AUTUMN SONGS

Four Lyrical Pieces for String Quartet

BRUCE TRINKLEY

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1. Tango (Dinner in the Courtyard) **2**

2. Idyll **6**

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The four movements of *Autumn Songs* are adapted from choral and vocal works in *Mountain Laurels: A Choral Symphony,* written to celebrate the Centenary of State College, Pennsylvania in 1996 and based on poems by central Pennsylvania poets.

The poems may be included in the printed program or may be read aloud before each piece is performed.

These adaptations are dedicated with admiration and gratitude to James Lyon.

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Dorland Mountain Arts Colony, Temecula, California
Ucross Foundation, Ucross, Wyoming
The Hambidge Foundation, Rabun Gap, Georgia

1. Tango (Dinner in the Courtyard)

Emily Grosholz

from *The River Painter* (1984)

When summer tears the maple leaves
to lace, and blue shows through the green
like those imagined distances,
weaving through all things close at hand,
then sunset looms for hours upon
the scarlet tenements of day,
unraveling curtains, windowpanes
ablaze. The house is close, I say,

and move the table underneath
the arches of the maple tree.
Not even the curious neighbors know
if I am host or stranger here,
nor if this roof of leaf and air,
the little courtyard of the world, is home.

2. Idyll

Theodore Roethke

from *Open House* (1941)

Now as from maple to elm the flittermice skitter and twirl,
A drunk man stumbles by, absorbed in self-talk.
The lights in the kitchens go out; moth wings unfurl;
The last tricycle runs crazily to the end of the walk.

As darkness creeps up on the well-groomed suburban town,
We grow indifferent to dog howls, to the nestling's last peep.
Dew deepens on the fresh-cut lawn;
We sit in the porch swing, content and half asleep.

The world recedes in the black revolving shadow;
A far-off train blows its echoing whistle once;
We go to our beds in a house at the edge of a meadow.
Unmindful of terror and headlines, of speeches and guns.

3. Arioso (Poem with a Moon)

John Balaban

from *Blue Mountain* (1982)

One summer evening at an oak edged pond,
I saw shoals of frogs, or small toads, spawning,
bloated red, glued in pairs, rolling,
roiling the shallows under a full moon
which, oiled, sleek, dripping in the trees,
cast shadows from my hand onto the water.
Tonight, spring night, by your house the peepers trill,
and the moon, as you sit at your desk, looks in
to see if your face is still shadowed by mine.

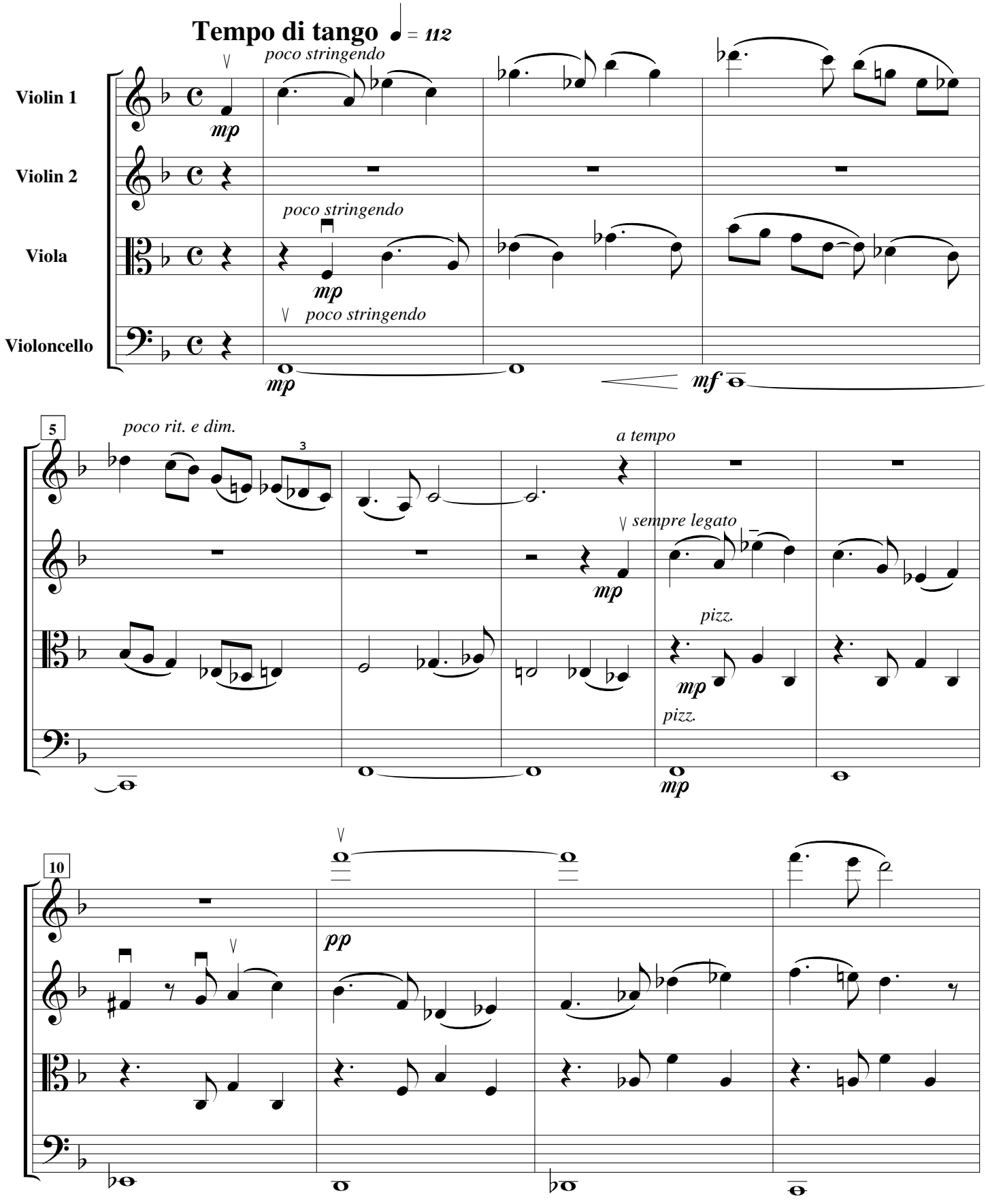
4. Toccata (Night Journey)

