THOMAS ADÈS

Arcadiana

for string quartet

Op.12

(1994)

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FABER MUSIC

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First published in 1995 by Faber Music Ltd
3 Queen Square London WC1N 3AU
Amended impression May 1999
Music processed by Richard Emsley
Cover Drawing: *La promenade en barque* by Jacques de Lajoue
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ISBN 0-571-51518-5

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Arcadiana was commissioned by the Endellion Quartet
with funds from the Holst Foundation

The first performance was given by the Endellion Quartet
in the West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge, as part of
the Cambridge Elgar Festival on 16 November 1994

Arcadiana is recorded by the Endellion Quartet on the EMI Début
Series *Living Toys* CD Z 5 72271 2

Duration: 21 minutes

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PERFORMANCE NOTES

Notes in square brackets [ ] are optional
segue – movement follows directly
attacca – continue, counting the next movement from the double bar
𝄲 = quarter-tone sharp
𝄳 = quarter-tone flat
Harmonic accidentals marked 𝄳 indicate the naturally flat pitch of the harmonic

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II Das klinget so herrlich, das klinget so schön

III Auf dem Wasser zu singen

IV Et … (tango mortale)

V L'Embarquement

VI O Albion

VII Lethe

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Each of the seven titles which comprise *Arcadiana* evokes an image associated with ideas of the idyll, vanishing, vanished or imaginary. The odd-numbered movements are all aquatic, and would be musically continuous if played consecutively. Movement III alludes to the eponymous Schubert Lied. The title of movement V derives from Watteau's painting *The Embarkation from the Island of Cythera* in the Louvre. Movement VII bears the name of the mythical River of Oblivion.

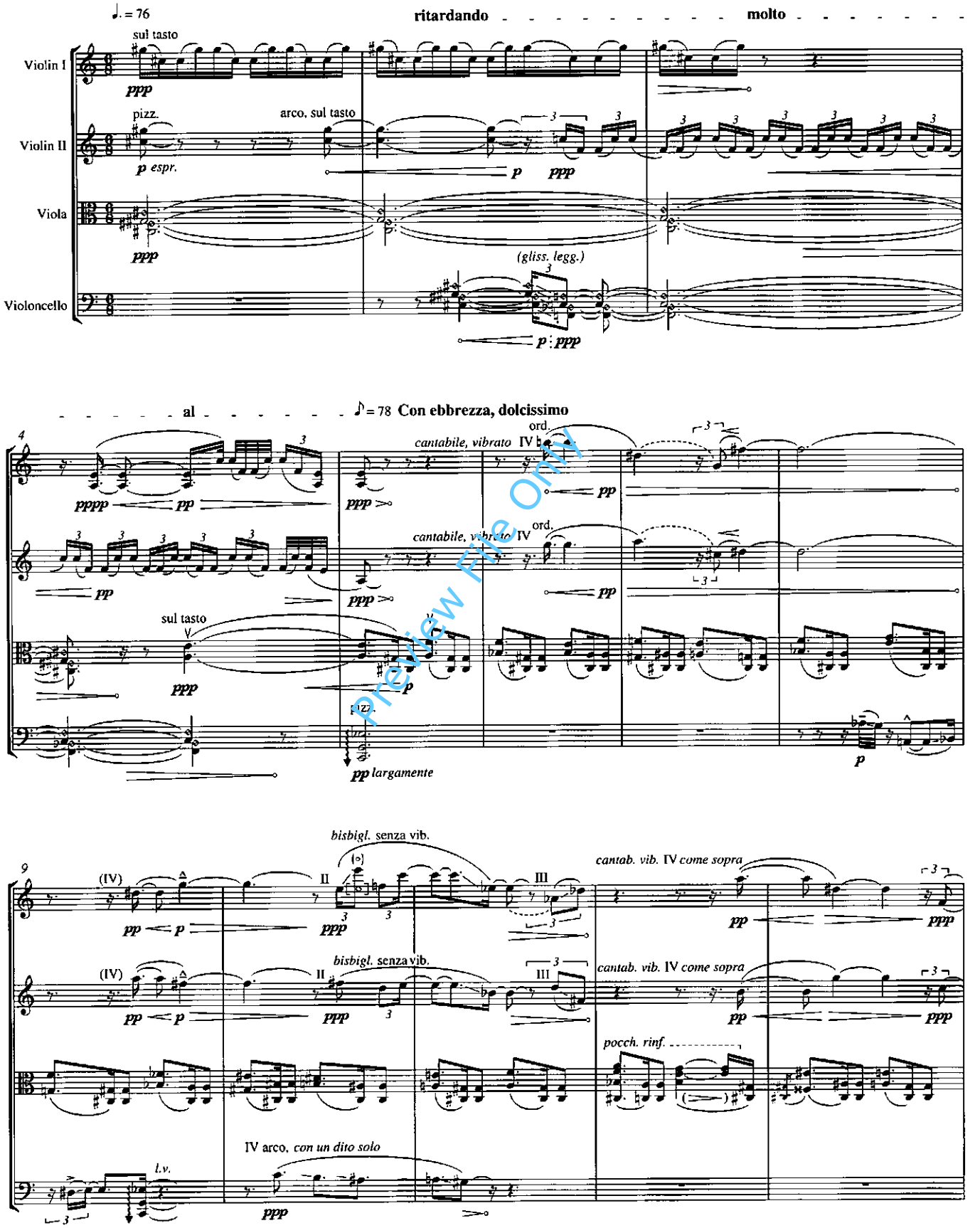
The second and sixth movements inhabit pastoral Arcadias, respectively Mozart's 'Kingdom of the Night' and more local fields. At the dead centre is the fourth movement, bearing part of the Latin inscription on a tomb which Poussin depicts being discovered by shepherds: *Even in Arcady am I.*

T.A.

