Patrick Andrew Thompson

TRIPLE HELIX

for violin, cello, and piano

First Performance on April 16th, 2020
at Areté, Brooklyn NY
by the Aletheia Piano Trio

PROGRAM NOTE

Thanks to DNA, the double helix is one of nature's most iconic geometries. Though less common, triple helices - comprised of three offset strands wrapping around the same axis - also exist within biomolecules. This piece imagines each instrument in the trio as providing one strand of a musical triple helix, and plays with the many ways in which these threads can be 'offset'.

In the opening measures, a canon of spiraling melodic strands twist around each other to produce the piece's first and simplest helix. Indeed, canons of all sorts, thought of as the instruments chasing after each other offset in time, are found throughout. A variety of other sometimes more abstract offsets - of pitch, texture, articulation, etc. - combine with the basic material to make up the piece's essential genome.

Beyond this, most of the development within *Triple Helix* comes not from motivic or harmonic manipulations but from placing familiar ideas, whose fundamental content remains unchanged, into radically new contexts. The opening frenetic helix later explodes into a relentless furioso outburst, boldly declarative fanfares become delicate to the point of timid, and a soaring melodic line is transformed into a wistful echo.

Triple Helix was written for and premiered by the Aletheia Piano Trio.

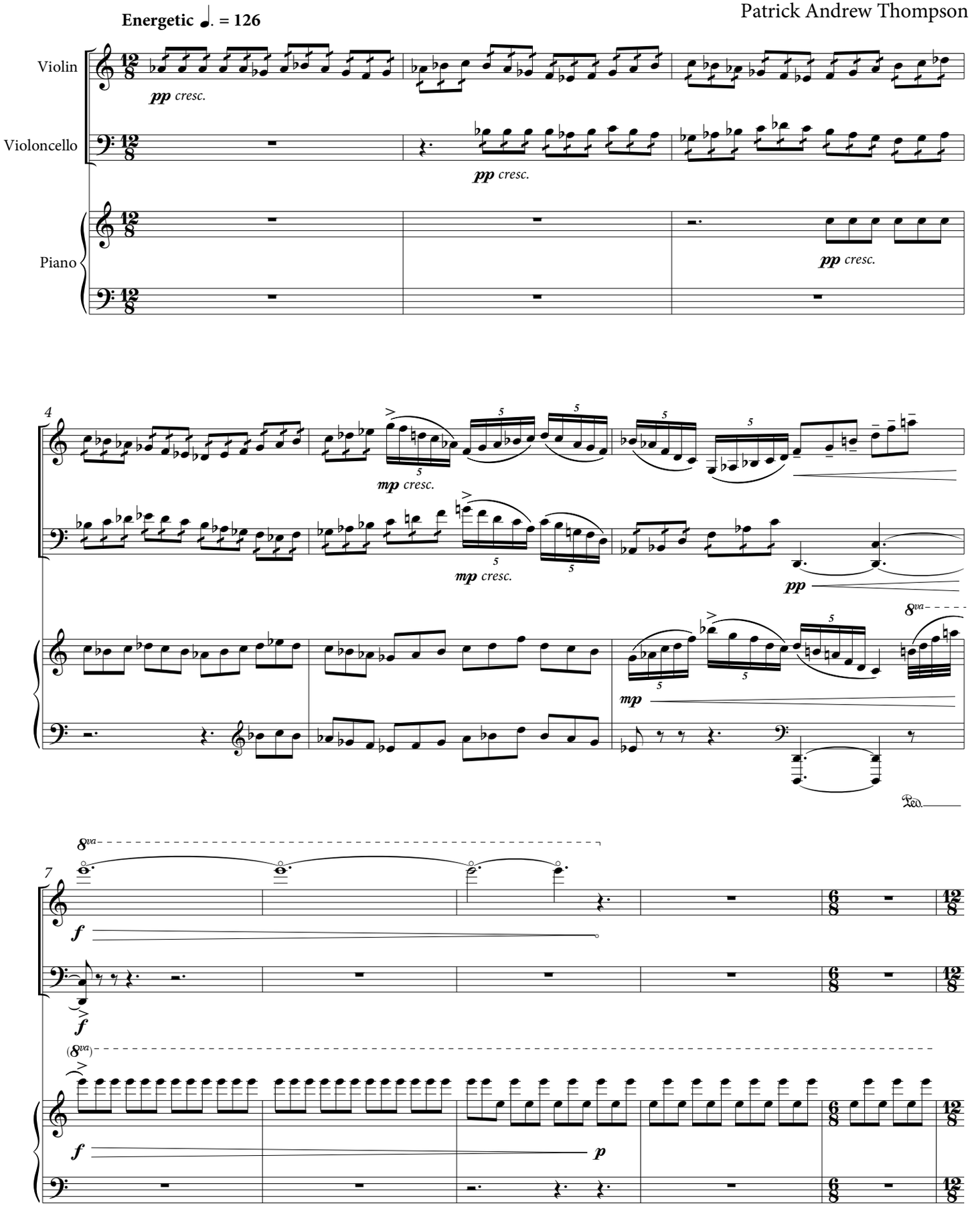
- Patrick Andrew Thompson

Duration: ca. 8 minutes

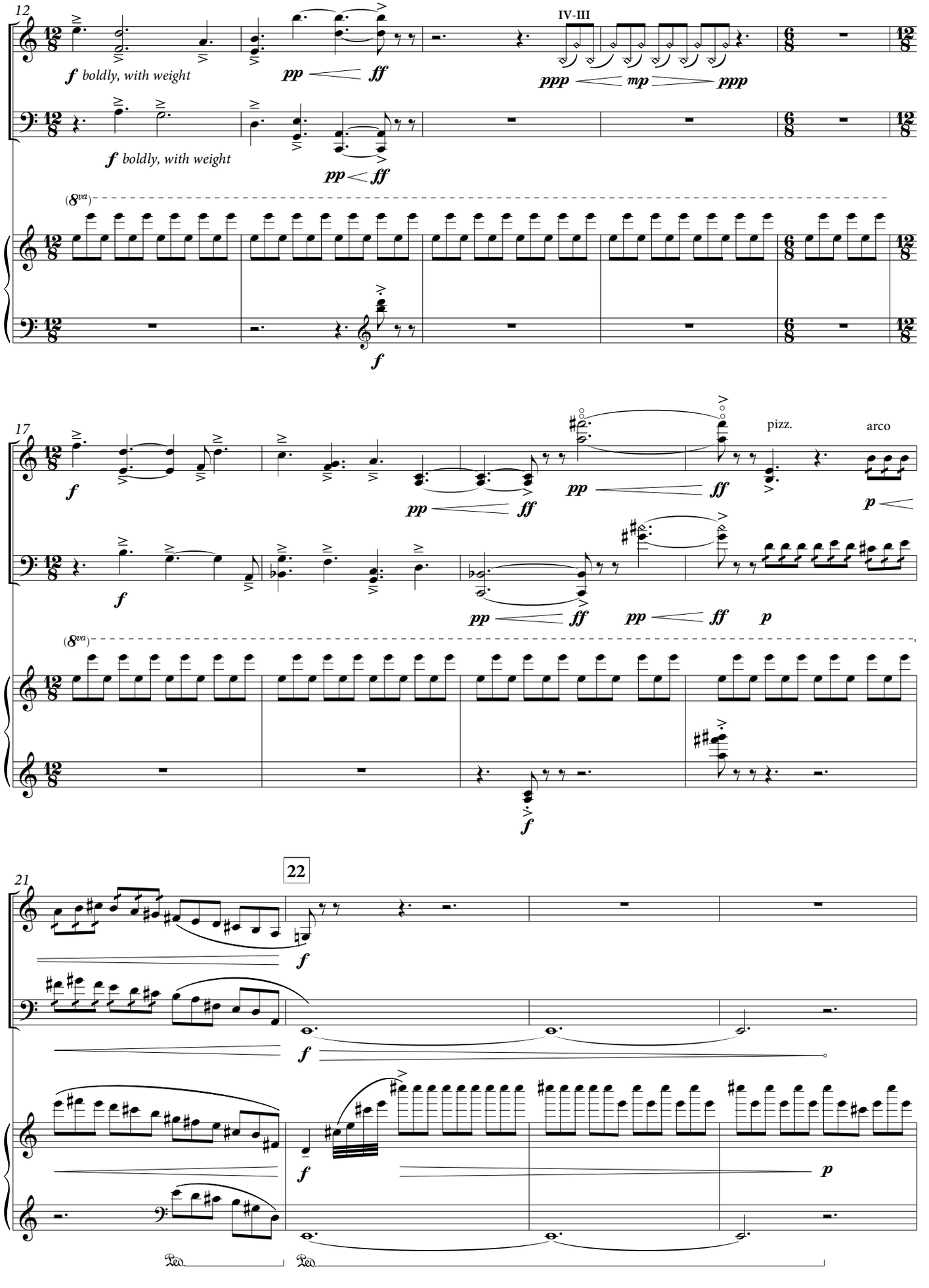
for the Aletheia Piano Trio

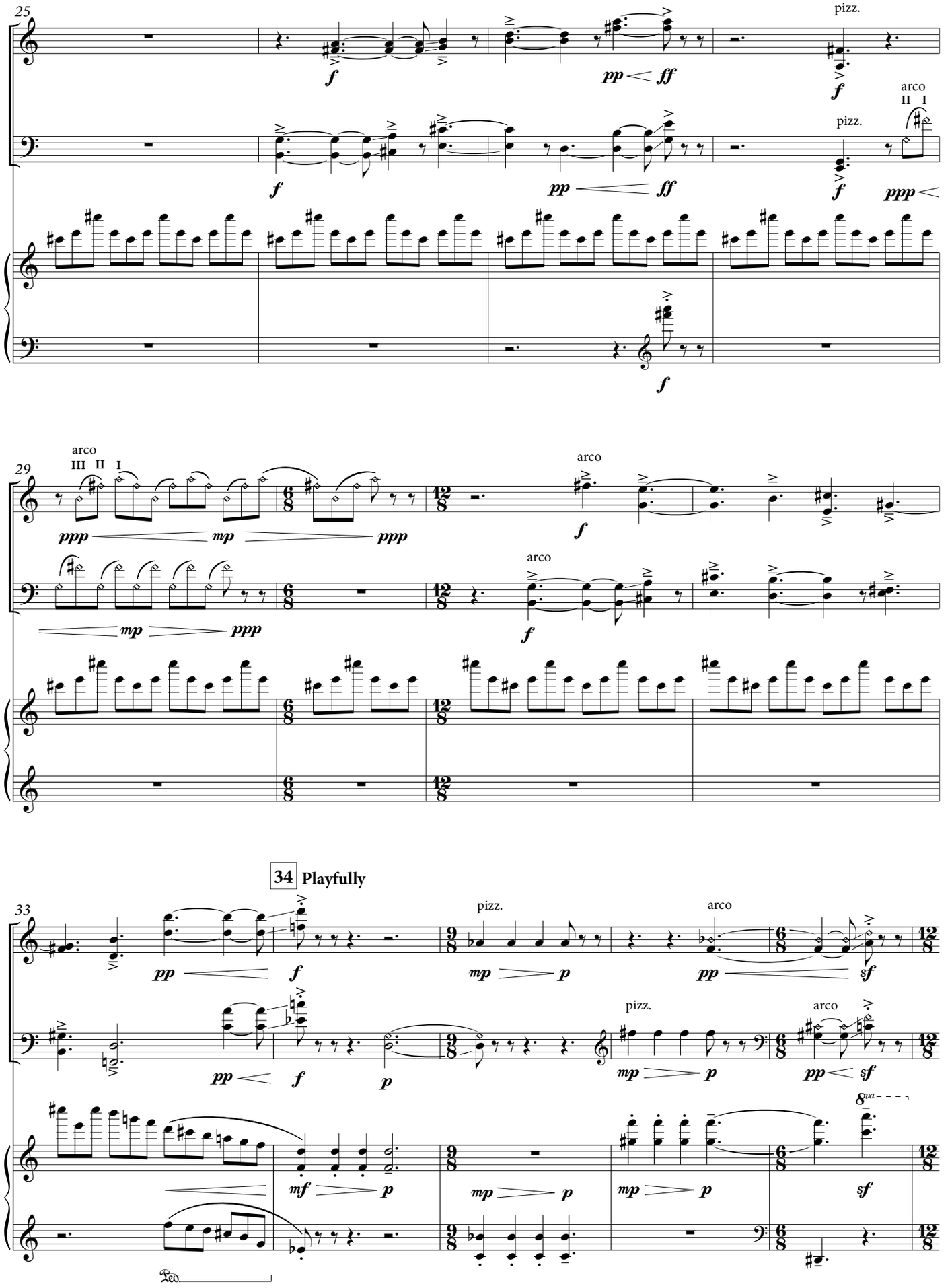
TRIPLE HELIX

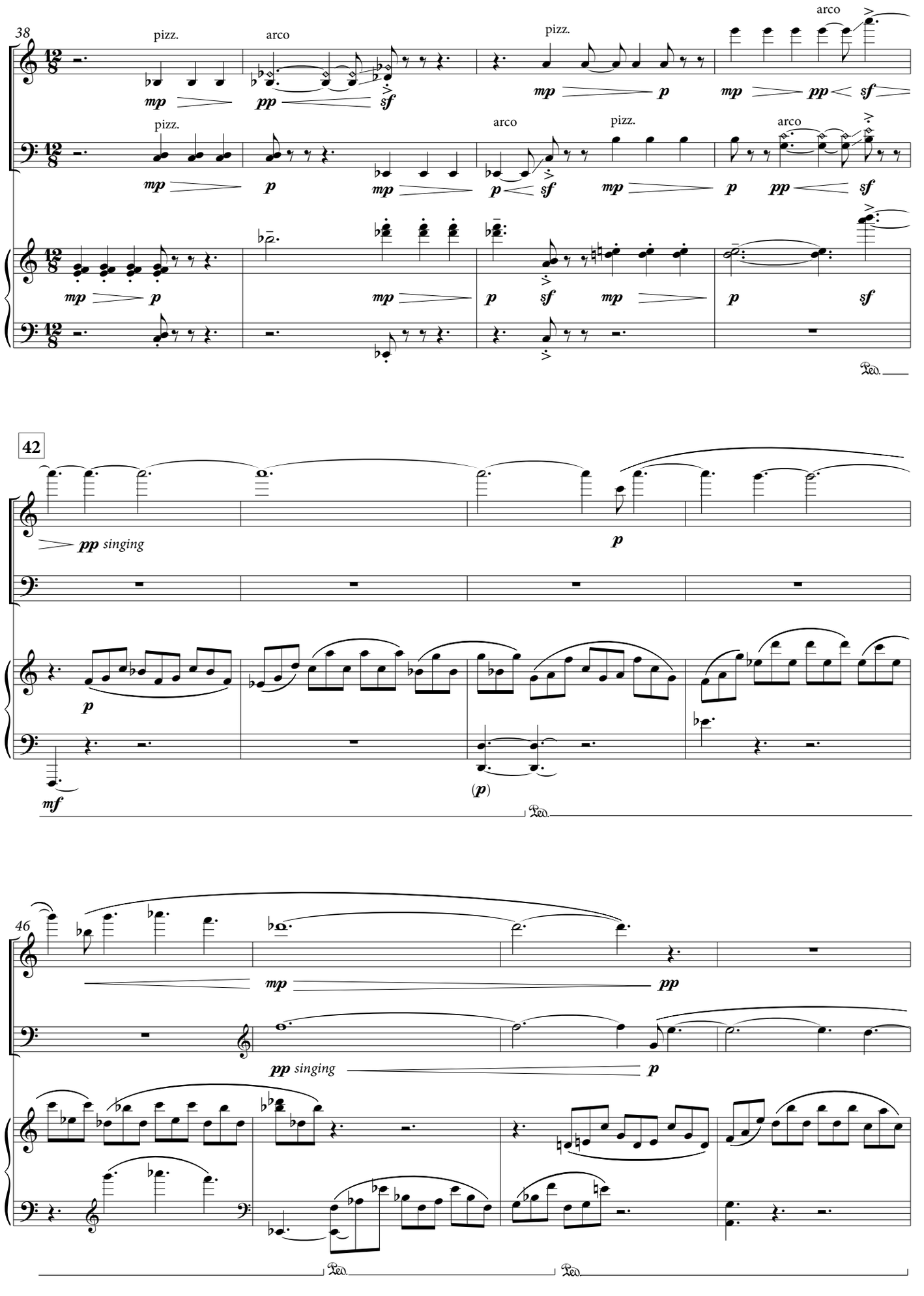
Patrick Andrew Thompson

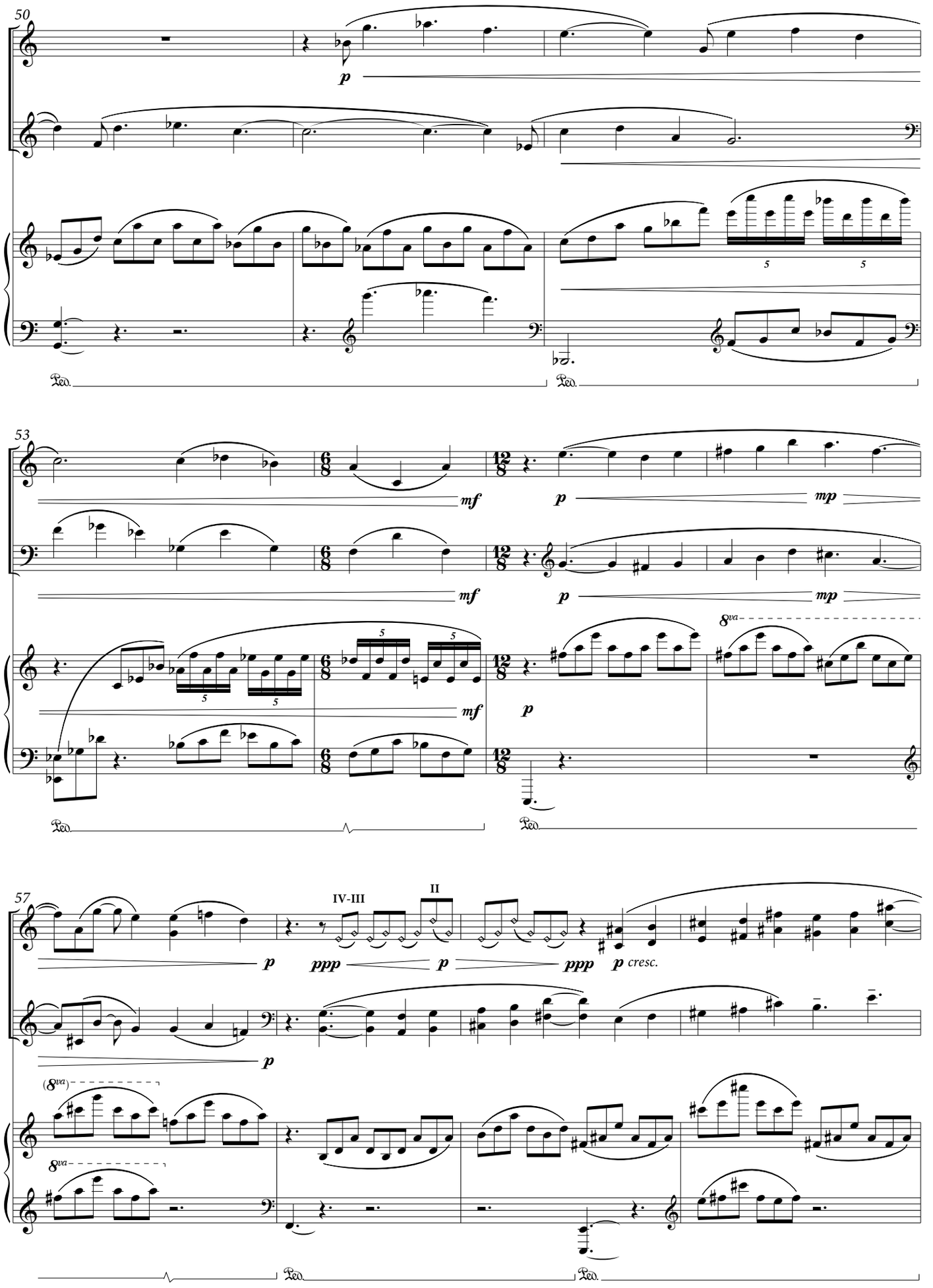


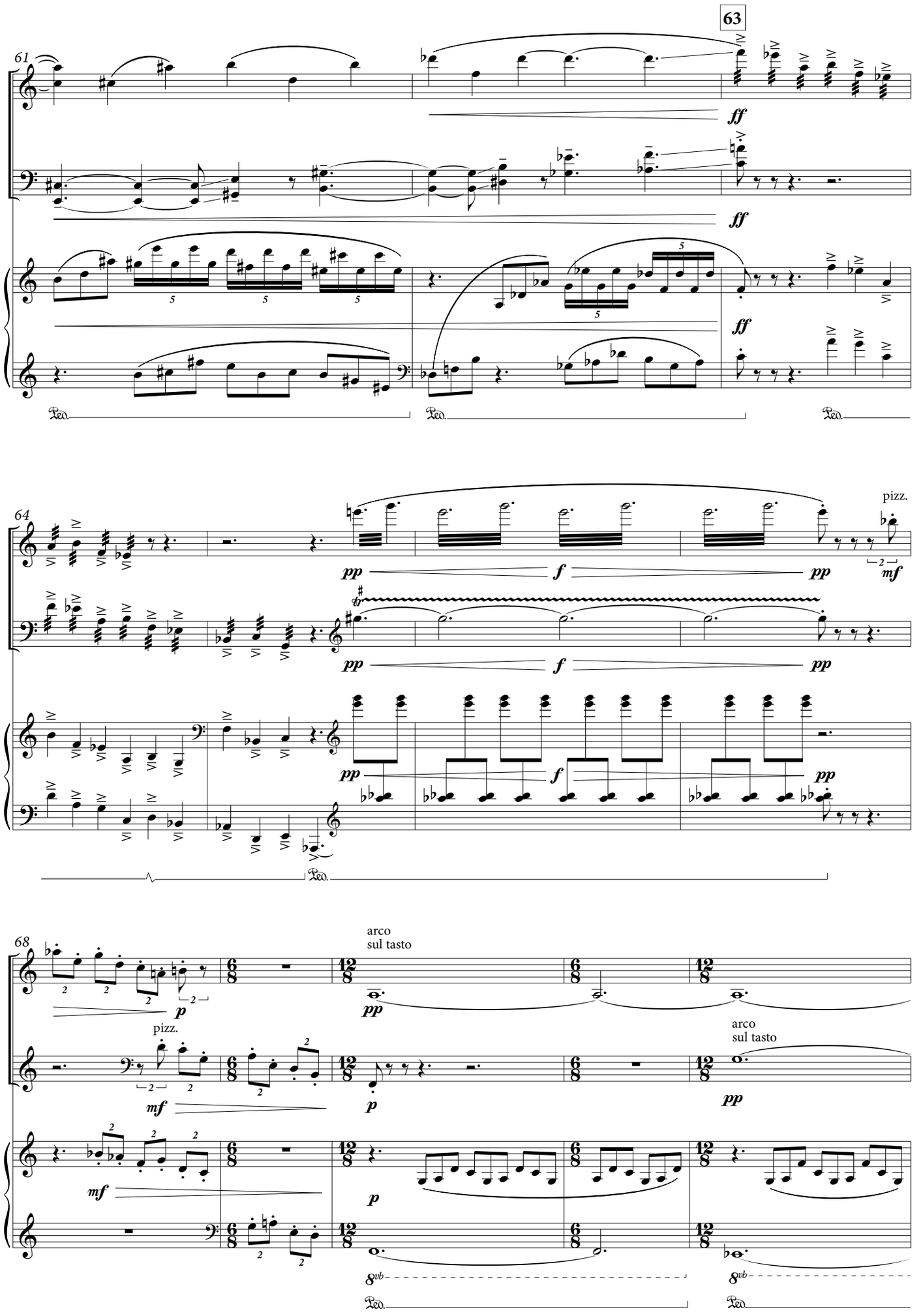
©2020 by Patrick Andrew Thompson (BMI)

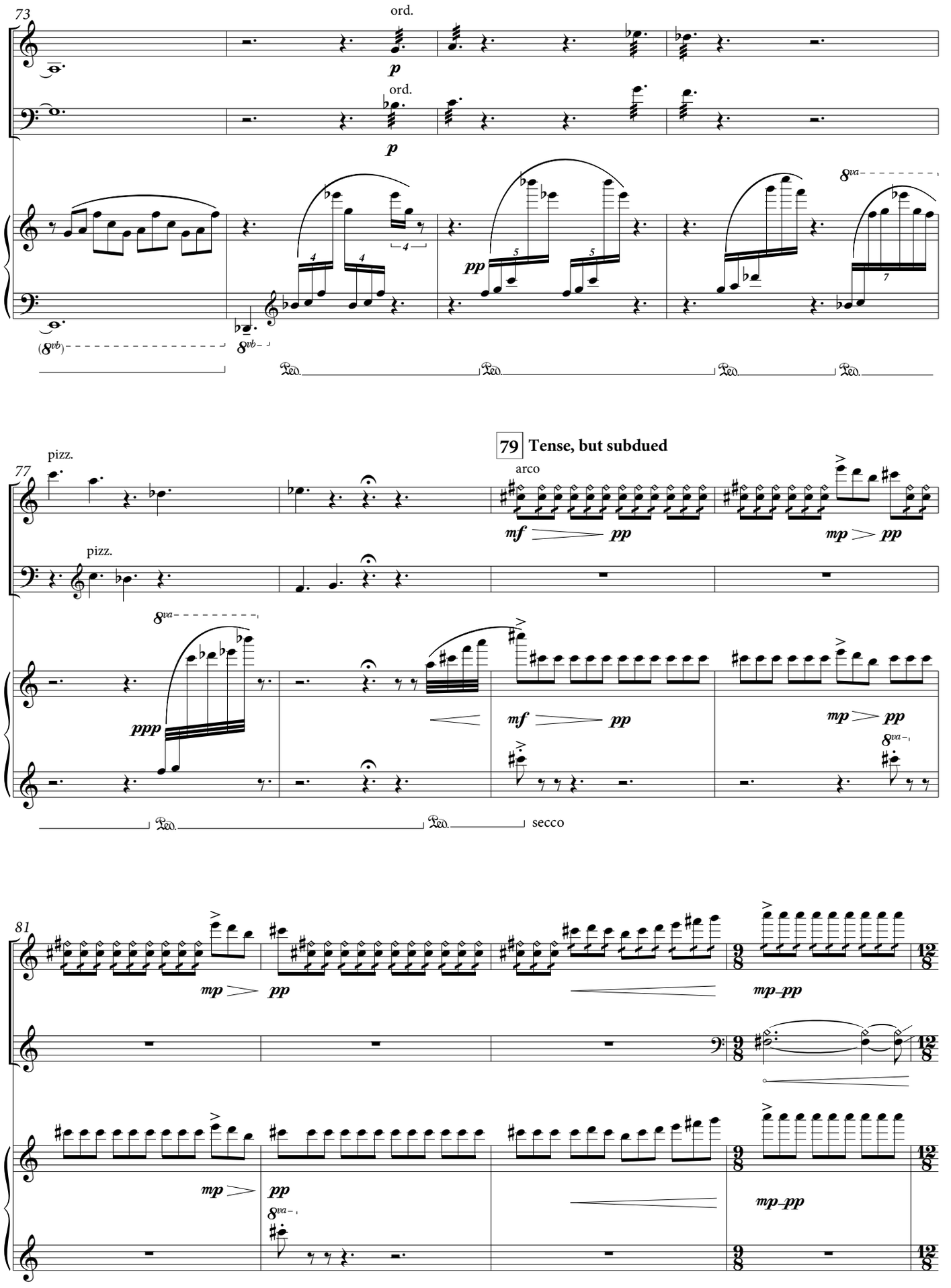

12
IV-III
f boldly, with weight
pp ff
ppp mp ppp
(8va)
17
pizz.
arco
22
Ped.
Ped.

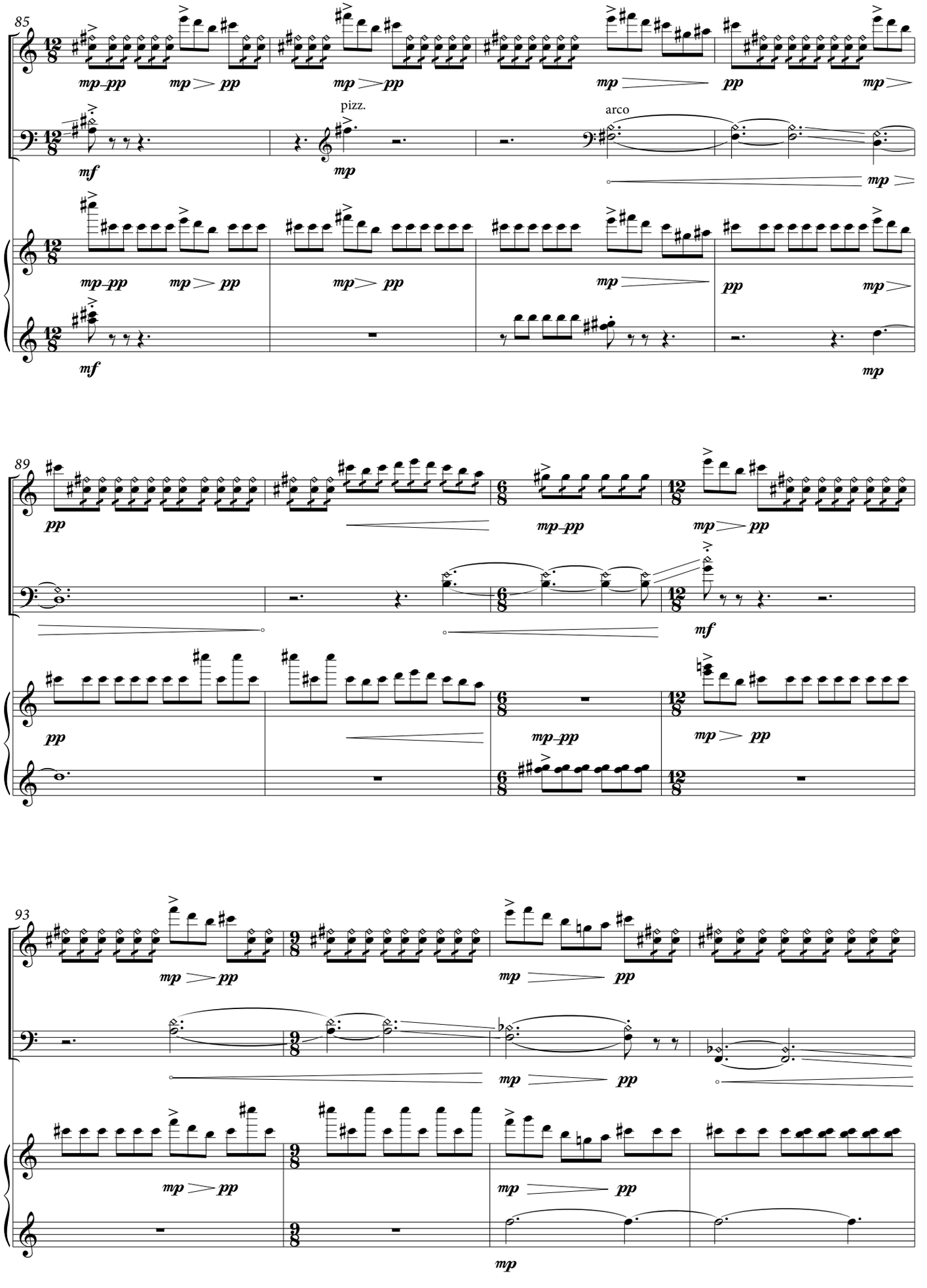

25
pizz.
arco
II I
29
arco
III II I
34 Playfully
33
pizz.
arco
8va
Ped.

