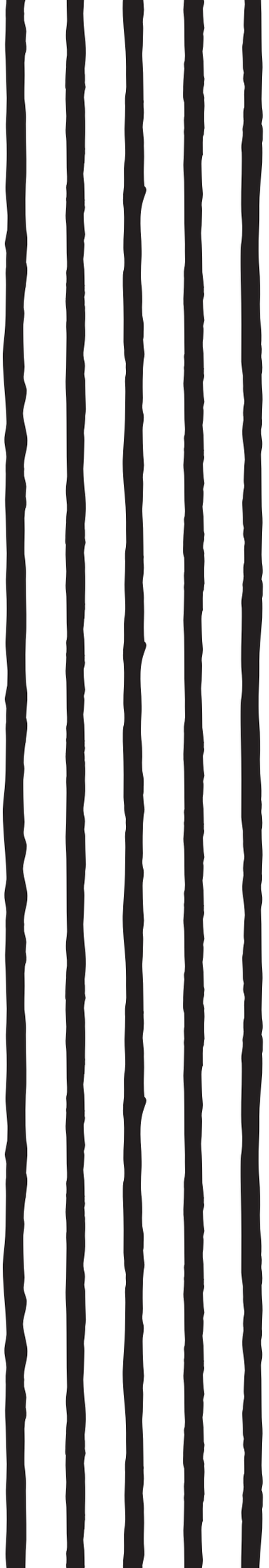

KIAN RAVAEI

FAMILY PHOTOS

for string quartet

(score)

ÆI edition

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FAMILY PHOTOS

for string quartet

(2021)

(score)

ÆI edition

Composed for Salastina as part of the
Sounds Promising Young Composers Program.

COMPOSER'S NOTE

Family Photos is a musical collage of personally significant places from my childhood. The first movement, "At the Carnival," takes inspiration from the whimsy and spectacle of my neighborhood carnival. "On the Tehran Tower," the second movement, incorporates elements of Iranian classical music, inspired by my childhood trips to visit family in Tehran. The third and final movement, "In Arcadia," represents not only my hometown in the suburbs of Los Angeles, but also the Arcadia of Ancient Greek mythology, a heaven on Earth.

—Kian Ravaei

SPECIAL THANKS

My sincerest thanks to my musical mentors and collaborators, all of whom were essential in the creation of this work: Farzad Amoozegar, Che-Yen Chen, Meredith Crawford, Richard Danielpour, Christian Gonzalez, Haley Hedegard, Alisa Khodos, Kevin Kumar, Yoshika Masuda, Tarik O'Regan, Jocelyn Pon, Derrick Spiva Jr., and Maia Jasper White.

duration ca. 10'

ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENT II, “ON THE TEHRAN TOWER”

Measures 1–29

The cello taps a rhythm on the body of the instrument in the manner of a *tombak*, an Iranian percussion instrument. The rhythm is inspired by the Iranian rhythm *Shir-e Mâdar* (“mother’s milk”). The melodies are inspired by *Dastgâh-e Homâyun*, specifically the *gushes Chakâvak* and *Bidâd. Chakâvak* contains 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.

Measures 30–34

The rhythmic music is suddenly interrupted by music which is intended to feel non-metered, because performances of Iranian classical music often alternate between metered and non-metered sections. The violins and viola play a pizzicato tremolo with a perfect fifth interval, imitating the open strings of a *setar*. They serve as a drone for the cello, which plays a passionate and densely ornamented melody in the *gushe Bidâd*. The meaning of *Bidâd* (“outcry”) is reflected through extreme dynamic swells.

Measures 35–62

The second violin enters with the rhythm *Kereshme* using the notes of the *gushe Daramad* from *Dastgâh-e Mahur*. In m. 45, the second violin and viola play an ornamented and varied version of the *Zangule* rhythm, which at its core is composed of four short and four long notes. Both rhythms are subjected to further variation.

Measures 63-67

The viola and cello play independent improvisatory melodies in *Bidâd* over a perfect fifth drone evoking a setar, similar to mm. 30-34.

Measures 68-106

The coda is inspired by the Iranian Reng, an energetic dance piece, usually in 6/8, at the end of a musical performance. The viola and cello play open fifths, once again inspired by the open strings of the *setar*. The first violin plays a *Chakâvak* melody with a *shâhed*, or principal pitch, of G, creating a bitonal effect with the perfect fifth harmony.

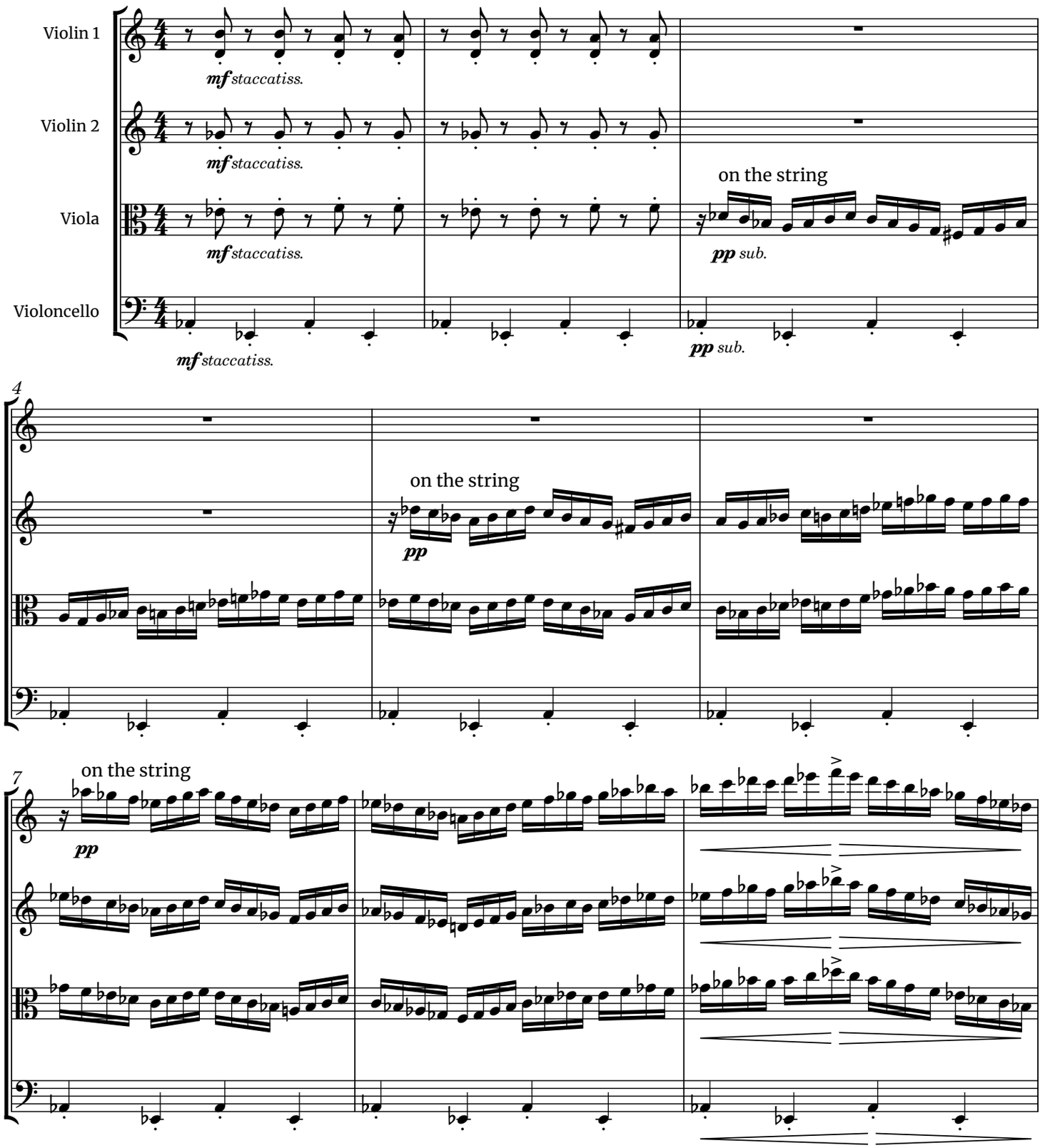
to Salastina

FAMILY PHOTOS

Kian Ravaei
(2021)

I. At the Carnival

Presto vivace ♩ = 152–160 (ben misurato)



