ABSTRACT

Title of Document: STRING QUARTET NO. 2

David Bryant Arbury, D.M.A., 2006

Directed By: Professor Robert Gibson, School of Music

String Quartet, no. 2 is an original composition for standard string quartet that was completed in March 2006. While the piece is intended primarily as a stand-alone creative work, I approached it as something of a culmination of my compositional work to date as well as a look forward into the next phase of my career. As such, the quartet is something of a transitional work, combining elements from my own past technique with a more recent and unified sense of my own style.

The quartet is divided into four movements. During my time at the University of Maryland, a frequent topic in my lessons was that of sectionalism in music composition, which is to say the aesthetic of juxtaposition of different musical elements as opposed to composition using a unified texture or a gradual transformation between ideas. As a result of these discussions, one of my first choices in beginning work on this quartet was to choose a unified approach versus a sectional approach. The four movements are organized as follows: a thematic fast movement composed of short elemental themes, a slow movement centered around two canons (one atonal and one modal), a dance movement that uses the baroque menuet and trio

as a template, and a dramatic, texture-driven finale. In this way, the macro-structure serves as a kind of homage to classical tradition, an appropriate approach since the piece occasionally serves as an homage to older elements in my own style. However, the classical model only applies to this macro-level of the composition. Most elements within each movement depart significantly from traditional classical forms, just as my own style has macro-elements of classical form and technique that dissipate upon closer scrutiny.

STRING QUARTET NO. 2

By

David Bryant Arbury

Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the
University of Maryland, College Park, in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Musical Arts
2006

Advisory Committee:
Professor Robert Gibson, Chair
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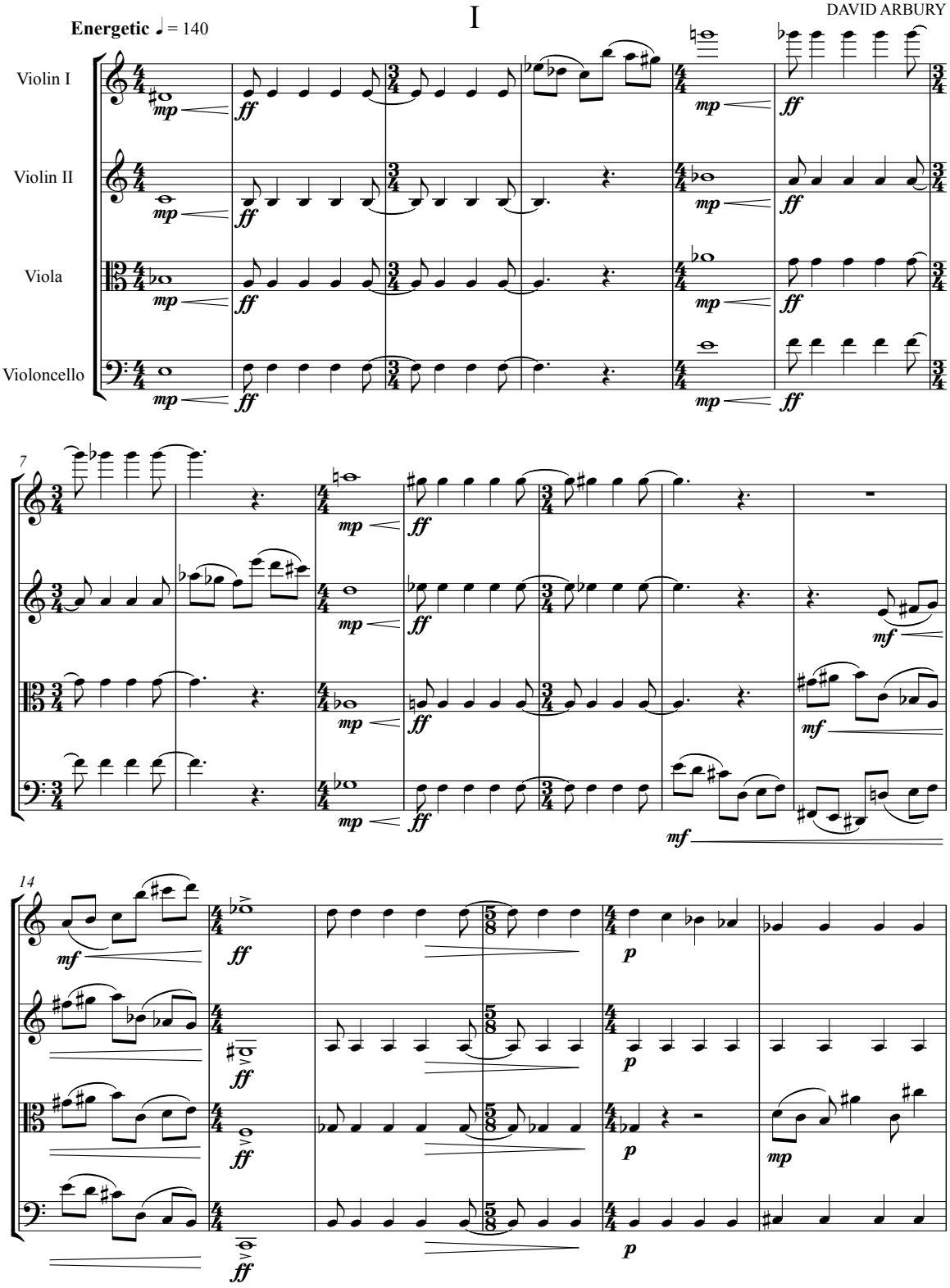
DAVID ARBURY



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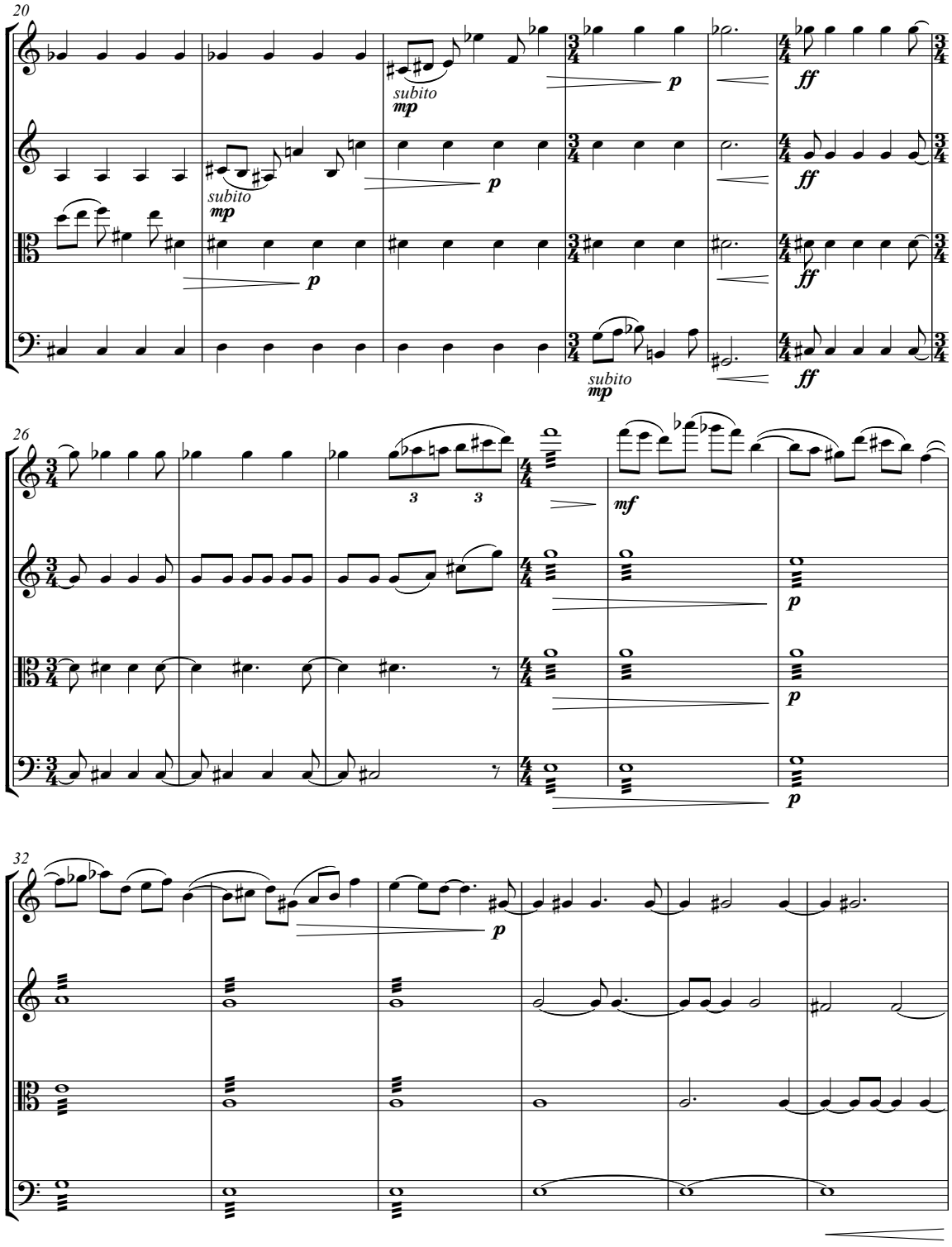
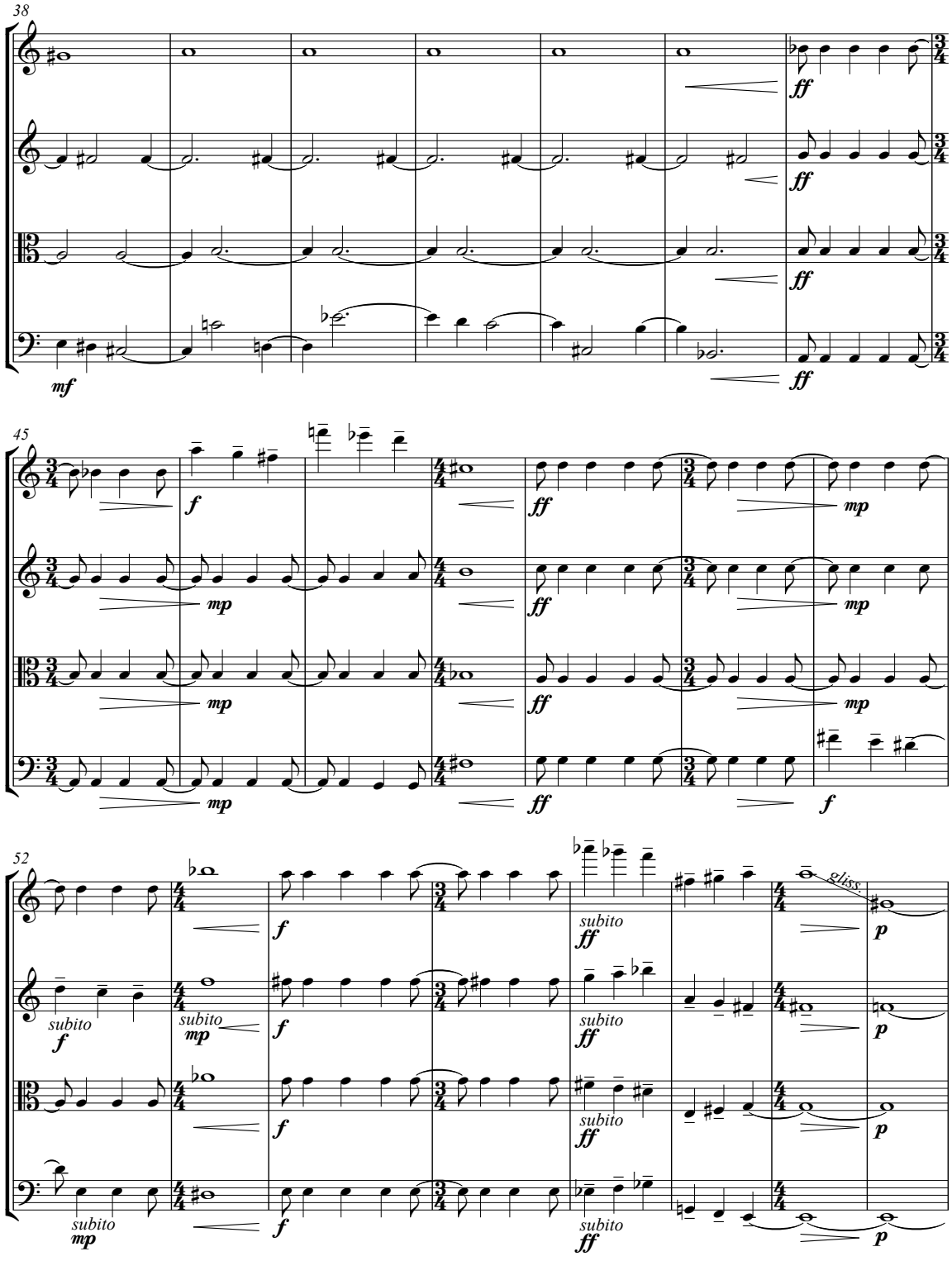
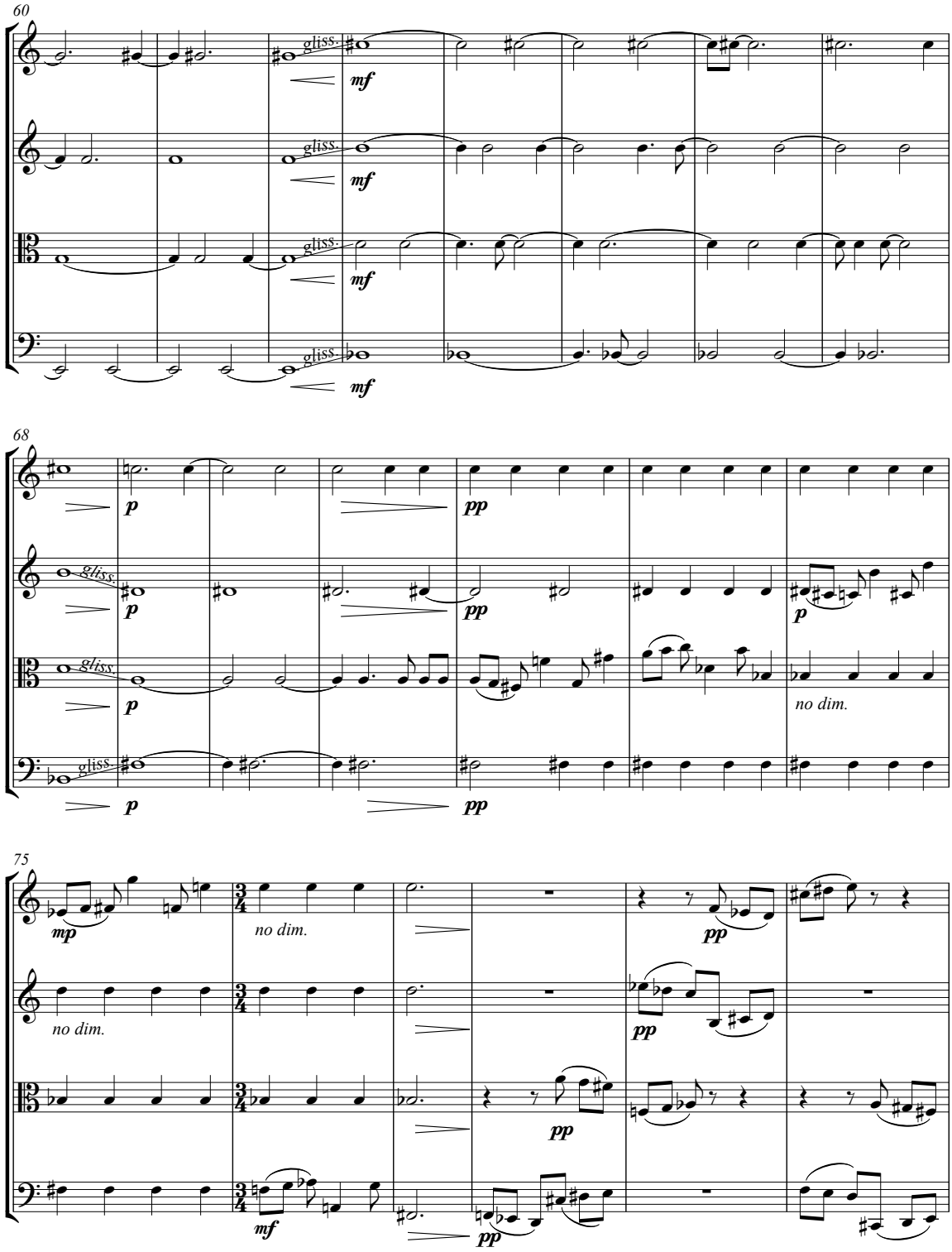
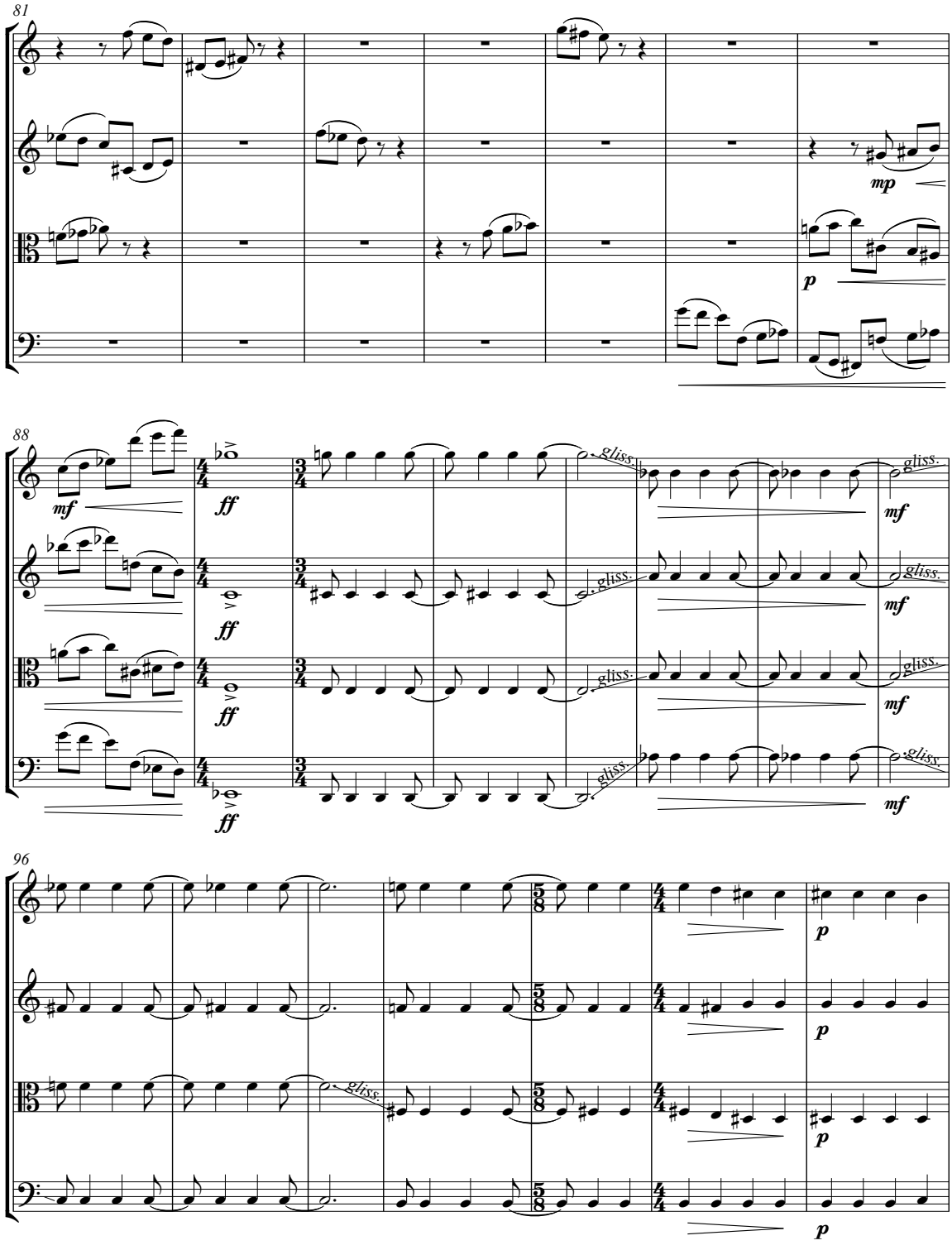
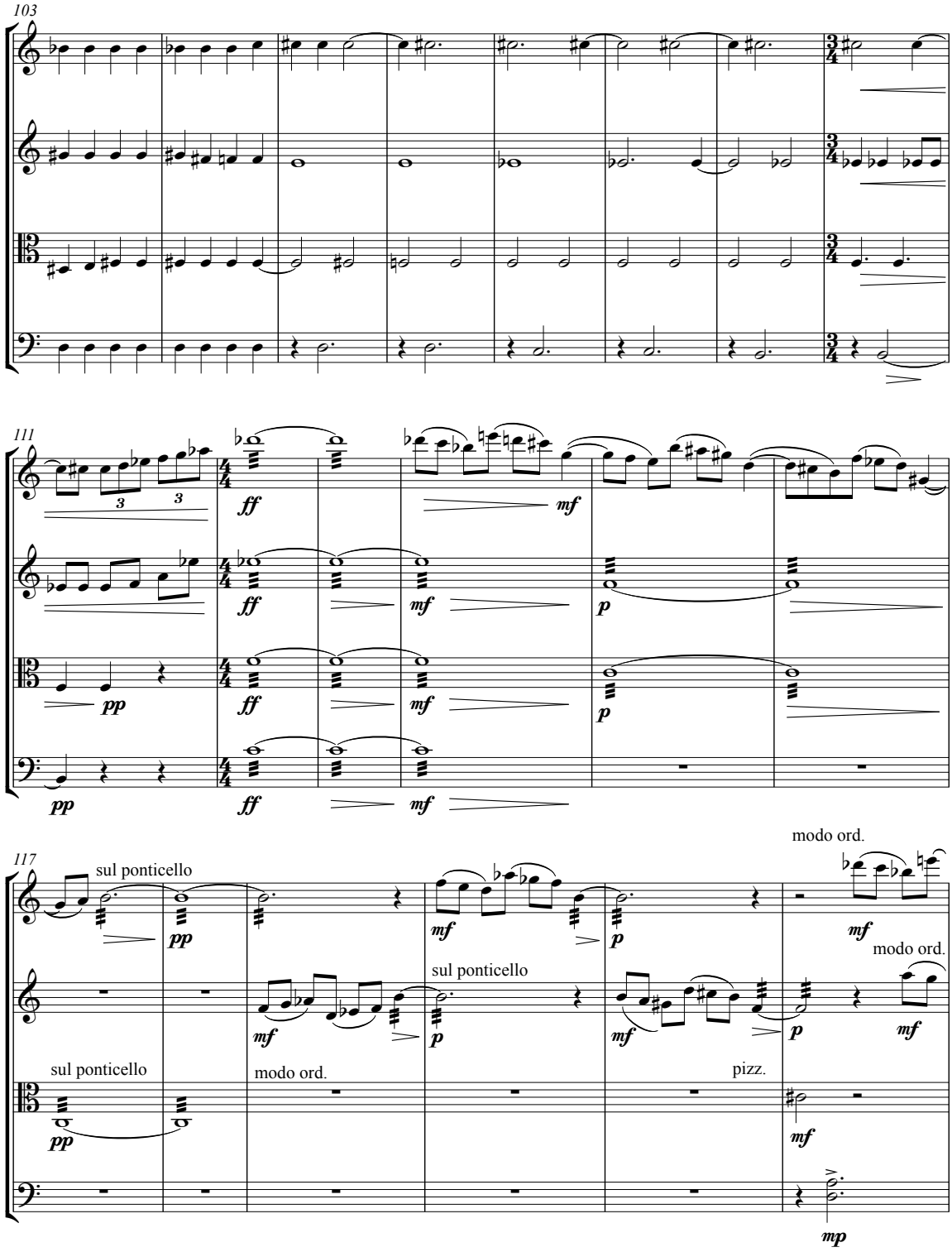
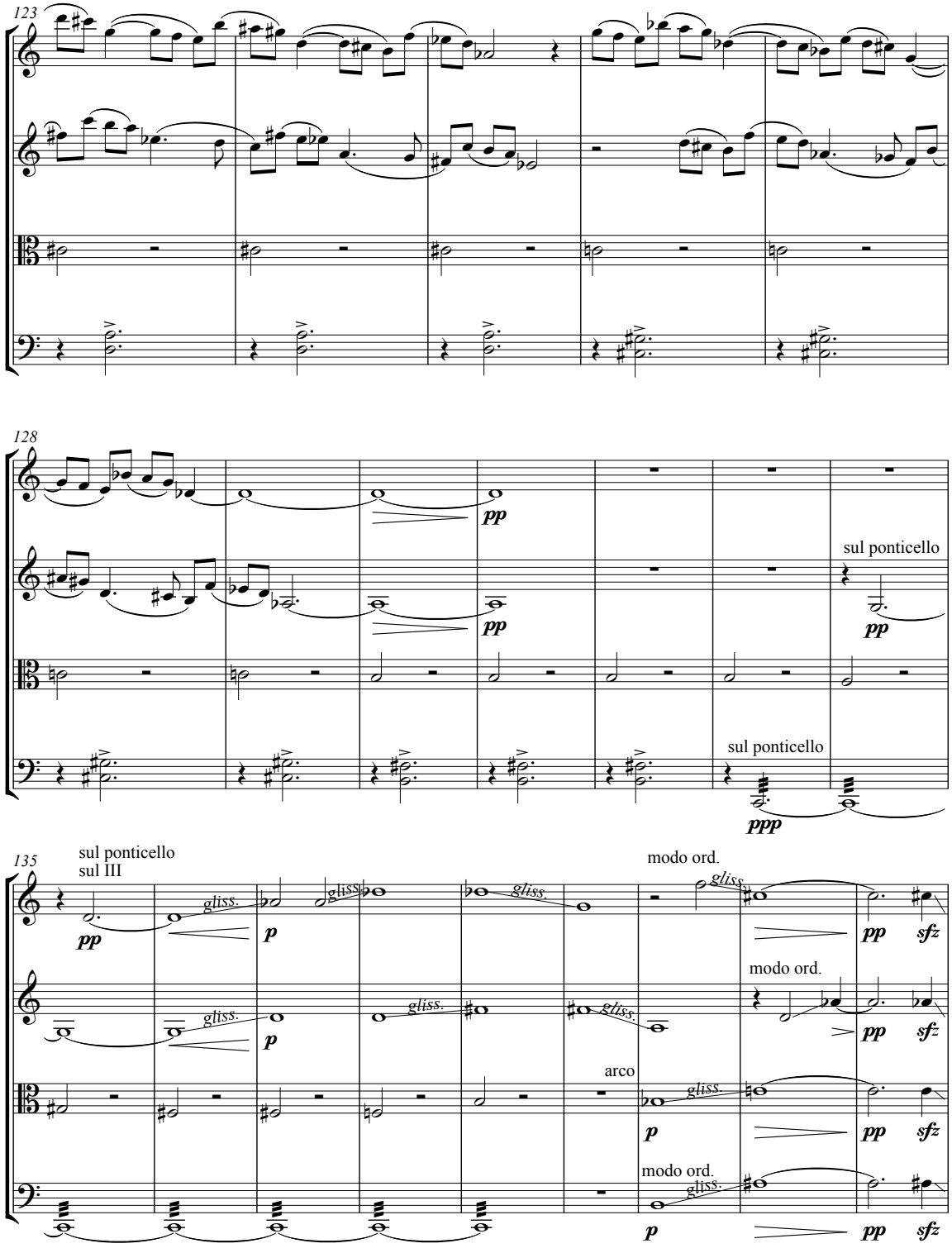

