# XAVIER MUZIK

## muzak

*for String Quartet*

# Instrumentation

String Quartet

# DURATION

**— ca 9’00” —**

# Note

*muzak* tells the story of a musical force that yearns for expressive freedom but, bound my a sense of self-preservation, acquiesces to the powers that be and thus self-relegates to a position of politeness and respectability. Like the shopping music of yore,  I designed *muzak* to embody an inoffensive, wall-paper aesthetic—to some degree. I was inspired to write this piece by a dilemma in which I often find myself (though, I’ll admit, I wasn’t fully aware of said inspiration until a bit after I finished writing *muzak*). I rarely feel safe enough to be fully vulnerable and expressive with people. So, I hide my emotions behind a veneer of respectability and politeness. Many emotions I have suffer this fate, but I feel that because of the way I look and my physical stature, anger is the one that suffers most. I’ve learned time and time again, throughout my life, that anger, when channeled through me, is threatening. *muzak*, in turn, takes anger as its primary protagonist, held prisoner just beyond the yawning by the false expectations of social order. There are moments in *muzak* in which the facade of inoffensive respectability cracks and the anger begins to break through. When this struggle reaches a boiling point, it’s hard to say whether the anger is ever fully free, the emotion full realized, but either way, the nature of the music from this point forward is different. Politeness no longer feels inoffensive but instead tragic, tinged with aggression and resignation.

