Echoes from a Phantom City

For flute, viola and harp

David Lancaster

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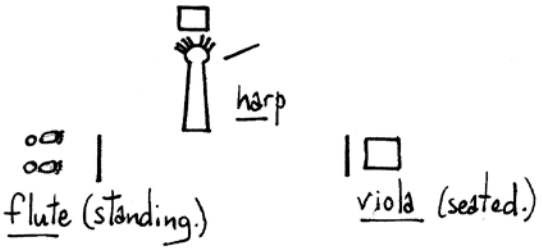
'Echoes from a Phantom City'.

Notes for performers:

seating plan.



Black arrow (↓) means give a clear 'lead' to specified player(s).

White arrow (⇩) means follow a 'lead' from specified player.

Pauses vary in length. ⌐¬ long pause, 7 - 10 secs.
∩ short pause, 3 – 5 secs.

This piece should be performed without conductor.

David Lancaster

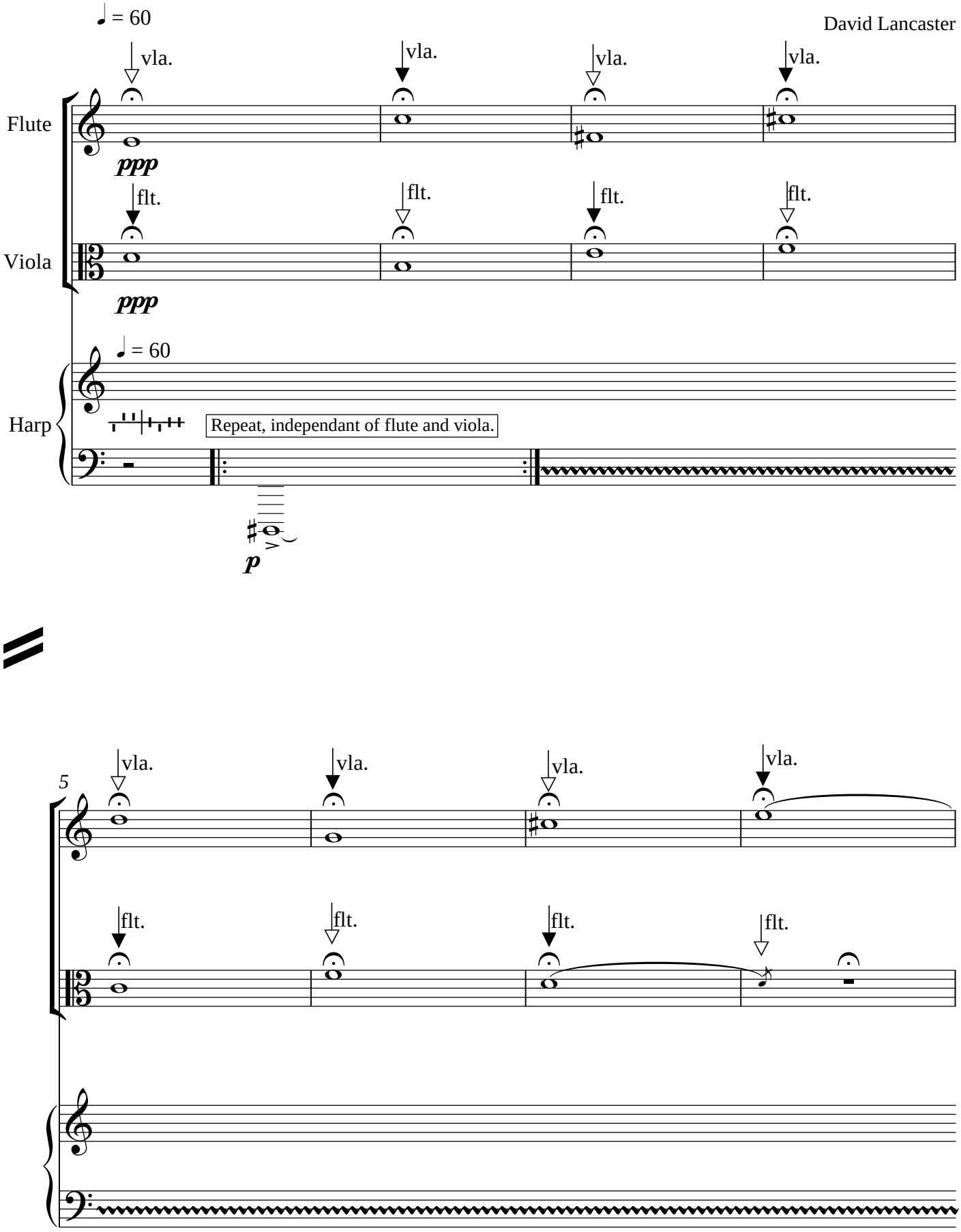
Programme note

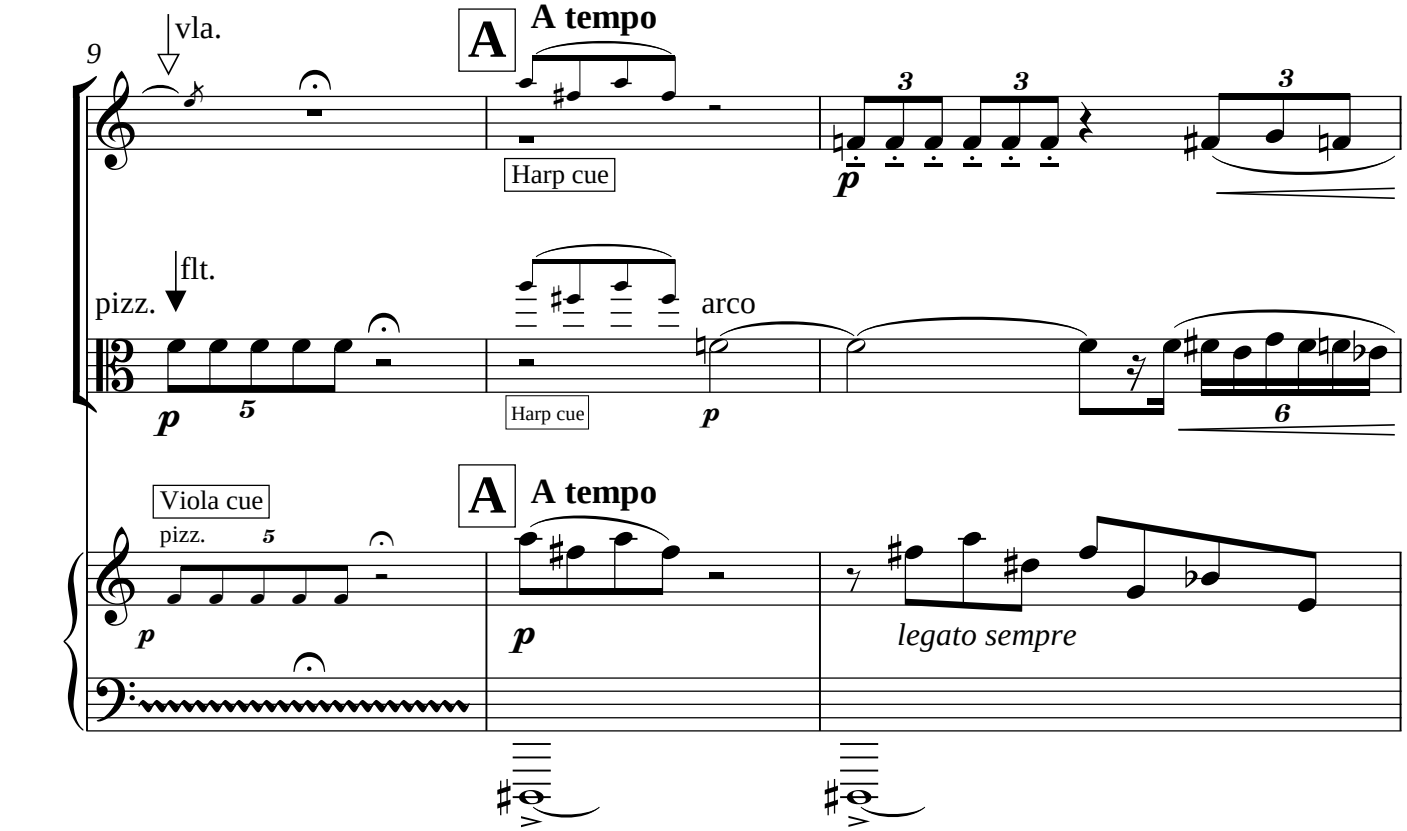
Echoes for a Phantom City was composed in 1985 and first performed in London at the church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields the following year by the Parke Ensemble; it was subsequently played quite extensively by the ensemble and was choreographed by Bridget Johnson for Cascando.

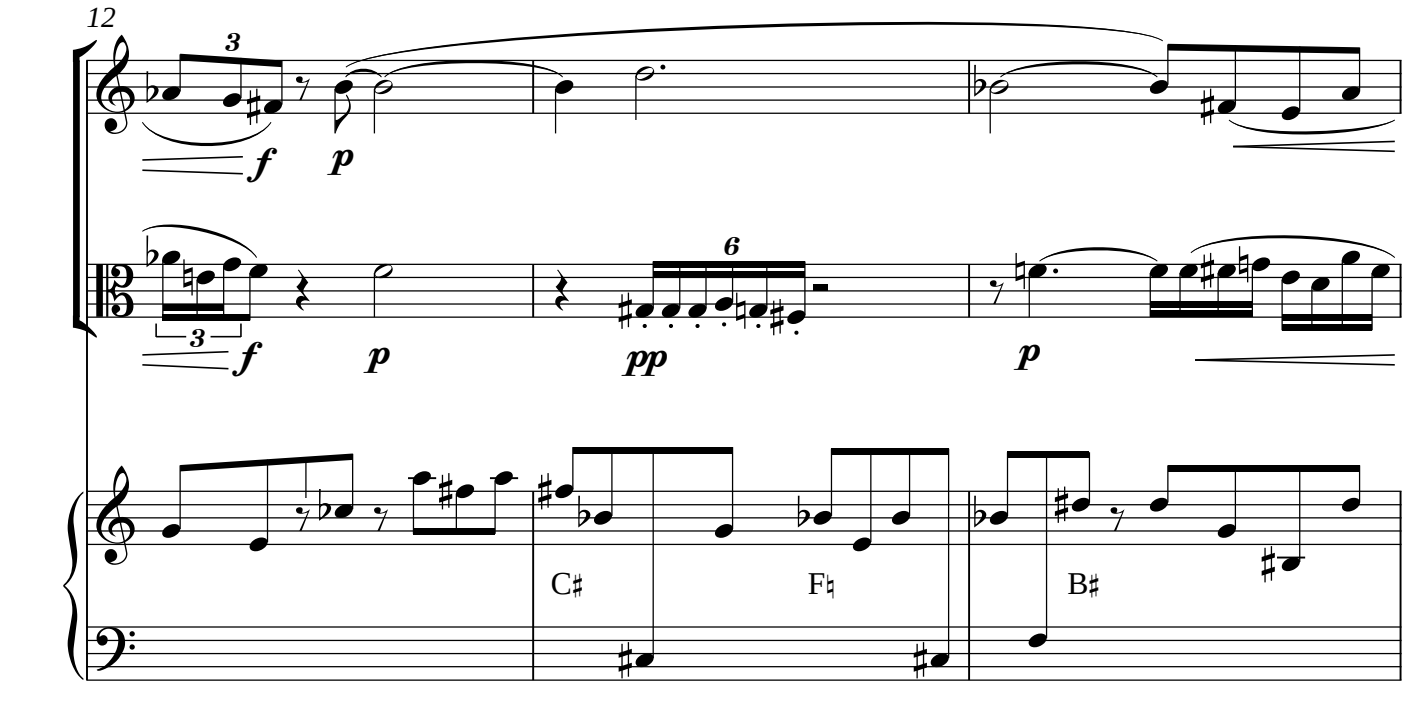
The title is derived from the novel by Alain Robbe-Grillet (Topology of a Phantom City) in which nothing is quite as it seems: the narrative is fragmented and is punctuated by violence, architectural detail and noir gestures, set in the context of a heavy atmosphere of ambiguity and displacement.

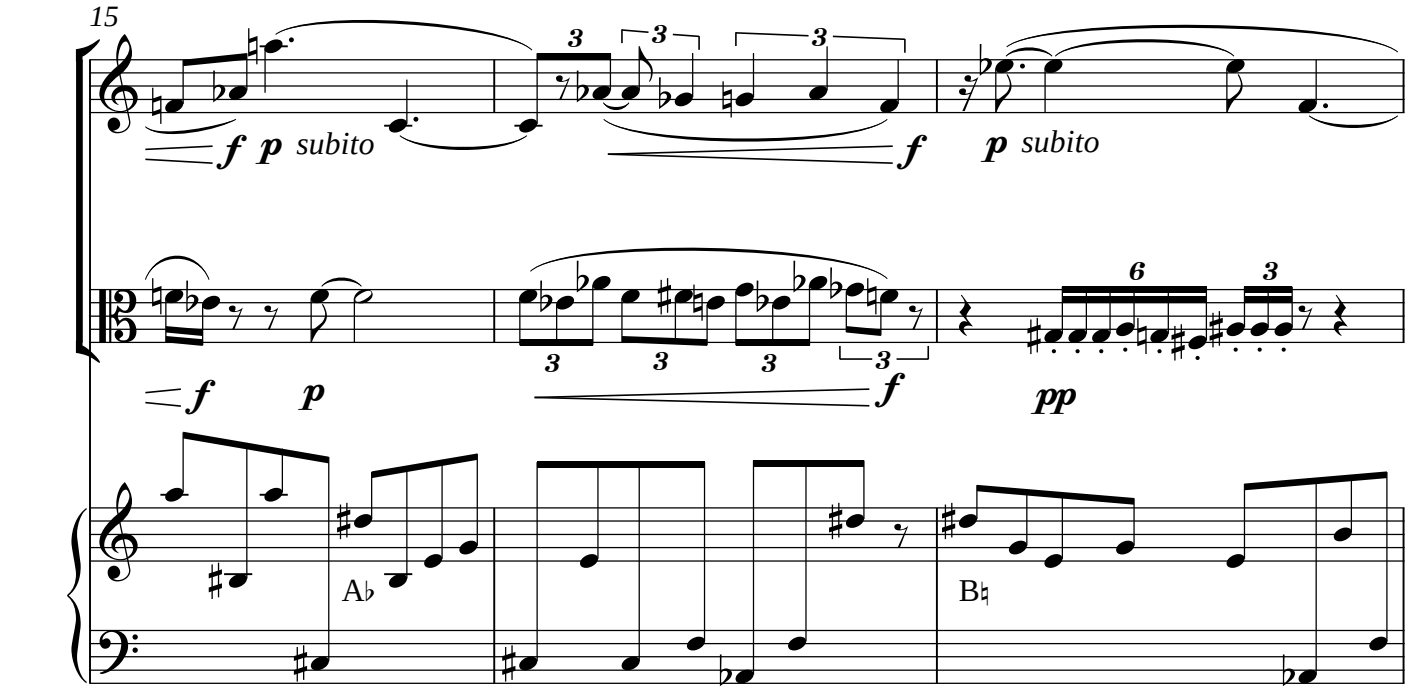
In my score the performers are required to cue one another extensively as if participating in some sort of arcane ritual – in fact the players are dependent upon these visual signals from one another in order to move through the music, and they determine the pace at which the music unfolds. My piece is built around cyclic patterns and repetition which hopefully suggest glimpses of a larger, three-dimensional structure in the background - Robbe-Grillet's fantasy architecture, perhaps - but since it can't ever be captured in its entirety we must rely on recollection and fading memory to recreate it in our minds.