20
subito
mp
p
ff
26
3
3
mf
32

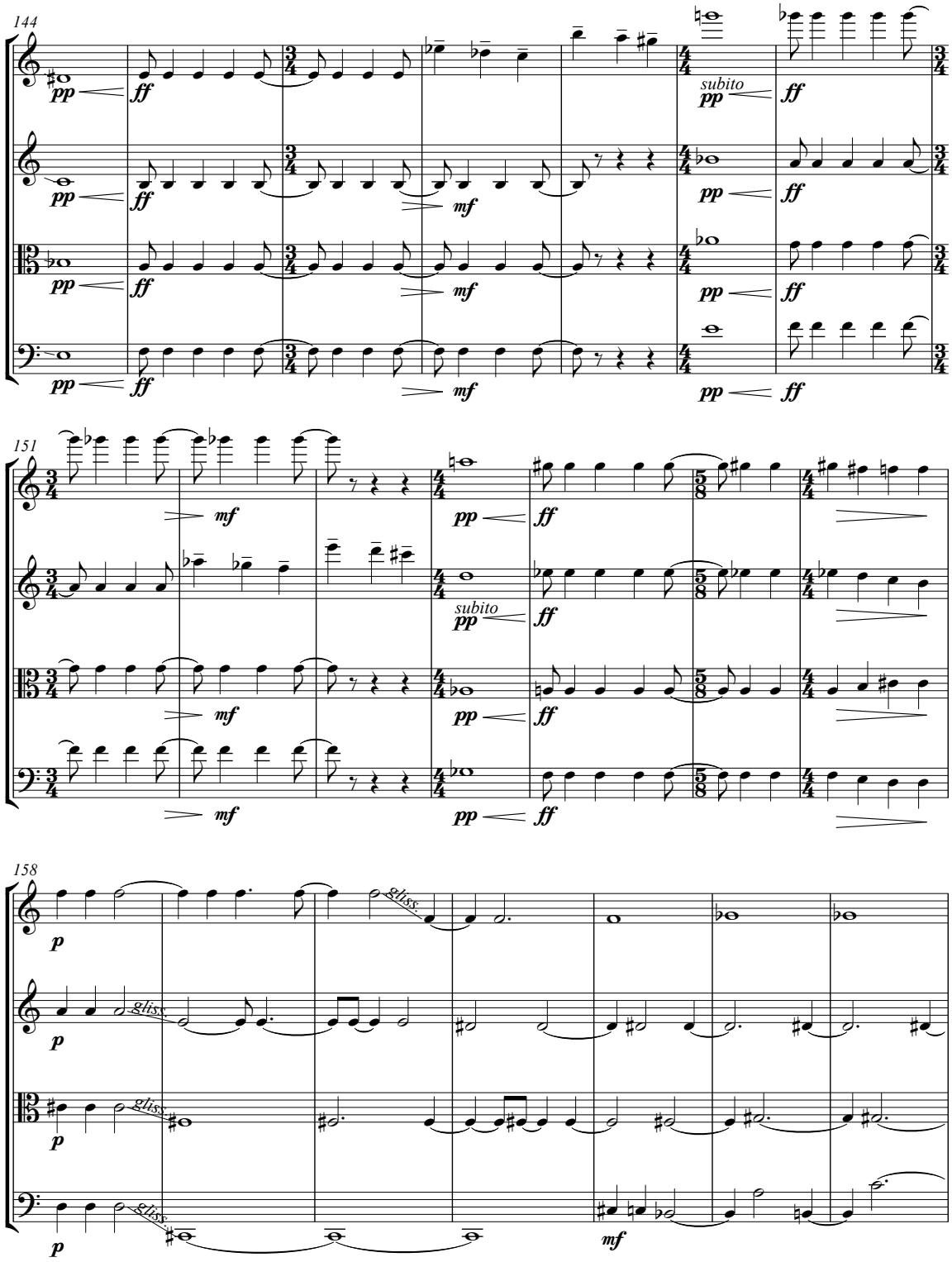

38
45
52
gliss.
subito
subito
subito
subito
subito
subito
subito

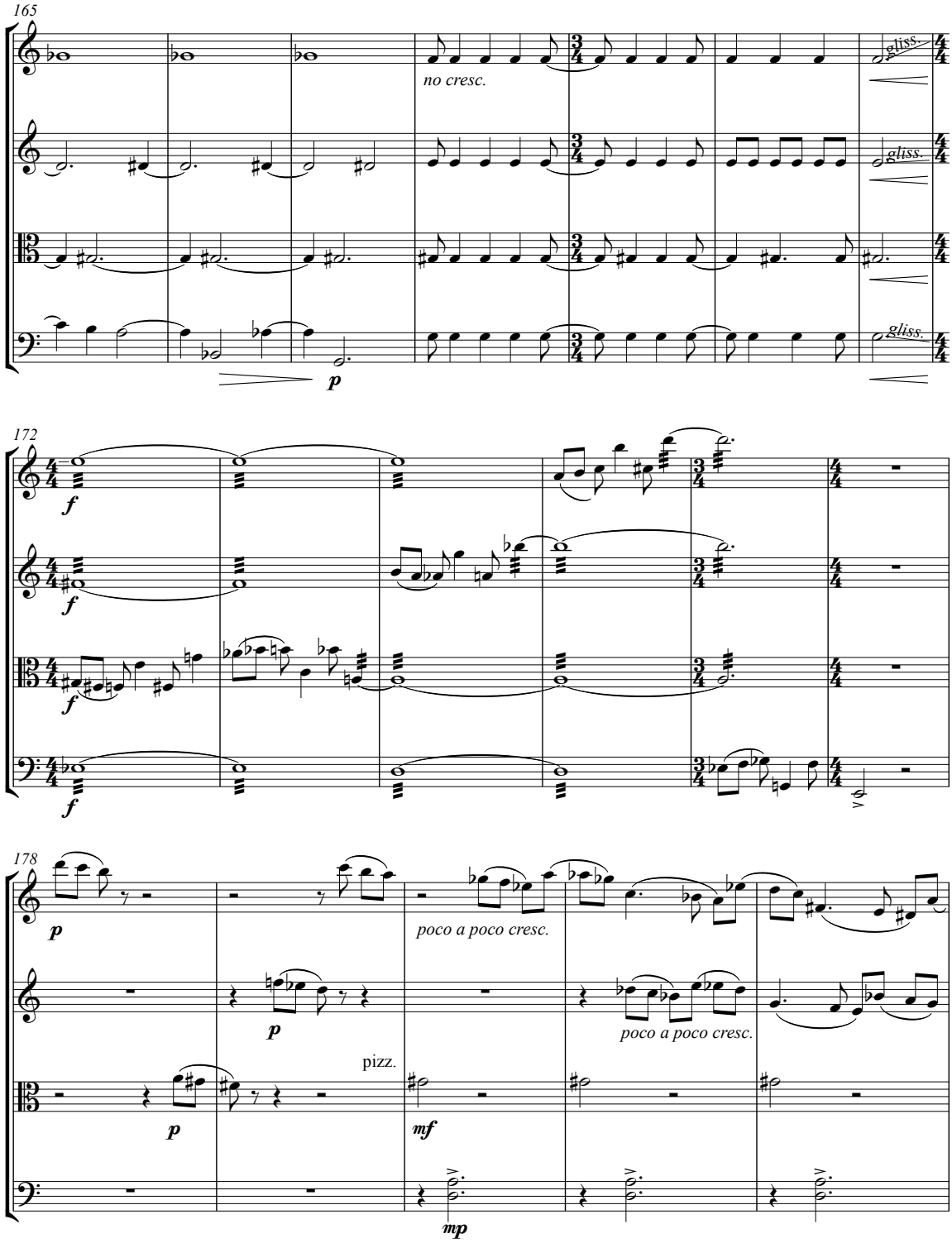

60
gliss.
mf
68
p
pp
no dim.
75
mp
no dim.
mf

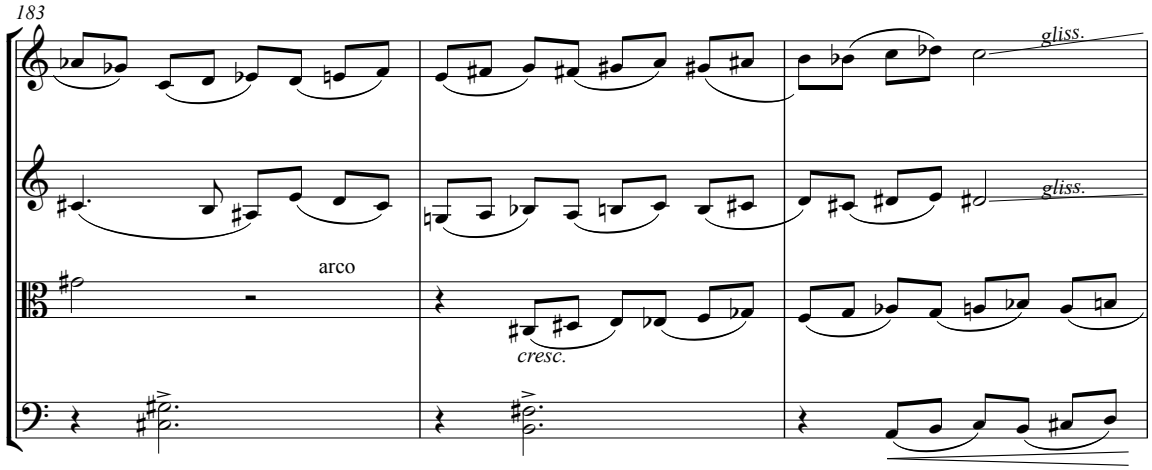

81
mp
p
88
mf
ff
gliss.
96
p

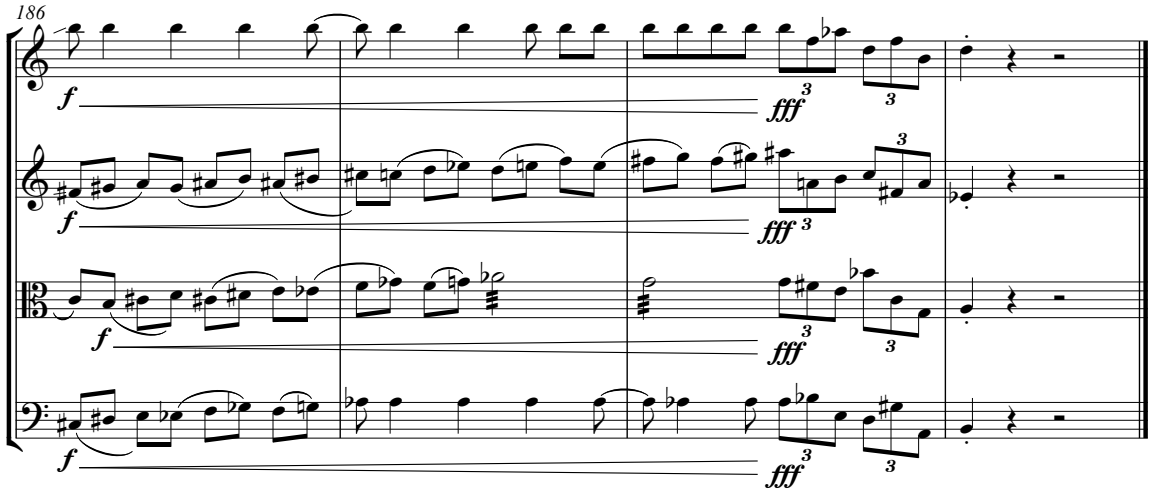

103
111
117
sul ponticello
modo ord.
pizz.
ff
mf
p
pp
mp


123
128
pp
sul ponticello
pp
sul ponticello
ppp
135
sul ponticello
sul III
gliss.
pp
p
modo ord.
pp
sfz
arco
modo ord.

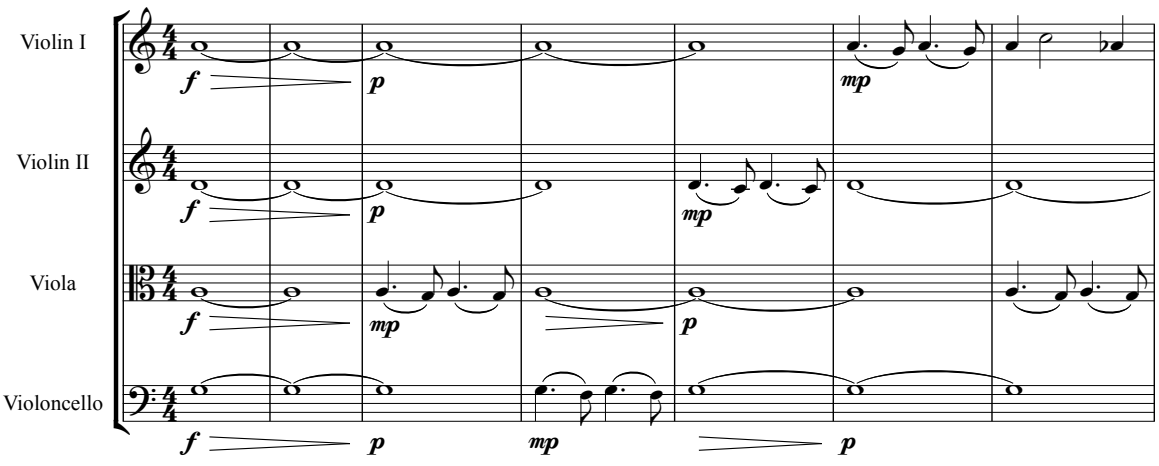

144
151
158
subito
gliss.
mf

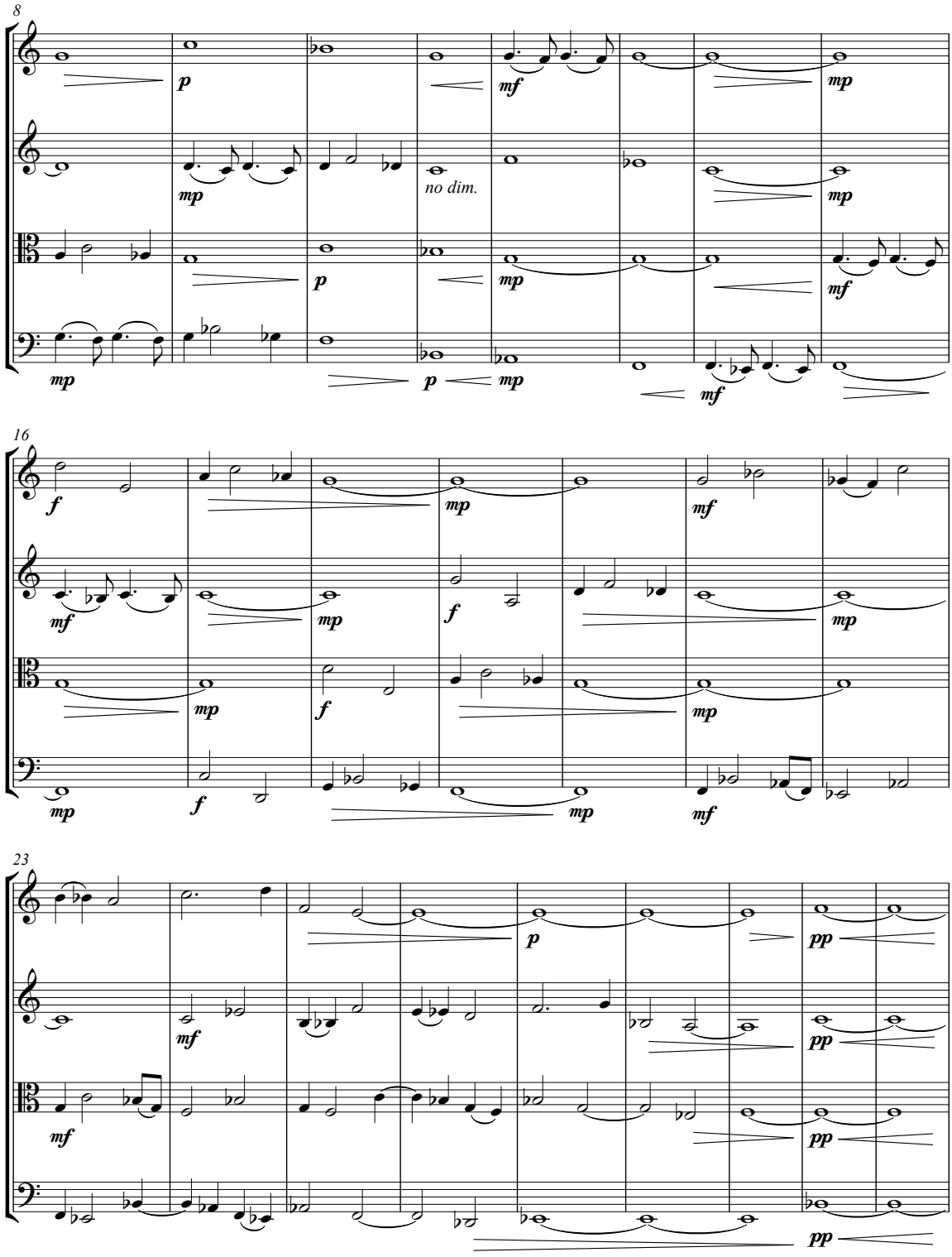

165
no cresc.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
p
172
f
f
f
f
178
p
poco a poco cresc.
p
poco a poco cresc.
pizz.
p
mf
mp

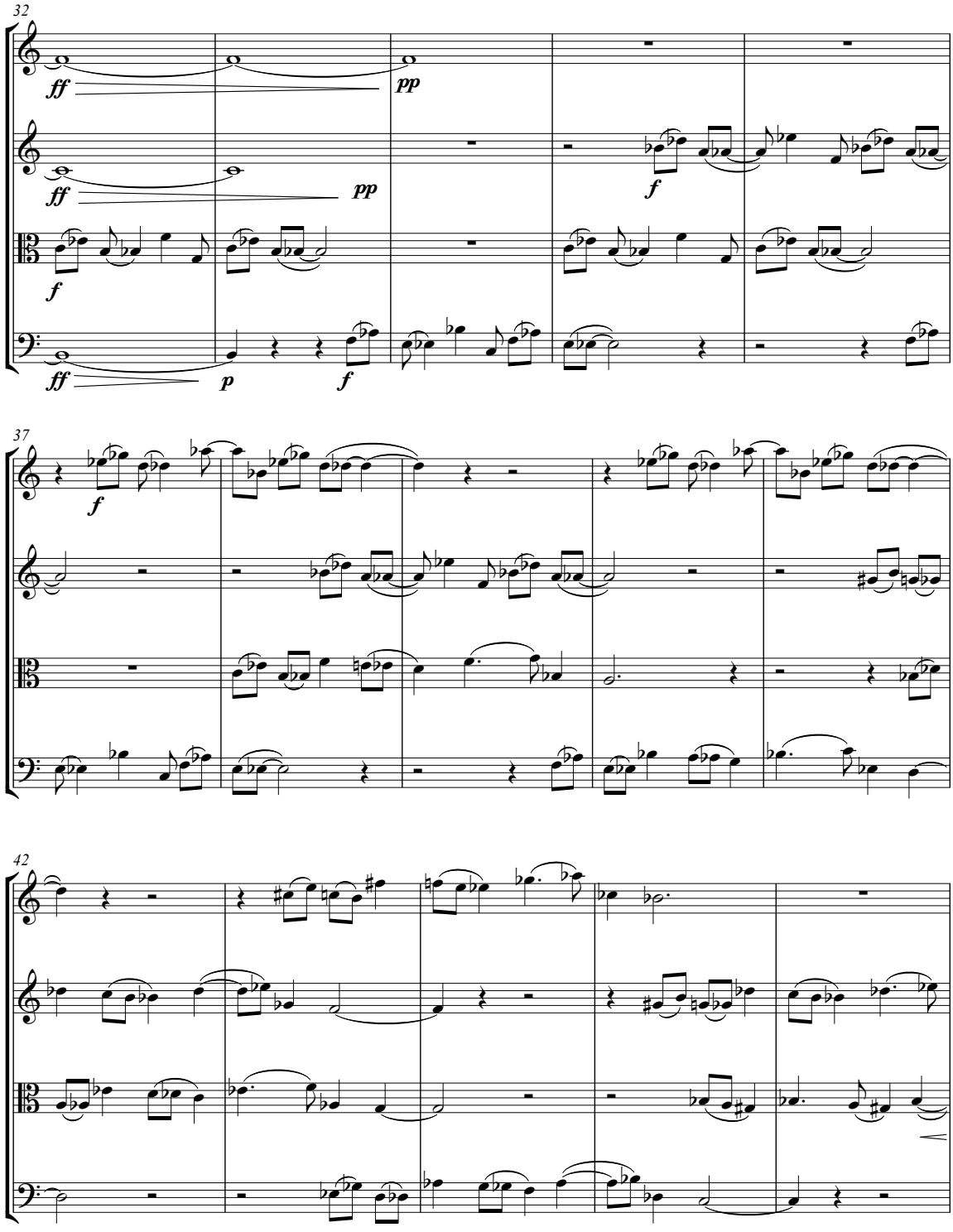

183
gliss.
gliss.
arco
cresc.

