The Eclat Cycle

for string quartet

Aaron Travers

The Eclat Cycle

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Total Duration: 17'00

The Eclat Cycle

for the JACK Quartet

Notes

General:

The dynamic gamut is from ***ppp*** to ***sfffz***. A ***sfz*** is always within a ***f*** dynamic unless otherwise indicated.

Ricochet bowing: Unless otherwise notated, ricochets are always performed with a natural accelerando. The softer the dynamic, the quicker the initial ricochet. The louder the dyamic, the slower the initial ricochet.

--------→ = gradual shift from one kind of bowing to another.

accel. → = localized accelerando

Wisp:

ST/SP = rapid brushing along the string between tasto and ponticello. The effect should be of a soft, shimmering admixture of pitch and bow noise.

Fireflies:

● -----→ ◇ = gradual transition from normal pitches to harmonics.

Where no noteheads occur, random harmonics should be played on the indicated string.

Mournfully slowly they roll...:

This piece is entirely in spatial notation, with 5 second intervals given above each system. These time intervals need not be exactly adhered to.

Most of the piece uses "cicrcular" bowing, in which the performer literally bows in a slow, even circle, resulting in uneven pitch mixed with random harmonics.

Where crescendi and diminuendi occur, the player should speed up or slow down the circular bowing commensurate with the dyanmic instead of applying more bow pressure.

When a V-shaped line occurs over a pitch, the player should apply greater and greater bow pressure as the line goes down, and release pressure as the line goes up. At the center of the V, a scratch tone is produced. In this case only, dynamics are executed using bow pressure rather than bow speed.

Verticle dotted lines indicate the starts and ends of notes, dynamics, simultaneities, etc., and are intended as helpful guides for the performer.

His royal badness:

Played entirely behind the bridge. X noteheads represent behind the bridge playing. Each string is assigned a space on the staff. String I is on the top space, string II on the bottom space.

A black dimaond notehead represents knocking directly on the bridge with the wood of the bow.

Branches in winter:

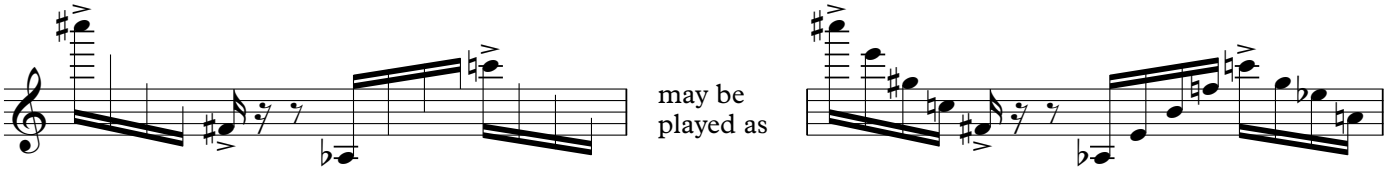
All instruments are scordatura, with the A string of each instrument detuned to A♭.

Most of the piece is played col legno tratto. Where "wood" or "wood only" is indicated, the player should use only the wood of the bow. When "1/2 | 1/2" is indicated, the player should twist the bow sideways so that wood and hair are touching the string.

Notes in brackets ([ ]) indicate seamless transitions from single-note tremolo to trill.

Velos:

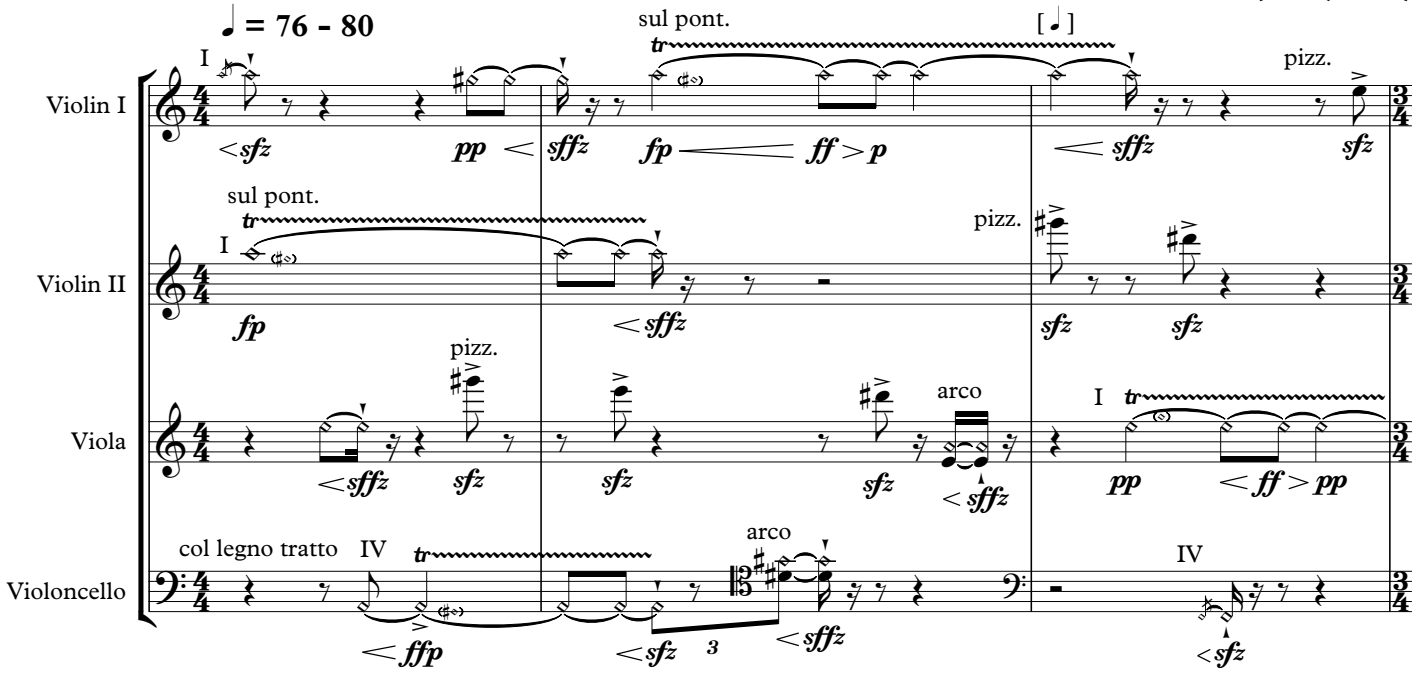
Where no noteheads are given, the performer should play random chromatic (i.e. non-diatonic) pitches using the contour provided.

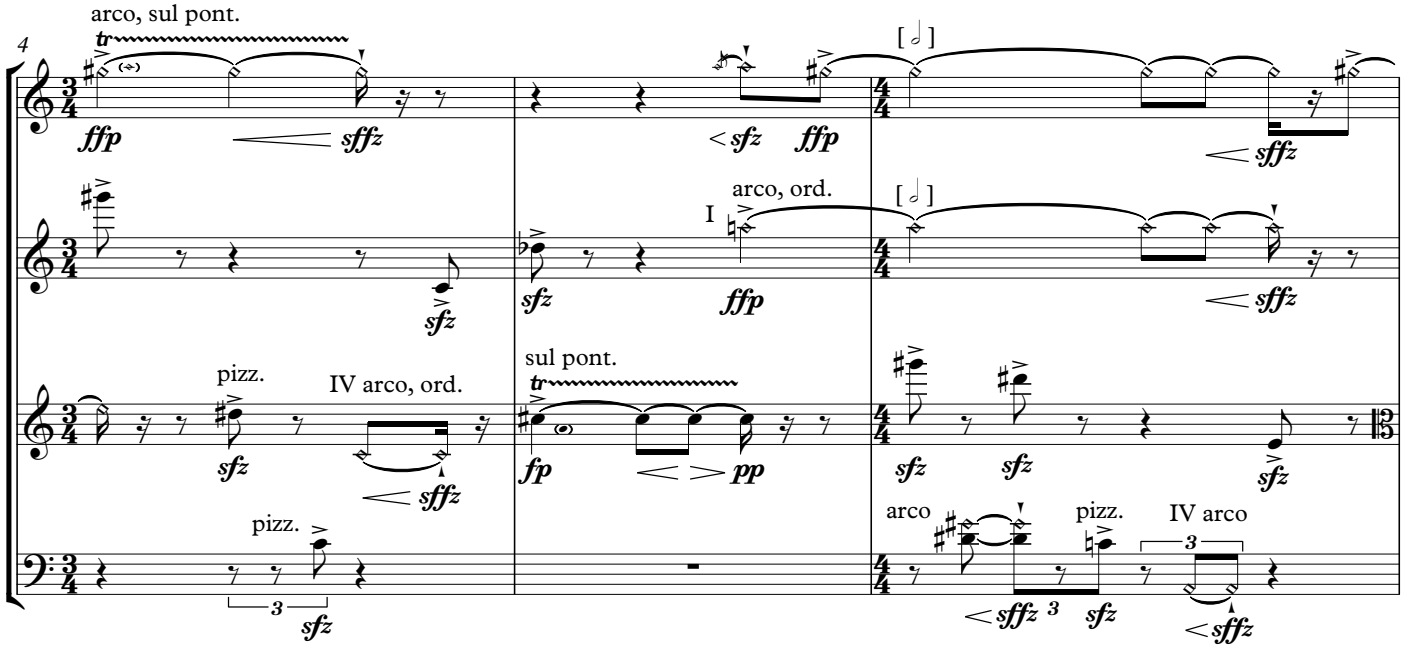


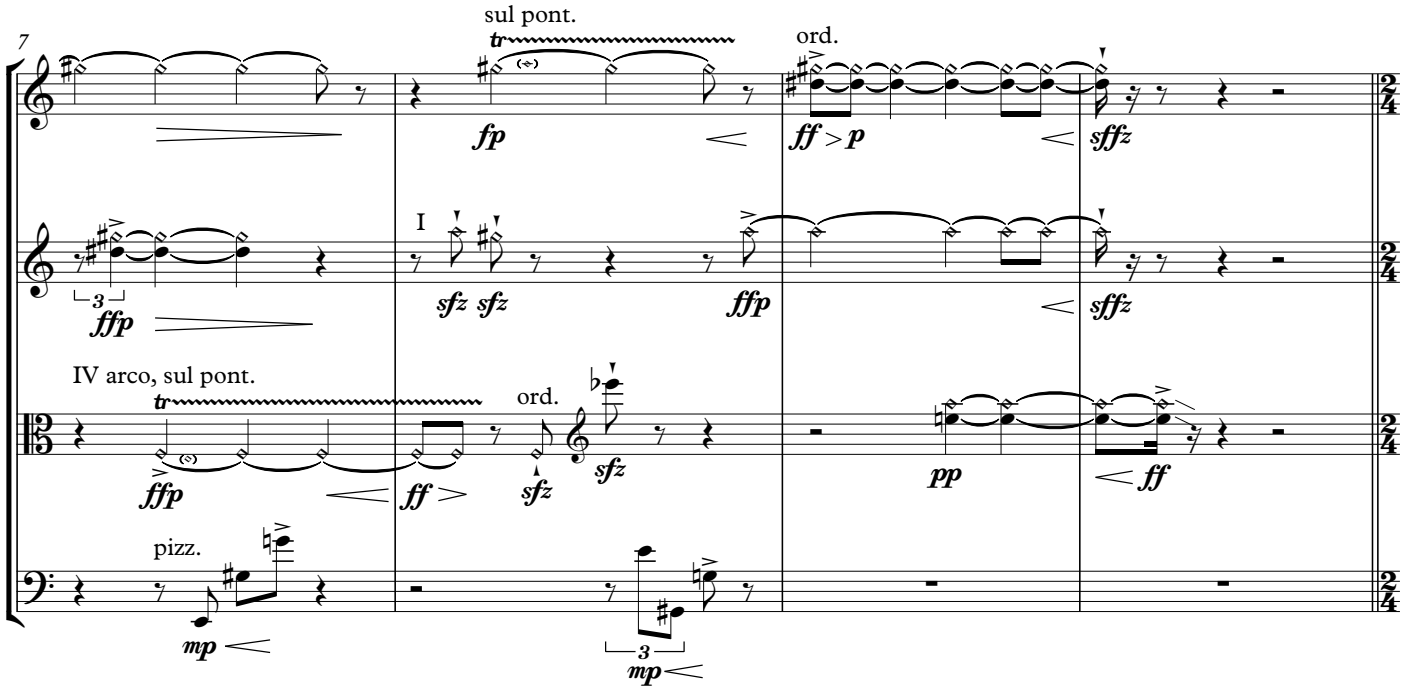
I. A tiny scream...

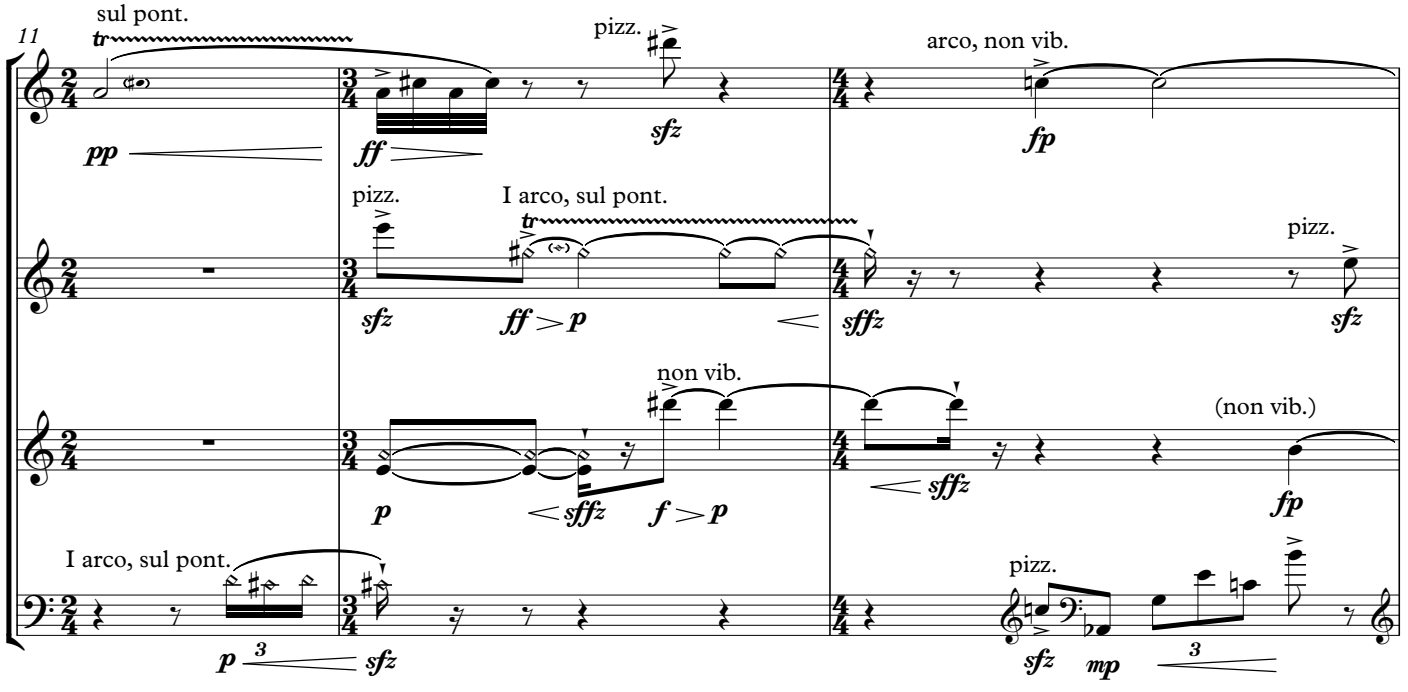
for Justin Caulley

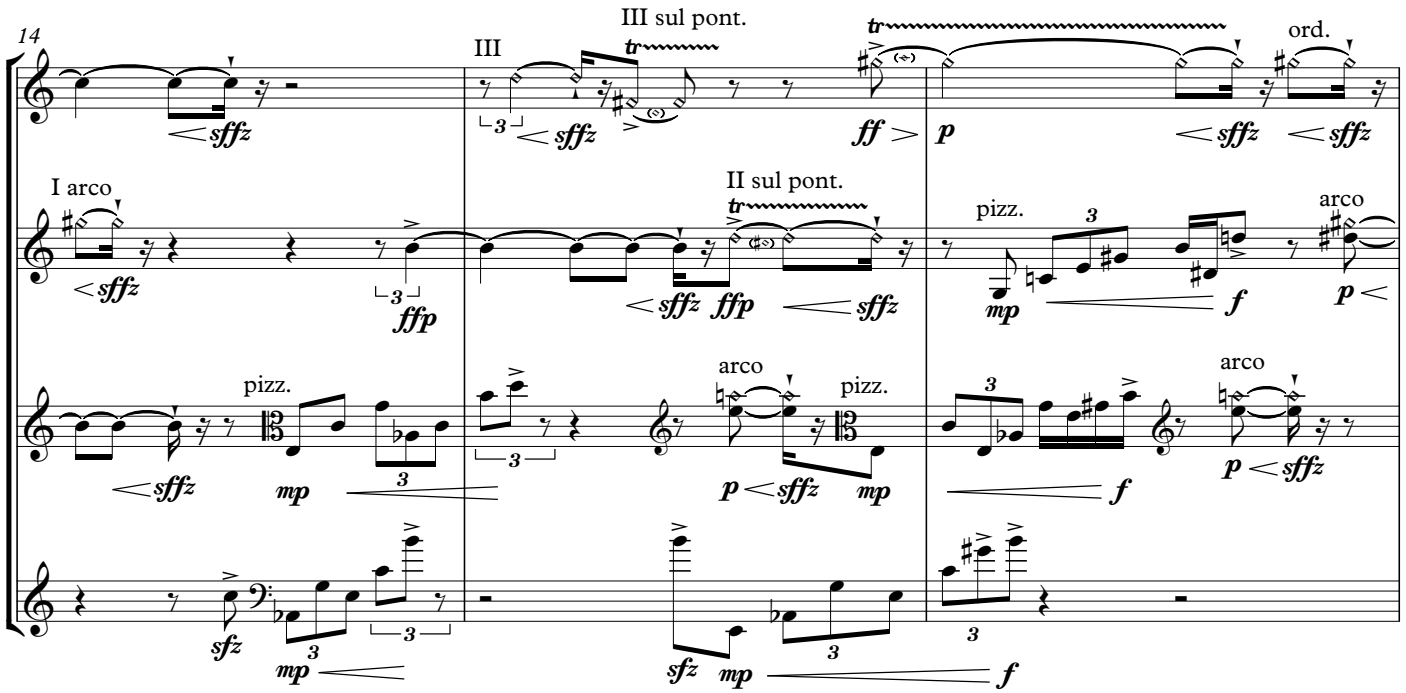
Aaron Travers (2003/2005)

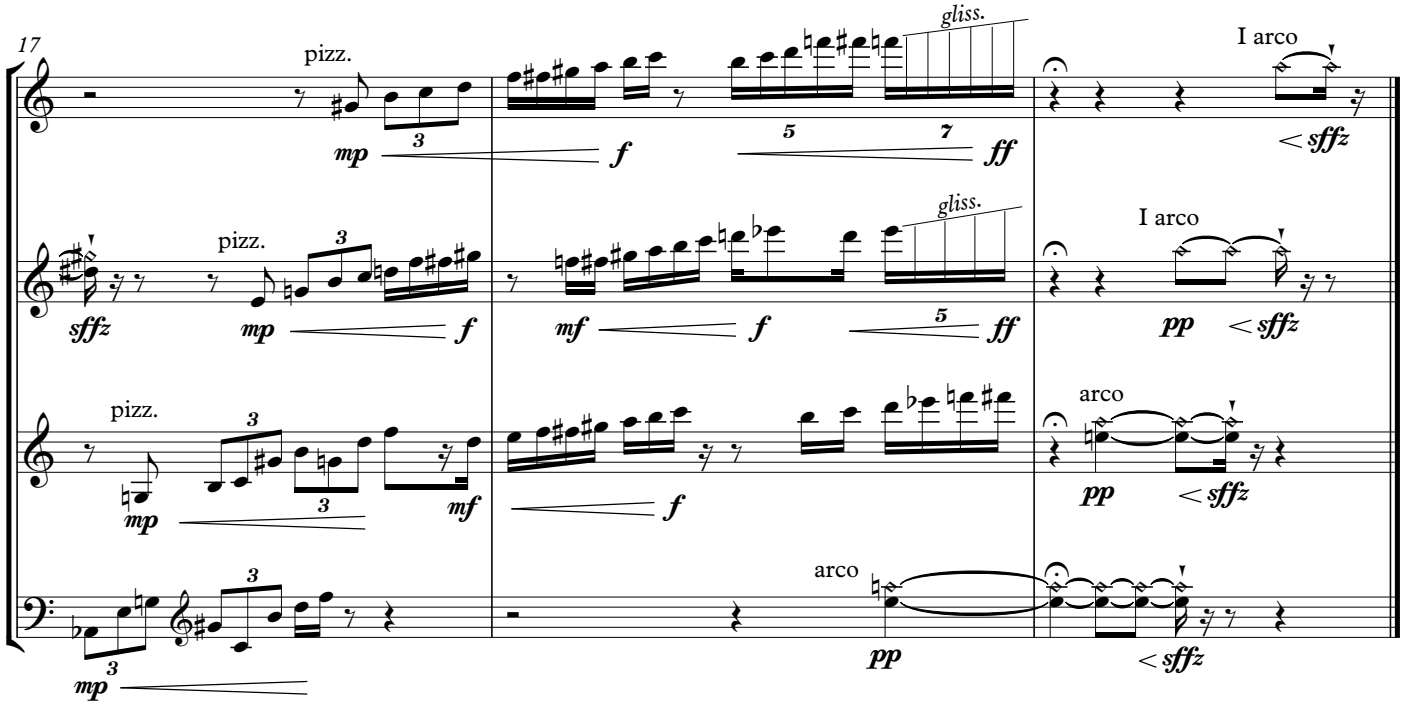





7
sul pont.
ord.
I
IV arco, sul pont.
ord.
pizz.

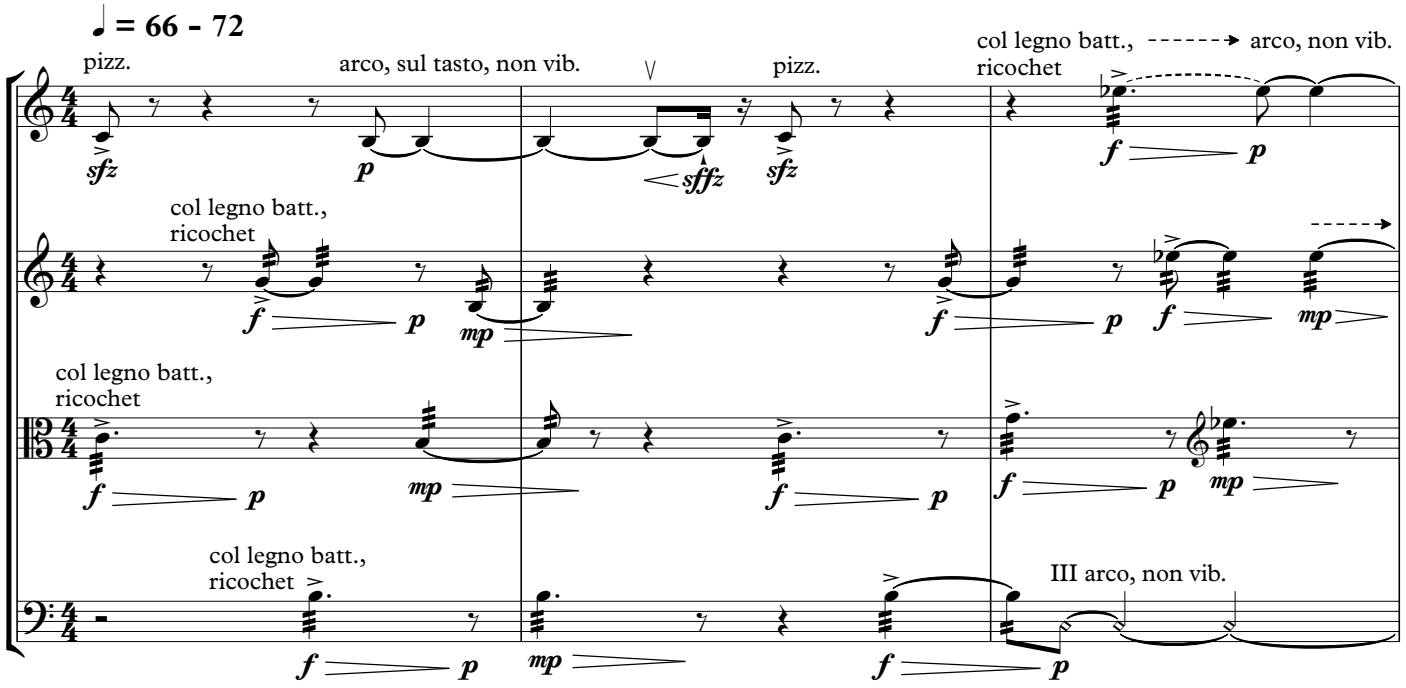

11
sul pont.
pizz.
arco, non vib.
pizz.
I arco, sul pont.
pizz.
non vib.
(non vib.)
I arco, sul pont.
pizz.

