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the passing sound of forever...

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Publication Date
2020

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The passing sound of forever... (string quartet)

Jane O'Leary

the passing sound of forever...

string quartet, in 3 movements
2015
duration: approx. 12 minutes

dedicated to ConTempo Quartet

With its origins in the opening phrase of Beethoven's string quartet Op. 95 (known as 'serioso'), this quartet emerges from the vitality of those few notes. Having heard ConTempo play Beethoven's quartet several times, the resonance never left me as I shaped something new for the same instruments. The motif is explored and dissolves into a more ethereal spaciousness; the contrast between these elements - driving and rhythmic/floating and atmospheric - are central to the work's construction.

The title is from the closing lines of Dermot Healy's poem *'the echo of all that's happened'* in the collection *'A Fool's Errand'*. The poem too was deep in my consciousness during the period of composition and had provided a title for my 2014 sextet for strings, alto flute and clarinet.

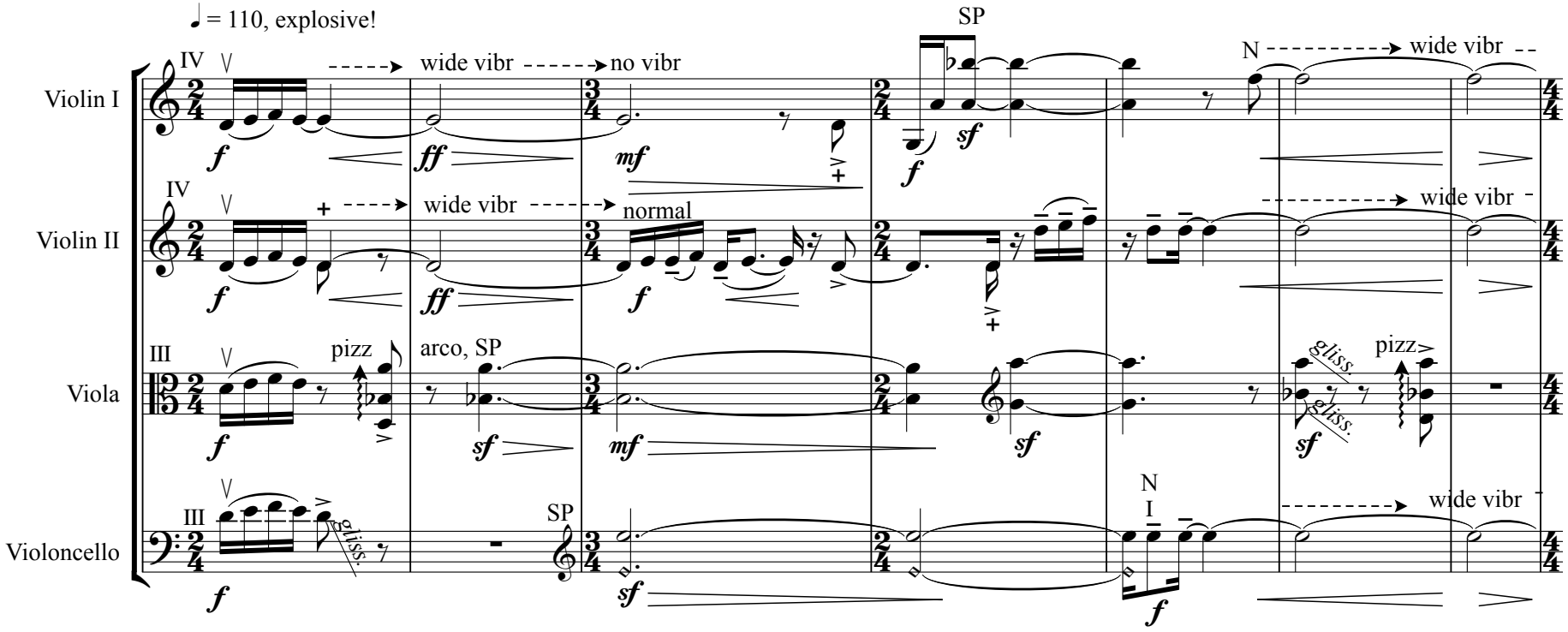
The premiere performance took place on 30 January, 2016
at Triskel Arts Centre, Cork.

https://www.cmc.ie/composers/jane-oleary

The passing sound of forever...