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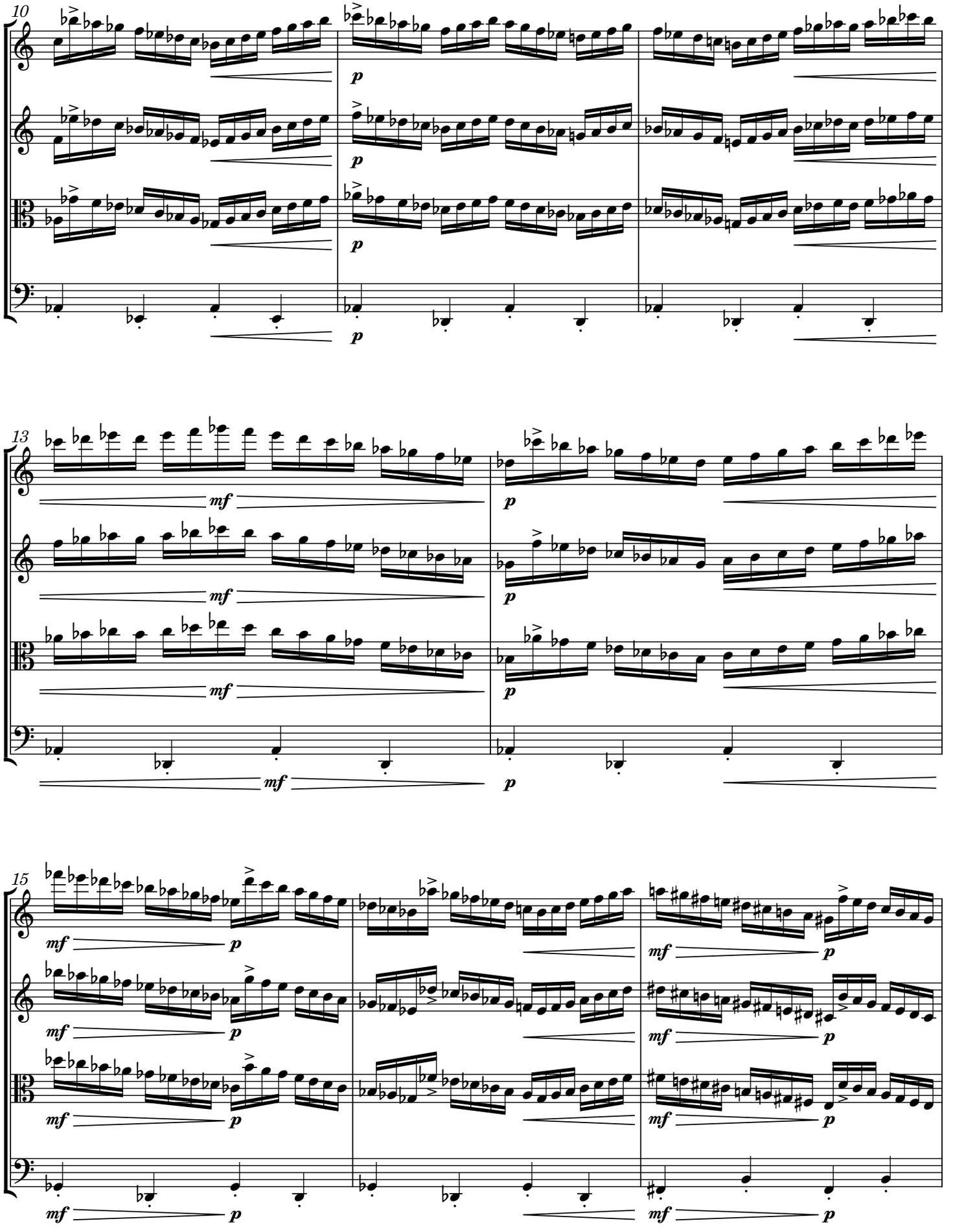
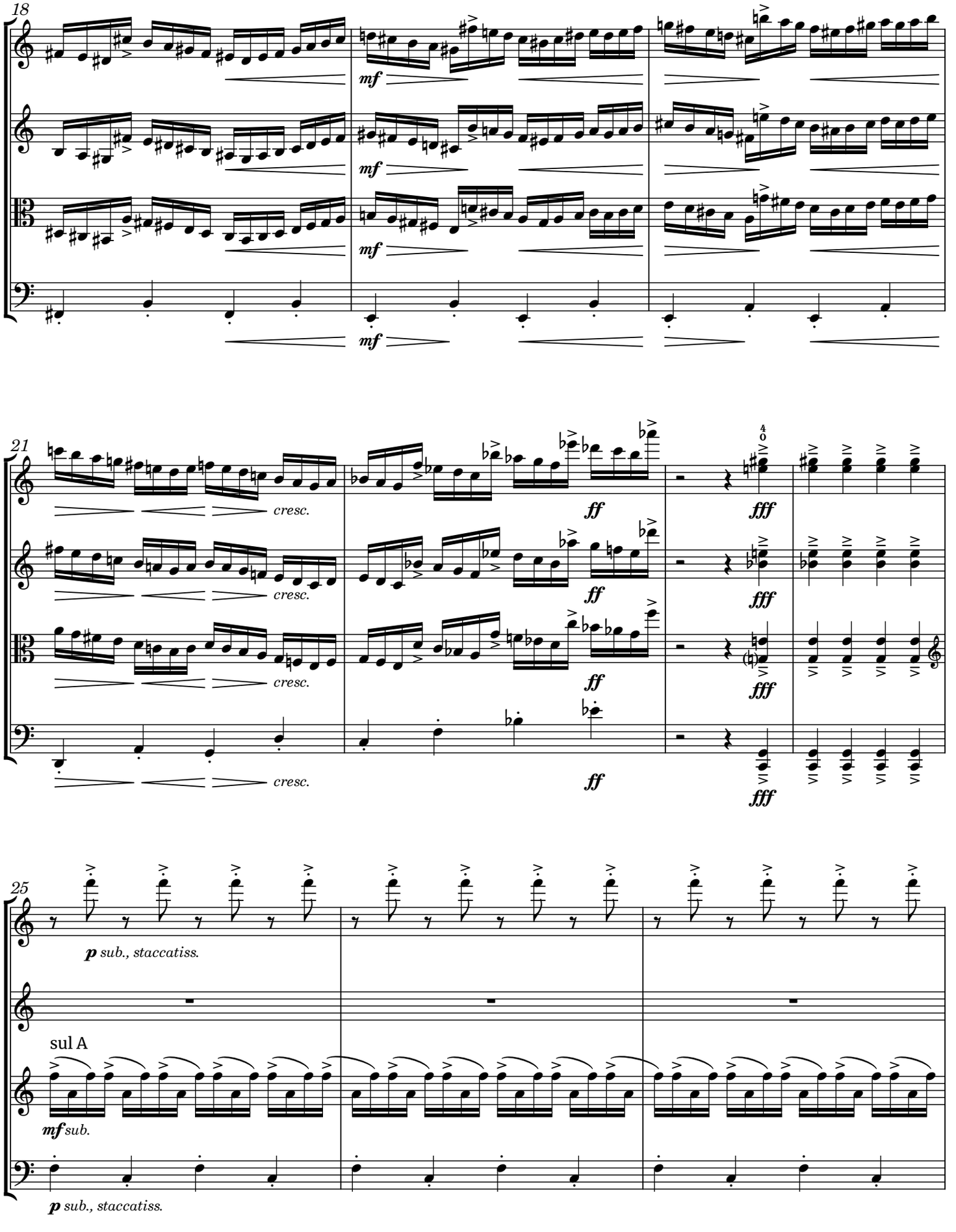
