Piano Quartet

for

Violin, Viola, Cello and Piano

by

John Burge

Duration: Approximately 33 minutes

Piano Quartet John Burge

I. Con moto
II. Adagietto—Presto mysterioso—Adagietto
III. Allegro ritmico

About the work…

John Burge's first piano quartet is a big, three-movement work written by a composer who truly revels in the sonorous variety of textures and emotions that are possible in chamber music. Each of the three movements has a particular character but an overall, arc-type formal structure is apparent in the way that the middle movement has a scherzo framed by two slow sections, all of which is surrounded by two faster-paced movements. This central scherzo is unusual not only for its reckless speed, but also in the way that the music hides mysteriously in the background with muted strings and scurrying piano writing. The work's first movement begins with a somewhat minimalistic texture of repeated chords presented in an overlapping fashion between the piano and the strings who collectively employ passages of six-note, double-stopped chords. This opening chordal material contrasts audibly with a quirky figure that wanders around in a more contrapuntal fashion for the rest of the first movement. In the final movement, after a brief introduction, an energetic bass line heard first in the piano propels the music energetically forward in its many returns. Before the end of the third movement, this rhythmic bass line builds to an initially hidden reappearance of the first movement's repeated chords thereby reinforcing the overall arc of the composition. John Burge is grateful to the talented performers of the *Ensemble Made in Canada* piano quartet for commissioning this work and to whom the work is dedicated. The work was premiered on the ensemble's tour of British Columbia and Alberta in the spring of 2012.

About the composer…

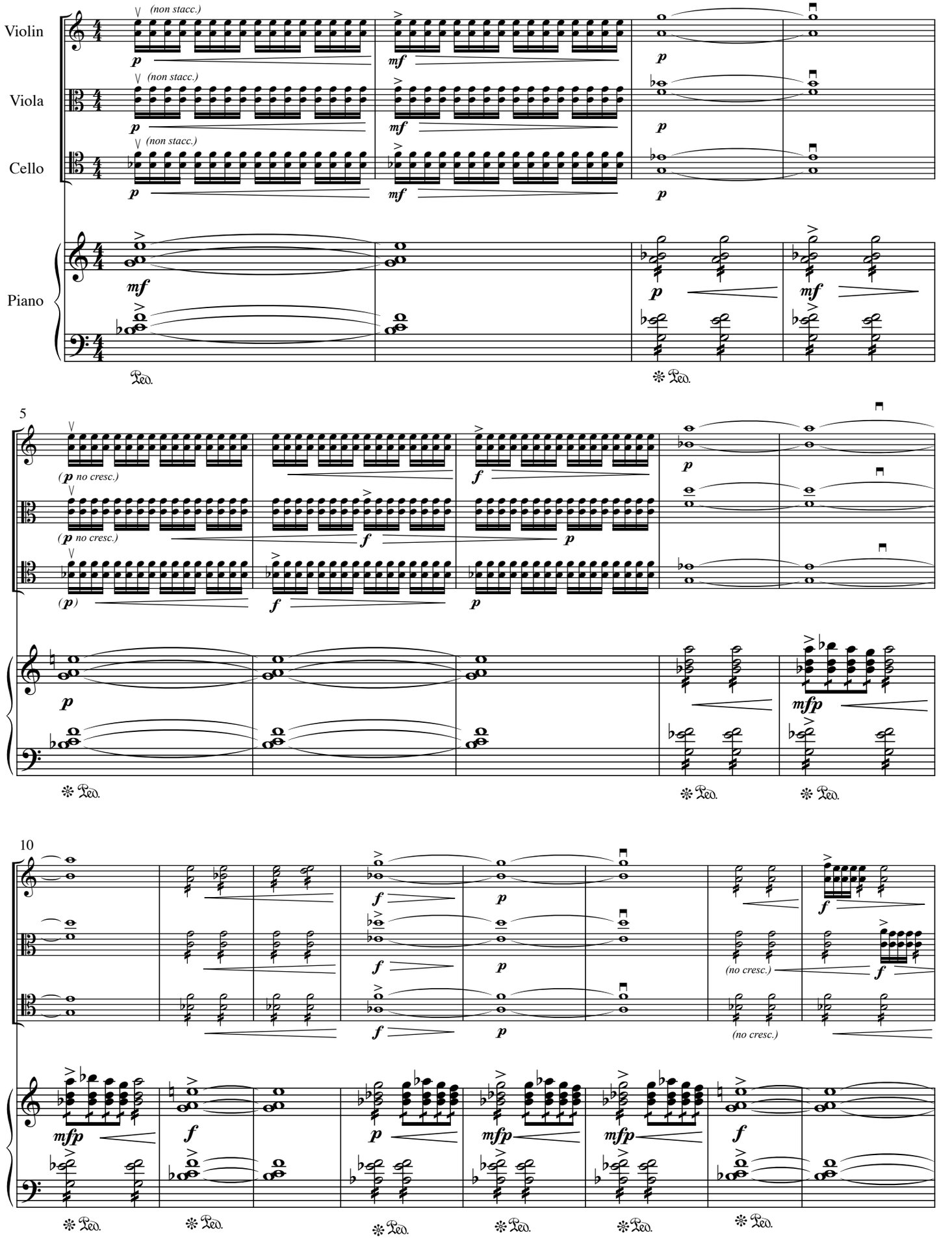
Dr. John Burge (b. 1961, Dryden, Ontario) grew up in Calgary and holds degrees in Composition and Theory from the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia. Since 1987 he has been teaching at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario where he currently holds the position of Full Professor. He has composed a large body of chamber and orchestral compositions but is particularly well known for his choral music. His composition, ***Angels' Voices***, for choir and orchestra, received the 2006 Outstanding New Choral Composition Award from the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors and was performed in New York City's Carnegie Hall in 2005. The recording of his work, ***Flanders Fields Reflections***, by Sinfonia Toronto on the Marquis Classics label, received the 2009 Juno Award for the Best Canadian Classical Composition. In addition to Sinfonia Toronto, John Burge has been very fortunate to write new works on a regular basis for a number of other ensembles including the Kingston Symphony, the Thirteen Strings of Ottawa and the Hannaford Street Silver Band. In addition to his first piano quartet, chamber music features prominently in John Burge's recent compositions with 2012 also including the premiere performance of his first string quartet (commissioned by the Penderecki String Quartet). A passionate advocate for Canadian music, he was a member of the Executive of the Canadian League of Composers from 1993-2007, serving as President from 1998-2006. He is currently a member of the SOCAN Foundation board of directors.

Commissioned by the *Ensemble Made In Canada* Piano Quartet

Piano Quartet

Con moto ♩ = 76

John Burge



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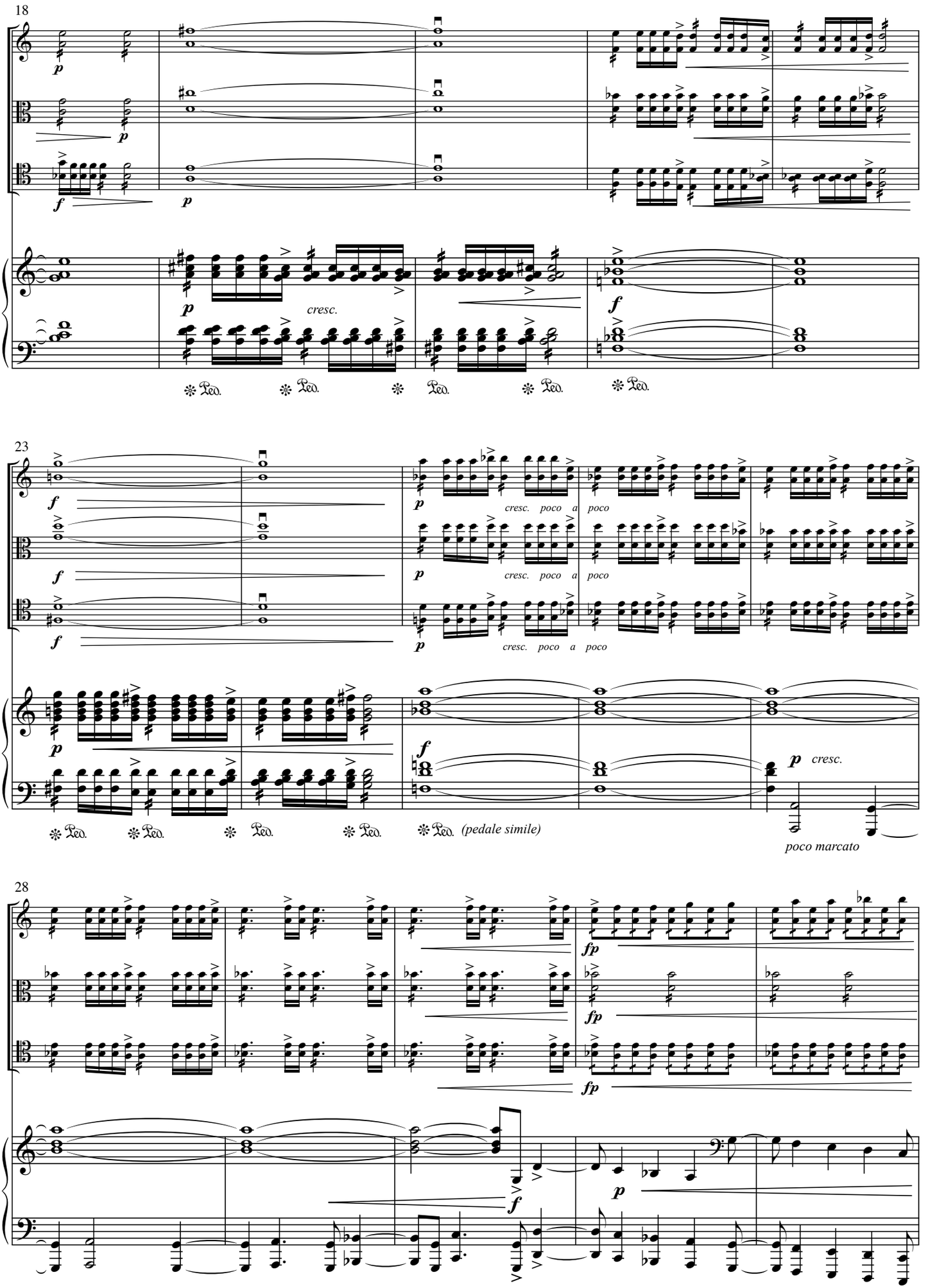
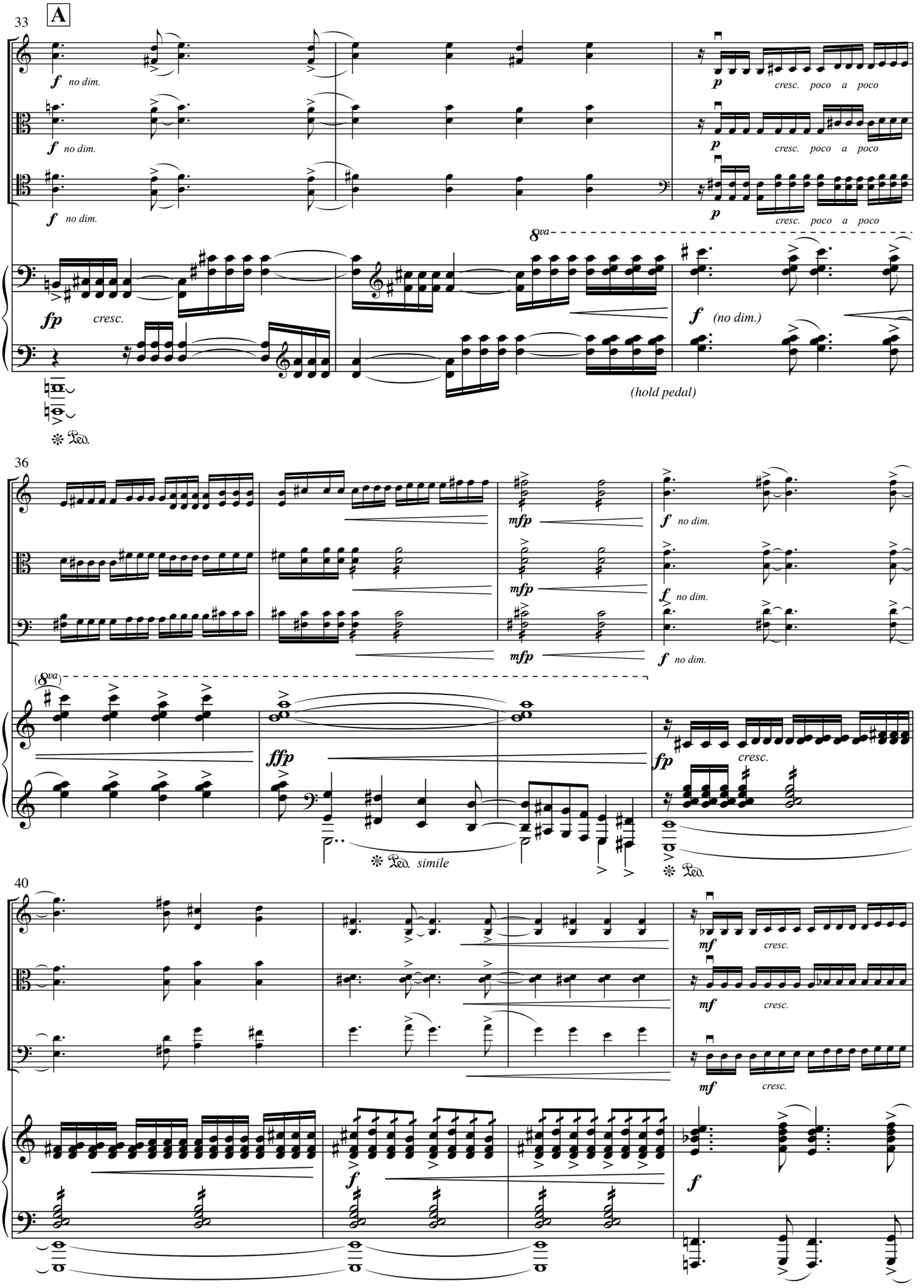
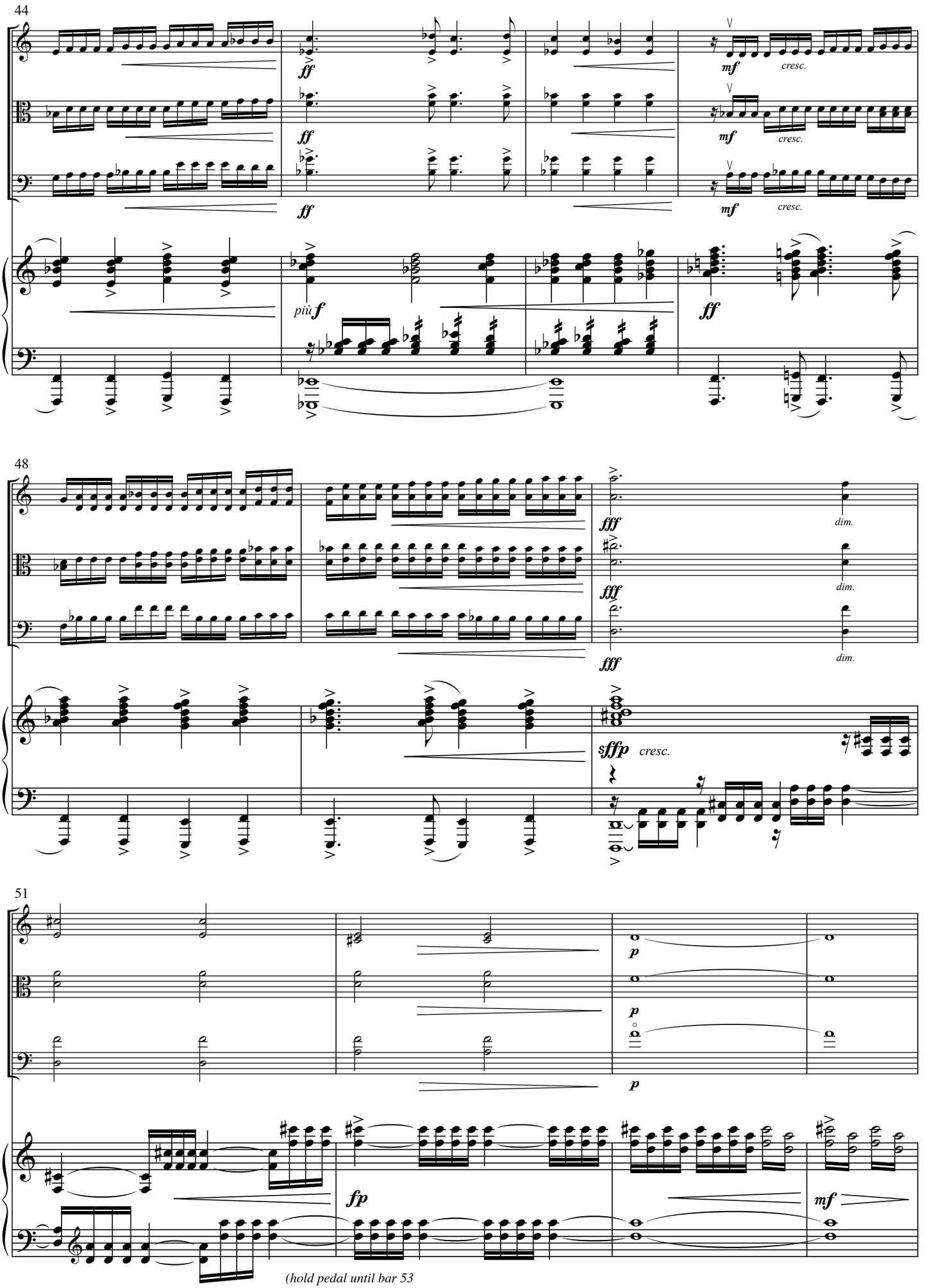
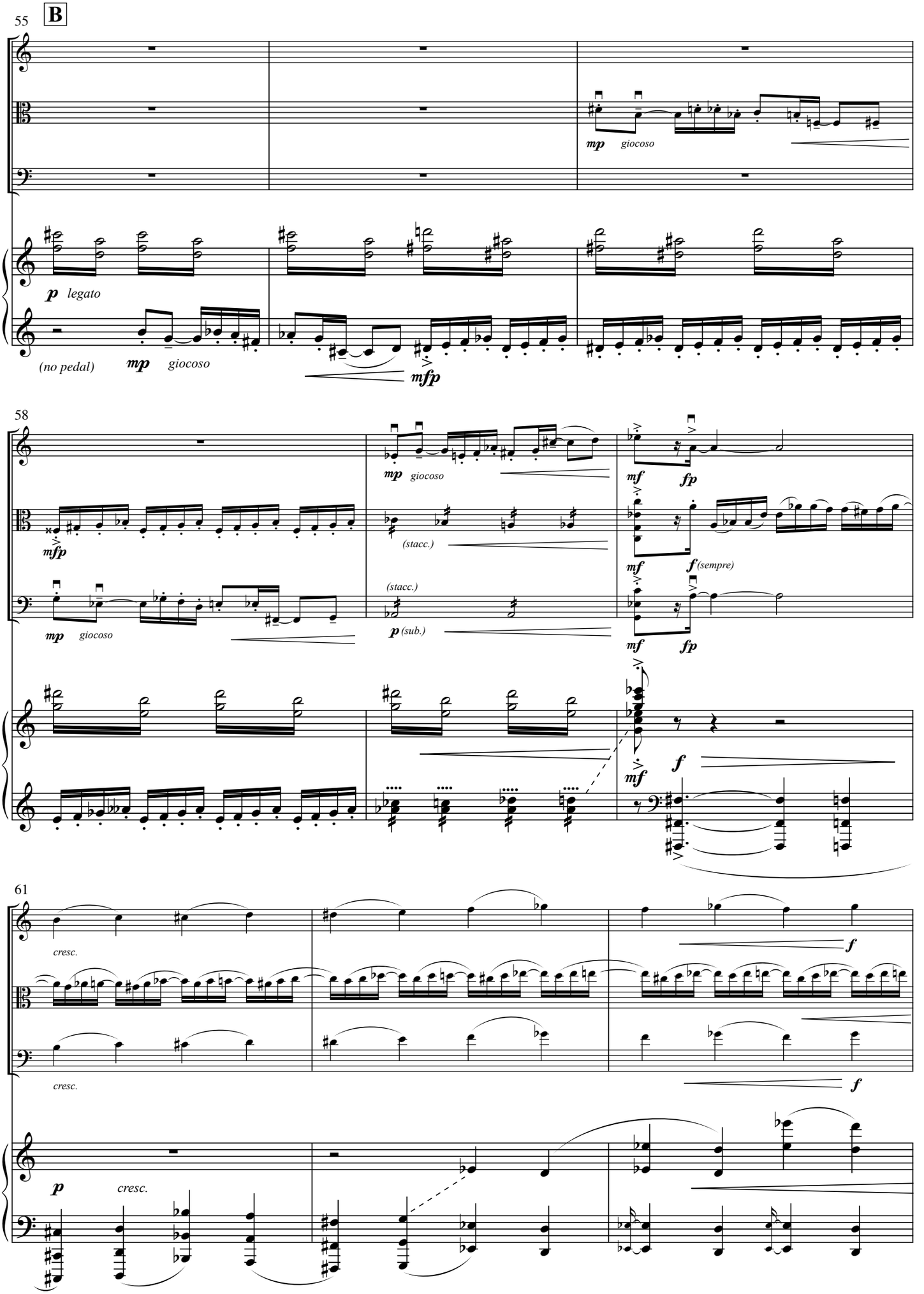
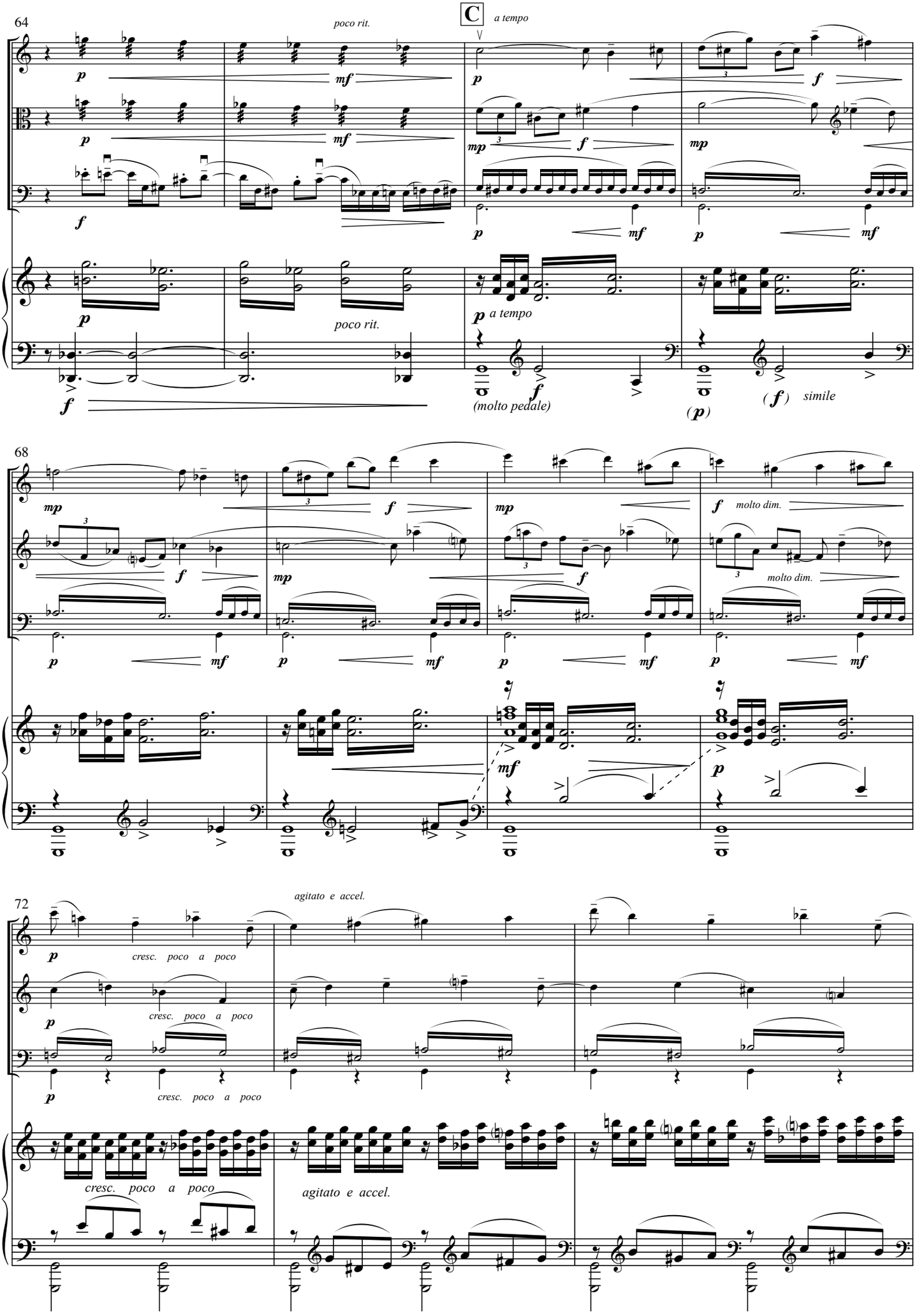
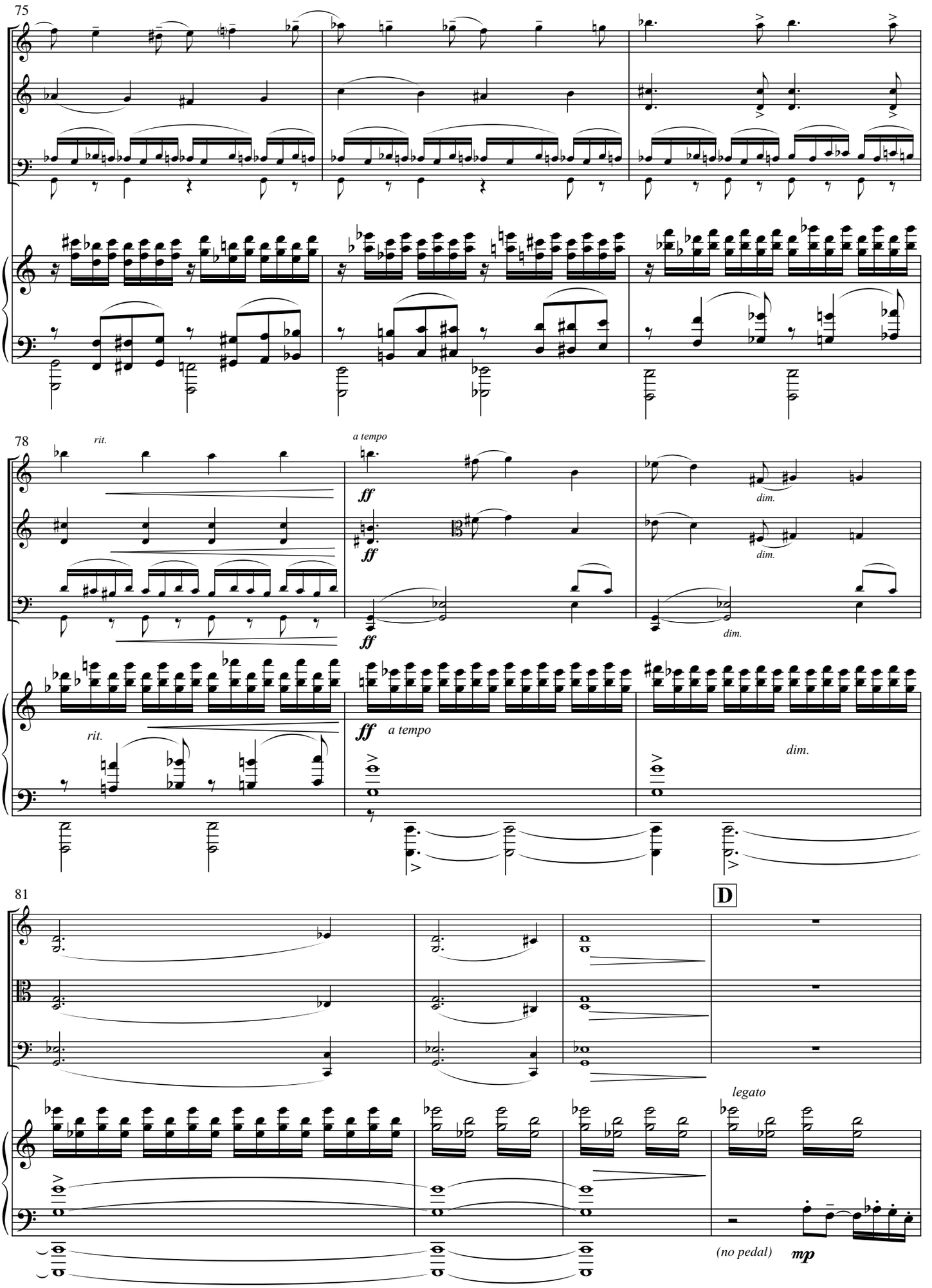

18
cresc.
23
cresc. poco a poco
(pedale simile)
poco marcato
28

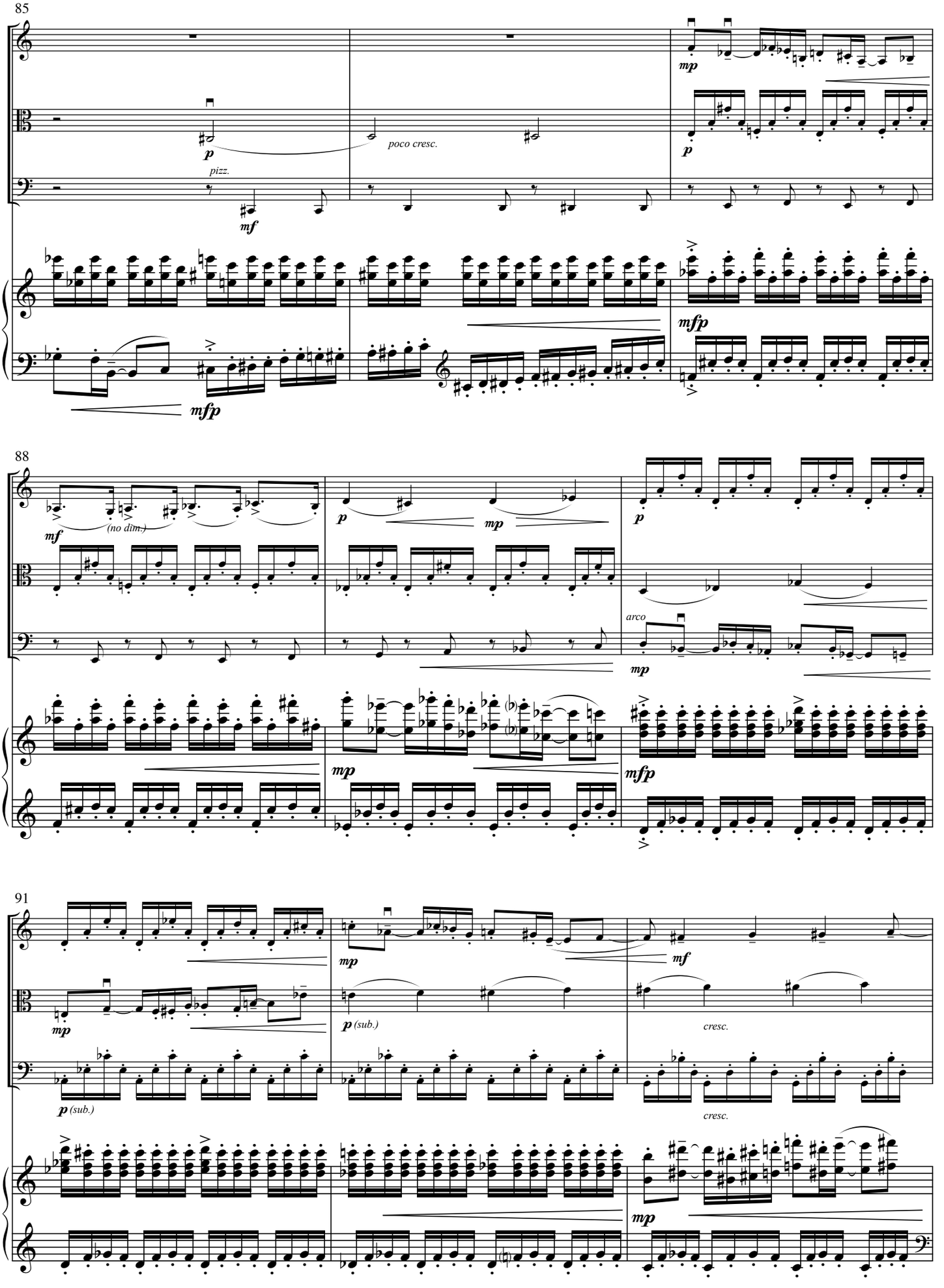

A
33
f no dim.
p cresc. poco a poco
8va
fp cresc.
f (no dim.)
(hold pedal)
Ped.
36
mfp
f no dim.
(8va)
ffp
fp cresc.
Ped. simile
Ped.
40
mf cresc.
f

