COLD MOUNTAIN

Seven *Shih* for Piano Trio

BRUCE TRINKLEY

COLD MOUNTAIN

Seven *Shih* for Piano Trio

I. The Call of the Mountain
II. Ascending the Mountain
III. Dance of the Night Creatures on the Mountain
IV. Song of Nature
V. A Higher Peak is Seen Through the Mist and Fog
VI. Light and Silence
VII. Return from the Summit

The inspiration for *Cold Mountain* comes from the writings of Han-shan, a Tang dynasty poet and nature mystic who probably lived in the late eighth and early ninth centuries. Han-shan (whose name is eponymous with that of his mountain retreat) wrote of the mysterious Cold Mountain where he lived and taught. Though not programmatic, the work examines a different aspect of Han-shan's art in each movement so that the trio functions both as absolute music and as a gesture of appreciation for the genius of Chinese art.

Two additional quotations by other Chinese artists inspired sections of *Cold Mountain.* The romantic melody in the middle of the sixth movement was inspired by the following:

> *The atmosphere is misty on the eastern mountain;*
> *There is a palace situated on the top.*

And the following quotation inspired a number of motifs in the trio:

> *I just learned beyond the five lofty summits*
> *There are other noble mountains.*

Like *Shih,* the traditional Chinese verse form, each movement is concise and evocative. Performers should keep in mind that this music does not dwell on overexplanation, but gestures towards its goal with economy and clarity.

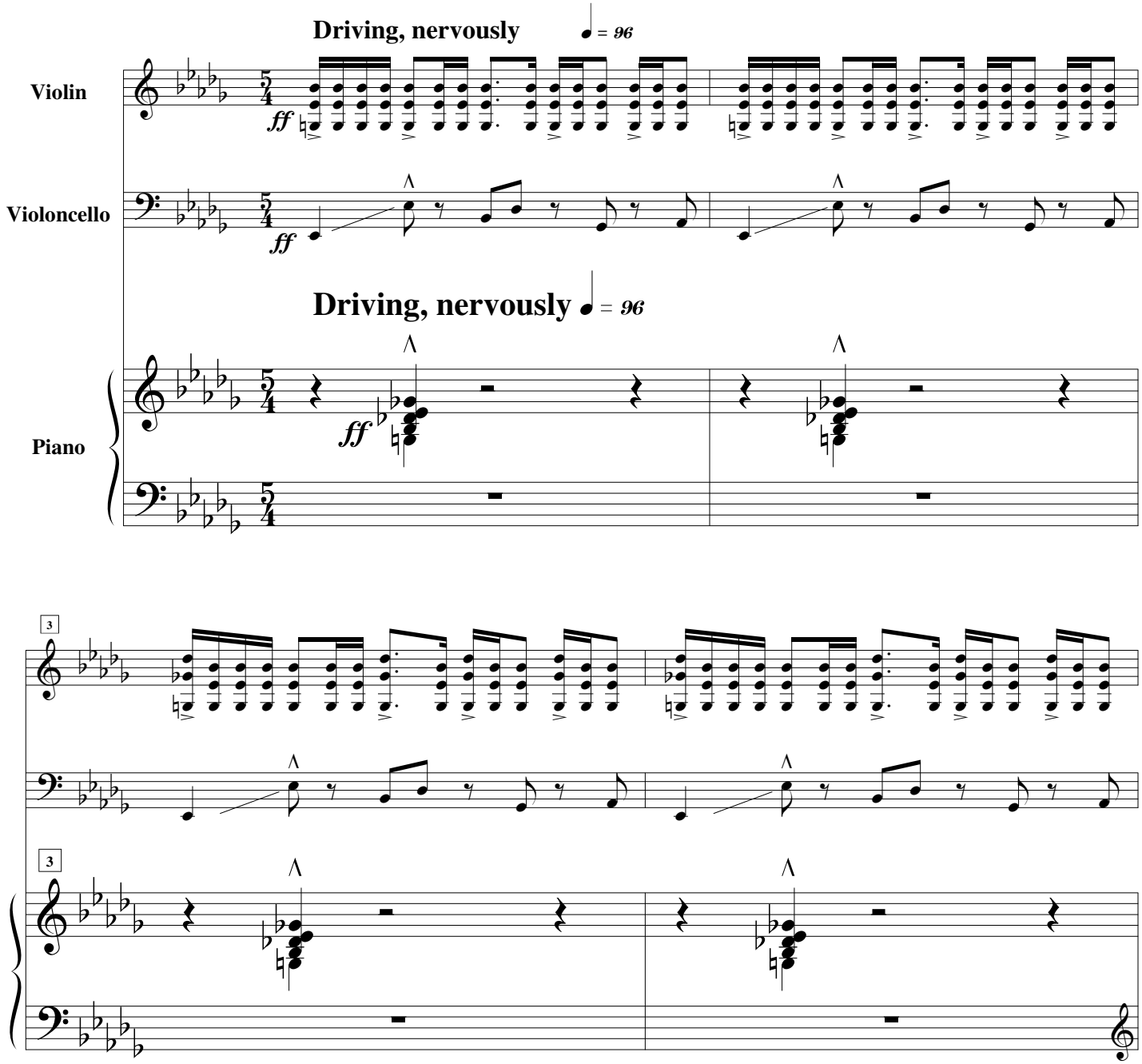
Cold Mountain was commissioned by the Castalia Trio for their concert tour to China in May of 1998. The work is dedicated with gratitude, admiration and affection to the members of the Castalia Trio: James Lyon, violin; Kim Cook, violoncello; and Marylène Dosse, piano.

Bruce Trinkley, State College, Pennsylvania, April 1998

PERFORMANCE NOTE

The seven movements should be played without a break. For the fifth movement, the violinist and cellist should, as far as possible, play into the body of the piano to generate sympathetic vibrations from the piano strings. This can be more easily accomplished by removing the lid from the piano.

I. The Call of the Mountain



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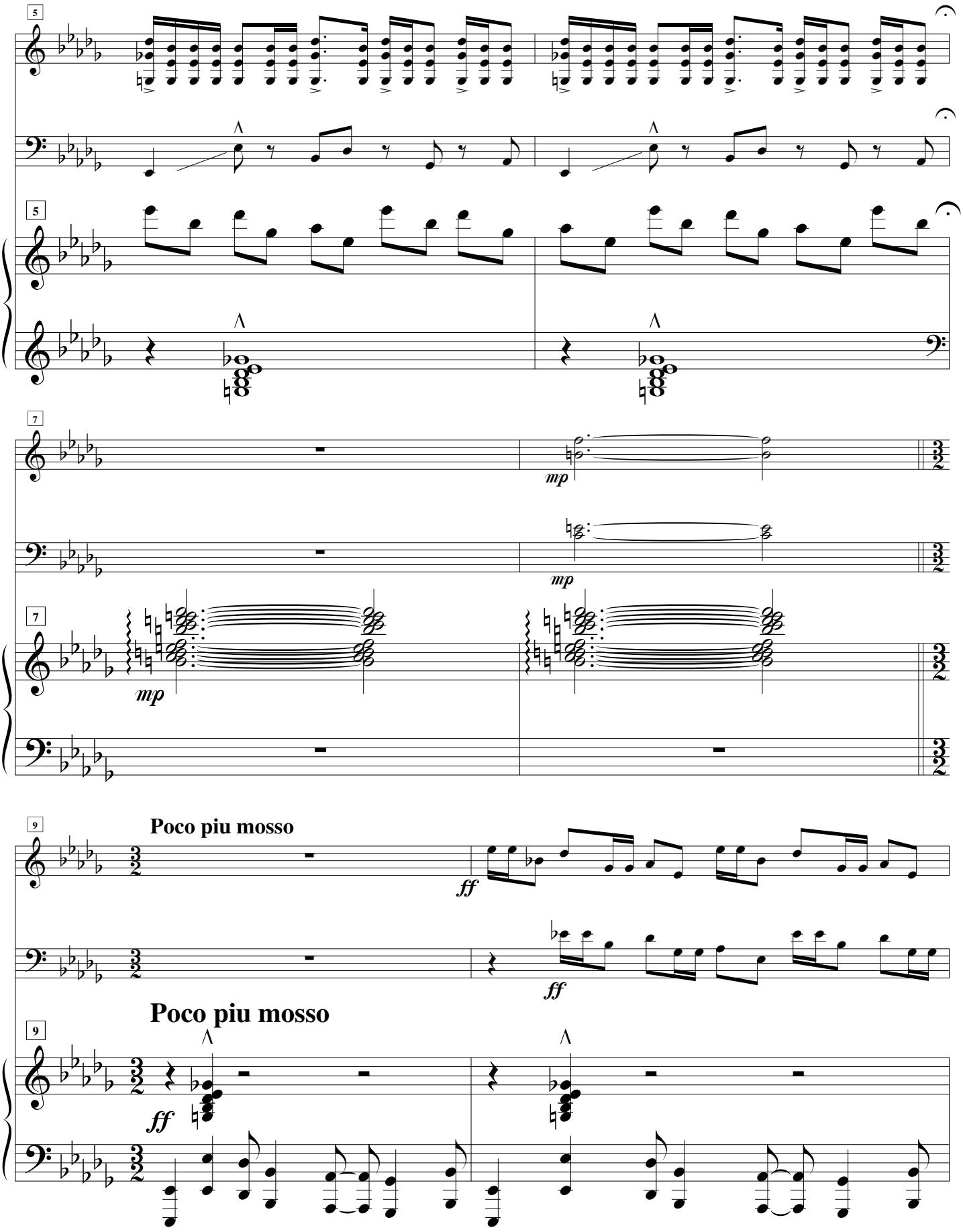
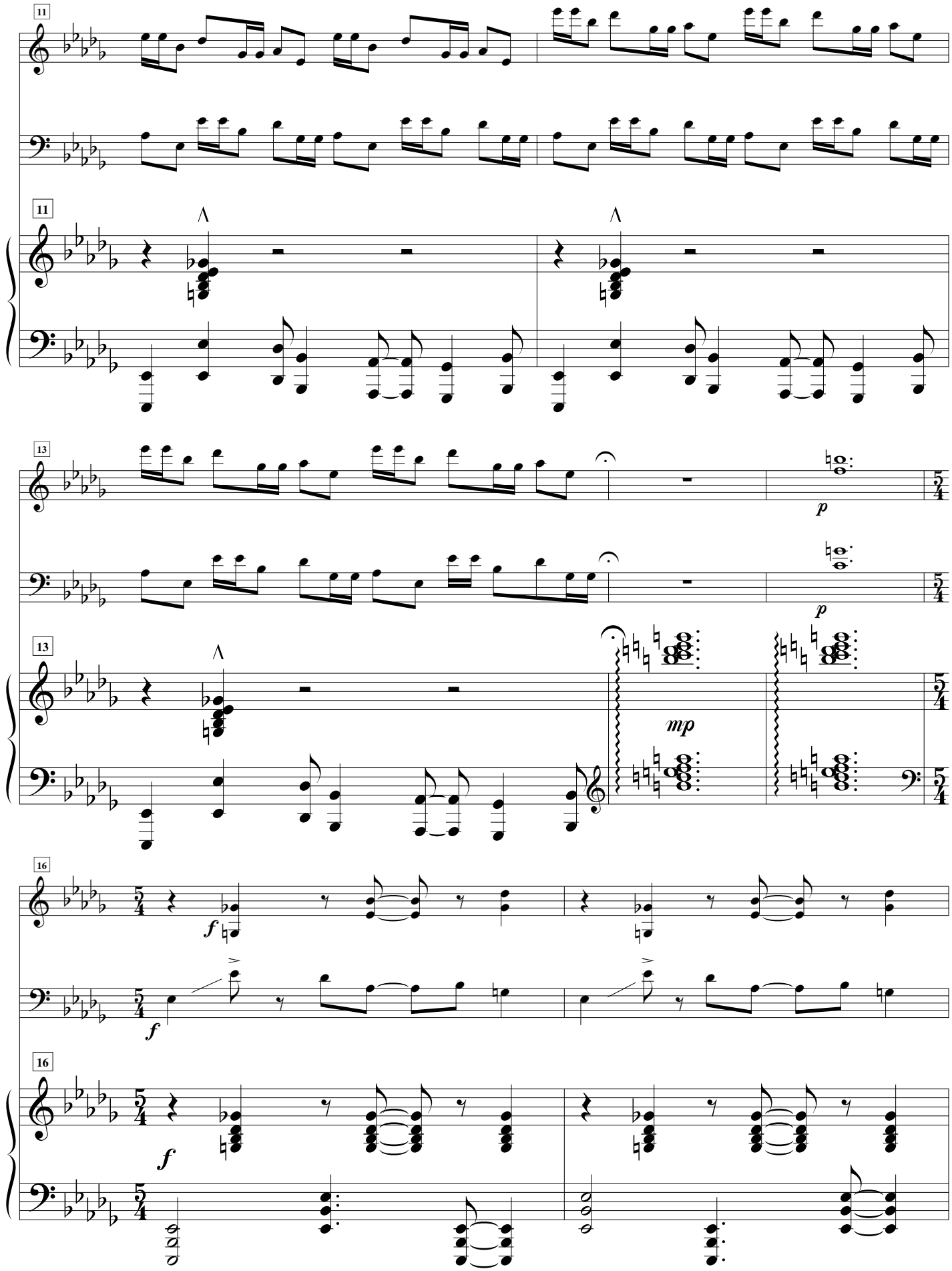
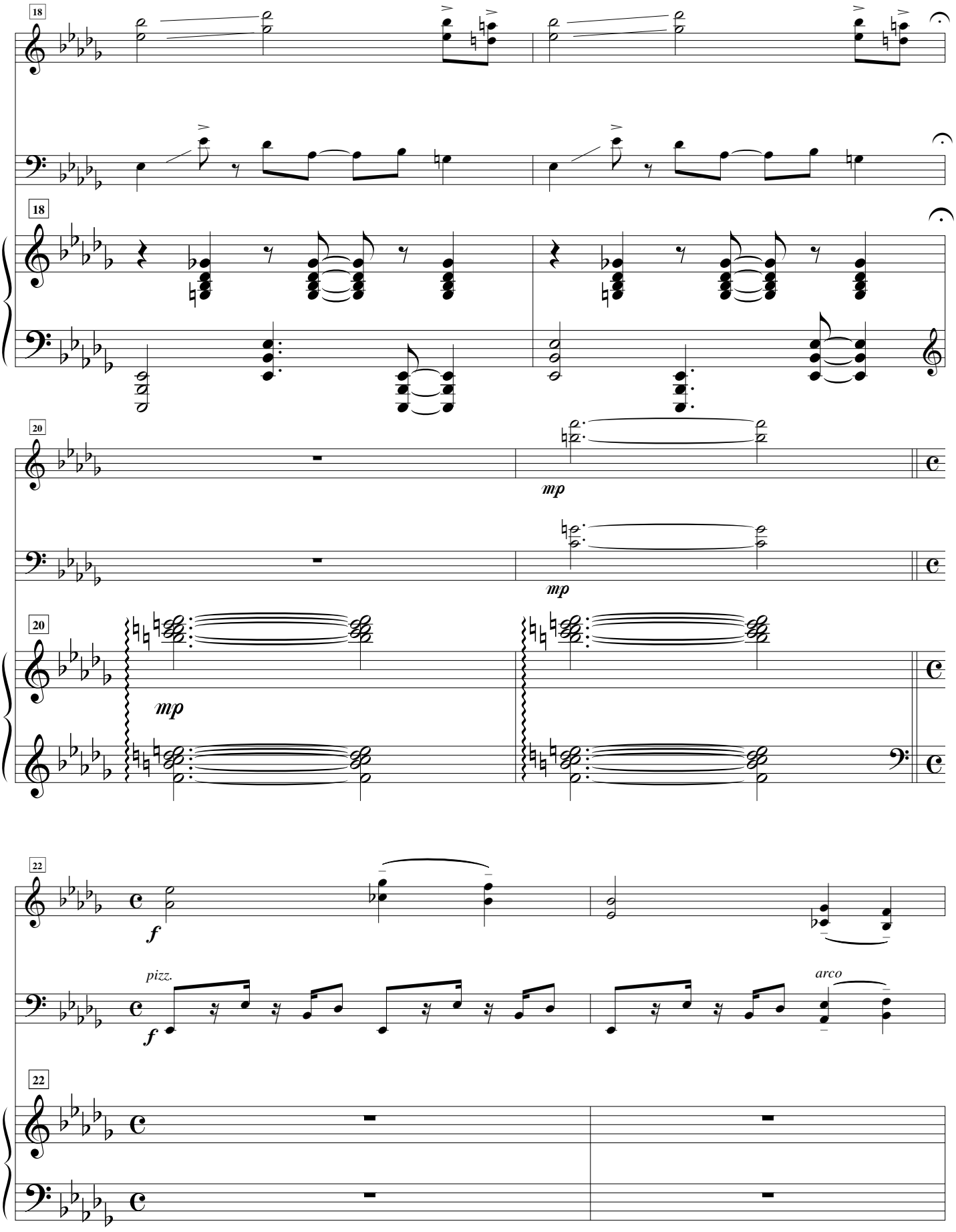
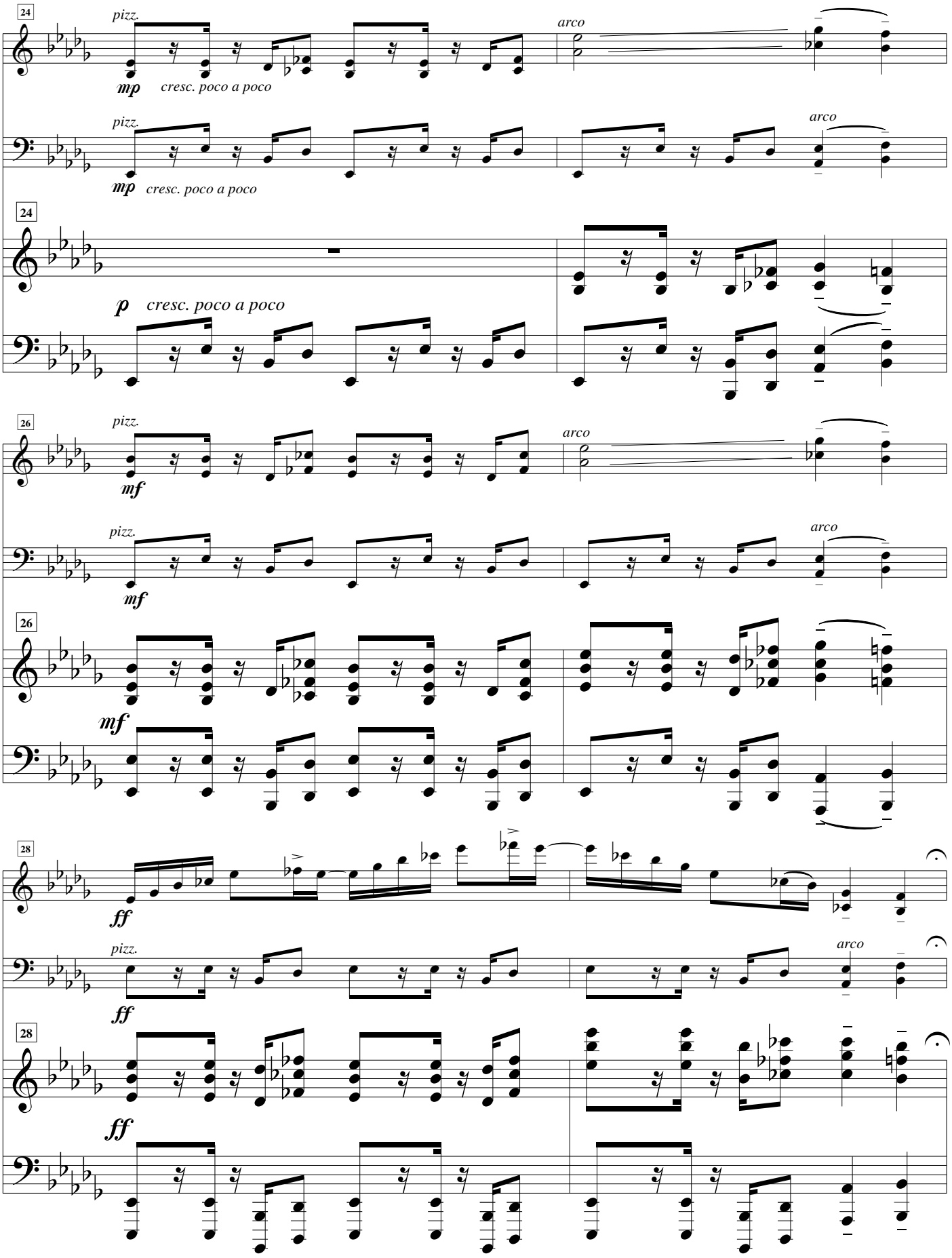
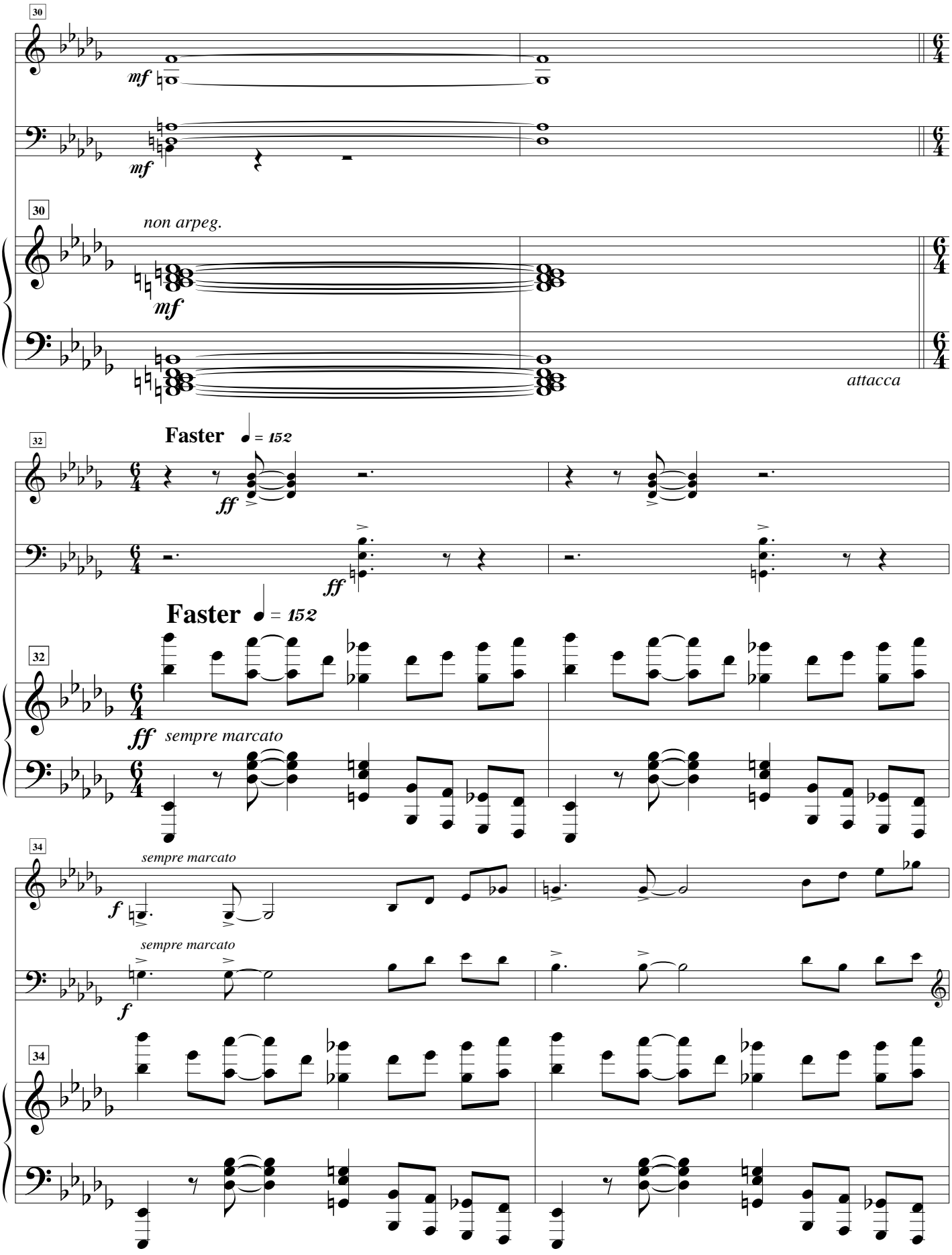
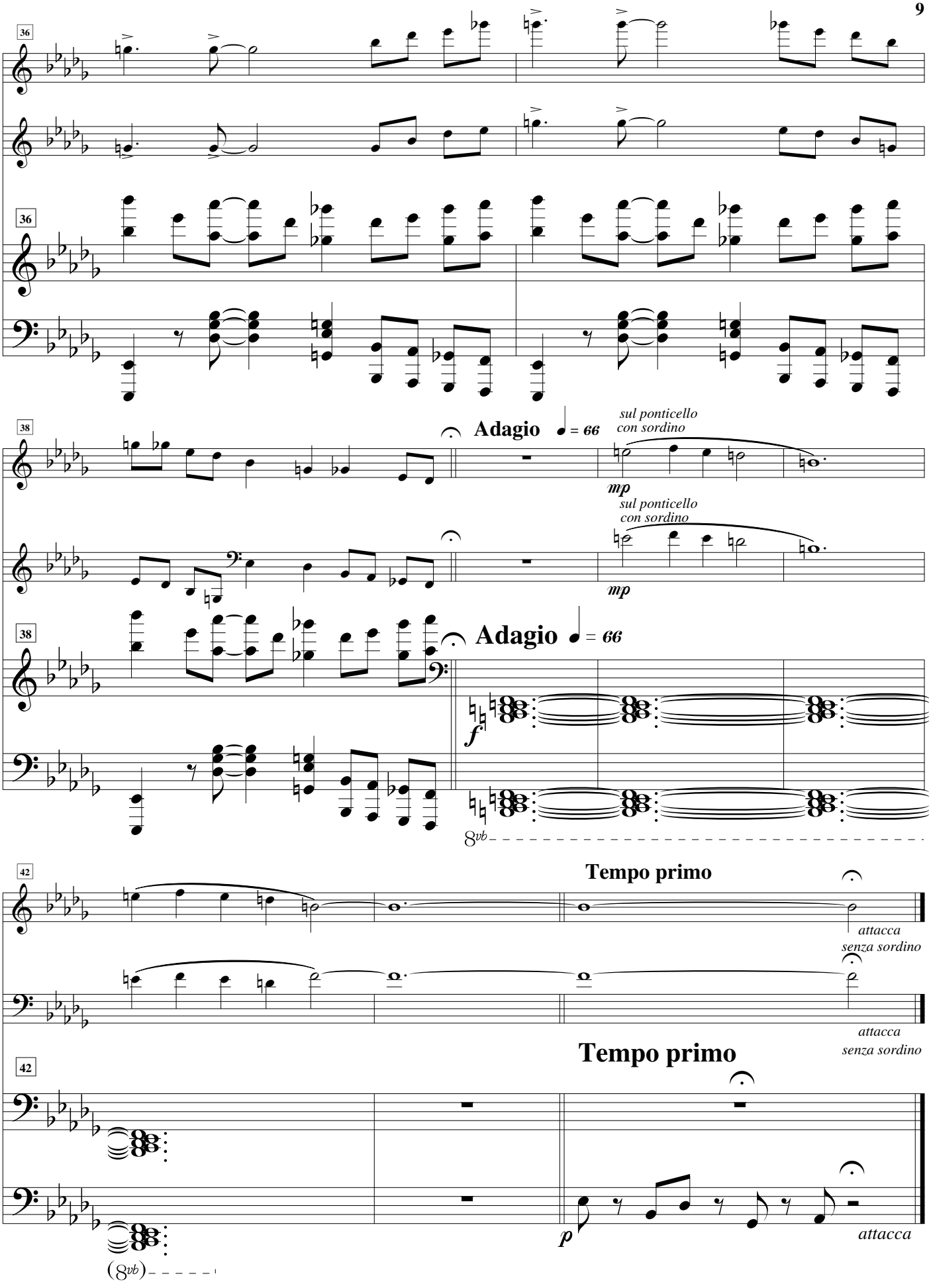

