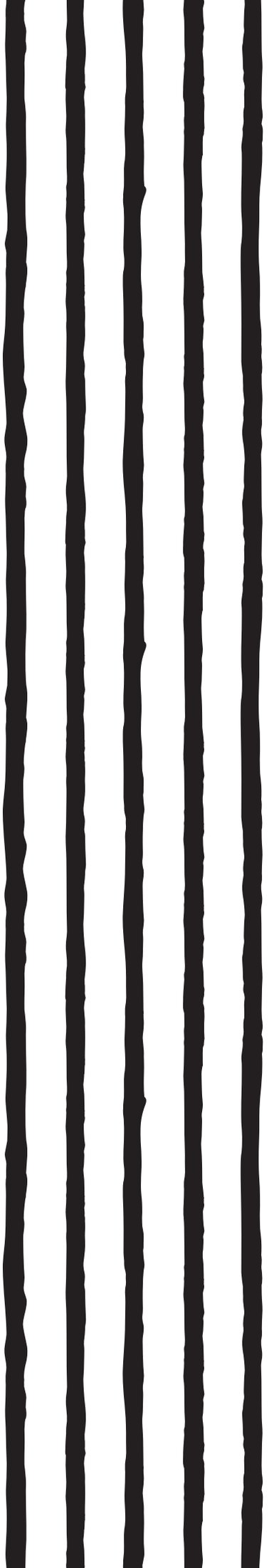


KIAN RAVAEI

NAVAZI

for two violas

(score)

ÆI edition

KIAN RAVAEI

NAVAZI

for two violas

(2023)

(score)

ÆI edition

Commissioned by Tallā Rouge.

PROGRAM NOTE

Navazi is a collection of composed improvisations inspired by the *kamancheh*, a traditional Iranian bowed string instrument resembling a Western fiddle. The title is a Persian word meaning both "to play an instrument" and "to caress." Each movement draws from different sections of *Dastgah-e Nava*, one of the musical modes in Iranian classical music: *Daramad* ("Arise"), *Nahoft* ("Hide"), *Khojaste* ("Rejoice"), and *Forud* ("Return").

—Kian Ravaei

PERFORMANCE NOTE

The four movements are intended to be interspersed between other pieces on a concert program, rather than performed consecutively.

ANALYSIS

This piece incorporates elements of traditional Iranian *kamancheh* playing, inspired principally by Kayhan Kalhor's NPR Tiny Desk Concert. Each movement focuses on a specific *gushe* in *Dastgah-e Nava*, drawing from the *radif* of Mirza Abdollah. *Daramad* introduces listeners to the sound-world of *Nava*; *Nahoft* centers around the fifth scale degree; and *Khojaste* features florid ornamentation. *Forud* is not technically a *gushe*, but rather a melodic device that gradually returns to *Daramad*. *Daramad* and *Khojaste* contain a *koron*, an Iranian microtone which is approximately a quarter tone flat in relation to 12-tone equal temperament. The *koron* is approximated using the quarter tone flat symbol.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My sincerest thanks to my musical mentors and collaborators, all of whom were essential in the creation of this work: Farzad Amoozegar, Fariborz Azizi, Aria Cheregosha, Lauren Spaulding, and Aaron Travers.

duration ca. 7'

