Israel Lai (2018)

Playwright

for string quartet

Who are we but what we tell ourselves? How do we feel what we feel? Are we really acting and feeling of our own accord, or are we just chess pieces to our subconscious, actors following a script with an unknown goal…by a mysterious playwright?

Who am I…or rather, am I really *just* me?

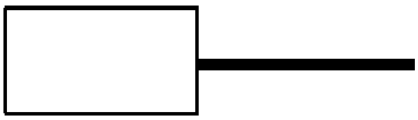
composed in May 2018 for the Mivos Quartet

Performance notes

Hauptstimme: marks the main voice at a given moment.

Nebenstimme: marks the countermelody to the Hauptstimme.

crescendo dal niente (from silence) / diminuendo al niente (until silence)

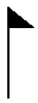


Keep repeating the notated figure with approximately the same rhythm (if rhythm is notated) or regardless of tempo (if no rhythm is notated).

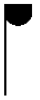
col legno ed i crini

Rotate the bow such that (ideally) both the wood and the hair touch the strings.
When an arrow points to 'con i crini', gradually rotate the bow to a normal playing position.

Long fermata



Strong attack with overpressure



Play behind the bridge (with strong pressure)

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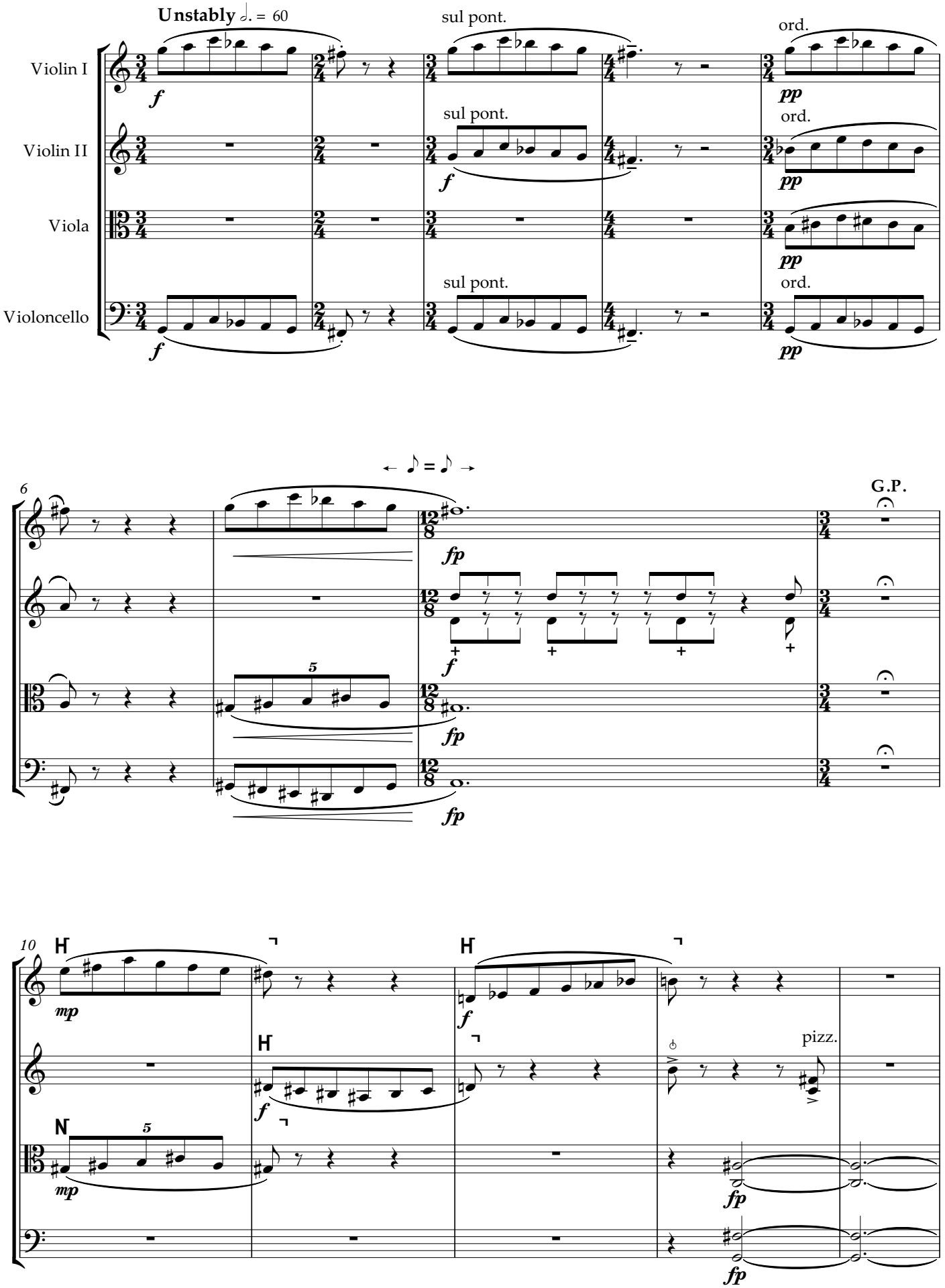
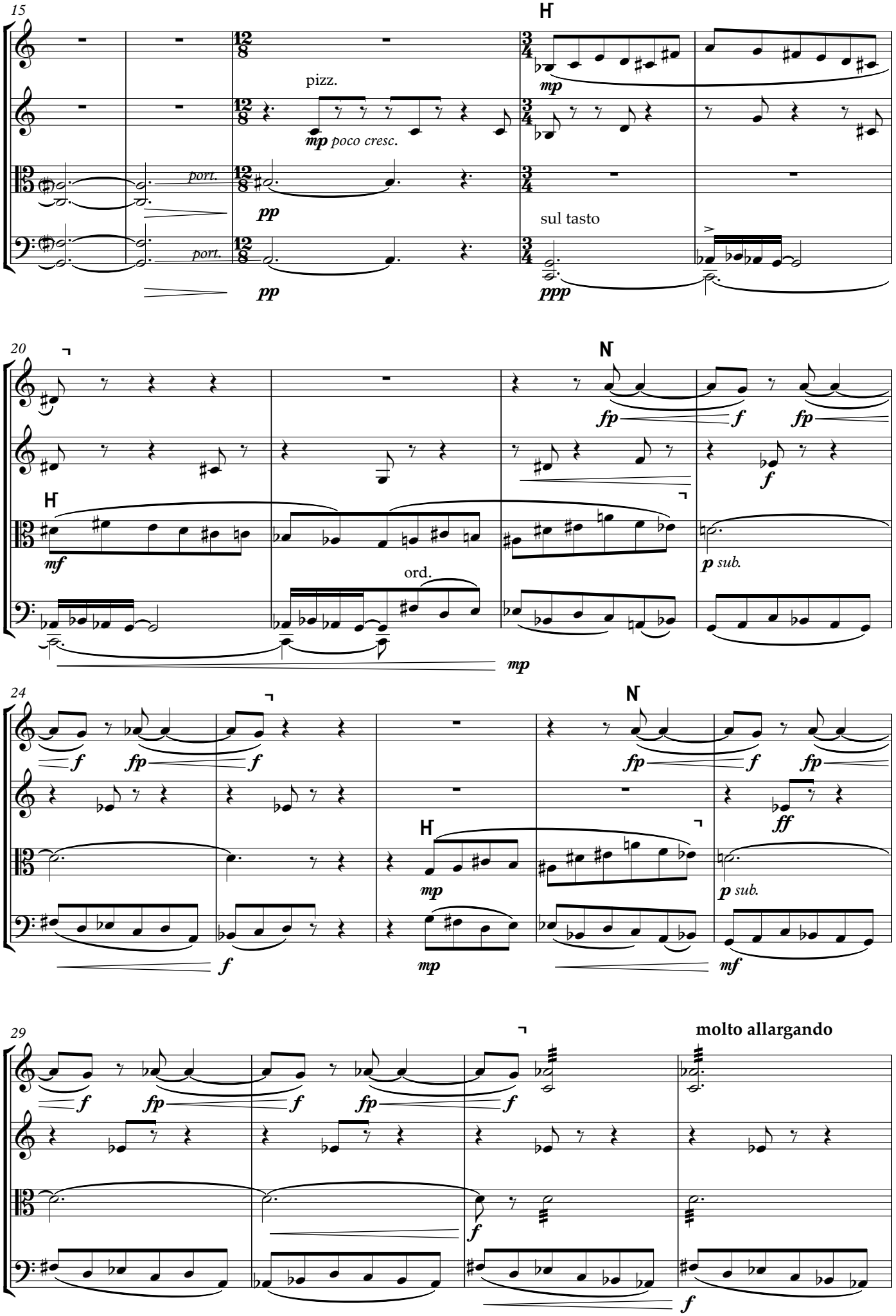
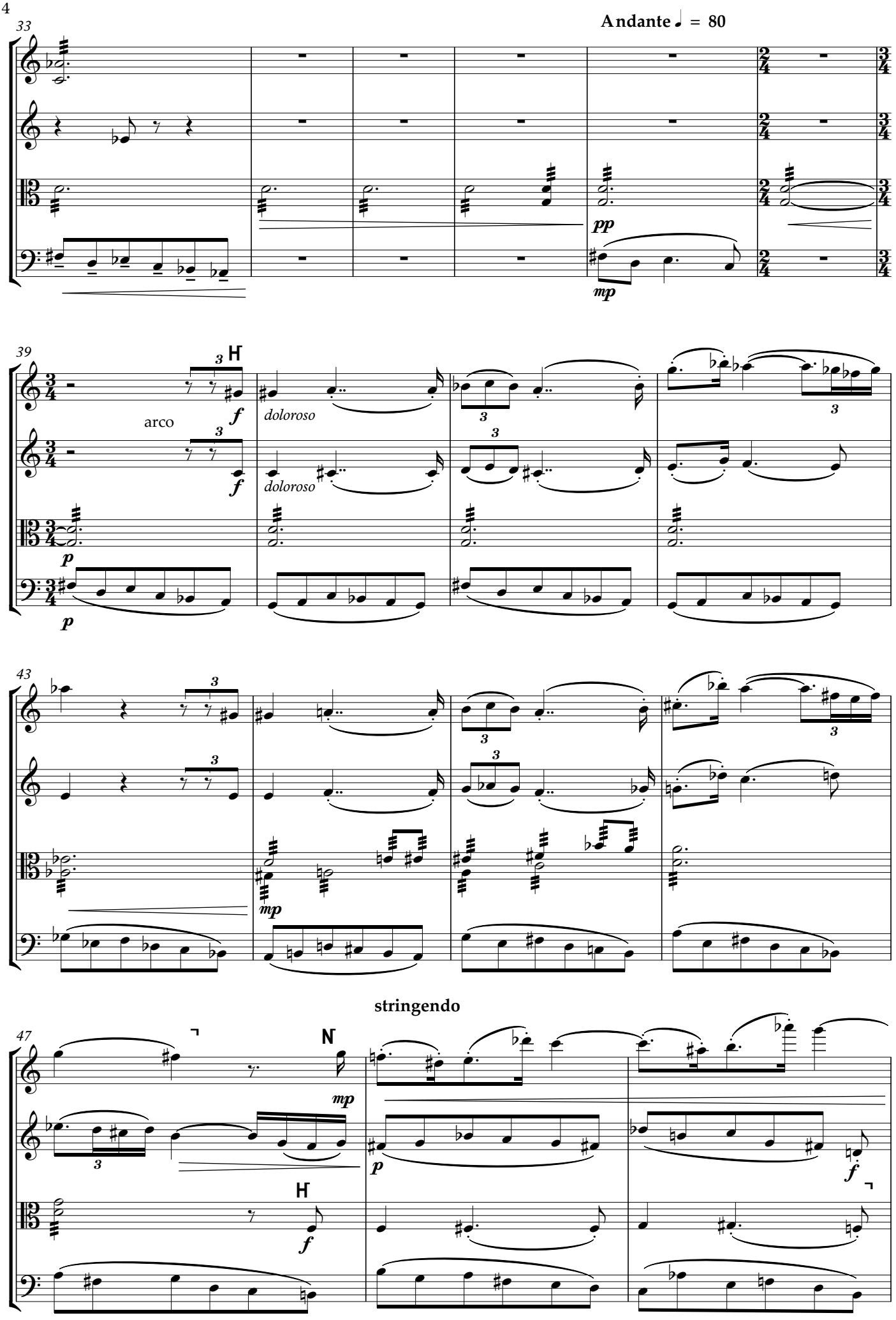
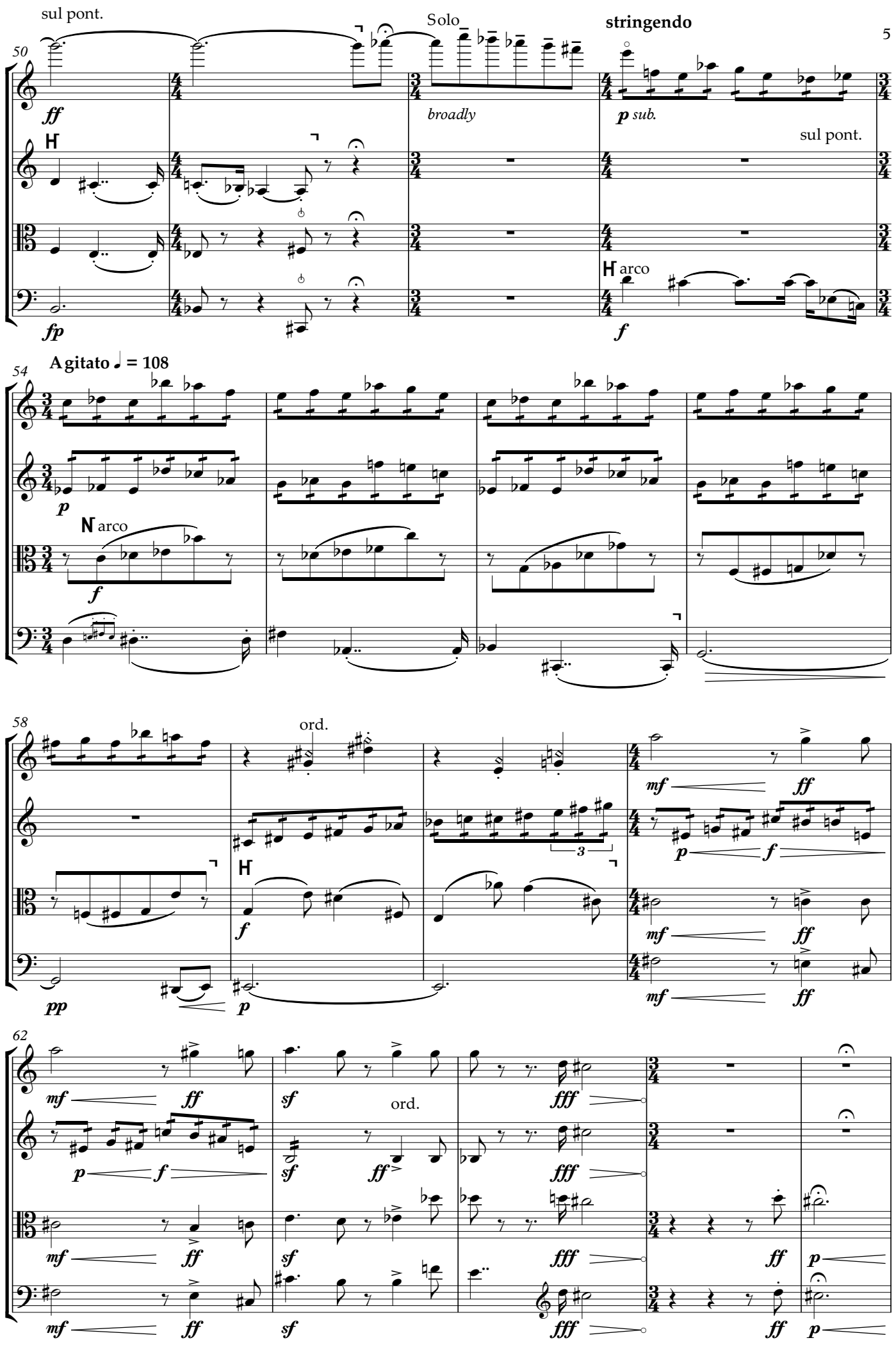
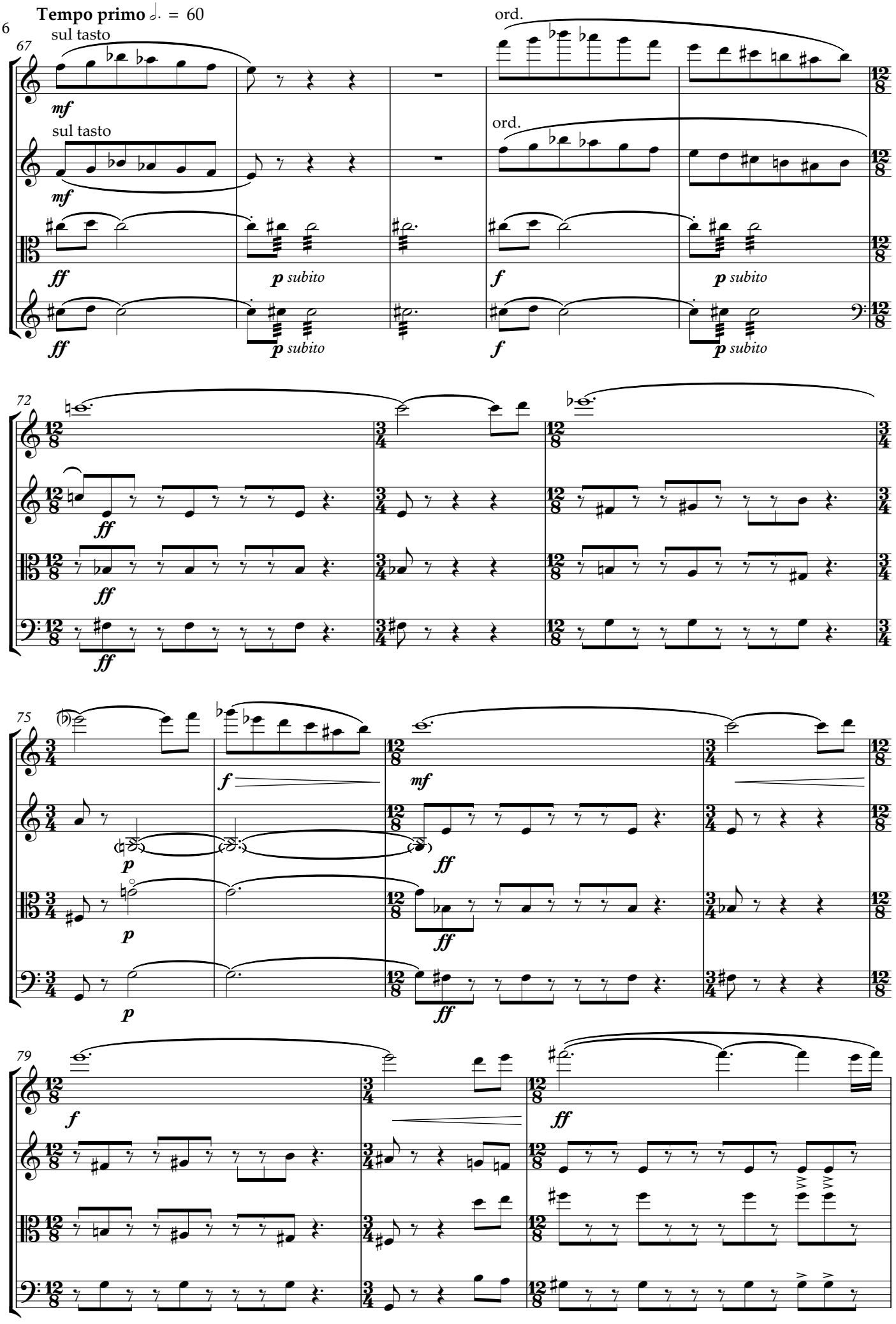
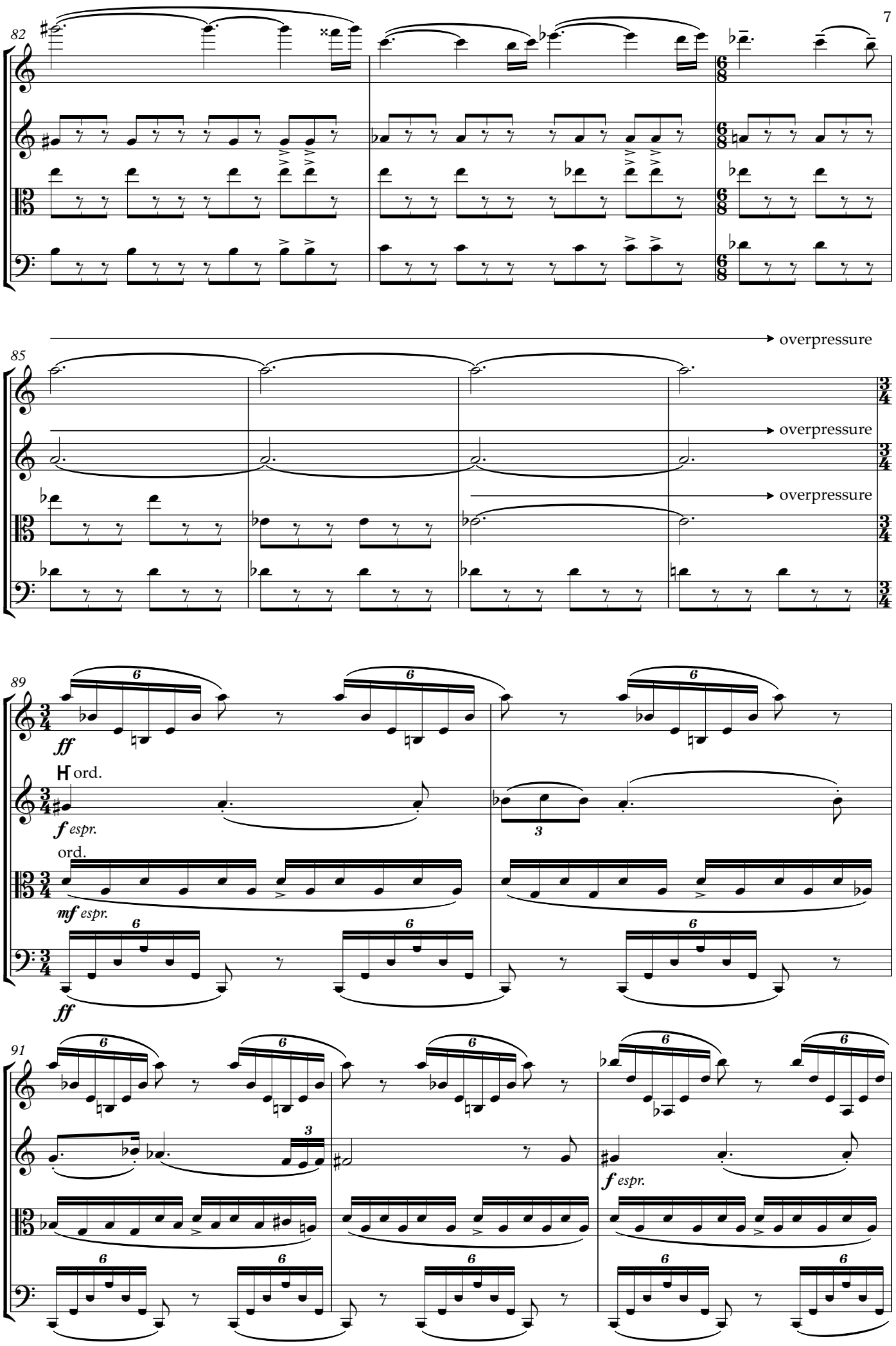


