University of New Mexico
UNM Digital Repository

Music ETDs | Electronic Theses and Dissertations

7-1-2011

On a Rose of Coals: Scherzo and Variations for String Quartet

Robert Rothschild

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/mus_etds

Recommended Citation
Rothschild, Robert. "On a Rose of Coals: Scherzo and Variations for String Quartet." (2011). https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/mus_etds/19

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Electronic Theses and Dissertations at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Music ETDs by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact disc@unm.edu.

Robert Rothschild

Candidate

Music

Department

This thesis is approved, and it is acceptable in quality and form for publication:

Approved by the Thesis Committee:

,Chairperson

(Richard Hermann)

ON A ROSE OF COALS:
SCHERZO AND VARIATIONS
FOR STRING QUARTET

BY

ROBERT ROTHSCHILD

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS, CONTEMPORARY MUSIC
THE COLLEGE OF SANTA FE, 1999

THESIS

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Music
Theory and Composition

The University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico

May, 2011

ON A ROSE OF COALS:
SCHERZO AND VARIATIONS
FOR STRING QUARTET

BY

ROBERT ROTHSCHILD

ABSTRACT OF THESIS

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Music
Theory and Composition

The University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico

May, 2011

ON A ROSE OF COALS

by

Robert Rothschild

B.F.A. Contemporary Music, The College of Santa Fe, 1999

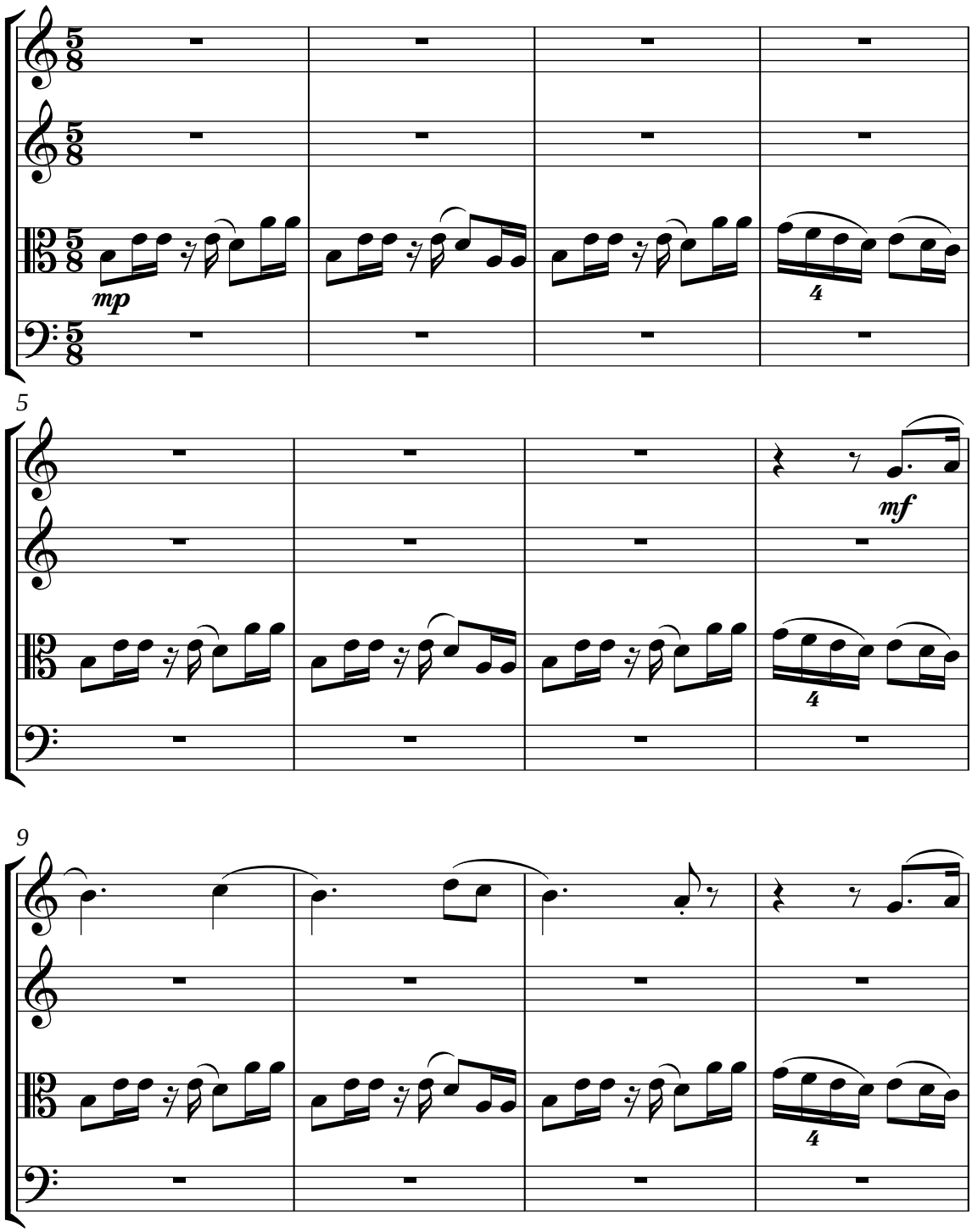
ABSTRACT

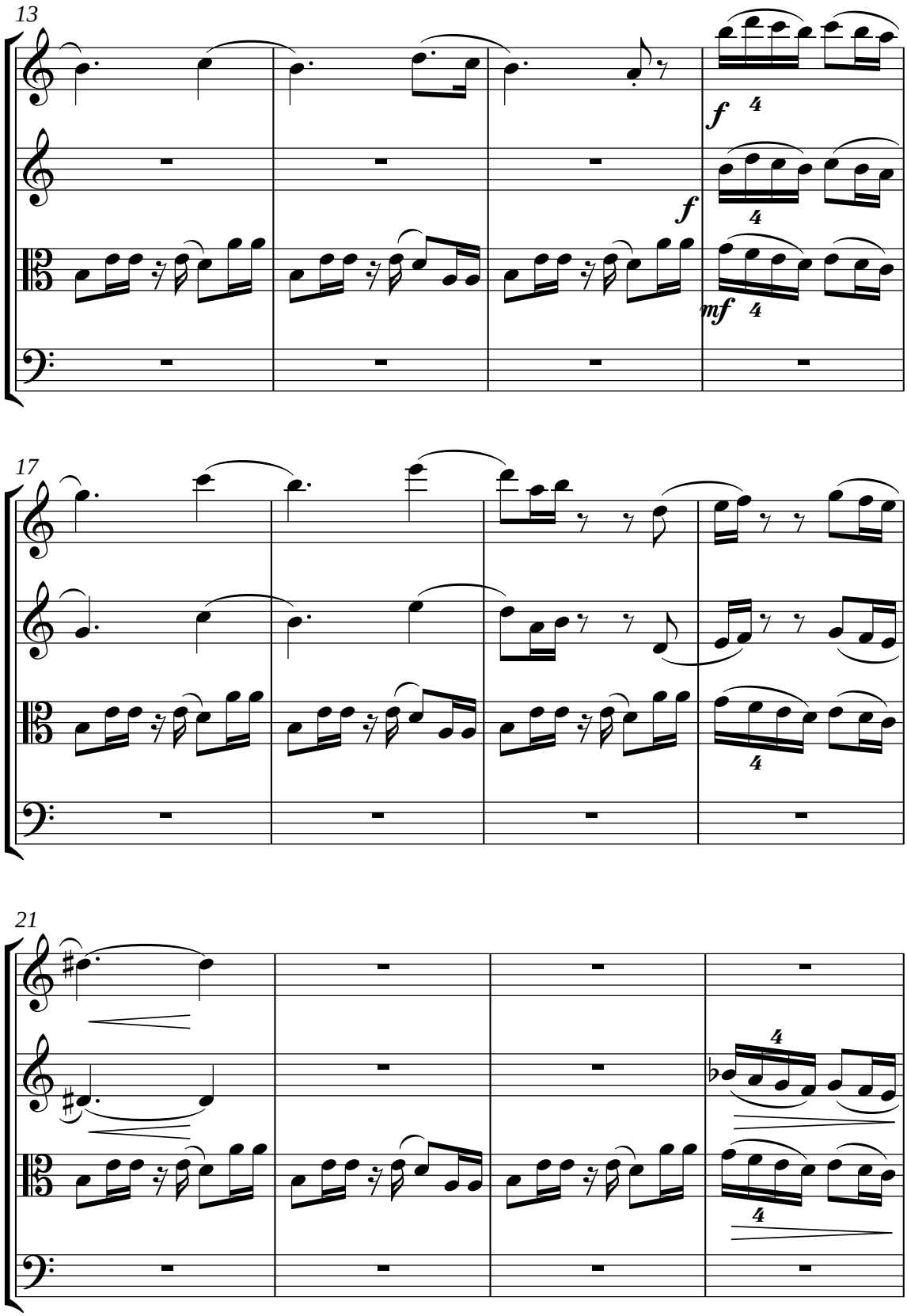
On a Rose of Coals is a single movement composed for string quartet and is approximately eleven minutes in duration. The work revolves around ostinati which incorporate rhythmic characteristics of West African and Balkan traditional music, against which are set melodies which emphasize the conflict between a bitonal and composite reading. Polyrhythmic structures and assymetrical rhythms dominate the work, and are used to effect many of the metric modulations between sections of the piece. The tension between a solid, relatively stable modal center and a melody which continually pulls toward disintegration of tonal stasis characterizes the work at large. The final section explores the inherent dissonances in a seemingly tonal ostinato, a discord which ultimately eclipses the sense of tonal and rhythmic stability entirely.

