PALIMPSESTOS

David P. LANDON

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PALIMPSESTOS

Performance Notes:

Ricochet - In an up bow motion, performer is to strike the indicated note with the hair of the bow, and immediately remove the bow from contact with the string. The strike shall happen close to the bridge as to create a strong presence of the indicated pitch with the addition of bow to string noise.

s.p. Sul Ponticello
s.t. Sul Tasto
l.v. Let Vibrate

Accidentals - accidentals are used on a note for note basis, and generally only affect the notes which they immediately precede. The exceptions to this are when a note is repeated in a single voice, uninterrupted by other pitch classes; in that instance, the written accidental is not repeated, but should be played. If an altered pitch is immediately followed by its natural form, a natural is used (D♯ - D♮).

Program Notes:
Archimedes of Syracuse (287 BC – 212 BC): mathematician, physicist, engineer, inventor, and astronomer. At the time of his death, his mathematical theorems were relatively unknown. After his death, the principals he developed were perpetuated and elaborated upon by other mathematicians in Alexandria. A compilation of his writings wasn't formed until approximately 740 years after his death, although most of them were lost in the Middle Ages. A few surviving works and commentary on his ideas provided Renaissance scientist and mathematicians ideas and inspiration for future works and trains of thought, however, up until recently, much of Archimedes' actual writings remained lost.

In July of 1907, Y. L. Heiberg, a professor of Philology at the University of Copenhagen, discovered a 13th century liturgical text, written in Greek, in the Convent of the Holy Grave in what was then Constantinople. Behind the prayers of Greek Orthodox monks, faint writings of another sort could be deciphered. Upon investigation, it was discovered that the under-scribed text was in fact a copy of a number of Archimedes' works, three of which had never been seen before that time: On Floating Bodies, a text which had never been seen in its original language, and The Method of Mechanical Theorems and Stomachion, both of which had never been seen at all prior to that point.

On the 29th of October, 1998 this very old liturgical book had been sold in auction to an anonymous collector and then deposited to the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore. Multi Imaging techniques and the use of varying electromagnetic radiation imaging has allowed researchers to clearly view and study the hidden text of Archimedes that had literally been scraped off of the parchment paper in preparation for the current euchologion. The erasure was intended to be permanent, but like so many other things, was incomplete. At alternate wavelengths, the presence of the original writings seeps through. Here, as the prayers of 13th century monks rise up to the celestial beings, floating bodies, geometrical shapes, and antiquated thoughts lurk beneath the surface of the visible parchment; lost in its original form, but altogether prevalent and relevant, unbeknownst to most of us, directing much of our modern, scientific, thought.

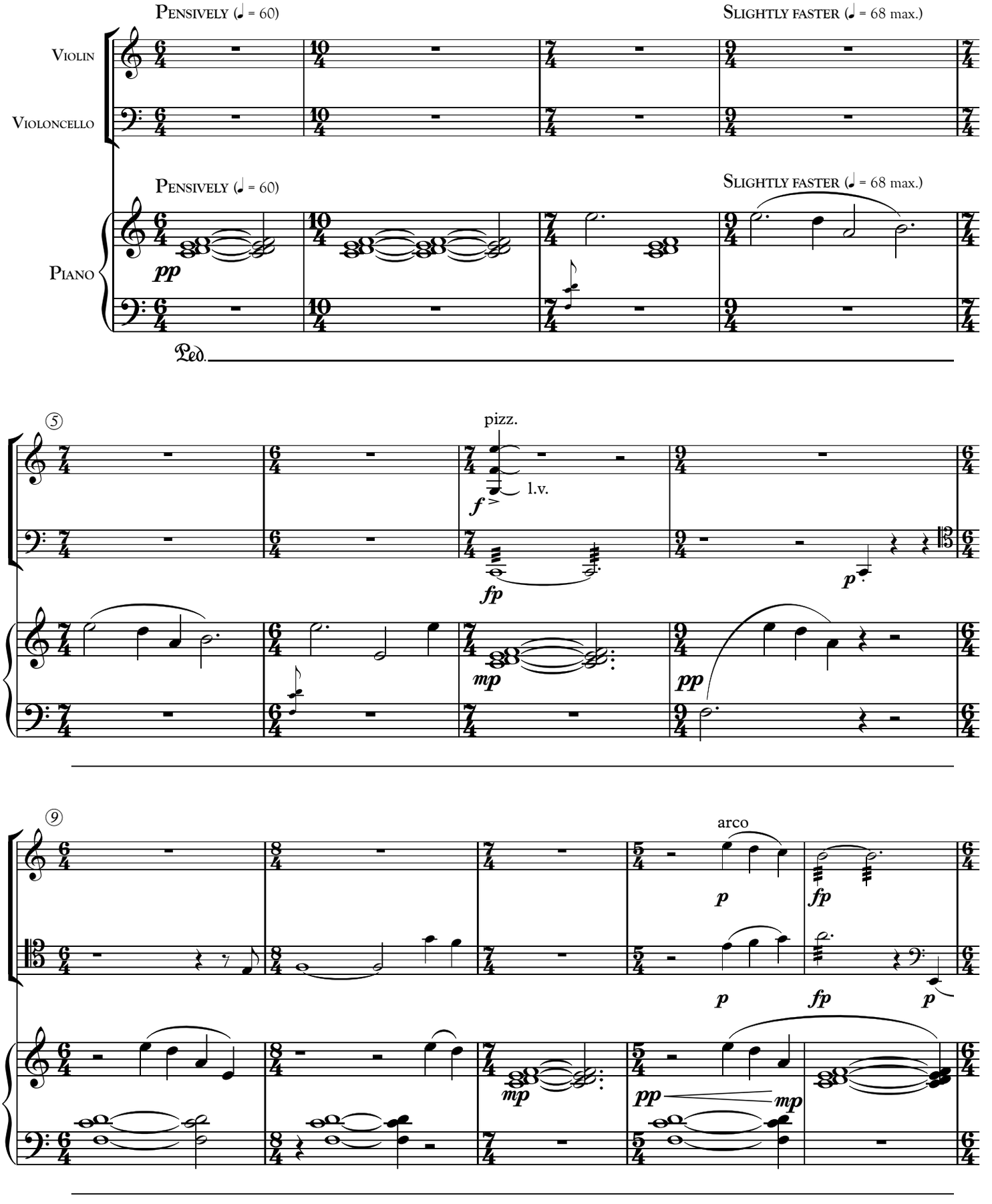
pal·imp·sest (pal'imp sest'), *n.* a parchment or the like from which writing has been partially or completely erased to make room for another text. [< Gk *paíimpsēstos* rubbed again (*pálin* again + *psēstós* scraped/rubbed]

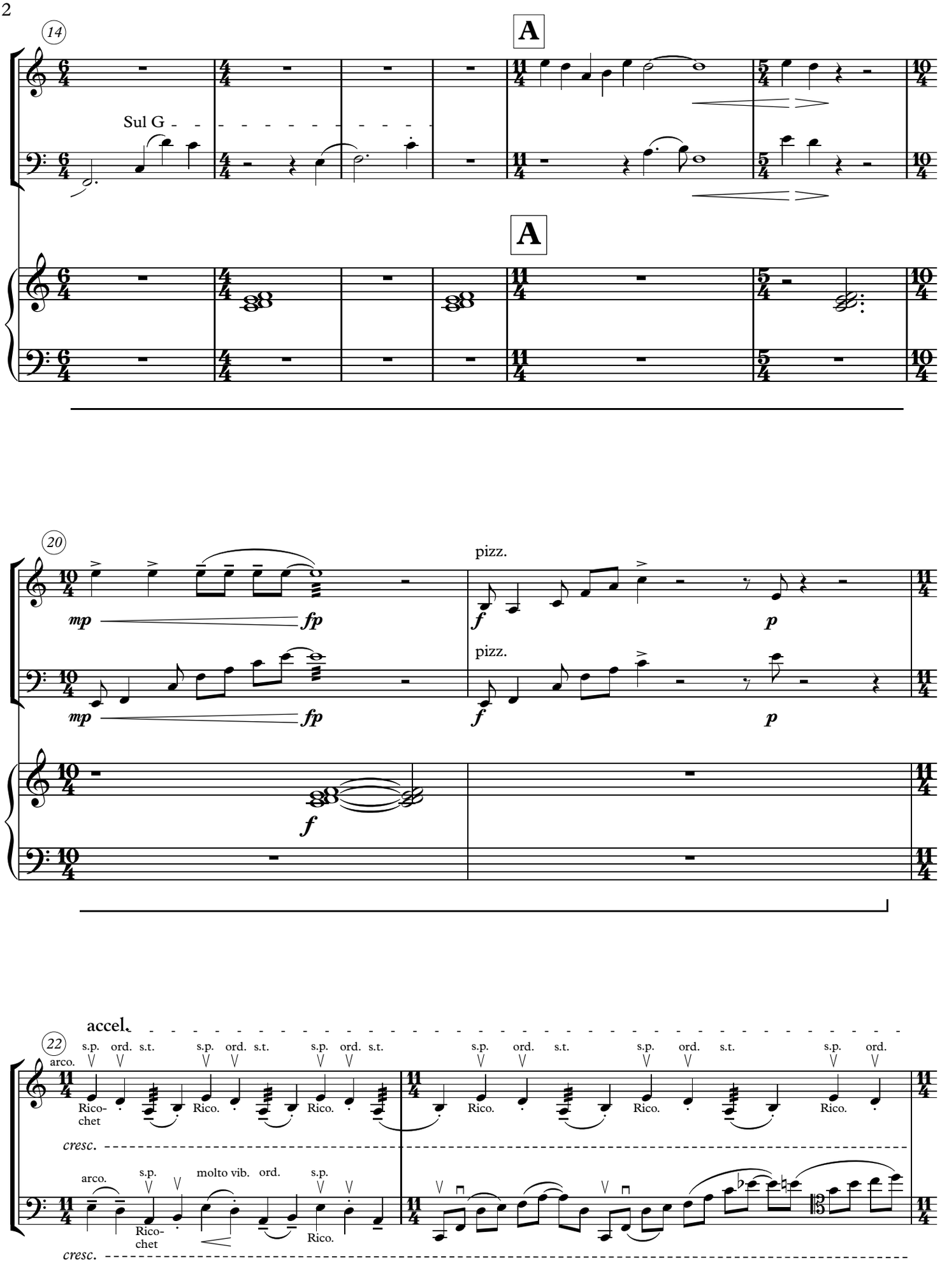
Duration:
15'-0"

