BARDIC EDITION

Michael Blake

String Quartet No. 1
(In memory of William Burton)

BD 0812

Michael Blake

STRING QUARTET No. 1

(In memory of William Burton)

Duration: ca. 24′00″

Study Score

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Programme note

On my first excursion into one of the most intimate of compositional mediums, the scores of some of the finest string quartet composers of the 20th century – Bartók, Shostakovitch, Revueltas, Schnittke and Volans – influenced my approach and regularly helped me solve problems on the way. So I consciously make reference – either explicitly or implicitly – to them

Mt original three movement plan became two with the second and third telescoped into one – two brief hints at a scherzo and an elegiac slow movement. The first movement might be heard as being more African, with the sound of the lute and harp dominating much of it, while the second may be heard as more European, in particular the sound of the viol consort.

Perhaps this is appropriate for a piece that also remembers a close friend whose life spanned those two continents. William Burton was born in Cape Town and died in London in November 1999 at an early age. During our long years in London we met almost every week for food, drink and conversation. He was a fine violinist and chamber music player and through this medium I felt I could best honour his memory.

I began composing this piece in January 2001 in the breathtaking and tranquil surroundings of Ithala Game Park in northern KwaZulu-Natal and completed in it March at home in Grahamstown. It was written for the Fitzwilliam String Quartet who gave the first performance at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, South Africa in June 2001.

Michael Blake,
Grahamstown, South Africa
July 2001.

To the Fitzwilliam Quartet

String Quartet No. 1

(in memory of William Burton)

I

Michael Blake

Chirpy ♩. = 76

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

ff

3

6

Meno mosso ♩. = 66

pizz.

pp

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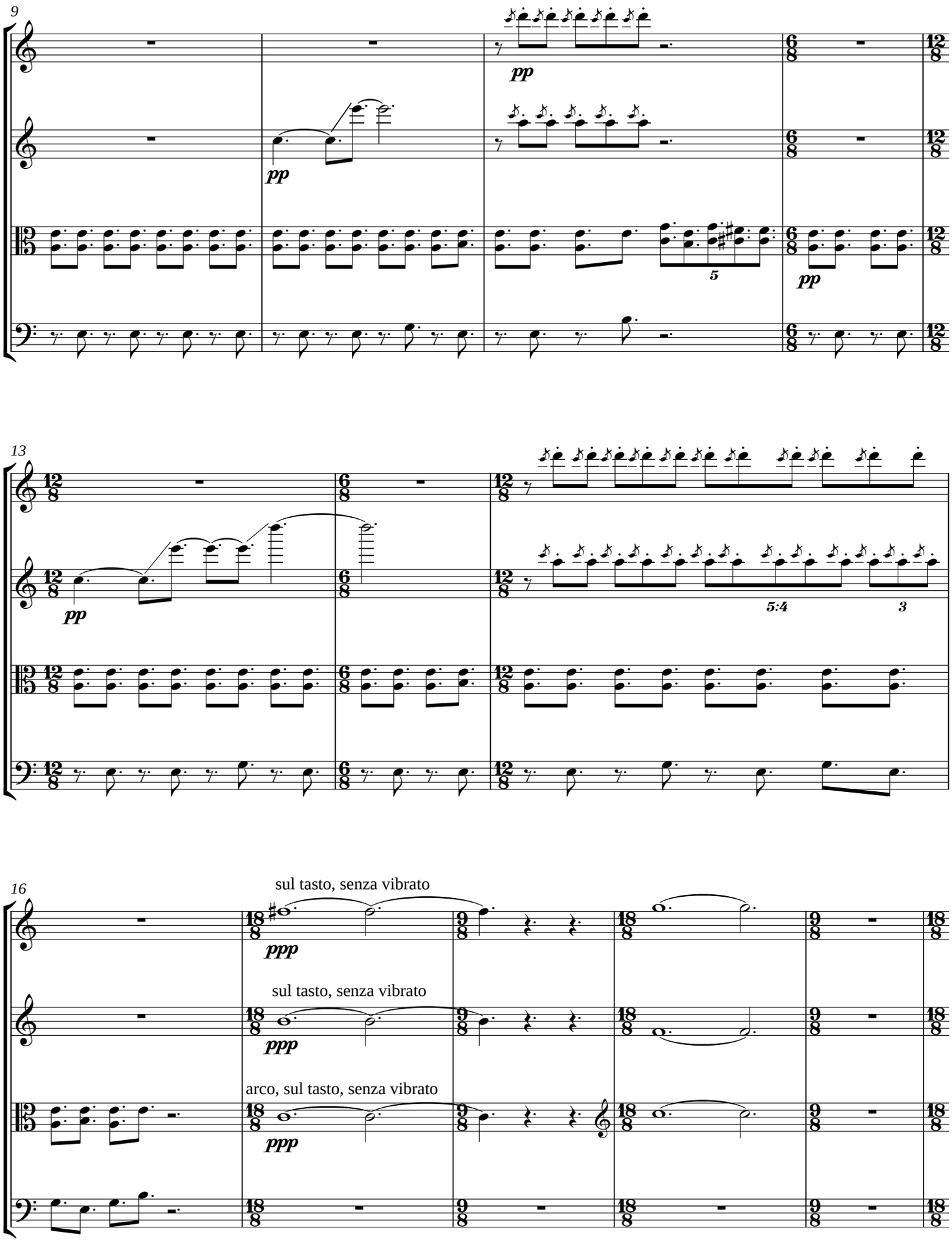
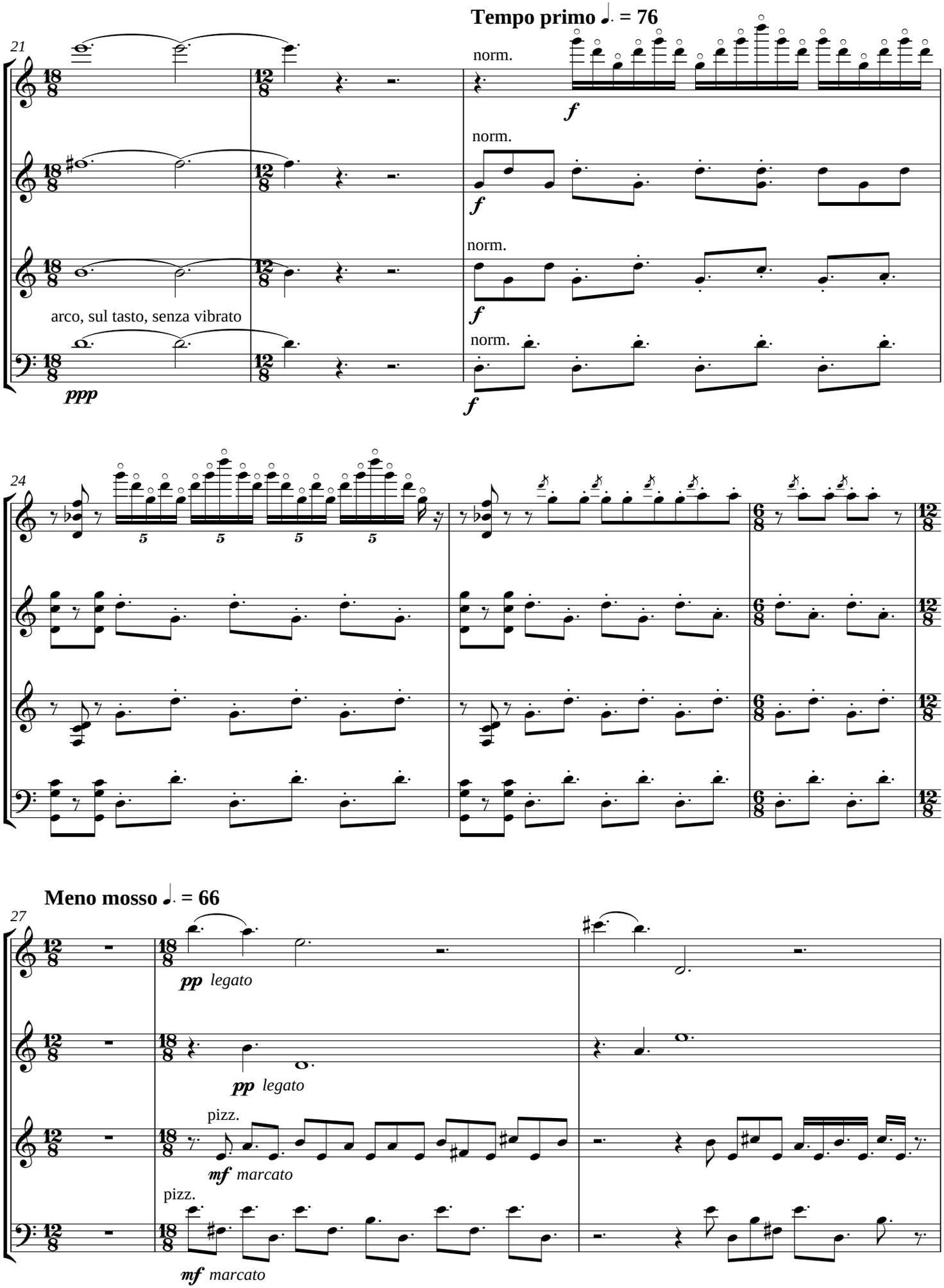
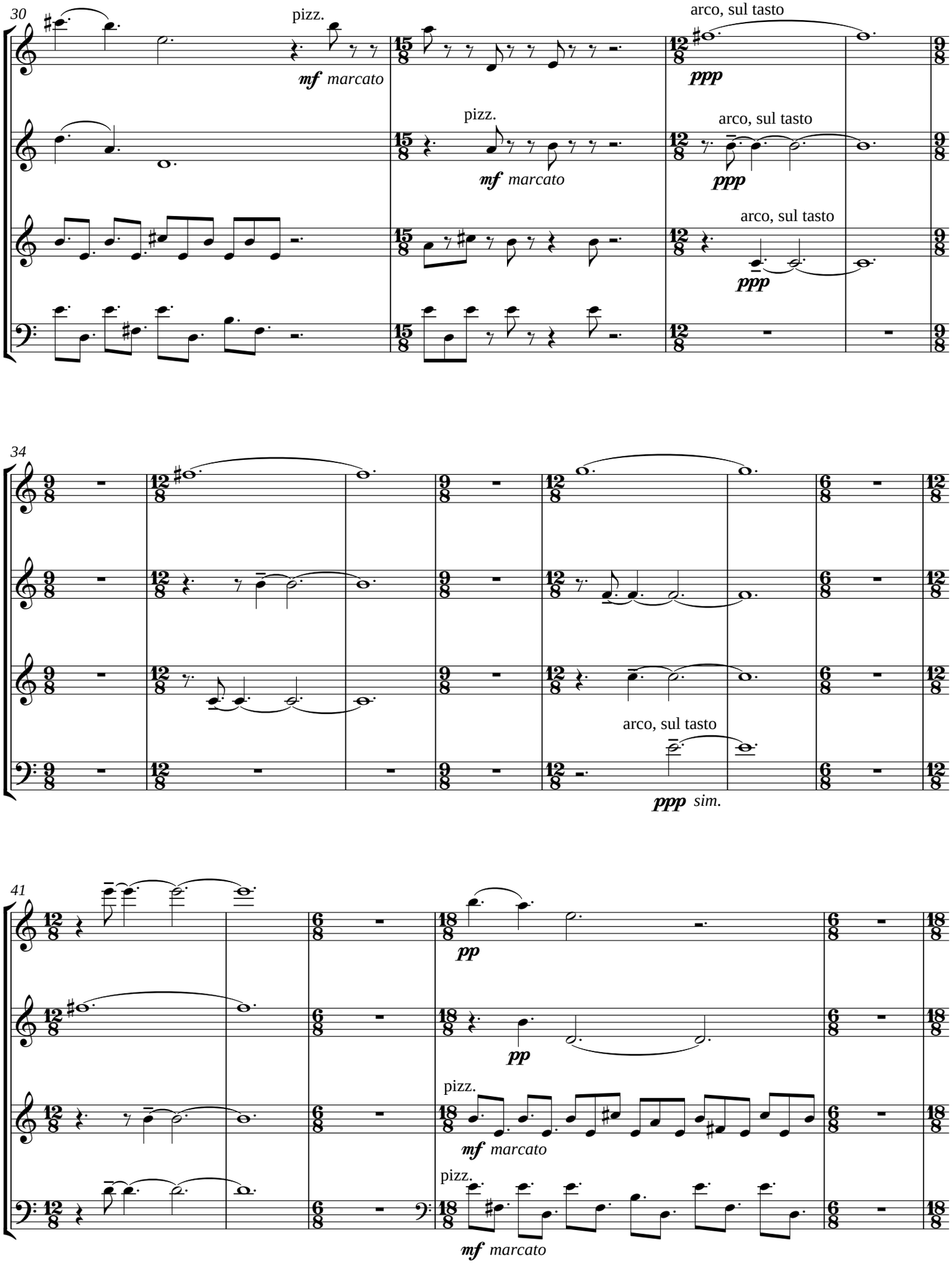
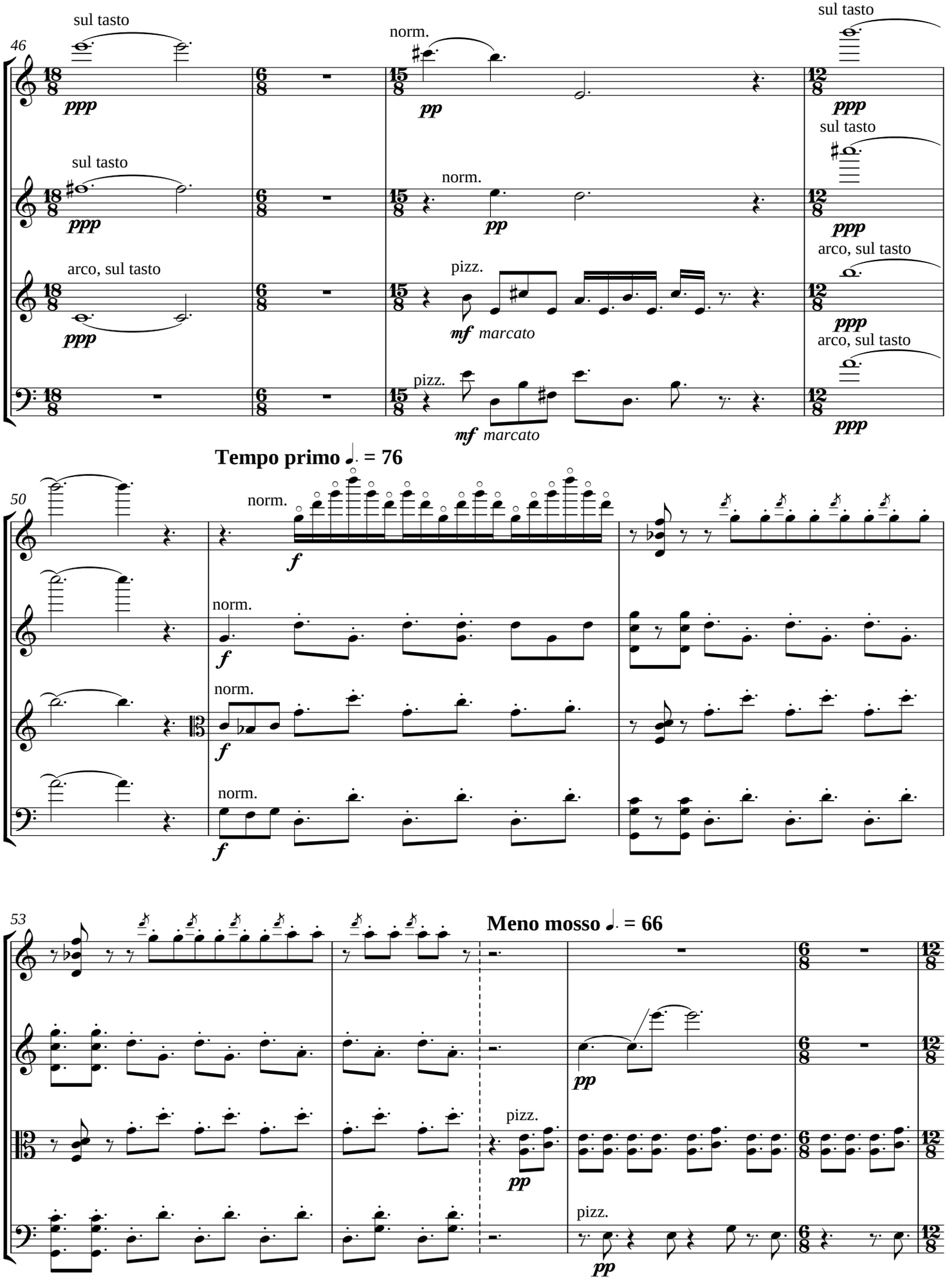
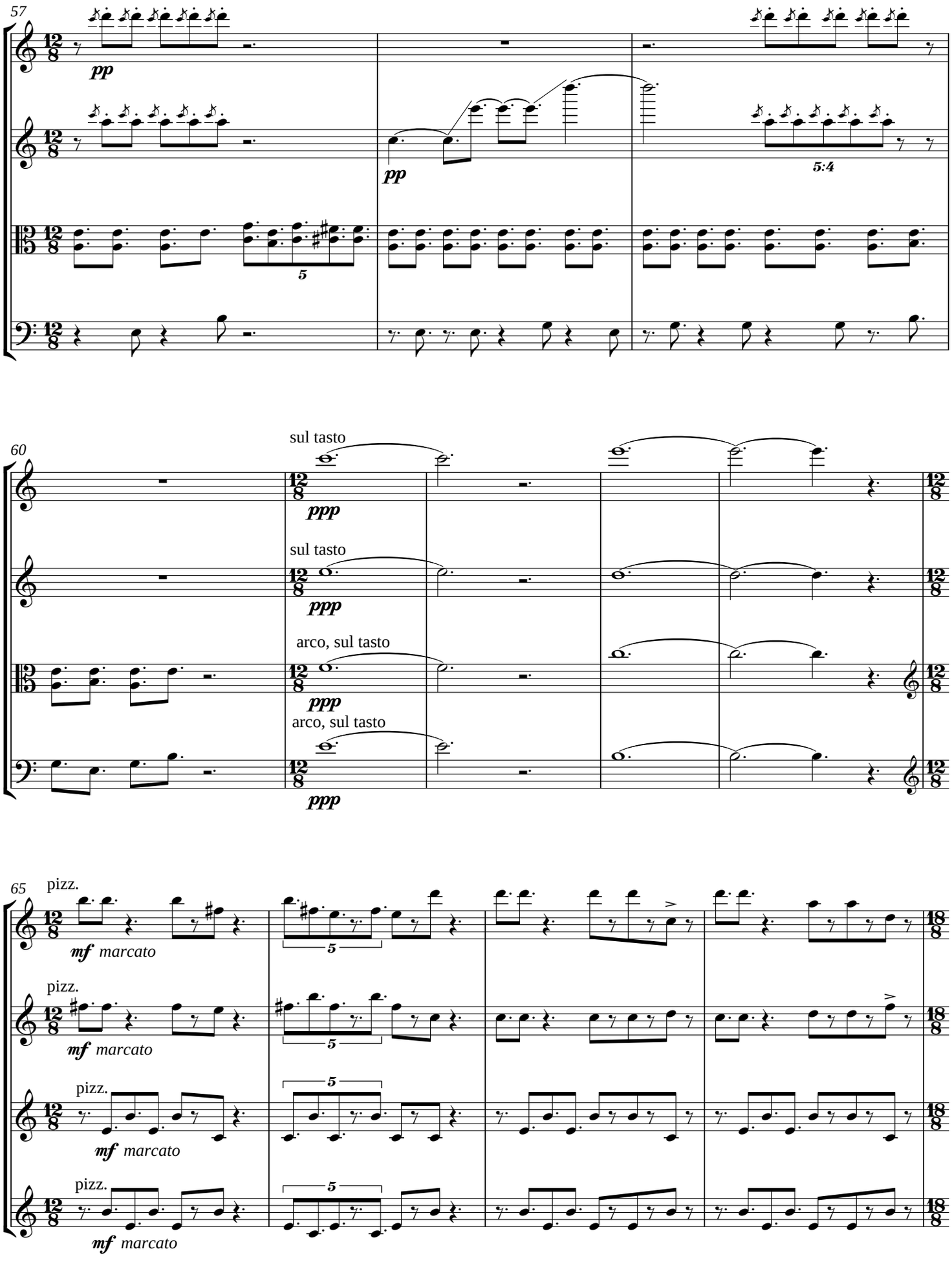
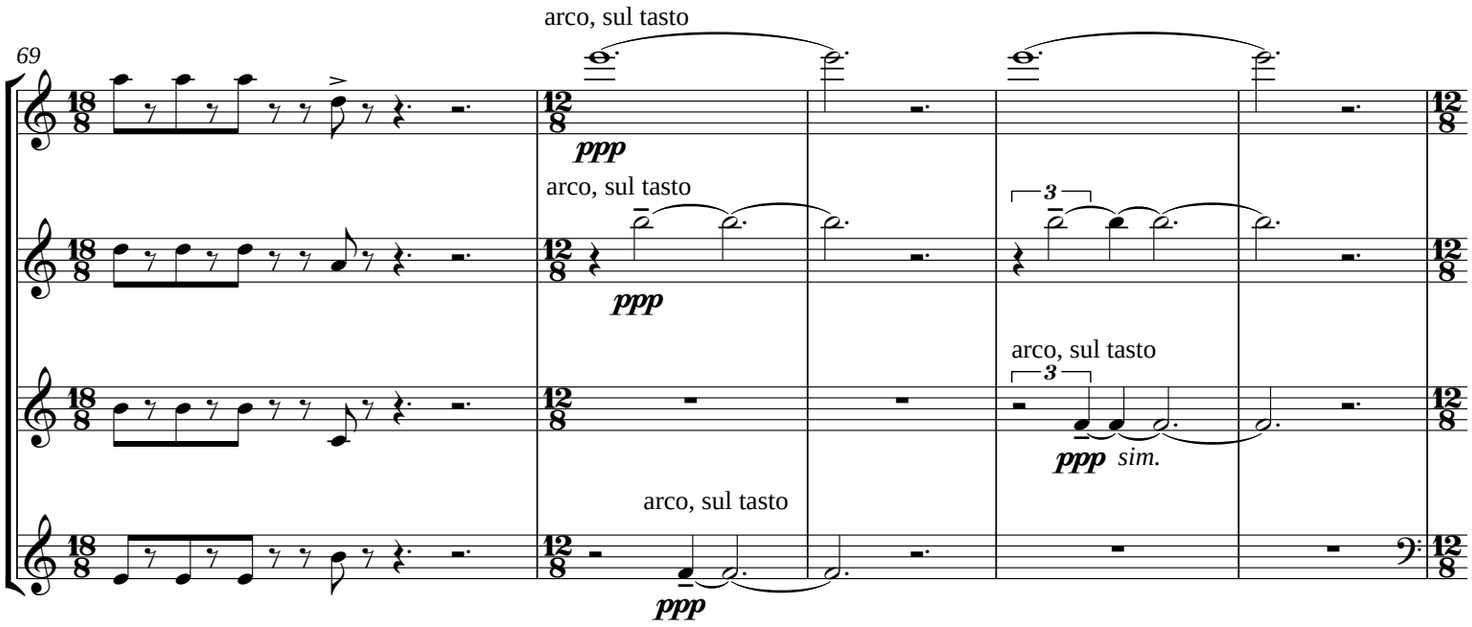