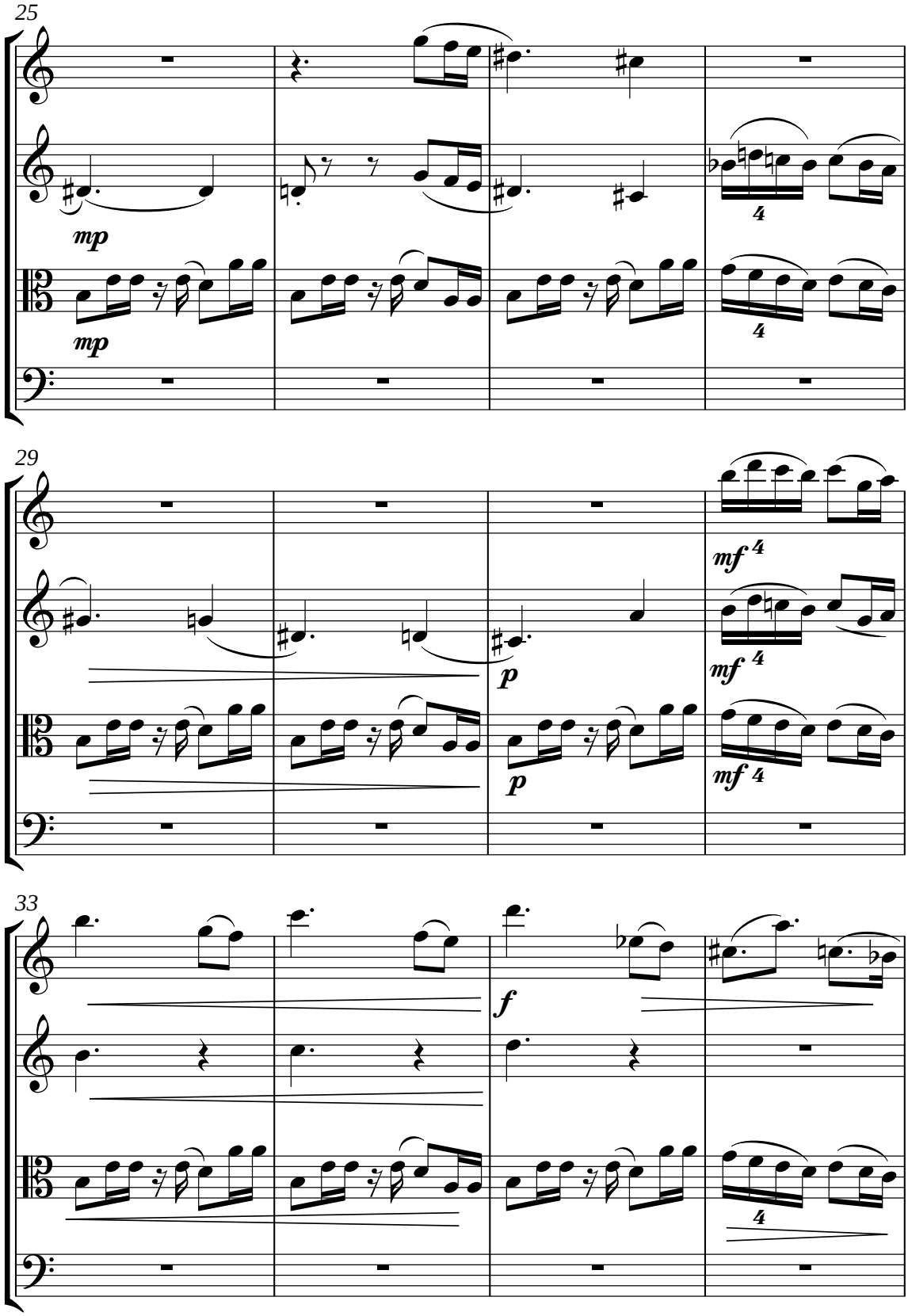
TABLE OF CONTENTS

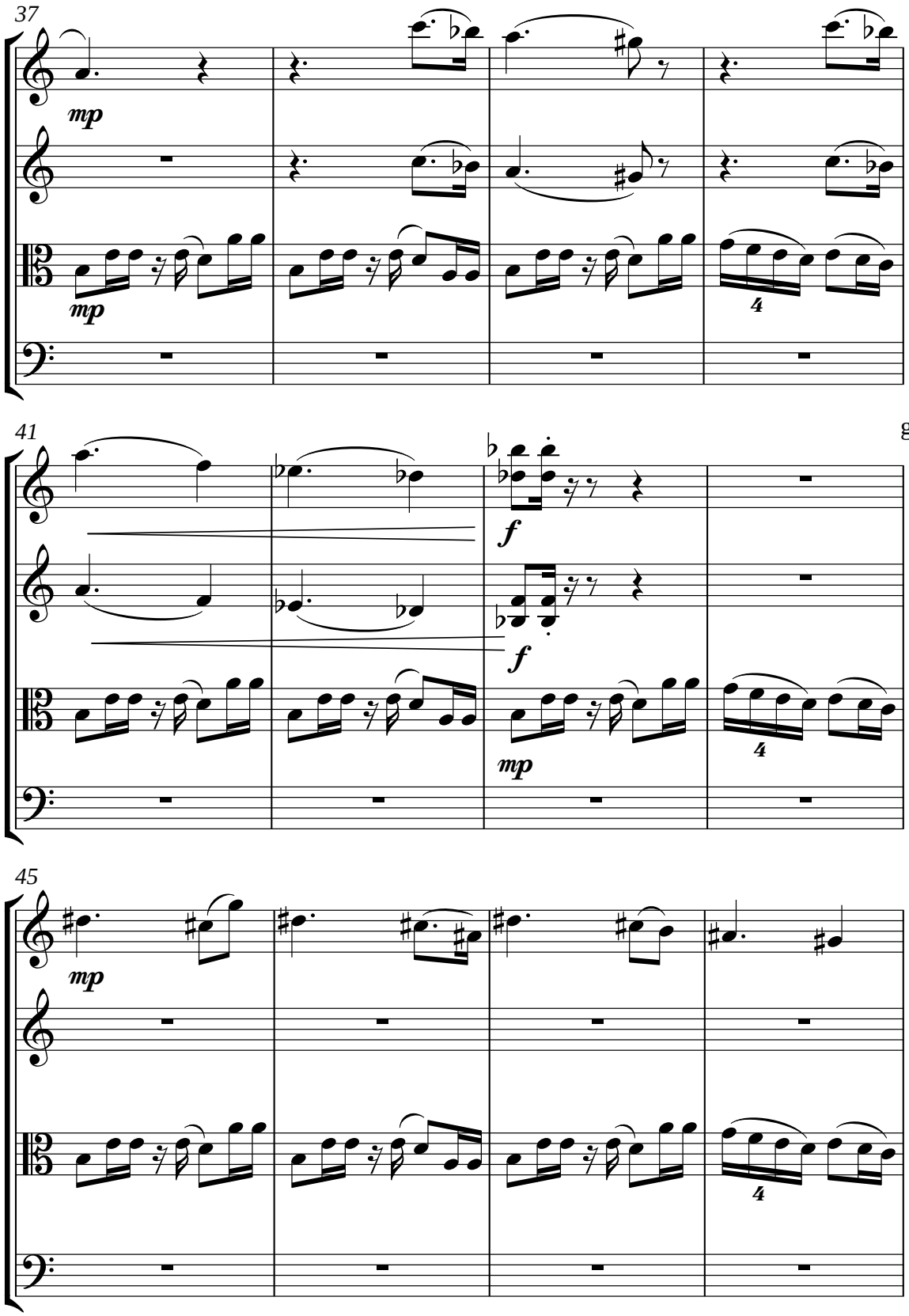
SCORE..... 1

♪=220 - with mischief

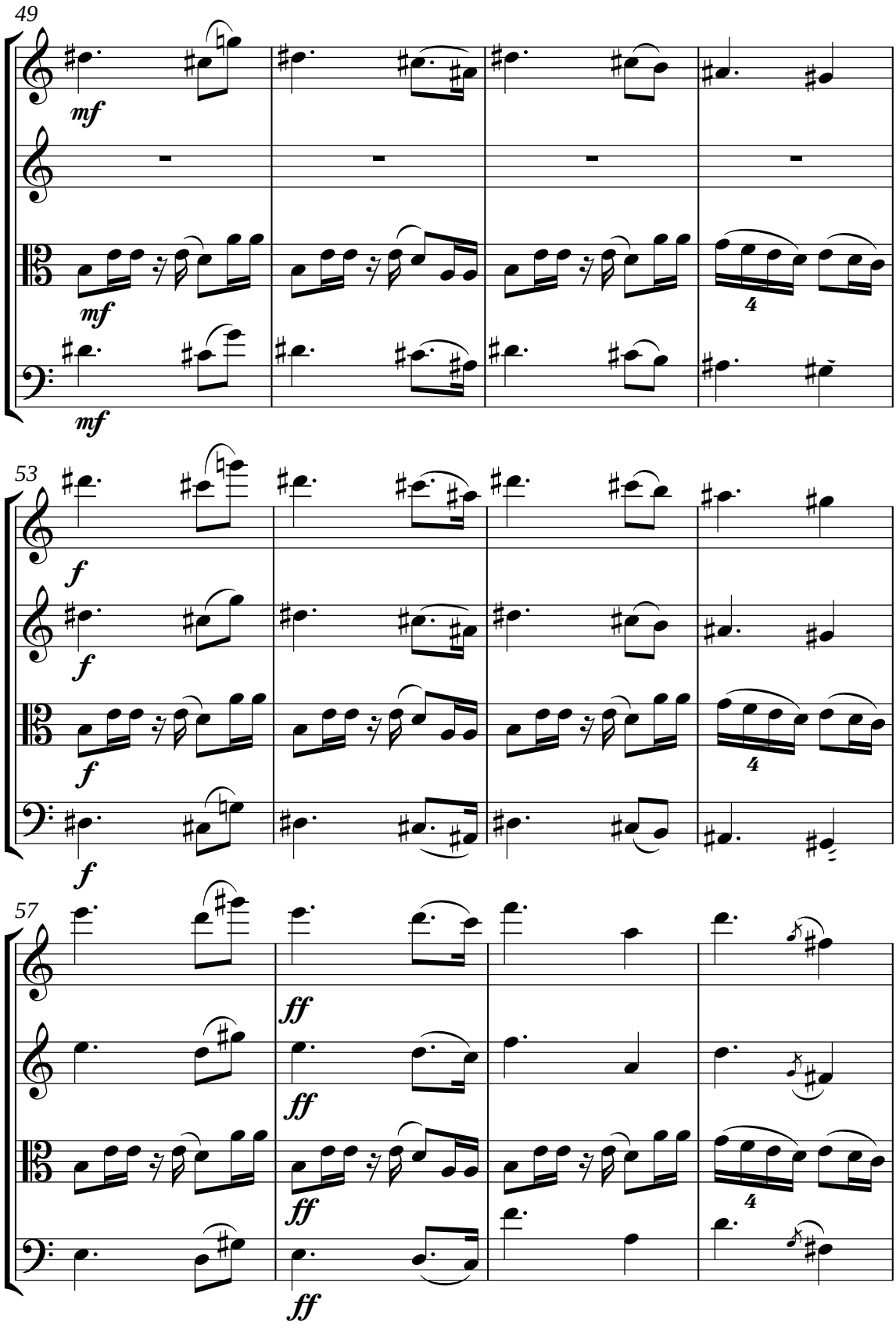


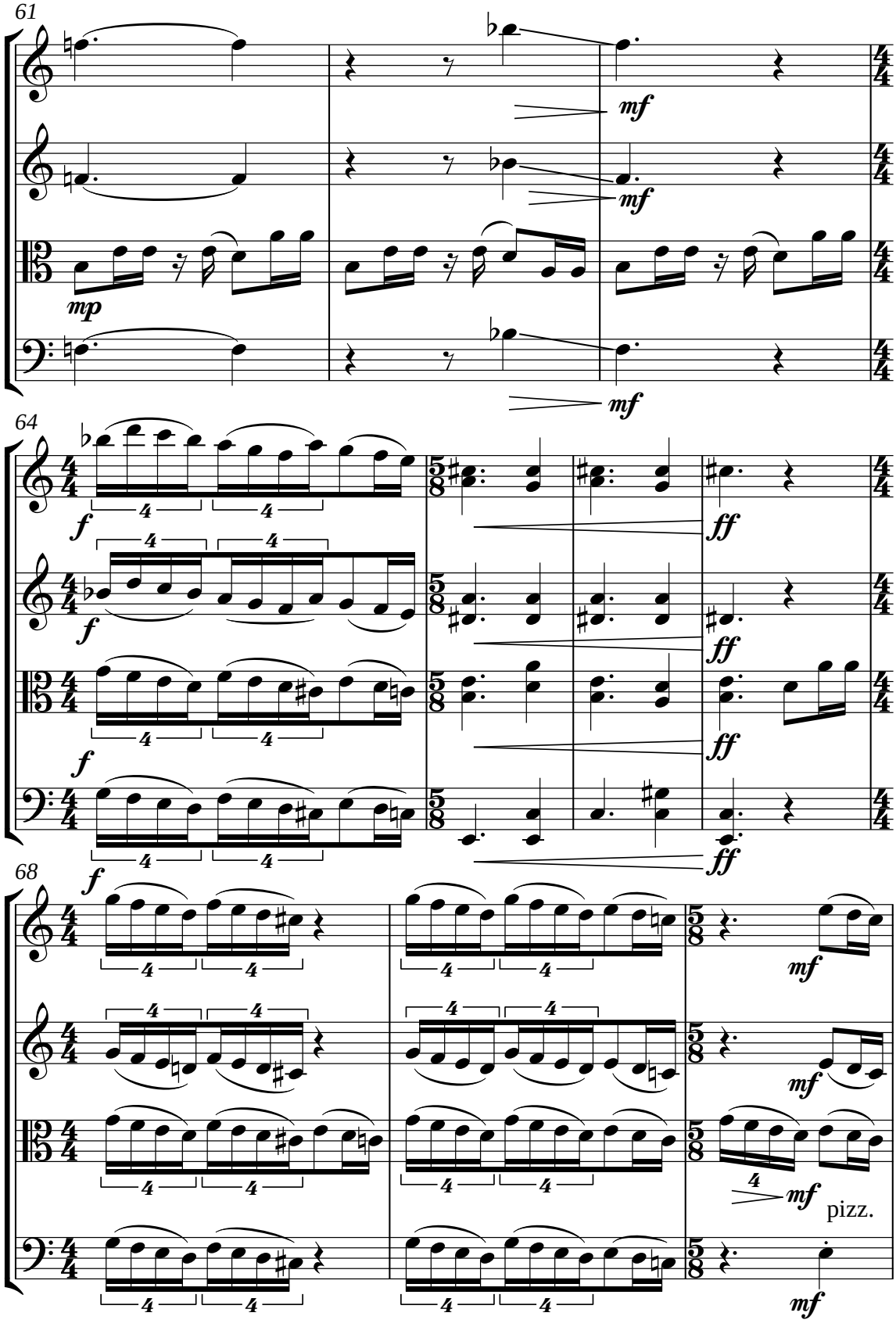

13
f
4
f
4
mf
4
17
4
21
4
4

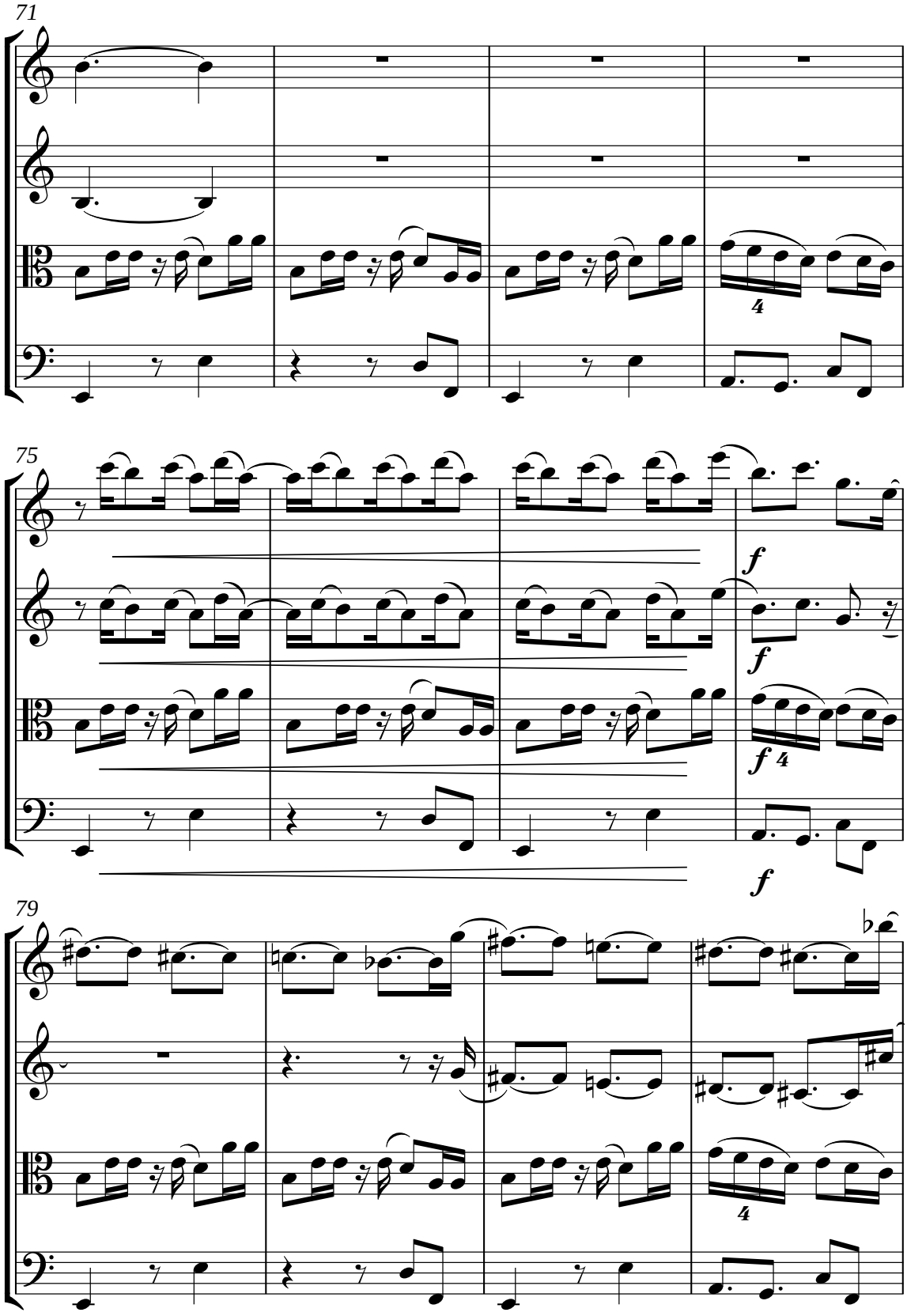

25
mp
mp
4
29
p
p
mf 4
mf 4
mf 4
33
f
4

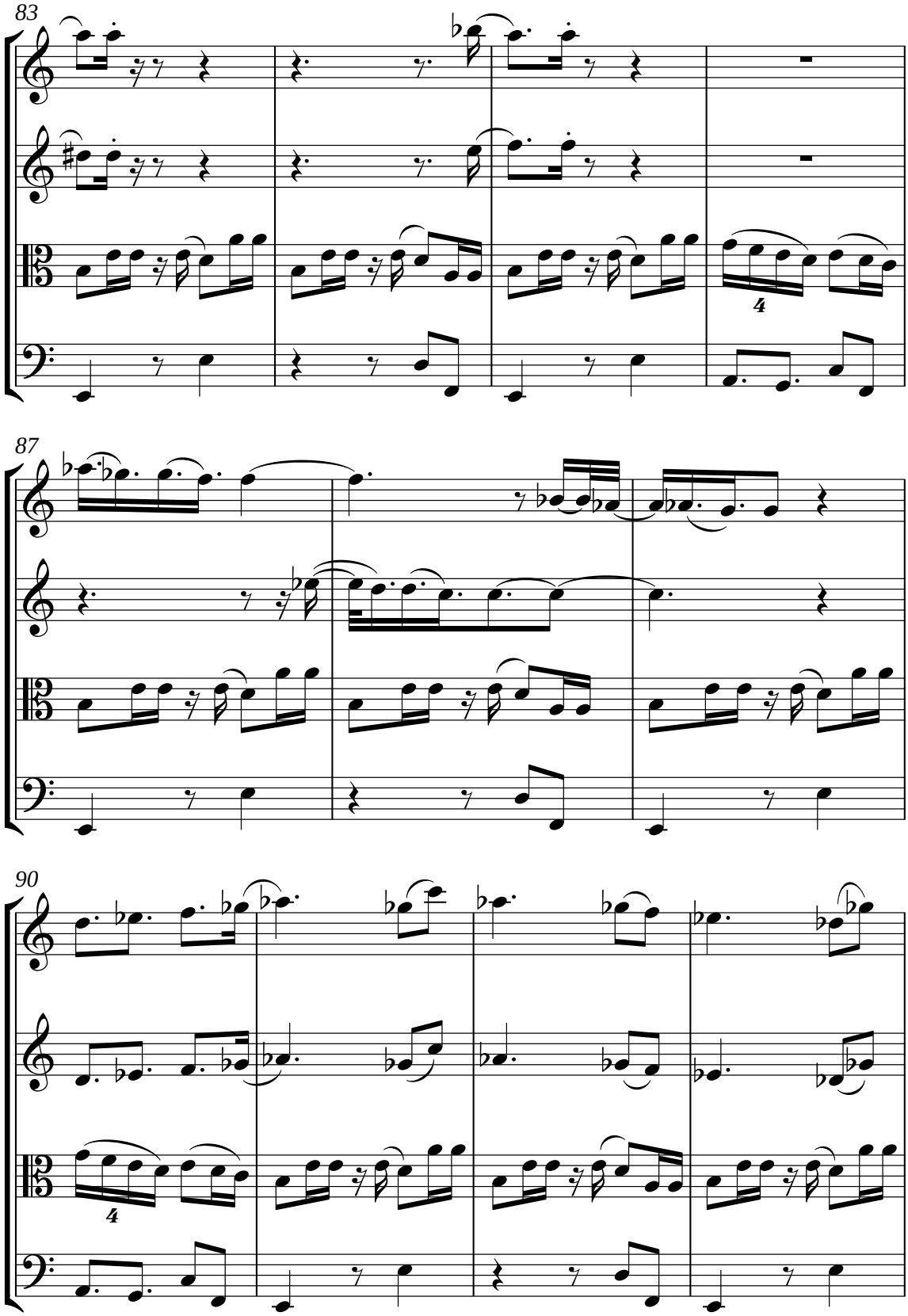


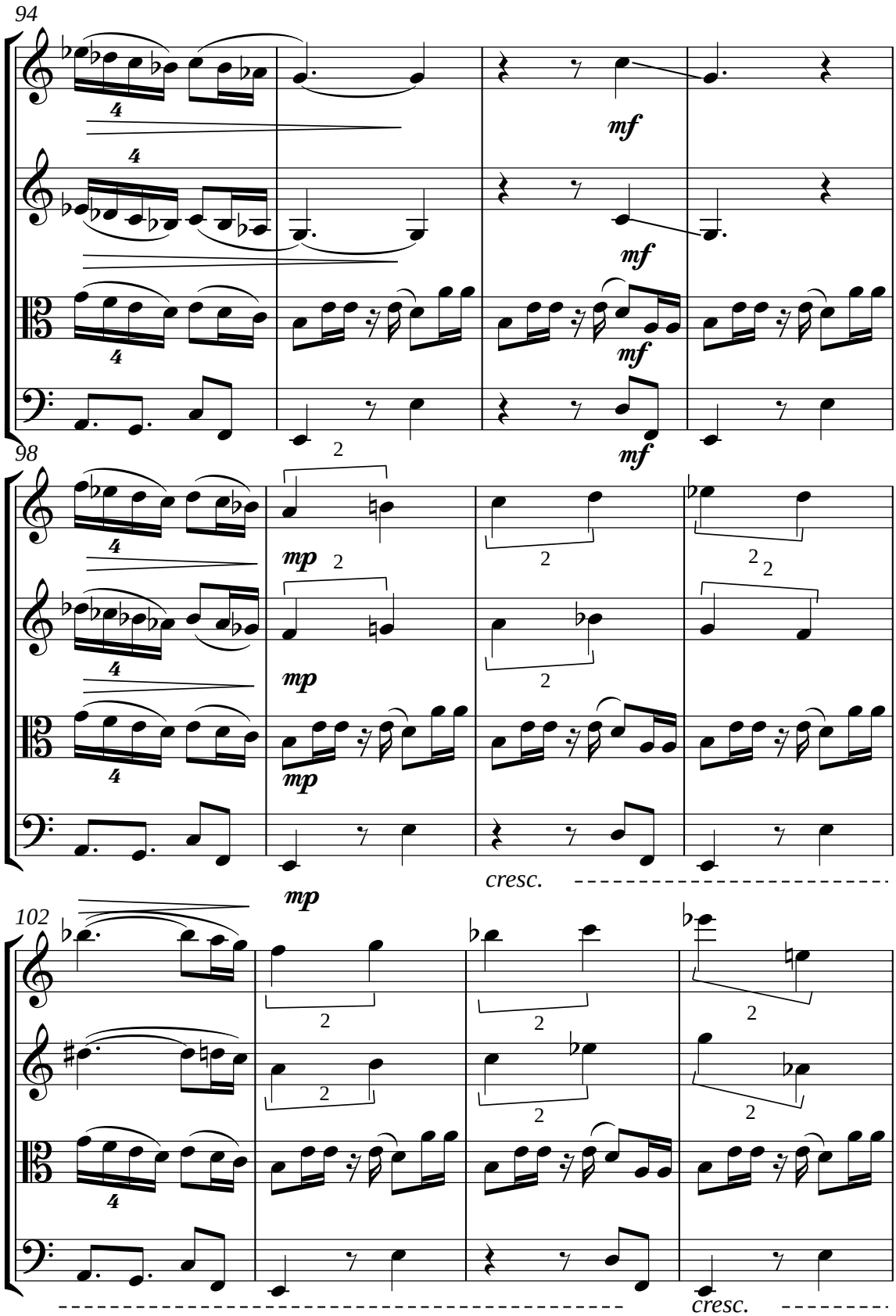
