Duo Sonata

for Violin and Viola

Daniel Ott

(1995)

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Duration: approx. 16 minutes

Program Note:

Among my first-ever public performances were a series of summertime concerts at the Max Aronoff Viola Institute, a small weeklong music festival devoted to players of that oft-maligned member of the string family. Indeed, many of the faculty members of the festival were either close friends or relatives (such as my mother, the violinist Marcia Ott). I served as composer-in-residence to MAVI for the better part of two decades, during which time no fewer than eleven of my works appeared (several more than once) on its annual recital series.

My Duo Sonata for violin and viola, composed while still a student at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia (and still a teenager), was composed for such a concert. It comprises five movements, the first a set of variations over (and under!) a continually expanding melodic figure, built around the drone of a major ninth. The second movement is in many ways a tribute to Brahms, stealing as it does the opening gesture of his majestic Quintet in G major, op. 111. The third movement, again returning to an ostinato technique, is a study in perseverance, in which a relentless oscillation between the plucked notes A and G serves as a backdrop. The fourth movement ("Quodlibet") cobbles together bits and pieces of the preceding three, and even hints at a fifth, while the final movement itself briefly wraps up this youthful work in a wash of thirty-second notes.

Duo Sonata

for Violin and Viola

Written for the 1995 Max Aronoff Viola Institute

I.

Daniel Ott
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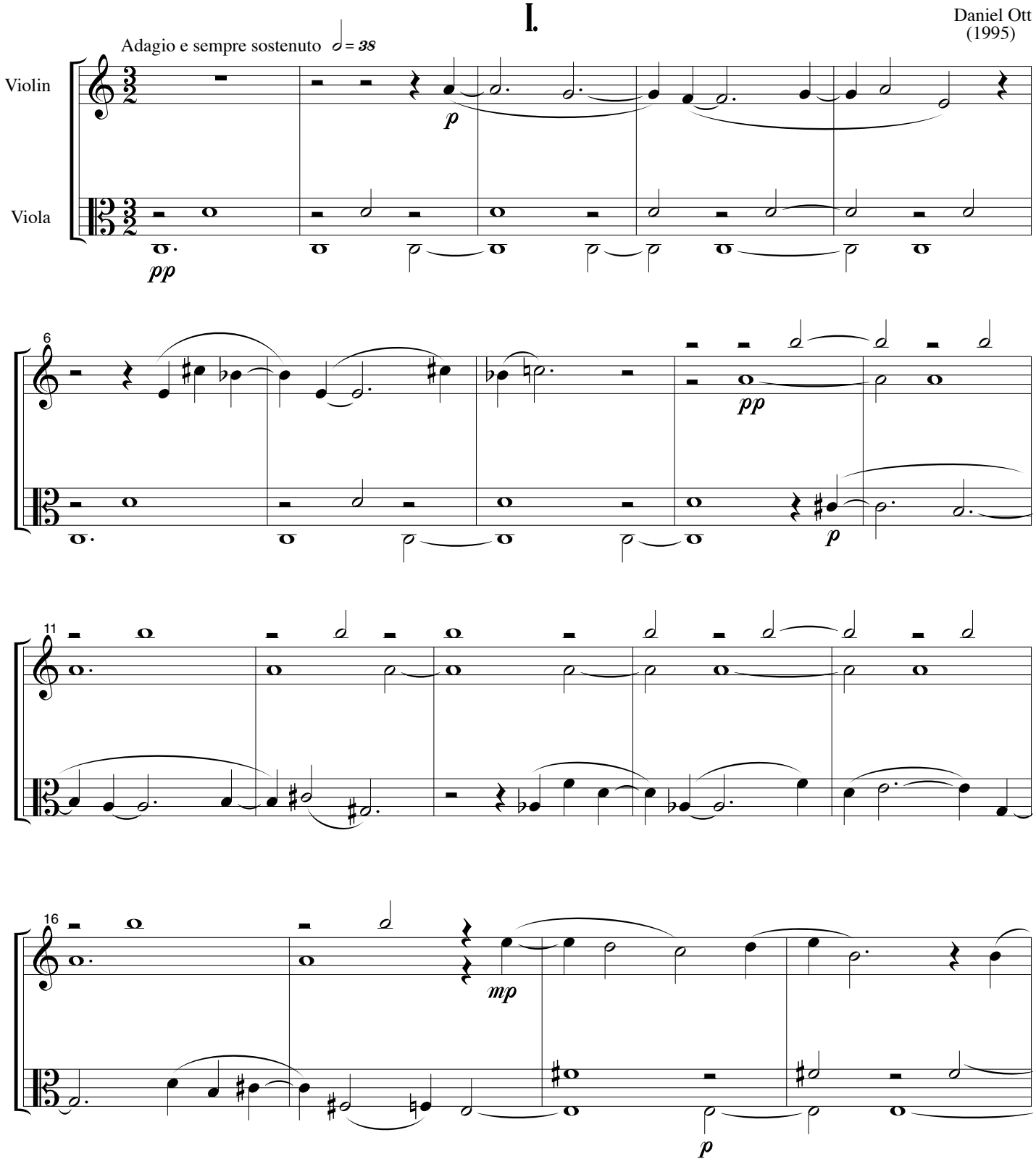

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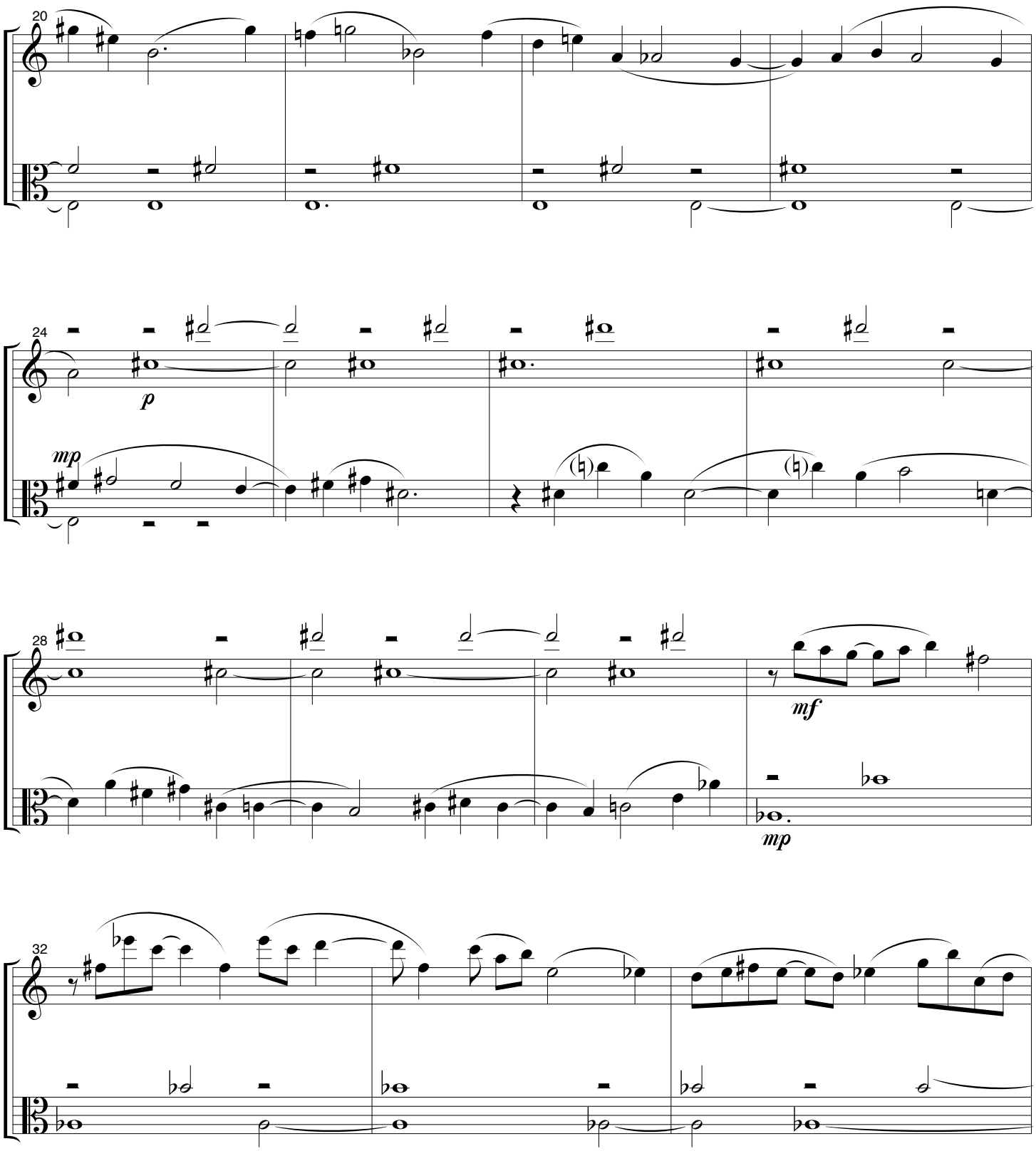
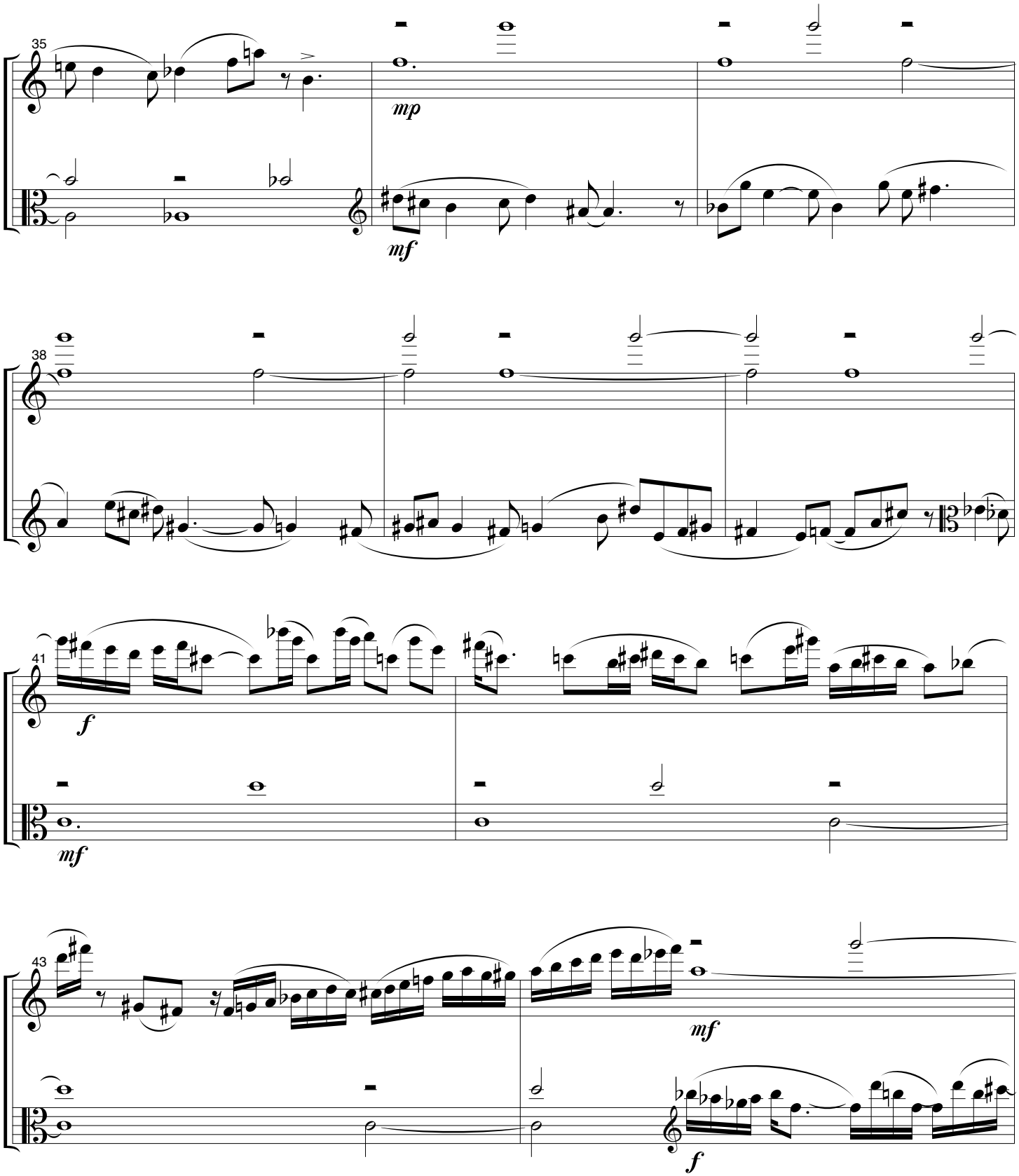
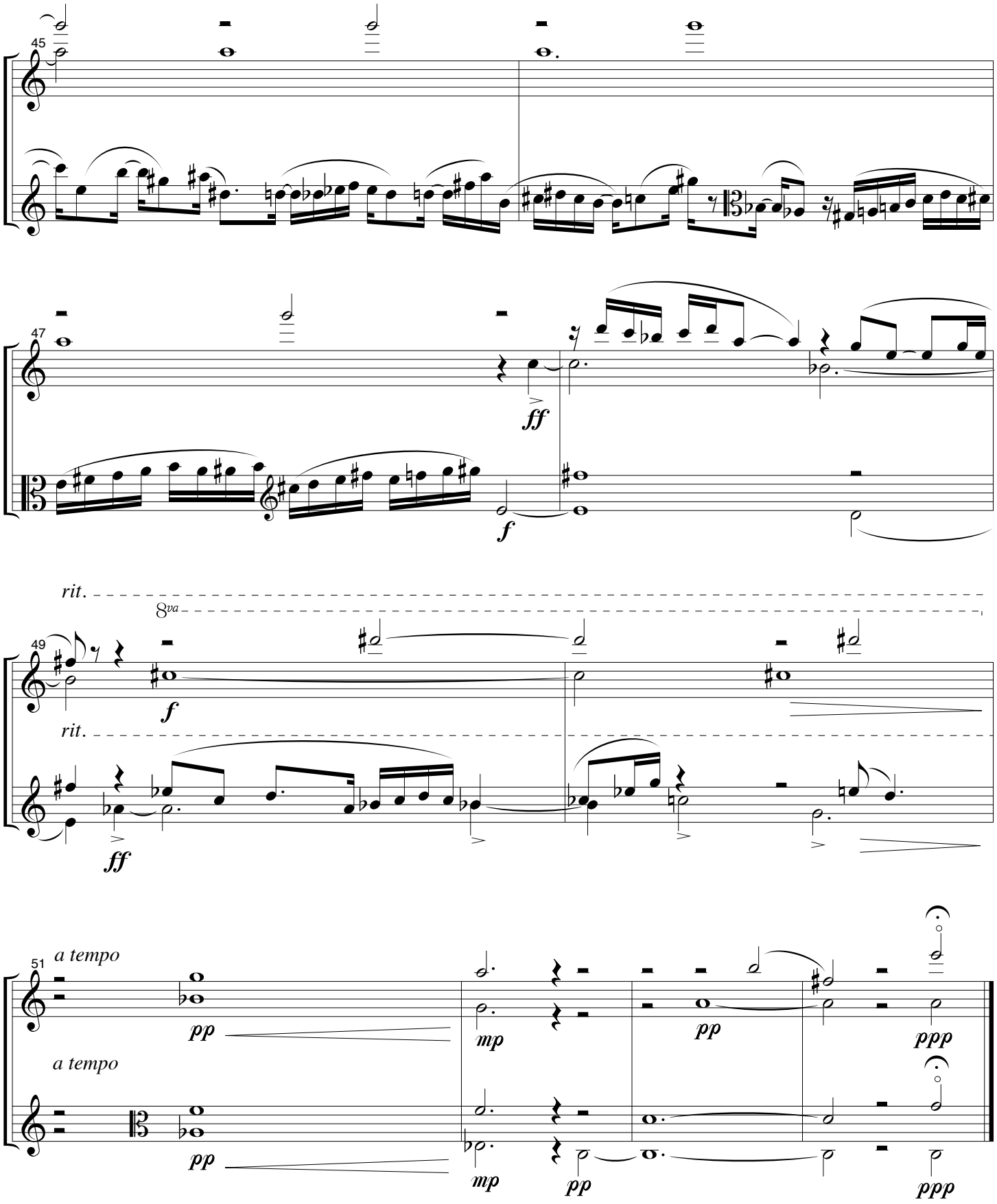
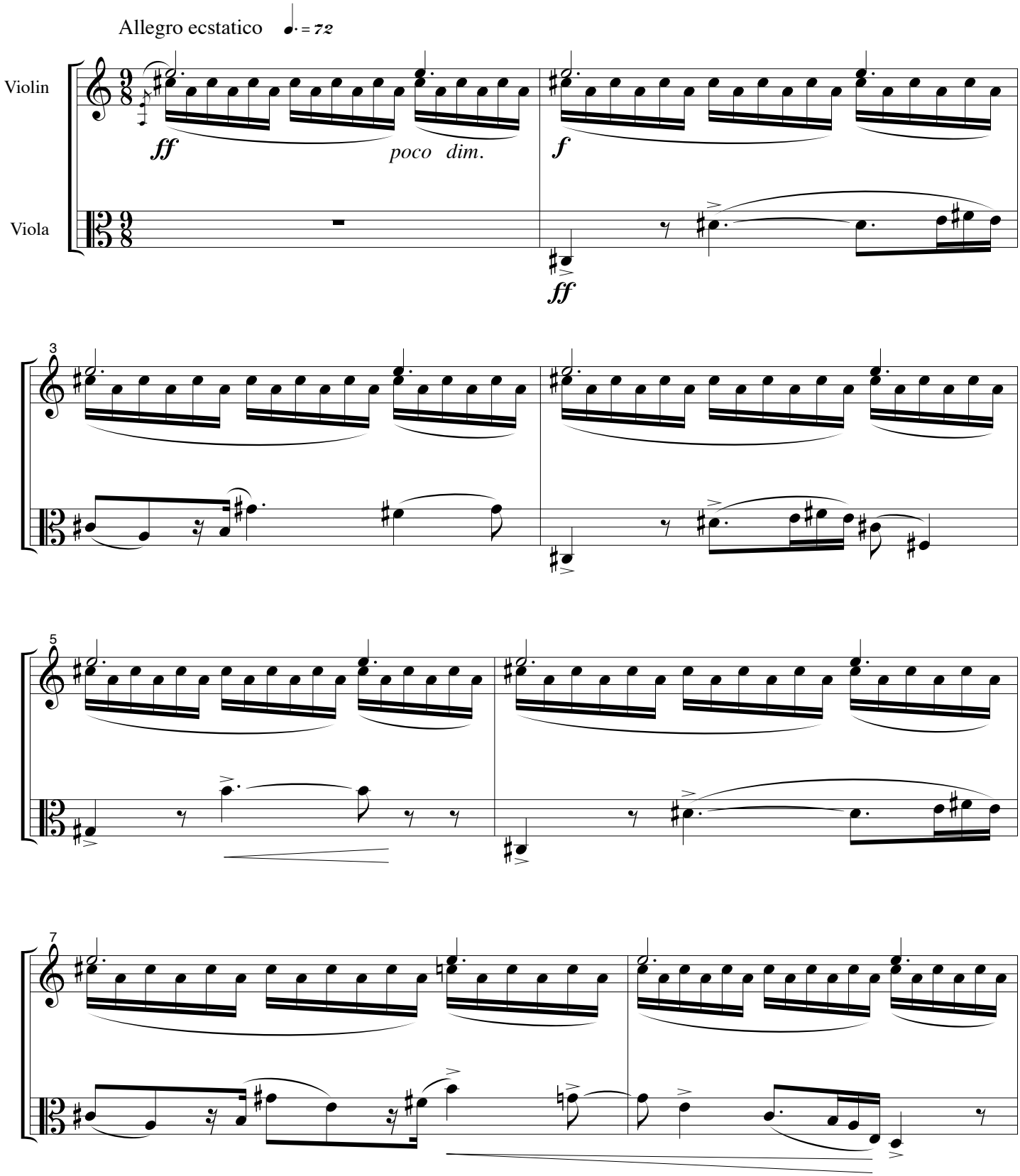
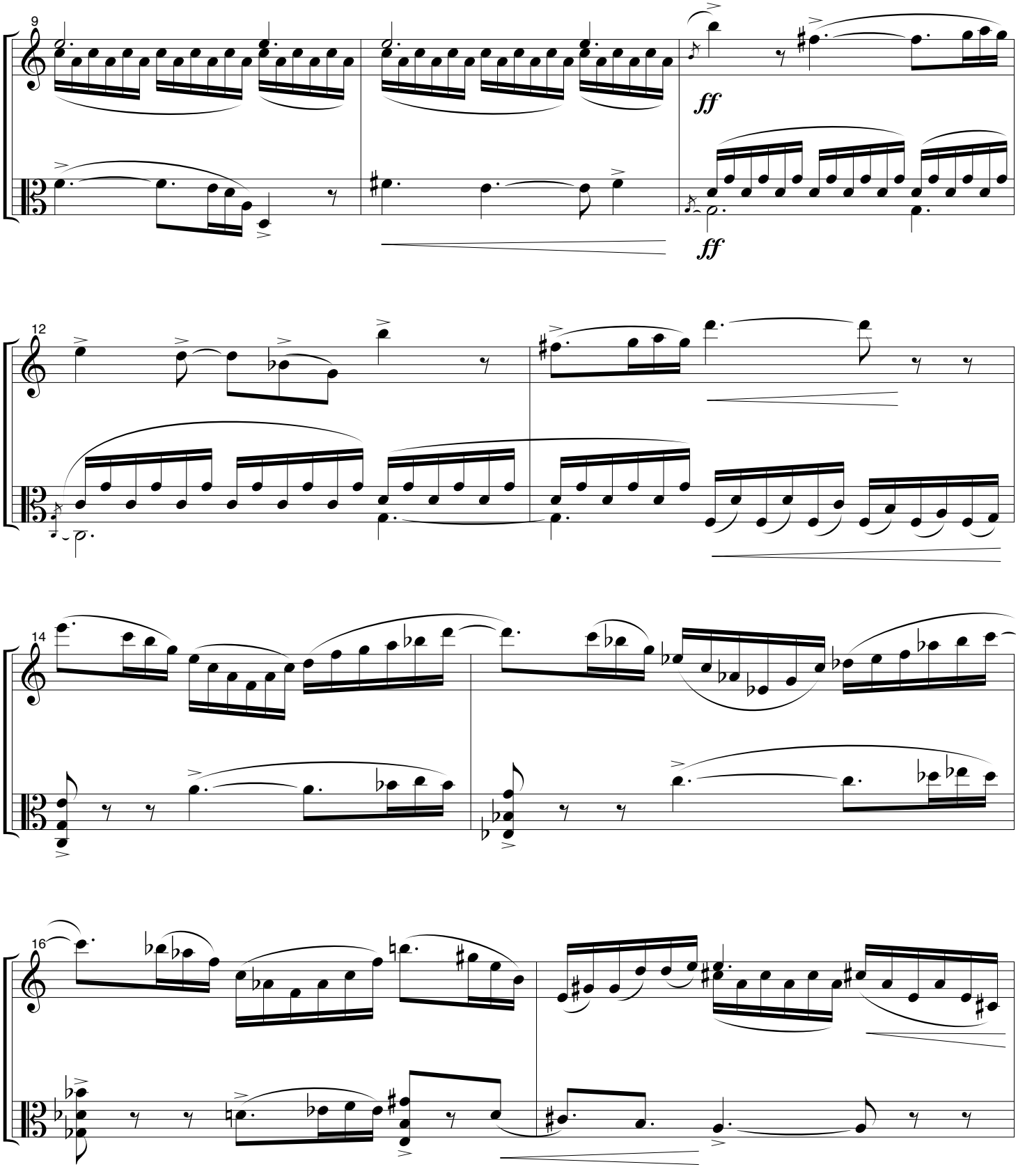

