ELLIOTT CARTER

STRING QUARTET NO. 3

(Score)

Associated Music Publishers, Inc.

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ELLIOTT CARTER

STRING QUARTET NO. 3

(1998 Edition)

Duo I

Furioso 1
Leggerissimo 7
Andante espressivo 12
Pizzicato giocoso 18

Duo II

Maestoso 1
Grazioso 9
Pizzicato giusto, meccanico 14
Scorrevole 21
Largo tranquillo 49
Appassionato 55

Appendix 95

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String Quartet No. 3, commissioned by the Juilliard School for the Juilliard String Quartet, divides the instruments into pairs: a Duo for violin and cello that plays in *rubato* style and a Duo for violin and viola in more regular rhythm.

The violin-cello duo presents four different musical characters: an angry, intense *Furioso*, a fanciful *Leggerissimo*, a *Pizzicato giocoso* and a lyrical *Andante espressivo*, in short sections one after the other in various orders, sometimes with pauses between. The violin-viola duo, meanwhile, presents six contrasting characters: *Maestoso*; *Grazioso*; *Pizzicato, giusto meccanico*; *Scorrevole*; *Largo tranquillo*; and *Appassionato*. During the Quartet each character of each duo is presented alone and also in combination with each character of the other duo to give a sense of ever-varying perspectives of feeling, expression, rivalry and cooperation.

The edition of *Quartet No. 3* presented here reintroduces passages from the original score that had been previously revised. When the Juilliard Quartet was preparing for the premiere, the cellist at that time asked me to rethink certain passages that were too spread out for his hand. Assuming that this would be true for future cellists, I made revisions that sometimes involved other parts, and this became the published version. But when a new cellist joined the ensemble and inherited the old manuscript part with its penciled-in changes, he found the original version entirely playable, and for subsequent performers it has been similarly manageable. Therefore, since I have always preferred the original version, the publishers have restored the score (and parts) to their original form. However, for reference and for convenience in following the recordings (which correspond to the revised version), the publishers have printed the revised pages in an appendix to the score.

—ELLIOTT CARTER

first performed by the Juilliard String Quartet
at the Juilliard School, January 23, 1973

awarded the Pulitzer Prize, 1973

duration: ca. 20 minutes

recordings:
Arditti String Quartet on Etcetera KTC 1066 (1992)
Juilliard String Quartet on Sony Classical S2K 47229 (1991)
Juilliard String Quartet on Columbia M 32738 (LP, 1974)

Performance material is available from the publisher.

Performance Notes

Segments of the four movements of Duo I (first played in the order given below and later resumed in other orders) are combined with segments of each of the six movements of Duo II:

Duo I
Violin and Cello
(playing *quasi rubato* throughout)

Furioso
Leggerissimo
Andante espressivo
Pizzicato giocoso

Duo II
Violin and Viola
(playing in quite strict rhythm throughout)

Maestoso
Grazioso
Scorrevole
Pizzicato giusto, meccanico
Largo tranquillo
Appassionato

The two duos should perform as two groups as separated from each other as is conveniently possible, so that the listener can not only perceive them as two separate sound sources but also be aware of the combinations they form with each other.

Balance between the two duos, as indicated in the score, should be made evident to the listener, leaving no doubt as to which predominates or whether the four players are to be heard as a unit (as in the first and last few measures). The performers should take into account the fact that long, held notes as well as very fast ones tend to be covered by notes of medium speed.

Suggestions—as in measures 28 and following—as to how to interpret the indication *quasi rubato* of Duo I have been given in parentheses in various places where Duo I plays alone. A similar flexibility can be observed in the passages when both duos are playing, provided the strict tempo of Duo II is not disturbed and the harmonic structure relating the two duos is not destroyed.

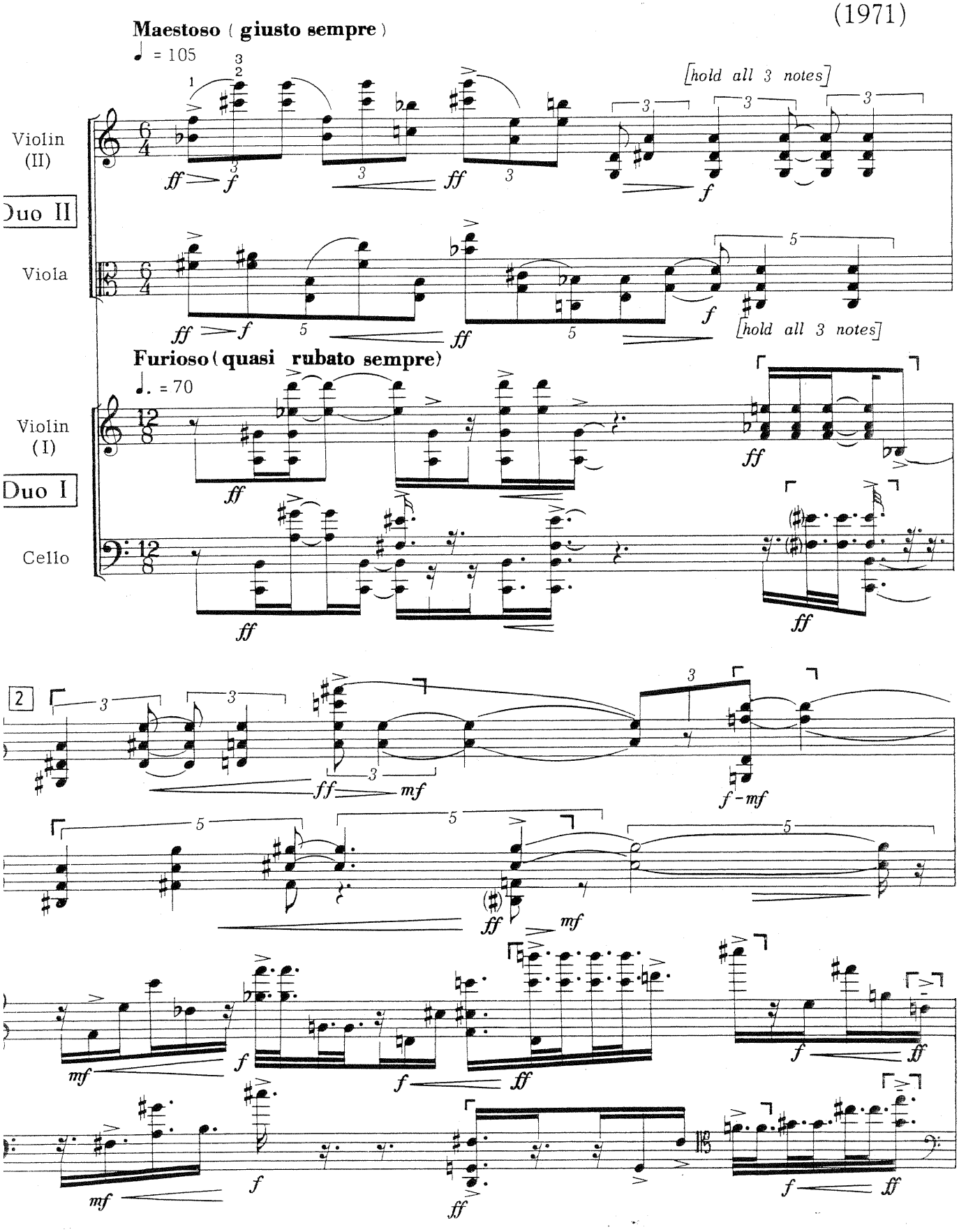
The short, rapid groups of pizzicato notes featured in Duo I can be played *arpeggiato* by sweeping one finger across the strings. These groups should be somewhat slower than the rolled chords marked with an arrow.

Harmonics are written as they sound in the score. Suggestions as to how to produce them are given in the parts.

for the Juilliard Quartet

STRING QUARTET NO. 3

Elliott Carter
(1971)



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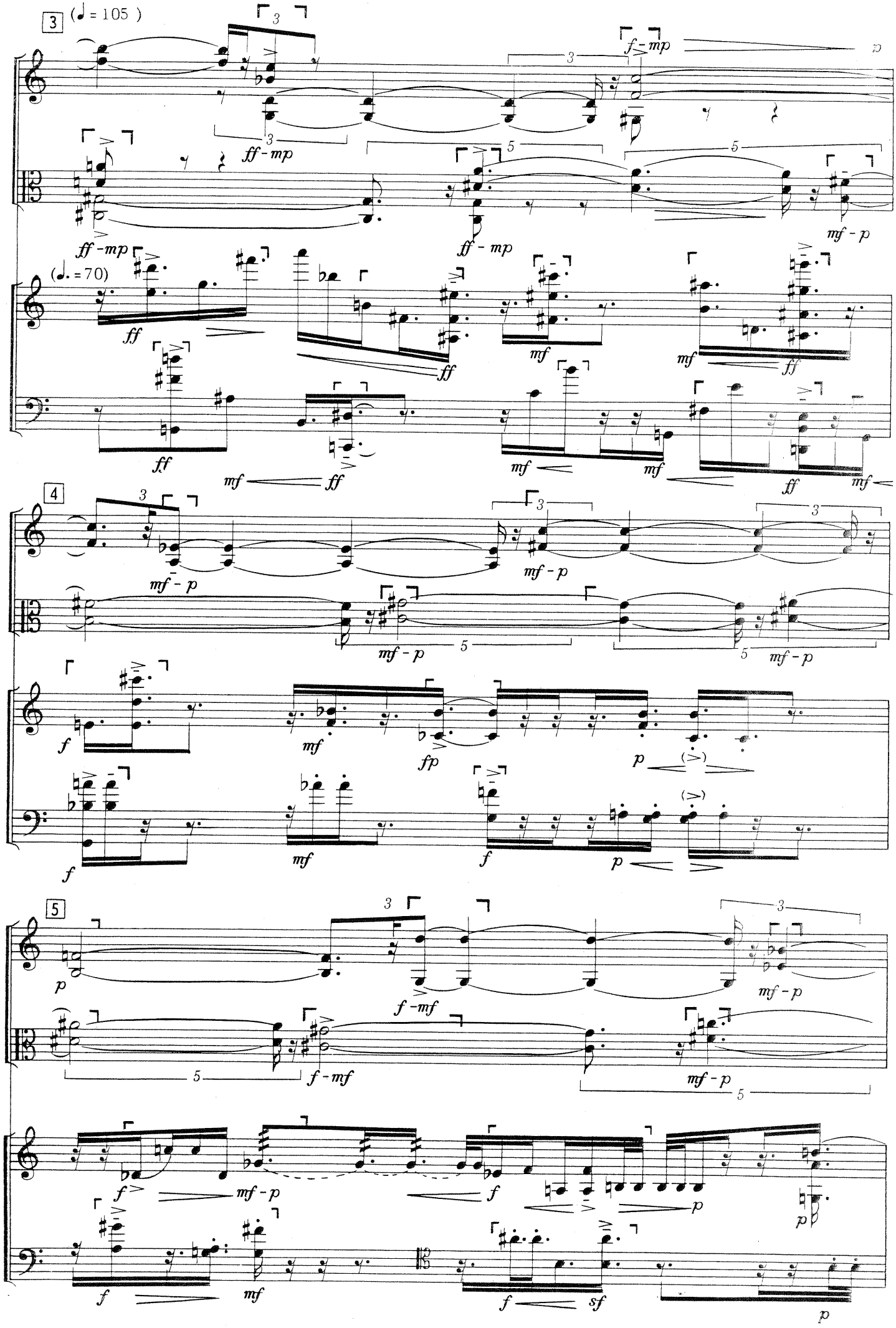
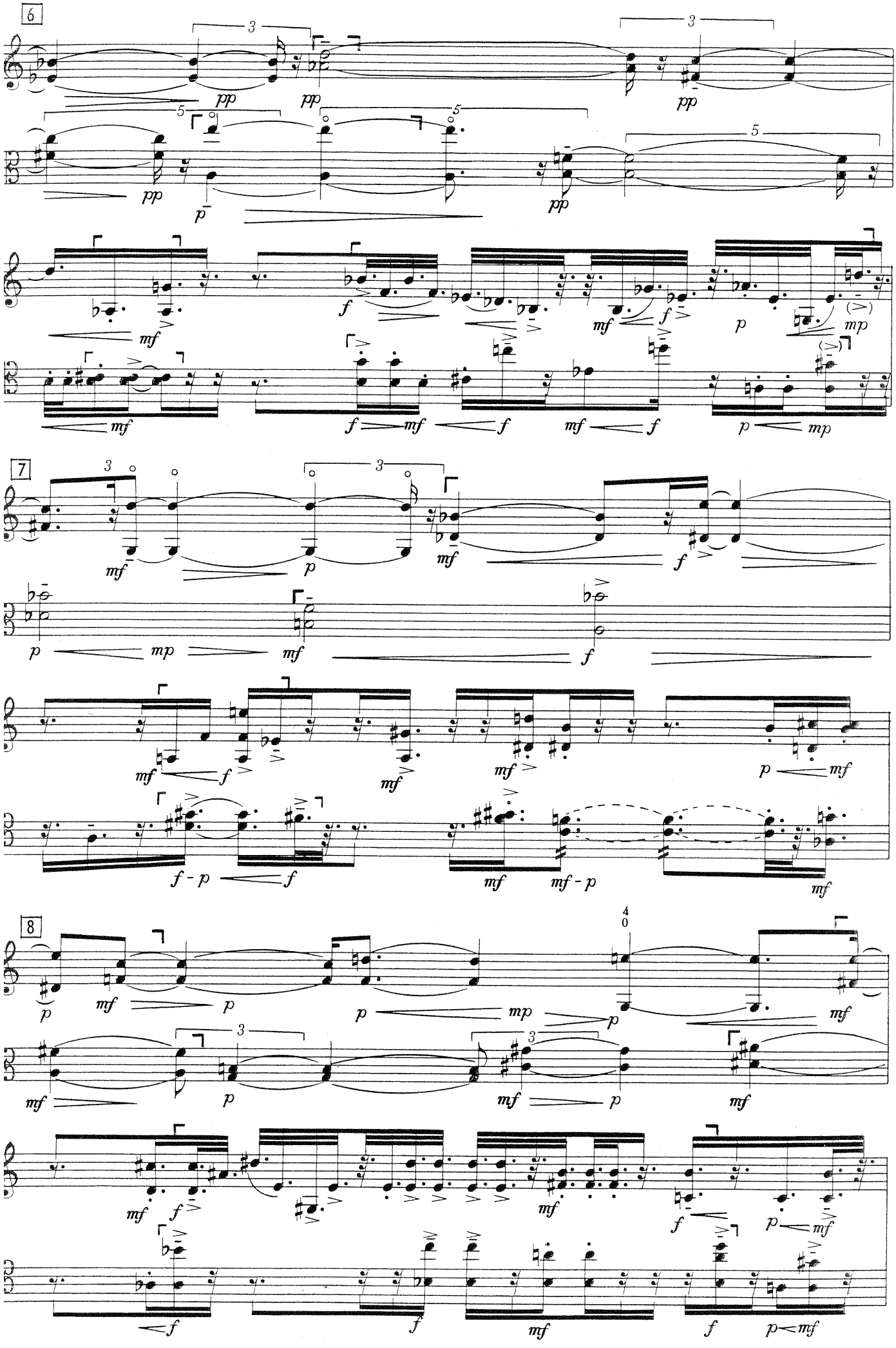
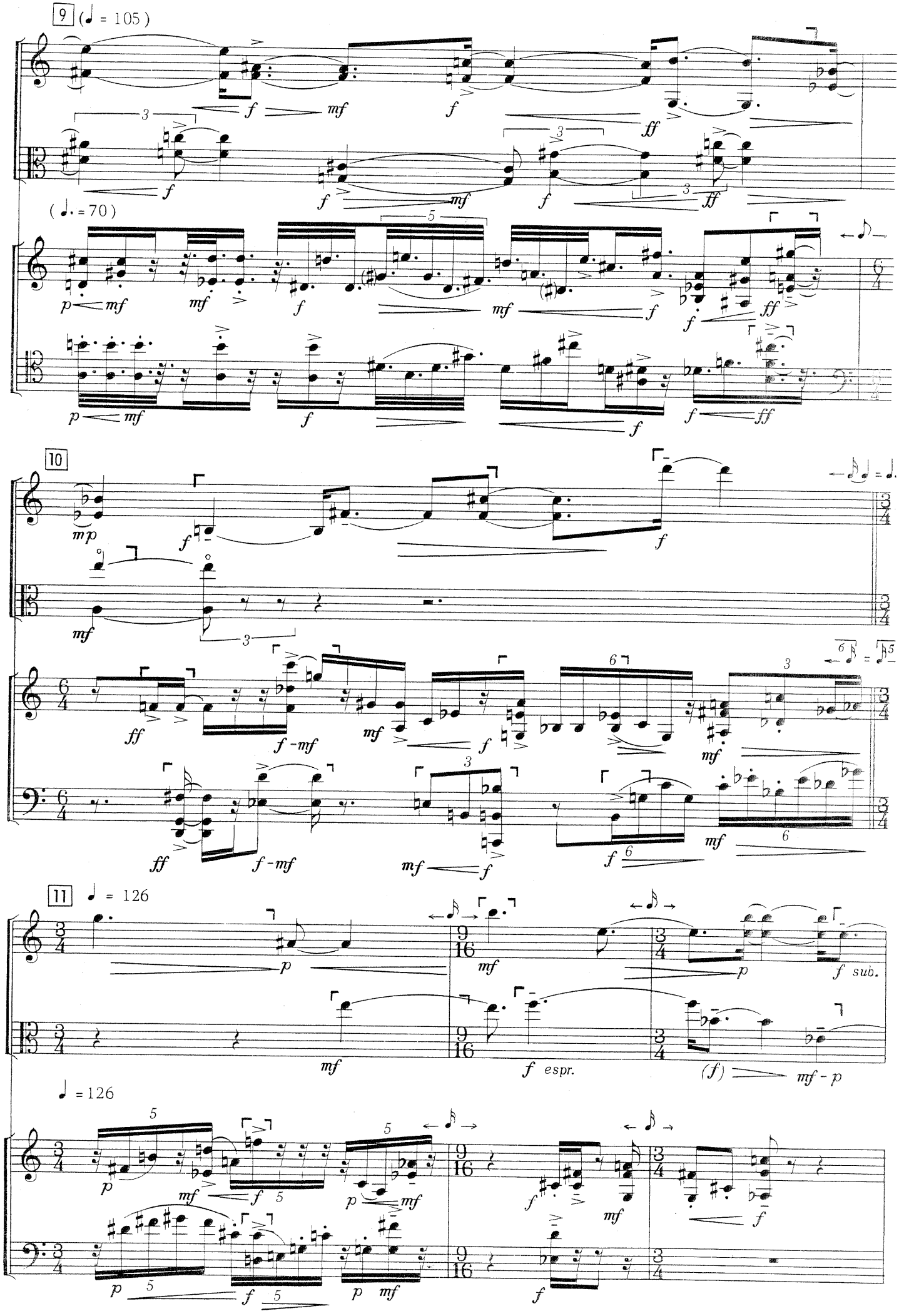
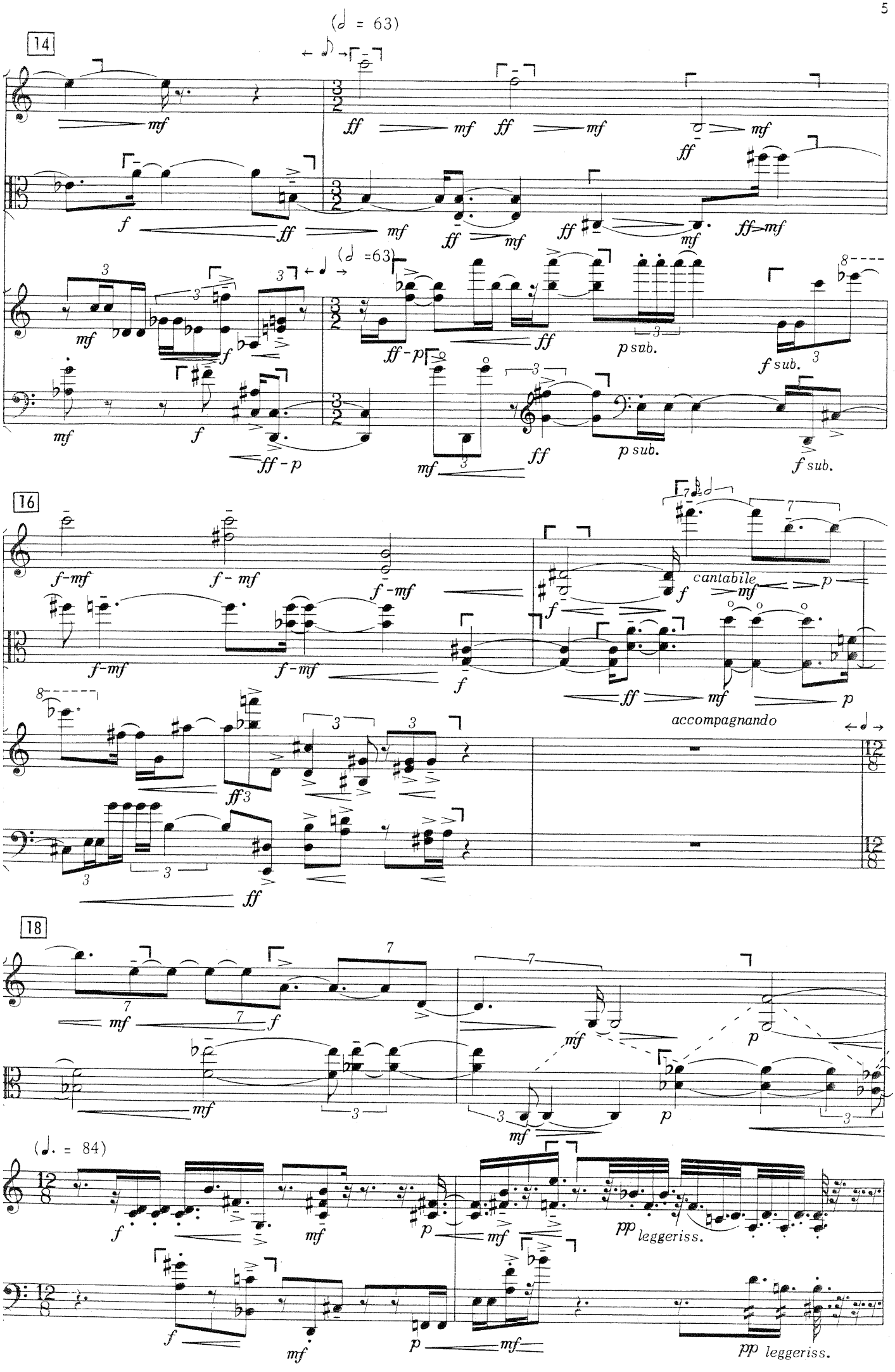
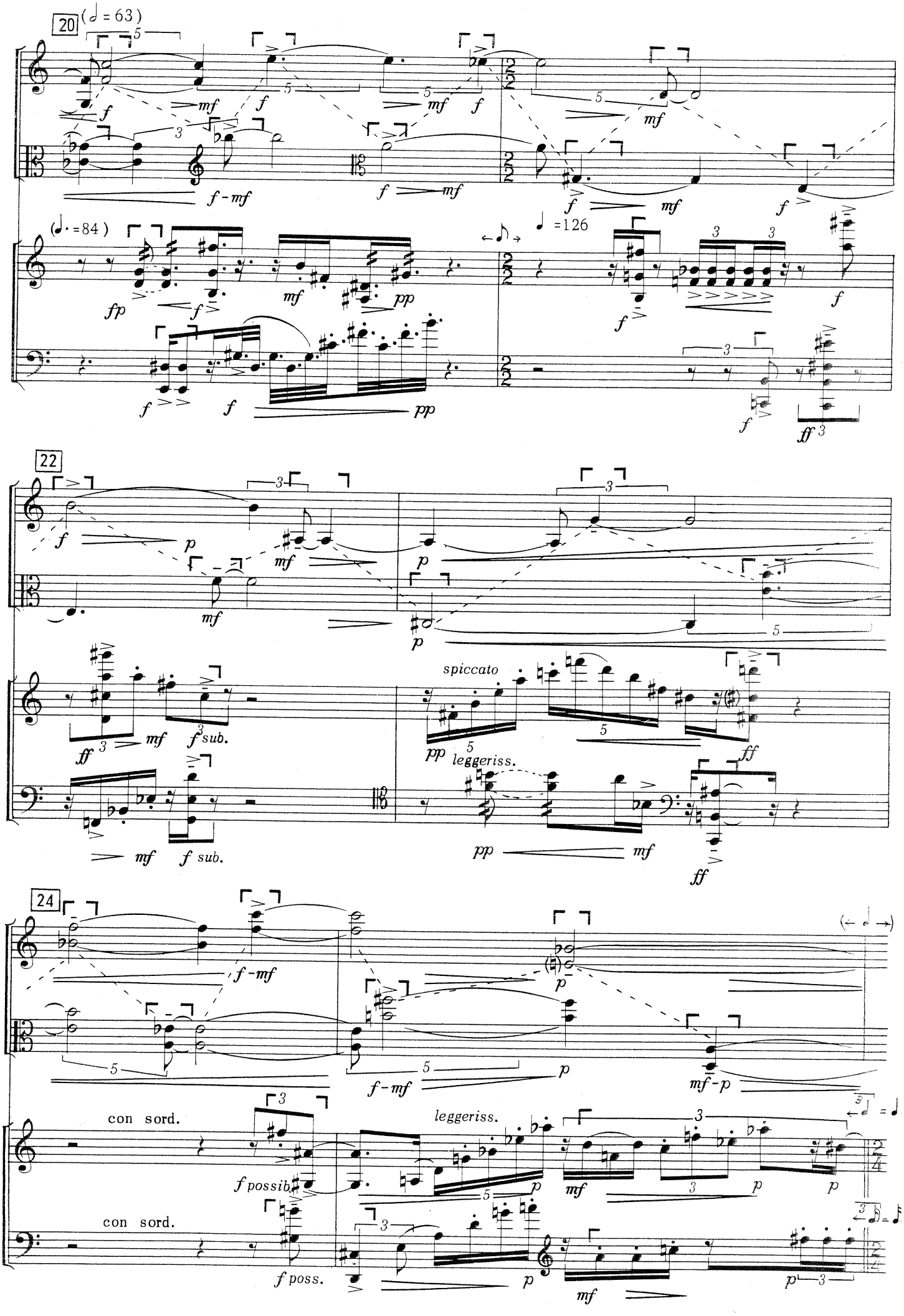
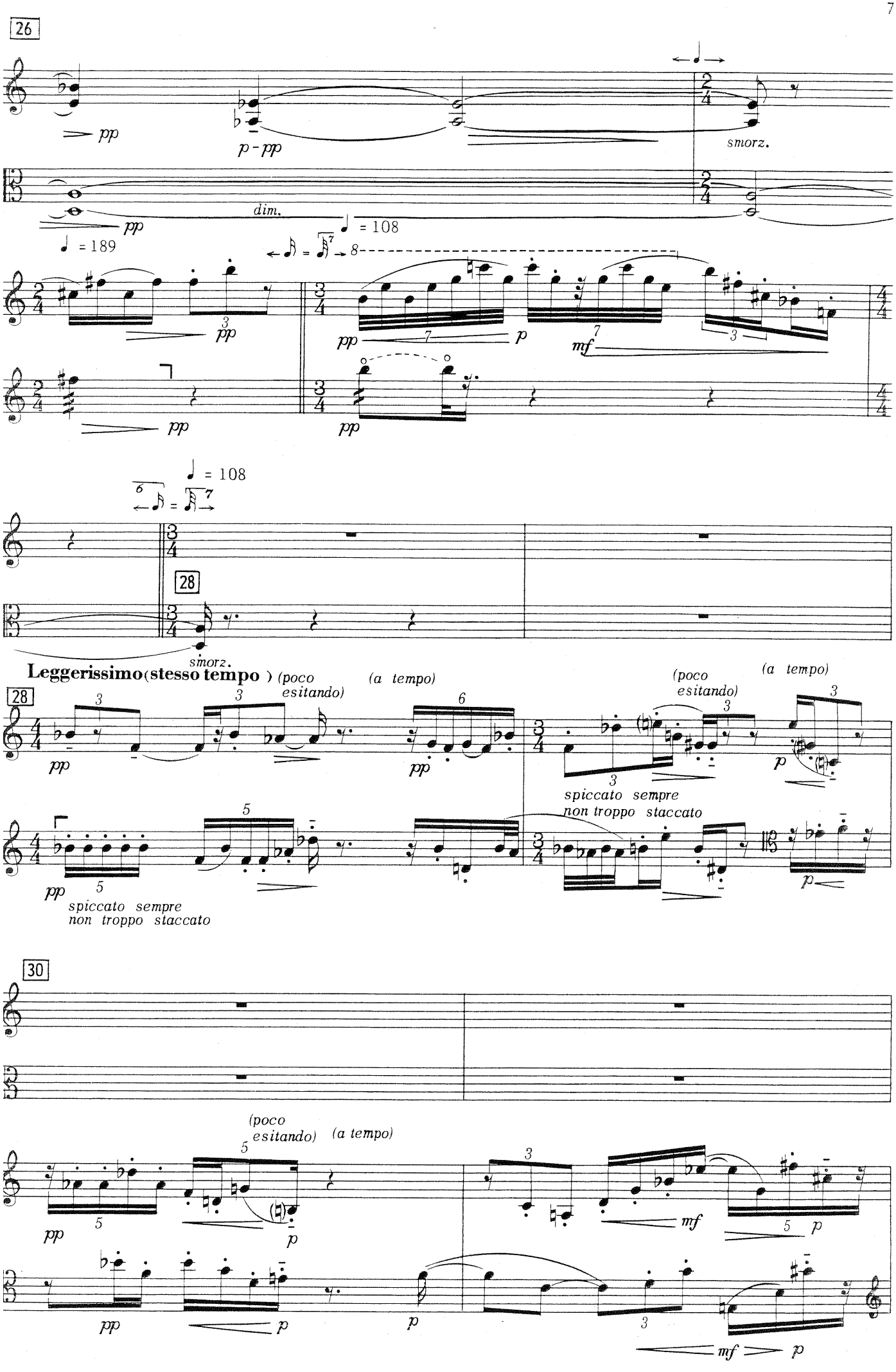

3
(♩ = 105)
3
f - mp
p
3
ff - mp
5
5
ff - mp
ff - mp
mf - p
(♩. = 70)
ff
ff
mf
mf
ff
ff
mf
ff
mf
mf
ff
mf
4
3
3
3
mf - p
mf - p
mf - p
5
5
mf - p
f
mf
fp
p
(>)
f
mf
f
p
(>)
5
3
3
p
f - mf
mf - p
5
f - mf
mf - p
5
f
mf - p
f
p
p
f
mf
f
sf
p

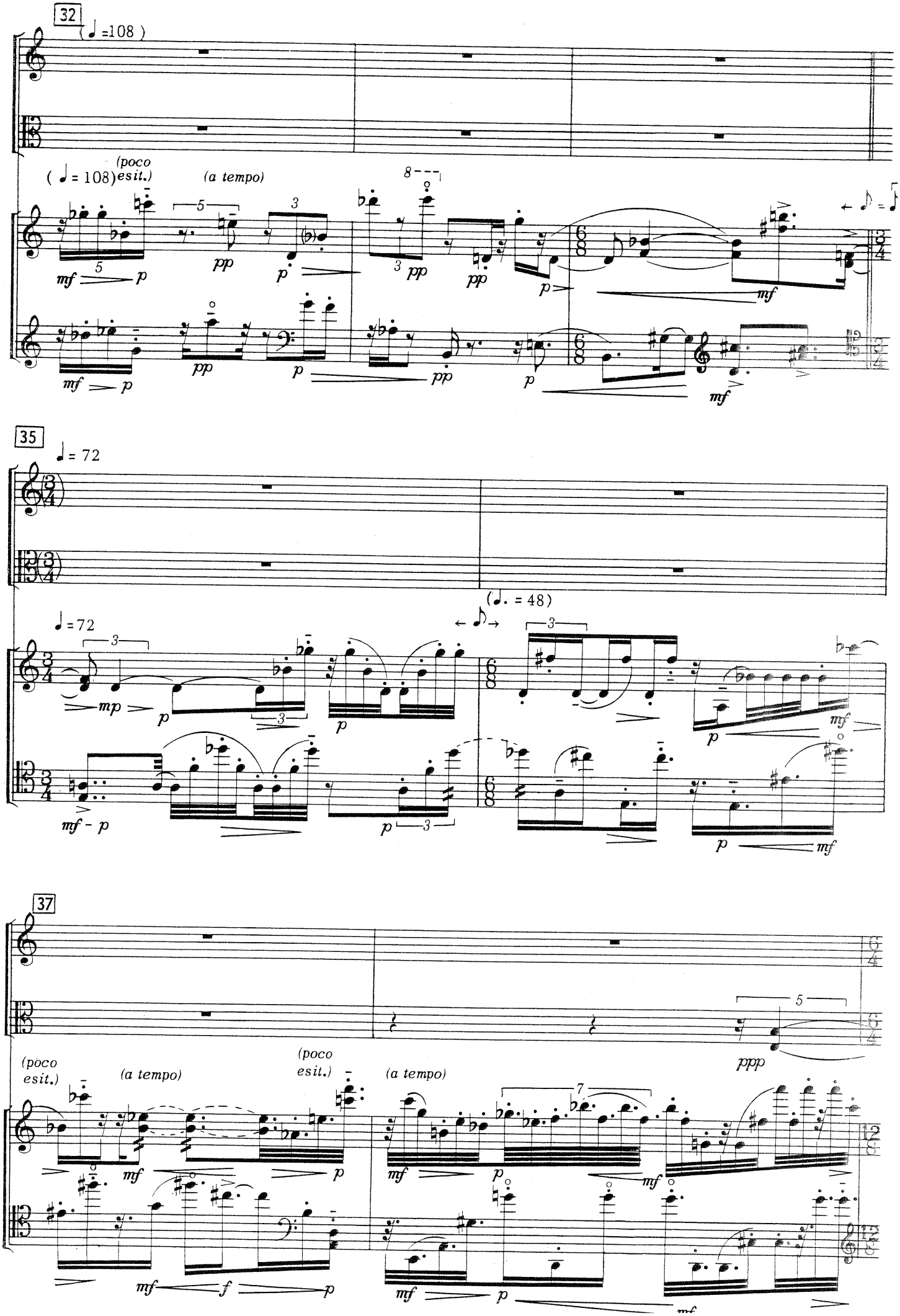

6
7
8

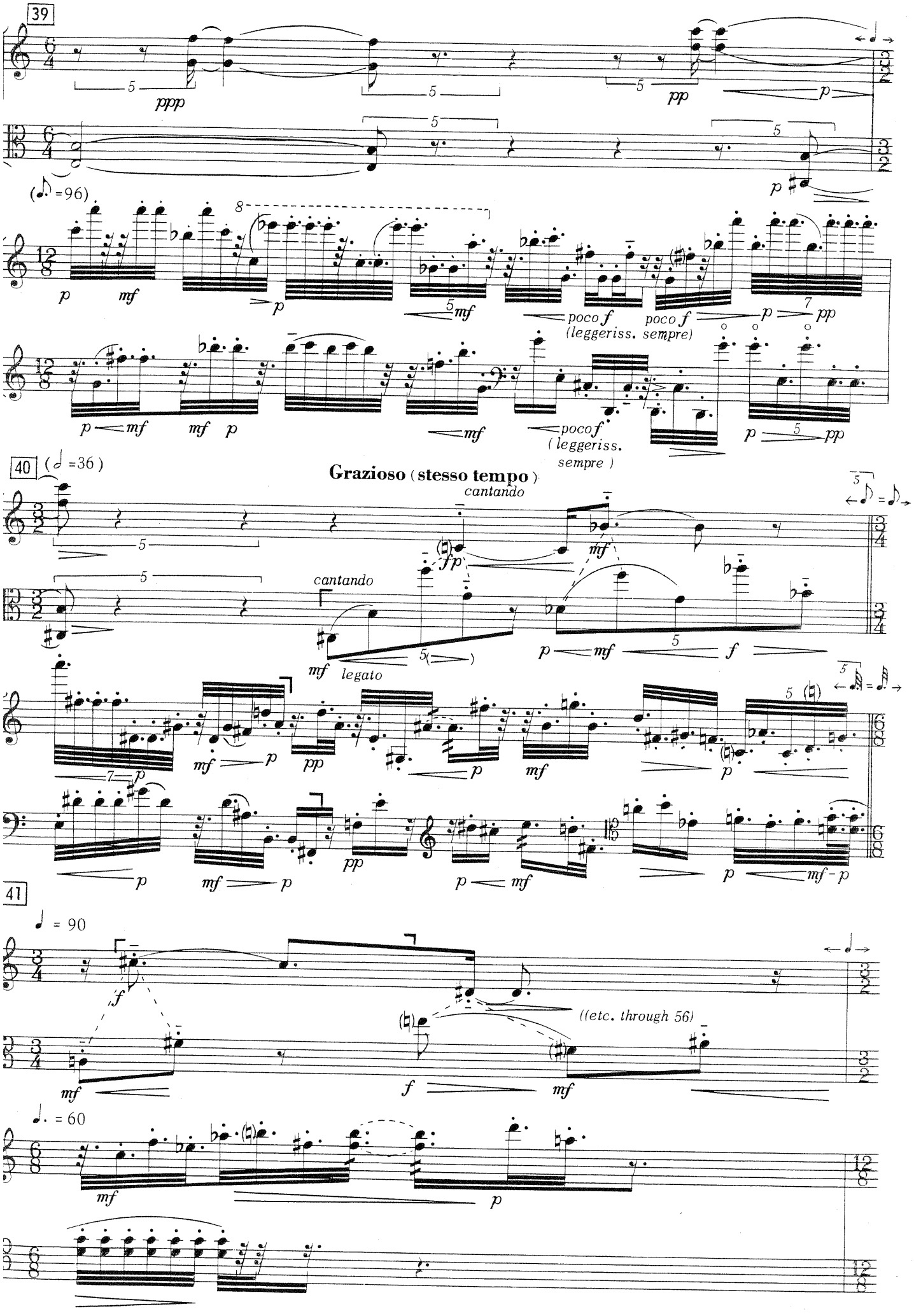

9 (♩ = 105)
(♩. = 70)
10
11 ♩ = 126
♩ = 126
f sub.
espr.

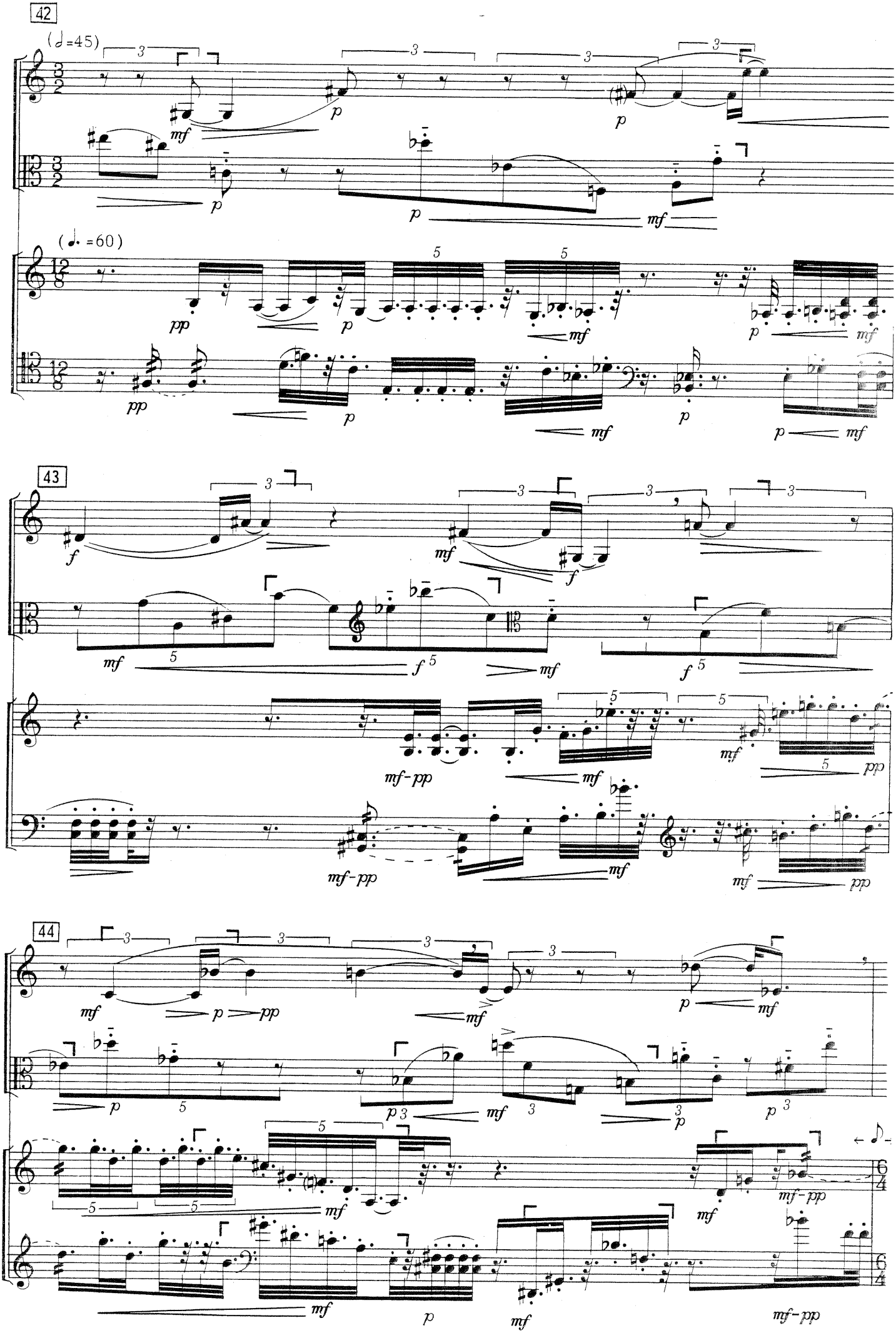

14
(𝅗𝅥 = 63)
mf
ff
f
ff-p
p sub.
f sub.
16
f-mf
cantabile
accompagnando
18
(♩. = 84)
pp leggeriss.

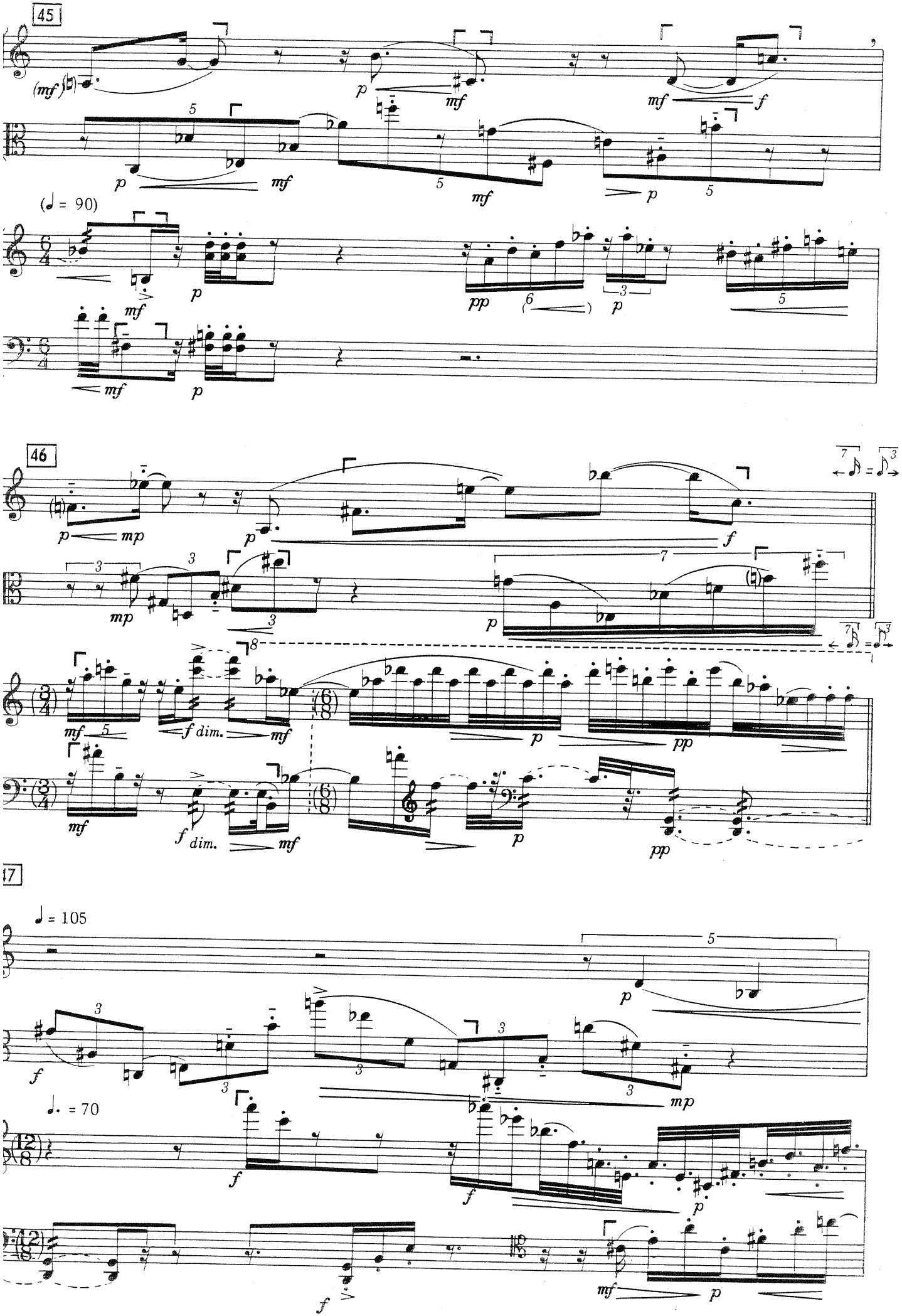

20
(𝅗𝅥 = 63)
(♩. = 84)
♩ = 126
22
spiccato
leggeriss.
f sub.
24
con sord.
f possib.
f poss.
leggeriss.

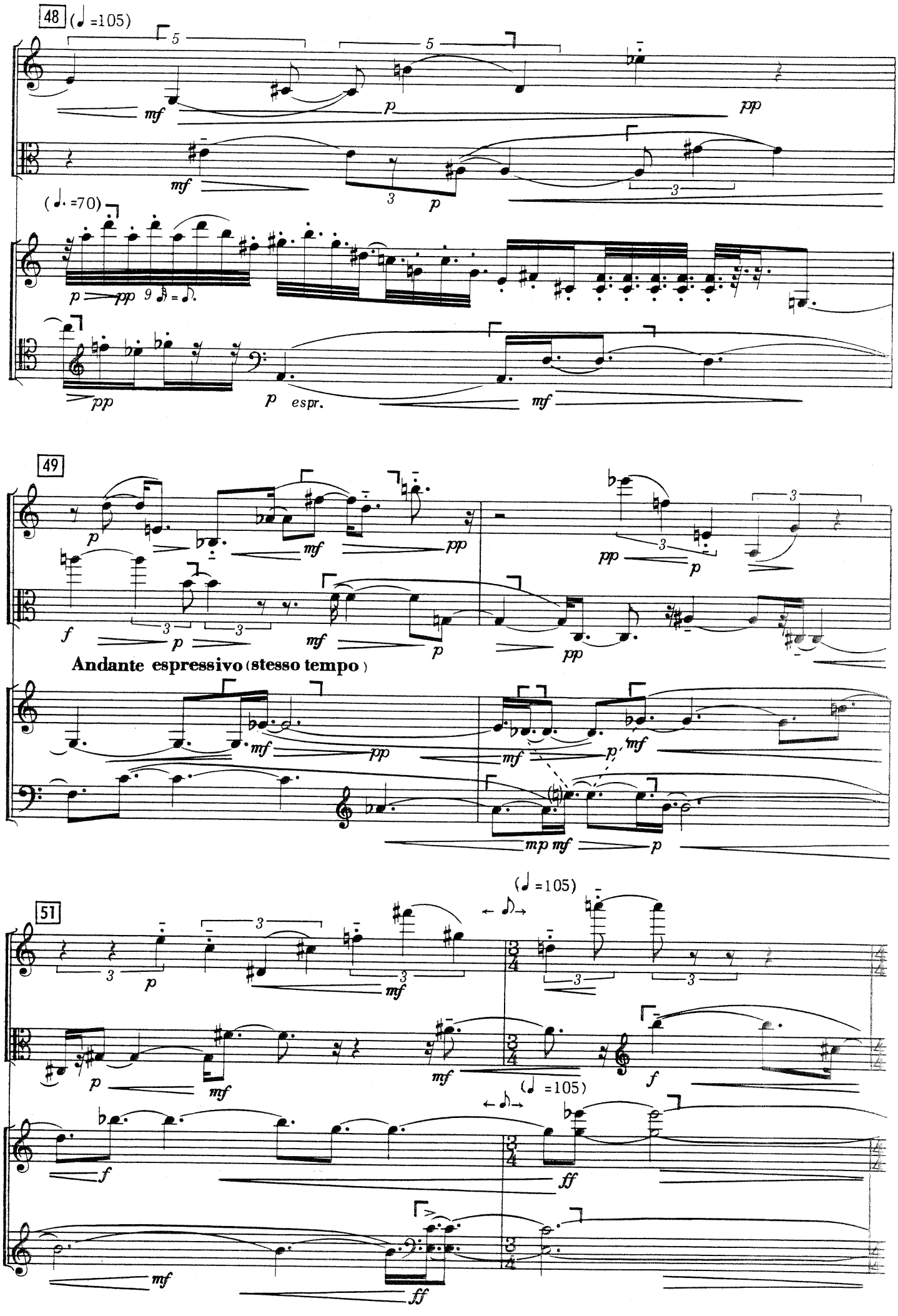

26
pp
p - pp
smorz.
dim.
pp
♩ = 189
♩ = 108
pp
pp
p
mf
pp
♩ = 108
28
smorz.
Leggerissimo (stesso tempo)
(poco esitando)
(a tempo)
pp
pp
(poco esitando)
(a tempo)
p
spiccato sempre
non troppo staccato
pp
spiccato sempre
non troppo staccato
p
30
(poco esitando)
(a tempo)
pp
p
mf
p
pp
p
p
mf
p

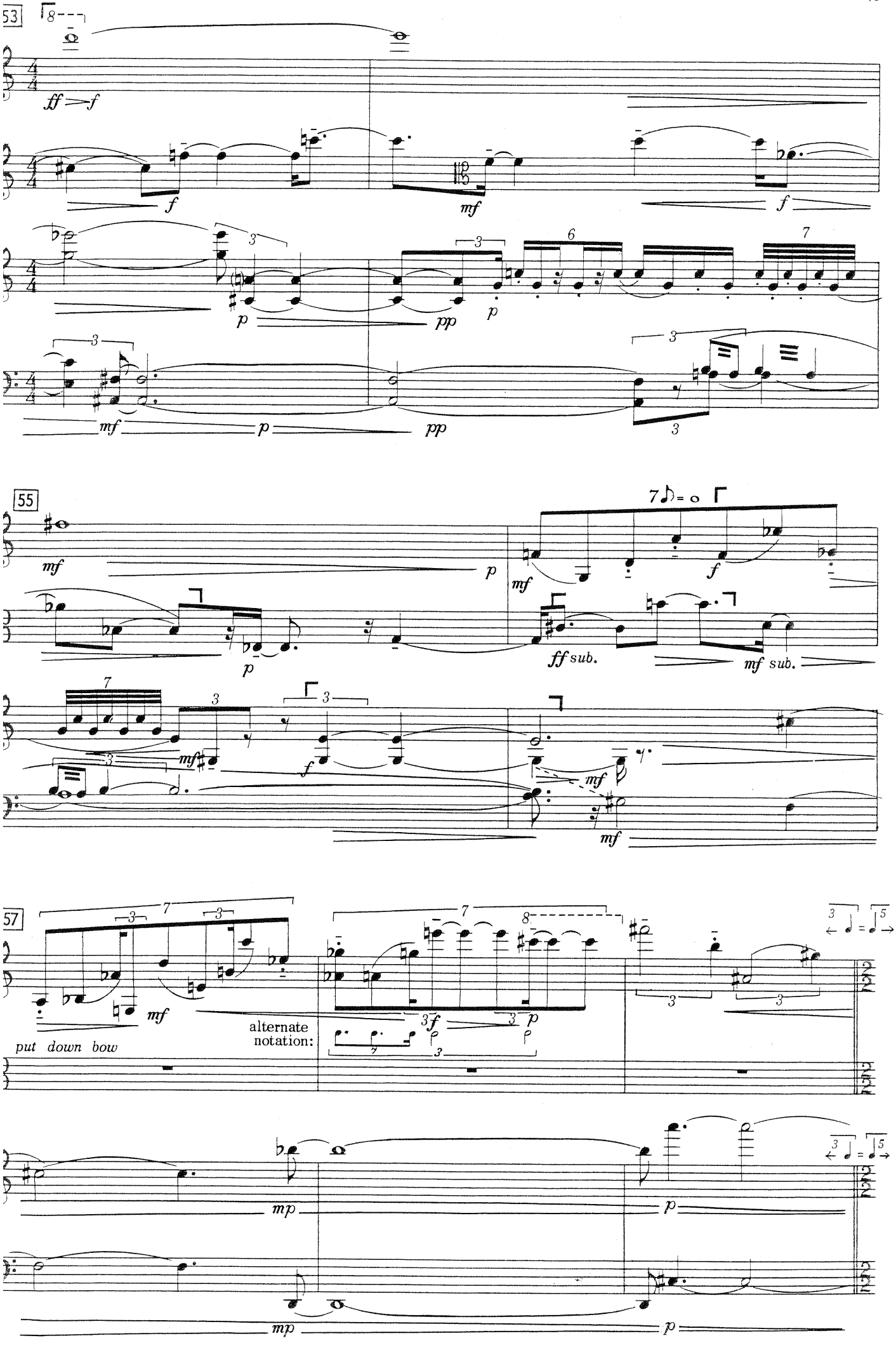

32
(♩=108)
(♩=108)
(poco esit.)
(a tempo)
35
♩=72
♩=72
(♩.=48)
37
(poco esit.)
(a tempo)
(poco esit.)
(a tempo)

