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String Quartet No. 5 "Time Cycles"

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ANDREW LIST

STRING QUARTET No.5 "TIME CYCLES"

Program Notes:

String Quartet No. 5 "Time Cycles" is inspired by T. S. Eliot's Four Quartets and also Circular Time Theory. The work consists of five movements each of which inspired by a quotation from Burnt Norton the first of the Eliot's Four Quartets.

In his diary T. S. Eliot wrote "what would it be like if you had four different poetic strains that eventually come together as one. " He was listening to the late Beethoven Quartets when he wrote that and was inspired by that great music when writing the Four Quartets.

My entire piece is based on the same musical material through out. The first four movements are variations that explore this musical material in different ways. In Burnt Norton Eliot writes: "Time present and time past are both perhaps present in time future, and time future contained in time past" The fifth movement is a recapitulation of the earlier four and is also the point where all of the musical material comes together. In my piece time present, past and future are all happening simultaneously.

My piece is also inspired by Circular Time Theory where all time and events are occurring at once as opposed to linear time theory when events unfold in a sequence, All five movements of my quartet use the same intervallic and pitch material through out thus everything is occurring at the same time presented in five different guises.

Quotations for each movement:

1) The stillness, as a Chinese jar still moves perpetually in its stillness, not the stillness of the violin, while the note lasts, not that only but the co-existence or say that the end precedes the beginning, and the end and the beginning were always there and all is always there before the beginning and after the end.

2) At the still point of the turning world, neither flesh nor fleshless; Neither from nor towards; at the still point, there the dance is.

3) Time past and time future allow but a little consciousness. To be conscious is not to be in time but only in time can the moment in the rose-garden,
the moment in the arbour where the rain beat, the moment in the draughty church at smokefall be remembered; involved with time past and future.

4) And all is always now. Words strain, crack and sometimes break, under the burden under the tension, slip, slide, perish. Decay with imprecision, will not stay in place.

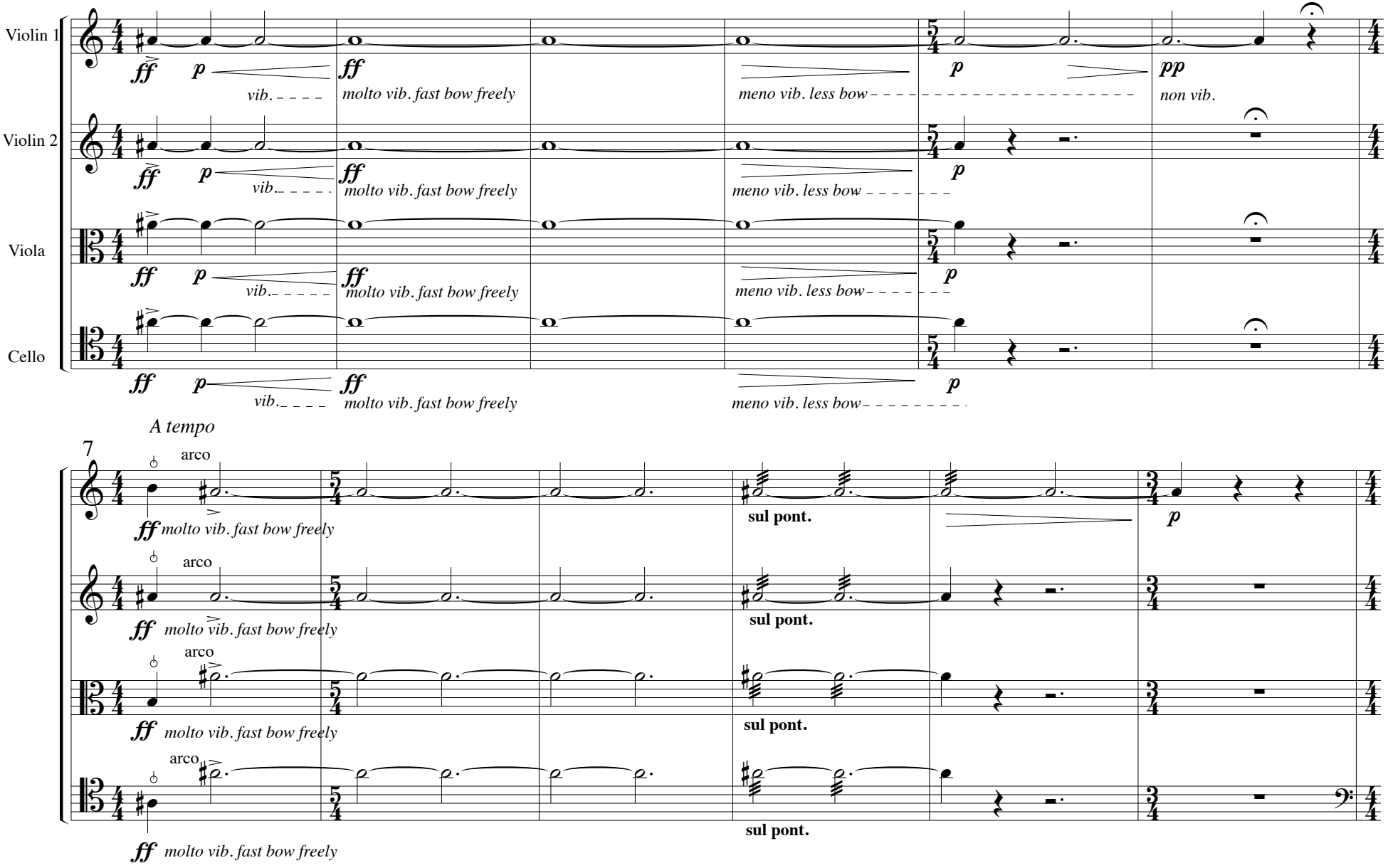
5) Time present and time past are both perhaps present in time future, and time future contained in time past. If all time is eternally present, all time is unredeemable.

for Paulina

String Quartet No. 5
"Time Cycles"

The stillness, as a Chinese jar still moves perpetually in its stillness, not the stillness of the violin, while the note lasts,
not that only but the co-existance or say that the end precedes the beginning, and the end and the beginning were always there
and all is always there before the beginning and after the end. *from TS Eliot's Burnt Norton*

Andrew List
(2015)



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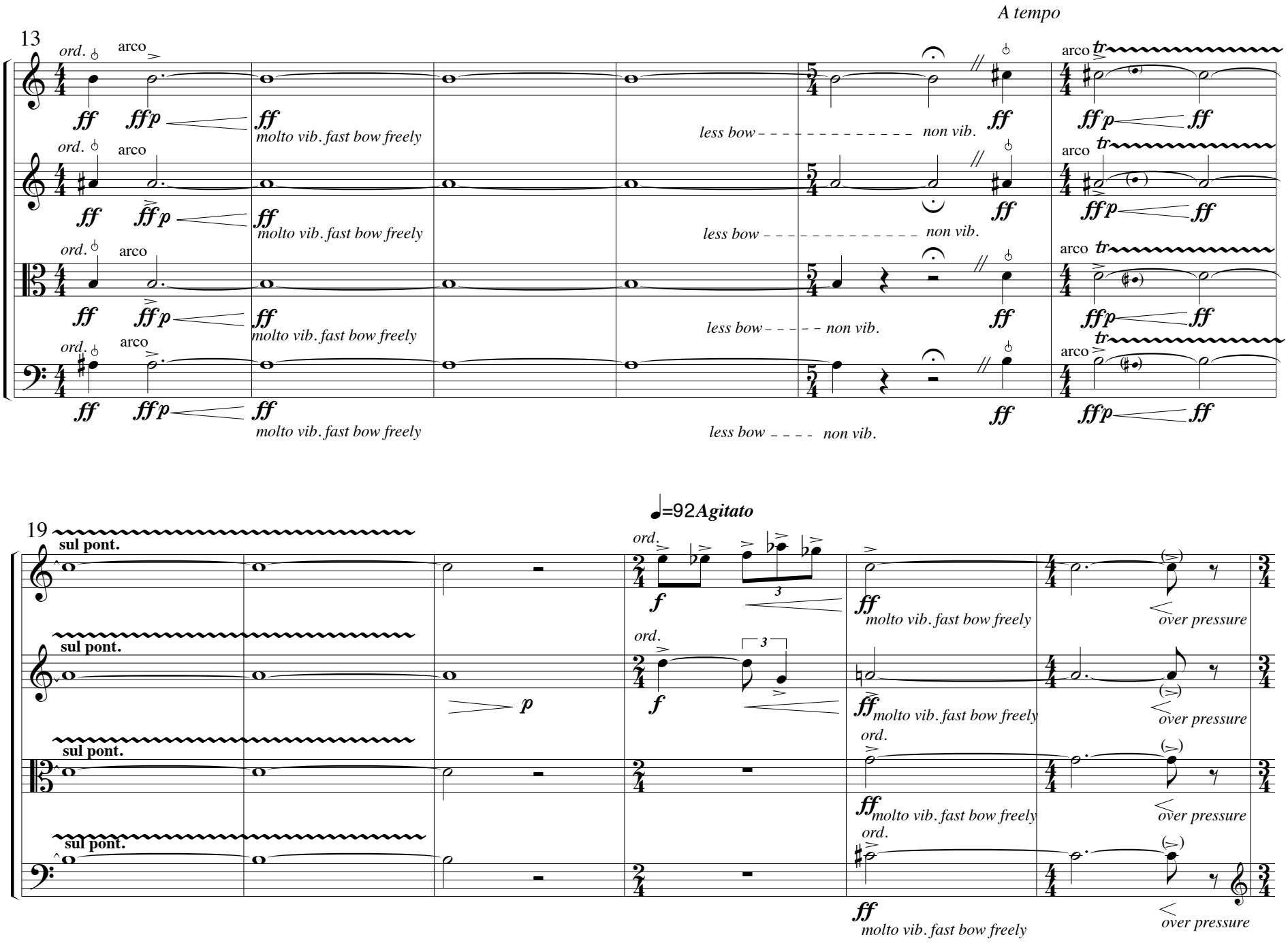
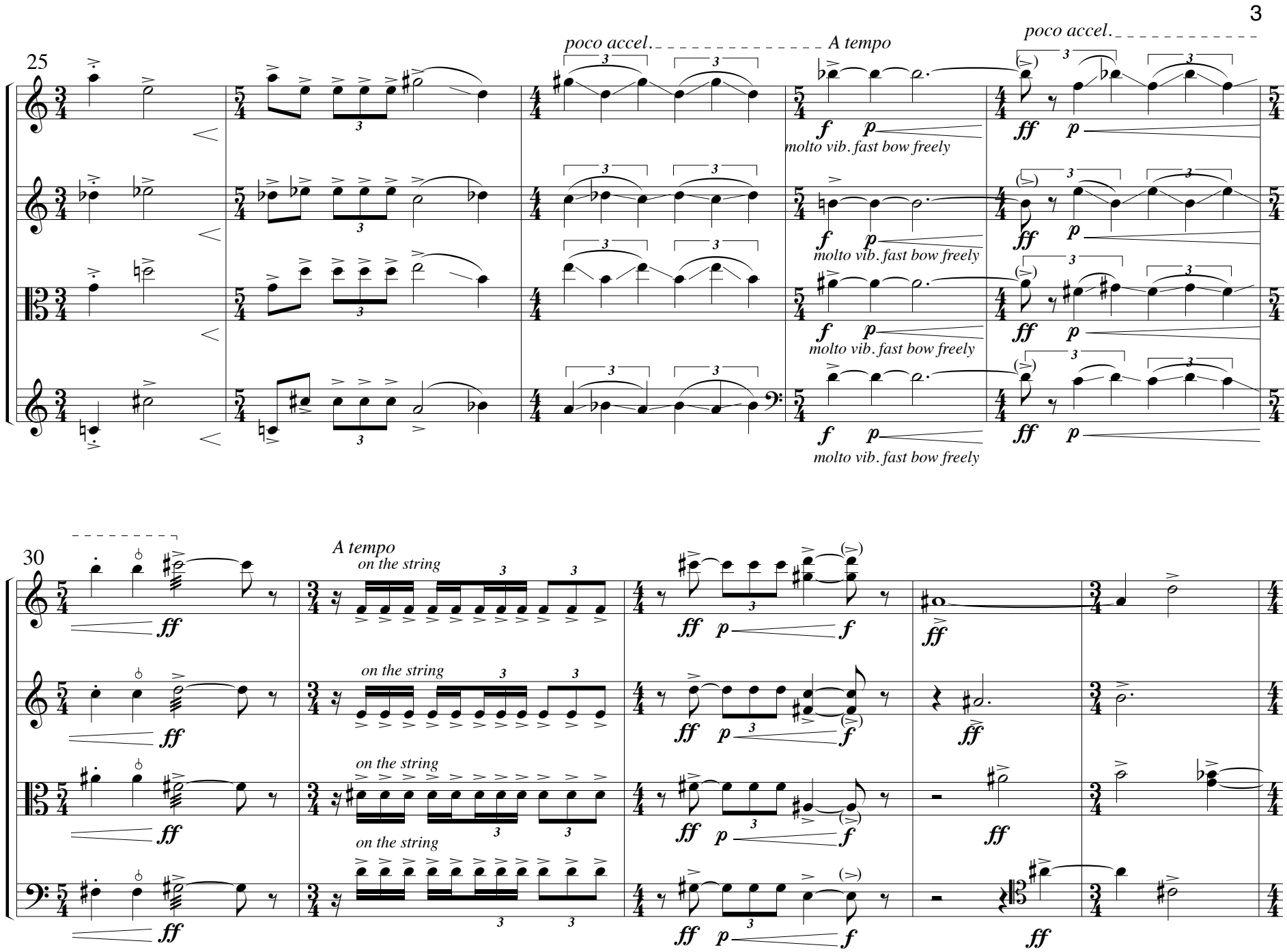
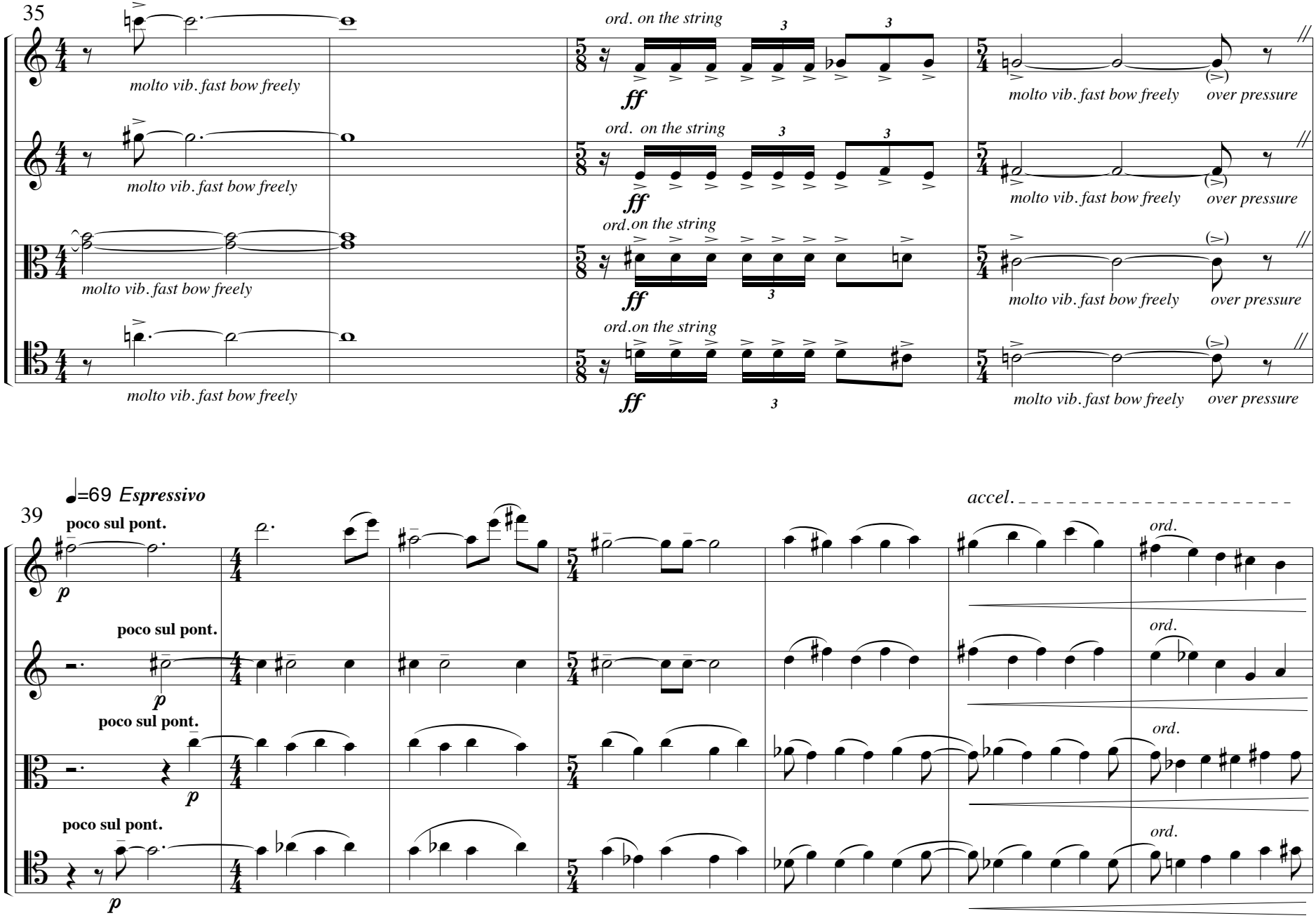
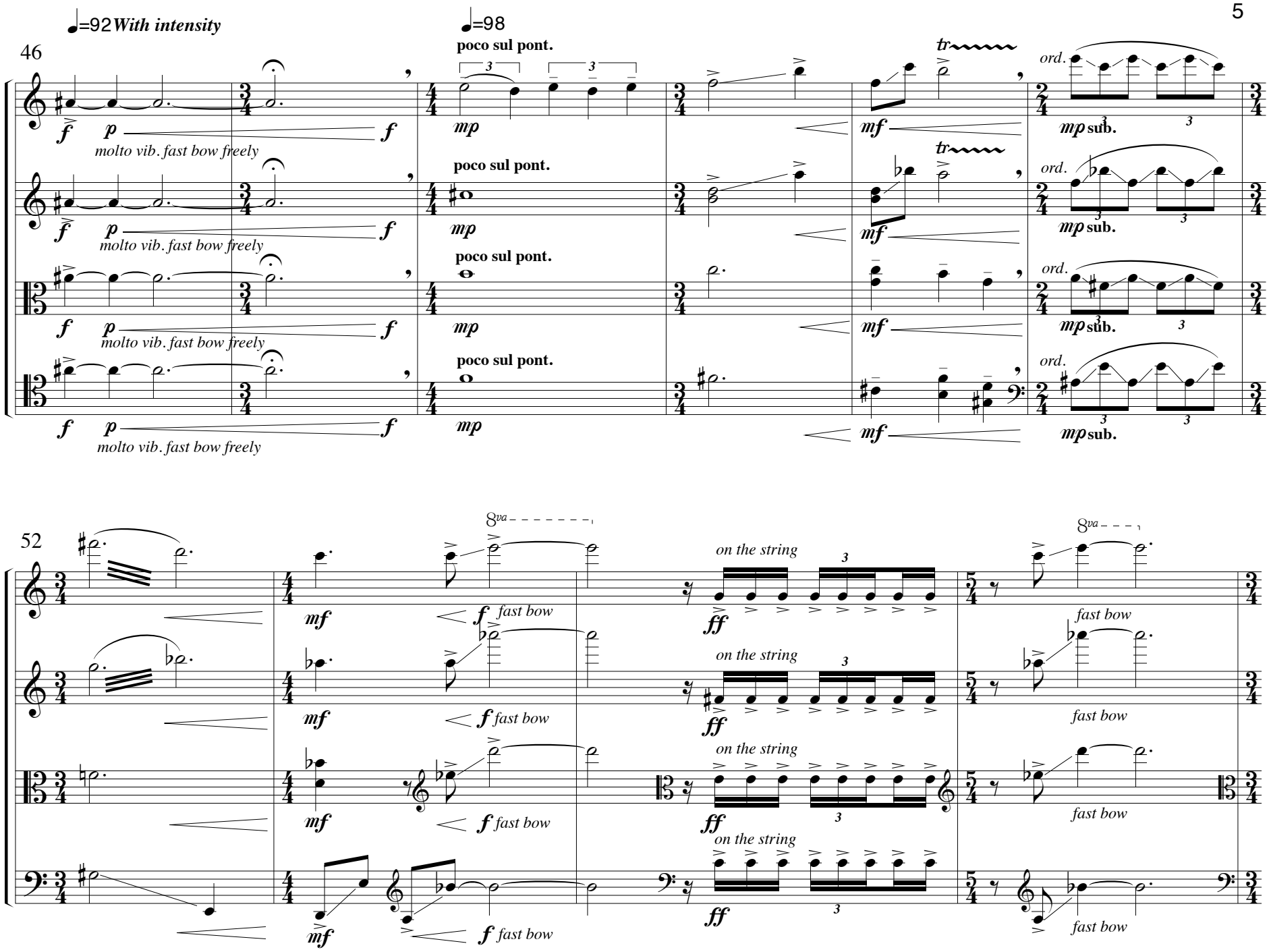
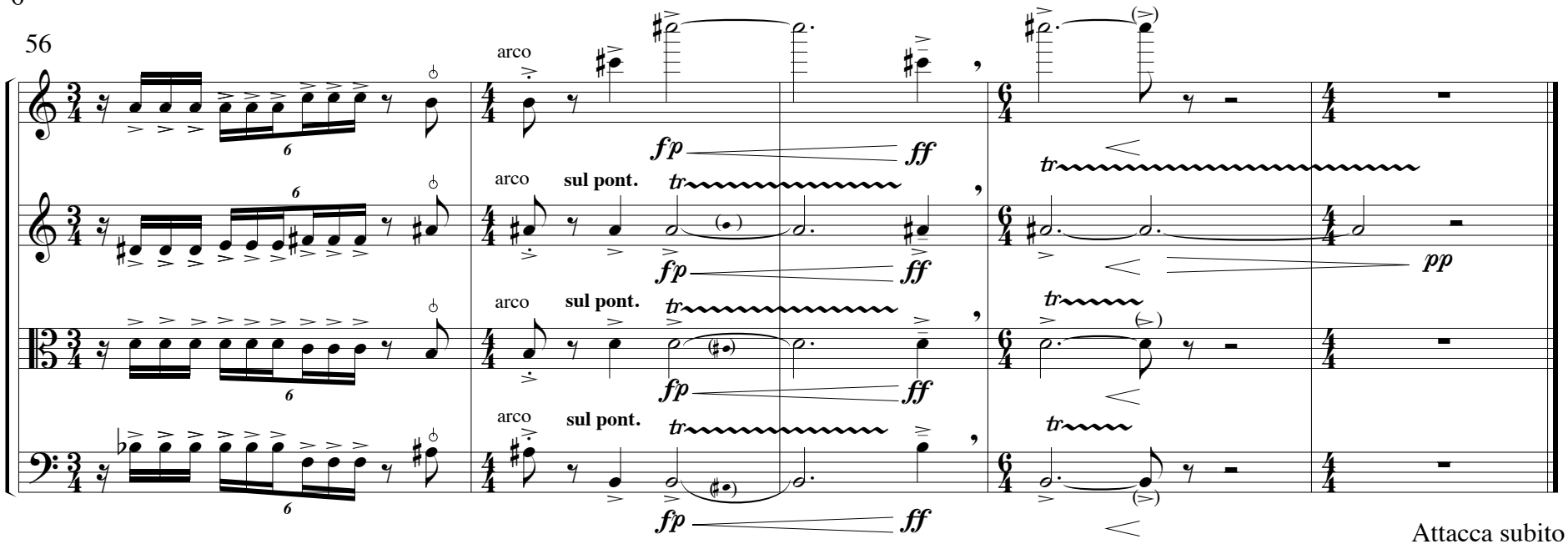