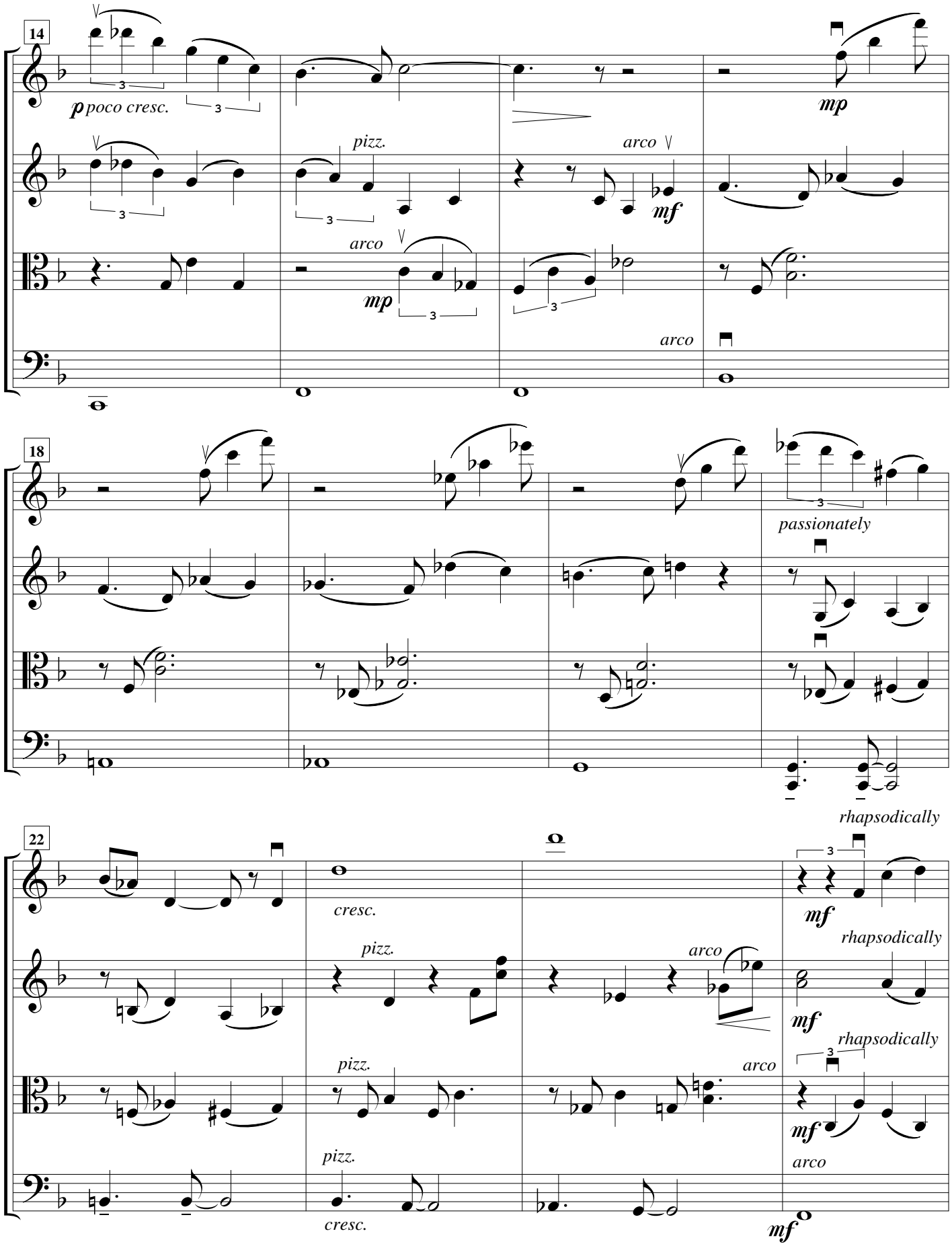
Theodore Roethke

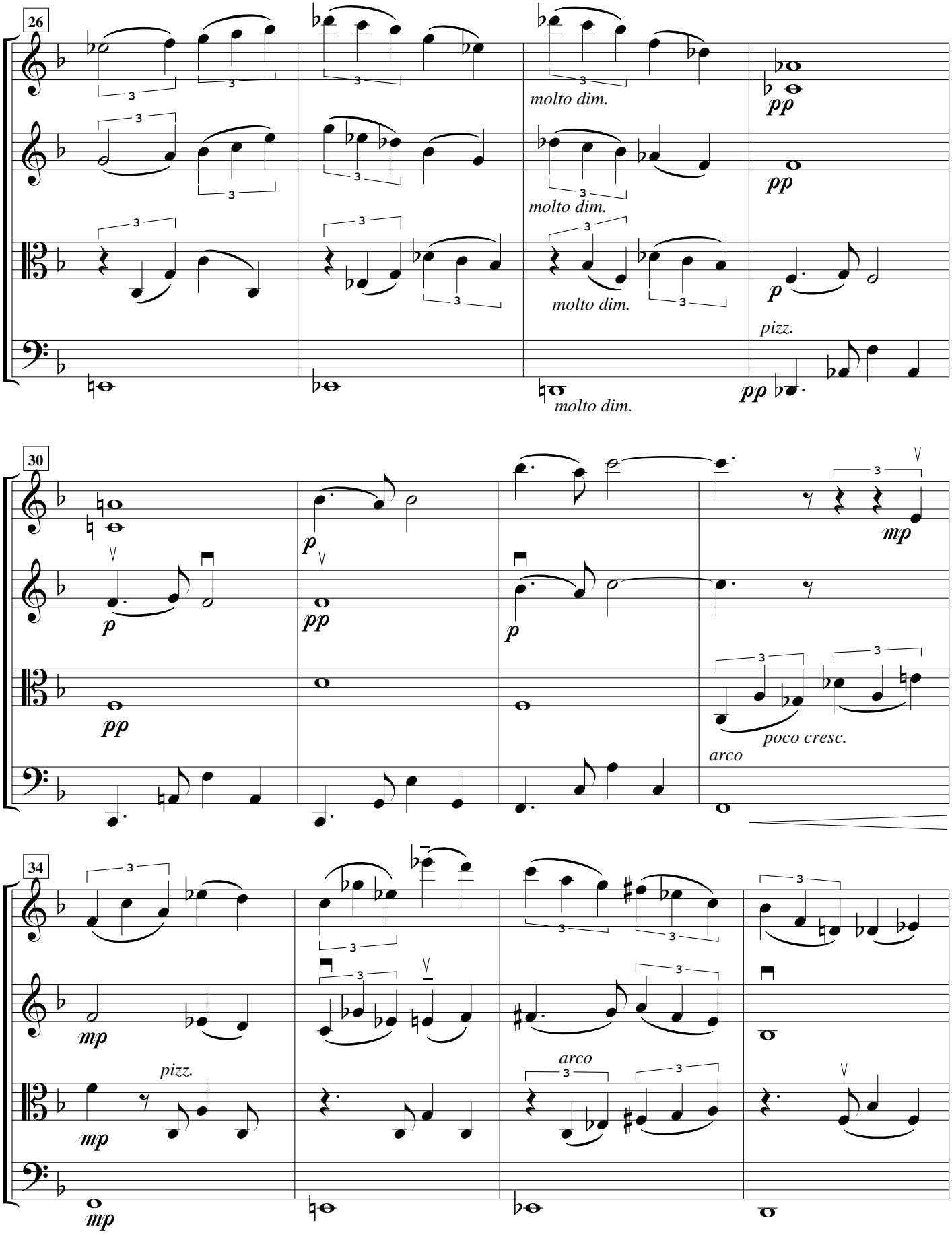
from *Open House* (1941)

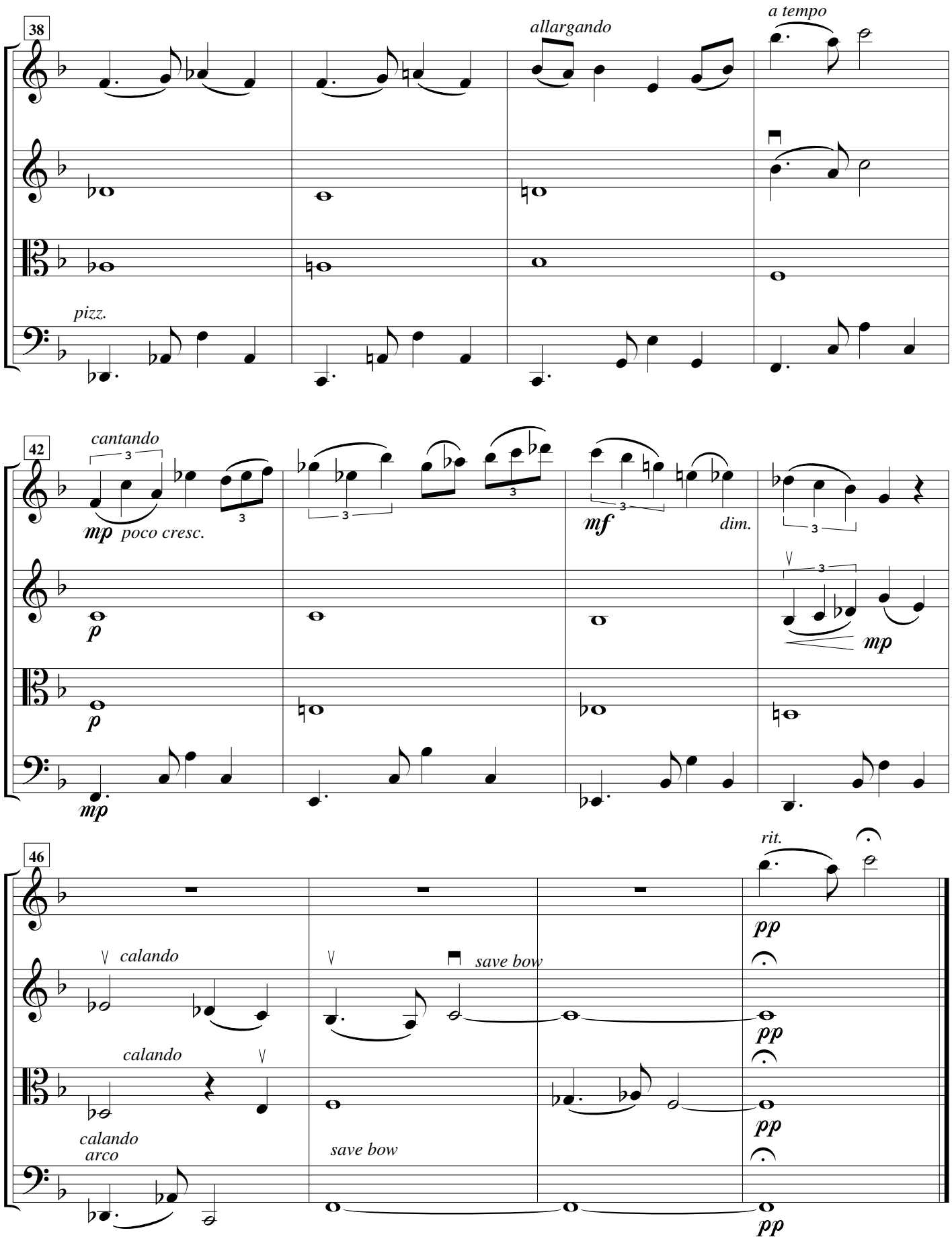
Now as the train bears west,
Its rhythm rocks the earth,
And from my Pullman berth
I stare into the night
While others take their rest.
Bridges of iron lace,
A suddenness of trees,
A lap of mountain mist
All cross my line of sight,
Then a bleak wasted place,
And a lake below my knees.
Full on my neck I feel
The straining at a curve;
My muscles move with steel,
I wake in every nerve.
I watch a beacon swing
From dark to blazing bright;
We thunder through ravines
And gullies washed with light.
Beyond the mountain pass
Mist deepens on the pane;
We rush into a rain
That rattles double glass.
Wheels shake the roadbed stone,
The pistons jerk and shove,
I stay up half the night
To see the land I love.