ARCADIANA

I. Venezia notturna

Thomas Adès



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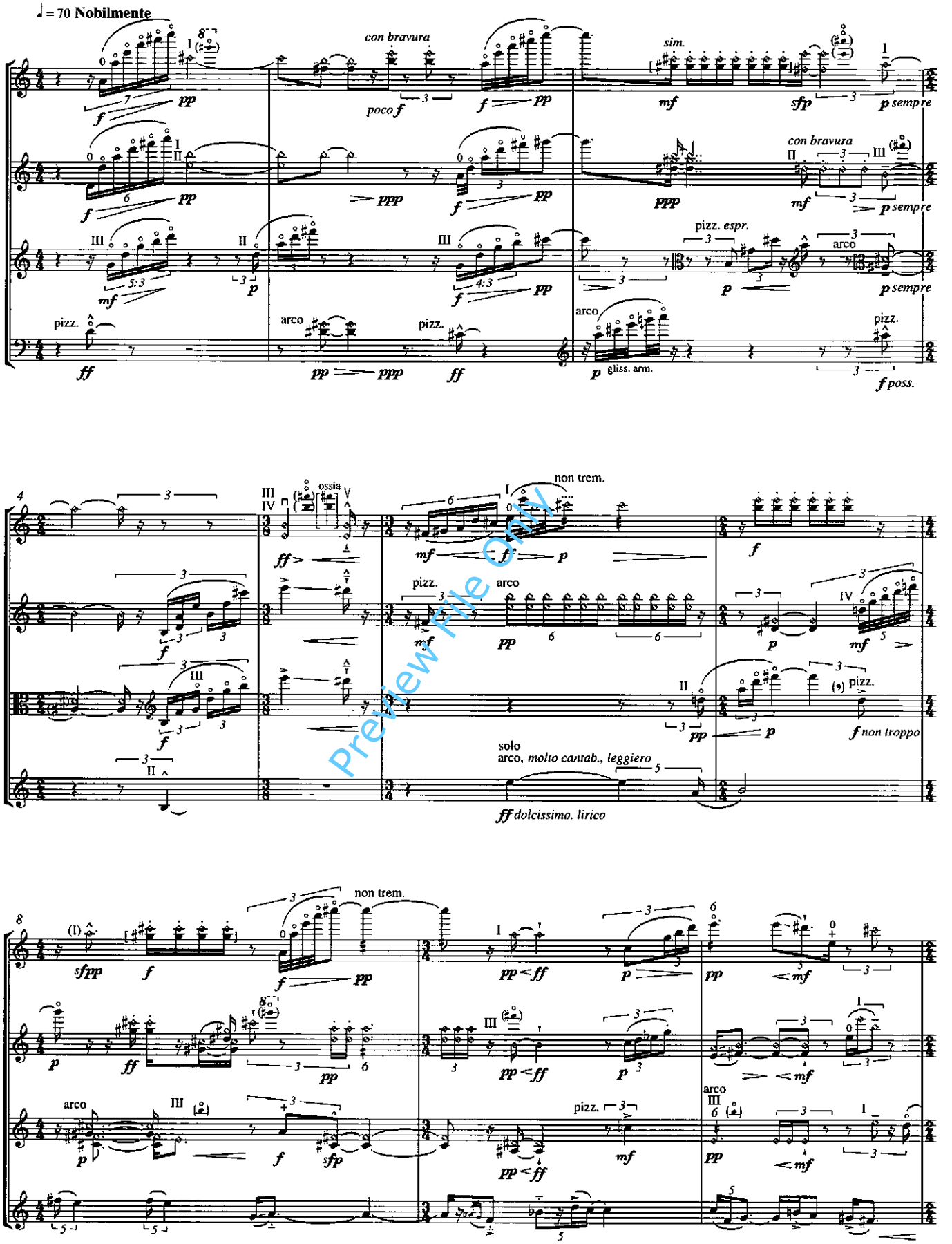
II. Das klinget so herrlich, das klinget so schön