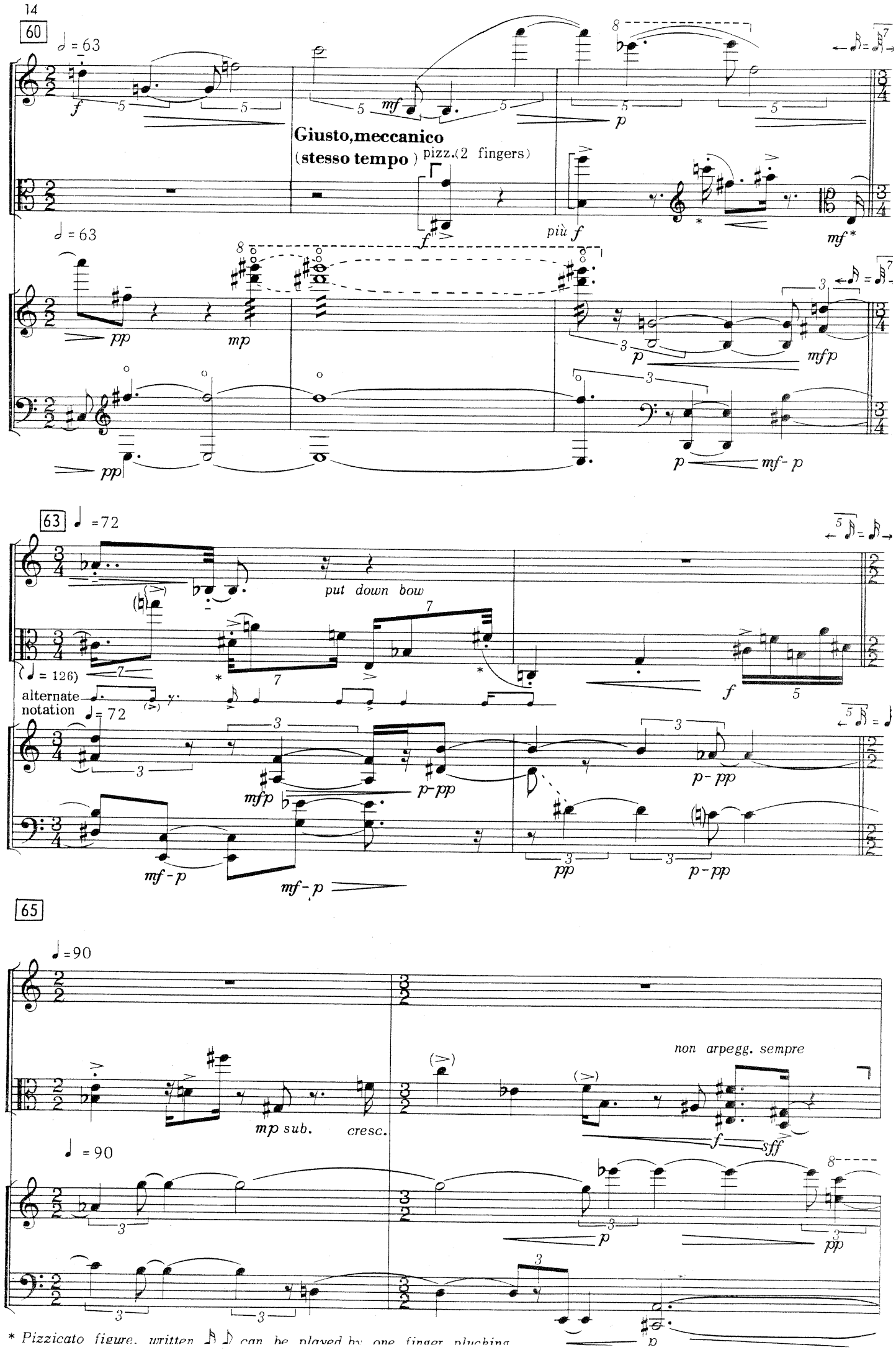

39
ppp
pp
p
(♪. =96)
poco f
(leggeriss. sempre)
40
(♩ =36)
Grazioso (stesso tempo)
cantando
cantando
legato
41
♩ = 90
((etc. through 56)
♩. = 60


42
(♩=45)
(♩. =60)
43
44


45
(mf)
p
mf
mf
f
p
mf
mf
p
5
(♩ = 90)
mf
p
pp
p
mf
p
46
p
mp
p
f
mp
p
mf
f dim.
mf
p
pp
mf
f dim.
mf
p
pp
17
♩ = 105
f
mp
♩. = 70
f
f
p
f
mf
p


48
(♩ =105)
(♩. =70)
espr.
49
Andante espressivo (stesso tempo)
51
(♩ =105)
(♩ =105)


53
55
57
put down bow
alternate notation:


60
Giusto,meccanico
(stesso tempo)
pizz.(2 fingers)
più f
63
put down bow
(= 126)
alternate notation
65
non arpegg. sempre
mp sub.
cresc.
* Pizzicato figure, written ♪♪ can be played by one finger plucking

Giusto, meccanico (stesso tempo)

67 (𝅗𝅥 =45)

pizz. *non arp.*

f *mf* *f* *mf* *p*

(𝅗𝅥 =45)

p *pp*

p *pp*

69 𝅗𝅥 =54

p *mf* *f*

mf *f*

𝅗𝅥 =54

pp

p *pp* *p*

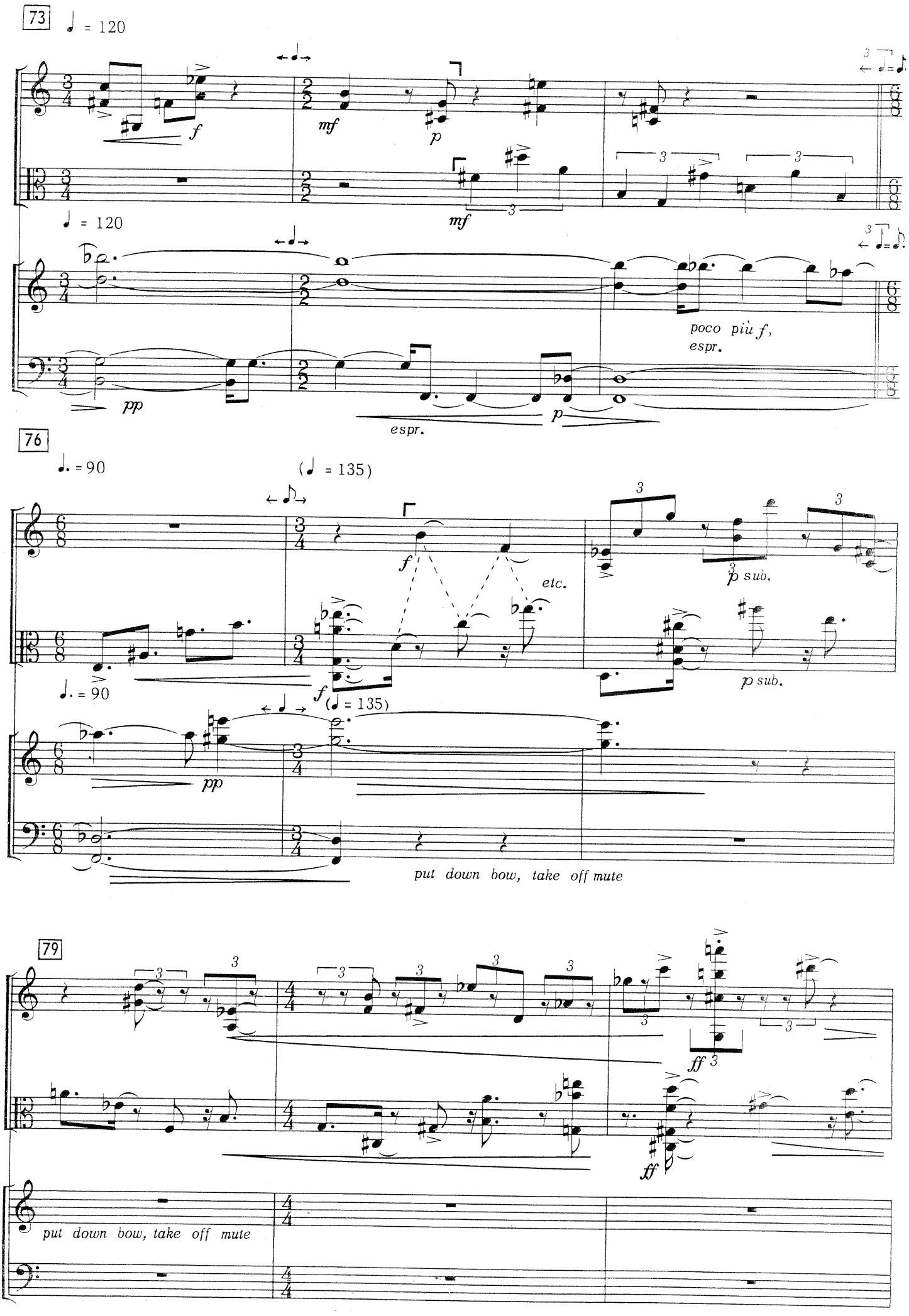
𝅗𝅥 = 48

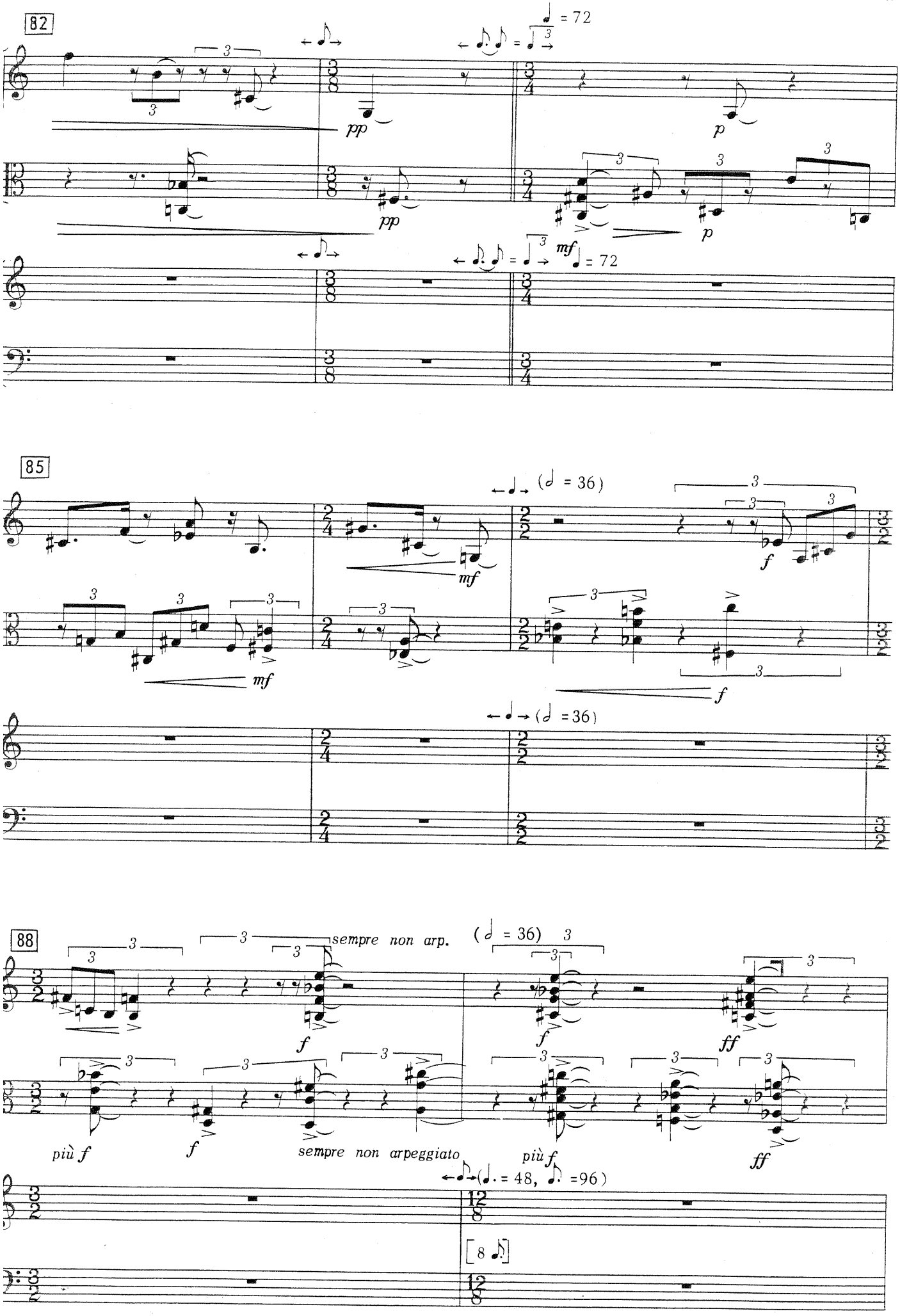
mf *f* *non arp. sempre* *mf*

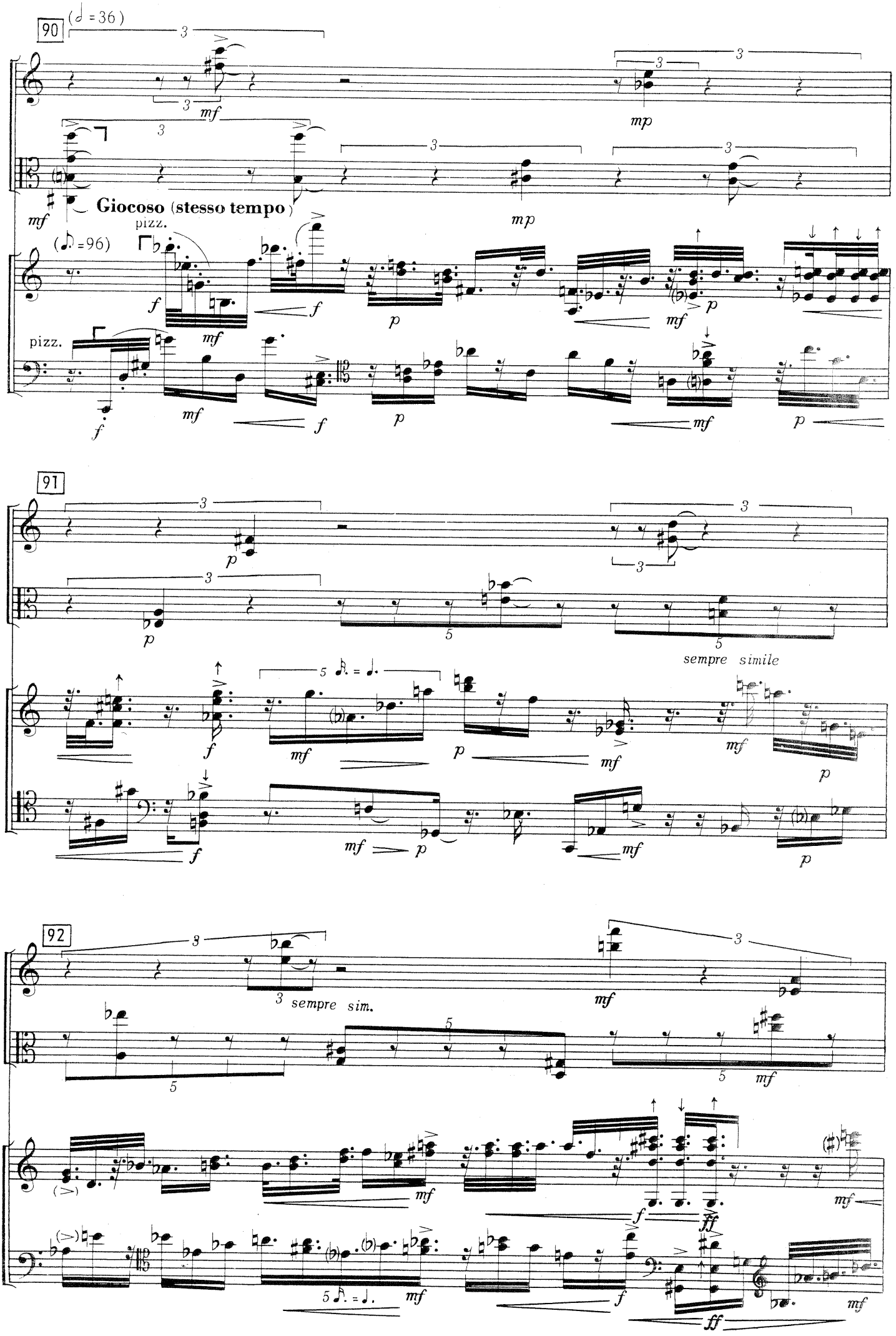
𝅗𝅥 =48 *mf* *p*

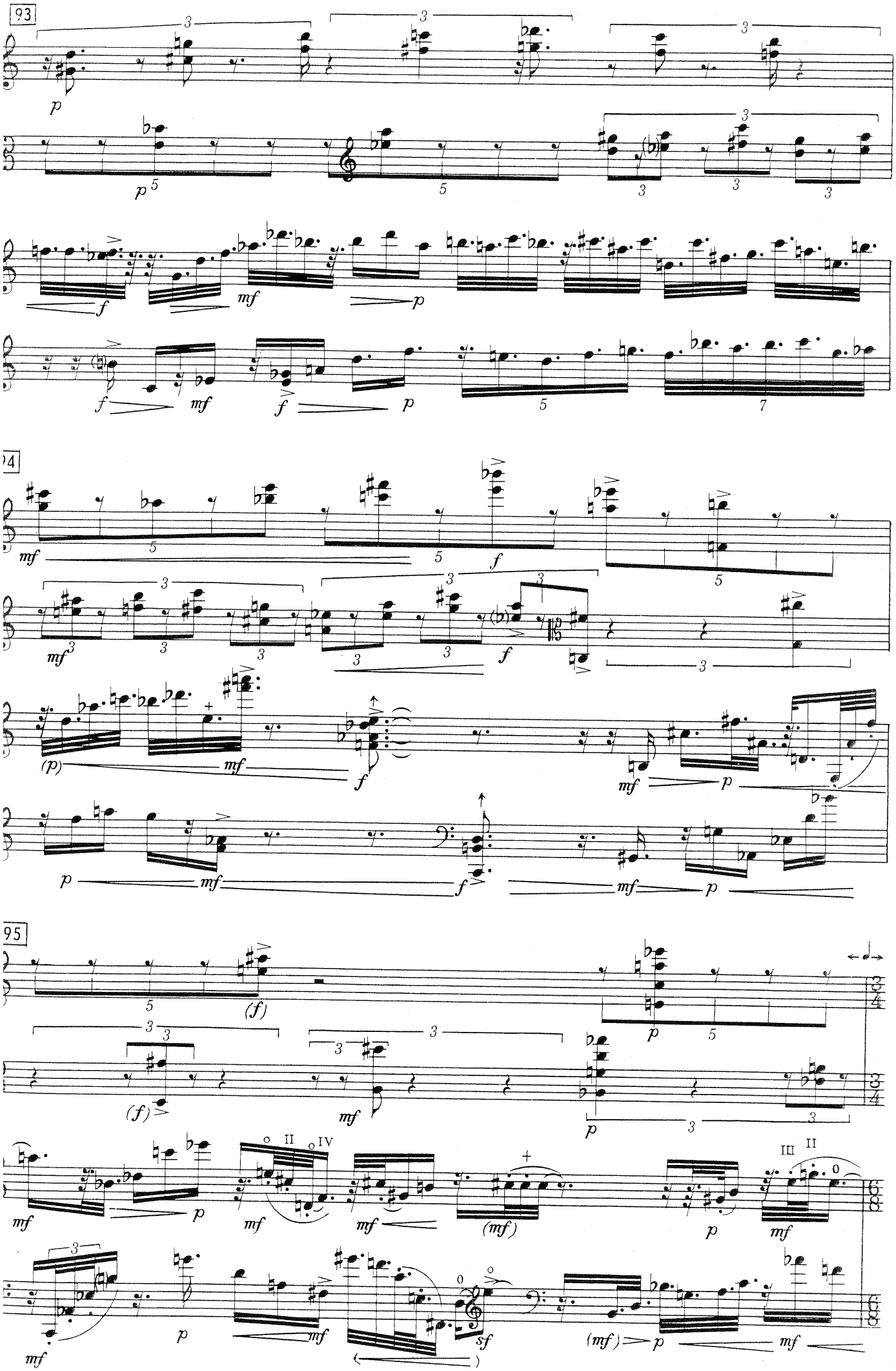
p *pp* *p* *pp*

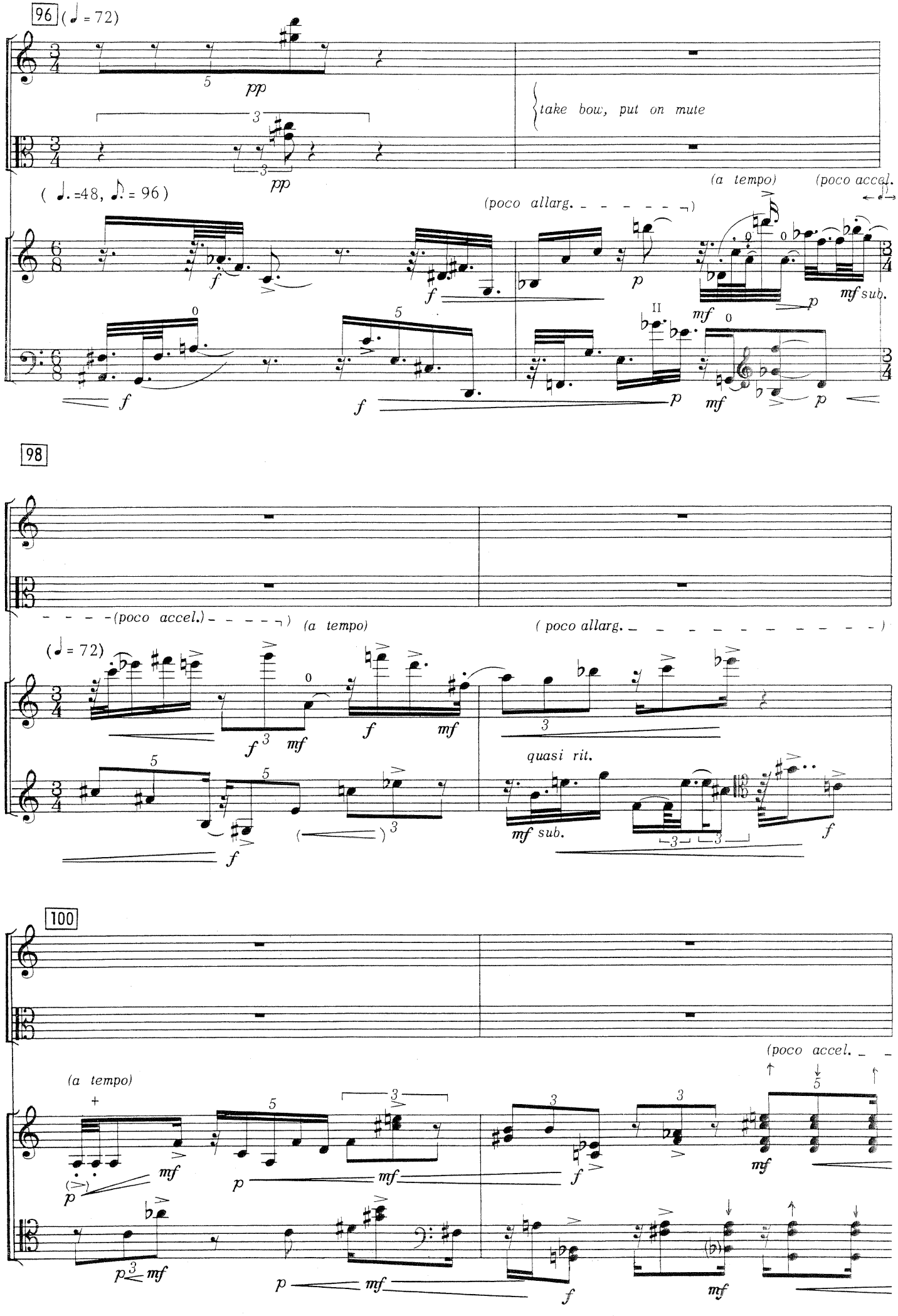
pp *p*

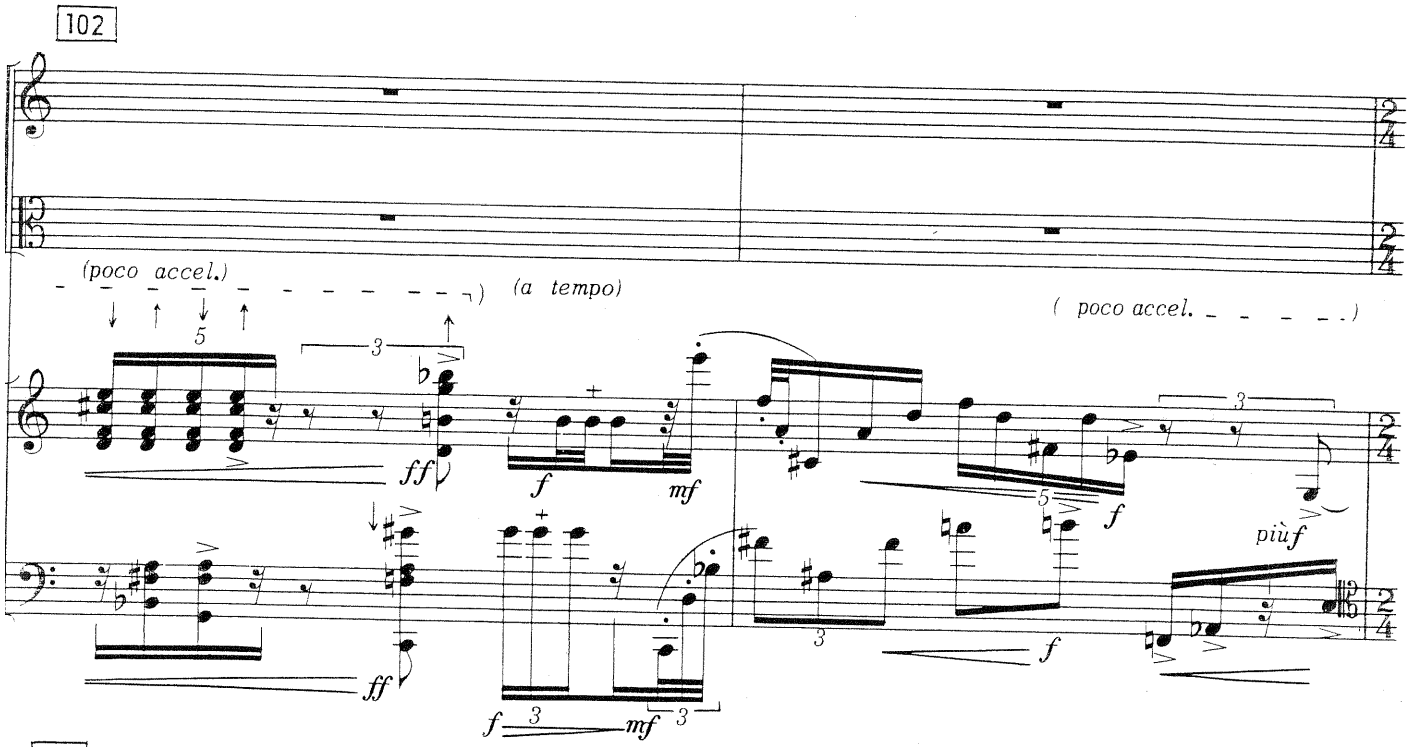

73
♩ = 120
f
mf
p
mf
3
♩ = 120
poco più f,
espr.
pp
espr.
p
76
♩. = 90
(♩ = 135)
f
etc.
p sub.
♩. = 90
f
(♩ = 135)
p sub.
pp
put down bow, take off mute
79
ff
ff
put down bow, take off mute

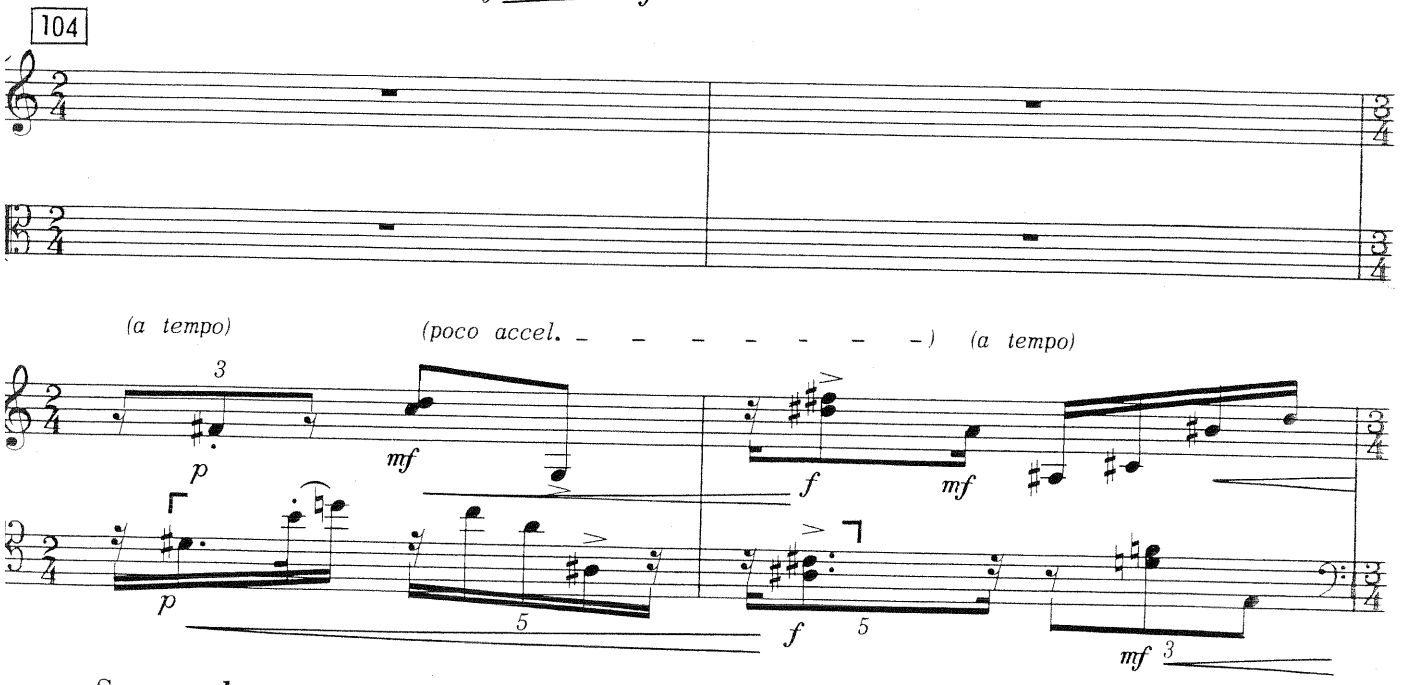

82
pp
pp
p
p
mf
85
mf
mf
f
f
88
sempre non arp.
f
f
ff
più f
f
sempre non arpeggiato
più f
ff
[8


90
(𝅗𝅥 = 36)
mf
mp
Giocoso (stesso tempo)
pizz.
(♩. = 96)
f
p
mf
91
sempre simile
92
3 sempre sim.
ff

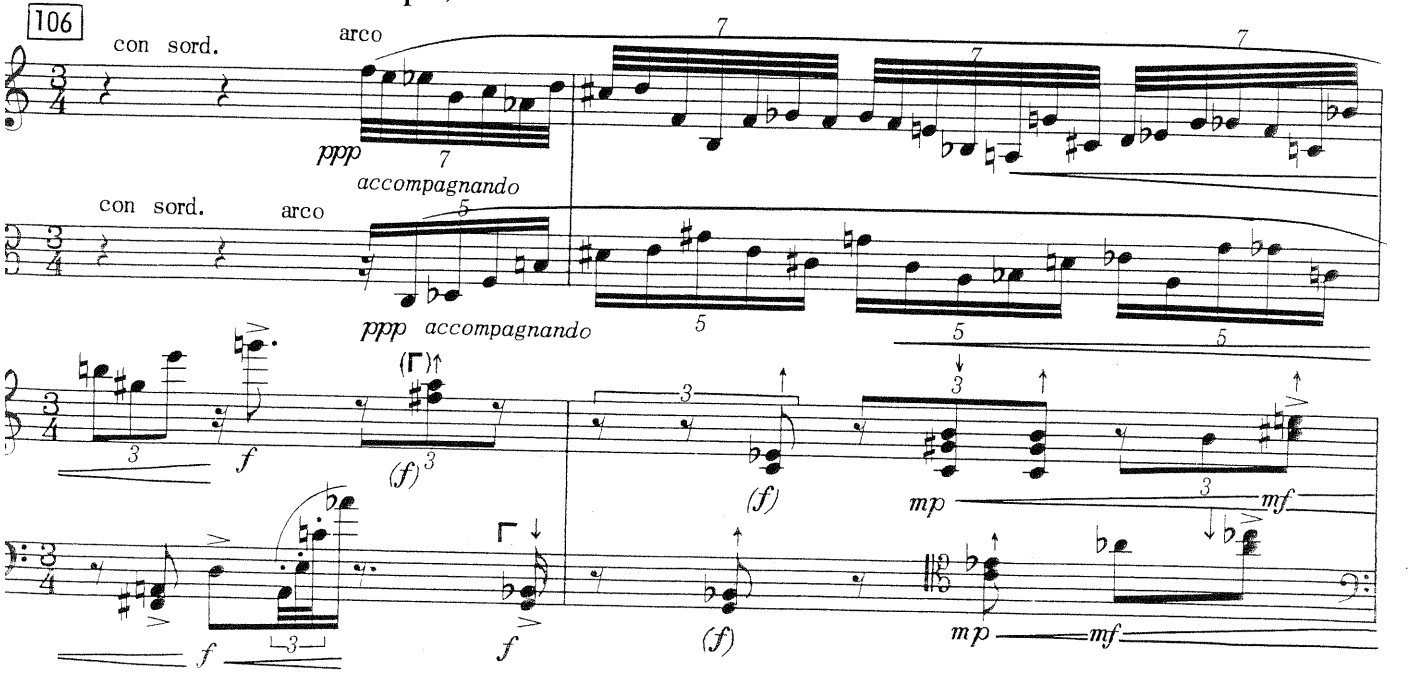

93
94
95

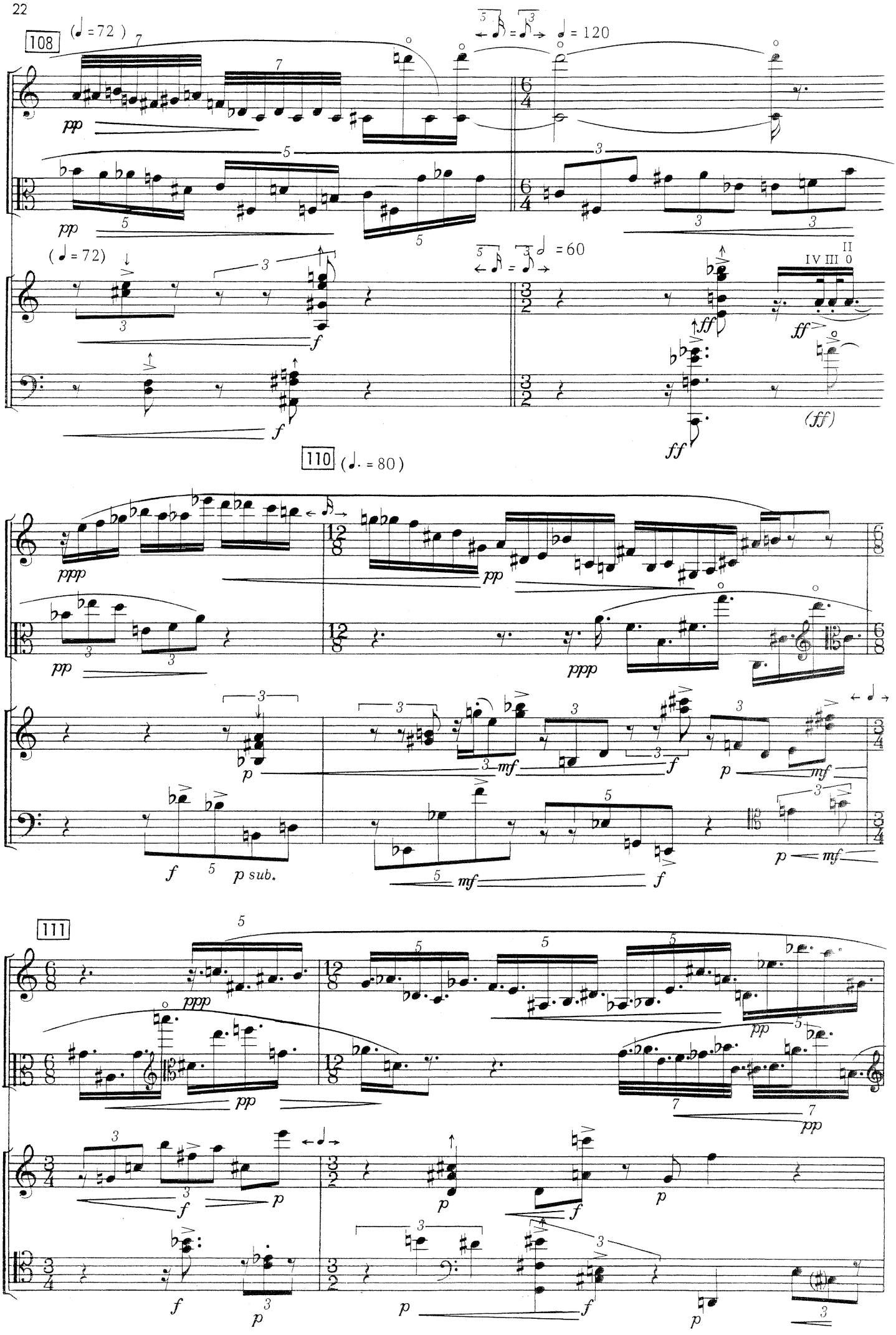

96 (♩ = 72)
pp
take bow, put on mute
(a tempo)
(poco accel.
(poco allarg.
(♩. =48, ♪. = 96)
mf sub.
98
(poco accel.)
(a tempo)
(poco allarg.
(♩ = 72)
quasi rit.
mf sub.
100
(poco accel.
(a tempo)

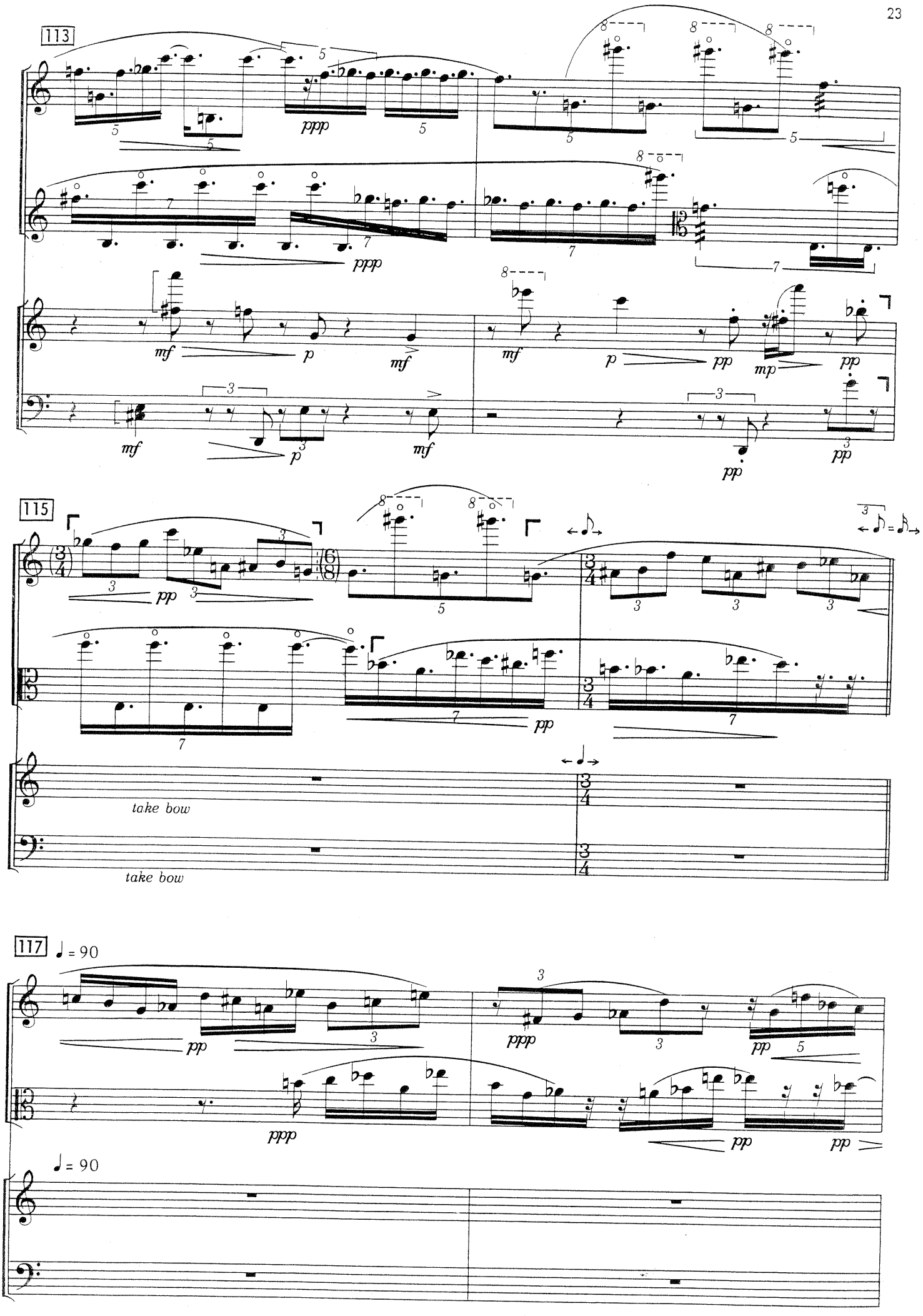


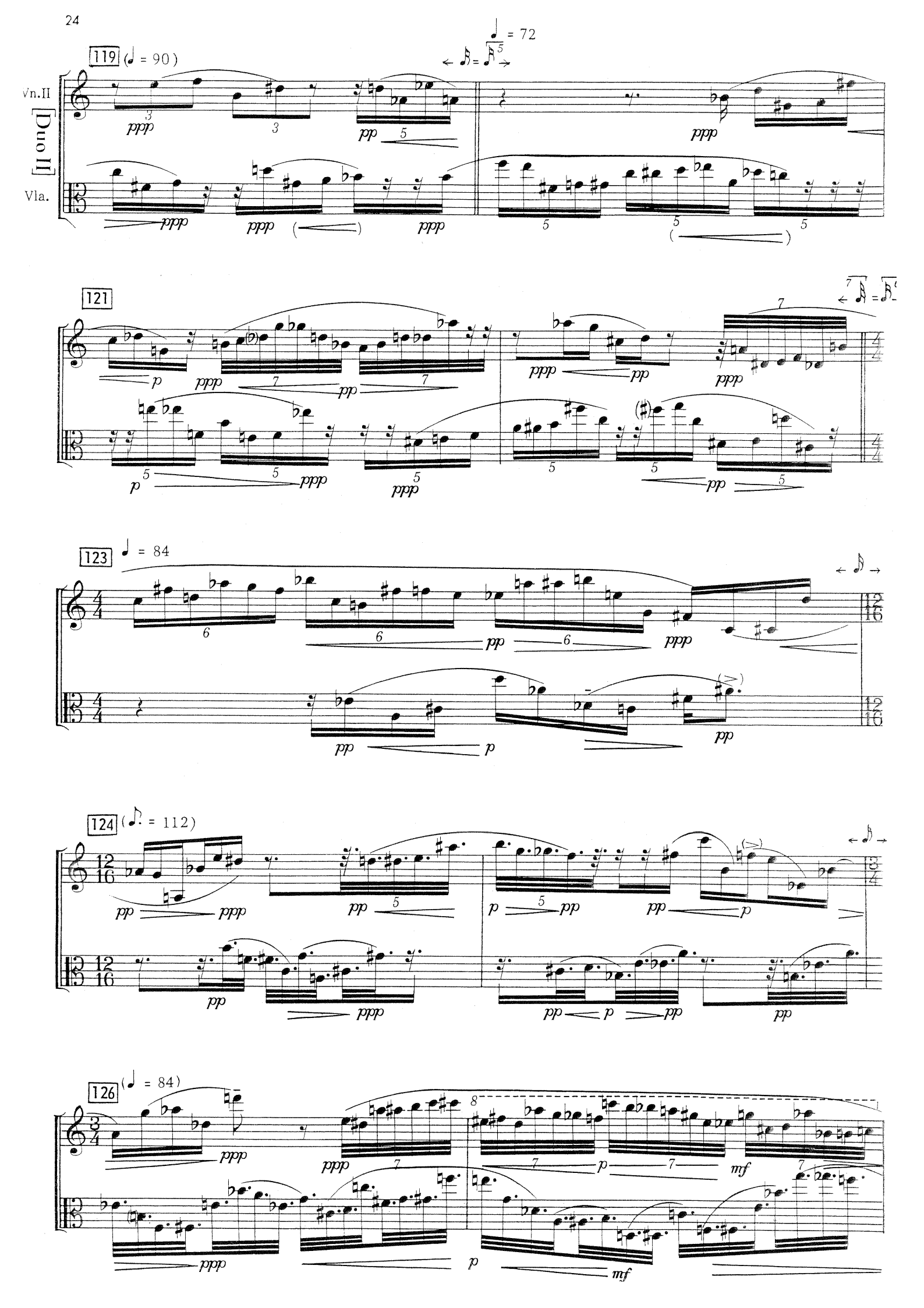


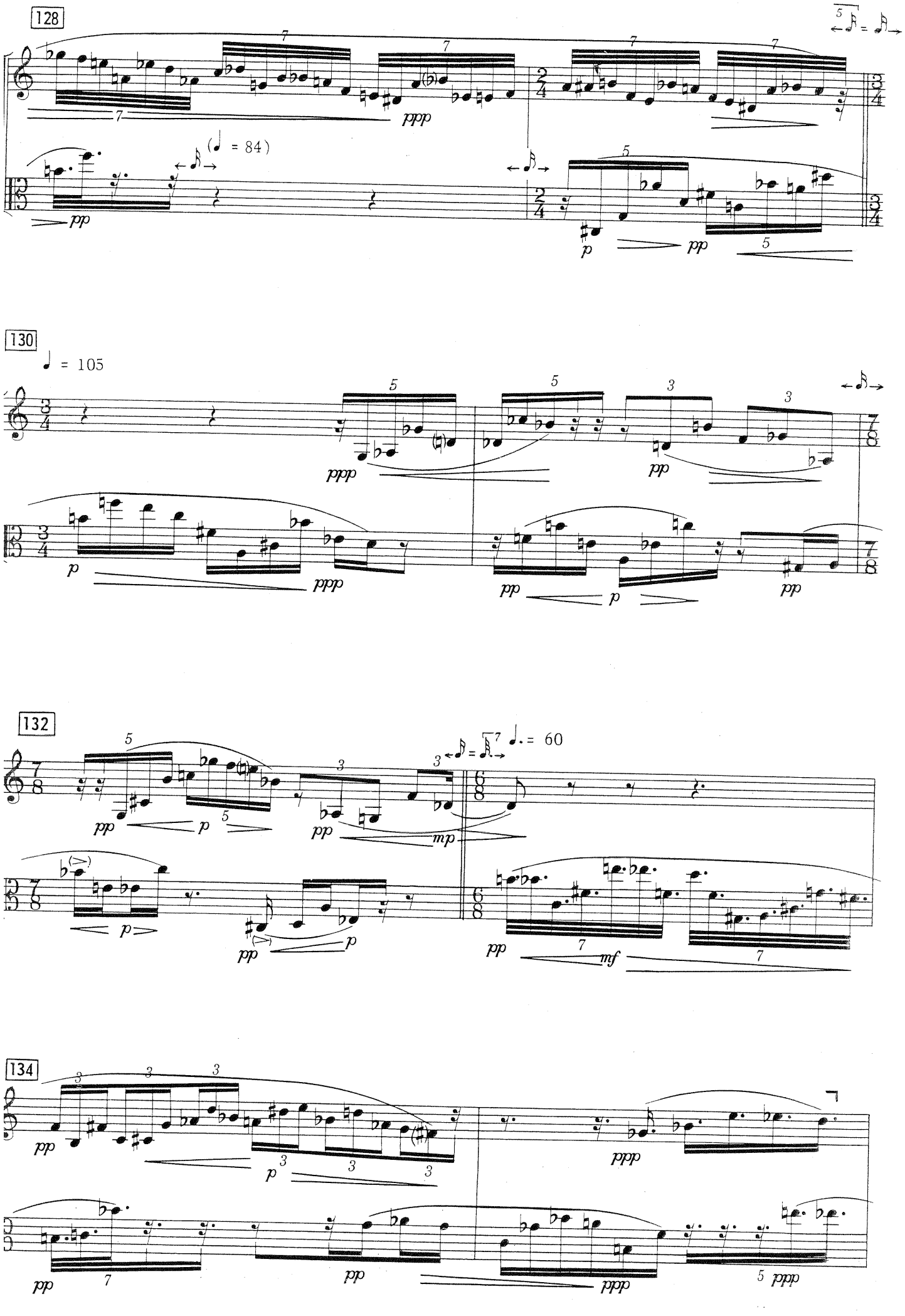
Scorrevole (**stesso tempo**)