giddy yet incisi

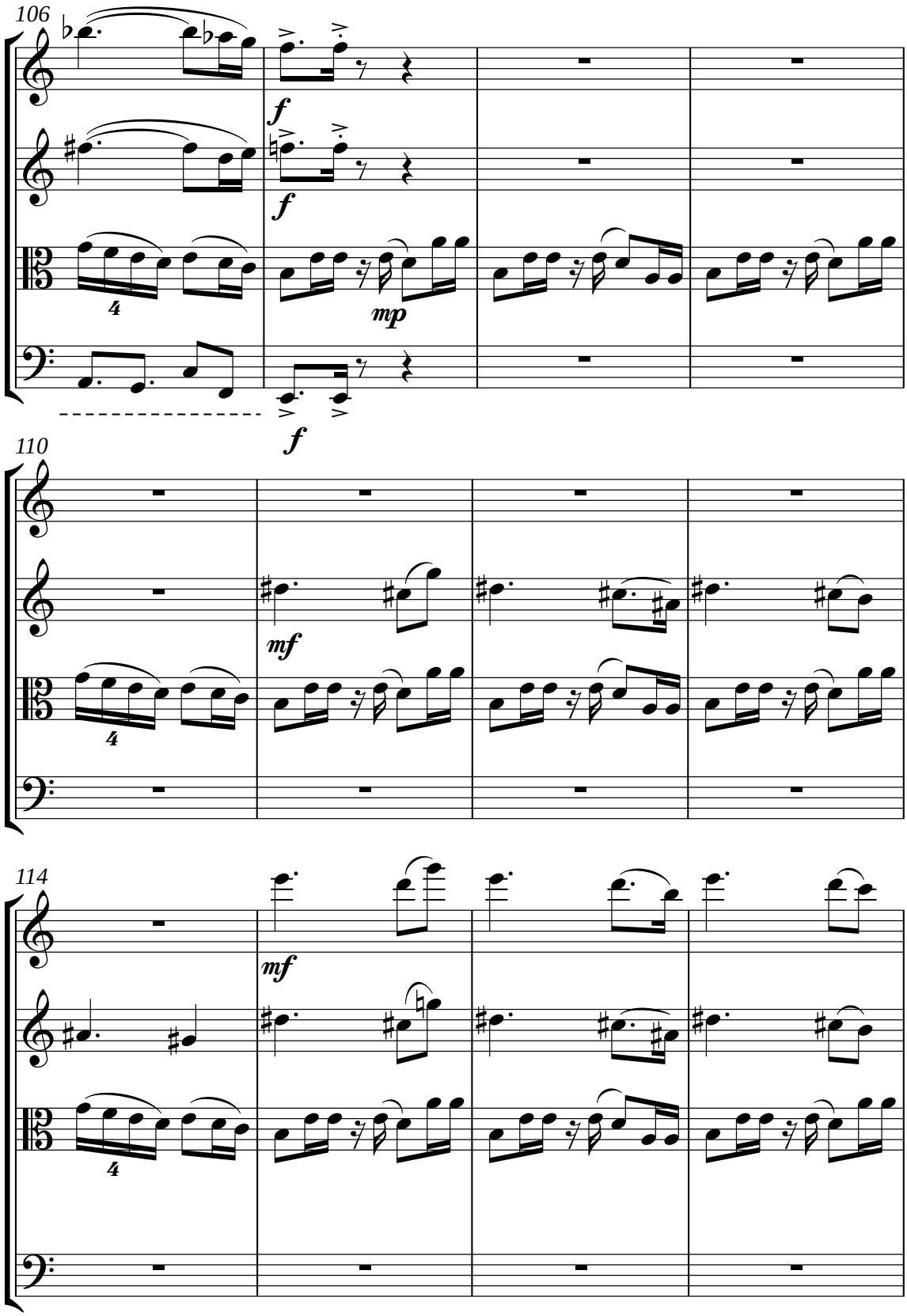

49
mf
mf
mf
4
53
f
f
f
f
4
57
ff
ff
ff
ff
4

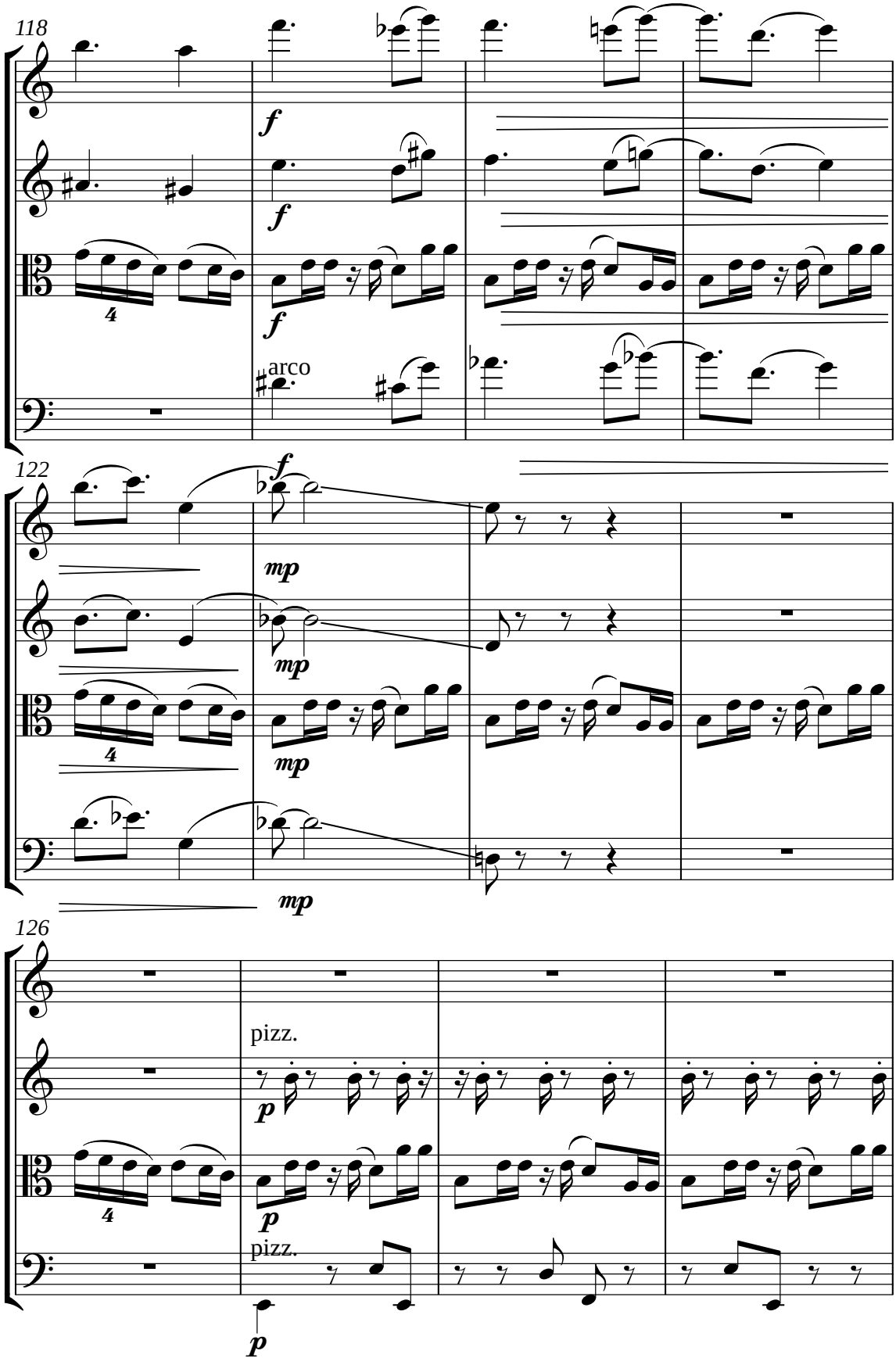

61
mf
mf
mp
mf
64
f
ff
f
ff
f
ff
68
f
mf
mf
mf
pizz.
mf

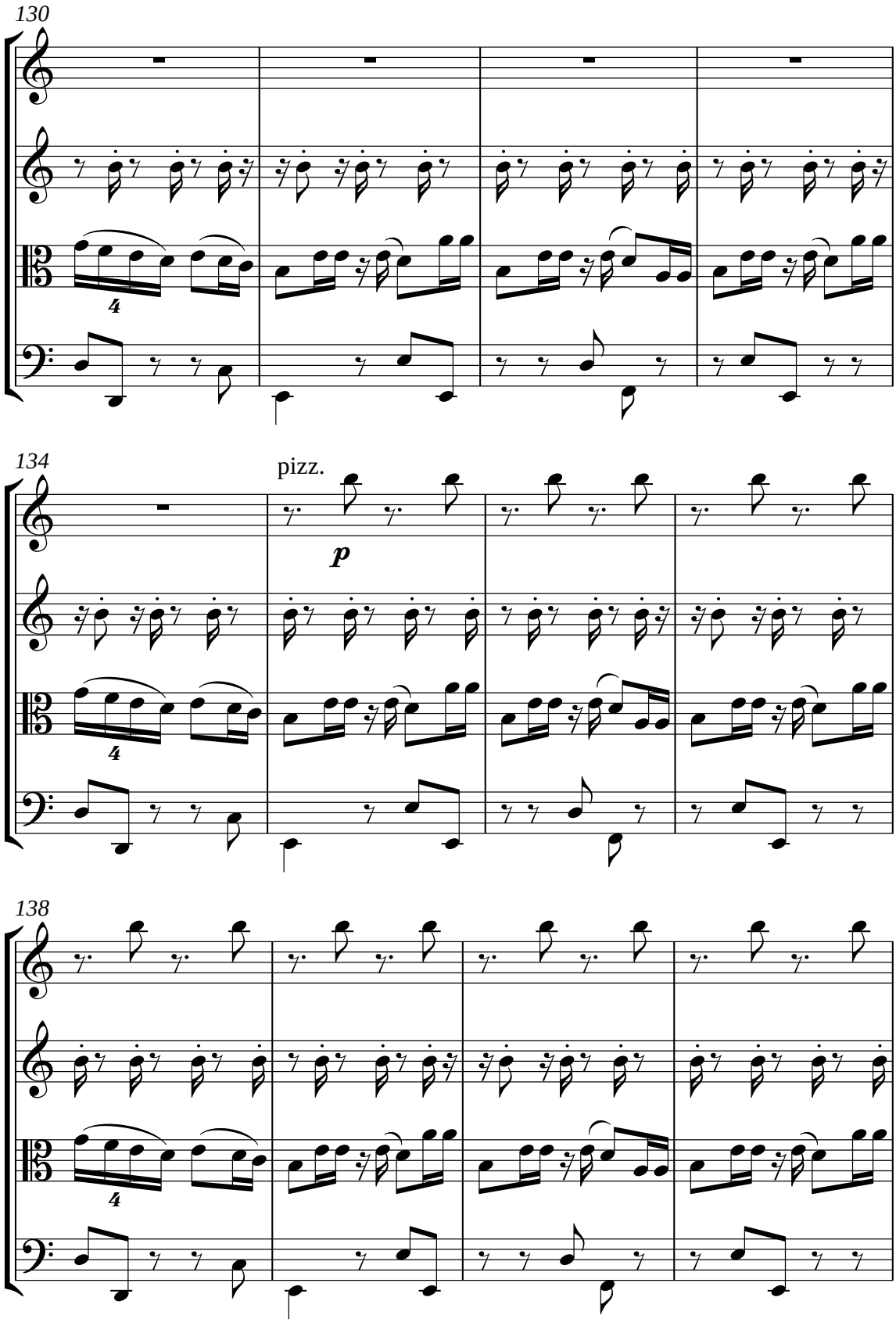

71
75
79
f
f
f
f
4
4

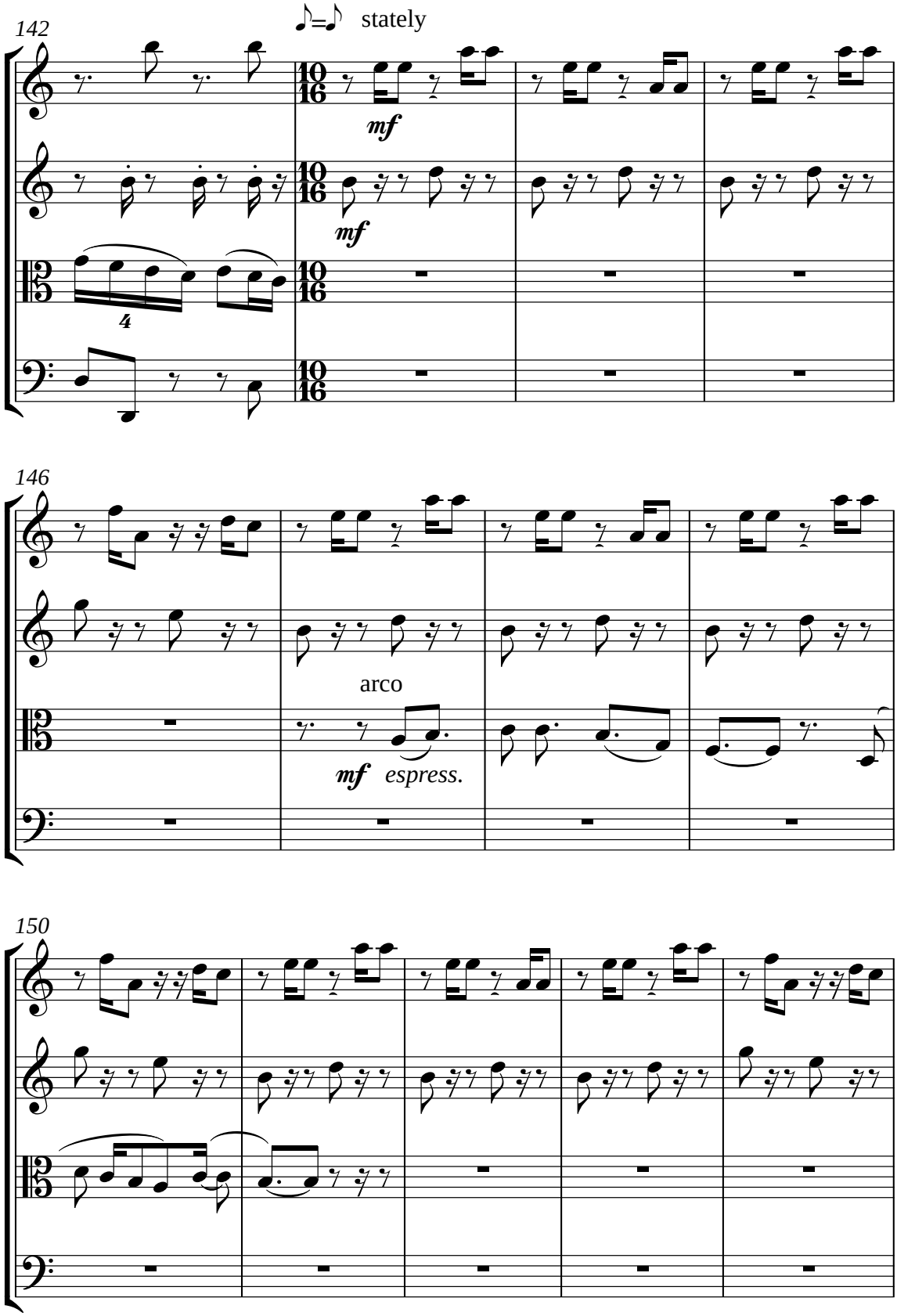

83
87
90

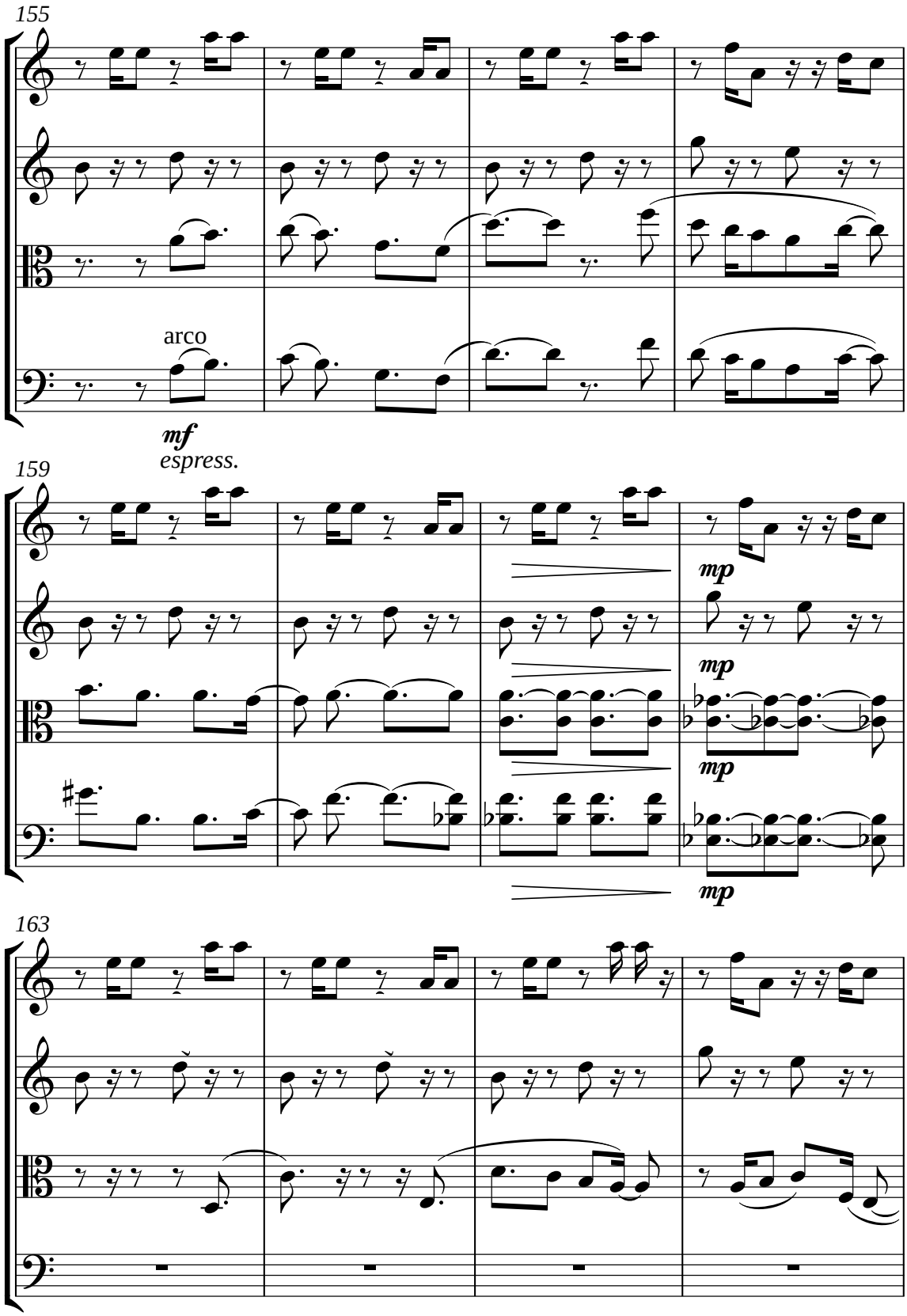

94
mf
mf
mf
mf
98
mp
mp
mp
mp
cresc.
102
cresc.