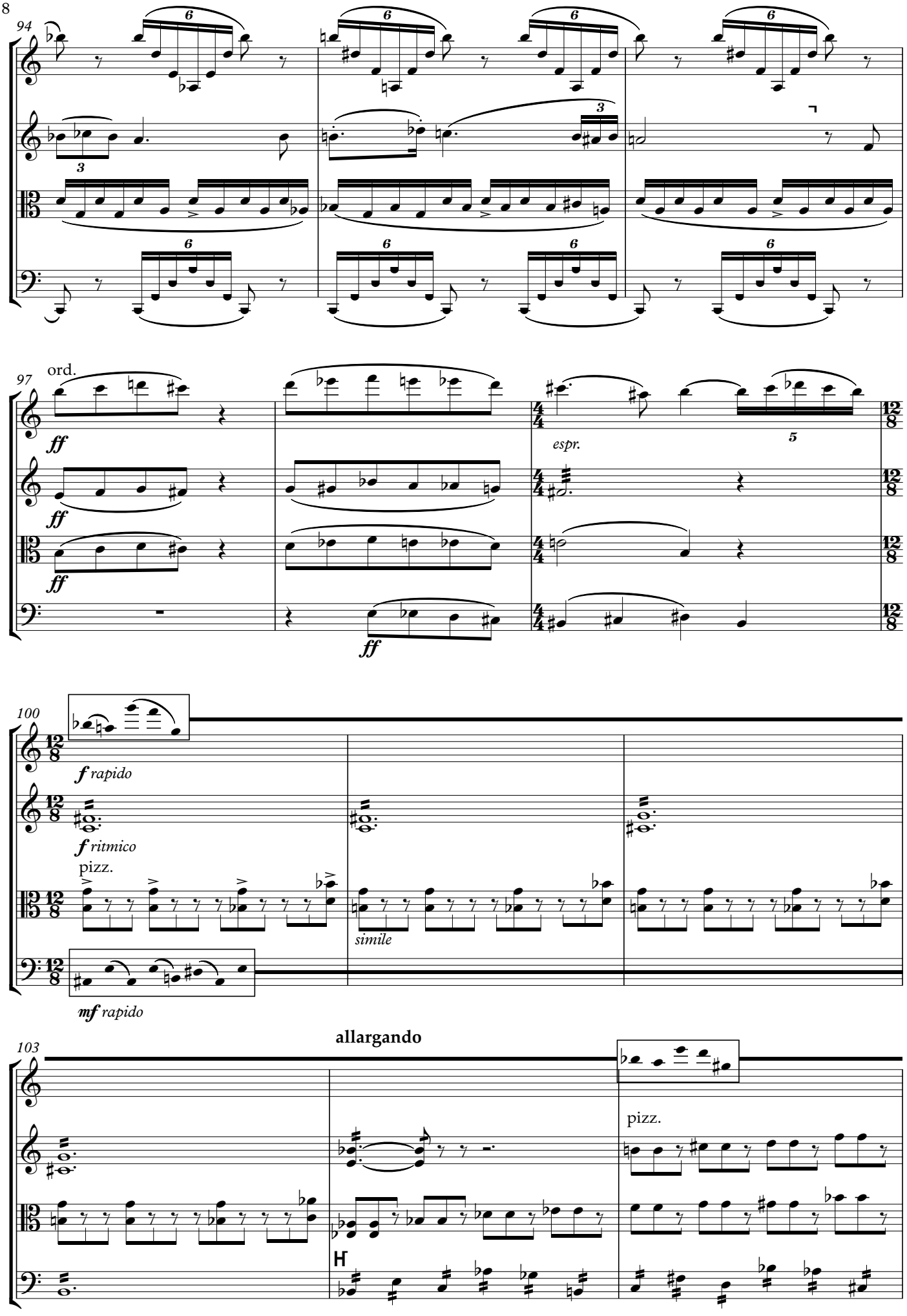

15
pizz.
mp poco cresc.
port.
pp
sul tasto
ppp
20
fp
f
mf
ord.
p sub.
mp
24
ff
29
molto allargando