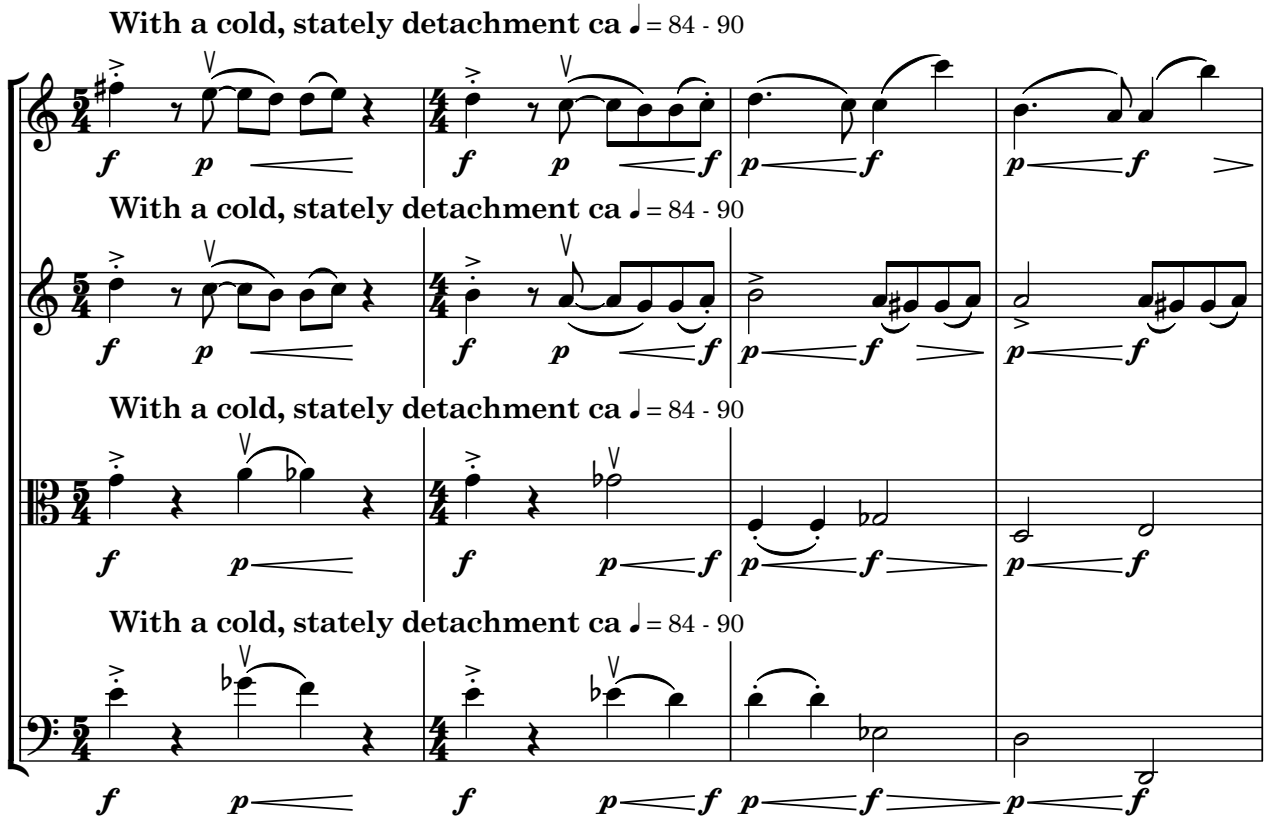
— Xavier Muzik

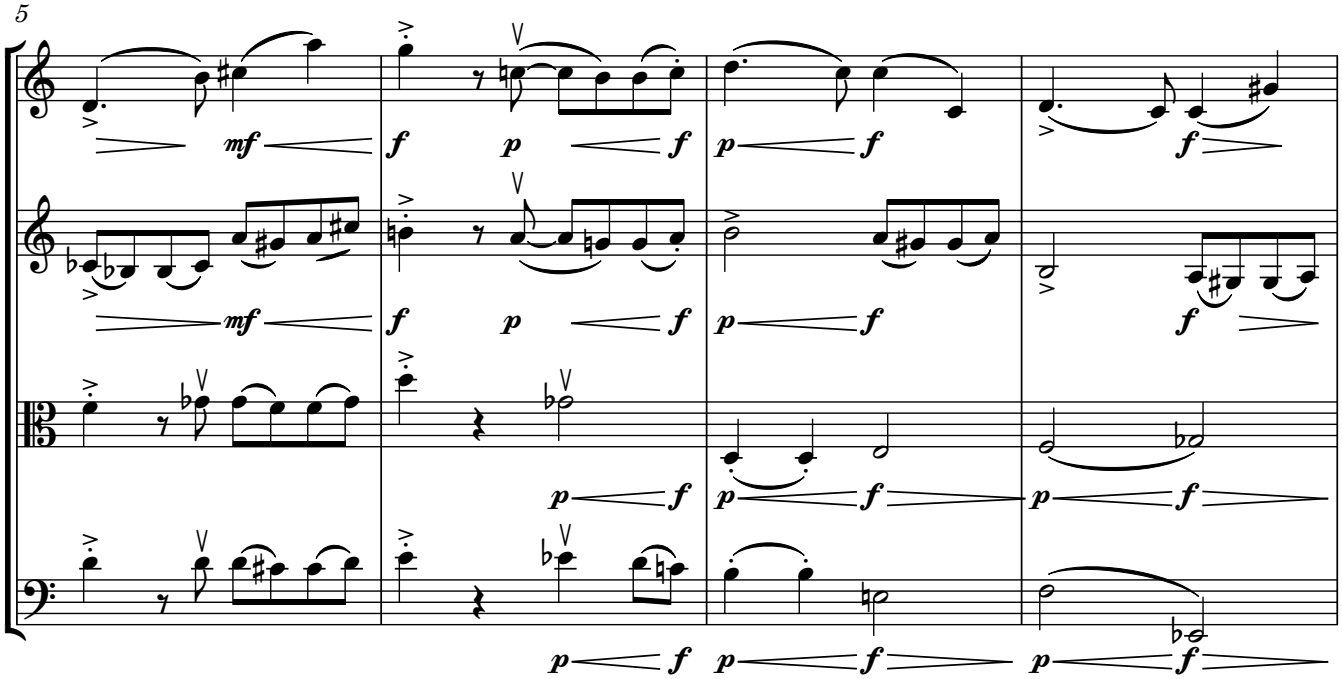
# muzak

For String Quartet

*"Listen to this while you are shopping or in an elevator or something"*

Xavier Muzik

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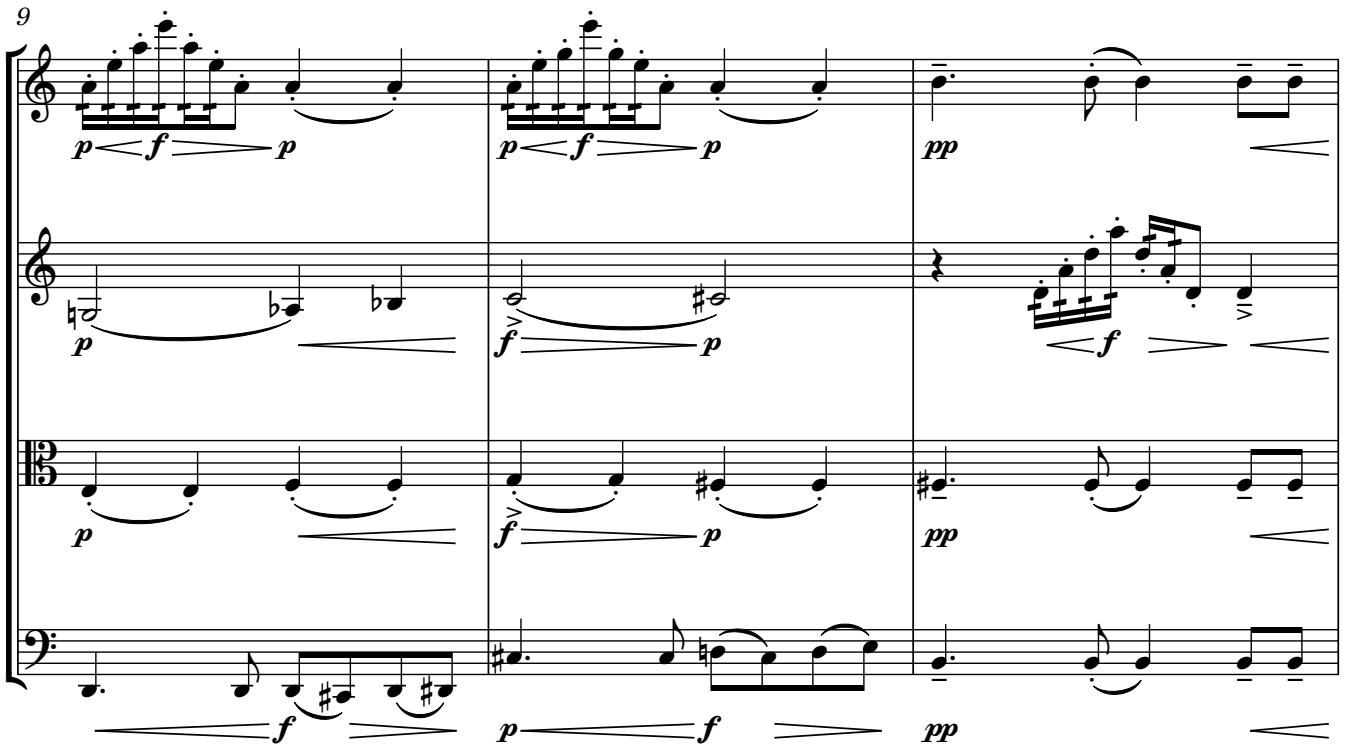
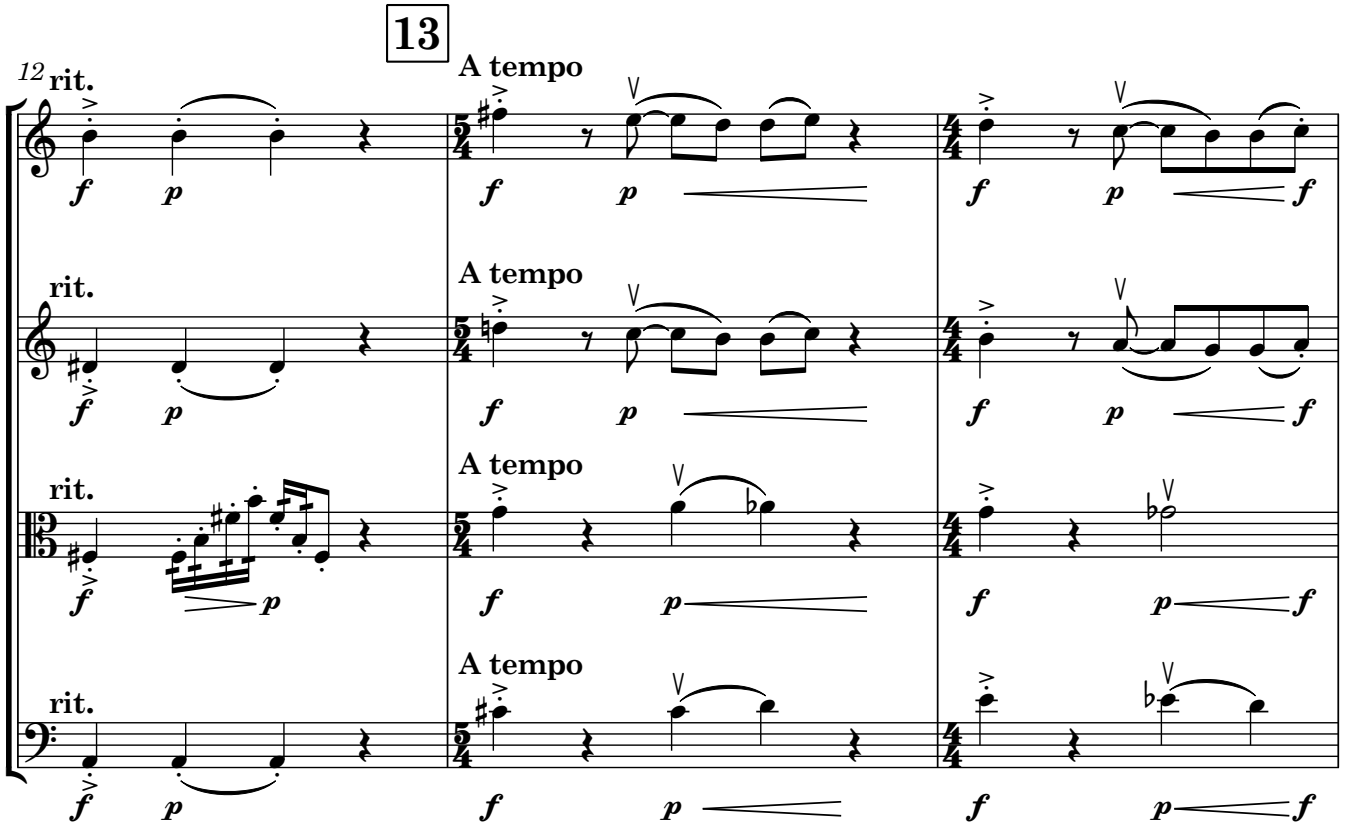
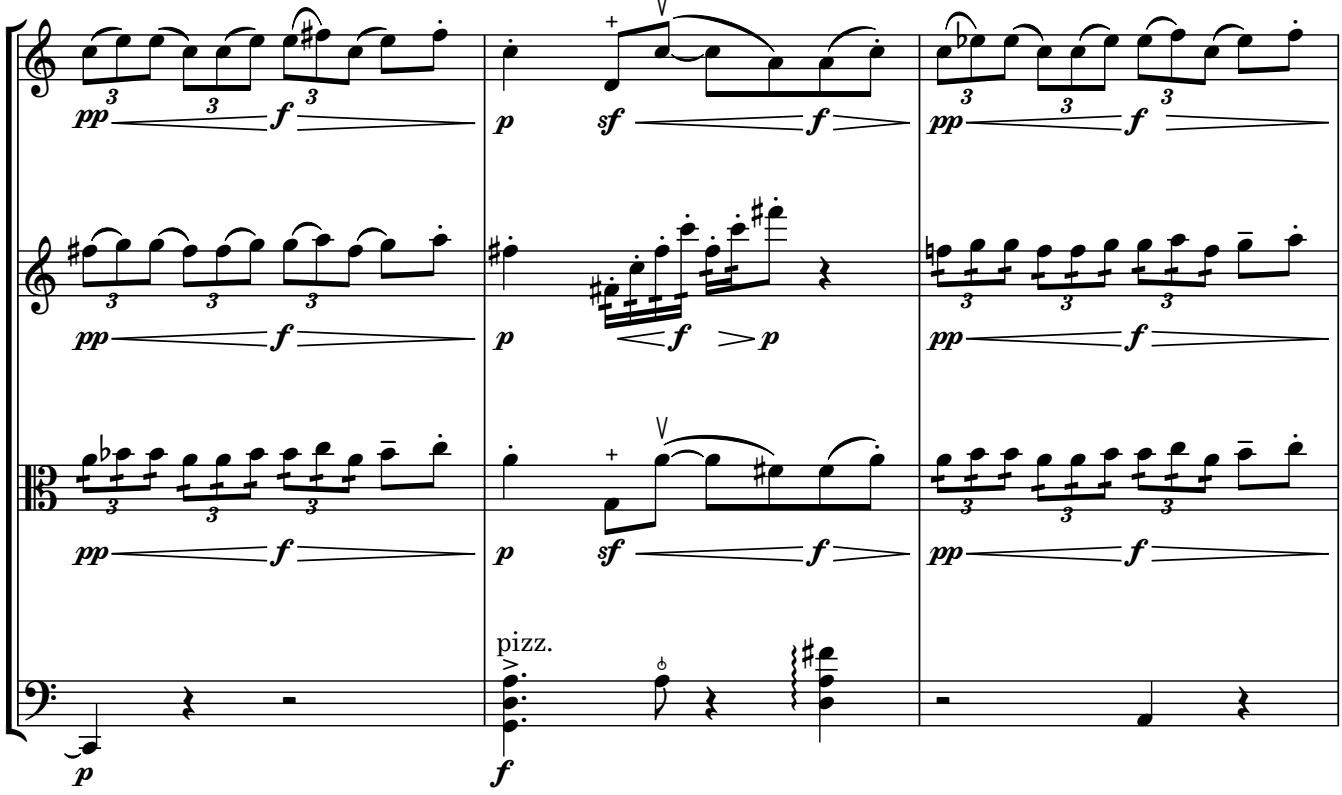

9
p f p
p f p
pp
p
f p
f
p
f p
pp
f
p f
pp

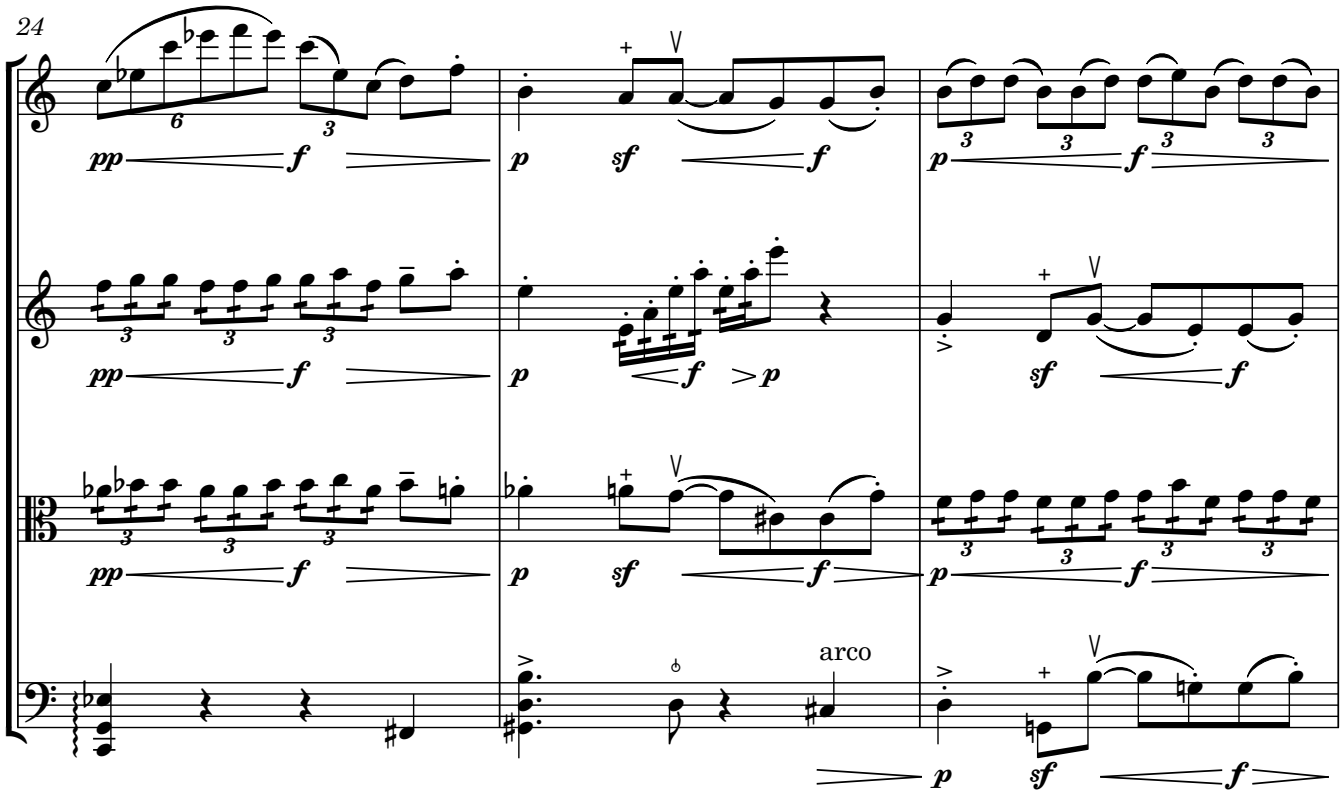

13
12 rit.
A tempo
f p
f p
f p f
rit.
A tempo
f p
f p
f p f
rit.
A tempo
f p
f p
f p f
rit.
A tempo
f p
f p
f p f