9
pp
pp
5
pp
13
pp
5:4
3
16
sul tasto, senza vibrato
ppp
sul tasto, senza vibrato
ppp
arco, sul tasto, senza vibrato
ppp

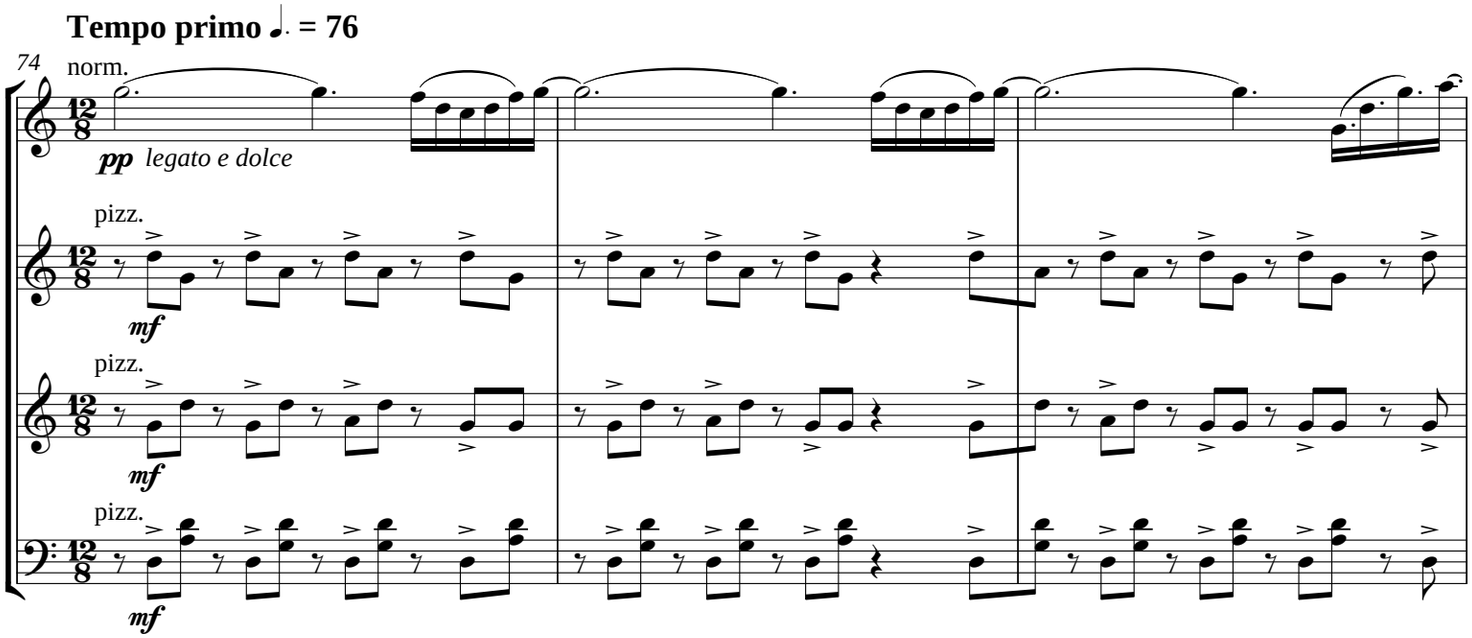

Tempo primo ♩. = 76
21
norm.
f
norm.
f
norm.
f
arco, sul tasto, senza vibrato
ppp
norm.
f
24
5
5
5
5
Meno mosso ♩. = 66
27
pp legato
pp legato
pizz.
mf marcato
pizz.
mf marcato

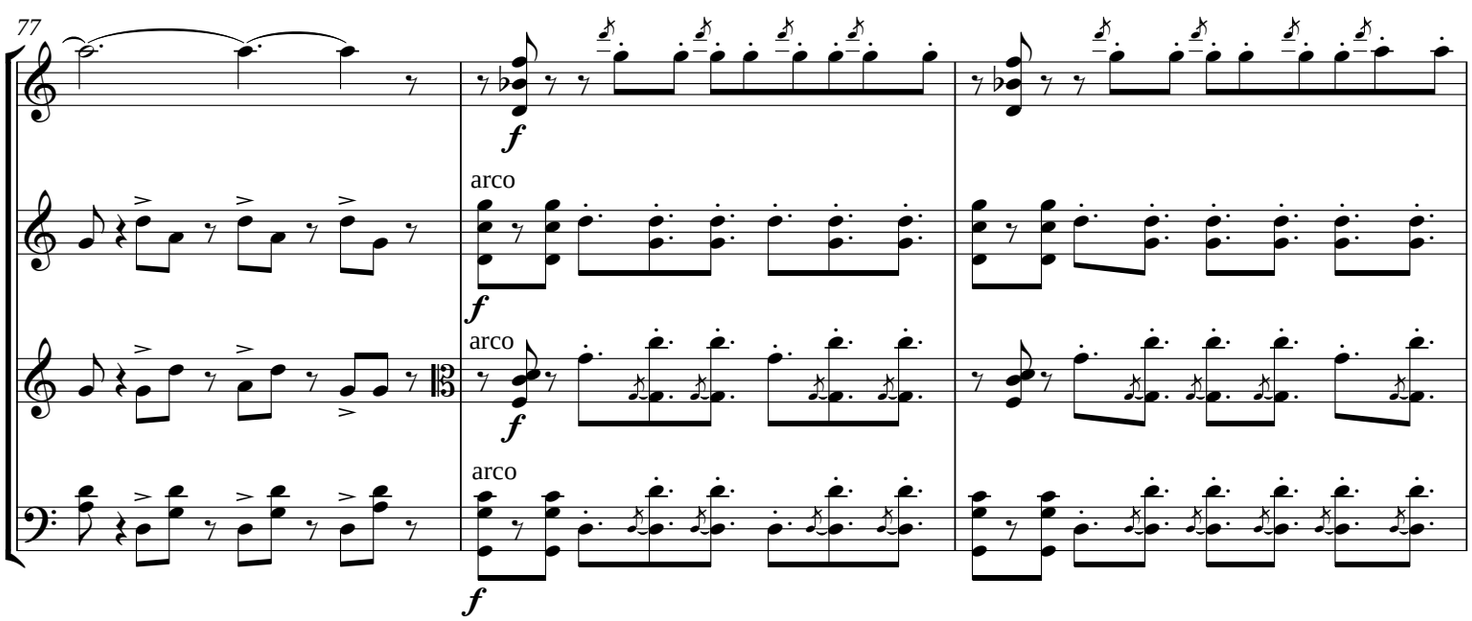

30
pizz.
mf marcato
arco, sul tasto
ppp
pizz.
mf marcato
arco, sul tasto
ppp
arco, sul tasto
ppp
34
arco, sul tasto
ppp sim.
41
pp
pp
pizz.
mf marcato
pizz.
mf marcato

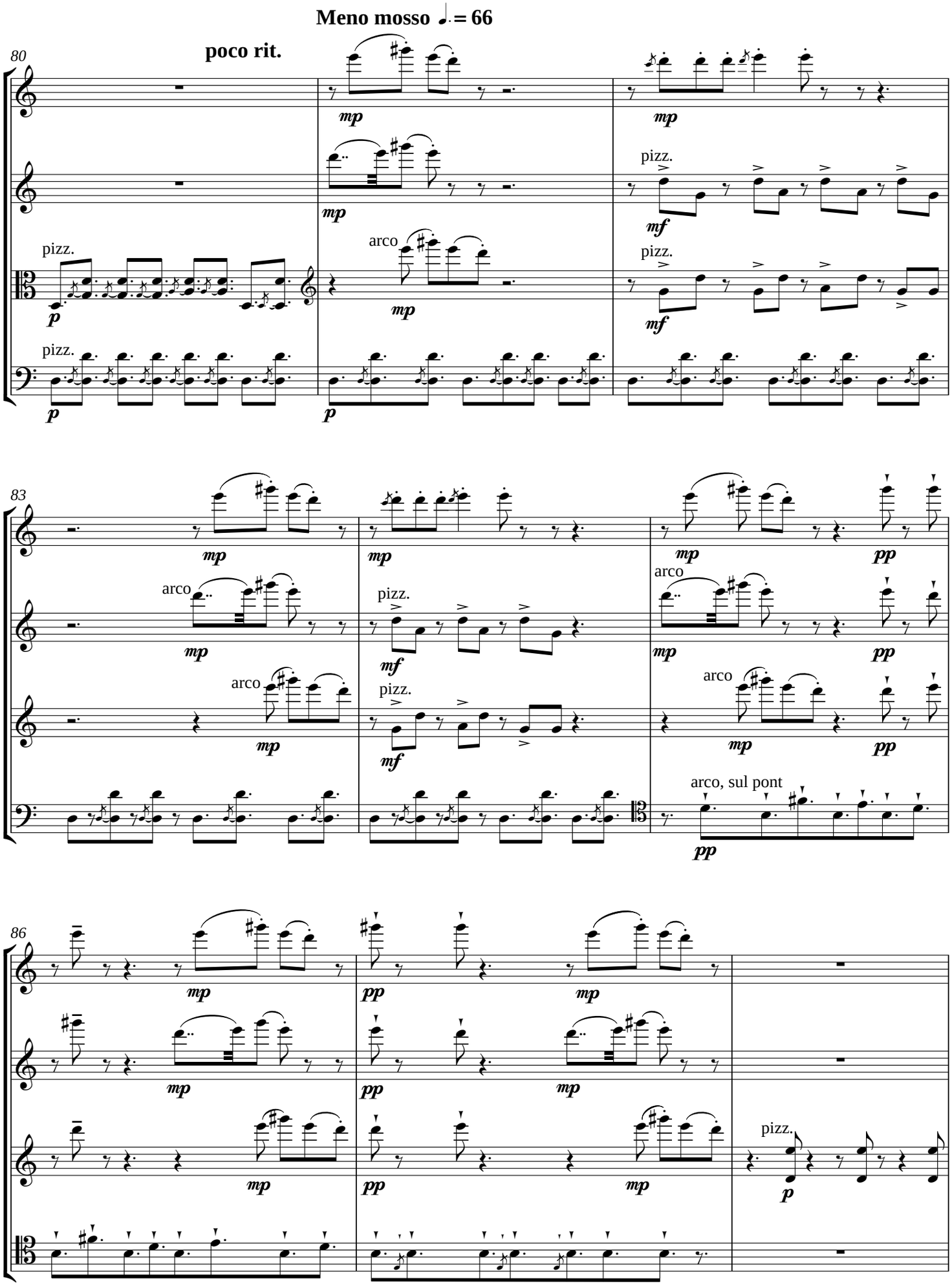

46
sul tasto
ppp
norm.
pp
sul tasto
ppp
sul tasto
ppp
norm.
pp
sul tasto
ppp
arco, sul tasto
ppp
pizz.
mf marcato
arco, sul tasto
ppp
pizz.
mf marcato
Tempo primo ♩. = 76
50
norm.
f
norm.
f
norm.
f
norm.
f
53
Meno mosso ♩. = 66
pp
pizz.
pp
pizz.
pp