5
5
7
mp
mp
7
mp
9
Poco piu mosso
ff
ff
9
Poco piu mosso
ff


11
11
13
p
p
13
mp
16
f
f
16
f

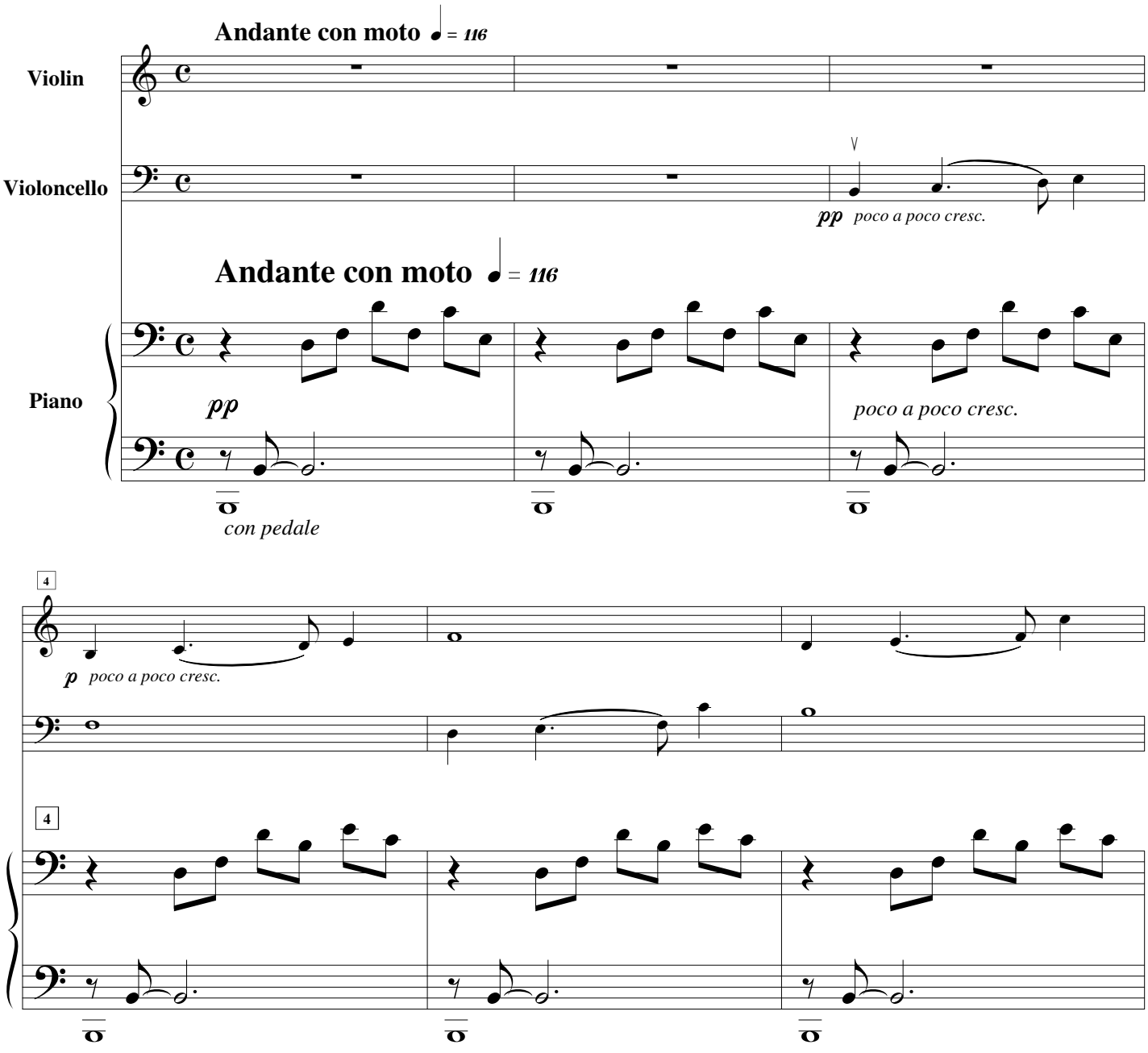

18
18
20
mp
mp
20
mp
22
f
pizz.
f
arco
22

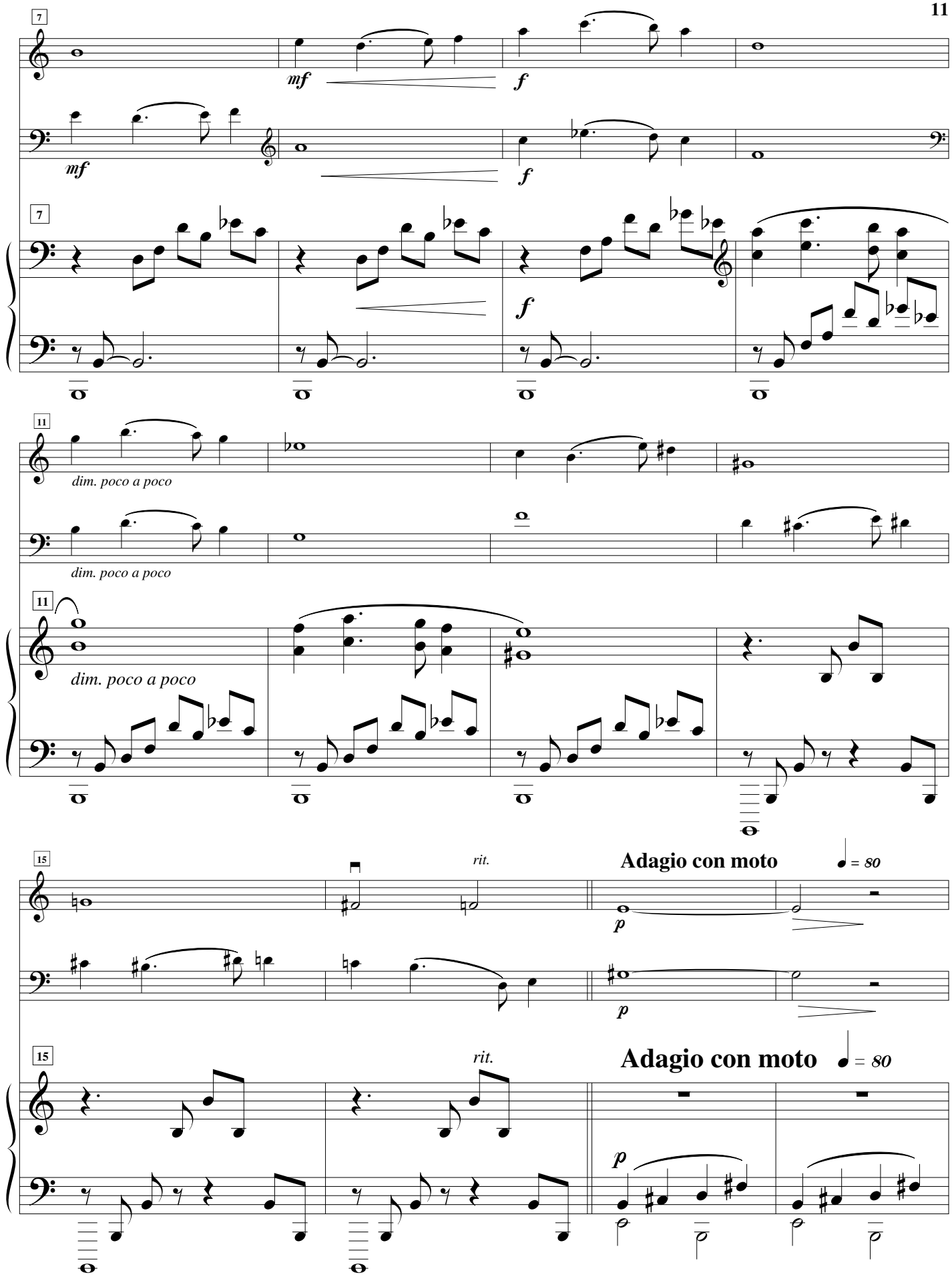

24
pizz.
mp
cresc. poco a poco
arco
24
p
cresc. poco a poco
26
pizz.
mf
arco
26
mf
28
ff
pizz.
arco
28
ff

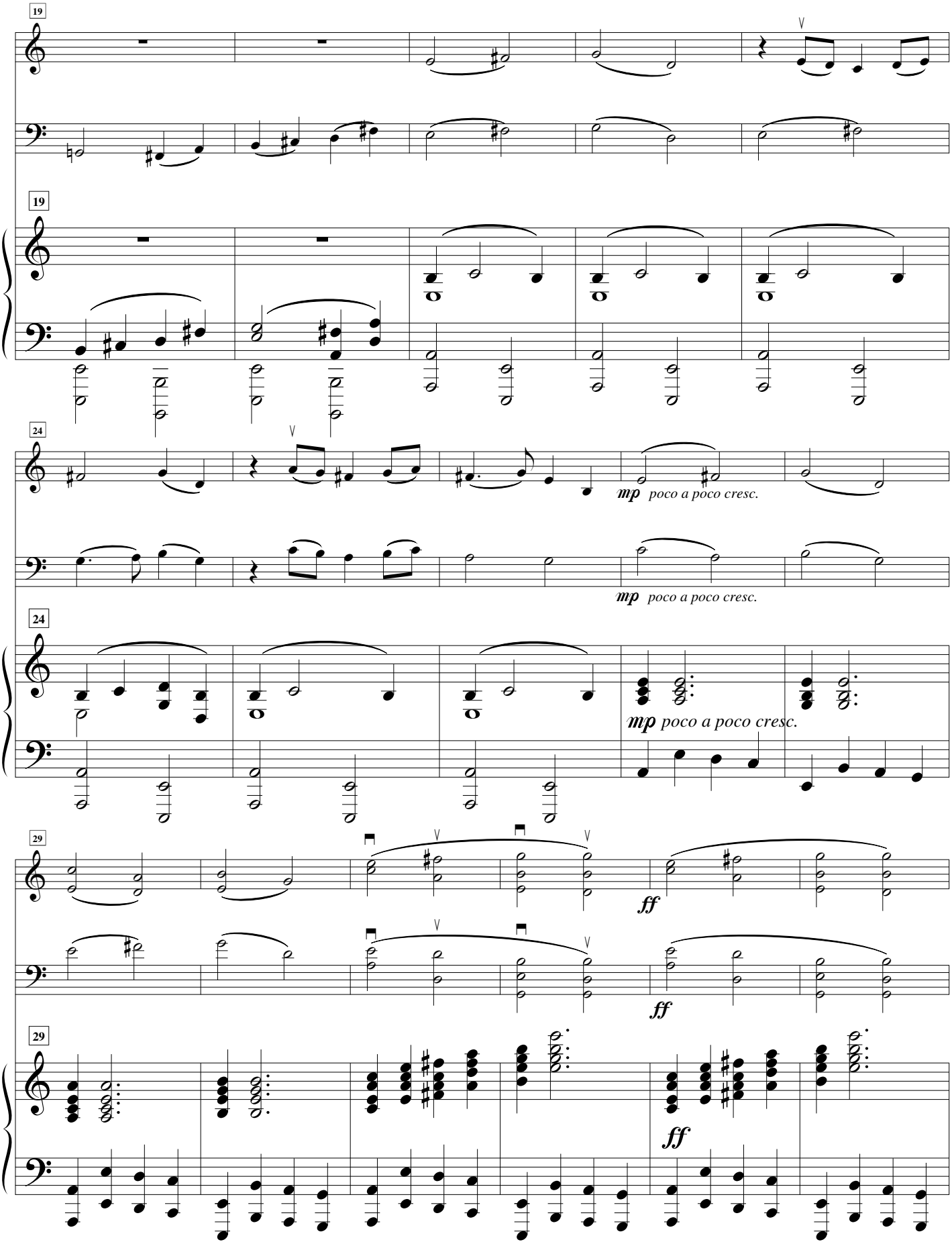

30
mf
mf
30
non arpeg.
mf
attacca
32
Faster
= 152
ff
ff
32
Faster
= 152
ff
sempre marcato
34
sempre marcato
f
sempre marcato
f
34

