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Jordan Kuspa

Mountain Air

for oboe, violin, viola, and cello

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I wrote Mountain Air for the Atlantic Music Festival, where I was privileged to spend a month as a Resident Artist Fellow, presenting my work, meeting incredible musicians, and enjoying the beauty of both Colby College and the Maine landscape. But this piece was inspired by my time at the Aspen Music Festival years before, where the stunning scenery was merely a backdrop to meeting some of the best musicians and friends I've ever known.

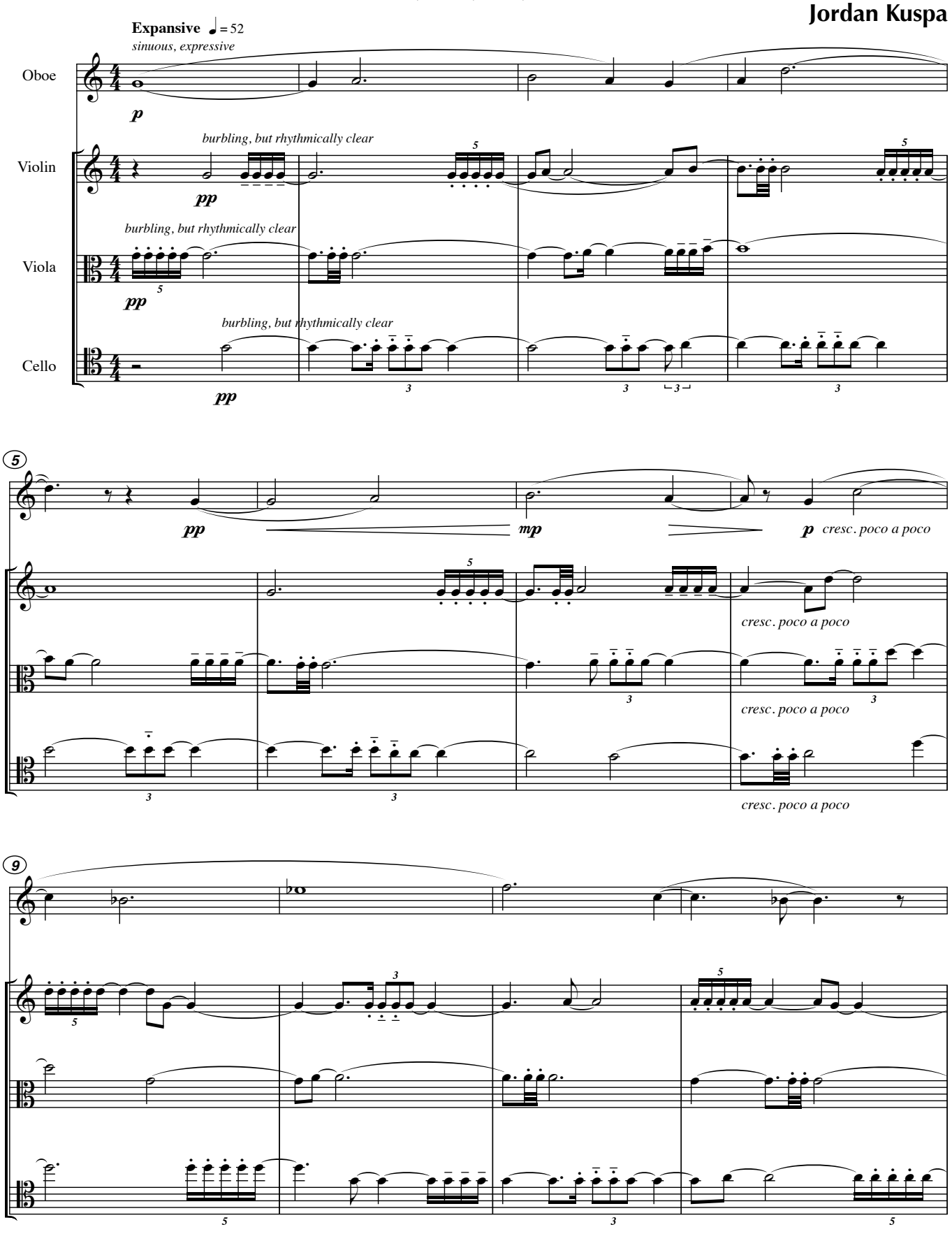
Musically, the piece is concerned with the idea of a long line, which first arches over an accompaniment of itself, simply played at slightly different rates. The lines coalesce into a rhythmic figure in the strings, leading to an oboe cadenza. Out of this cadenza, a related line emerges, played over a skittering texture derived from the rhythmic motif. Again, the rhythmic unisons achieve a moment of clarity, before the original tune returns, now played in canon with itself at two different tempi.

