# PAUL DICKINSON

# Transfiguration

for string quartet

Transfiguration (2006)
for string quartet

*Program Note*

*Transfiguration* depicts an epiphany--a dramatic, revelatory moment, as one might experience in an encounter with the Divine. The biblical accounts of Jesus' Transfiguration were the impetus for this piece, however it is not a programmatic retelling of the story. Rather, it is a musical expression of a contemplation of the story's meaning. It begins with our outward struggle with the world around us. There are hints of a different life, but they are drowned out by the cares and troubles that we all have. Later, we seek satisfaction through diversions which leave us unfulfilled. The hints remain, but they are ignored. Finally, after an inward struggle, we are open to the life-changing event.

*Transfiguration* is cast in three connected movements. The first movement introduces two musical ideas—a four note chromatic cluster and a seven note chromatic melody—which are transformed over the course of the work. The chromatic material expands out to minor thirds and octatonic elements in the second movement, and eventually in the finale to major thirds and augmented sonorities.

*Transfiguration* was commissioned by the Quapaw Quartet through a generous grant from the Fromm Music Foundation.

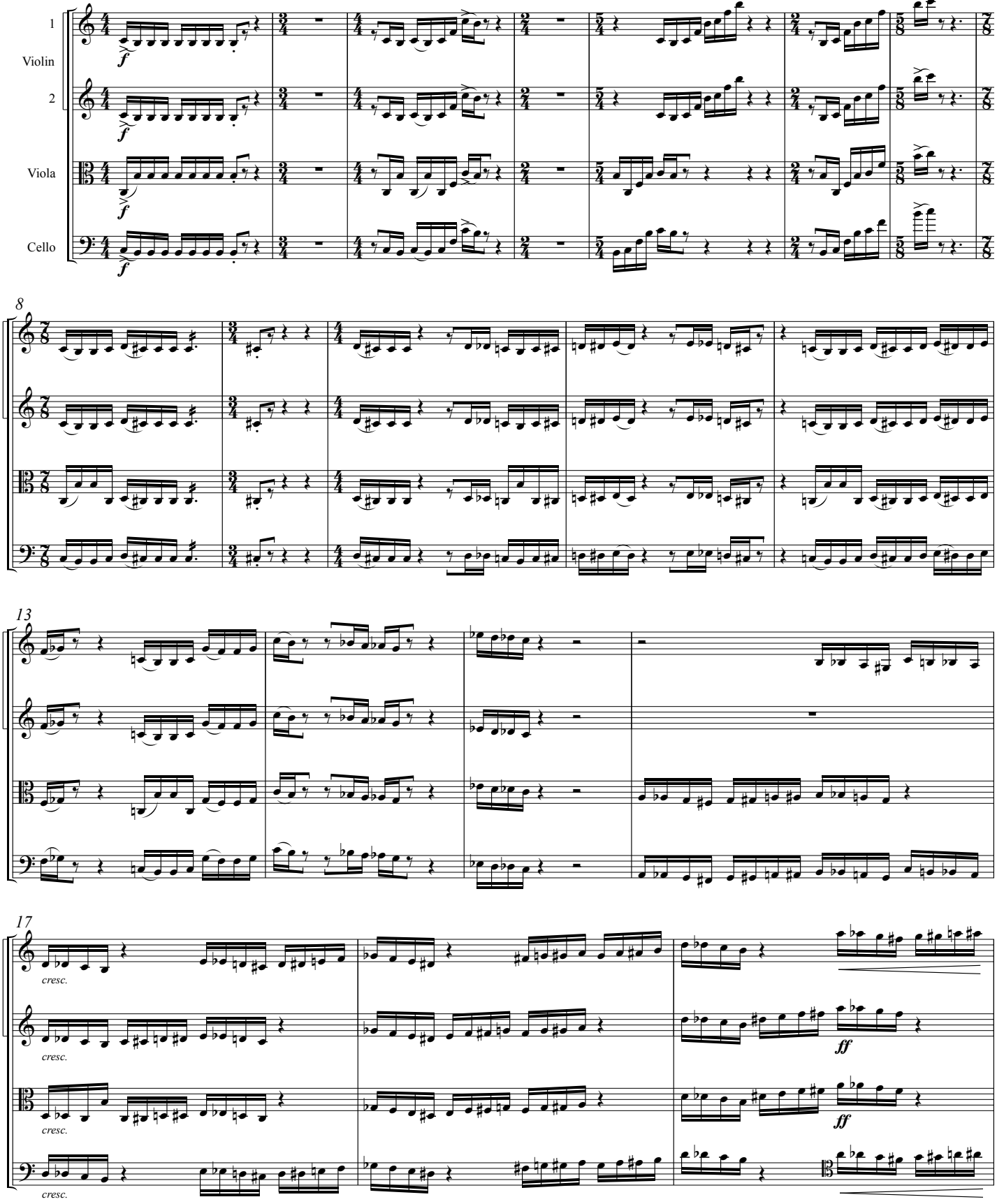
The music of Paul Dickinson is characterized by a dramatic contrast of musical ideas integrated into organic formal structures. Art, literature, and music of all eras influence his diverse musical output. Dickinson began his musical studies on piano at age eleven, and composition at age twelve. His teachers include Tomas Svoboda, Joseph Schwantner, Warren Benson, Samuel Adler, Alan Stout and Gerhard Stäbler. He received degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Northwestern University. Among his honors and awards are grants from the Fromm Music Foundation, the Arkansas Arts Council, the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), a BMI Award, and numerous commissions. His music has been performed throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Dickinson is an Associate Professor of Music Theory and Composition at the University of Central Arkansas.