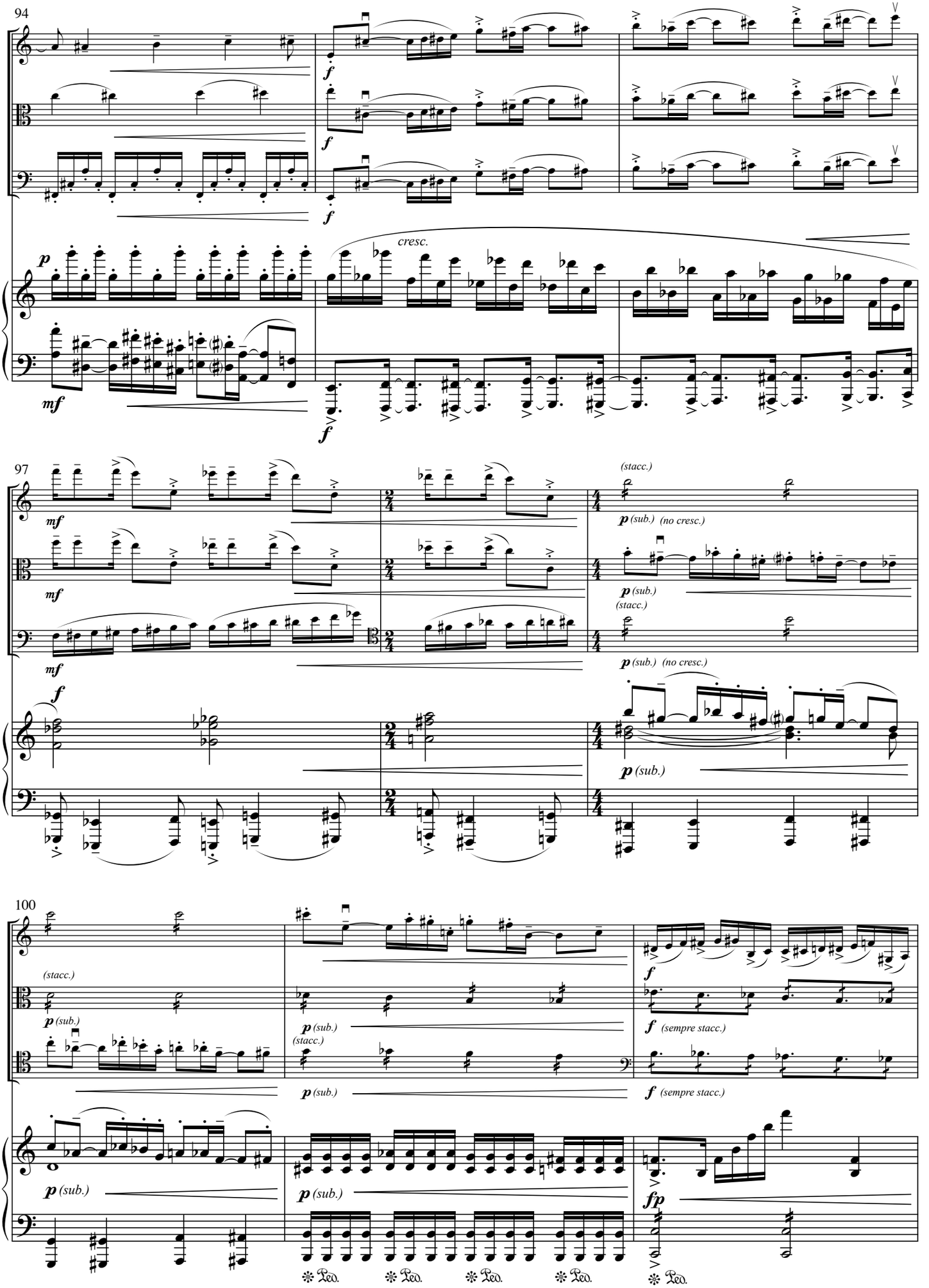

44
ff
mf
cresc.
più f
48
fff
dim.
sfffp
cresc.
51
p
fp
mf
(hold pedal until bar 53

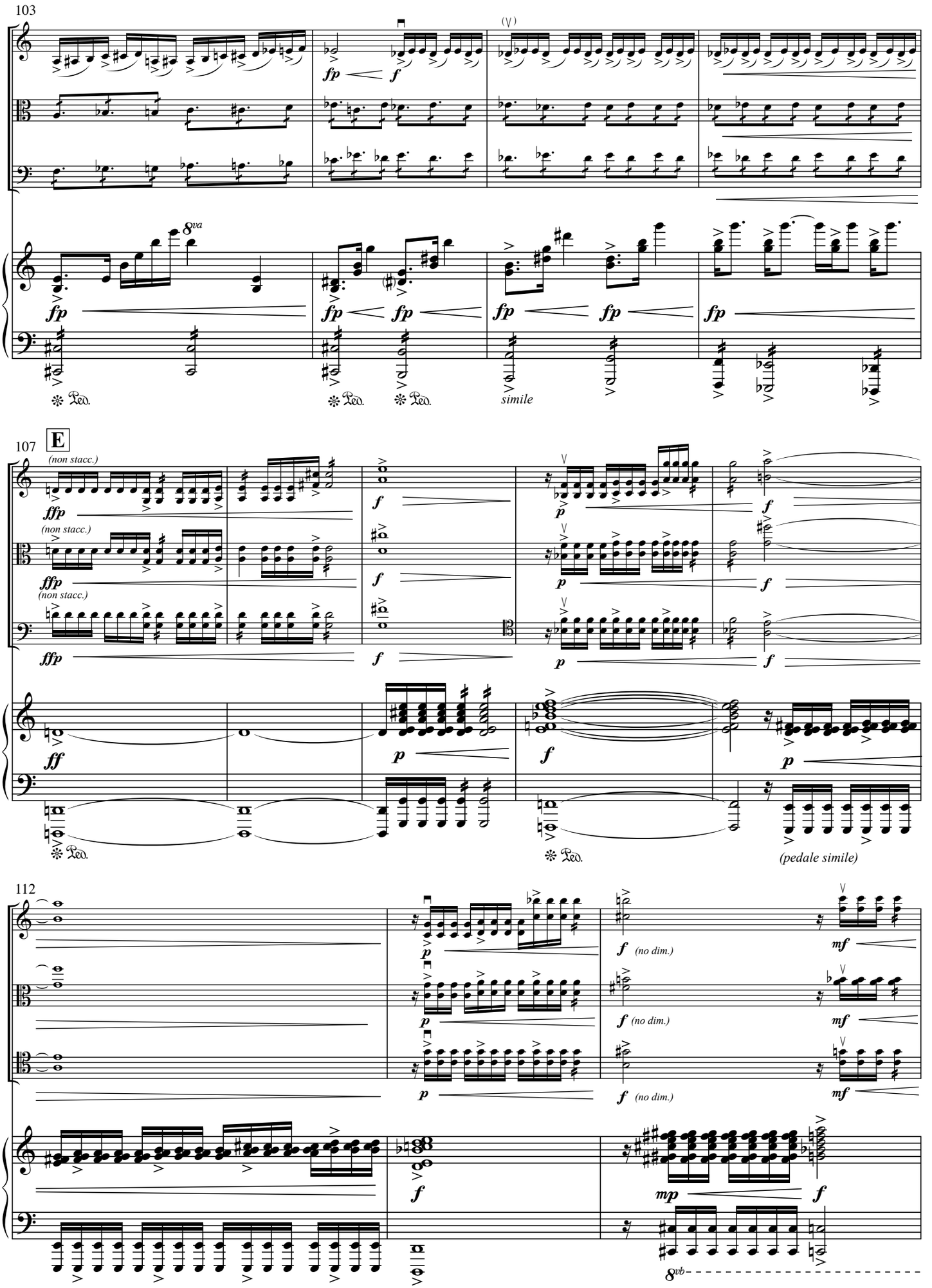

55
B
mp giocoso
p legato
(no pedal)
mp giocoso
mfp
58
mp giocoso
mfp
(stacc.)
(stacc.)
p (sub.)
mf
fp
mf
f (sempre)
mf
fp
mf
f
61
cresc.
f
cresc.
f
p
cresc.

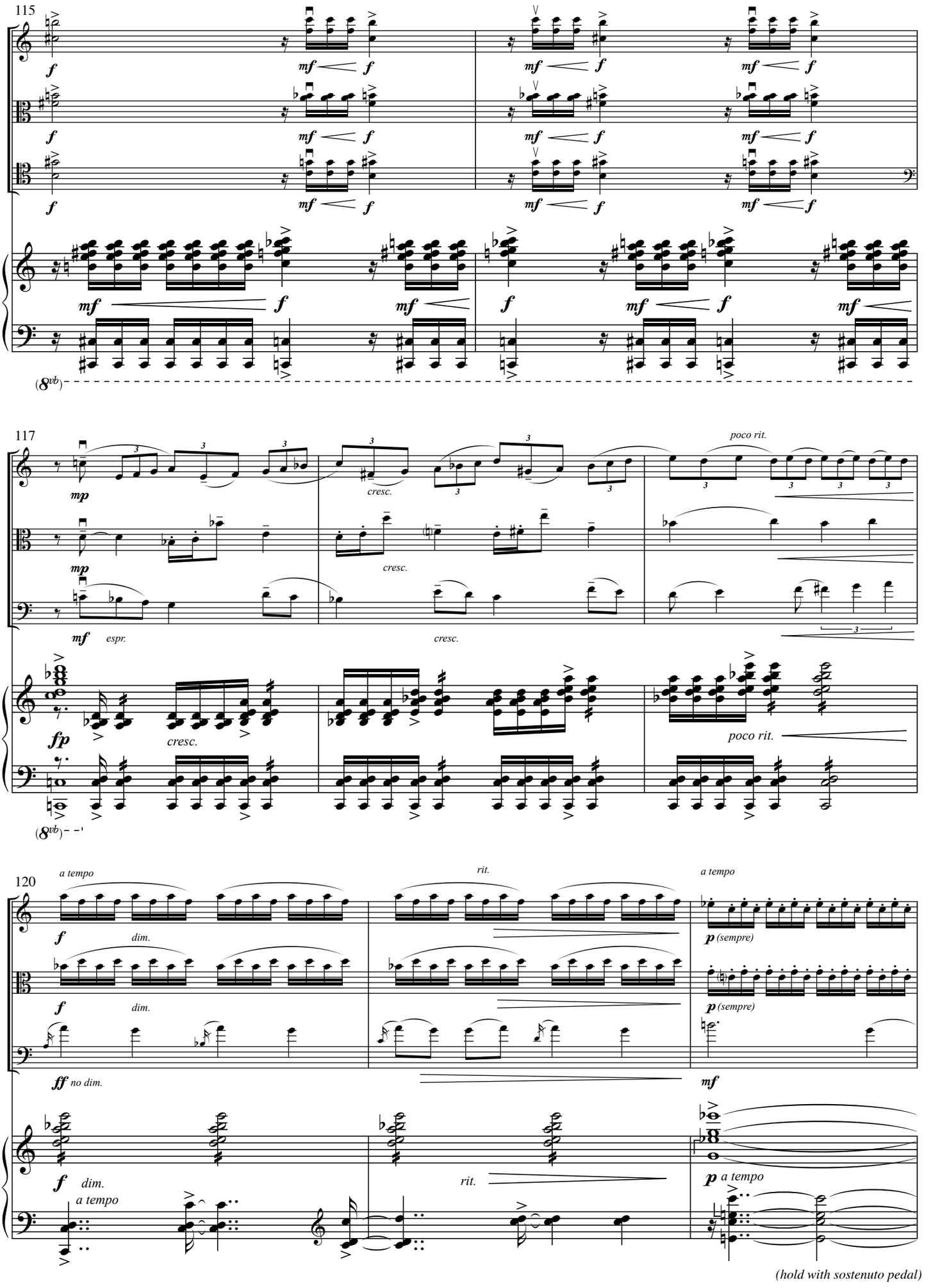

64
poco rit.
C
a tempo
molto pedale
simile
68
molto dim.
72
agitato e accel.
cresc. poco a poco

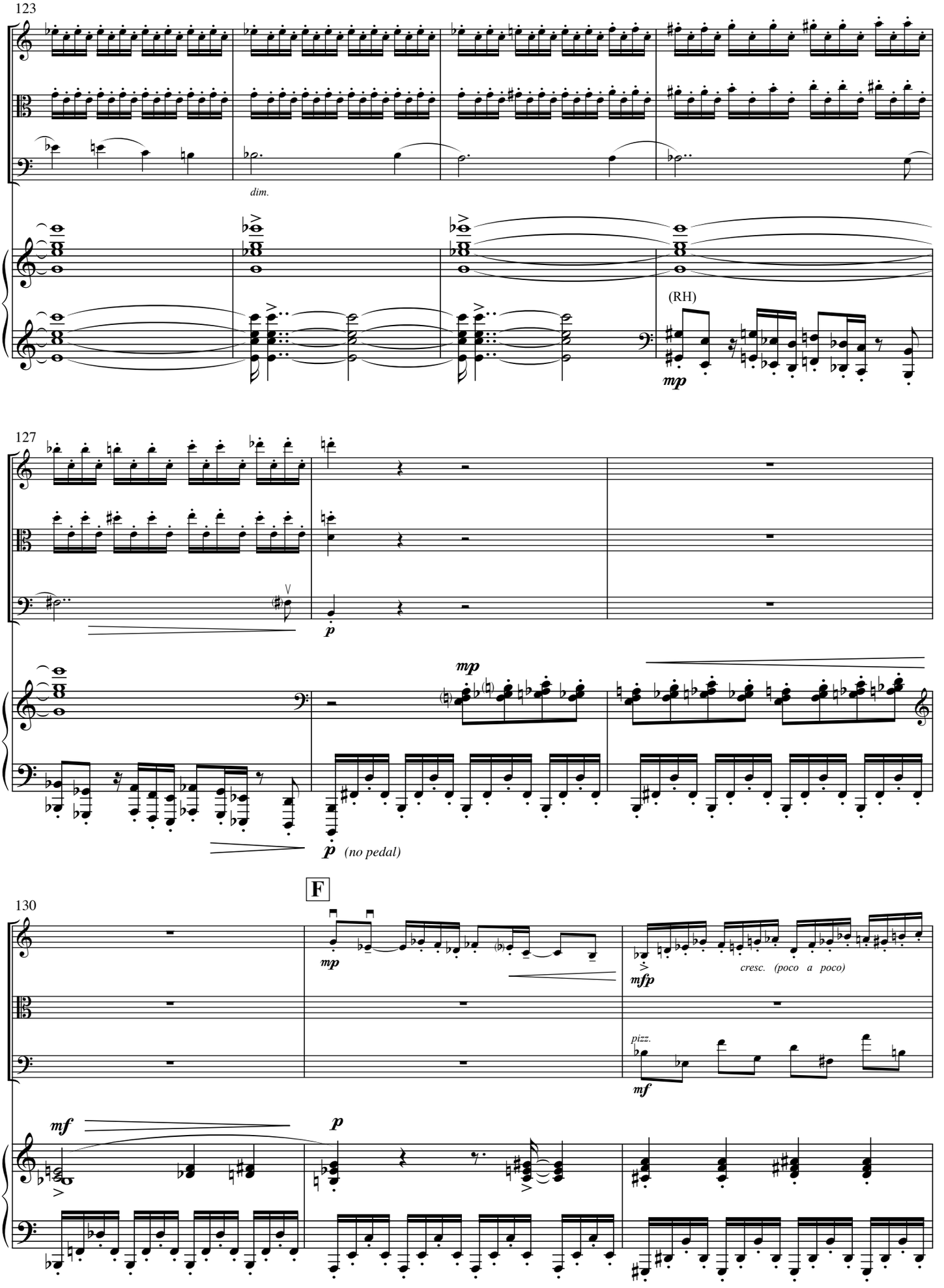

75
78
rit.
a tempo
ff
dim.
81
D
legato
(no pedal)
mp

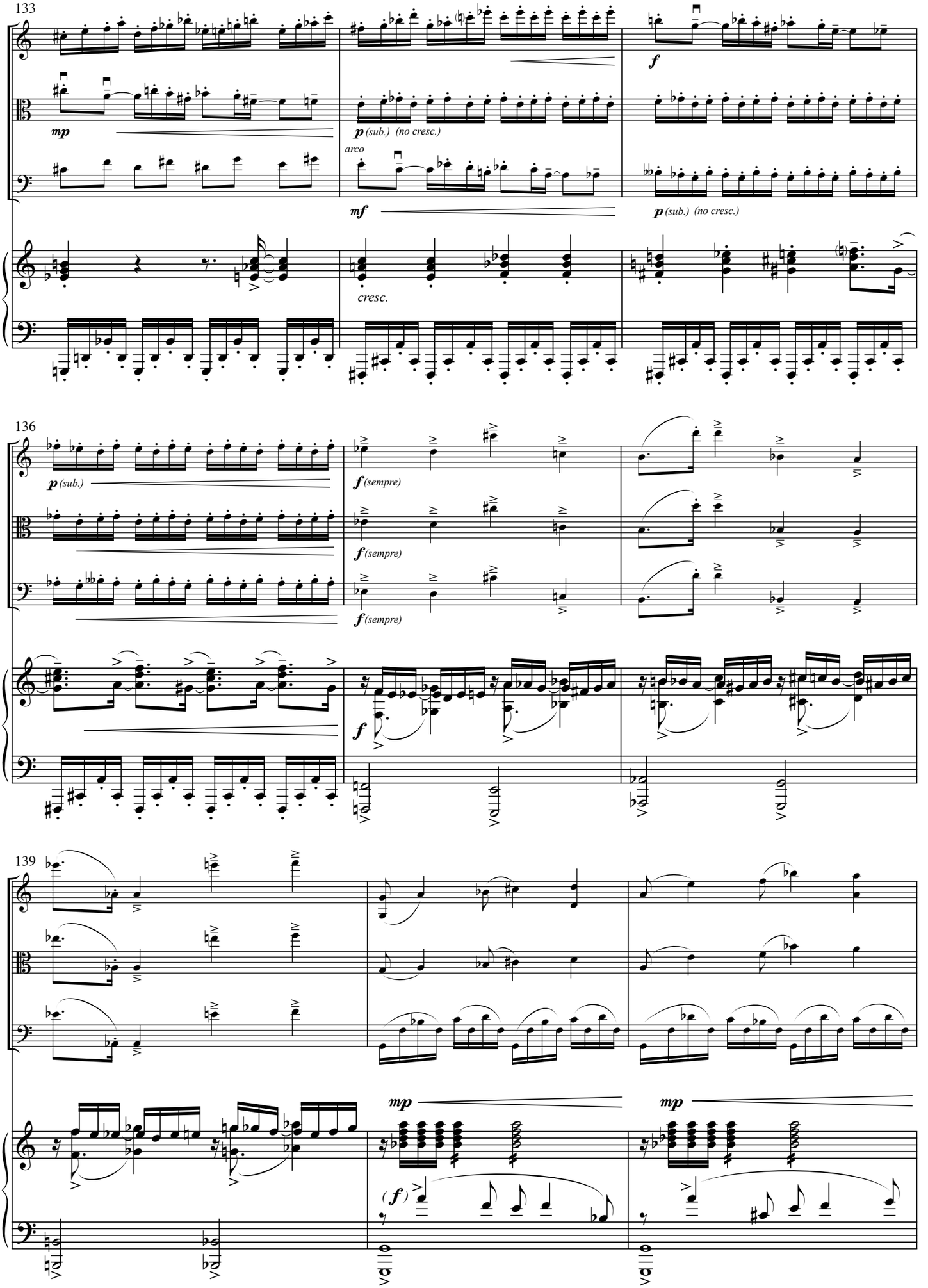

85
mp
p
pizz.
mf
poco cresc.
p
mfp
mfp
88
mf
(no dim.)
p
mp
p
arco
mp
mp
mfp
91
mp
mp
mf
p (sub.)
cresc.
p (sub.)
cresc.
mp

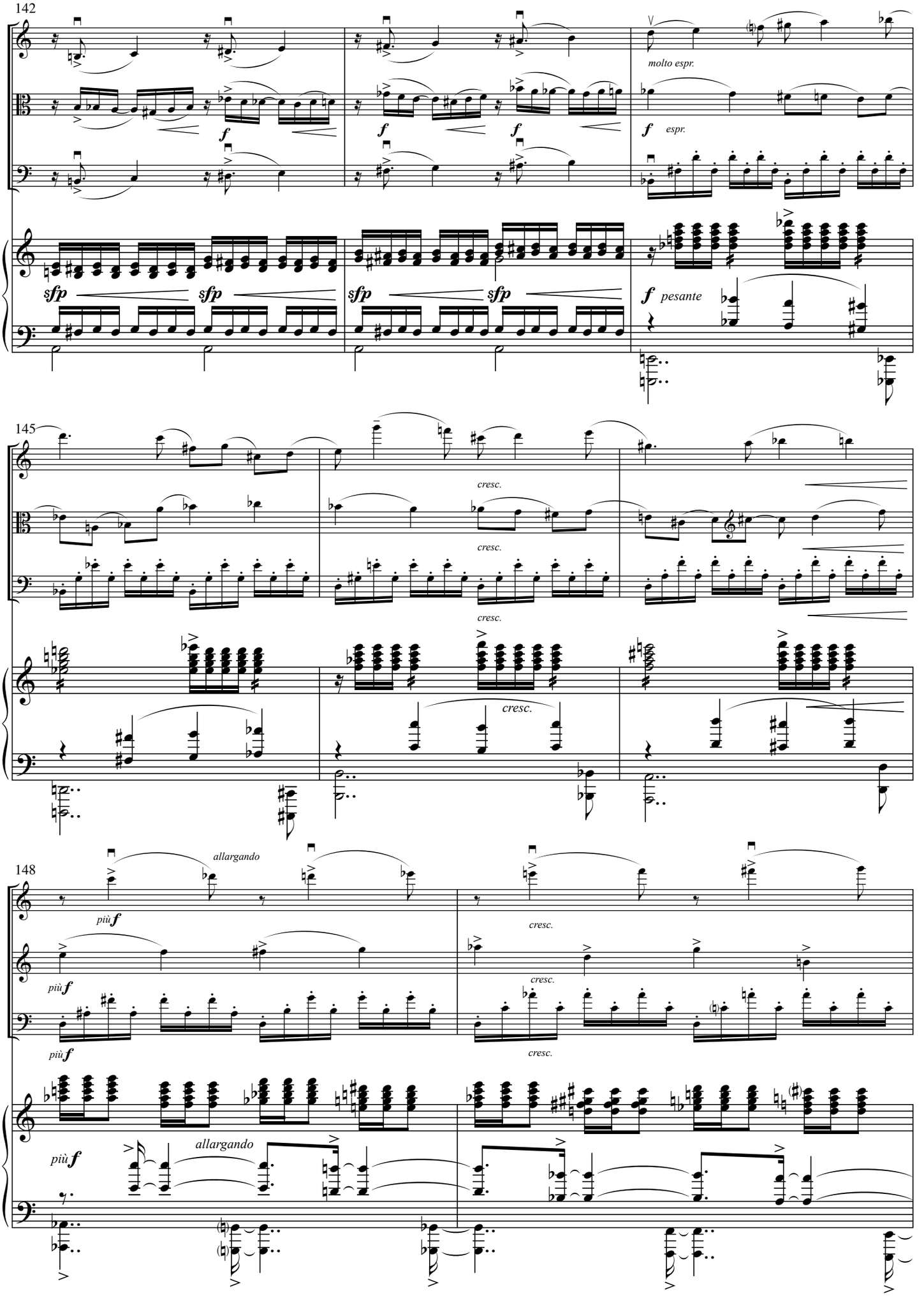

94
cresc.
97
(stacc.)
(no cresc.)
100
(stacc.)
(sempre stacc.)
Ped.

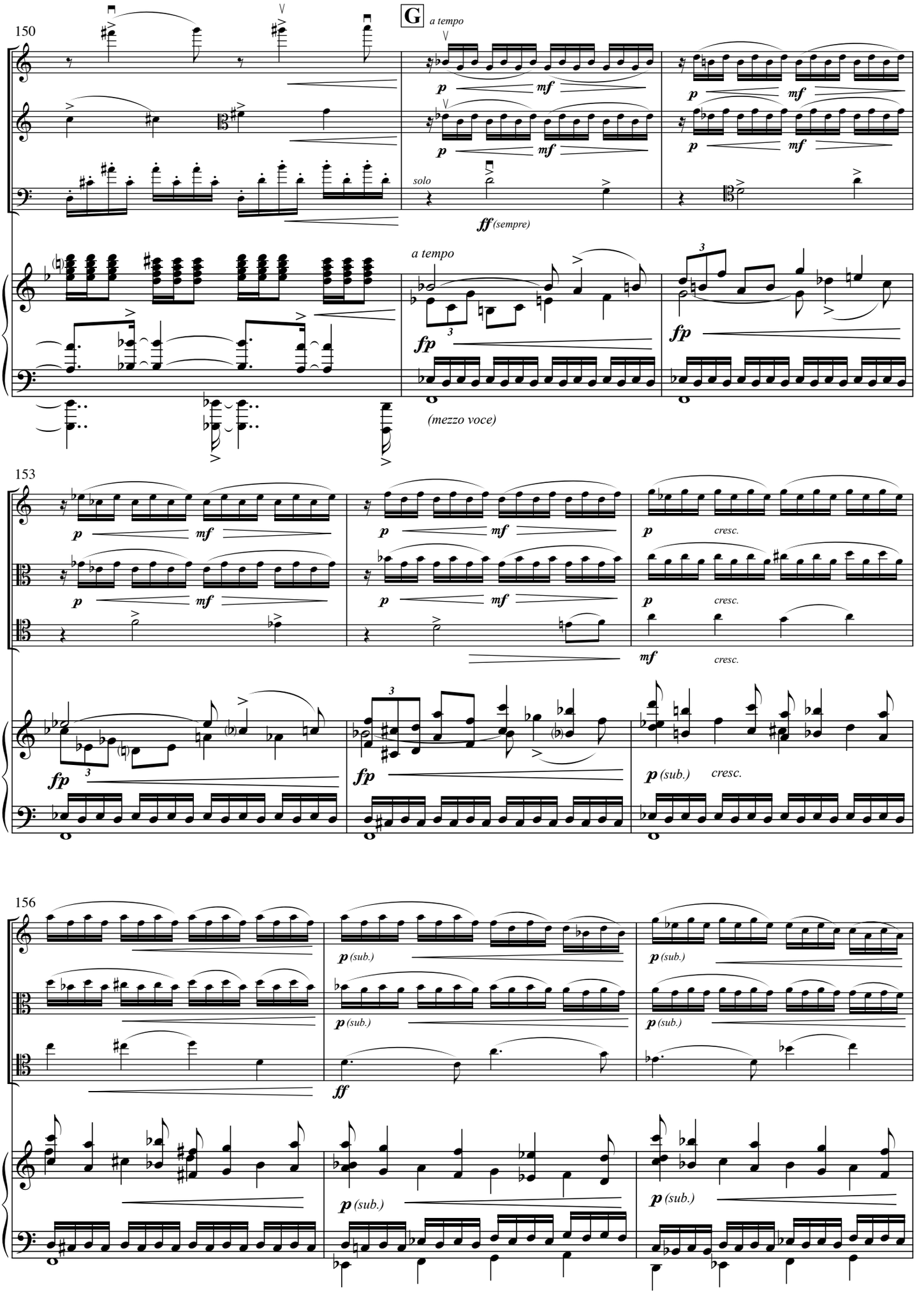

103
fp
f
8va
fp
fp
fp
fp
fp
fp
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
simile
107
E
(non stacc.)
ffp
f
p
f
(non stacc.)
ffp
f
p
f
(non stacc.)
ffp
f
p
f
ff
p
f
p
Ped.
Ped.
(pedale simile)
112
p
f (no dim.)
mf
p
f (no dim.)
mf
p
f (no dim.)
mf
f
mp
f
8vb