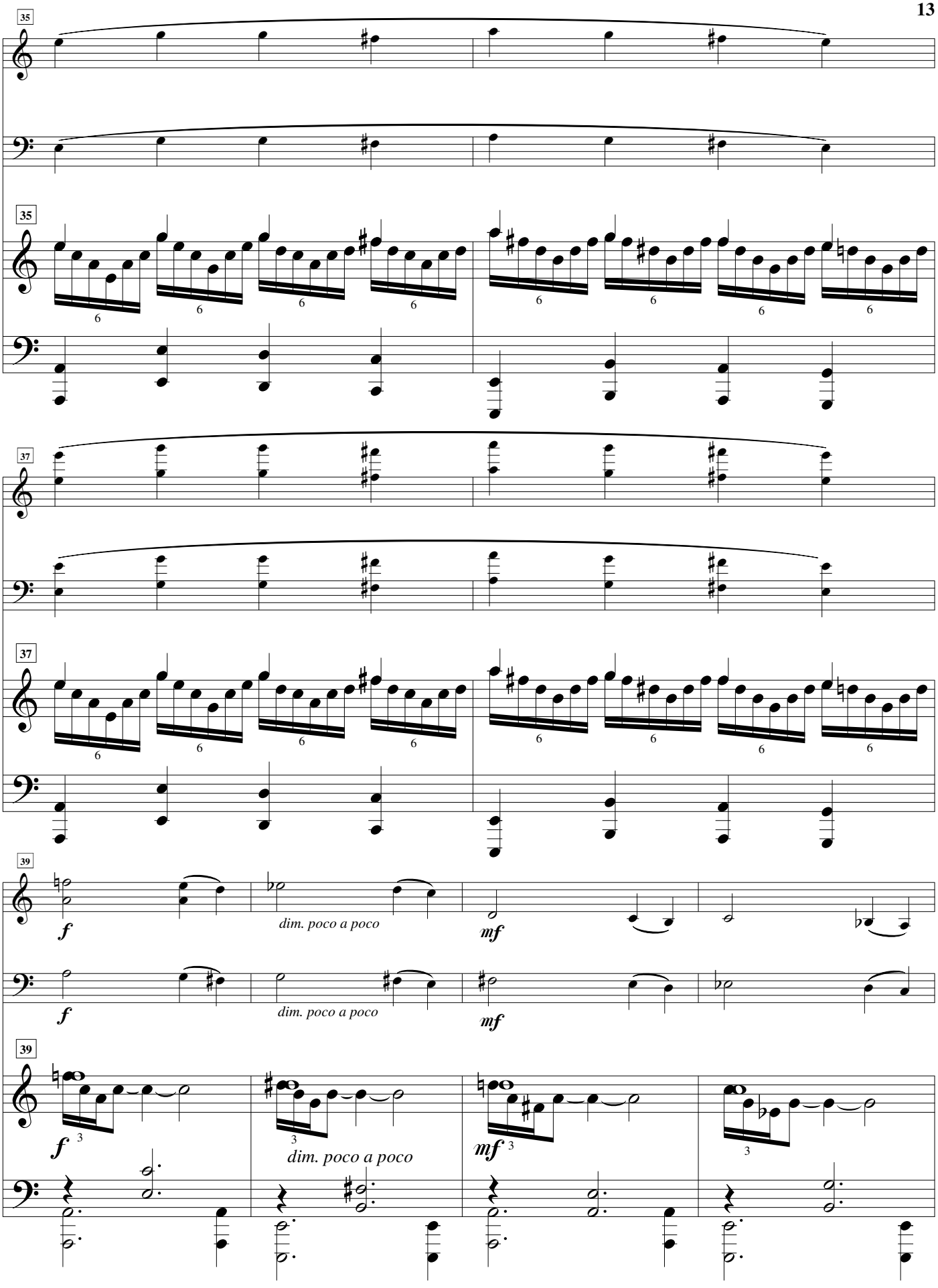

36
36
38
Adagio ♩ = 66
sul ponticello
con sordino
mp
sul ponticello
con sordino
mp
38
Adagio ♩ = 66
f
8vb
42
Tempo primo
attacca
senza sordino
attacca
senza sordino
42
Tempo primo
p
attacca
(8vb)

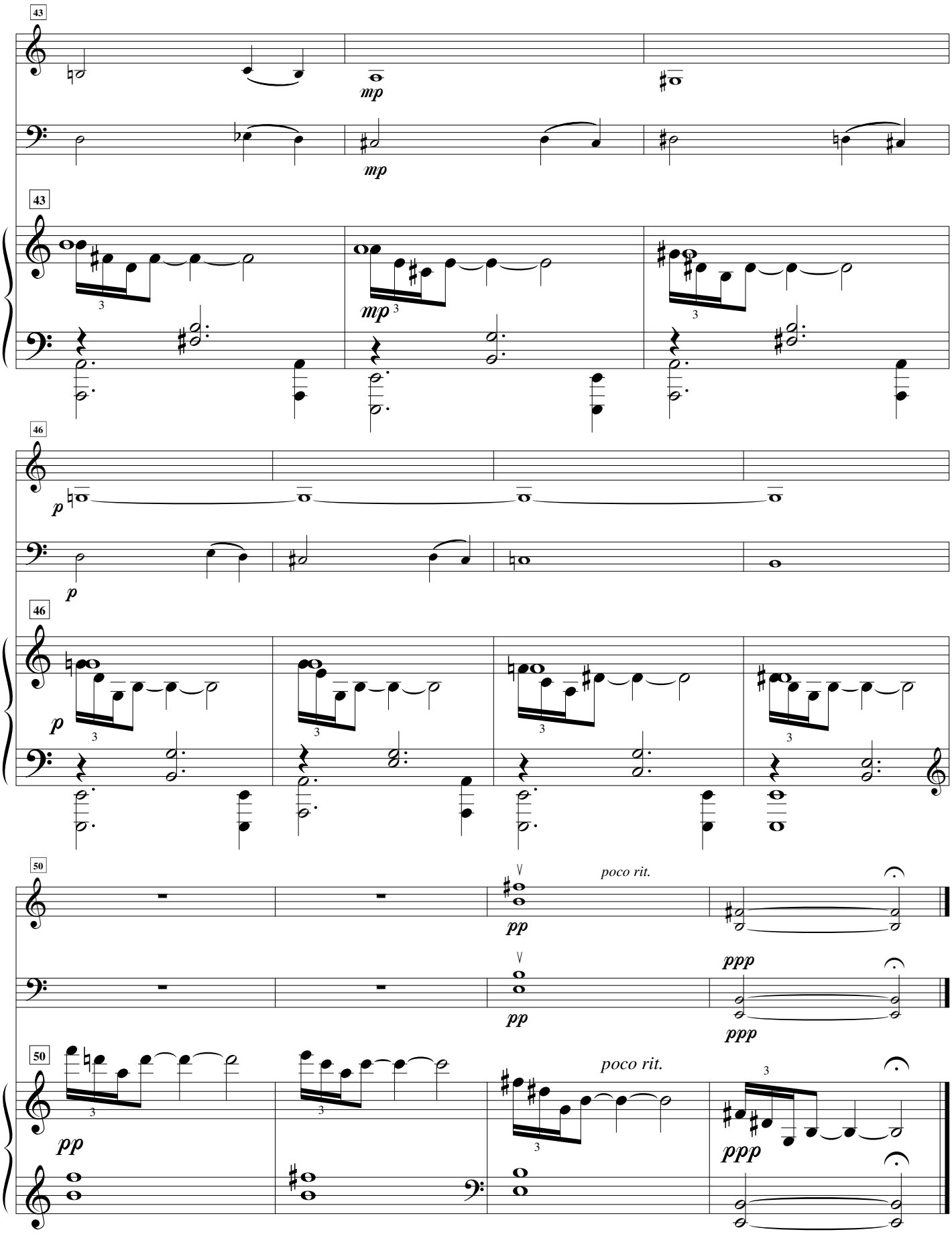
II. Ascending the Mountain



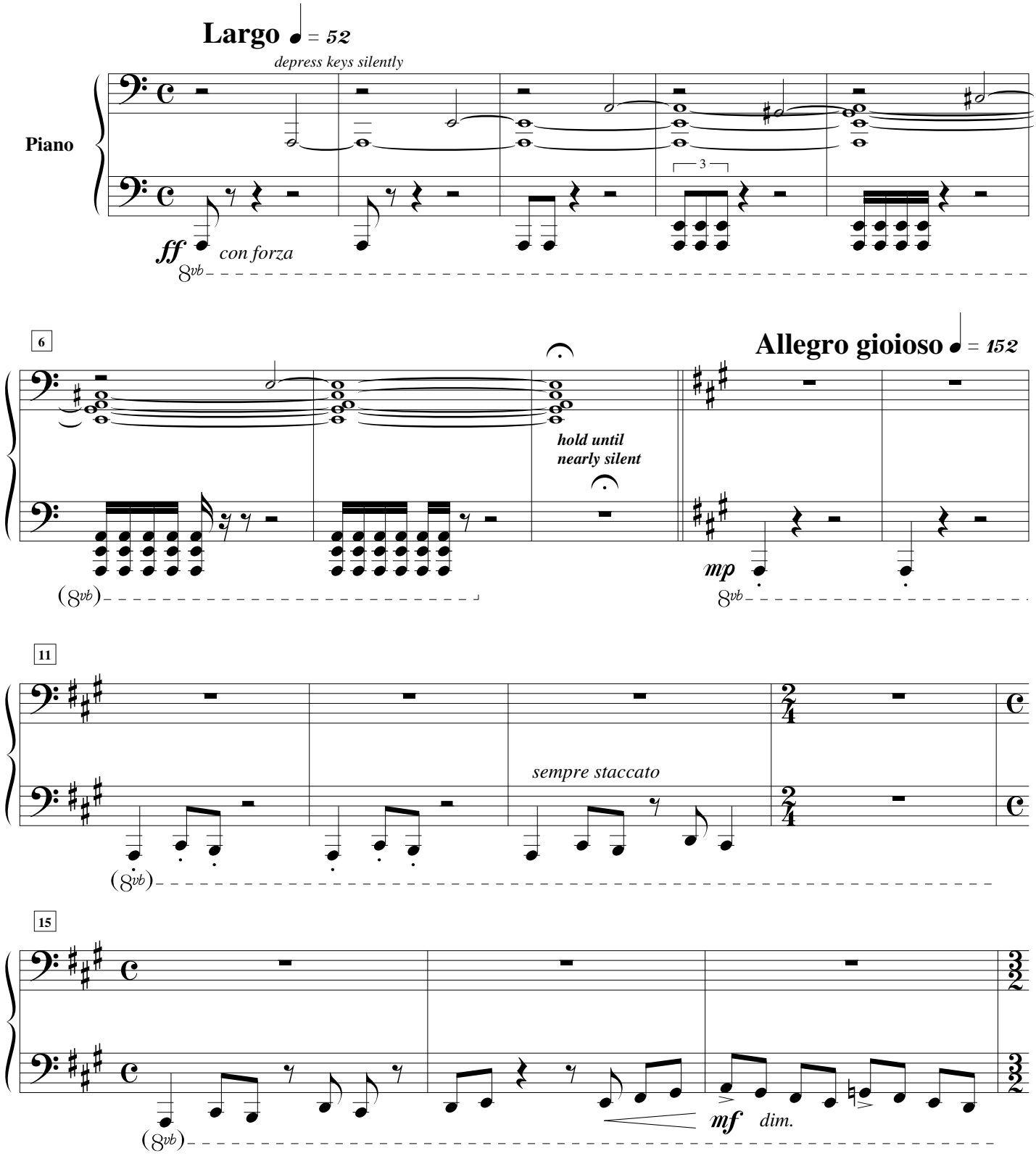

7
mf
f
mf
f
7
f
11
dim. poco a poco
dim. poco a poco
11
dim. poco a poco
15
rit.
Adagio con moto
= 80
p
p
15
rit.
Adagio con moto
= 80
p

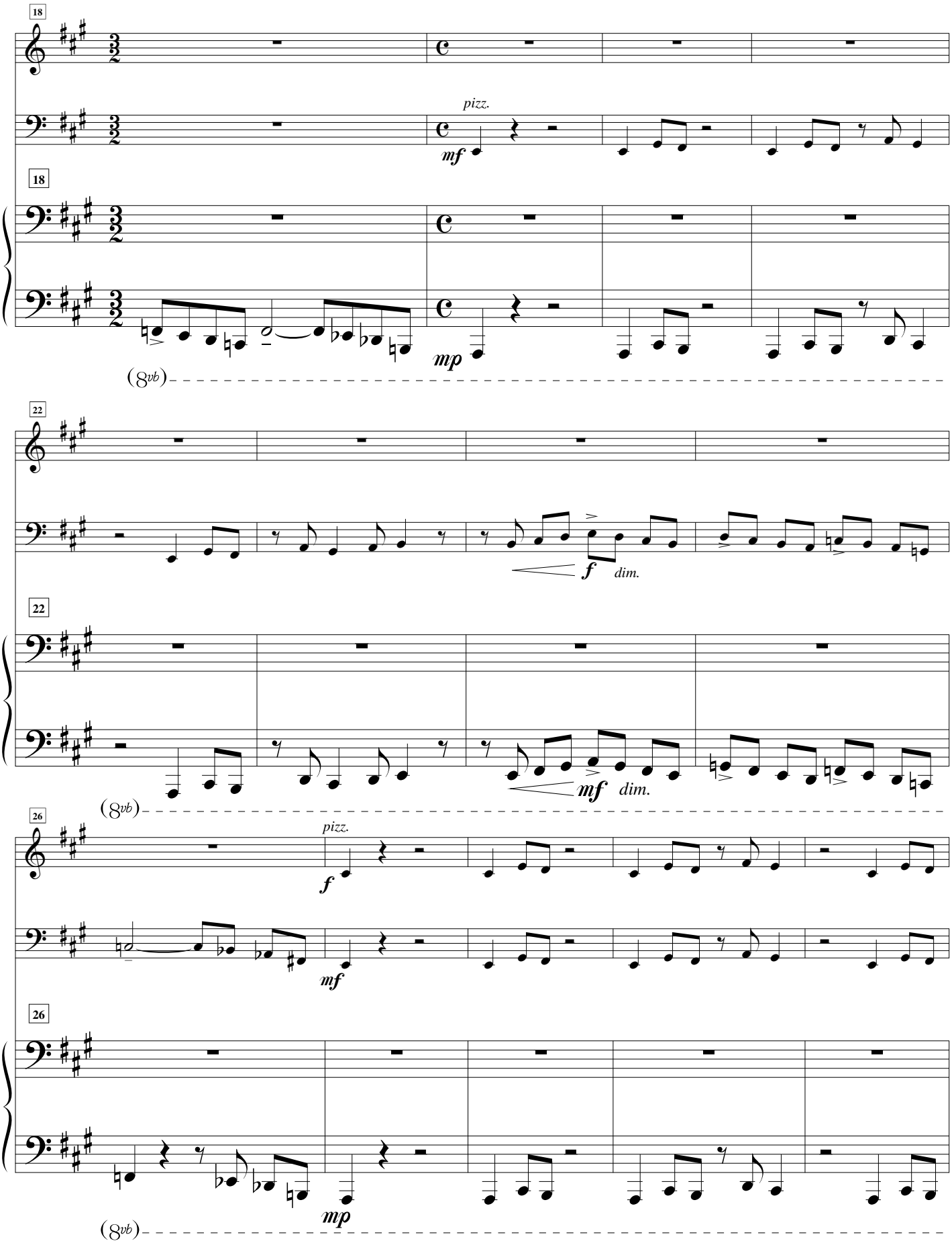

19
19
24
mp poco a poco cresc.
mp poco a poco cresc.
24
mp poco a poco cresc.
29
ff
ff
29
ff

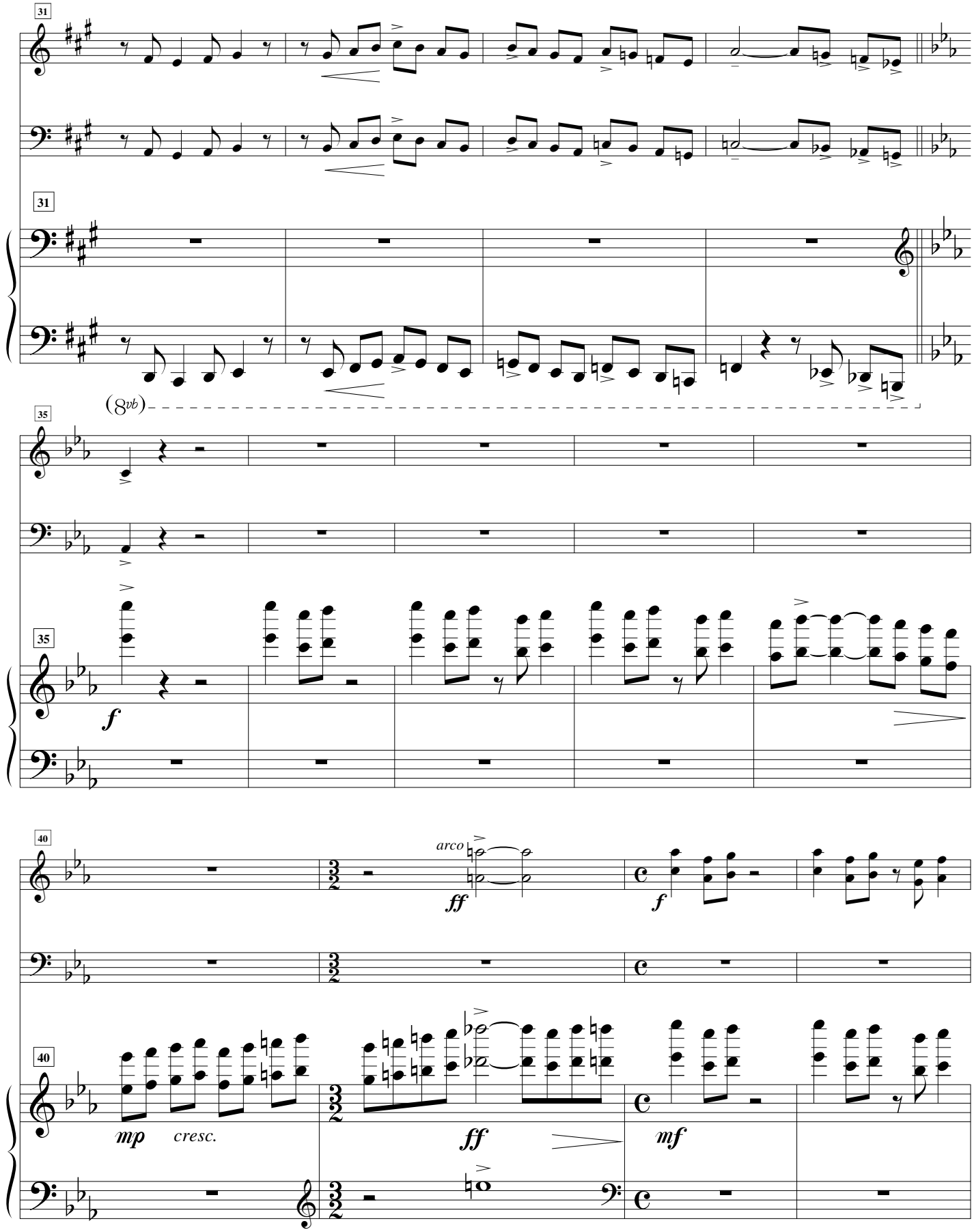

35
35
37
37
39
39
f
dim. poco a poco
mf
f
dim. poco a poco
mf
f
dim. poco a poco
mf