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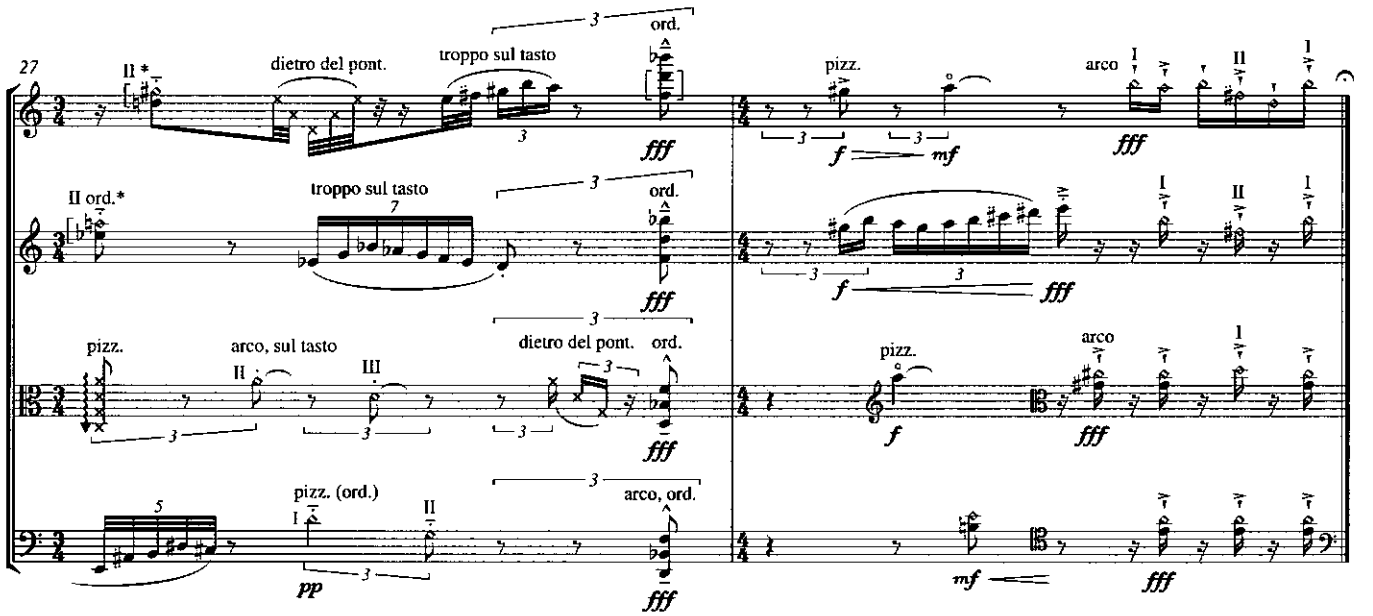
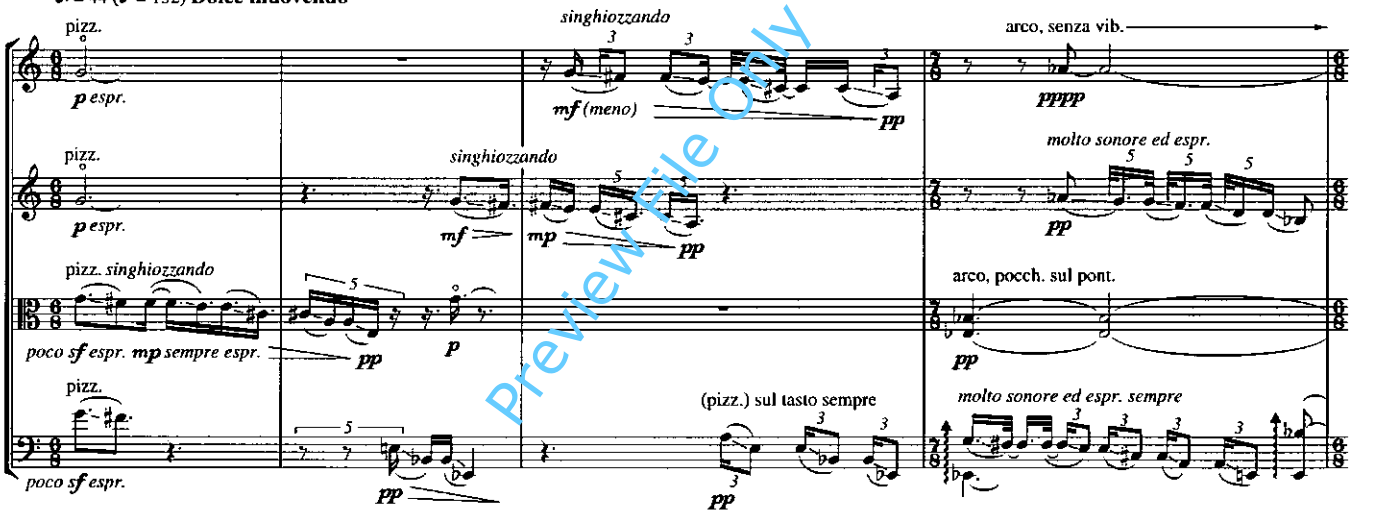
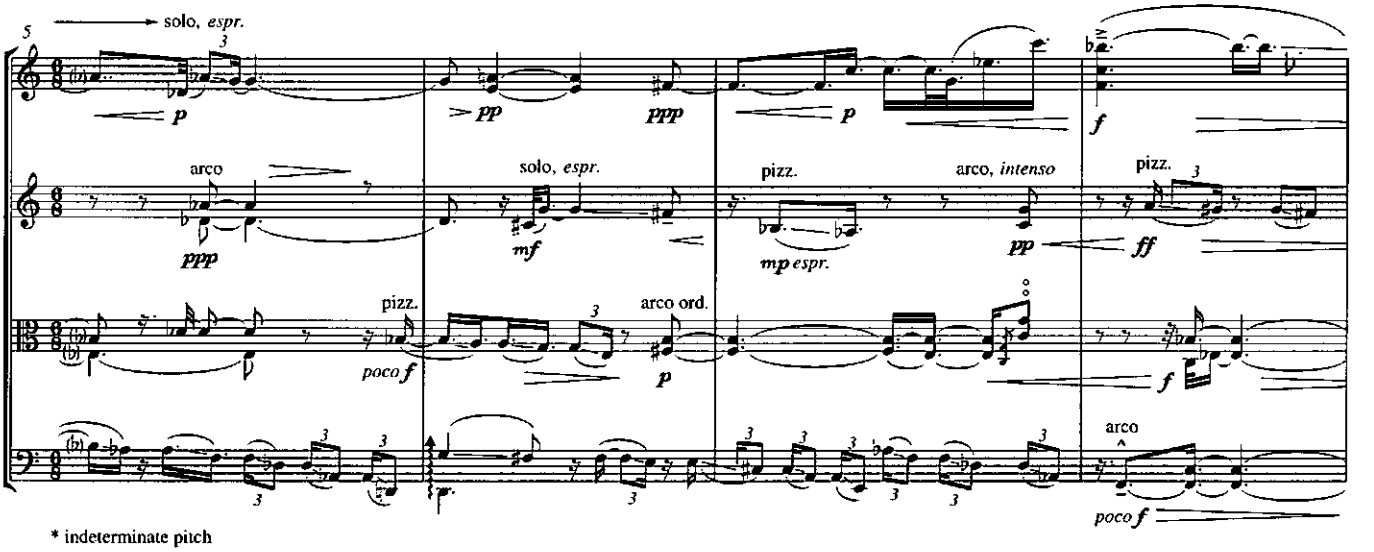