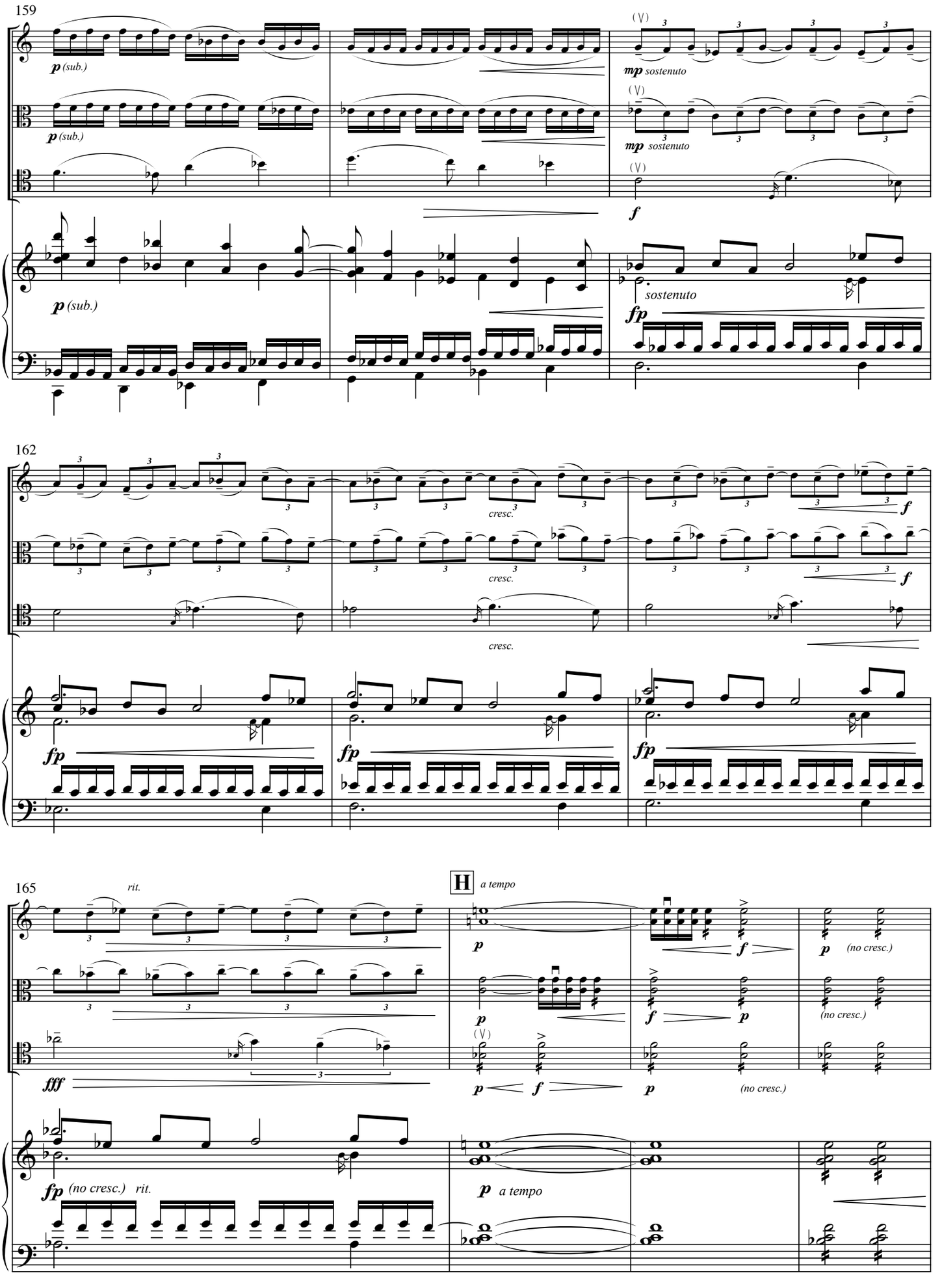

115
117
poco rit.
cresc.
espr.
fp
120
a tempo
rit.
dim.
ff no dim.
p (sempre)
p a tempo
(hold with sostenuto pedal)

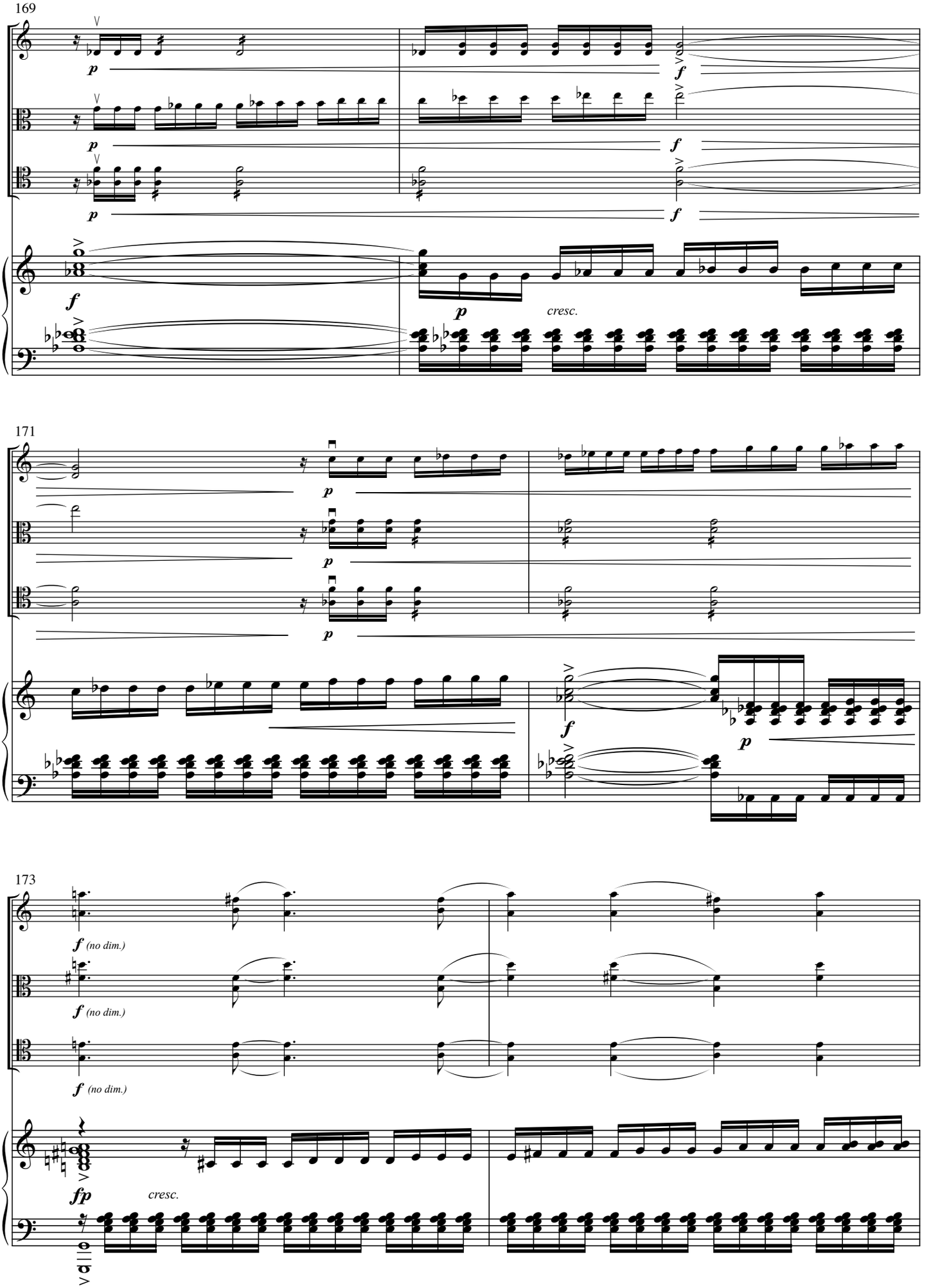

123
dim.
(RH)
mp
127
p
mp
p
(no pedal)
F
130
mp
mfp
cresc. (poco a poco)
pizz.
mf
mf
p

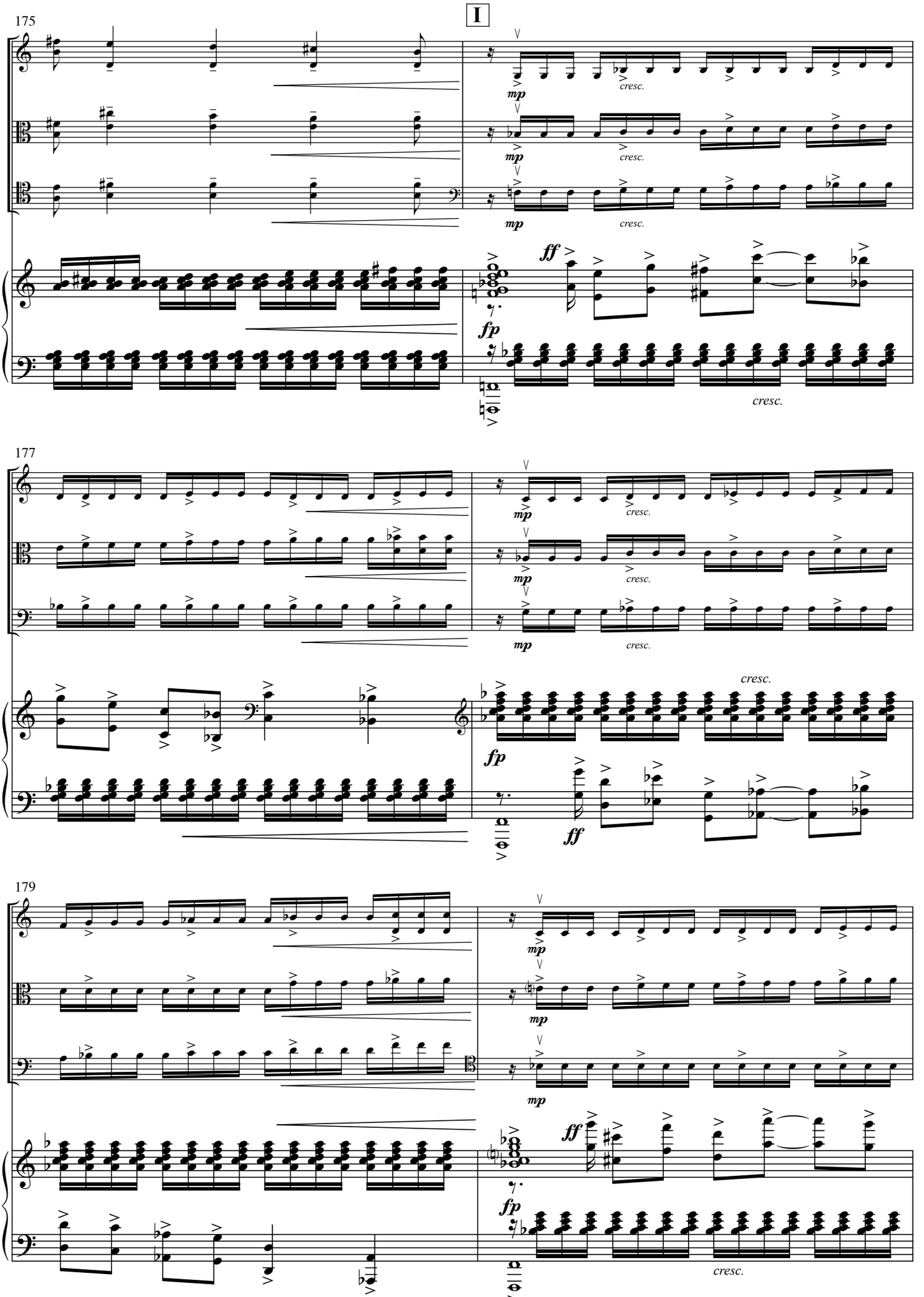

133
mp
p (sub.) (no cresc.)
arco
mf
cresc.
f
p (sub.) (no cresc.)
136
p (sub.)
f (sempre)
f (sempre)
f (sempre)
f
139
mp
mp
(f)

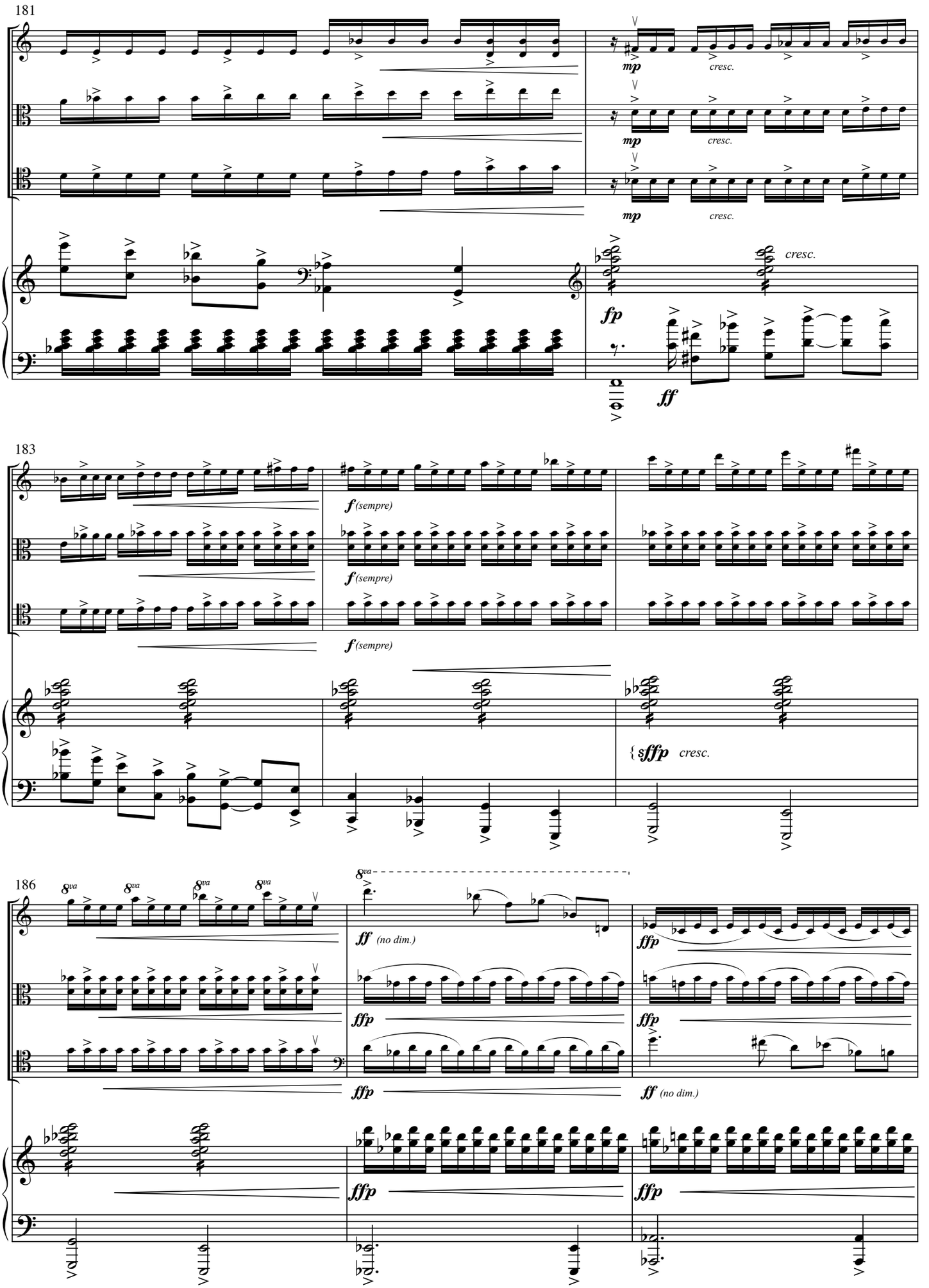

142
molto espr.
f
espr.
sfp
pesante
145
cresc.
148
allargando
più f

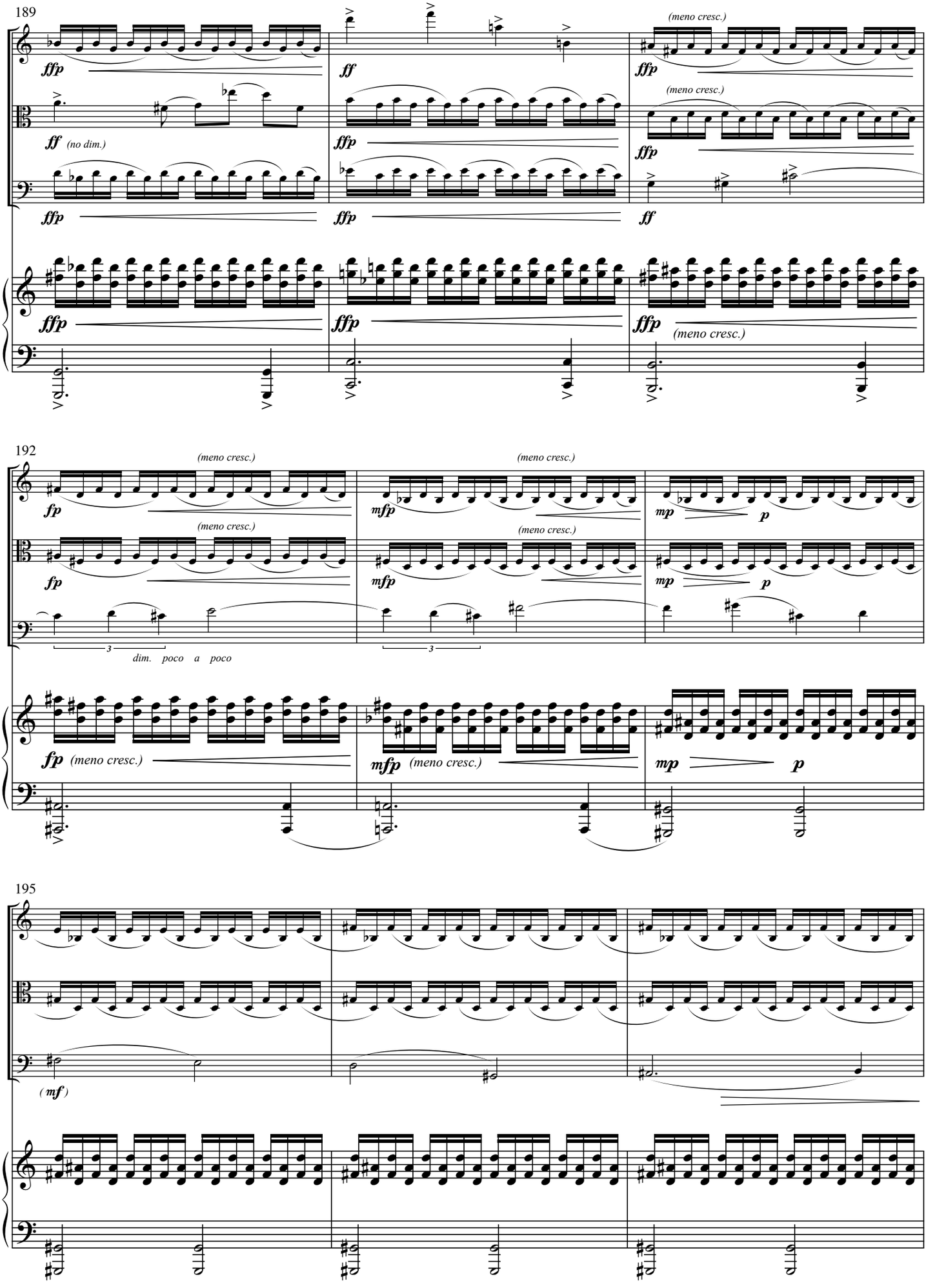

150
G
a tempo
p
mf
solo
ff (sempre)
a tempo
fp
(mezzo voce)
153
cresc.
(sub.)
156
ff

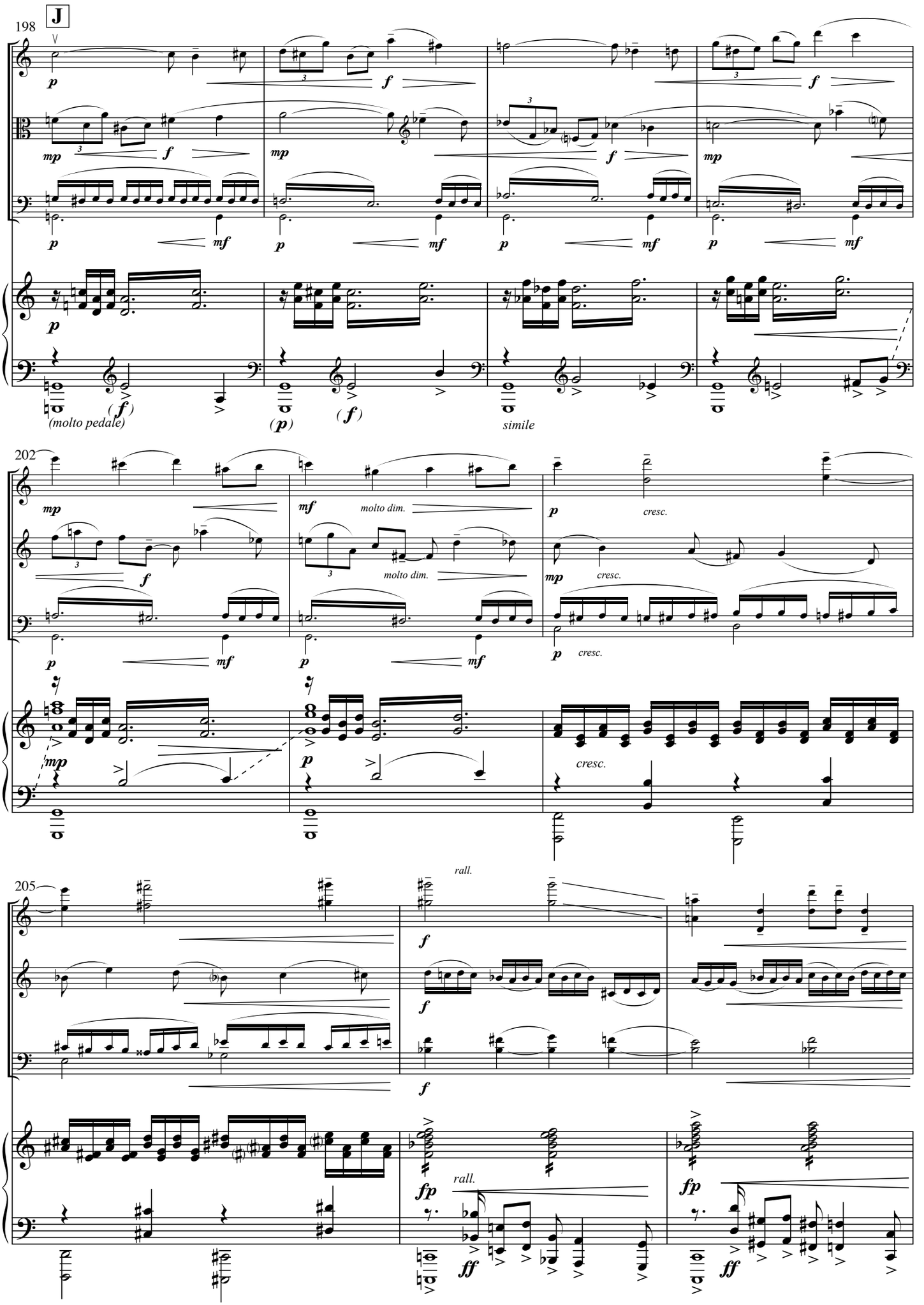

159
p (sub.)
mp sostenuto
f
sostenuto
fp
162
cresc.
f
fp
165
rit.
H
a tempo
fff
p
f
(no cresc.)
fp (no cresc.) rit.
p a tempo

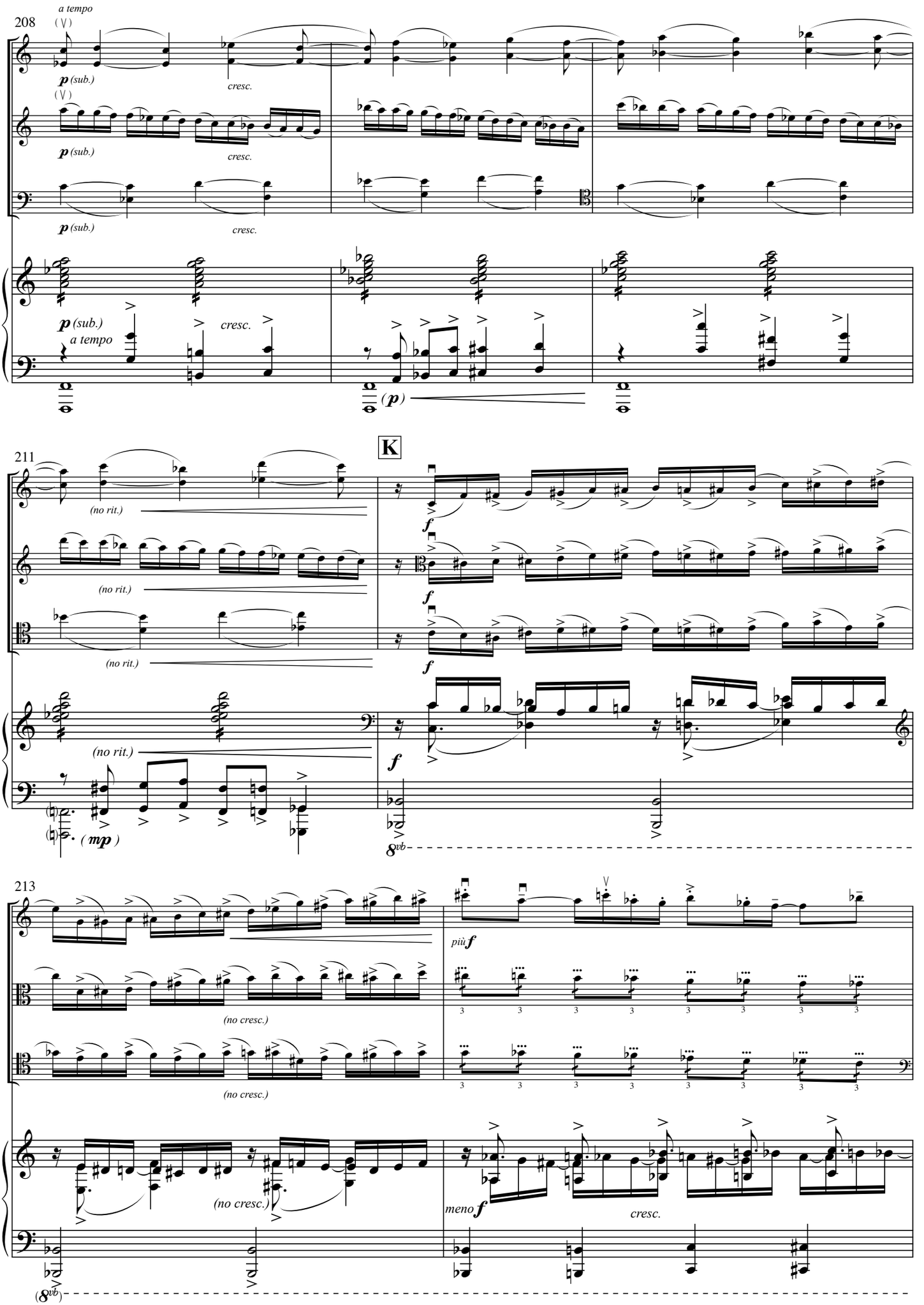

169
p
f
cresc.
171
173
f (no dim.)
fp
cresc.

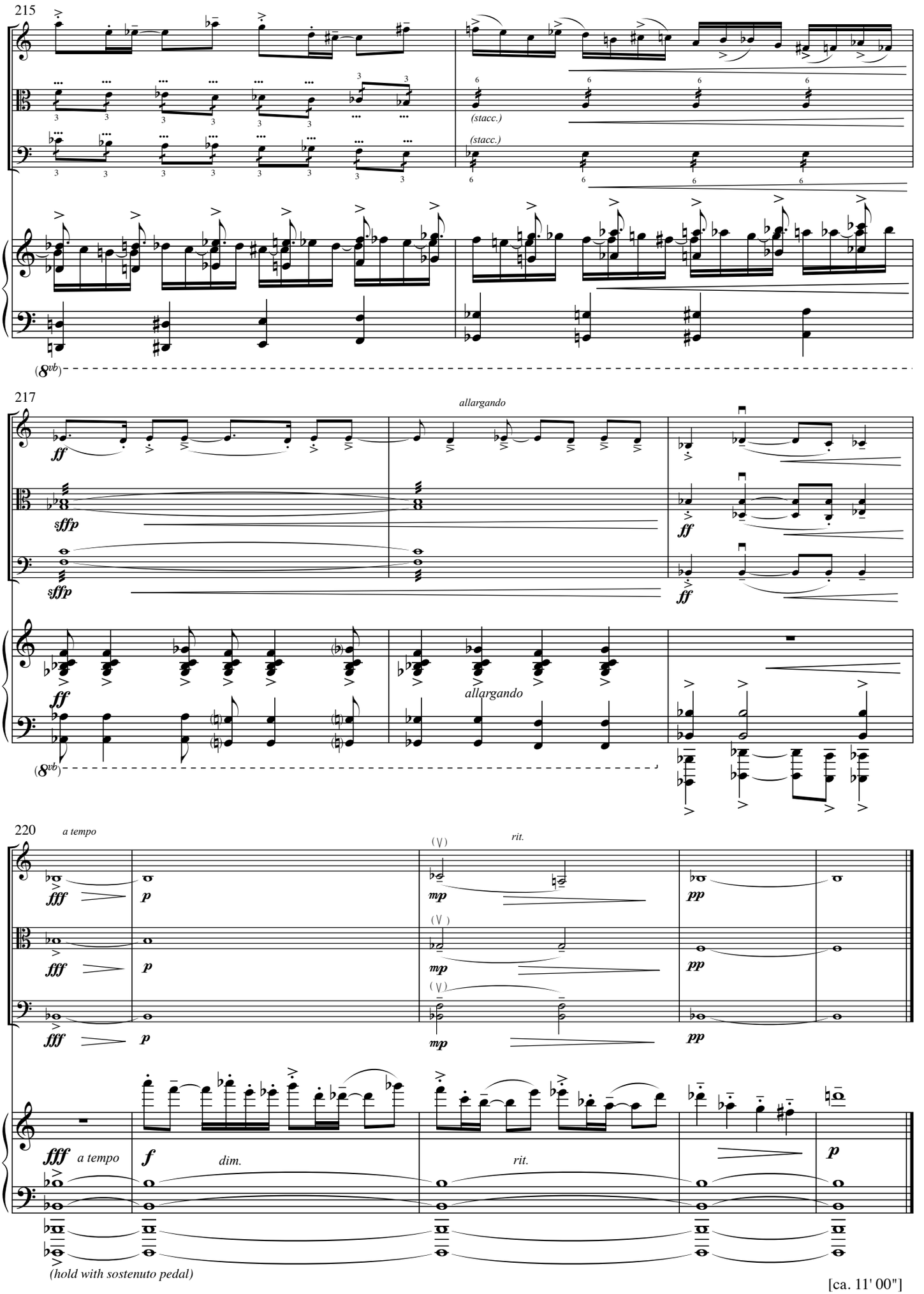

I
175
mp
cresc.
ff
fp
177
179


181
mp
cresc.
fp
cresc.
ff
183
f (sempre)
sffp
cresc.
186
8va
ff (no dim.)
ffp
ff (no dim.)


189
ffp
ff
(meno cresc.)
(no dim.)
192
fp
mfp
mp
p
dim. poco a poco
195
(mf)


J
198
(molto pedale)
simile
202
molto dim.
cresc.
205
rall.


208
a tempo
p (sub.)
cresc.
a tempo
(p)
211
K
(no rit.)
f
(mp)
8vb
213
più f
(no cresc.)
meno f
cresc.
(8vb)


215
(stacc.)
(stacc.)
(8vb)
217
allargando
ff
sffp
sffp
ff
ff
allargando
(8vb)
220
a tempo
fff
p
fff
p
fff
p
(∨)
rit.
mp
(∨)
mp
(∨)
mp
pp
pp
pp
fff
a tempo
f
dim.
rit.
p
(hold with sostenuto pedal)

[ca. 11' 00"]

II.

Adagietto ♩ = 56

Violin

Viola

(*sul* III)

Cello

Piano

(sost. ped.)

8

15

poco accel.