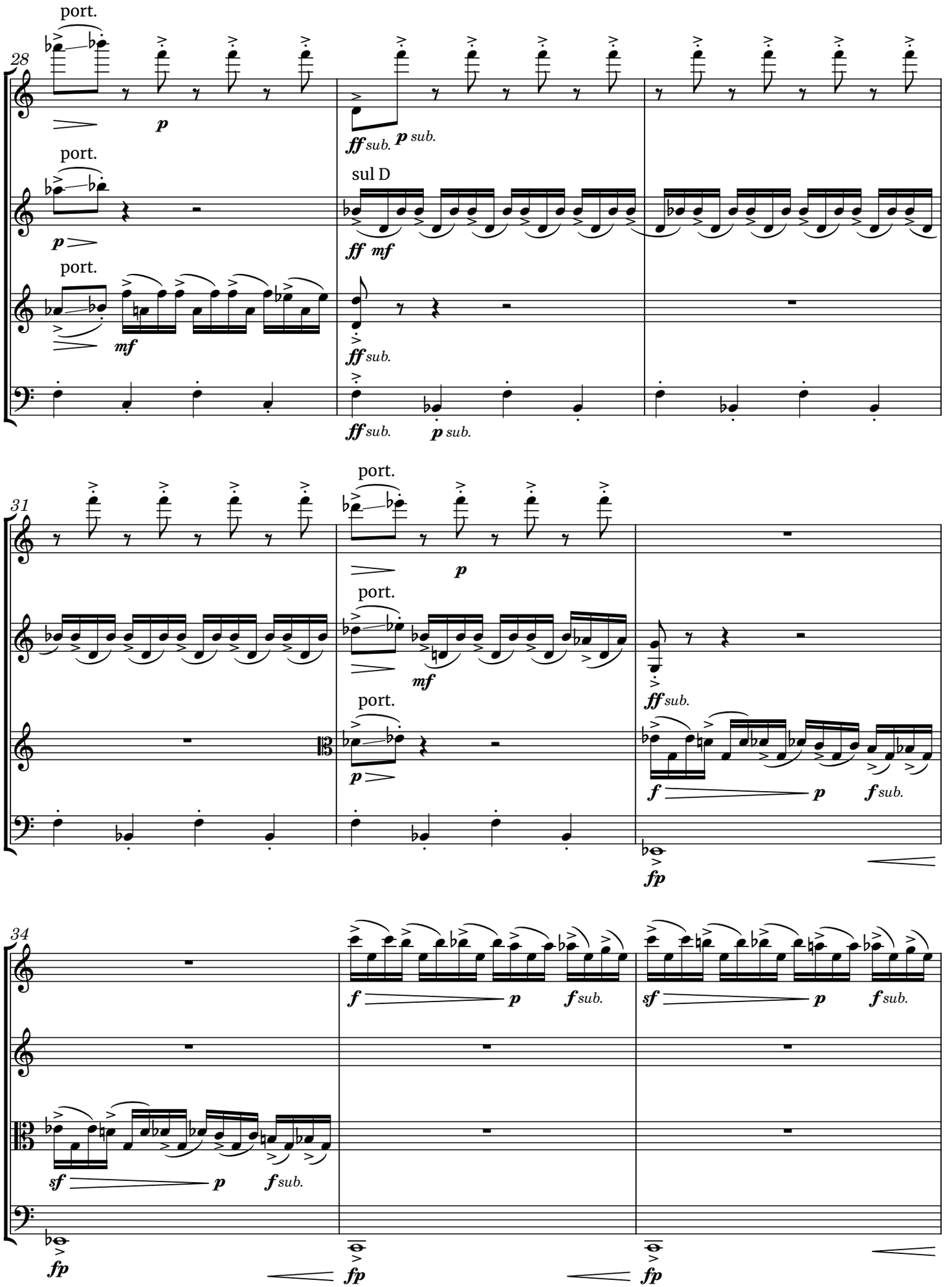
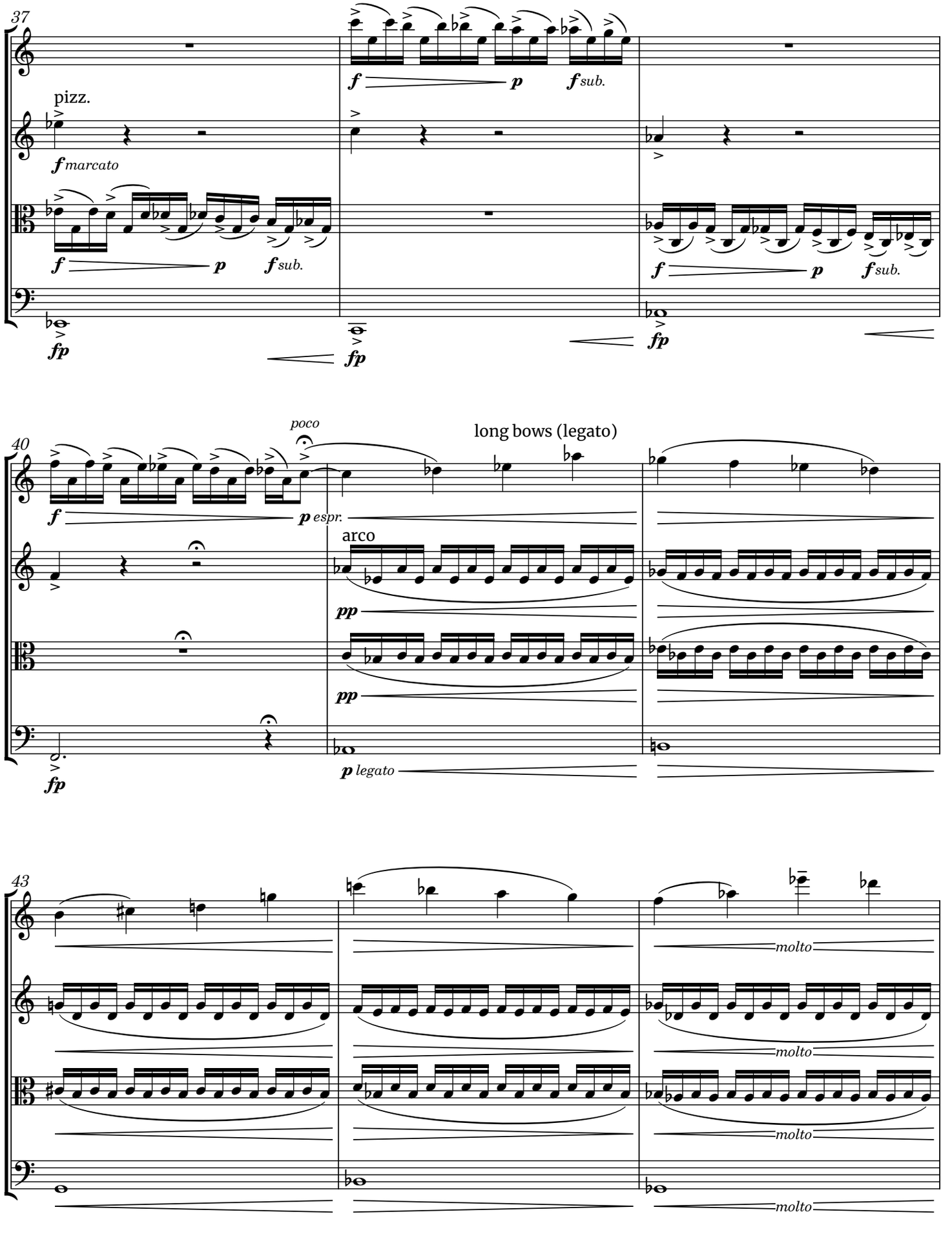
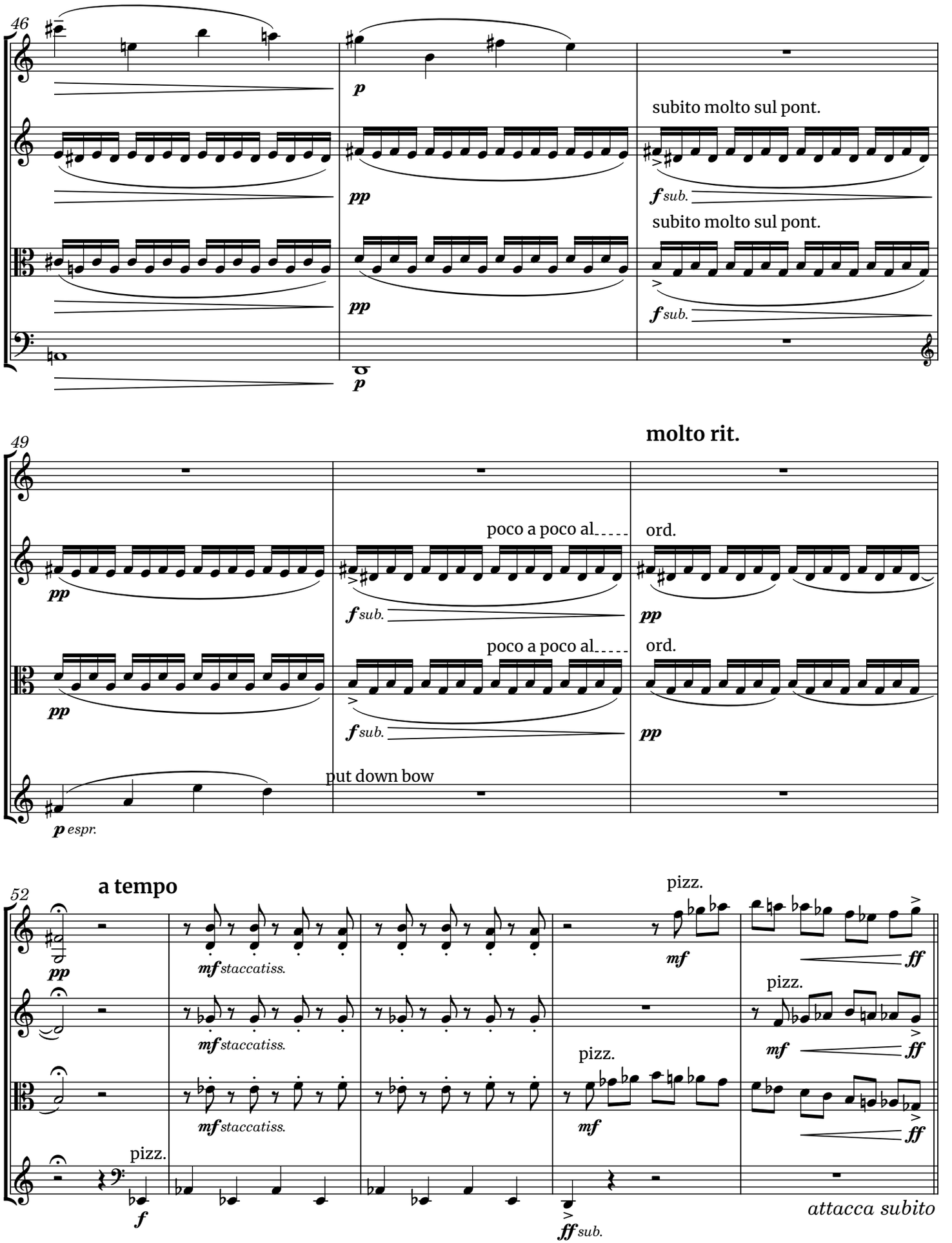