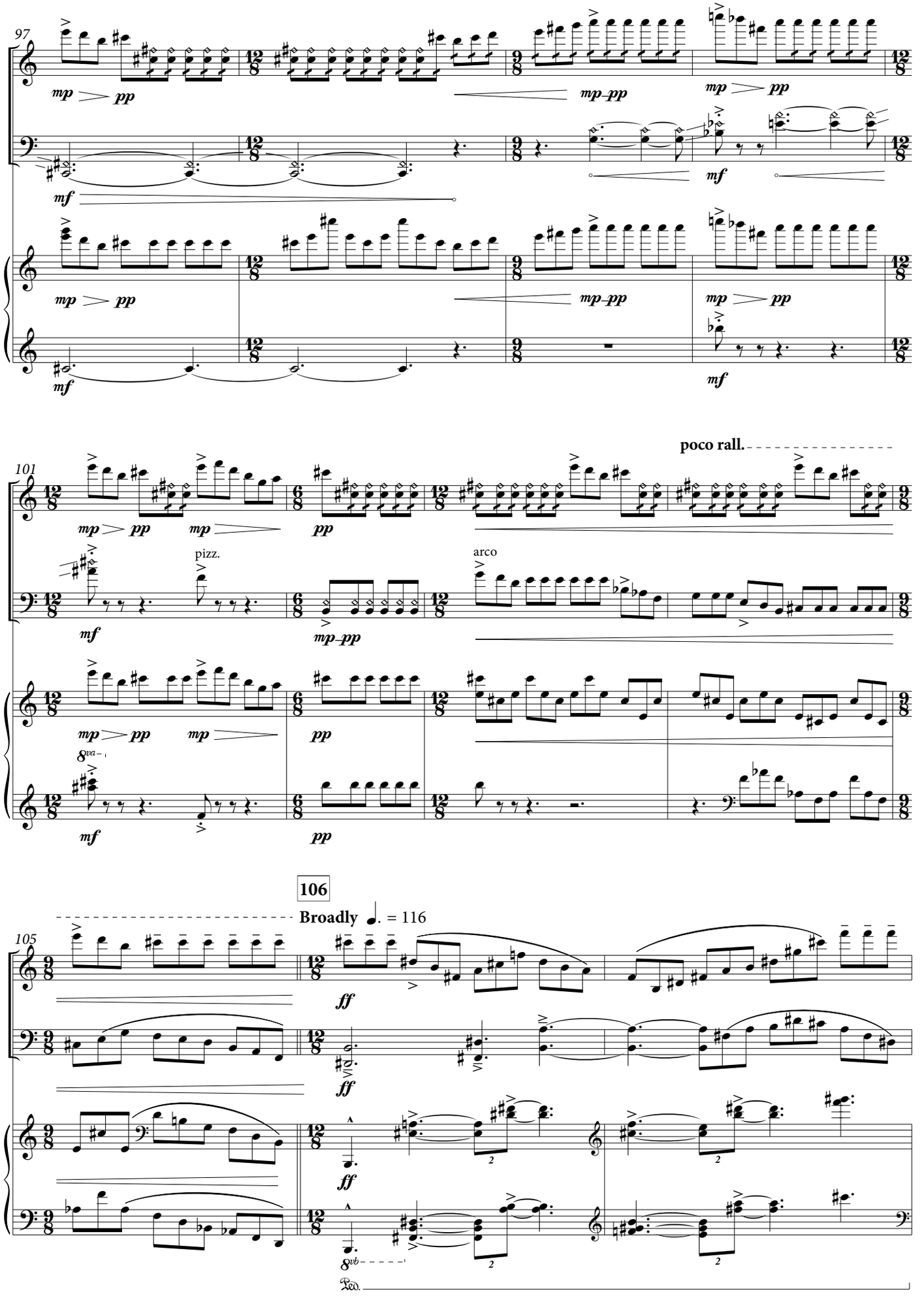

38
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
mp
pp
sf
mp
p
mp
pp
sf
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
mp
p
mp
p
sf
mp
p
pp
sf
mp
p
mp
p
sf
mp
p
sf
Ped.
42
pp singing
p
p
mf
(p)
Ped.
46
mp
pp
pp singing
p
Ped.
Ped.

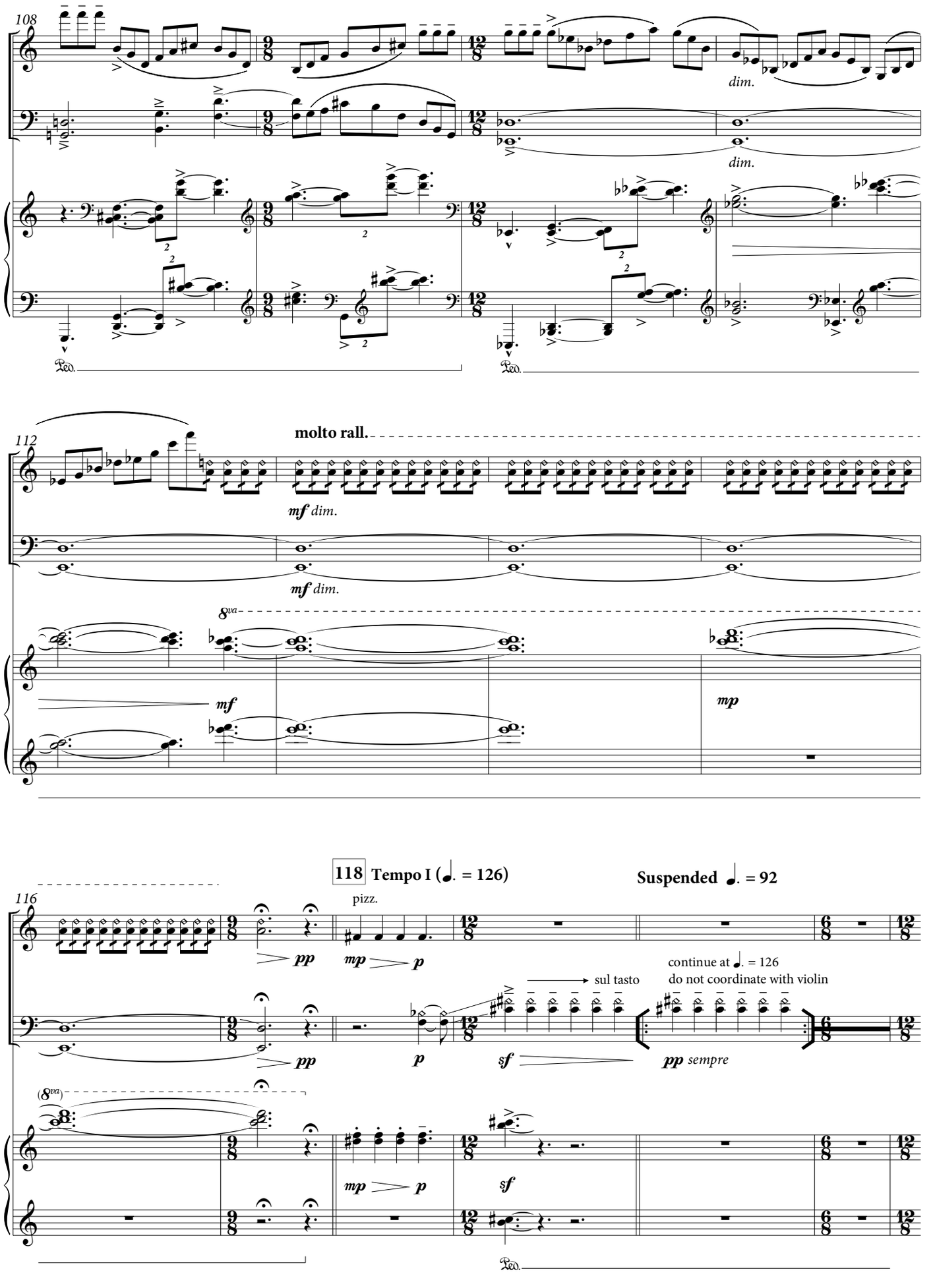

50
53
57
IV-III
II
8va
(8va)