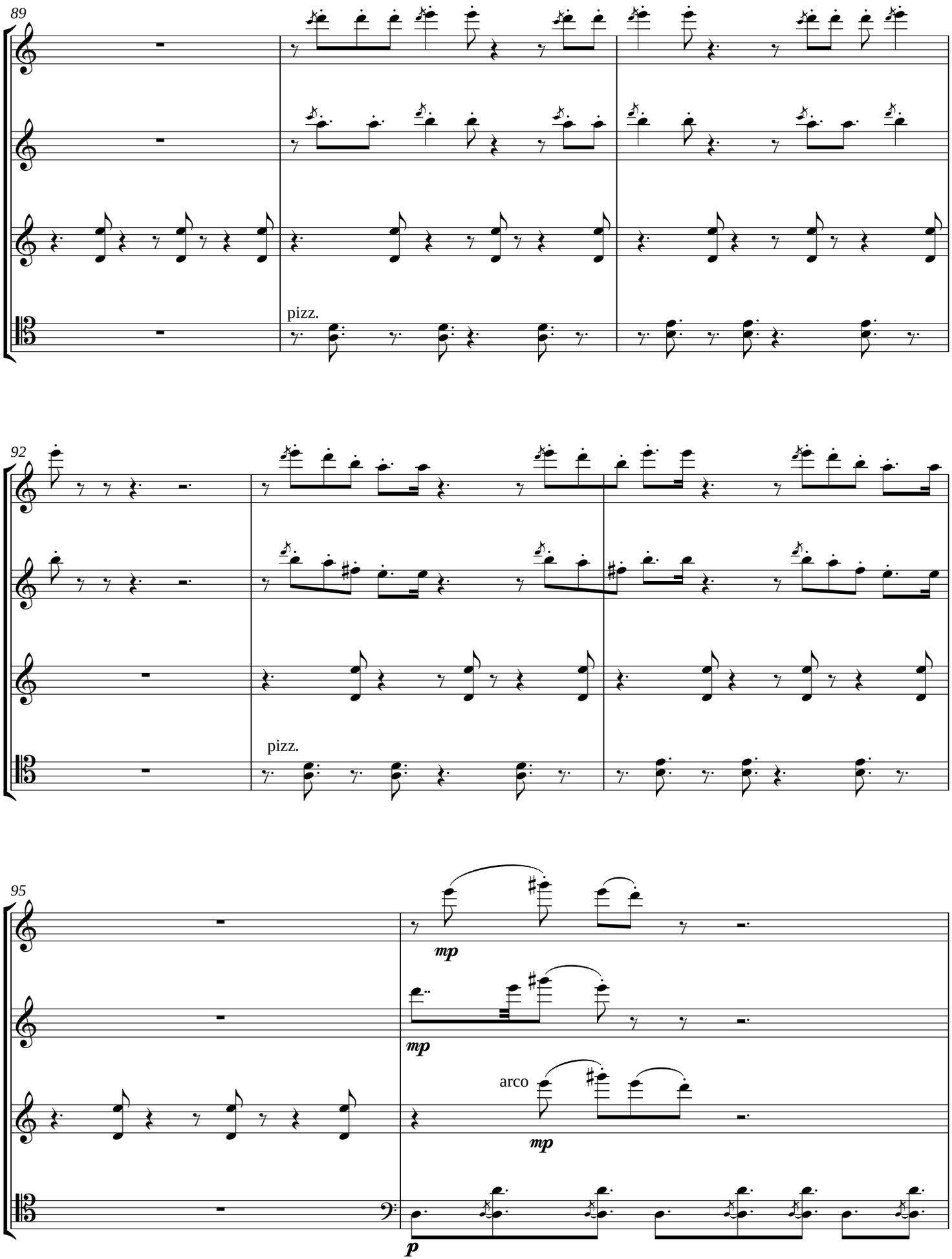

57
pp
pp
5:4
5
60
sul tasto
ppp
sul tasto
ppp
arco, sul tasto
ppp
arco, sul tasto
ppp
65
pizz.
mf marcato
pizz.
mf marcato
pizz.
mf marcato
pizz.
mf marcato
5

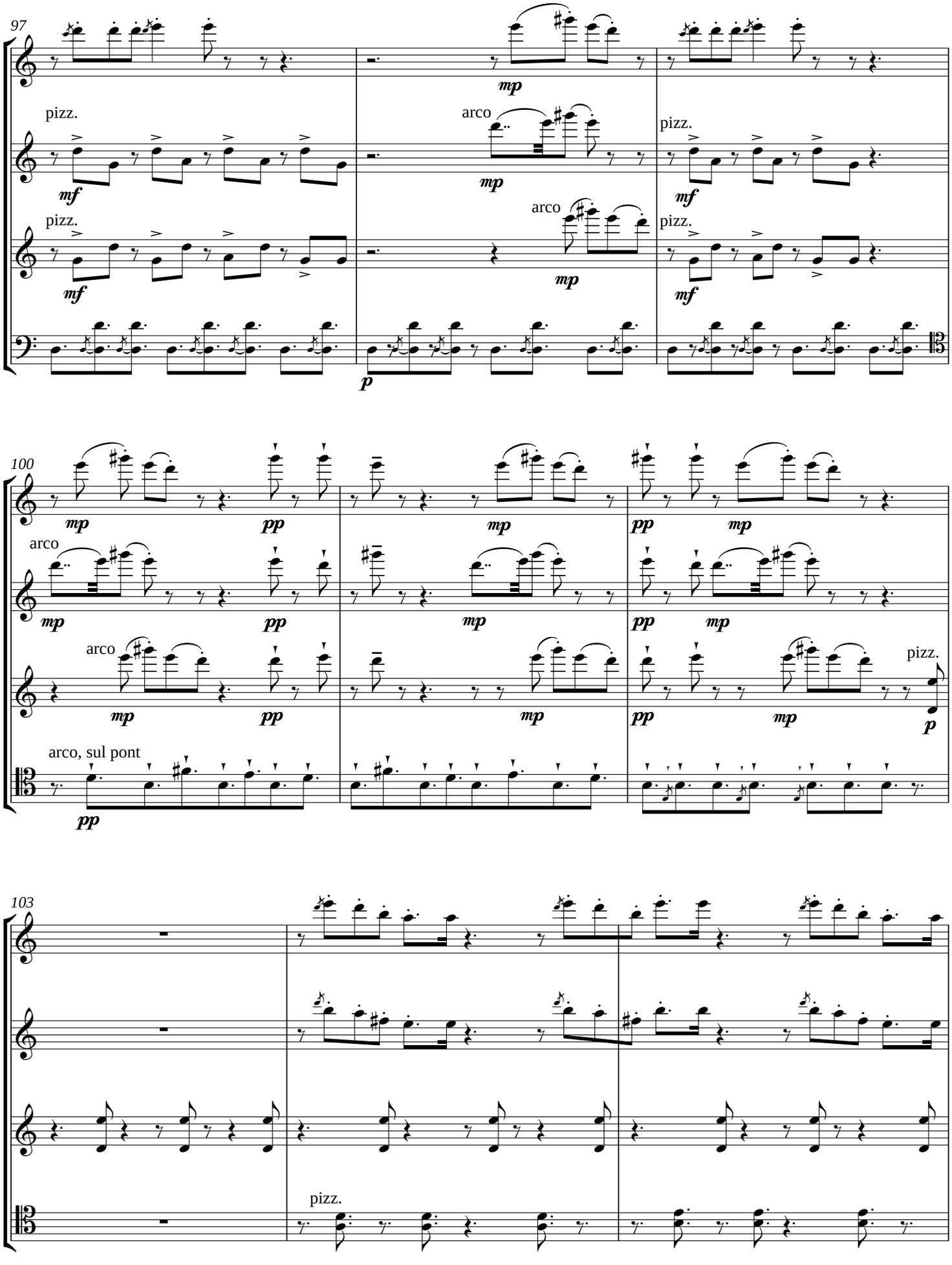

69
arco, sul tasto
ppp
arco, sul tasto
ppp
3
arco, sul tasto
3
ppp sim.
arco, sul tasto
ppp

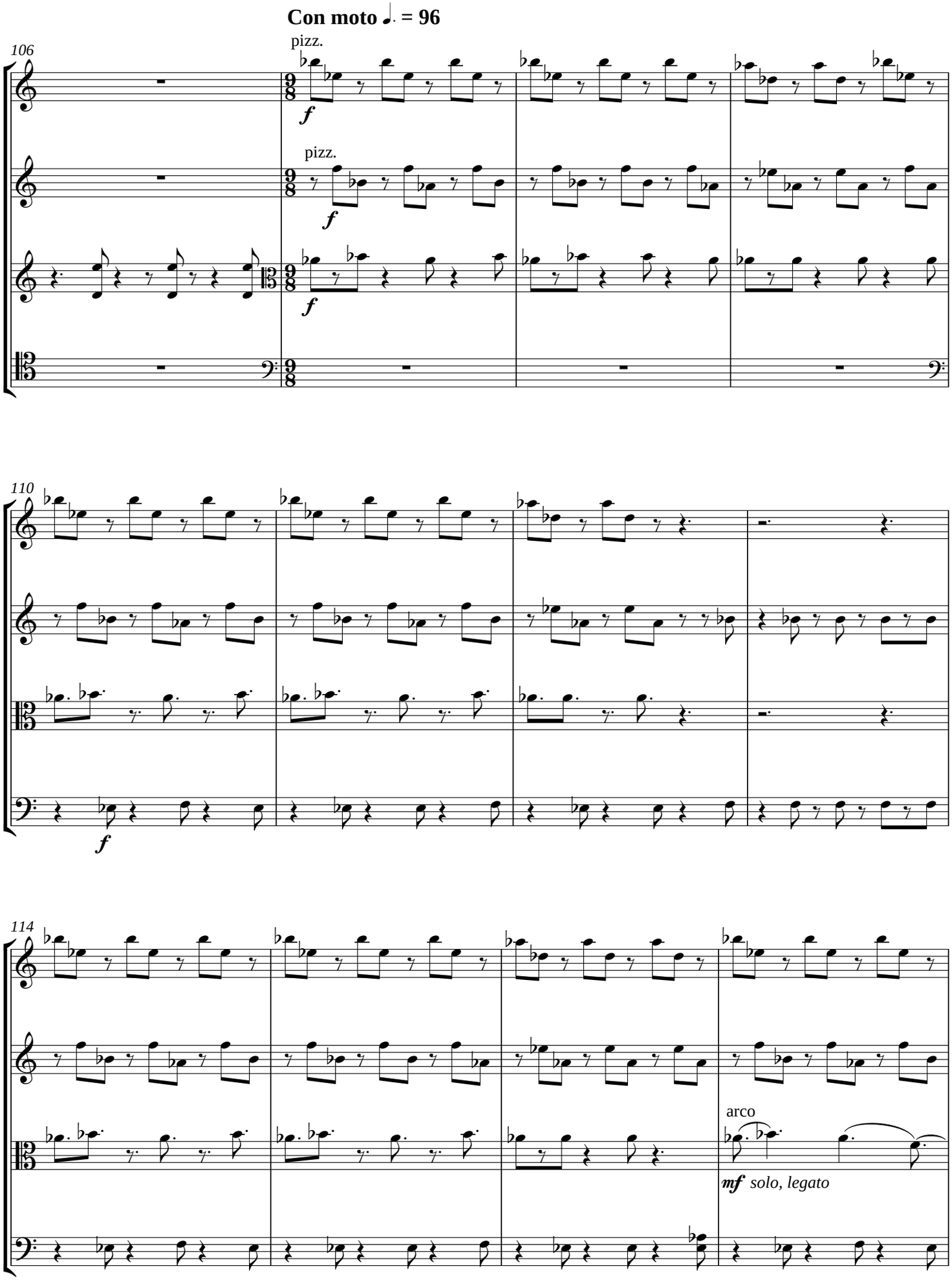

Tempo primo ♩. = 76
74
norm.
pp legato e dolce
pizz.
mf
pizz.
mf
pizz.
mf

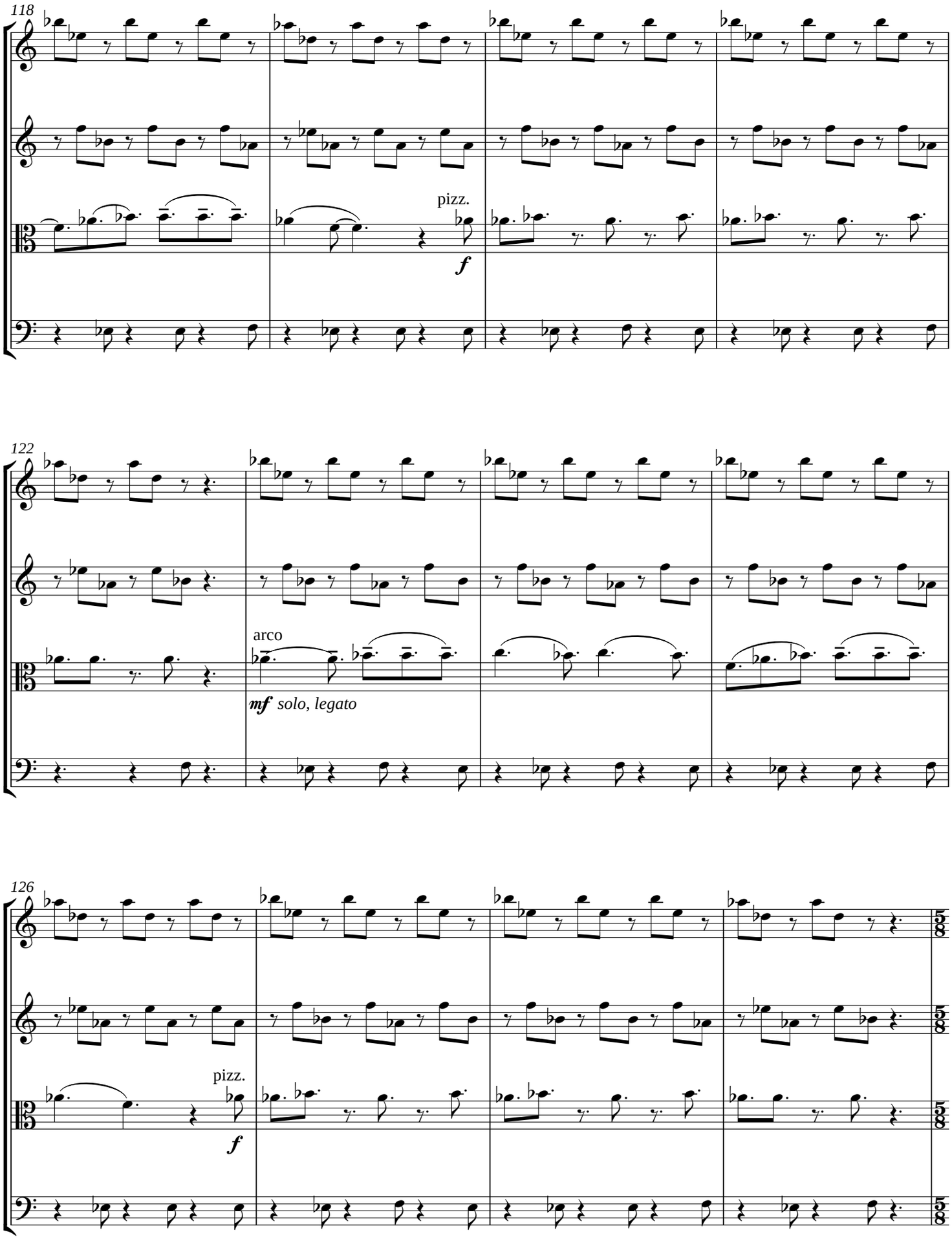

77
f
arco
f
arco
f
arco
f

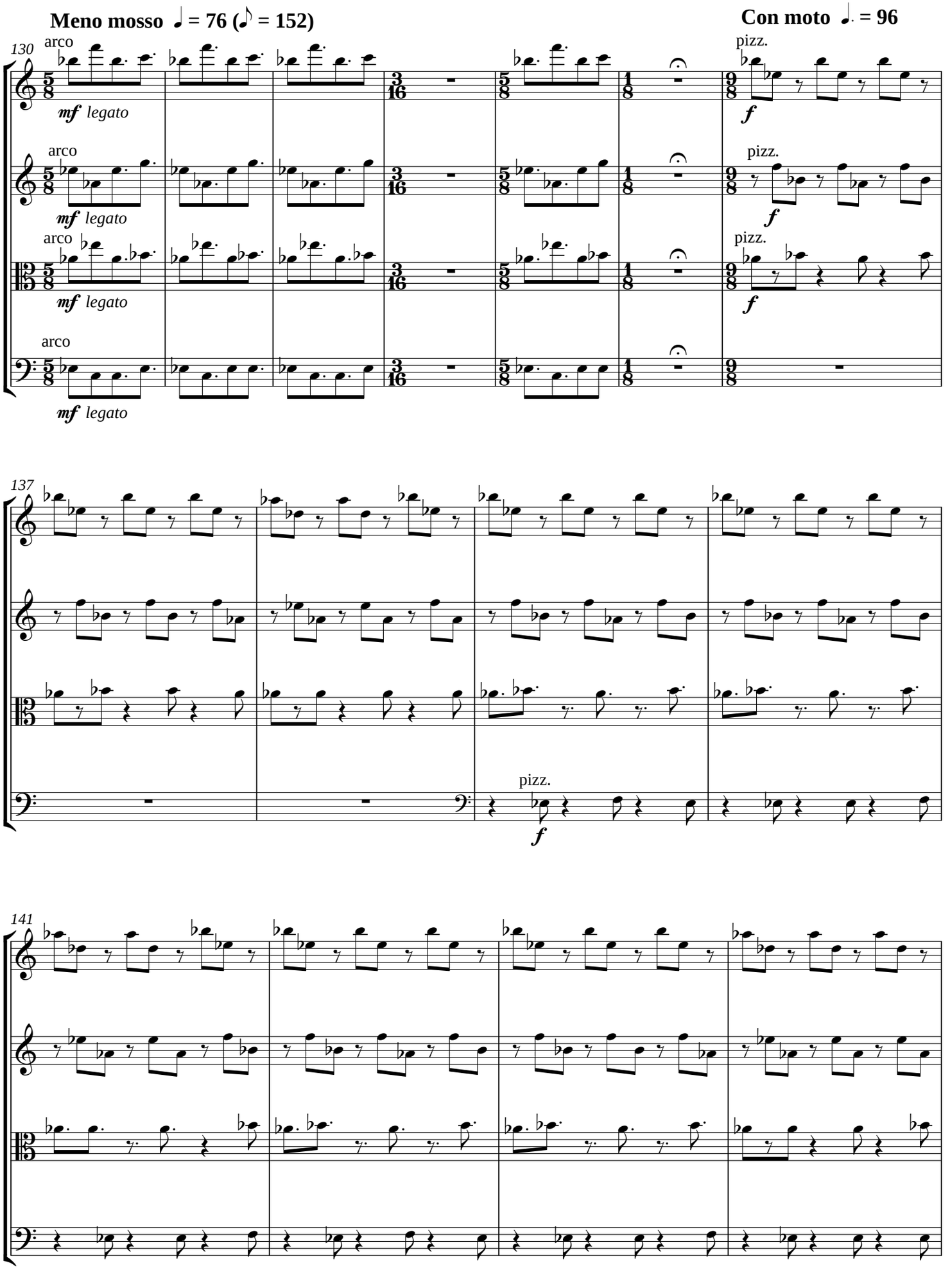

Meno mosso ♩. = 66
poco rit.
80
pizz.
arco
83
arco, sul pont
86
pizz.