10
13
15
mf
p


18
mf
mf
mf
mf
21
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
ff
ff
ff
ff
fff
fff
fff
fff
25
p sub., staccatiss.
sul A
mf sub.
p sub., staccatiss.

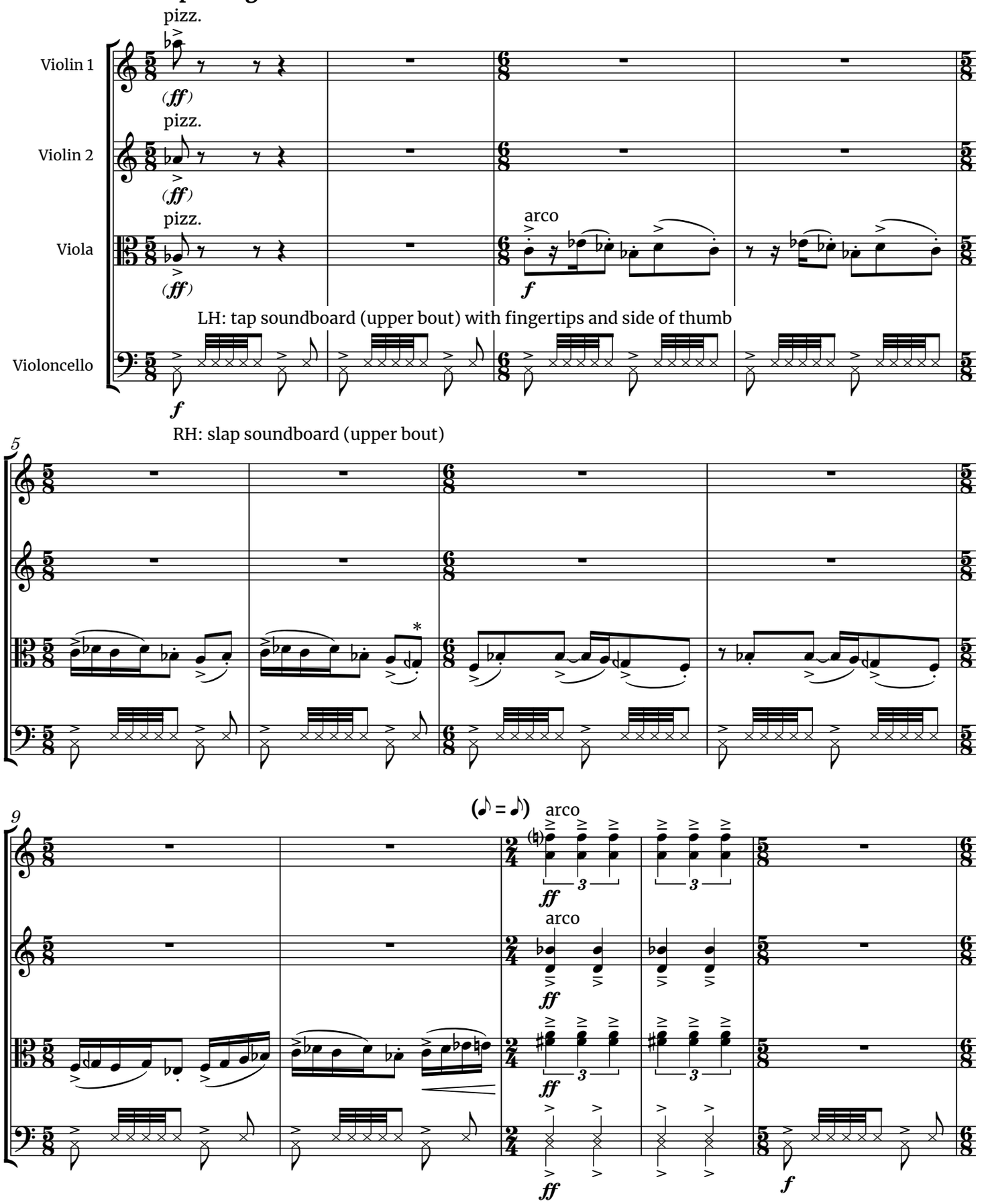

28
port.
sul D
31
34


37
pizz.
f marcato
f
p
f sub.
fp
40
poco
long bows (legato)
p espr.
arco
pp
p legato
43
molto