I

Jane O'Leary, 2013/15



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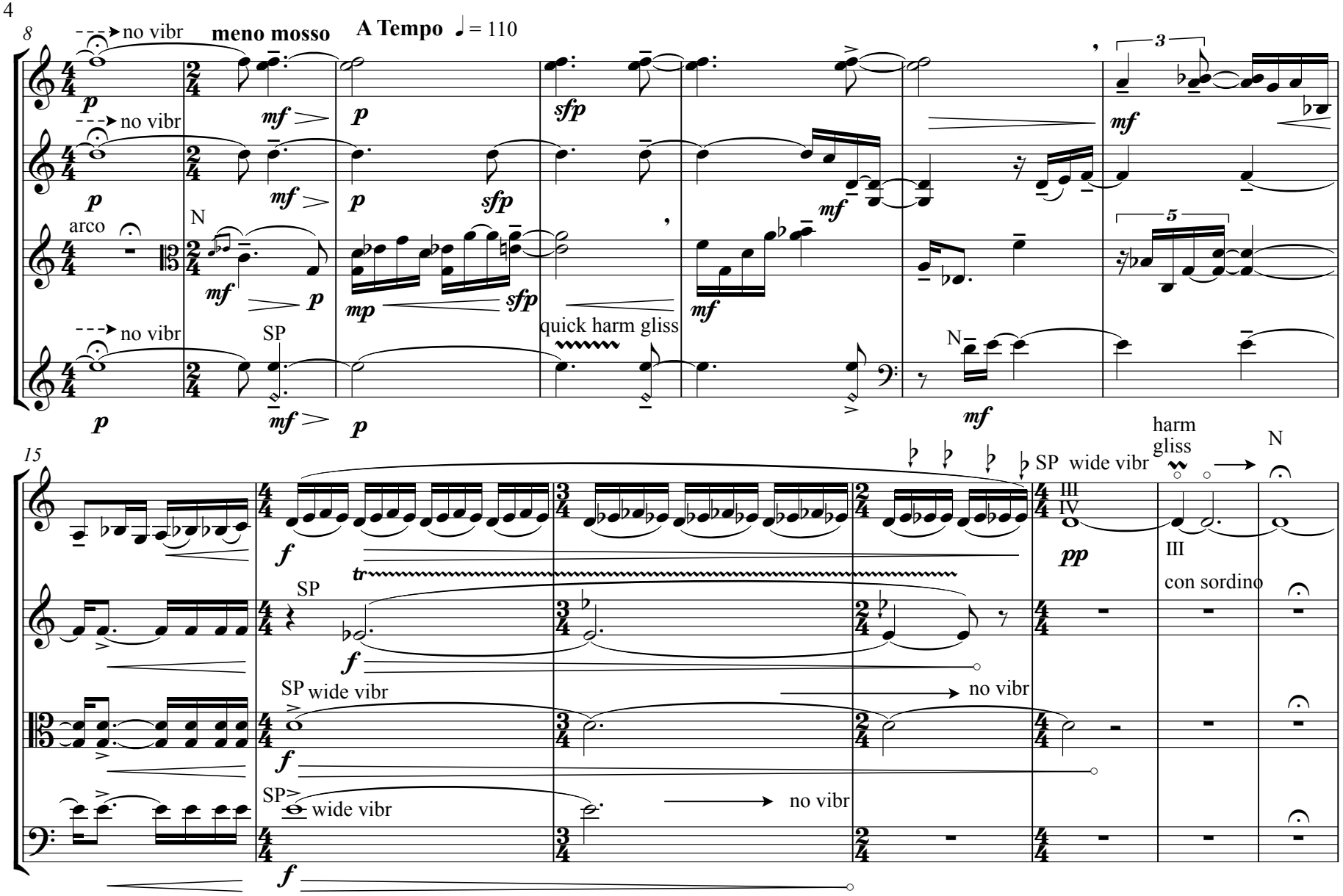
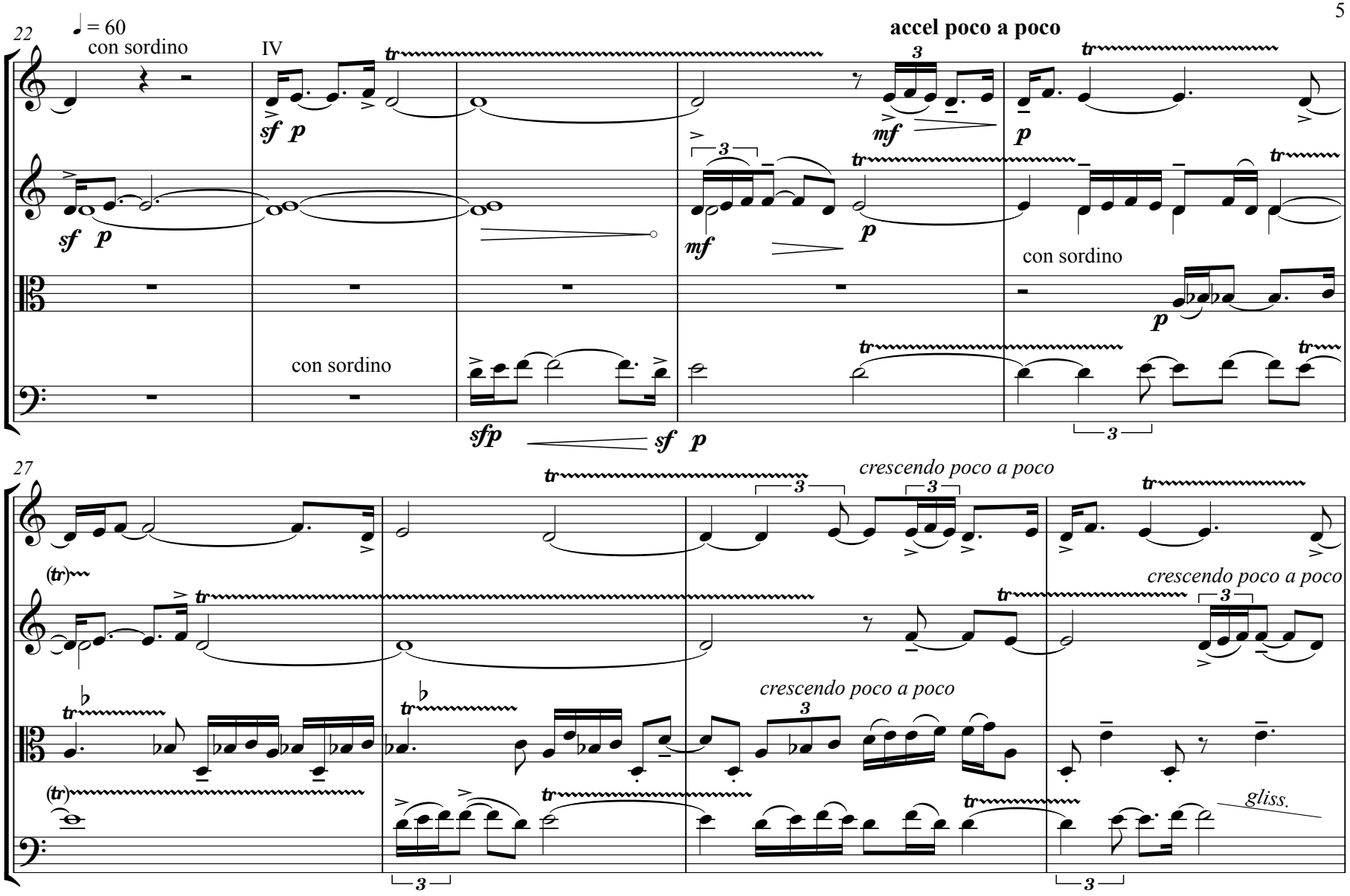
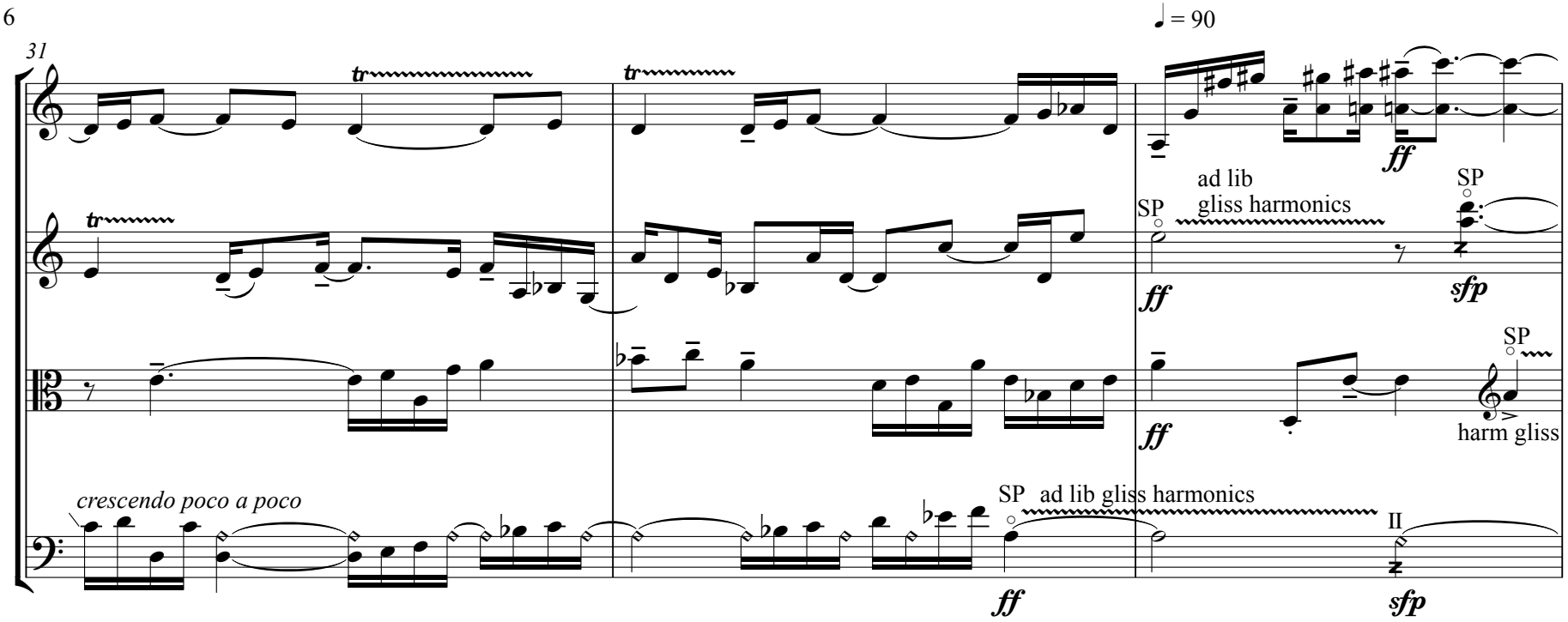
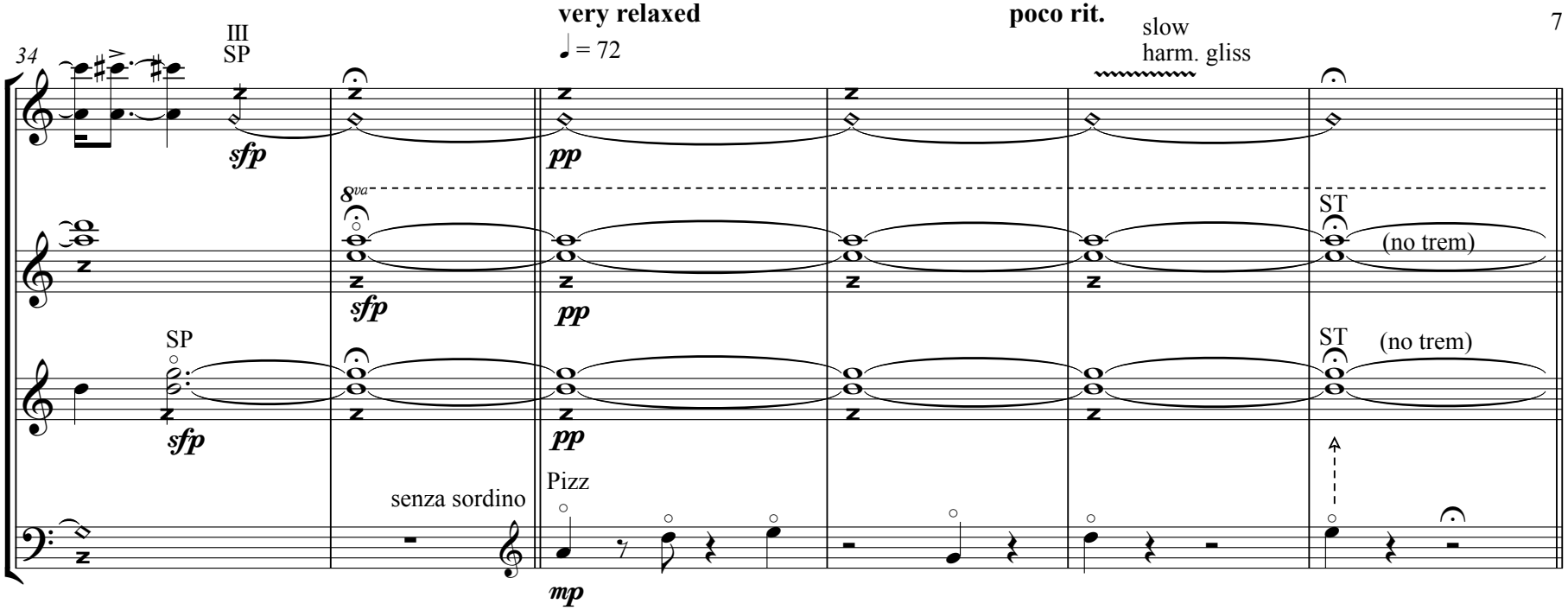
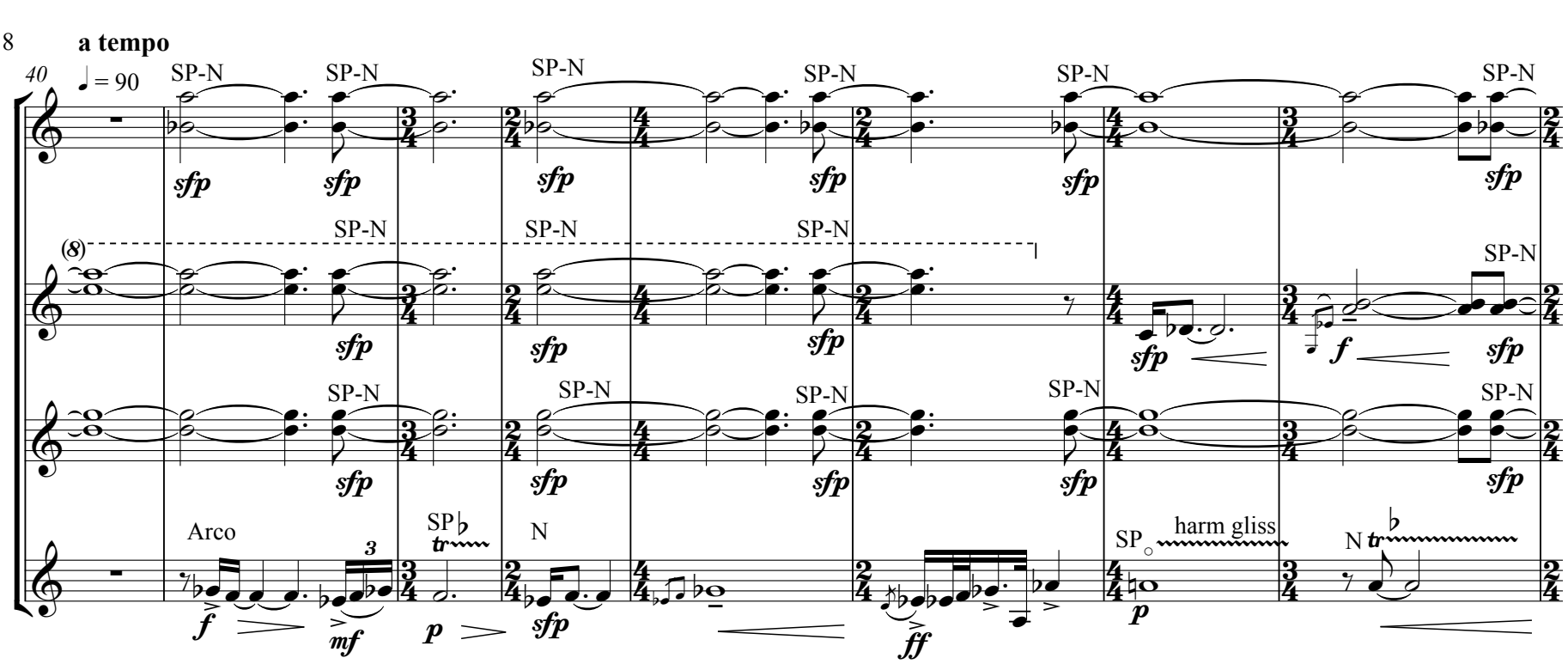
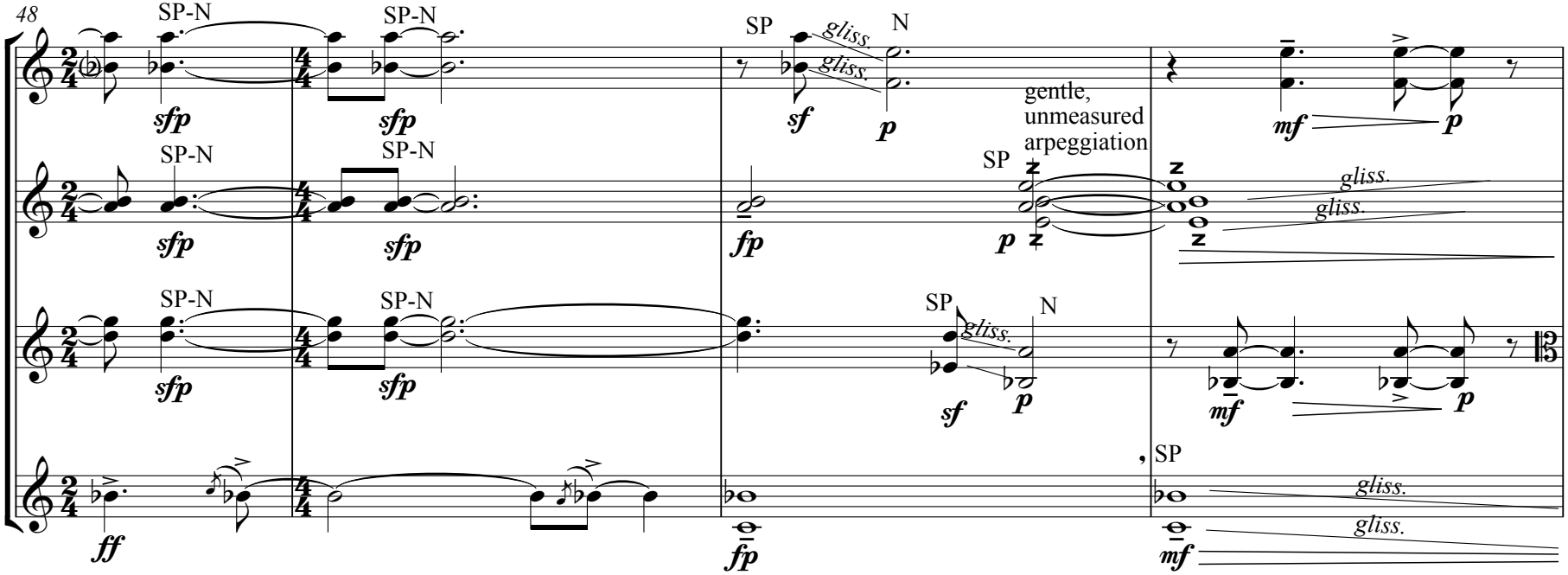

