Alex Rennie

Chaconne (2024)
for Pierrot + vibraphone

Programme Notes

In the piece I subvert the model of a chaconne, a variation on a harmonic progression, by substituting the chords with a cycle of 5 bell spectra from which I derive the pitch material and harmonic foundation. These are transcribed from the bells of Notre-Dame de Paris, in the ringing order of the g*rand solemnel*. This reinterpretation allows me to explore the complex hamonic qualities of bells.

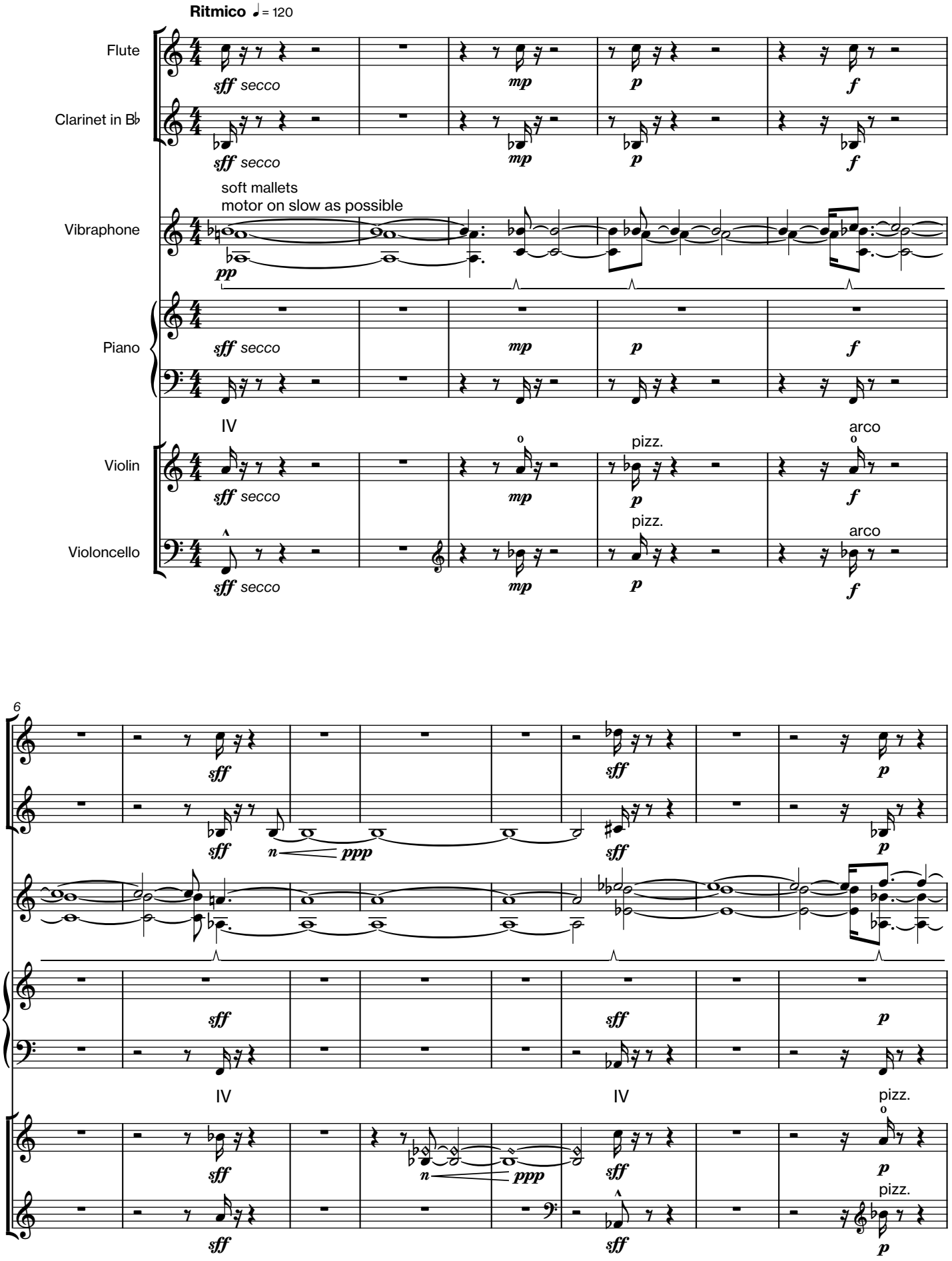
I explore different dynamic envelopes in different variations, considering the role of each instrument in the Pierrot ensemble, having studied pieces such as *Vortex Temporum* by Gérard Grisey. In the 2nd variation I use pointilist motoric texture inspired by Stravinsky. Towards the end, I explore the subdued, low, sustained register of the woodwind.