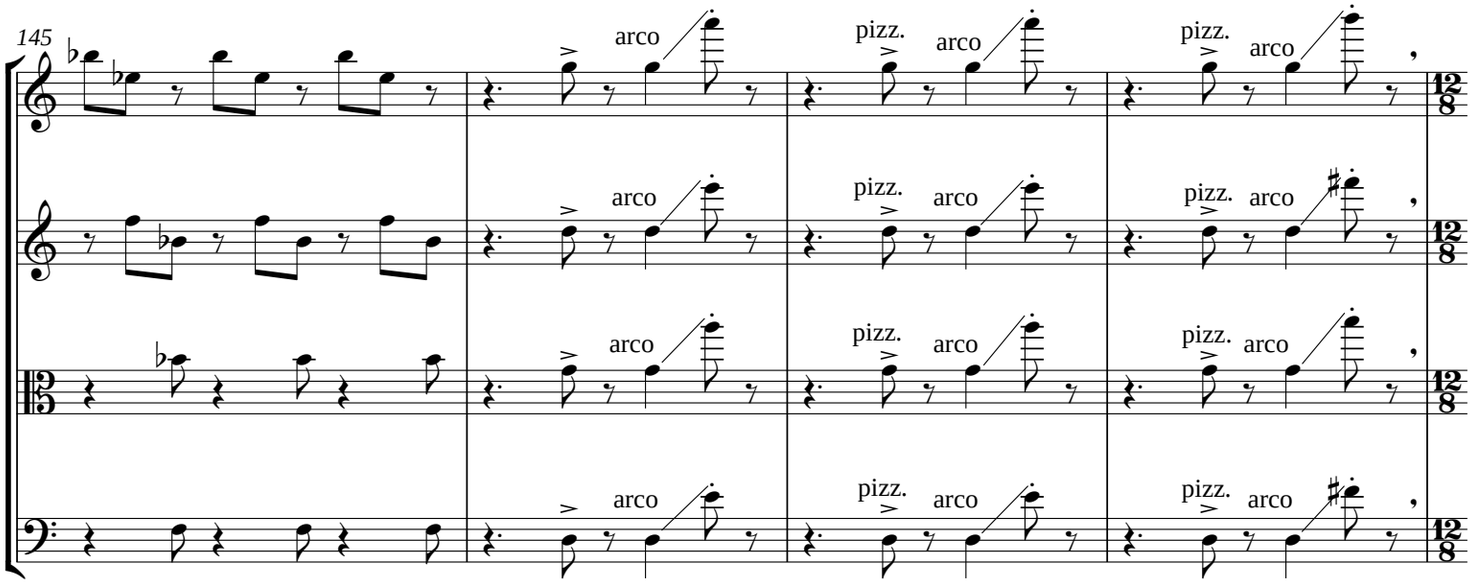

89
pizz.
92
pizz.
95
mp
mp
arco
mp
p

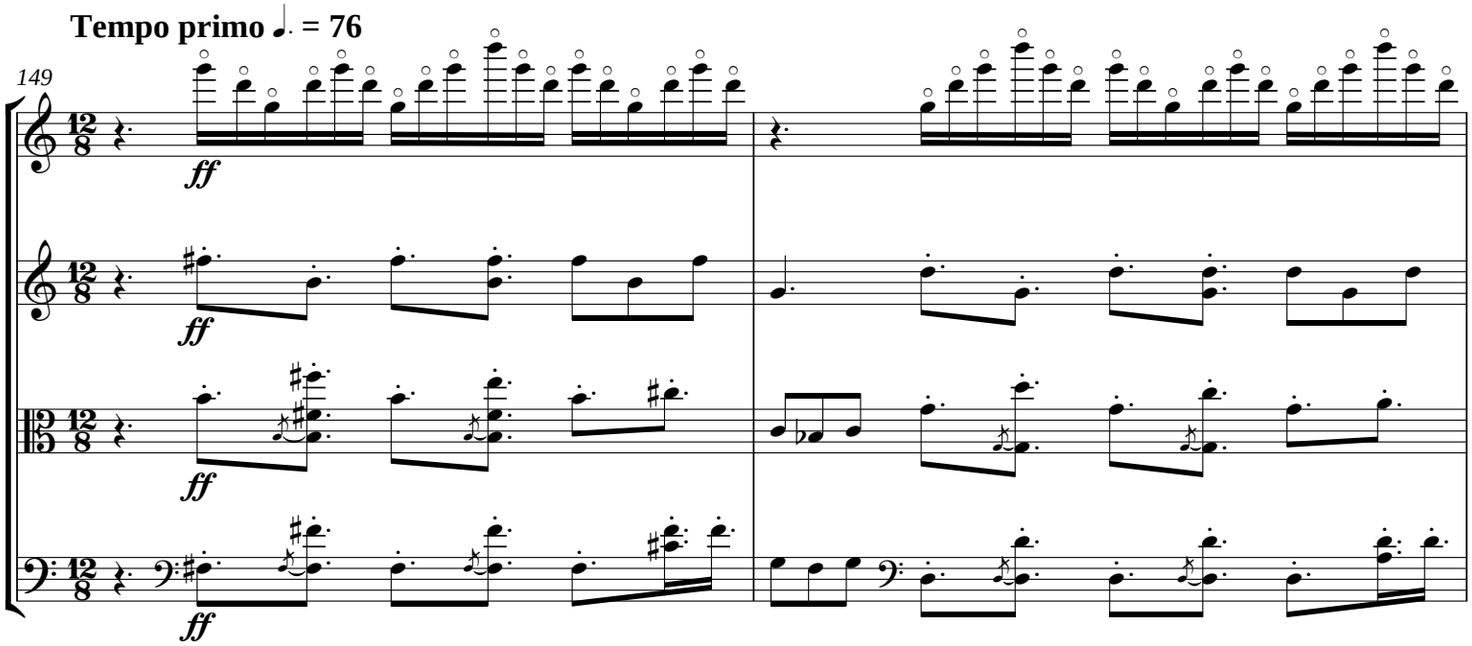

97
pizz.
arco
pizz.
mf
mp
mf
pizz.
arco
pizz.
mf
mp
mf
p
100
mp
pp
mp
pp
mp
arco
arco
arco, sul pont
pizz.
p
pp
103
pizz.

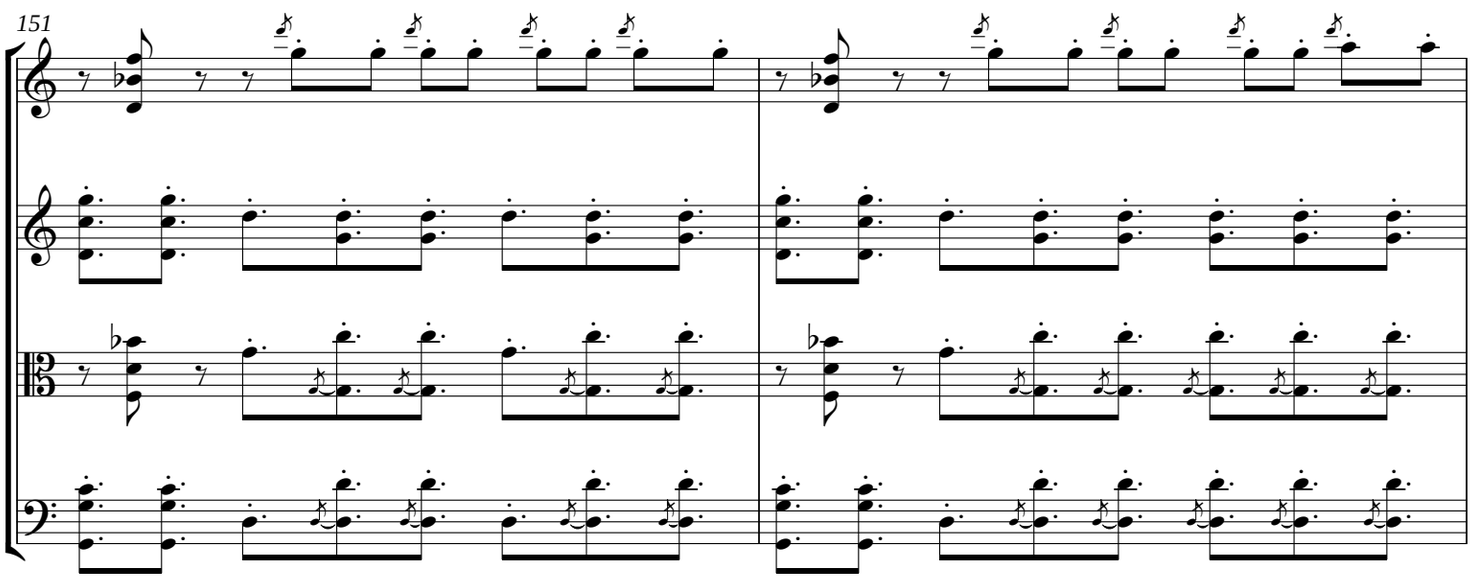

Con moto ♩. = 96
106
pizz.
f
pizz.
f
f
110
f
114
arco
mf solo, legato

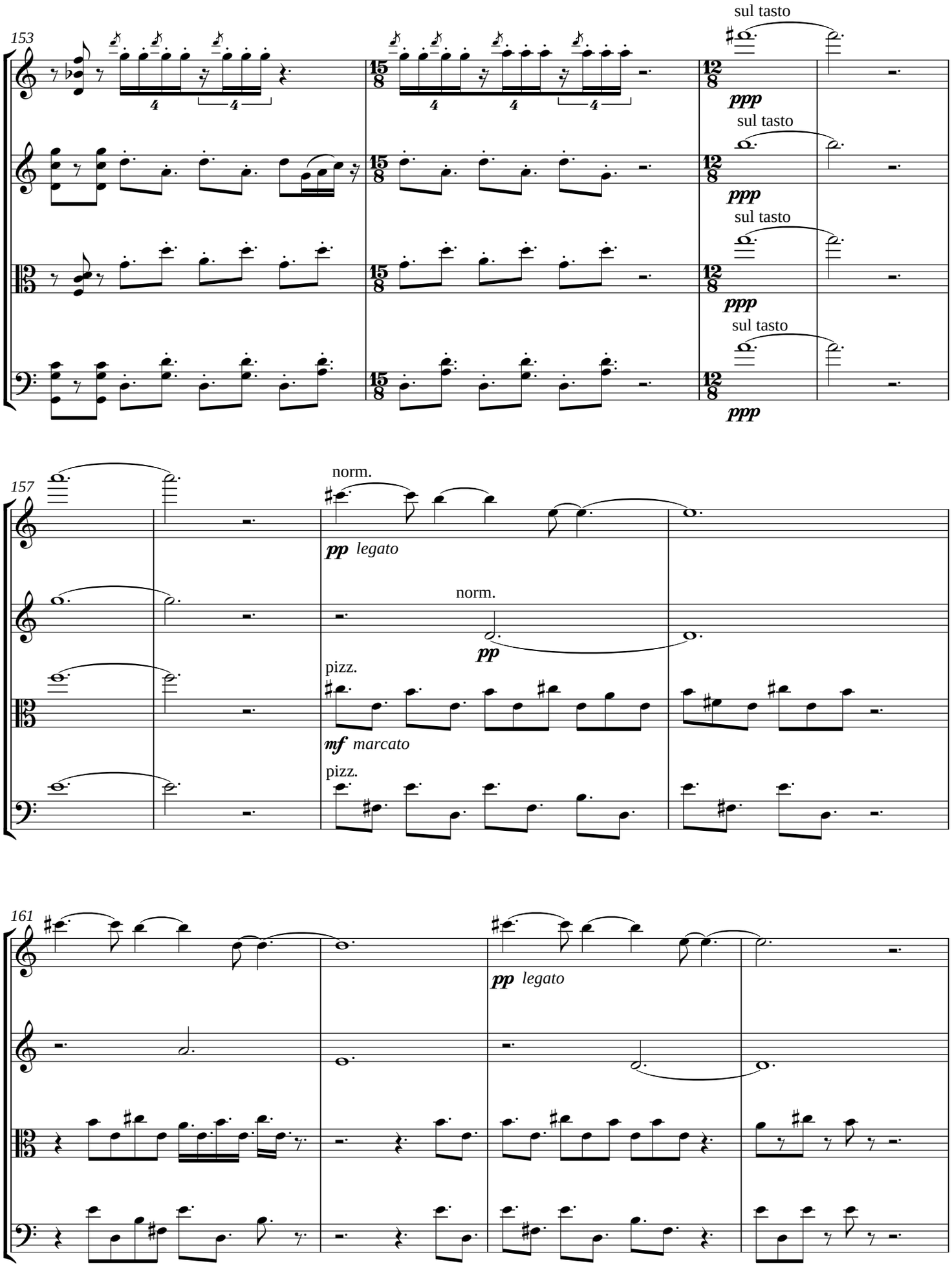

118
pizz.
f
122
arco
mf solo, legato
126
pizz.
f

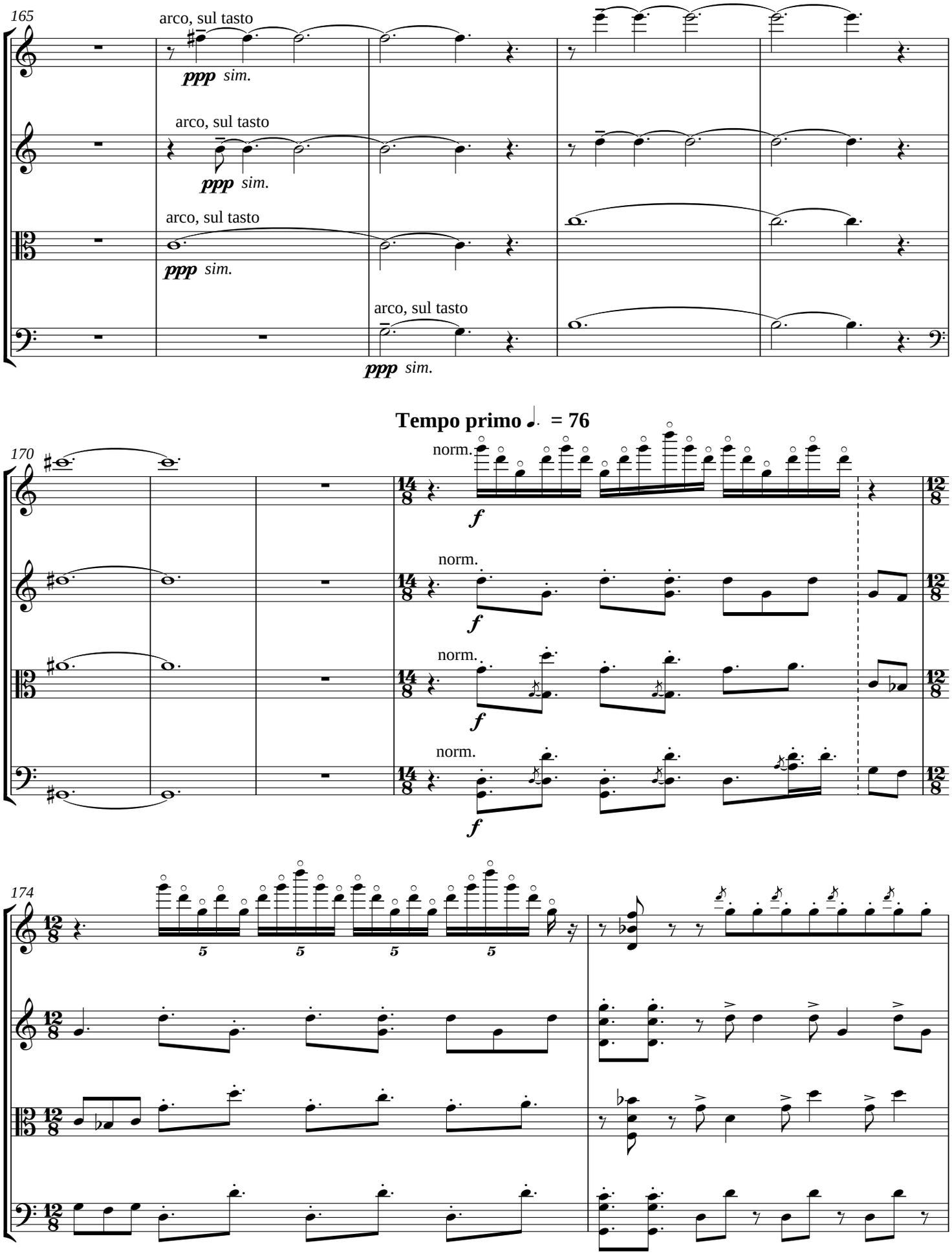

Meno mosso ♩ = 76 (♪ = 152)
Con moto ♩. = 96
130
arco
mf legato
pizz.
f
137
pizz.
141