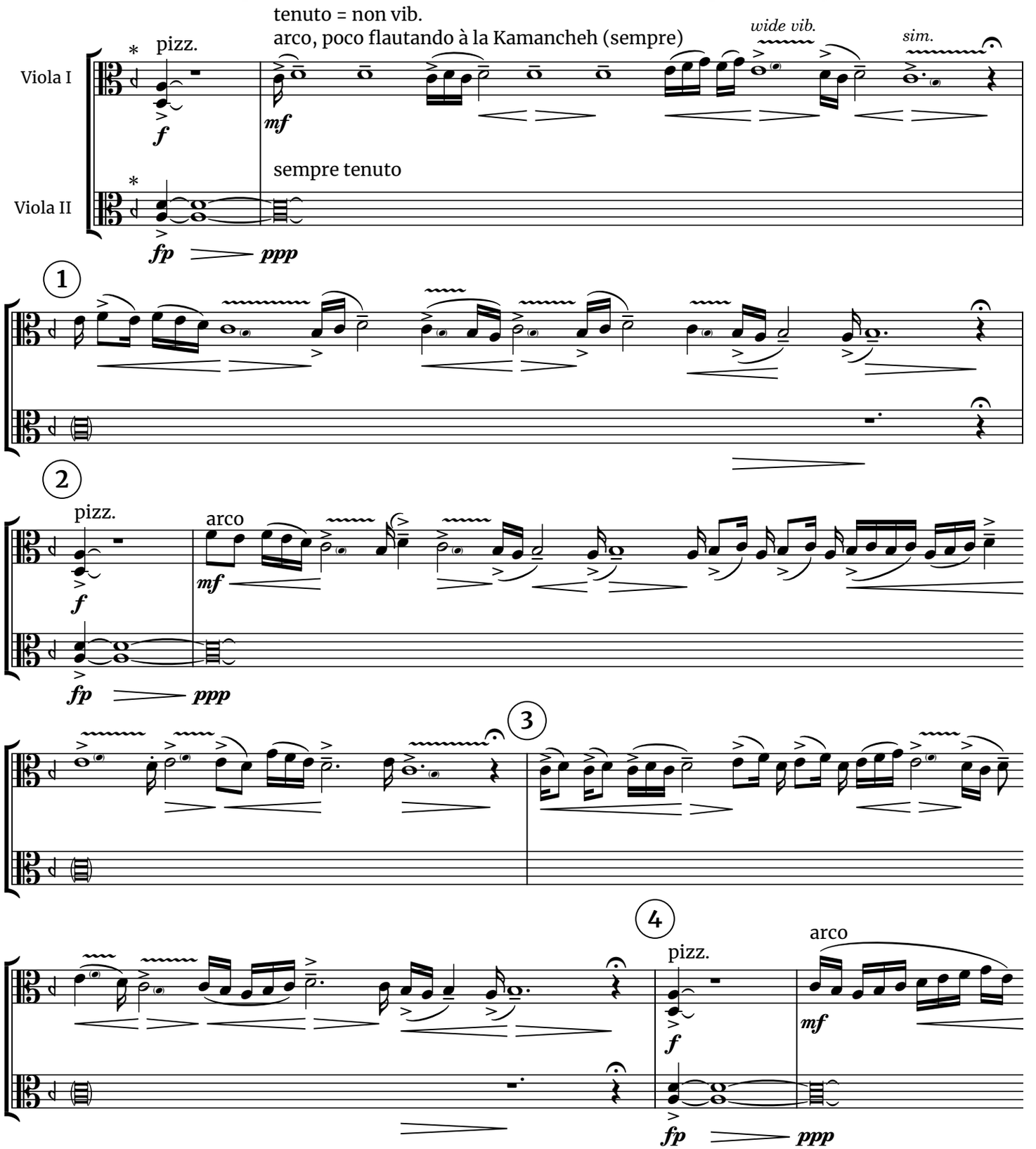
to Tallā Rouge

NAVAZI

Kian Ravaei
(2023)

I. Arise

Contemplative, but not slow (♩= 126–144 ad lib., improvisatory)