A tempo
13
ord.
arco
ff
fffp
molto vib. fast bow freely
less bow
non vib.
tr
19
=92 Agitato
sul pont.
f
p
over pressure


25
poco accel.
A tempo
poco accel.
molto vib. fast bow freely
molto vib. fast bow freely
molto vib. fast bow freely
molto vib. fast bow freely
30
A tempo
on the string
on the string
on the string
on the string


35
molto vib. fast bow freely
ord. on the string
ff
molto vib. fast bow freely
over pressure
ord. on the string
ff
molto vib. fast bow freely
over pressure
ord.on the string
ff
molto vib. fast bow freely
over pressure
ord.on the string
ff
molto vib. fast bow freely
over pressure
39
♩=69 Espressivo
accel.
poco sul pont.
p
ord.
poco sul pont.
p
ord.
poco sul pont.
p
ord.
poco sul pont.
p
ord.

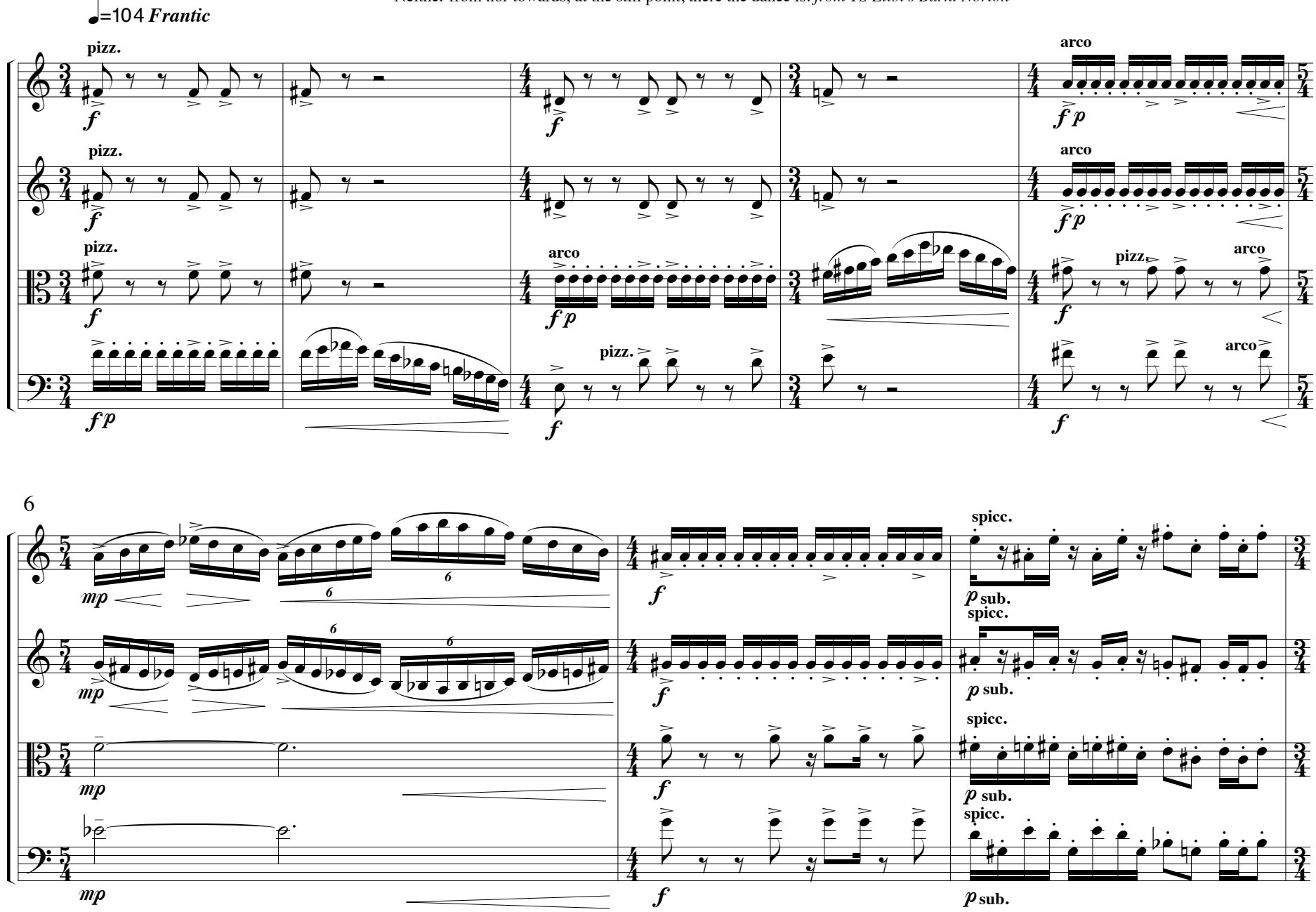

♩=92 With intensity
46
molto vib. fast bow freely
♩=98
poco sul pont.
ord.
mp sub.
52
8va
on the string
fast bow

56


arco
arco
sul pont.
arco
sul pont.
arco
sul pont.
fp
ff
pp
tr
Attacca subito

II

At the still point of the turning world, neither flesh nor fleshless;
Neither from nor towards; at the still point, there the dance is. *from TS Eliot's Burnt Norton*



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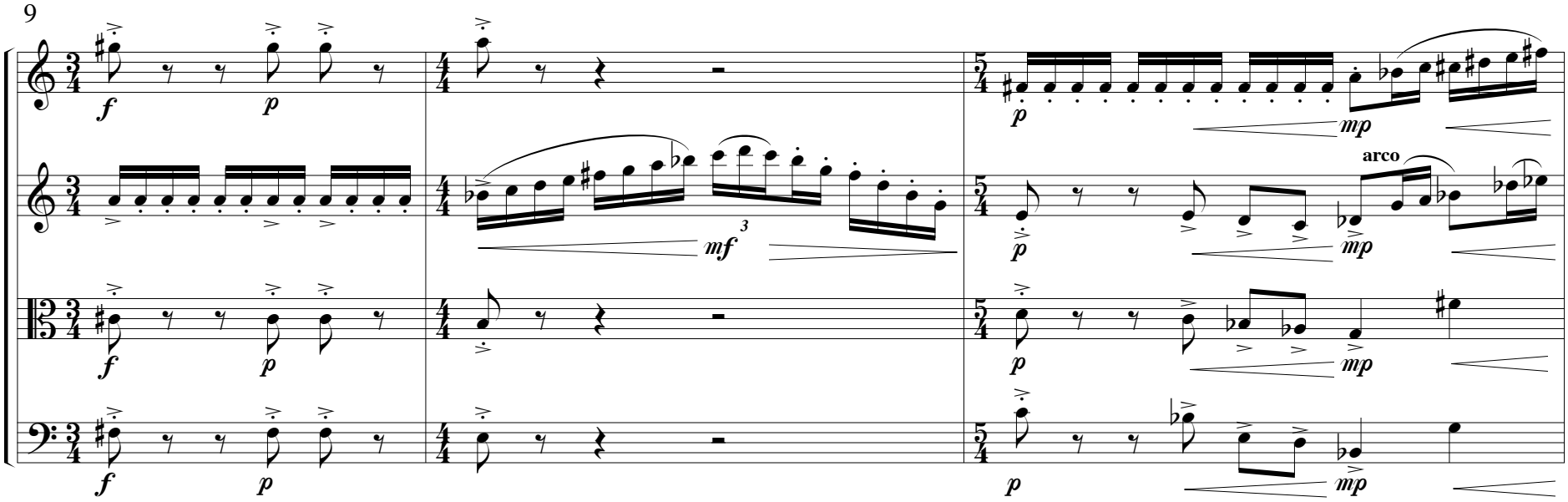

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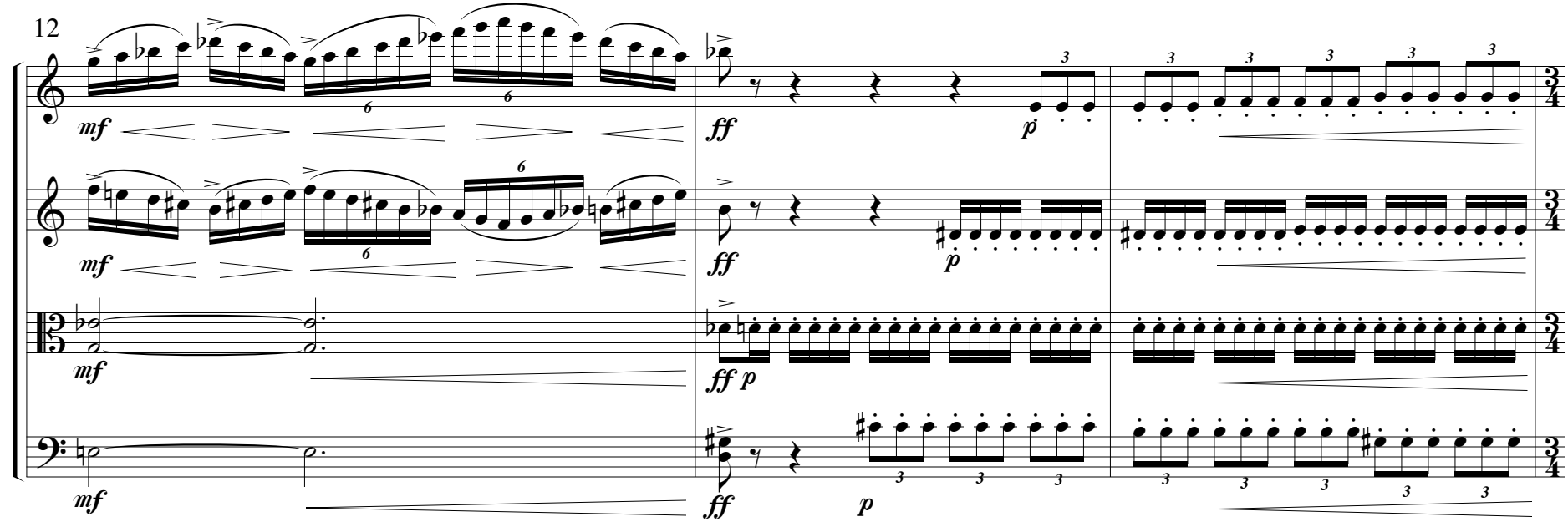
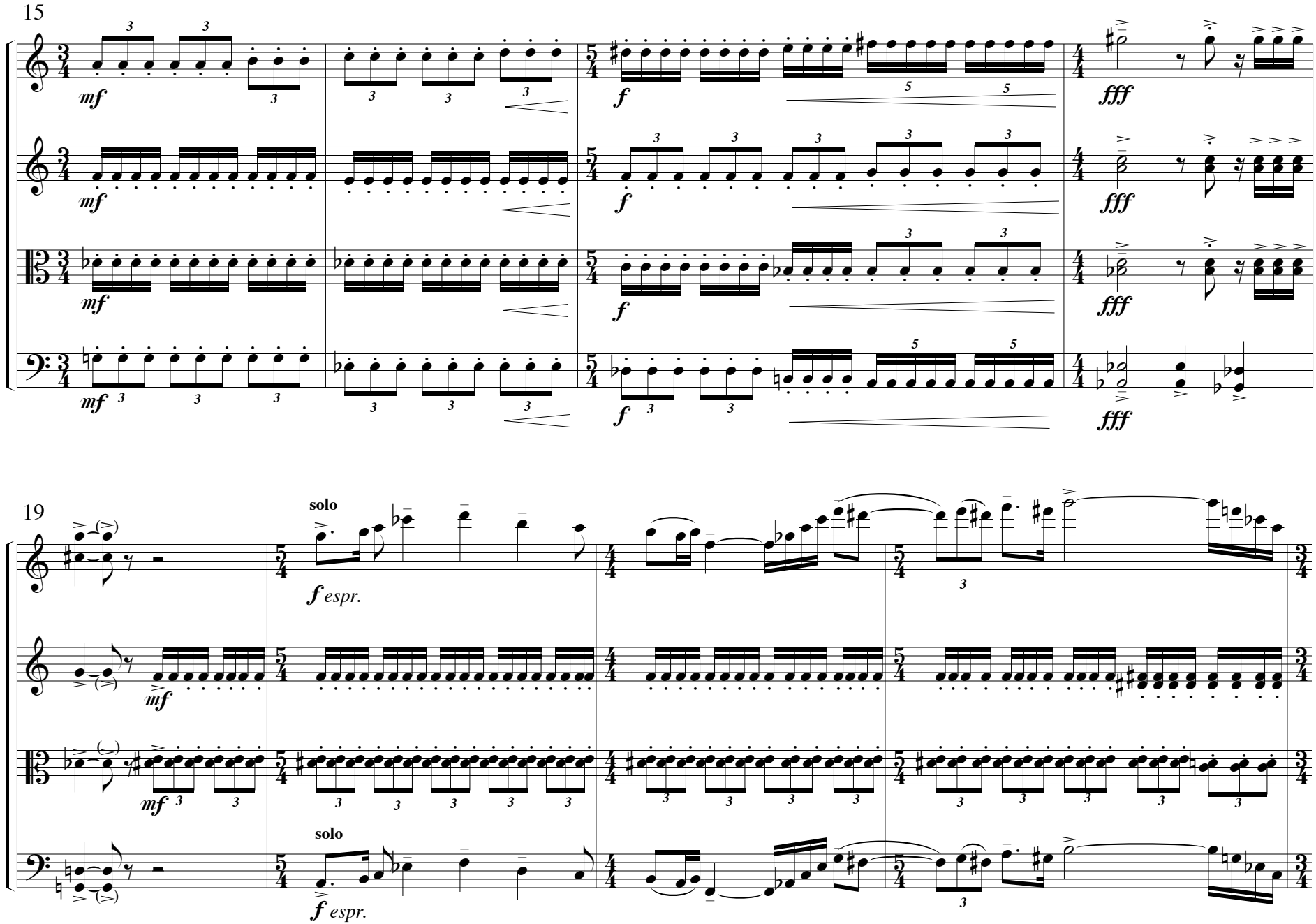
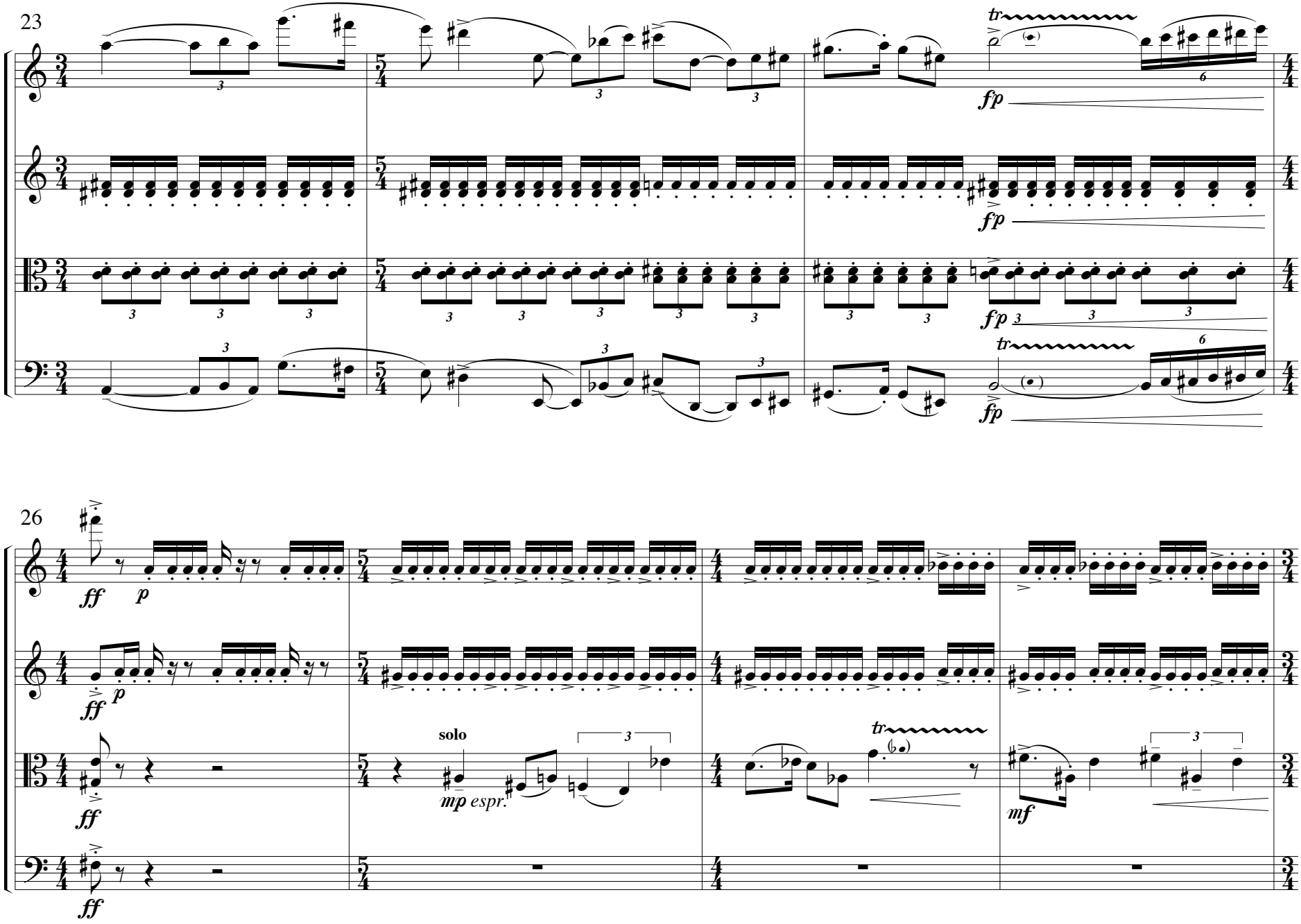
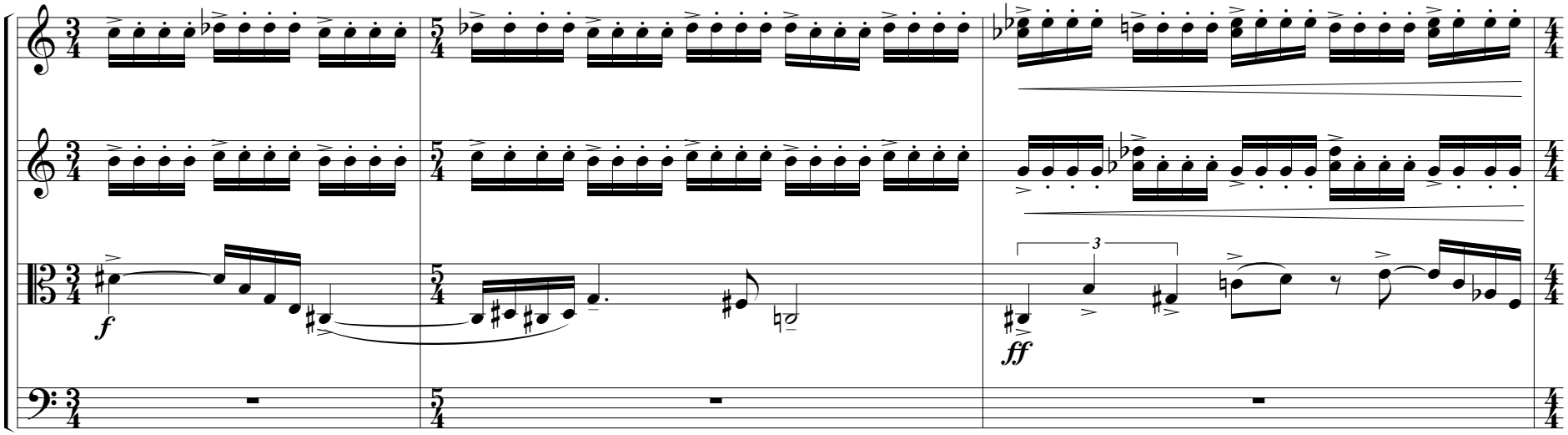



15
mf
f
fff
19
solo
f espr.
mf
solo
f espr.