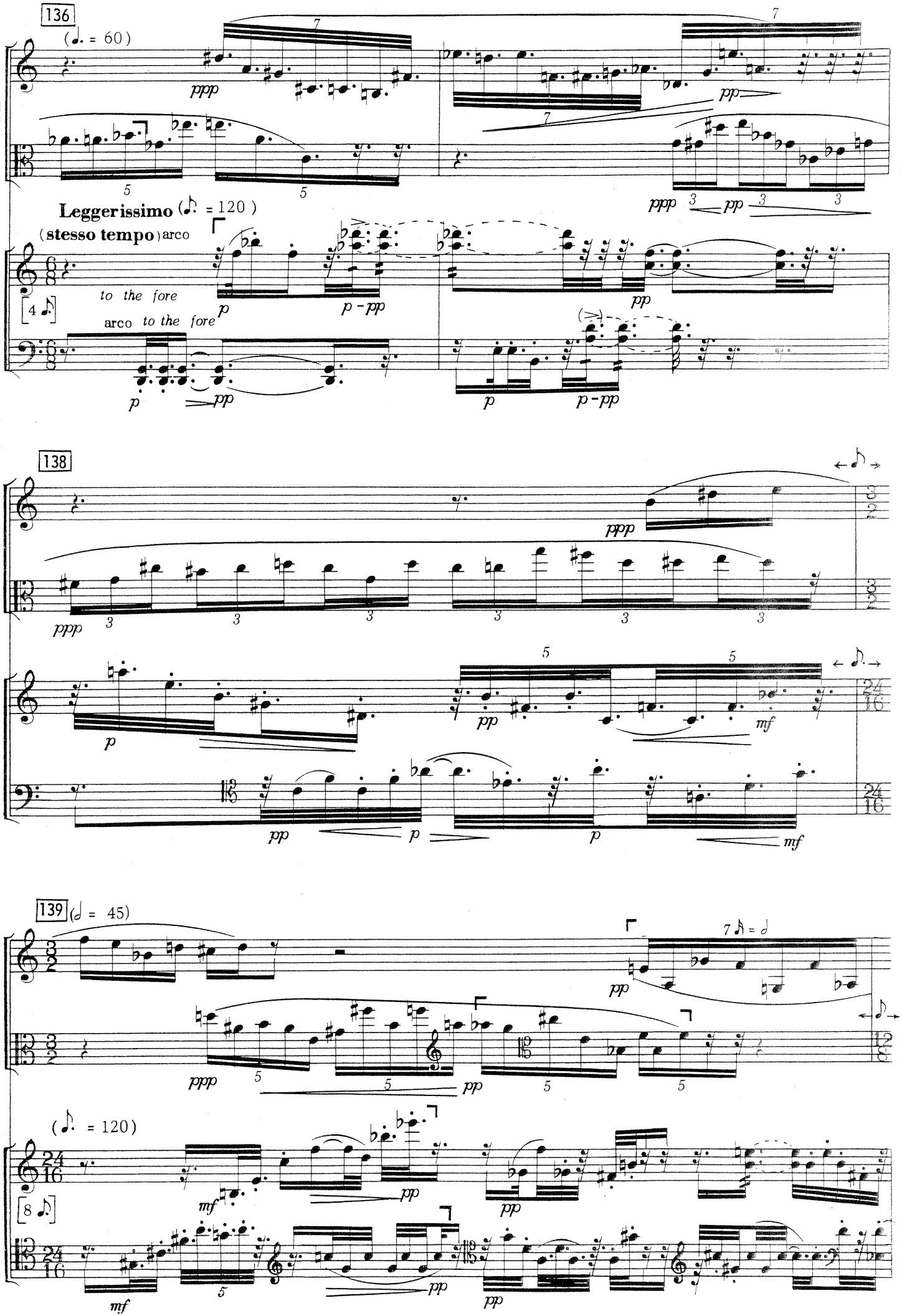


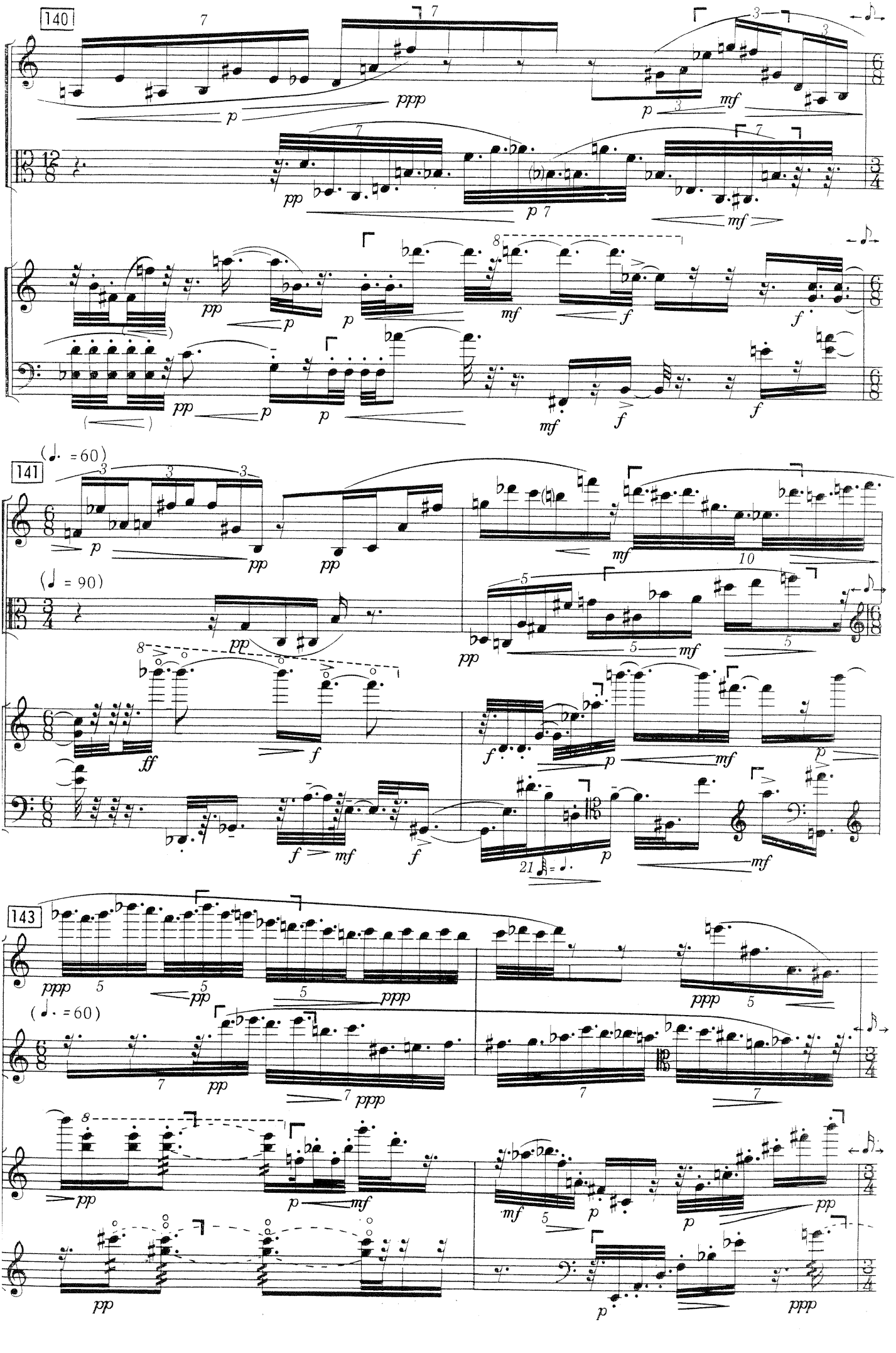

108
(♩ = 72)
♩ = 120
(♩ = 72)
♩ = 60
II
IV III 0
110
(♩. = 80)
111

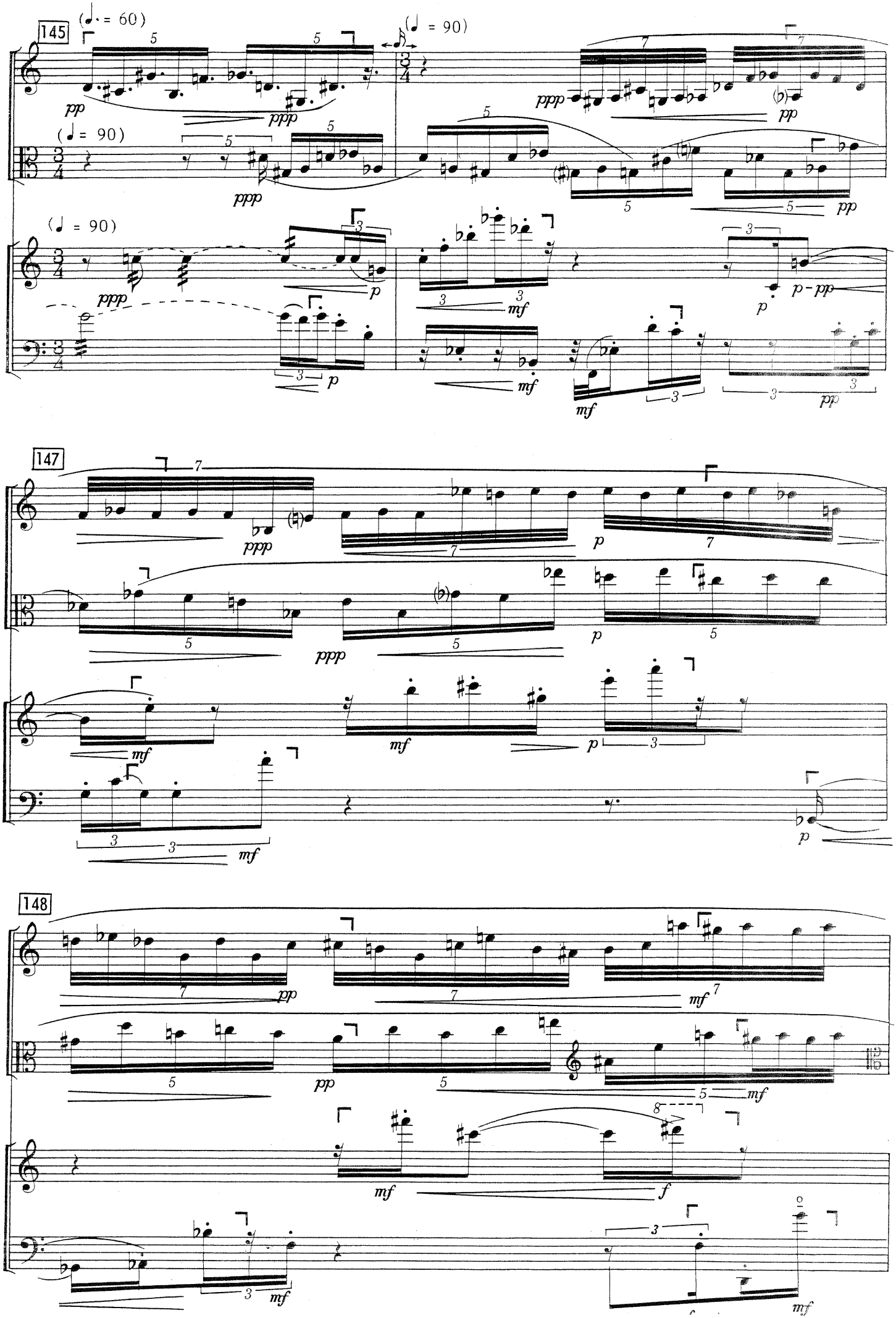

113
115
take bow
take bow
117
♩= 90
♩= 90

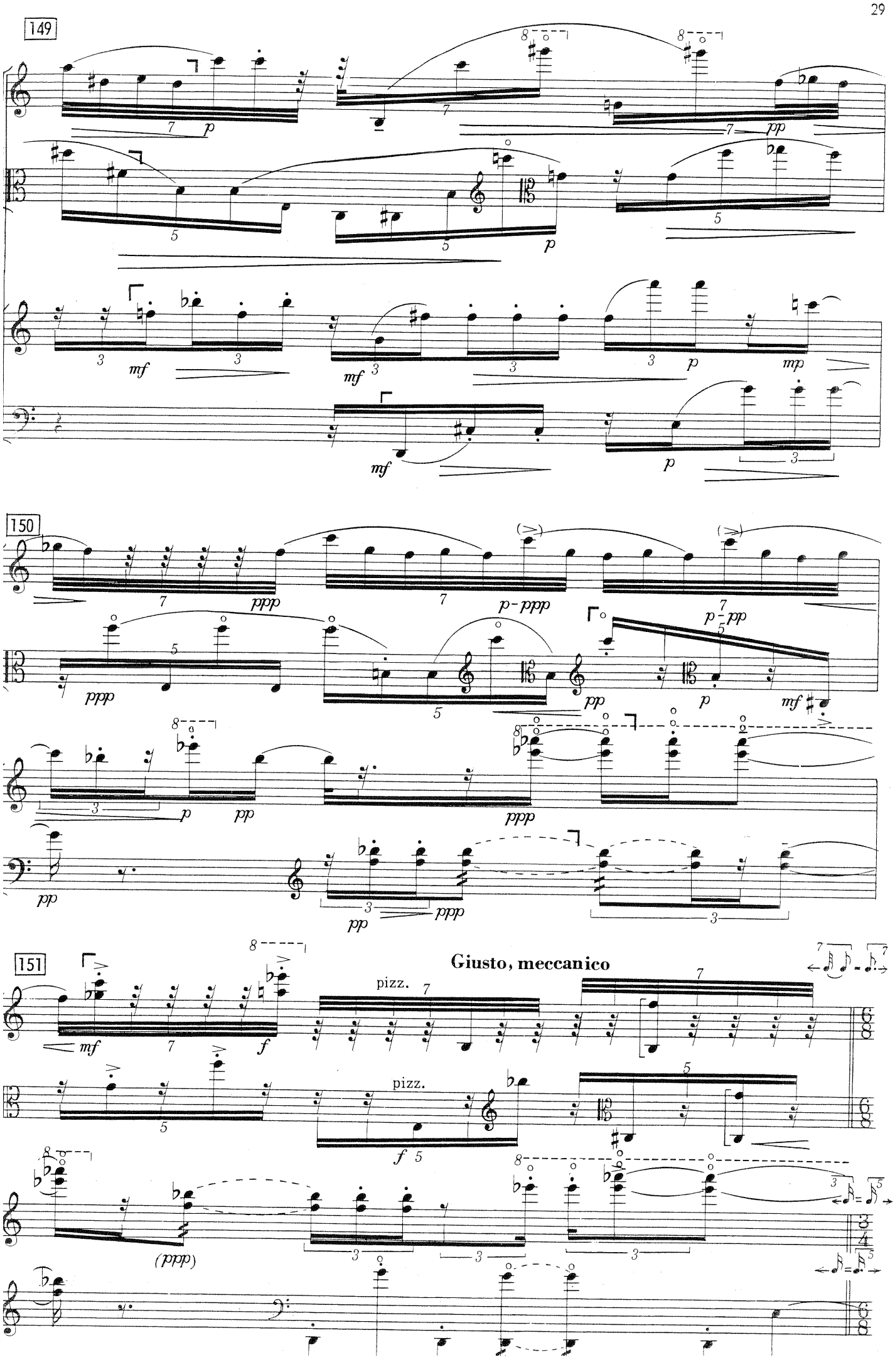

119 (♩ = 90)
♩ = 72
Vn.II
[Duo II]
Vla.
121
123 ♩ = 84
124 (♪. = 112)
126 (♩ = 84)

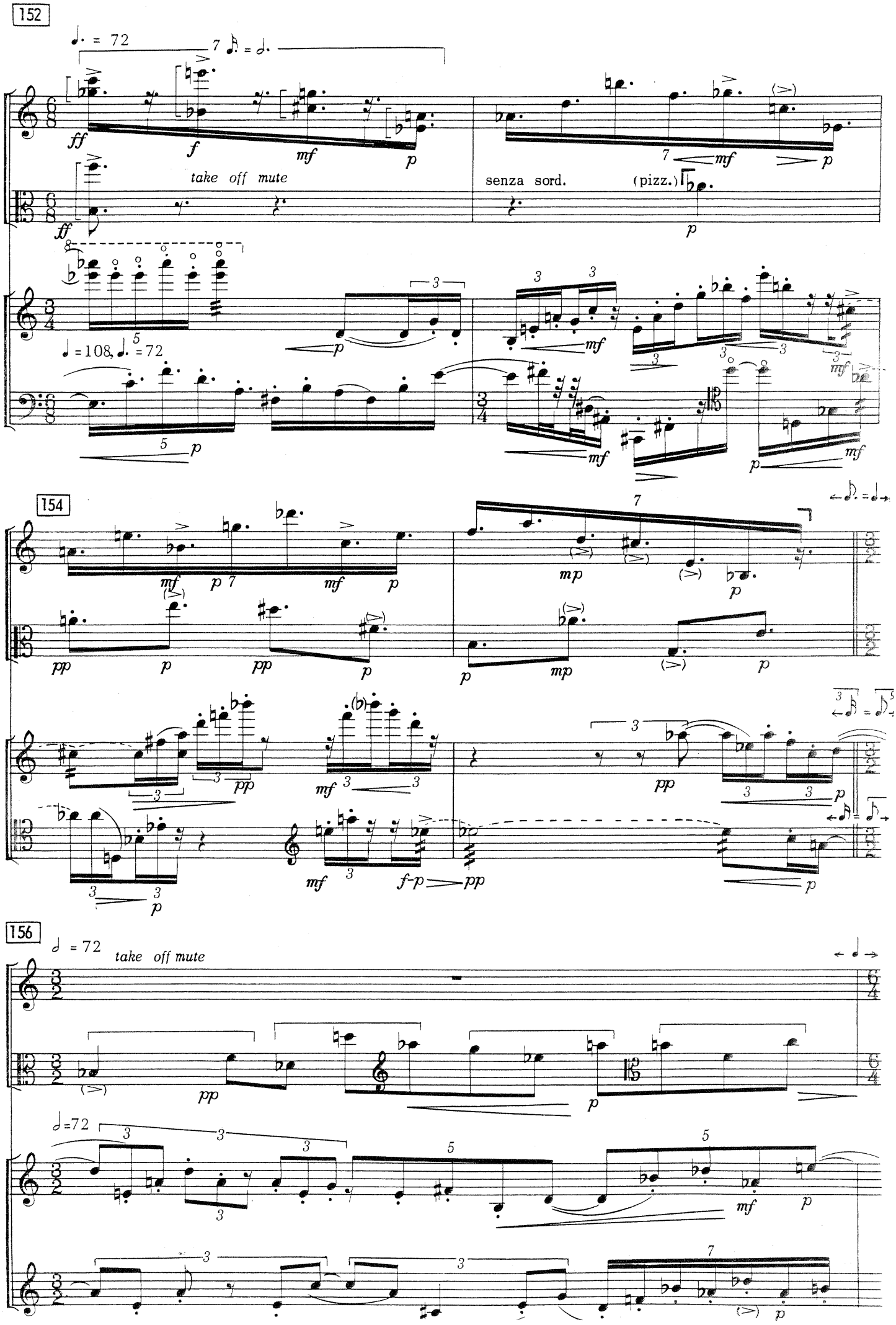

128
130
132
134
♩ = 84
♩ = 105
♩. = 60

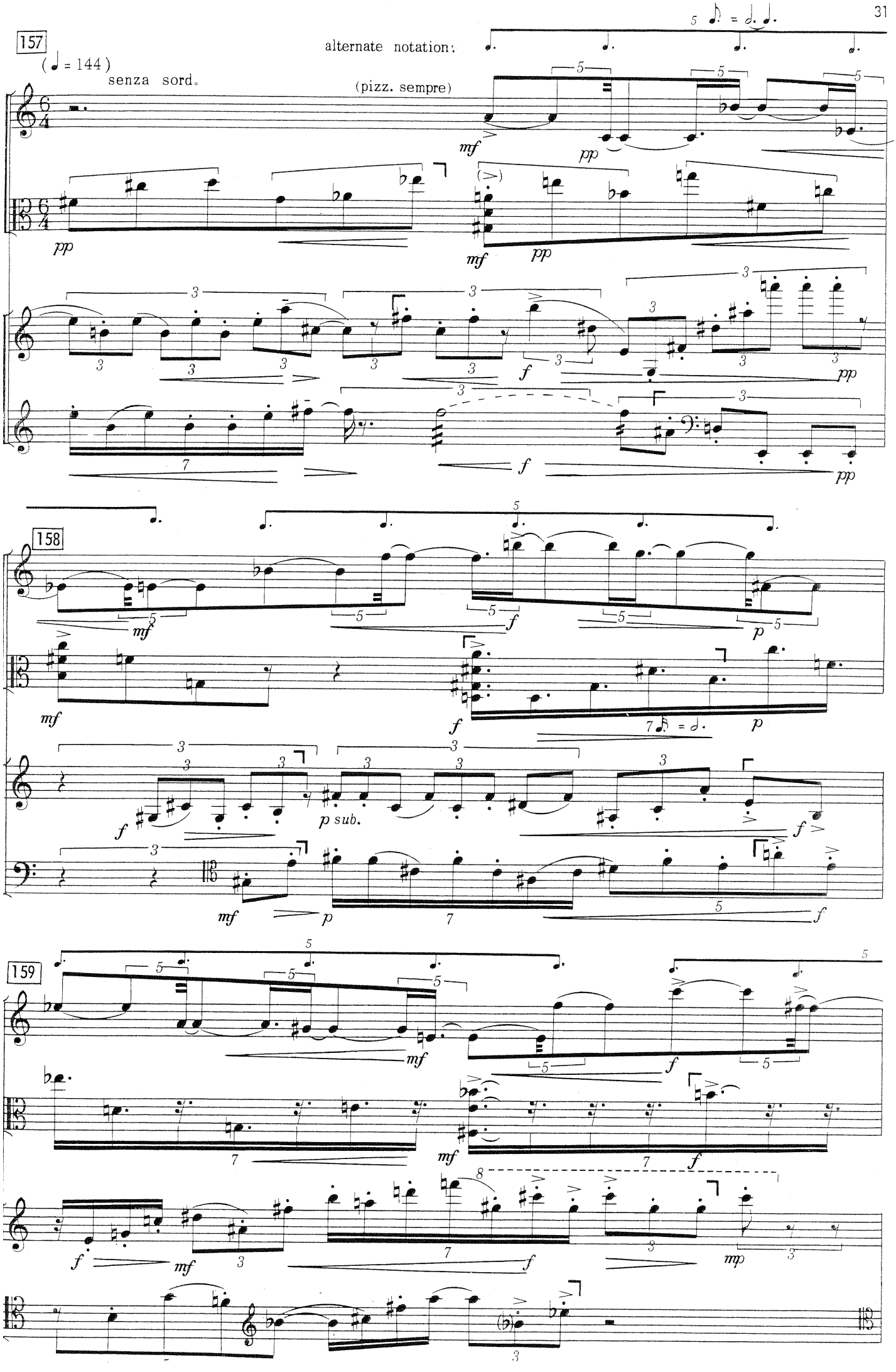

136
(♩. = 60)
[II]
ppp
pp
Leggerissimo (♪ = 120)
(stesso tempo) arco
[I]
[4 ♪]
to the fore
arco to the fore
p
p - pp
138
139 (𝅗𝅥 = 45)
7 ♪ = 𝅗𝅥
(♩. = 120)
[8 ♪]
mf

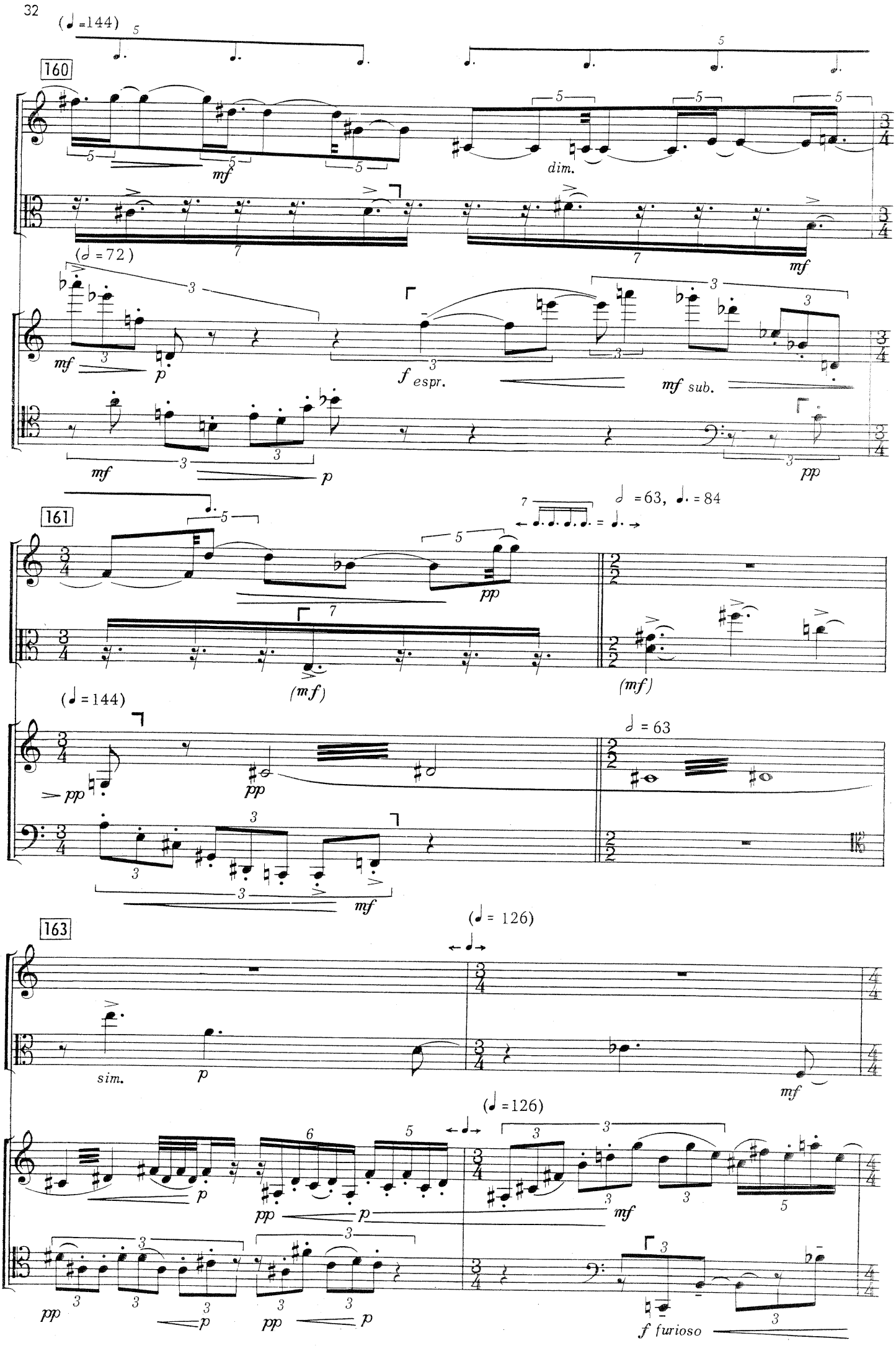

140
141
143
(♩. = 60)
(♩ = 90)
(♩. = 60)

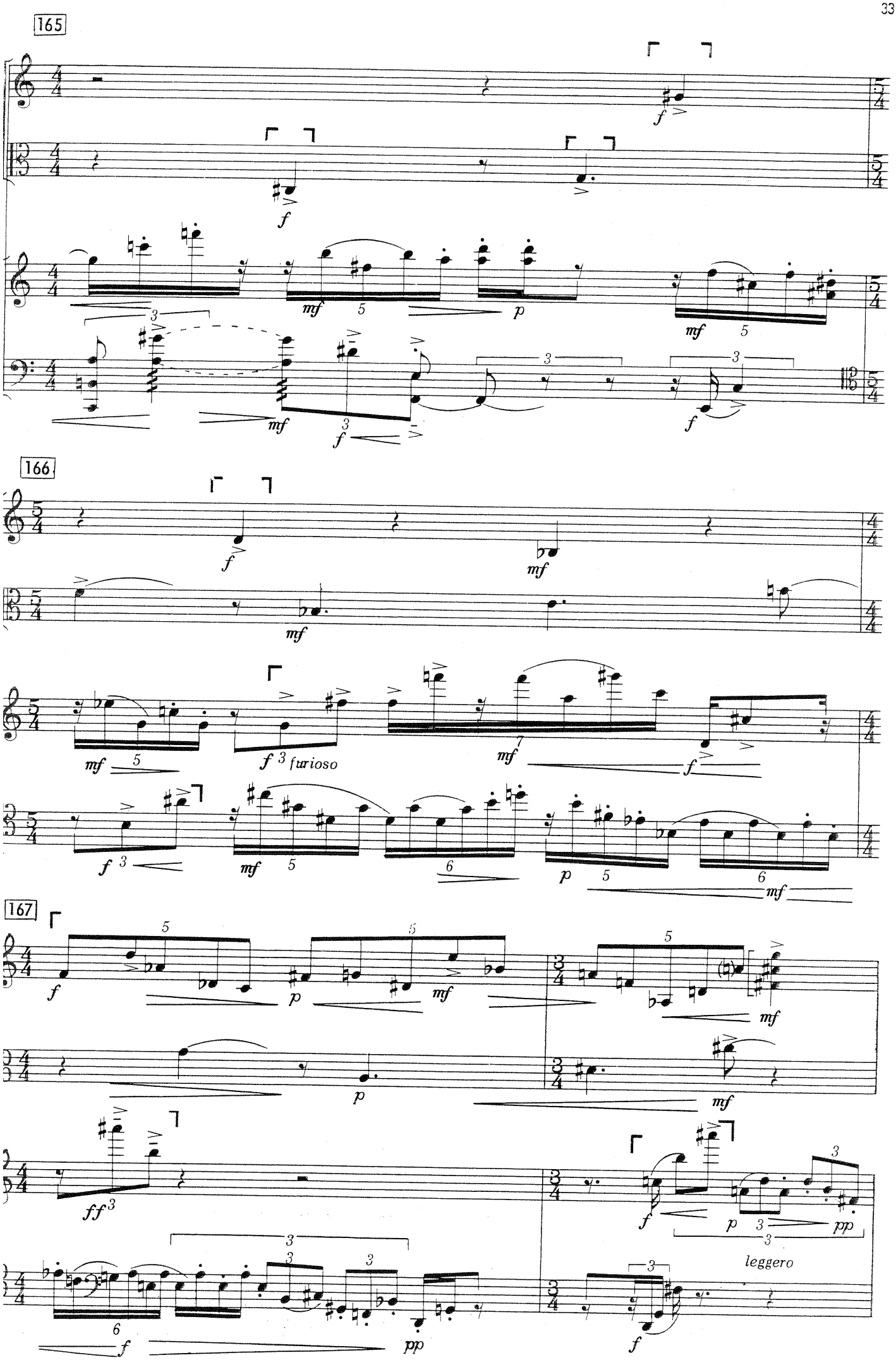

145
(♩. = 60)
(♩ = 90)
147
148

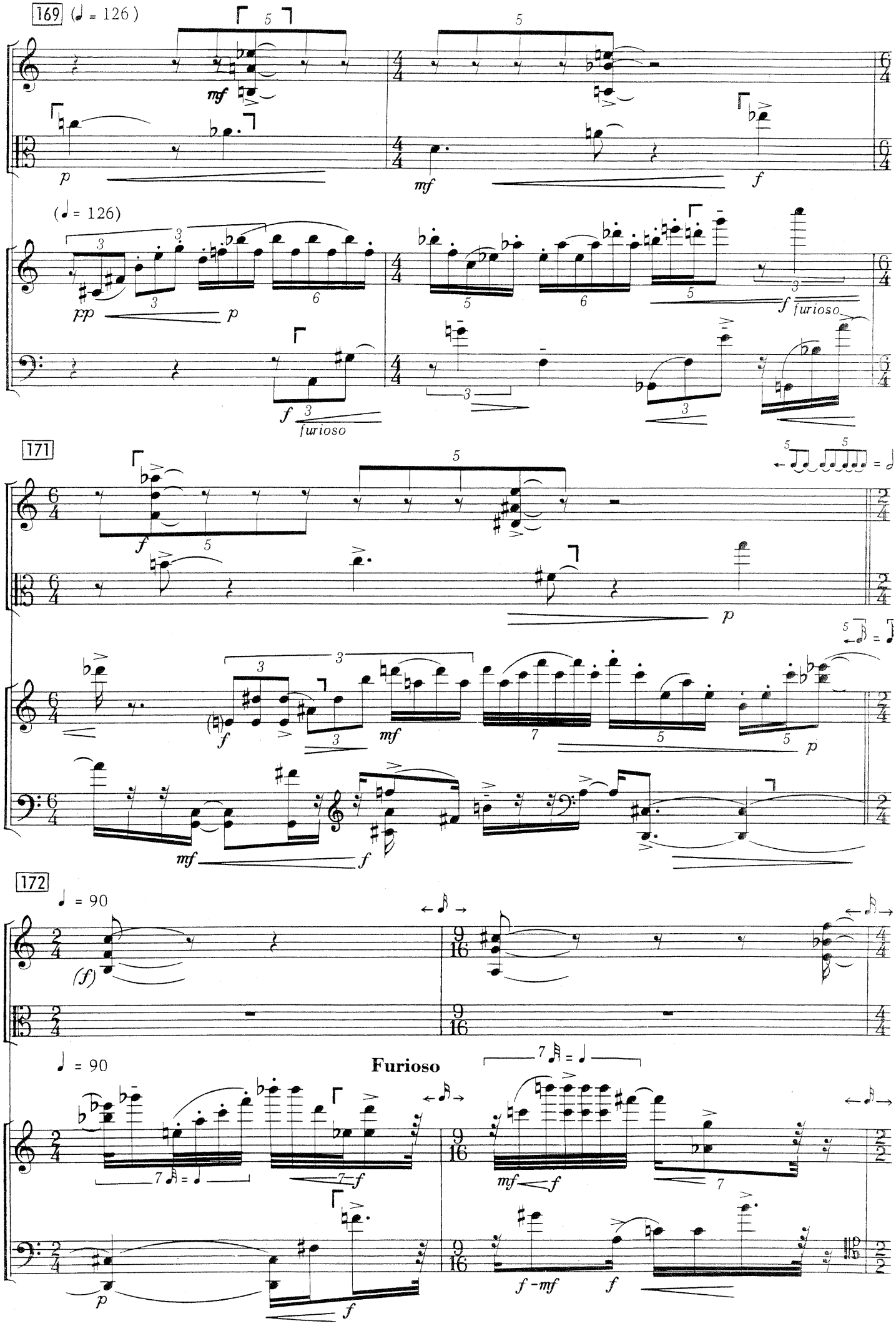

149
150
151
Giusto, meccanico
pizz.
pizz.
(ppp)

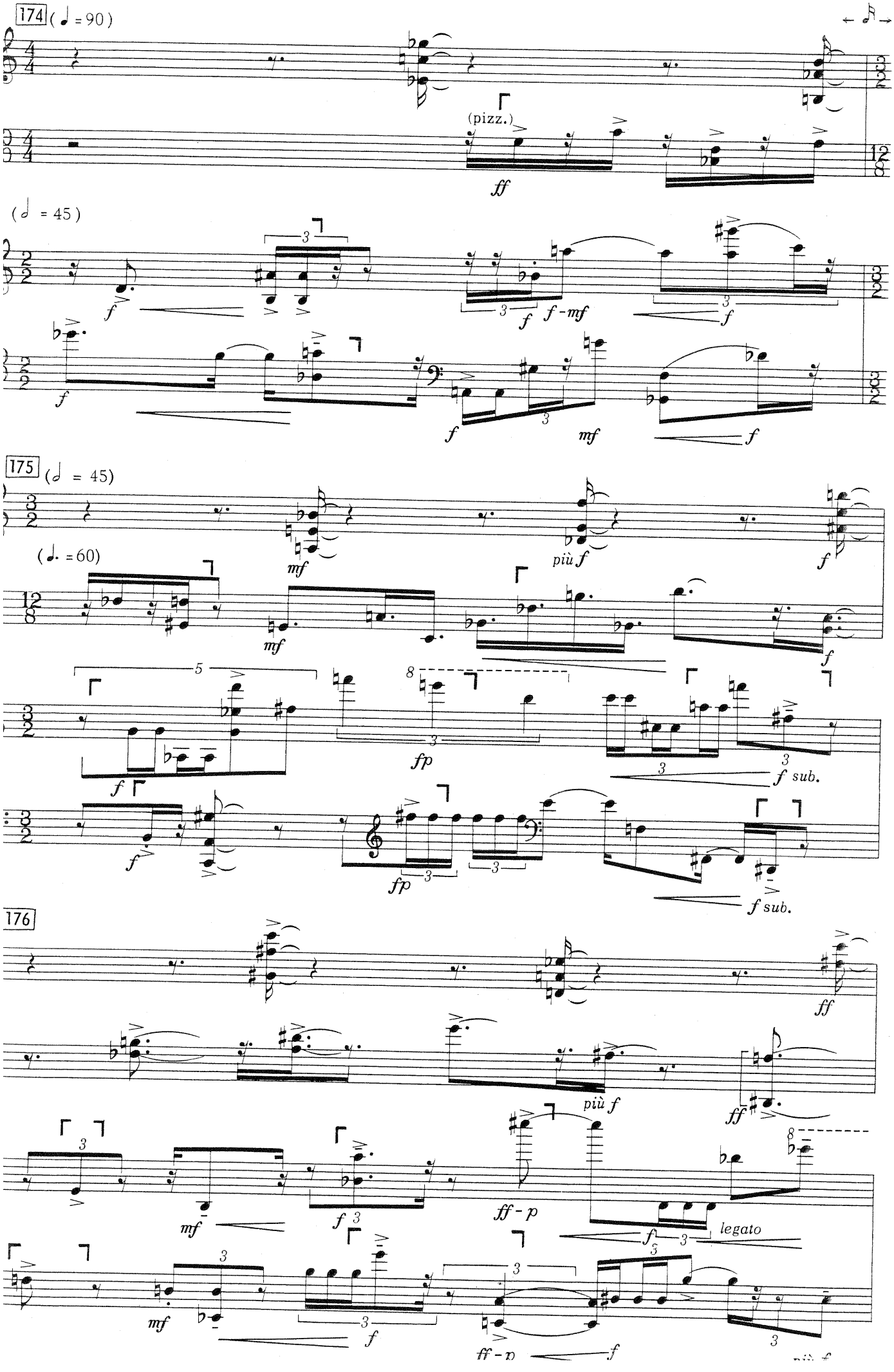

152
take off mute
senza sord.
(pizz.)
154
156
take off mute

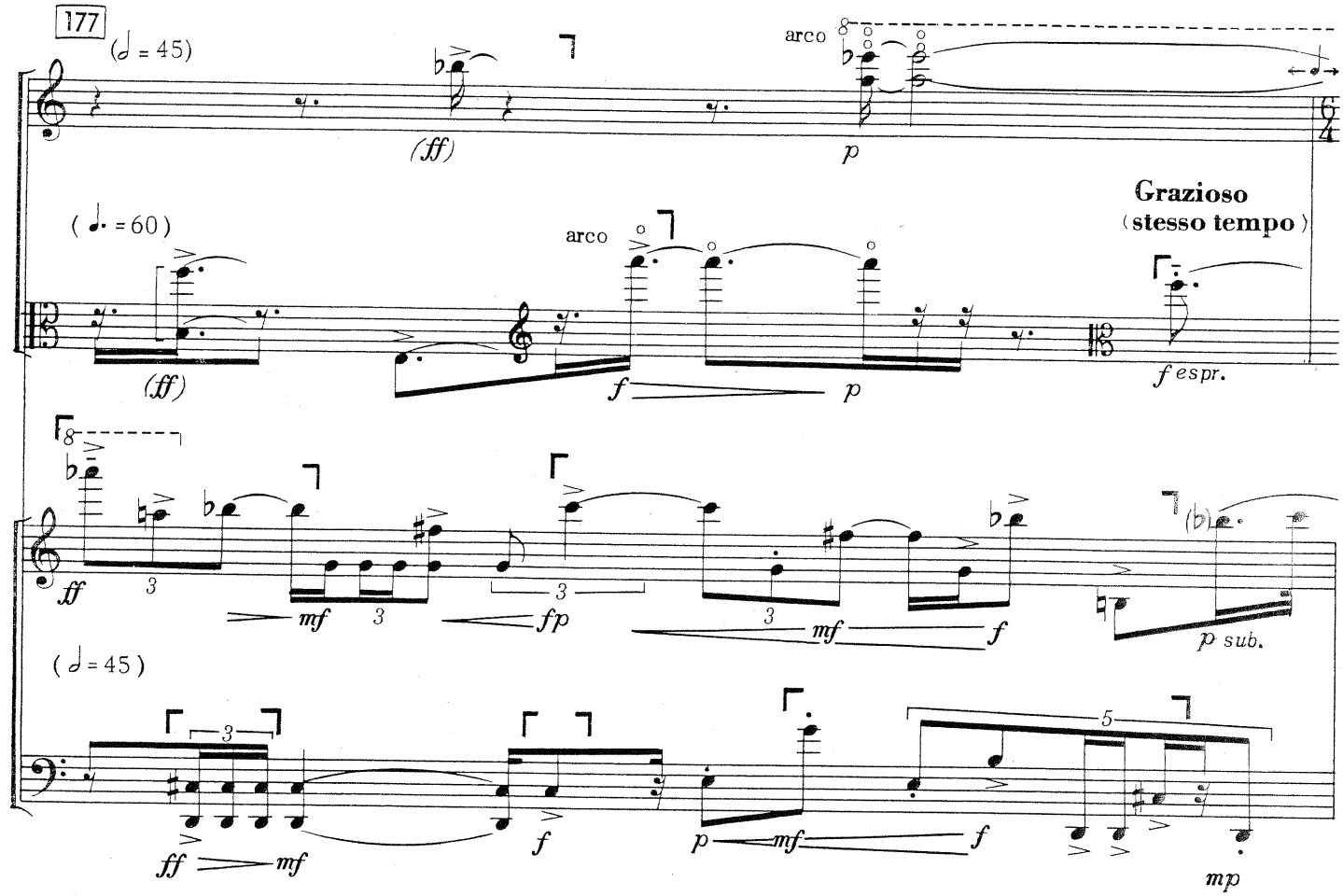

157
(♩ = 144)
senza sord.
alternate notation:
(pizz. sempre)
158
159

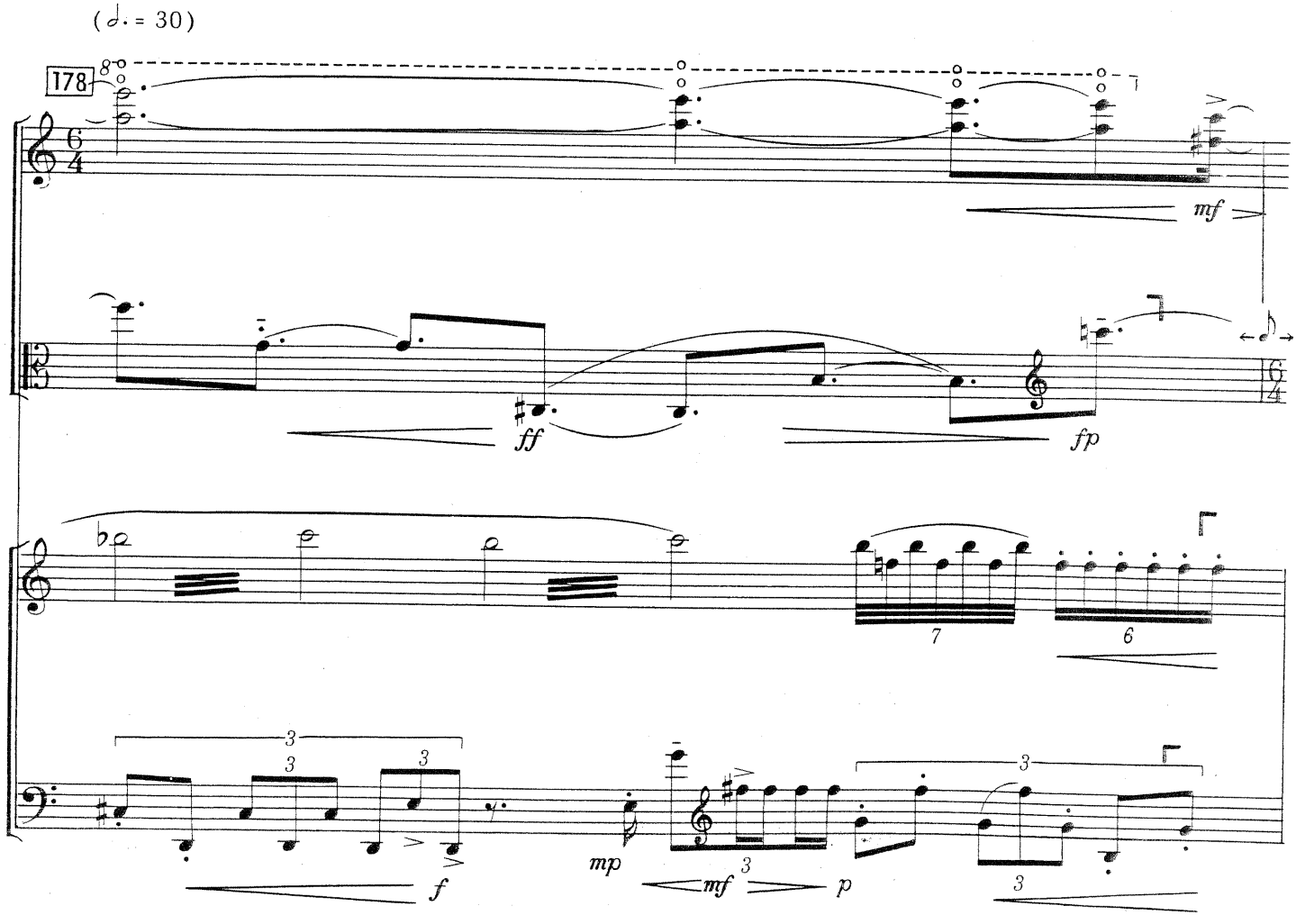

(♩=144)
160
mf
dim.
(𝅗𝅥=72)
mf
mf
p
f espr.
mf sub.
mf
p
pp
161
(mf)
(mf)
(♩=144)
pp
pp
𝅗𝅥=63
mf
163
(♩= 126)
sim.
p
mf
(♩=126)
p
pp
p
mf
pp
p
pp
p
f furioso

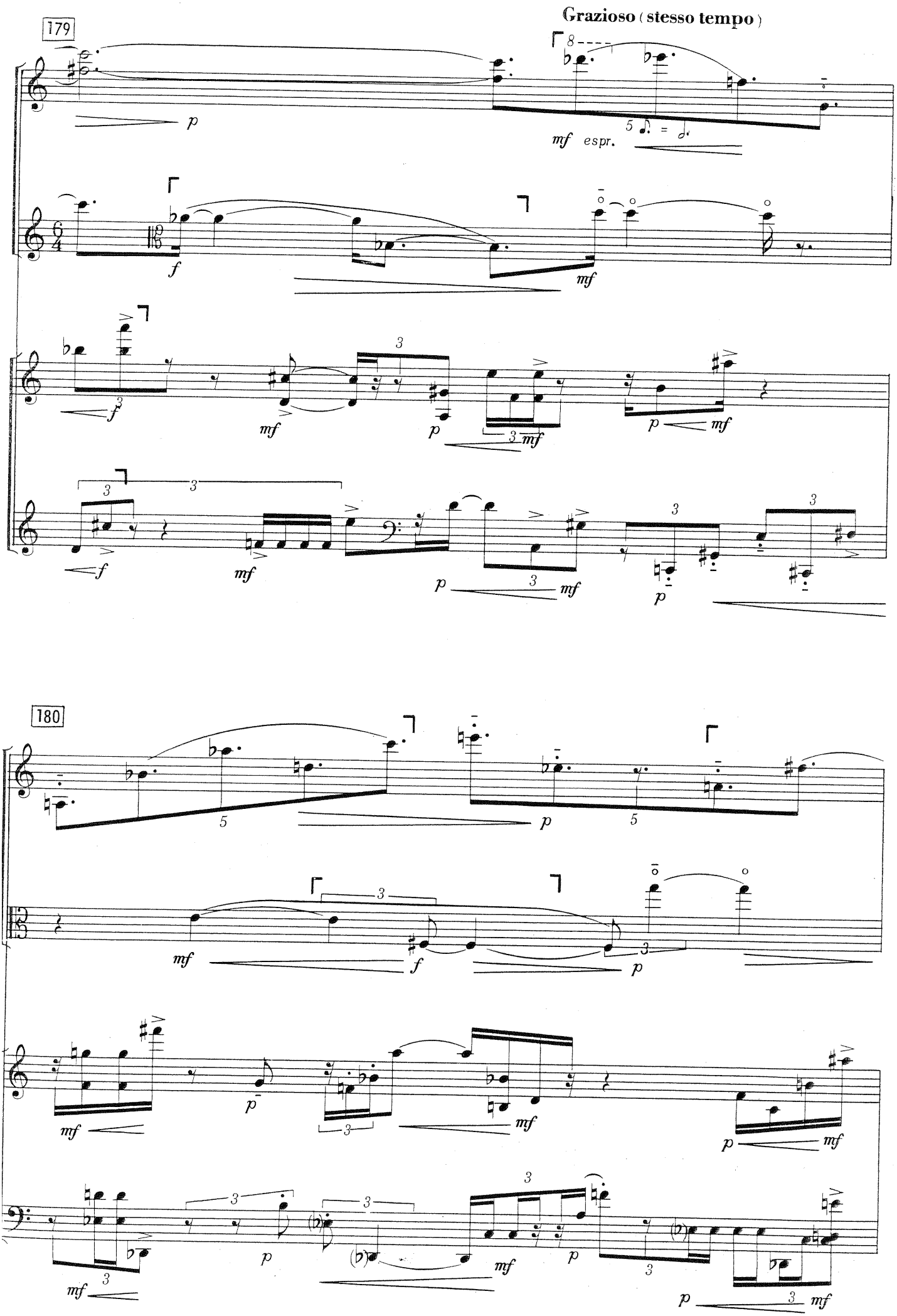

165
166
167
furioso
leggero

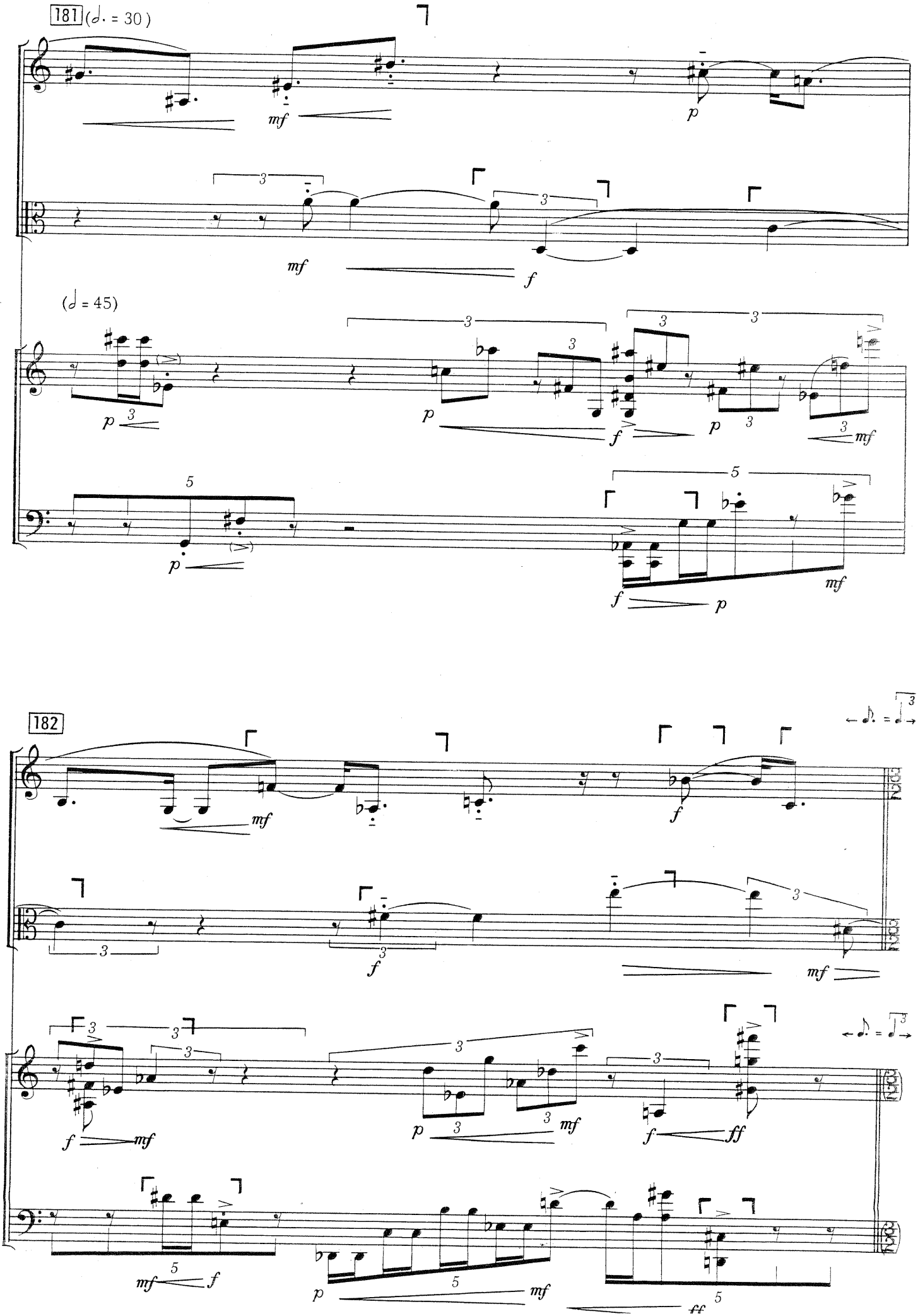

169
(♩ = 126)
mf
p
mf
f
(♩ = 126)
pp
p
f furioso
f furioso
171
f
p
mf
f
p
mf
f
172
♩ = 90
(f)
♩ = 90
Furioso
mf f
f
f -mf
f

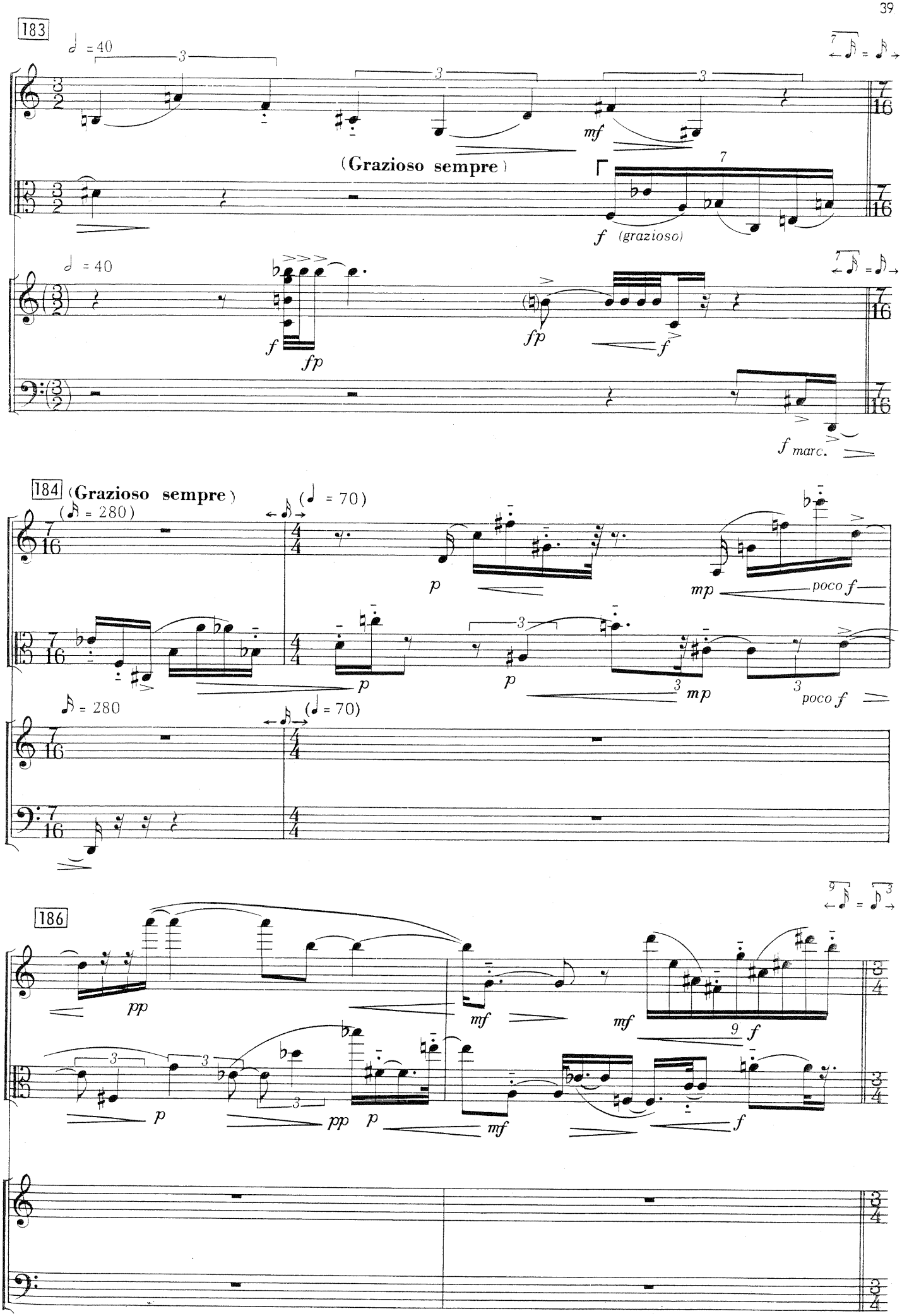

174
(♩ = 90)
(pizz.)
ff
(𝅗𝅥 = 45)
f
f
f - mf
f
f
mf
f
175
(𝅗𝅥 = 45)
mf
più f
f
(♩. = 60)
mf
f
f
fp
f sub.
f
fp
f sub.
176
ff
più f
ff
mf
f
ff - p
legato
mf
f
ff - p
f