*) 𝄲 = Quarter tone flat

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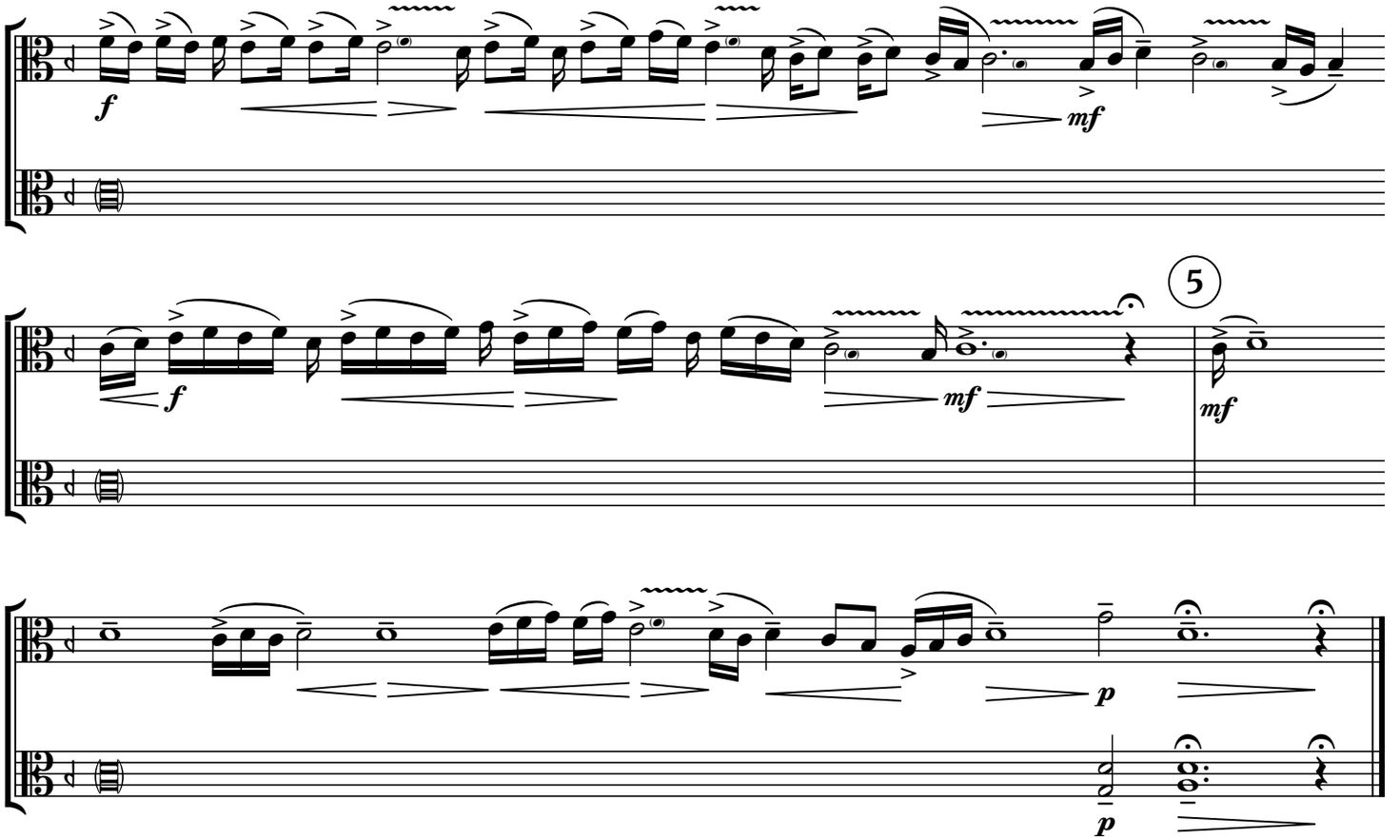