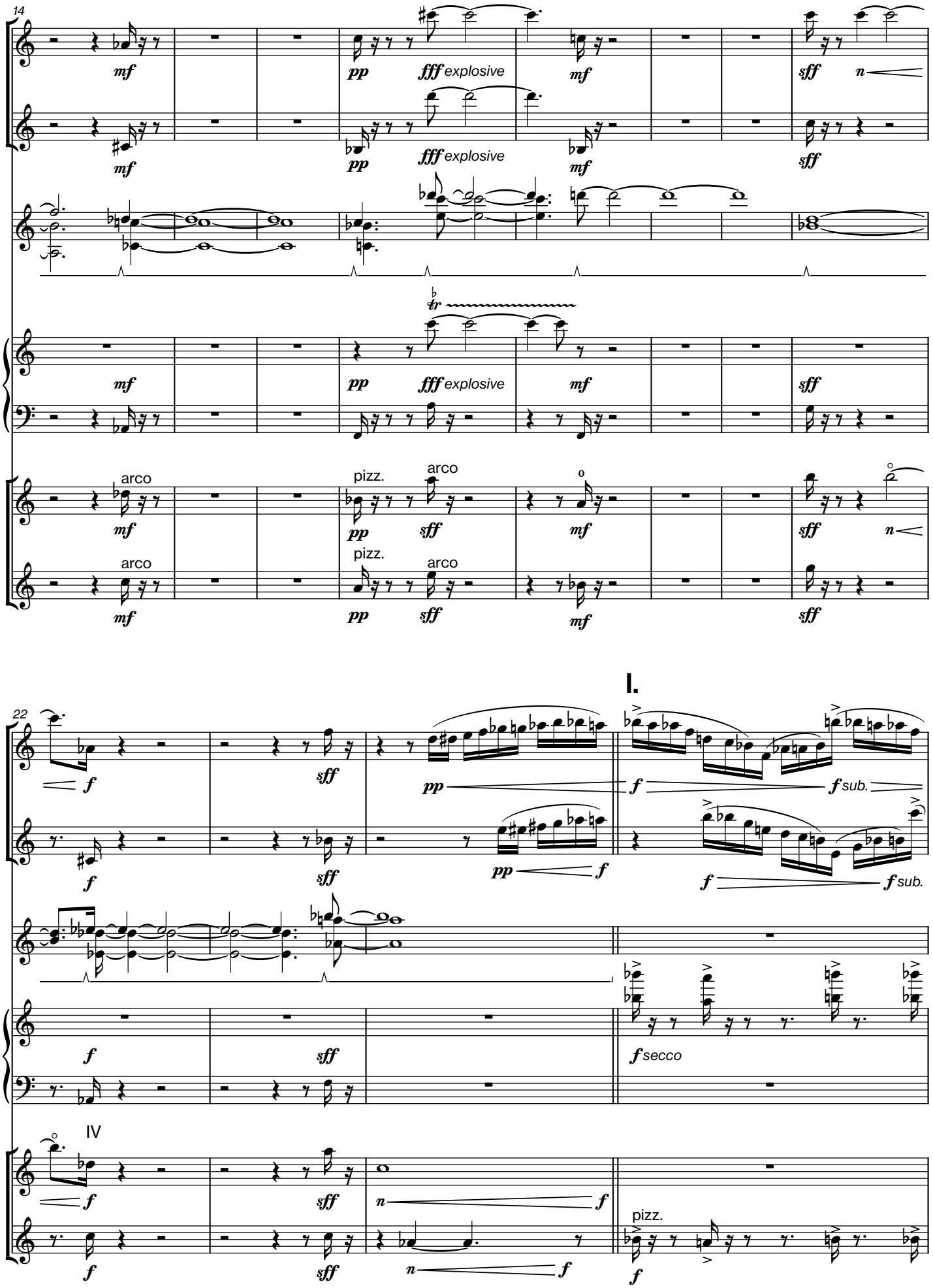
Listen to a NotePerformer mock-up below:
https://soundcloud.com/arennie/chaconne