–Jordan Kuspa

Mountain Air

for oboe, violin, viola, and cello

Jordan Kuspa



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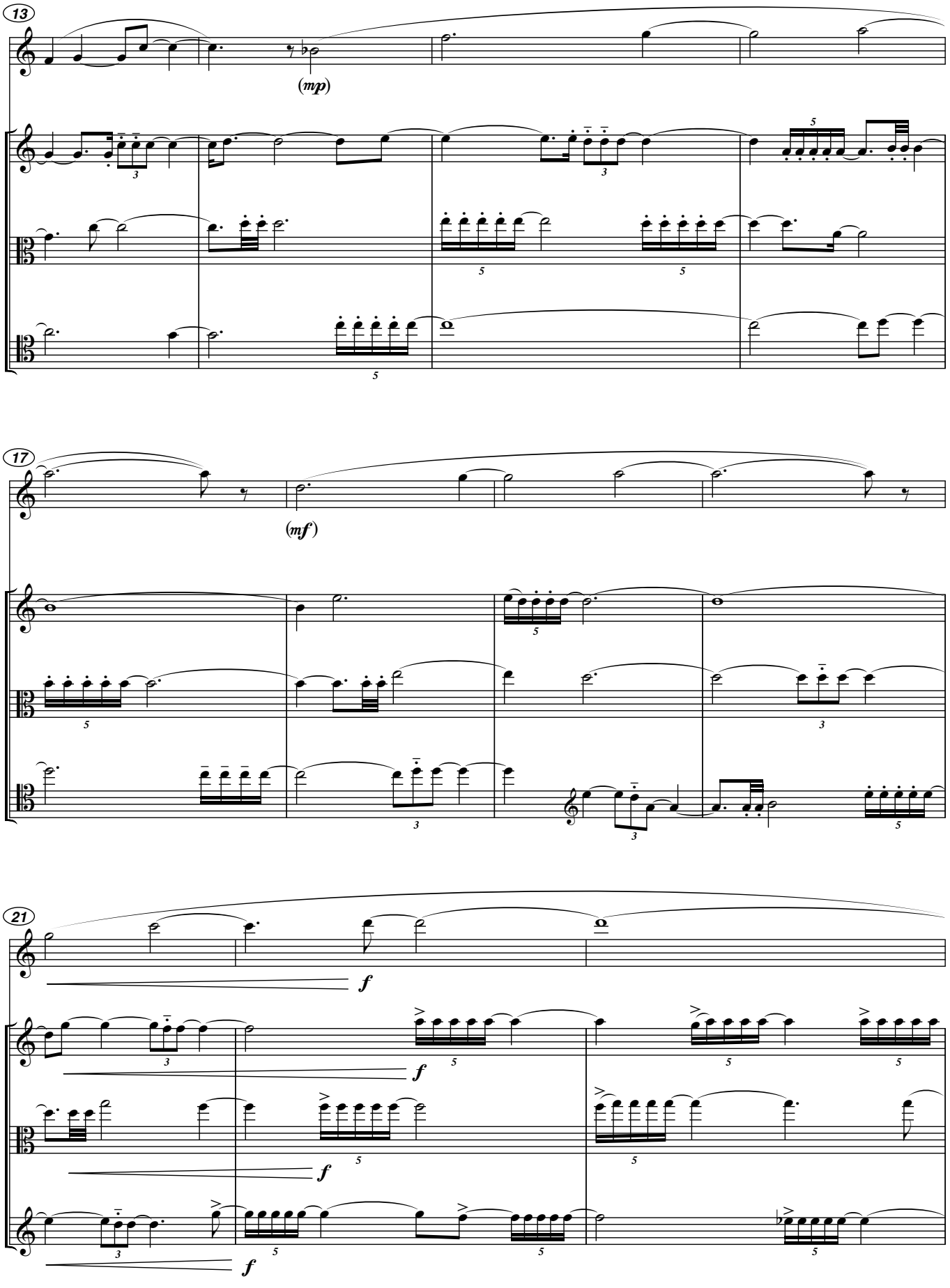
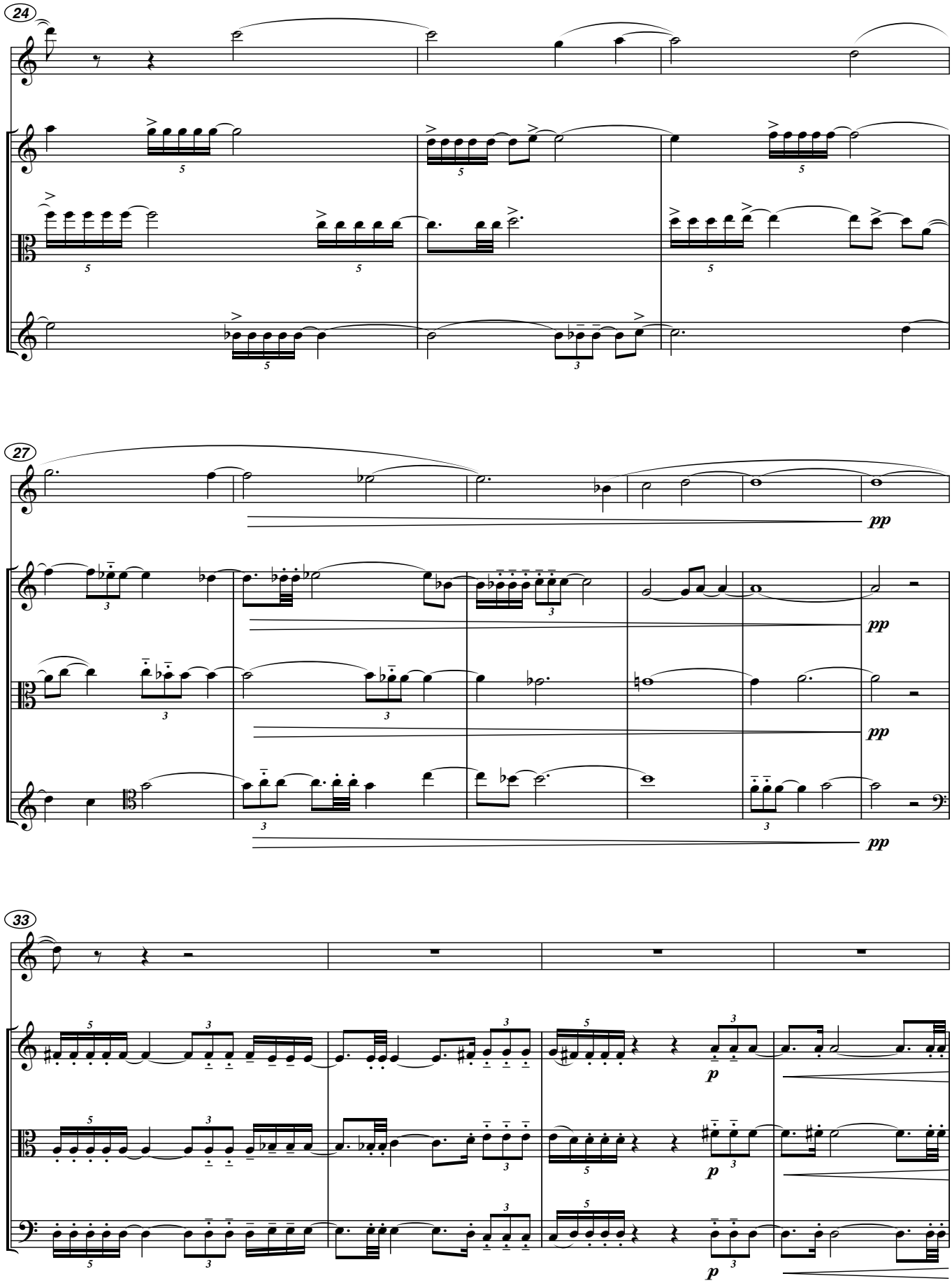
