Slava Ukraini

for Two Cellos and Piano

Bill Robinson

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October 18—December 4, 2025; May 6—June 1, 2026
Duration; 20 minutes

for Bonnie Thron

The idea for a piece for two cellos and piano came up during a meal celebrating my 70th birthday in January 2025 with cellist Bonnie Thron, her husband clarinetist Fred Jacobowitz, and violinist Eric Pritchard. But I had a terrible outer ear infection, and by late February I lost my right eardrum, later surgically repaired. I wasn't in shape to compose until September. After a short piano work, "Happy Birthday to Me", I finally got started on this new project.

The first three movements went smoothly. My attempts in December for a fourth stalled, restarted, stalled again, and eventually I gave up. I started from scratch in early March 2026, but then spent two months writing *Revolution Songs*. Finally, in May I changed the focus of the piece by including the State Anthem of Ukraine, "Shche ne vmerla Ukrainy" ("Ukraine has Not Yet Perished"), music by Mykhailo Verbytskyi composed in 1863.

There is also a version of this piece for viola, cello, and piano.

Bill Robinson

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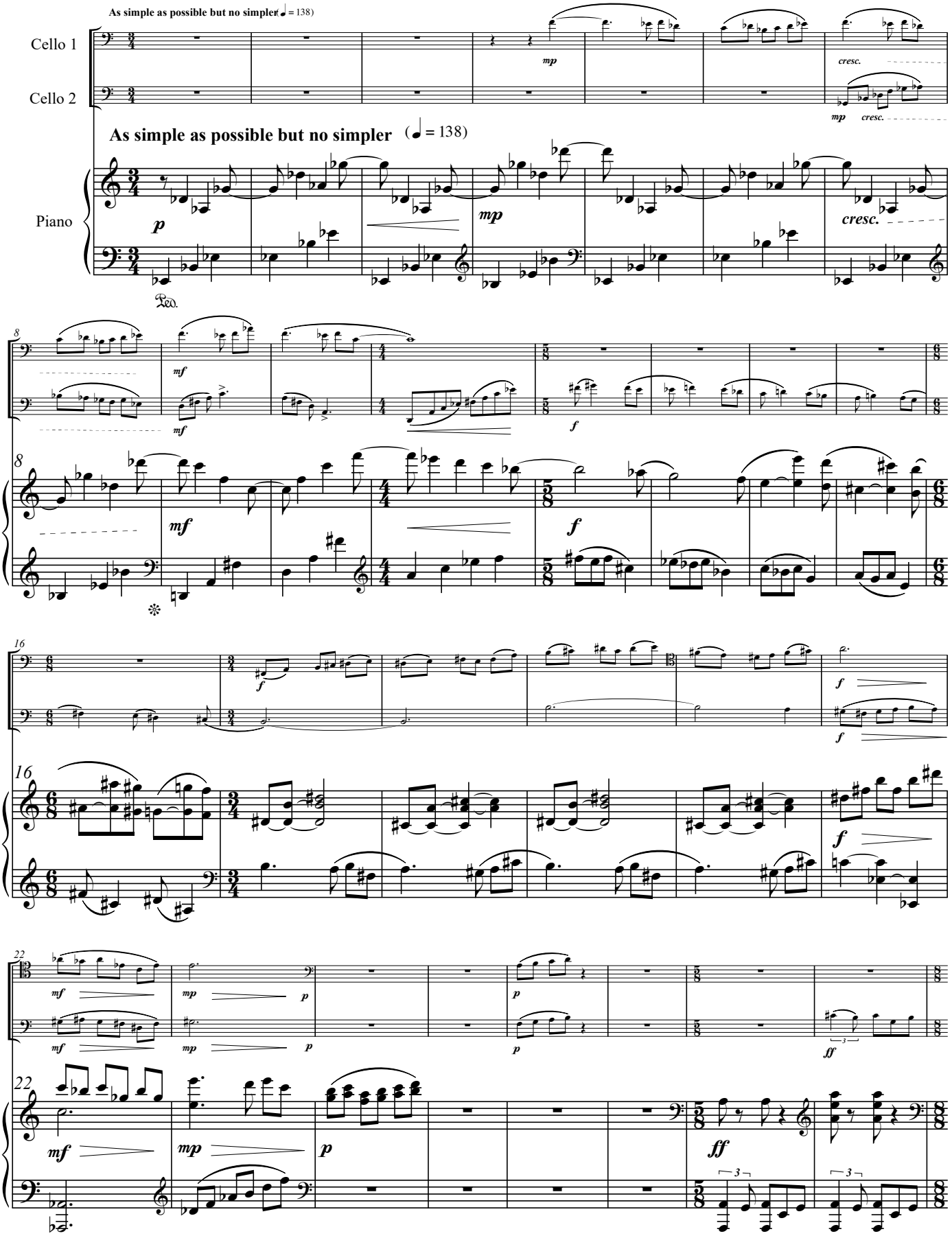
billrobinsonmusic.com

Cover photo: Ukrainian meme "Zelenskyy Signs the Decree on Permission to Hold a Parade in Moscow", 2026. Modeled after Ilya Repin's "Reply of the Zaporozhian Cossacks".