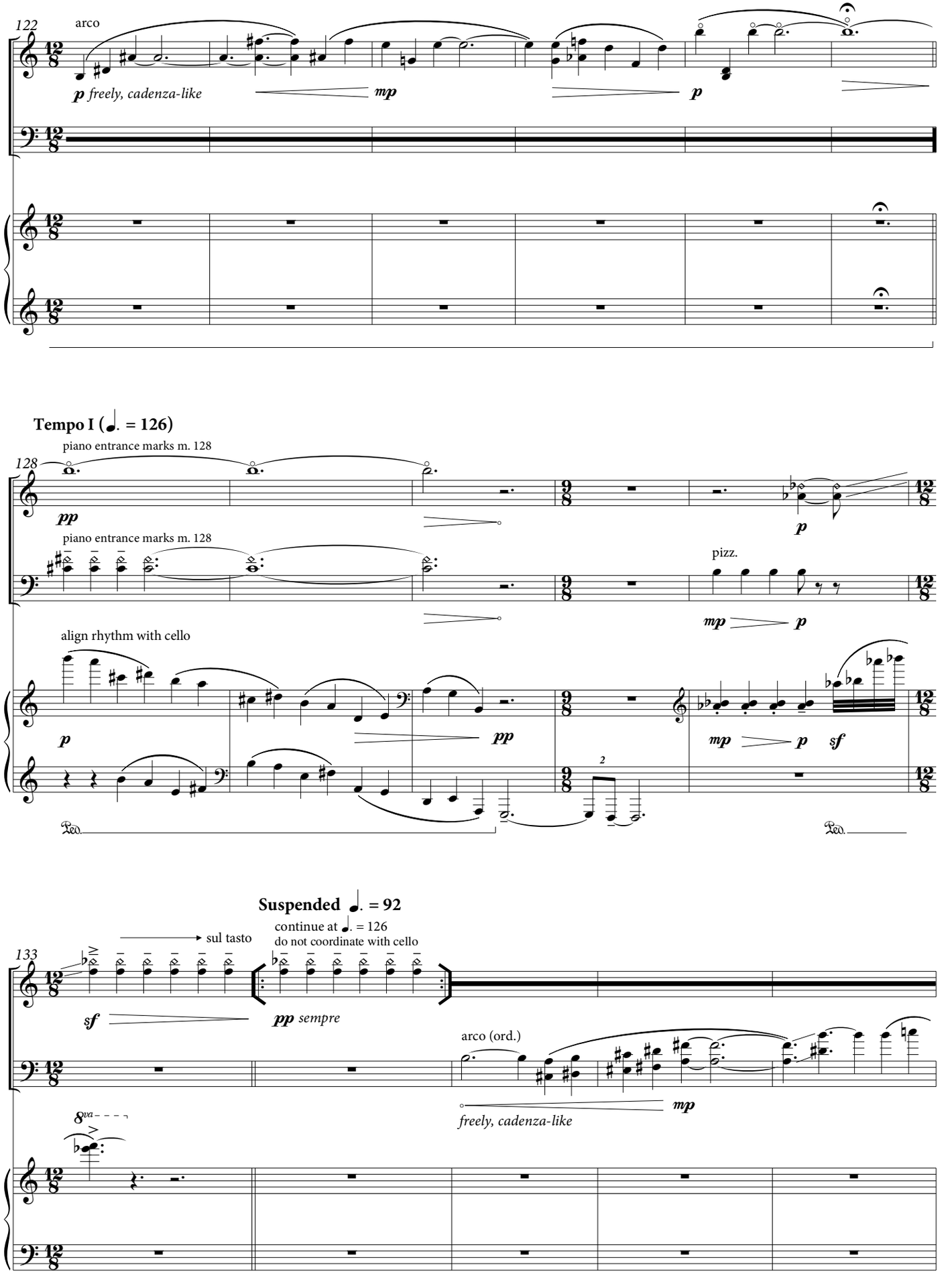

63
61
ff
ff
ff
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
64
pizz.
pp
f
pp
mf
pp
f
pp
pp
f
pp
Ped.
68
arco
sul tasto
p
pp
pizz.
mf
p
arco
sul tasto
pp
mf
p
8vb
8vb
Ped.
Ped.

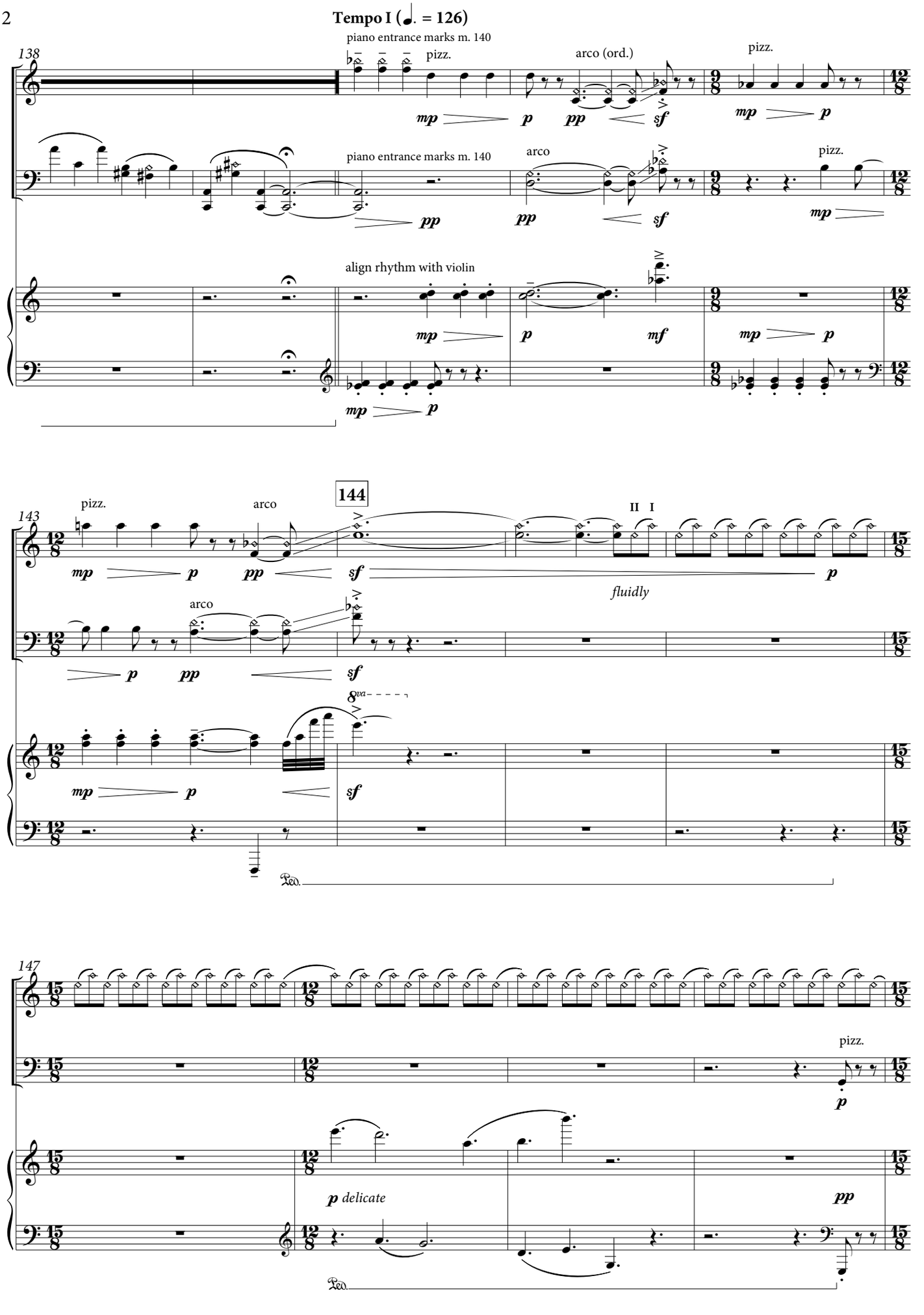

73
ord.
p
ord.
p
pp
8va
(8vb)
8vb
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
79 Tense, but subdued
77
pizz.
arco
mf
pp
mp
pp
pizz.
8va
ppp
mf
pp
mp
pp
8va
Ped.
Ped.
secco
81
mp
pp
mp–pp
mp
pp
8va
mp–pp

