James Williamson

String Quartet No.1 (Erratic)

(2015)

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NOTES FOR PERFORMANCE

Movement I *piano* dynamic range: ***niente (n), pppp, ppp, pp, p.***

r.o.b. means play right on the bridge (no pitch present).

s.p. means *sul ponticello.*

s.t. means *sul tasto.*

o.p. means bow overpressure.

molto vibrato (shown as a wavy-line) is to be played so that the sense of a fundemental pitch centre is lost i.e. the *portimento* can undulate between a ♯ or ♭ on either side of the pitch.

An *arrow* notehead means a sound with no pitch centre.

The boxed number on a repeating section or bar indicates the number of times that section or bar must be repeated.

Microtones include 1/4 ♯, 3/4 ♯ and 1/4 ♭.

Duration: ca. 12 minutes

To my wife, Jodie

String Quartet No.1(erratic)

I

James Williamson

♩ = ca.132

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

ppp
sempre

ppp
sempre

3

♪ = ♪ (♩.=76)

x5

Grace notes on the beat.

col legno batutto
[no. of notes are approximate]

ppp

pizz.

ppp

♪ = ♪ (♩=132)

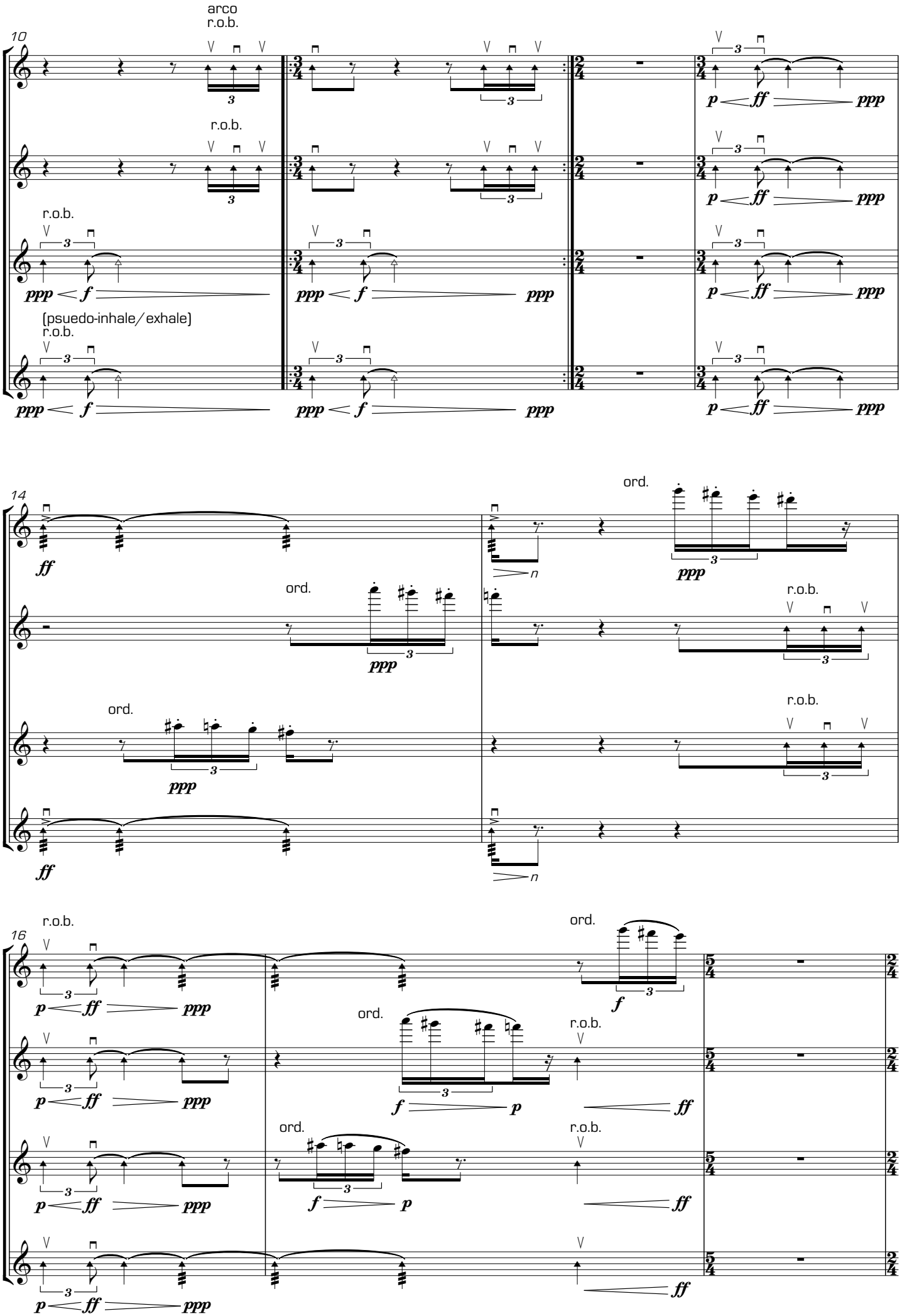
6

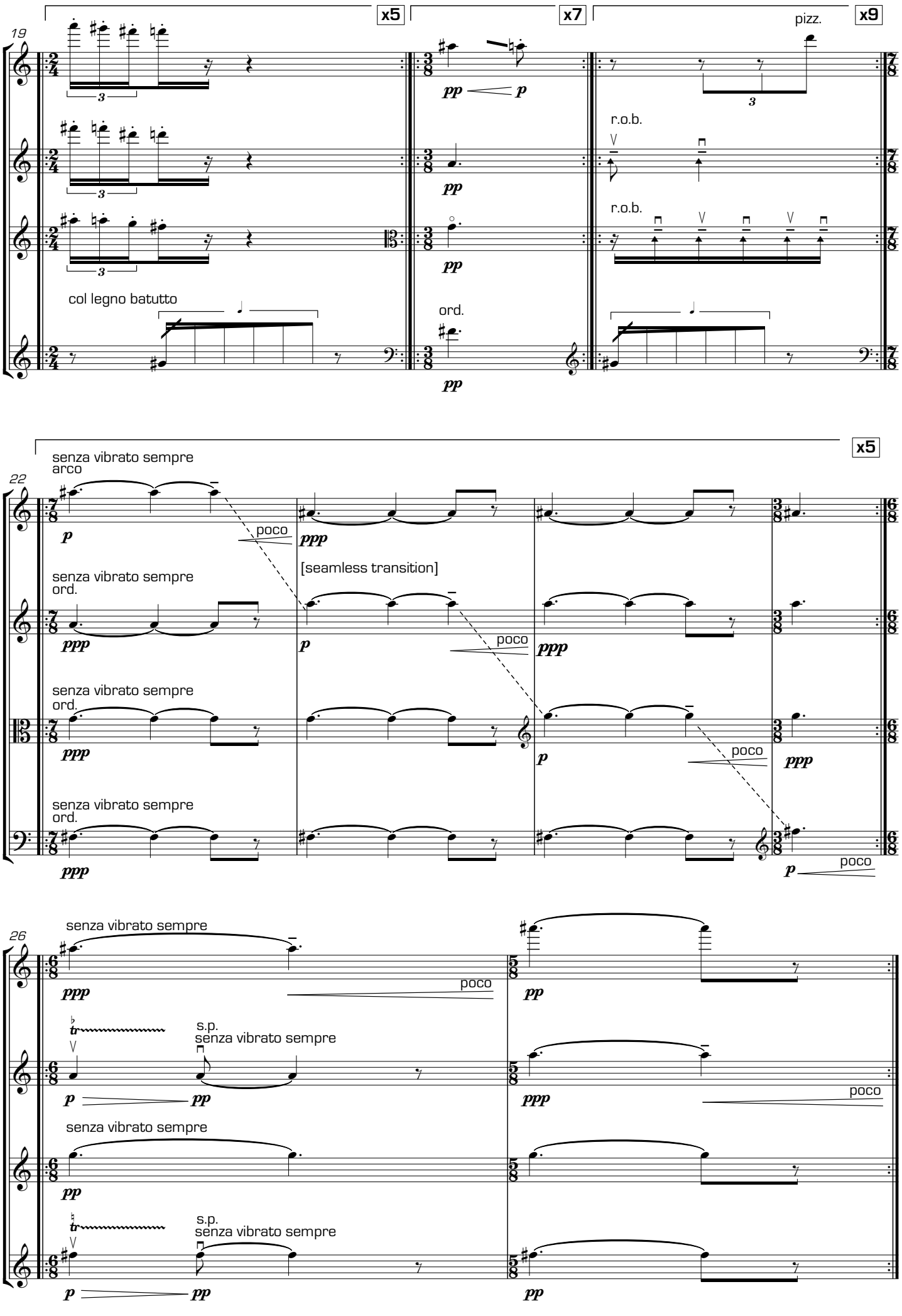
pizz.

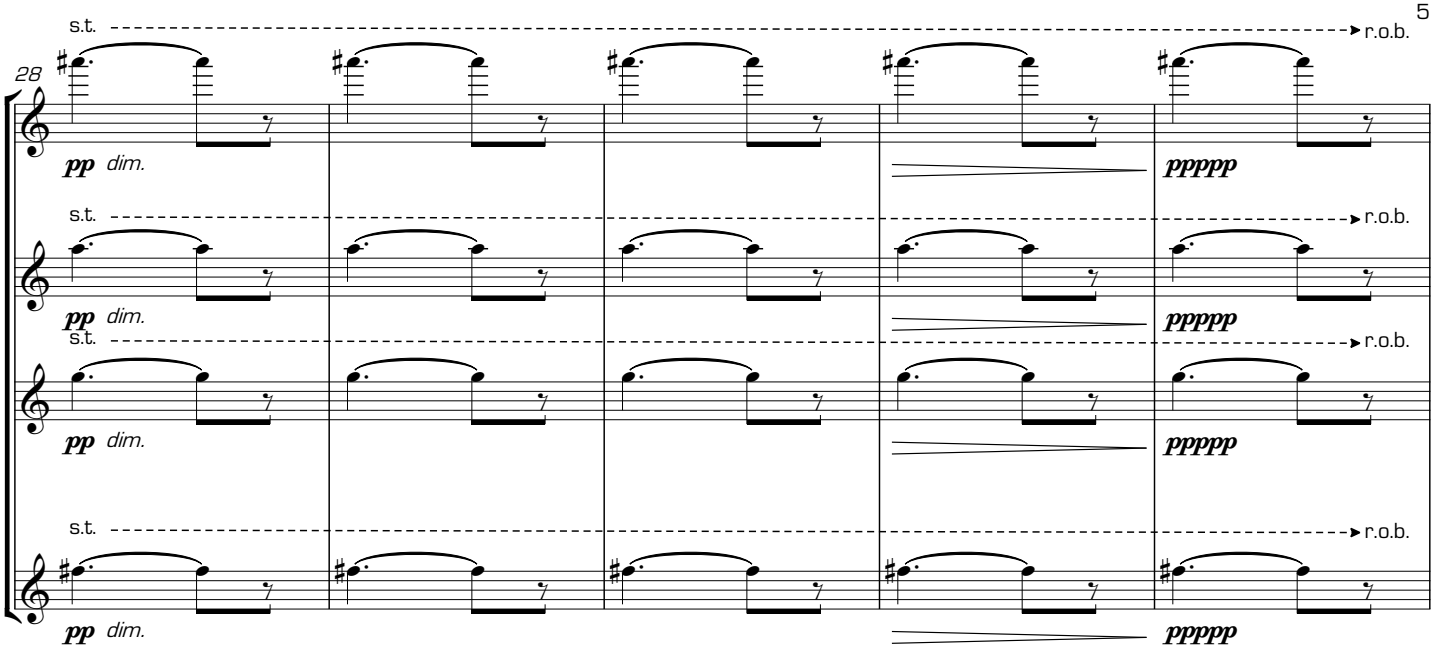
(psuedo-inhale/exhale)
r.o.b.

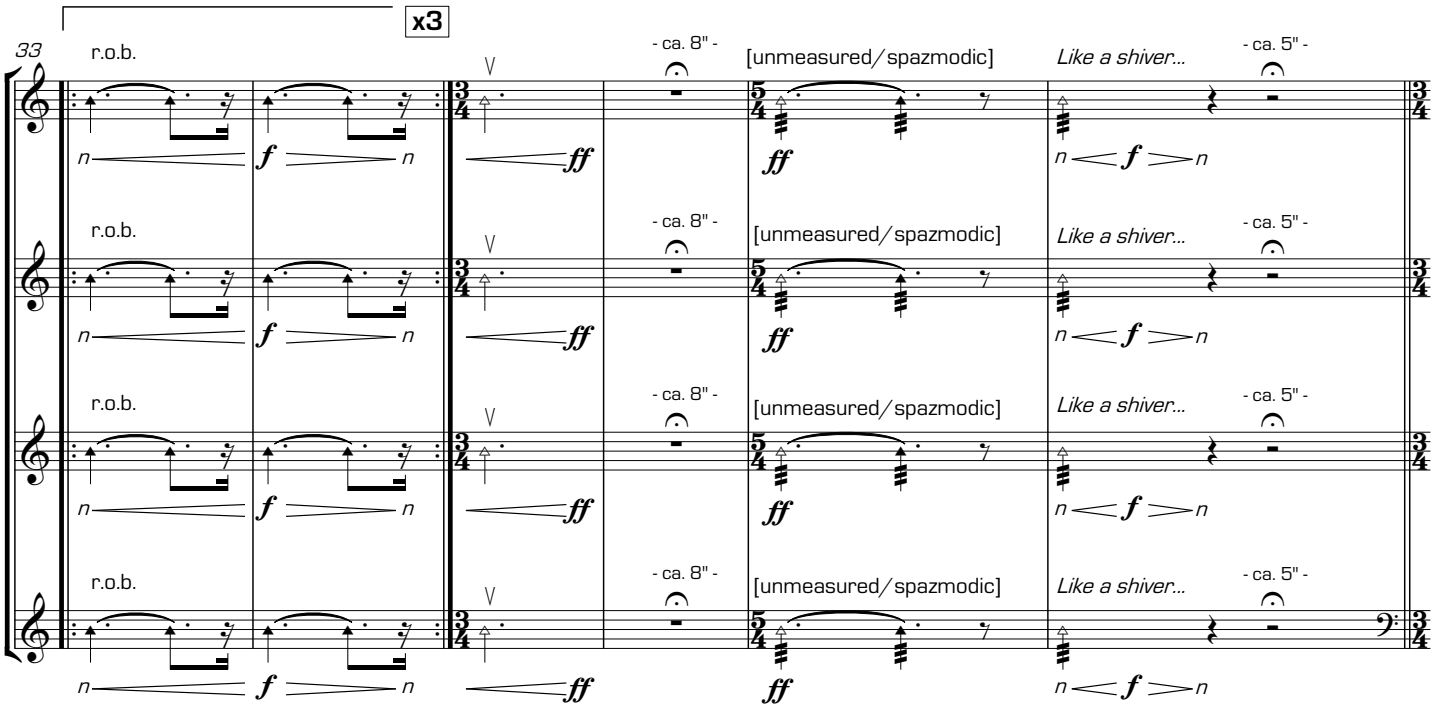
ppp < ***f*** > ***ppp***

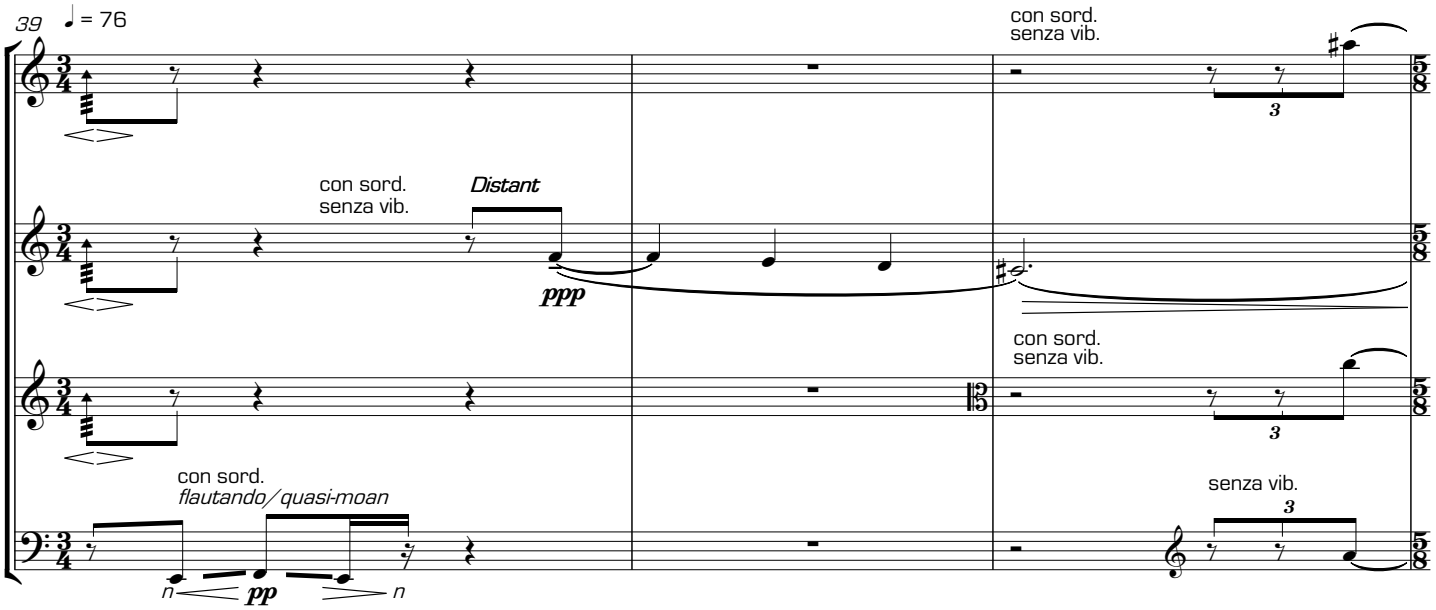
arco

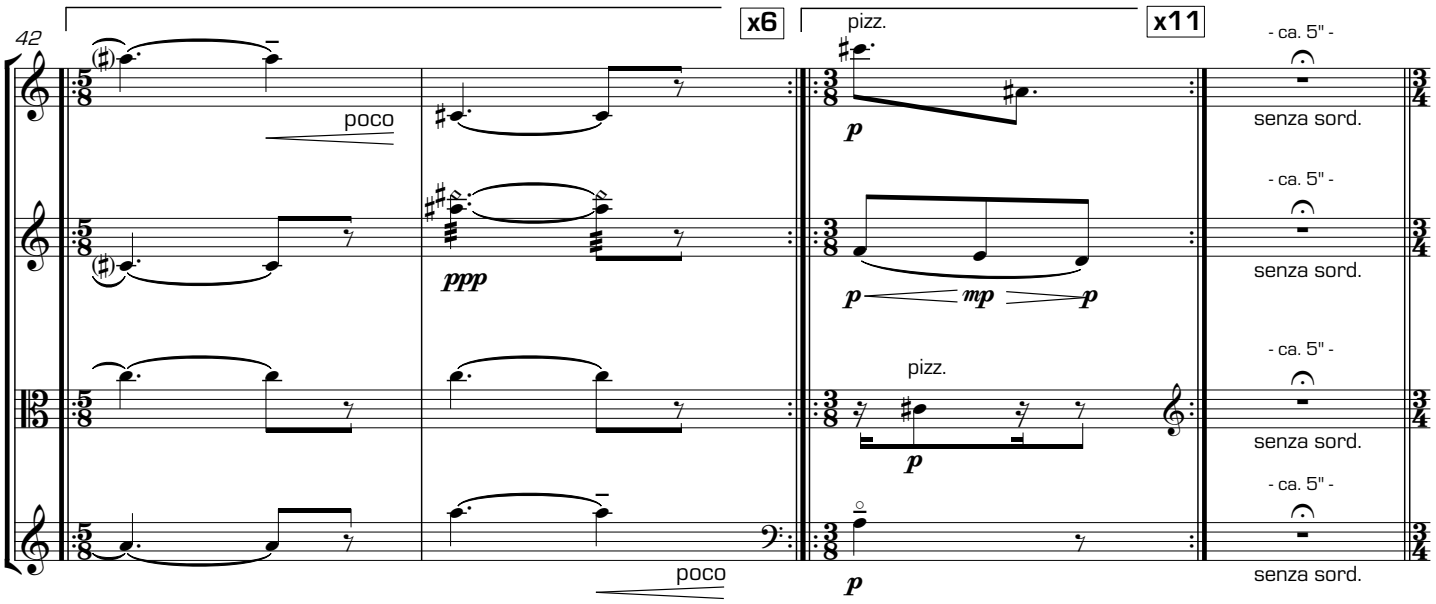

10
arco
r.o.b.
r.o.b.
r.o.b.
[psuedo-inhale/exhale]
r.o.b.
14
ord.
ord.
ord.
r.o.b.
r.o.b.
16
r.o.b.
ord.
ord.
r.o.b.
ord.
r.o.b.