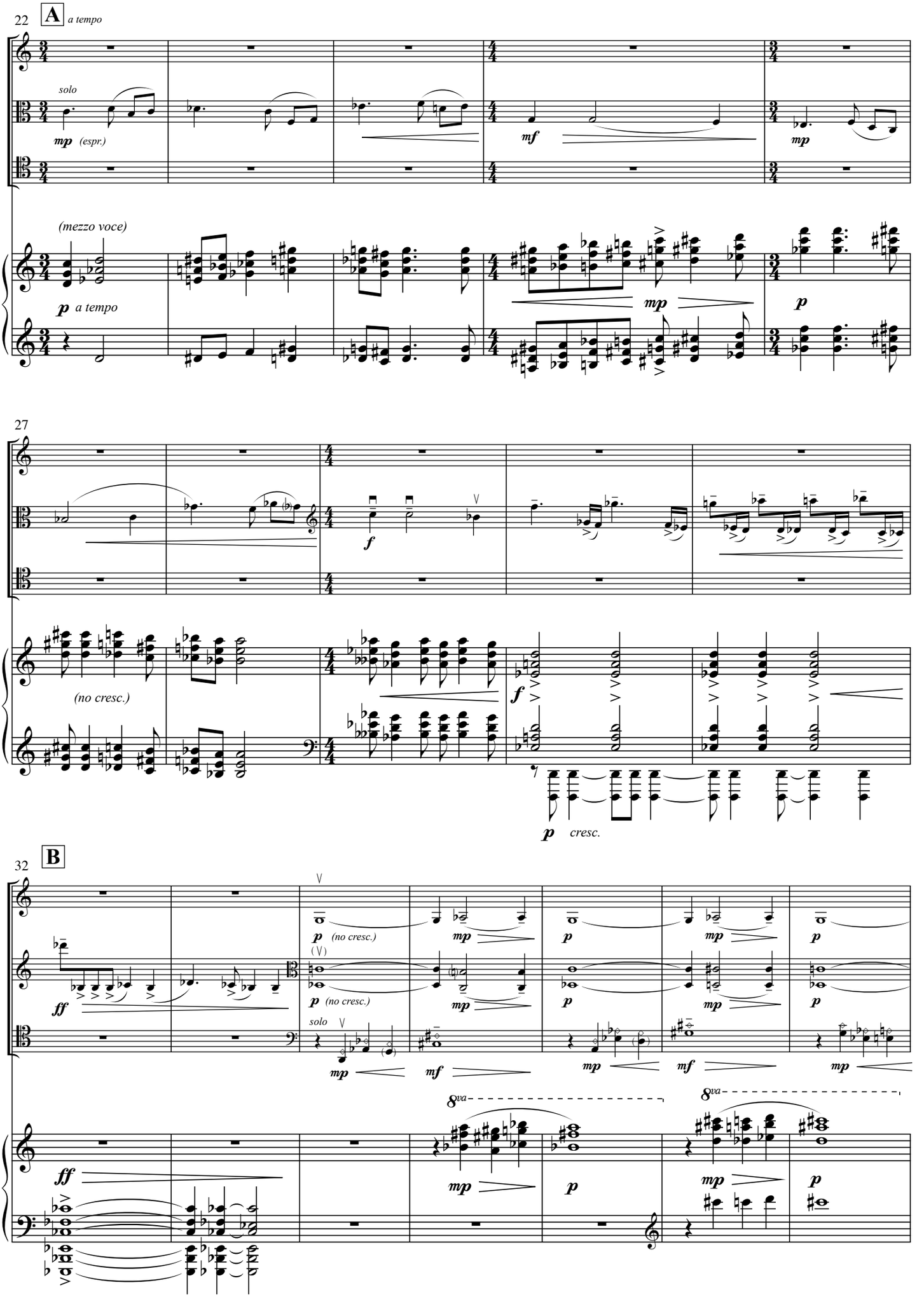
poco rit.

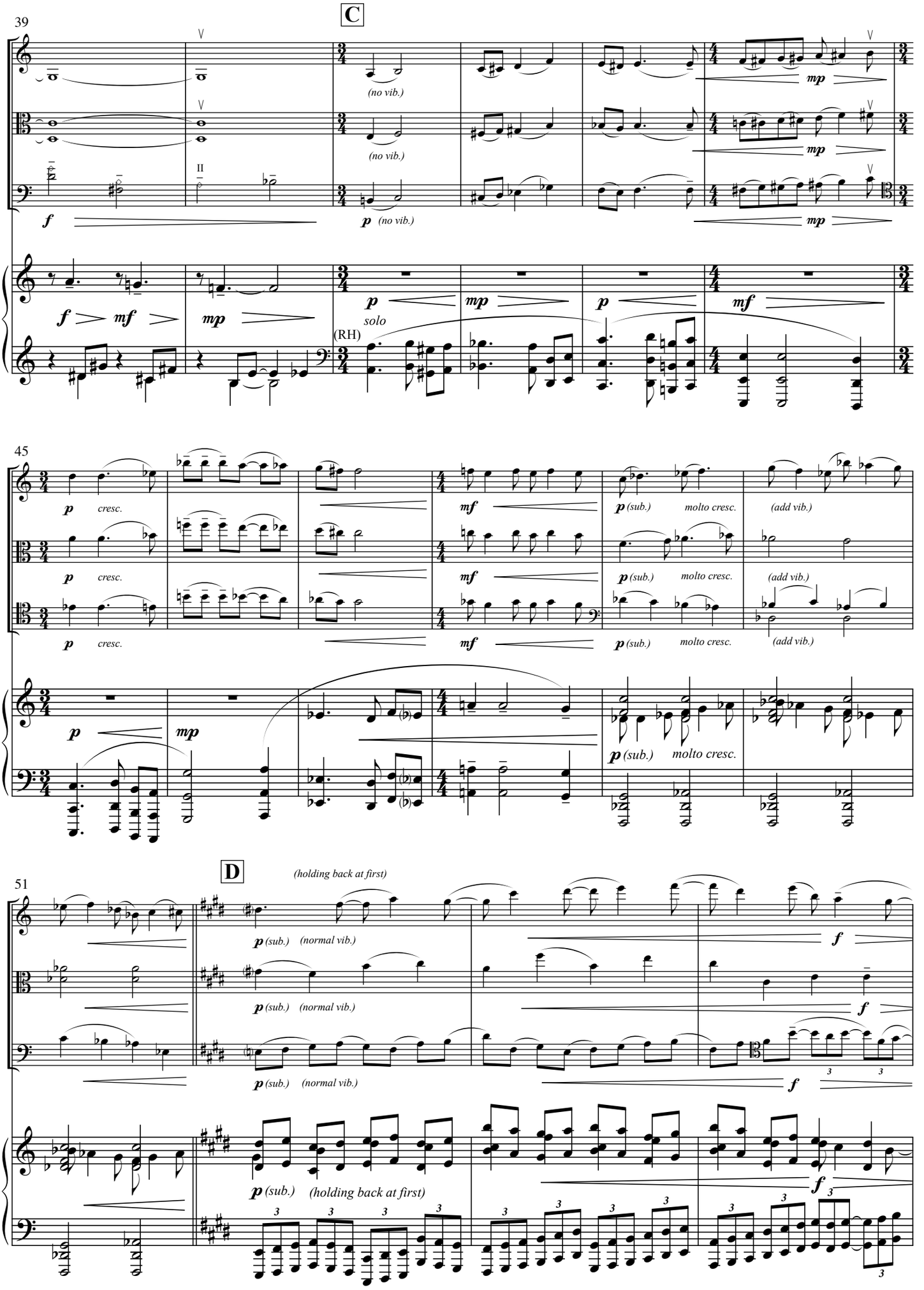
cresc.

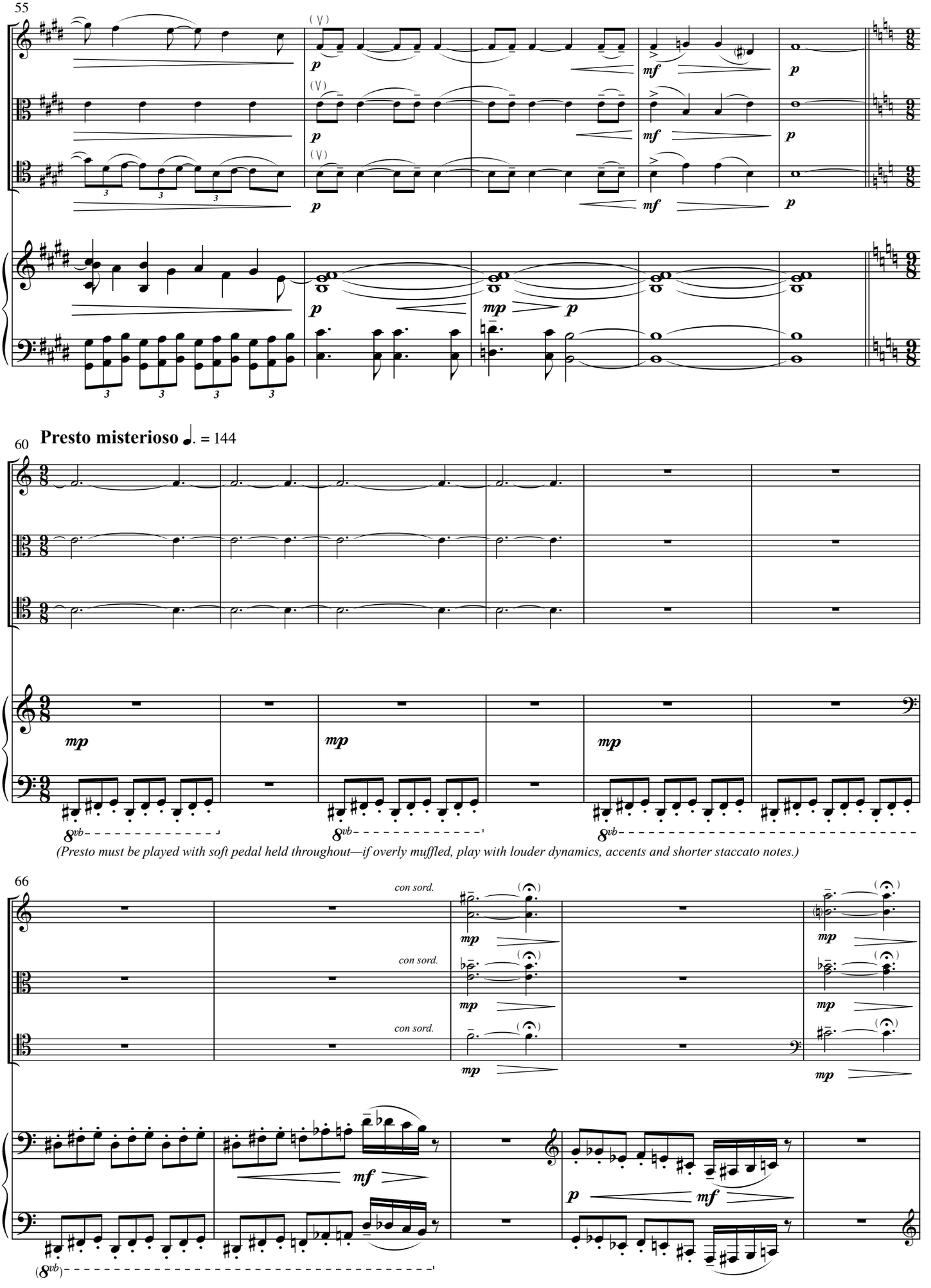
poco accel.

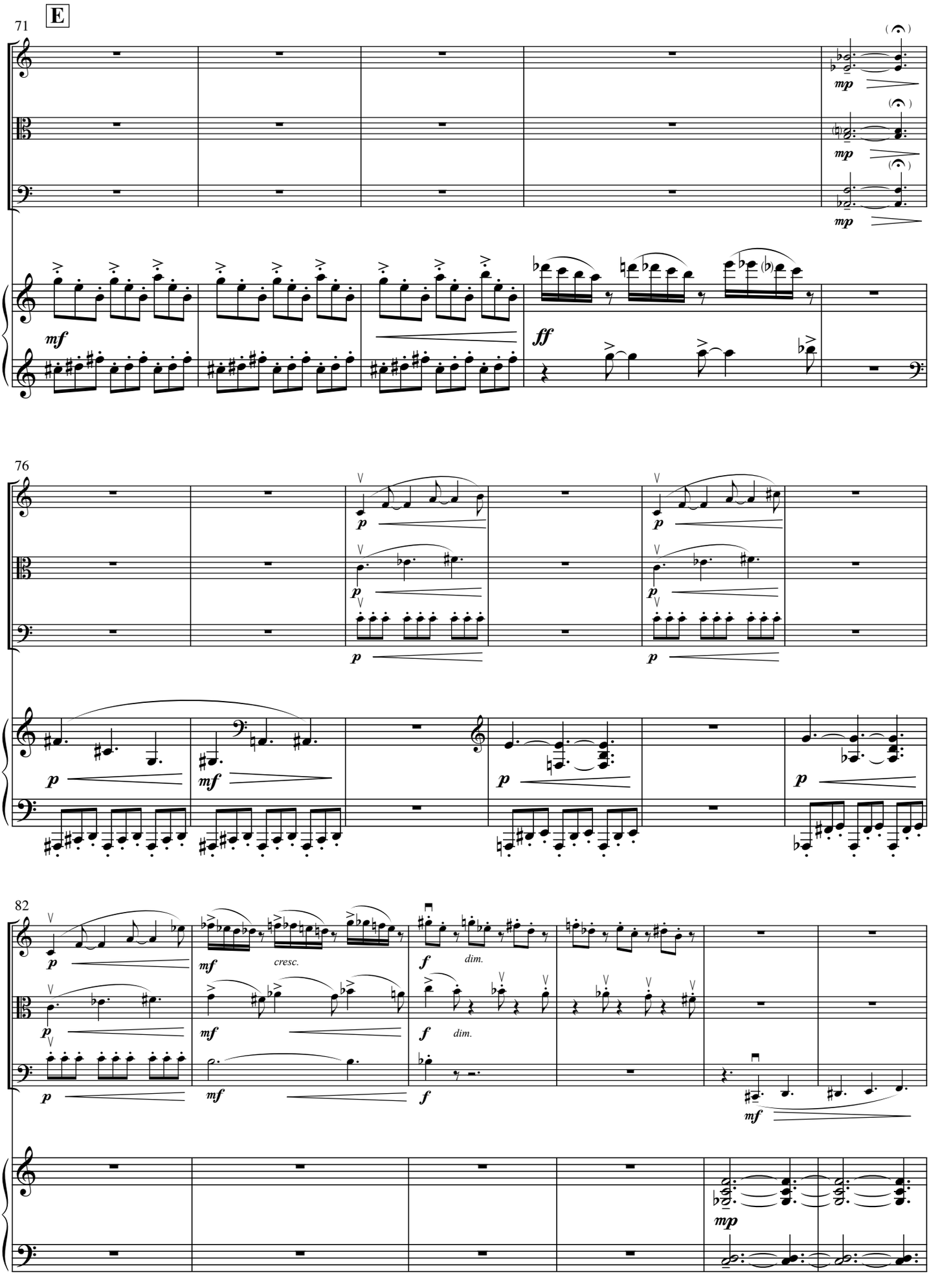
dim.

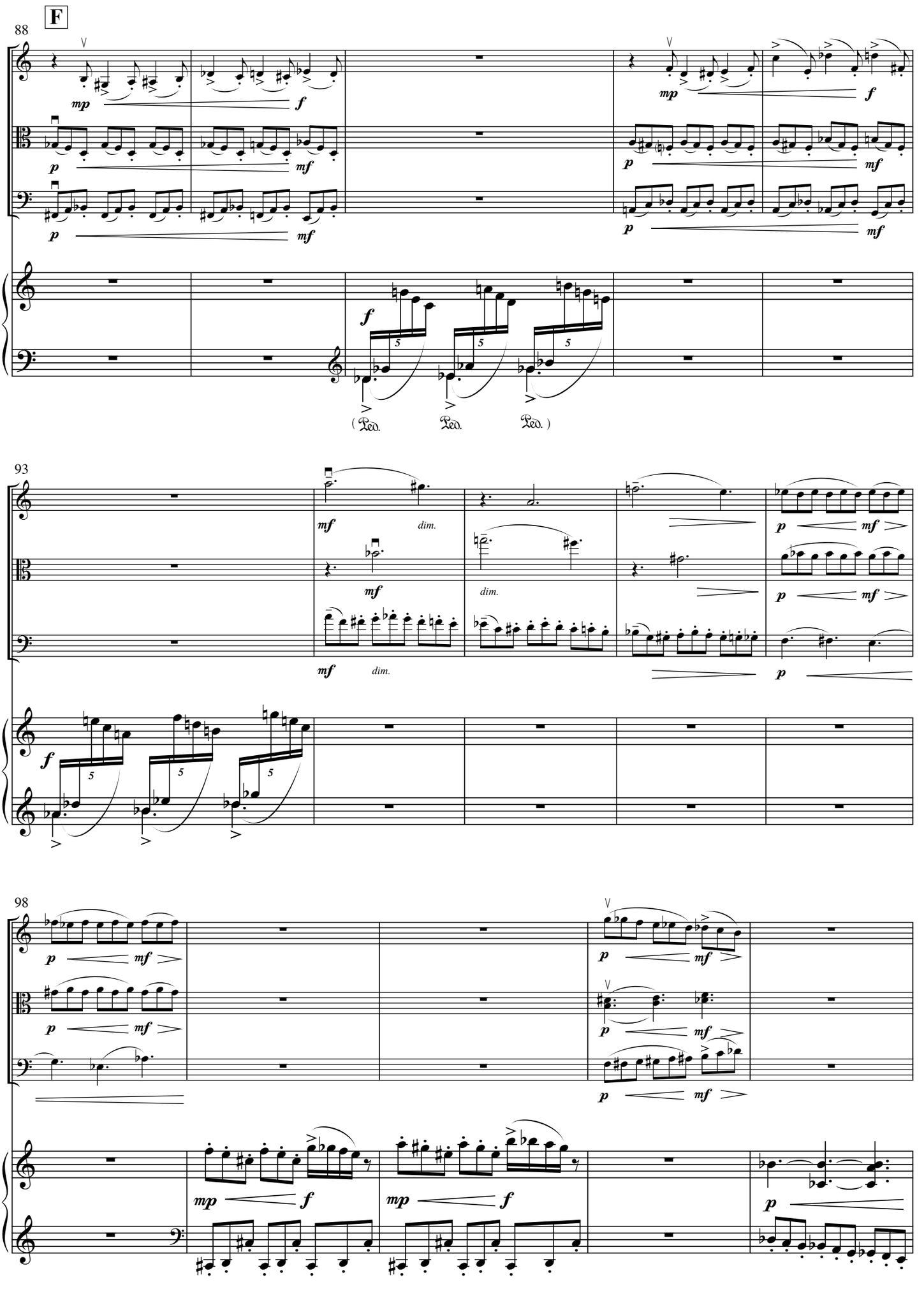
poco rit.

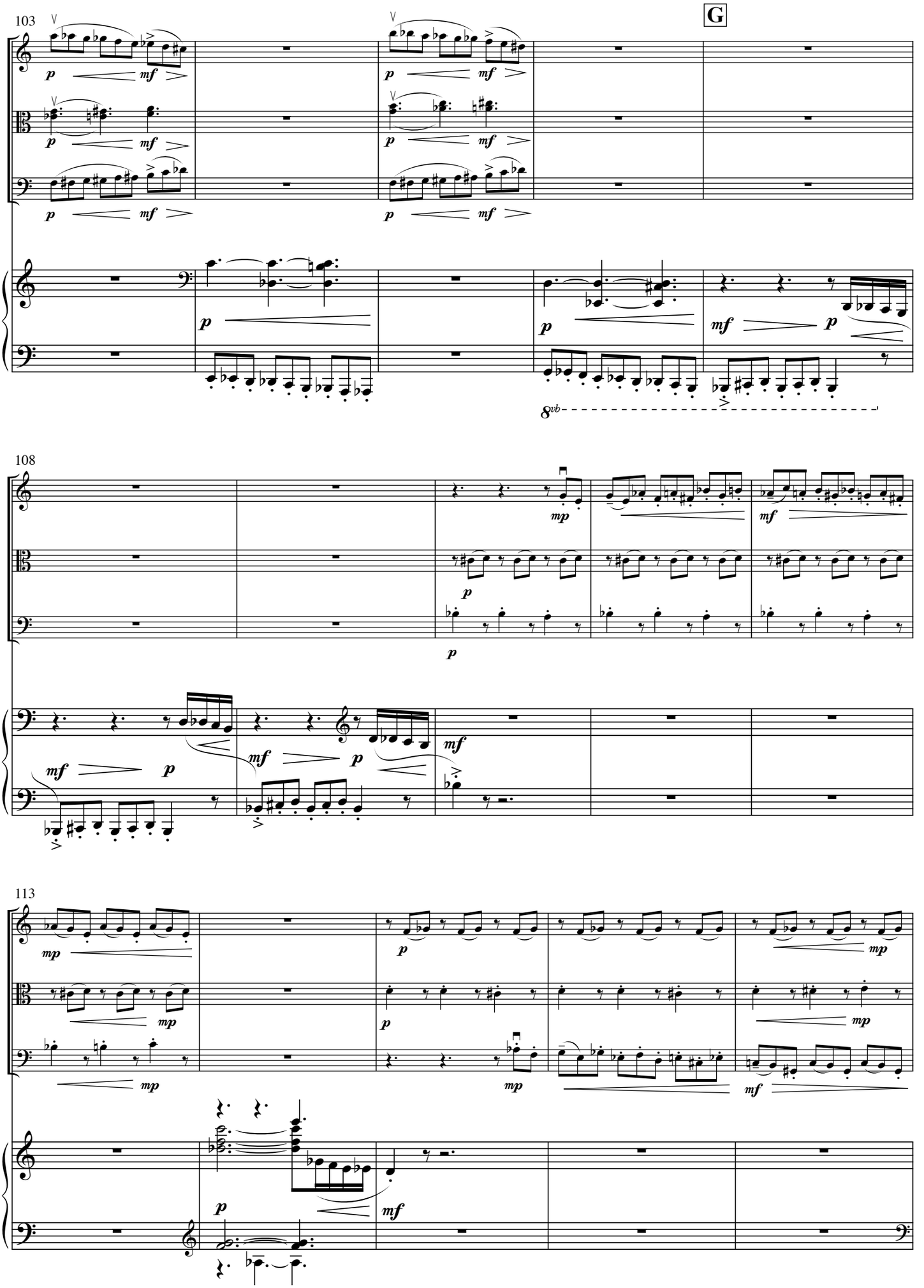

22
A
a tempo
solo
mp (espr.)
mf
mp
(mezzo voce)
p a tempo
mp
p
27
f
(no cresc.)
f
p cresc.
32
B
ff
p (no cresc.)
mp
p
mp
p
p (no cresc.)
mp
p
mp
p
solo
mp
mf
mp
mf
mp
8va
8va
ff
mp
p
mp
p

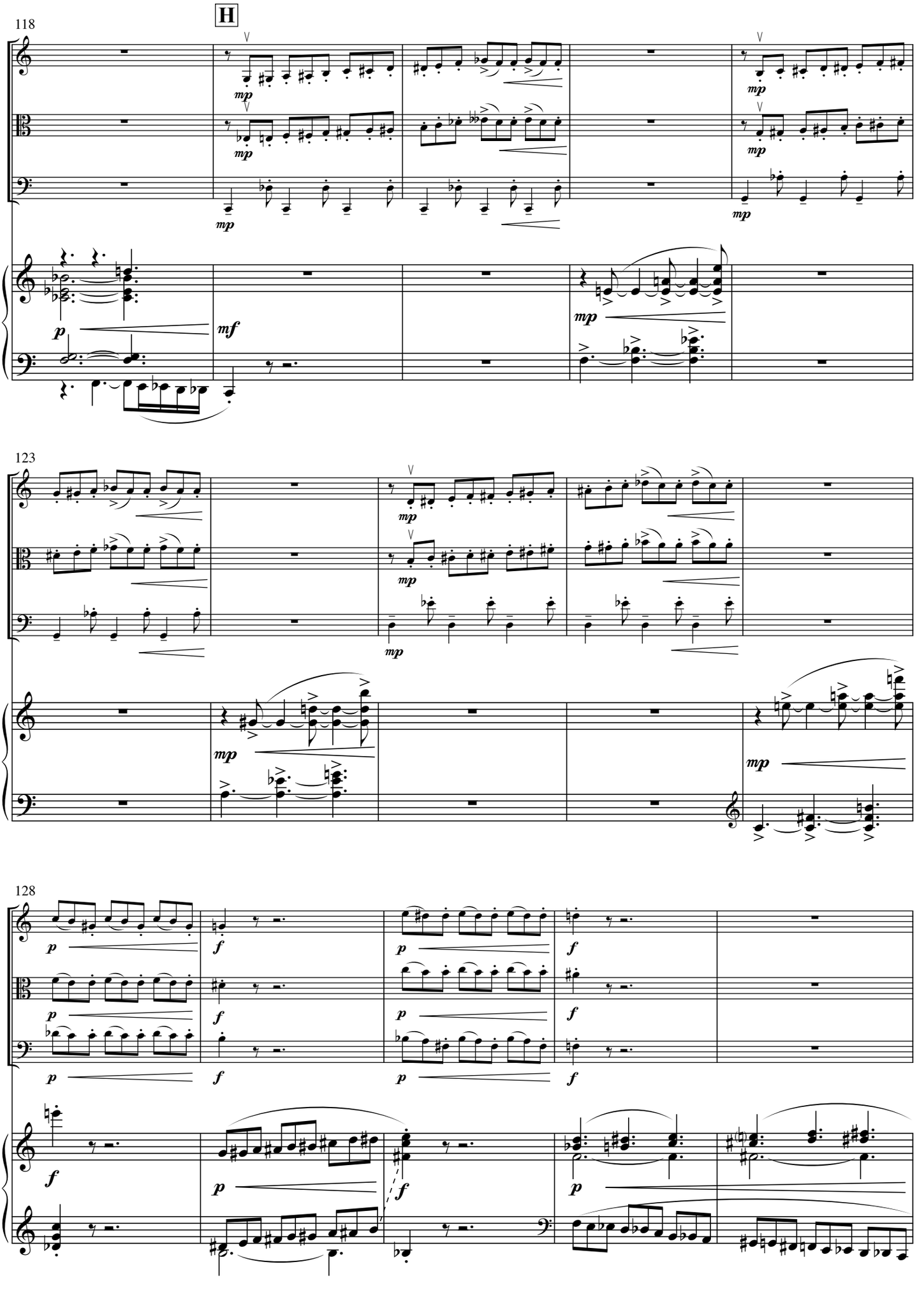

39
C
(no vib.)
(no vib.)
(no vib.)
solo
(RH)
45
cresc.
molto cresc.
(add vib.)
51
D
(holding back at first)
(normal vib.)
(sub.)
(holding back at first)

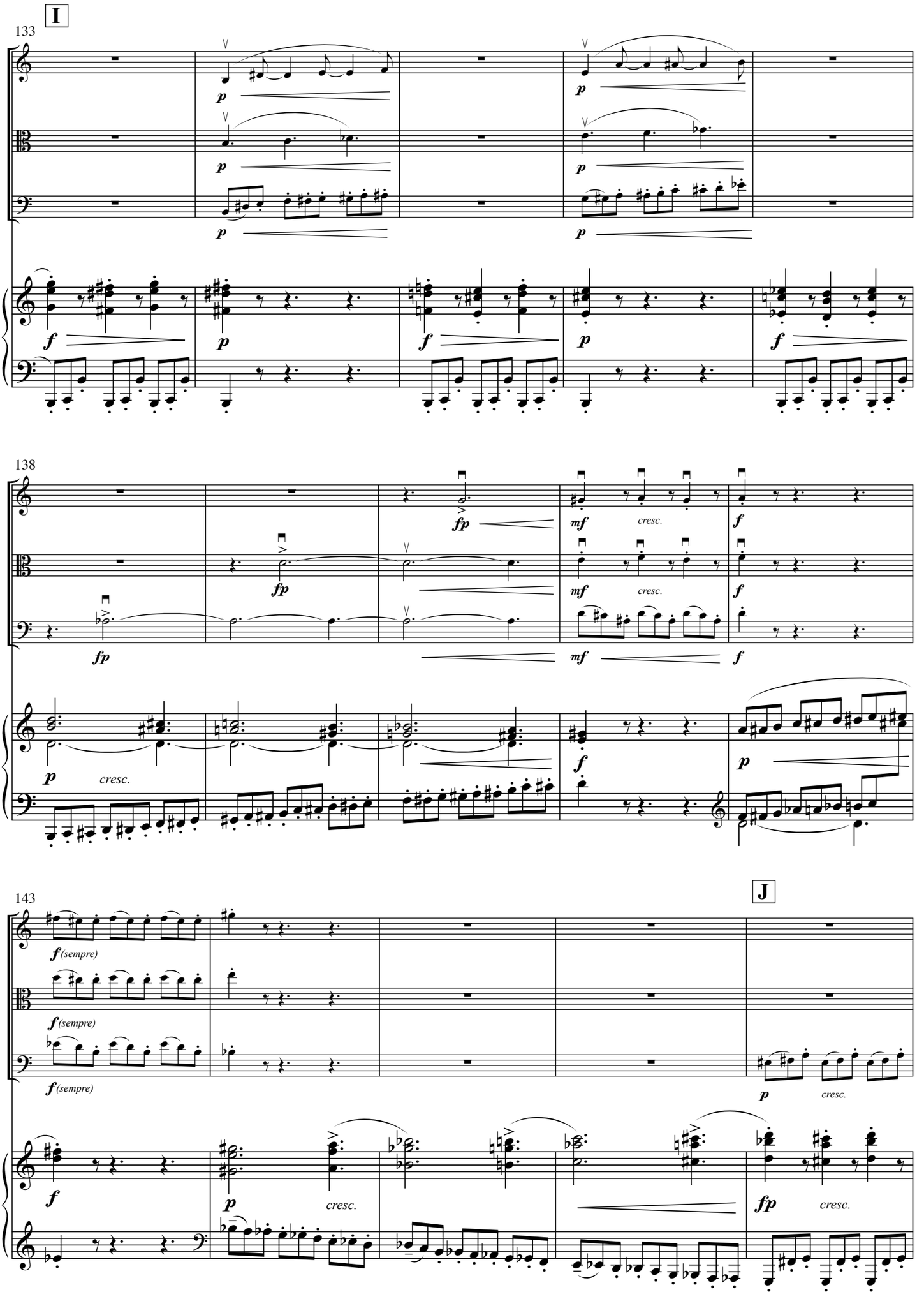

55
60
Presto misterioso ♩. = 144
(Presto must be played with soft pedal held throughout—if overly muffled, play with louder dynamics, accents and shorter staccato notes.)
66
con sord.
con sord.
con sord.