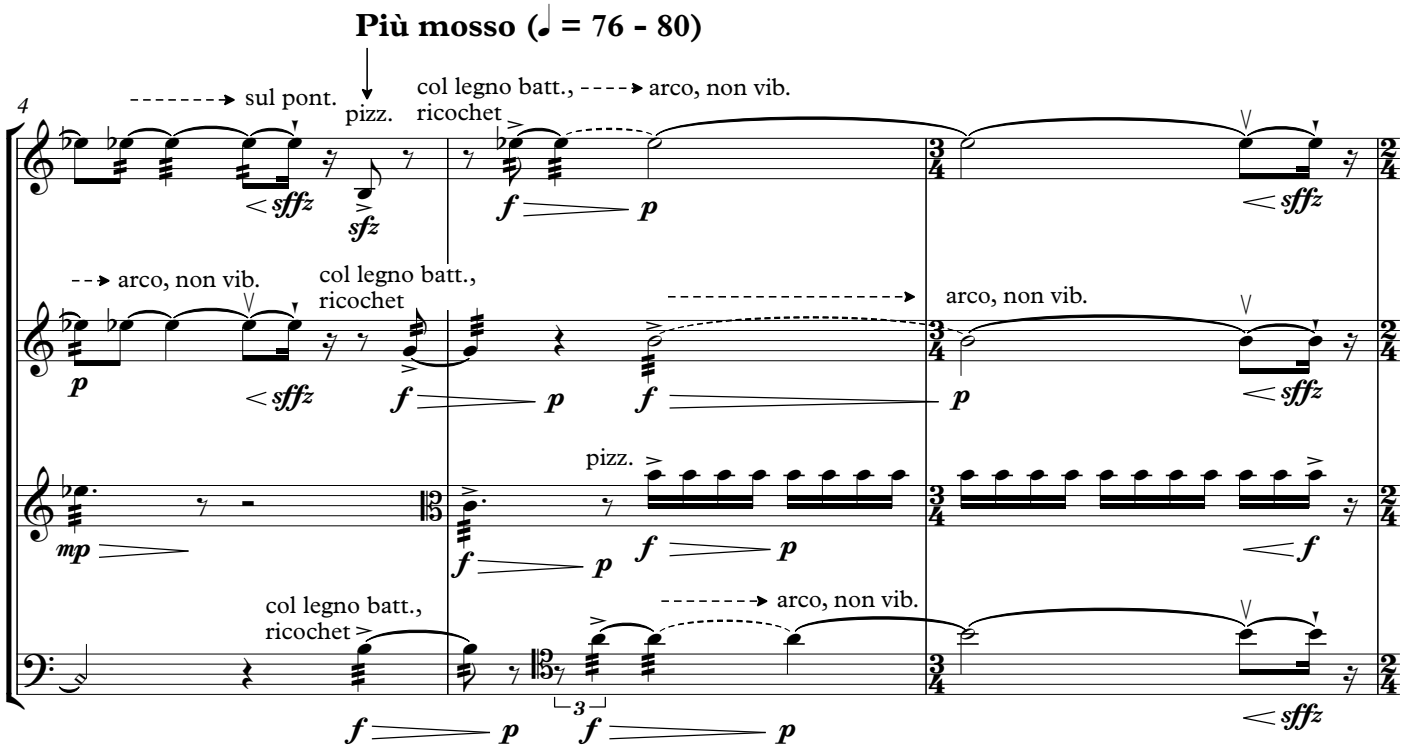

14
III
III sul pont.
ord.
I arco
II sul pont.
pizz.
arco
sffz
ffp
ff
p
f
mp
sfz

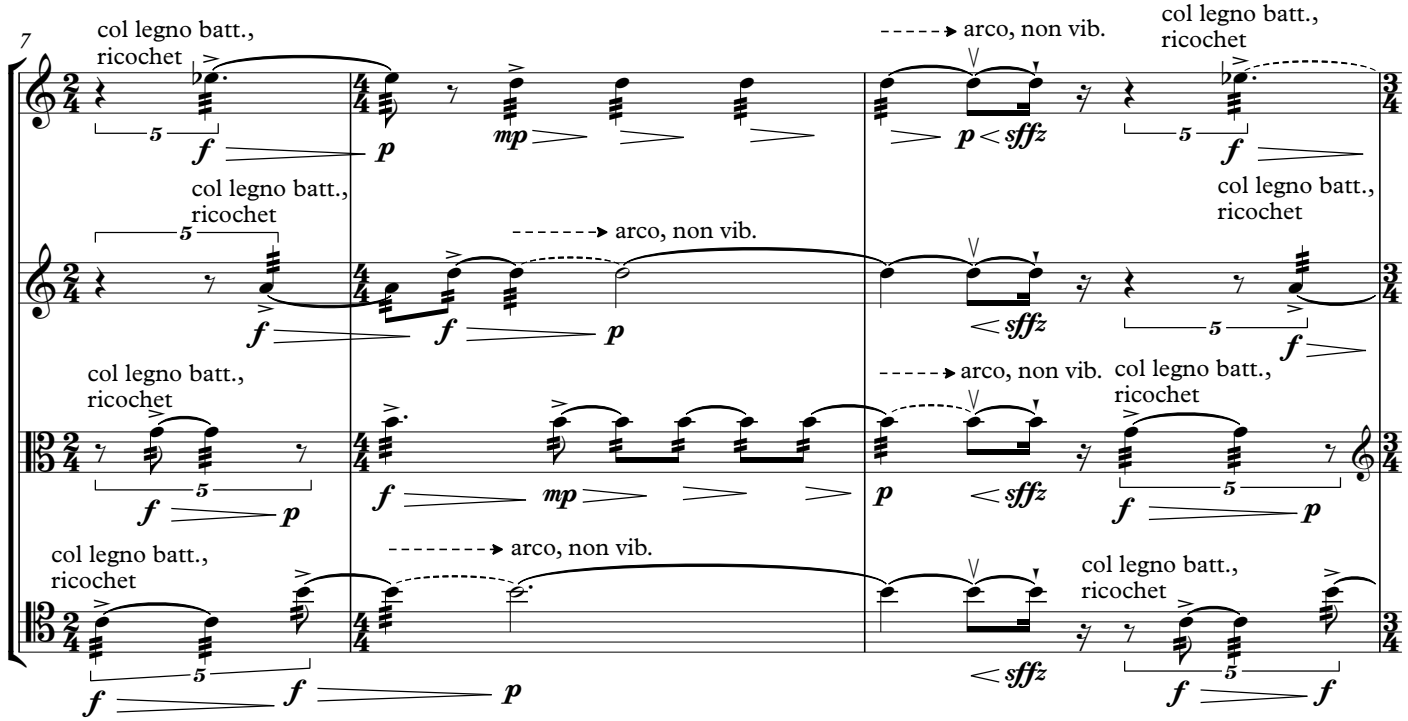

17
pizz.
gliss.
I arco
arco
sffz
mp
mf
f
ff
pp

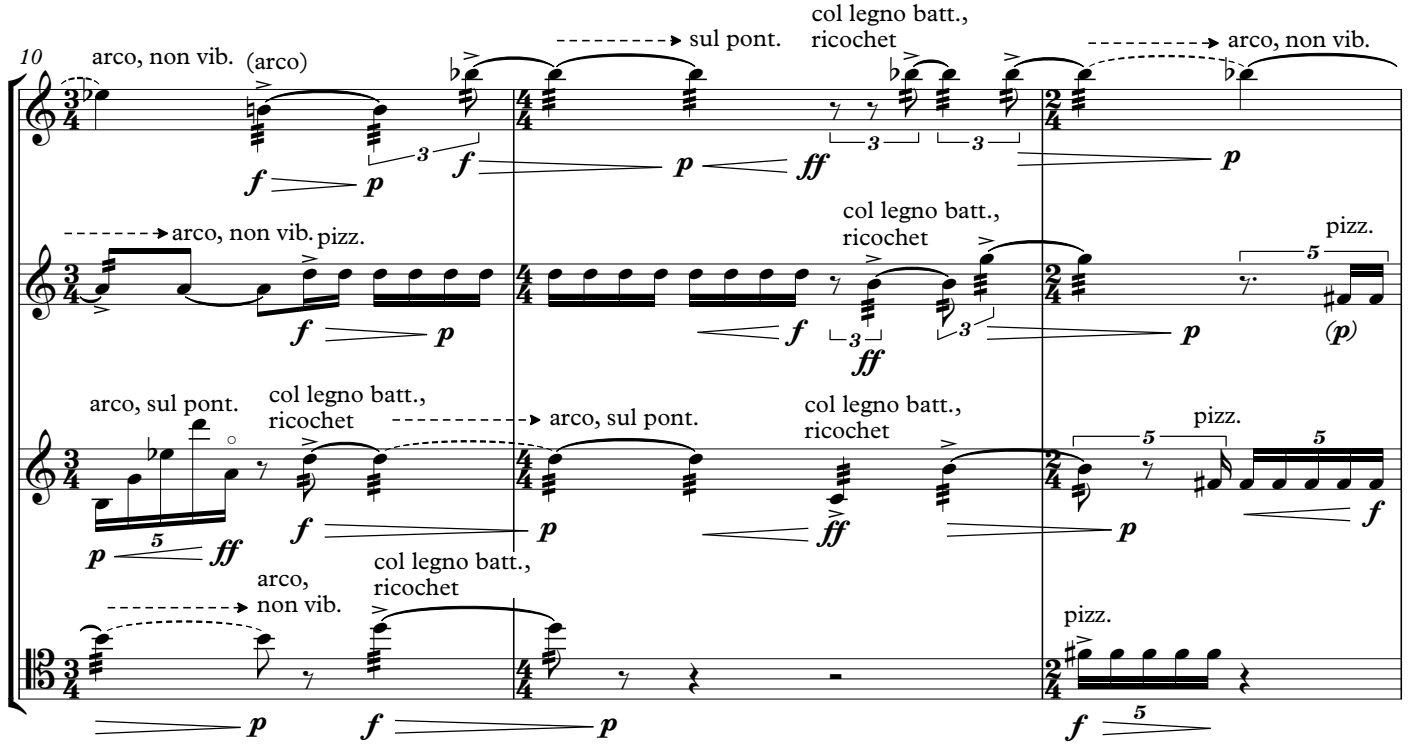
II. Augusta's lament

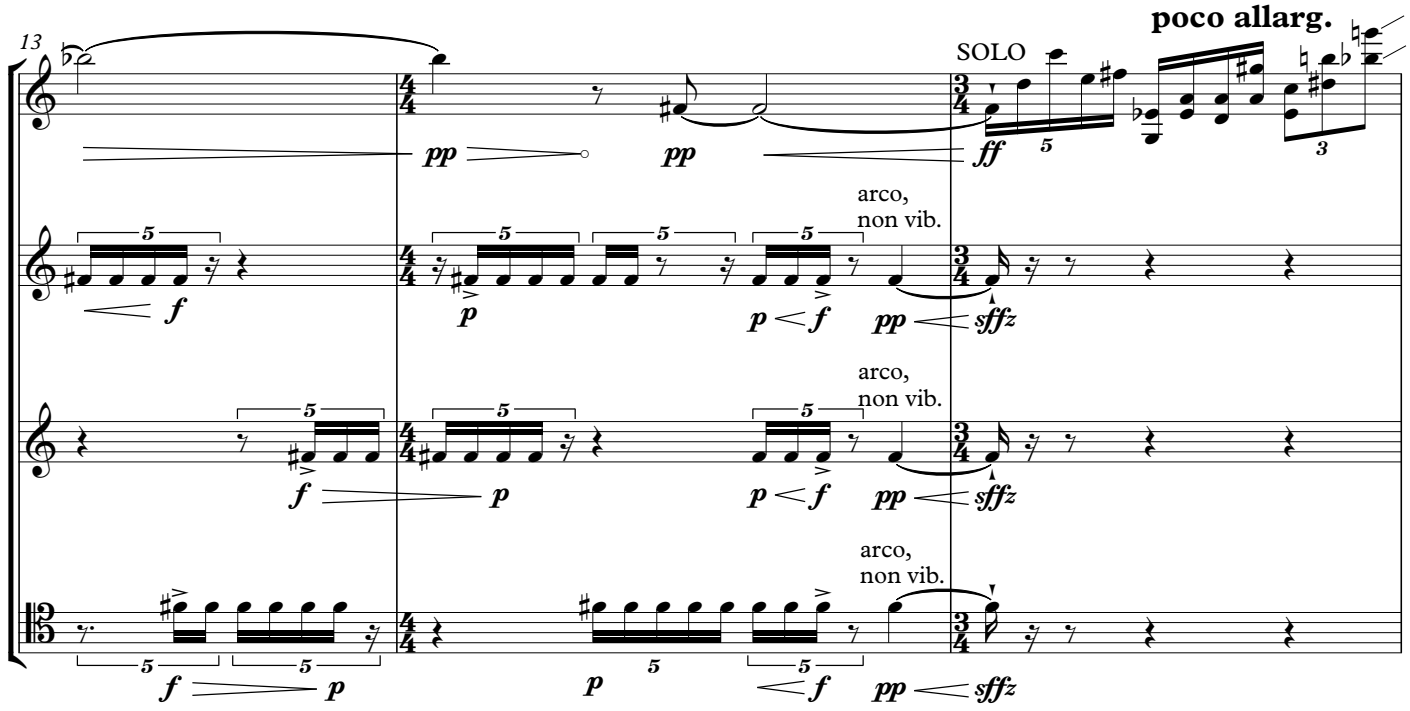
for Augusta Read Thomas

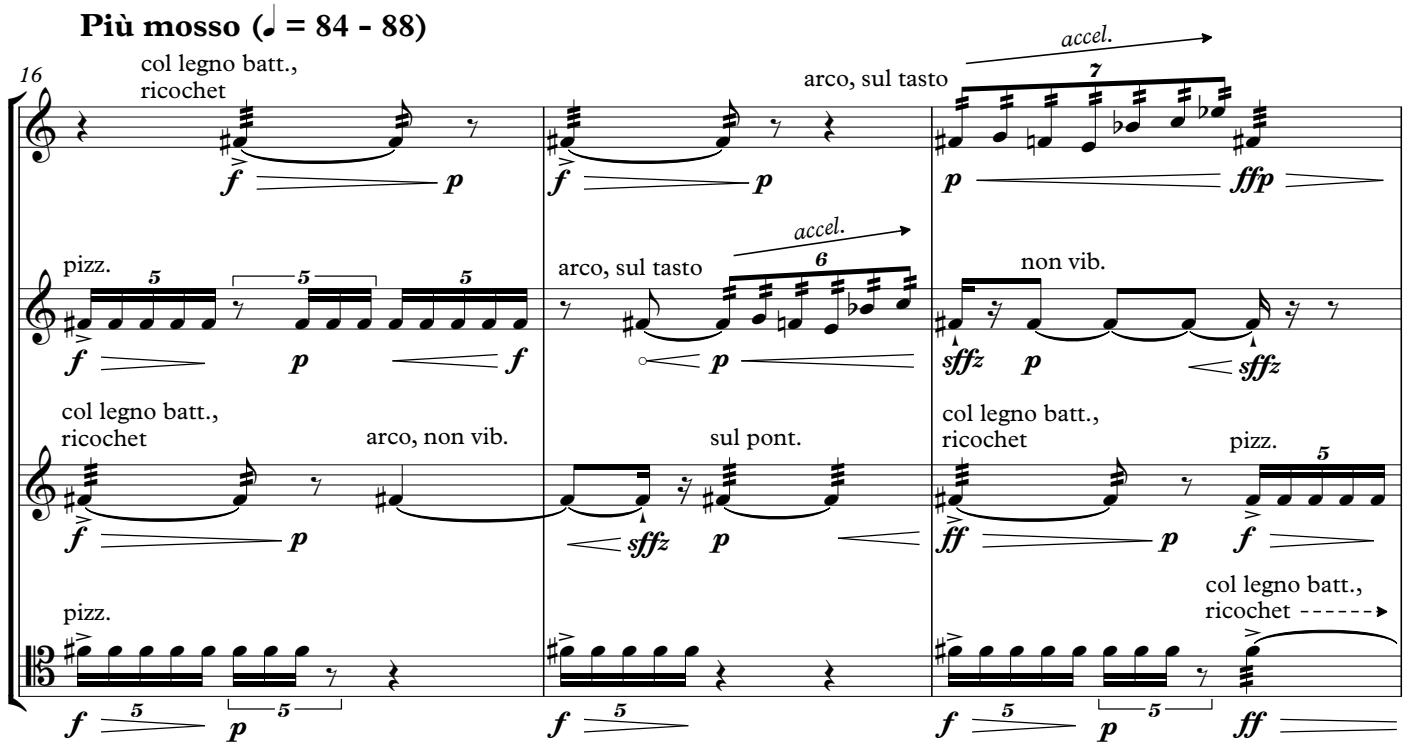


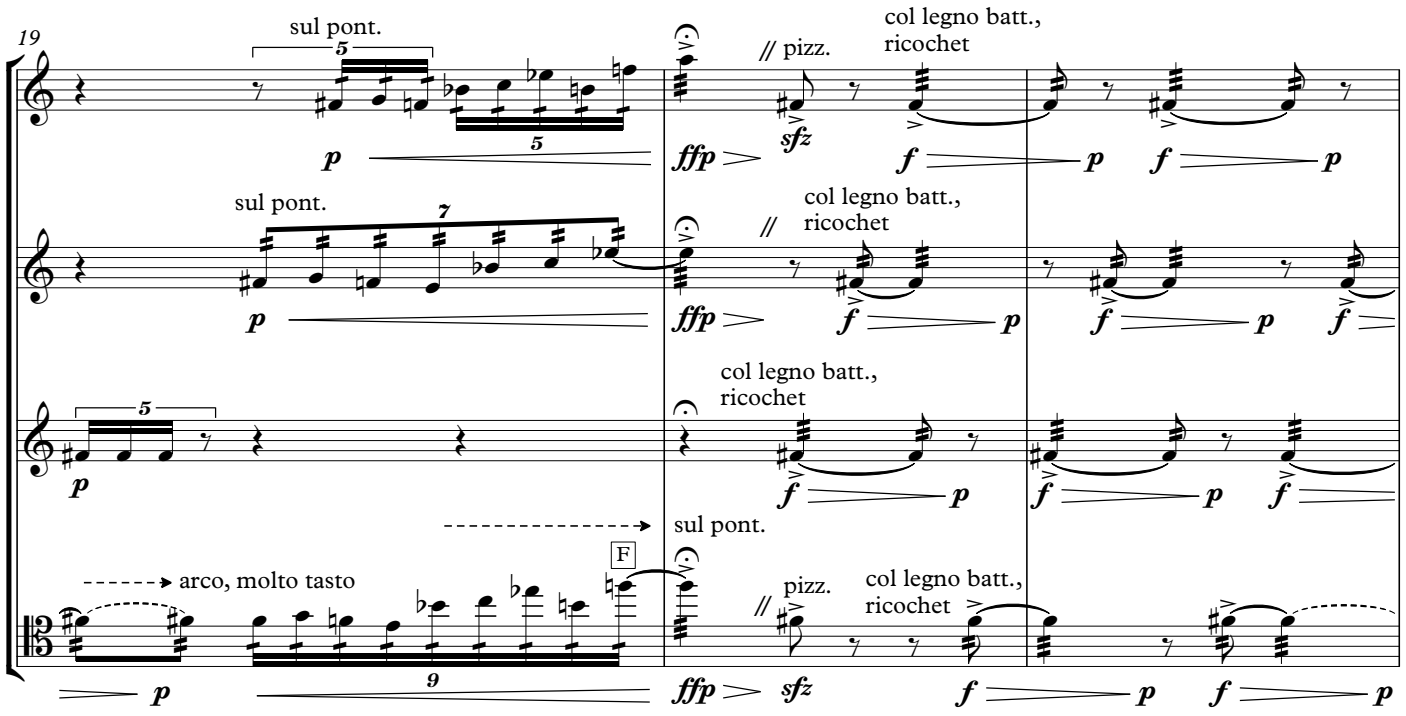


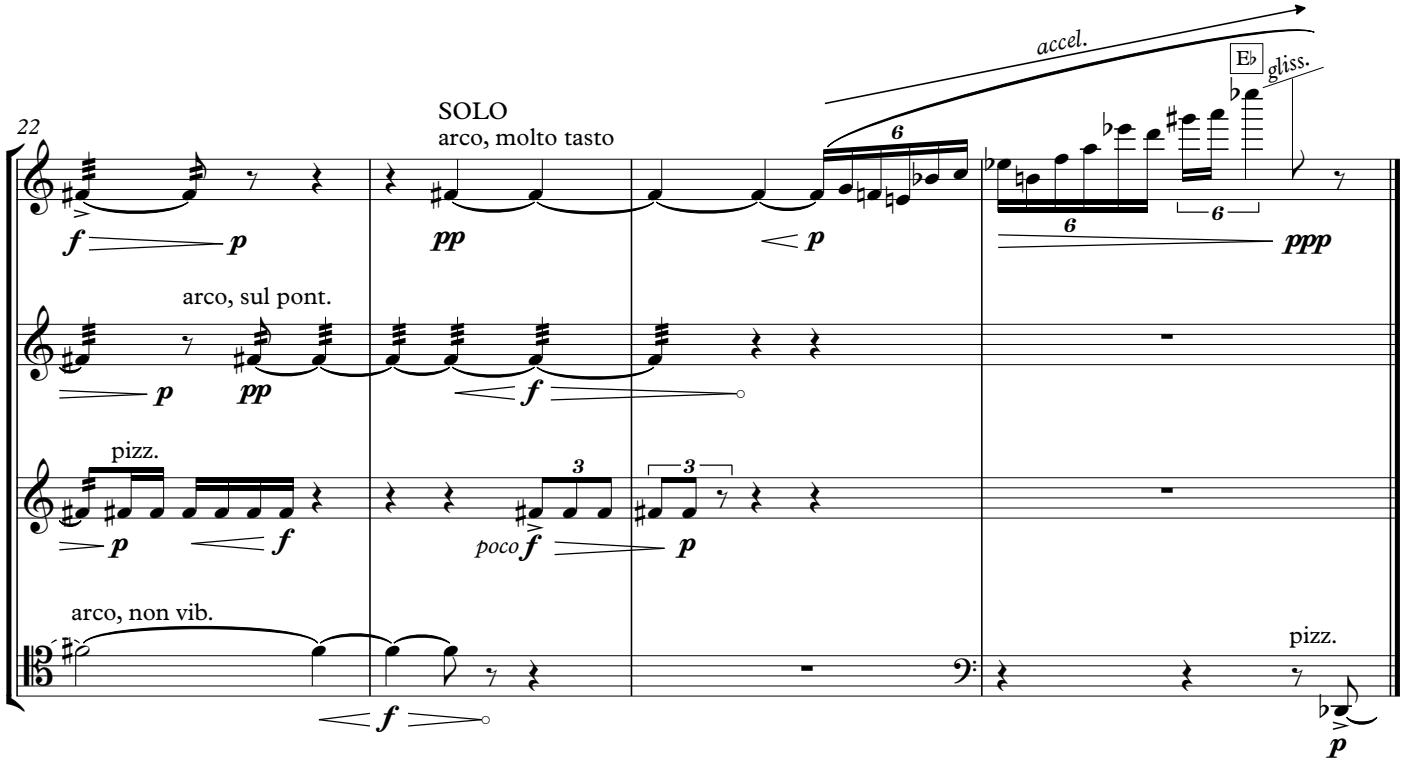

7
col legno batt., ricochet
arco, non vib.
col legno batt., ricochet
col legno batt., ricochet
arco, non vib.
col legno batt., ricochet
col legno batt., ricochet
arco, non vib.
col legno batt., ricochet
col legno batt., ricochet
arco, non vib.
col legno batt., ricochet


10
arco, non vib.
(arco)
sul pont.
col legno batt., ricochet
arco, non vib.
arco, non vib.
pizz.
col legno batt., ricochet
pizz.
arco, sul pont.
col legno batt., ricochet
arco, sul pont.
col legno batt., ricochet
pizz.
arco, non vib.
col legno batt., ricochet
pizz.


13
poco allarg.
SOLO
arco,
non vib.
arco,
non vib.
arco,
non vib.

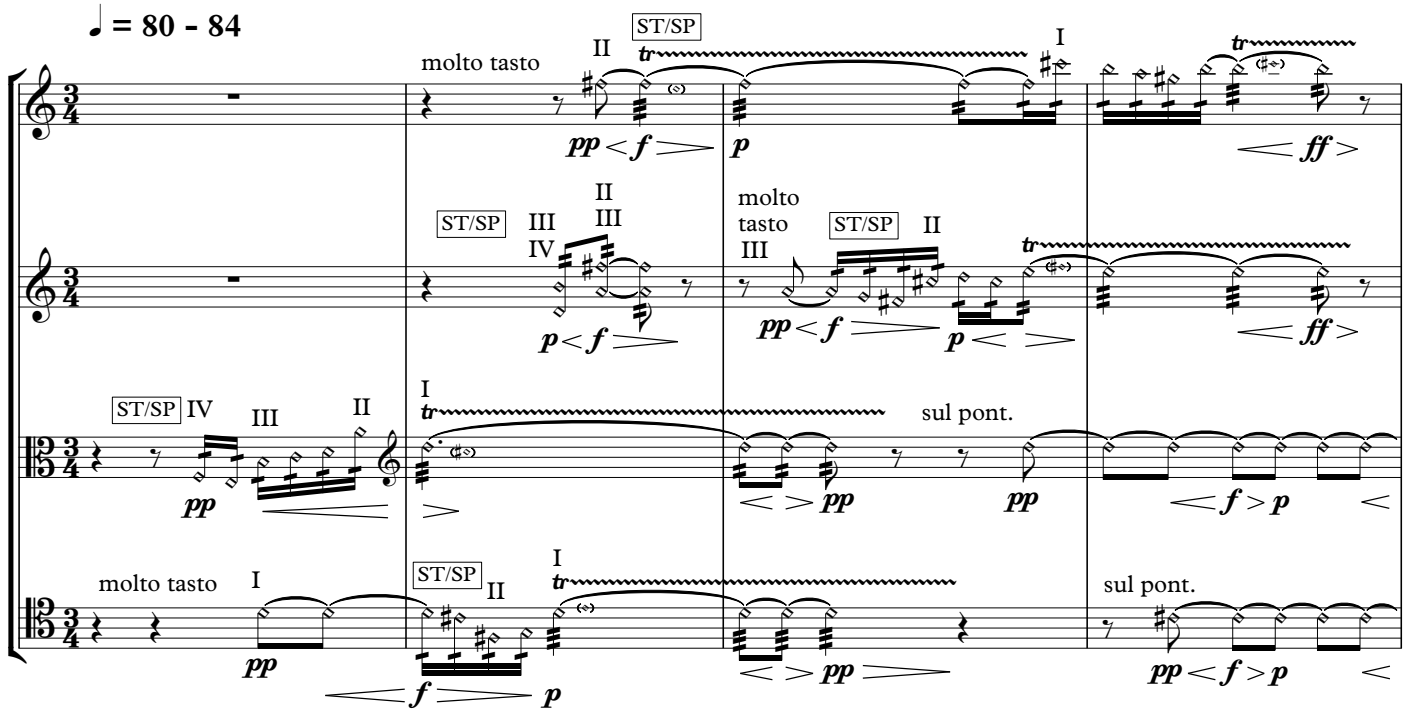

Più mosso (♩ = 84 - 88)
16
col legno batt.,
ricochet
arco, sul tasto
accel.
pizz.
arco, sul tasto
accel.
non vib.
col legno batt.,
ricochet
arco, non vib.
sul pont.
col legno batt.,
ricochet
pizz.
pizz.
col legno batt.,
ricochet

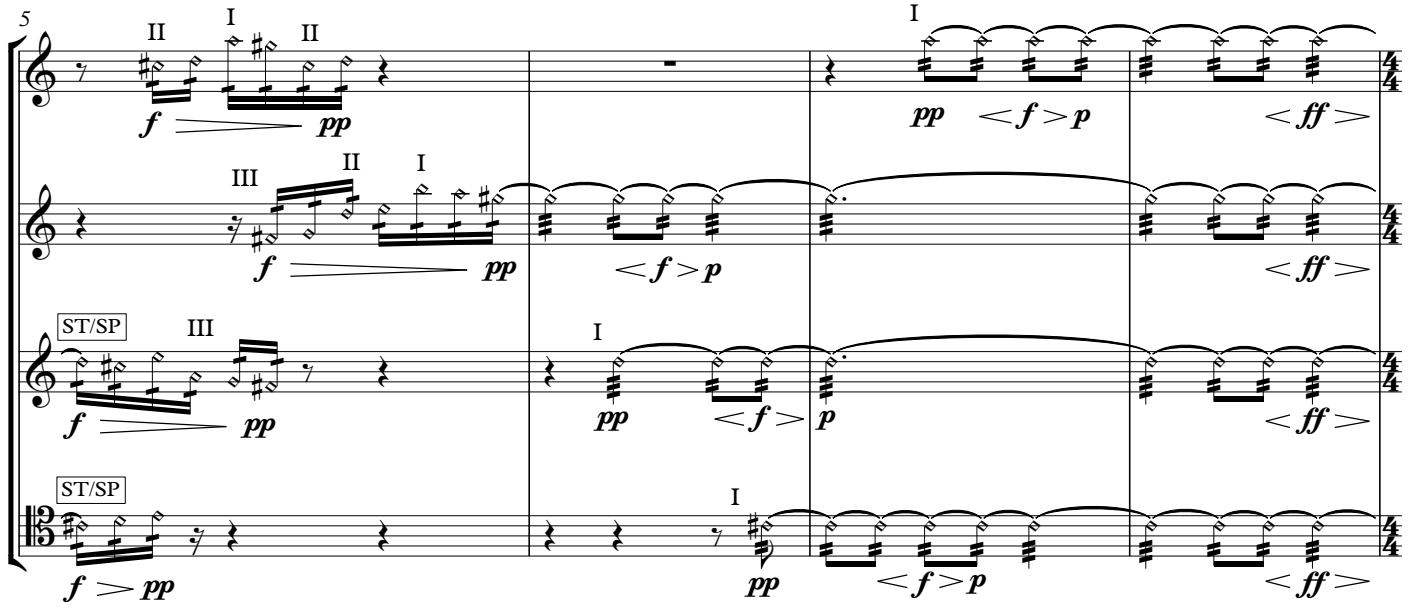

19
sul pont.
// pizz.
col legno batt., ricochet
sul pont.
col legno batt., ricochet
col legno batt., ricochet
sul pont.
F
arco, molto tasto
pizz.
col legno batt., ricochet