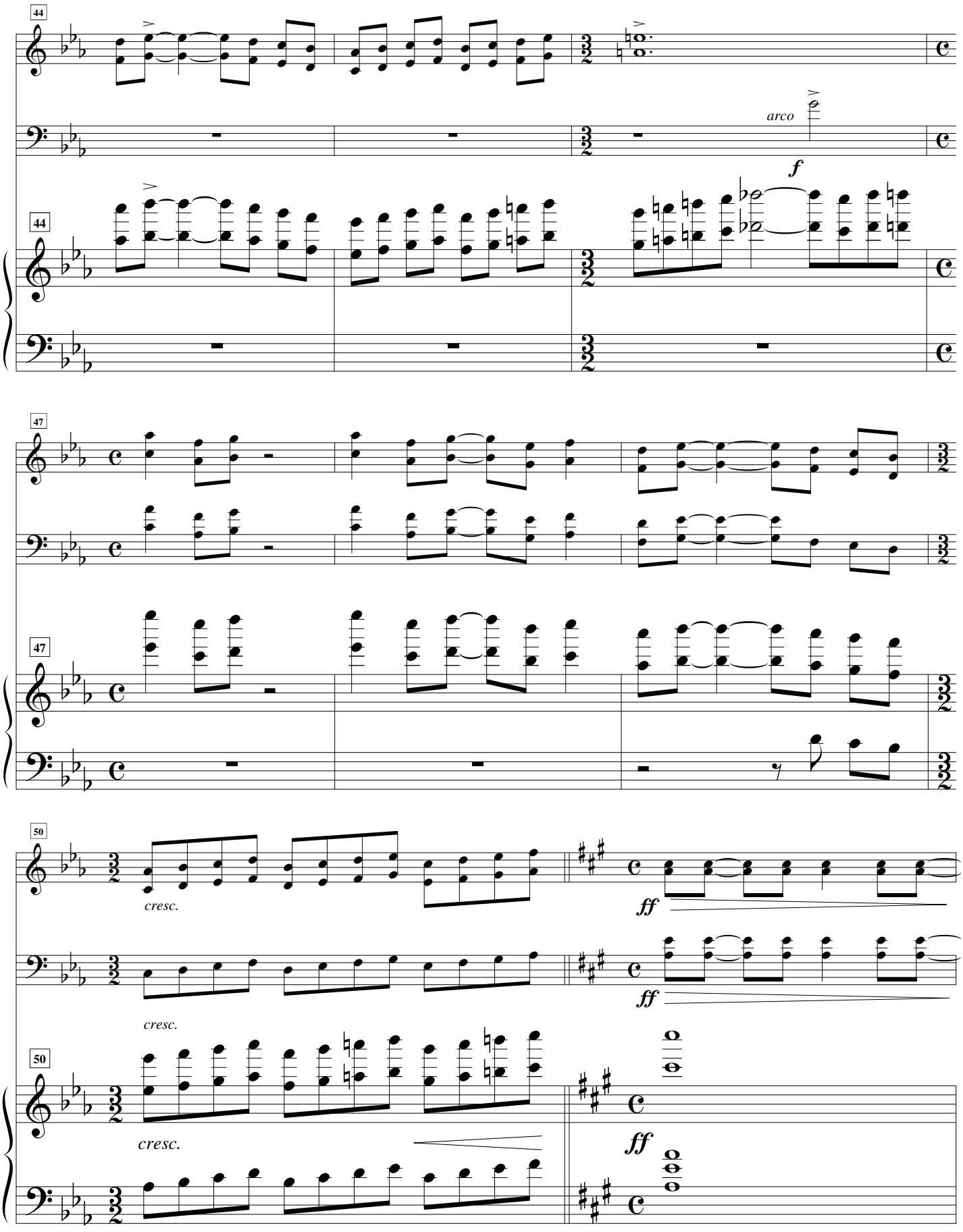

43
mp
mp
43
mp
46
p
p
46
p
50
poco rit.
pp
pp
ppp
ppp
50
poco rit.
pp
ppp

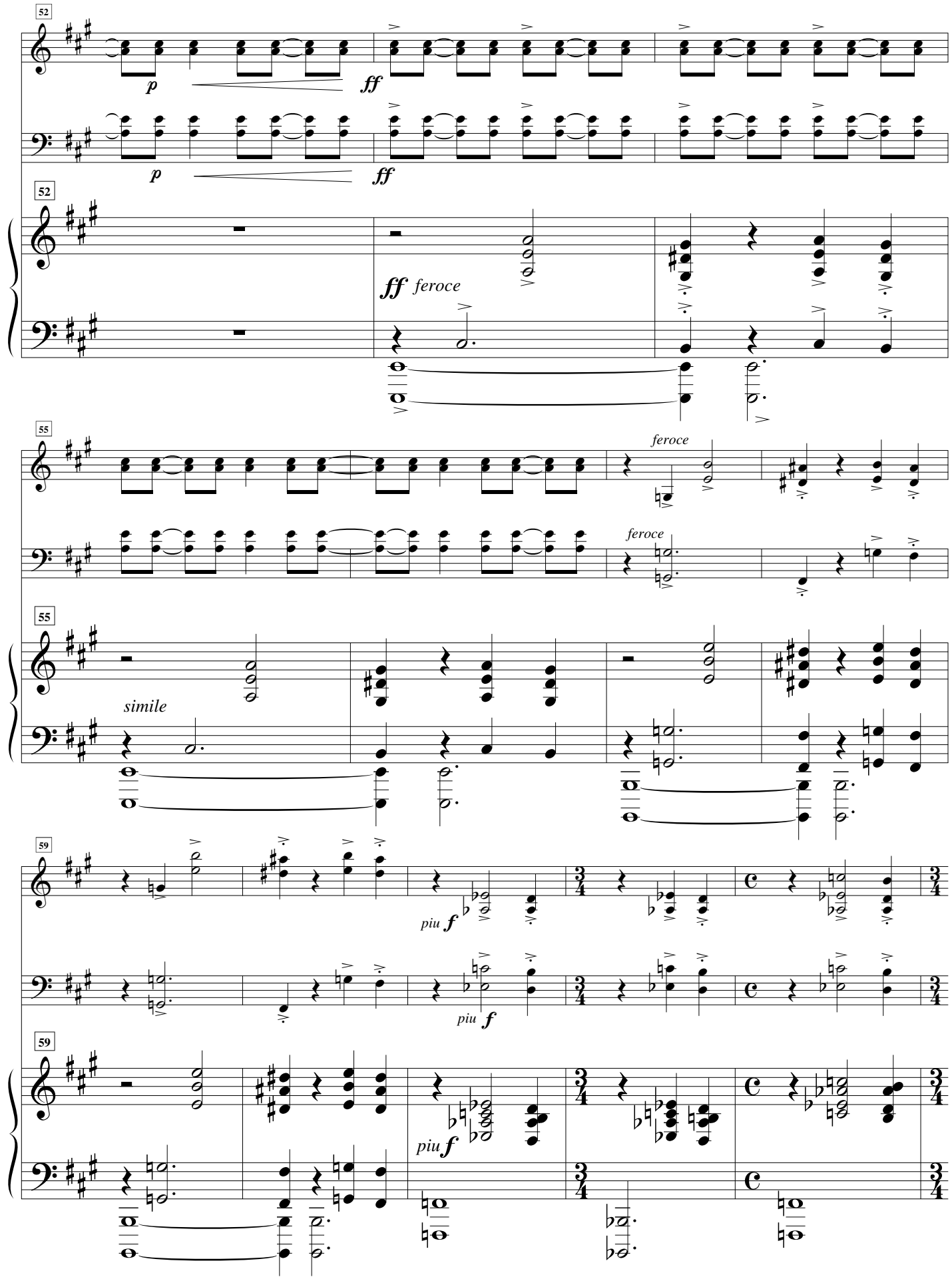
III. Dance of the Night Creatures on the Mountain

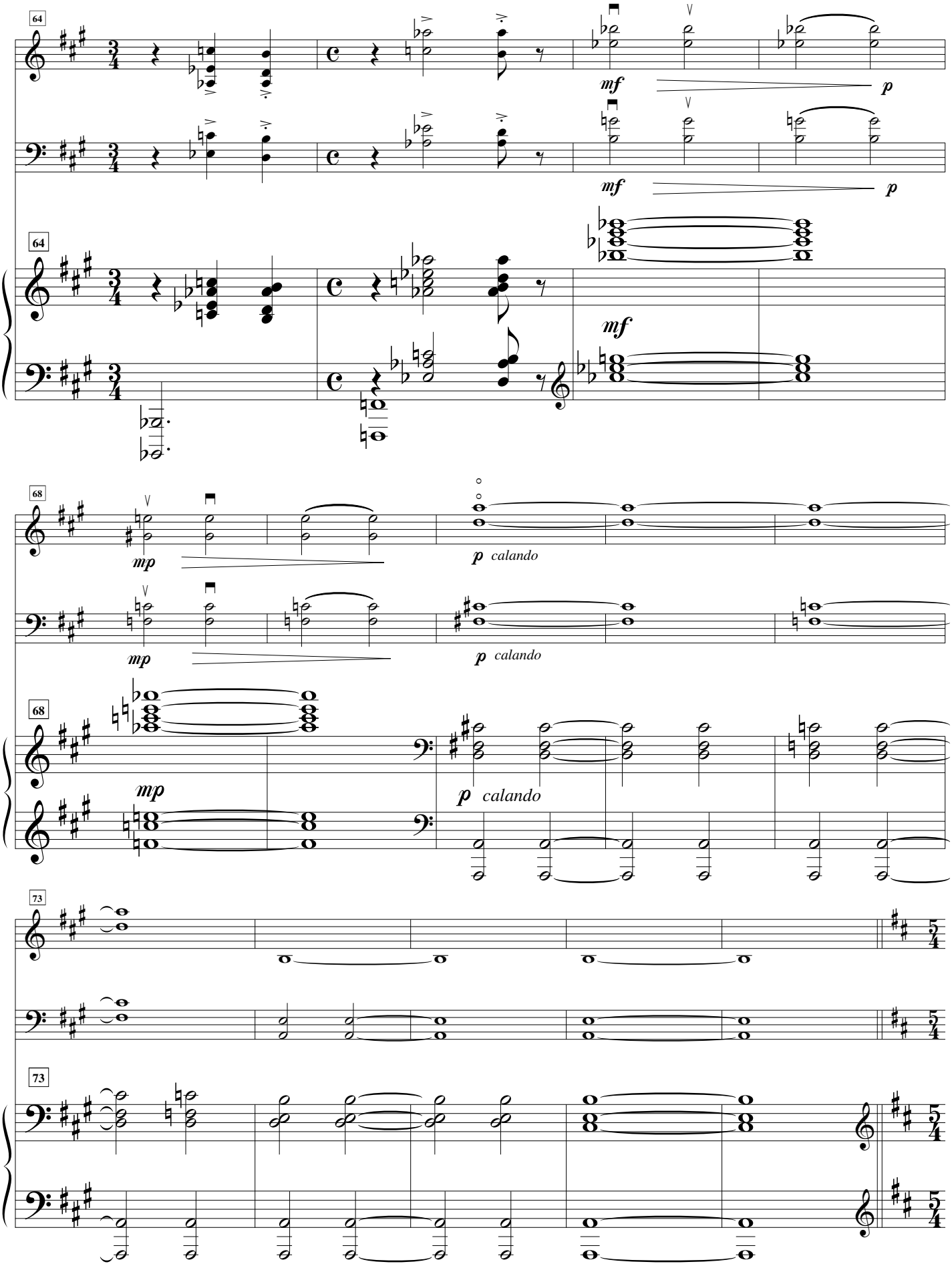


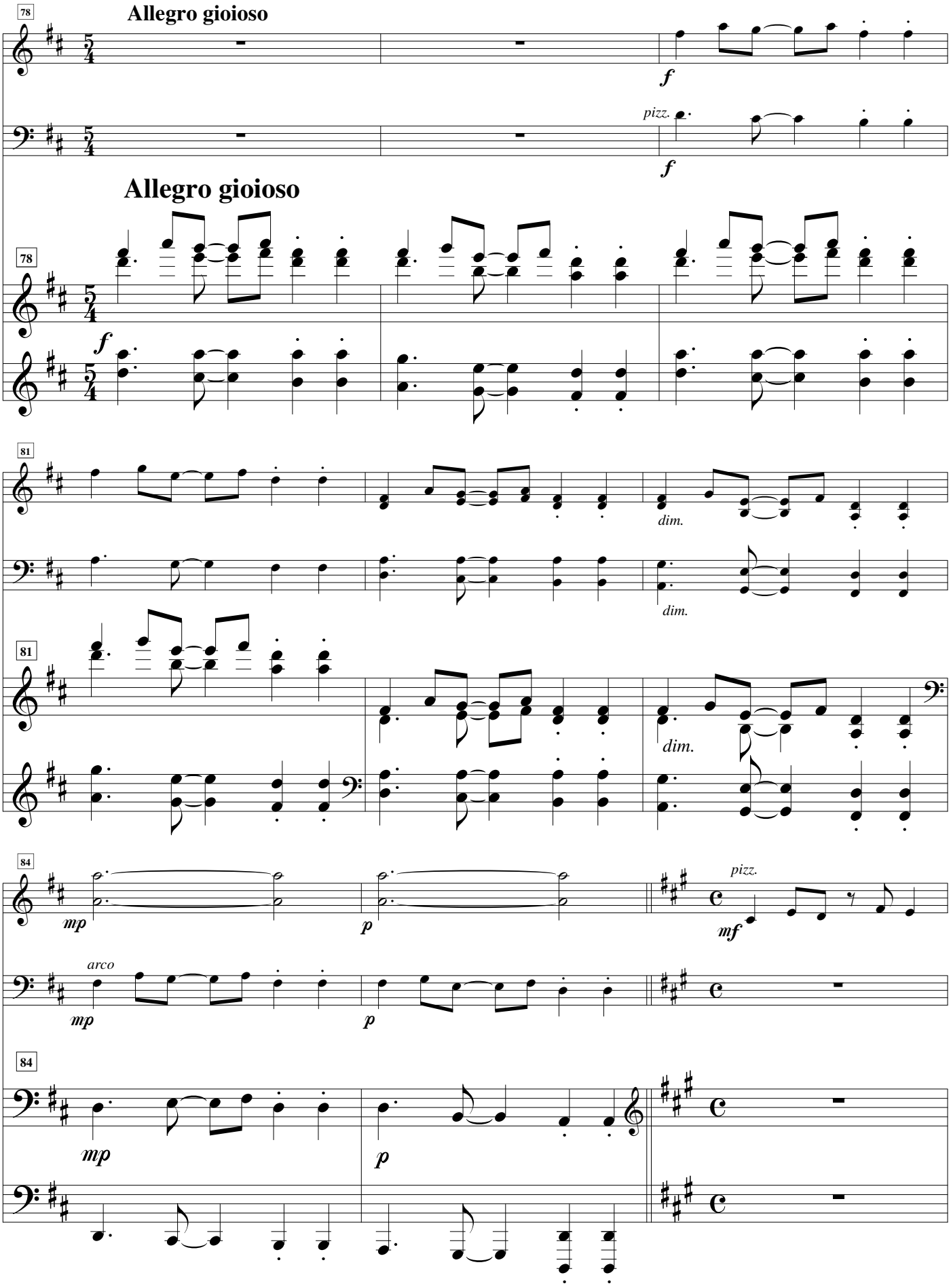

18
pizz.
mf
18
mp
(8vb)
22
f
dim.
22
mf
dim.
(8vb)
26
pizz.
f
mf
26
mp
(8vb)