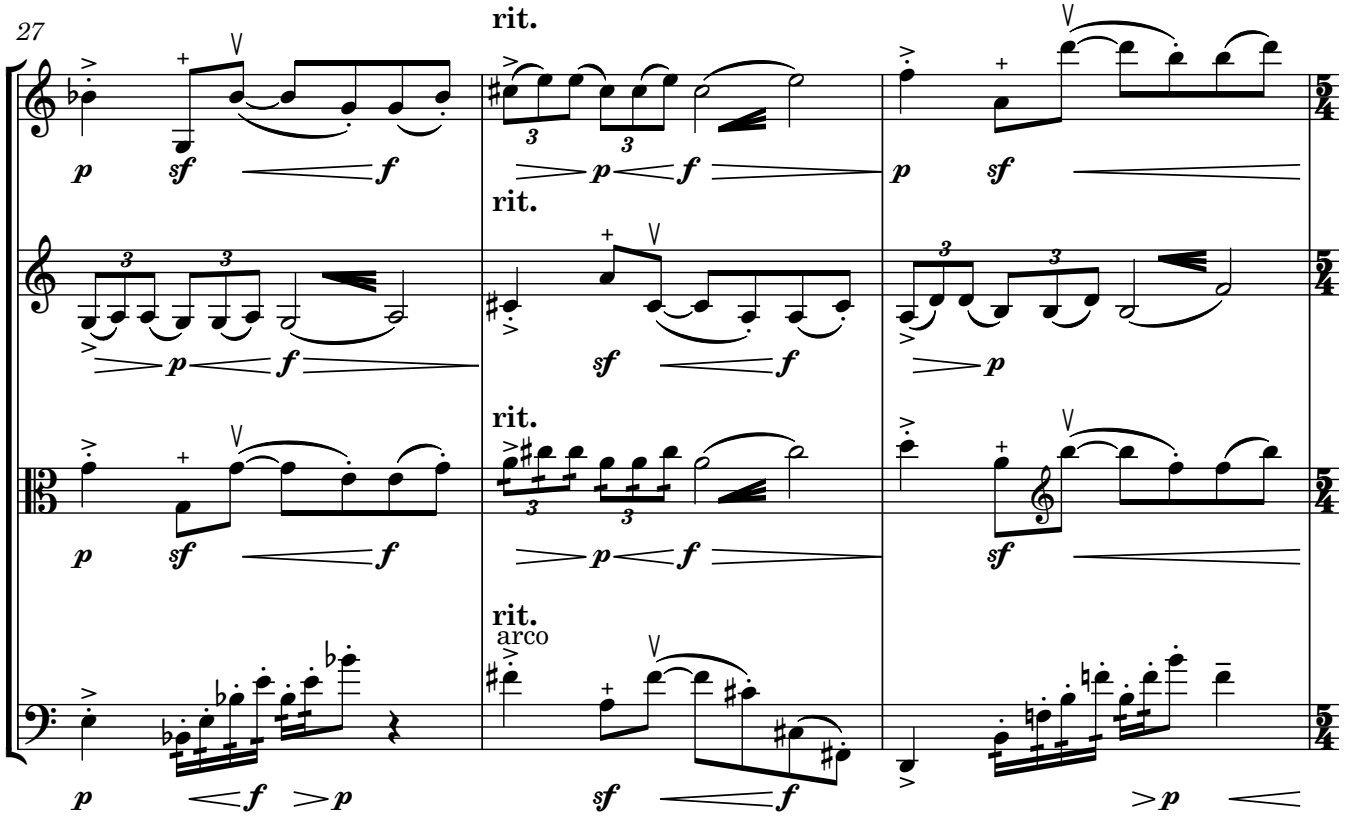
15
18
rit.
A tempo
rit.
A tempo
rit.
A tempo
rit.
A tempo