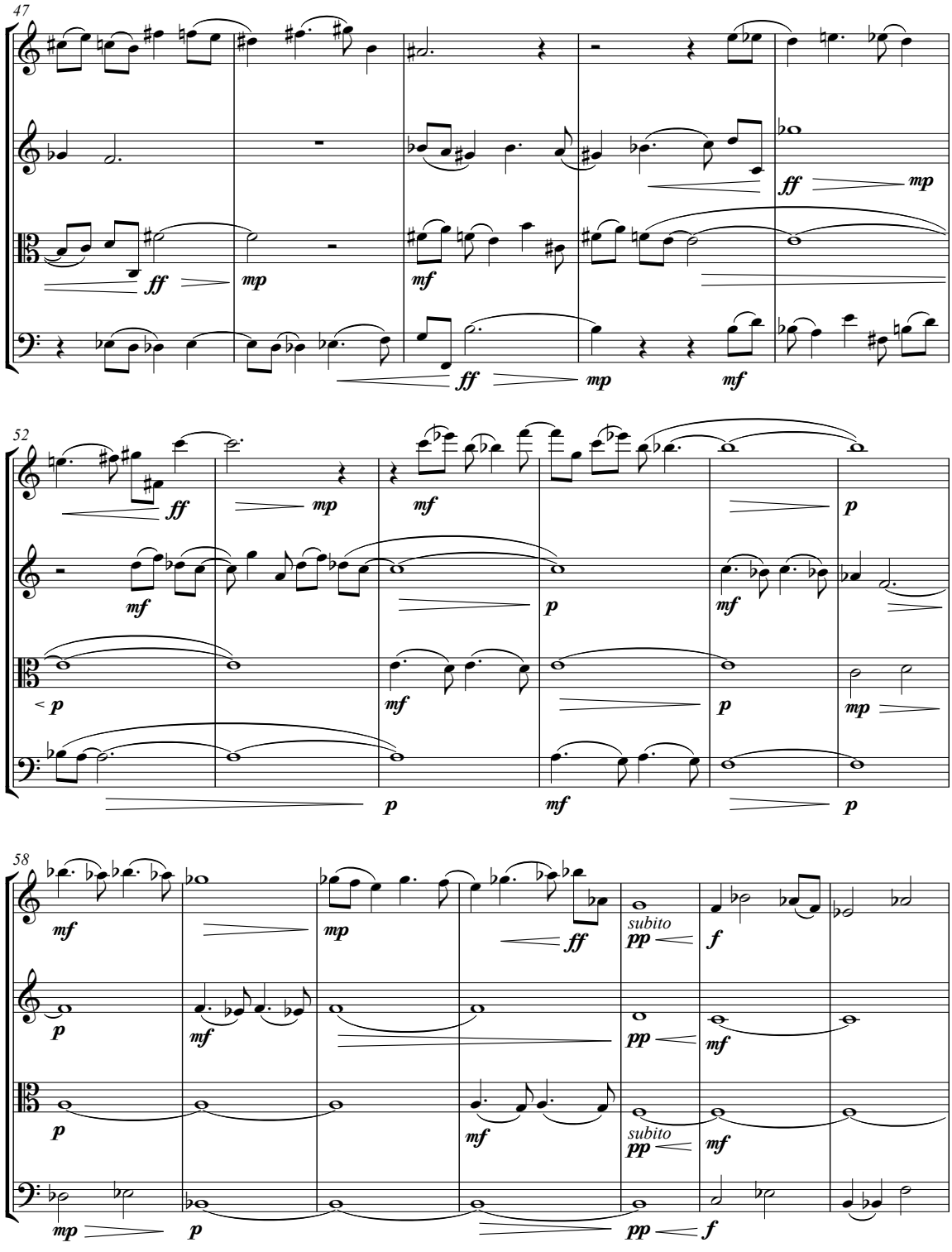

186
f
fff

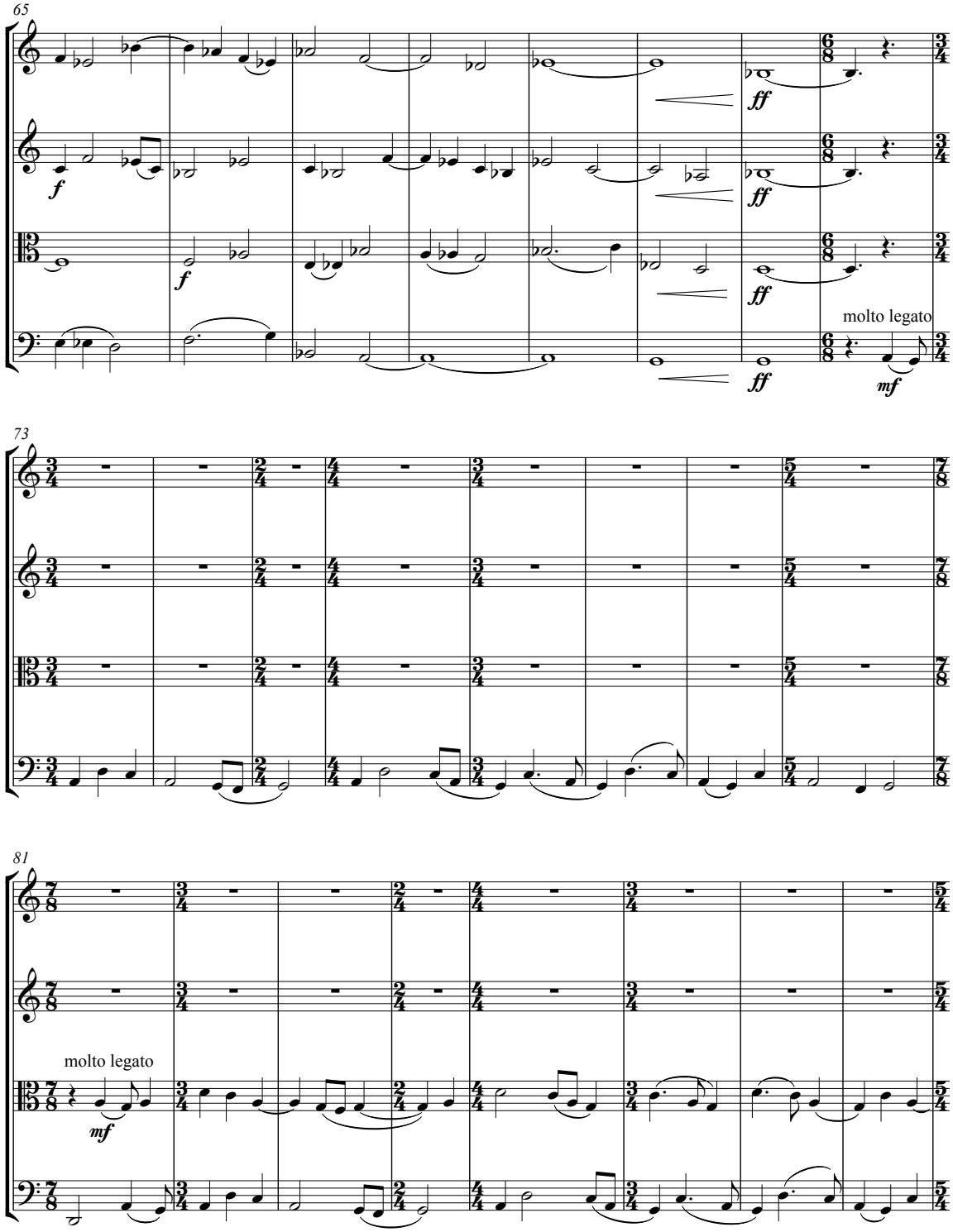
II

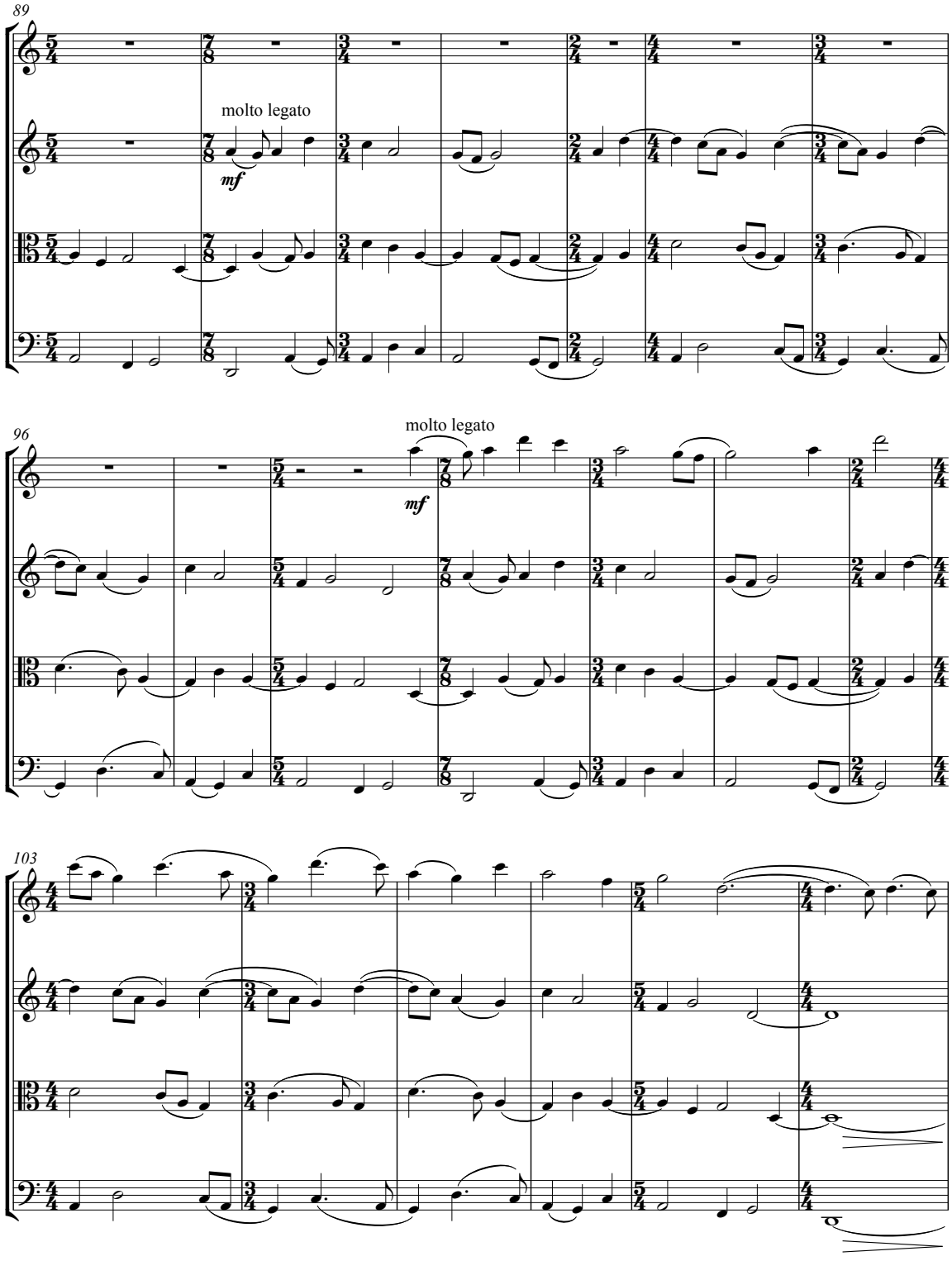

Serene ♩ = 60
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
f
p
mp

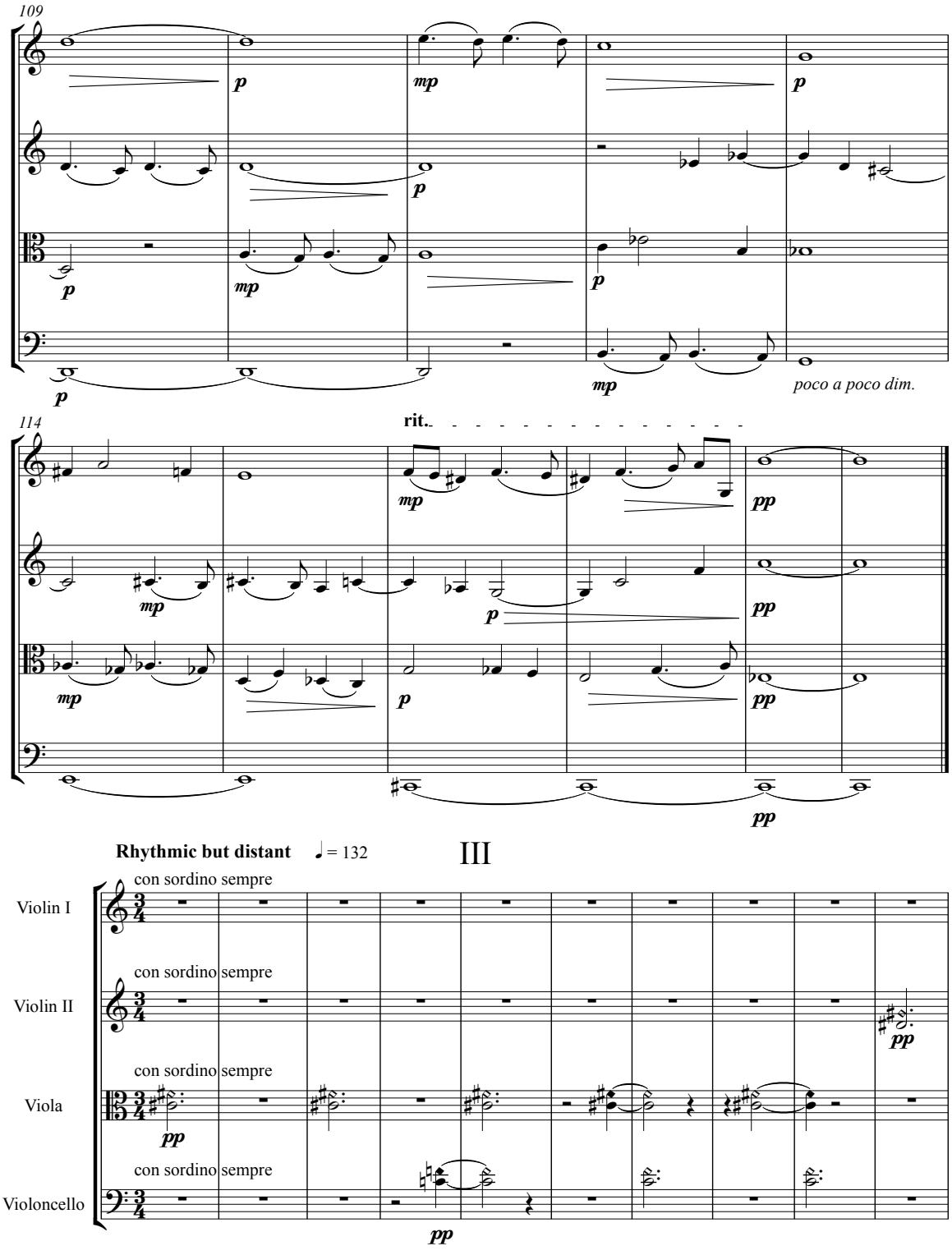

8
no dim.
16
23

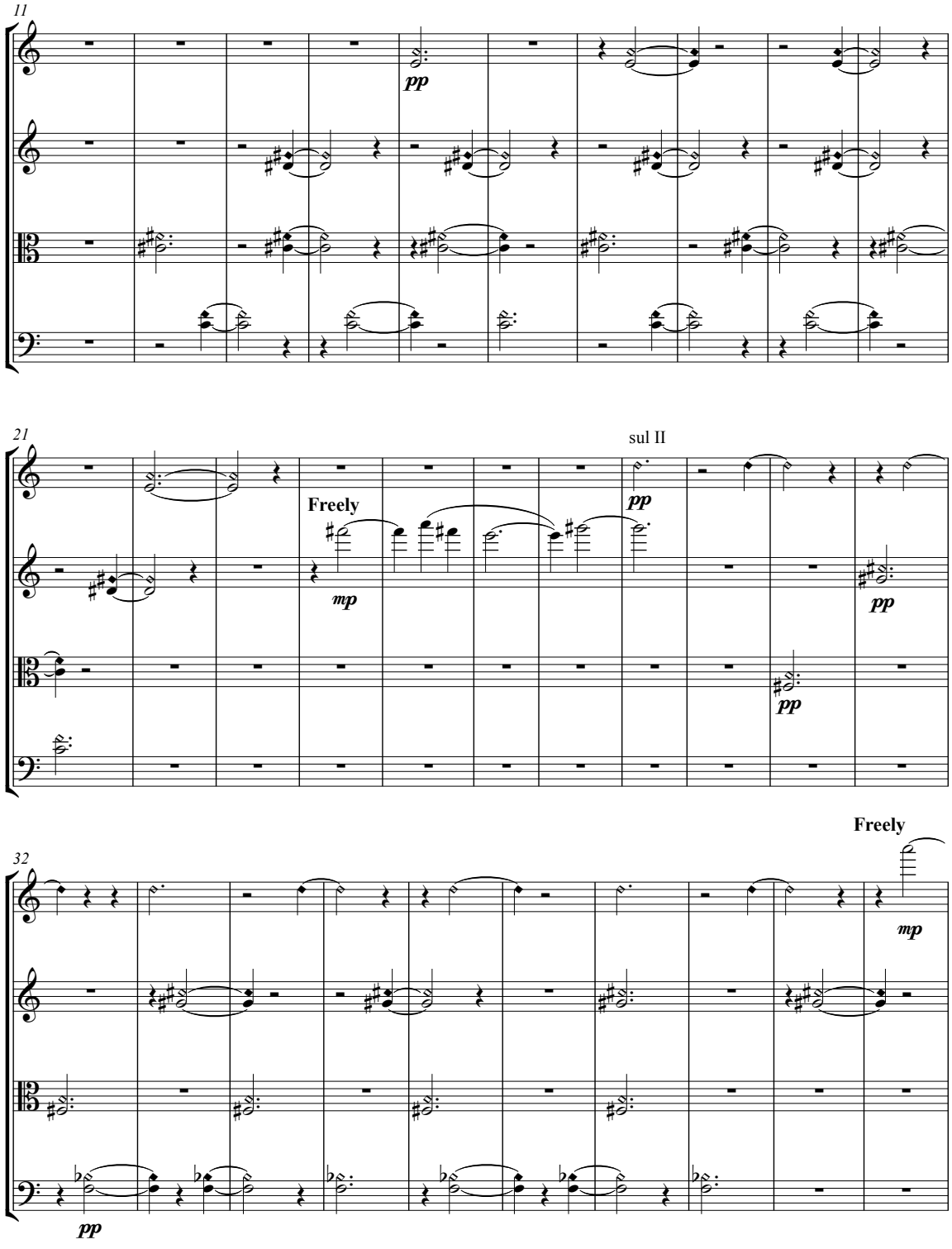

32
ff
pp
ff
pp
f
f
ff
p
f
37
f
42

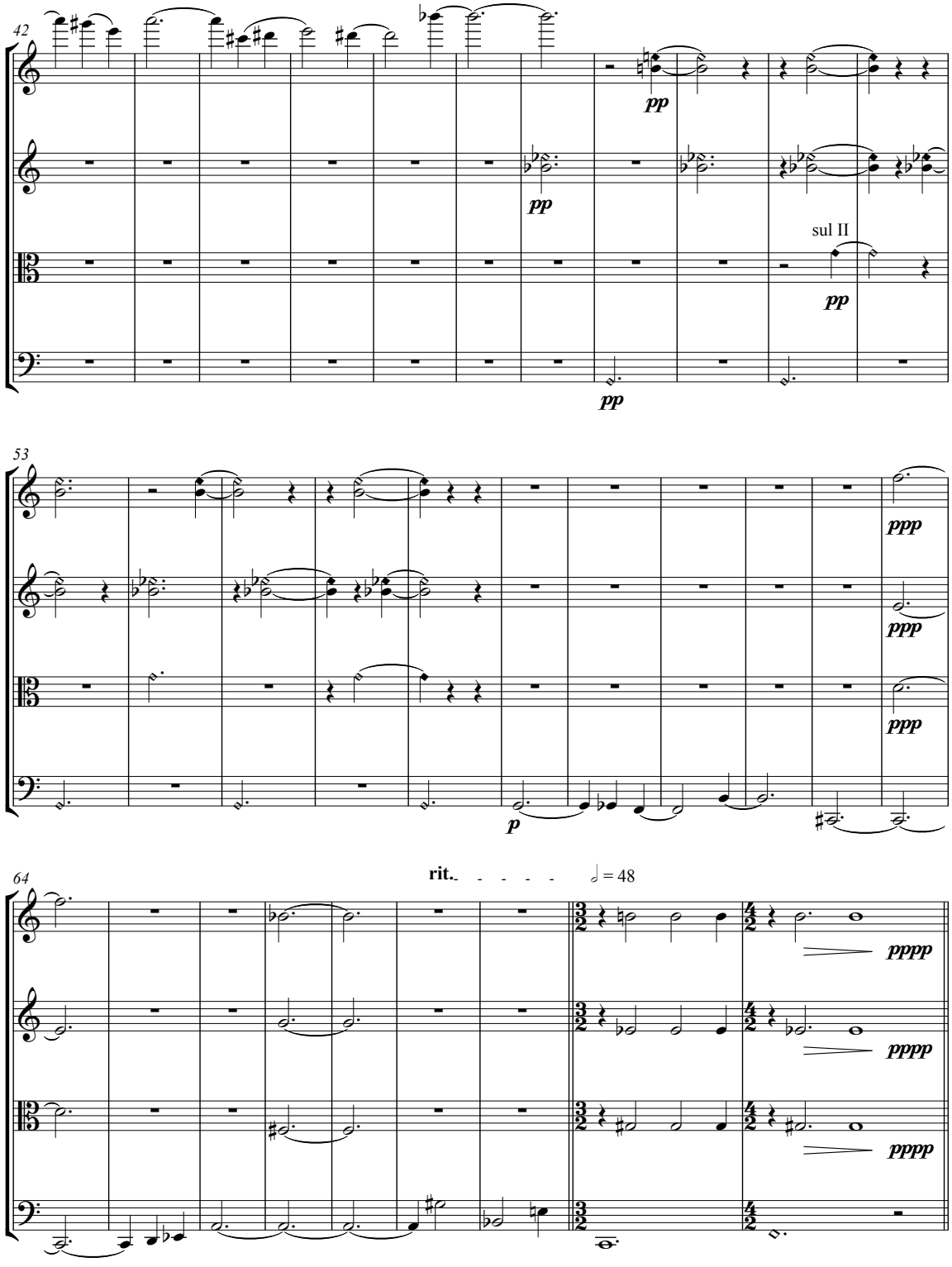

47
ff
mp
mf
ff
mp
ff
mp
52
ff
mp
mf
p
mf
p
mf
p
< p
mf
p
mp
p
mf
p
58
mf
mp
ff
subito
pp
f
p
mf