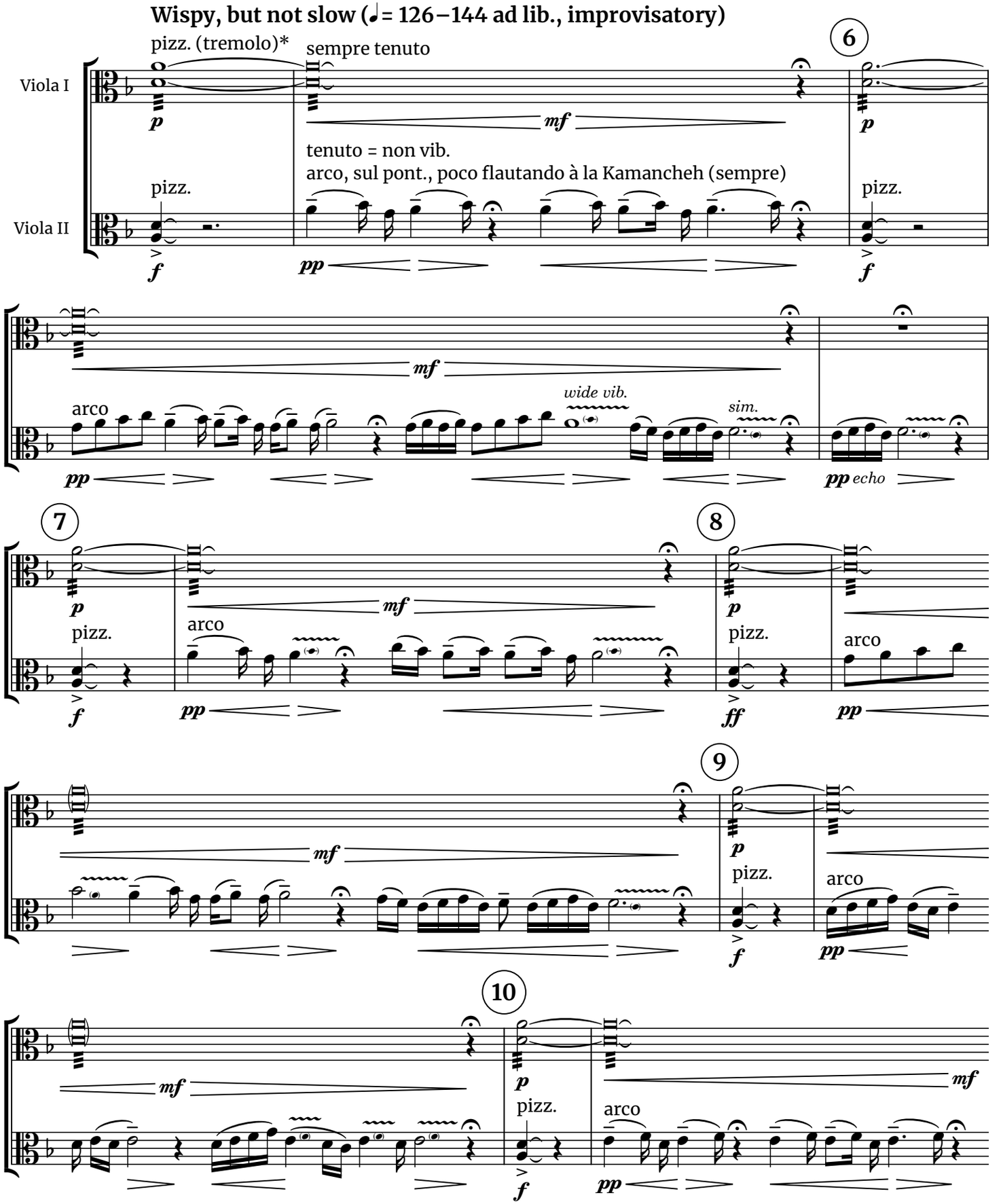
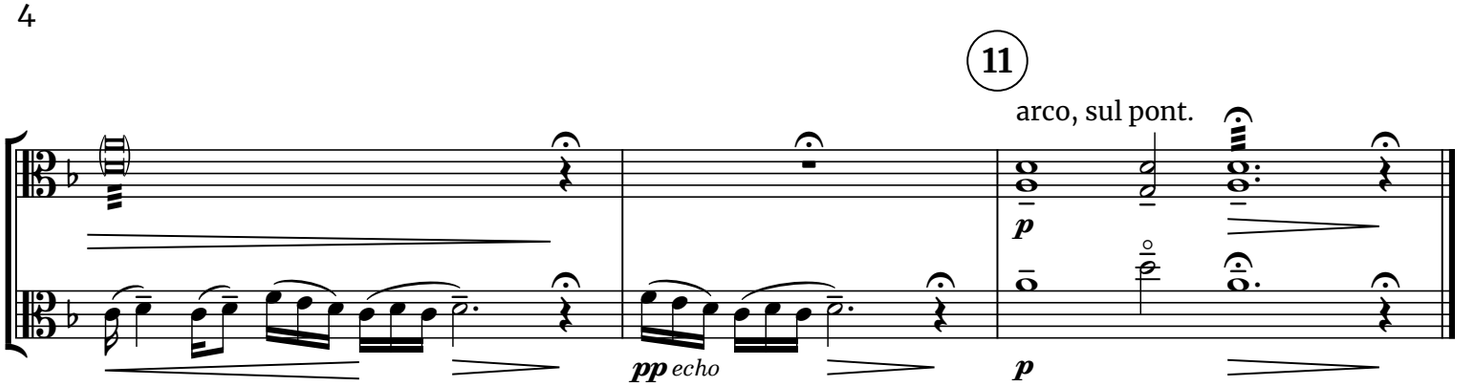