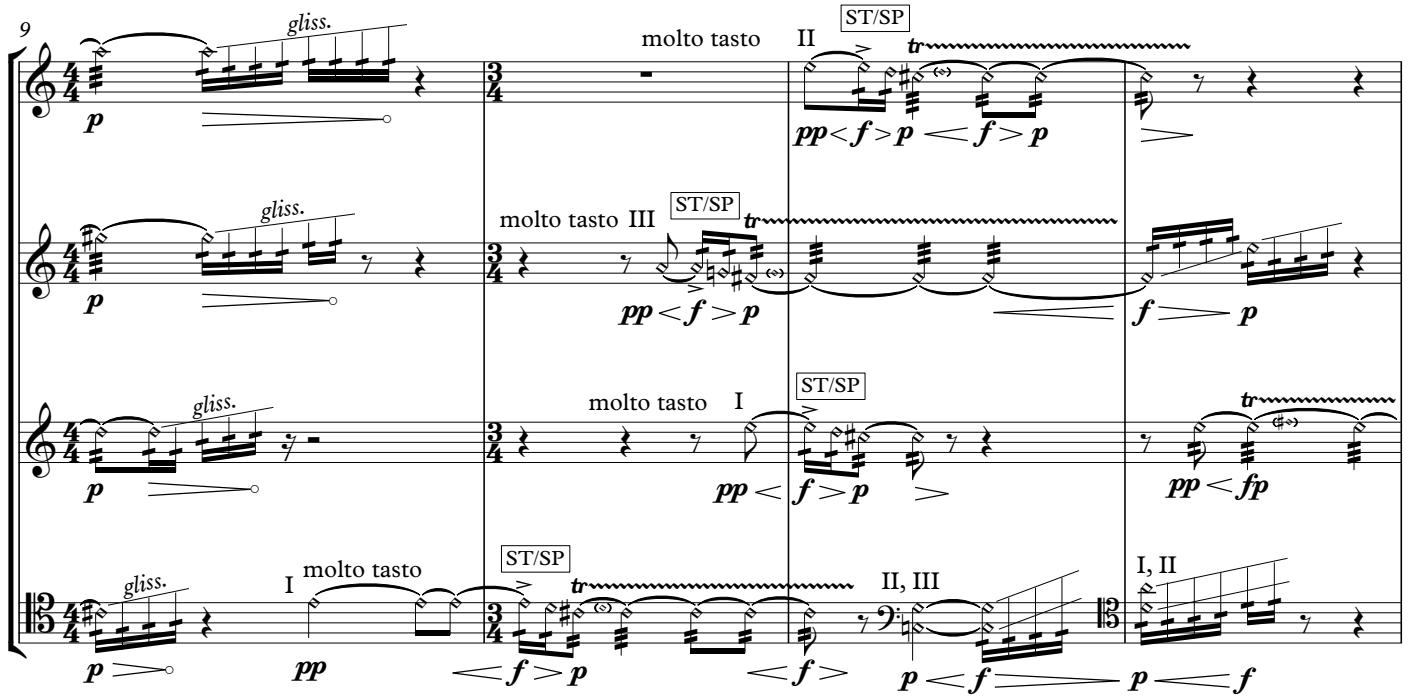

22
SOLO
arco, molto tasto
accel.
E♭
gliss.
arco, sul pont.
pizz.
arco, non vib.
pizz.

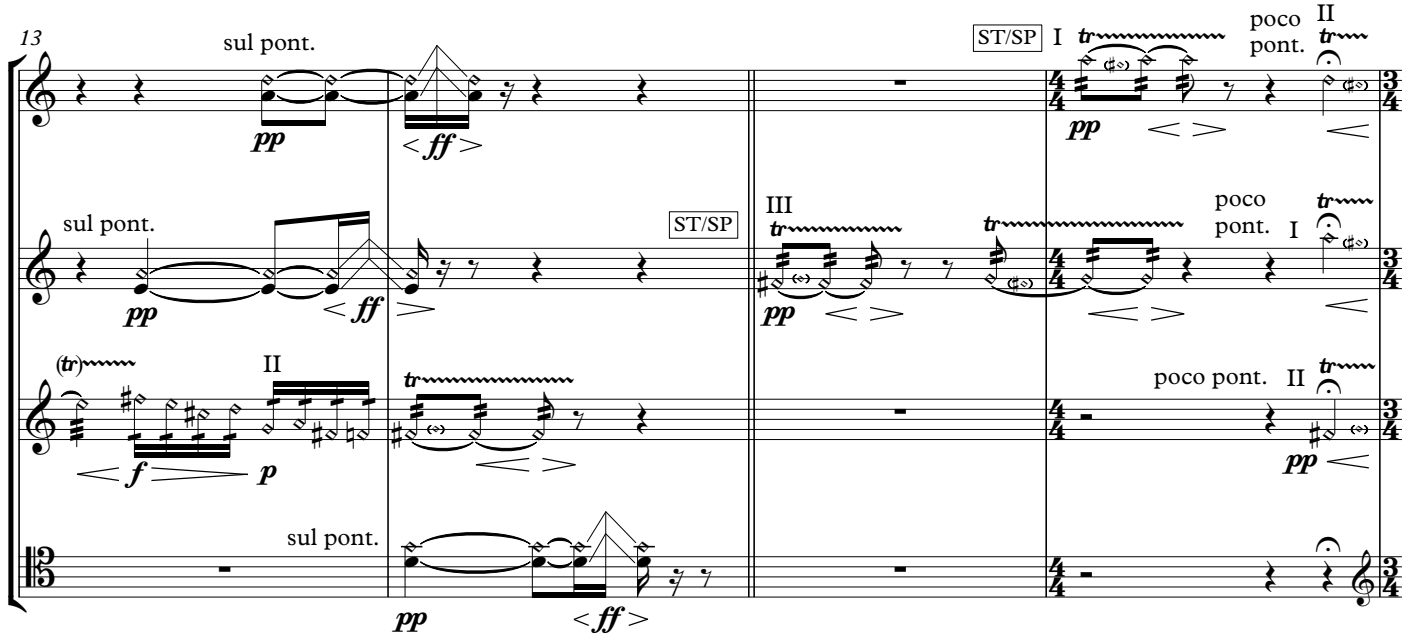
III. Wisp

for Seth Brodsky

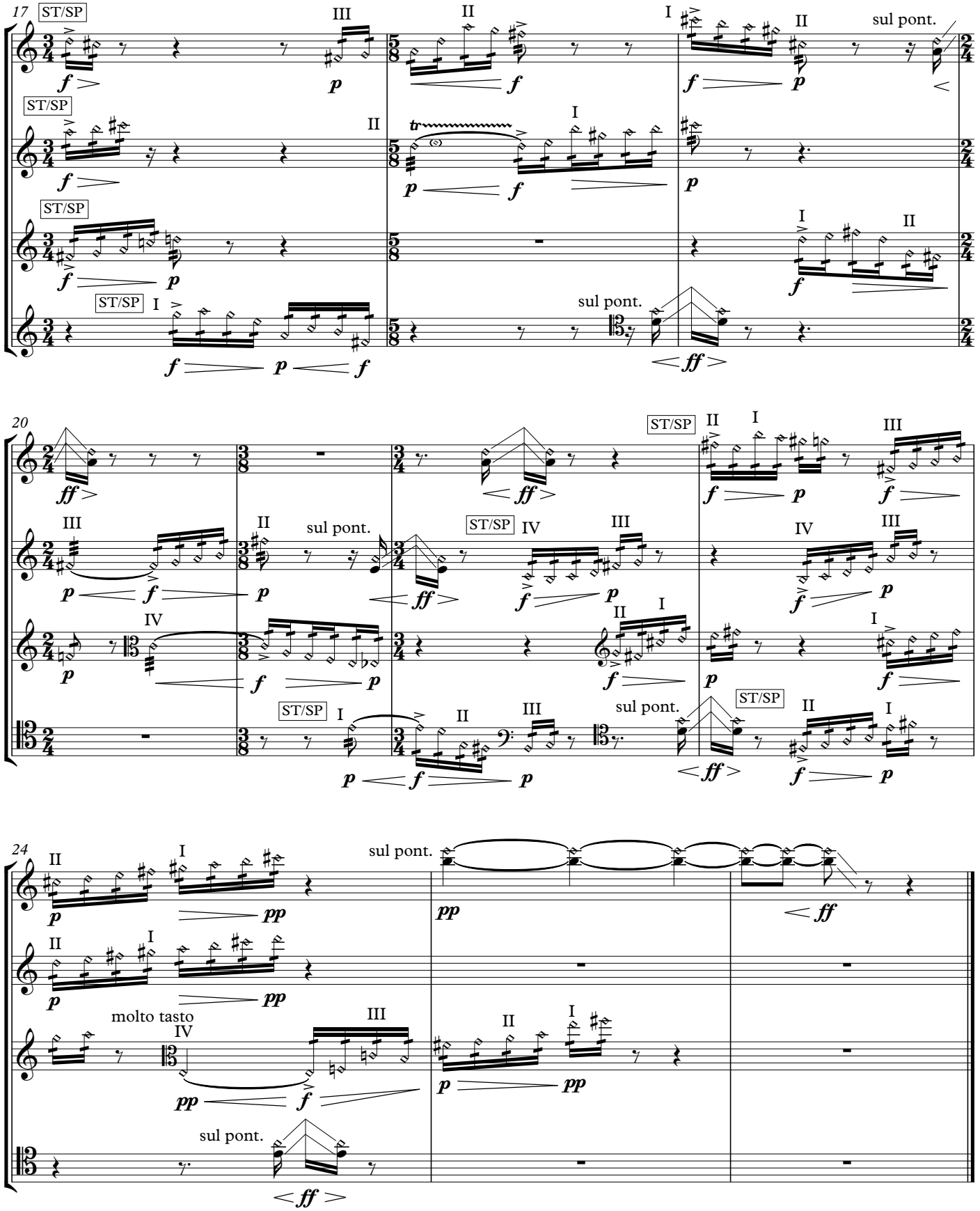





9
gliss.
molto tasto
II
ST/SP
III
I
I, II
II, III


13
sul pont.
ST/SP
poco pont.
III
I
II

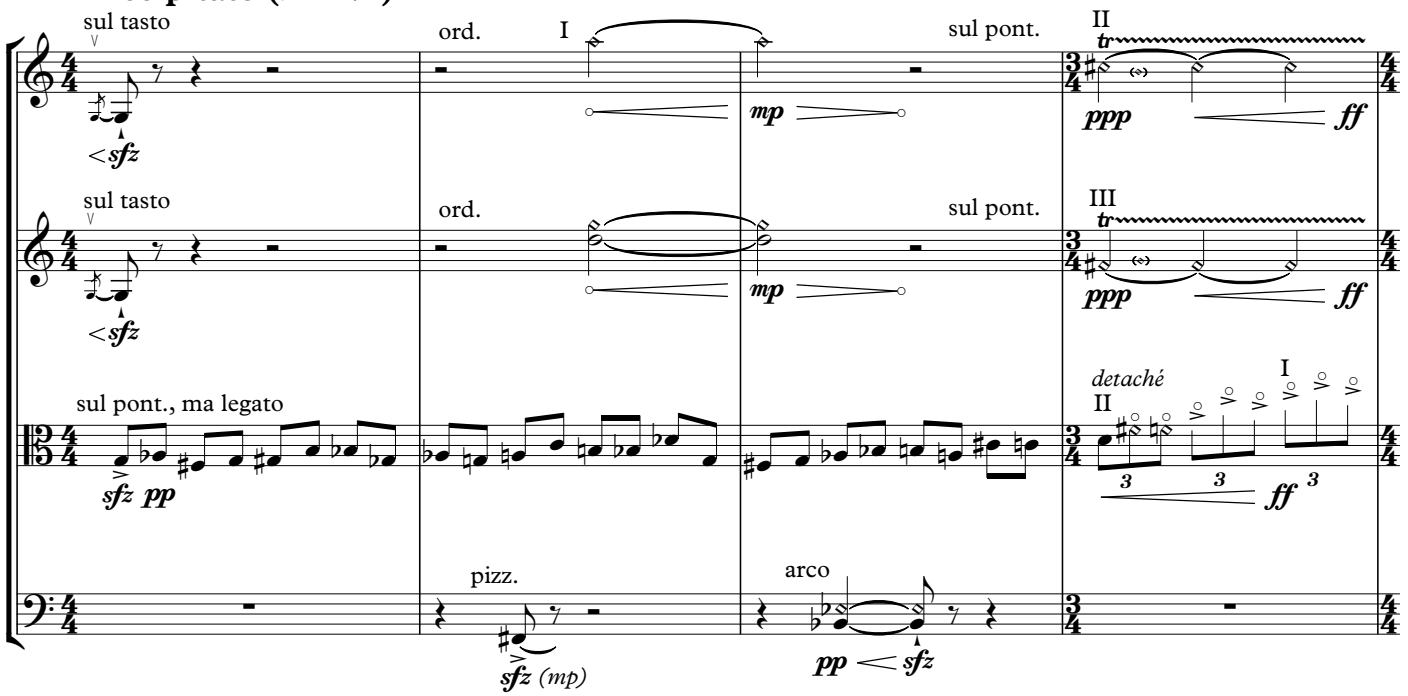
Più mosso (♩ = 92 - 96)

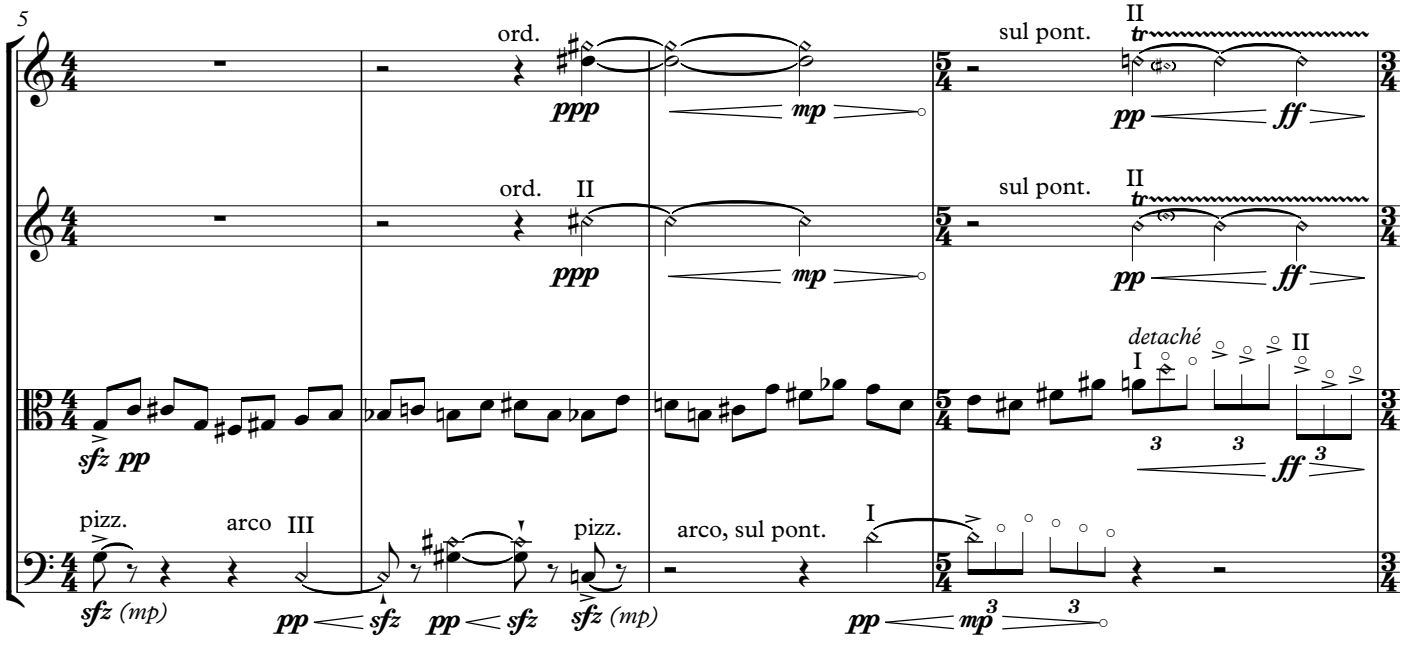


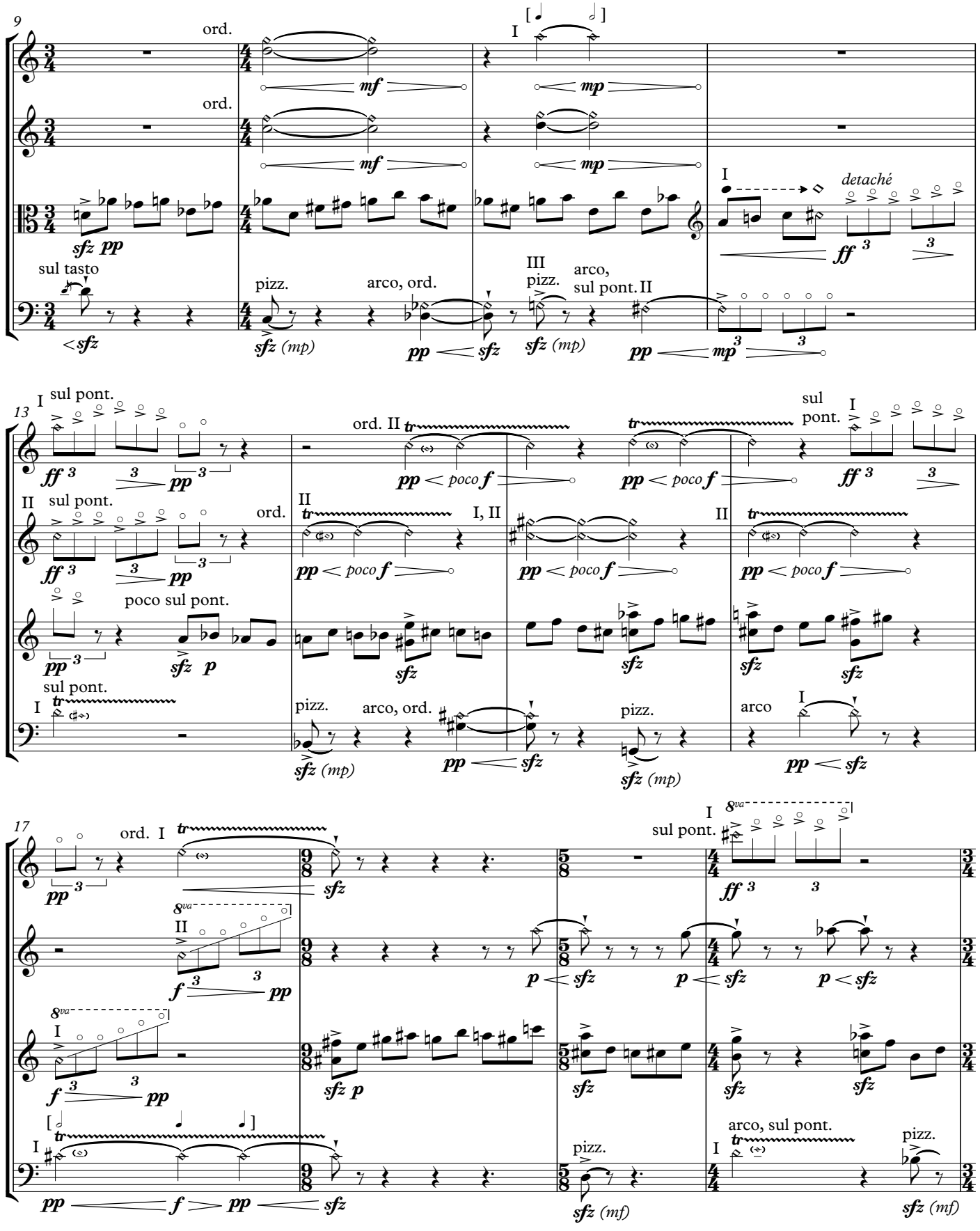
IV. Fireflies

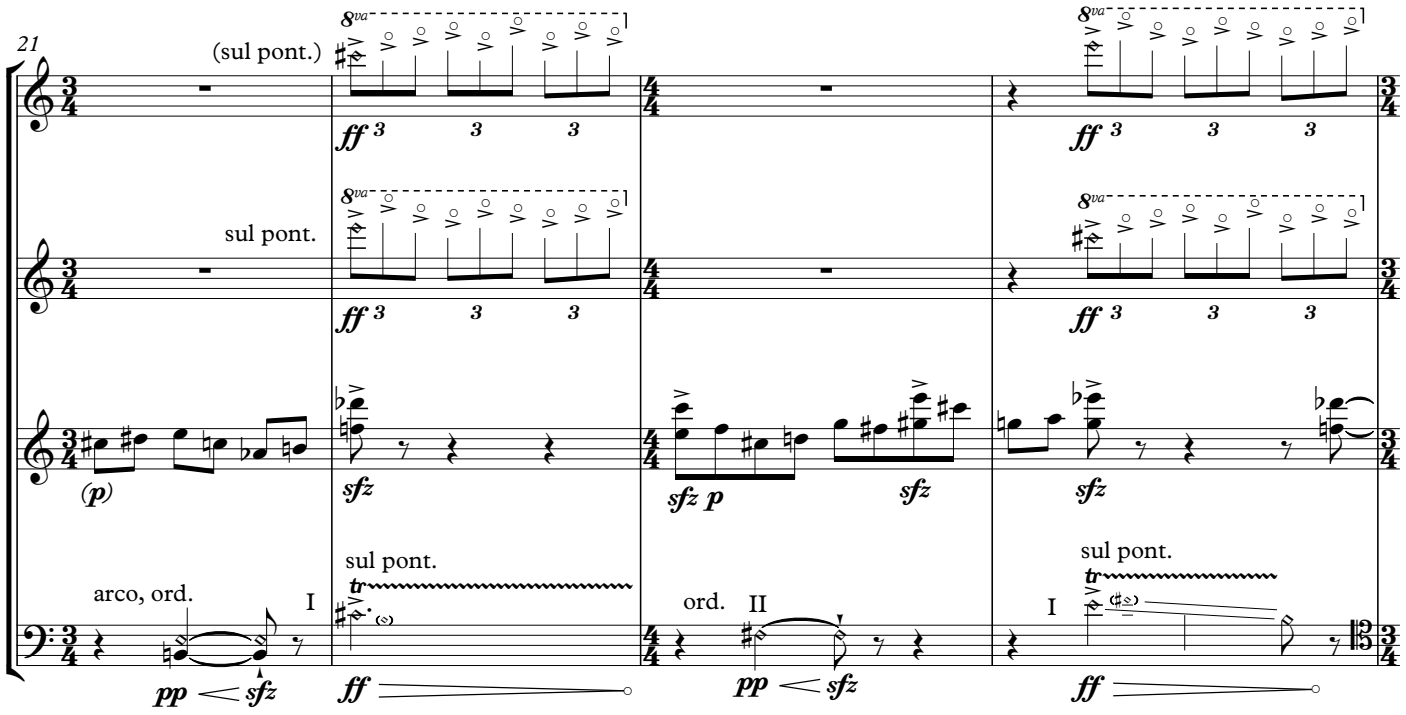
for John Richards

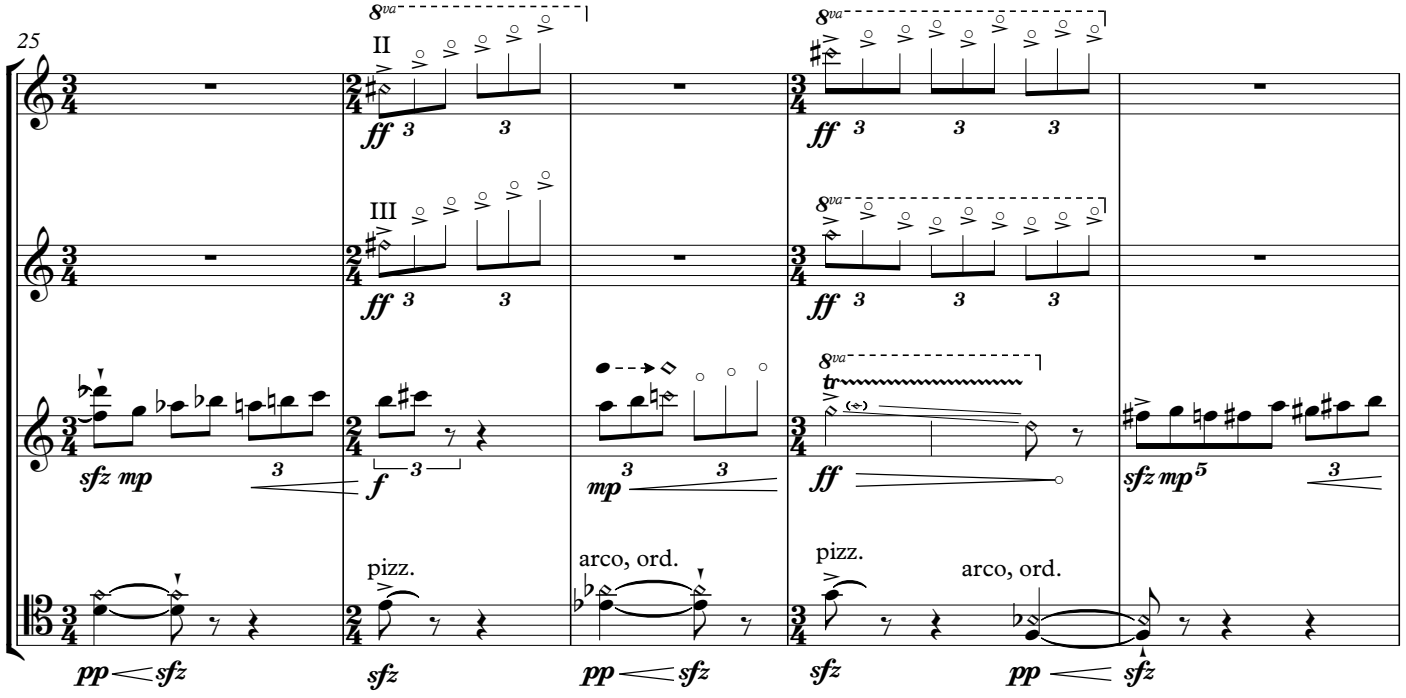
Precipitato (♩ = 172)

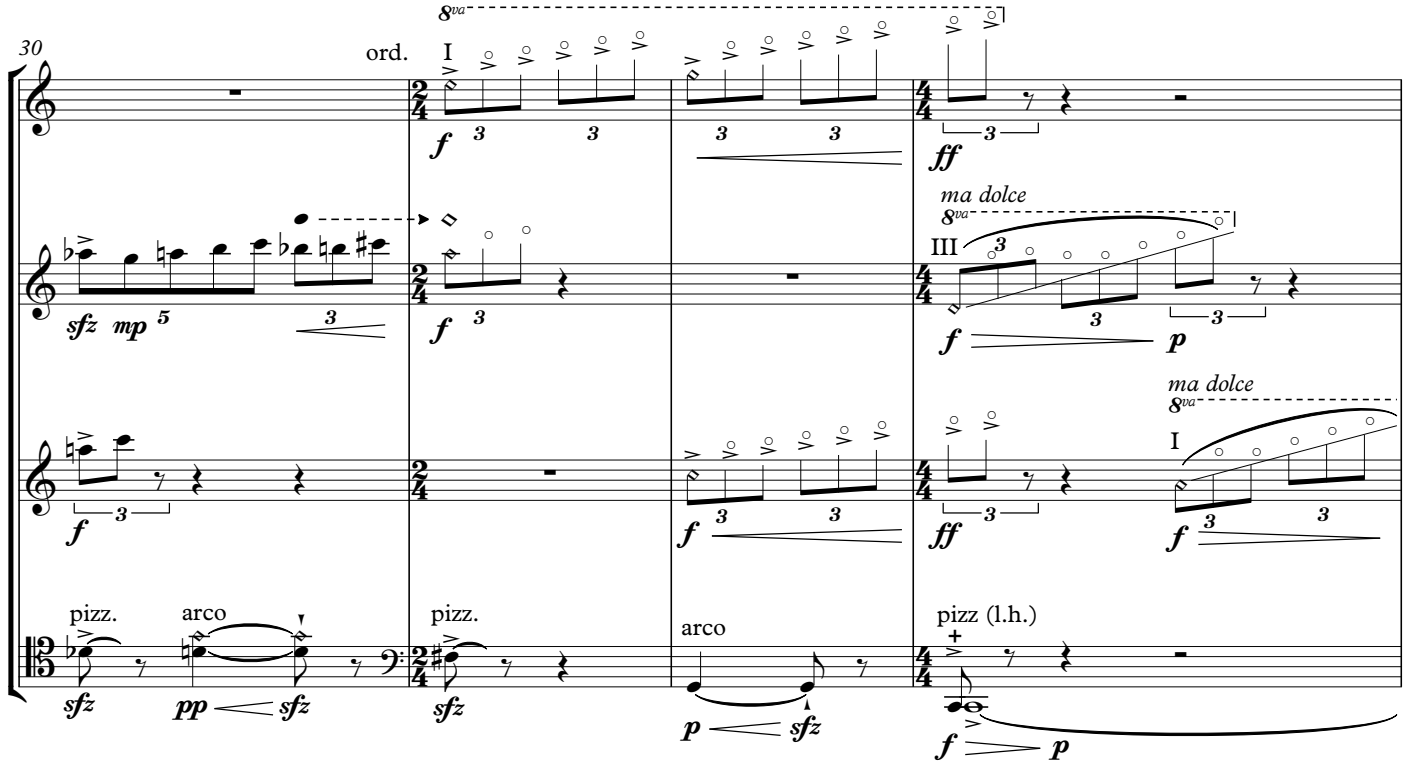


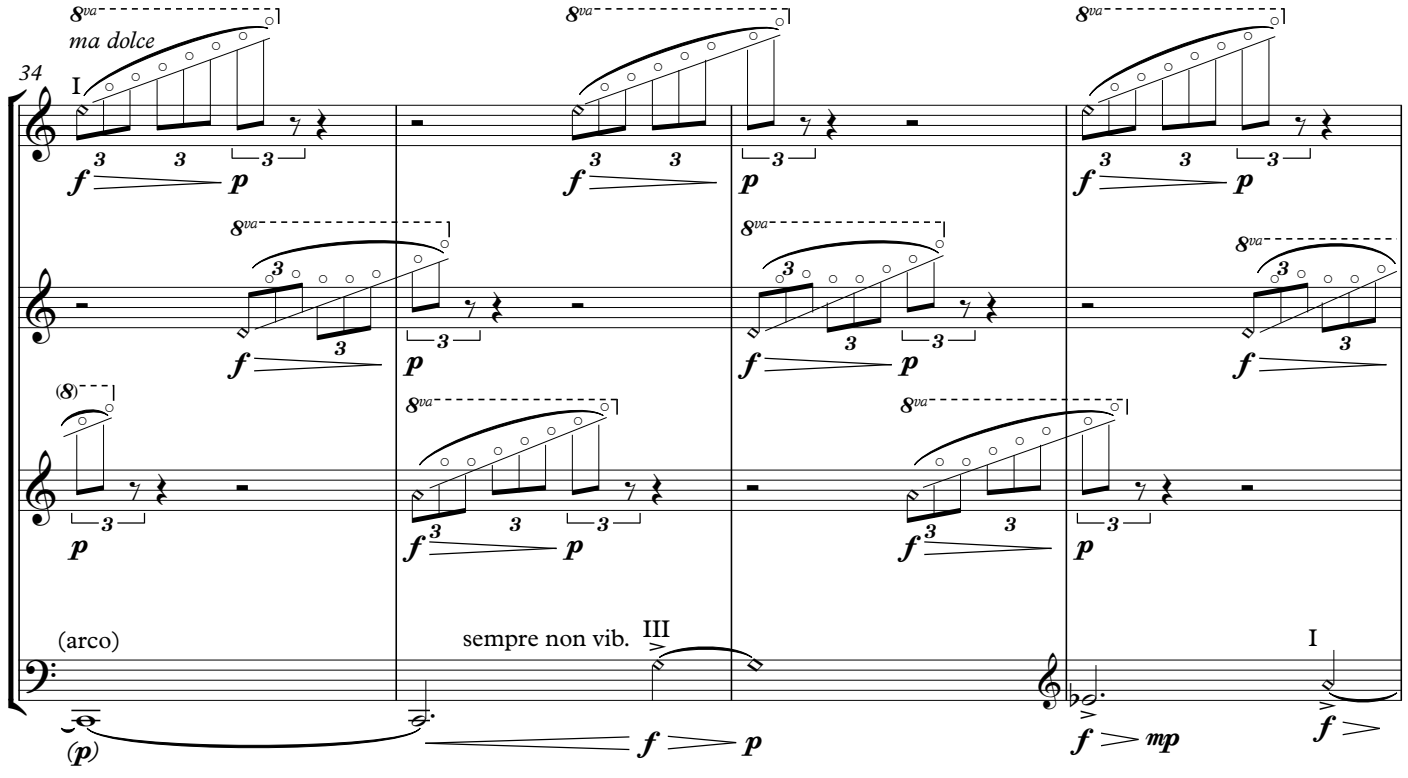


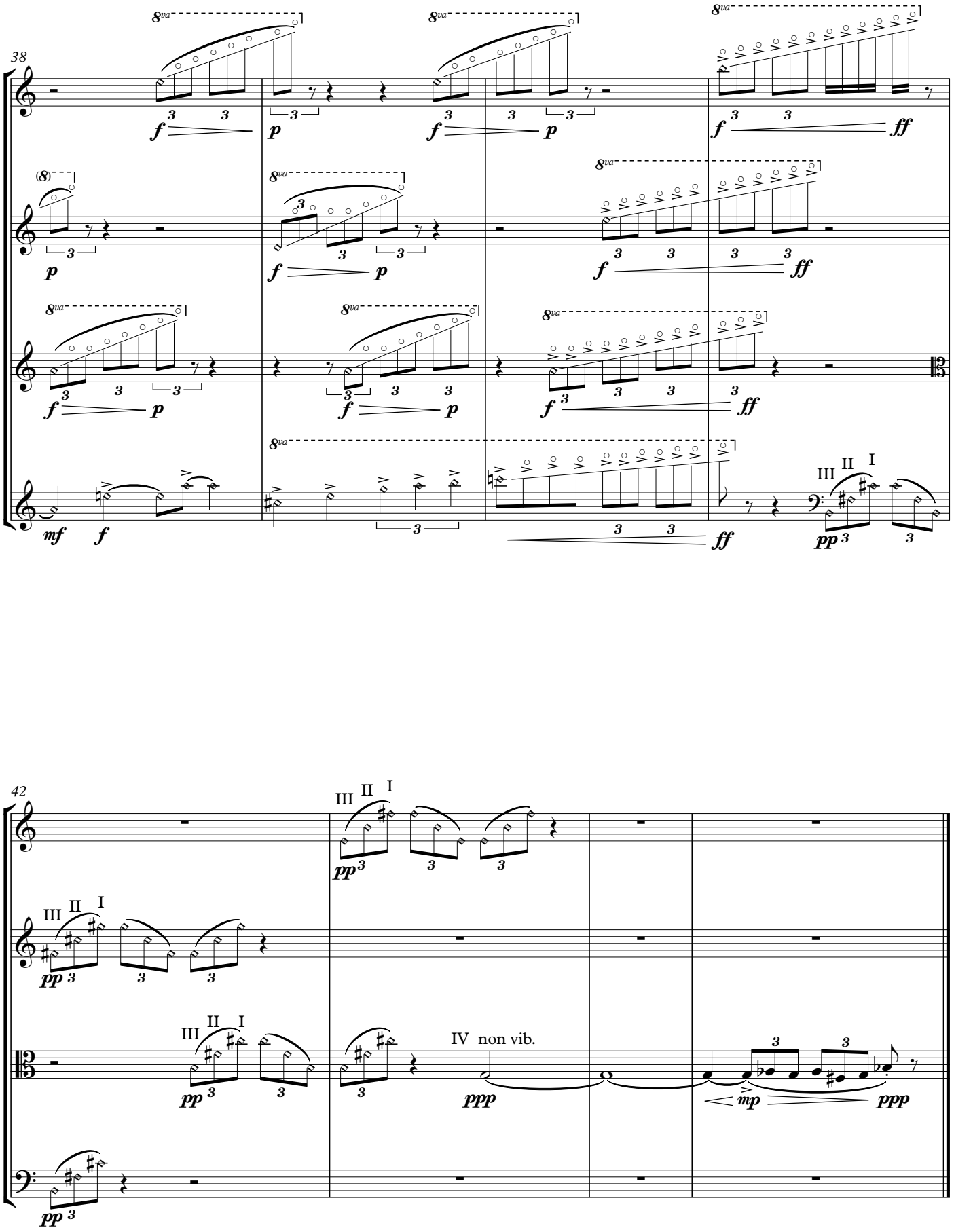

9
ord.
ord.
mf
mf
mp
mp
I
detaché
ff
sul tasto
pizz.
arco, ord.
III
pizz.
arco,
sul pont. II
sfz pp
sfz (mp)
pp
sfz
sfz (mp)
pp
mp
13
I
sul pont.
ff
pp
ord. II
pp poco f
pp poco f
sul pont.
ff
II
sul pont.
ord.
I, II
II
pp poco f
pp poco f
pp poco f
poco sul pont.
pp
sfz p
sfz
sfz
sfz
sul pont.
pizz.
arco, ord.
pizz.
arco
sfz (mp)
pp
sfz
sfz (mp)
pp
sfz
17
ord. I
pp
sfz
8va
II
f
pp
p
sfz
p
sfz
p
sfz
8va
I
sul pont.
ff
I
f
pp
sfz p
sfz
sfz
sfz
pp
f
pp
sfz
pizz.
arco, sul pont.
pizz.
sfz (mf)
sfz (mf)


21
(sul pont.)
sul pont.
arco, ord.
I
sul pont.
ord.
II
I
sul pont.