106
f
f
mp
f
110
mf
114
mf

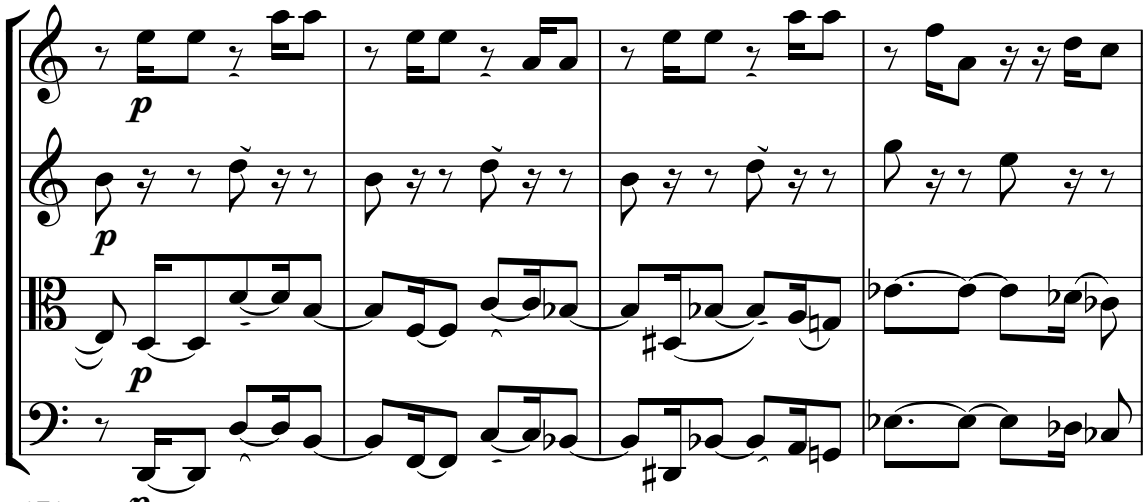

118
f
f
f
arco
122
f
mp
mp
mp
mp
126
pizz.
p
p
pizz.
p


130
134
pizz.
p
138

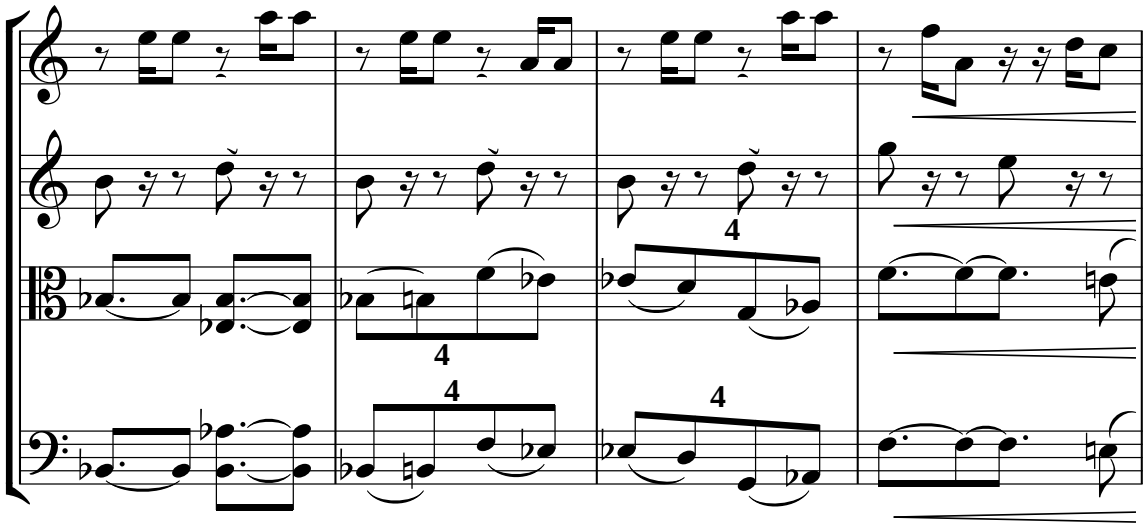

142
♪=♪ stately
mf
mf
4
146
arco
mf espress.
150


155
arco
mf
espress.
159
mp
mp
mp
mp
163

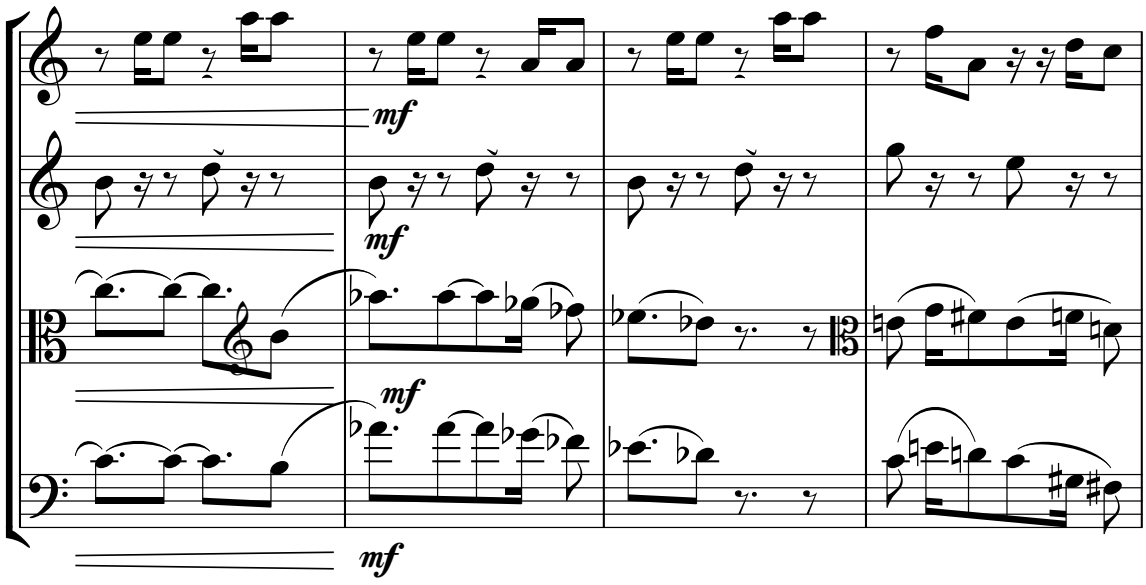
167 hushed disbelief

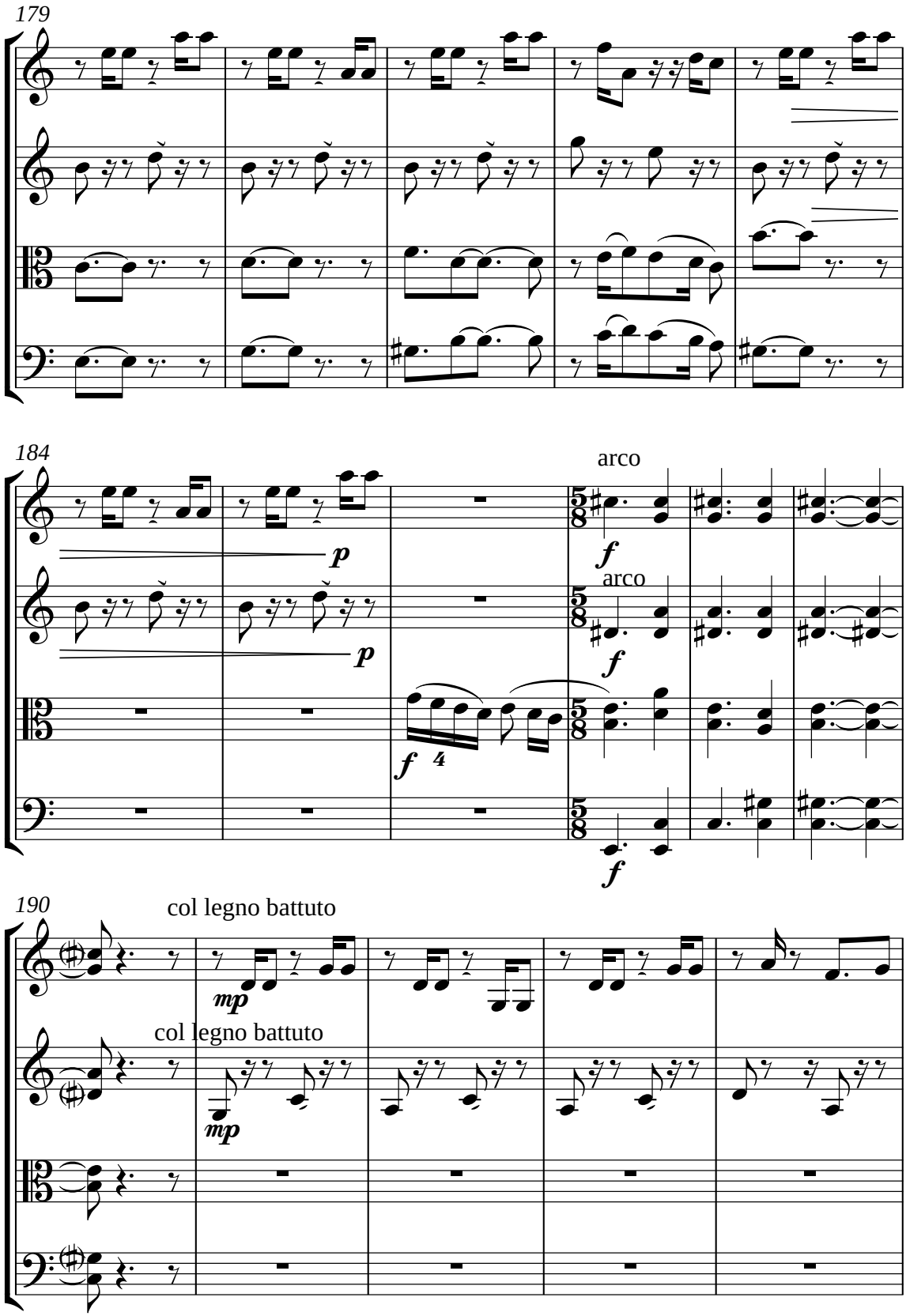


171

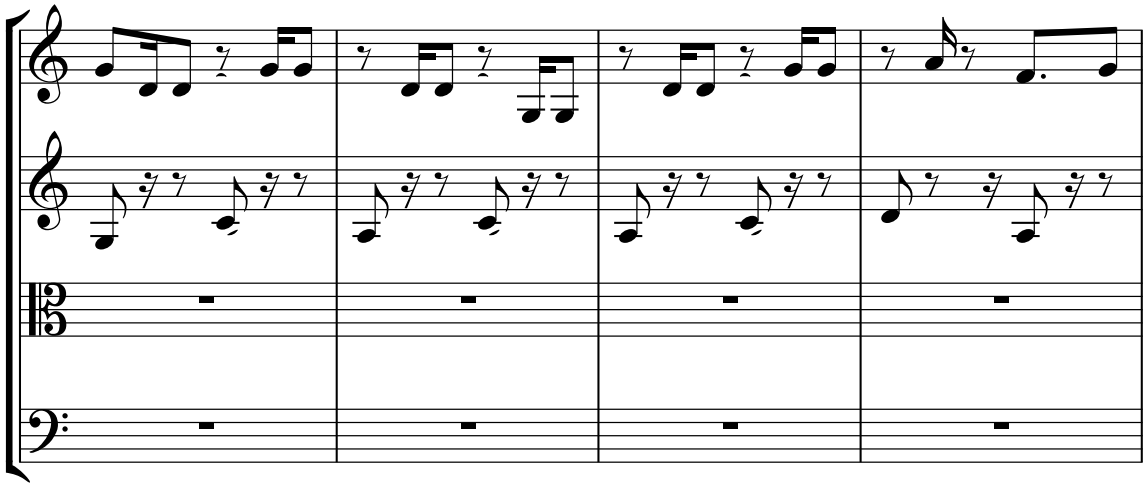


175

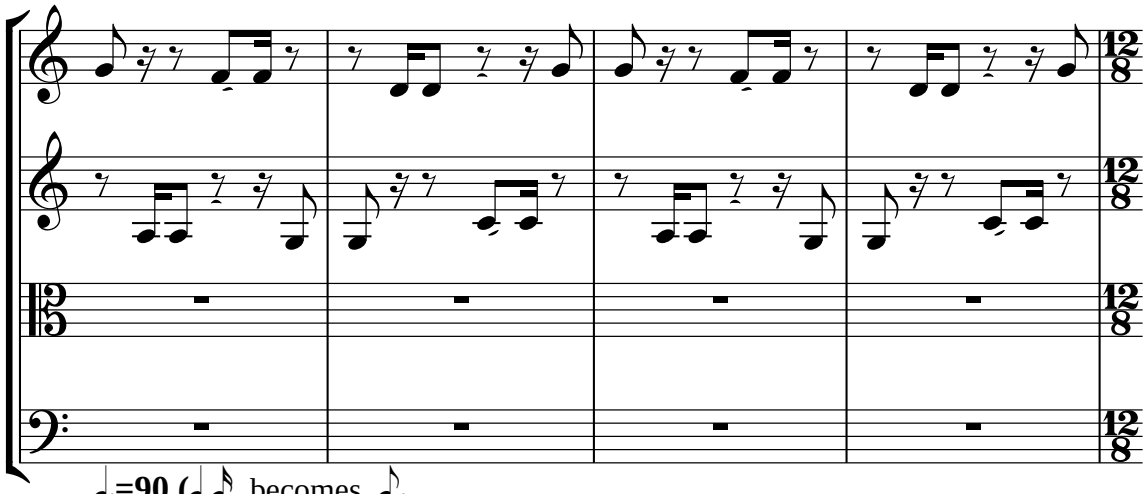



179
184
arco
arco
190
col legno battuto
col legno battuto

195



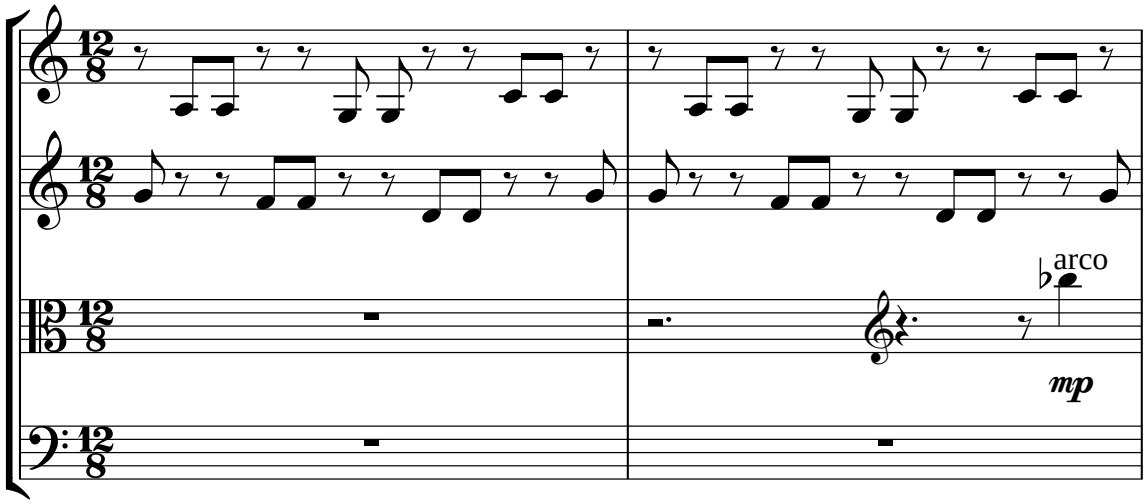
199

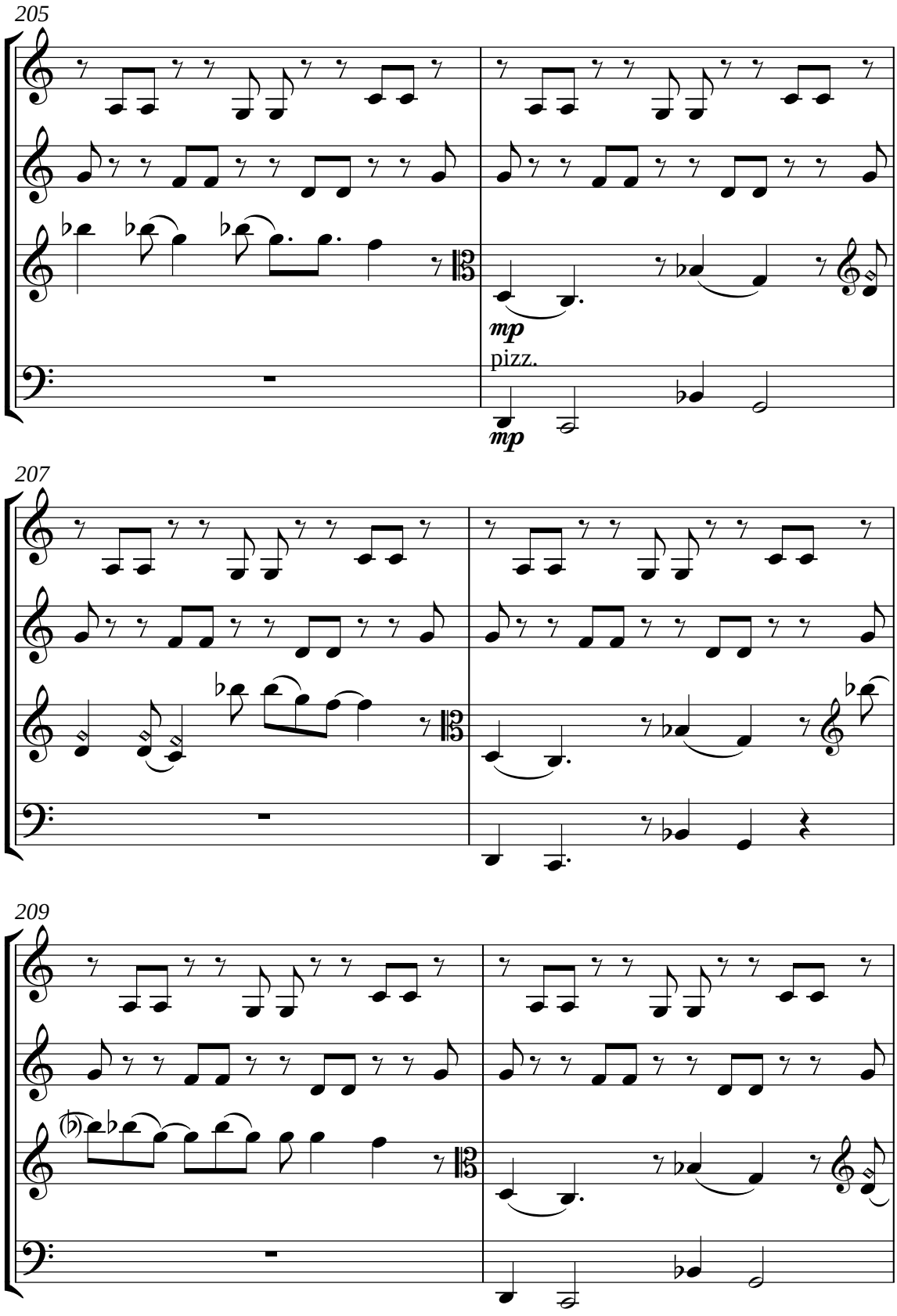


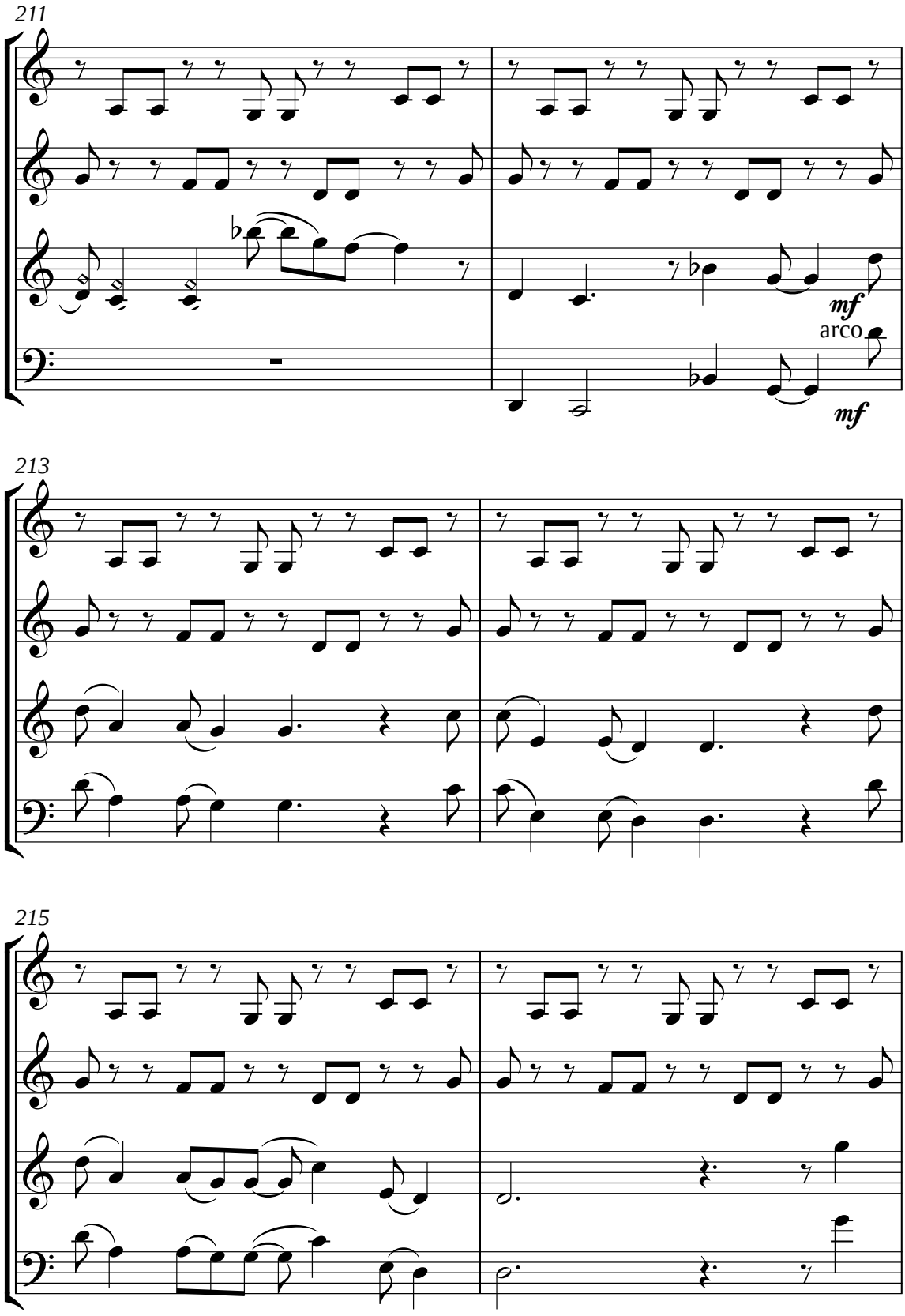
♩.=90 (♩♪ becomes ♪.
/ go slightly faster)