*for the Quapaw Quartet*

# Transfiguration

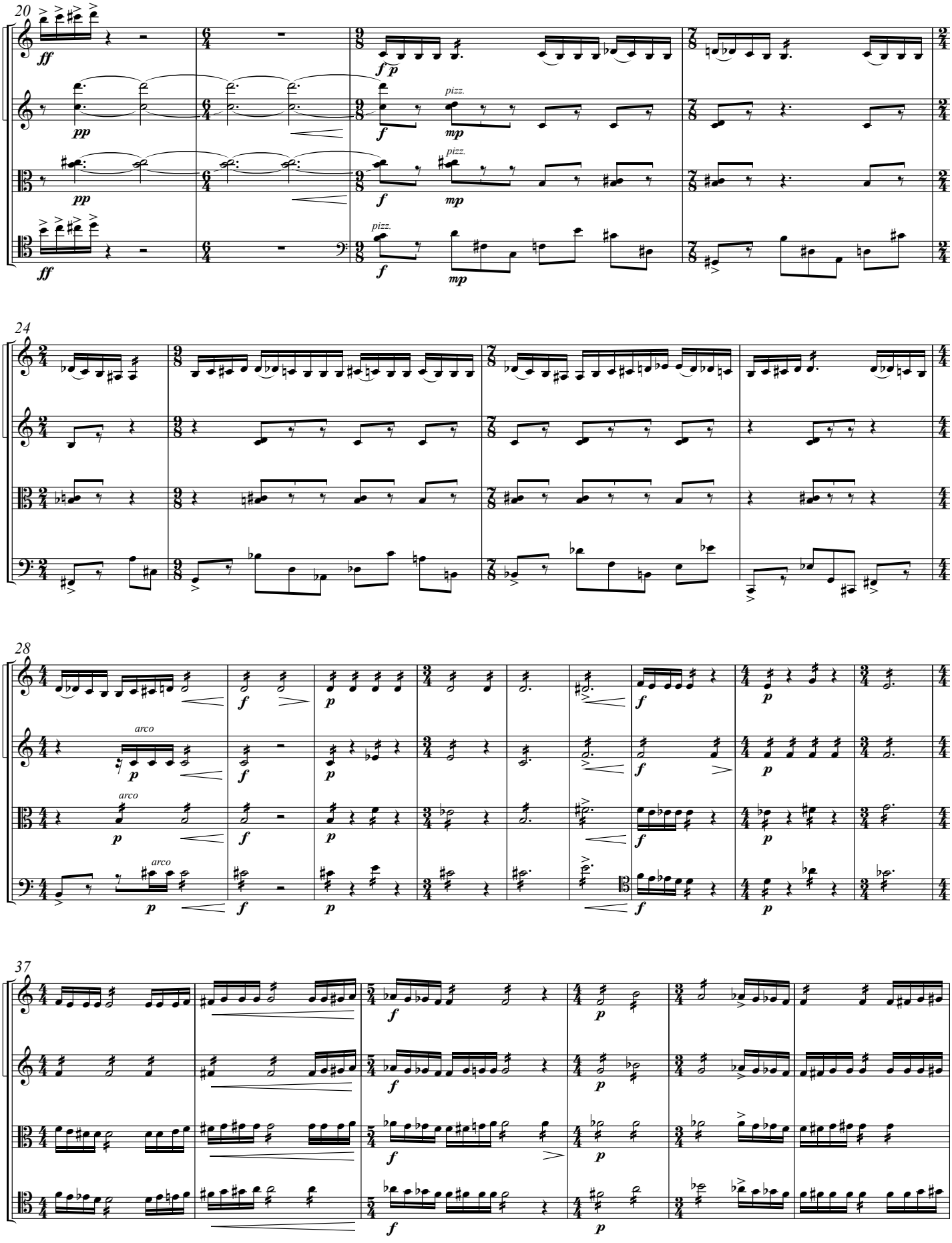
Paul Dickinson

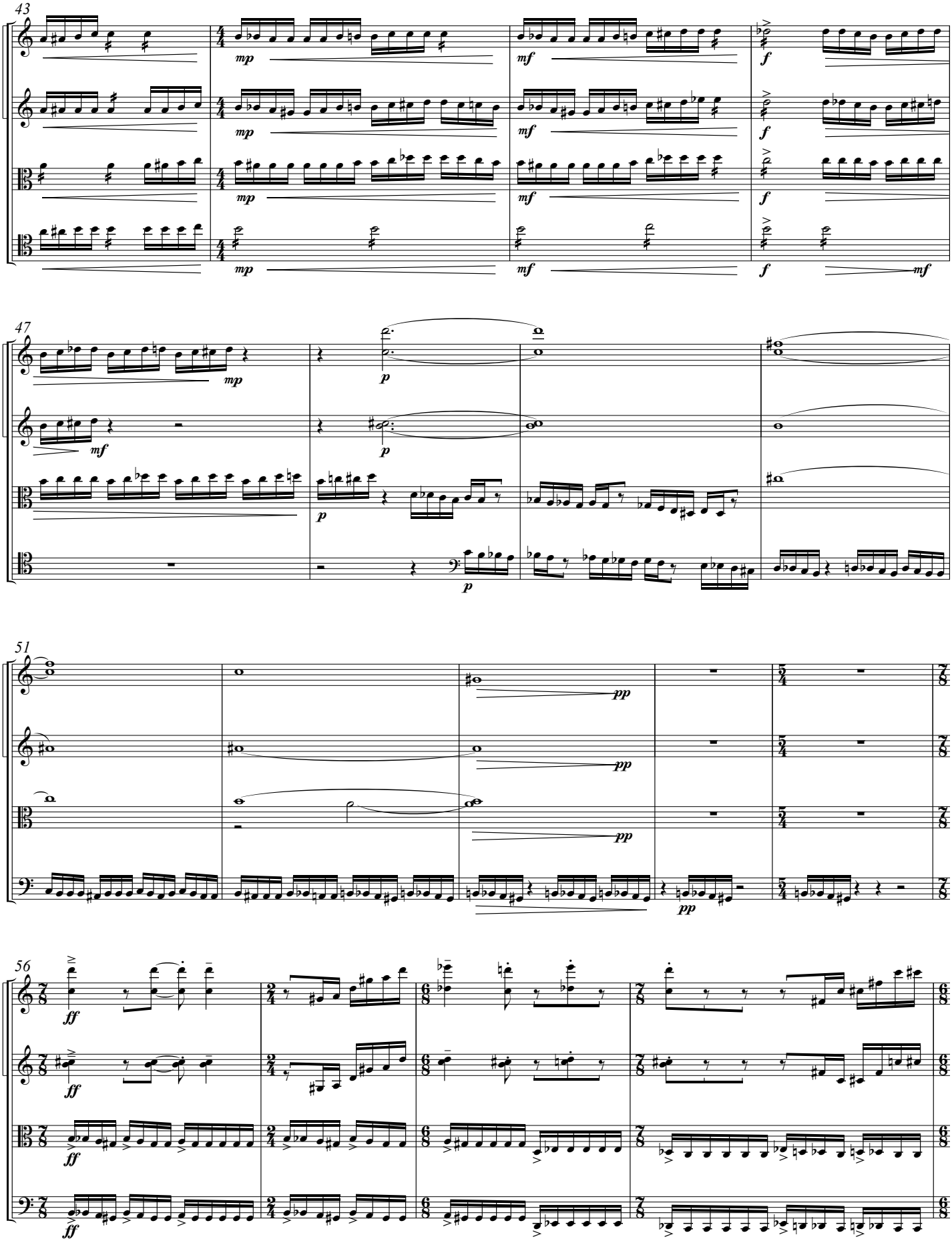
1. Allegro con brio ♩= 132

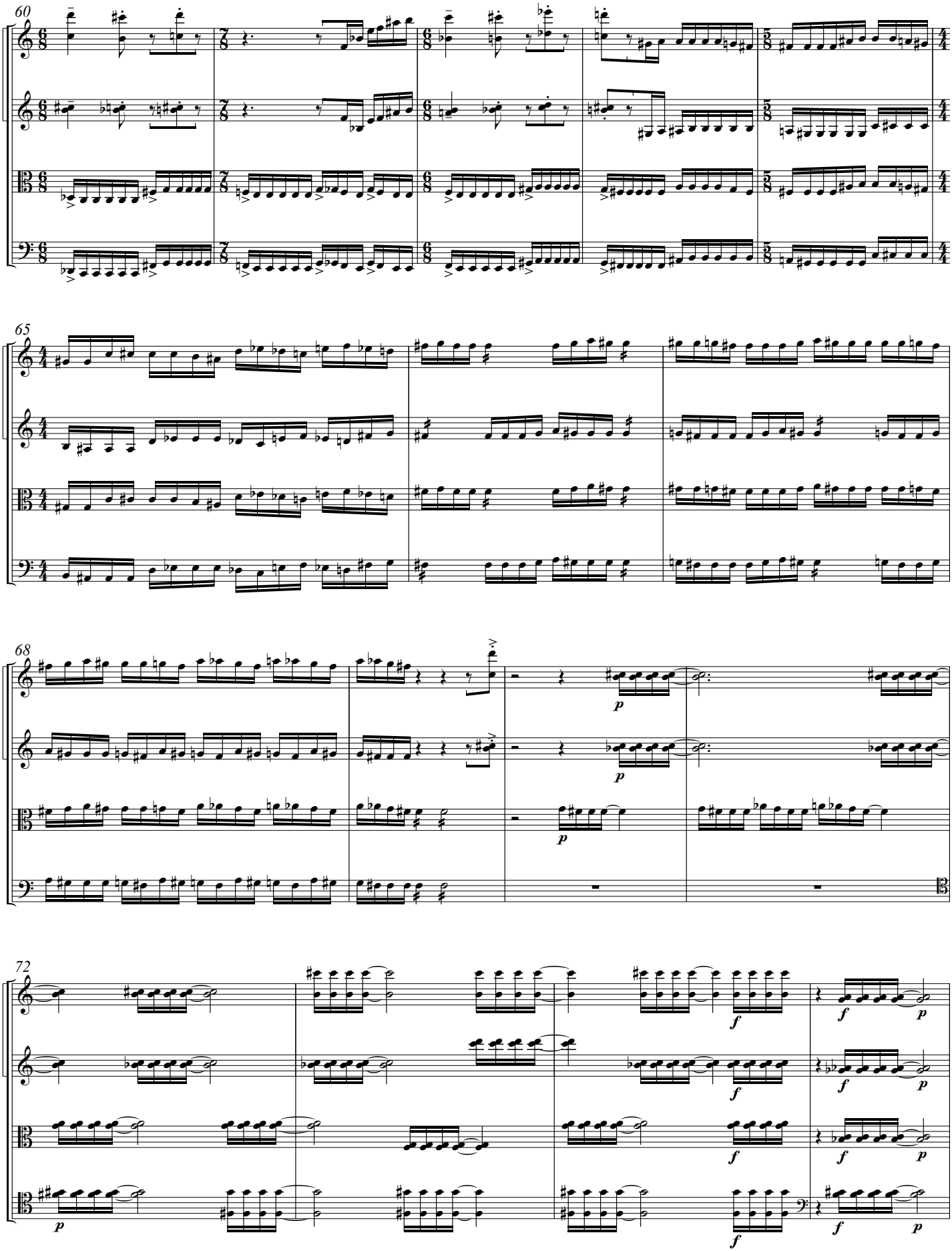


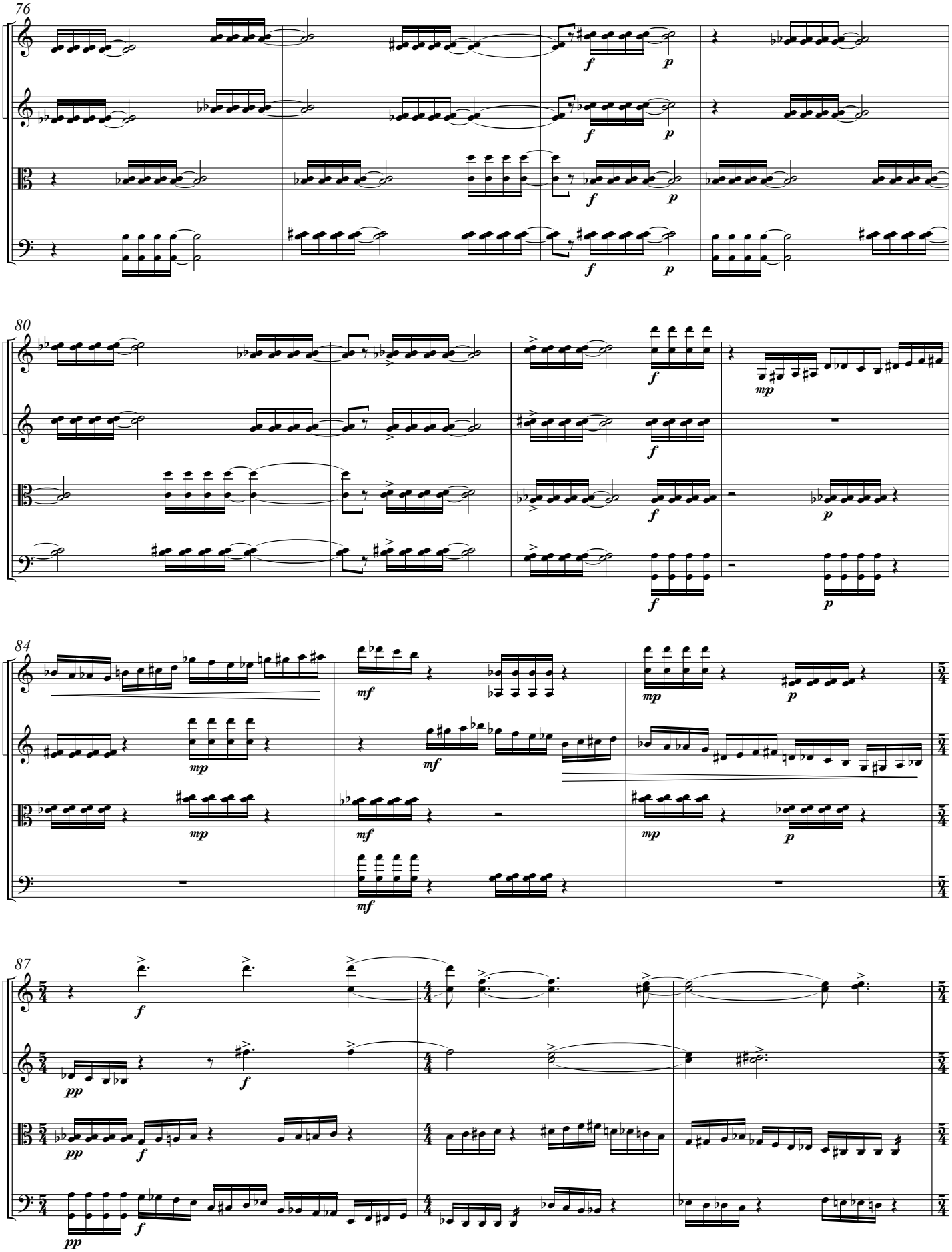