1. Tango (Dinner in the Courtyard)

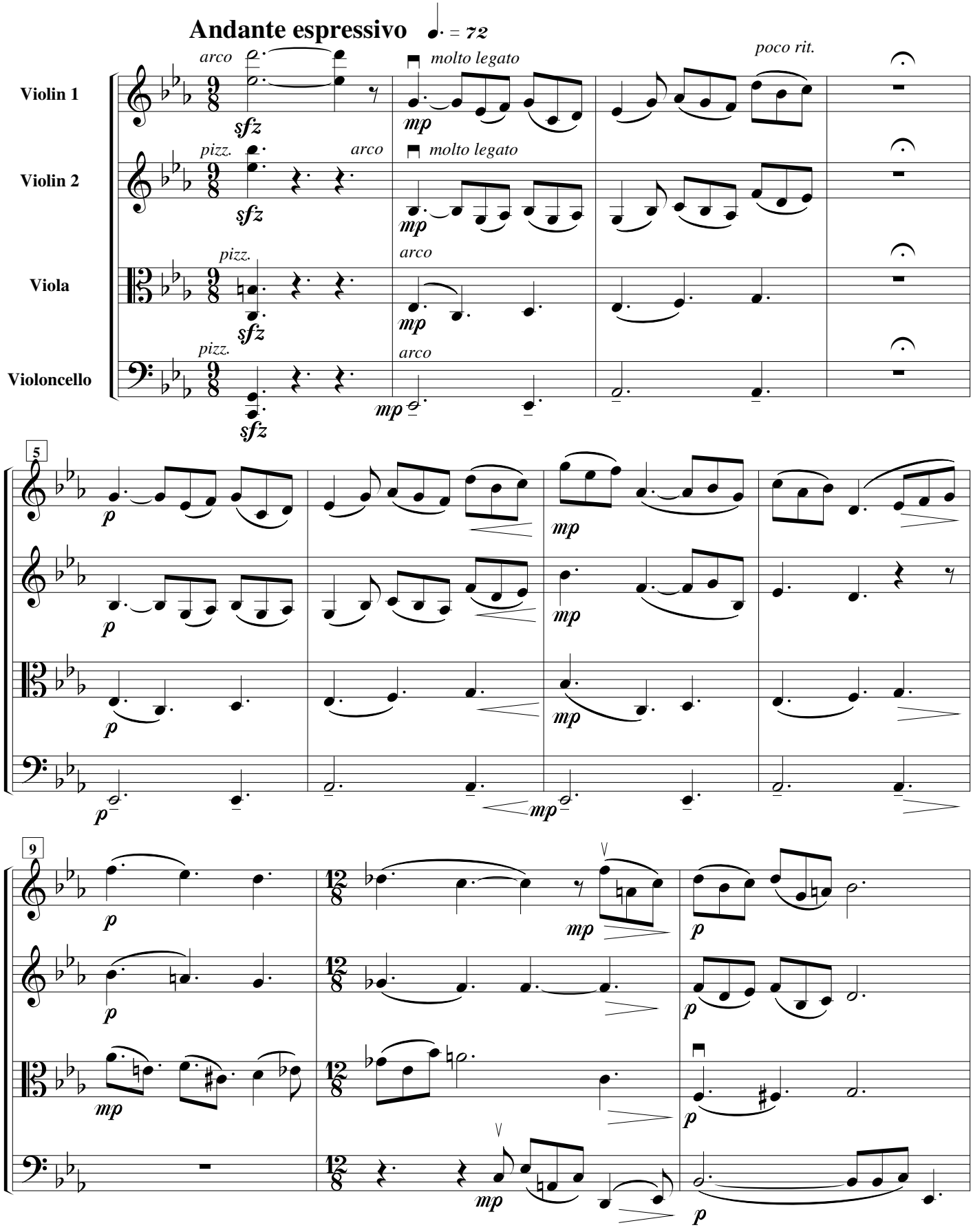


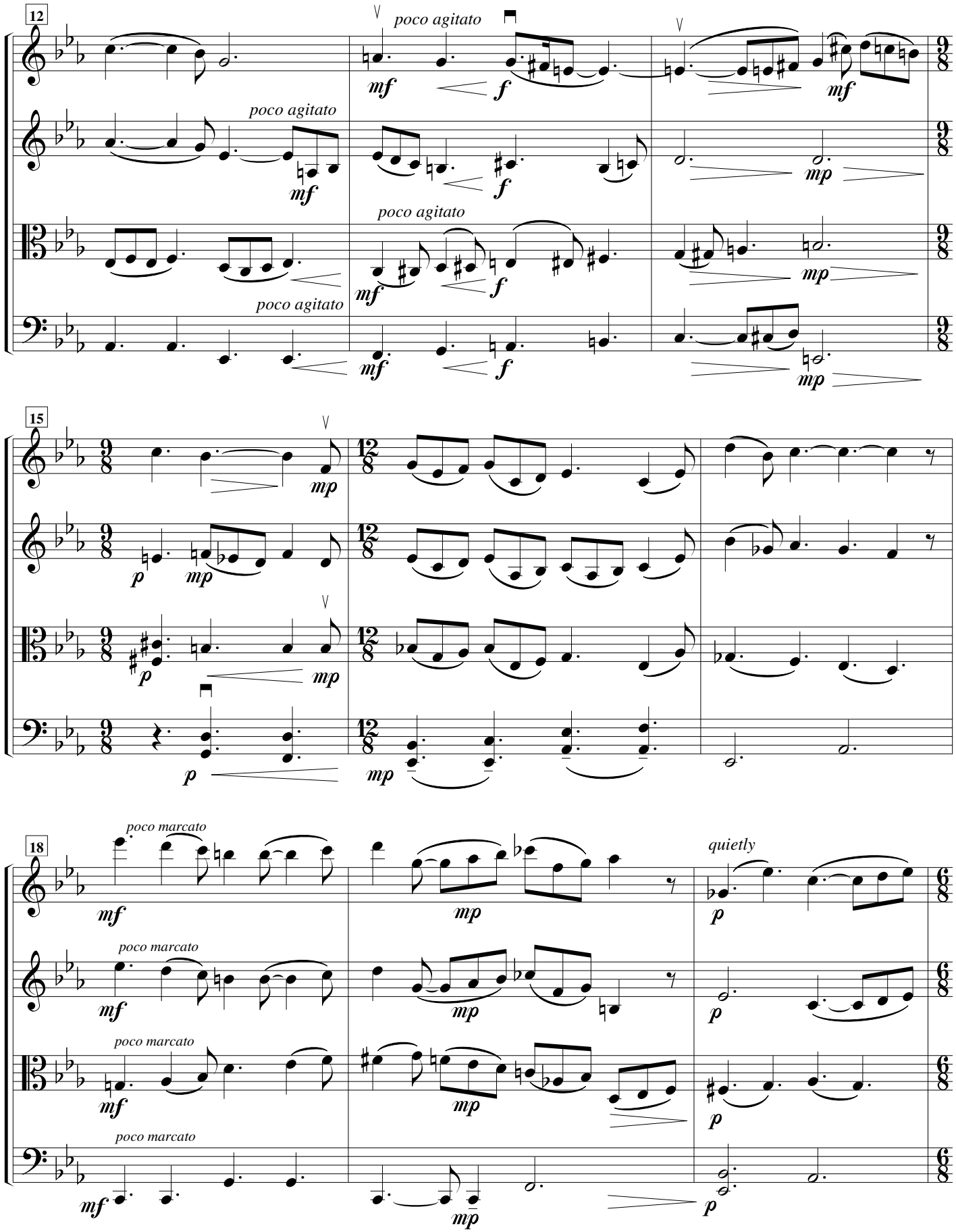

14
p poco cresc.
pizz.
arco
mf
mp
arco
arco
18
passionately
rhapsodically
22
cresc.
pizz.
arco
mf
rhapsodically
mf
rhapsodically
pizz.
arco
mf
pizz.
arco
pizz.
cresc.
mf