20
24
p
mp
28
mf
mp
32

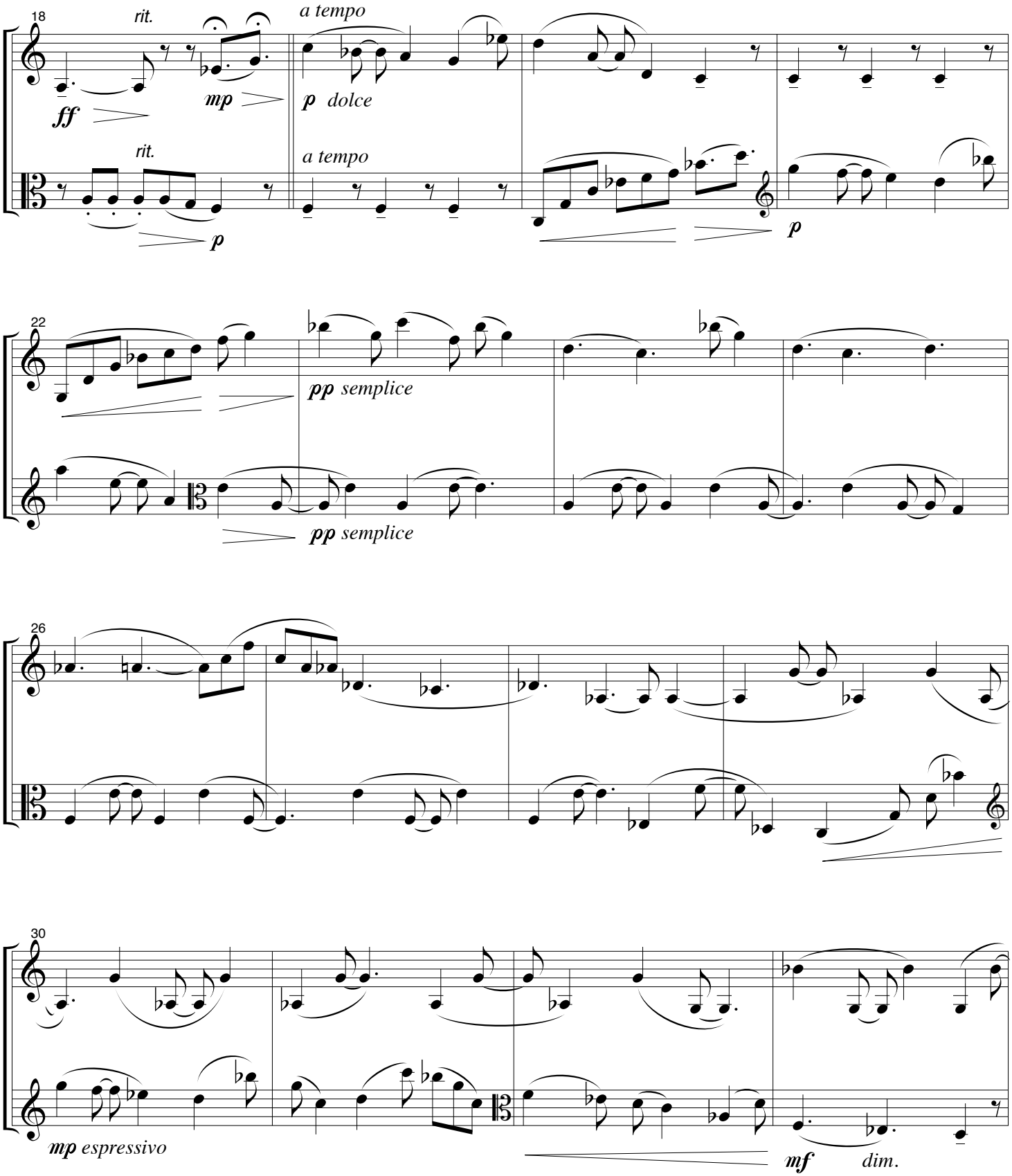

35
mp
mf
38
41
f
mf
43
mf
f

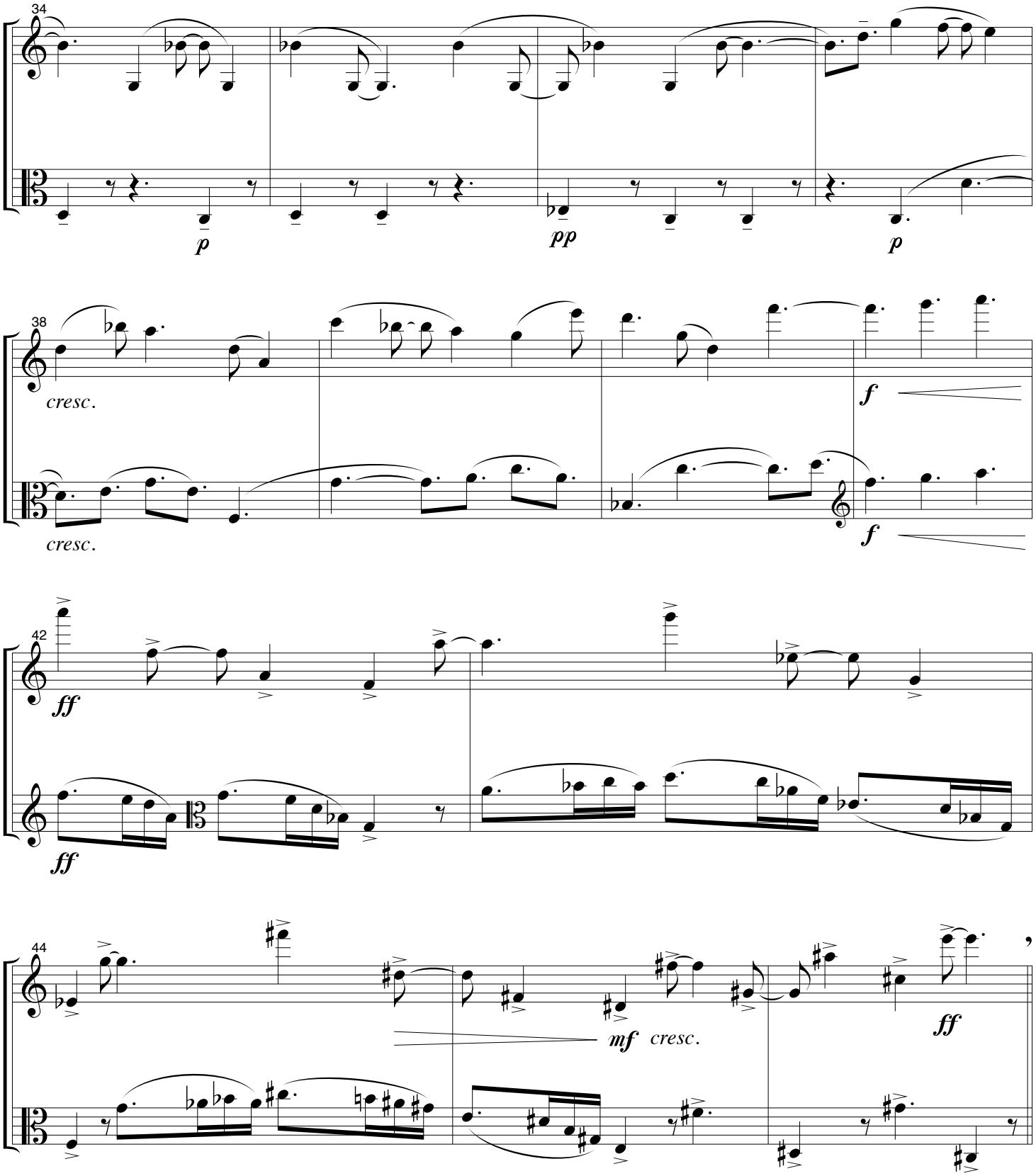

45
47
ff
f
rit.
8va
49
f
rit.
ff
51
a tempo
pp
mp
pp
ppp
a tempo
pp
mp
pp
ppp

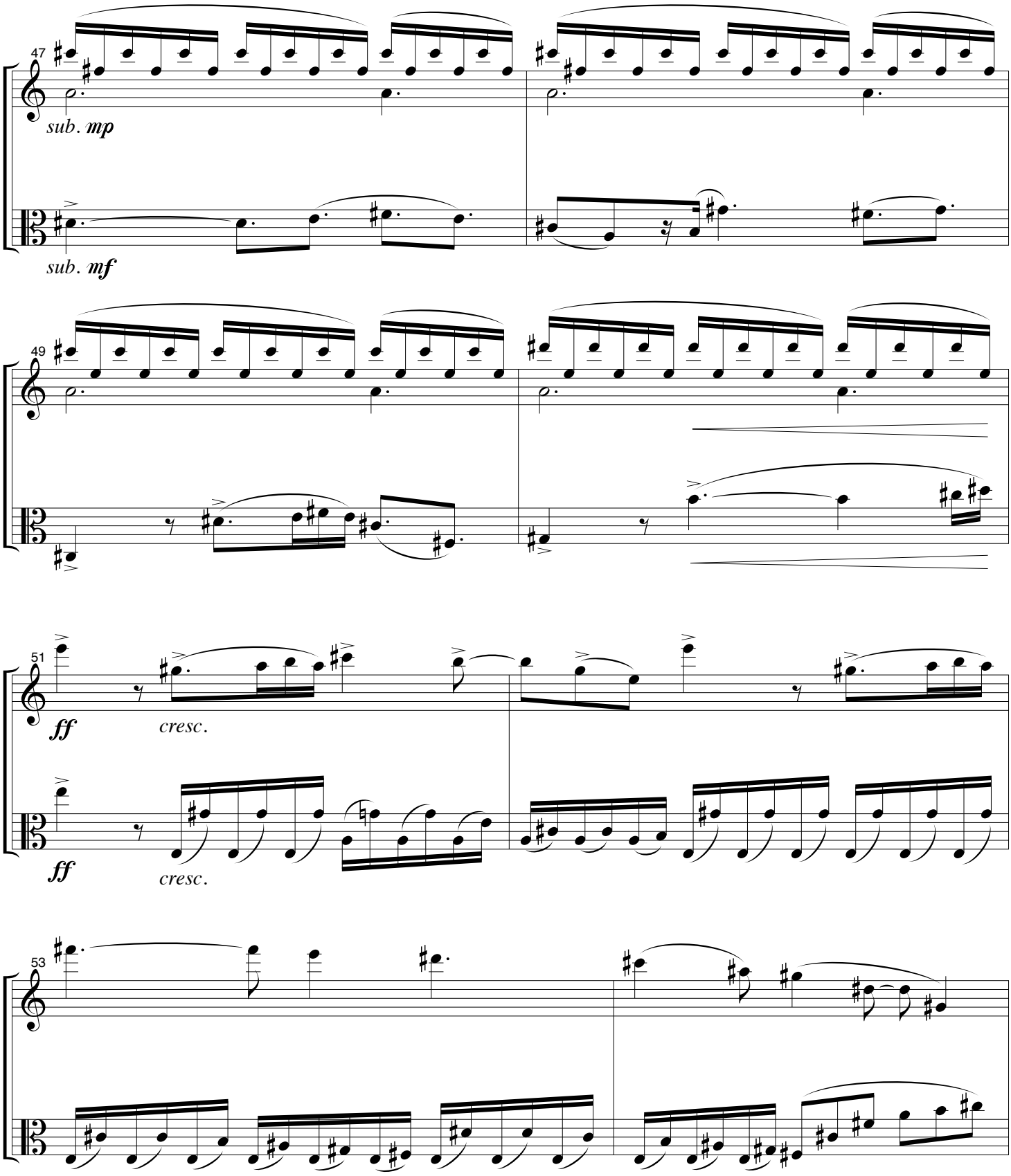
II.

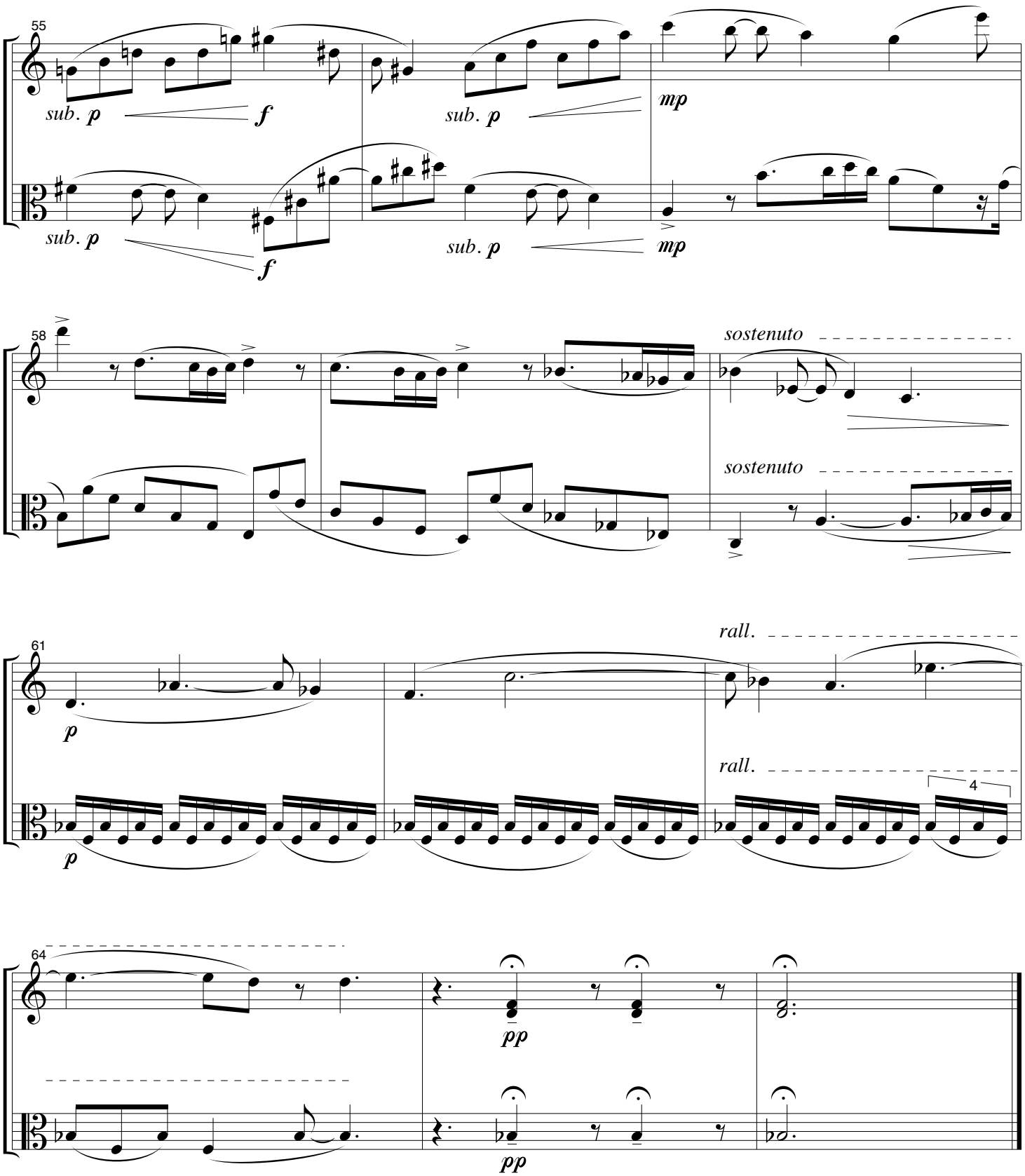



9
ff
ff
12
14
16

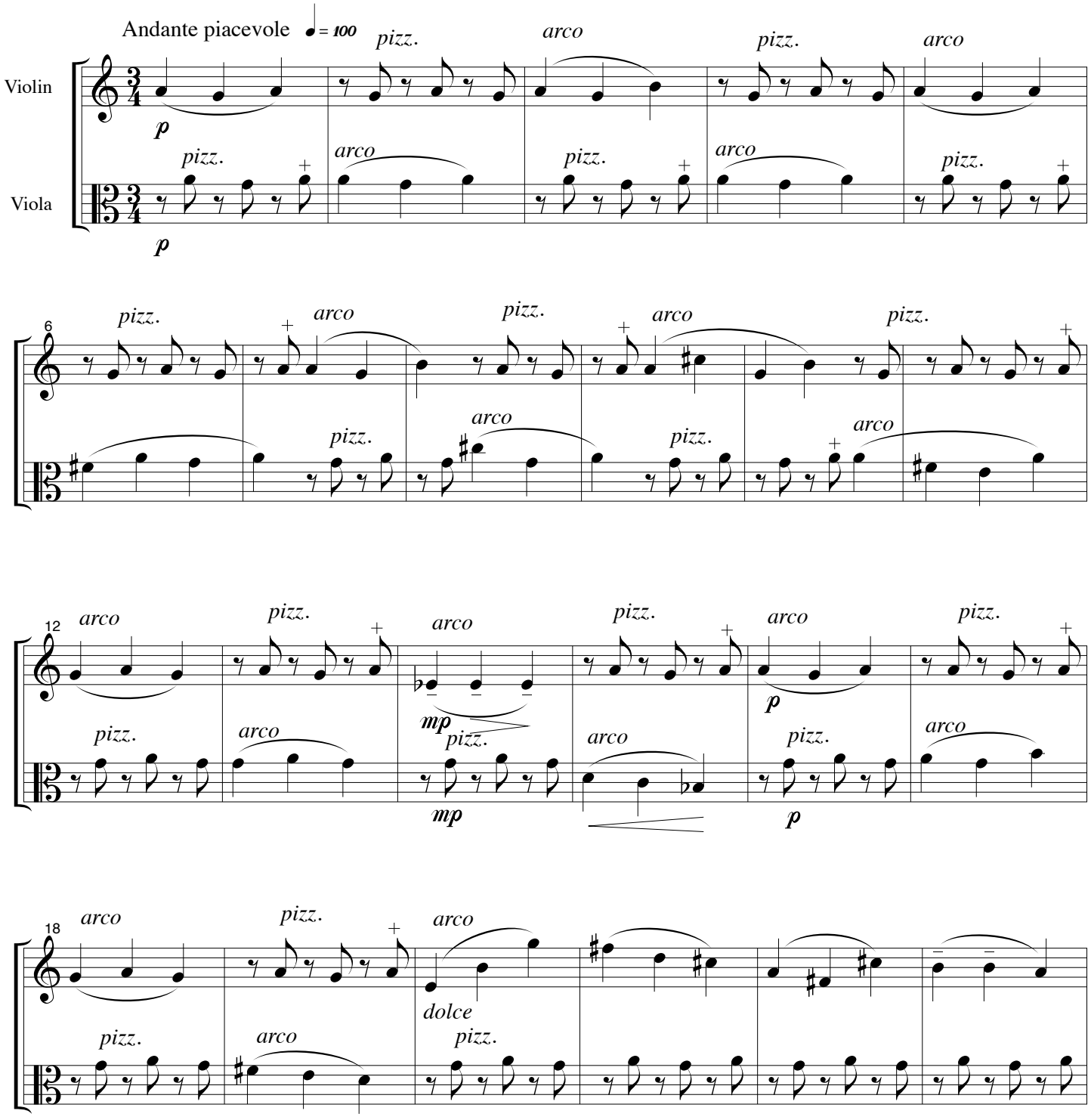

18
rit.
a tempo
ff
mp
p dolce
rit.
a tempo
p
p
22
pp semplice
pp semplice
26
30
mp espressivo
mf dim.