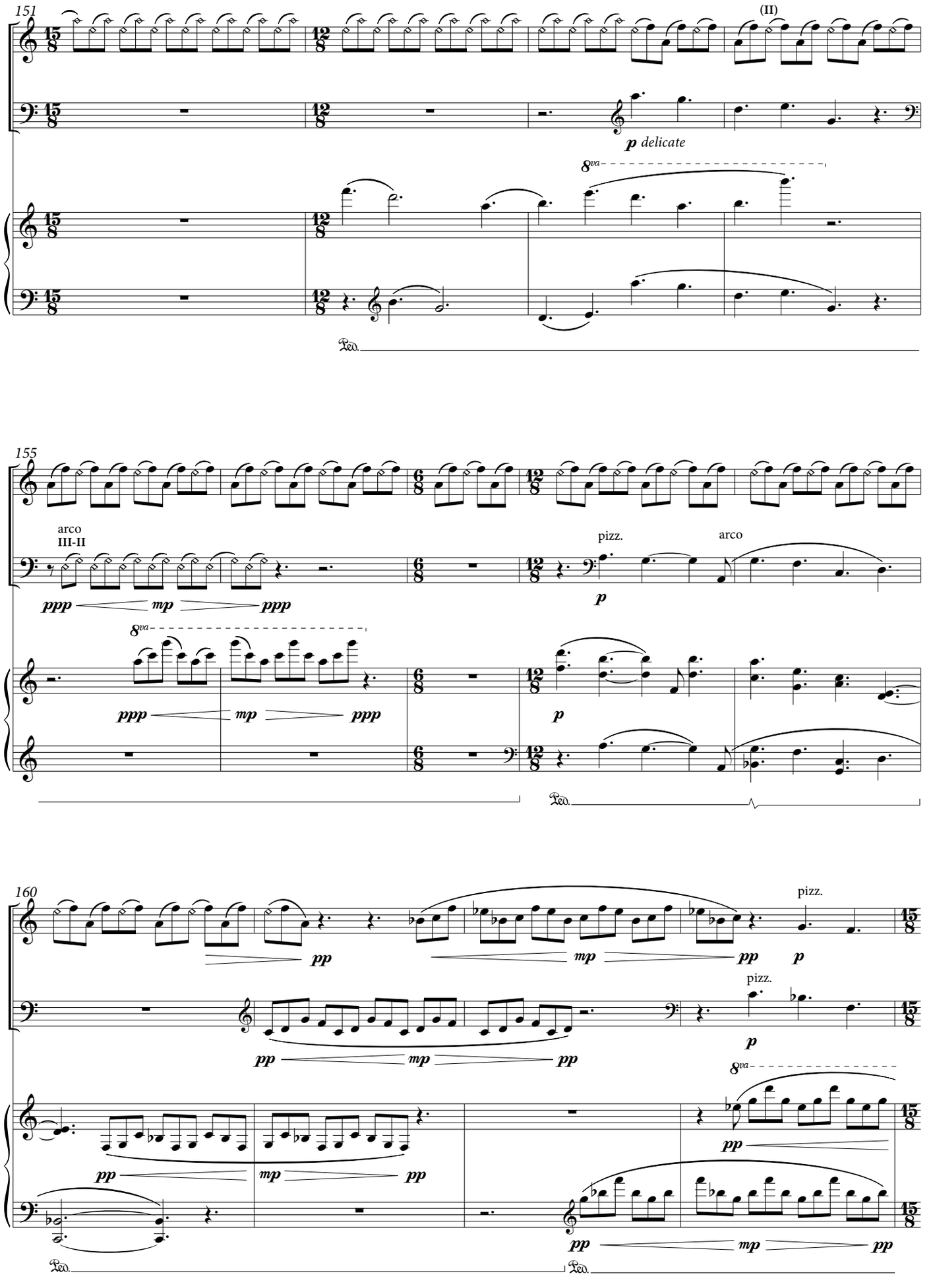

85
pizz.
arco
89
93

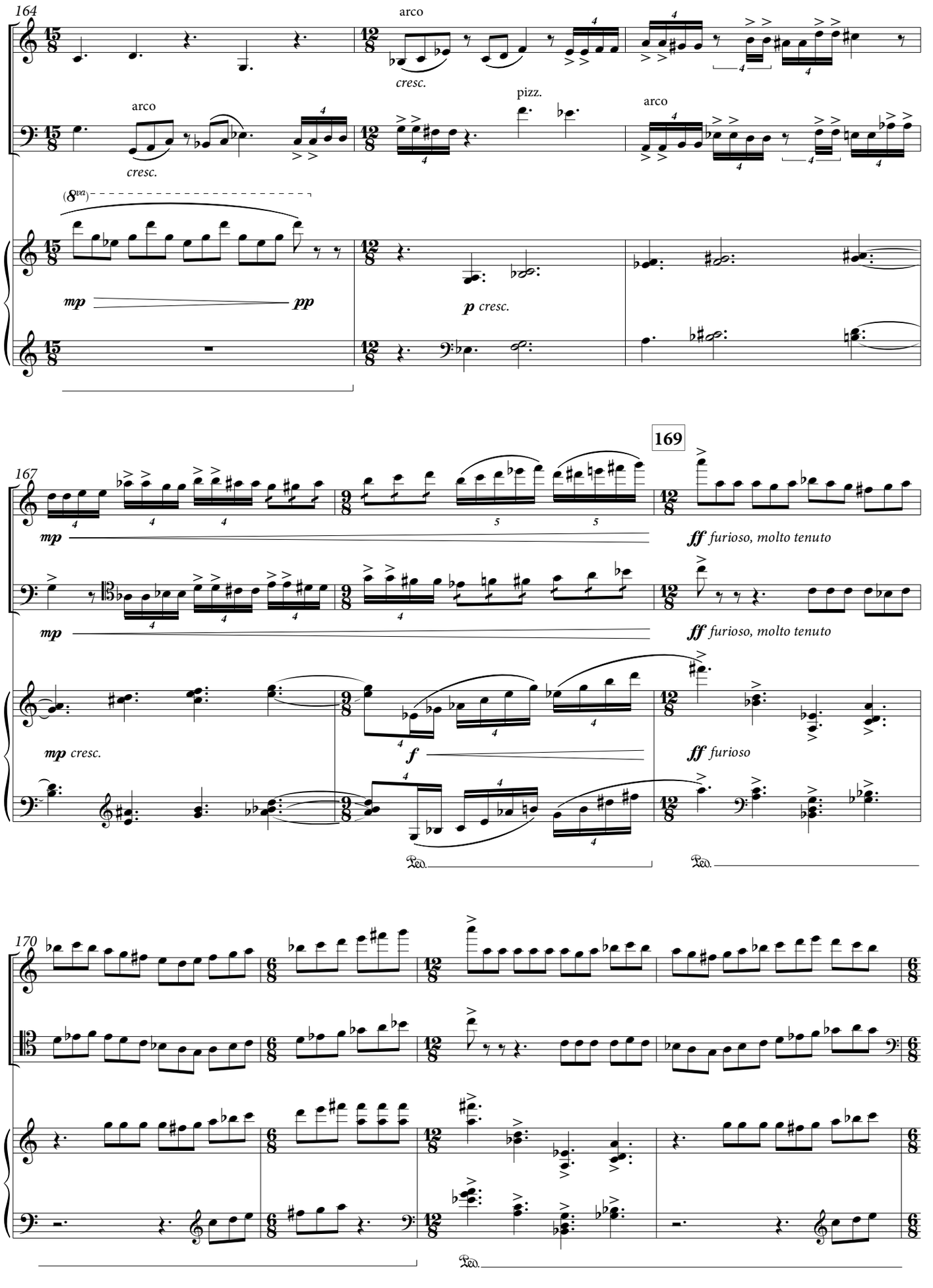

97
mp pp
mp–pp
mf
101
poco rall.
pizz.
arco
8va
106
Broadly ♩. = 116
105
ff
8vb
Ped.

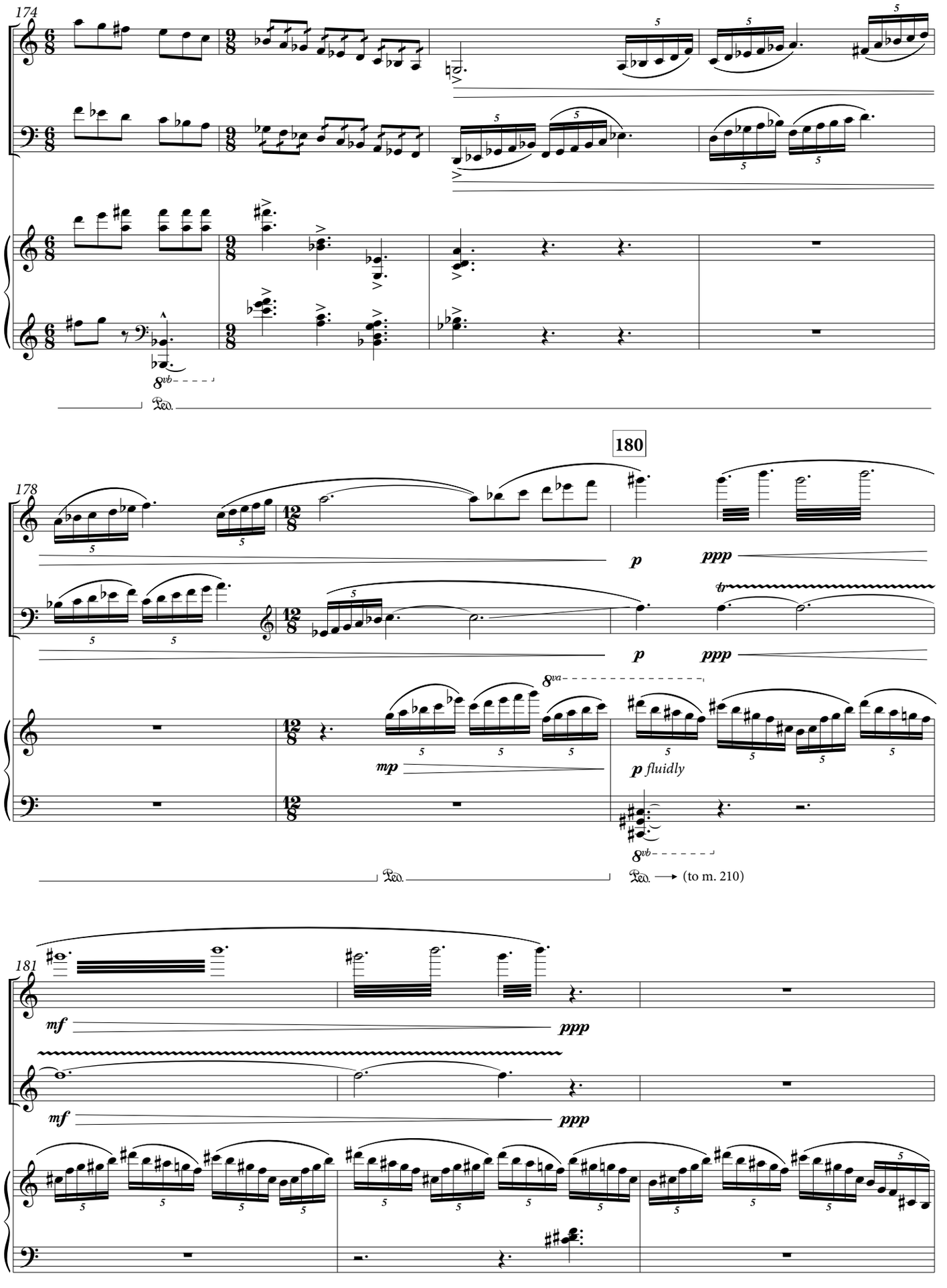

108
dim.
dim.
Ped.
Ped.
112
molto rall.
mf dim.
mf dim.
8va
mf
mp
116
118 Tempo I (♩. = 126)
Suspended ♩. = 92
pizz.
pp
mp p
sul tasto
continue at ♩. = 126
do not coordinate with violin
pp
p
sf
pp sempre
(8va)
mp p
sf
Ped.

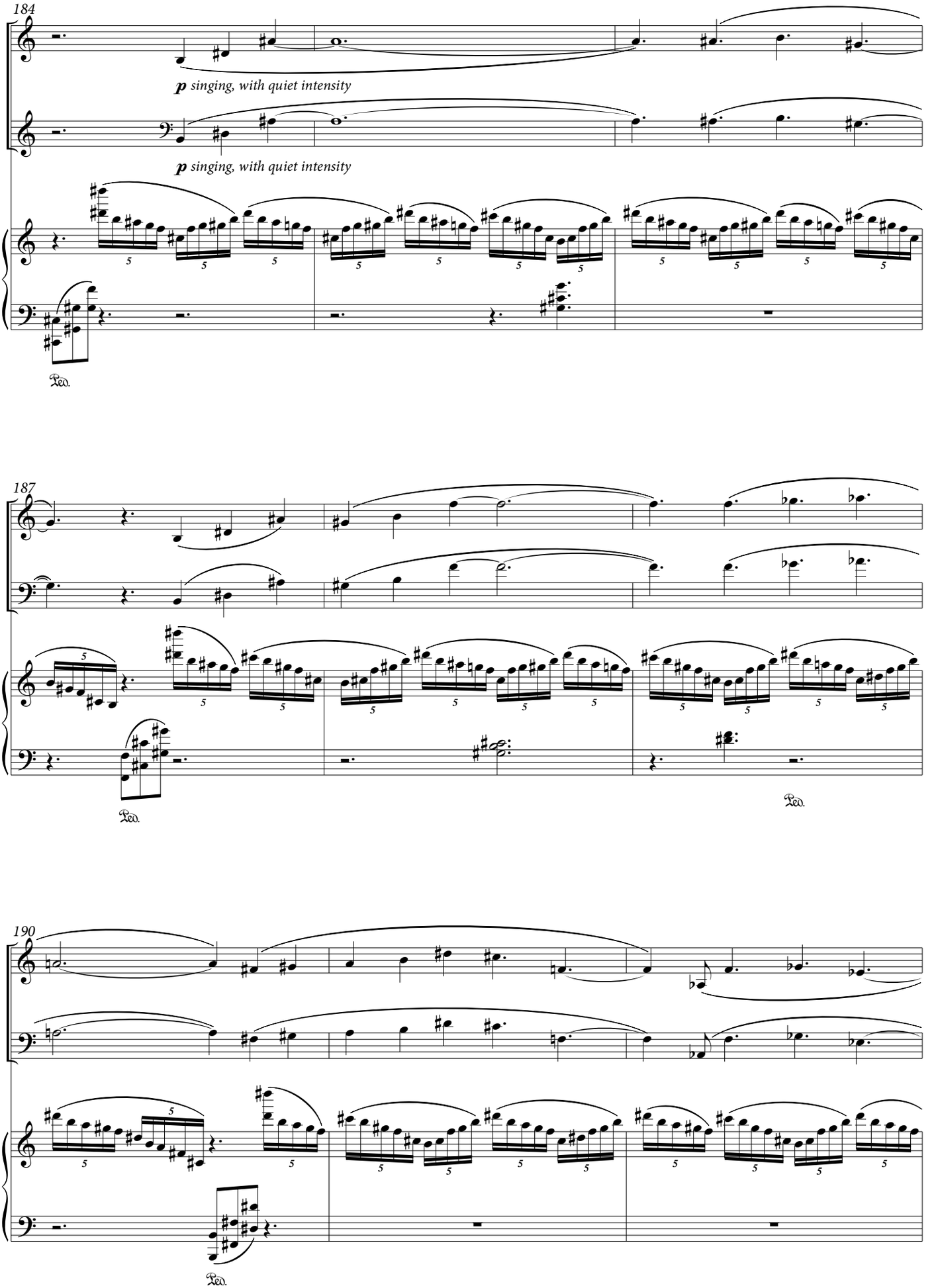

122
arco
p freely, cadenza-like
mp
p
Tempo I (♩. = 126)
piano entrance marks m. 128
128
pp
p
piano entrance marks m. 128
pizz.
mp
p
align rhythm with cello
p
pp
mp
p
sf
Ped.
Ped.
Suspended ♩. = 92
continue at ♩. = 126
do not coordinate with cello
133
sul tasto
sf
pp sempre
arco (ord.)
freely, cadenza-like
mp
8va