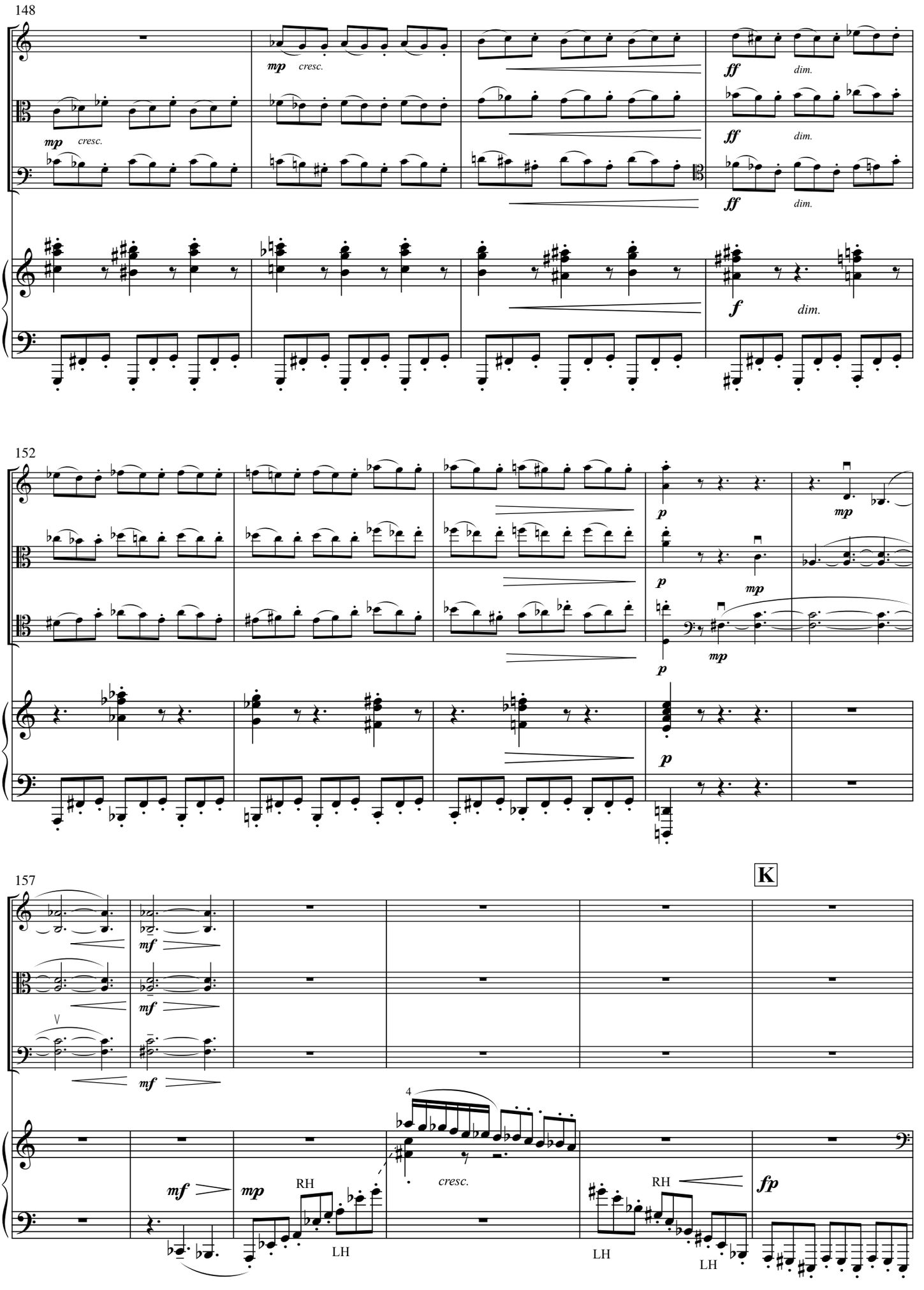

E
71
mp
mf
ff
76
p
mf
82
cresc.
dim.
f

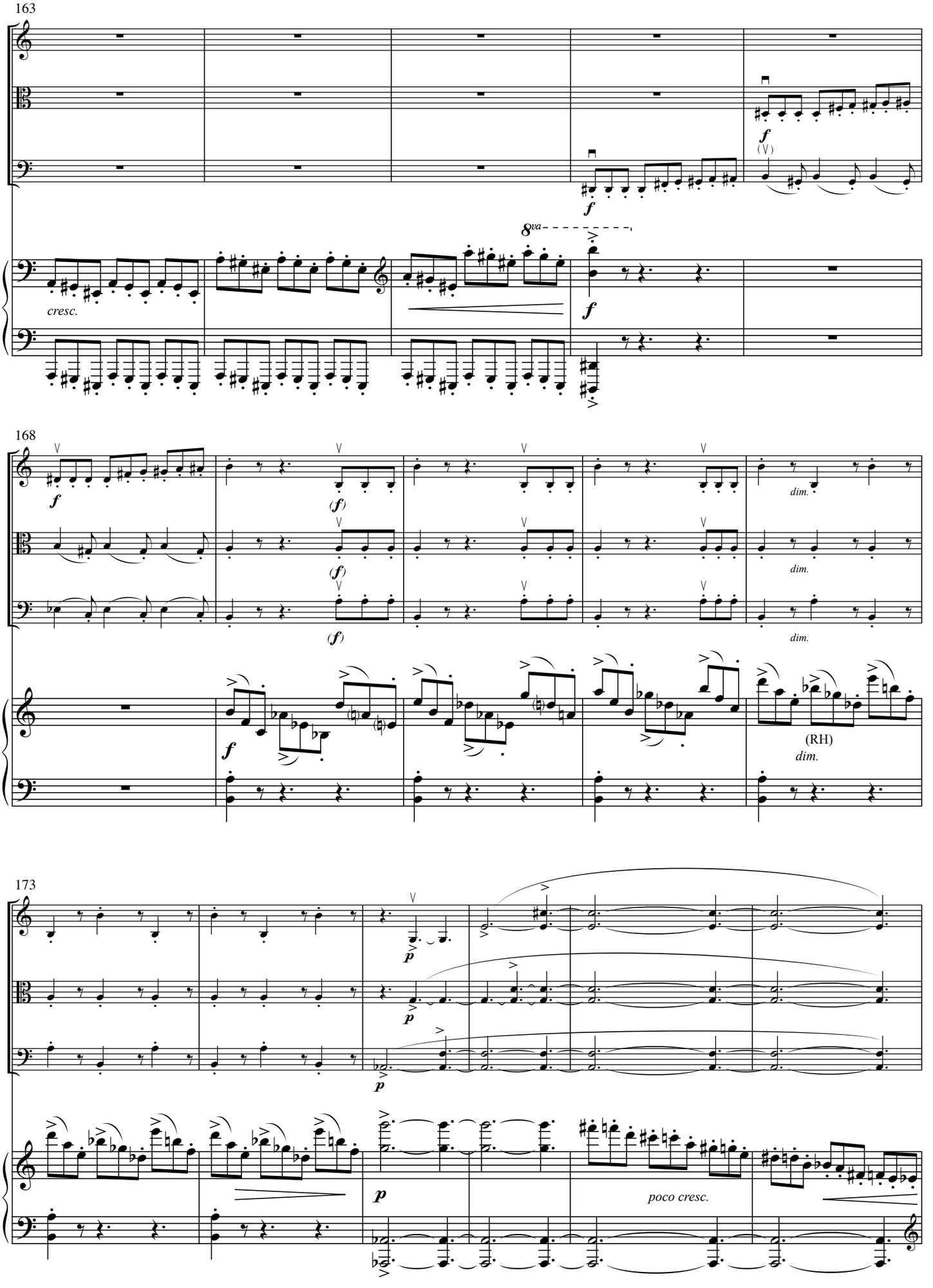

F
88
mp
f
p
mf
93
dim.
98

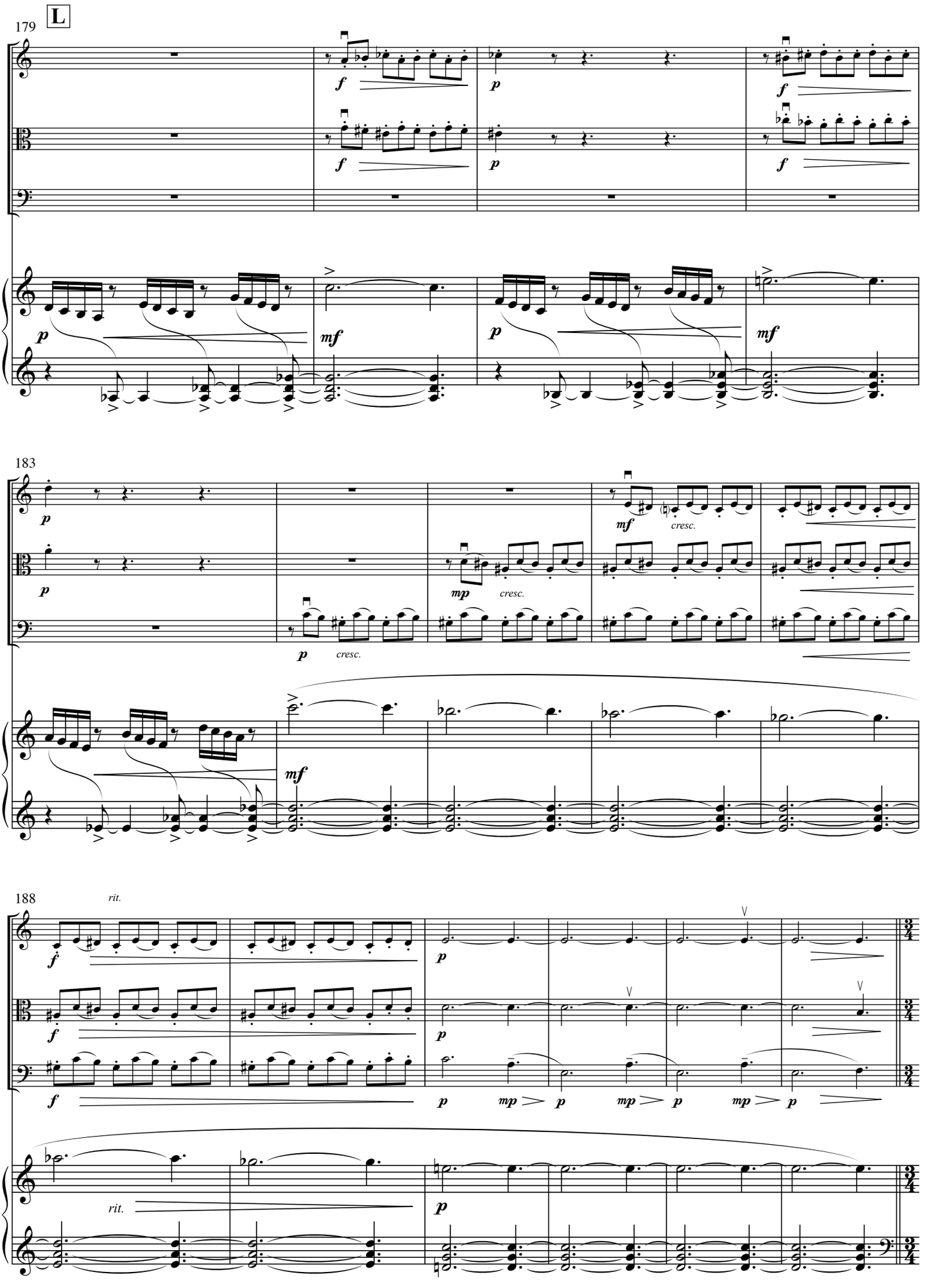

103
G
108
113
8vb

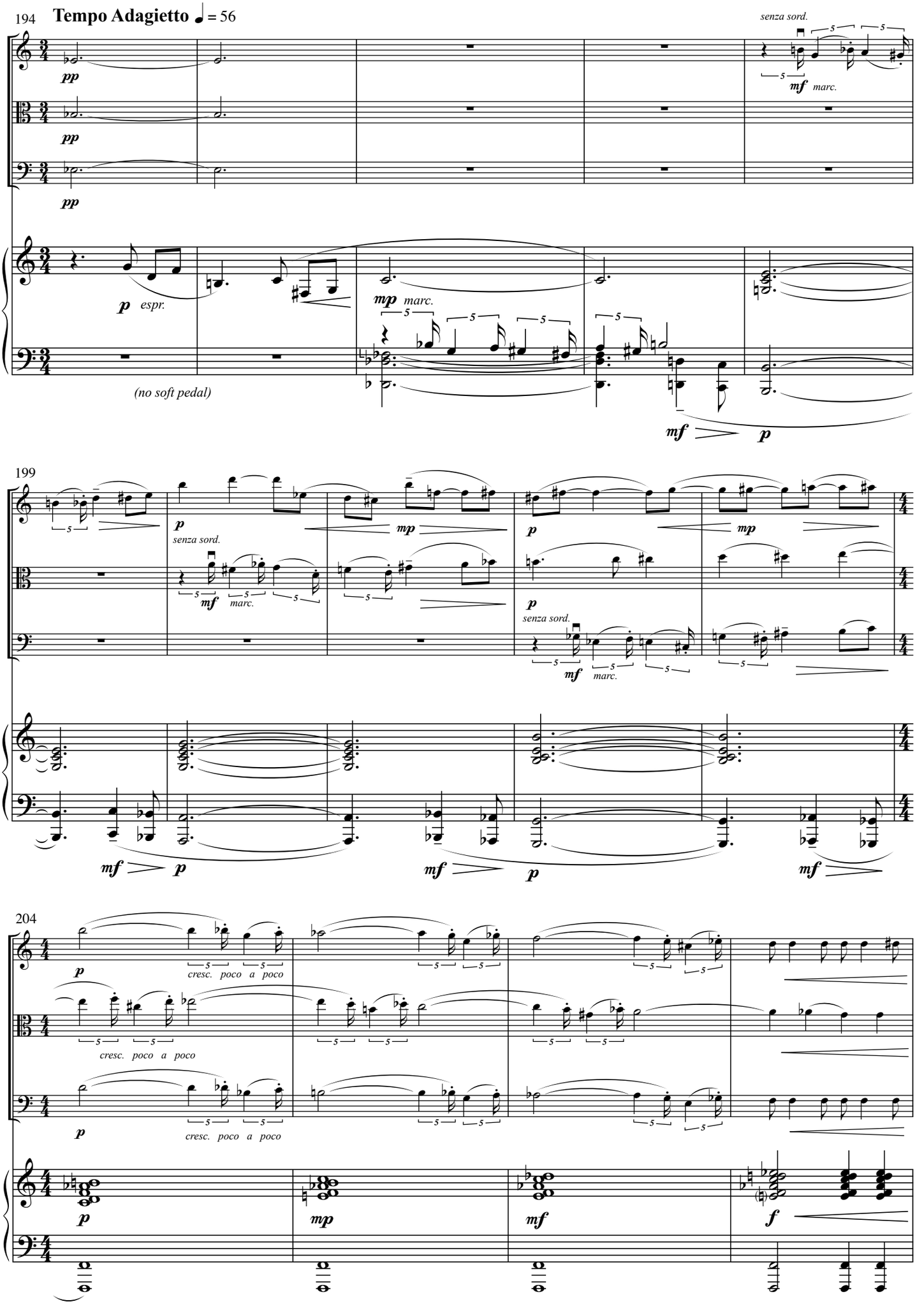

H
118
123
128

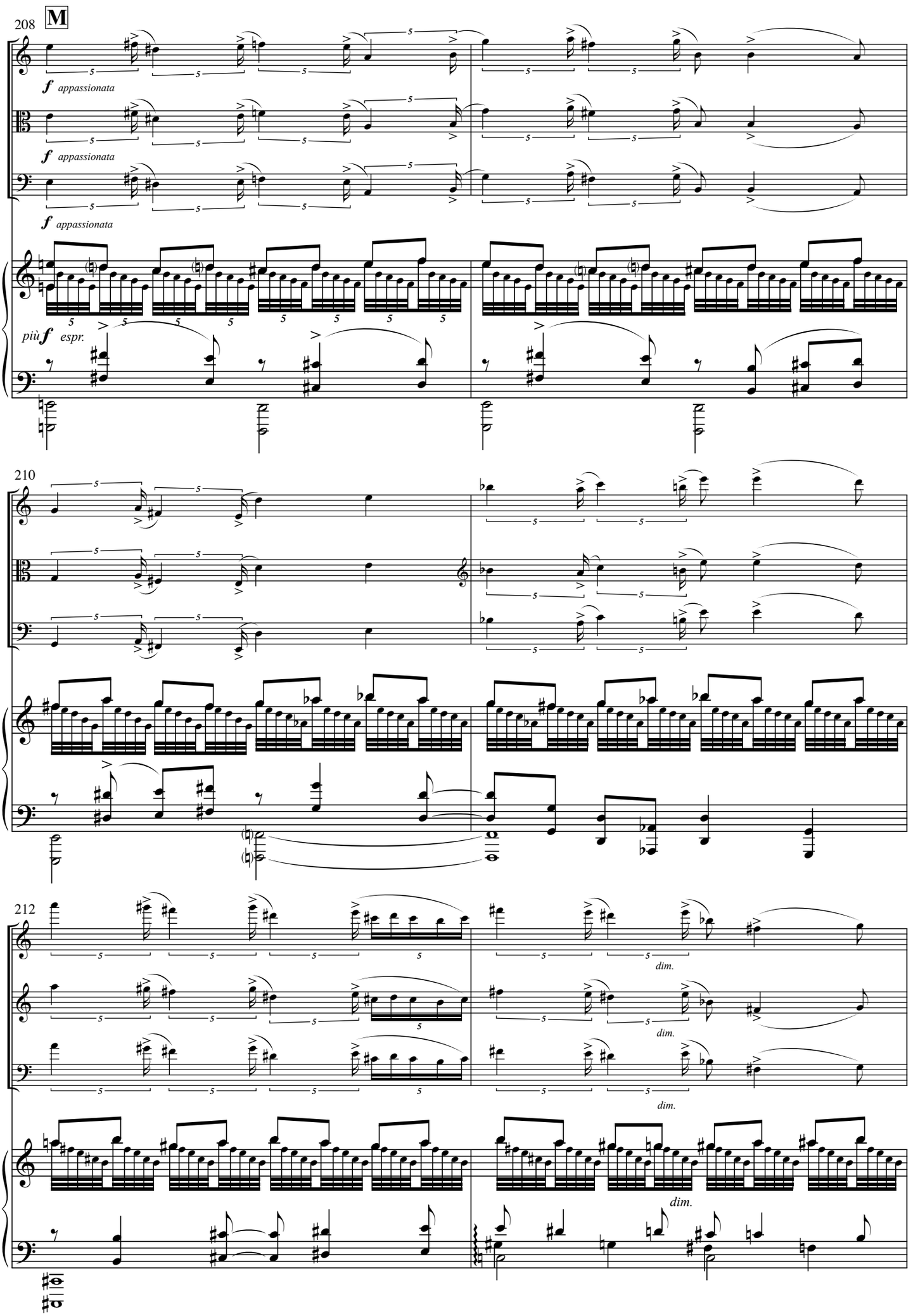

I
133
p
f
138
fp
mf
cresc.
143
J
f (sempre)
fp

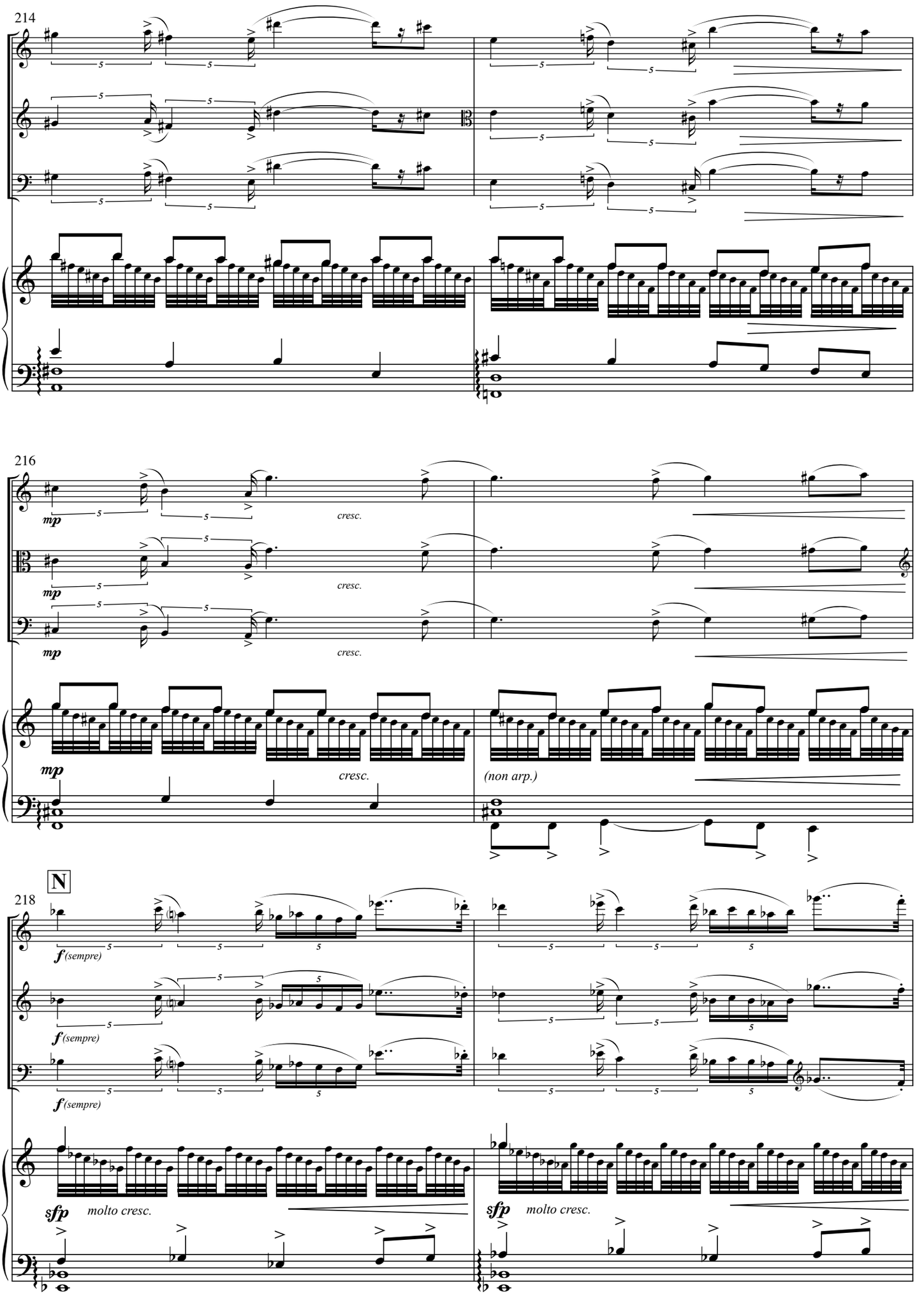

148
mp cresc.
ff dim.
f dim.
152
p
mp
157
K
mf
mp
fp
cresc.
RH
LH
4

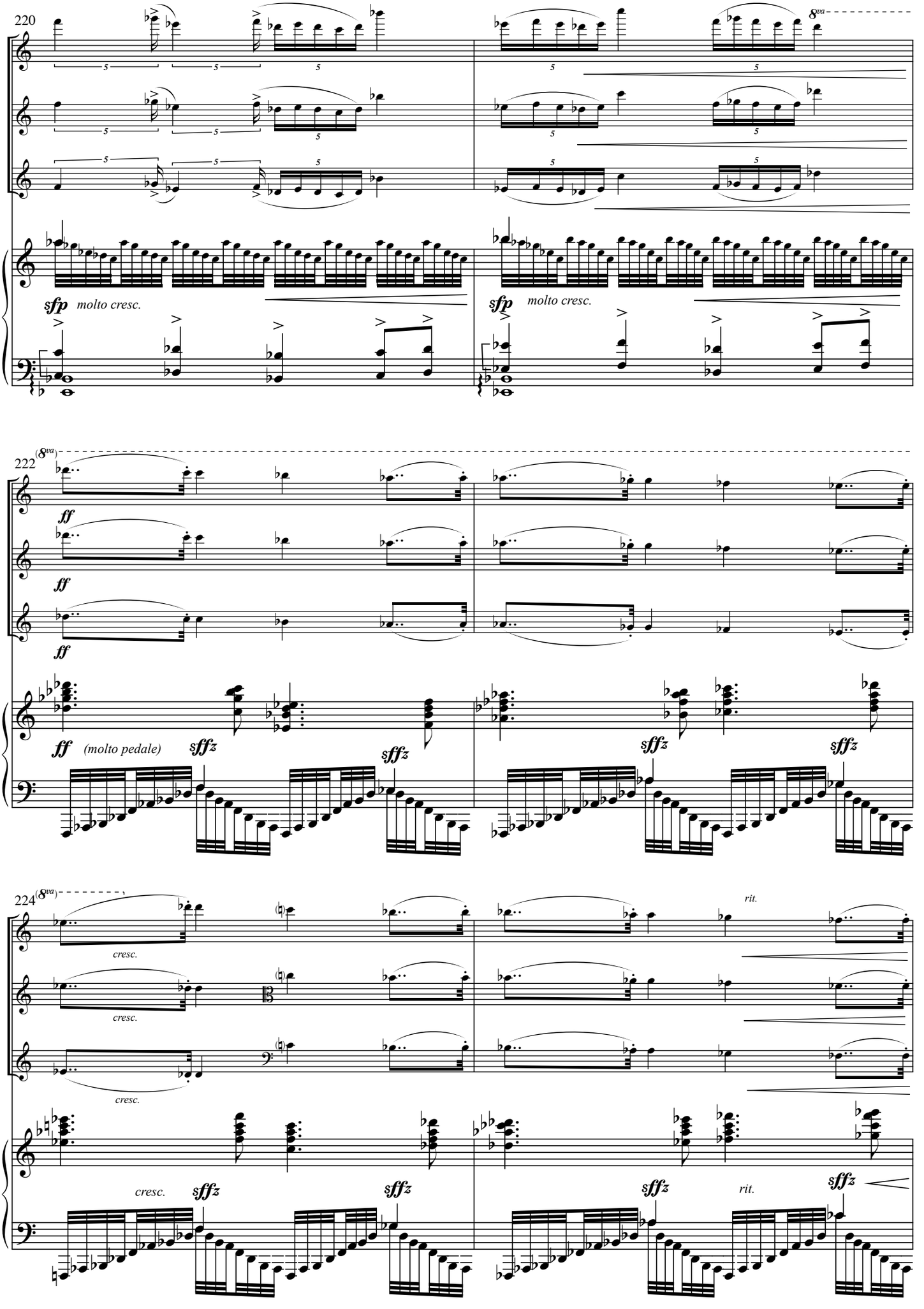

163
cresc.
8va
168
dim.
(RH)
173
poco cresc.

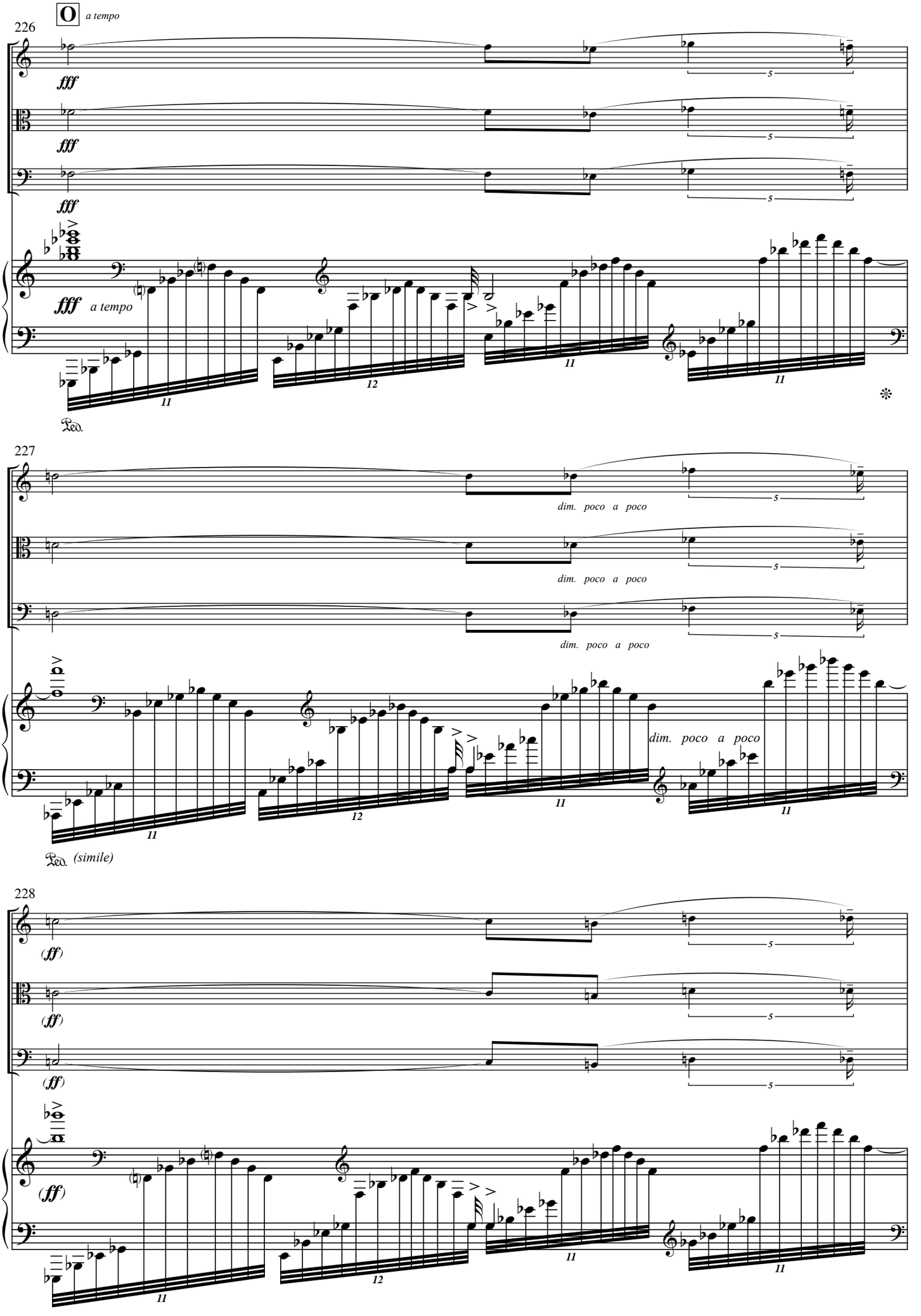

L
179
f
p
f
f
p
f
p
mf
p
mf
183
p
p
cresc.
mp
cresc.
mf
cresc.
mf
188
rit.
f
f
f
p
p
p
mp
p
mp
p
mp
p
rit.
p

