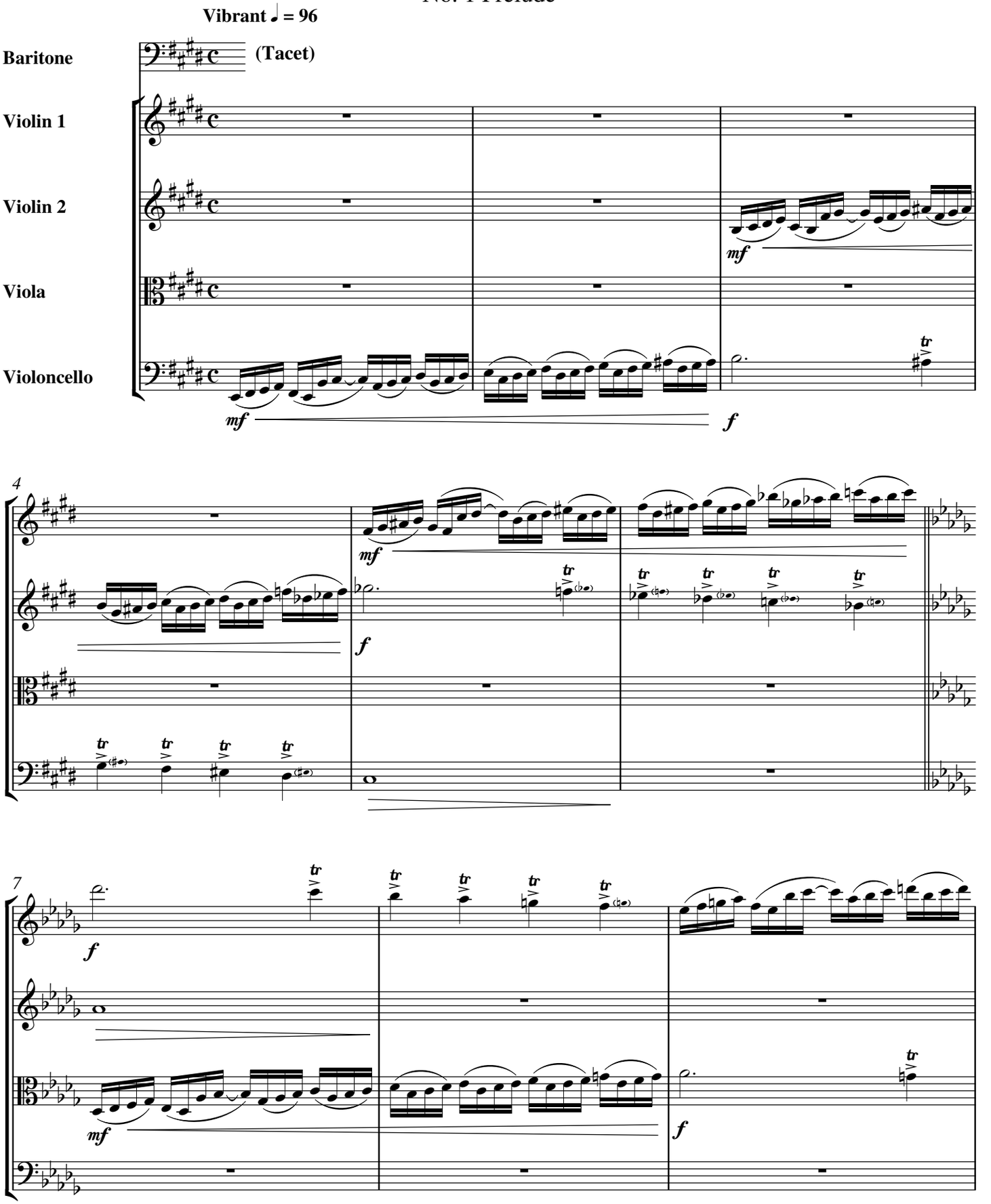
Green Sneakers

for Baritone and String Quartet

RICKY IAN GORDON