**21**

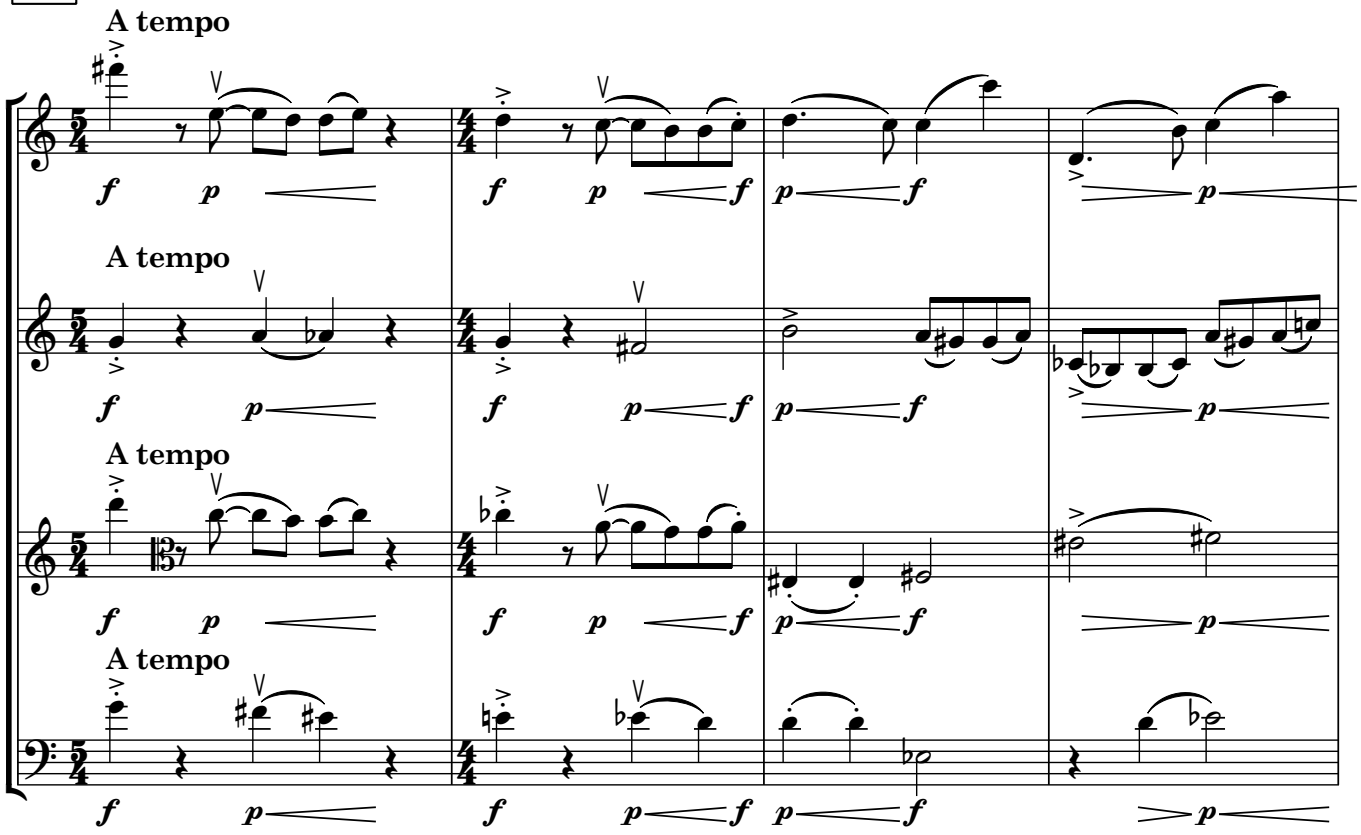


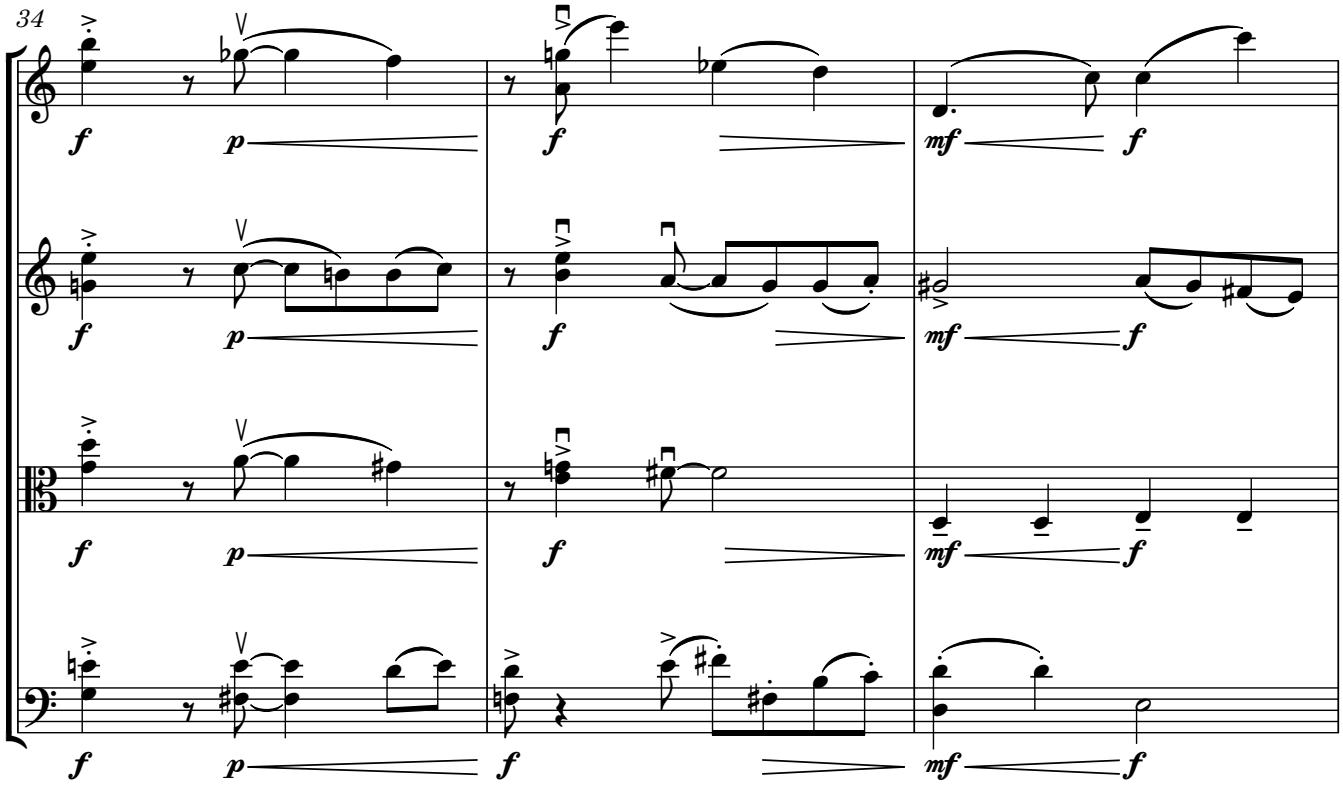

24

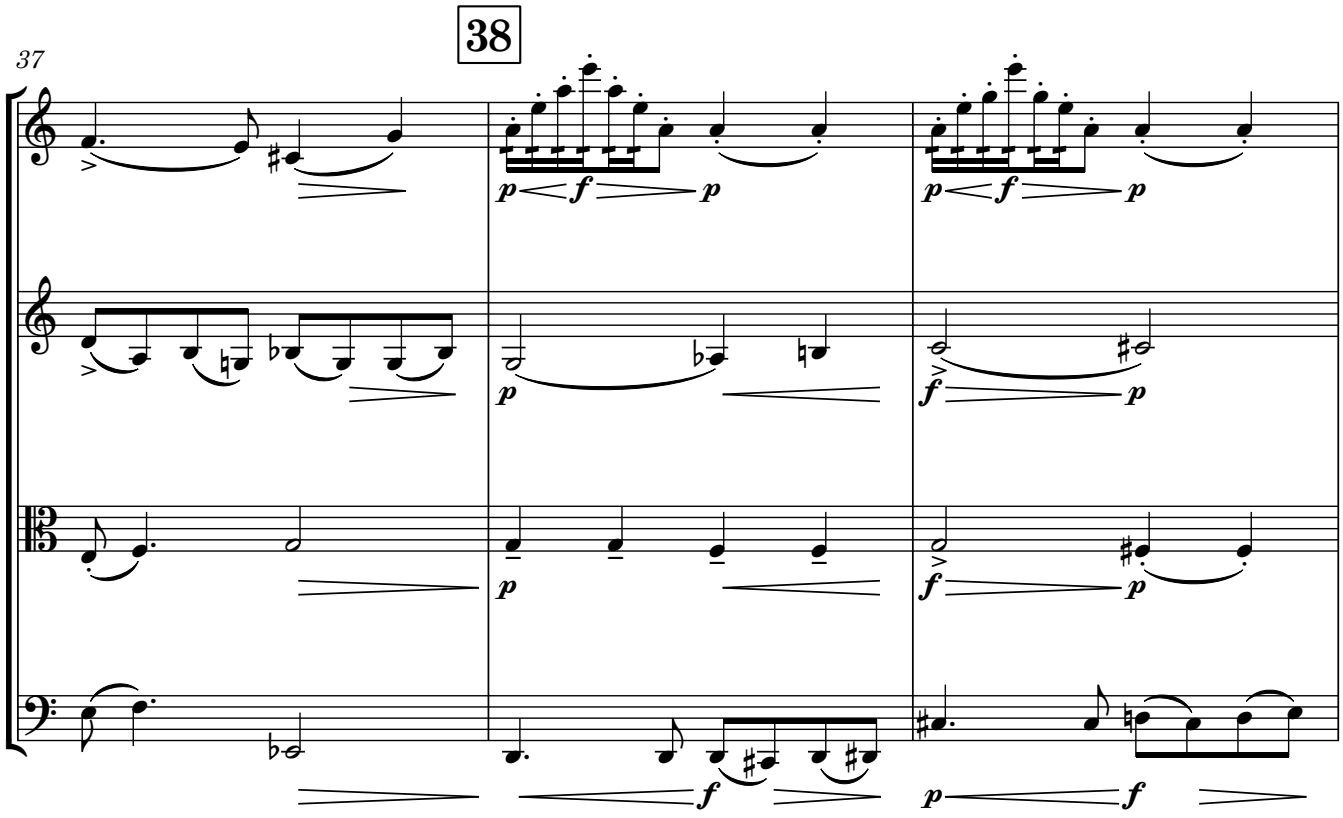


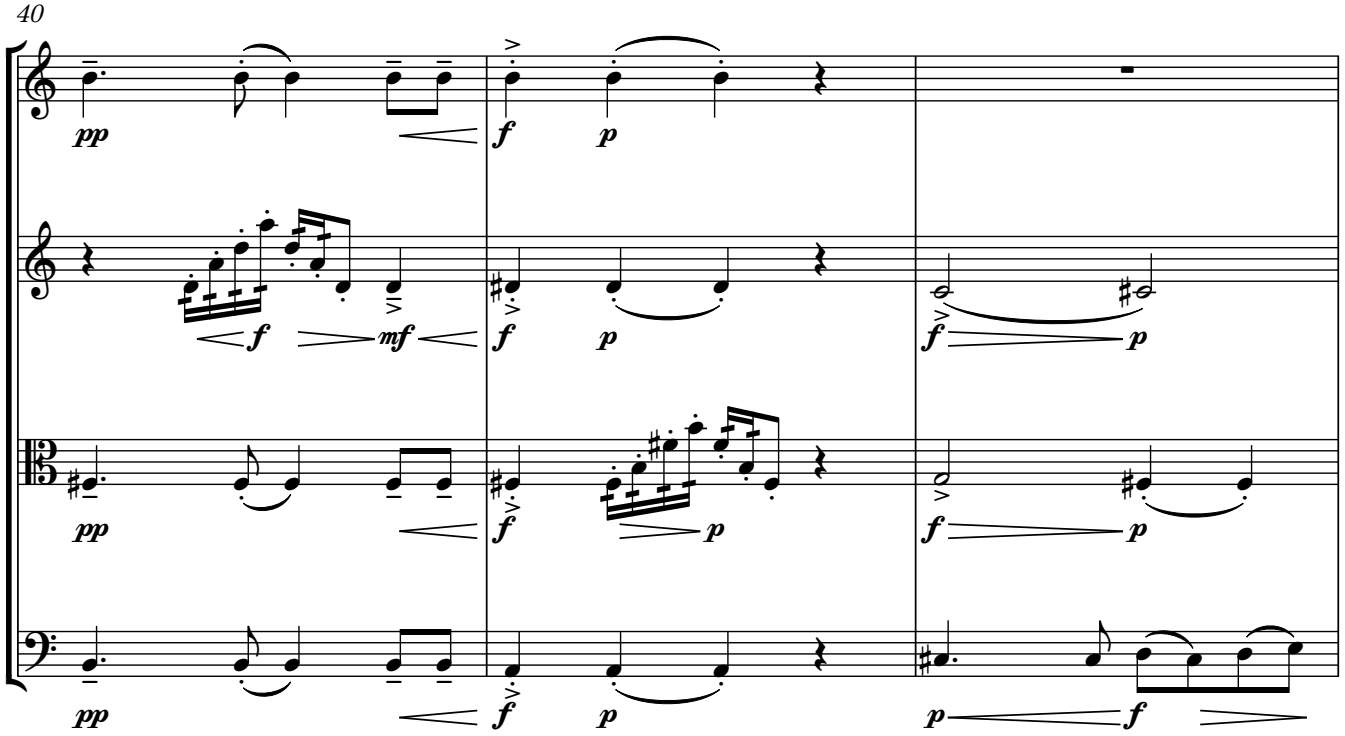


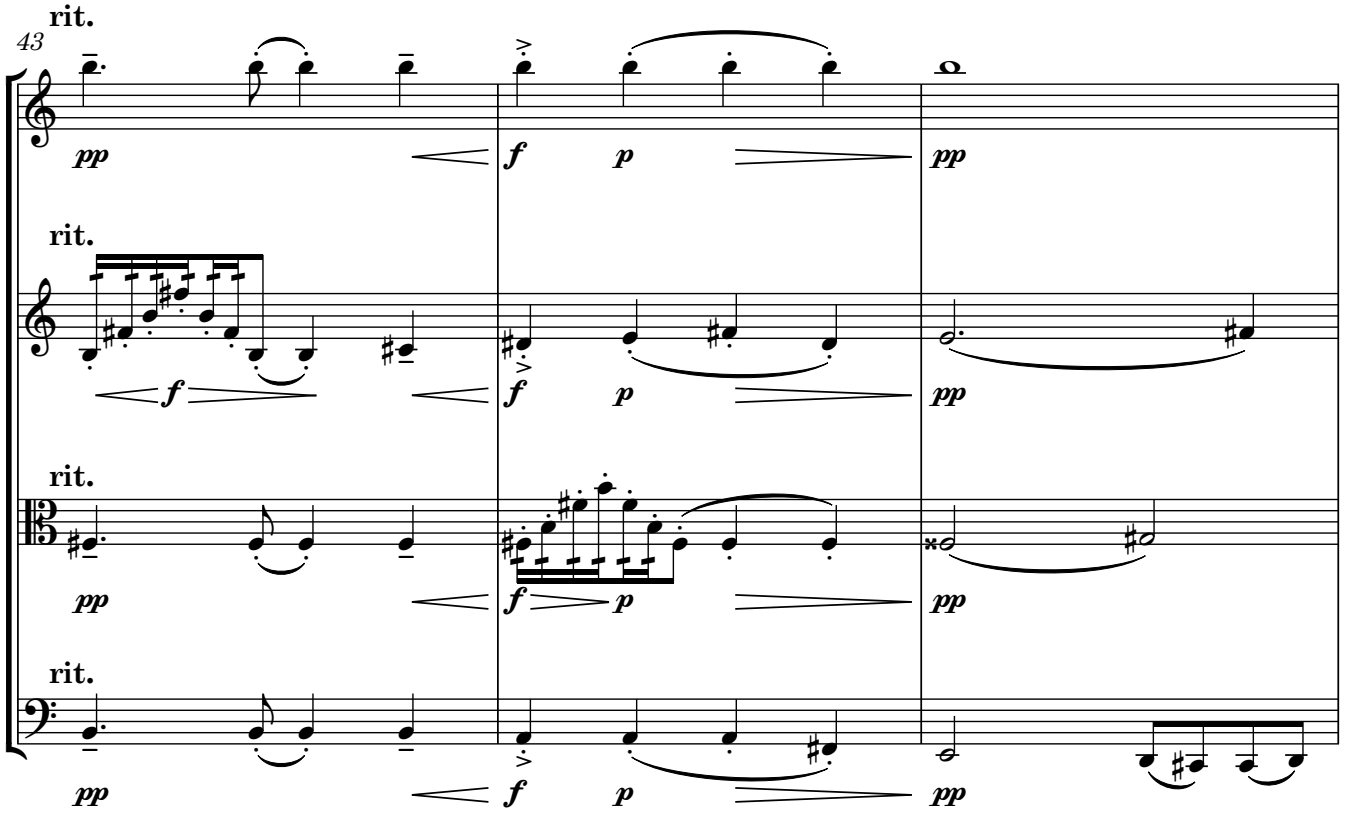

**30**

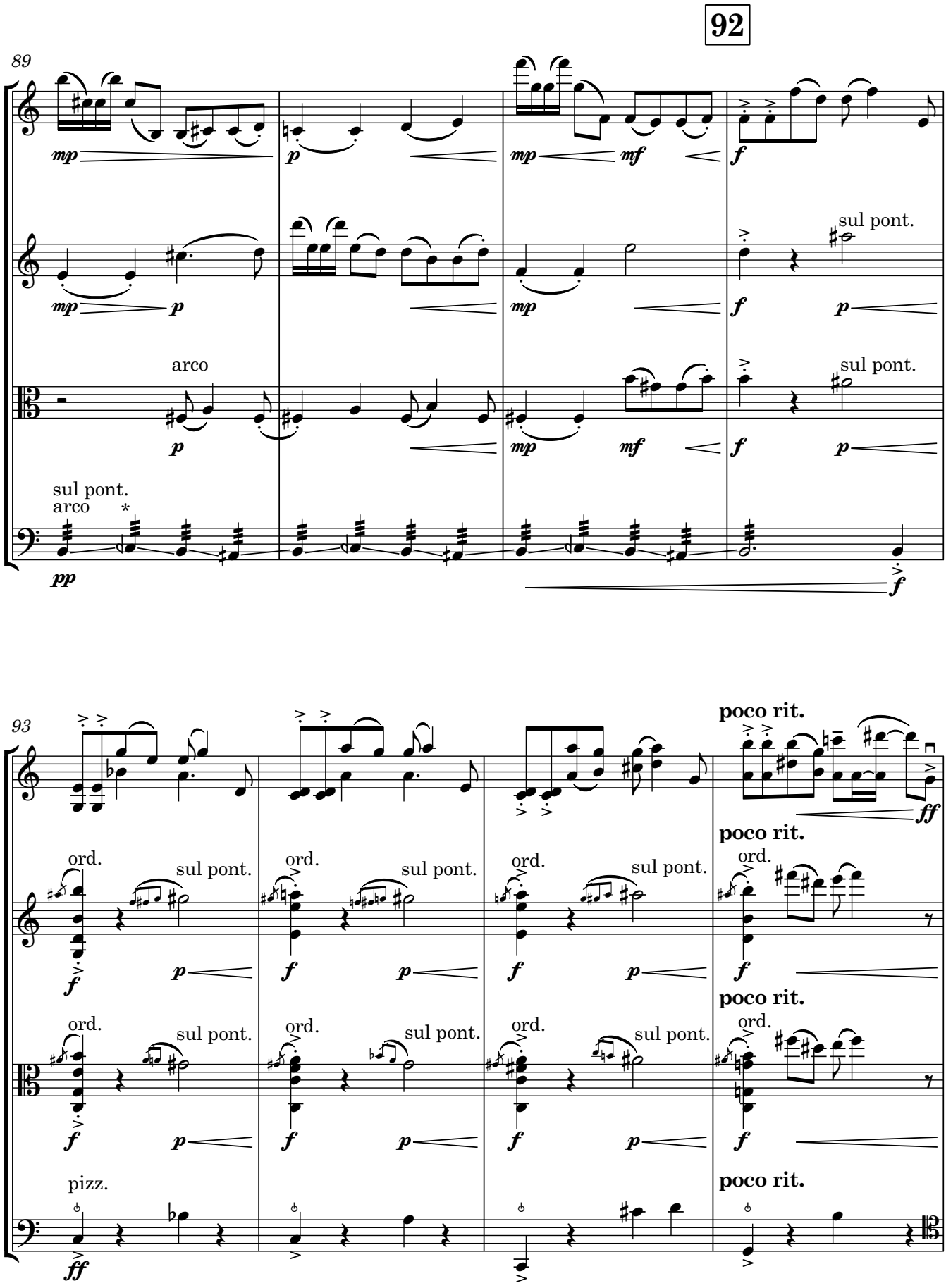



34
f
p
f
mf
f

