From God's Back 40

for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano

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

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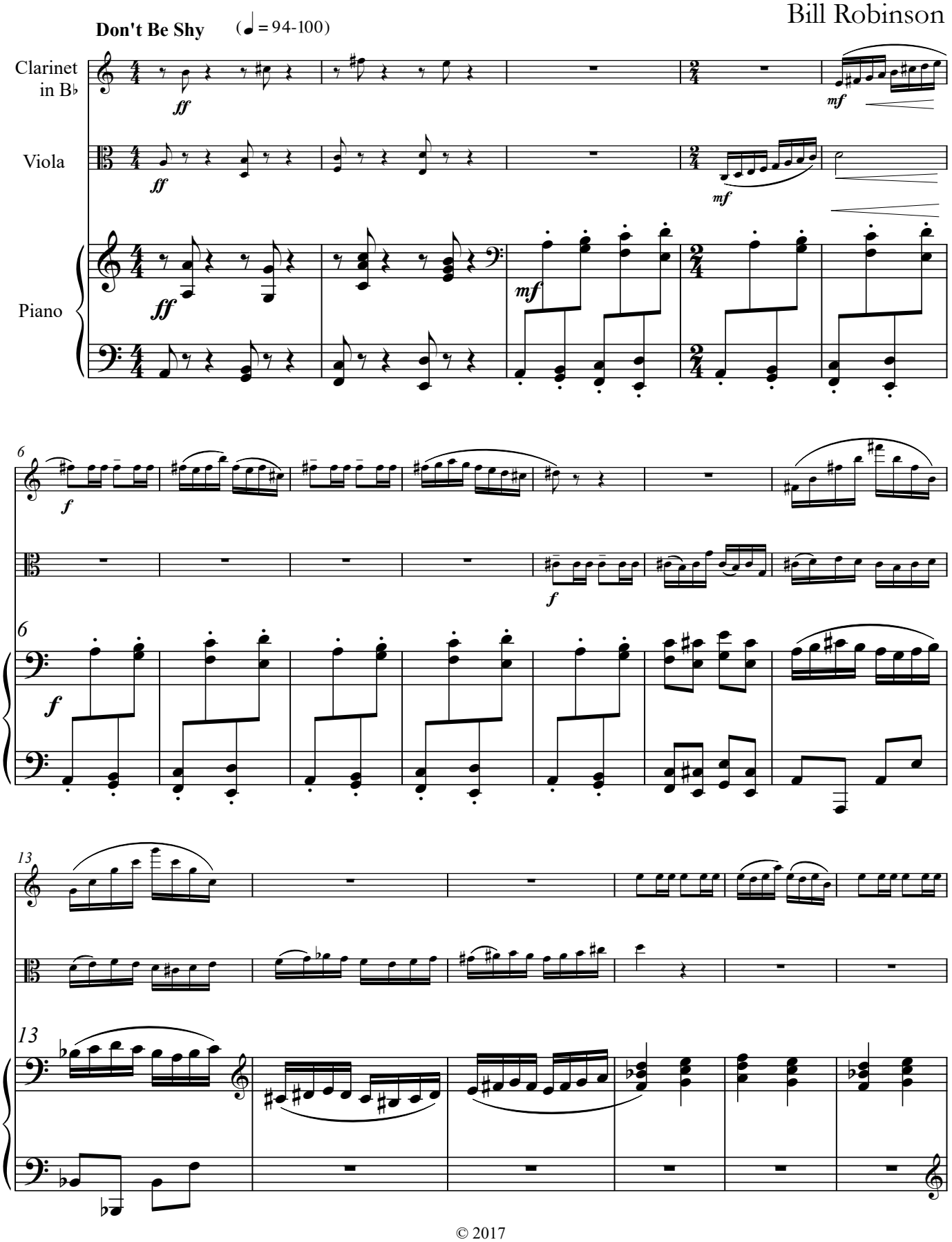
billrobinsonmusic.com

From God's Back 40

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

Bill Robinson



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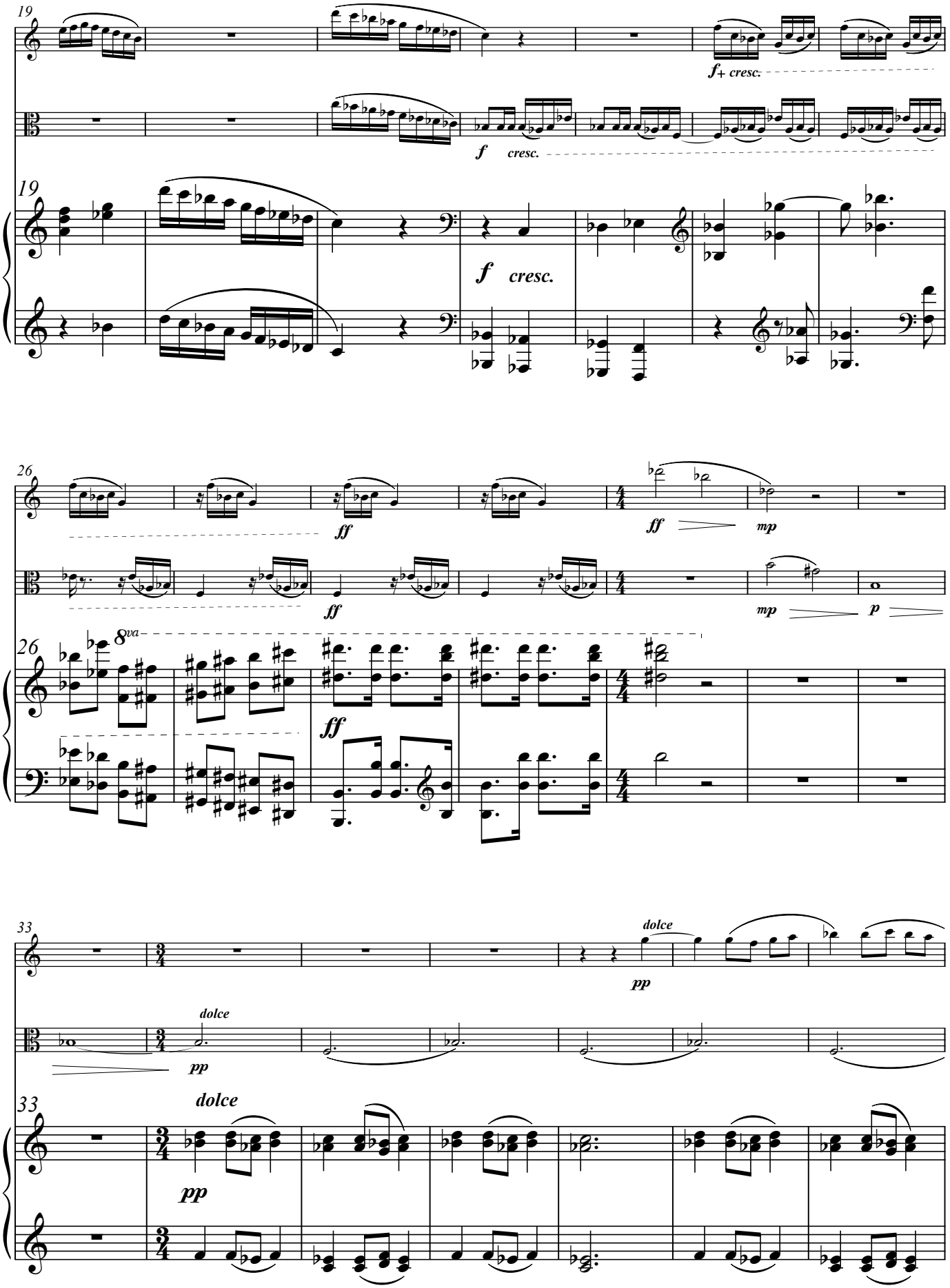
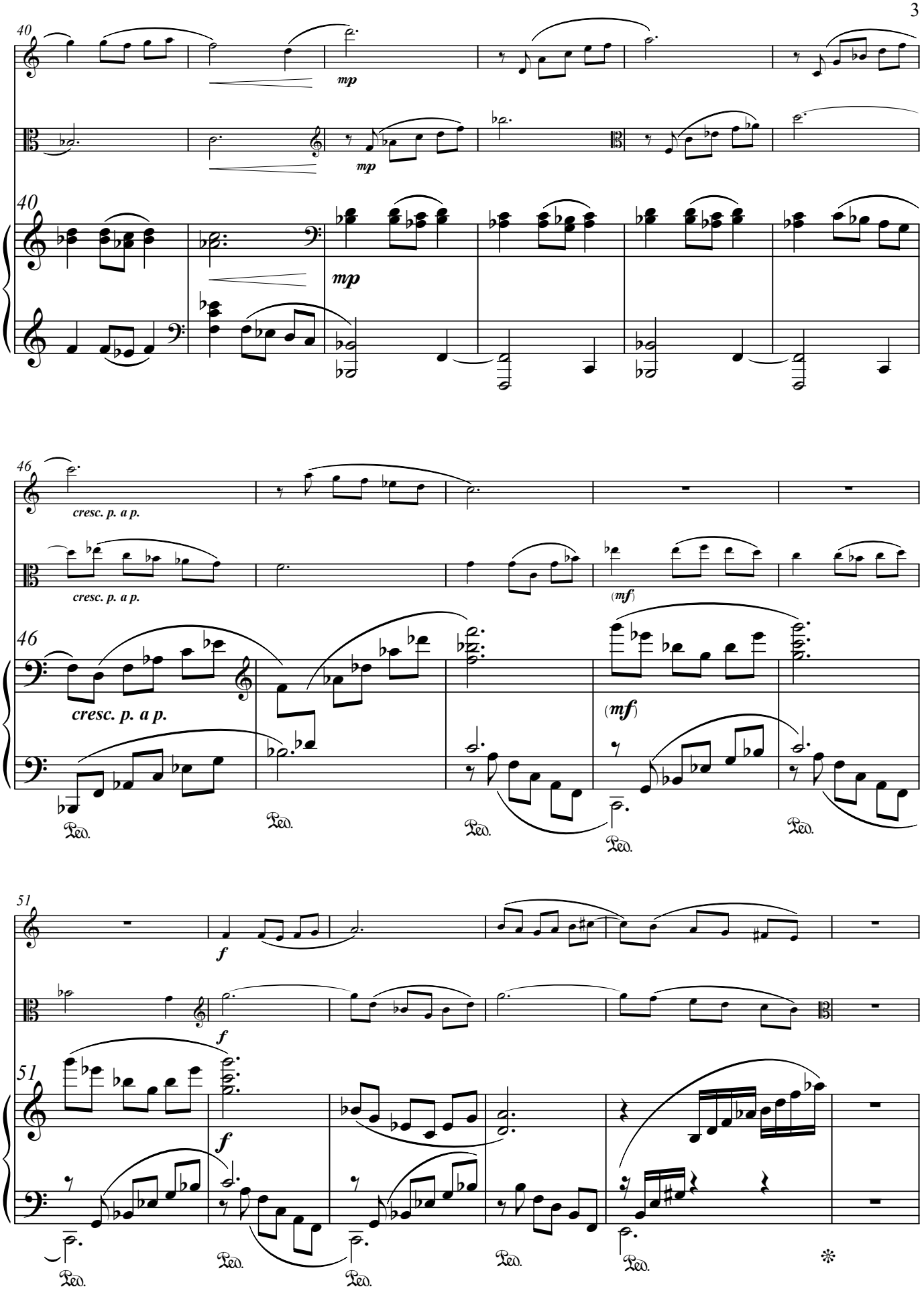
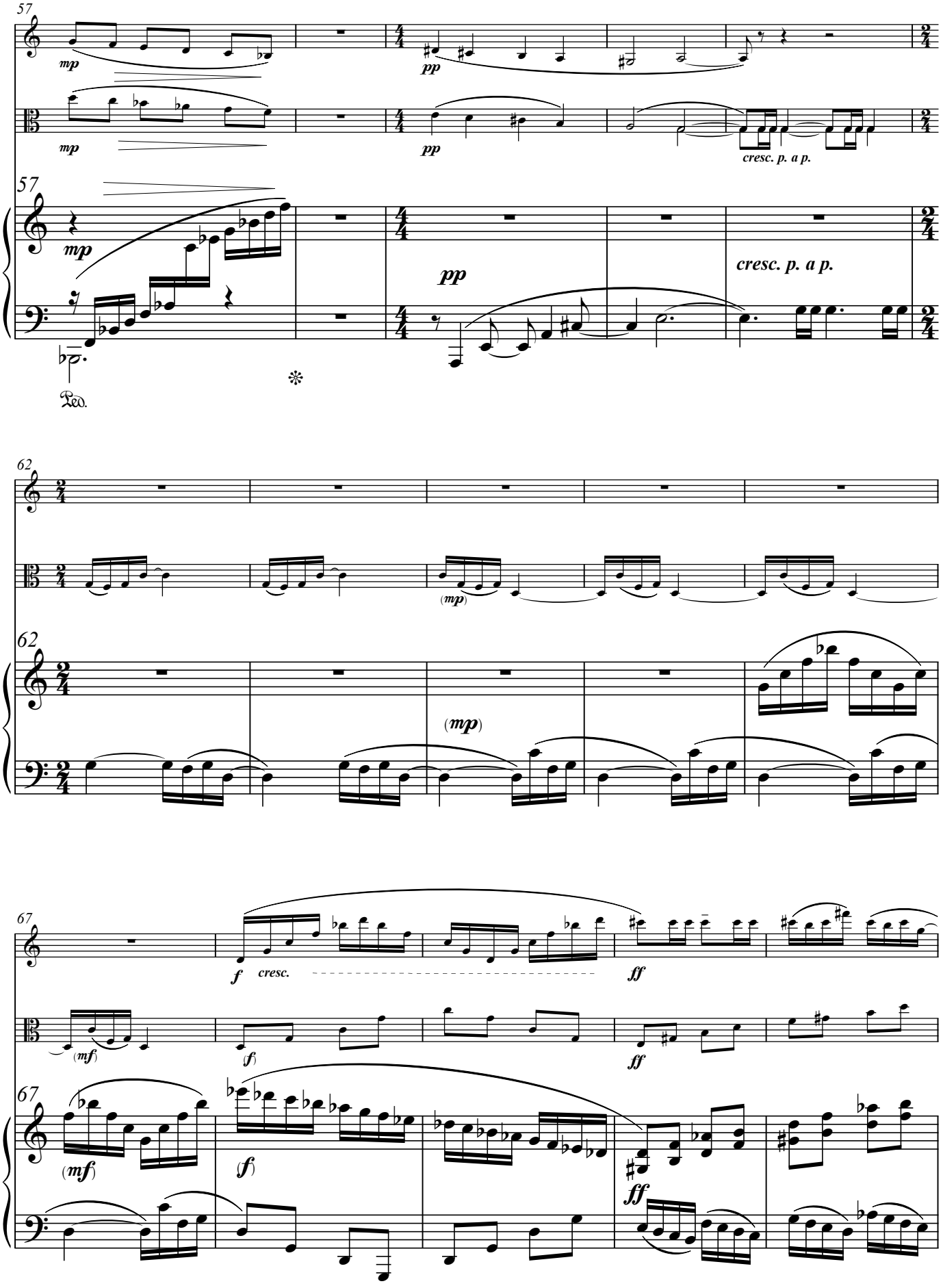
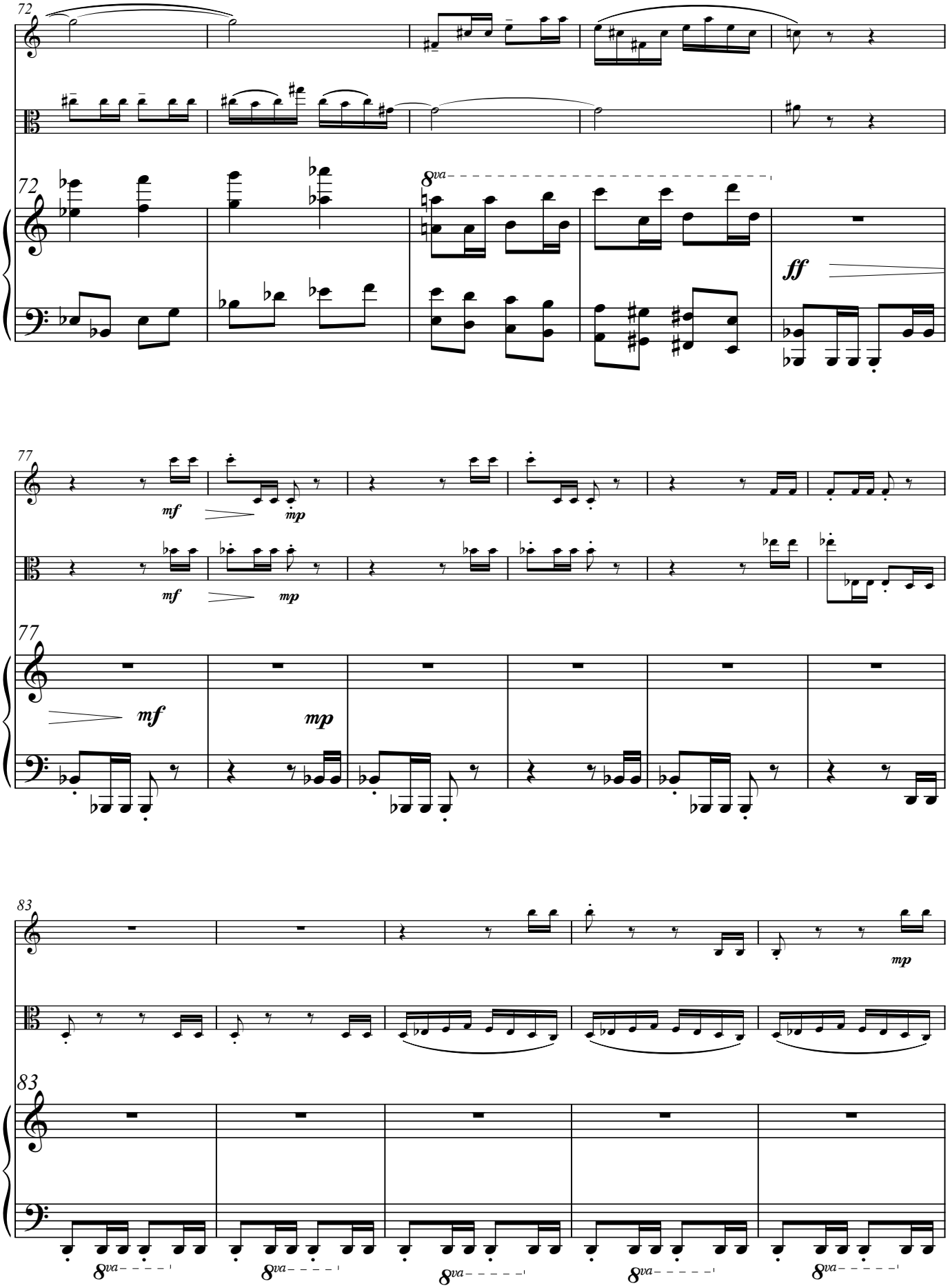
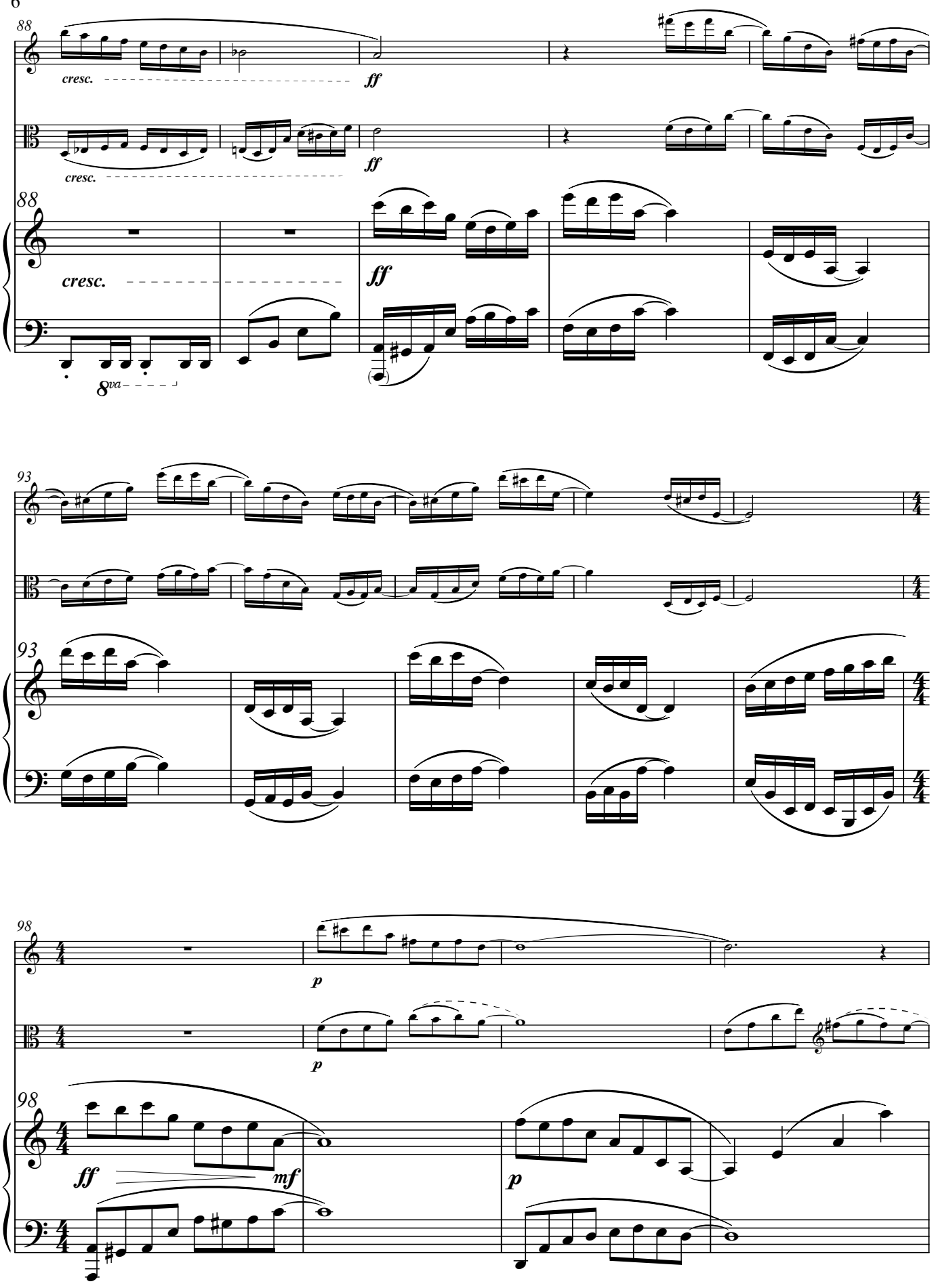
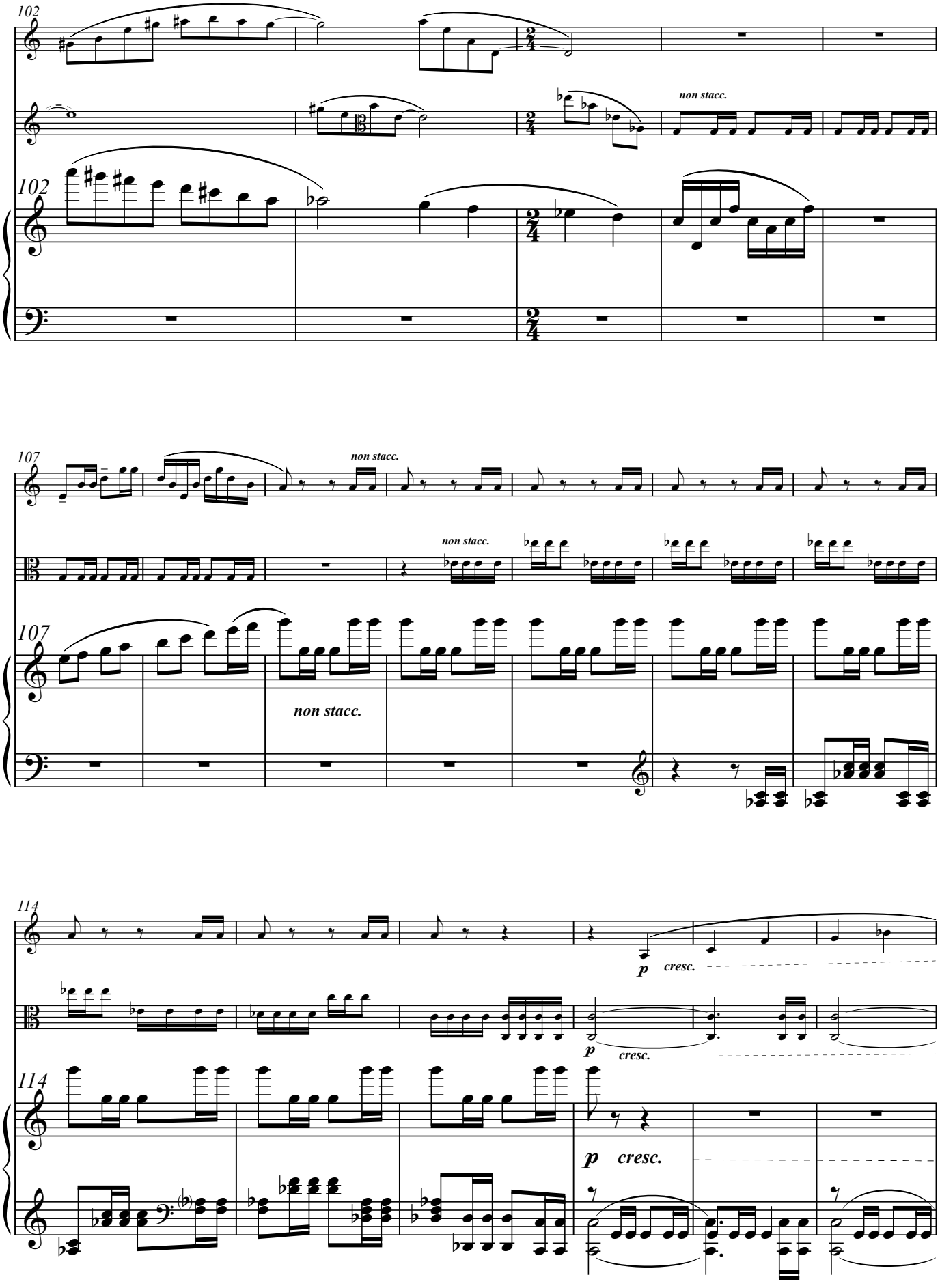

19
f+ cresc.
f cresc.
19
f cresc.
26
ff
ff
mp
8va
26
ff
mp
p
33
dolce
pp
dolce
pp
33
dolce
pp

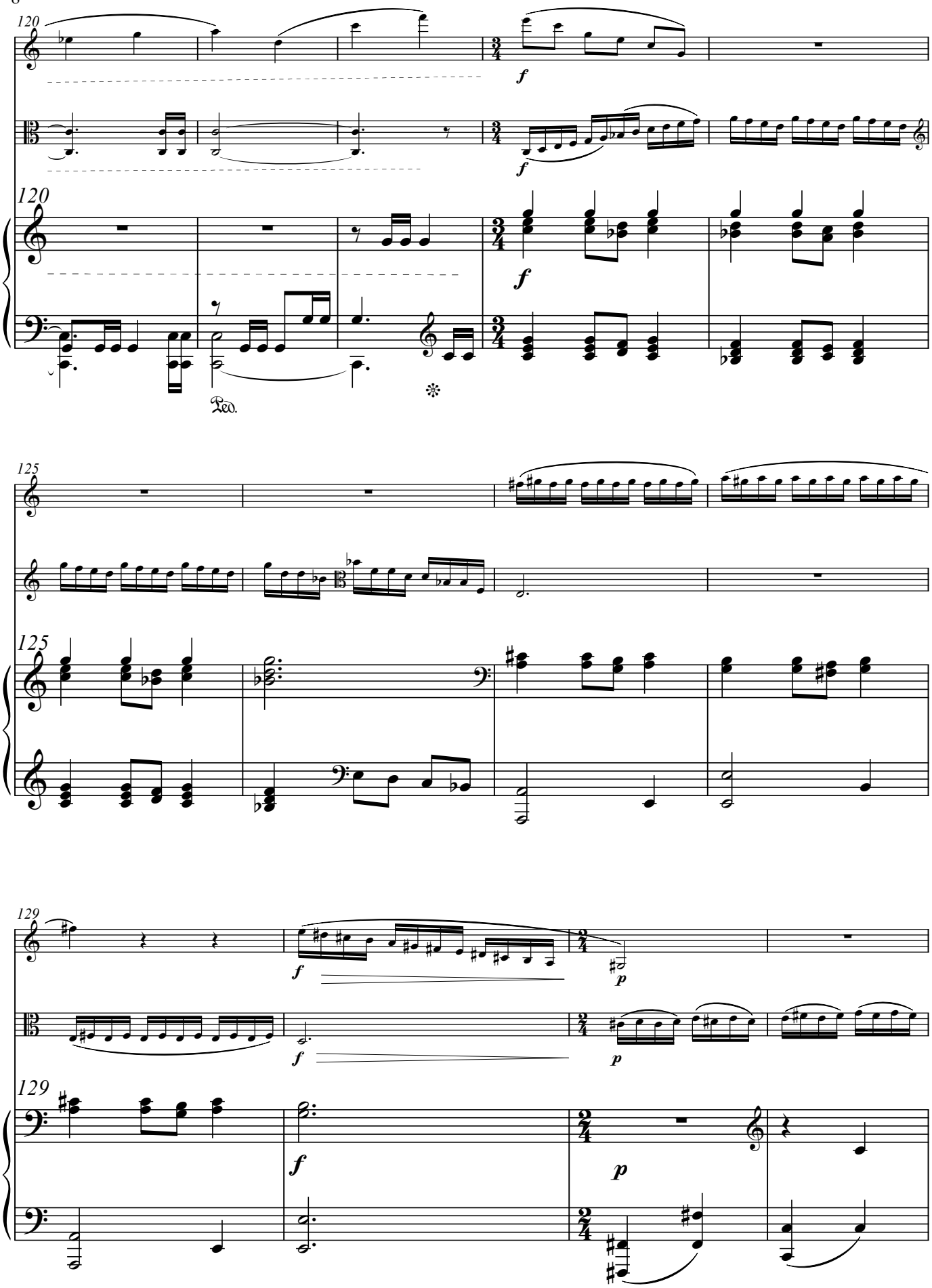

40
mp
mp
40
mp
46
cresc. p. a p.
cresc. p. a p.
(mf)
46
cresc. p. a p.
(mf)
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
51
f
f
51
f
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
*