8
no vibr
meno mosso
A Tempo ♩ = 110
arco
N
SP
quick harm gliss
15
wide vibr
harm gliss
con sordino
III
IV

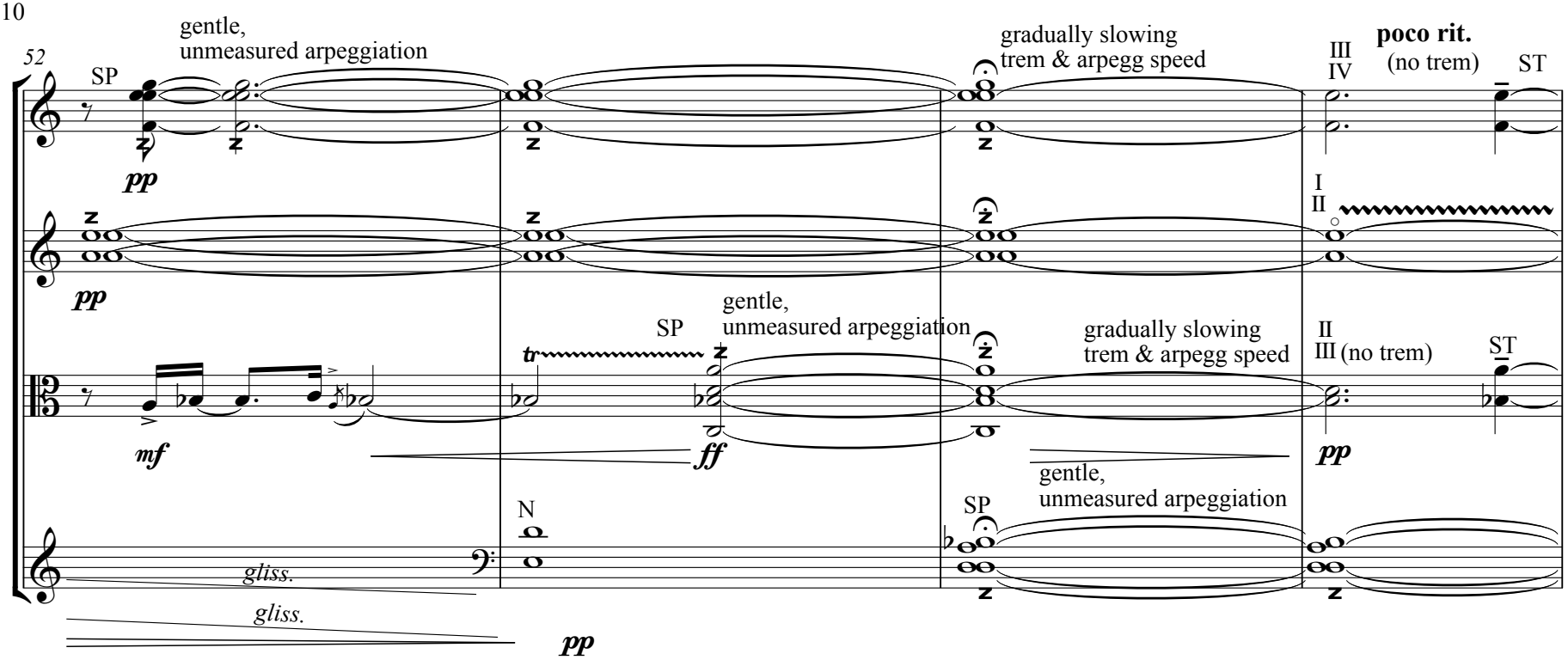

22
♩ = 60
con sordino
IV
accel poco a poco
sf p
mf
p
con sordino
sfp
27
crescendo poco a poco
gliss.

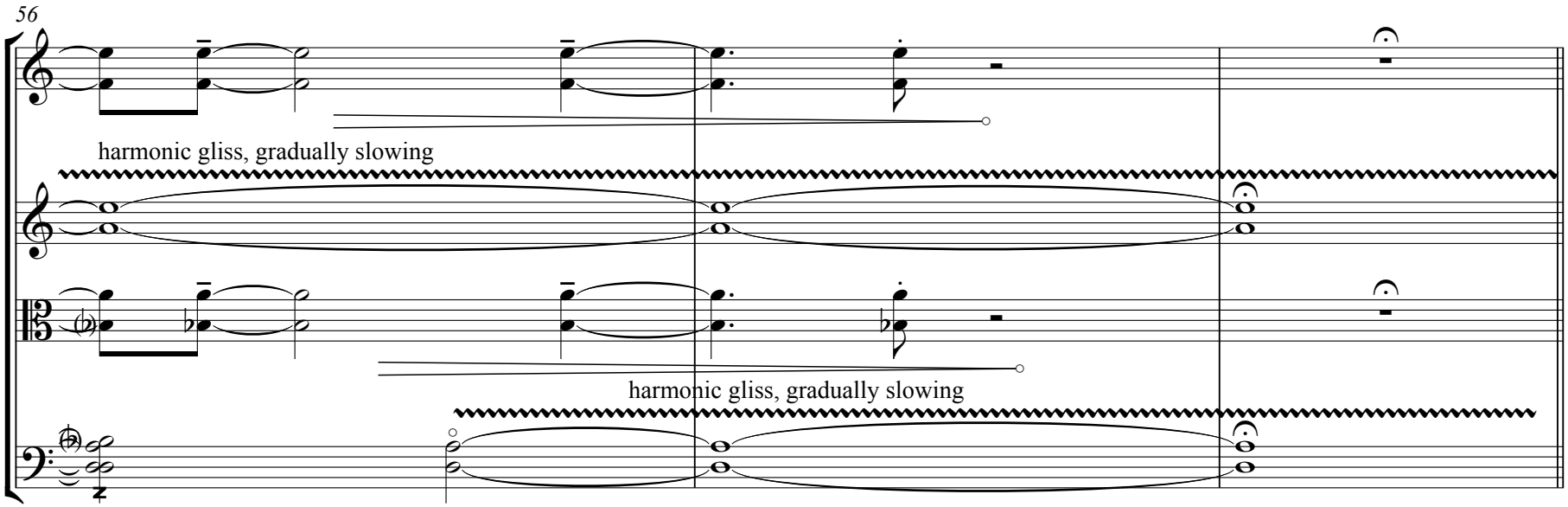

31
♩ = 90
tr
tr
tr
ff
ad lib
gliss harmonics
SP
SP
ff
sfp
SP
ff
harm gliss
crescendo poco a poco
SP ad lib gliss harmonics
II
ff
sfp


34
III
SP
sfp
very relaxed
♩ = 72
pp
poco rit.
slow
harm. gliss
8va
sfp
pp
ST
(no trem)
SP
sfp
pp
ST
(no trem)
senza sordino
Pizz
mp


a tempo
40
♩ = 90
SP-N
sfp
(8)
Arco
f
mf
3
SP
tr
p
N
ff
harm gliss


48
SP-N
SP-N
sfp
sfp
SP
gliss.
gliss.
N
sf
p
gentle,
unmeasured
arpeggiation
mf
p
SP-N
SP-N
sfp
sfp
fp
SP
p
gliss.
gliss.
SP-N
SP-N
sfp
sfp
SP
gliss.
N
sf
p
mf
p
SP
ff
fp
gliss.
gliss.
mf


52
SP
gentle,
unmeasured arpeggiation
pp
pp
gradually slowing
trem & arpegg speed
III
IV
poco rit.
(no trem)
ST
I
II
mf
tr
SP
gentle,
unmeasured arpeggiation
ff
gradually slowing
trem & arpegg speed
II
III (no trem)
ST
pp
gentle,
unmeasured arpeggiation
SP
N
gliss.
gliss.
pp