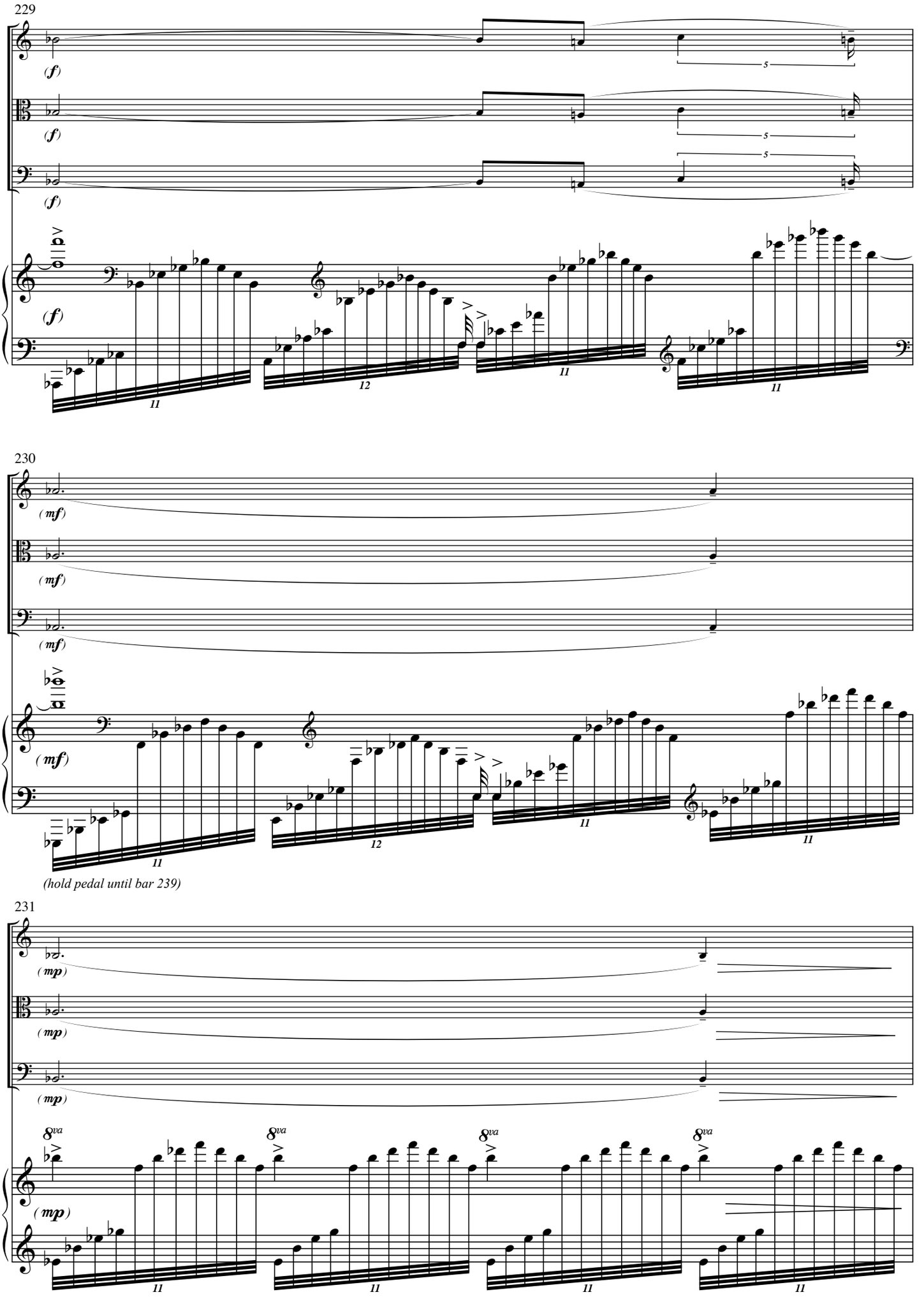

194
Tempo Adagietto ♩ = 56
pp
p espr.
(no soft pedal)
mp marc.
senza sord.
mf marc.
mf
p
199
senza sord.
204
cresc. poco a poco
mp
f

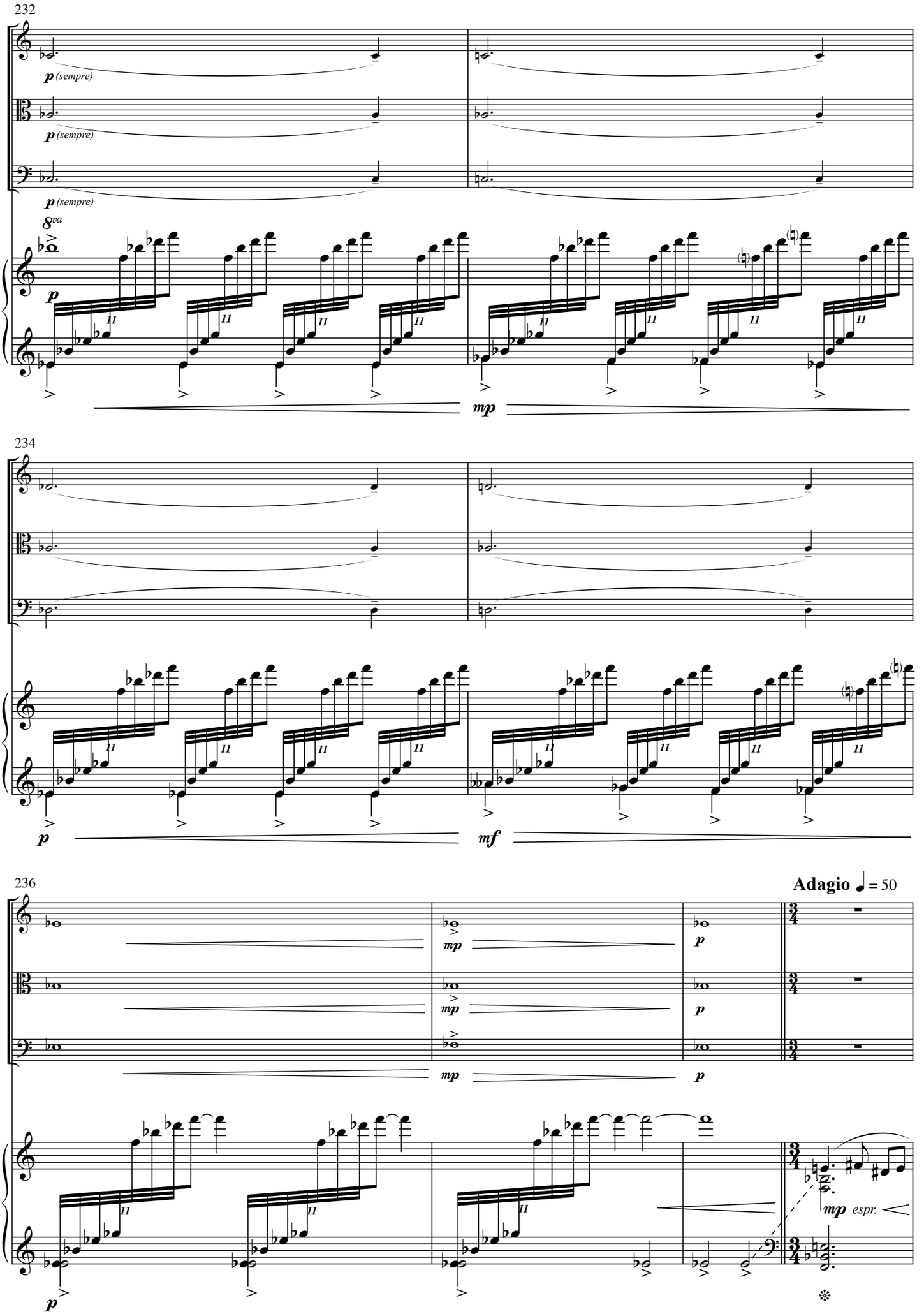

208
M
f appassionata
f appassionata
f appassionata
più f espr.
210
212
dim.
dim.
dim.
dim.

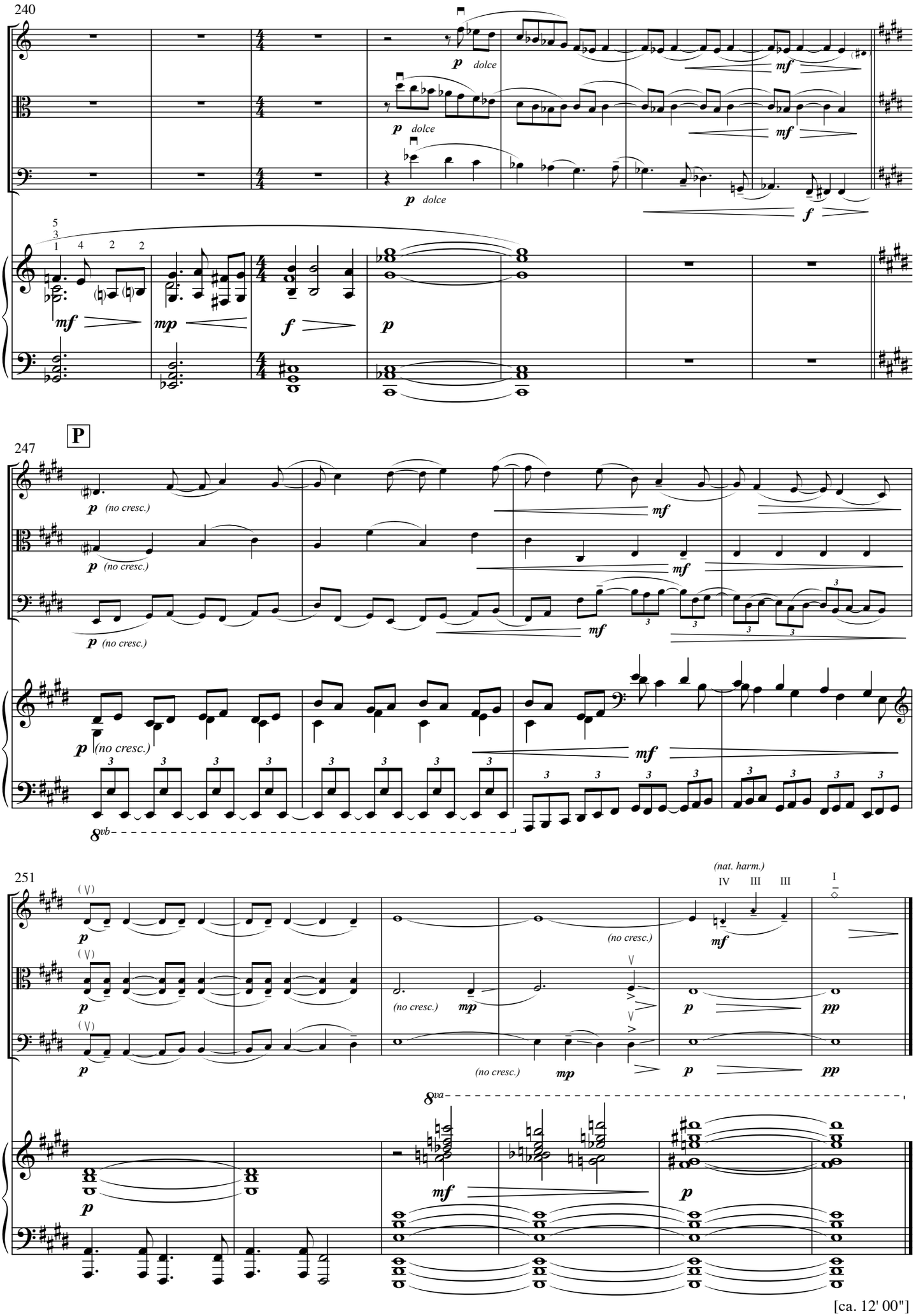

214
216
mp
cresc.
(non arp.)
N
218
f (sempre)
sfp
molto cresc.


220
8va
sfp molto cresc.
sfp molto cresc.
(8va)
222
ff
ff
ff
ff (molto pedale)
sffz
sffz
sffz
sffz
sffz
(8va)
224
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
rit.
cresc.
sffz
sffz
sffz
sffz
rit.


O a tempo
226
fff
fff
fff
fff a tempo
11
12
11
11
Ped.
227
dim. poco a poco
dim. poco a poco
dim. poco a poco
dim. poco a poco
11
12
11
11
Ped. (simile)
228
(ff)
(ff)
(ff)
(ff)
11
12
11
11


229
(f)
(f)
(f)
(f)
11
12
11
11
230
(mf)
(mf)
(mf)
(mf)
11
12
11
11
(hold pedal until bar 239)
231
(mp)
(mp)
(mp)
8va
8va
8va
8va
(mp)
11
11
11
11


232
p (sempre)
p (sempre)
p (sempre)
8va
p
mp
234
p
mf
236
Adagio ♩ = 50
mp
p
mp
p
mp
p
mp espr.
p


240
p dolce
mf
f
mp
247
P
(no cresc.)
8vb
251
(nat. harm.)
IV III III I
pp
8va

[ca. 12' 00"]

III.

Allegro ritmico ♩ = 152

Violin

Viola

Cello

Piano

f

ff molto marc.

ff pesante

secco

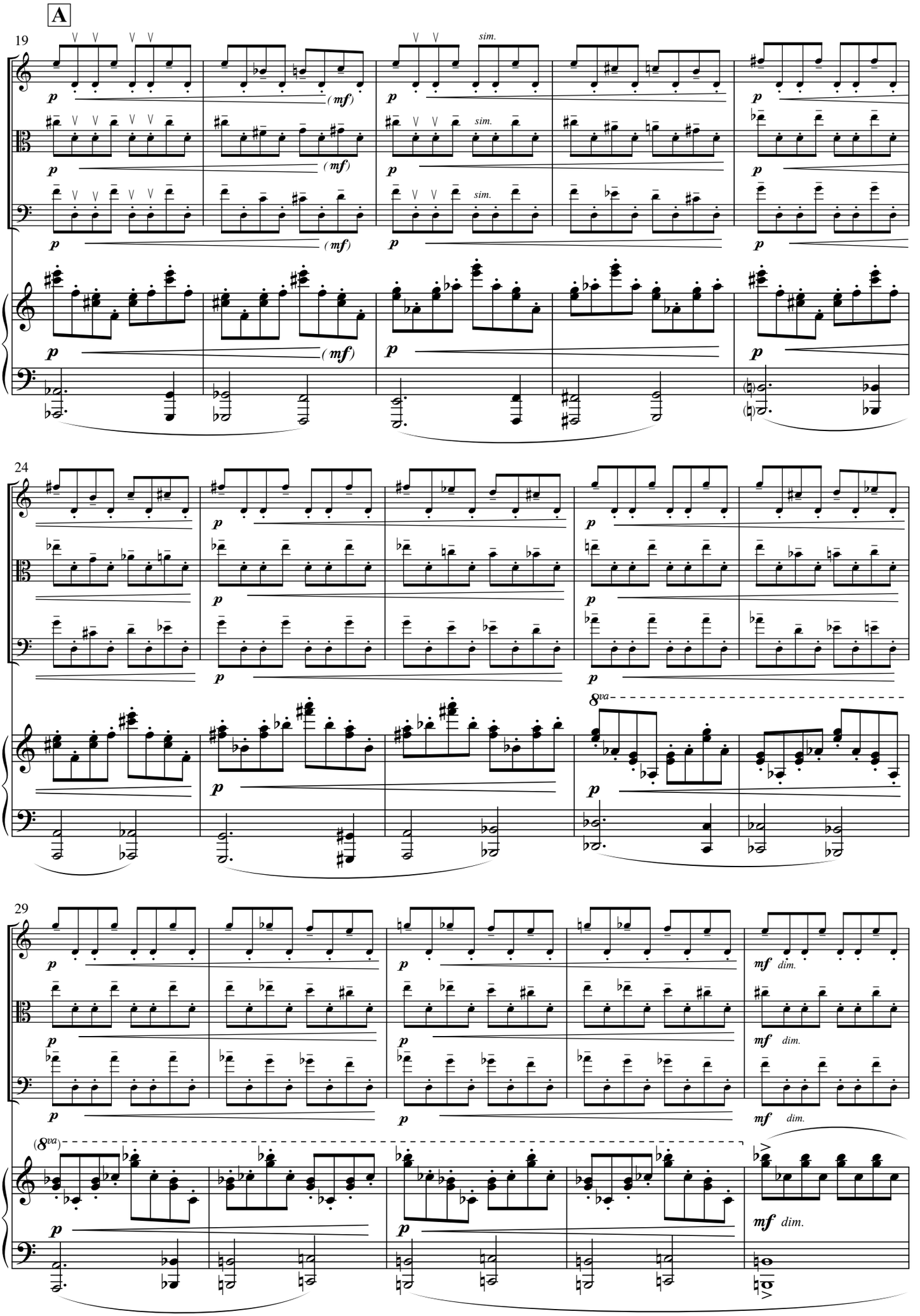
8

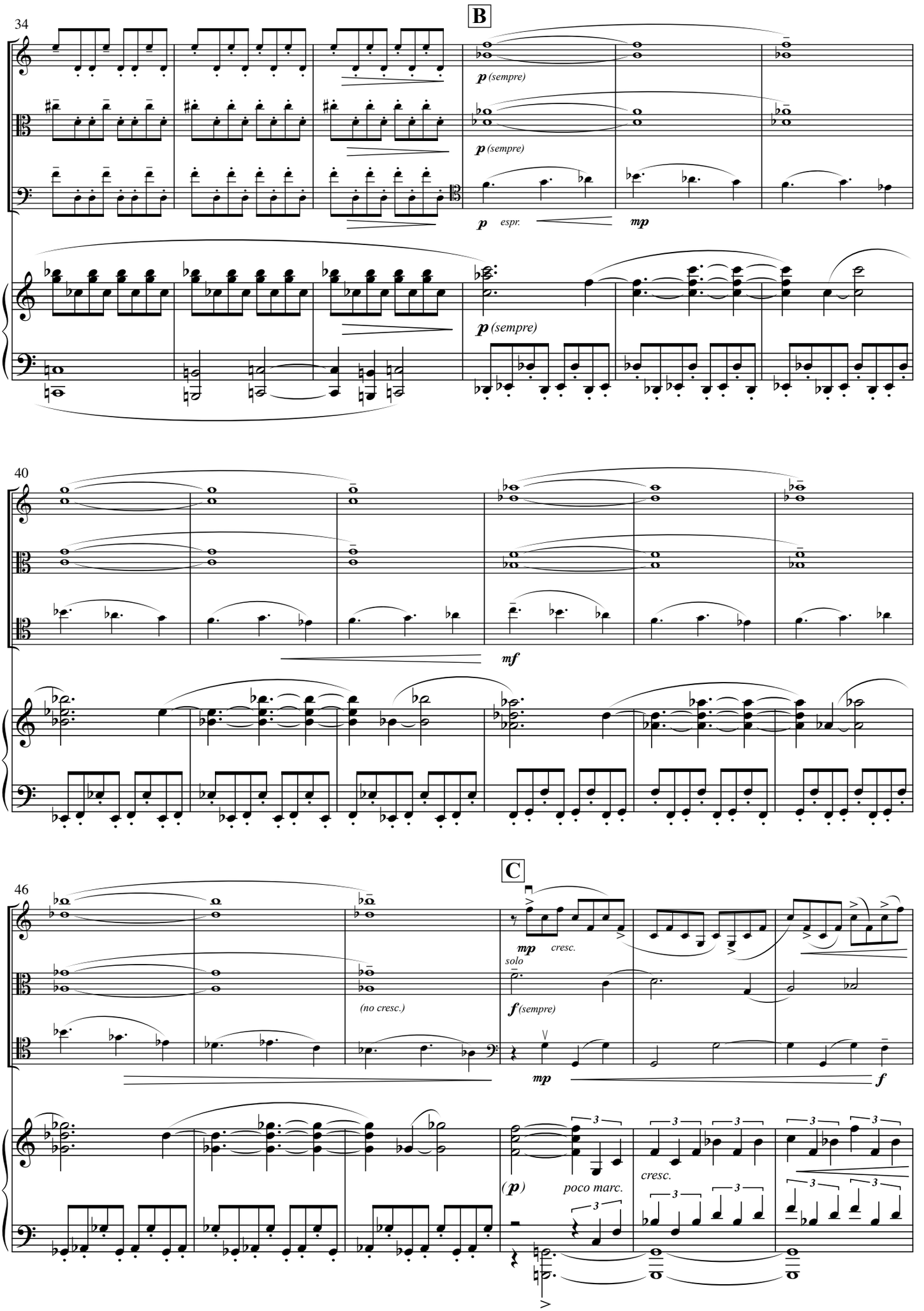
mp (sub.)

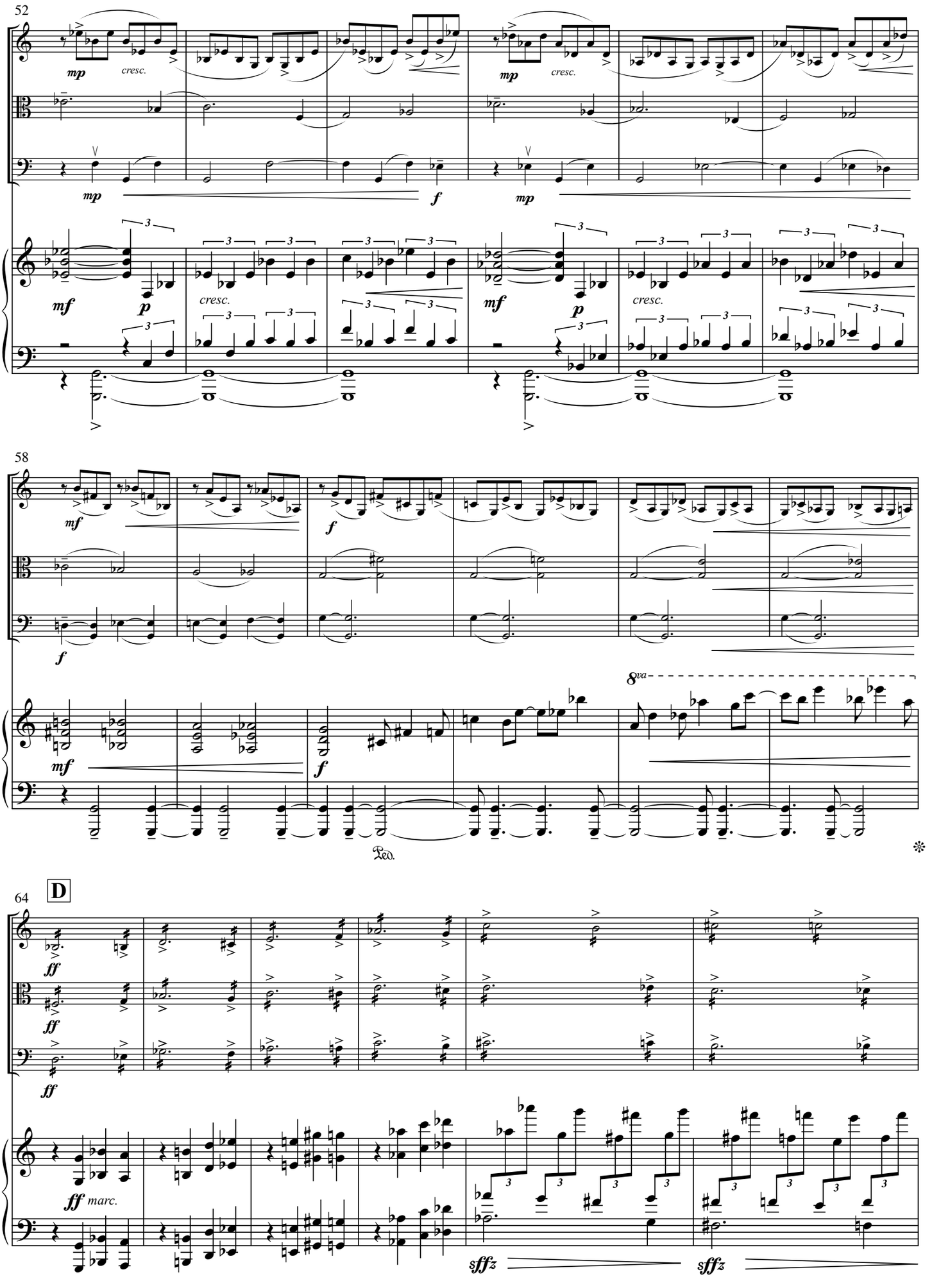
ff

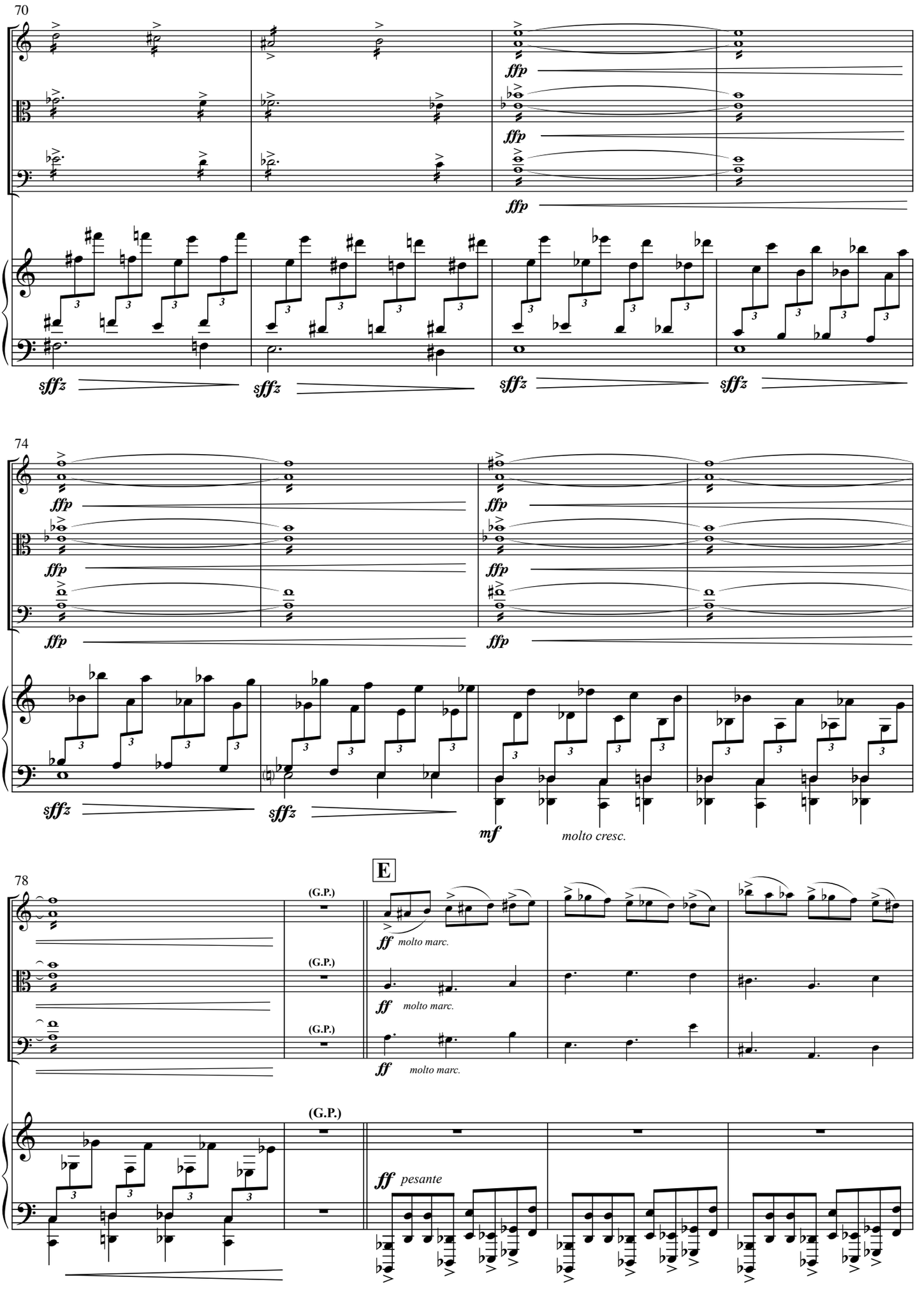
14

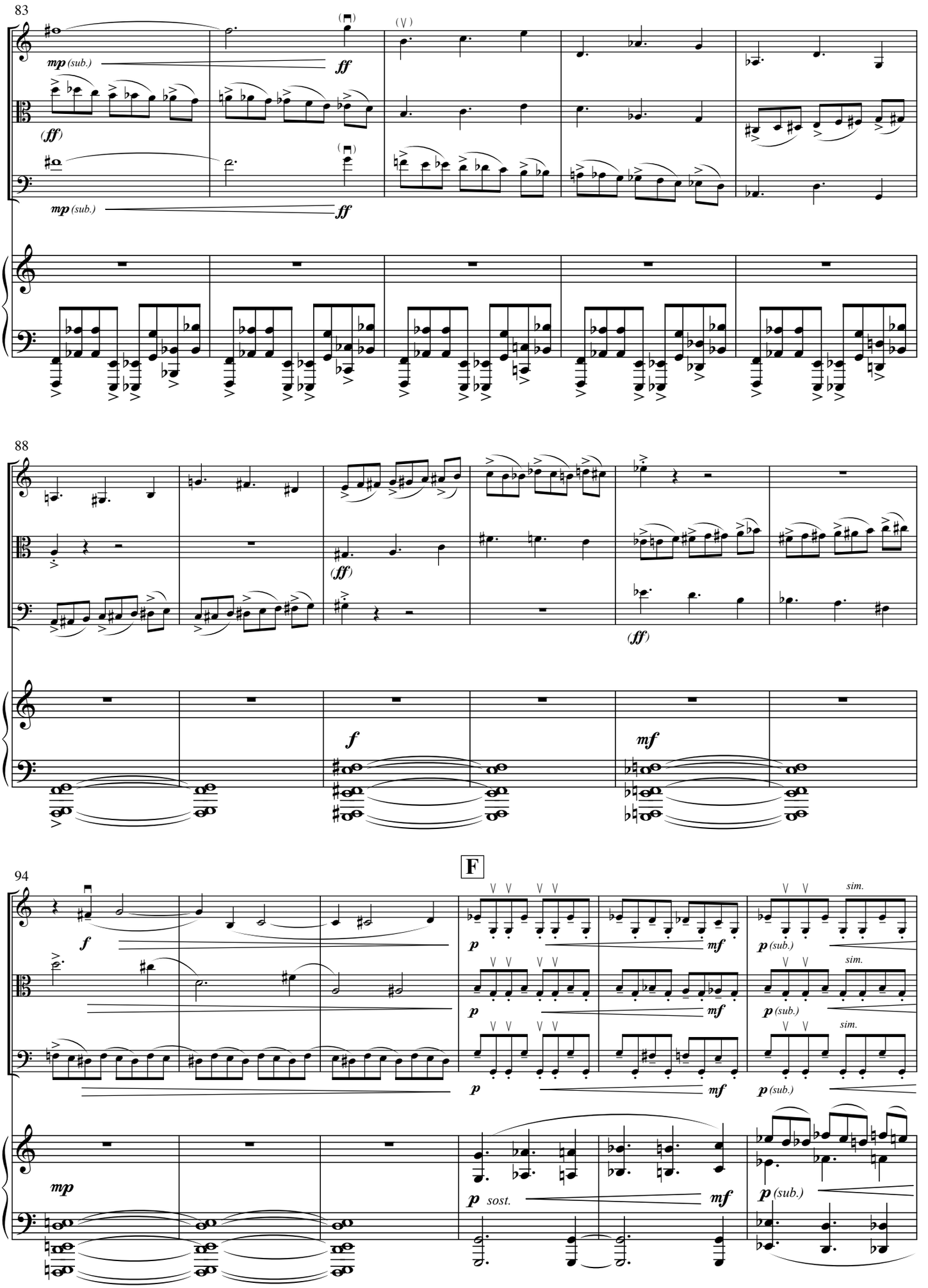
cresc.