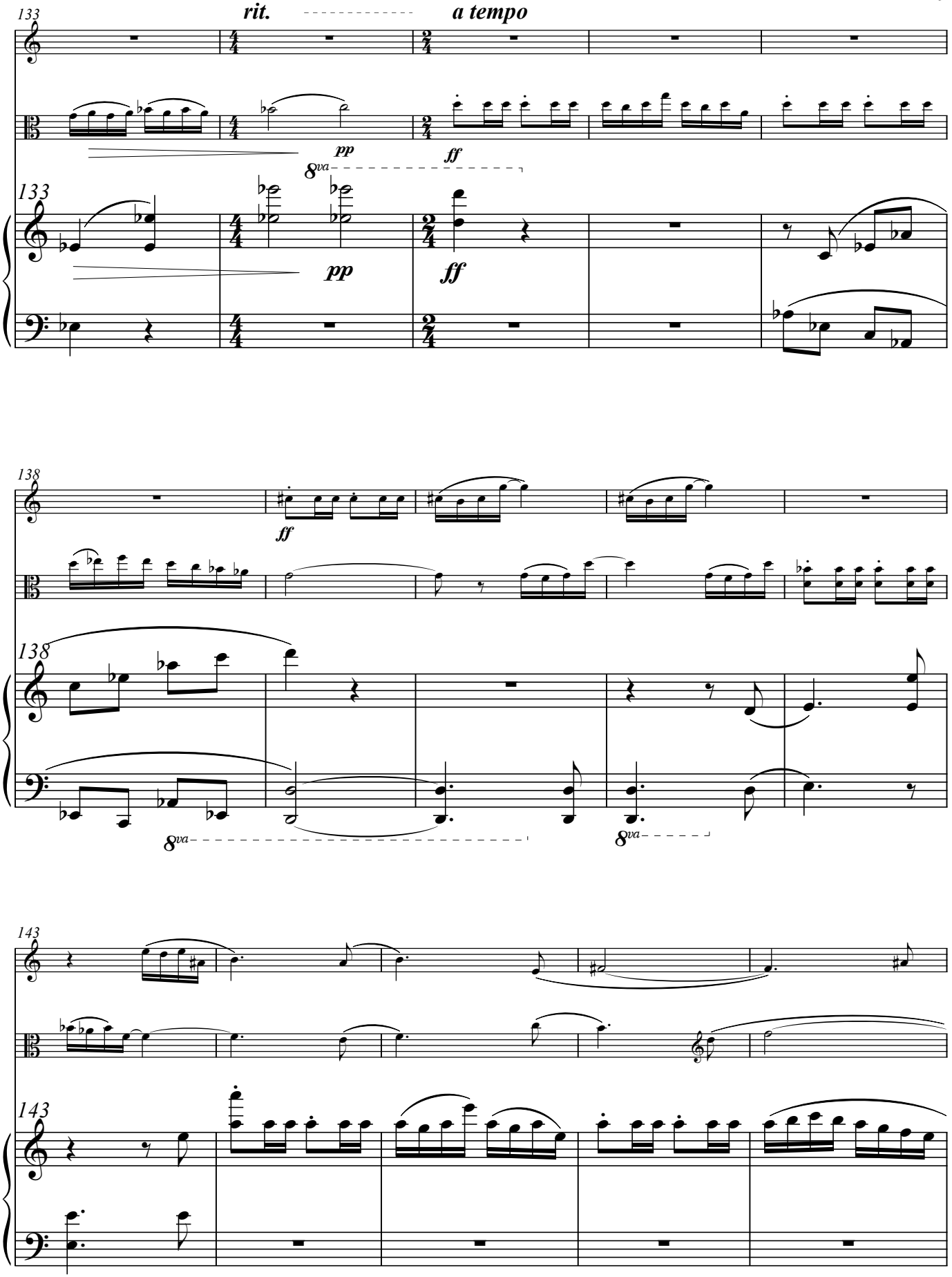

57
mp
pp
cresc. p. a p.
Ped.
62
(mp)
67
f
cresc.
ff
(mf)

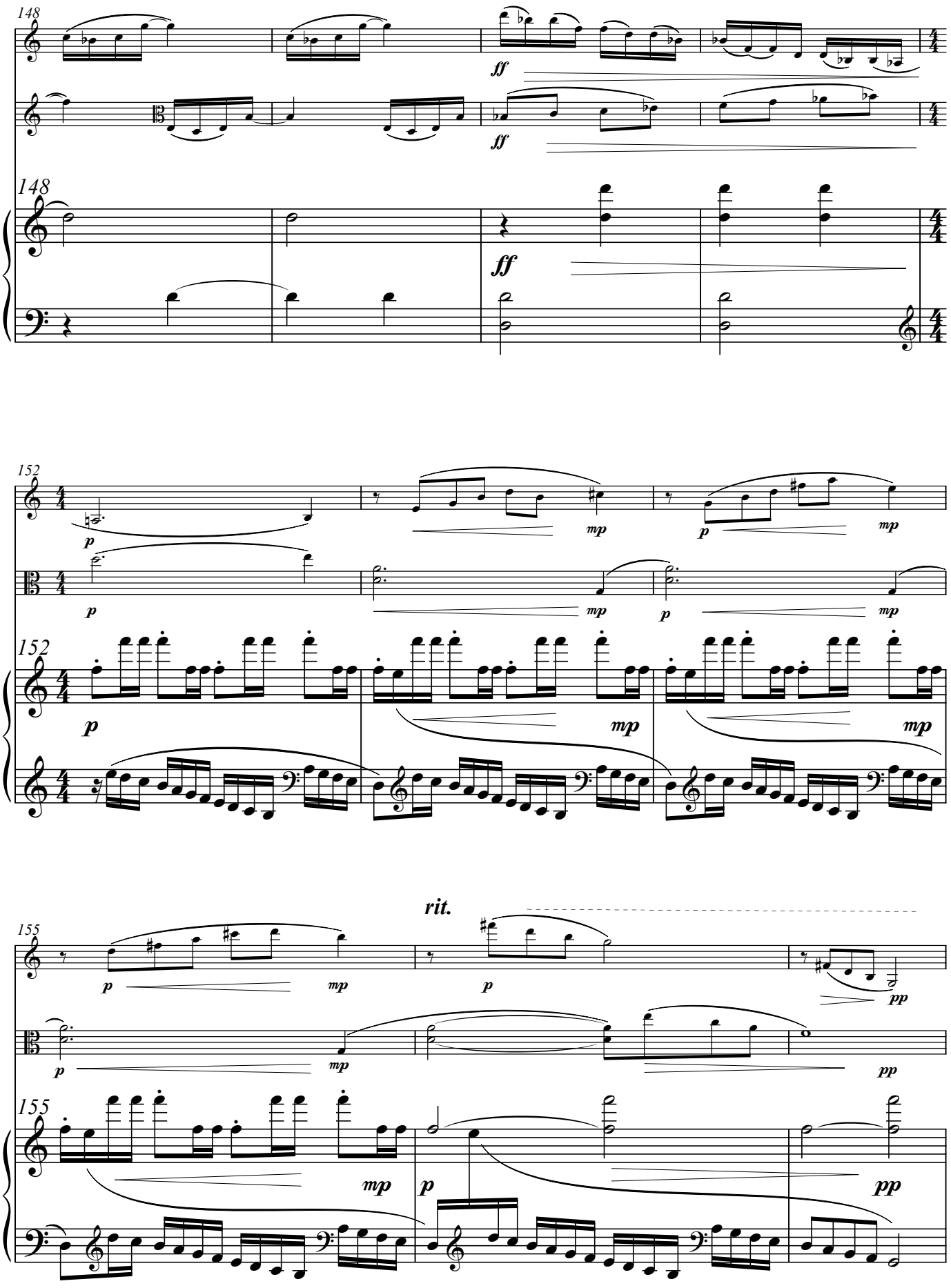

72
8va
ff
77
mf
mp
83
8va

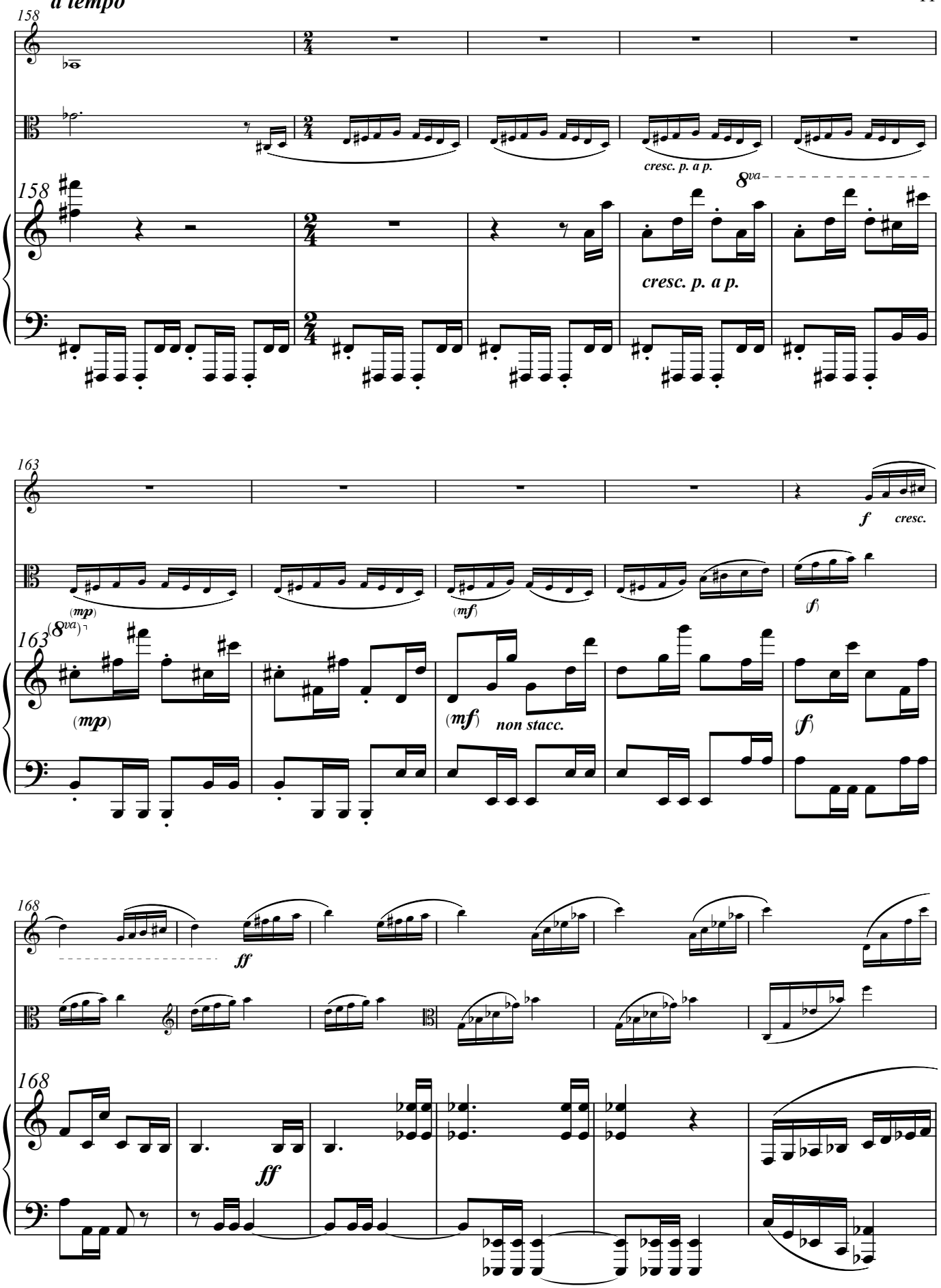

88
cresc.
ff
cresc.
ff
88
cresc.
ff
8va
93
93
98
p
p
98
ff
mf
p

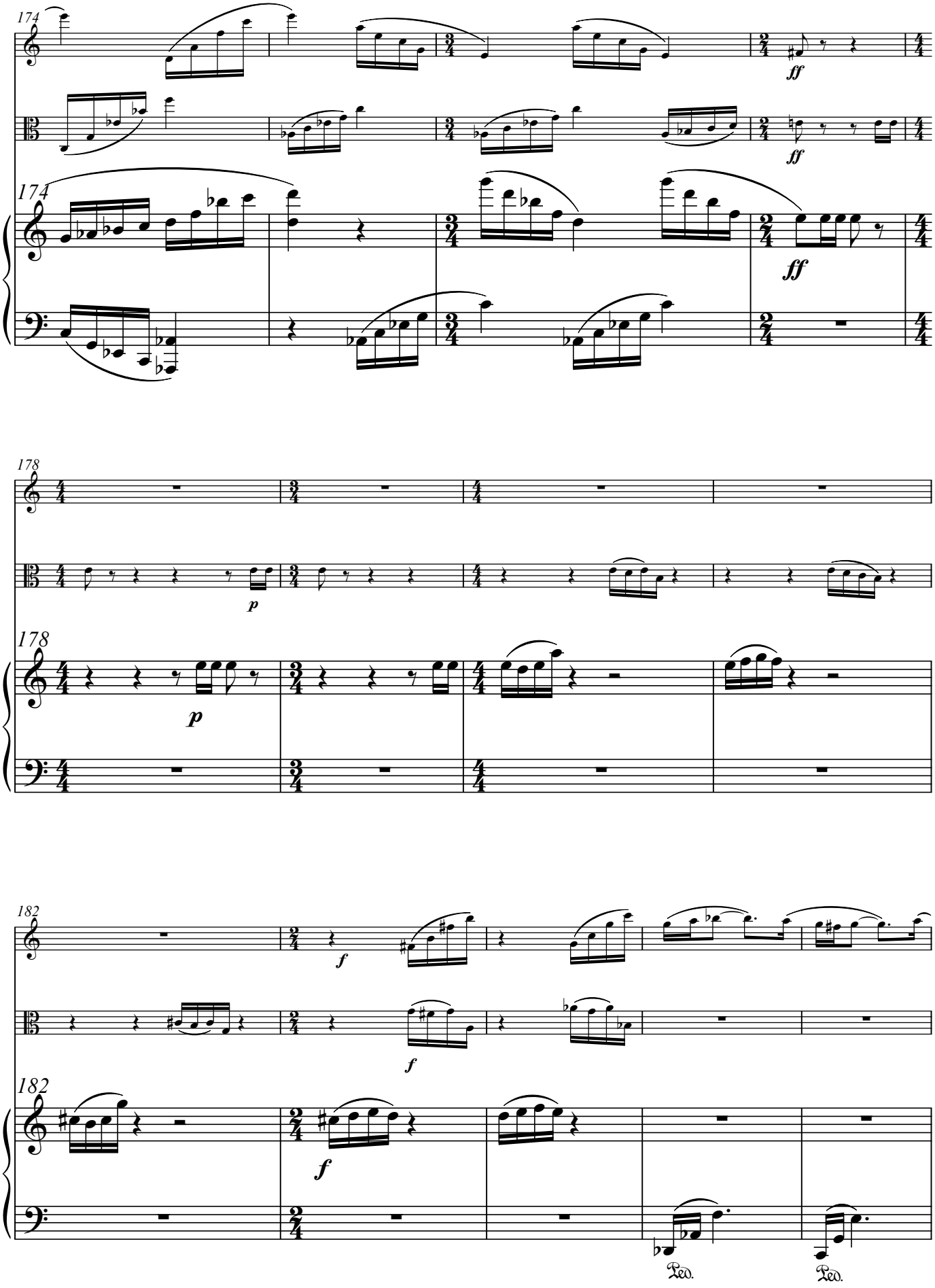

102
non stacc.
102
107
non stacc.
non stacc.
107
non stacc.
114
p
cresc.
p
cresc.
114
p
cresc.

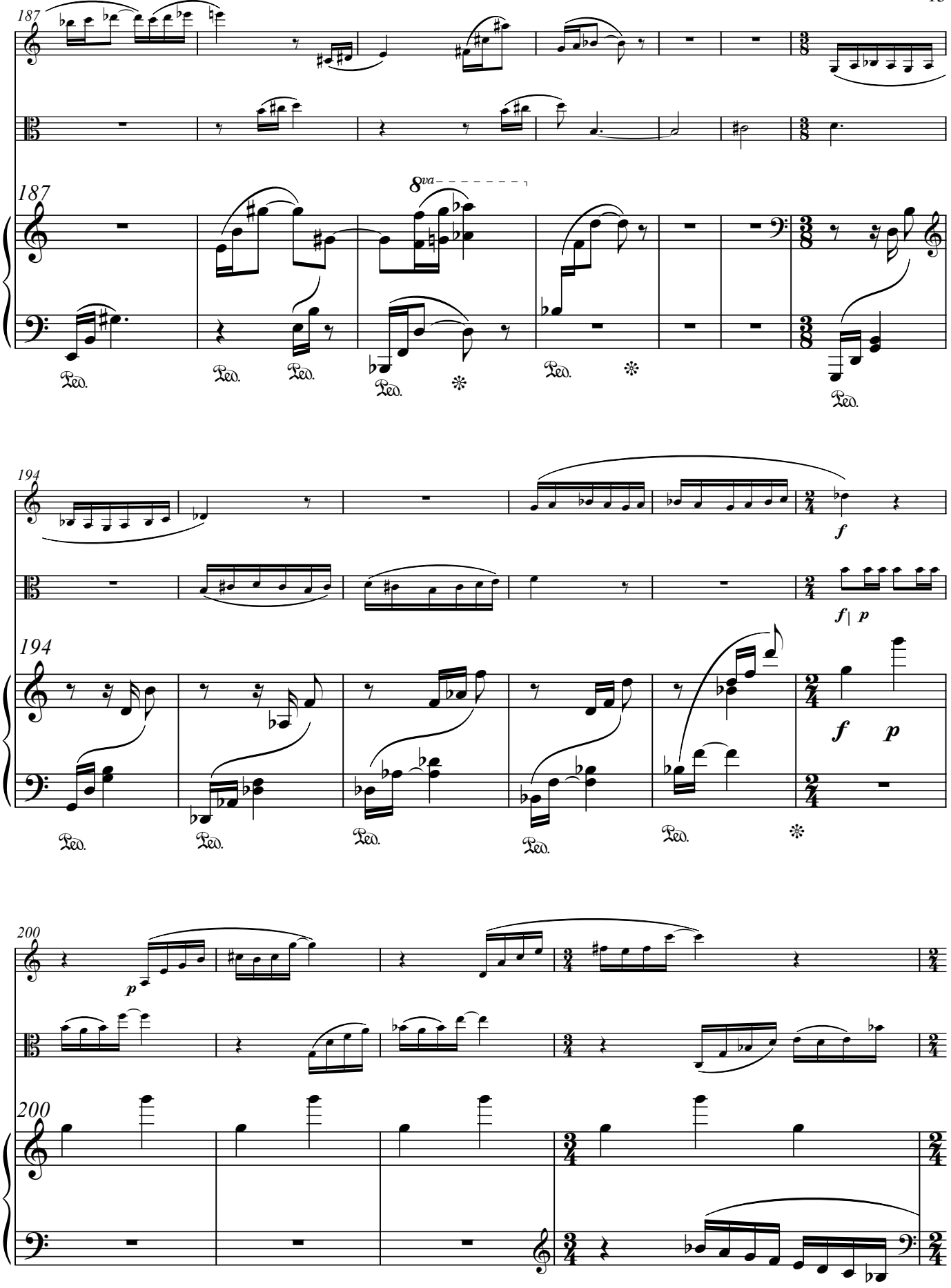

120
f
Ped.
125
129
p

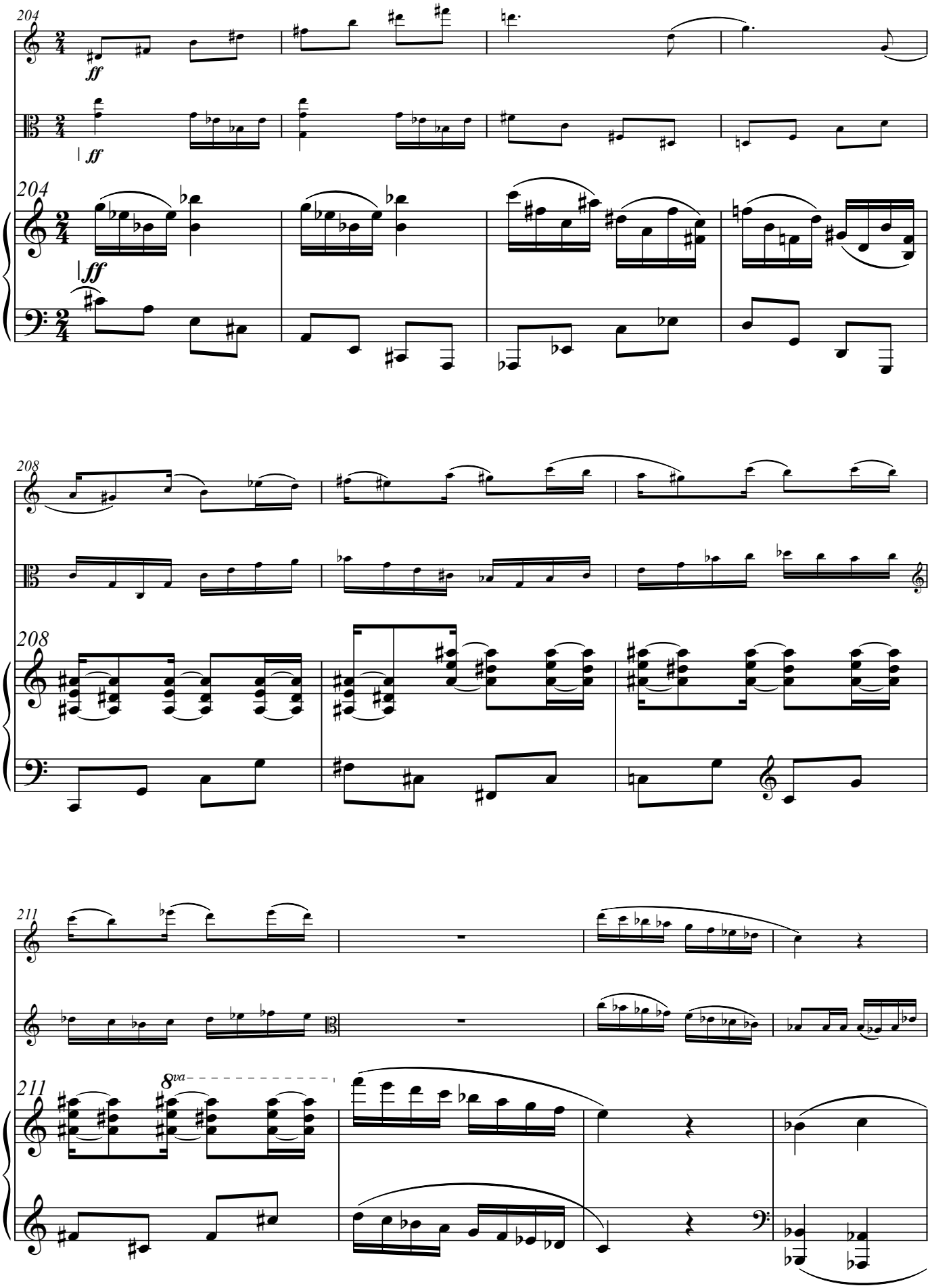

133
rit.
a tempo
pp
ff
8va
138
143

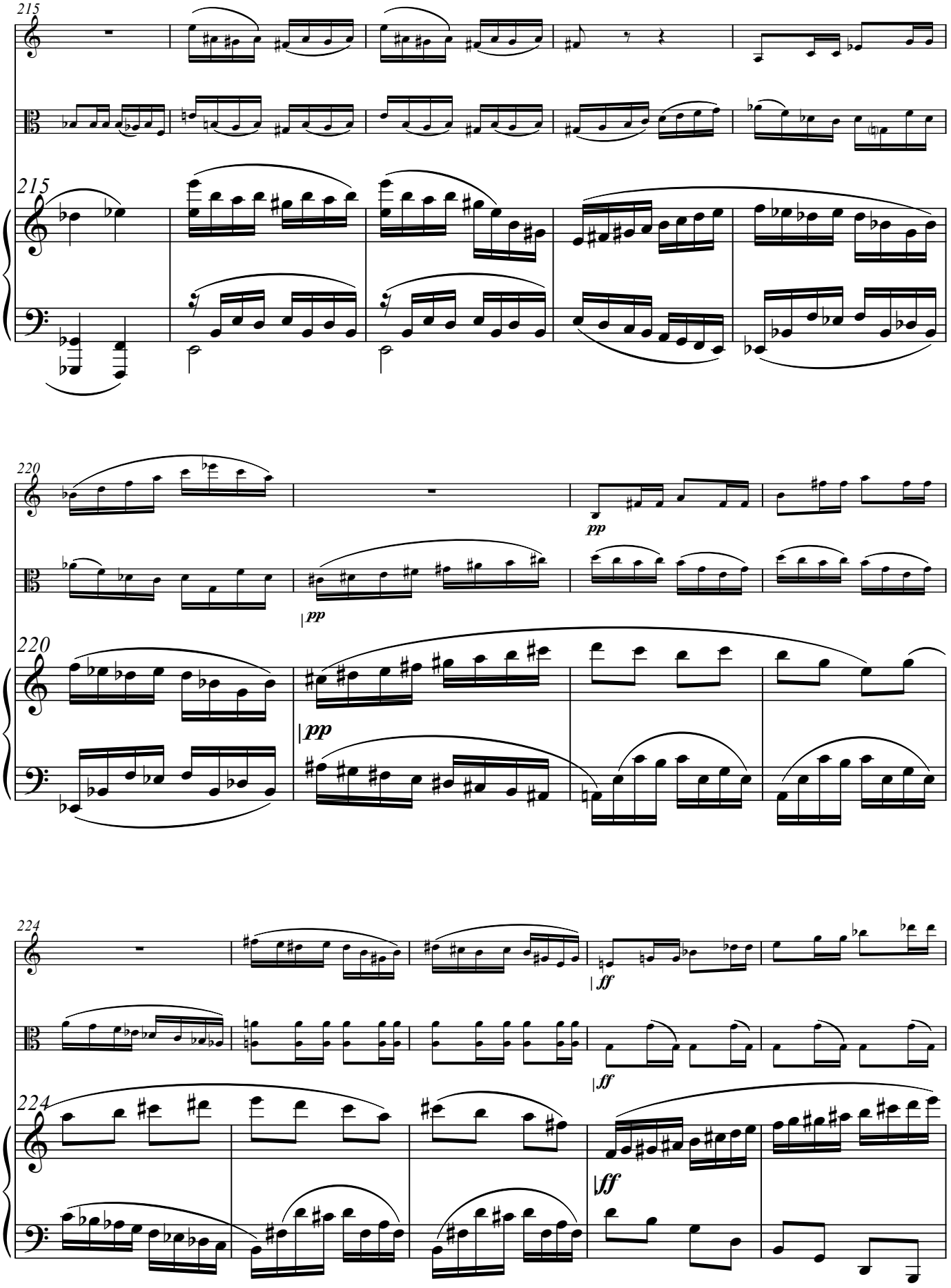

148
ff
ff
148
ff
152
p
mp
p
mp
p
mp
152
p
mp
mp
rit.
155
p
mp
p
pp
p
mp
pp
155
mp
p
pp