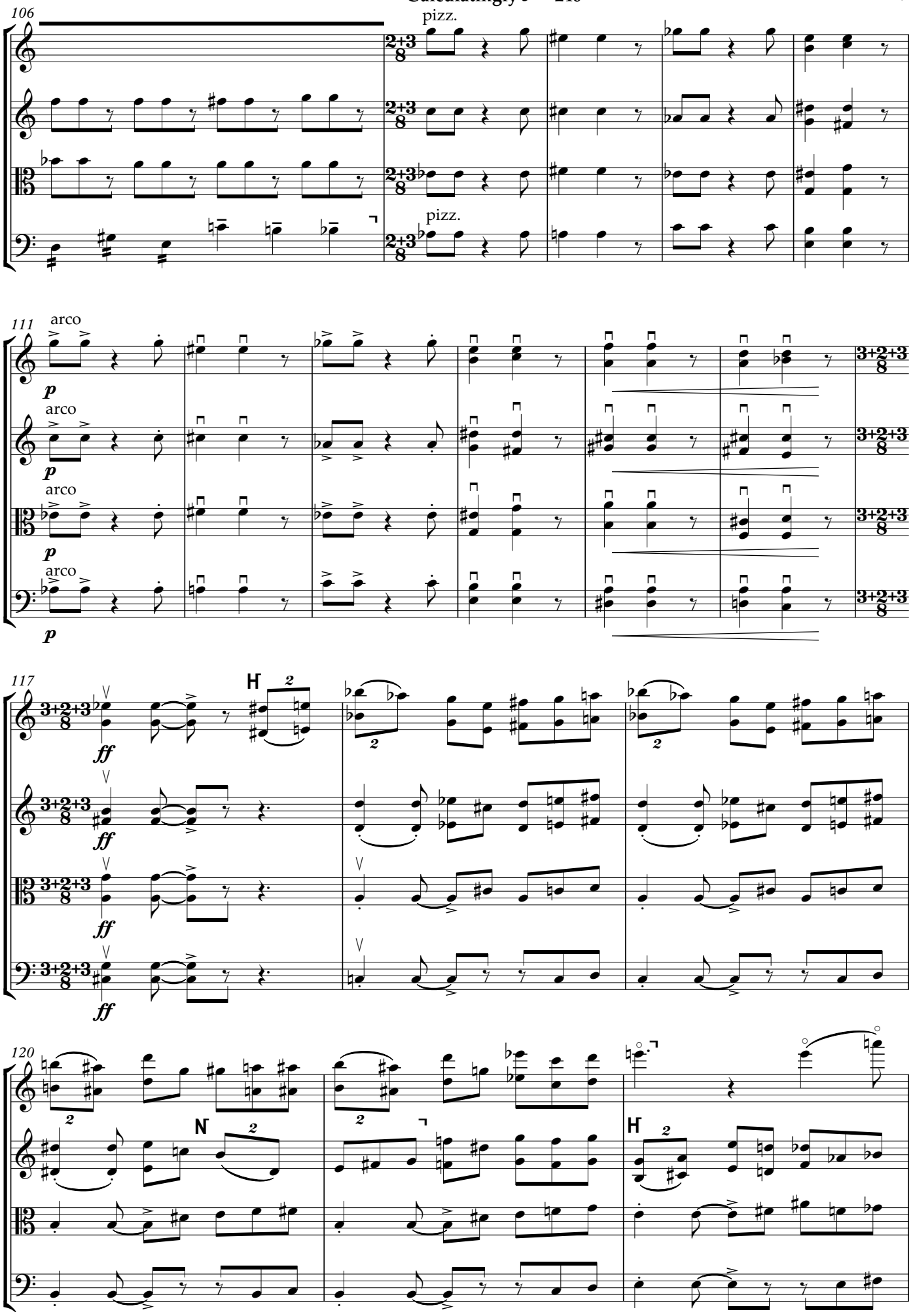

33
Andante ♩ = 80
pp
mp
39
arco
f
doloroso
p
43
mp
47
stringendo
N
mp
p
f

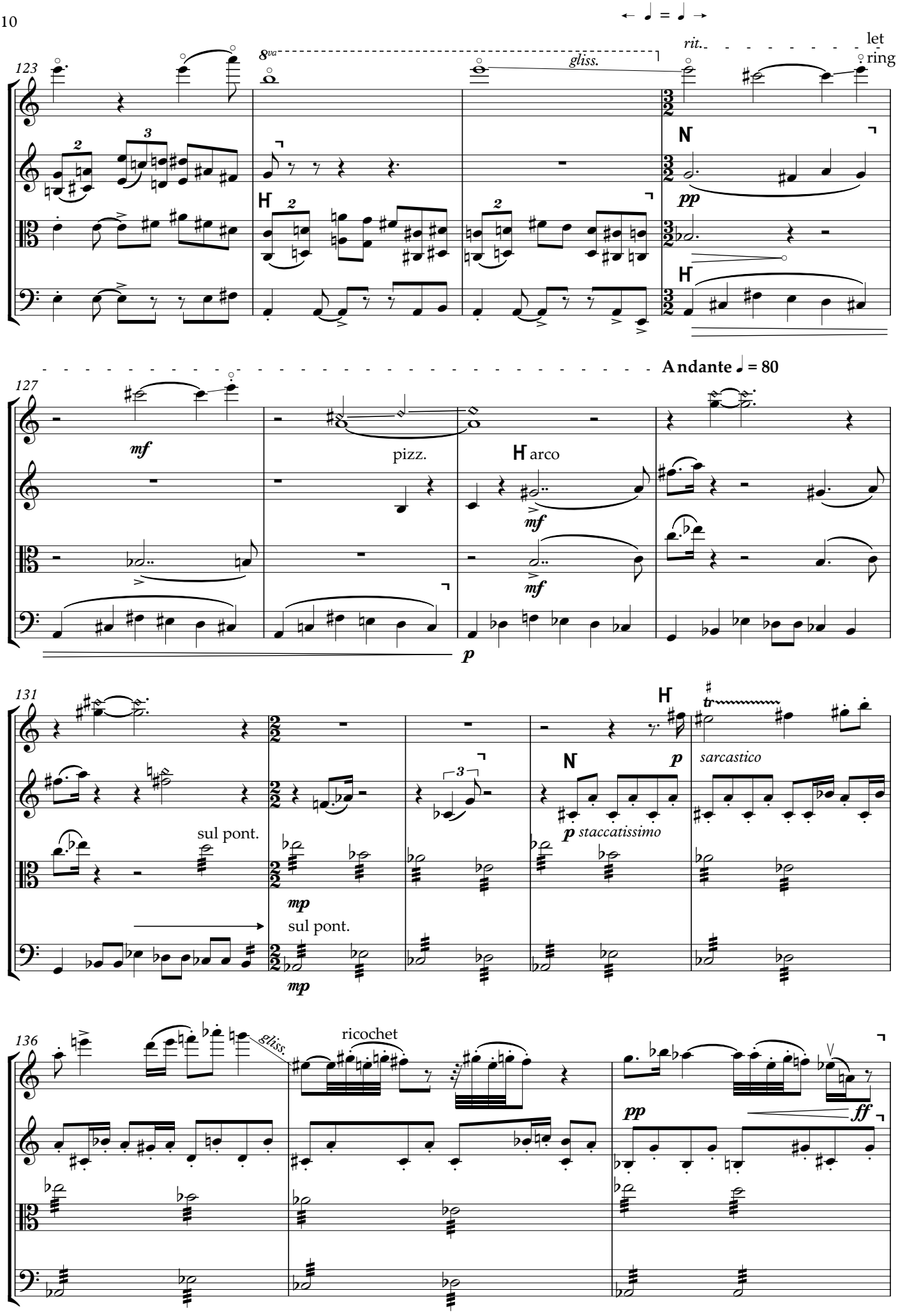

sul pont.
Solo
stringendo
50
broadly
sul pont.
arco
54
Agitato ♩ = 108
arco
58
ord.
62
ord.