*This piece was made possible by a grant from the Fromm Music Foundation*

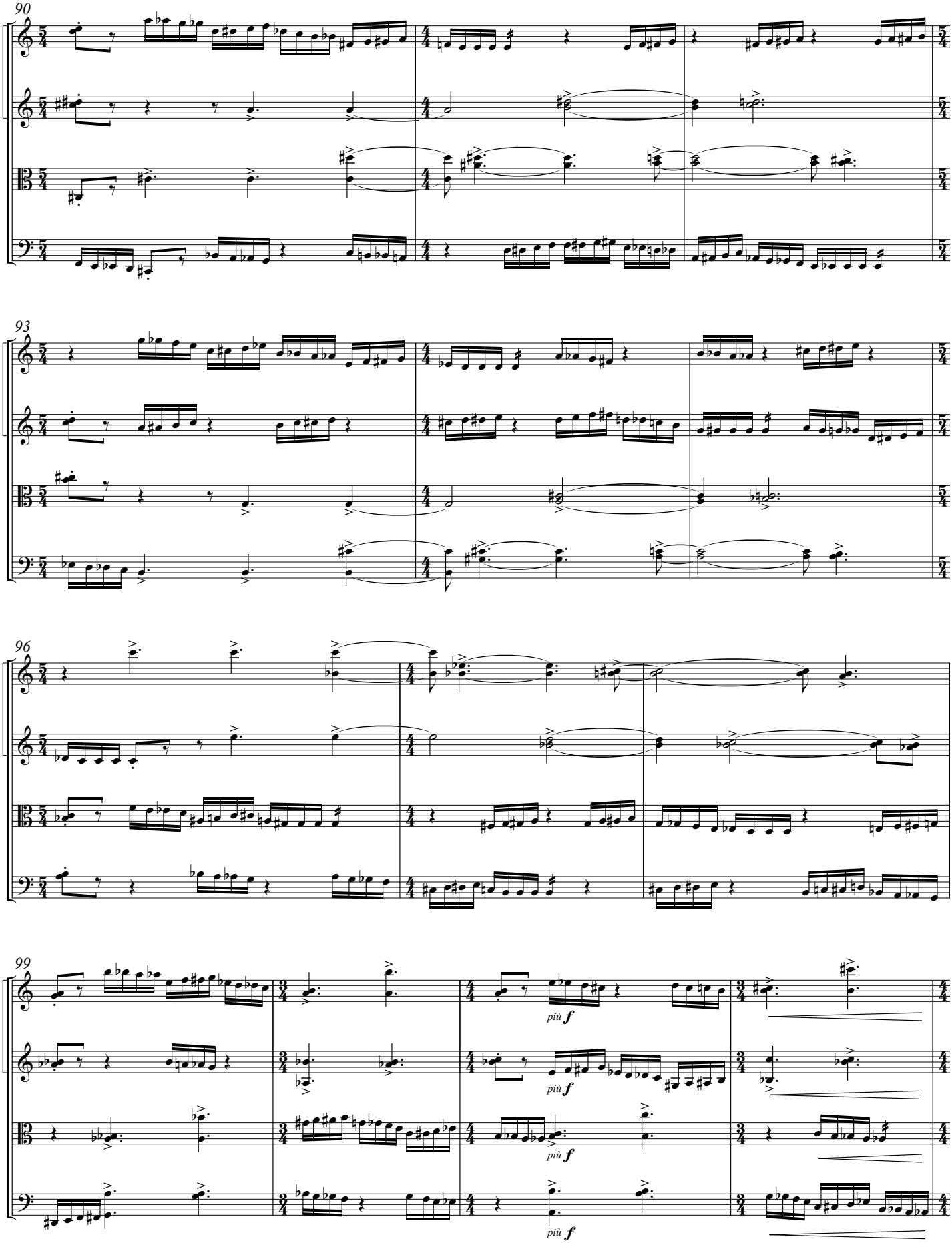
©2006 by Paul Dickinson. All rights reserved.

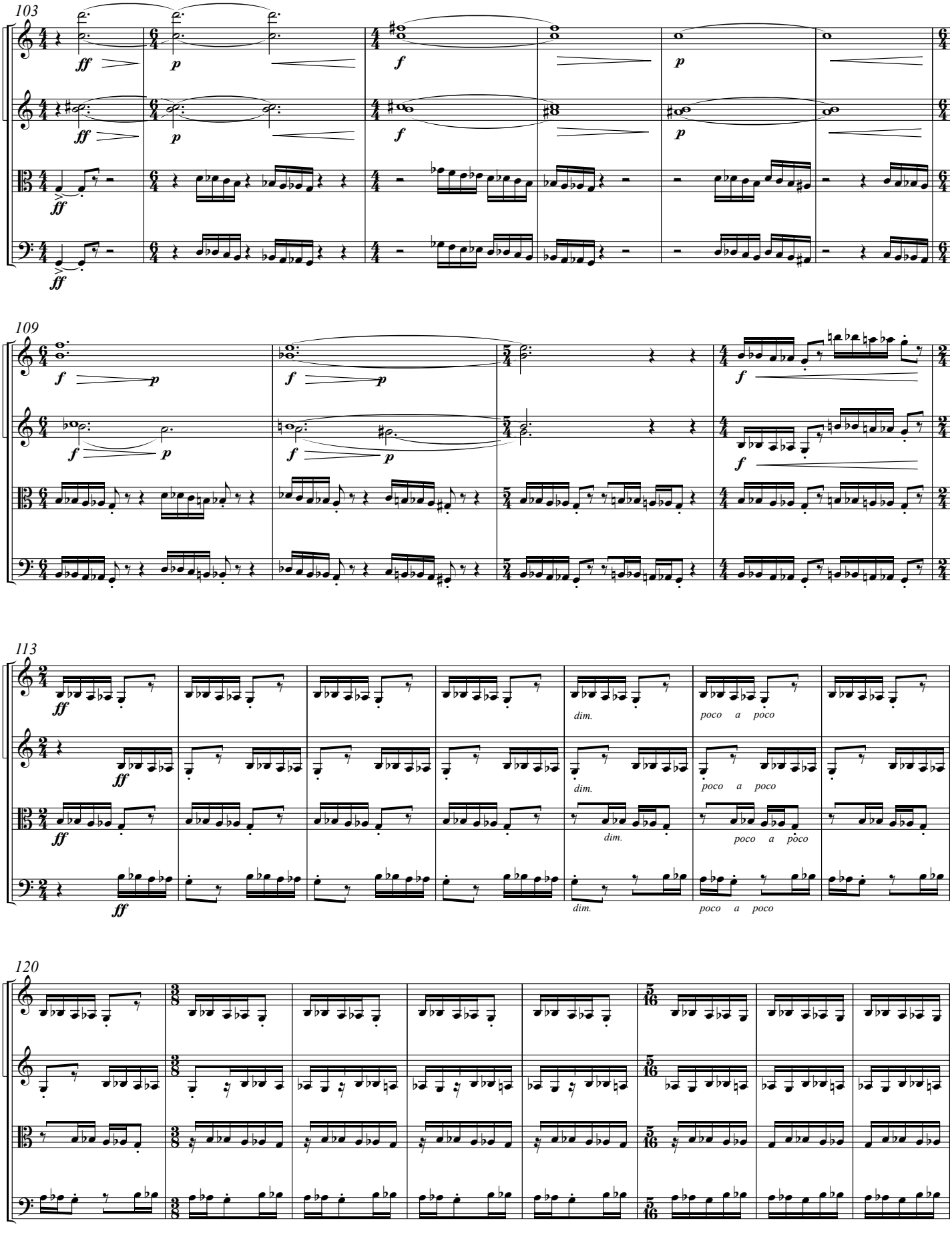

20
24
28
37
arco
pizz.