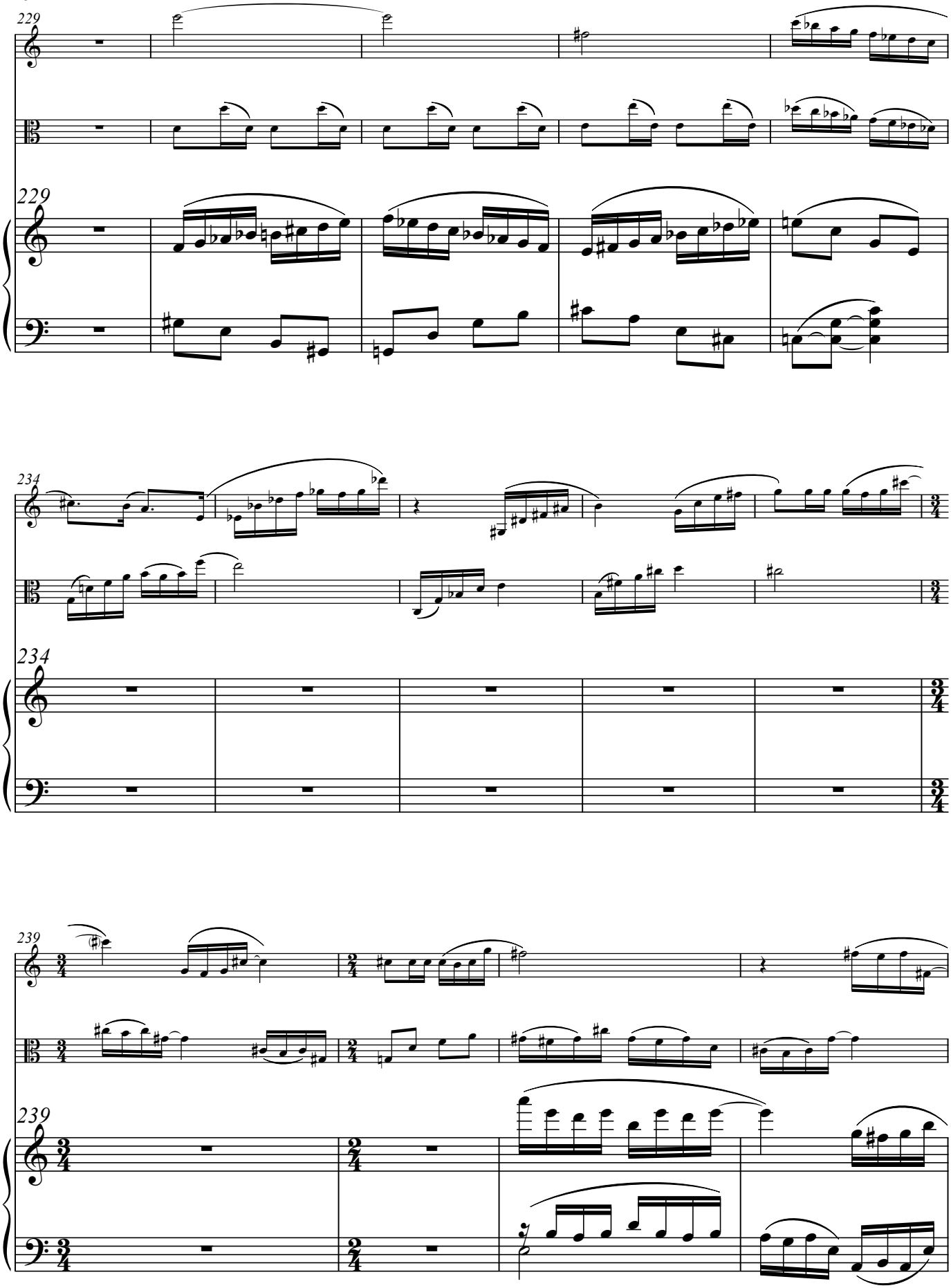

a tempo
158
cresc. p. a p.
8va
158
cresc. p. a p.
163
f
cresc.
(mp)
(mf)
(f)
163
(8va)
(mp)
(mf)
non stacc.
(f)
168
ff
168
ff

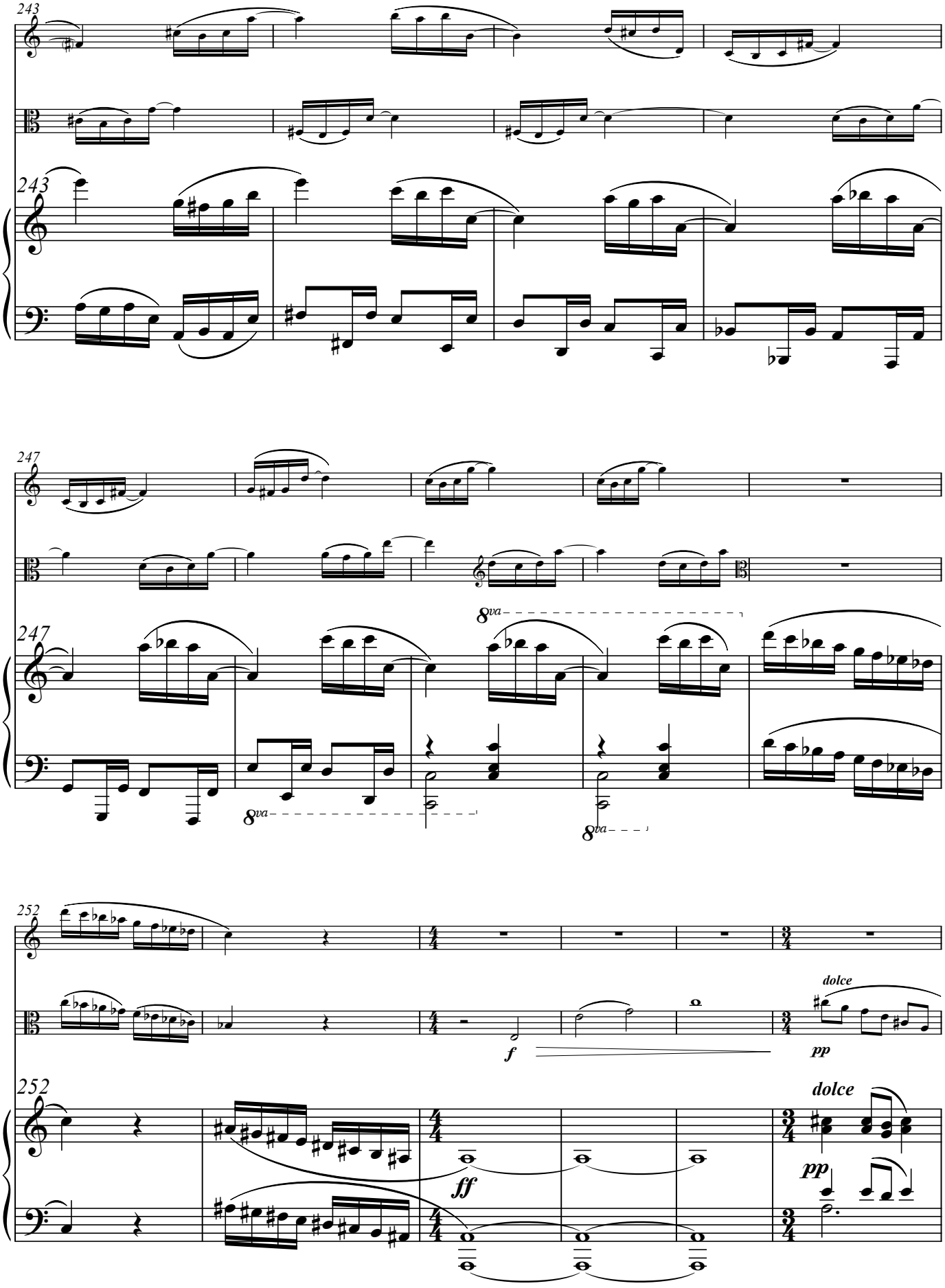

174
ff
174
ff
178
p
178
p
182
f
f
182
f
Ped.
Ped.

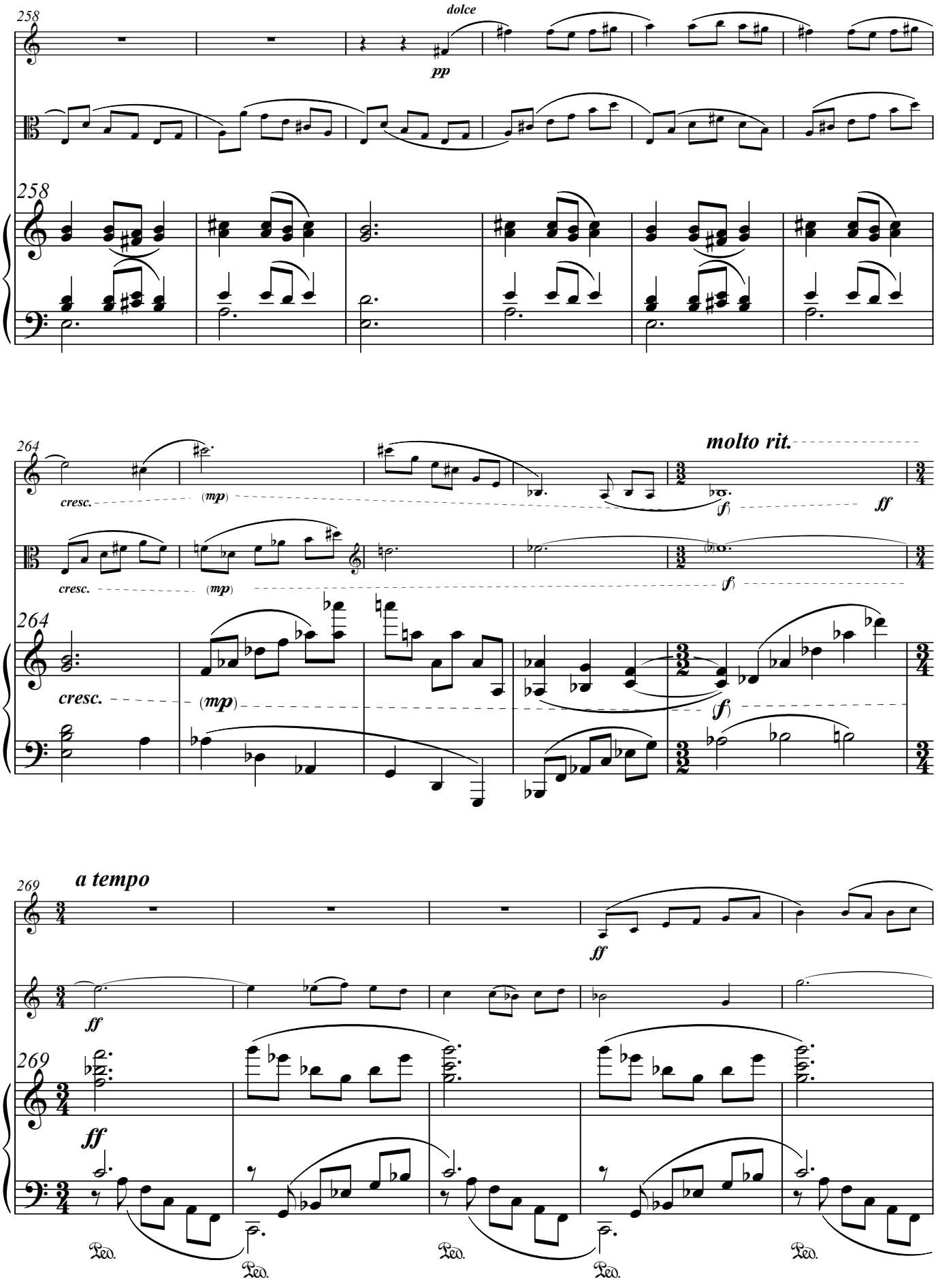

187
8va
Ped.
194
f
f p
200
p

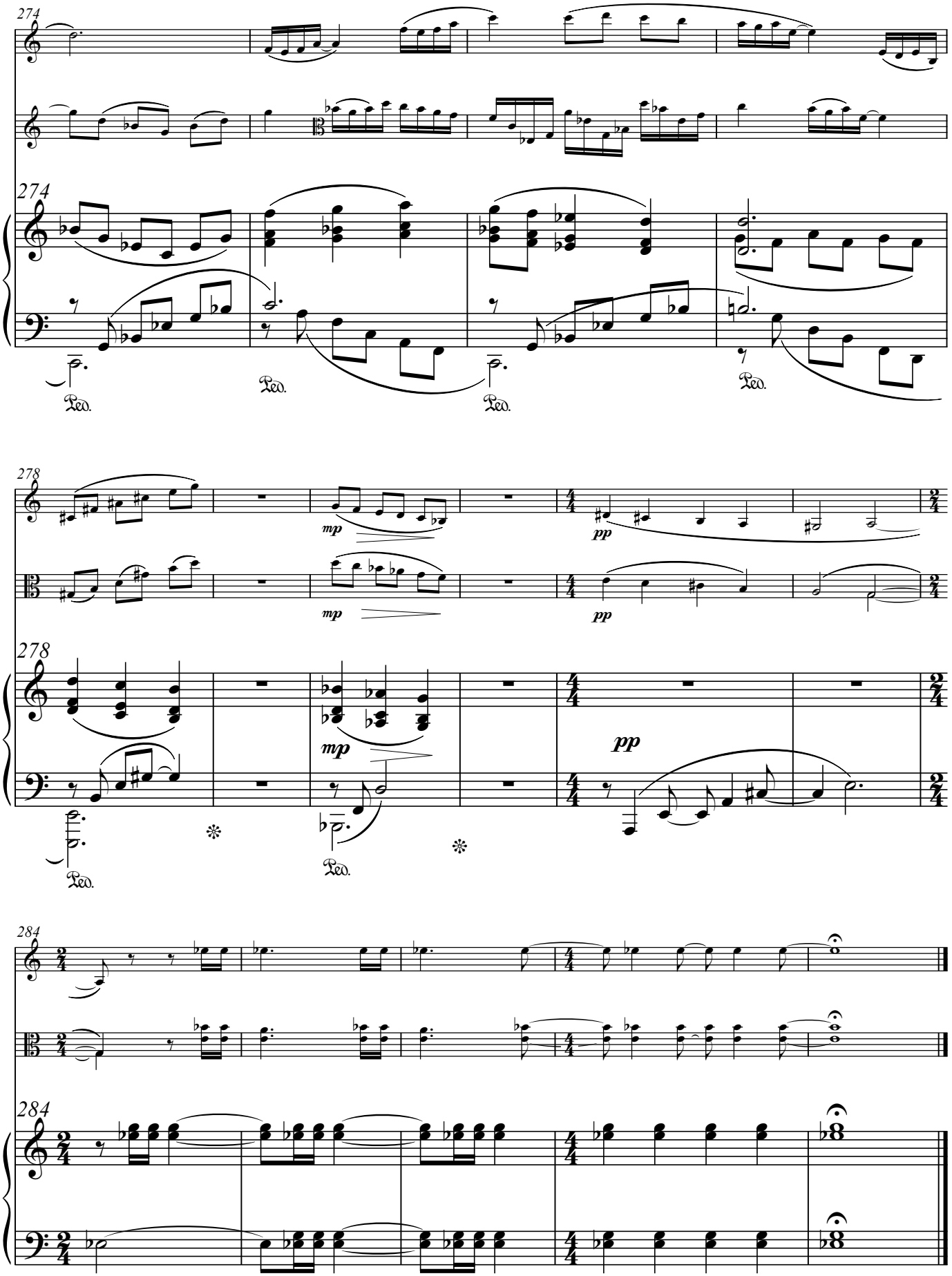

204
ff
204
ff
208
208
211
8va
211


215
215
220
220
pp
pp
pp
224
224
ff
ff
ff


229
229
234
234
239
239


243
243
247
247
8va
8va
8va
252
252
f
ff
dolce
pp
dolce
pp

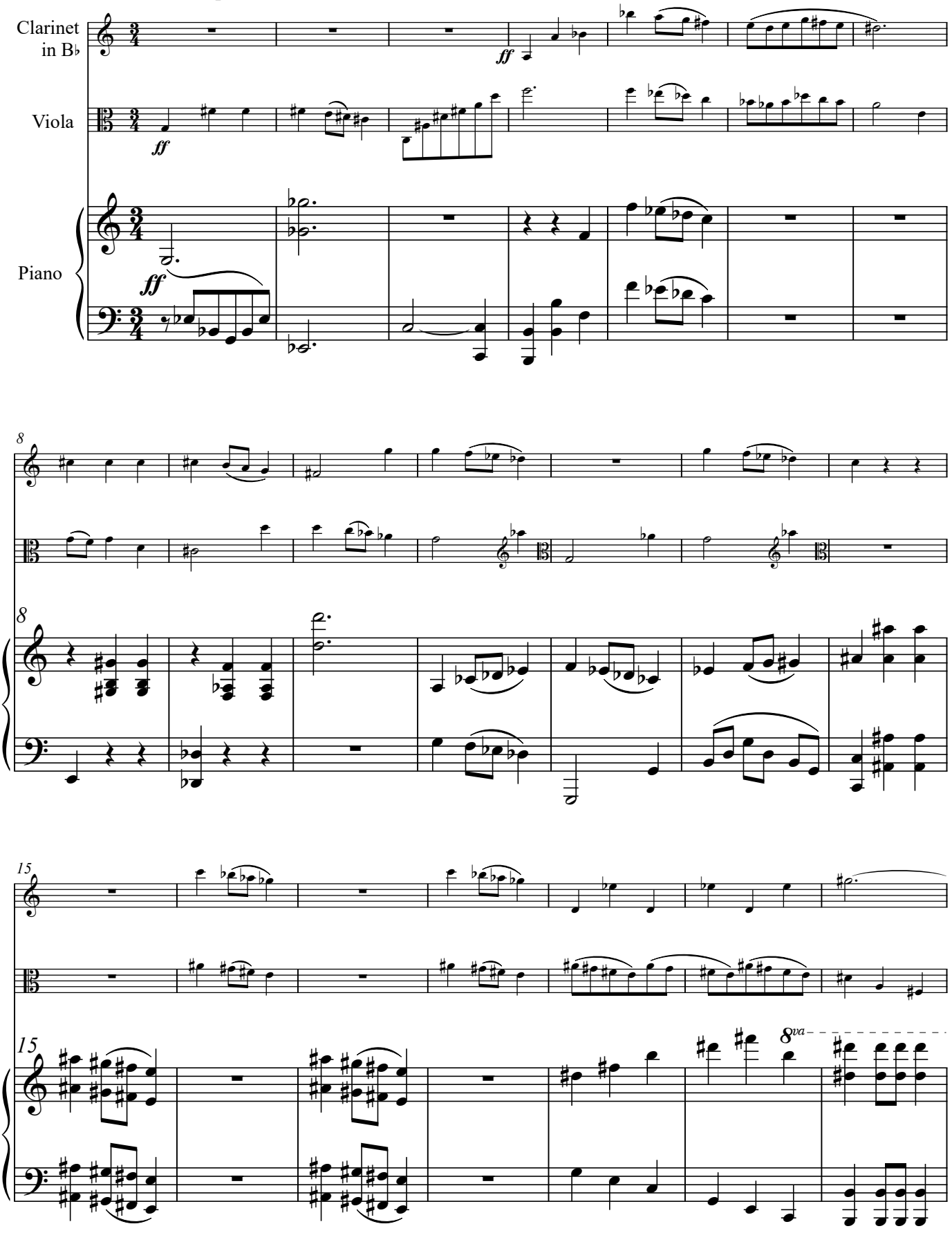

258
dolce
pp
258
264
cresc.
(mp)
molto rit.
(f)
ff
cresc.
(mp)
(f)
264
cresc.
(mp)
(f)
269
a tempo
ff
ff
269
ff
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

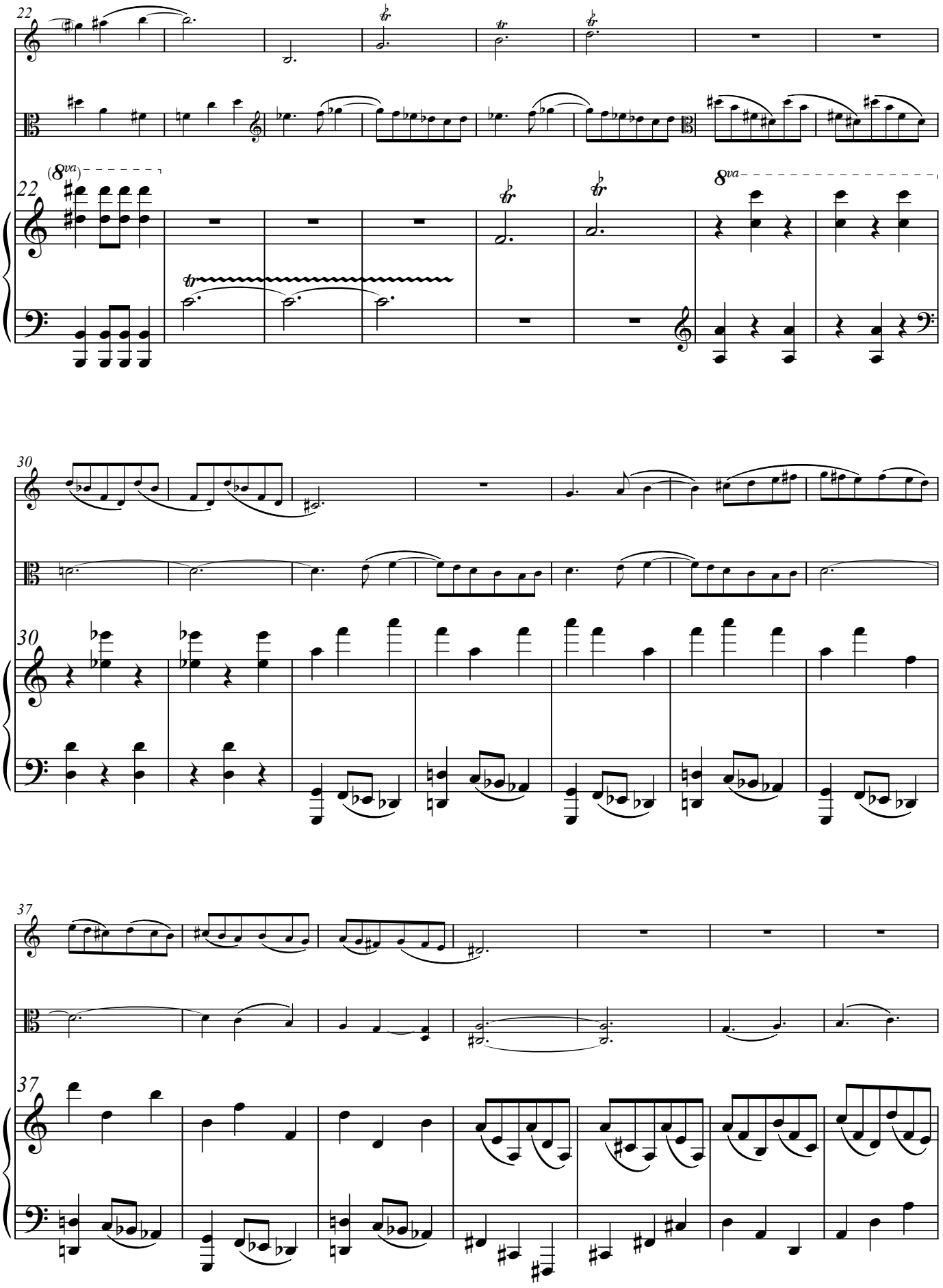

274
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
278
mp
pp
mp
pp
mp
pp
Ped.
Ped.
284
284

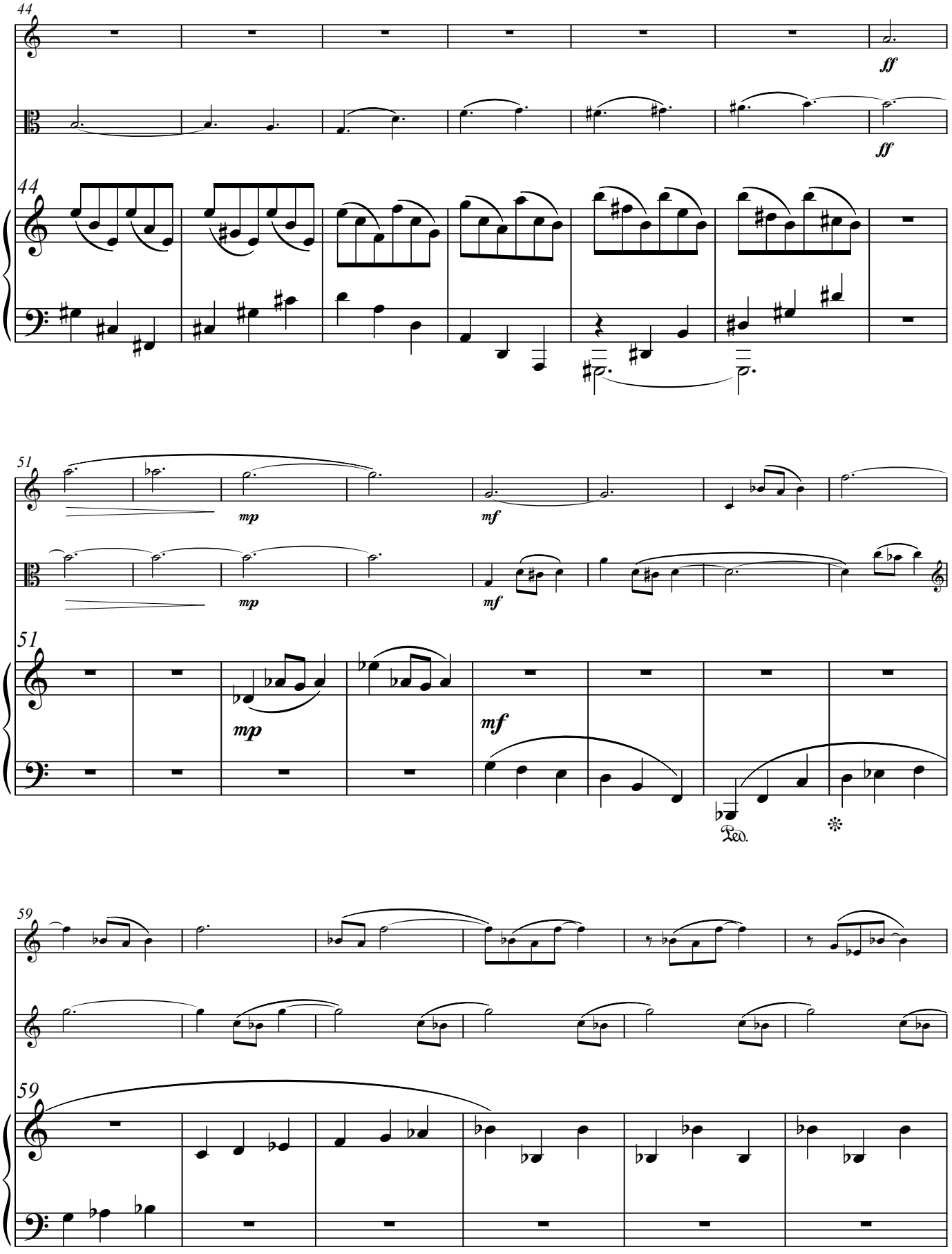
II. Yet Another Waltz

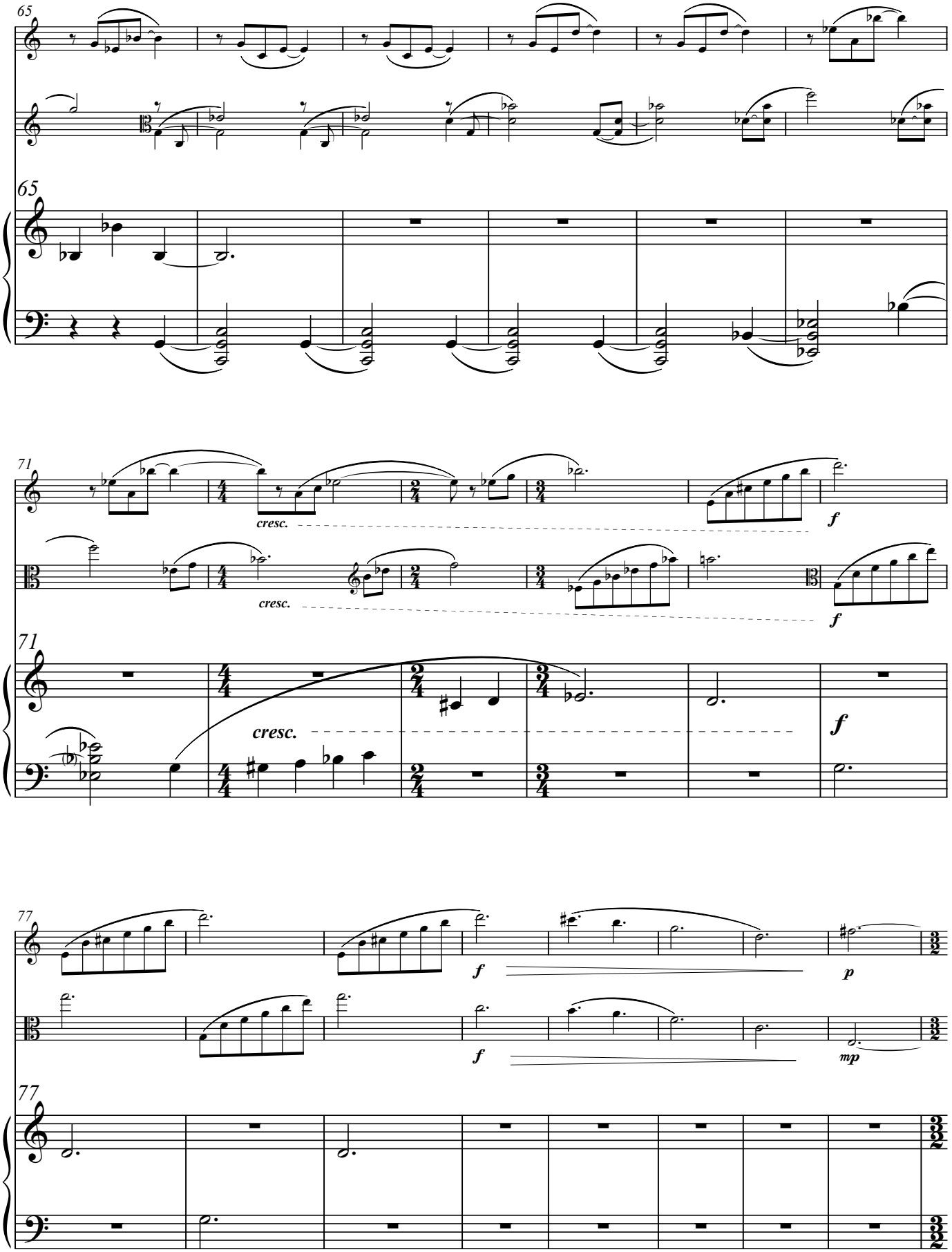
[6']