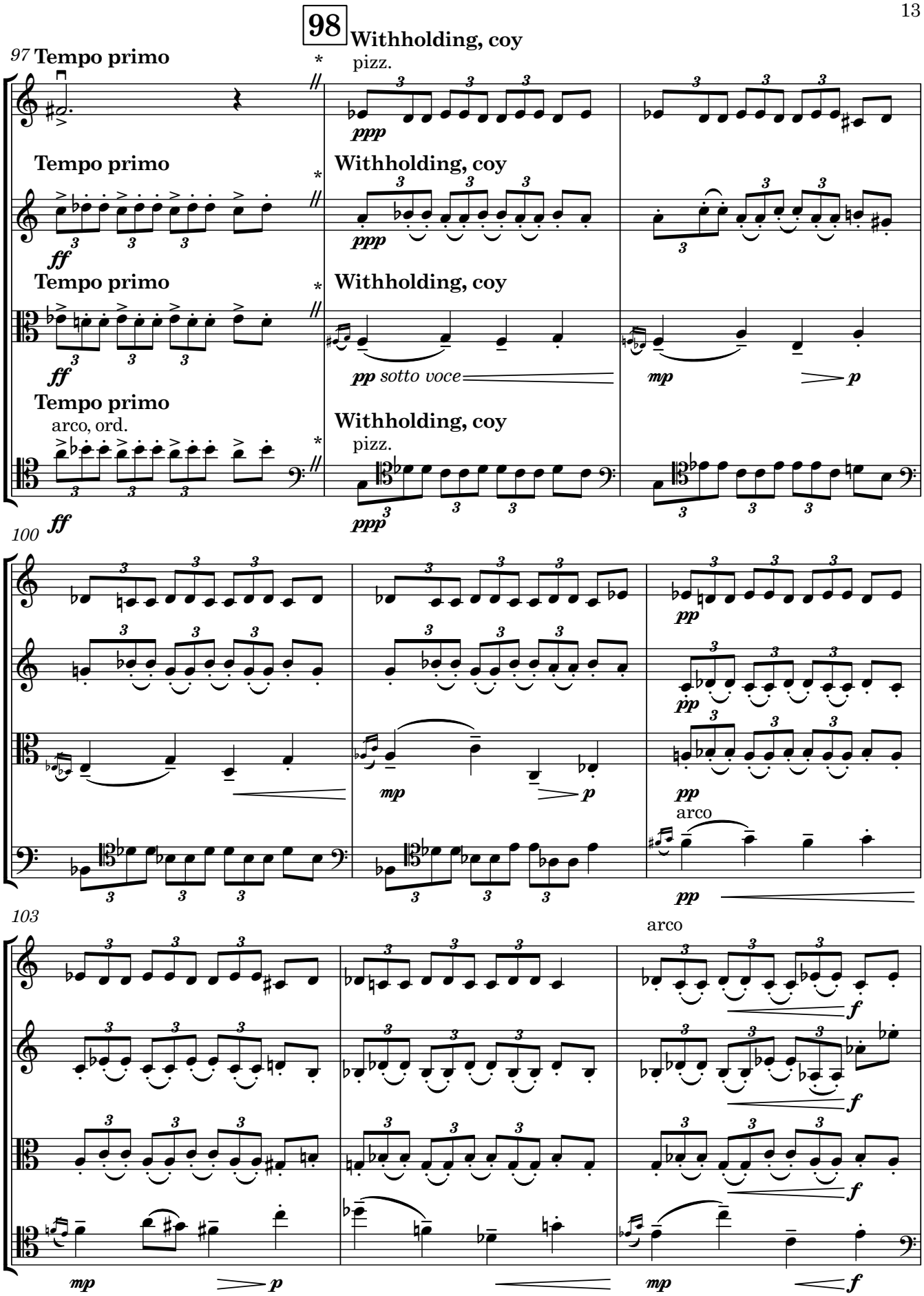

38
37
p
f
p
f
p


40
pp
f
p
f
mf
f
p
f
p
pp
f
p
f
p
pp
f
p
p
f


rit.
43
pp
f
p
pp
rit.
f
f
p
pp
rit.
pp
f
p
pp
rit.
pp
f
p
pp

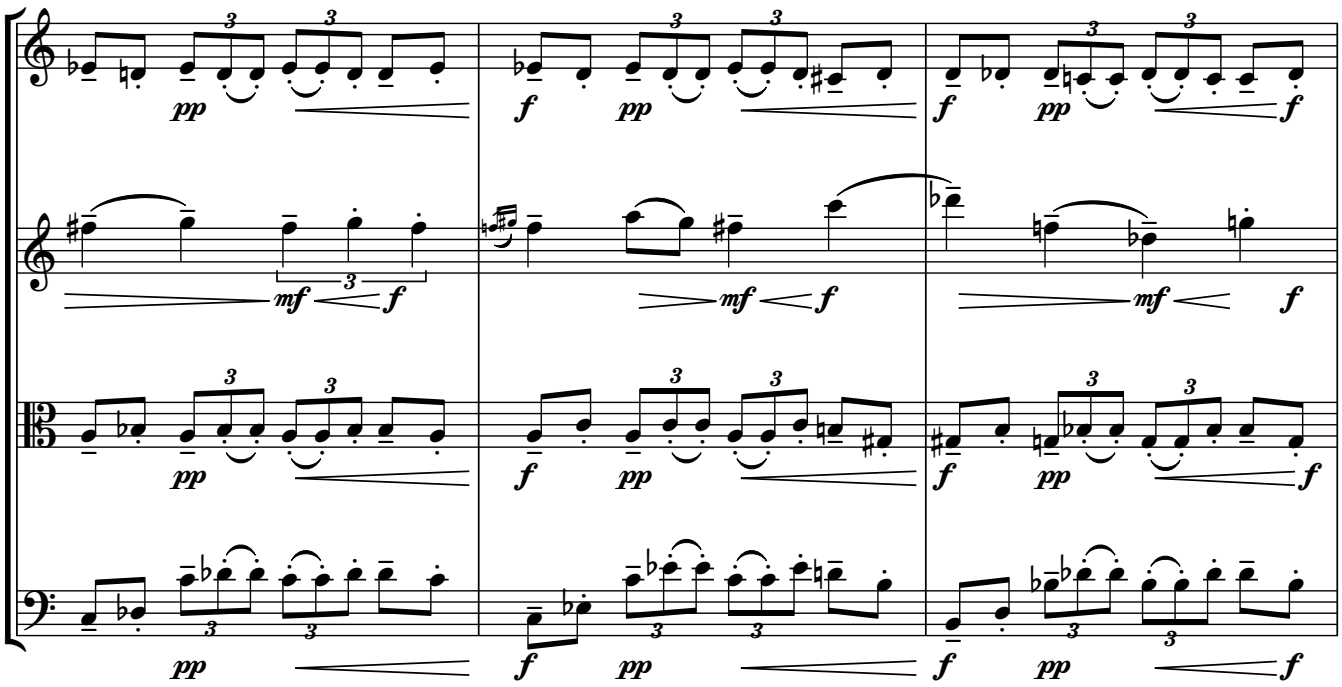



* 1/4 tones need not be exact. Aim for a slowly modulating, tremolo texture.