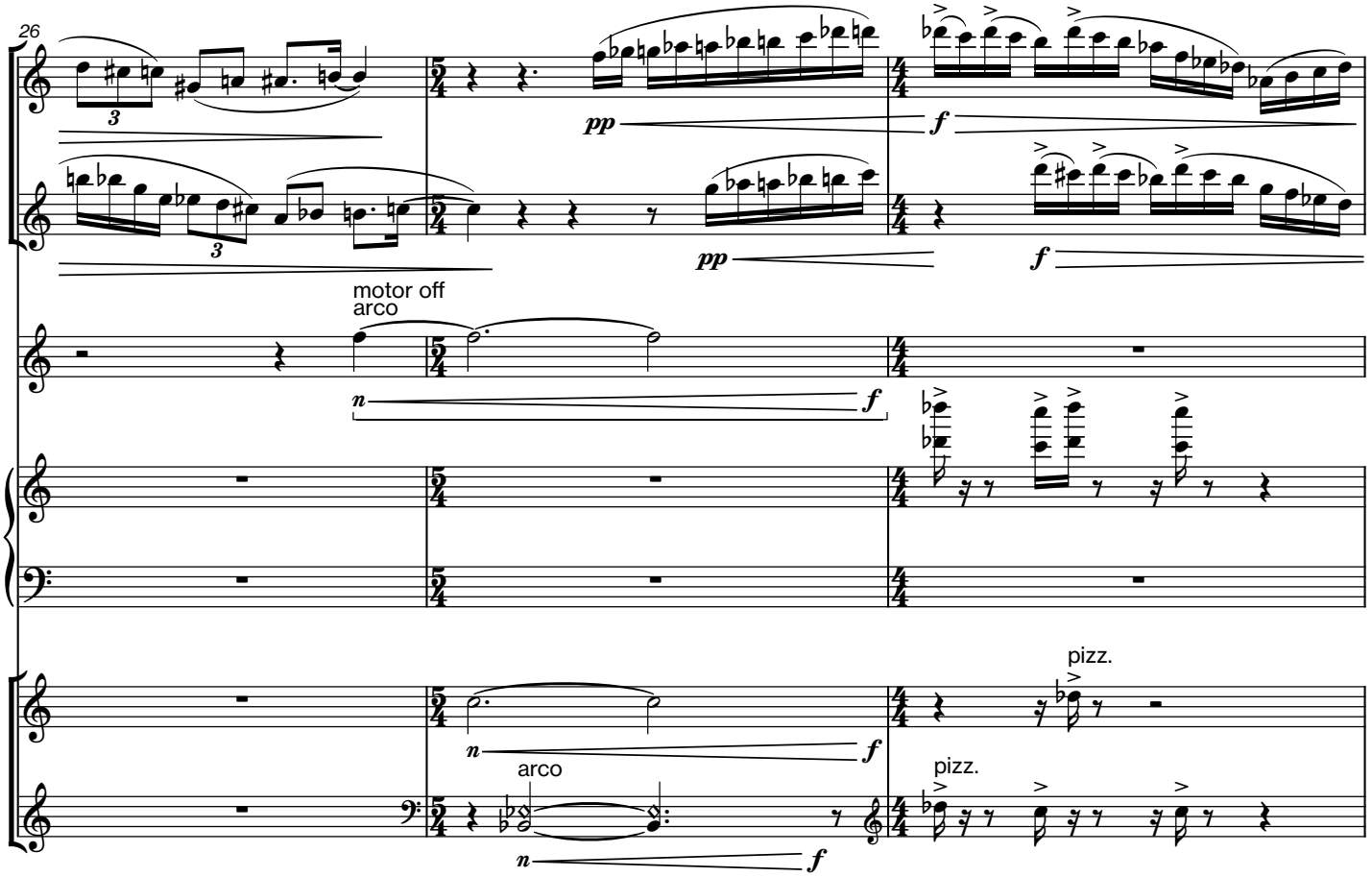
Transposing Pitch

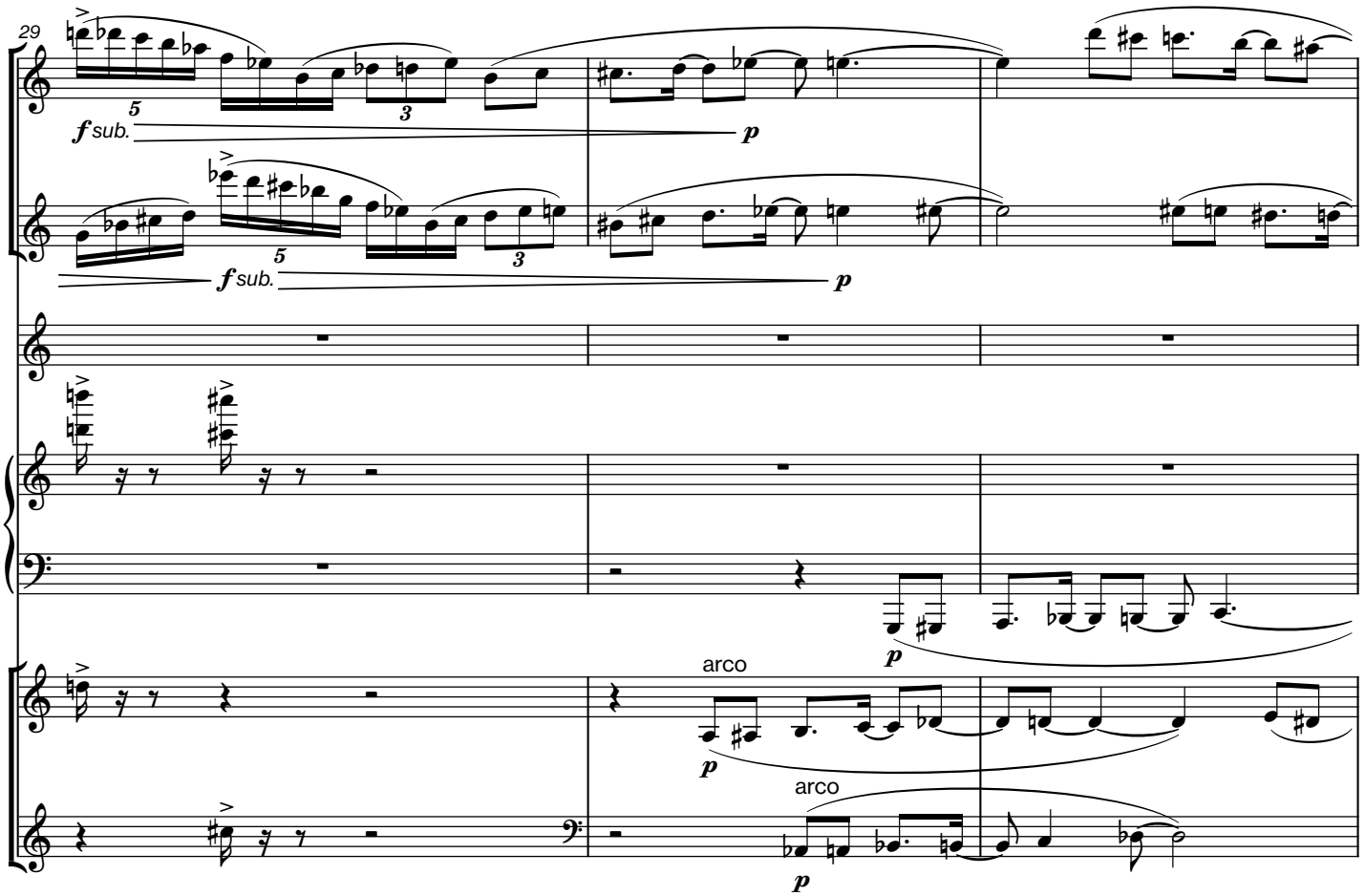
Chaconne

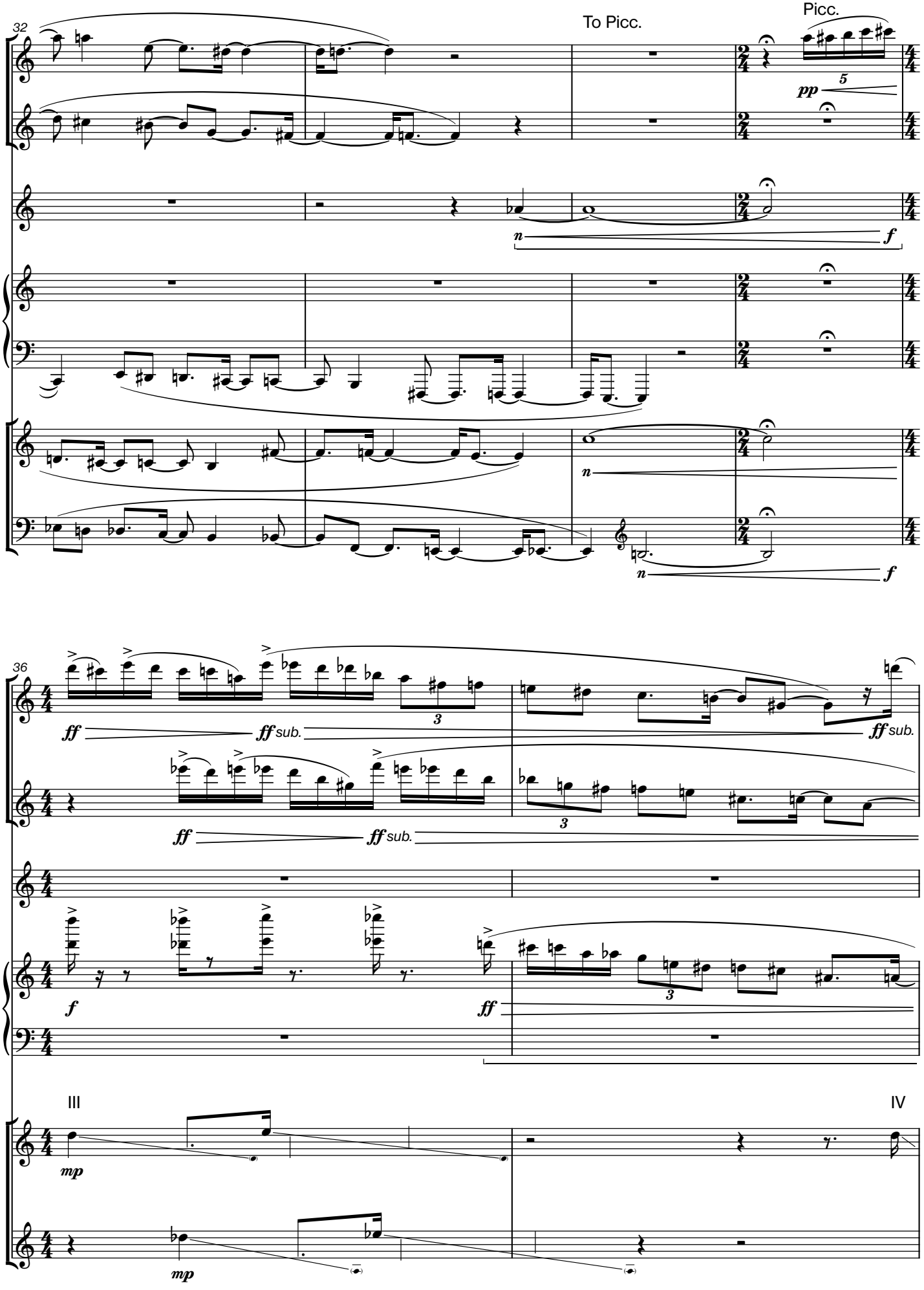
