Popular Music of Planet X

for Piano Quintet

(chamber version of Symphony No. 1)

Bill Robinson

Popular Music of Planet X for Piano Quintet

(chamber version of *Symphony No. 1*) Duration: about 26′

Composed September 1990; 2004; Feb. 10—May 27, 2015; Nov.2—Dec. 8, 2023

for Eric Pritchard

In 1990 I wrote several works for my friend Fred Robinson (no relation), who was the composer/arranger at Warner Robins Air Force Base in Georgia. Among these was a work for jazz band, *The Popular Music of Planet X*. The idea was the rather whimsical one that somewhere among the myriad planets there could be a civilization where music like this could actually be commercially successful. Clearly, such a planet must be far, far away. I also wrote some chamber works, including a brass quintet. The Air Force didn't seem to appreciate the effort, and the scores and parts were returned. (When you bomb with the Air Force…you *REALLY BOMB!)*

In 2004 I wrote new versions of these scores, but still could not find performance. Thus in 2015 I started over, this time with *PMPX* as a symphony for concert band. The only surviving movement from the old *PMPX* was the bulk of *Burlesque* (then titled *Bump and Grind*). The first movement was originally from the now-defunct brass quintet of 1990 and 2004. The second movement's opening was from the original *PMPX*, and has a chamber version for piano and woodwind quintet. The third movement was from the *Clarinet Sextet*.

As the piece remained unperformed, I realized it would be better for orchestra as *Symphony No. 1: Popular Music of Planet X*. Orchestral writing is much more to my taste and experience than band. I first composed this piano quintet version to make various improvements, and to get the piece performed and recorded. The third movement is new, inspired by a few bits from the original third movement from 1990. The four movements of the band version of *PMPX* from 2015 are now offered only as separate works.

Considering that this is my personal vision of what music intended for mass consumption could be in a more ideal world, I've allowed the influence of some popular idioms. However, as is true for all of my music, this is in the classical tradition, with no improvisation, and to be treated in the same way as other "serious" art music—even, and perhaps especially, when it's intended to be for fun.

Cover; London casino, 1938

Bill Robinson

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corrected to 1/14/26 www.billrobinsonmusic.com

Popular Music of Planet X for Piano Quintet

I. Polytonalmodalyodel [7']

Bill Robinson

(♩ = 105)

Giant leaps for mankind

Violin 1

Violin II

Viola

Cello

pizz.

arco

Giant leaps for mankind (♩ = 105)

Piano

11

20

gliss.

21

dim.

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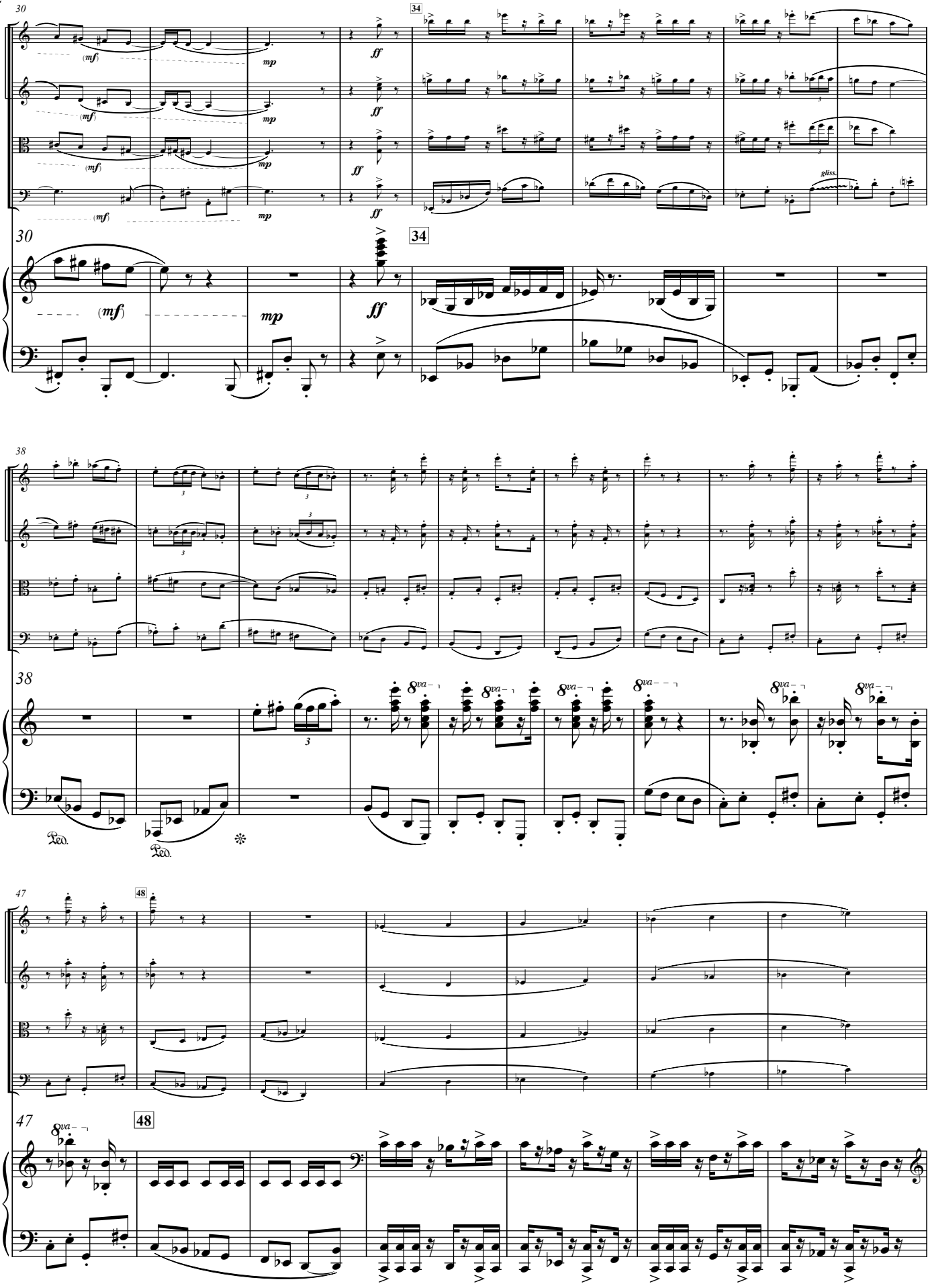
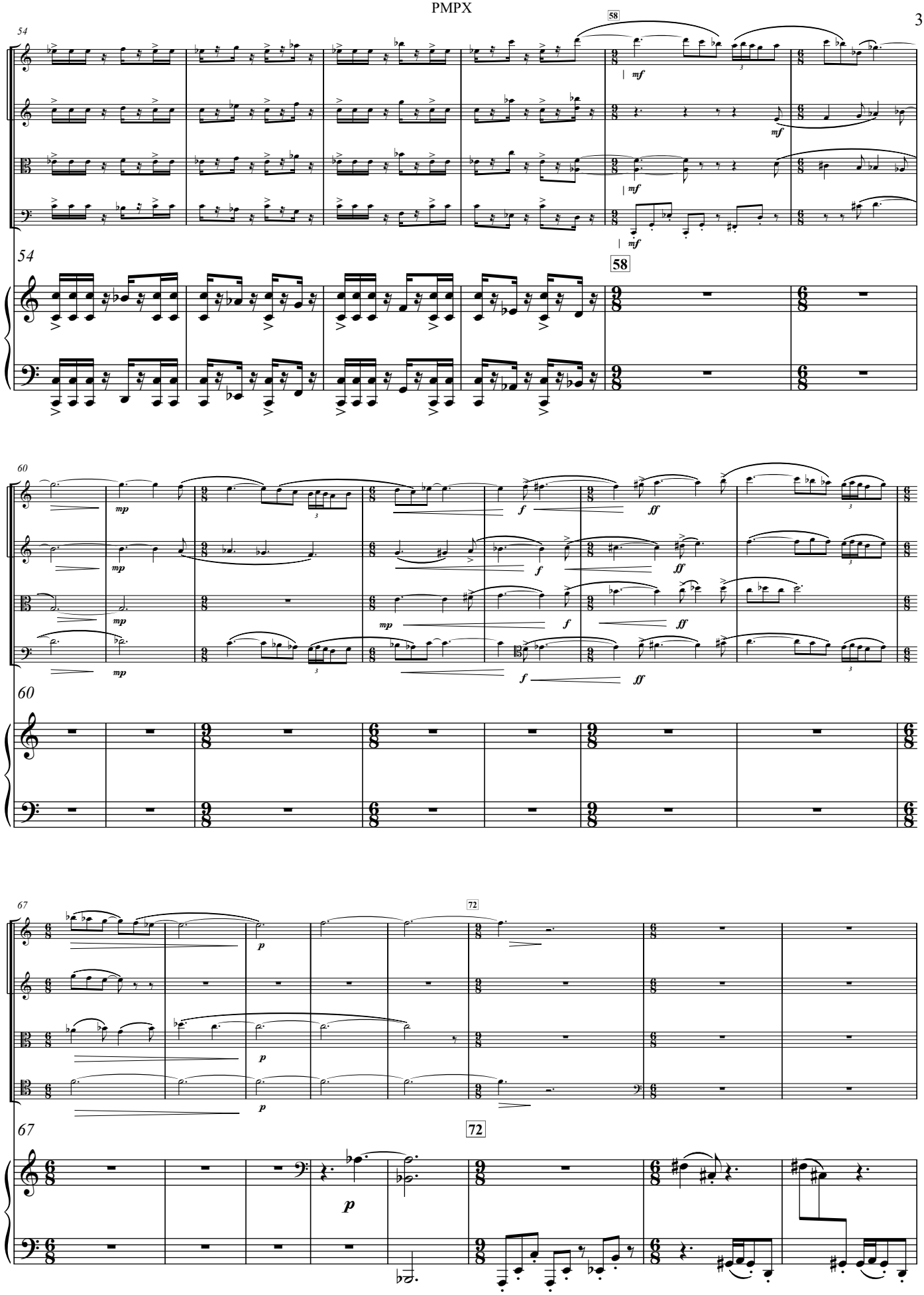
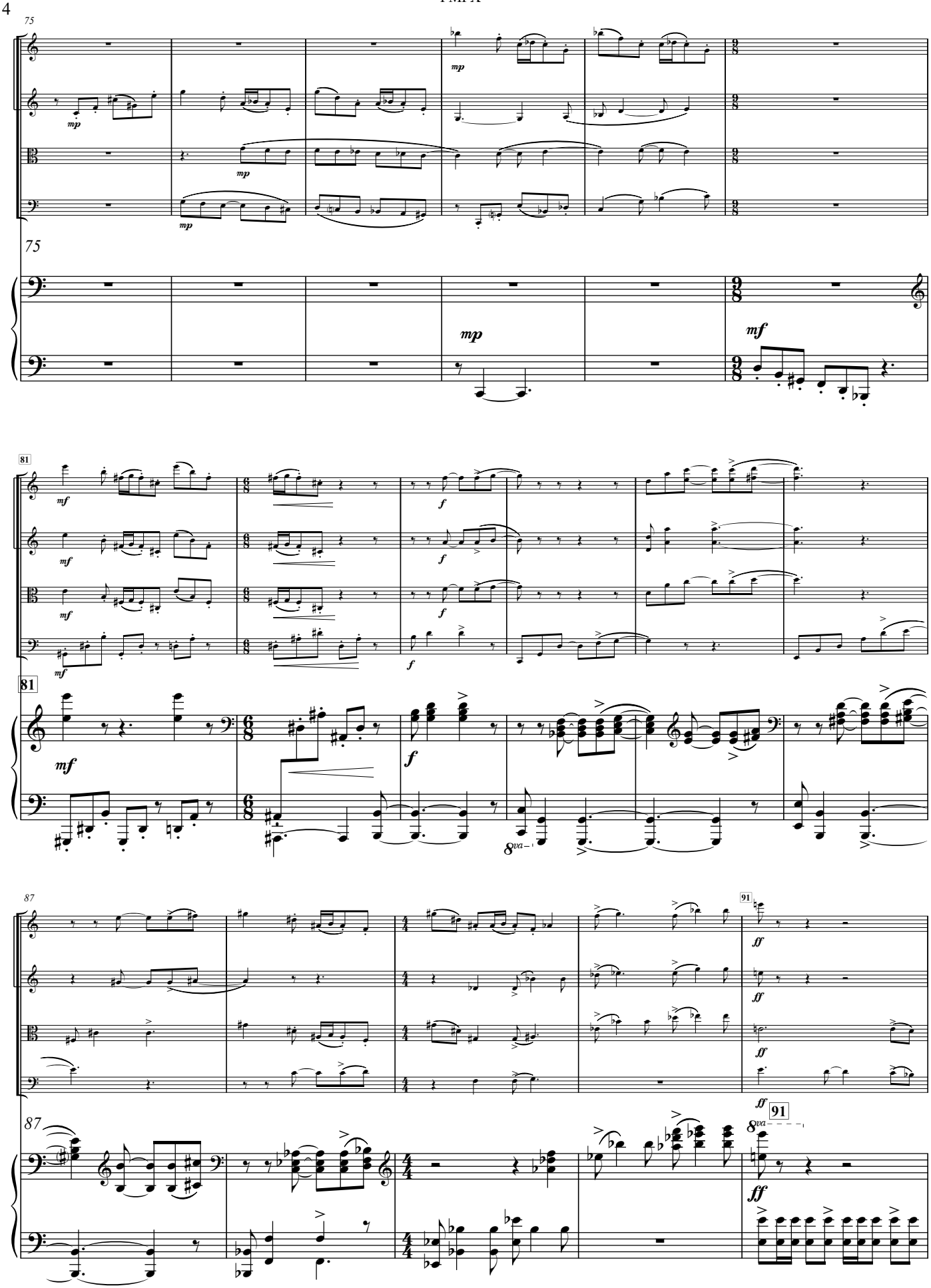
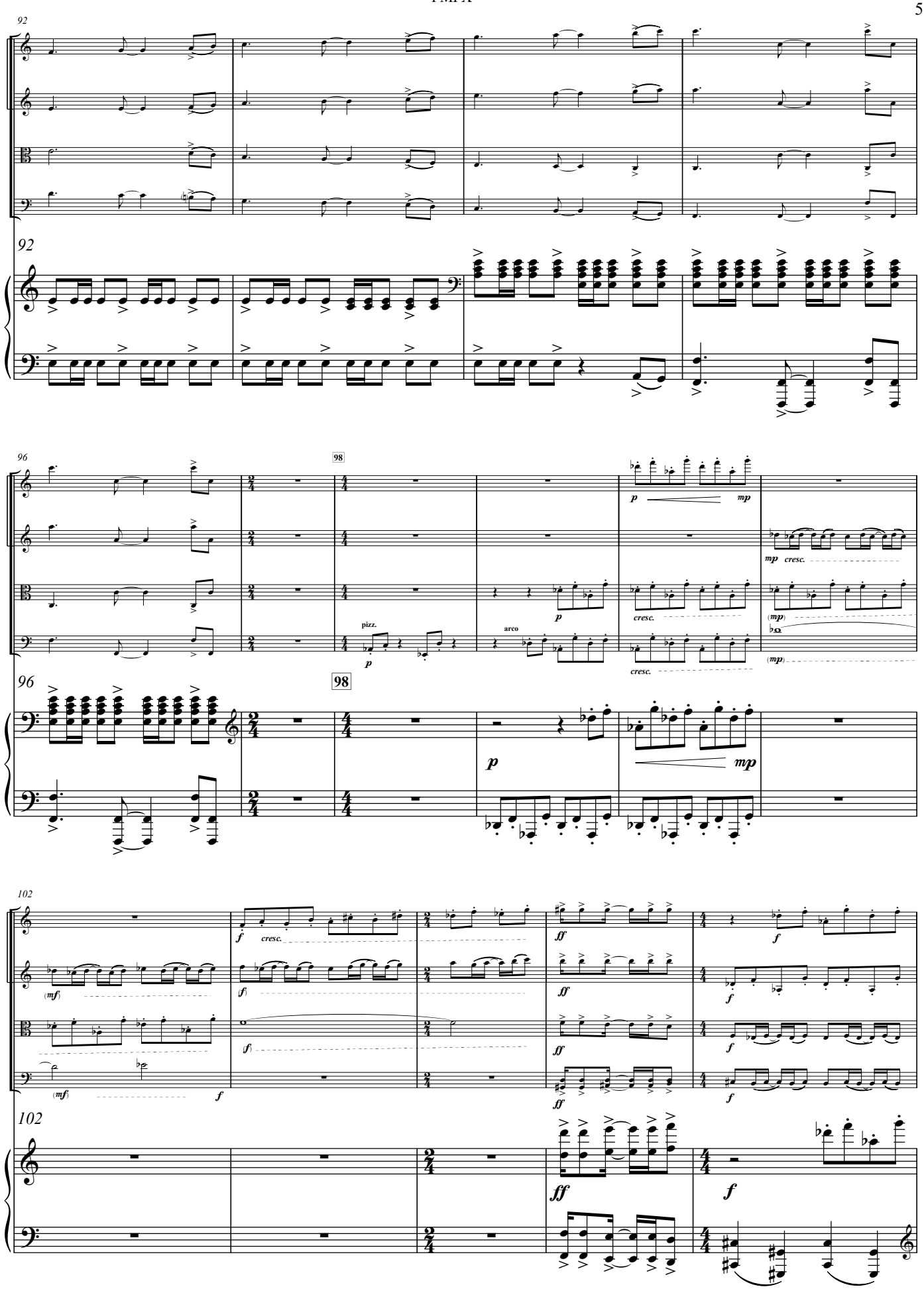
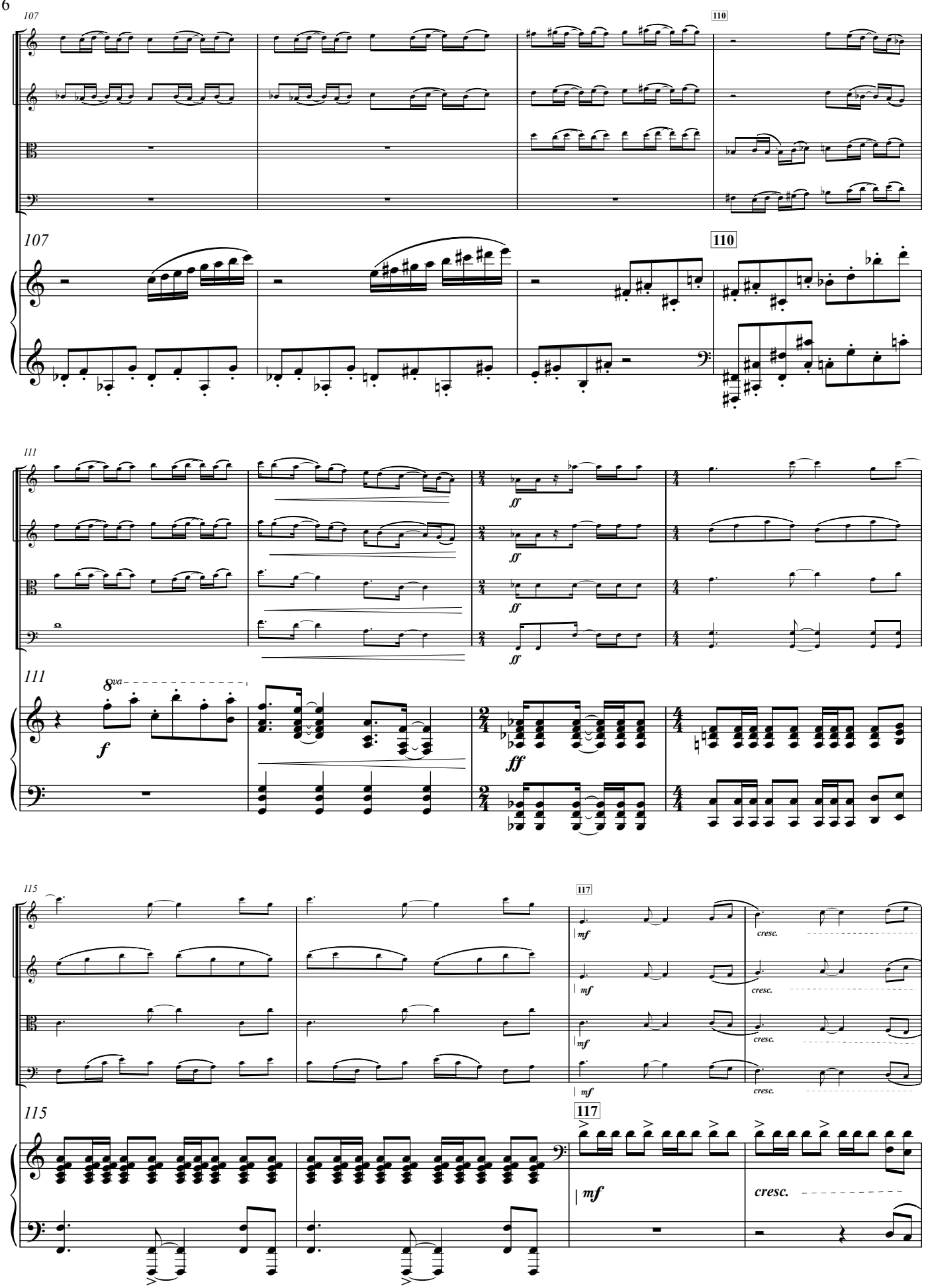
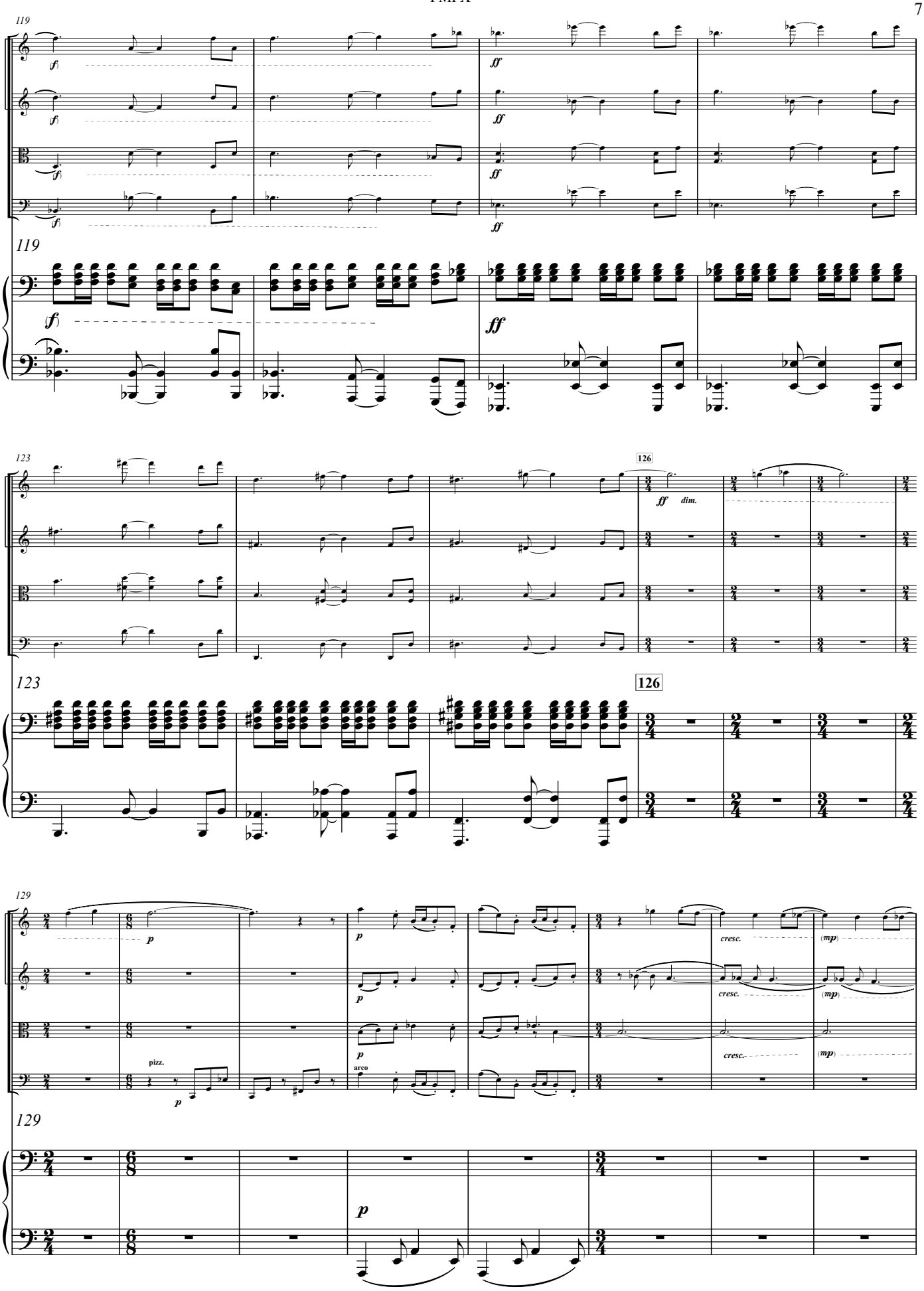