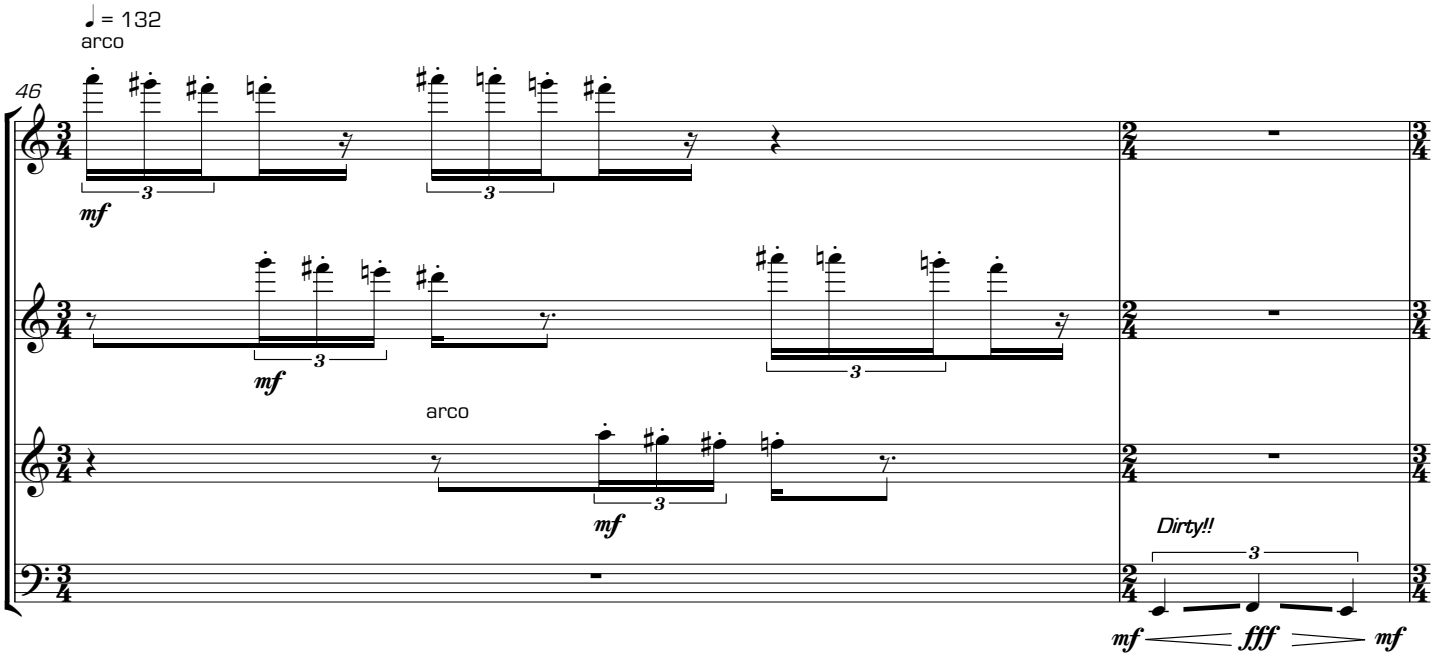

19
x5
x7
x9
pizz.
r.o.b.
r.o.b.
col legno batutto
ord.
22
senza vibrato sempre
arco
poco
[seamless transition]
senza vibrato sempre
ord.
senza vibrato sempre
ord.
senza vibrato sempre
ord.
26
senza vibrato sempre
poco
s.p.
senza vibrato sempre
senza vibrato sempre
s.p.
senza vibrato sempre

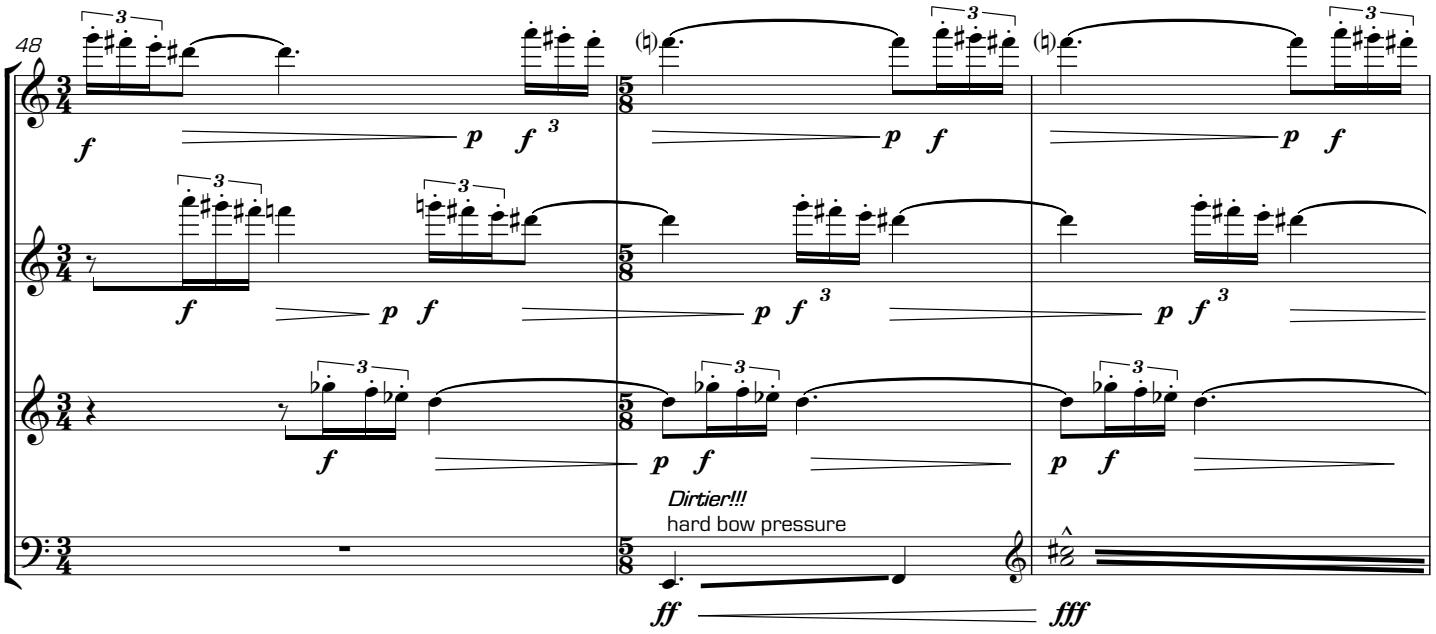

28
s.t.
r.o.b.
pp dim.
ppppp

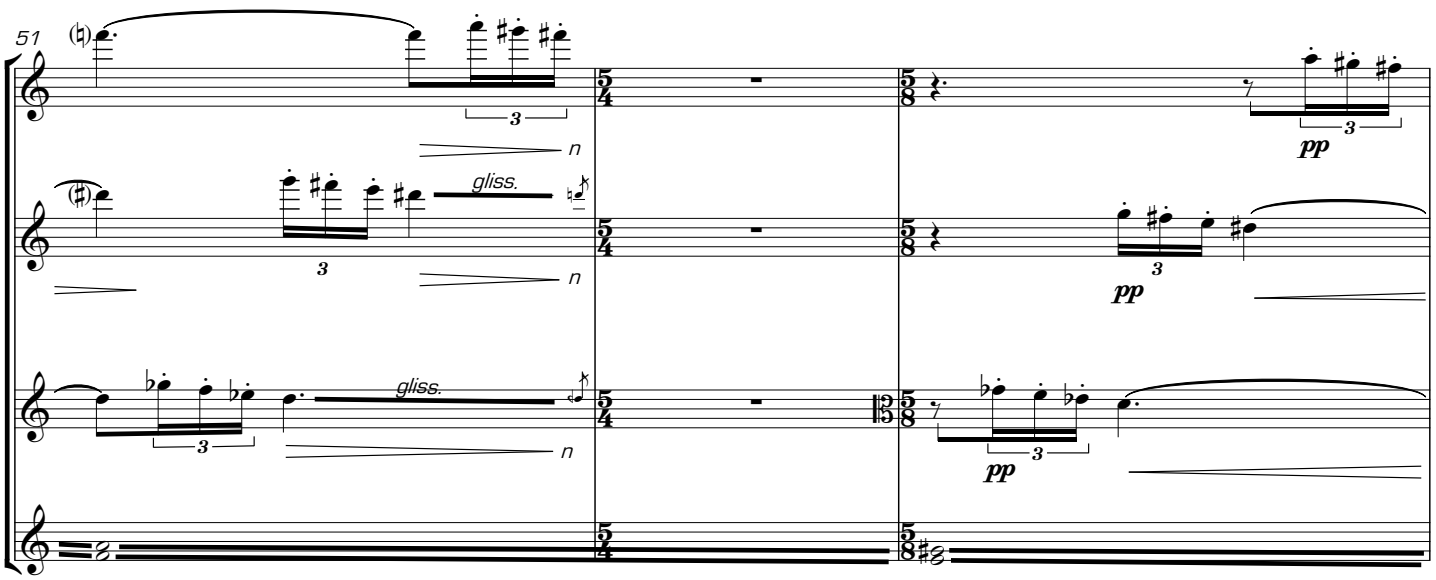

x3
33
r.o.b.
- ca. 8" -
[unmeasured/spazmodic]
Like a shiver...
- ca. 5" -
n f n
ff

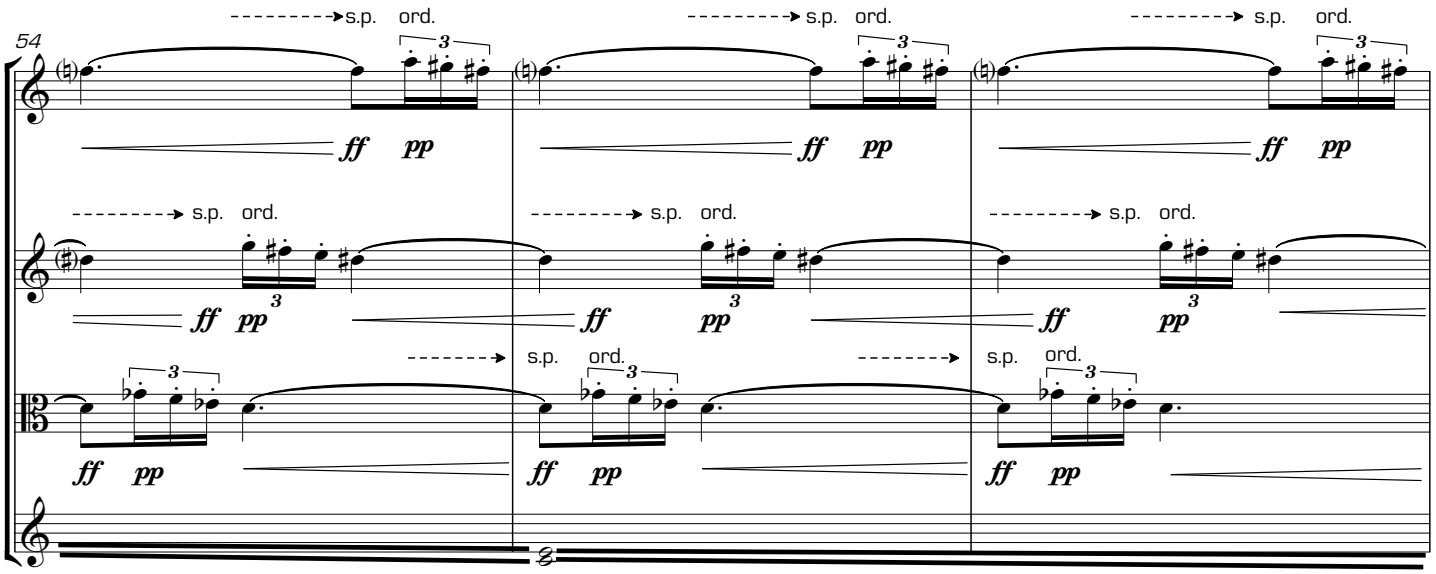

39
♩ = 76
con sord.
senza vib.
Distant
ppp
con sord.
flautando/quasi-moan
pp
senza vib.

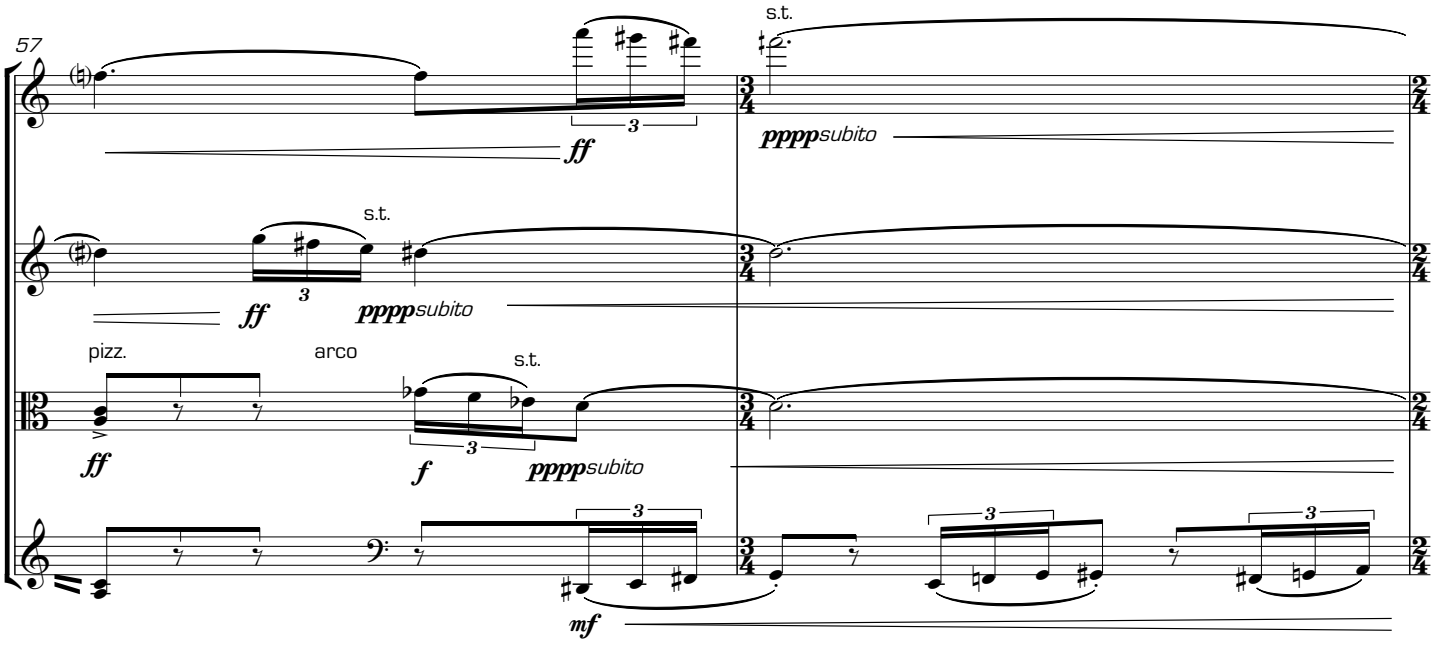

42
x6
x11
pizz.
poco
ppp
p
mp
- ca. 5" -
senza sord.