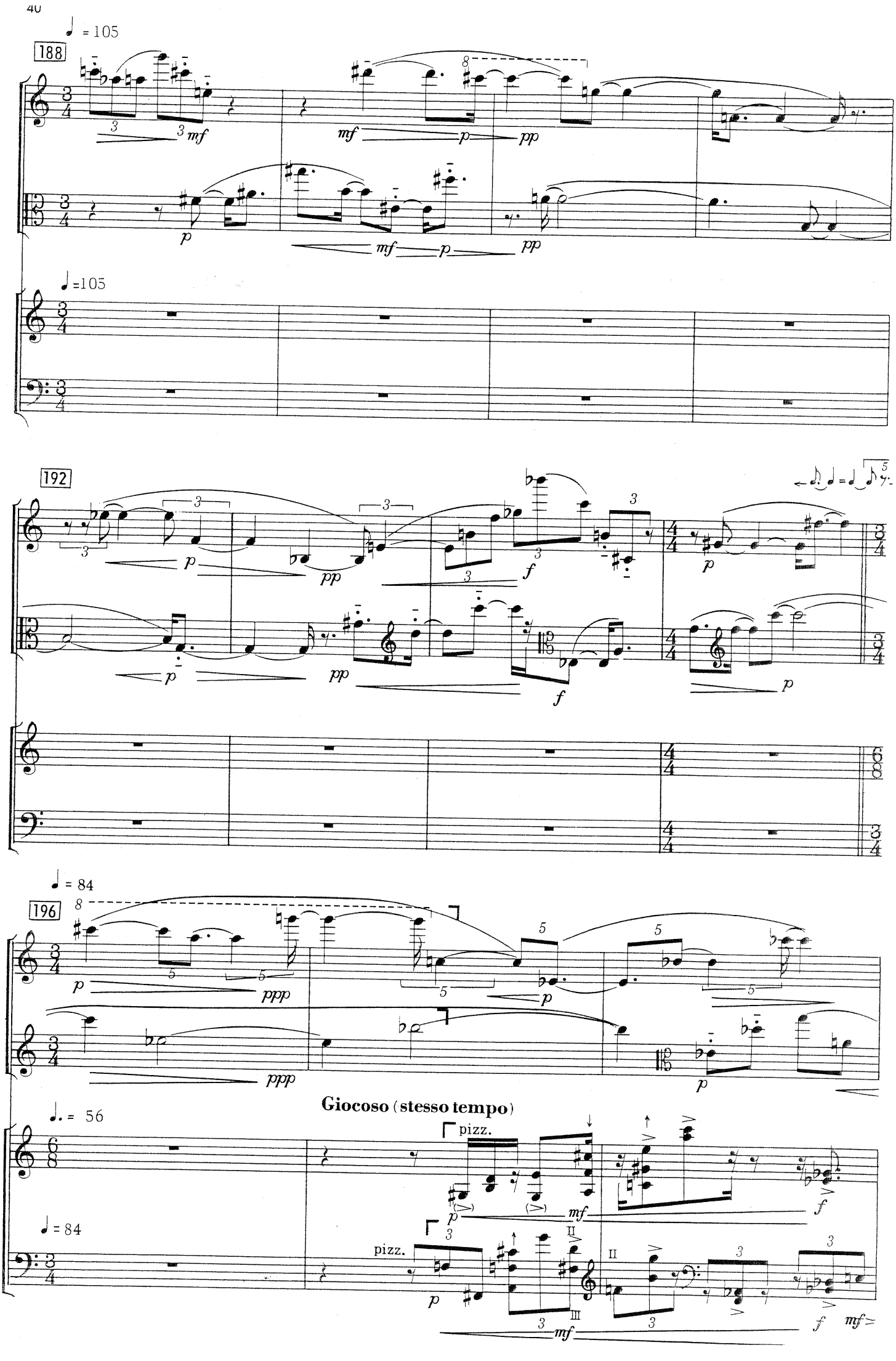

177
(♩ = 45)
(ff)
arco
p
Grazioso
(stesso tempo)
(♩. = 60)
(ff)
arco
f
p
f espr.
8
ff
mf
fp
mf
f
(b)
p sub.
(♩ = 45)
ff
mf
f
p
mf
f
mp

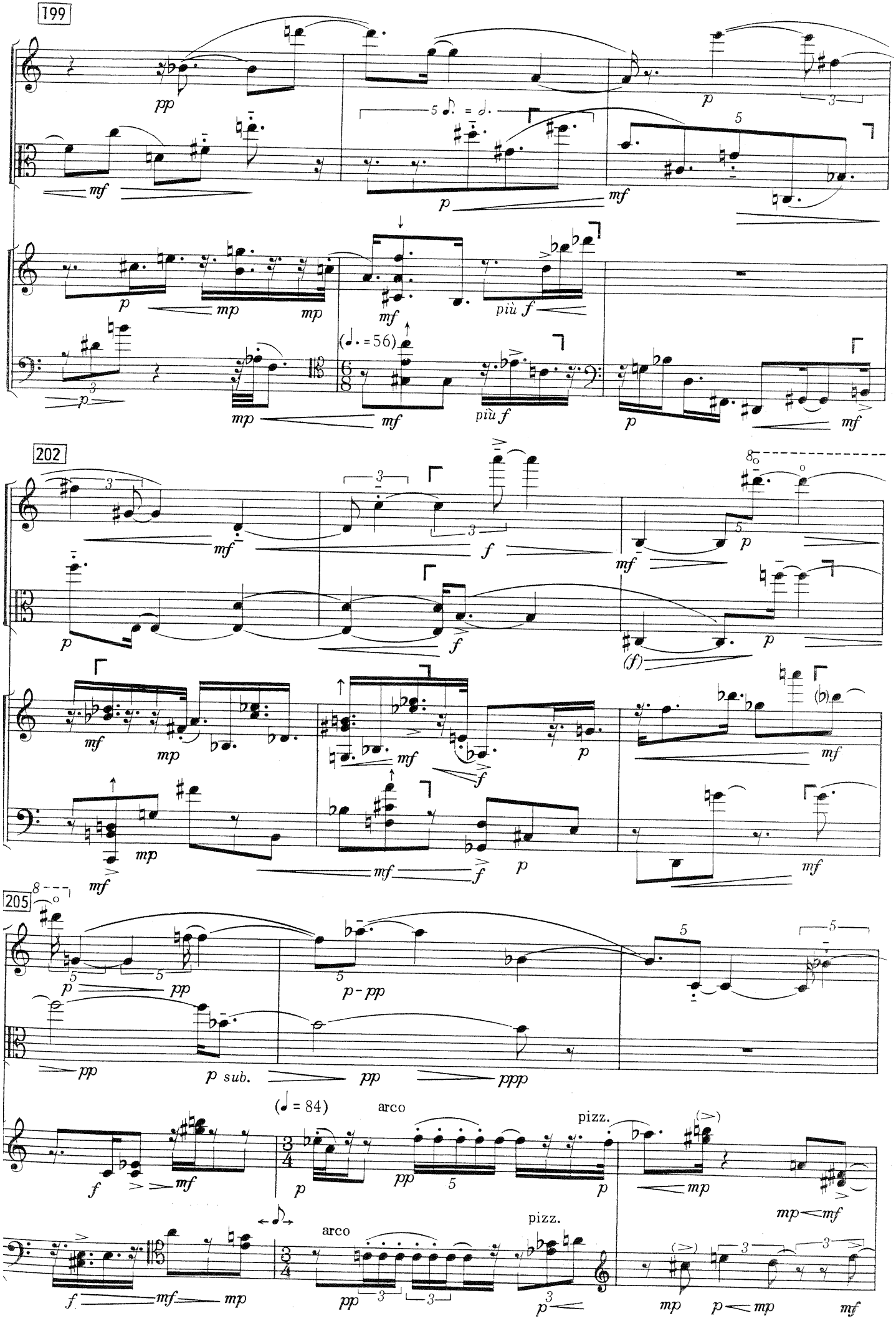

(♩. = 30)
178
8
mf
ff
fp
7
6
f
mp
mf
p

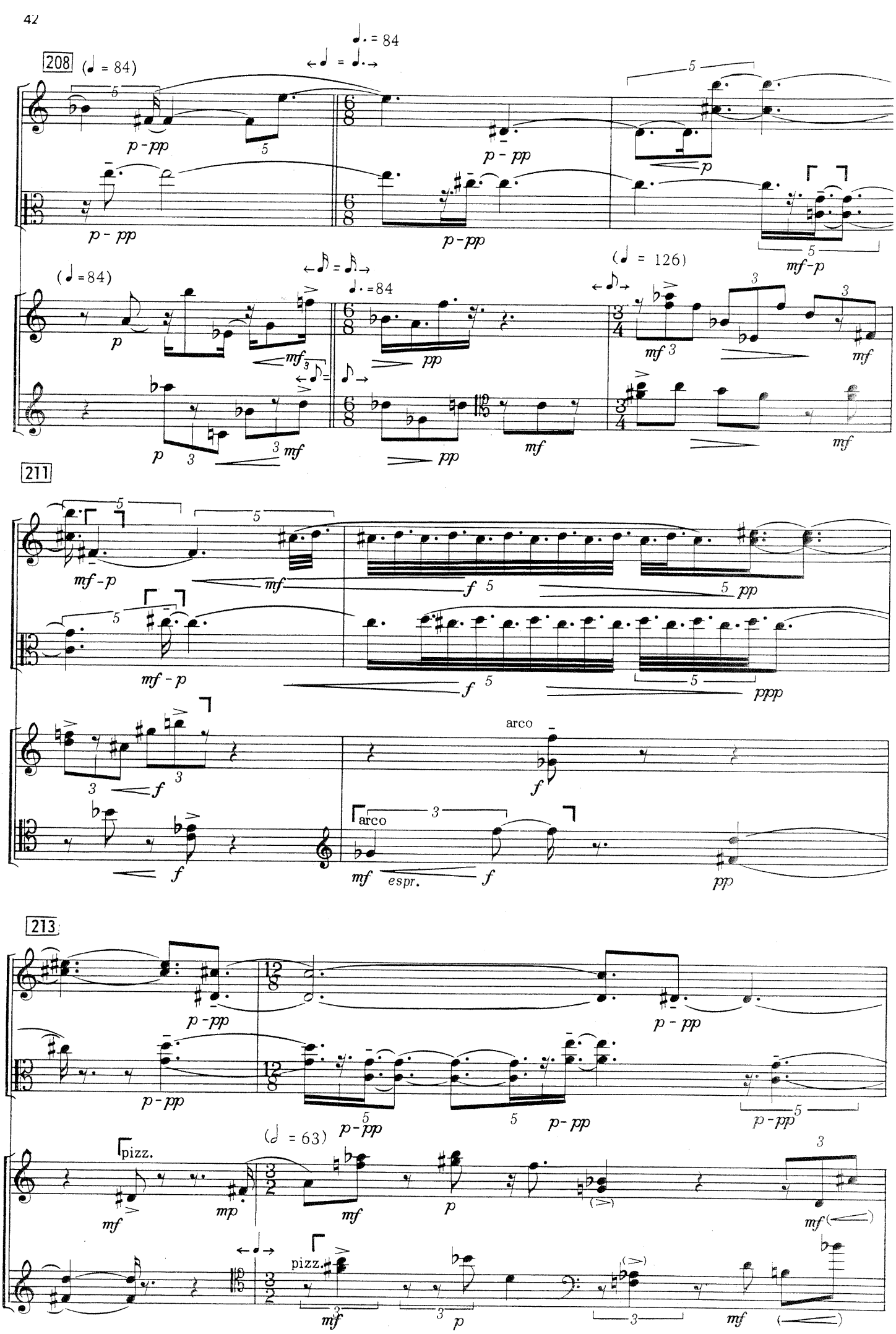

Grazioso (stesso tempo)
179
180
espr.

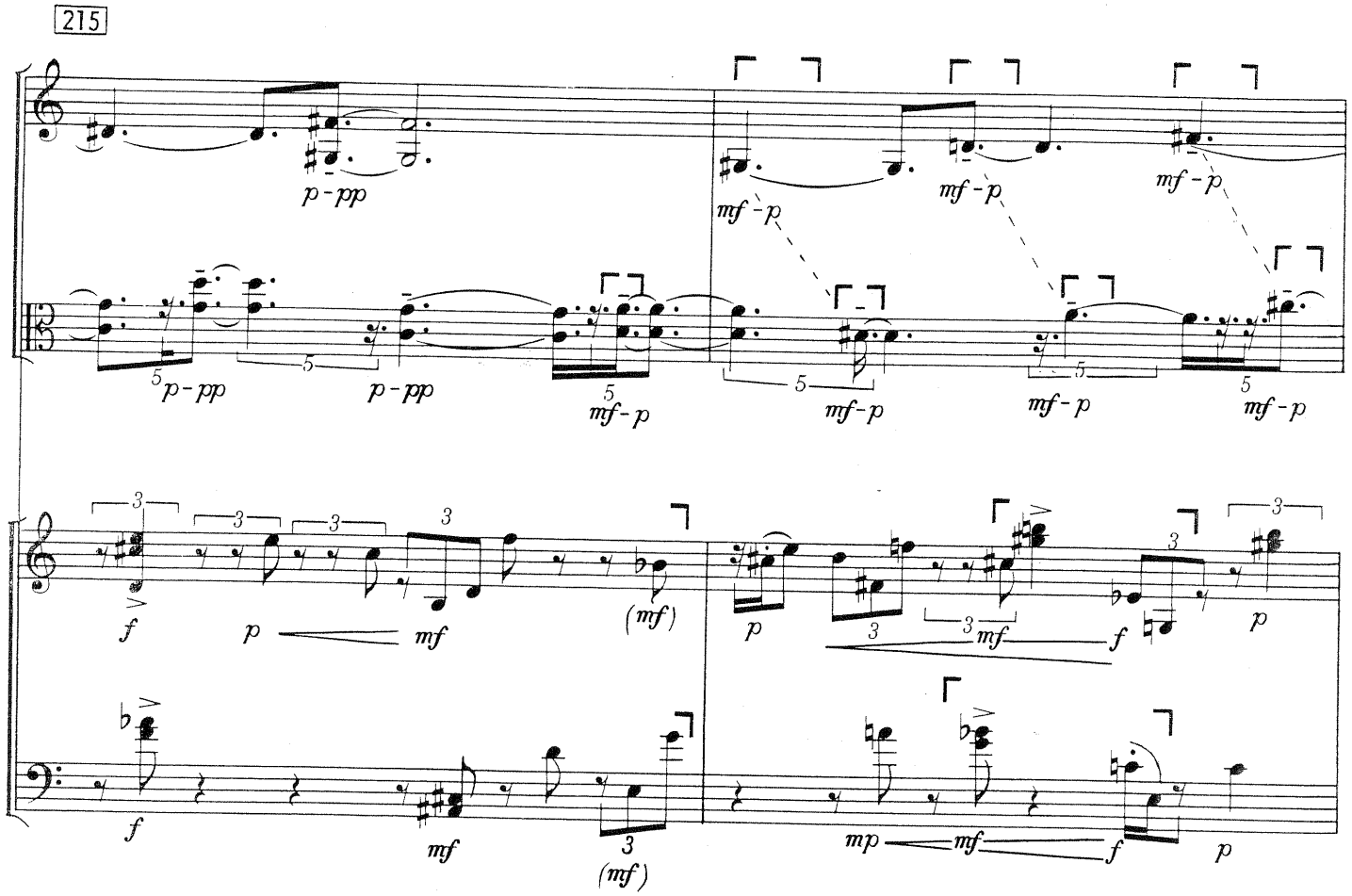

181 (♩. = 30)
mf
p
mf
f
(♩ = 45)
p
p
f
p
mf
p
f
p
mf
182
mf
f
f
mf
f
mf
p
mf
f
ff
mf
f
p
mf
ff

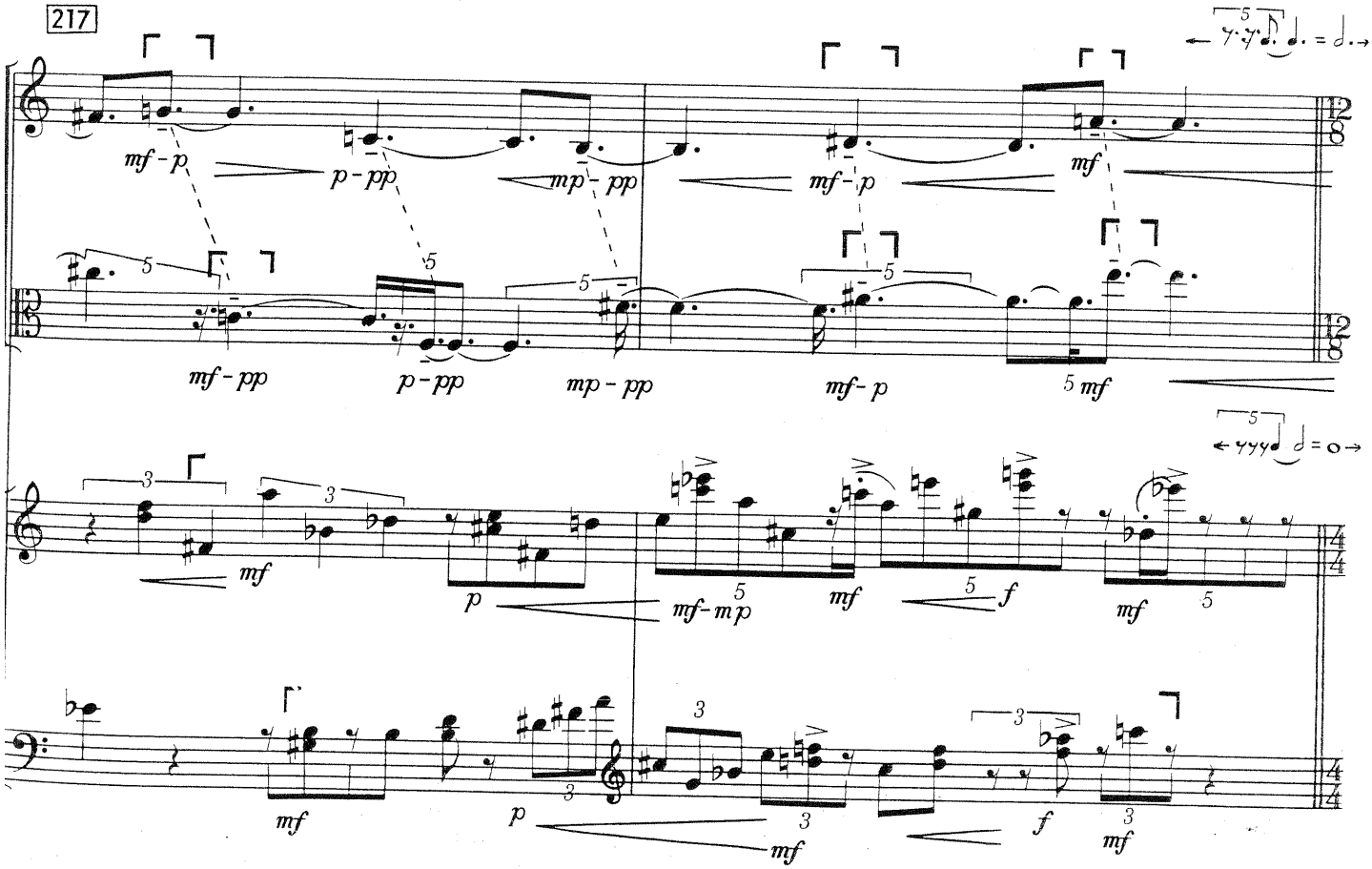

183
(Grazioso sempre)
mf
f (grazioso)
fp
f marc.
184 (Grazioso sempre)
p
mp
poco f
186
pp
mf
f

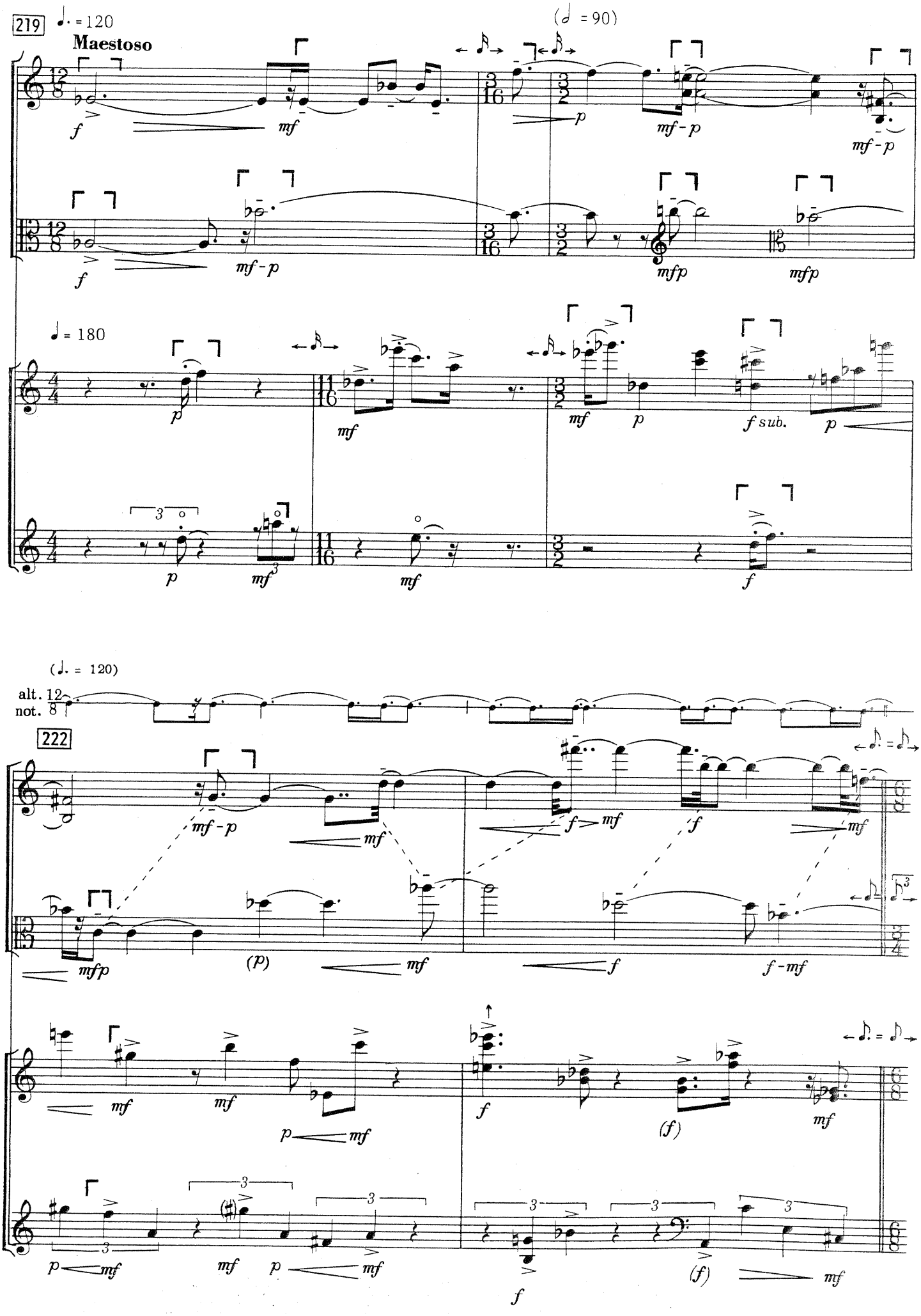

♩ = 105
188
mf
p
pp
♩ = 105
192
f
♩ = 84
196
ppp
Giocoso (stesso tempo)
♩. = 56
pizz.
♩ = 84
pizz.

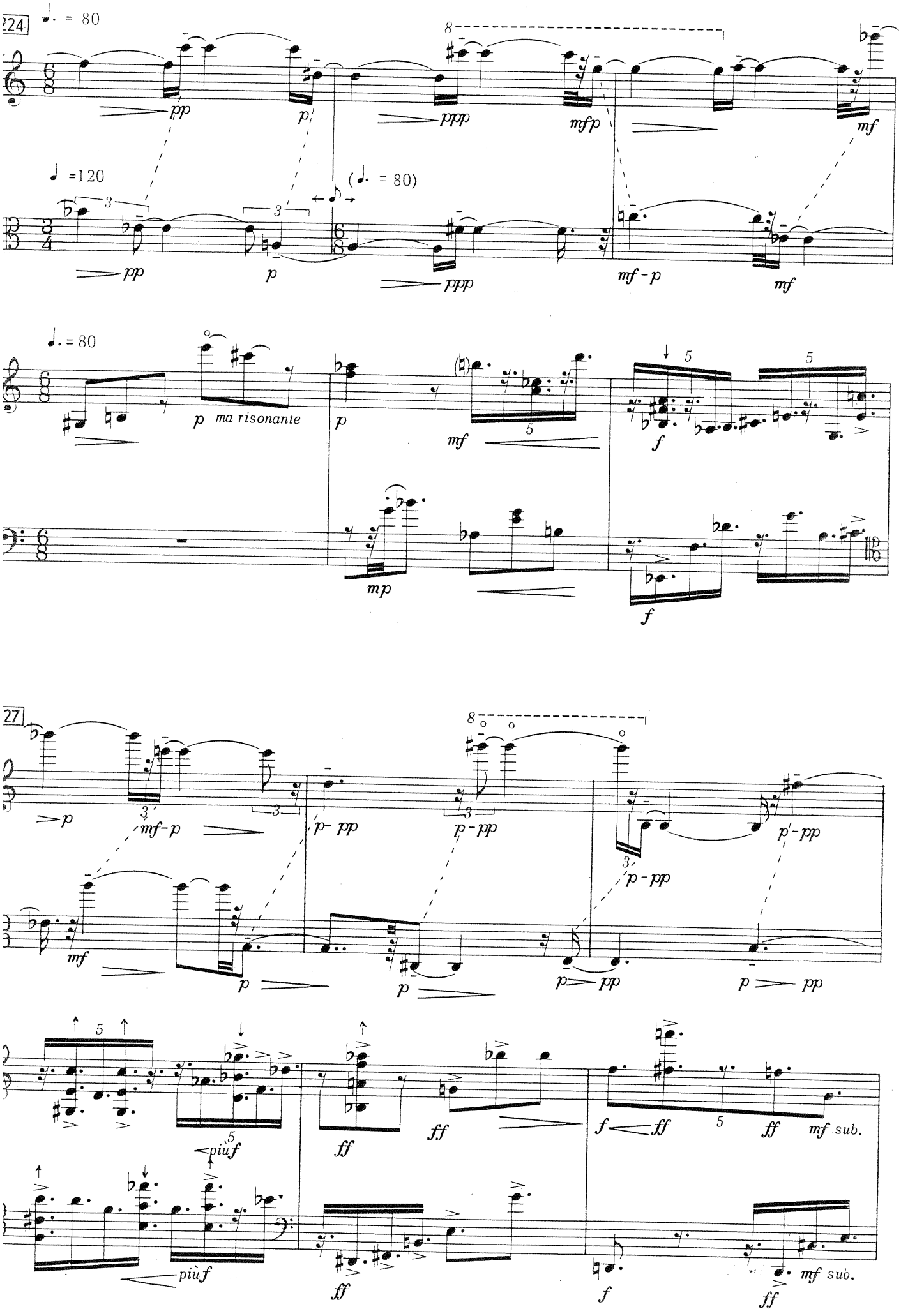

199
202
205
(♩. = 56)
(♩ = 84)
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.

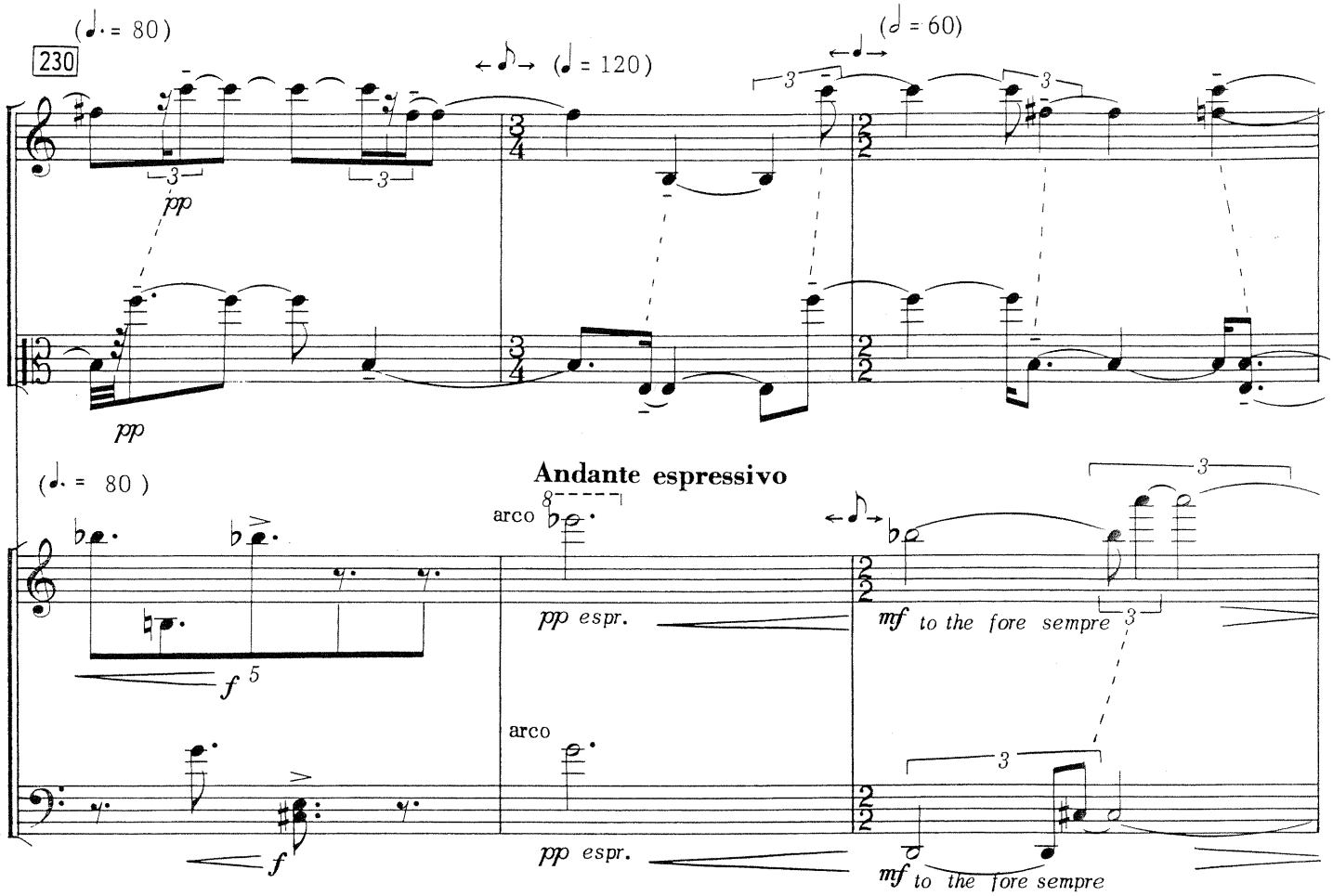

208
(♩ = 84)
♩. = 84
p - pp
p - pp
p - pp
p
mf - p
(♩ = 84)
p
mf
p
mf
pp
pp
(♩ = 126)
mf
mf
mf
211
mf - p
mf
f
pp
mf - p
f
ppp
f
arco
f
f
arco
mf
espr.
f
pp
213
p - pp
p - pp
p - pp
p - pp
p - pp
(♩ = 63)
pizz.
mf
mp
mf
p
mf
pizz.
mf
p
mf

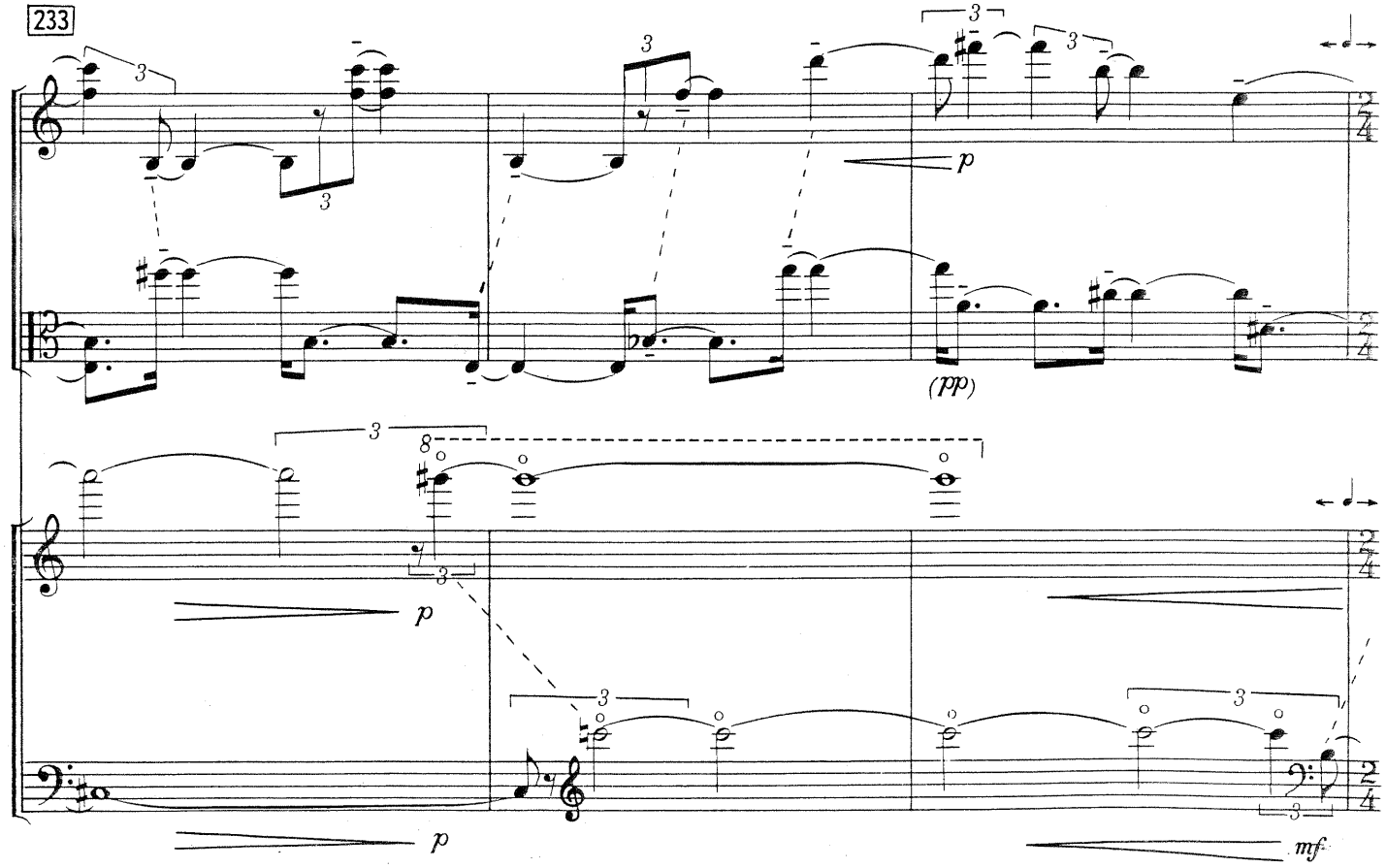

215
p - pp
mf - p
mf - p
mf - p
5 p - pp
p - pp
5 mf - p
mf - p
mf - p
5 mf - p
f
p
mf
(mf)
p
3 mf
f
p
f
mf
3 (mf)
mp
mf
f
p

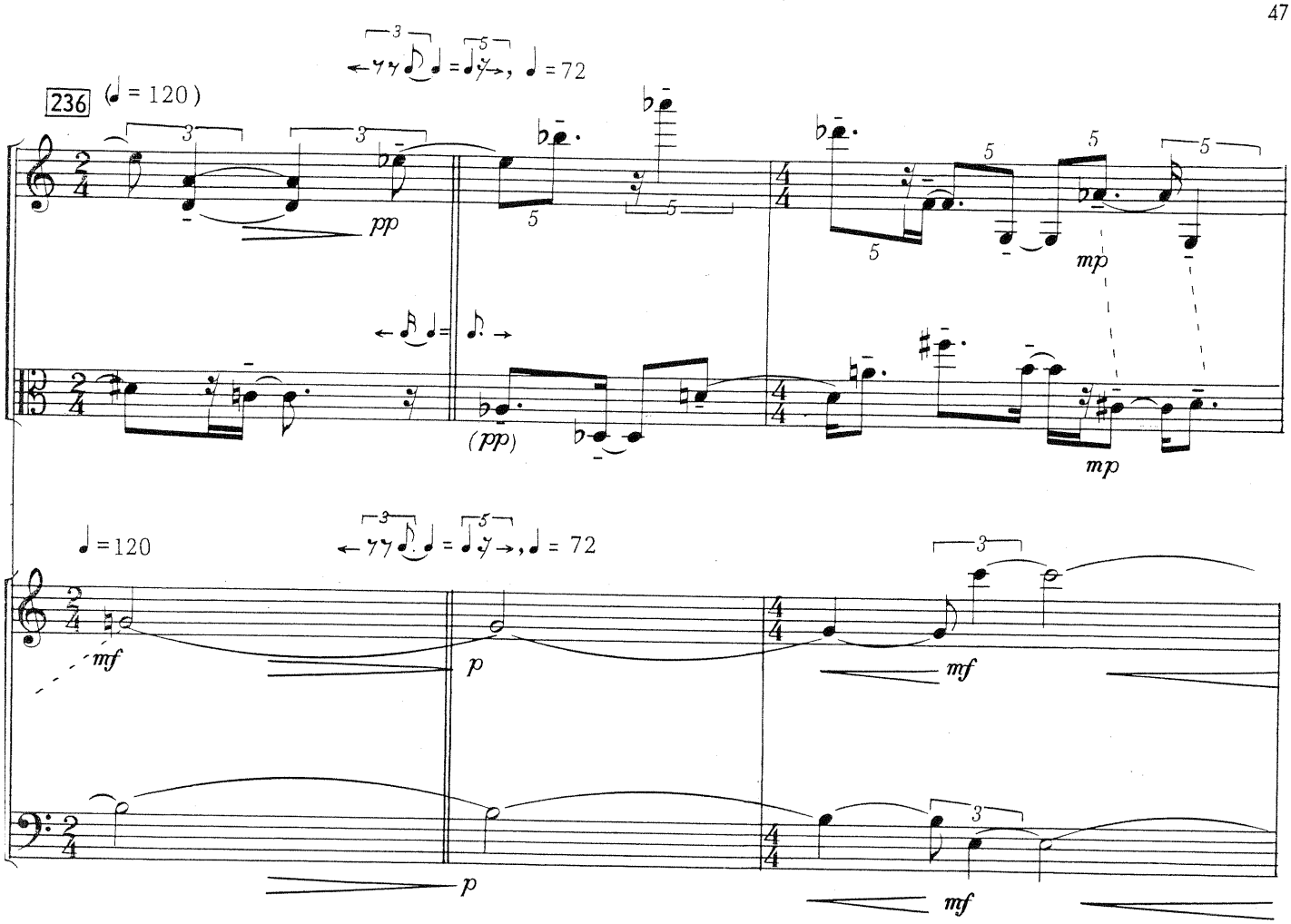

217
mf - p
p - pp
mp - pp
mf - p
mf
mf - pp
p - pp
mp - pp
mf - p
5 mf
mf
p
mf - mp
mf
f
mf
mf
p
mf
f
mf

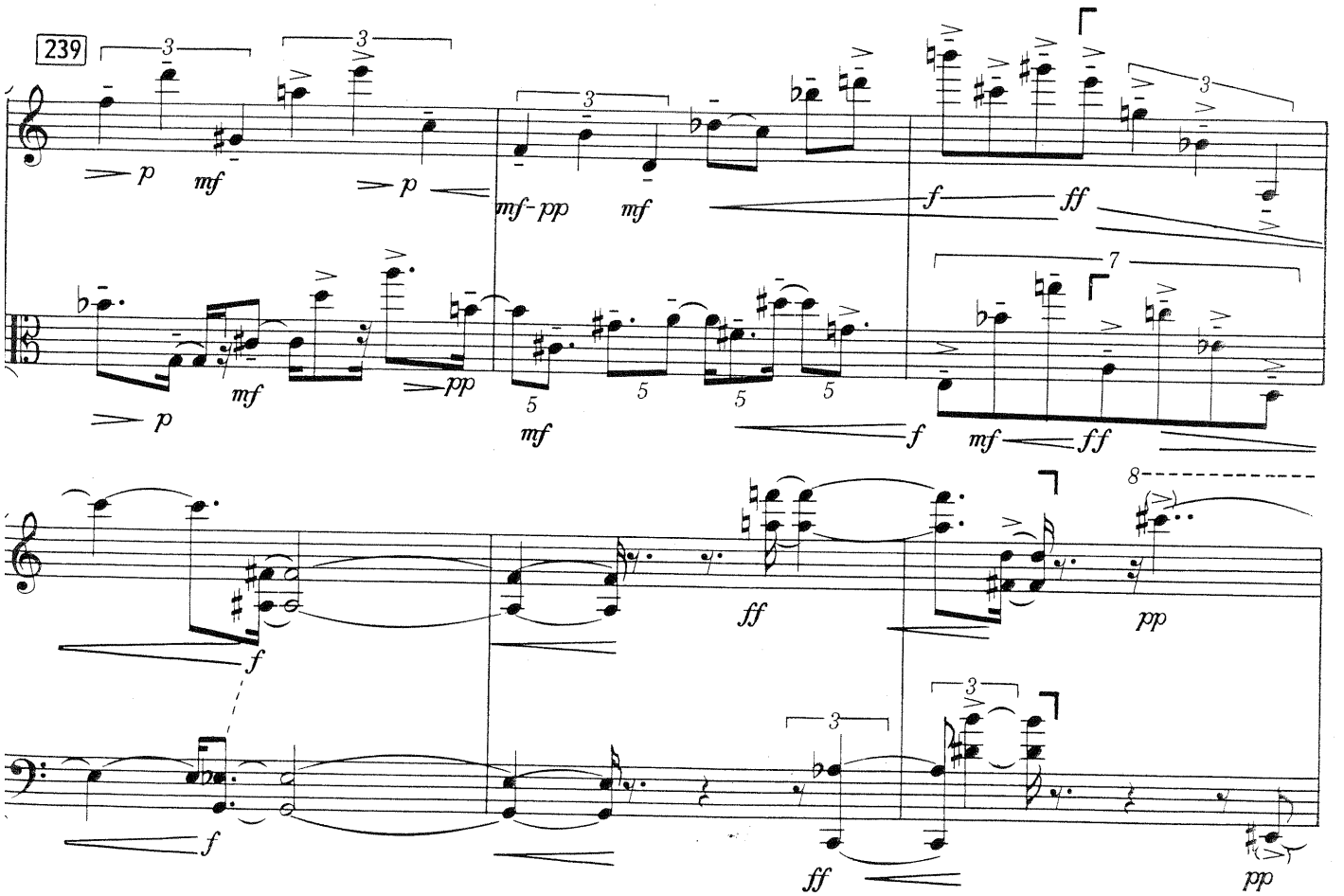

219
♩. = 120
Maestoso
(𝅗𝅥 = 90)
♩ = 180
(♩. = 120)
alt. 12
not. 8
222

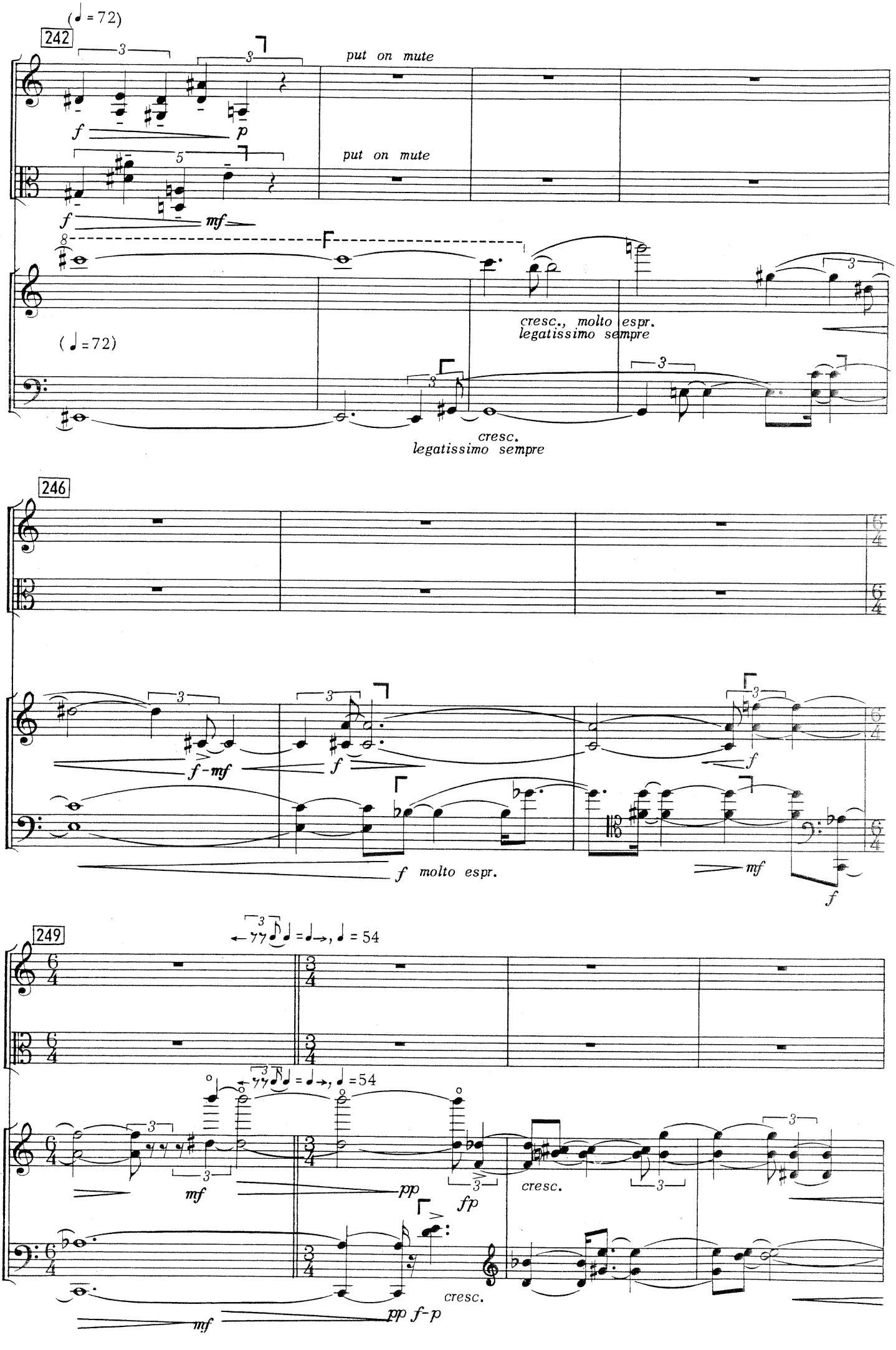

24
♩. = 80
pp
p
pppp
mfp
mf
♩ =120
(♩. = 80)
pp
p
pppp
mf - p
mf
♩. = 80
p ma risonante
p
mf
f
mp
f
27
p
mf-p
p- pp
p - pp
p - pp
mf
p
p
p- pp
p - pp
piùf
ff
ff
f
ff
mf sub.
piùf
ff
f
mf sub.
ff

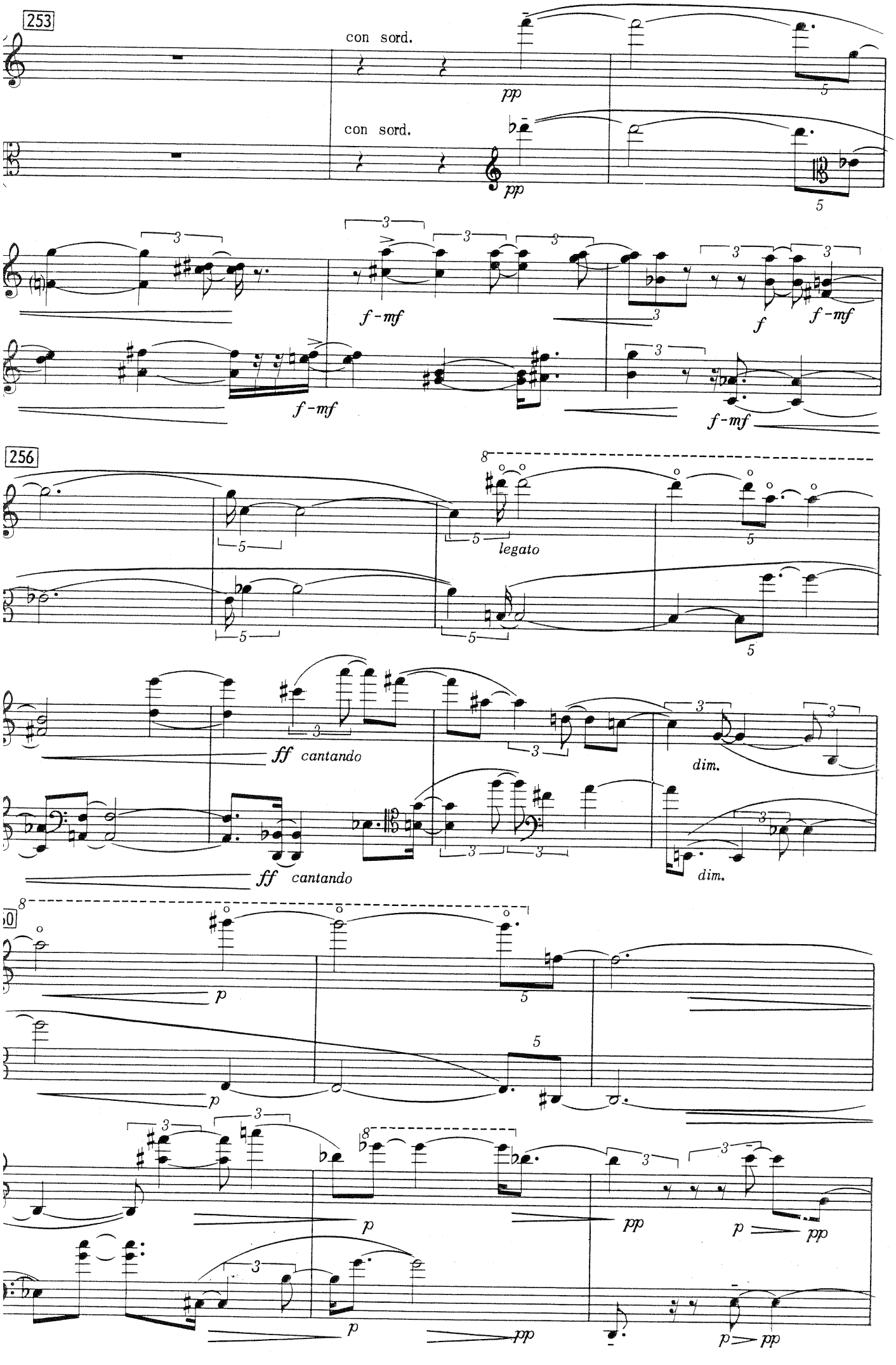

(♩. = 80)
230
(♩ = 120)
(𝅗𝅥 = 60)
pp
pp
(♩. = 80)
Andante espressivo
arco
pp espr.
mf to the fore sempre
f
arco
pp espr.
mf to the fore sempre
f