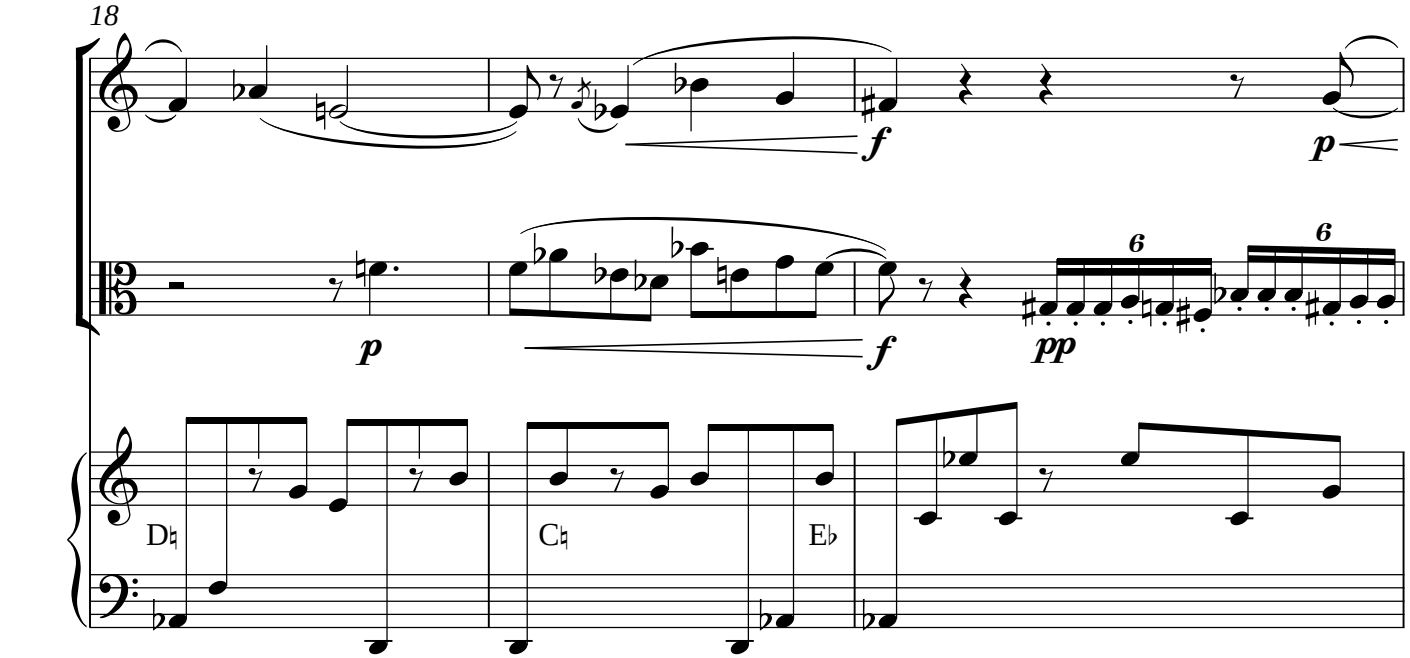
Echoes from a Phantom City

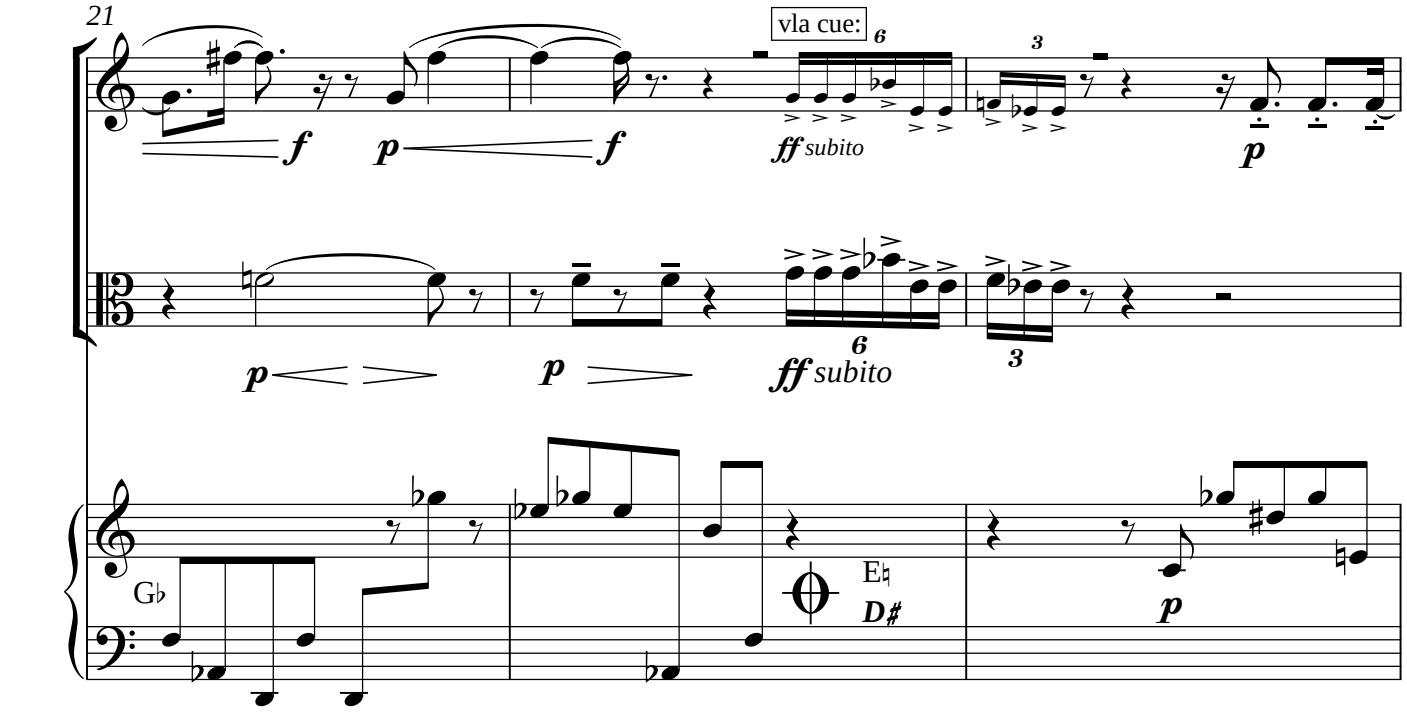


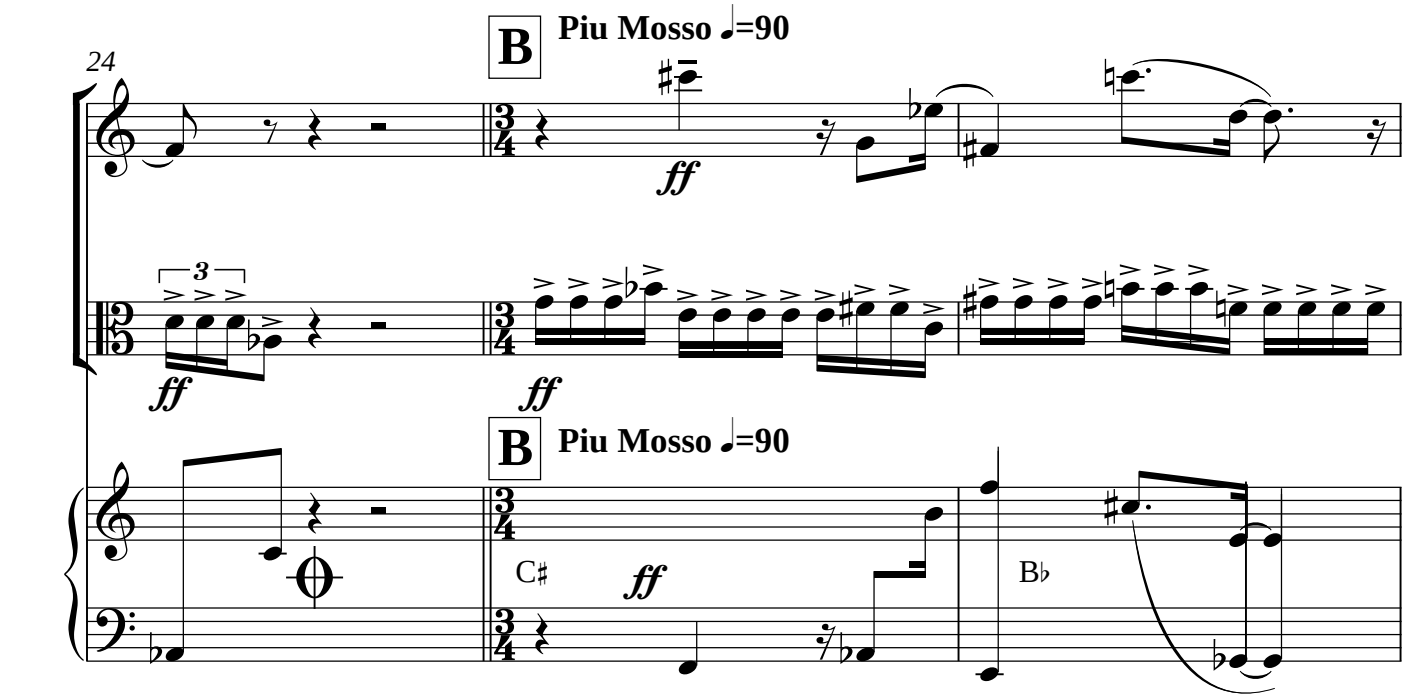

9
vla.
A
A tempo
Harp cue
pizz.
flt.
arco
Harp cue
Viola cue
pizz.
A
A tempo
legato sempre