Slava Ukraini

I. Overture [4:20]

Bill Robinson



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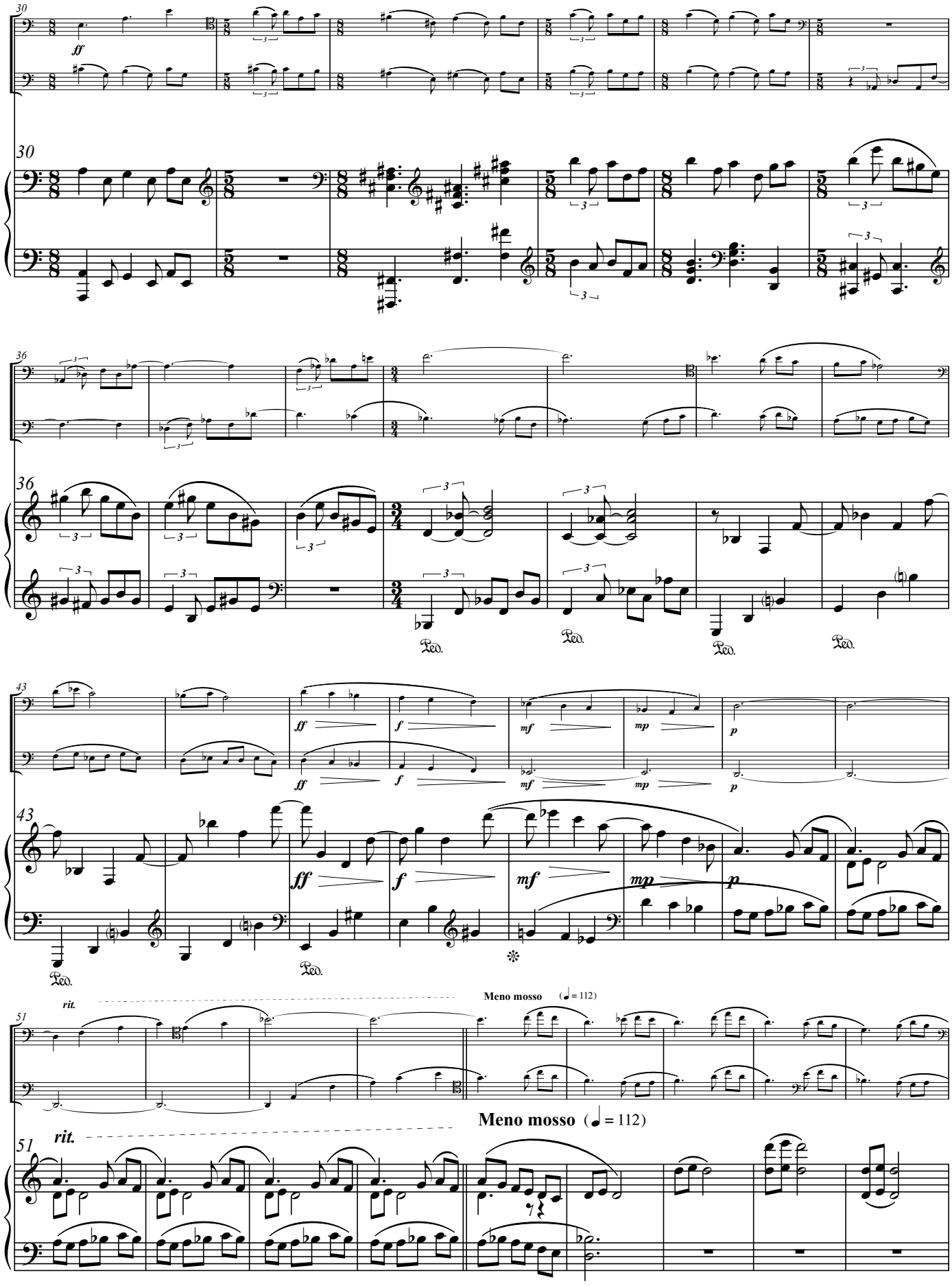
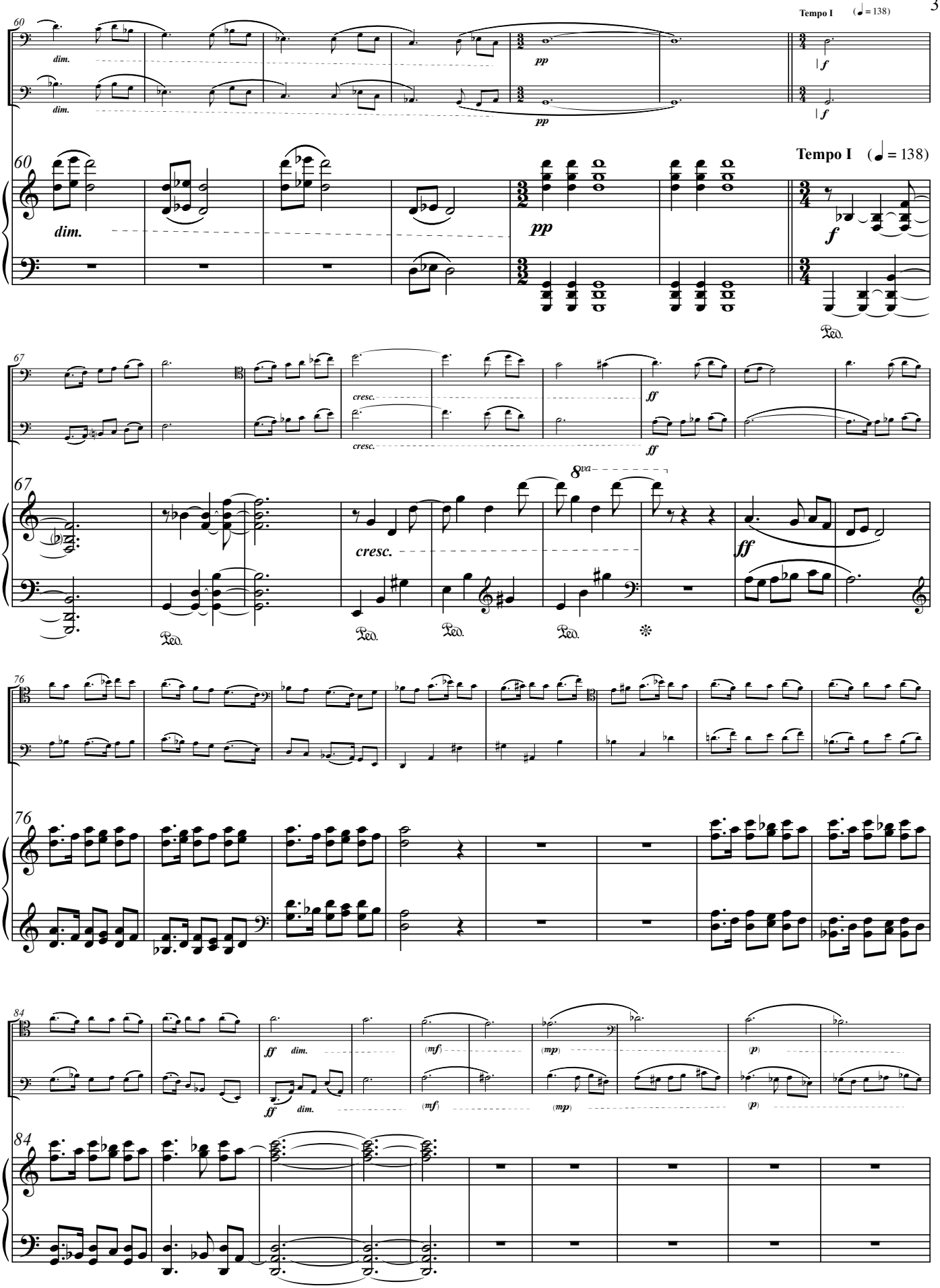
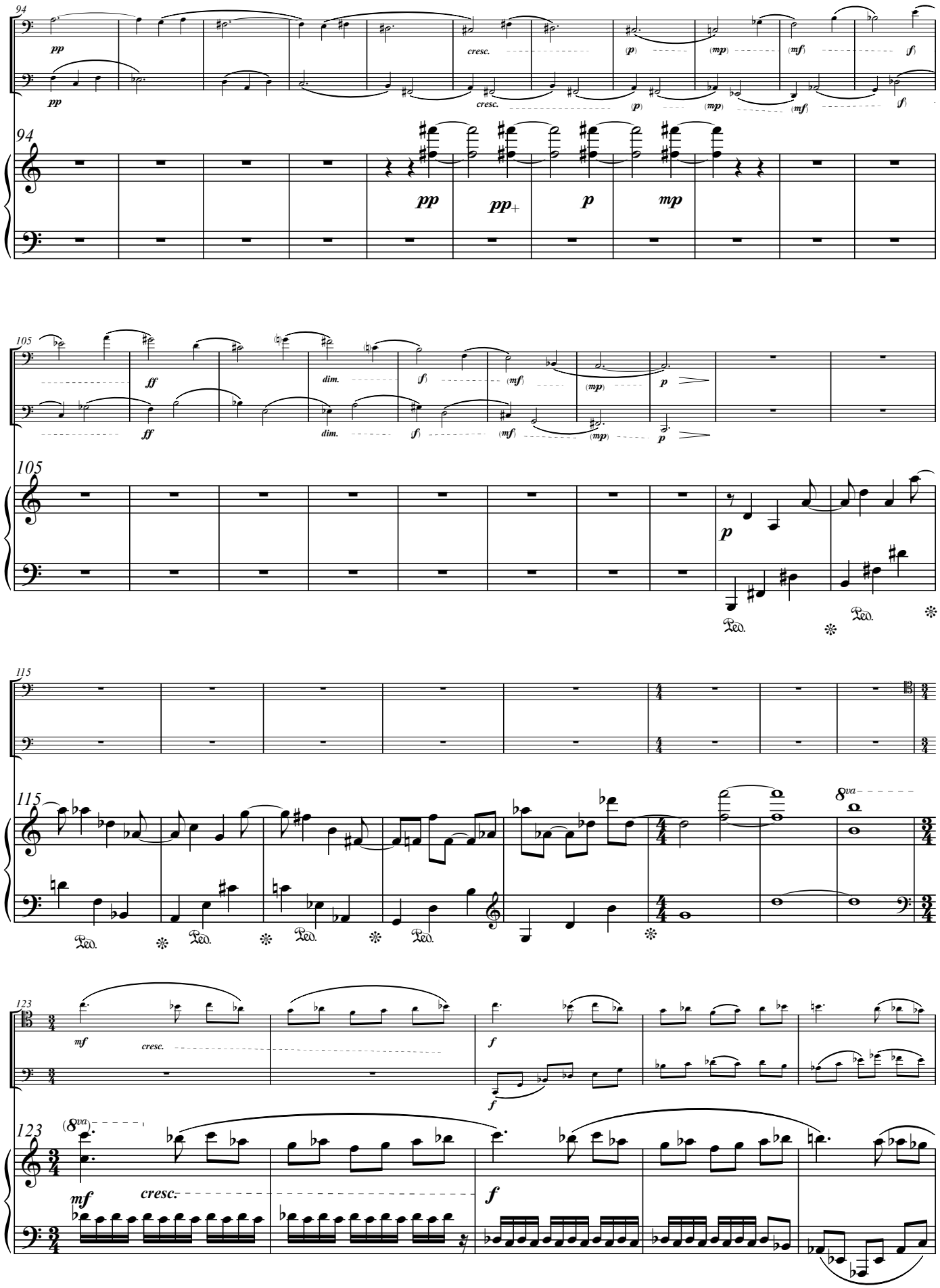
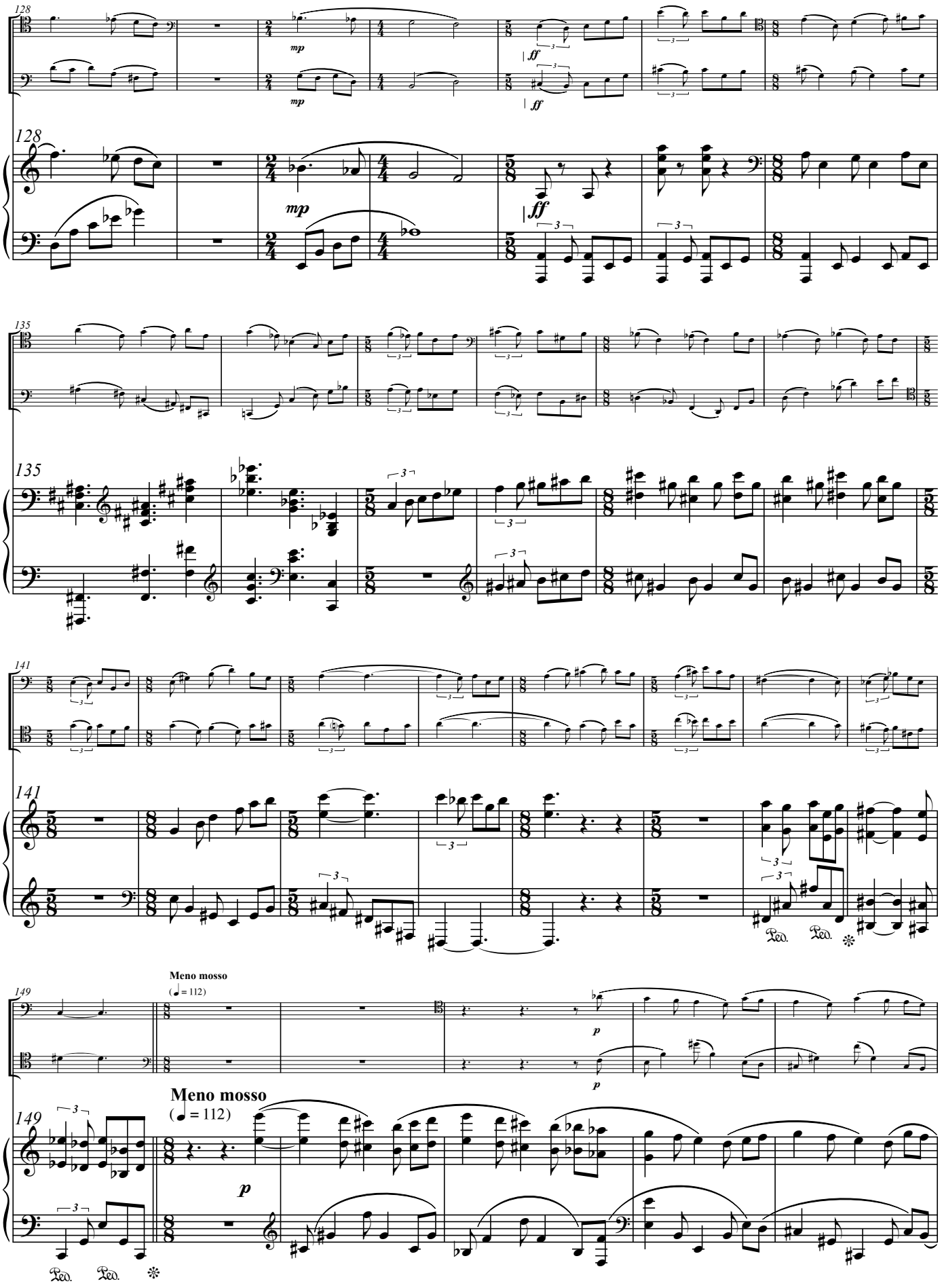
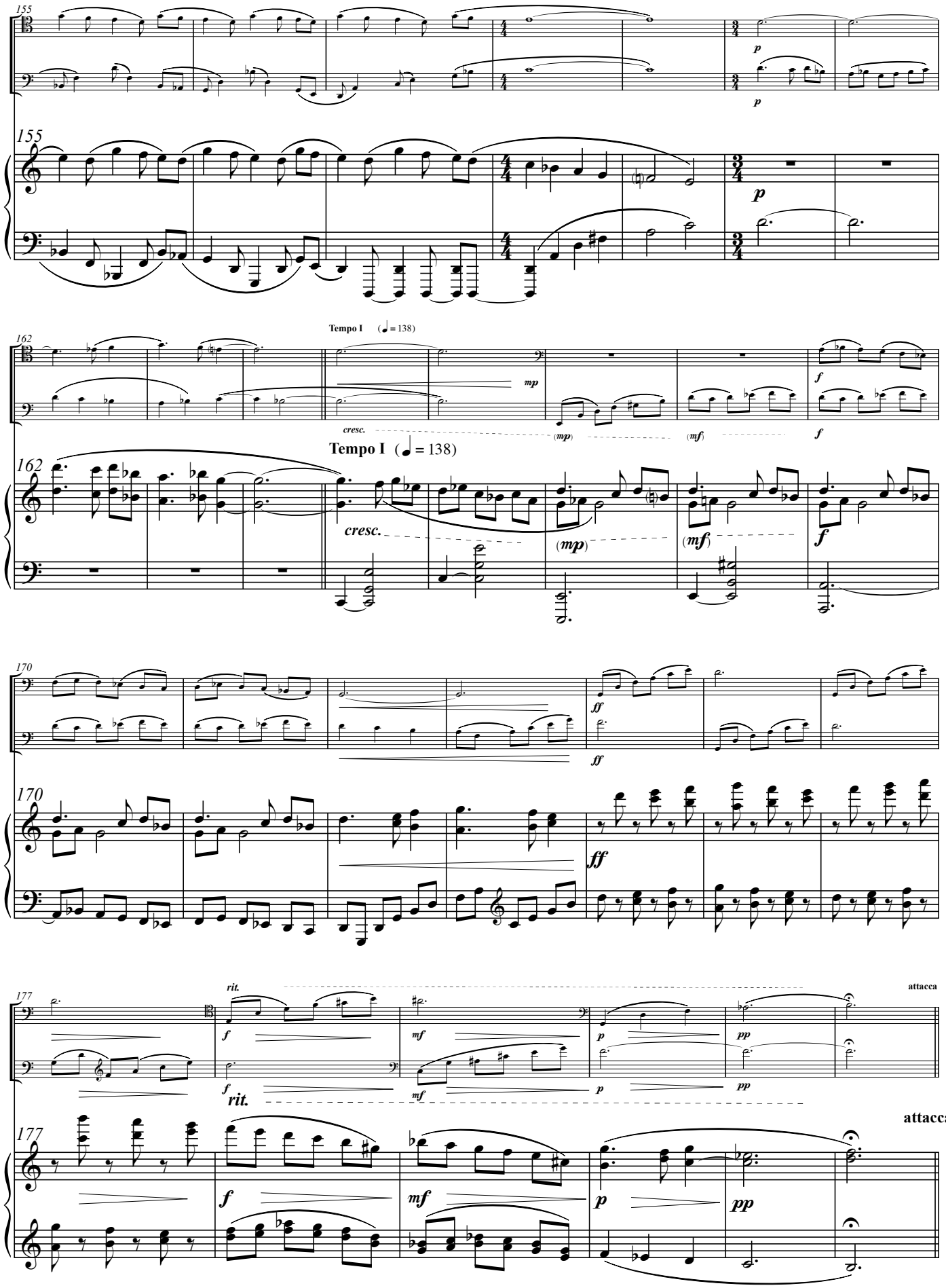
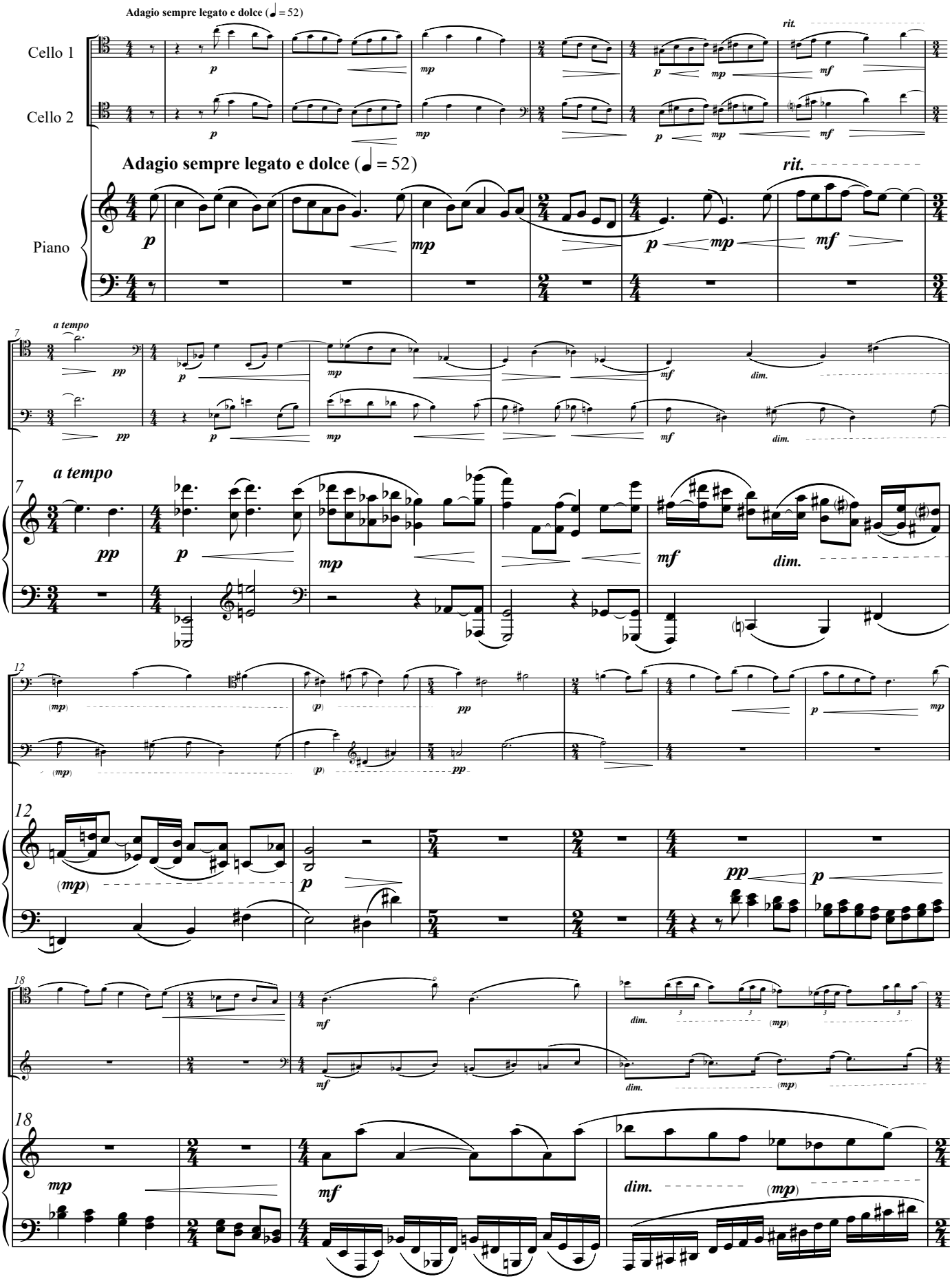