56
harmonic gliss, gradually slowing
harmonic gliss, gradually slowing

a tempo

♩ = 80

59

SP gentle arpeggiation, very fast, ad lib tremolo

pp

senza sordino

N

mf

ST

p

senza sordino

Pizz

mp

Arco

pp

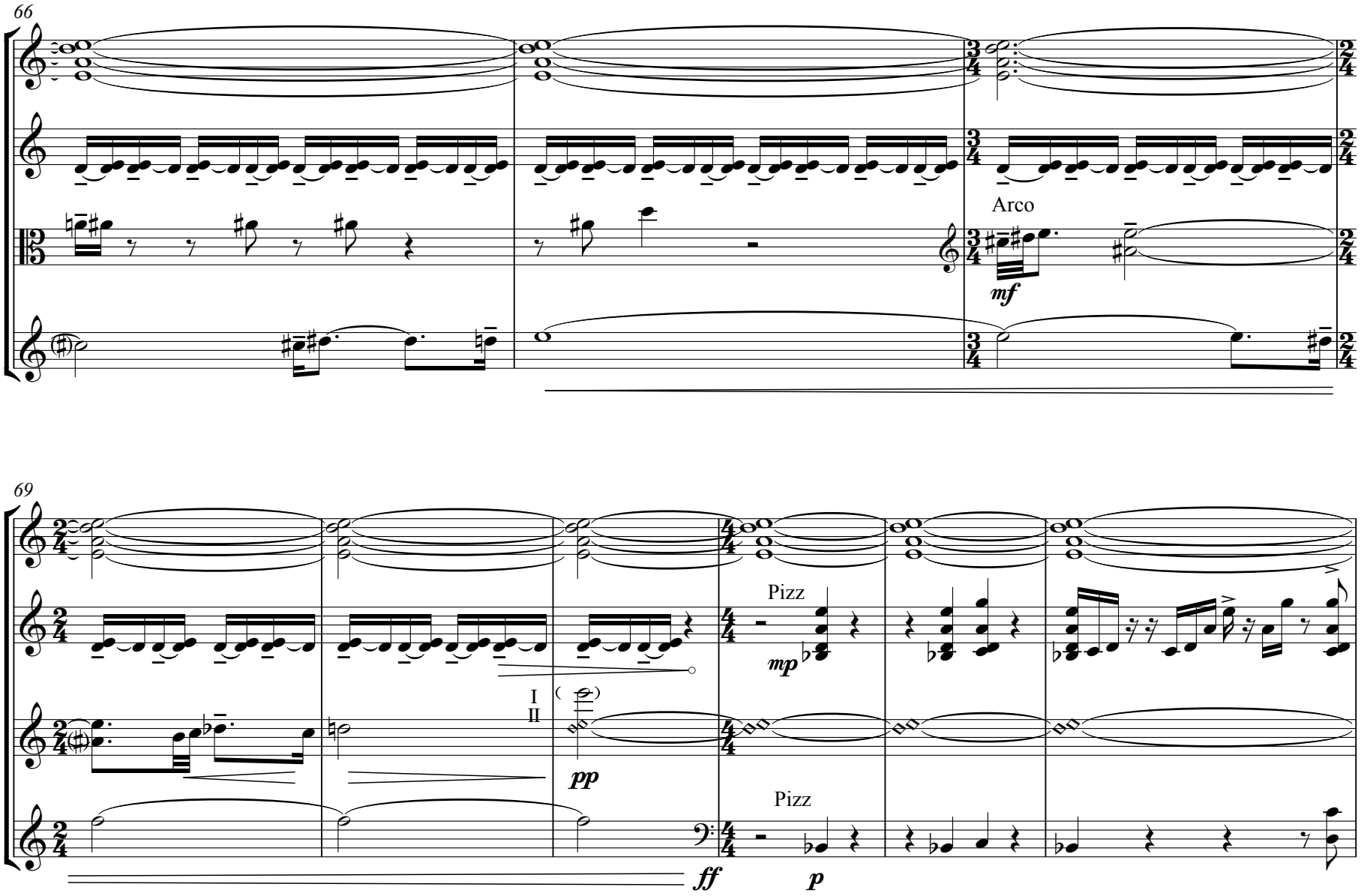
64

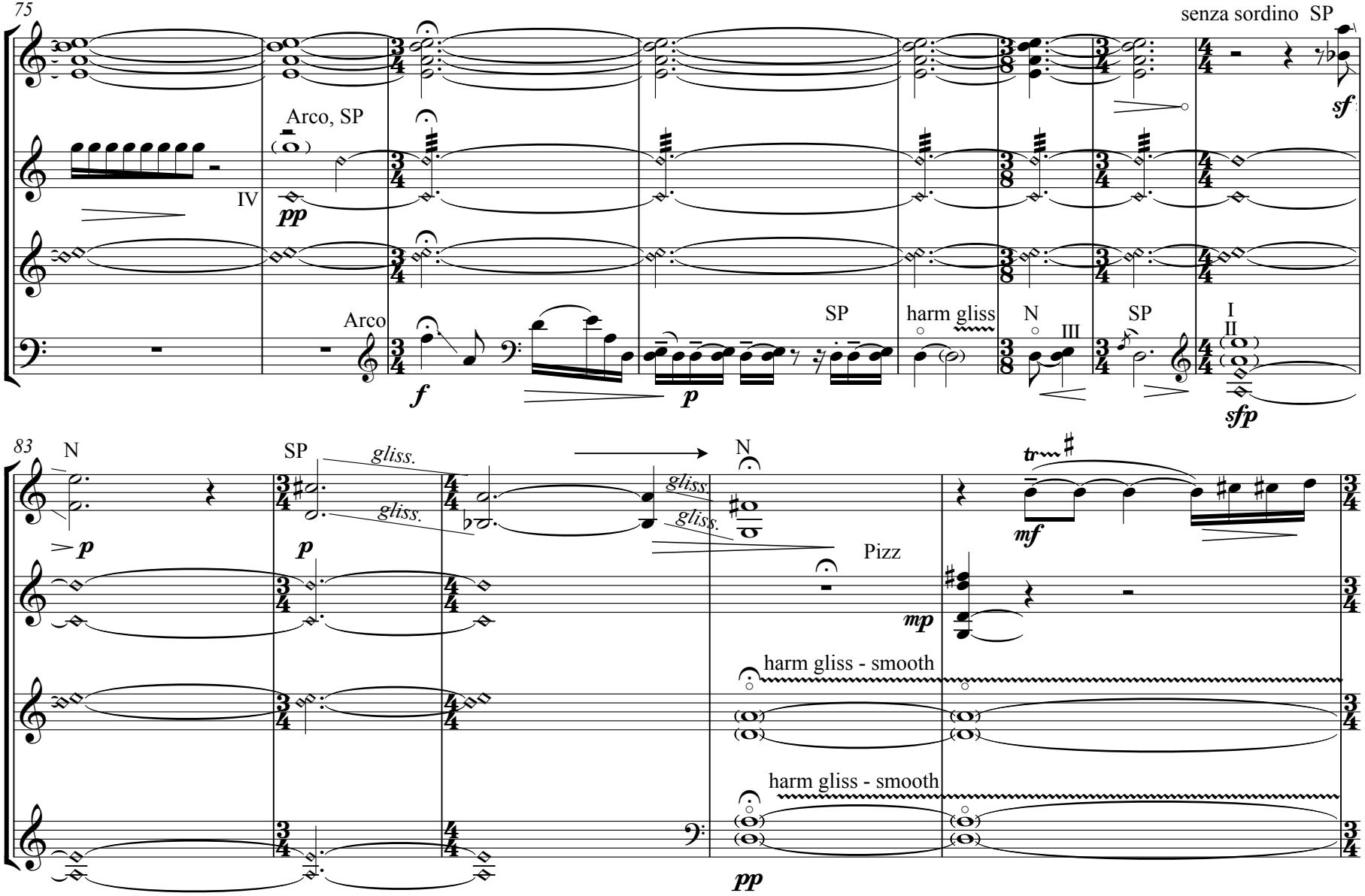
Pizz

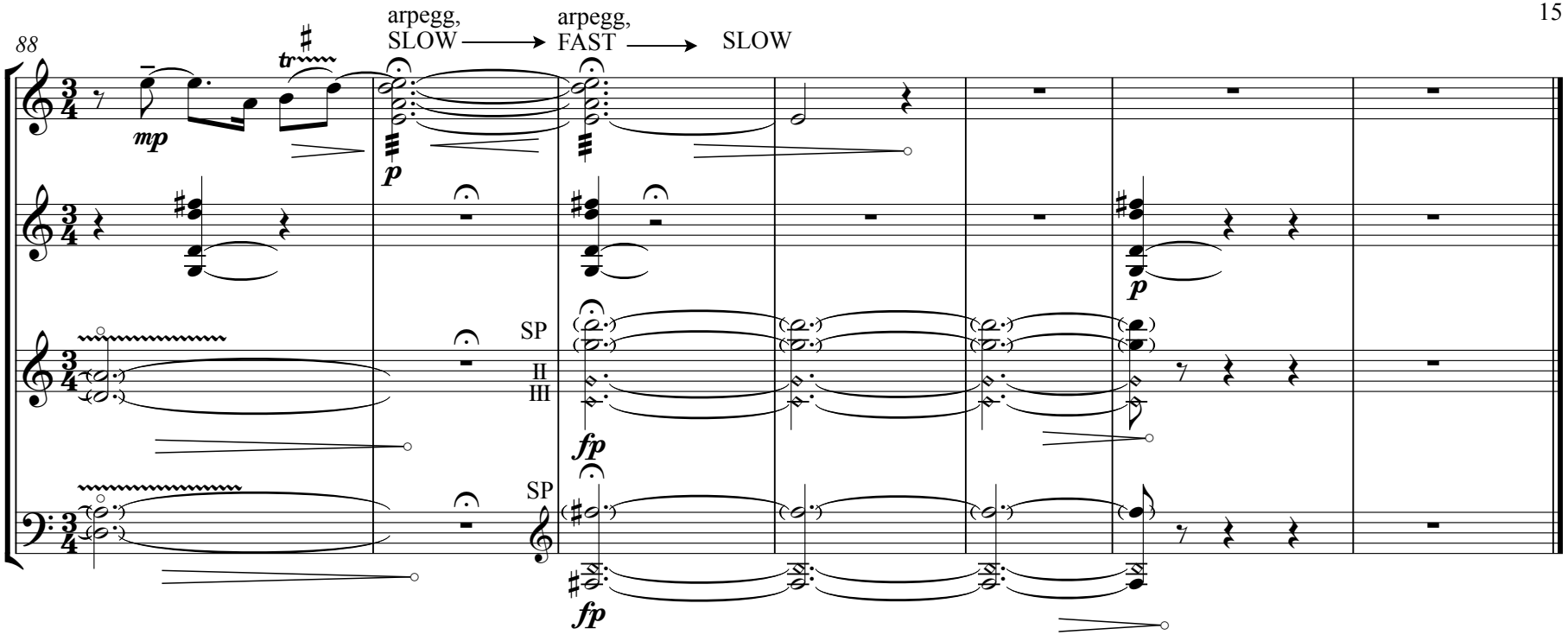
mp

mf

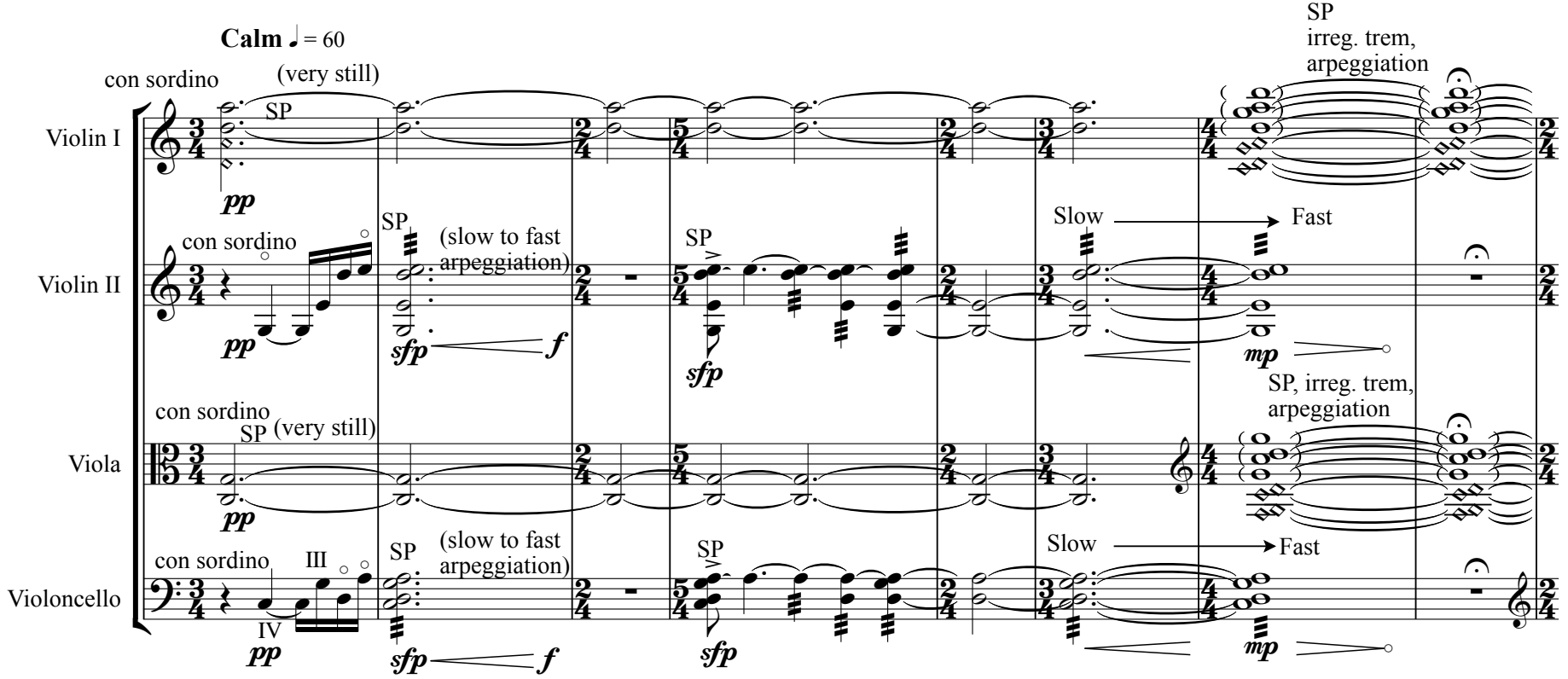
mf

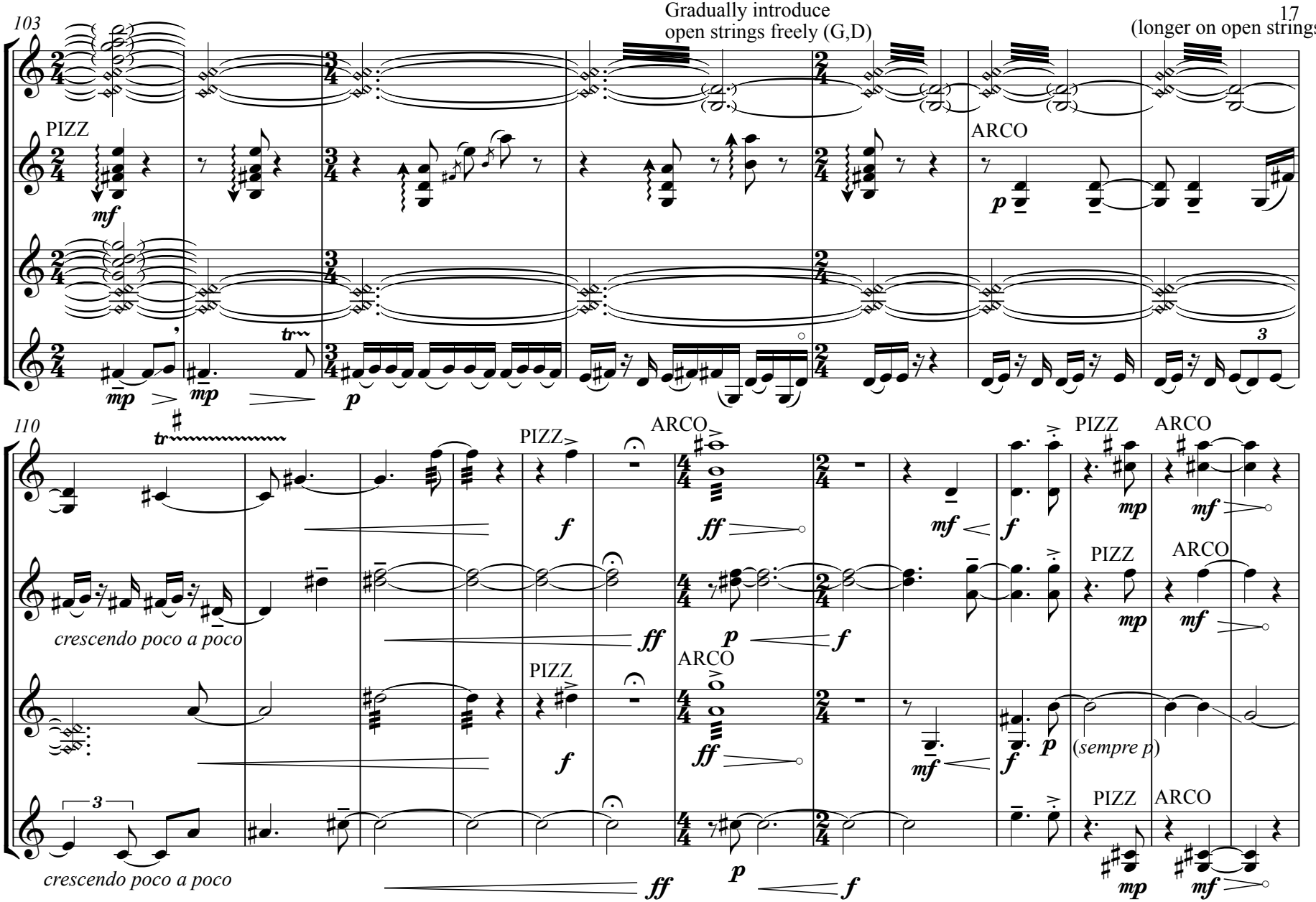

66
Arco
mf
69
Pizz
mp
I
II
pp
Pizz
ff
p

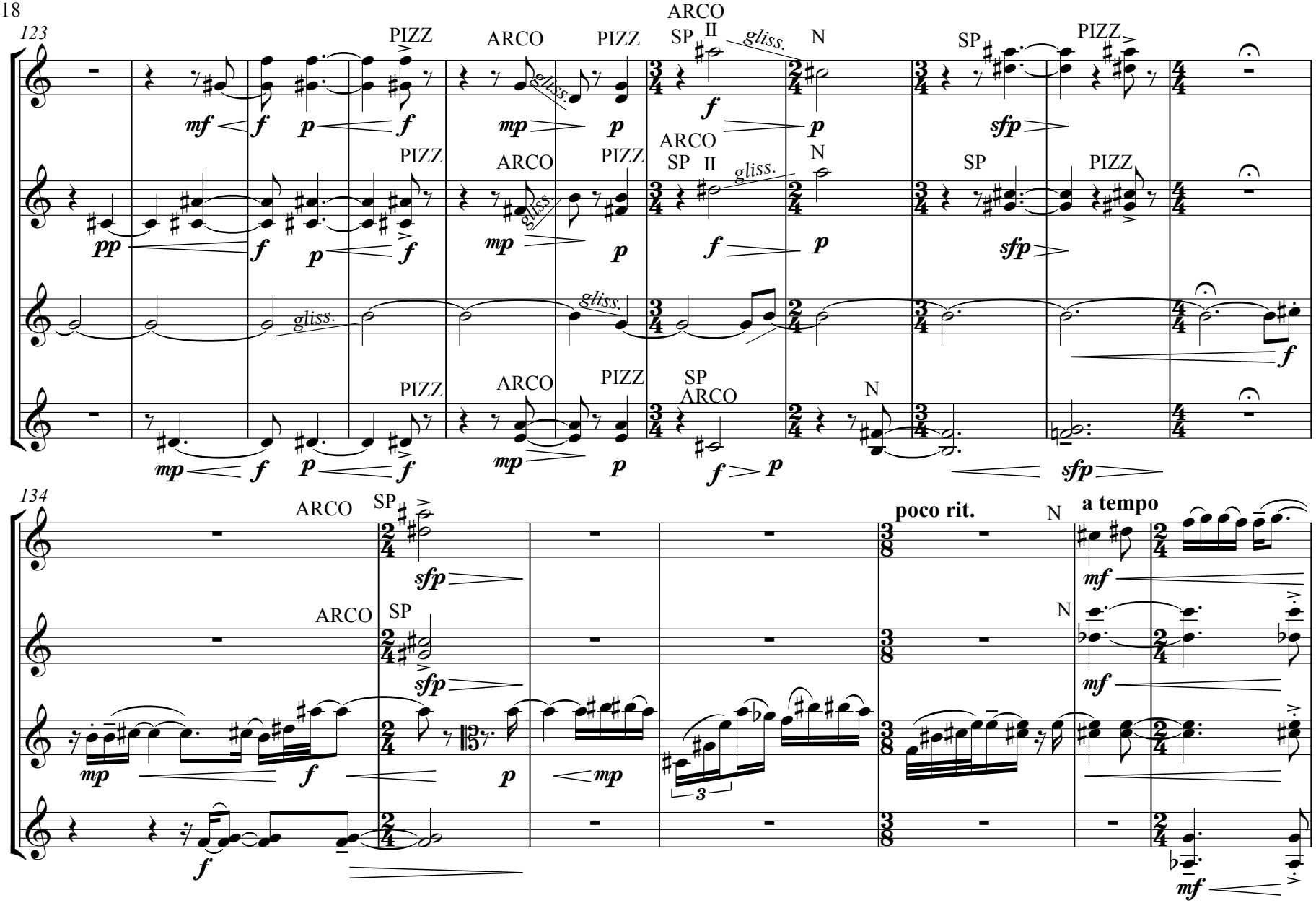

75
senza sordino SP
Arco, SP
IV
pp
Arco
f
SP
p
harm gliss