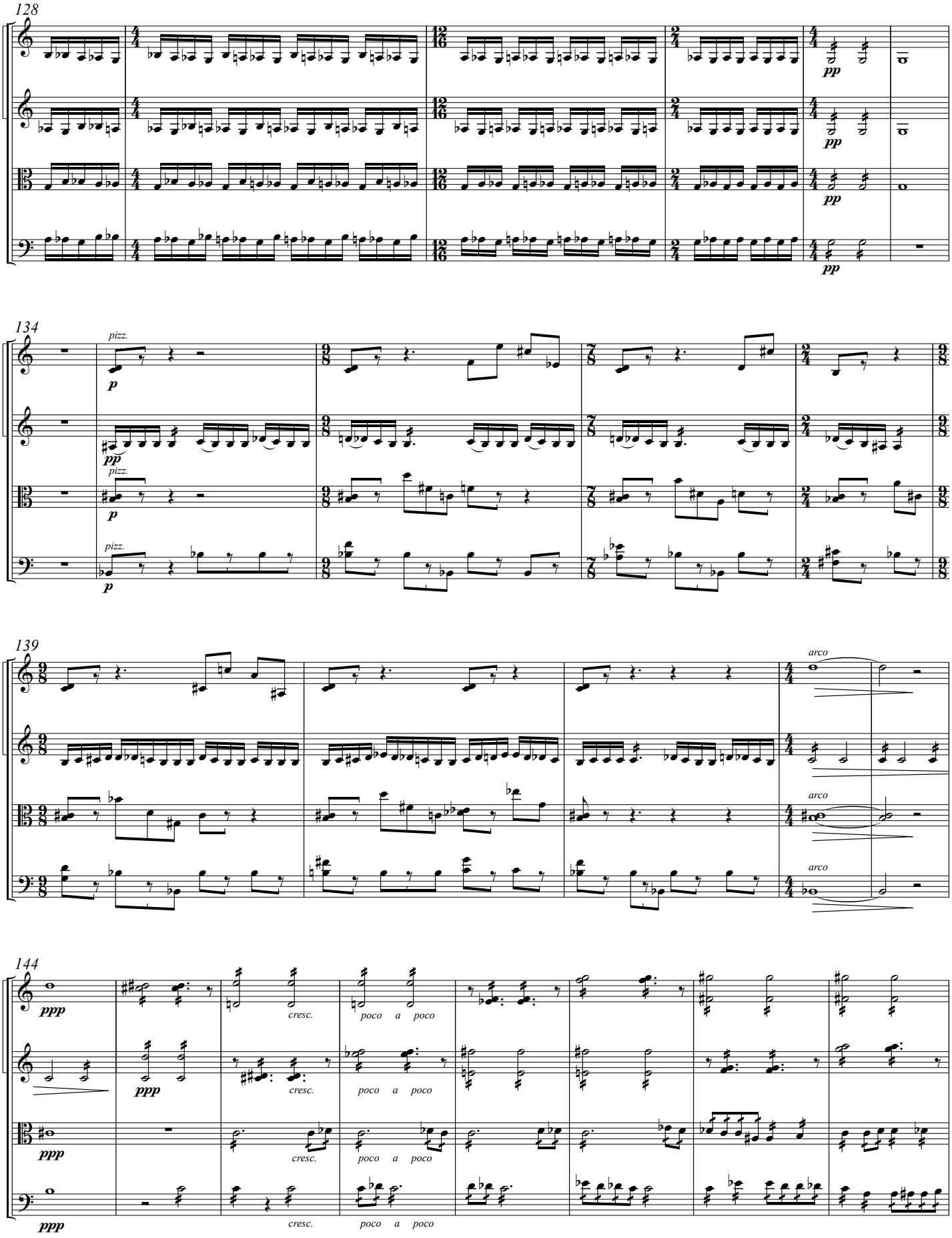

43
47
51
56

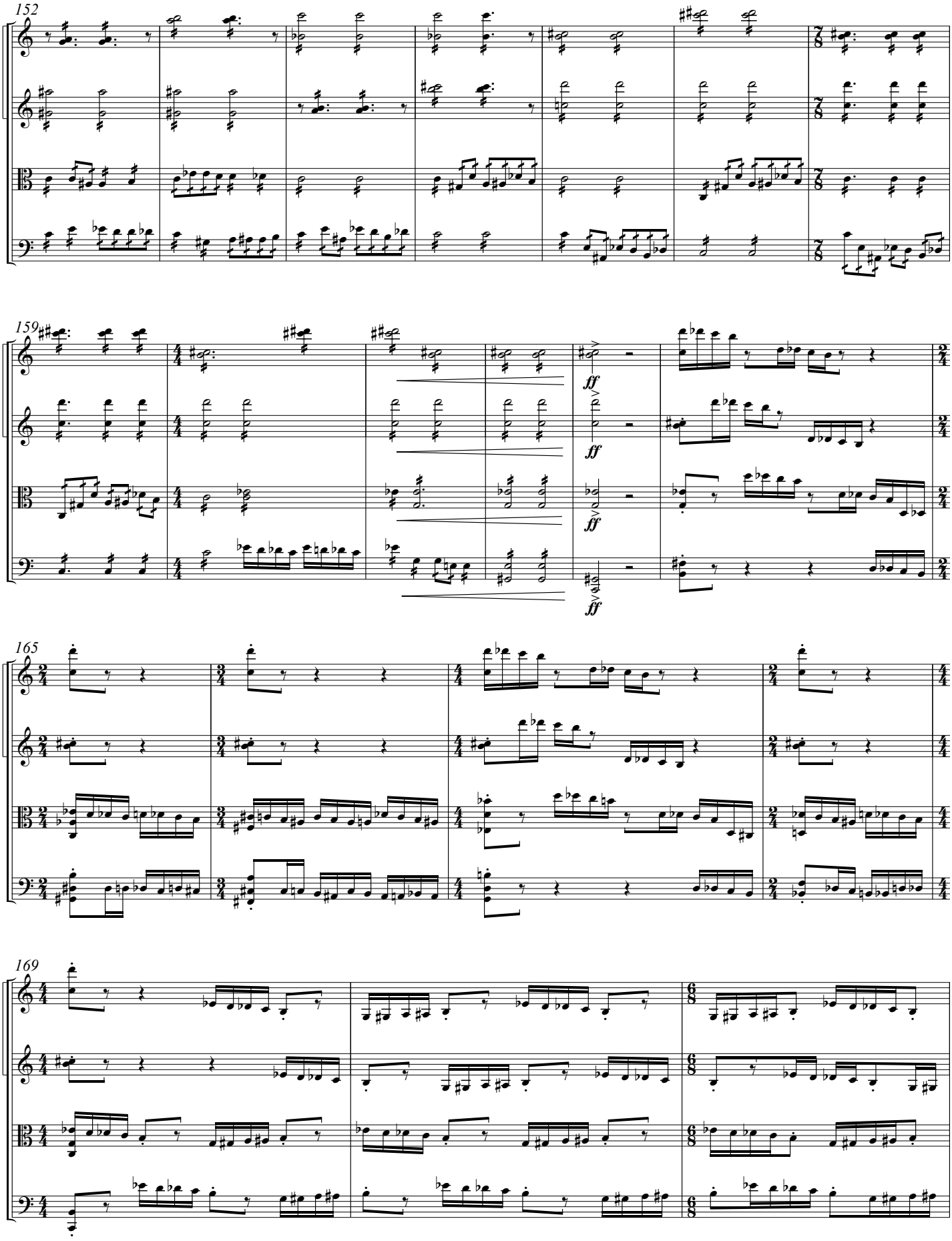

60
65
68
72
p
f


76
80
84
87

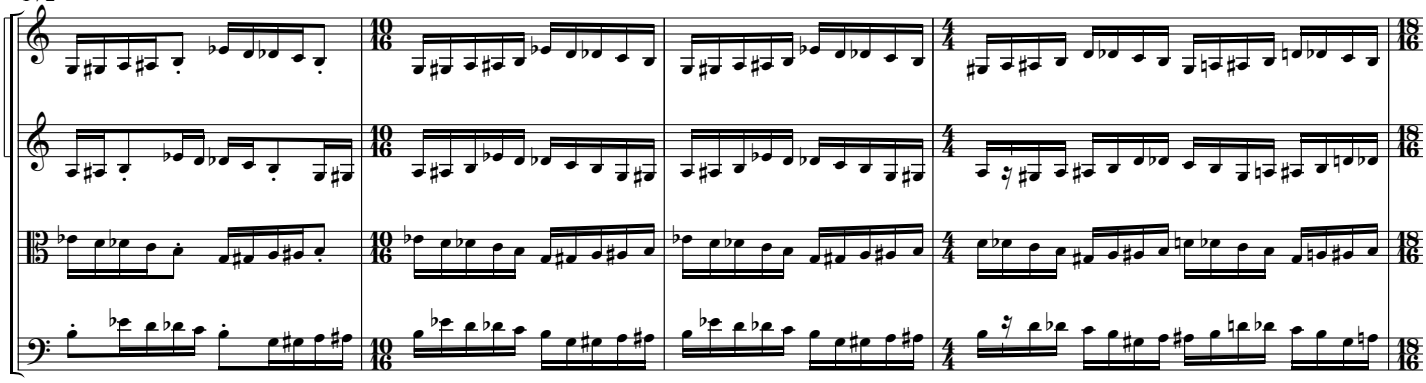

90
93
96
99
più f
più f
più f
più f


103
109
113