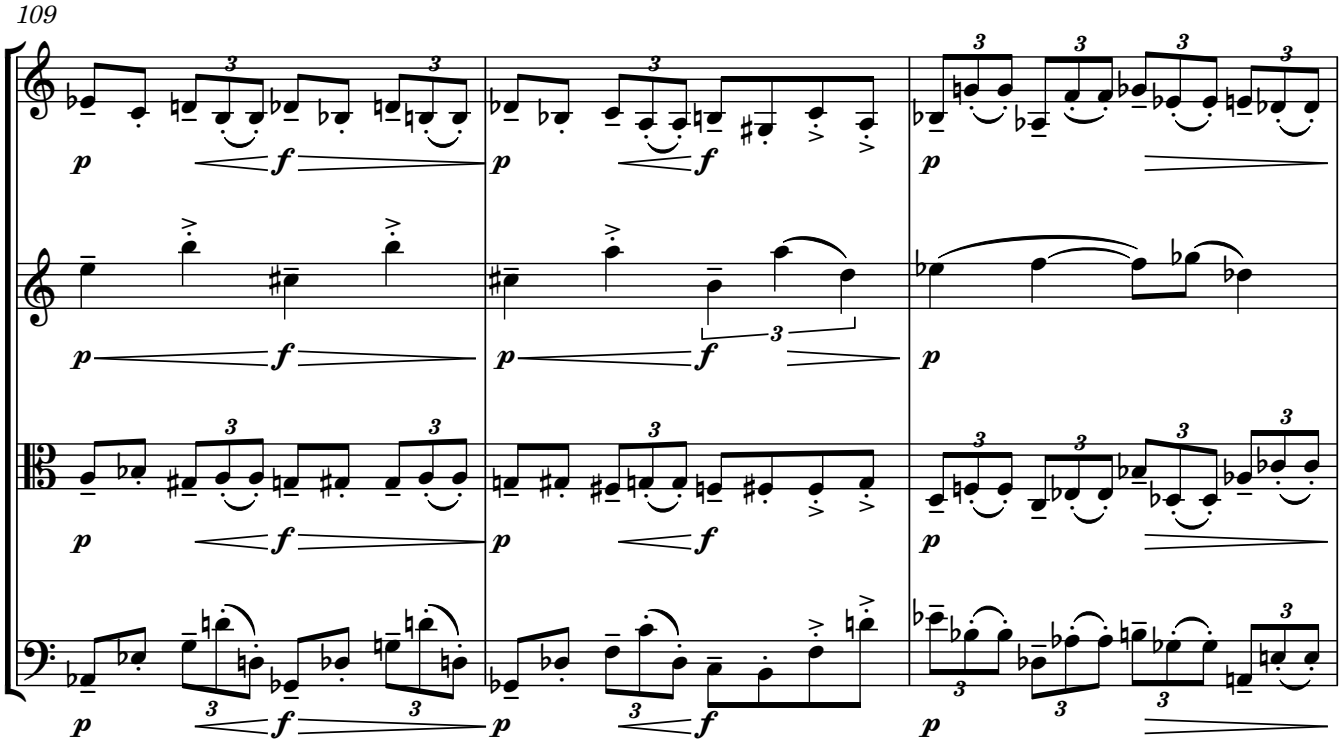


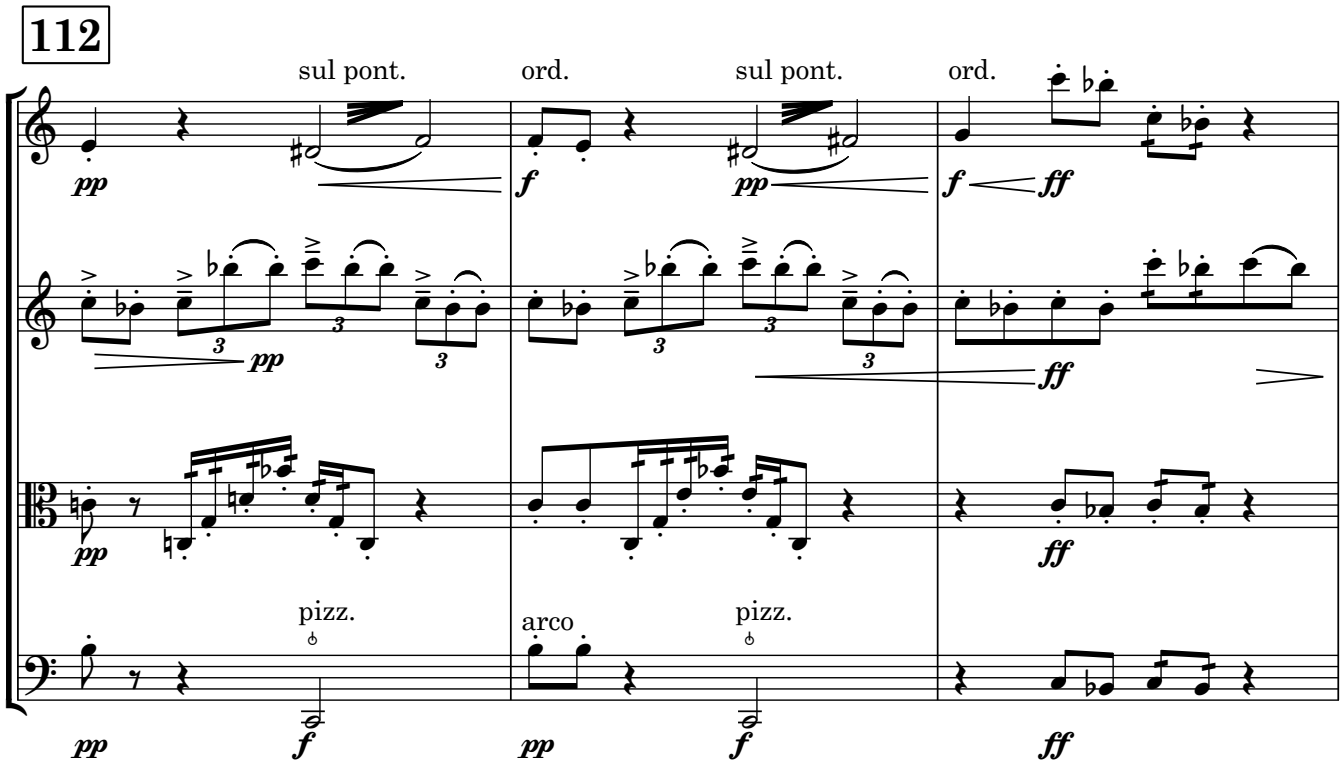

* Hold for a moment longer than you may feel is appropriate.