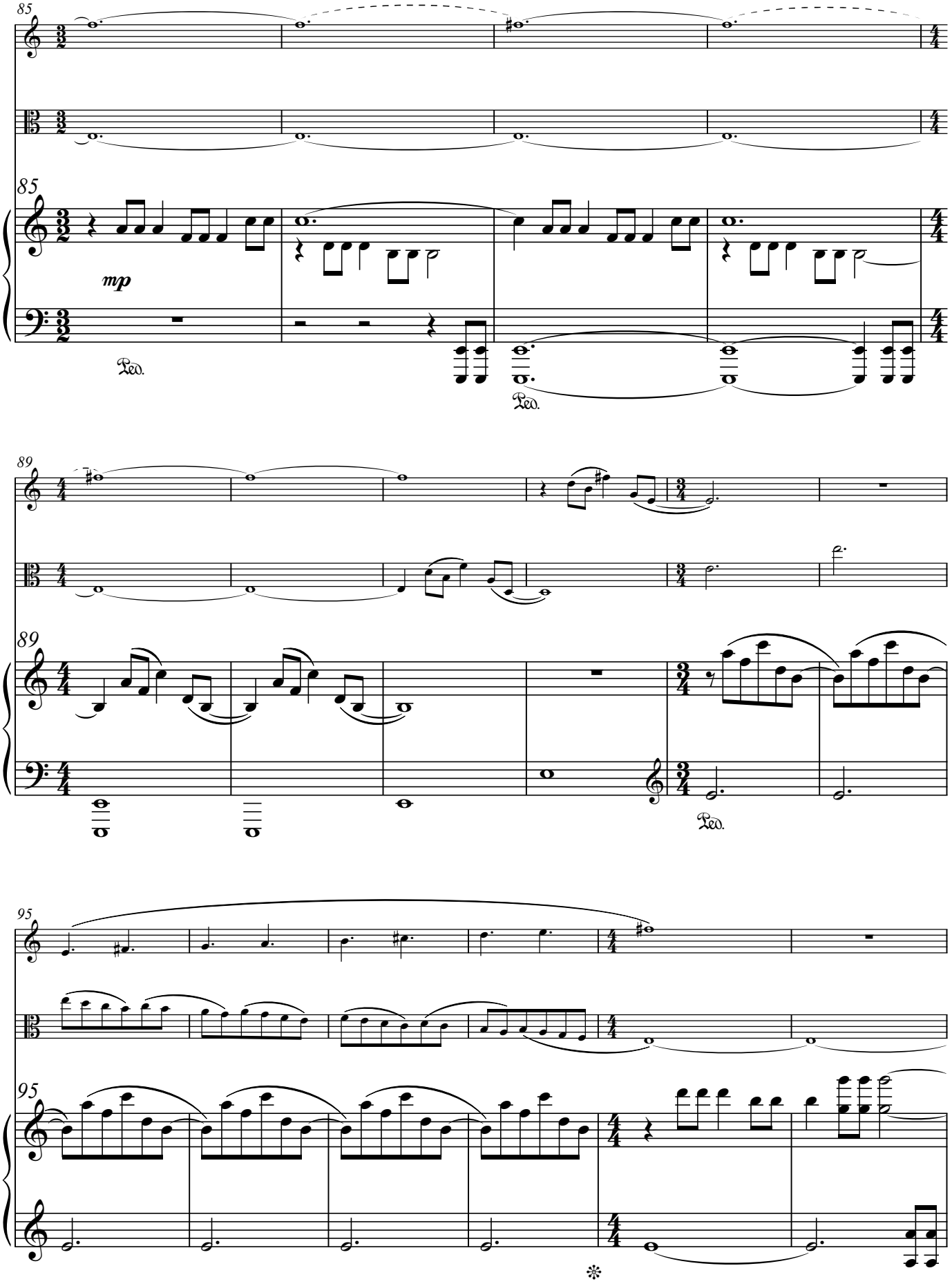
Anorexia composa (♩ = 170)