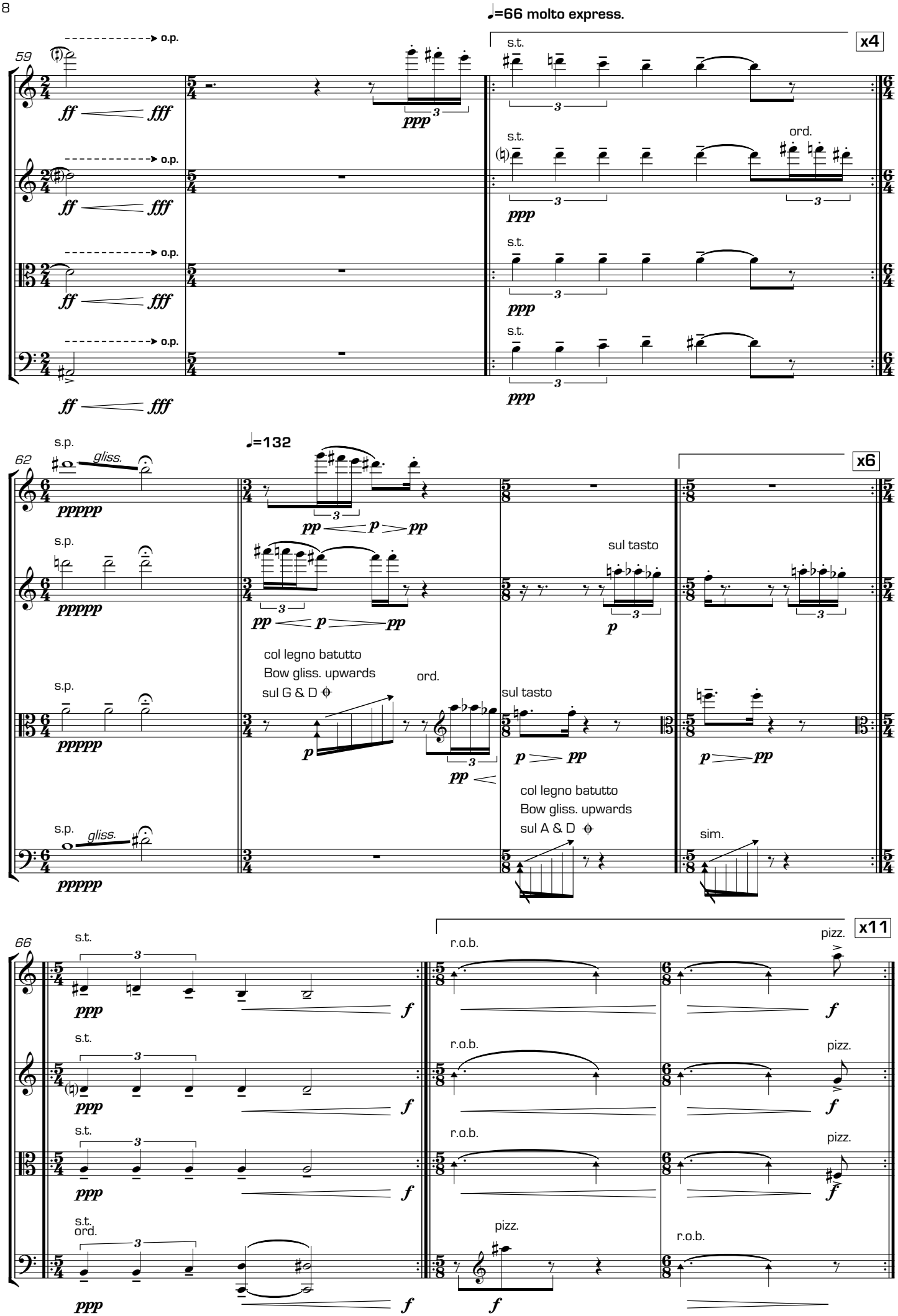

♩ = 132
arco
46
mf
Dirty!!
fff

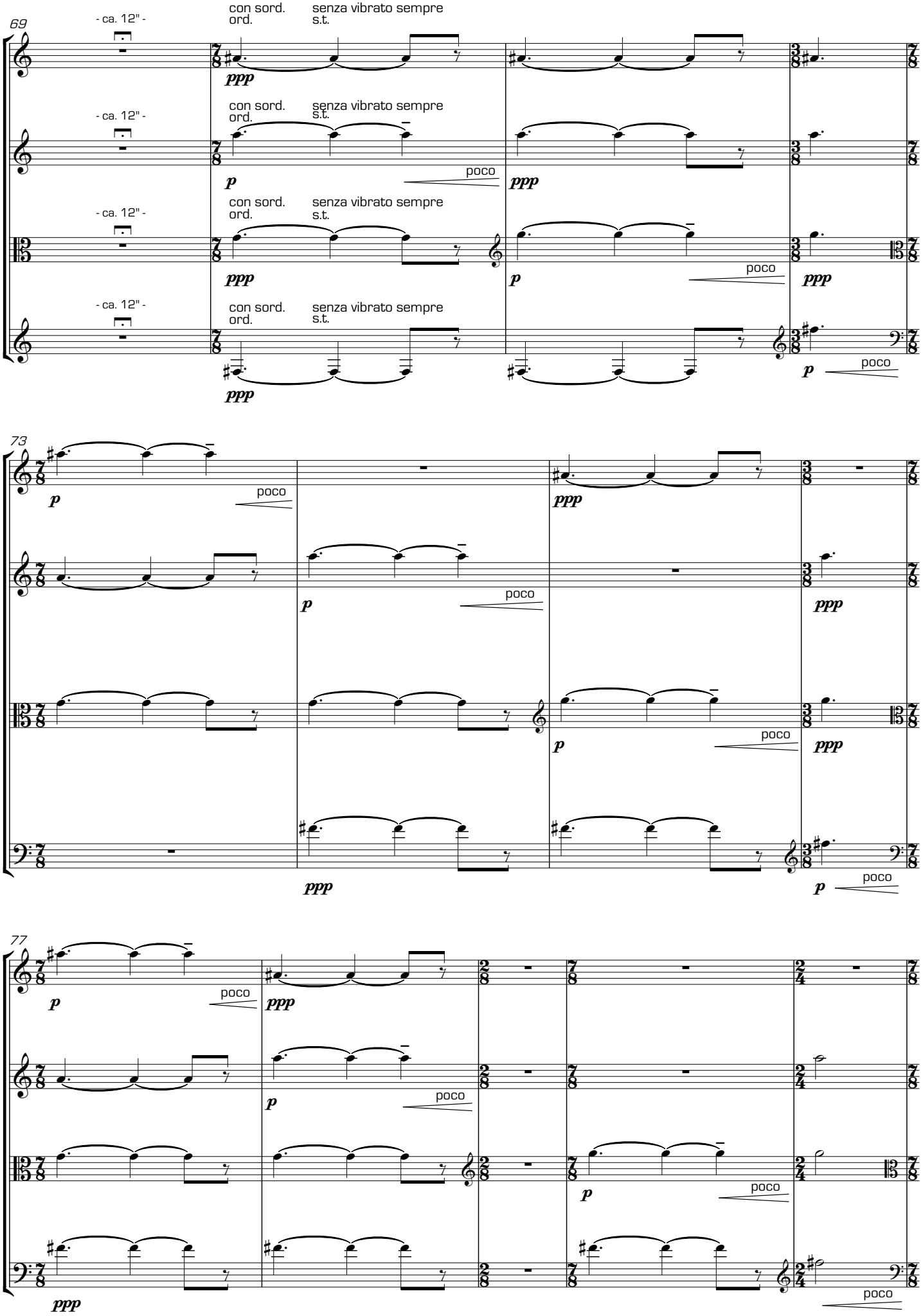

48
f
p
Dirtier!!!
hard bow pressure
ff
fff

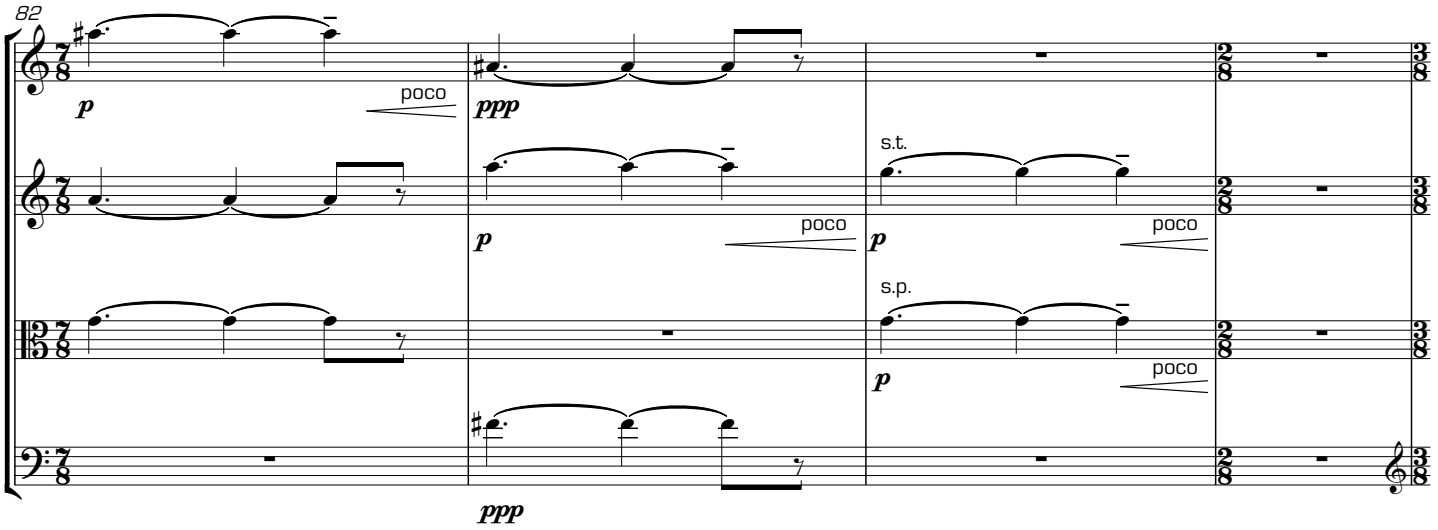

51
gliss.
gliss.
n
n
n
pp
pp
pp

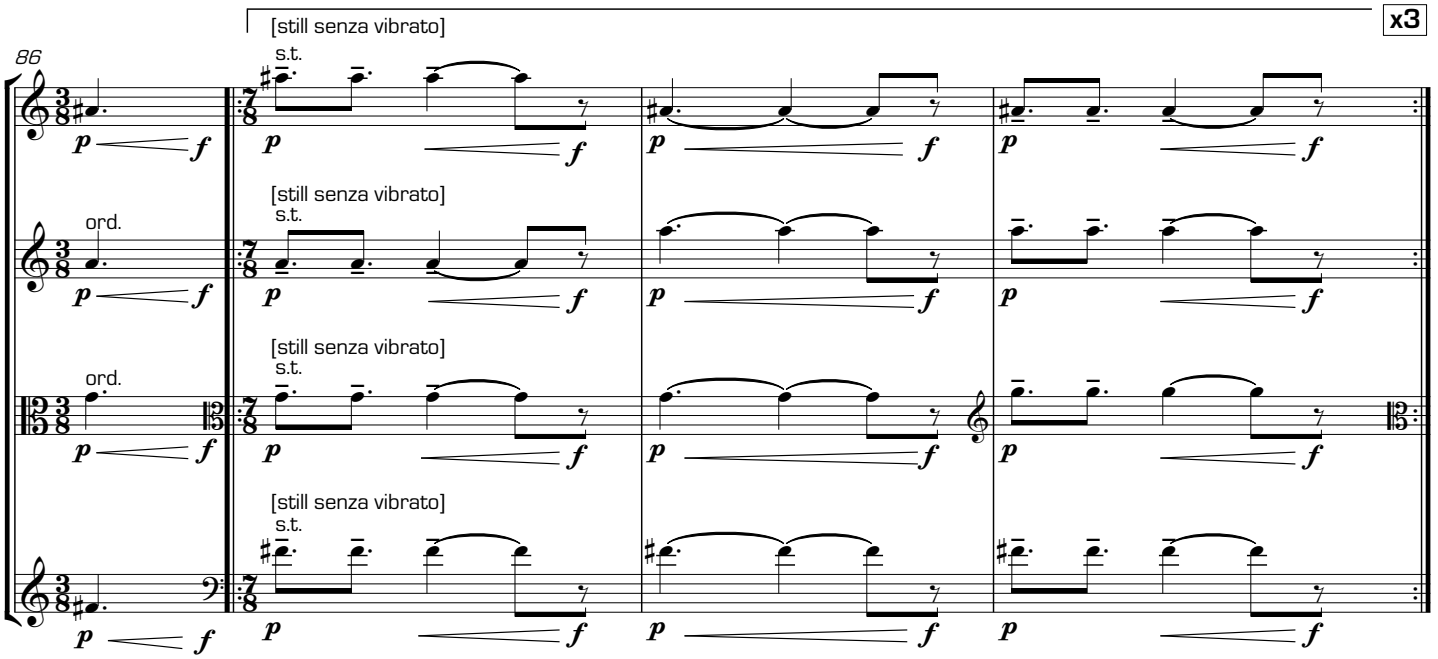

54
s.p.
ord.
ff
pp

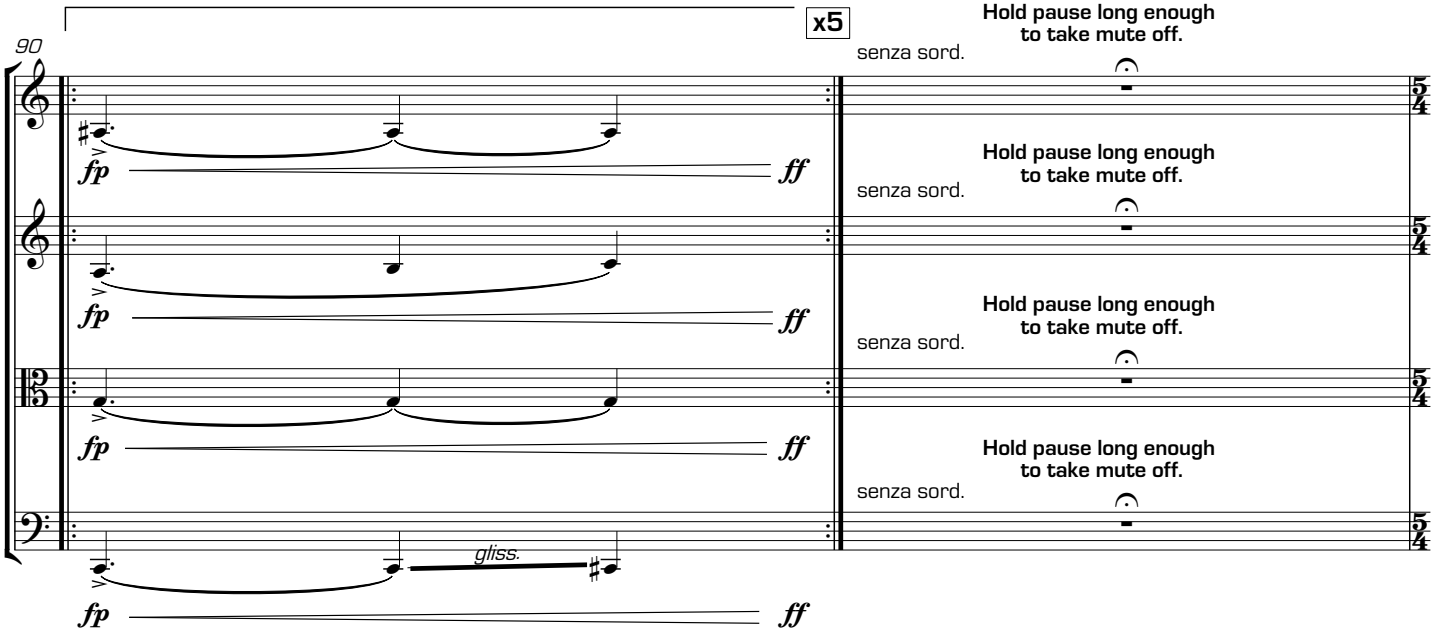

57
s.t.
pppp subito
pizz.
arco
mf

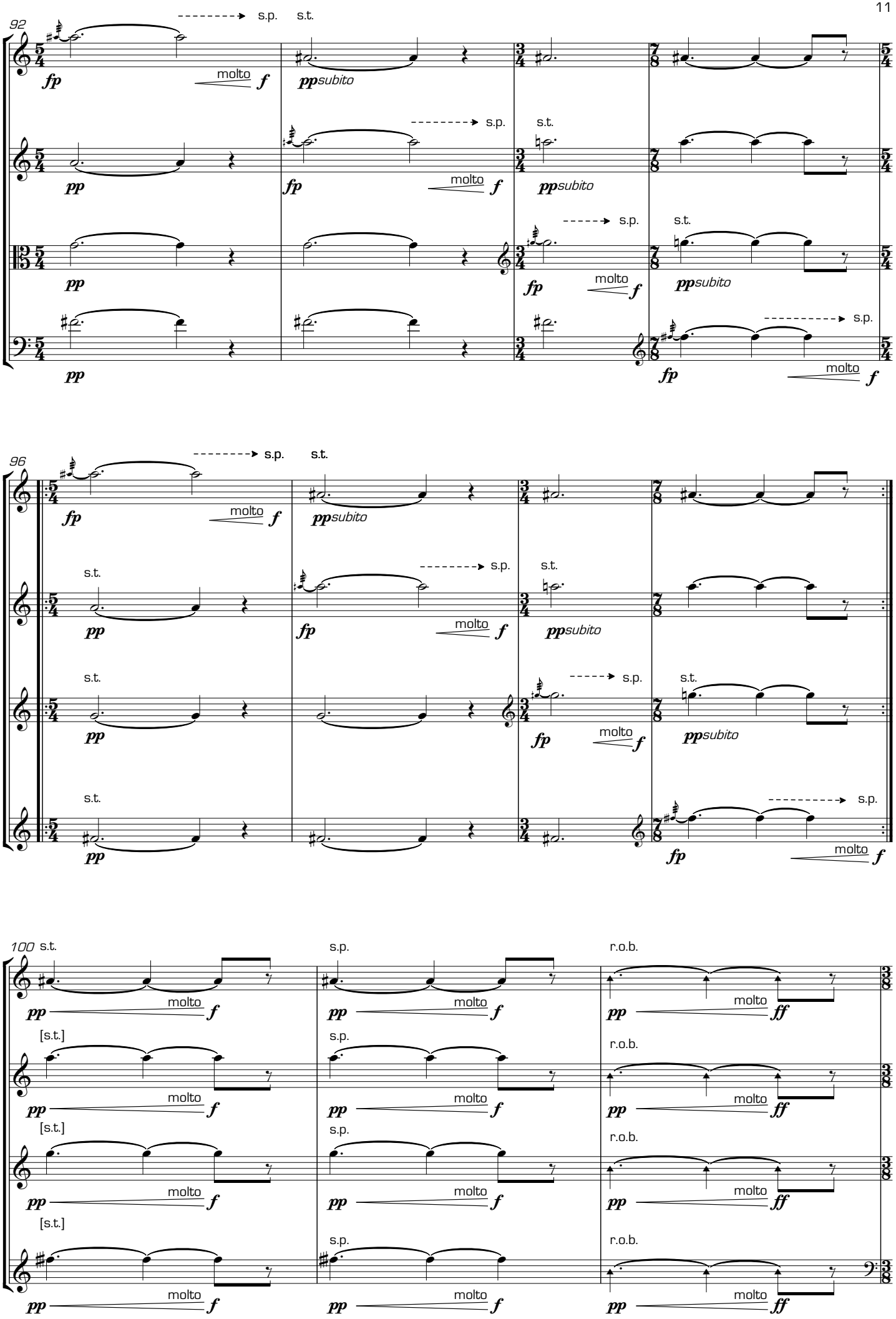

♩=66 molto express.
59
o.p.
ff
fff
ppp
s.t.
x4
ord.
62
s.p.
gliss.
pppp
♩=132
pp
p
sul tasto
x6
col legno batutto
Bow gliss. upwards
sul G & D
ord.
sul A & D
sim.
66
r.o.b.
pizz.
x11
f

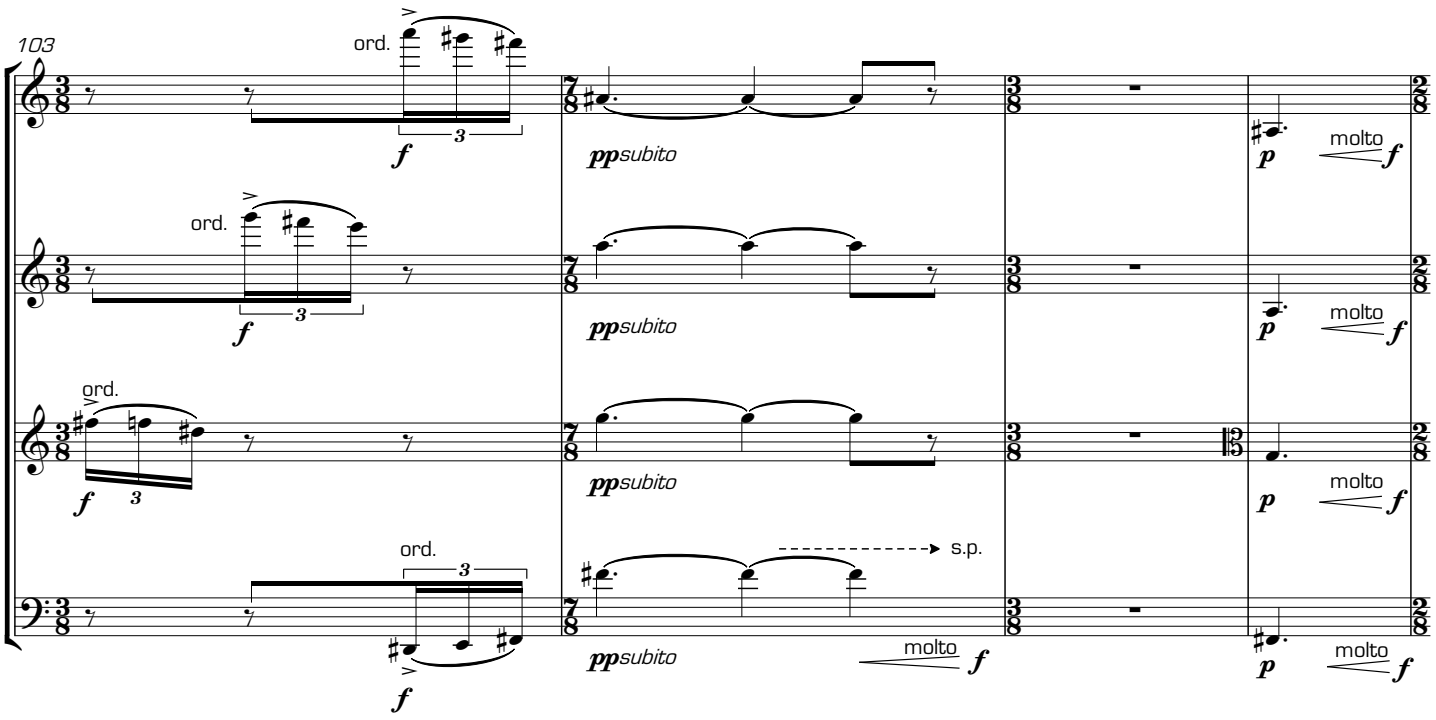

69
- ca. 12" -
con sord.
ord.
senza vibrato sempre
s.t.
ppp
p
poco
73
77

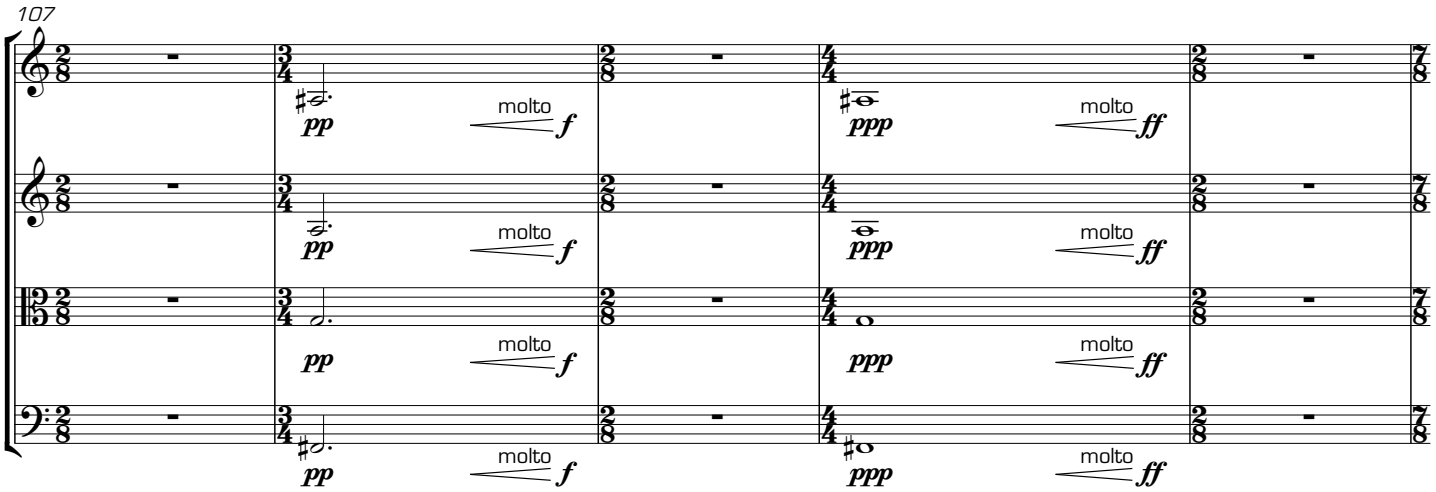

82
poco
ppp
s.t.
s.p.

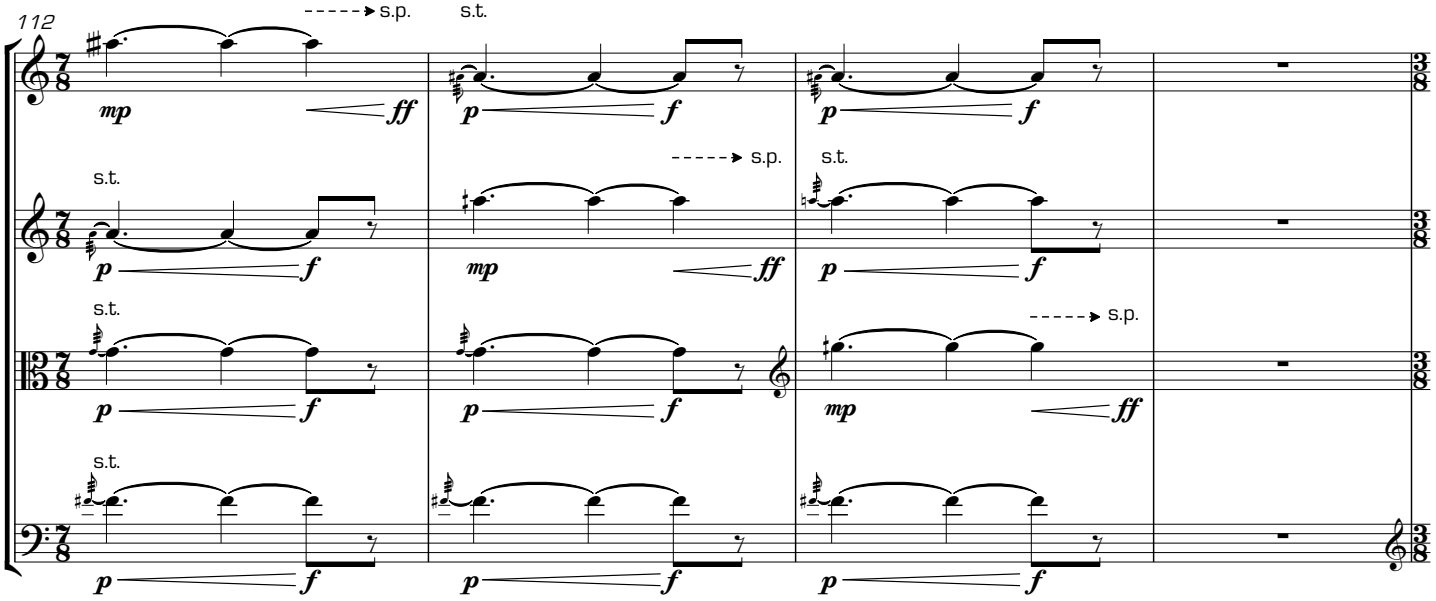

x3
[still senza vibrato]
s.t.
ord.
86

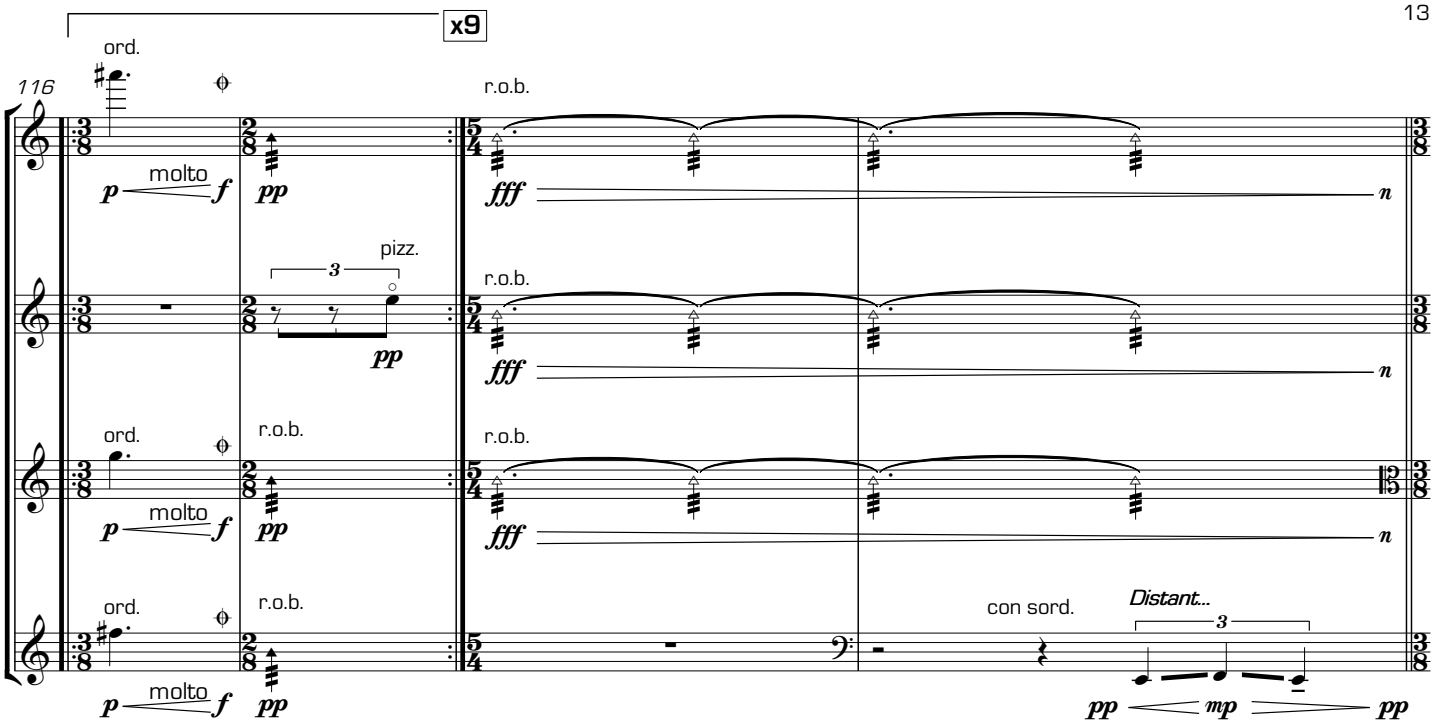

x5
90
senza sord.
Hold pause long enough to take mute off.
gliss.