f
mf
f
mf
5
mf
p
p

II. Hide

Wispy, but not slow (♩= 126–144 ad lib., improvisatory)



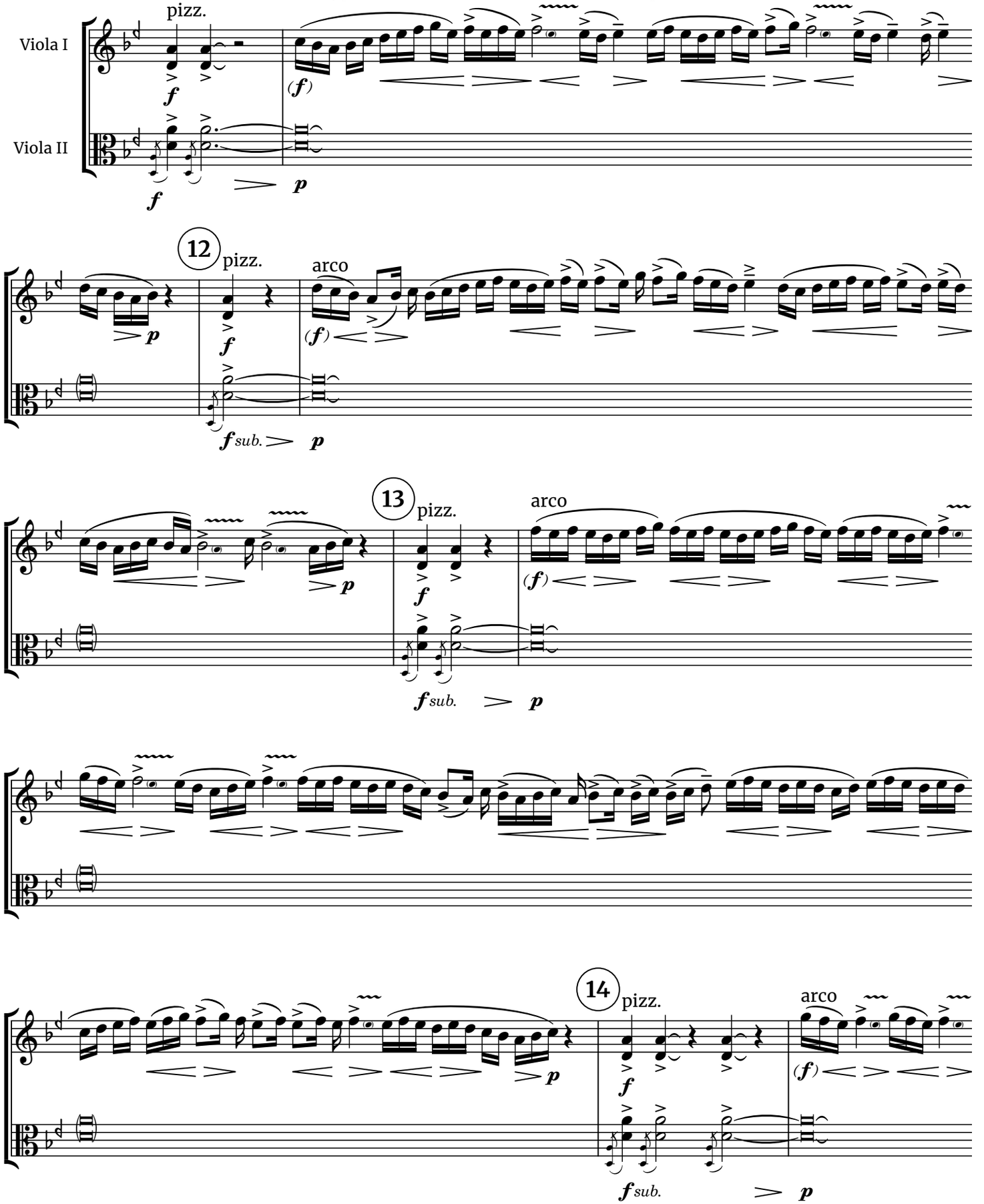
*) Tremolo speed should follow dynamics (crescendo = faster; diminuendo = slower).