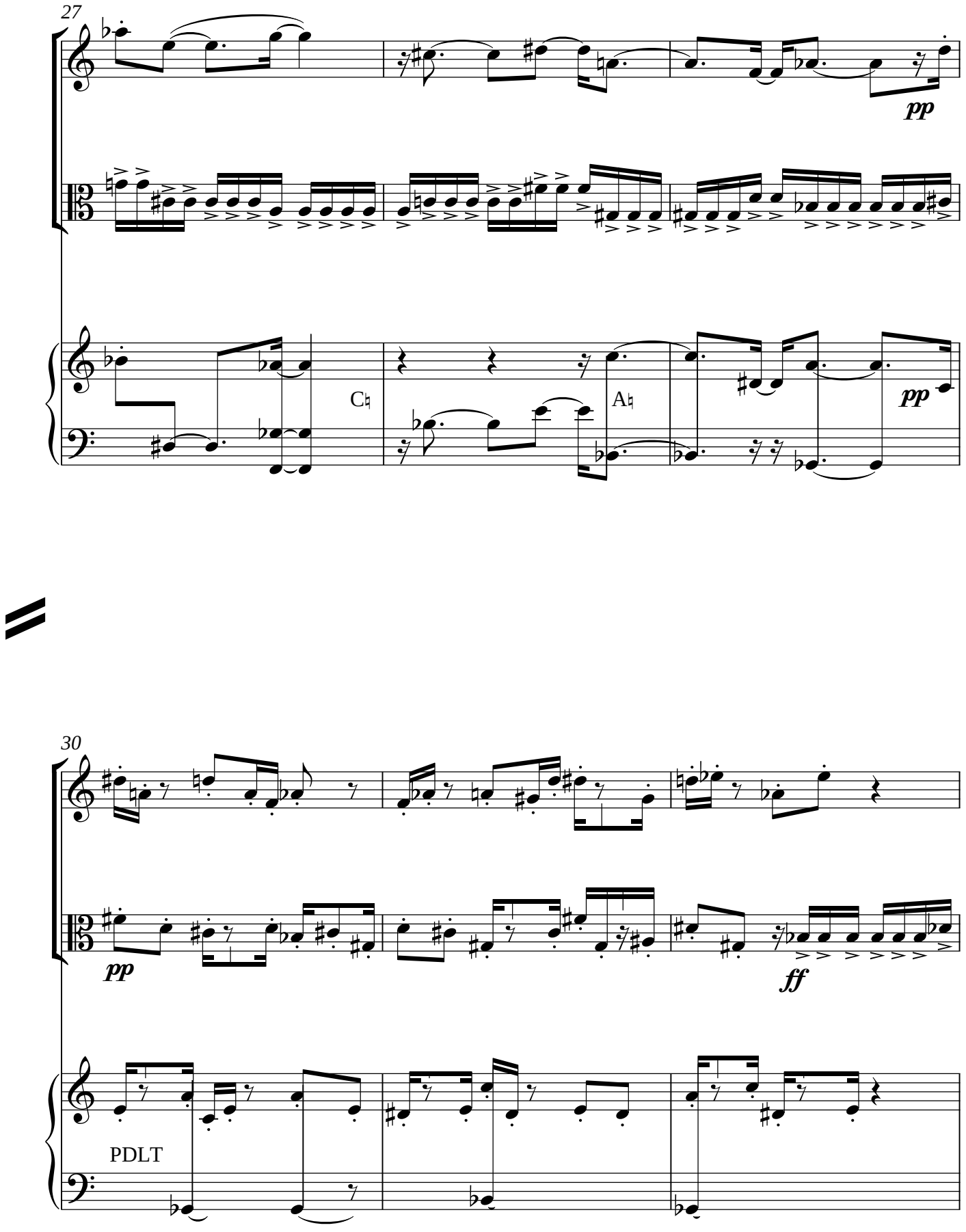

12
C♯
F♮
B♯

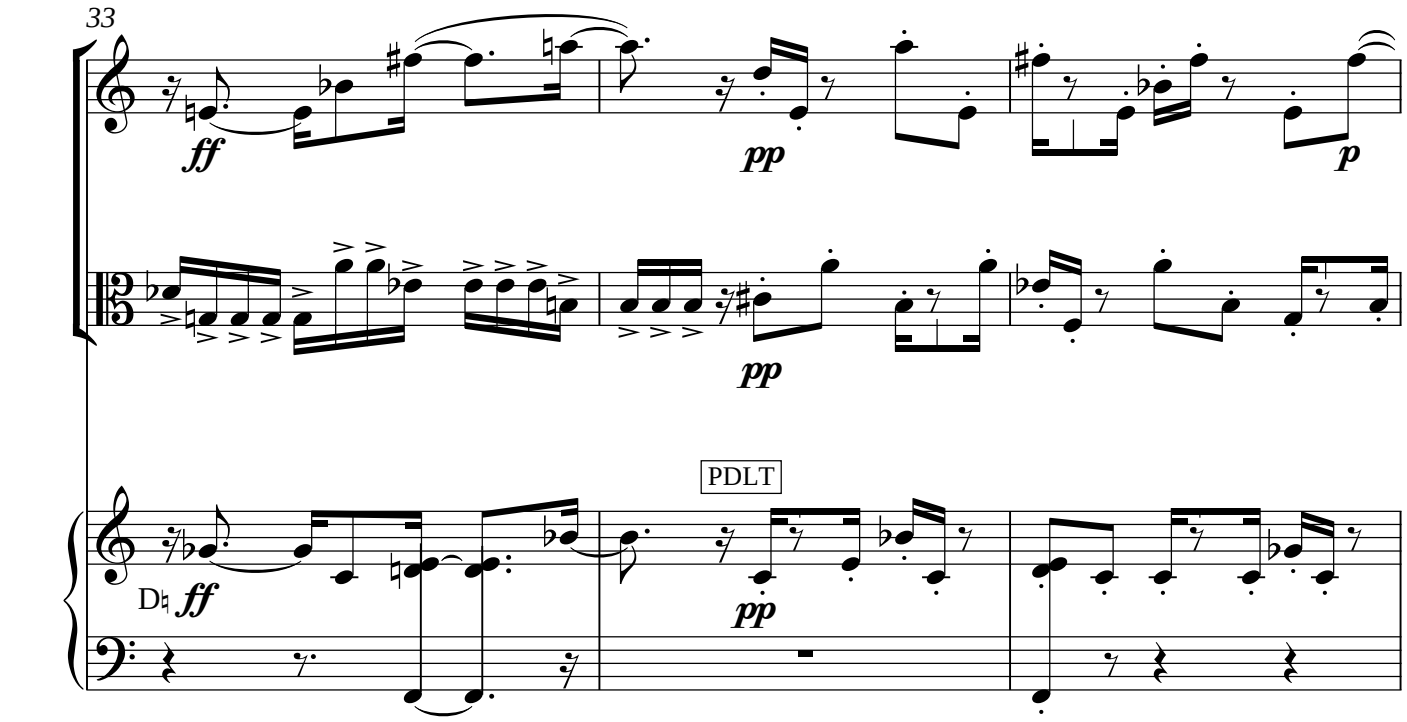

15
f p subito
f
p subito
f p
f
pp
A♭
B♮

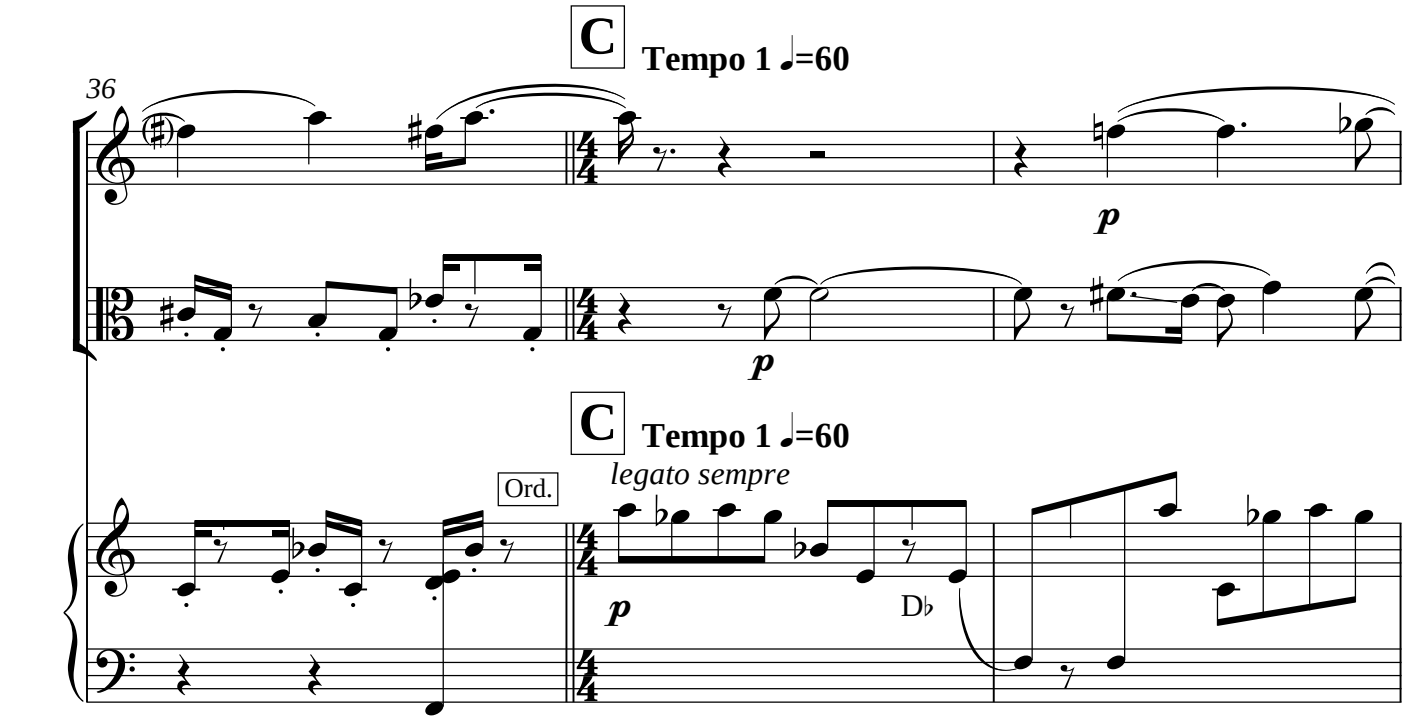

18
f
p
p
f
pp
D♮
C♮
E♭

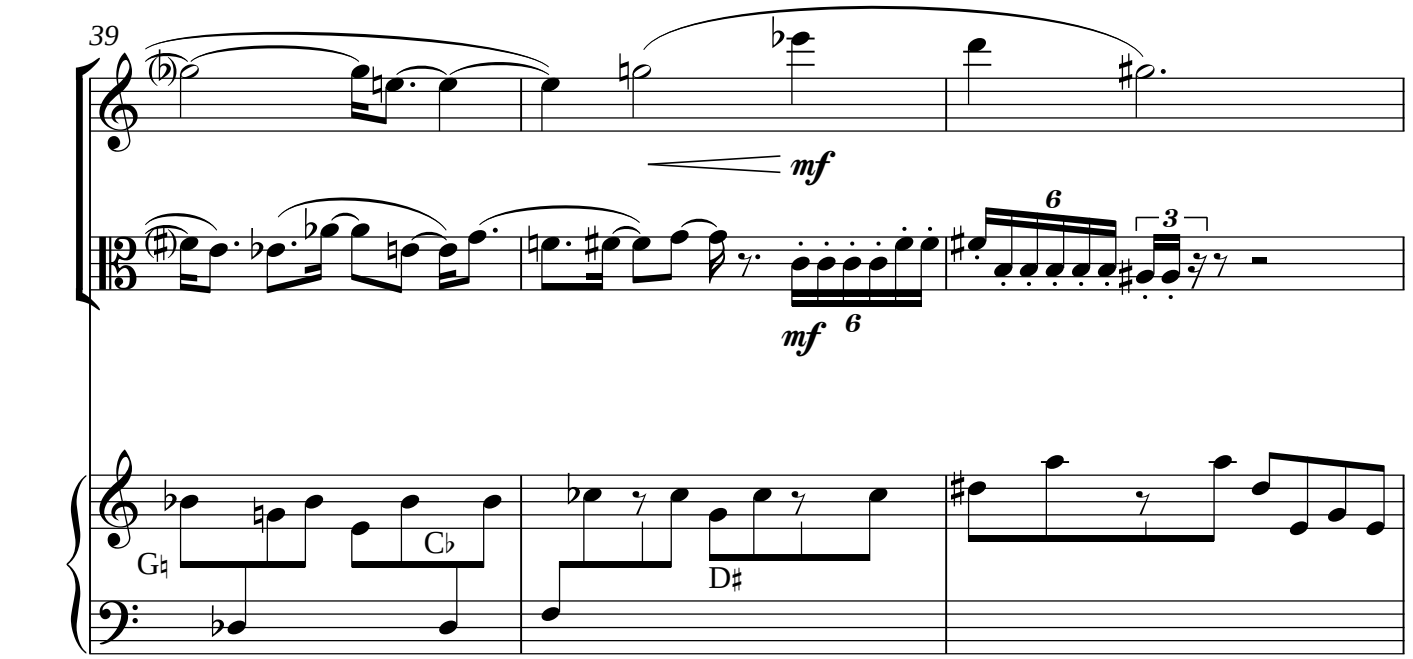

21
vla cue:
6
3
f
p
f
ff subito
p
p
p
ff subito
6
3
Gb
Eb
D#
p

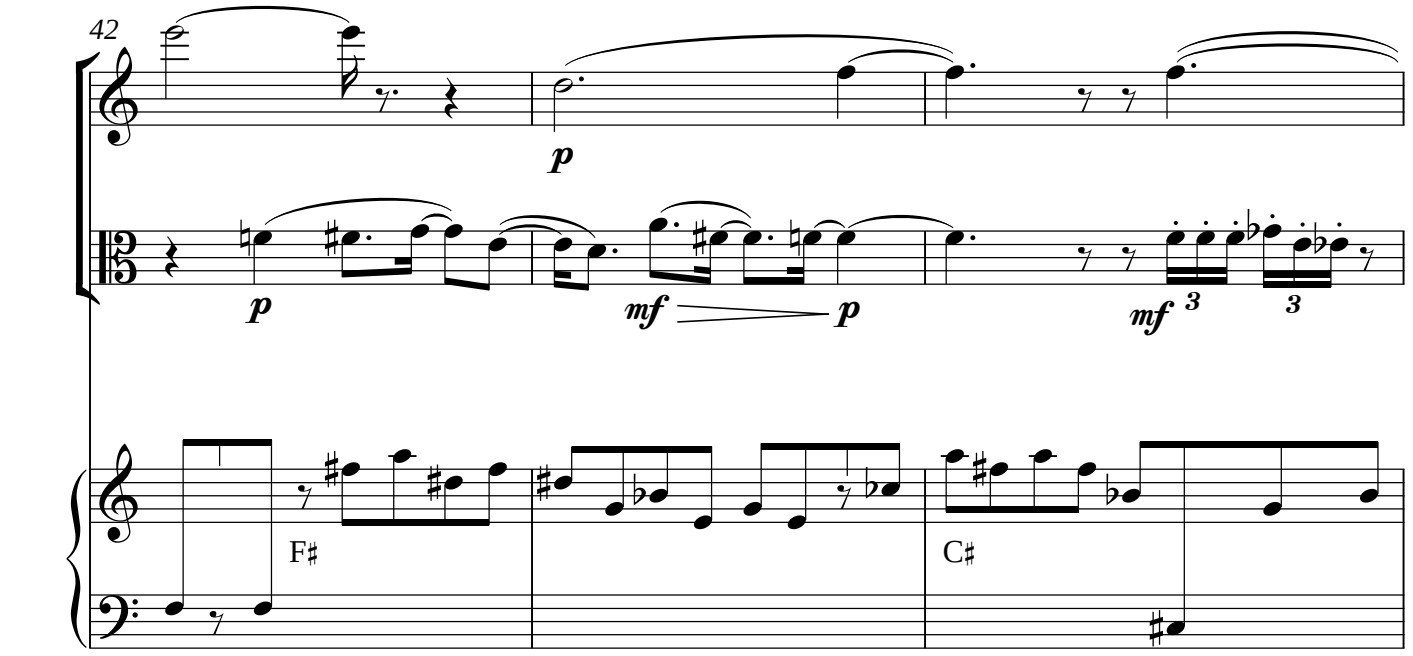

24
B
Piu Mosso ♩=90
ff
3
ff
ff
B
Piu Mosso ♩=90
C#
ff
Bb