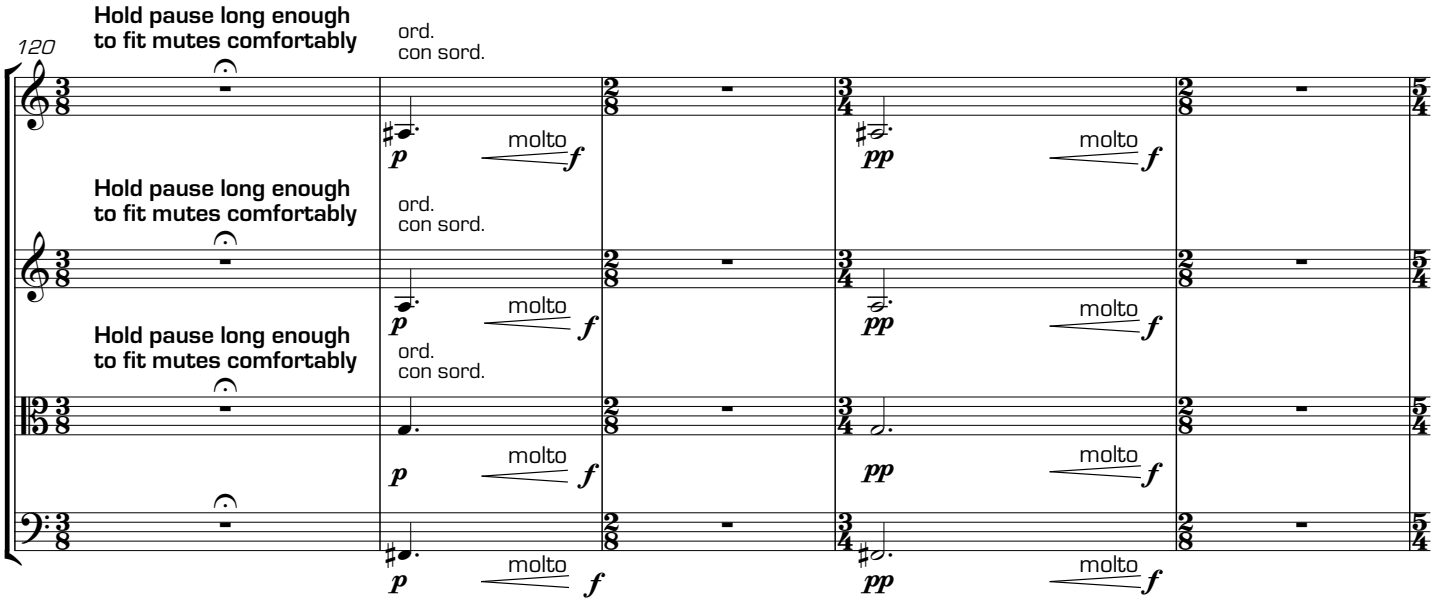

92
s.p.
s.t.
fp
molto
f
pp subito
pp
96
100
[s.t.]
r.o.b.
ff

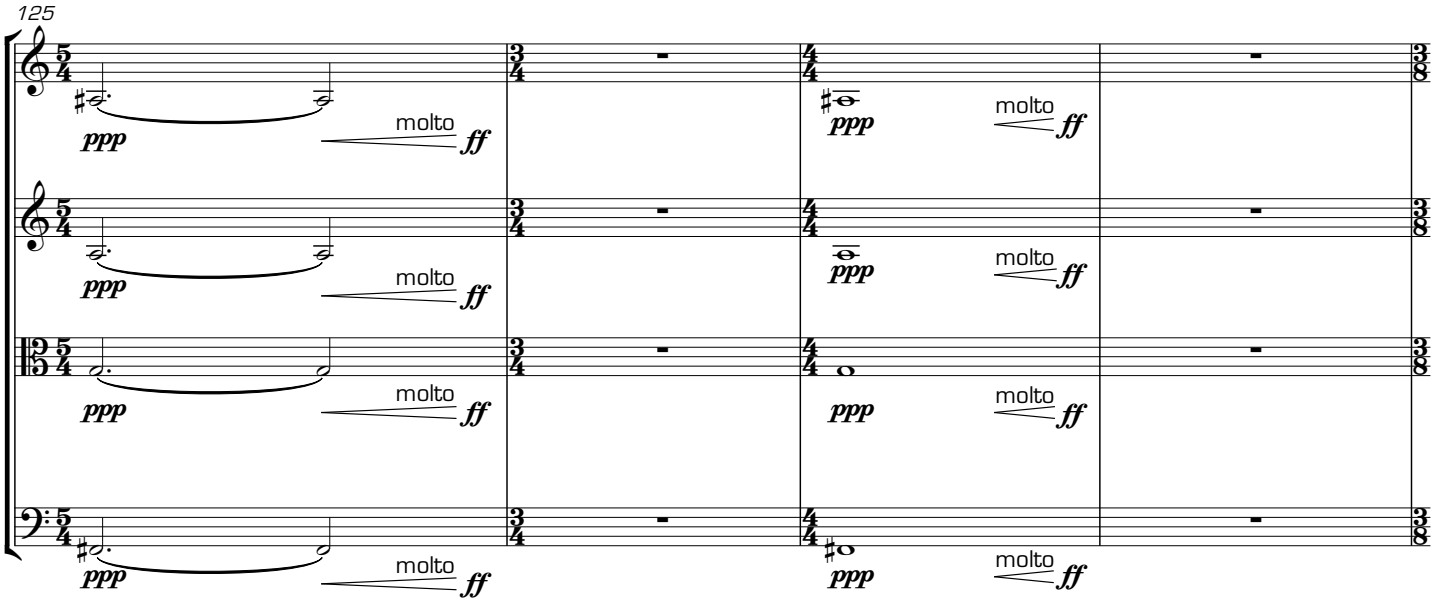

103
ord.
f
3
pp subito
molto
p
f
s.p.

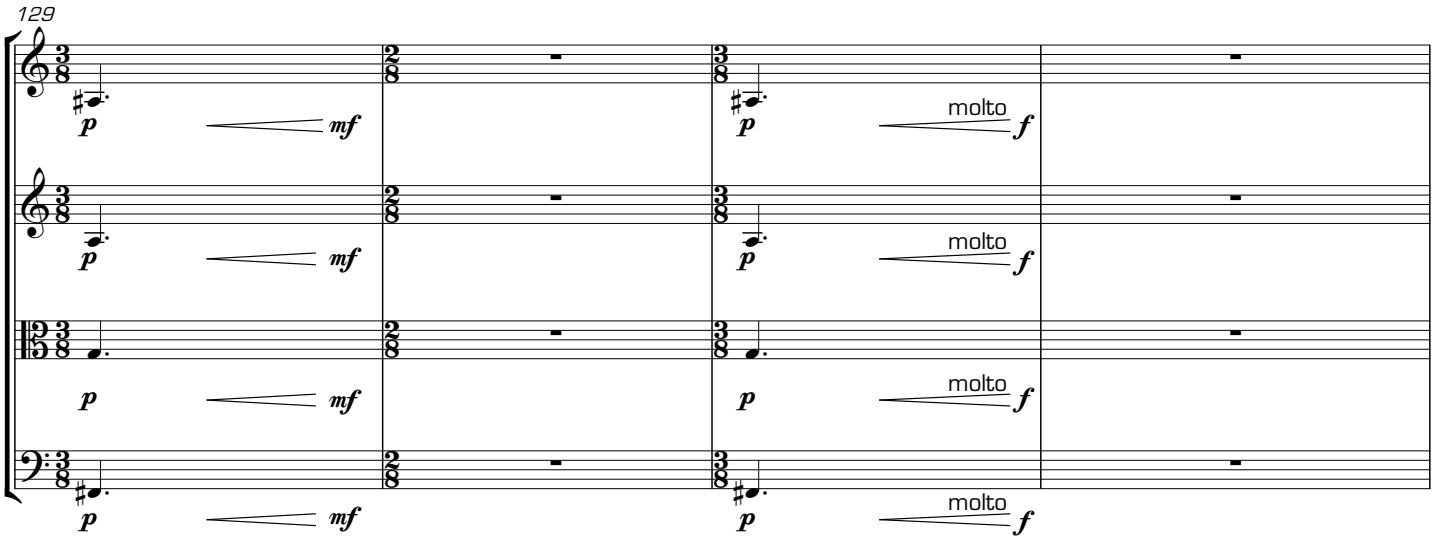

107
pp
molto
f
ppp
ff

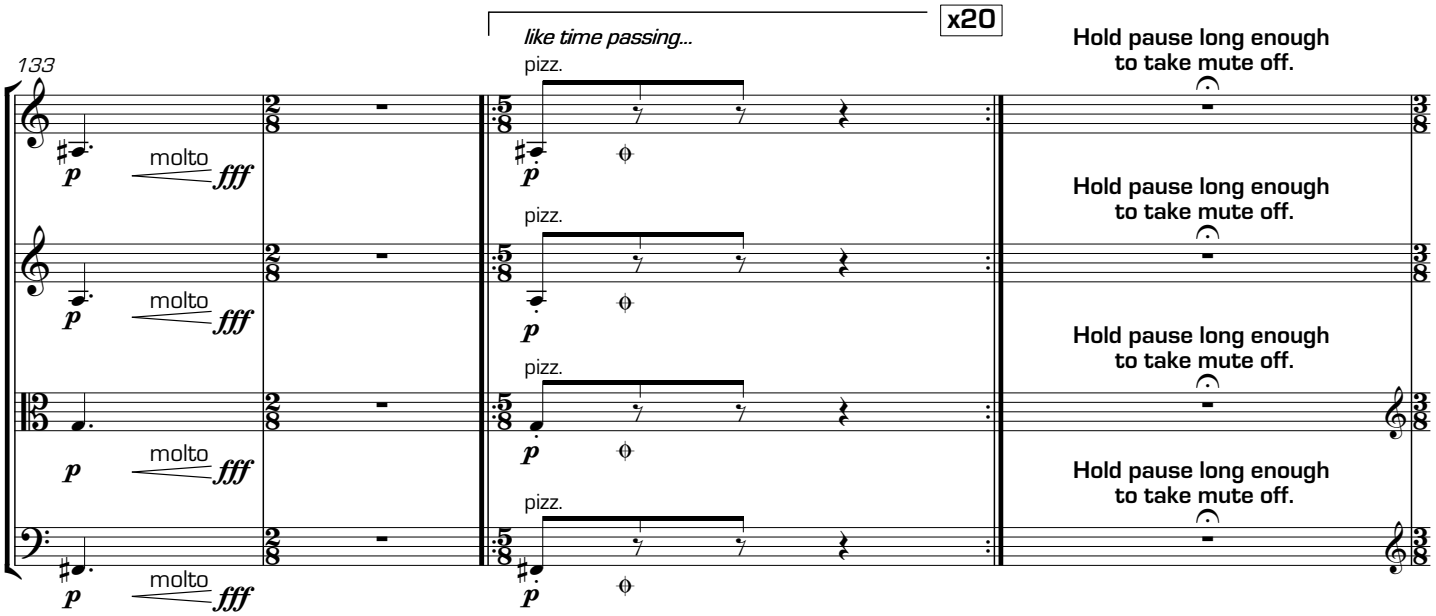

112
s.p.
s.t.
mp
ff
p
f

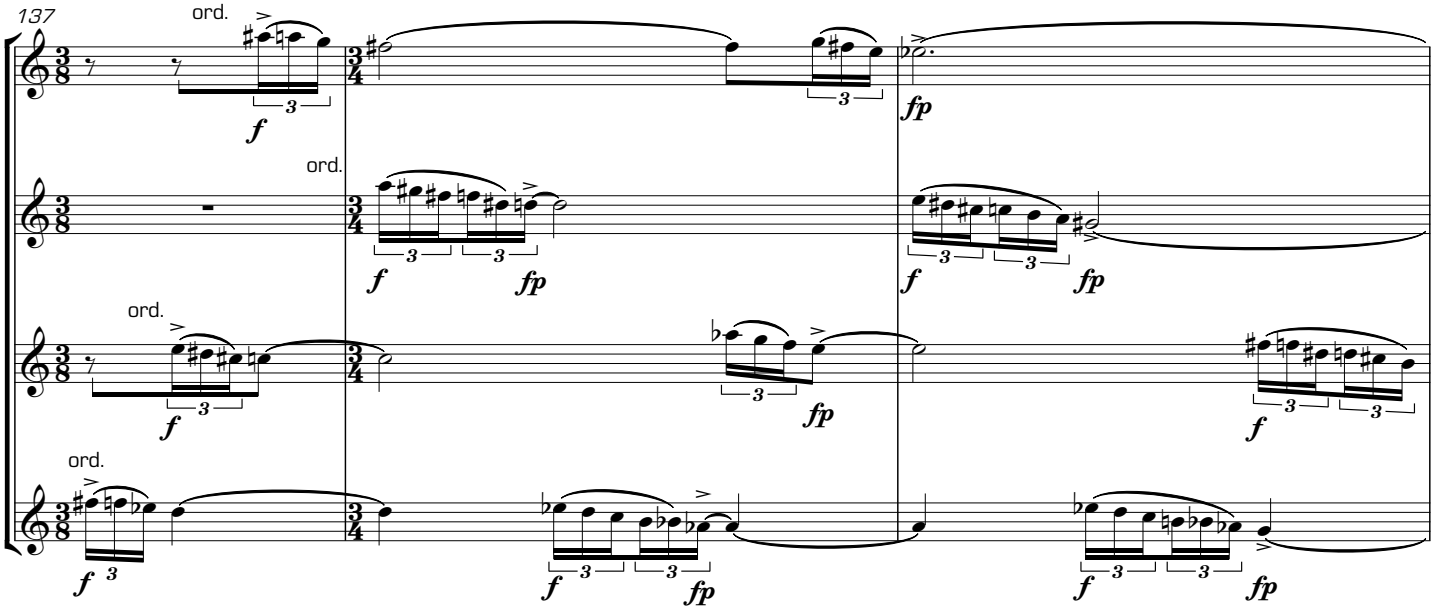

x9
116
ord.
molto
r.o.b.
pizz.
con sord.
Distant...