III. Auf dem Wasser zu singen

♩. = 44 (♪ = 132) **Dolce muovendo**





* indeterminate pitch

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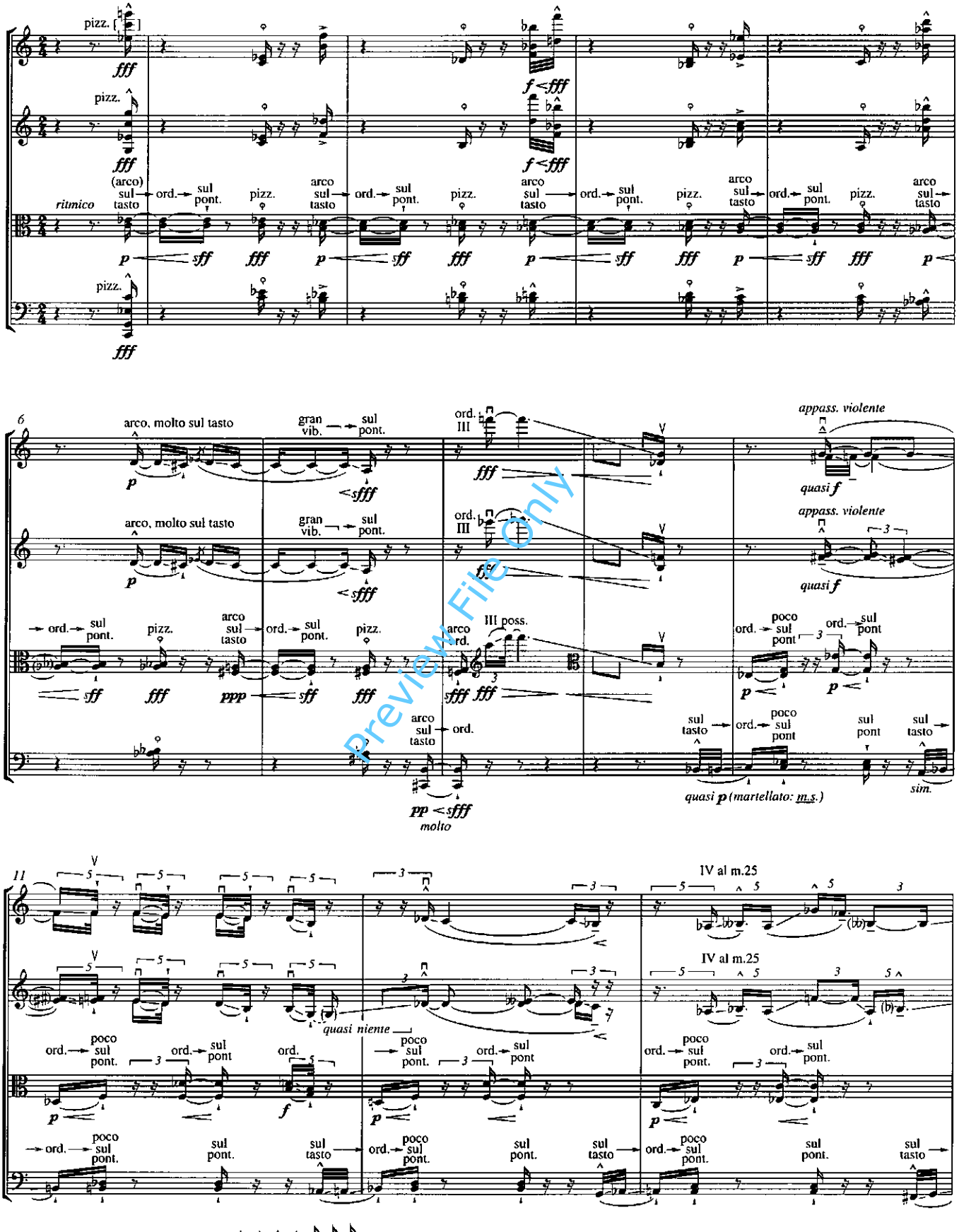
IV. Et... (tango mortale)

♪ = 60 **Strascicato ma molto ritmico***



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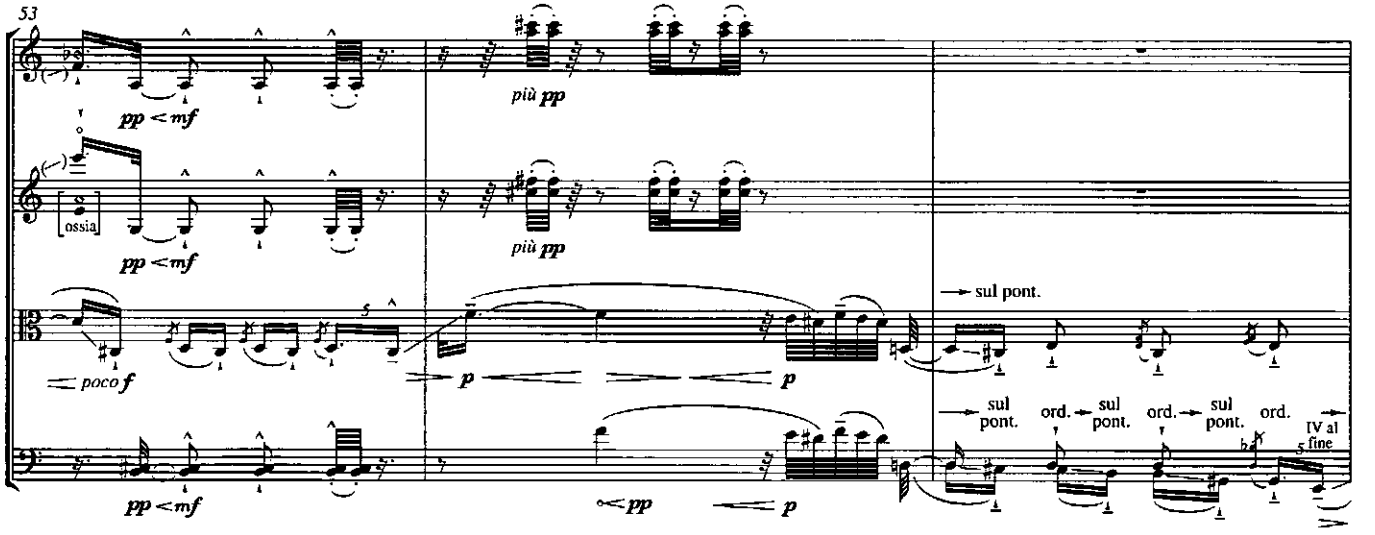
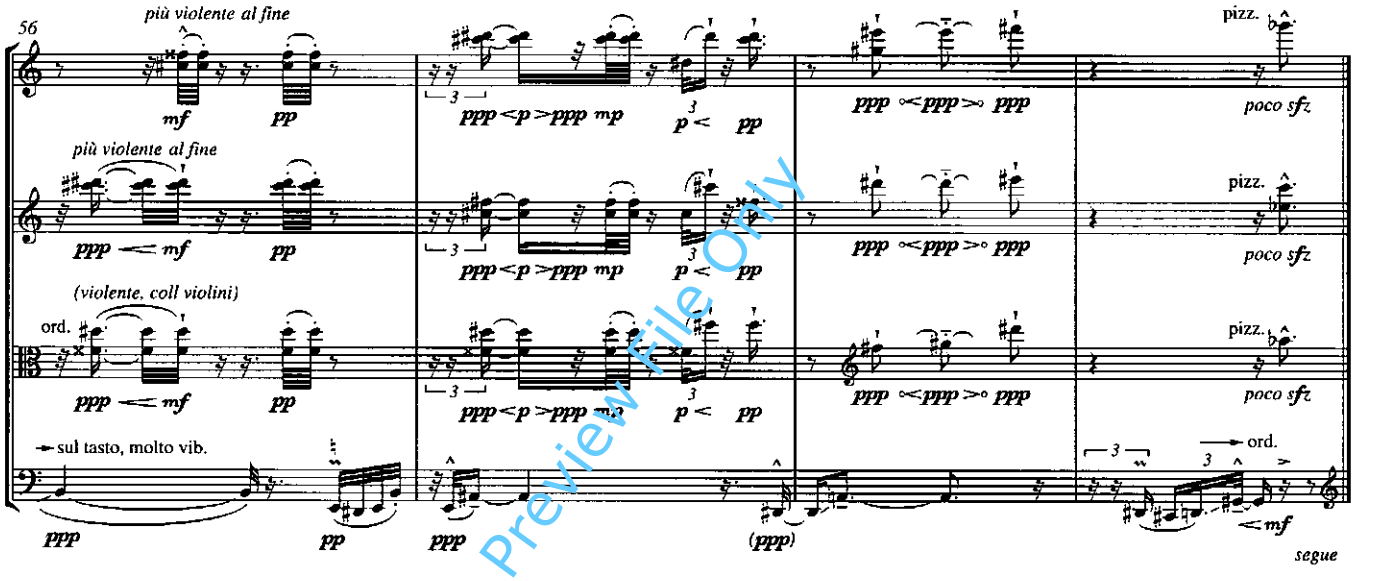
* Tutte le note staccatissime (𝅥): uguale [𝅘𝅥𝅯 𝅘𝅥𝅯 𝅘𝅥𝅯 𝅘𝅥𝅯 𝅘𝅥𝅯 𝅘𝅥𝅯 𝅘𝅥𝅯 𝅘𝅥𝅯 : le stesse]