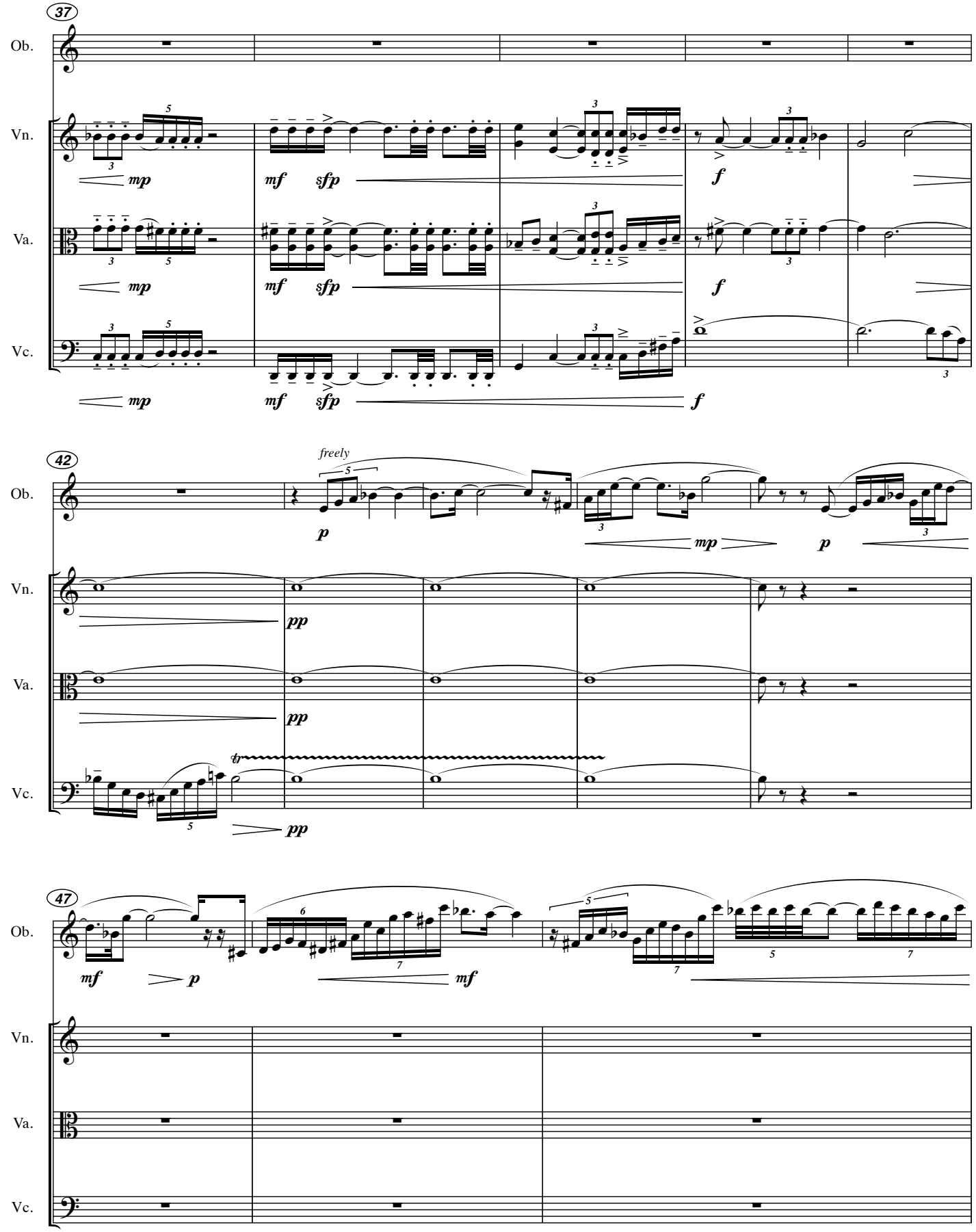
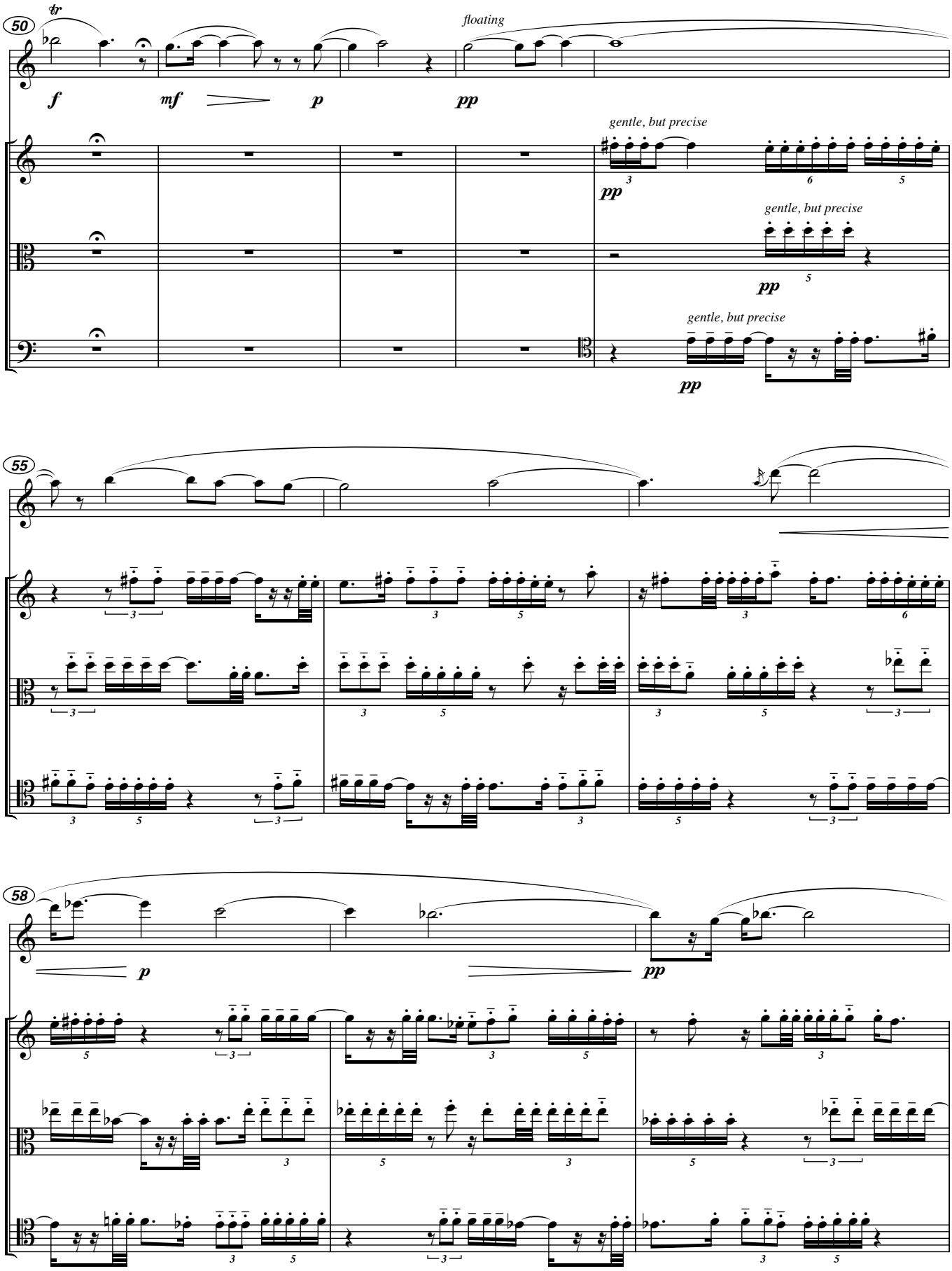