23
tr
fp
fp
fp
tr
fp
26
ff
p
ff
p
ff
solo
mp espr.
tr
mf
ff

30



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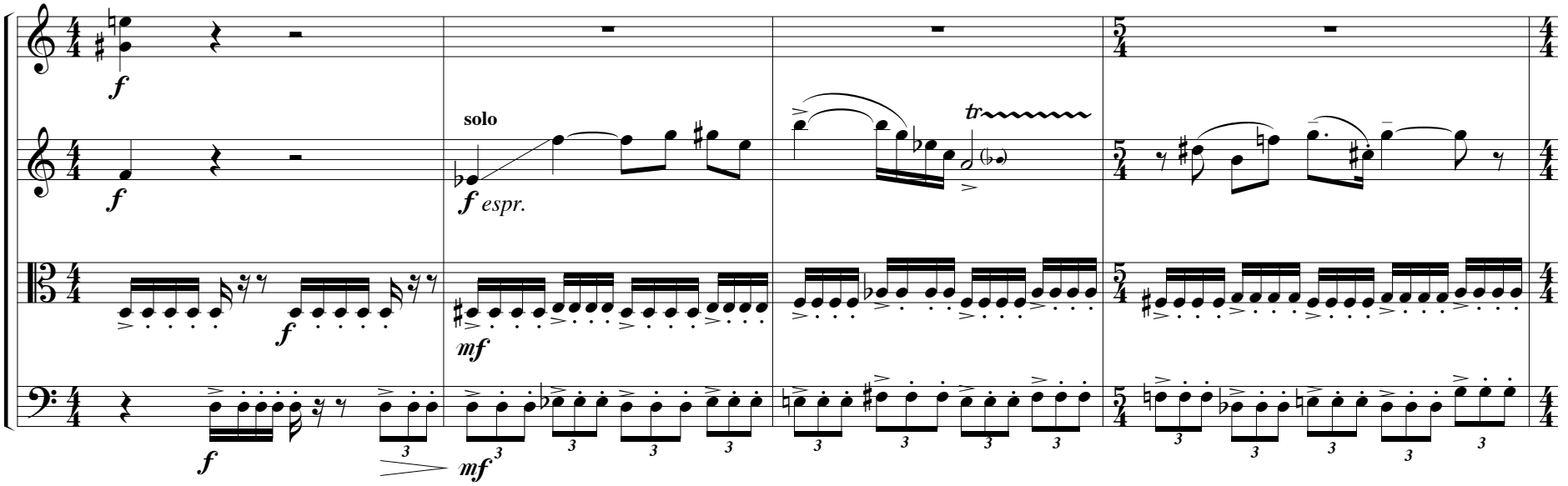

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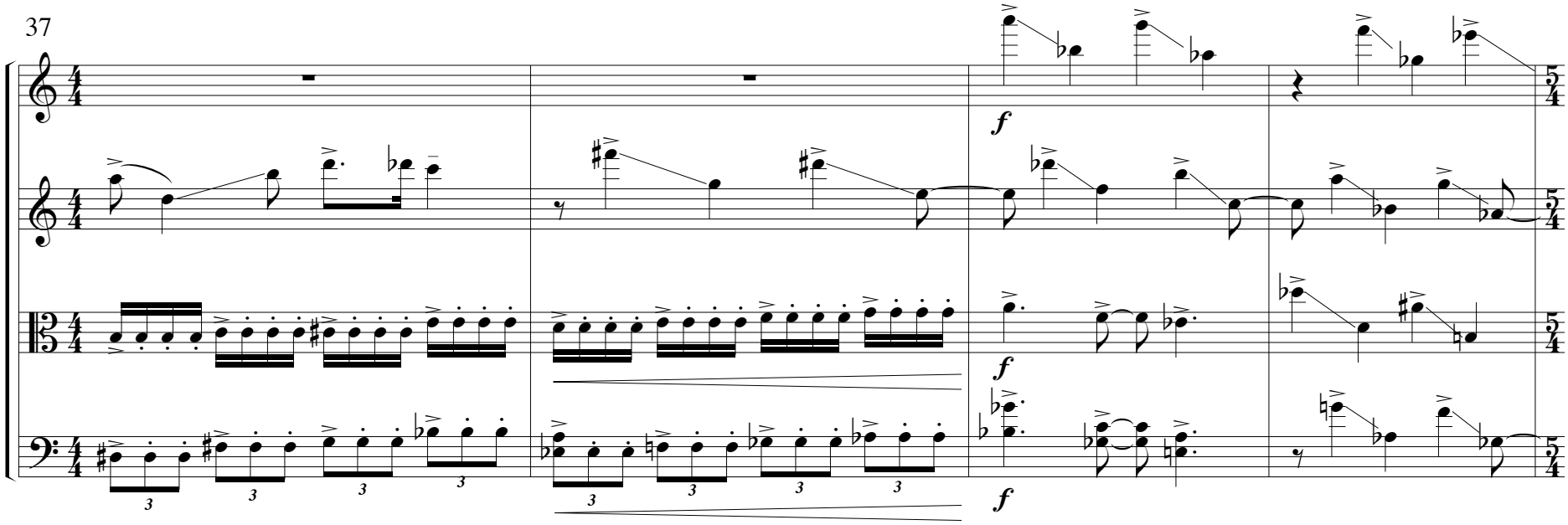

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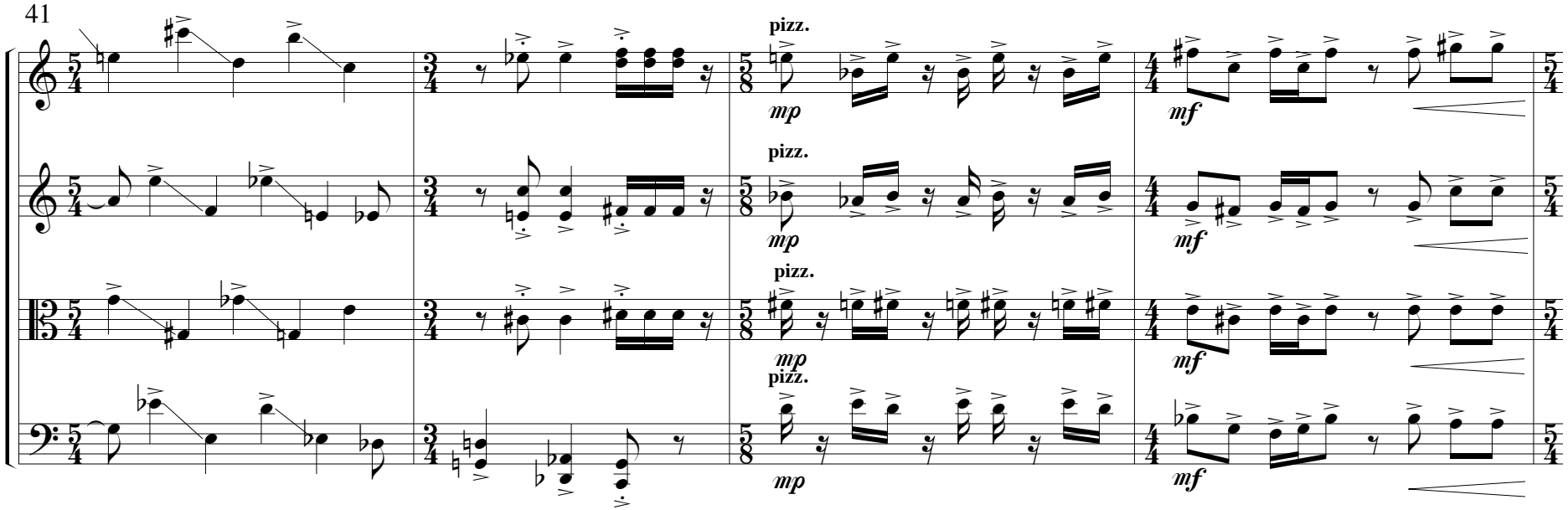
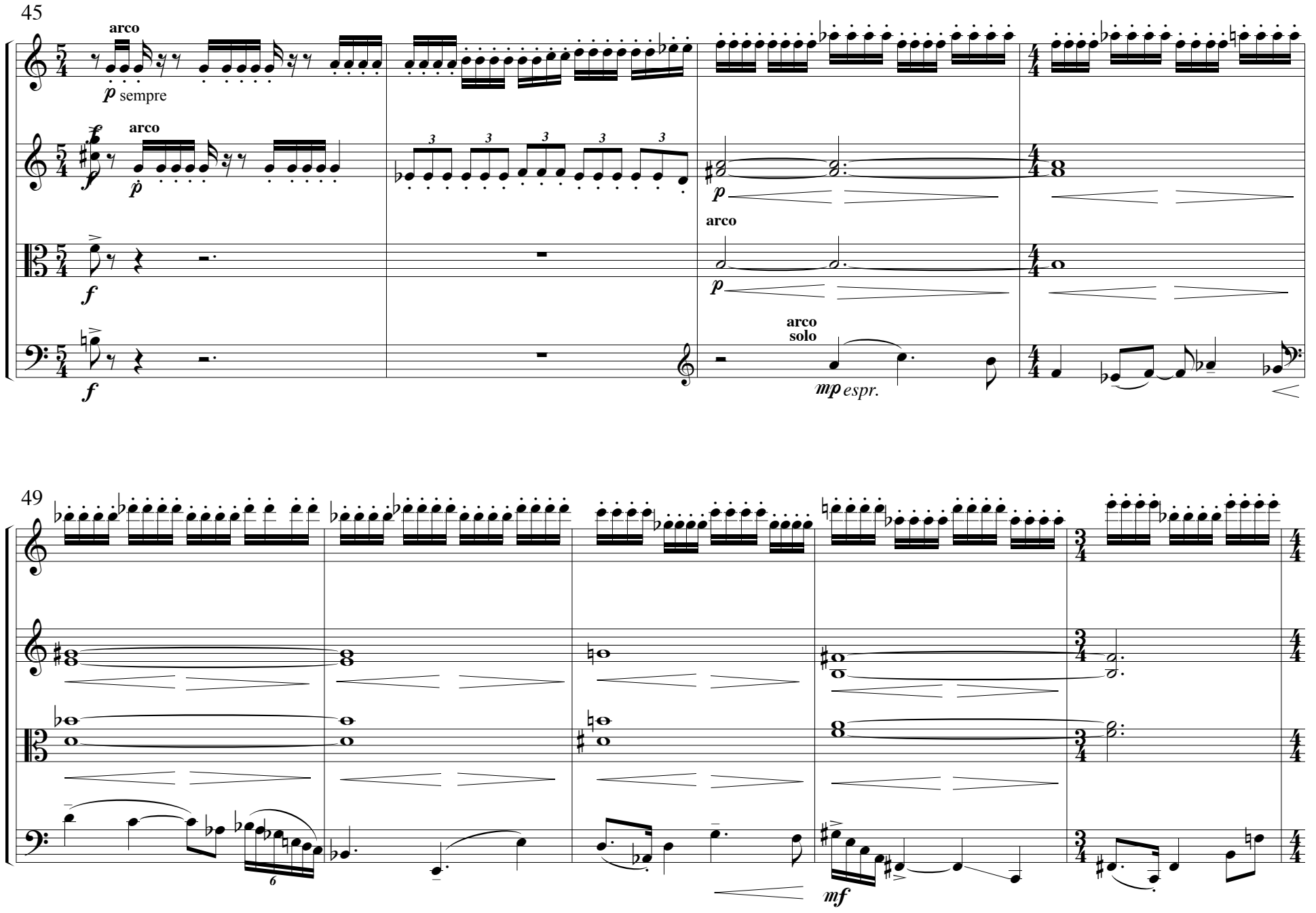
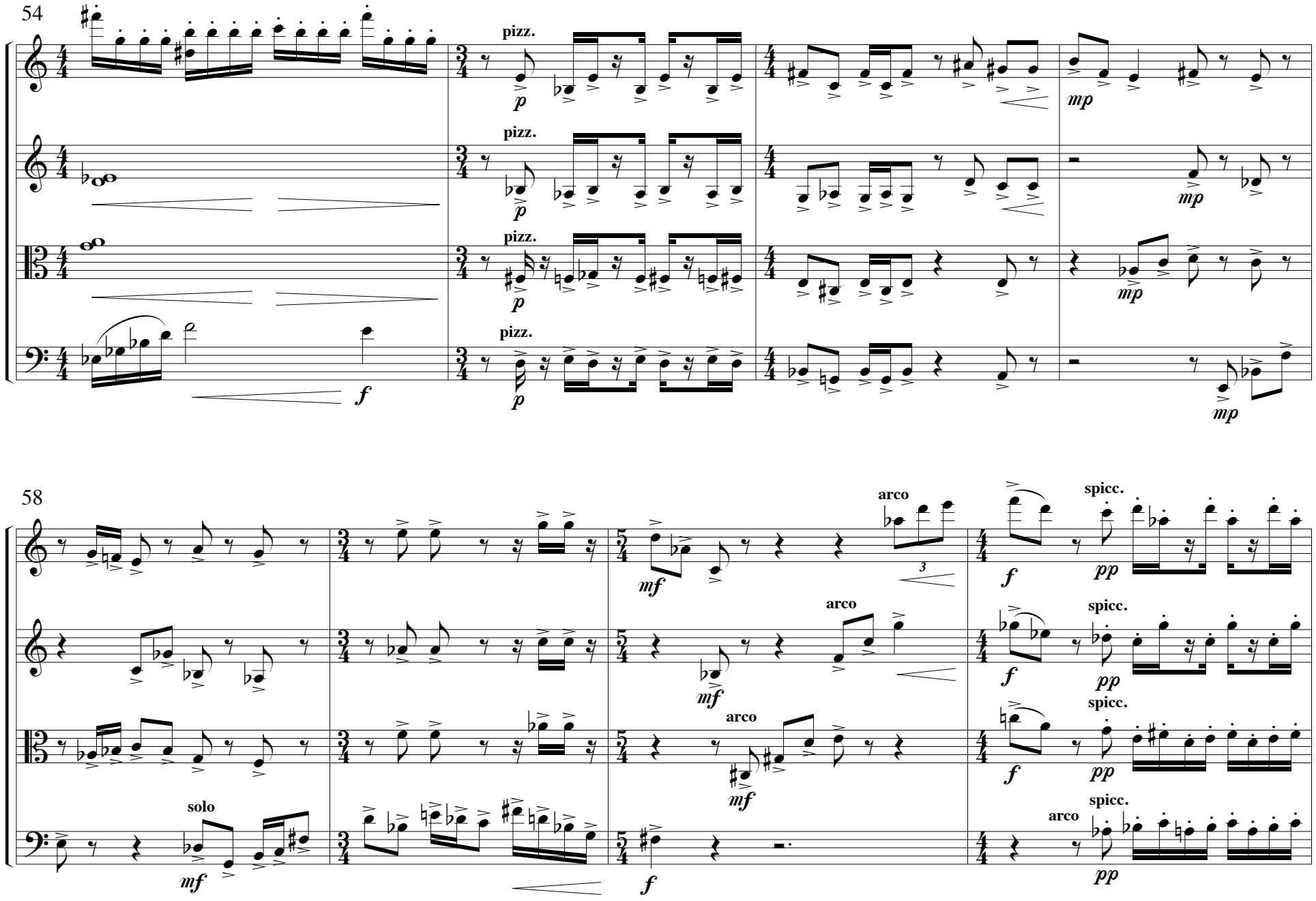
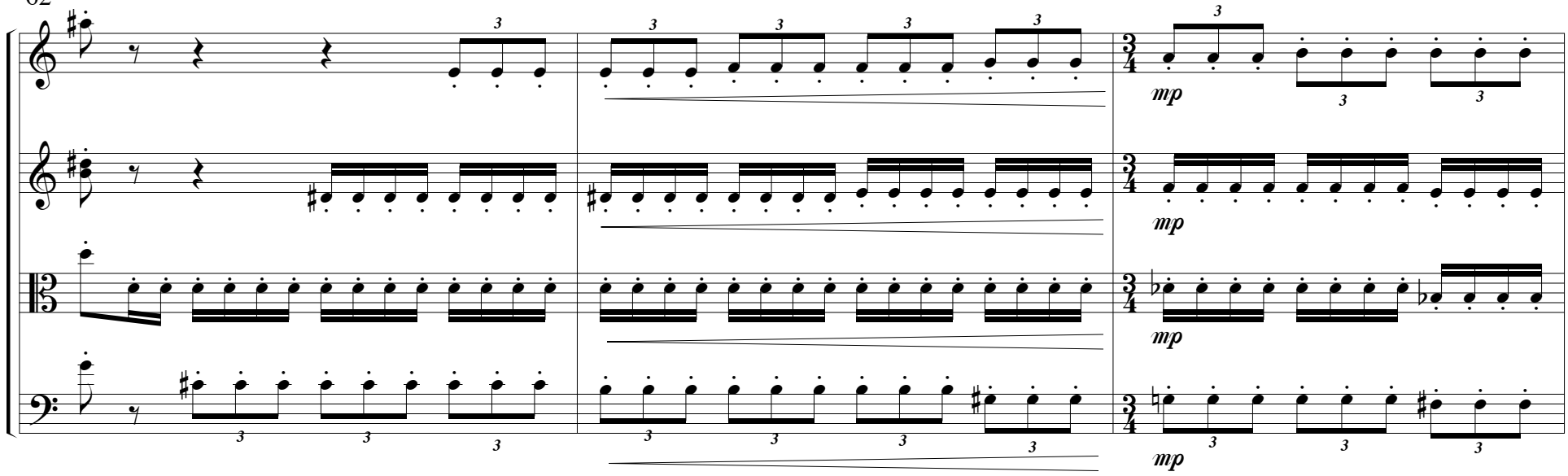