30
34
(mf)
mp
ff
gliss.
38
8va
Ped.
47
48

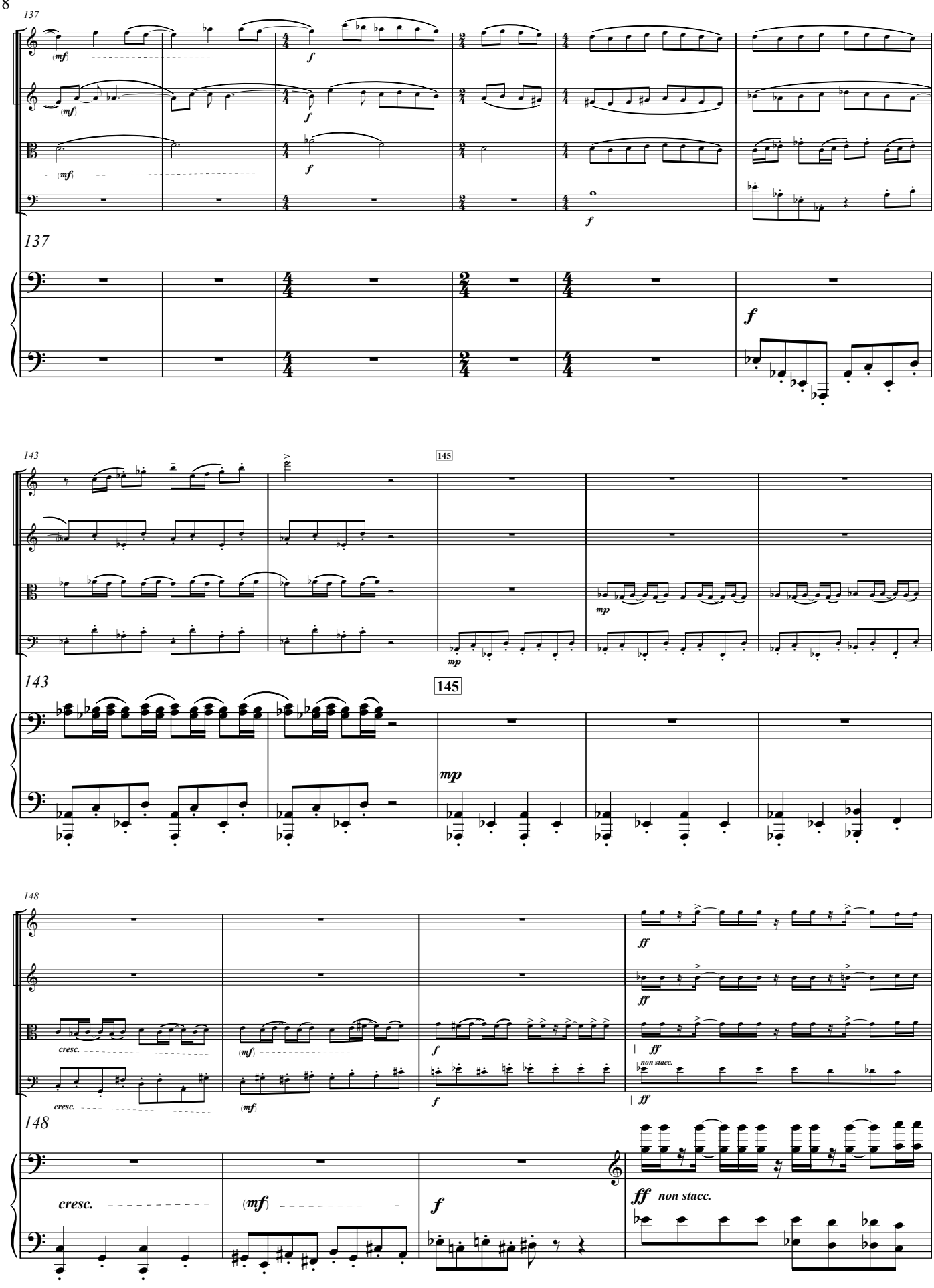

54
58
mf
54
58
60
mp
f
ff
60
67
72
p
67
72
p

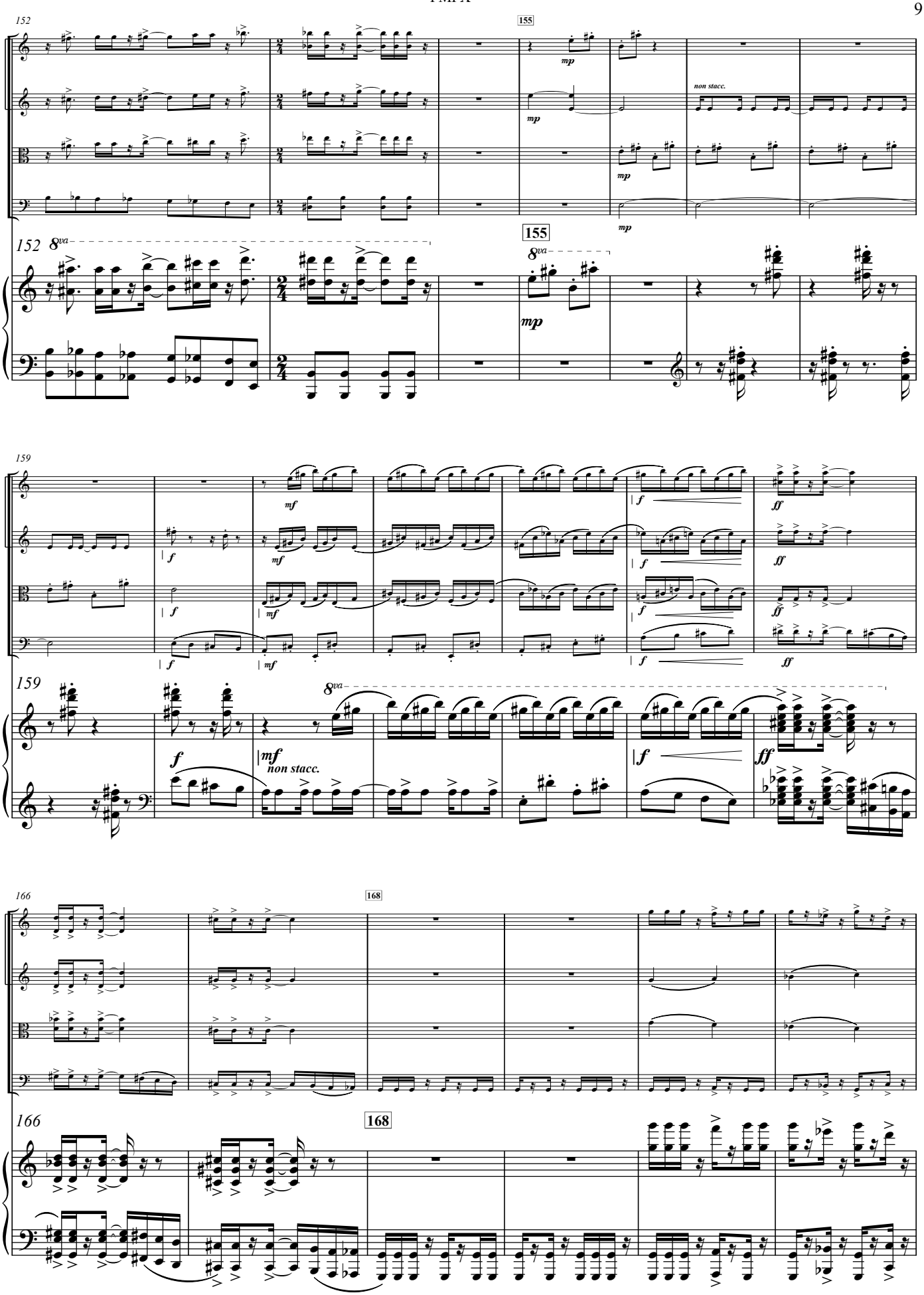

75
mp
mf
81
f
8va
87
91
ff

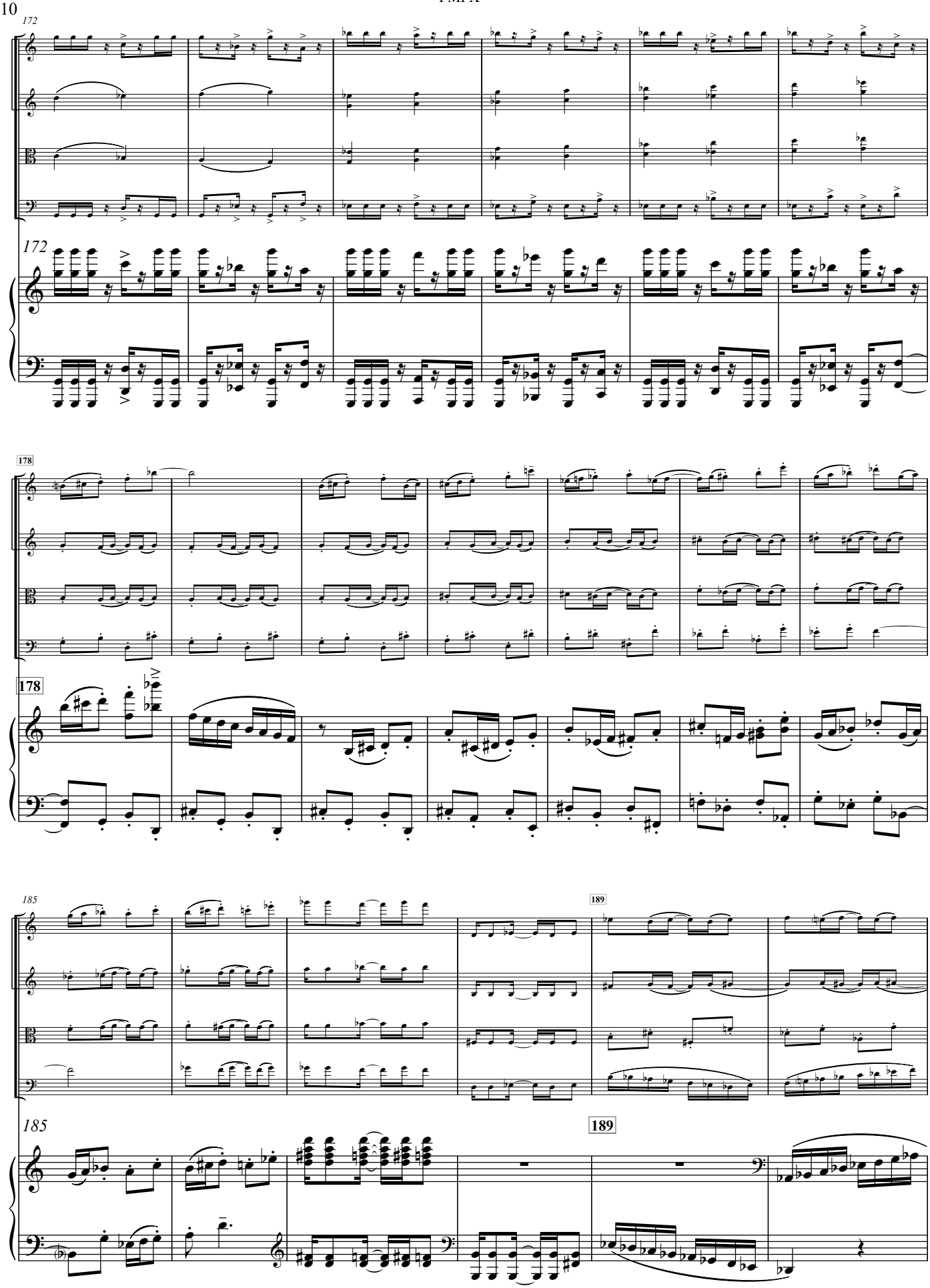

92
92
96
98
pizz.
arco
96
98
102
102

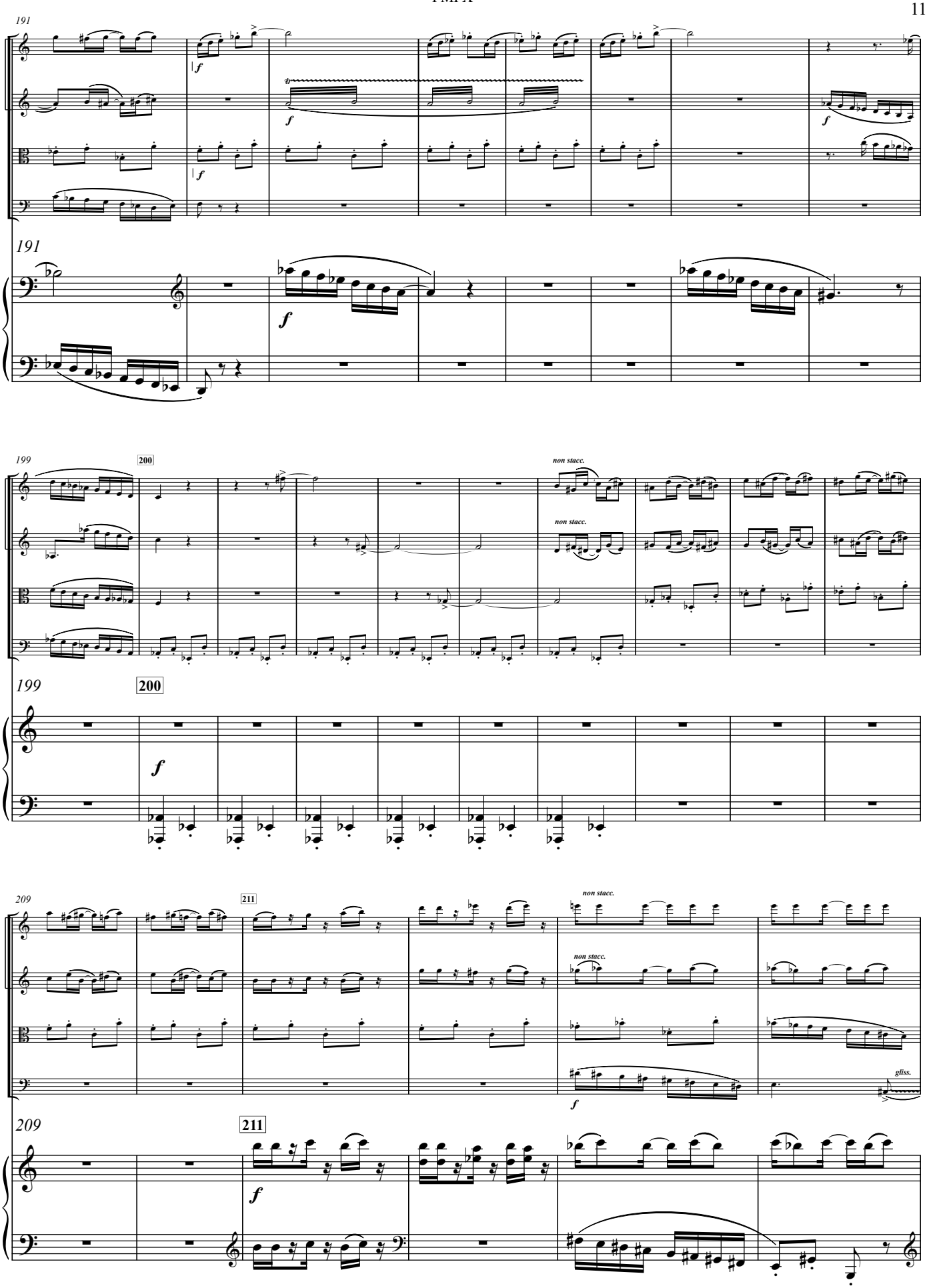

107
110
111
8va
ff
f
115
117
mf
cresc.

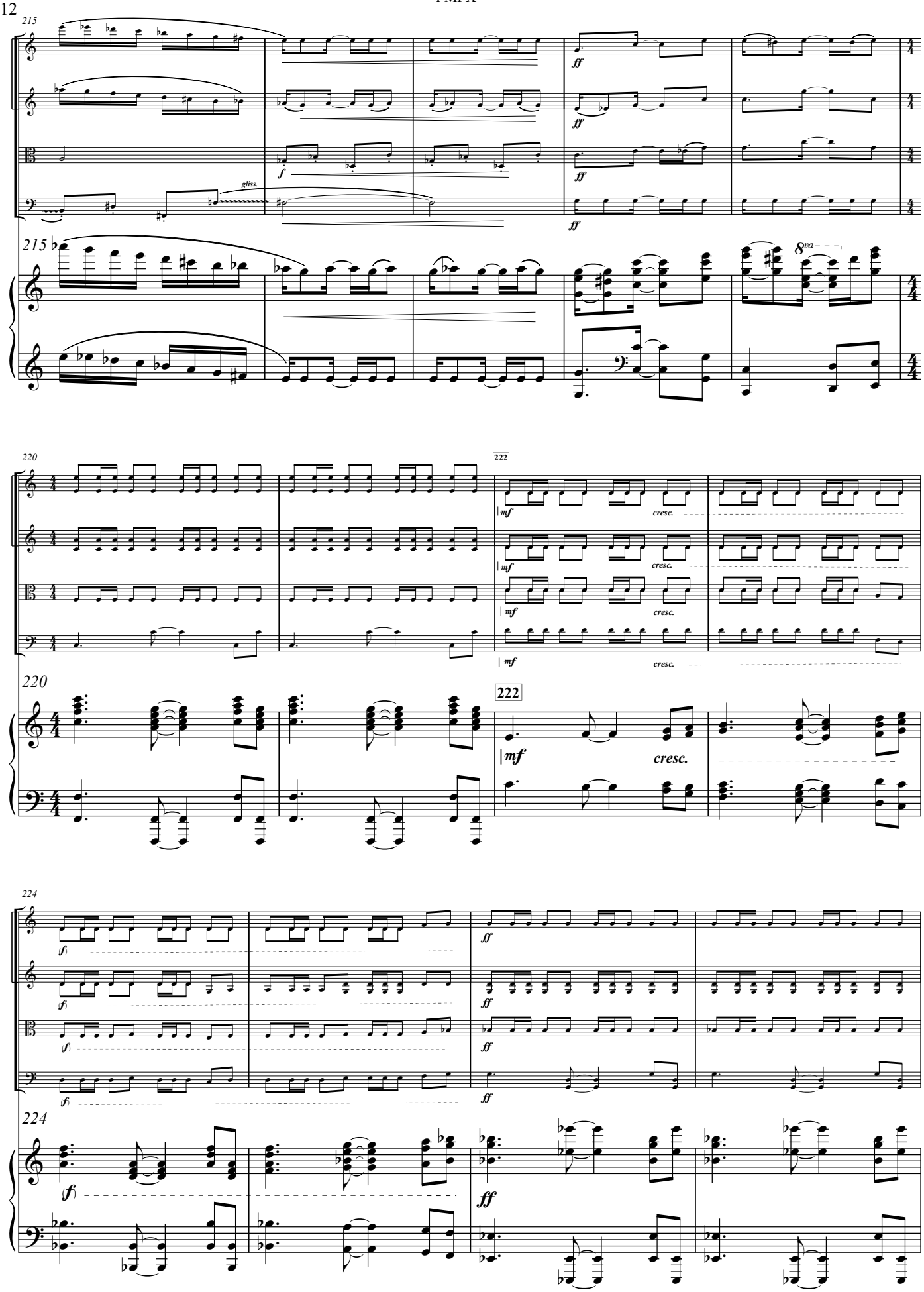

119
(f)
ff
123
126
dim.
129
p
pizz.
arco
cresc.
(mp)