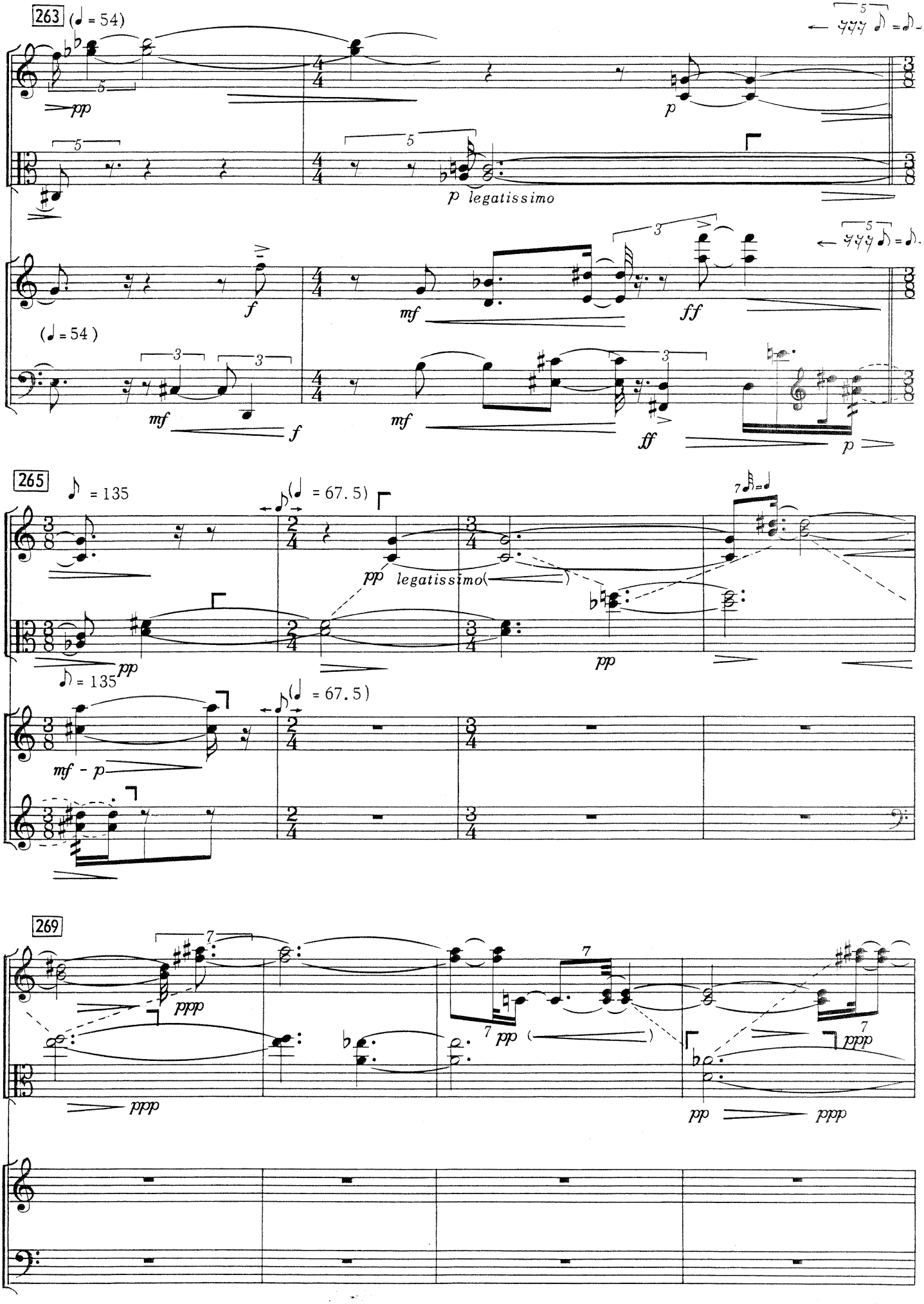

233
p
(pp)
p
p
mf

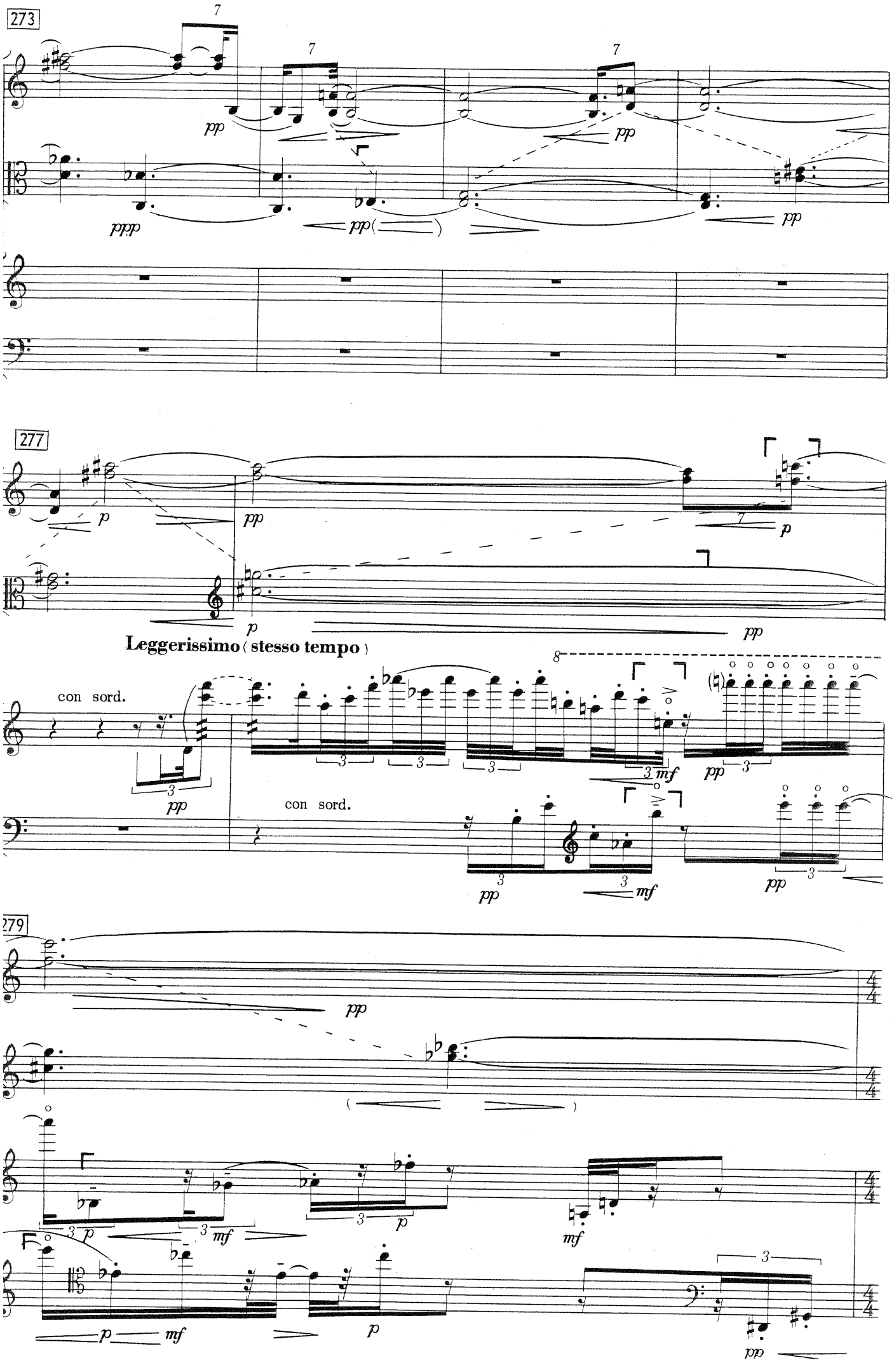

236
(♩ = 120)
pp
mp
(pp)
mp
♩ = 120
mf
p
mf
p
mf

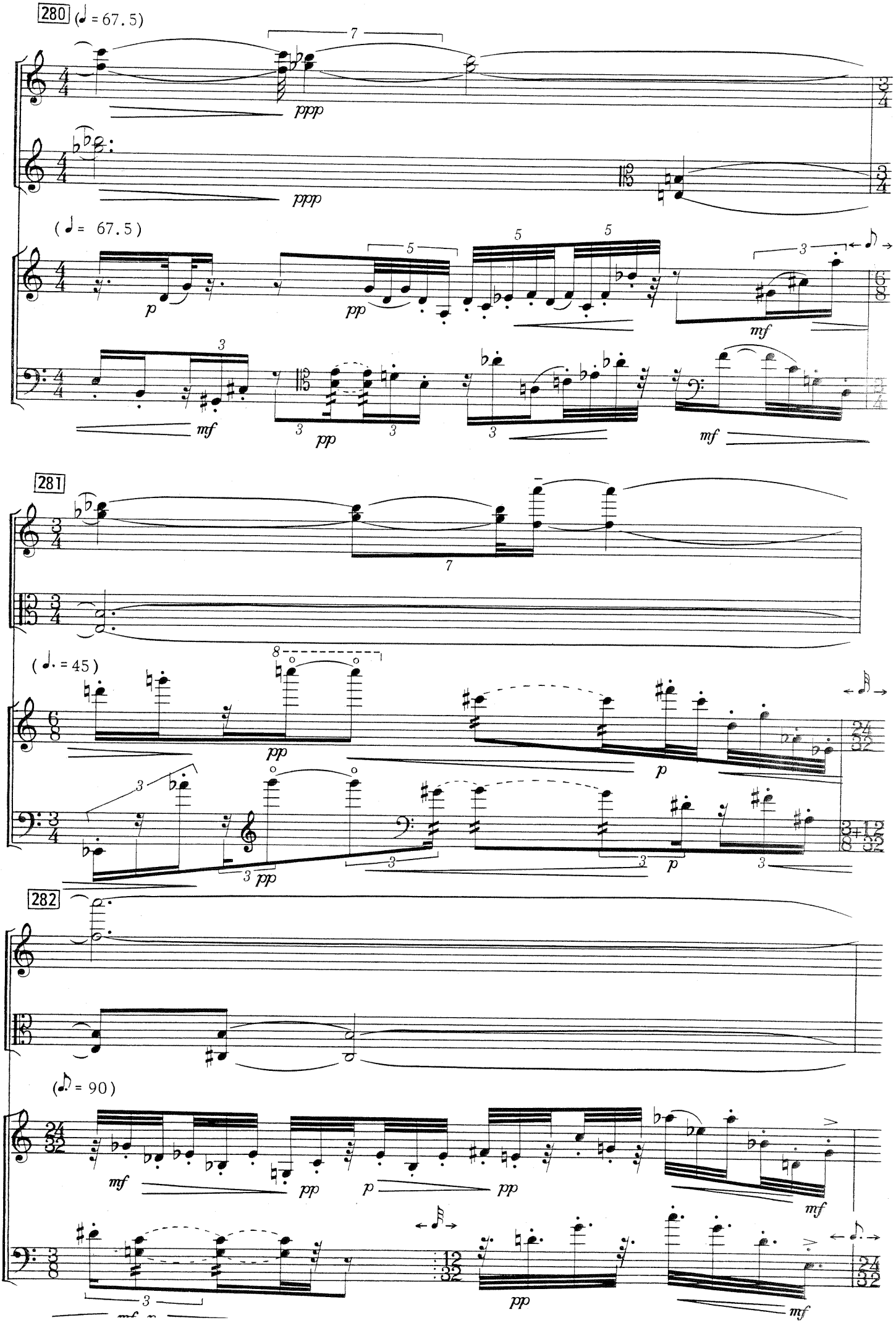

239
p
mf
p
mf- pp
mf
f
ff
p
mf
pp
mf
f
mf
ff
f
ff
pp
f
ff
pp

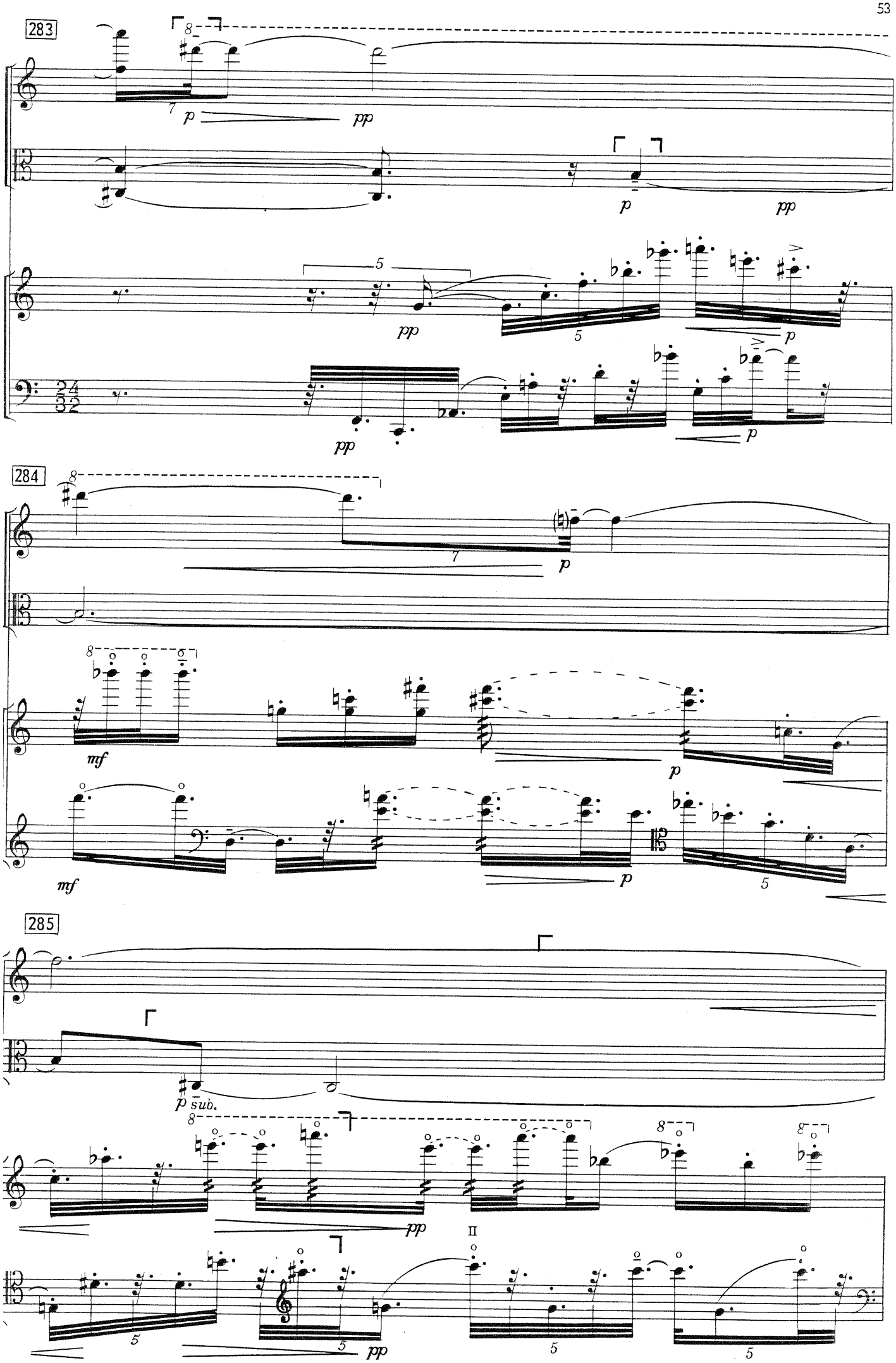

(♩ = 72)
242
put on mute
put on mute
cresc., molto espr.
legatissimo sempre
(♩ = 72)
cresc.
legatissimo sempre
246
f molto espr.
249
♩ = ♩→, ♩ = 54
♩ = ♩→, ♩ = 54
cresc.
cresc.

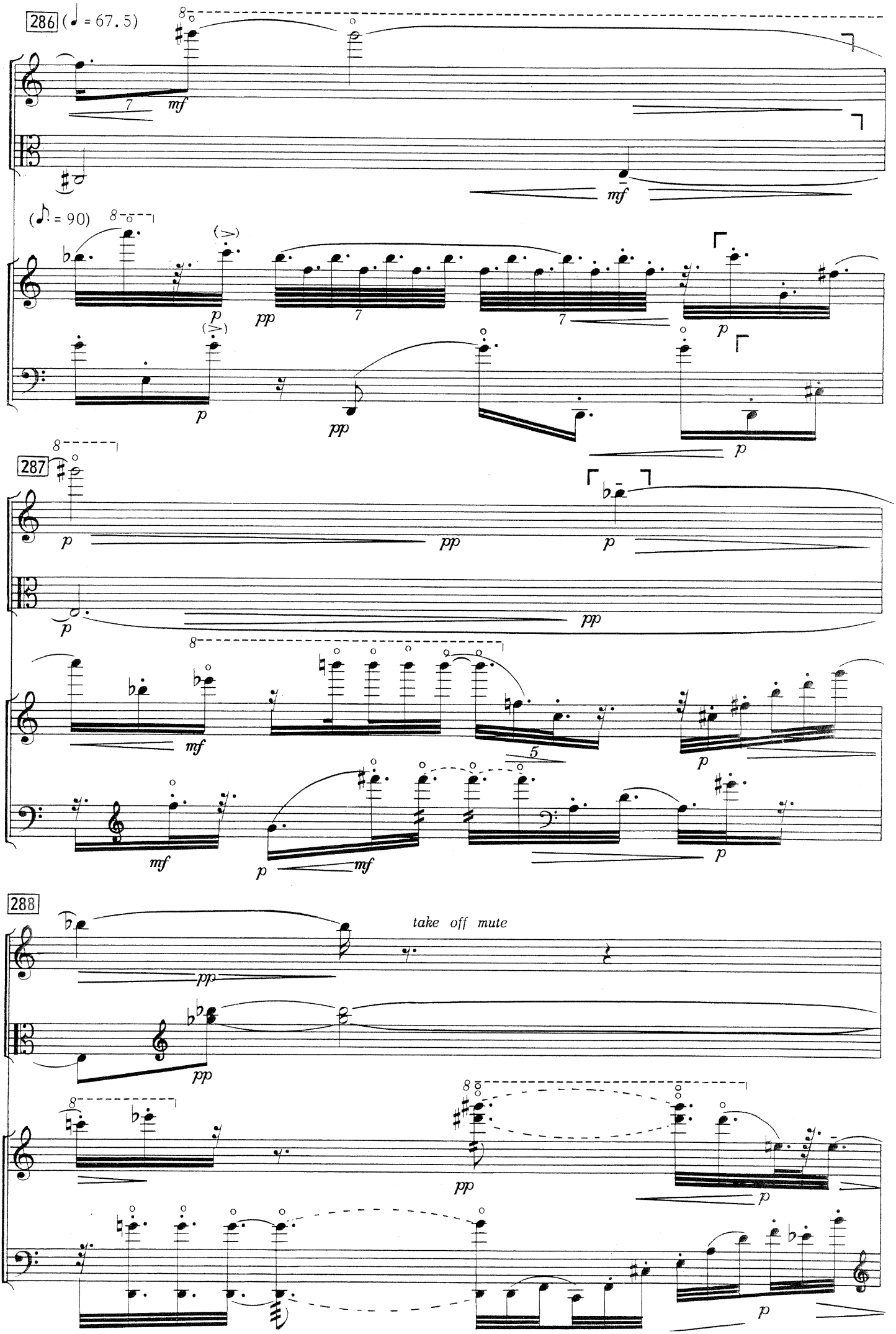

253
con sord.
pp
con sord.
pp
f-mf
f-mf
f
f-mf
f-mf
256
legato
ff cantando
ff cantando
dim.
dim.
p
p
p
pp
p
pp
p
pp
p
pp

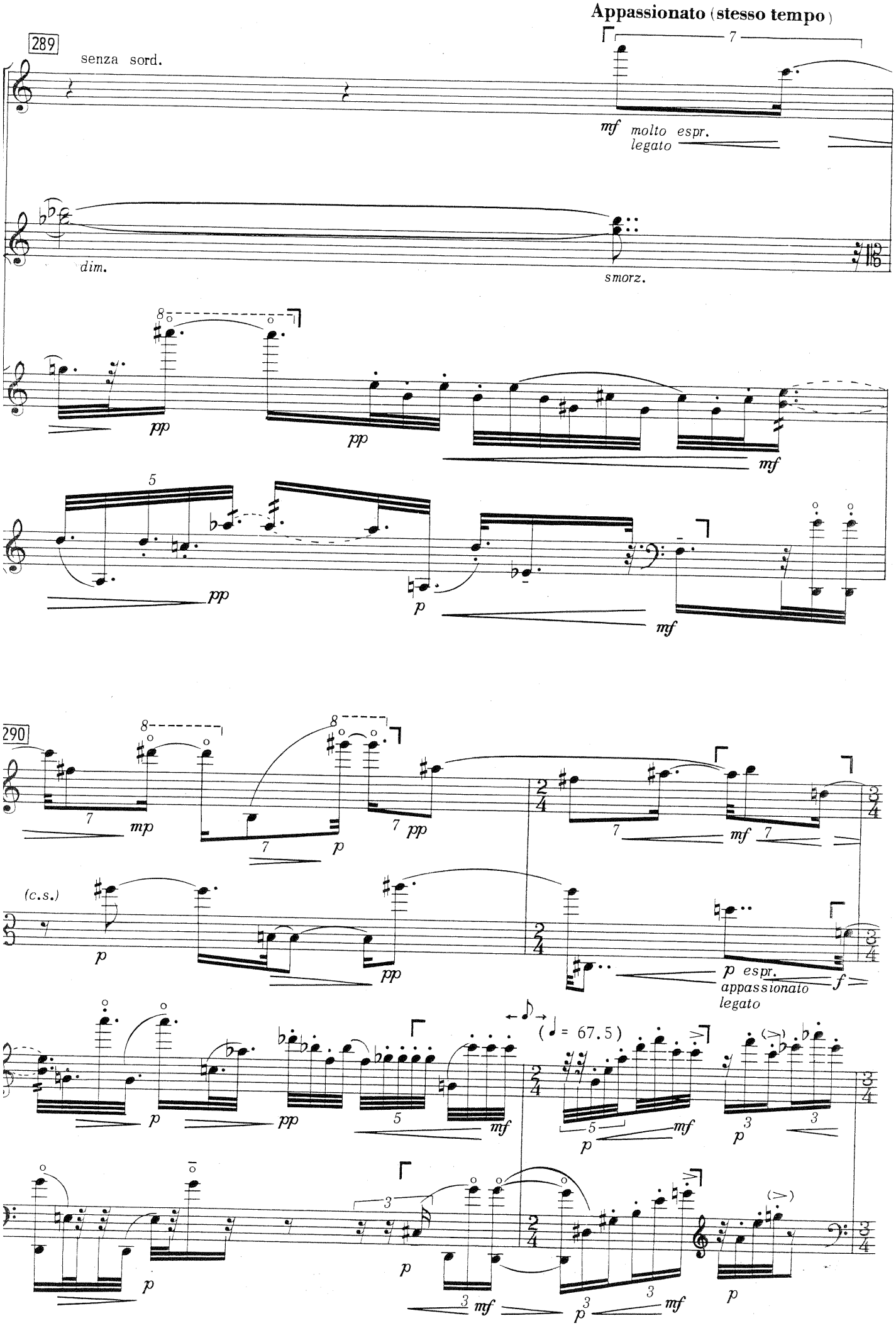

263
(♩ = 54)
pp
p
p legatissimo
f
mf
ff
(♩ = 54)
mf
f
mf
ff
p
265
♪ = 135
(♩ = 67.5)
pp legatissimo
pp
pp
♪ = 135
(♩ = 67.5)
mf - p
269
ppp
pp
ppp
ppp
pp
ppp

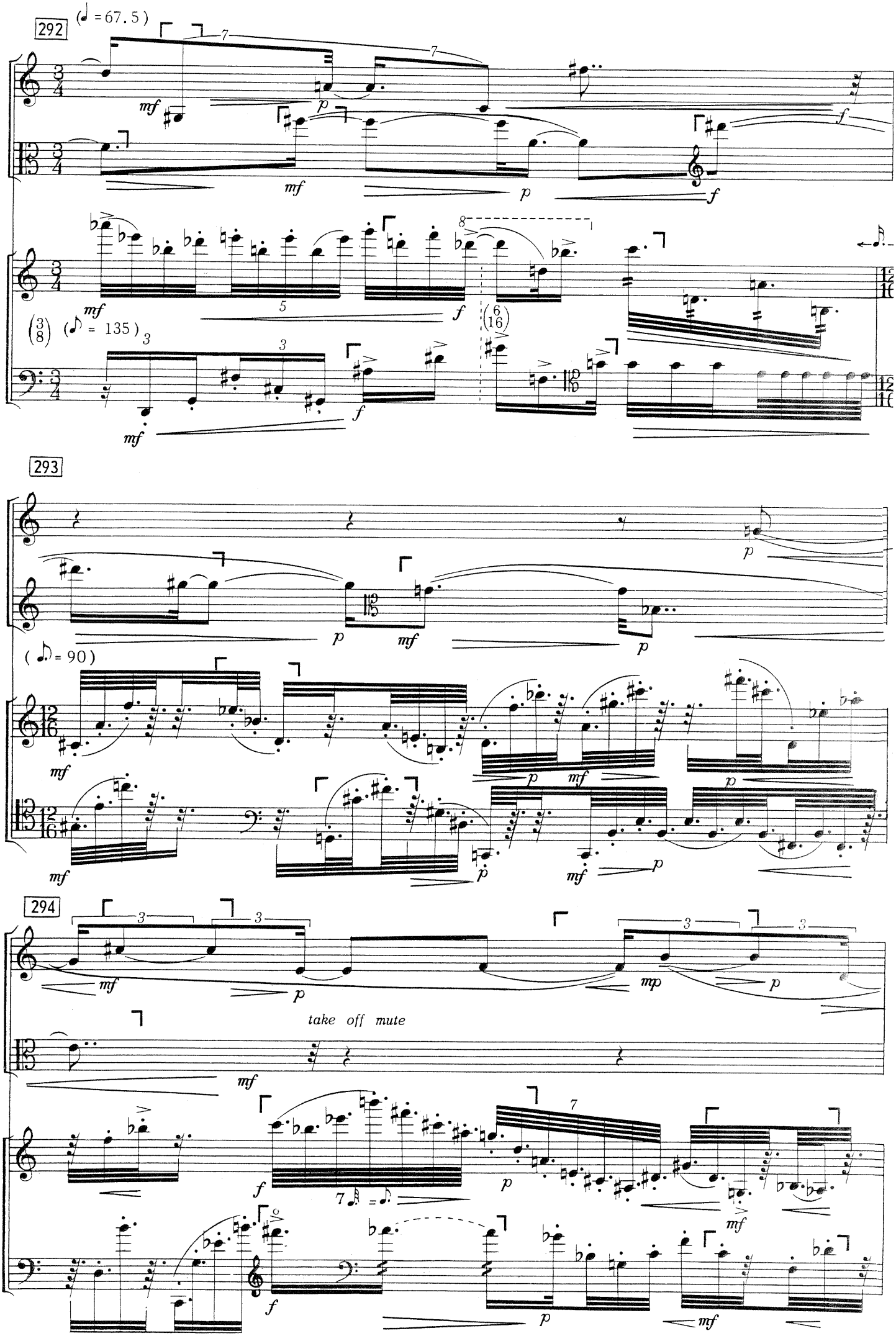

273
277
Leggerissimo (stesso tempo)
con sord.
con sord.
279

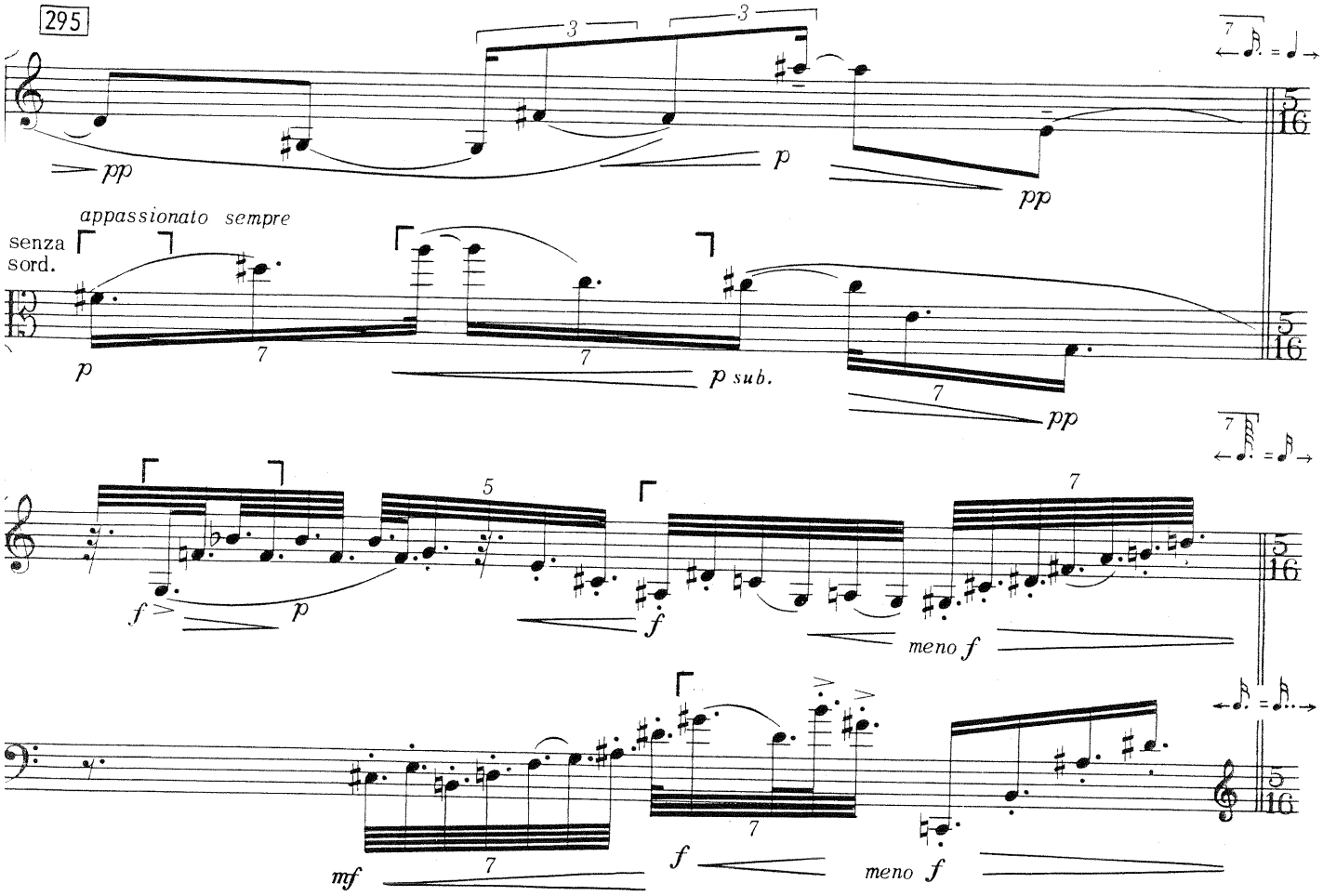

280
(♩ = 67.5)
ppp
ppp
(♩ = 67.5)
p
pp
mf
mf
pp
mf
281
(♩. = 45)
pp
p
3 pp
p
282
(♪ = 90)
mf
pp
p
pp
mf
pp
mf

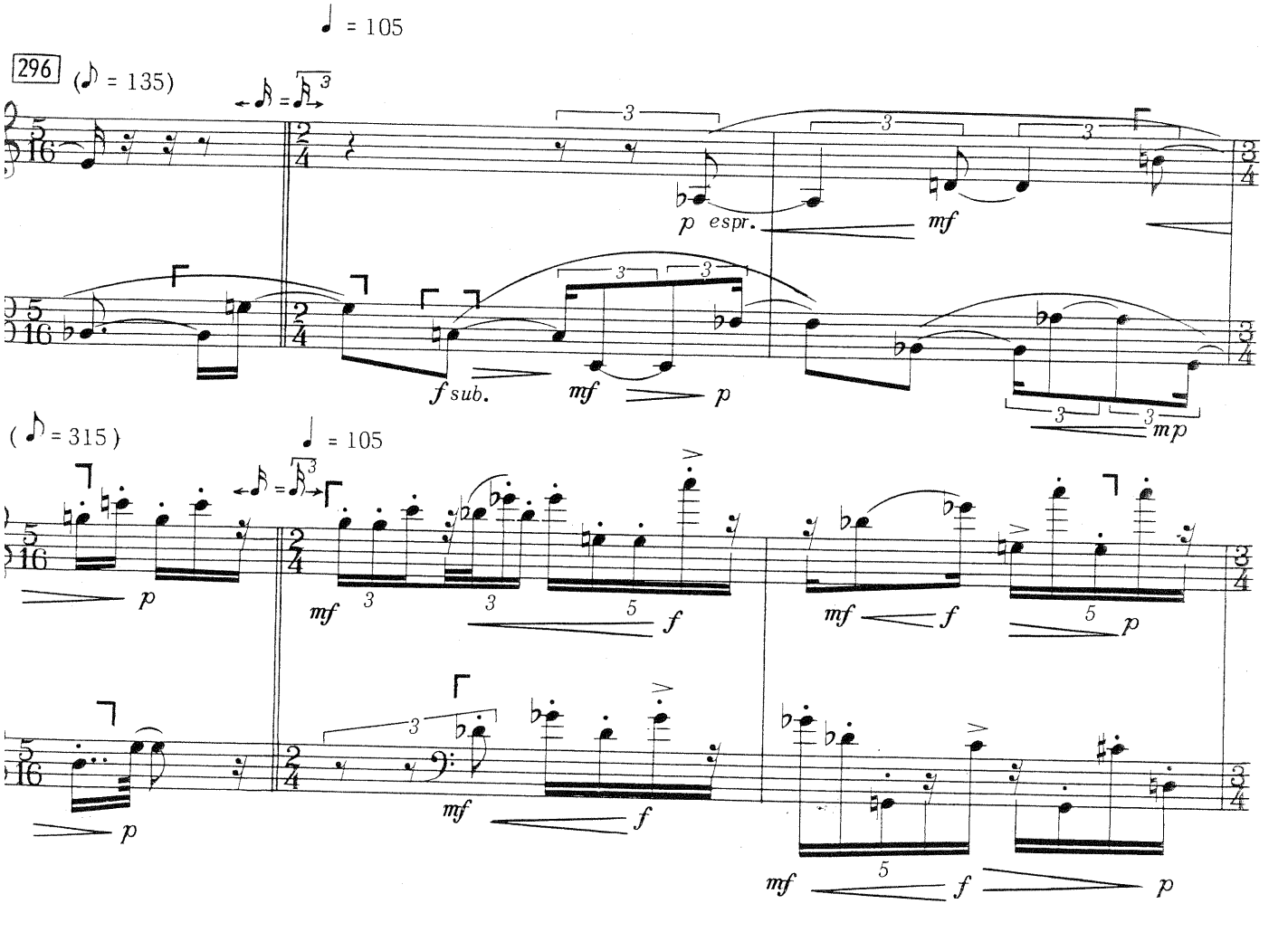

283
284
285
p
pp
mf
sub.
II

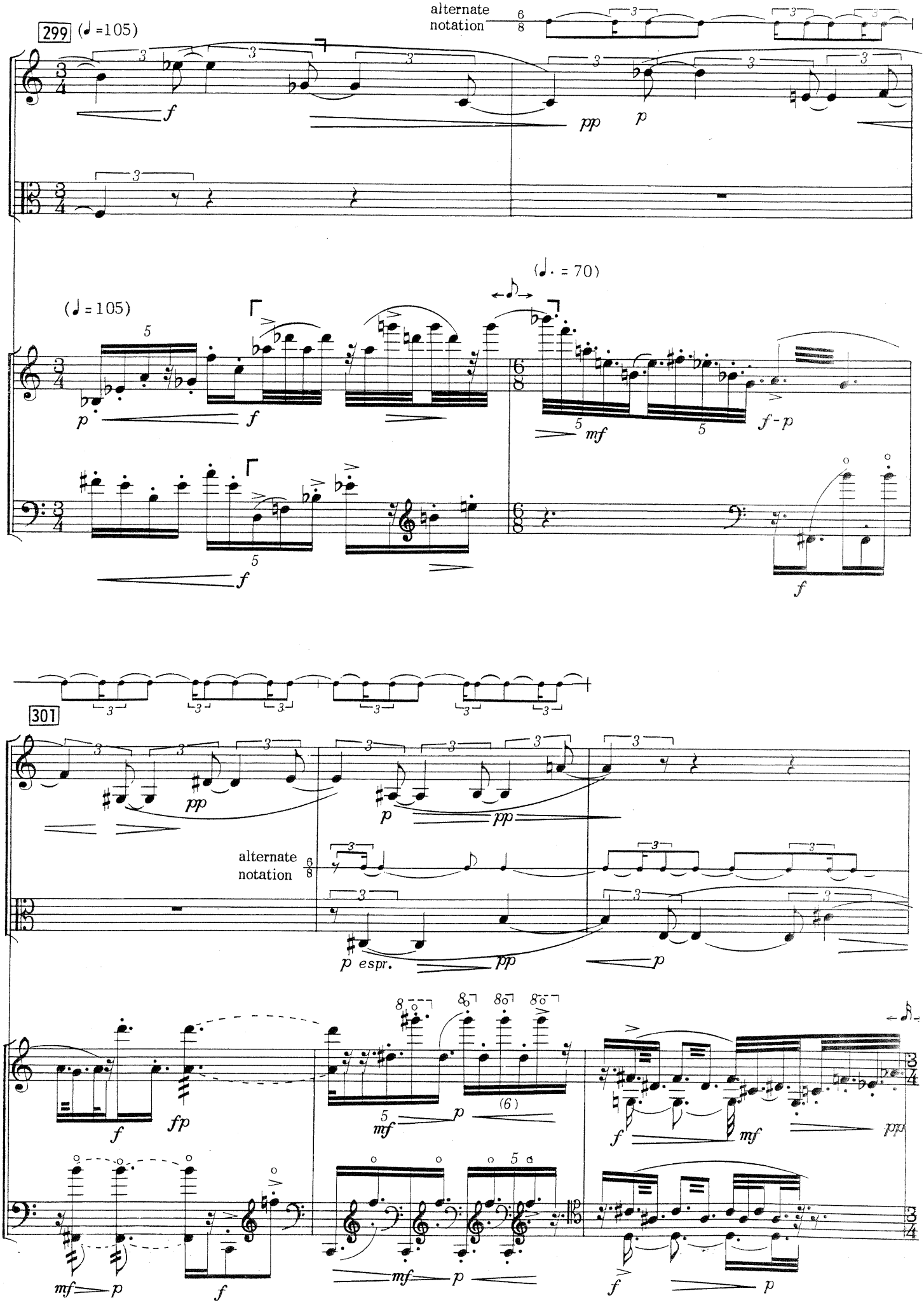

286
(♩ = 67.5)
mf
mf
(♪ = 90)
p
pp
p
pp
p
287
p
pp
p
pp
mf
5
p
mf
p
mf
288
take off mute
pp
pp
pp
p
p

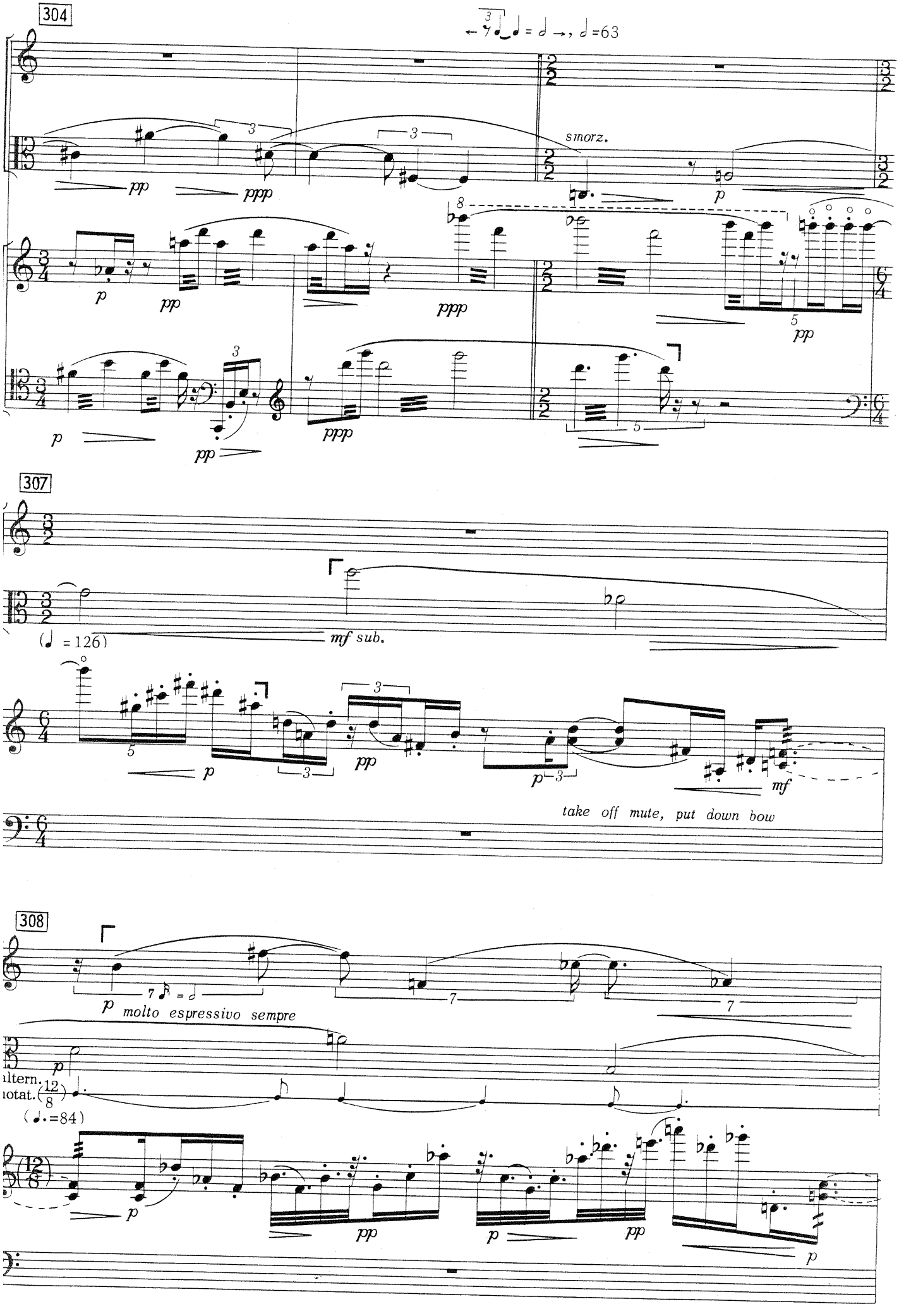

Appassionato (stesso tempo)
289
senza sord.
mf molto espr.
legato
dim.
smorz.
pp
pp
mf
pp
p
mf
290
mp
p
pp
mf
(c.s.)
p
pp
p espr.
appassionato
legato
f
(♩ = 67.5)
p
pp
mf
mf
p
p
mf
mf
p
p

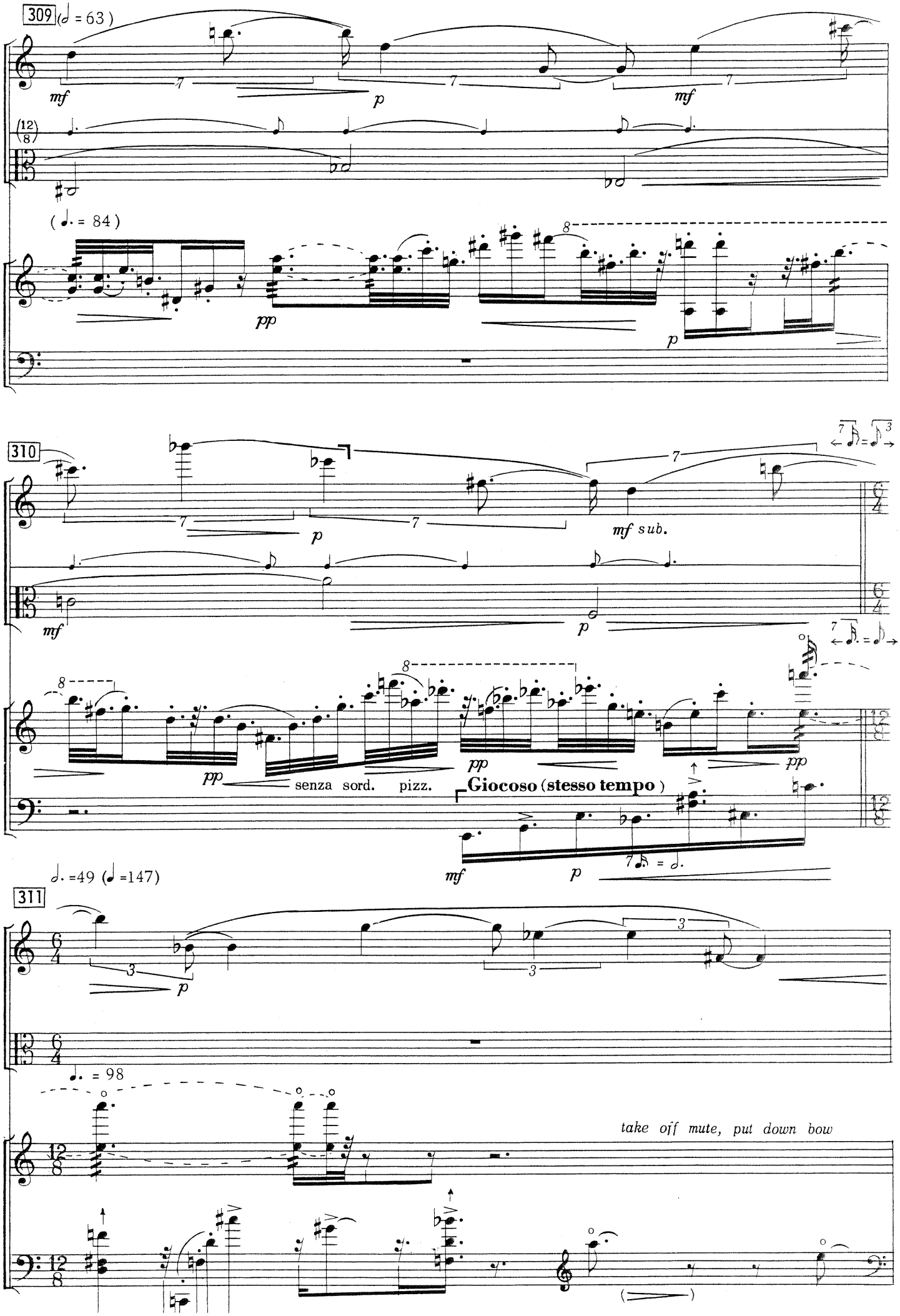

292
(♩ = 67.5)
mf
p
f
(3/8) (♪ = 135)
(6/16)
293
(♩. = 90)
294
take off mute
mp

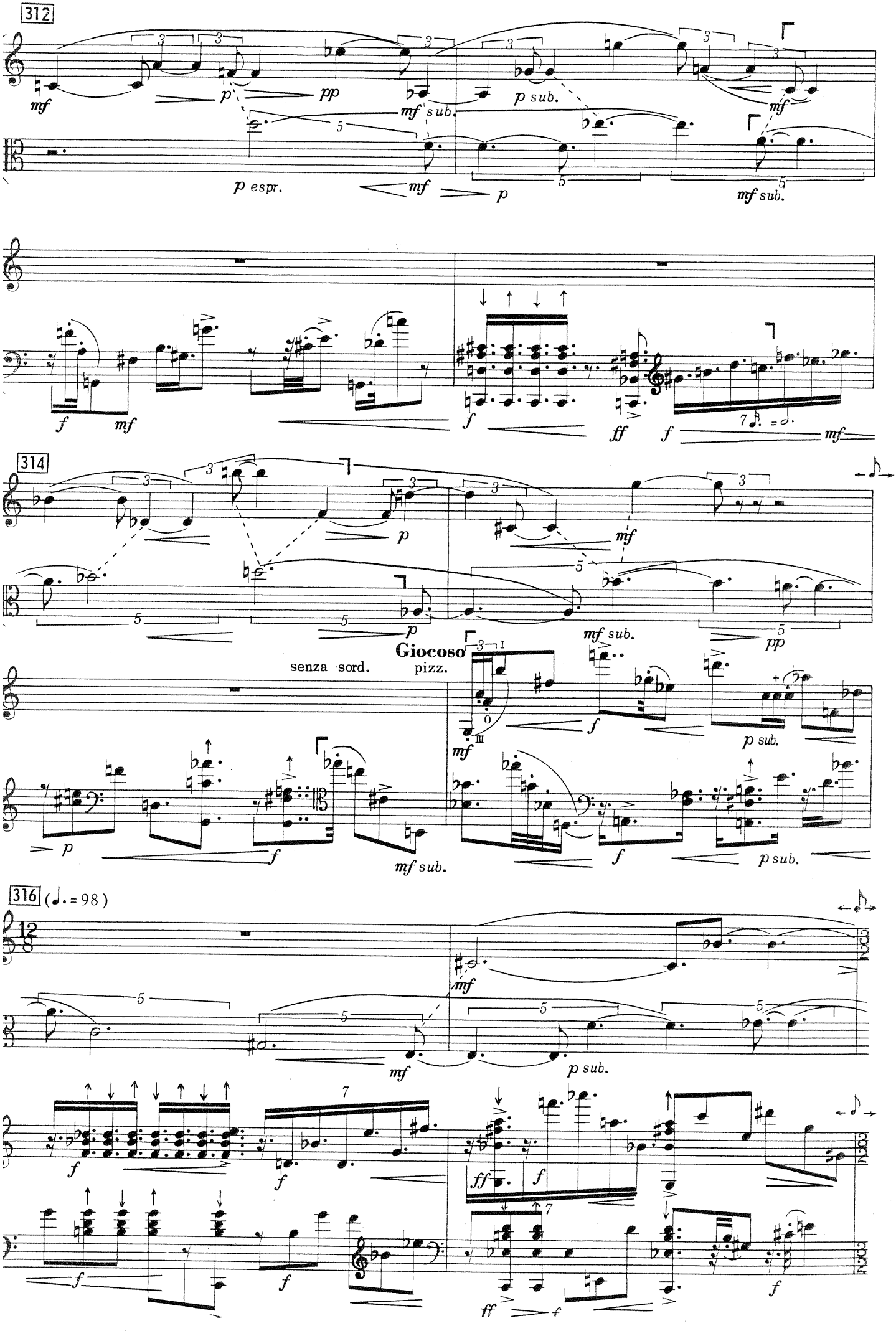

295
pp
p
pp
appassionato sempre
senza sord.
p
p sub.
pp
f
p
f
meno f
mf
f
meno f

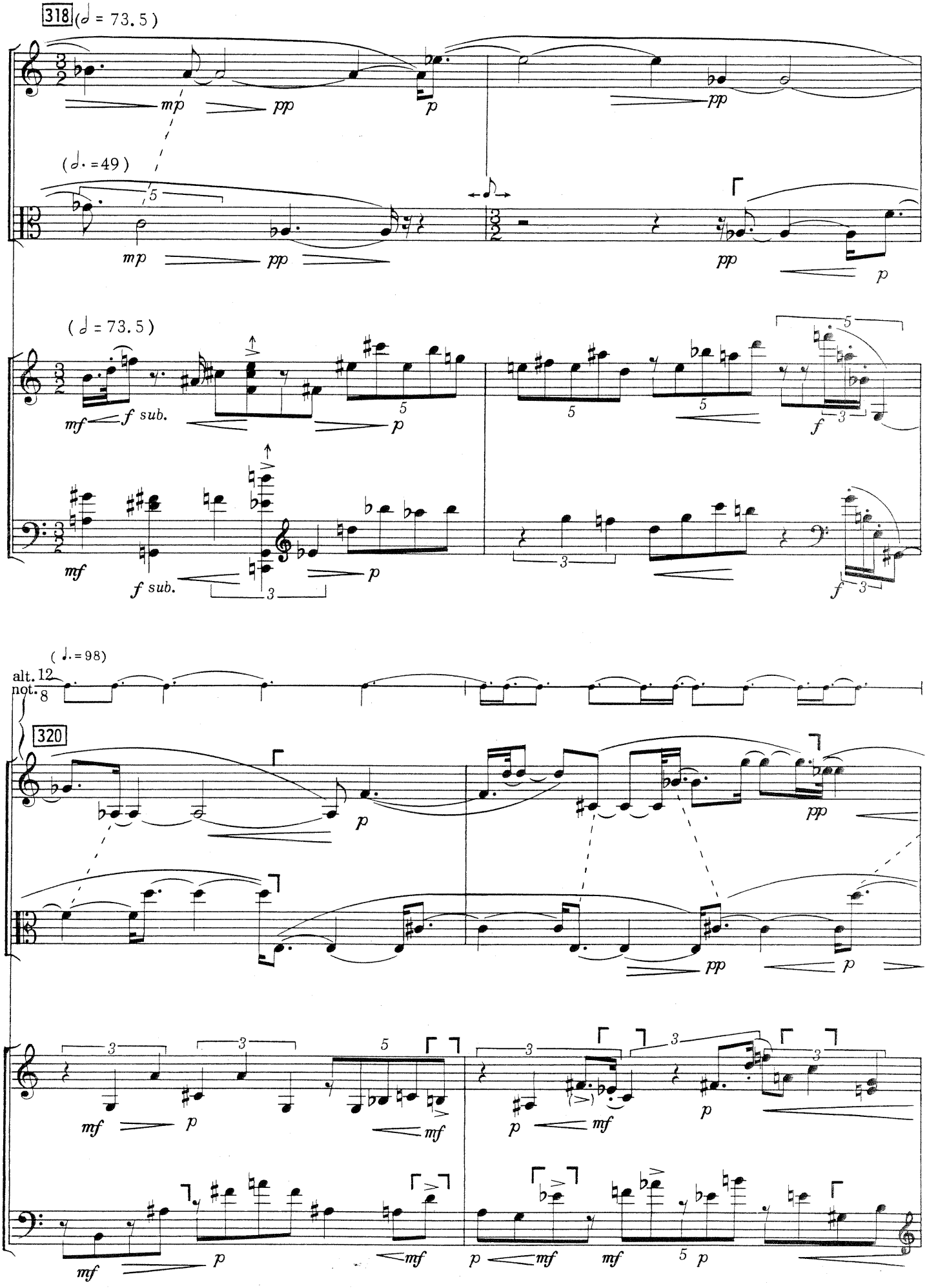

♩ = 105
296
(♪ = 135)
p espr.
mf
f sub.
mf
p
mp
(♪ = 315)
♩ = 105
p
mf
f
mf
f
p
p
mf
f
mf
f
p

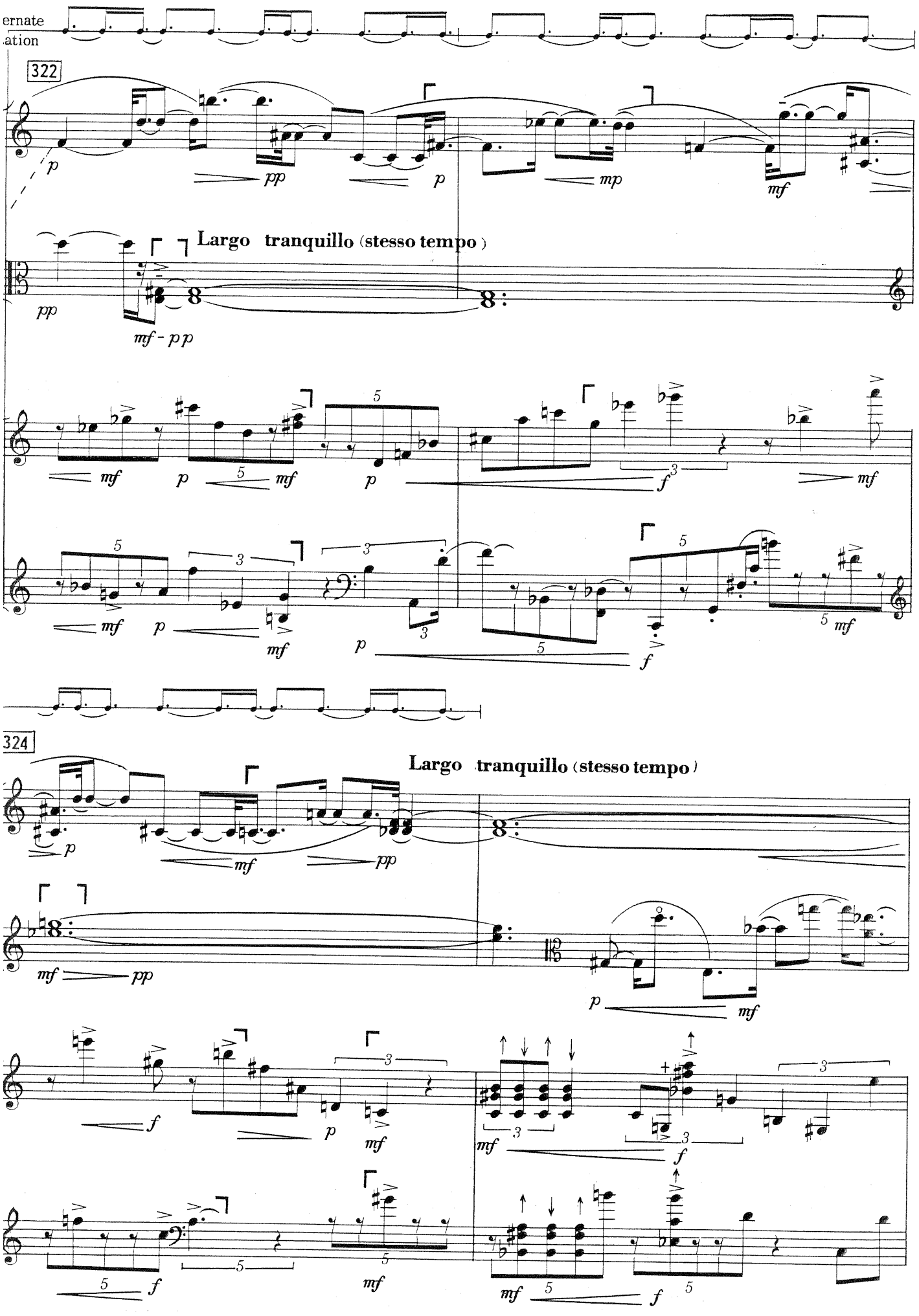

299
(♩=105)
alternate notation
(♩=105)
(♩. = 70)
301
alternate notation
p espr.