45
arco
p sempre
arco
arco
arco
solo
mp espr.
49
6
mf


54
pizz.
p
mp
f
58
arco
mf
spicc.
pp
solo

62



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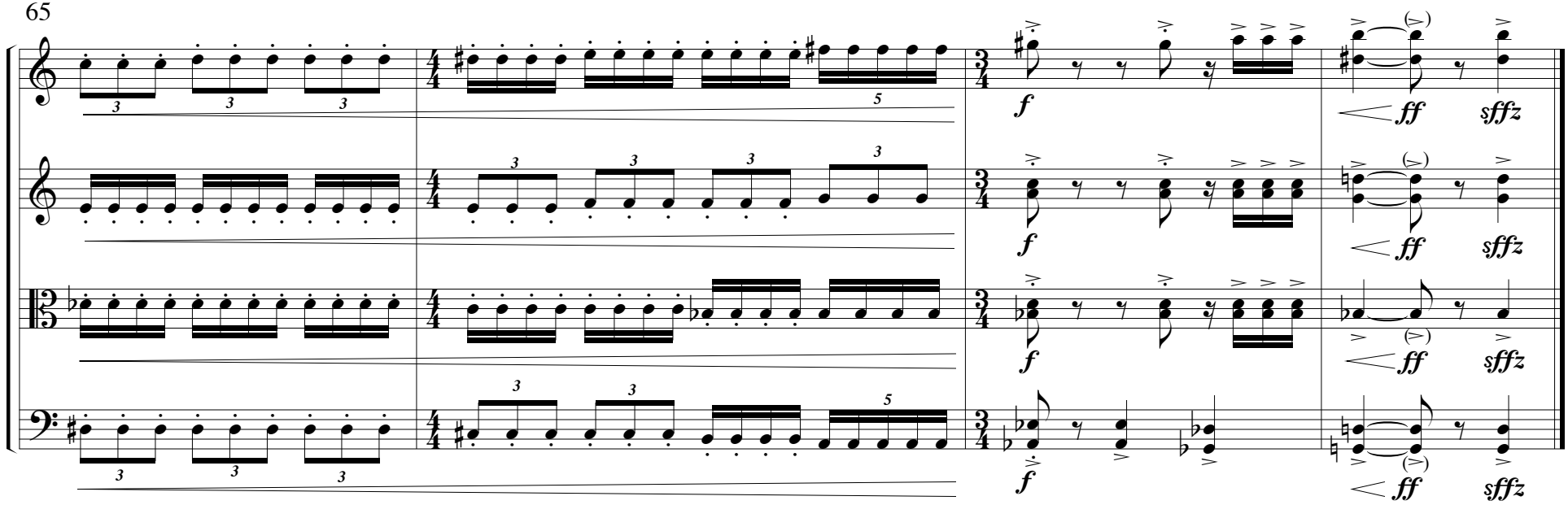
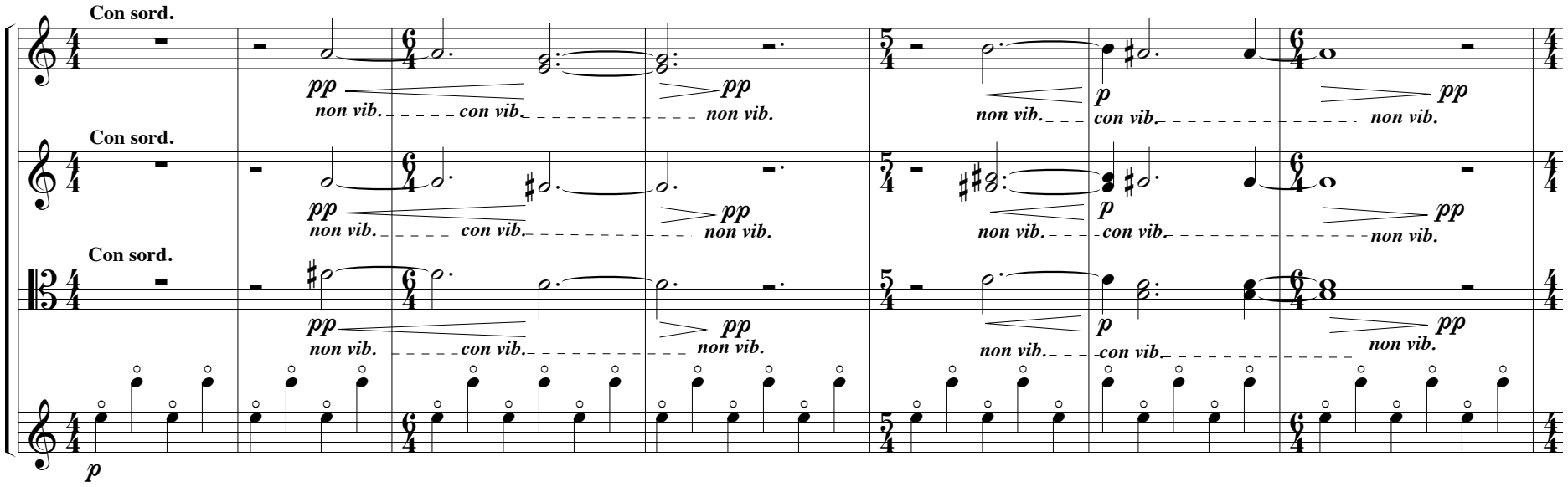


III

Time past and time future allow but a little consciousness. To be conscious is not to be in time but only in time can the moment in the rose-garden,
the moment in the arbour where the rain beat, the moment in the draughty church at smokefall be remembered; involved with time past and future. *from TS Eliot's Burnt Norton*

♩=52 ***Tranquil and serene***



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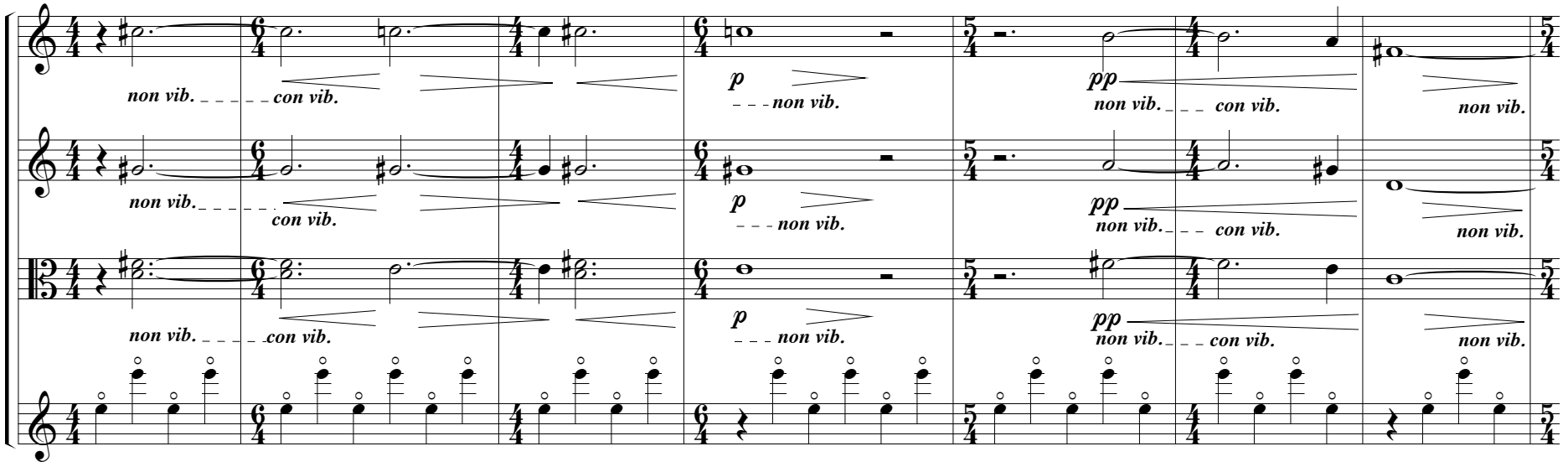

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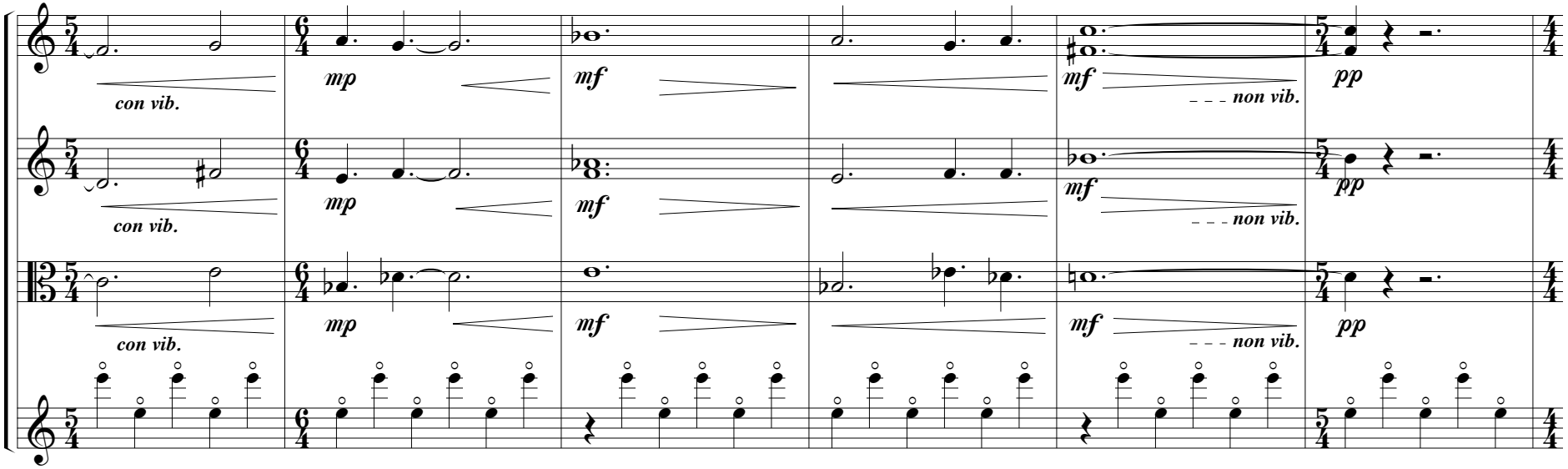
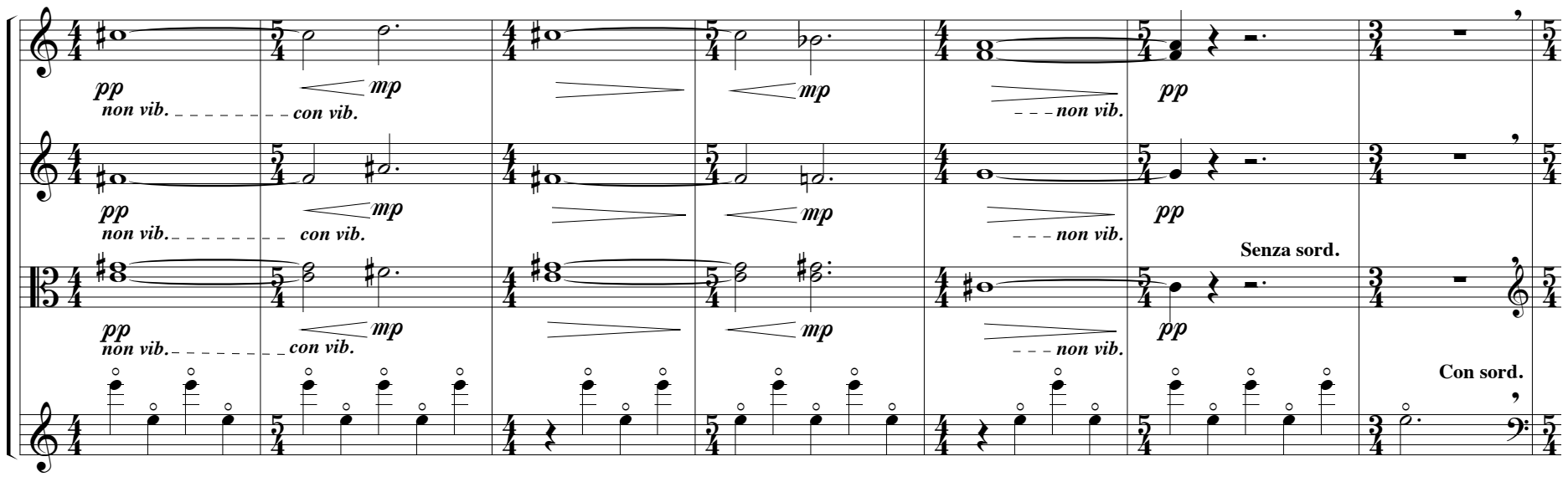
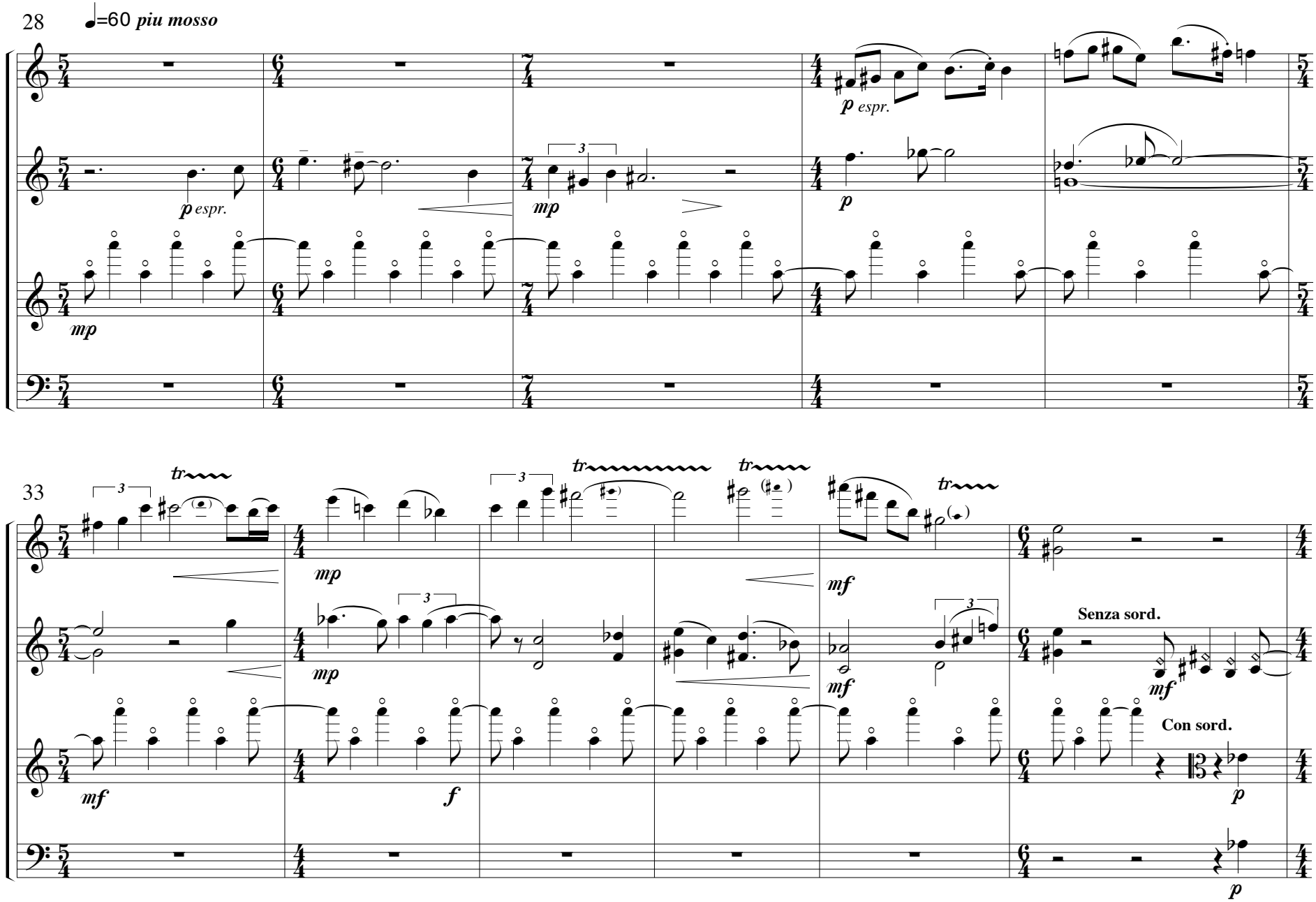
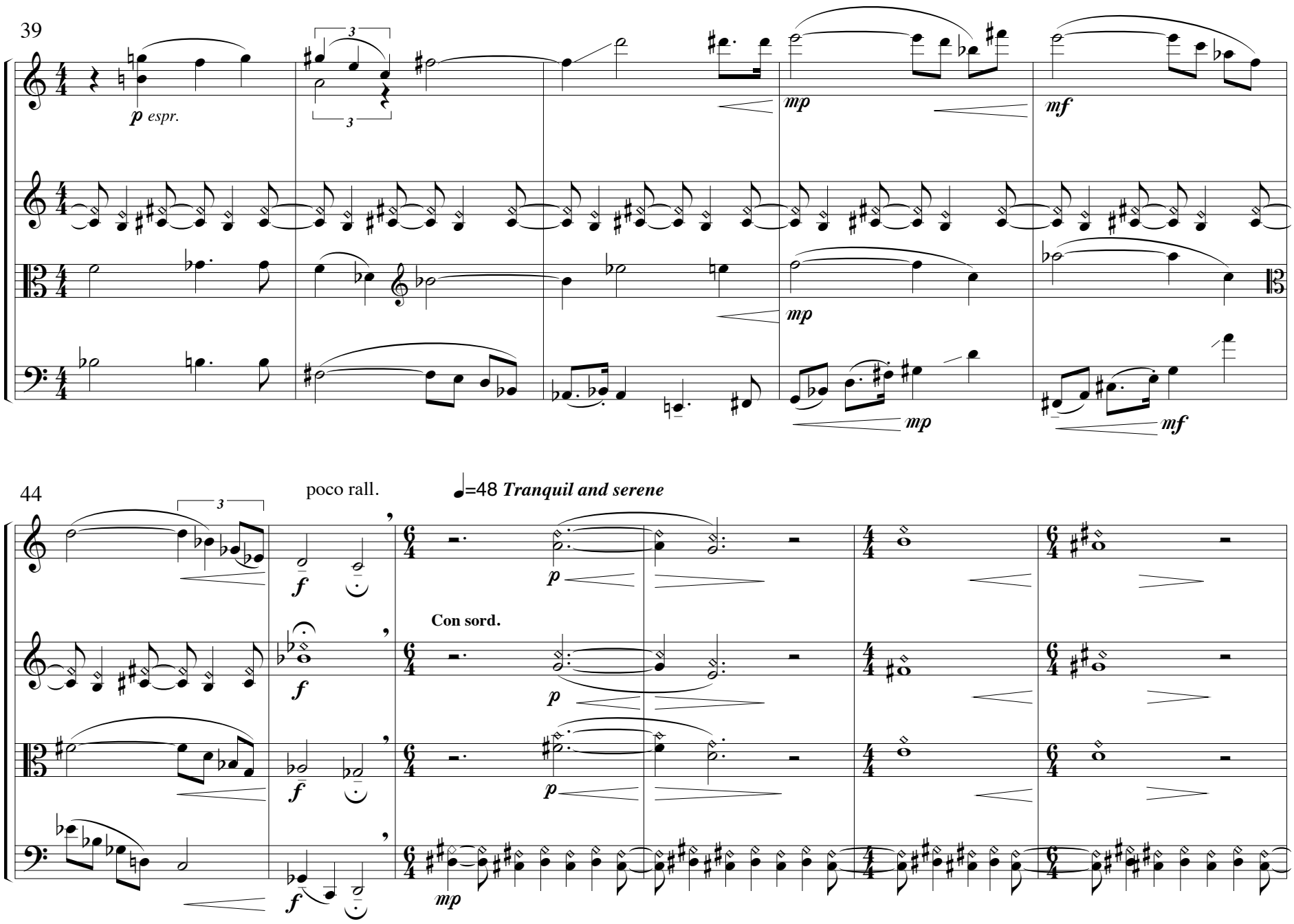
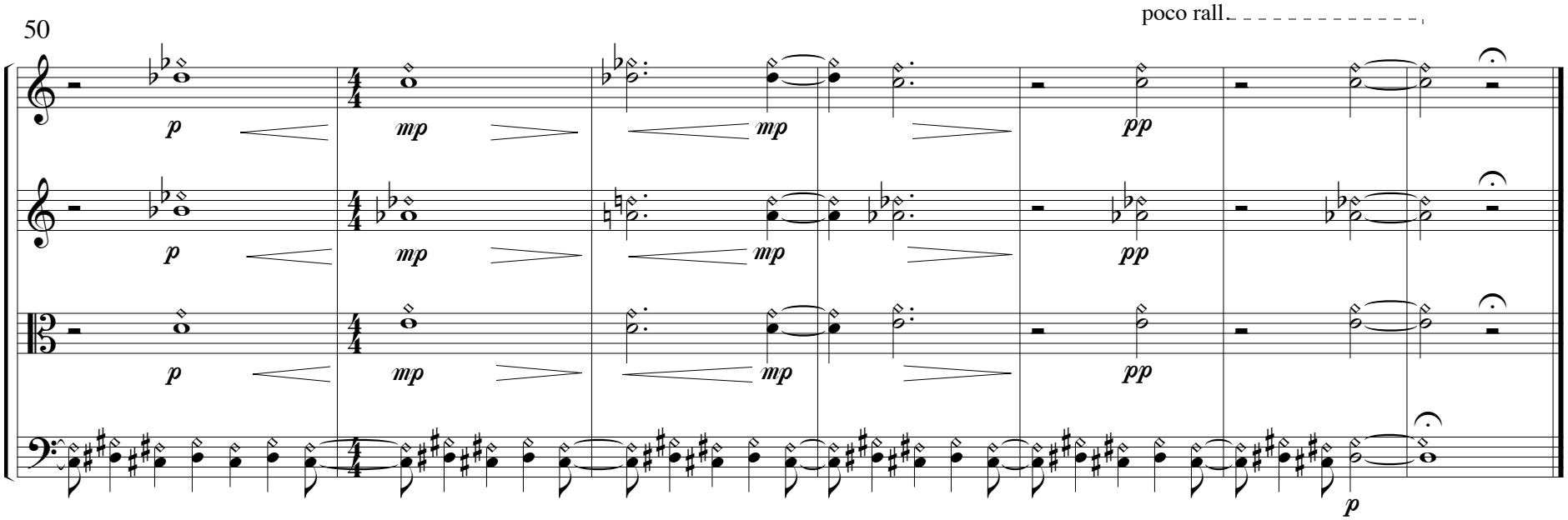

con vib.
mp
mf
non vib.
pp

21


pp
non vib.
con vib.
mp
non vib.
Senza sord.
Con sord.