with gravity

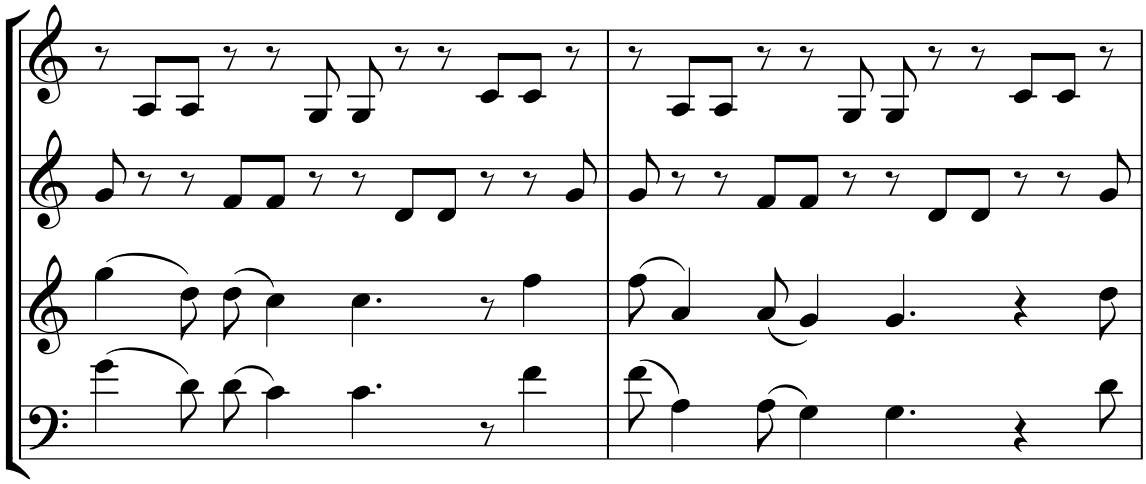
203



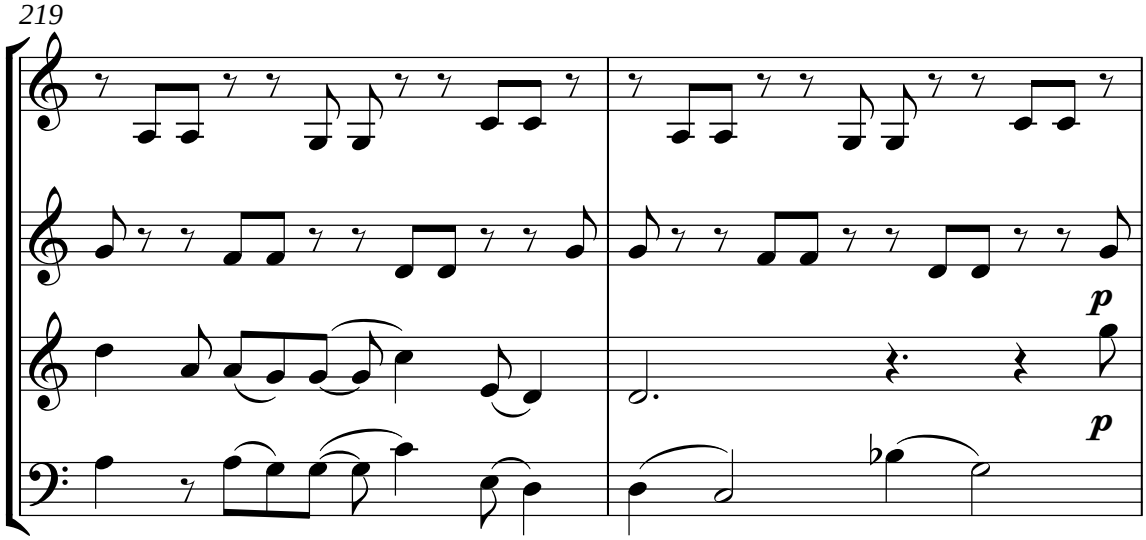

205
mp
pizz.
mp
207
209


211
mf
arco
mf
213
215

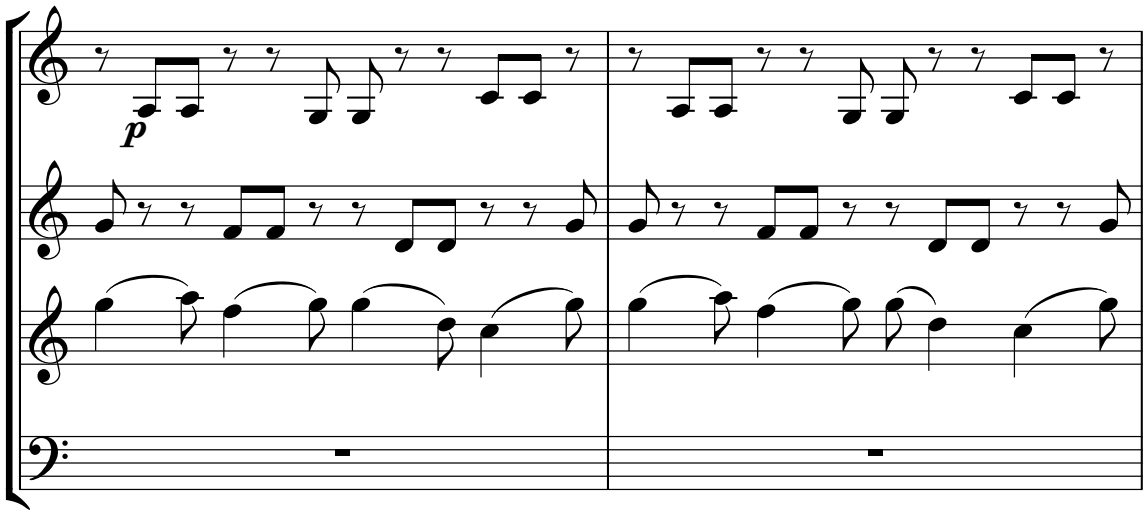
217

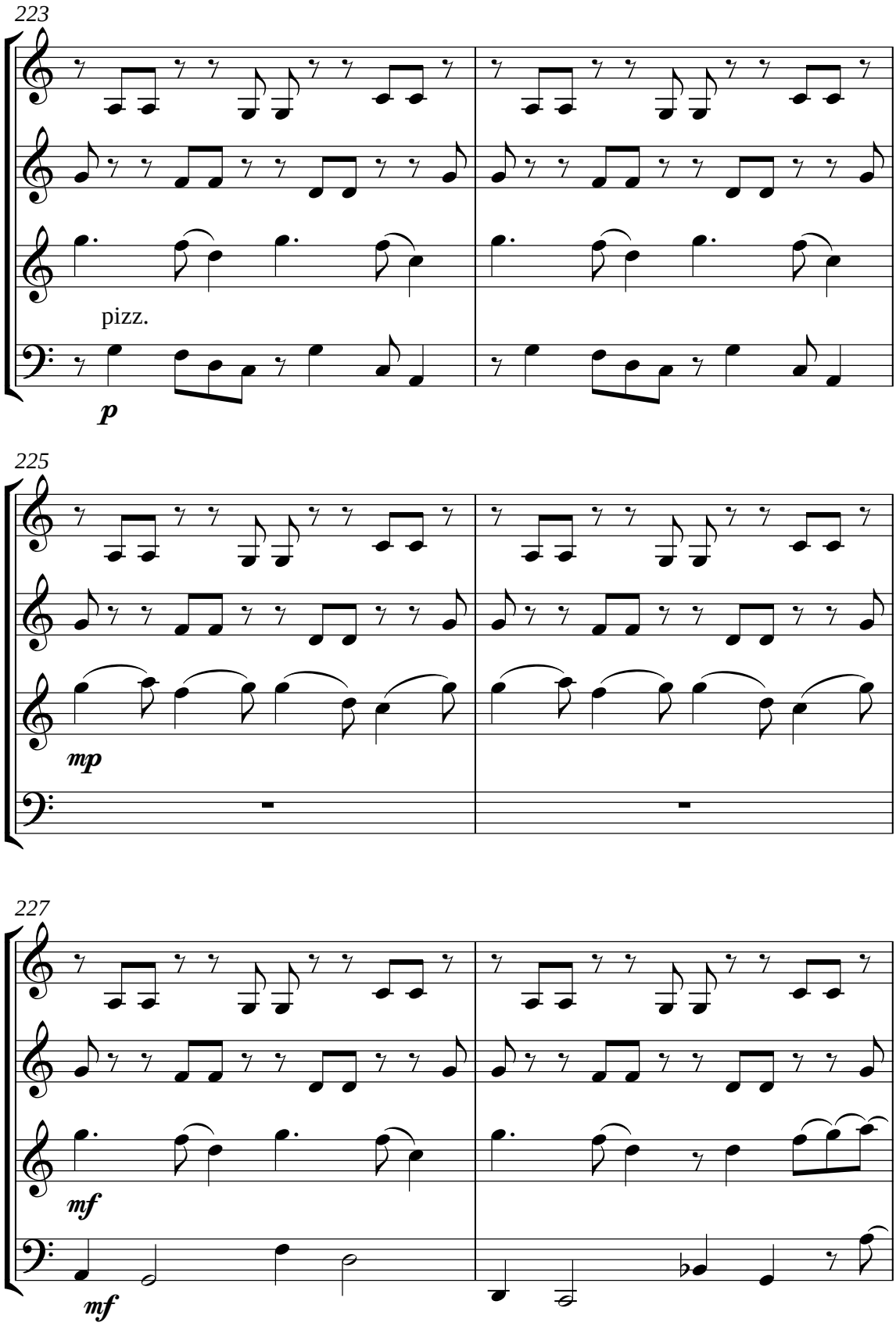


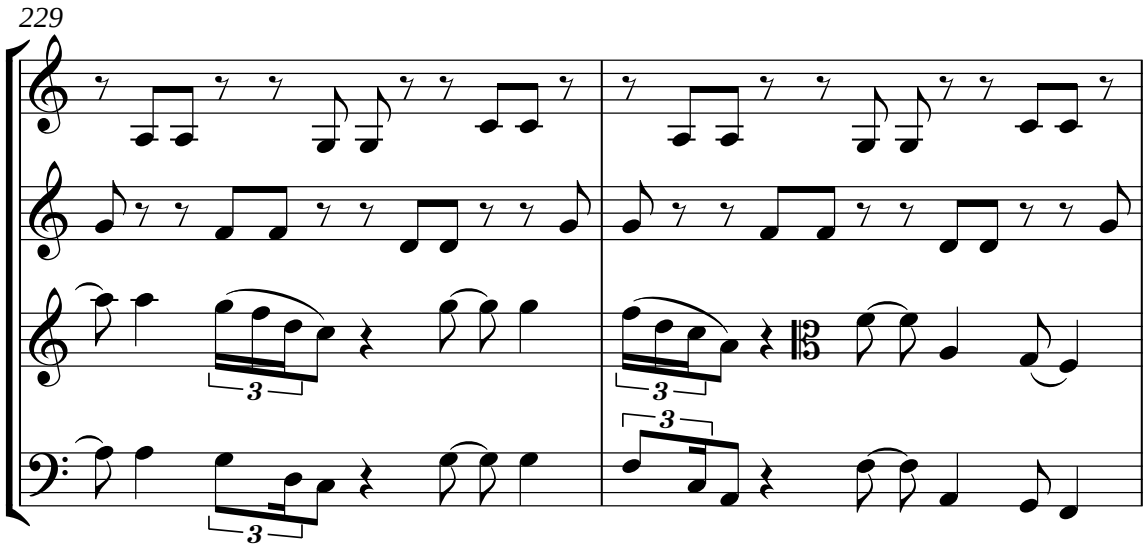
219

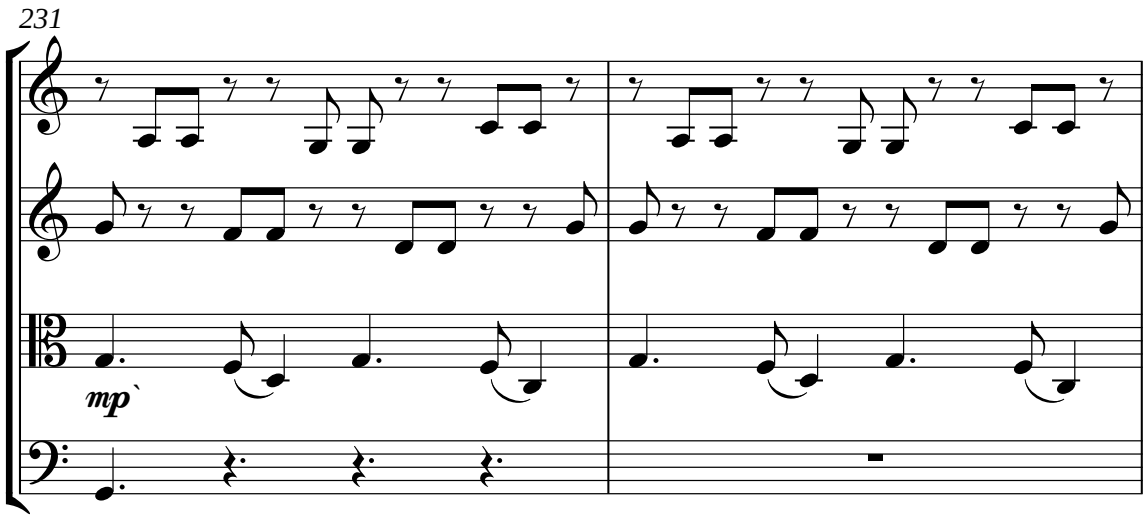


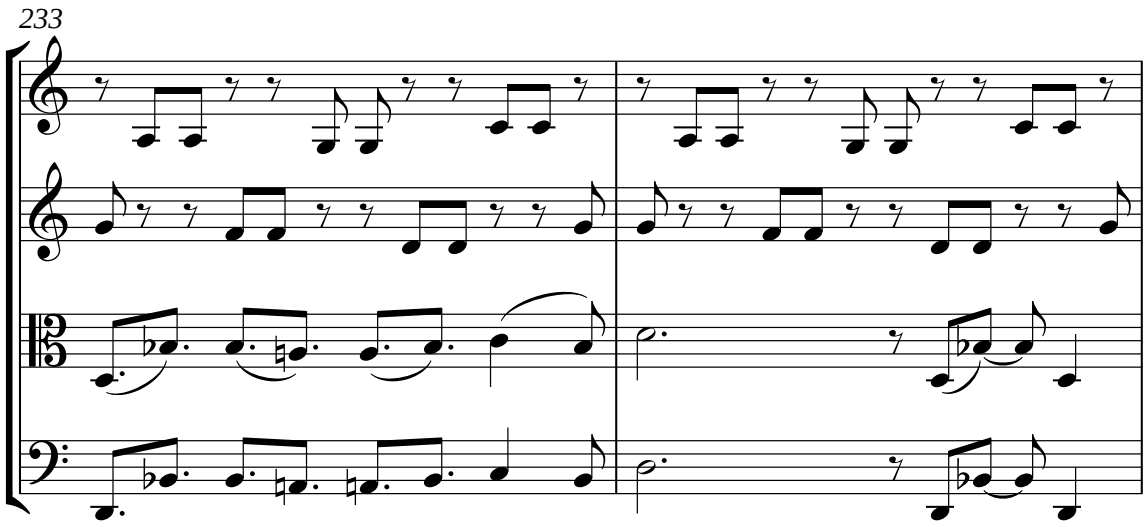
221

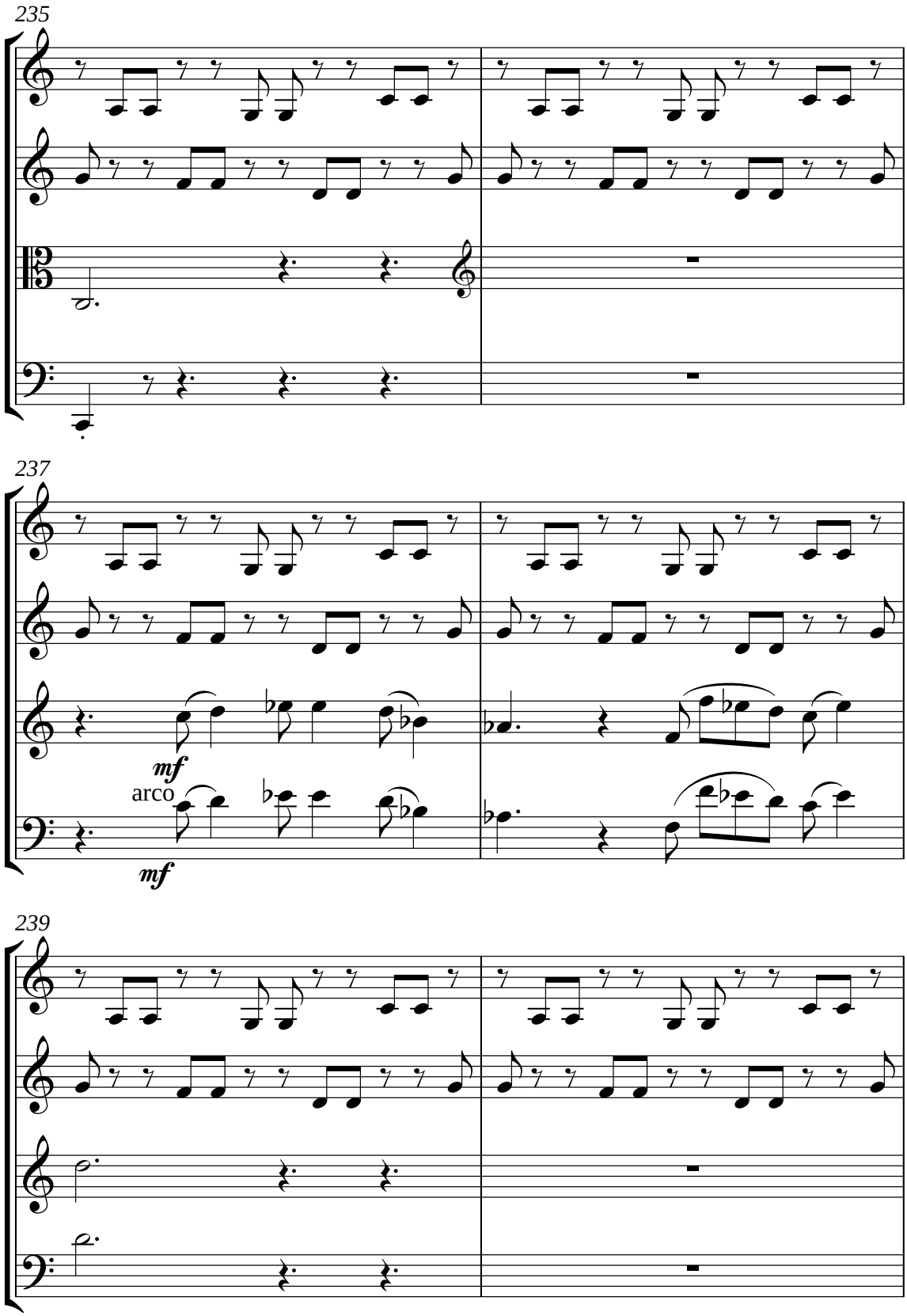


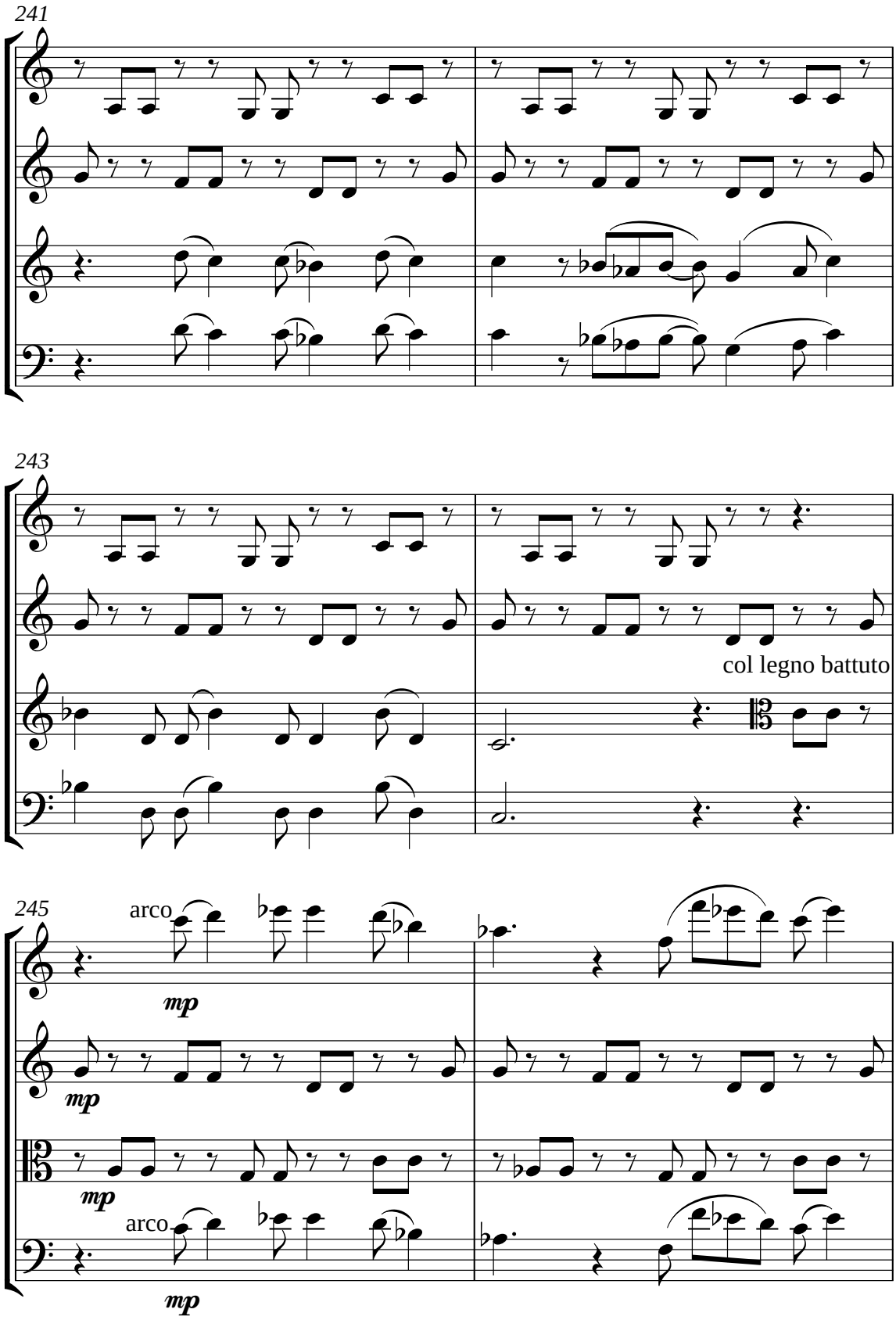