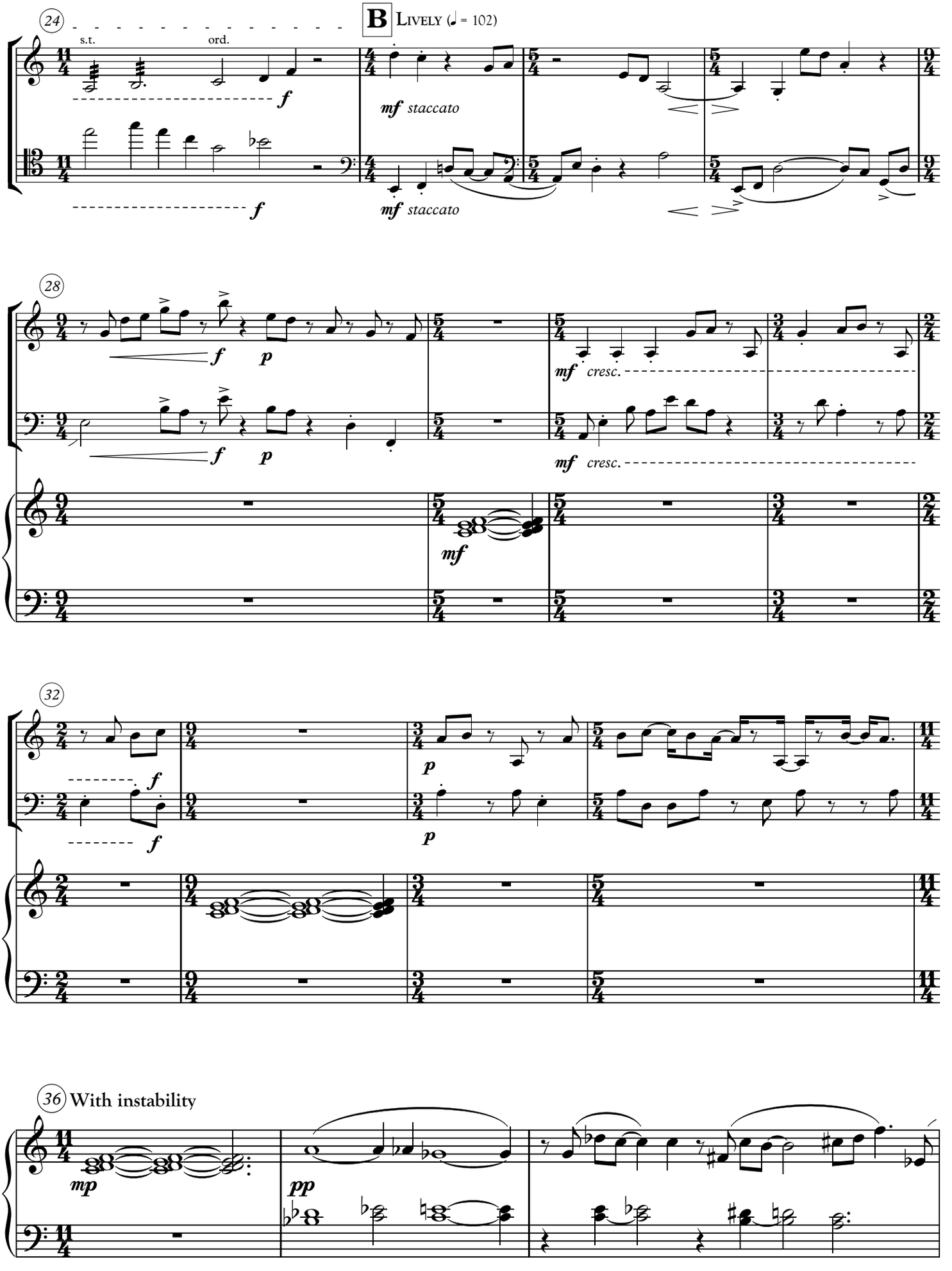
Full Score

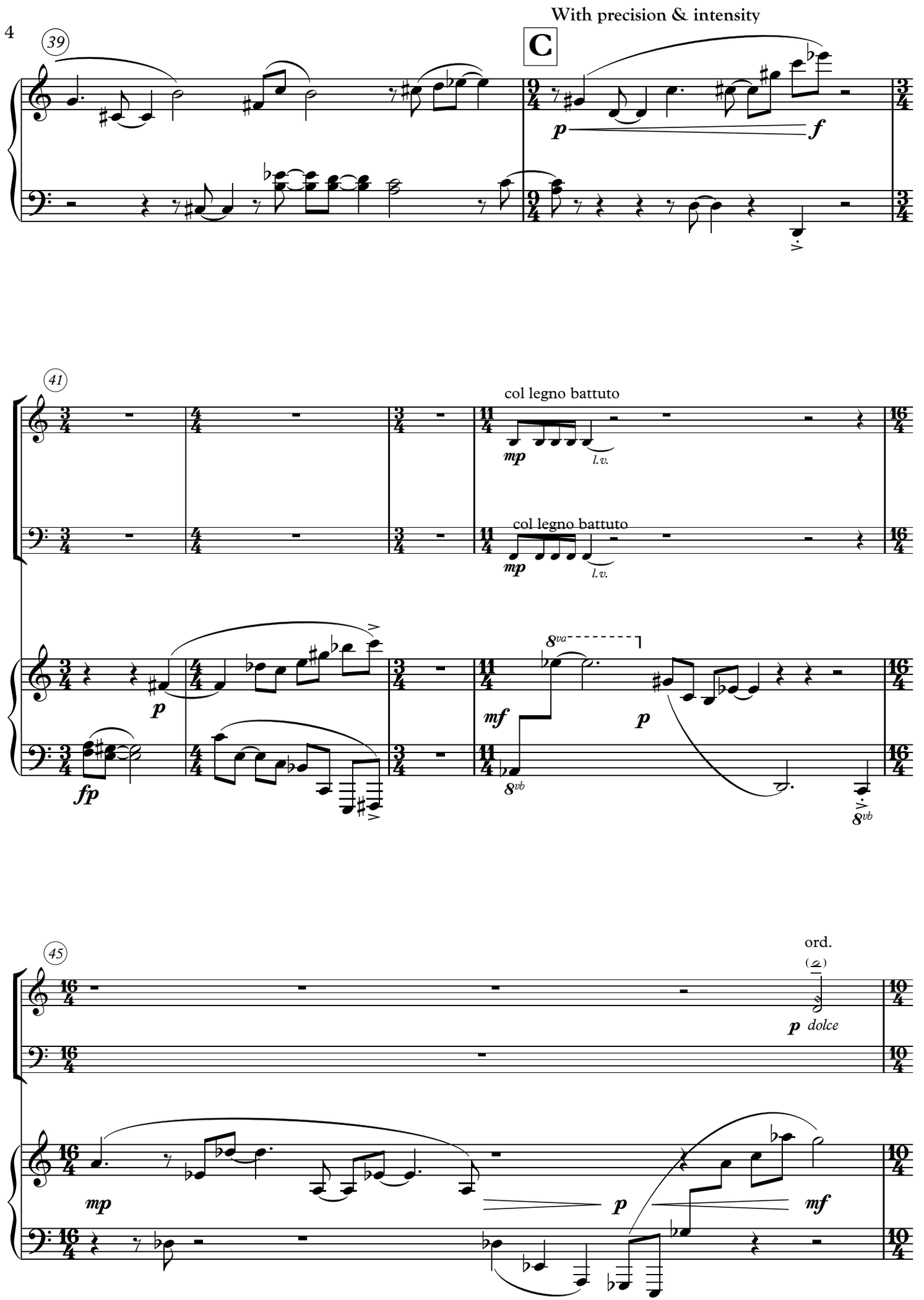
pALIMP_SĒSTOS

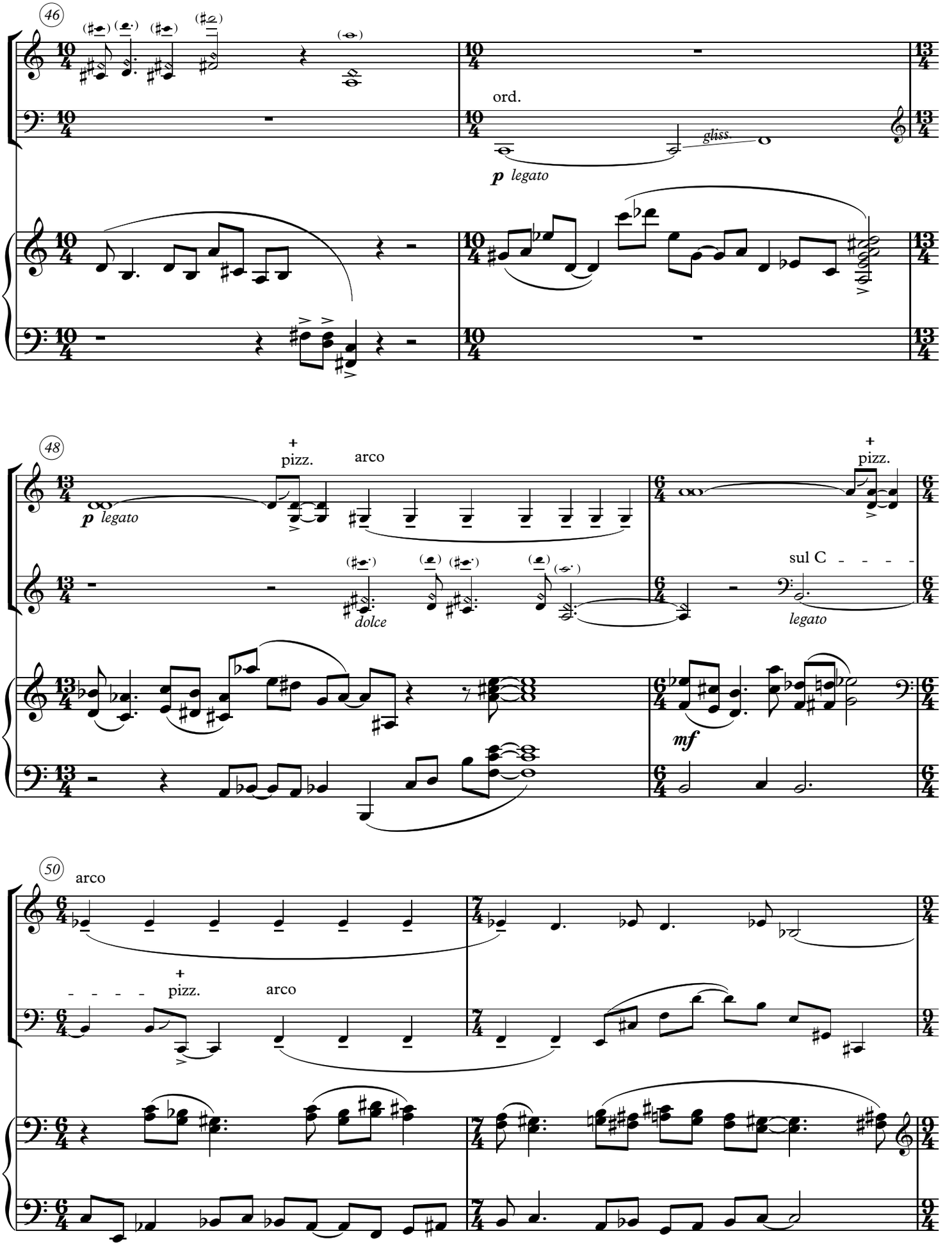
David P. Landon

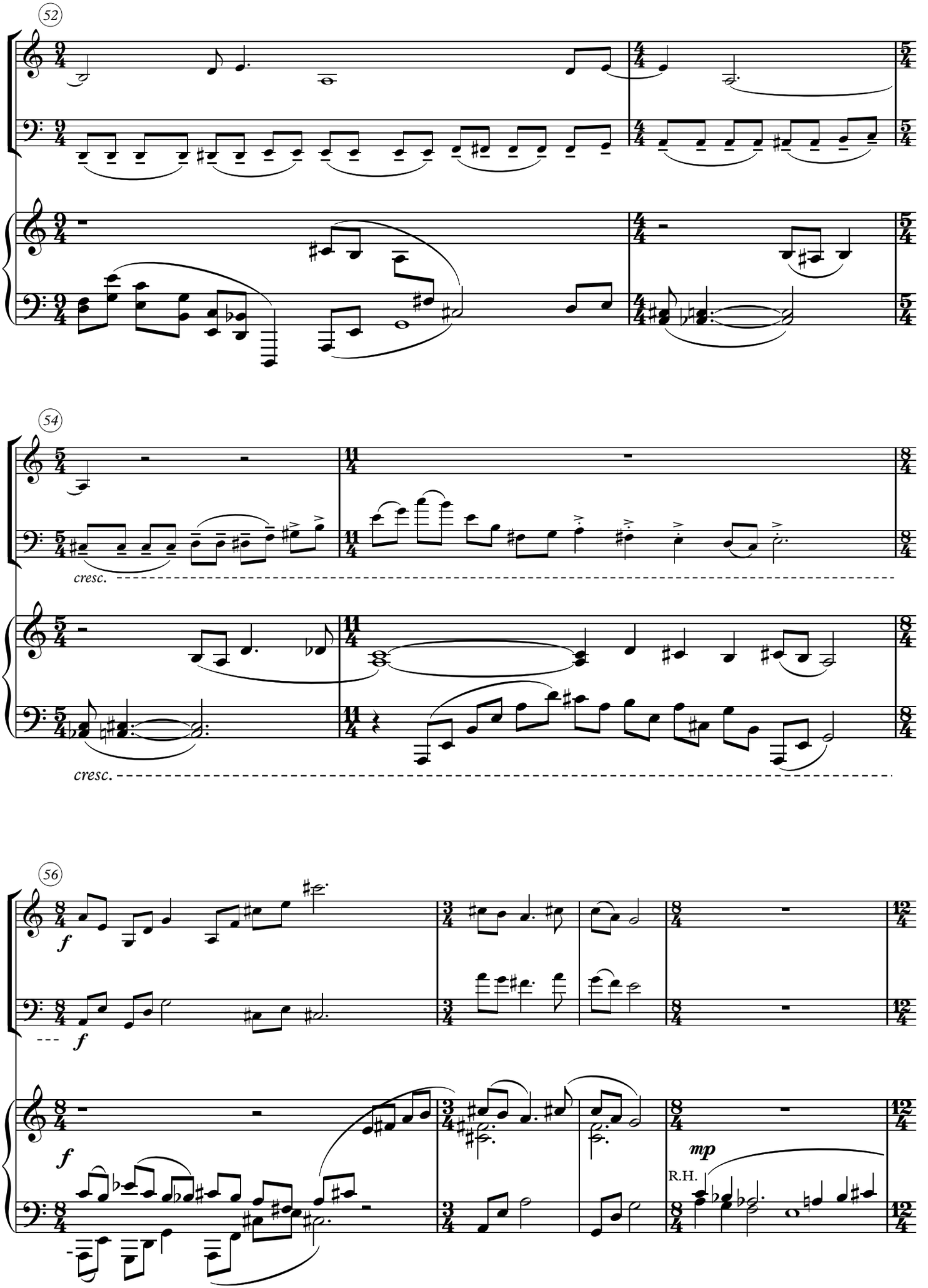


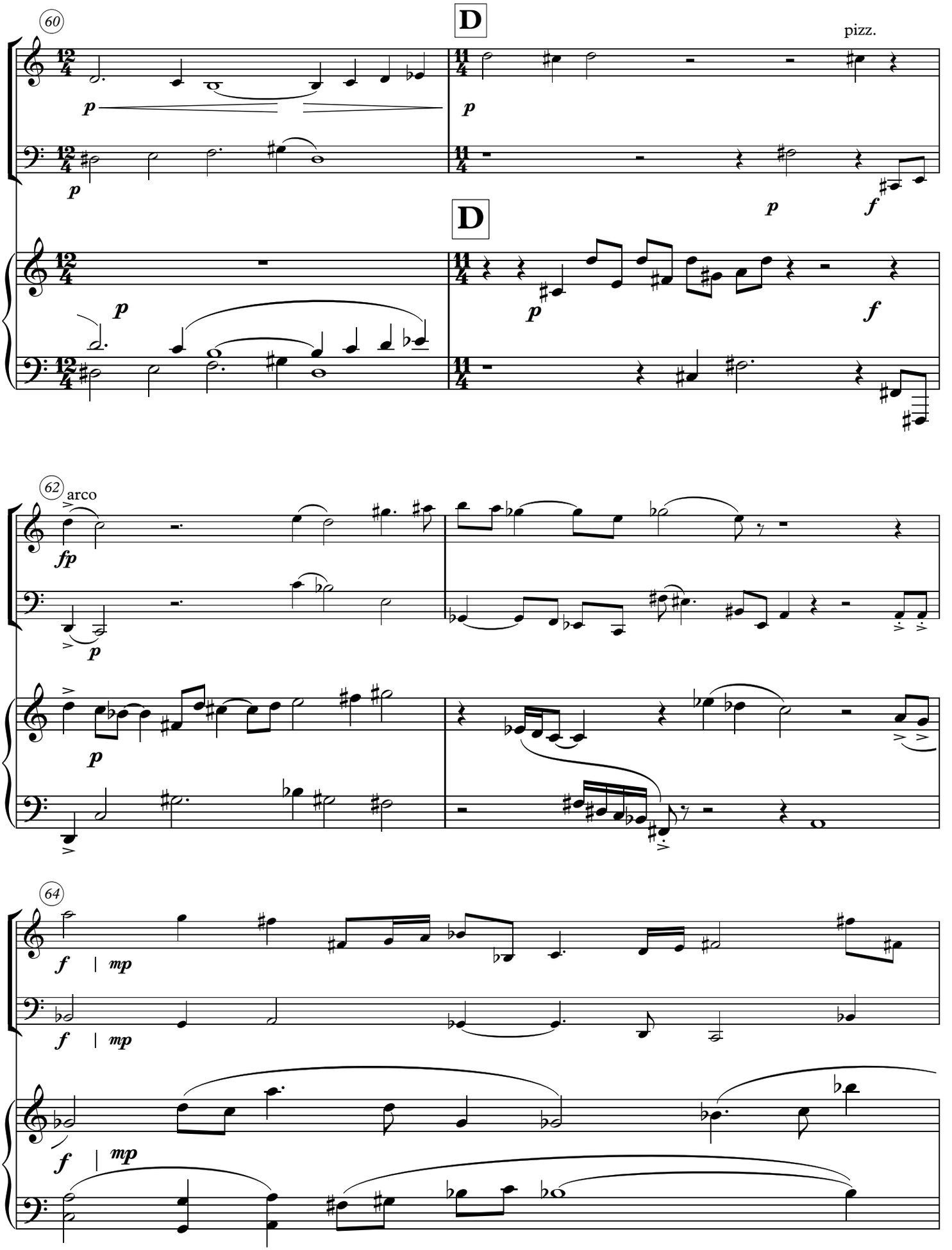

14
A
Sul G
A
20
pizz.
mp
fp
f
p
pizz.
mp
fp
f
p
f
accel.
22
arco.
s.p.
ord.
s.t.
Rico-
chet
Rico.
cresc.
arco.
s.p.
molto vib.
ord.
Rico-
chet
Rico.
cresc.