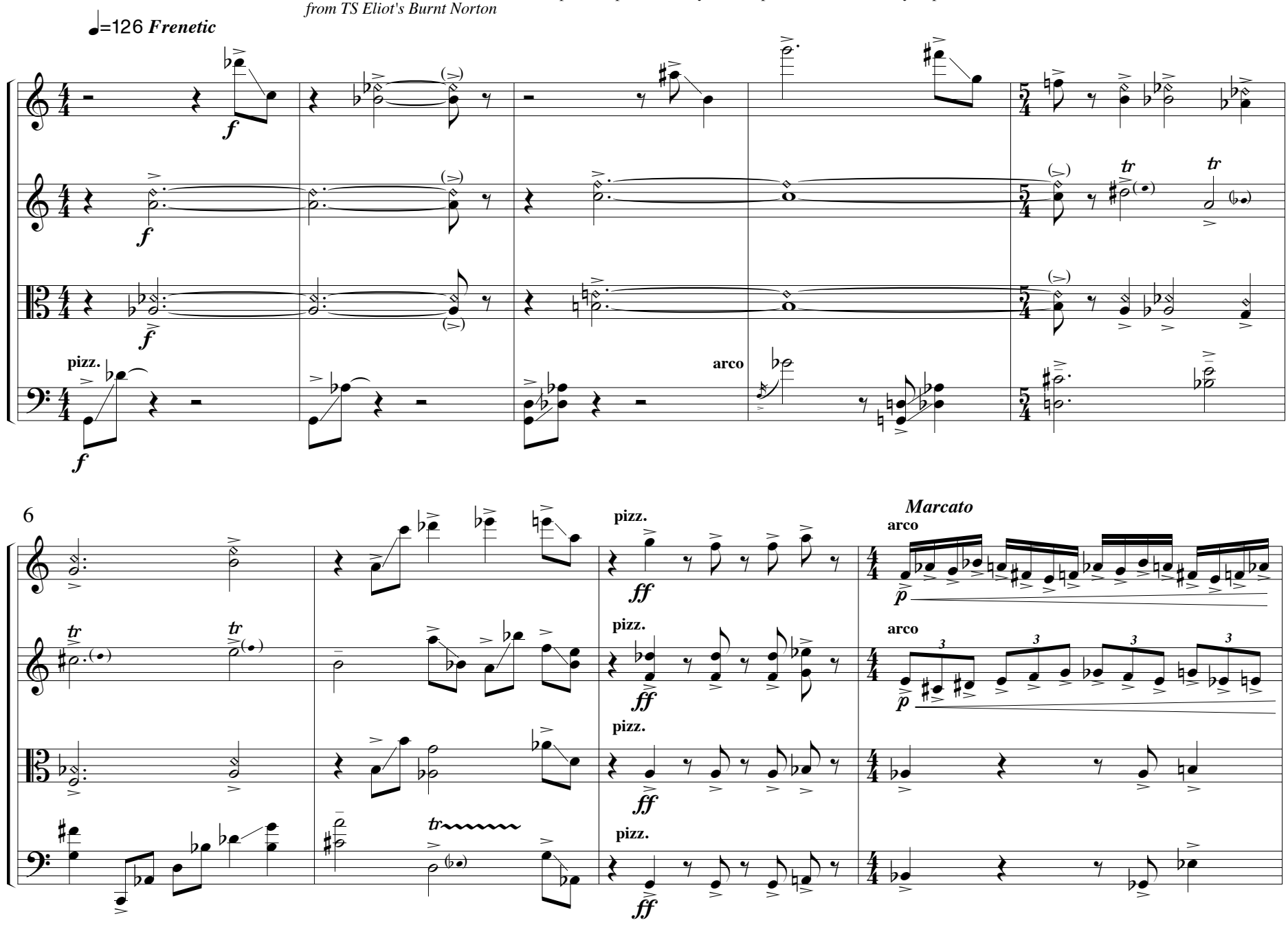

28
♩=60 piu mosso
p espr.
mp
p
33
tr
mf
f
Senza sord.
Con sord.

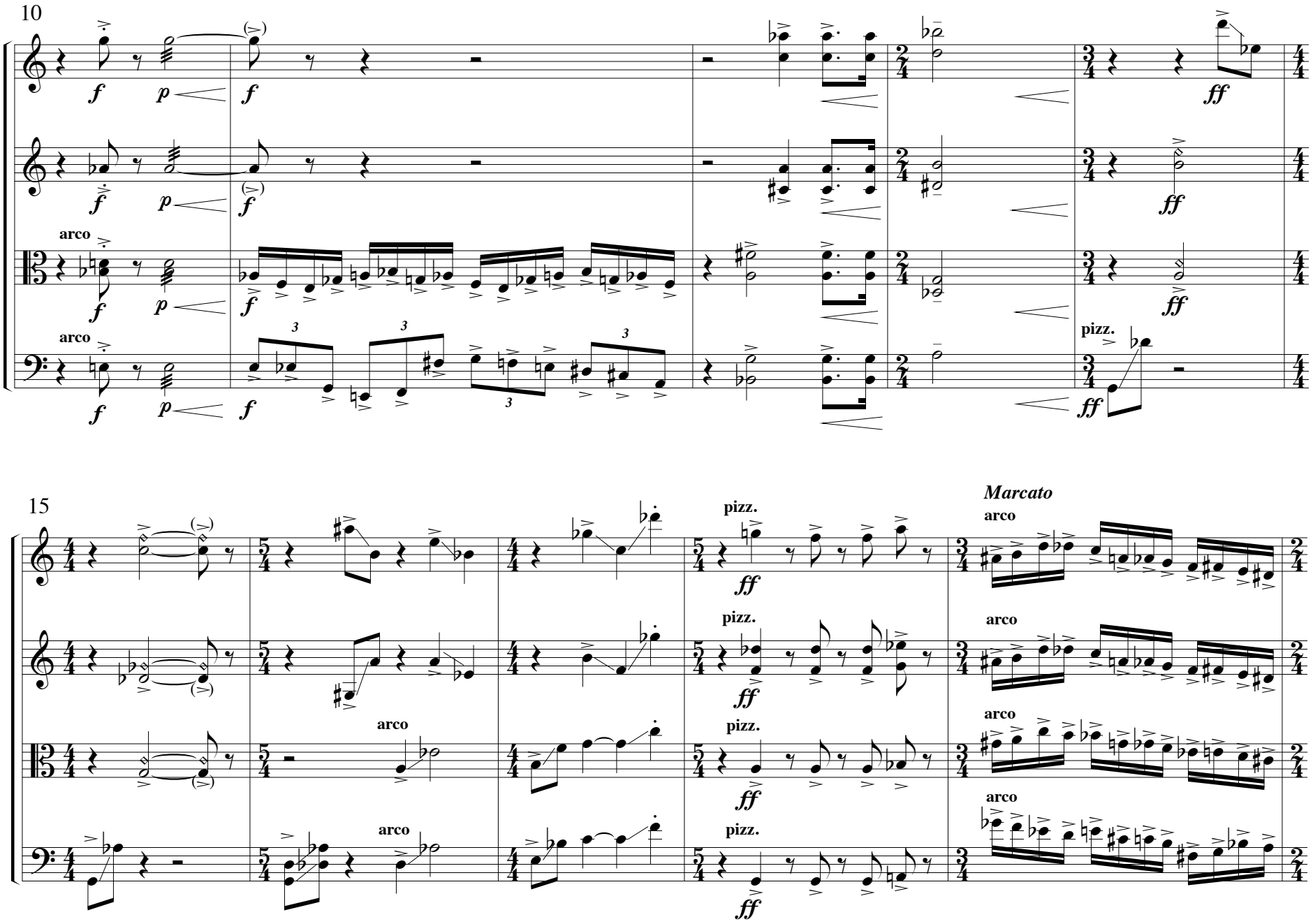

39
p espr.
mp
mf
mp
mp
mf
44
poco rall.
=48 Tranquil and serene
f
f
f
f
p
p
p
Con sord.
mp

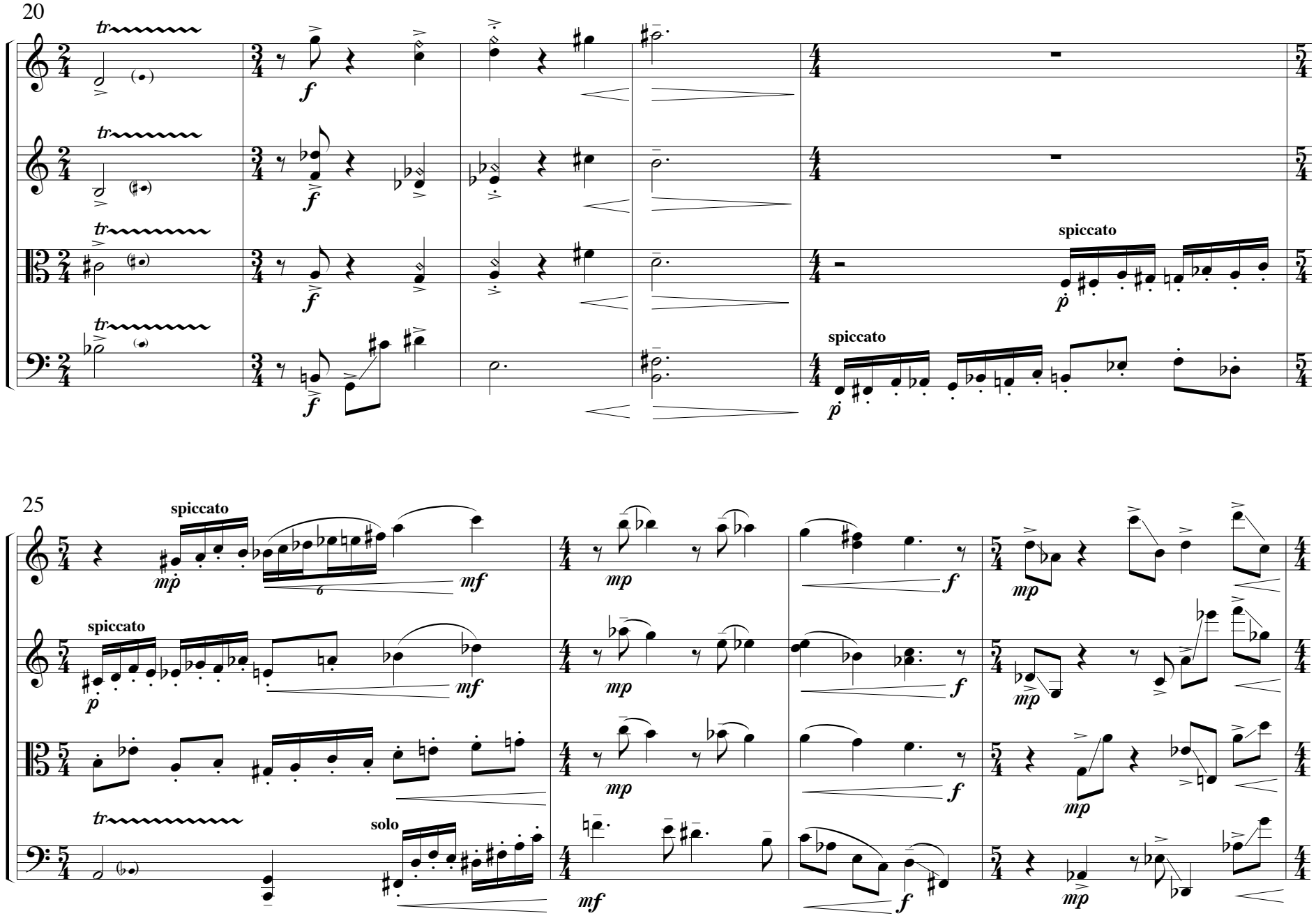

50
poco rall.
p
mp
mp
pp
p
mp
mp
pp
p
mp
mp
pp
p

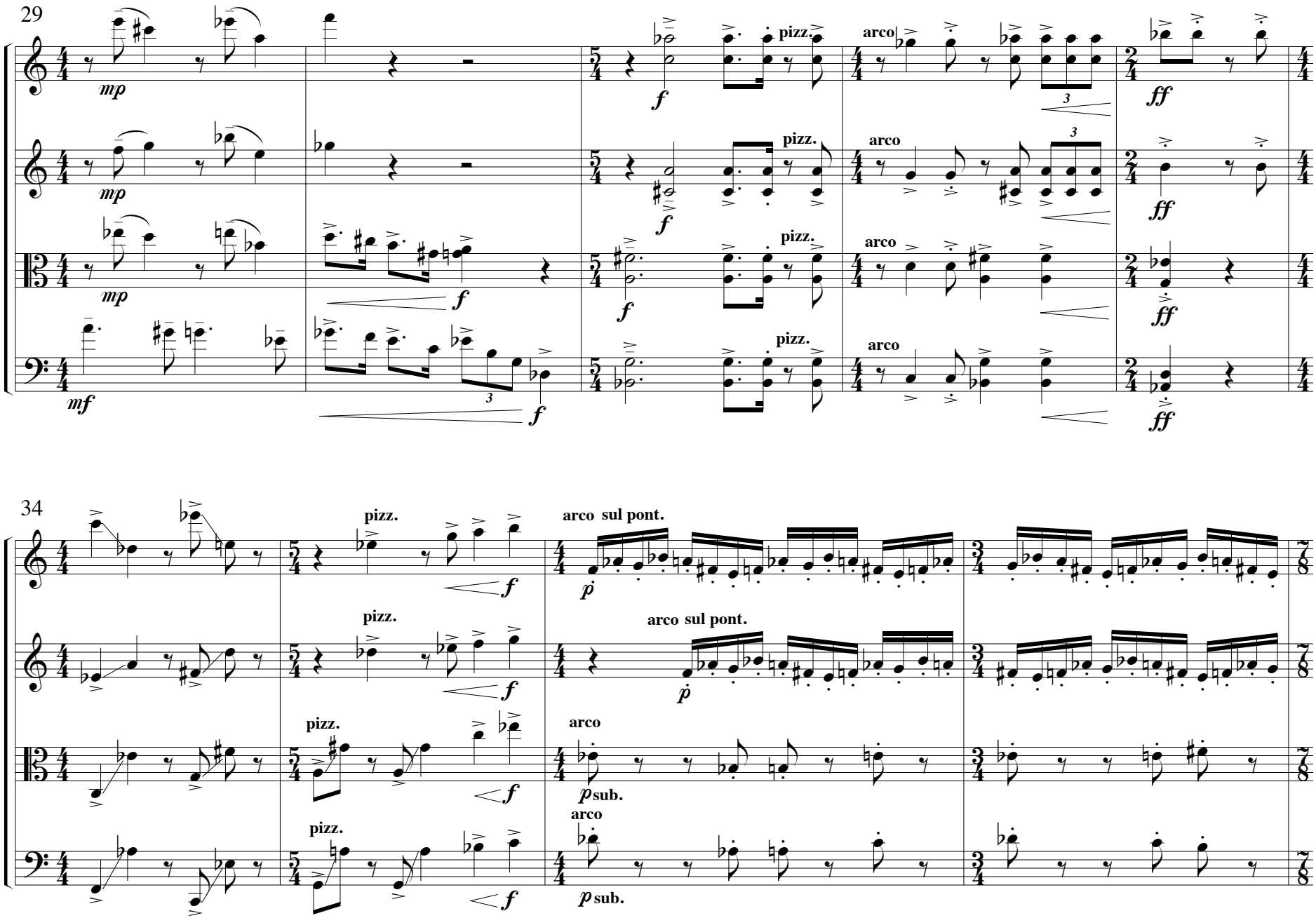
IV

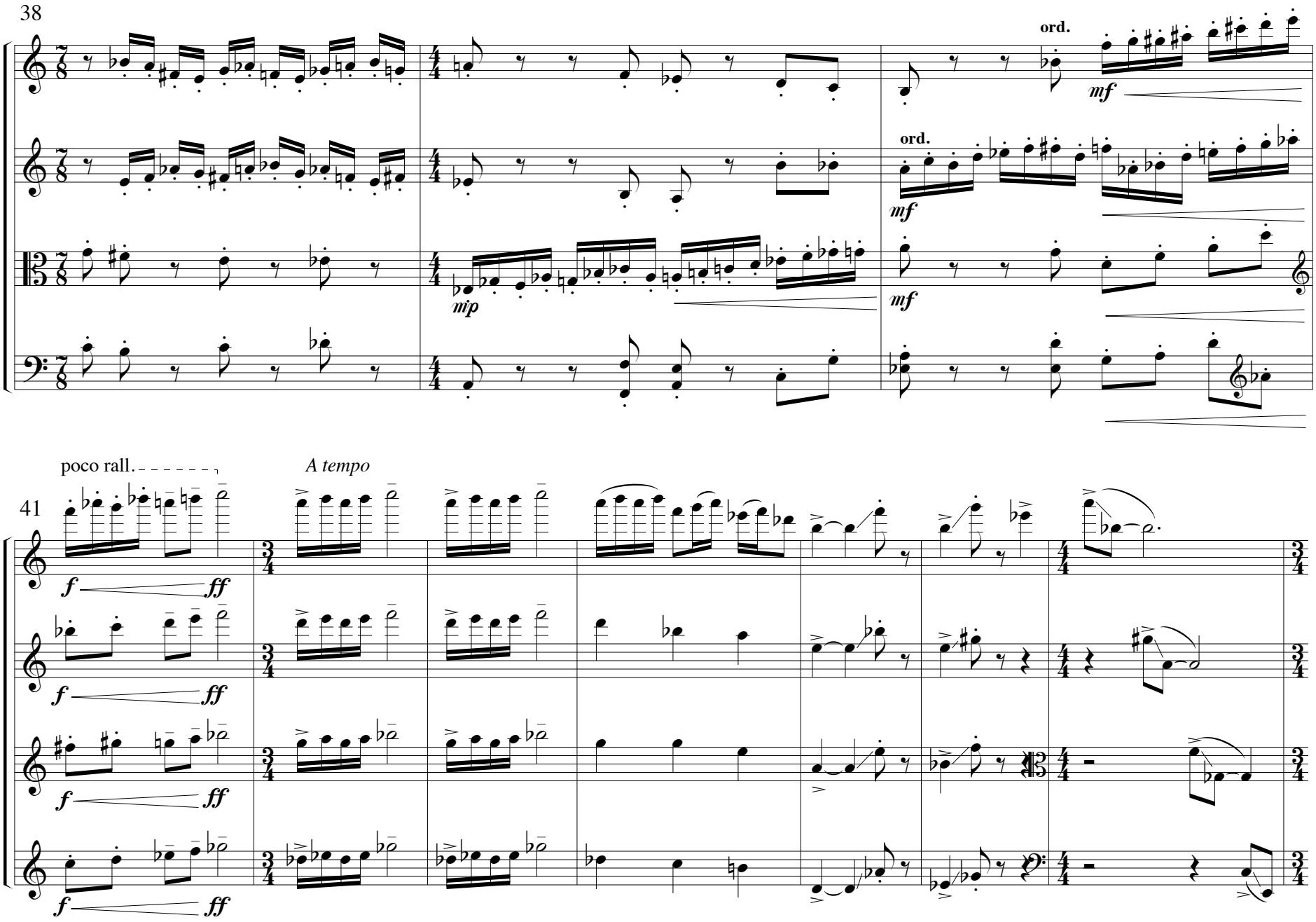
And all is always now. Words strain, crack and sometimes break,
under the burden under the tension, slip, slide, perish. Decay with imprecision, will not stay in place.
from TS Eliot's Burnt Norton



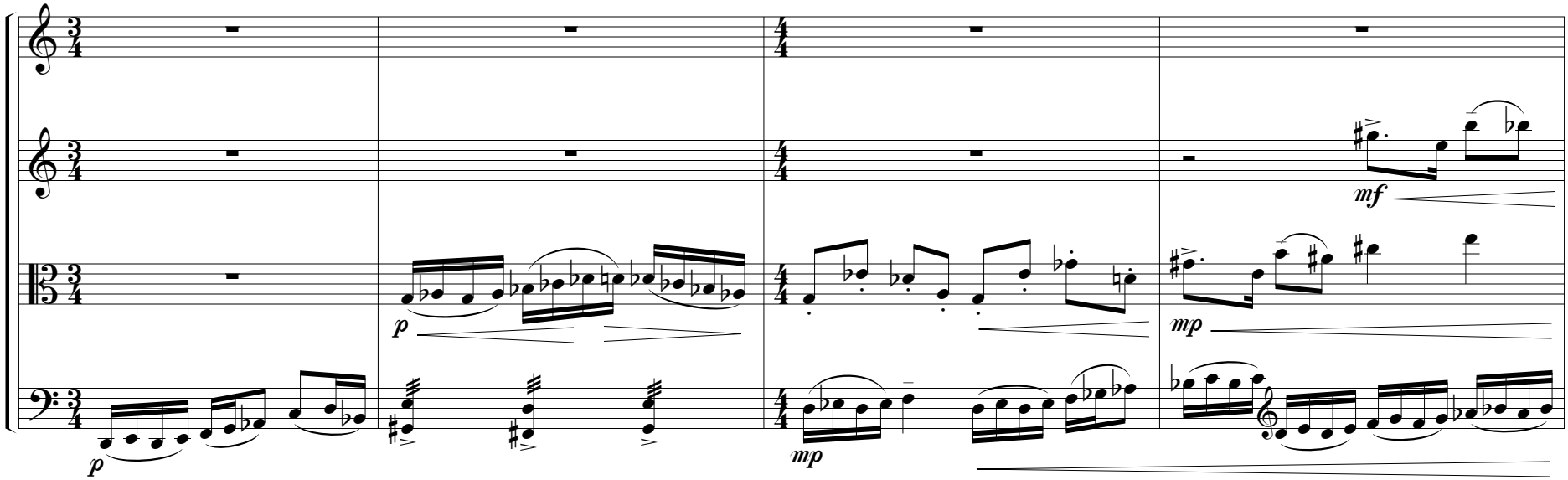

10
arco
arco
pizz.
15
pizz.
Marcato
arco
arco
arco
arco
arco
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.