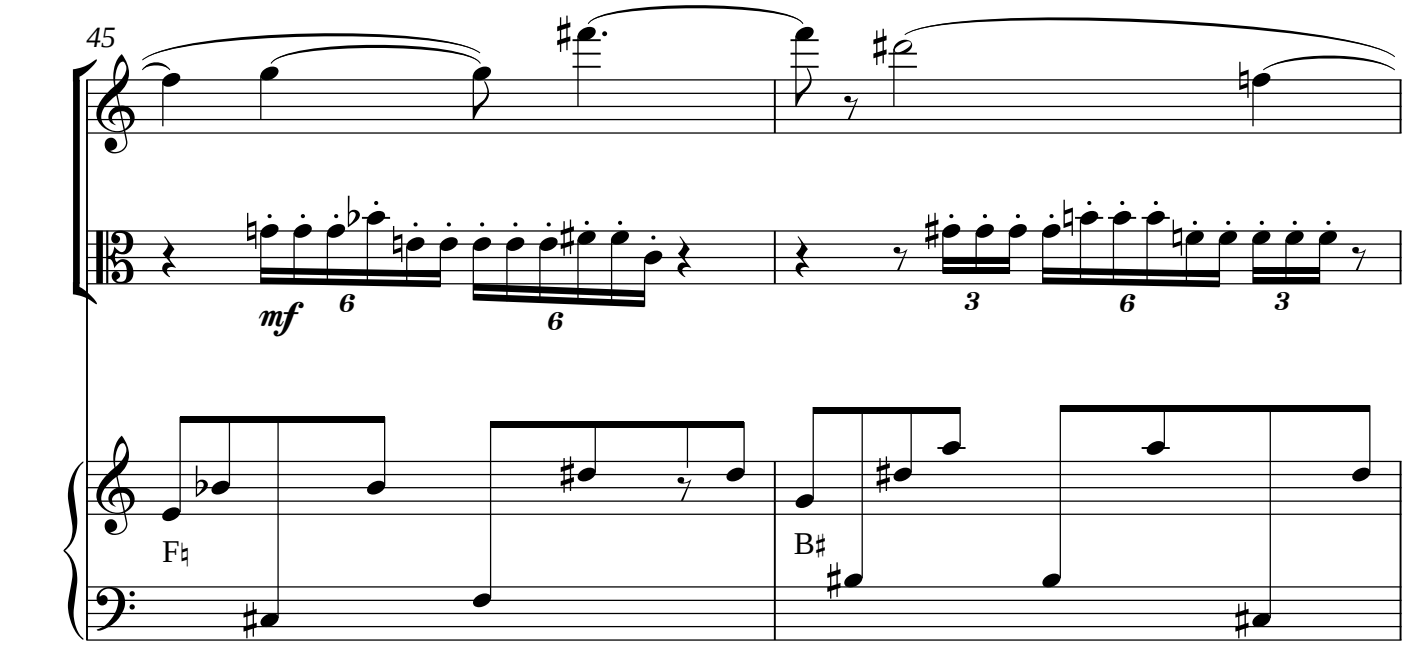

27
pp
C♮
A♮
pp
30
pp
ff
PDLT

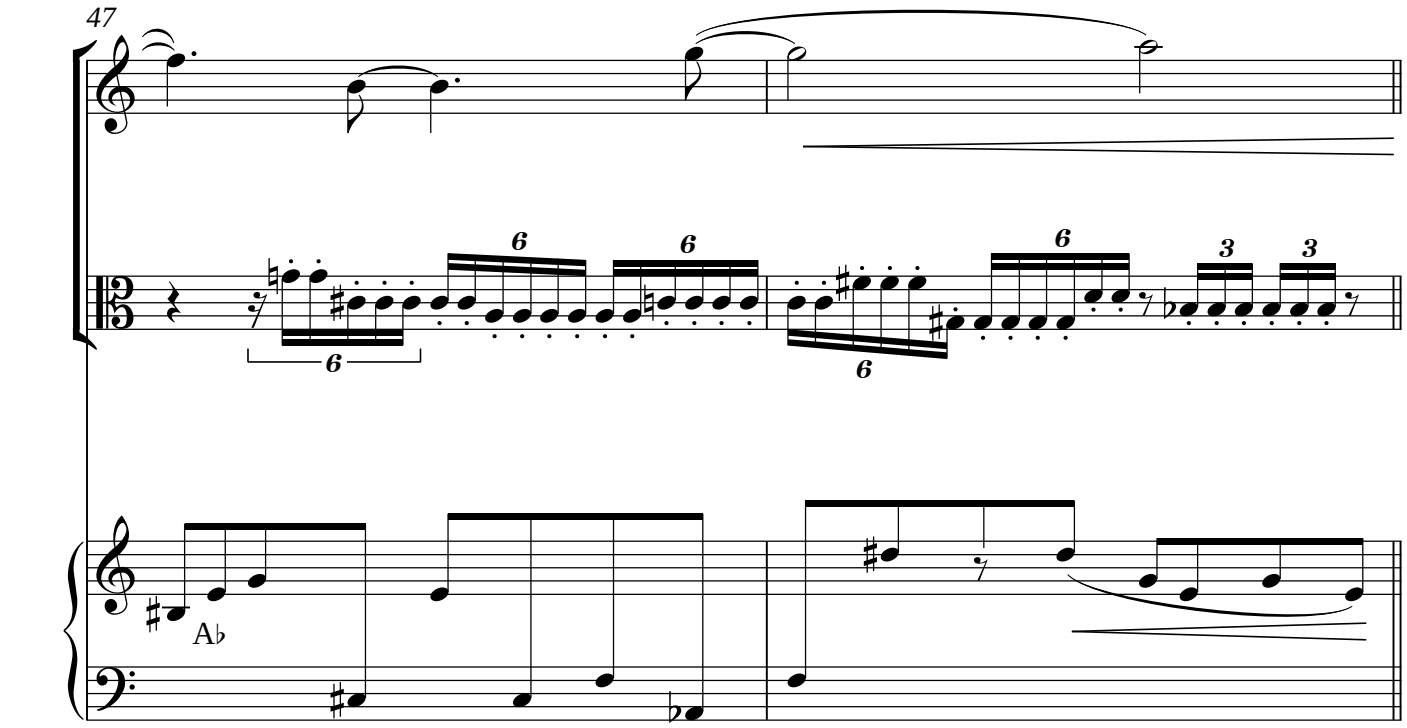

33
ff
pp
p
pp
PDLT
D♮ ff
pp

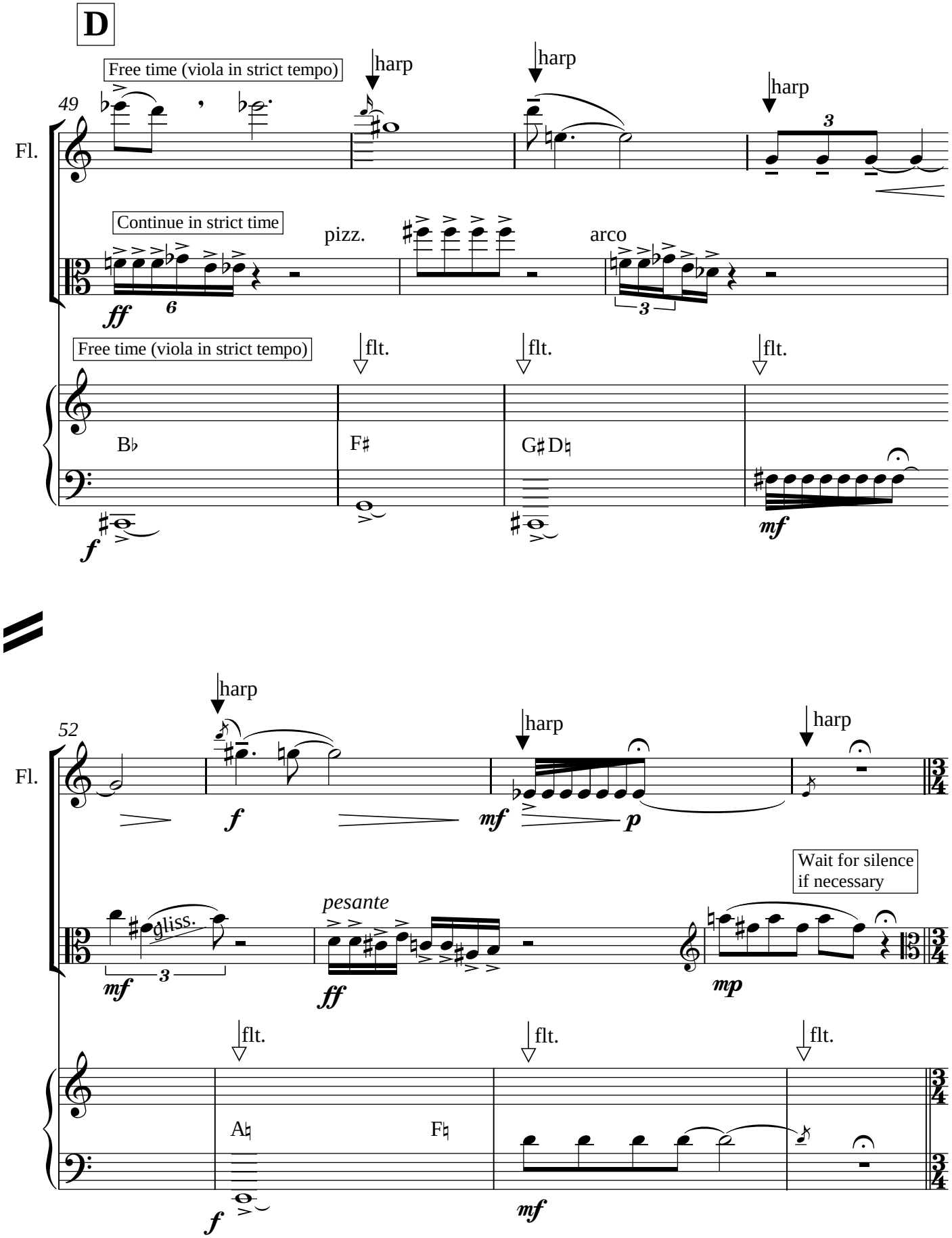

C
Tempo 1 ♩=60
36
p
p
C
Tempo 1 ♩=60
legato sempre
Ord.
p
D♭

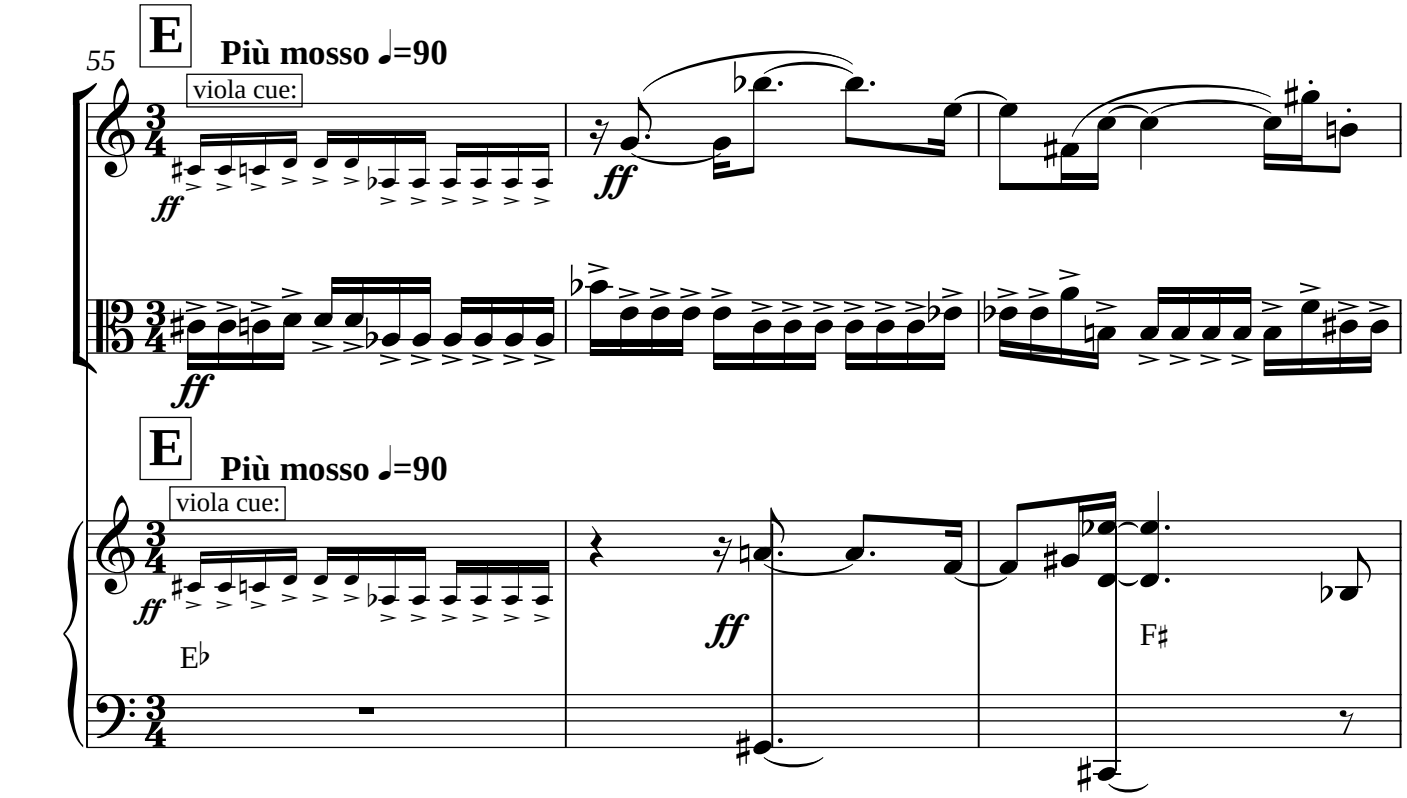

39
mf
6
mf
6
3
G♮
C♭
D♯

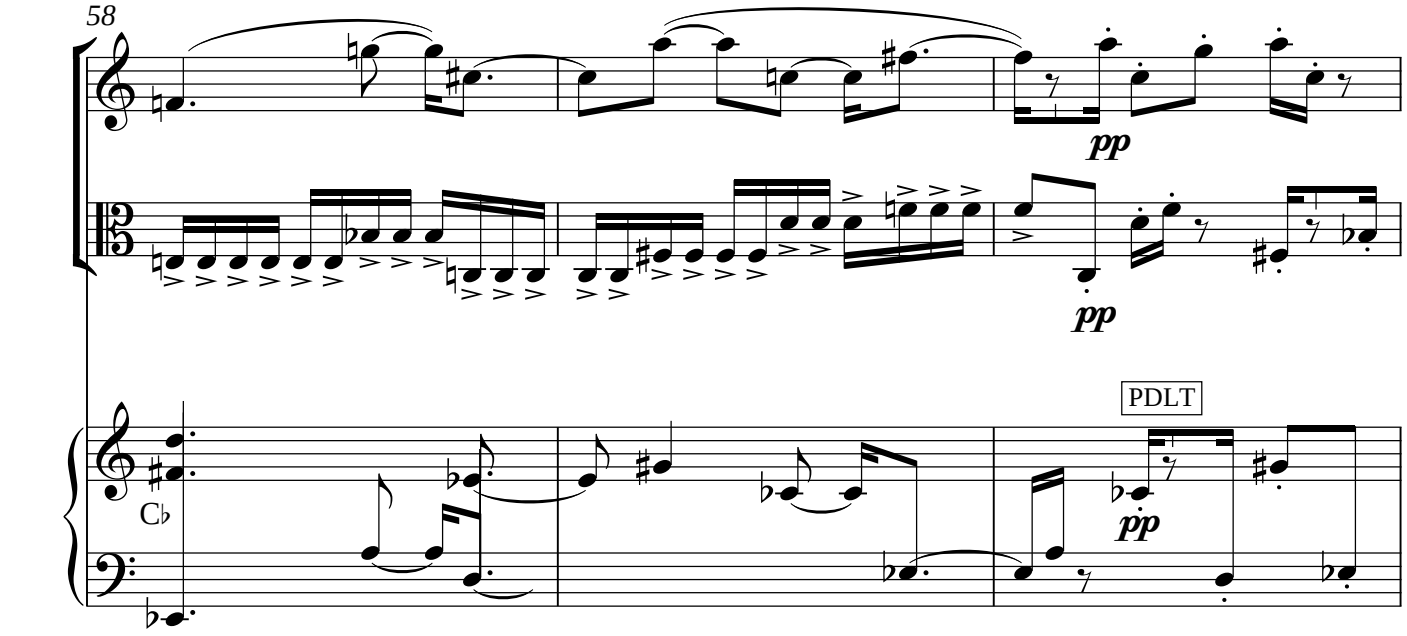

42
p
p
mf
p
mf
3
3
F♯
C♯

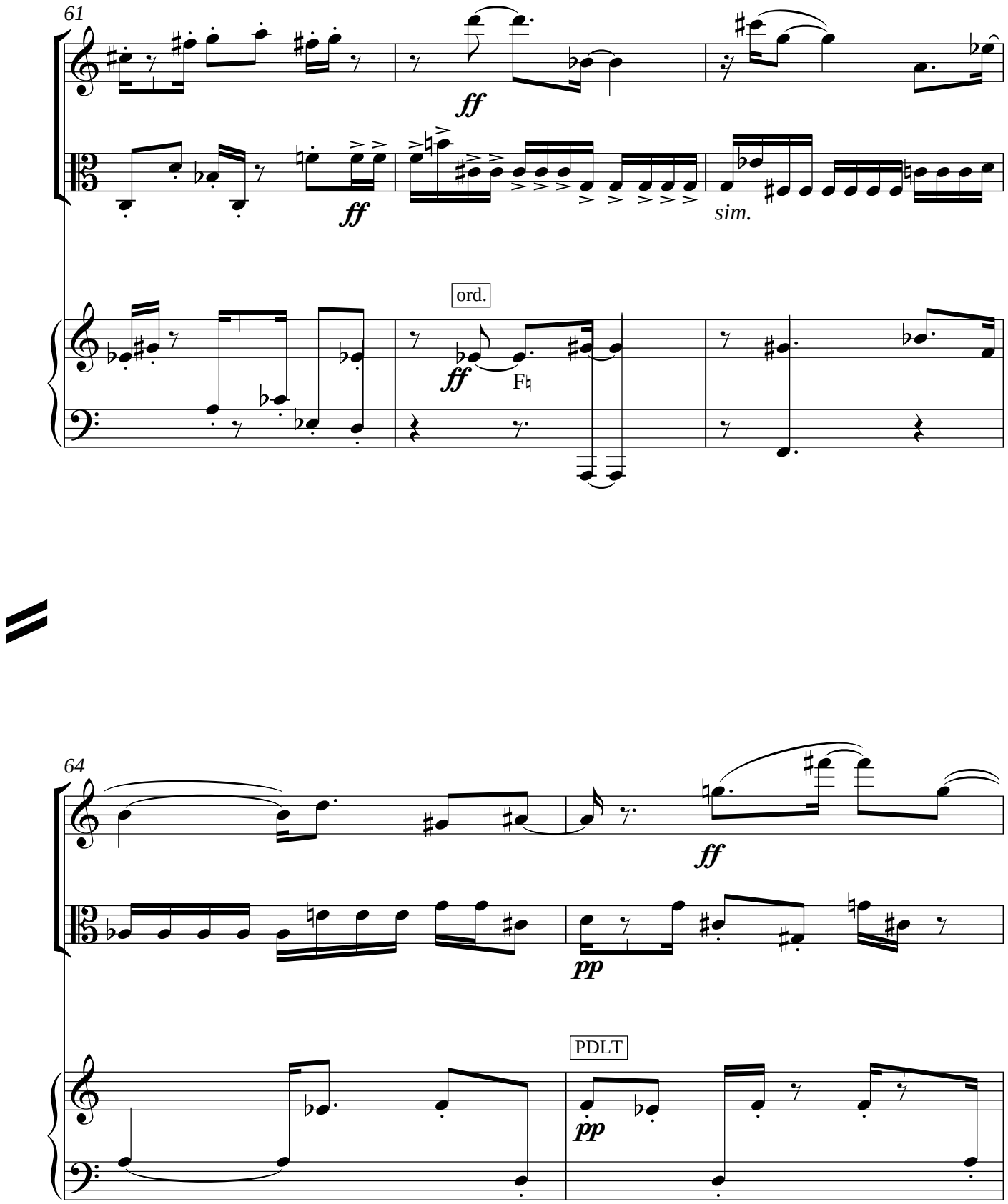