25
II
III
pizz.
arco, ord.
pizz.
arco, ord.

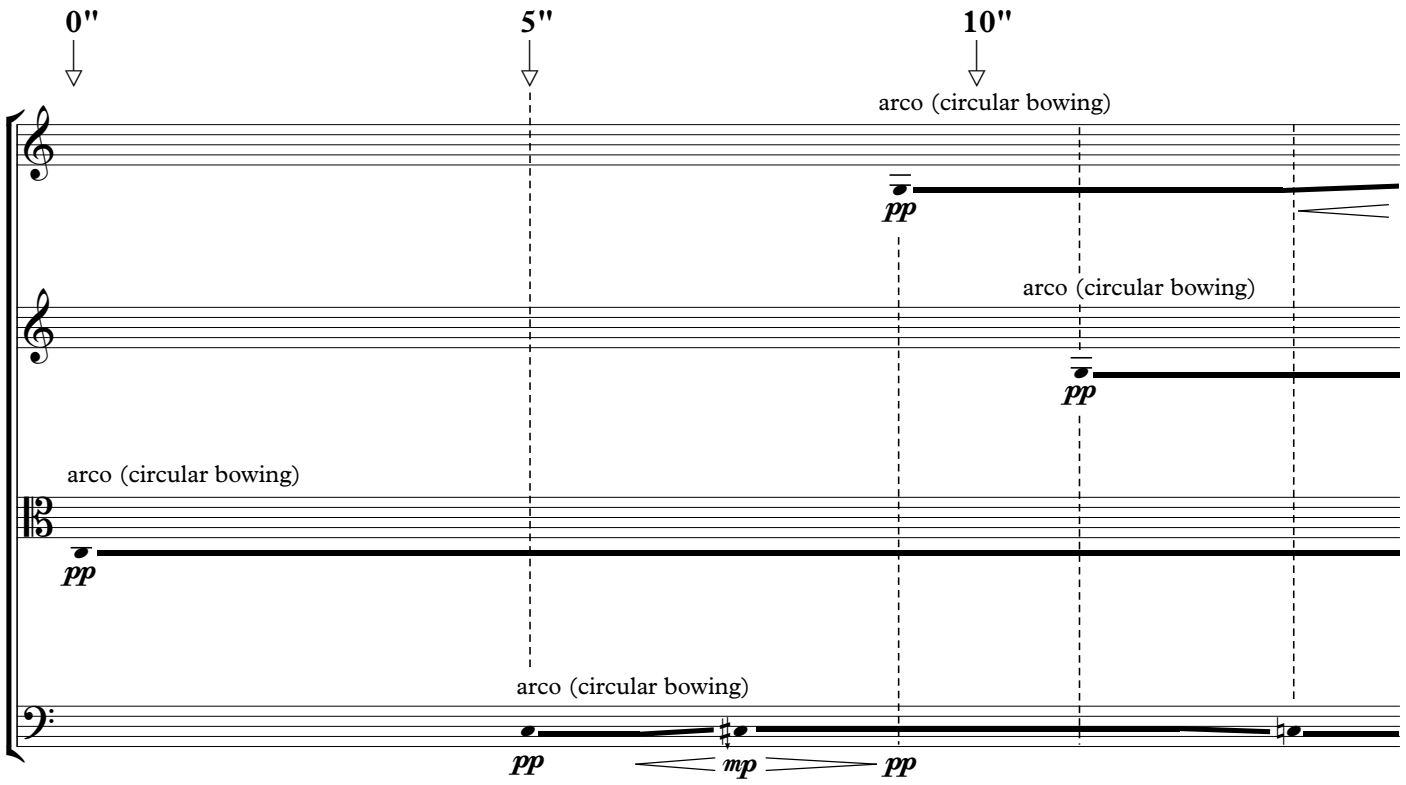

30
ord.
I
ma dolce
III
ma dolce
I
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz (l.h.)

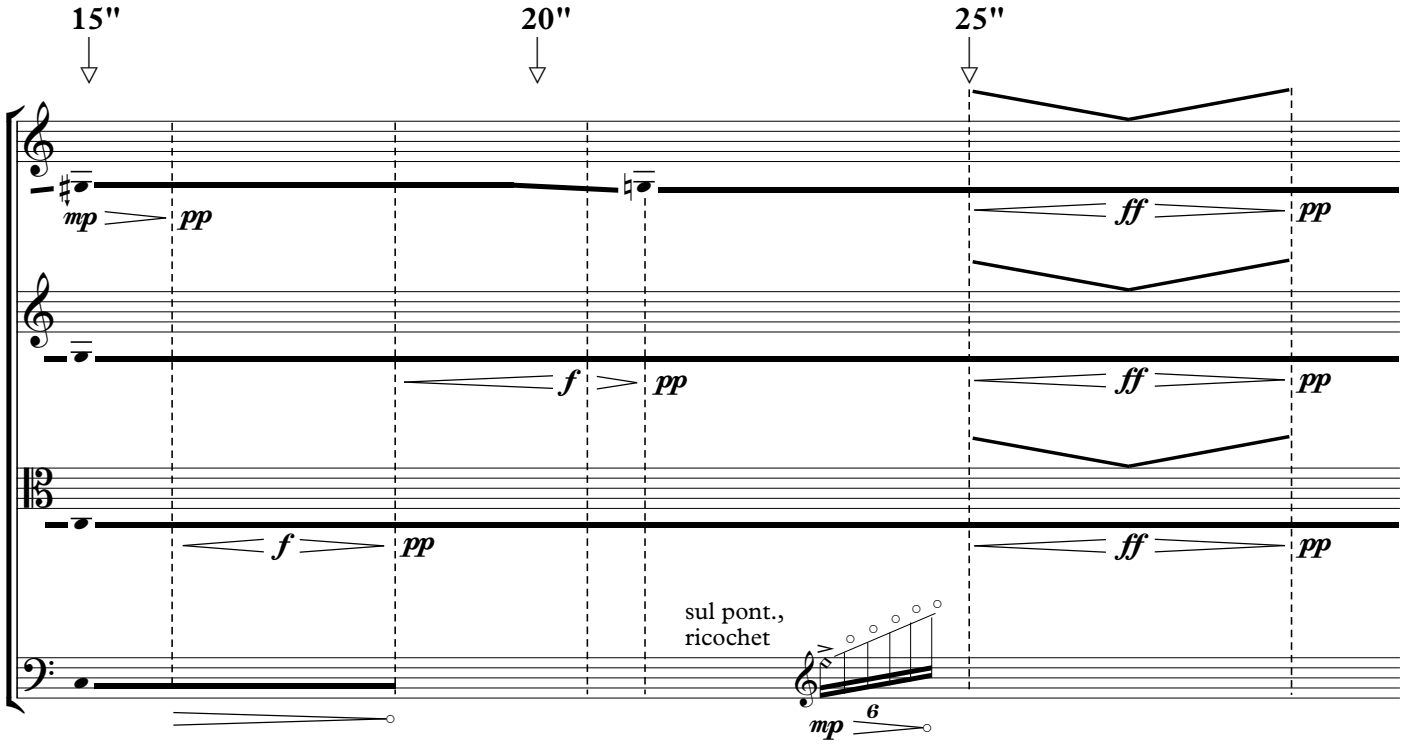

34
ma dolce
I
(arco)
sempre non vib.
III
I

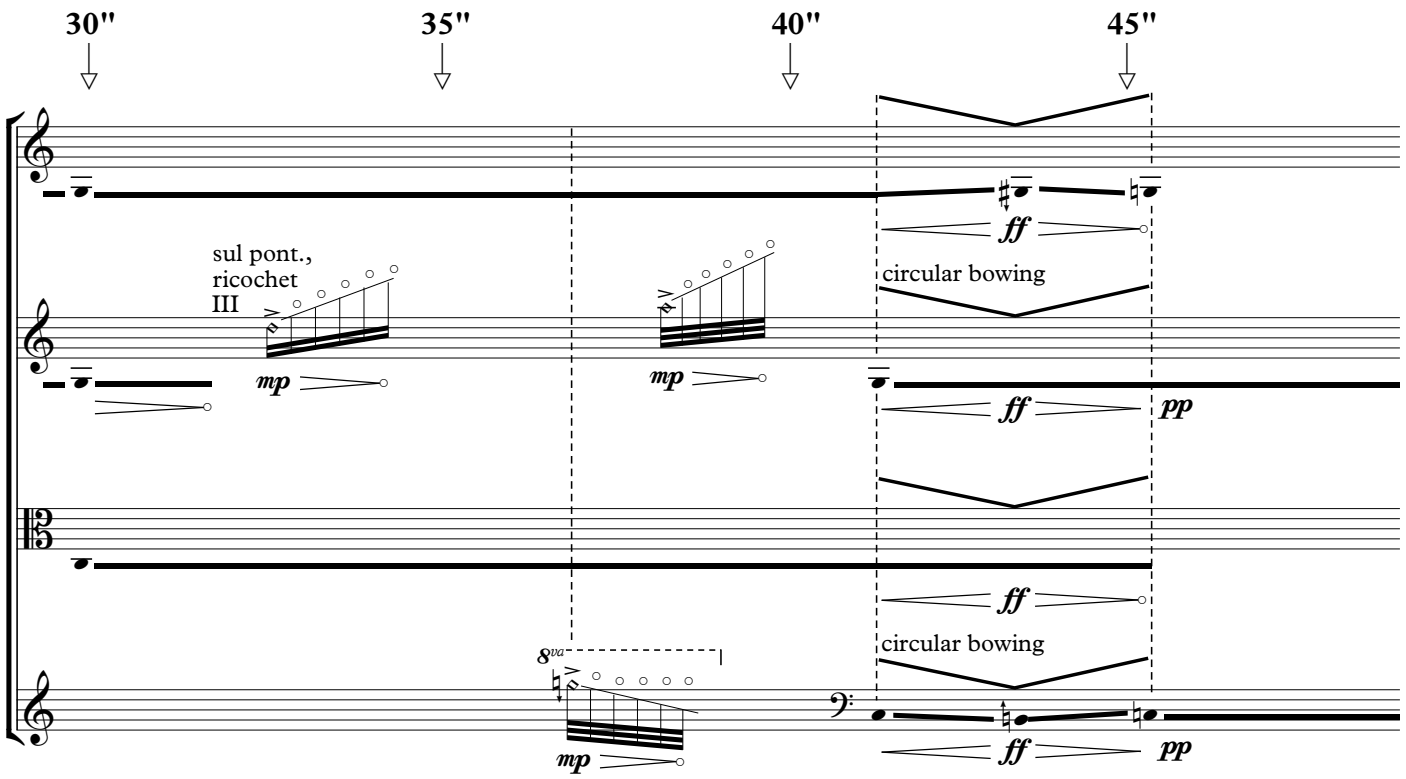

38
8va
(8)
III II I
42
IV non vib.

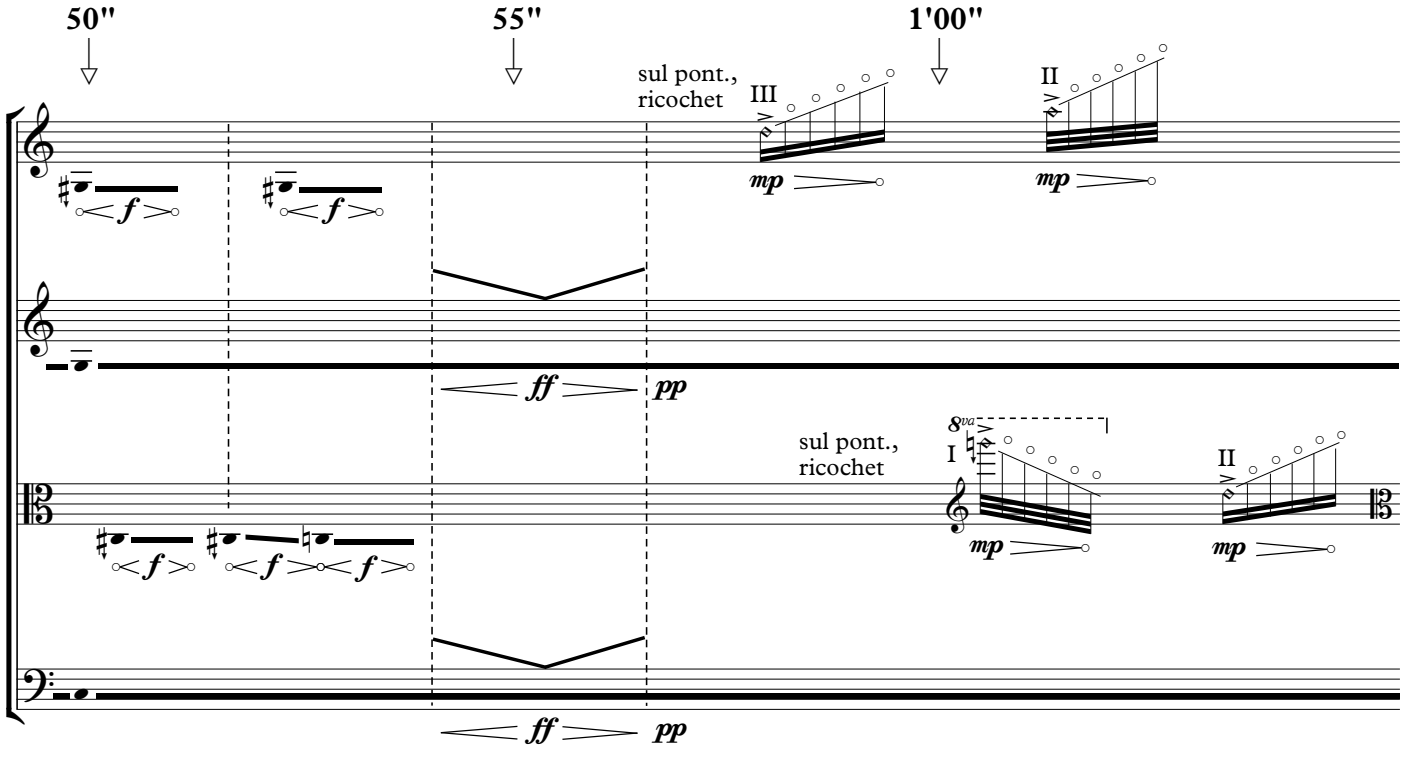
V. Mournfully slowly they roll...

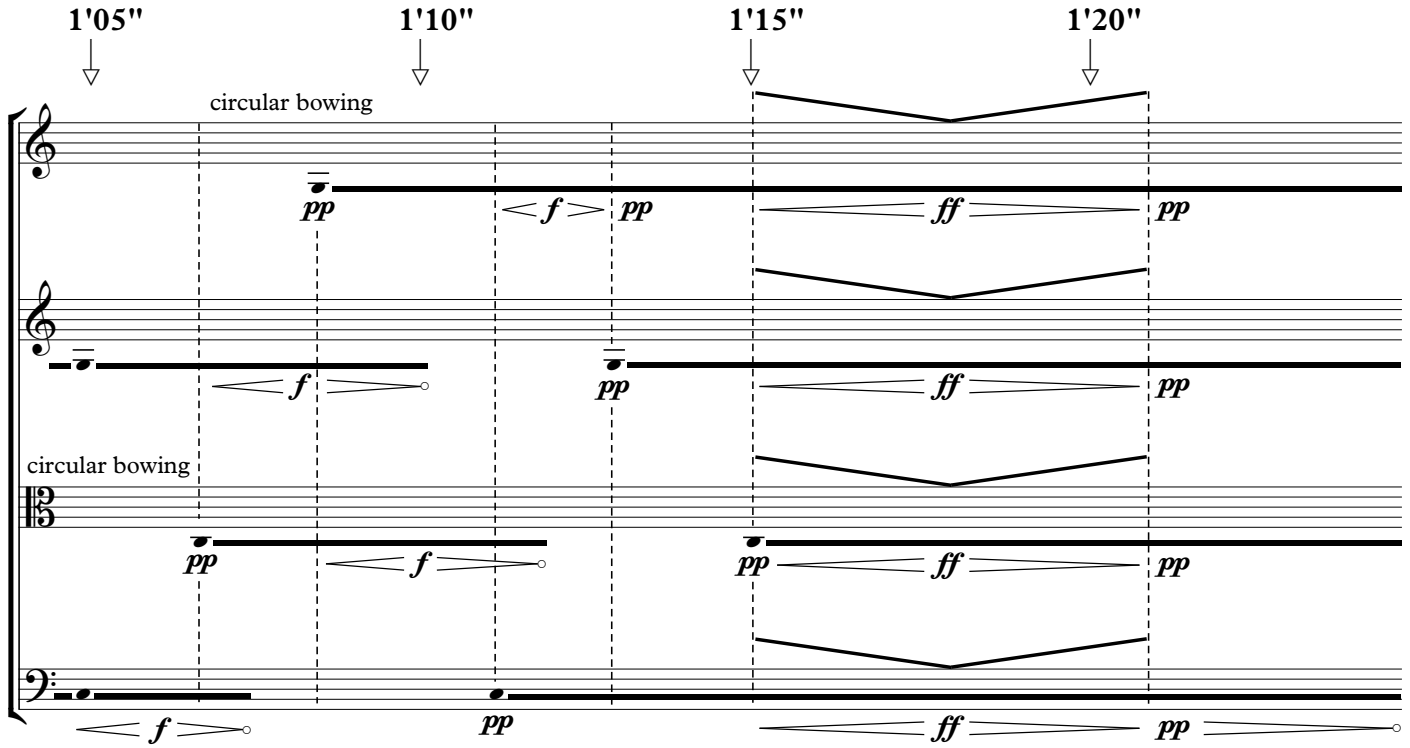
Hommage to Walt Whitman

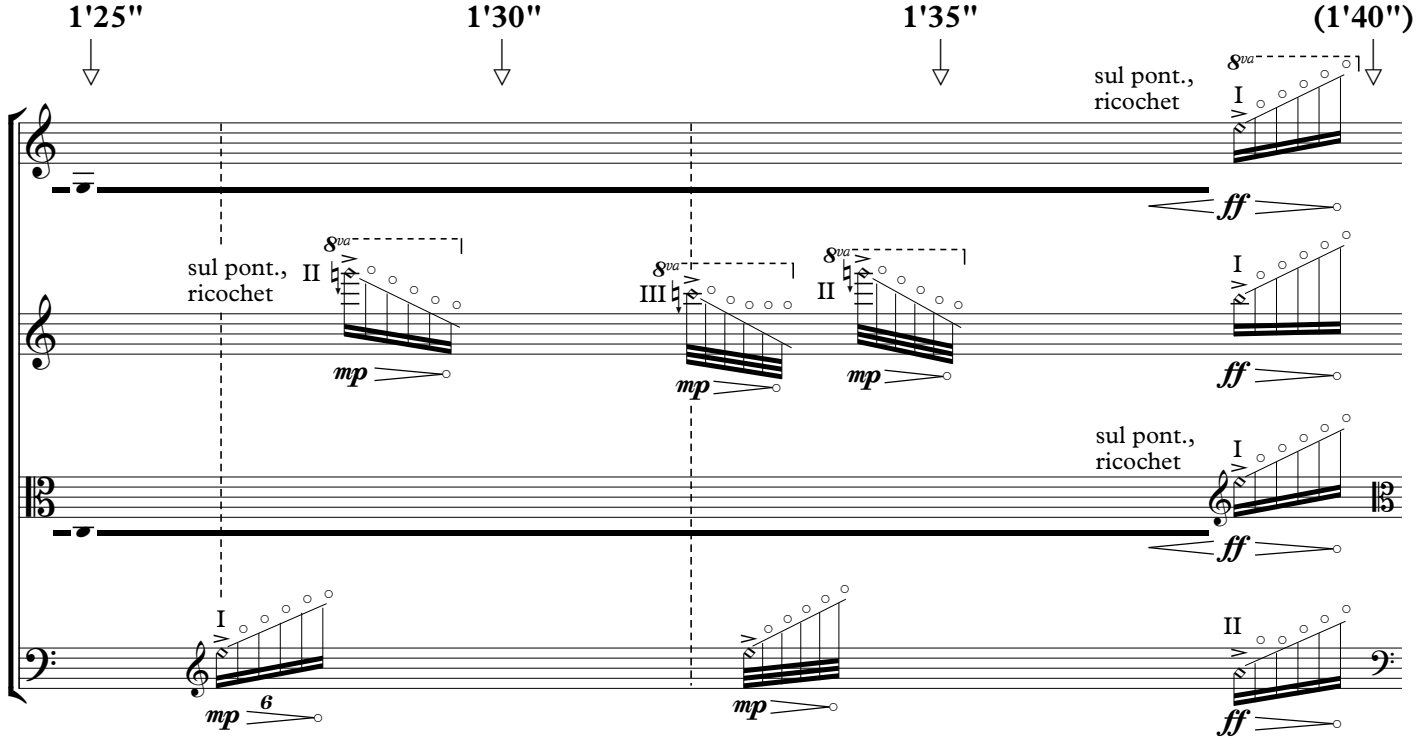


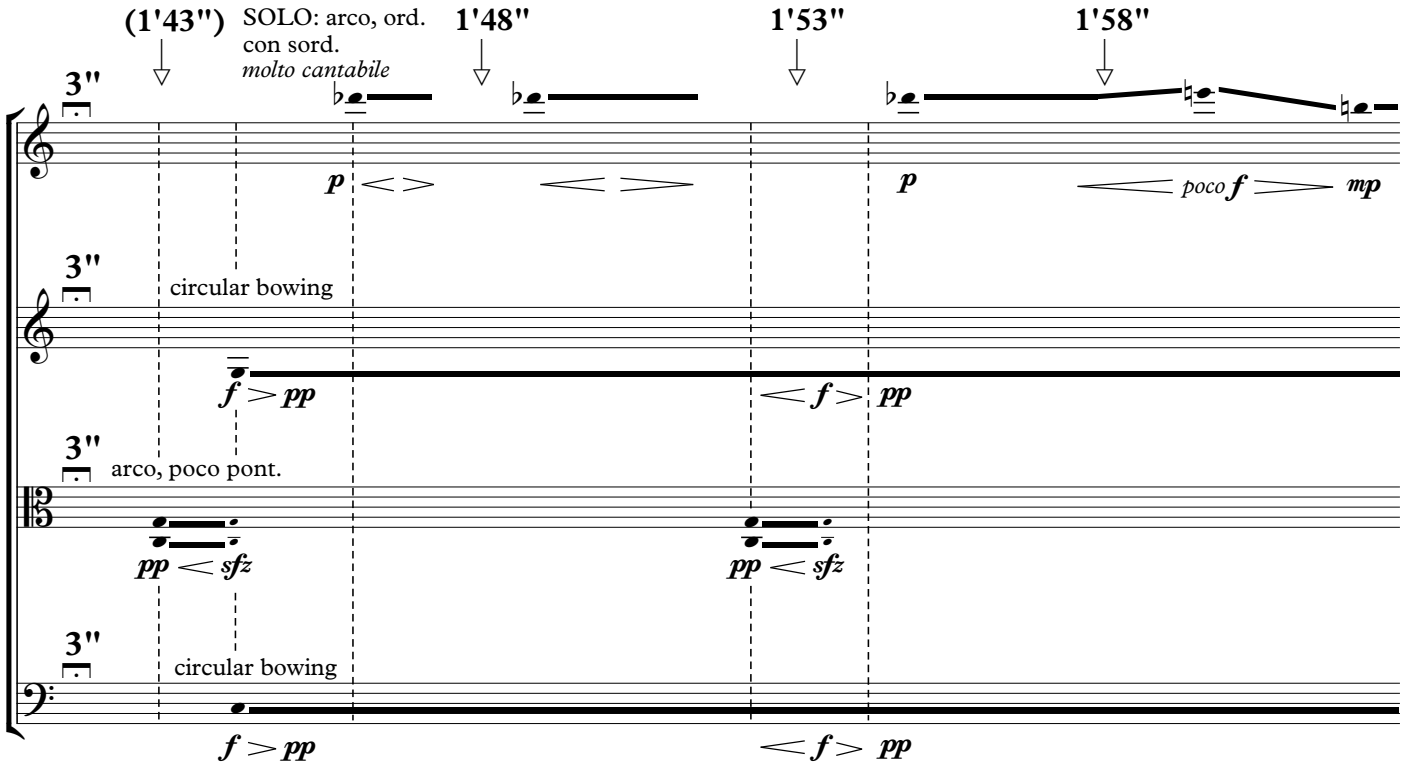


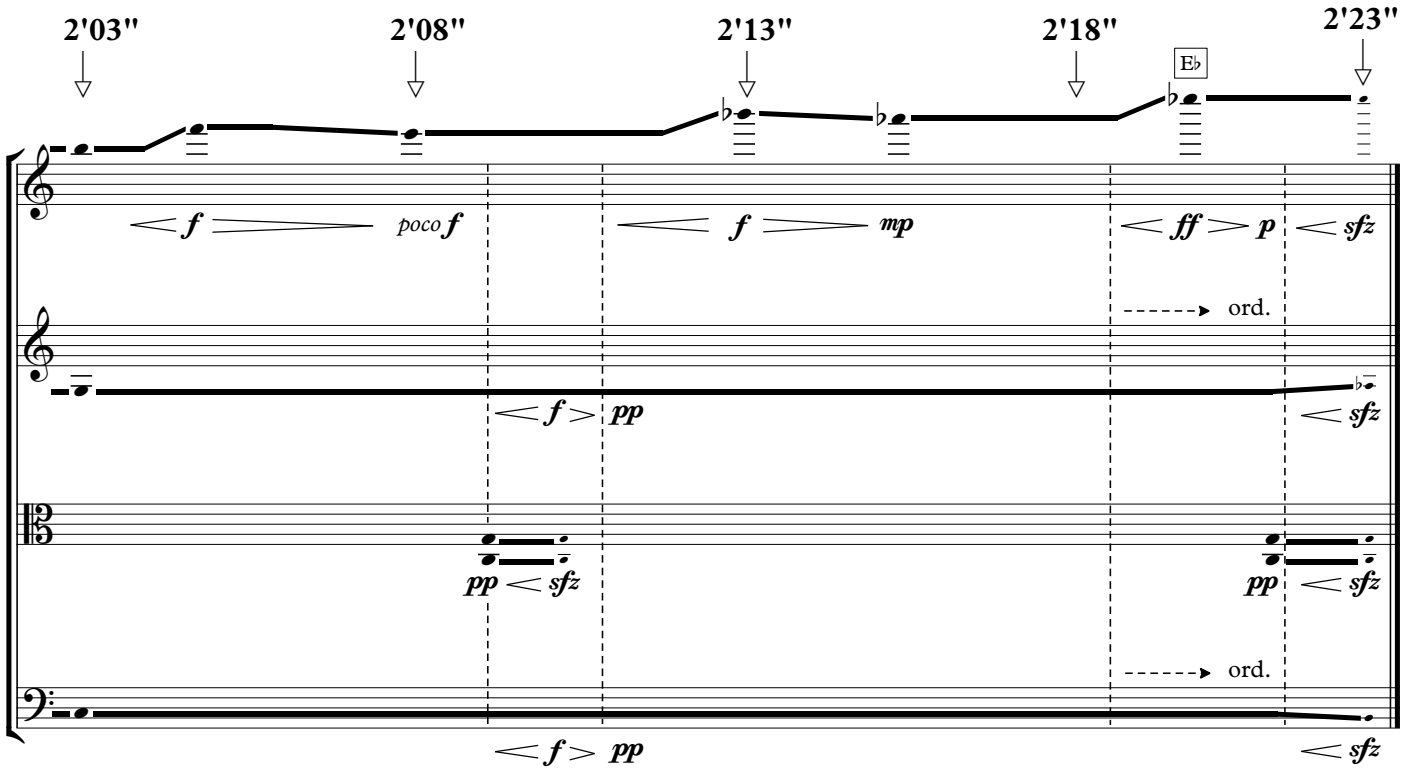

30"
35"
40"
45"
sul pont.,
ricochet
III
mp
mp
circular bowing
ff
pp
ff
8va
mp
circular bowing
ff
pp


50"
55"
1'00"
f
f
sul pont.,
ricochet
III
mp
II
mp
ff
pp
8va
sul pont.,
ricochet
I
mp
II
mp
f
f
f
ff
pp


1'05"
1'10"
1'15"
1'20"
circular bowing
pp
f
pp
ff
pp
circular bowing


1'25"
1'30"
1'35"
(1'40")
sul pont., ricochet
8va
I
ff
sul pont., ricochet
II
mp
8va
III
8va
II
I
ff
sul pont., ricochet
I
ff
I
mp
6
mp
II
ff


(1'43")
SOLO: arco, ord.
con sord.
molto cantabile
1'48"
1'53"
1'58"
3"
p
poco f
mp
circular bowing
f > pp
< f > pp
arco, poco pont.
pp < sfz
circular bowing

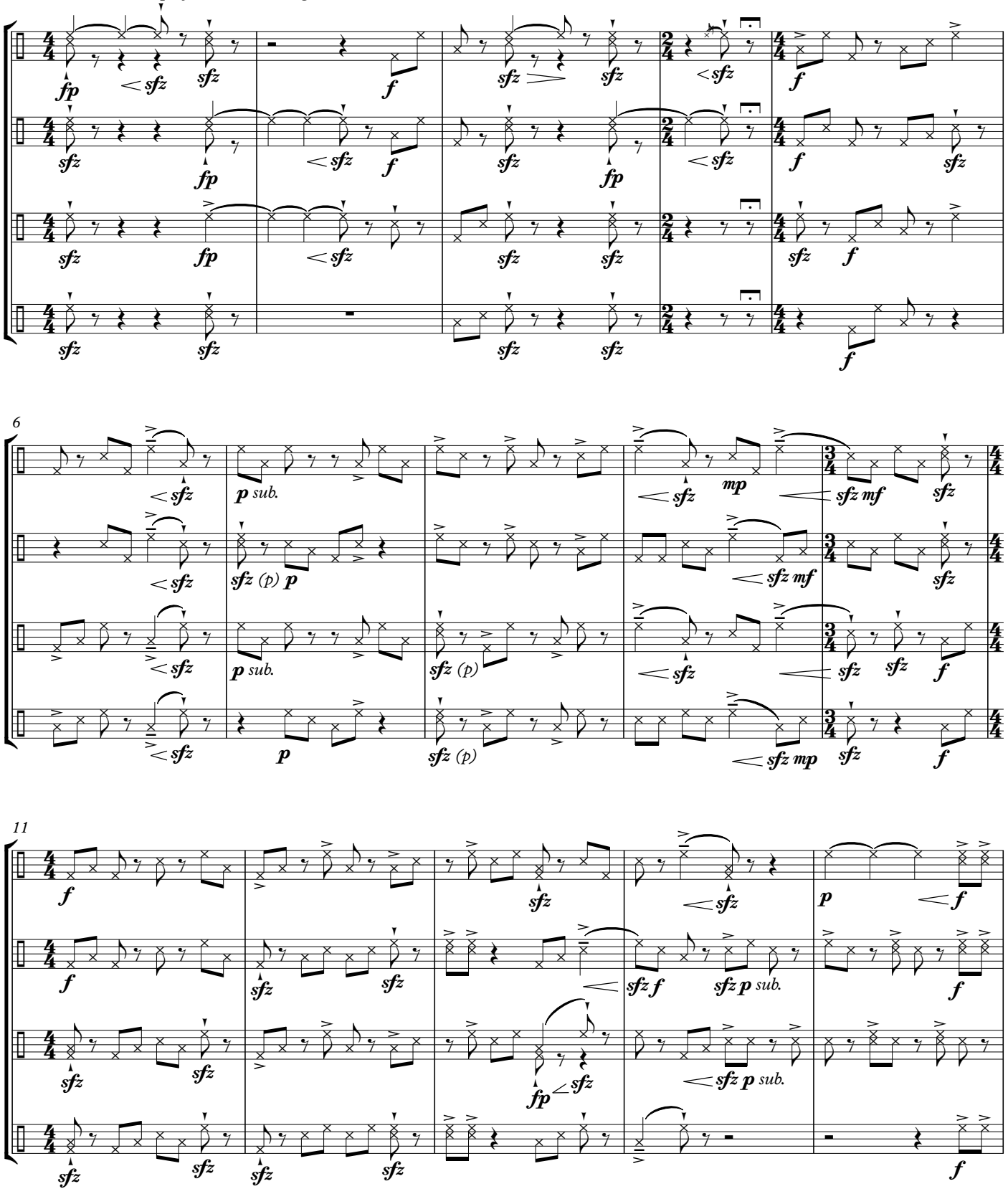

2'03"
2'08"
2'13"
2'18"
E♭
2'23"
< f
poco f
< f
mp
< ff > p
< sfz
ord.
< f > pp
< sfz
pp < sfz
pp < sfz
ord.
< f > pp
< sfz