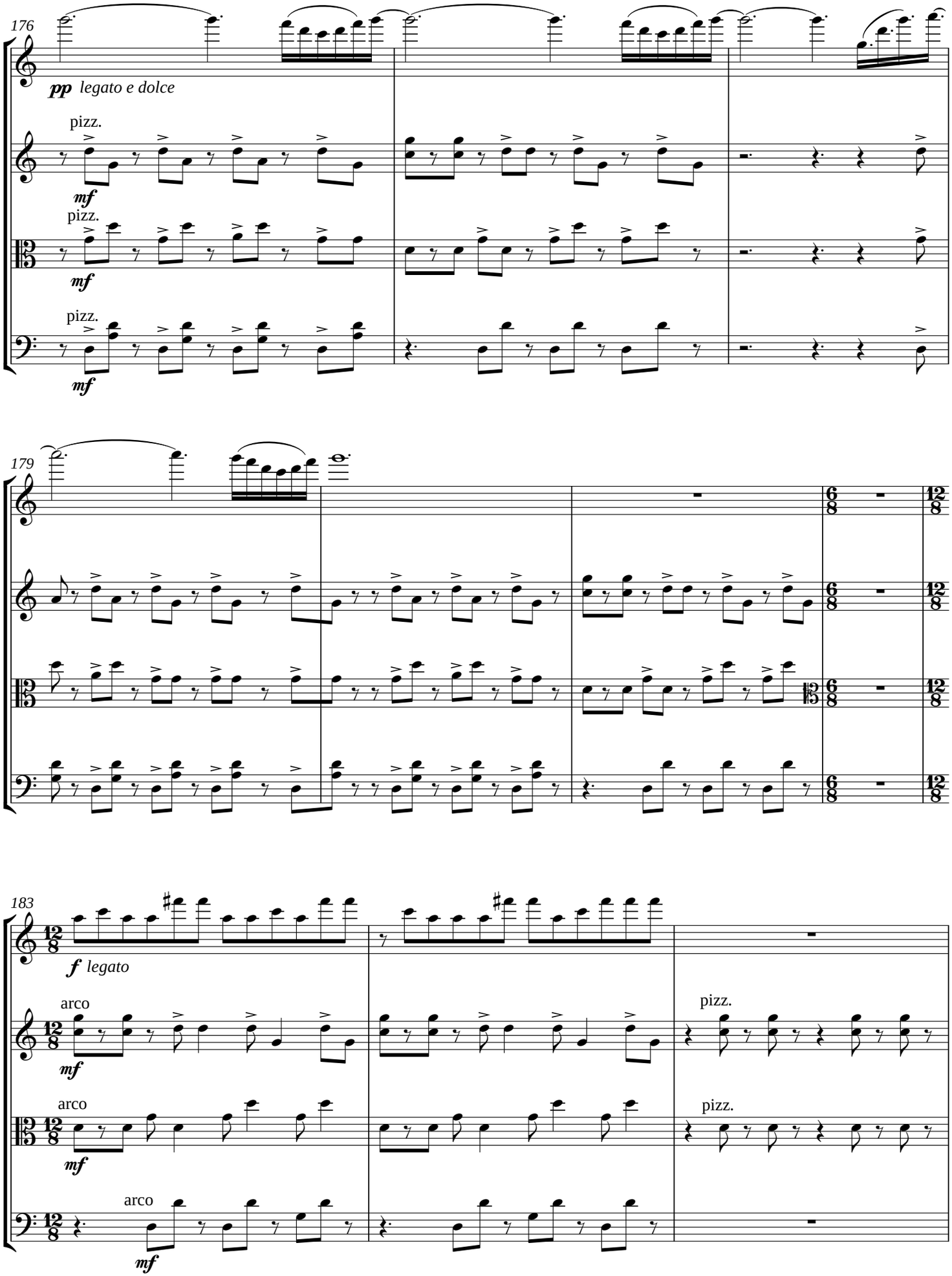

145
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco

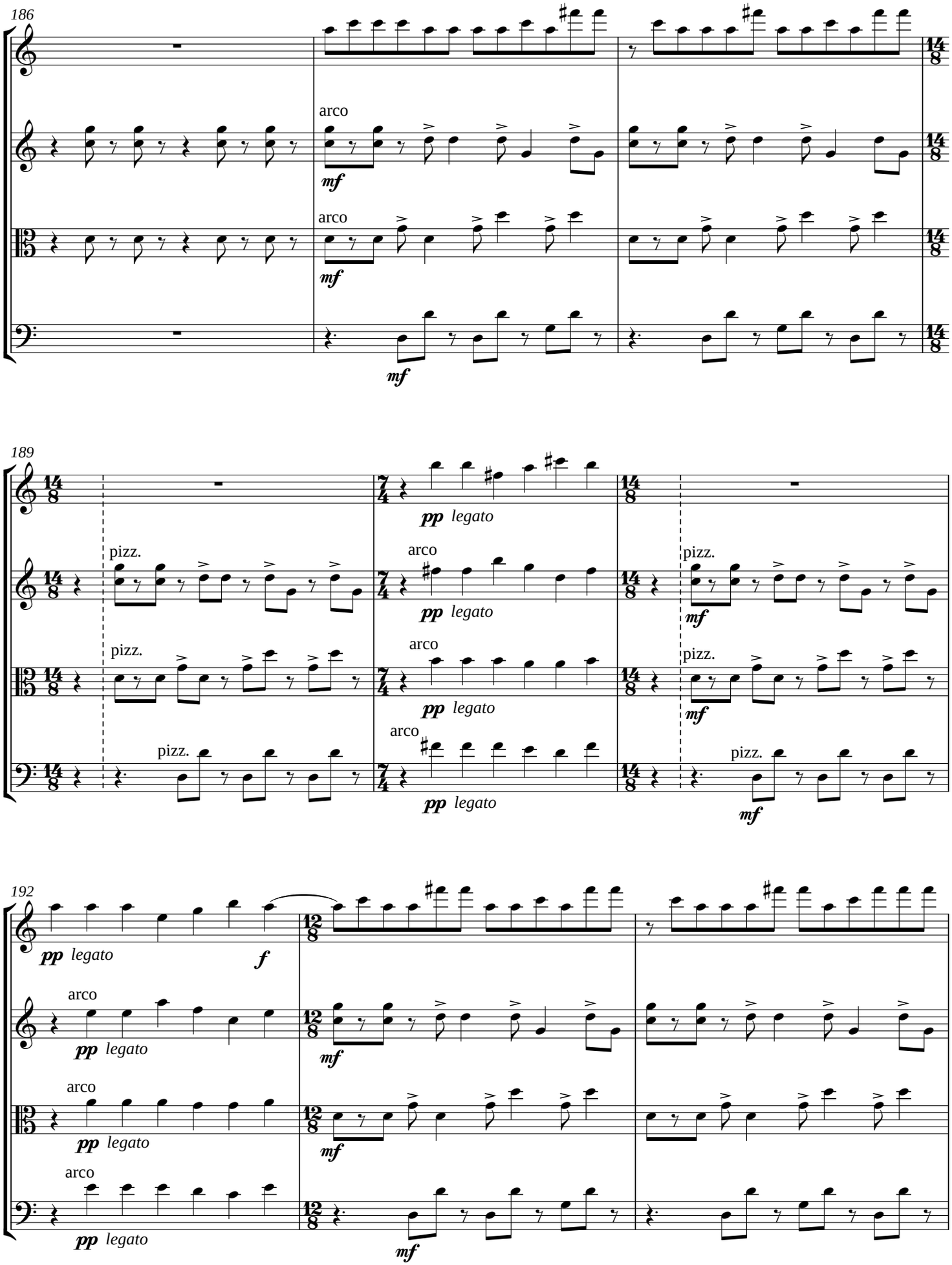

Tempo primo ♩. = 76
149
ff

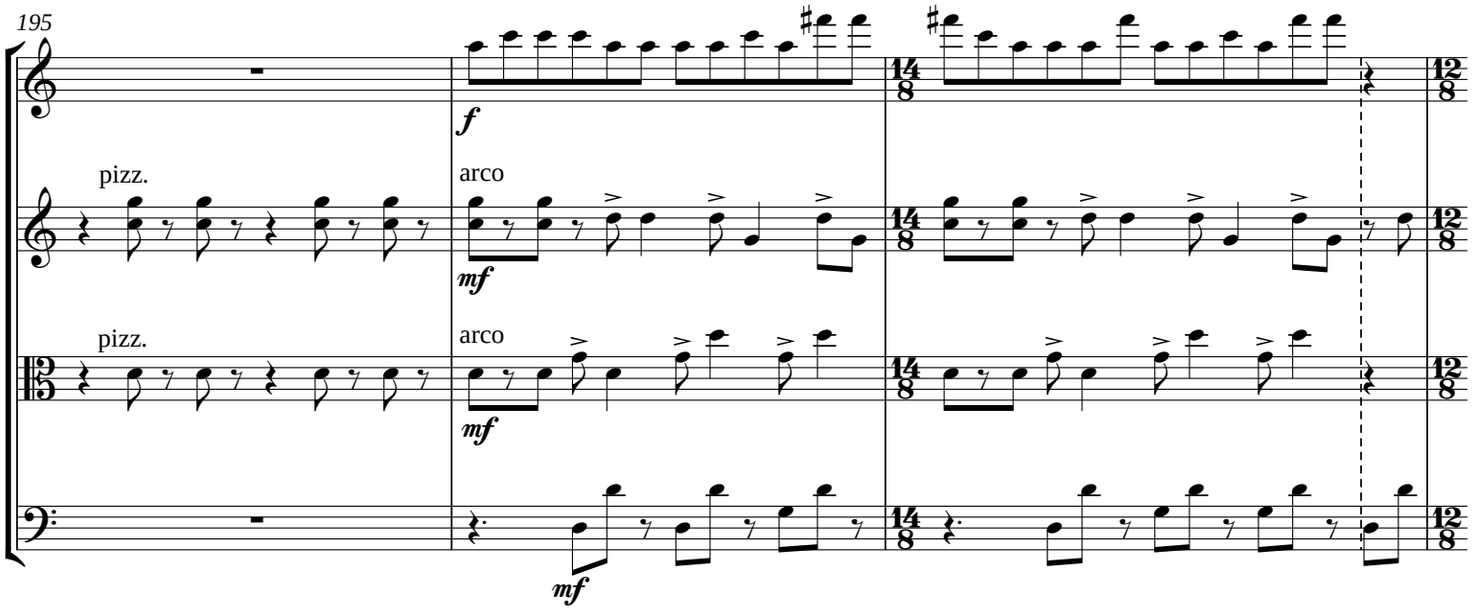

151

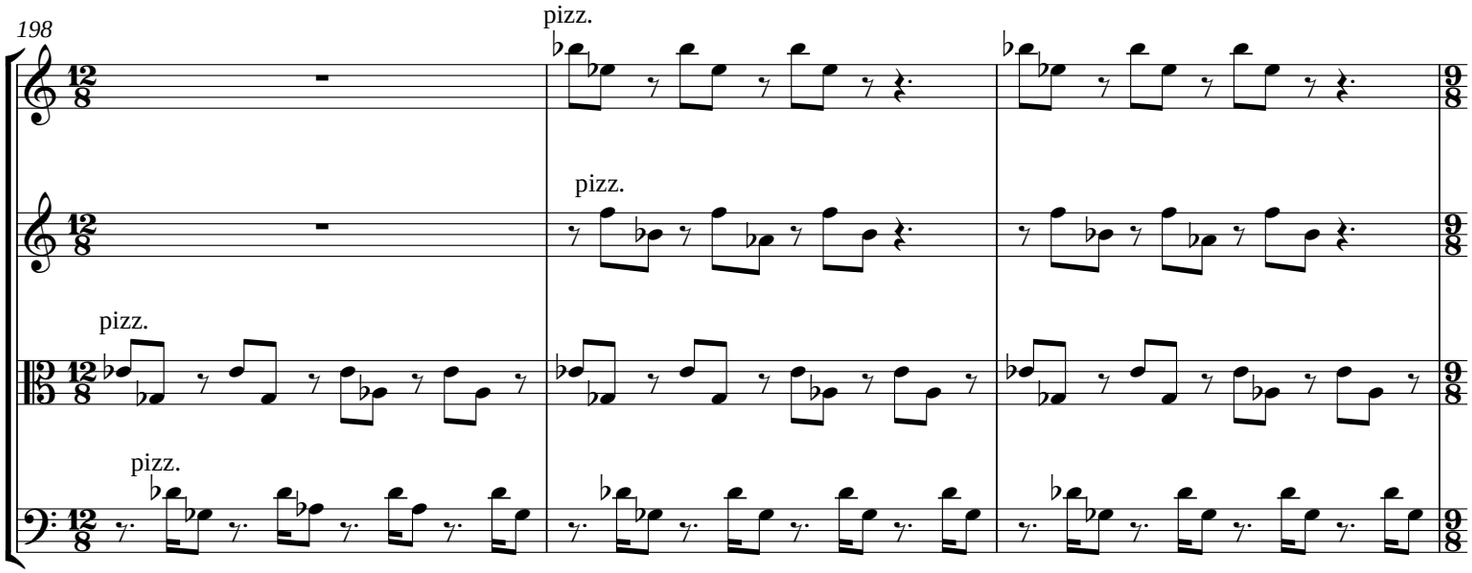

153
sul tasto
ppp
sul tasto
ppp
sul tasto
ppp
sul tasto
ppp
157
norm.
pp legato
norm.
pp
pizz.
mf marcato
pizz.
161
pp legato

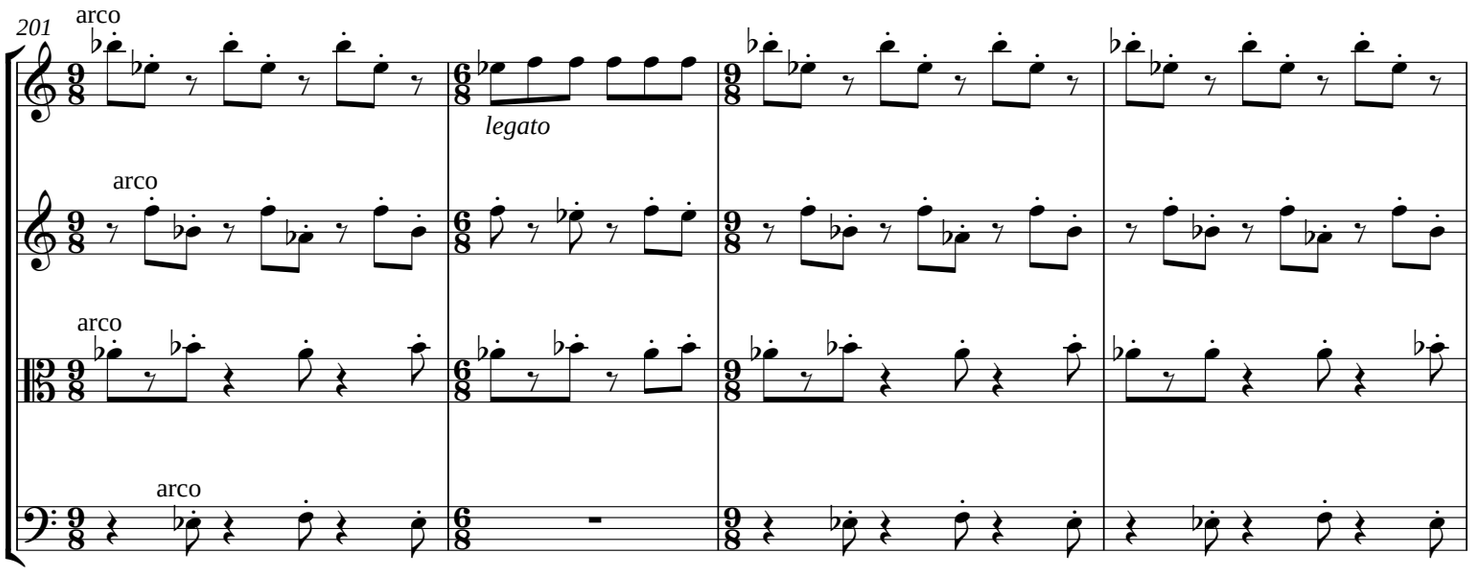

165
arco, sul tasto
ppp sim.
arco, sul tasto
ppp sim.
arco, sul tasto
ppp sim.
arco, sul tasto
ppp sim.
Tempo primo ♩. = 76
170
norm.
f
norm.
f
norm.
f
norm.
f
174
5
5
5
5

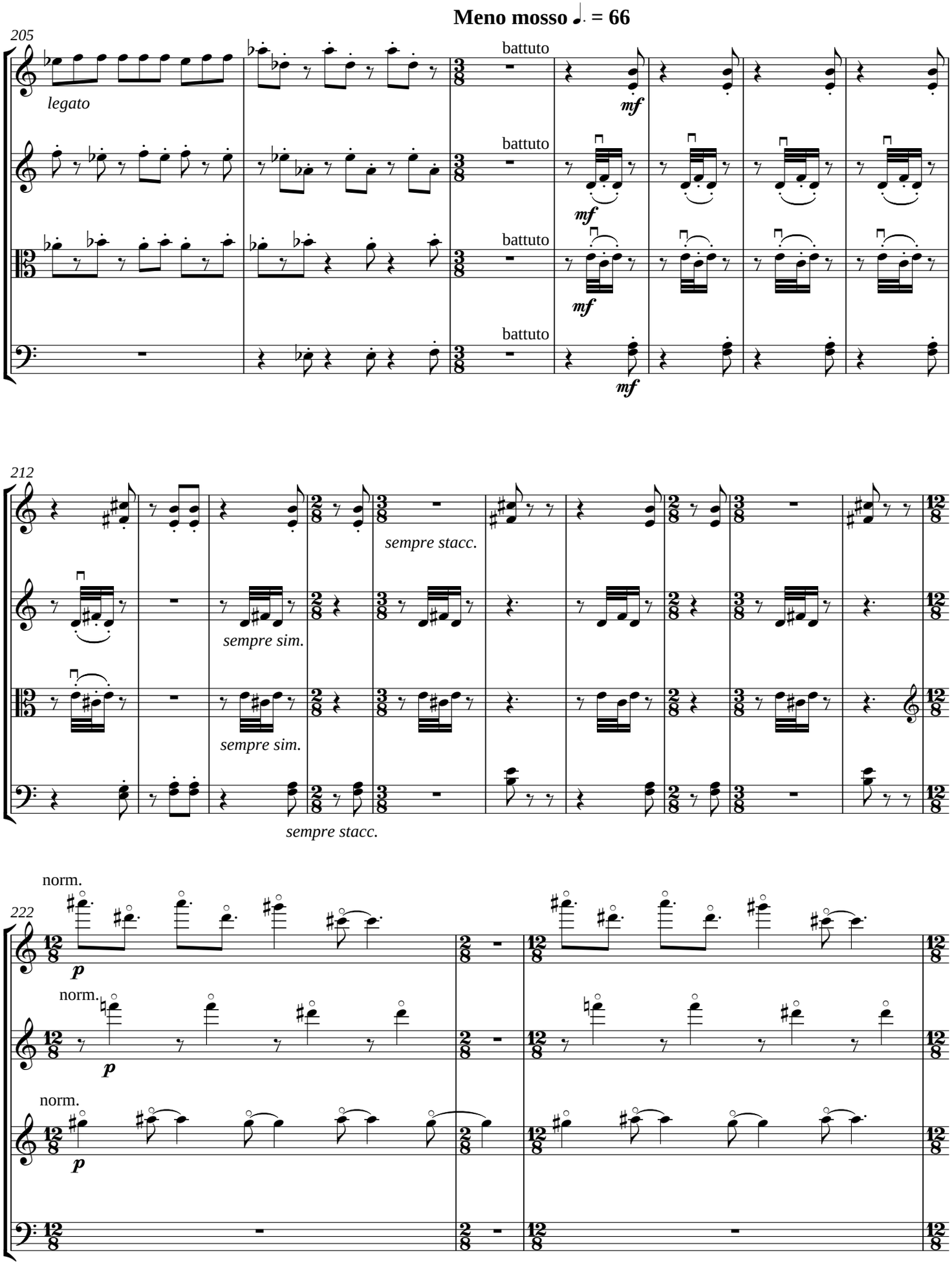

176
pp legato e dolce
pizz.
mf
pizz.
mf
pizz.
mf
179
183
f legato
arco
mf
arco
mf
arco
mf
pizz.
pizz.