pp
mf
p
mf
subito
pp
mf
mp
p
pp
f

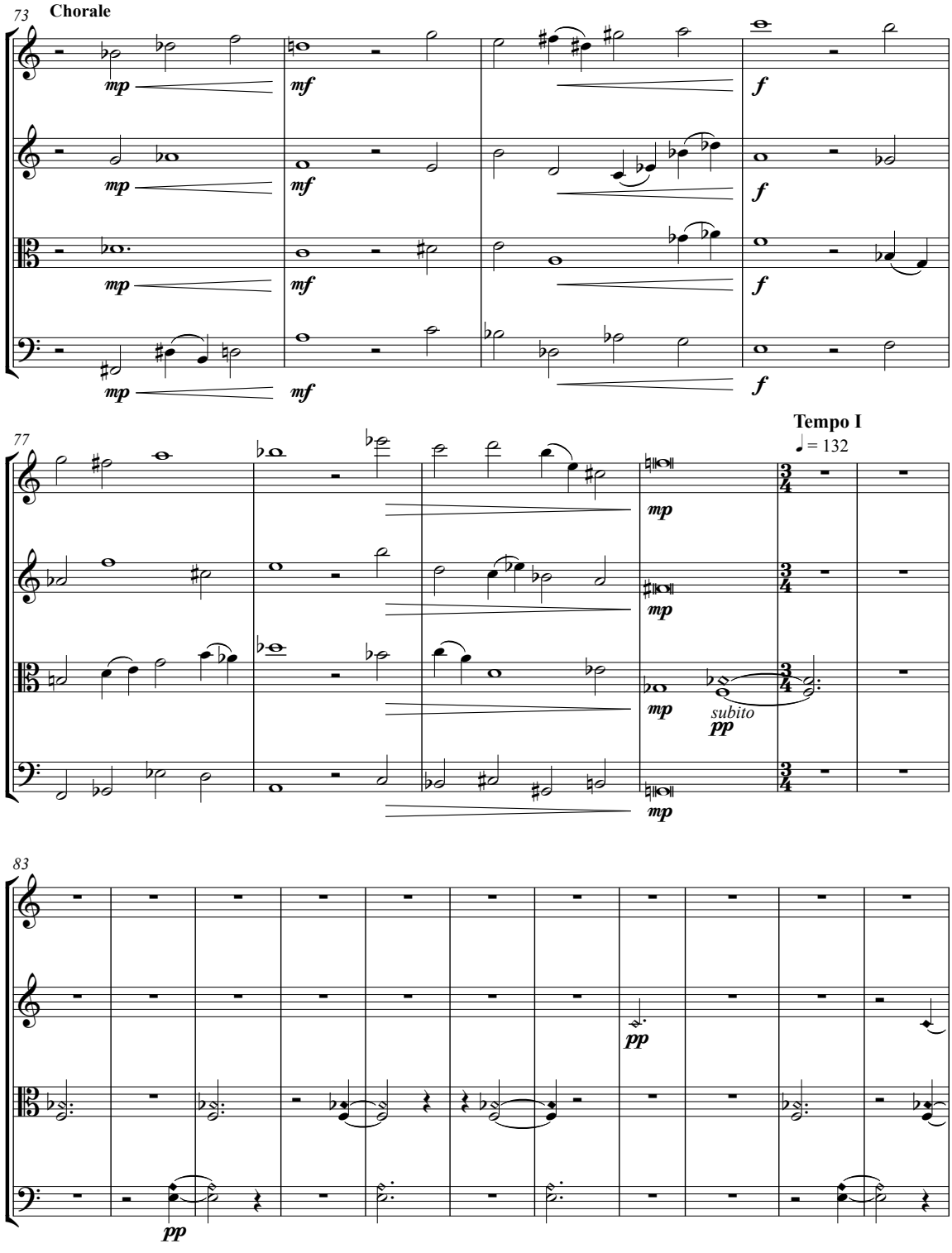

65
f
f
f
ff
ff
ff
molto legato
mf
73
81
molto legato
mf

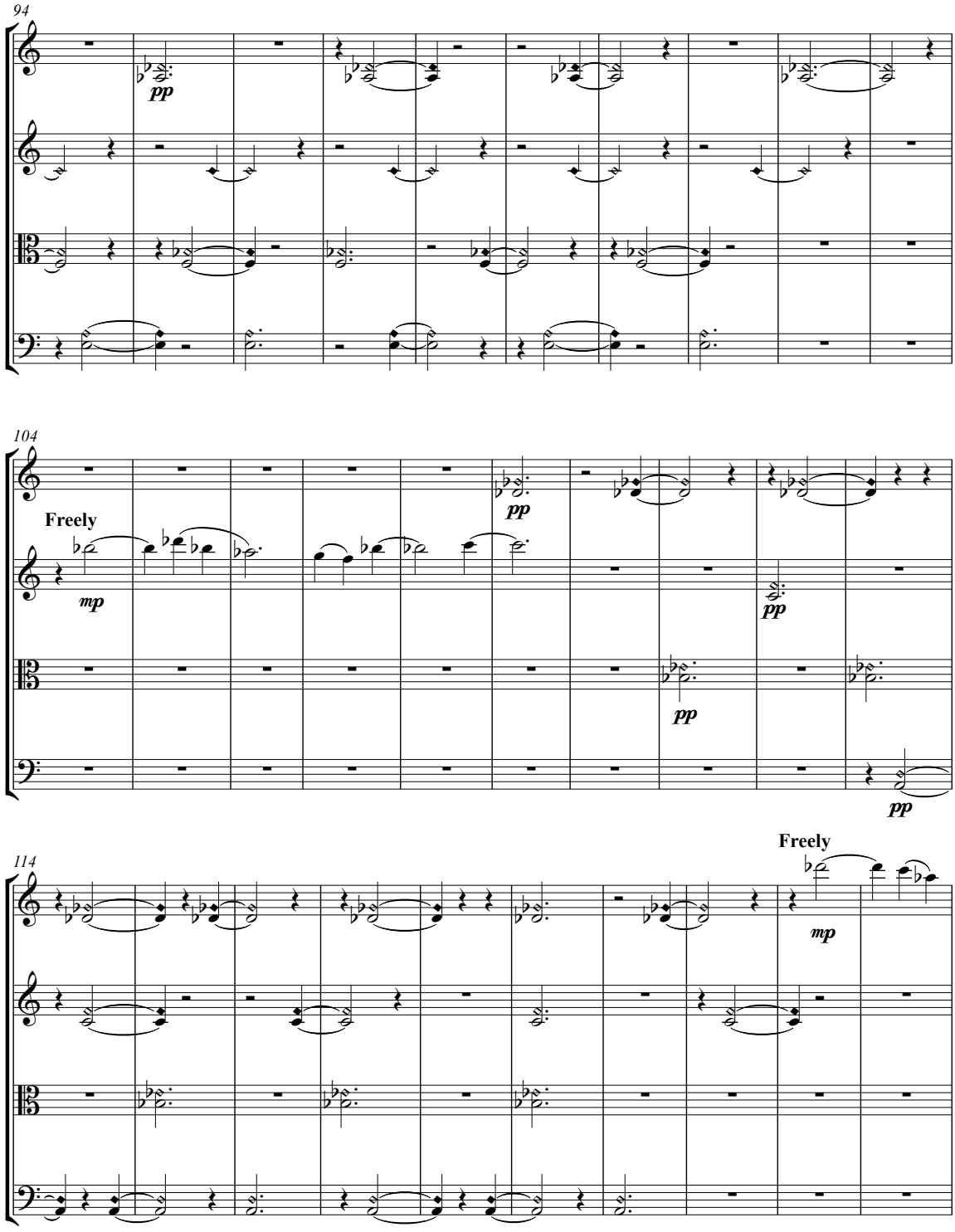

89
molto legato
mf
96
molto legato
mf
103

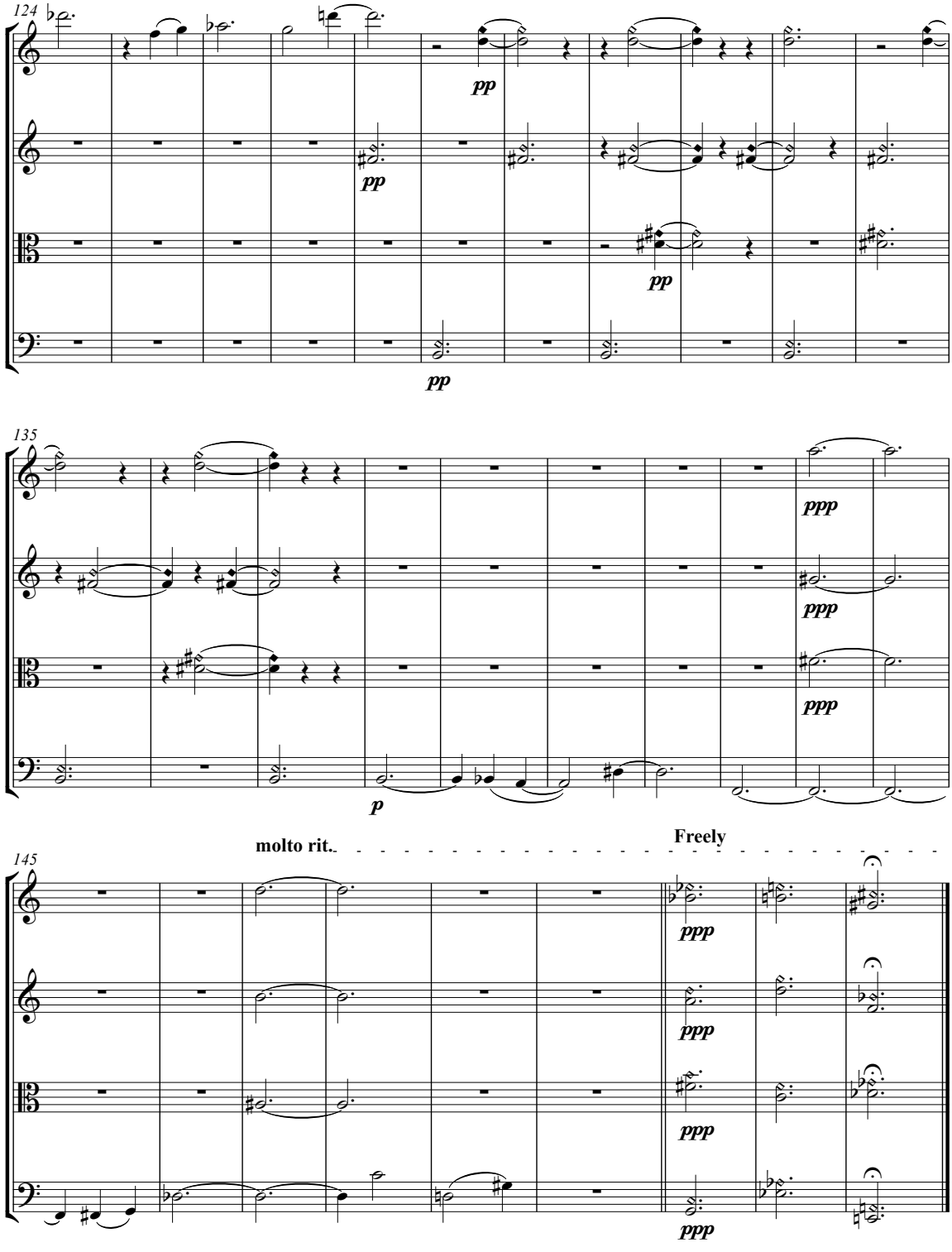

109
p
mp
p
p
mp
p
p
mp
poco a poco dim.
114
rit.
mp
pp
mp
p
pp
mp
p
pp
pp
Rhythmic but distant
♩ = 132
III
Violin I
con sordino sempre
Violin II
con sordino sempre
pp
Viola
con sordino sempre
pp
Violoncello
con sordino sempre
pp