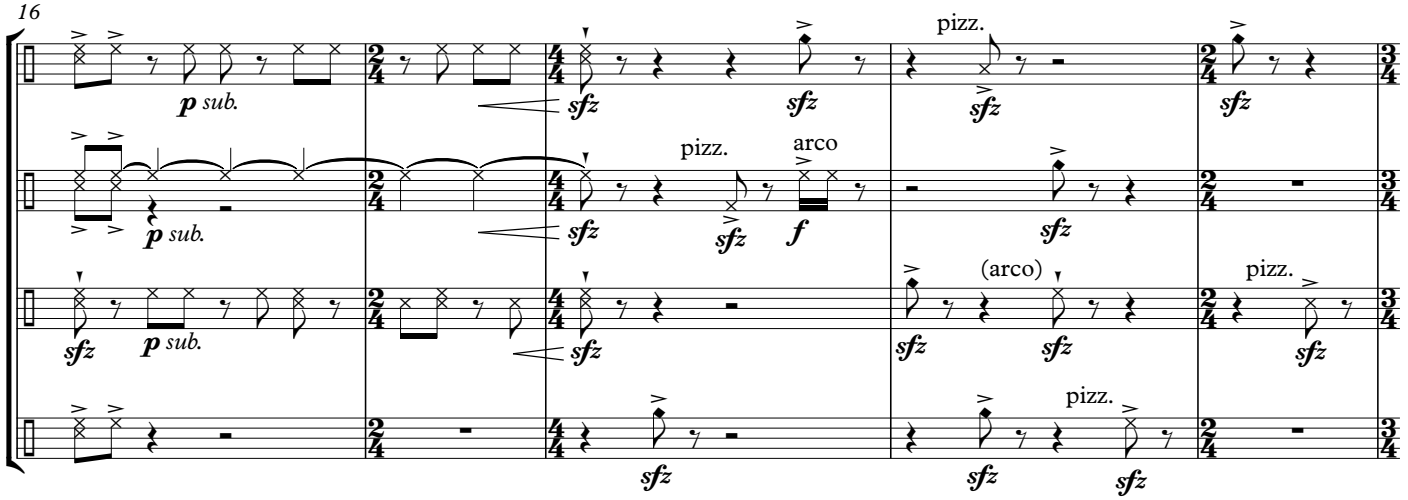
VI. His royal badness

Hommage to Michael Jackson

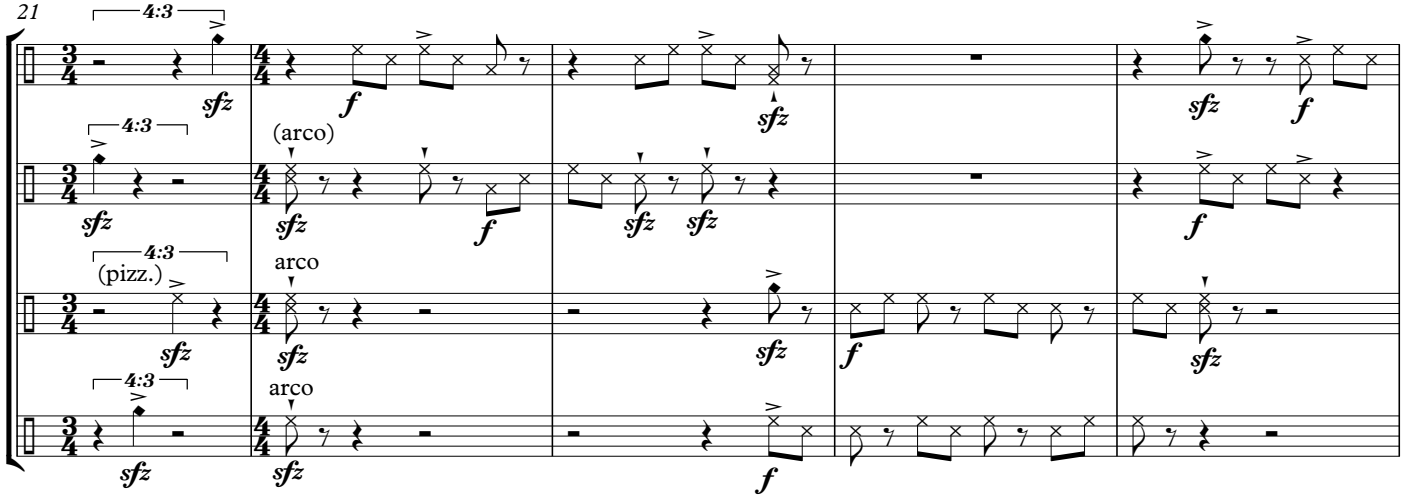
Molto allegro e staccatissimo (♩ = 160 - 172)

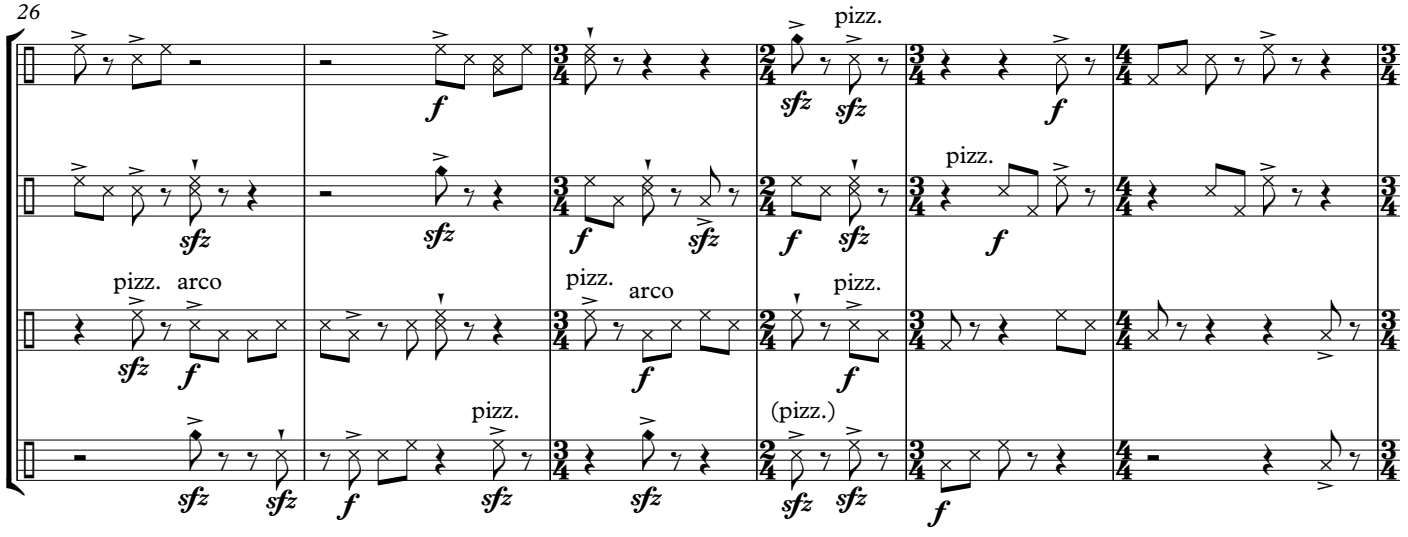
All instruments play behind the bridge.

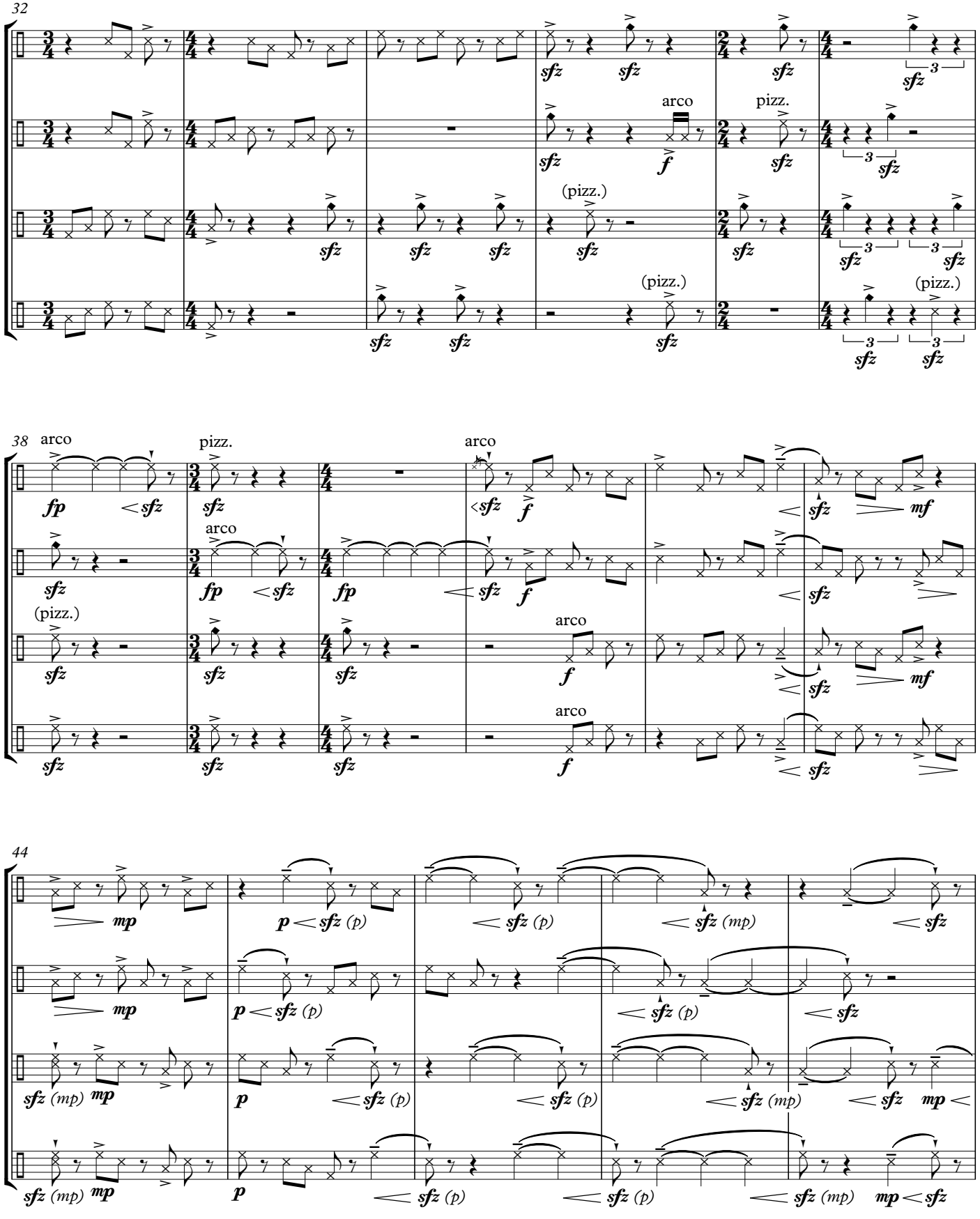


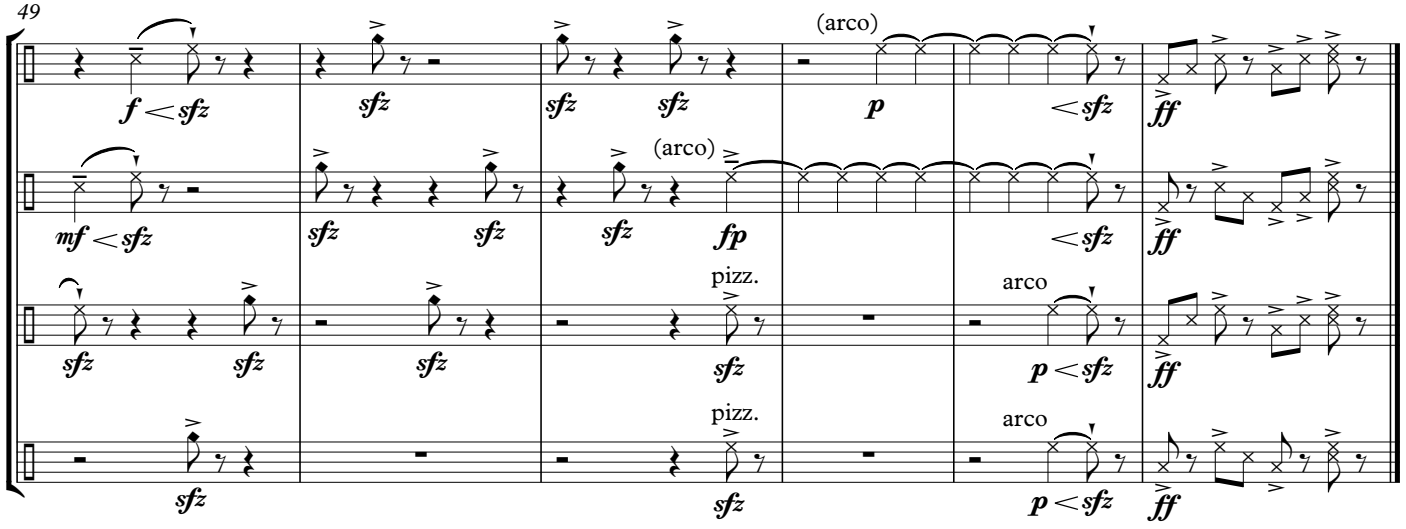


◆ = knock on bridge with wood of bow.






32
arco
pizz.
(pizz.)
38
arco
pizz.
arco
(pizz.)
arco
arco
44

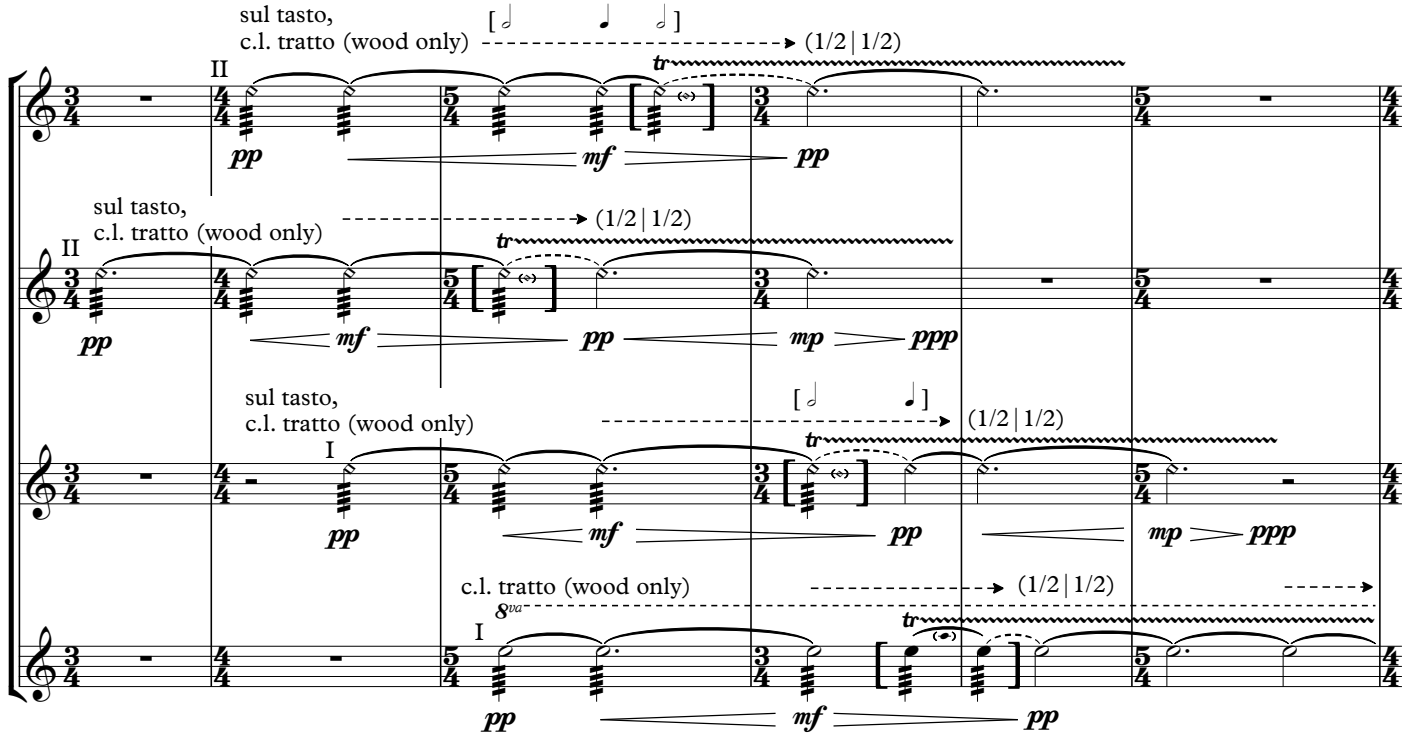

49
(arco)
pizz.
arco

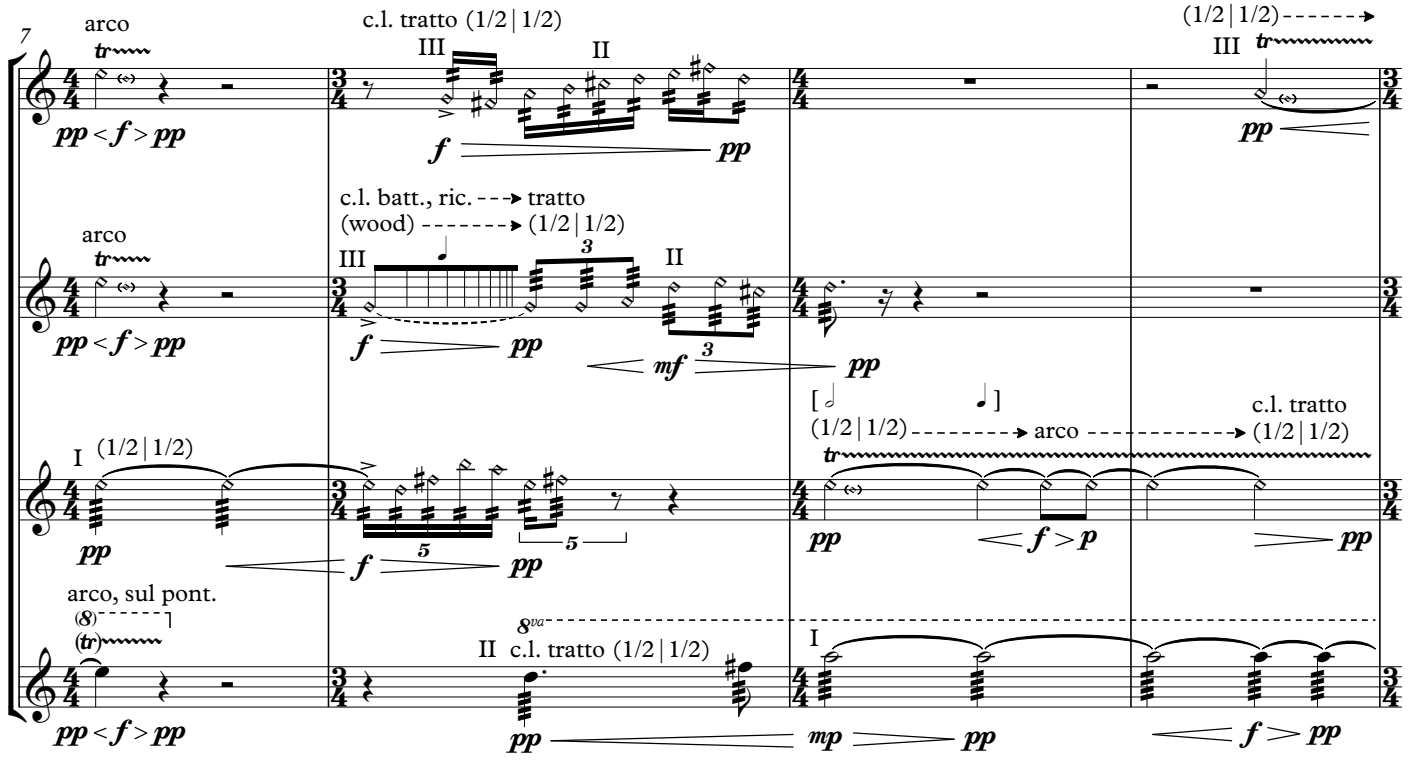
VII. Branches in winter

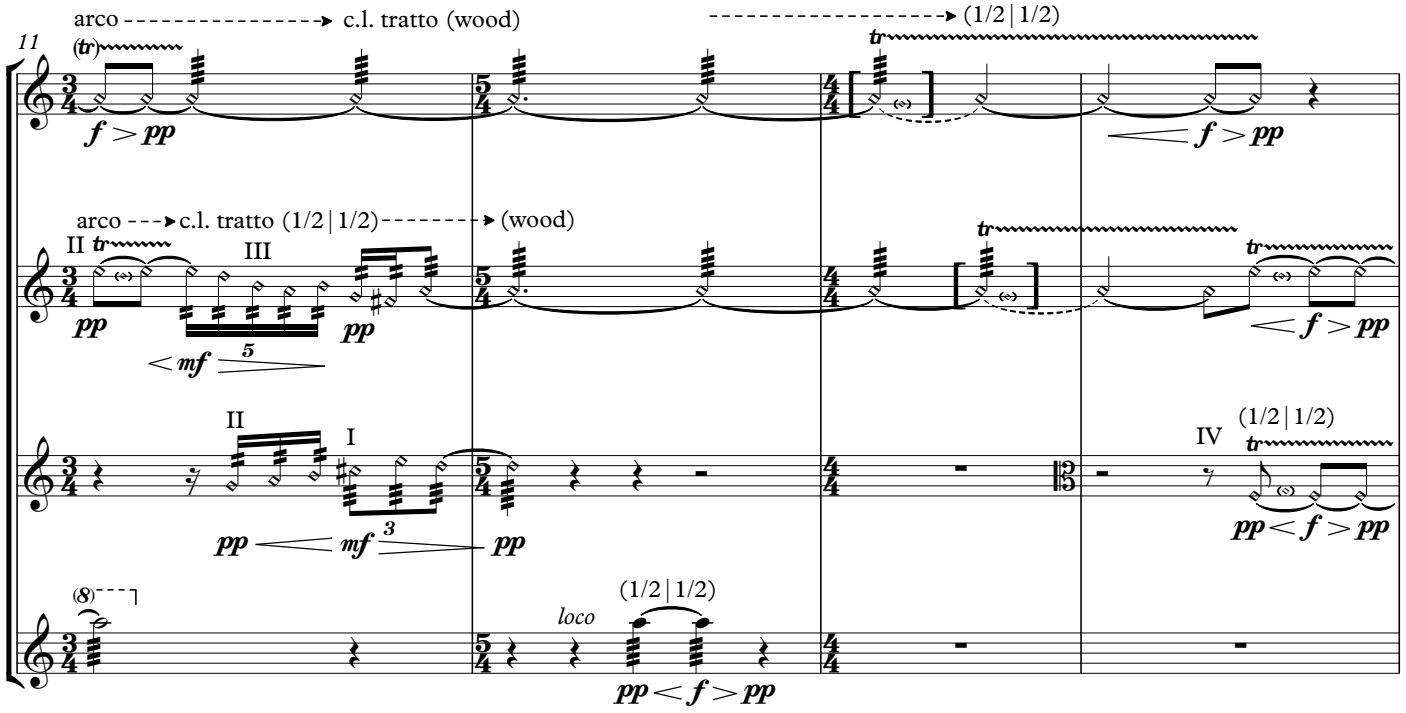
for Ari Streisfeld

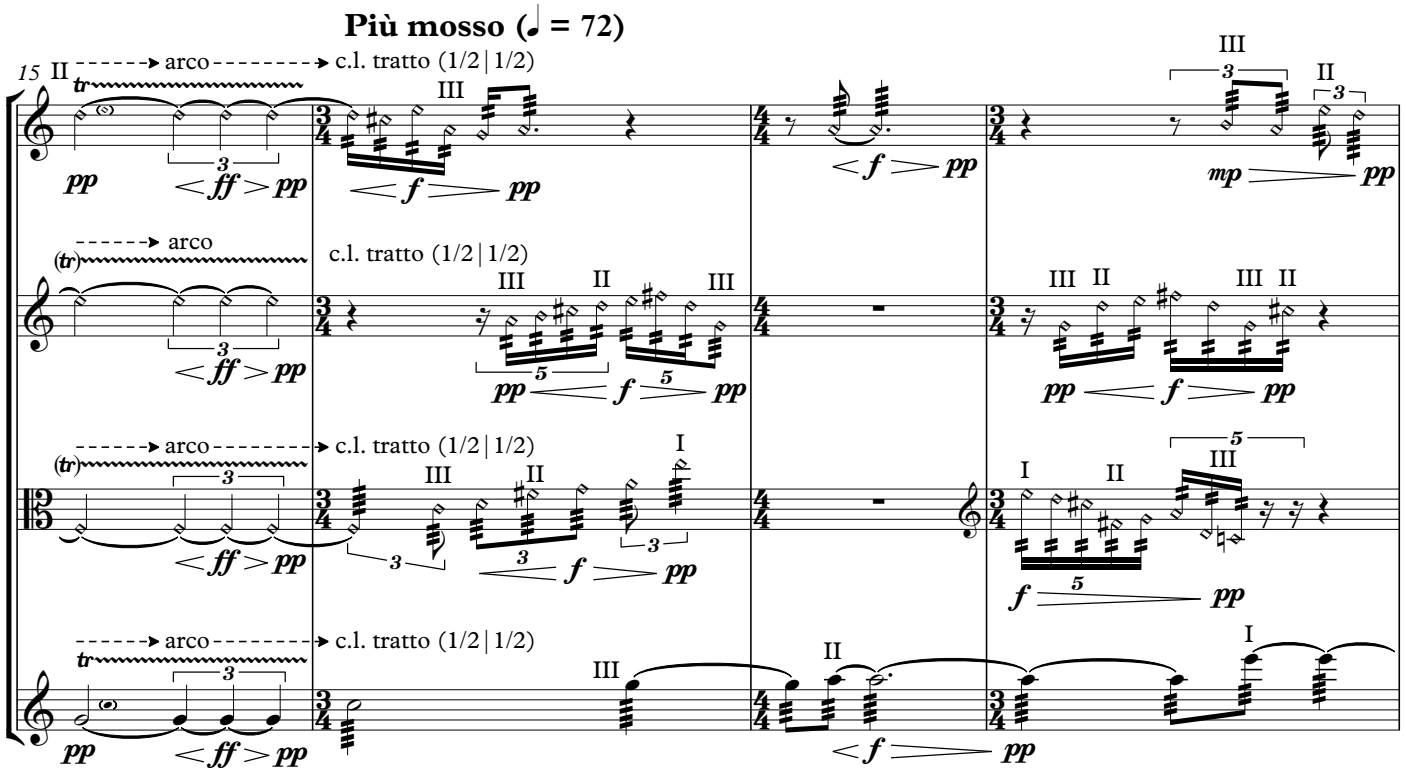
♩ = 60

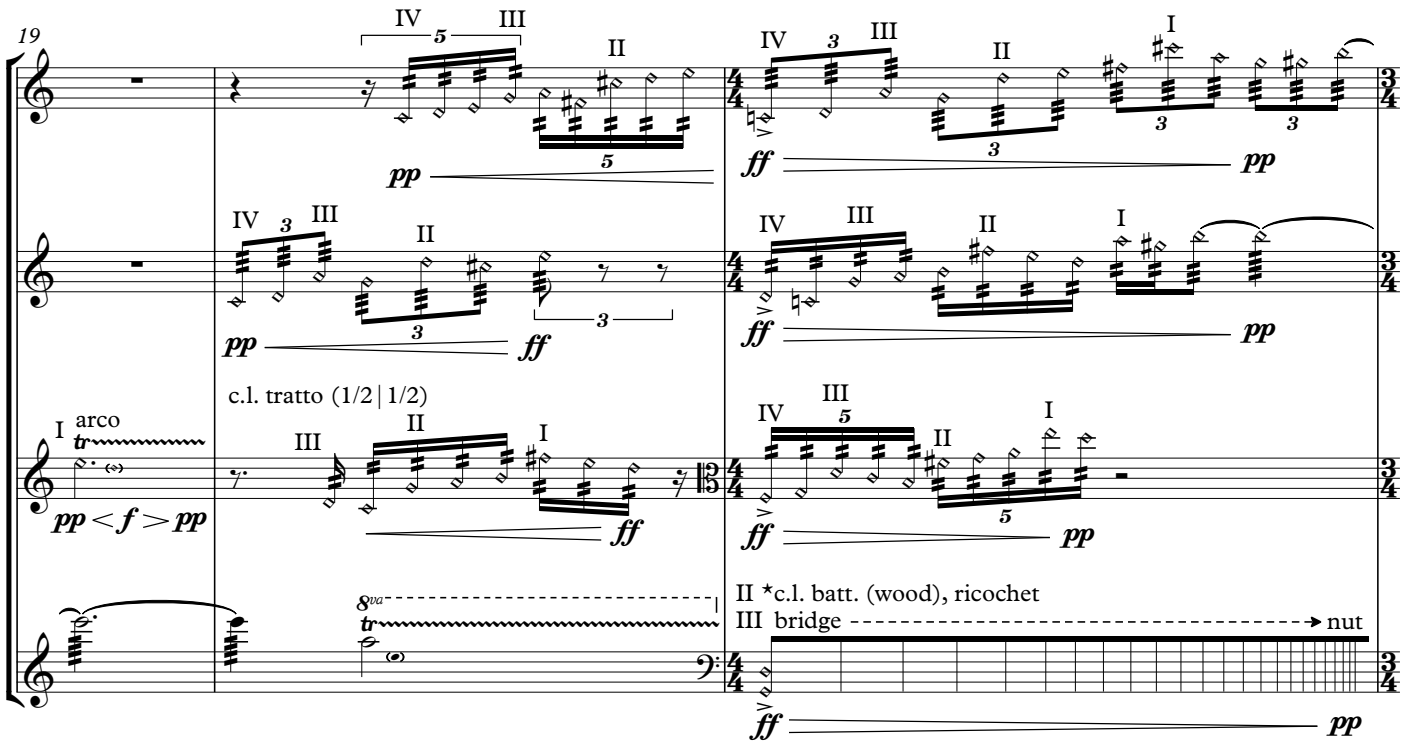
All instruments, A string tuned down to A♭ (score transposed).