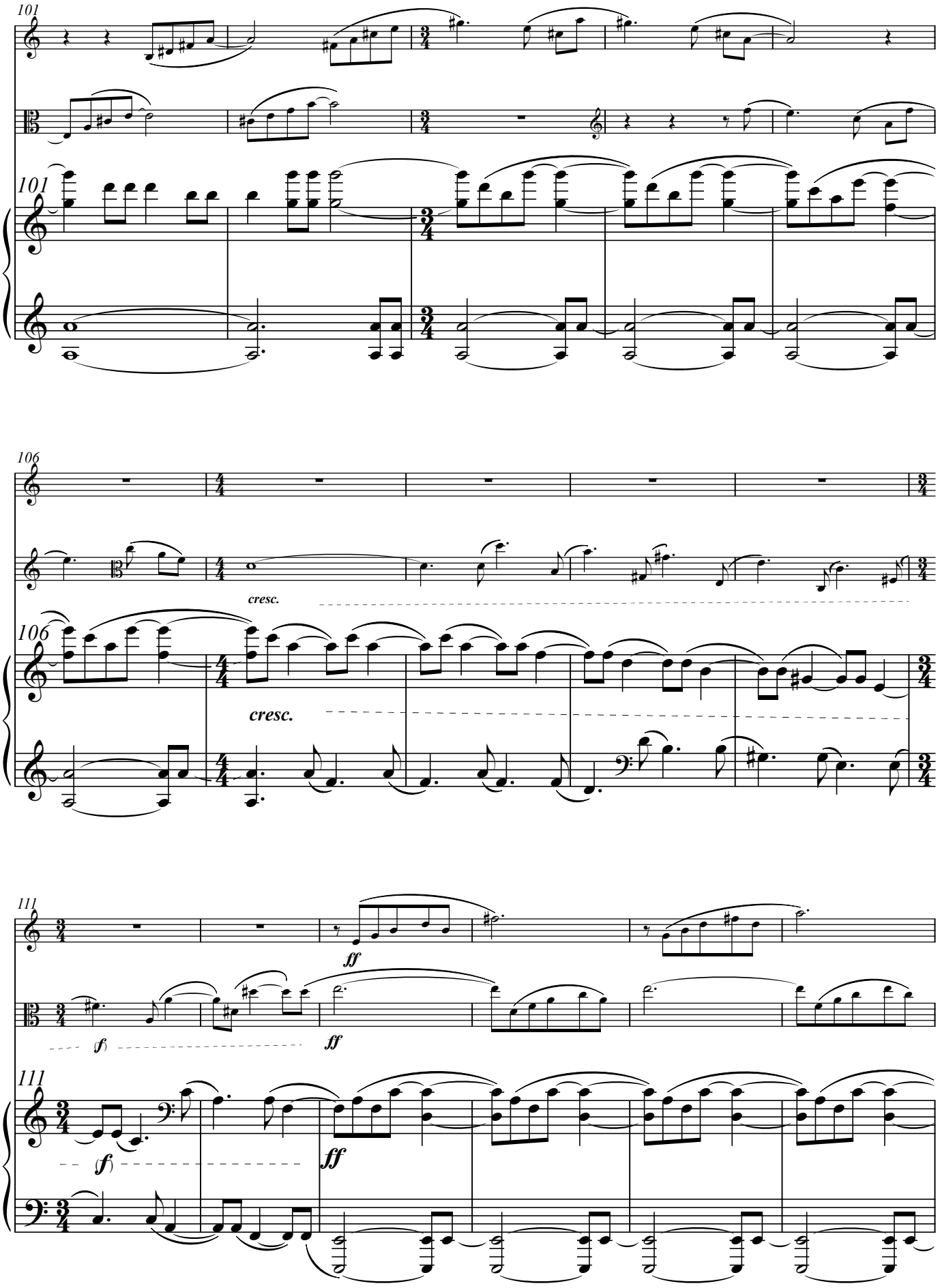


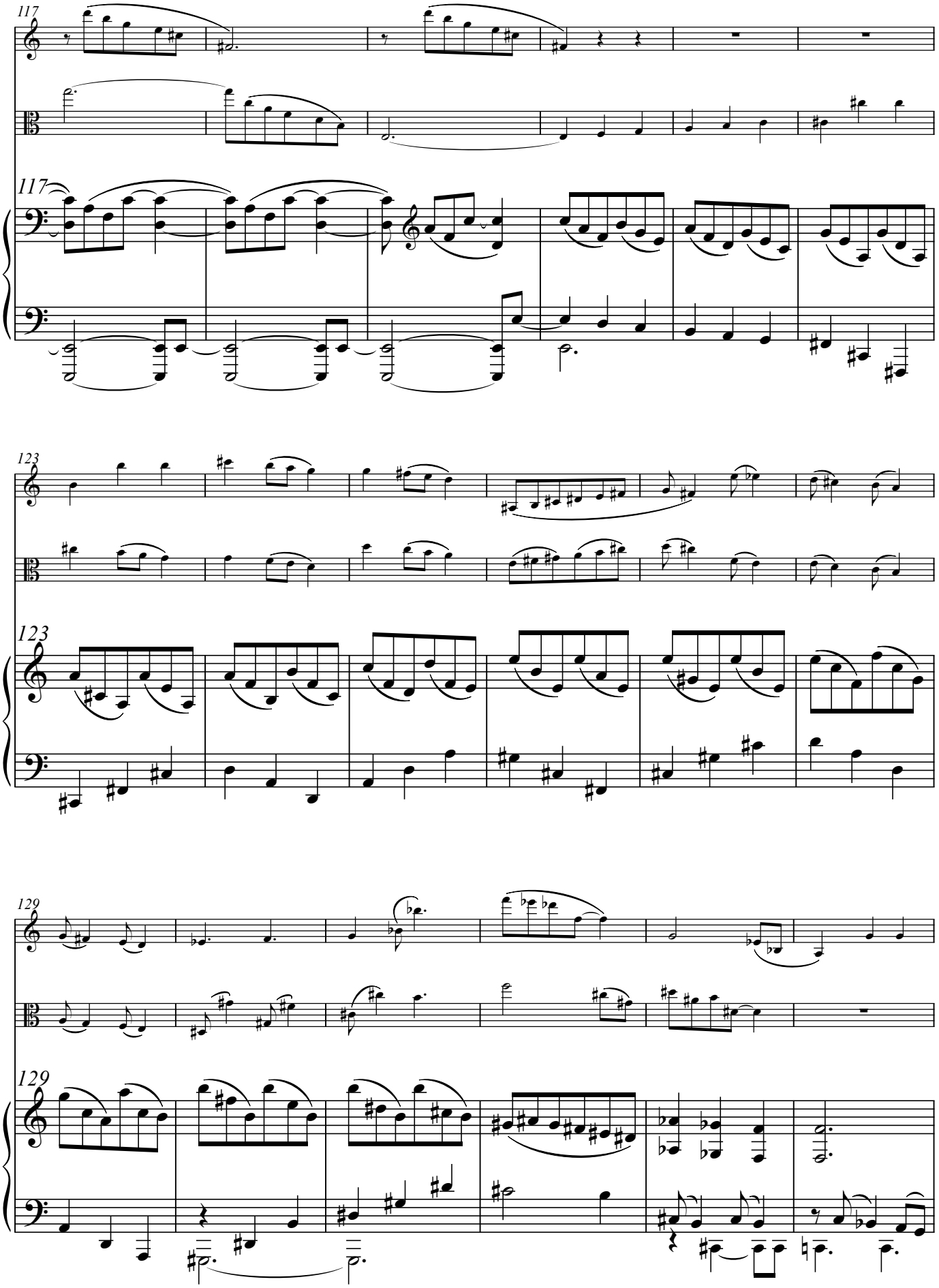

22
(8va)
8va
30
37

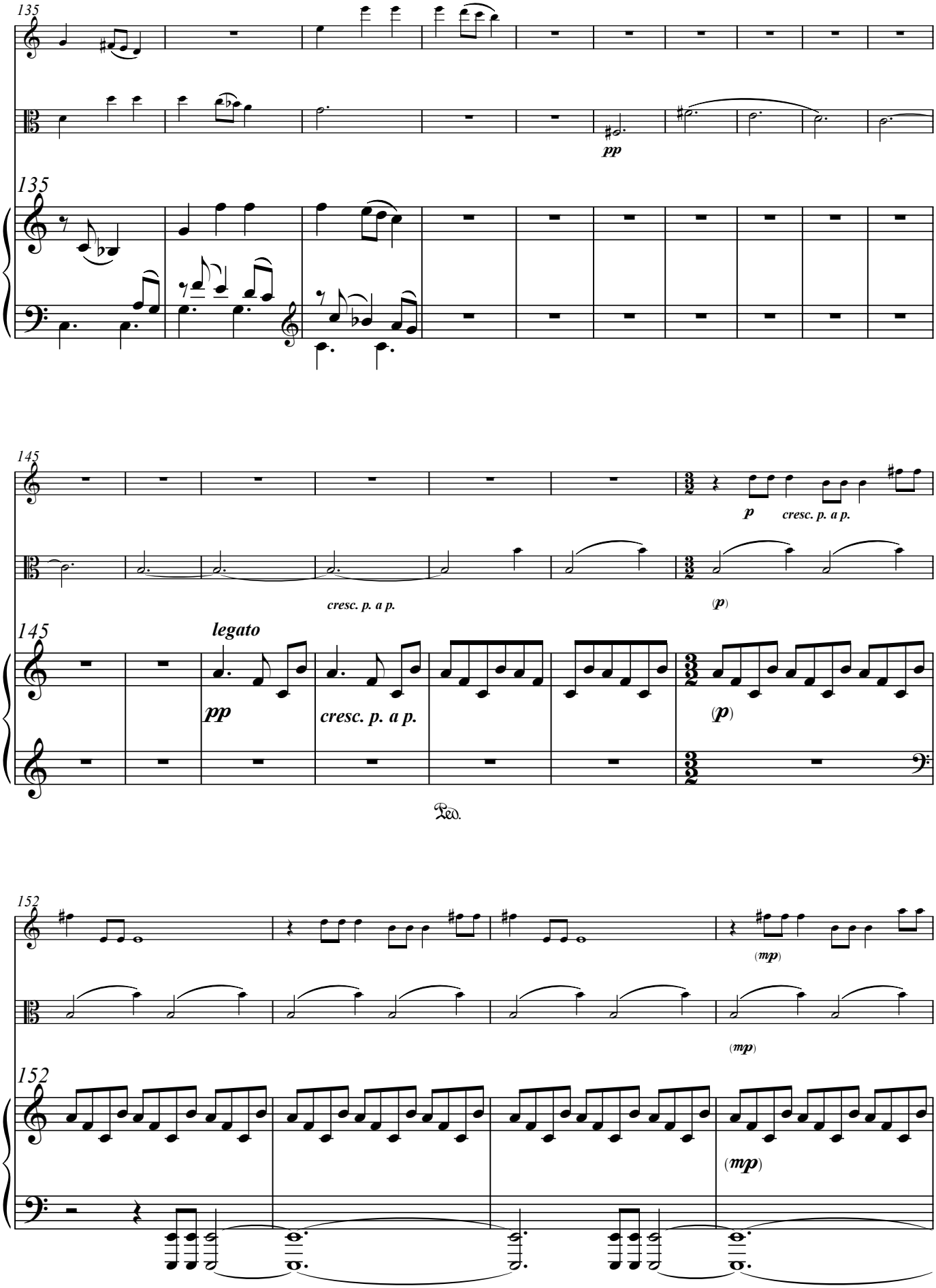

44
ff
ff
44
51
mp
mf
mp
mf
51
mp
mf
Ped.
59
59

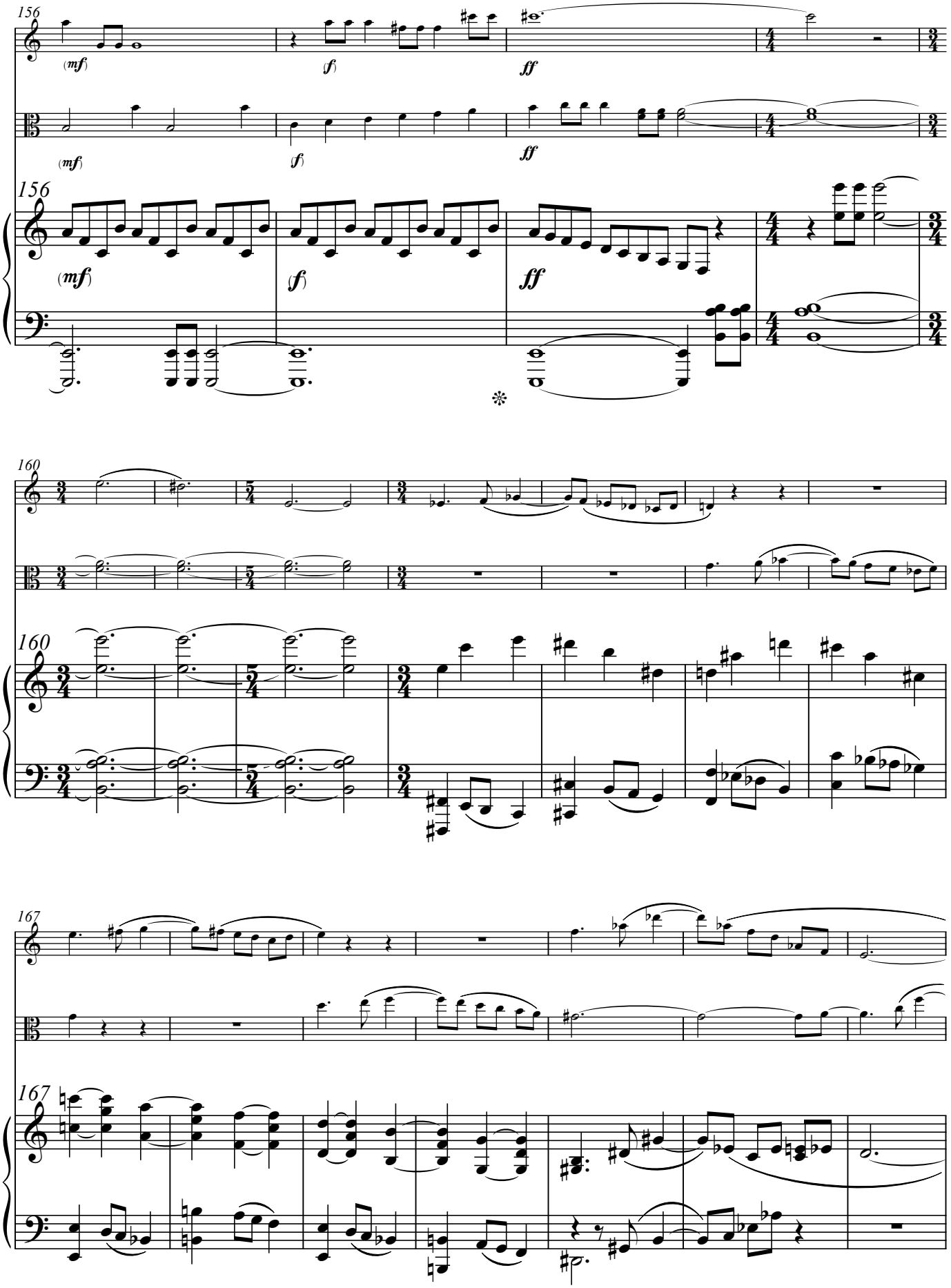

65
65
71
cresc.
cresc.
71
cresc.
f
f
f
77
77
f
f
p
mp

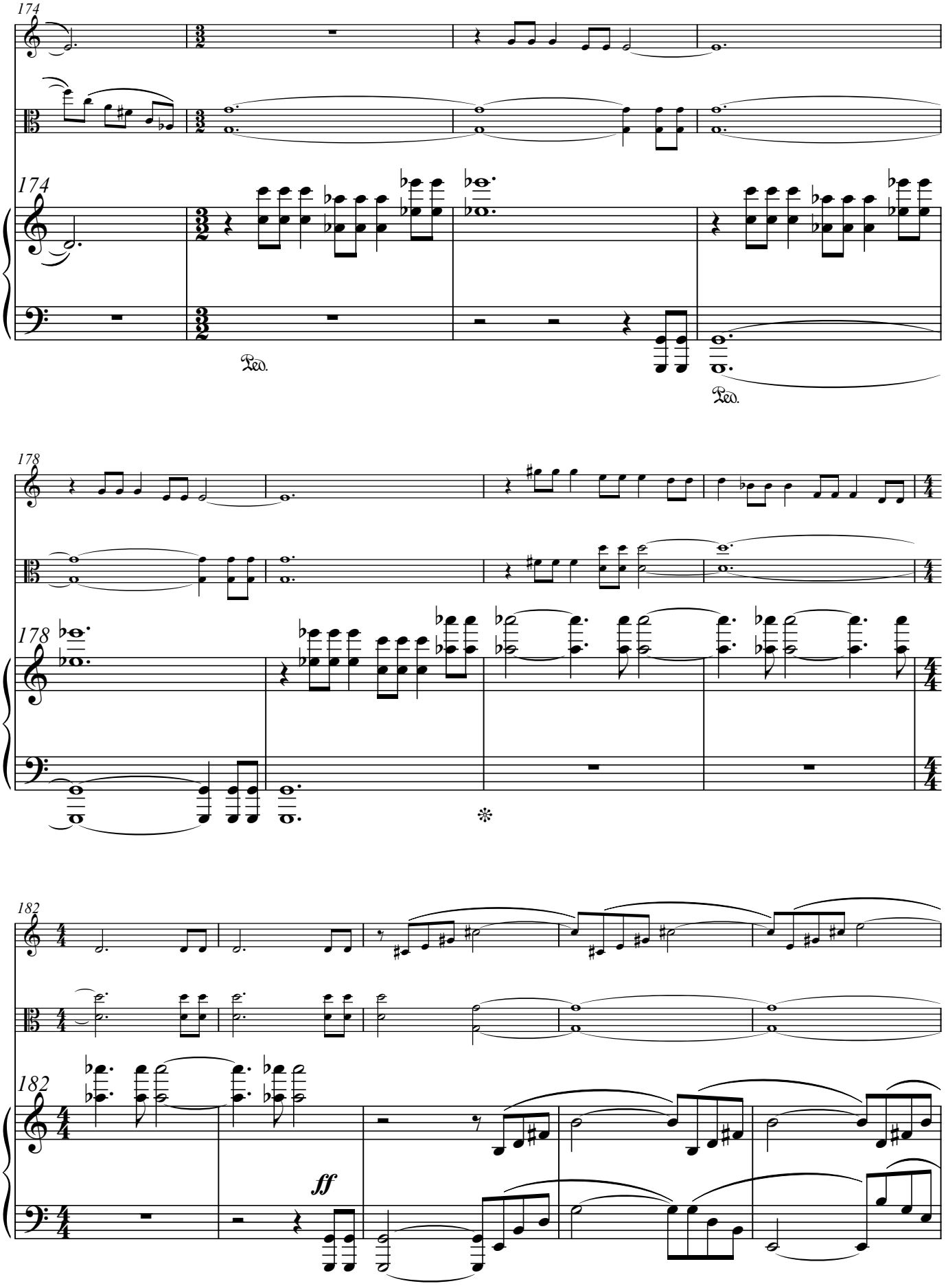

85
mp
Ped.
Ped.
89
Ped.
95

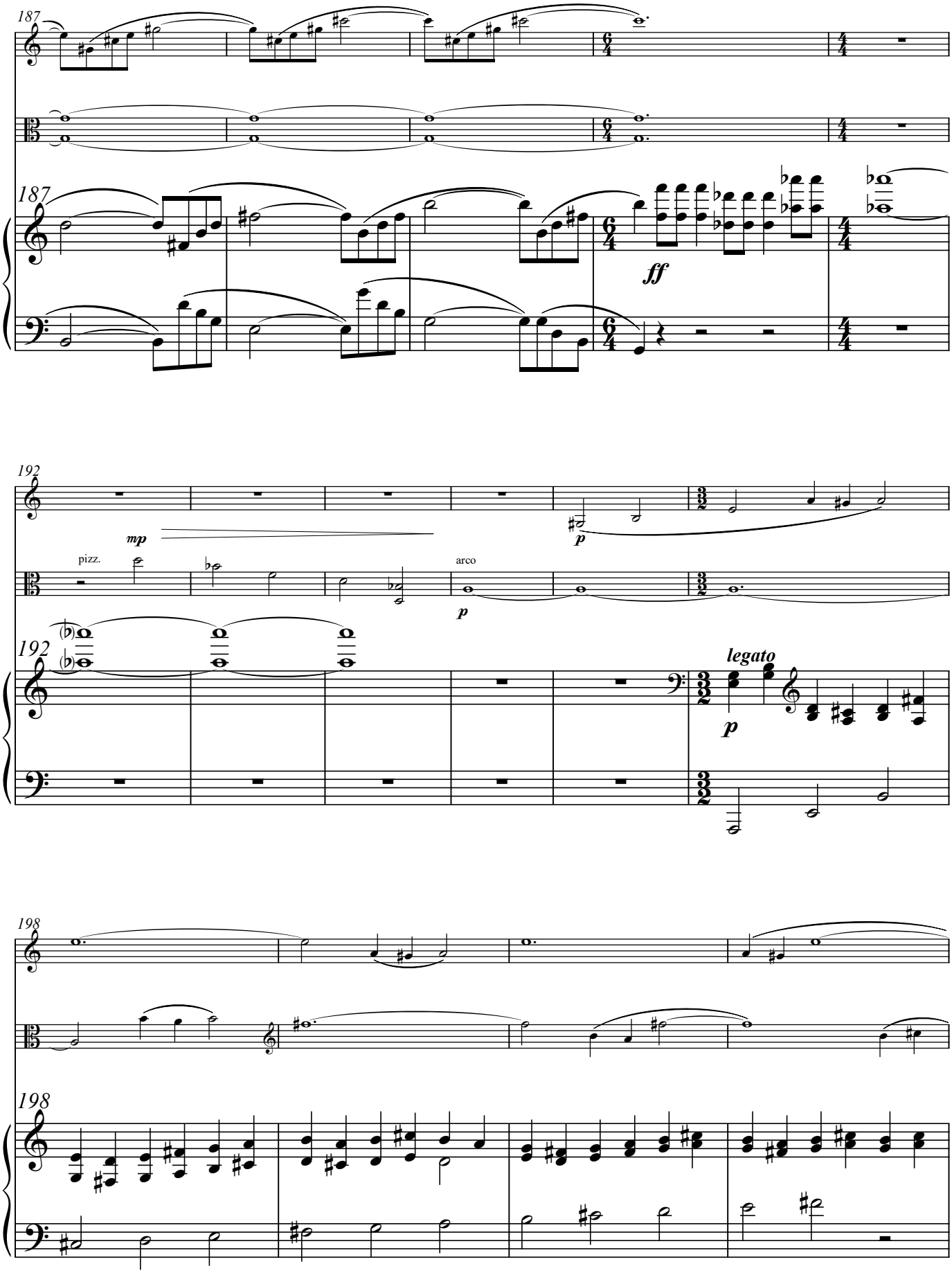

101
101
106
106
cresc.
cresc.
111
111
ff
f
ff
f
ff

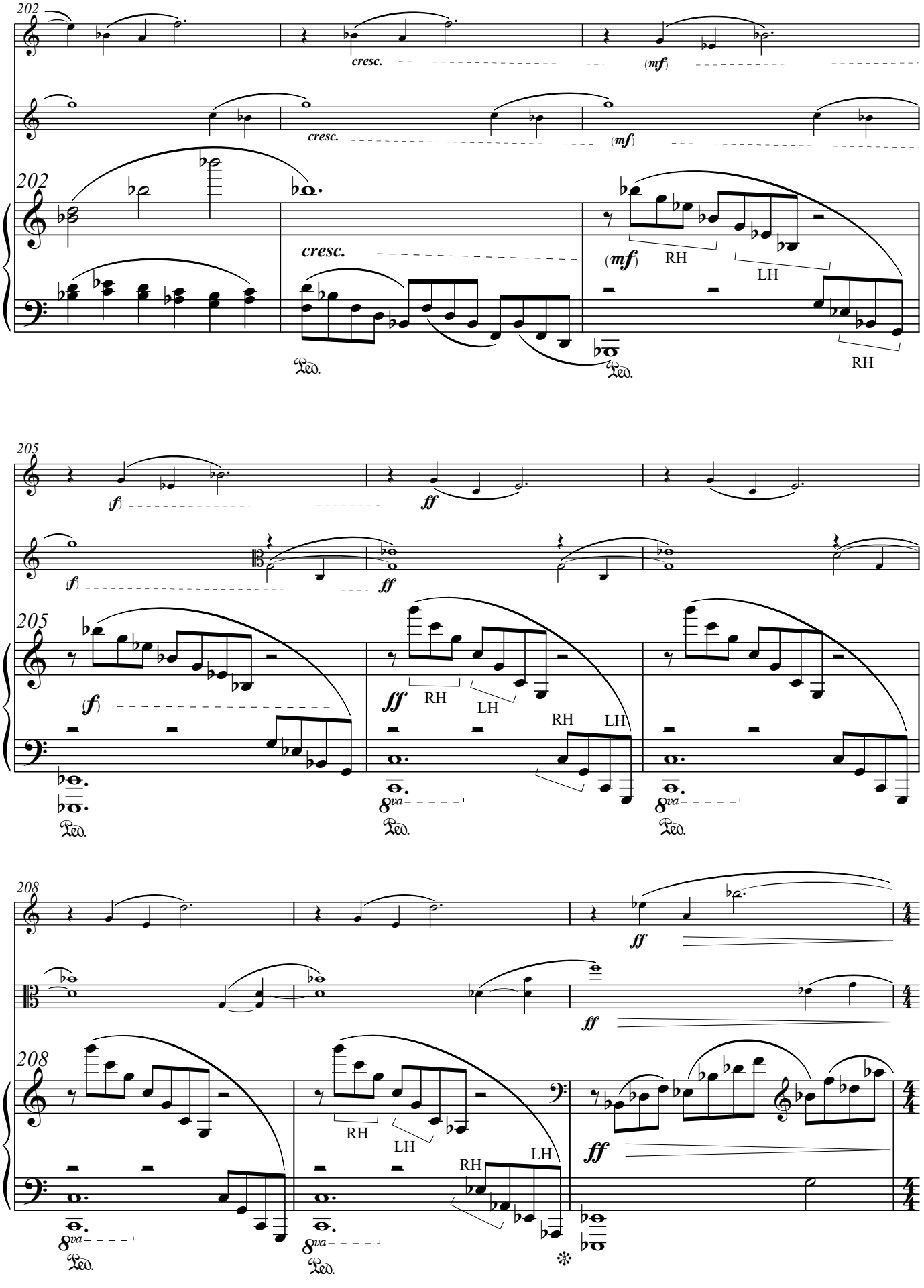

117
123
129

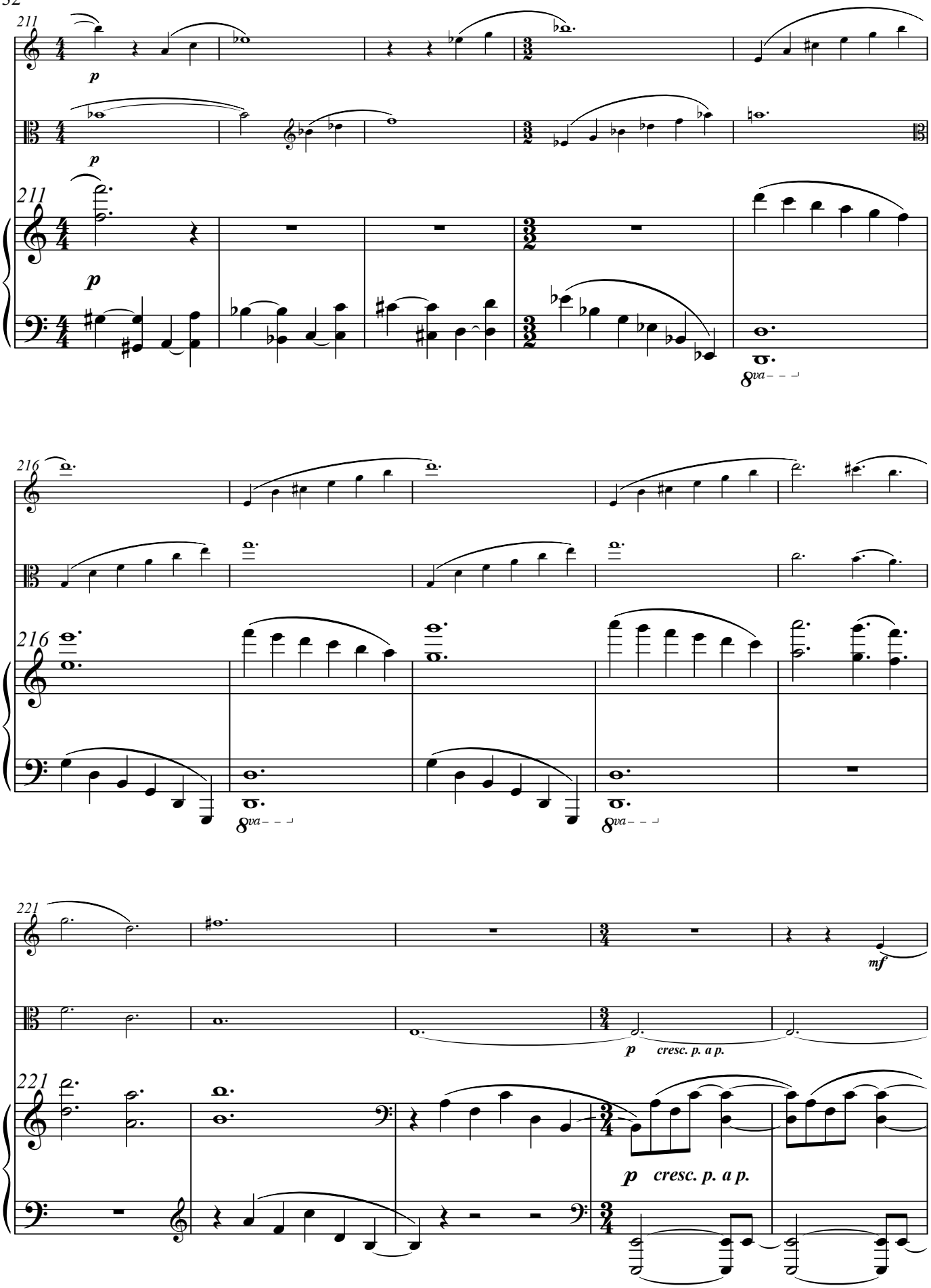

135
pp
135
145
p
cresc. p. a p.
cresc. p. a p.
(p)
145
legato
pp
cresc. p. a p.
(p)
Ped.
152
(mp)
(mp)
152
(mp)

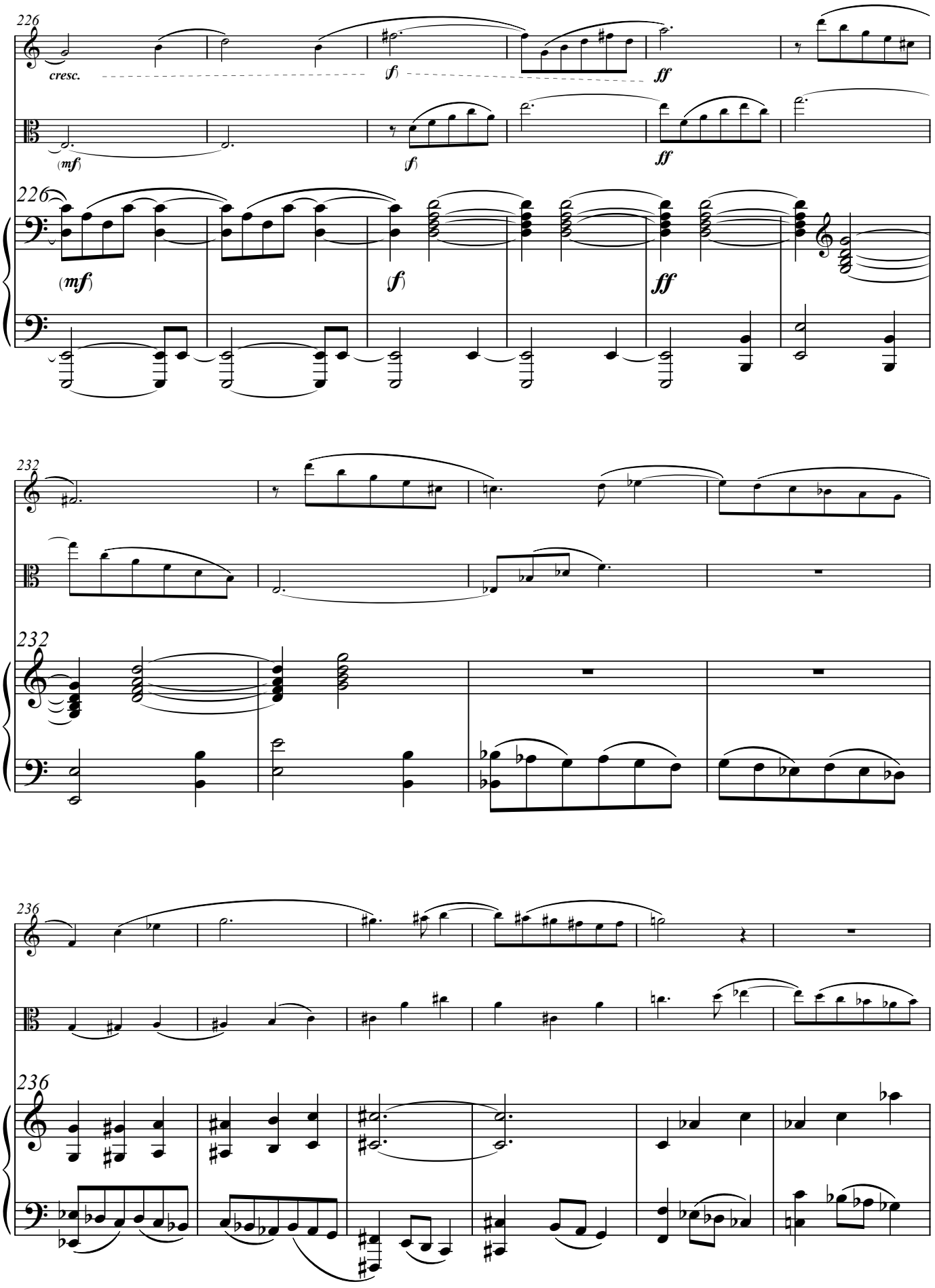

156
(mf)
(f)
ff
156
(mf)
(f)
ff
160
160
167
167

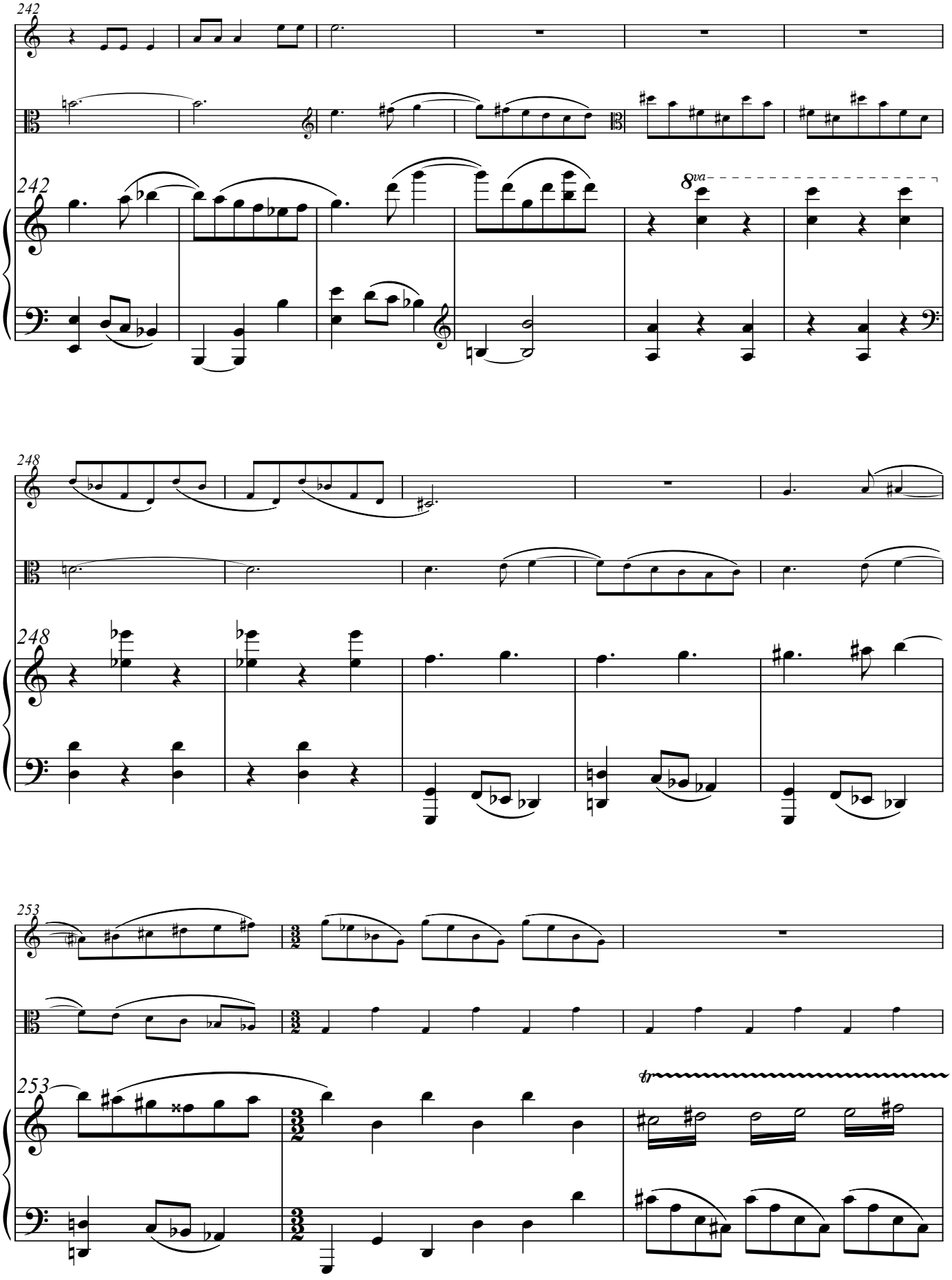

174
Ped.
Ped.
178
182
ff

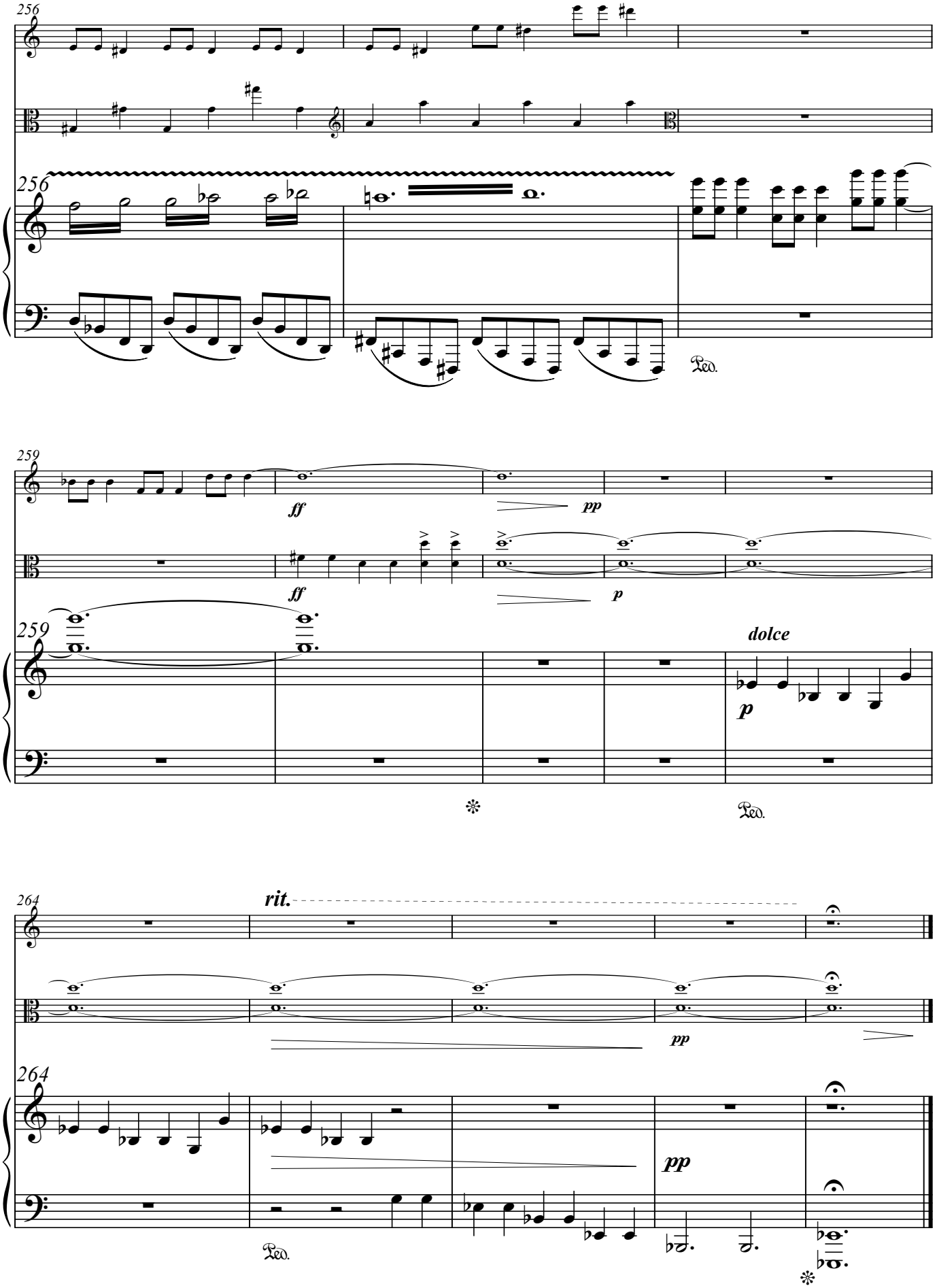

187
ff
192
mp
p
pizz.
arco
legato
198


202
cresc.
(mf)
cresc.
(mf)
202
cresc.
(mf)
RH
LH
RH
Ped.
Ped.
205
(f)
ff
(f)
ff
205
(f)
ff
RH
LH
RH
LH
8va
Ped.
8va
Ped.
208
ff
ff
208
RH
LH
RH
LH
ff
8va
Ped.
8va
Ped.


211
p
8va
216
8va
8va
221
mf
p cresc. p. a p.
p cresc. p. a p.


226
cresc.
(mf)
(f)
ff
232
236

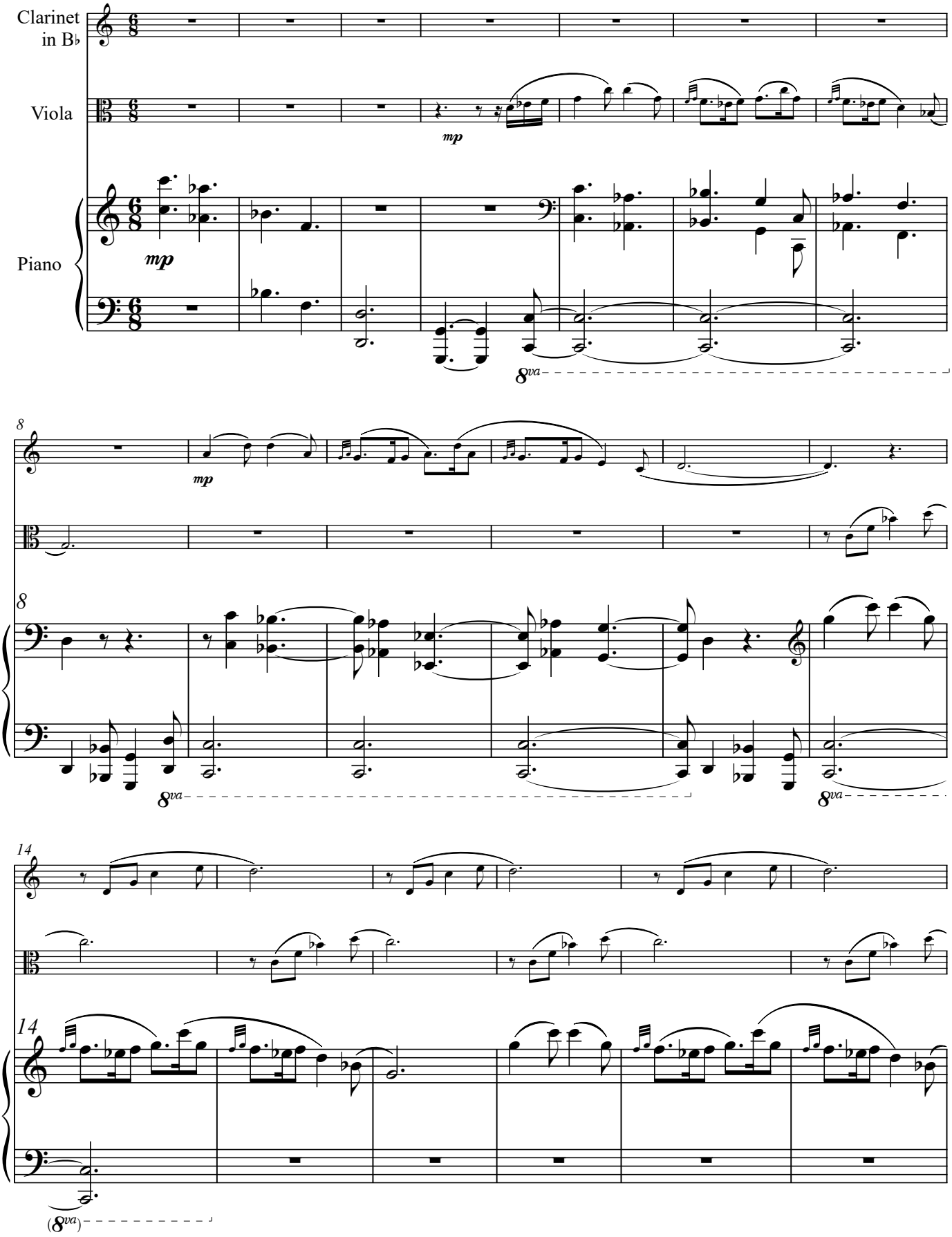

242
8va
248
253

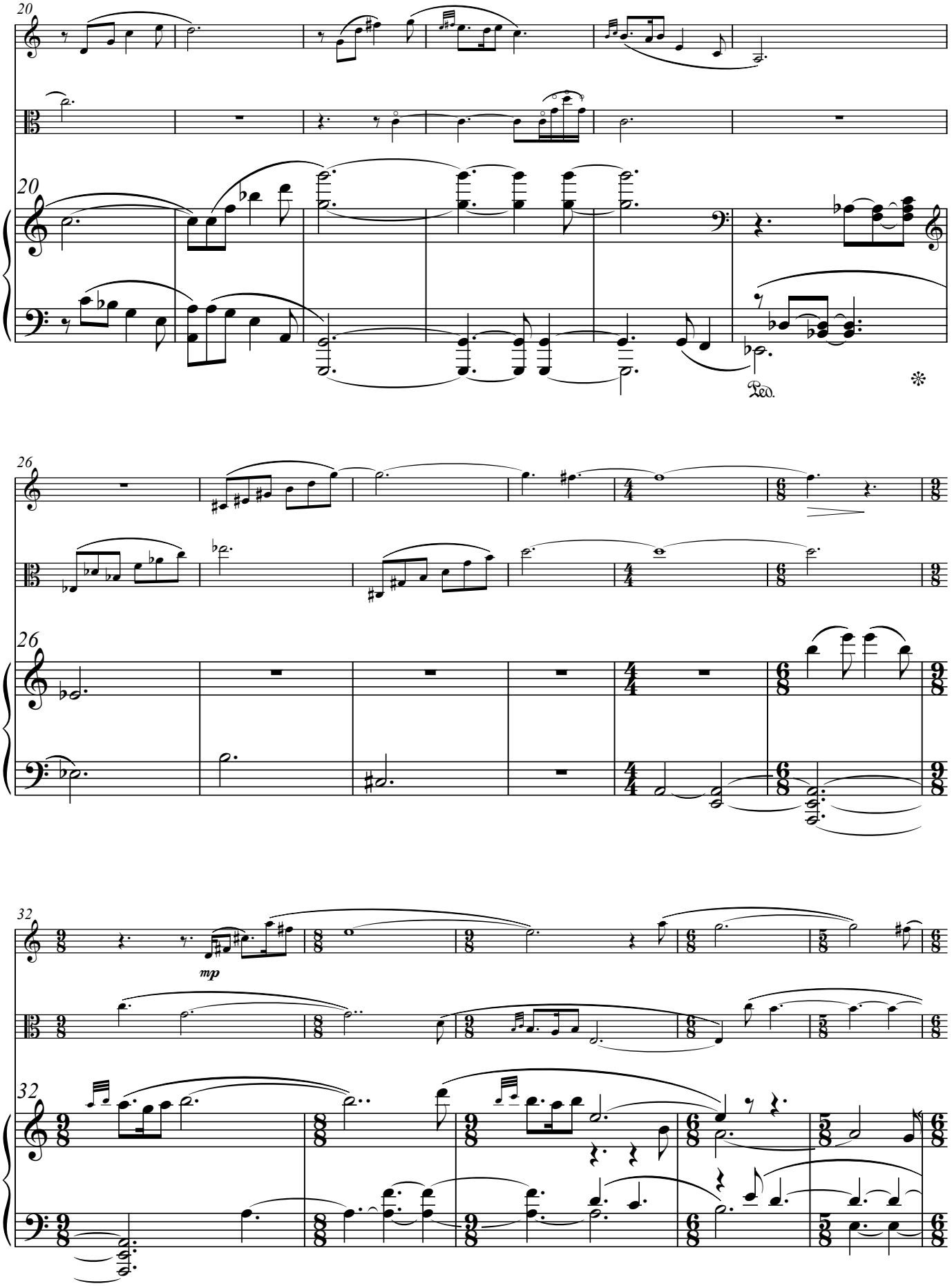

256
256
Ped.
259
ff
pp
ff
p
259
dolce
p
Ped.
264
rit.
pp
264
pp
Ped.