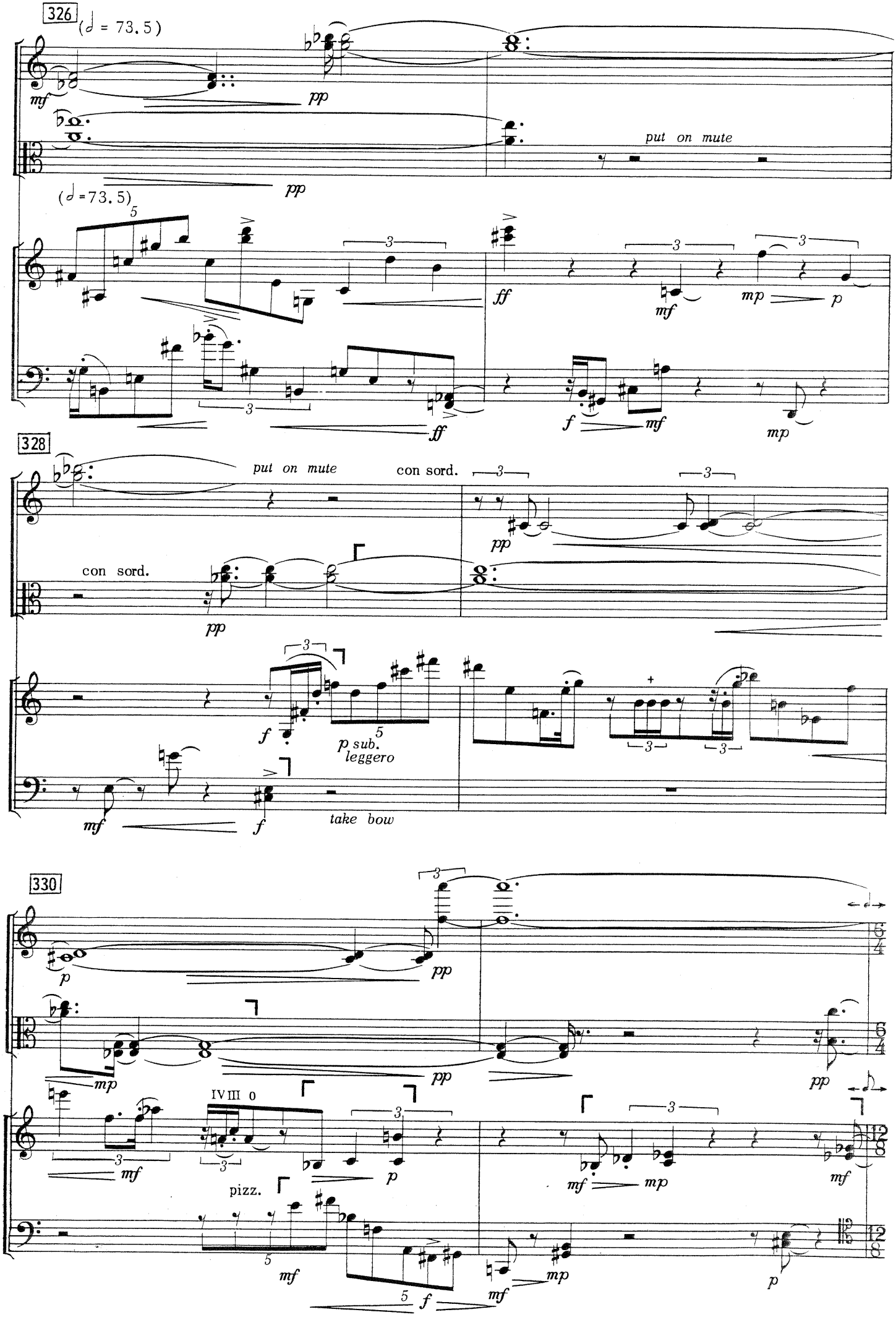

304
smorz.
307
mf sub.
take off mute, put down bow
308
molto espressivo sempre

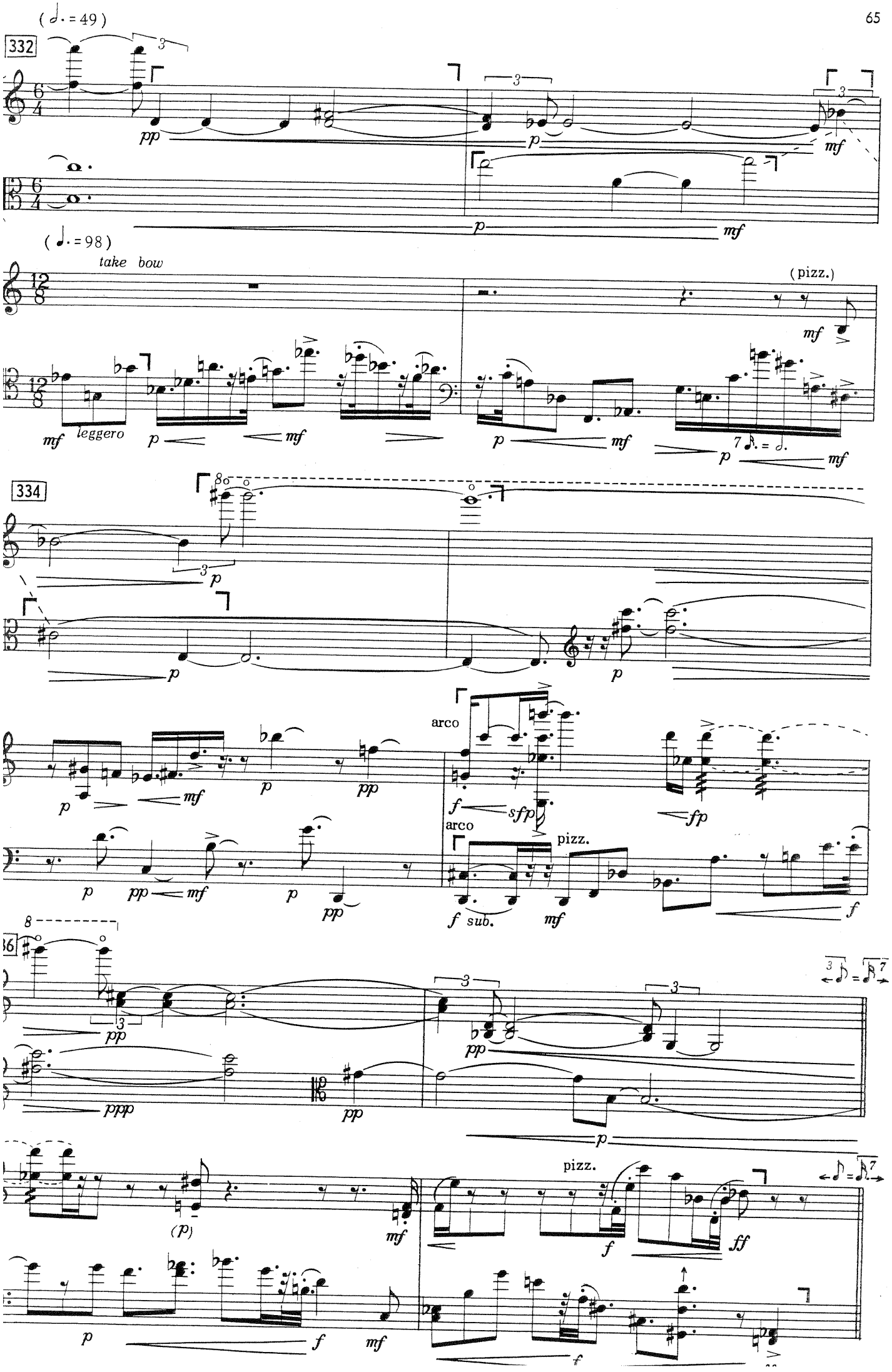

309
(♩ = 63)
mf
p
mf
(12/8)
(♩. = 84)
pp
p
310
mf sub.
mf
p
pp
senza sord. pizz.
Giocoso (stesso tempo)
mf
p
♩. =49 (♩ =147)
311
p
♩. = 98
take off mute, put down bow

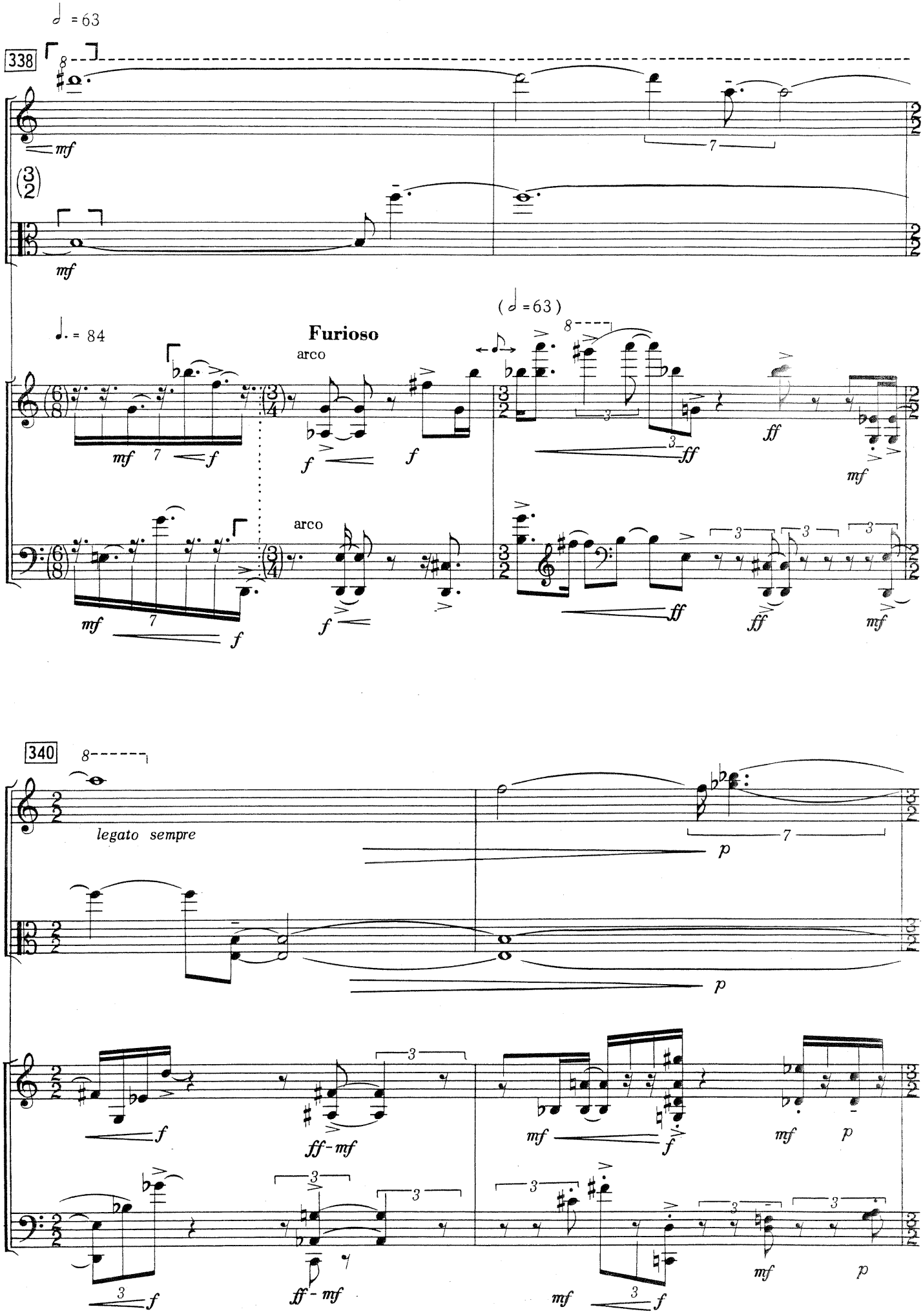

312
mf
p
pp
mf sub.
p sub.
mf
p espr.
mf
p
mf sub.
f
mf
f
ff
f
mf
314
p
mf
p
mf sub.
pp
senza sord.
Giocoso
pizz.
mf
f
p sub.
p
f
mf sub.
f
p sub.
316 (♩. = 98)
mf
mf
p sub.
f
f
ff
f
f
f
ff
f
f

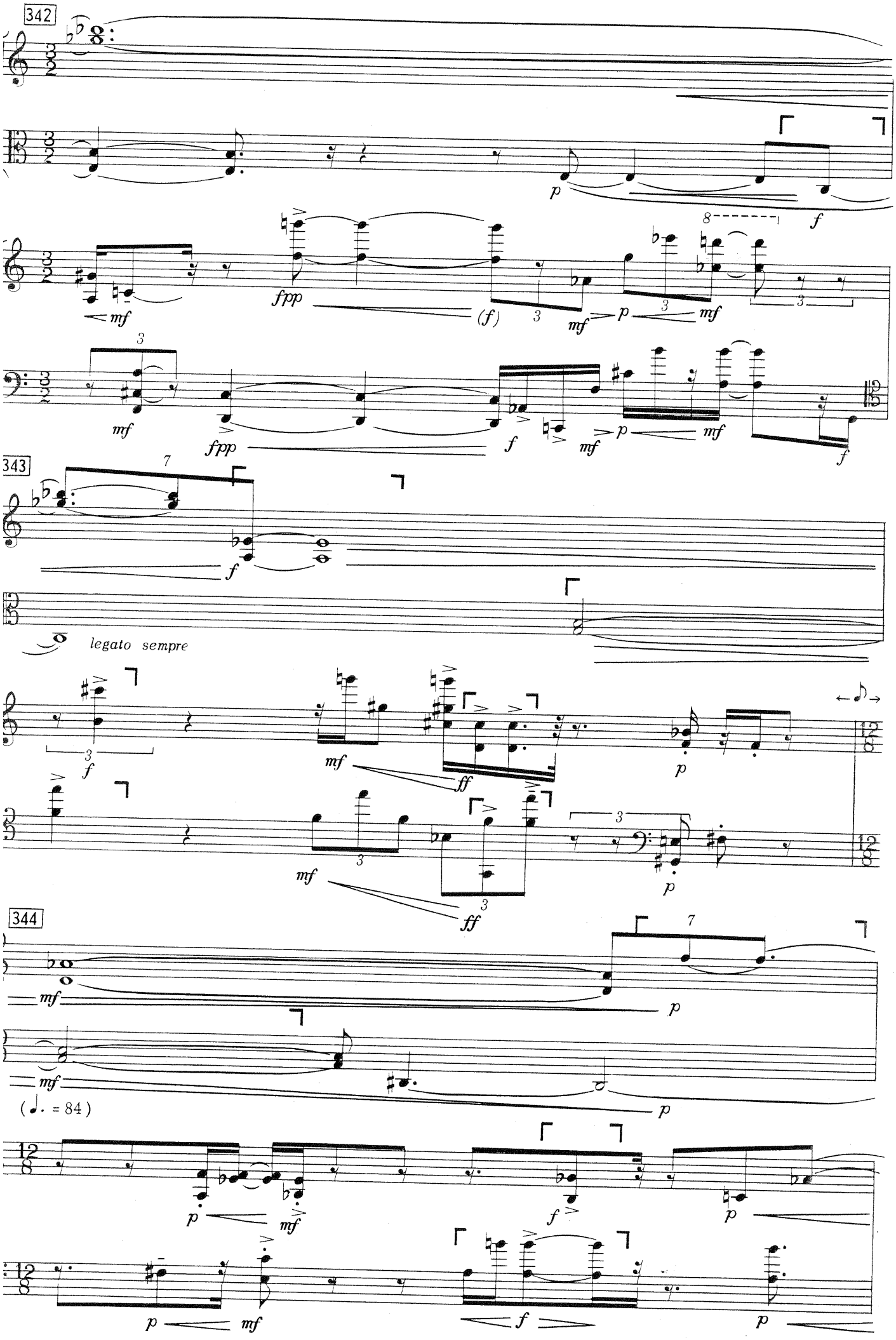

318 (𝅗𝅥 = 73.5)
mp
pp
p
pp
(𝅗𝅥. =49)
5
mp
pp
pp
p
(𝅗𝅥 = 73.5)
mf
f sub.
p
5
5
5
f
3
mf
f sub.
3
p
3
f
3
(♩. = 98)
alt. 12
not. 8
320
p
pp
pp
p
3
3
5
mf
p
mf
3
3
3
3
p
mf
p
mf
mf
p
mf
p
mf
mf
5
p

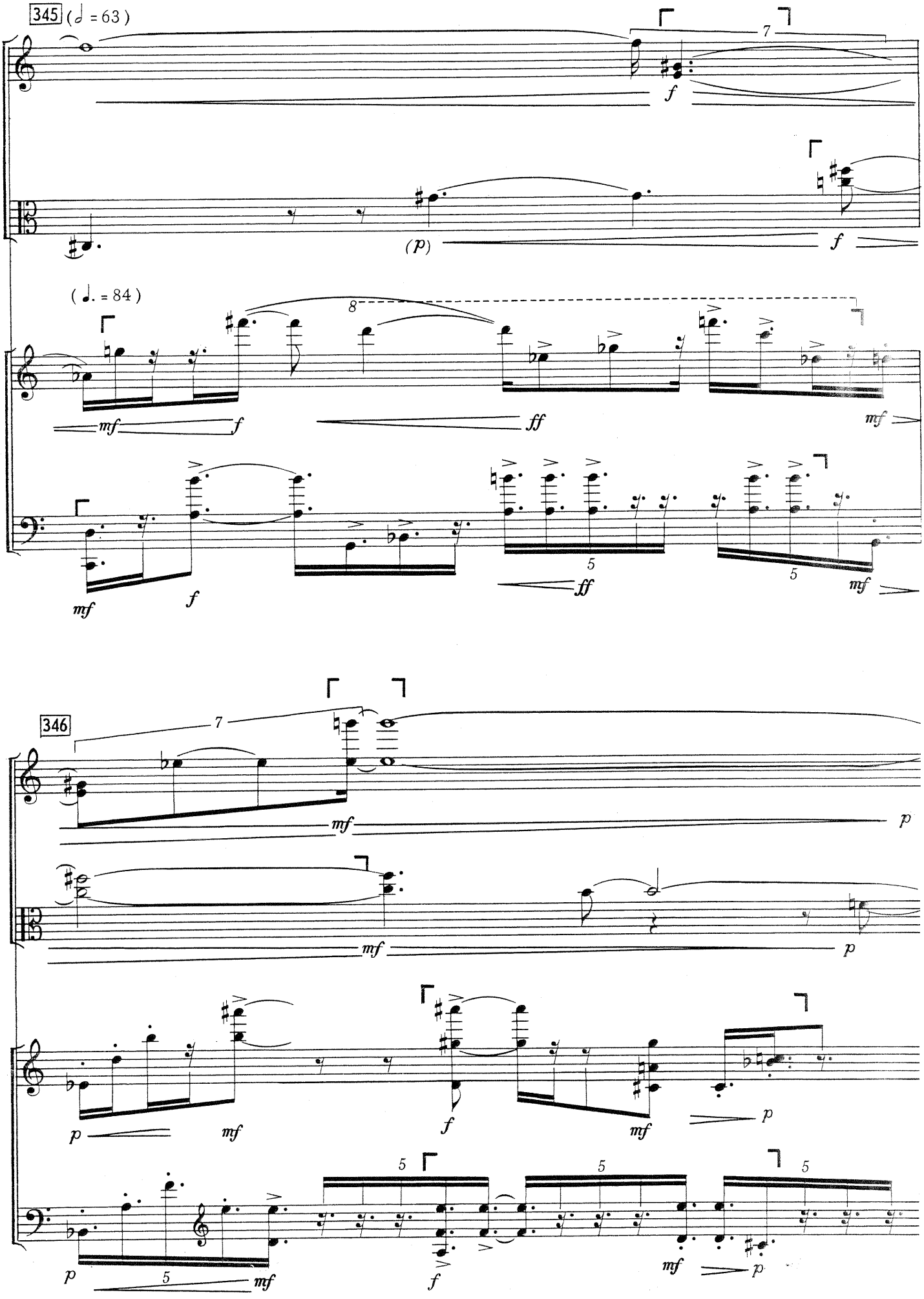

ernate
ation
322
Largo tranquillo (stesso tempo)
324
Largo tranquillo (stesso tempo)

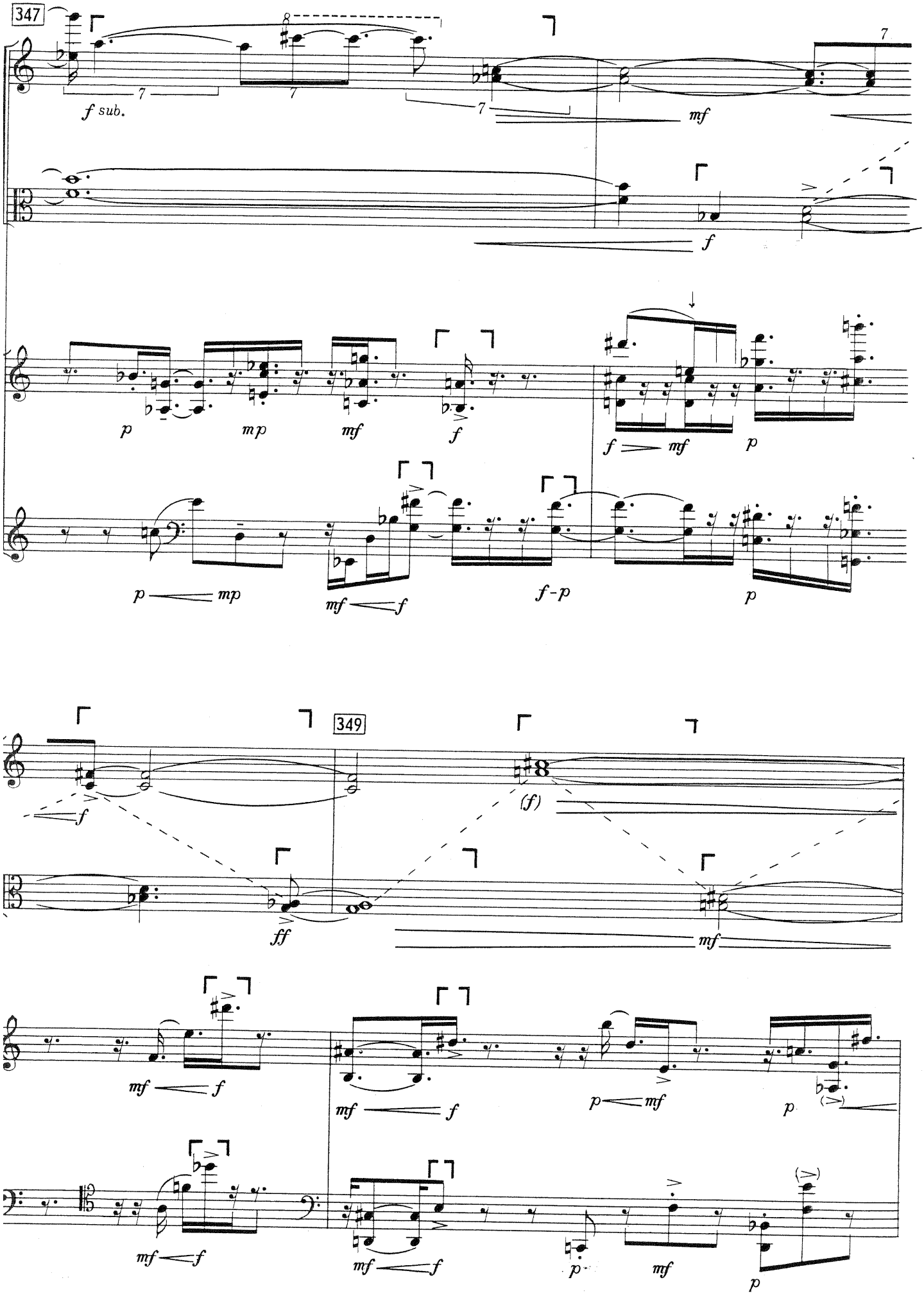

326
(♩ = 73.5)
mf
pp
pp
put on mute
(♩=73.5)
ff
mf
mp
p
ff
f
mf
mp
328
put on mute
con sord.
con sord.
pp
pp
f
p sub.
leggero
mf
f
take bow
330
p
pp
mp
pp
pp
IVIII 0
mf
p
pizz.
mf
mf
mp
mf
mf
mp
f
mf
p

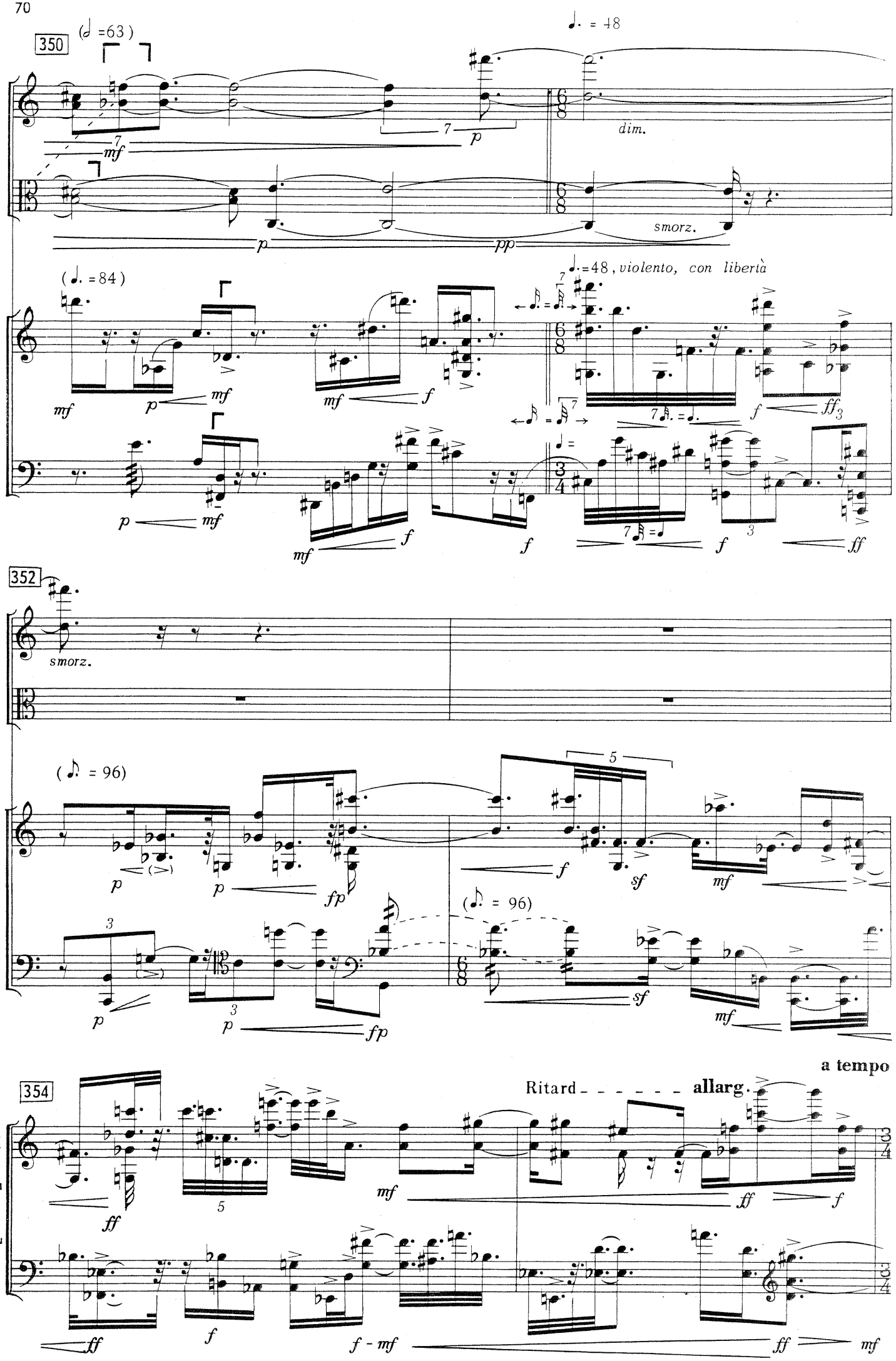

(𝅗𝅥. = 49)
332
pp
p
mf
(♩. = 98)
take bow
(pizz.)
mf
leggero
7 𝅘𝅥𝅯. = 𝅗𝅥.
334
arco
sfp
fp
pizz.
f sub.
ppp
(p)
ff

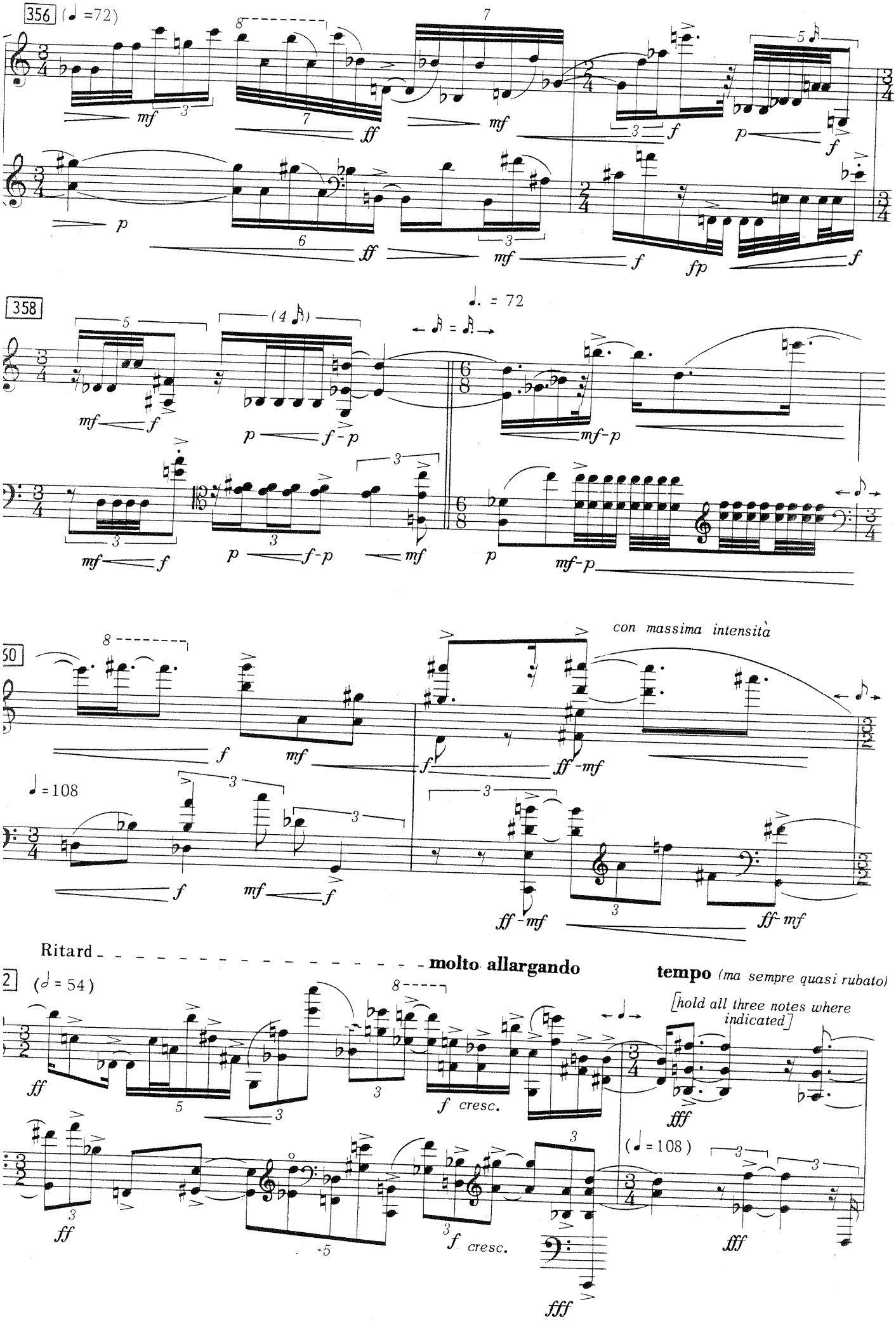

338
340
Furioso
arco
arco
legato sempre

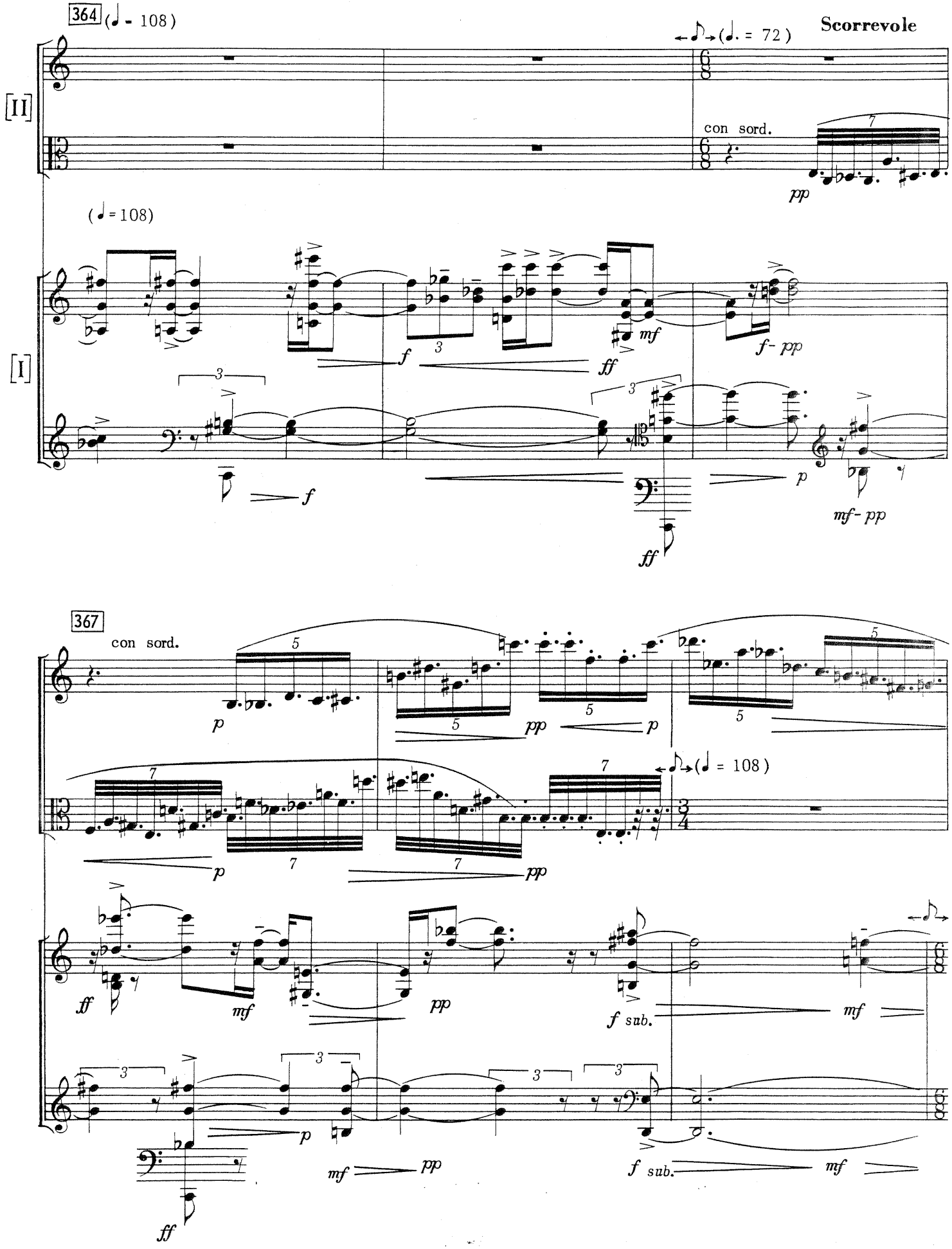

342
mf
fpp
(f)
mf
p
mf
f
343
f
legato sempre
mf
ff
p
344
mf
p
(♩. = 84)

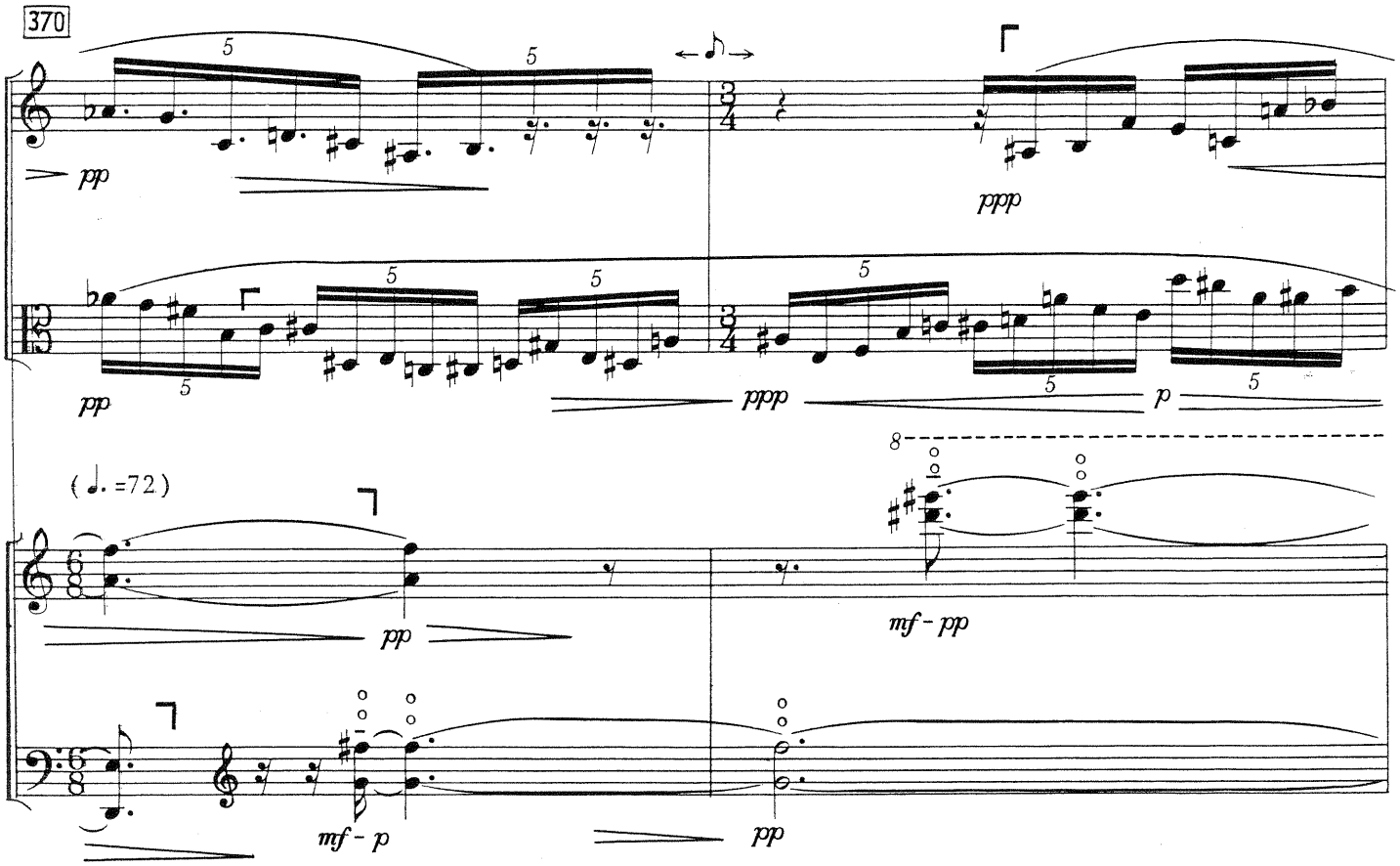

345
(𝅗𝅥 = 63)
7
f
(p)
f
(♩. = 84)
8
mf
f
ff
mf
mf
f
5
ff
5
mf
346
7
mf
p
mf
p
p
mf
f
mf
p
p
5
5
5
mf
f
mf
p

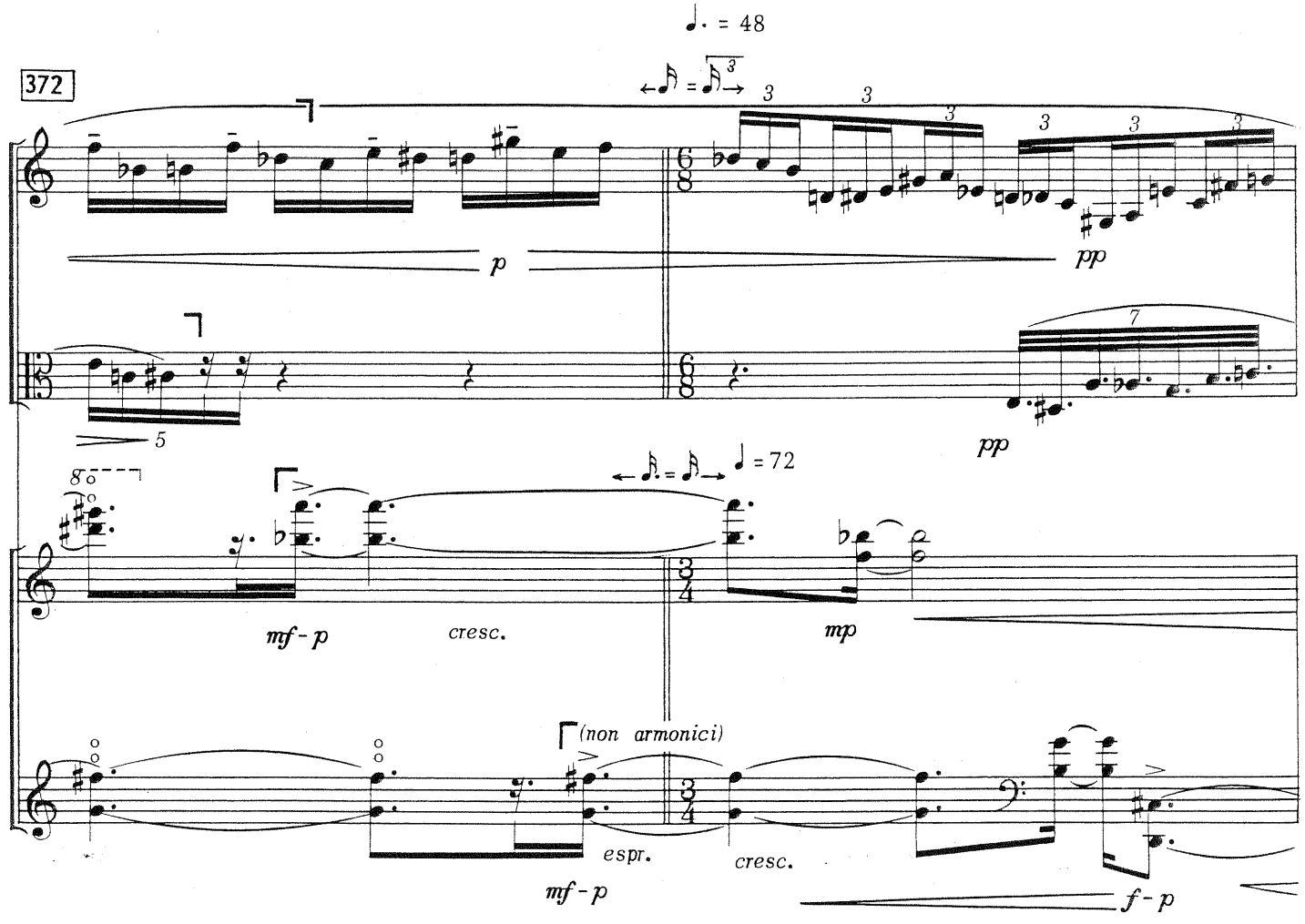

347
f sub.
mf
f
p
mp
mf
f
f mf
p
p mp
mf f
f-p
p
349
f
(f)
ff
mf
mf f
mf f
p mf
p
mf f
mf f
p
mf
p

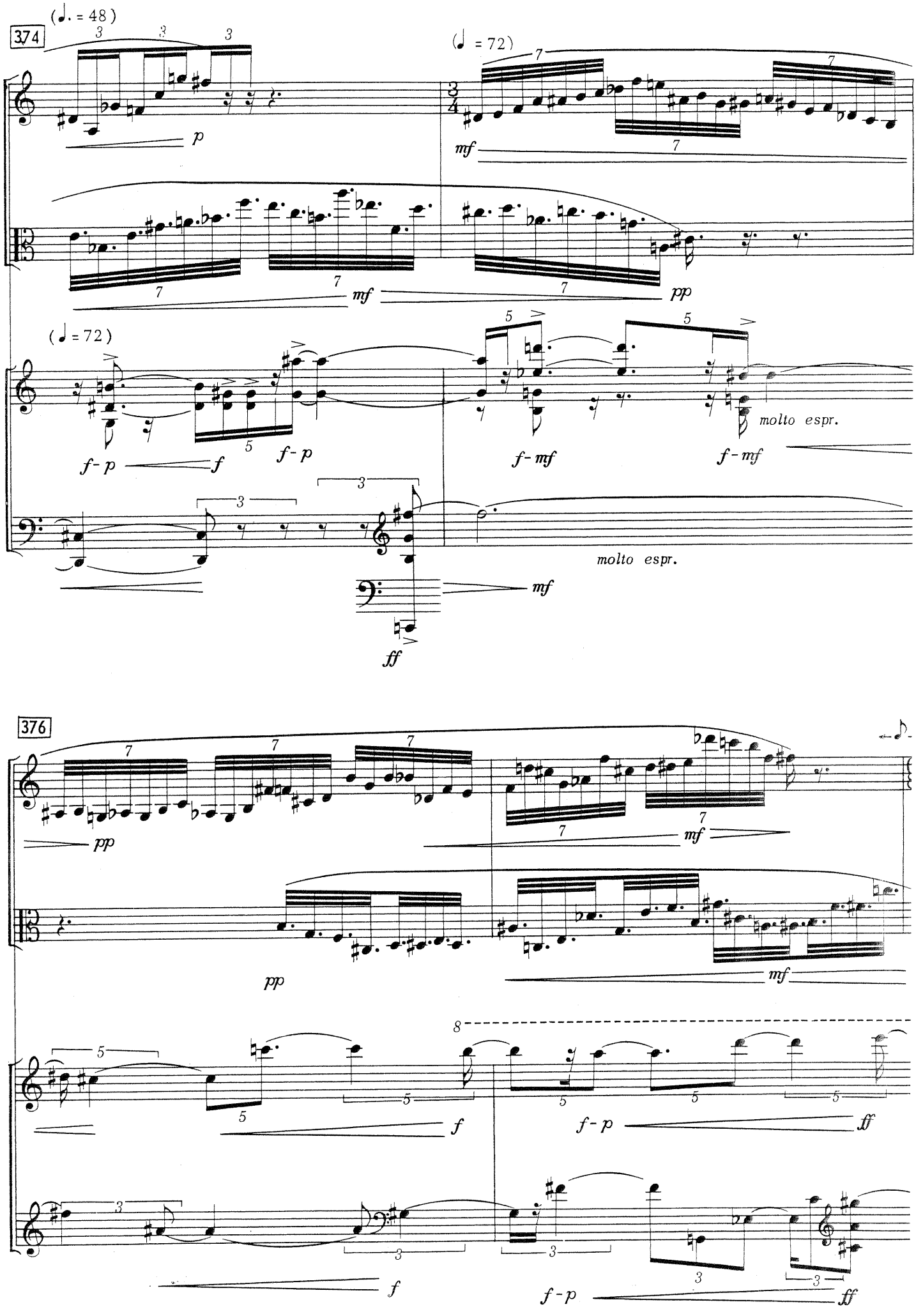

350
(𝅗𝅥 =63)
𝅗𝅥. = 48
dim.
smorz.
(♩. =84)
♩. =48, violento, con libertà
352
smorz.
(♪ = 96)
(♪ = 96)
354
a tempo
Ritard
allarg.
Vn. I
[Duo]
Vc.

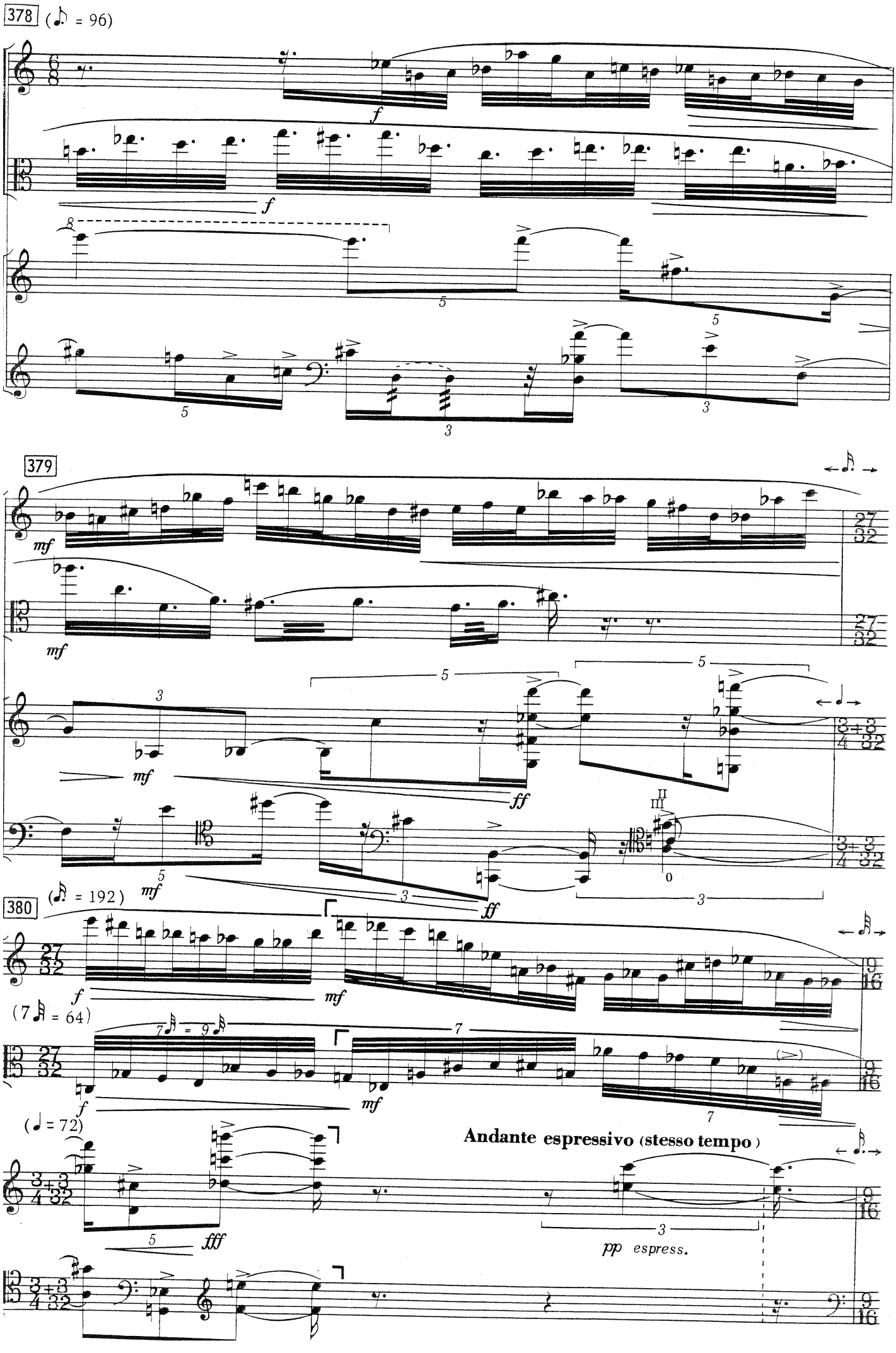

356 (♩ =72)
358
♩. = 72
con massima intensità
♩ =108
Ritard
molto allargando
tempo (ma sempre quasi rubato)
[hold all three notes where indicated]
(♩ = 54)
(♩ = 108)
cresc.