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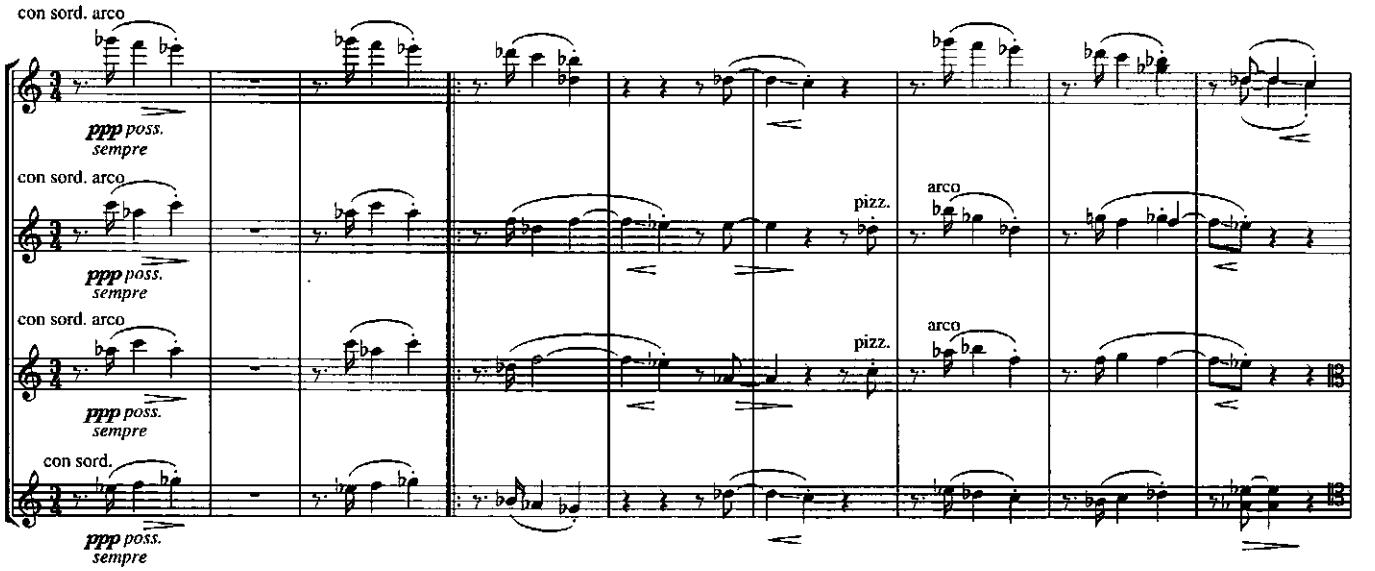
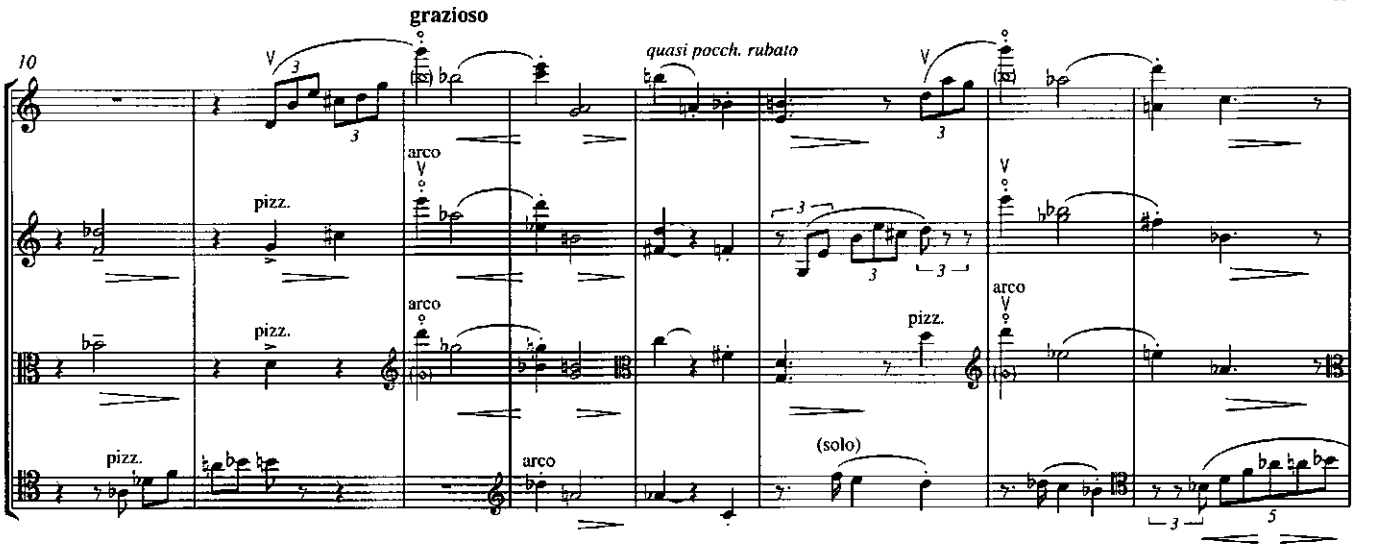
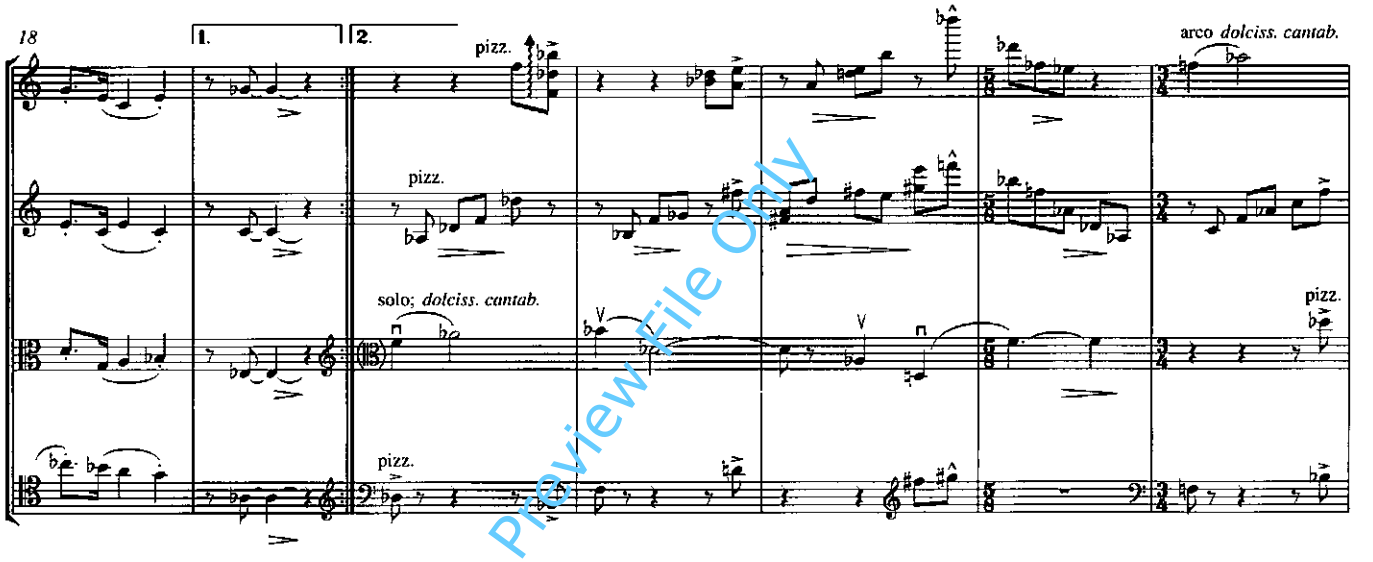
V. L'Embarquement