45
mf
6
6
3
6
3
F♮
B♯

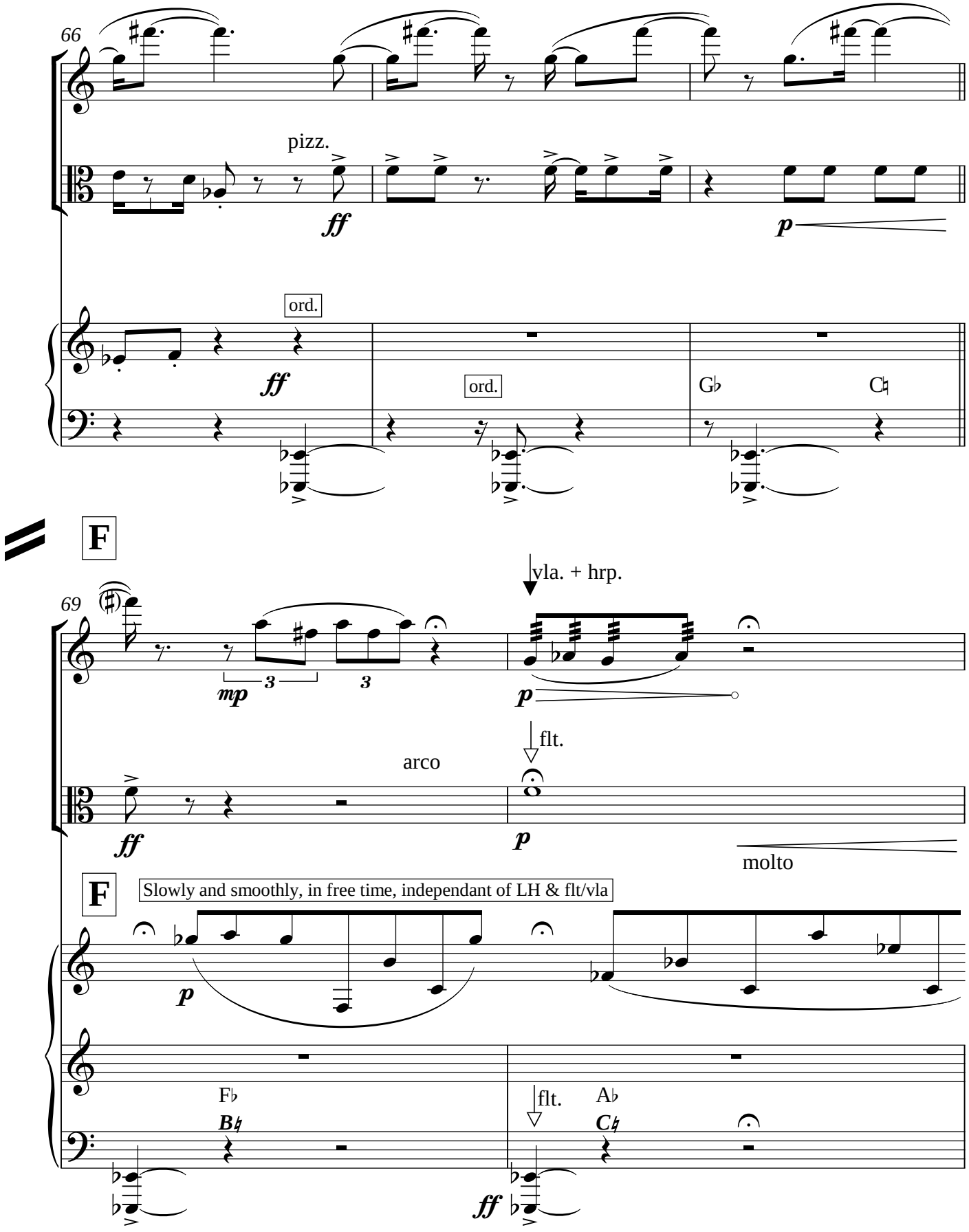

47
6
6
6
6
3
3
A♭

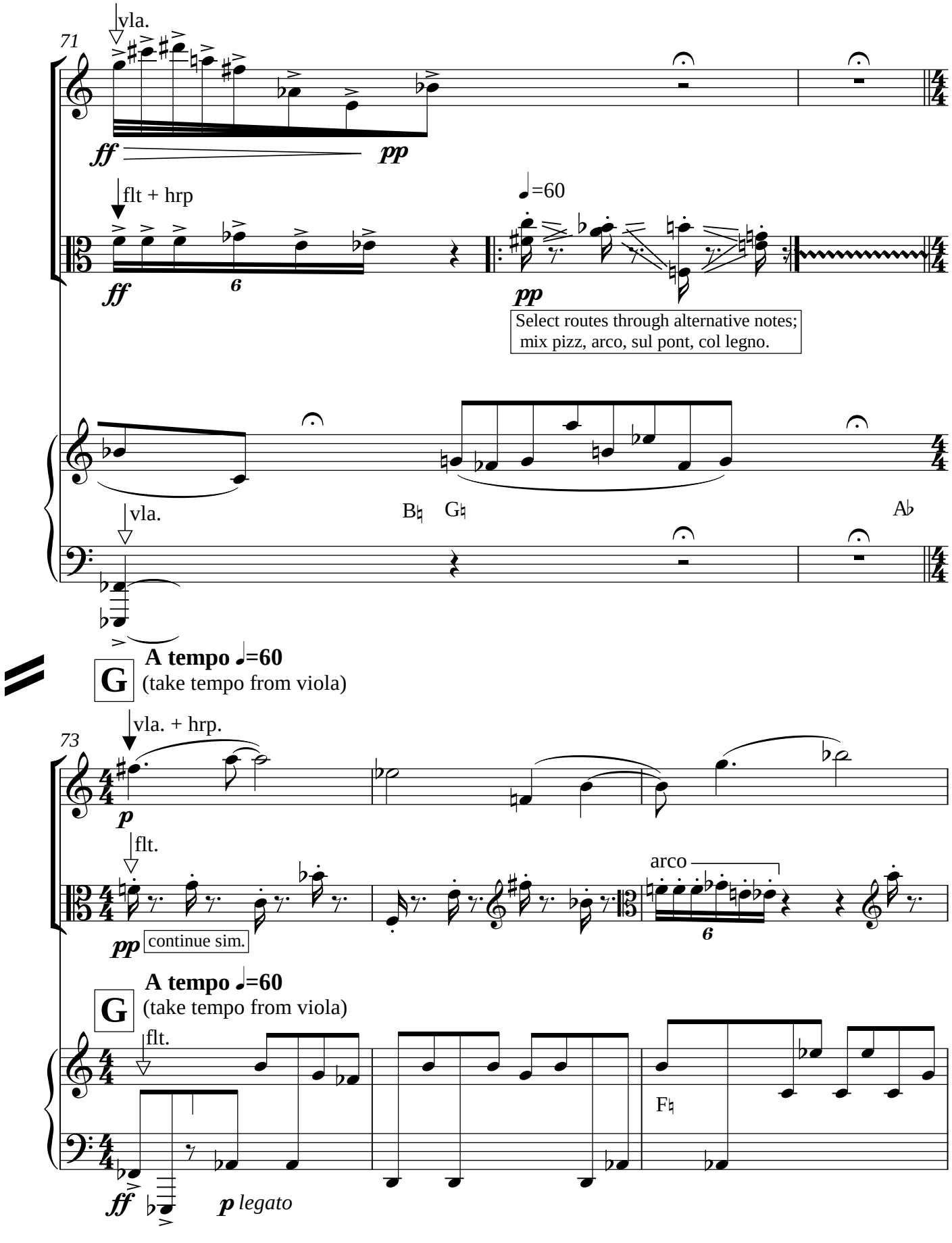

D
Free time (viola in strict tempo)
harp
harp
harp
49
Fl.
Continue in strict time
pizz.
arco
ff
Free time (viola in strict tempo)
flt.
flt.
flt.
B♭
F♯
G♯ D♮
f
mf
52
Fl.
harp
harp
harp
f
mf
p
Wait for silence
if necessary
gliss.
pesante
mf
ff
mp
flt.
flt.
flt.
A♮
F♮
f
mf