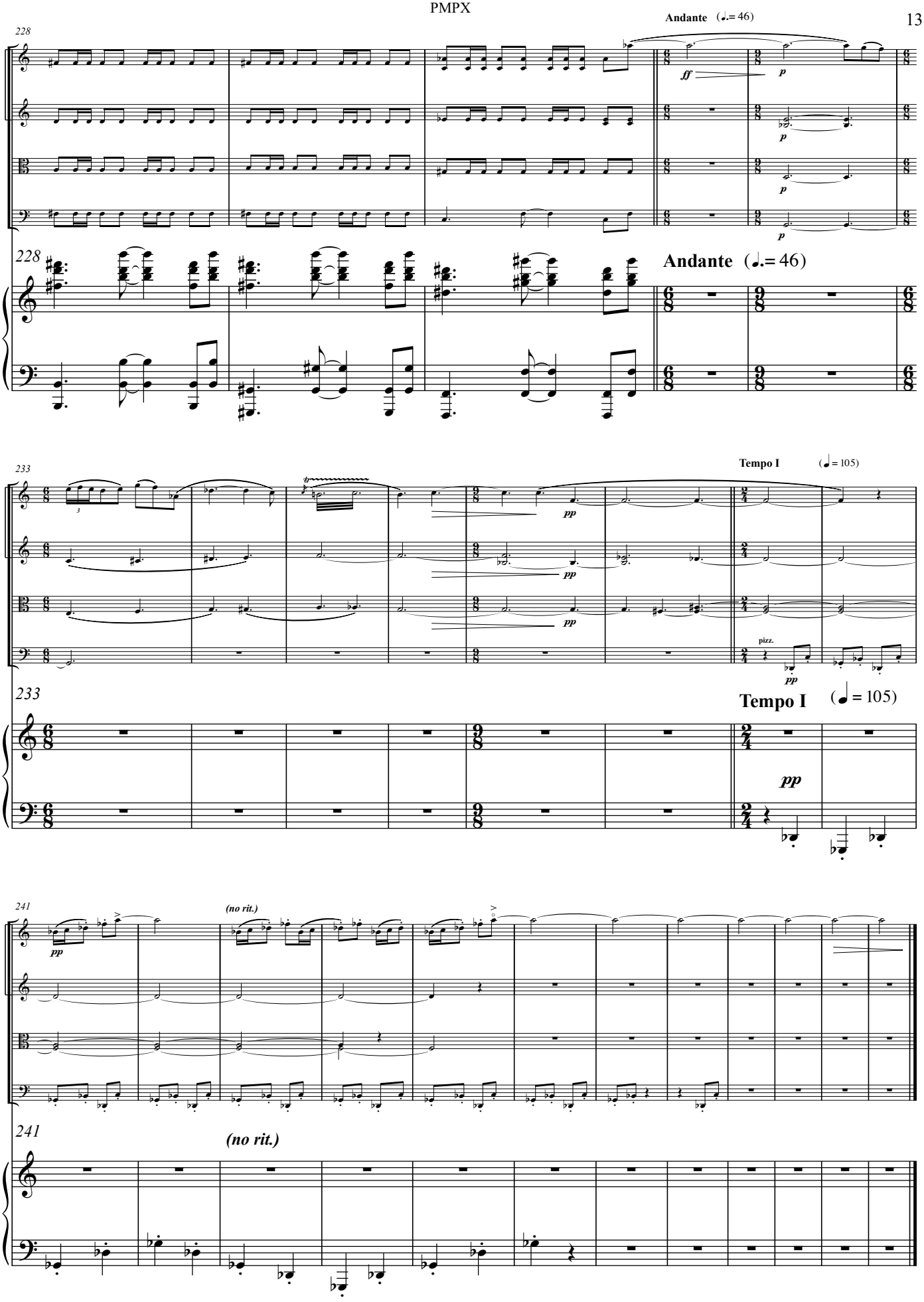

137
(mf)
f
137
f
143
145
mp
143
145
mp
148
cresc.
(mf)
f
ff
non stacc.
148
cresc.
(mf)
f
ff non stacc.


152
155
mp
non stacc.
8va
159
mf
f
ff
non stacc.
166
168

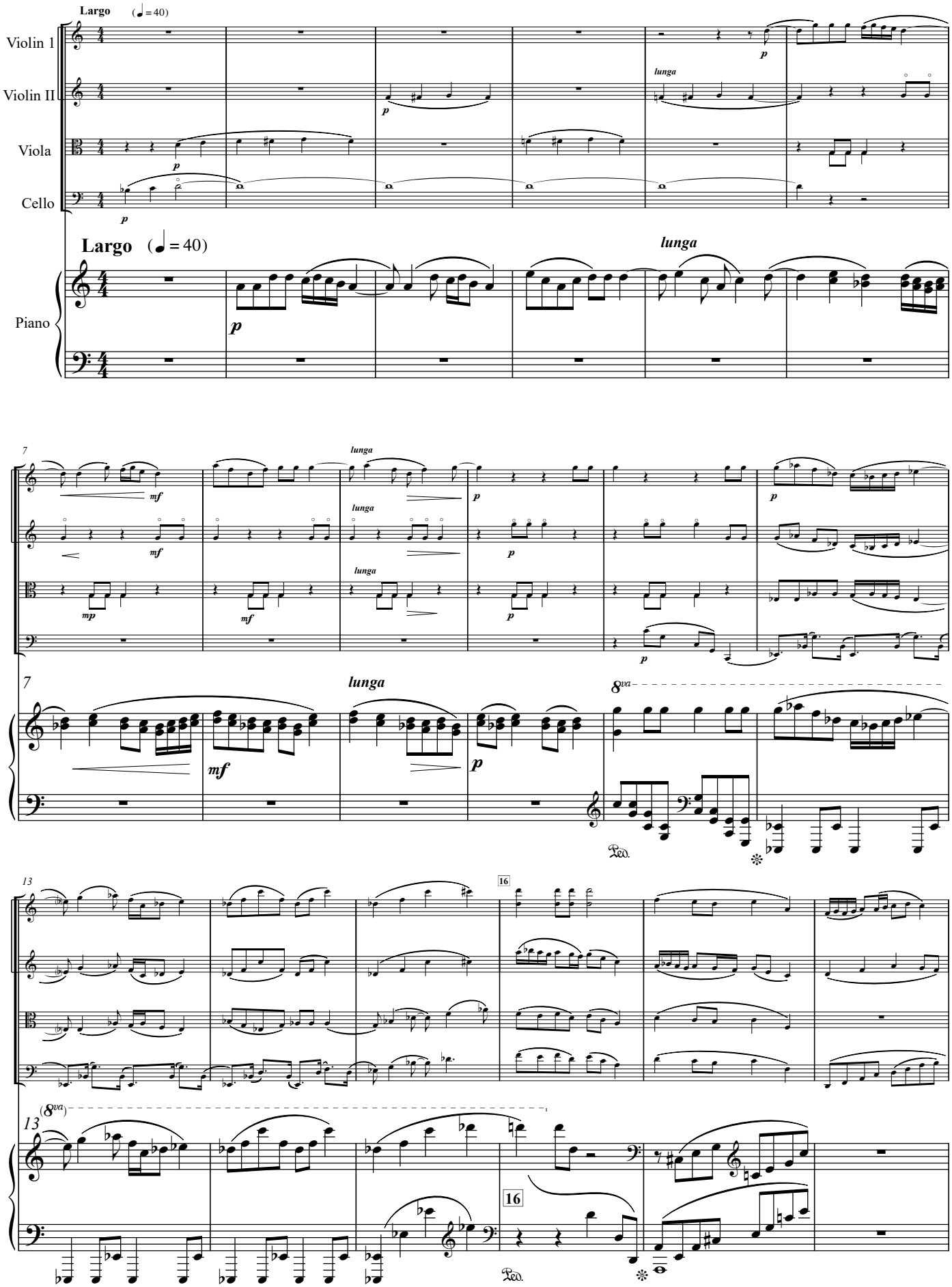

172
172
178
178
185
189
185
189

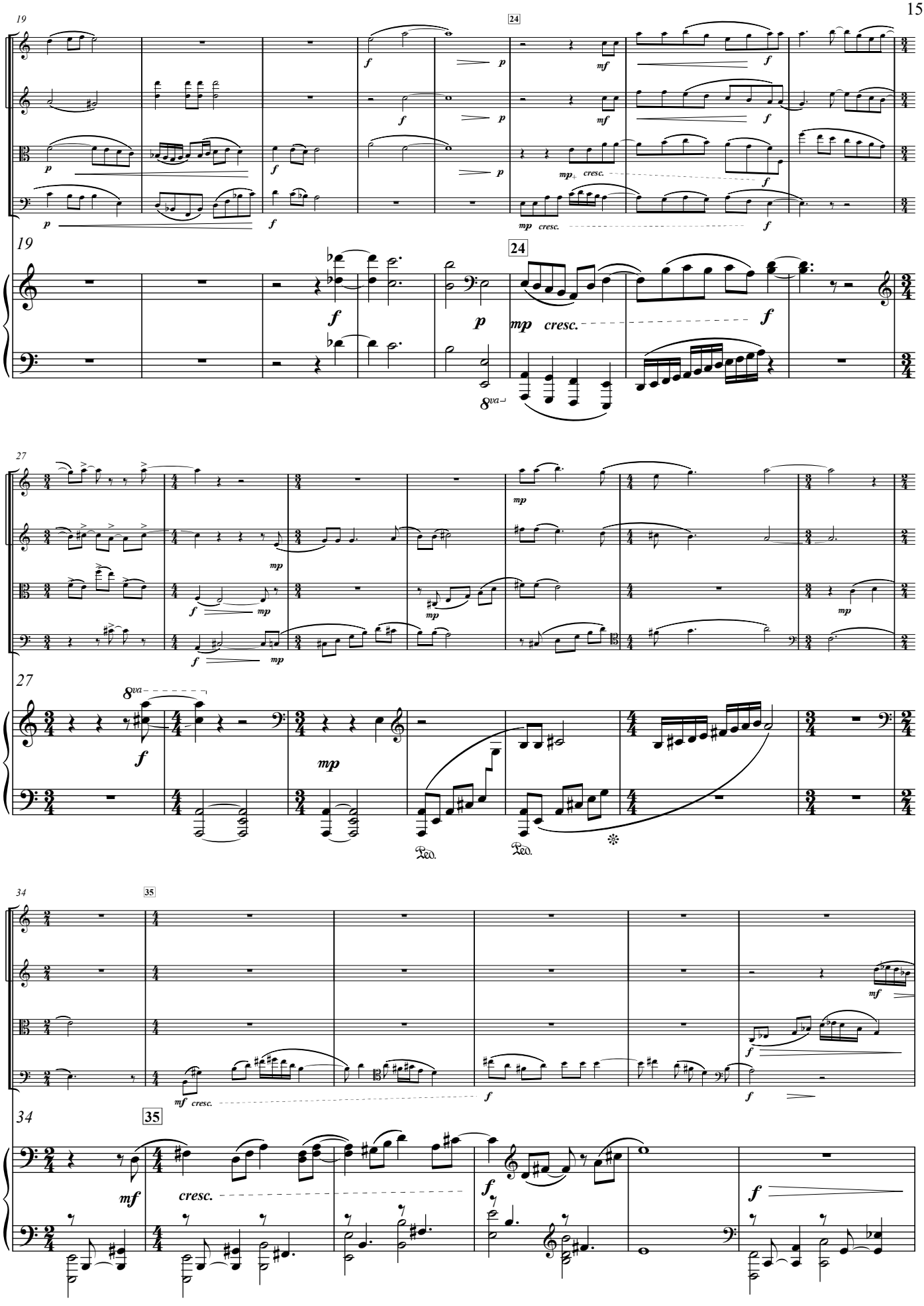

191
f
191
f
199
200
non stacc.
non stacc.
199
200
f
209
211
non stacc.
non stacc.
gliss.
209
211
f

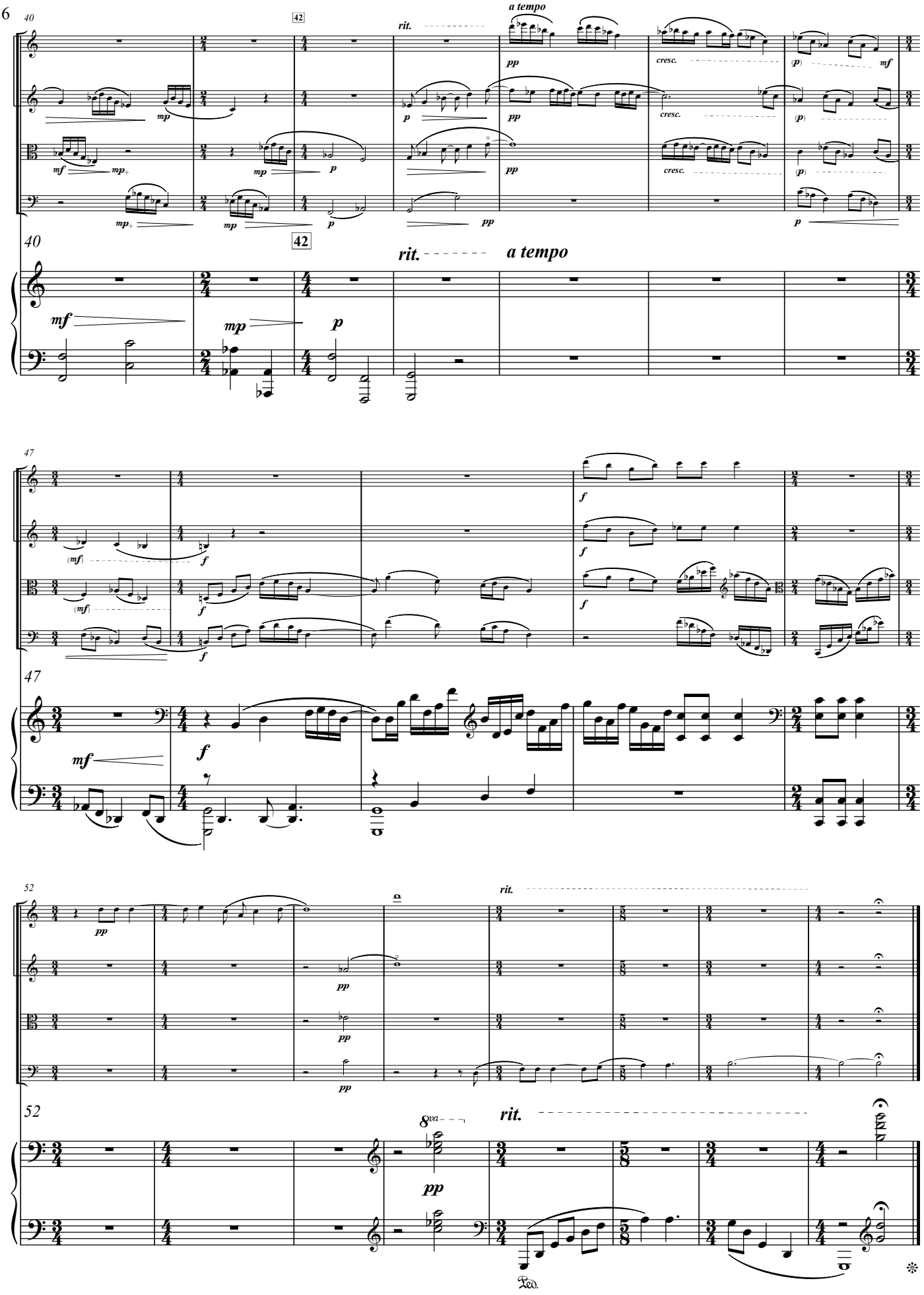

215
gliss.
ff
f
8va
220
222
mf
cresc.
224
sf
ff


228
Andante (♩.= 46)
ff
p
233
Tempo I (♩ = 105)
pp
pizz.
241
(no rit.)

II. A Little Poem [5:30]

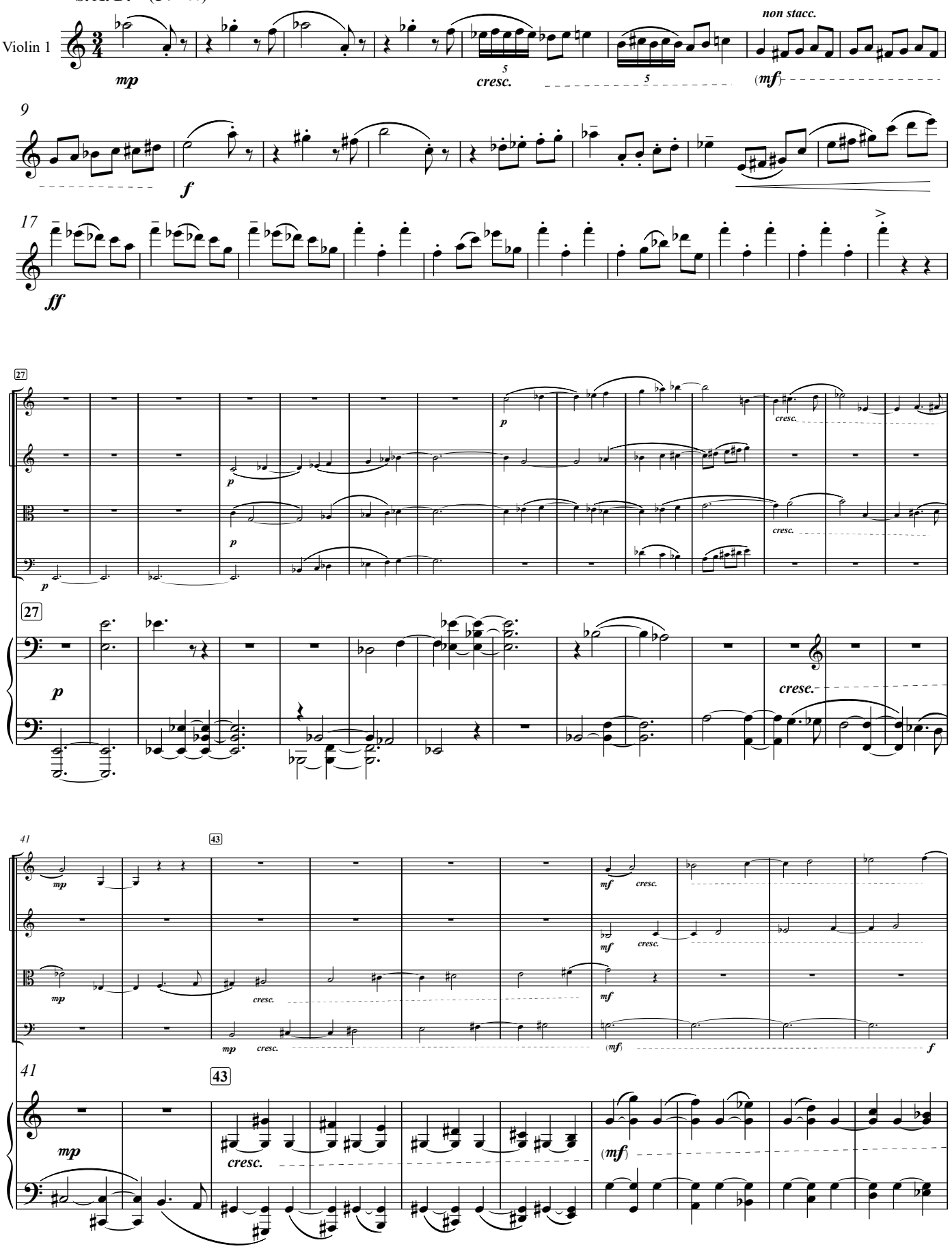


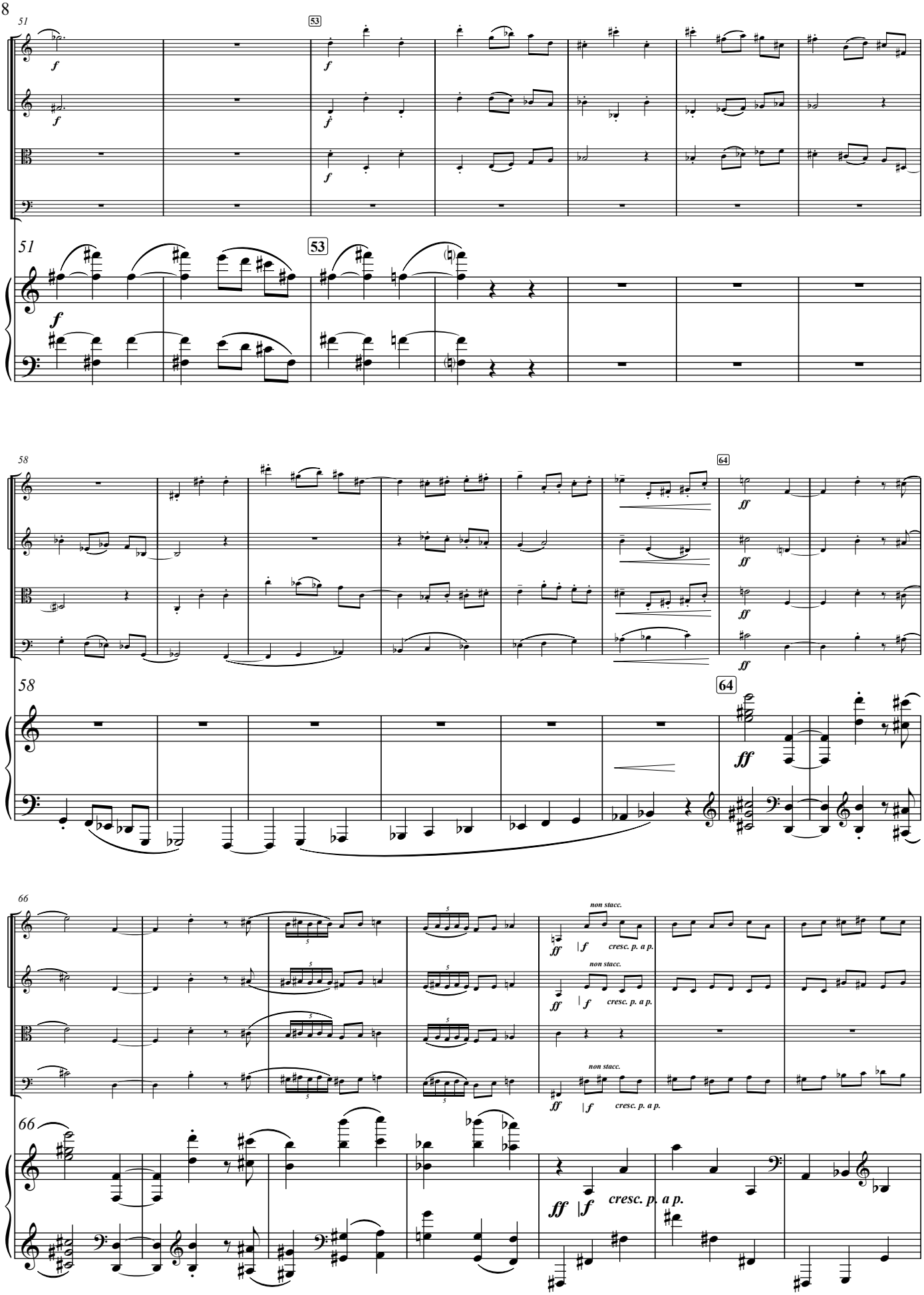

19
24
mp cresc.
8va
27
Ped.
34
35
mf cresc.