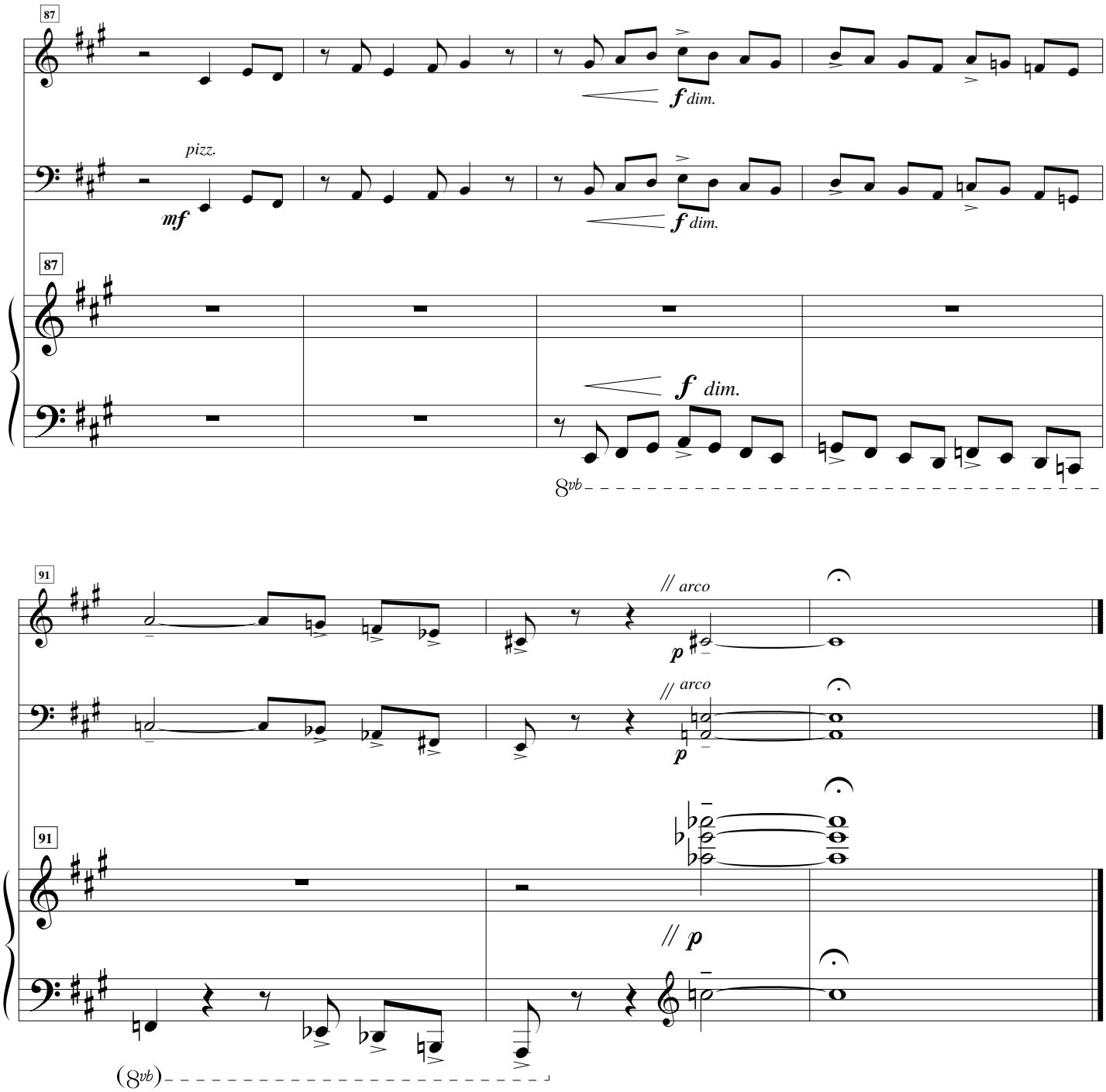

31
31
(8vb)
35
35
f
40
40
arco
ff
f
mp
cresc.
ff
mf


44
arco
f
44
47
47
50
cresc.
ff
cresc.
ff
50
cresc.
ff

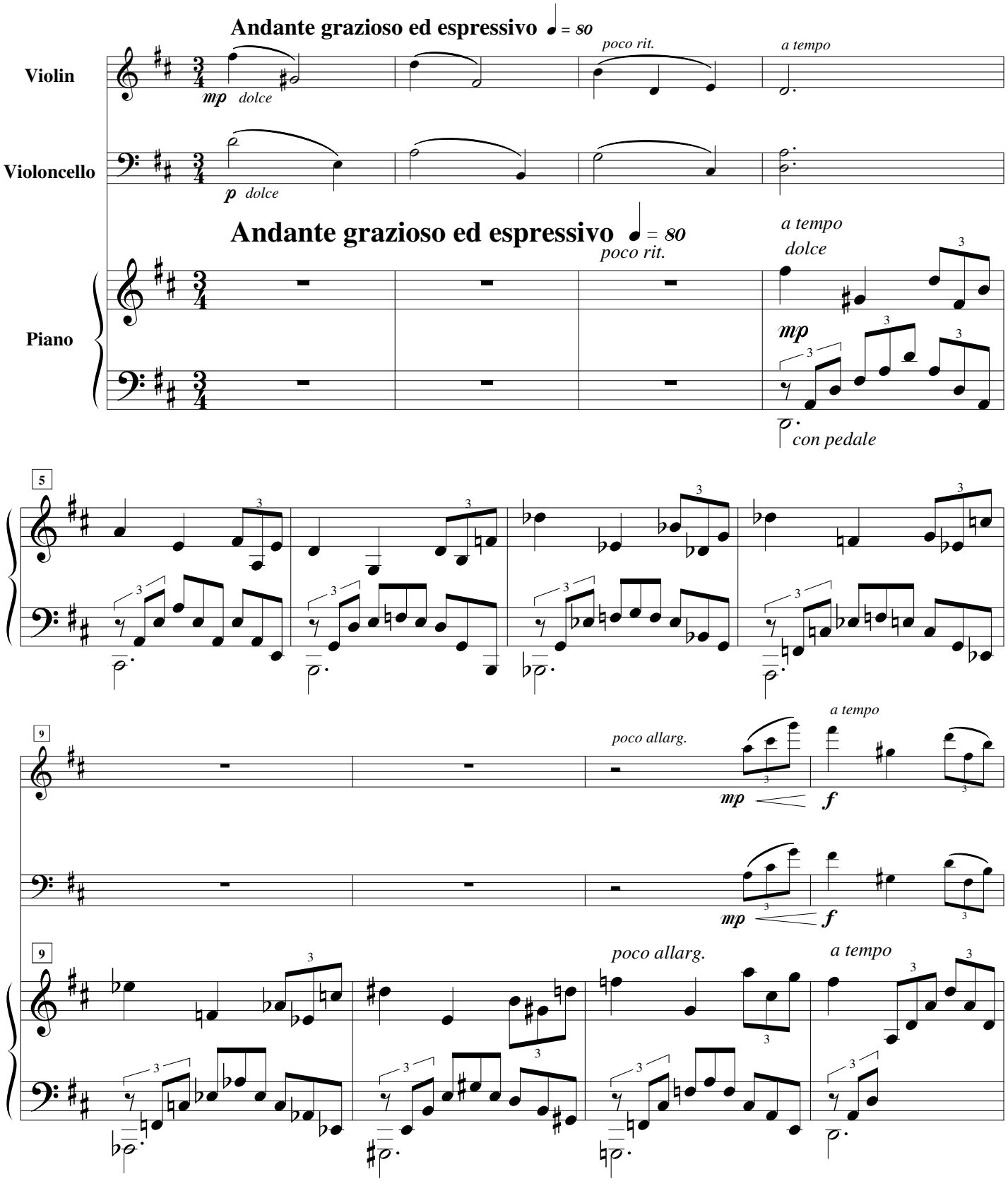

52
p
ff
52
ff feroce
55
feroce
feroce
55
simile
59
piu f
piu f
59
piu f

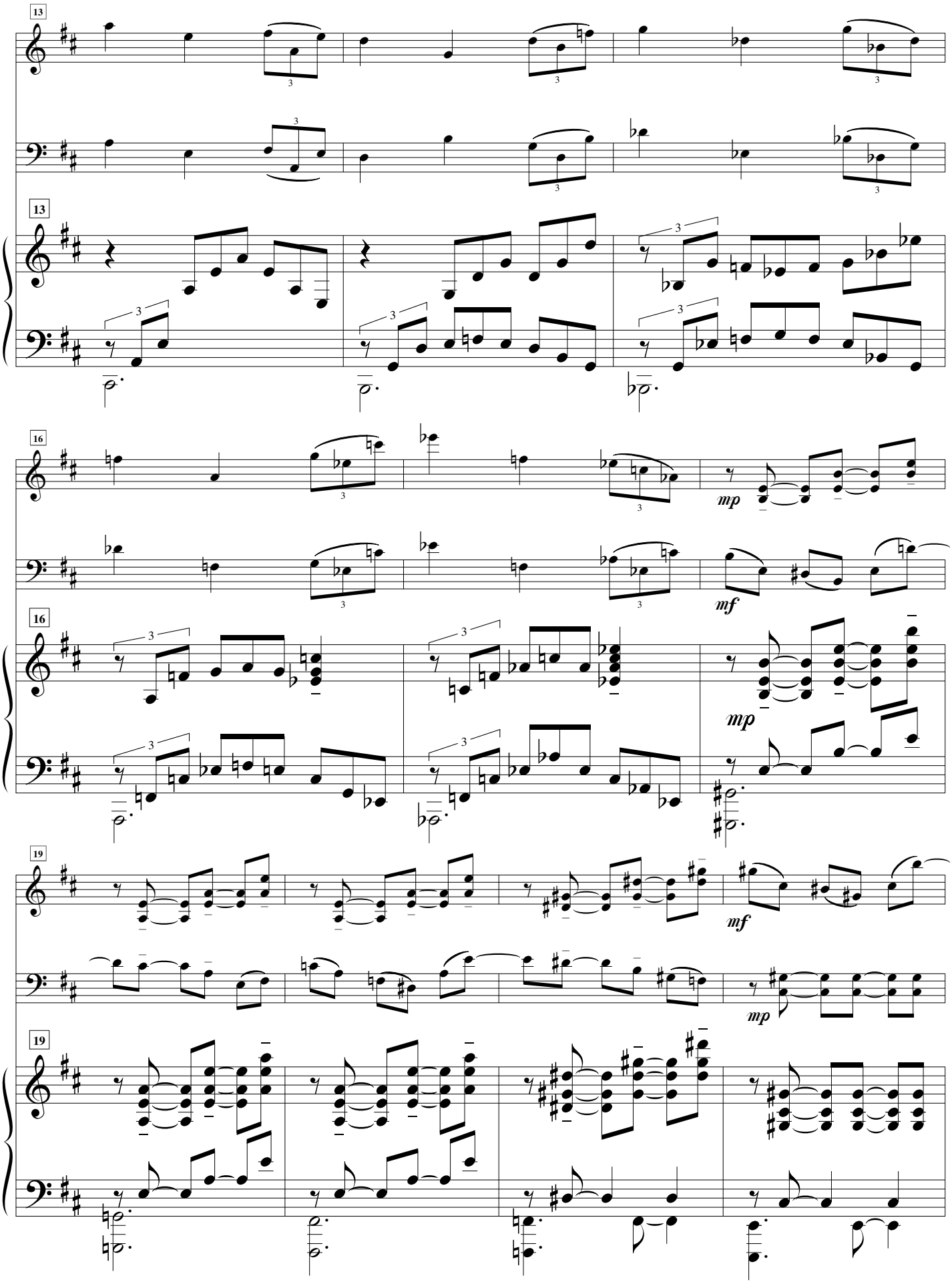

64
mf
p
64
mf
68
mp
p calando
68
mp
p calando
73
73

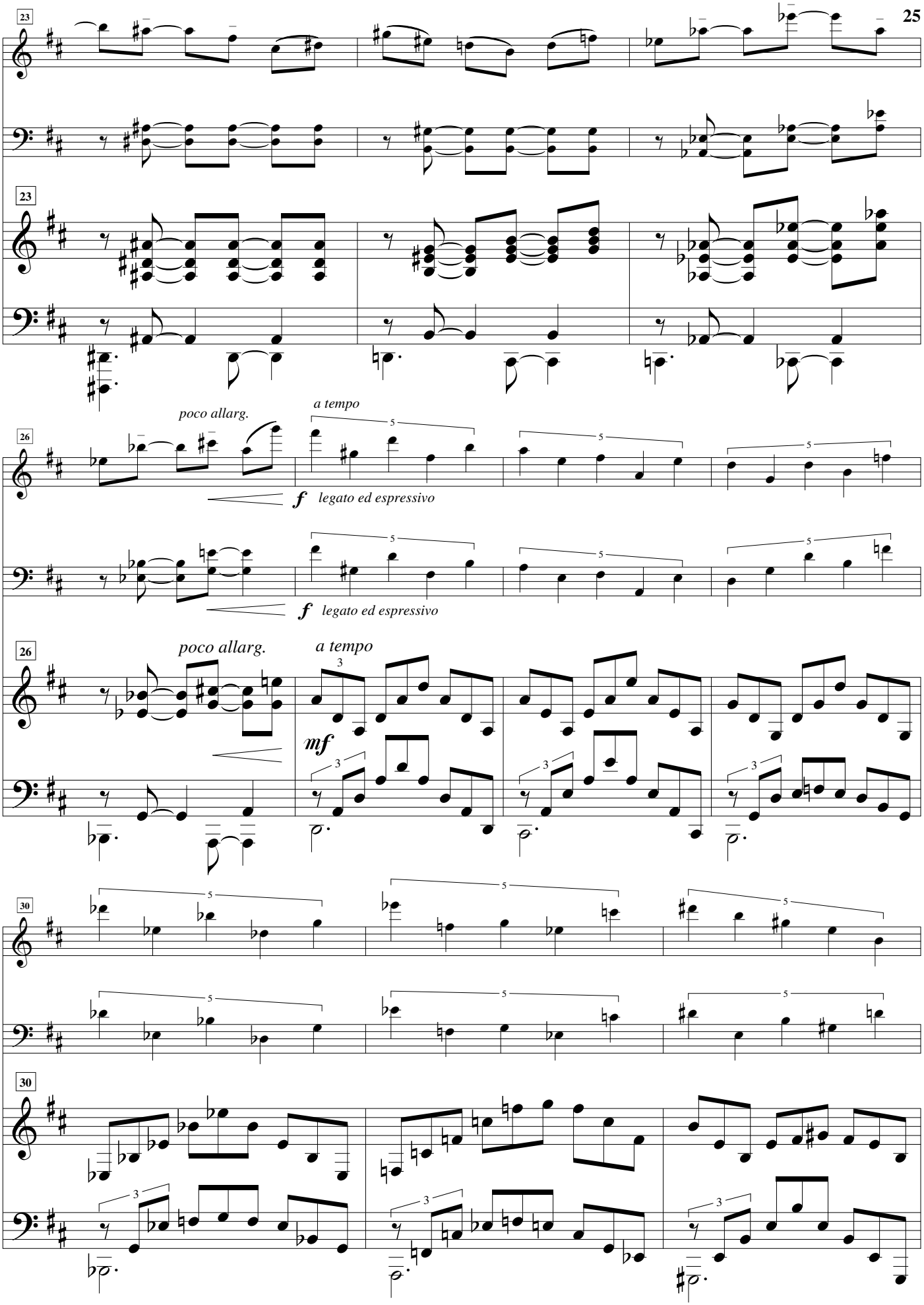

78
Allegro gioioso
f
pizz.
f
Allegro gioioso
78
f
81
dim.
dim.
81
dim.
84
mp
p
pizz.
mf
arco
mp
p
84
mp
p

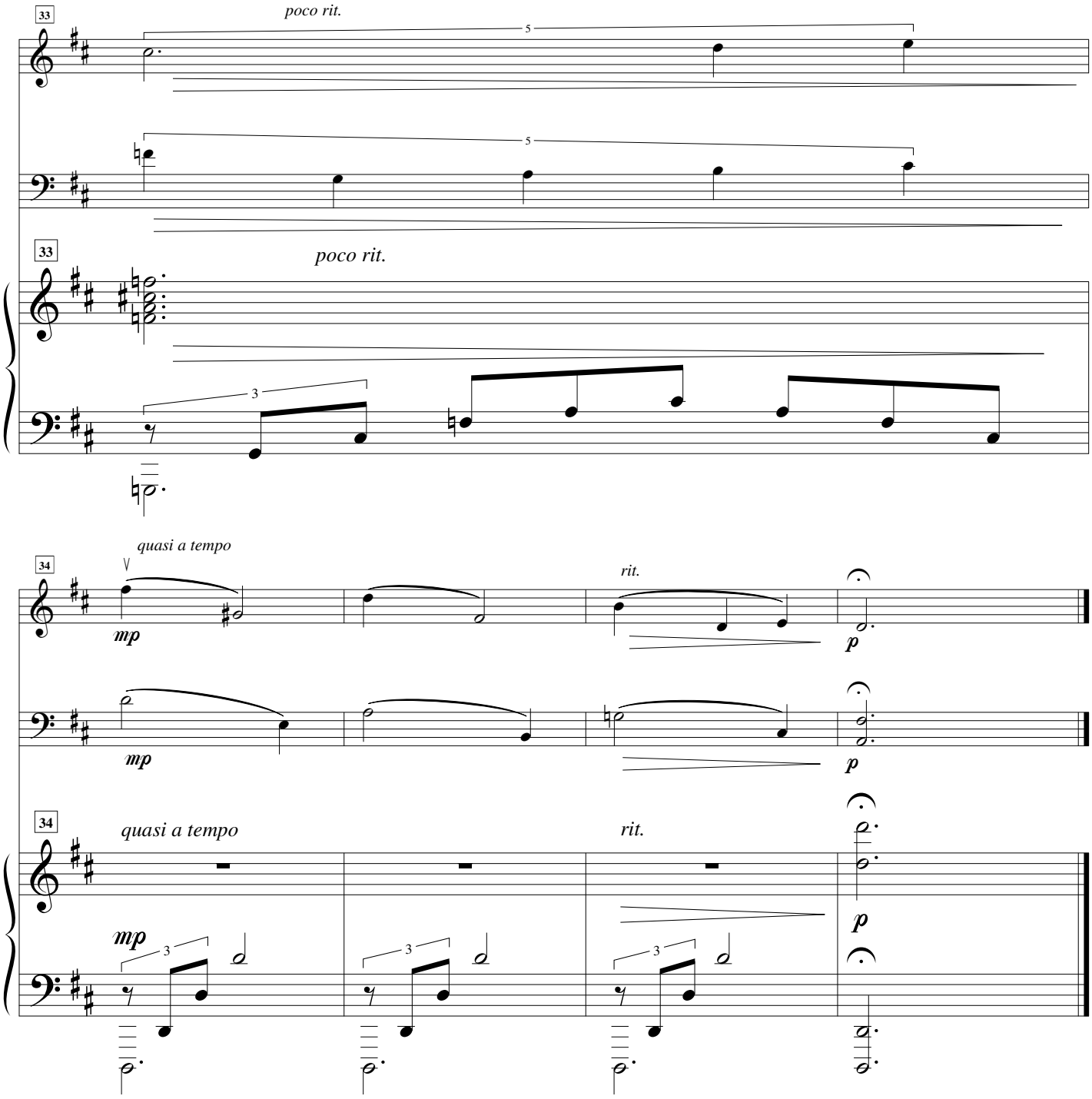

87
pizz.
mf
f dim.
f dim.
87
f dim.
8vb
91
// arco
p
// arco
p
91
// p
(8vb)

IV. Song of Nature




13
13
16
mp
mf
16
mp
19
mf
mp
19


23
23
poco allarg.
a tempo
26
f legato ed espressivo
f legato ed espressivo
26
poco allarg.
a tempo
mf
30
30


33
poco rit.
5
5
33
poco rit.
3
34
quasi a tempo
mp
rit.
p
mp
p
34
quasi a tempo
rit.
mp
3
3
3
p

V. A Higher Peak Is Seen Through the Mist and Fog

The lid of the piano should be raised, and the violin and cello should strum into the body of the piano as much as possible. Hold the sustain pedal down throughout the strumming sections.