30
ff
30
36
36
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
43
ff
f
mf
mp
p
43
ff
f
mf
mp
p
Ped.
Ped.
51
rit.
Meno mosso (♩= 112)
51
rit.
Meno mosso (♩= 112)

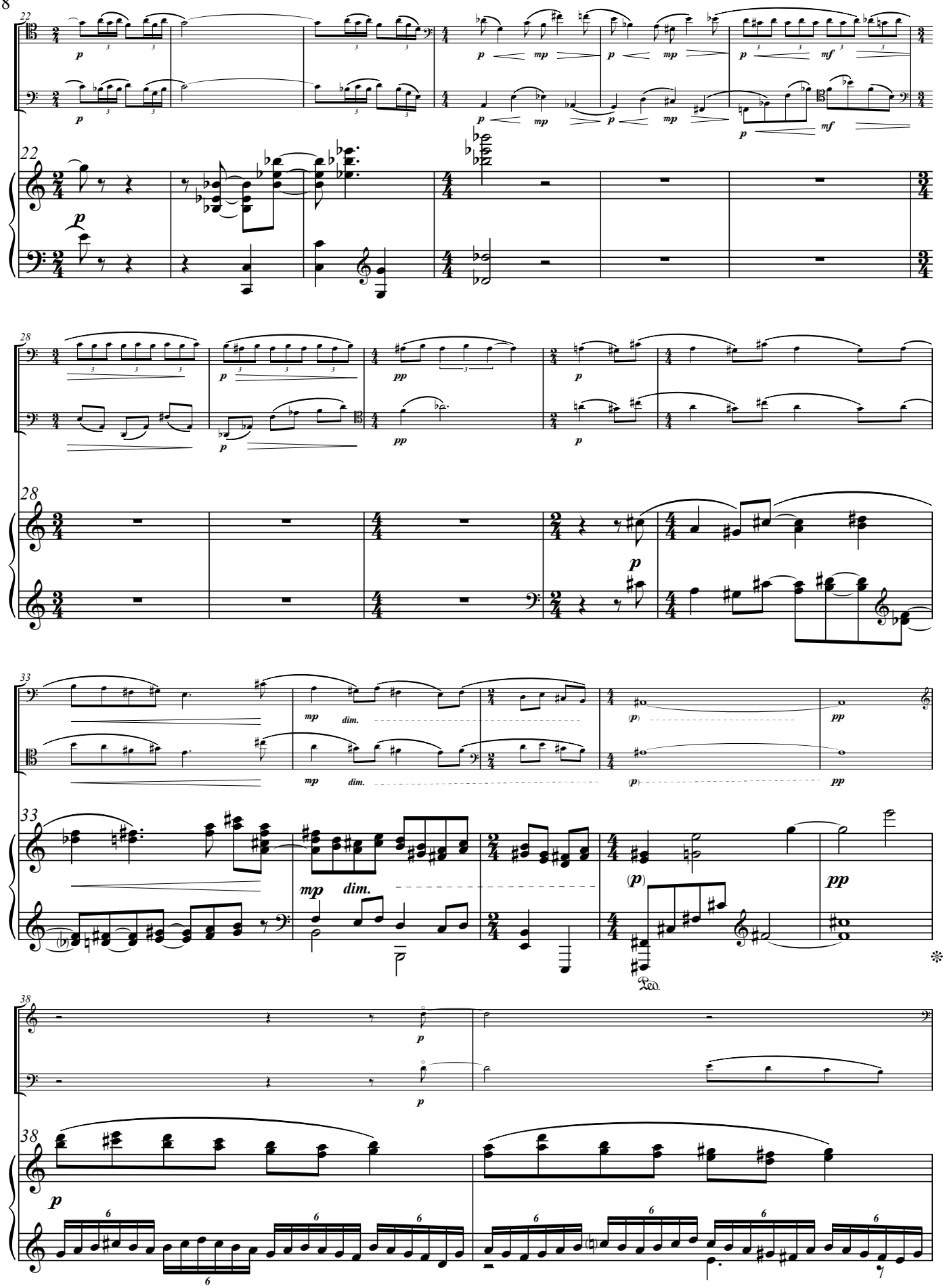

60
dim.
pp
Tempo I (♩ = 138)
f
67
cresc.
ff
8va
Ped.
76
84
(mf)
(mp)
(p)

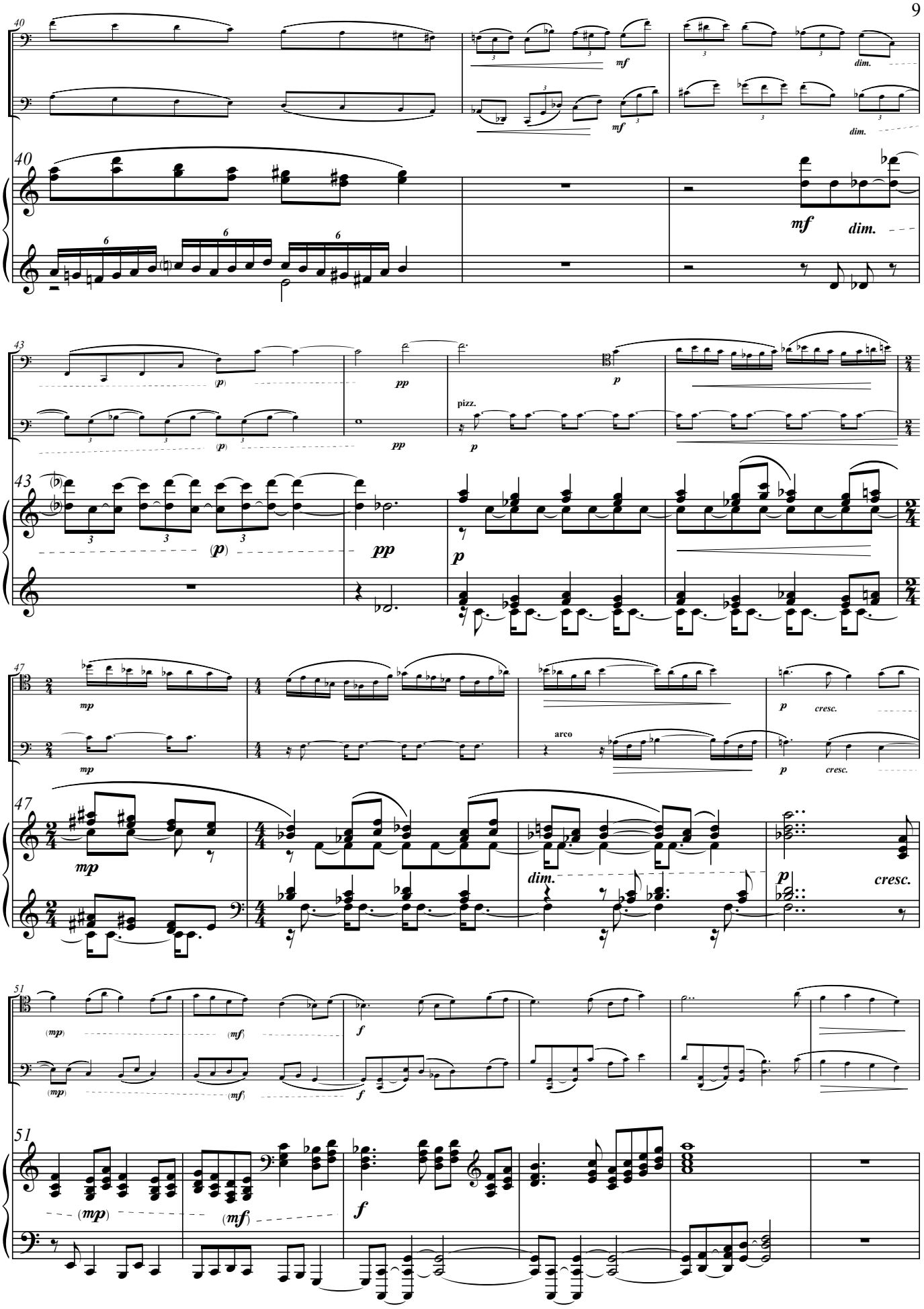

94
pp
cresc.
(p)
(mp)
(mf)
(f)
pp
pp+
p
mp
105
ff
dim.
(f)
(mf)
(mp)
p
115
8va
123
mf
cresc.
f
(8va)