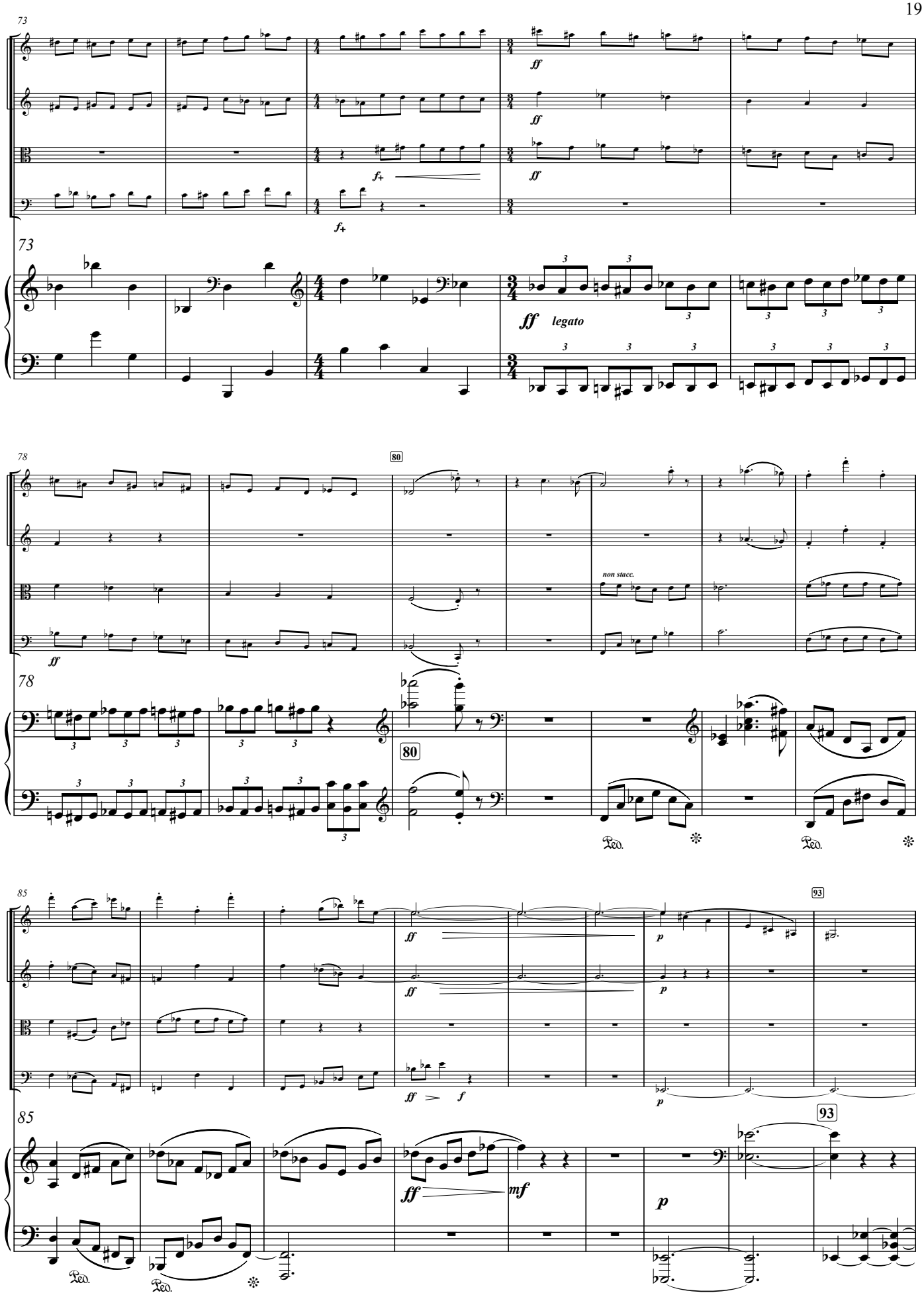

40
42
rit.
a tempo
cresc.
47
52
8va
Ped.

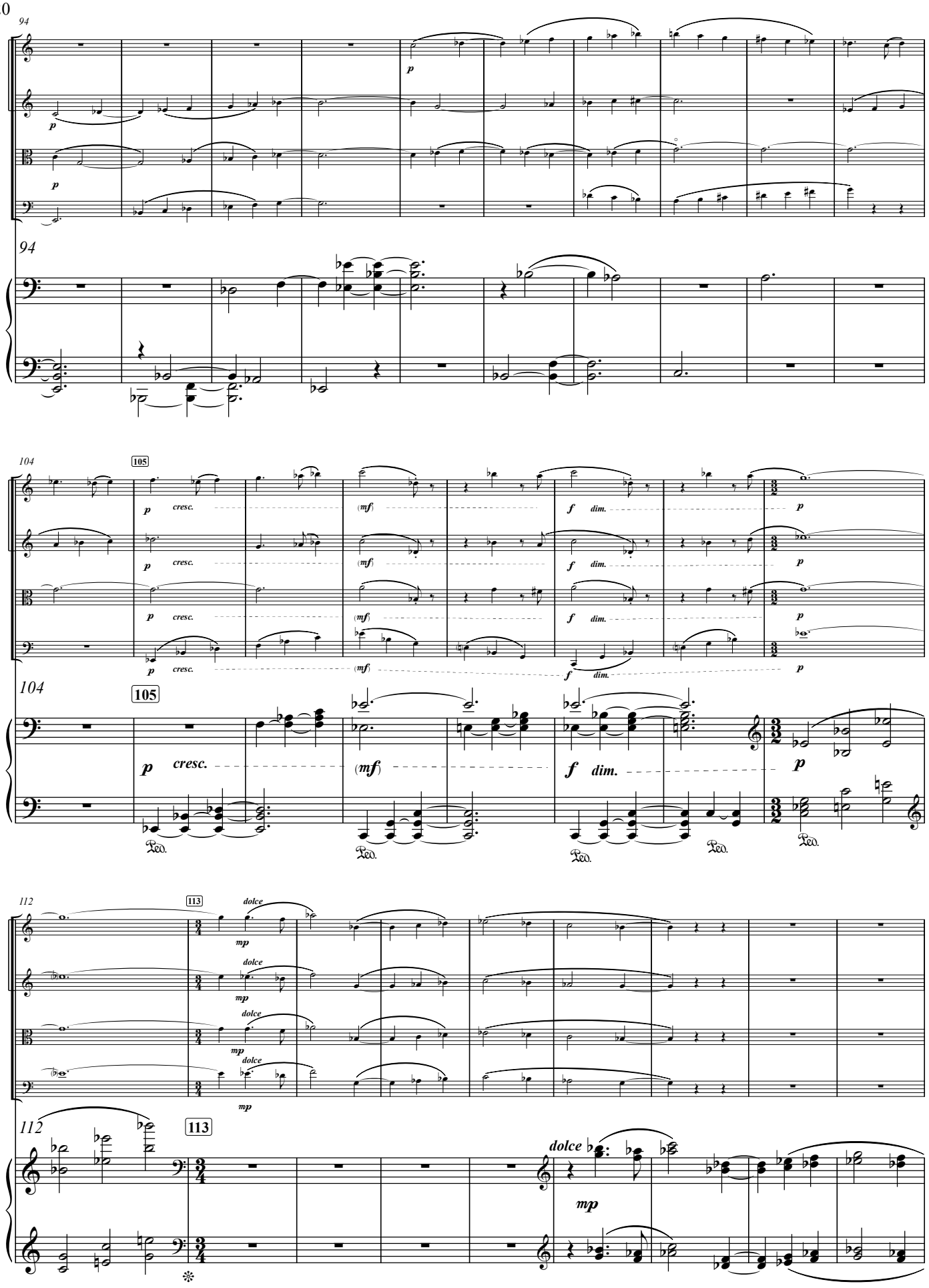
S. A. D. (𝅗𝅥.= 60)

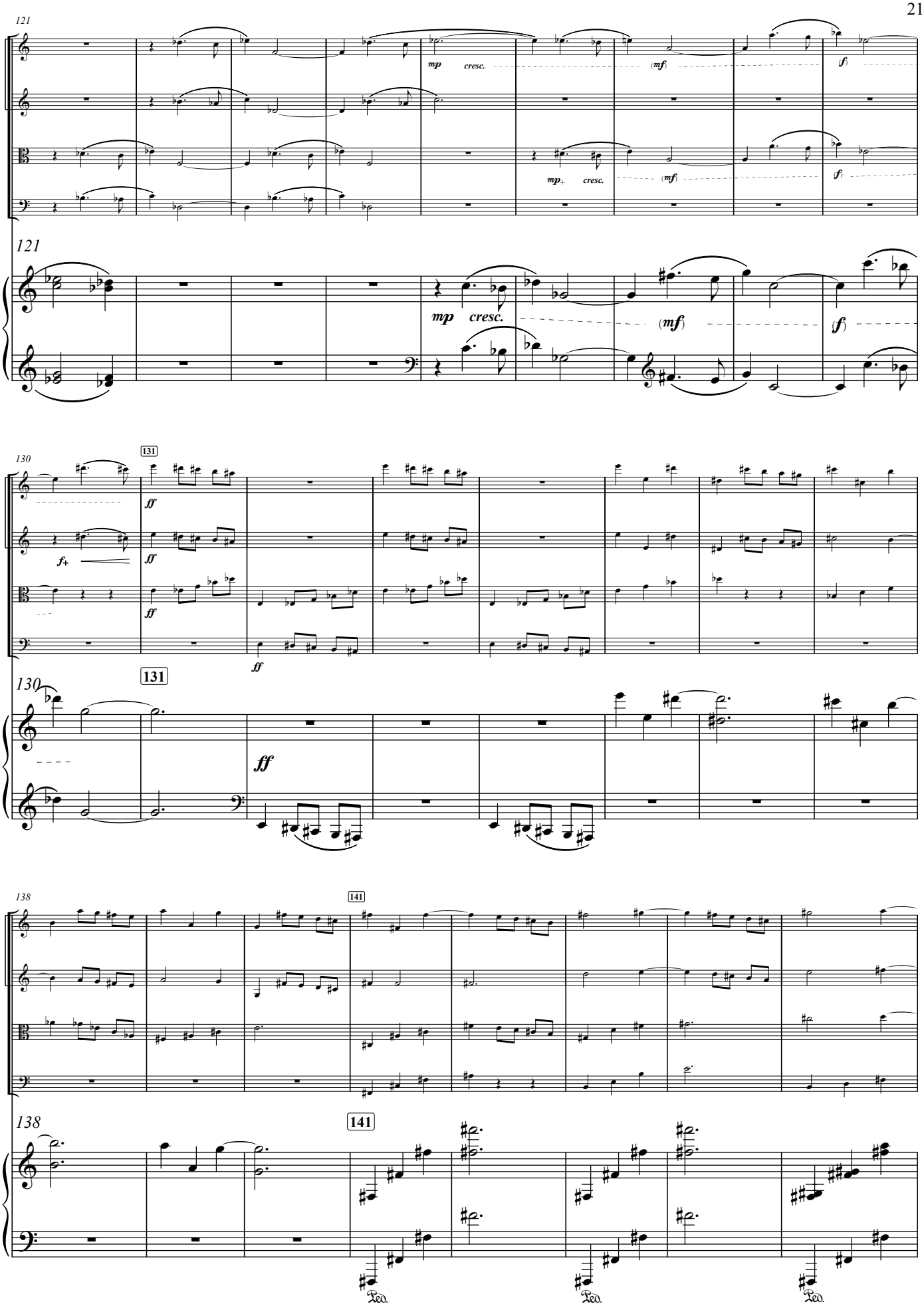
Violin 1

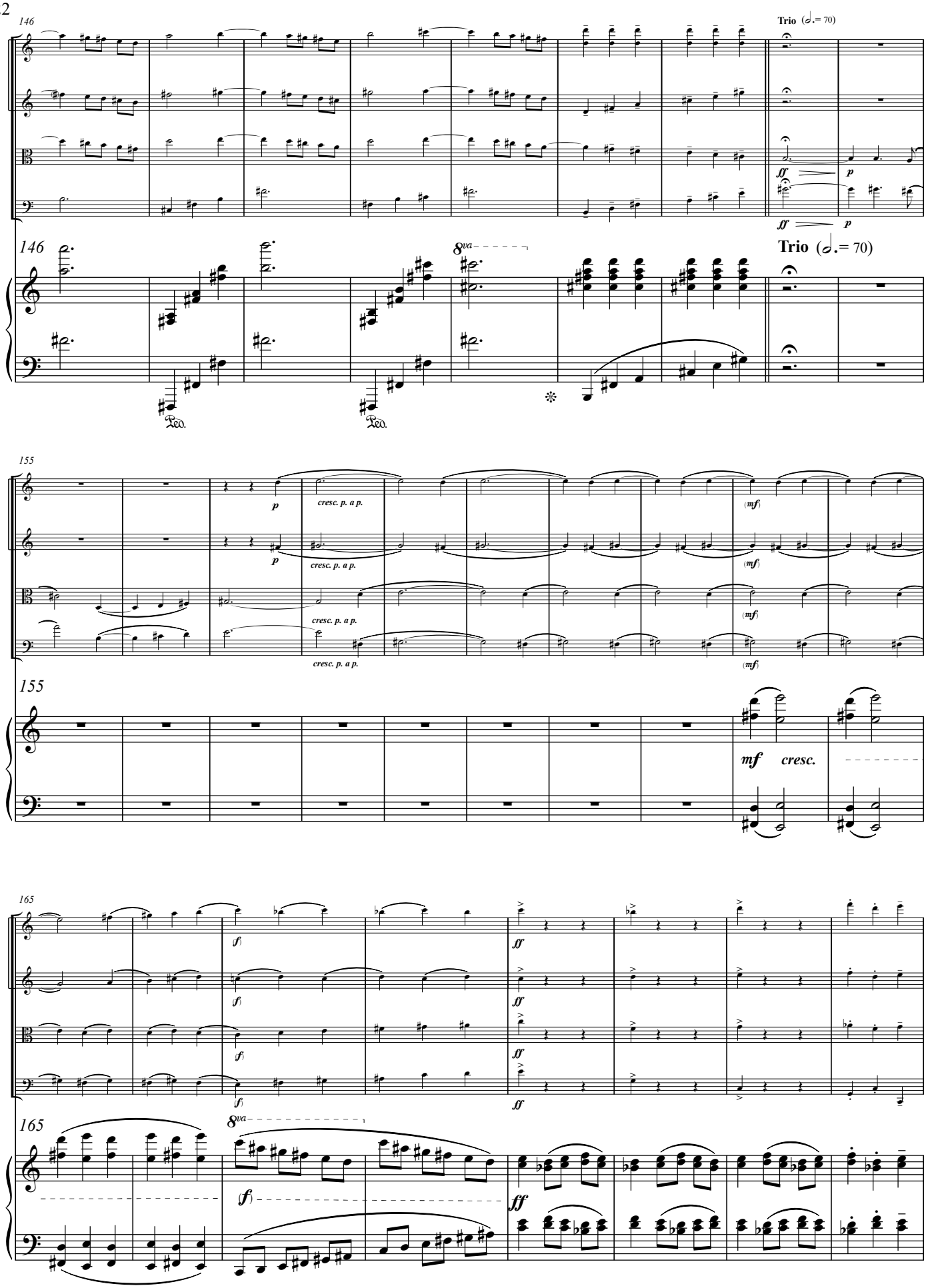


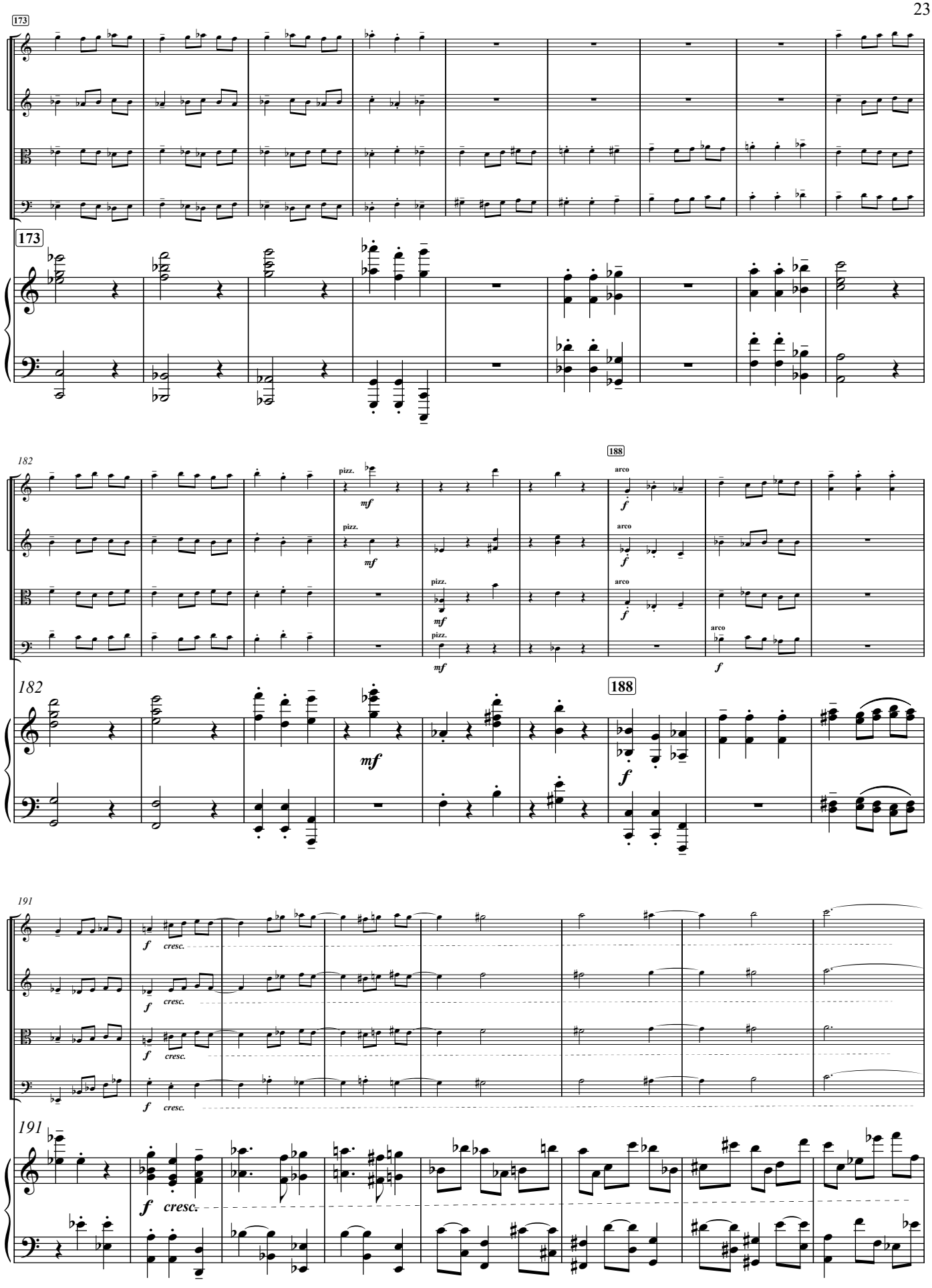

51
53
f
58
64
ff
66
non stacc.
cresc. p. a p.

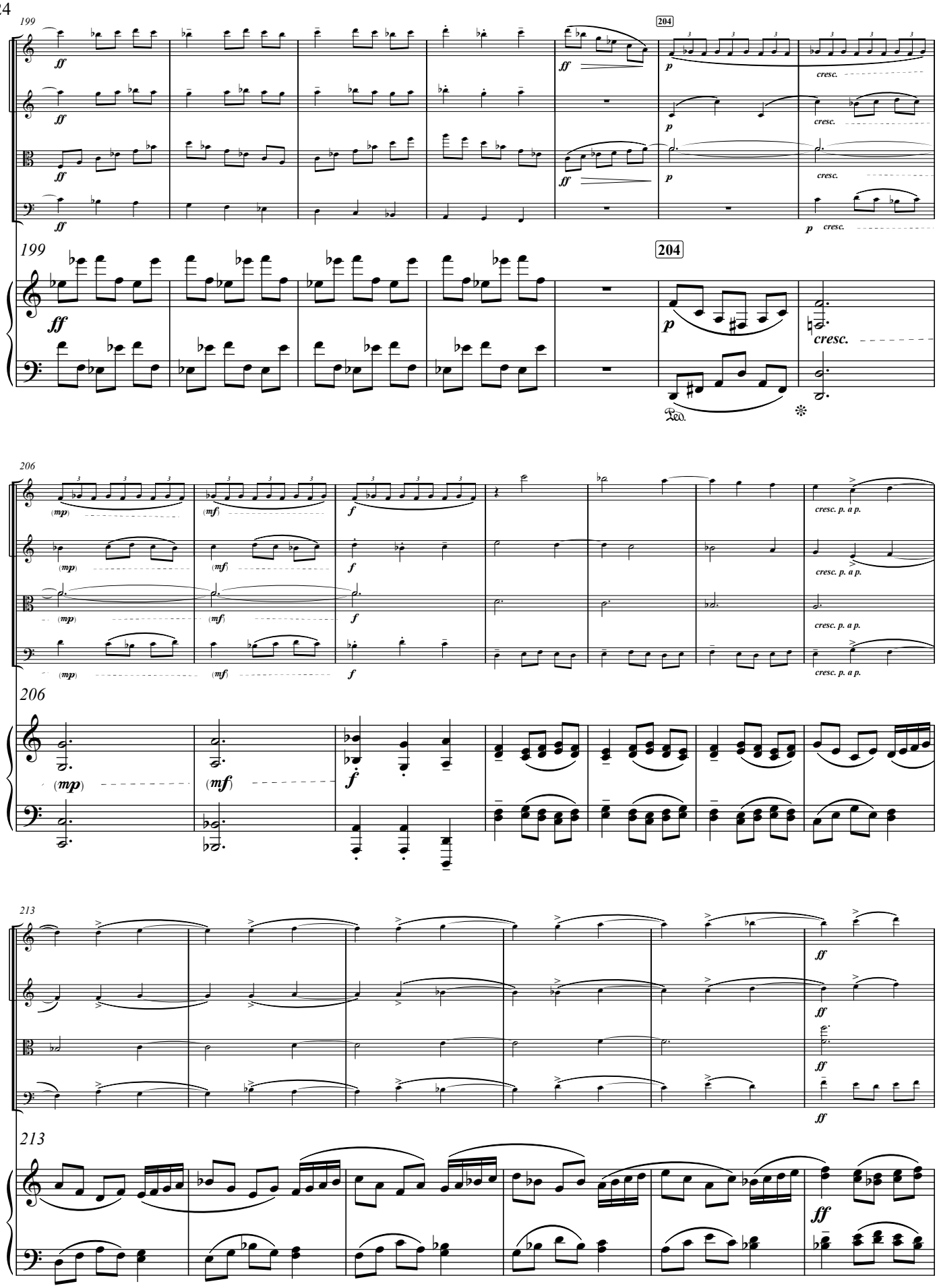

73
ff
ff
ff
f+
f+
73
ff
legato
78
80
non stacc.
ff
78
80
Ped.
Ped.
85
93
ff
p
ff
p
ff
f
p
85
93
ff
mf
p
Ped.
Ped.