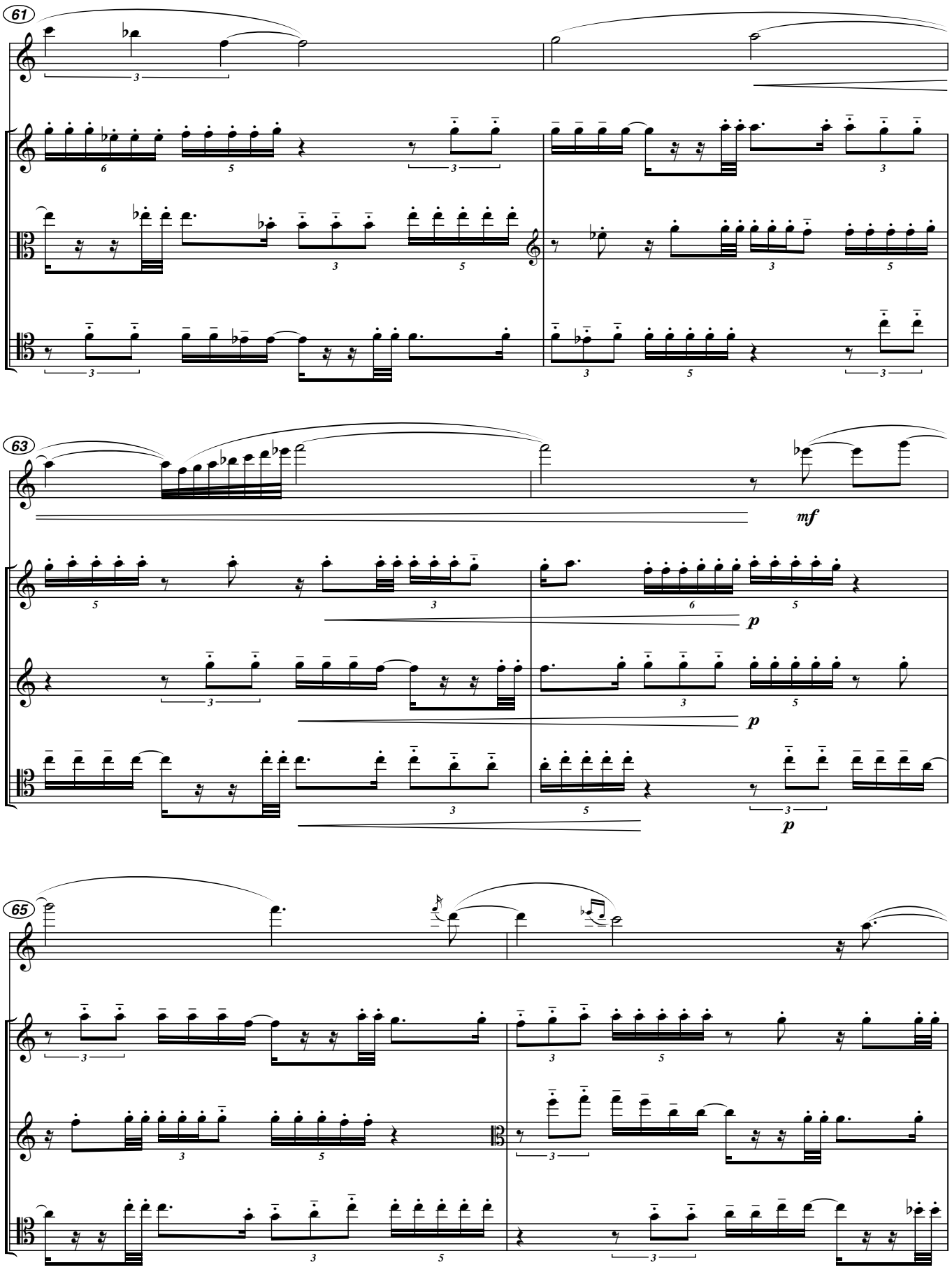
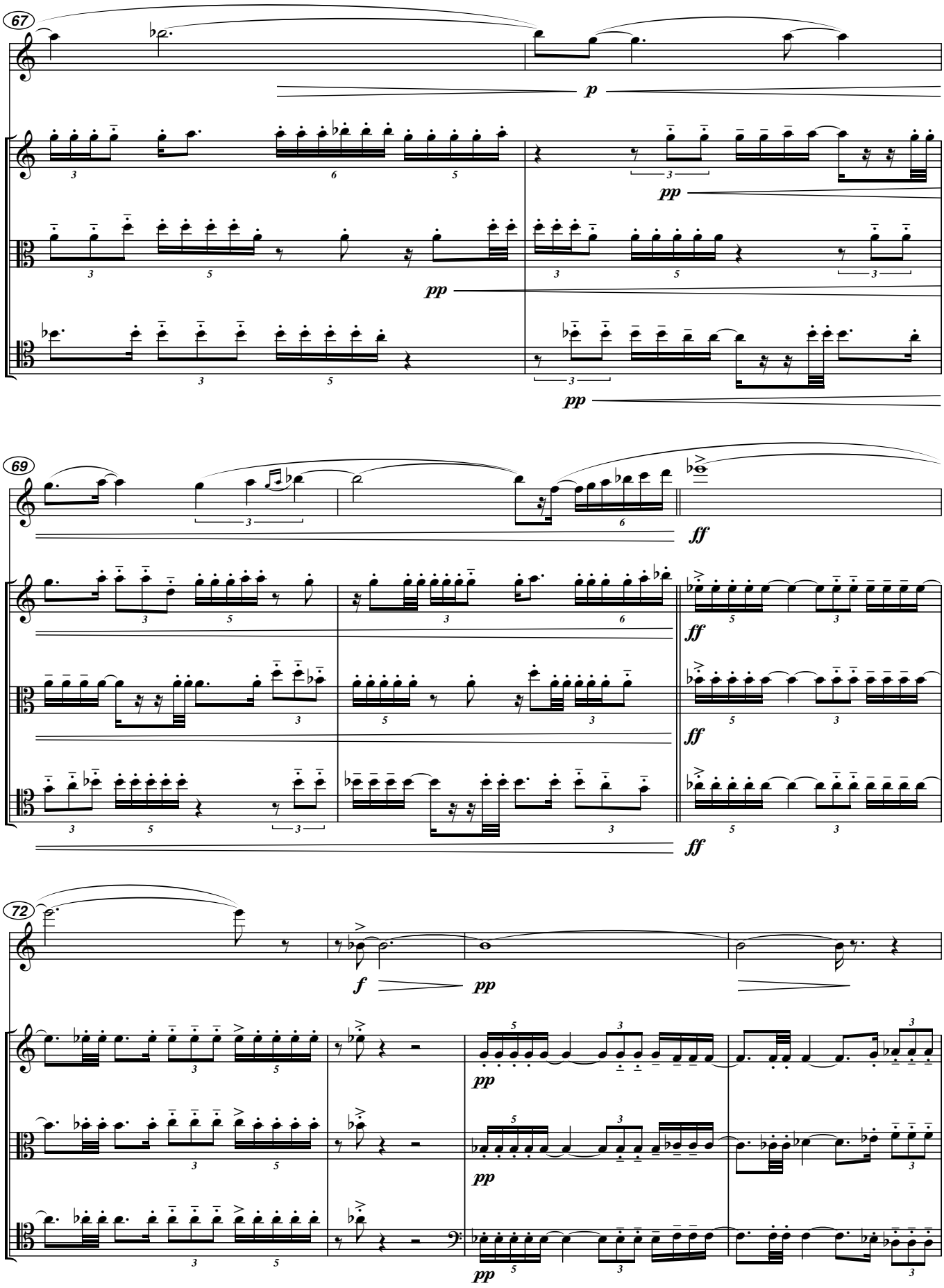