♩. = 52 (𝅗𝅥 = 156) **Lontanissimo e leggiero, quasi tranquillo**







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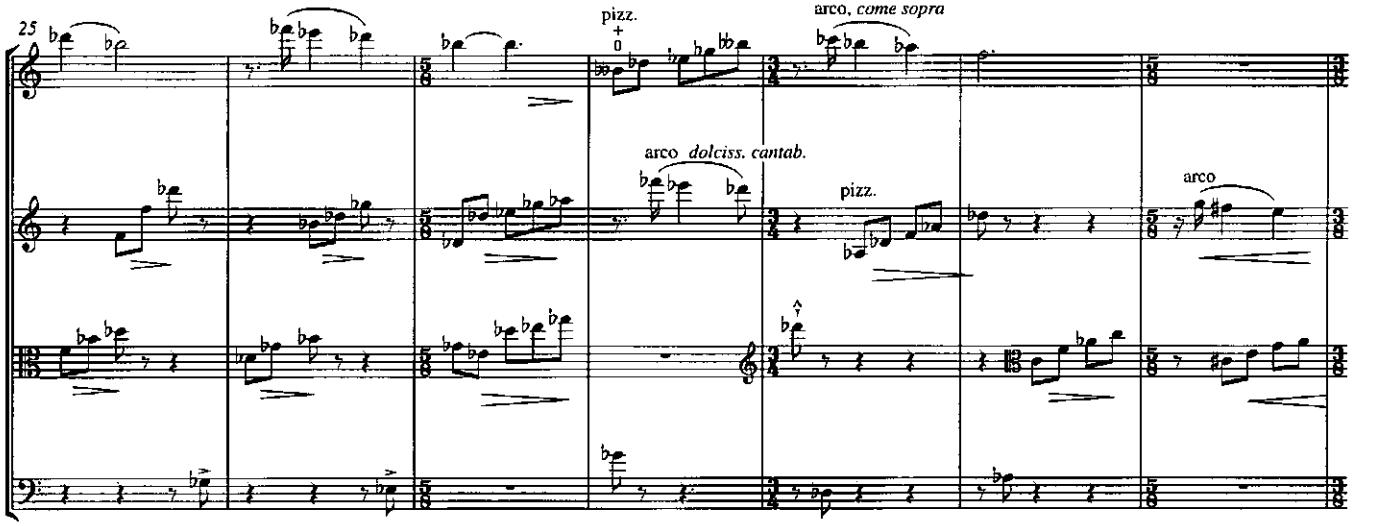

