58
62
67
71
ff
ff
p
p
p
3


78
83
89
p
cresc. p. a p.
(no ties)
93
mp
cresc. p. a p.
mf
f
(mp)
(mf)
(f)


97
ff
ff
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102
105
108
ff
f
mp
p
ff
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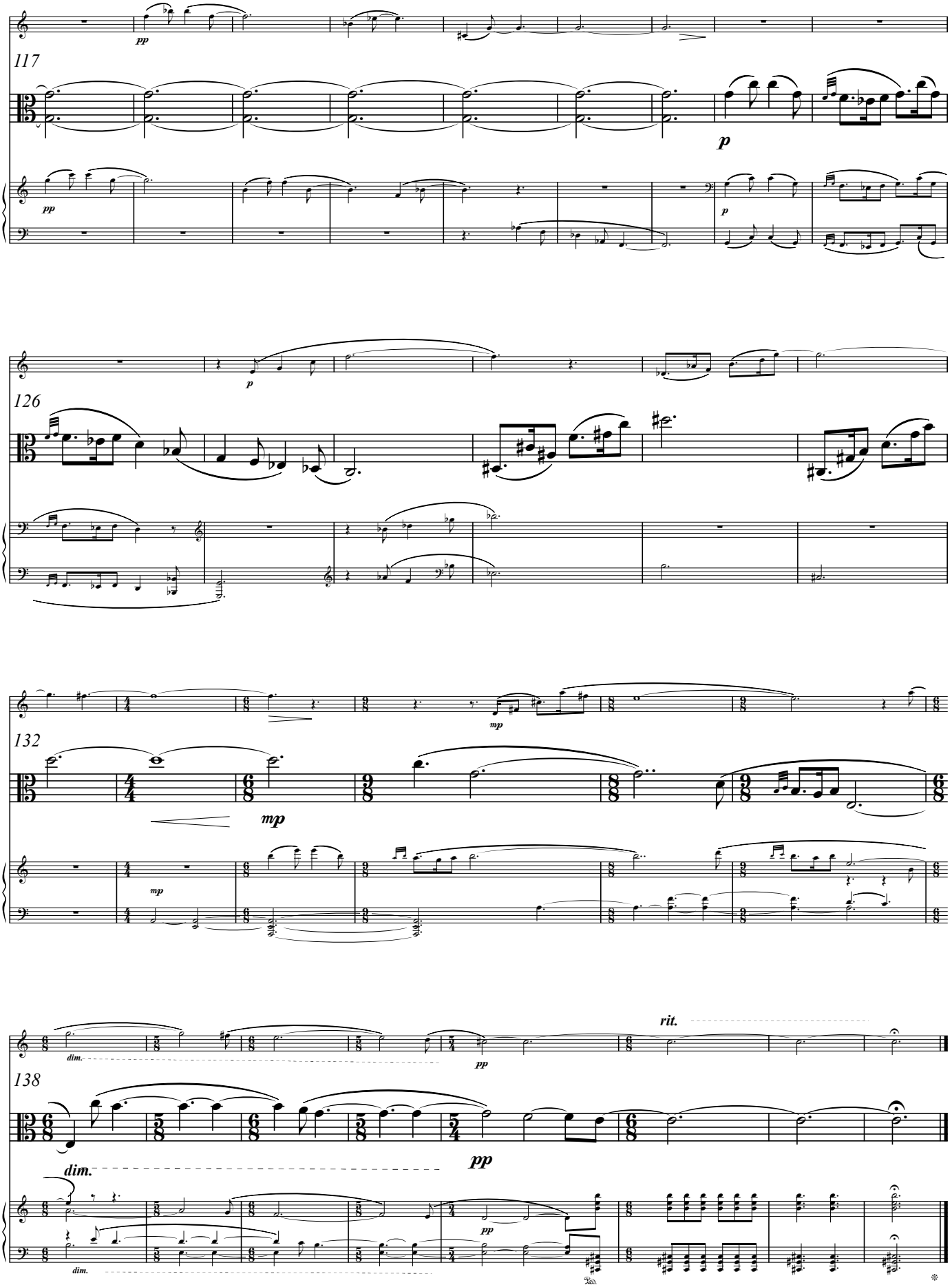