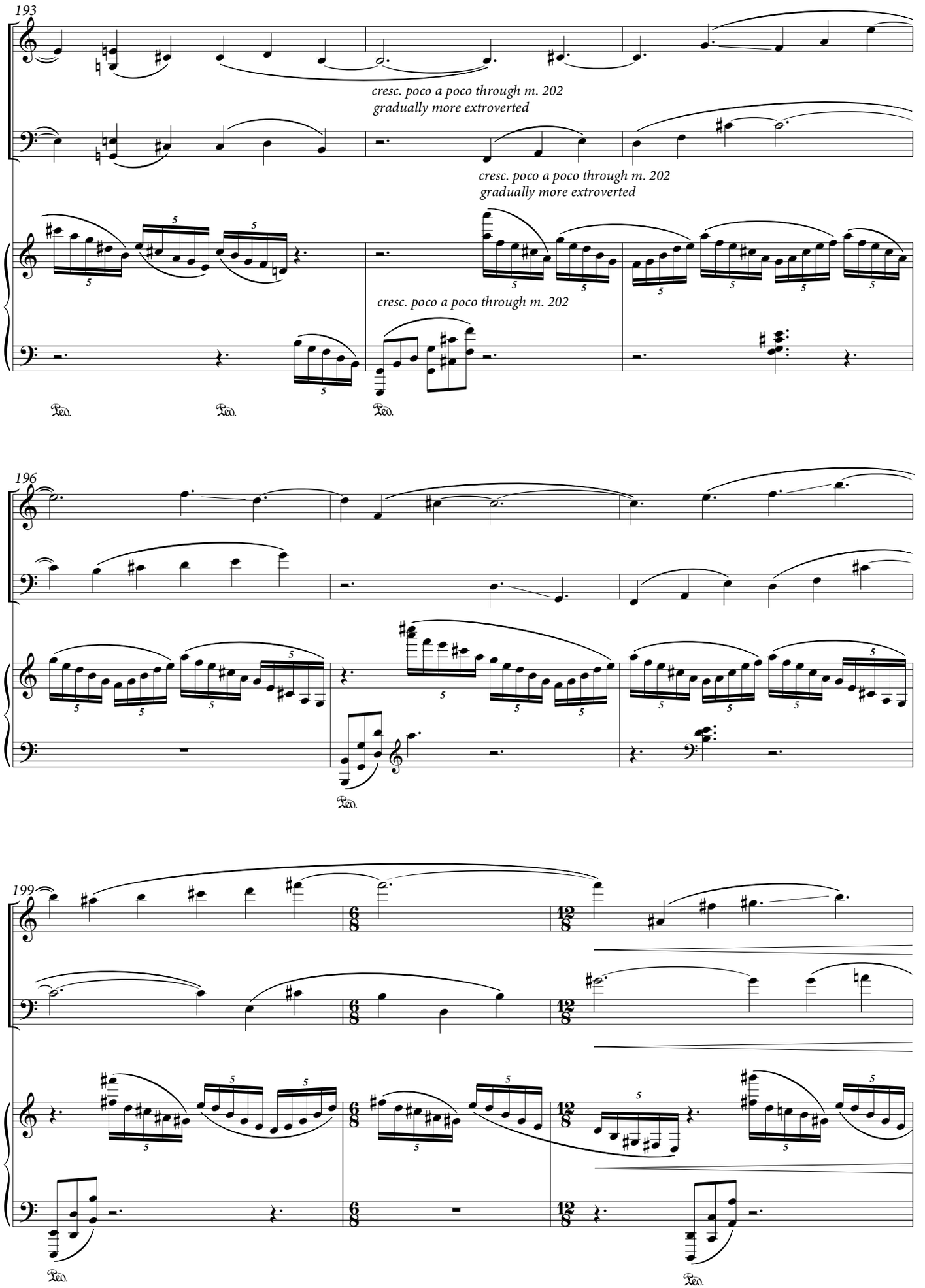

Tempo I (♩. = 126)
138
piano entrance marks m. 140
pizz.
arco (ord.)
pizz.
mp p pp sf mp p
piano entrance marks m. 140
arco
pizz.
pp pp sf mp
align rhythm with violin
mp p p mf mp p
mp p
143
pizz.
arco
144
II I
mp p pp sf p
fluidly
arco
p pp sf
8va
mp p sf
Ped.
147
pizz.
p
p delicate
pp
Ped.

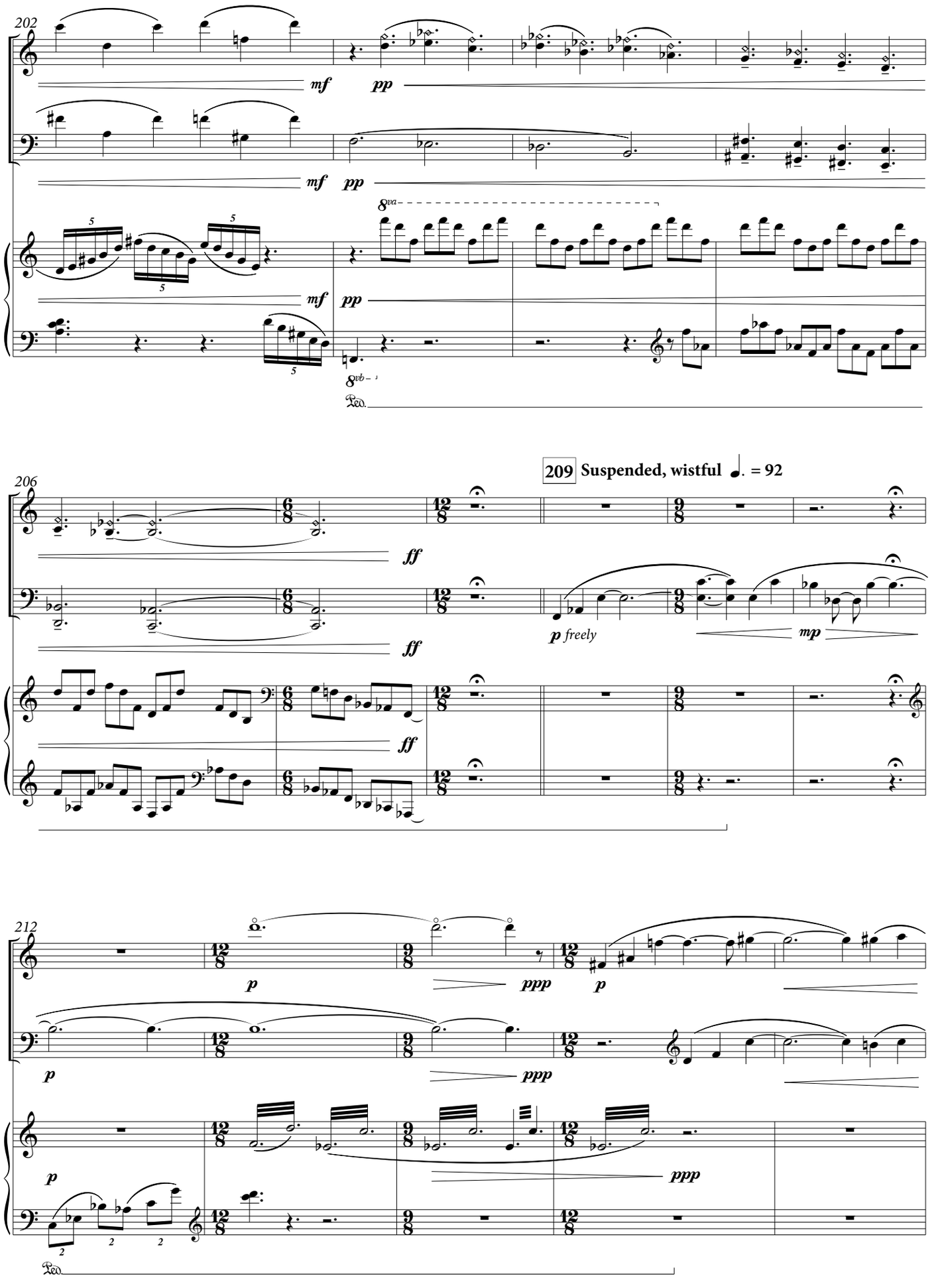

151
(II)
p delicate
8va
Ped.
155
arco
III-II
ppp mp ppp
pizz.
arco
p
8va
ppp mp ppp
p
Ped.
160
pizz.
pp mp pp p
pizz.
p
pp mp pp
8va
pp
pp mp pp
Ped.
Ped.