Rubato alla flamenco, misterioso ♩ = 60

strum like a guitar, using a pick if desired

Violin

mp

3

5

7

9

alternate up and down strokes

12

f

15

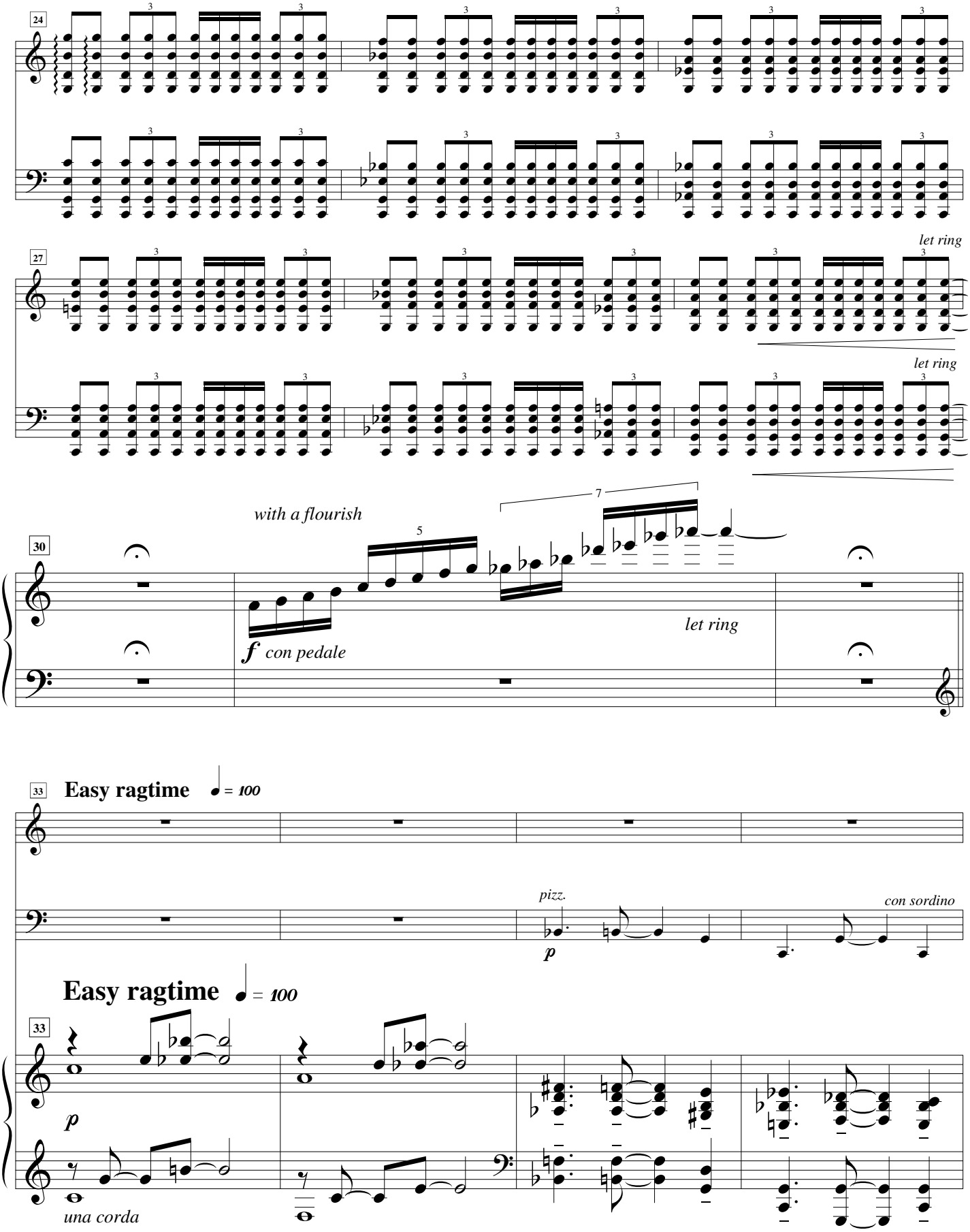
let ring

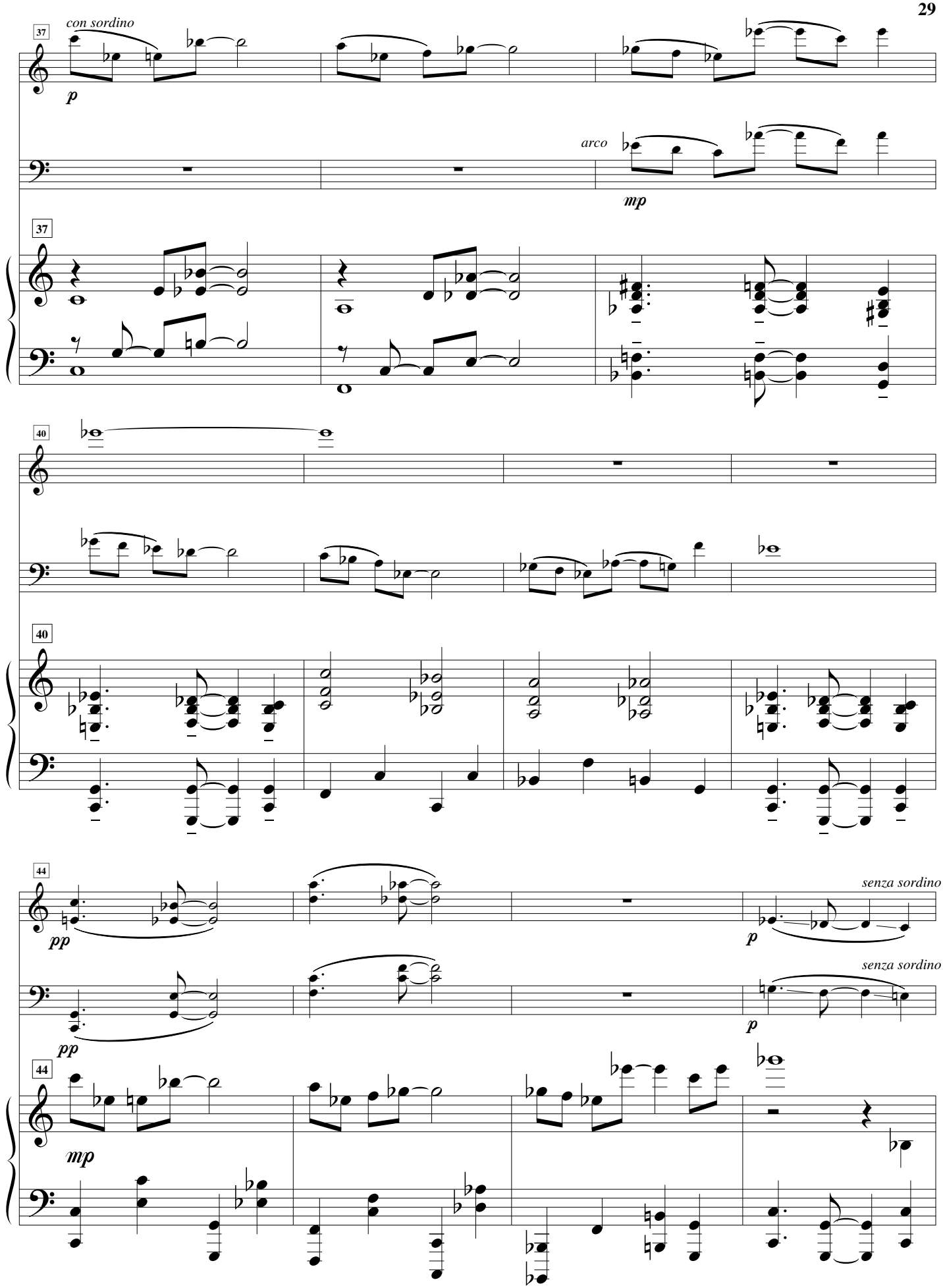
pick like a guitar, alternating fingers

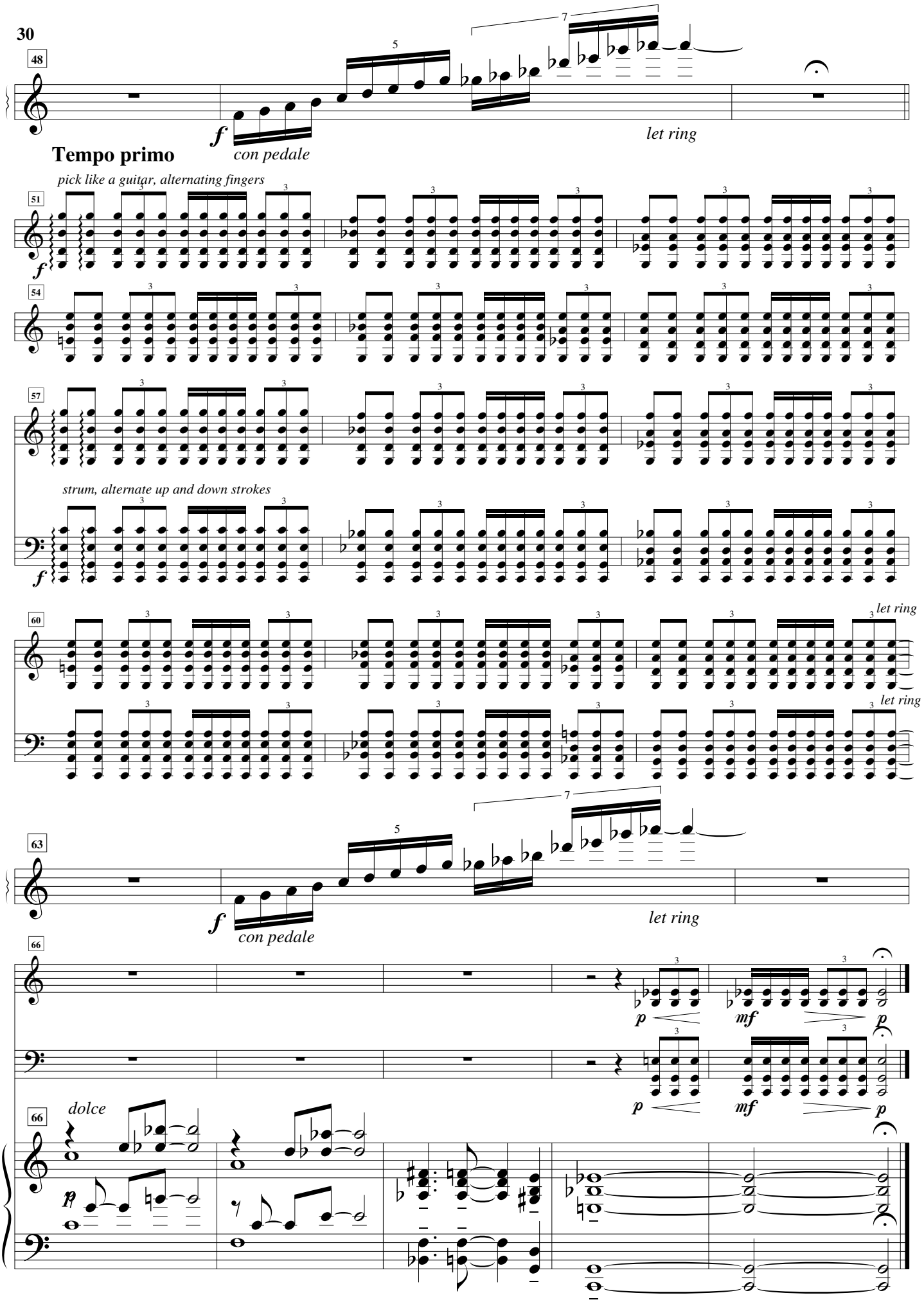
18

f

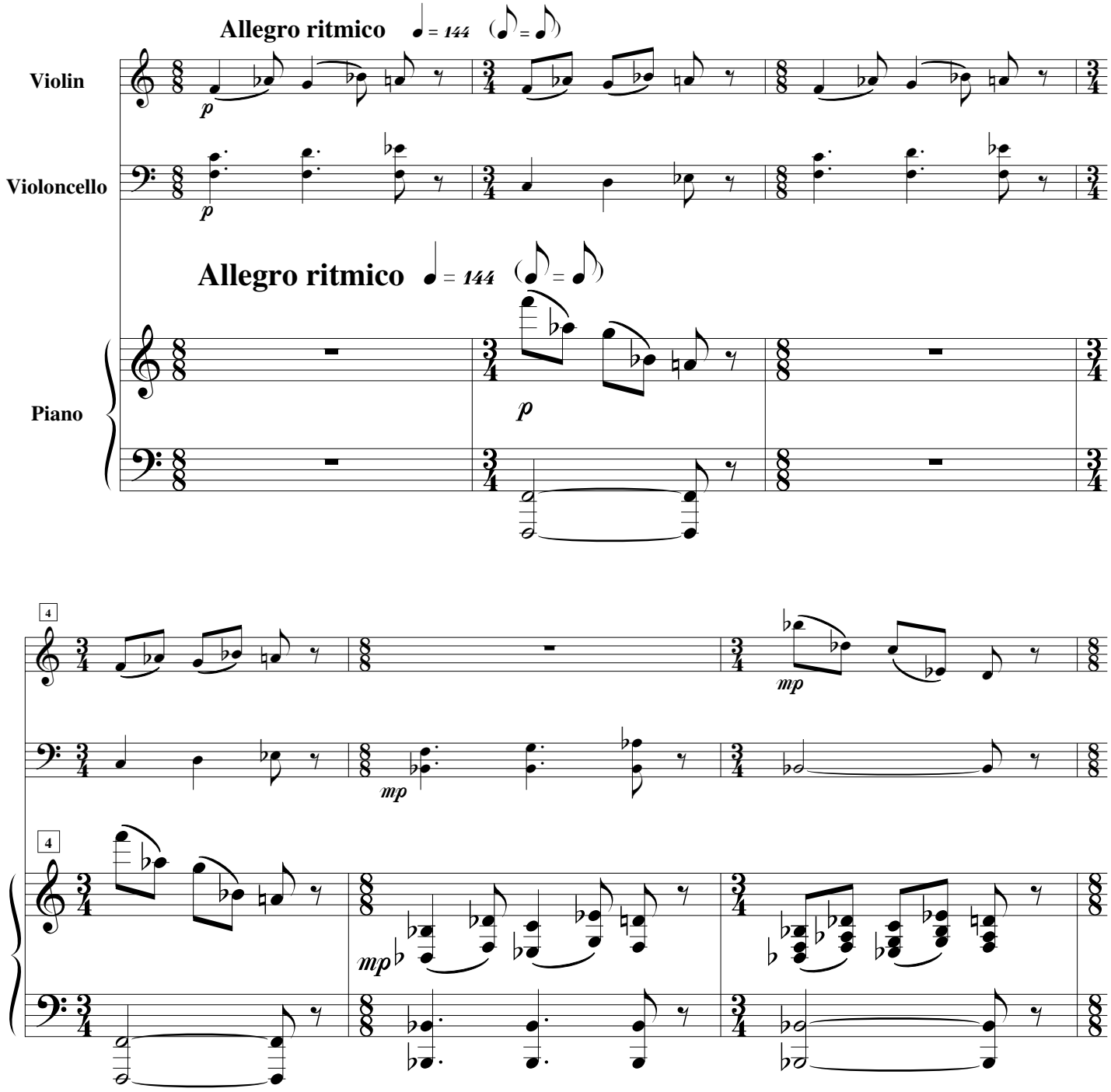
21

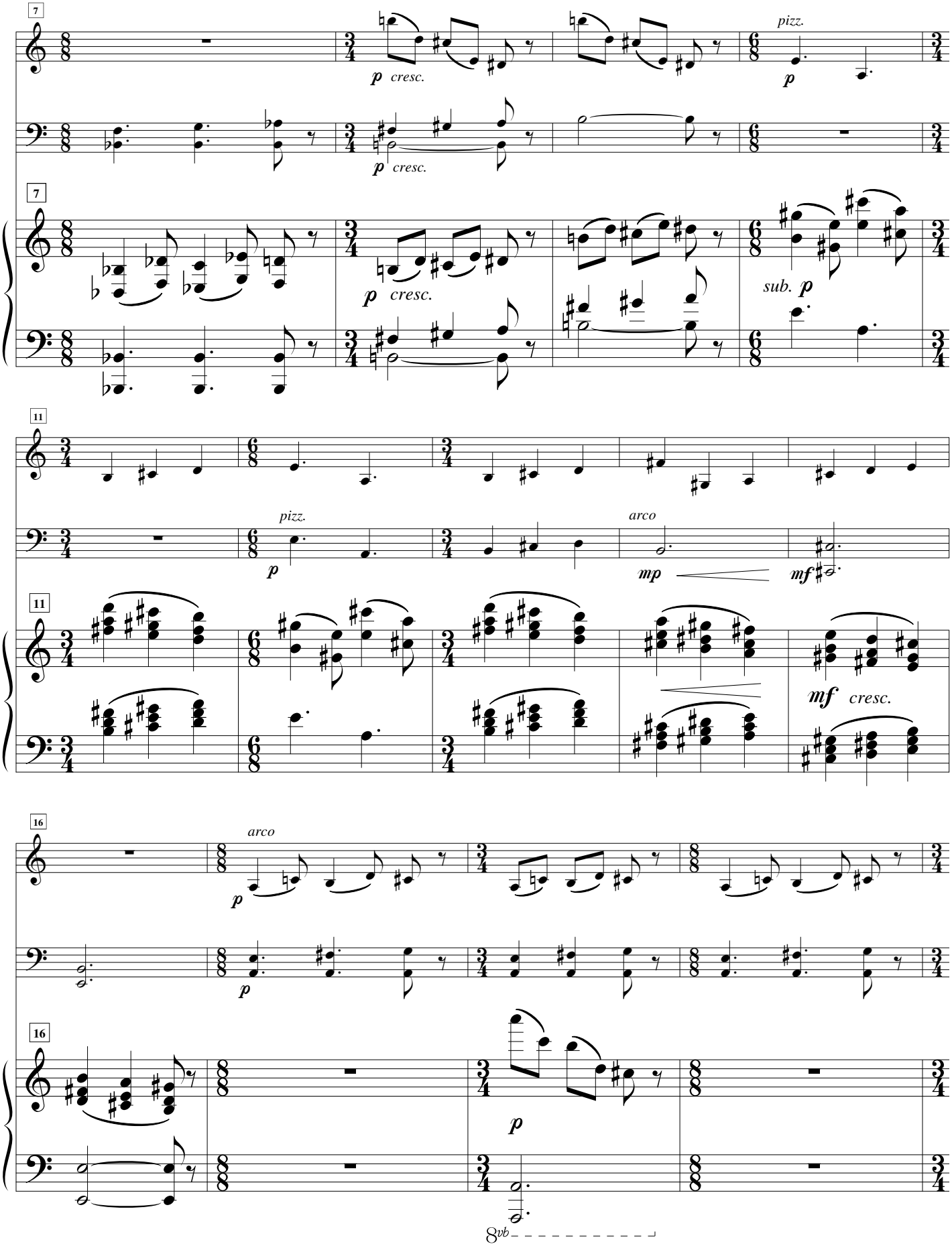

24
27
let ring
let ring
30
with a flourish
f con pedale
let ring
33
Easy ragtime
= 100
pizz.
p
con sordino
Easy ragtime
= 100
33
p
una corda