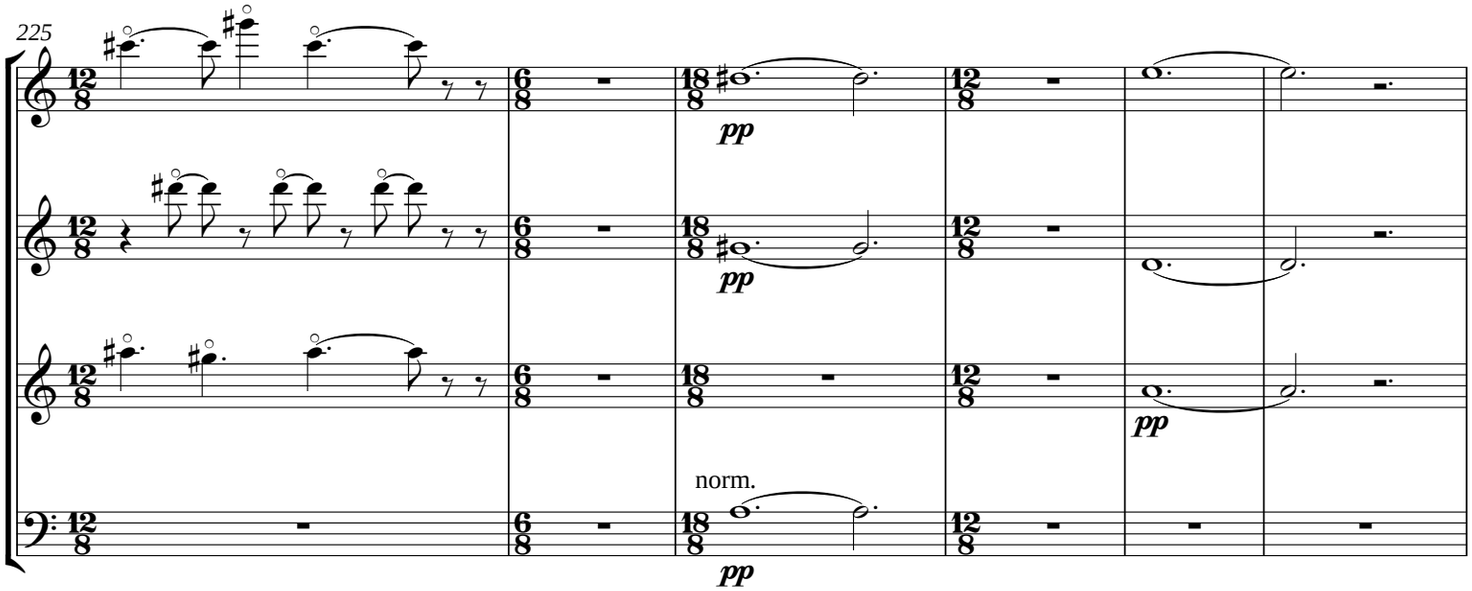

186
arco
mf
arco
mf
mf
189
pizz.
pp legato
arco
pp legato
pizz.
mf
pizz.
pp legato
arco
pp legato
pizz.
mf
pizz.
pp legato
arco
pp legato
pizz.
mf
192
pp legato
f
arco
pp legato
mf
arco
pp legato
mf
arco
pp legato
mf

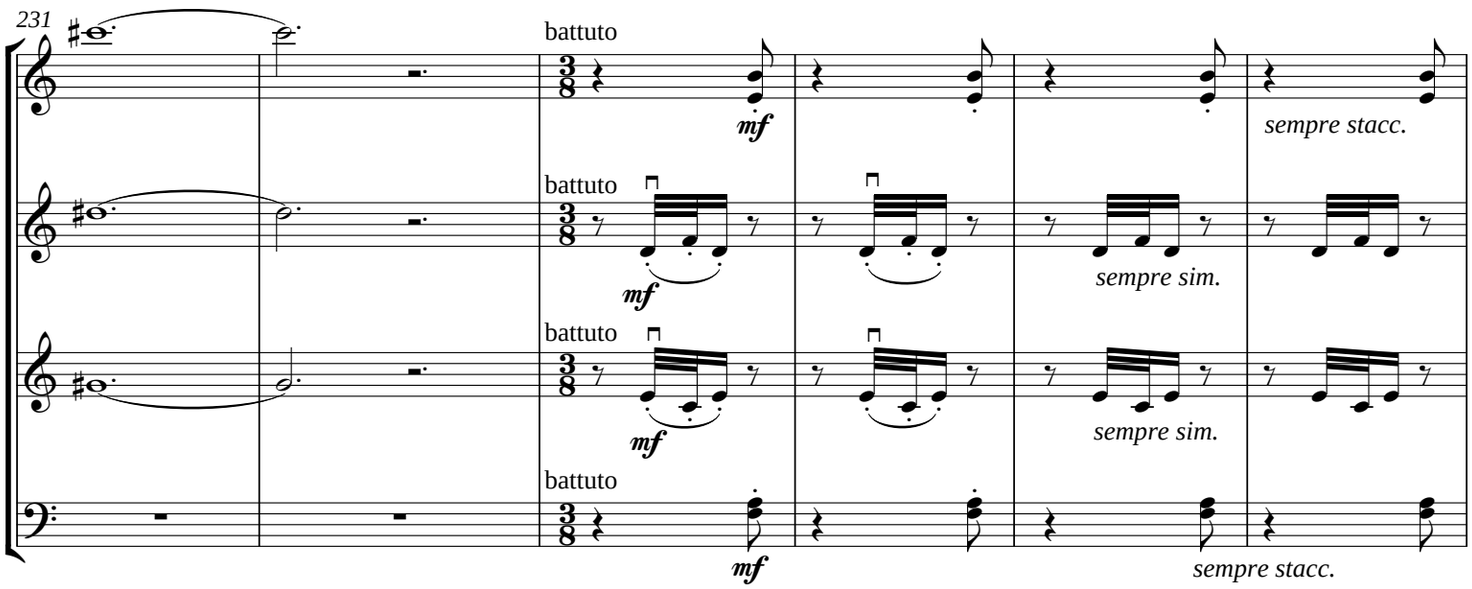

195
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco

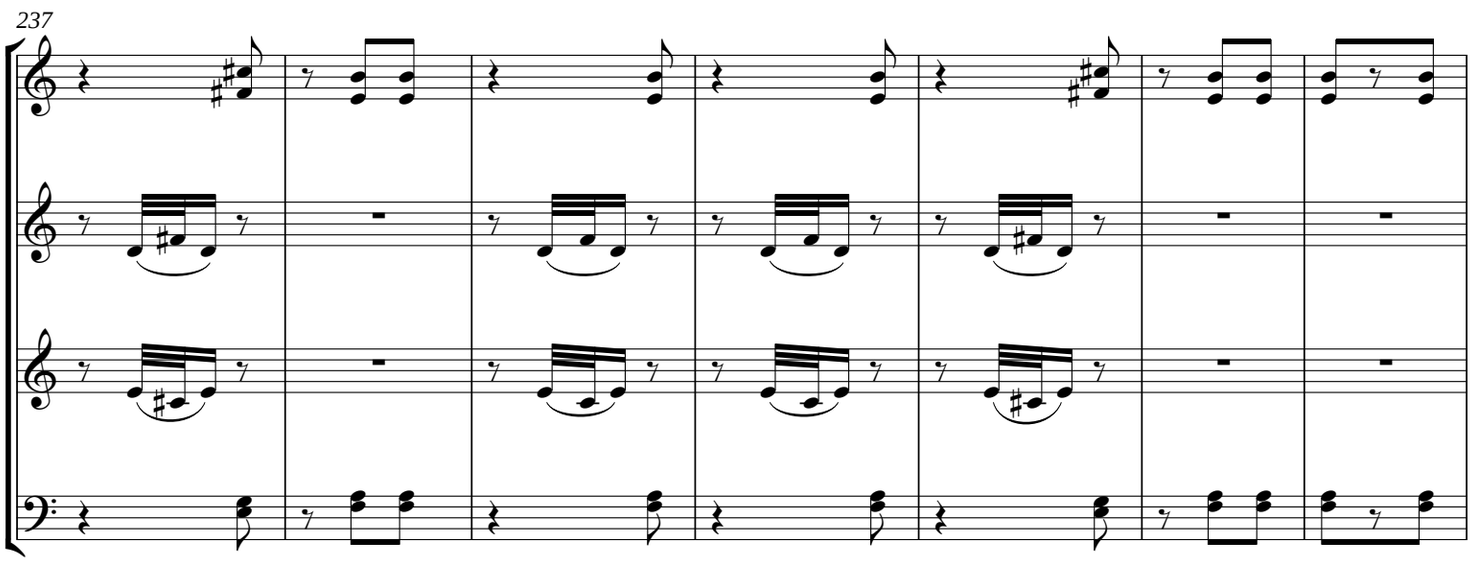

198
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.

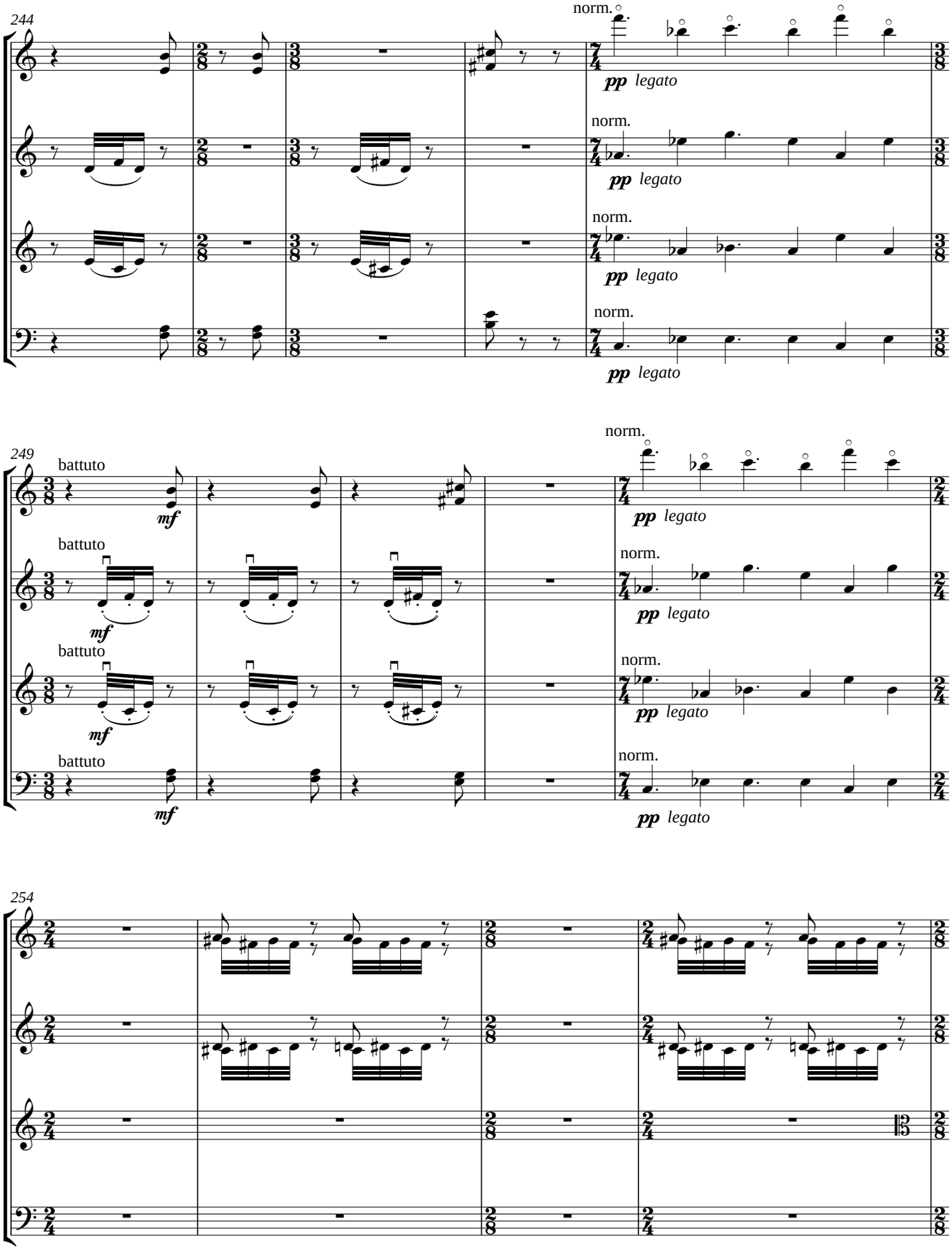

201
arco
legato
arco
arco
arco

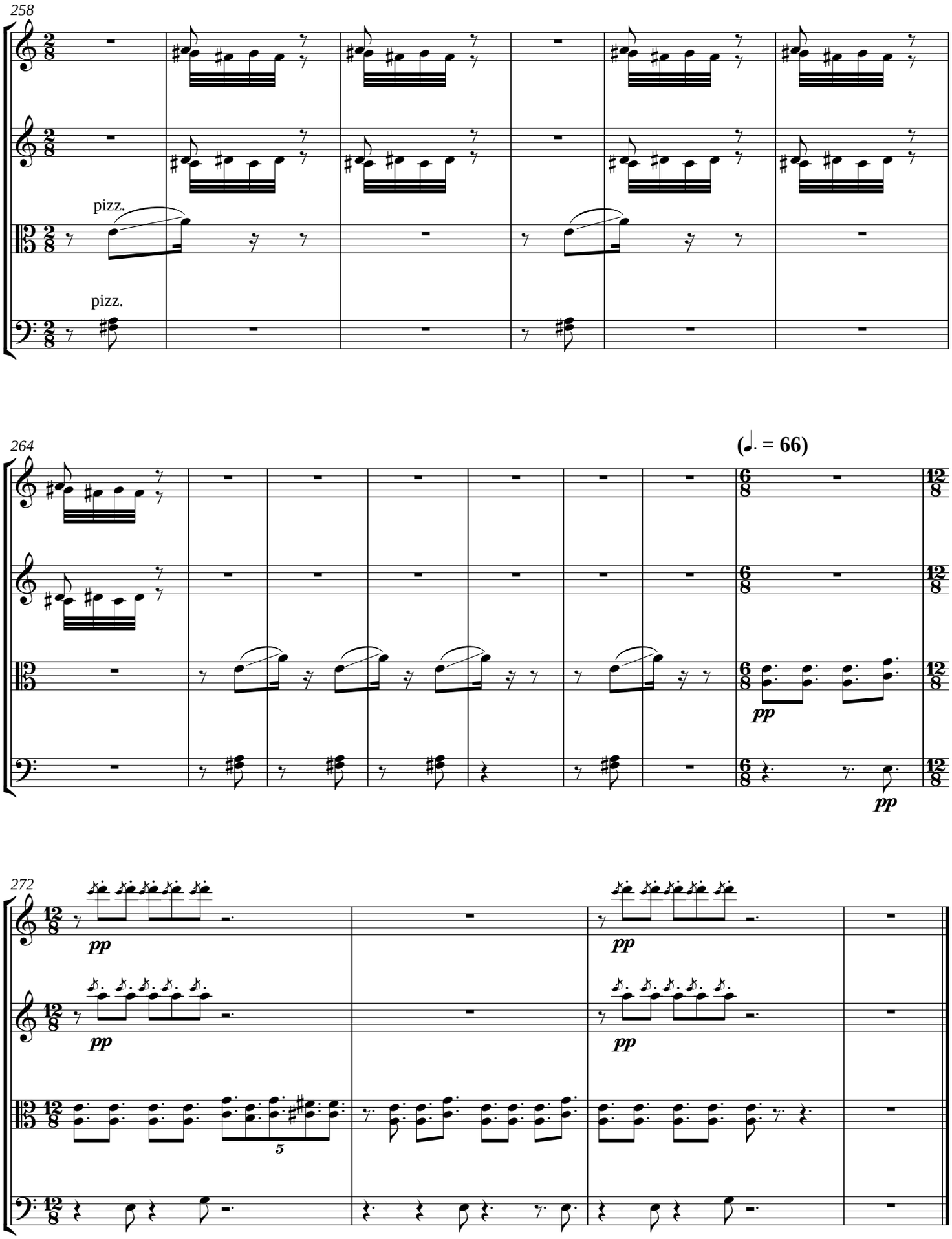

Meno mosso ♩. = 66
205
legato
battuto
mf
212
sempre stacc.
sempre sim.
sempre stacc.
222
norm.
p