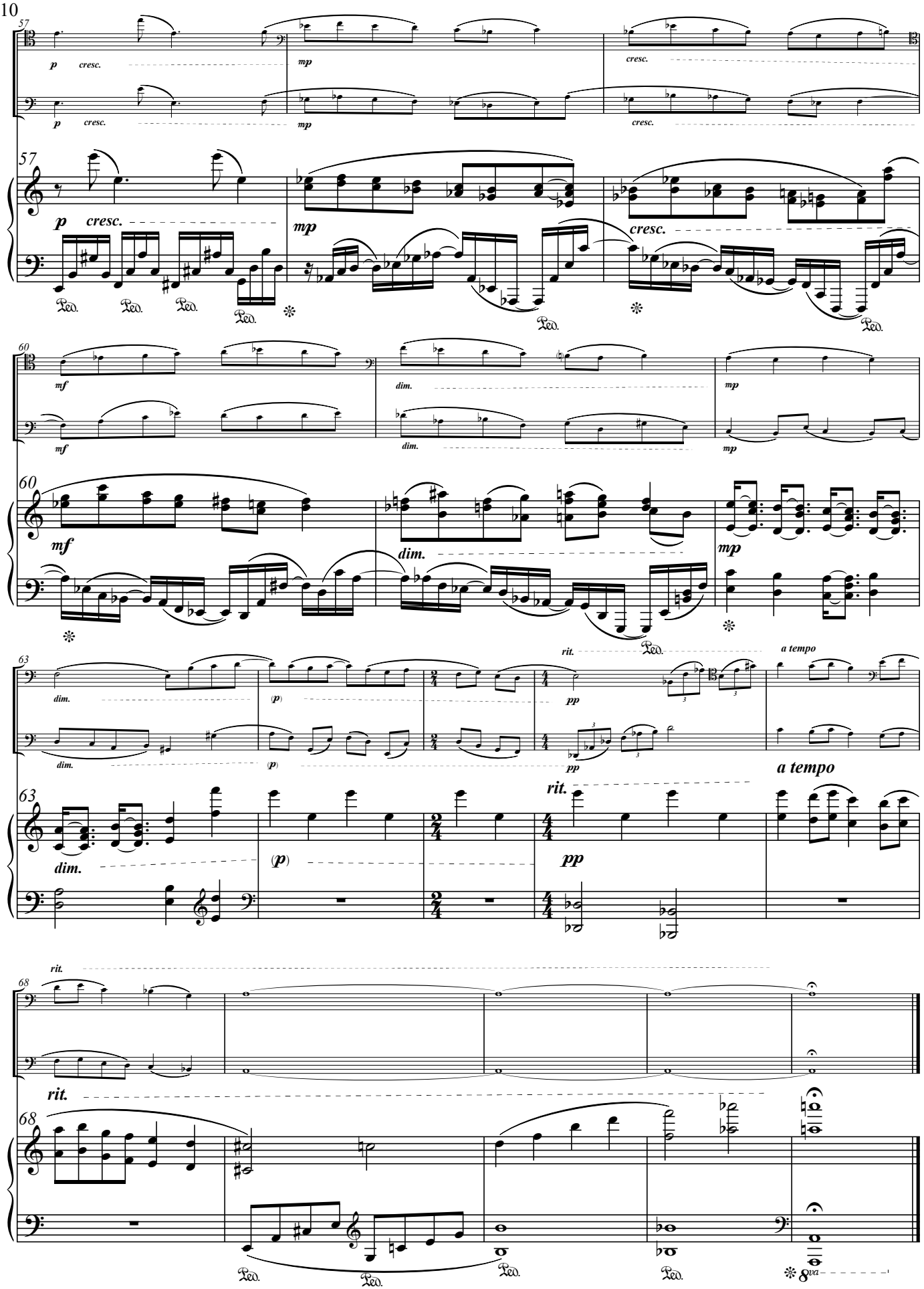

128
mp
ff
128
mp
ff
135
135
141
141
149
Meno mosso
(♩ = 112)
p
Meno mosso
(♩ = 112)
p
Ped.
Ped.

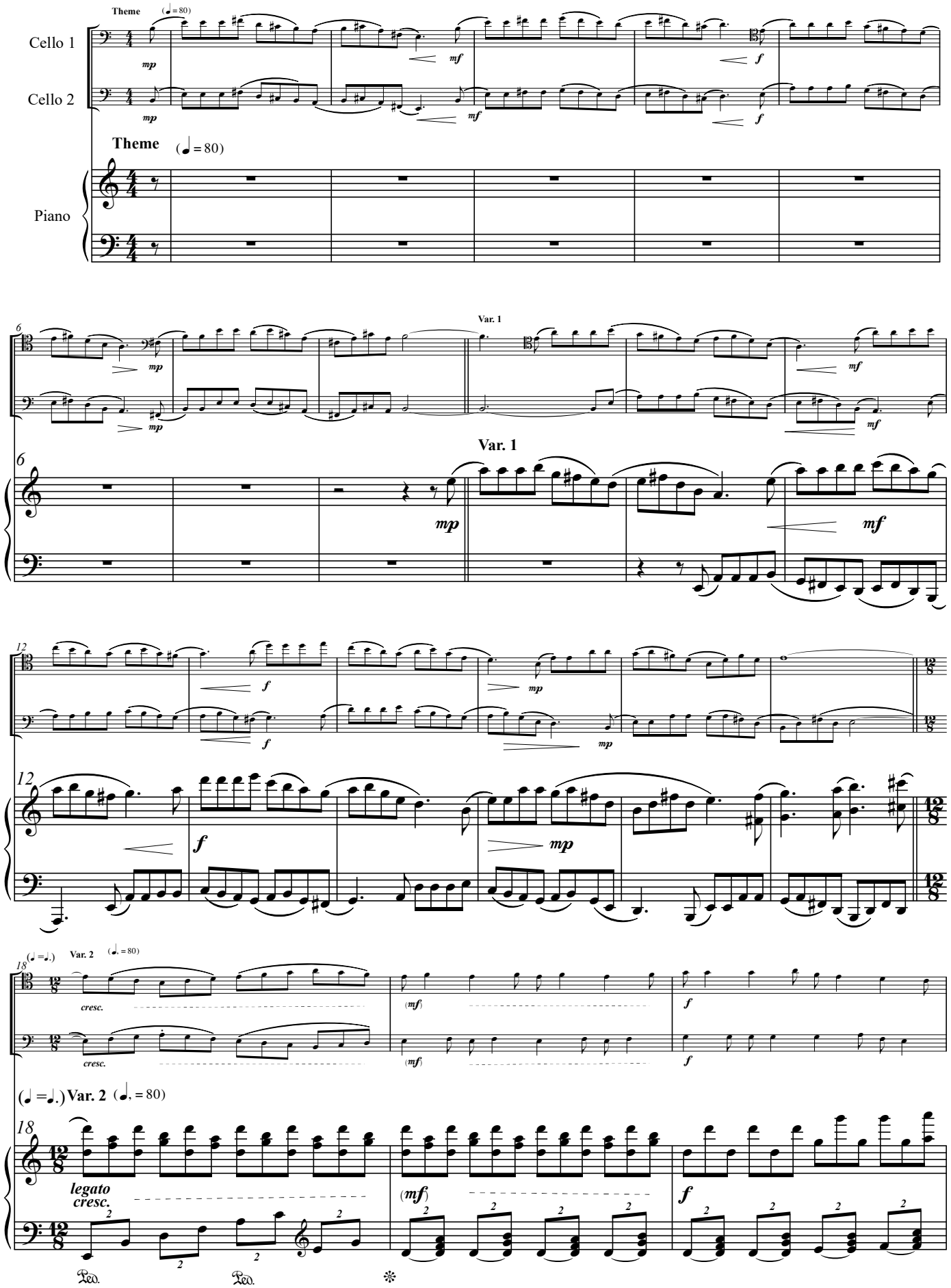

155
p
155
p
162
Tempo I (♩ = 138)
mp
cresc.
(mp)
(mf)
f
162
Tempo I (♩ = 138)
cresc.
(mp)
(mf)
f
170
ff
170
ff
177
rit.
f
mf
p
pp
attacca
177
f
mf
p
pp
attacca