20
tr
f
spiccato
p
25
mp
mf
f
solo

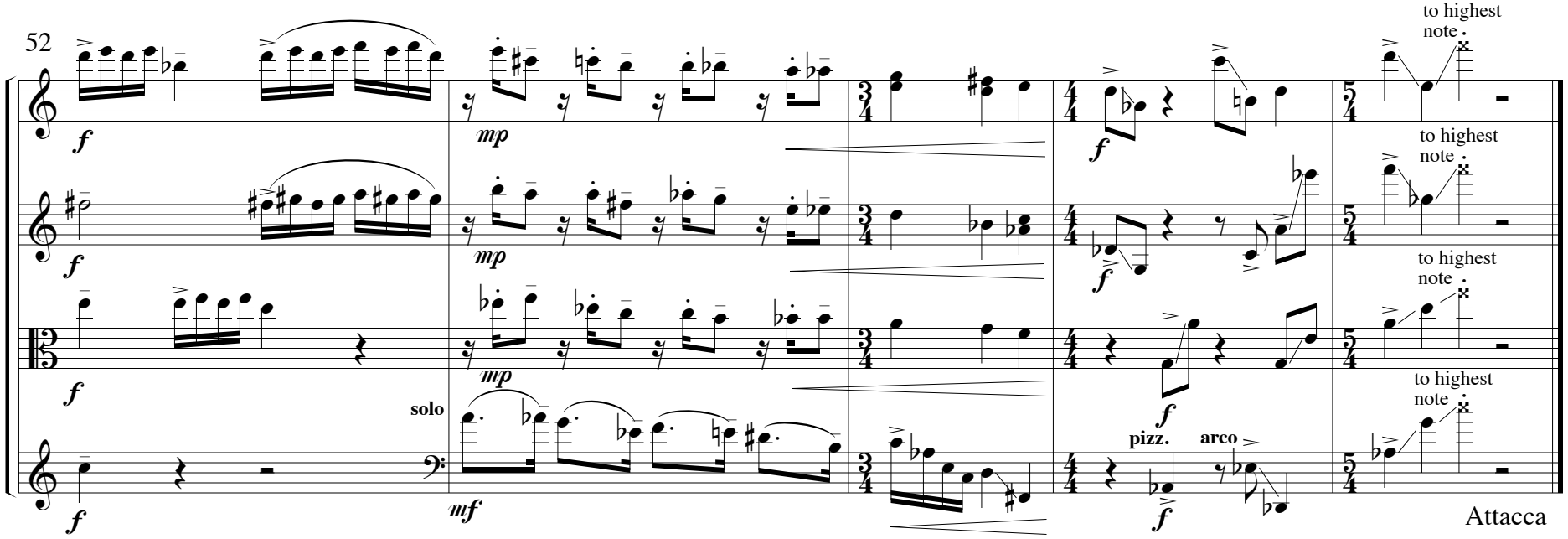

29
mp
mp
mp
mf
f
f
f
f
f
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
arco
arco
arco
arco
ff
ff
ff
ff
34
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
f
f
f
f
arco sul pont.
arco sul pont.
arco
arco
p
p
p sub.
p sub.


38
ord.
mf
ord.
mf
mp
mf
41
poco rall.
A tempo
f
ff
f
ff
f
ff
f
ff

48



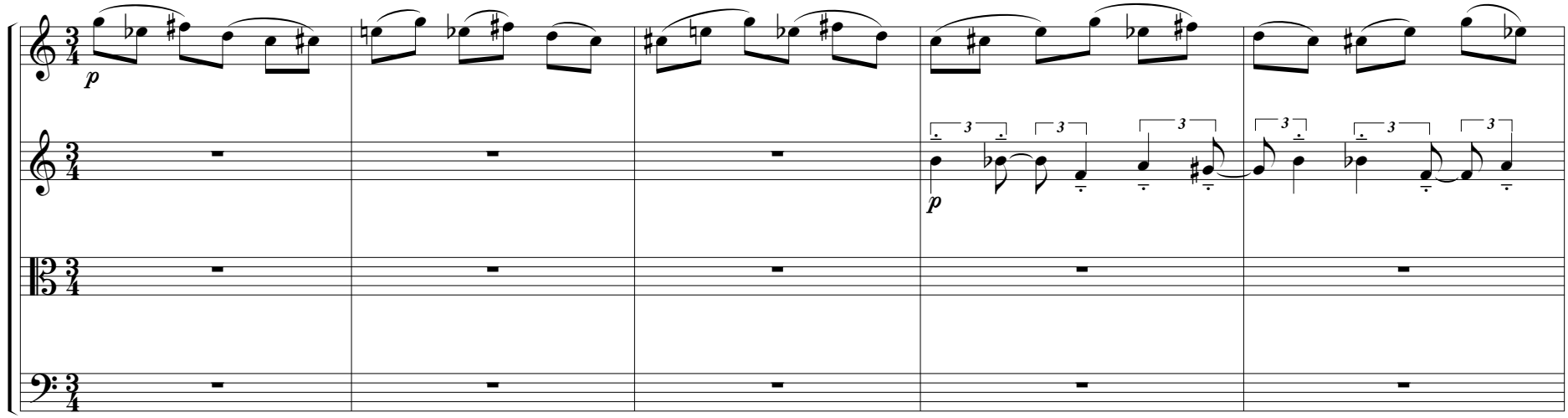
52



V

Time present and time past are both perhaps present in time future, and time future contained in time past.
If all time is eternally present, all time is unreedeemable. *from TS Eliot's Burnt Norton*

♩=116 ***Mechanico***



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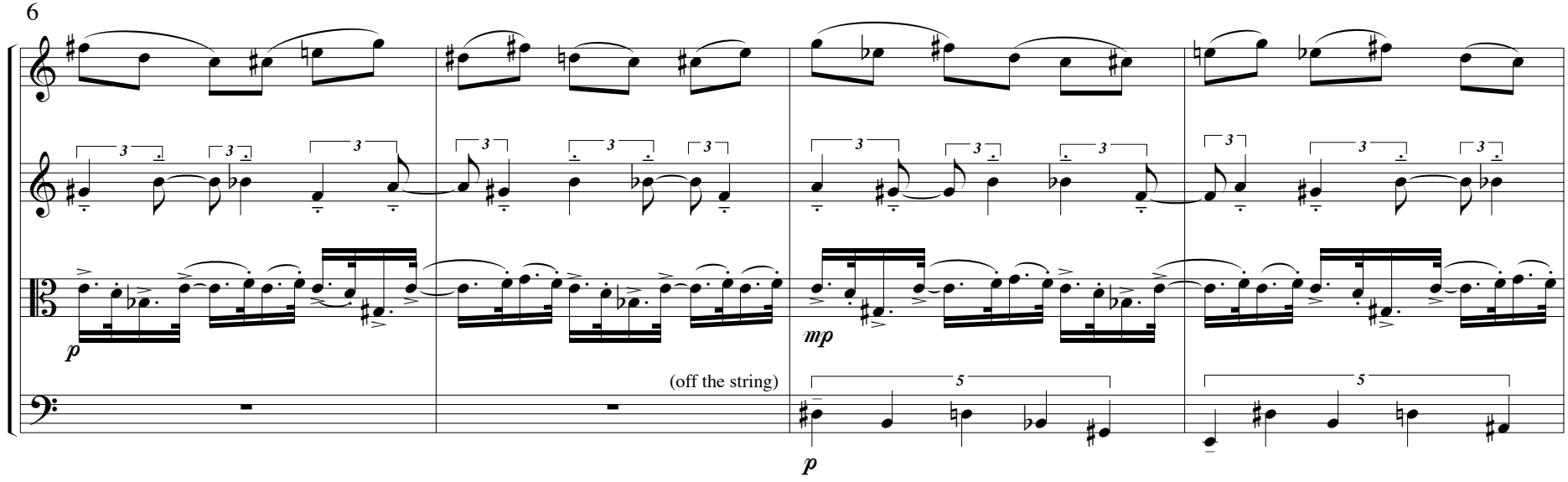

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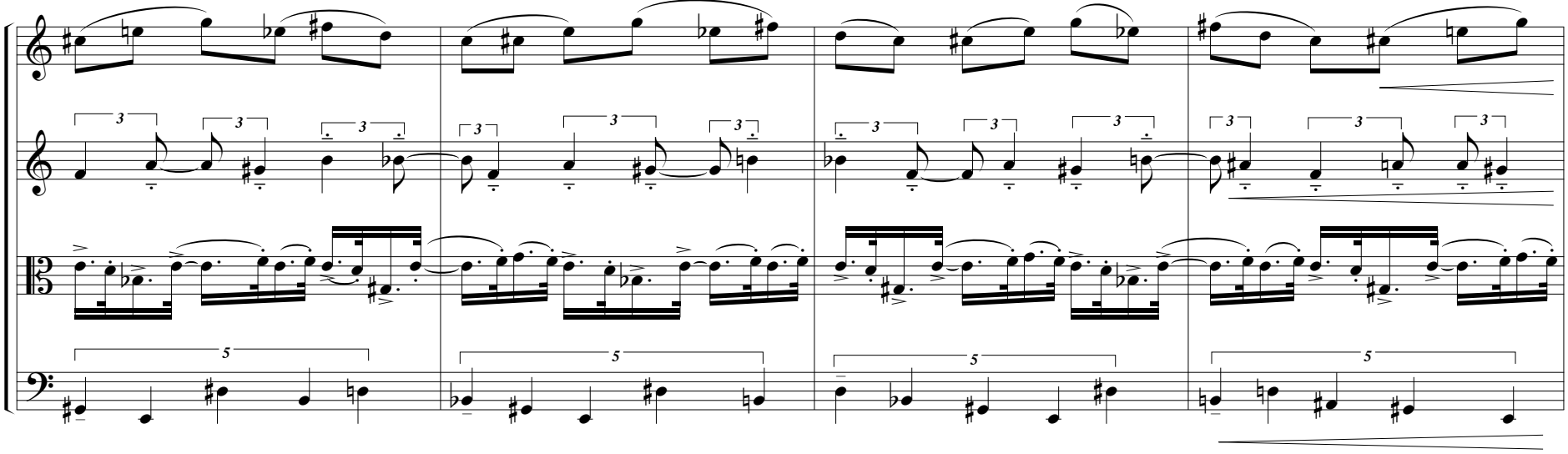

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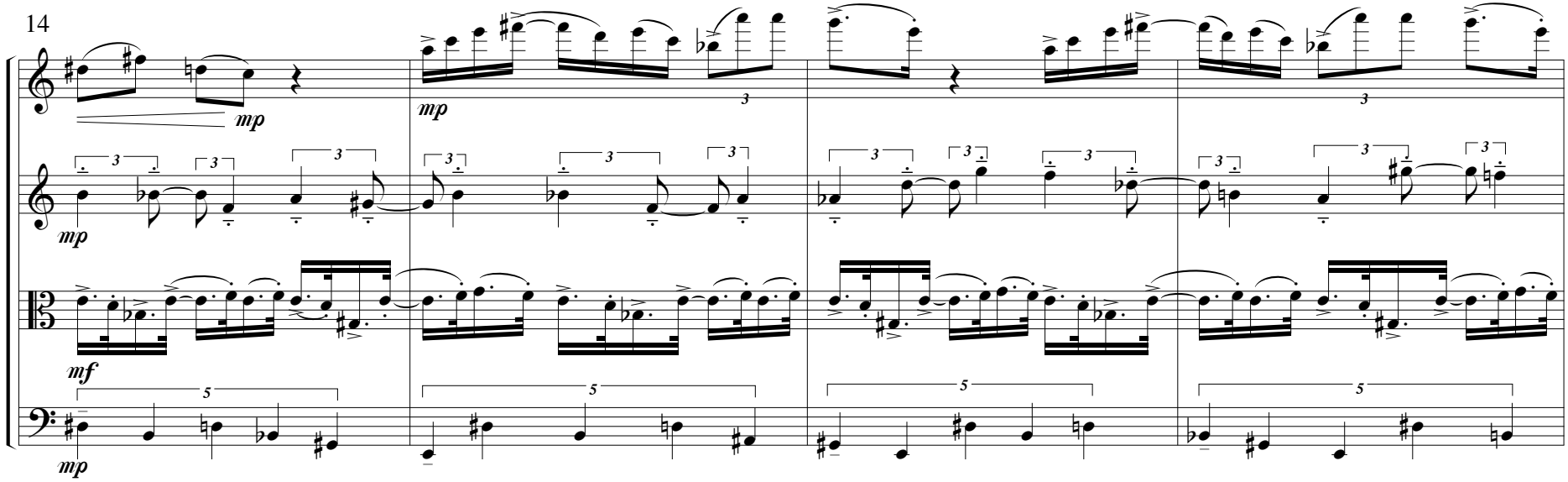
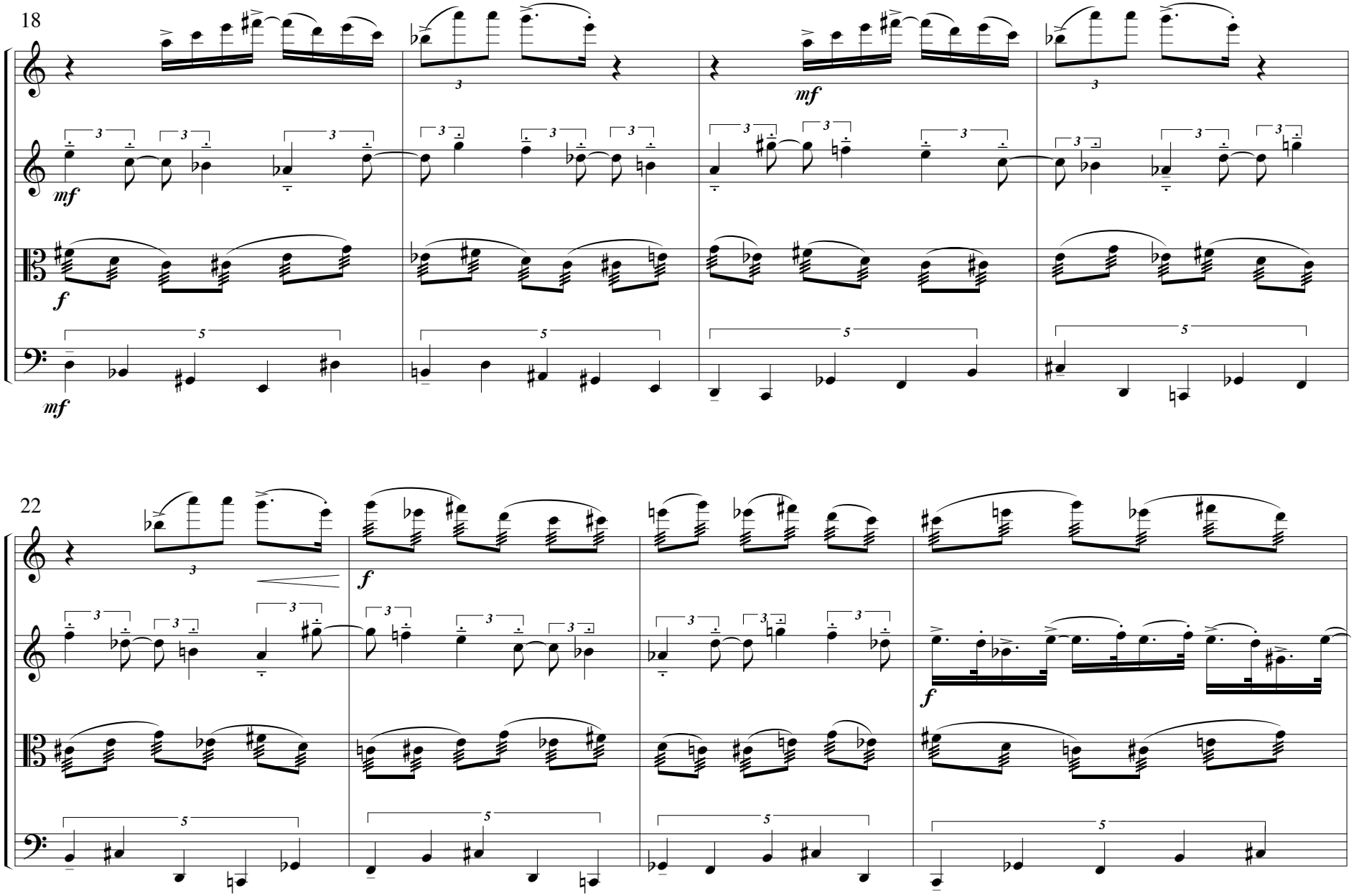
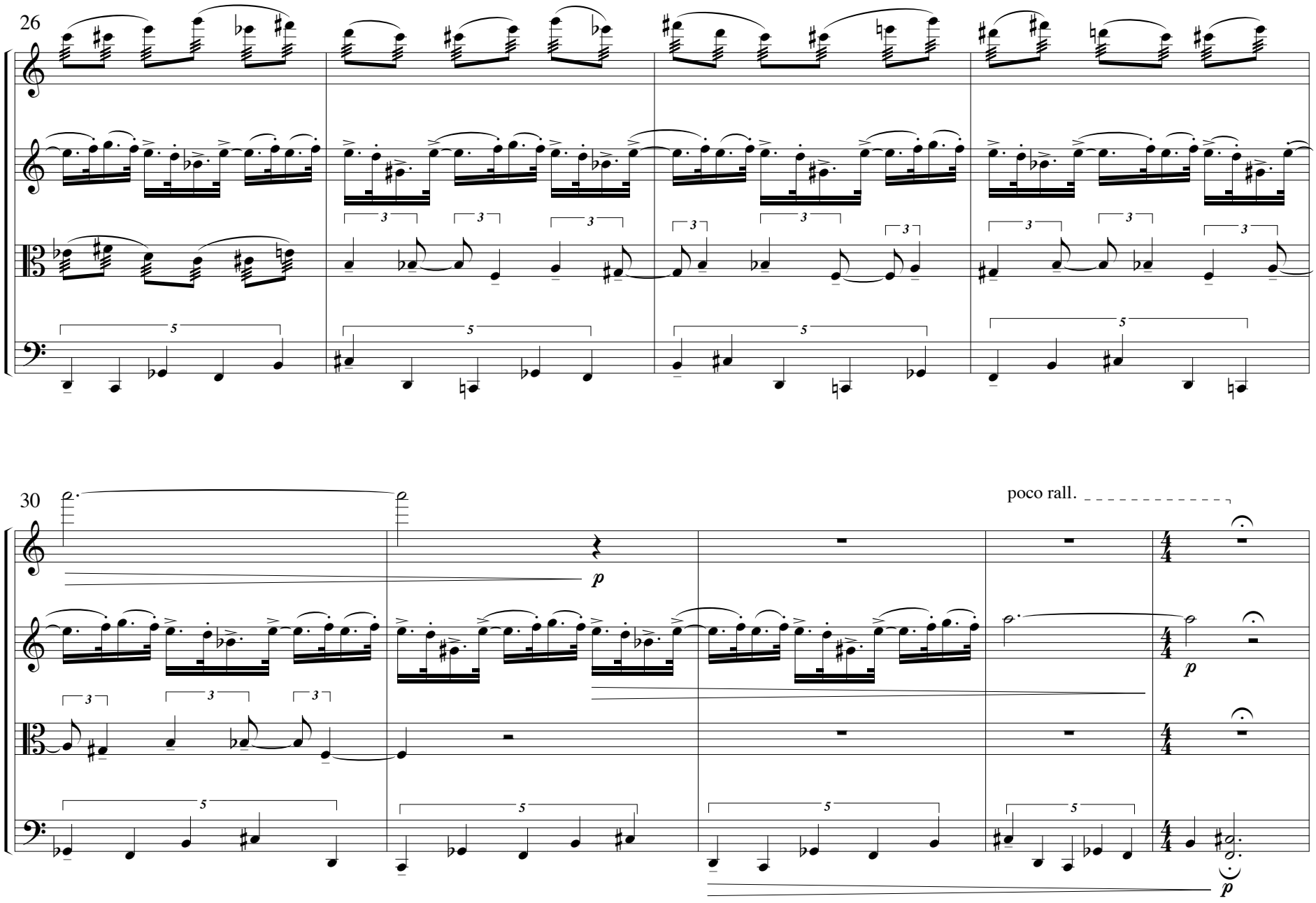
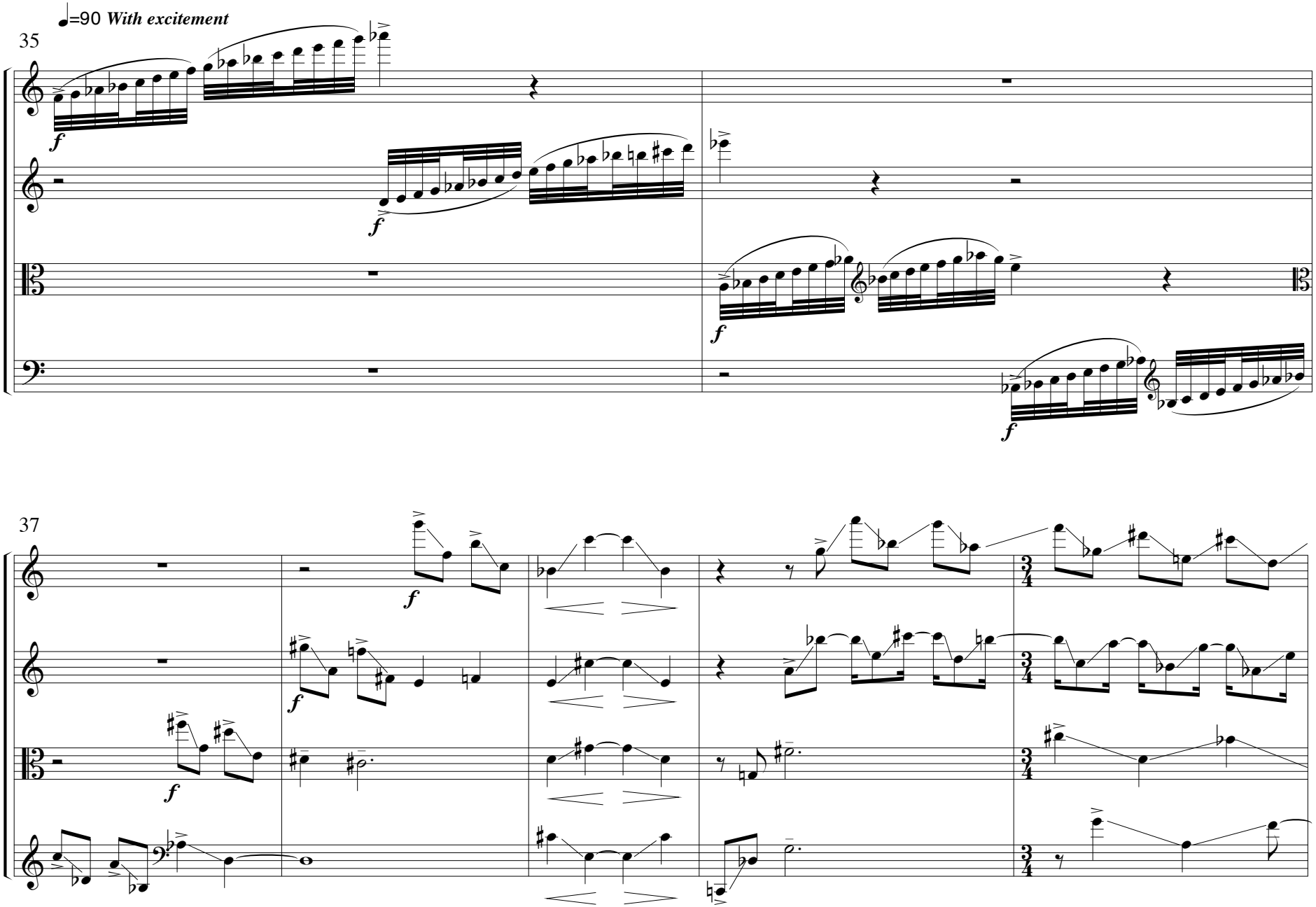
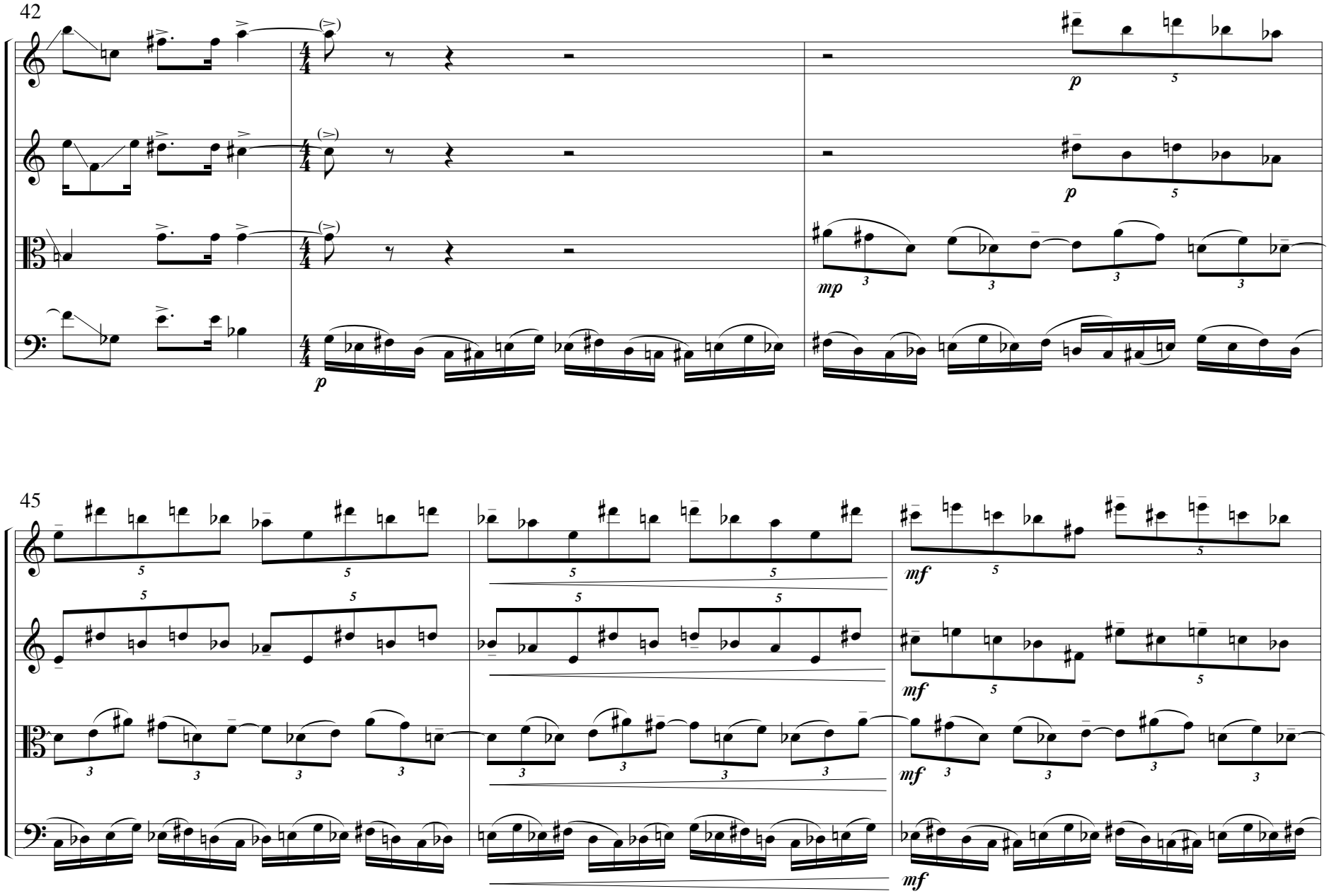
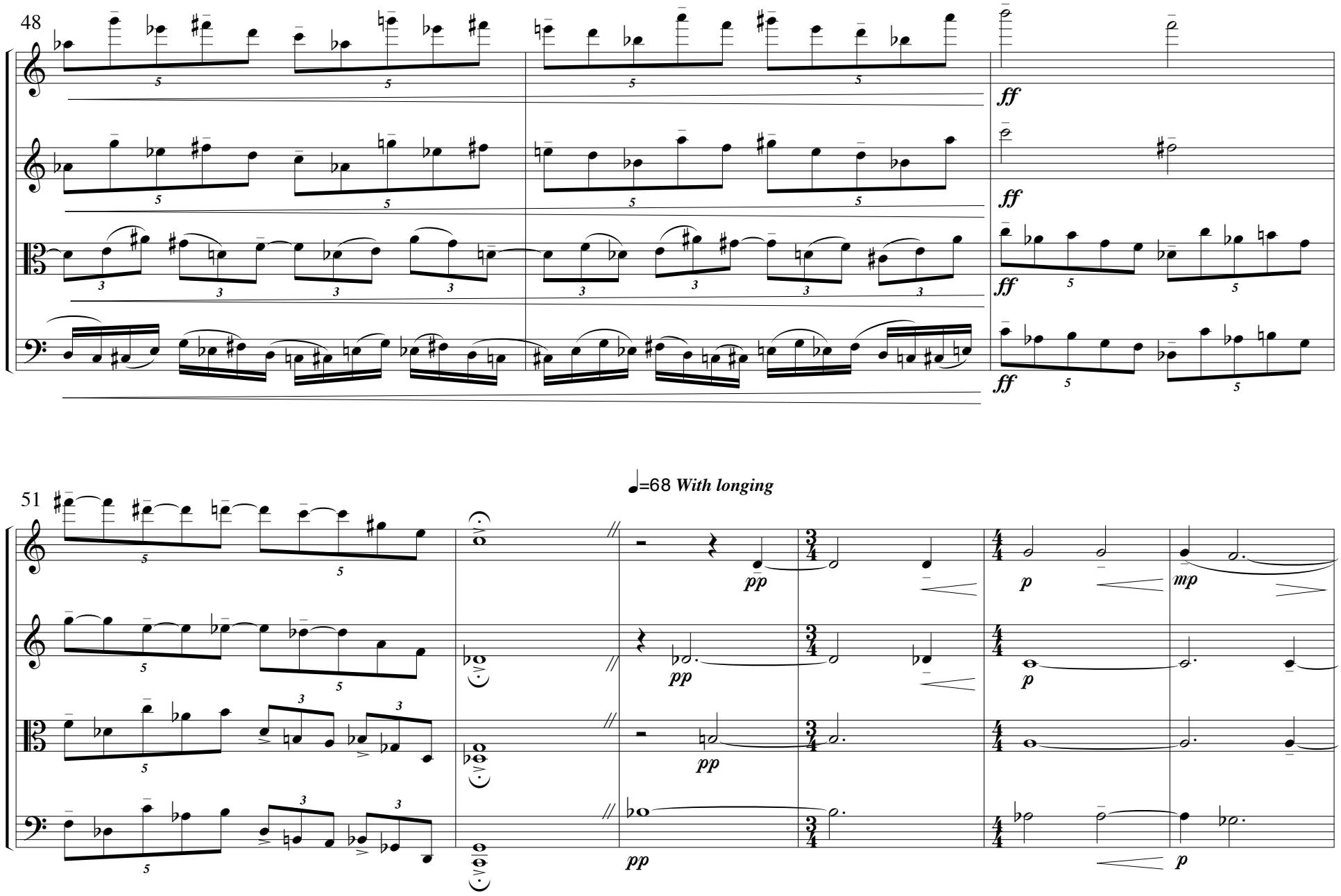