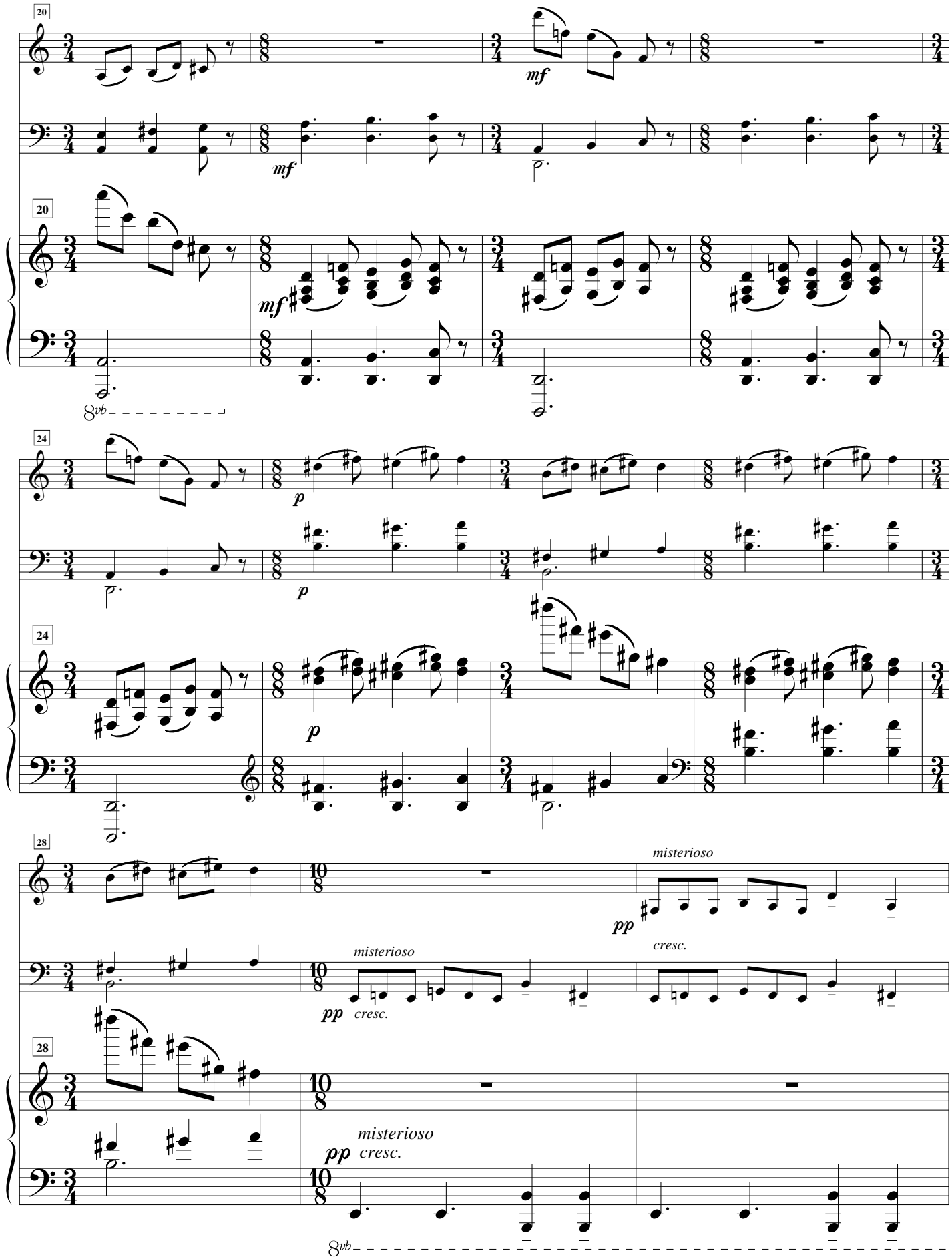

37
con sordino
p
arco
mp
37
40
40
44
pp
senza sordino
p
pp
senza sordino
p
44
mp

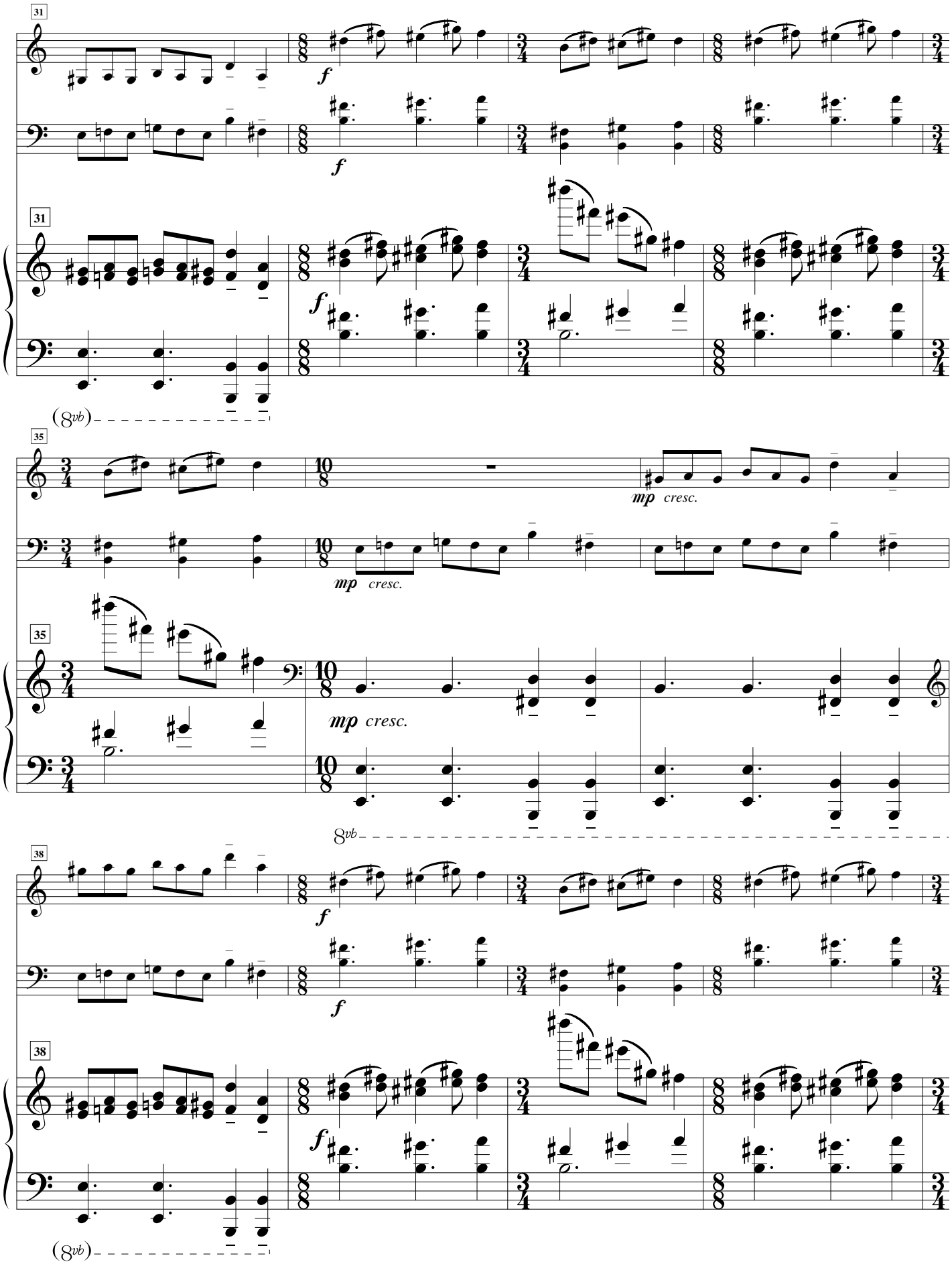

48
f
con pedale
let ring
Tempo primo
pick like a guitar, alternating fingers
51
f
54
57
strum, alternate up and down strokes
f
60
let ring
let ring
63
f
con pedale
let ring
66
p
mf
p
66
dolce
p

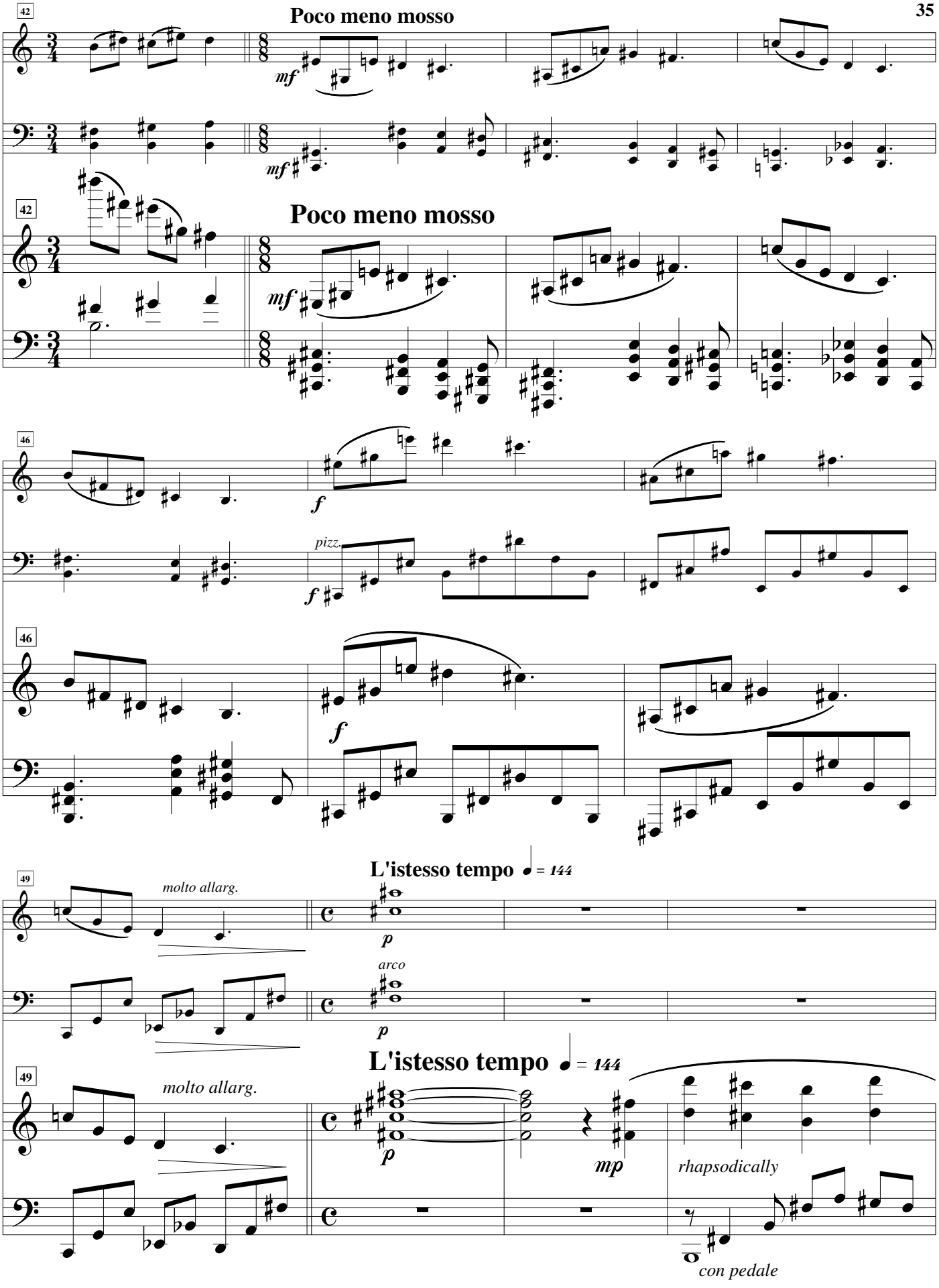
VI. Light and Silence

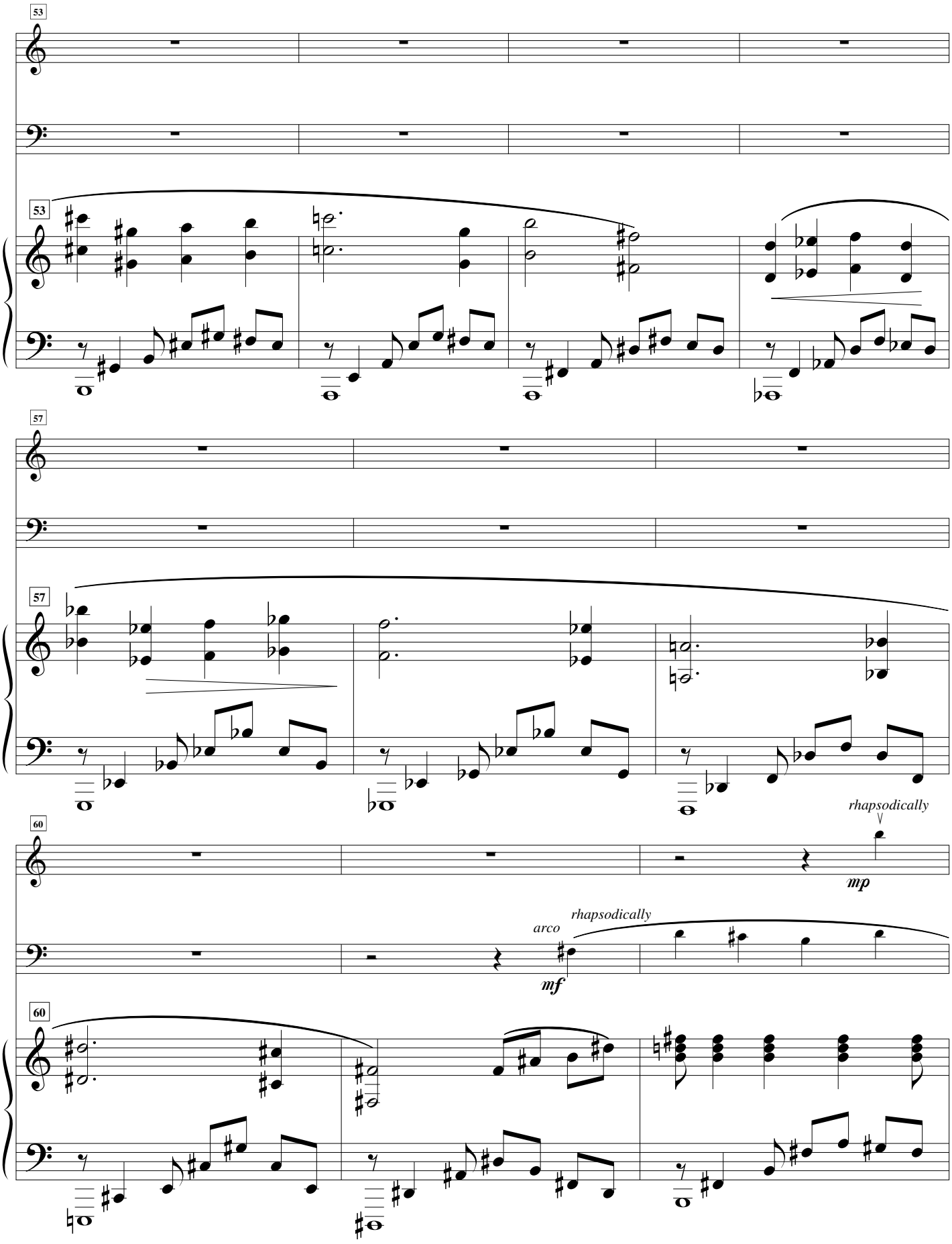


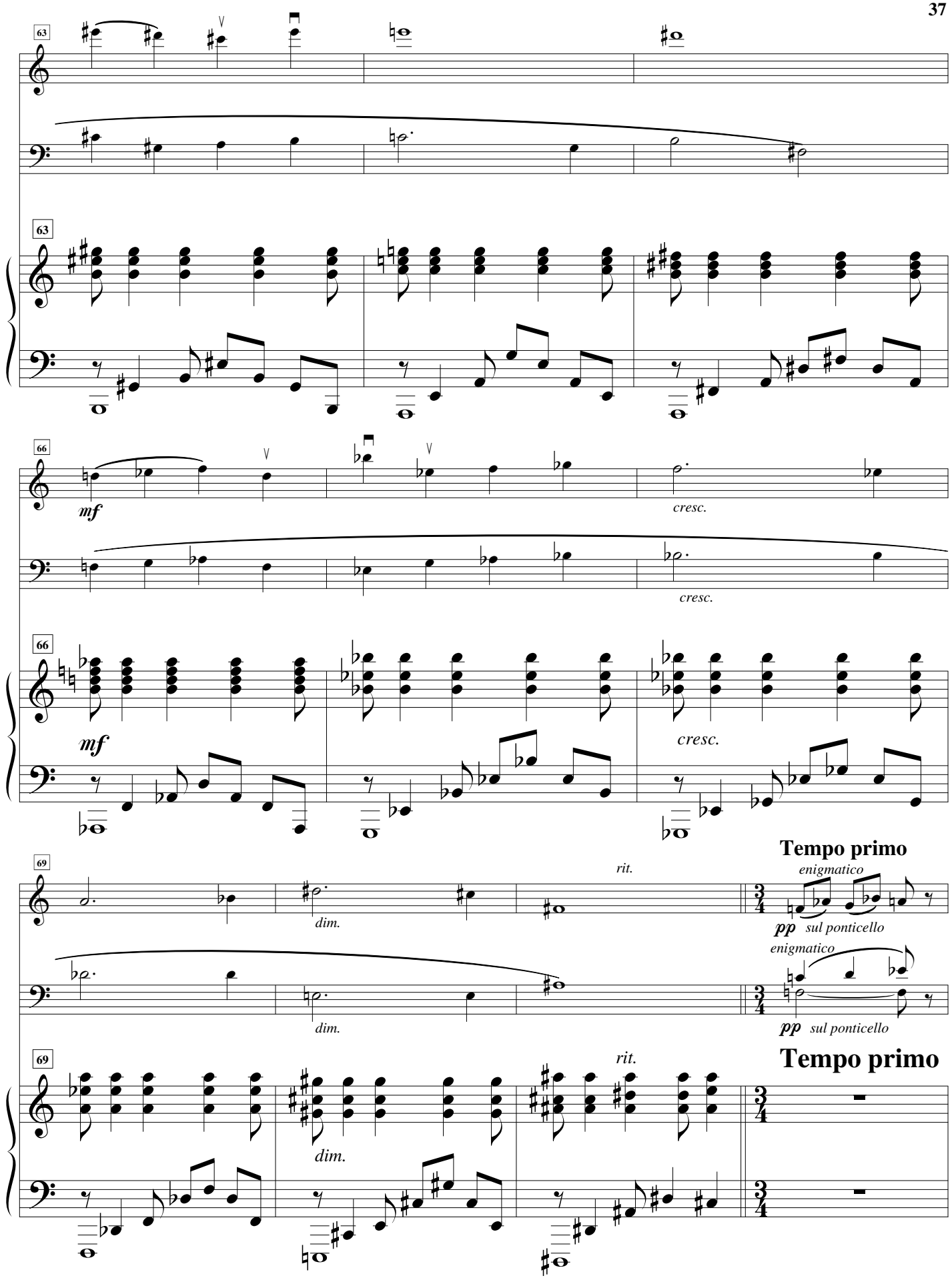

7
pizz.
p
p cresc.
p cresc.
7
p cresc.
sub. p
11
pizz.
p
arco
mp
mf
11
mf cresc.
16
arco
p
p
16
p
8vb

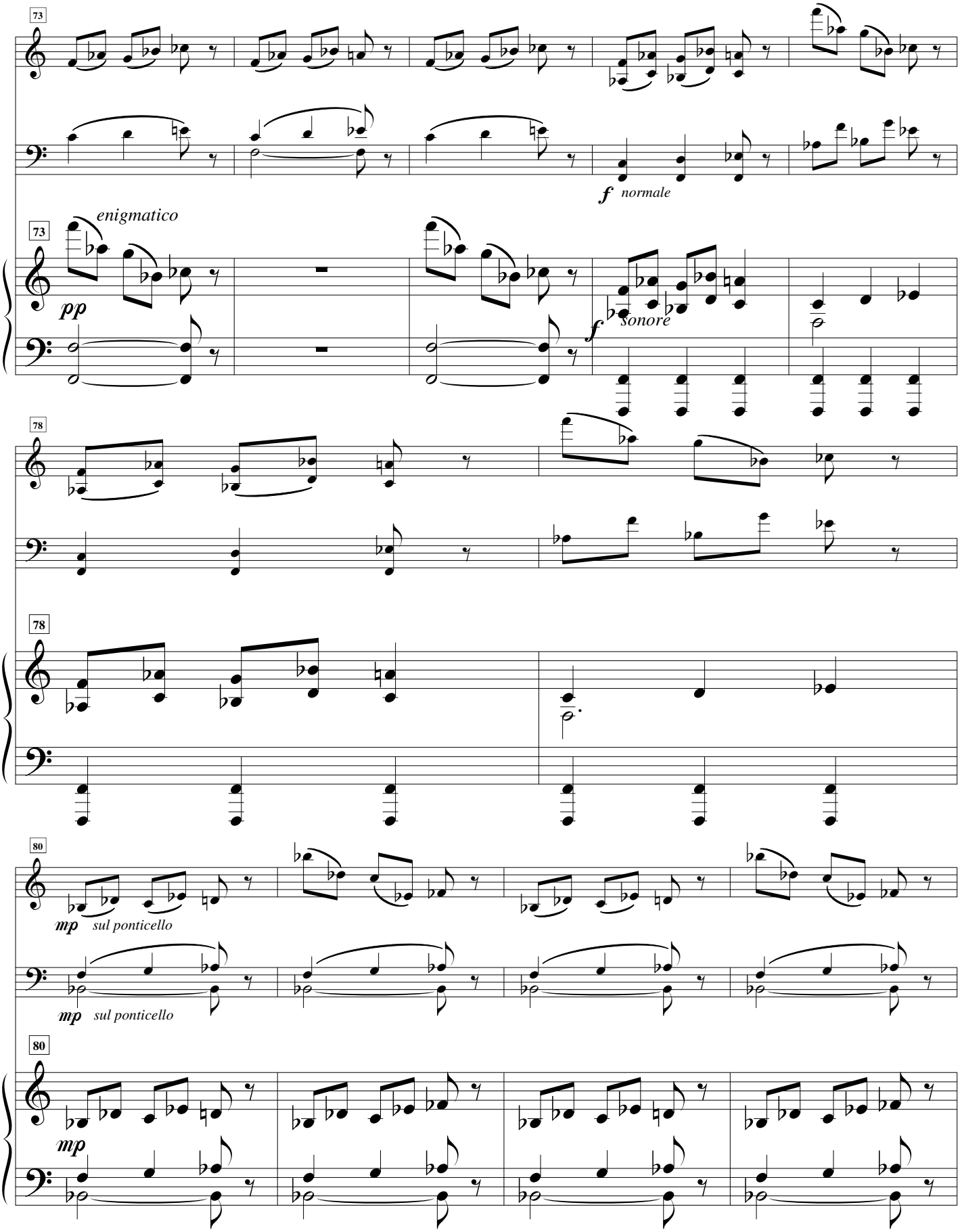

20
mf
mf
20
mf
8vb
24
p
p
24
p
28
misterioso
pp
misterioso
pp
cresc.
cresc.
28
misterioso
pp
cresc.
8vb