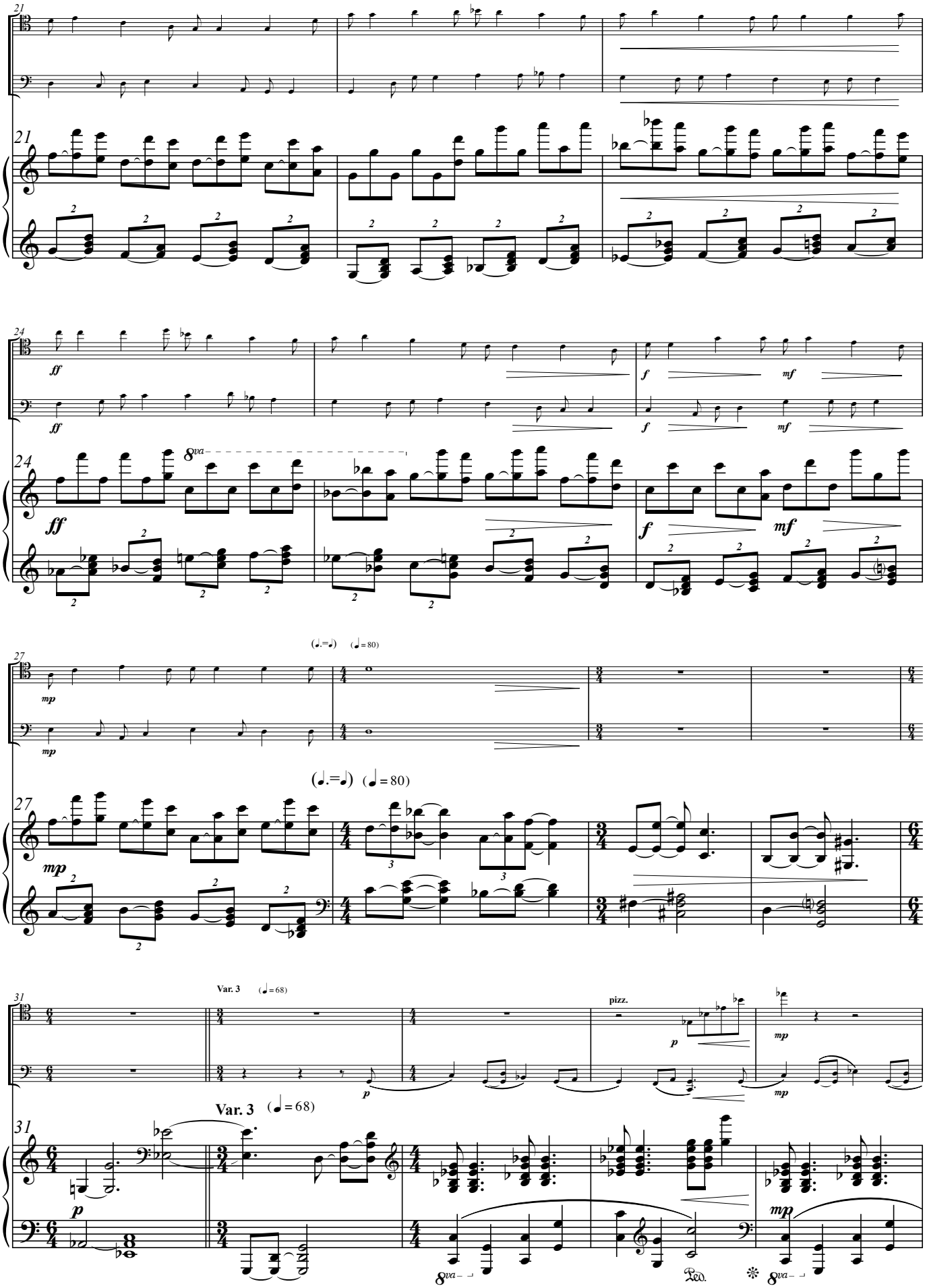

Adagio sempre legato e dolce (♩ = 52)
rit.
Cello 1
Cello 2
Piano
a tempo
dim.