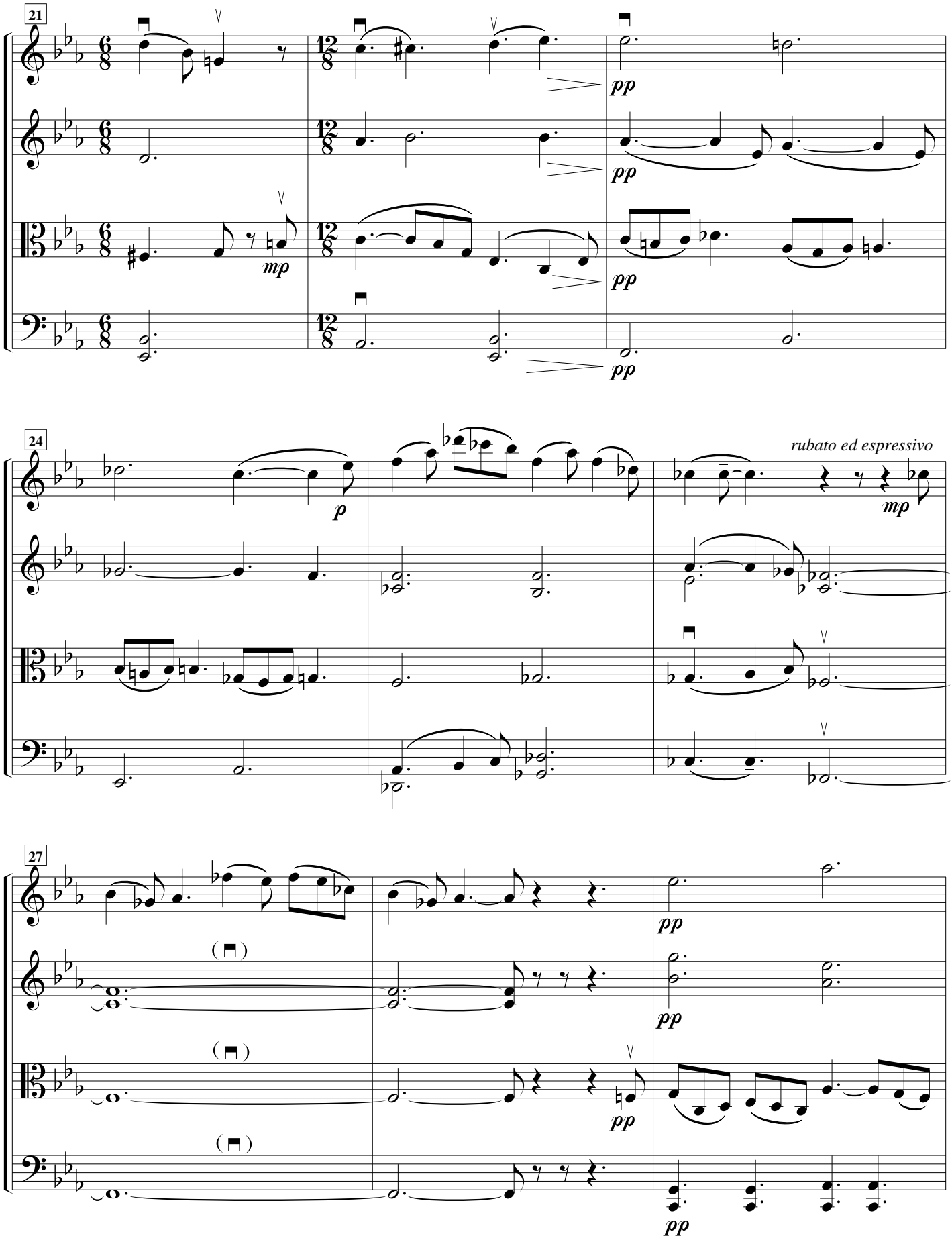

26
molto dim.
molto dim.
molto dim.
pp
pp
p
pizz.
pp
30
p
pp
p
mp
p
pp
poco cresc.
arco
34
mp
pizz.
mp
mp
arco

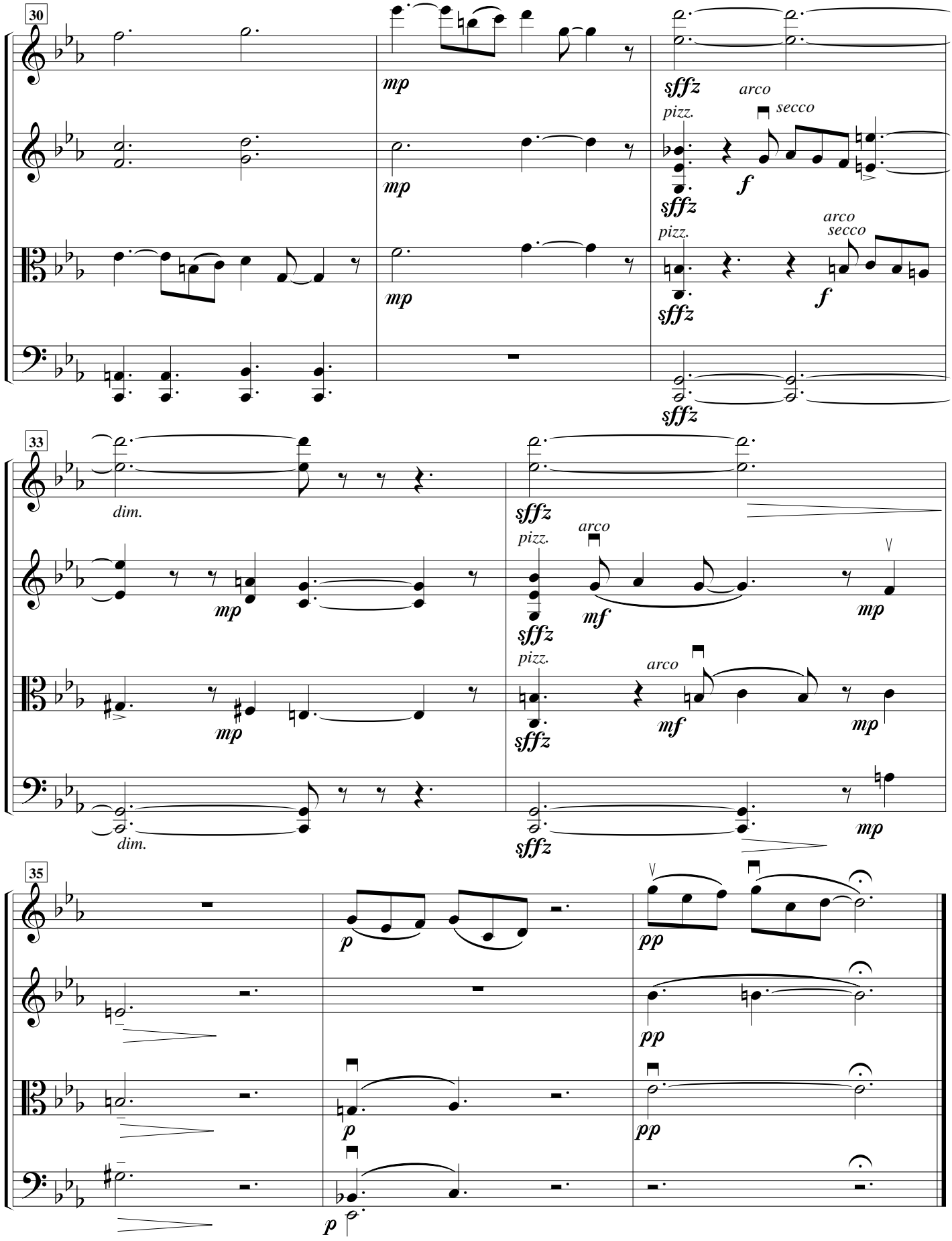

38
allargando
a tempo
pizz.
42
cantando
mp poco cresc.
mf
dim.
mp
p
p
mp
46
rit.
pp
calando
save bow
pp
calando
pp
calando
arco
save bow
pp