18
mf
f
mf
mf
22
f
f

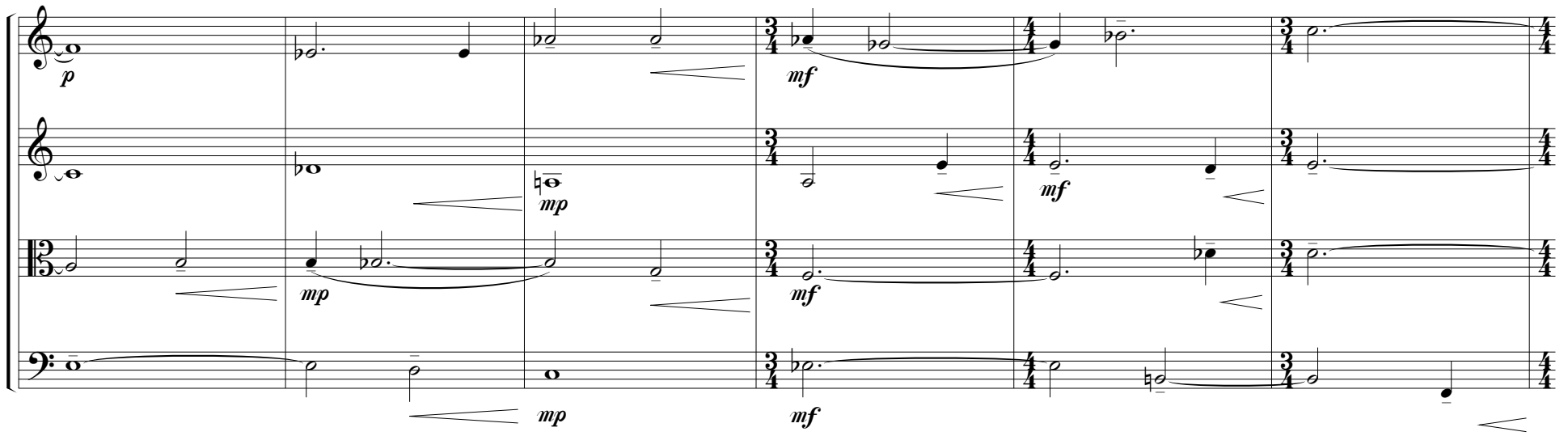

26
30
poco rall.
p
p
p


♩=90 With excitement
35
f
37

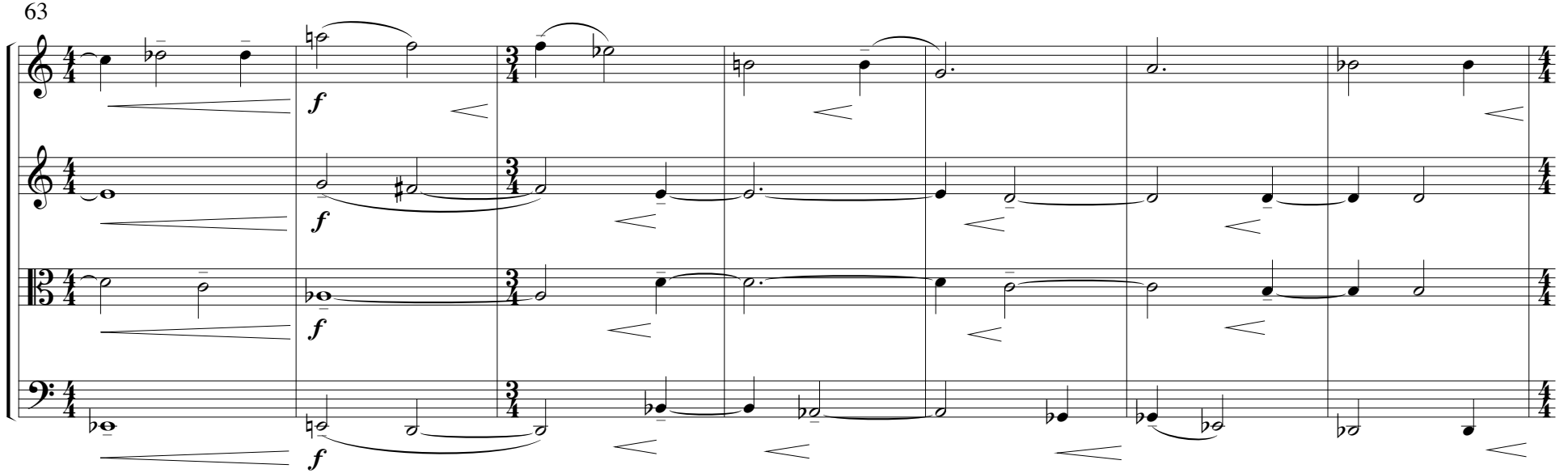

42
45
p
mp
mf

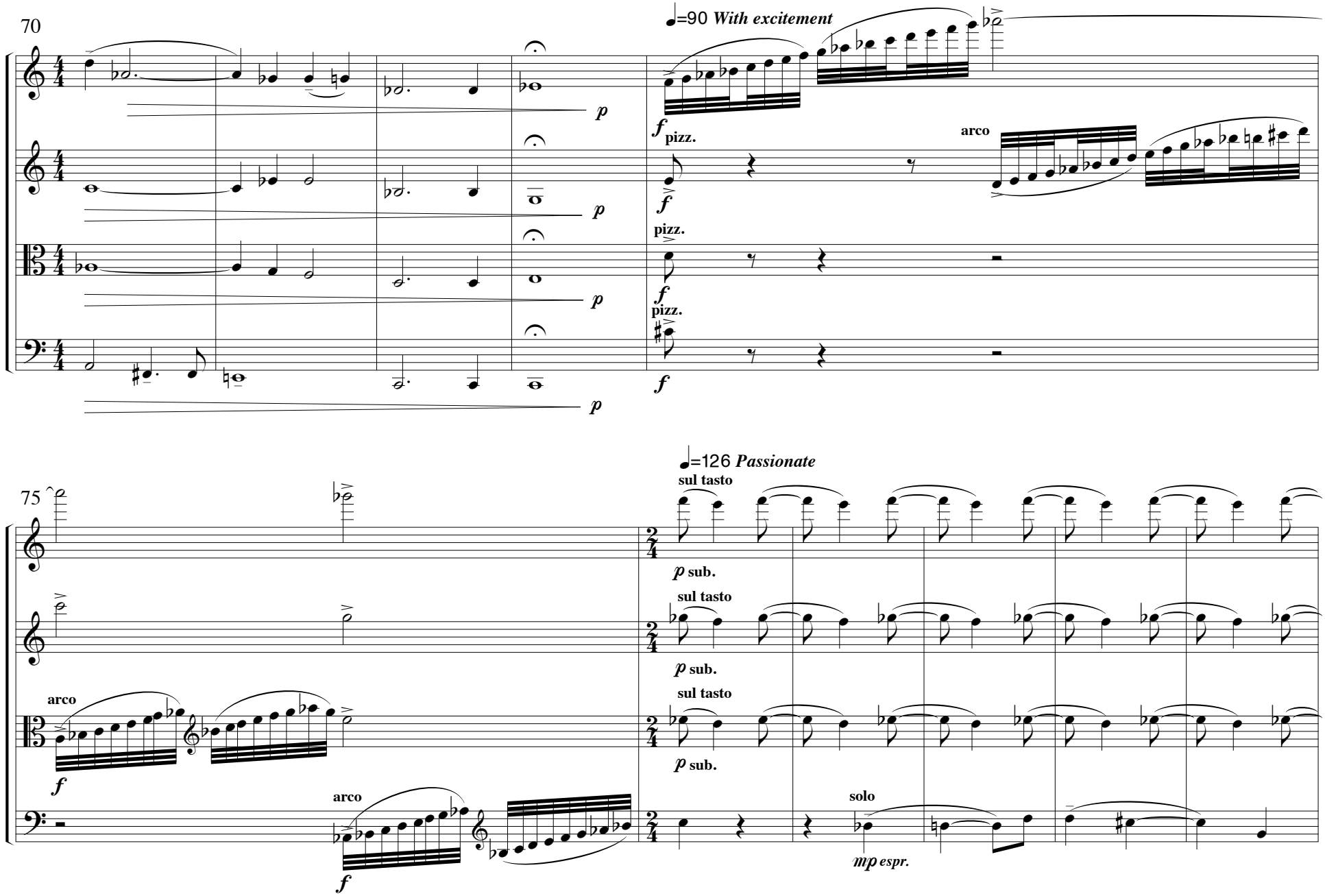

48
ff
ff
ff
ff
51
♩=68 With longing
pp
pp
pp
pp
p
p
mp
p

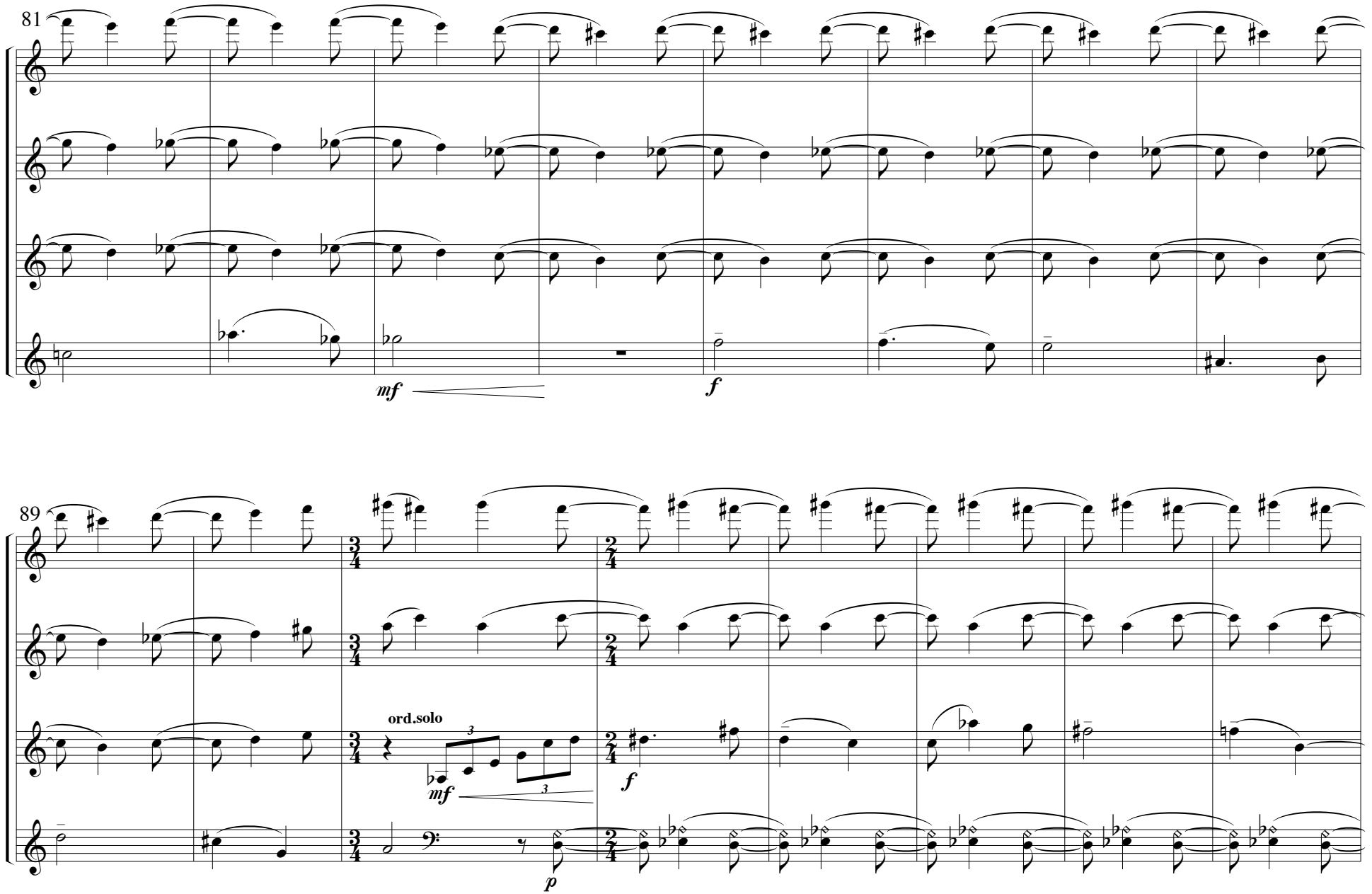
57

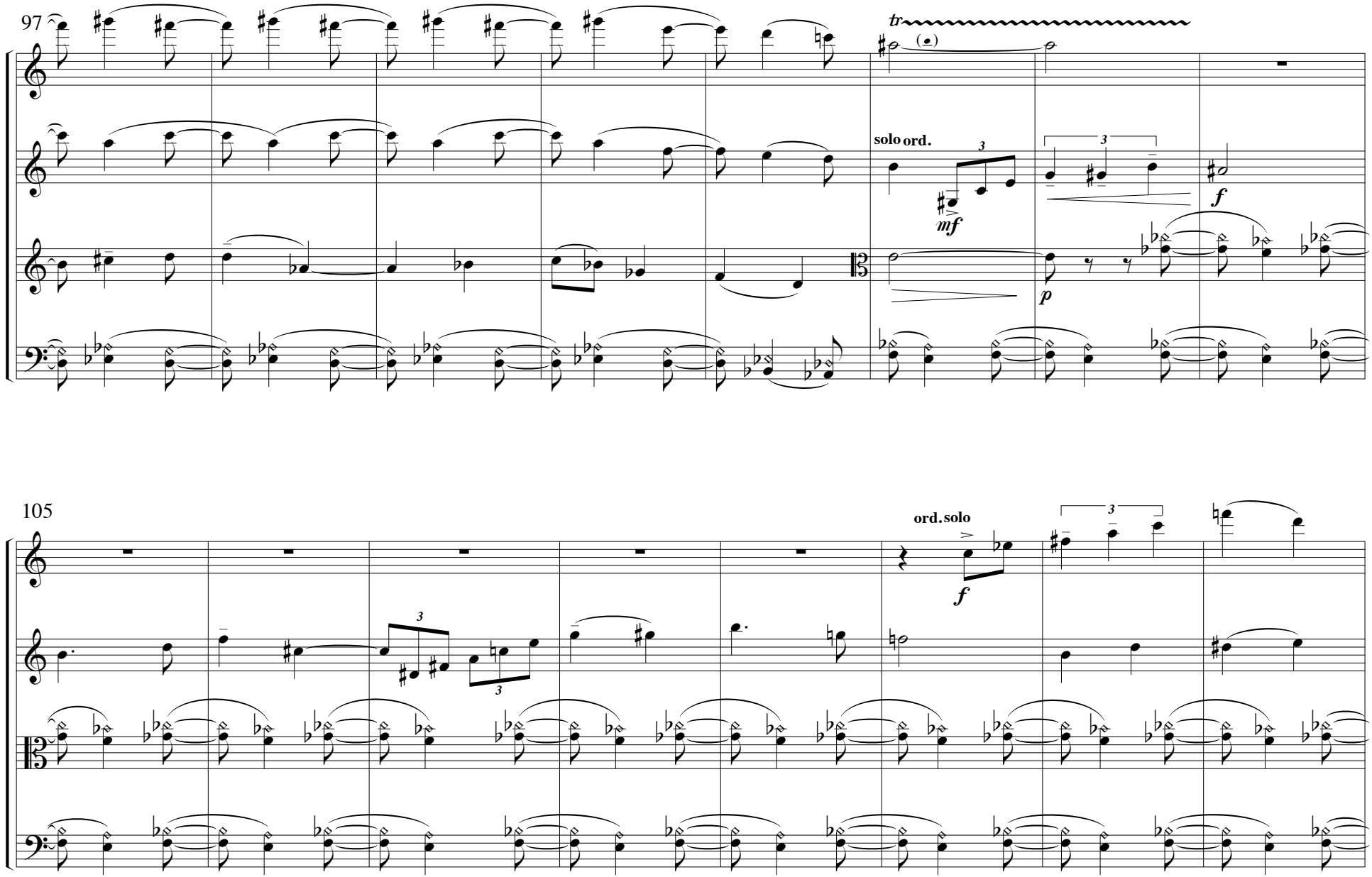


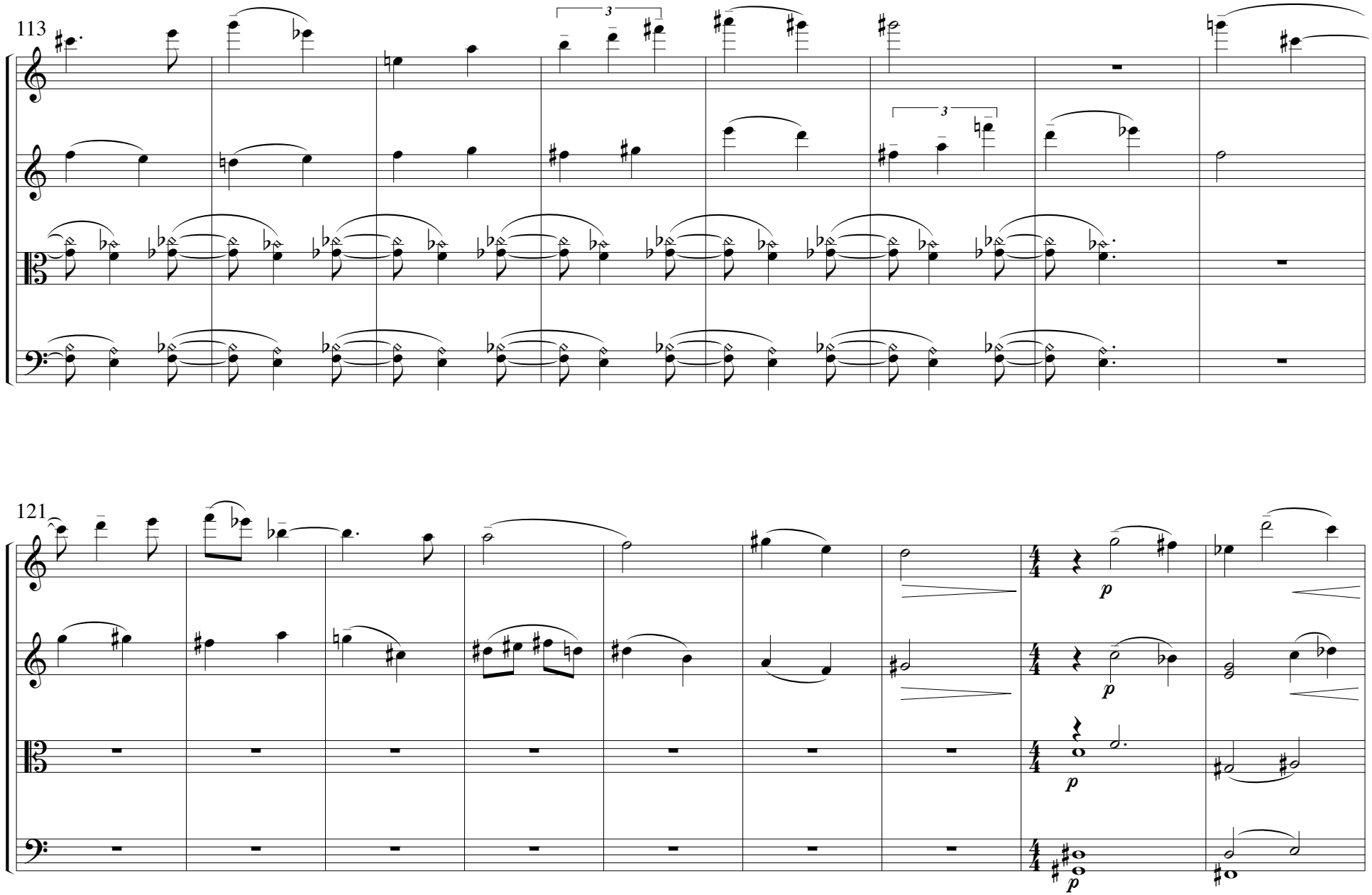
63

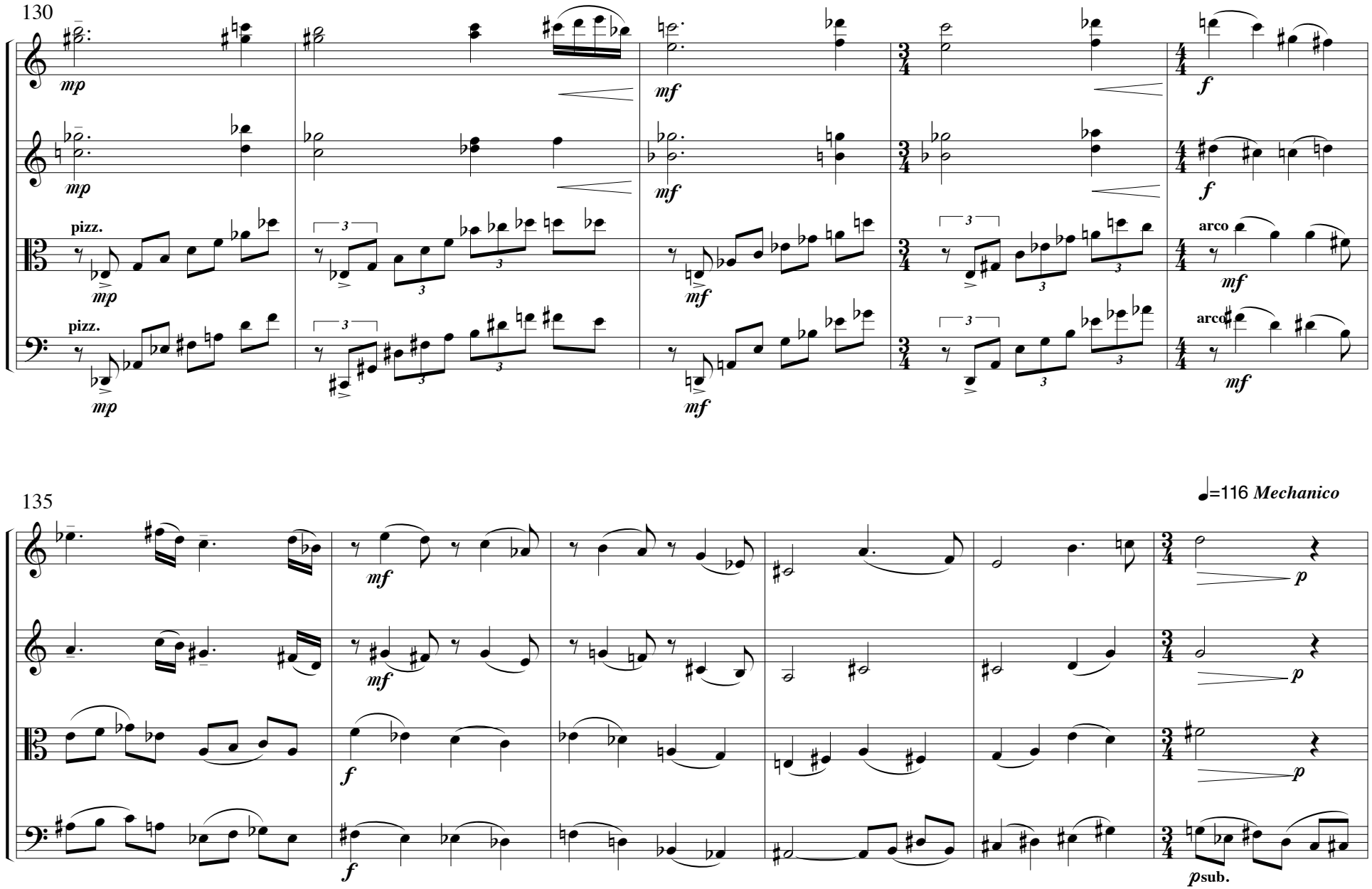