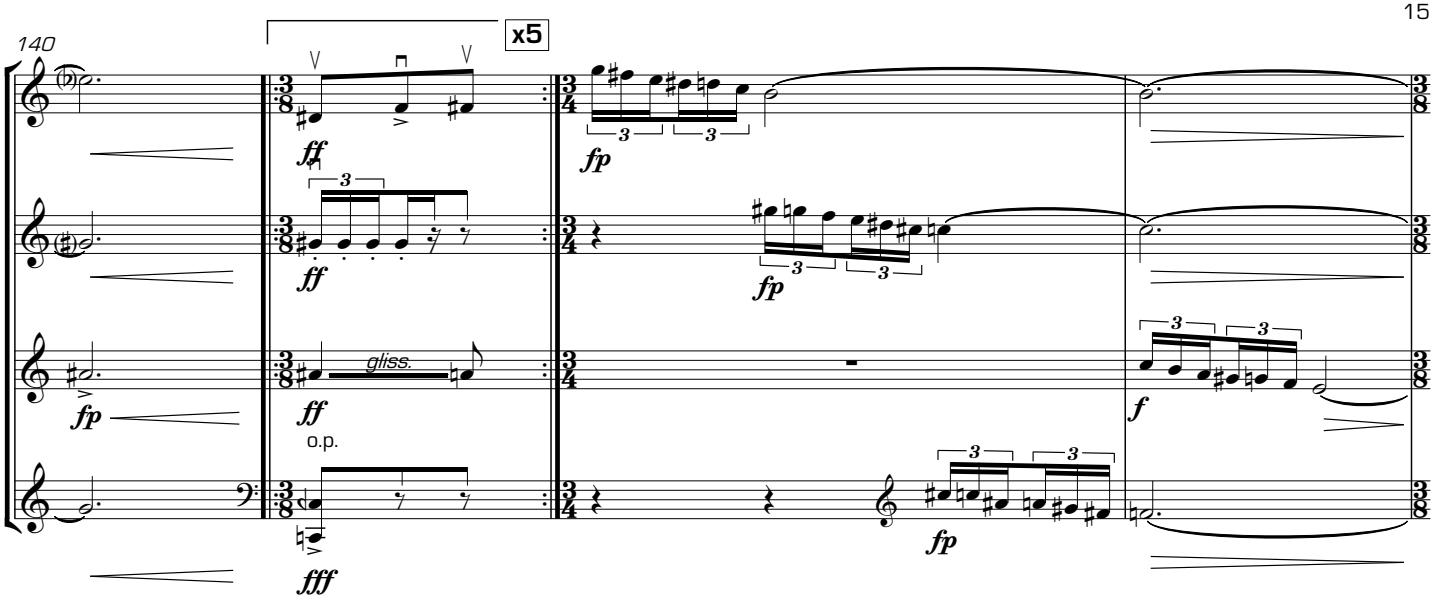

120
Hold pause long enough to fit mutes comfortably
ord.
con sord.
molto

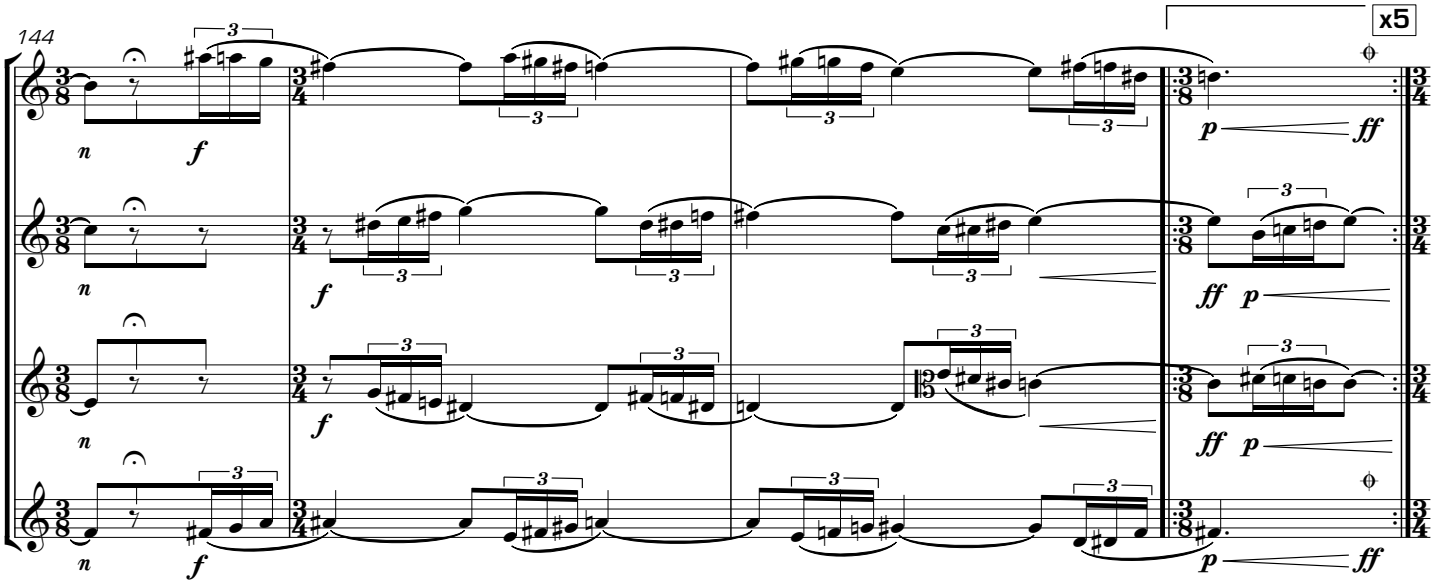

125
molto

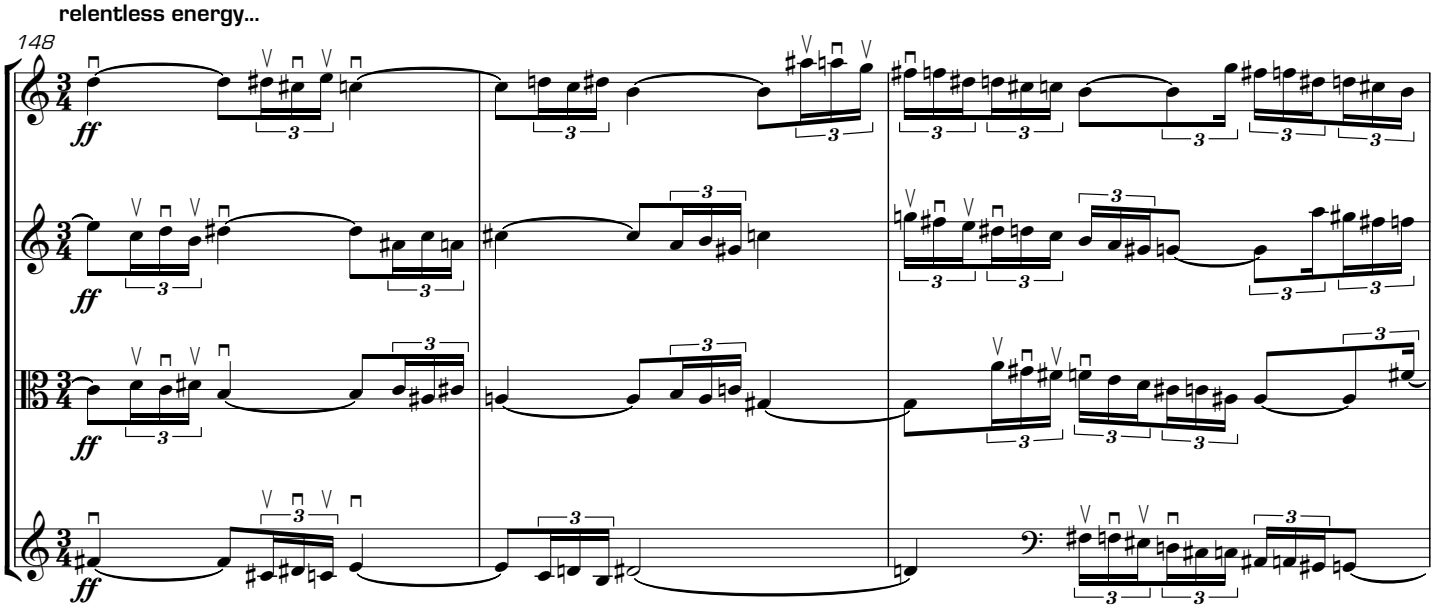

129
p
mf
molto
f

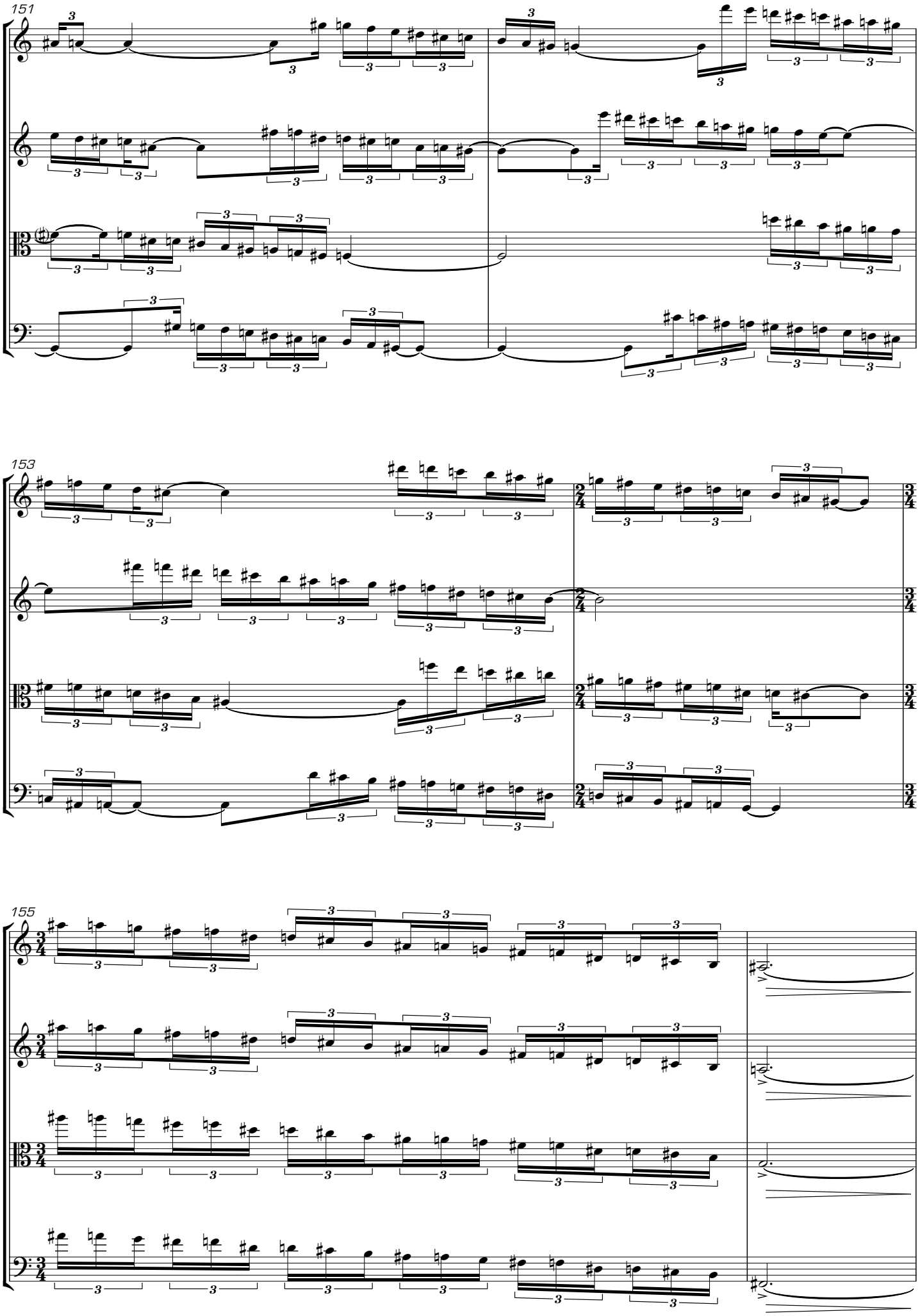

133
x20
like time passing...
pizz.
molto
fff
Hold pause long enough
to take mute off.


137
ord.
f
fp


140
x5
ff
fp
gliss.
o.p.
fff
f

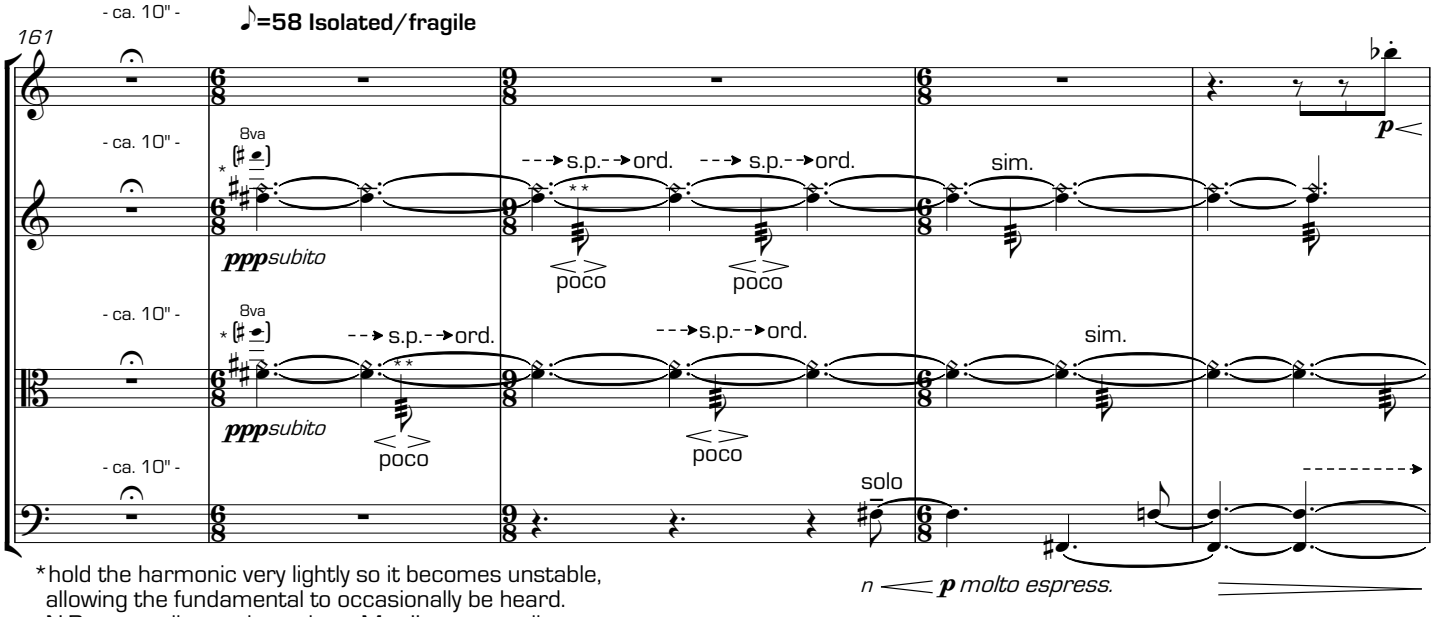

144
x5
n
f
p
ff


relentless energy...
148
ff


151
153
155

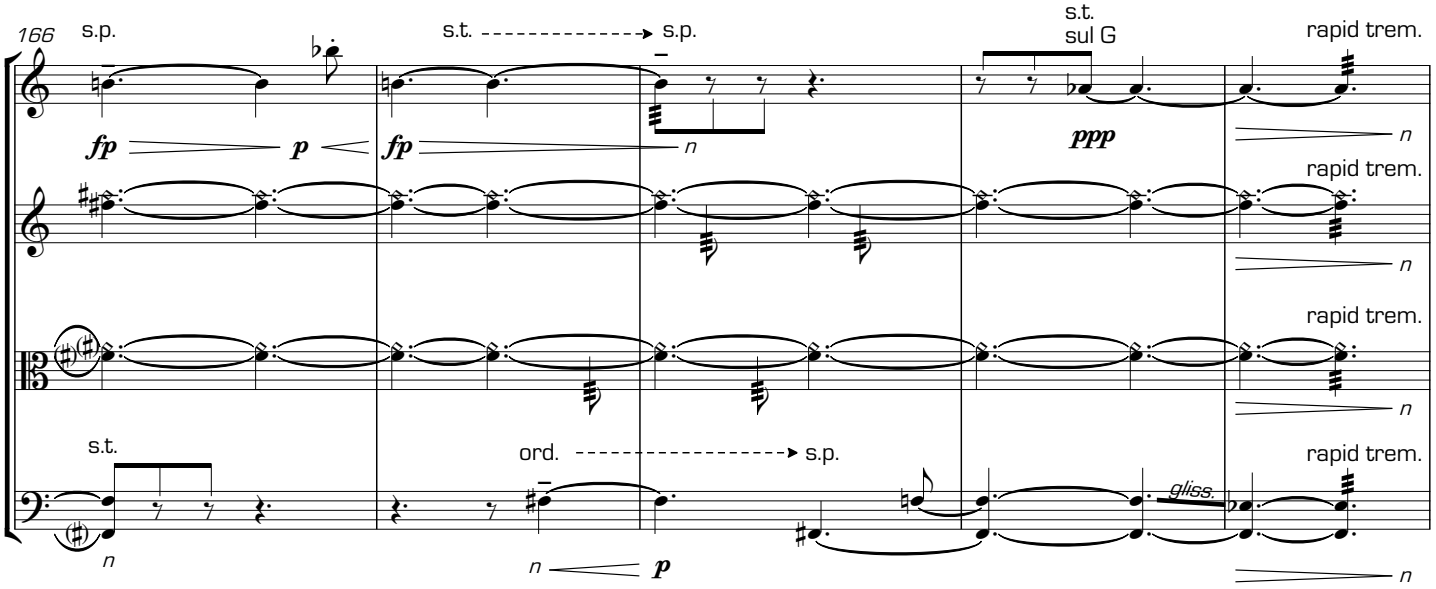
Gradually adding bow pressure towards fff, creating more noise than pitch.
157
[3/4♯]
pp
ffp
fff
Gradually adding bow pressure towards fff, creating more noise than pitch.
Gradually adding bow pressure towards fff, creating more noise than pitch.
[1/4♯]
Gradually adding bow pressure towards fff, creating more noise than pitch.

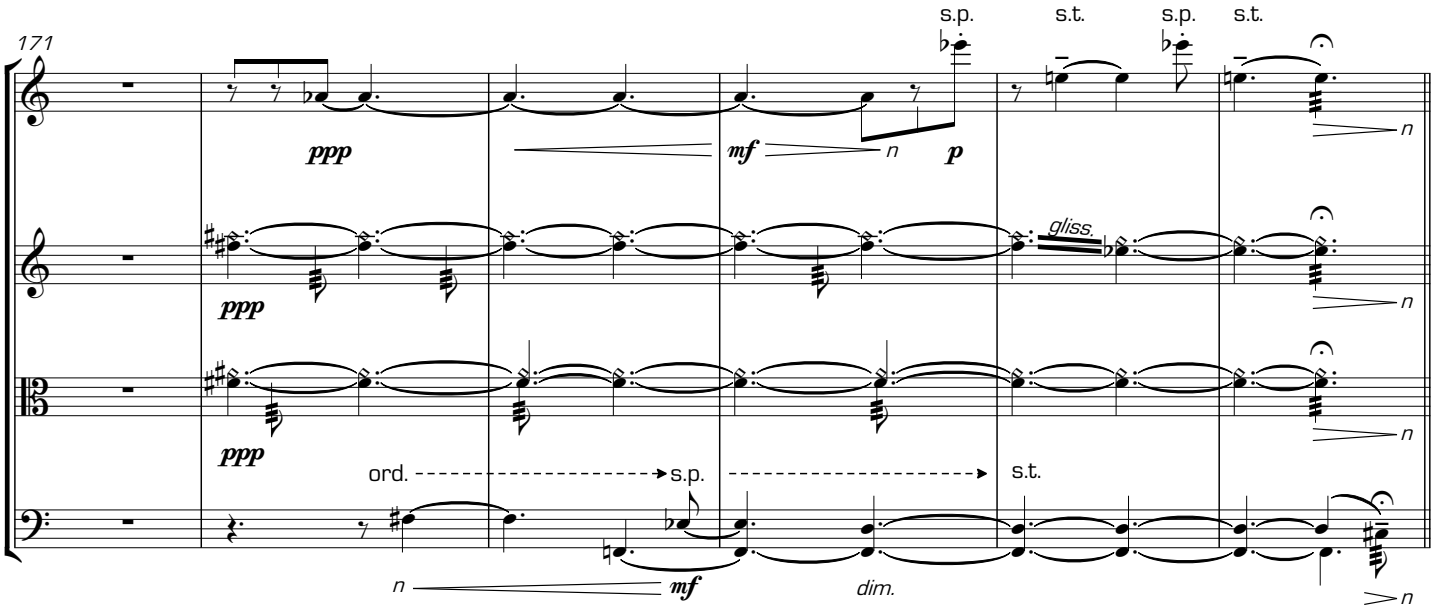
II

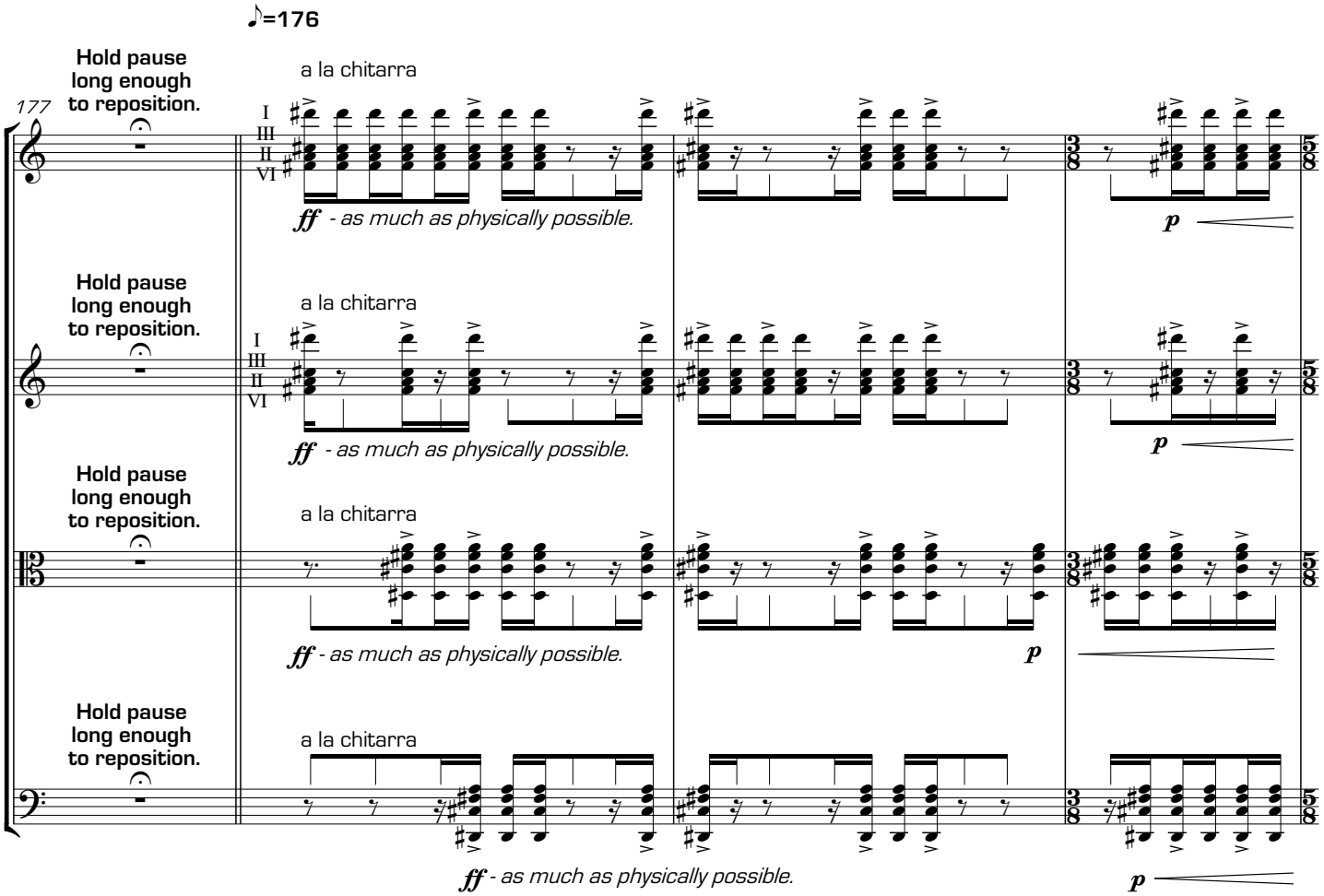


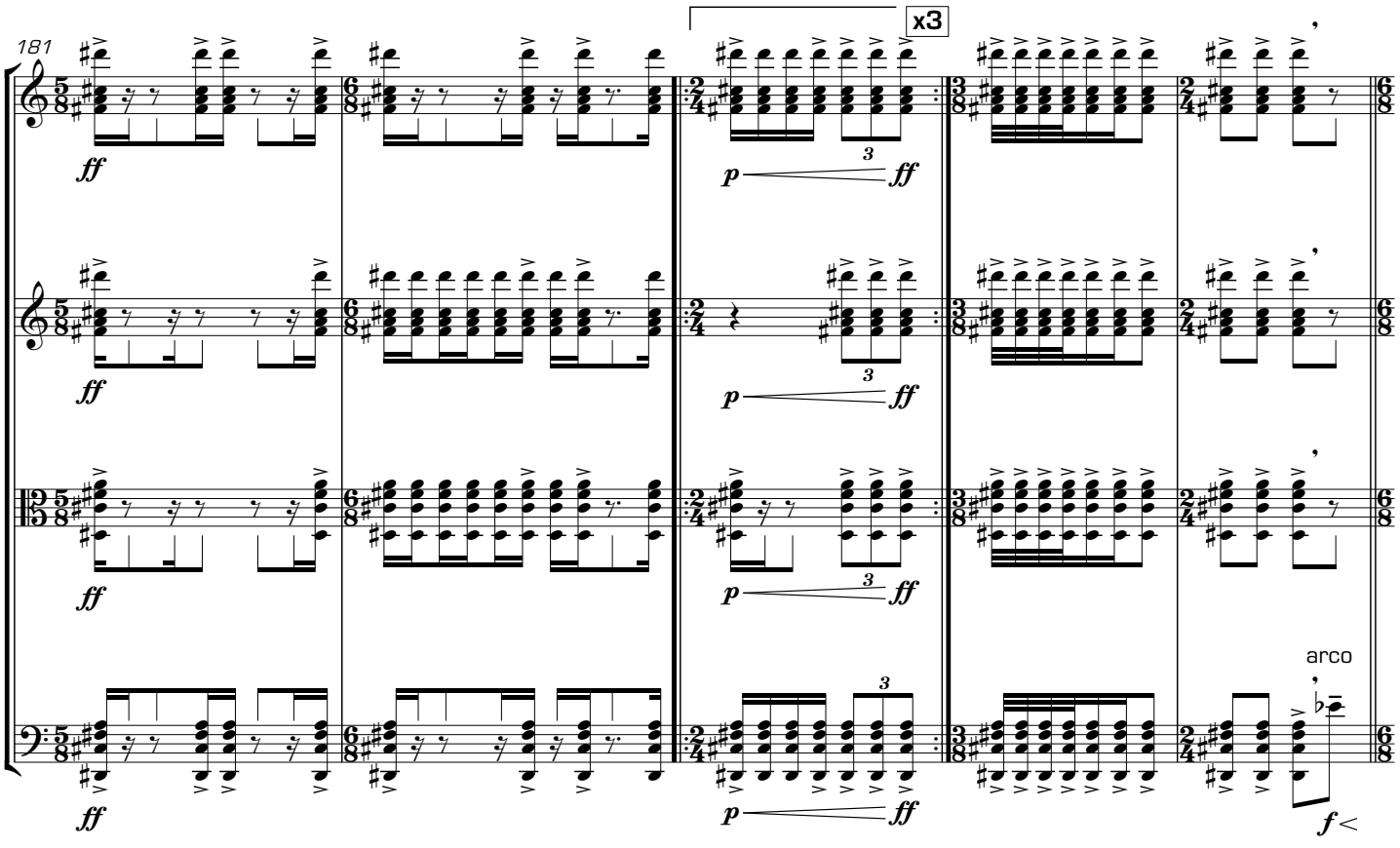
*hold the harmonic very lightly so it becomes unstable, allowing the fundamental to occasionally be heard.
N.B. senza vibrato throughout Mov.II, except cello.