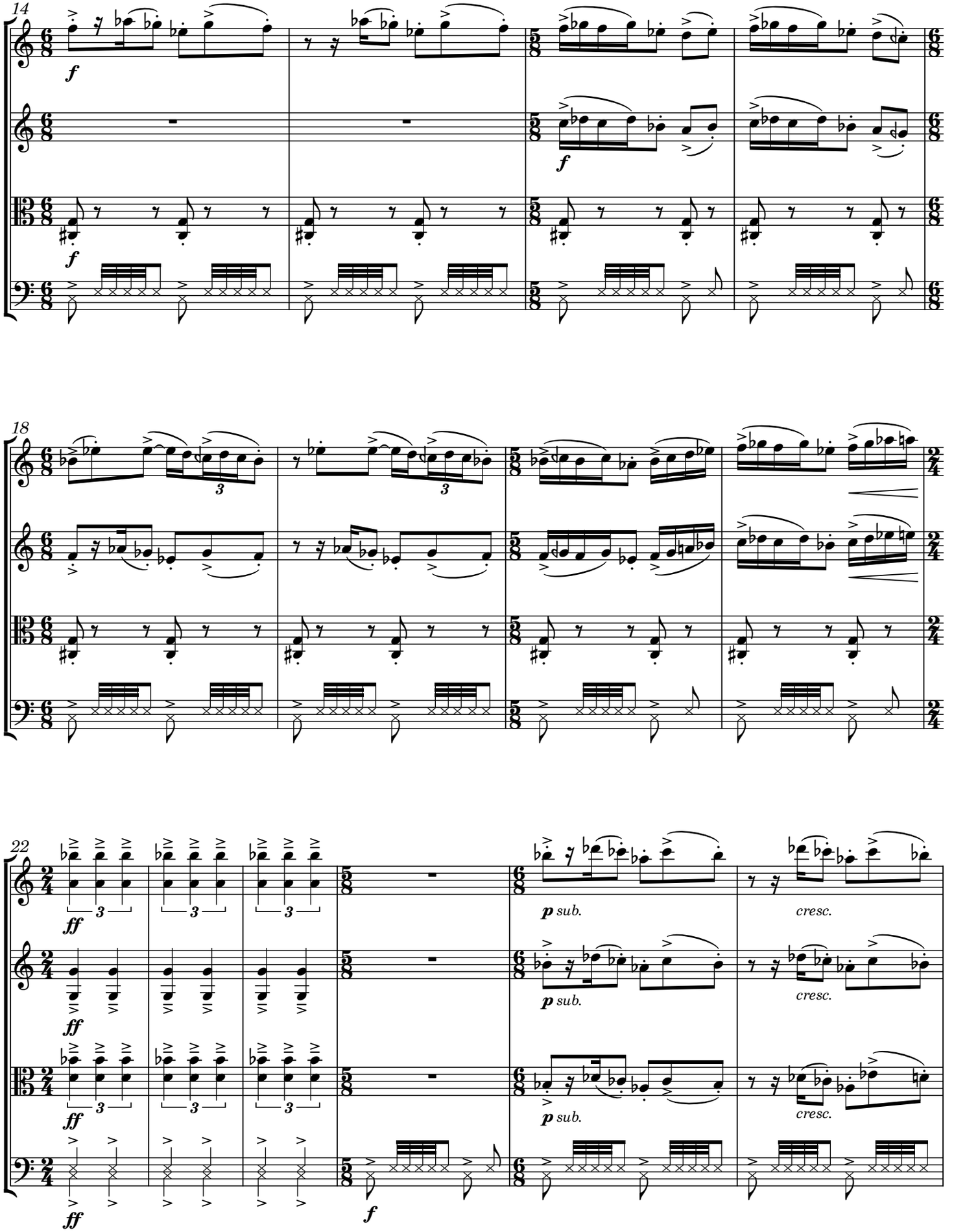

46
p
pp
subito molto sul pont.
f sub.
pp
subito molto sul pont.
f sub.
p
49
molto rit.
pp
poco a poco al
ord.
f sub.
pp
pp
poco a poco al
ord.
f sub.
pp
put down bow
p espr.
52
a tempo
pizz.
pp
mf staccatiss.
mf
ff
mf staccatiss.
pizz.
mf
ff
pizz.
mf staccatiss.
mf
ff
pizz.
f
ff sub.
attacca subito