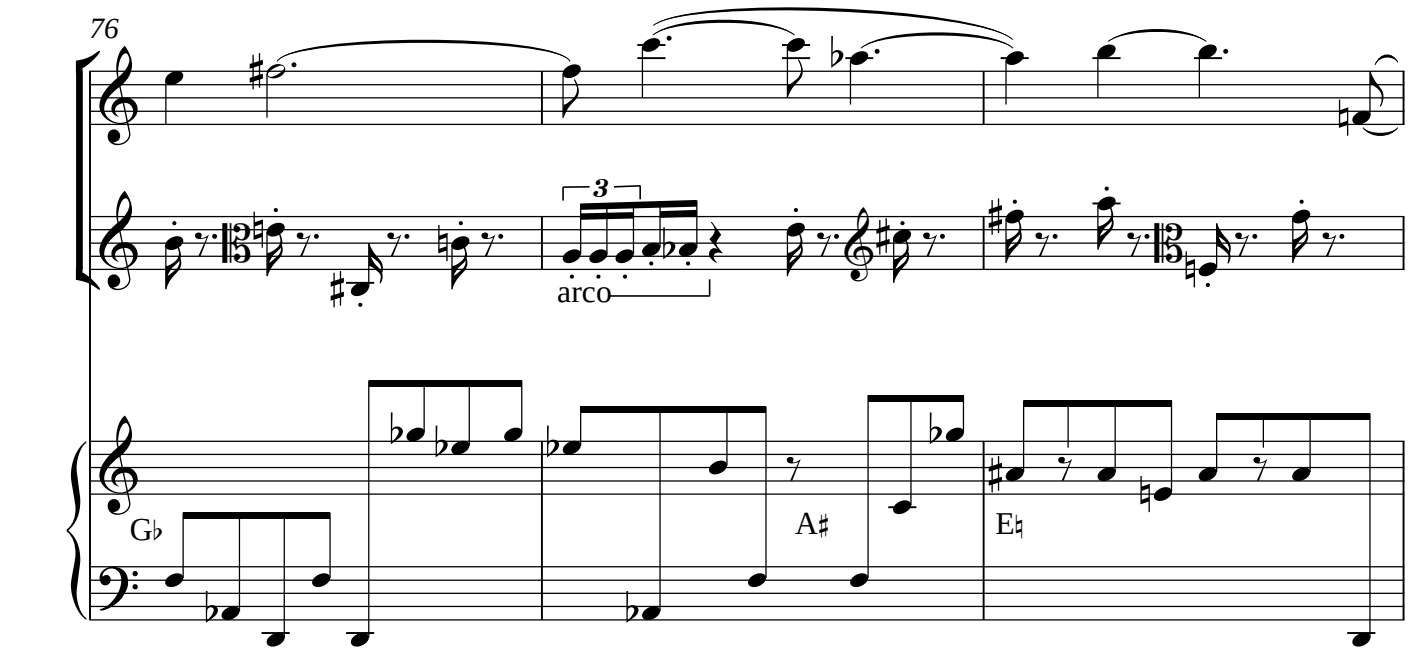

55
E
Più mosso ♩=90
viola cue:
ff
ff
E
Più mosso ♩=90
viola cue:
ff
E♭
ff
F♯

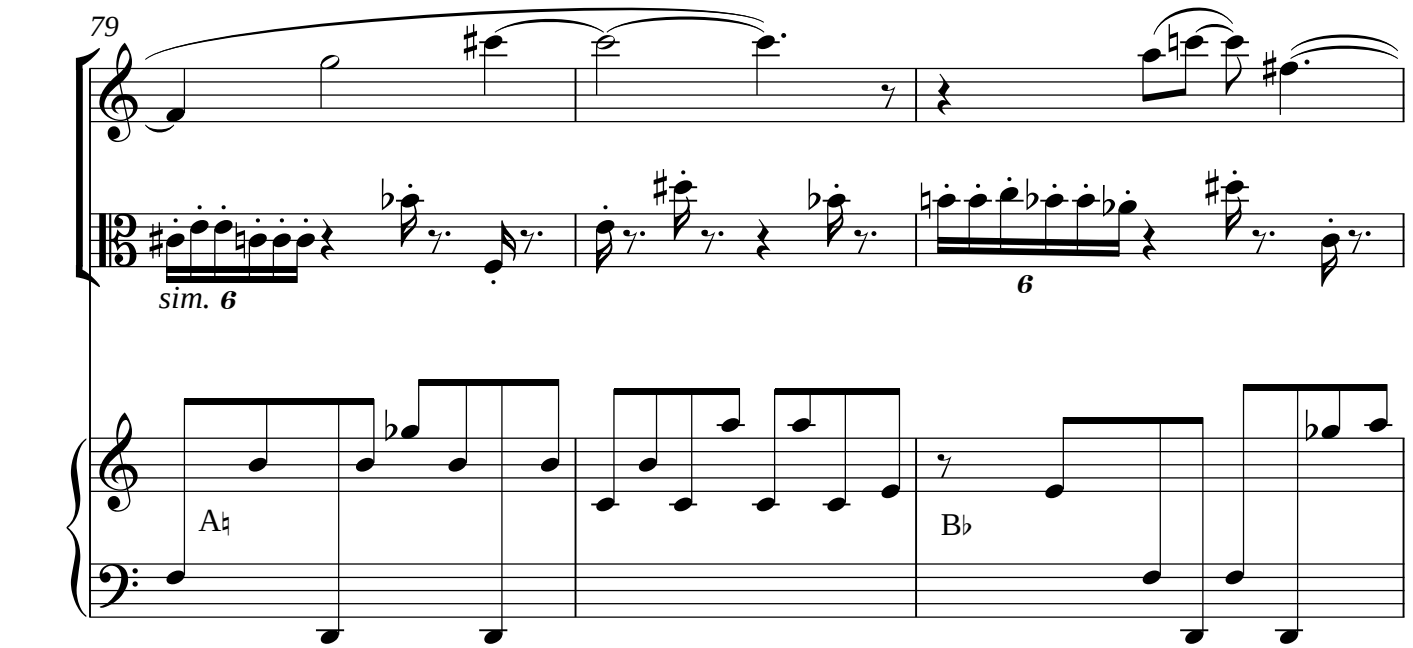

58
pp
pp
PDLT
C♭
pp

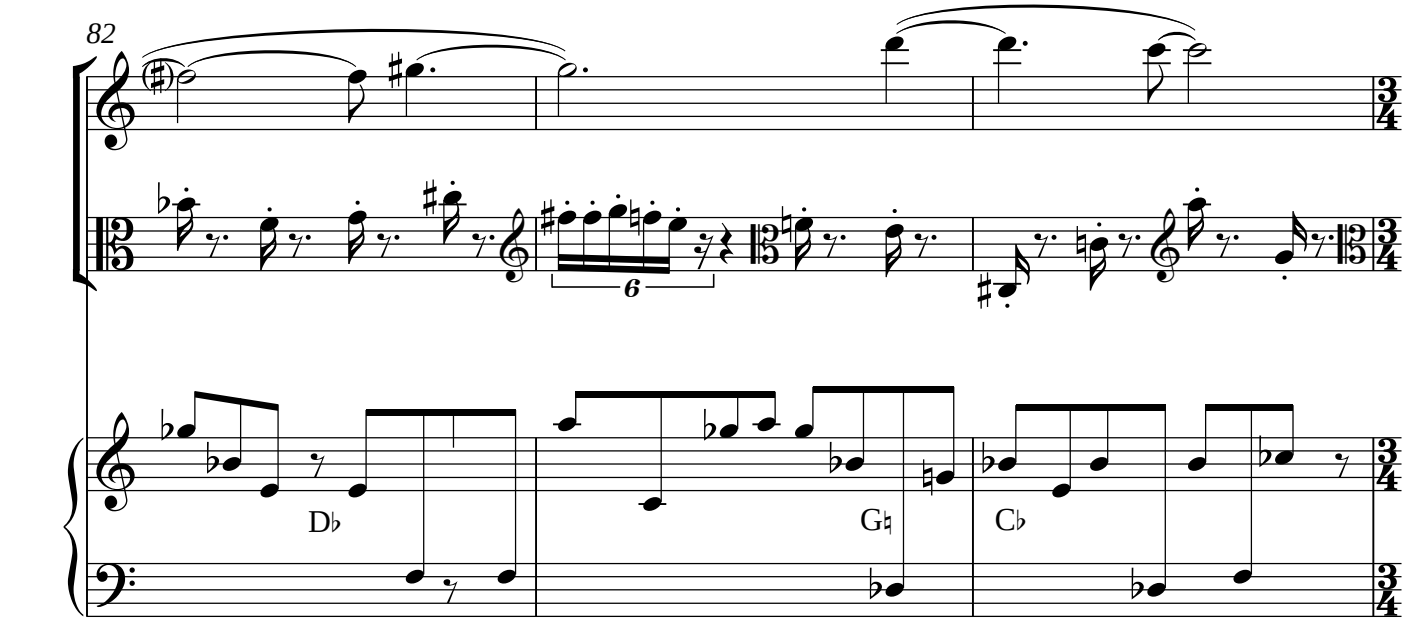

61
ff
ff
sim.
ord.
ff
F♮
64
ff
pp
PDLT
pp

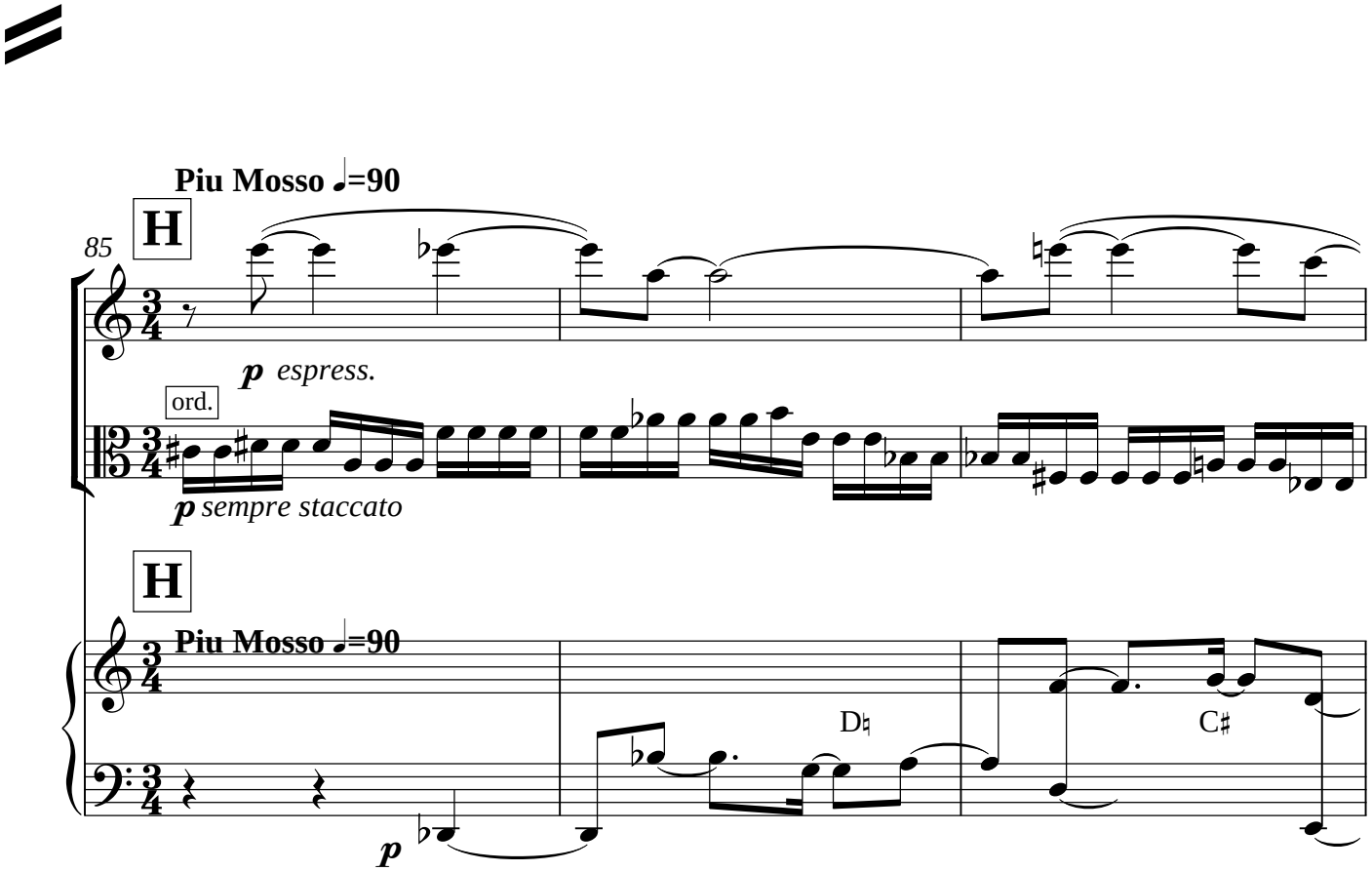

66
pizz.
ff
p
ord.
ff
ord.
G♭
C♮
F
69
vla. + hrp.
mp
3
3
p
flt.
arco
ff
p
molto
F
Slowly and smoothly, in free time, independant of LH & flt/vla
p
F♭
B♮
flt.
A♭
C♮
ff

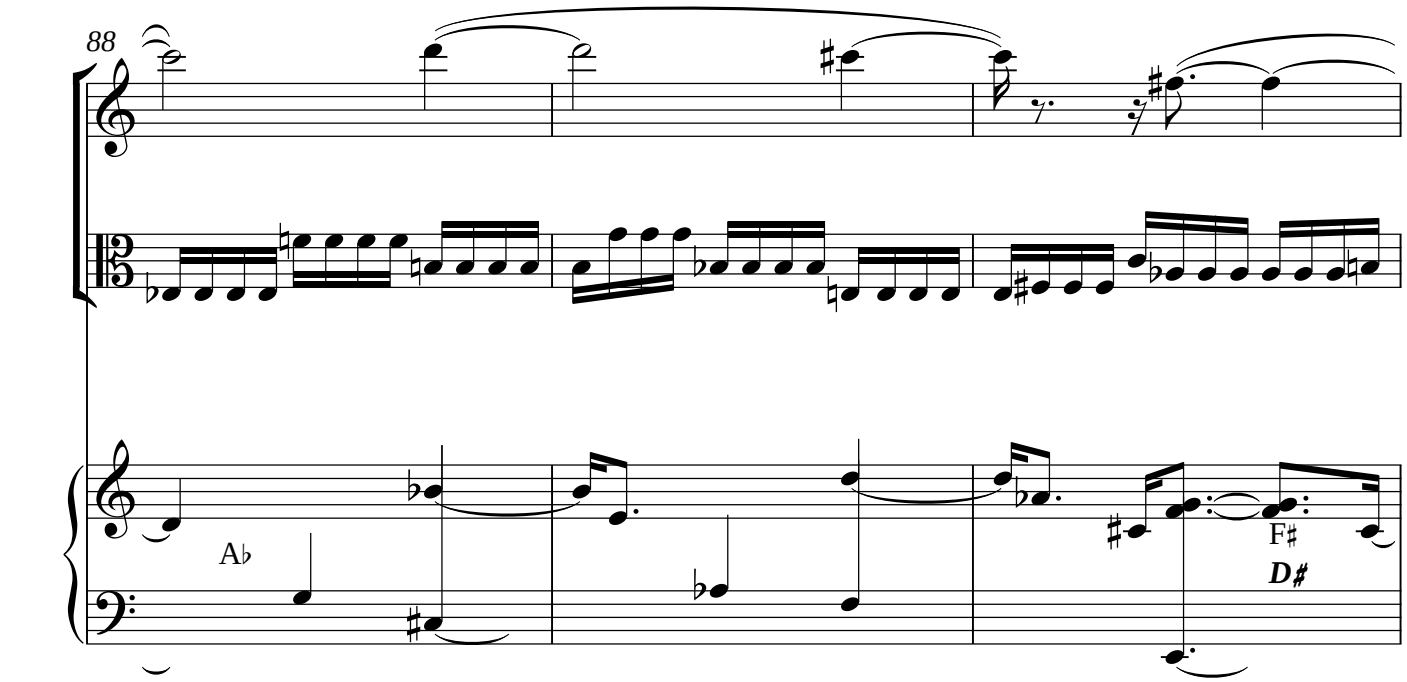

71
vla.
ff
pp
flt + hrp
ff
6
♩=60
pp
Select routes through alternative notes;
mix pizz, arco, sul pont, col legno.
B♮
G♮
A♭
vla.
G
A tempo ♩=60
(take tempo from viola)
73
vla. + hrp.
p
flt.
pp
continue sim.
arco
6
G
A tempo ♩=60
(take tempo from viola)
flt.
F♮
ff
p legato