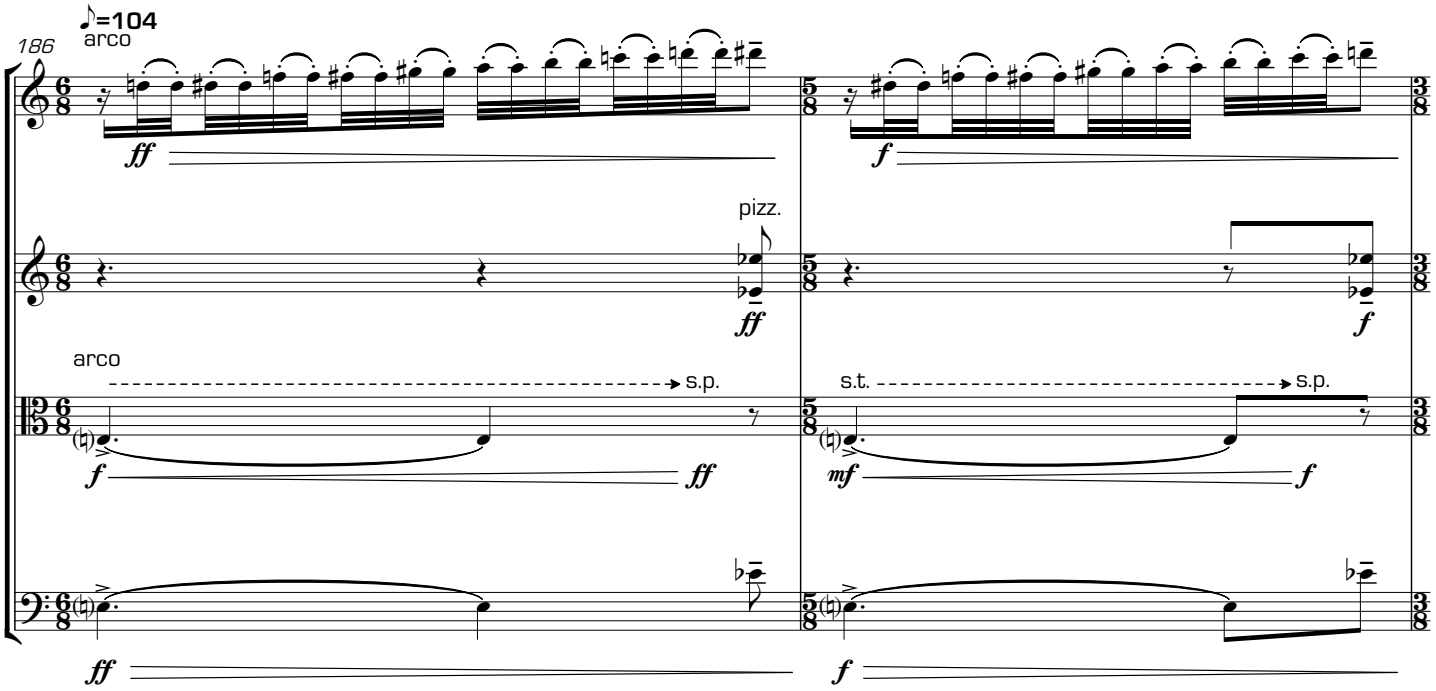
**N.B. placement of tremolandi are approximate.

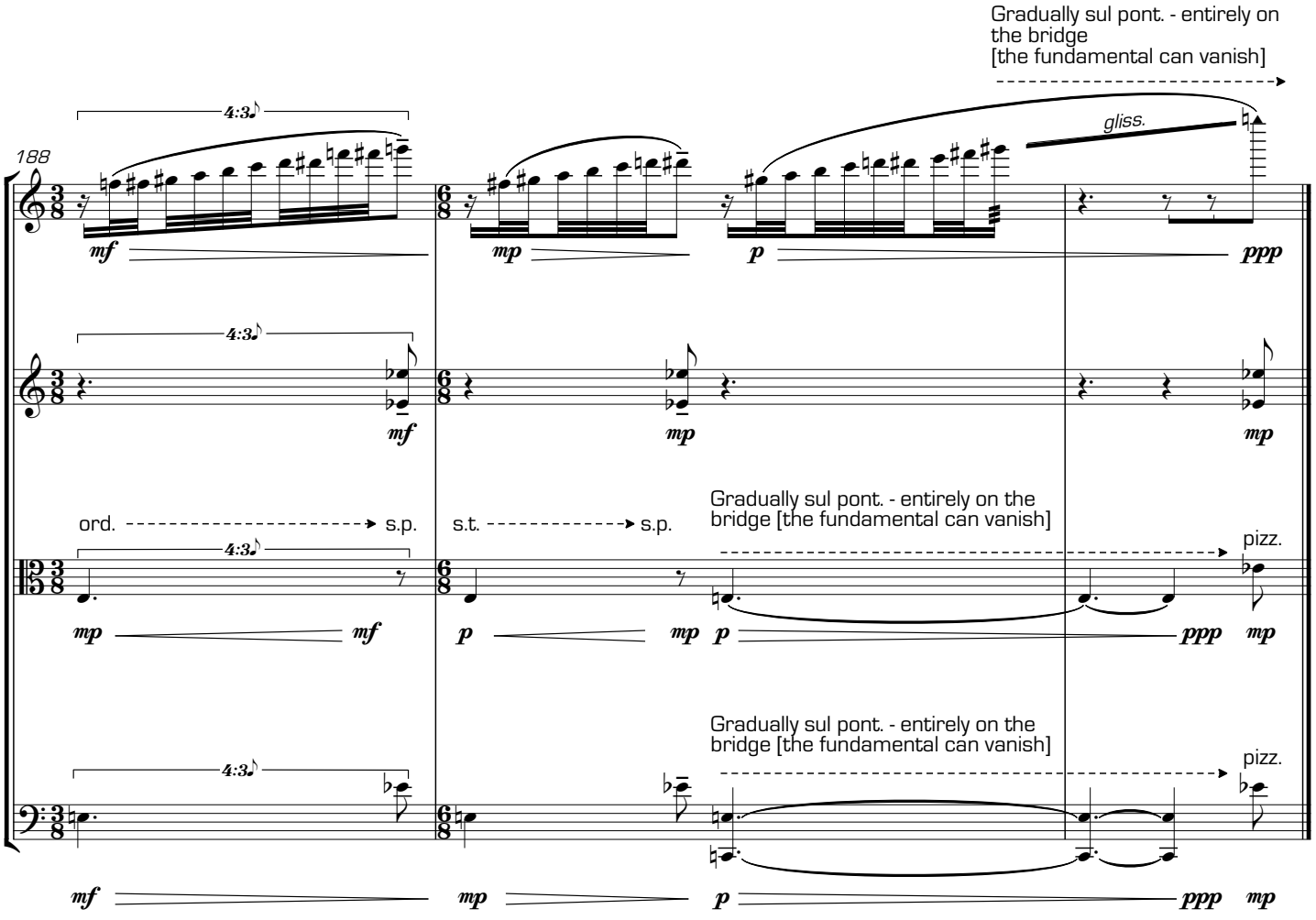


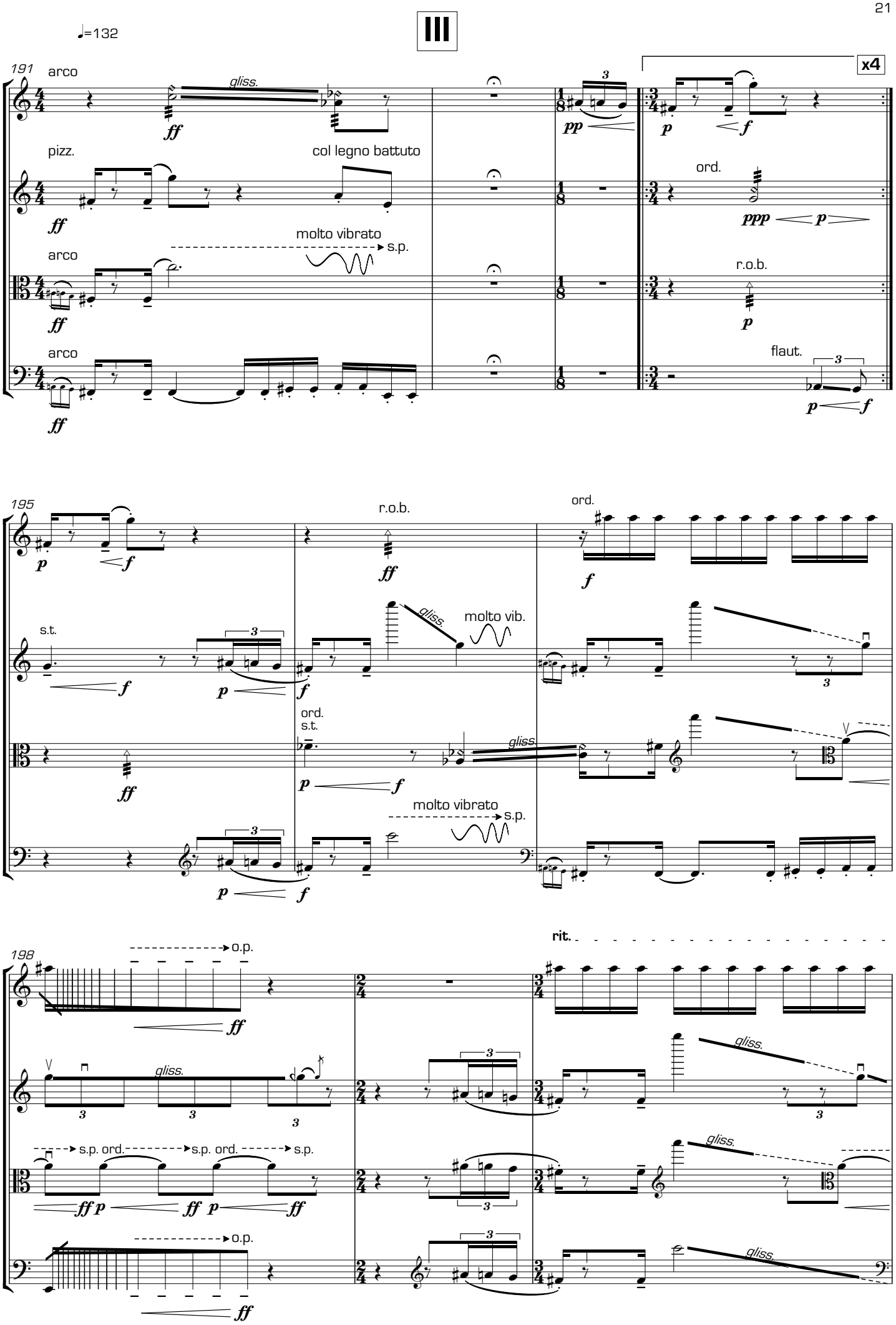


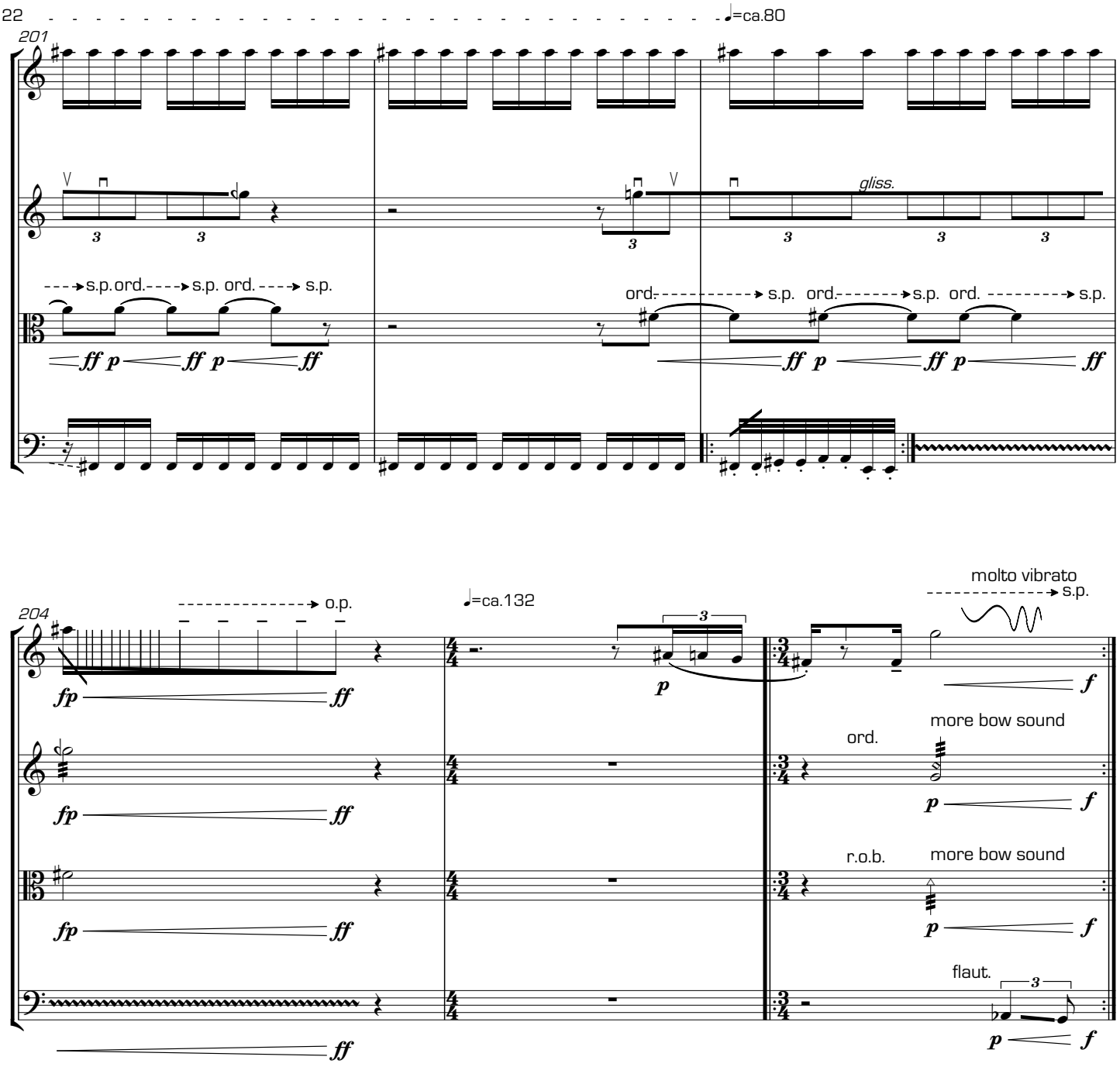

♪=176
177
Hold pause long enough to reposition.
a la chitarra
I
III
II
VI
ff - as much as physically possible.
p
Hold pause long enough to reposition.
a la chitarra
ff - as much as physically possible.
p
Hold pause long enough to reposition.
a la chitarra
ff - as much as physically possible.
p
Hold pause long enough to reposition.
a la chitarra
ff - as much as physically possible.
p


181
x3
ff
p
3
ff
arco
f

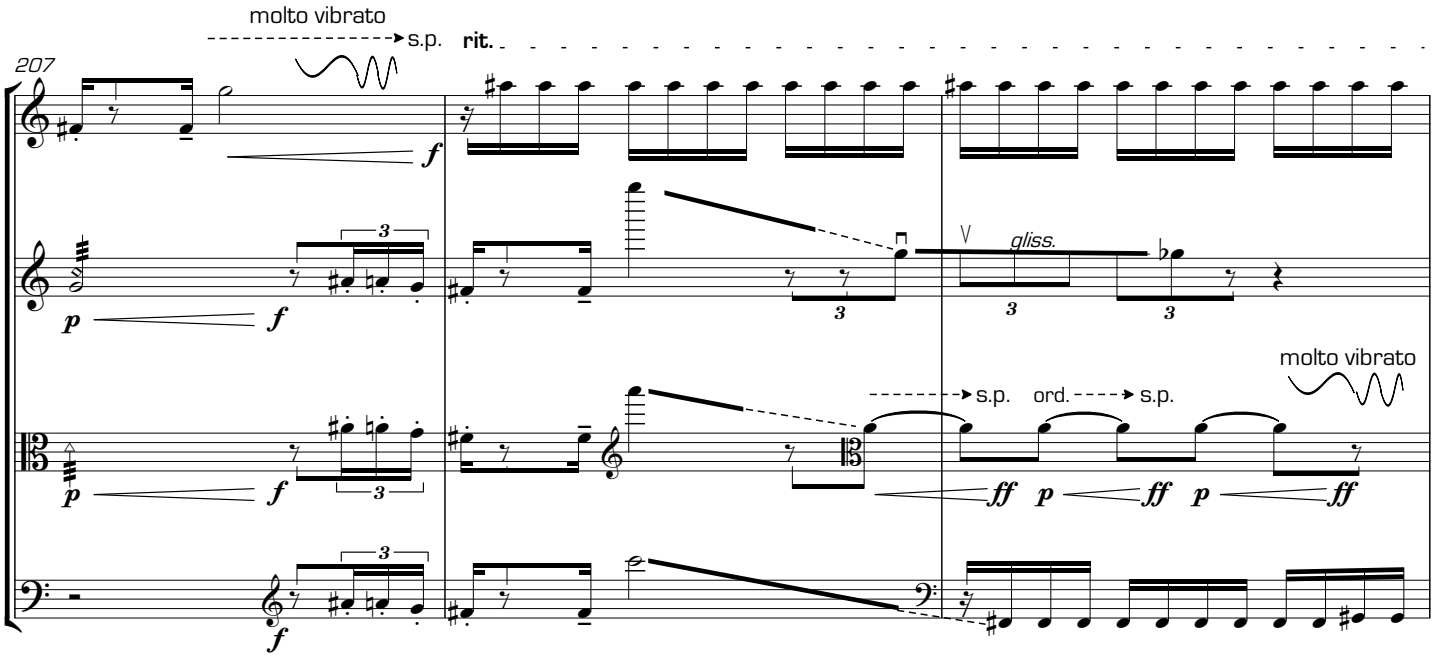

♪=104
186
arco
pizz.
arco
s.p.
s.t.
s.p.

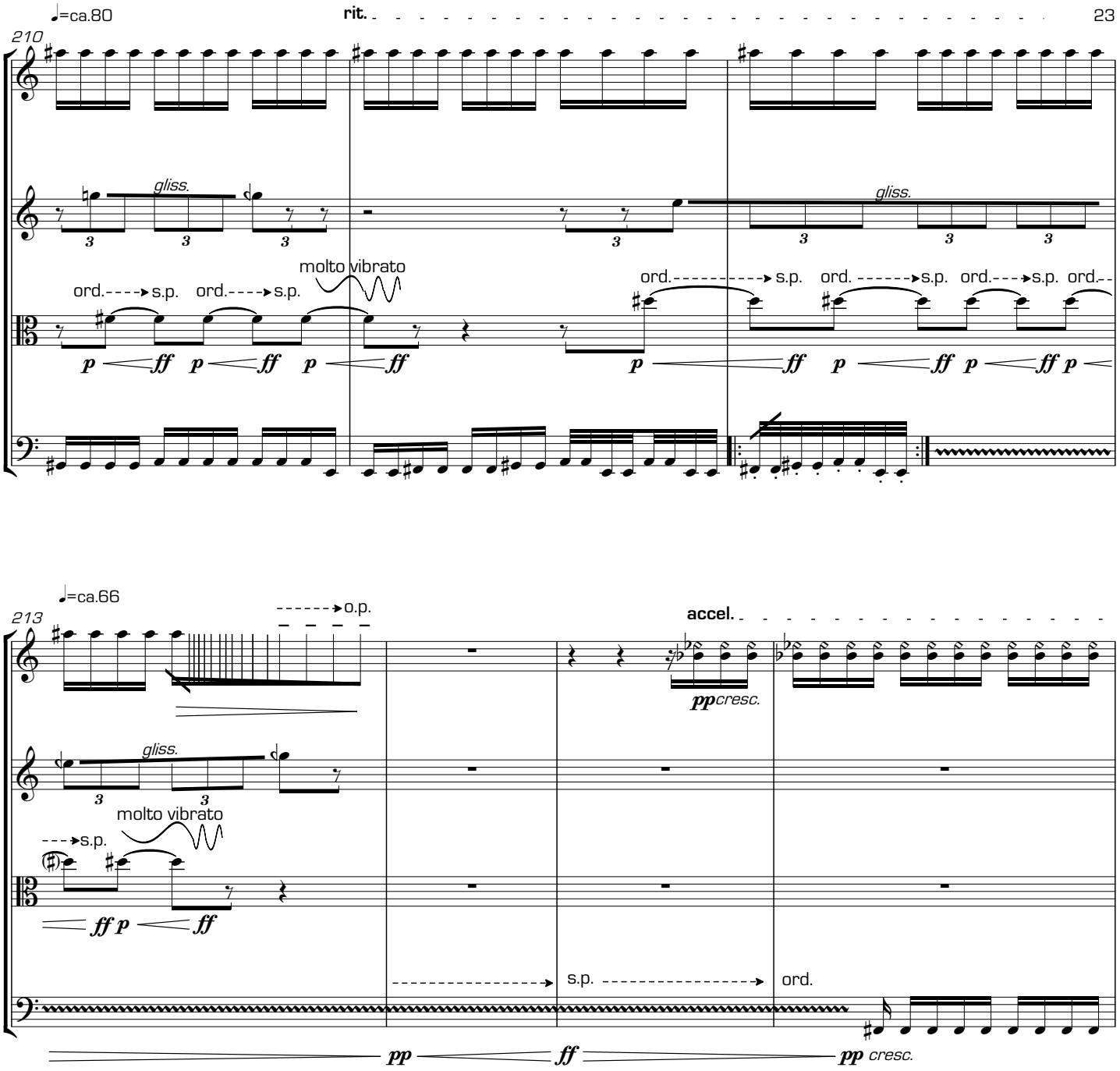

Gradually sul pont. - entirely on the bridge [the fundamental can vanish]
188
4:3
gliss.
ord.
s.p.
s.t.
s.p.
Gradually sul pont. - entirely on the bridge [the fundamental can vanish]
pizz.
Gradually sul pont. - entirely on the bridge [the fundamental can vanish]
pizz.