120
dim.
poco a poco

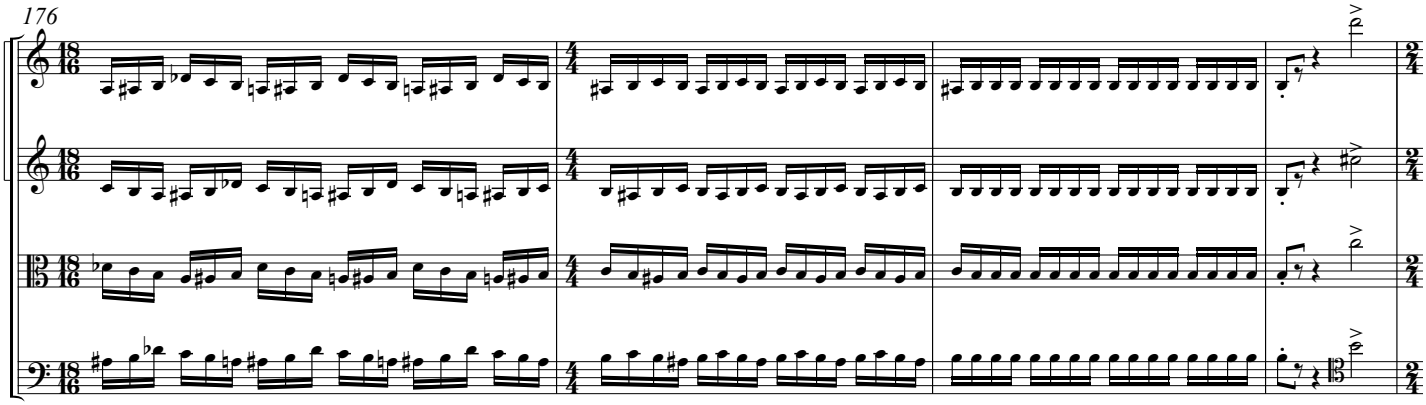

128
pp
134
pizz.
p
pp
139
arco
144
ppp
cresc.
poco a poco


152
159
ff
ff
ff
ff
165
169

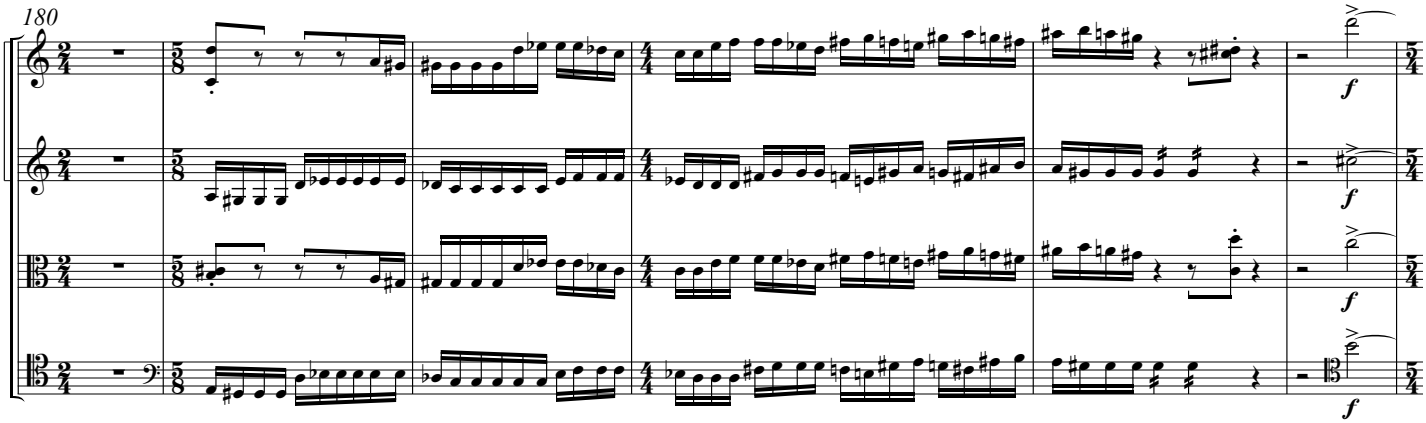
172



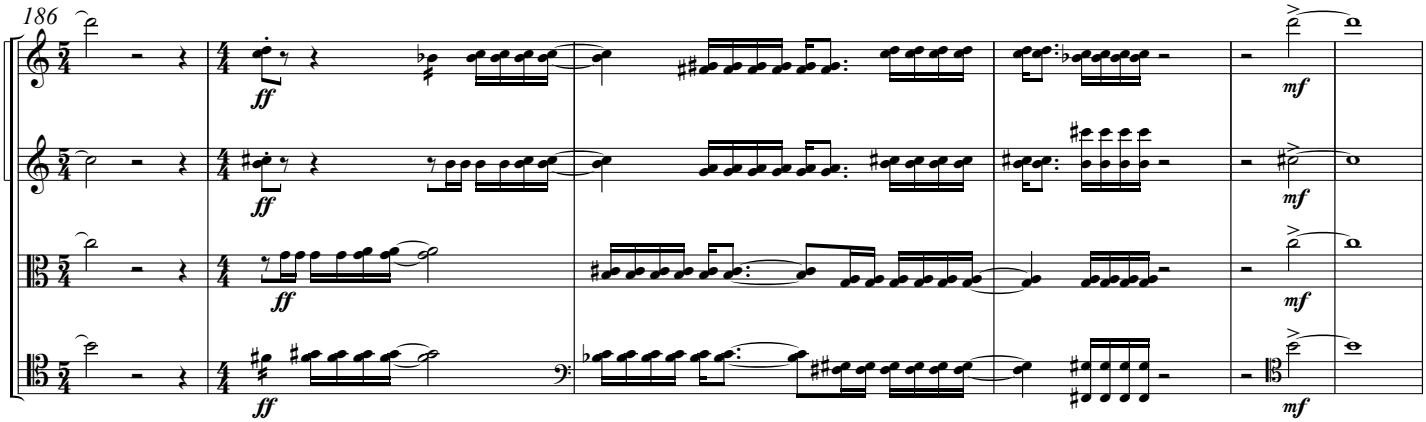