2. Idyll

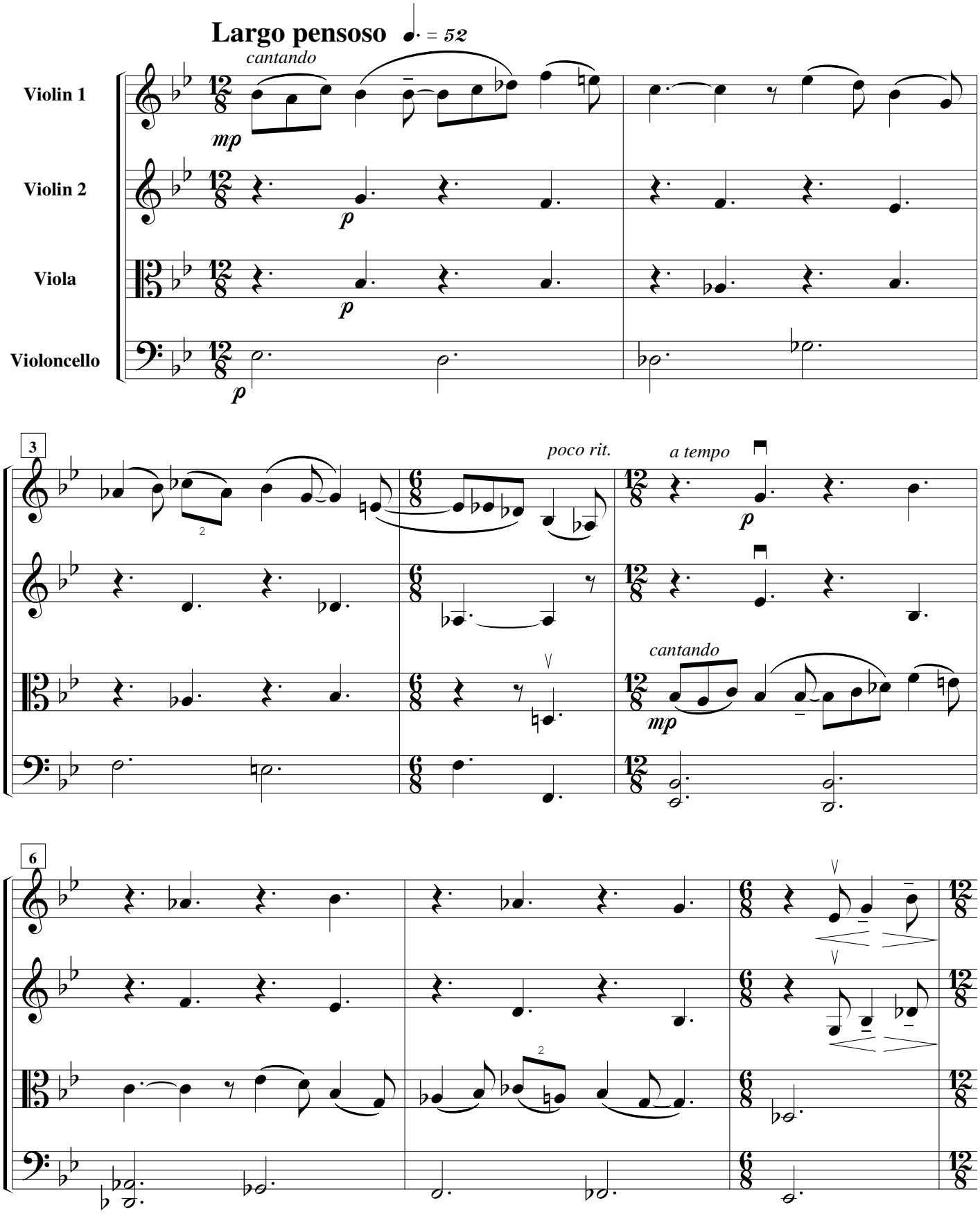

Andante espressivo ♩. = 72
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
arco
pizz.
molto legato
poco rit.
sfz
mp
p
5
9