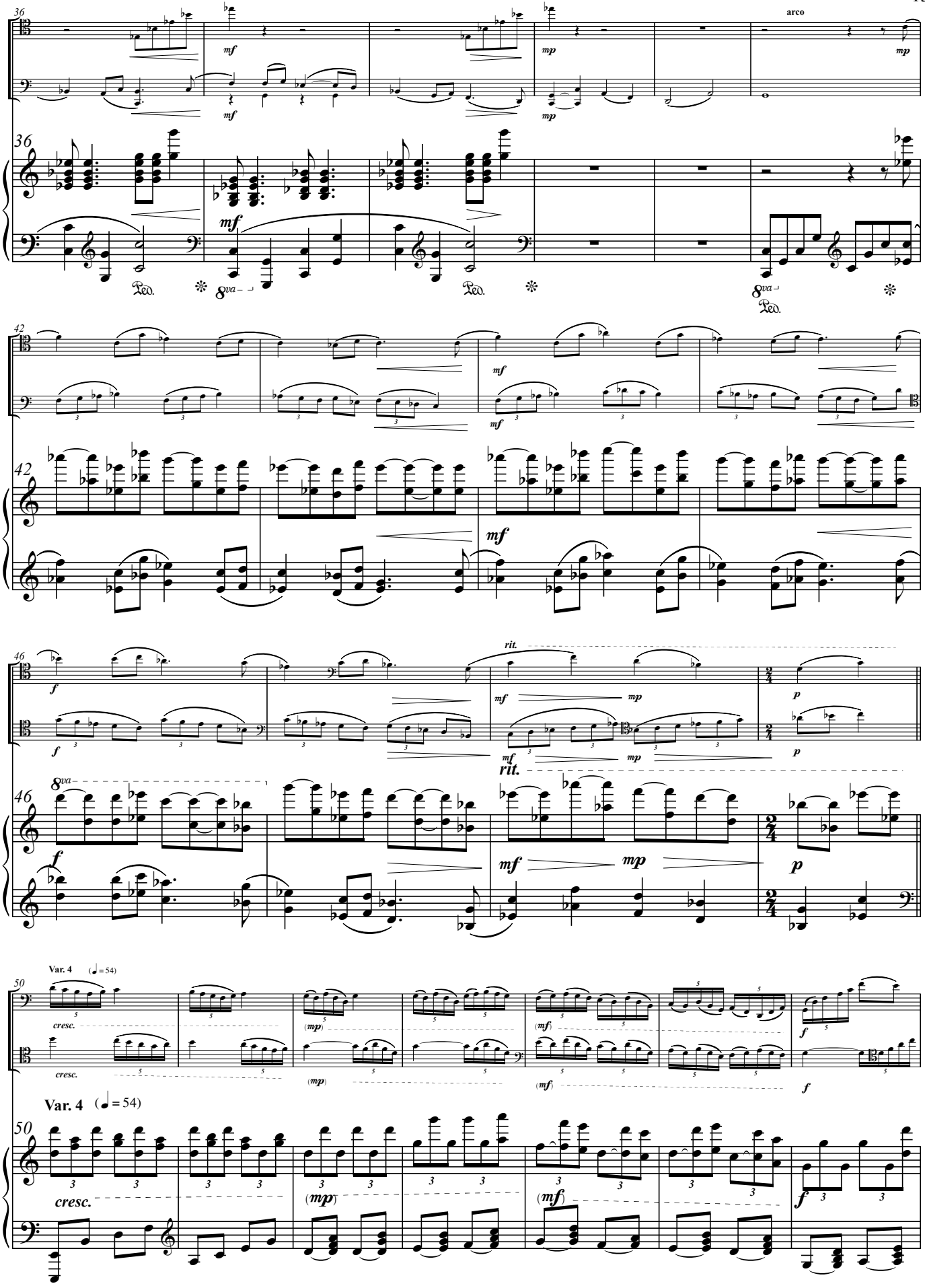

22
p
mp
mf
28
pp
33
dim.
(p)
Ped.
38
6

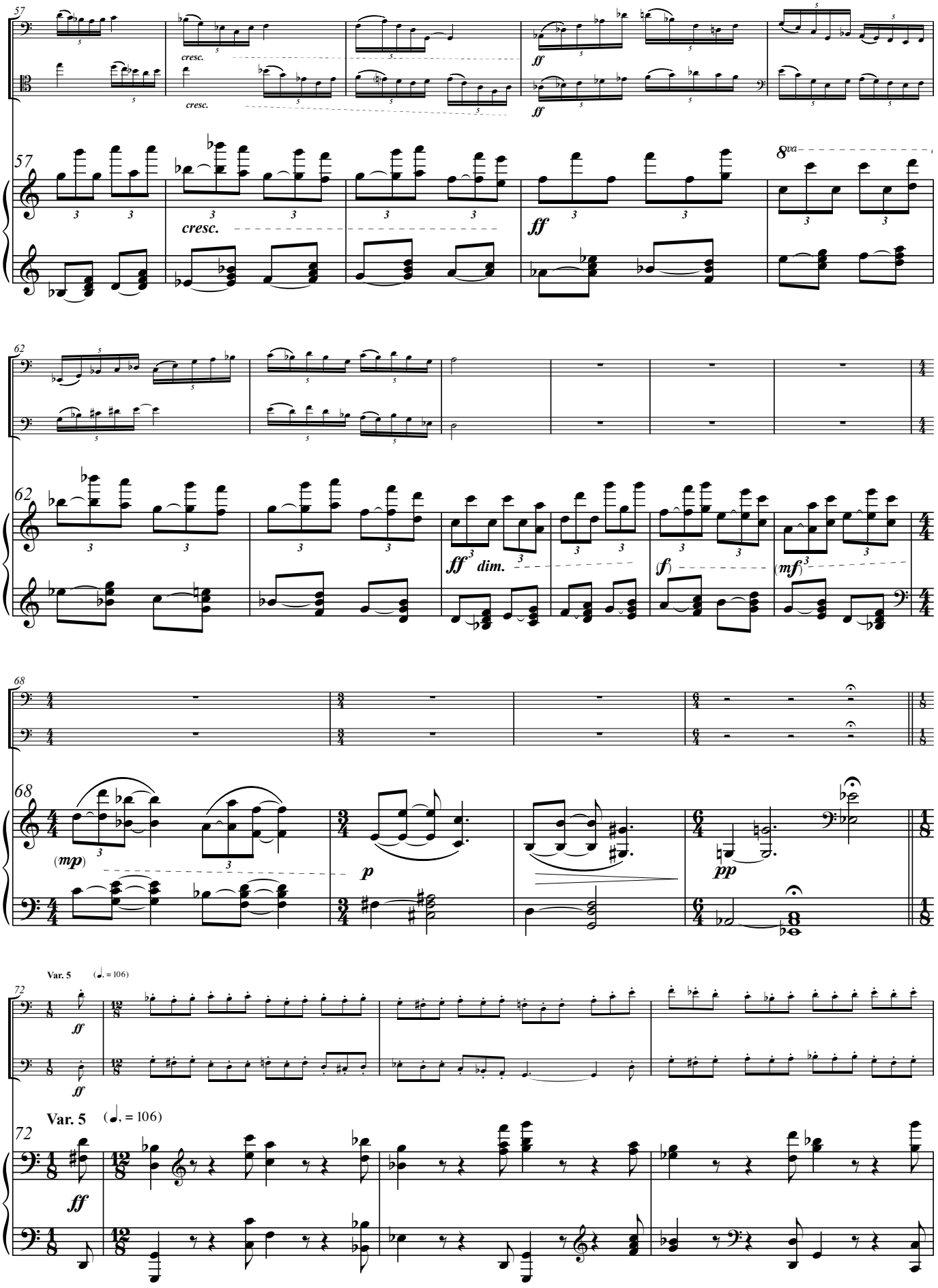

40
mf
dim.
43
(p)
pp
pizz.
p
47
mp
arco
cresc.
dim.
51
(mp)
(mf)
f

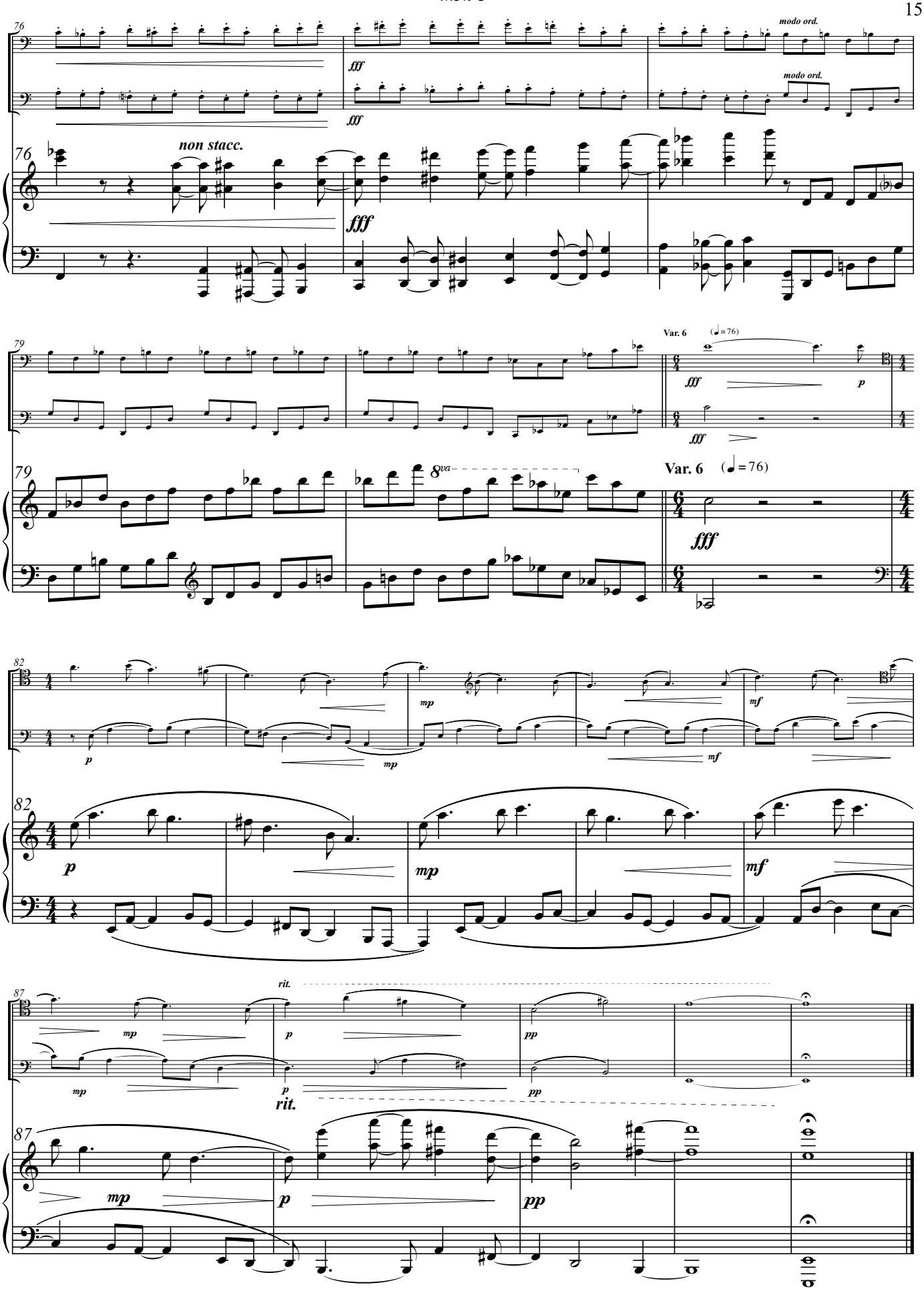

57
p cresc.
mp
cresc.
60
mf
dim.
mp
63
dim.
(p)
pp
rit.
a tempo
68
rit.
Ped.
8va


Theme
Cello 1
Cello 2
Piano
Var. 1
Var. 2
legato
cresc.

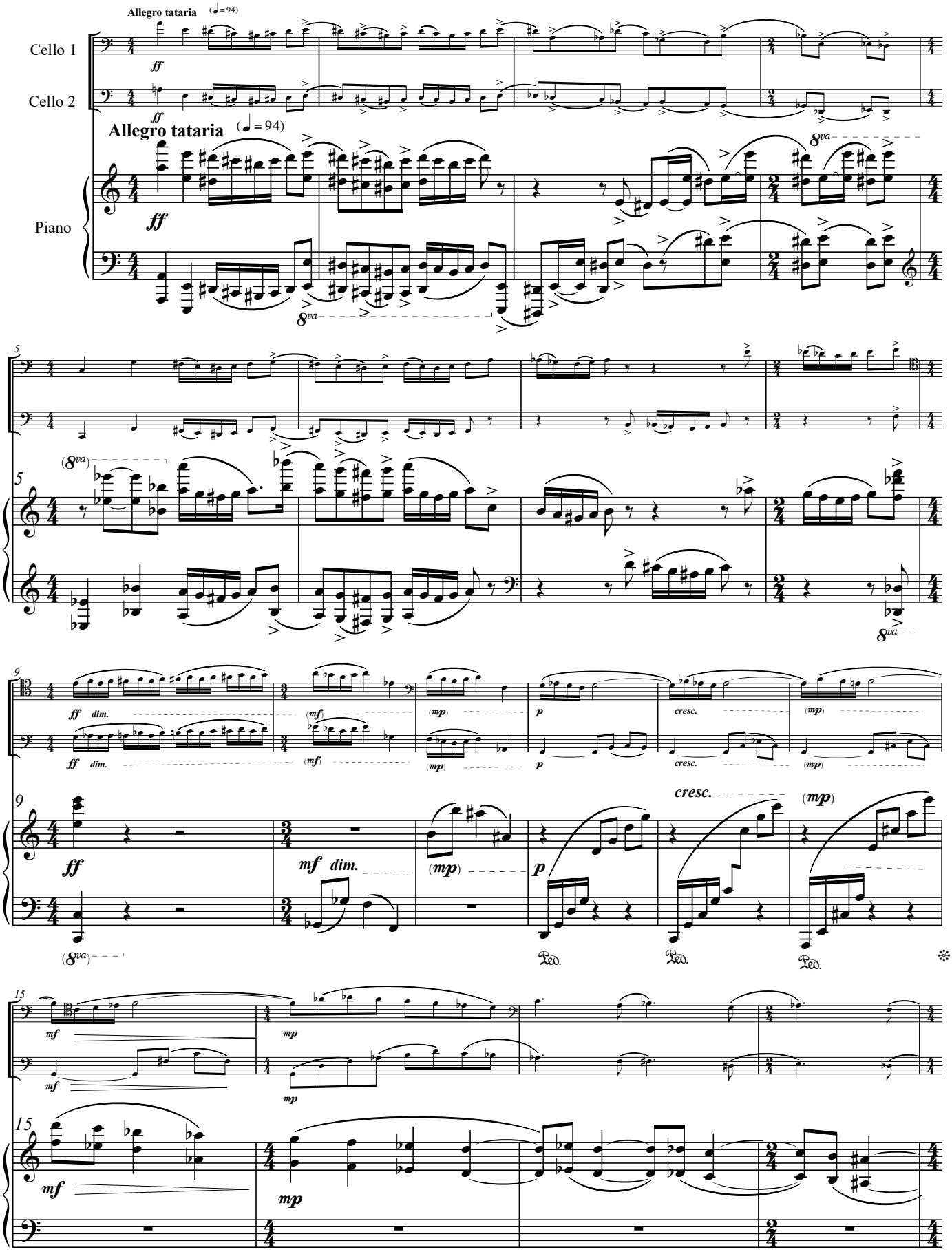

21
24
27
31
ff
f
mf
mp
8va
(♩.=♩) (♩=80)
Var. 3 (♩=68)
pizz.
p
Ped.

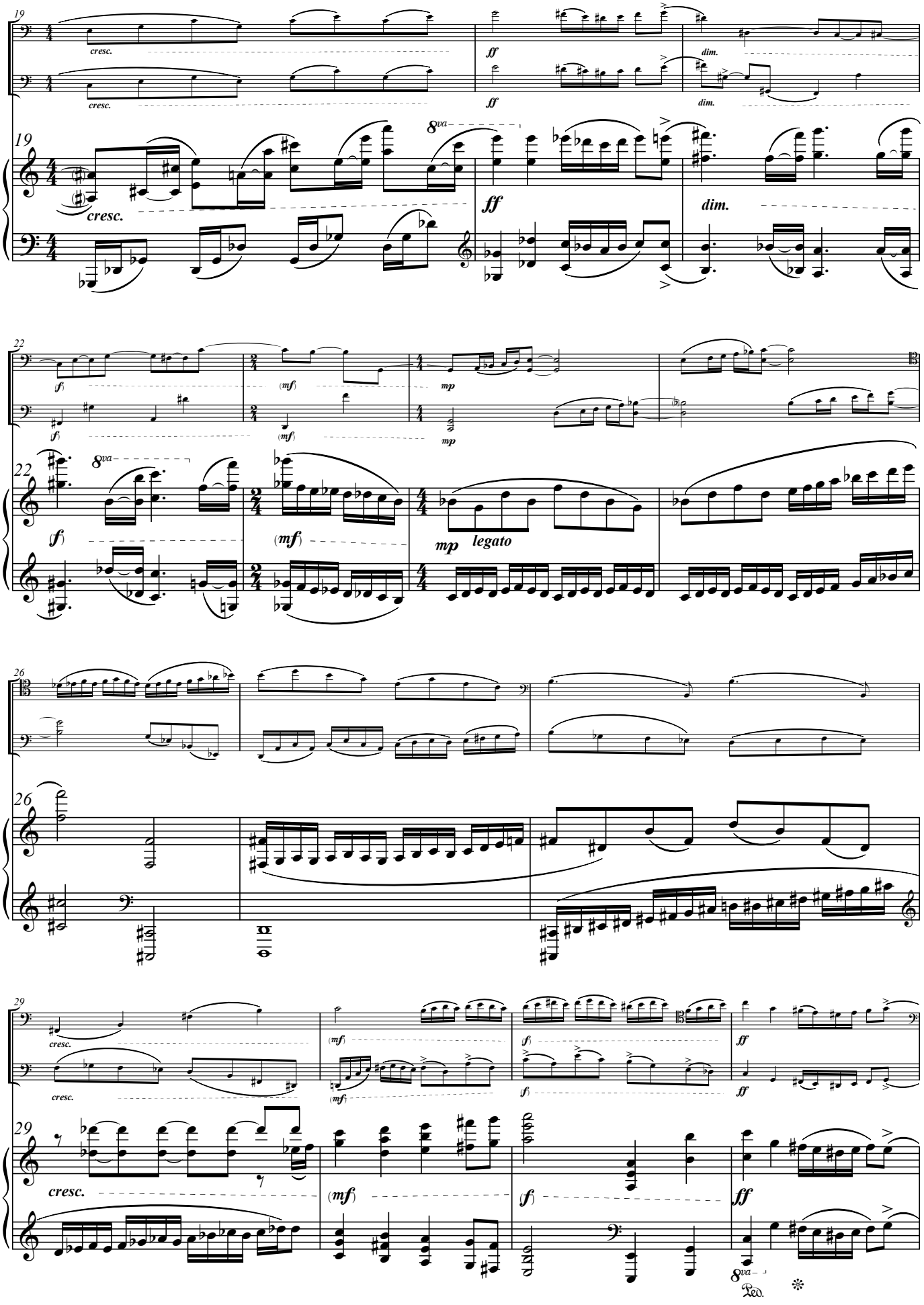

36
arco
mf
mp
Ped.
8va
42
46
rit.
50
Var. 4 (♩= 54)
cresc.
(mp)
(mf)