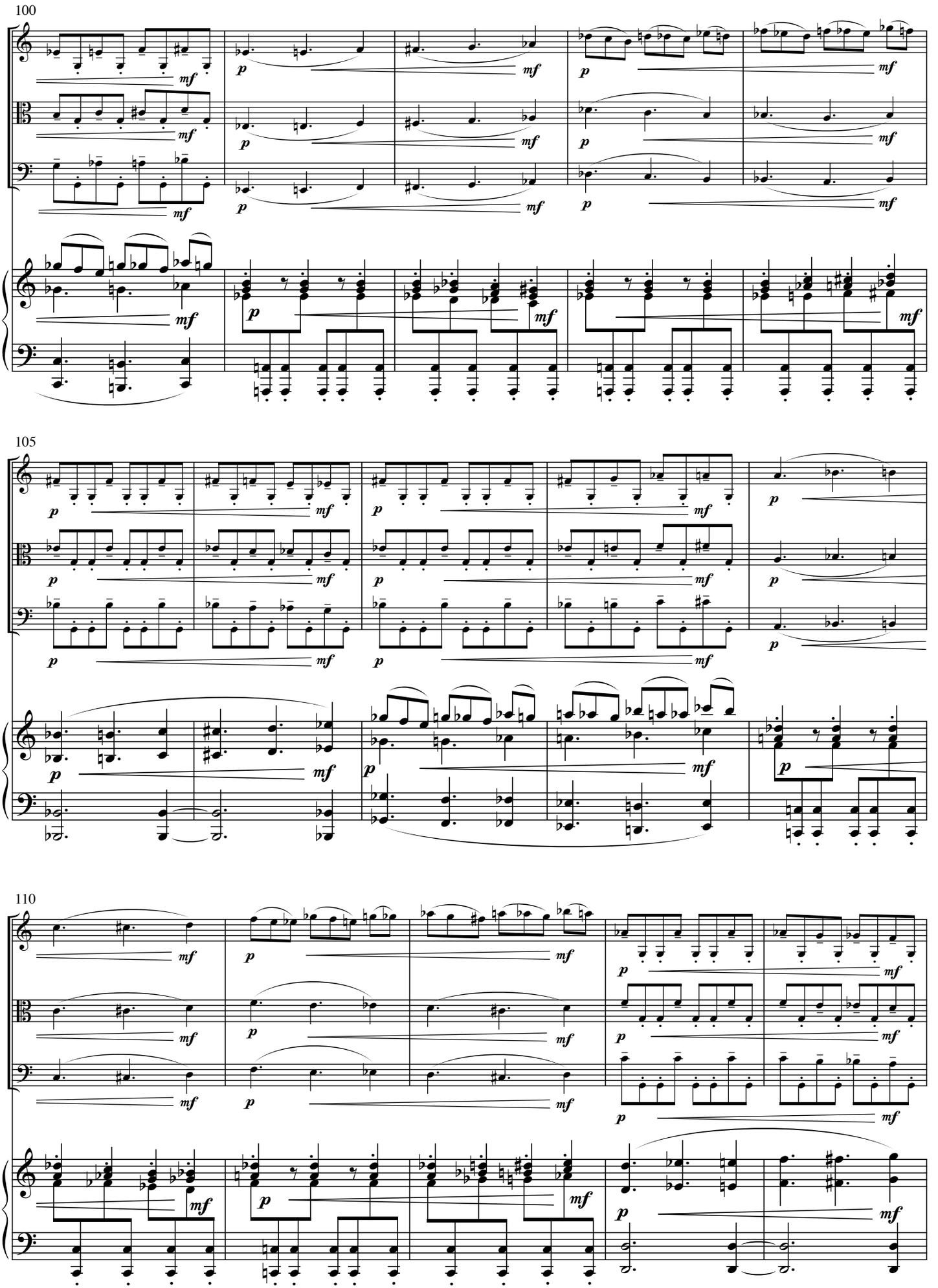

A
19
sim.
(mf)
24
8va
29
mf dim.
(8va)

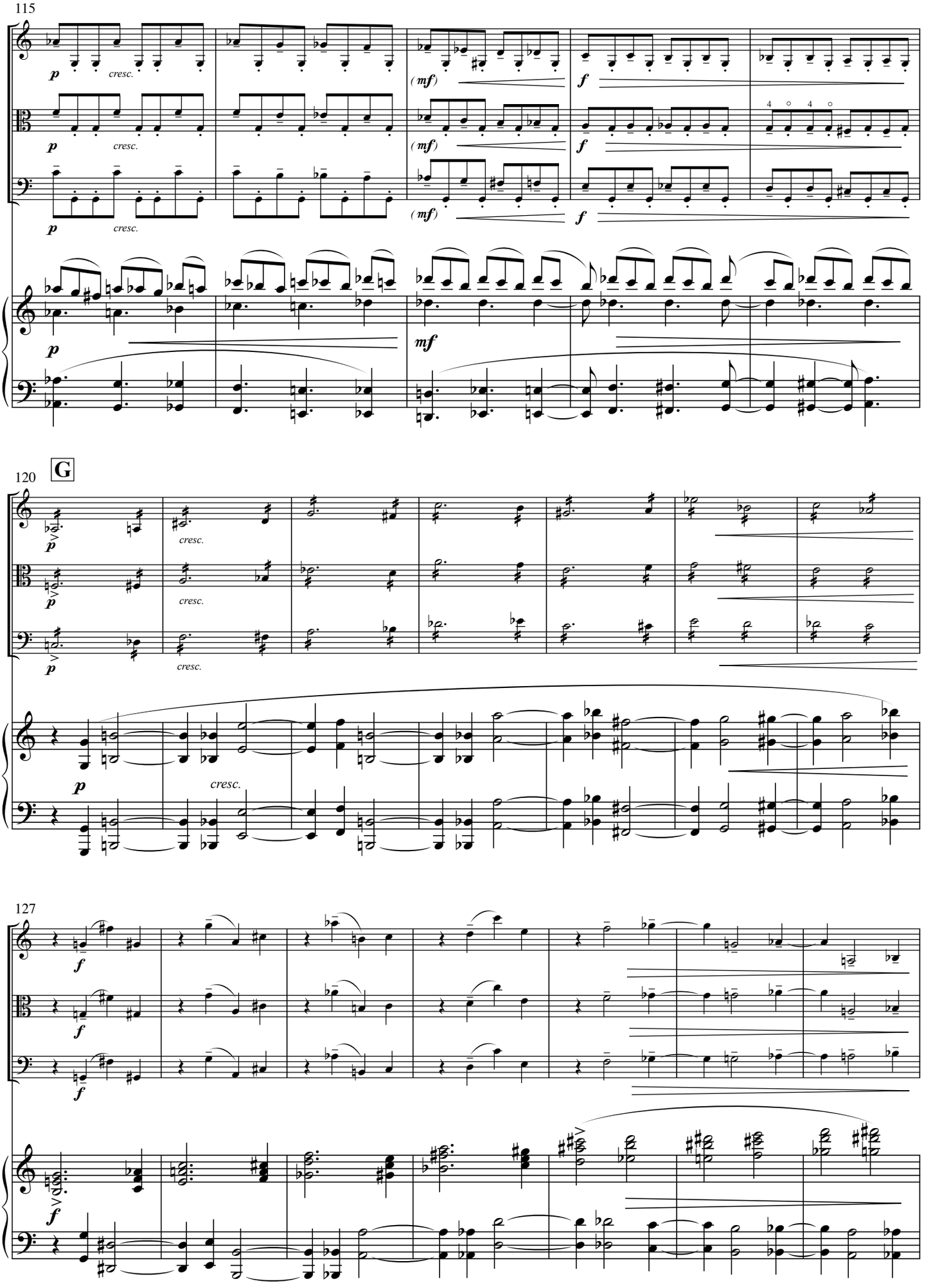

34
B
p (sempre)
p (sempre)
p espr.
mp
p (sempre)
40
mf
46
C
mp cresc.
solo
(no cresc.)
f (sempre)
mp
f
(p)
poco marc.
cresc.

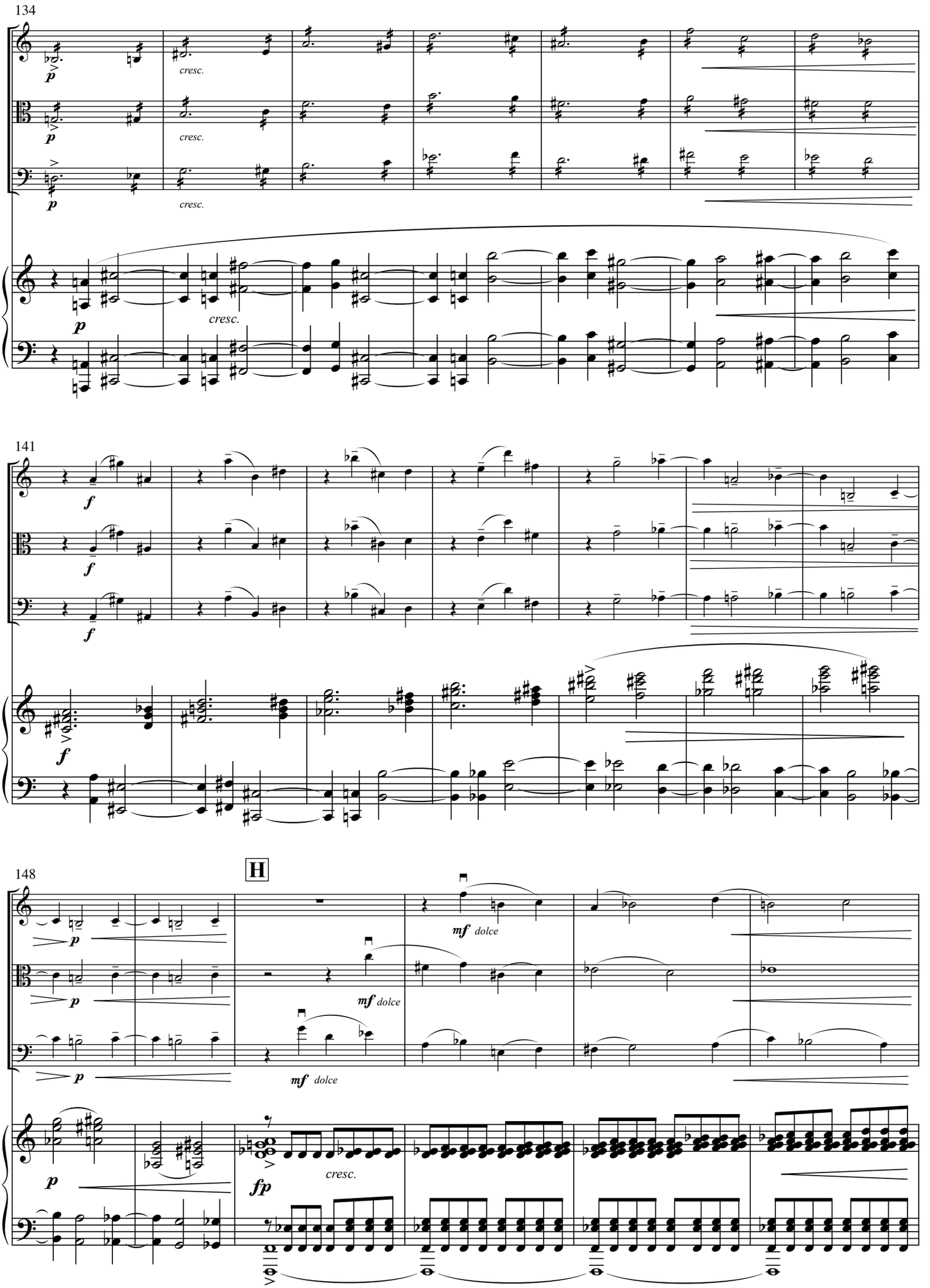

52
mp
cresc.
f
mf
p
58
8va
Ped.
64
D
ff
ff marc.
sffz

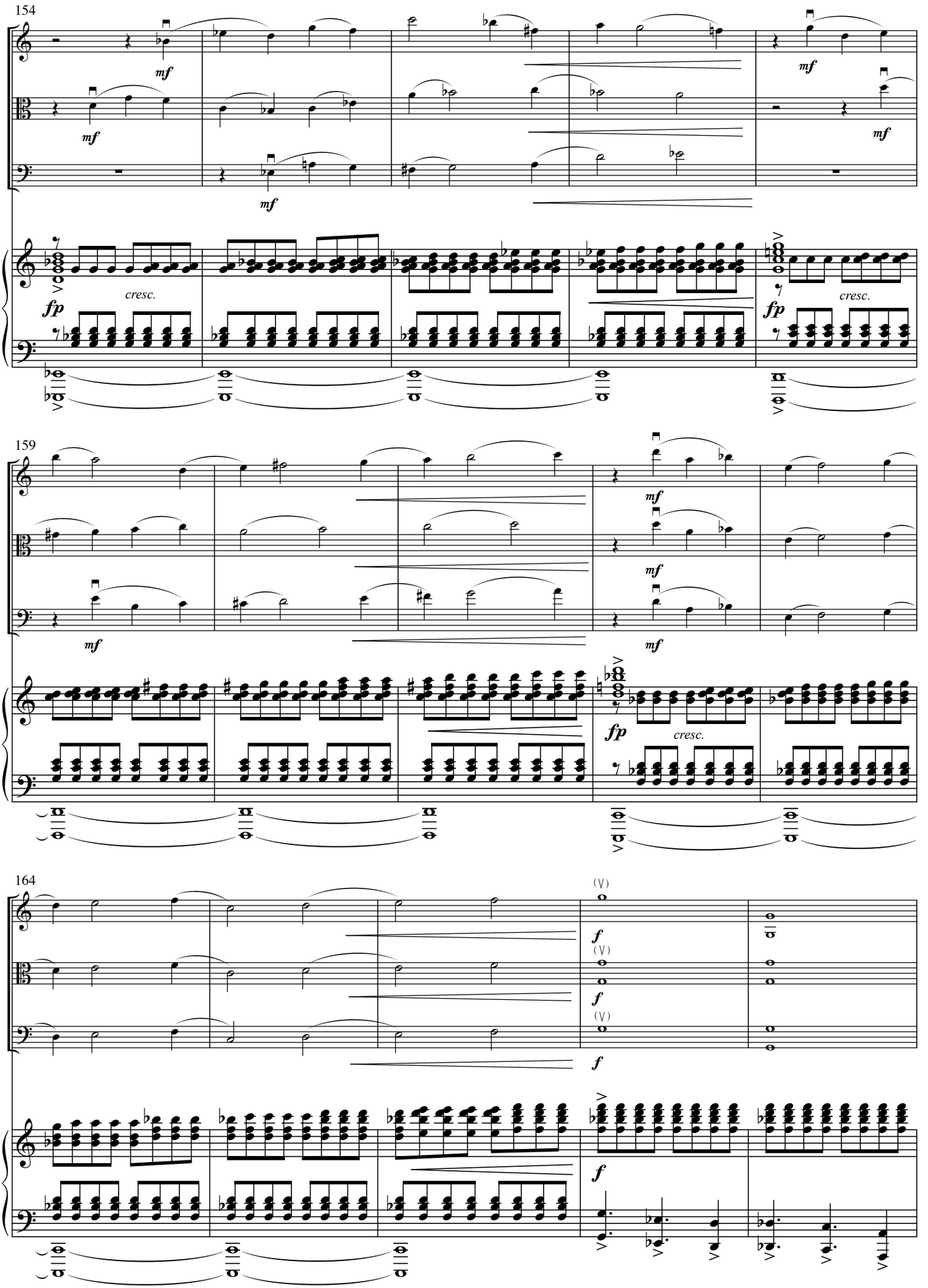

70
ffp
ffp
ffp
sffz
sffz
sffz
sffz
74
ffp
ffp
ffp
ffp
ffp
sffz
sffz
mf
molto cresc.
78
E
(G.P.)
(G.P.)
(G.P.)
(G.P.)
ff molto marc.
ff molto marc.
ff molto marc.
ff pesante

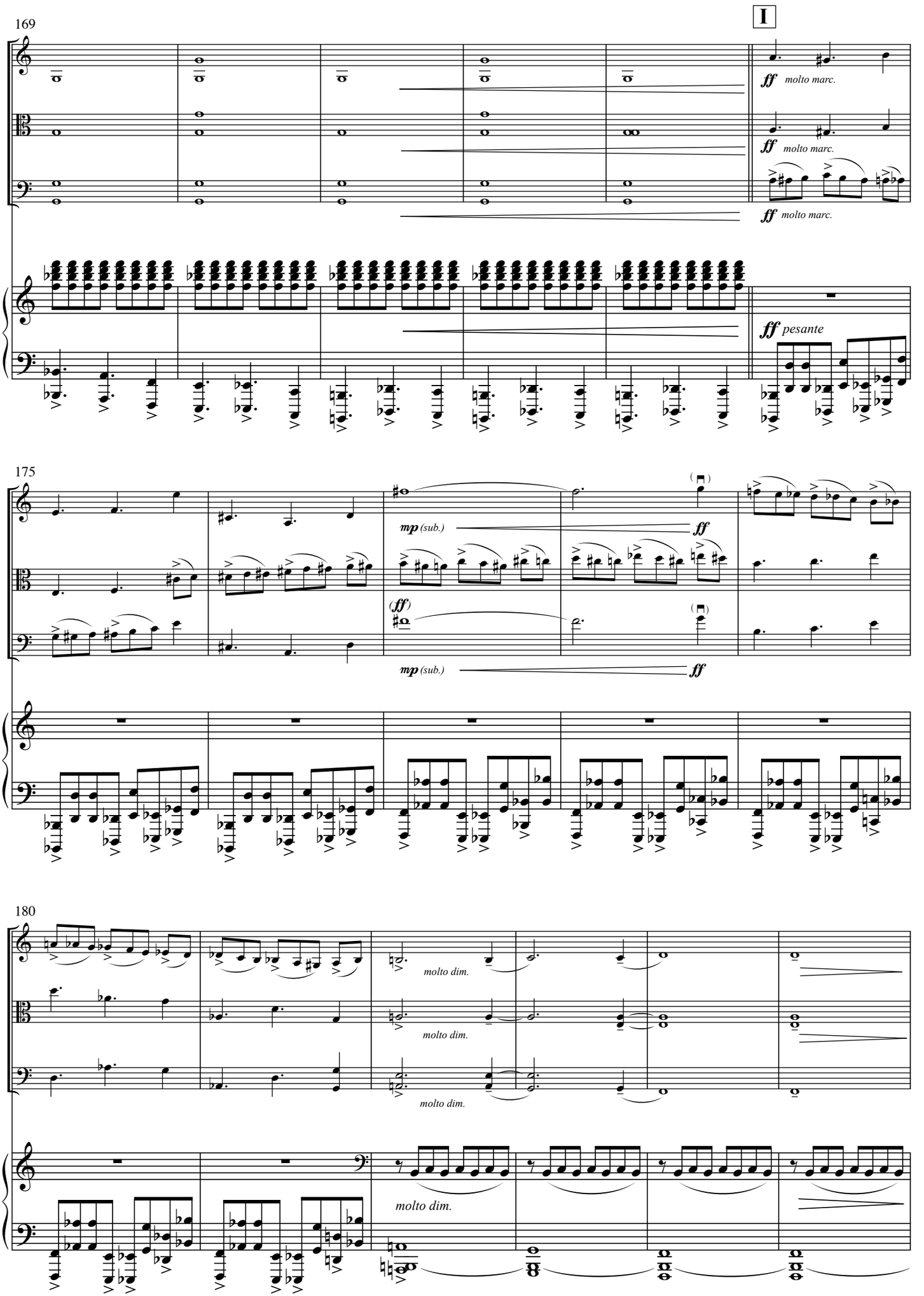

83
mp (sub.)
ff
(ff)
mp (sub.)
ff
88
(ff)
(ff)
f
mf
94
F
f
p
mf
p (sub.)
sim.
p
mf
p (sub.)
sim.
p
mf
p (sub.)
sim.
mp
p sost.
mf
p (sub.)

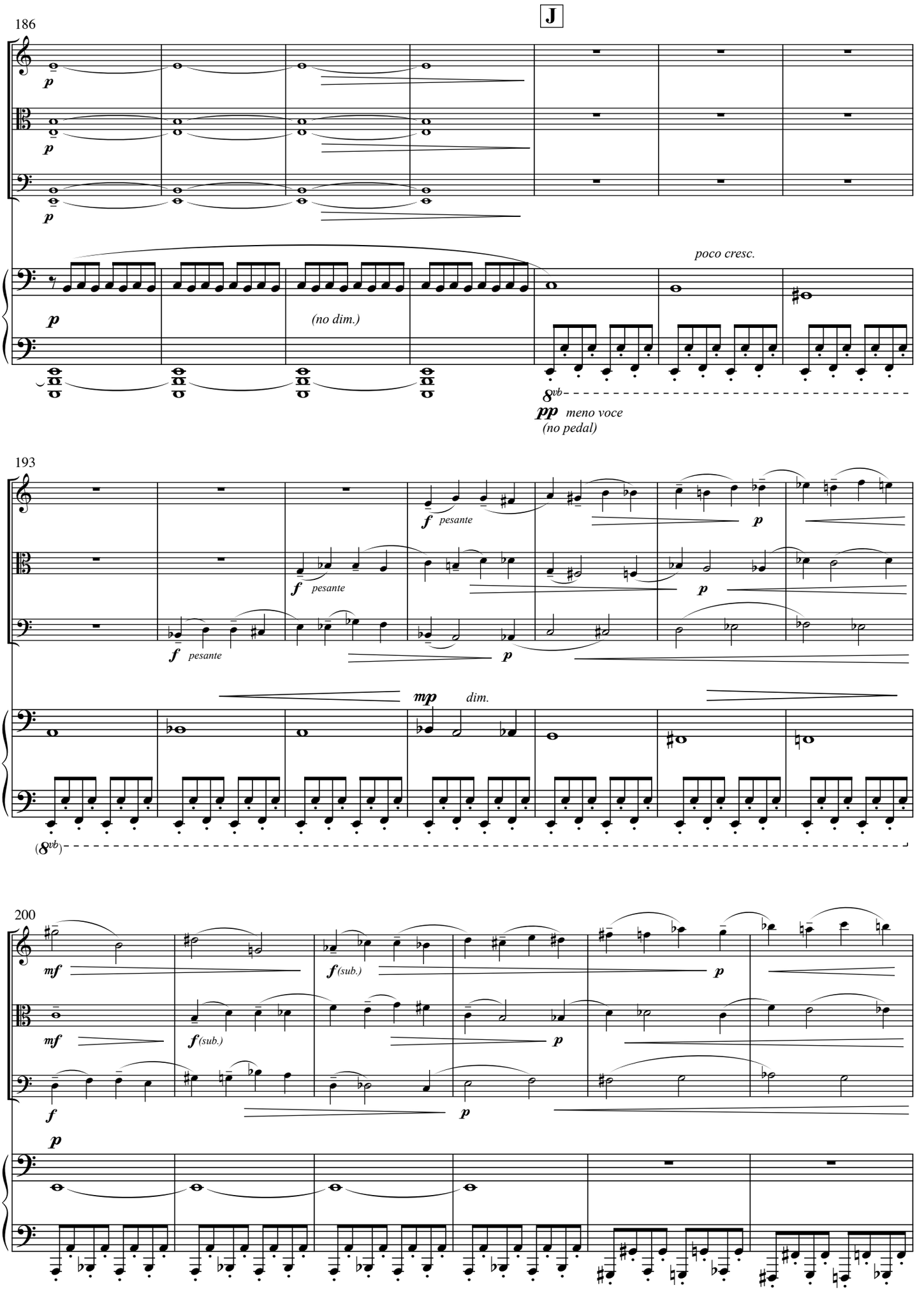

100
105
110

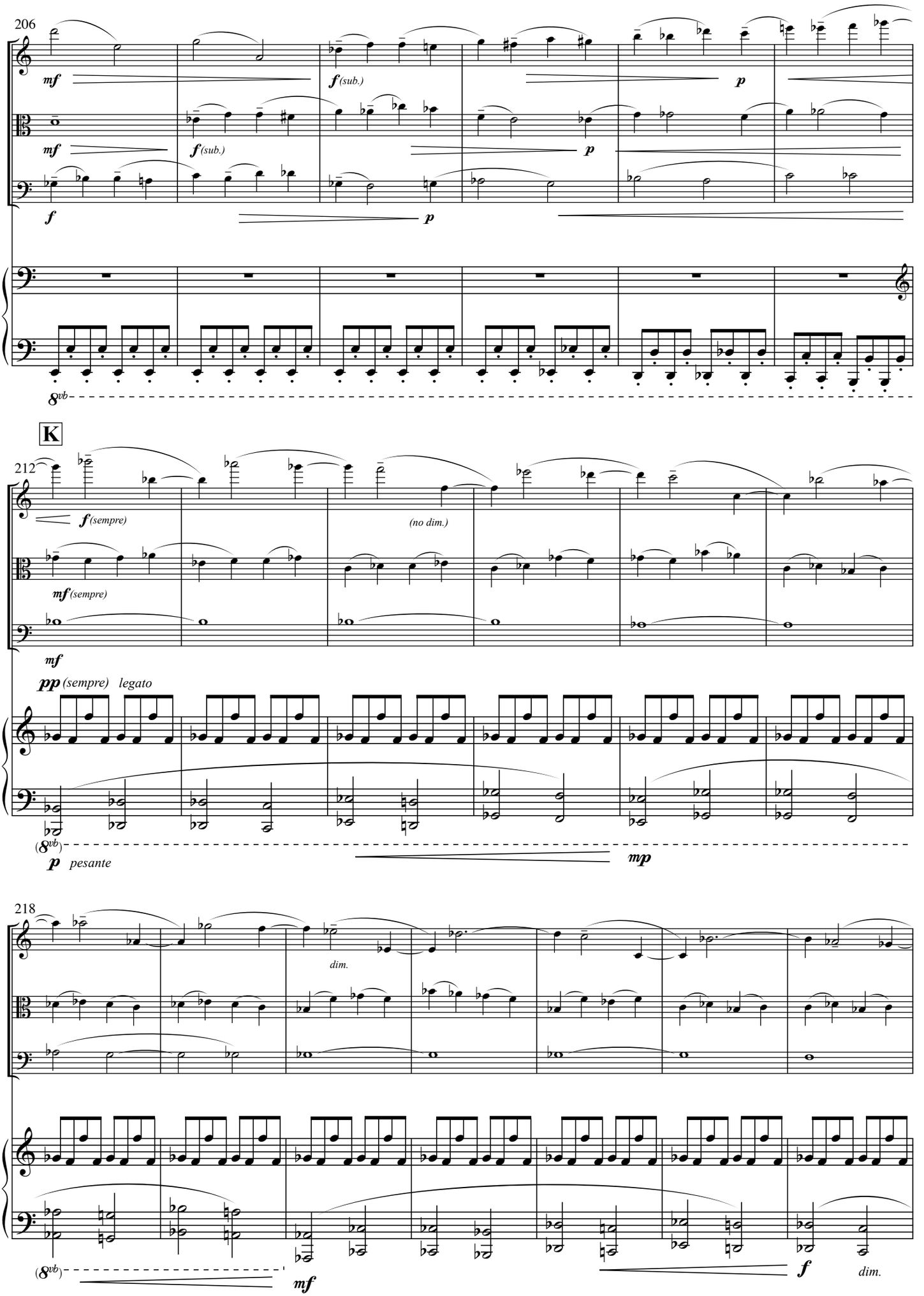

115
p
cresc.
(mf)
f
mf
120
G
127

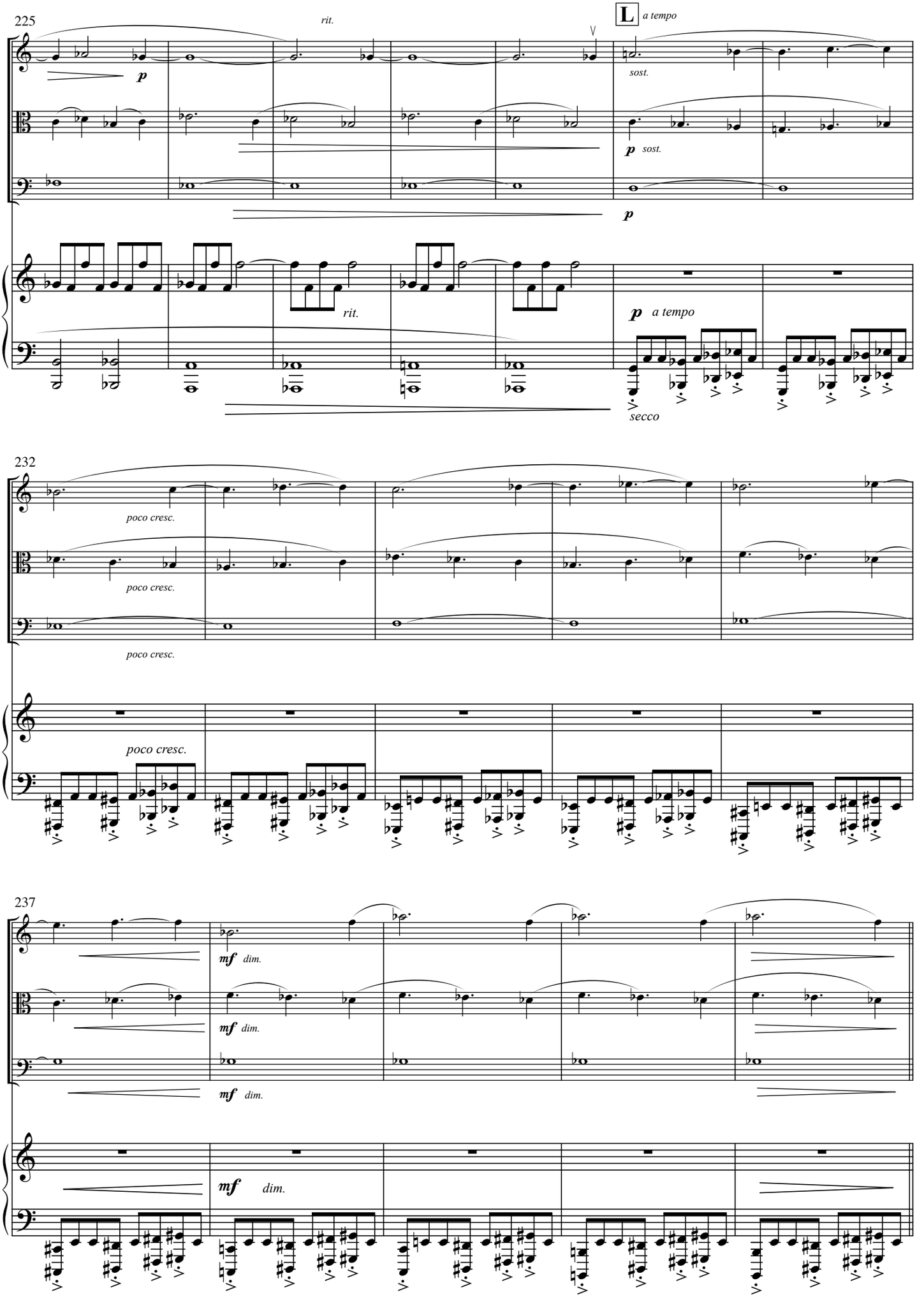

134
p
cresc.
141
f
148
H
mf dolce
fp
cresc.