N
III
SP
I
II
sfp
sf
83
N
SP
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
N
p
p
Pizz
mp
tr
mf
harm gliss - smooth
harm gliss - smooth
pp

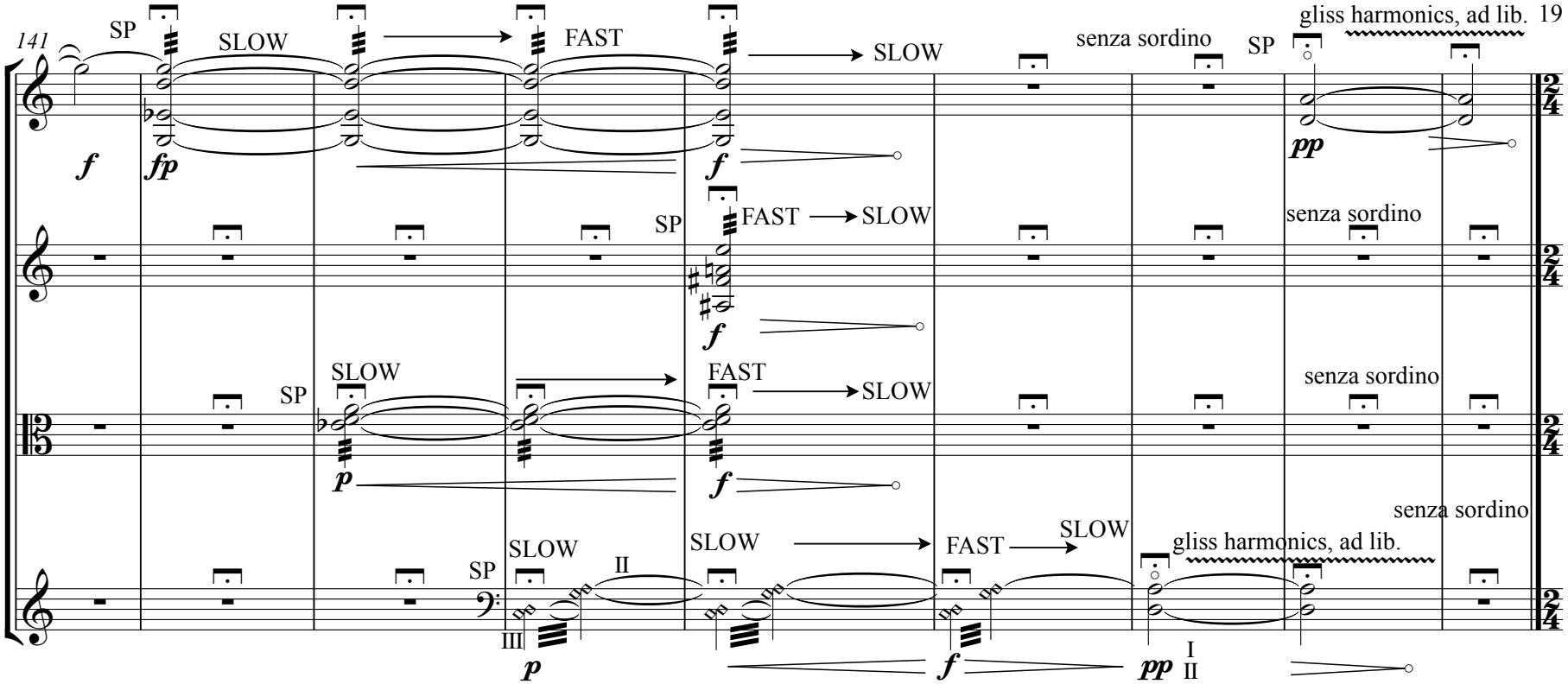

88
arpegg, SLOW
arpegg, FAST
SLOW
mp
tr
p
SP
II
III
fp
SP
fp
p

II


Calm ♩ = 60
con sordino
(very still)
SP
pp
SP
irreg. trem,
arpeggiation
Violin I
con sordino
SP
(slow to fast
arpeggiation)
sfp
f
SP
sfp
Slow
Fast
mp
Violin II
con sordino
SP (very still)
pp
SP, irreg. trem,
arpeggiation
Viola
con sordino
III
IV
pp
SP
(slow to fast
arpeggiation)
sfp
f
SP
sfp
Slow
Fast
mp
Violoncello