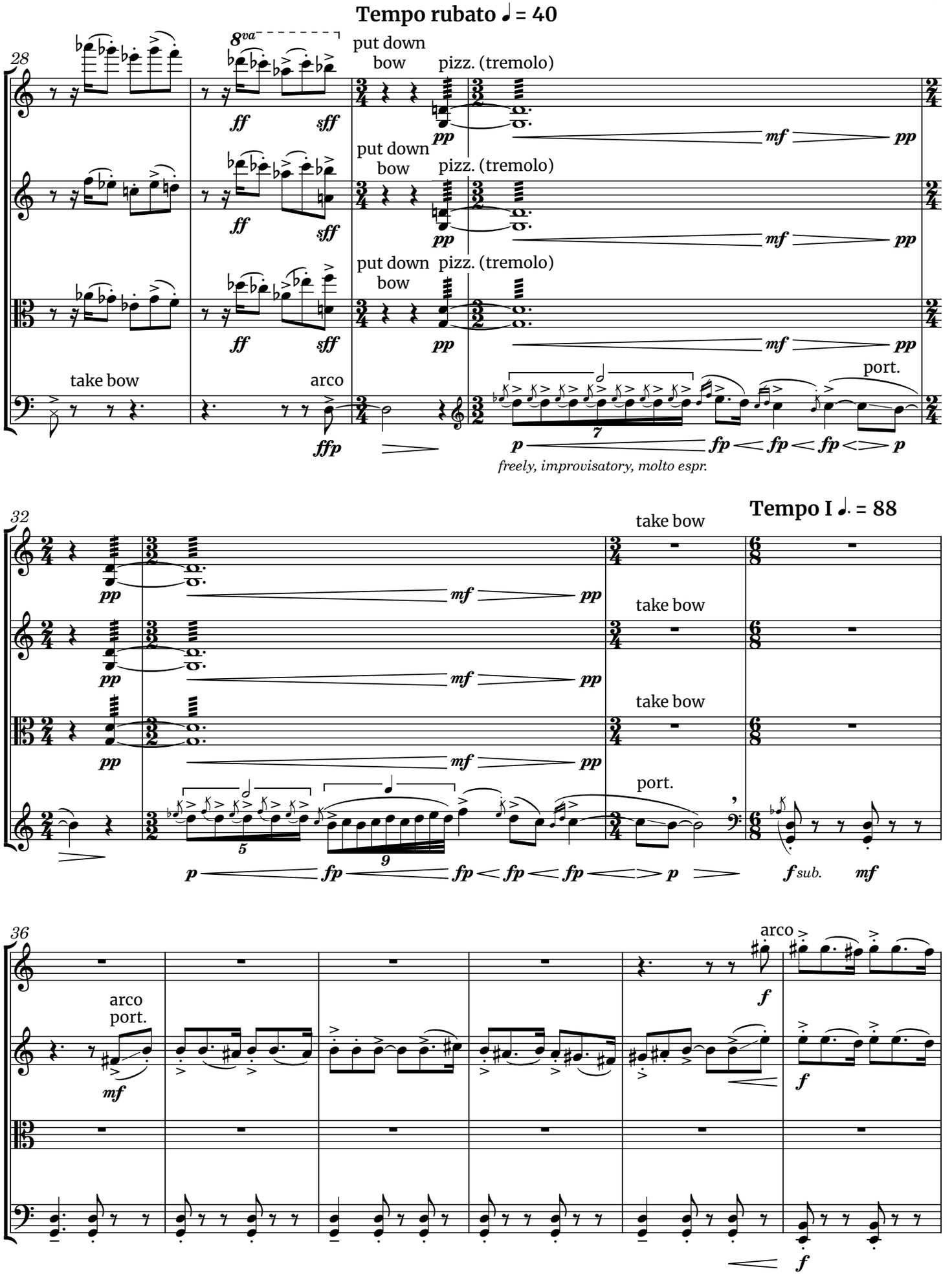
II. On the Tehran Tower

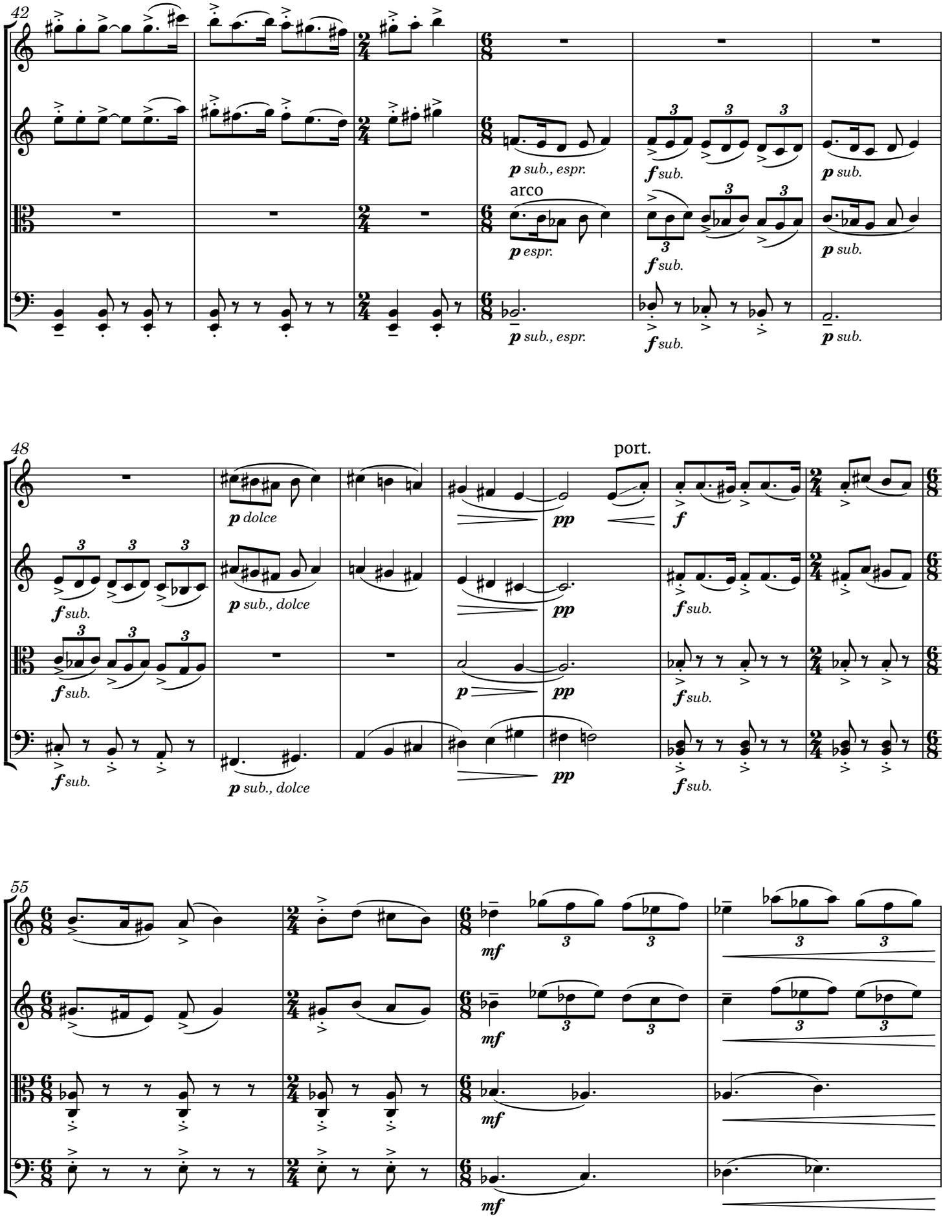
Un poco agitato ♩. = 88



*) 𝄲 = Quarter tone flat


14
f
18
3
22
ff
p sub.
cresc.
f


Tempo rubato ♩ = 40
28
8va
put down bow
pizz. (tremolo)
ff
sff
pp
mf
take bow
arco
ffp
port.
p
fp
freely, improvisatory, molto espr.
32
Tempo I ♩. = 88
take bow
port.
f sub.
36
arco
port.
f


42
arco
48
port.
55

rit.

Rubato ♩ = 40

59

put down bow

pizz.

put down bow

pizz.

64

freely, improvisatory, molto espr.

port.

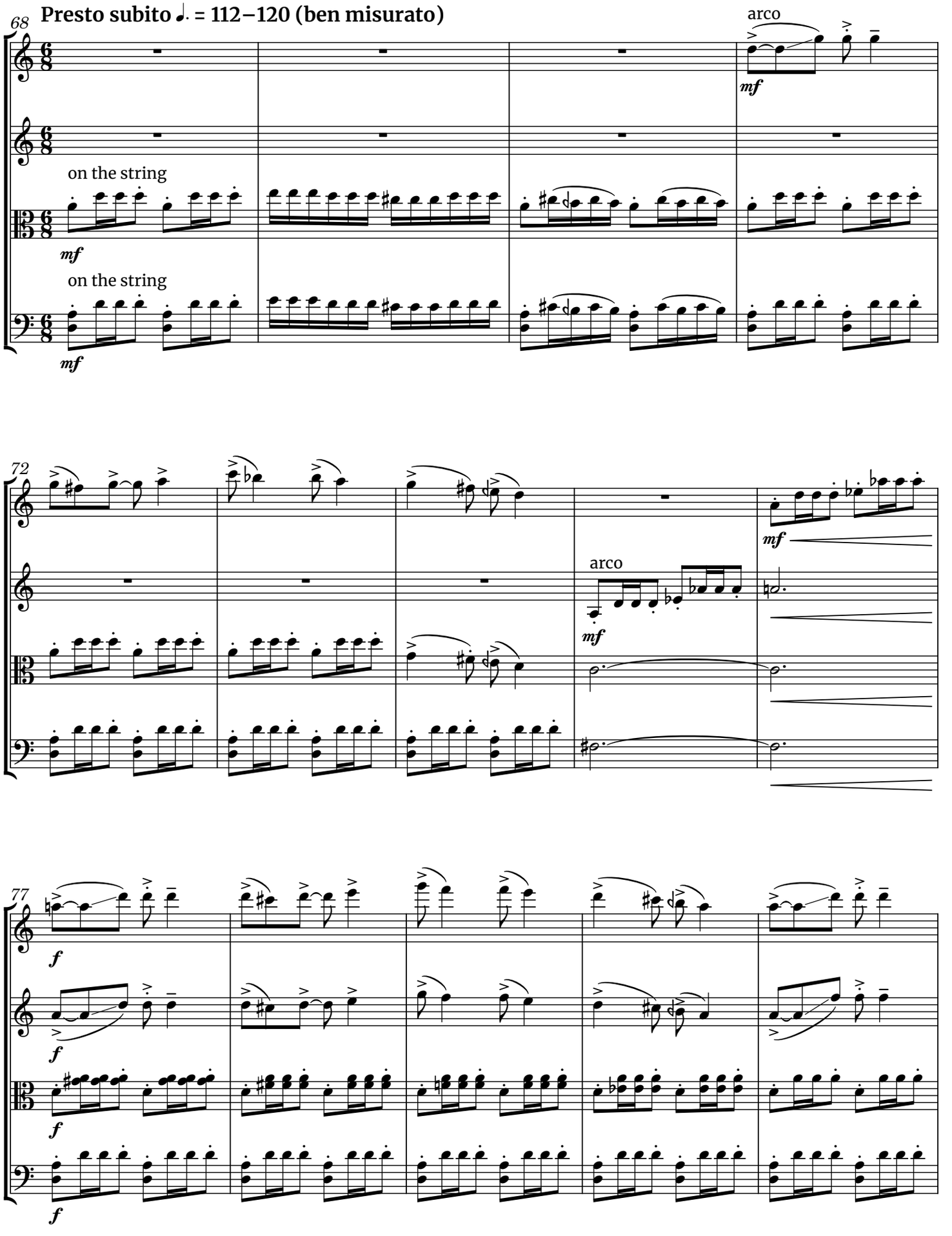
freely, improvisatory, molto espr.