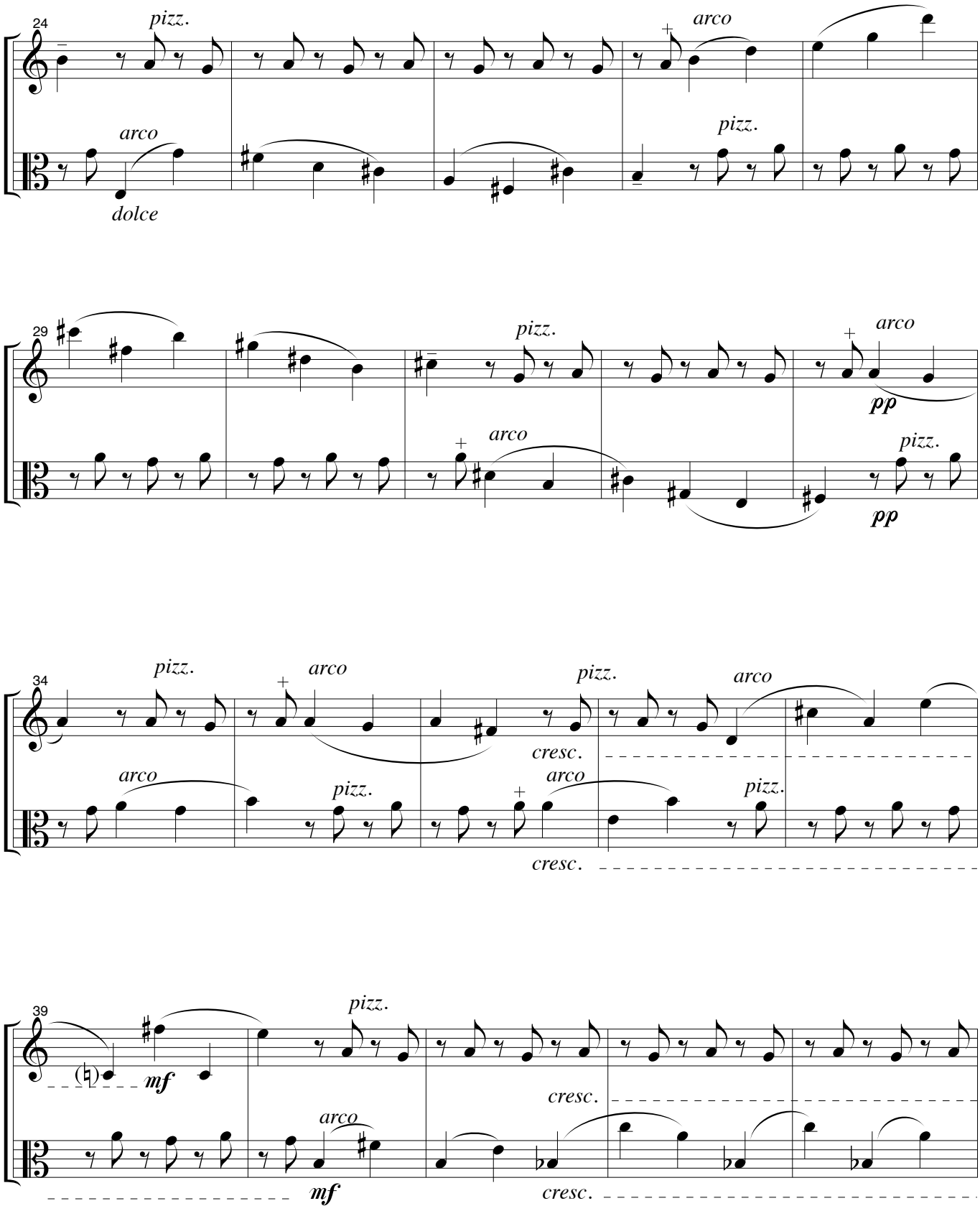

34
p
pp
p
38
cresc.
cresc.
f
f
42
ff
ff
44
mf cresc.
ff

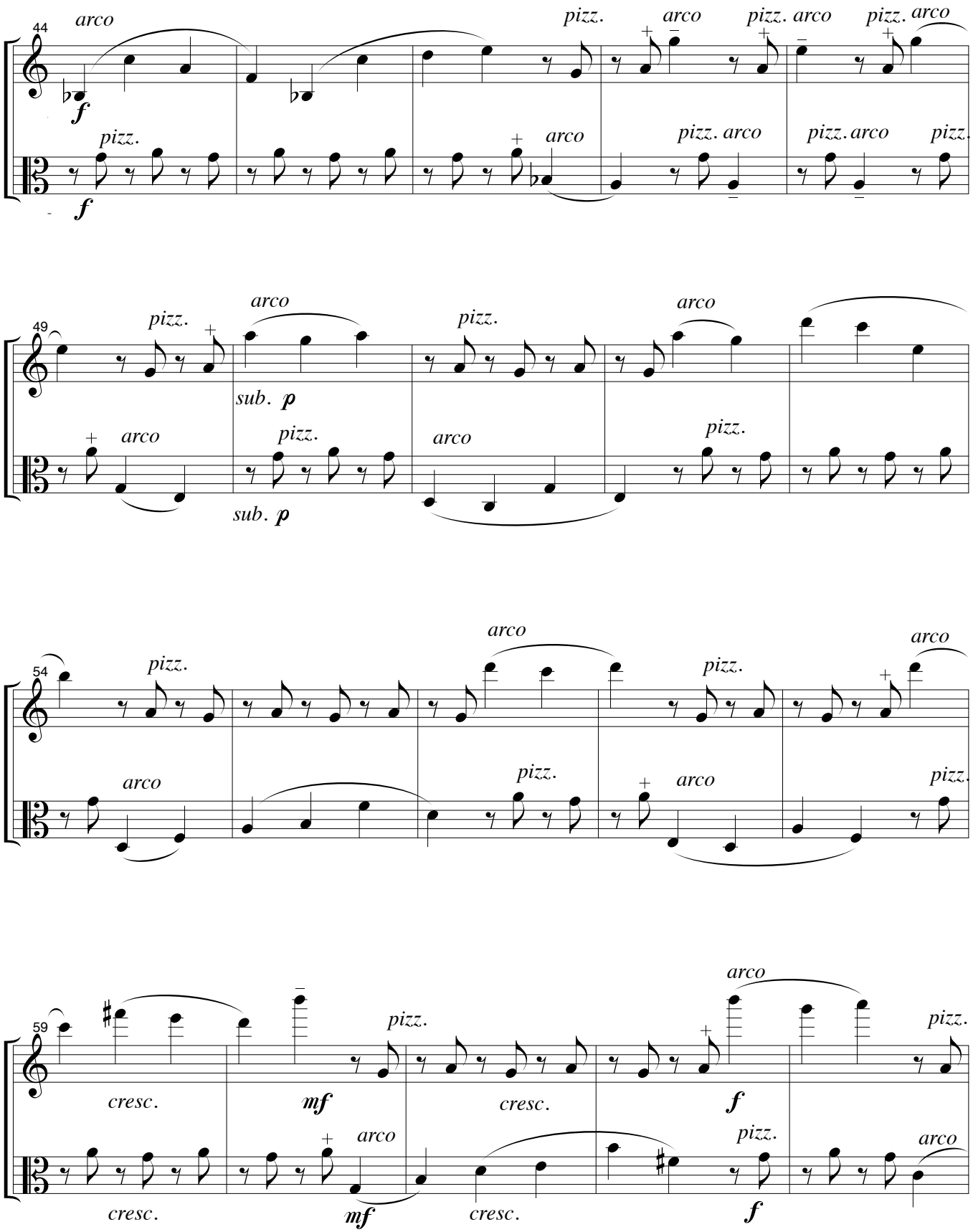

47
sub. mp
sub. mf
49
51
ff
cresc.
ff
cresc.
53

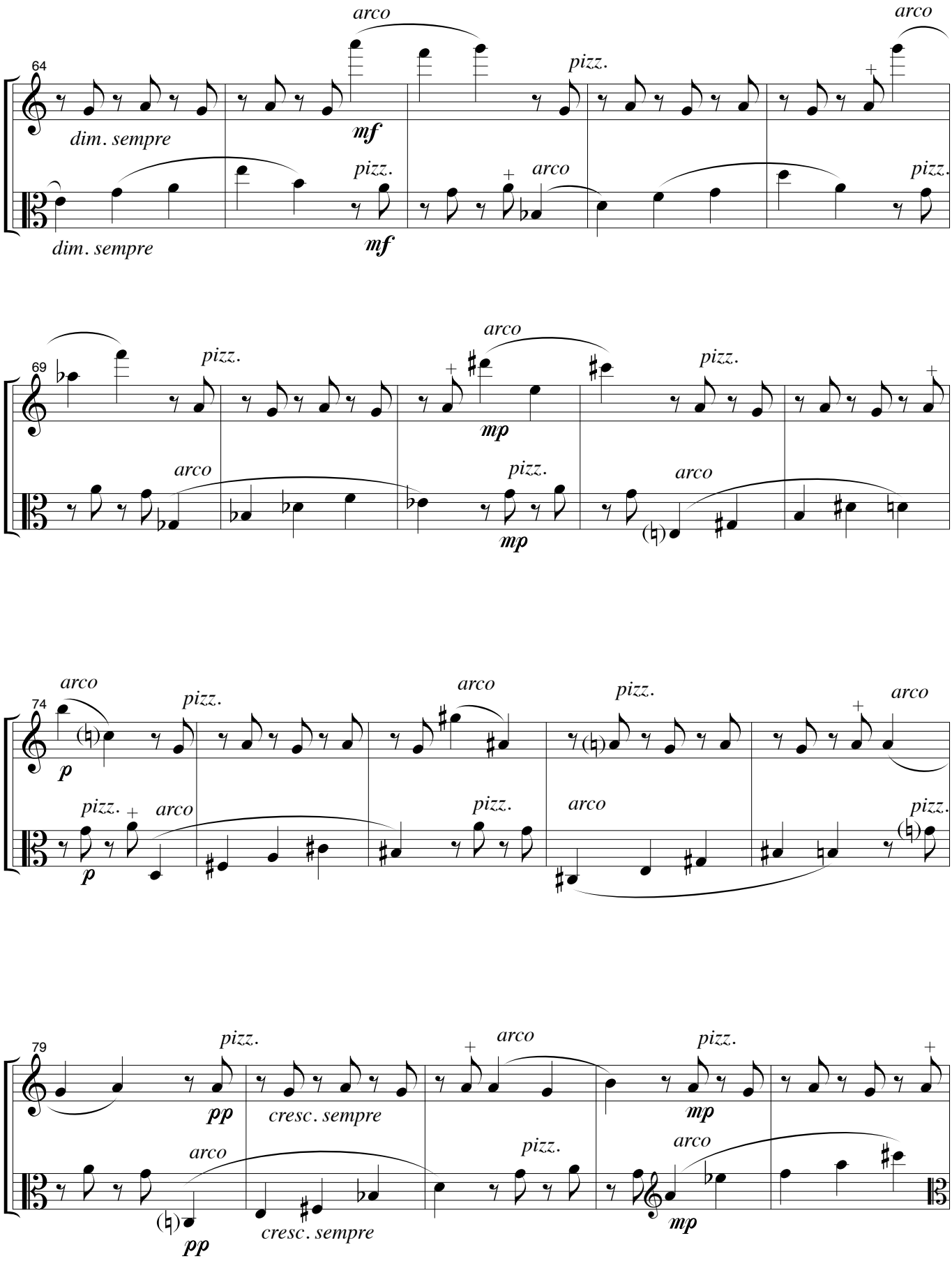

55
sub. p
f
sub. p
sub. p
mp
sub. p
f
sub. p
mp
58
sostenuto
sostenuto
61
p
rall.
rall.
4
p
64
pp
pp

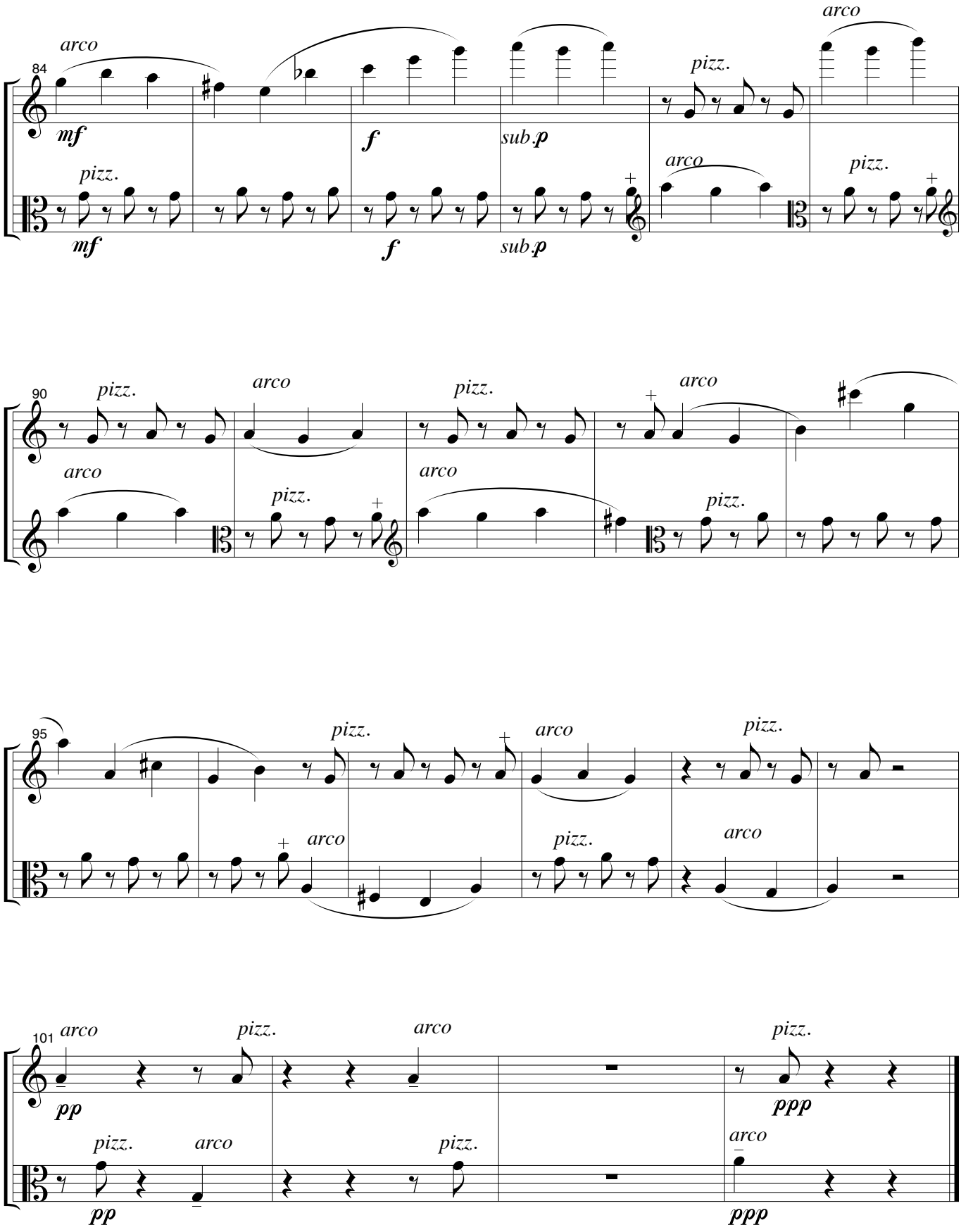
III.