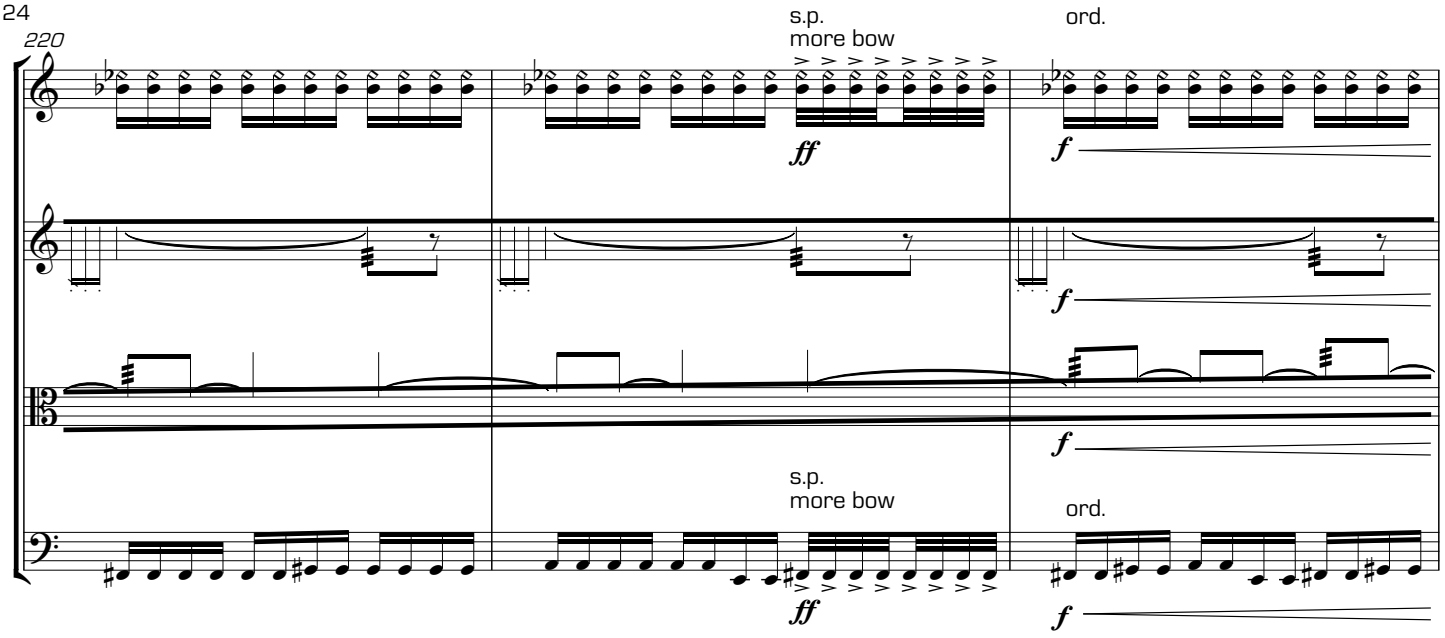

♩=132
III
191
arco
gliss.
ff
col legno battuto
pizz.
ff
molto vibrato
s.p.
arco
ff
arco
ff
pp
x4
p
f
ord.
ppp
p
r.o.b.
p
flaut.
p
f
195
p
f
r.o.b.
ff
ord.
f
s.t.
f
p
f
gliss.
molto vib.
ord.
s.t.
ff
p
f
gliss.
molto vibrato
s.p.
p
f
198
o.p.
ff
rit.
gliss.
s.p. ord.
s.p. ord.
s.p.
ff p
ff p
ff
gliss.
o.p.
ff
gliss.

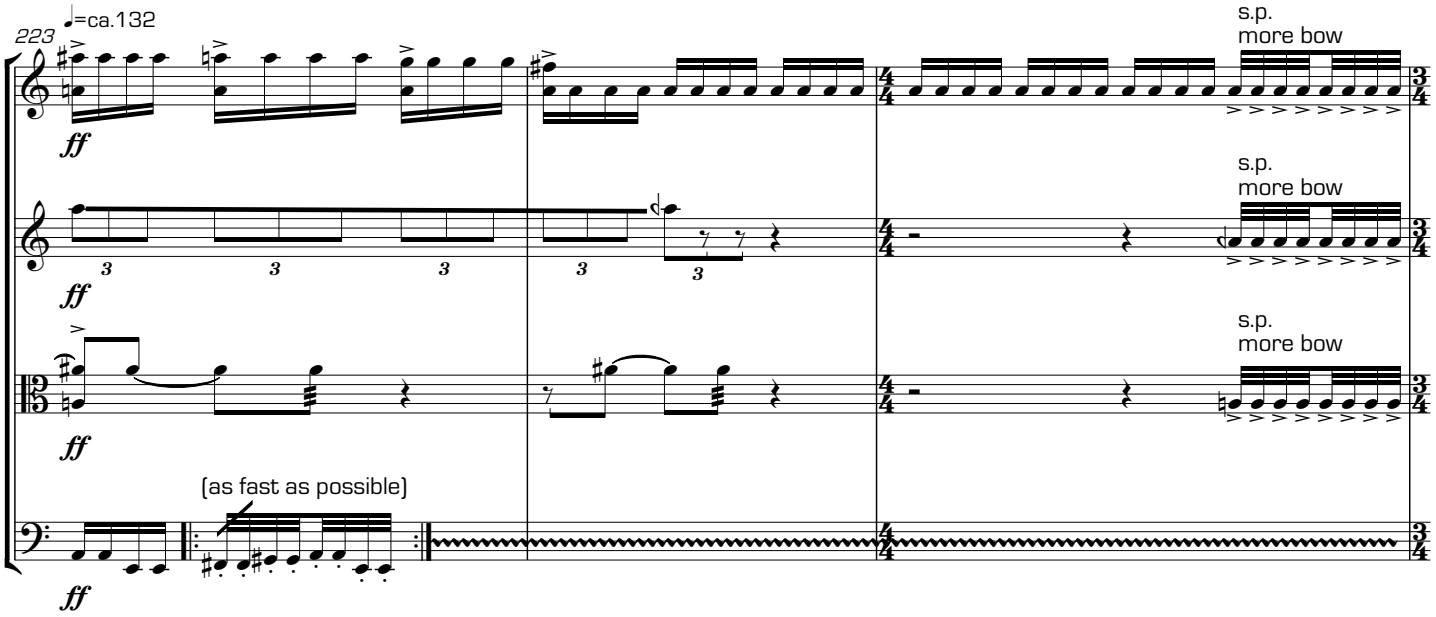

♩=ca.80
201
gliss.
s.p. ord. s.p. ord. s.p.
ord. s.p. ord. s.p. ord. s.p.
ff p ff p ff
ff p ff p ff

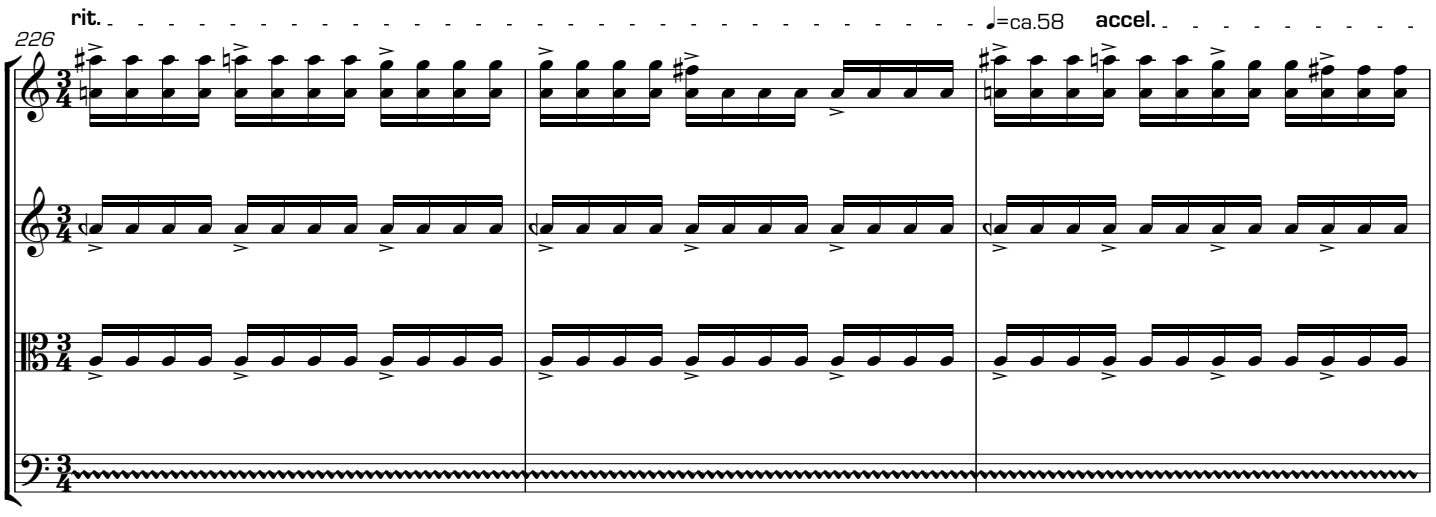
204
o.p.
fp ff
♩=ca.132
p
molto vibrato
s.p.
f
ord.
more bow sound
p f
r.o.b.
more bow sound
p f
flaut.
p f
ff

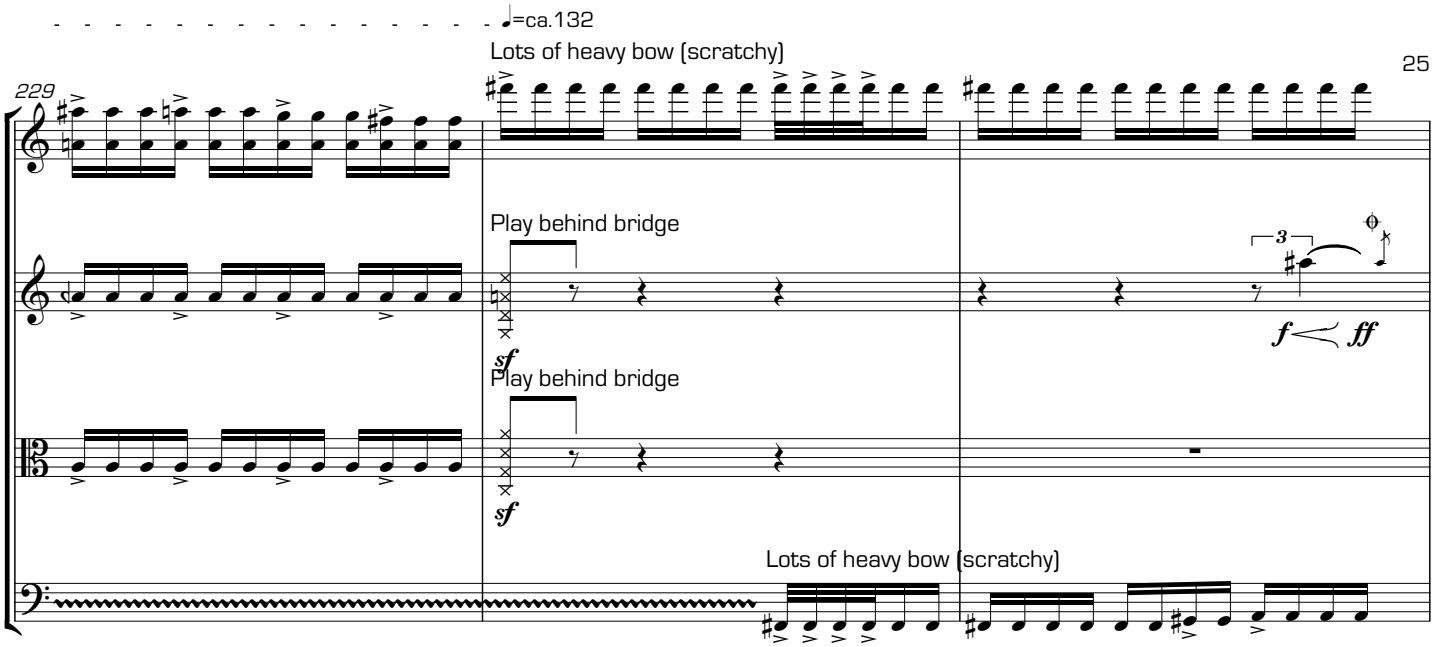

molto vibrato
s.p.
rit.
207
f
p f
gliss.
molto vibrato
s.p. ord. s.p.
ff p ff p ff
f

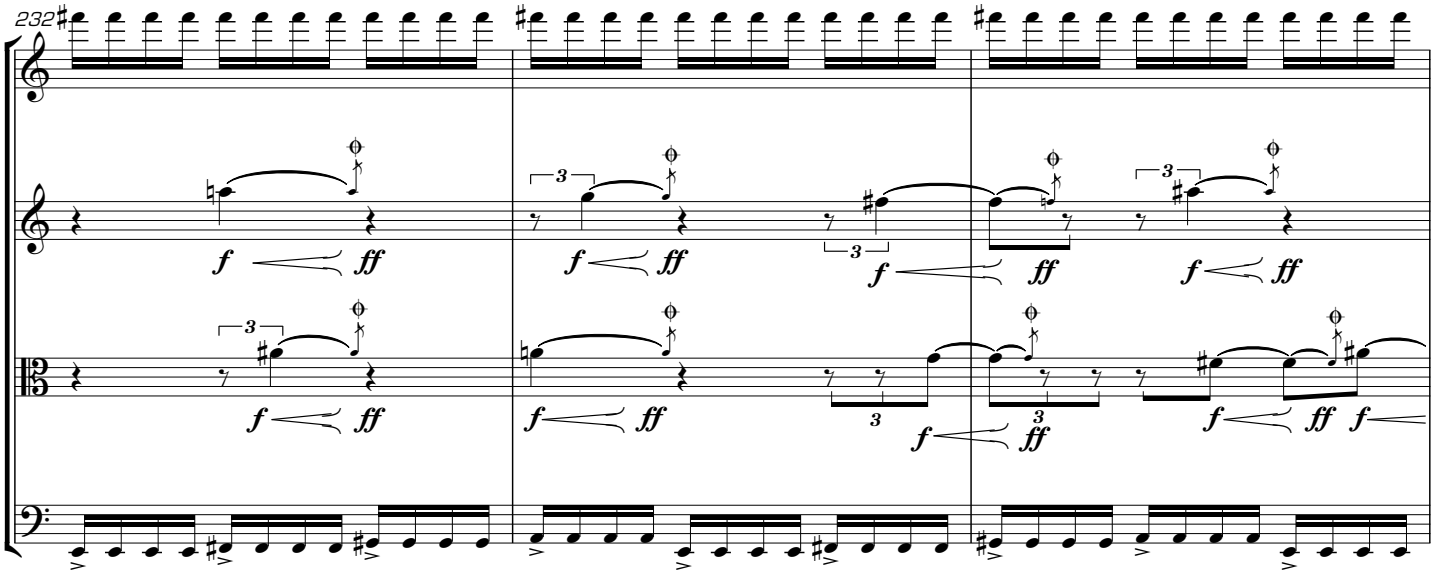

♩=ca.80
rit.
210
gliss.
gliss.
molto vibrato
ord. s.p. ord. s.p.
ord. s.p. ord. s.p. ord. s.p. ord.
p ff p ff p ff
p ff p ff p ff p
♩=ca.66
213
o.p.
accel.
ppcresc.
gliss.
molto vibrato
s.p.
ff p ff
s.p.
ord.
pp ff pp cresc.
217
s.p. ord.
more bow
s.p. ord.
more bow
ff mp
ff mf
pcresc.
pcresc.
s.p. ord.
more bow
s.p. ord.
more bow
ff mp
ff mf

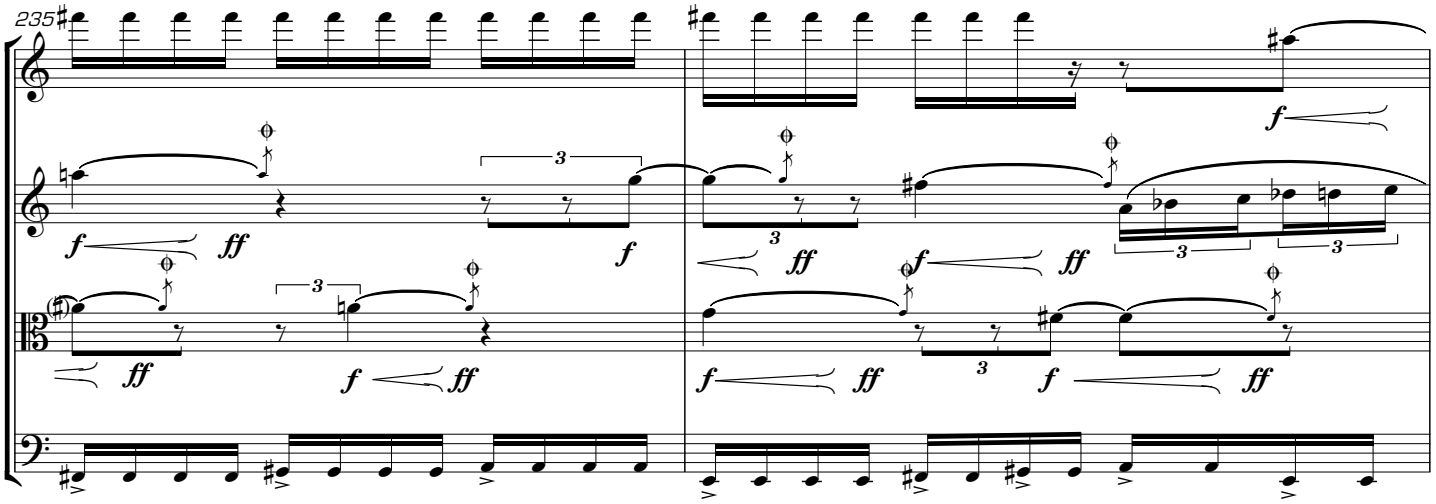

220
s.p.
more bow
ord.
ff
f
s.p.
more bow
ord.
ff
f

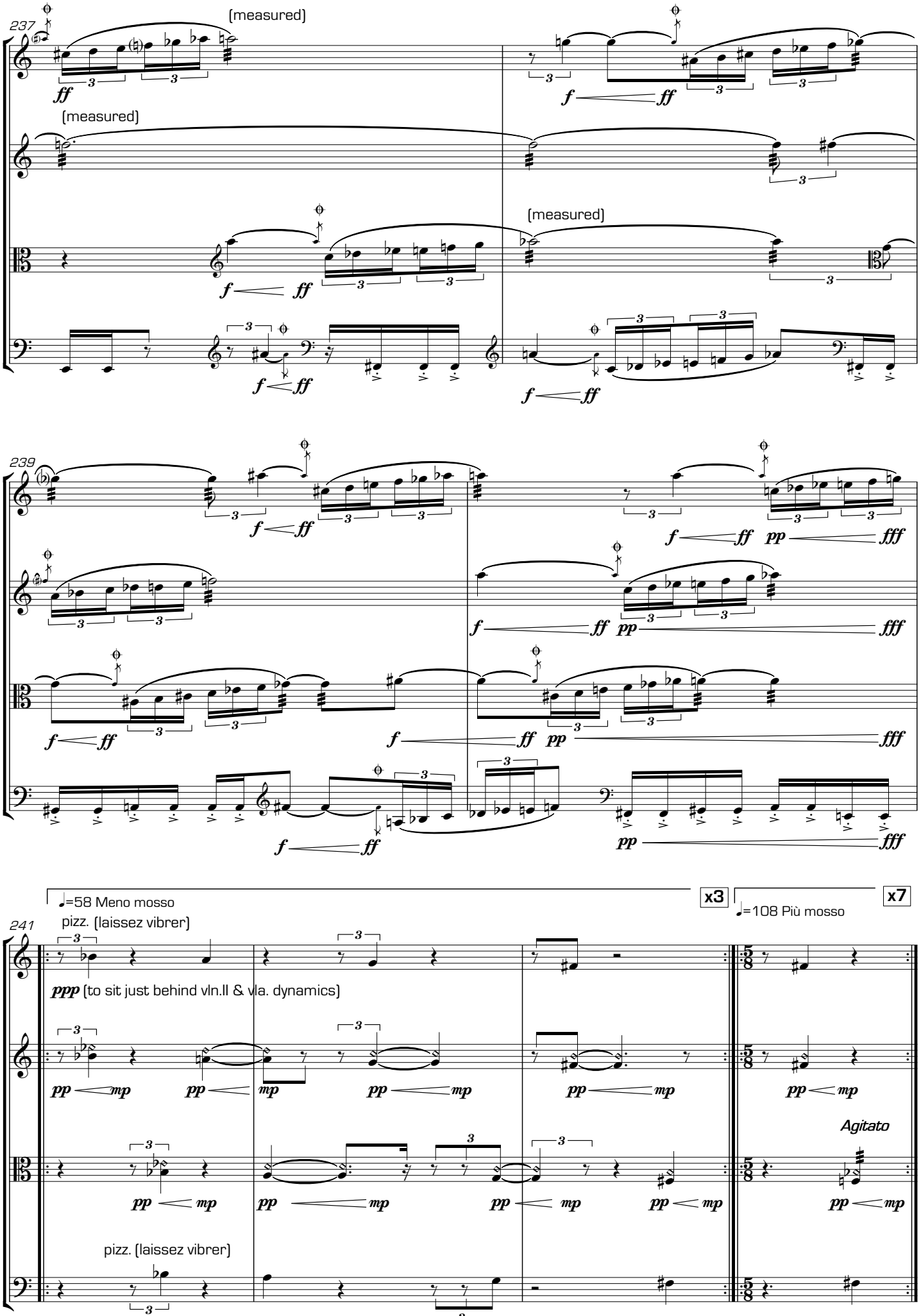

223
♩=ca.132
s.p.
more bow
ff
3
s.p.
more bow
s.p.
more bow
(as fast as possible)