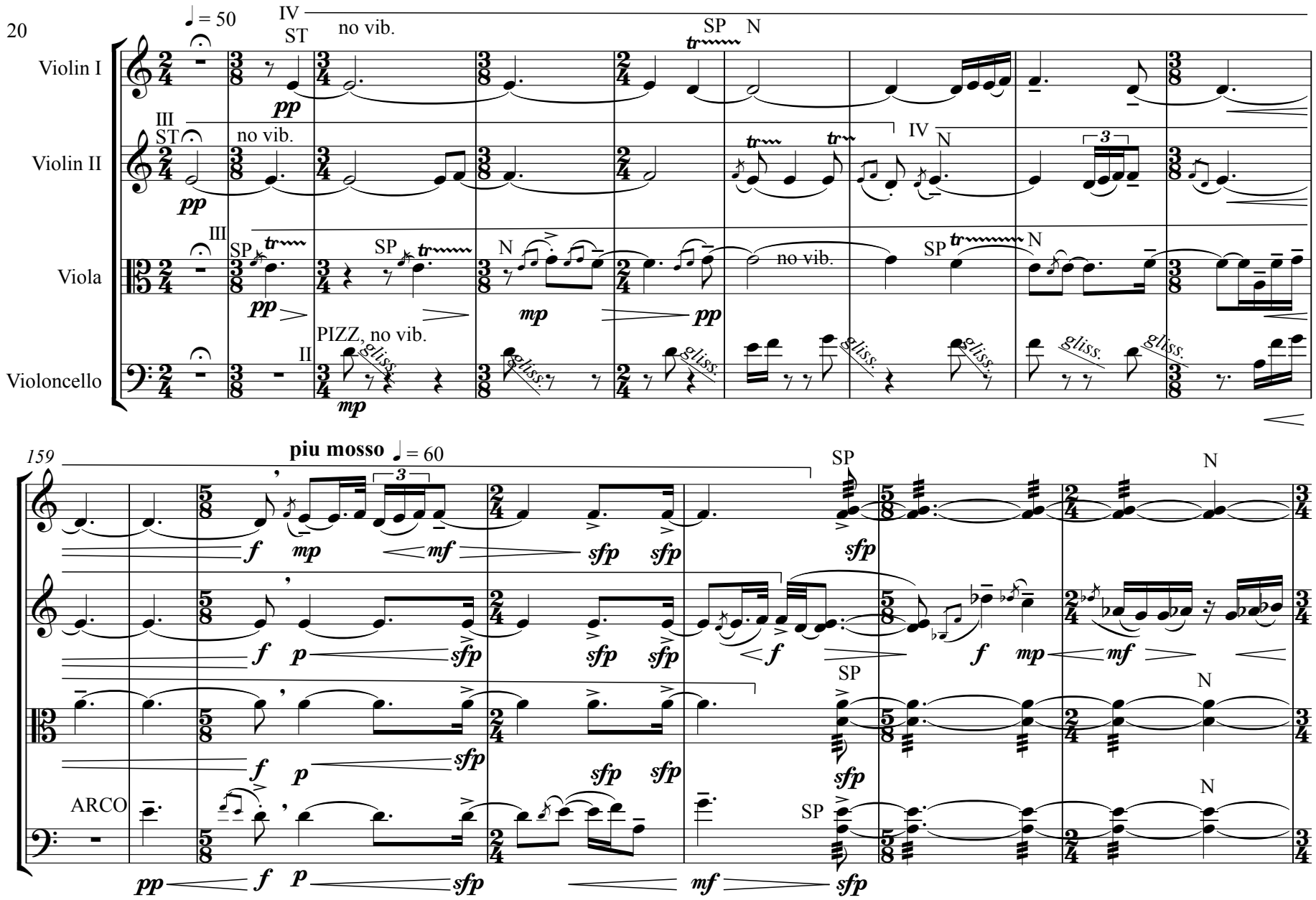

103
Gradually introduce
open strings freely (G,D)
(longer on open strings)
PIZZ
ARCO
110
crescendo poco a poco
(sempre p)

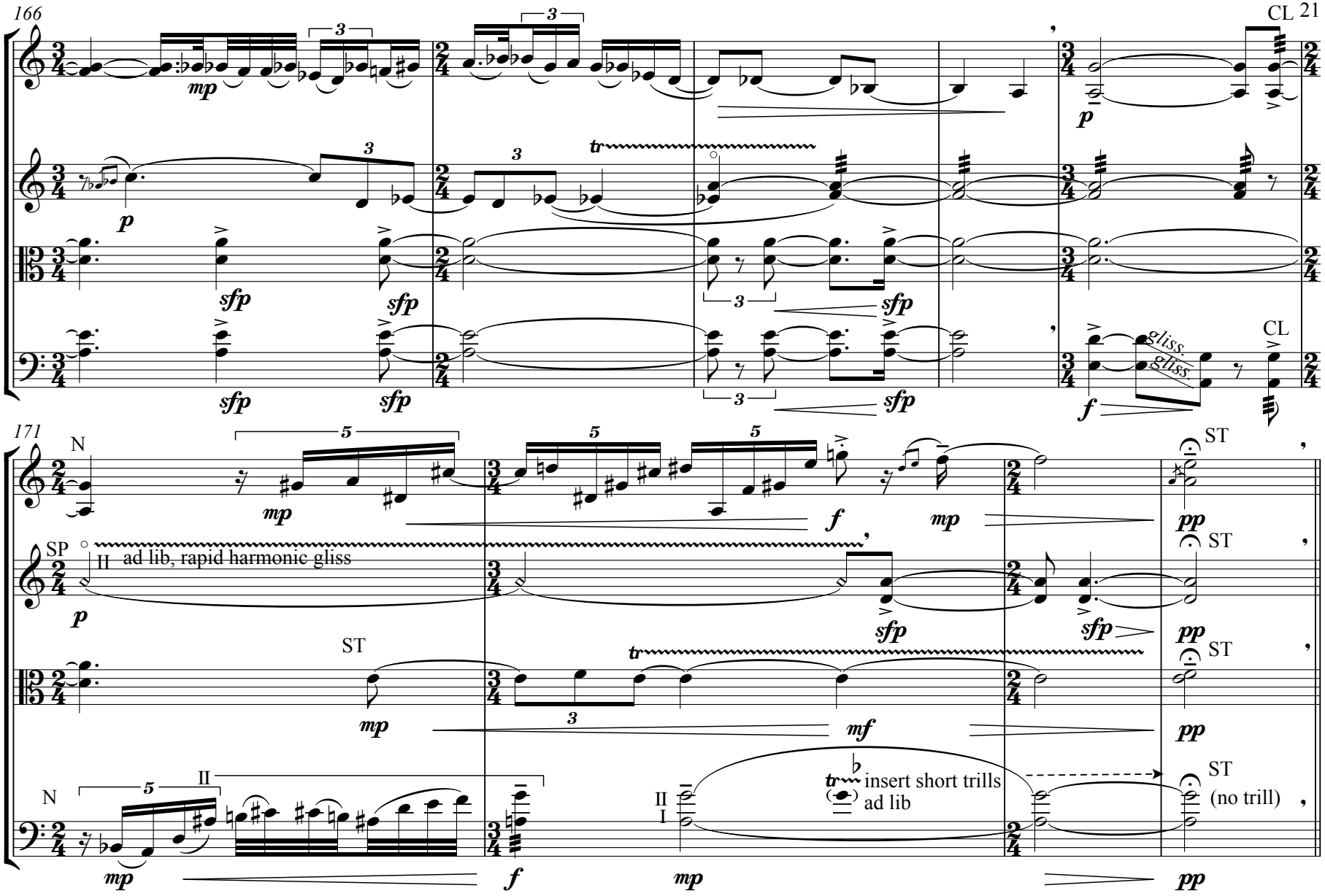

123
PIZZ
ARCO
PIZZ
ARCO
SP II
gliss.
N
SP
PIZZ
mf
f
p
f
mp
p
f
p
sfp
PIZZ
ARCO
PIZZ
ARCO
SP II
gliss.
N
SP
PIZZ
pp
f
p
f
mp
p
f
p
sfp
gliss.
gliss.
f
PIZZ
ARCO
PIZZ
SP
ARCO
N
mp
f
p
f
mp
p
f
p
sfp
134
ARCO
SP
sfp
poco rit.
N
a tempo
mf
ARCO
SP
sfp
N
mf
mp
f
p
mp
3
f
mf


141
SP
SLOW
FAST
SLOW
senza sordino
SP
gliss harmonics, ad lib.
f
fp
f
pp
SP
FAST
SLOW
senza sordino
f
SLOW
FAST
SLOW
senza sordino
SP
p
f
senza sordino
SLOW
SLOW
FAST
SLOW
gliss harmonics, ad lib.
SP
II
III
p
f
pp
I
II

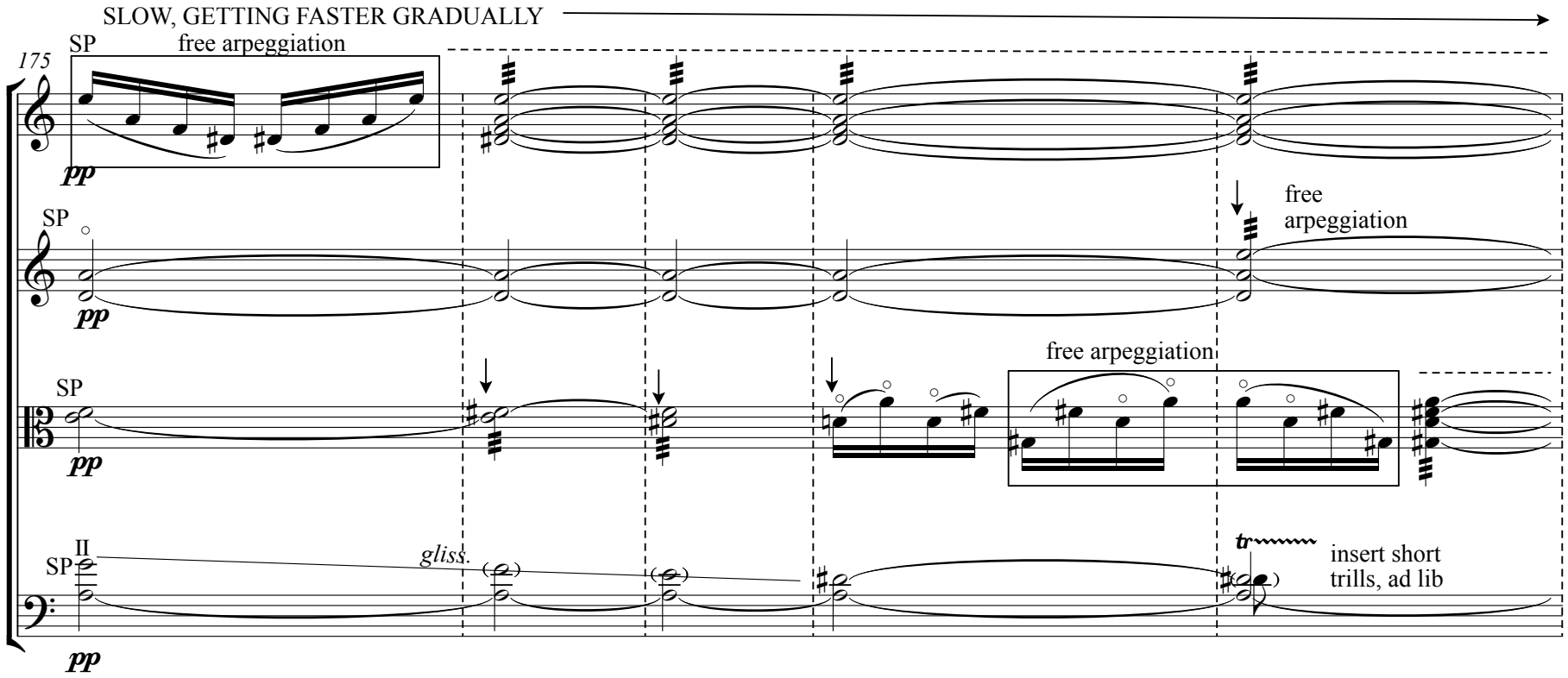
III.