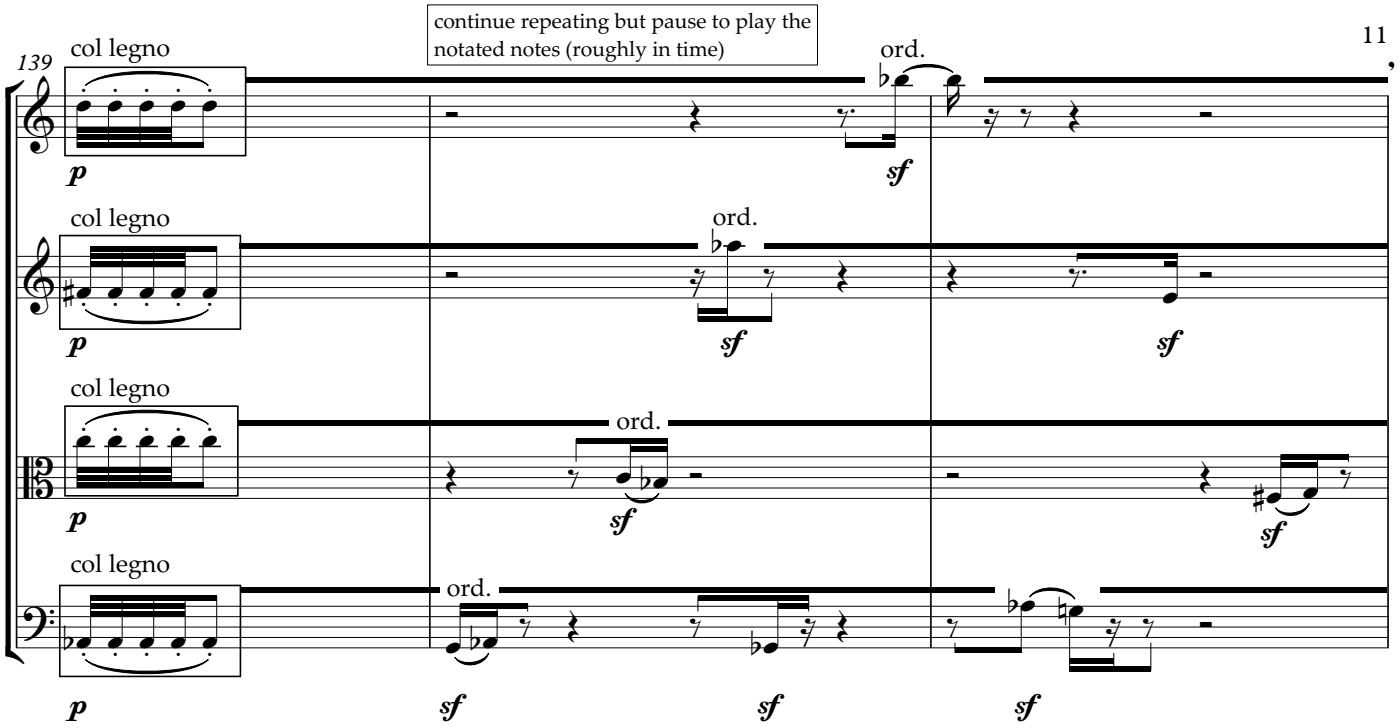

Tempo primo ♩. = 60
67
sul tasto
mf
ord.
ff
p subito
f
72
75
79

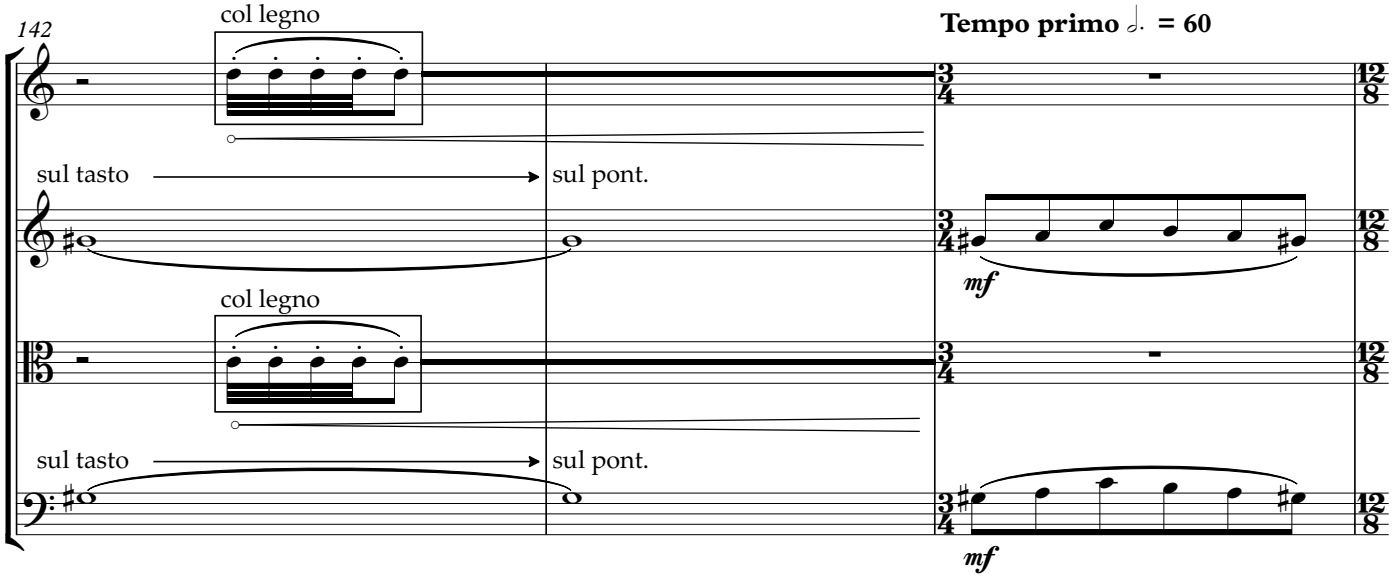

82
85
overpressure
overpressure
overpressure
89
ff
H ord.
f espr.
ord.
mf espr.
ff
91
f espr.

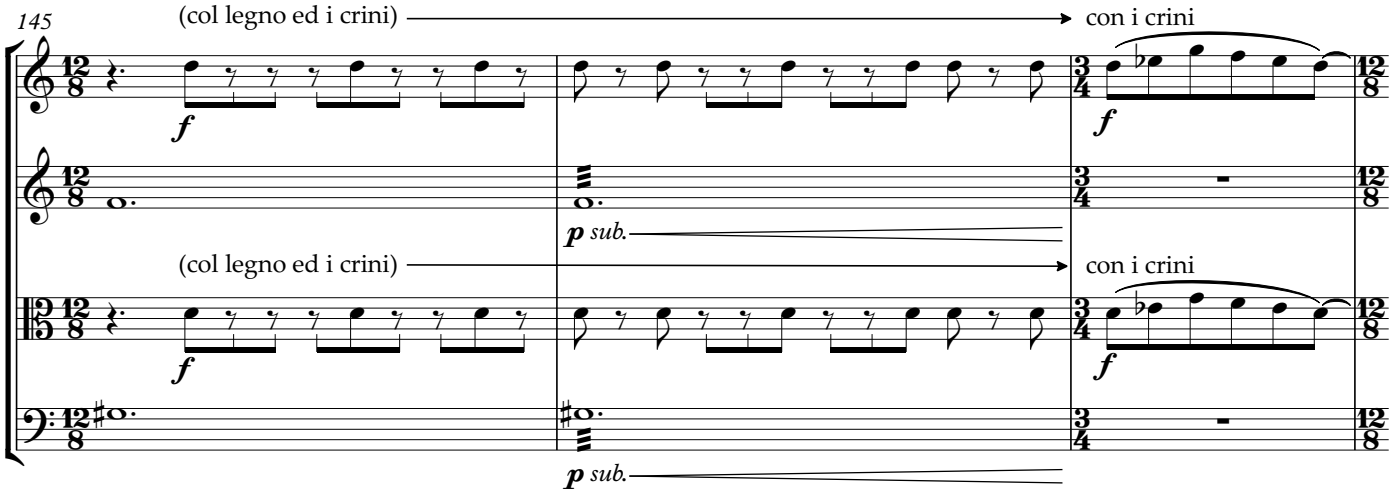

94
97
ord.
ff
espr.
100
f rapido
f ritmico
pizz.
simile
mf rapido
103
allargando
pizz.