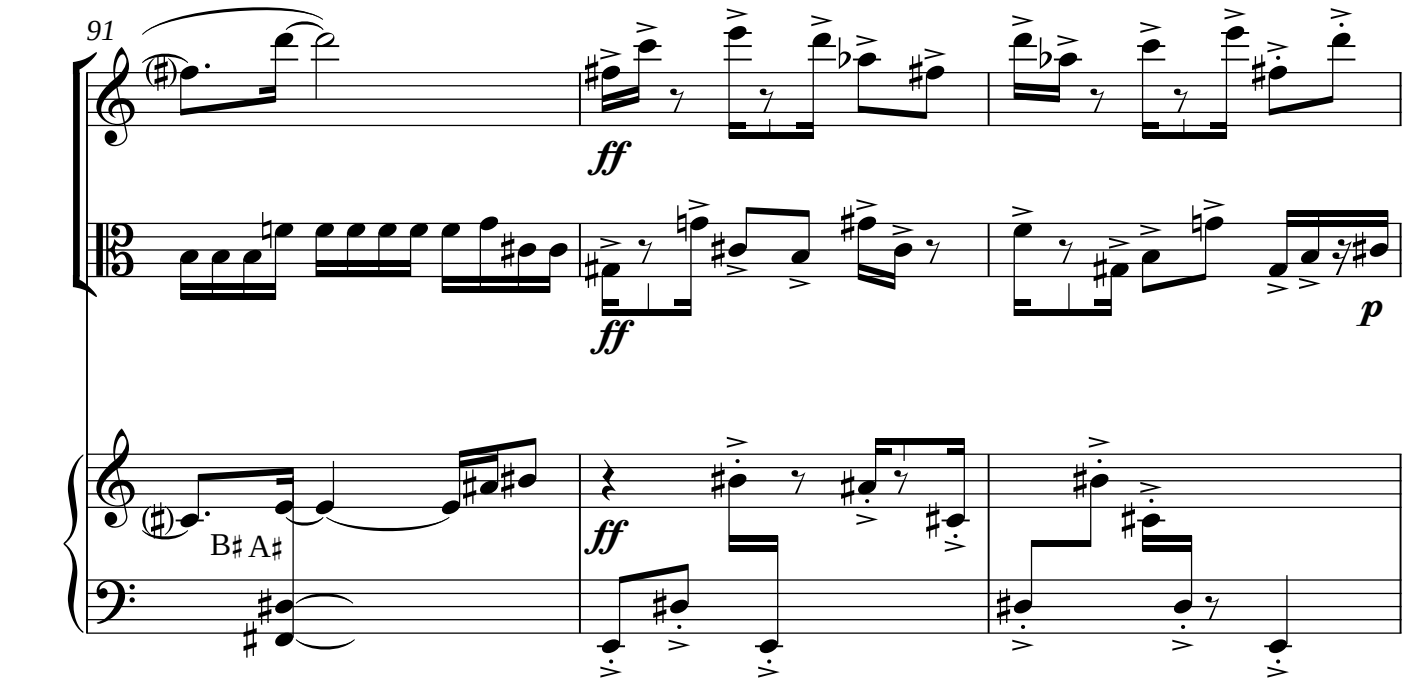

76
3
arco
G♭
A♯
E♮

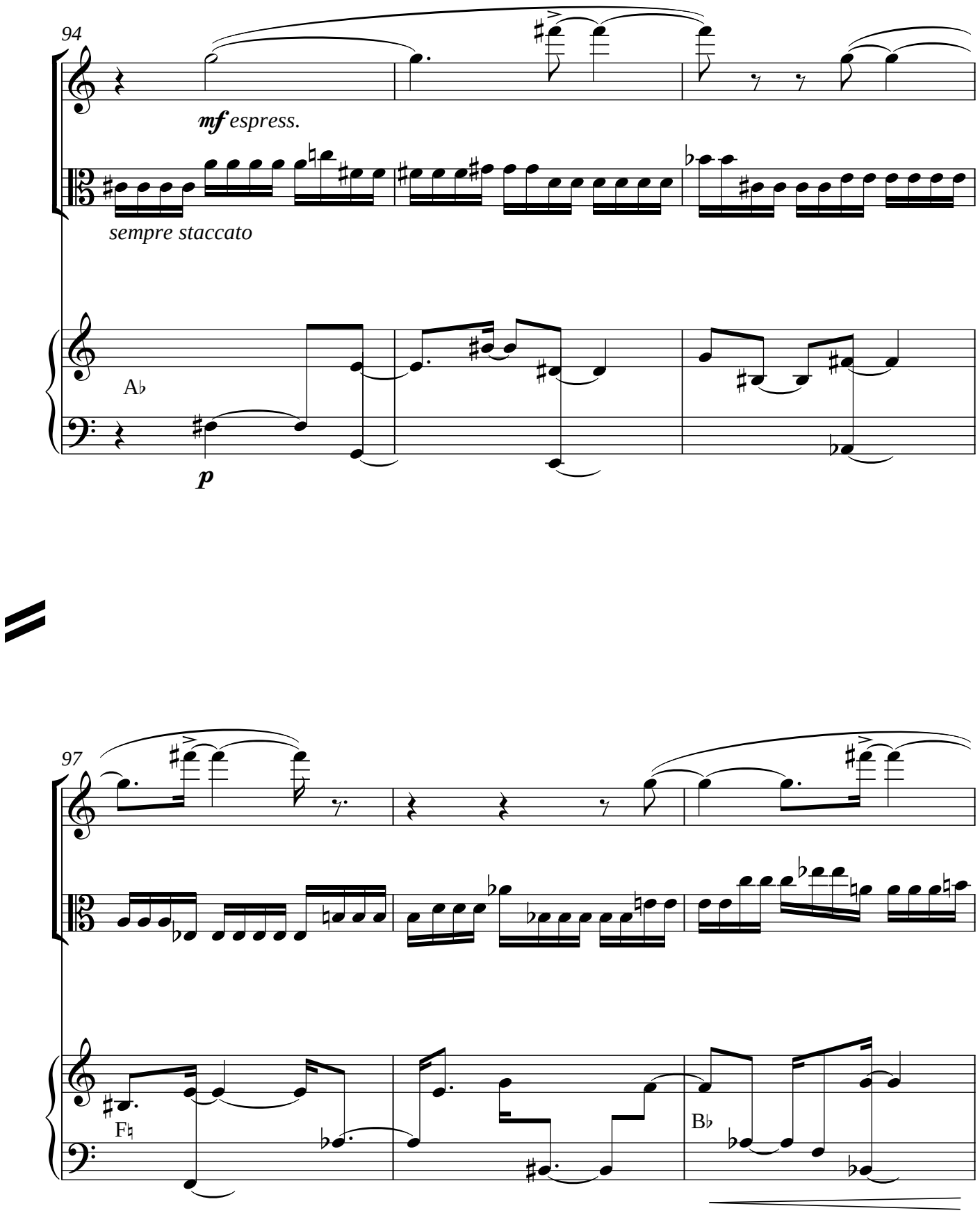

79
sim. 6
6
A♮
B♭

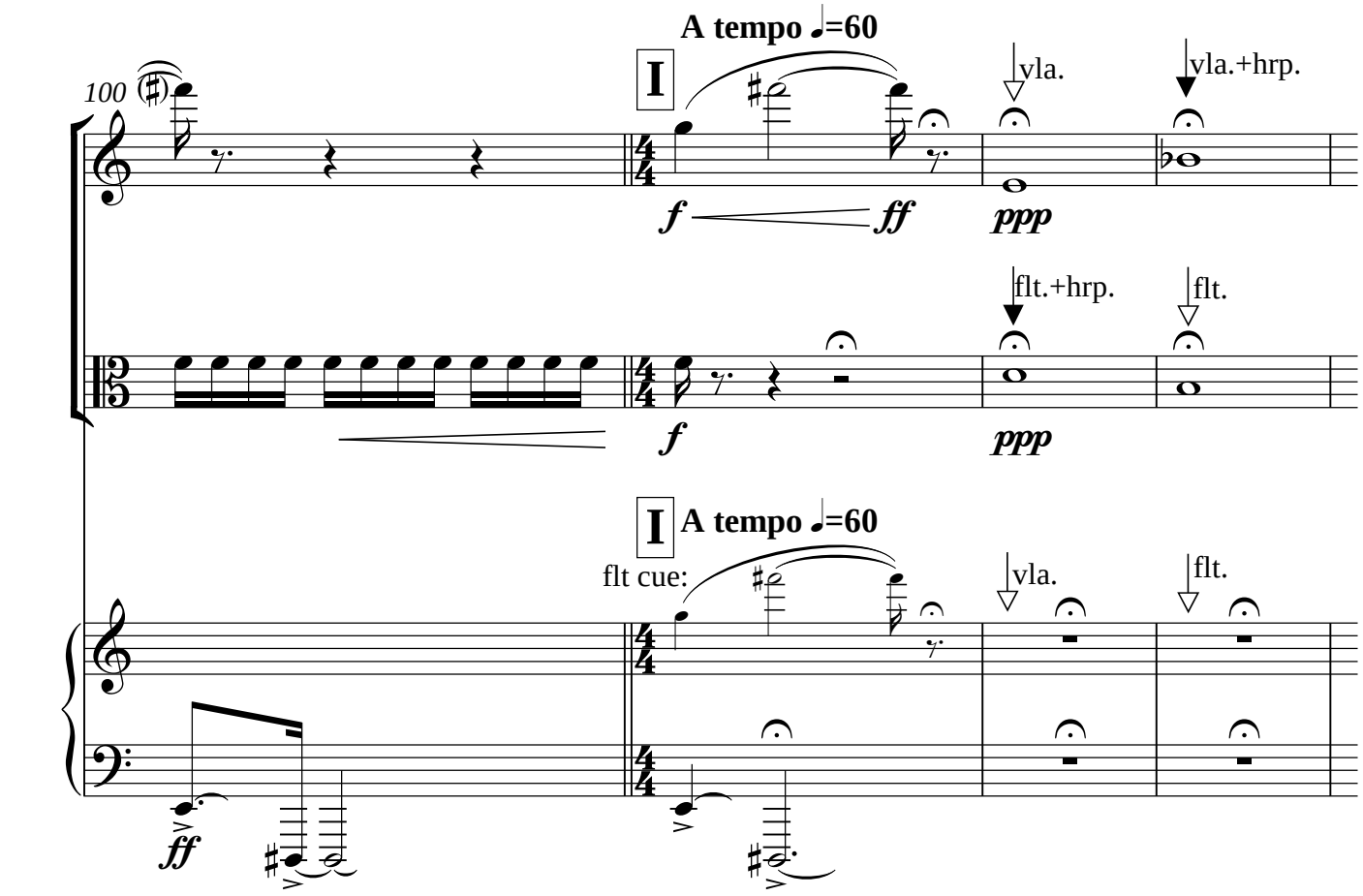

82
D♭
G♮
C♭

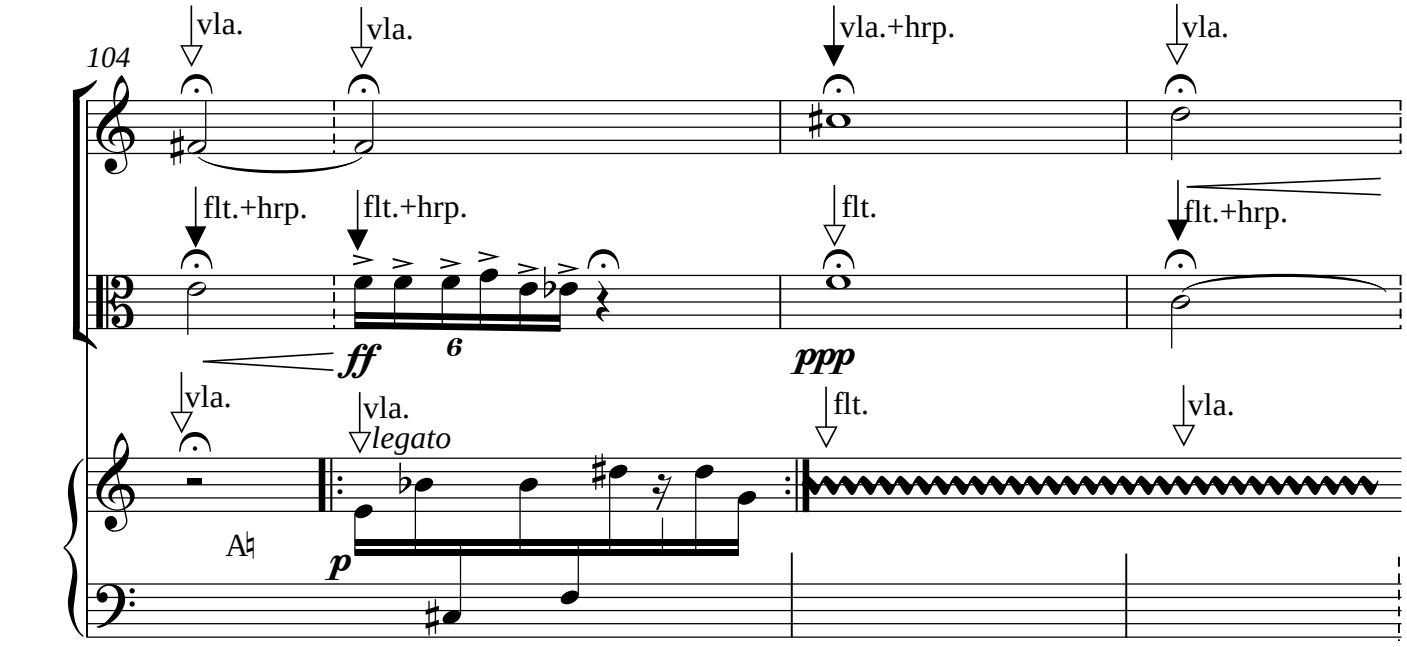

Piu Mosso ♩=90
H
85
p espress.
ord.
p sempre staccato
H
Piu Mosso ♩=90
D♮
C♯
p

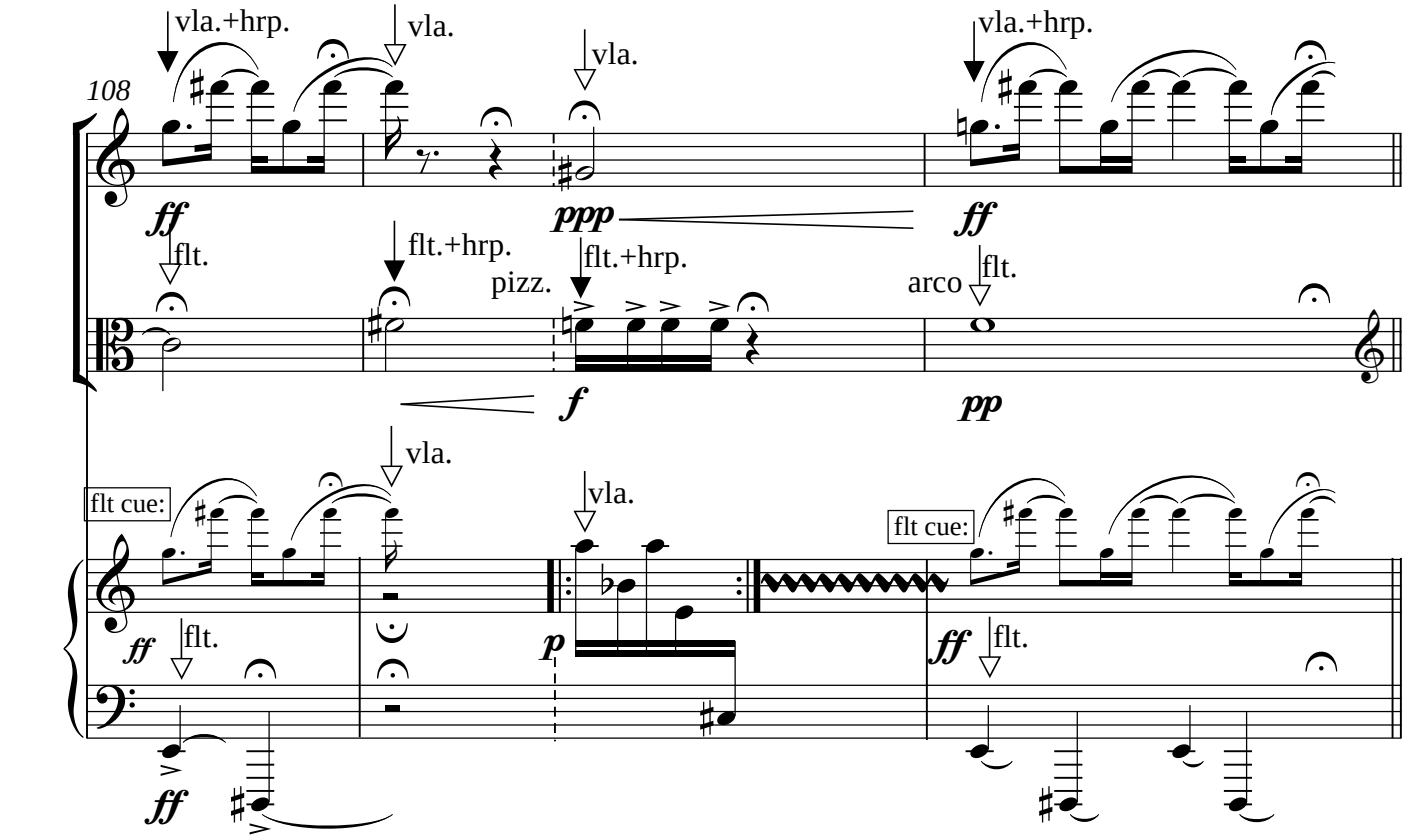

88
A♭
F♯
D♯

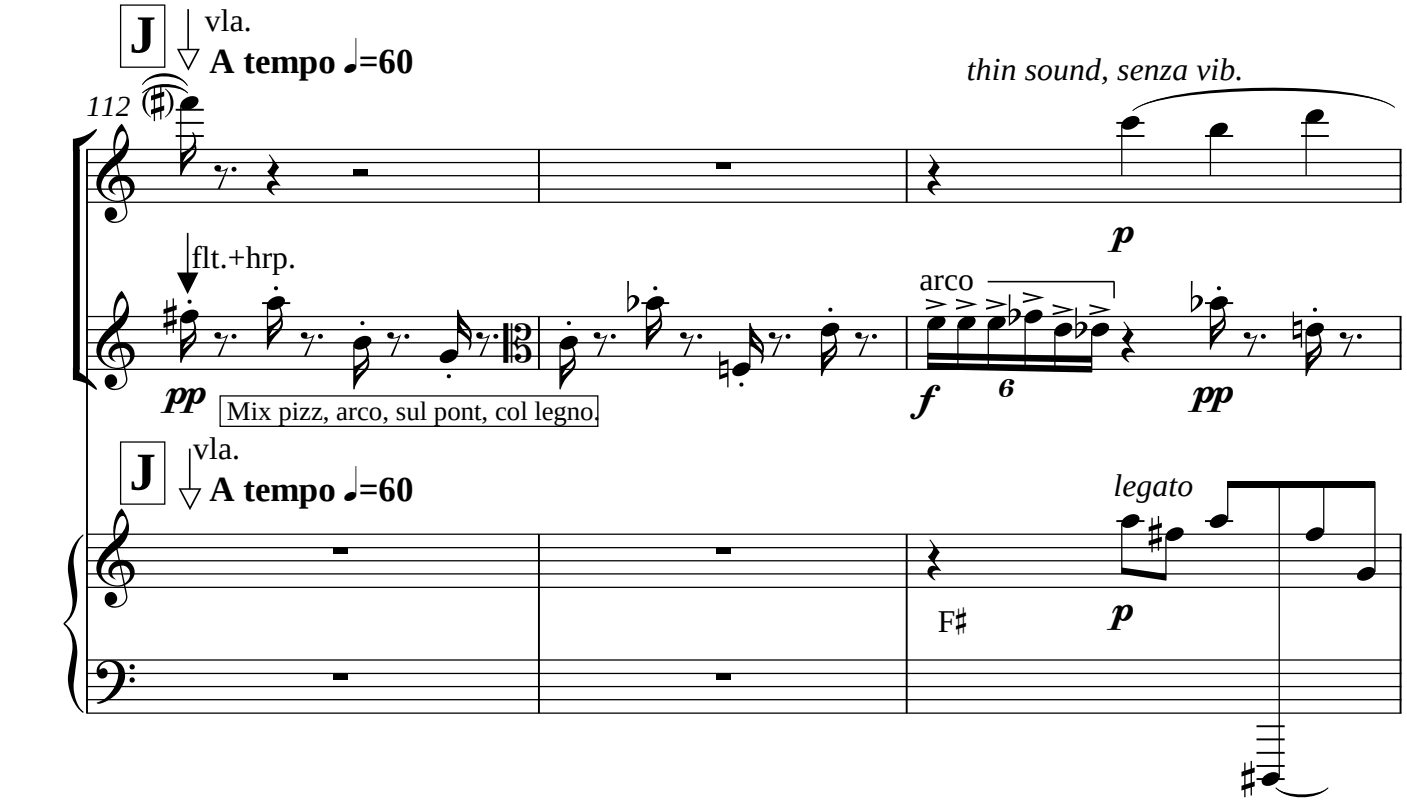

91
ff
ff
p
ff
B♯ A♯

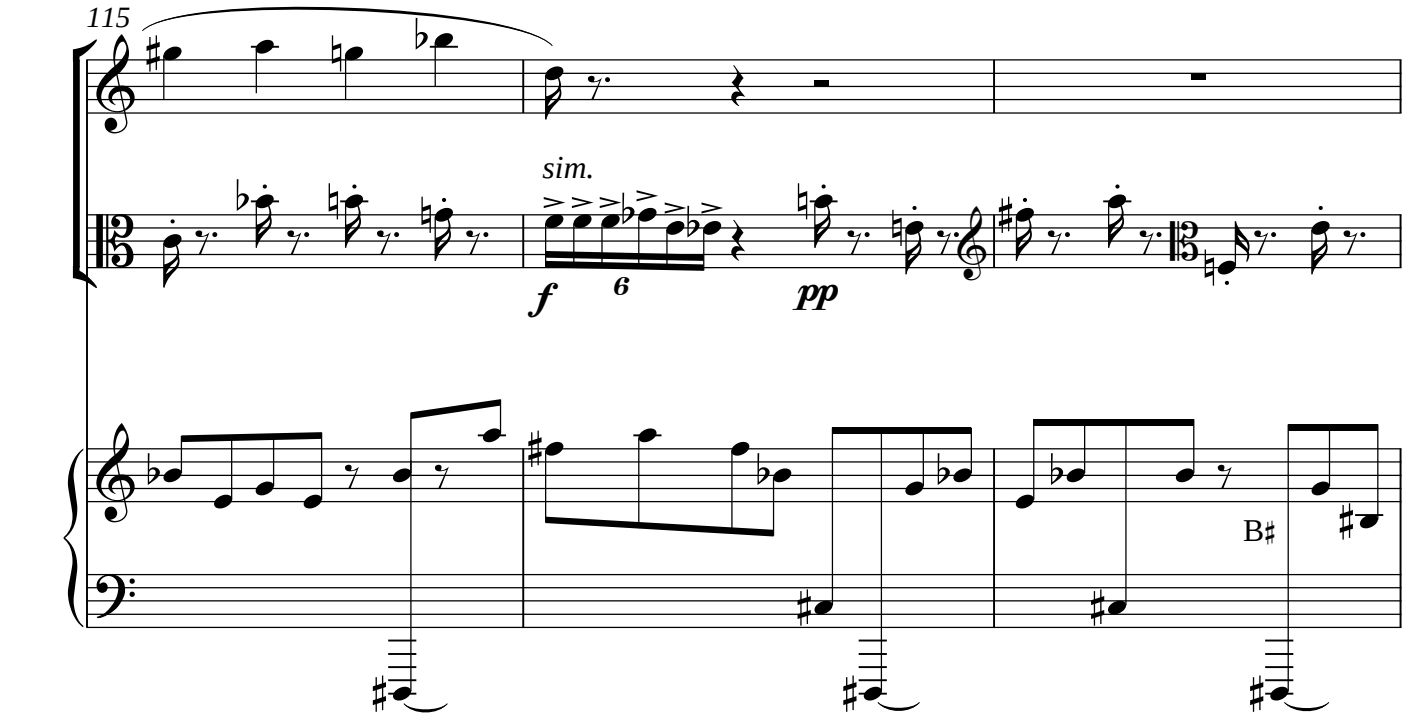

94
mf espress.
sempre staccato
A♭
p
97
F♮
B♭

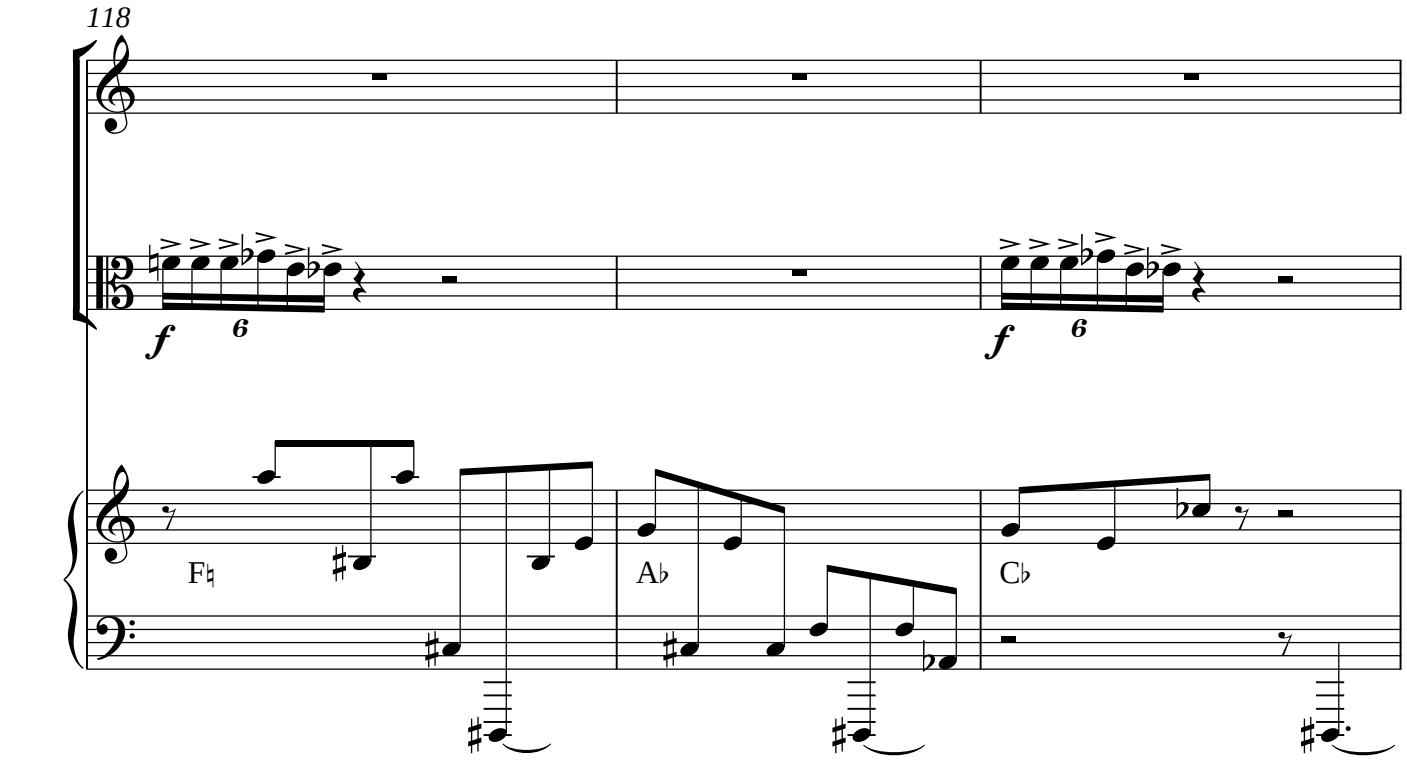

A tempo ♩=60
I
100
vla.