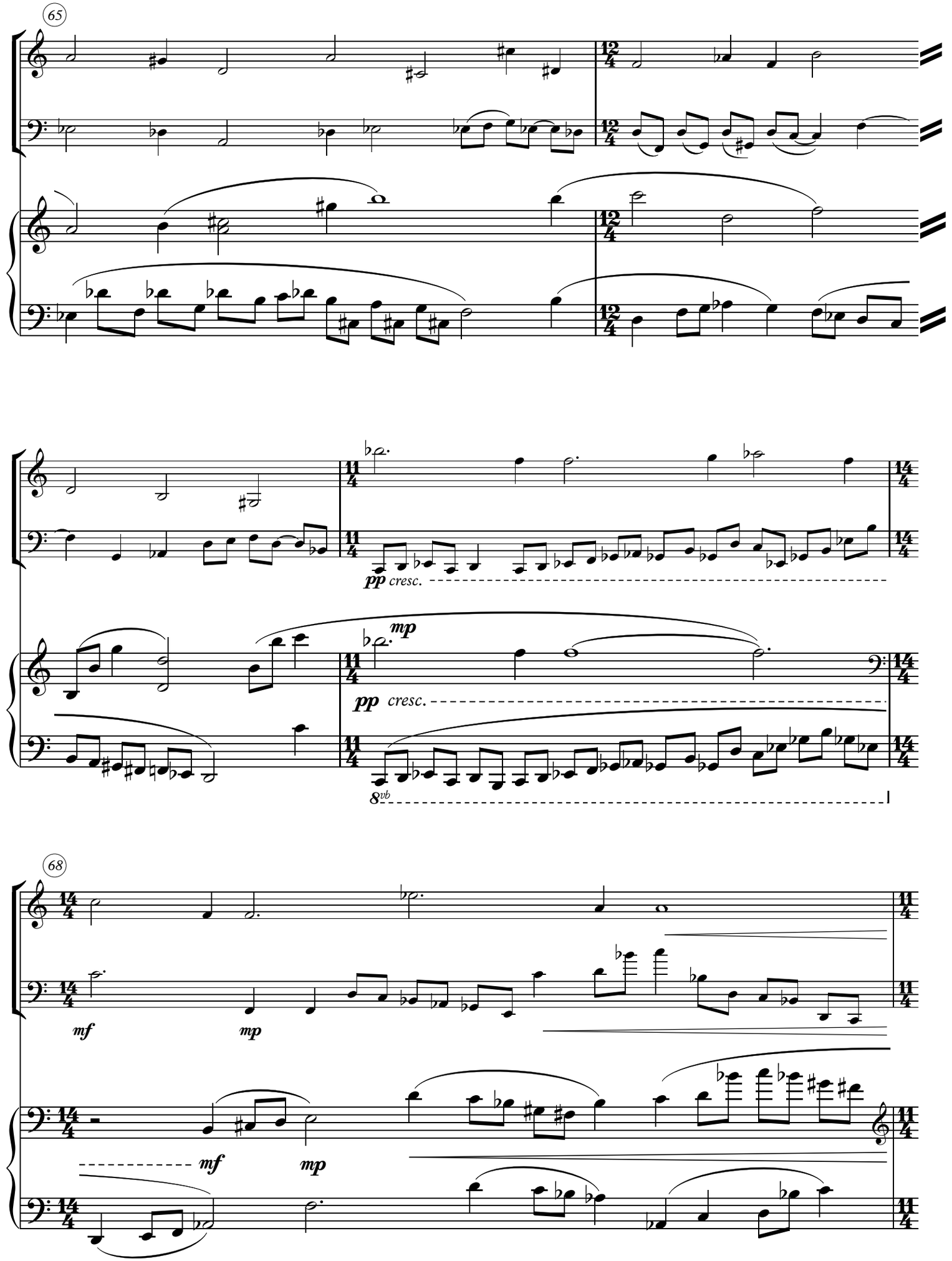

24
B Lively (♩ = 102)
s.t.
ord.
f
mf staccato
28
mf cresc.
32
p
36 With instability
mp
pp

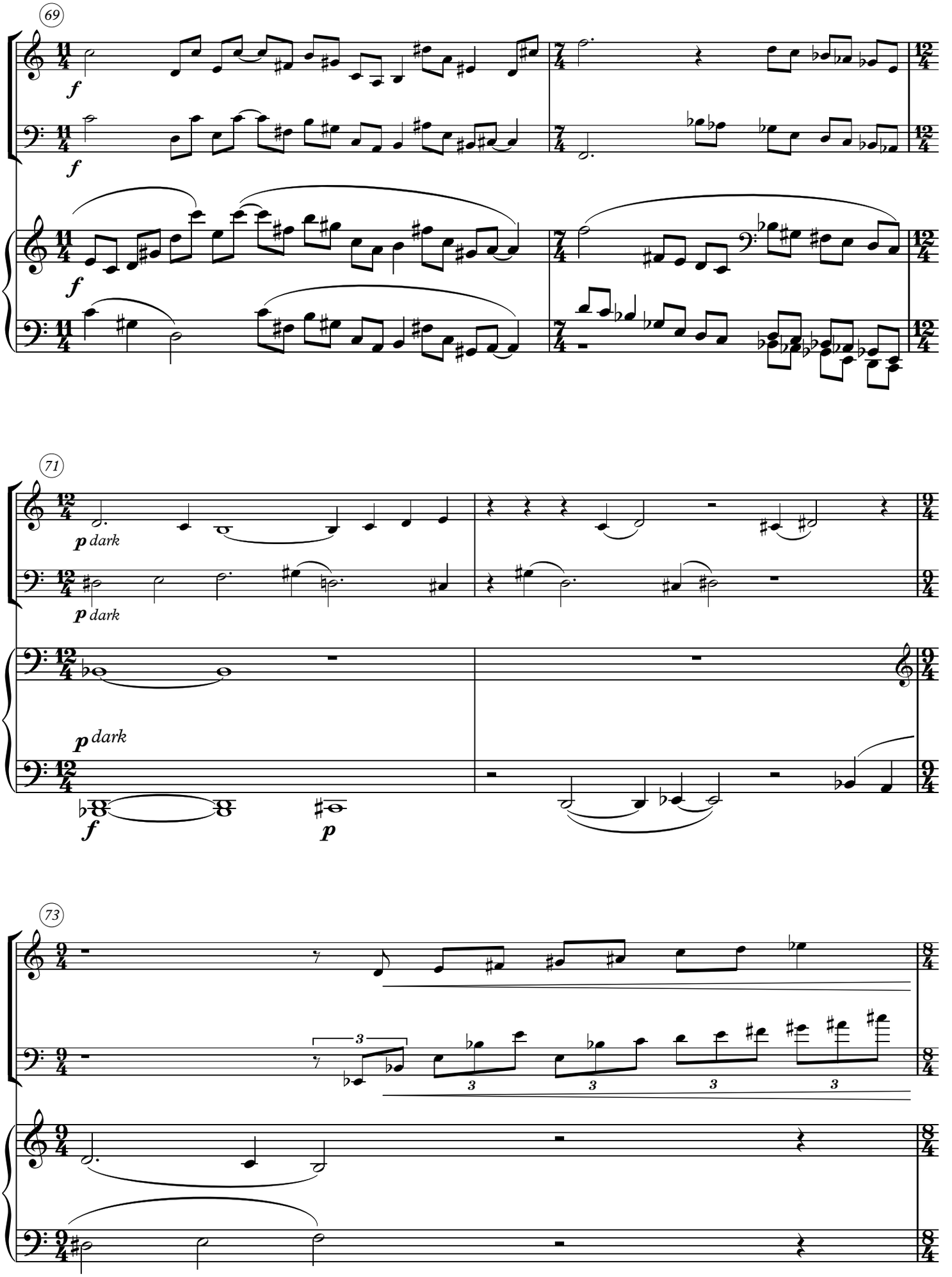

With precision & intensity
39
C
p
f
41
col legno battuto
mp
l.v.
col legno battuto
mp
l.v.
p
fp
8va
mf
p
8vb
8vb
45
ord.
p dolce
mp
p
mf

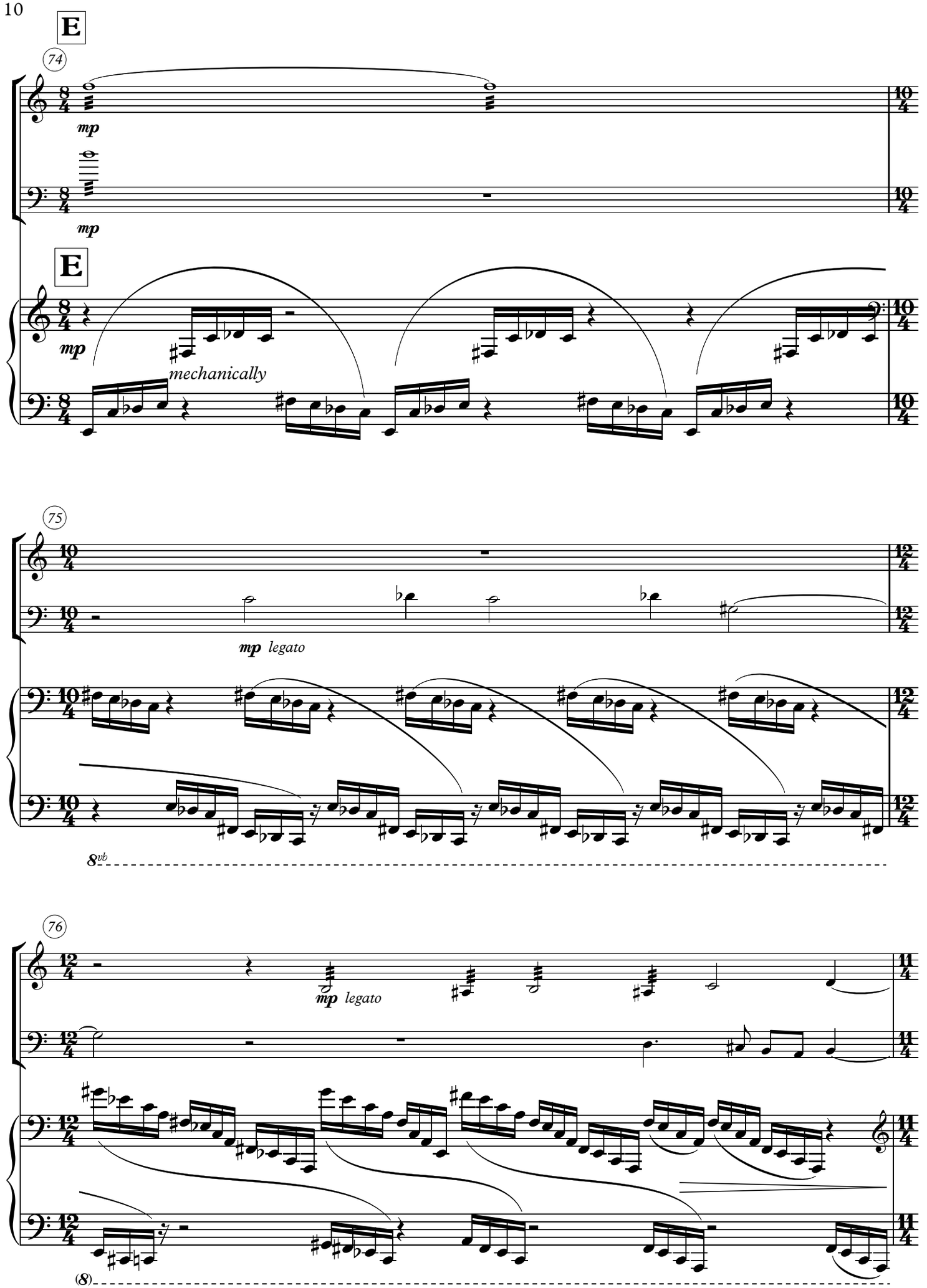

46
ord.
gliss.
p legato
48
+
pizz.
arco
p legato
dolce
+
pizz.
sul C
legato
mf
50
arco
+
pizz.
arco

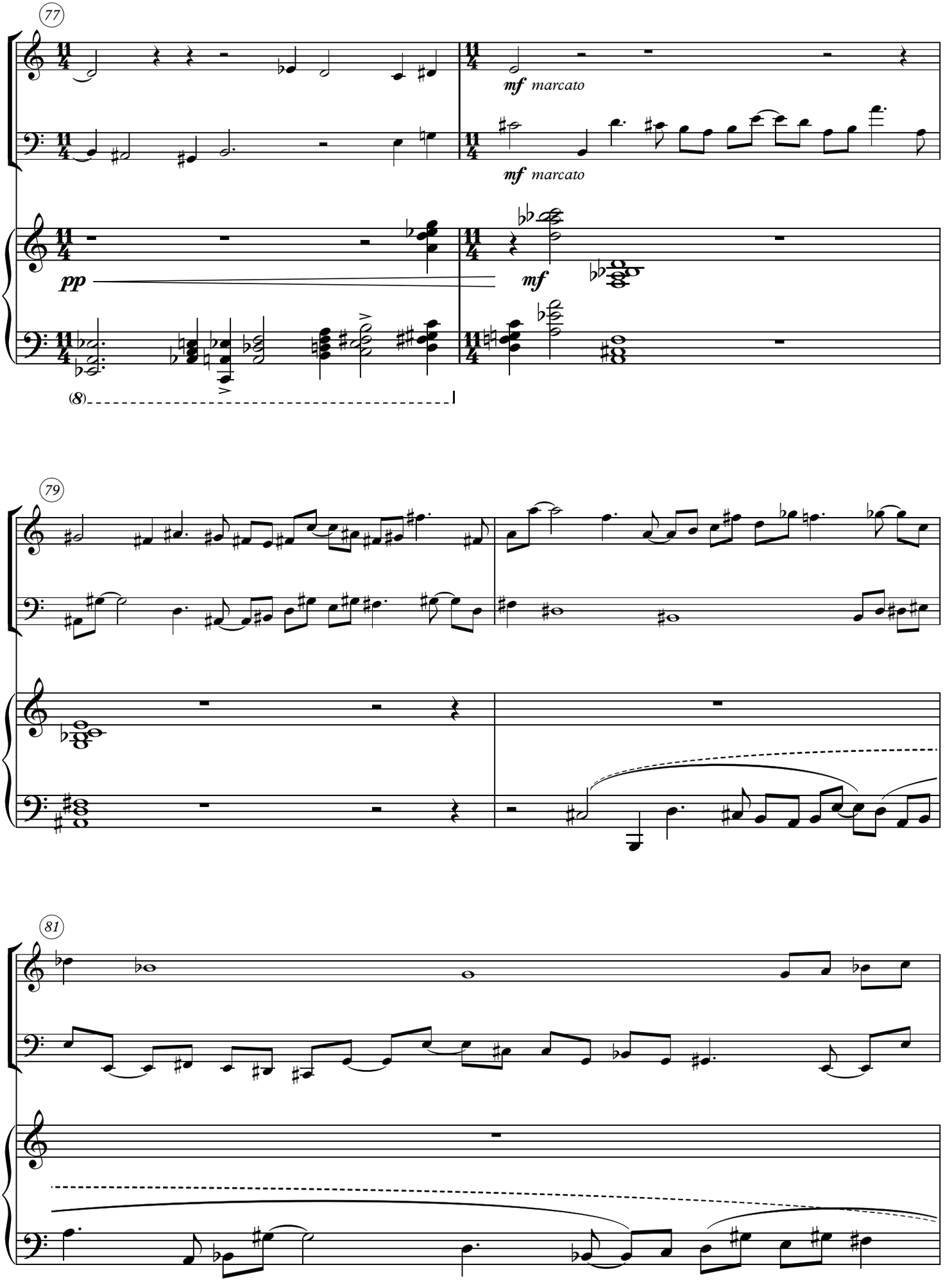

52
54
cresc.
cresc.
56
f
f
f
mp
R.H.