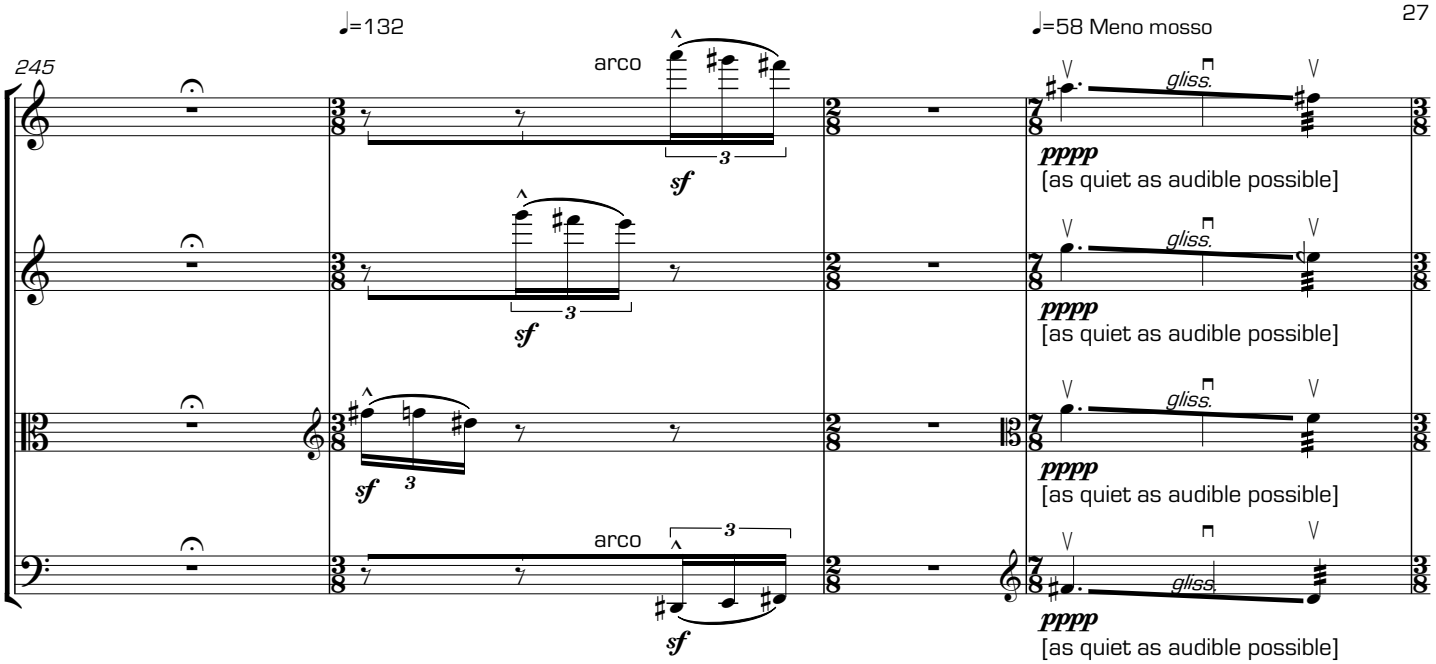

226
rit.
♩=ca.58
accel.

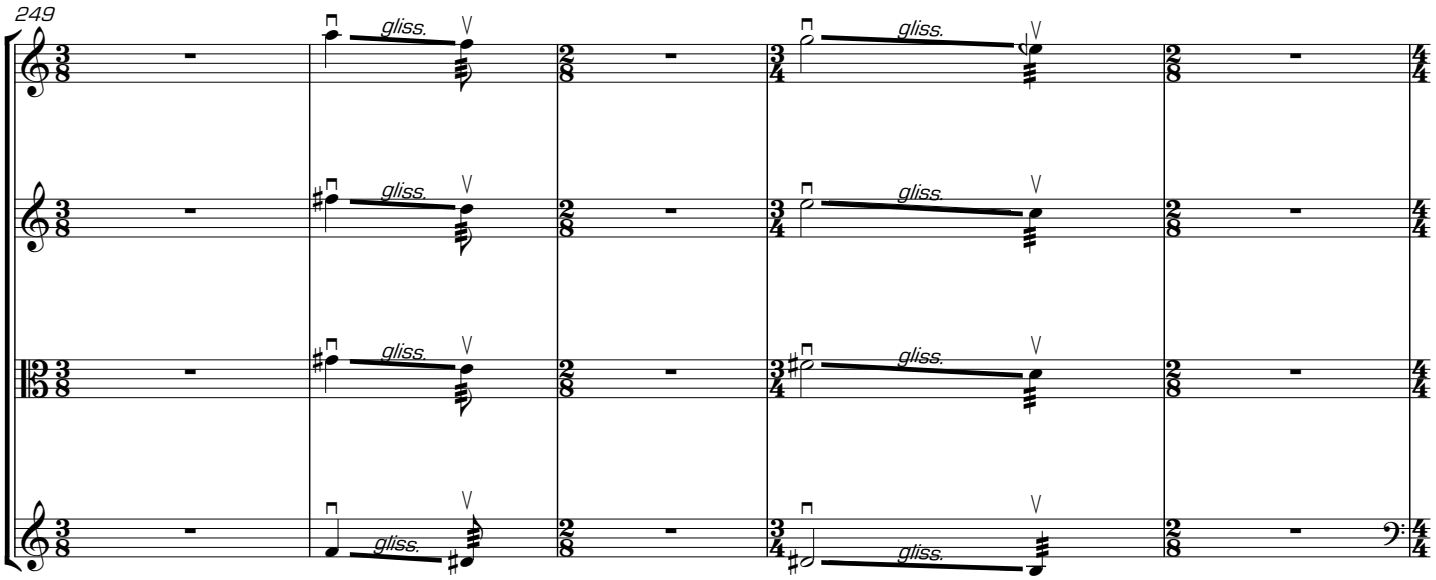

♩=ca.132
Lots of heavy bow (scratchy)
229
Play behind bridge
sf
Play behind bridge
sf
Lots of heavy bow (scratchy)
f
ff

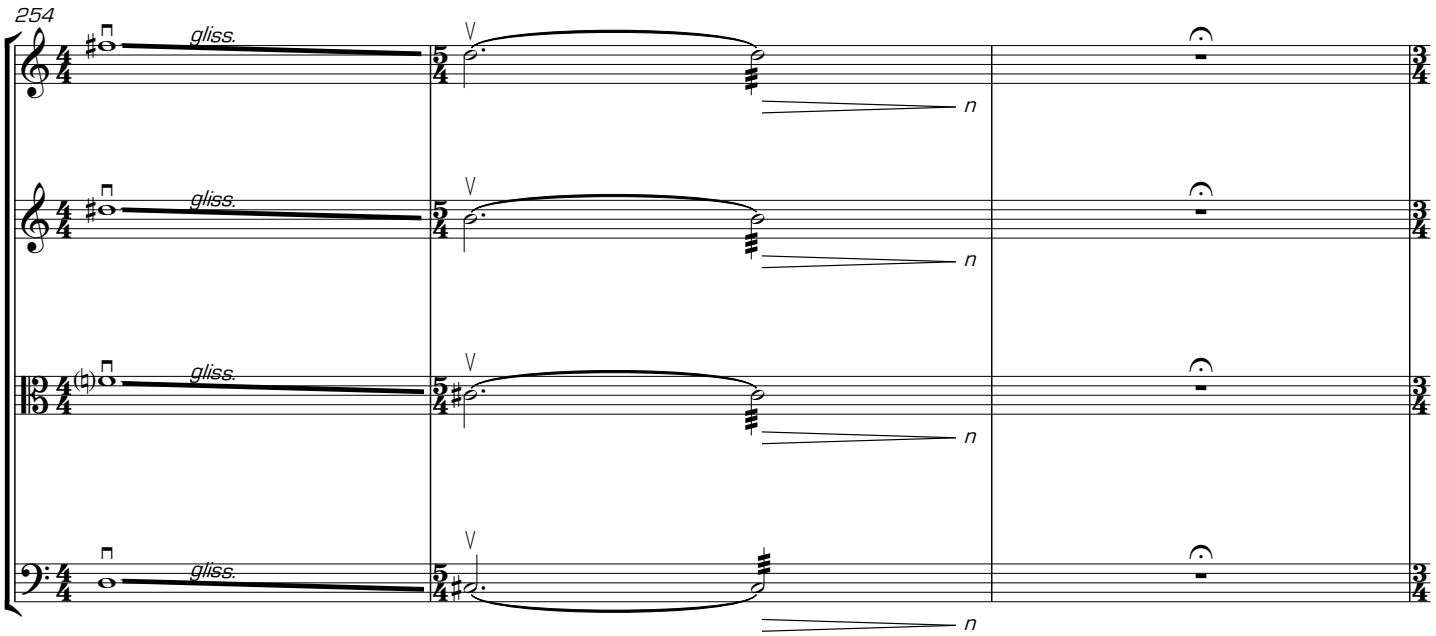

232
f
ff


235
f
ff


237
[measured]
[measured]
[measured]
239
x3
x7
♩=58 Meno mosso
♩=108 Più mosso
241
pizz. (laissez vibrer)
ppp (to sit just behind vln.II & vla. dynamics)
Agitato
pizz. (laissez vibrer)
ppp (to sit just behind vln.II & vla. dynamics)


245
♩=132
arco
sf
3
gliss.
pppp
[as quiet as audible possible]
♩=58 Meno mosso


249
gliss.


254
gliss.
n

♩=108 Lots of Energy

257

arco

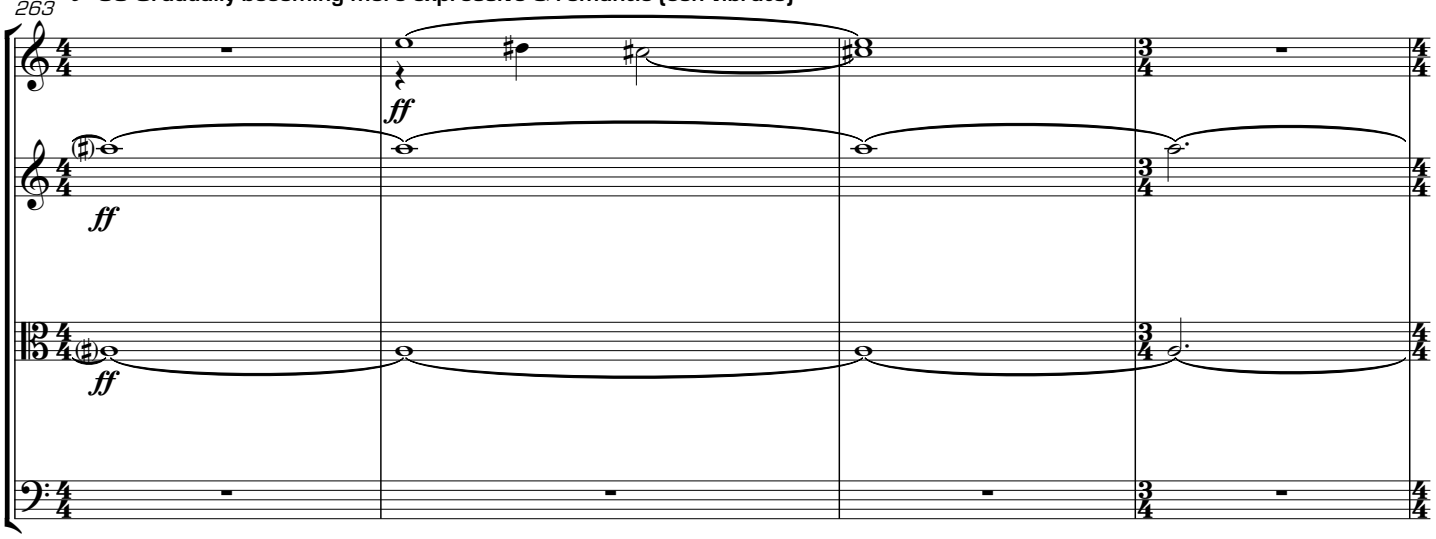
259

Glissando upwards to the highest pitches possible in a similar ad lib. pattern. NB Pitches do not have to be precise & in tune.

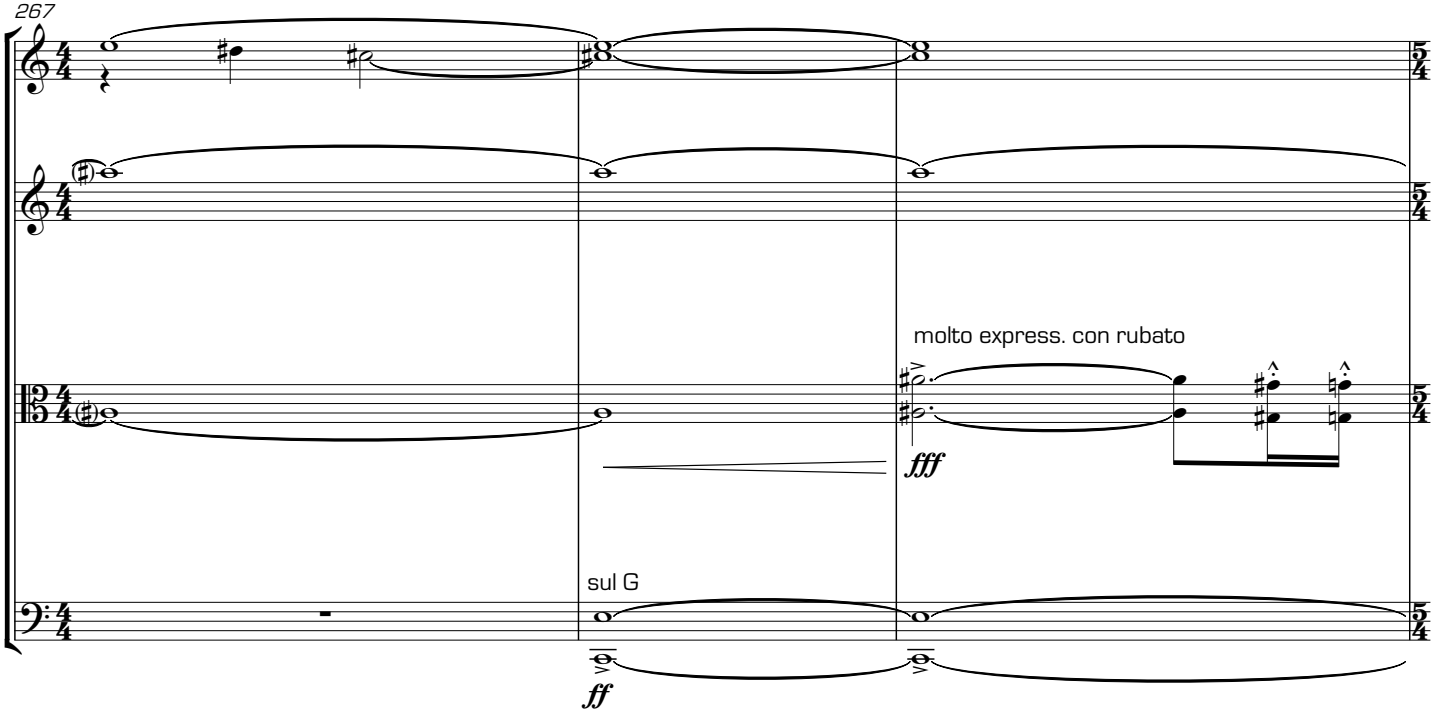
261

263

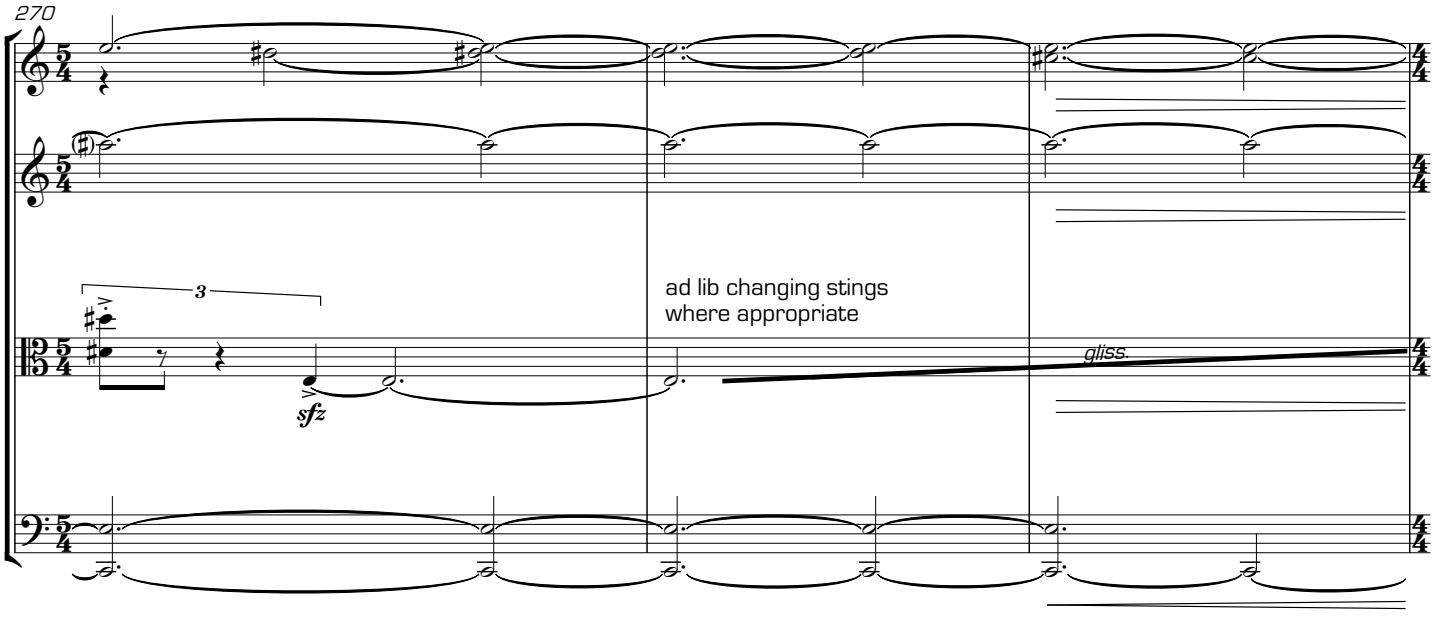
♩=80 Gradually becoming more expressive & romantic (con vibrato)

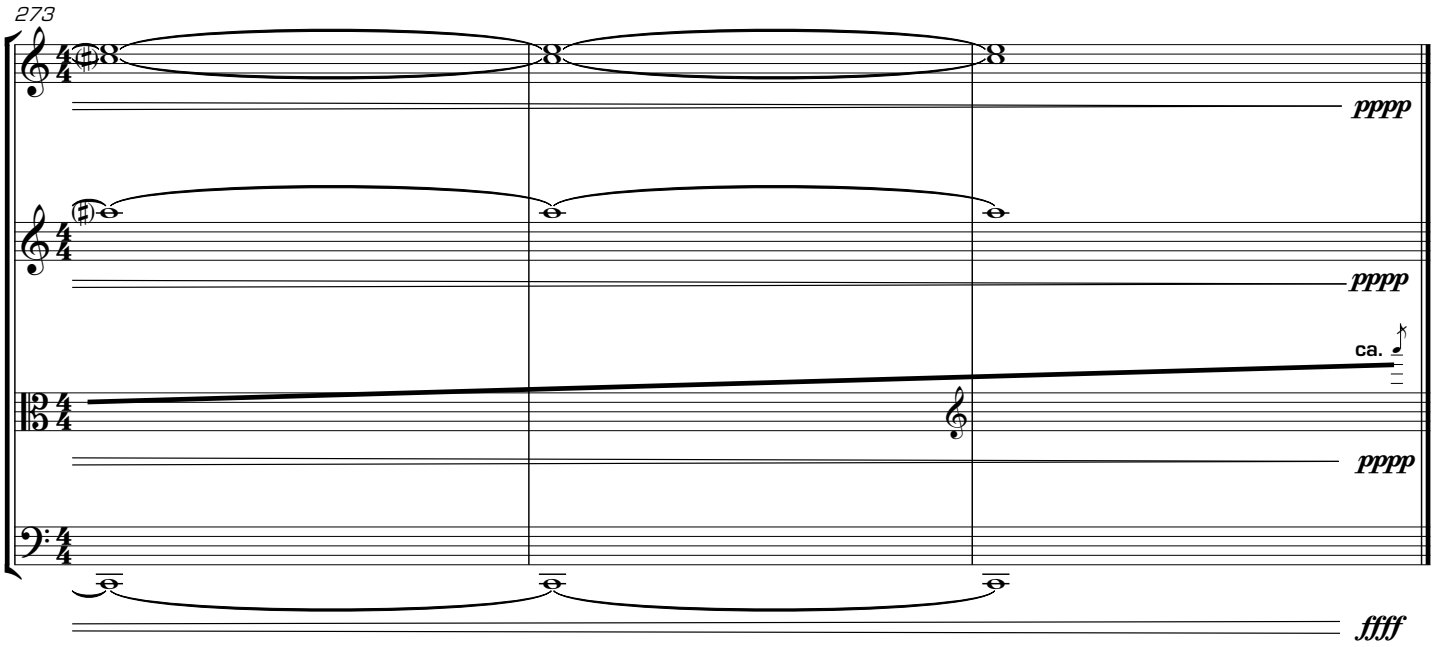


267



270





November 3rd 2015
York