vla.+hrp.
f
ff
ppp
flt.+hrp.
flt.
f
ppp
I
A tempo ♩=60
flt cue:
vla.
flt.
ff

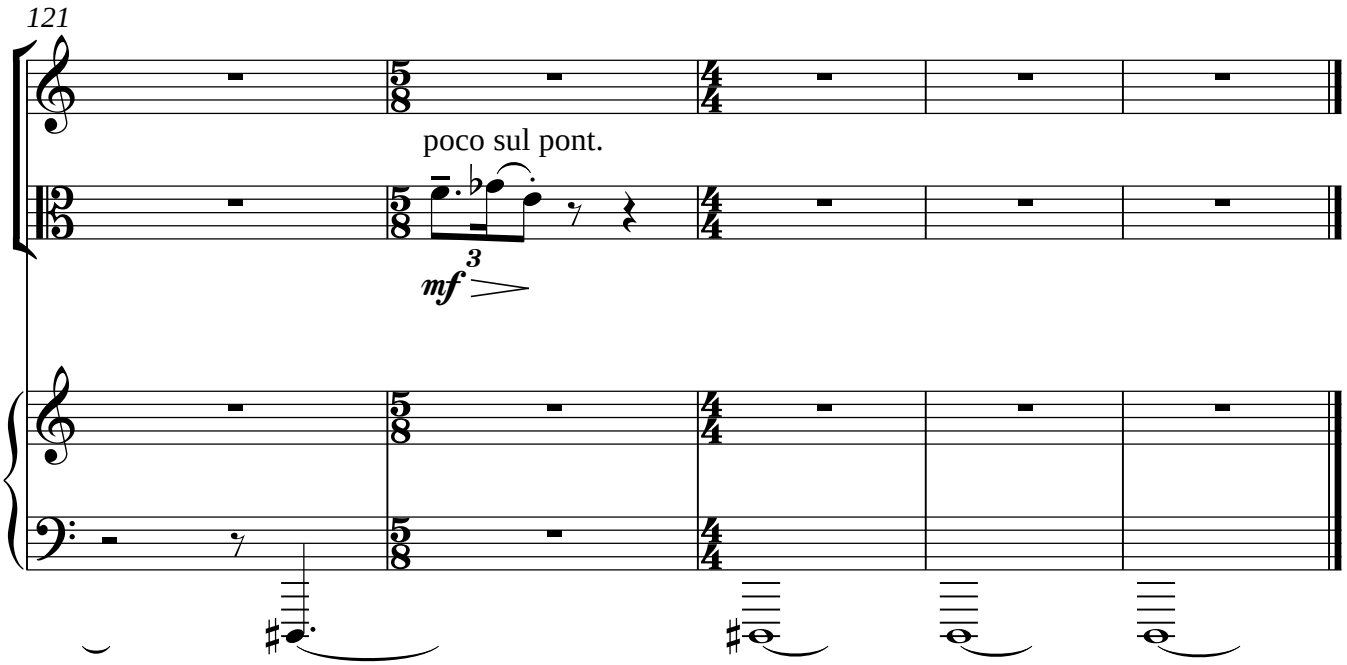

104
vla.
vla.
vla.+hrp.
vla.
flt.+hrp.
flt.+hrp.
flt.
flt.+hrp.
ff
6
ppp
vla.
vla.
legato
flt.
vla.
A♮
p


vla.+hrp.
vla.
vla.
vla.+hrp.
108
ff
ppp
ff
flt.
flt.+hrp.
pizz.
flt.+hrp.
arco
flt.
f
pp
vla.
vla.
flt cue:
flt cue:
ff
flt.
p
ff
flt.
ff


J
vla.
A tempo ♩=60
thin sound, senza vib.
112
p
flt.+hrp.
arco
pp
Mix pizz, arco, sul pont, col legno.
f
6
pp
J
vla.
A tempo ♩=60
legato
F♯
p


115
sim.
f
6
pp
B♯


118
f
6
f
6
F♮
A♭
C♭


121
poco sul pont.
mf
3