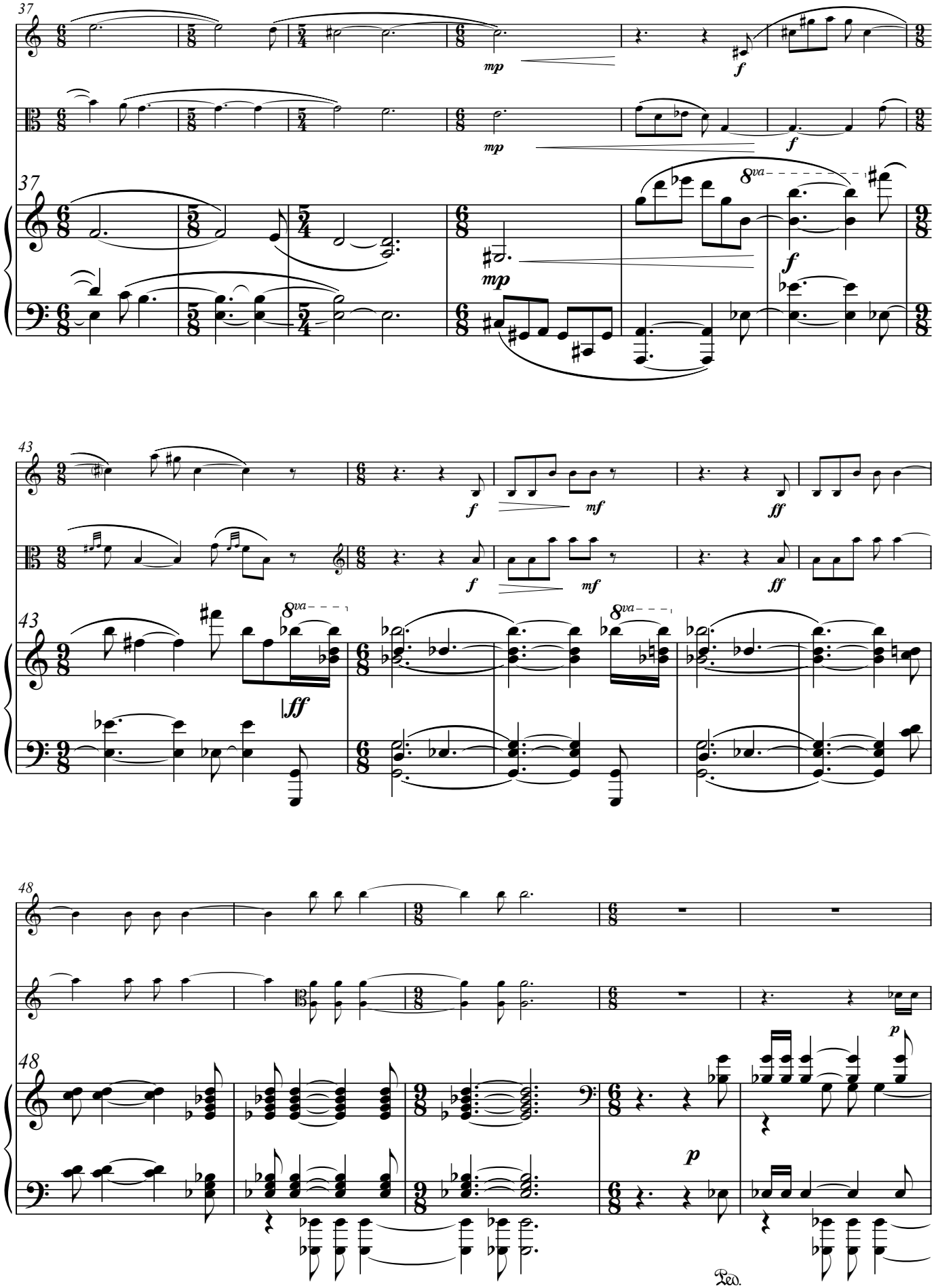
III. Sic Transit Gloria Mundi

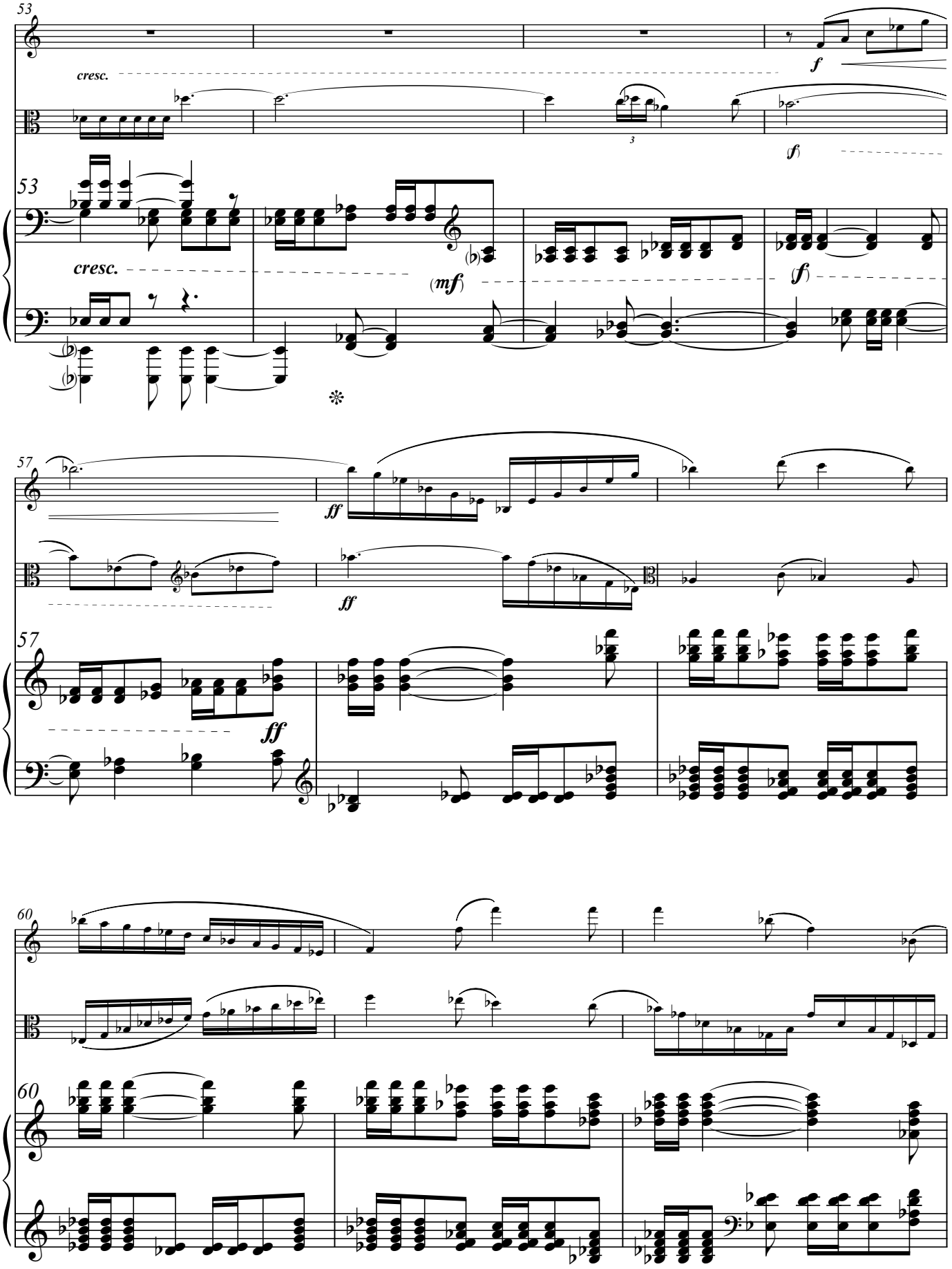
[7:30]

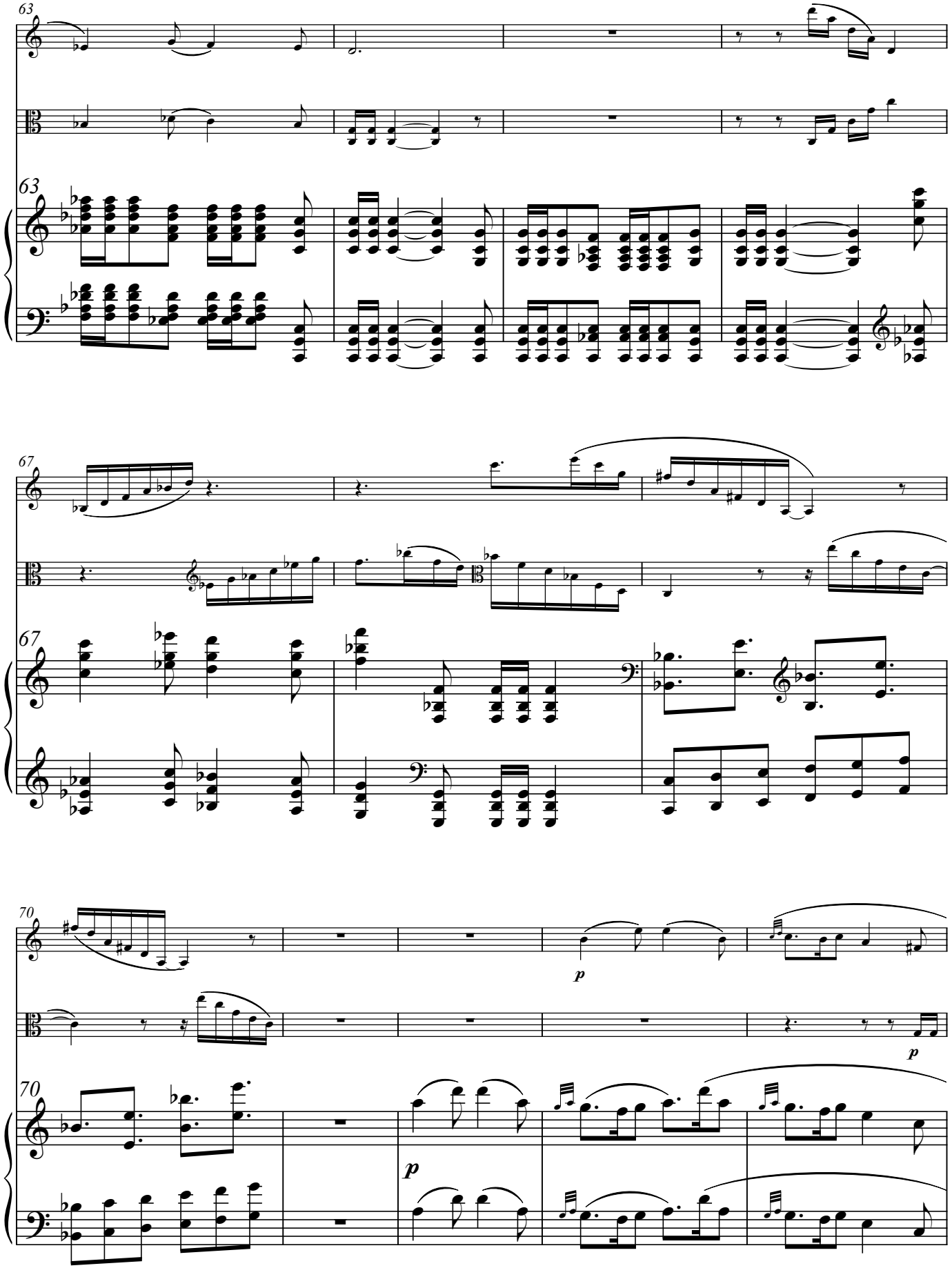
Lento (♩. = 46)

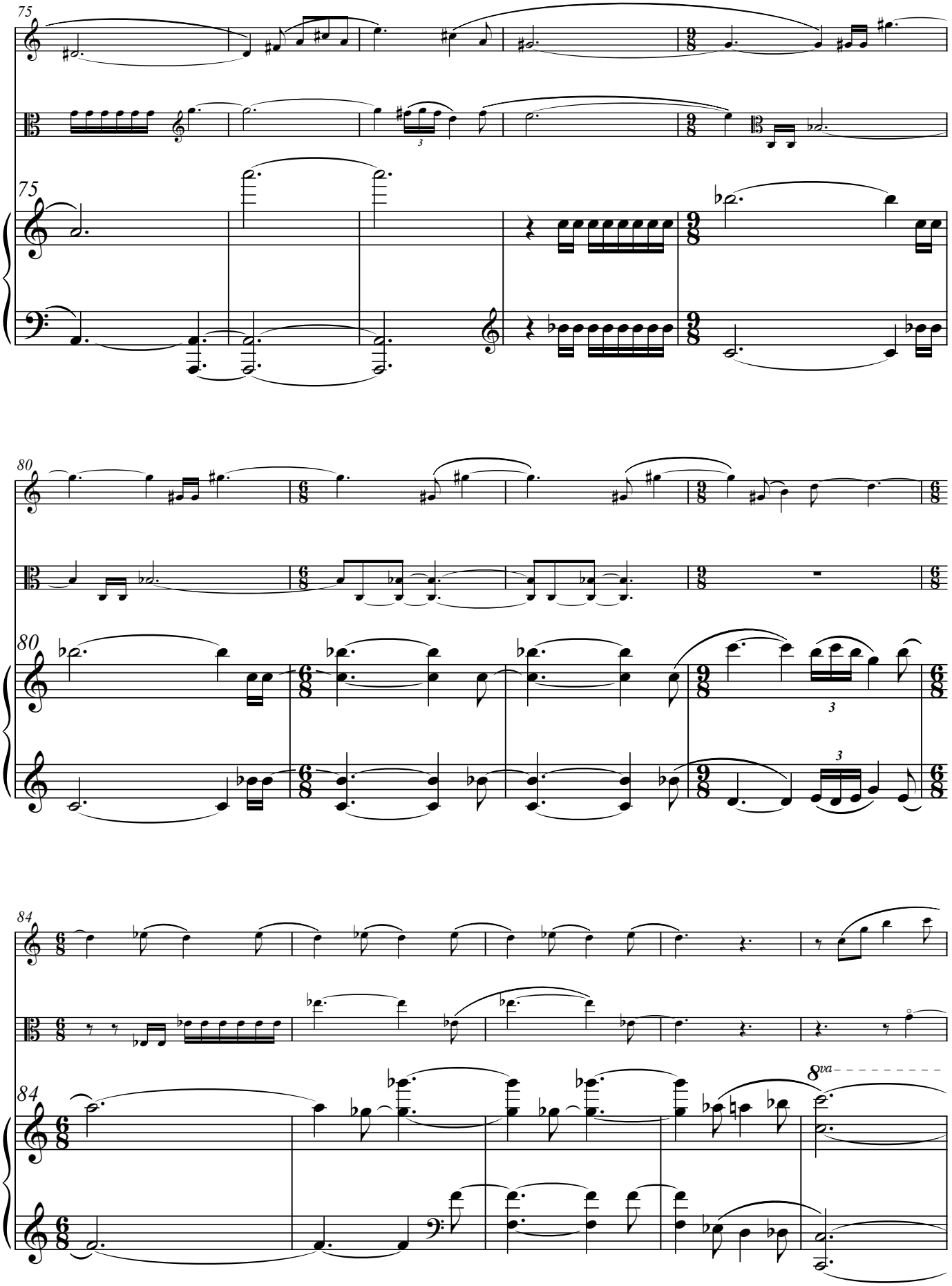


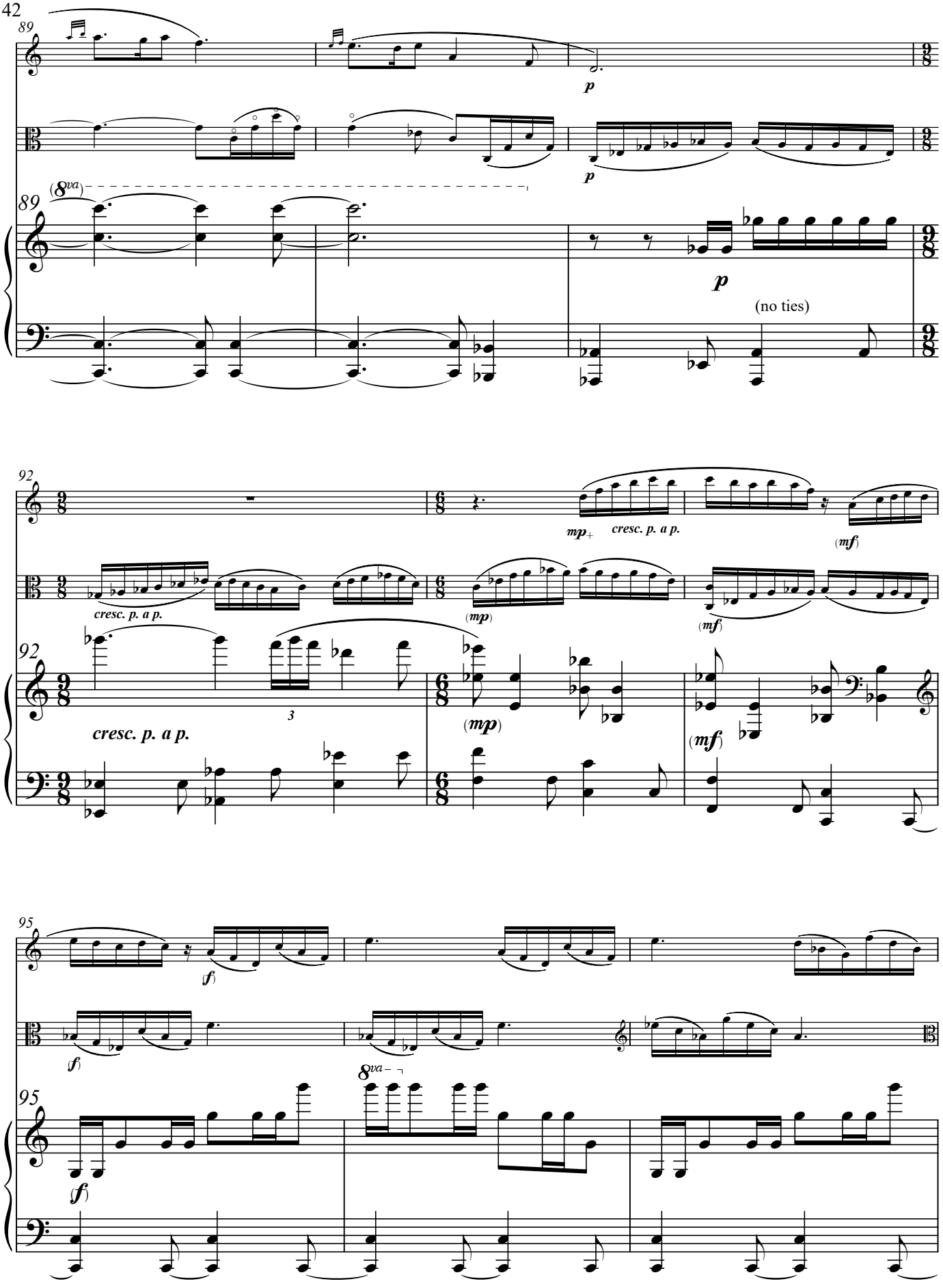

20
20
Ped.
26
26
32
mp
32

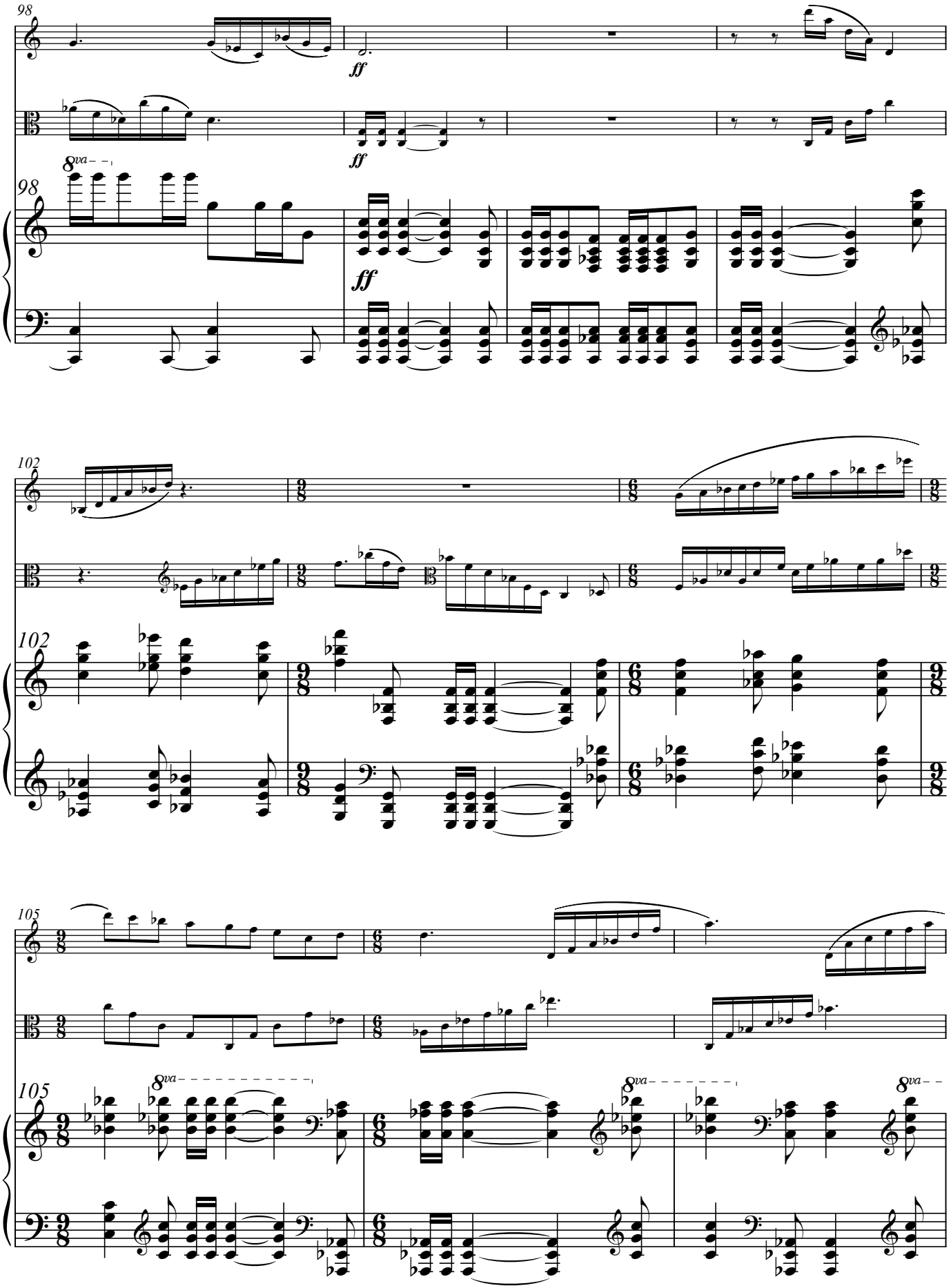

37
mp
f
8va
43
ff
mf
48
p
Ped.

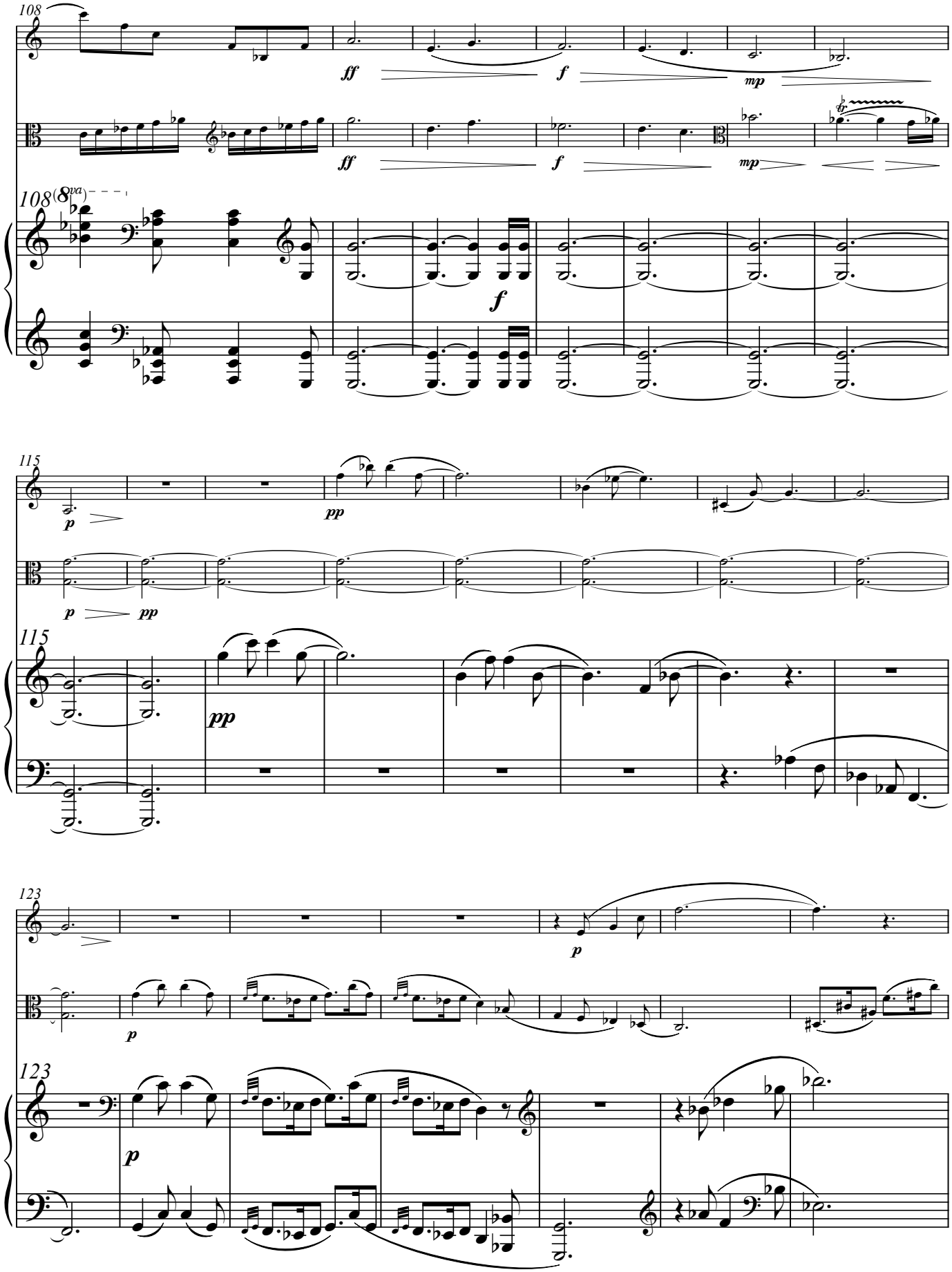

53
cresc.
f
(f)
53
cresc.
(mf)
(f)
57
ff
ff
57
ff
60
60

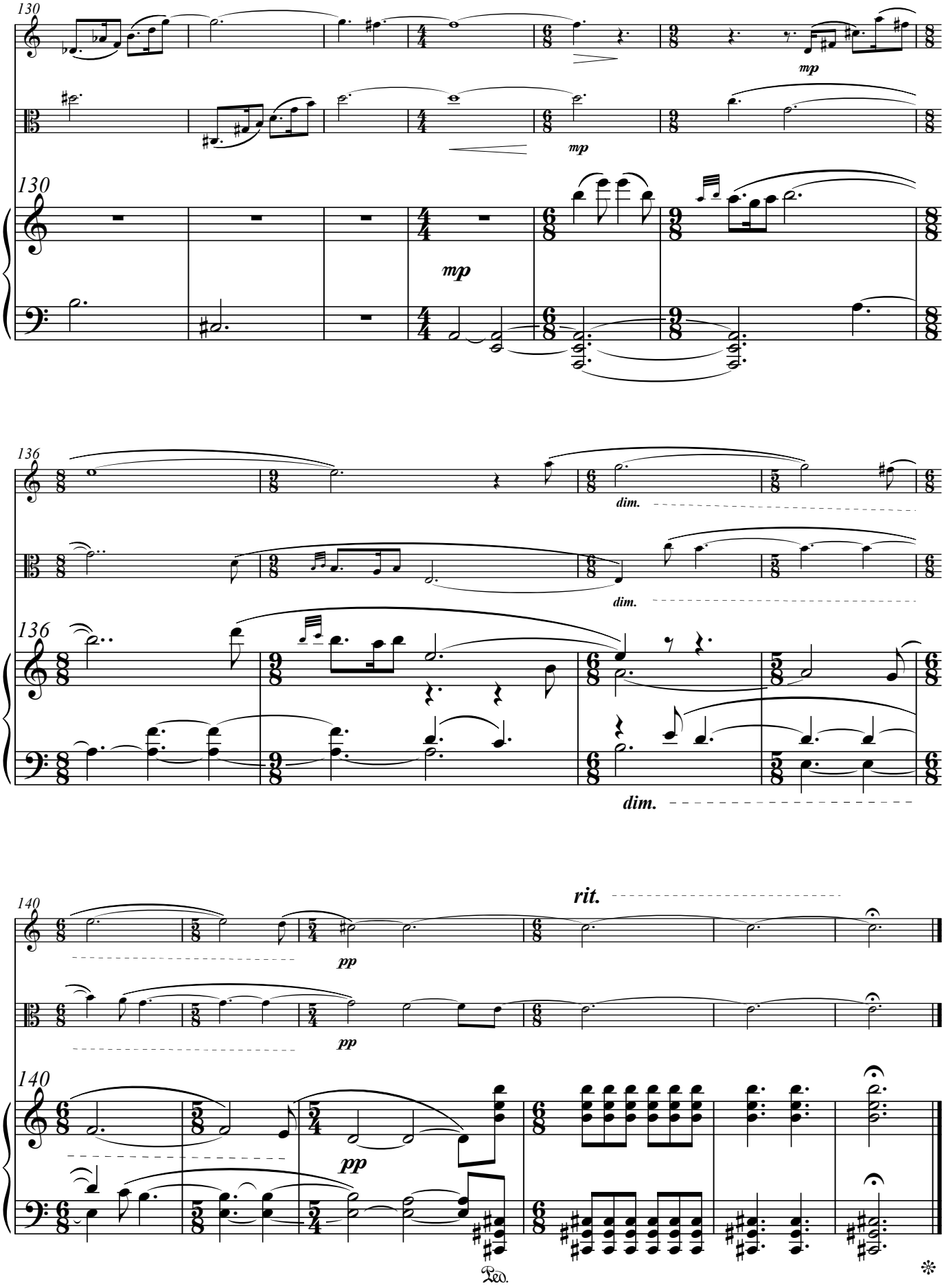

63
63
67
67
70
70
p
p
p


75
75
80
80
84
84
8va

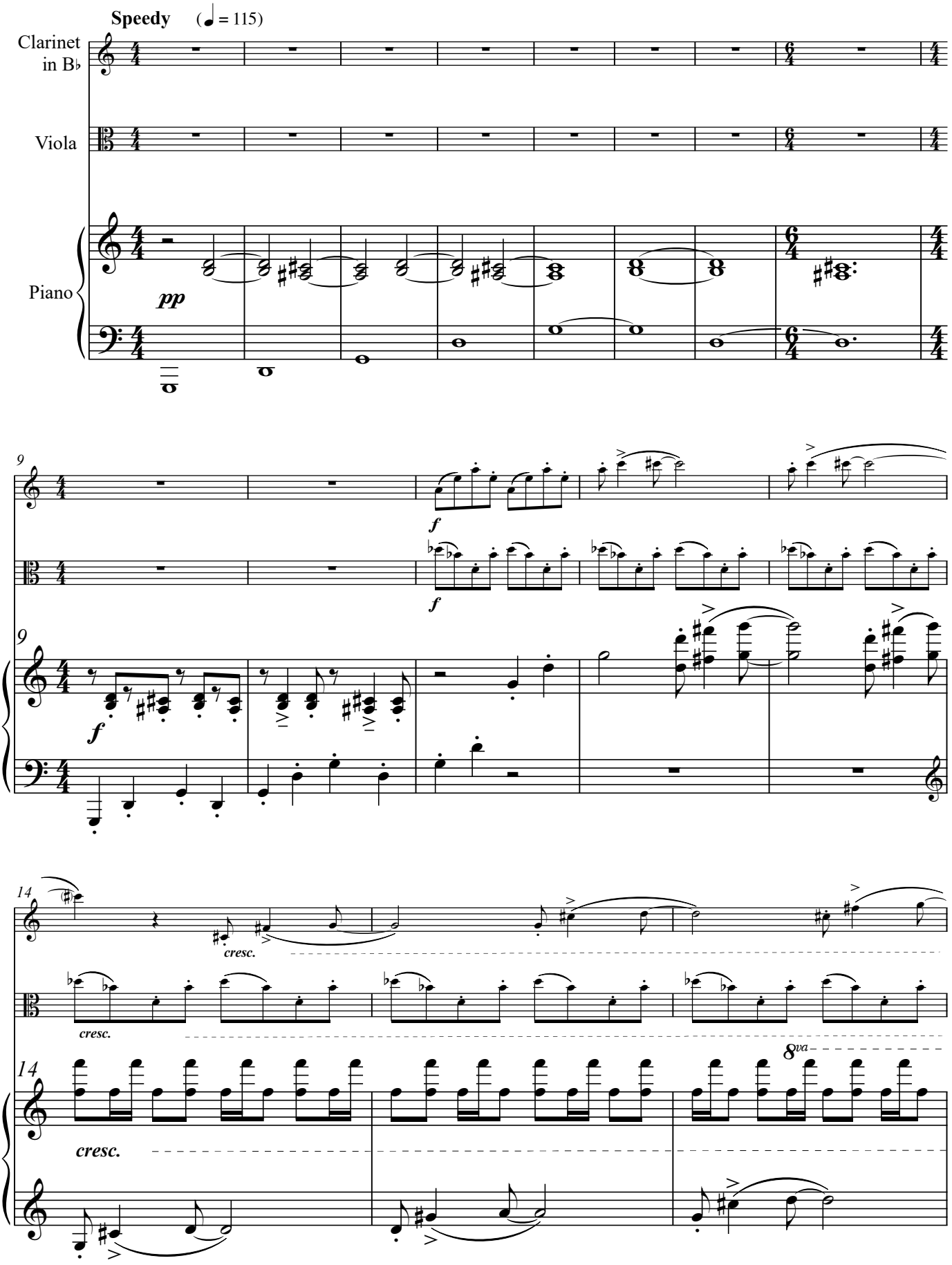

89
p
p
(8va)
89
p
(no ties)
92
mp+
cresc. p. a p.
(mf)
cresc. p. a p.
(mp)
(mf)
92
3
cresc. p. a p.
(mp)
(mf)
95
(f)
(f)
8va
95
(f)