Alex Rennie

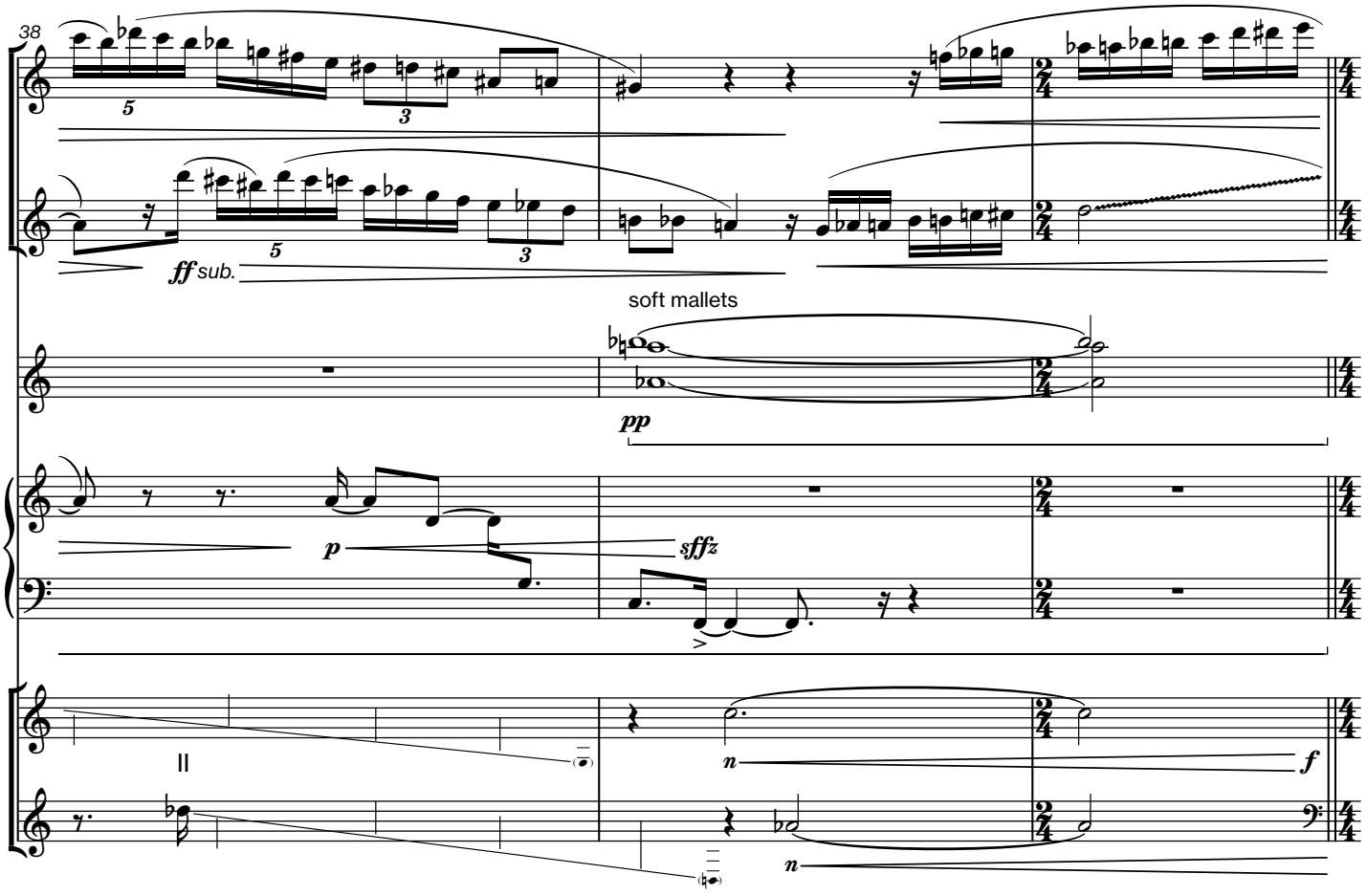



14
mf
pp
fff explosive
mf
sff
n
tr
arco
pizz.
22
f
sff
pp
I.
f sub.
f secco
IV
n
pizz.