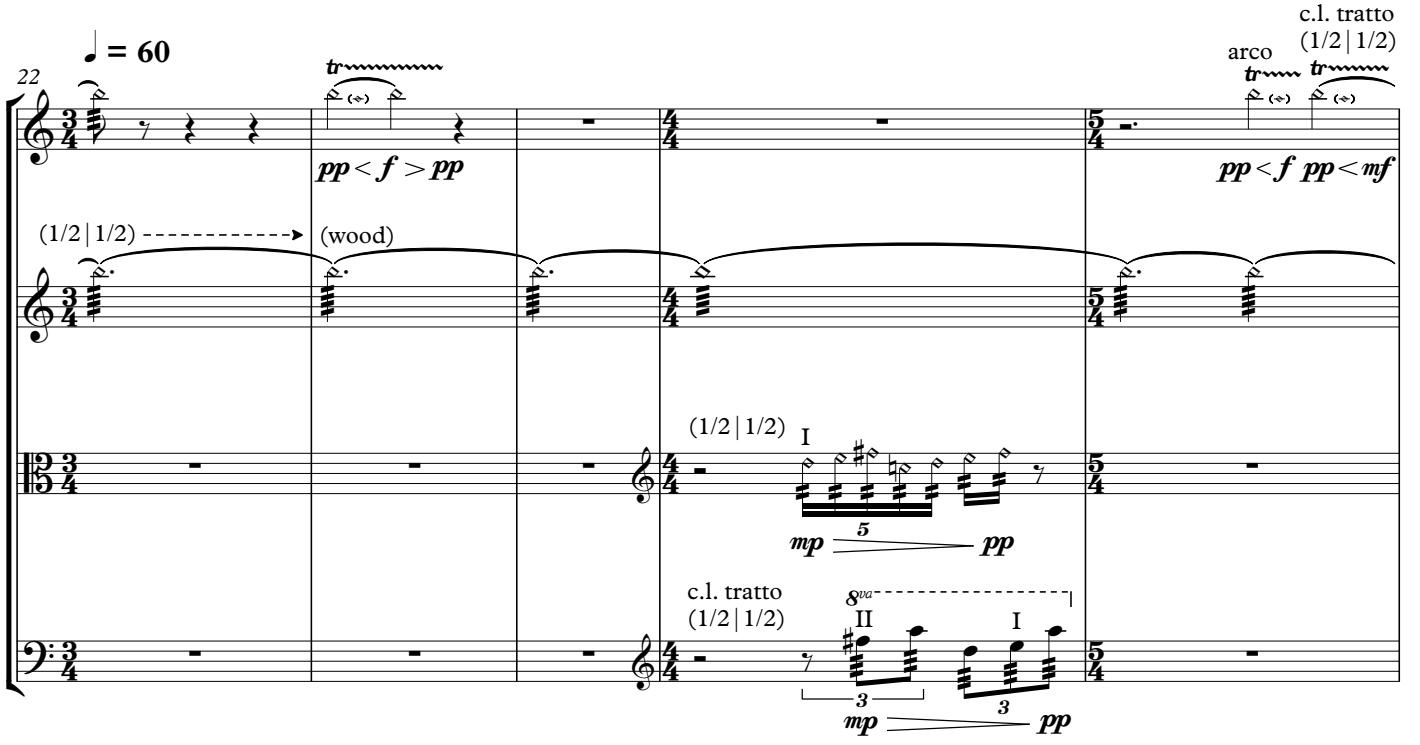


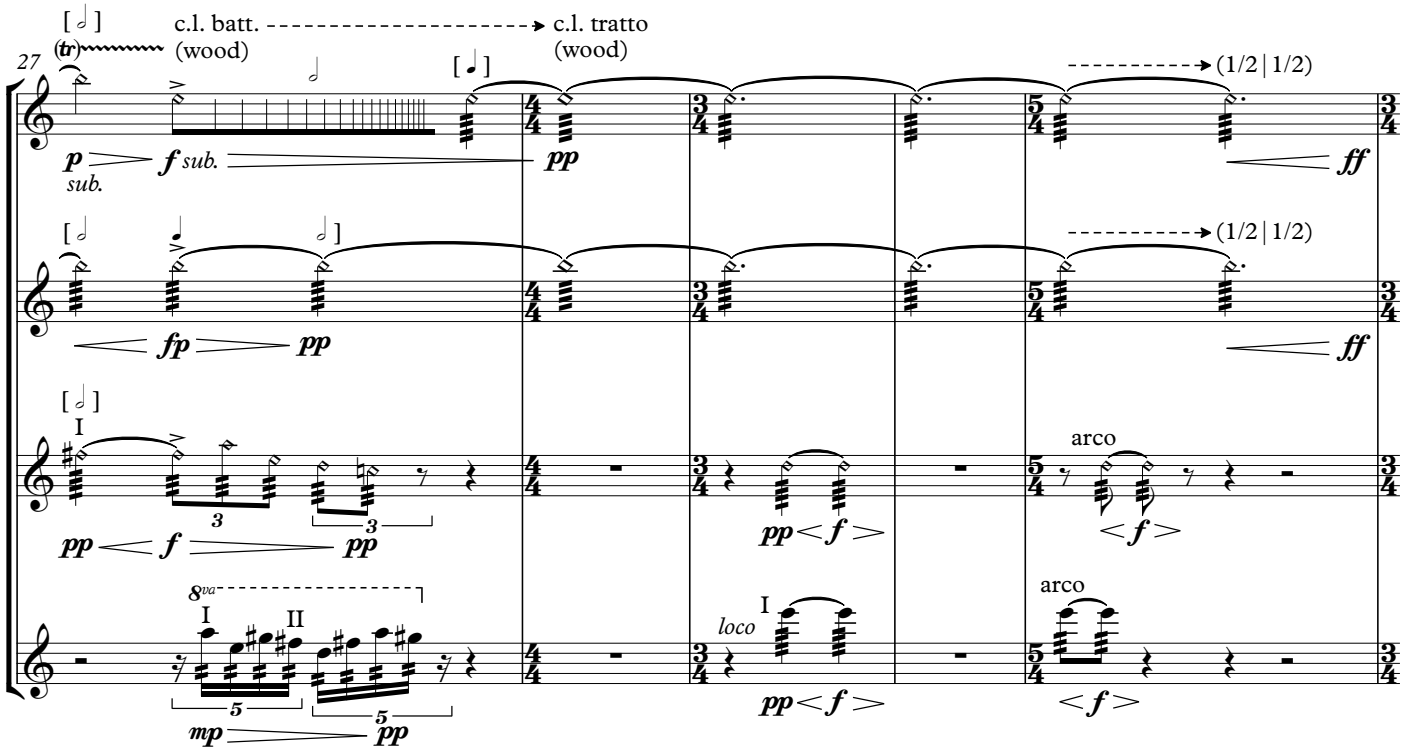

11
arco
c.l. tratto (wood)
(1/2|1/2)
arco
c.l. tratto (1/2|1/2)
(wood)
loco
(1/2|1/2)

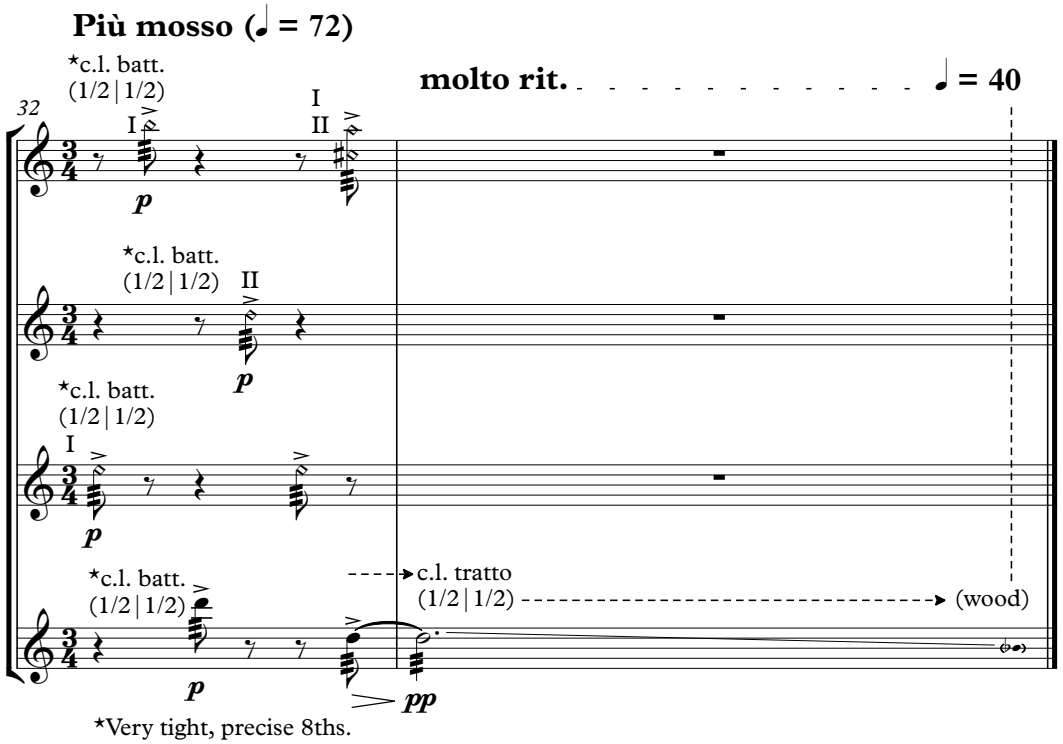

Più mosso (♩ = 72)
15
arco
c.l. tratto (1/2|1/2)



* Dampen strings II and III; be sure to control the speed of the bounces carefully from very slow to moderately fast; as bow bounces, slowly slide bow up along strings from bridge to nut to produce a subtle glissando effect.







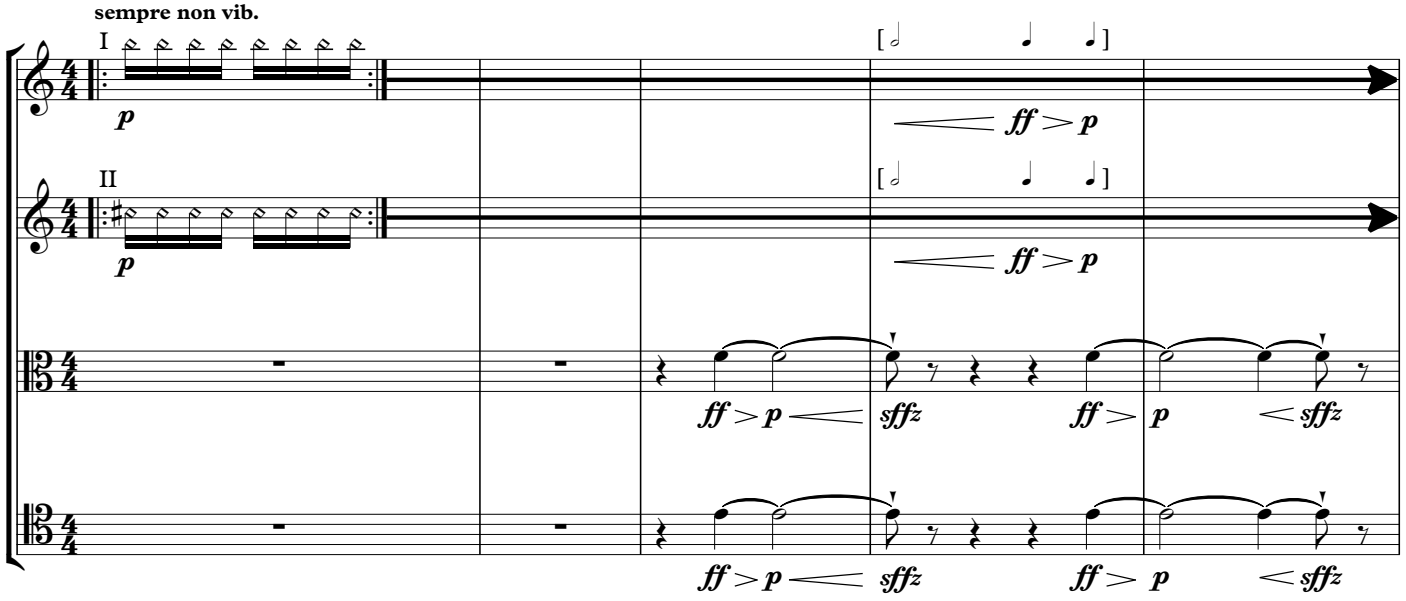
All players, retune A string to A♮.

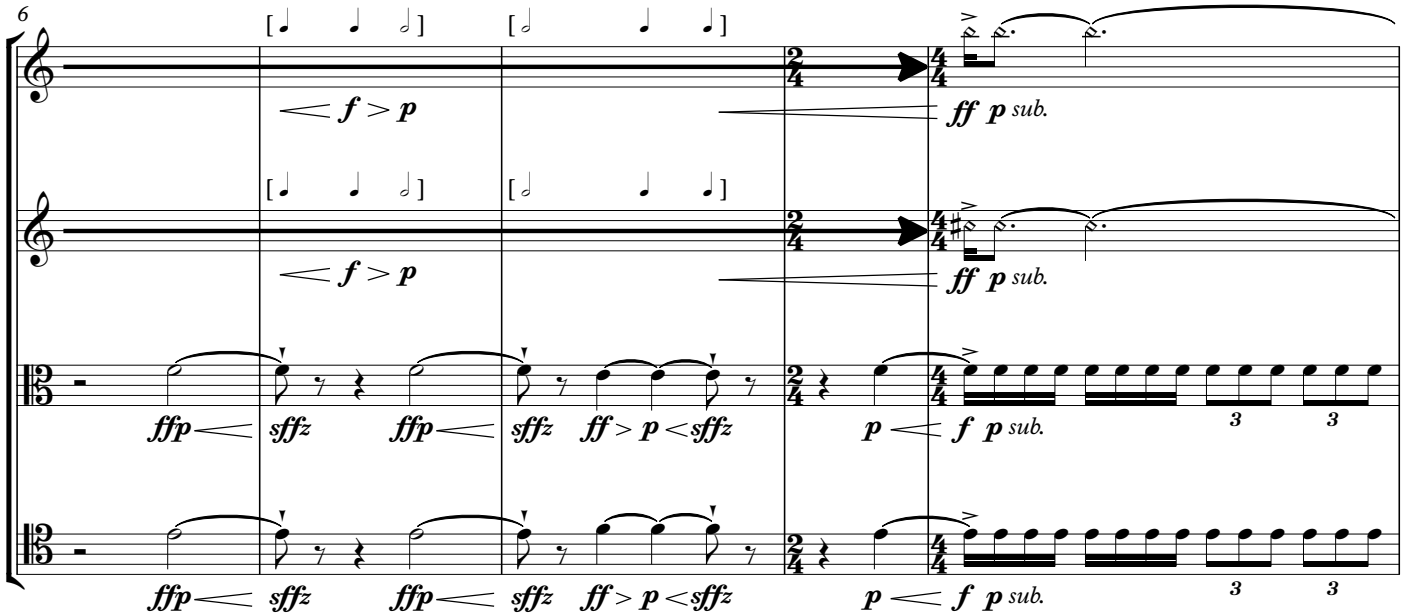
VIII. Velos

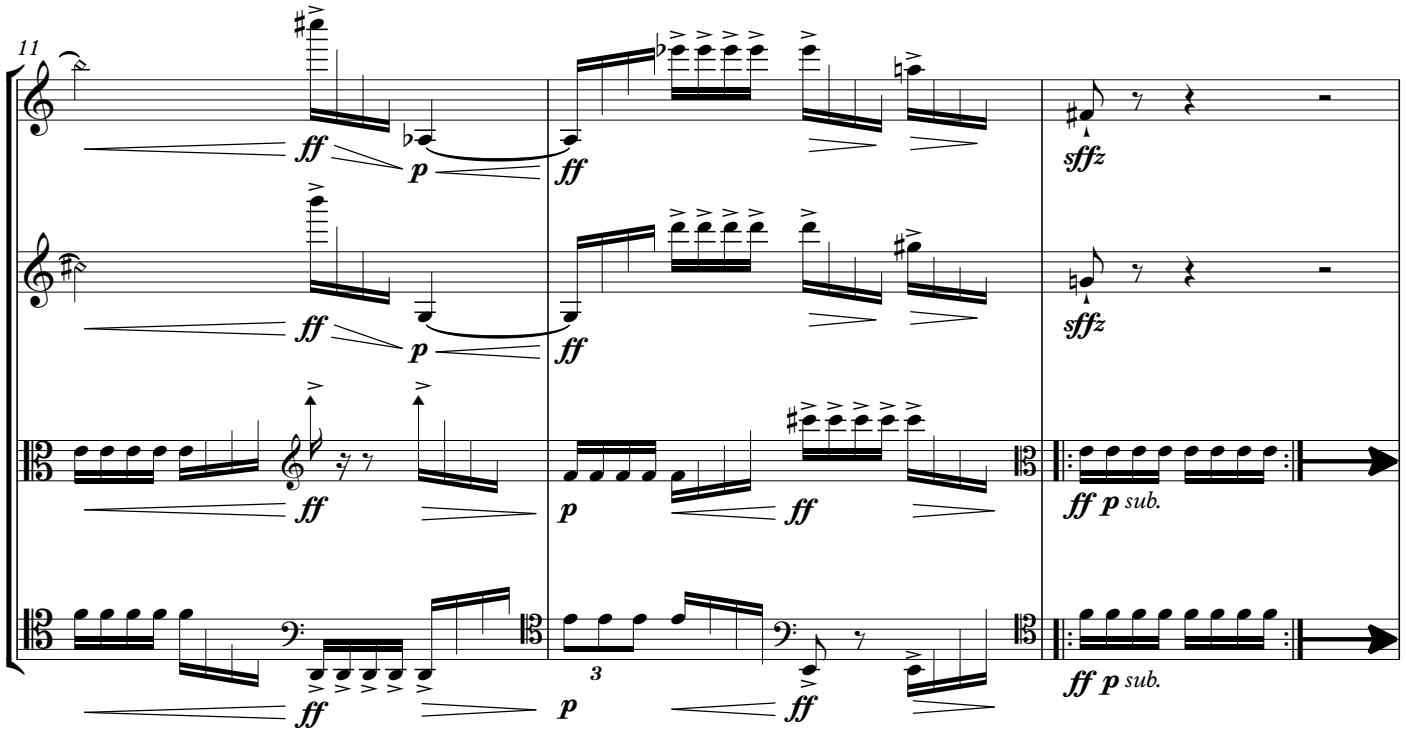
for Chris Otto

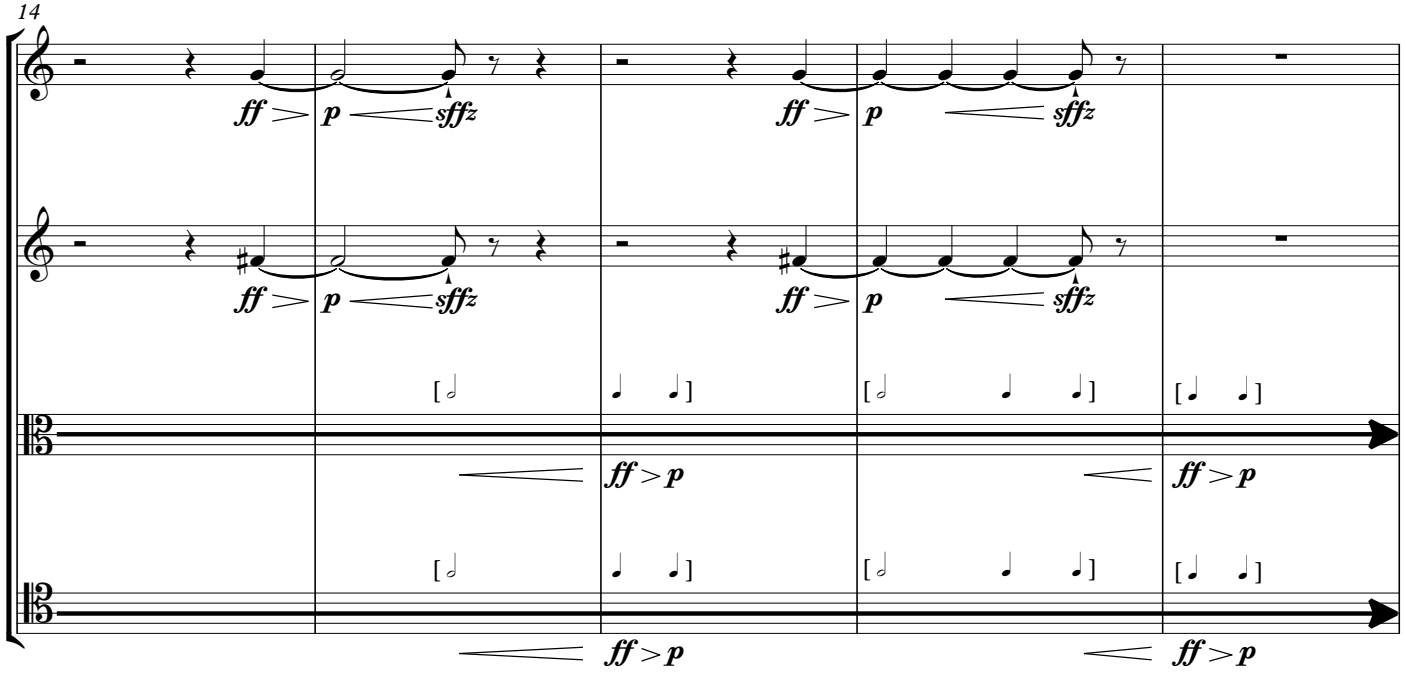
Precipitato (♩ = 160)

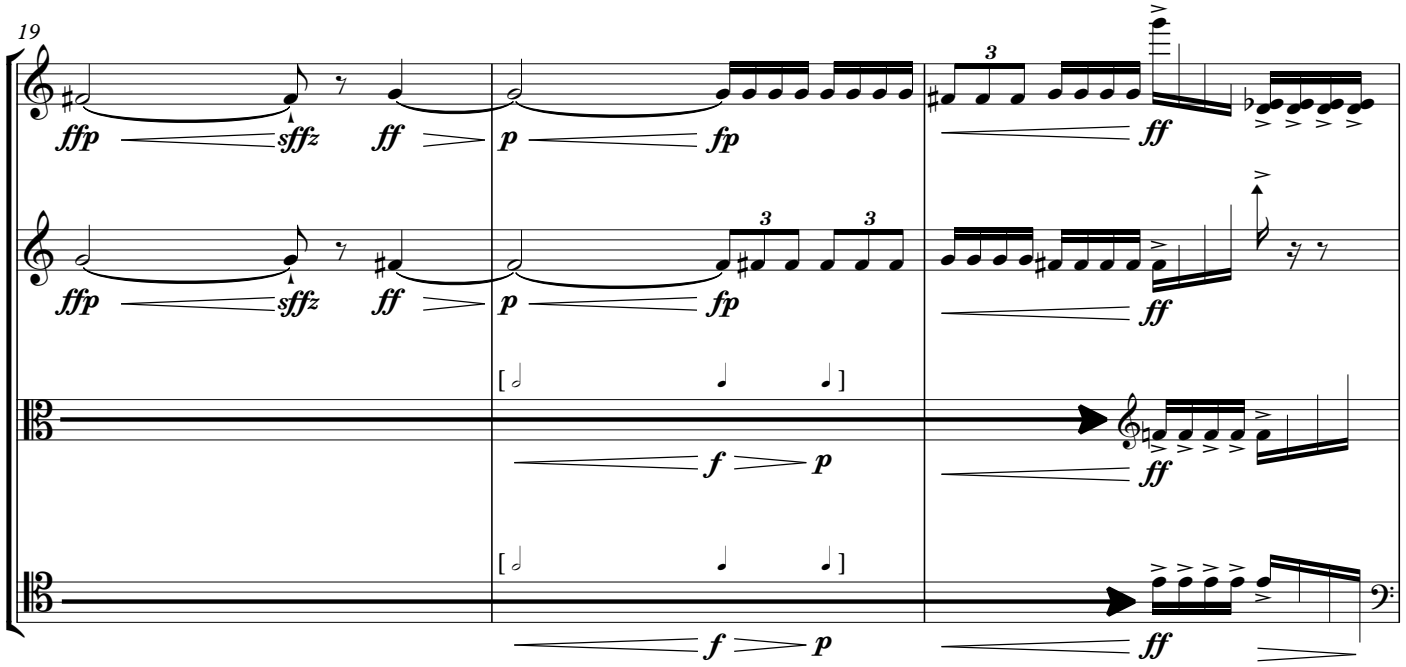
sempre non vib.

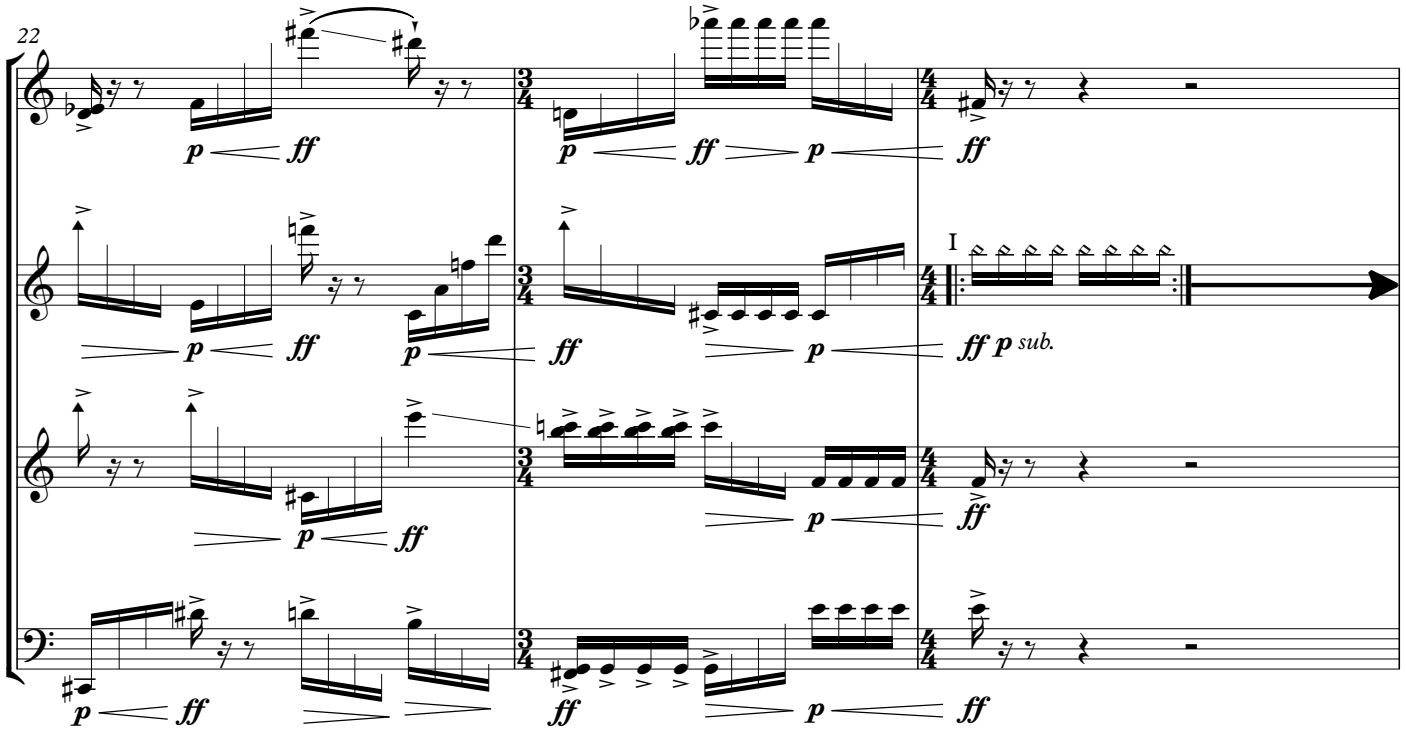


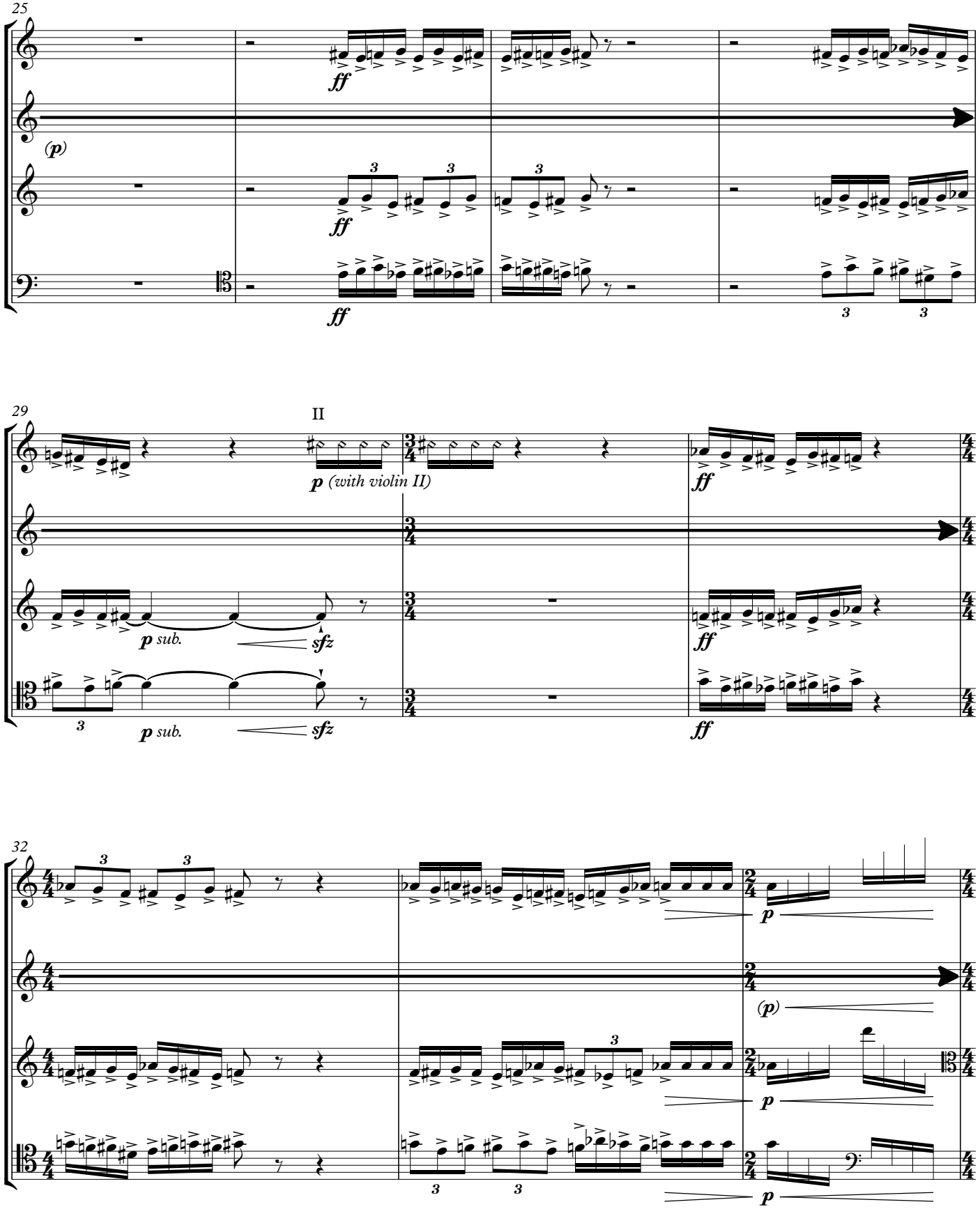


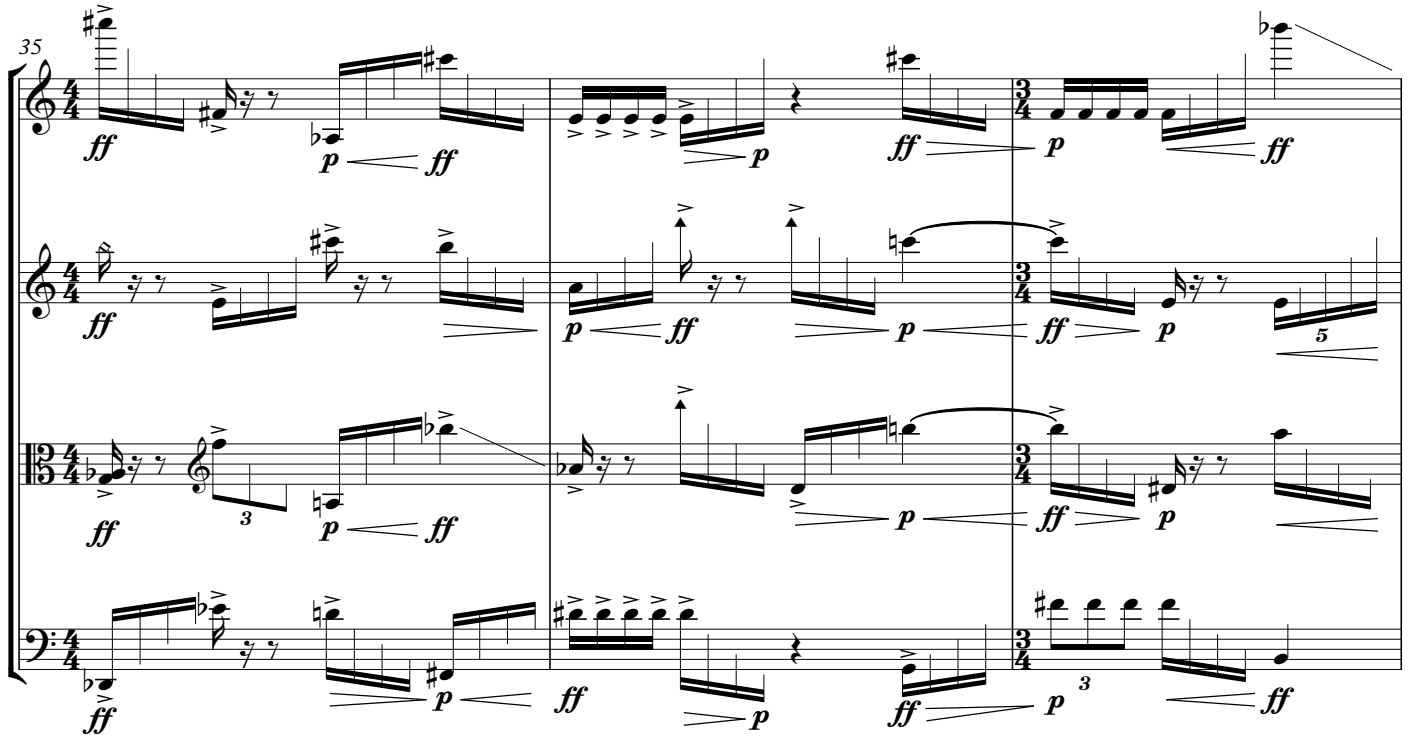

11
ff
p
ff
sffz
ff
p
ff
sffz
ff
p
ff
ff p sub.
ff
p
3
ff
ff p sub.