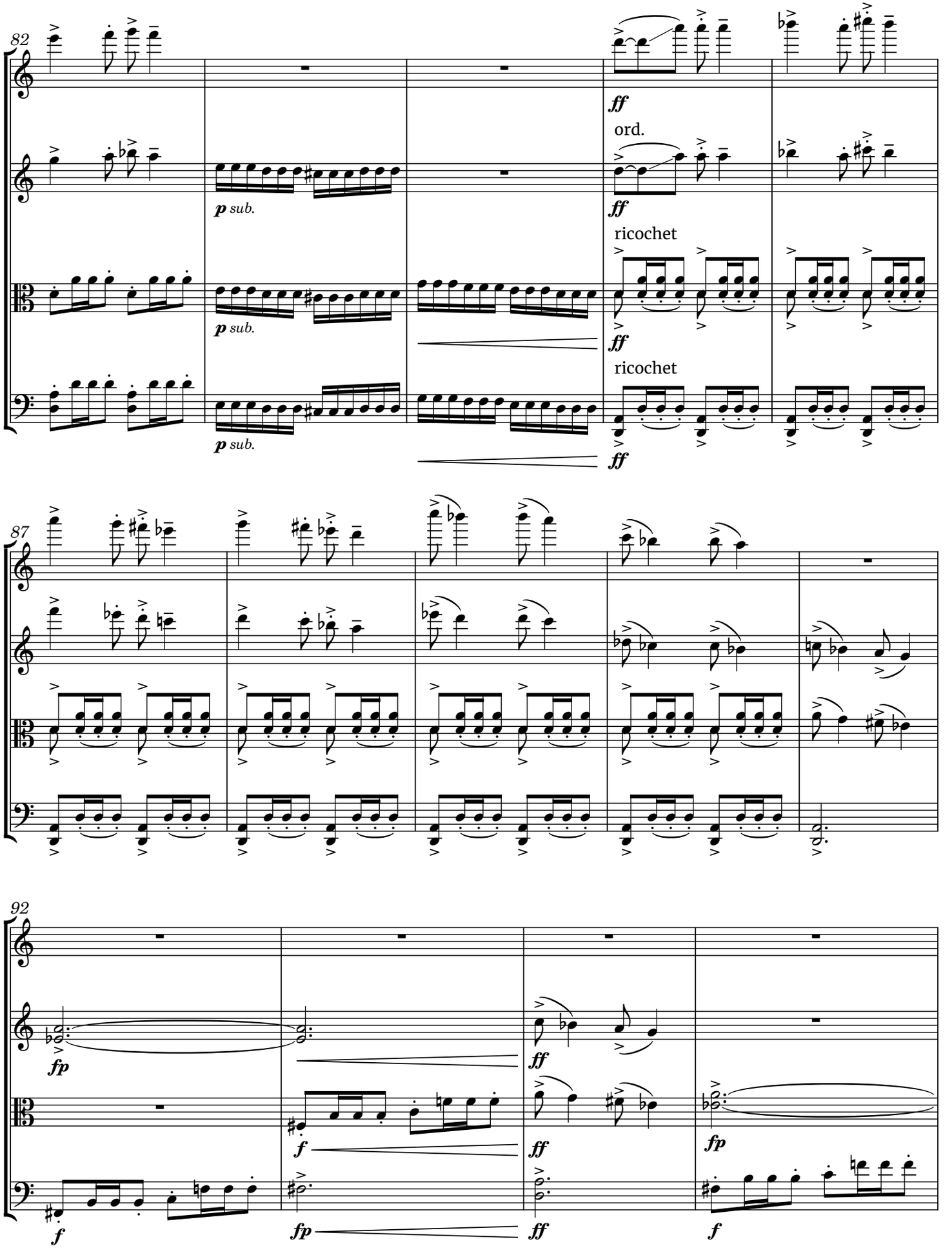
66

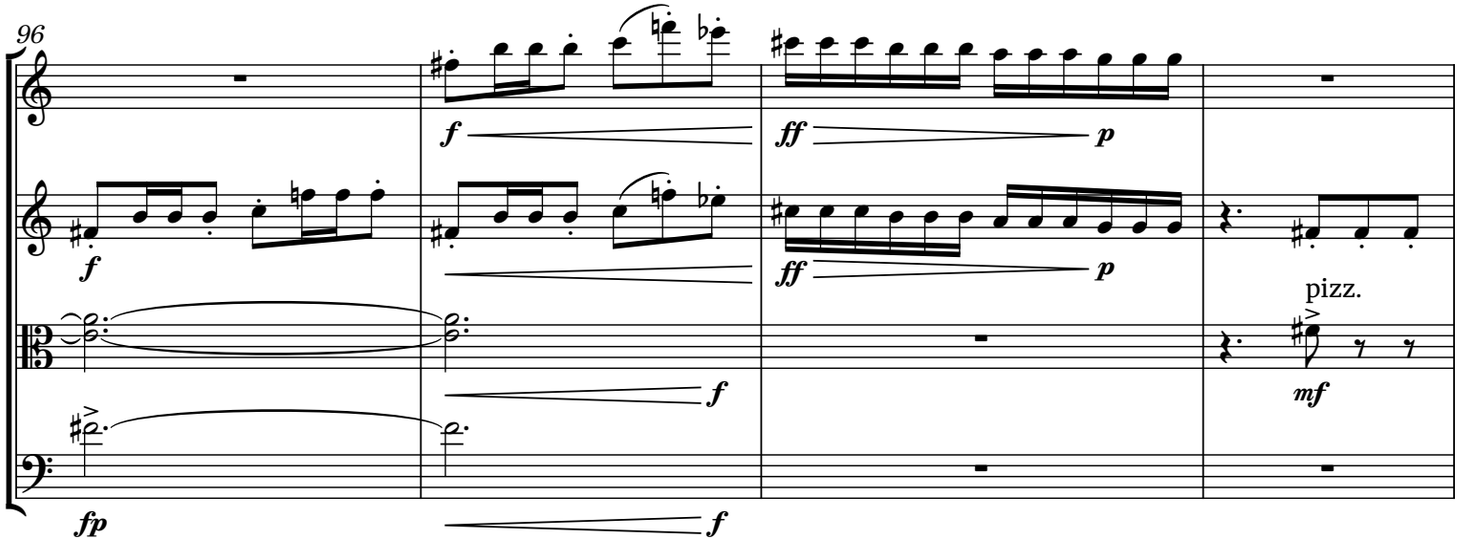
take bow

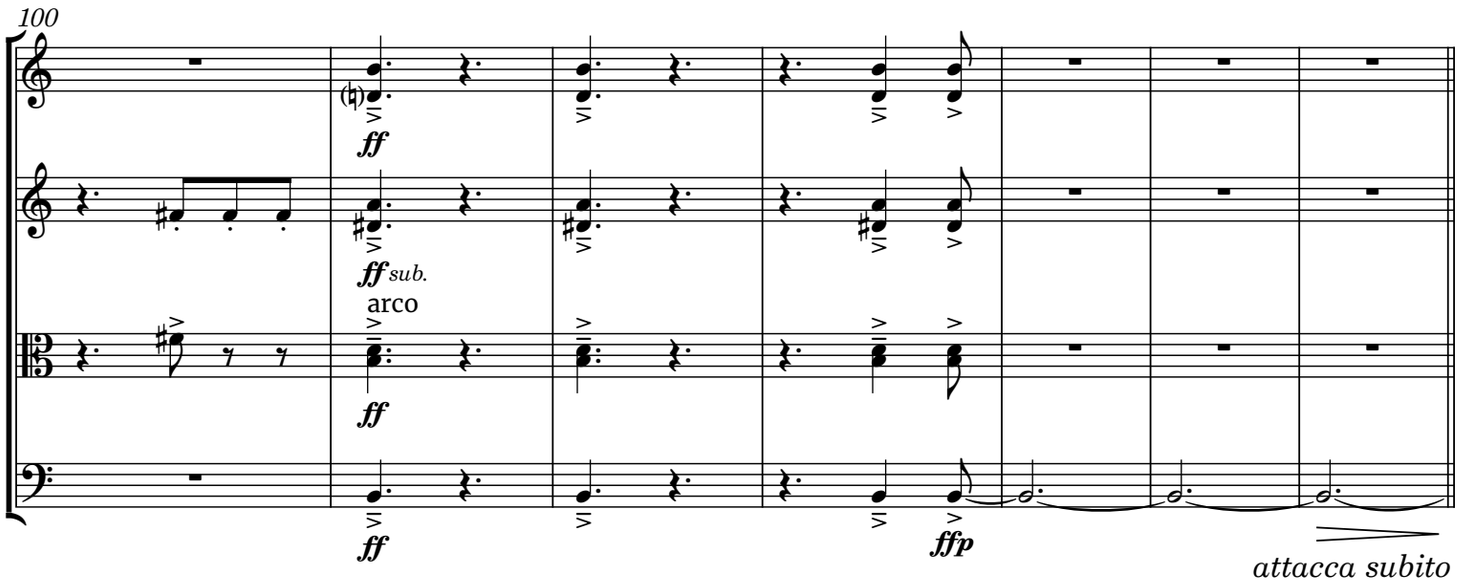
take bow

port.