176

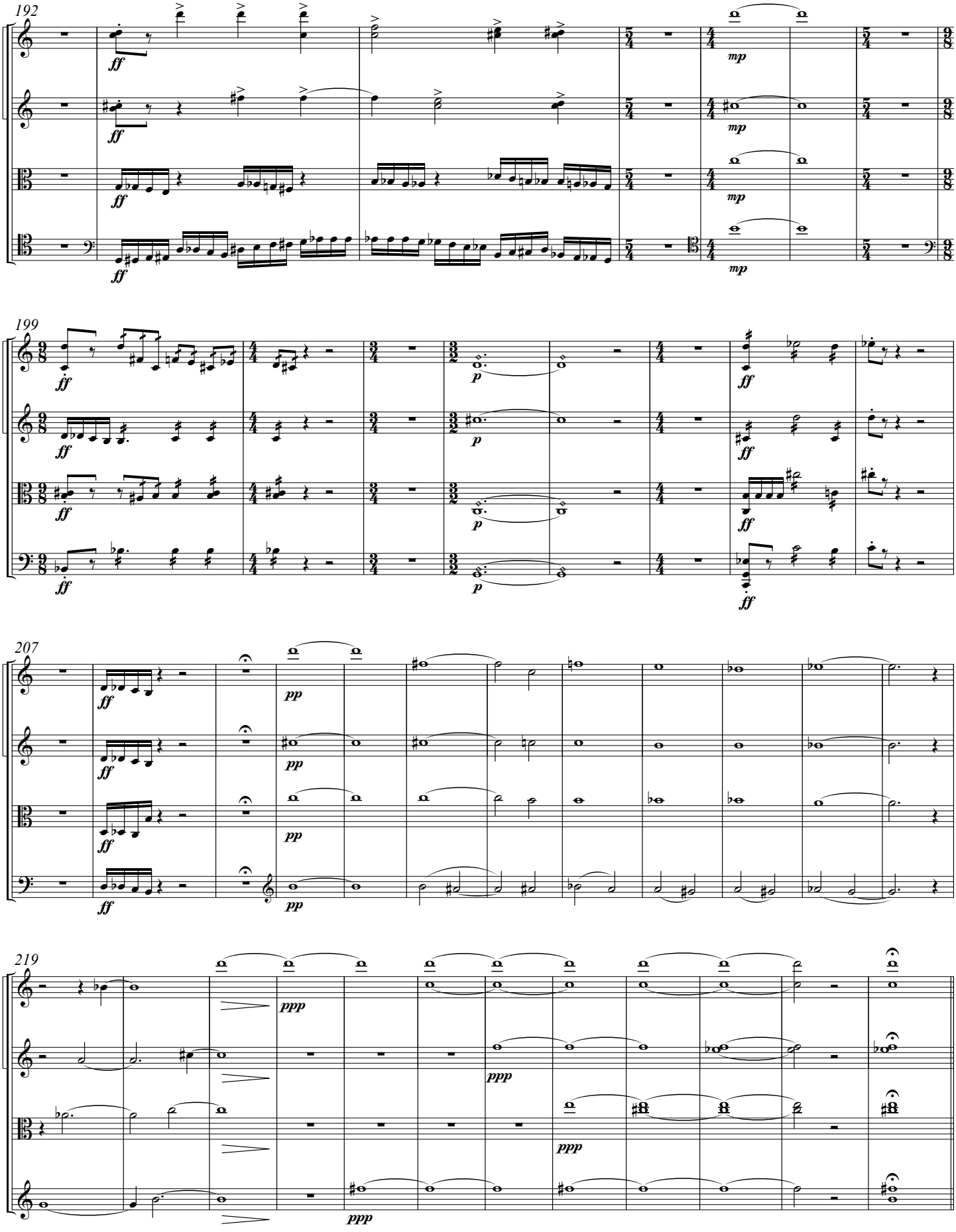


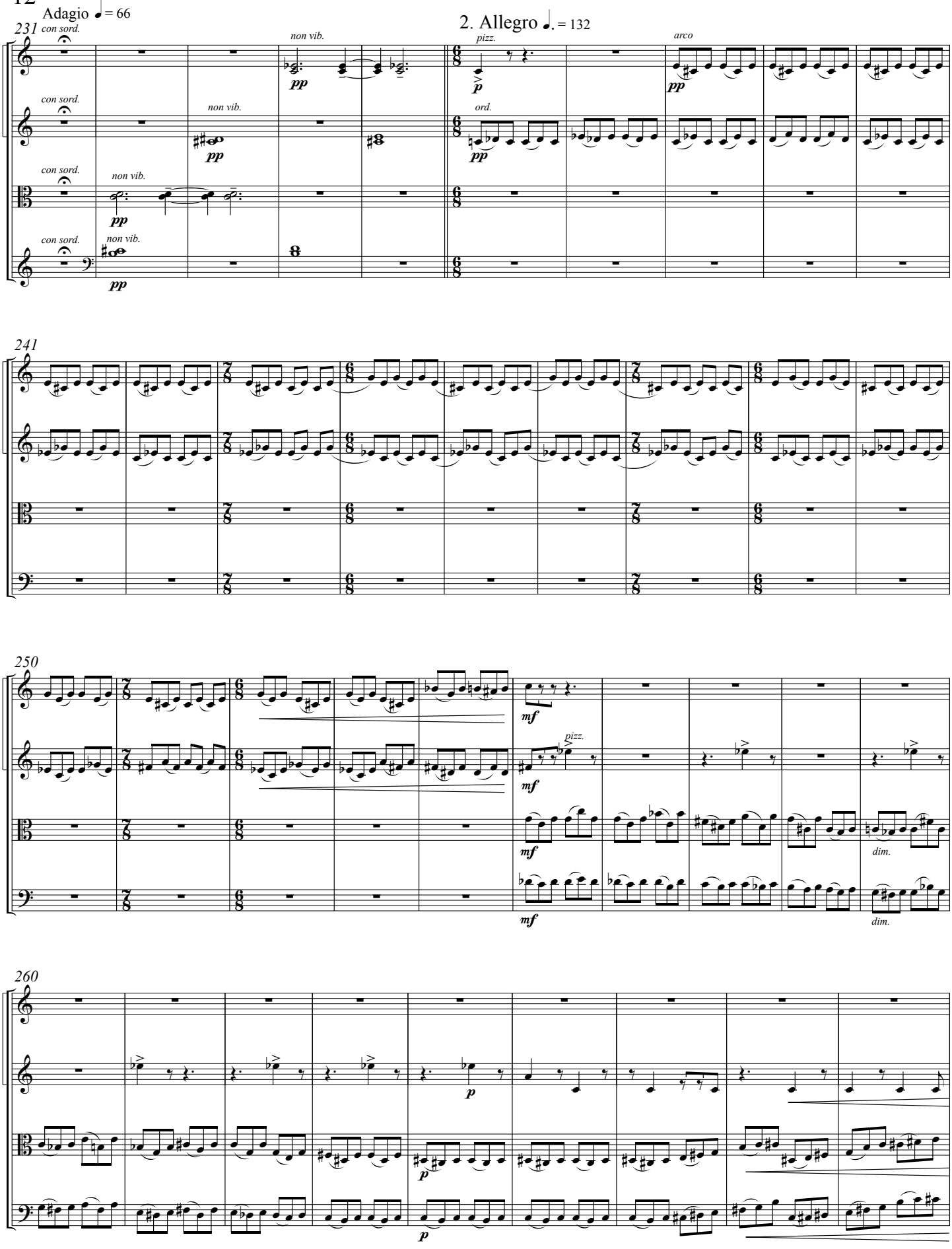
180

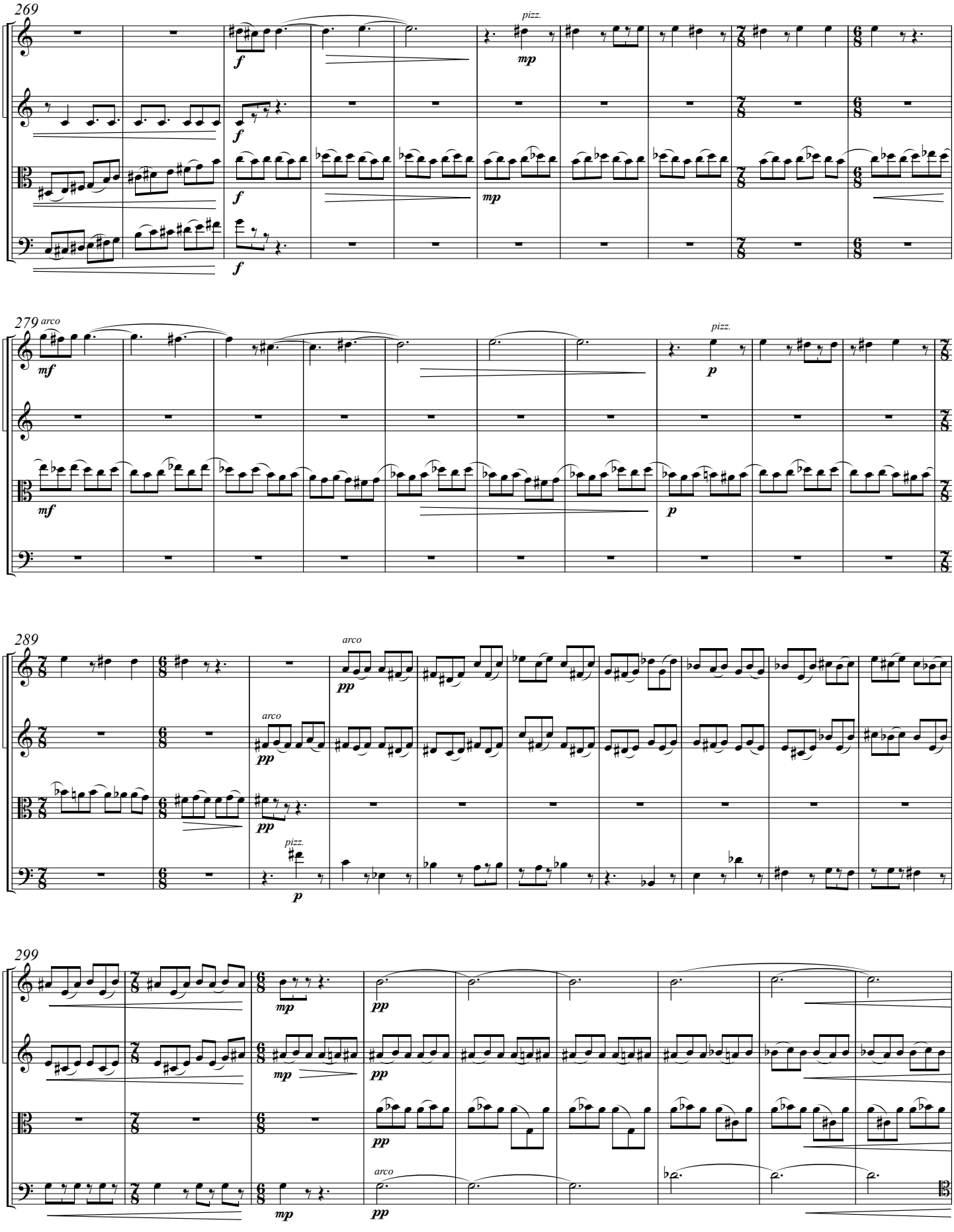


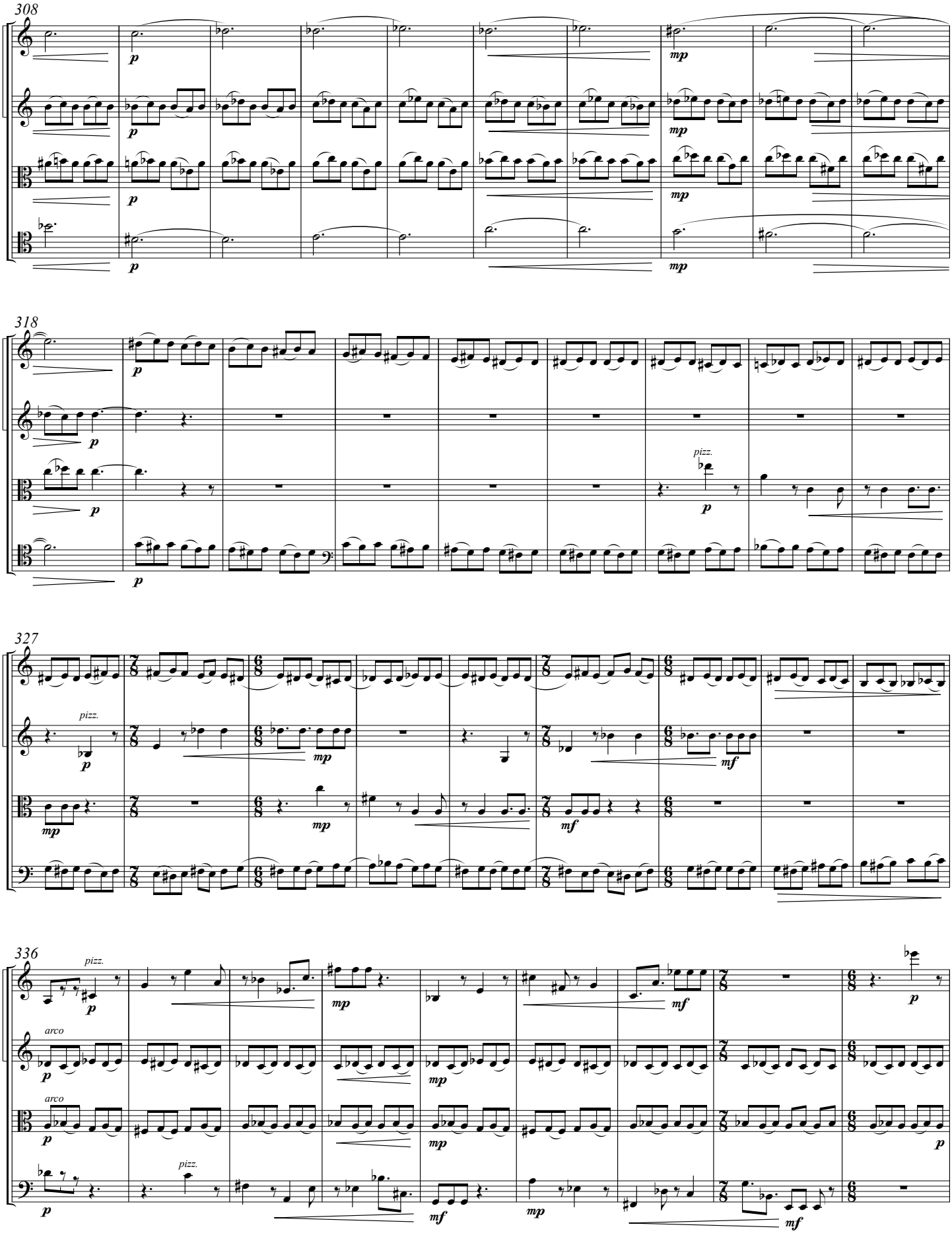
186