No. 1 Prelude



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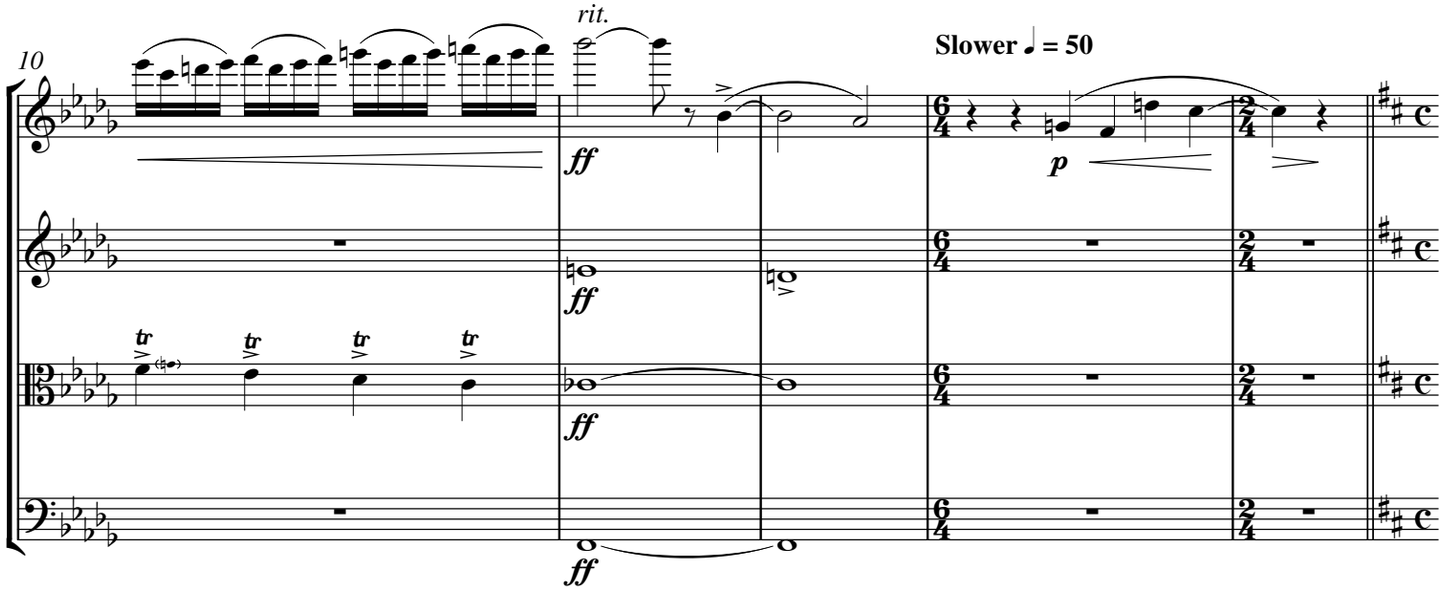