11
pp
21
Freely
mp
sul II
pp
pp
pp
32
pp
Freely
mp


42
pp
pp
sul II
pp
pp
53
ppp
ppp
ppp
p
64
rit.
♩ = 48
pppp
pppp
pppp

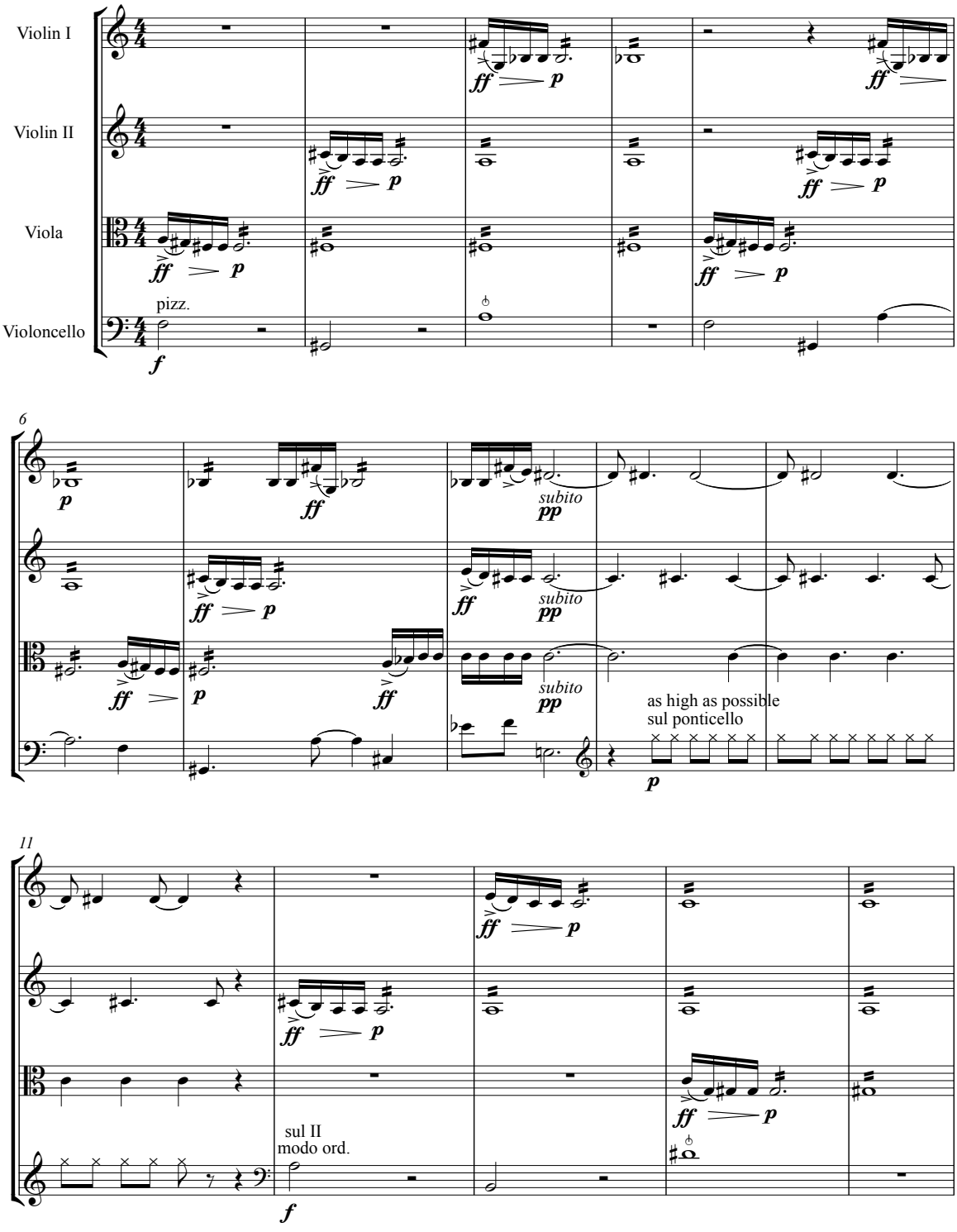

73
Chorale
mp
mf
f
77
Tempo I
♩ = 132
subito
pp
83
pp

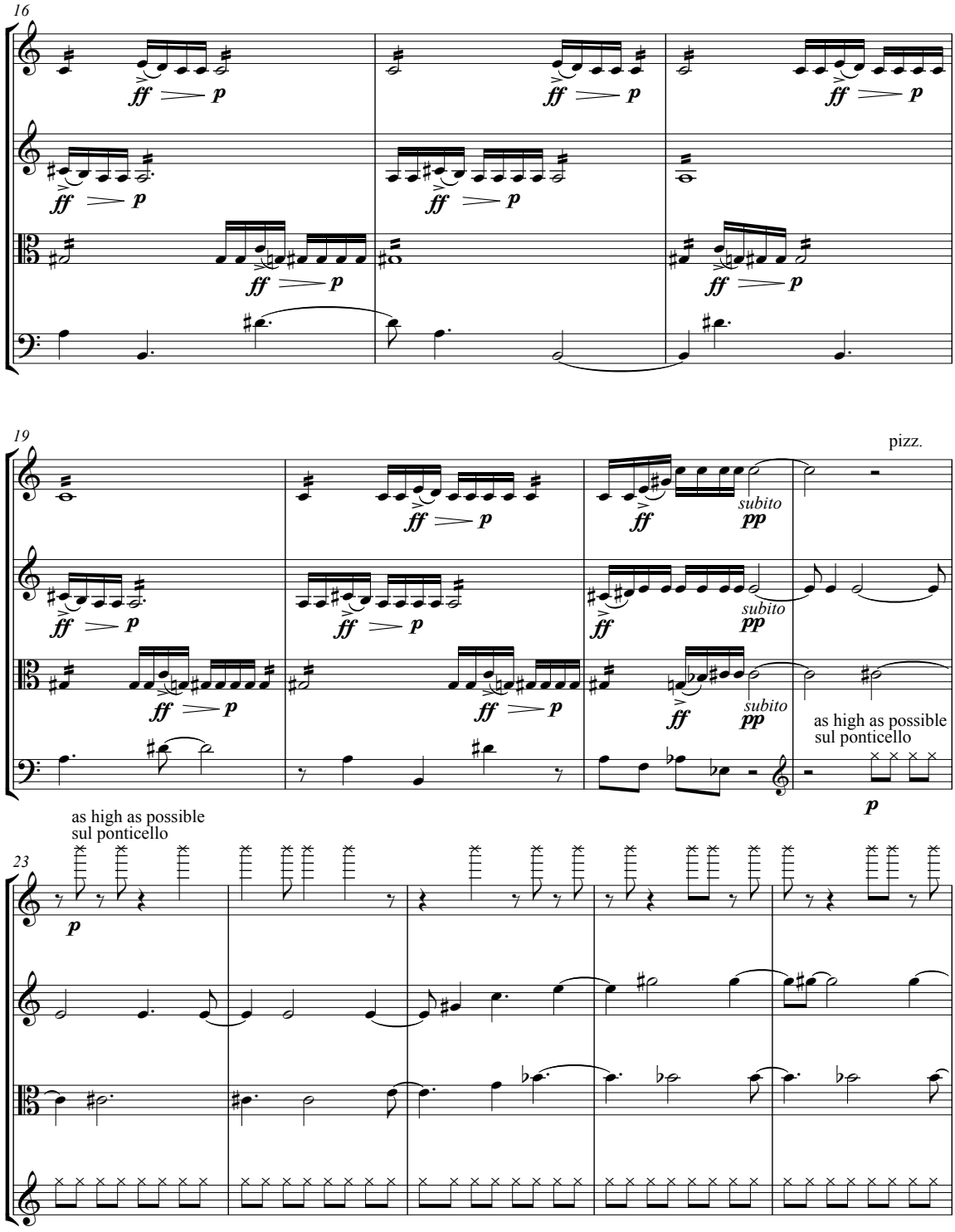

94
pp
104
Freely
mp
pp
pp
pp
pp
114
Freely
mp

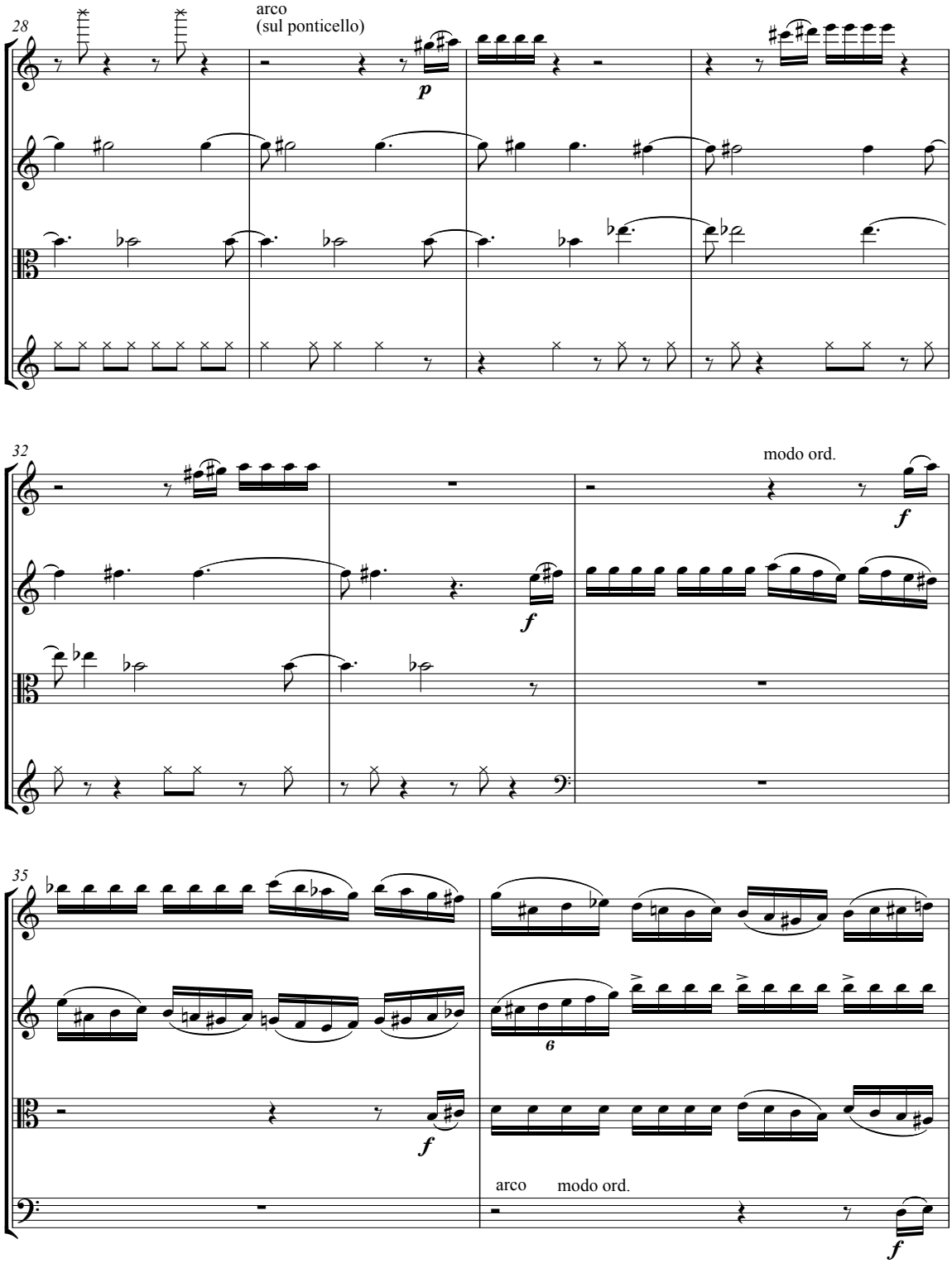

124
pp
pp
pp
pp
135
ppp
ppp
ppp
p
molto rit.
Freely
145
ppp
ppp
ppp
ppp

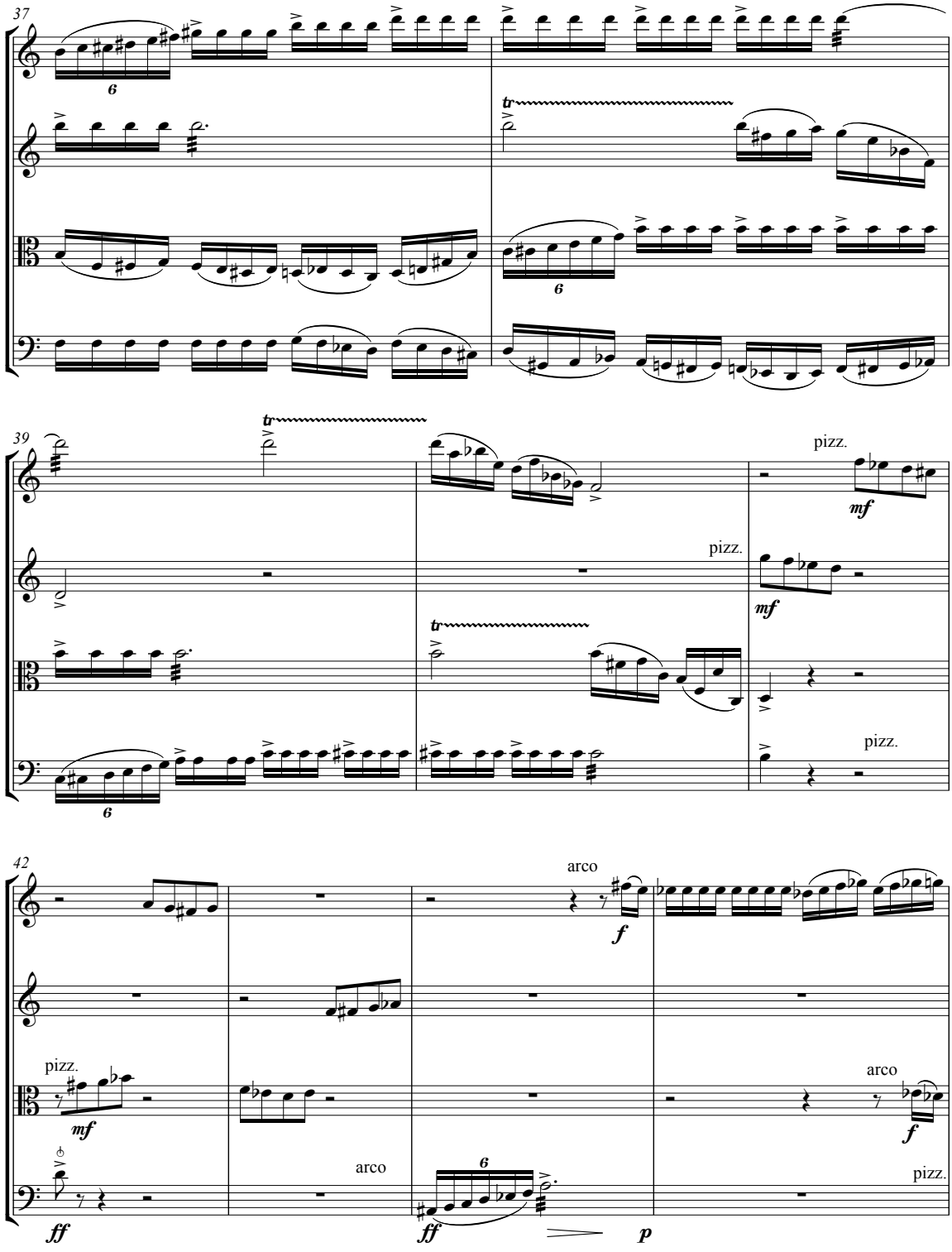
IV

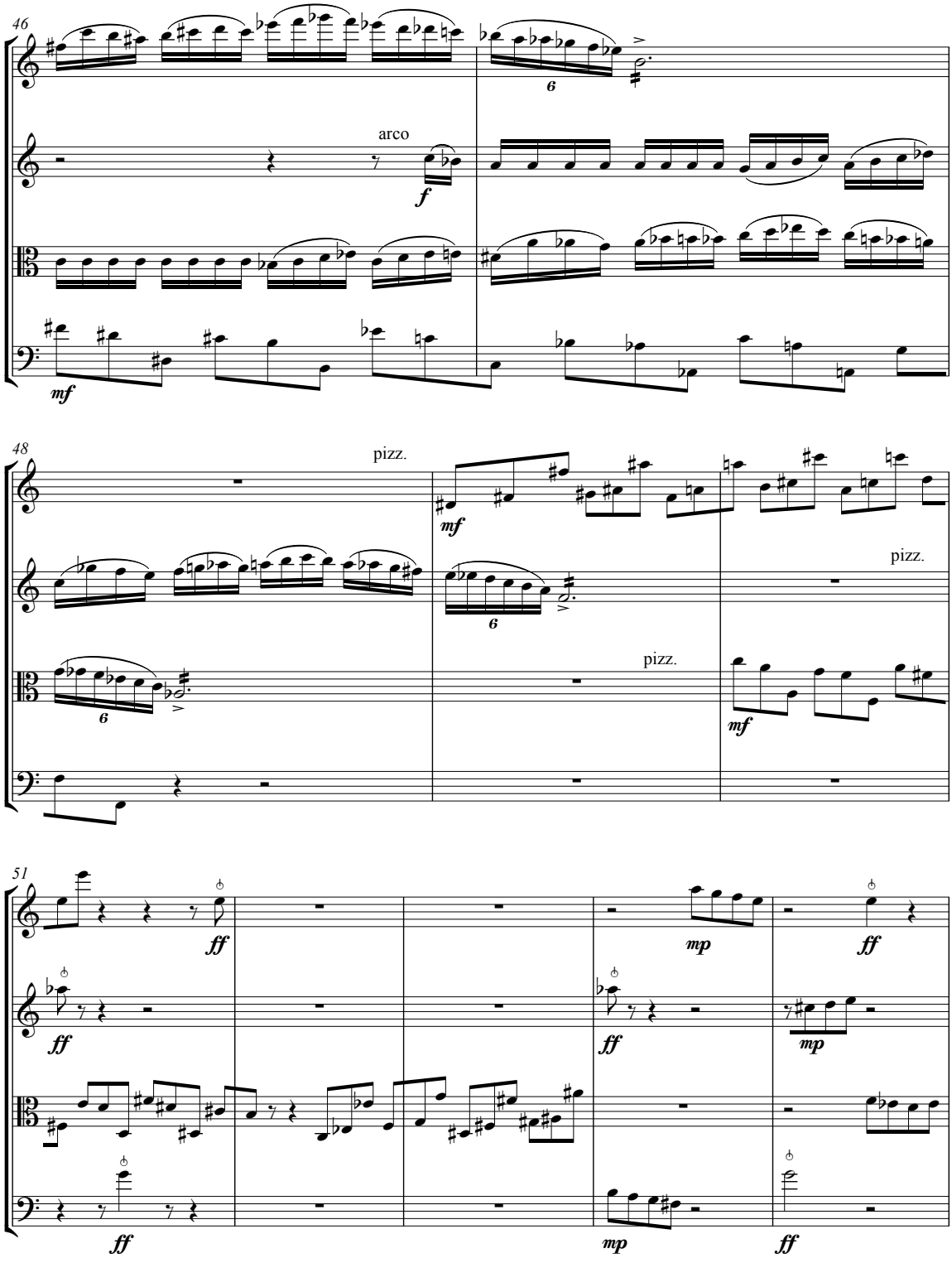
Furious ♩ = 132




16
ff p
19
pizz.
subito pp
as high as possible
sul ponticello
23
as high as possible
sul ponticello