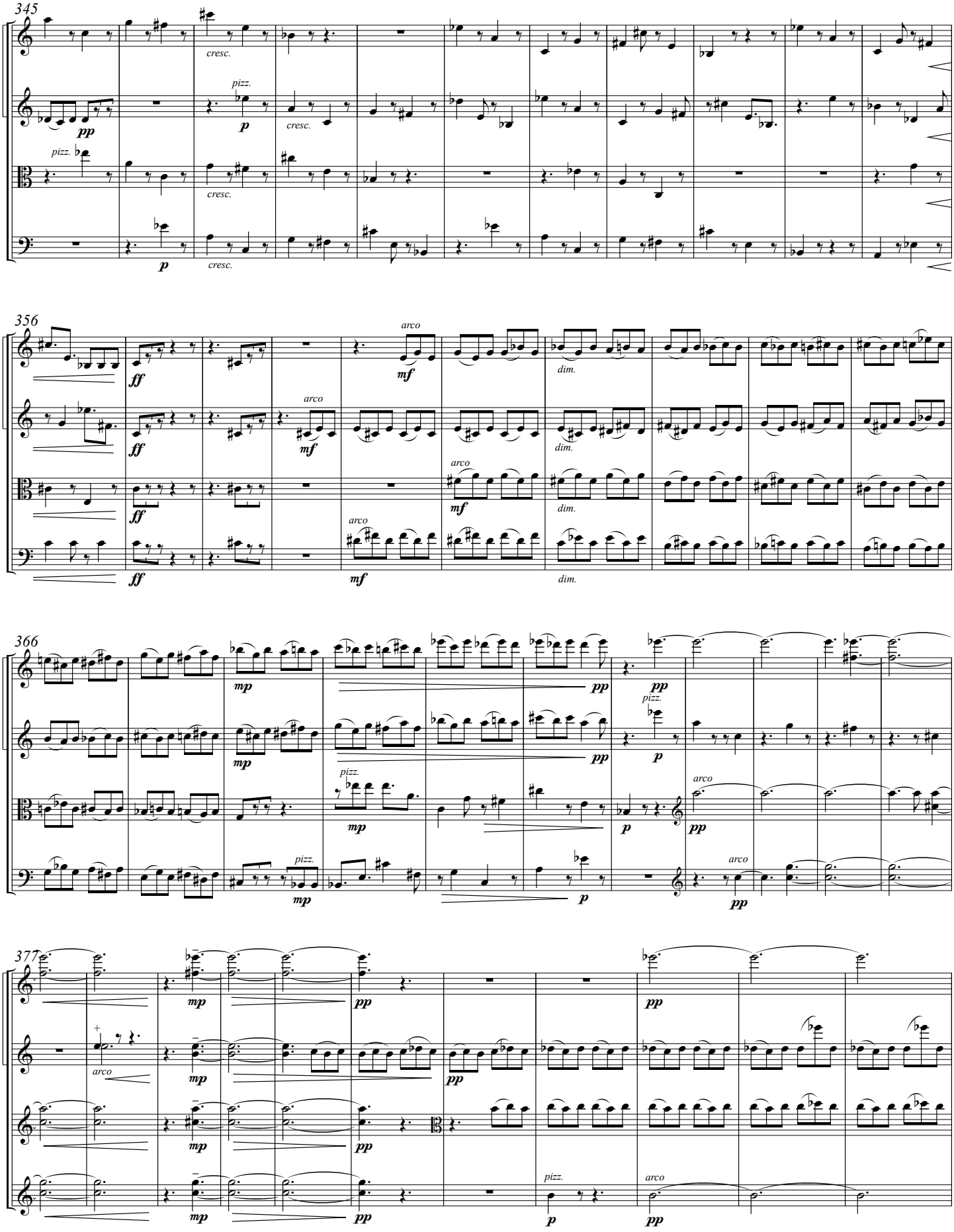


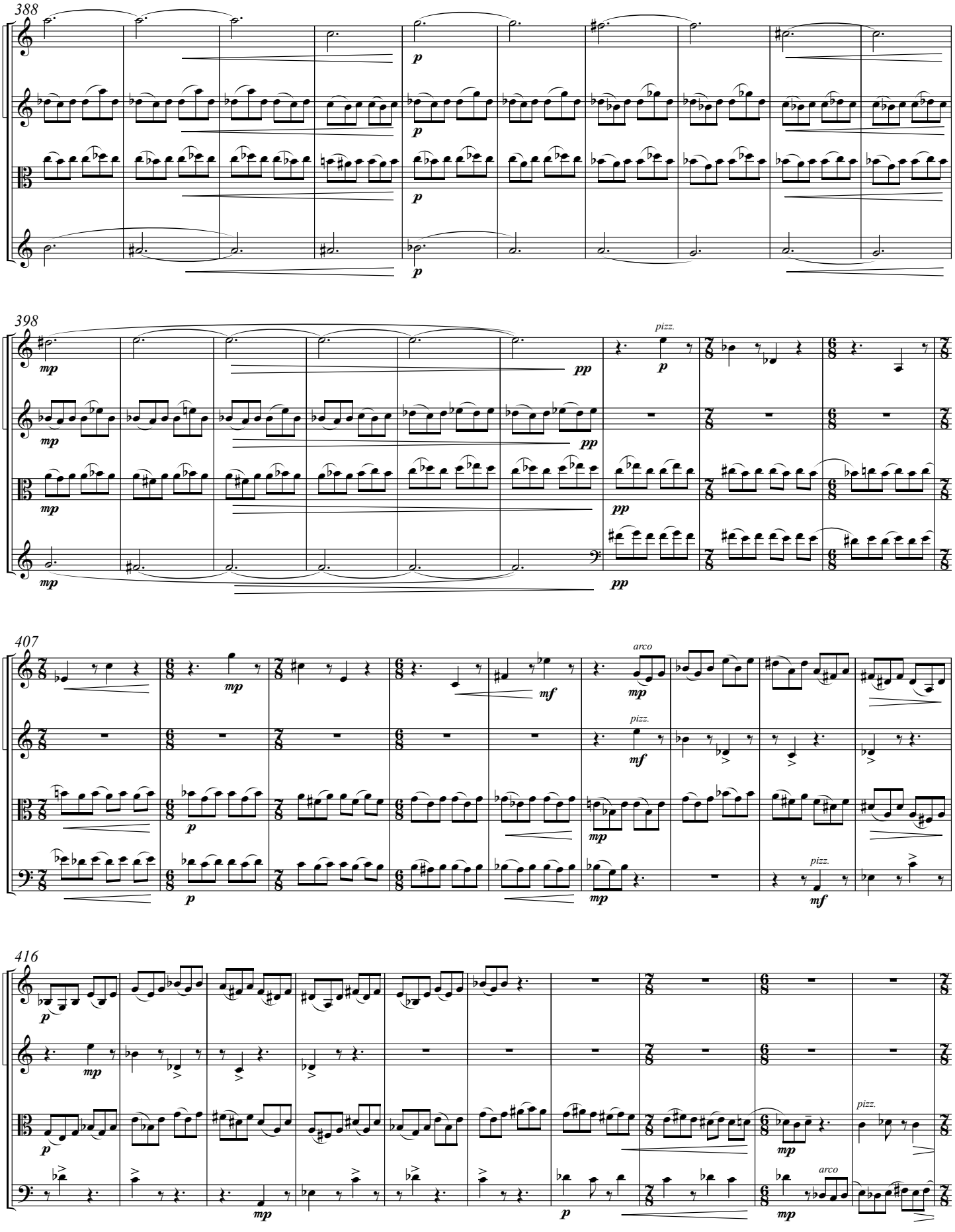

192
199
207
219

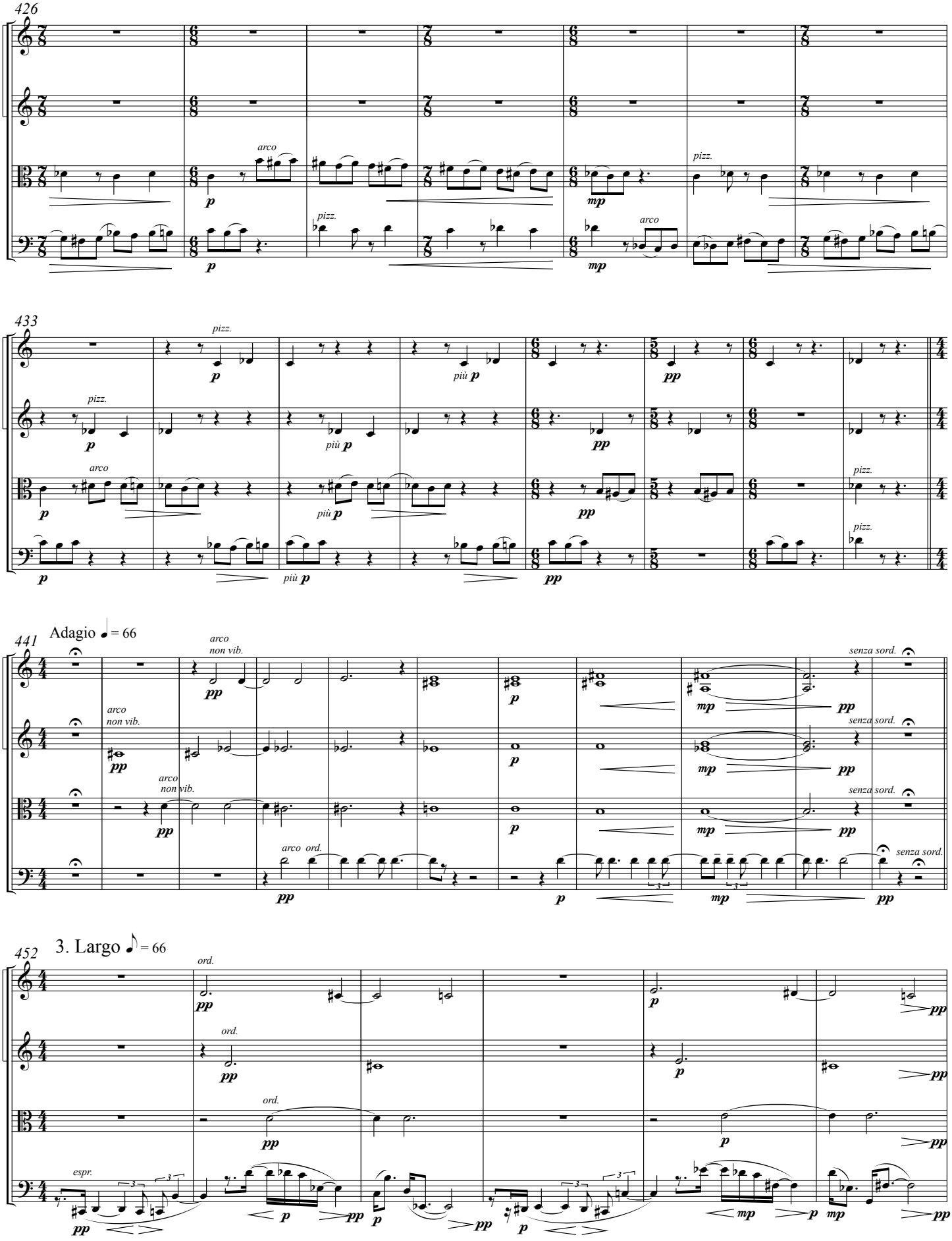

Adagio ♩ = 66
2. Allegro ♩. = 132
231
con sord.
non vib.
pizz.
arco
ord.
241
250
mf
dim.
260
p