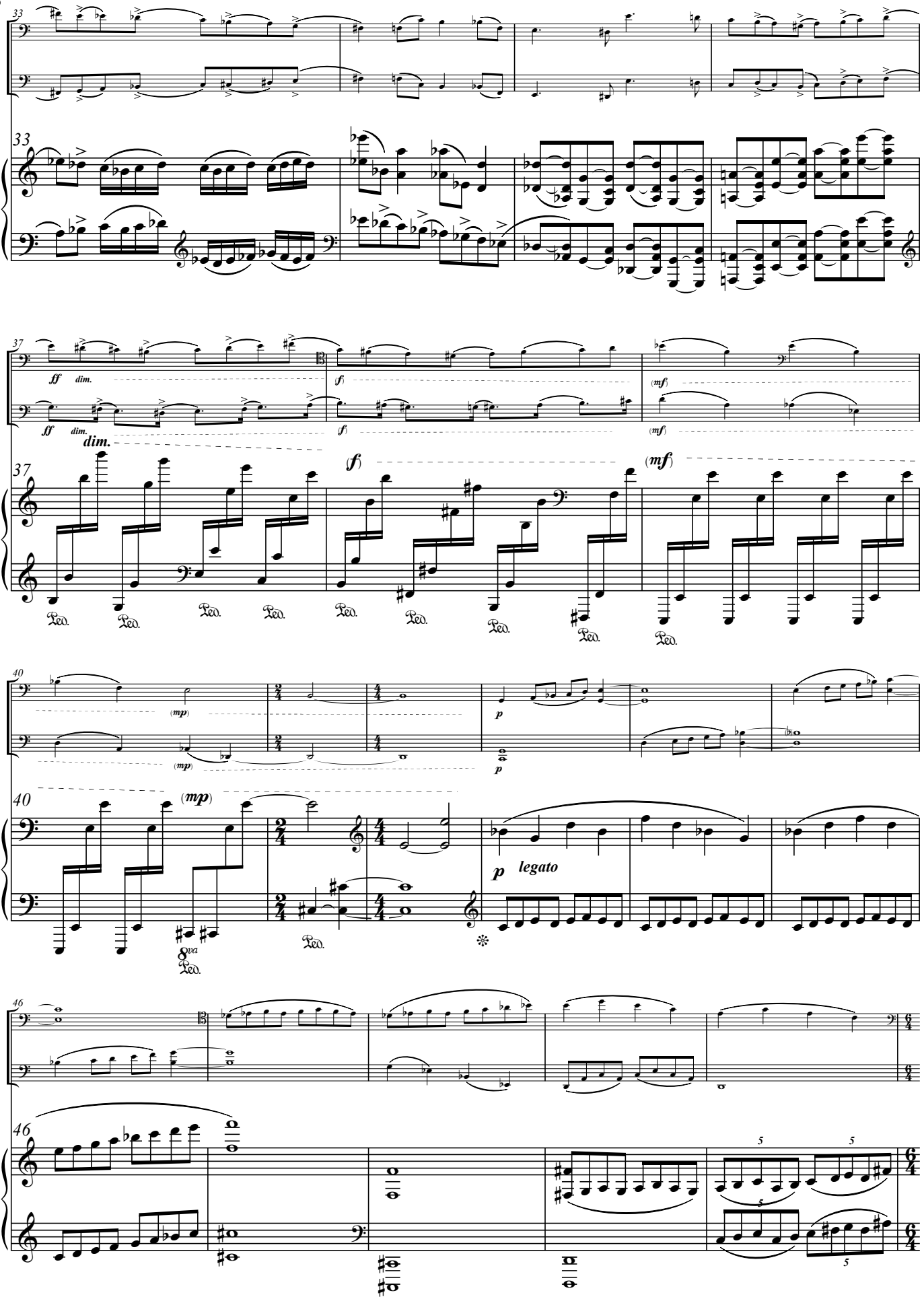

57
cresc.
cresc.
ff
ff
57
8va
cresc.
ff
62
62
ff
dim.
(f)
(mf)
68
68
(mp)
p
pp
Var. 5
(♩. = 106)
72
ff
ff
Var. 5
(♩. = 106)
72
ff

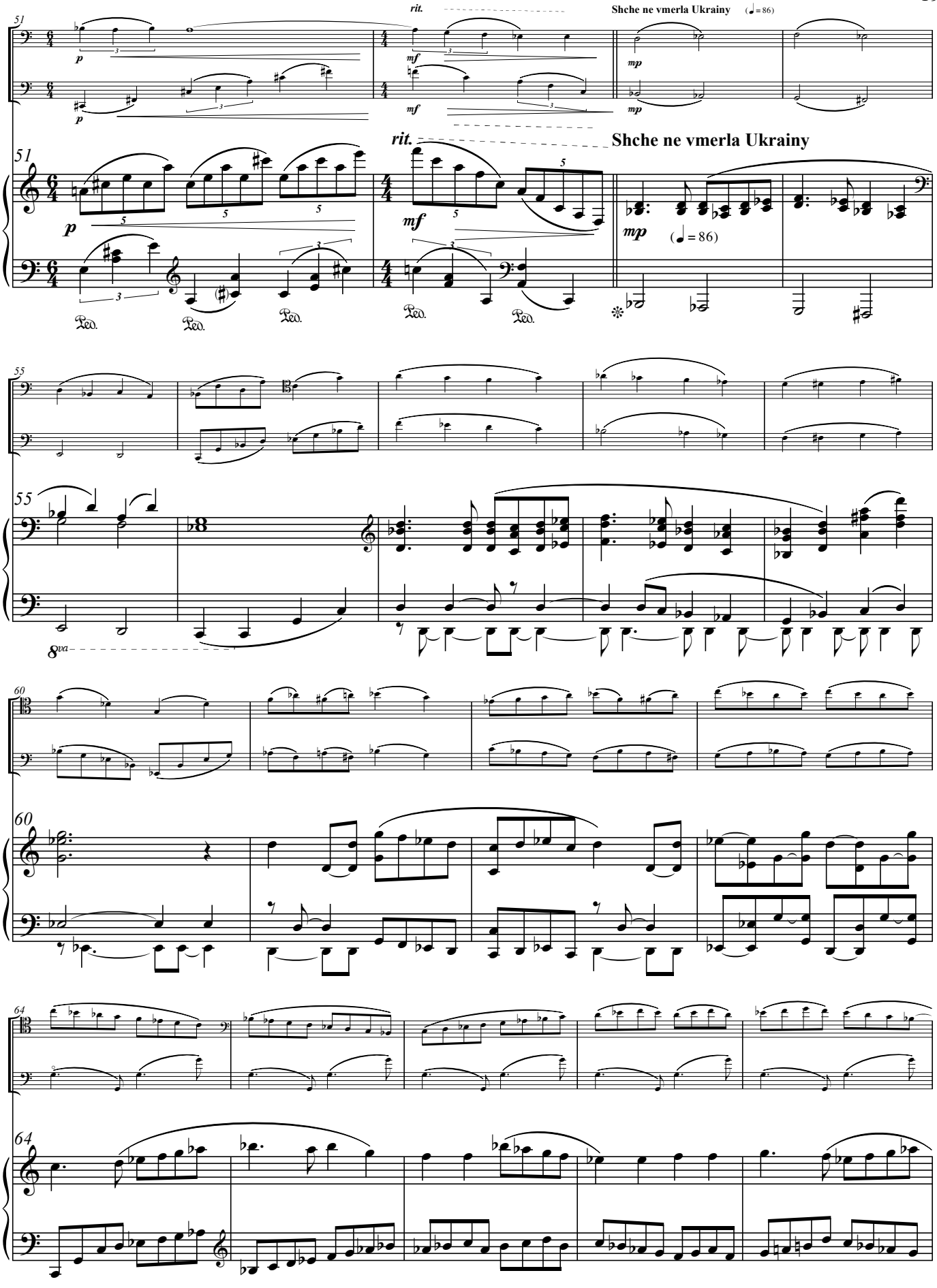

76
modo ord.
fff
non stacc.
79
Var. 6
(♩=76)
8va
82
p
mp
mf
87
rit.
pp

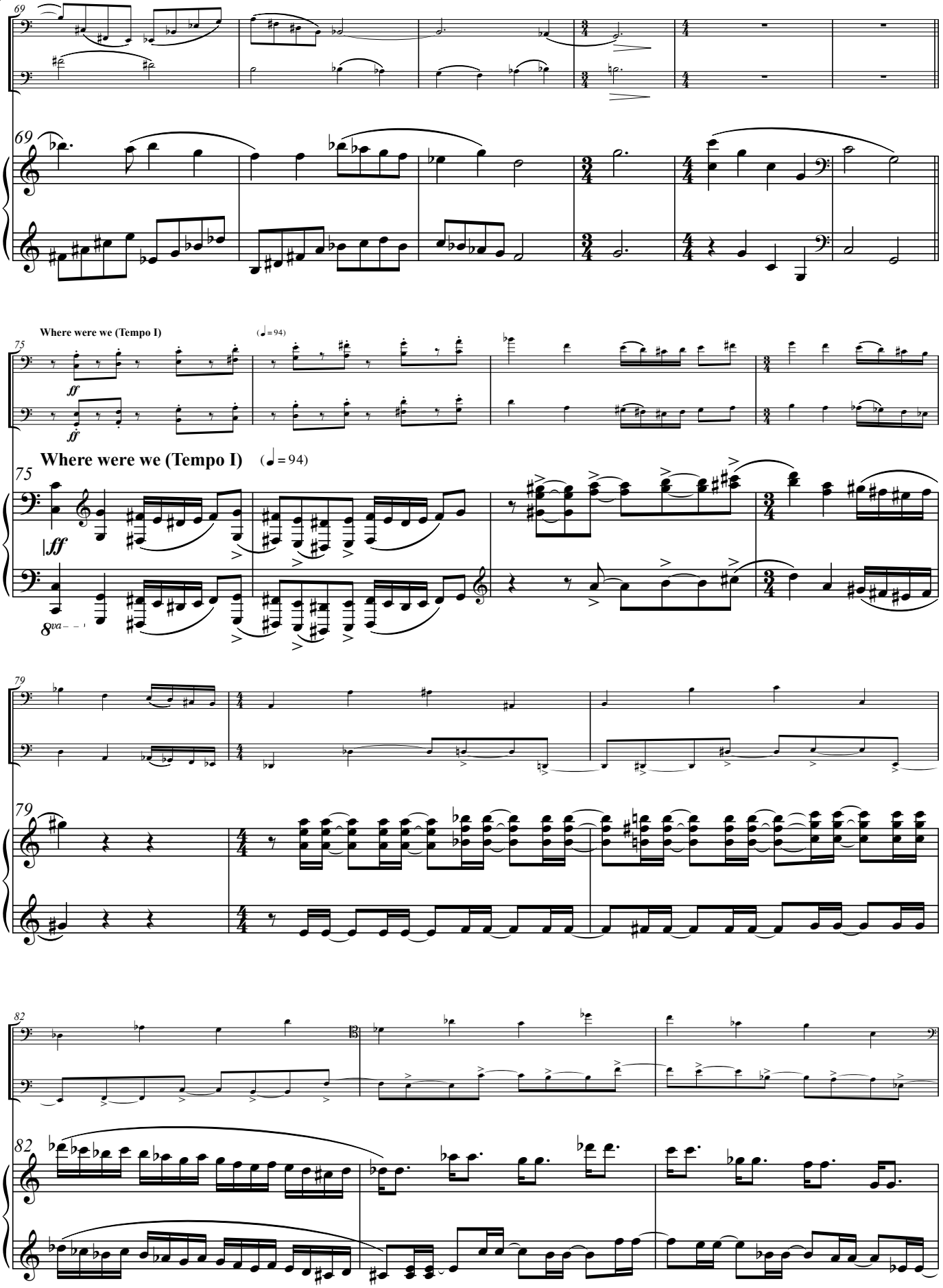
IV. Slava Ukraini [5:40]