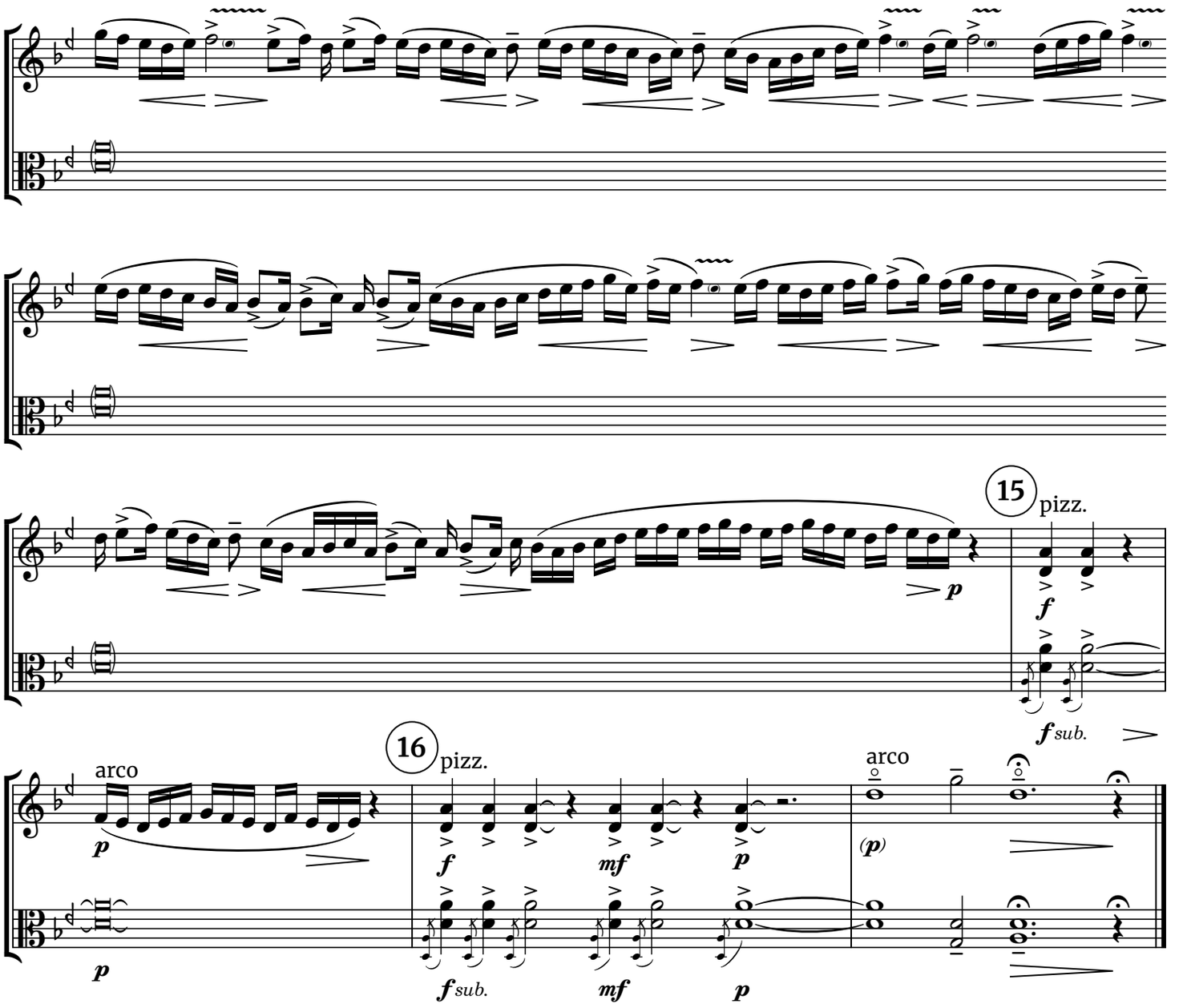

11
arco, sul pont.
p
pp echo
p

III. Rejoice

Lively (♩= 126–144 ad lib., improvisatory)