225
pp
pp
pp
norm.
pp

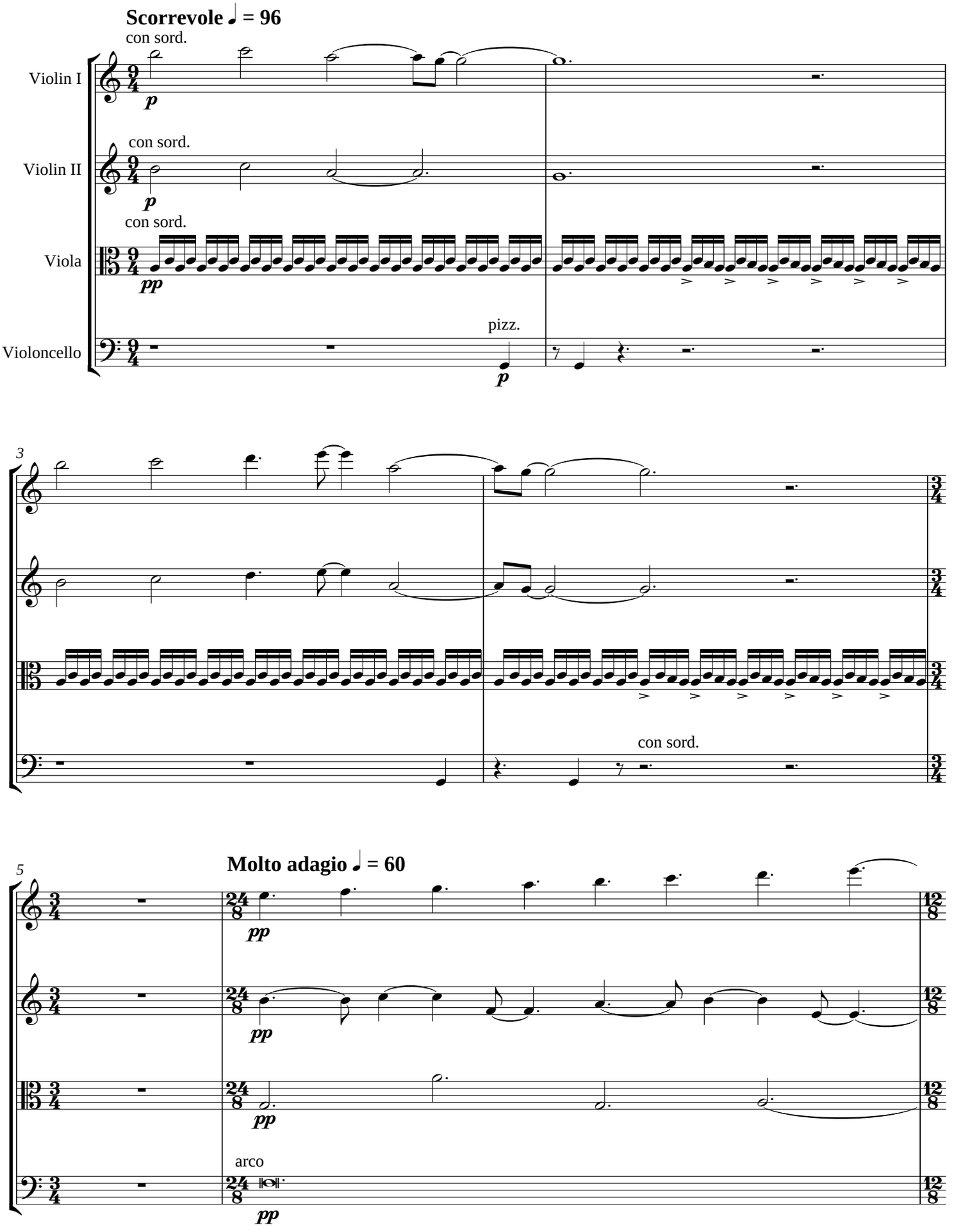

231
battuto
mf
sempre stacc.
battuto
mf
sempre sim.
battuto
mf
sempre sim.
battuto
mf
sempre stacc.

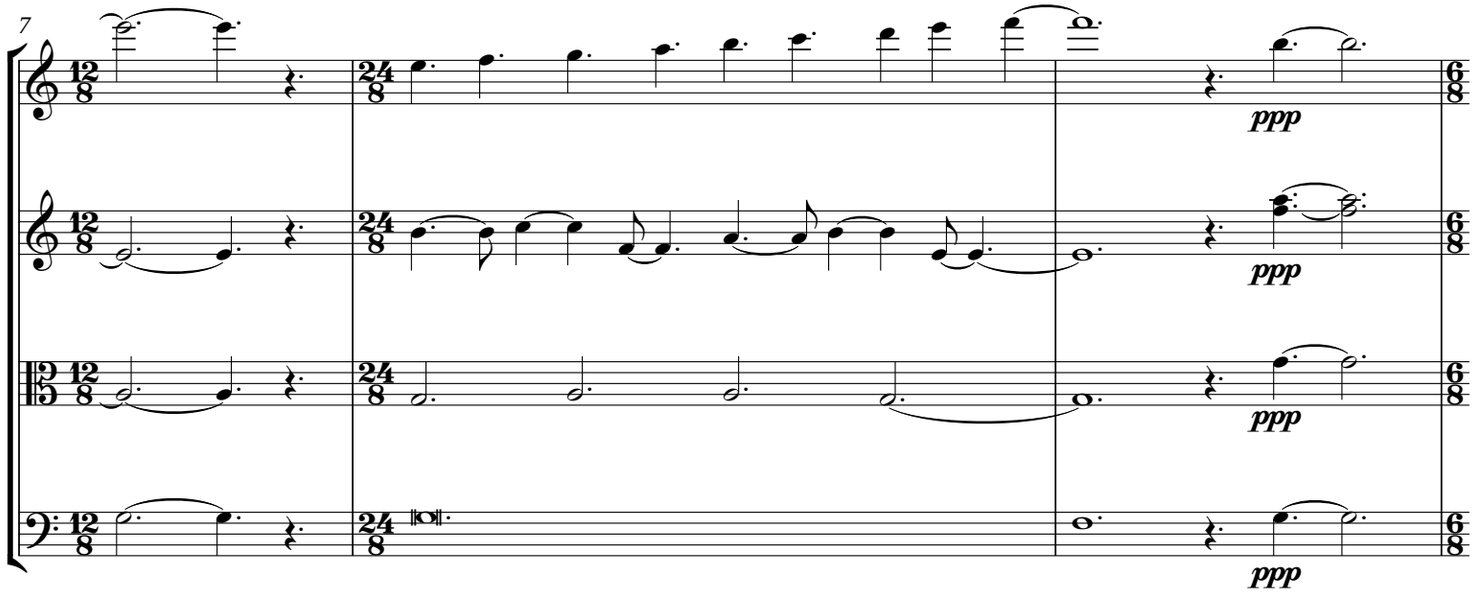

237

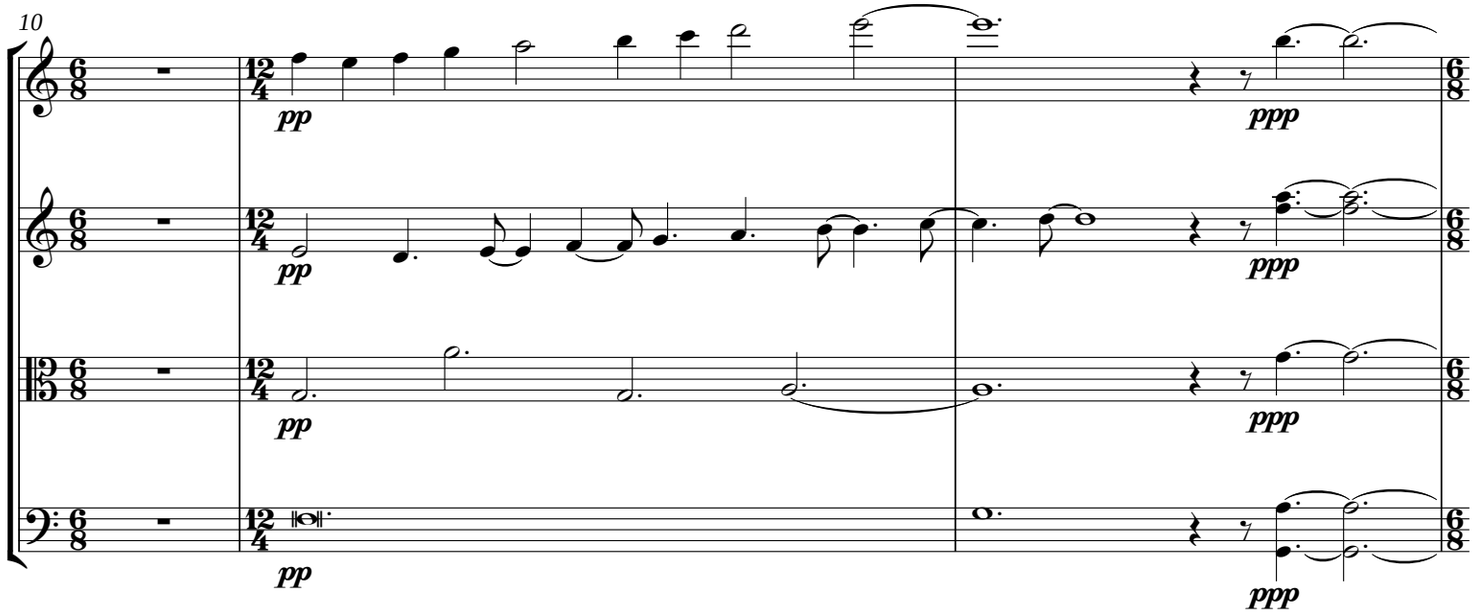

244
norm.
pp legato
norm.
pp legato
norm.
pp legato
norm.
pp legato
249
battuto
mf
battuto
mf
battuto
mf
battuto
mf
norm.
pp legato
norm.
pp legato
norm.
pp legato
norm.
pp legato
254

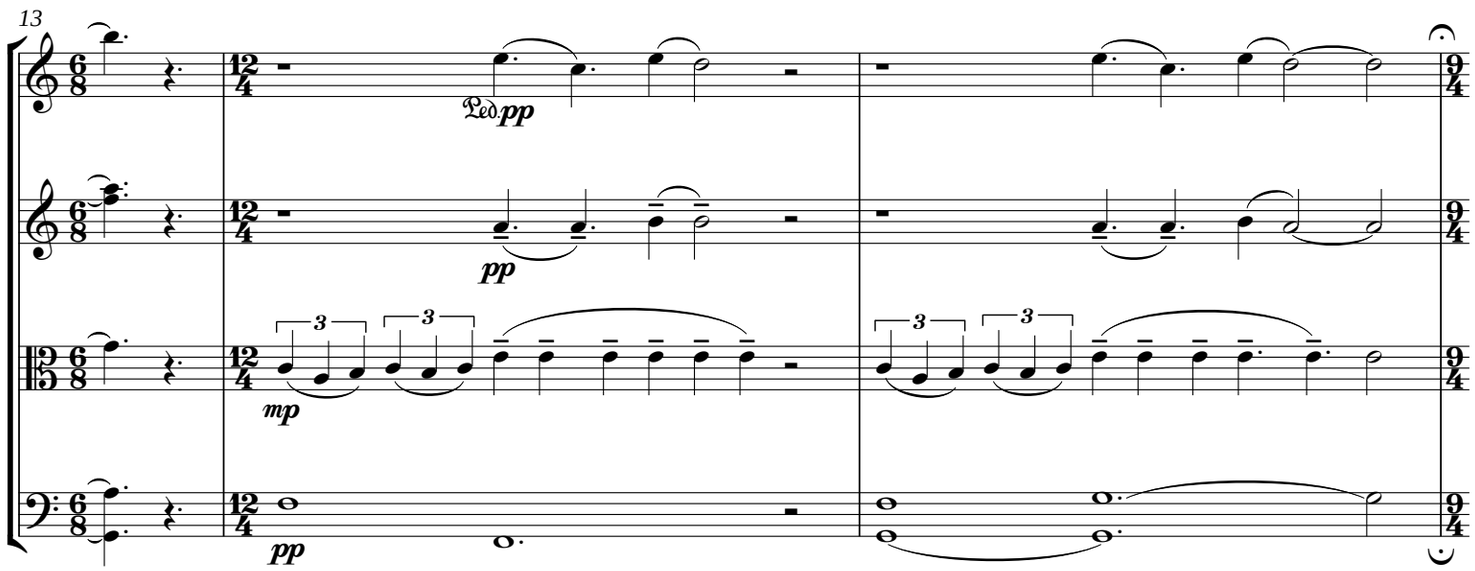

258
pizz.
pizz.
264
(♩. = 66)
pp
pp
272
pp
pp
pp
pp
5

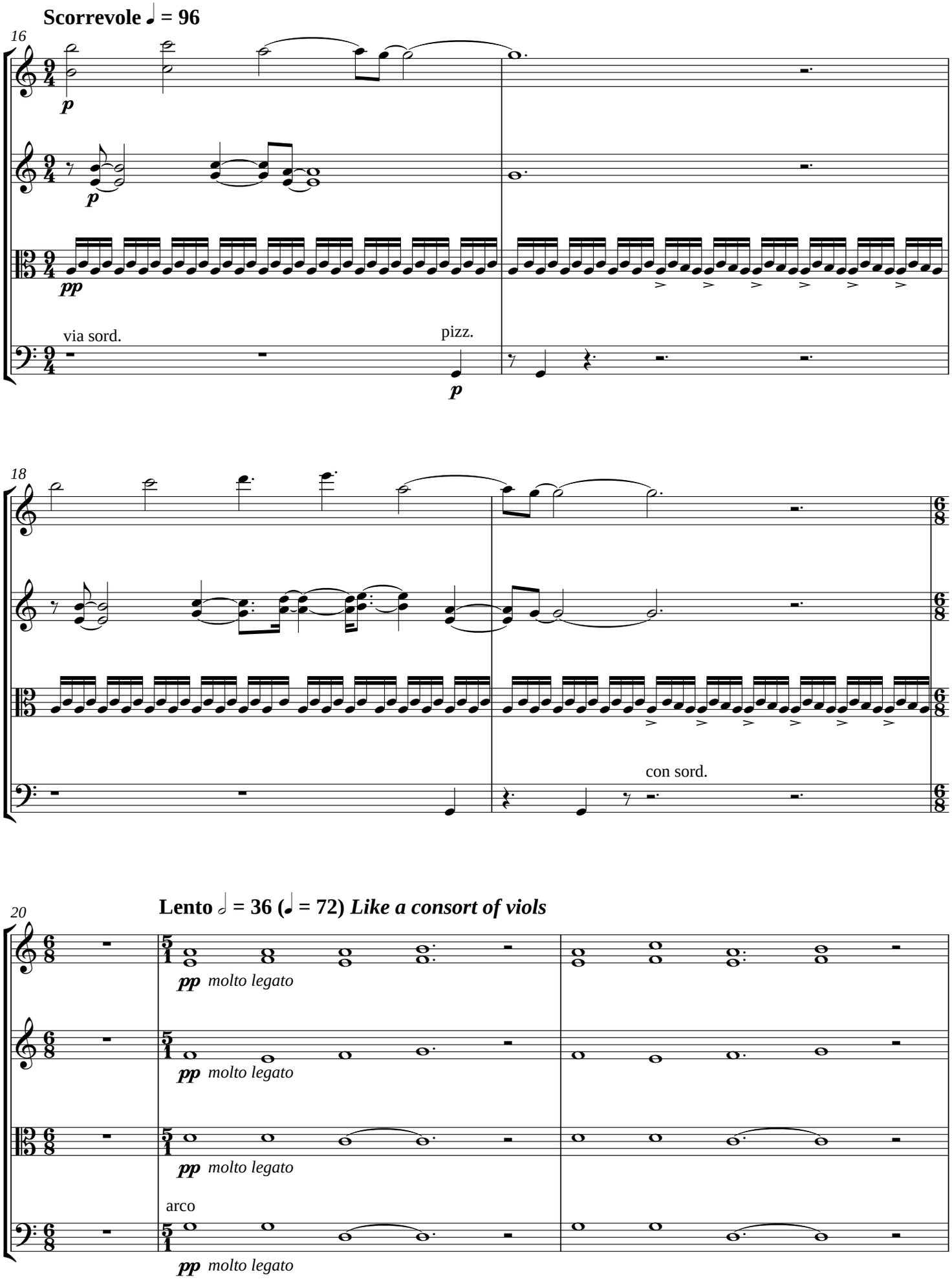
II

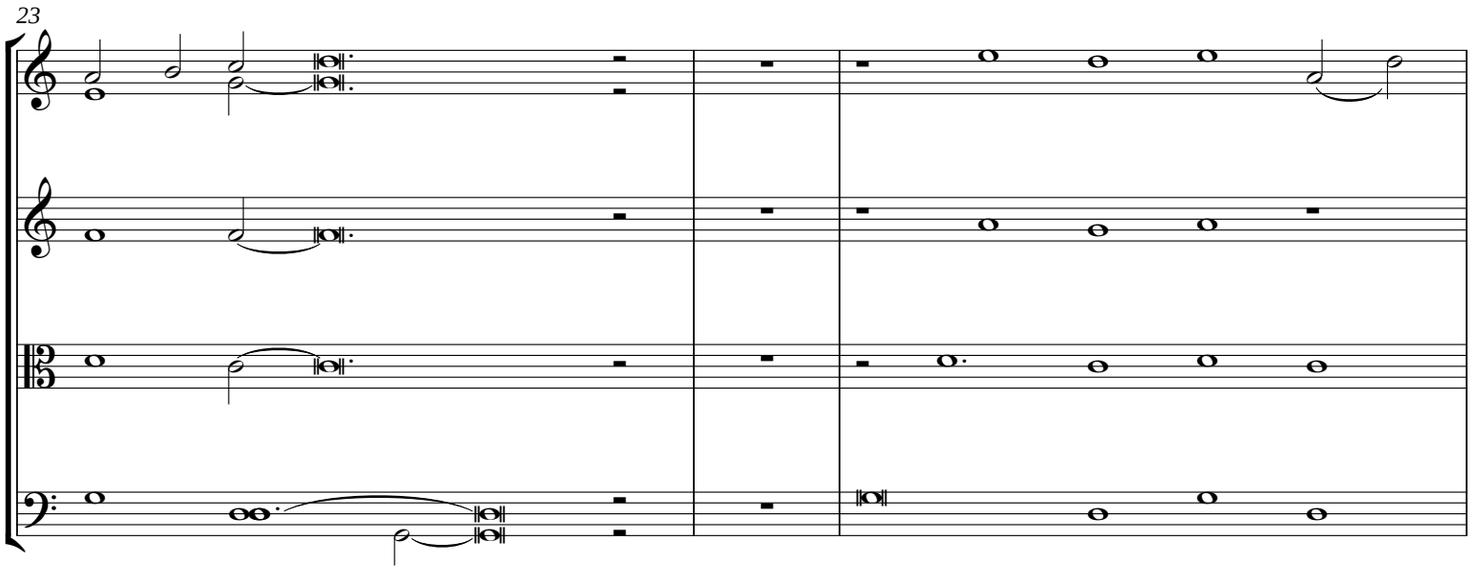

Scorrevole ♩ = 96
con sord.
Violin I
p
con sord.
Violin II
p
con sord.
Viola
pp
pizz.
Violoncello
p
3
con sord.
5
Molto adagio ♩ = 60
pp
pp
pp
arco
pp