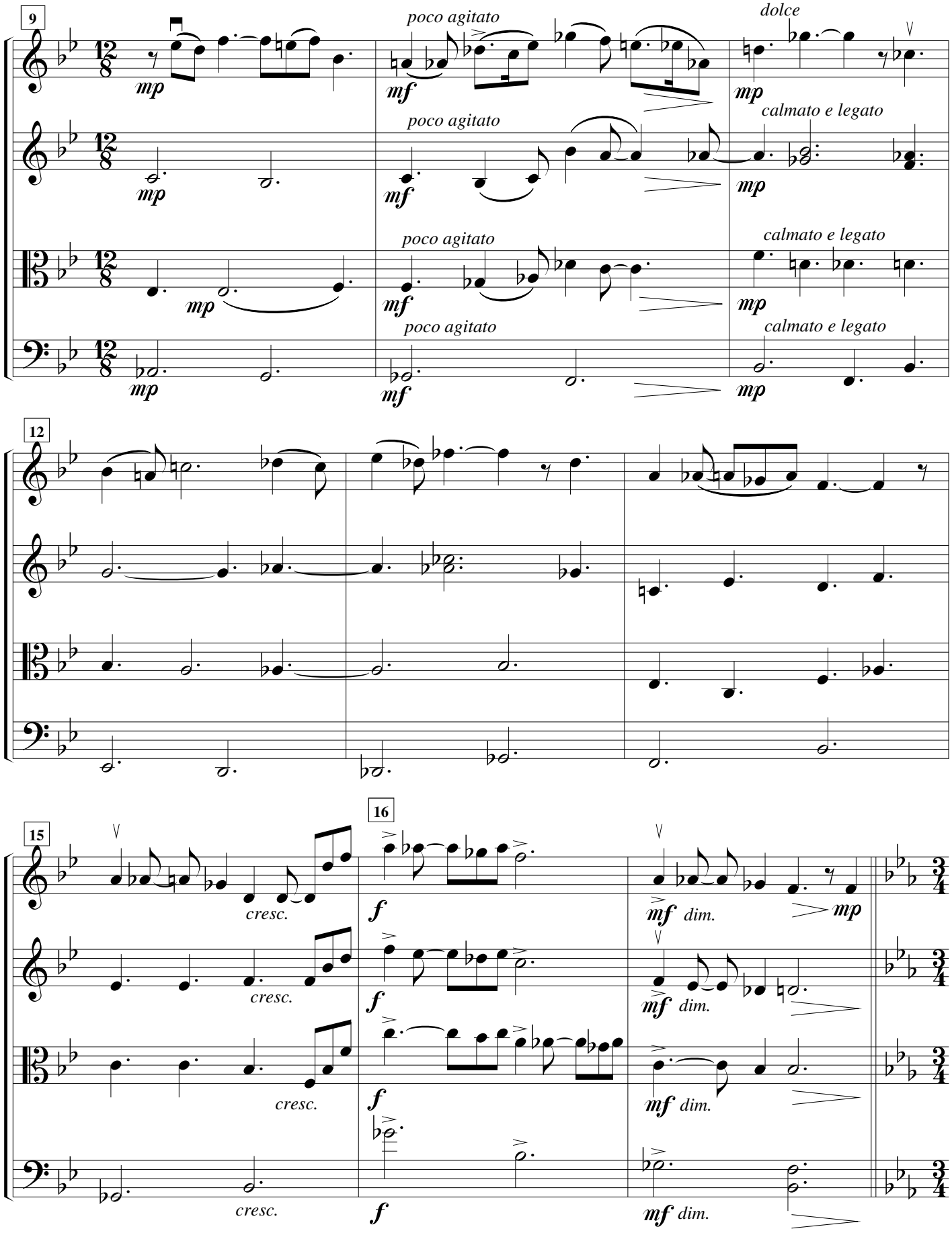

12
poco agitato
mf
f
mp
15
p
18
poco marcato
quietly

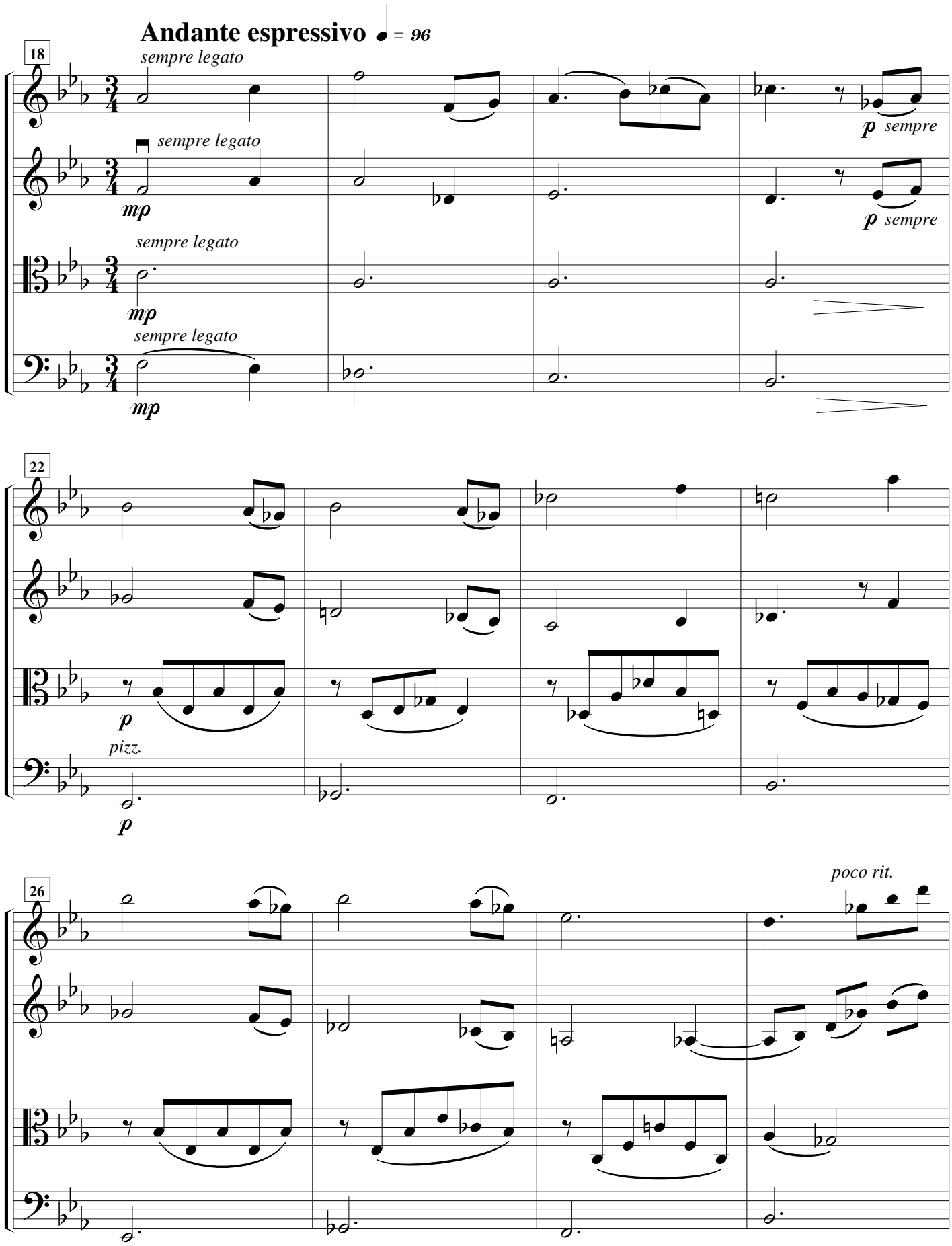

21
pp
mp
24
rubato ed espressivo
p
mp
27
pp

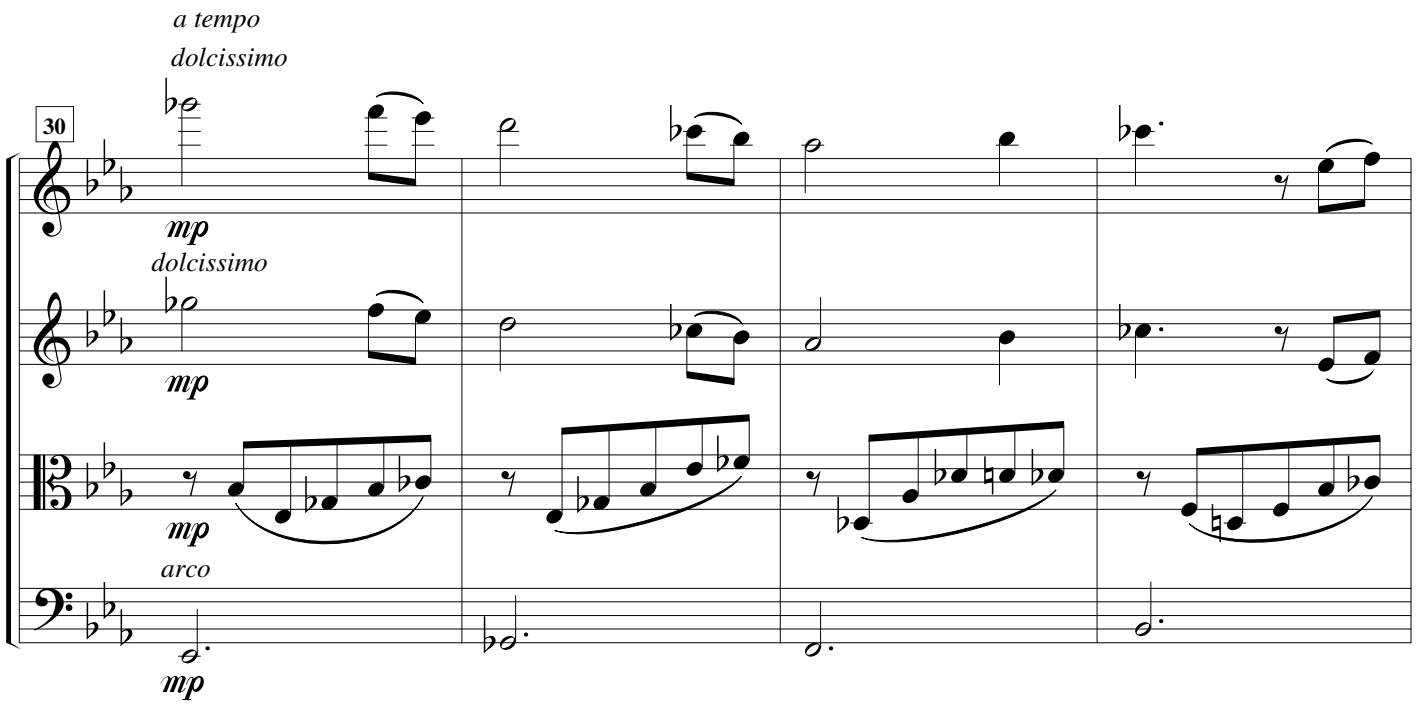

30
mp
mp
mp
sffz
arco
pizz.
secco
f
sffz
arco
pizz.
secco
f
sffz
33
dim.
mp
mp
sffz
arco
pizz.
mf
sffz
mp
arco
pizz.
mf
sffz
mp
dim.
sffz
mp
35
p
p
p
pp
pp
pp

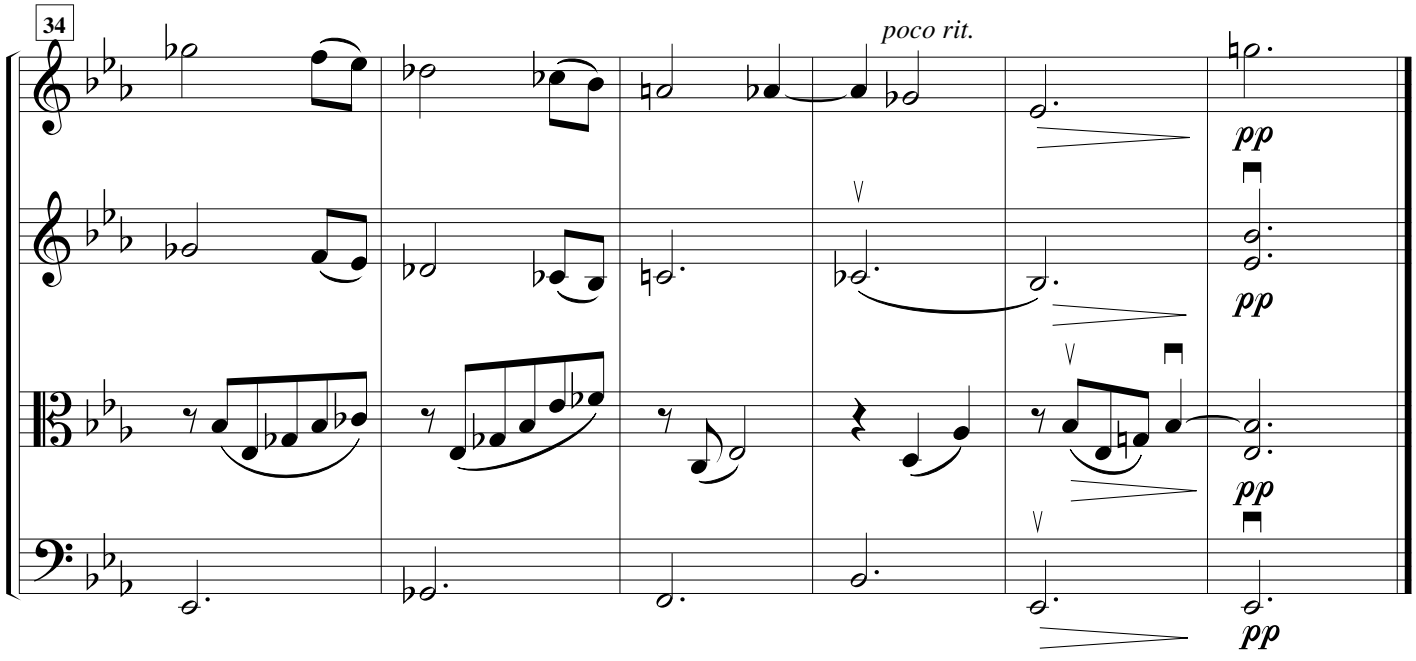
3. Arioso (Poem with a Moon)