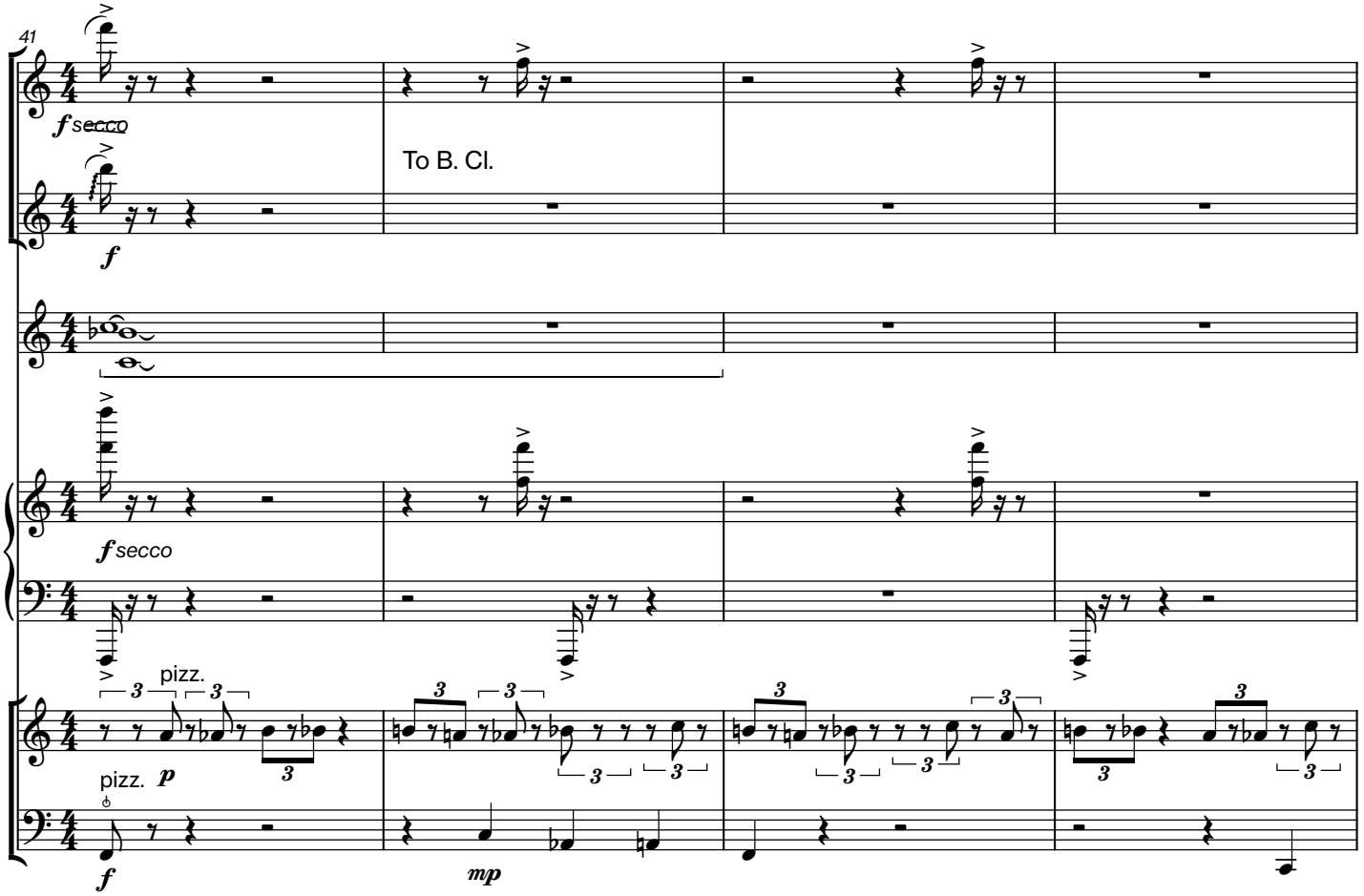

26
motor off
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.