28
arco
(sul ponticello)
p
32
modo ord.
f
f
35
6
f
arco
modo ord.
f


37
39
42
pizz.
arco
mf
f
ff
p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mf
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mf
pizz.
pizz.
mf
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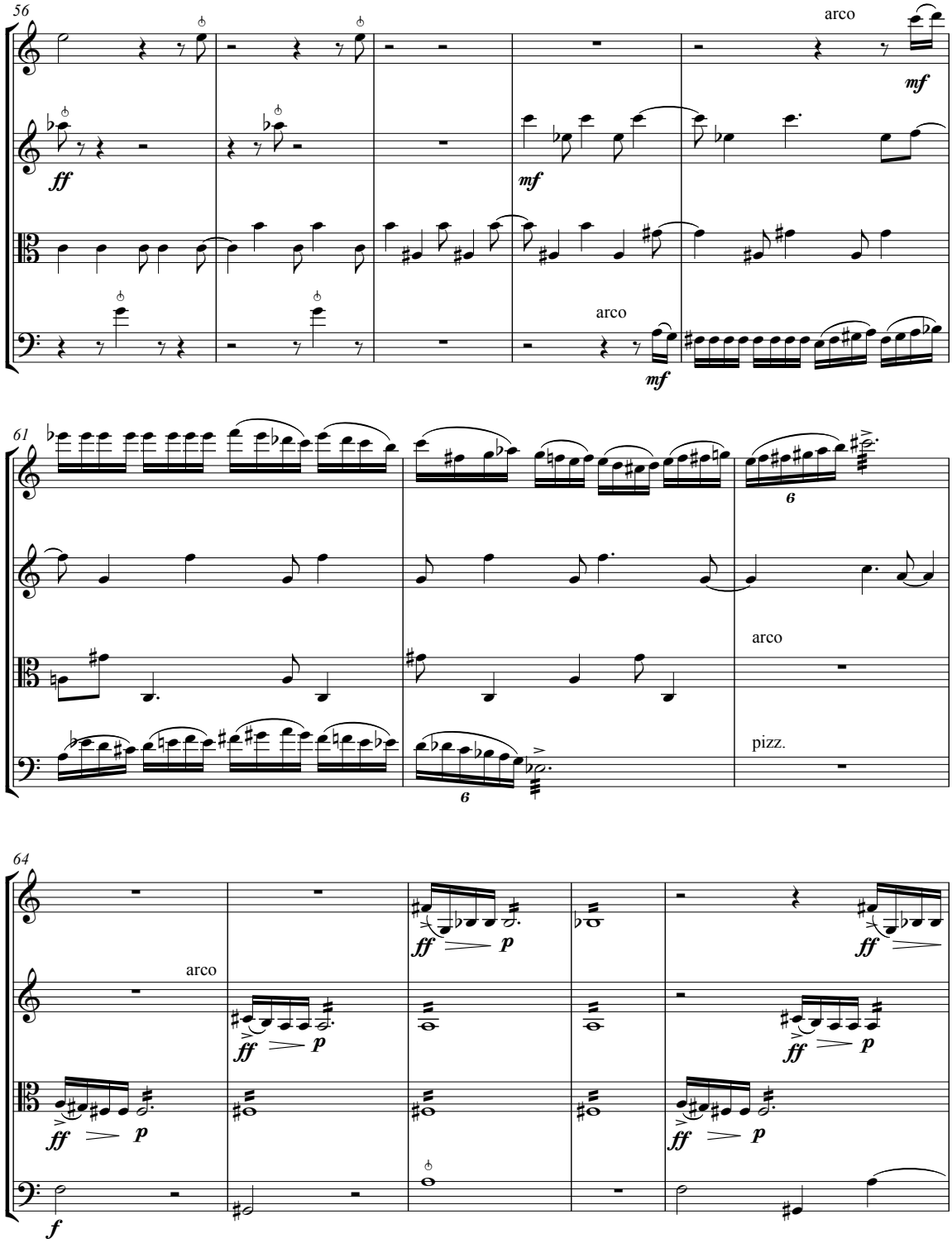
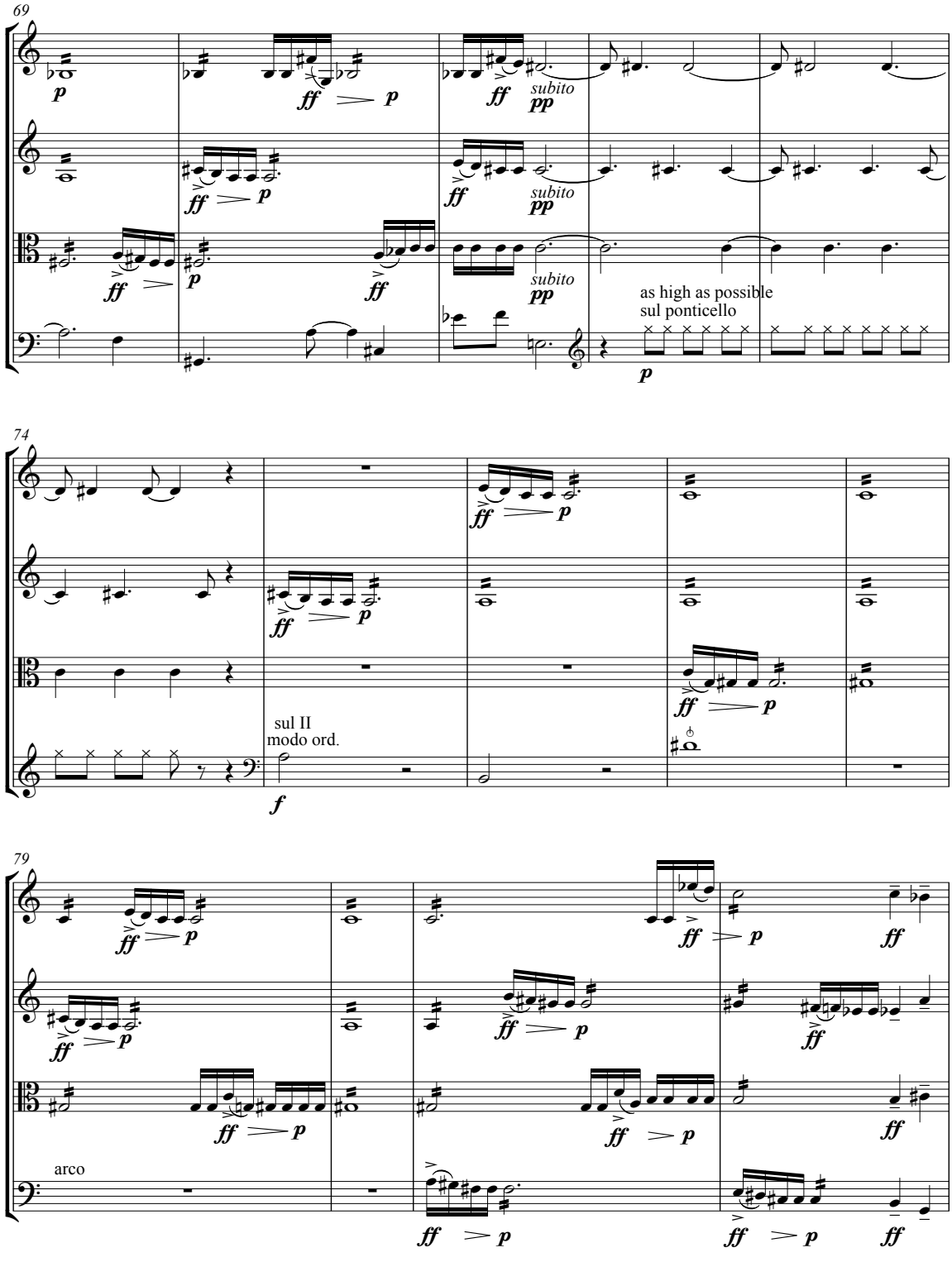
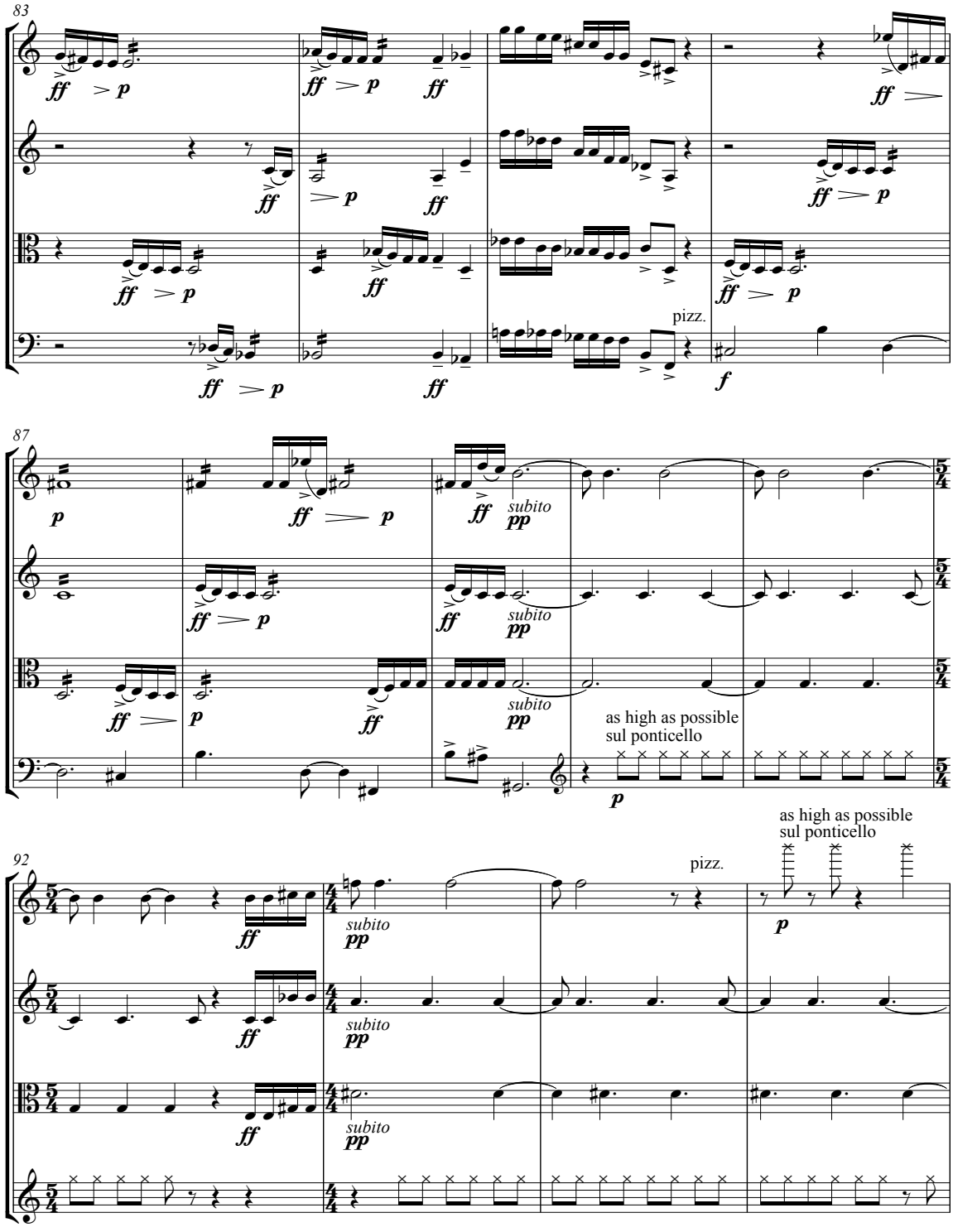
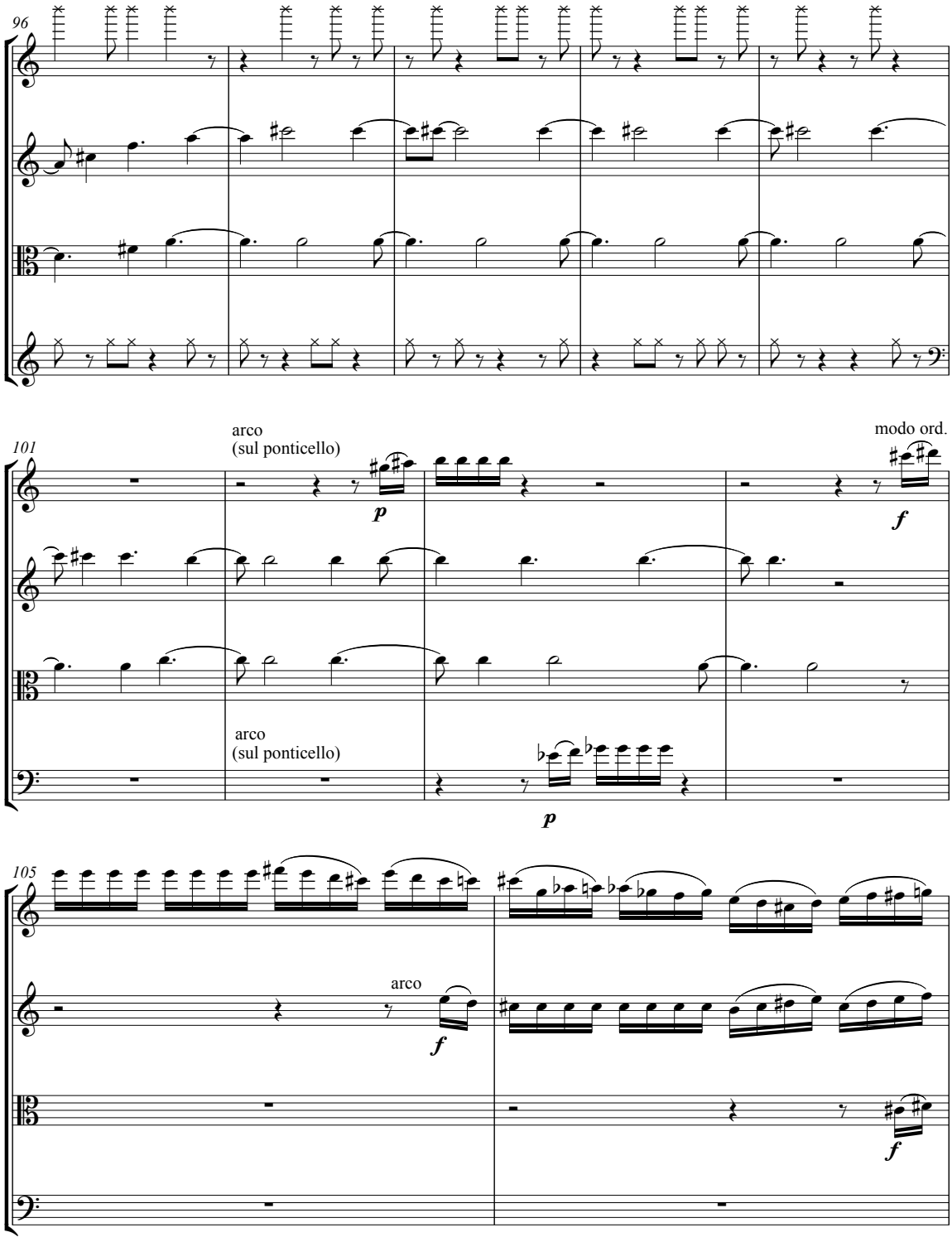
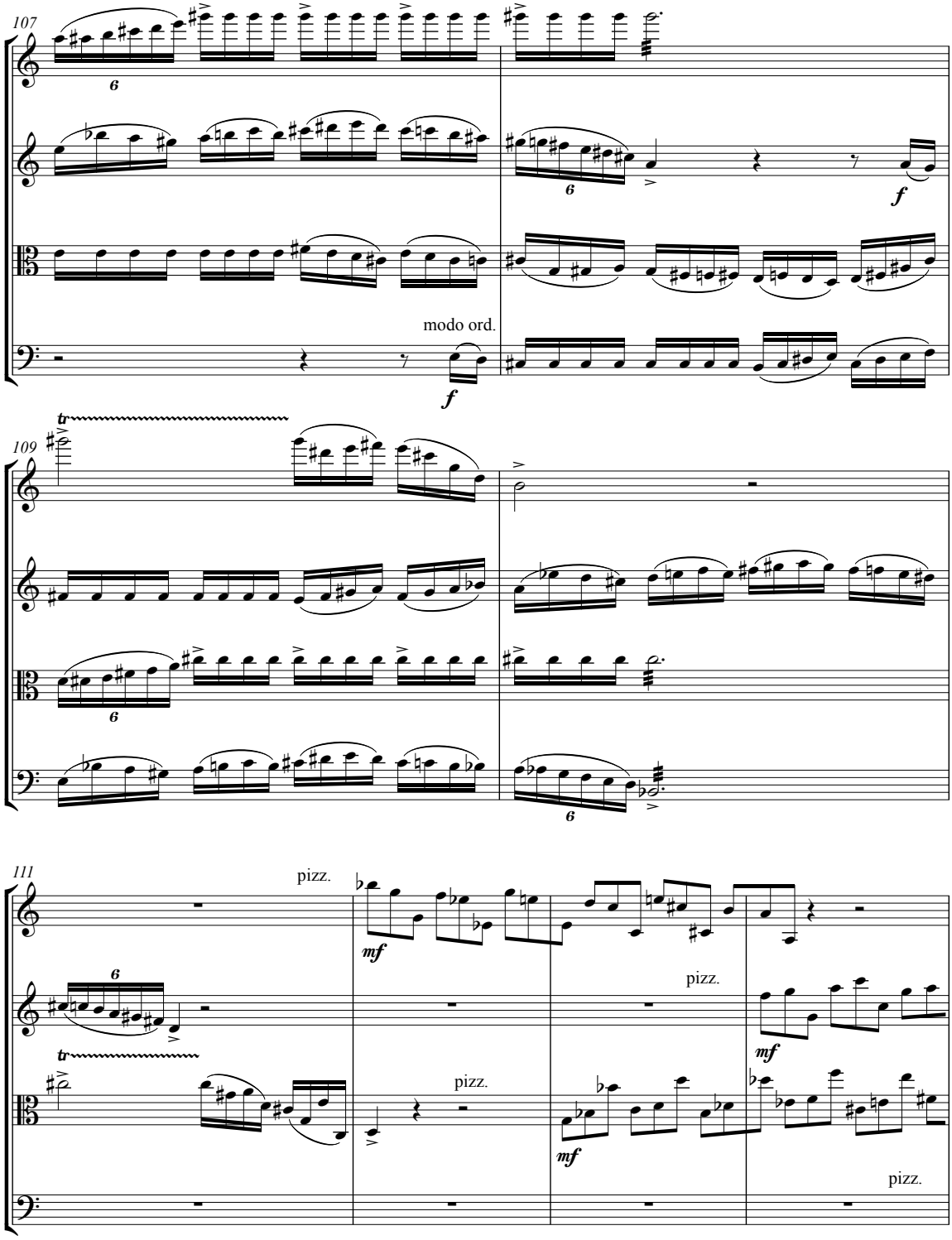
ff
mp
ff
ff
mp
ff
mp
ff