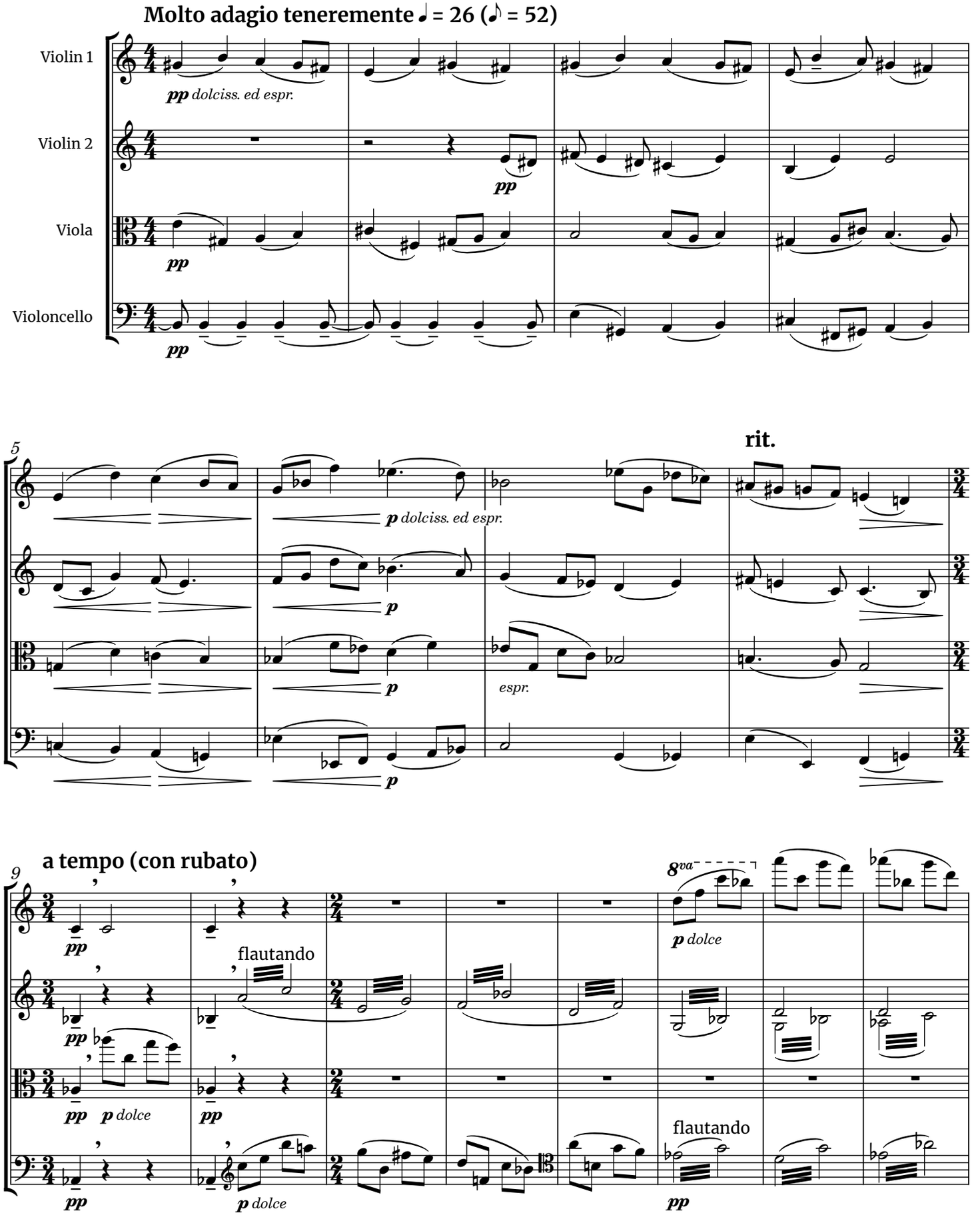

68
Presto subito ♩. = 112–120 (ben misurato)
arco
mf
on the string
mf
on the string
mf
72
mf
arco
mf
mf
77
f
f
f
f

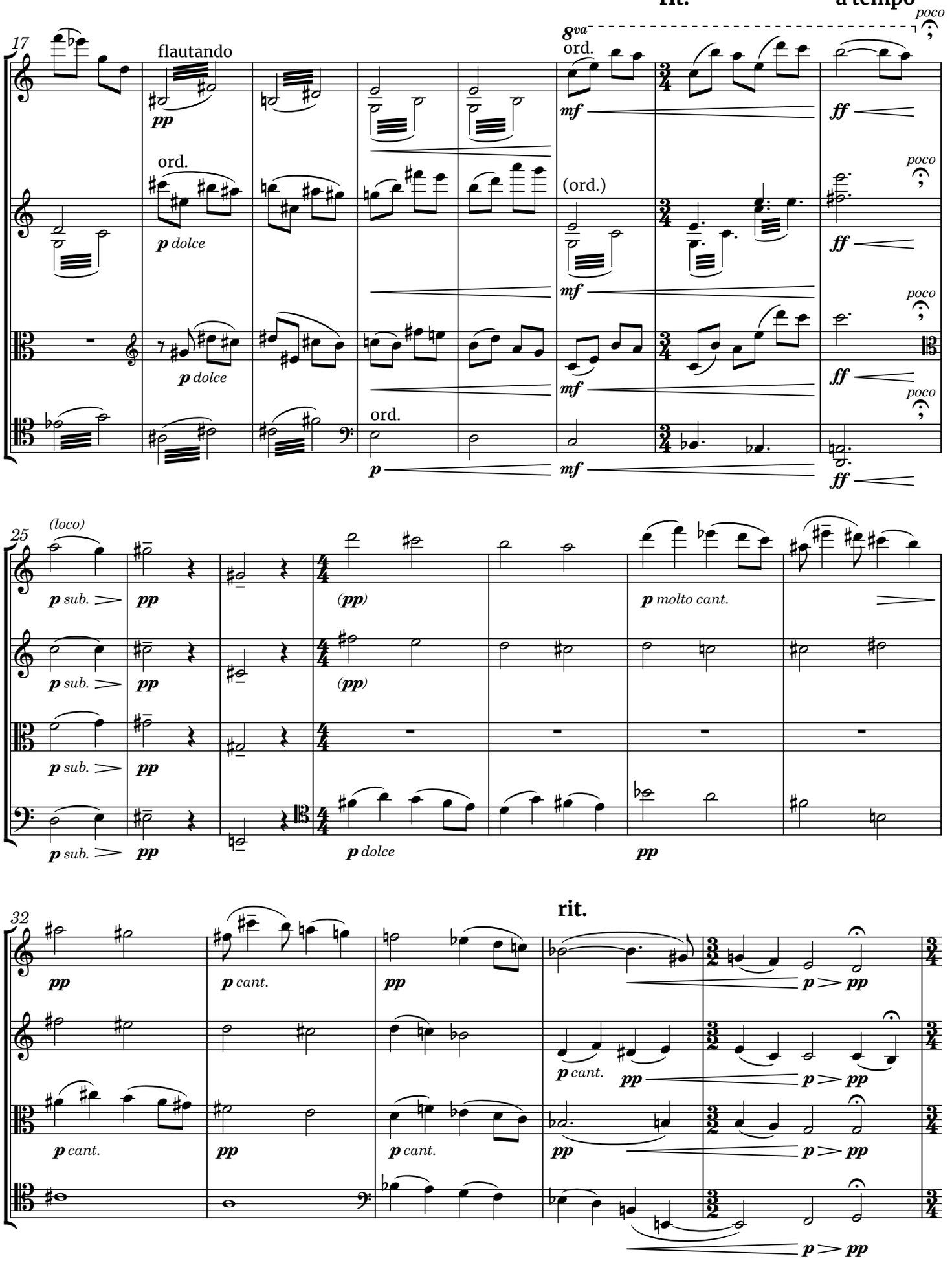

82
ff
ord.
p sub.
ricochet
87
92
fp
f

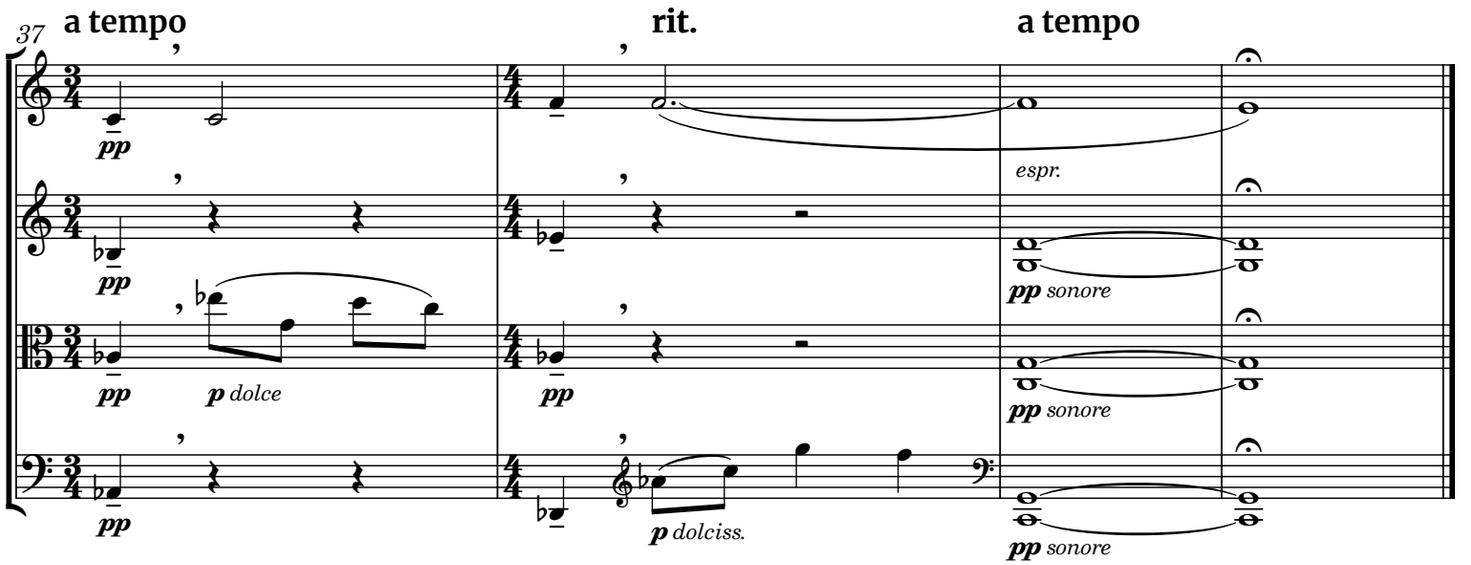

96
f
ff
p
f
ff
p
pizz.
mf
f
fp
f


100
ff
ff sub.
arco
ff
ff
ffp
attacca subito

III. In Arcadia




rit.
a tempo
17
flautando
ord.
8va
poco
25
(loco)
molto cant.
32
cant.


37
a tempo
rit.
a tempo
pp
p dolce
p dolciss.
espr.
pp sonore