Andante piacevole ♩= 100
Violin
Viola
pizz.
arco
p
6
12
mp
dolce
18

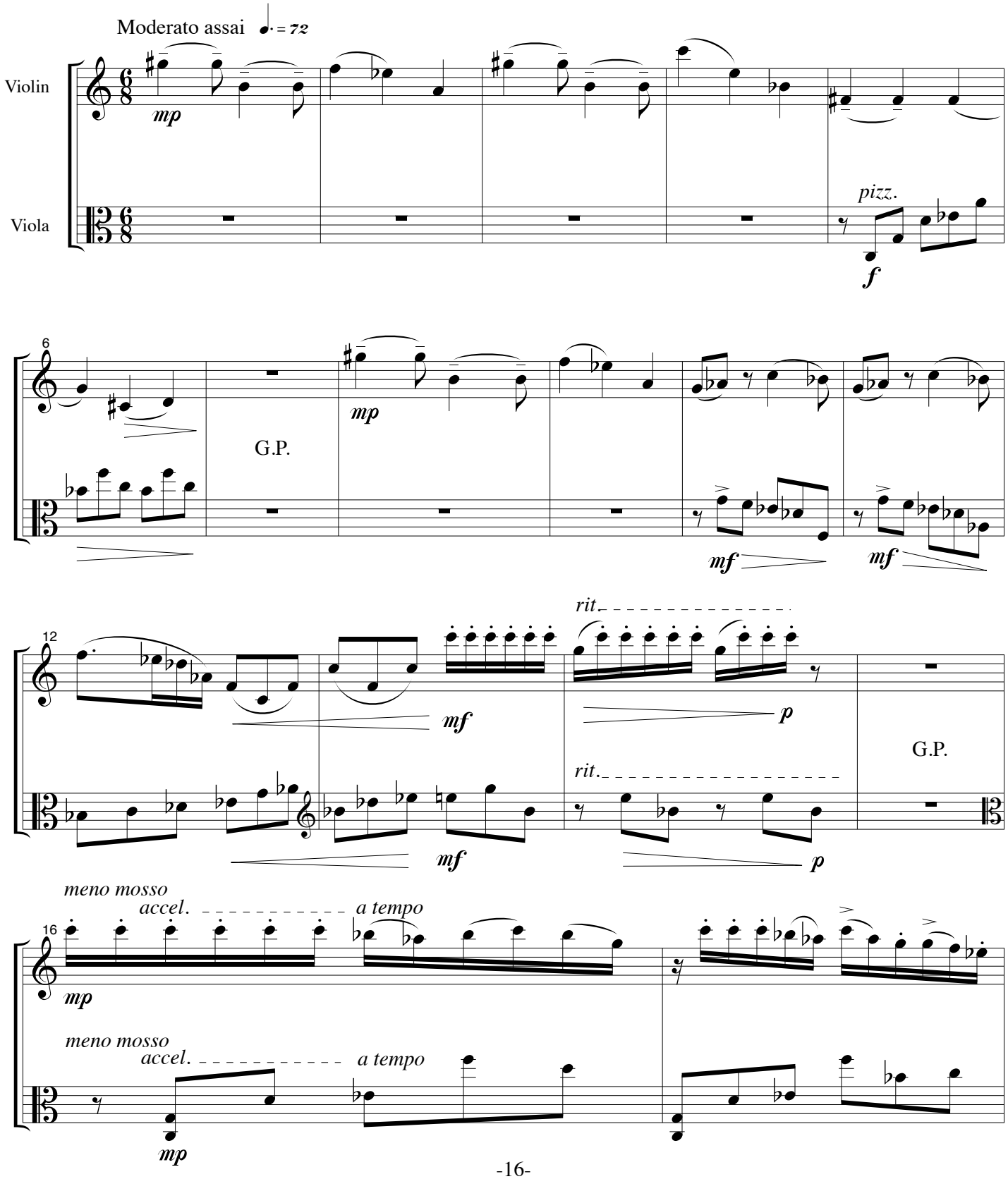

24
pizz.
arco
dolce
arco
pizz.
29
pizz.
arco
pp
arco
pizz.
pp
34
pizz.
arco
arco
pizz.
cresc.
arco
arco
pizz.
cresc.
39
pizz.
mf
cresc.
arco
mf
cresc.

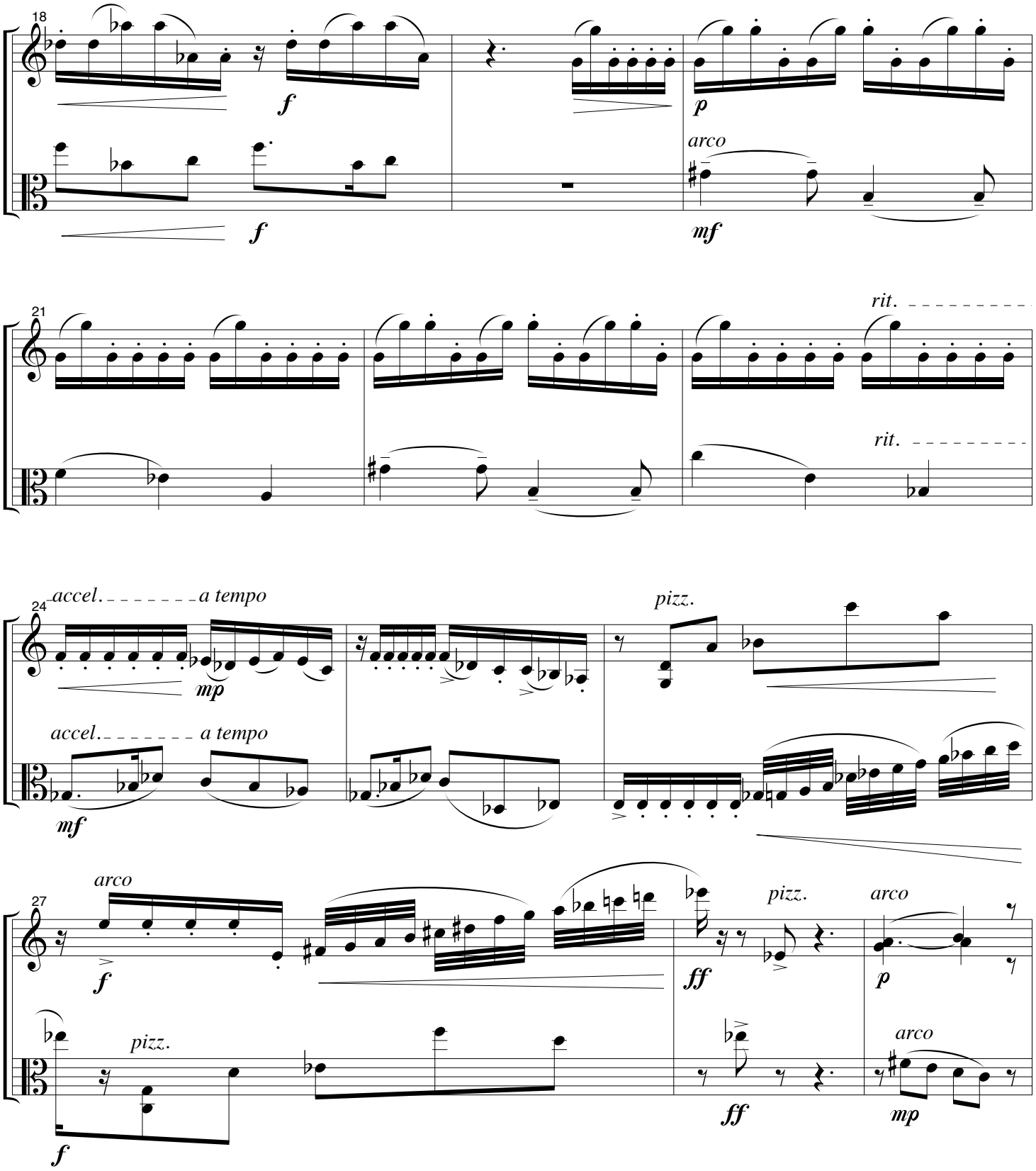

44
arco
f
pizz.
f
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
49
pizz.
arco
sub. p
pizz.
arco
arco
pizz.
arco
sub. p
pizz.
54
pizz.
arco
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
59
cresc.
mf
pizz.
cresc.
arco
f
pizz.
arco
cresc.
mf
cresc.
pizz.
f
arco

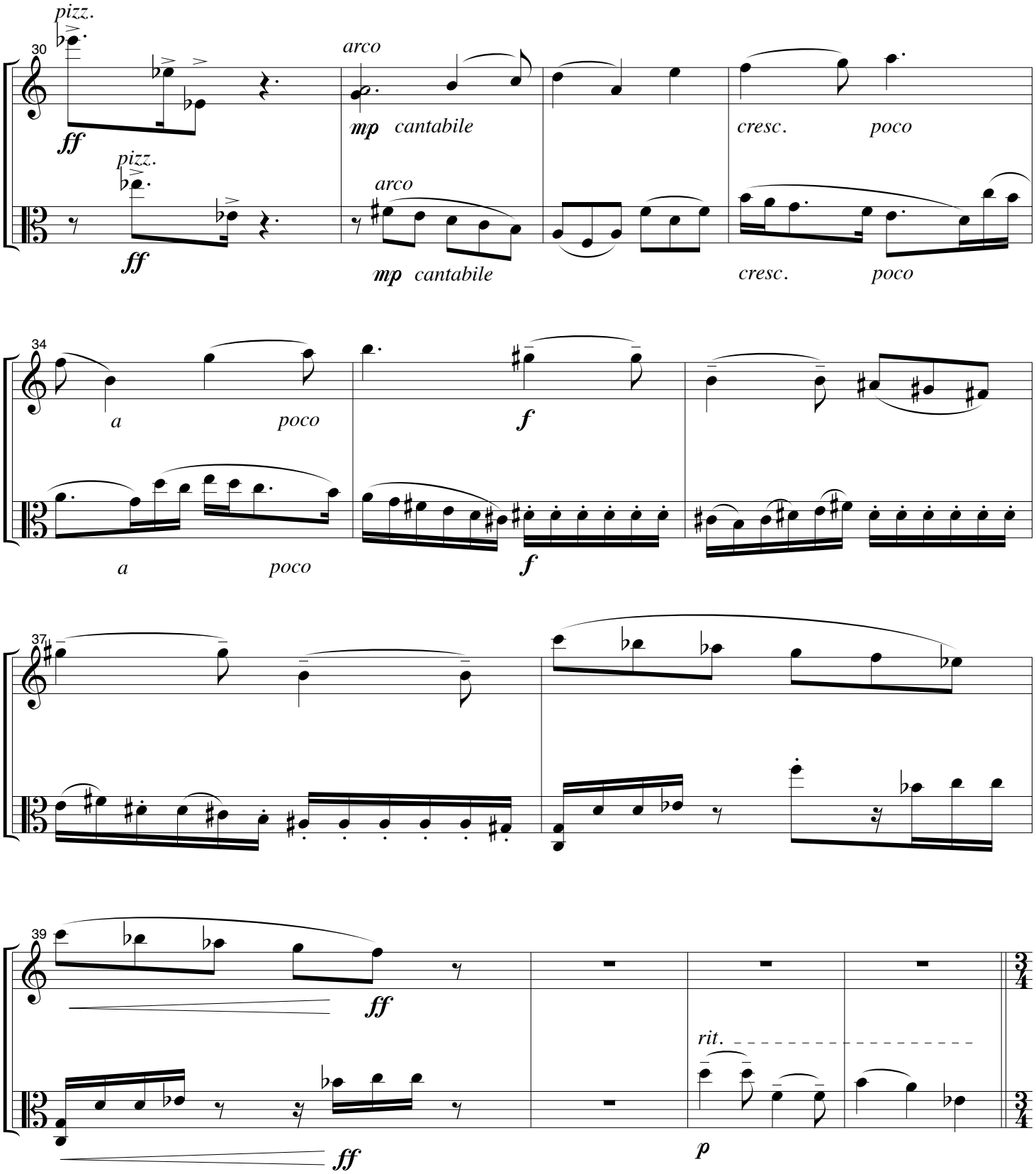

64
arco
arco
pizz.
dim. sempre
mf
pizz.
arco
pizz.
dim. sempre
mf
69
pizz.
arco
pizz.
mp
arco
pizz.
arco
mp
74
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
p
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
p
79
pizz.
arco
pizz.
pp
cresc. sempre
mp
arco
pizz.
arco
pp
cresc. sempre
mp