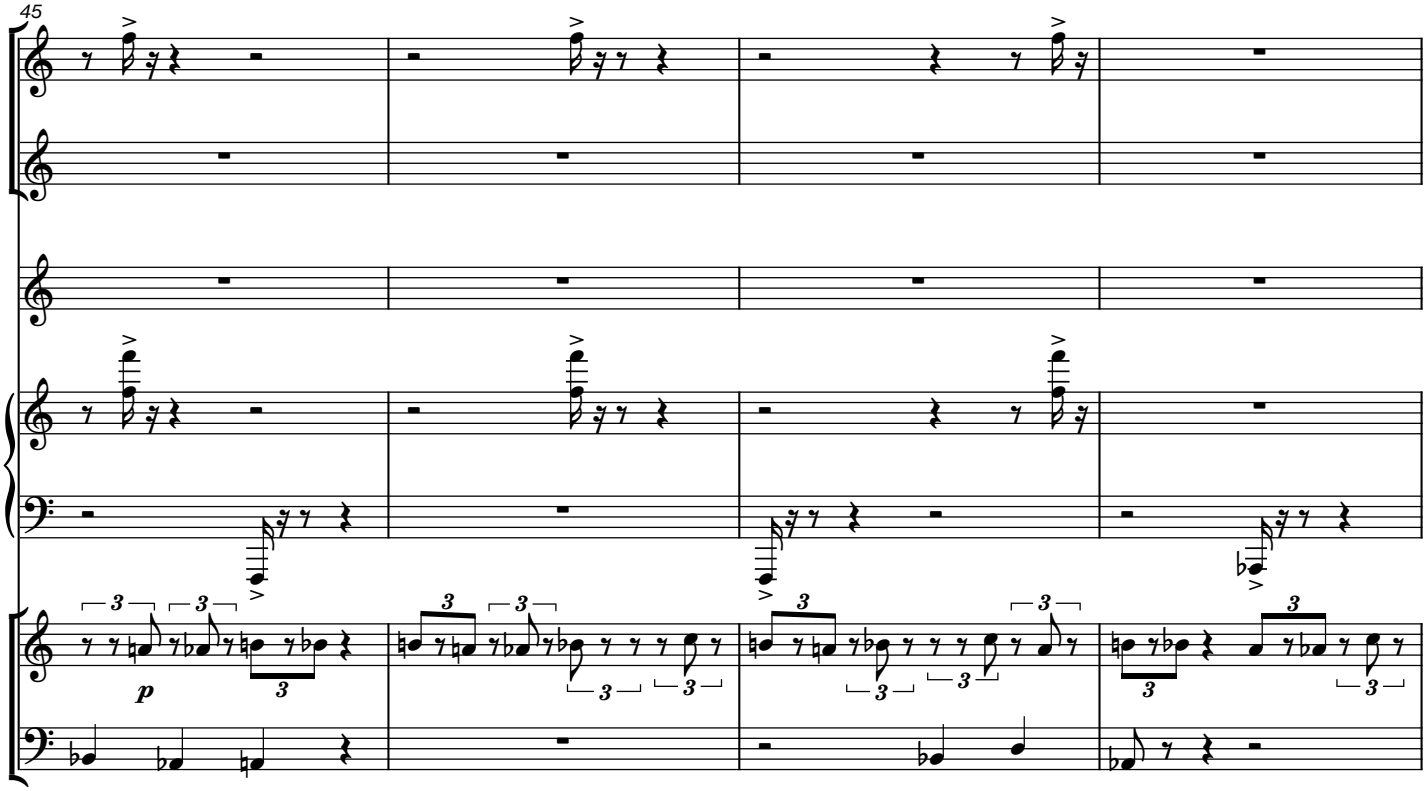

29
arco
arco

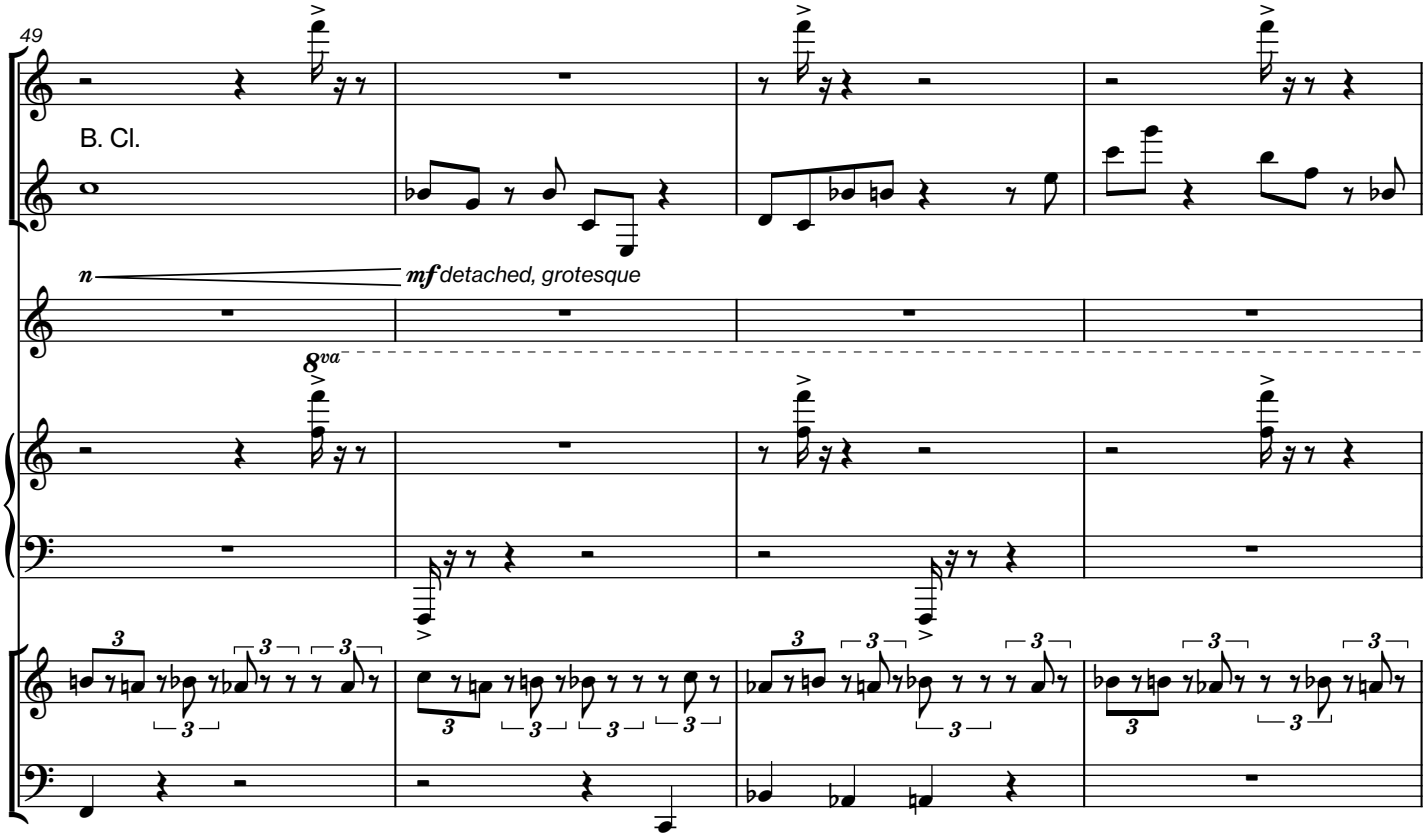

32
To Picc.
Picc.
pp
5
n
f
n
f
36
ff
ff sub.
ff sub.
3
ff