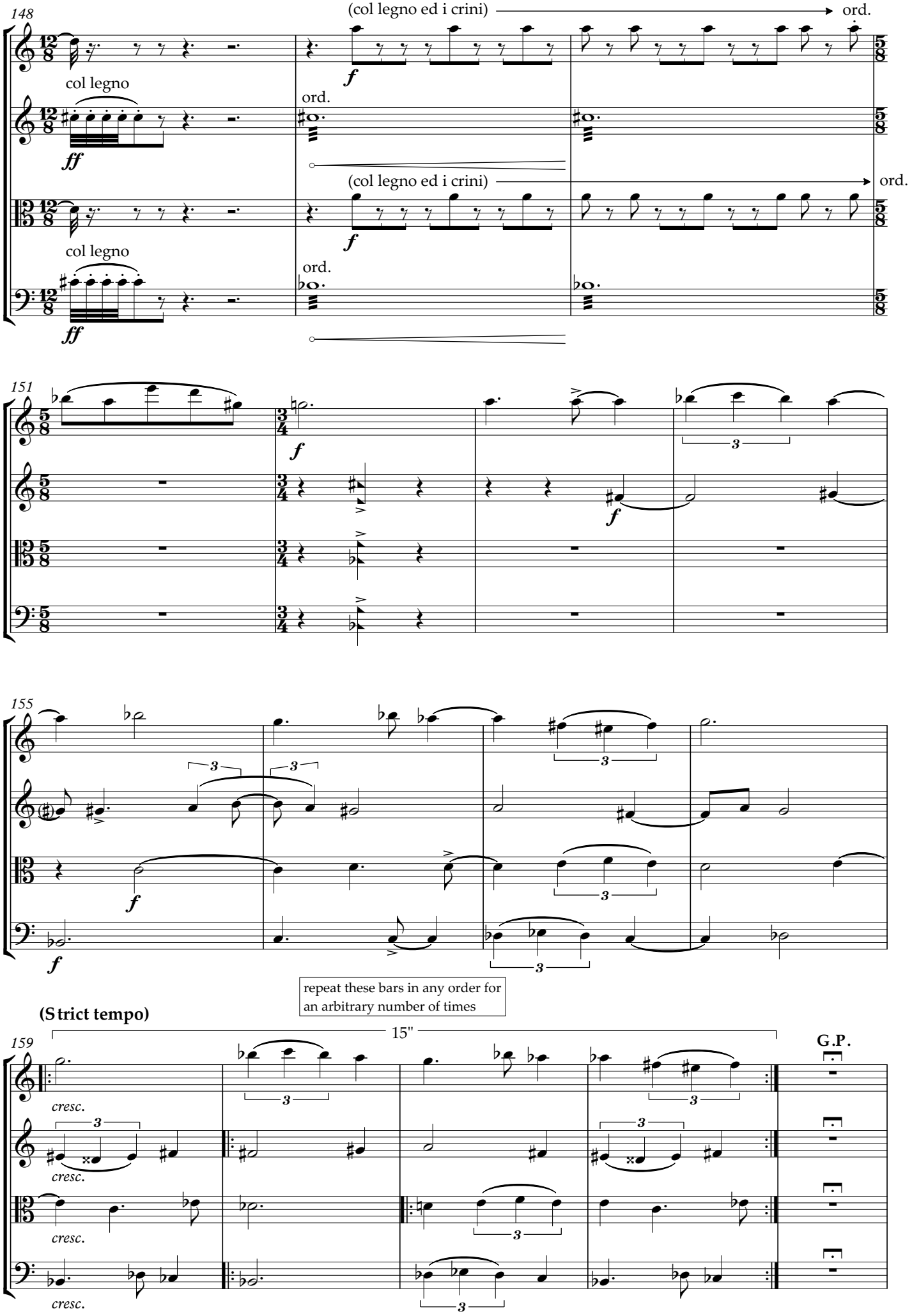

106
pizz.
pizz.
111
arco
arco
arco
arco
117
120

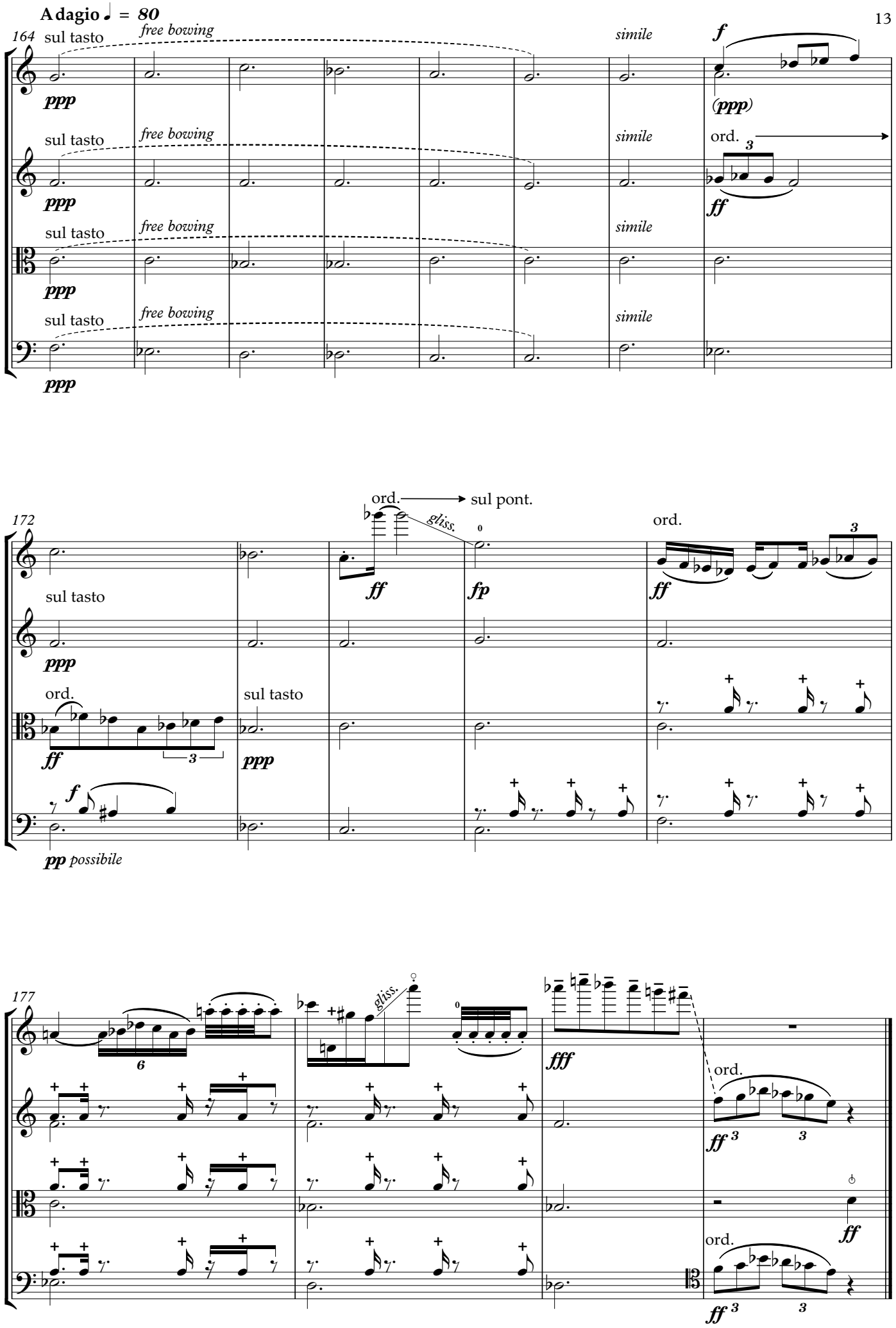

123
8va
gliss.
rit.
let ring
pp
Andante ♩ = 80
127
mf
pizz.
arco
mf
mf
p
131
sul pont.
mp
sul pont.
mp
p
staccatissimo
sarcastico
136
gliss.
ricochet
pp
ff


continue repeating but pause to play the notated notes (roughly in time)
139
col legno
ord.
p
sf
col legno
ord.
p
sf
sf
col legno
ord.
p
sf
sf
col legno
ord.
p
sf
sf
sf


142
col legno
Tempo primo ♩. = 60
sul tasto
sul pont.
mf
col legno
sul tasto
sul pont.
mf


145
(col legno ed i crini)
con i crini
f
f
p sub.
(col legno ed i crini)
con i crini
f
f
p sub.


148
(col legno ed i crini)
ord.
col legno
ord.
ff
f
(col legno ed i crini)
ord.
col legno
ord.
ff
f
151
f
f
3
155
3
3
3
f
f
3
repeat these bars in any order for
an arbitrary number of times
(Strict tempo)
15"
159
G.P.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
3
3
3
3
3


Adagio ♩ = 80
164
sul tasto
free bowing
simile
ppp
f
(ppp)
ord.
ff
172
ord.
sul pont.
gliss.
fp
sul tasto
ppp
ff
pp possibile
177
gliss.
fff
ord.
ff