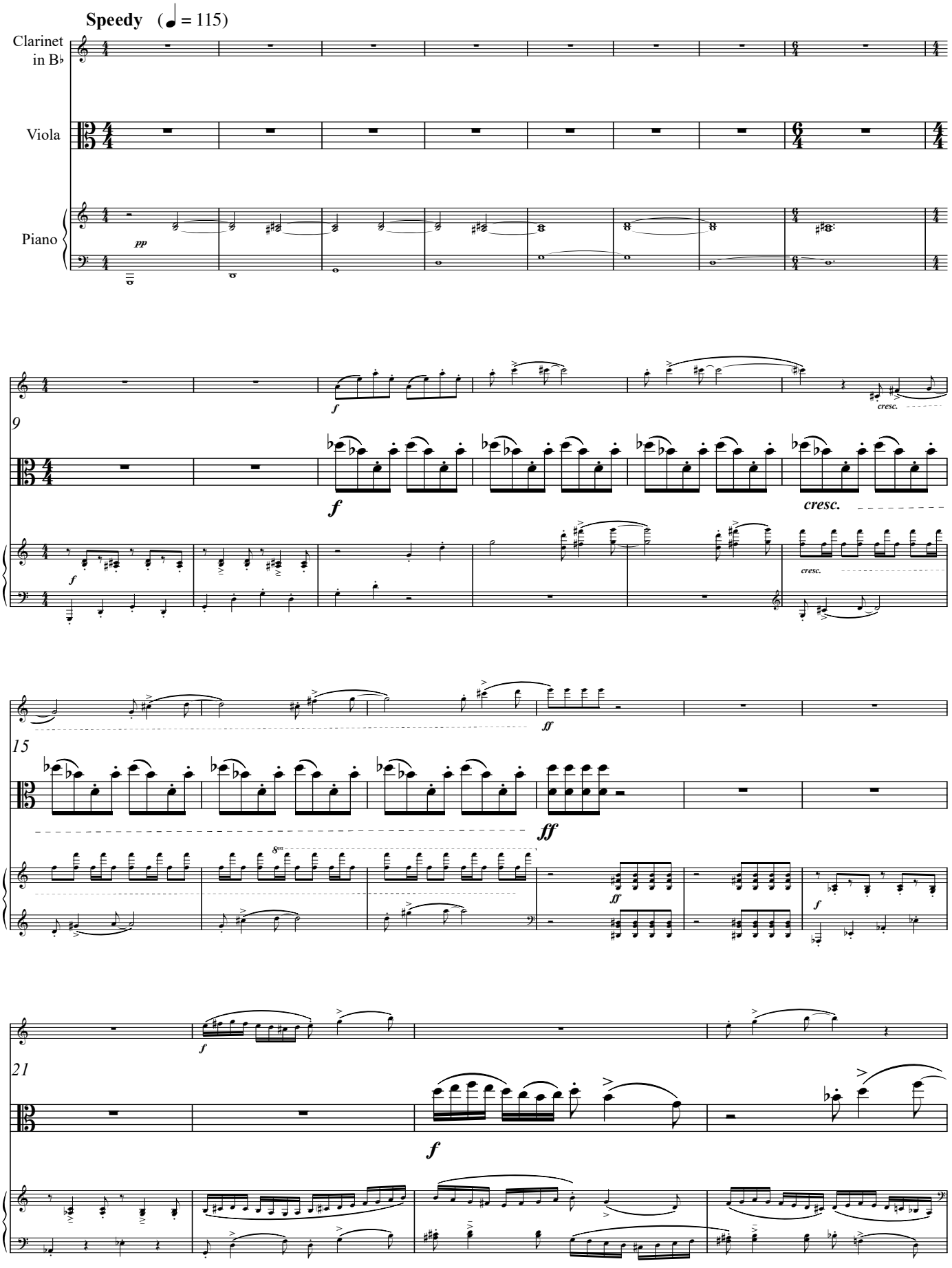
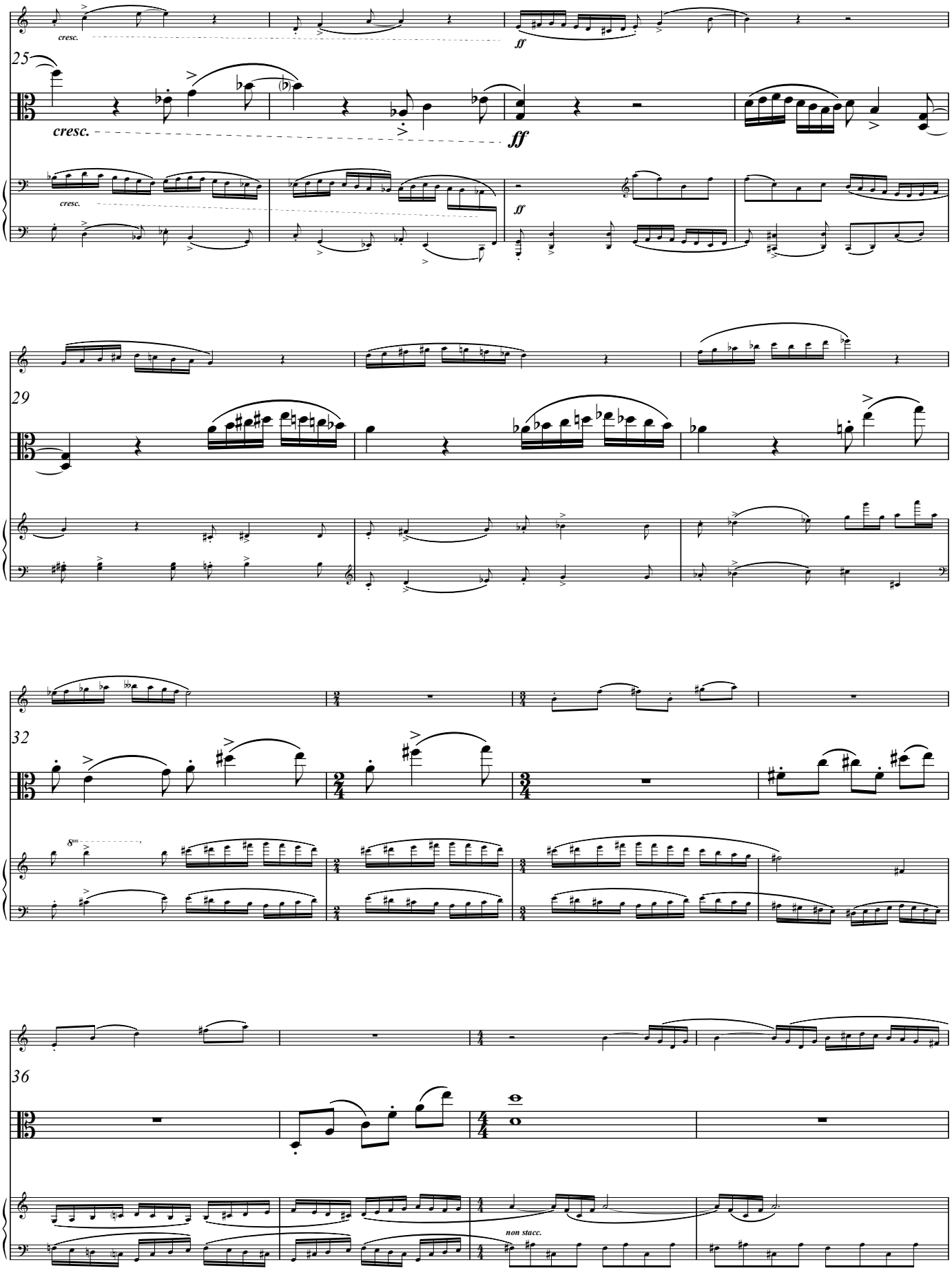
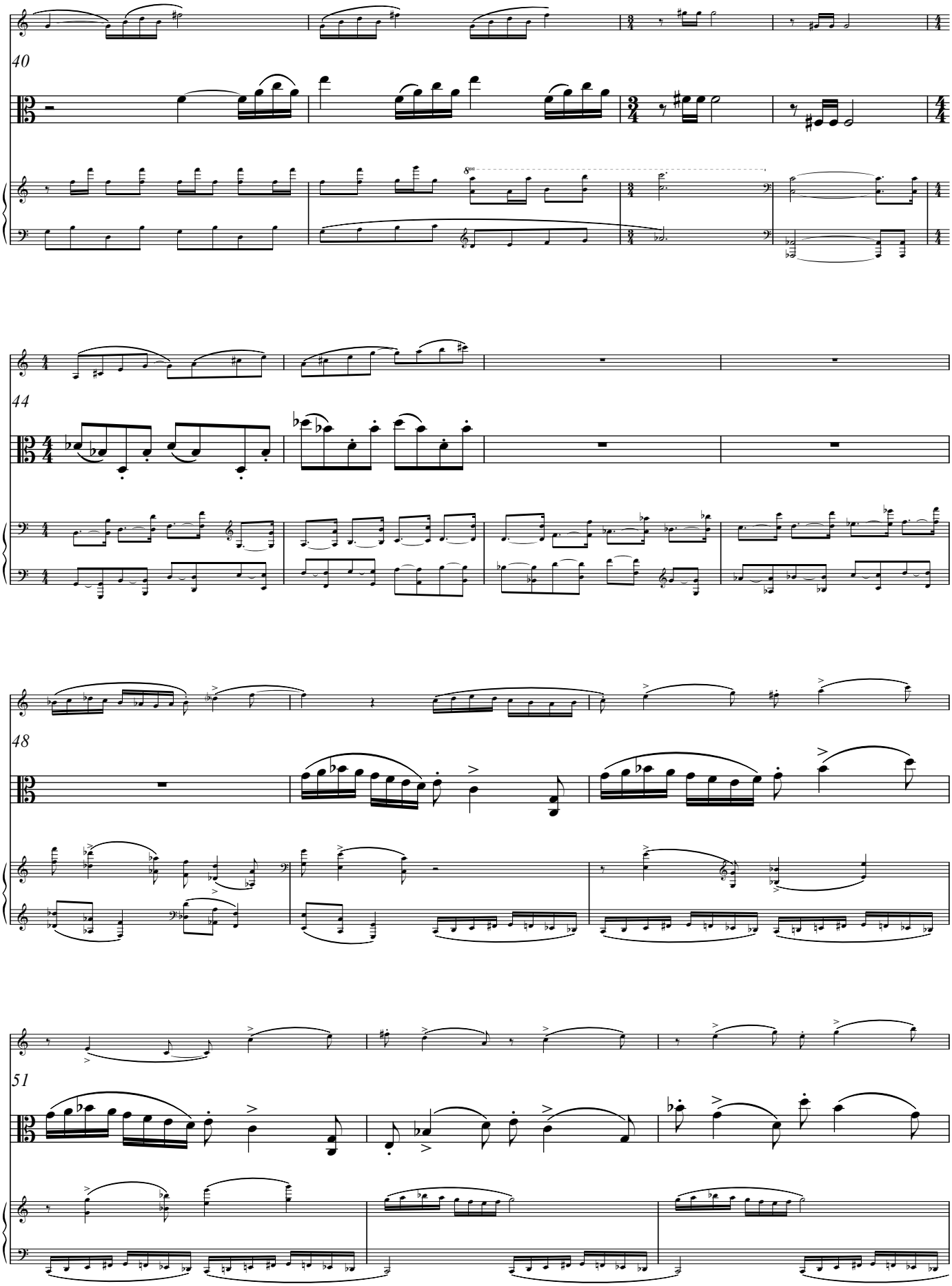
p
pp
f