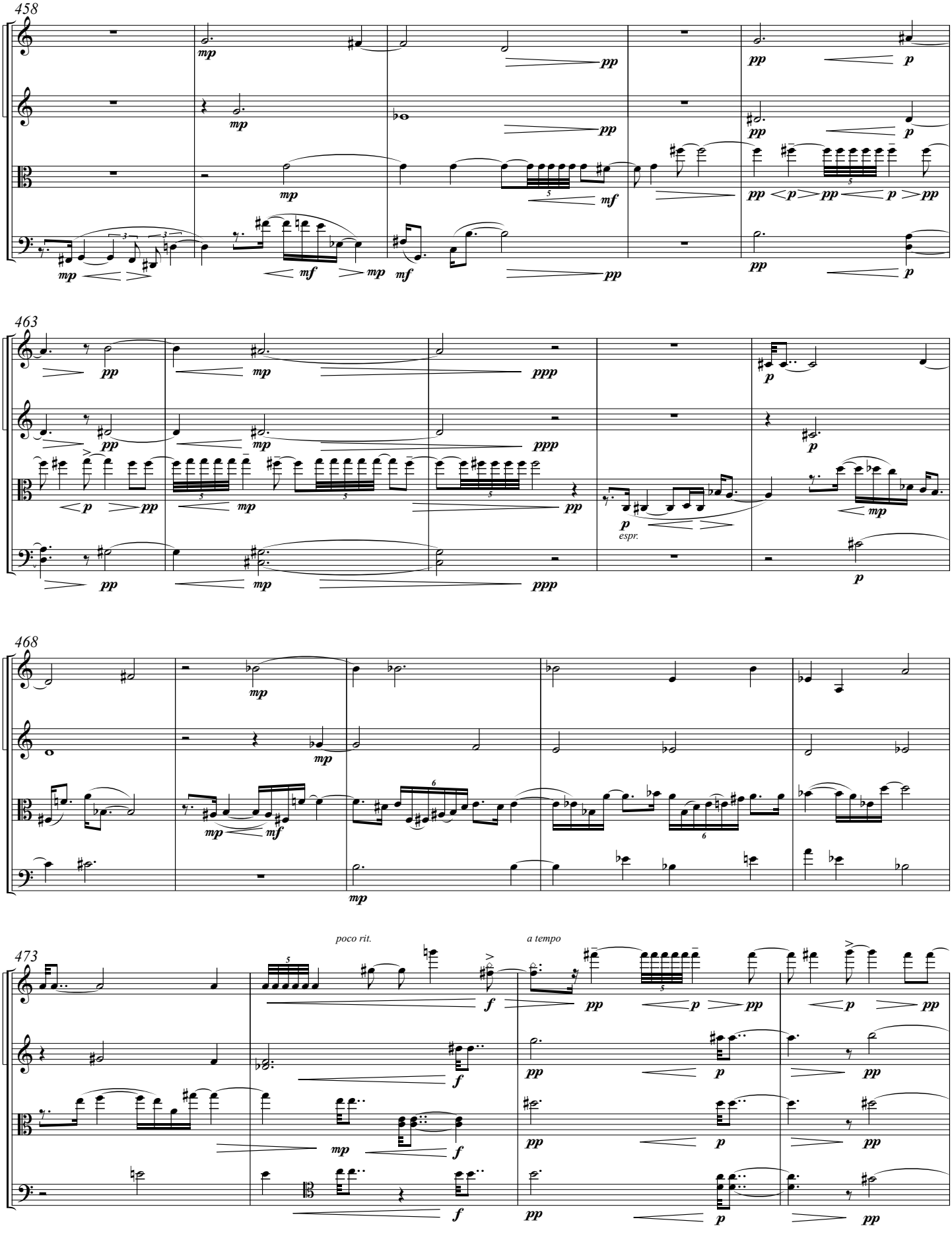

269
pizz.
279 arco
pizz.
289
arco
arco
pizz.
299
arco

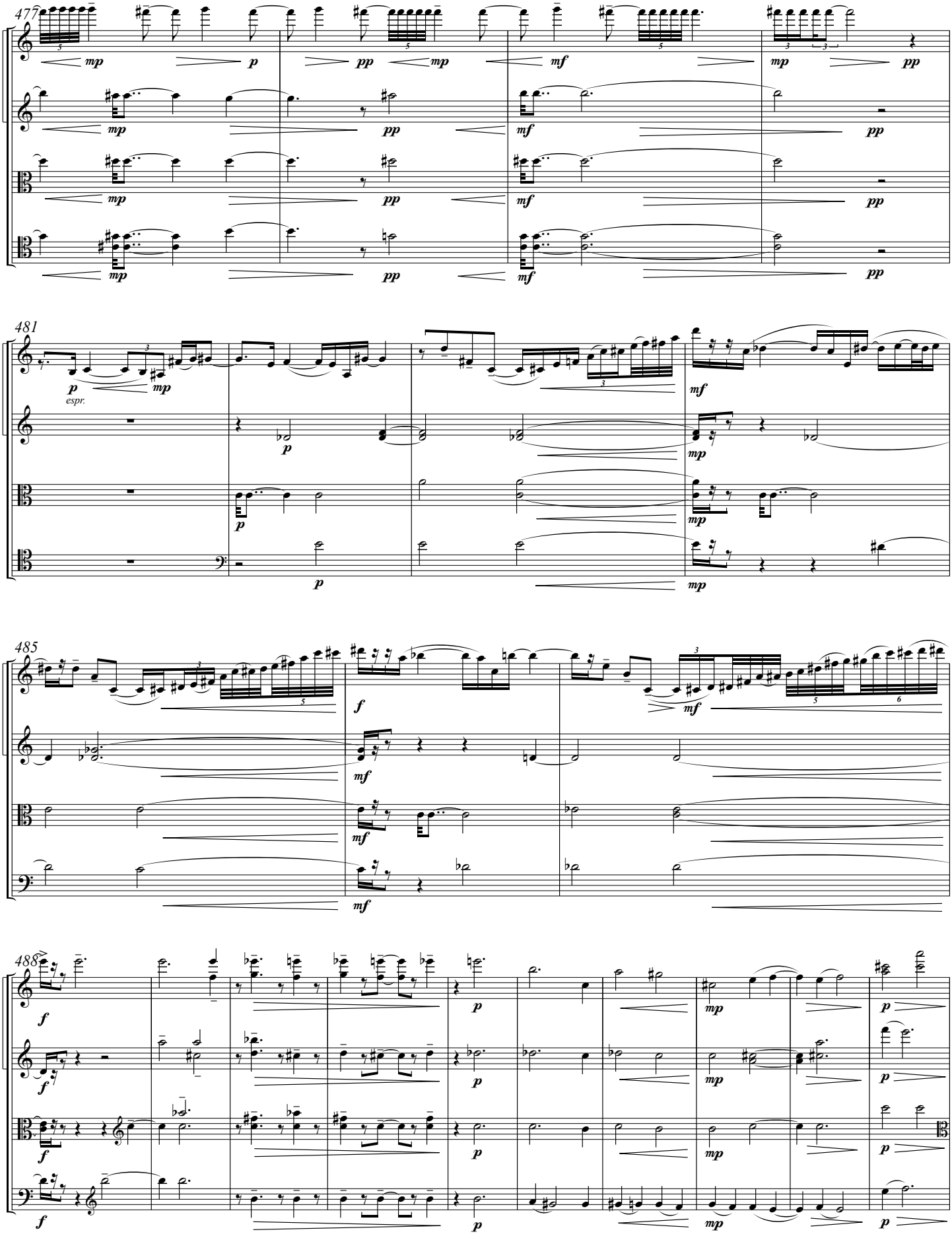

308
318
pizz.
327
pizz.
arco
336
pizz.
arco
pizz.

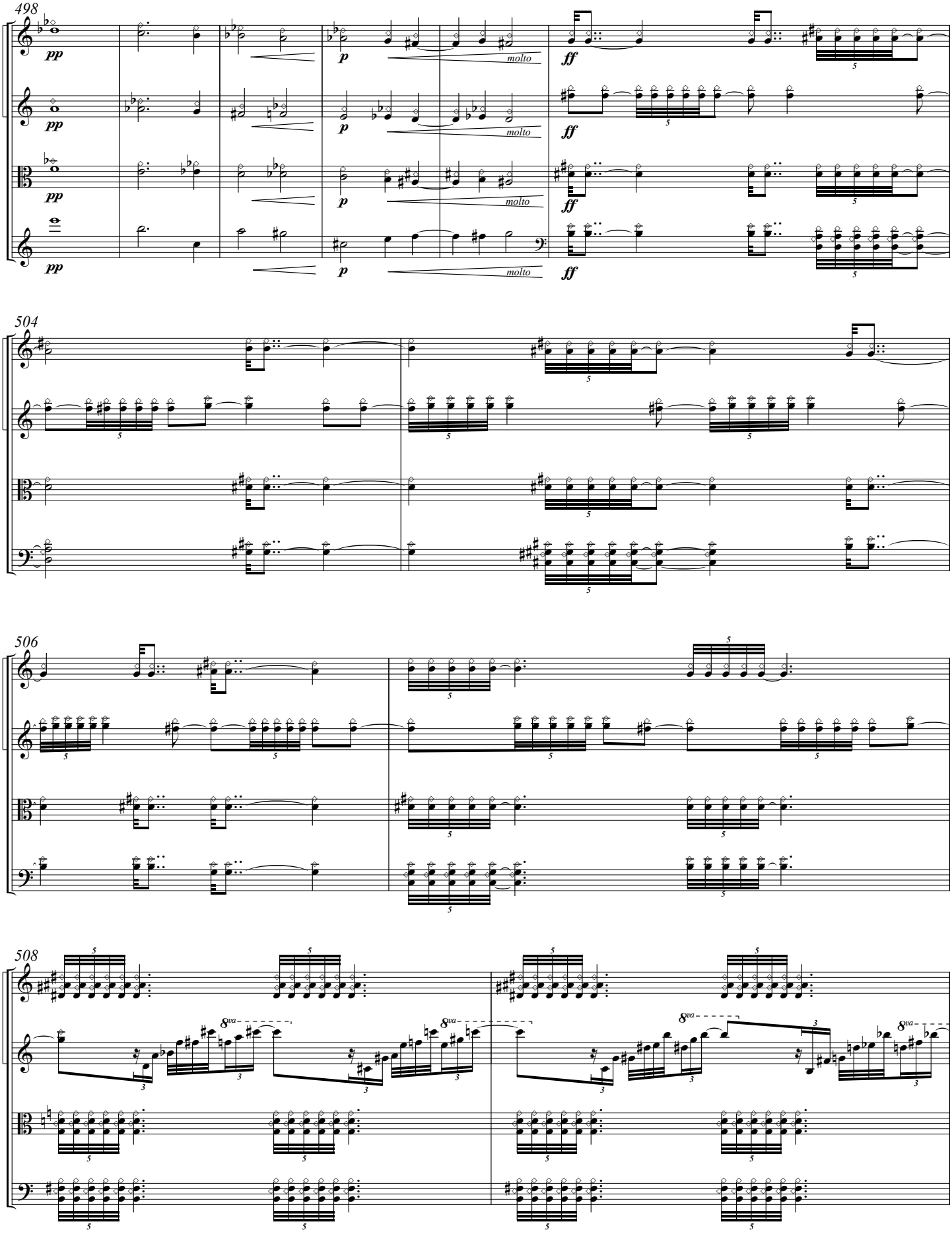

345
cresc.
pizz.
pp
p
cresc.
pizz.
cresc.
p
cresc.
356
arco
ff
mf
dim.
ff
arco
mf
dim.
ff
arco
mf
dim.
ff
arco
mf
dim.
366
mp
pp
pp
pizz.
p
mp
pizz.
mp
arco
p
pp
pizz.
mp
p
arco
pp
377
mp
pp
pp
arco
mp
pp
mp
pp
pizz.
p
arco
pp

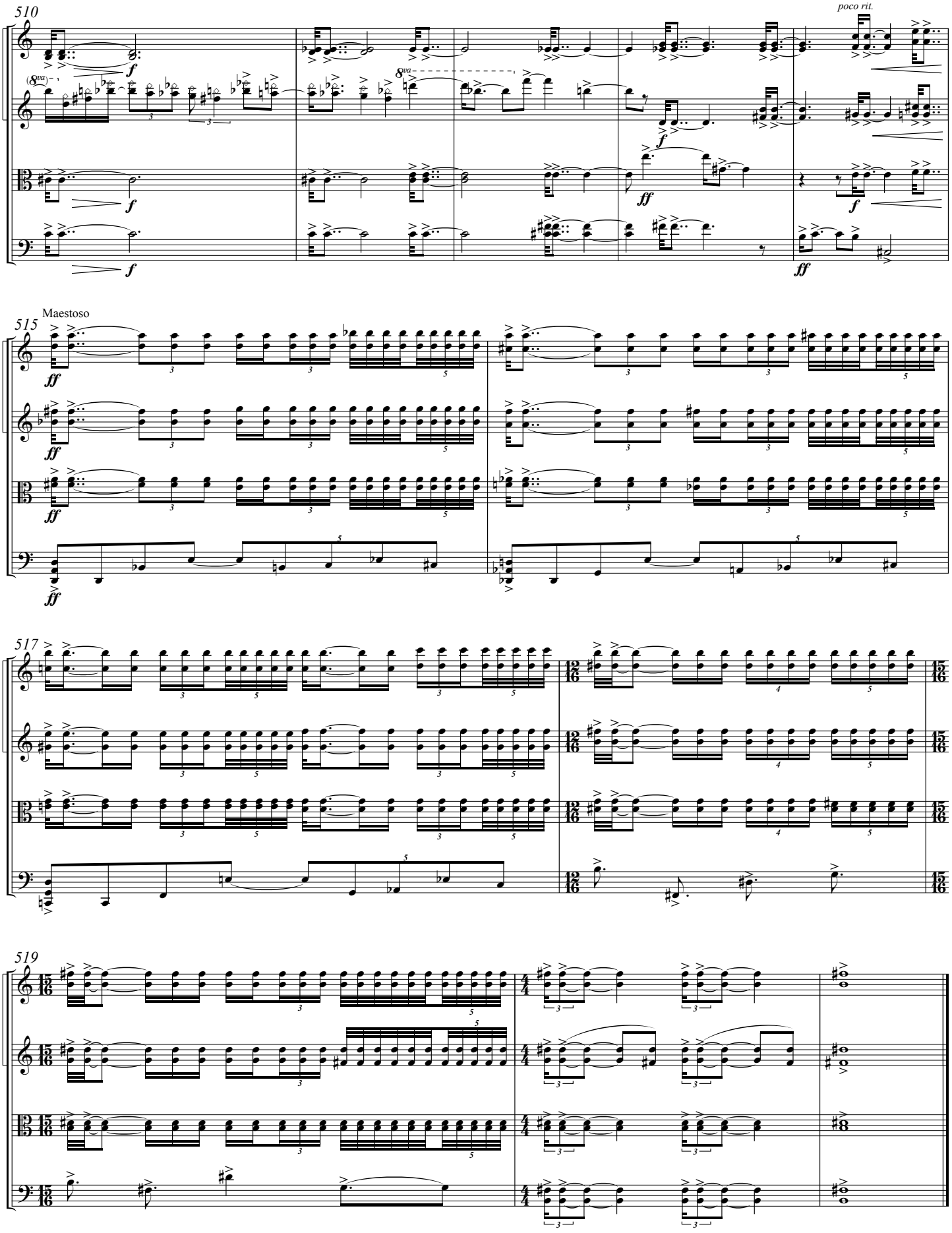

388
p
398
mp
pp
pizz.
407
mf
arco
416


426
arco
pizz.
433
pizz.
più p
pp
441
Adagio ♩ = 66
arco
non vib.
arco ord.
senza sord.
452
3. Largo ♪ = 66
ord.
espr.


458
463
468
473
poco rit.
a tempo
espr.


477
481
485
488


498
pp
p
molto
ff
504
506
508
8va


510
poco rit.
Maestoso
515
517
519