223
pizz.
p
225
mp
227
mf
mf

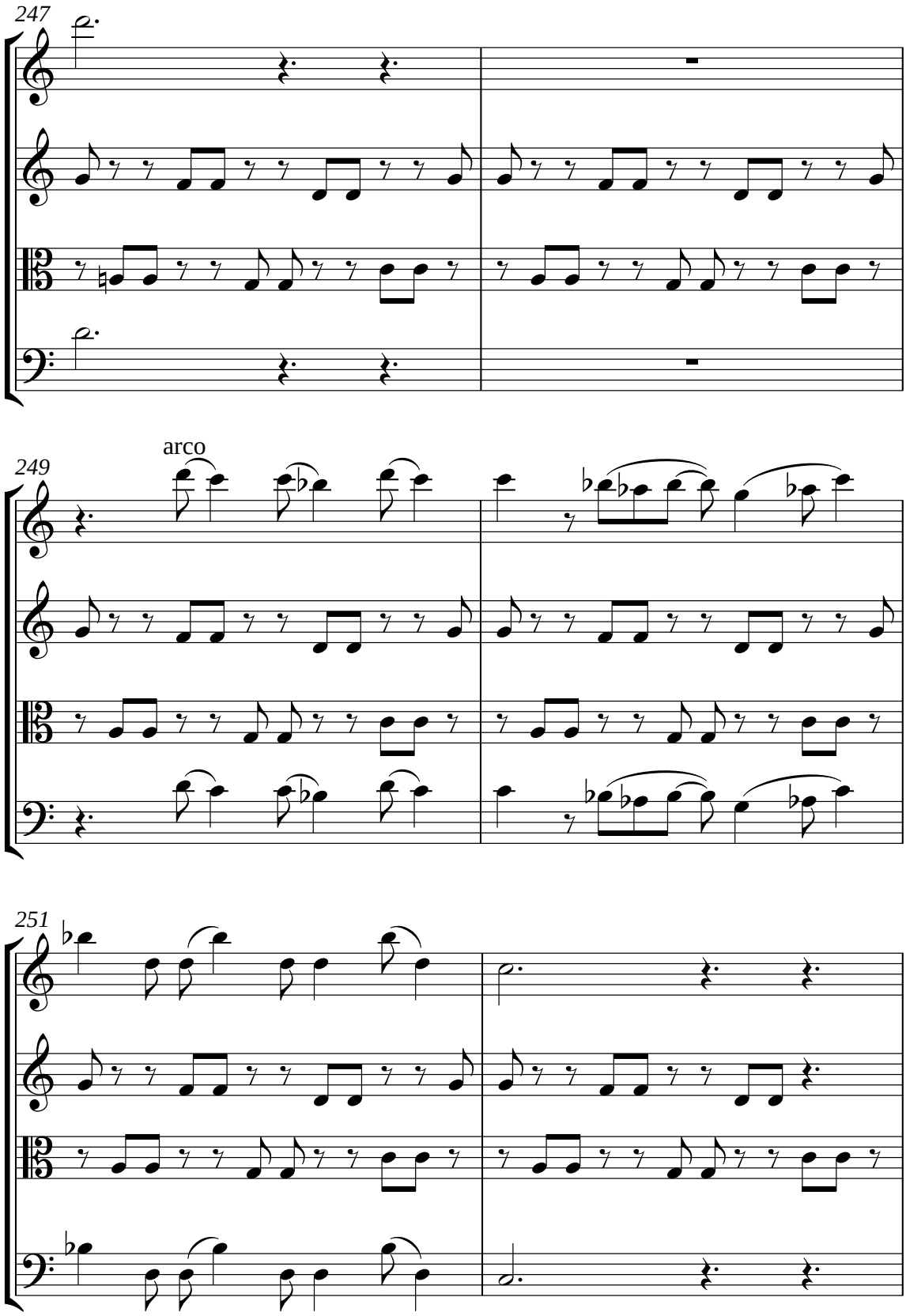

229
3
3
3

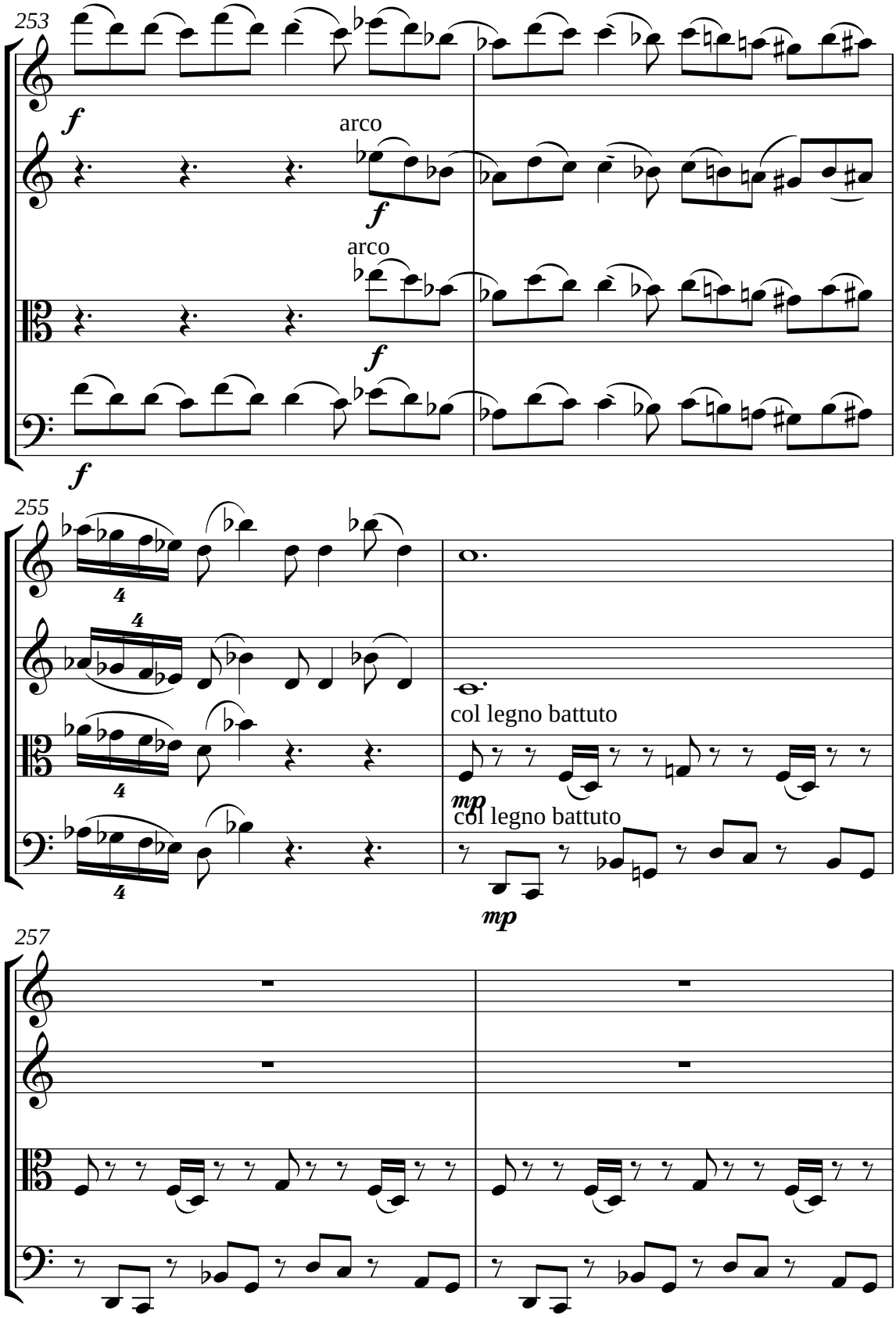

231
mp`

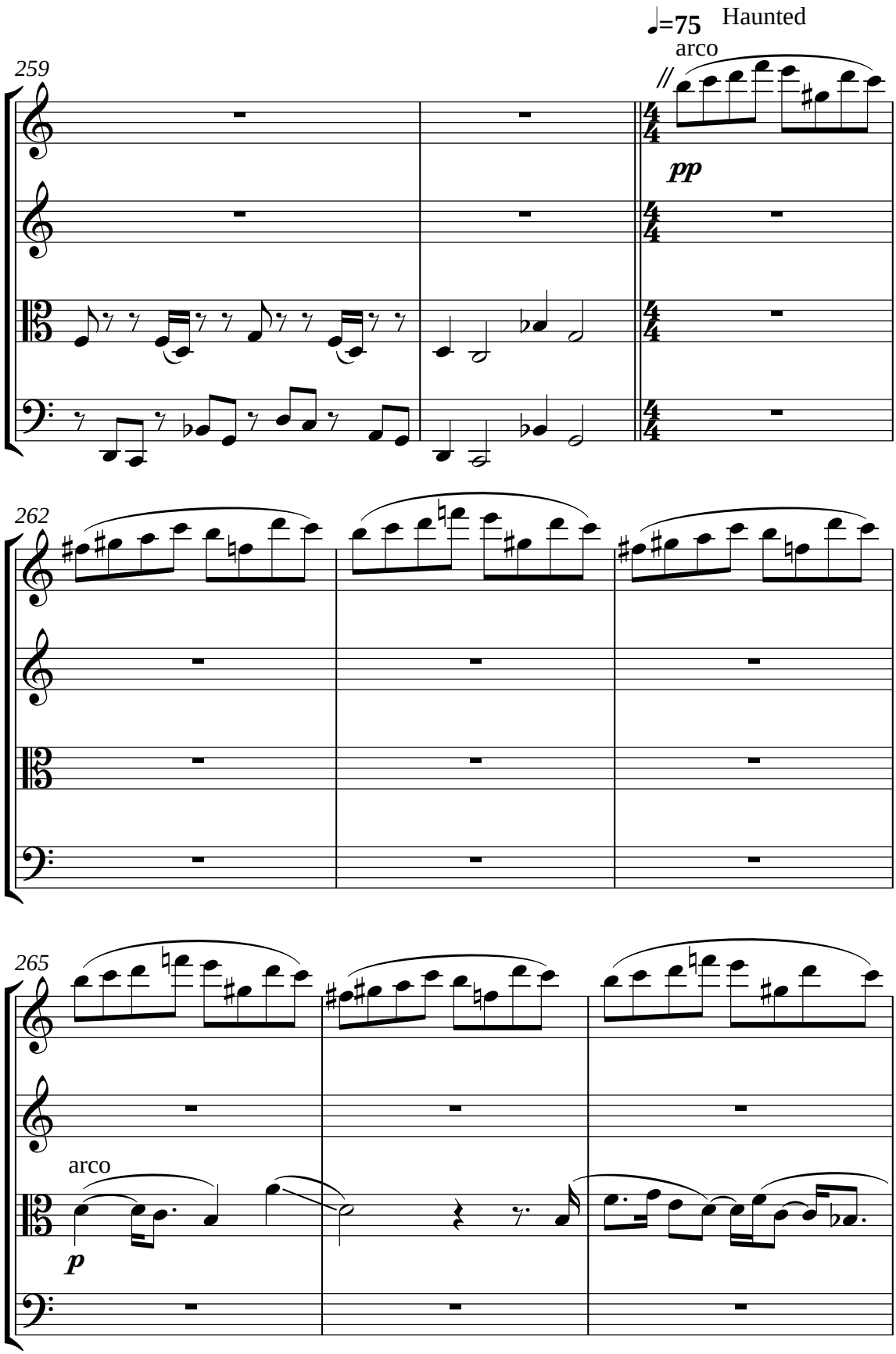

233

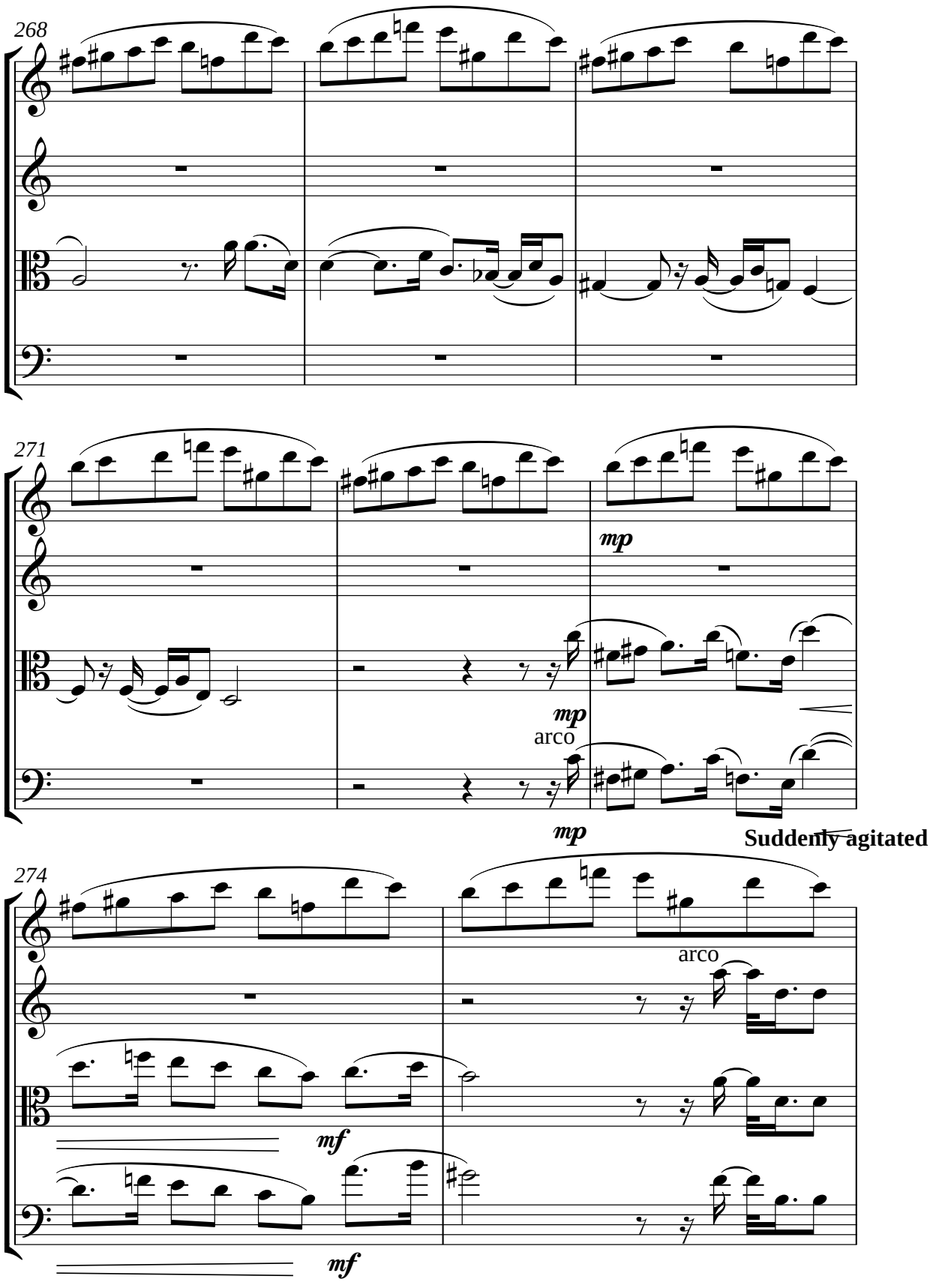

235
237
mf
arco
mf
239

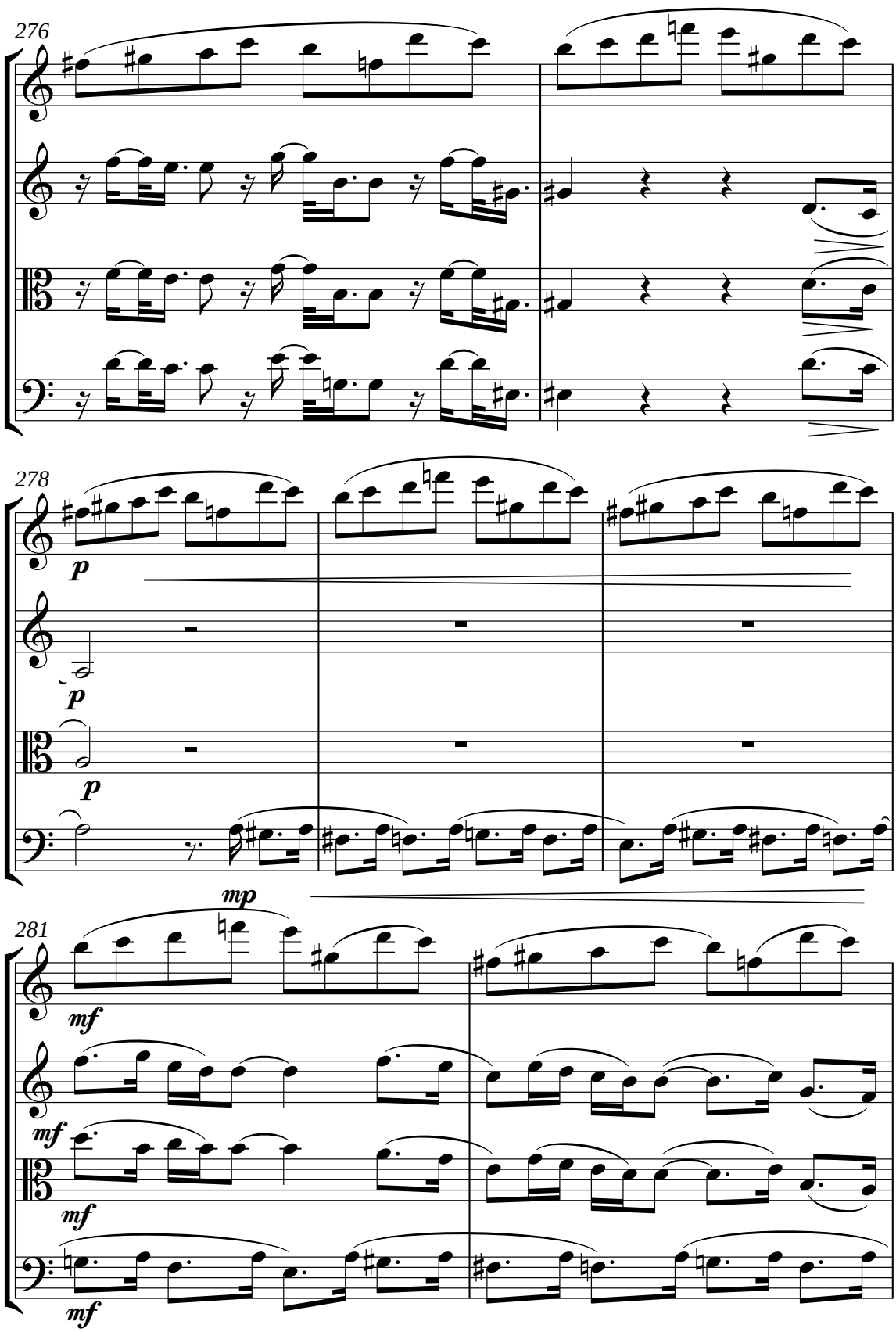

241
243
col legno battuto
245
arco
mp
mp
mp
arco
mp

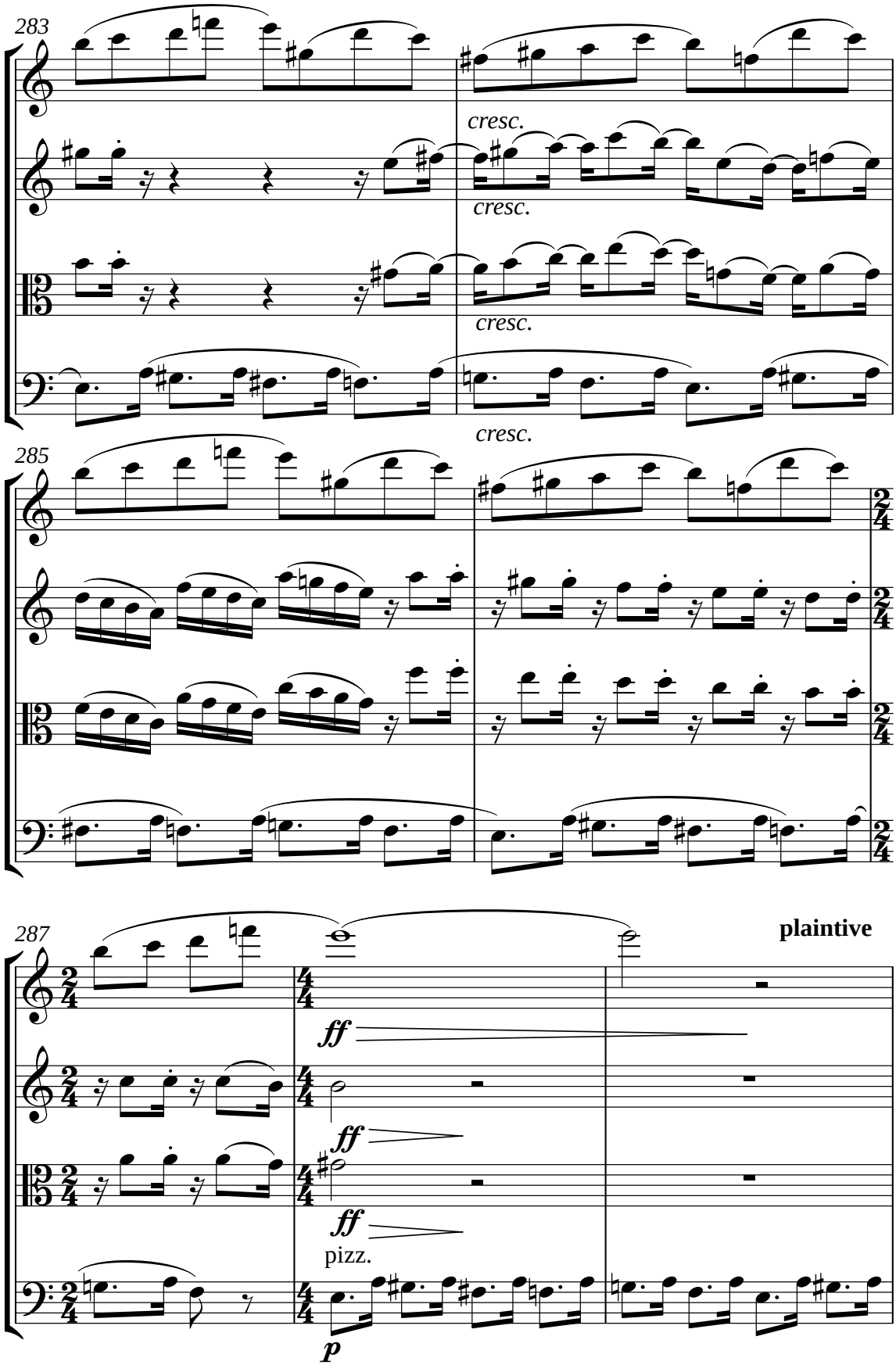

247
arco
249
251

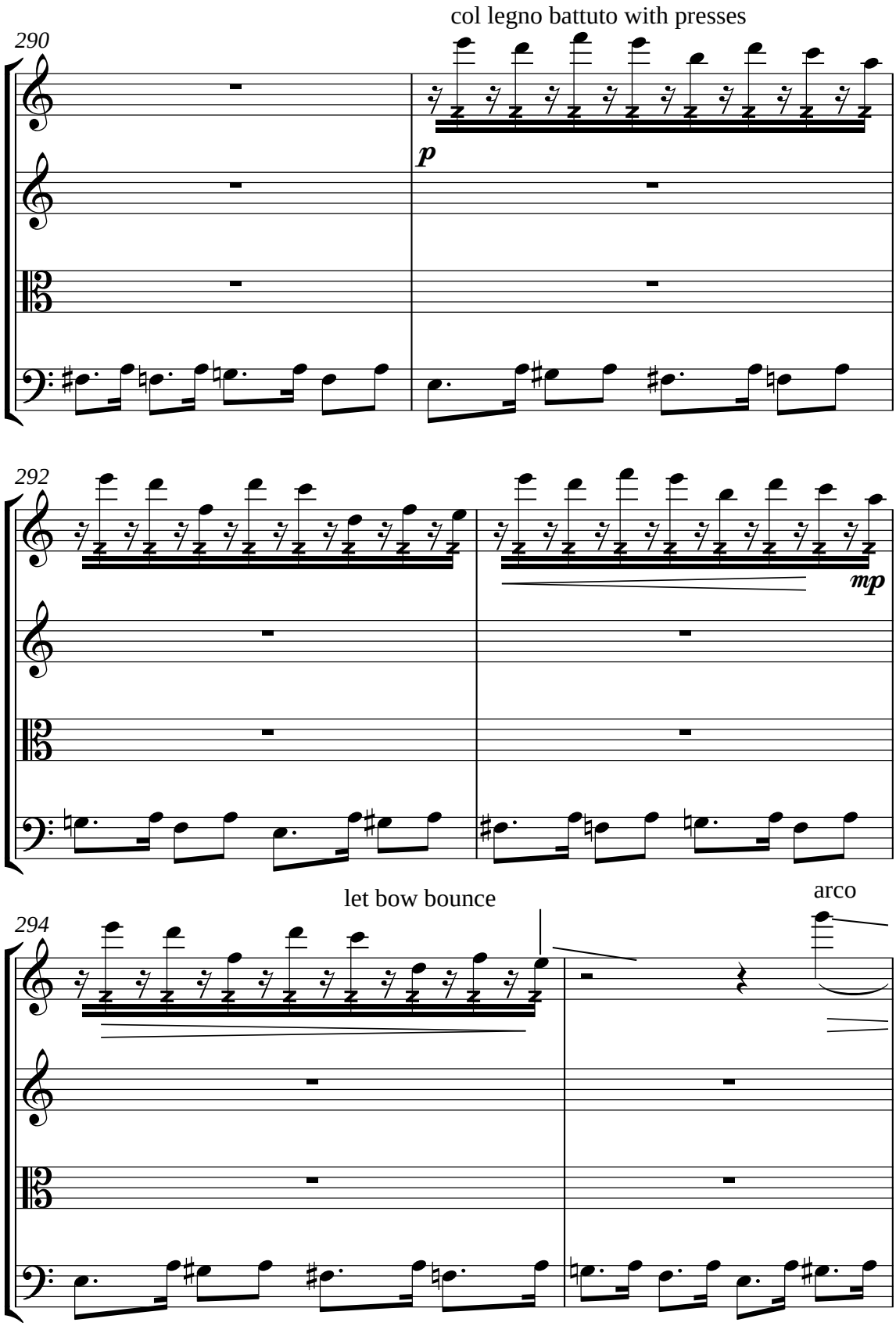