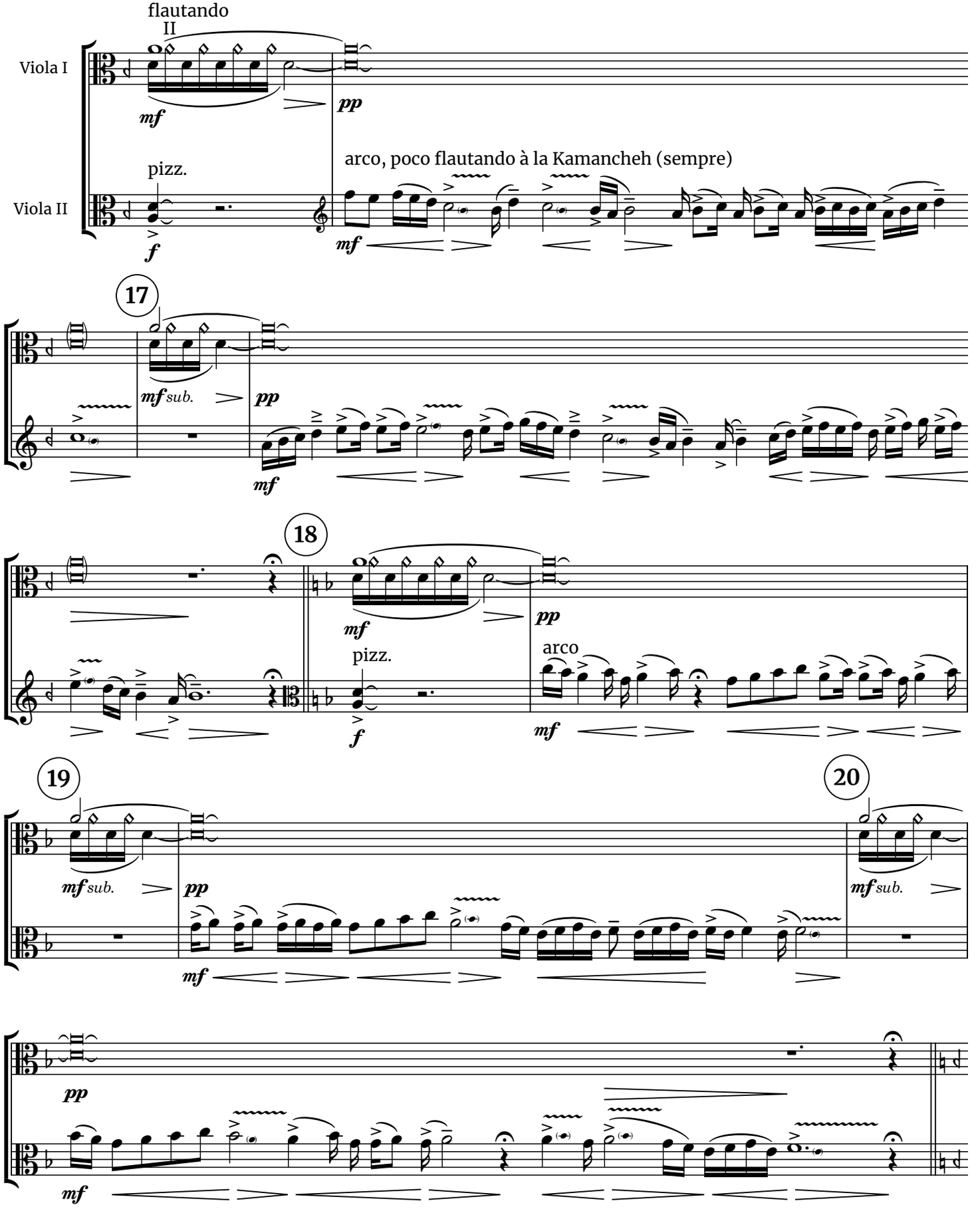
arco, poco flautando à la Kamancheh (sempre)