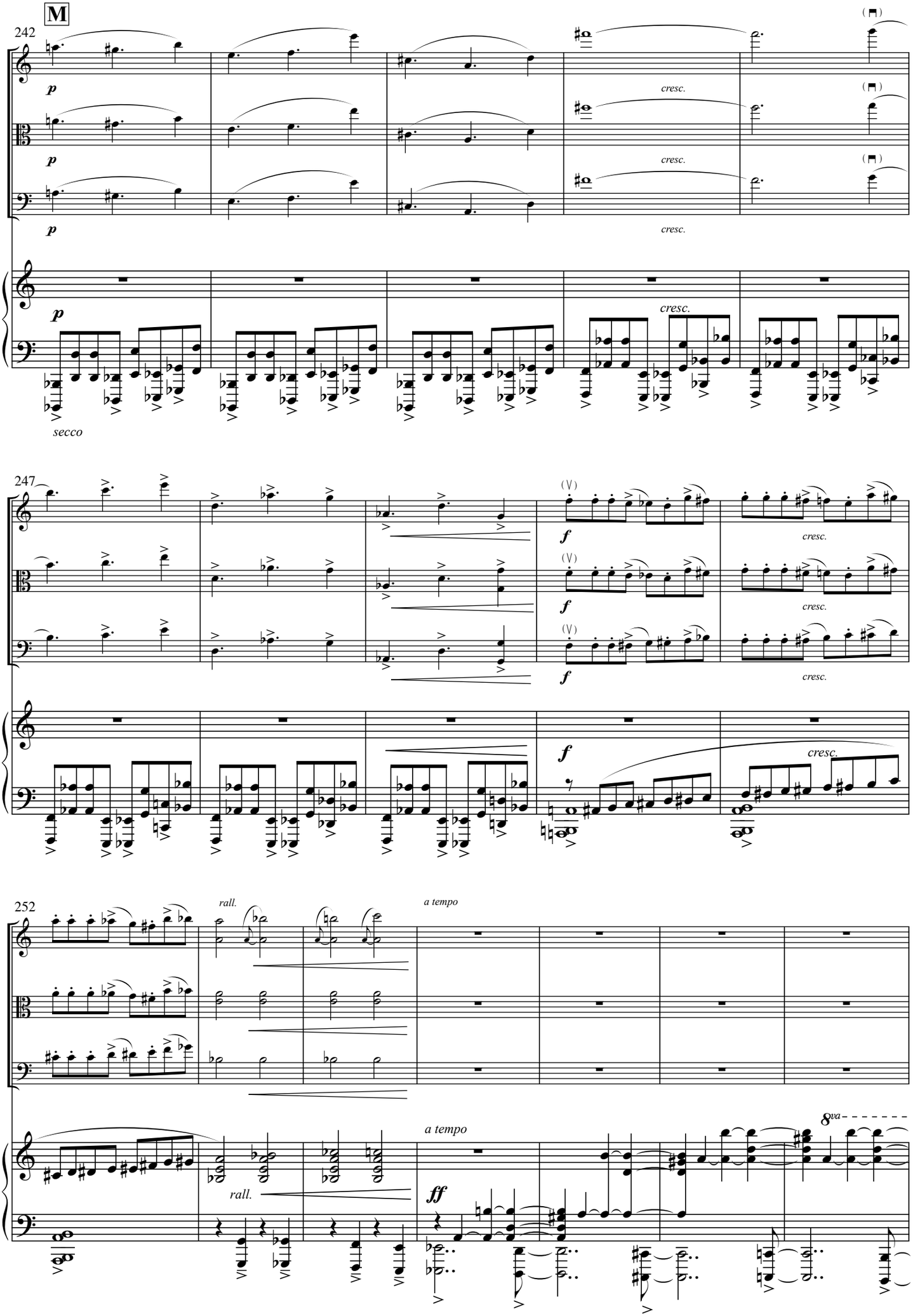

154
mf
mf
mf
mf
mf
cresc.
fp
cresc.
fp
159
mf
mf
mf
mf
fp
cresc.
164
f
f
f
f

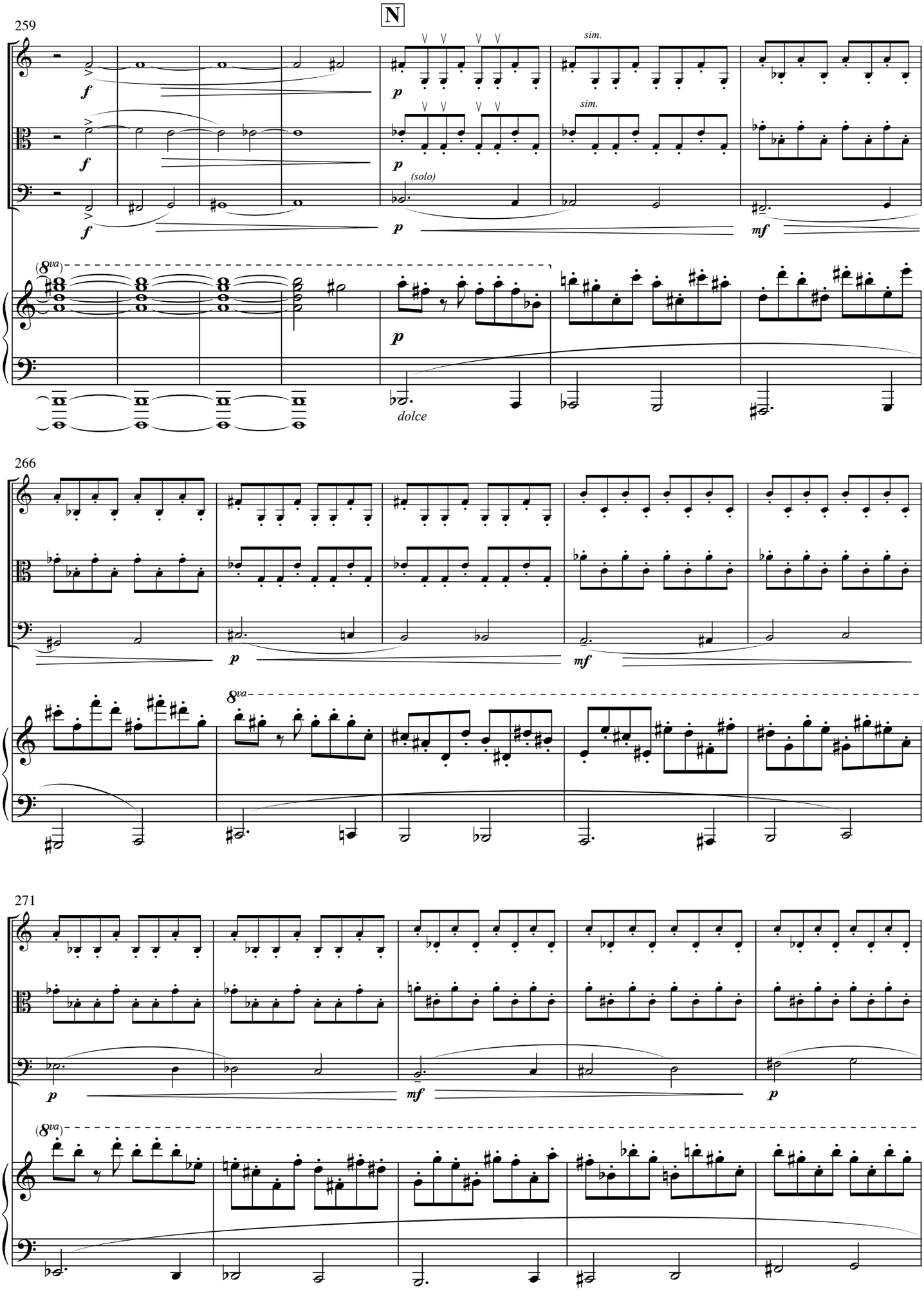

169
I
ff molto marc.
ff molto marc.
ff molto marc.
ff pesante
175
mp (sub.)
ff
(ff)
mp (sub.)
ff
180
molto dim.
molto dim.
molto dim.
molto dim.

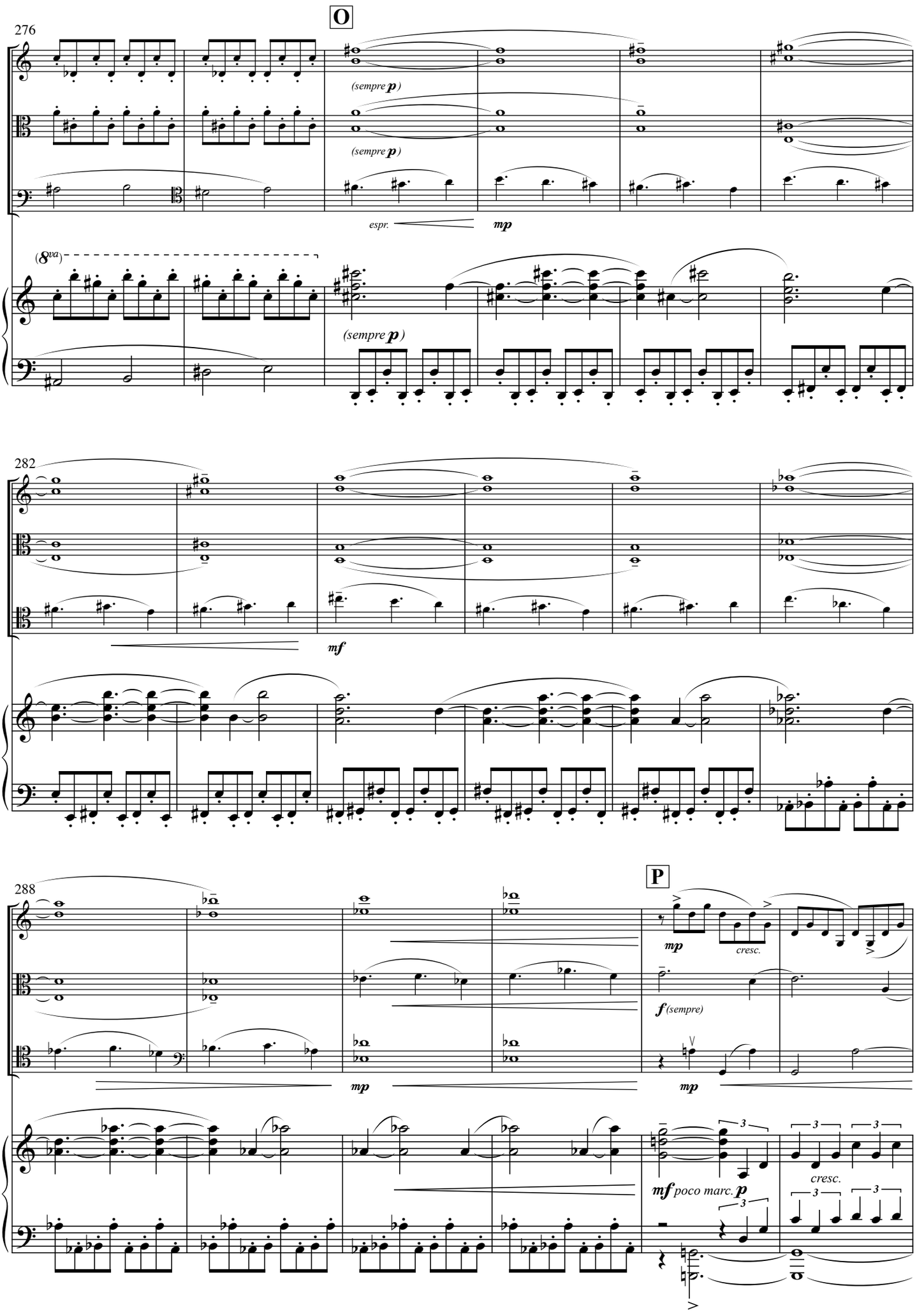

J
186
p
p
p
(no dim.)
poco cresc.
8vb
pp meno voce
(no pedal)
193
f pesante
f pesante
f pesante
p
p
p
mp dim.
(8vb)
200
mf
mf
f
p
f(sub.)
f(sub.)
p
p
p

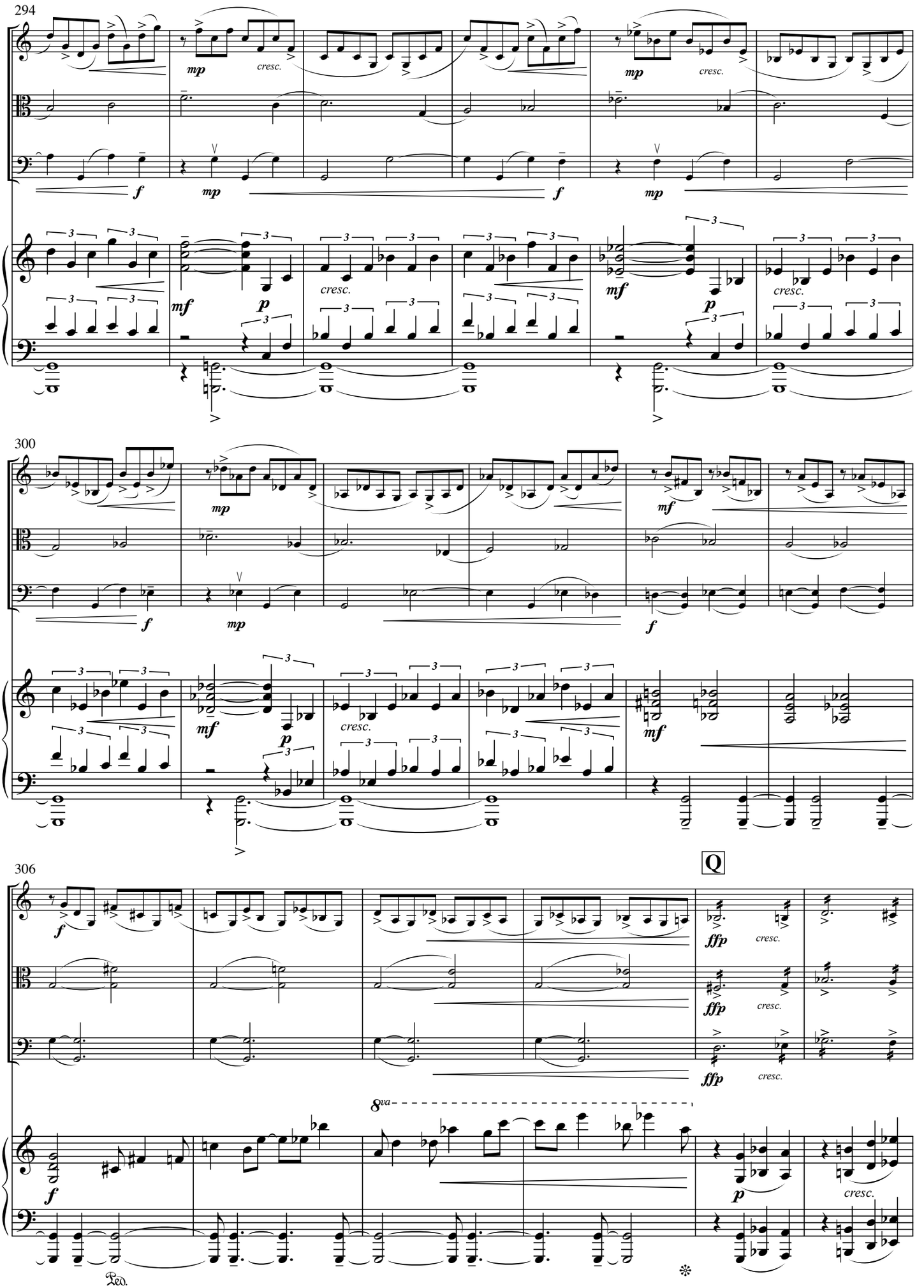

206
mf
f (sub.)
p
f
8vb
K
212
f (sempre)
(no dim.)
mf (sempre)
mf
pp (sempre) legato
(8vb)
p pesante
mp
218
dim.
(8vb)
mf
f
dim.

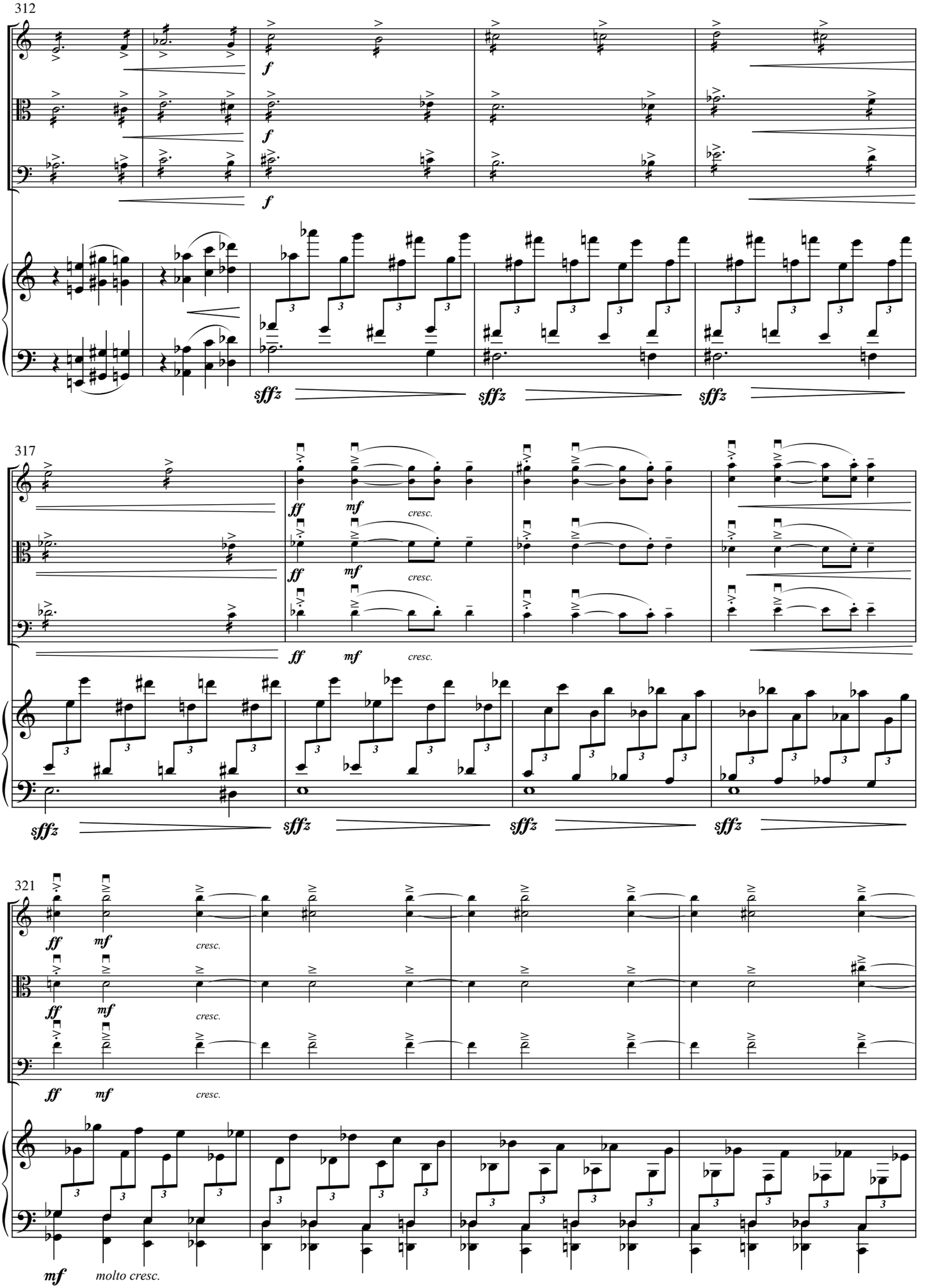

225
rit.
L
a tempo
p
sost.
p sost.
p
rit.
p a tempo
secco
232
poco cresc.
poco cresc.
poco cresc.
poco cresc.
237
mf dim.
mf dim.
mf dim.
mf dim.

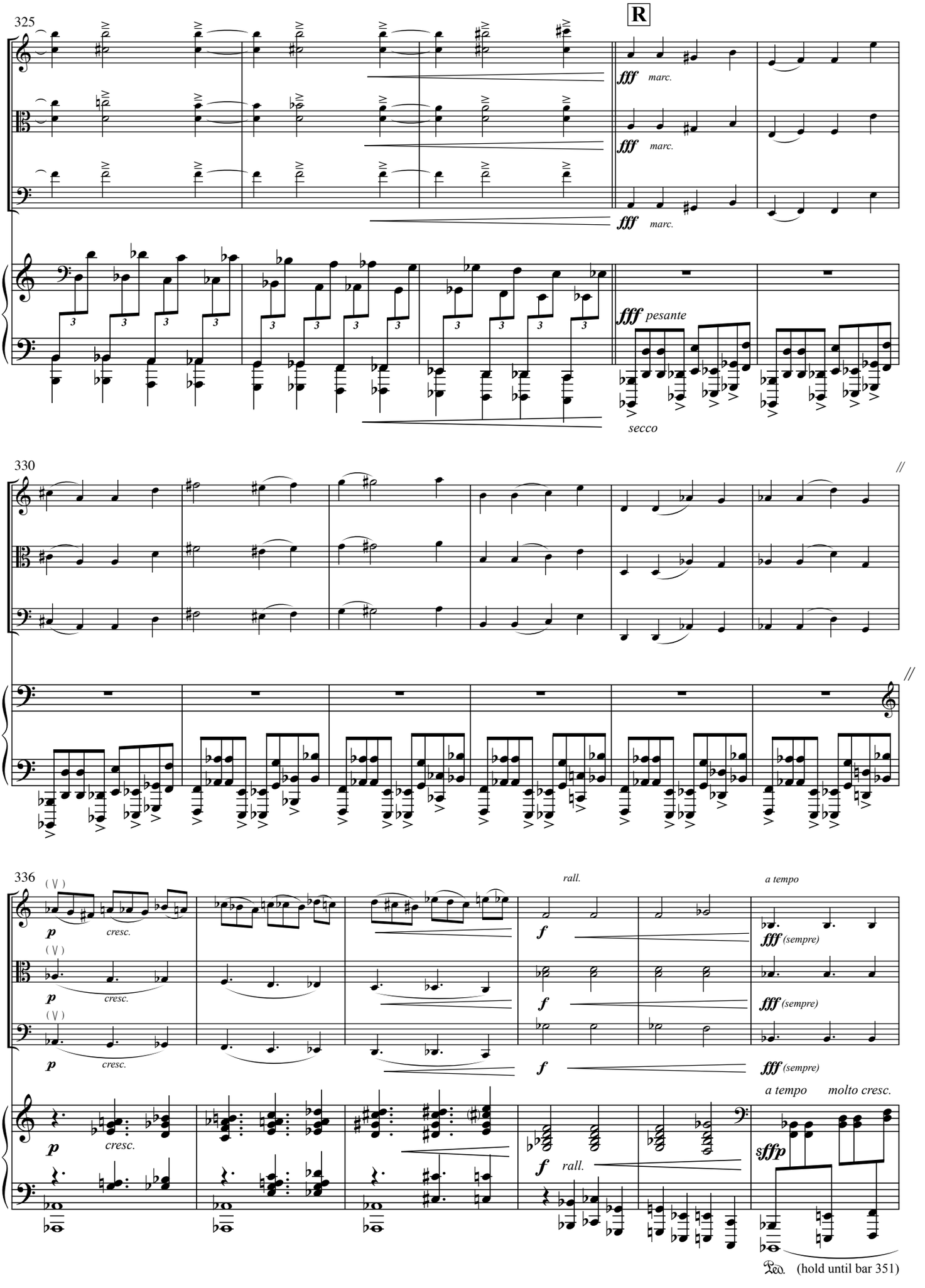

M
242
p
cresc.
secco
247
f
cresc.
252
rall.
a tempo
ff
8va


N
259
sim.
sim.
(solo)
(8va)
dolce
266
8va
271
(8va)


O
276
(sempre p)
(sempre p)
espr.
mp
(8va)
(sempre p)
282
mf
P
288
mp
cresc.
f (sempre)
mp
mf poco marc. p
cresc.


294
mp
cresc.
f
mf
p
300
306
Q
ffp
8va
Ped.


312
f
f
f
sffz
sffz
sffz
317
ff
mf
cresc.
ff
mf
cresc.
ff
mf
cresc.
sffz
sffz
sffz
sffz
321
ff
mf
cresc.
ff
mf
cresc.
ff
mf
cresc.
mf
molto cresc.


325
R
fff marc.
fff marc.
fff marc.
fff pesante
secco
330
336
p cresc.
p cresc.
p cresc.
rall.
f
f
f
a tempo
fff (sempre)
fff (sempre)
fff (sempre)
a tempo molto cresc.
sffp
rall.
(hold until bar 351)

Repeat this bar as many times as
needed for strings to become audible
while the piano sound decays (4-8 times).
[Piano enters *ad lib.* on beat one of bar 347.]

342

S

ppp *(inaudible)*

poco cresc.

p *cresc.*

ffff

mp *legato*

348

mf

pp

mp *dolce*

mfp

mf

simile

354

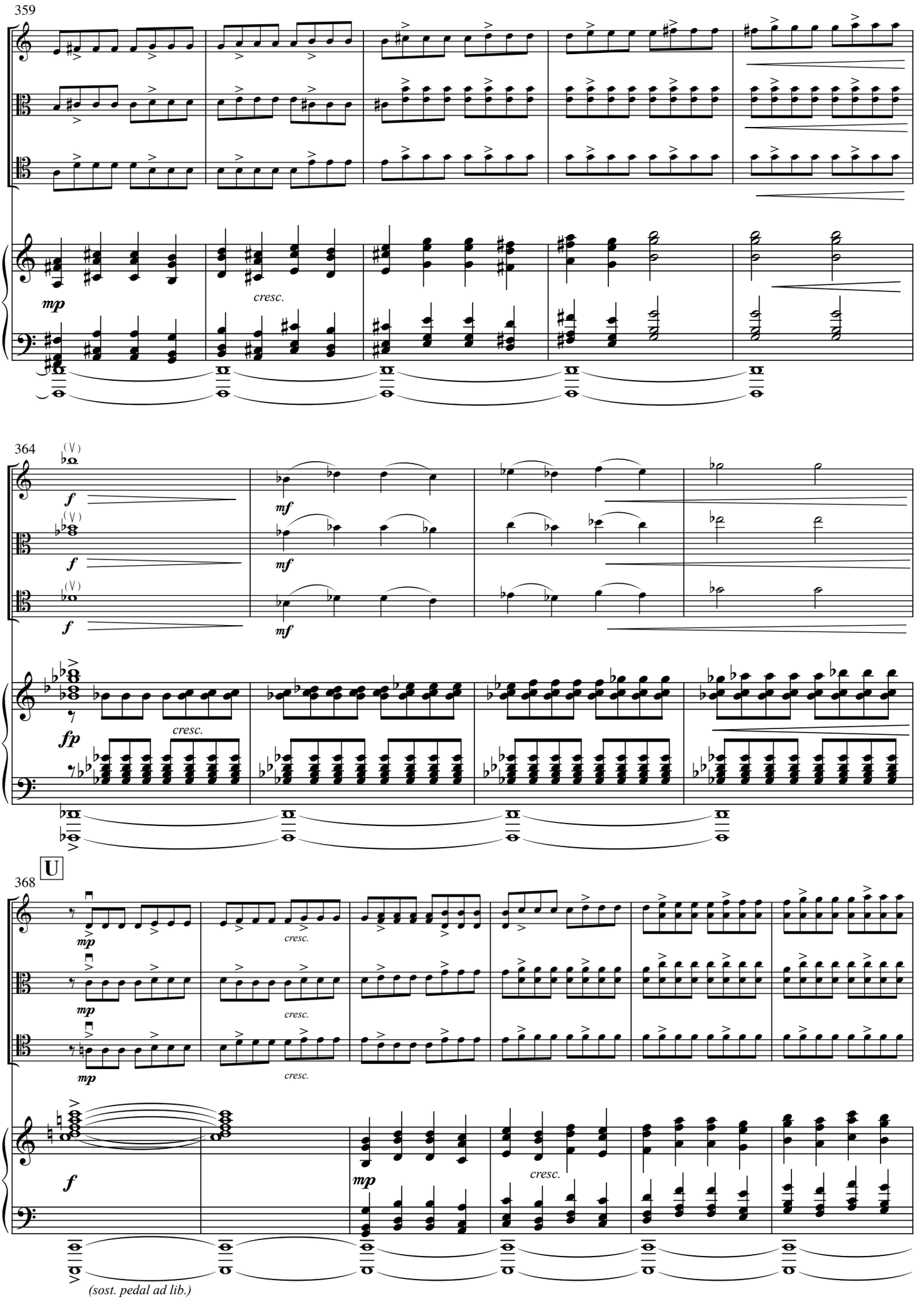
T

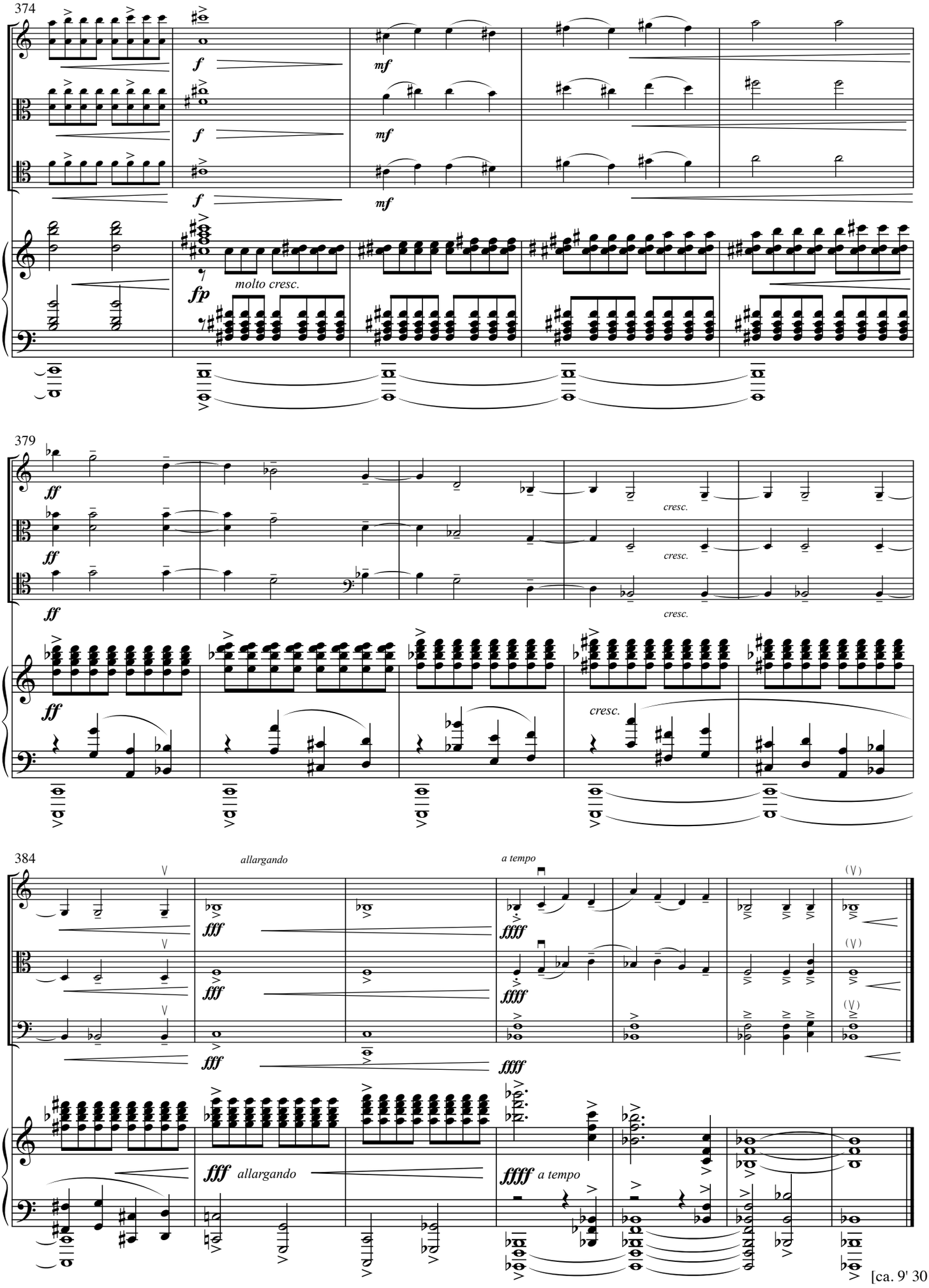
mp

cresc.

f

(sost. pedal ad lib.)


359
mp
cresc.
364
f
mf
fp
cresc.
U
368
mp
cresc.
f
mp
cresc.
(sost. pedal ad lib.)


374
molto cresc.
379
cresc.
384
allargando
a tempo
allargando
a tempo
[ca. 9' 30"]