13
Ob.
(mp)
Vn.
Va.
Vc.
17
Ob.
(mf)
Vn.
Va.
Vc.
21
Ob.
f
Vn.
f
Va.
f
Vc.
f

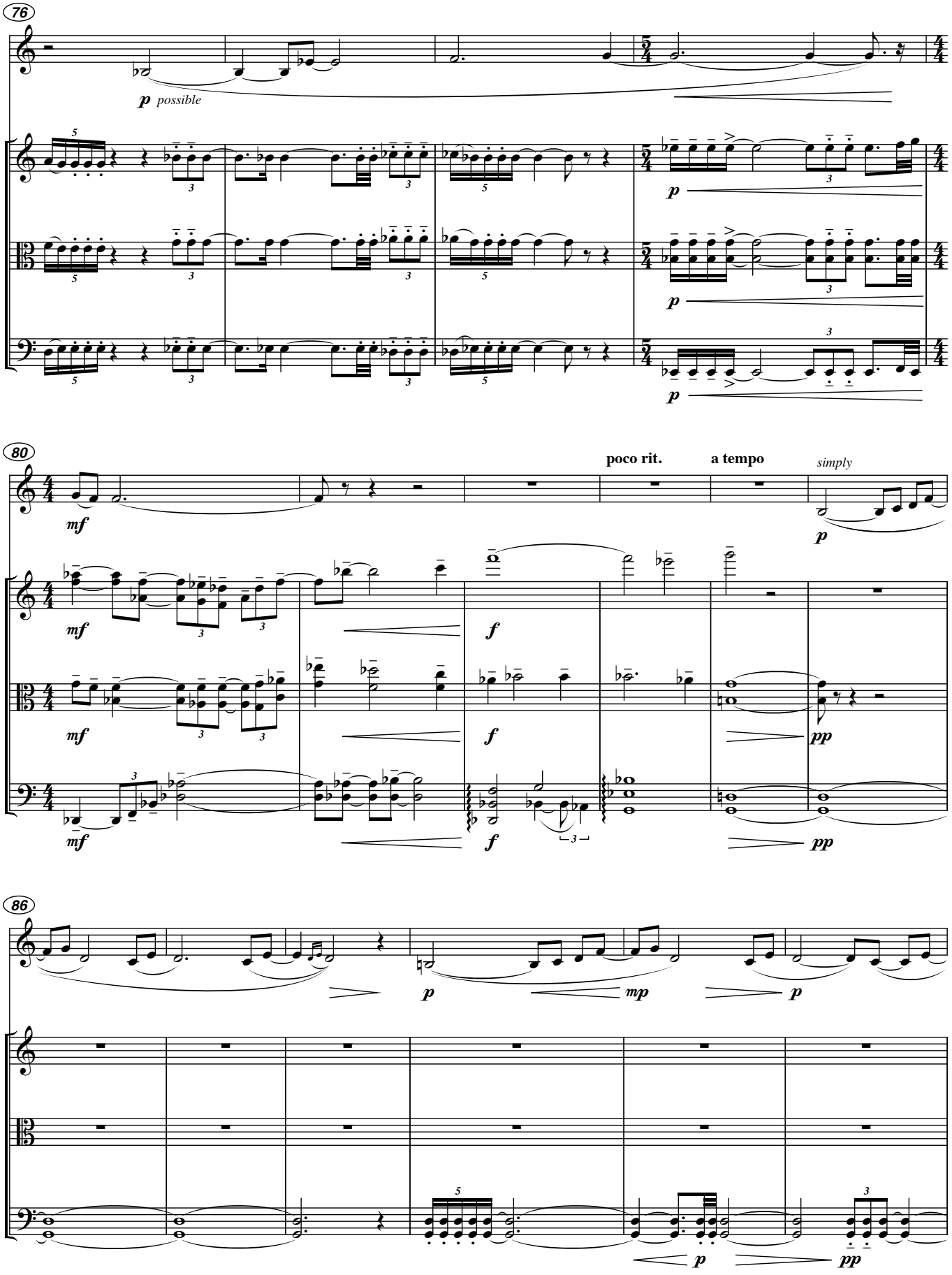

24
Ob.
Vn.
Va.
Vc.
27
pp
33
p

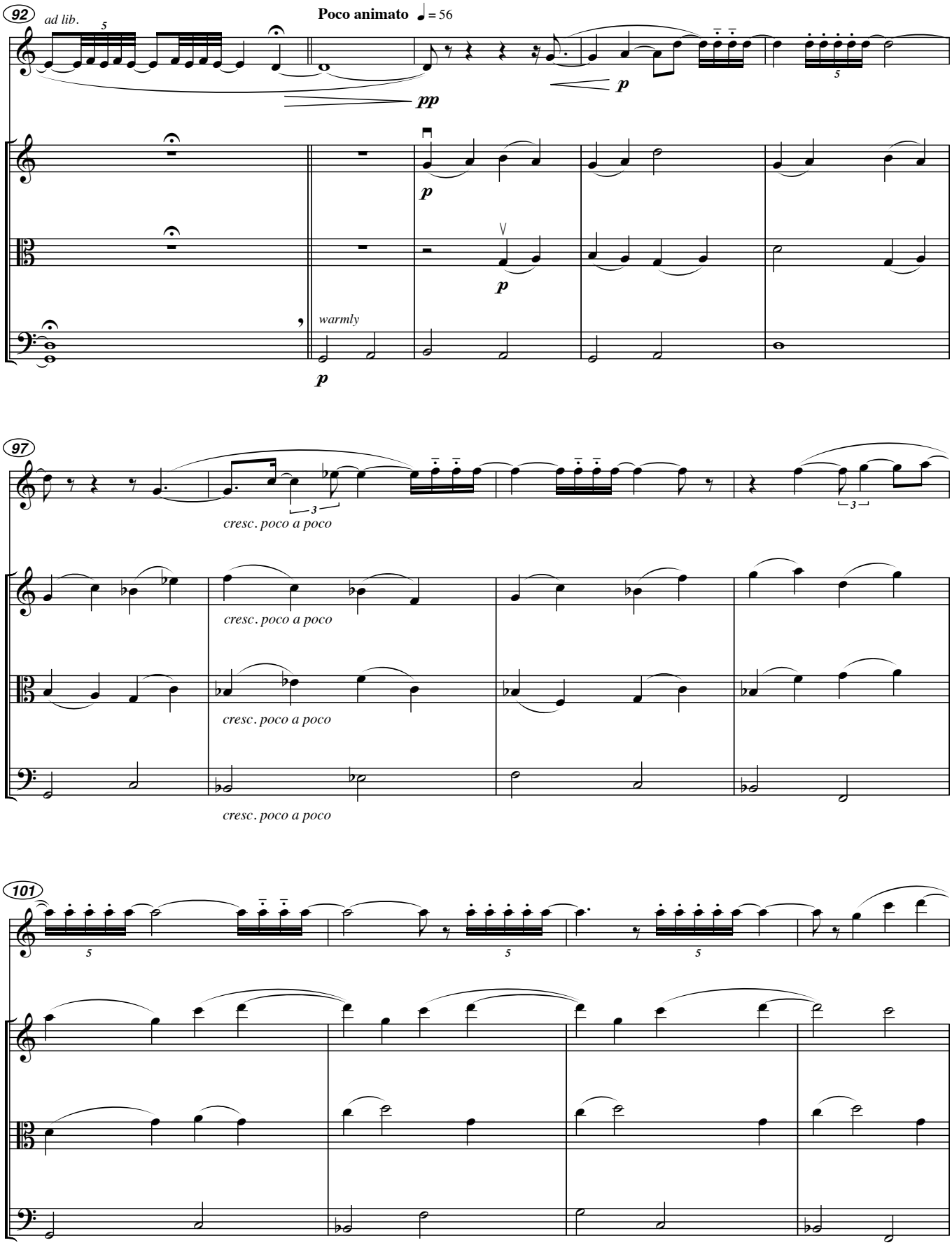

37
Ob.
Vn.
Va.
Vc.
mp
mf
sfp
f
42
freely
p
mp
pp
tr
47
mf
p
mf

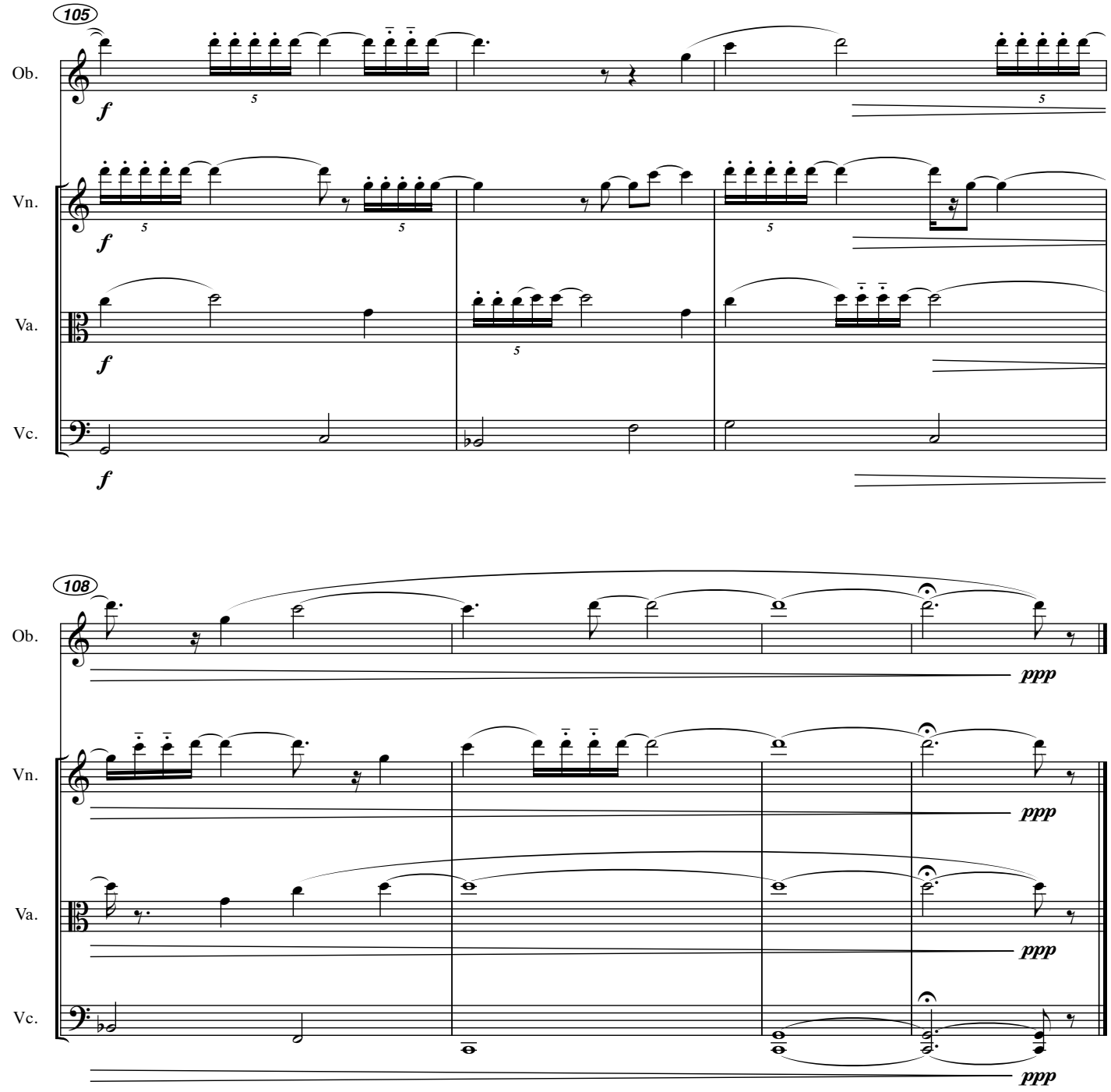

50
tr
floating
Ob.
f
mf
p
pp
Vn.
gentle, but precise
pp
Va.
gentle, but precise
pp
Vc.
gentle, but precise
pp
55
Ob.
Vn.
Va.
Vc.
58
Ob.
p
pp
Vn.
Va.
Vc.


61
Ob.
Vn.
Va.
Vc.
63
mf
p
65


67
Ob.
Vn.
Va.
Vc.
p
pp
pp
pp
69
Ob.
Vn.
Va.
Vc.
ff
ff
ff
ff
72
Ob.
Vn.
Va.
Vc.
f
pp
pp
pp
pp


76
Ob.
Vn.
Va.
Vc.
p possible
p
80
poco rit.
a tempo
simply
mf
f
pp
86
mp


92
ad lib.
Poco animato ♩= 56
Ob.
Vn.
Va.
Vc.
pp
p
warmly
97
cresc. poco a poco
101


105
Ob.
Vn.
Va.
Vc.
f
5
108
ppp