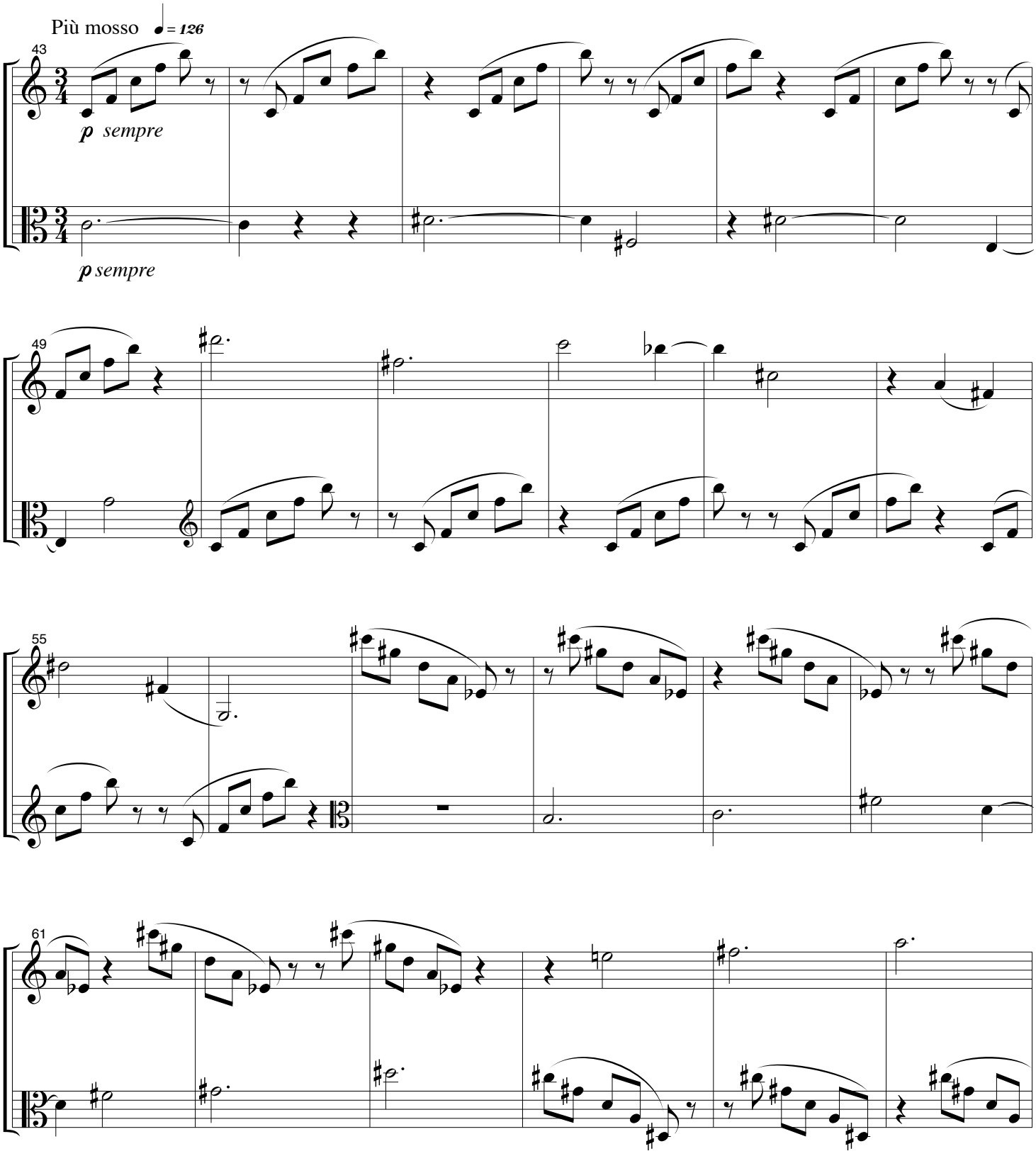

84
arco
mf
pizz.
mf
f
f
sub.p
sub.p
pizz.
arco
arco
pizz.
90
pizz.
arco
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
95
pizz.
arco
arco
pizz.
pizz.
arco
101
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
pp
pp
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
ppp
ppp

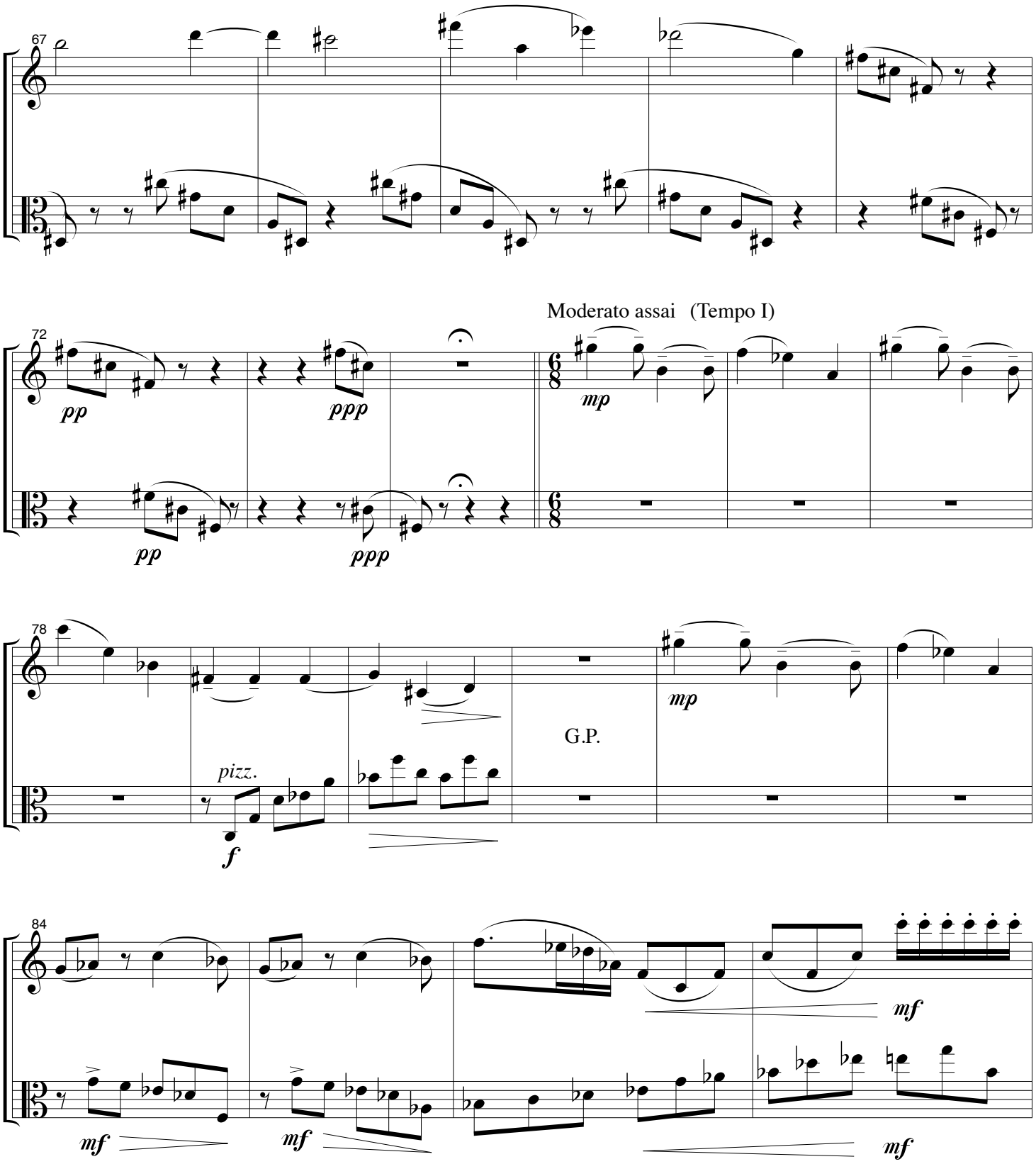
IV. Quodlibet

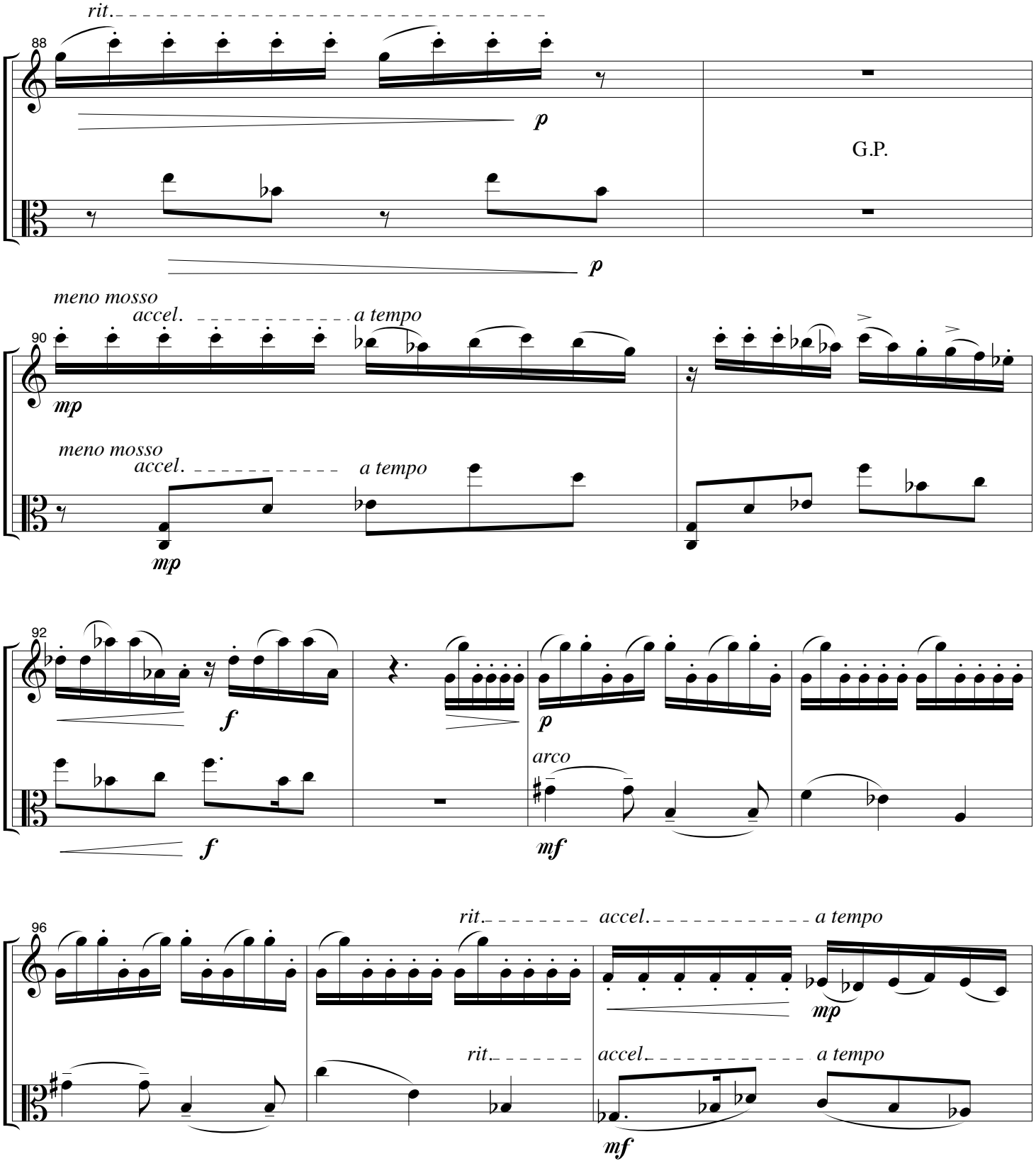


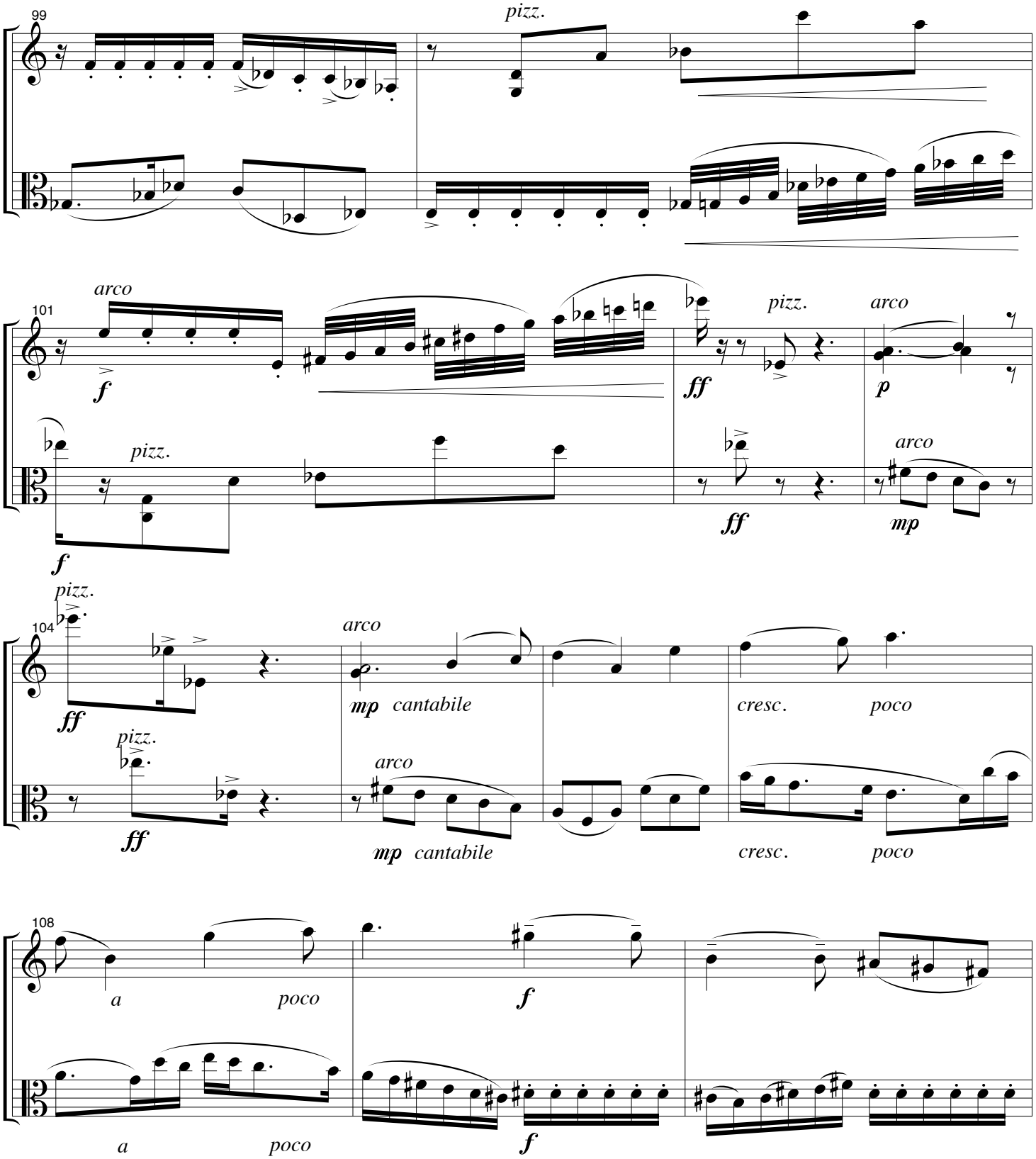

18
f
f
p
arco
mf
21
rit.
rit.
24
accel.
a tempo
mp
accel.
a tempo
mf
pizz.
27
arco
f
ff
pizz.
arco
p
pizz.
f
ff
arco
mp