ff sub.
3
f
ff
3
III
IV
mp
mp

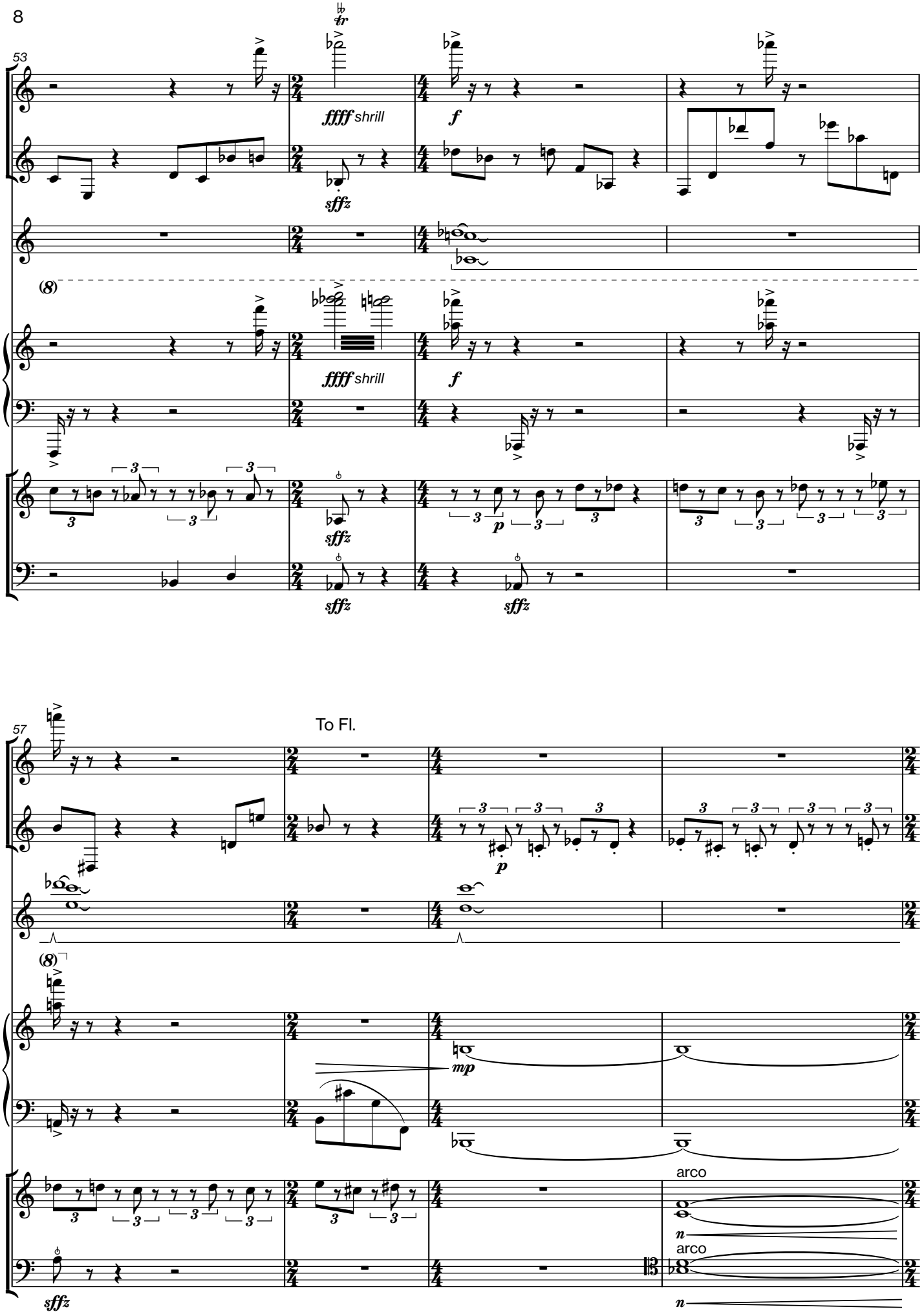

38
ff sub.
soft mallets
pp
p
sffz
II
n
f
n

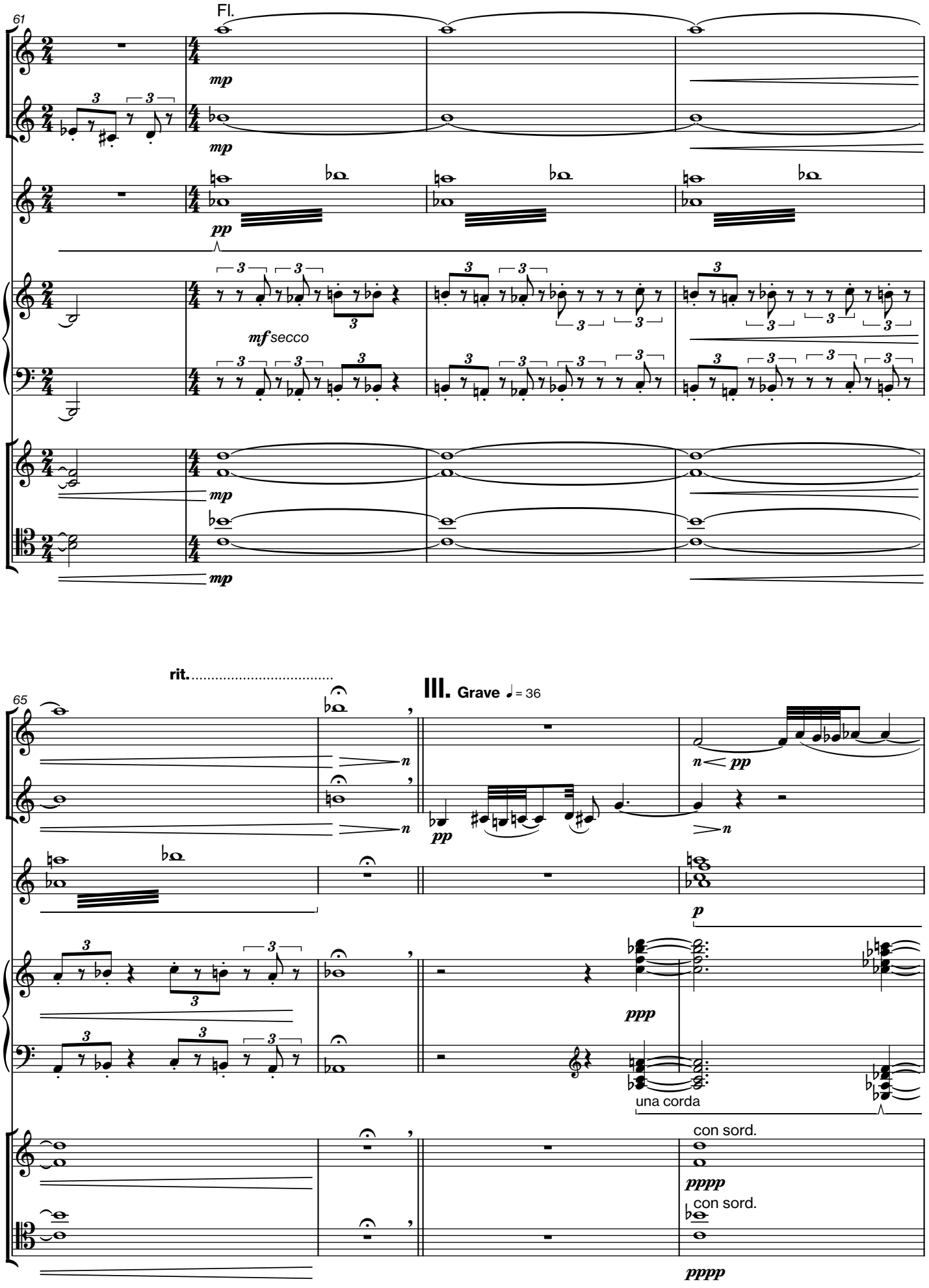
II.