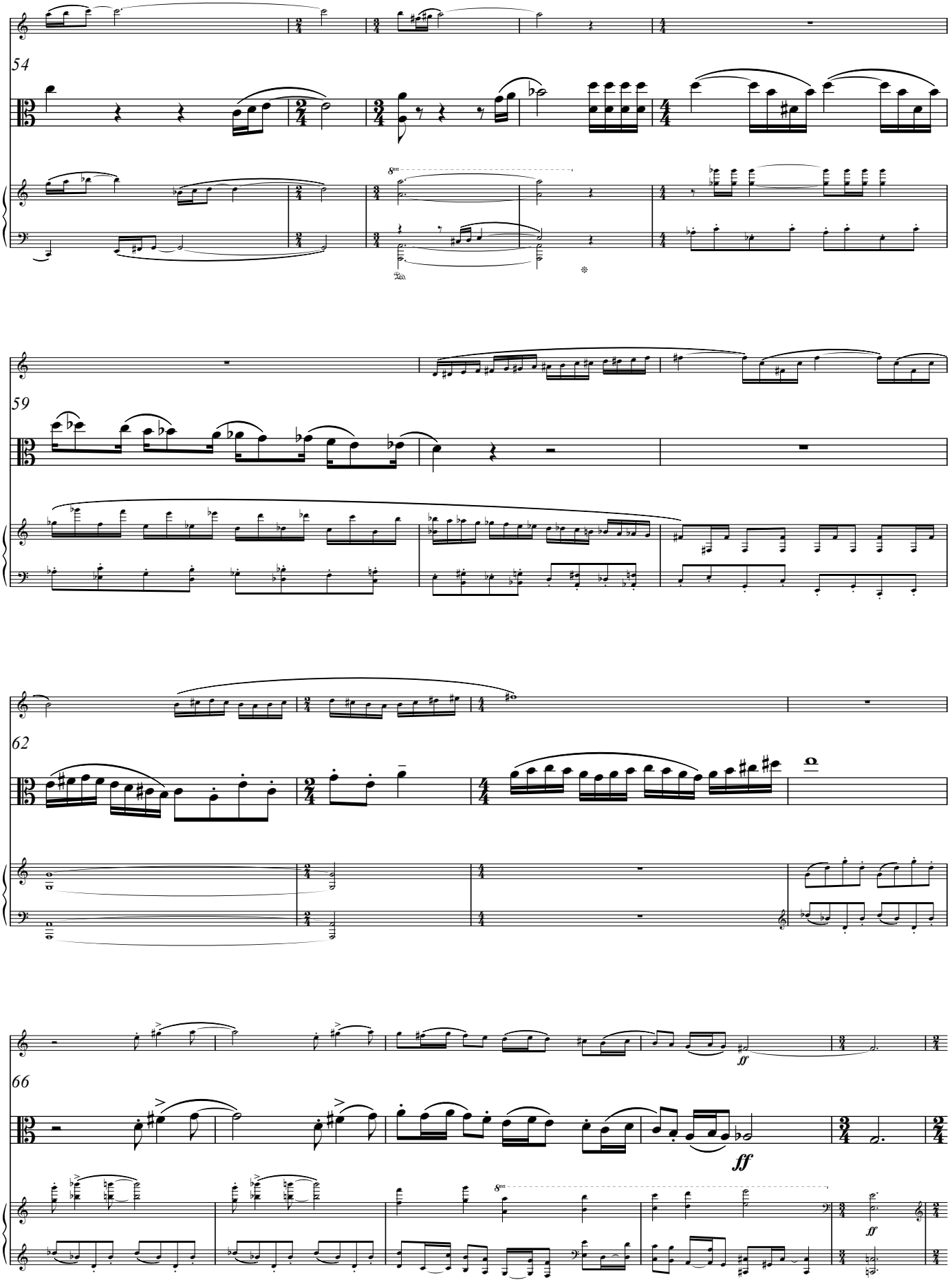

117
pp
p
126
132
mp
138
dim.
rit.
pp

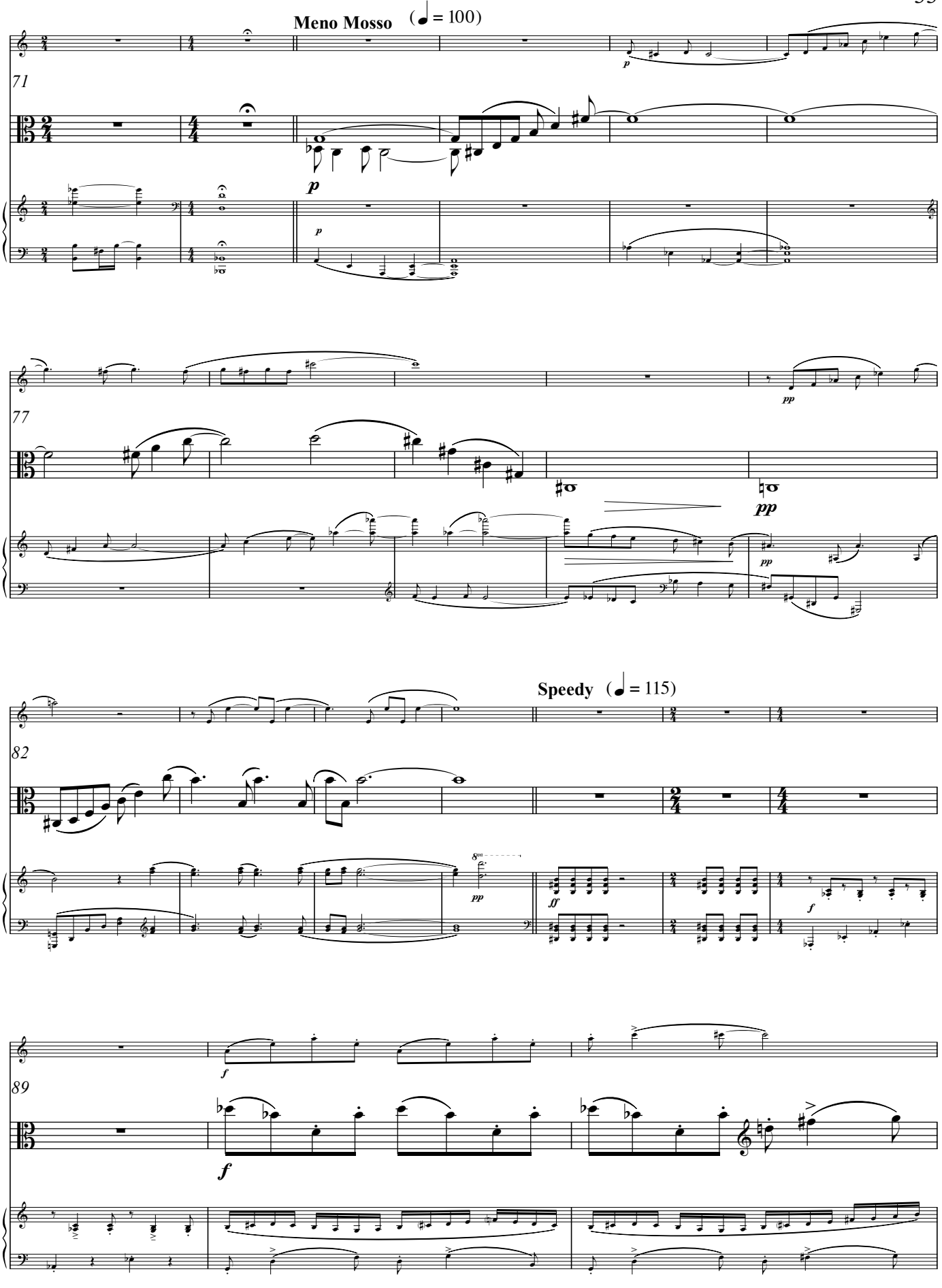