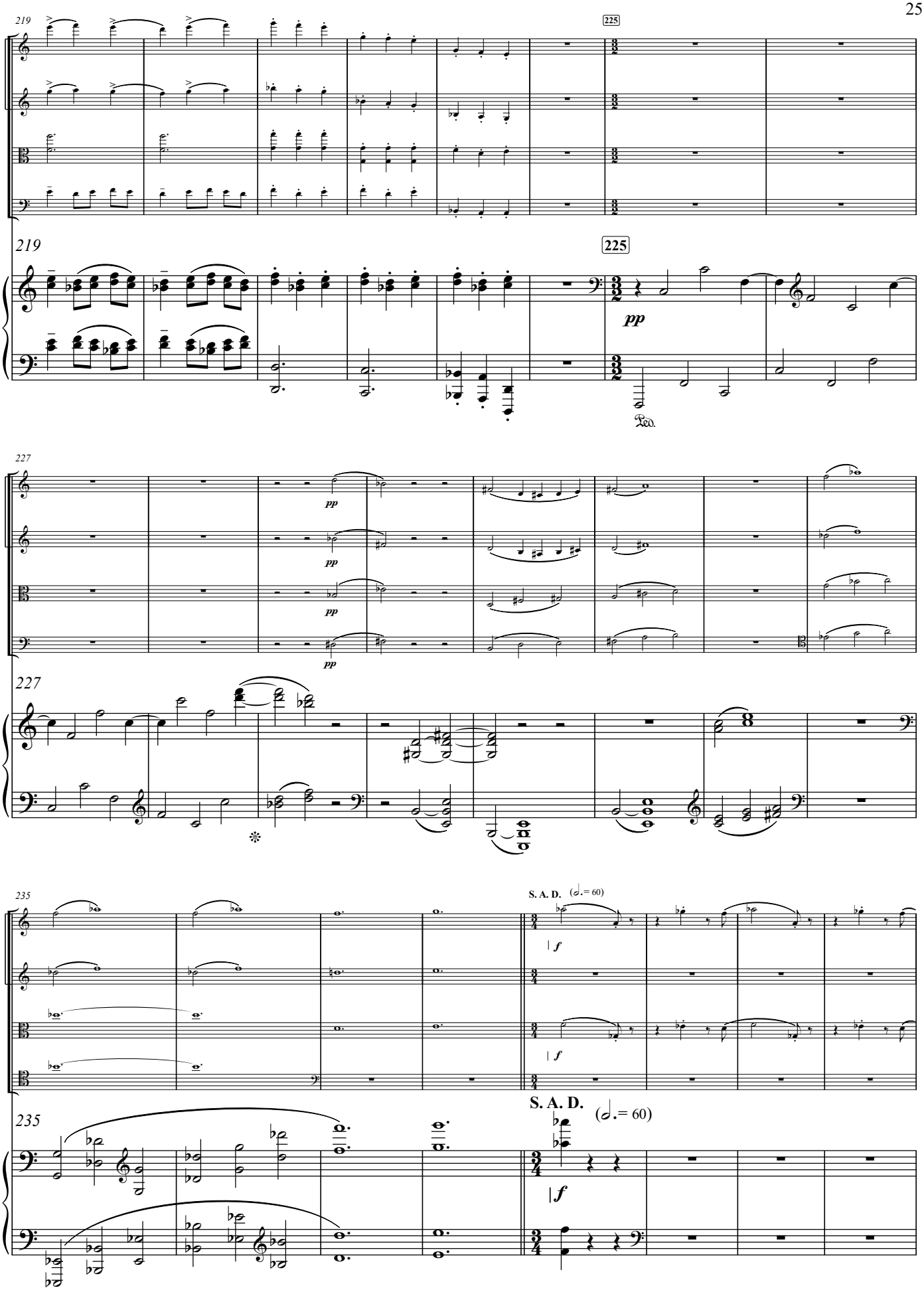

94
p
94
104
105
p cresc.
(mf)
f dim.
p
104
105
p cresc.
(mf)
f dim.
p
Ped.
112
113
dolce
mp
112
113
dolce
mp

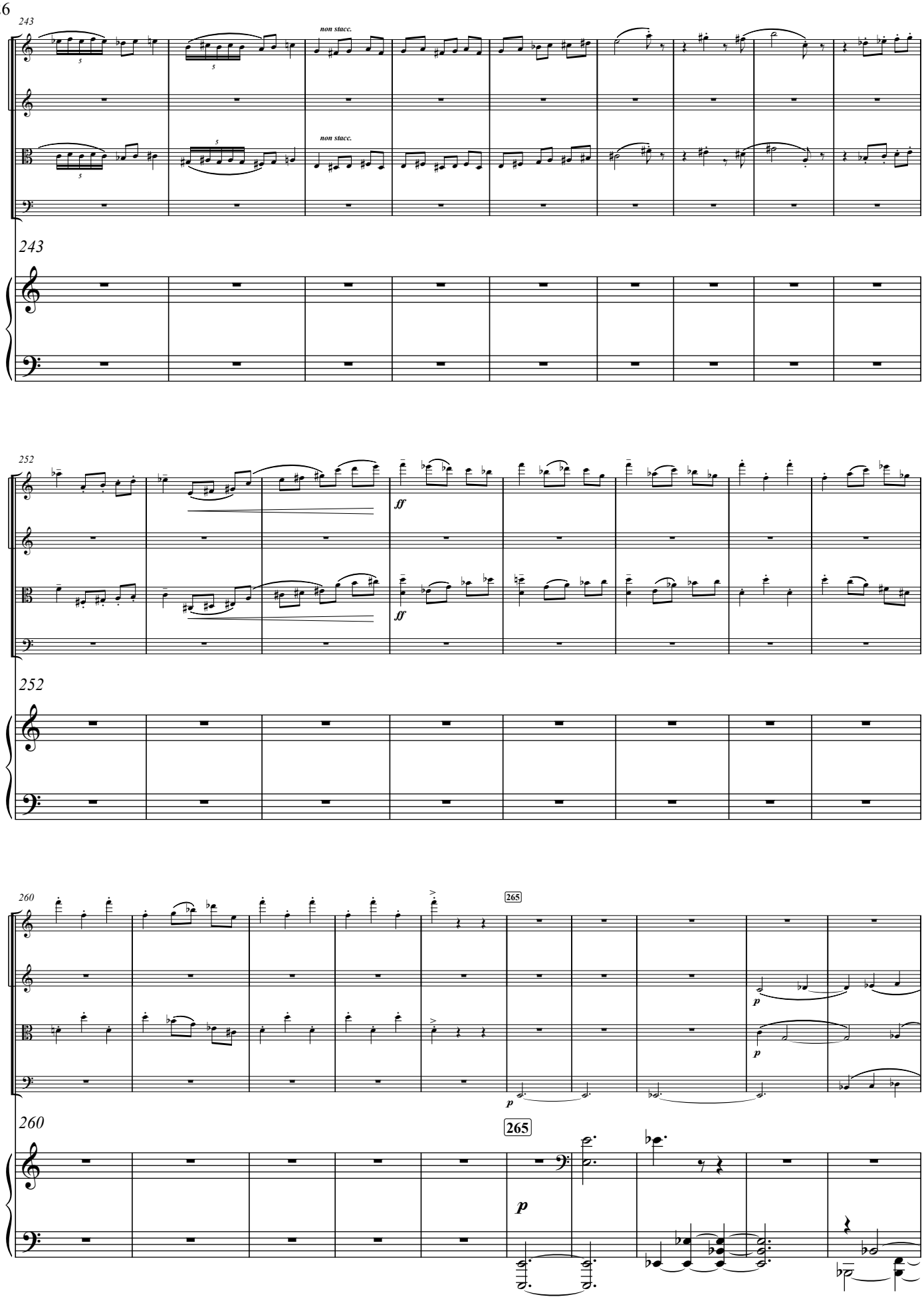

121
mp cresc.
(mf)
(f)
mp+ cresc.
(mf)
(f)
121
mp cresc.
(mf)
(f)
130
131
ff
f+
ff
ff
ff
130
131
ff
138
141
138
141
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

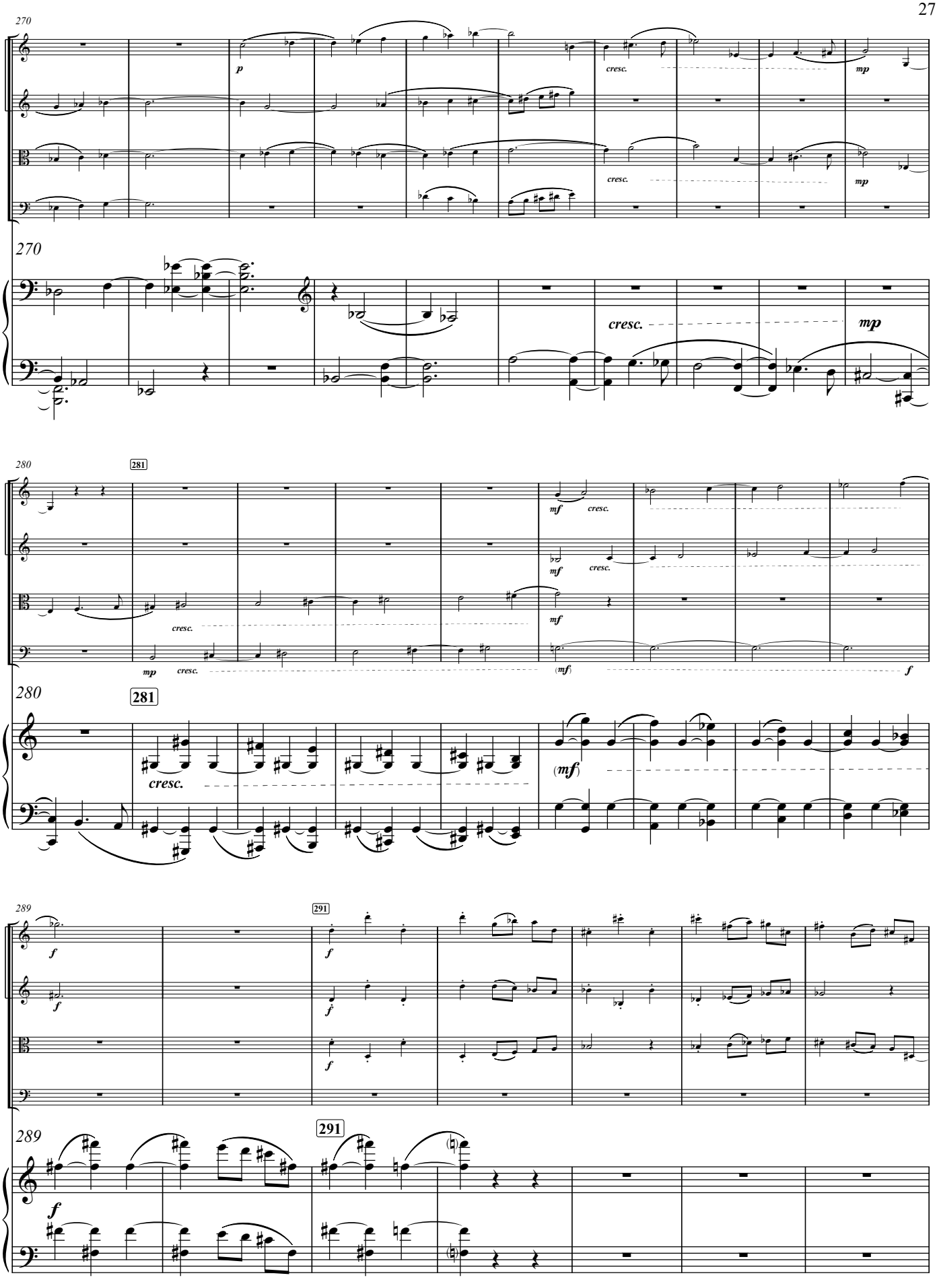

146
Trio (𝅗𝅥.= 70)
ff
p
8va
Ped.
155
cresc. p. a p.
(mf)
mf cresc.
165
(f)
ff
8va

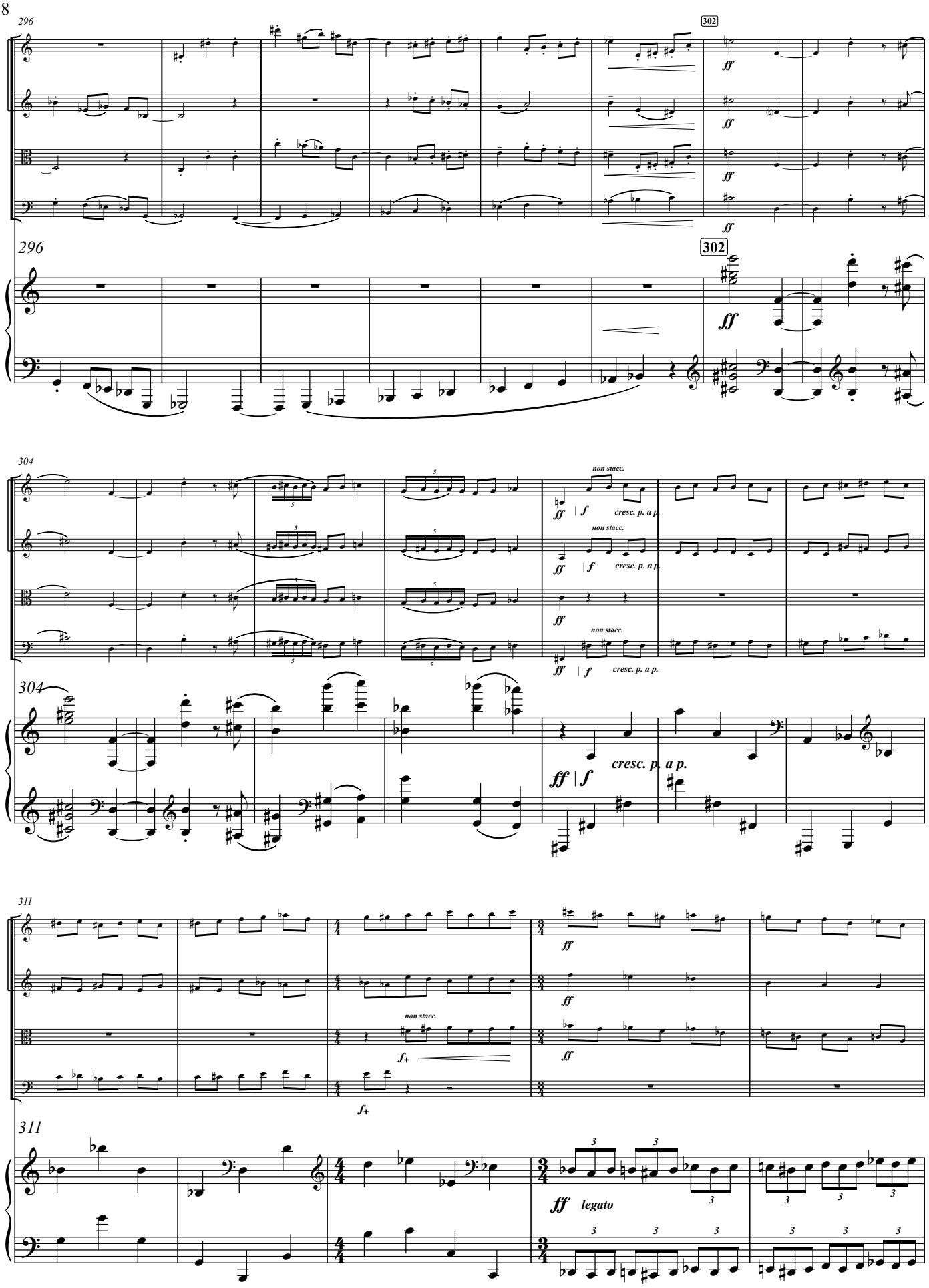

173
173
182
188
pizz.
mf
arco
f
182
188
mf
f
191
f
cresc.
191
f
cresc.