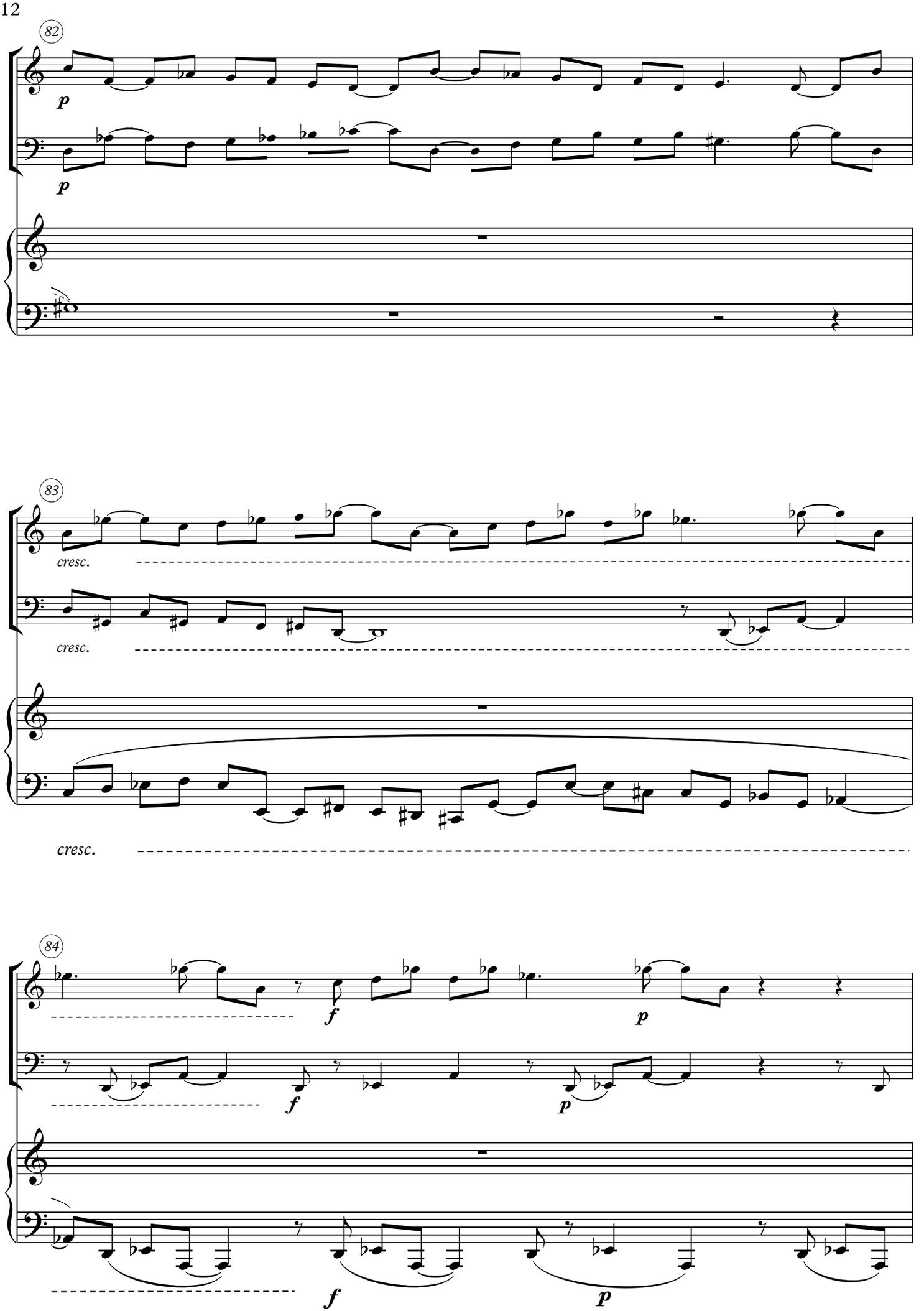

60
D
pizz.
62
arco
64

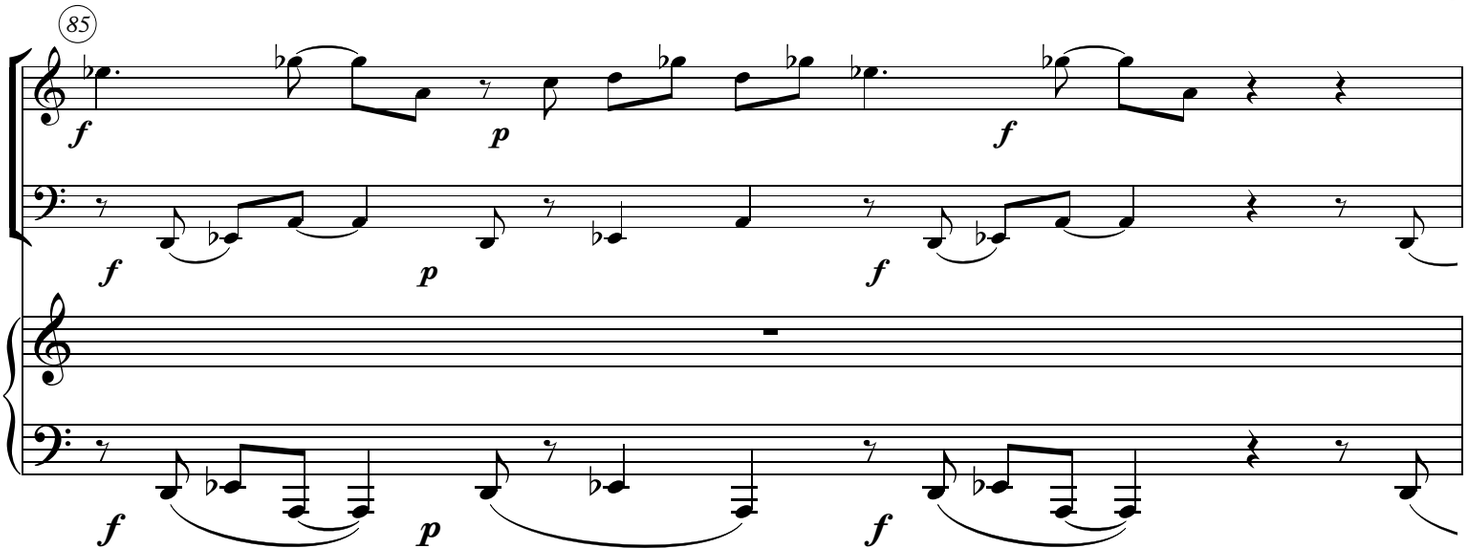

65
12/4
11/4
14/4
pp cresc.
mp
8vb
68
mf
mp

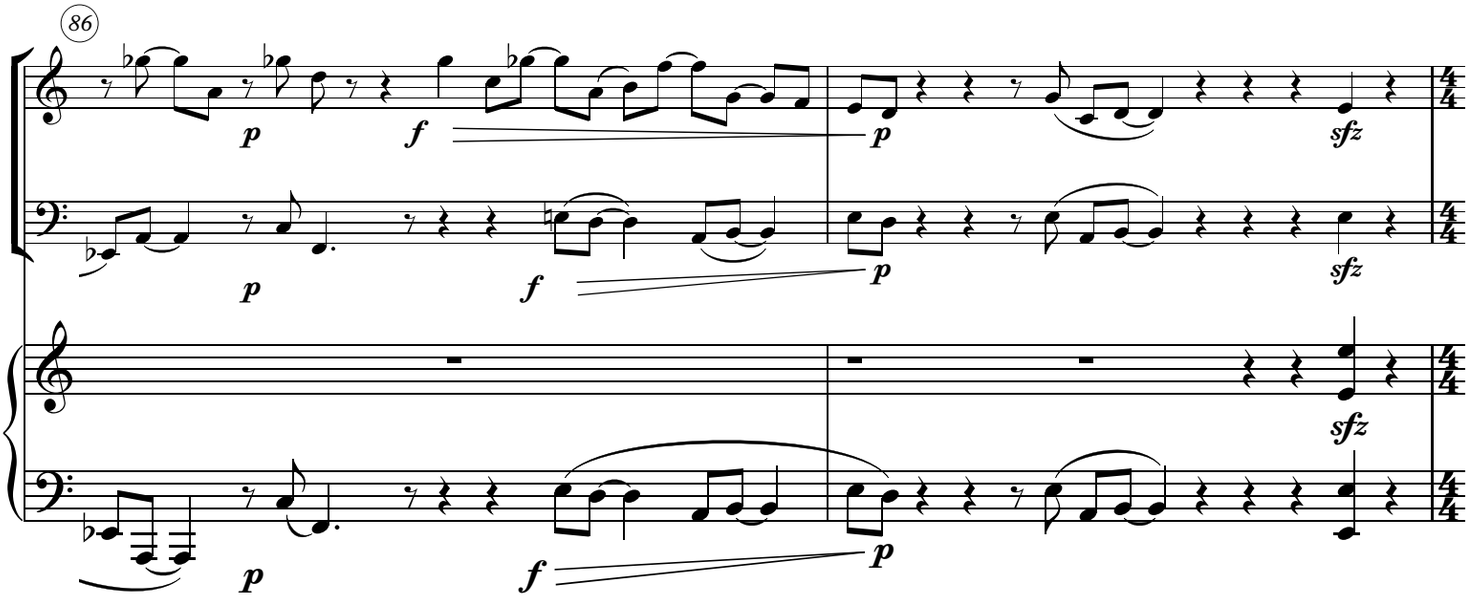

69
71
73
dark
dark
dark

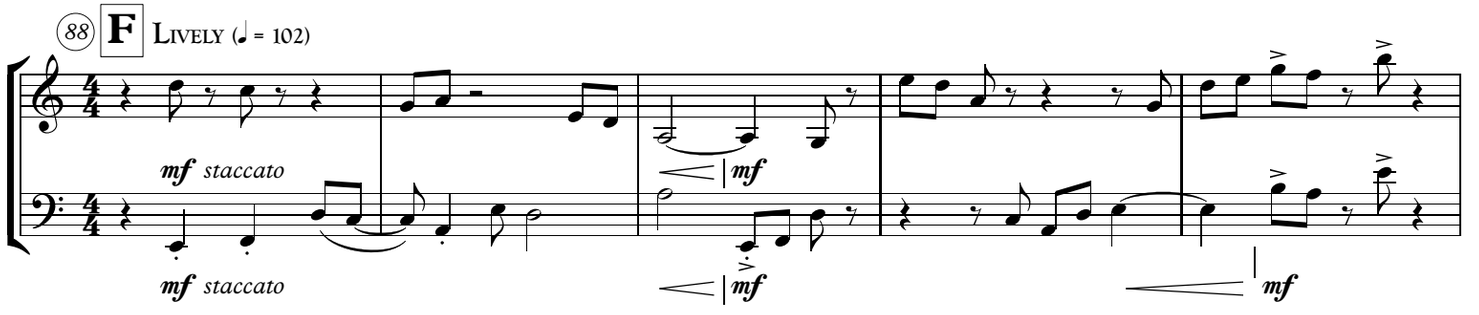

E
74
mp
mp
E
mp
mechanically
75
mp legato
8vb
76
mp legato
(8)