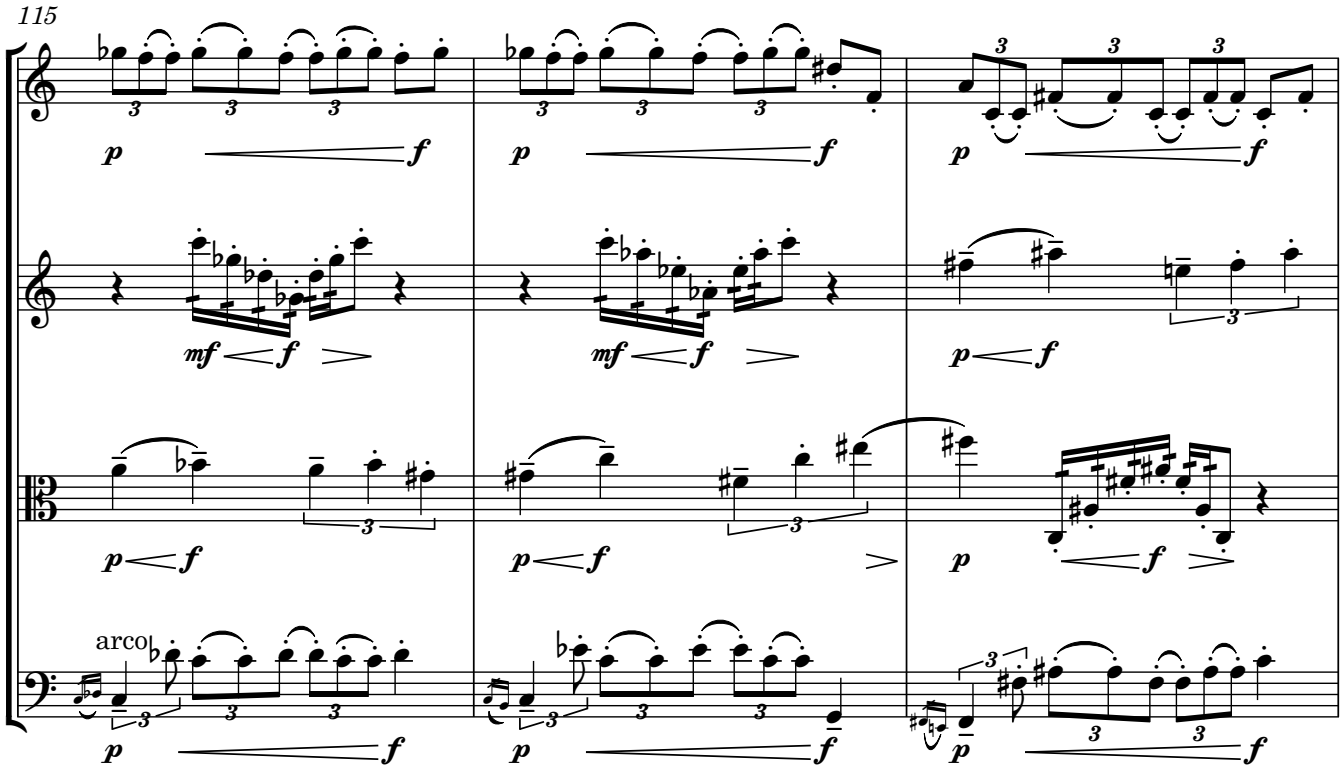
**106**

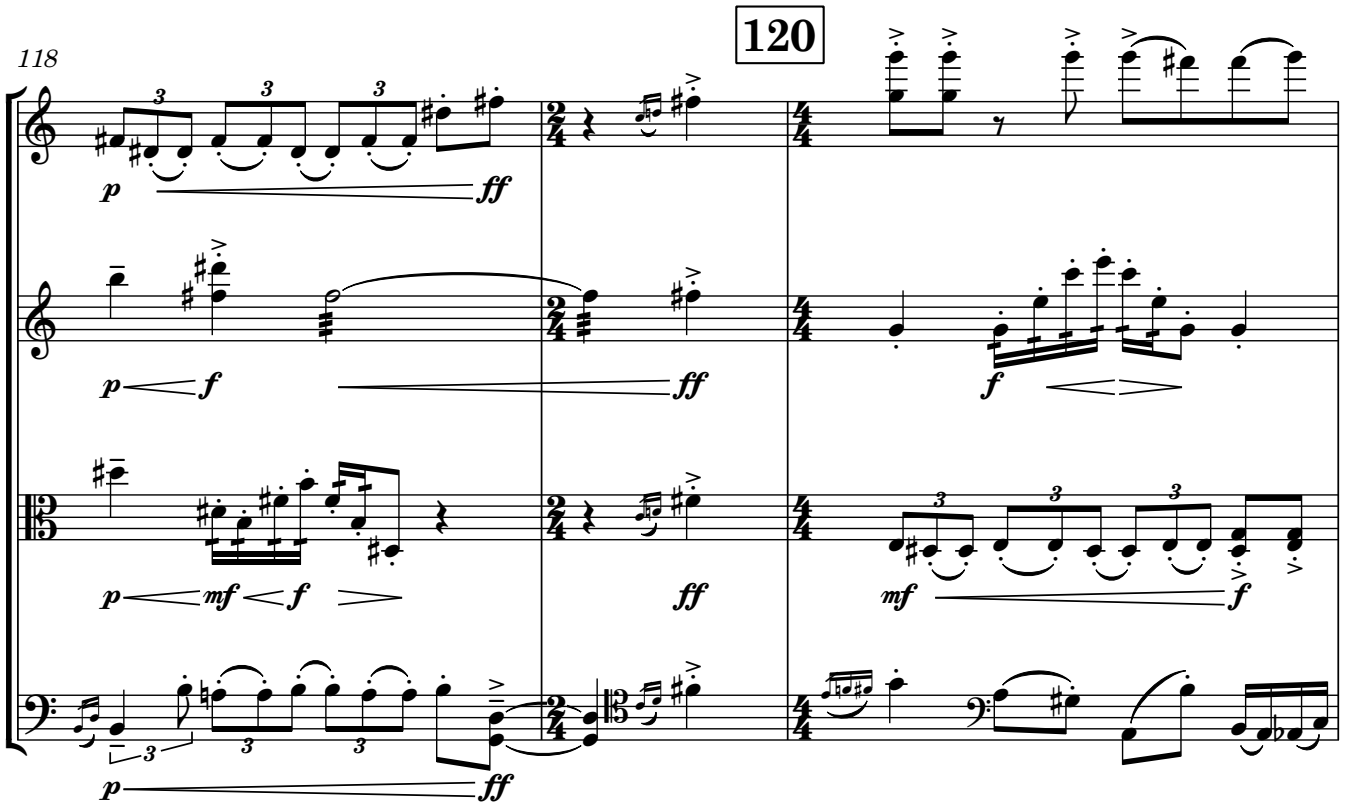


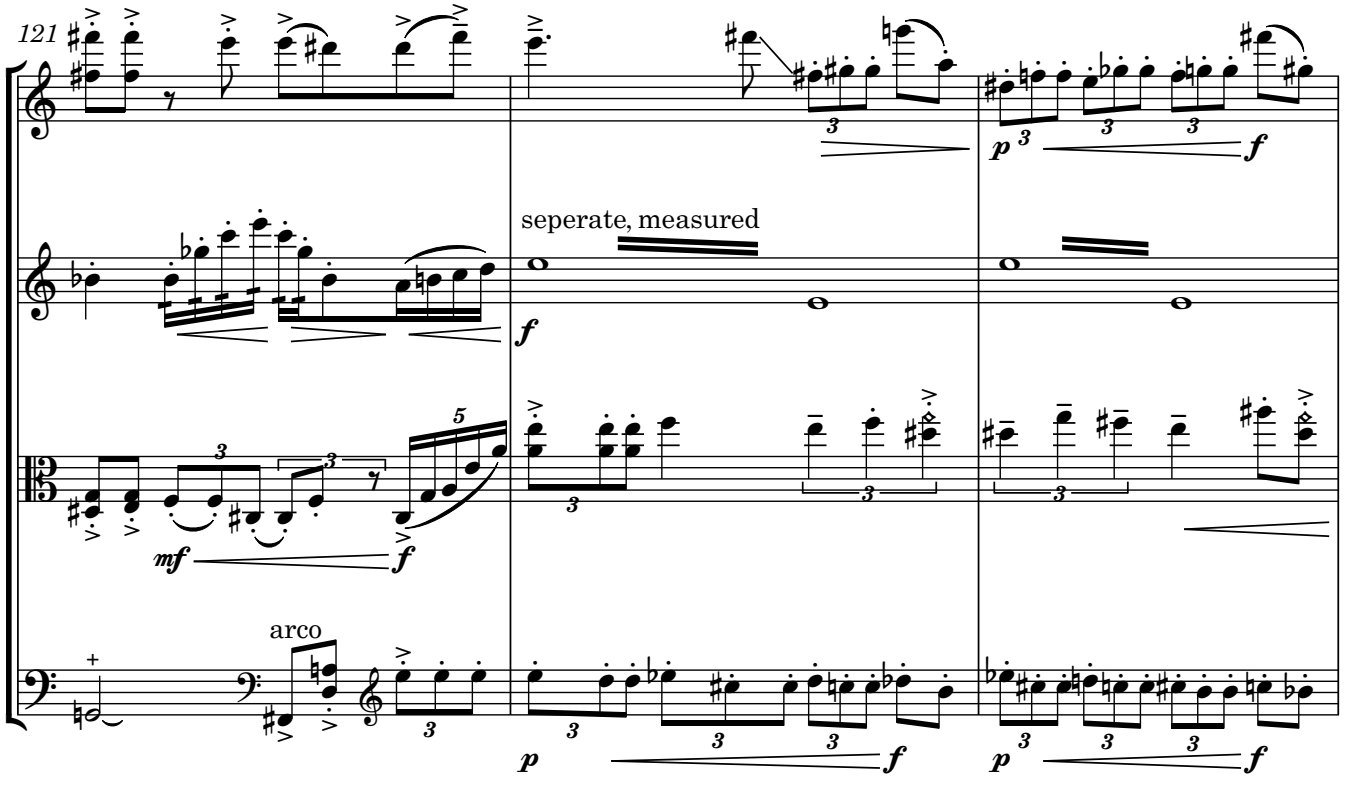
*109*



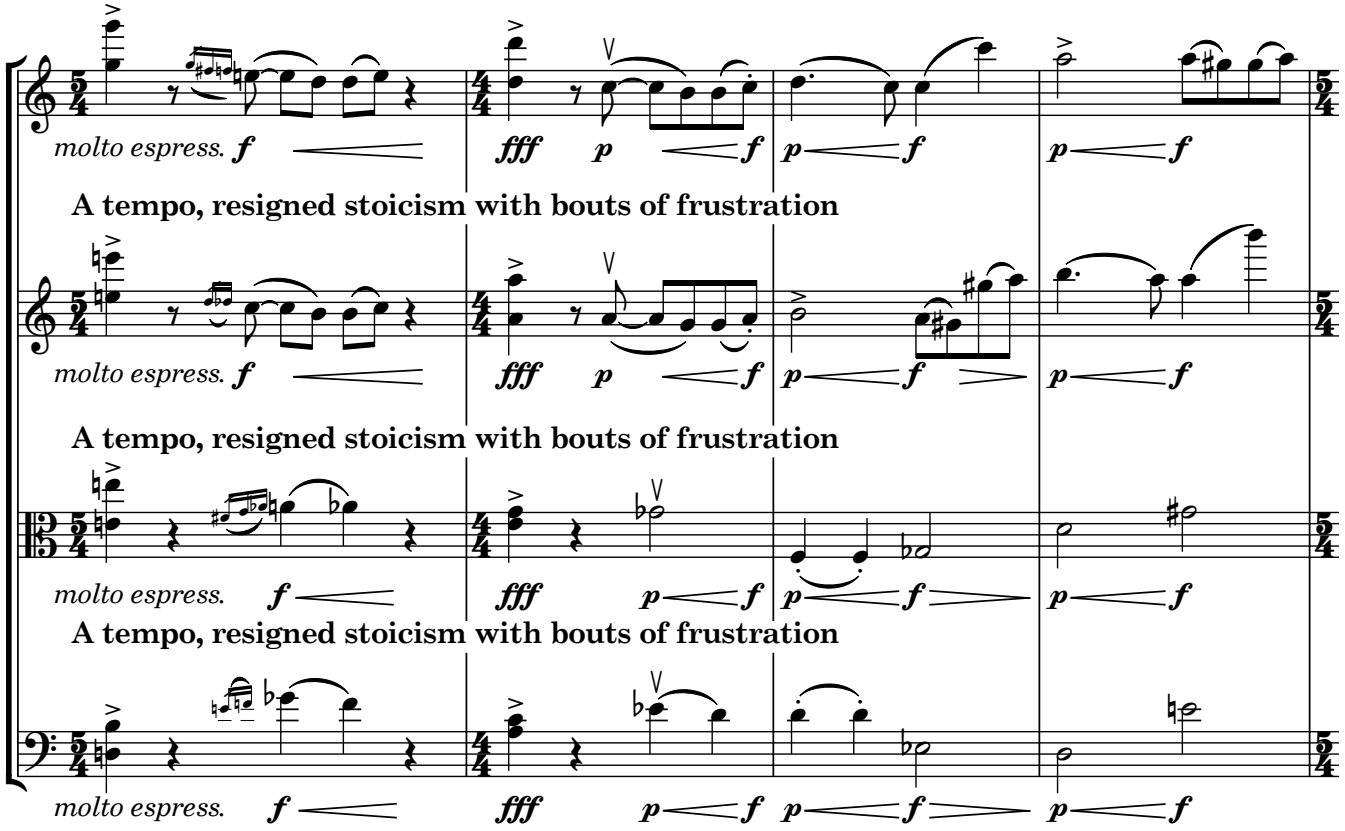

112
sul pont.
ord.
sul pont.
ord.
pizz.
arco
pizz.