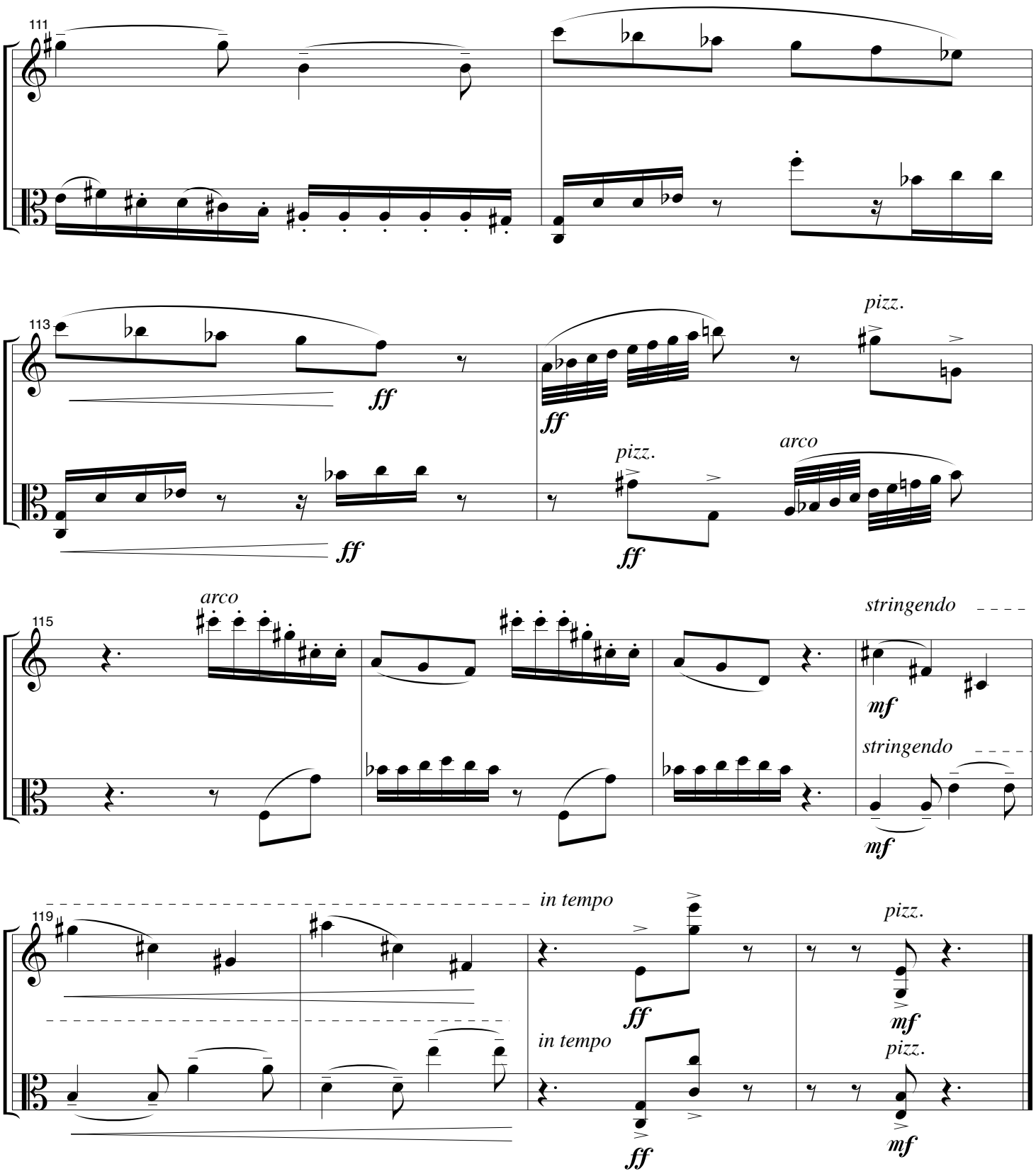

pizz.
30
arco
ff
mp cantabile
cresc. poco
pizz.
arco
ff
mp cantabile
cresc. poco
34
a poco
f
a poco
f
37
39
ff
rit.
ff
p


Più mosso ♩= 126
43
p sempre
p sempre
49
55
61

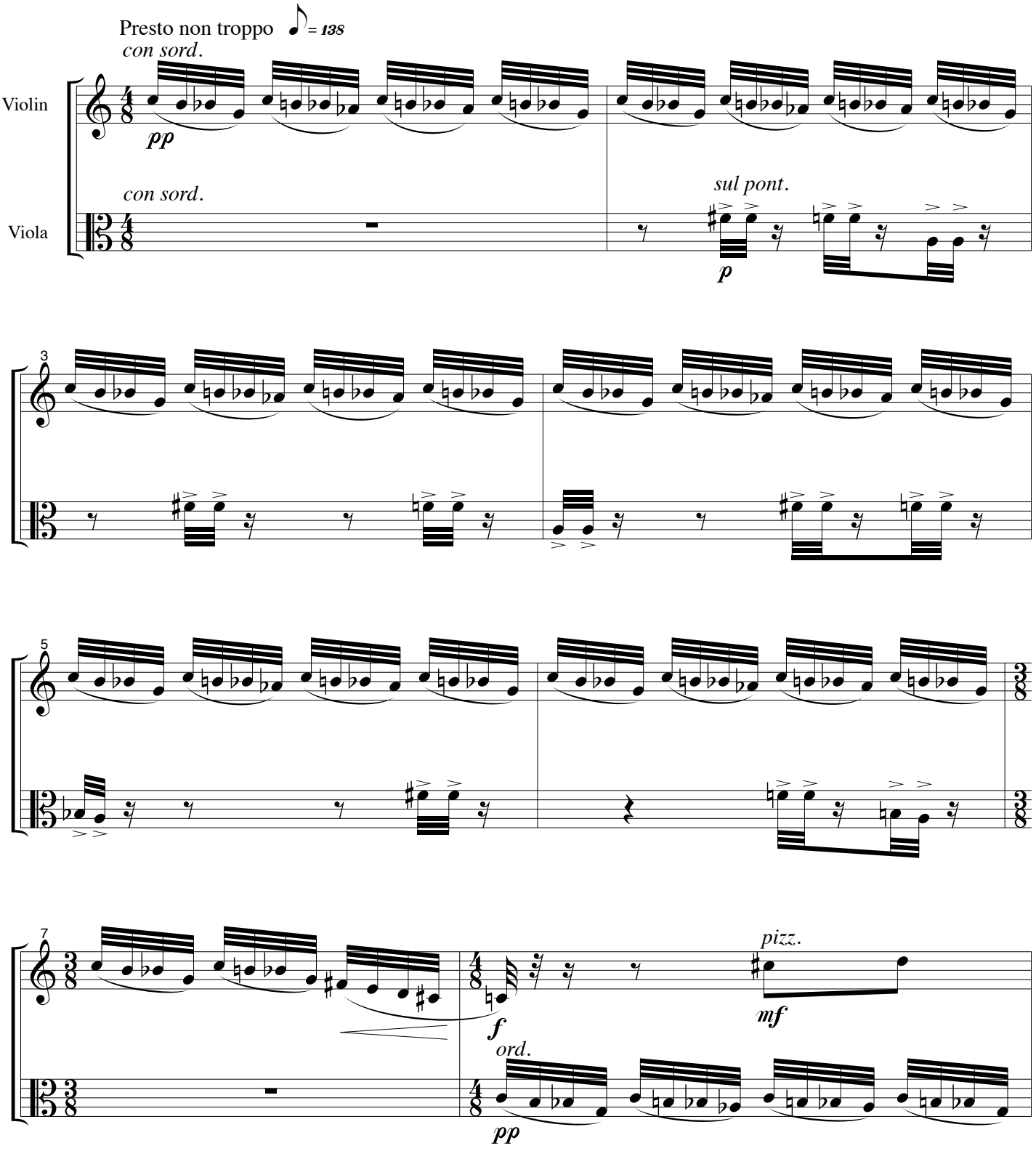

67
72
Moderato assai (Tempo I)
pp
ppp
mp
78
pizz.
f
G.P.
84
mf

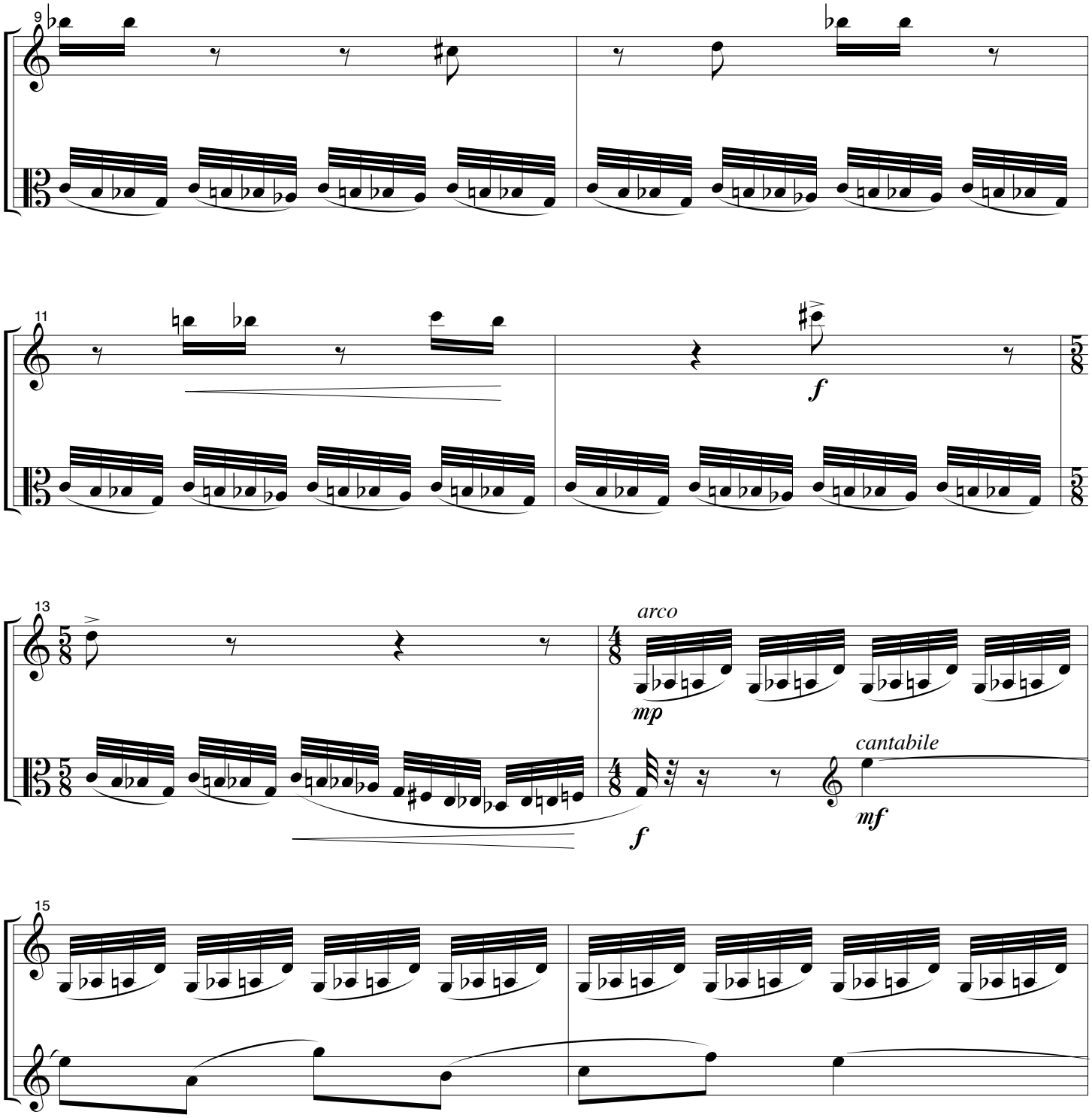

rit.
88
p
G.P.
p
meno mosso
accel.
a tempo
90
mp
meno mosso
accel.
a tempo
mp
92
f
p
arco
f
mf
96
rit.
accel.
a tempo
mp
rit.
accel.
a tempo
mf

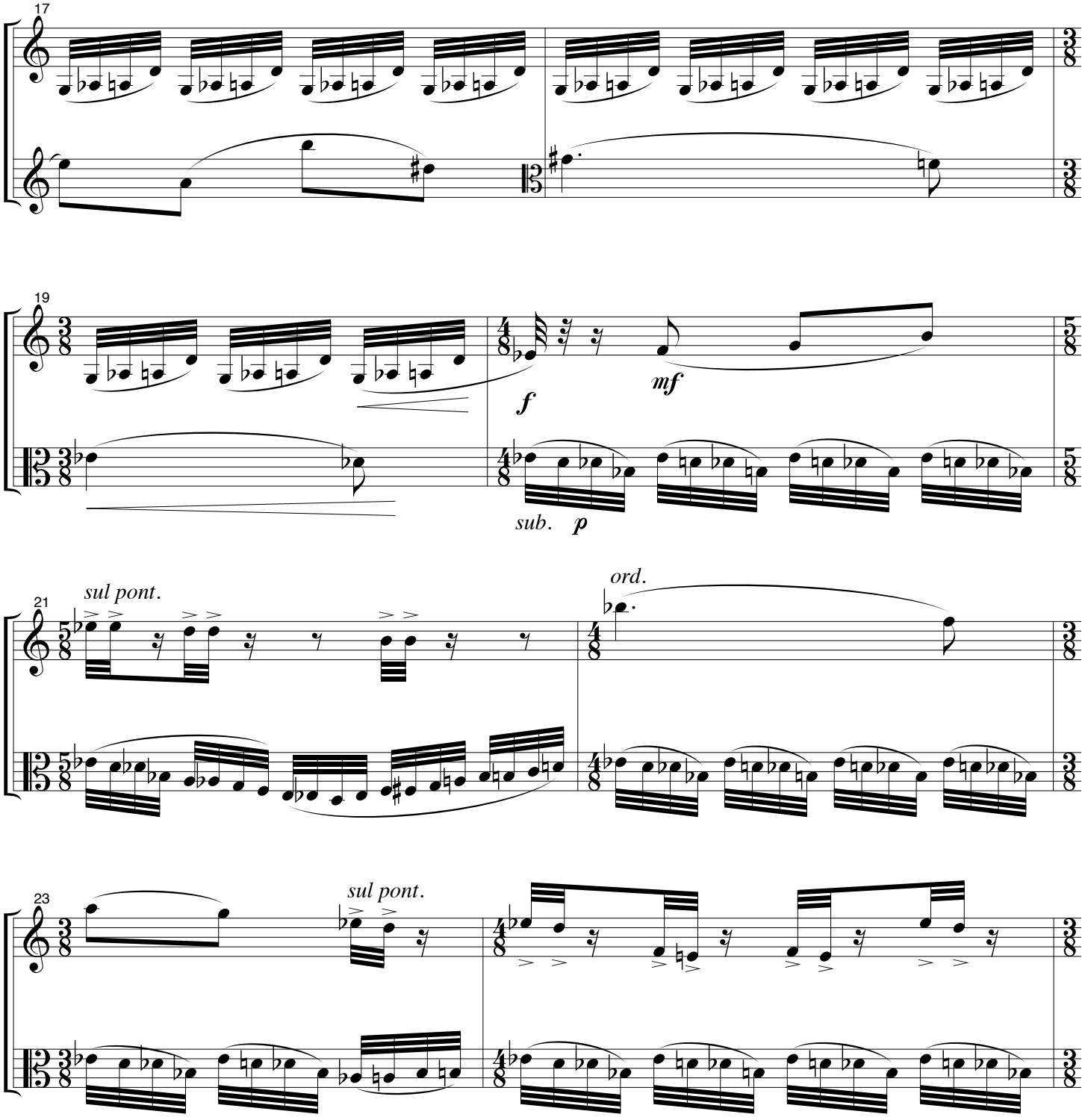

99
pizz.
101
arco
f
pizz.
ff
pizz.
arco
p
f
pizz.
ff
arco
mp
104
pizz.
ff
arco
mp cantabile
cresc.
poco
pizz.
ff
arco
mp cantabile
cresc.
poco
108
a
poco
f
a
poco
f