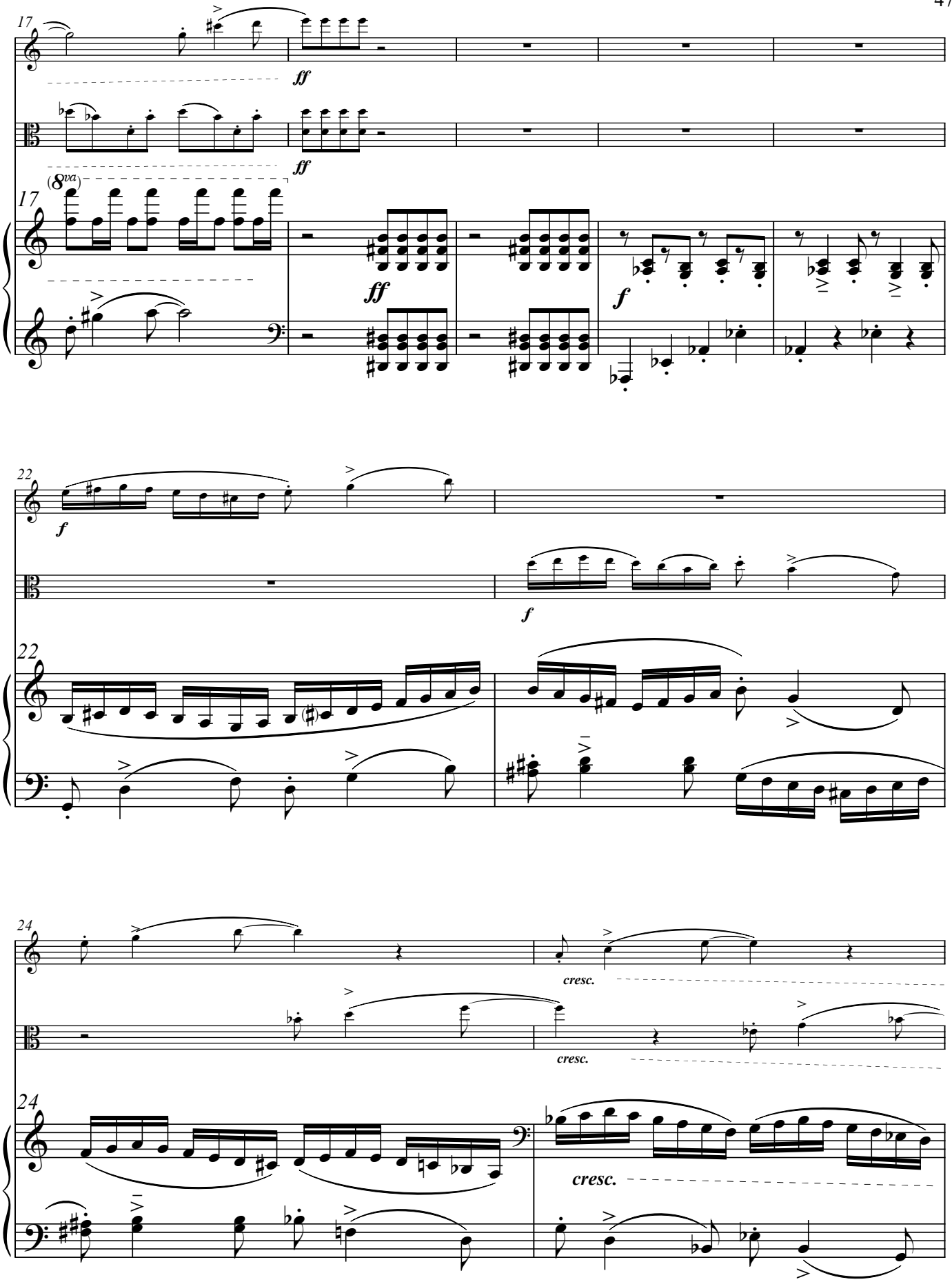

98
ff
8va
102
105

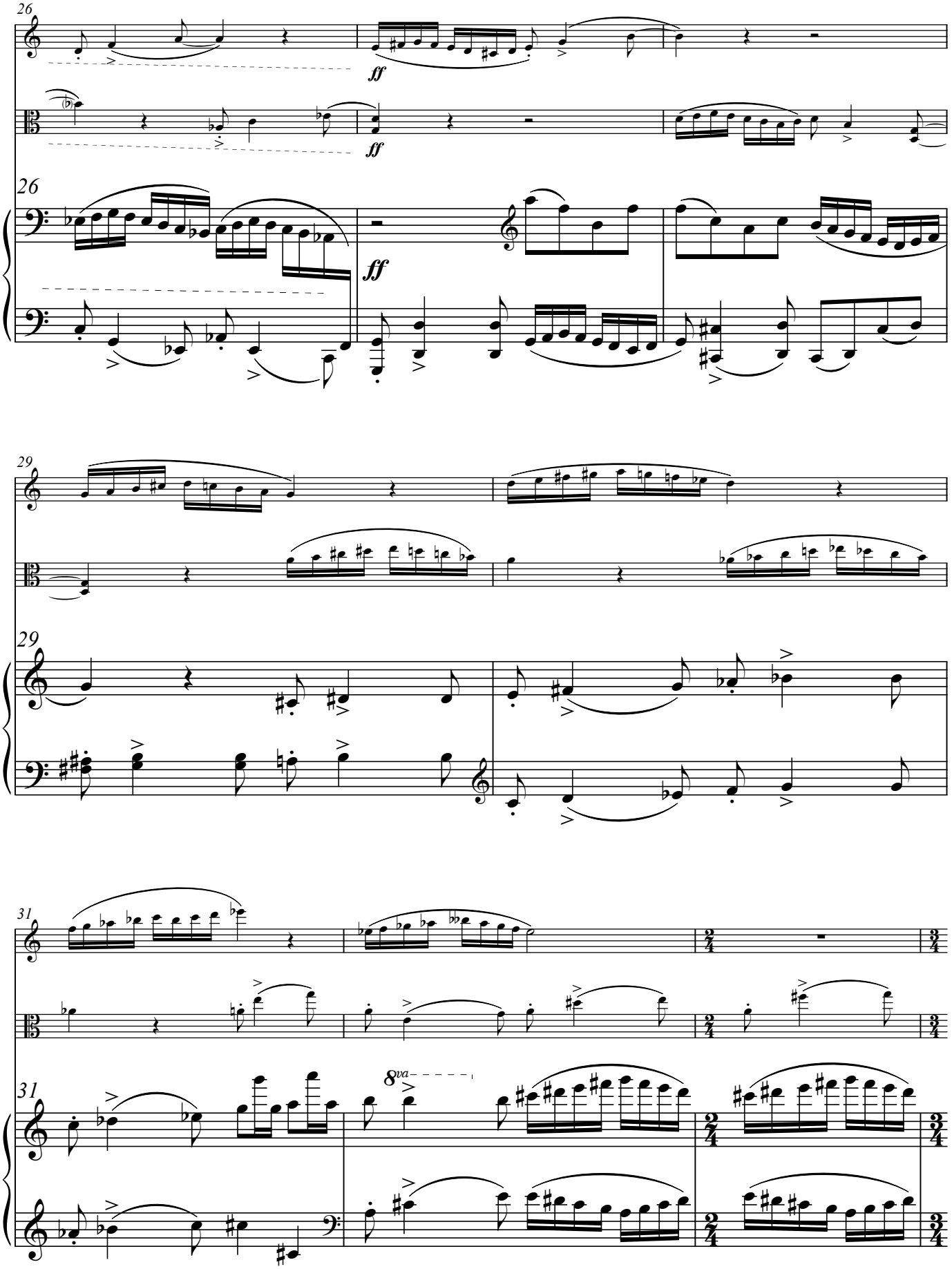

108
ff
f
mp
tr
108
8va
f
115
p
pp
p
pp
115
pp
123
p
123
p

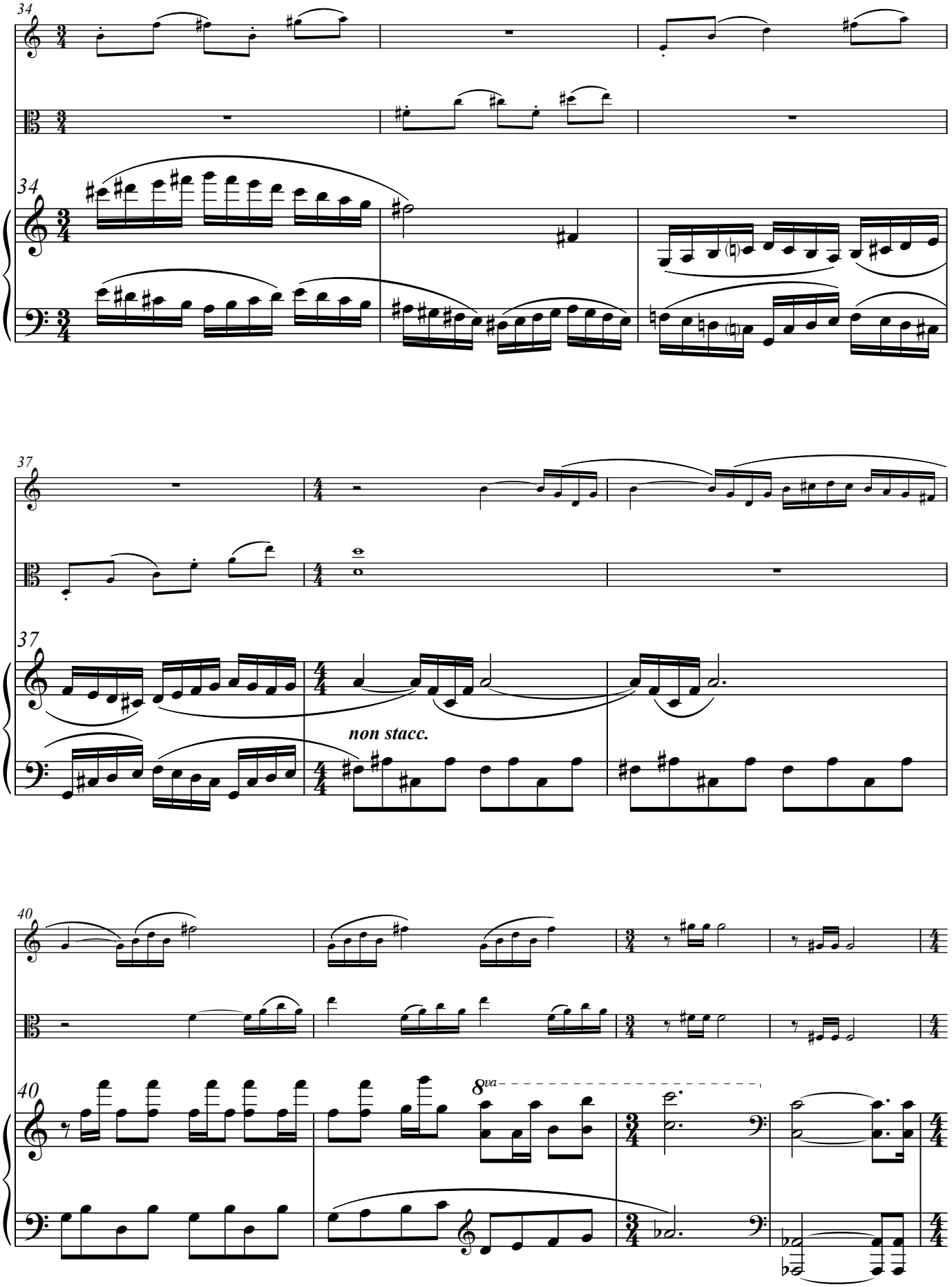

130
mp
mp
mp
136
dim.
dim.
dim.
140
rit.
pp
pp
pp
Ped.
*

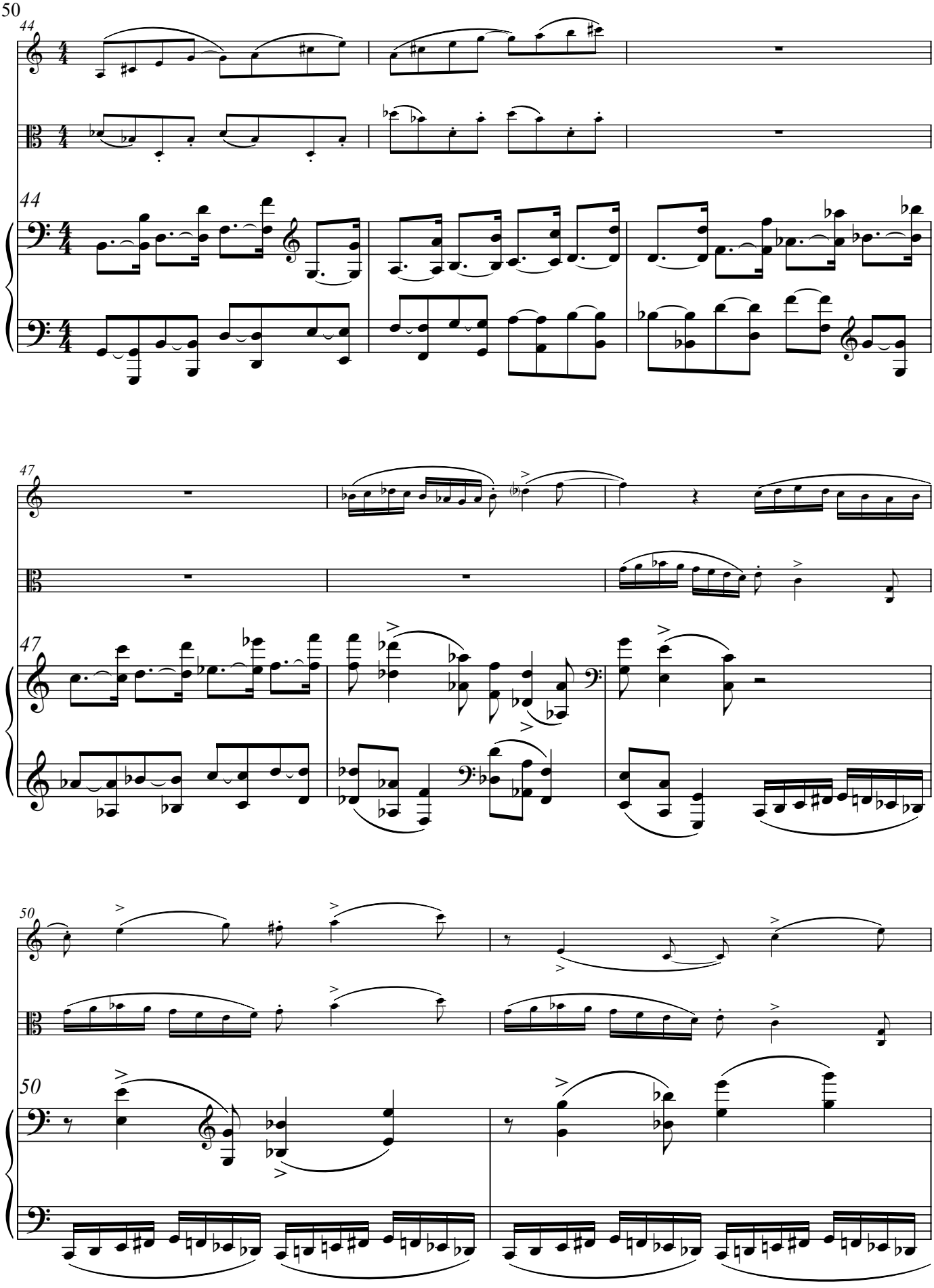
IV. The Albuterol Stomp [5:30]

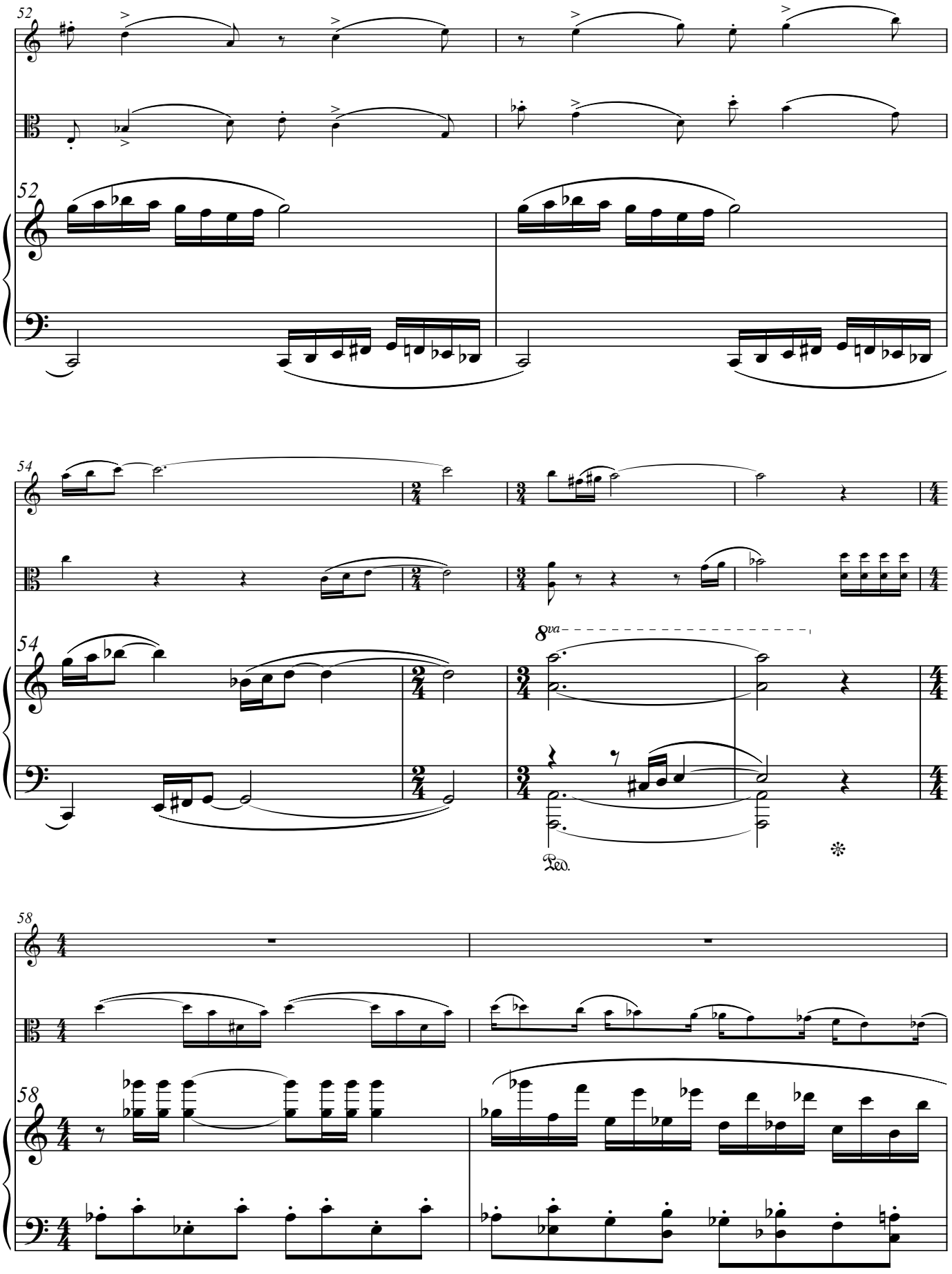


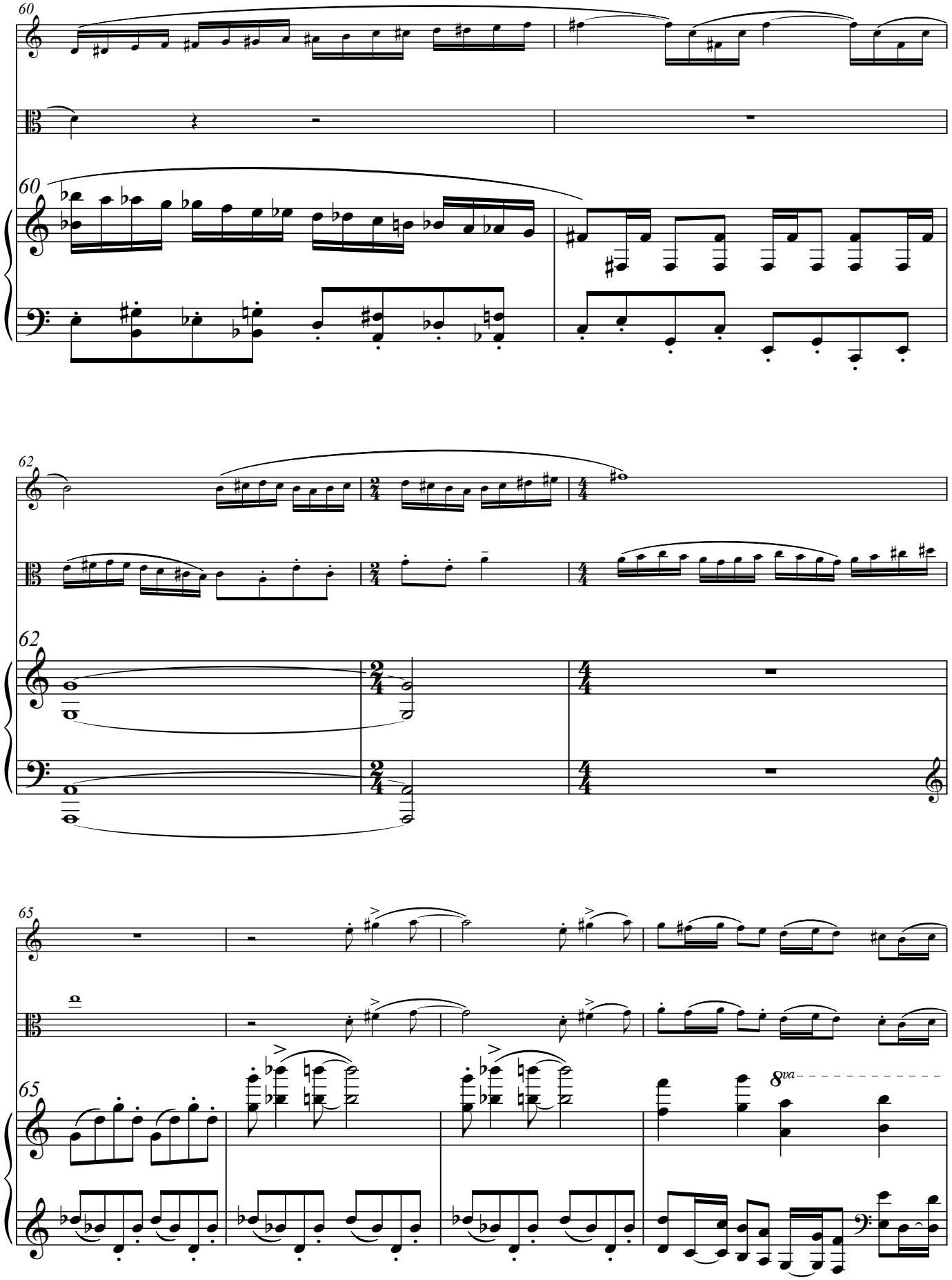

17
ff
ff
(8va)
17
ff
f
22
f
f
22
24
cresc.
cresc.
24
cresc.