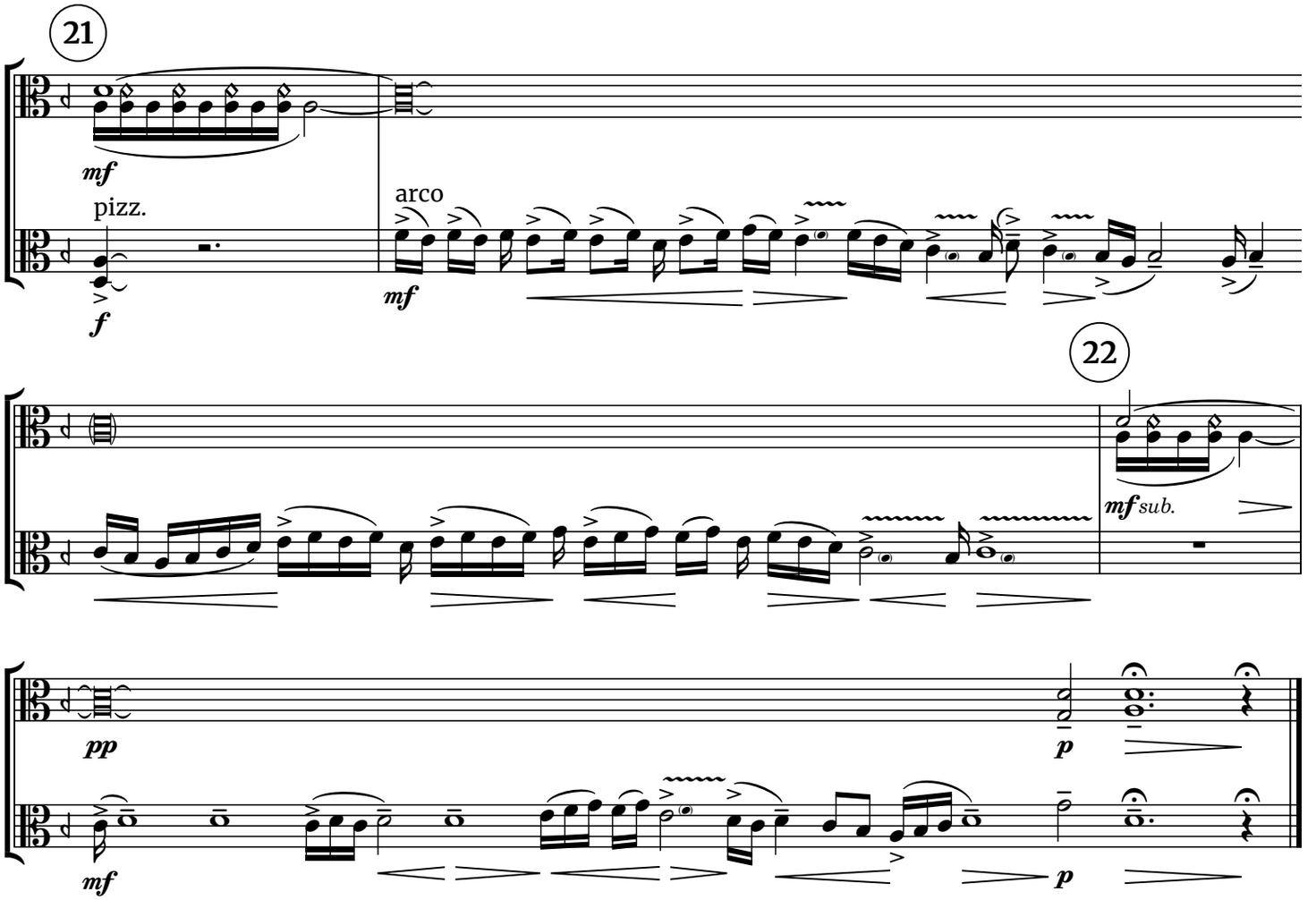



15
pizz.
16
pizz.
arco
arco

IV. Return

Reflective, but not slow (♩= 126–144 ad lib., improvisatory)




21
mf
pizz.
f
arco
mf
22
mf sub.
pp
p
mf
p