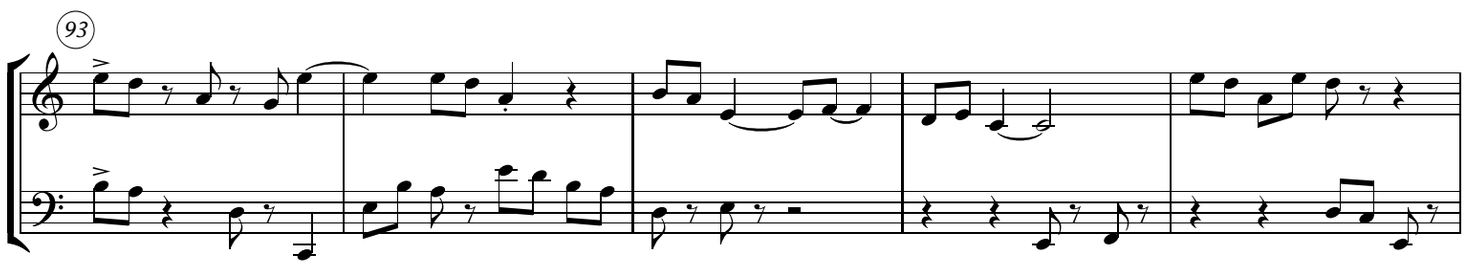

77
mf marcato
mf marcato
pp
mf
(8)
79
81


82
p
p
83
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
84
f
p
f
p
f
p


85
f
p
f
f
p
f
f
p
f


86
p
f
p
sfz
p
f
p
sfz
sfz
p
f
p


88
F
Lively (♩ = 102)
mf staccato
mf staccato
mf
mf