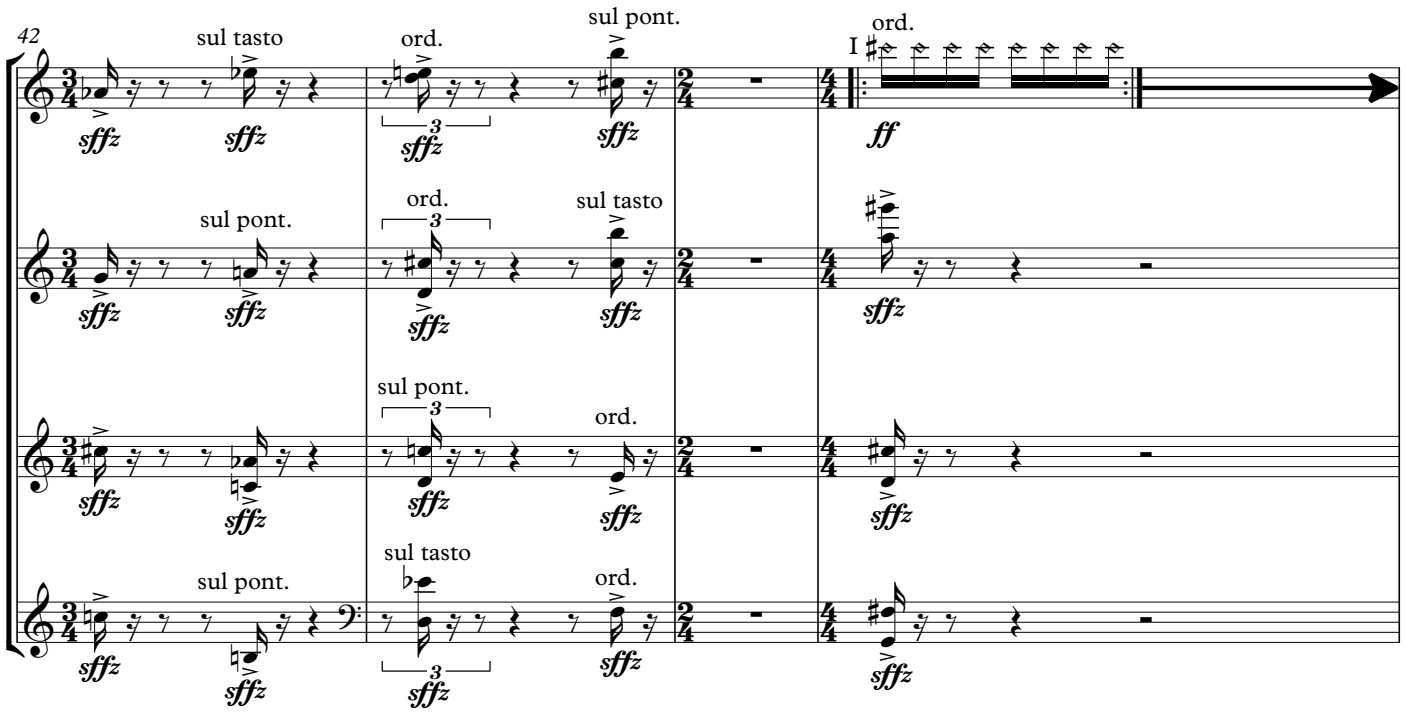

14
ff
p
sffz
ff
p
sffz
ff
p
sffz
ff
p
sffz
ff > p
ff > p
ff > p
ff > p

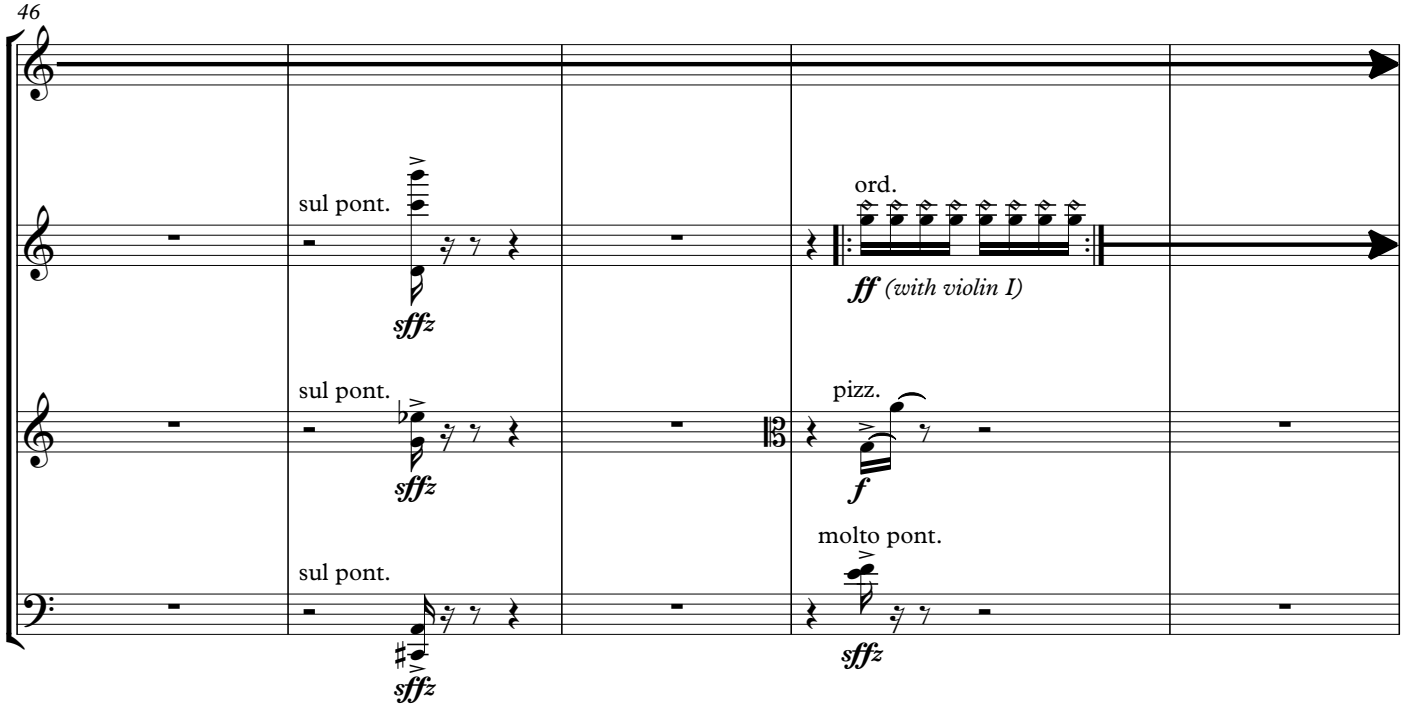

19
ffp
sffz
ff
p
fp
3
ff
f
p
ff

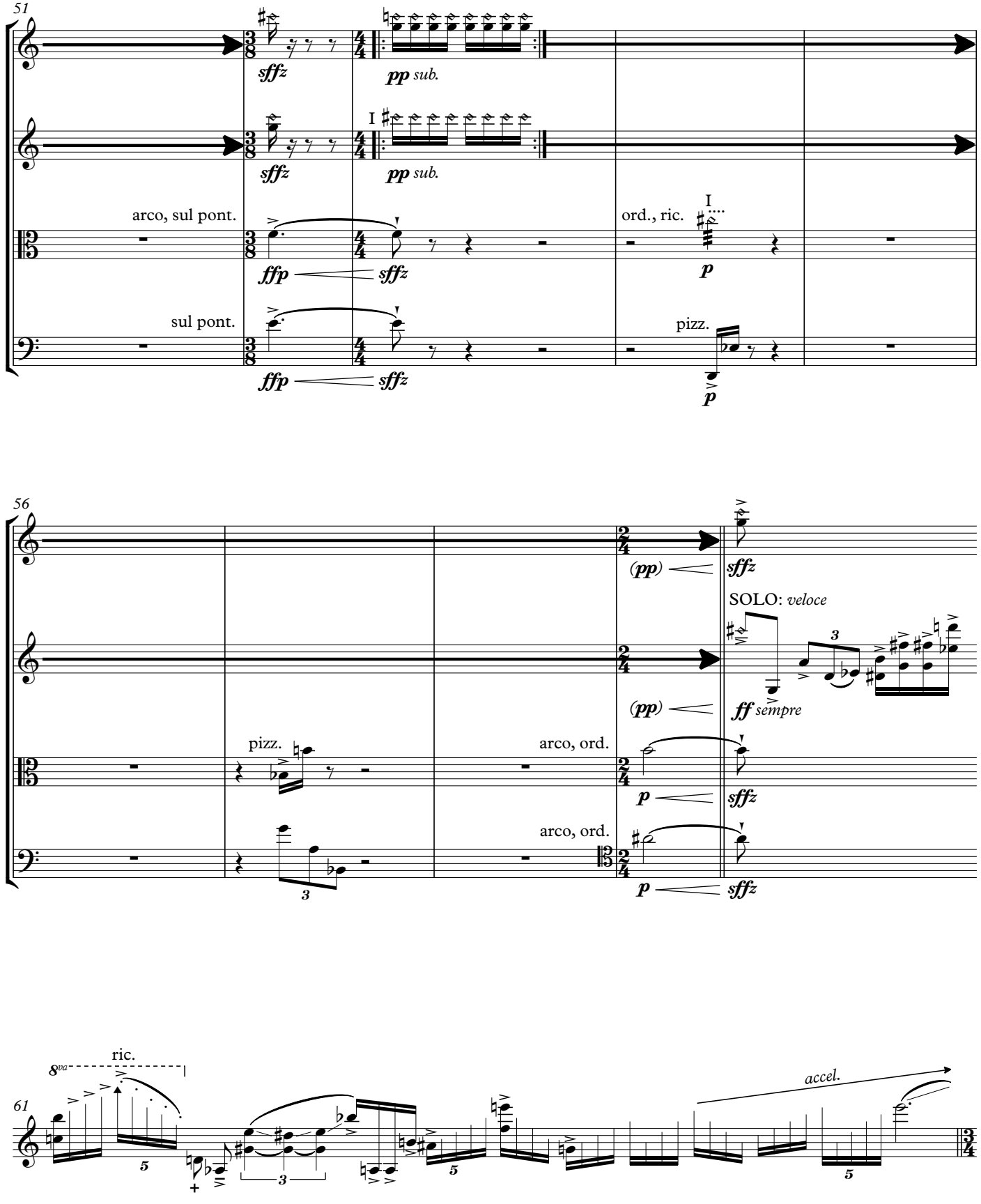

22
p
ff
I
ff p sub.

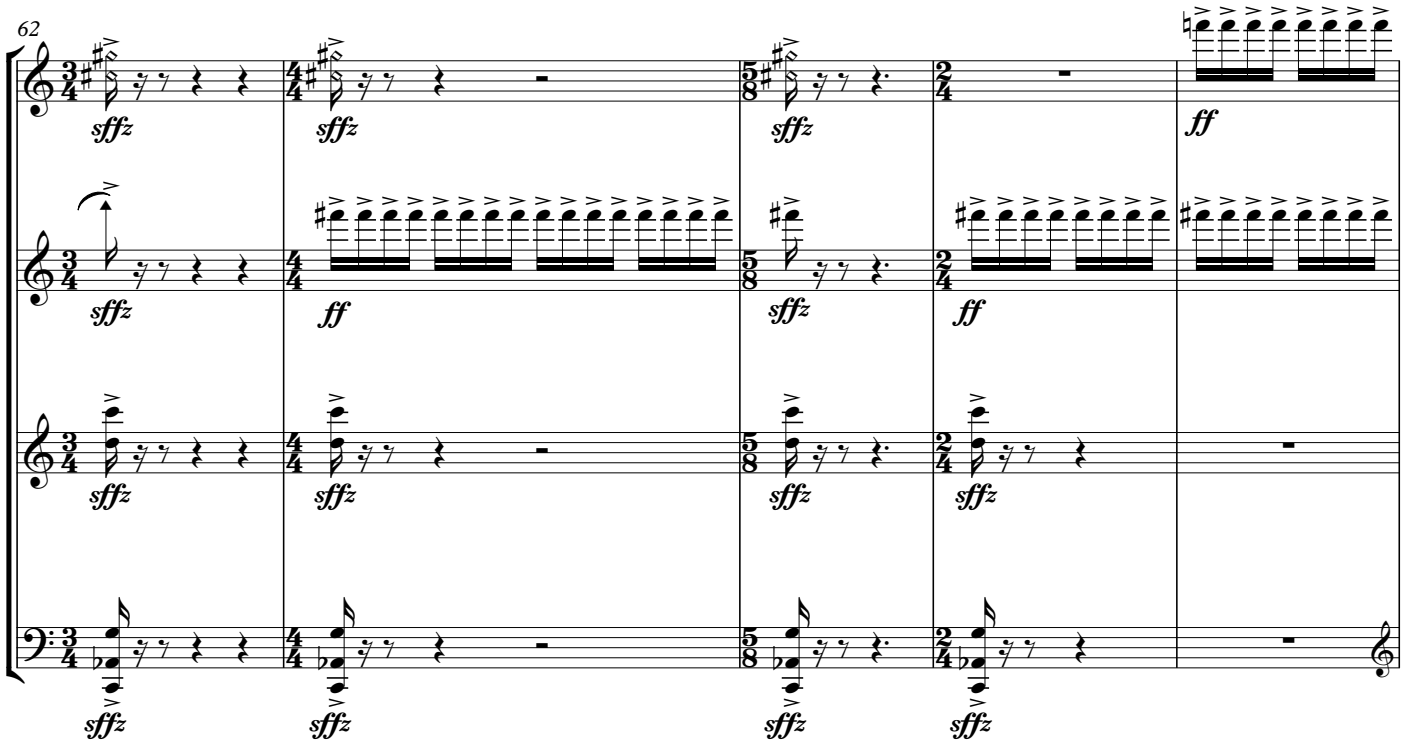

25
(p)
ff
ff
ff
29
II
p (with violin II)
ff
p sub.
sfz
p sub.
sfz
ff
ff
32
p
(p)
p
p

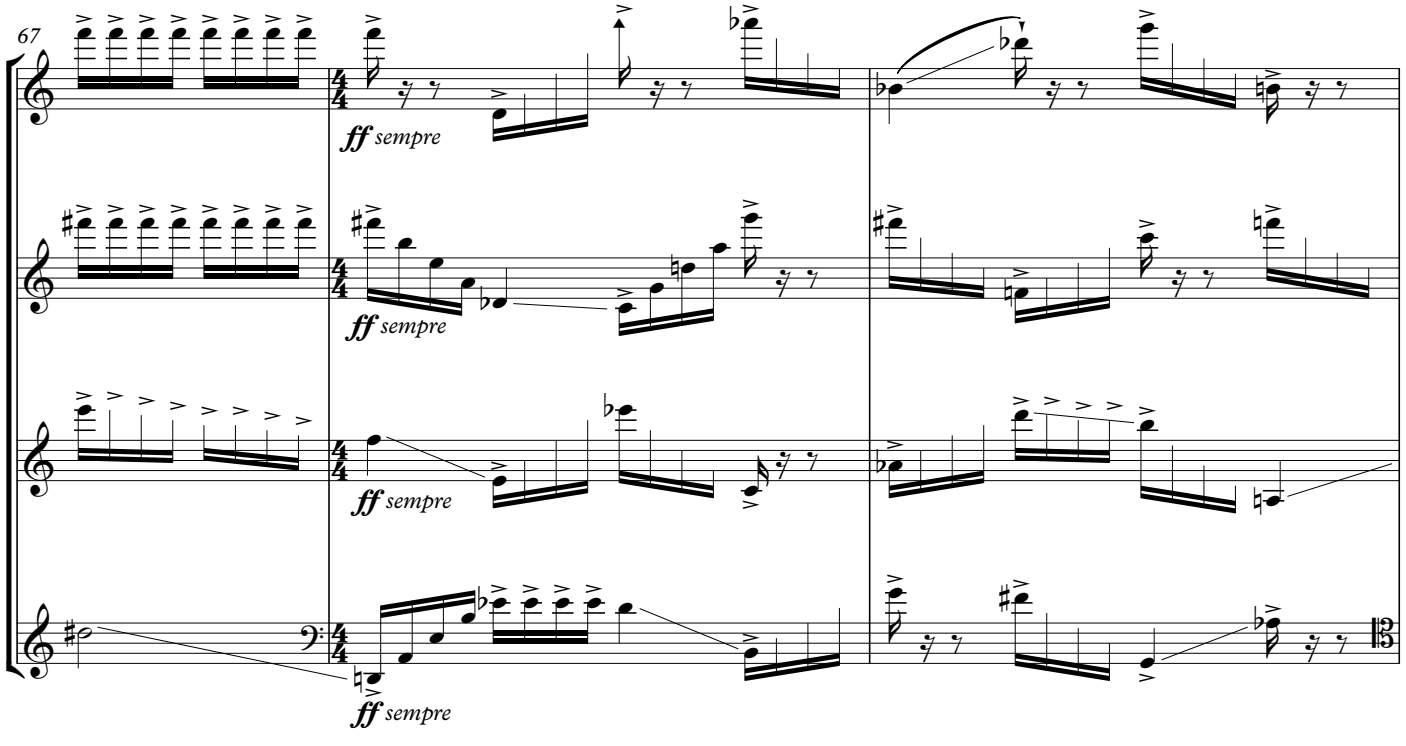

35
ff
p
ff
p
ff
p

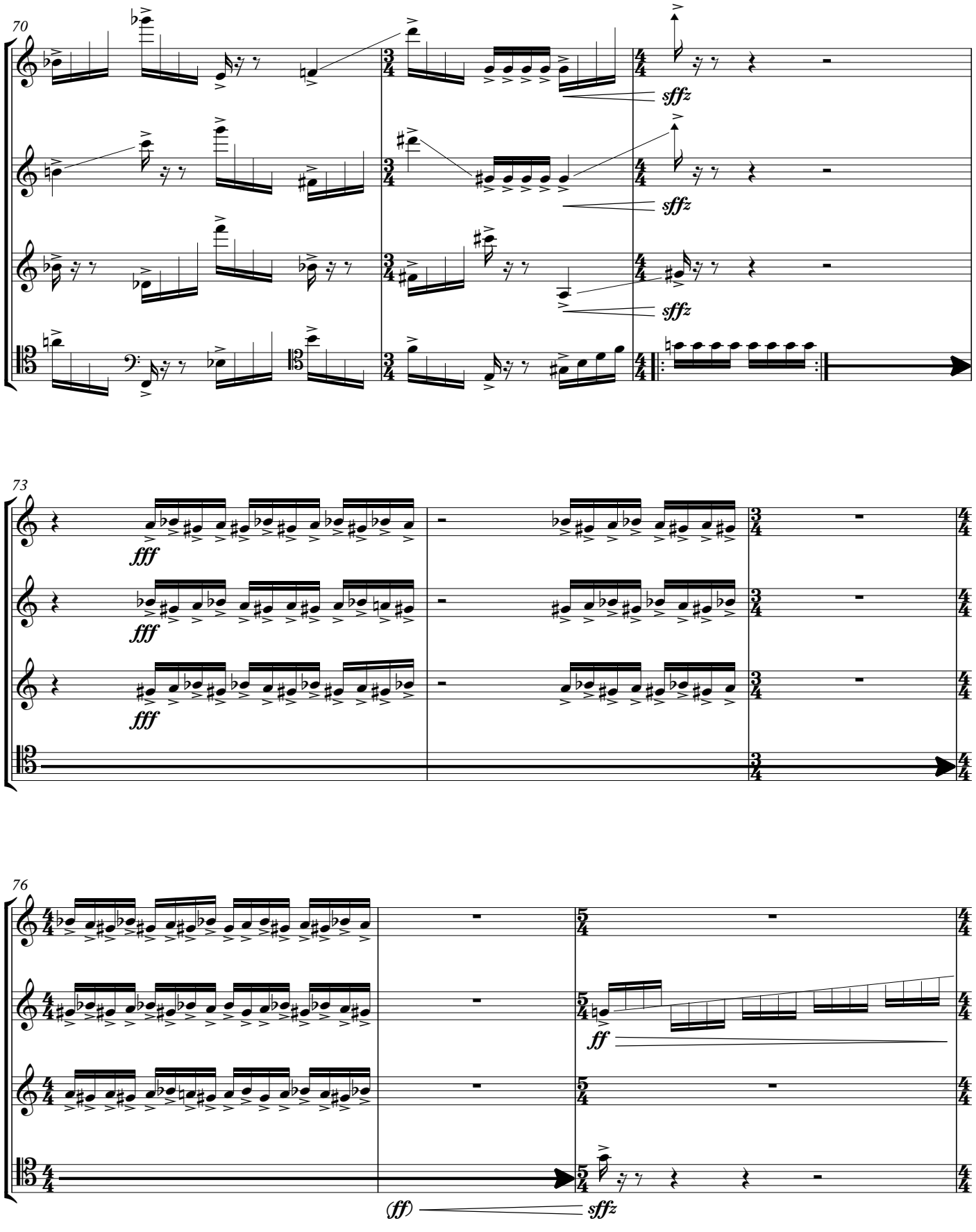

42
sul tasto
ord.
sul pont.
I
ord.
sul pont.
ord.
sul tasto
sul pont.
ord.
sul pont.
sul tasto
ord.
sul pont.
ff
sffz

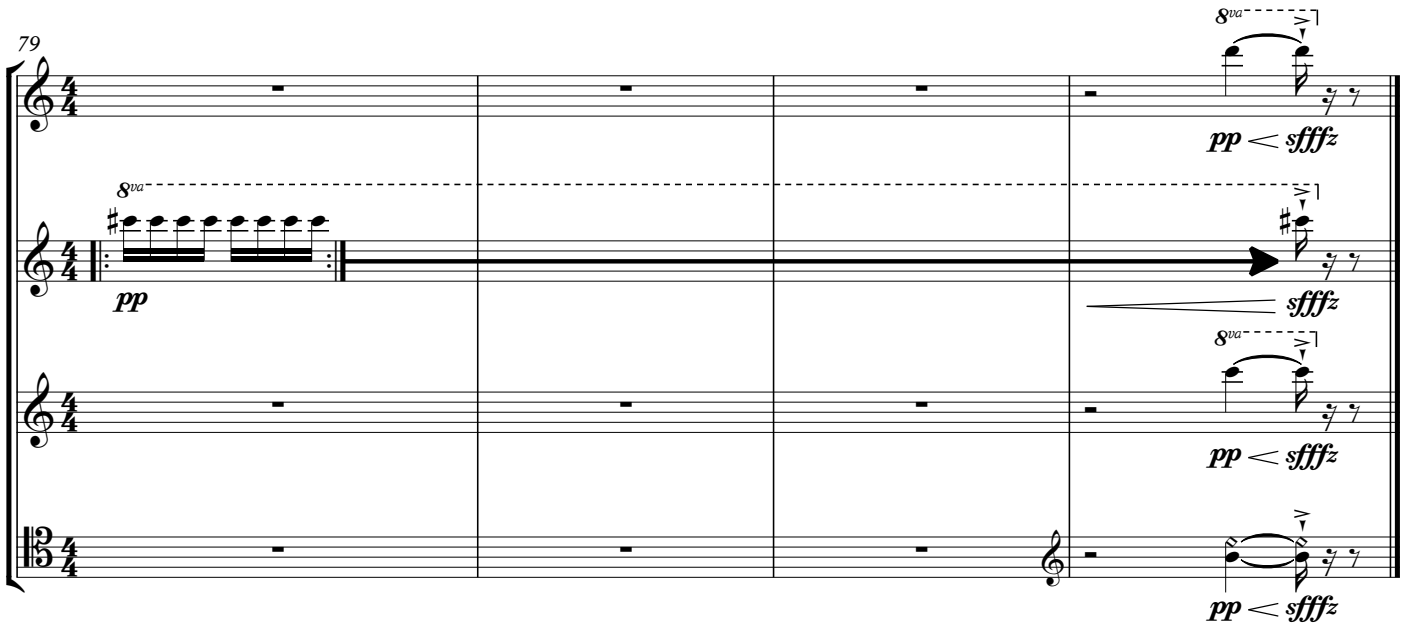

46
sul pont.
ord.
ff (with violin I)
sul pont.
pizz.
f
molto pont.
sul pont.
sffz


51
sffz
pp sub.
I
arco, sul pont.
ord., ric.
ffp
sffz
p
sul pont.
pizz.
56
(pp)
SOLO: veloce
ff sempre
arco, ord.
61
8va
ric.
accel.