115
arco


120
118

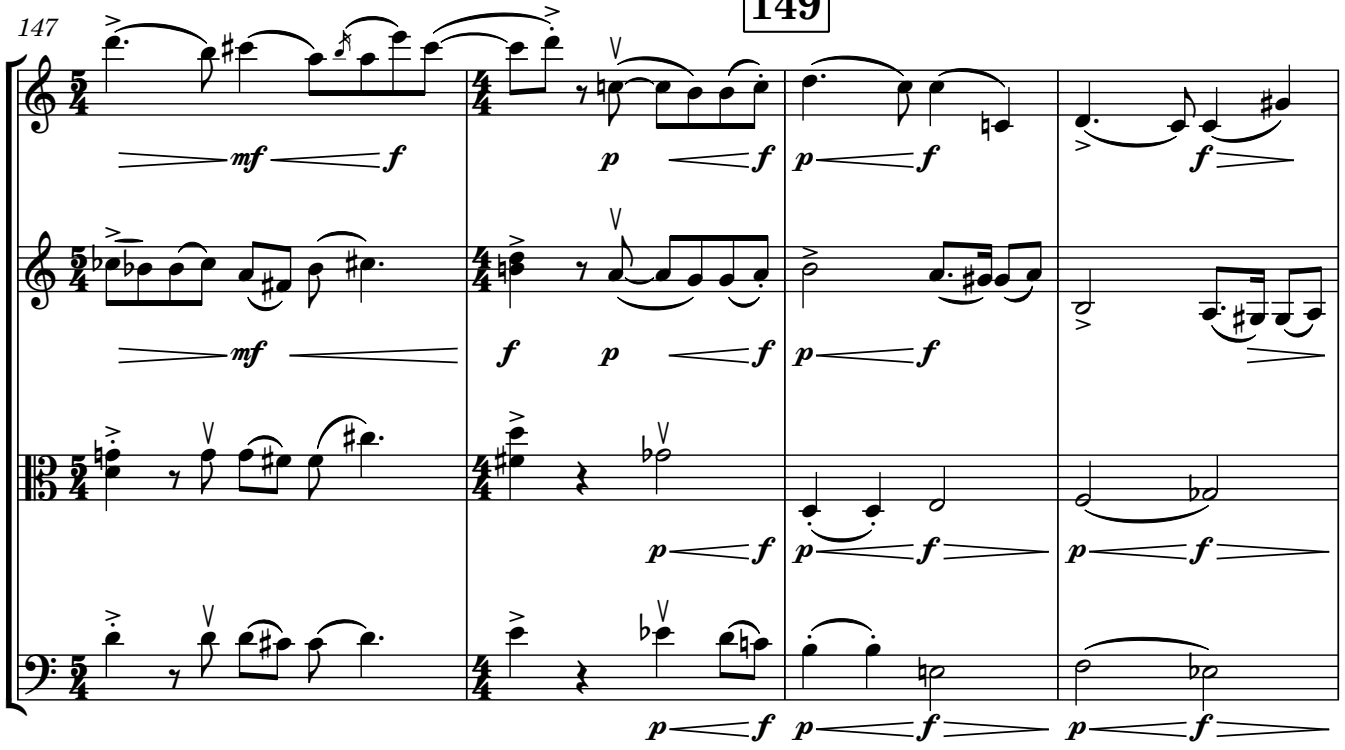

121
seperate, measured
arco

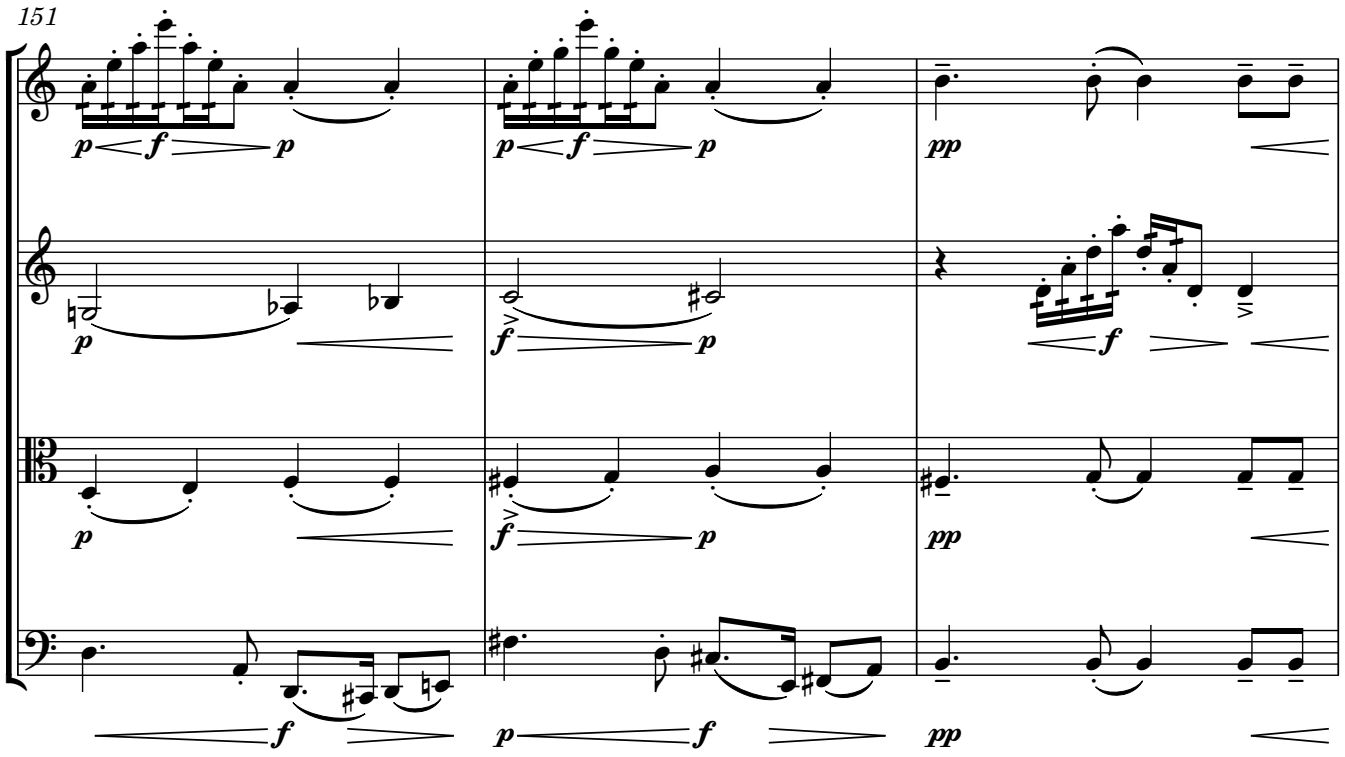
**143** **A tempo, resigned stoicism with bouts of frustration**




147

**149**

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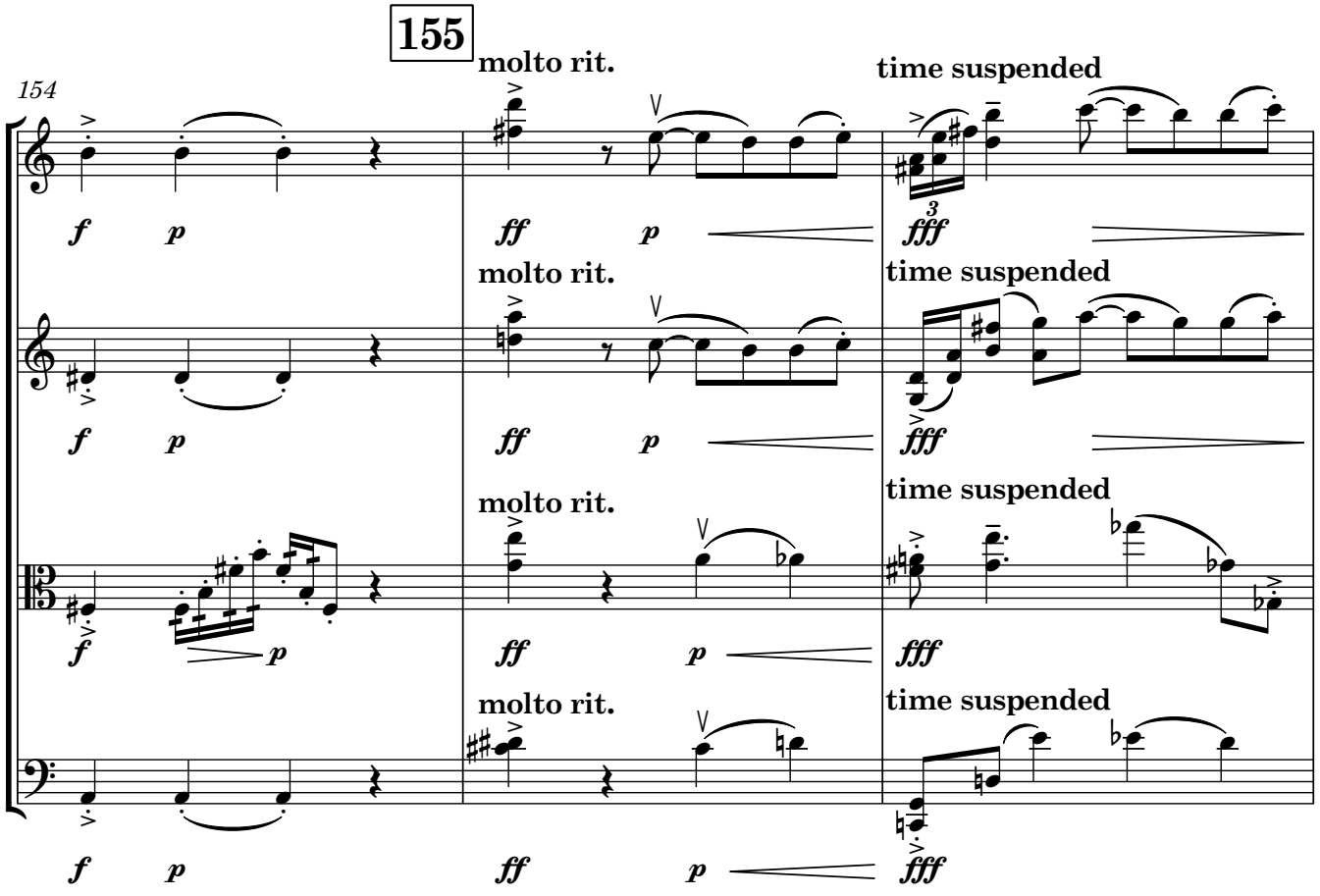
155
154
molto rit.
time suspended