mf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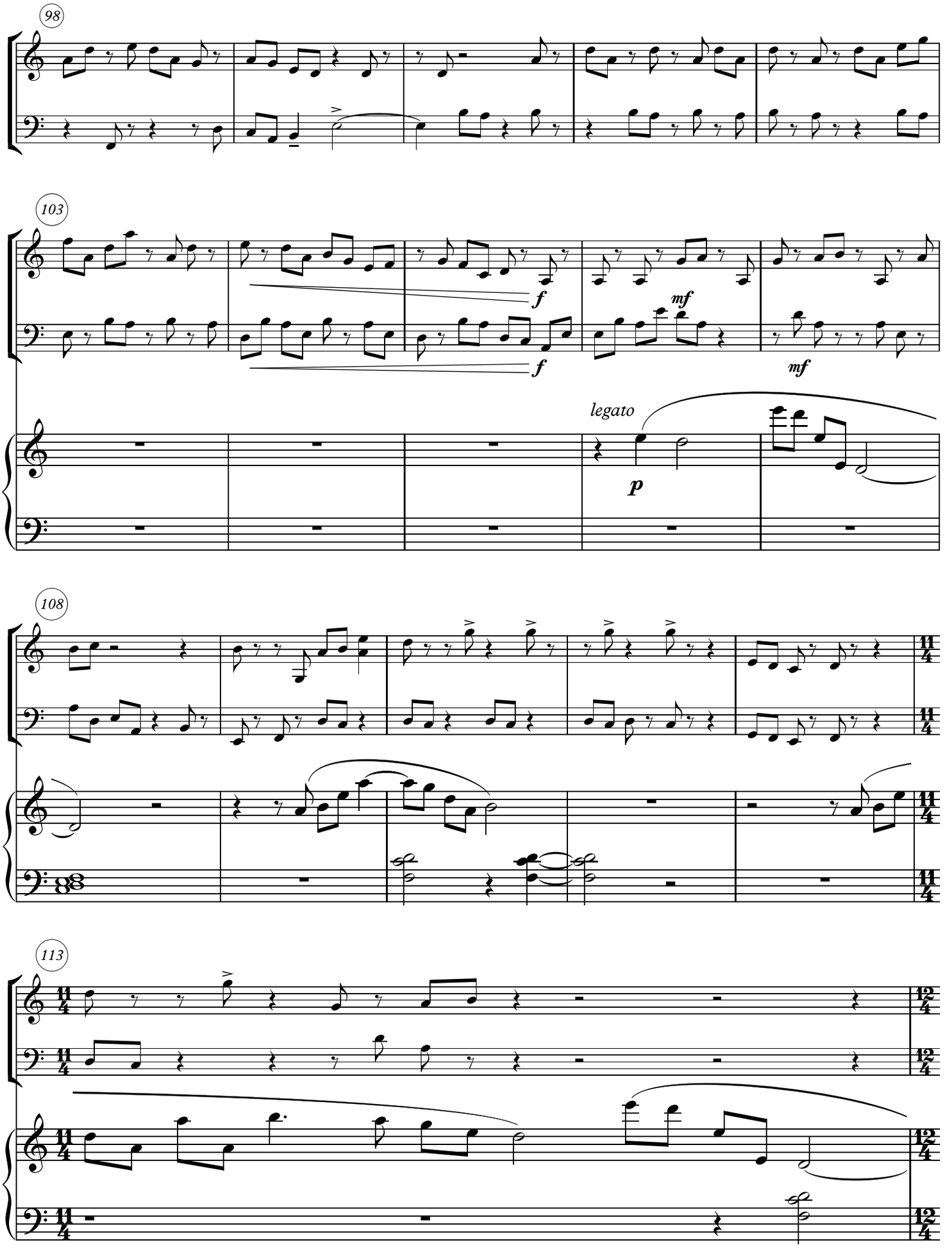
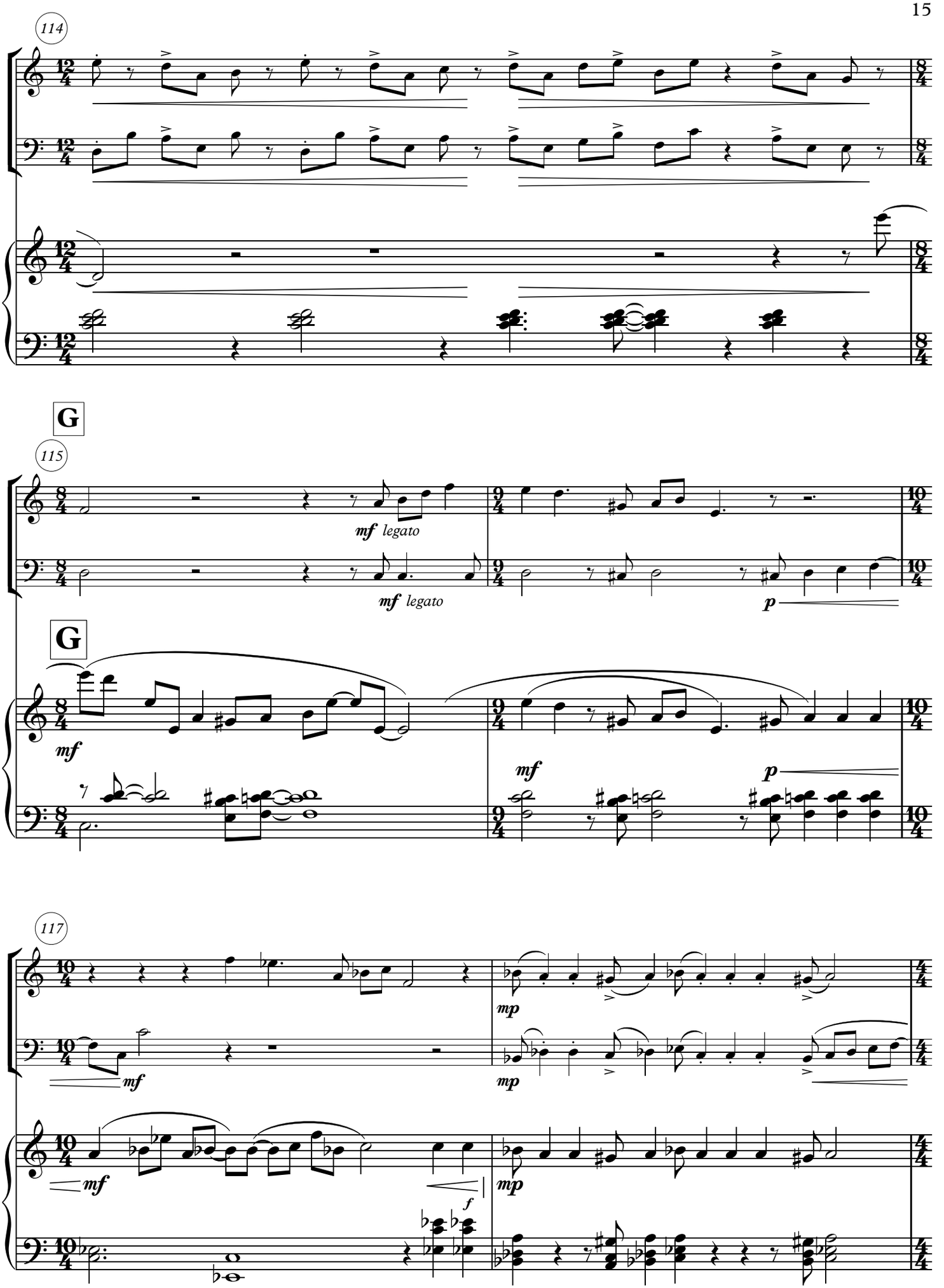
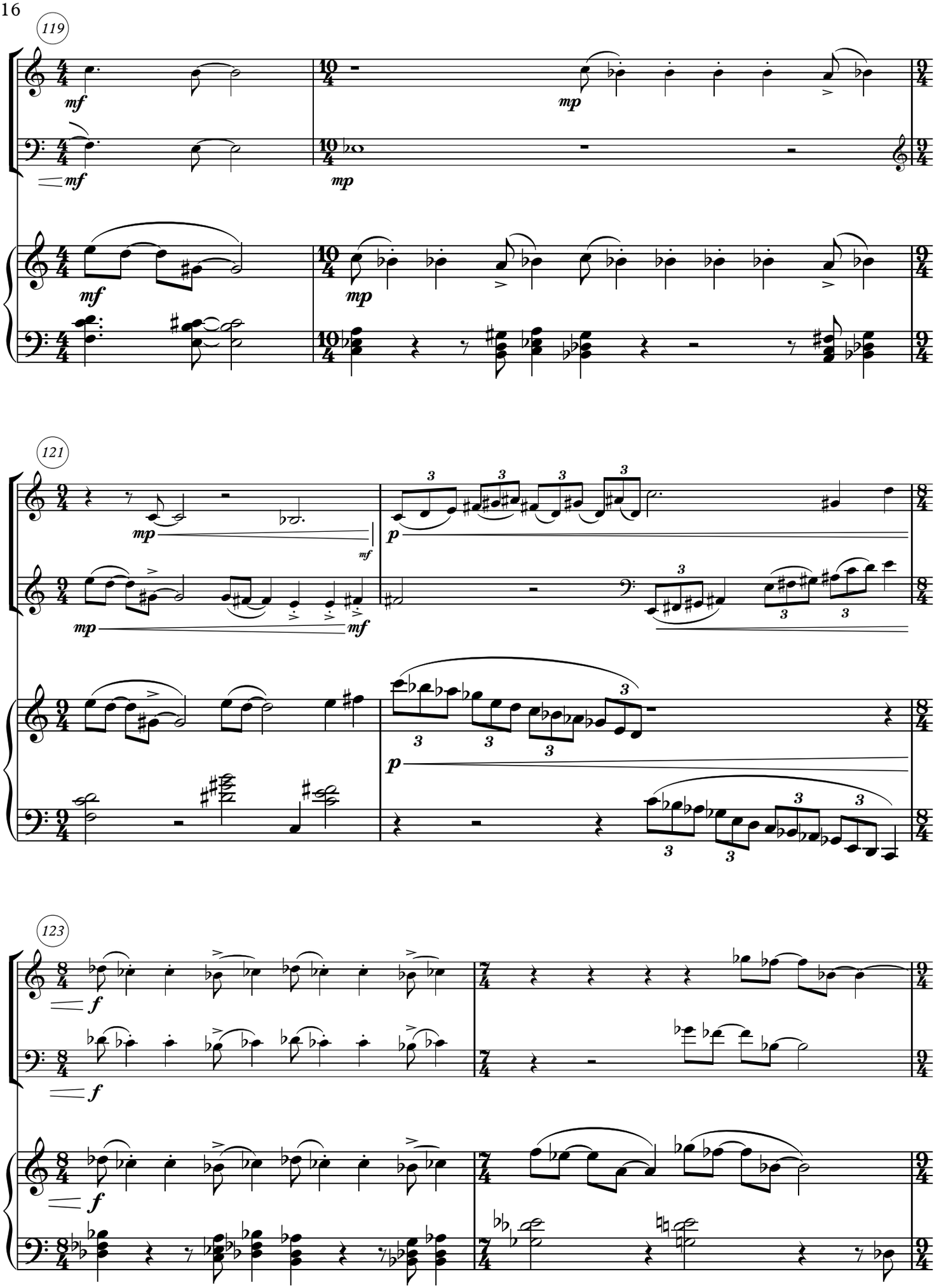
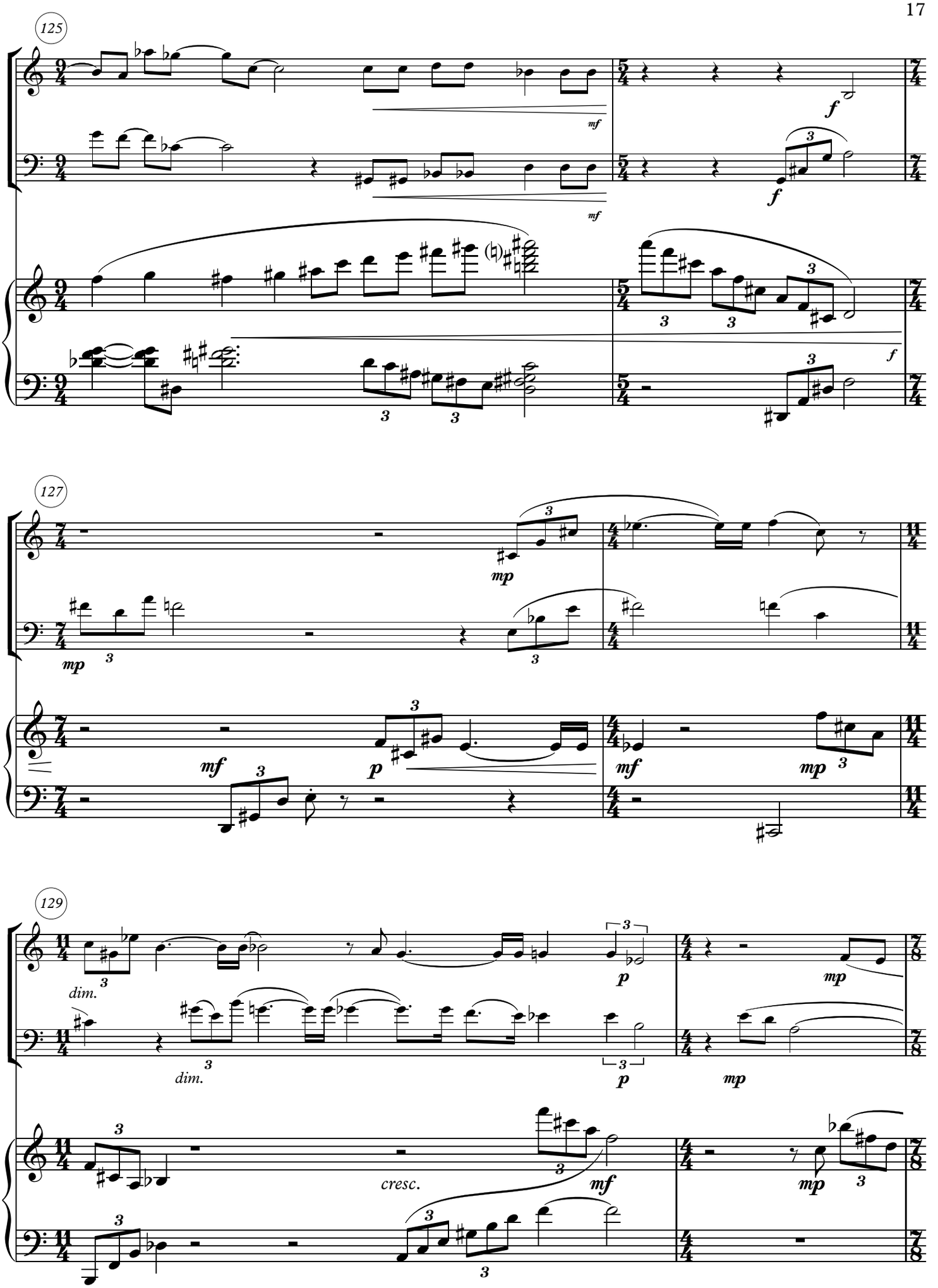
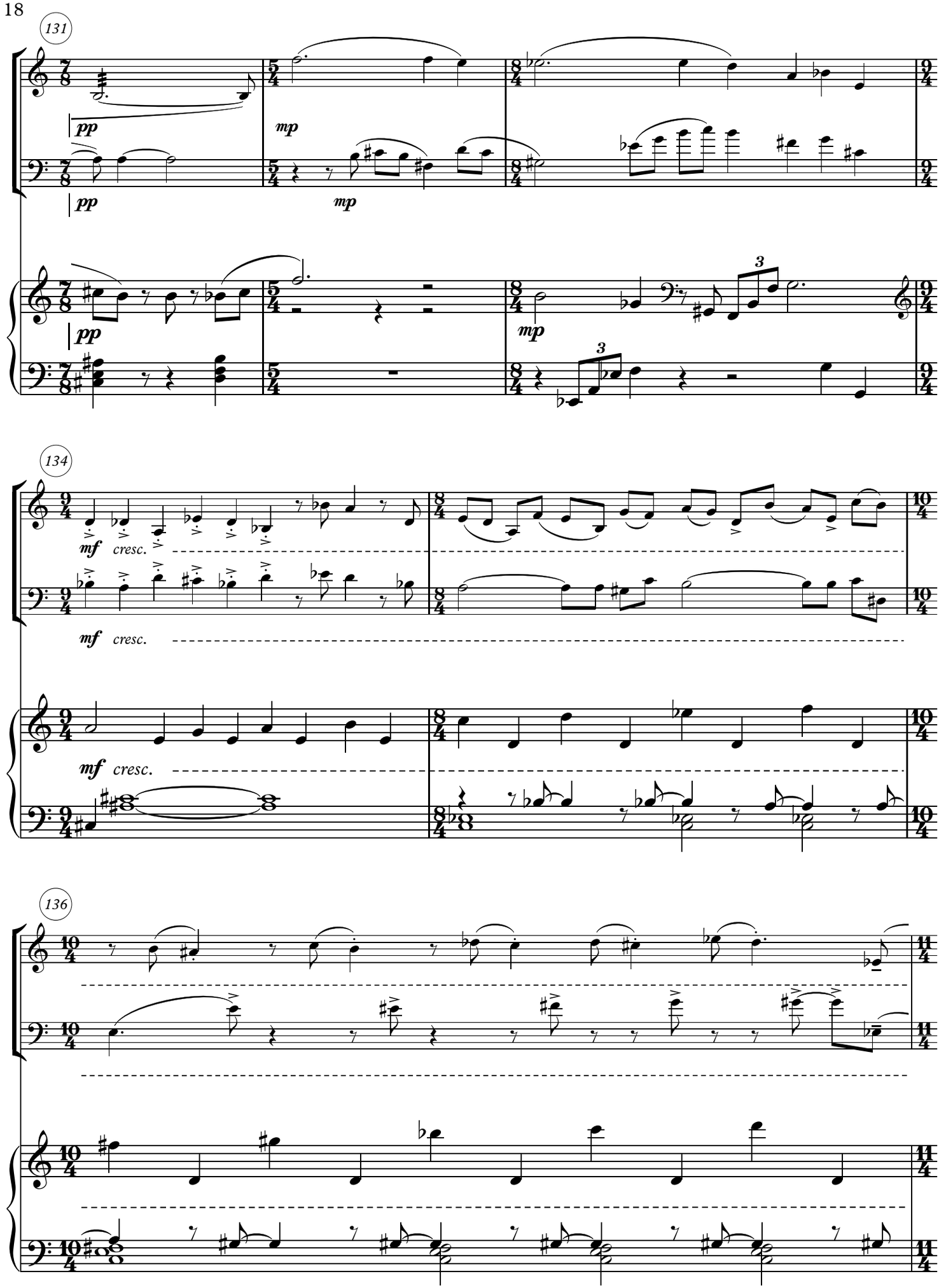
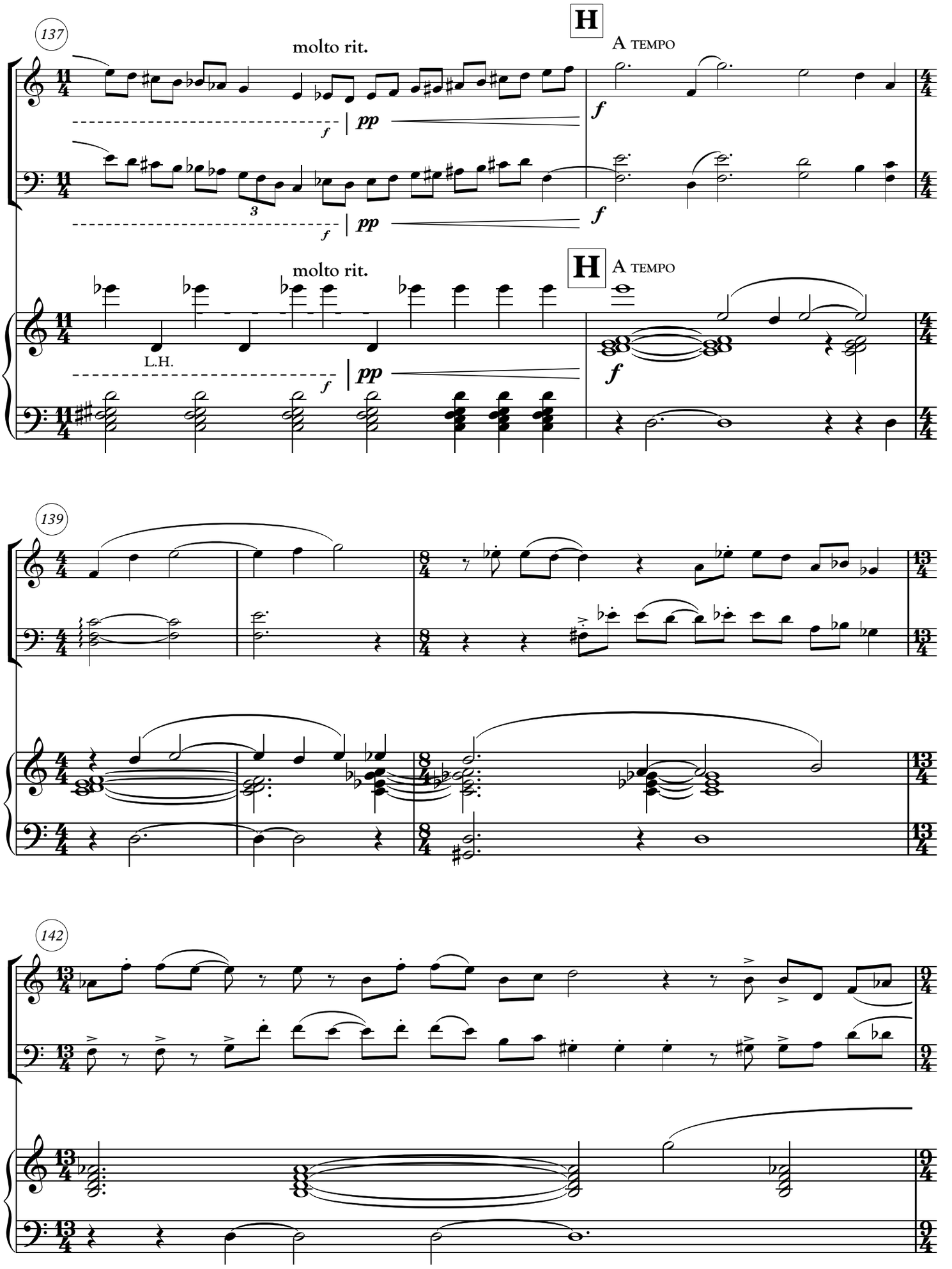