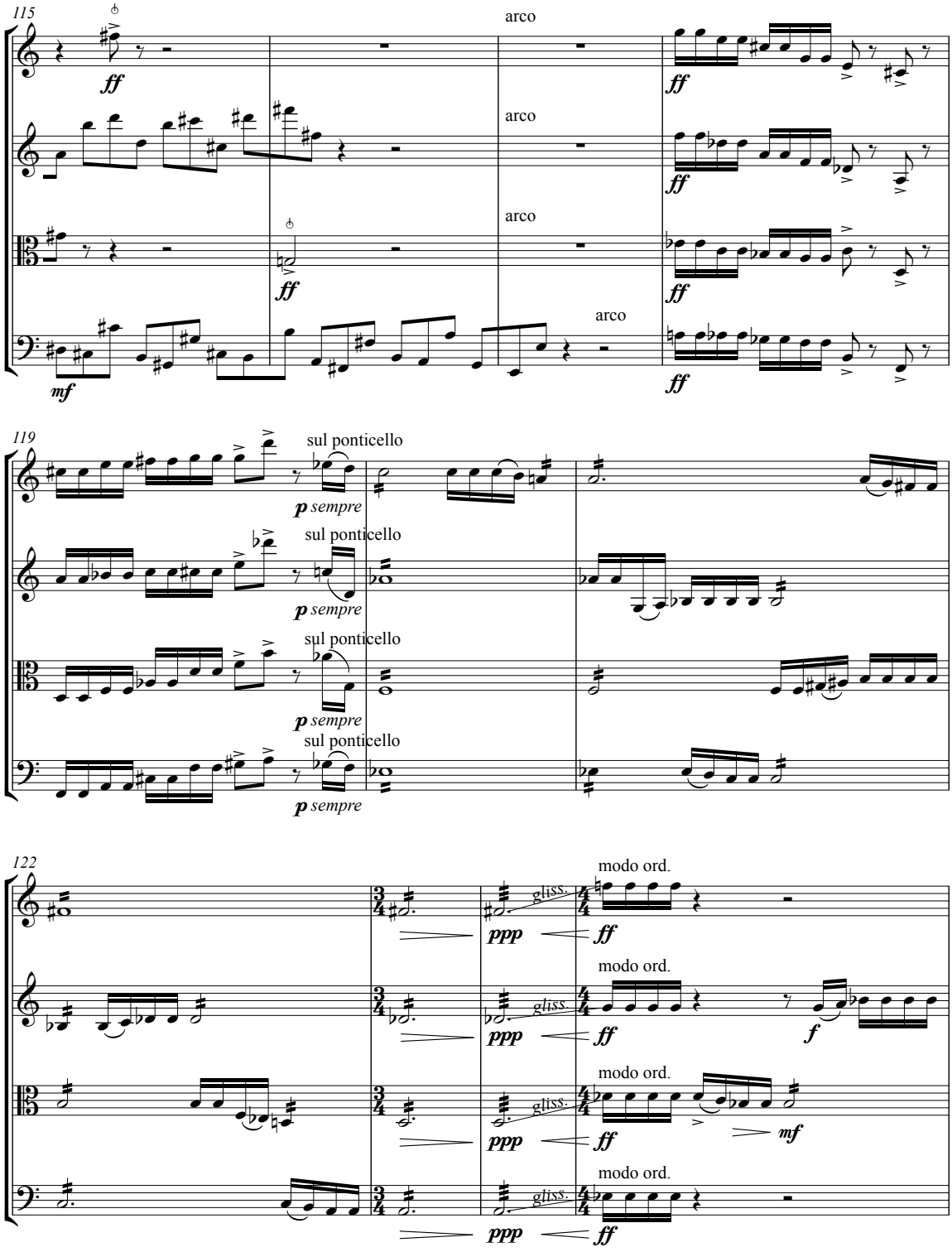

56
arco
mf
ff
mf
arco
mf
61
6
arco
pizz.
6
64
arco
ff
p
ff
p
ff
p
ff
p
ff
p
ff
p
f

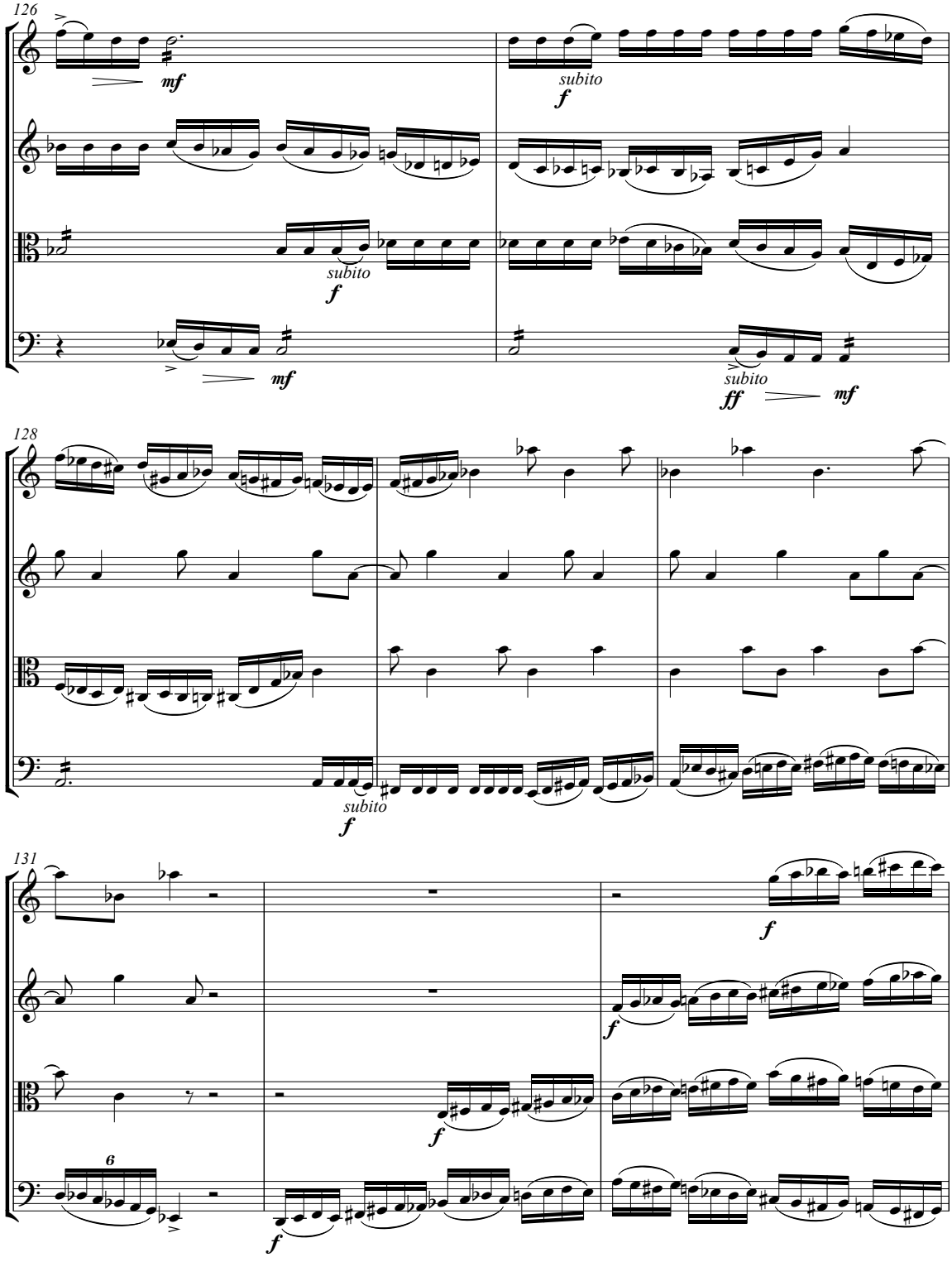

69
subito
pp
as high as possible
sul ponticello
74
sul II
modo ord.
79
arco

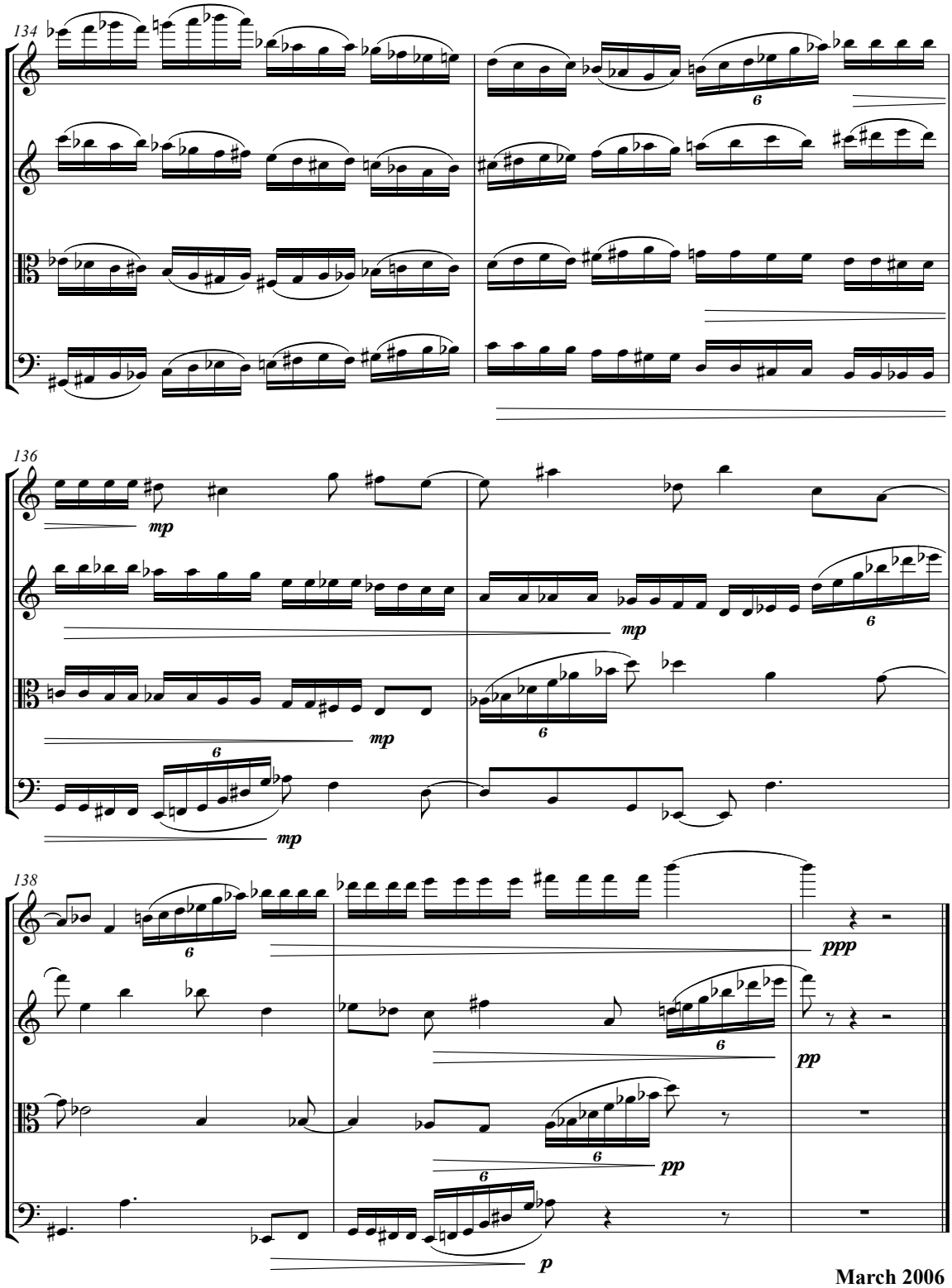

83
pizz.
87
subito
as high as possible
sul ponticello
92
pizz.
as high as possible
sul ponticello


96
101
arco
(sul ponticello)
p
modo ord.
f
arco
(sul ponticello)
p
105
arco
f
f


107
modo ord.
109
111
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.


115
arco
arco
arco
arco
ff
mf
119
sul ponticello
sul ponticello
sul ponticello
sul ponticello
p sempre
122
modo ord.
modo ord.
modo ord.
modo ord.
gliss.
ppp
ff
f
mf


126
mf
subito
f
subito
f
mf
subito
ff
mf
128
subito
f
131
f
f
f
6
f



March 2006