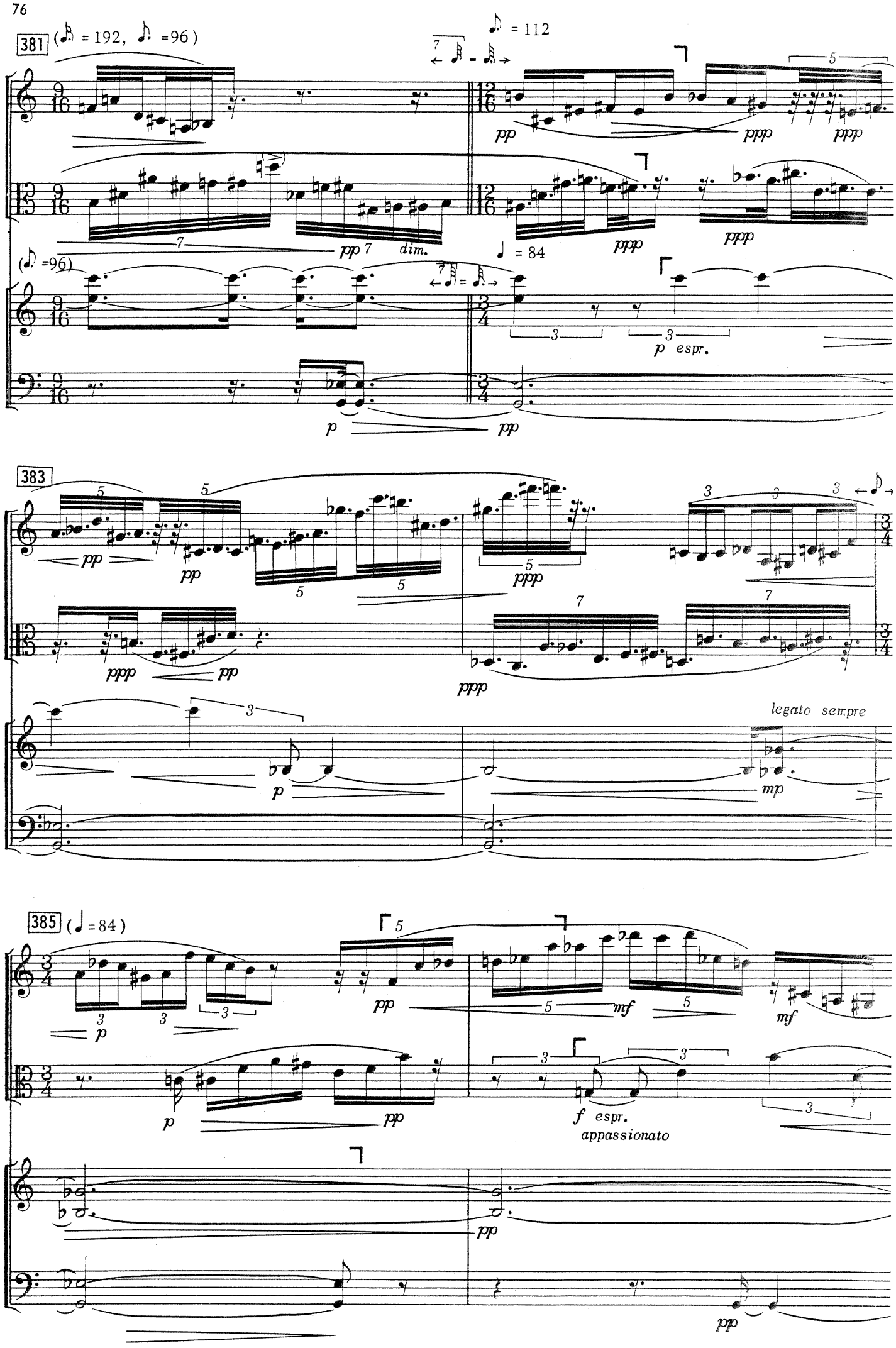

364
(♩ = 108)
(♪. = 72)
Scorrevole
[II]
con sord.
pp
(♩ = 108)
[I]
f
ff
mf
f - pp
p
mf - pp
367
con sord.
p
pp
(♩ = 108)
ff
mf
f sub.
mf

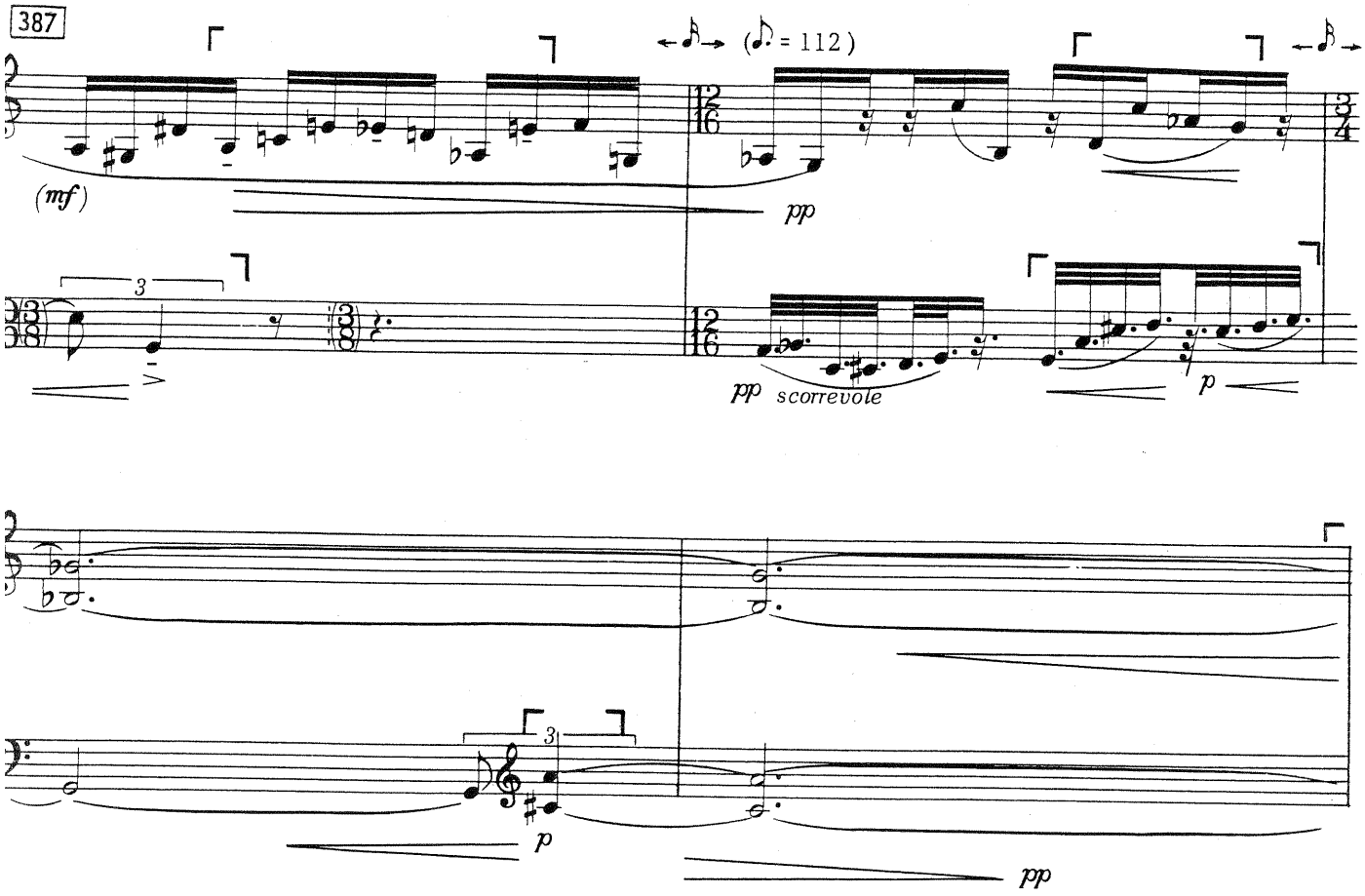

370
pp
ppp
pp
ppp
p
(♩. =72)
pp
mf - pp
mf - p
pp


♩. = 48
372
p
pp
pp
mf - p
cresc.
mp
(non armonici)
espr.
cresc.
mf - p
f - p

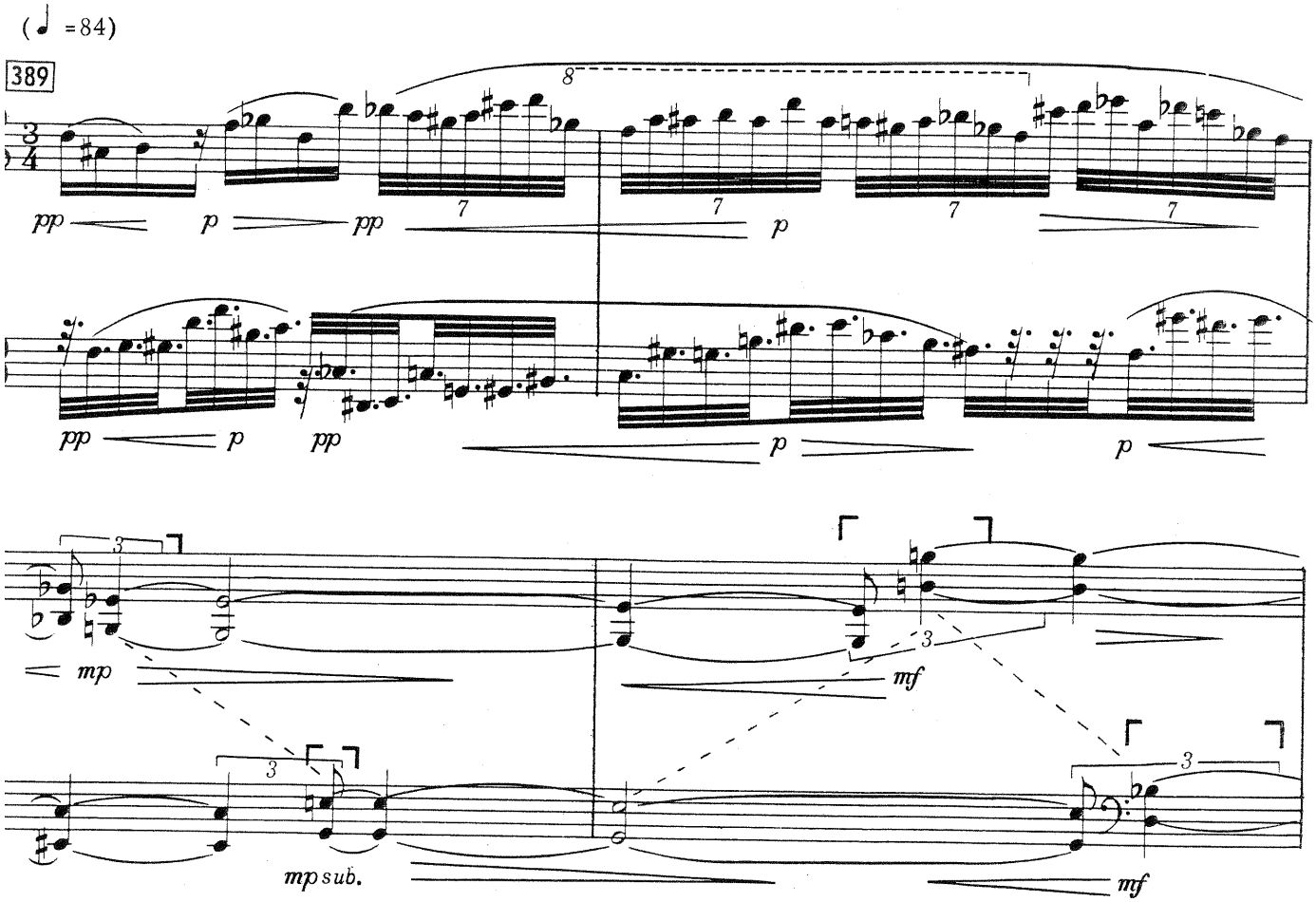

374
(♩. = 48)
(♩ = 72)
(♩ = 72)
molto espr.
molto espr.
376

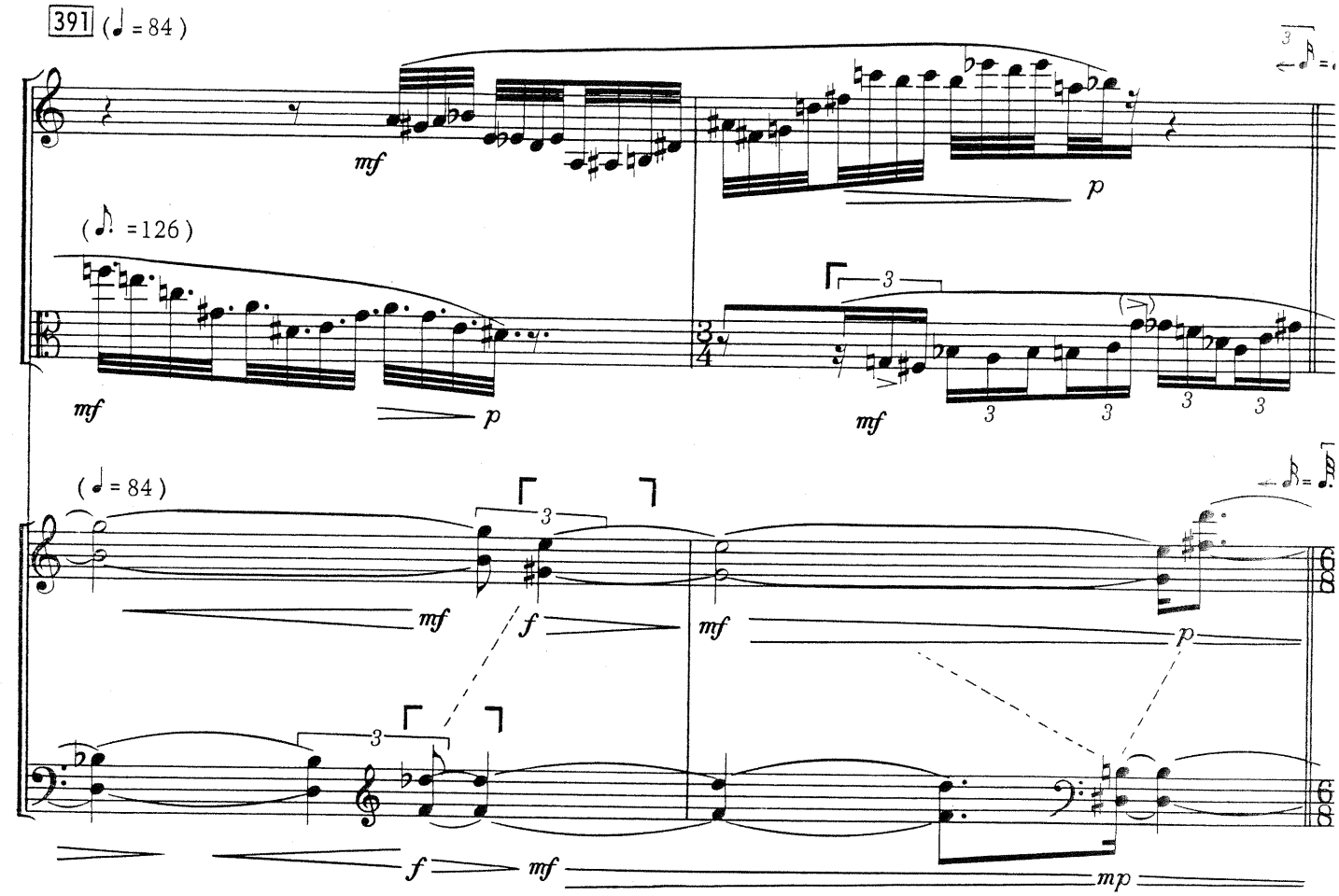

378
(♪. = 96)
379
(♪ = 192)
380
(7 𝅘𝅥𝅯 = 64)
(♩ = 72)
Andante espressivo (stesso tempo)
pp espress.

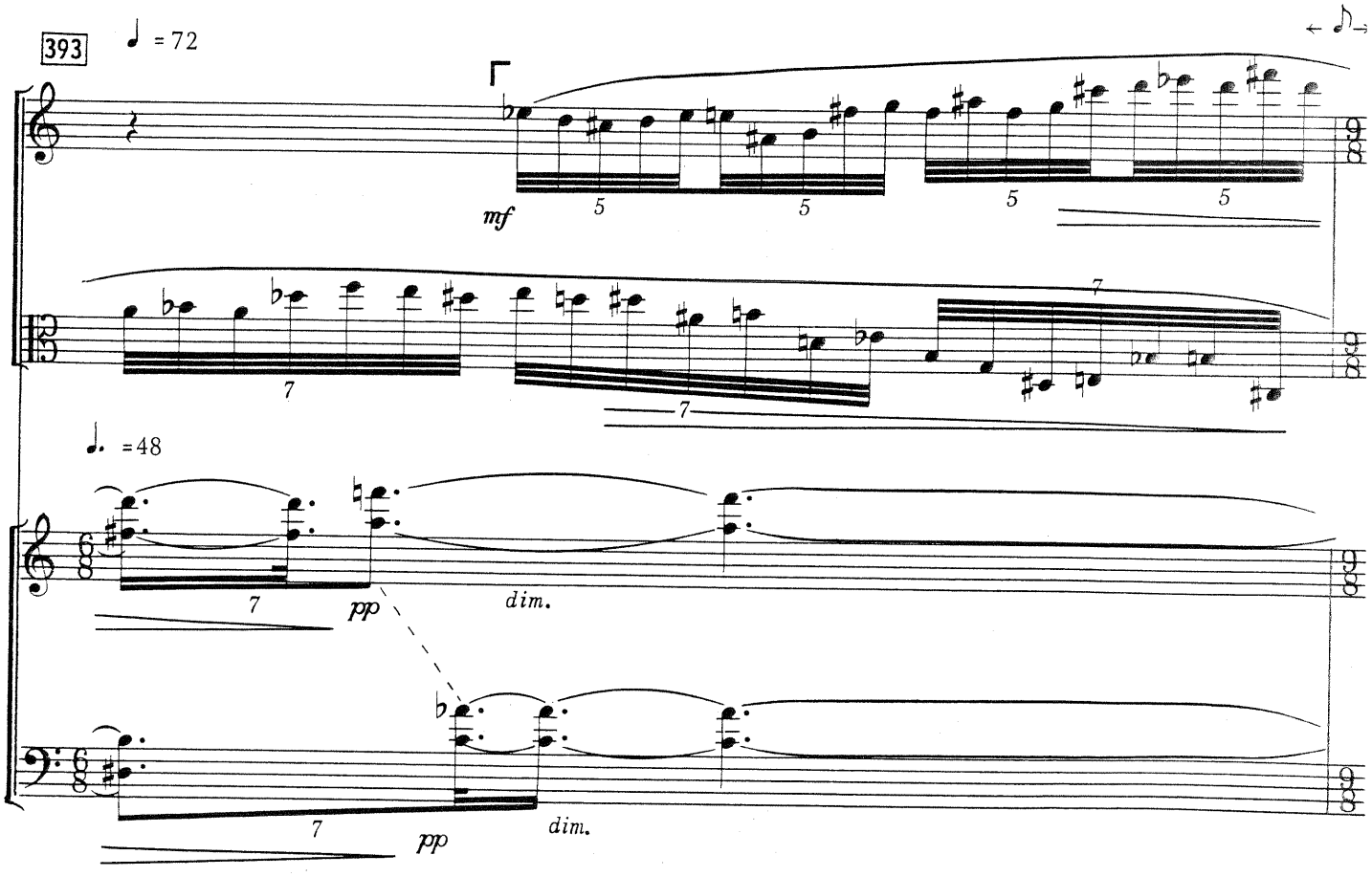

381
(♪ = 192, ♩. = 96)
♩. = 112
pp
ppp
ppp
pp 7 dim.
ppp
ppp
(♩. = 96)
♩ = 84
p espr.
p
pp
383
pp
pp
ppp
pp
ppp
ppp
legato sempre
p
mp
385
(♩ = 84)
p
pp
mf
mf
p
pp
f espr.
appassionato
pp
pp

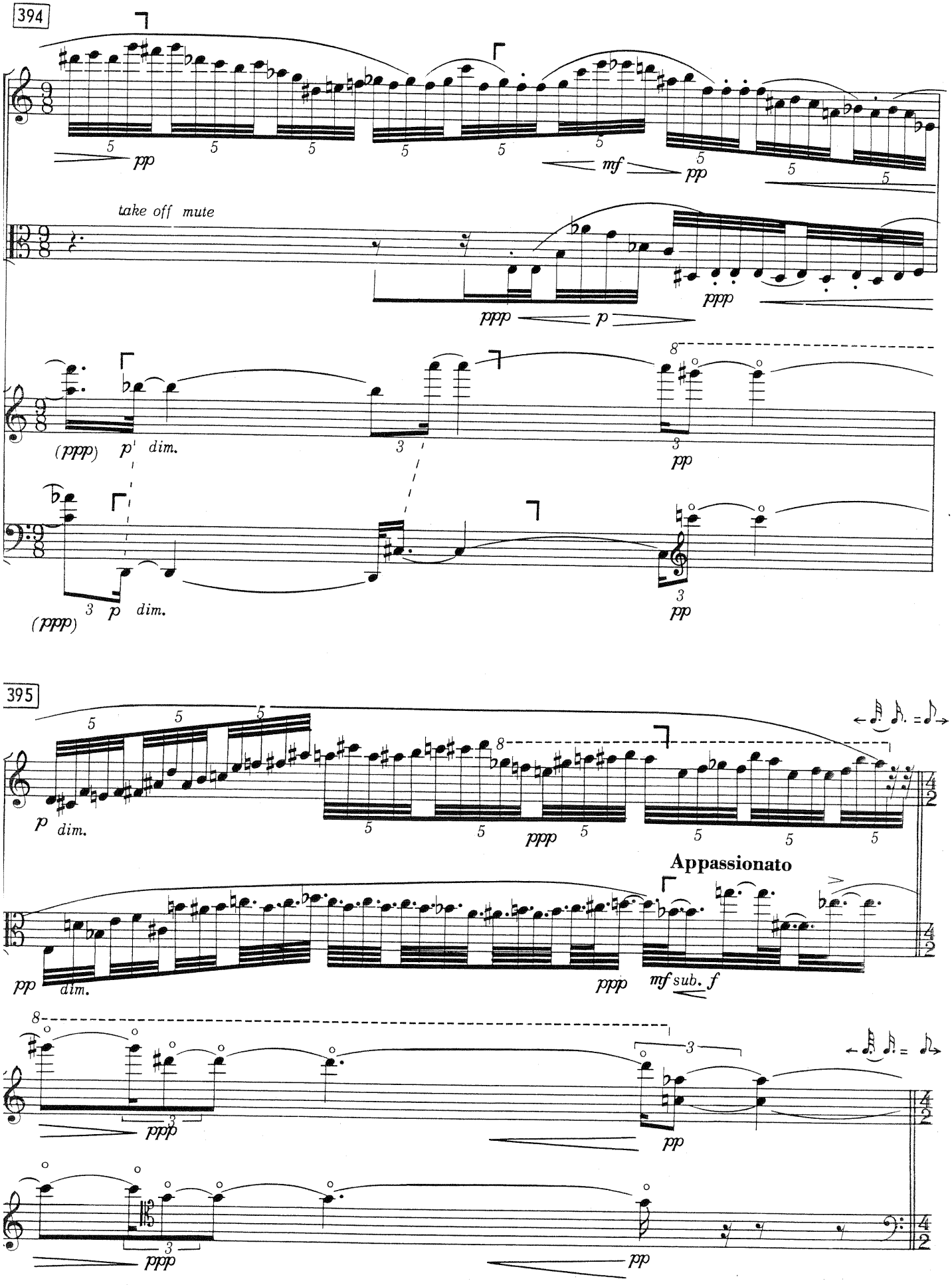

387
(mf)
pp
pp scorrevole
p

p
pp


(♩ =84)
389
pp
p
pp
p
pp
p
p
mp
mf
mp sub.
mf


391
(♩ = 84)
mf
p
(♪. =126)
mf
p
3
mf
3
3
3
3
(♩ = 84)
mf
f
mf
p
f
mf
mp


393
♩ = 72
mf
5
5
5
5
7
7
7
♩. =48
7
pp
dim.
7
pp
dim.


394
take off mute
395
Appassionato

Appassionato

396 ♩ = 32

senza sord.

mf f mf

mp f mf

♩ = 32

f poco a poco dim. mf

f poco a poco dim. mf

397 ♩. = 56, ♪. = 112

f mf

mf f

♩. = 56

mp p

mp p

400

f f

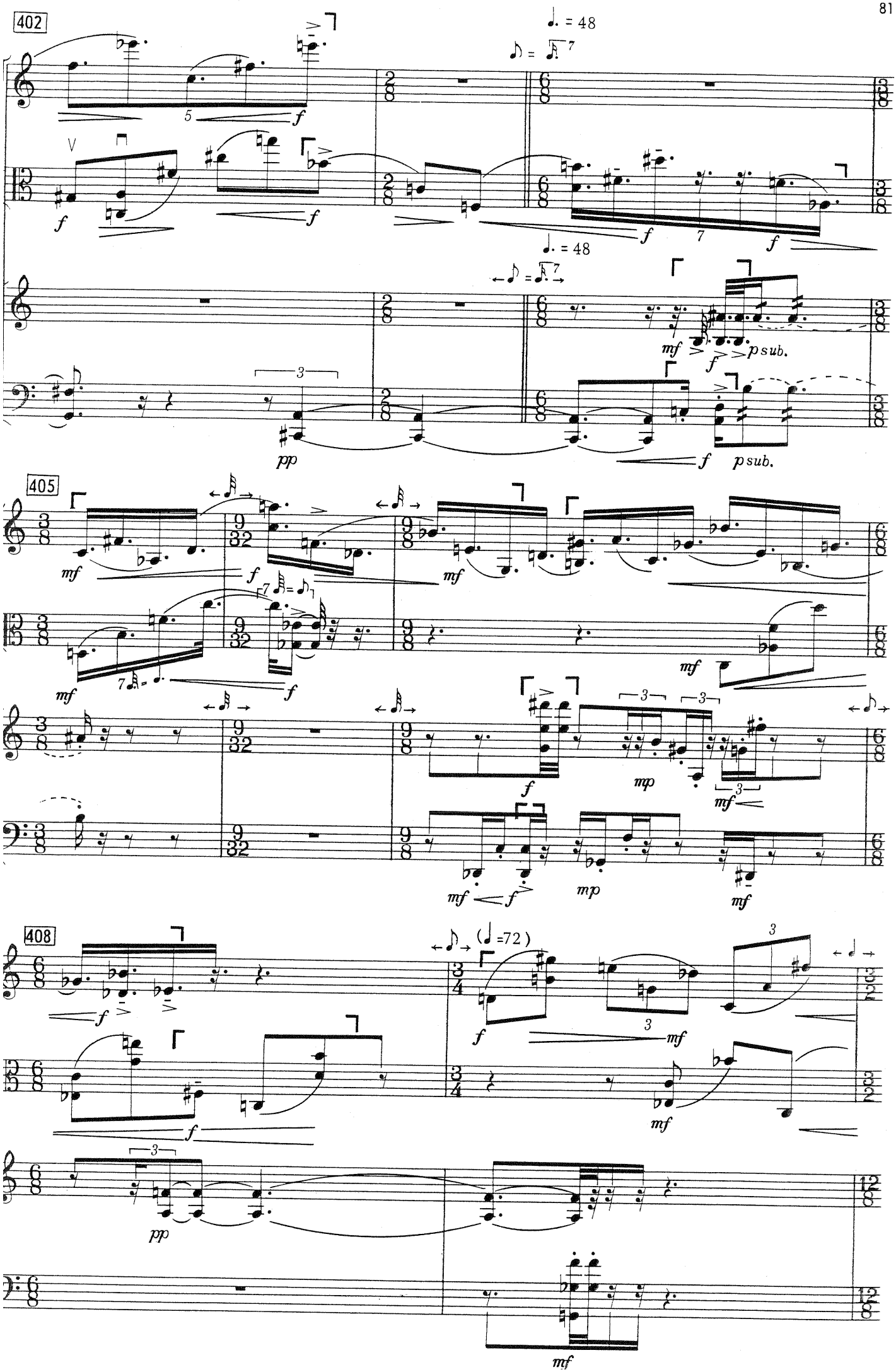
f

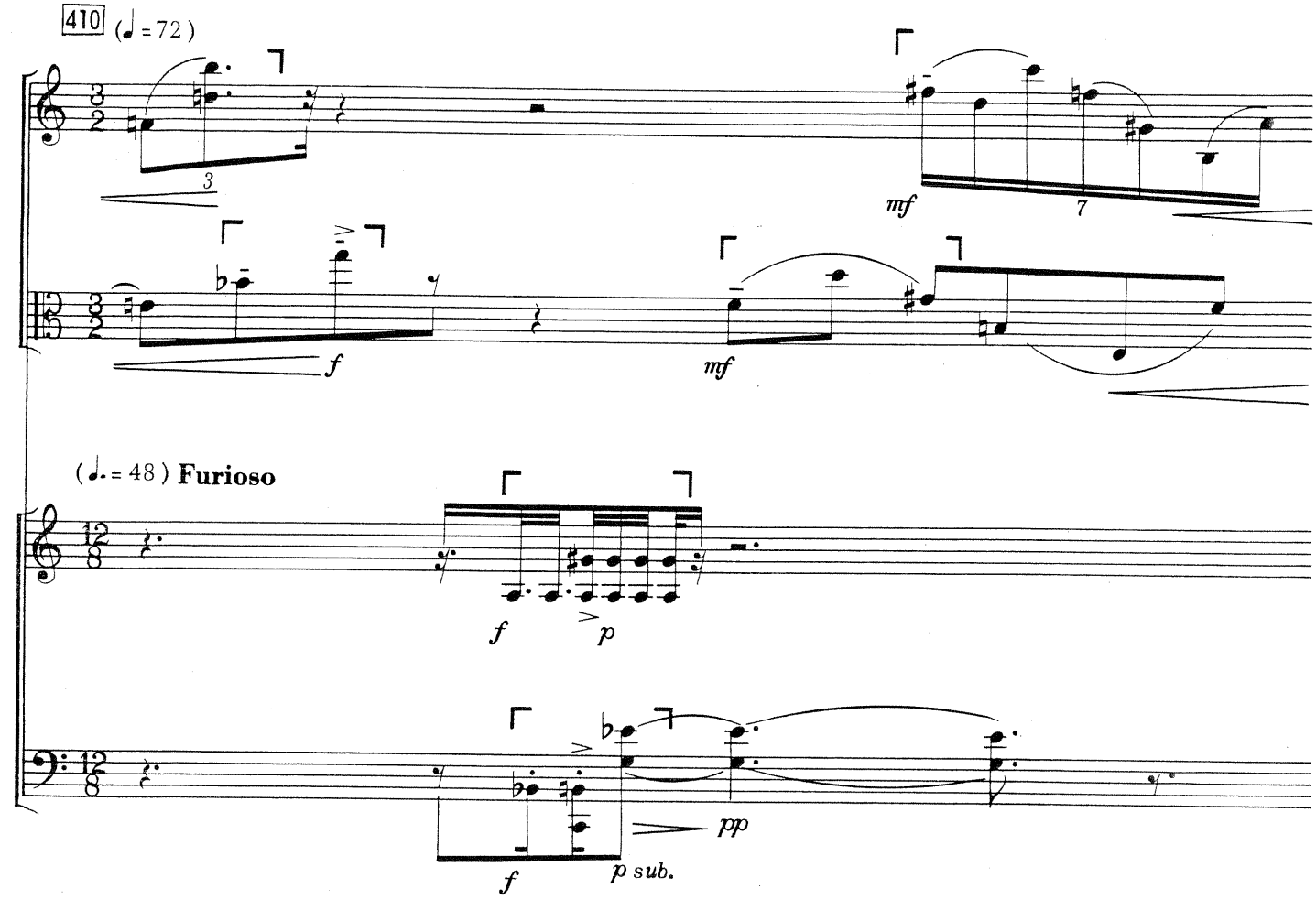
(♩ = 84)

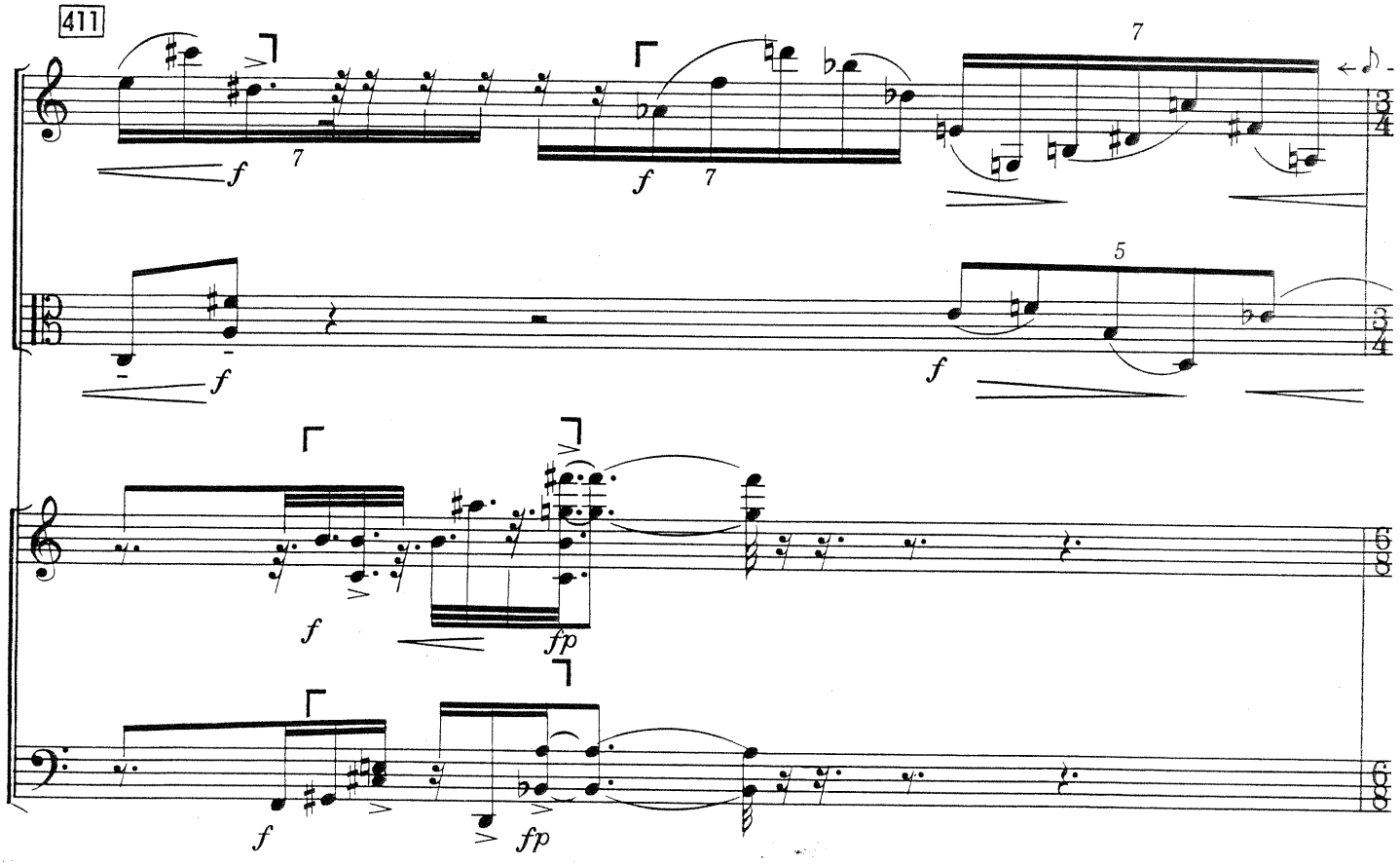
fp f sub. f

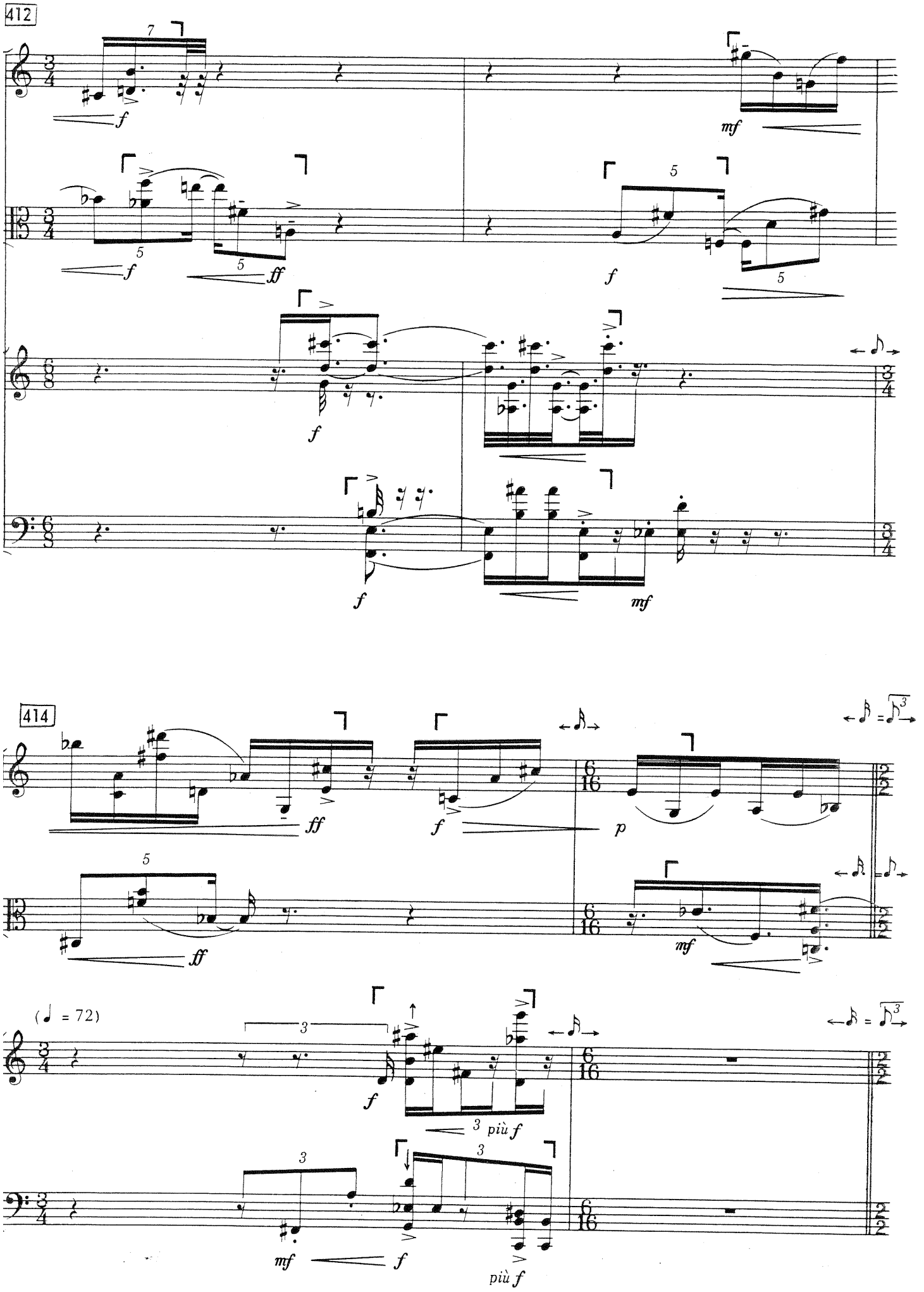
mf f ff

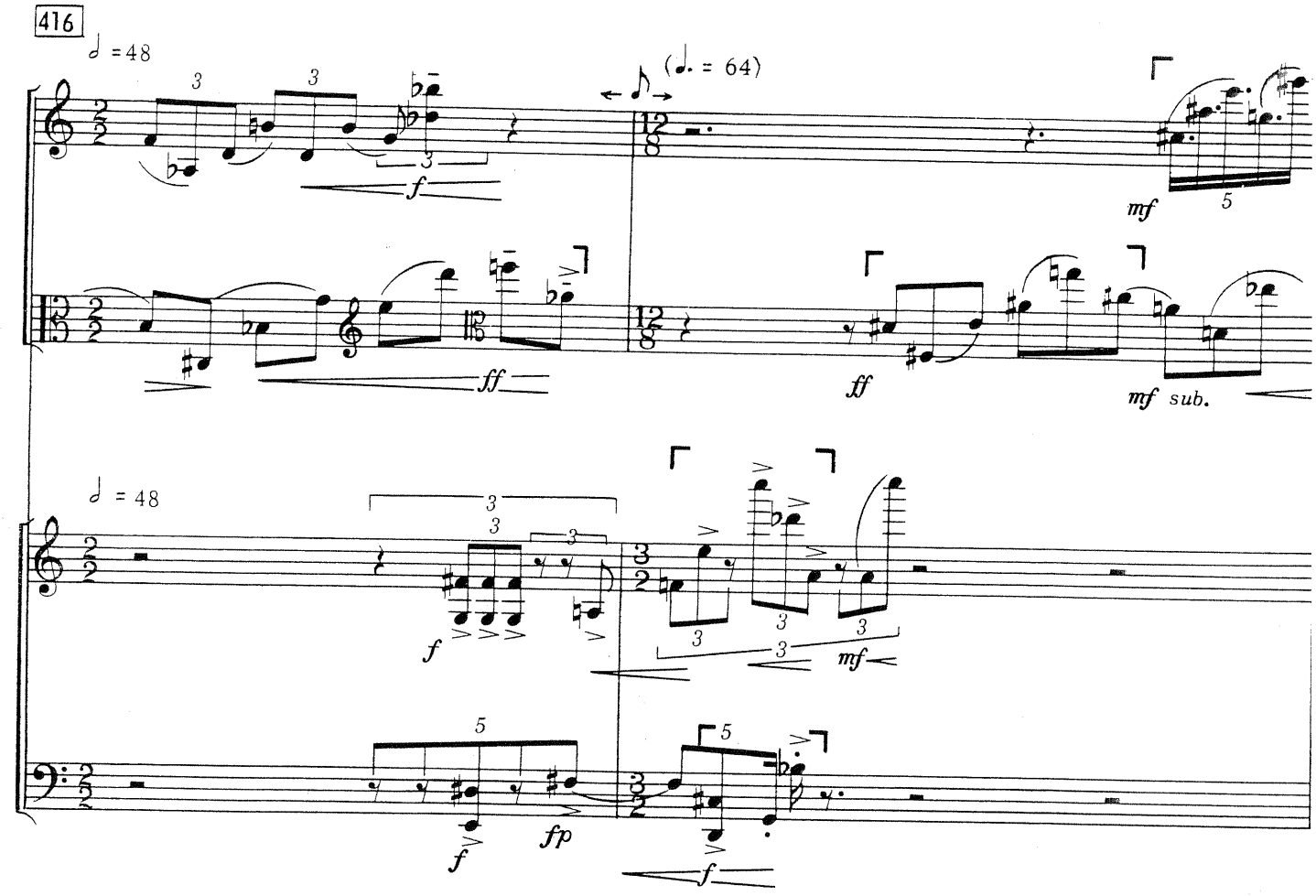
ff p

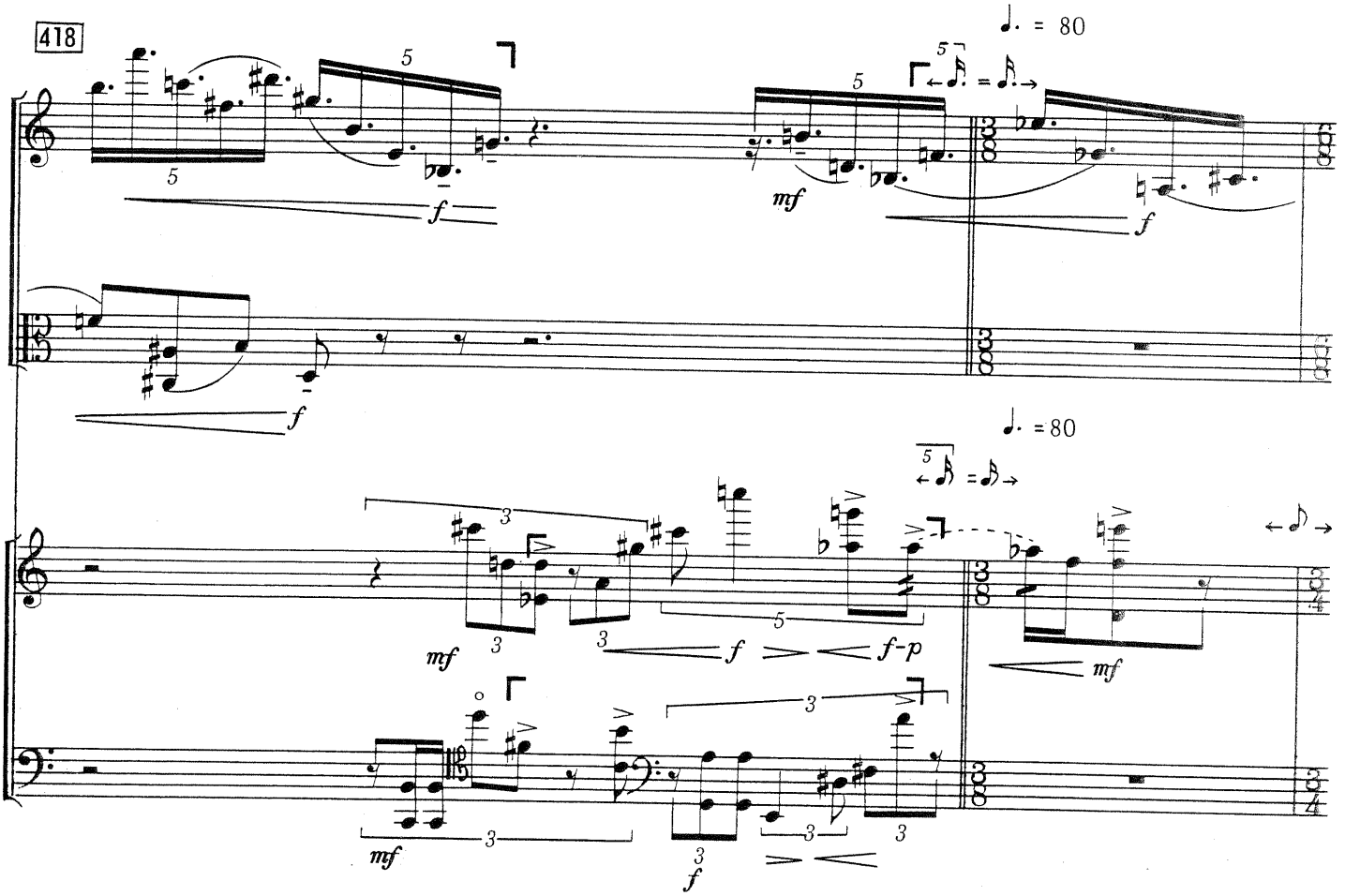

402
405
408
p sub.
p sub.
(♩=72)