7
ppp
ppp
ppp
ppp


10
pp
pp
pp
ppp
ppp
ppp
ppp


13
Ped.
pp
pp
mp
pp


Scorrevole ♩ = 96
16
p
p
pp
via sord.
pizz.
p
18
con sord.
20
Lento 𝅗𝅥 = 36 (♩ = 72) Like a consort of viols
pp molto legato
pp molto legato
pp molto legato
arco
pp molto legato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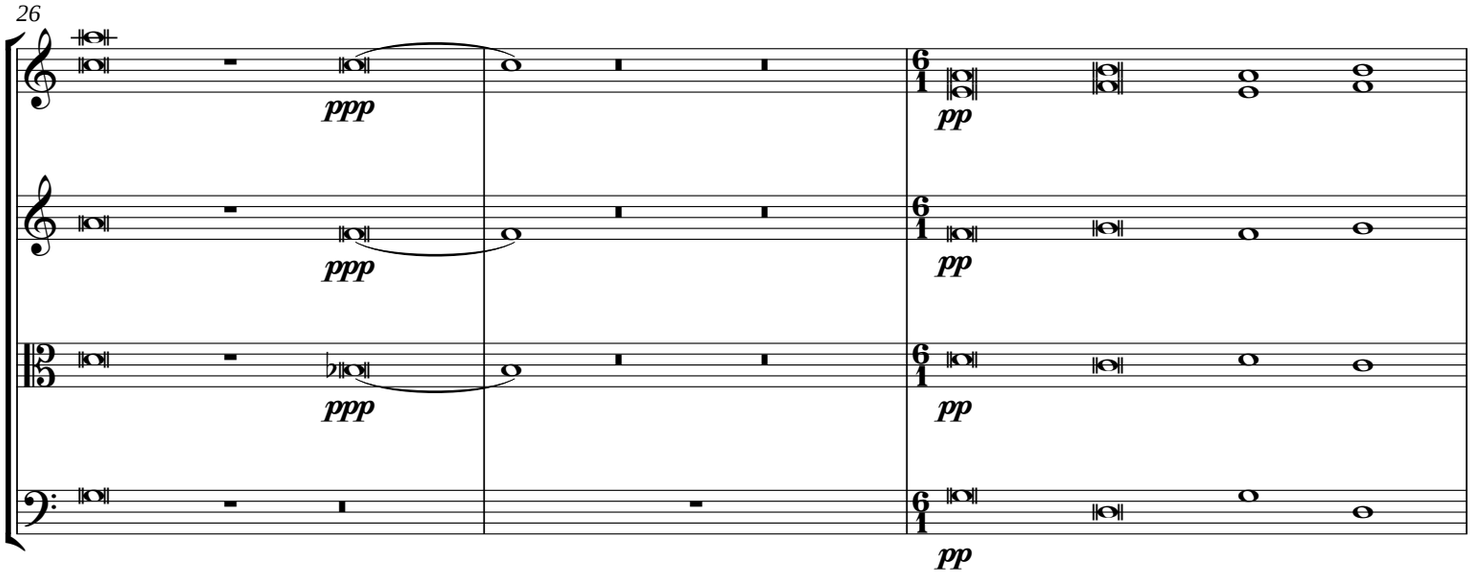
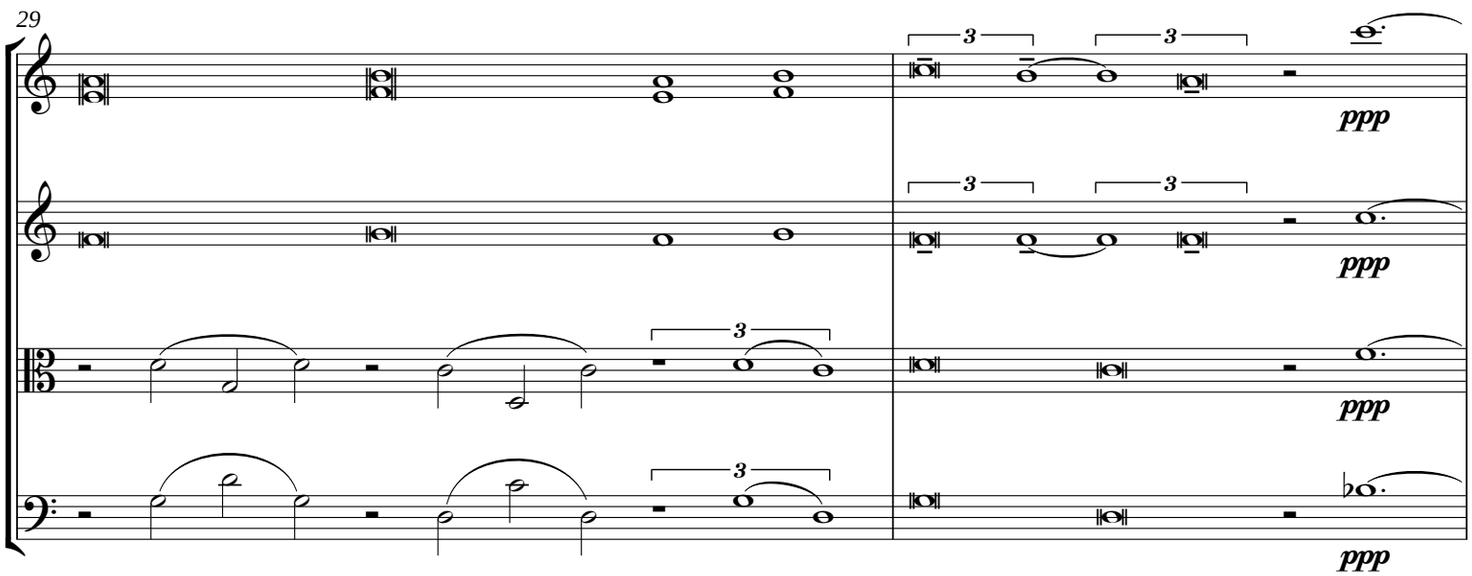

26
ppp
ppp
ppp
pp
pp
pp
pp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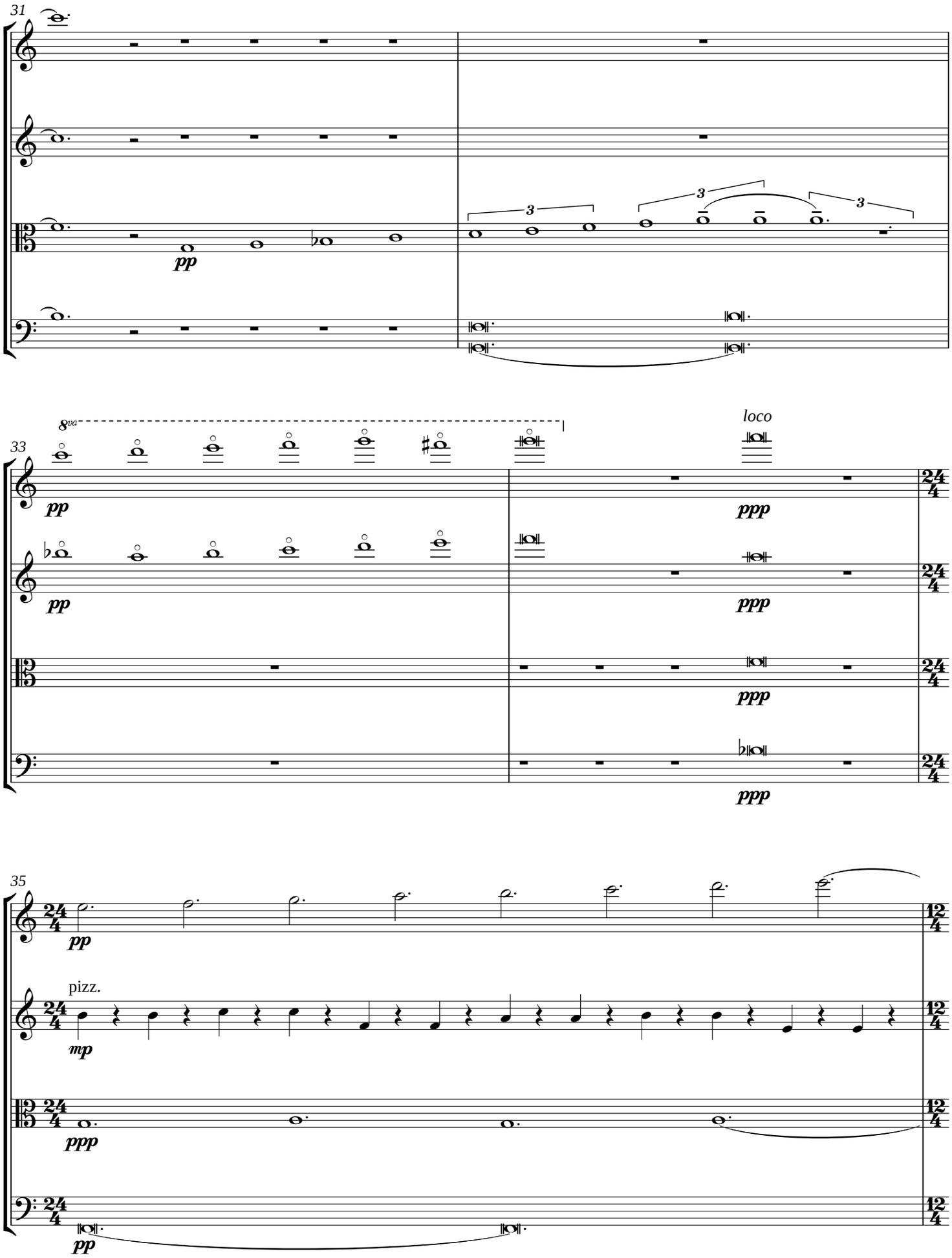
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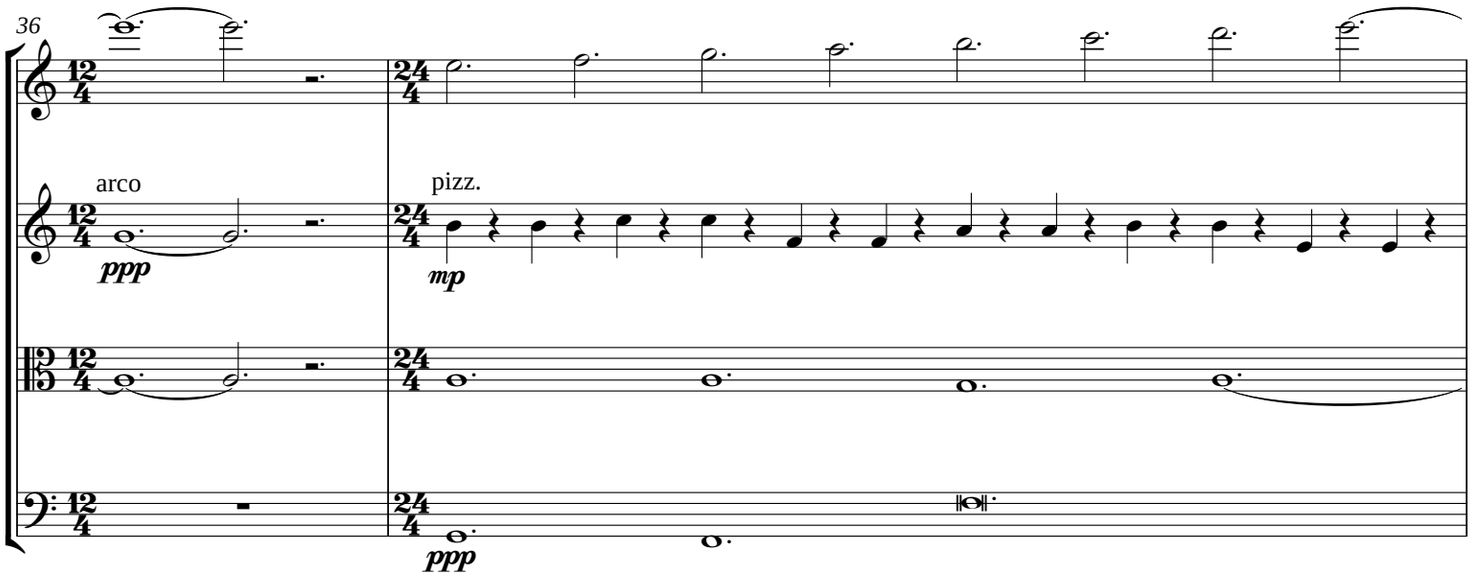
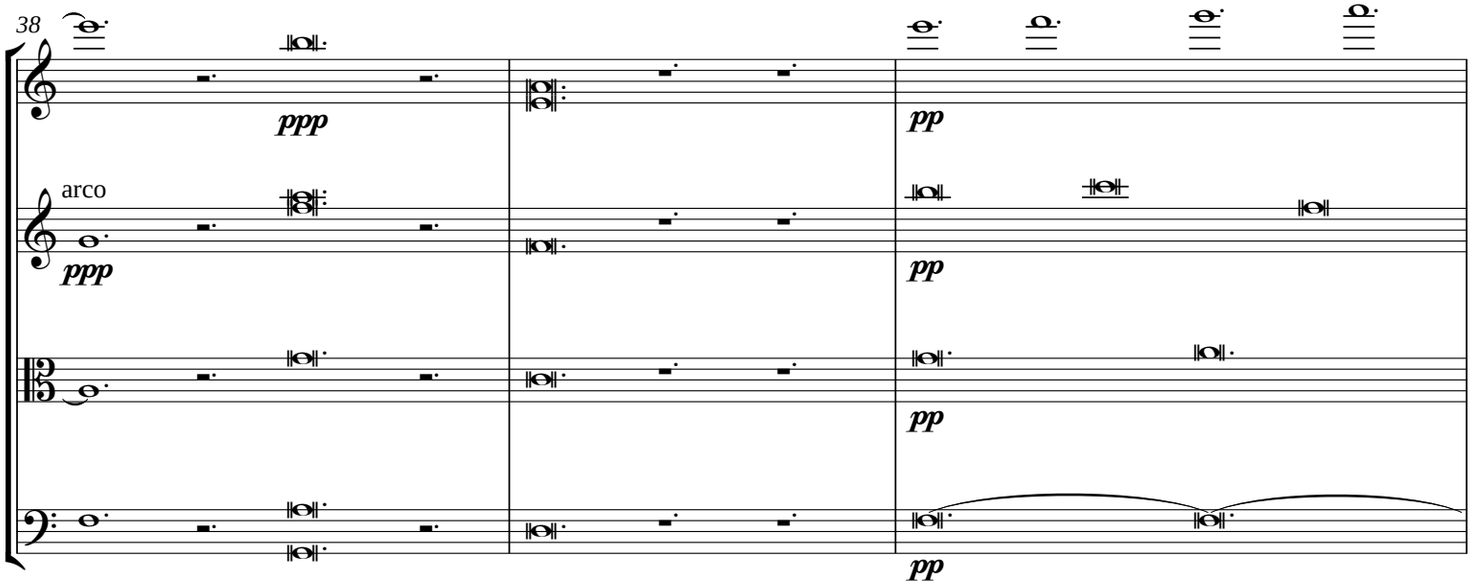
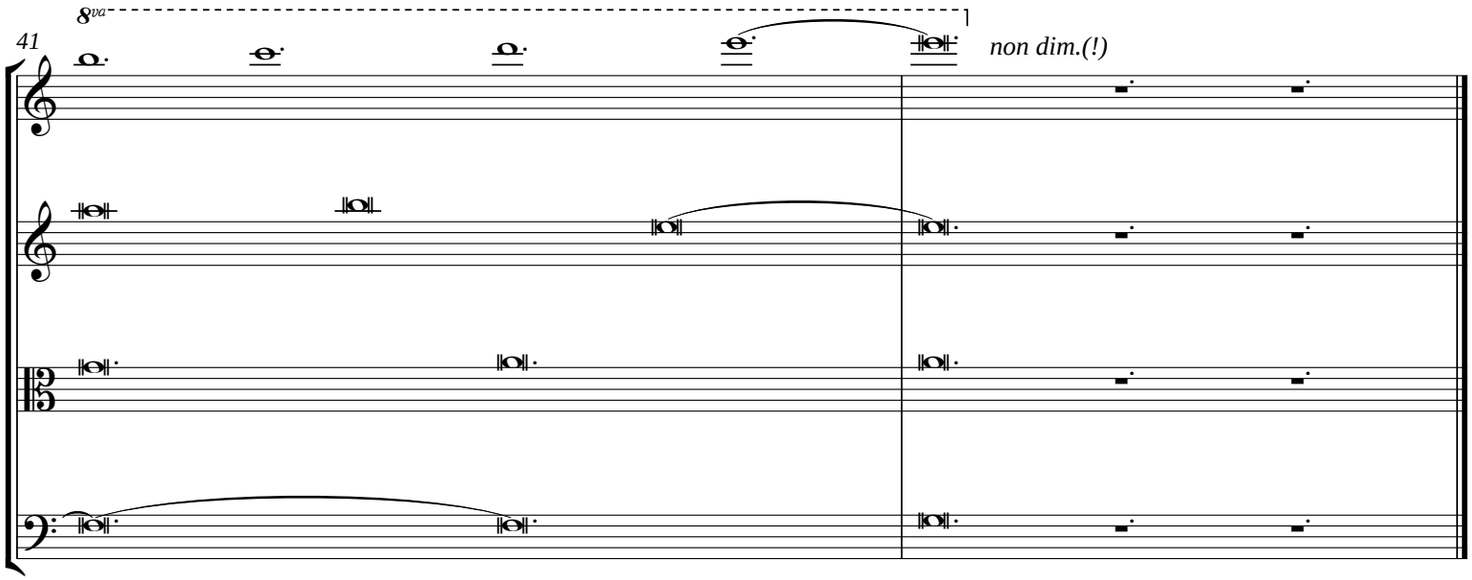




sempre molto rallentando



Ithala, KZN - Grahamstown, Jan - March 2001.

Michael Blake

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