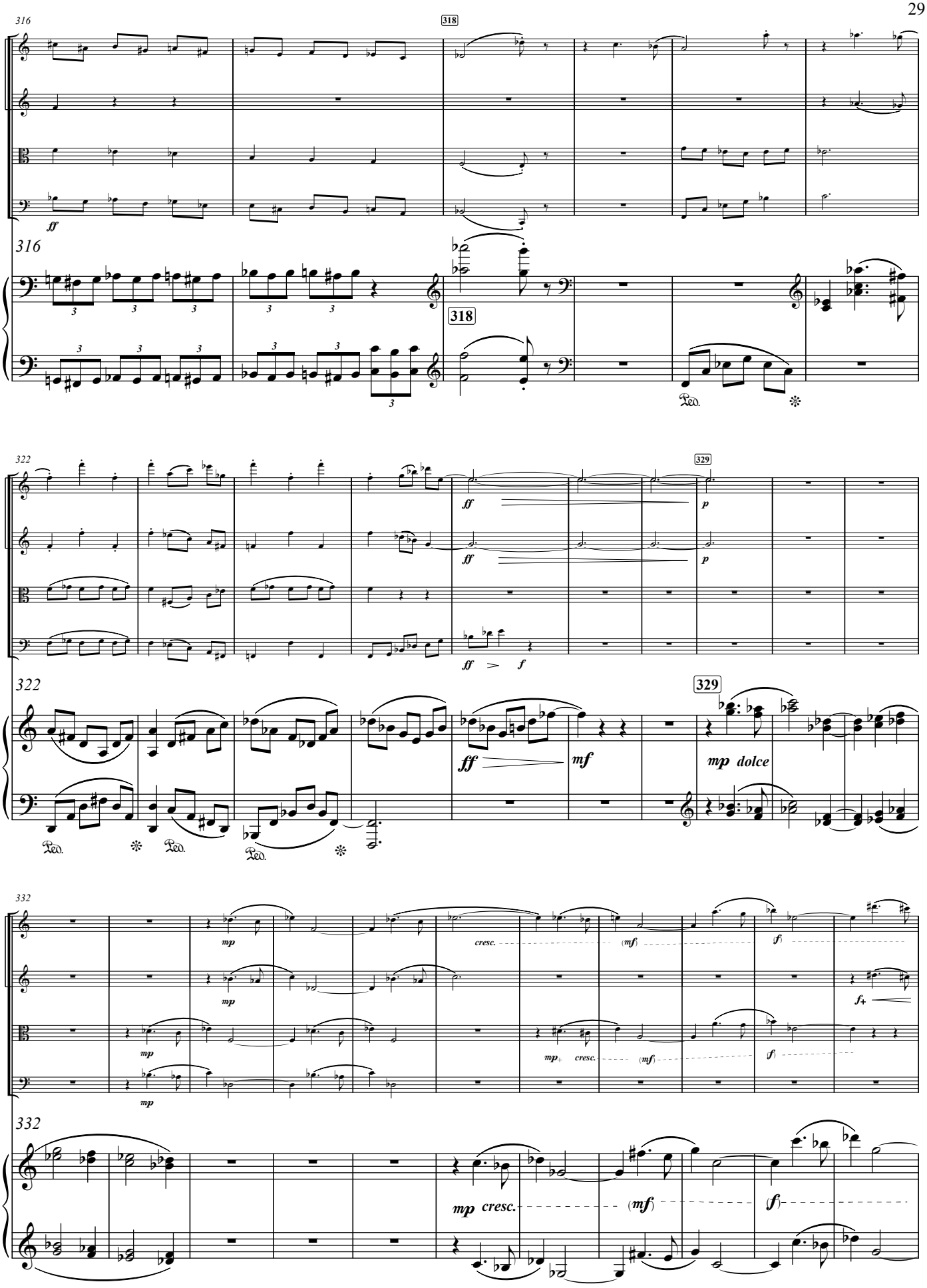

199
204
ff
p
cresc.
206
(mp)
(mf)
f
cresc. p. a p.
213
ff

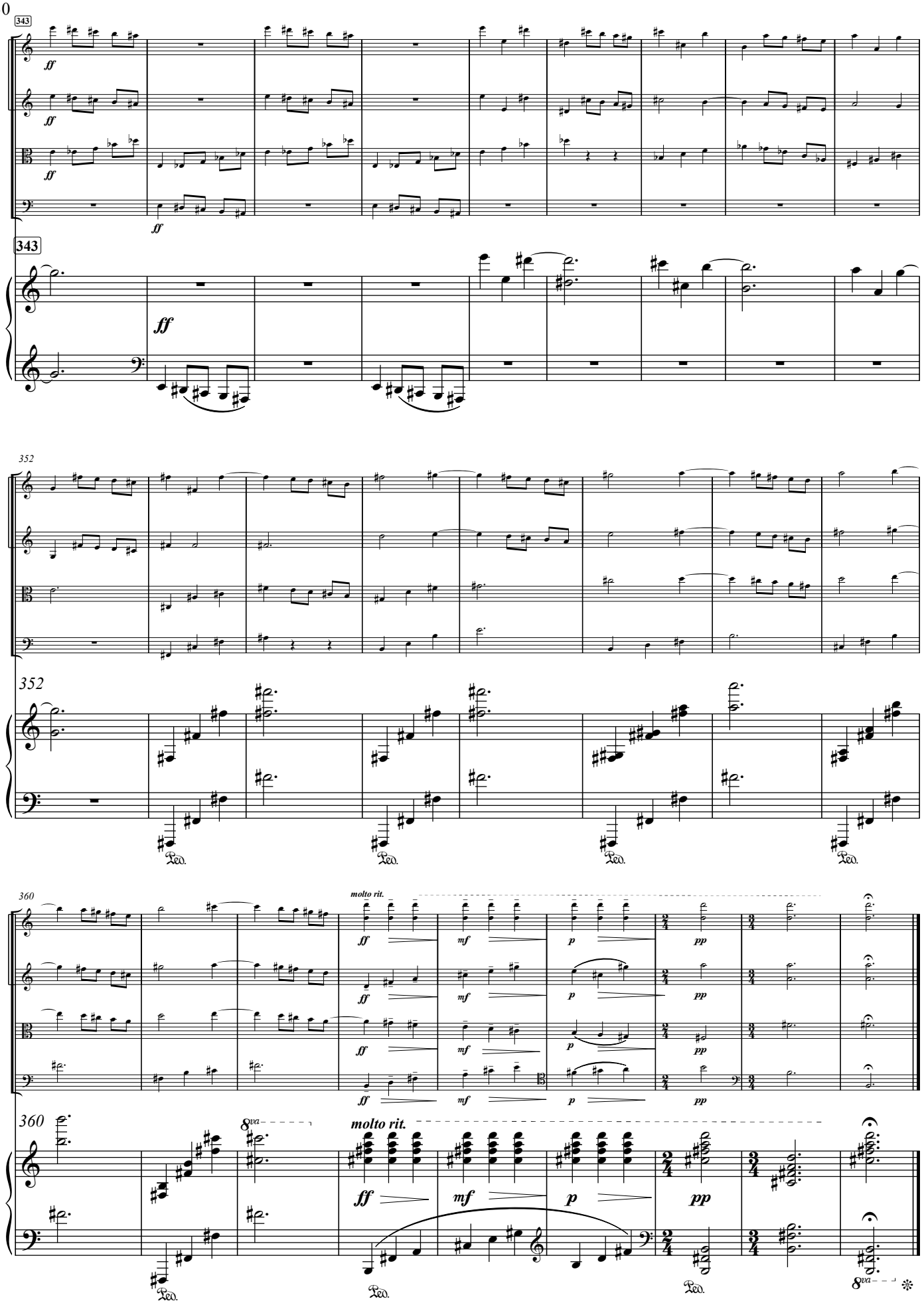

219
225
pp
219
225
pp
227
227
235
S. A. D. (𝅗𝅥.= 60)
f
235
S. A. D. (𝅗𝅥.= 60)
f

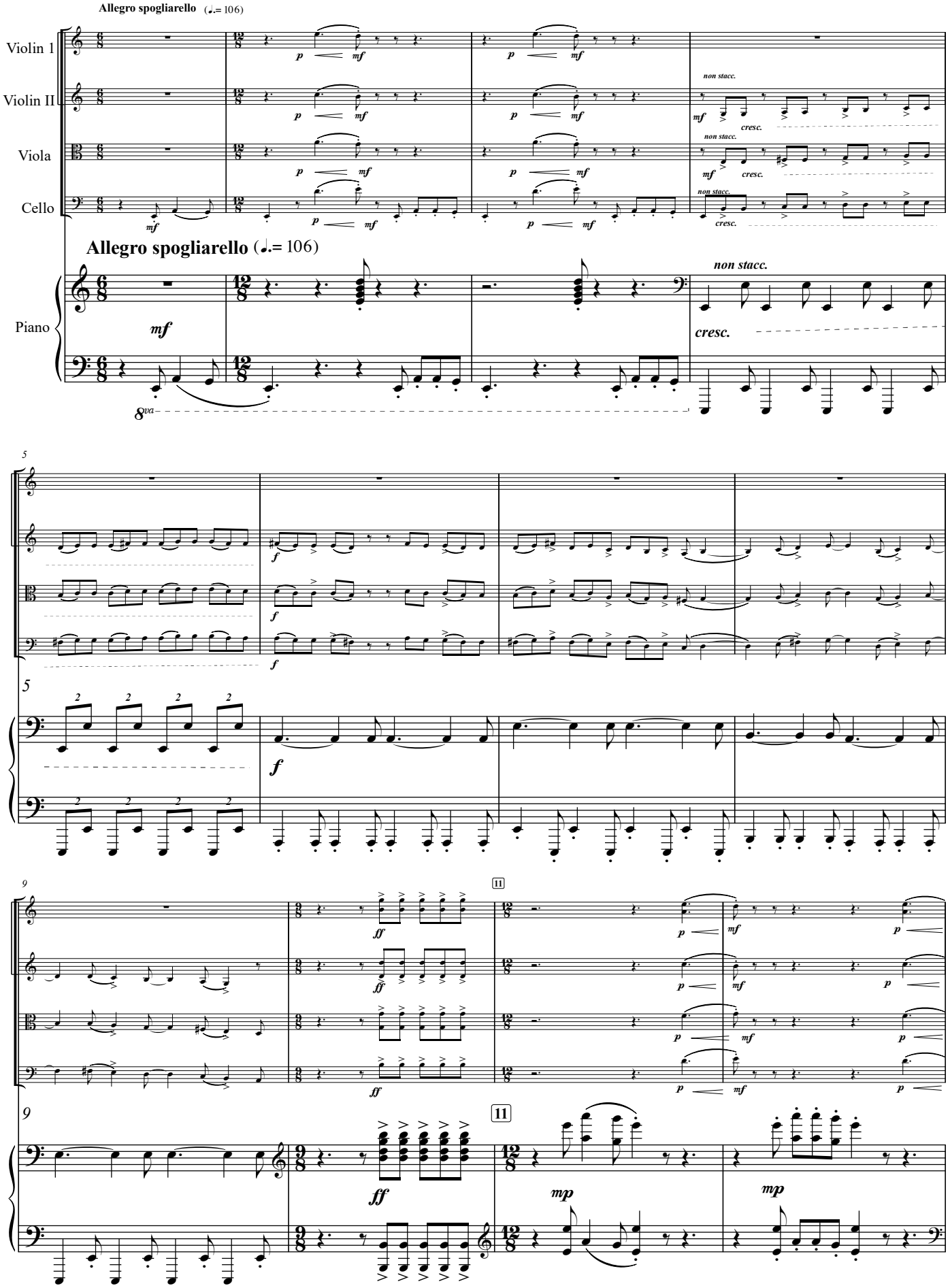

243
non stacc.
non stacc.
243
252
ff
ff
252
260
265
p
p
260
265
p

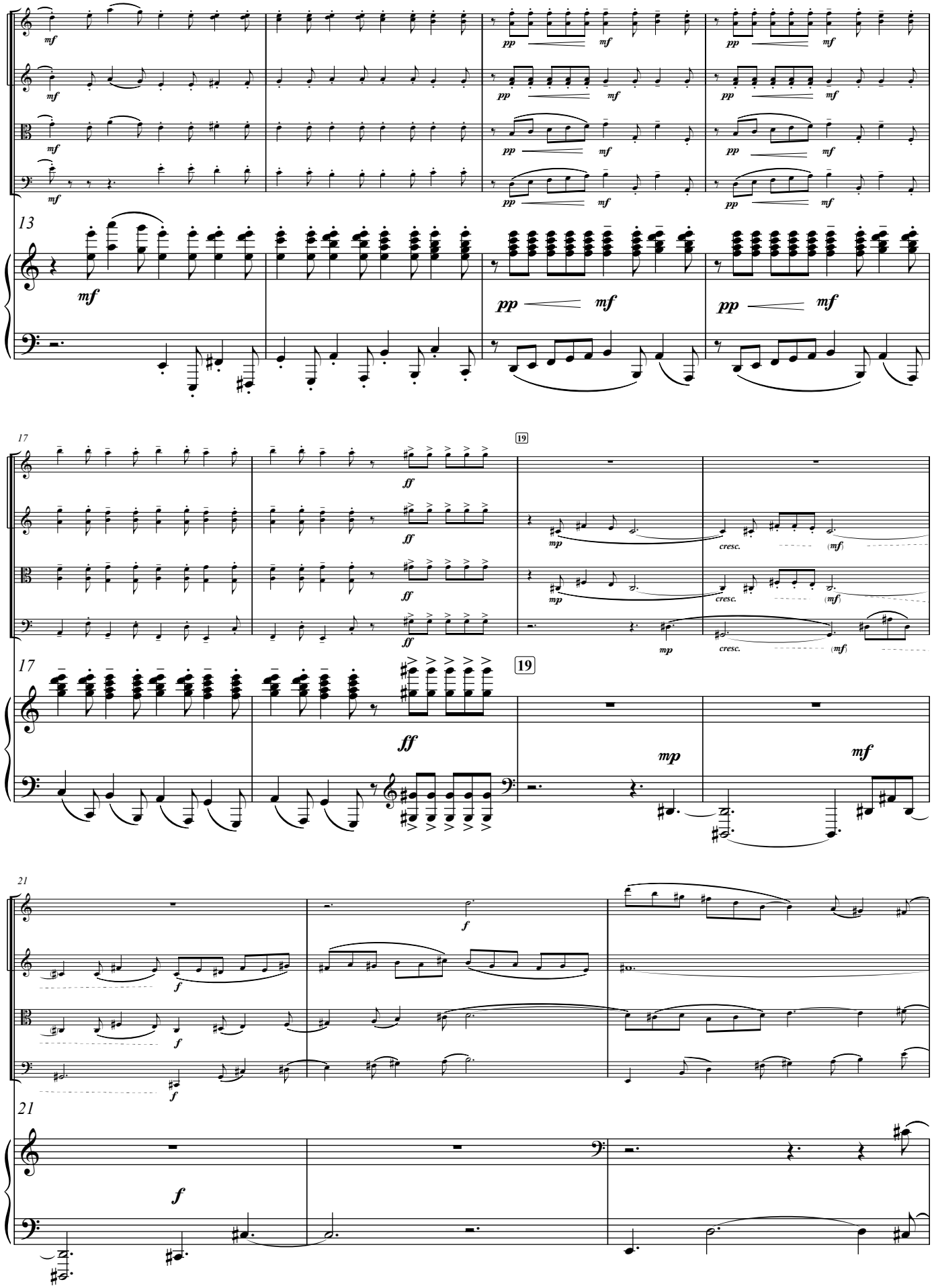

270
p
cresc.
mp
270
cresc.
mp
280
281
mf
cresc.
mp
cresc.
(mf)
f
280
281
cresc.
(mf)
289
291
f
289
291
f

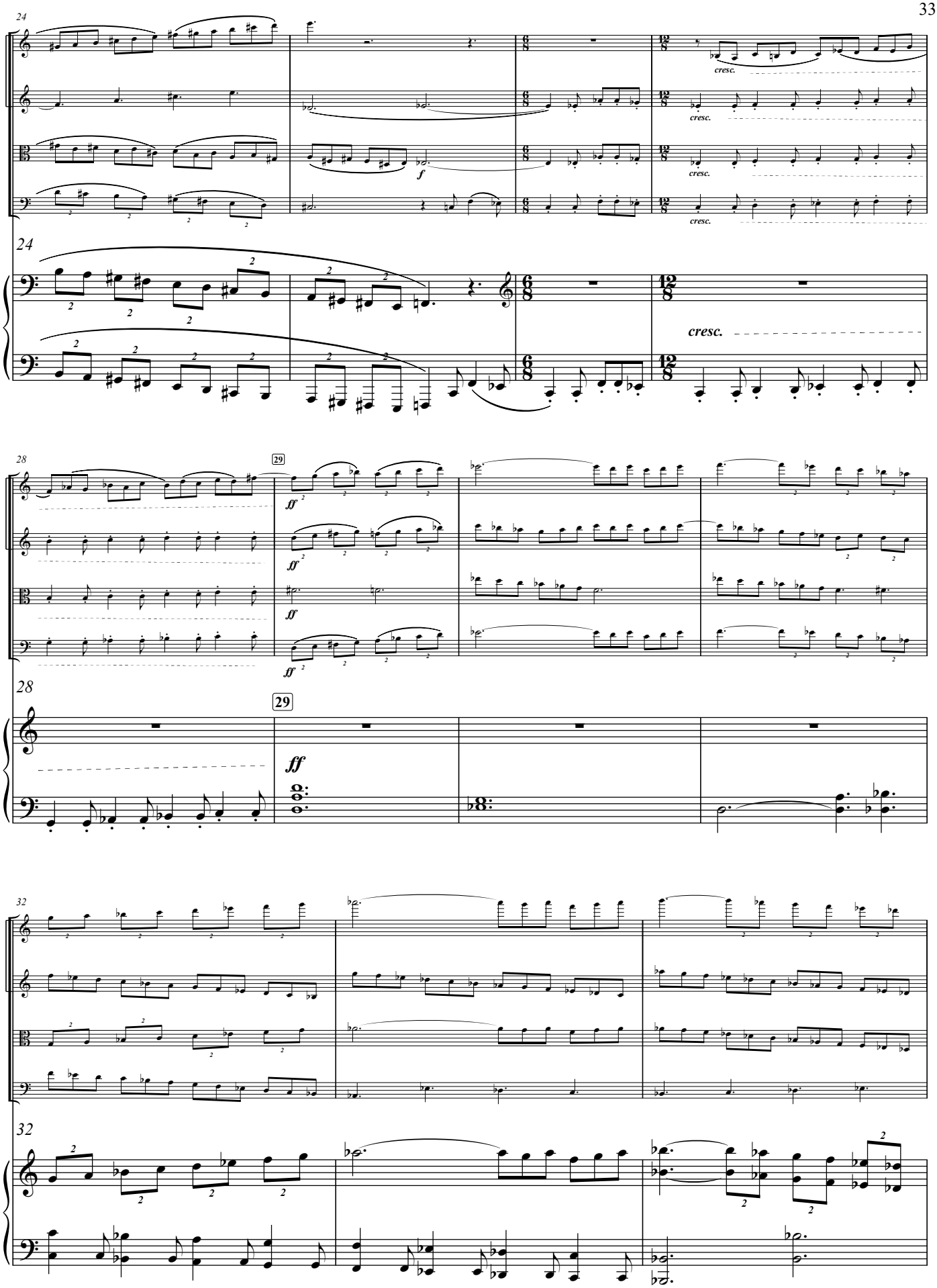

296
302
ff
296
302
ff
304
non stacc.
ff | f
cresc. p. a p.
304
cresc. p. a p.
311
ff
non stacc.
f+
311
ff legato

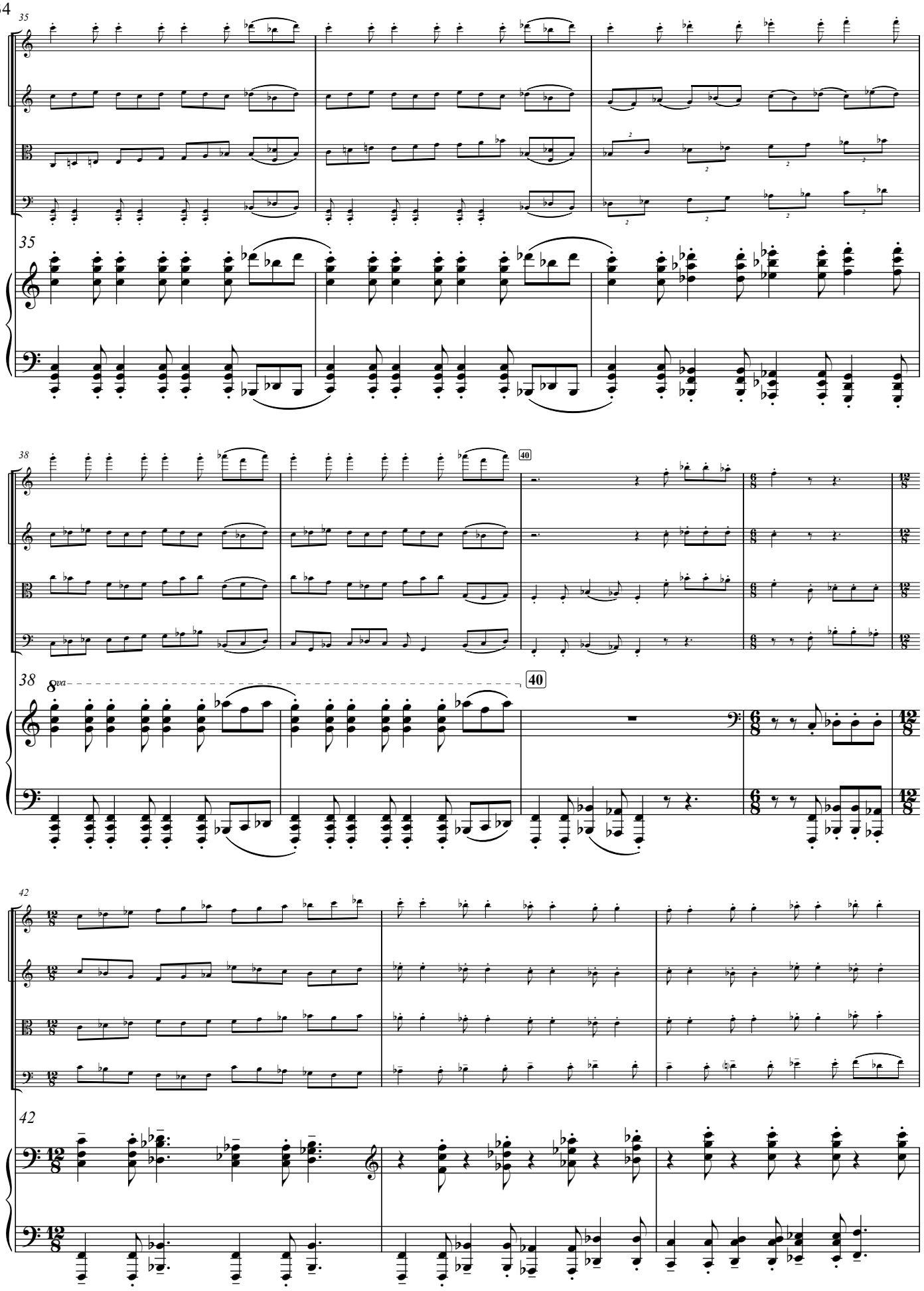

316
318
ff
316
318
Ped.
322
329
ff
p
ff
p
ff > f
322
329
ff
mf
mp dolce
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
332
mp
mp
mp
cresc.
(mf)
(f)
f+
mp
mp+
cresc.
(mf)
(f)
332
mp cresc.
(mf)
(f)