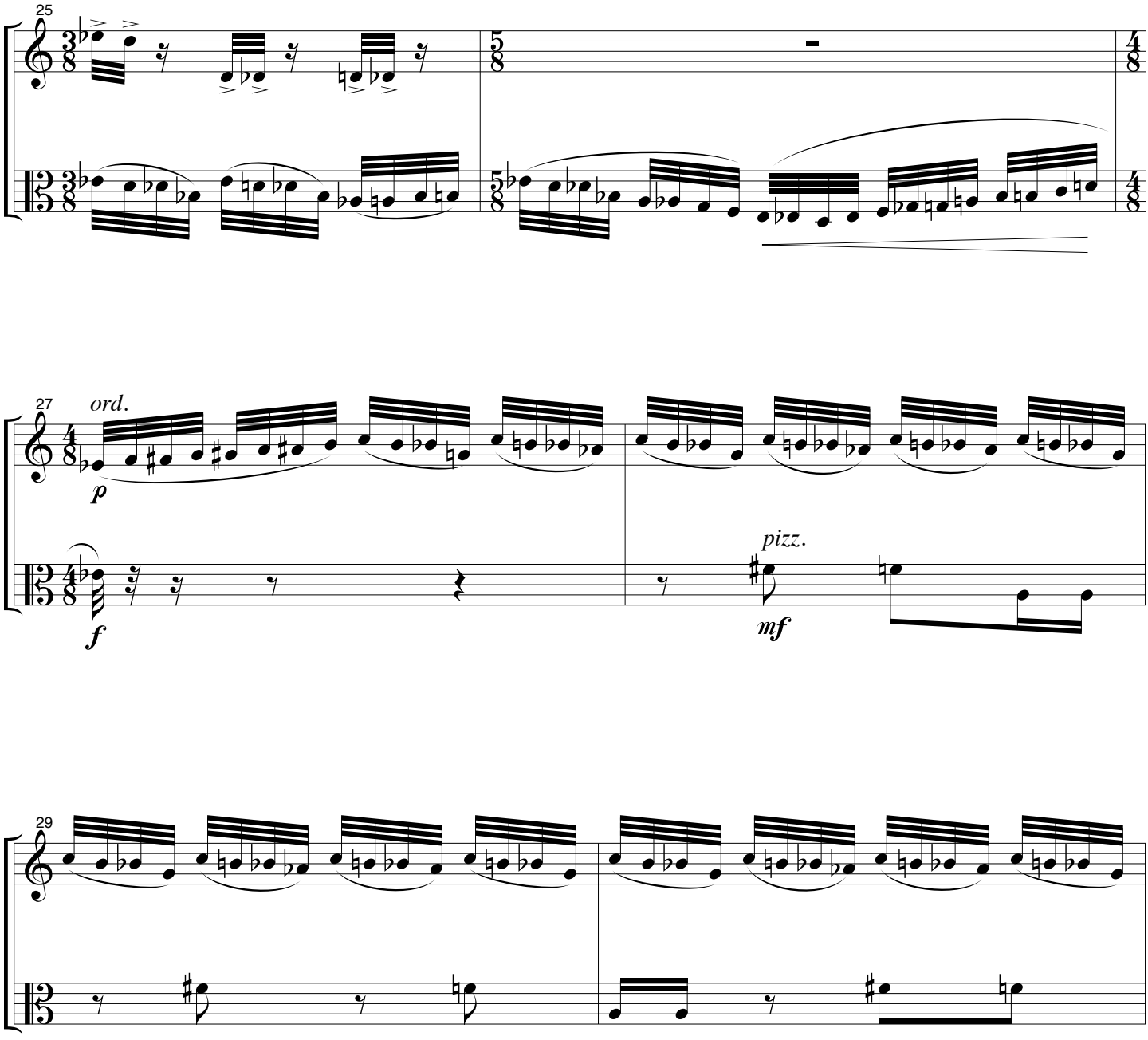

111
113
ff
pizz.
arco
115
stringendo
mf
in tempo
119

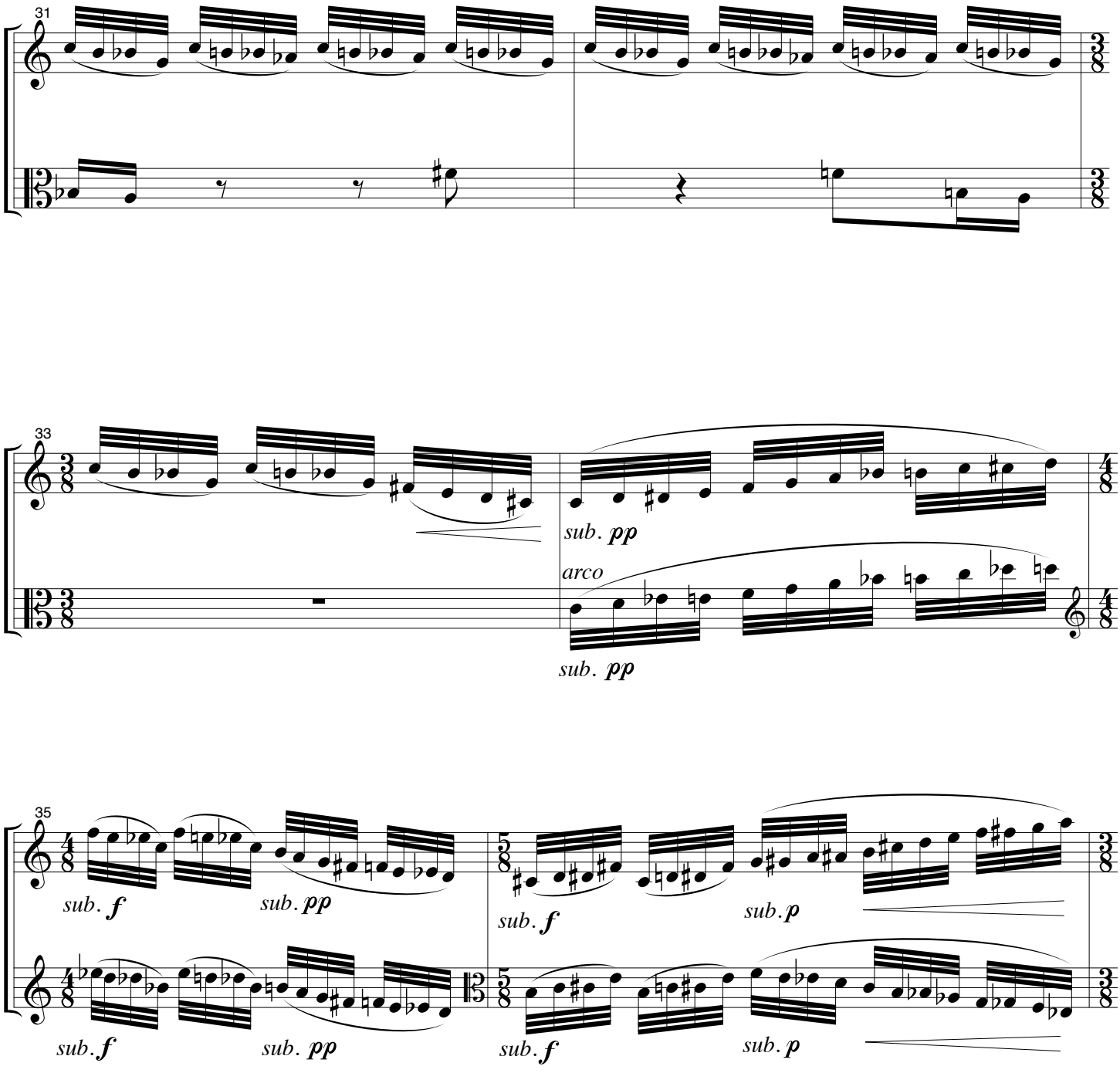
V.

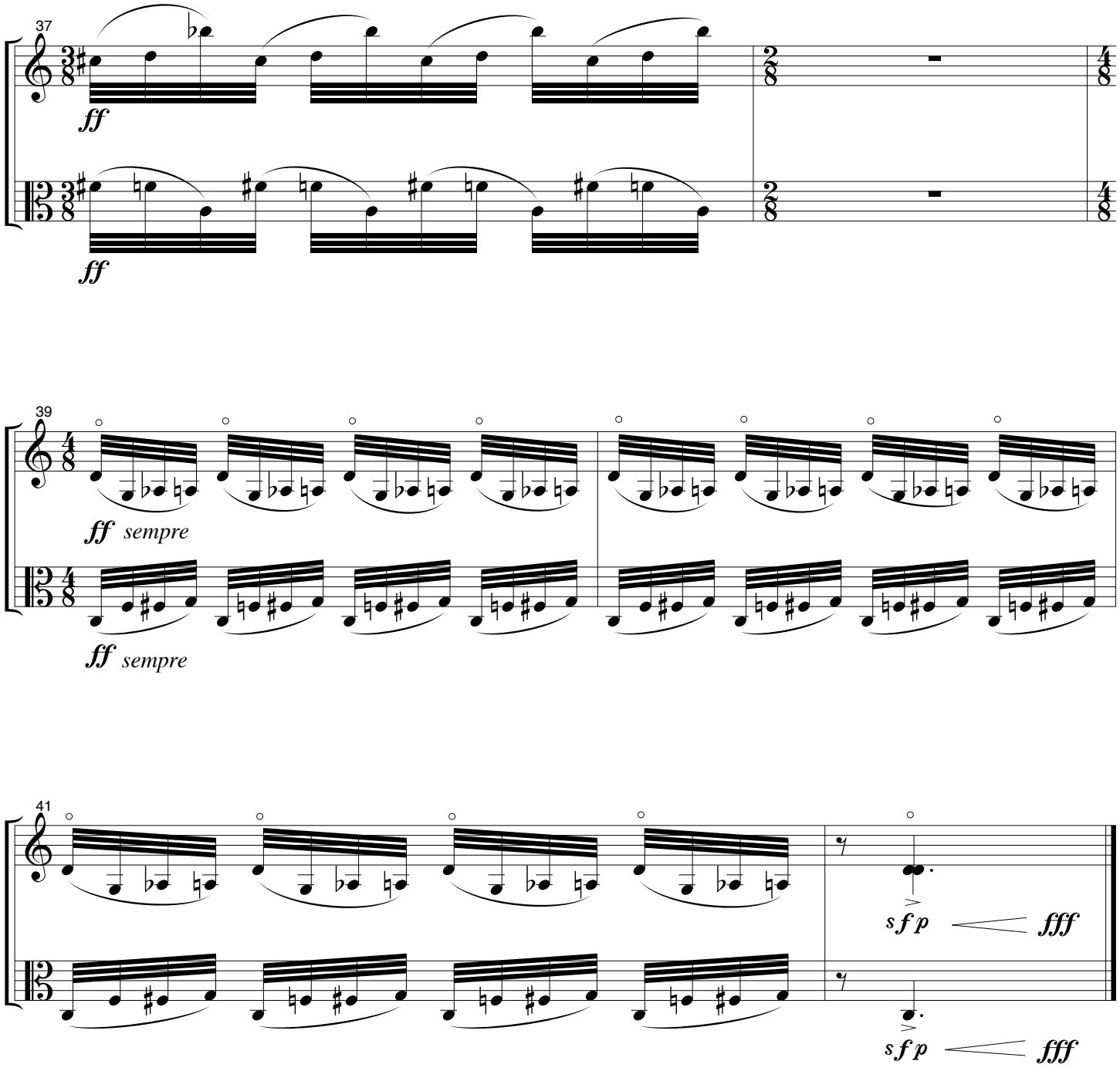

Presto non troppo
= 138
con sord.
Violin
pp
con sord.
Viola
sul pont.
p
3
5
7
pizz.
mf
f
ord.
pp

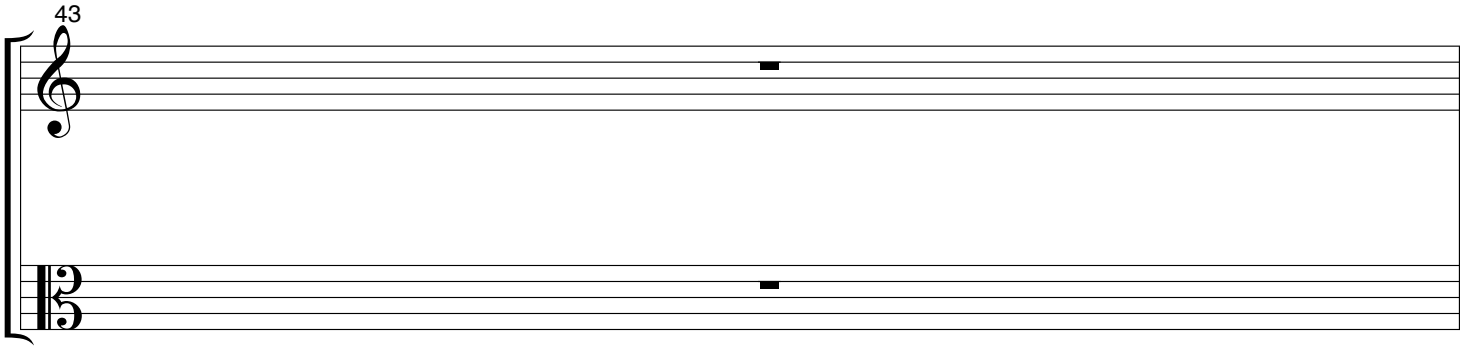

9
11
f
13
arco
mp
cantabile
f
mf
15


17
19
f
mf
sub. p
21
sul pont.
ord.
23
sul pont.


25
27
ord.
p
f
pizz.
mf
29


31
33
sub. pp
arco
sub. pp
35
sub. f
sub. pp
sub. f
sub. p
sub. f
sub. pp
sub. f
sub. p


37
ff
ff
39
ff sempre
ff sempre
41
sfp
fff
sfp
fff


43