98
103
f
f
mf
mf
legato
p
108
11/4
113
11/4
12/4

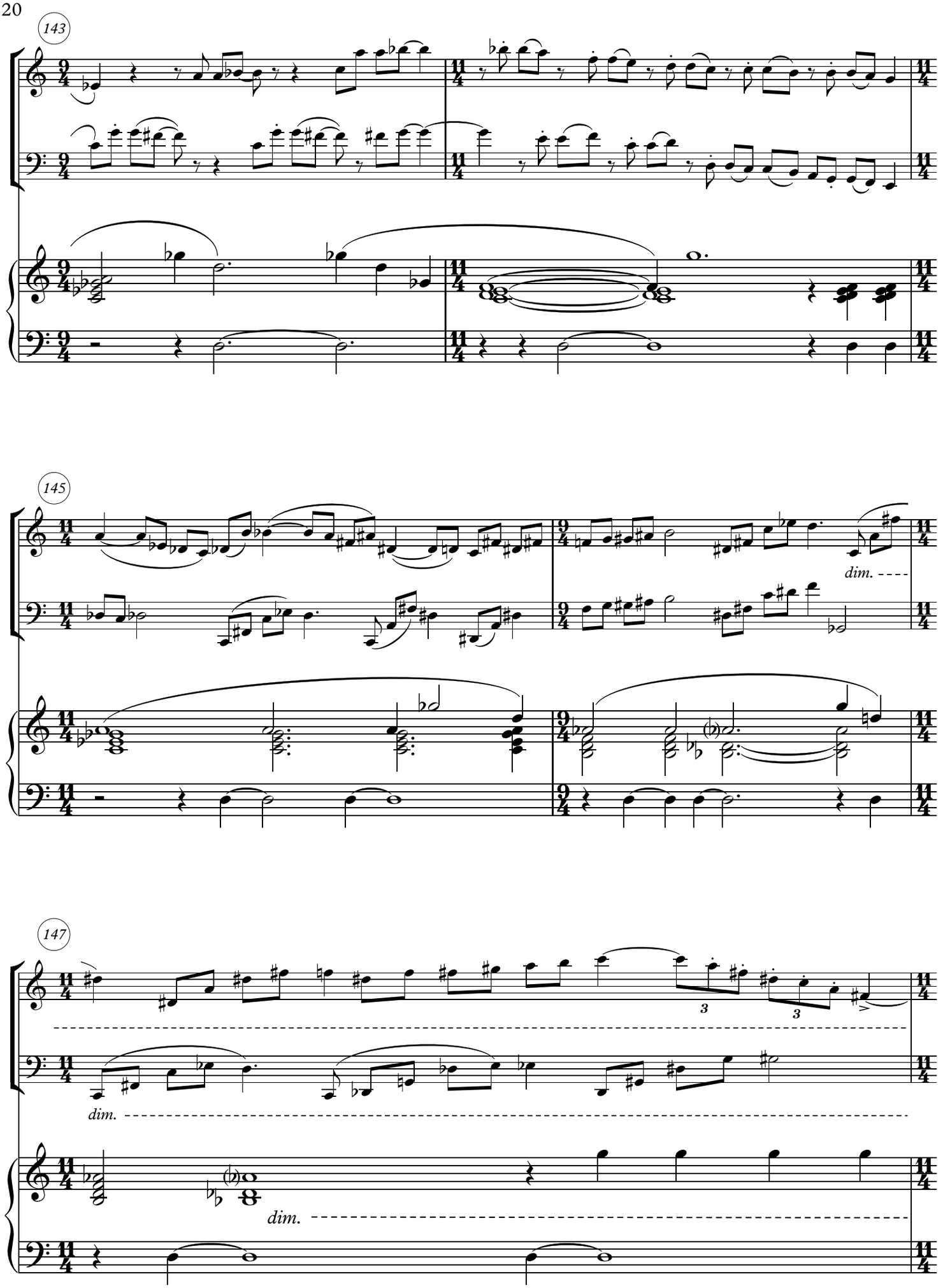

114
G
115
mf legato
mf legato
p
G
mf
mf
p
117
mf
mp
mp
mf
mp
f

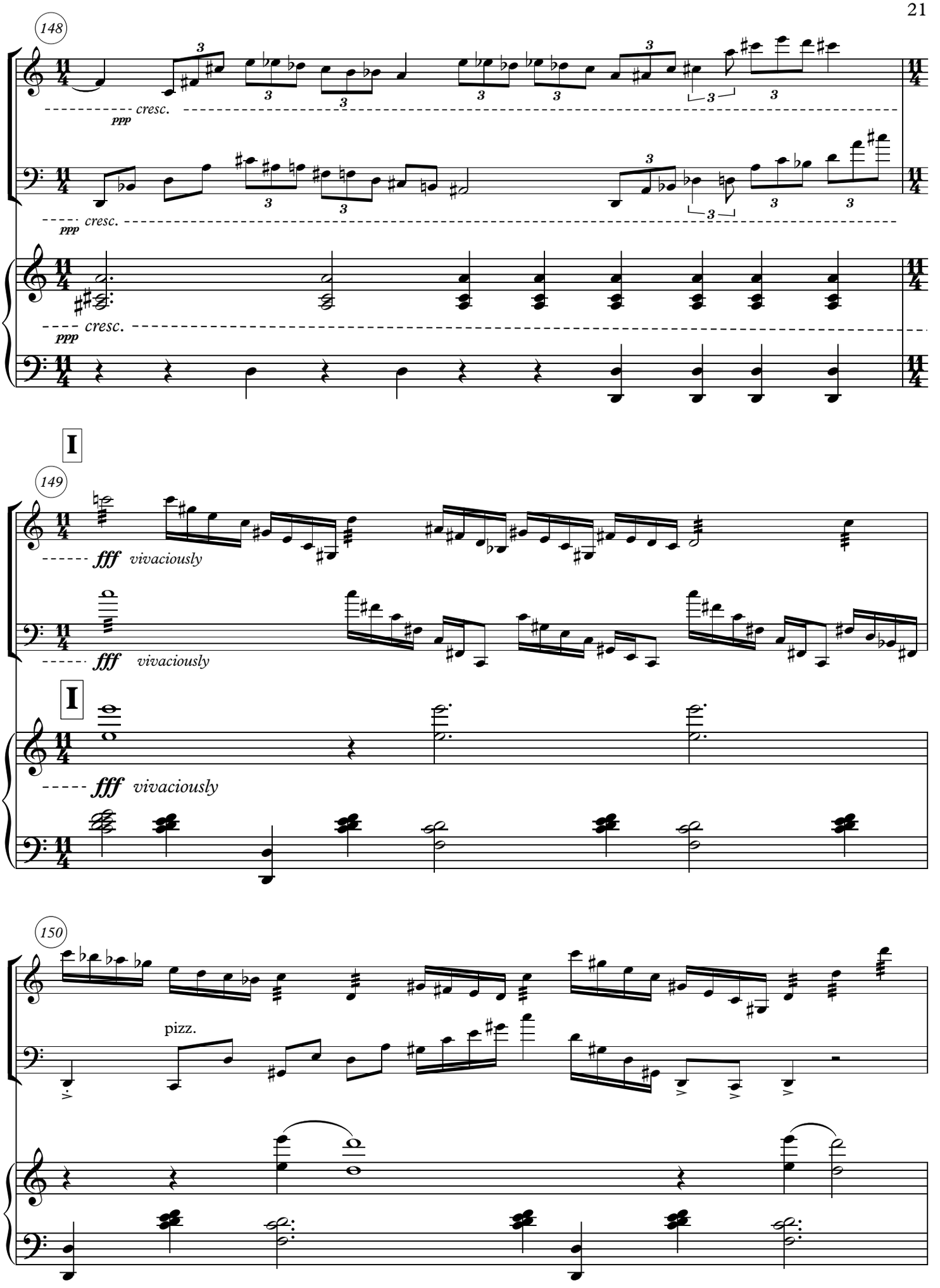

119
121
123

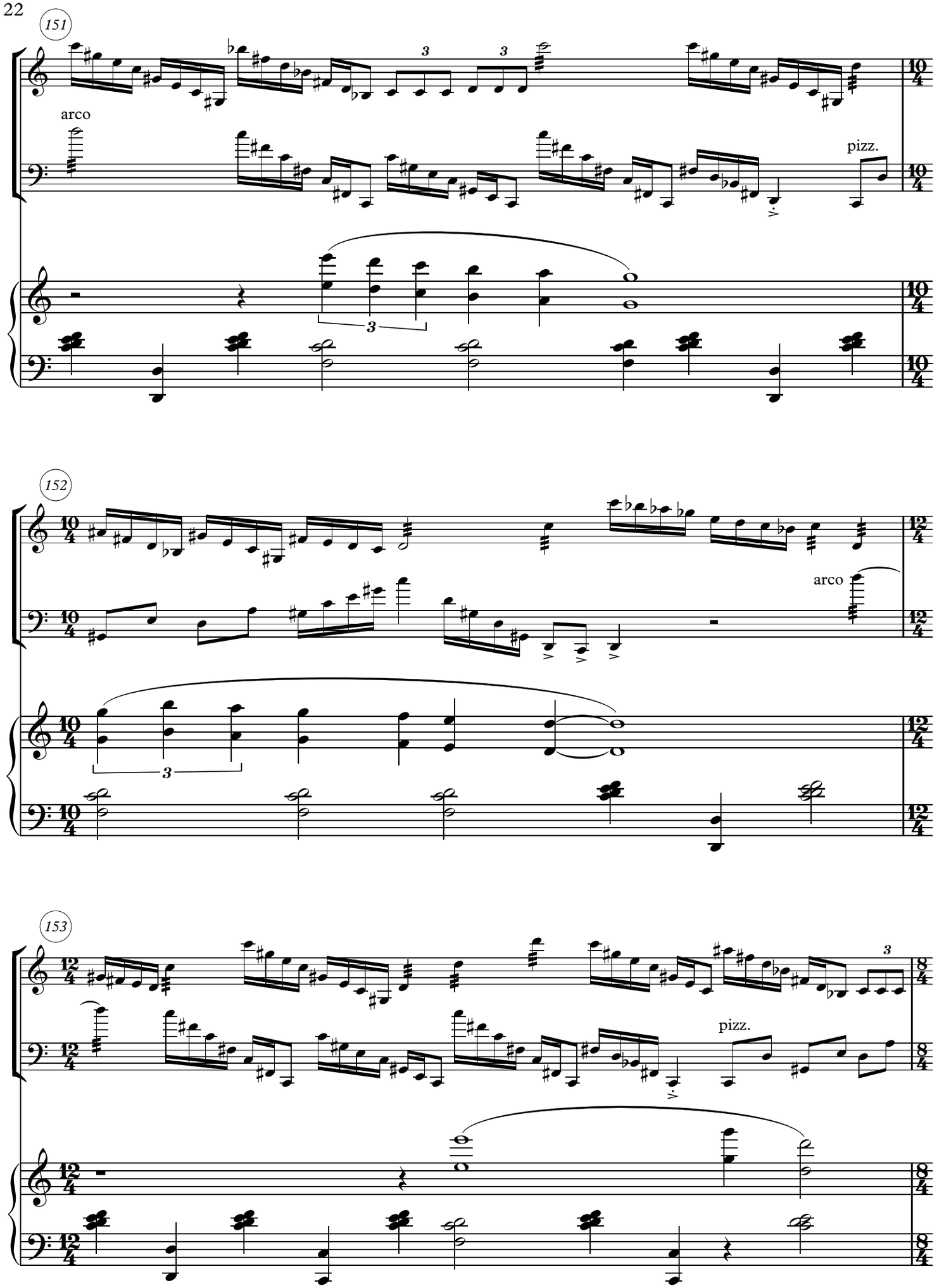

125
127
129
dim.
dim.
cresc.