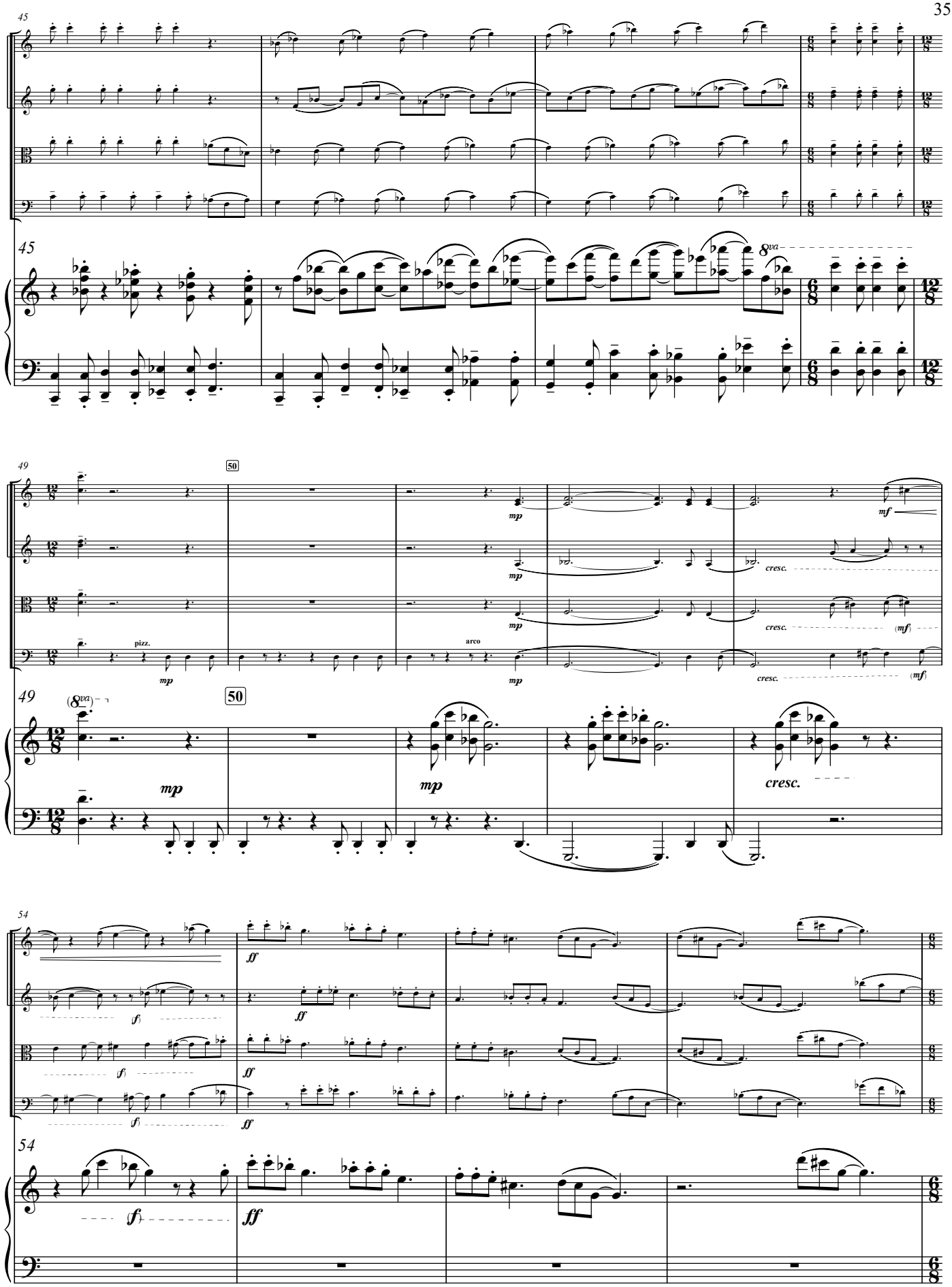

343
ff
343
ff
352
352
Ped.
360
molto rit.
ff
mf
p
pp
360
molto rit.
8va
Ped.
8va

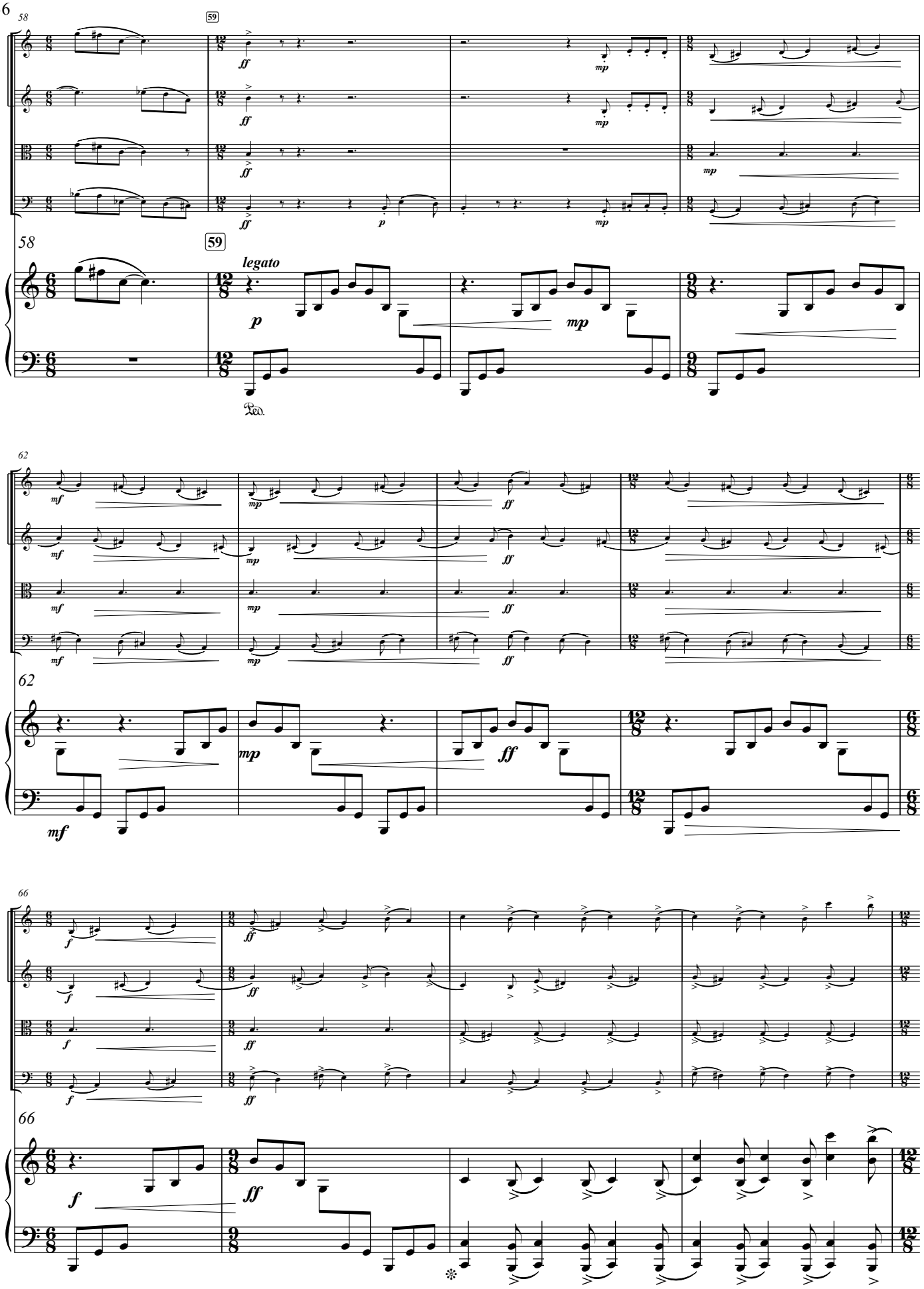

Allegro spogliarello (♩.= 106)
Violin 1
Violin II
Viola
Cello
Piano
non stacc.
cresc.
8va
5
9
11

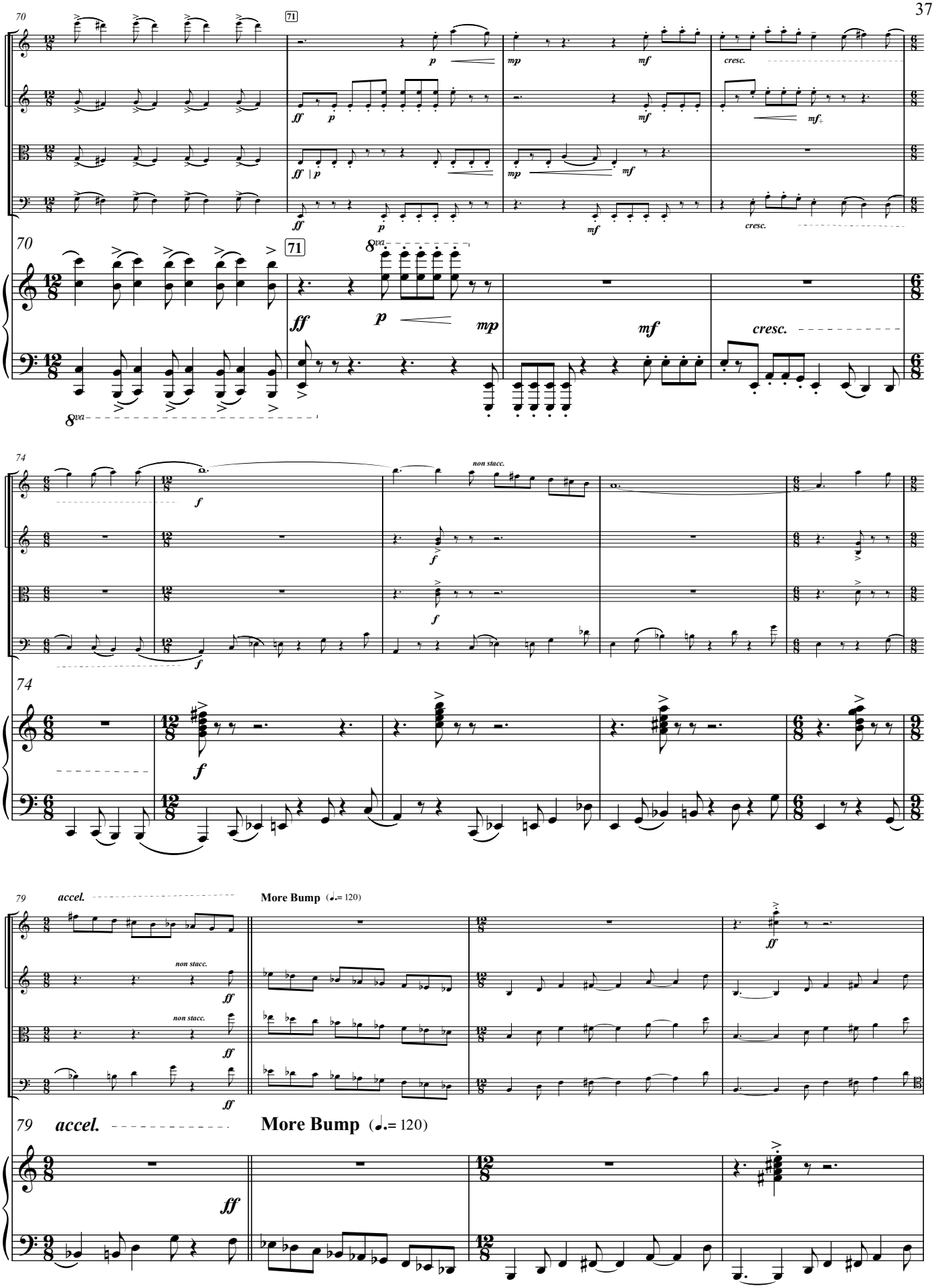

13
mf
pp
mf
17
ff
19
mp
cresc.
(mf)
21
f

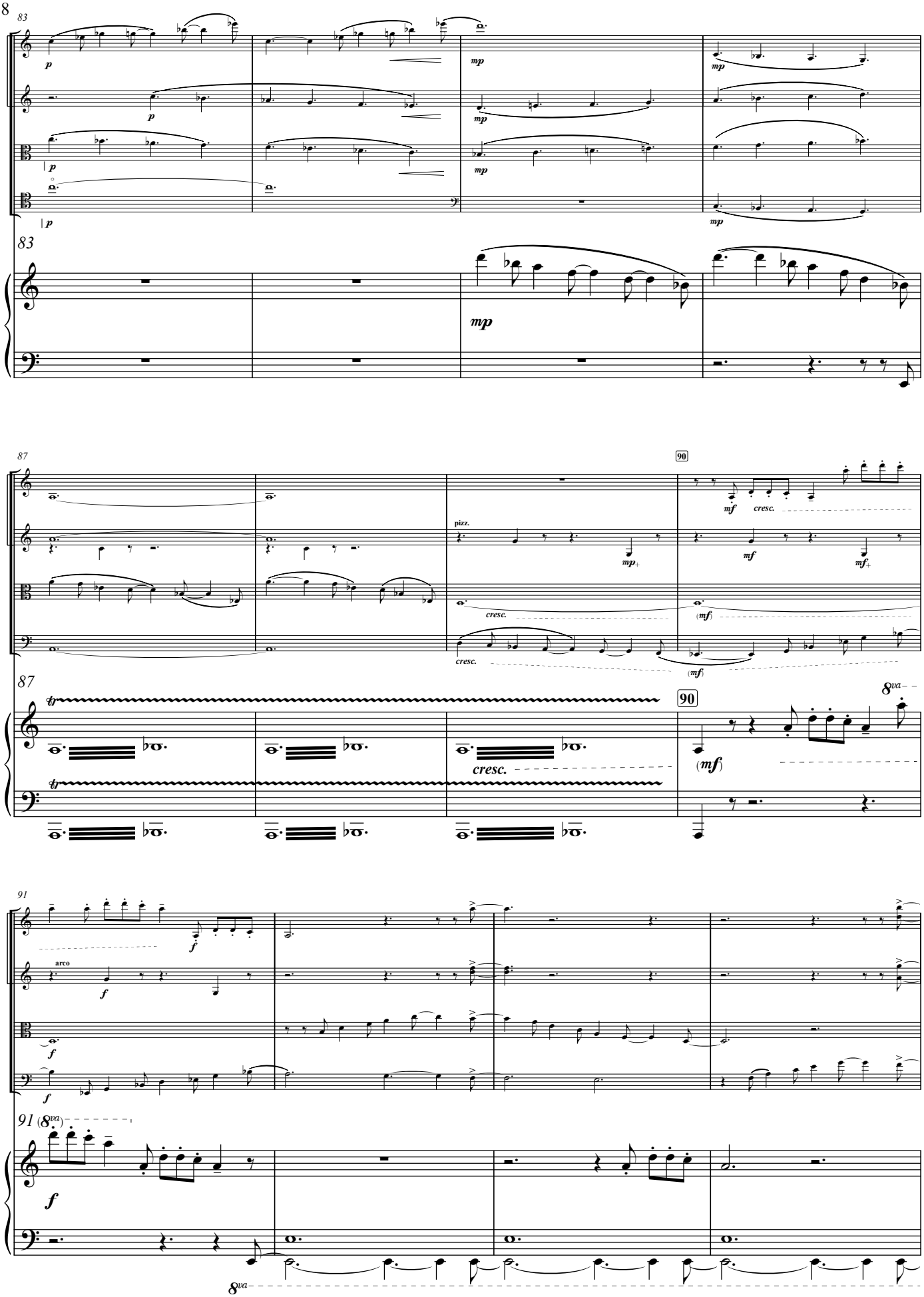

24
cresc.
f
24
cresc.
28
29
ff
28
29
ff
32
32

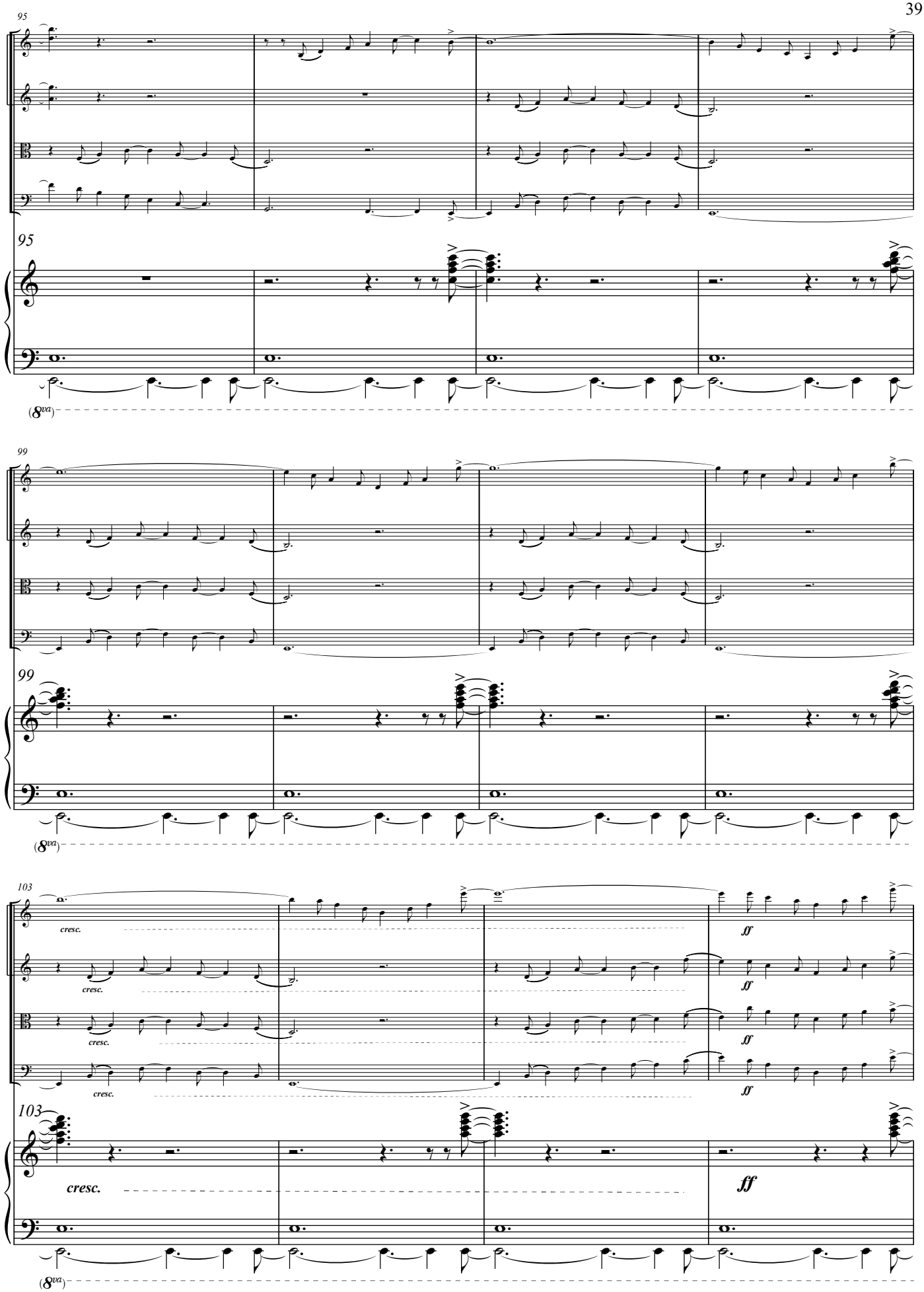

35
35
38
40
38
8va
40
42
42

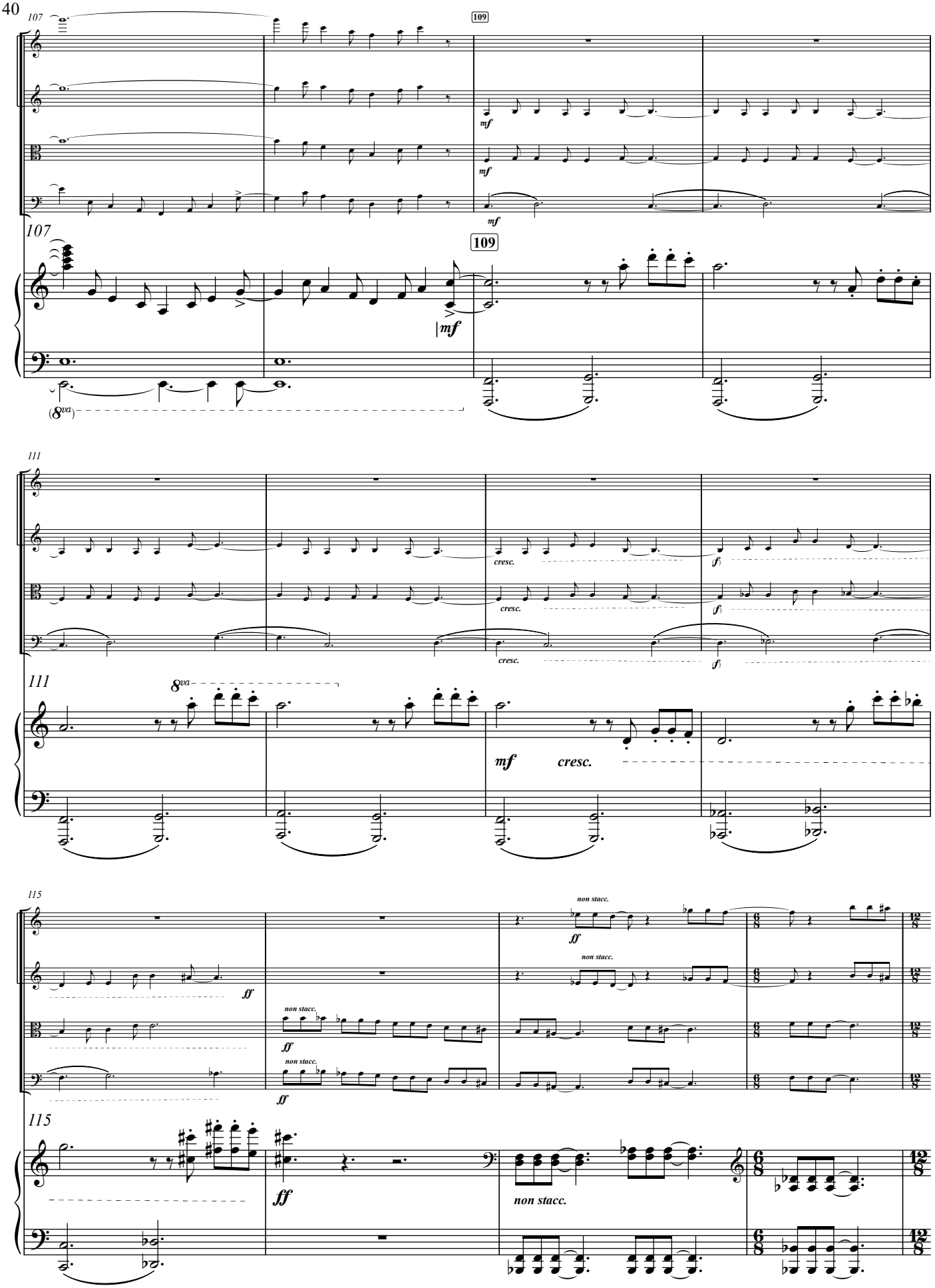

45
8va
49
50
mp
mf
cresc.
(mf)
pizz.
arco
(8va)
54
ff
(f)

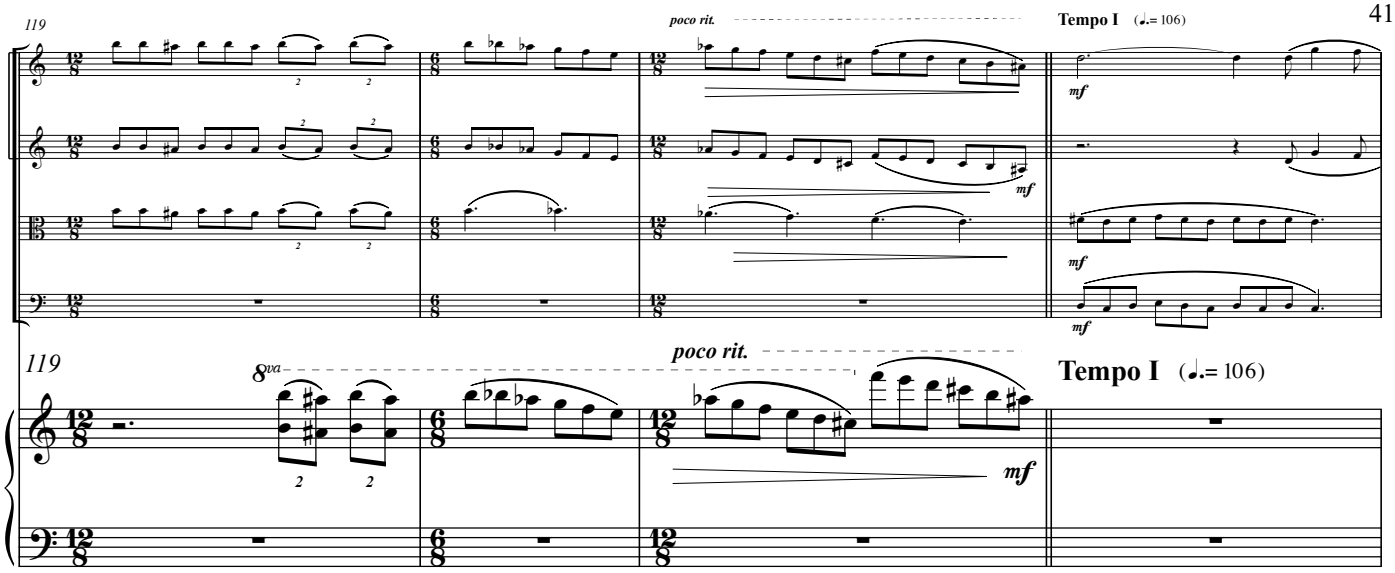

58
59
ff
mp
p
legato
Ped.
62
mf
ff
66
f

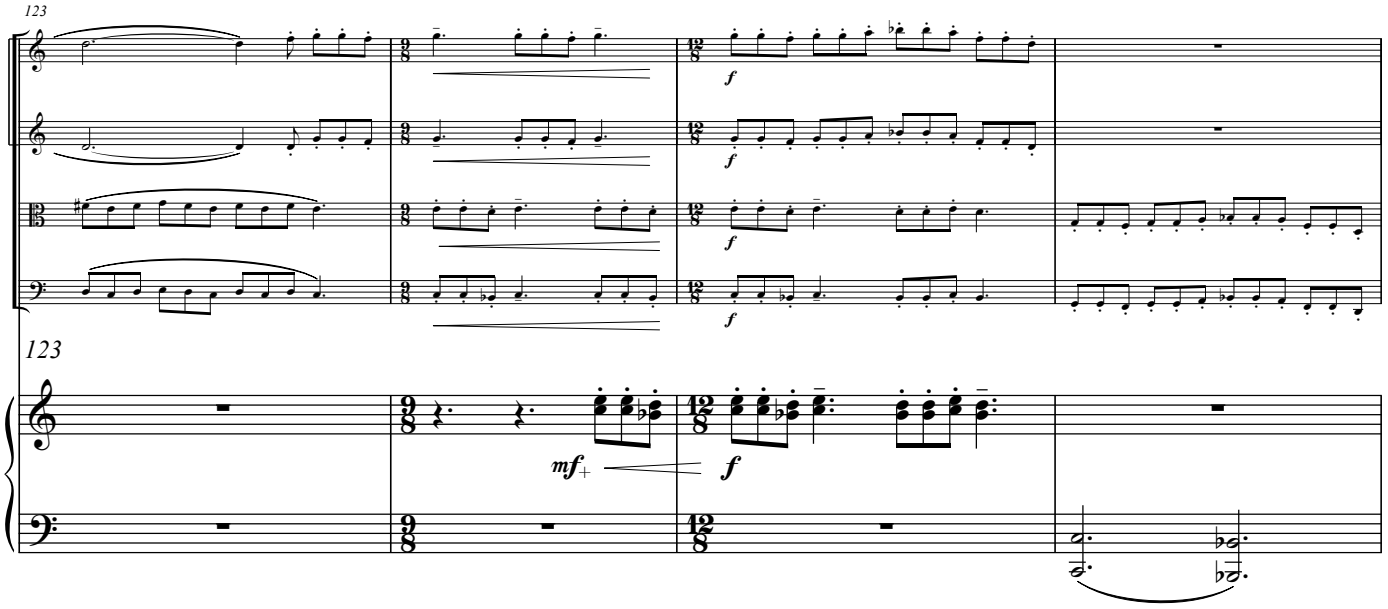

70
71
ff
p
mp
mf
cresc.
8va
74
f
non stacc.
79
accel.
More Bump (♩.= 120)
ff
non stacc.