Speedy (♩ = 115)
Clarinet in B♭
Viola
Piano
pp
9
f
cresc.
15
ff
8va
21

30

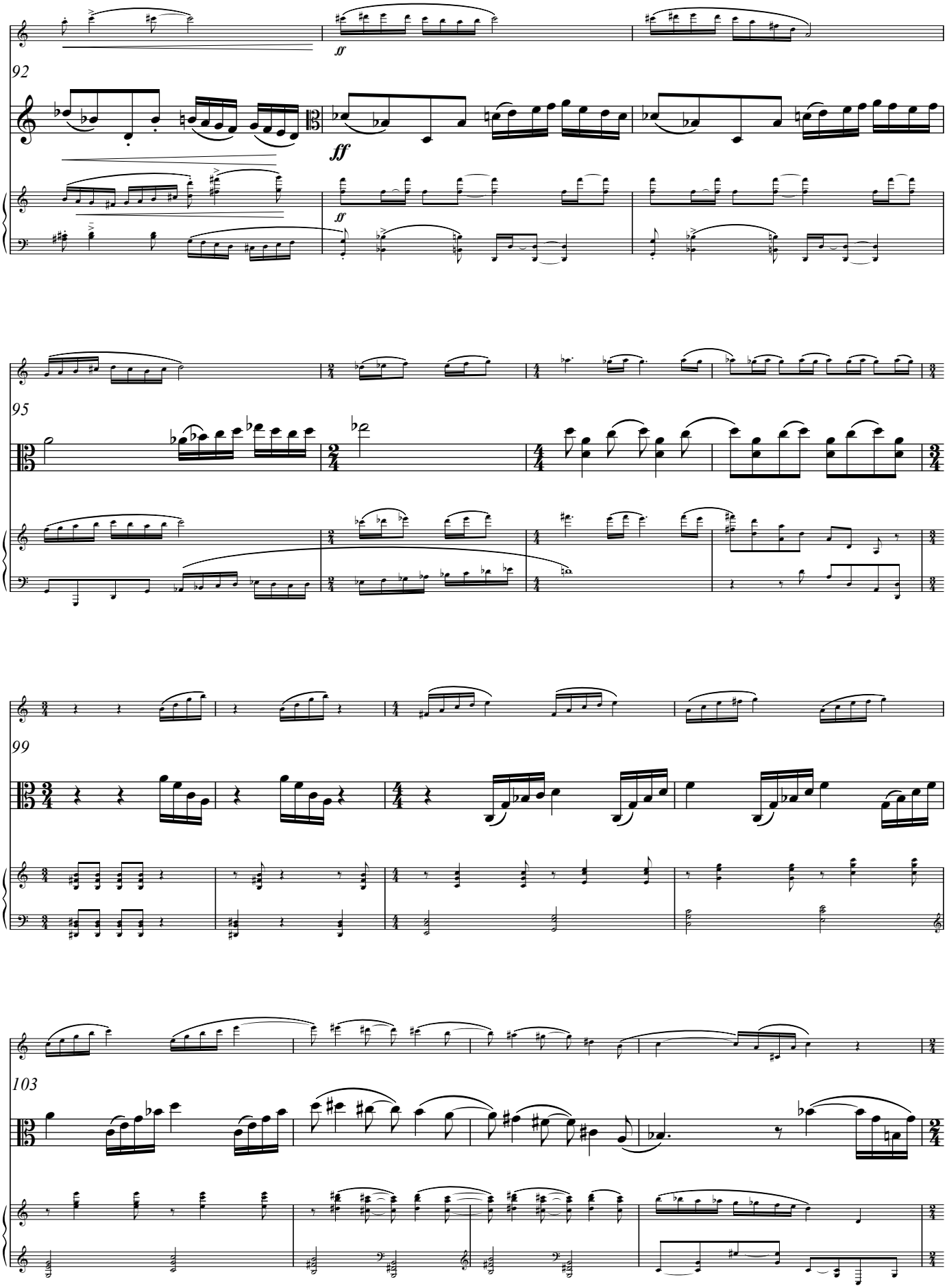