62
sffz
ff


67
ff sempre

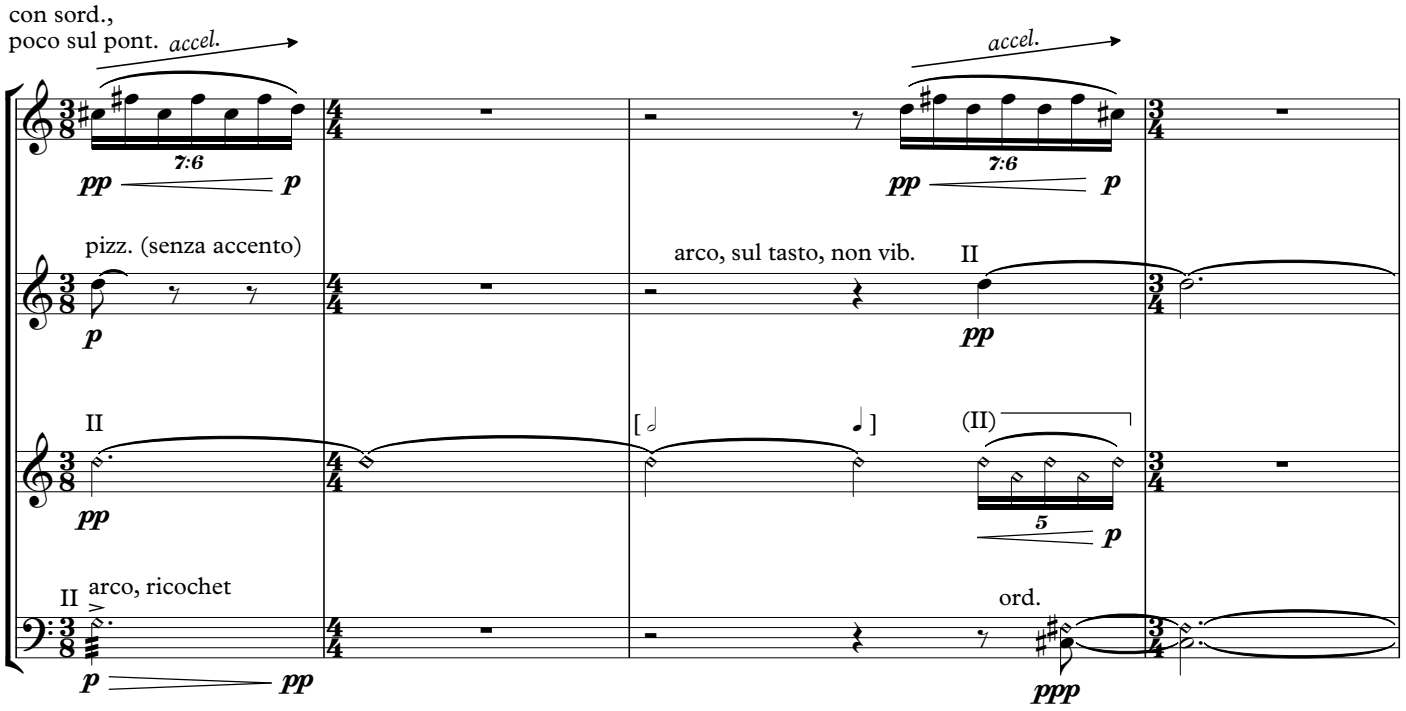

70
sffz
sffz
sffz
73
fff
fff
fff
76
ff
(ff)
sffz

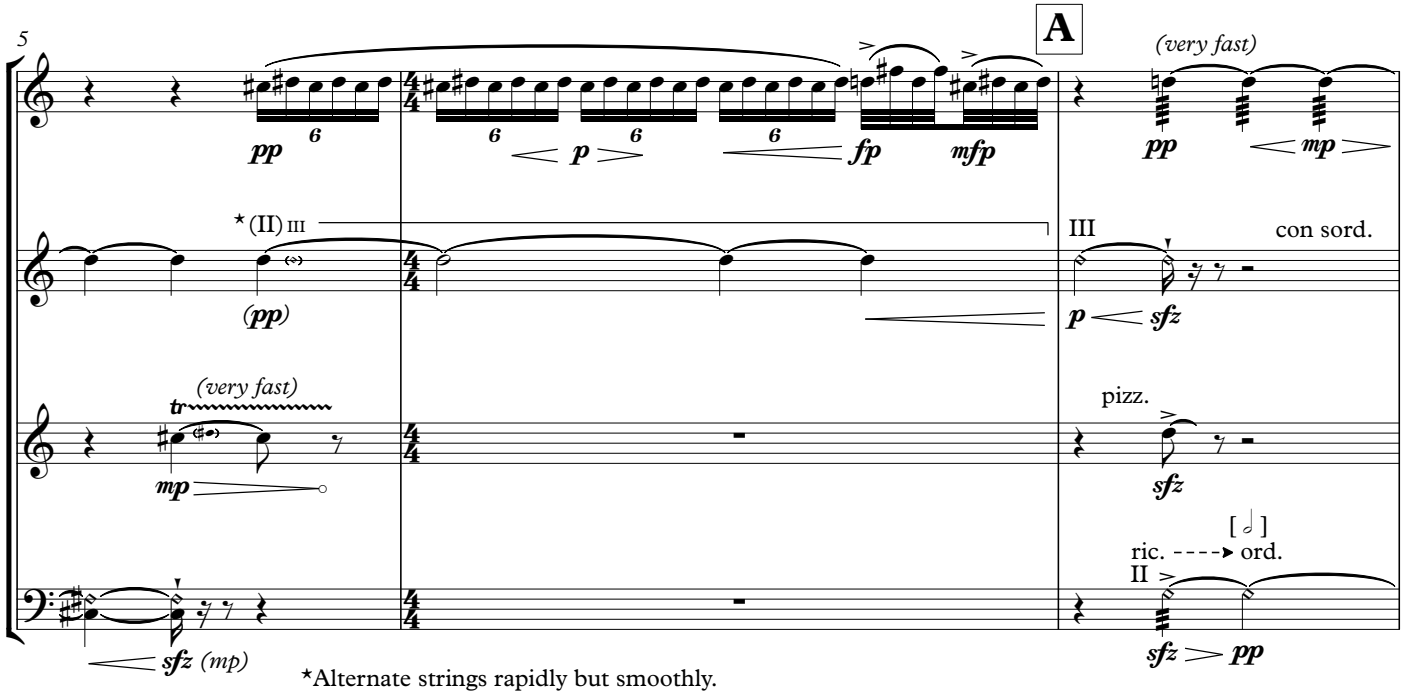

79
8va
pp
sfffz
pp < sfffz

IX. Fermata

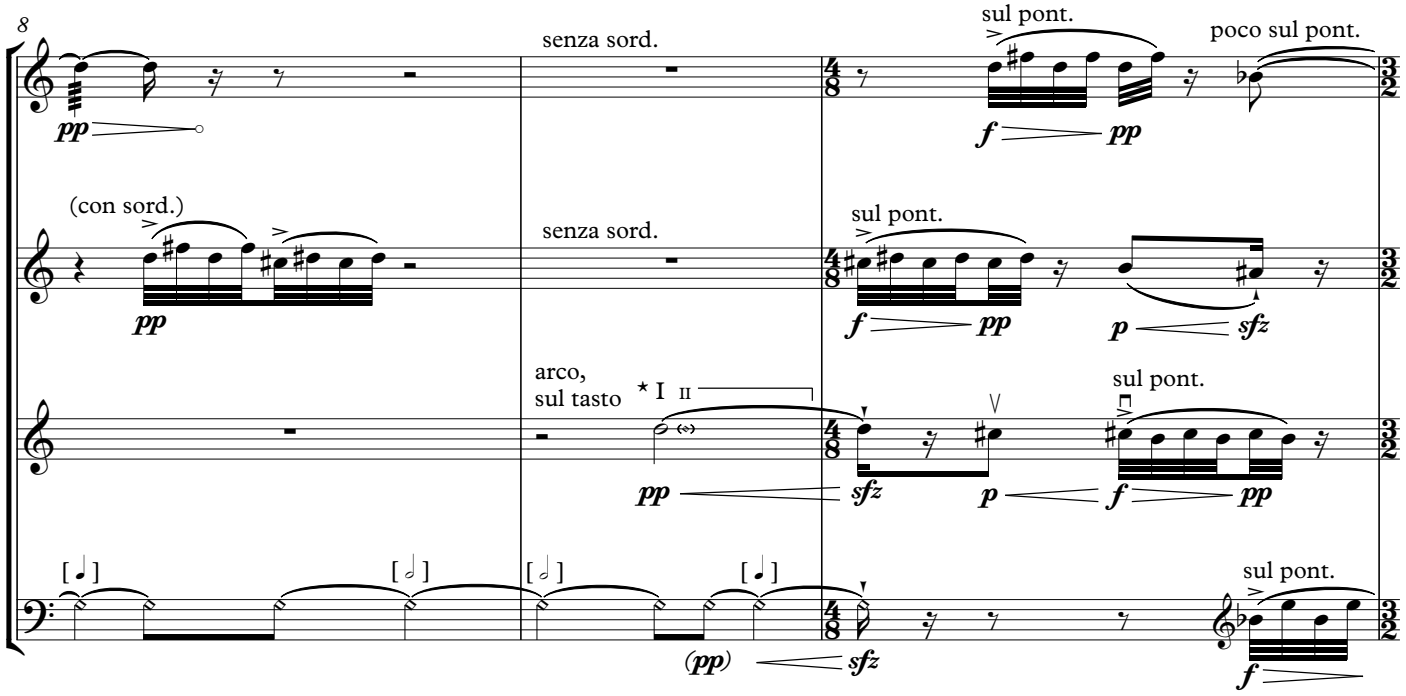
for Kevin MacFarland

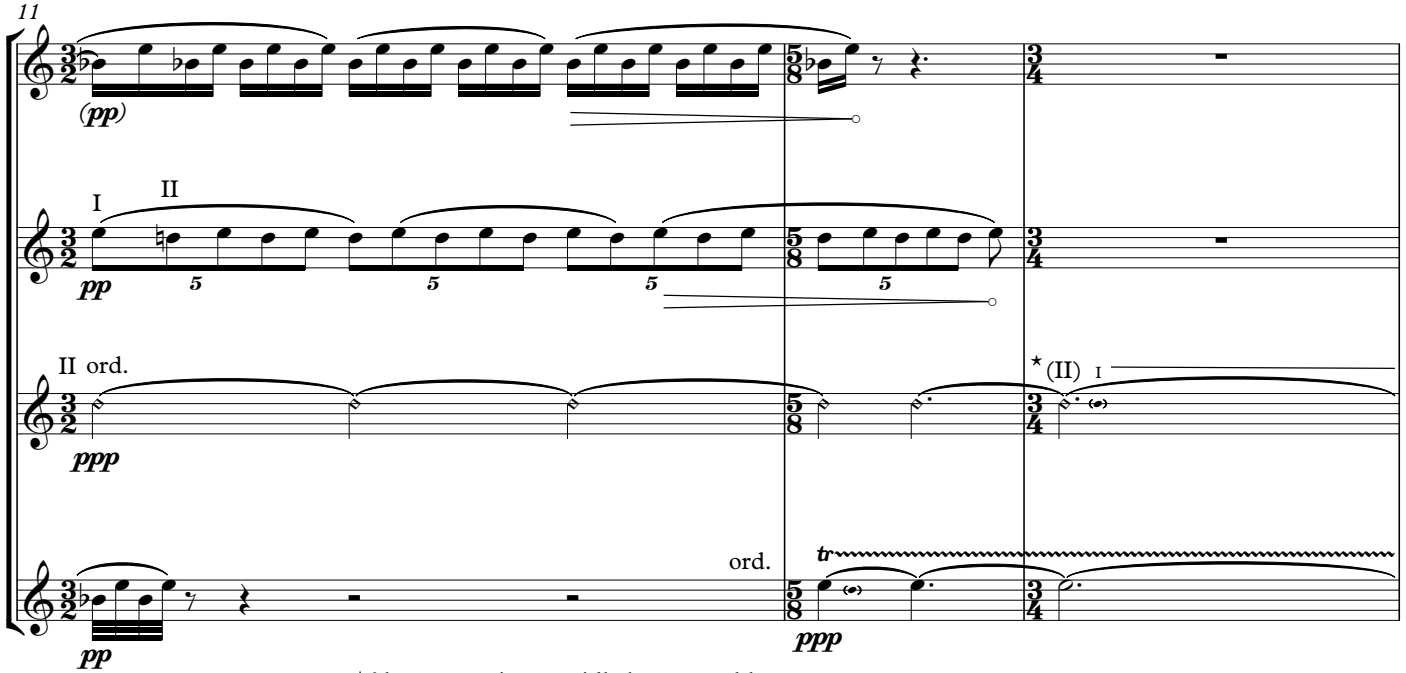
♩ = 80; ♪ = 160



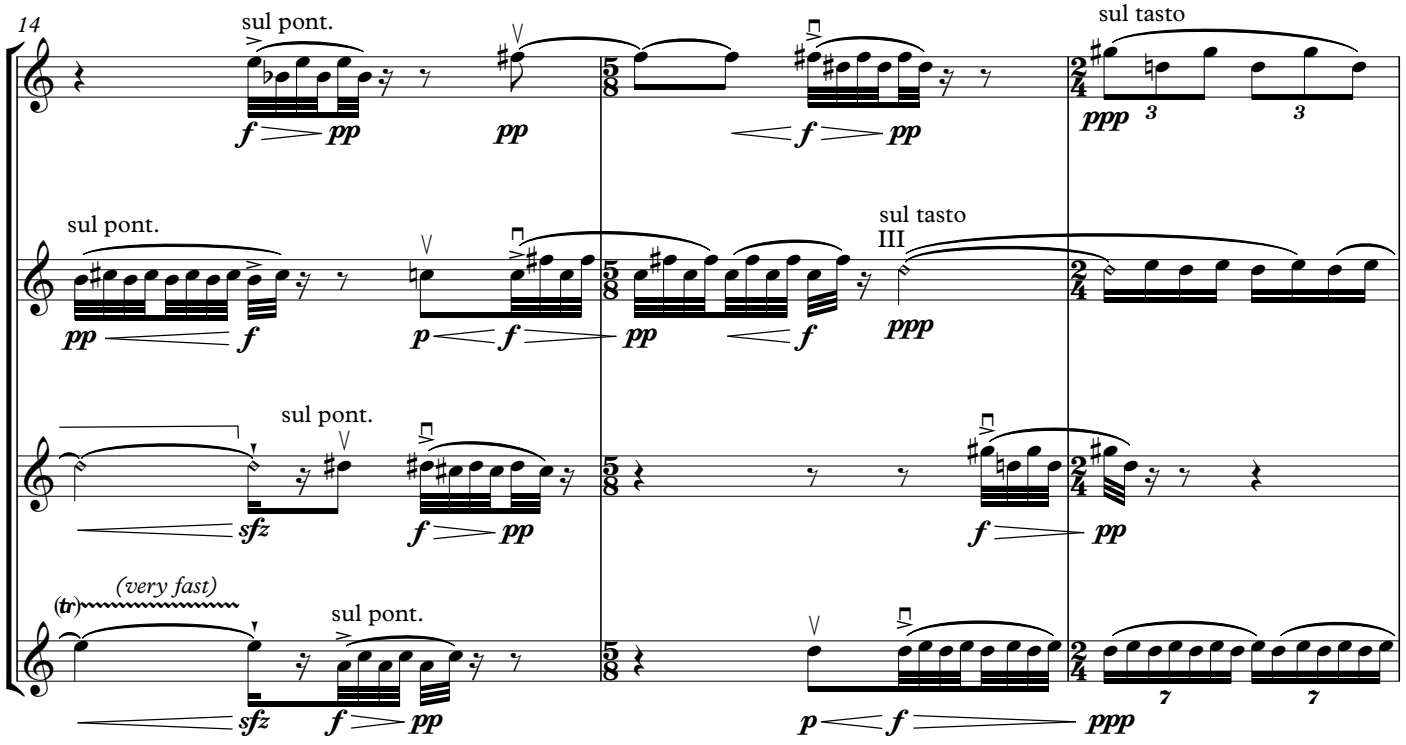


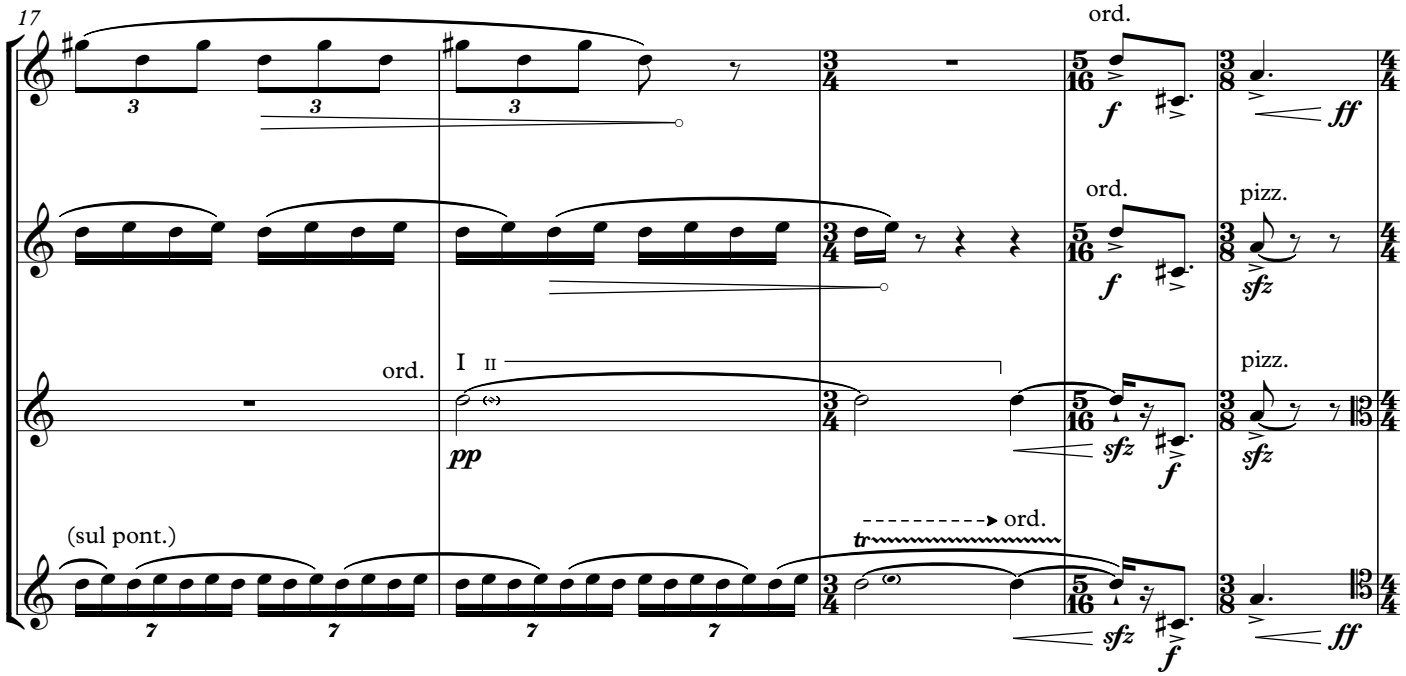
*Alternate strings rapidly but smoothly.

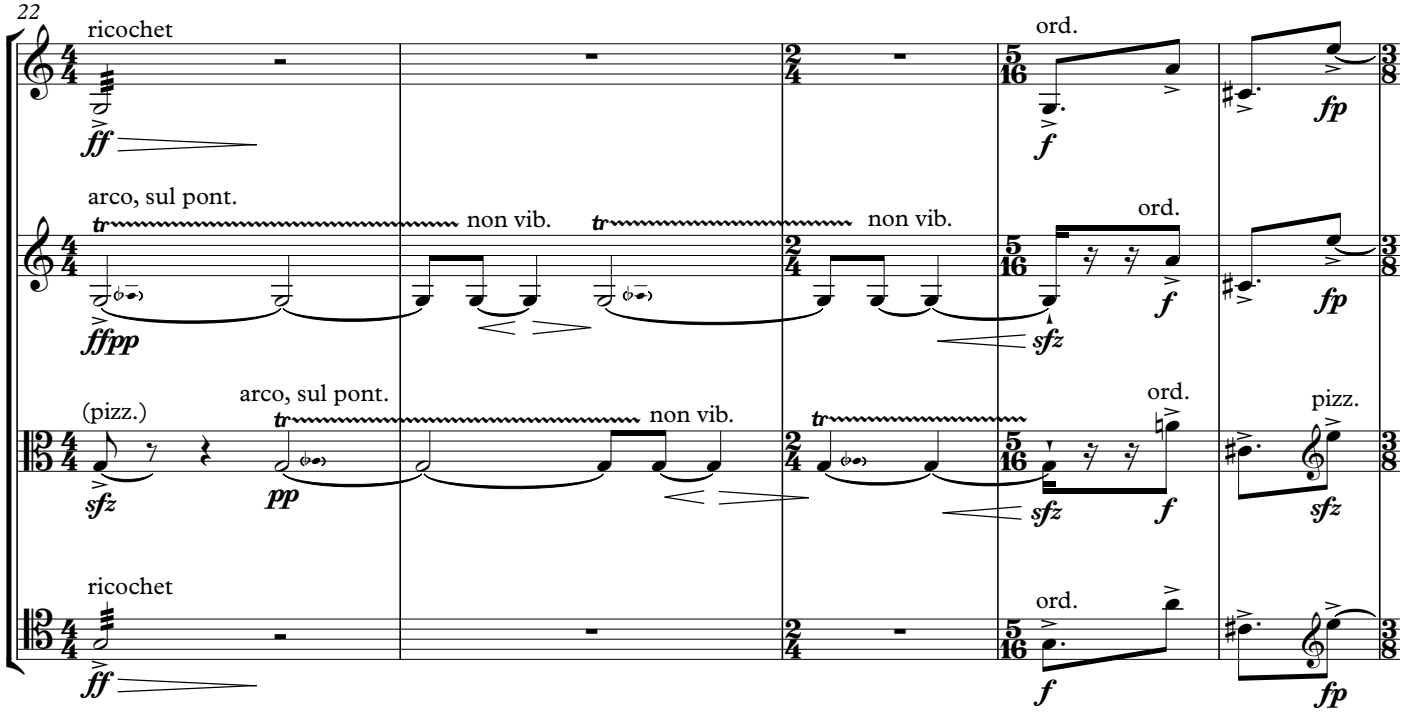


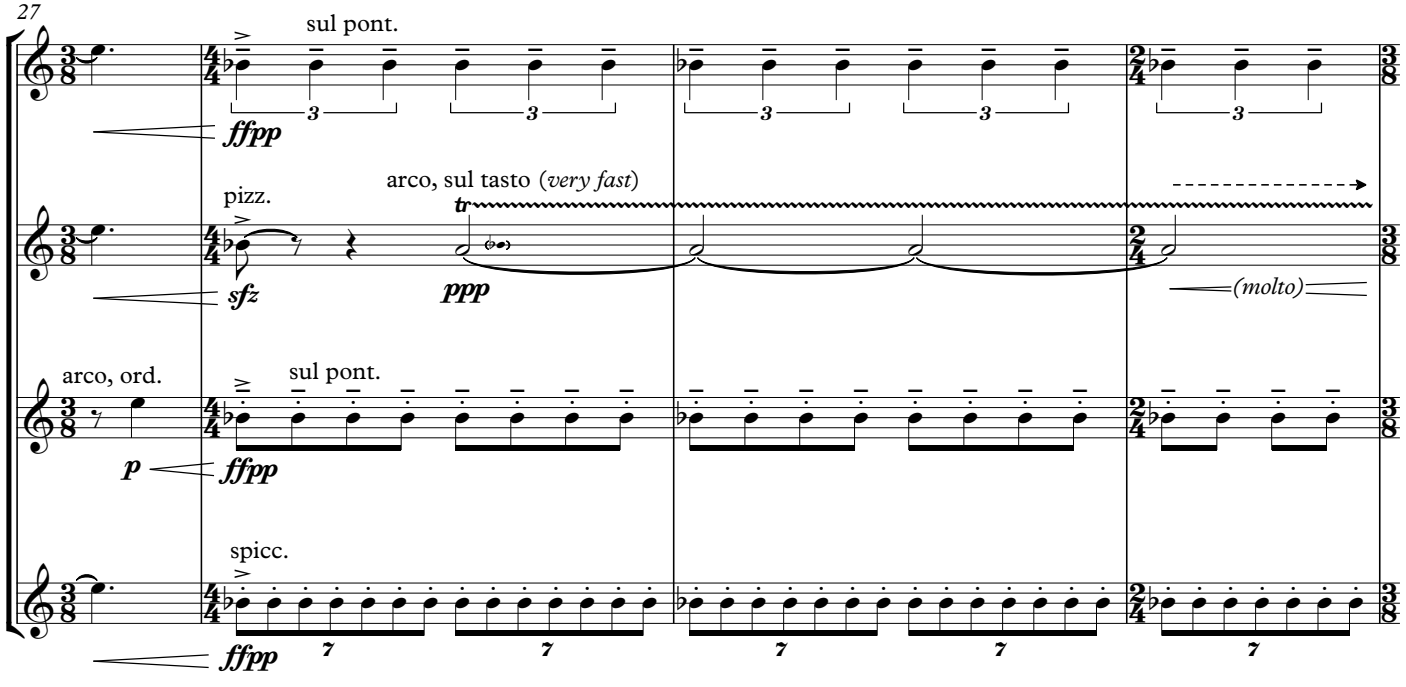


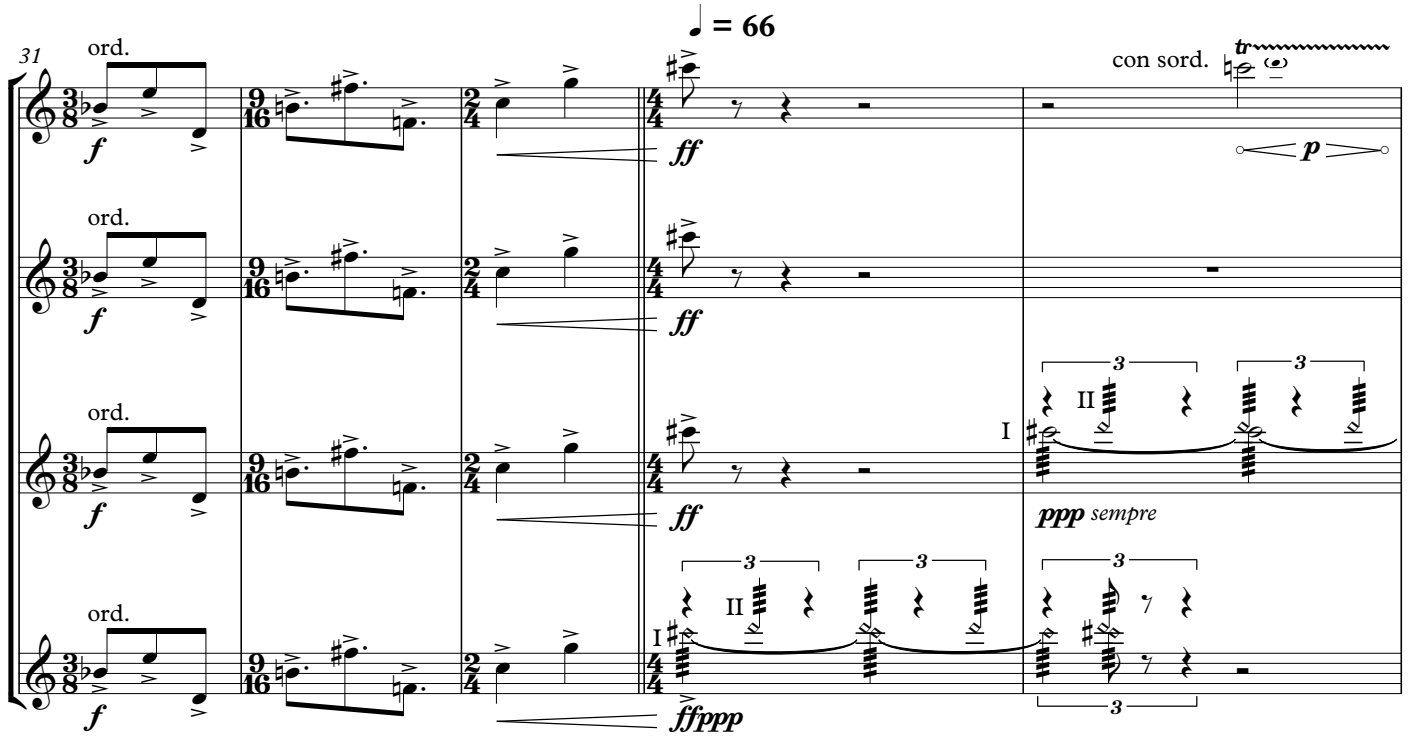
*Alternate strings rapidly but smoothly.

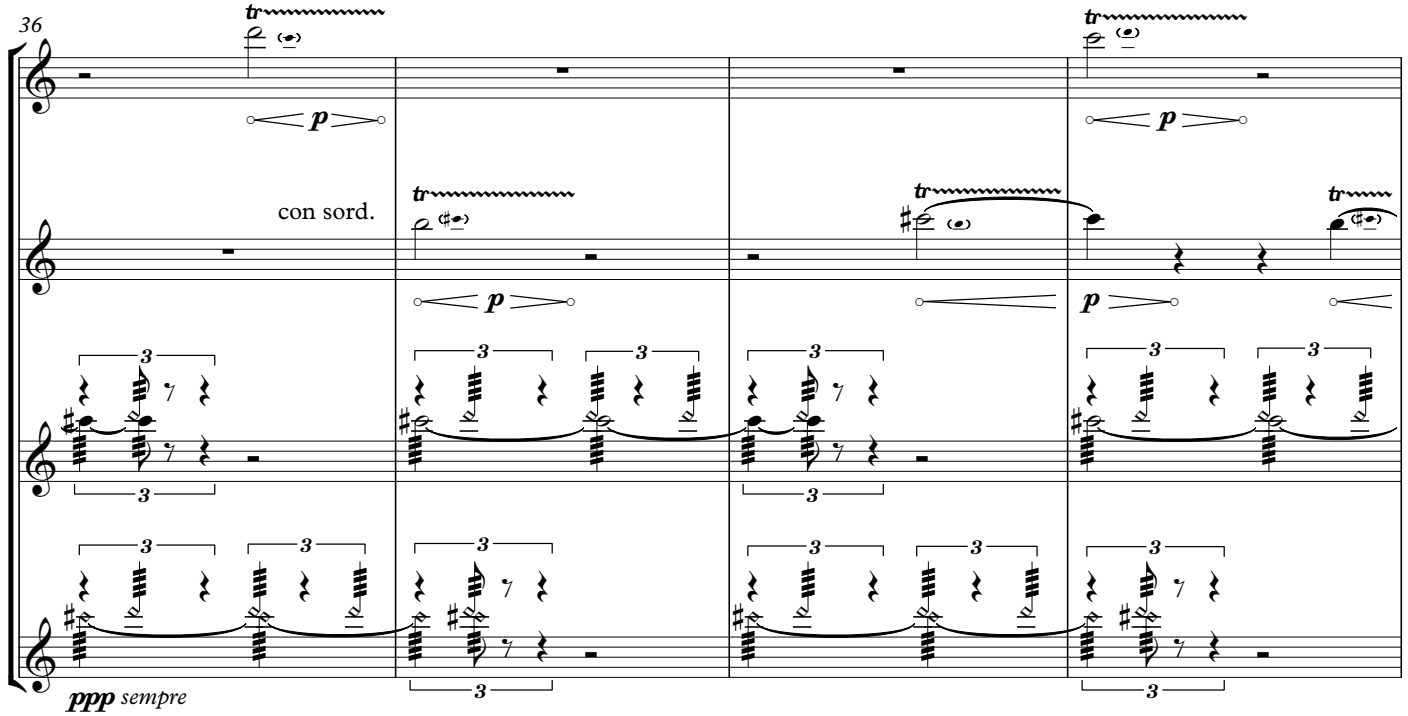

14
sul pont.
sul tasto
sul pont.
sul tasto
III
sul pont.
(very fast)
sul pont.

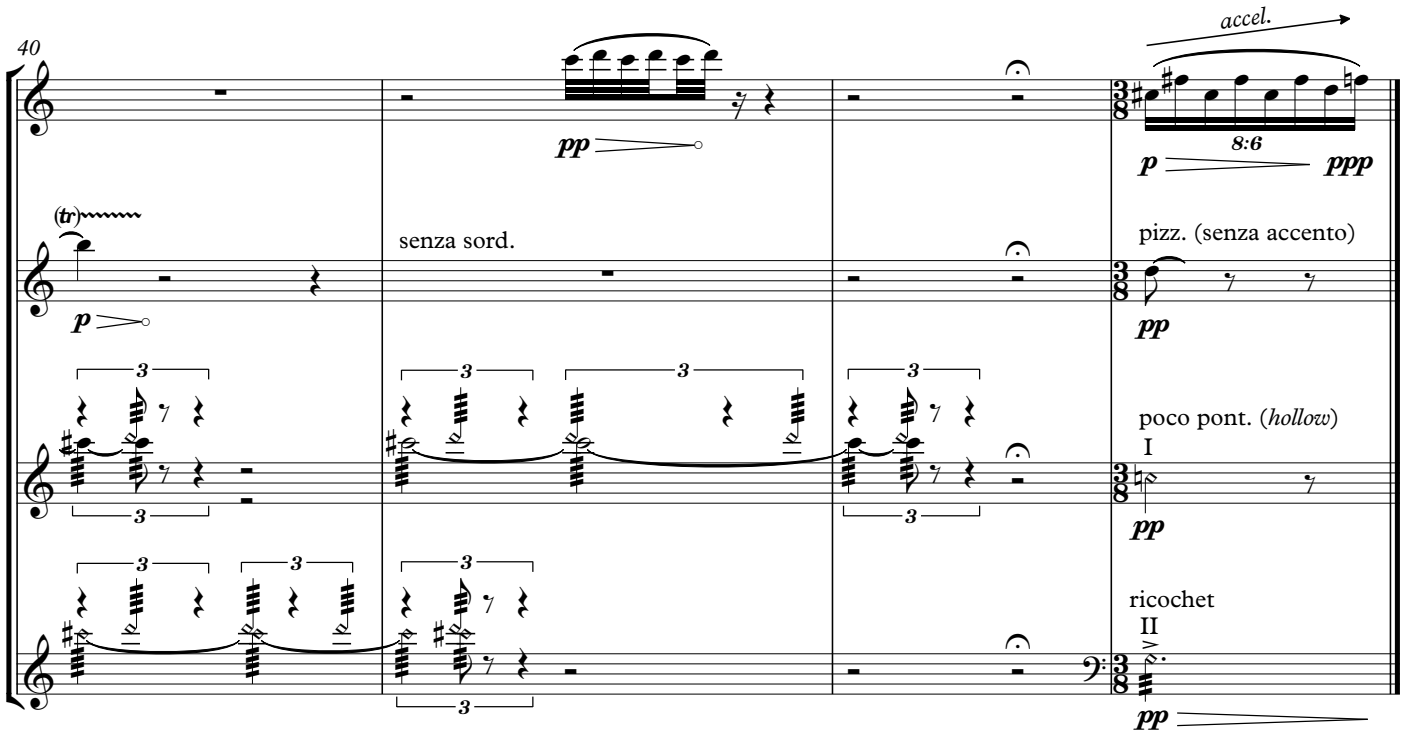

17
ord.
ord.
pizz.
ord.
I II
pizz.
(sul pont.)
ord.


22
ricochet
ff
ord.
f
fp
arco, sul pont.
non vib.
ffpp
sfz
(pizz.)
pp
pizz.
ricochet


27
sul pont.
ffpp
pizz.
sfz
arco, sul tasto (very fast)
ppp
(molto)
arco, ord.
p
spicc.


31
♩ = 66
ord.
con sord.
tr
f
ff
p
ppp sempre
ffppp
I
II
3


36
tr
p
con sord.
ppp sempre
3


40
accel.
8:6
pp
p
ppp
(tr)
p
senza sord.
pizz. (senza accento)
pp
poco pont. (hollow)
I
pp
ricochet
II
pp