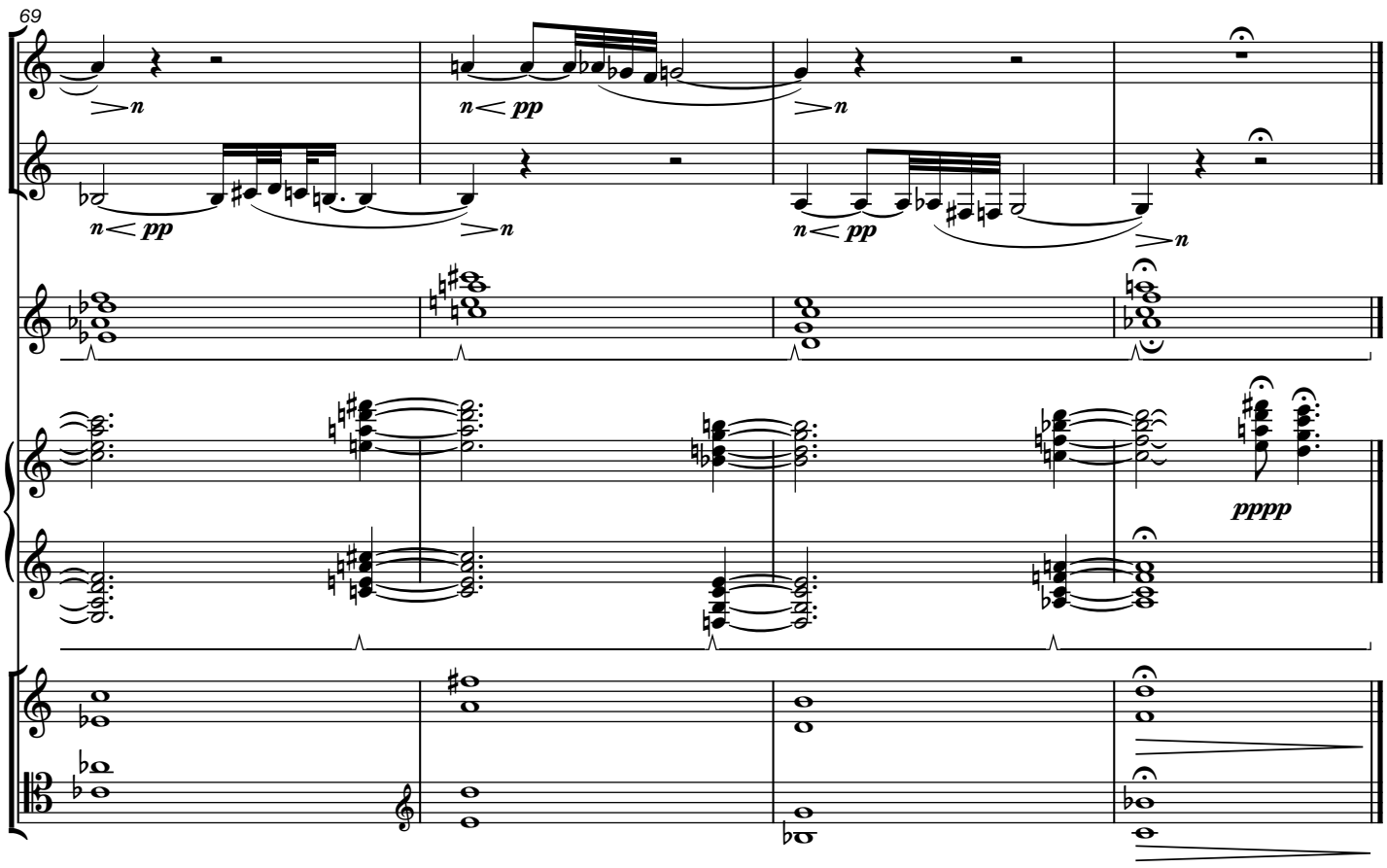

41
f secco
To B. Cl.
f
f secco
pizz.
pizz.
p
f
mp


45
p


49
B. Cl.
n
mf detached, grotesque
8va


53
tr
ffff shrill
sffz
f
(8)
ffff shrill
sffz
f
sffz
p
sffz
sffz
57
To Fl.
p
(8)
mp
arco
n
arco
sffz
n


61
Fl.
mp
mp
pp
mf secco
mp
mp
65
rit.
III. Grave ♩= 36
n
n
pp
pp
n
p
ppp
una corda
con sord.
pppp
con sord.
pppp


69
n
pp
n
pp
n
pp
n
pppp