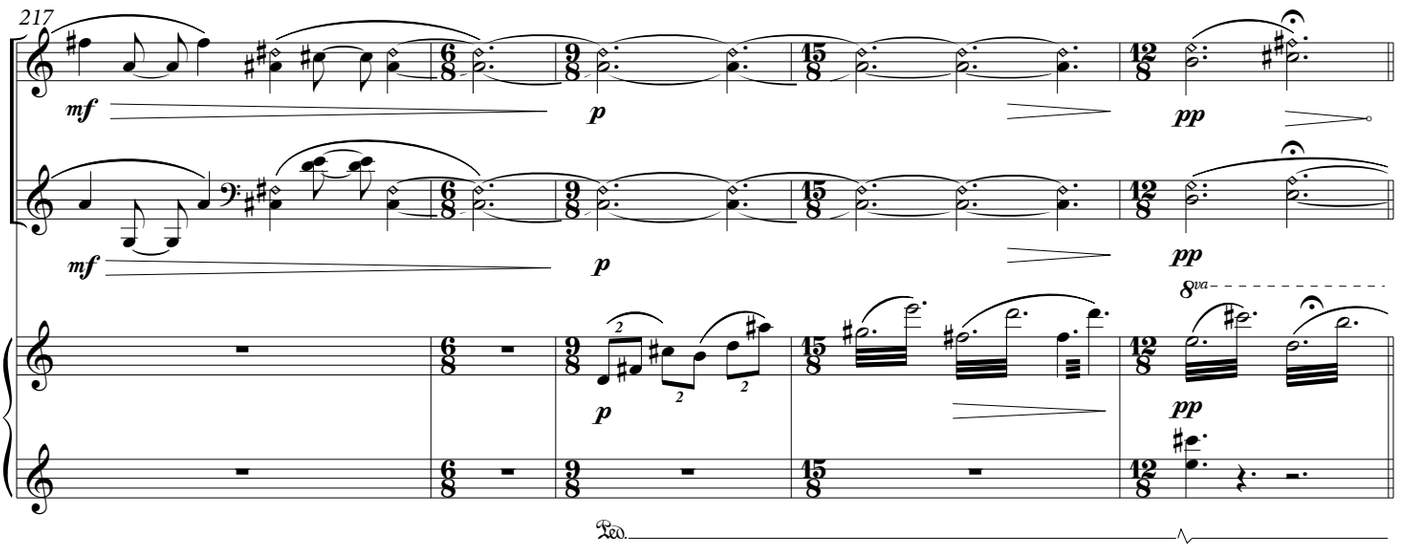

164
arco
cresc.
arco
cresc.
pizz.
arco
(8va)
mp
pp
p cresc.
169
167
mp
mp cresc.
f
ff furioso, molto tenuto
ff furioso, molto tenuto
ff furioso
Ped.
Ped.
170
Ped.

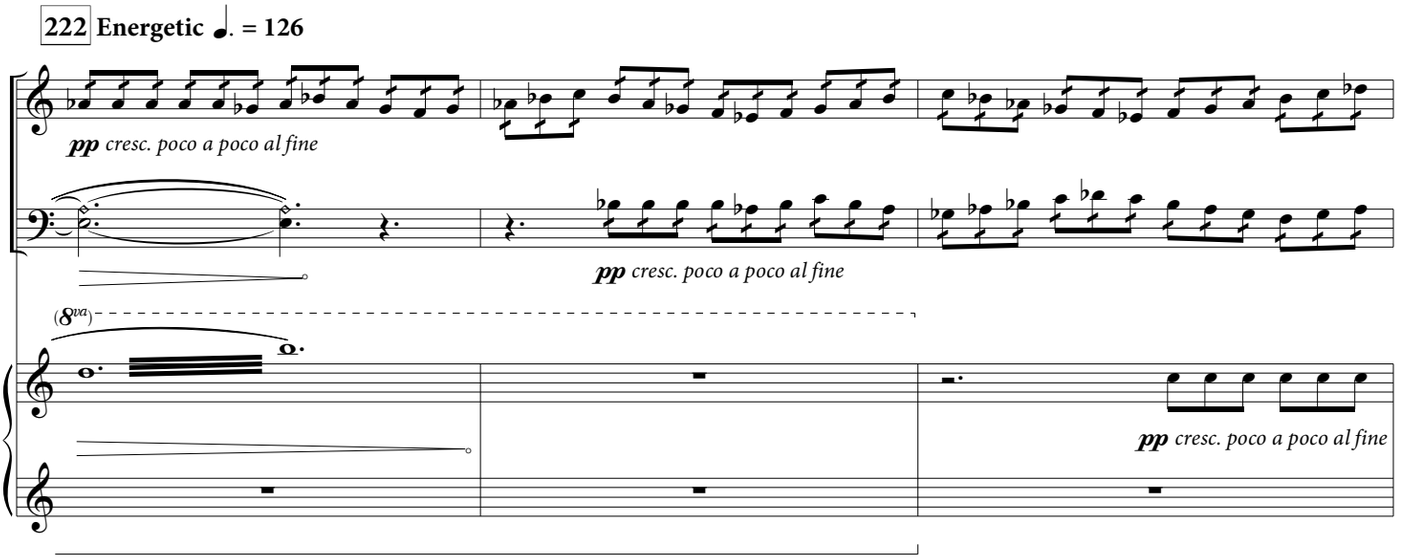

174
8vb
Ped.
180
178
p
ppp
tr
mp
8va
p fluidly
8vb
Ped.
(to m. 210)
181
mf
ppp

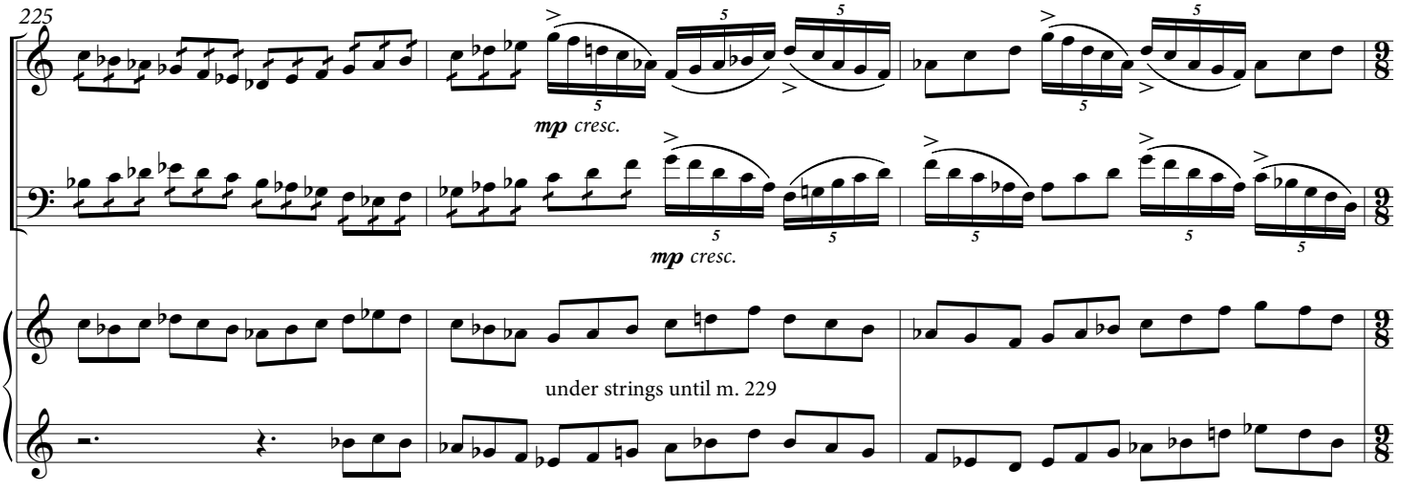

184
p singing, with quiet intensity
p singing, with quiet intensity
Ped.
187
Ped.
Ped.
190
Ped.

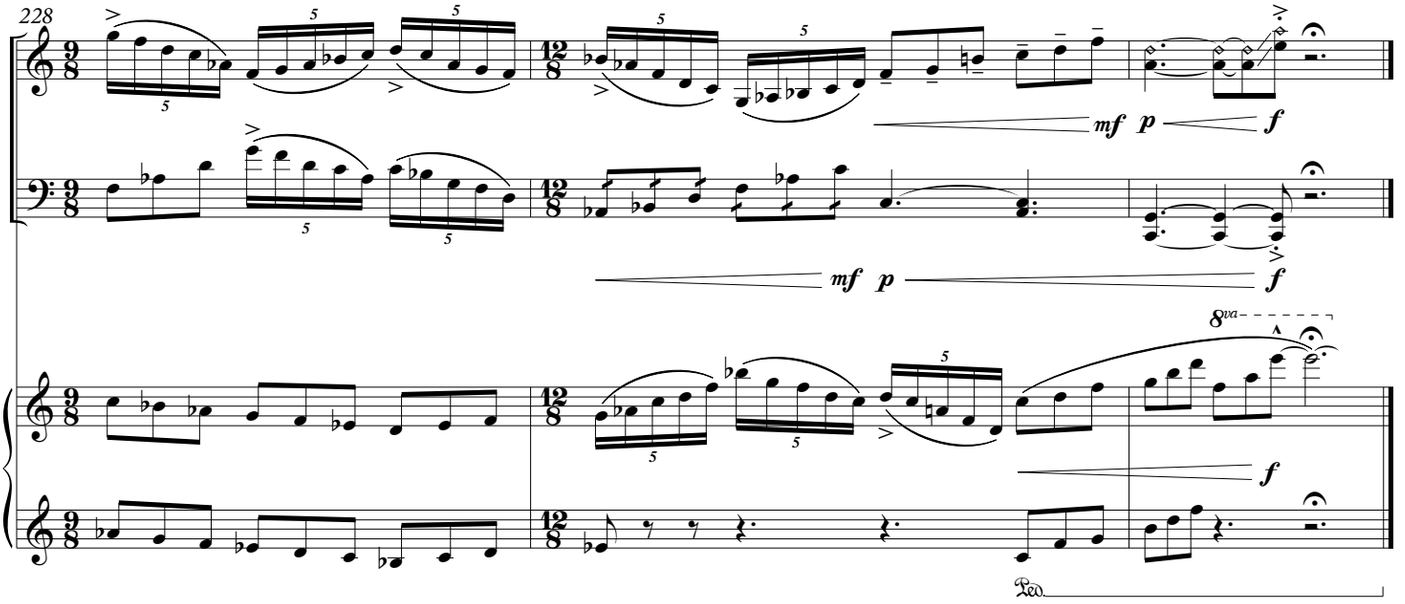

193
cresc. poco a poco through m. 202
gradually more extroverted
cresc. poco a poco through m. 202
gradually more extroverted
cresc. poco a poco through m. 202
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
196
Ped.
199
Ped.
Ped.


202
mf
pp
8va
8vb
Ped.
206
209 Suspended, wistful ♩. = 92
ff
p freely
mp
212
p
ppp


217
mf
p
pp
8va
Ped.


222 Energetic ♩. = 126
pp cresc. poco a poco al fine
(8va)


225
mp cresc.
under strings until m. 229



Jersey City, NJ
February 29th, 2020