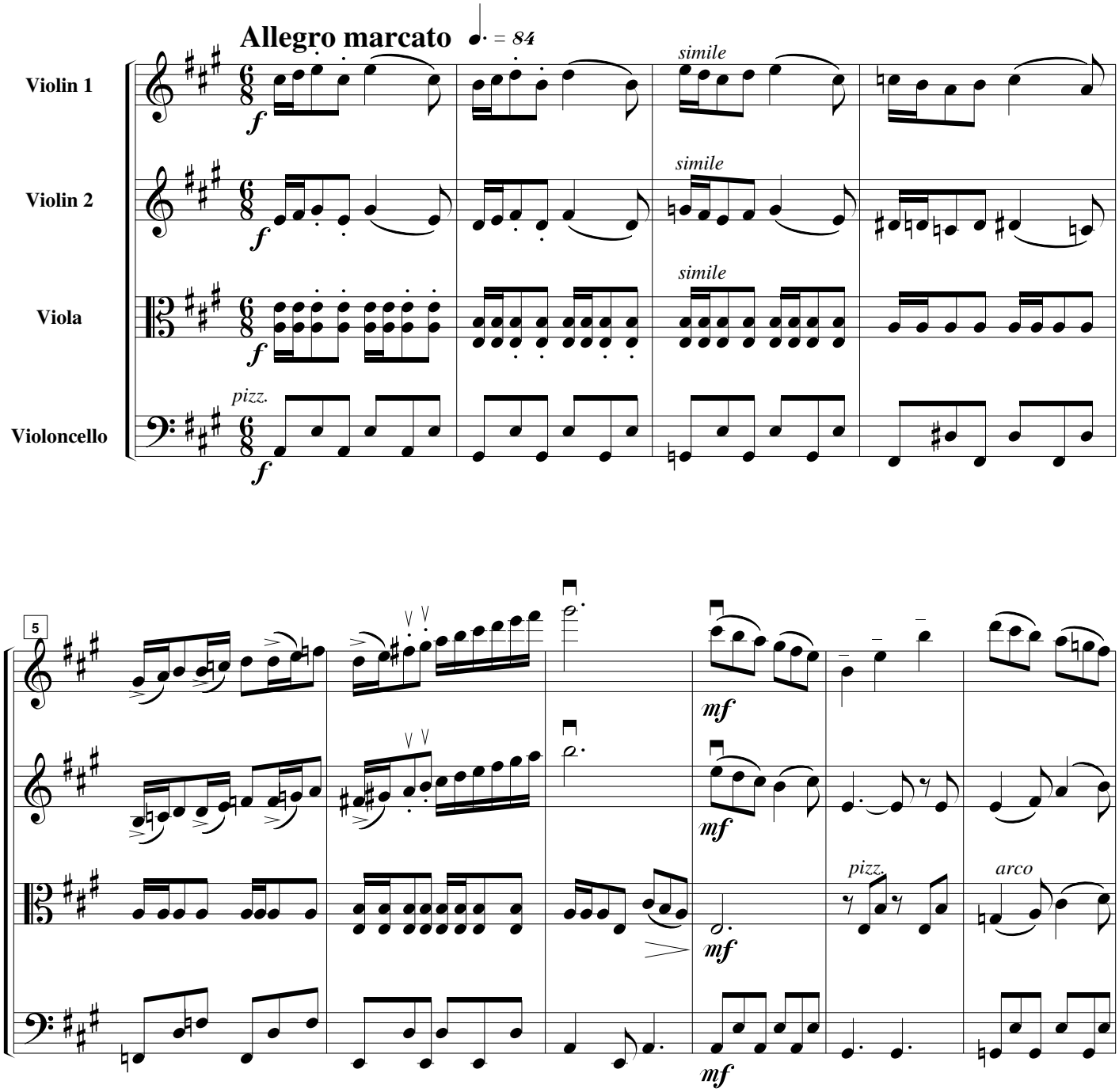

9
poco agitato
dolce
calmato e legato
12
15
16
cresc.
dim.

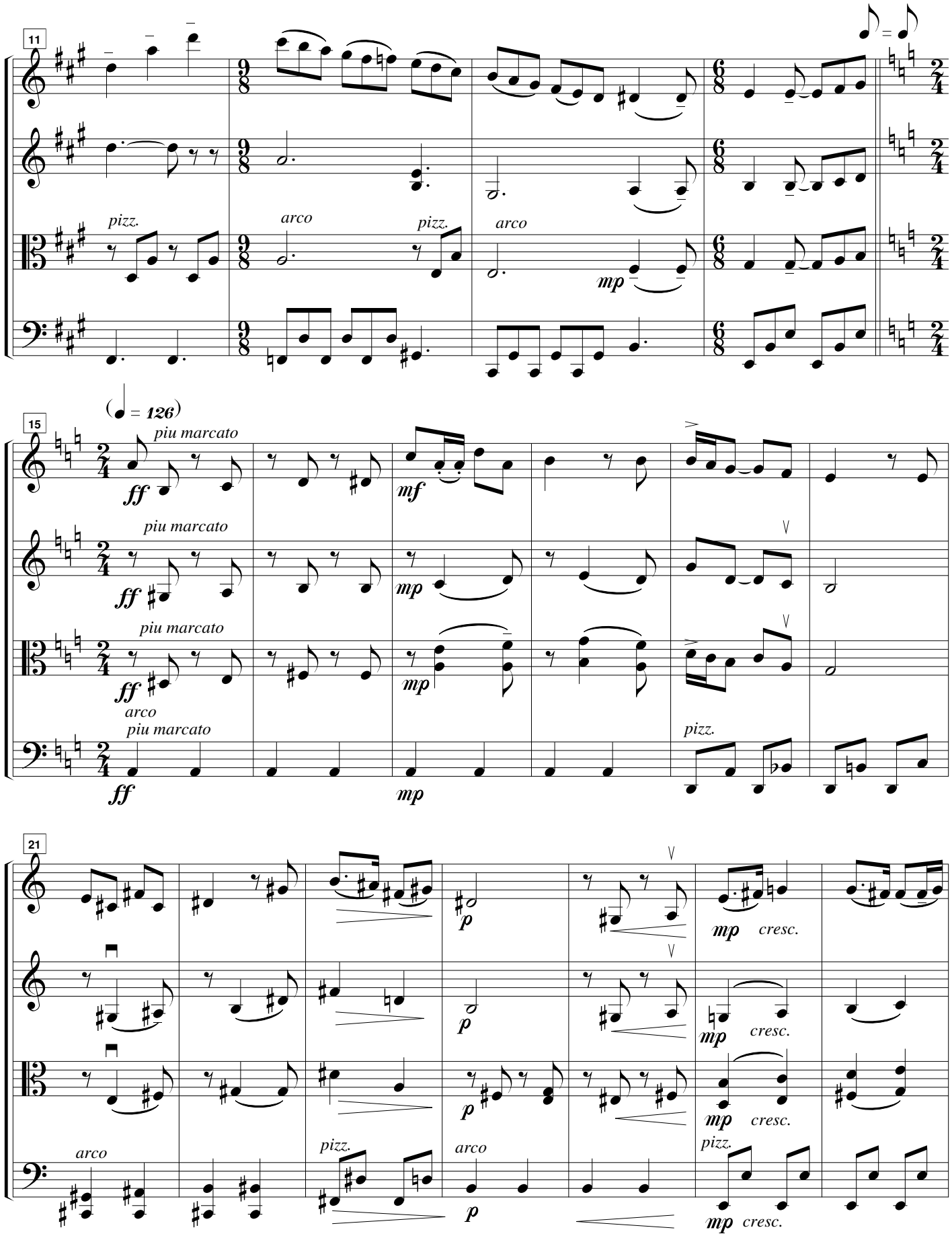

Andante espressivo ♩ = 96
18
sempre legato
sempre legato
mp
sempre legato
mp
sempre legato
mp
p sempre
p sempre
22
p
pizz.
p
26
poco rit.