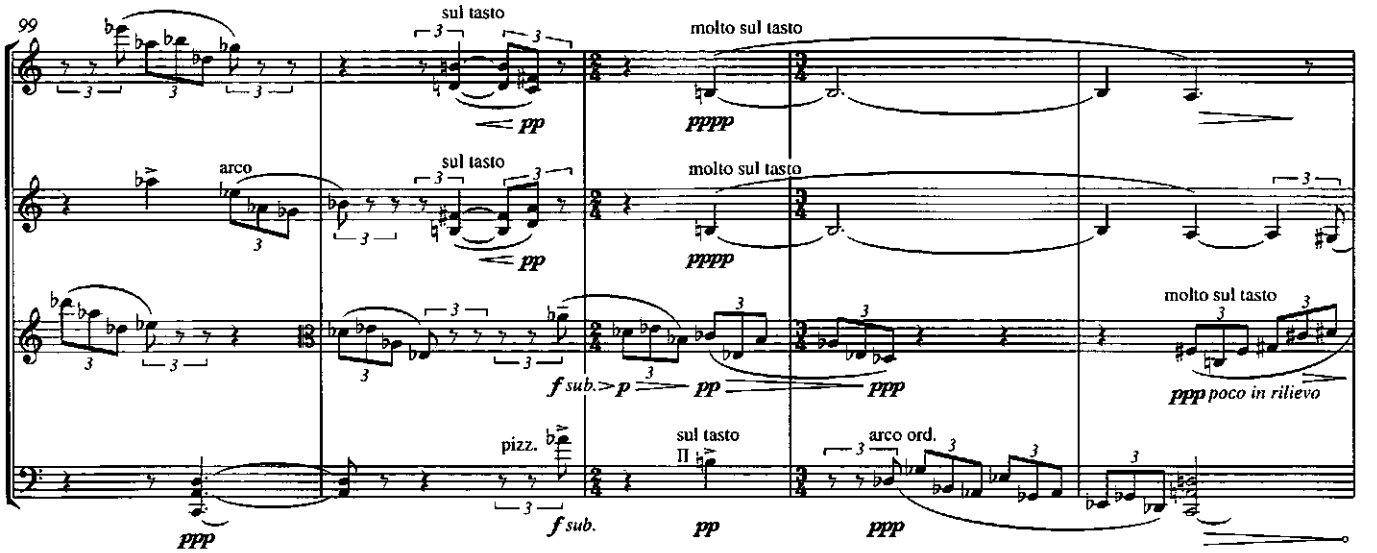

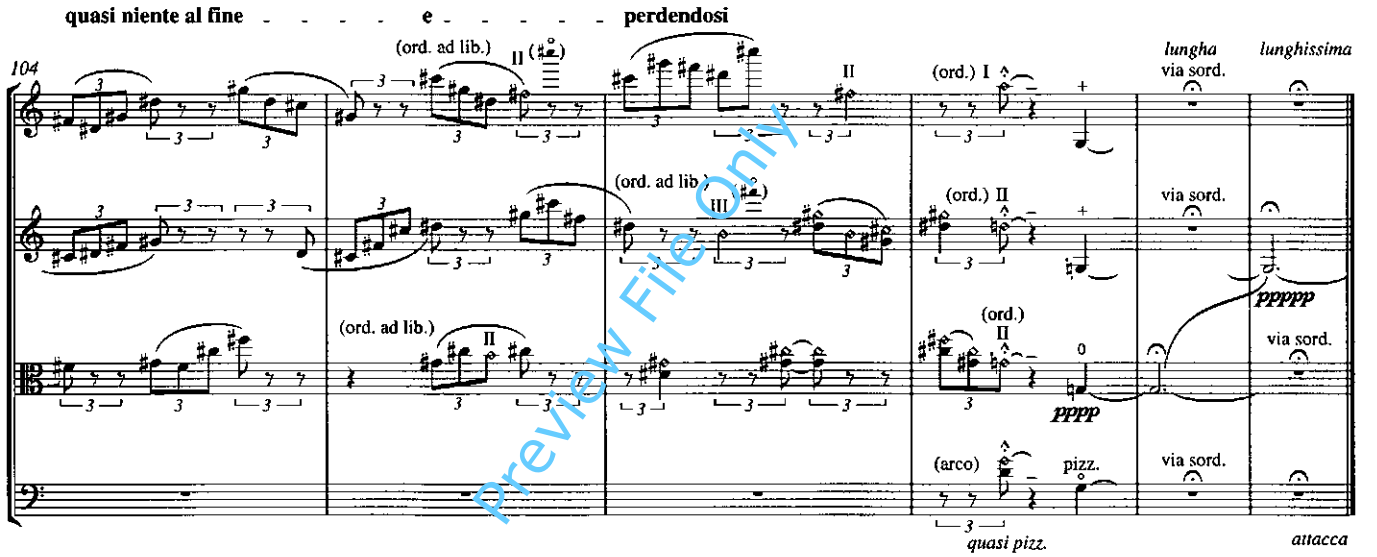

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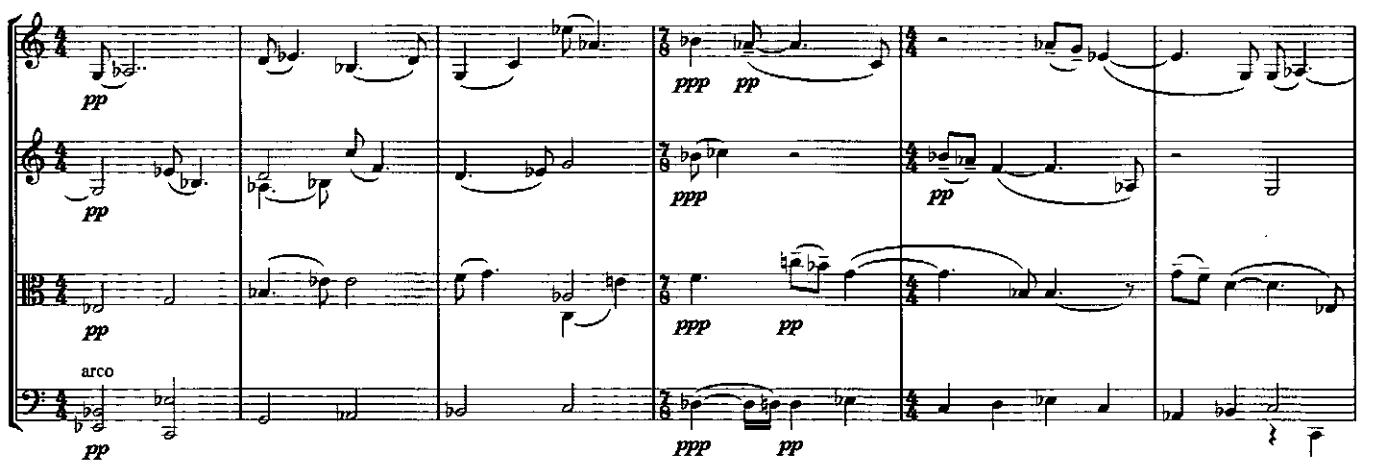
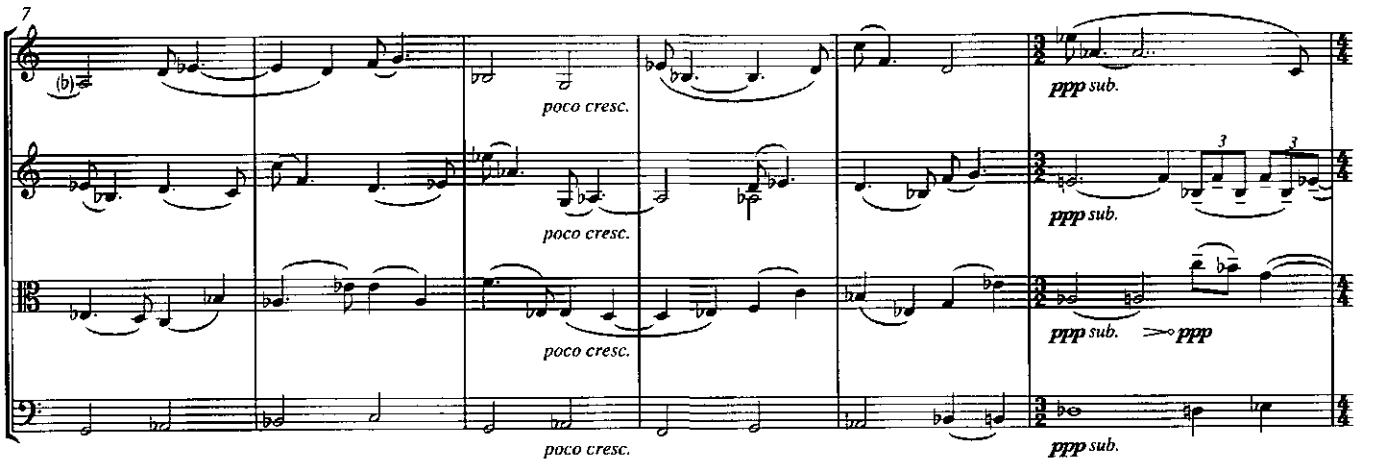