(tutti senza sordino)

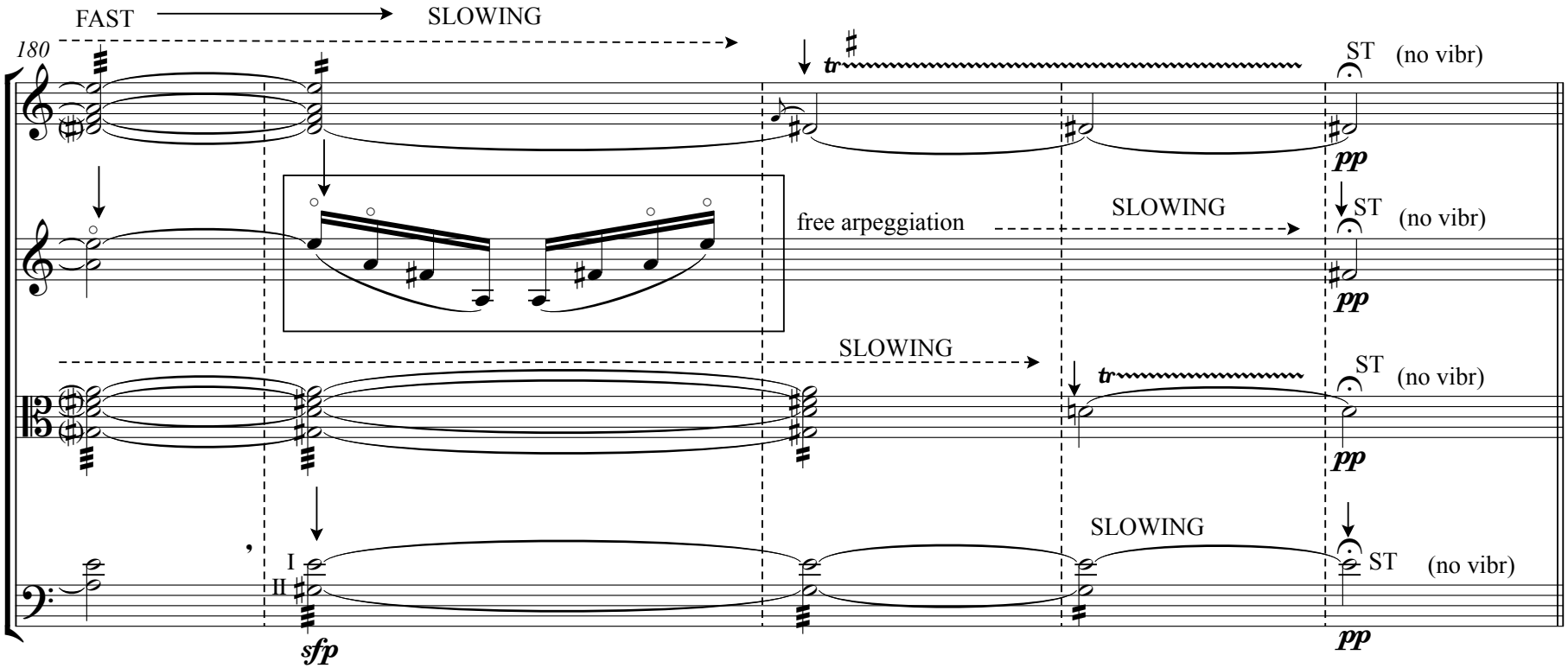


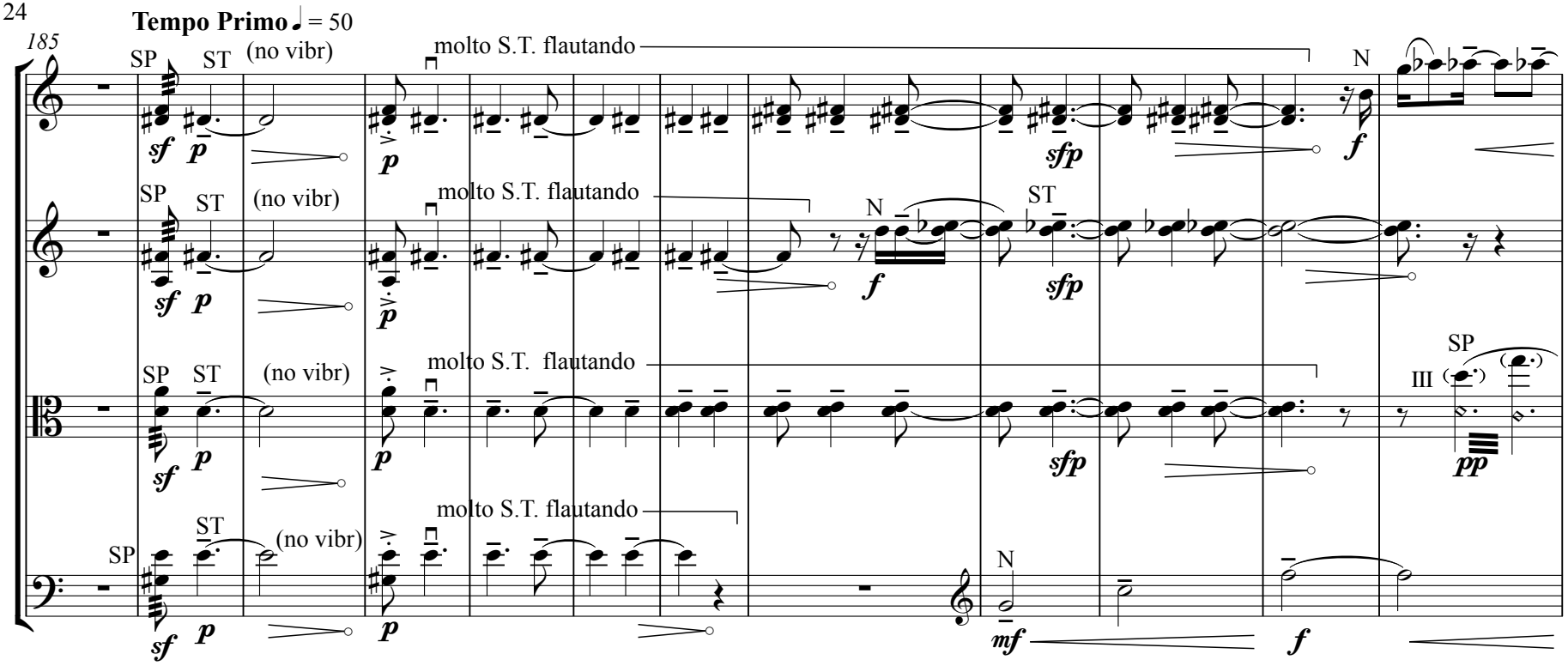

166
CL
171
N
SP
II ad lib, rapid harmonic gliss
ST
insert short trills
ad lib
(no trill)
gliss.

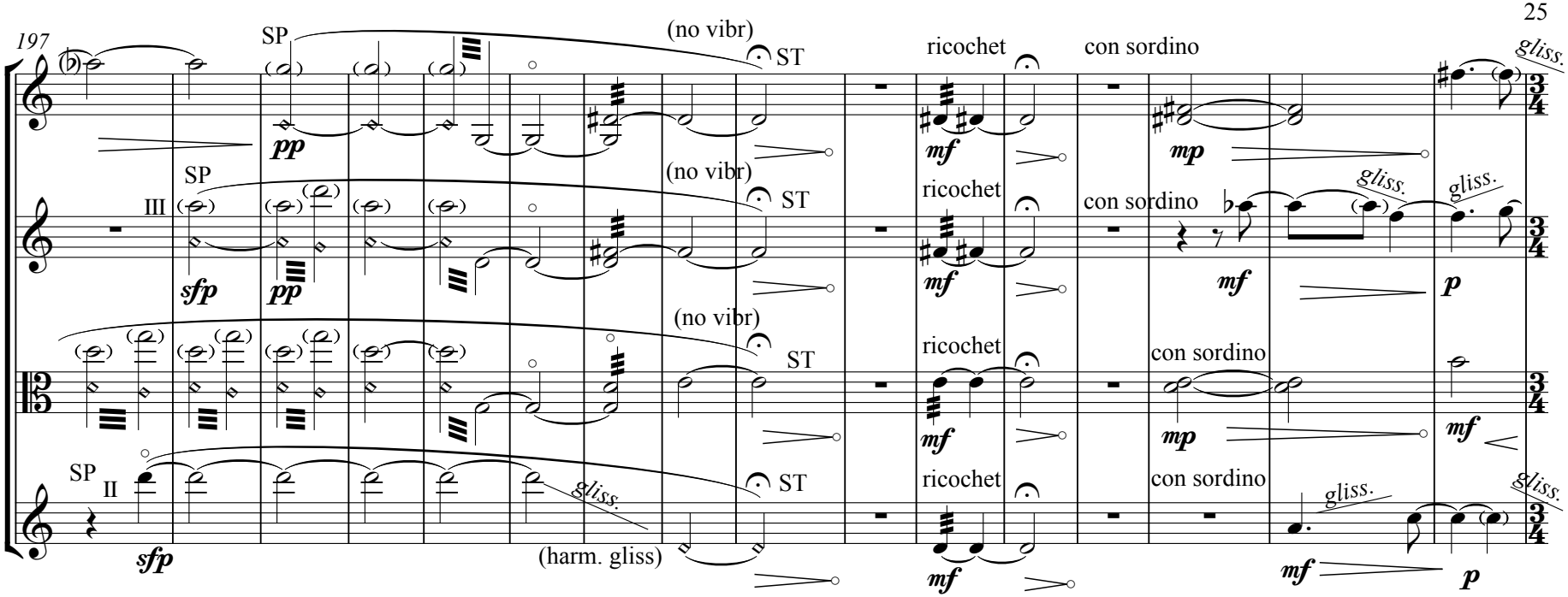
FREE

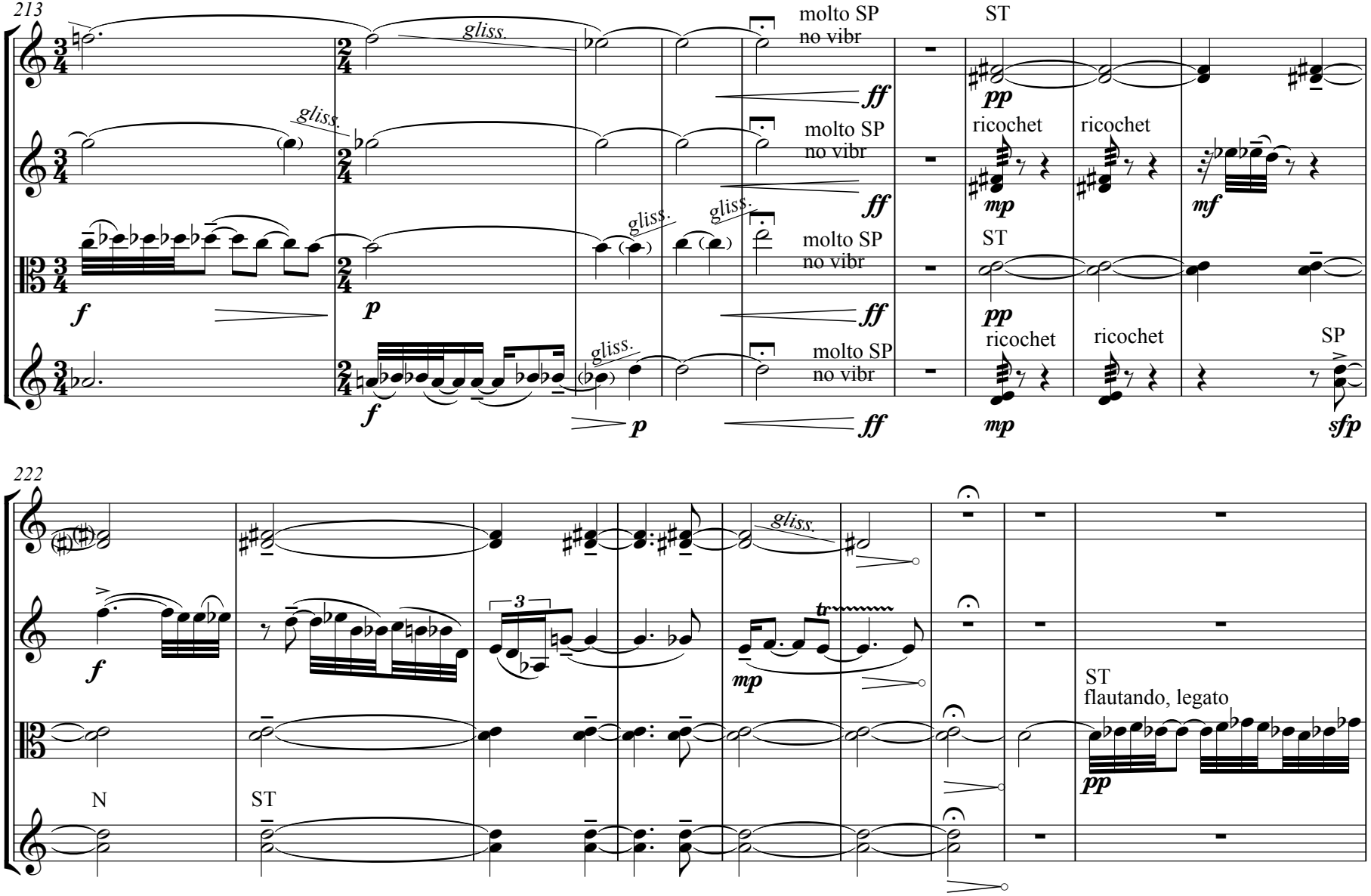


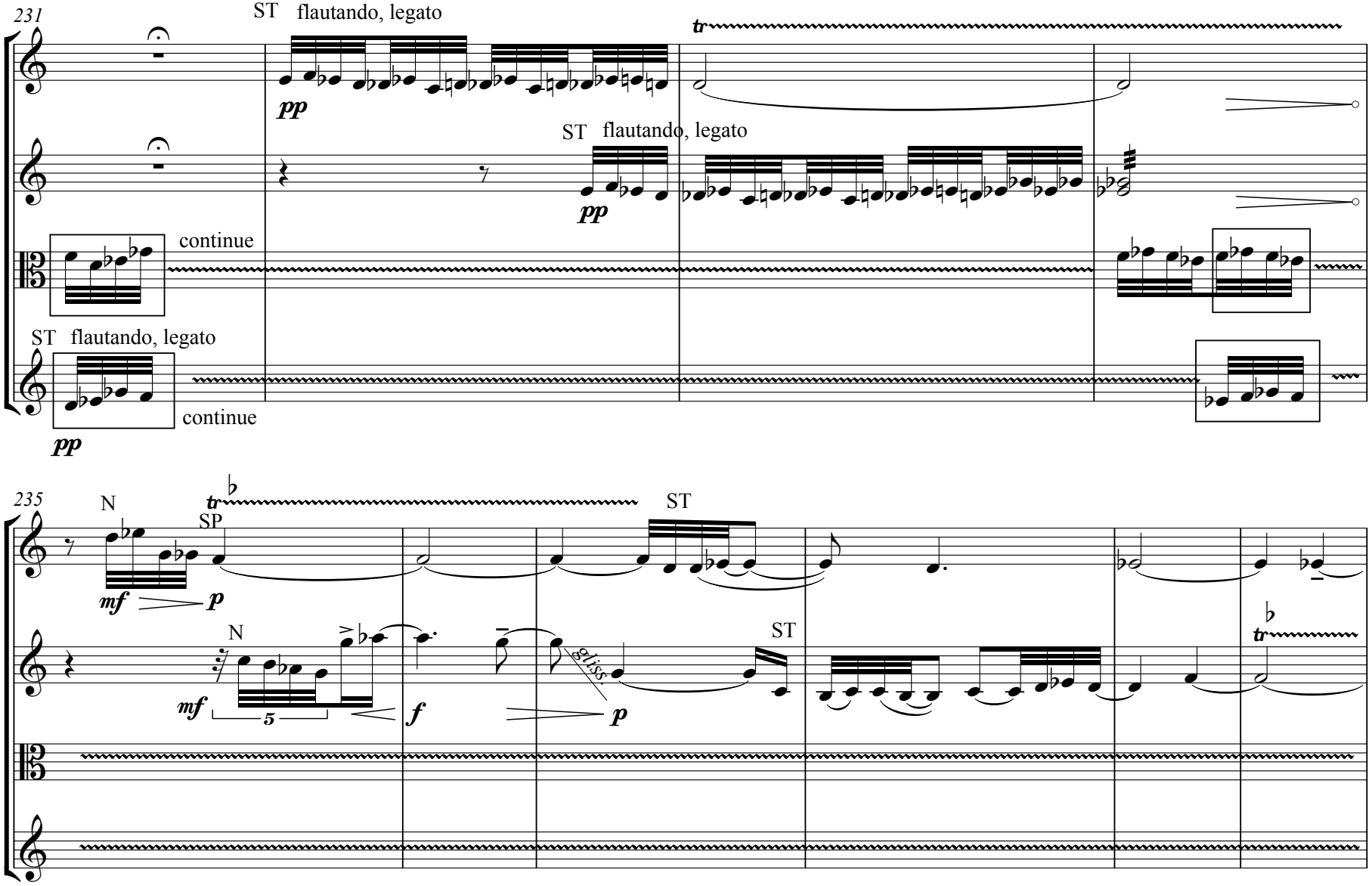
very free, each 'bar' quite long, arpeggiations in free rhythm, all fading into final sustained note gradually (not together).

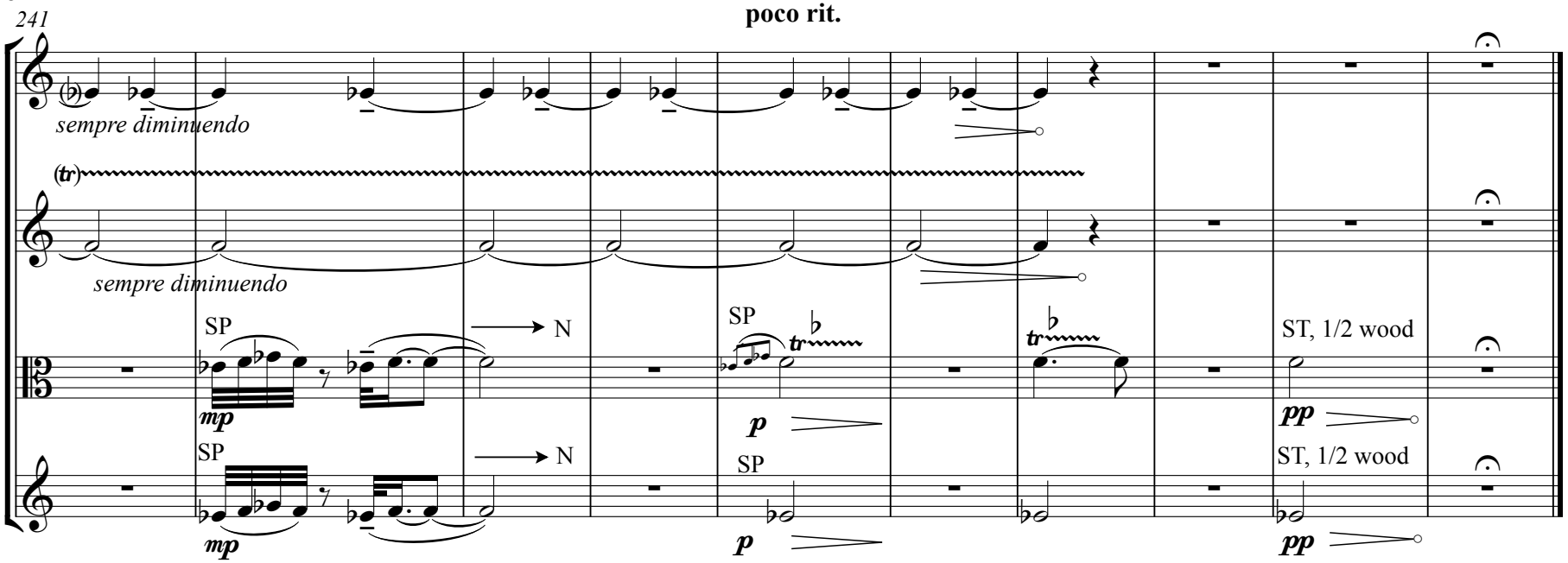

FAST
SLOWING
180
tr
ST
(no vibr)
pp
free arpeggiation
SLOWING
ST
(no vibr)
pp
SLOWING
tr
ST
(no vibr)
pp
SLOWING
I
II
sfp
ST
(no vibr)
pp


Tempo Primo ♩ = 50
185
SP
ST
(no vibr)
molto S.T. flautando
N
III
sf
p
sfp
f
mf
pp


197
SP
(no vibr)
ST
ricochet
con sordino
gliss.
pp
mf
mp
III
sfp
p
II
(harm. gliss)


213
gliss.
molto SP
no vibr
ST
ricochet
SP
222
N
ST
flautando, legato


231
ST flautando, legato
pp
tr
ST flautando, legato
pp
continue
ST flautando, legato
pp
continue
235
N
SP
tr
mf
p
ST
N
mf
5
f
gliss.
p
ST
tr


241
poco rit.
sempre diminuendo
(tr)
sempre diminuendo
SP
mp
N
SP
p
ST, 1/2 wood
pp
SP
mp
N
SP
p
ST, 1/2 wood
pp