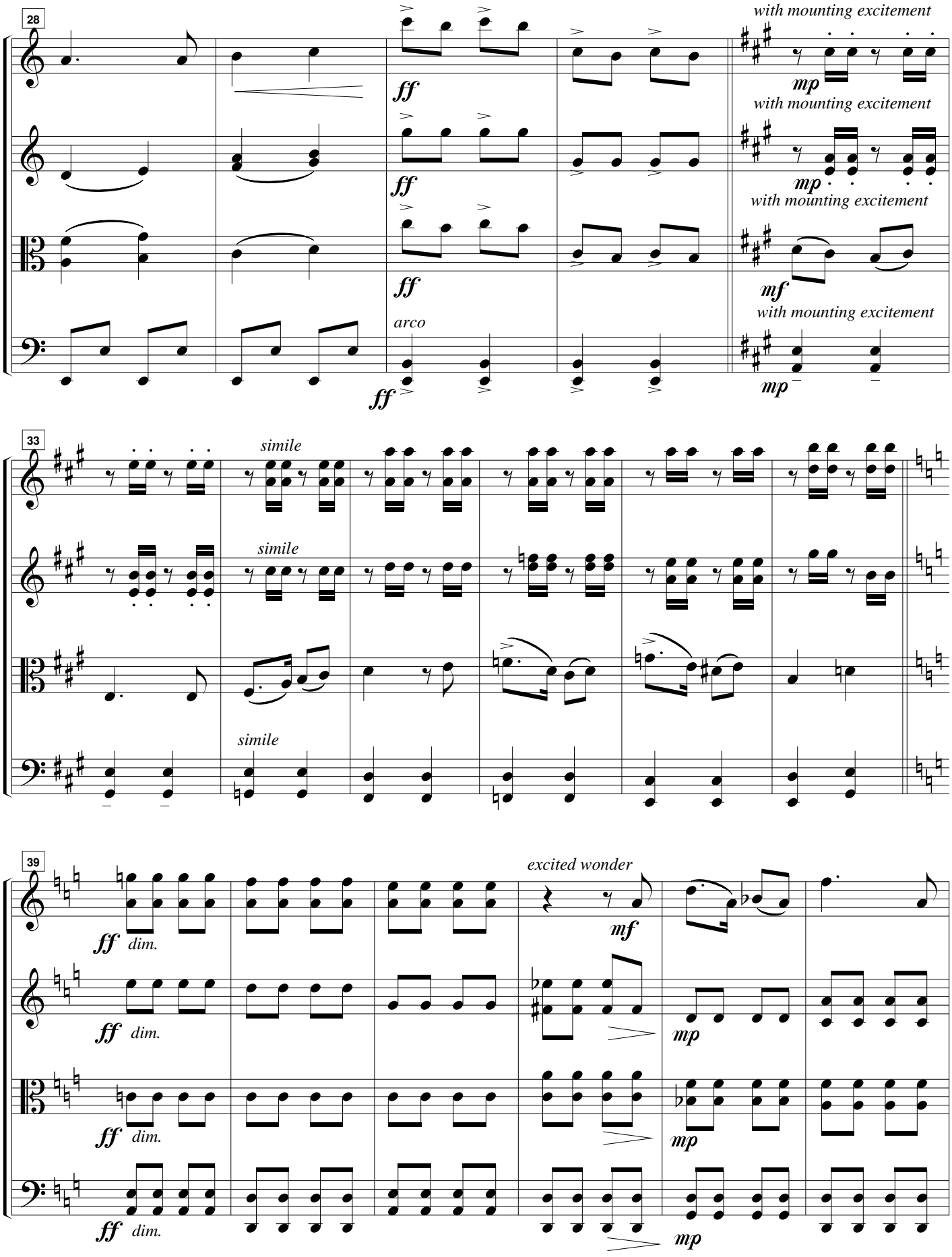

a tempo
dolcissimo
30
mp
dolcissimo
mp
mp
arco
mp

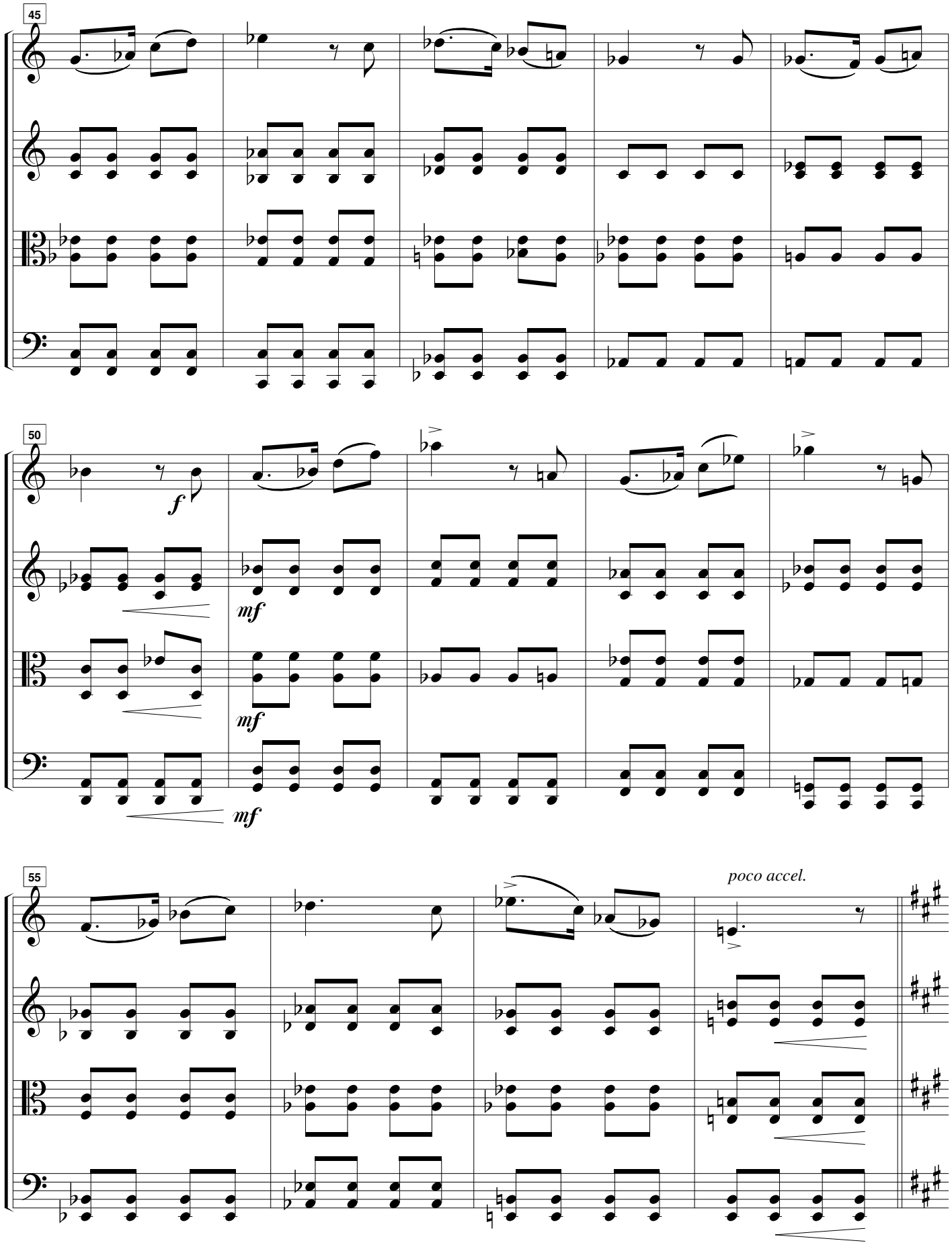

34
poco rit.
pp
pp
pp
pp

4. Toccata (Night Journey)

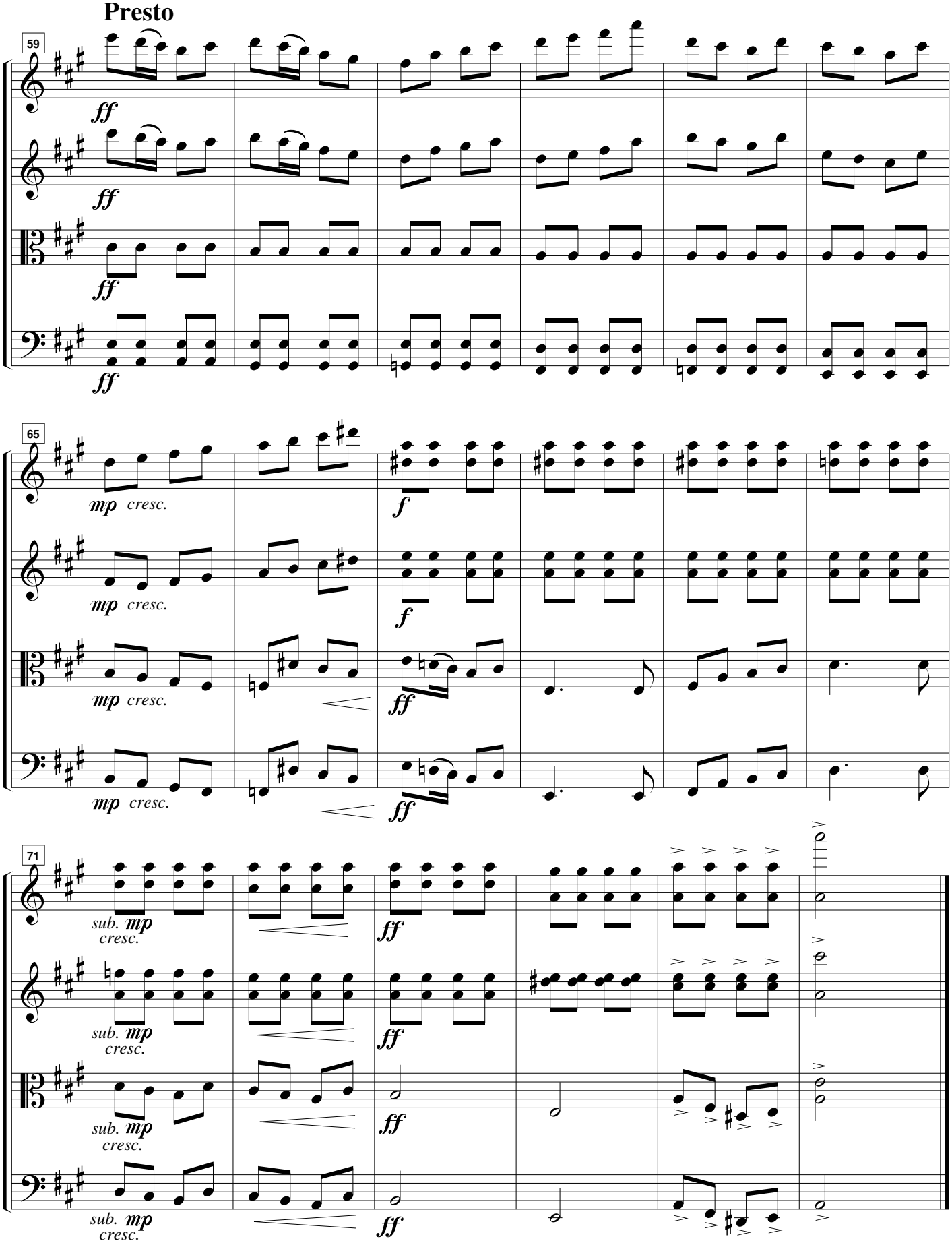



11
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
mp
15
(♩ = 126)
piu marcato
ff
mf
piu marcato
ff
mp
piu marcato
ff
mp
arco
piu marcato
ff
mp
pizz.
21
p
mp cresc.
p
mp cresc.
p
mp cresc.
arco
pizz.
arco
p
pizz.
mp cresc.


28
with mounting excitement
ff
mp
with mounting excitement
ff
mp
with mounting excitement
ff
mf
arco
with mounting excitement
ff
mp
33
simile
simile
simile
39
excited wonder
ff dim.
mf
ff dim.
mp
ff dim.
mp
ff dim.
mp


45
50
f
mf
mf
mf
55
poco accel.

Presto


59
ff
ff
ff
ff
65
mp cresc.
mp cresc.
mp cresc.
mp cresc.
f
f
ff
ff
71
sub. mp cresc.
sub. mp cresc.
sub. mp cresc.
sub. mp cresc.
ff
ff
ff
ff