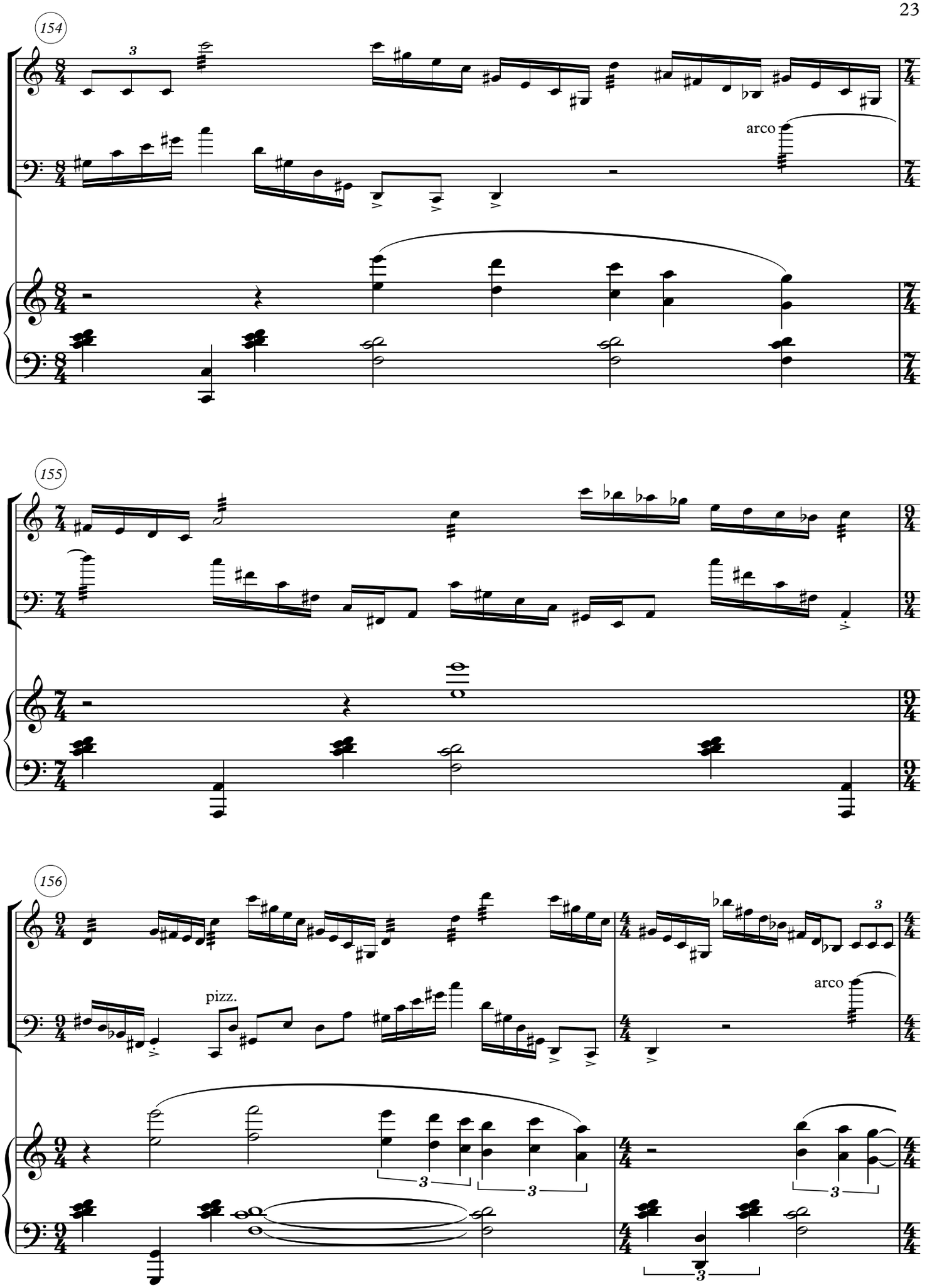

131
pp
mp
134
mf
cresc.
136

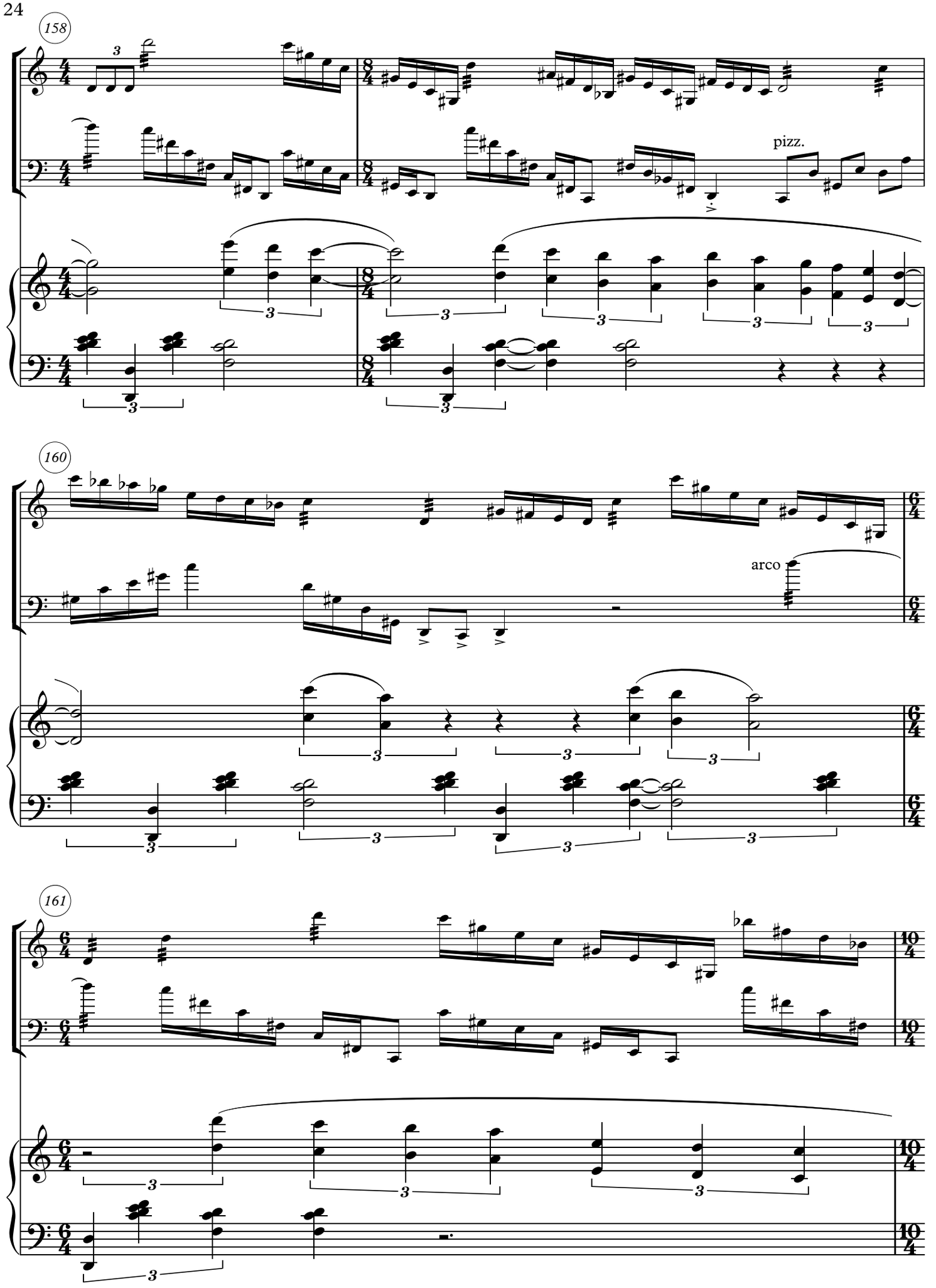

137
molto rit.
H
A TEMPO
f
pp
f
pp
molto rit.
H
A TEMPO
L.H.
f
pp
f
139
142

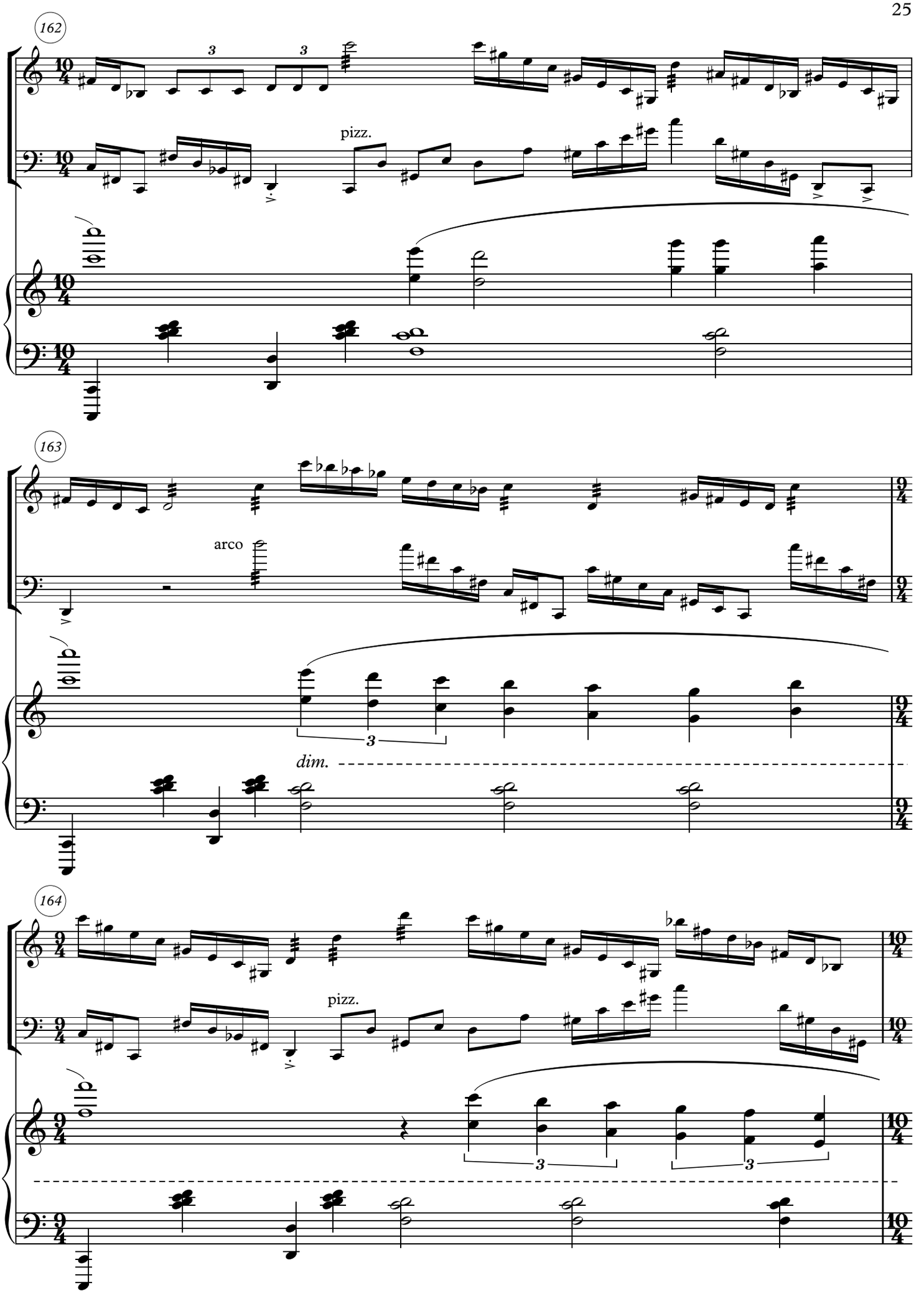

143
145
dim.
147
dim.
dim.

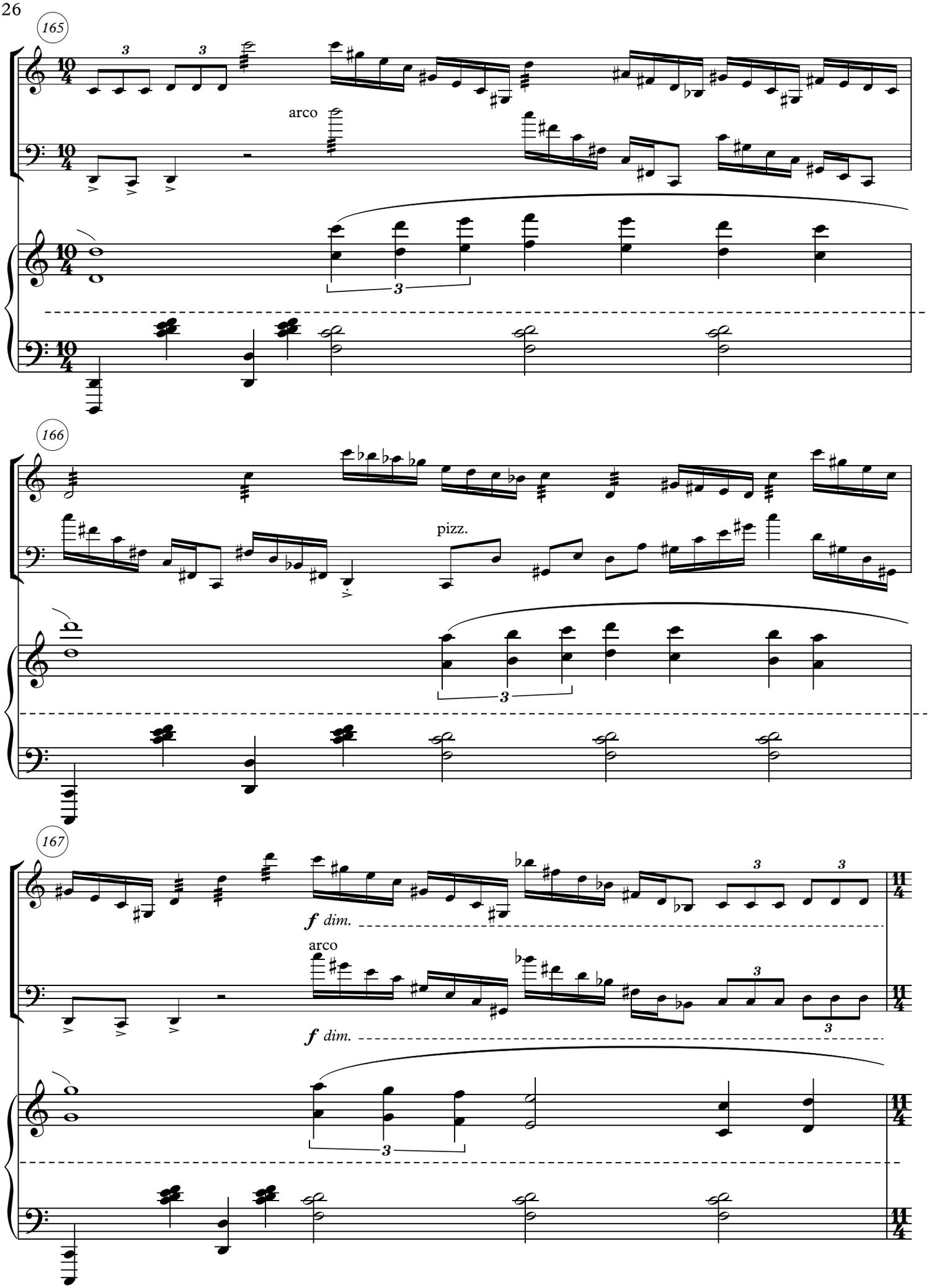

148
ppp
cresc.
ppp
cresc.
ppp
cresc.
I
149
fff
vivaciously
fff
vivaciously
I
fff
vivaciously
150
pizz.

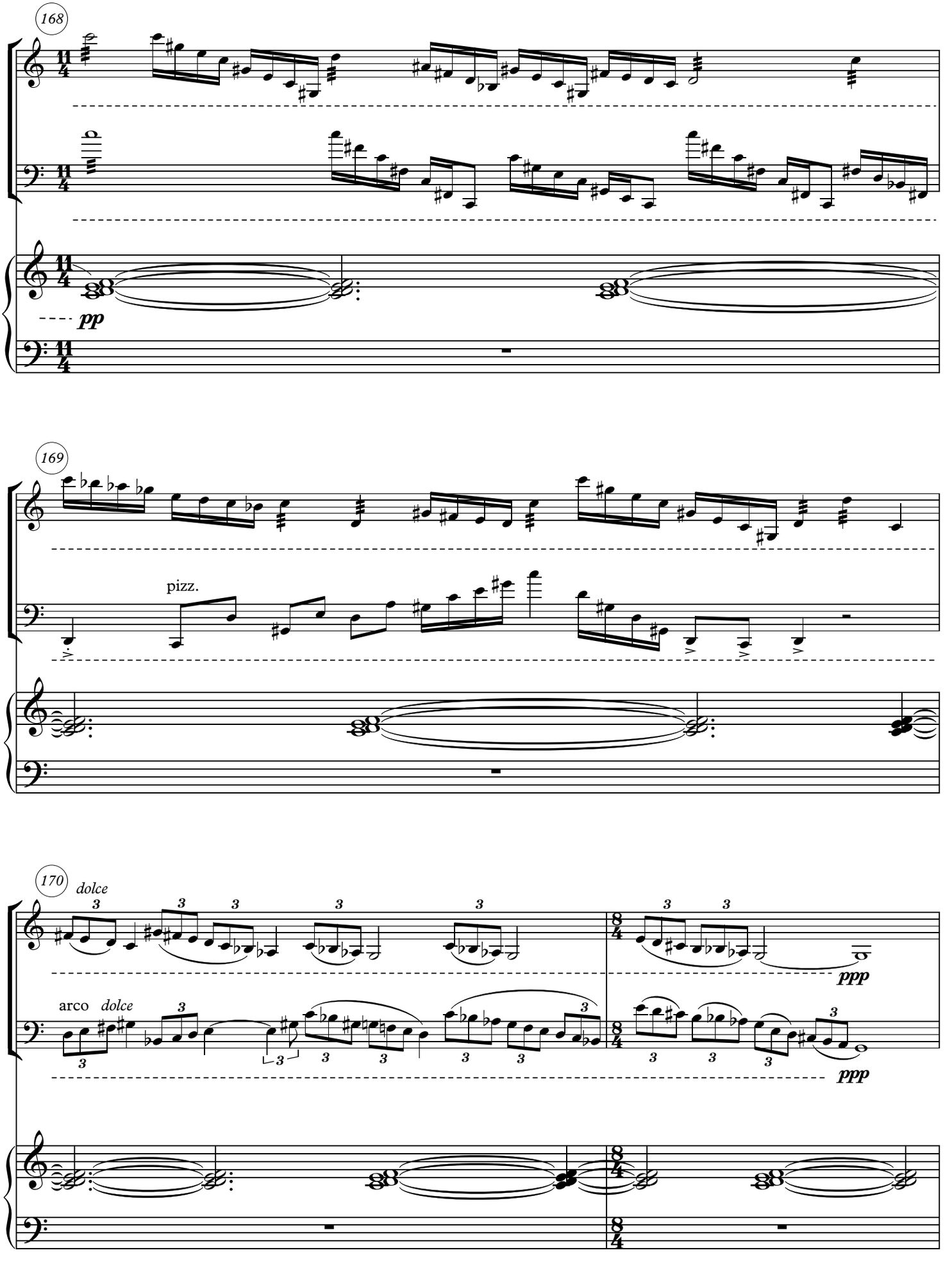

151
arco
pizz.
152
arco
153
pizz.

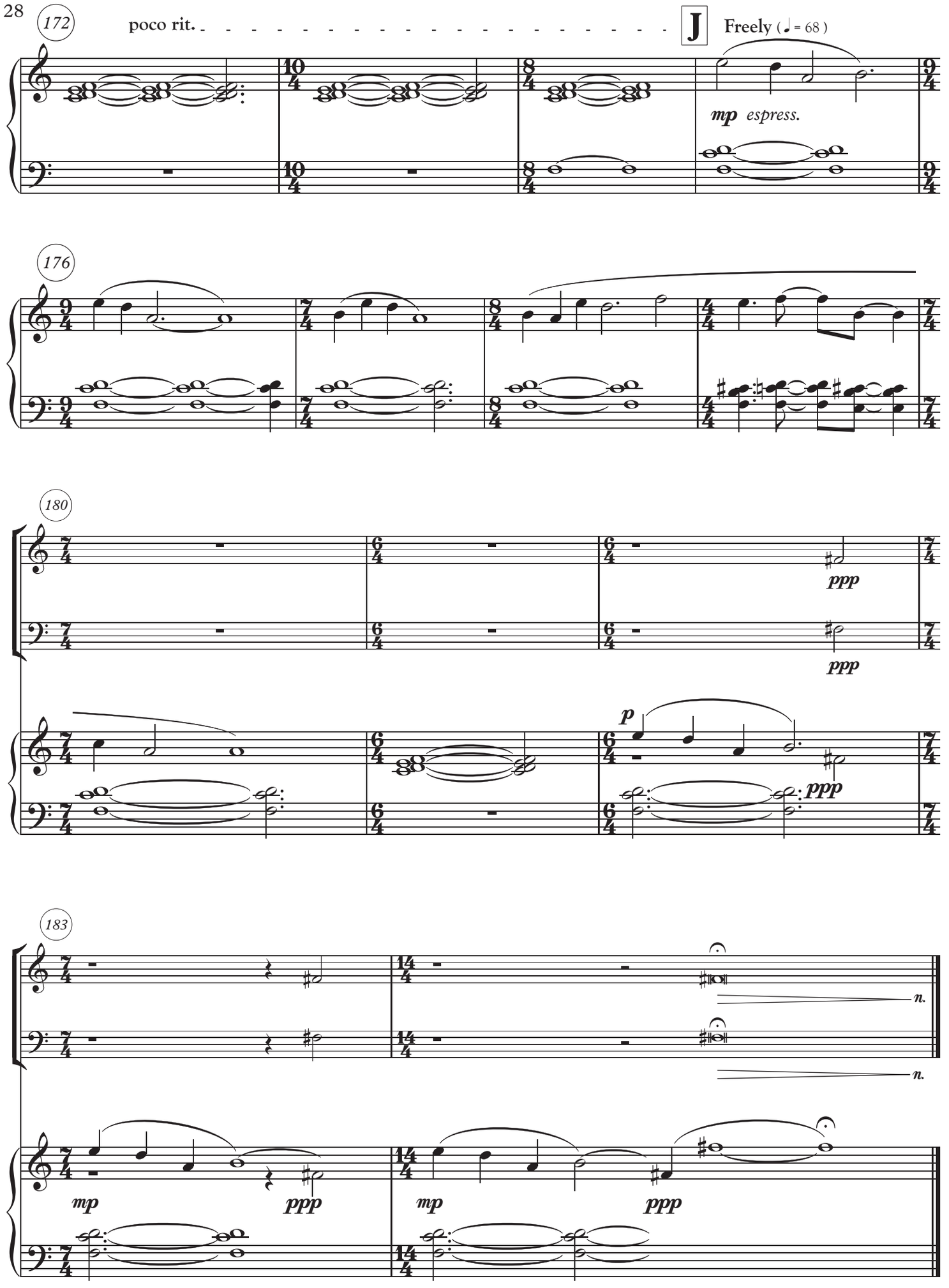

154
arco
155
156
pizz.
arco


158
pizz.
160
arco
161


162
pizz.
163
arco
dim.
164
pizz.


165
arco
166
pizz.
167
f dim.
arco
f dim.


168
pp
169
pizz.
170
dolce
arco
dolce
ppp
ppp


172
poco rit.
J
Freely (= 68)
mp espress.
176
180
ppp
ppp
p
ppp
183
n.
n.
mp
ppp
mp
ppp