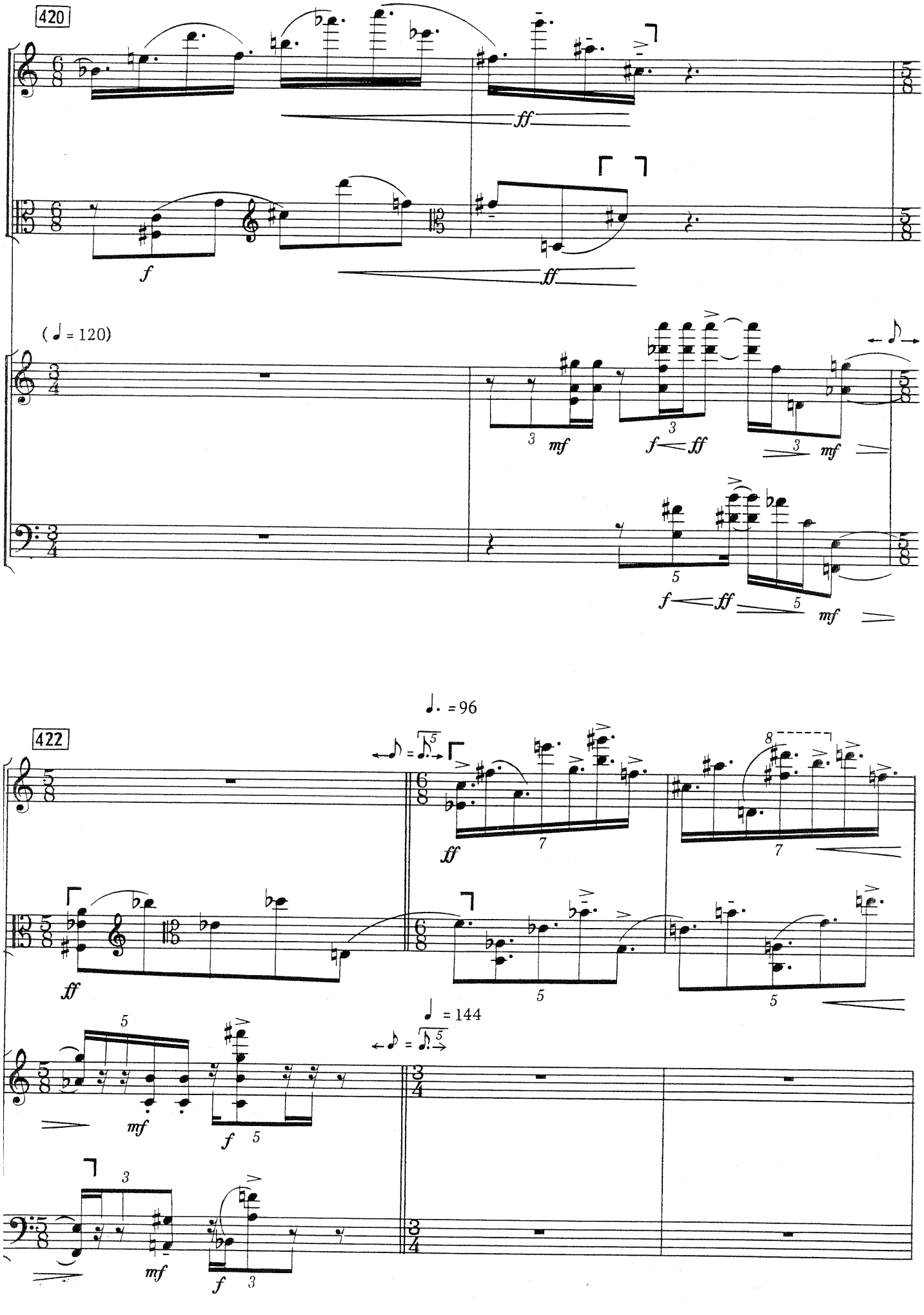

410
(♩ = 72)
mf
7
f
mf
(♩. = 48) Furioso
f
p
f
p sub.
pp

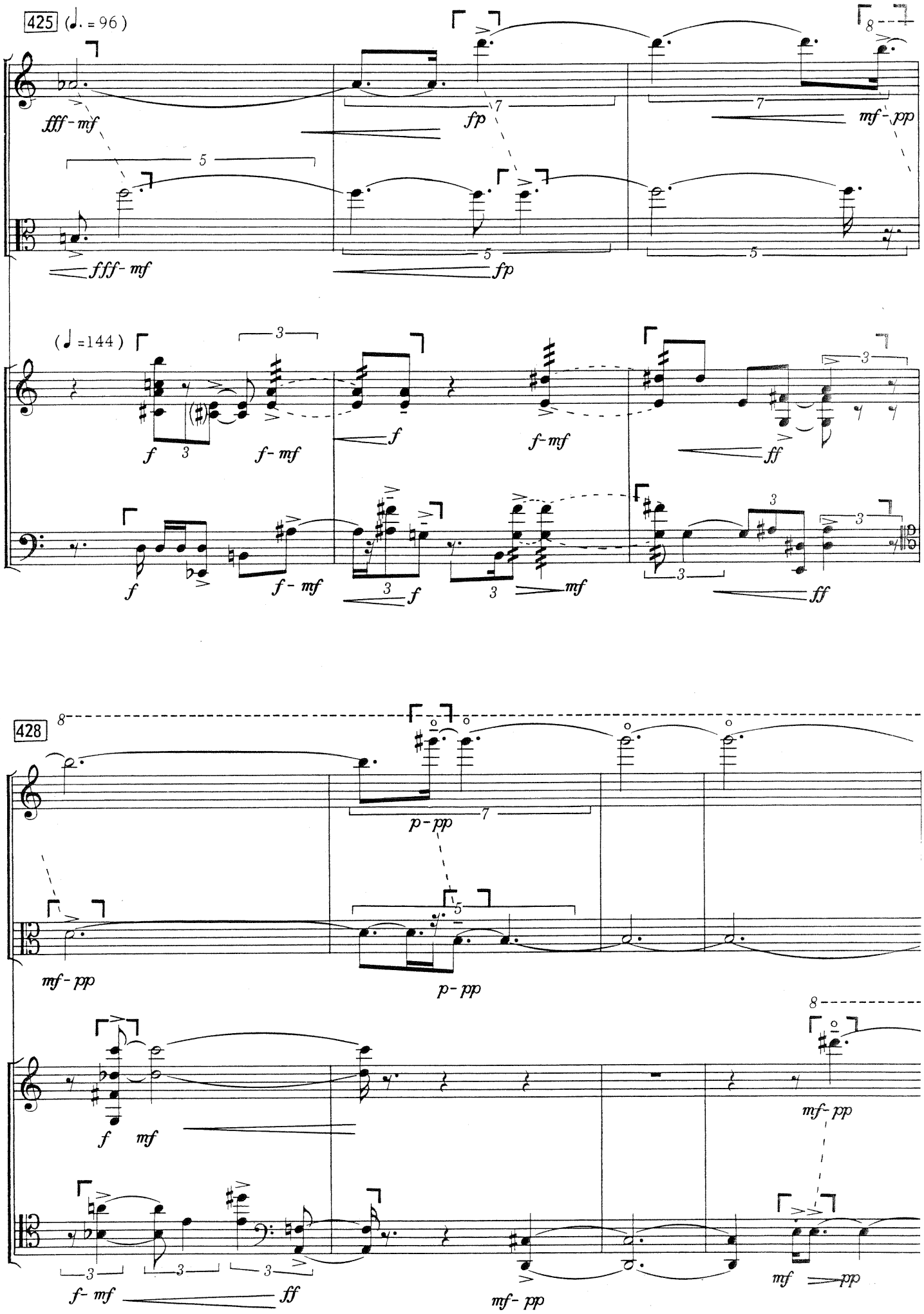

411
f
7
f
7
7
f
5
f
f
fp
f
fp

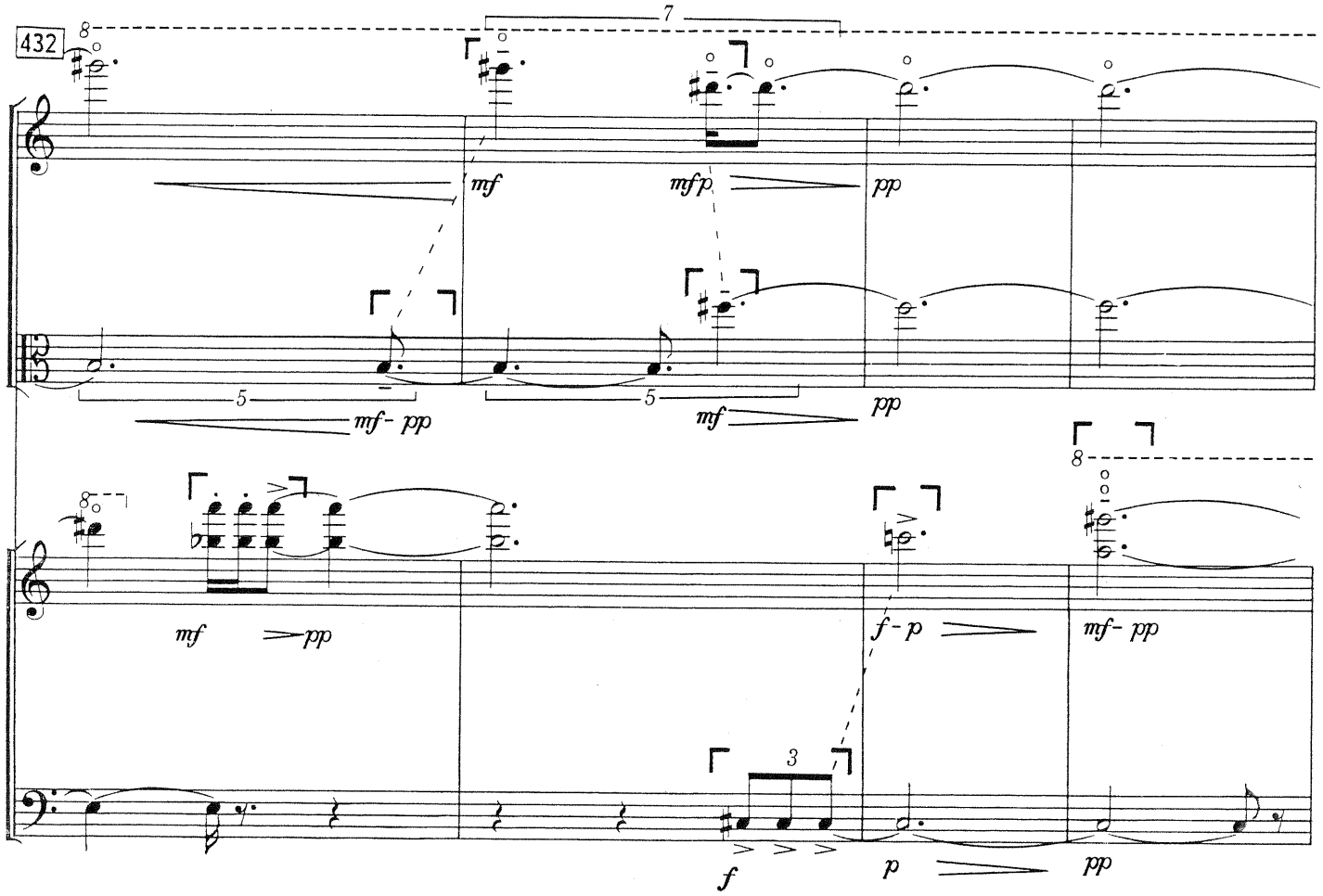

412
414
(♩ = 72)
più f

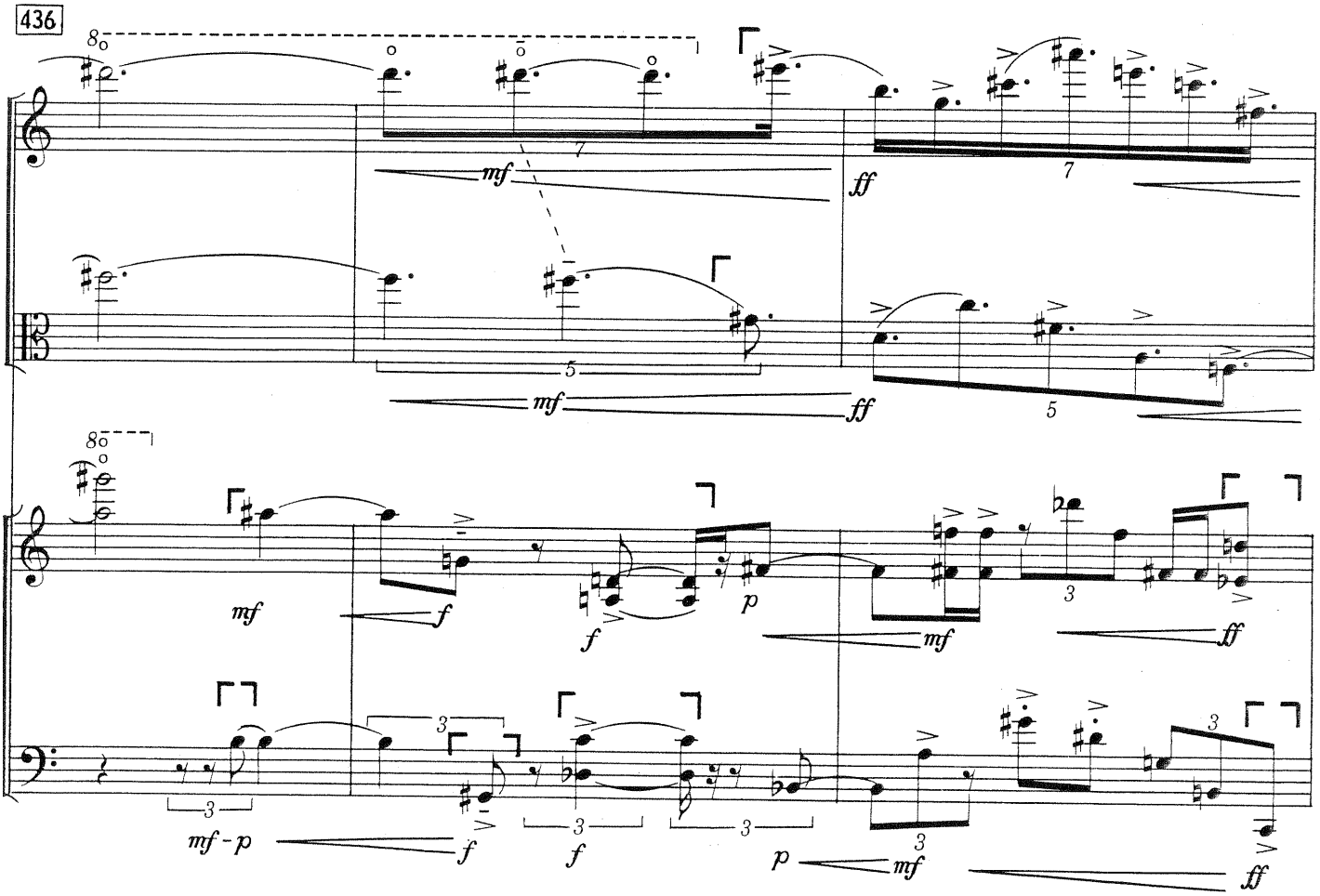

416
♩ = 48
(♩. = 64)
mf
ff
ff
mf sub.
♩ = 48
f
mf
f
fp
f

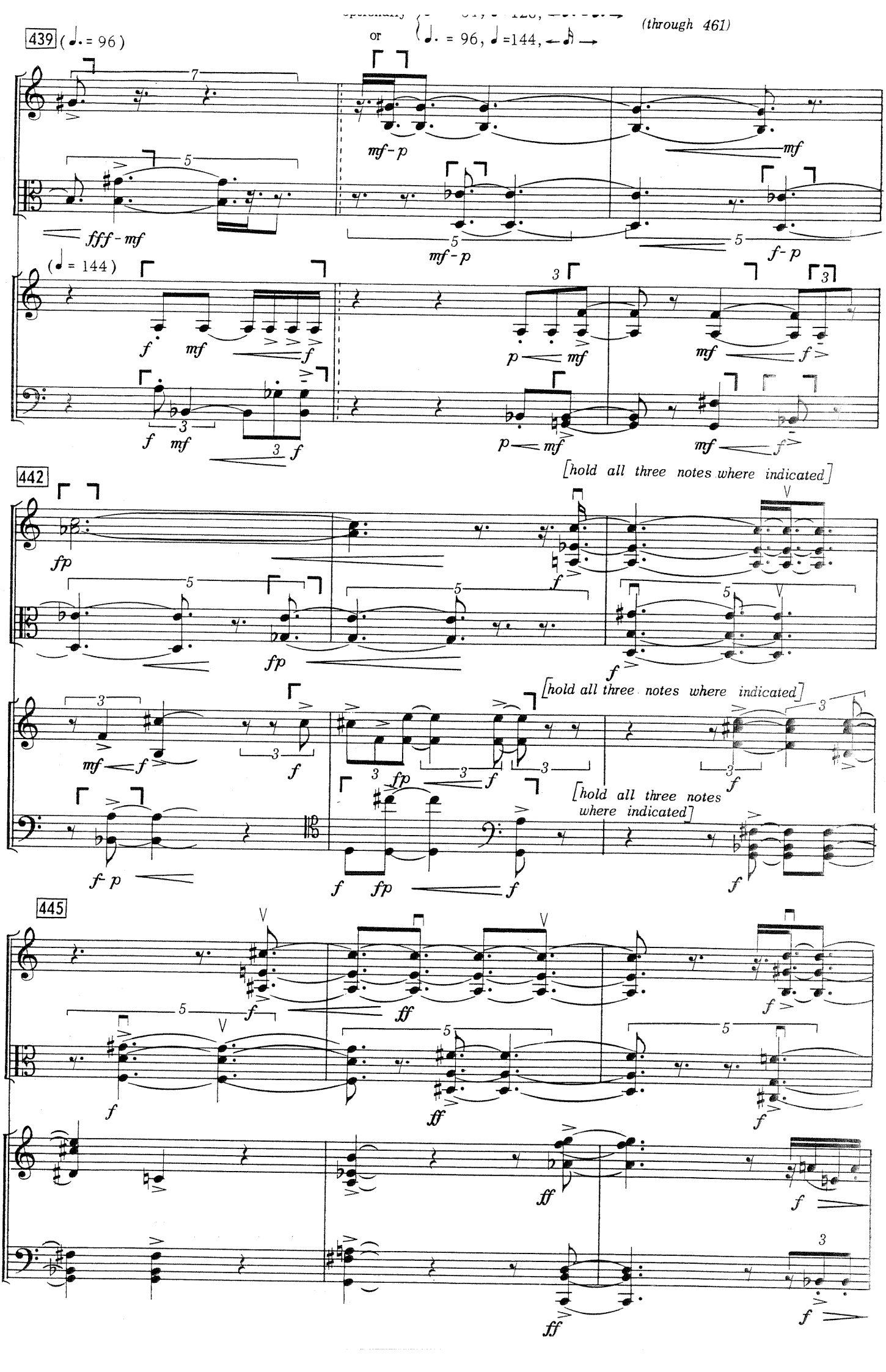

418
♩. = 80
f
mf
f
f
♩. = 80
mf
f
f-p
mf
mf
f

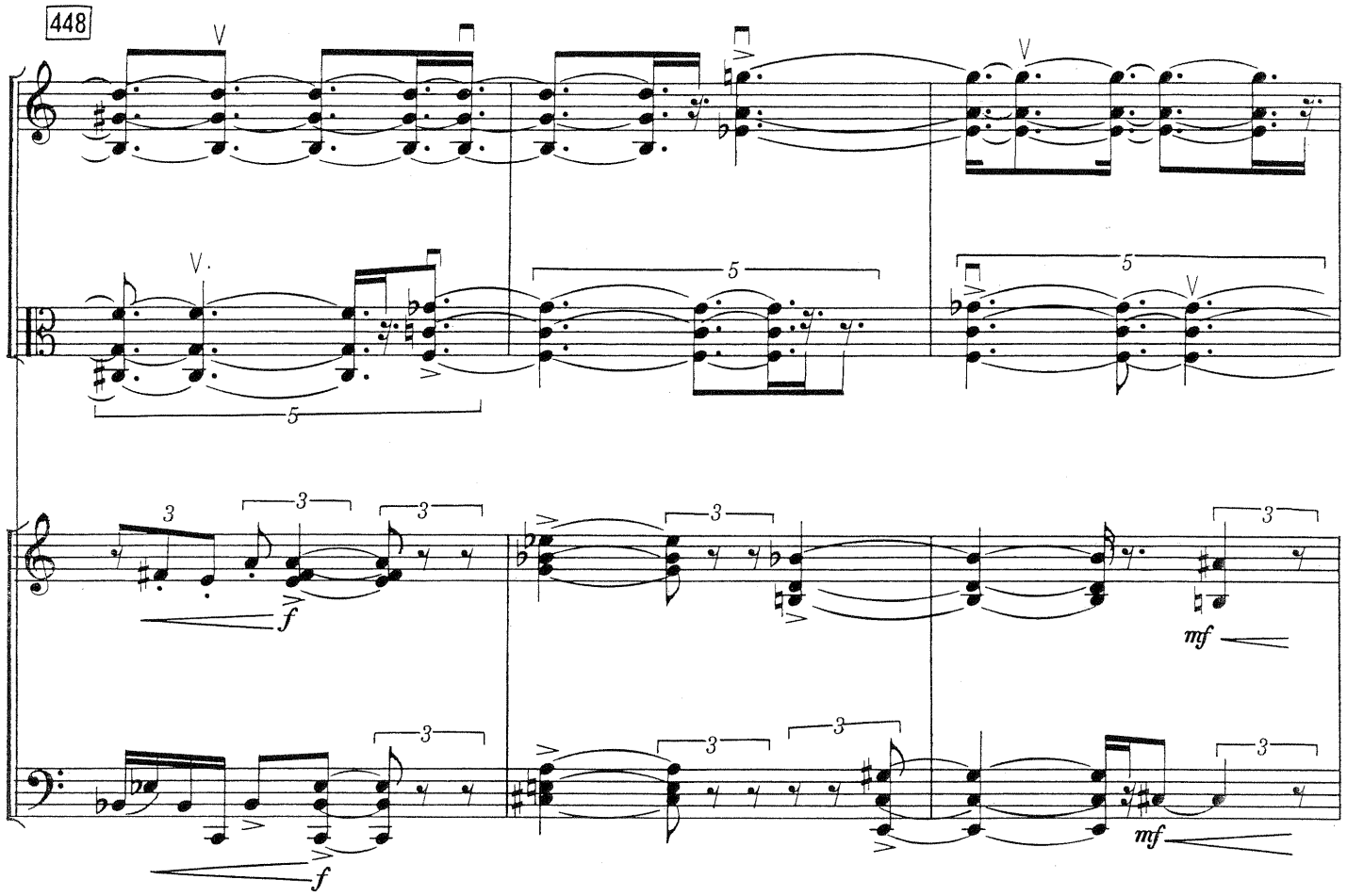

420
ff
f
ff
(♩ = 120)
3
mf
3
f ff
3
mf
5
f ff
5
mf
♩. = 96
422
ff
7
8
7
ff
5
5
♩ = 144
mf
f 5
3
mf
f 3

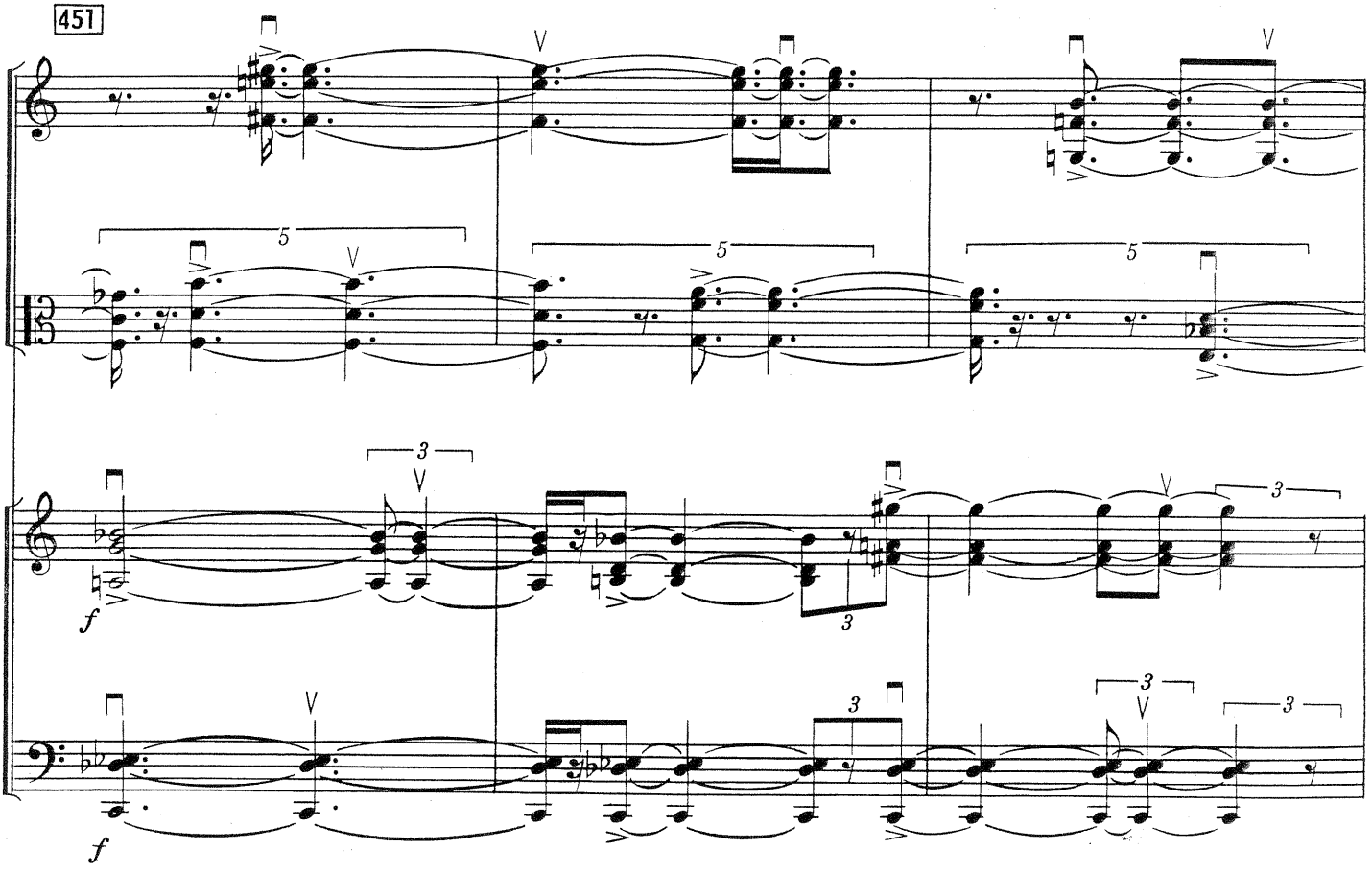

425 (♩. = 96)
fff - mf
fp
mf - pp
fff - mf
fp
(♩ =144)
f
f - mf
f
f - mf
ff
f
f - mf
f
mf
ff
428
p - pp
mf - pp
p - pp
f
mf
mf - pp
f - mf
ff
mf - pp
mf
pp

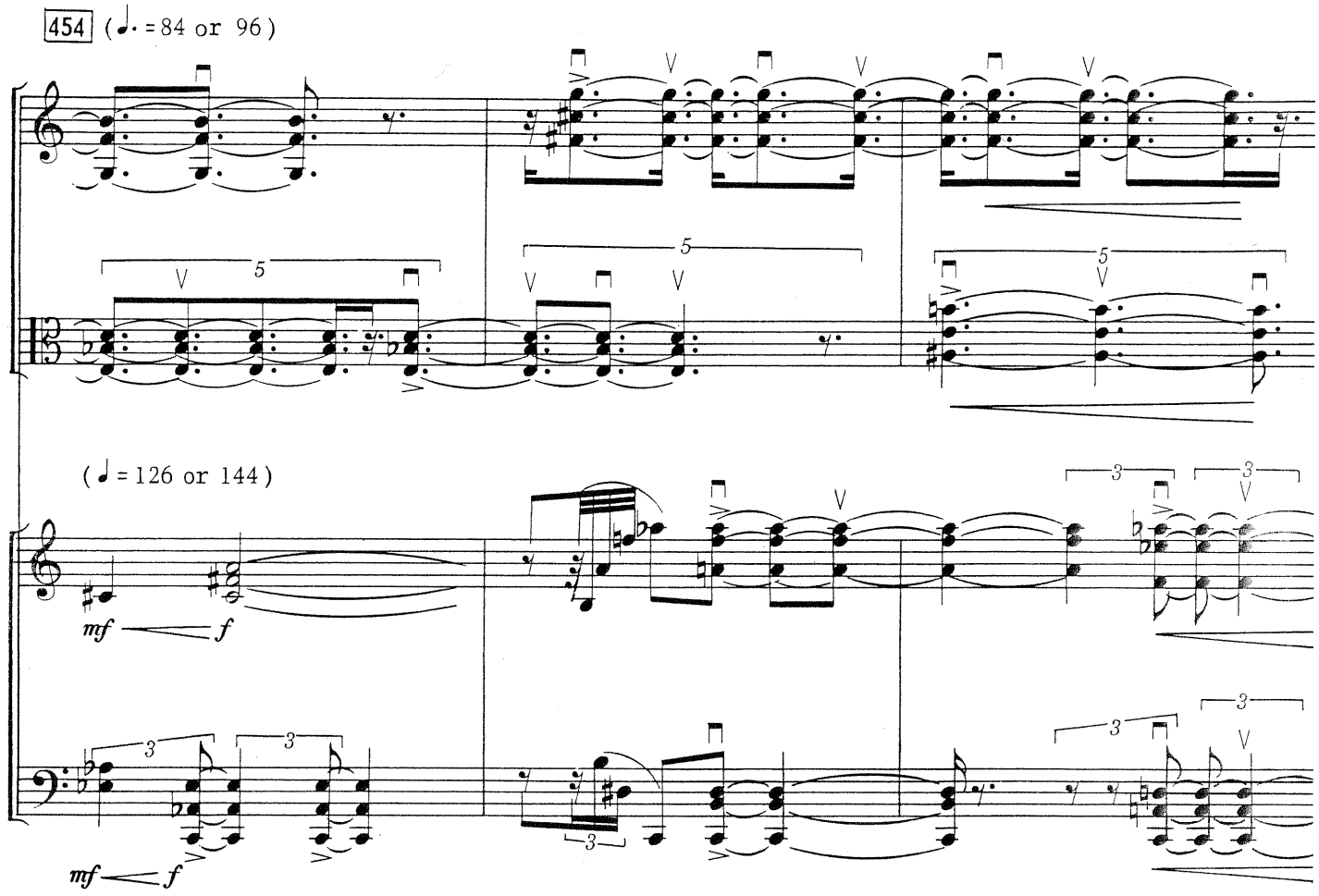

432
mf
mfp
pp
mf- pp
mf
pp
mf
pp
f- p
mf- pp
f
p
pp

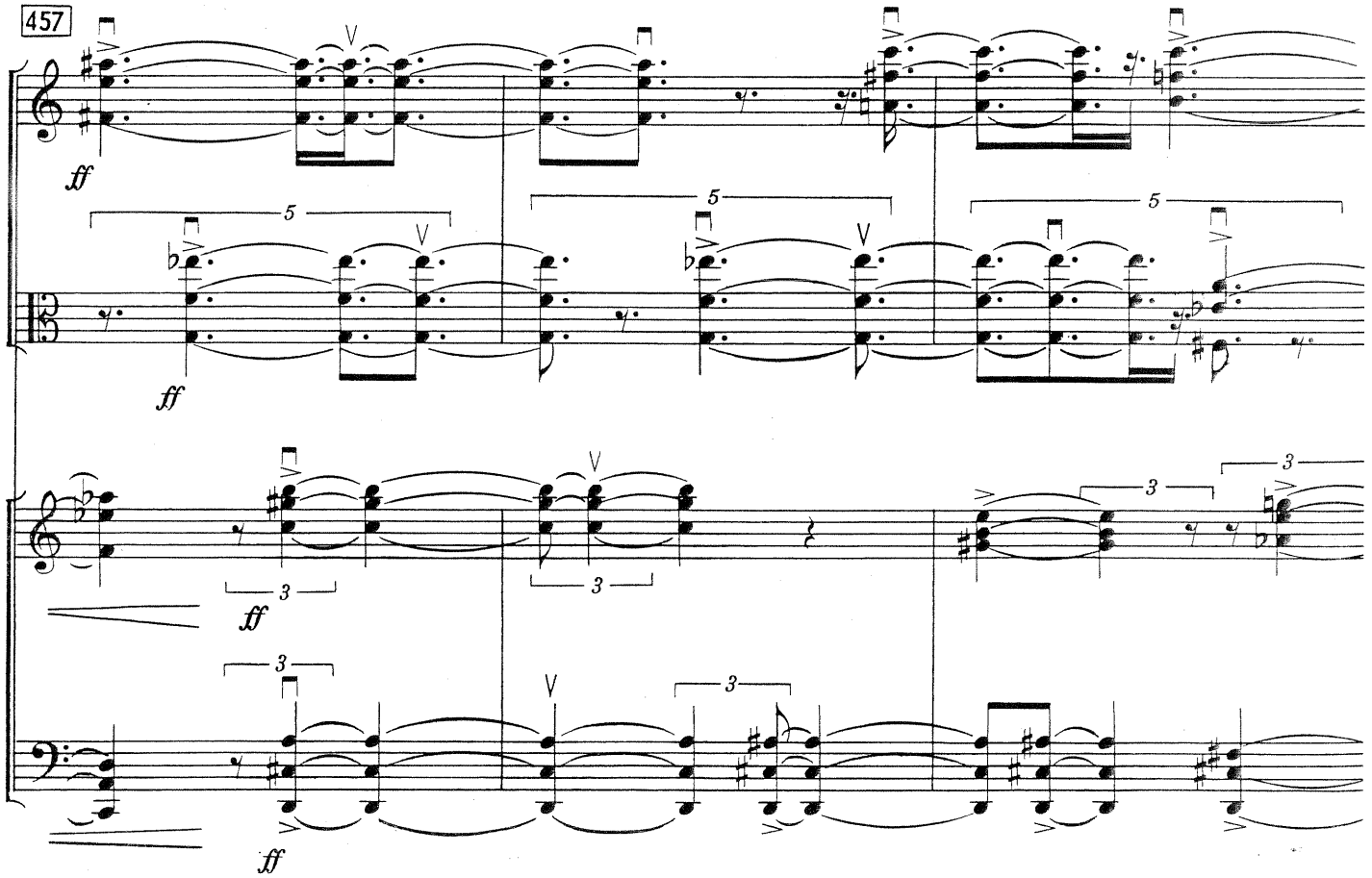

436
mf
ff
mf
ff
mf
f
f
p
mf
ff
mf - p
f
f
p
mf
ff

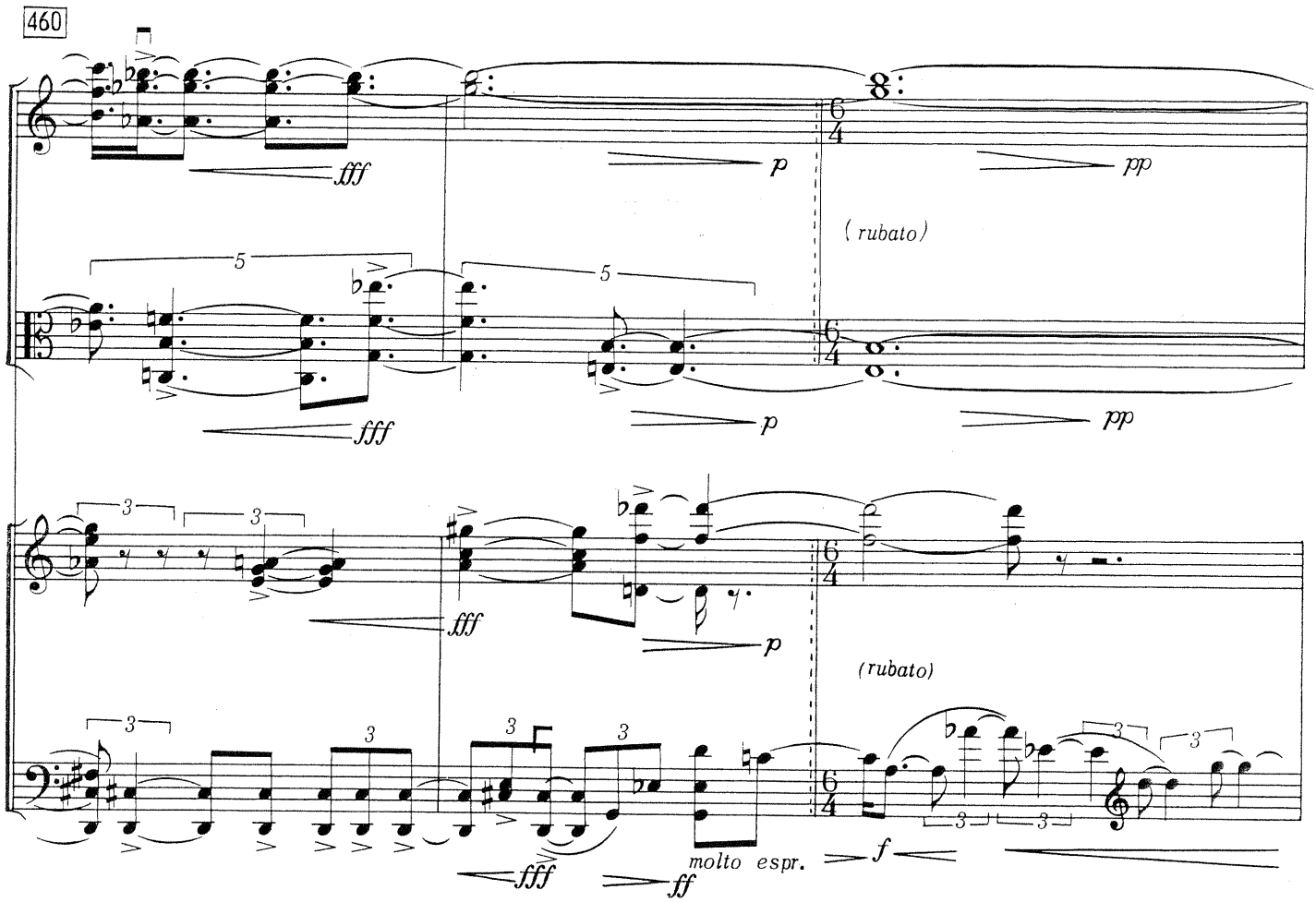

439
(♩. = 96)
or
(♩. = 96, ♩ = 144, ← ♪ →
(through 461)
(♩ = 144)
442
[hold all three notes where indicated]
[hold all three notes where indicated]
[hold all three notes where indicated]
445


448
f
mf
f
mf

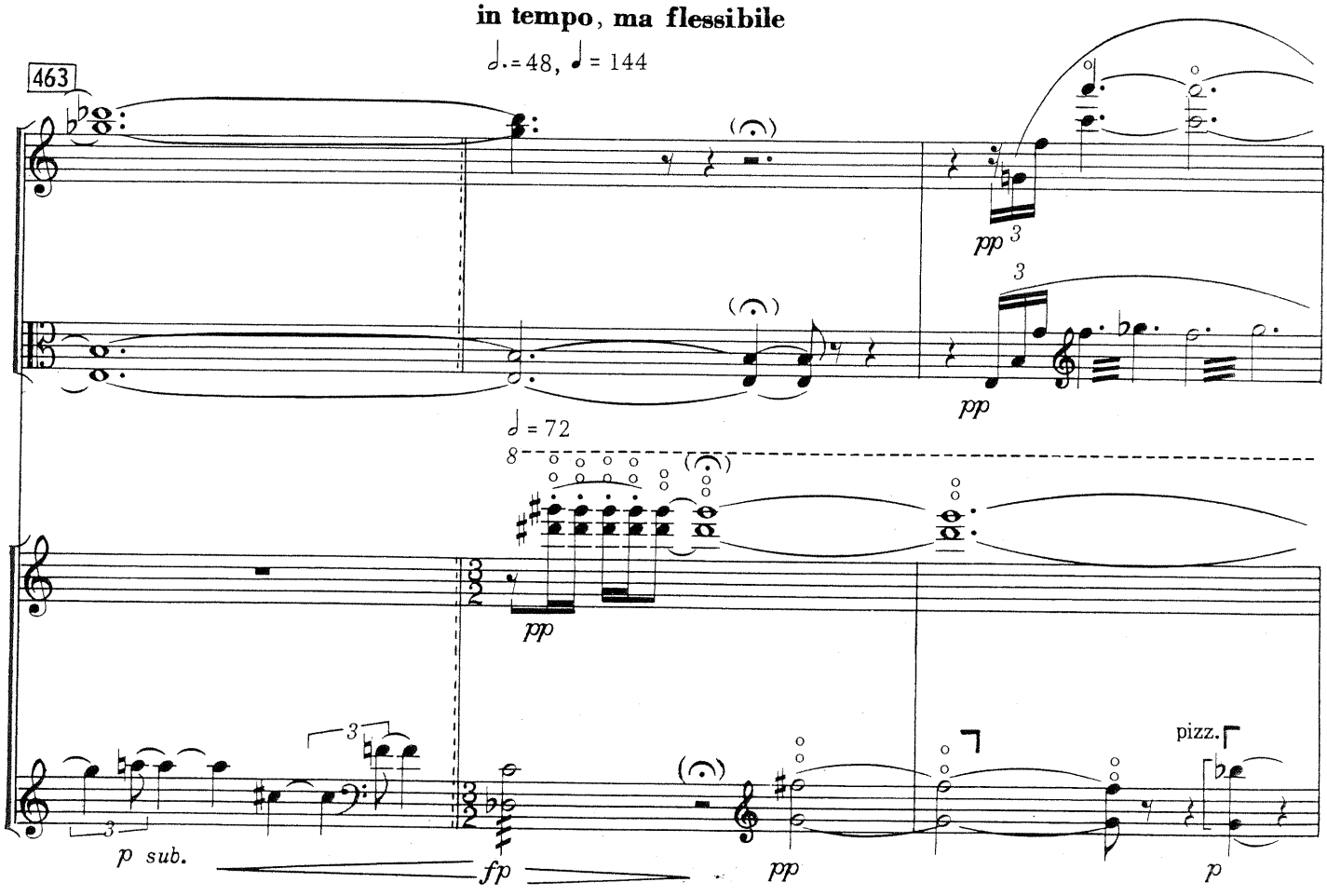

451
f
f

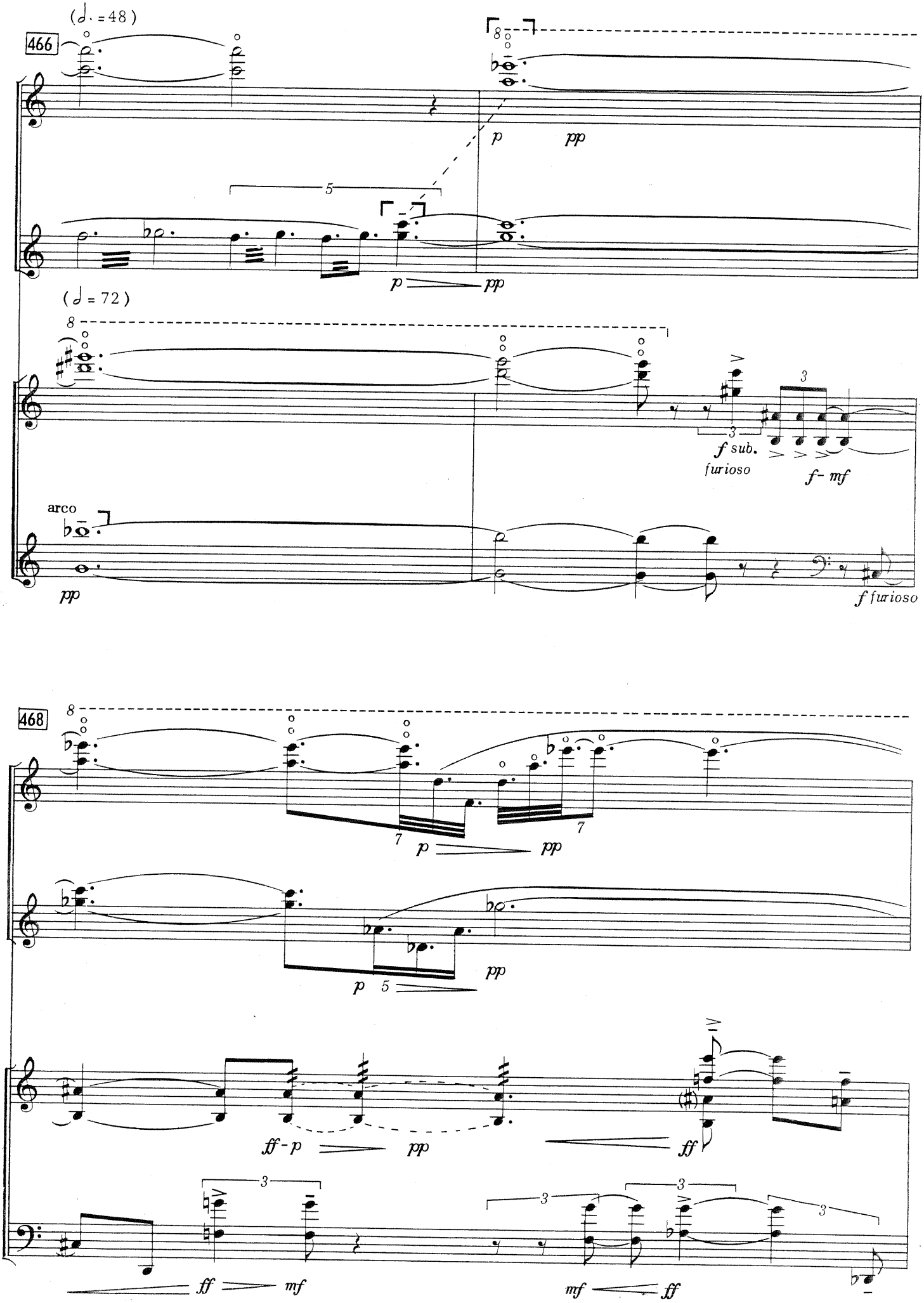

454
(♩. = 84 or 96)
(♩ = 126 or 144)
mf
f
mf
f

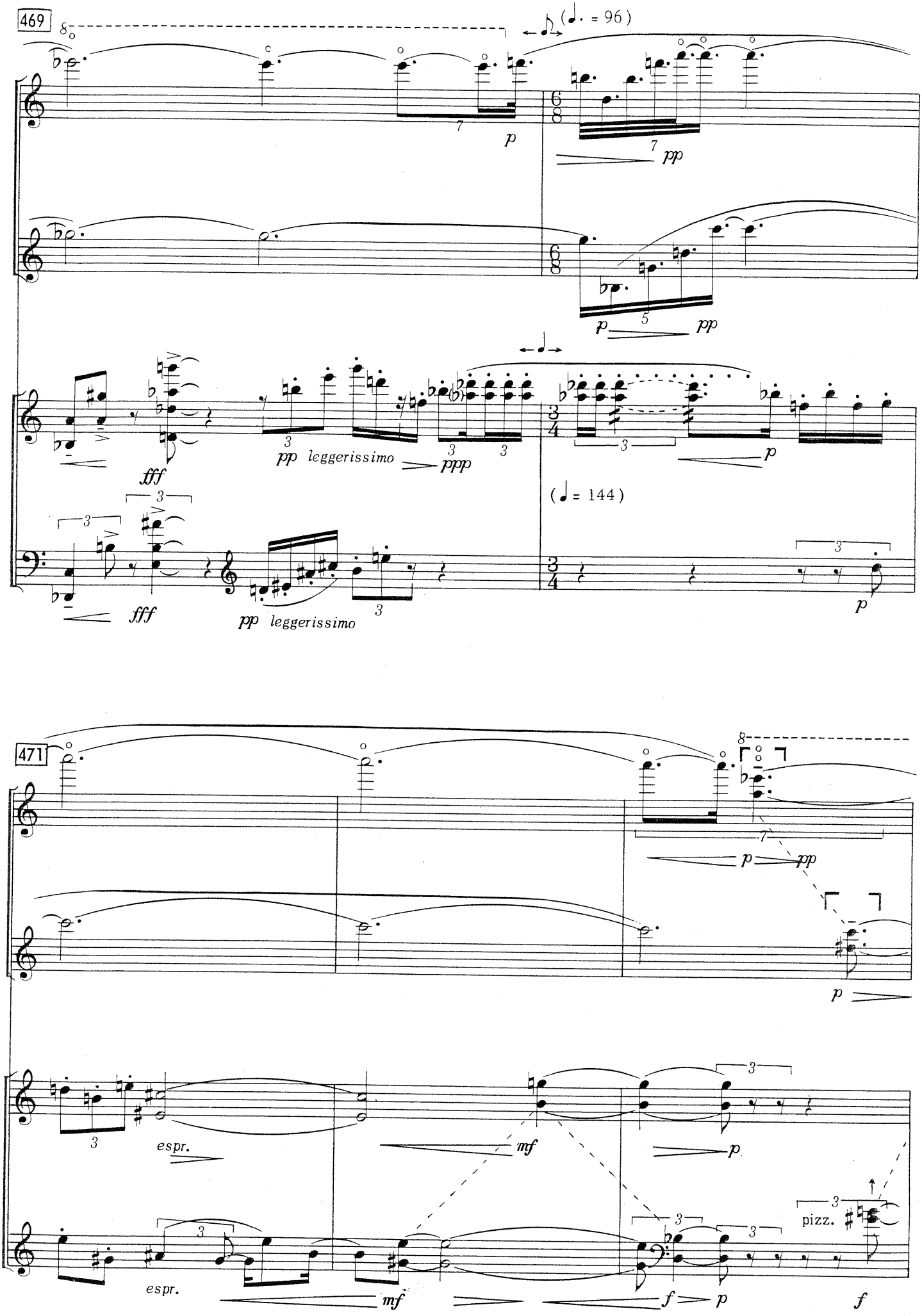

457
ff
ff
ff
ff



in tempo, ma flessibile




(♩. = 48)
466
p
pp
5
p
pp
(♩ = 72)
8
3
3
f sub.
furioso
f- mf
arco
pp
f furioso
468
8
7
p
pp
7
pp
p
5
ff - p
pp
ff
3
ff
mf
3
3
3
mf
ff


469
(♩. = 96)
p
pp
fff
pp leggerissimo
ppp
(♩ = 144)
fff
pp leggerissimo
p
471
p
pp
p
espr.
mf
p
espr.
mf
f
p
pizz.
f

474

(♩. = 96)

(♩ = 144)

pizz.

arco

Tempo rubato

(♩ = 144)

arco

furioso

477

Tempo giusto

(Tempo rubato)

(Tempo giusto)

Tempo rubato

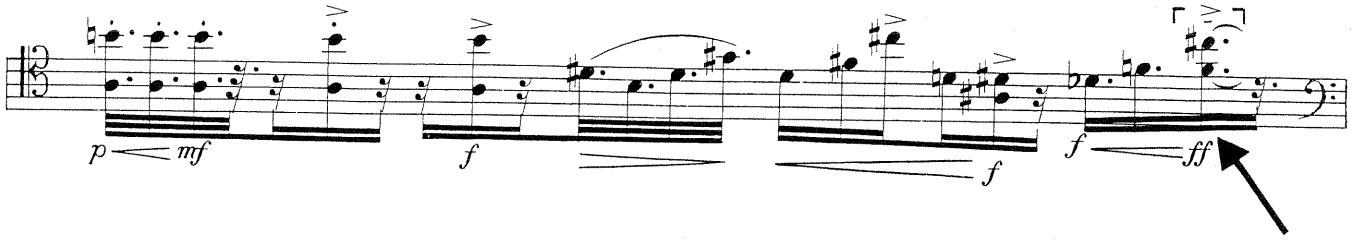
480

Tempo giusto

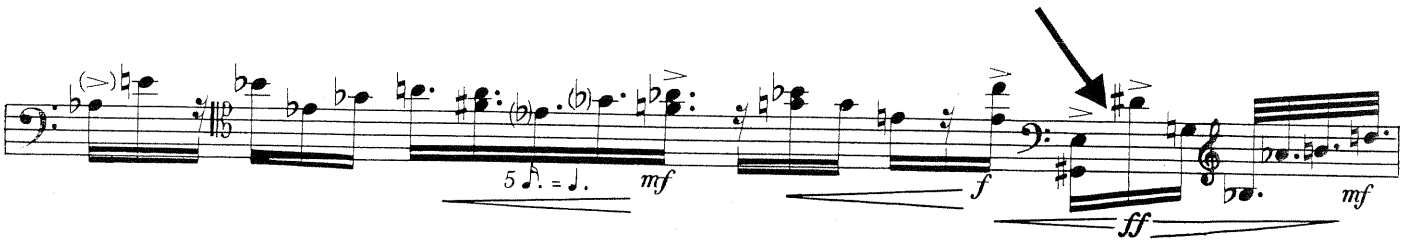
(Tempo giusto)

APPENDIX

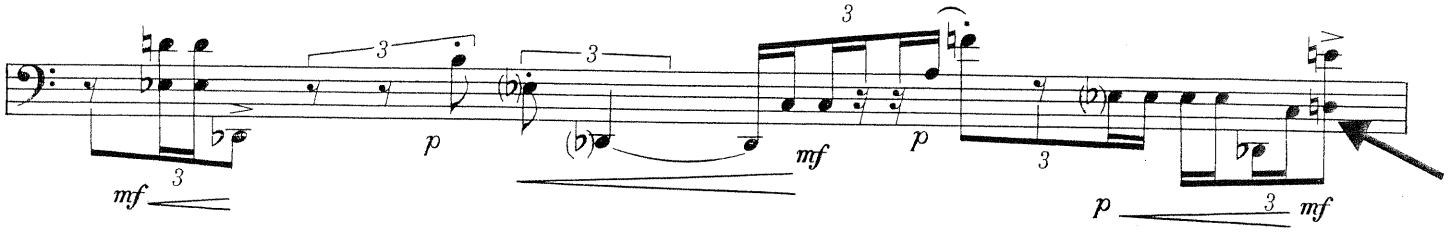
Cello, page 4, m. 9



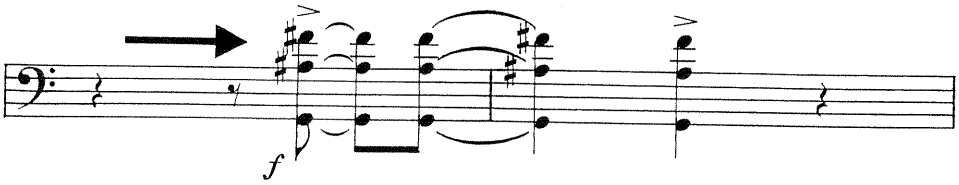
Cello, page 18, m. 92



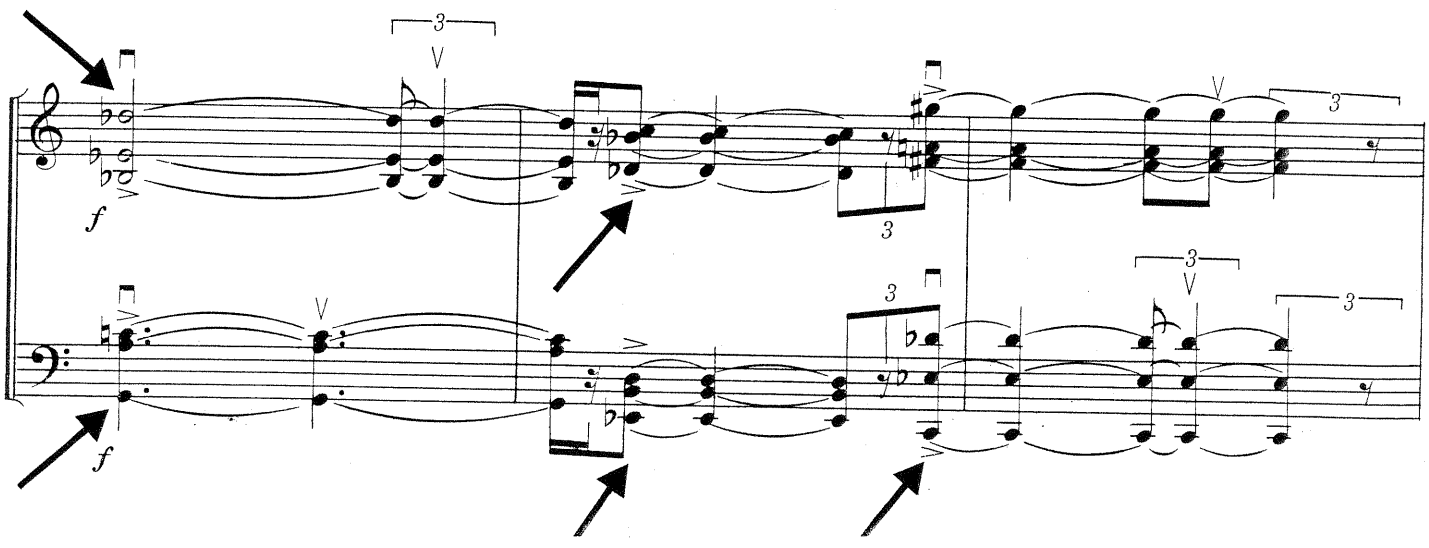
Cello, page 37, m. 180



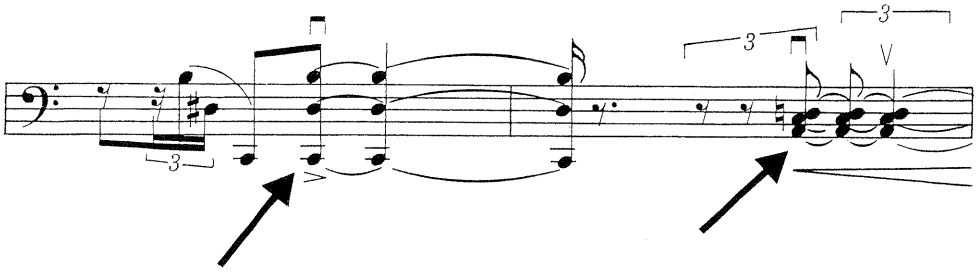
Cello, page 88, mm. 444–445



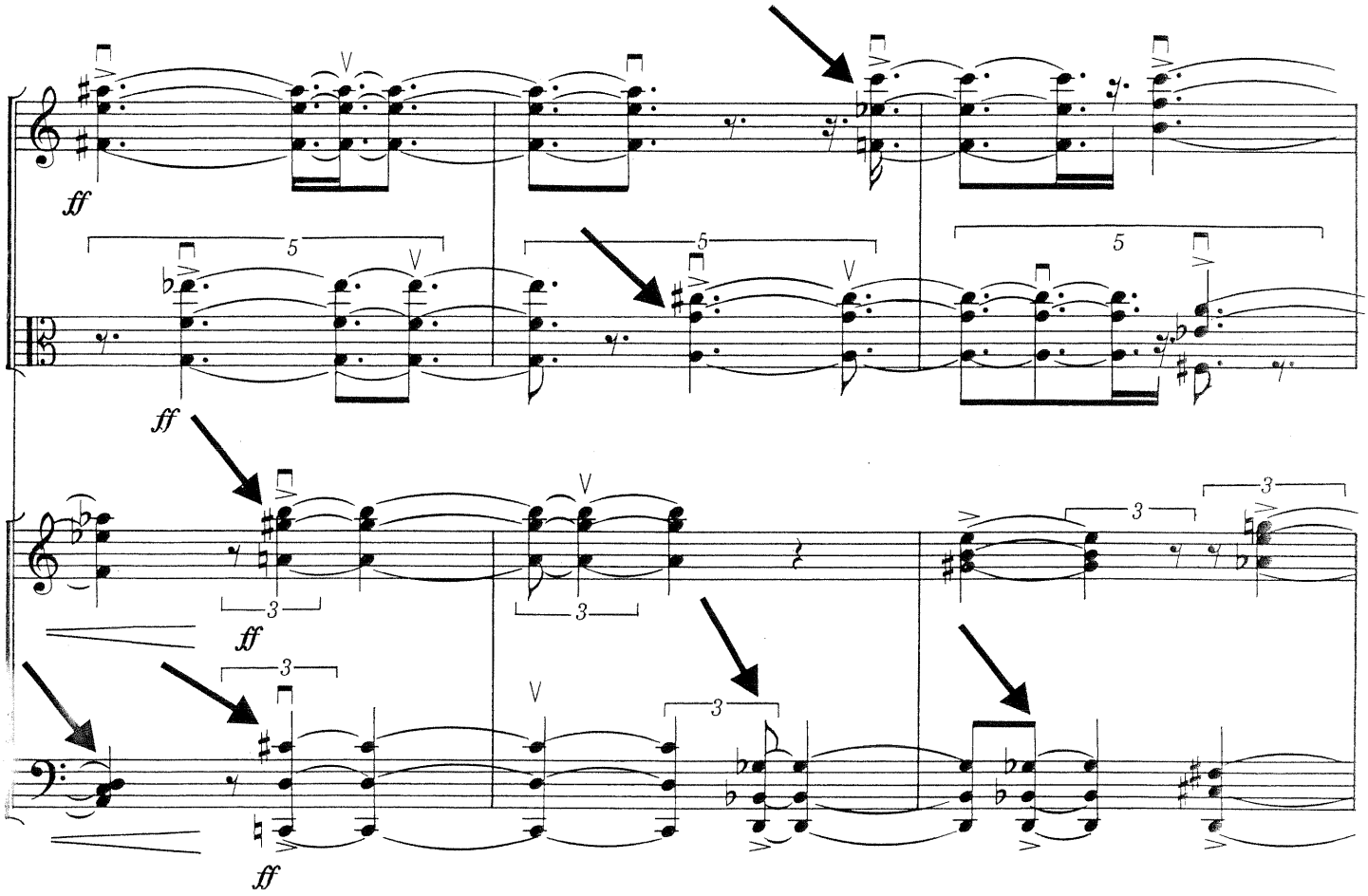
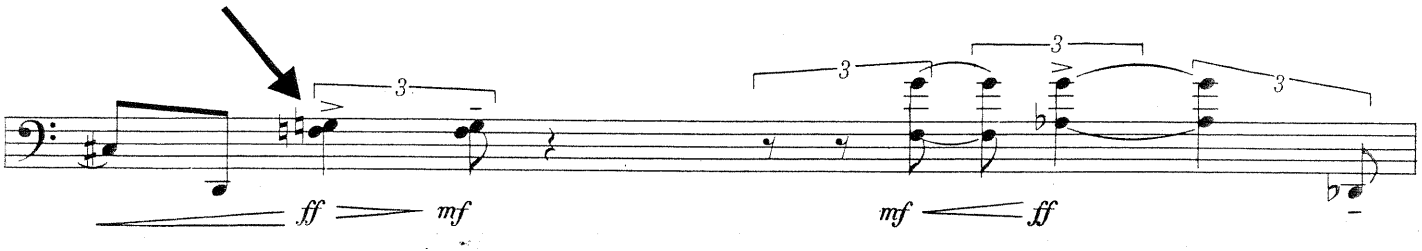
Violin I and Cello, page 89, mm. 451–453



Cello, page 90, mm. 455–456



Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello, page 90, mm. 457–459



Cello, page 92, m. 468