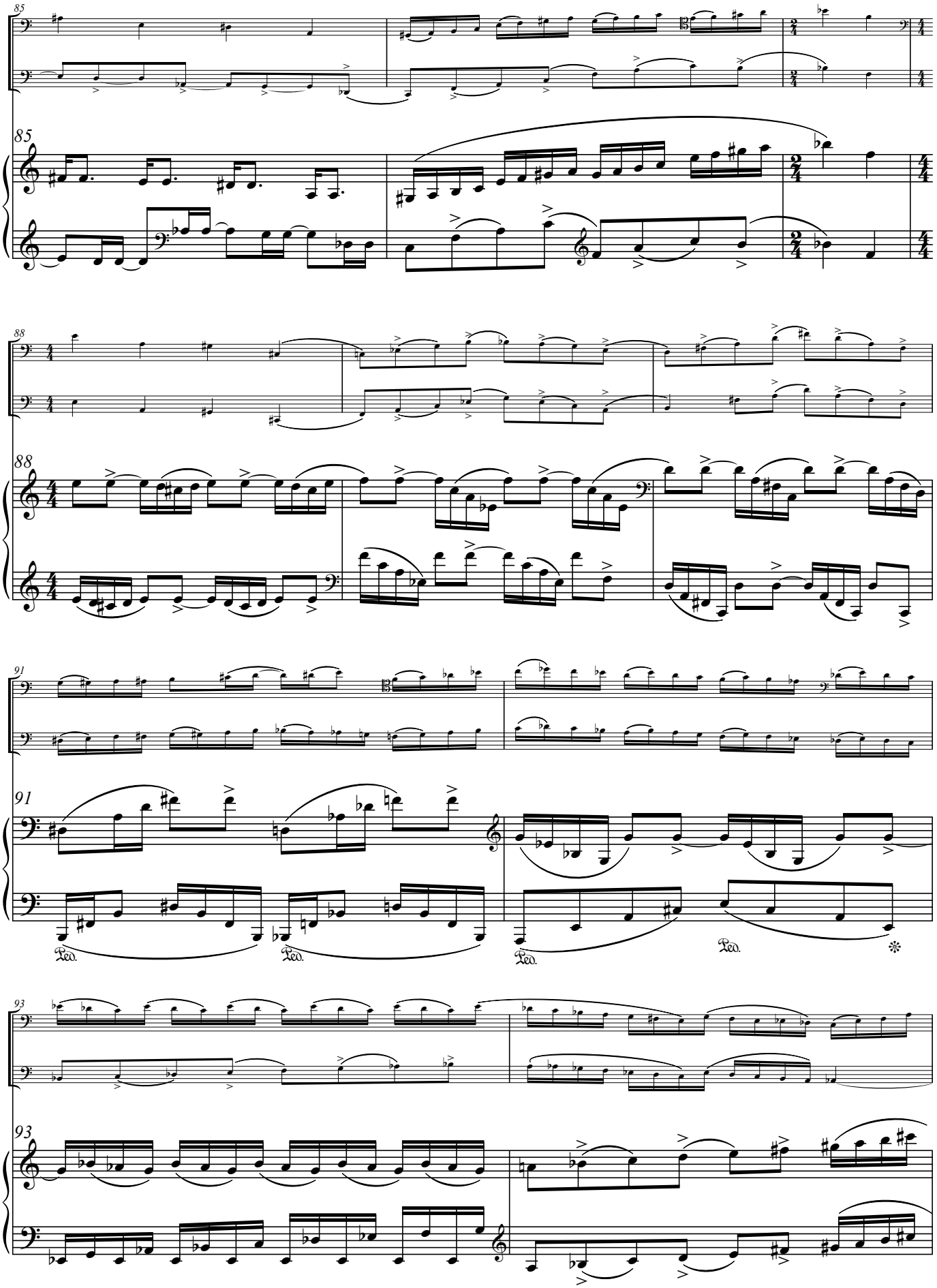


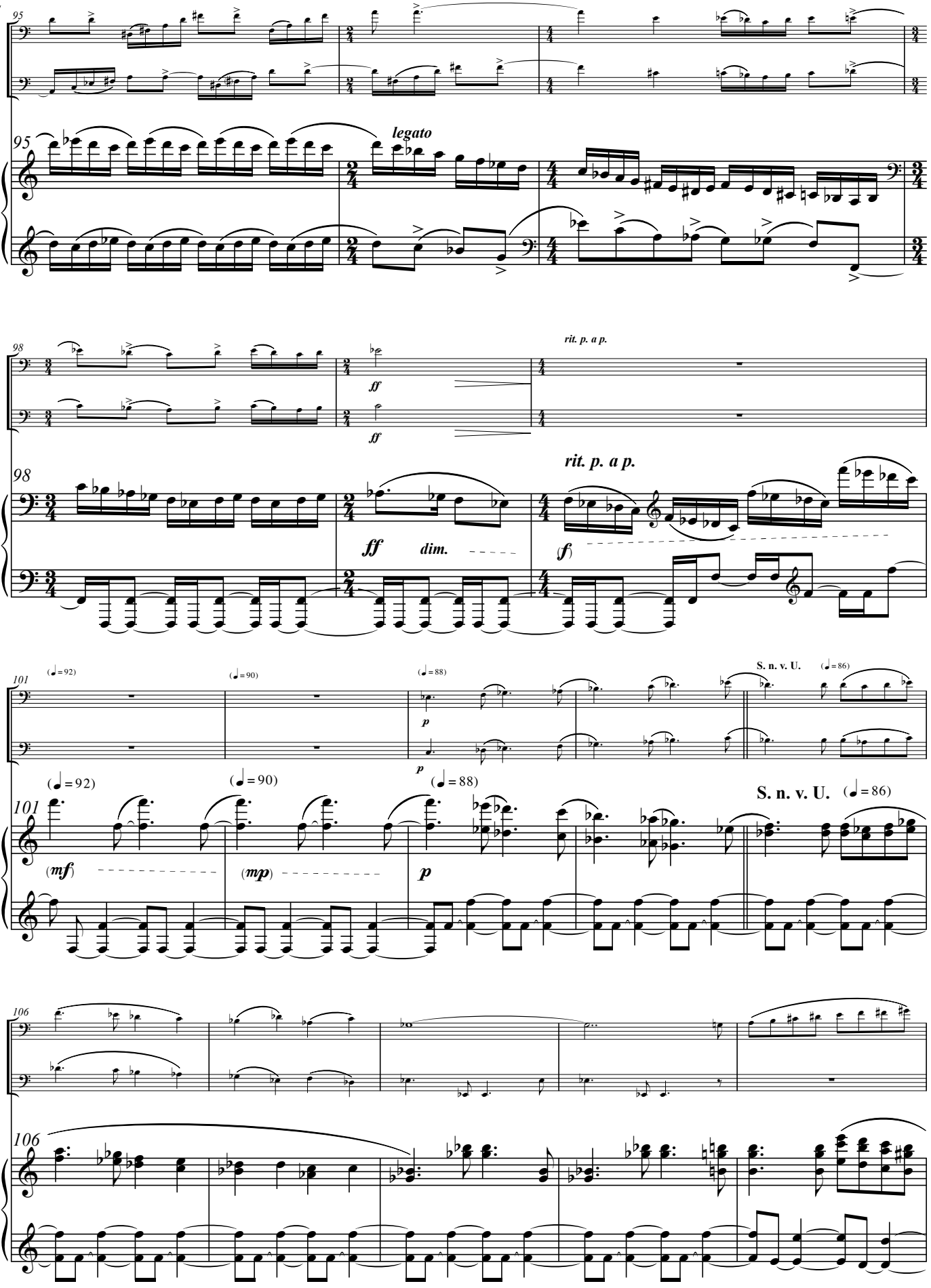

19
cresc.
ff
dim.
8va
22
(f)
(mf)
mp
legato
26
29
Ped.

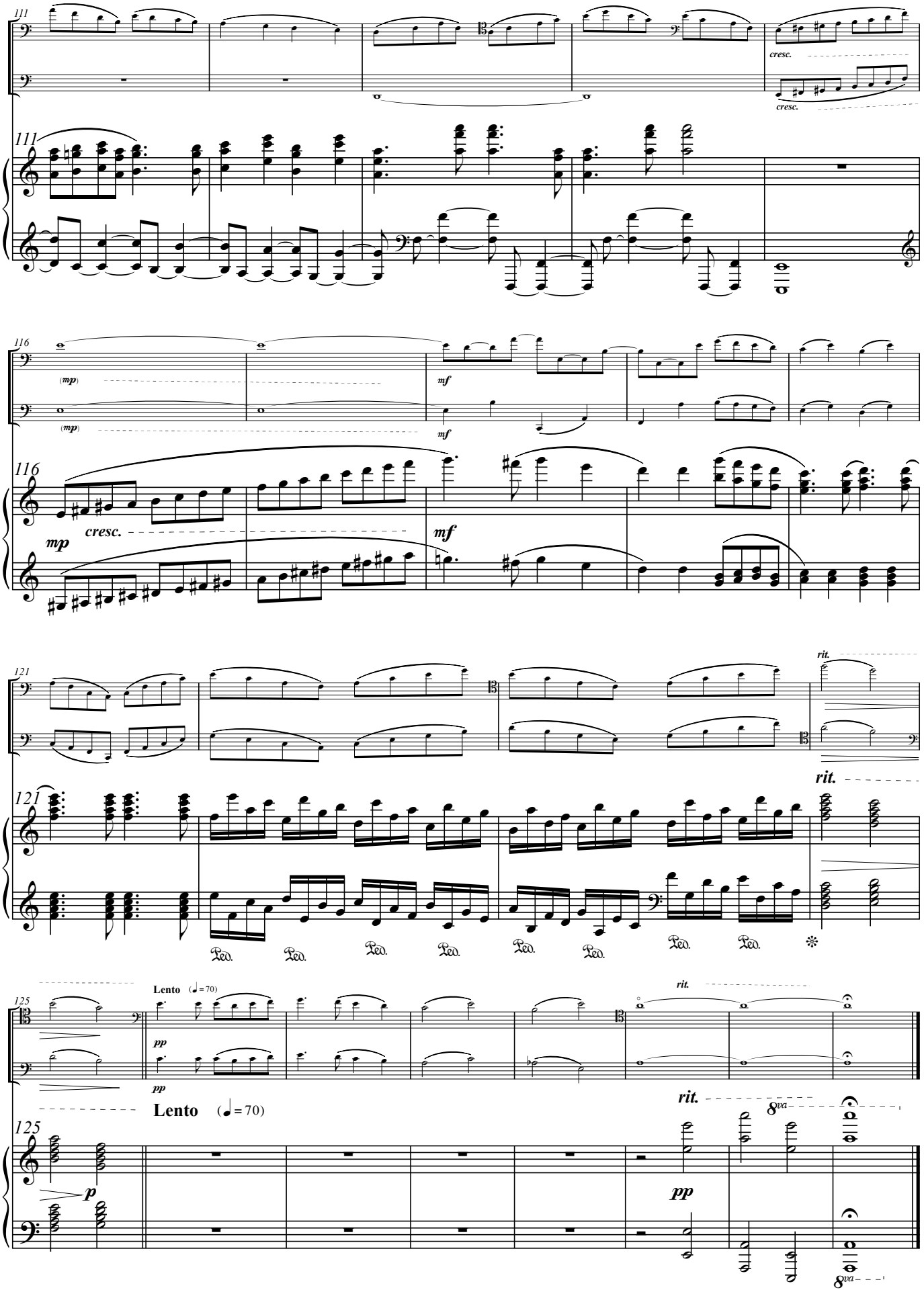

33
37
ff
dim.
(f)
(mf)
40
(mp)
p
legato
8va
46
5


rit.
Shche ne vmerla Ukrainy
(♩= 86)
51
p
mf
mp
55
8va
60
64


69
69
Where were we (Tempo I)
(♩= 94)
75
ff
ff
Where were we (Tempo I)
(♩= 94)
75
ff
8va
79
79
82
82


85
88
91
Ped.
93


95
legato
98
rit. p. a p.
ff
dim.
(f)
101
(♩= 92)
(♩= 90)
(♩= 88)
(mf)
(mp)
p
S. n. v. U.
(♩= 86)
106


111
cresc.
cresc.
111
116
(mp)
(mp)
mf
mf
116
mp
cresc.
mf
121
rit.
rit.
121
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
125
Lento (♩= 70)
rit.
pp
pp
Lento (♩= 70)
rit.
8va
125
p
pp
8va