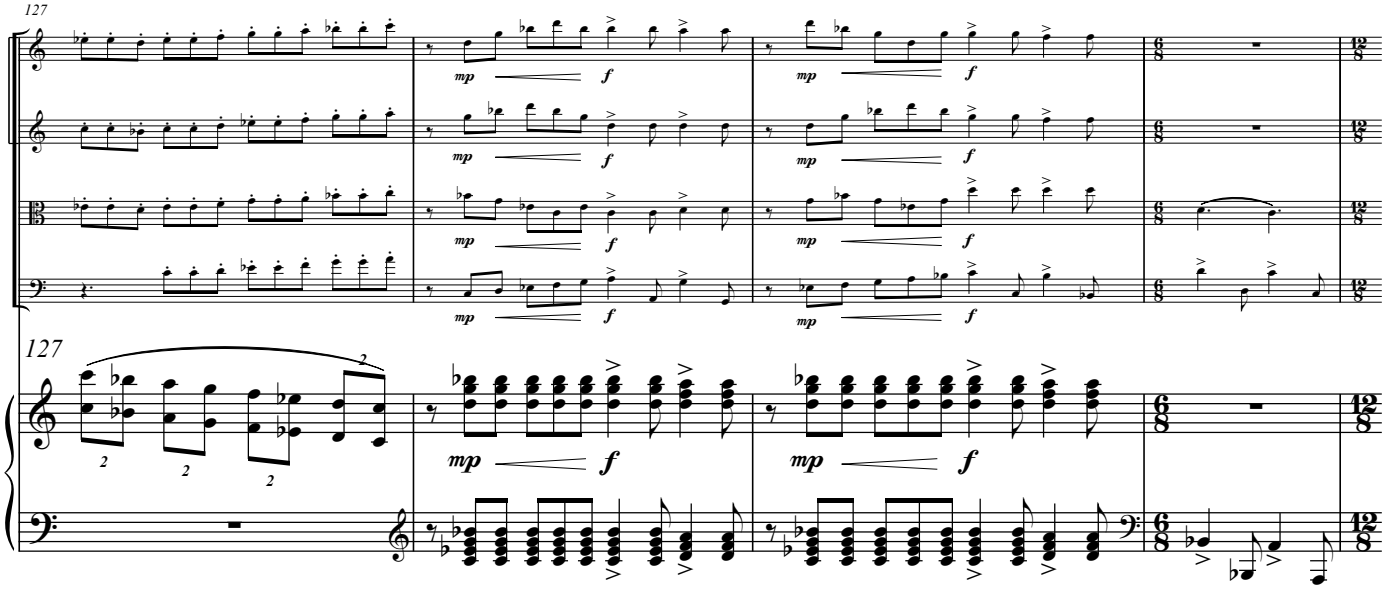

83
p
mp
83
mp
87
90
pizz.
mf
cresc.
mp
(mf)
87
90
8va
cresc.
(mf)
91
arco
f
91 (8va)
f
8va

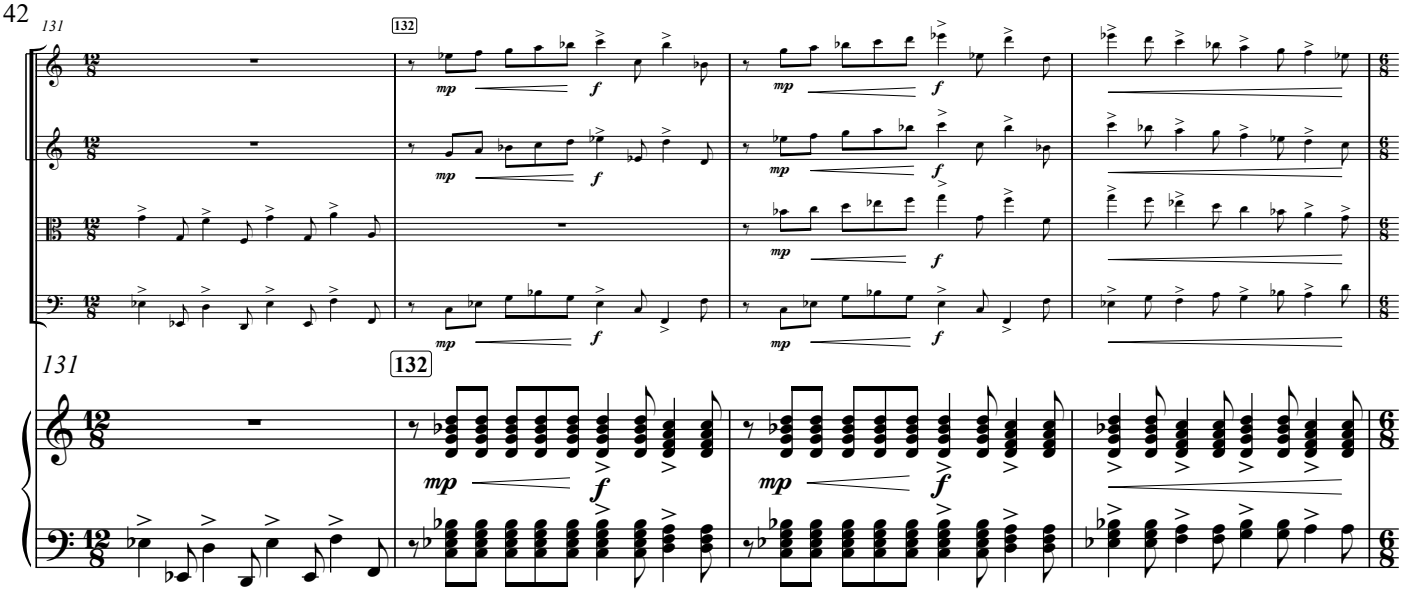

95
95
(8va)
99
99
(8va)
103
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
ff
ff
ff
ff
103
cresc.
ff
(8va)

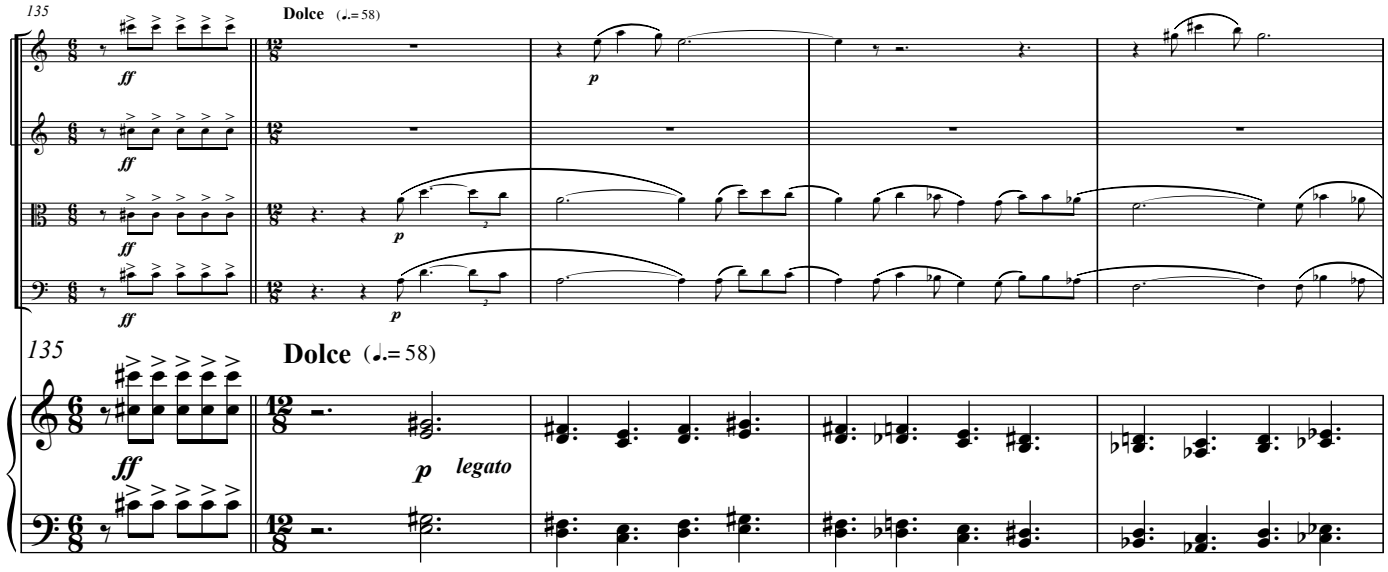

107
109
mf
mf
mf
107
109
mf
(8va)
111
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
f
f
f
111
8va
mf
cresc.
115
non stacc.
non stacc.
ff
ff
non stacc.
non stacc.
ff
ff
115
ff
non stacc.

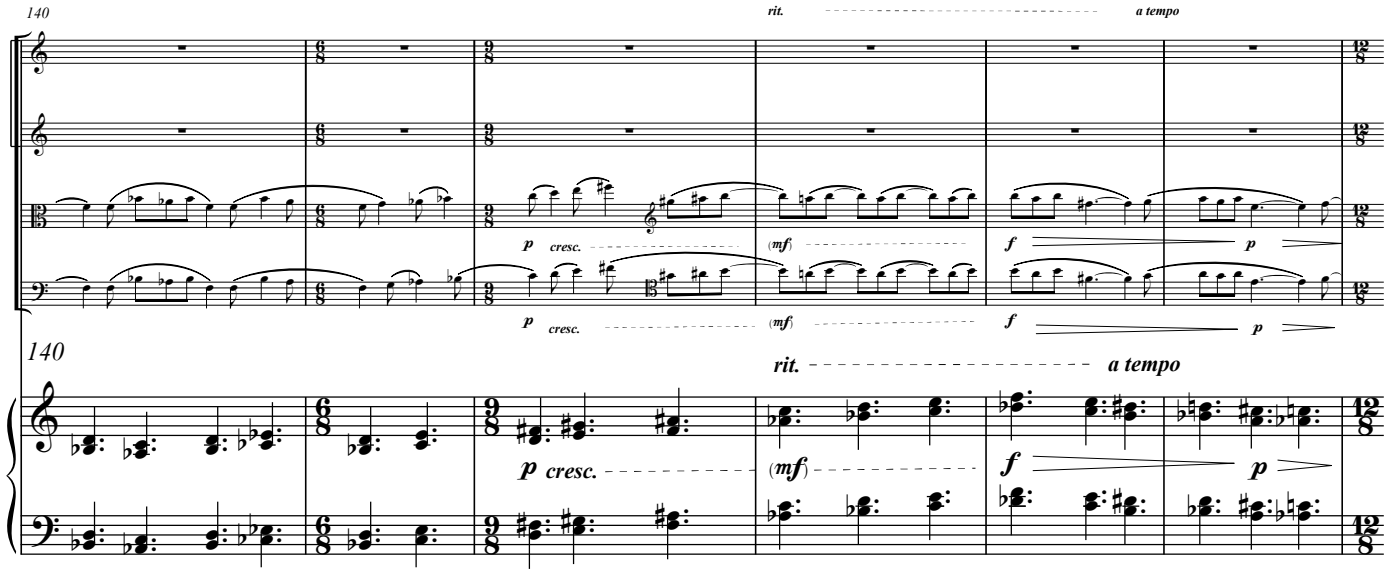

119
poco rit.
Tempo I (♩.= 106)
mf
mf
mf
mf
119
8va
poco rit.
Tempo I (♩.= 106)
mf

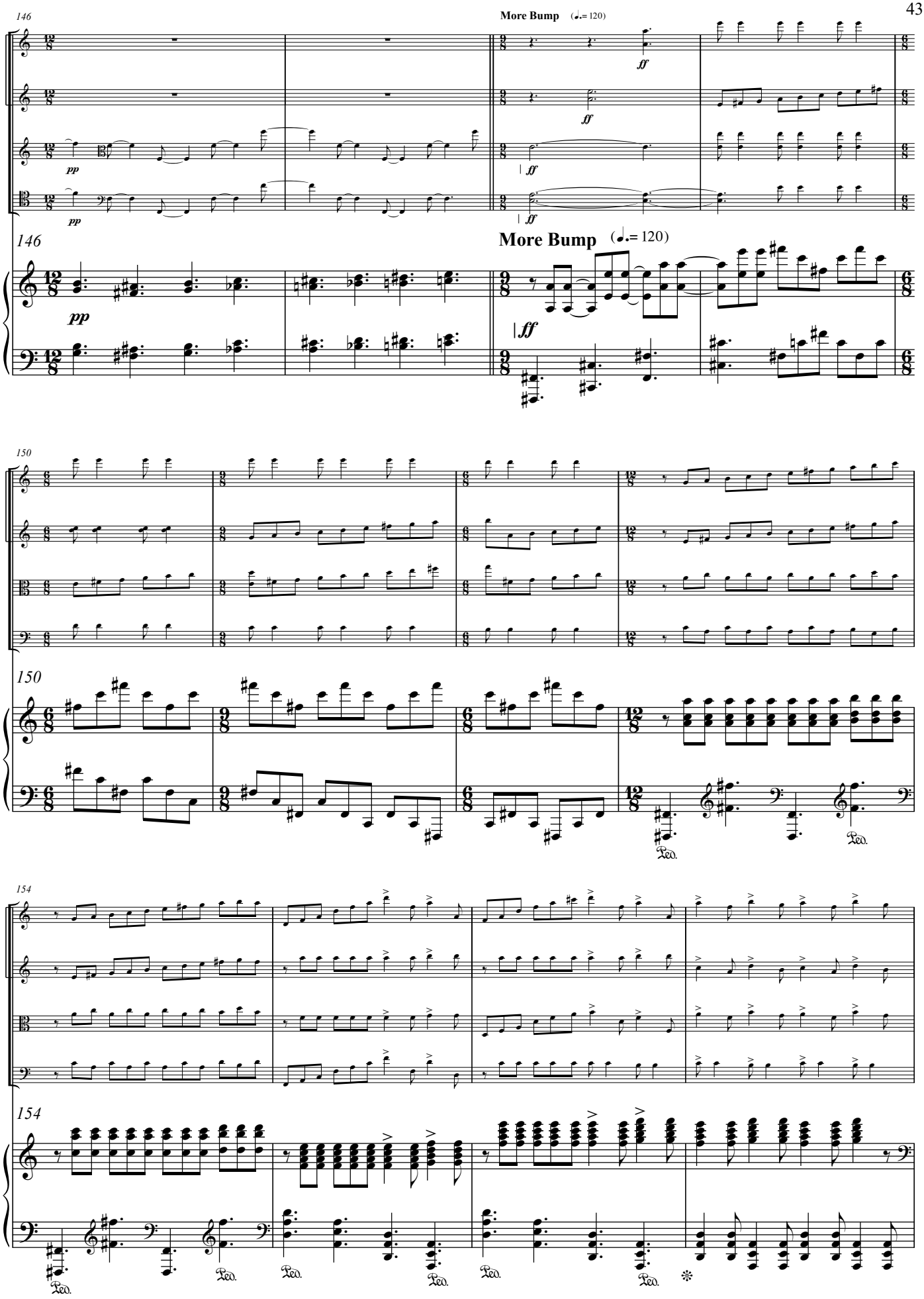

123
f
f
f
123
mf+
f

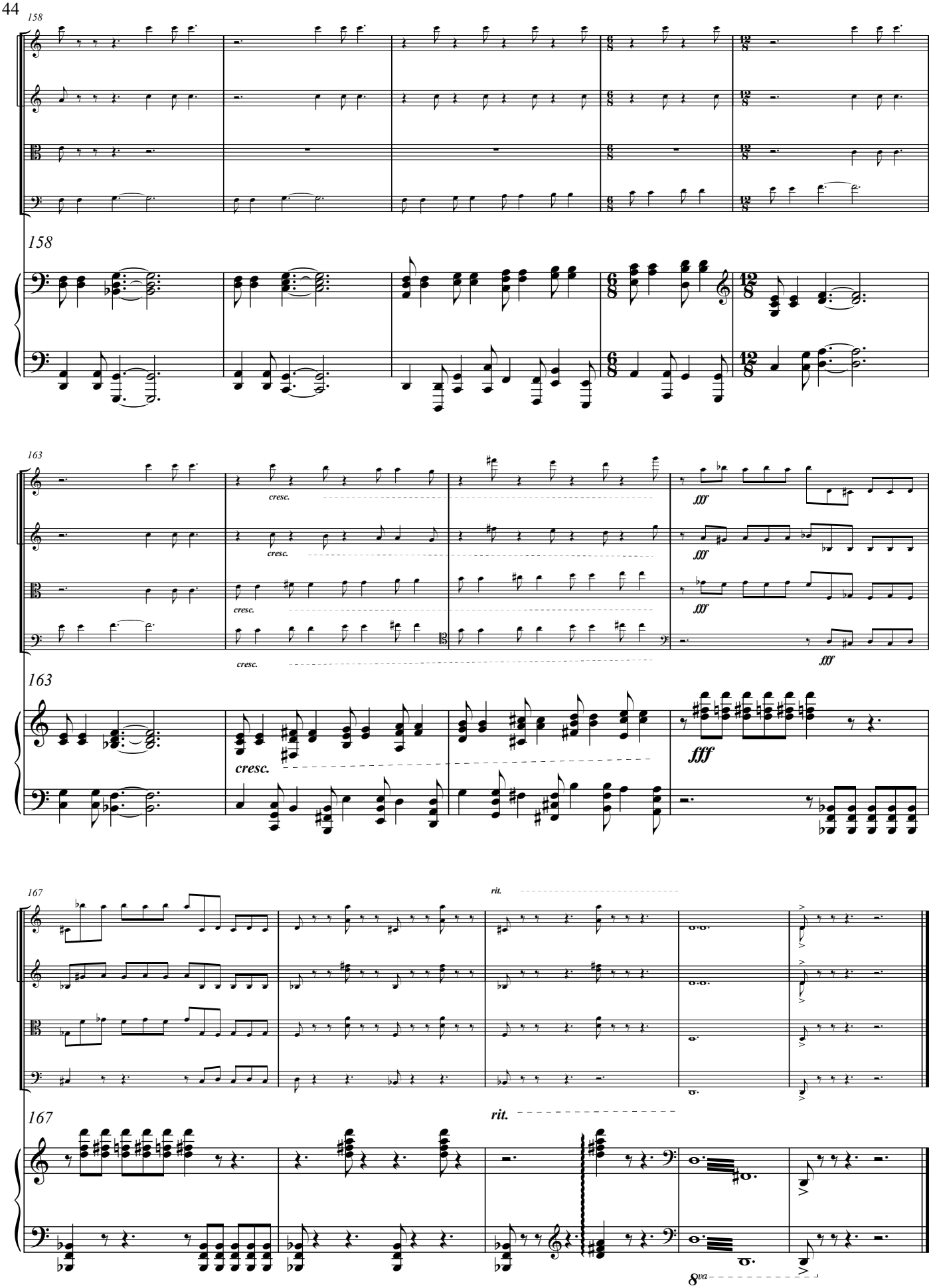

127
mp
f
mp
f
mp
f
mp
f
mp
f
mp
f
127
mp
f
mp
f


131
132
mp
f


135
Dolce (♩.= 58)
ff
p
legato


140
rit.
a tempo
p cresc.
(mf)
f
p


146
More Bump (♩.= 120)
pp
ff
150
154
Ped.


158
158
163
cresc.
fff
163
cresc.
fff
167
rit.
167
rit.
8va