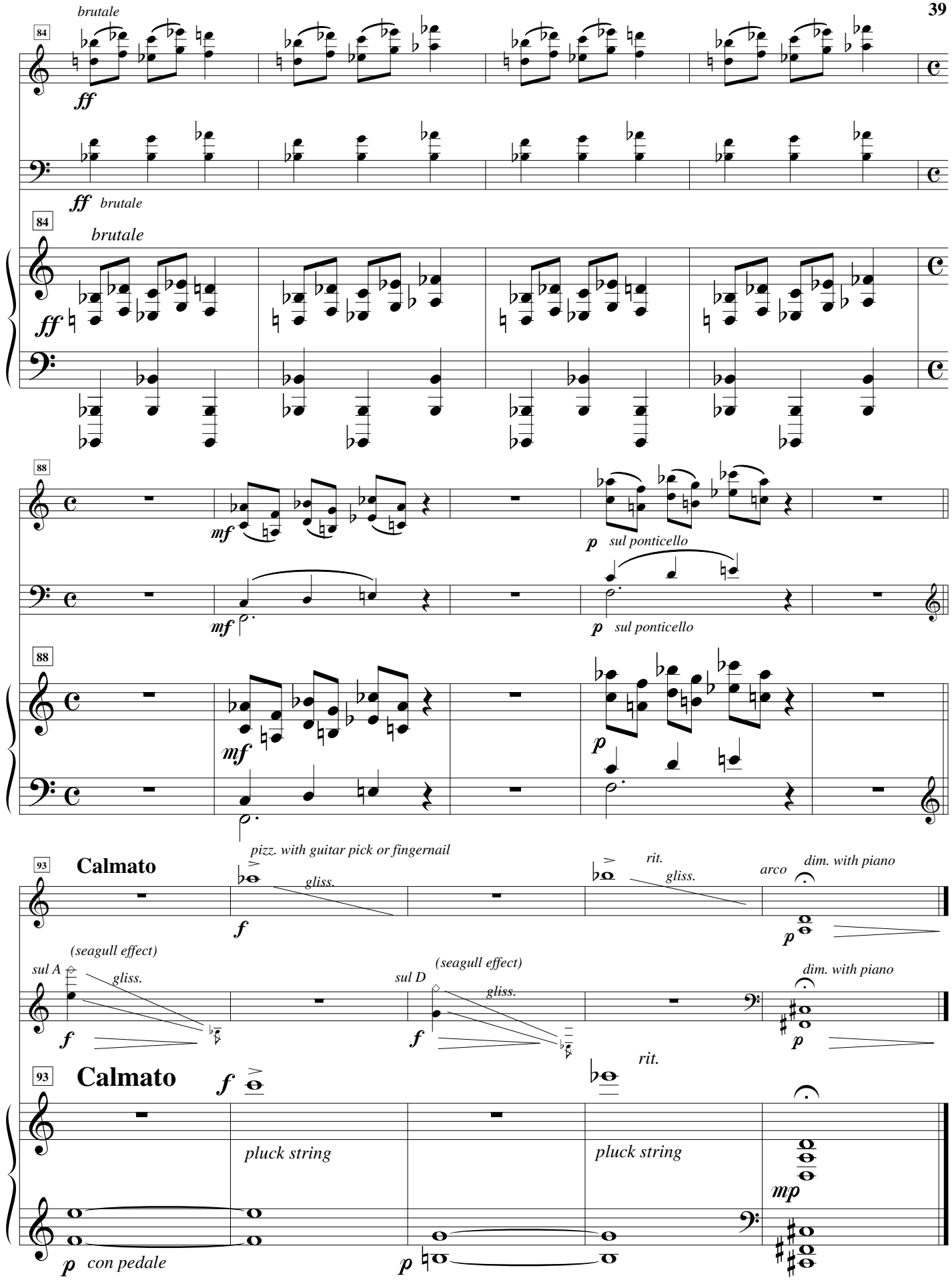

31
f
31
f
(8vb)
35
mp cresc.
35
mp cresc.
8vb
38
f
38
f
(8vb)


42
Poco meno mosso
mf
42
Poco meno mosso
mf
46
f
pizz.
f
46
f
49
molto allarg.
L'istesso tempo ♩ = 144
p
arco
p
49
molto allarg.
L'istesso tempo ♩ = 144
p
mp
rhapsodically
con pedale

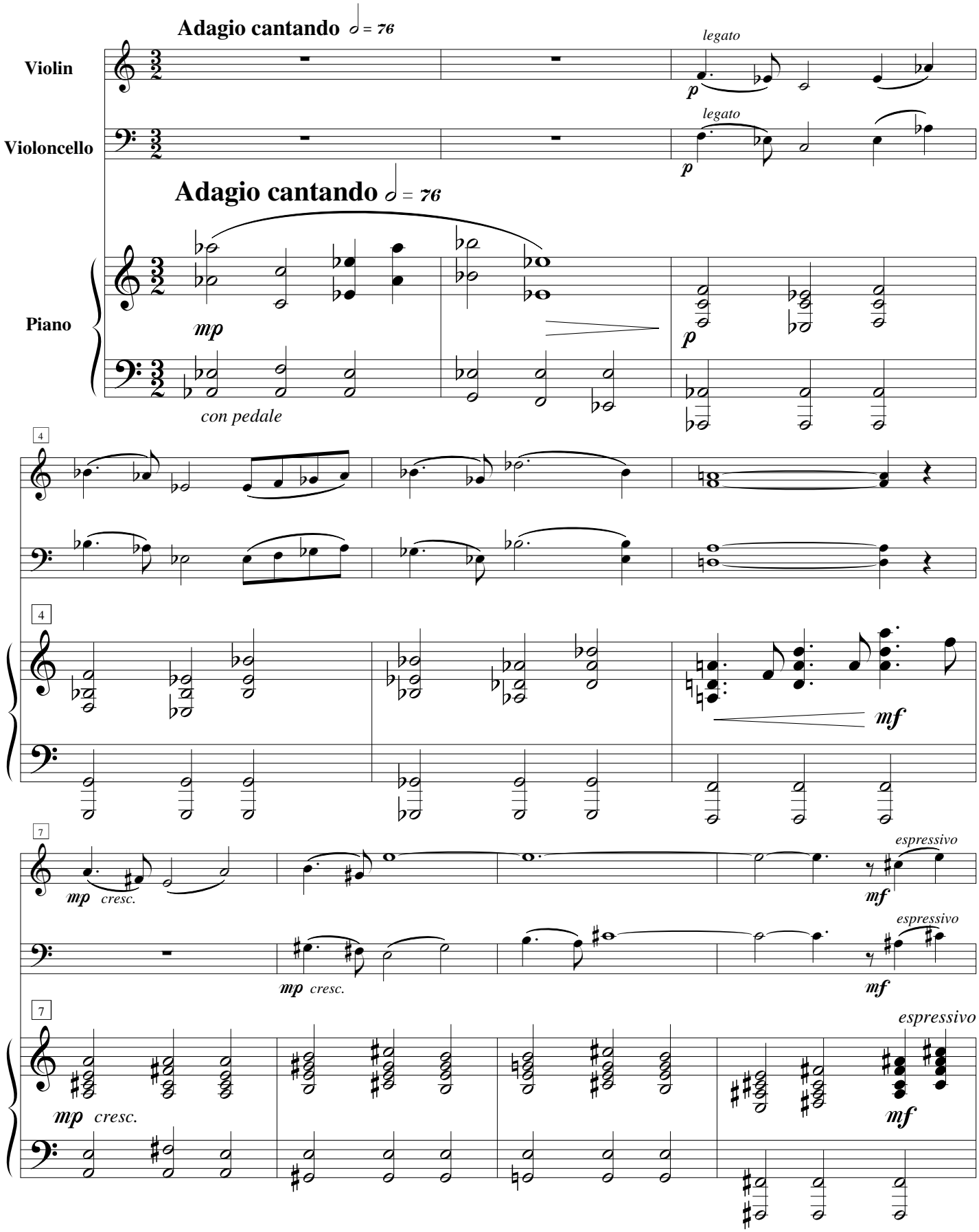

53
53
57
57
60
rhapsodically
mp
arco
rhapsodically
mf
60

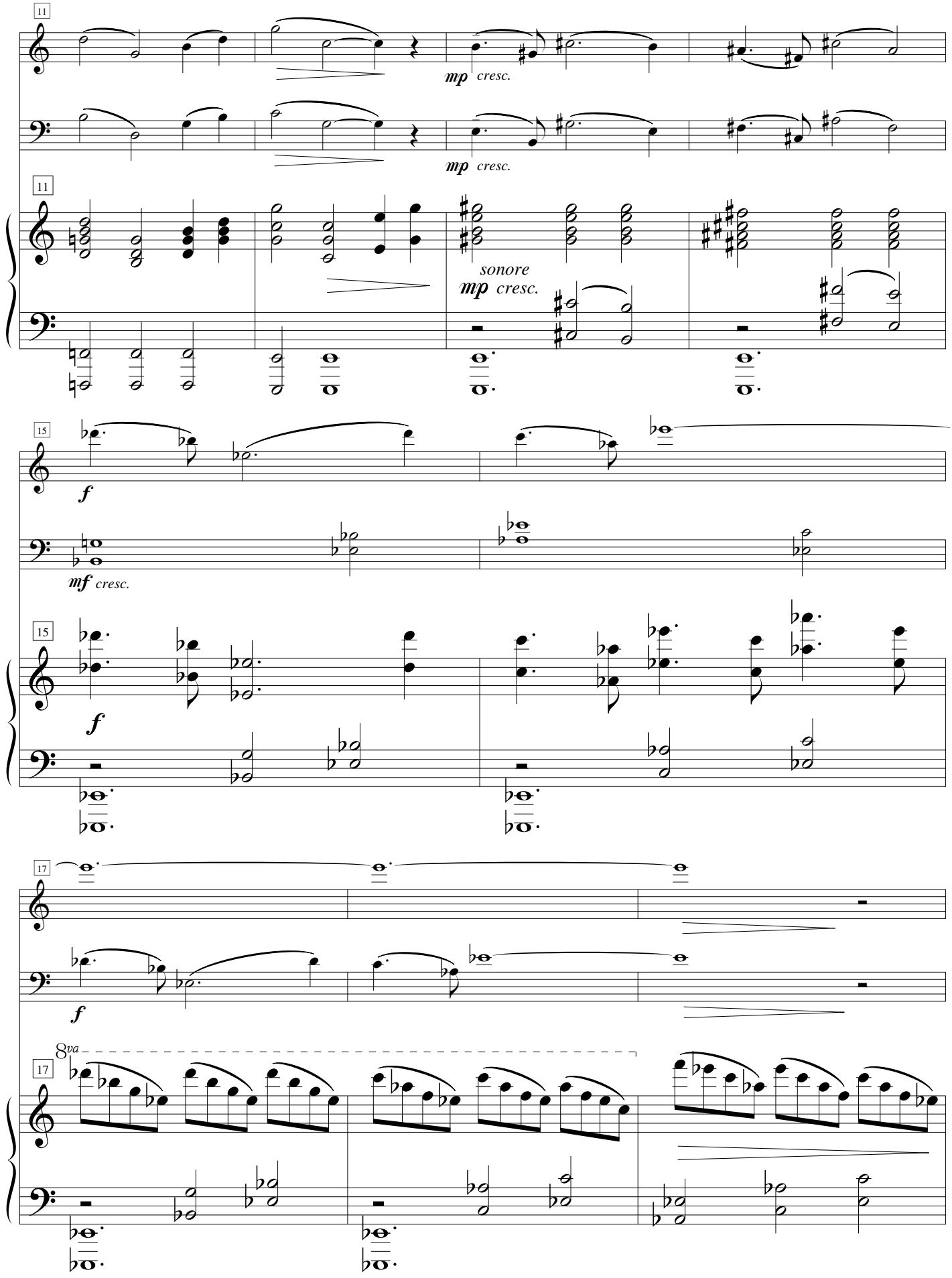

63
63
66
mf
cresc.
cresc.
66
mf
cresc.
69
rit.
dim.
Tempo primo
enigmatico
pp sul ponticello
dim.
enigmatico
pp sul ponticello
69
dim.
rit.
Tempo primo

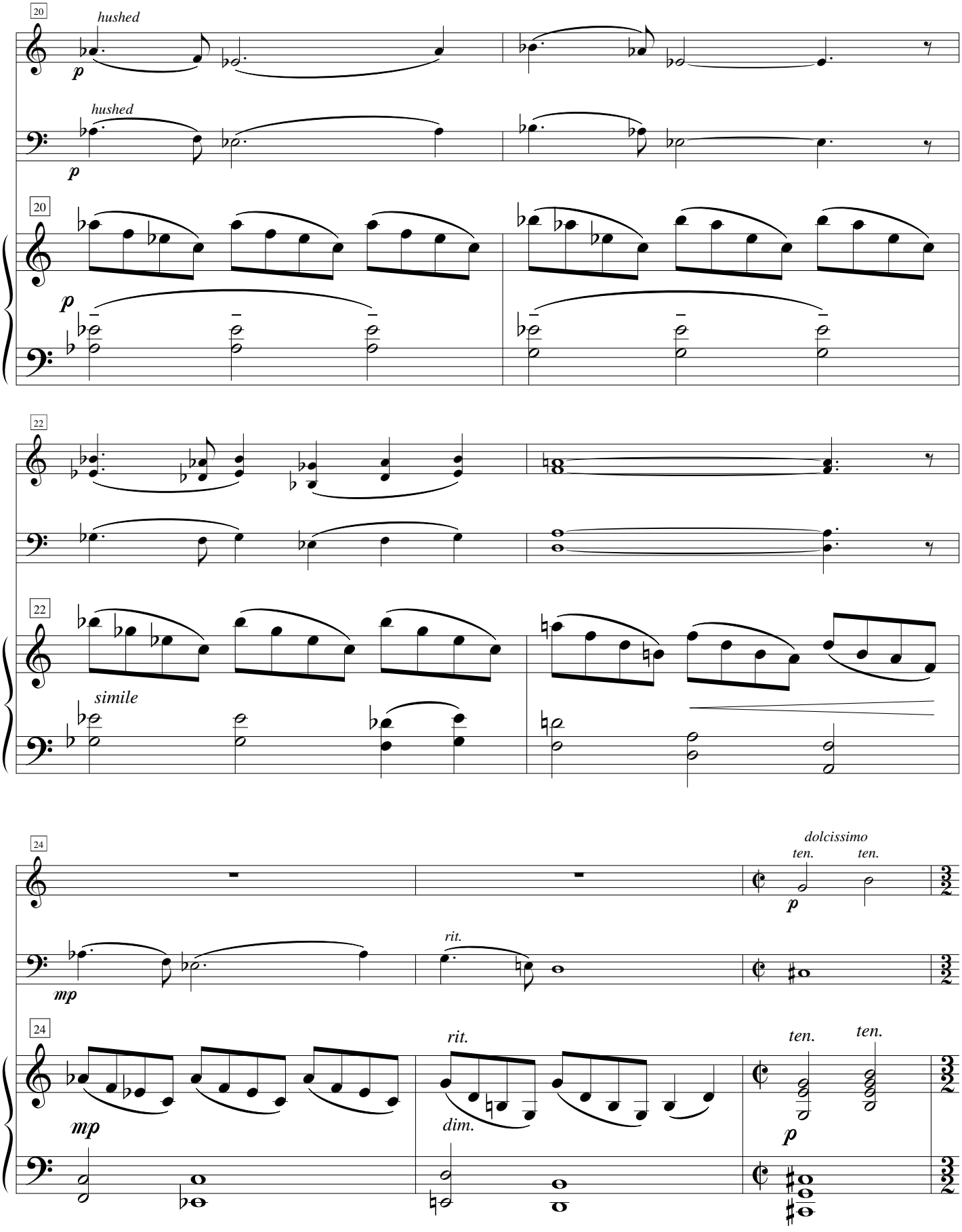

73
f normale
enigmatico
73
pp
f sonore
78
78
80
mp sul ponticello
mp sul ponticello
80
mp

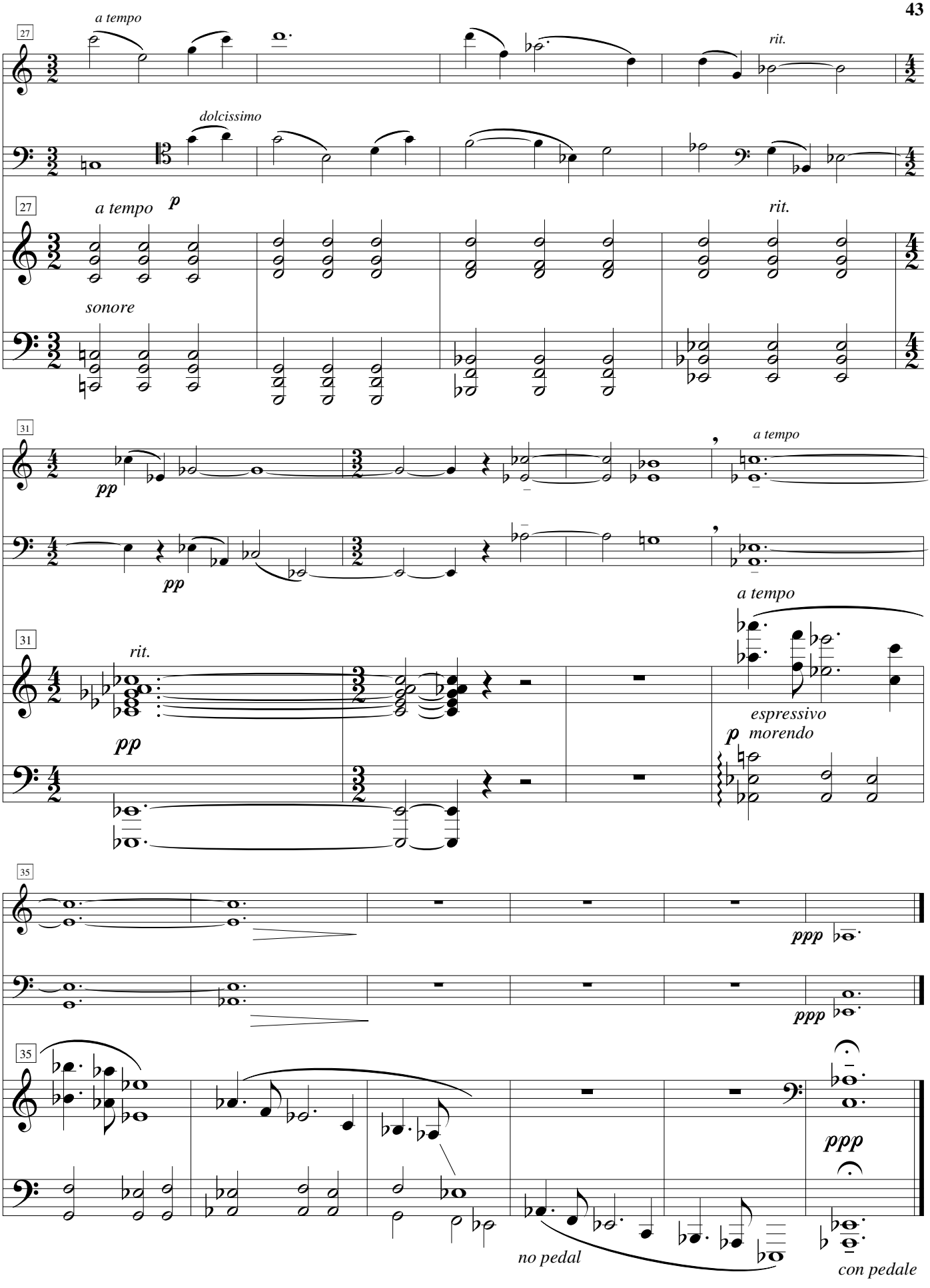

84
brutale
ff
brutale
84
brutale
ff
88
mf
p
sul ponticello
mf
p
sul ponticello
88
mf
p
93
Calmato
pizz. with guitar pick or fingernail
gliss.
f
rit.
gliss.
arco
dim. with piano
p
(seagull effect)
sul A
gliss.
f
(seagull effect)
sul D
gliss.
f
dim. with piano
p
93
Calmato
f
rit.
pluck string
pluck string
mp
p
con pedale
p

VII. Return from the Summit




11
mp cresc.
mp cresc.
11
sonore
mp cresc.
15
f
mf cresc.
15
f
17
f
8va
17


20
hushed
p
hushed
p
20
p
22
22
simile
24
dolcissimo
ten.
ten.
p
rit.
mp
24
mp
rit.
dim.
ten.
ten.
p


27
a tempo
dolcissimo
rit.
27
a tempo
p
sonore
rit.
31
pp
a tempo
31
rit.
pp
a tempo
espressivo
p
morendo
35
ppp
35
ppp
no pedal
con pedale