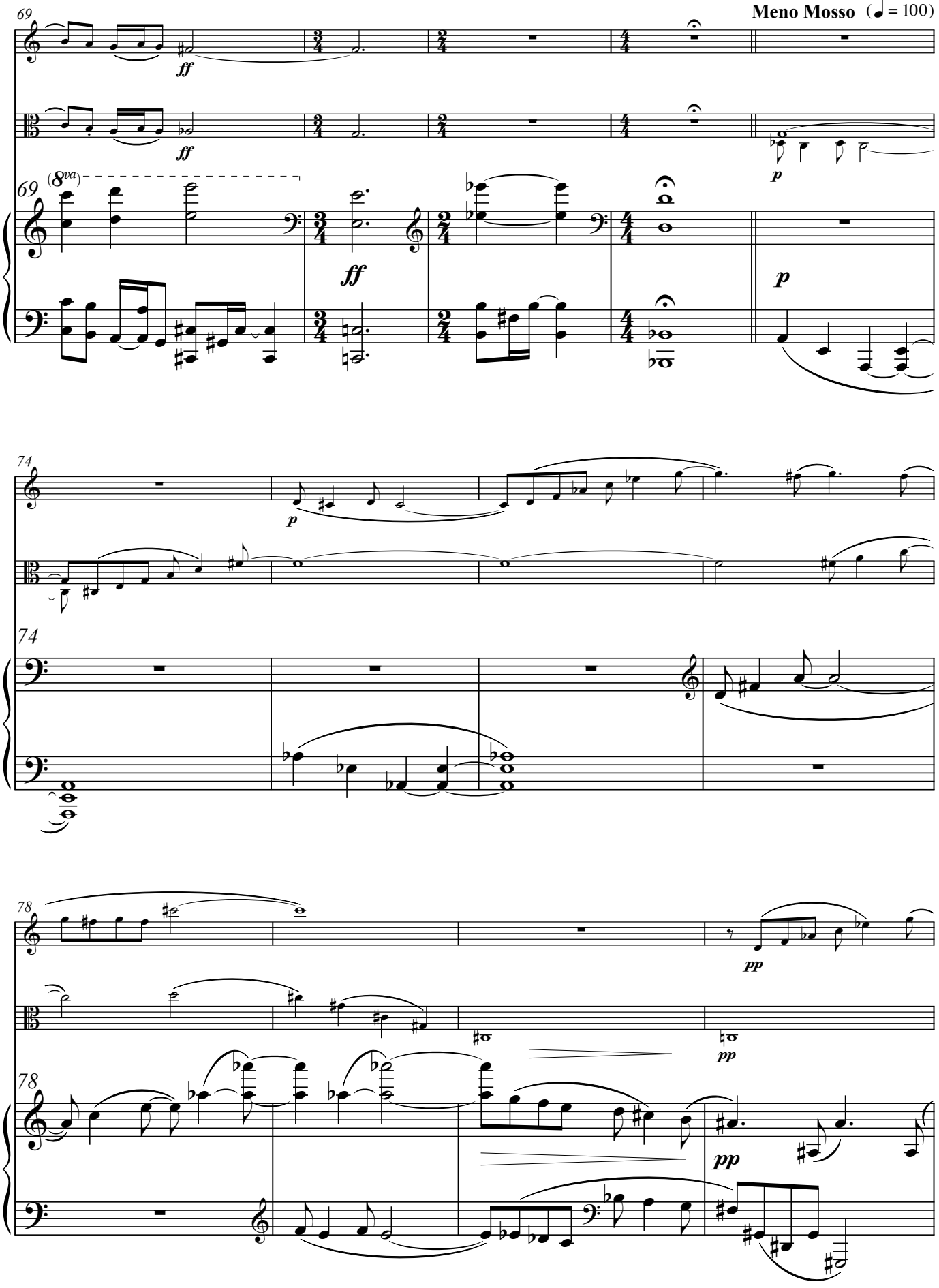

26
ff
ff
26
ff
29
29
31
31
8va

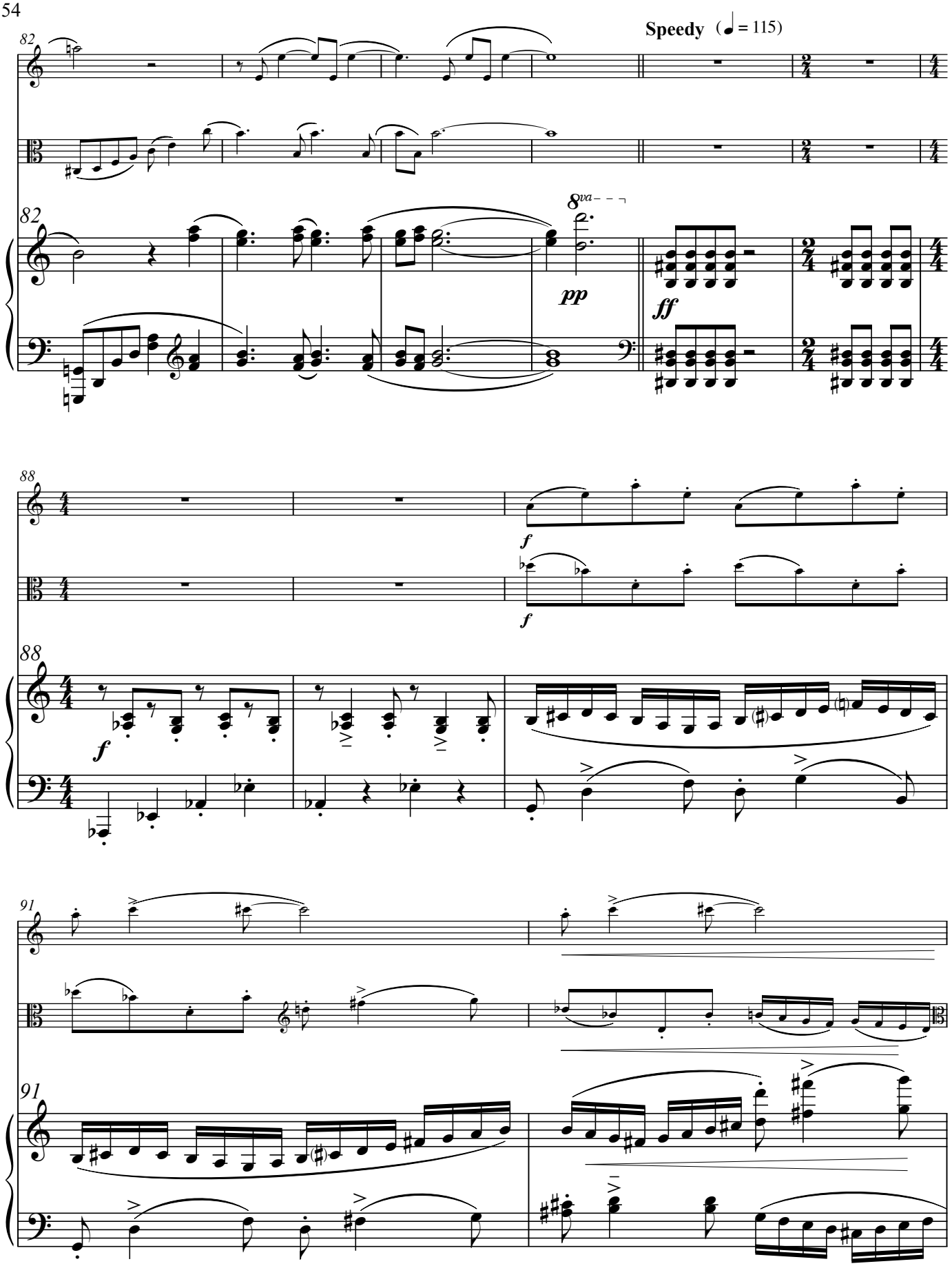

34
34
37
37
non stacc.
40
40
8va

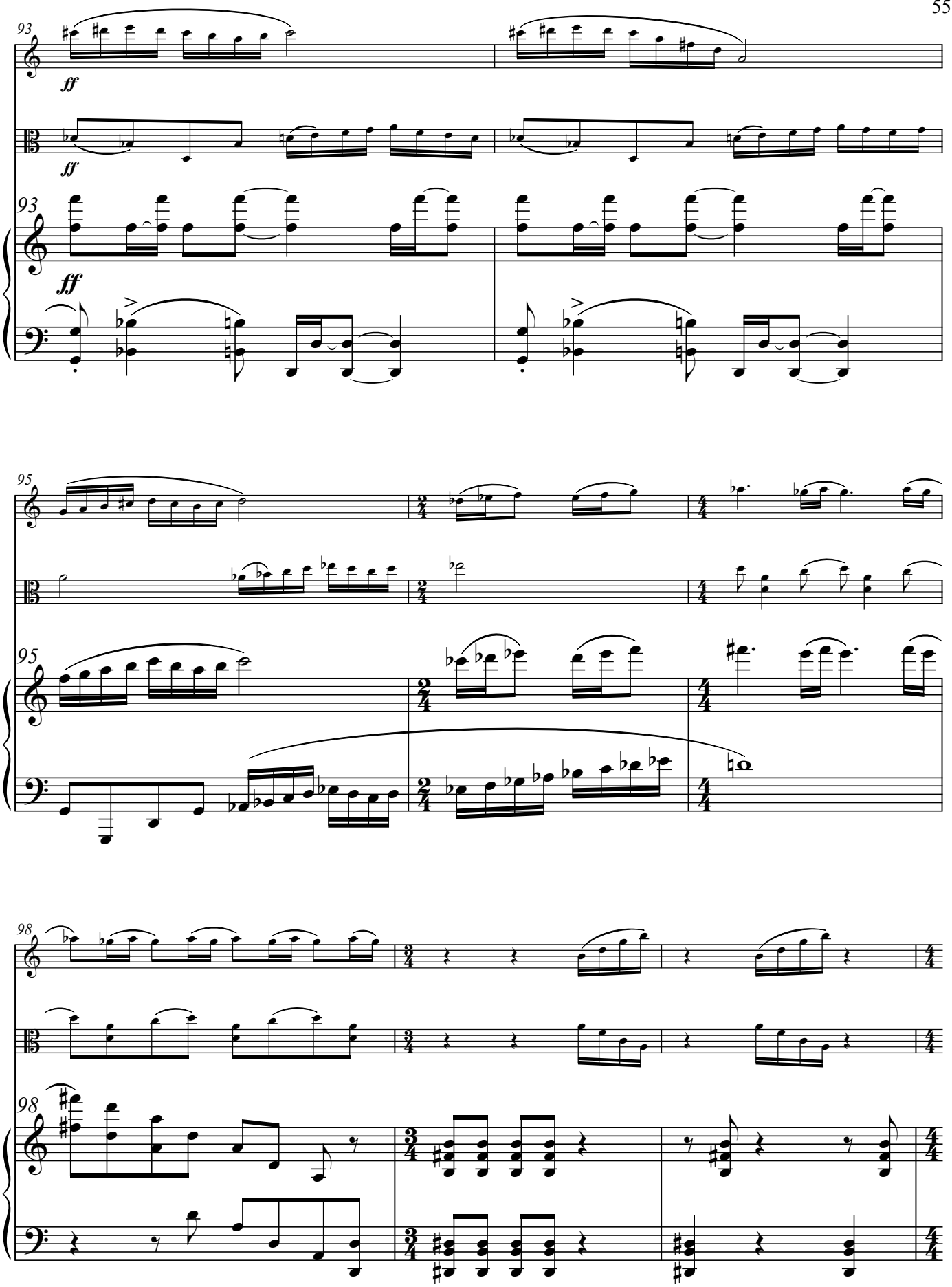

44
47
50

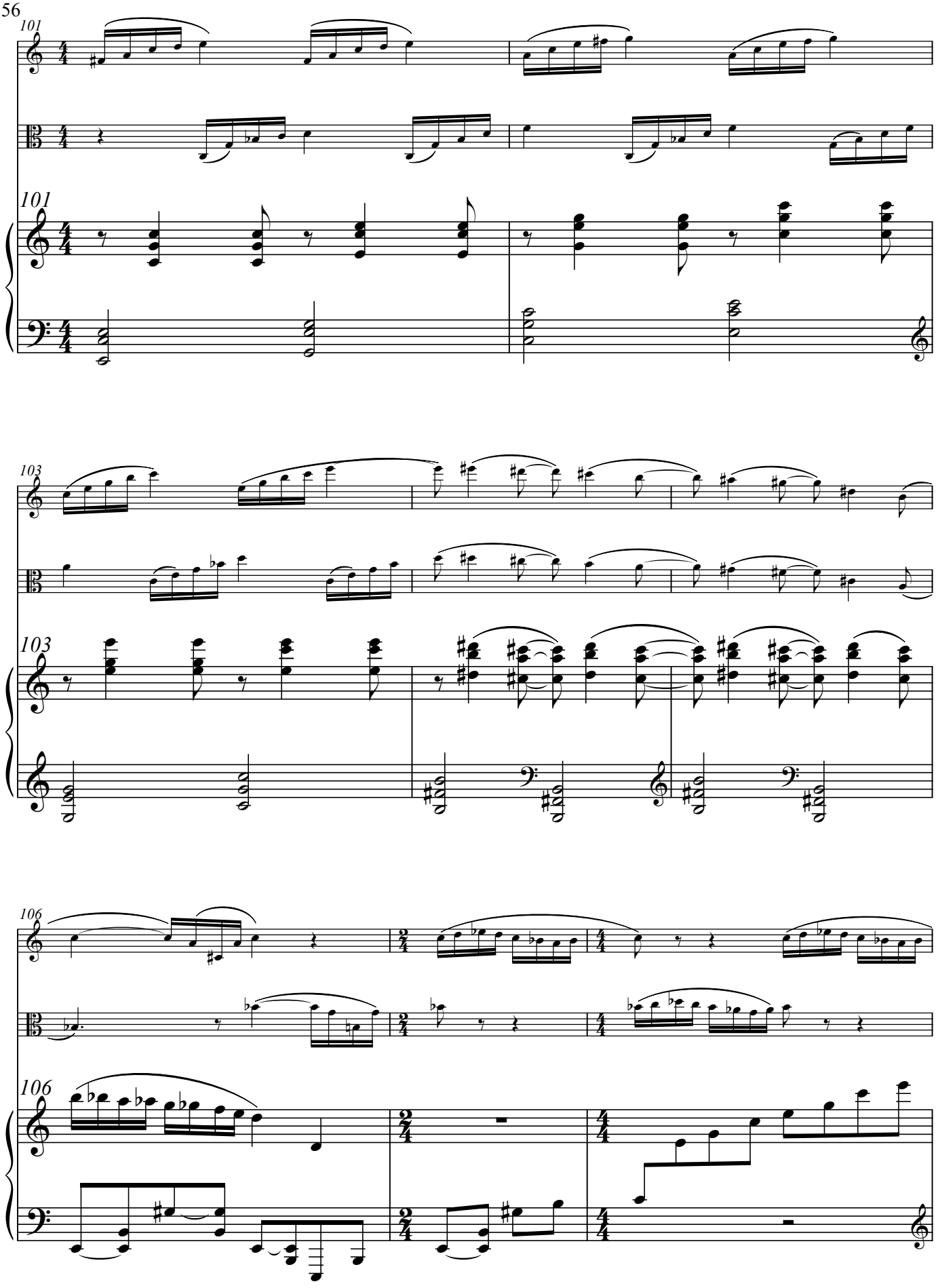

52
54
8va
Ped.
58

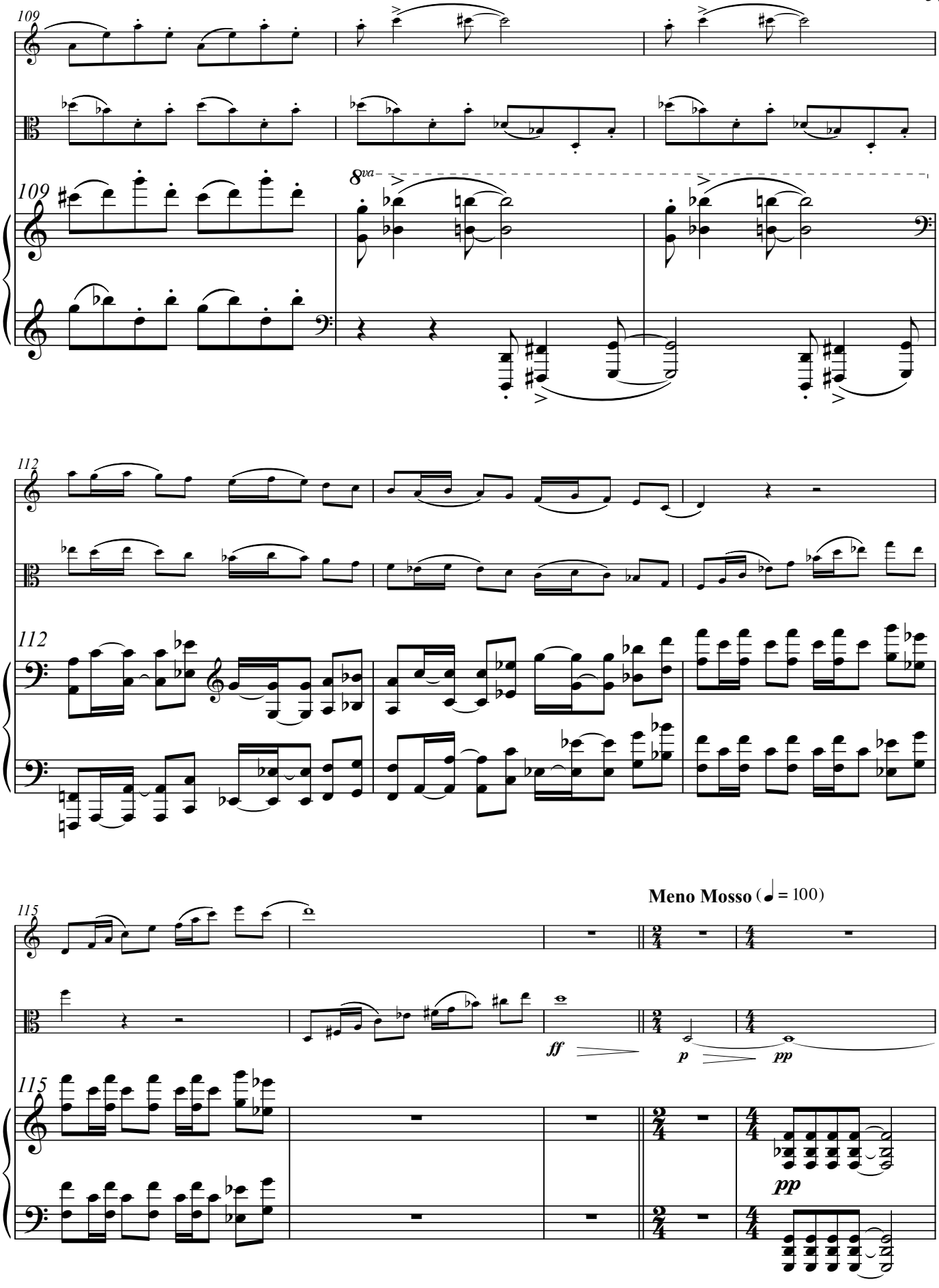

60
60
62
62
65
65
8va

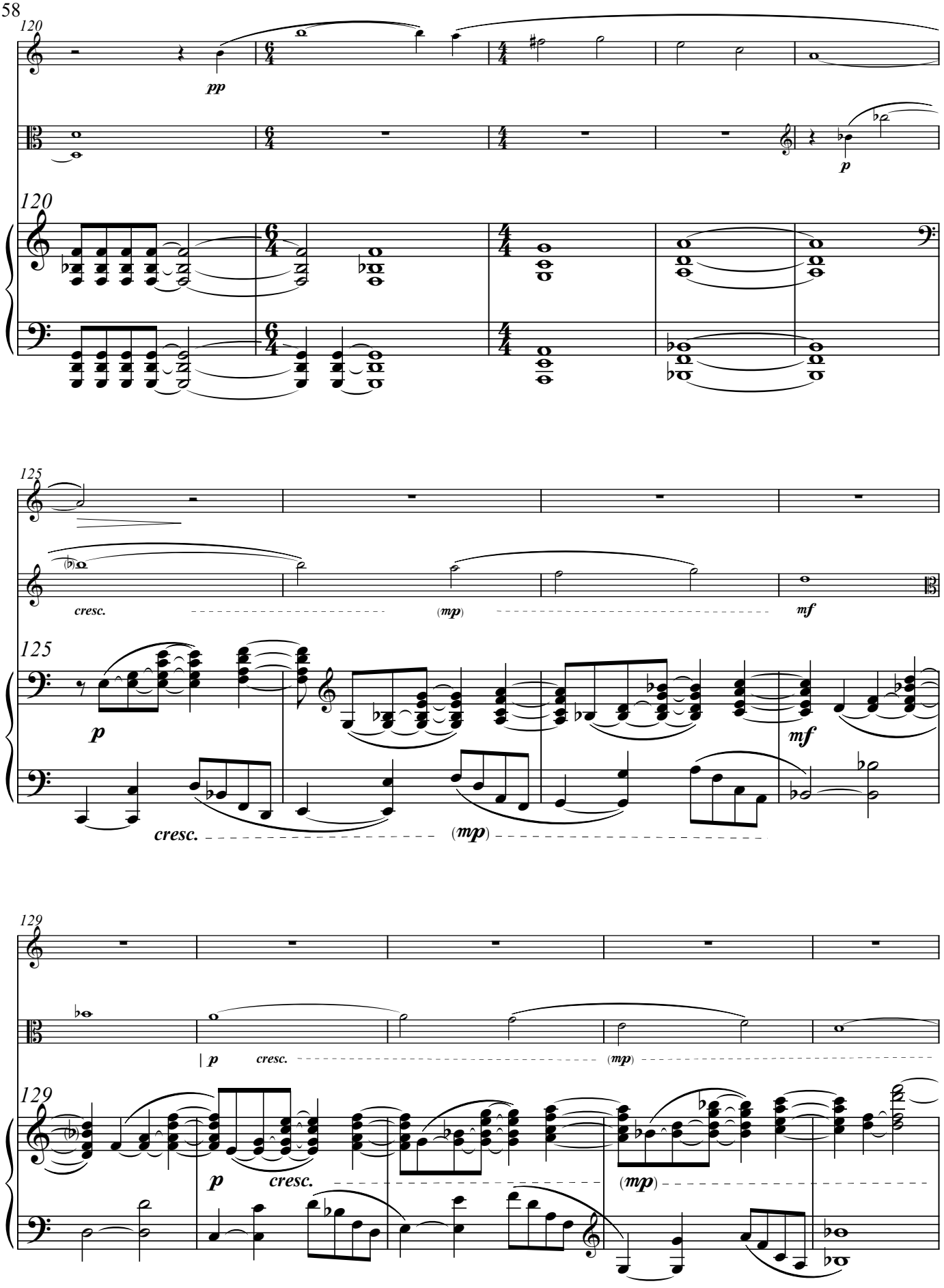

Meno Mosso (♩ = 100)
69
ff
ff
p
69
(8va)
ff
p
74
p
74
78
pp
pp
78
pp


82
Speedy (♩ = 115)
8va
pp
ff
88
f
f
f
91
91

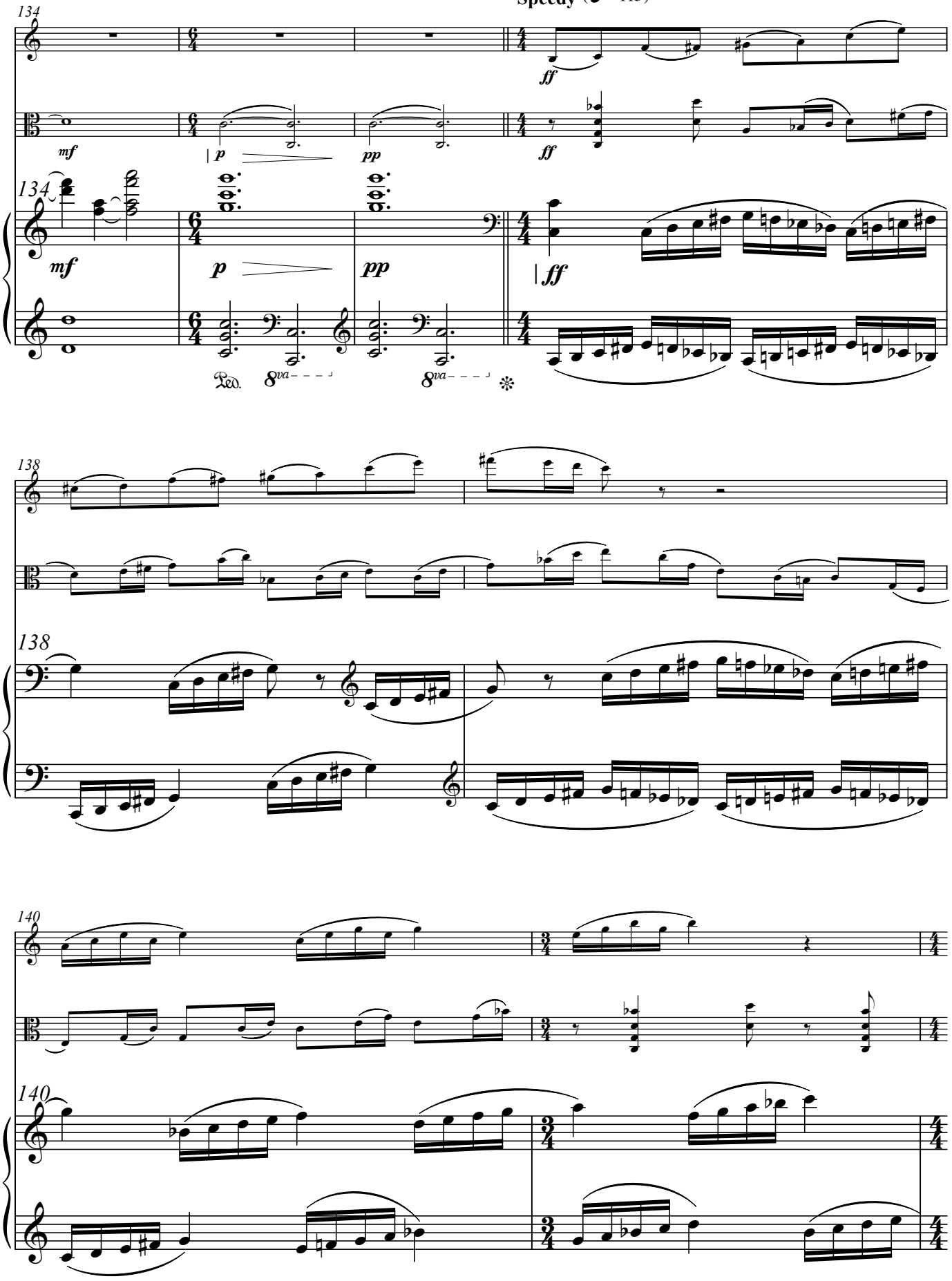

93
ff
ff
93
ff
95
95
98
98

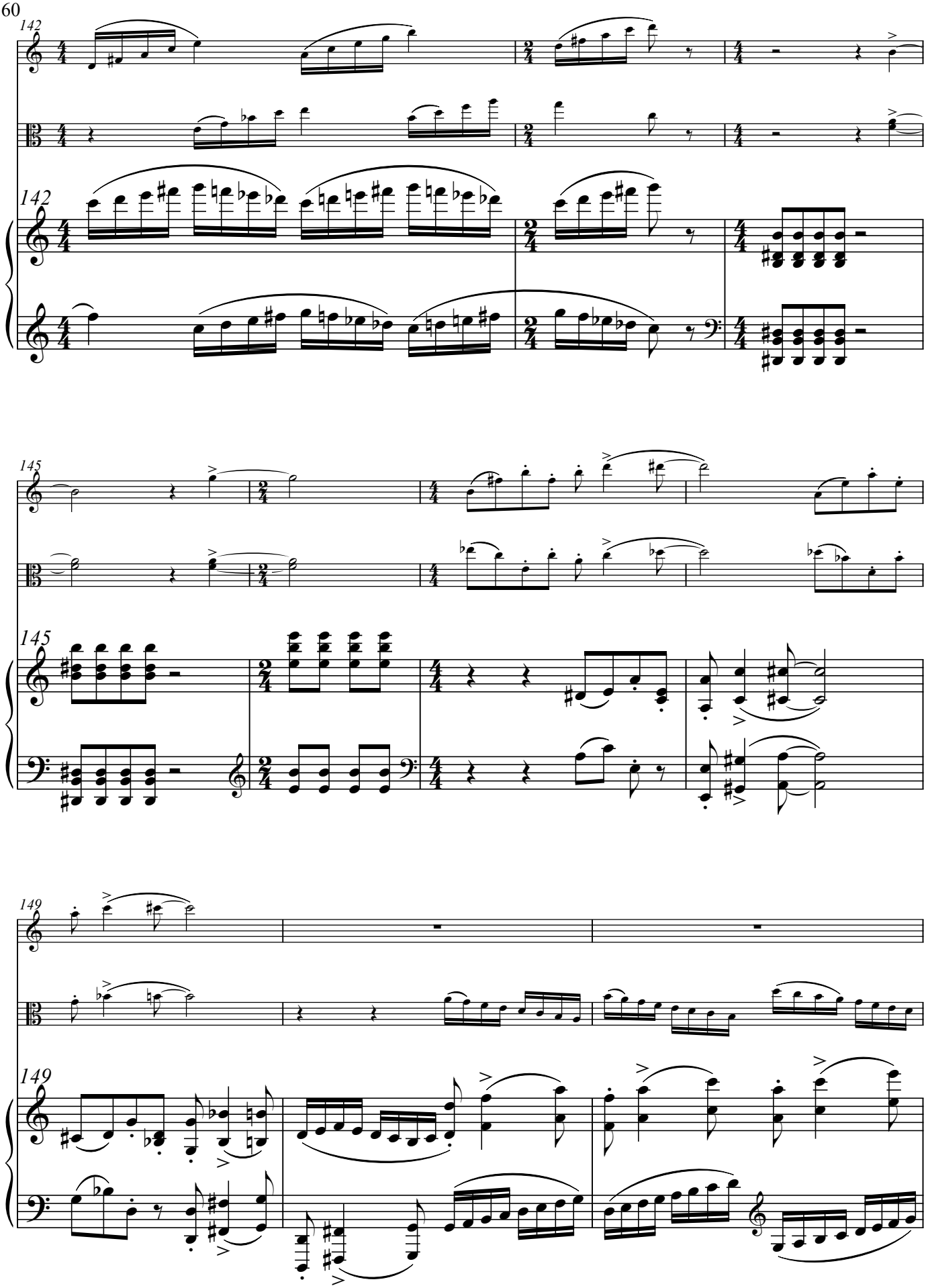

101
101
103
103
106
106

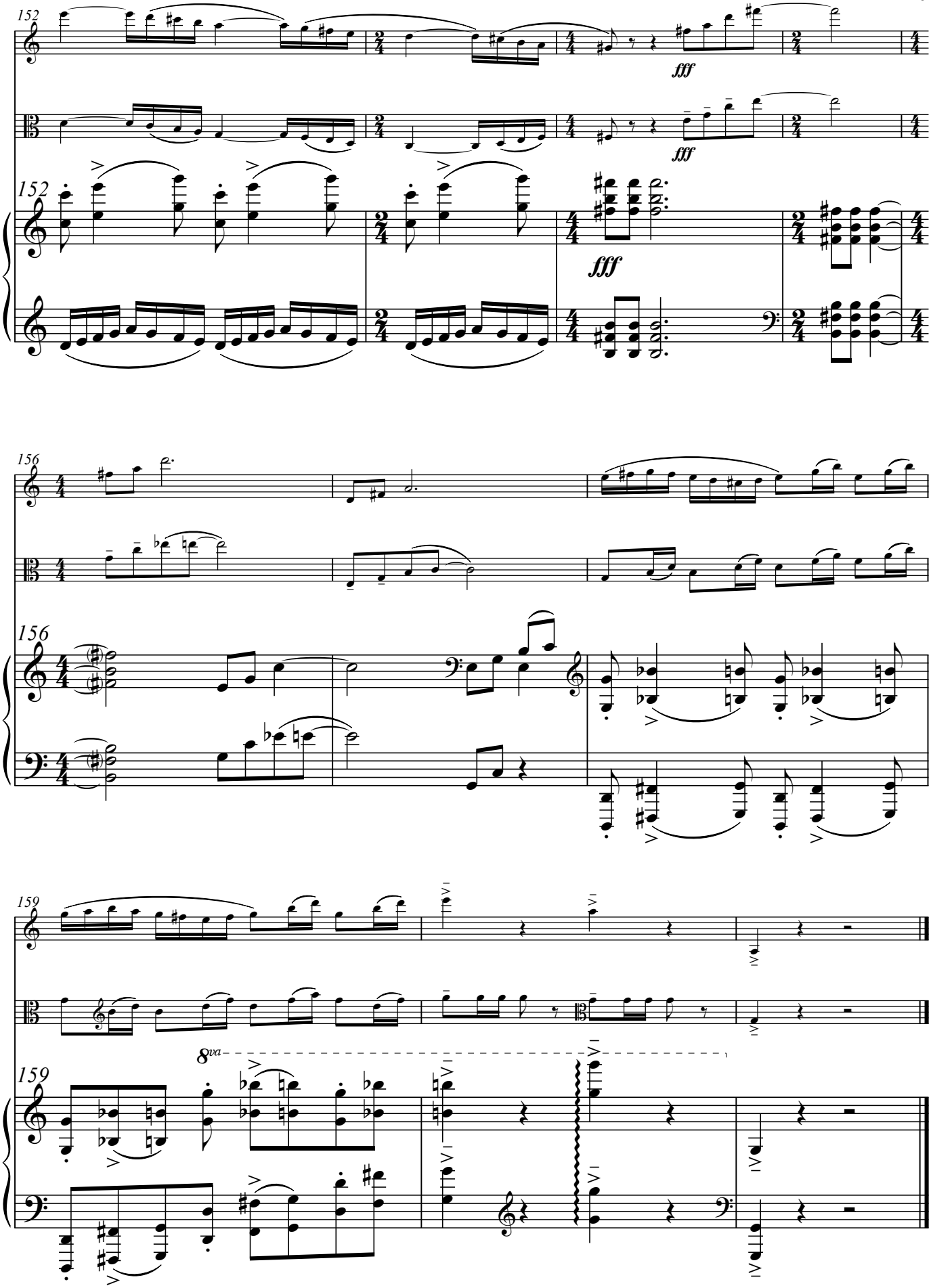

109
8va
112
115
Meno Mosso (♩ = 100)
ff
p
pp
pp


120
pp
p
120
125
cresc.
(mp)
mf
125
p
mf
cresc.
(mp)
129
p
cresc.
(mp)
129
p
cresc.
(mp)

Speedy (♩ = 115)




142
142
145
145
149
149


152
fff
152
fff
156
156
159
8va
159