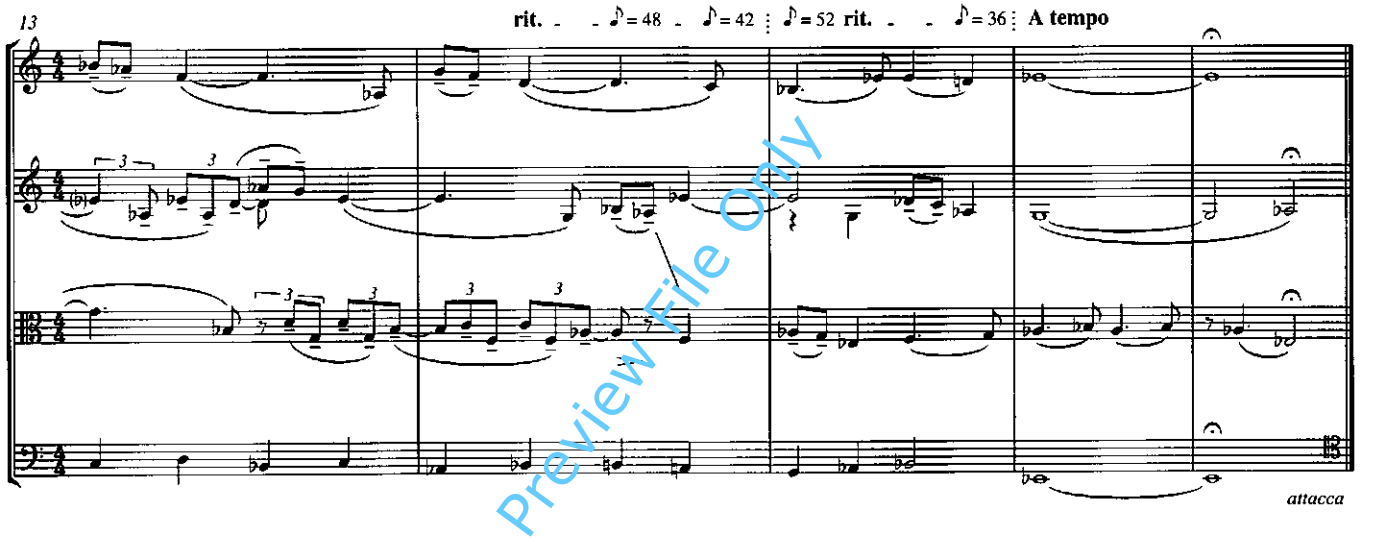
VI. O Albion

♪ = 56 **Devotissimo**







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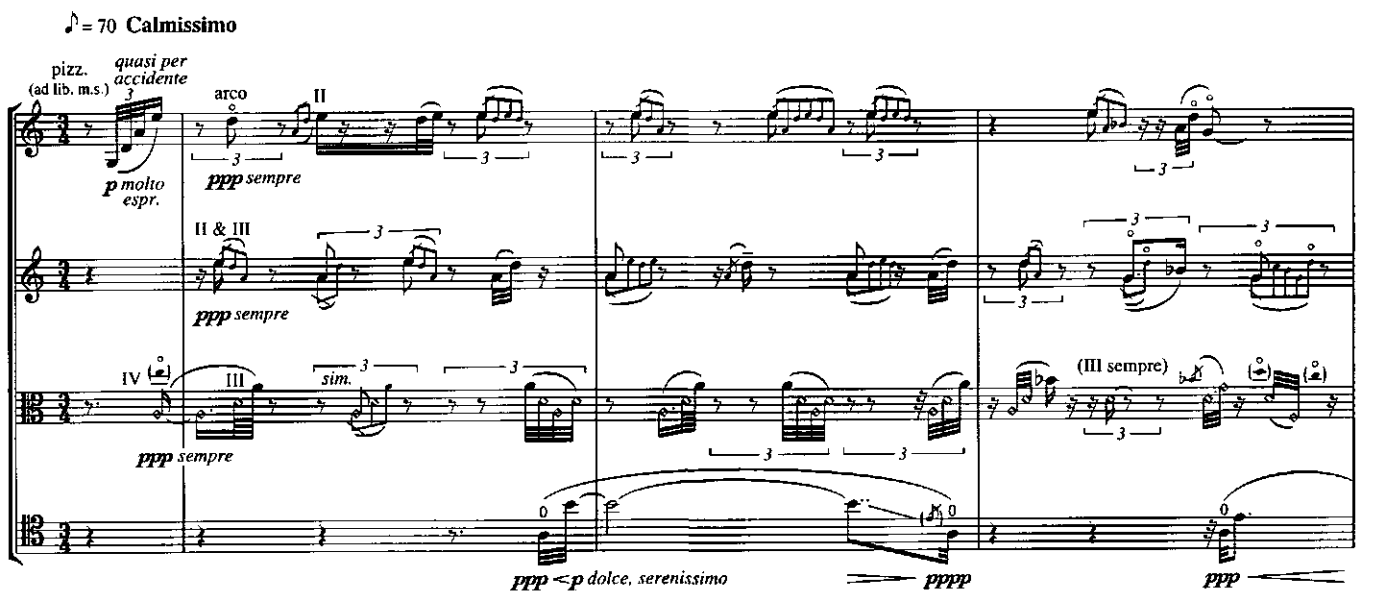
VII. Lethe