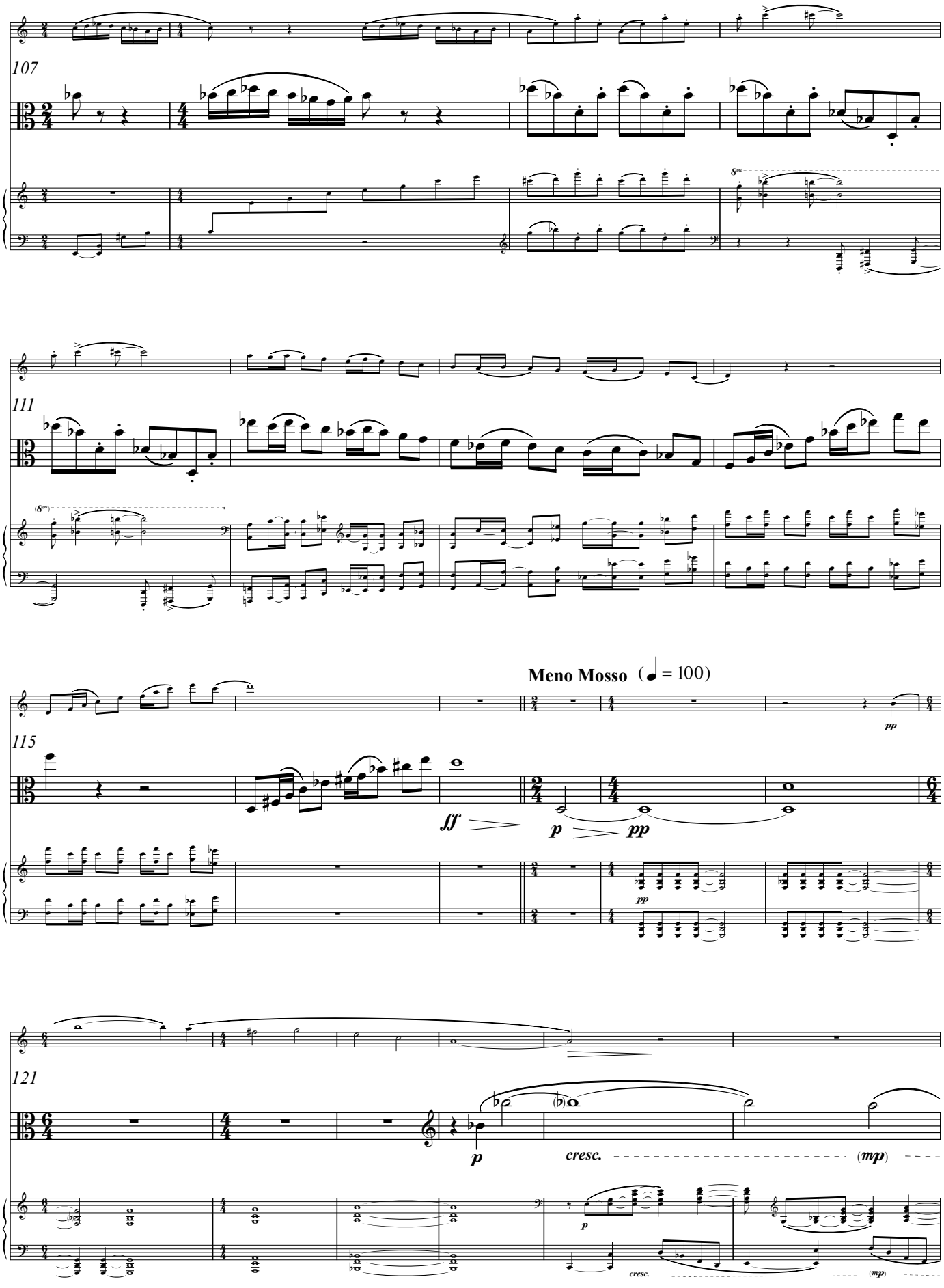

40
44
48
51

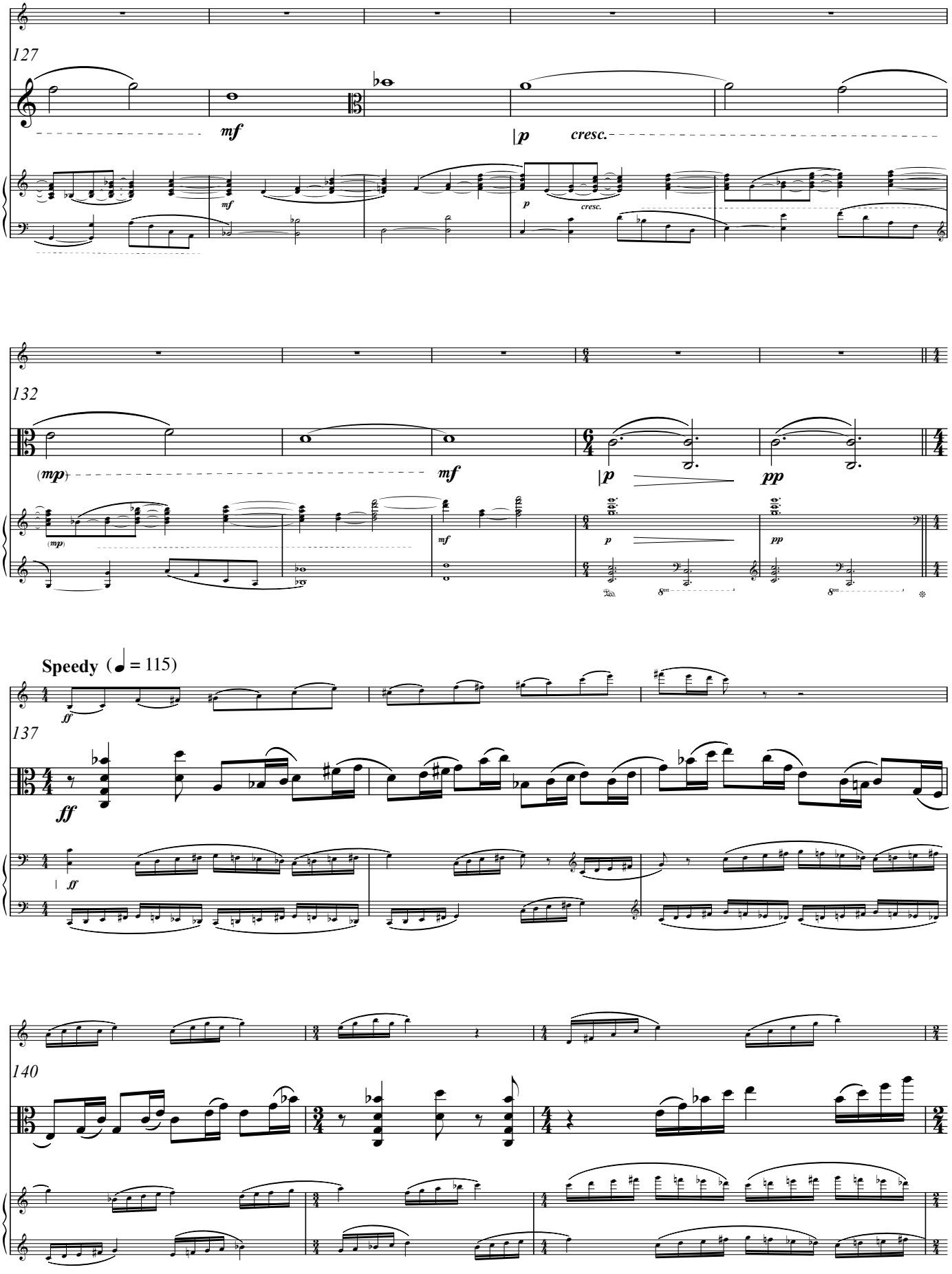

54
59
62
66
ff
ff
ff

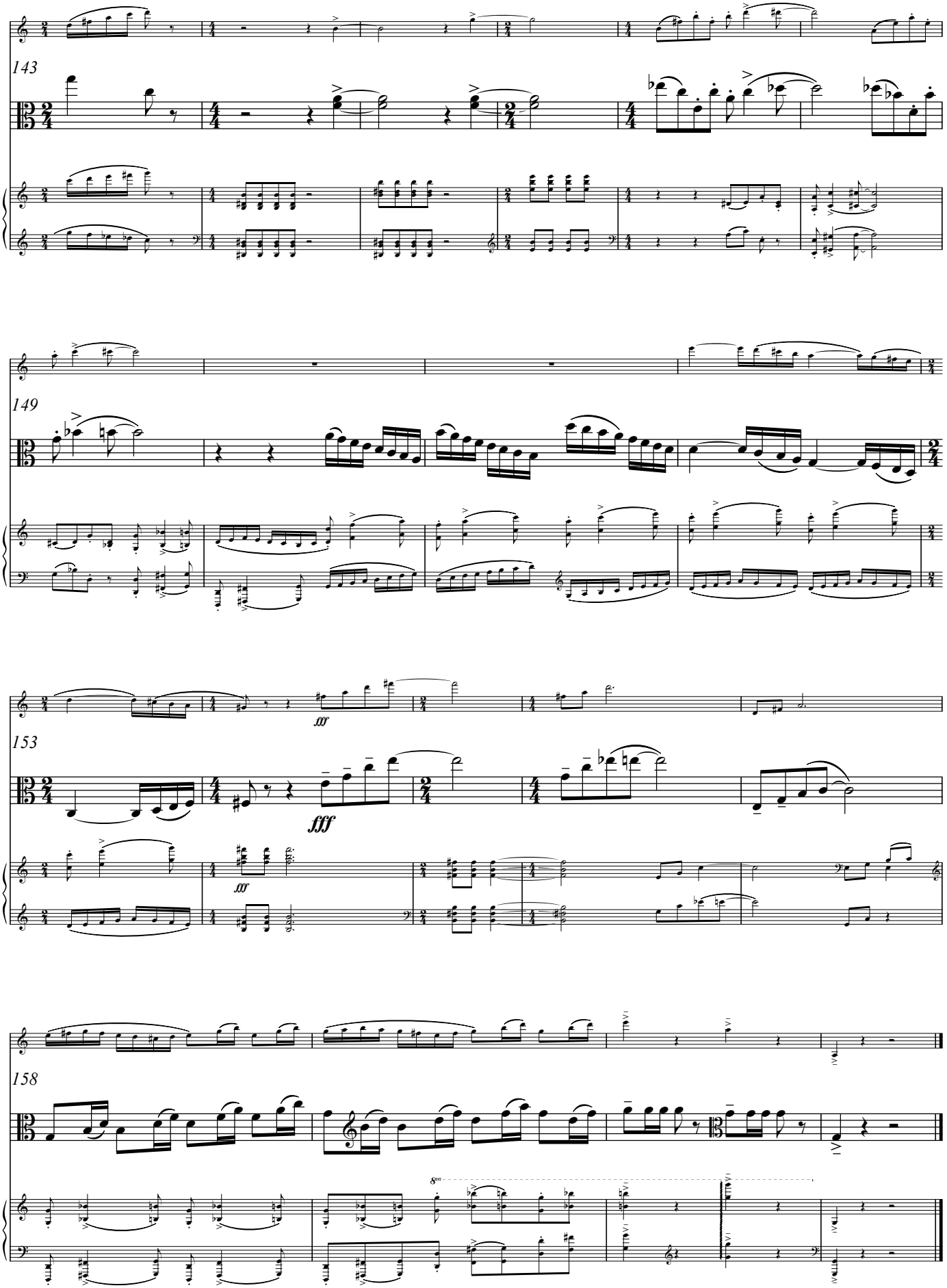

Meno Mosso (♩ = 100)
71
p
p
77
pp
pp
pp
Speedy (♩ = 115)
82
8va
pp
ff
f
89
f
f

34




107
111
Meno Mosso (♩ = 100)
115
ff
p
pp
121
cresc.
(mp)


127
mf
p
cresc.
132
(mp)
mf
p
pp
Speedy (♩ = 115)
ff
137
ff
140


143
149
153
fff
fff
158