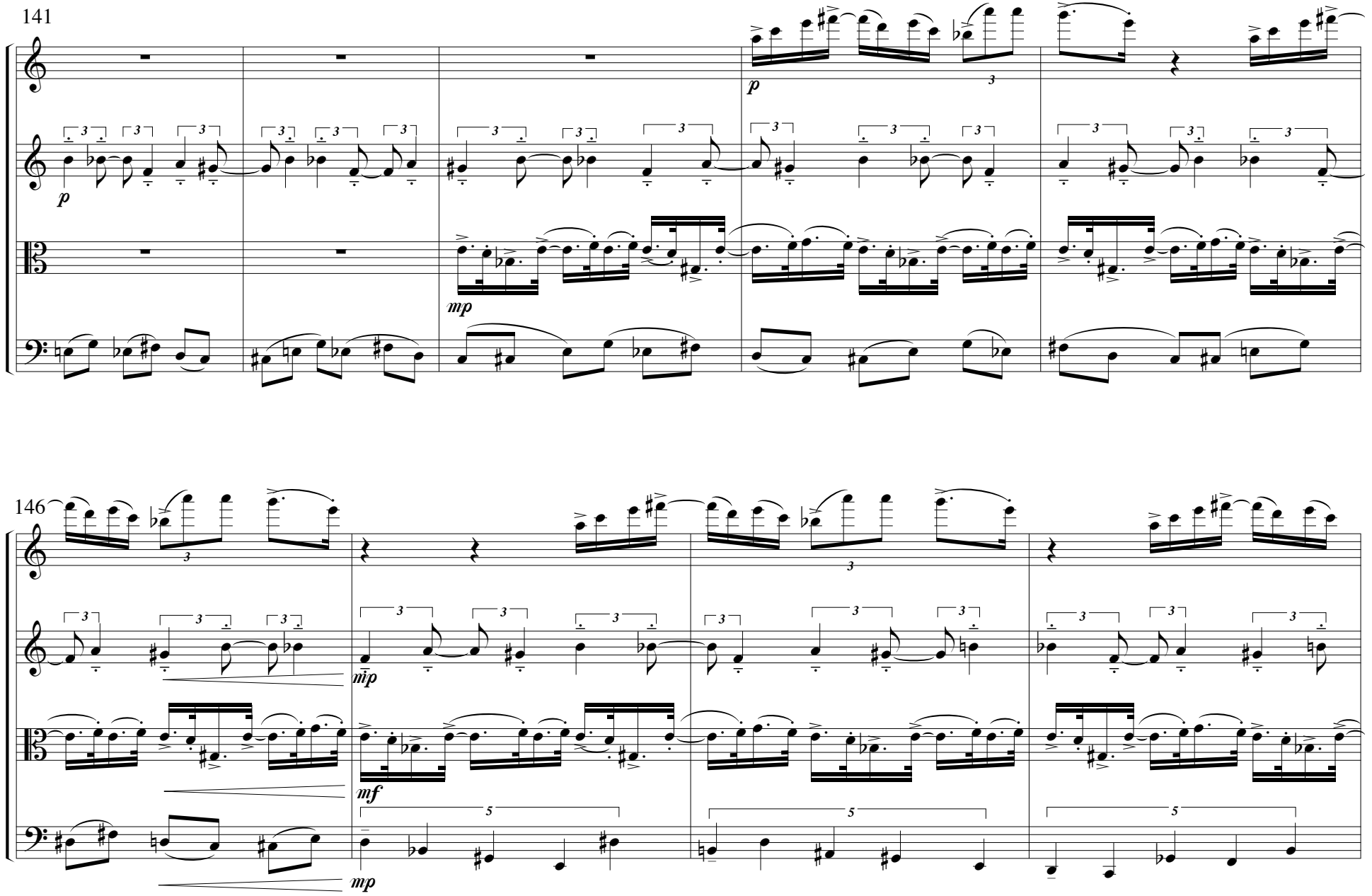

70
♩=90 With excitement
p
f
pizz.
arco
75
♩=126 Passionate
sul tasto
p sub.
arco
solo
mp espr.

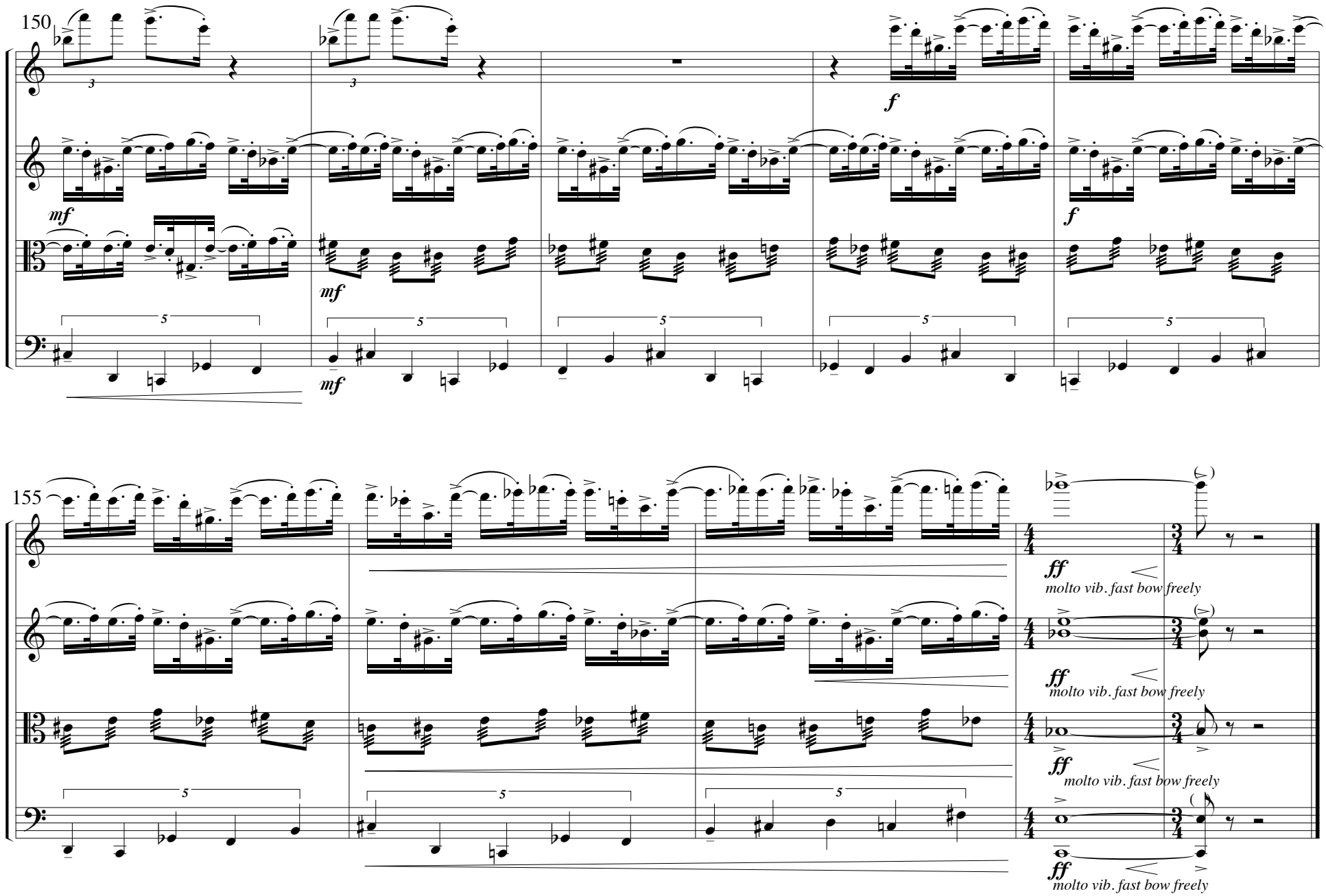

81
mf
f
89
ord.solo
mf
f
p


97
tr
solo ord.
mf
f
p
105
ord. solo
f


113
3
3
121
p
p
p
p


130
mp
mf
f
pizz.
arco
135
=116 Mechanico
p
psub.


141
p
mp
146
mp
mf
mp


150
mf
mf
mf
f
f
155
ff
molto vib. fast bow freely
ff
molto vib. fast bow freely
ff
molto vib. fast bow freely
ff
molto vib. fast bow freely