253
f
arco
f
arco
f
f
255
4
4
4
4
col legno battuto
mp
col legno battuto
mp
257

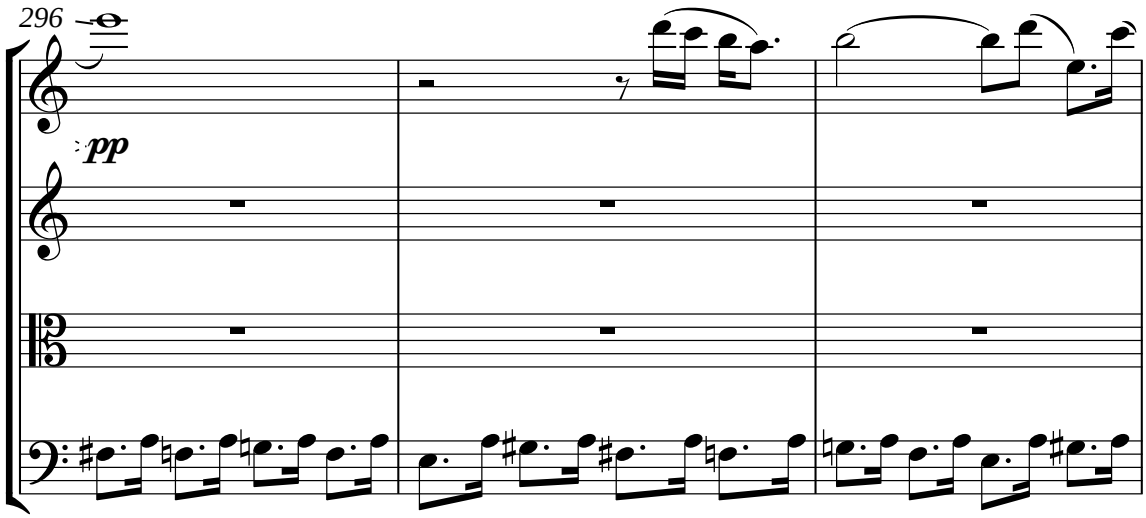

♩=75
Haunted
arco
259
pp
262
265
arco
p

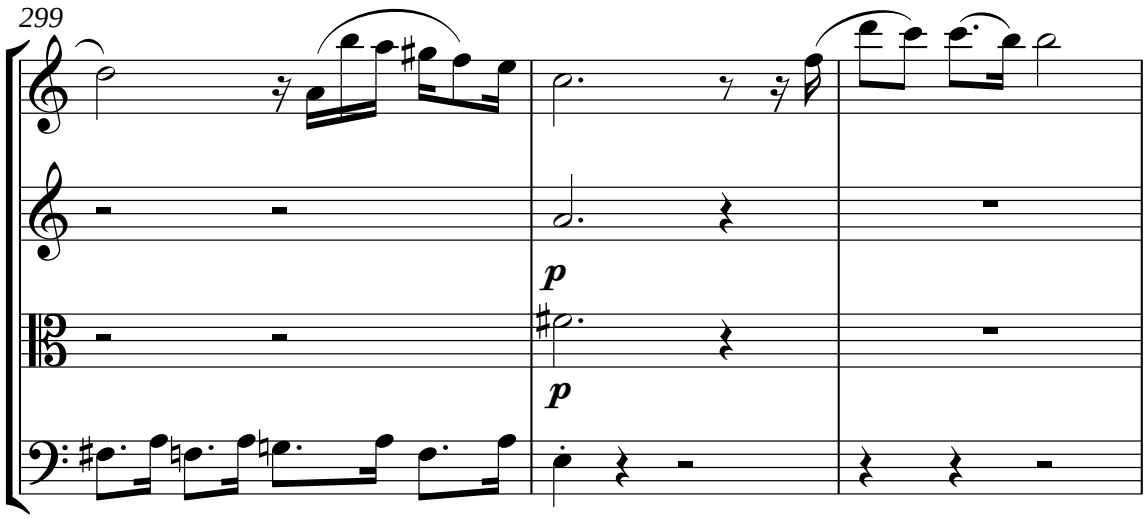

268
271
mp
mp
arco
mp
Suddenly agitated
274
arco
mf
mf


276
278
p
p
p
mp
281
mf
mf
mf
mf

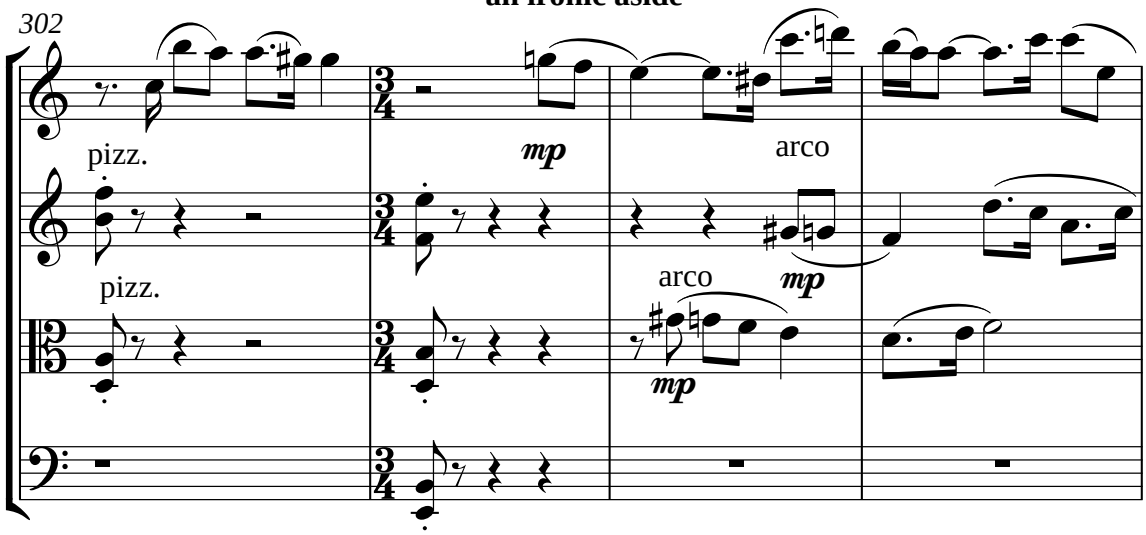

283
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
285
287
plaintive
ff
ff
ff
pizz.
p


col legno battuto with presses
290
p
292
mp
let bow bounce
arco
294

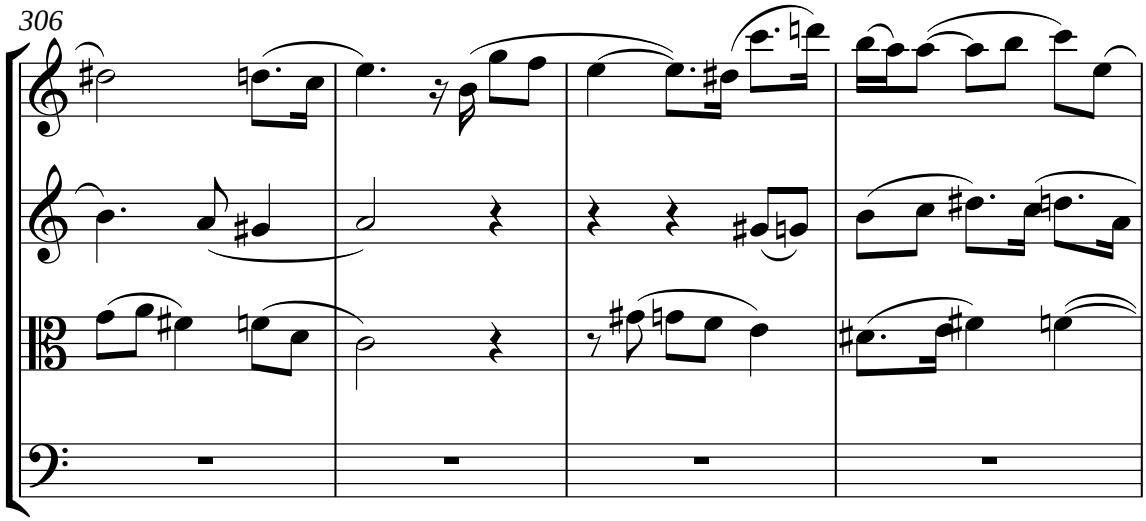




an ironic aside

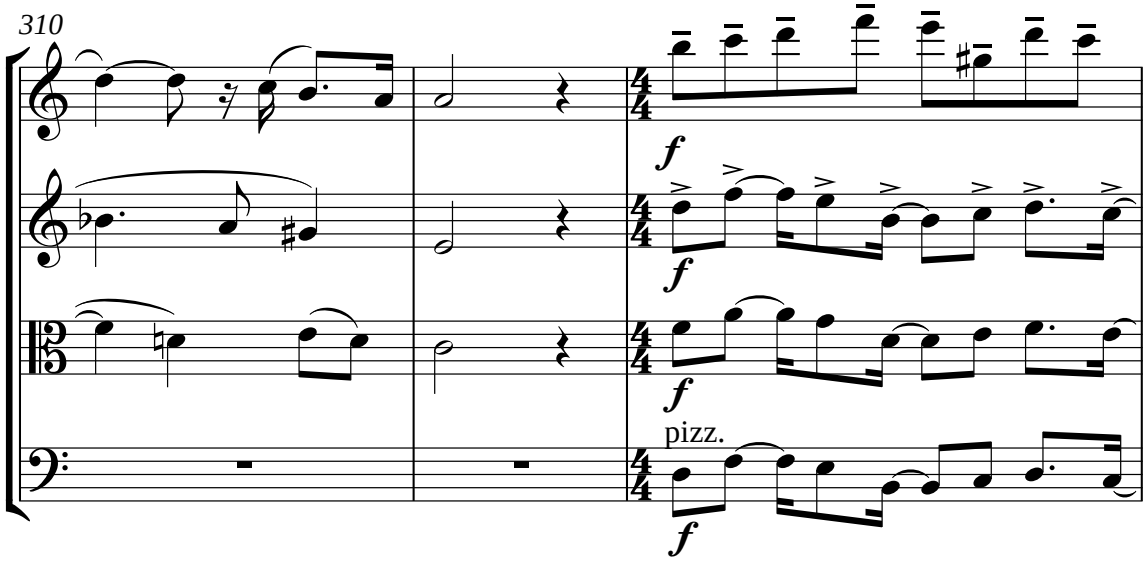


306

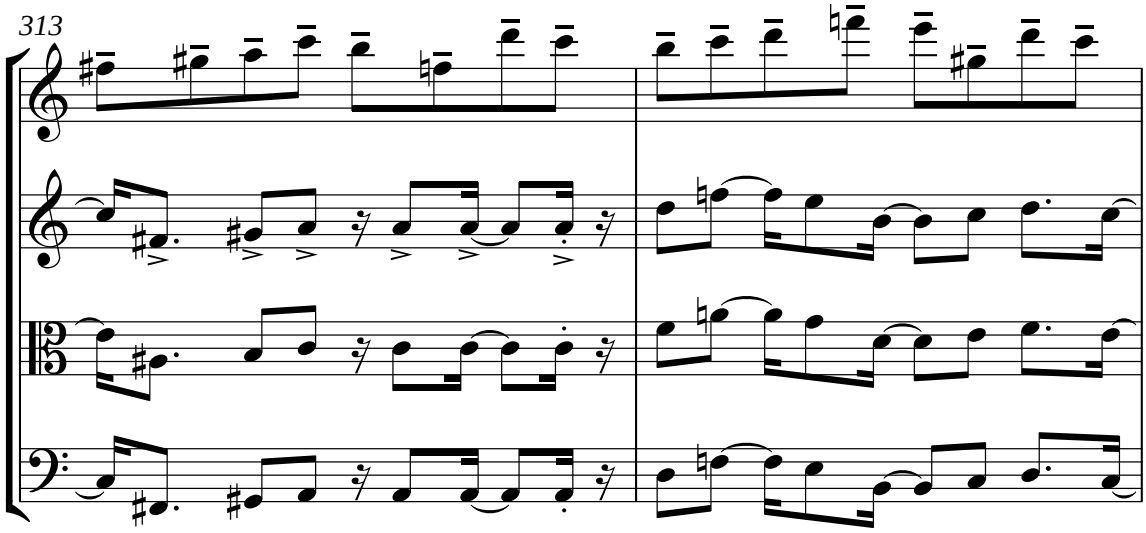


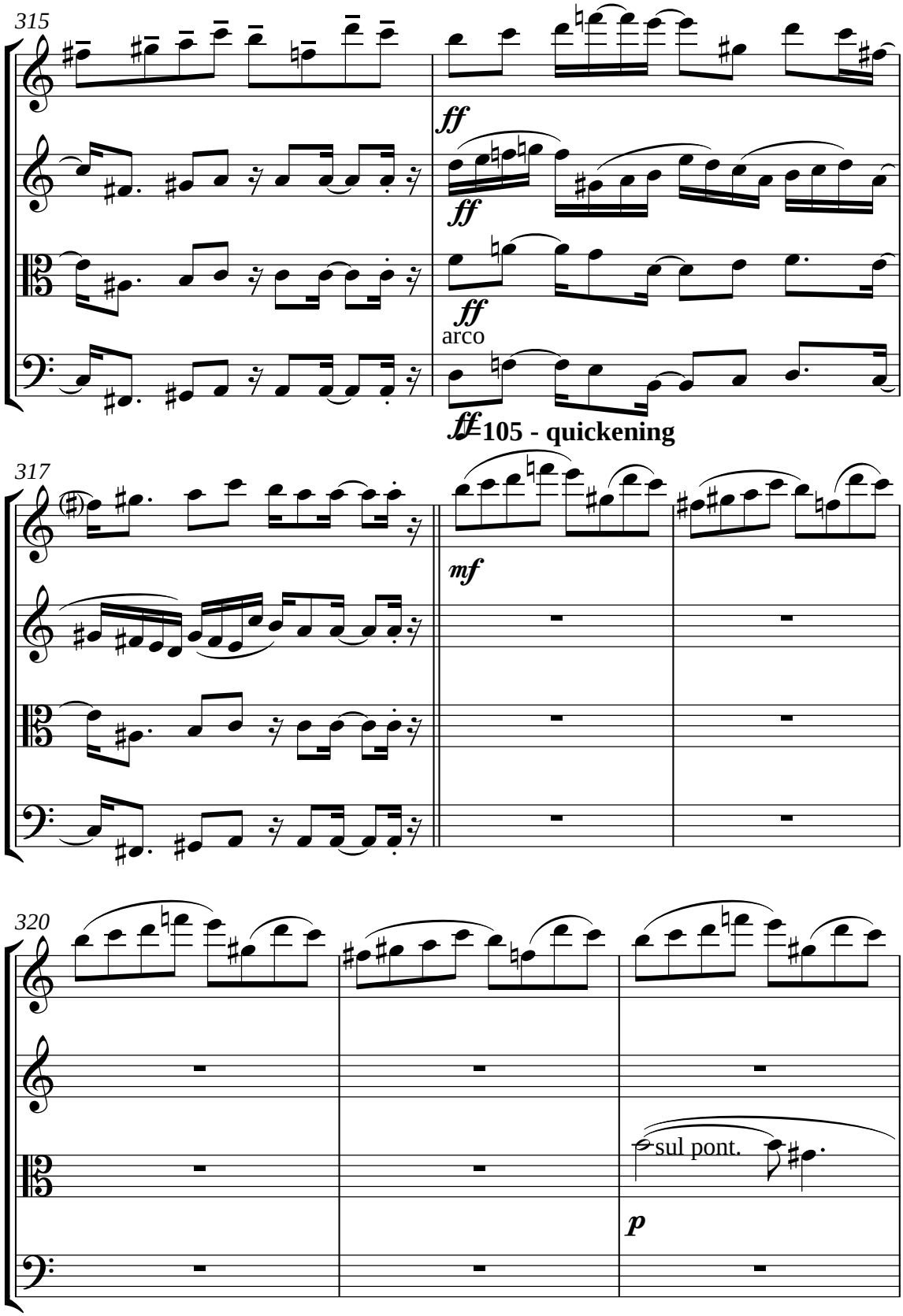
Dark, but with fire

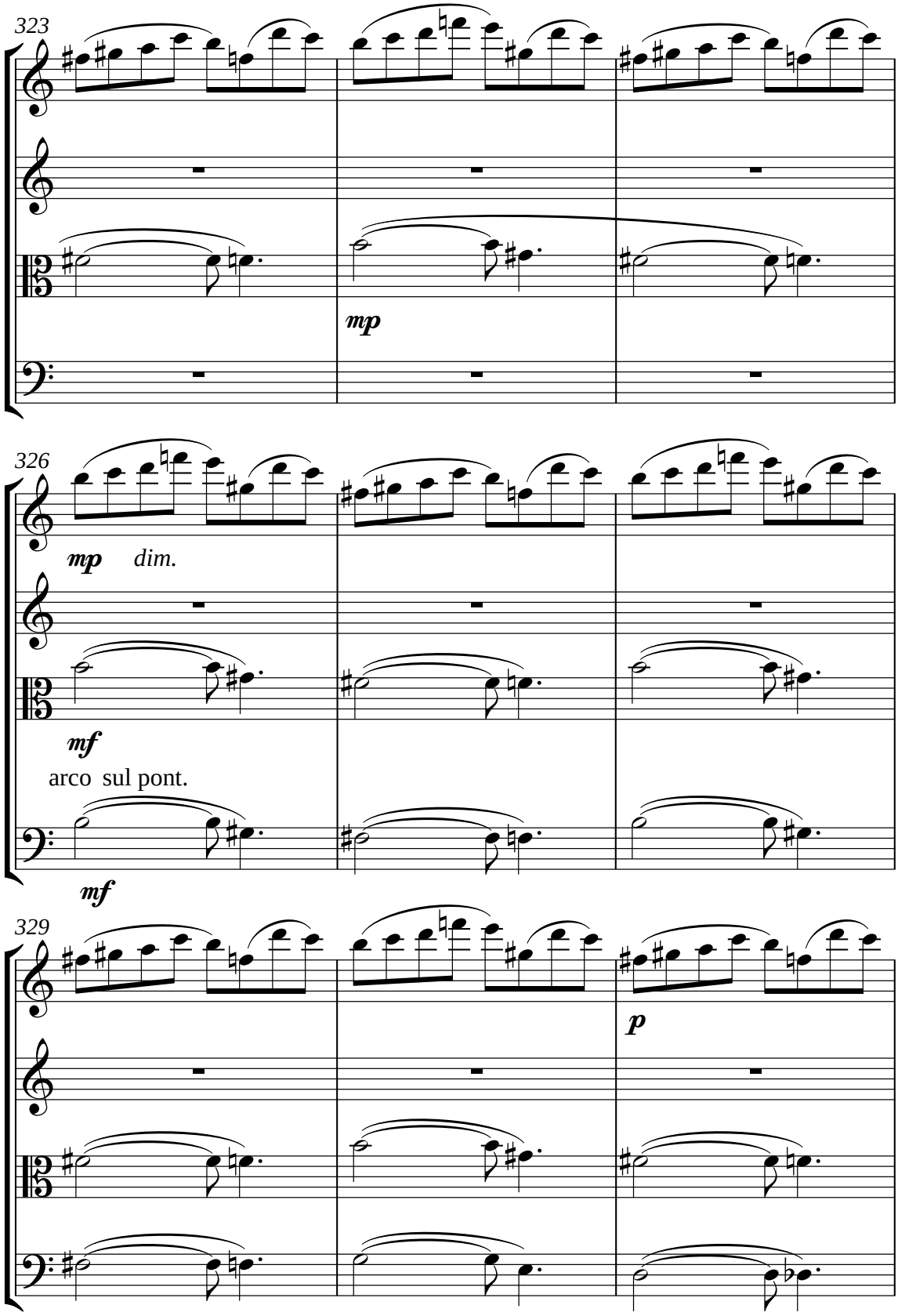
310

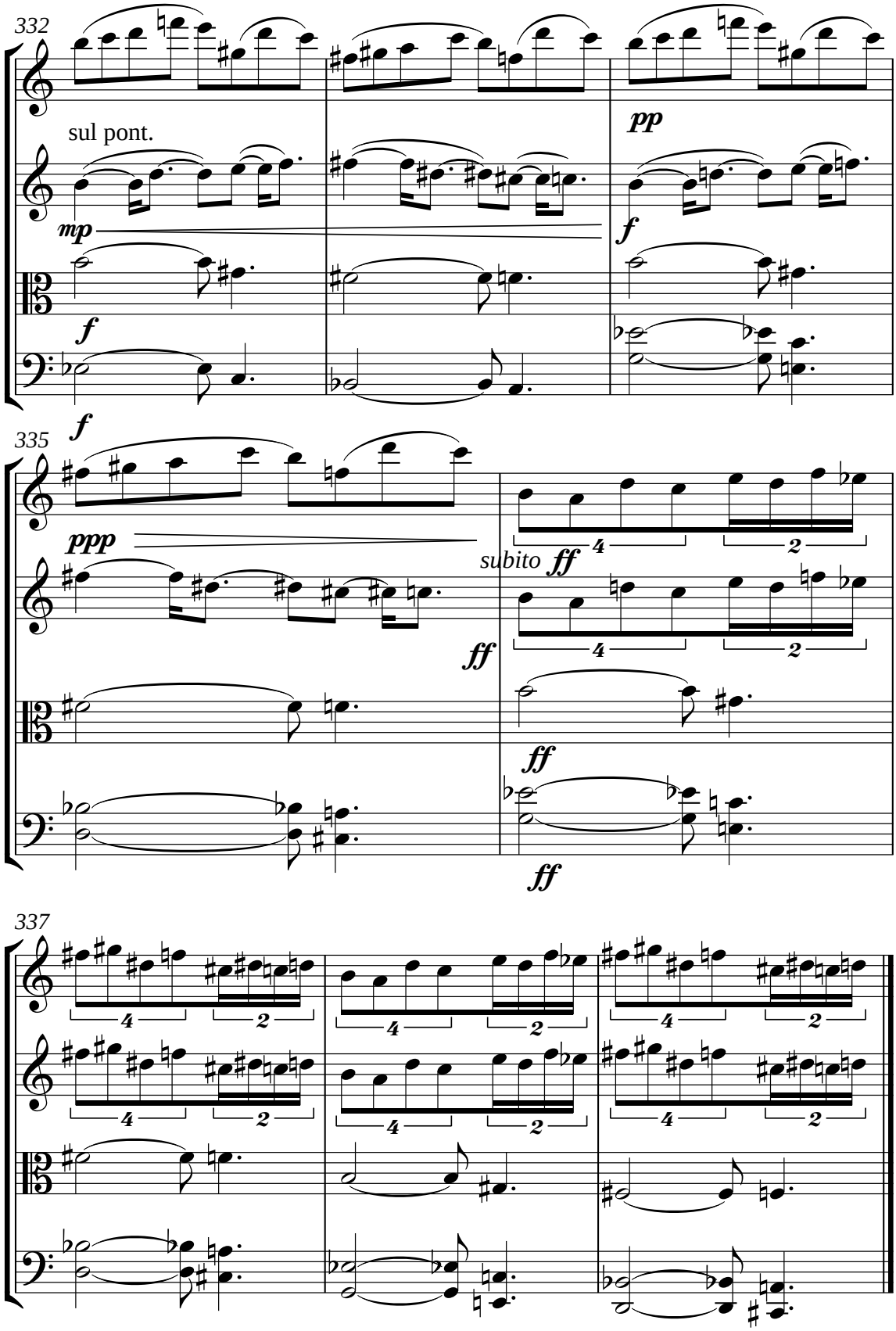


313




315
ff
ff
ff
arco
ff
105 - quickening
317
mf
320
sul pont.
p


323
mp
326
mp dim.
mf
arco sul pont.
mf
329
p


332
sul pont.
mp
f
pp
f
f
335
ppp
ff
subito ff
ff
ff
337
4
2