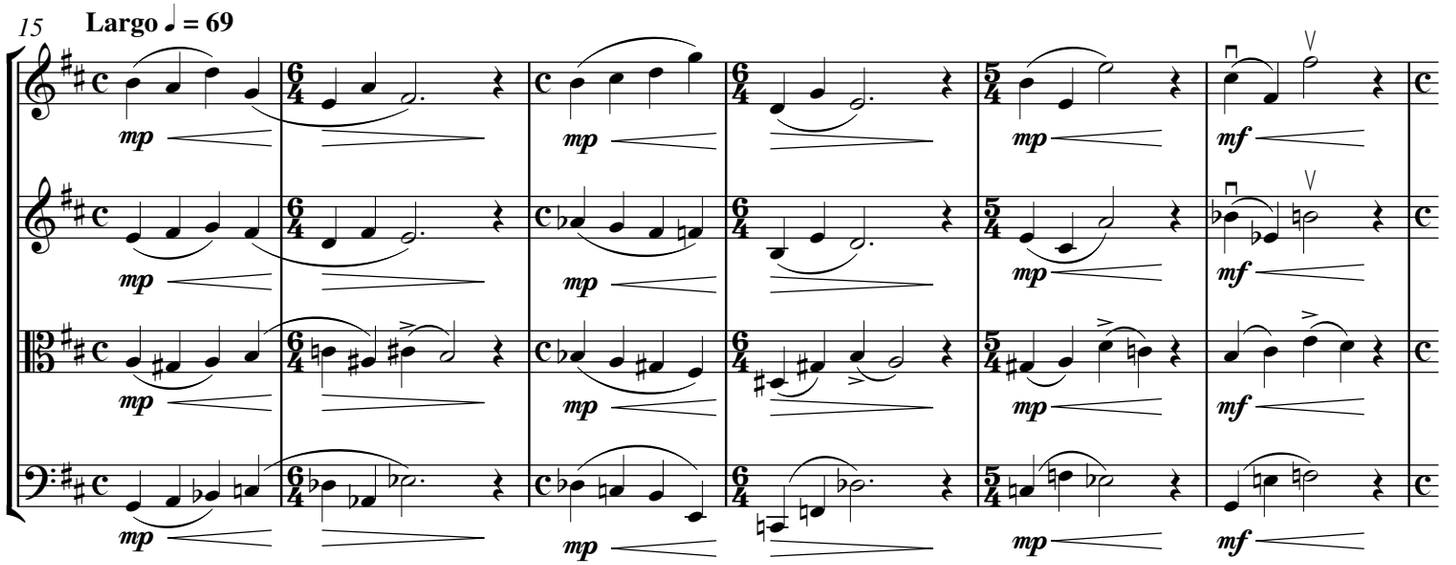
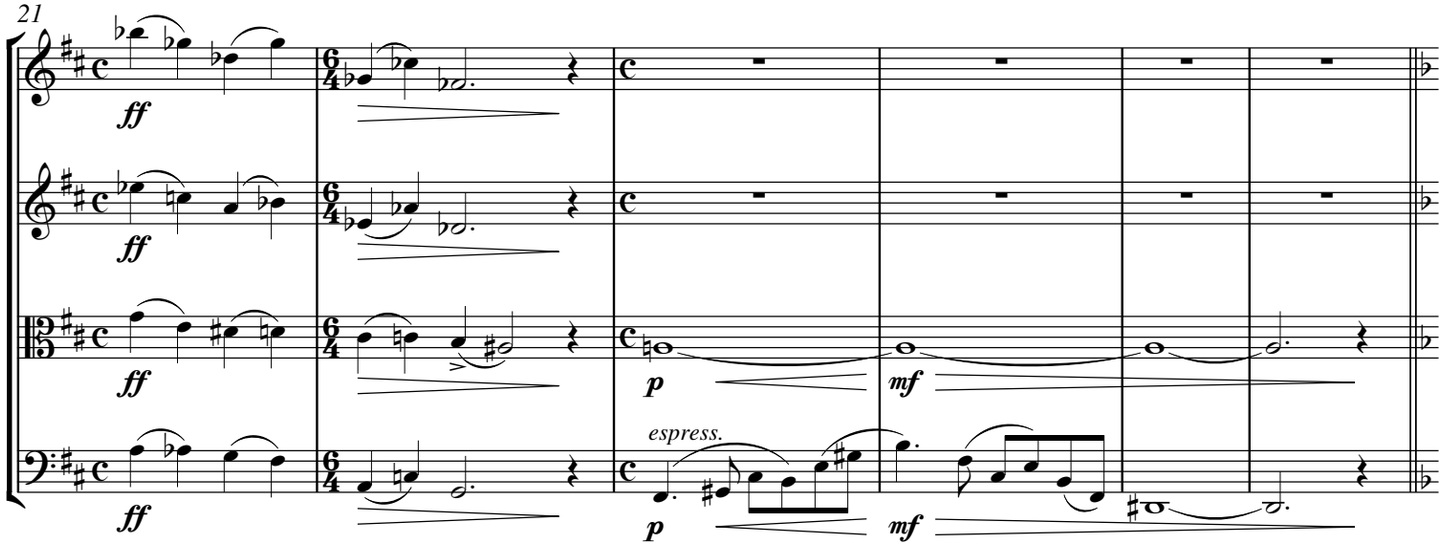
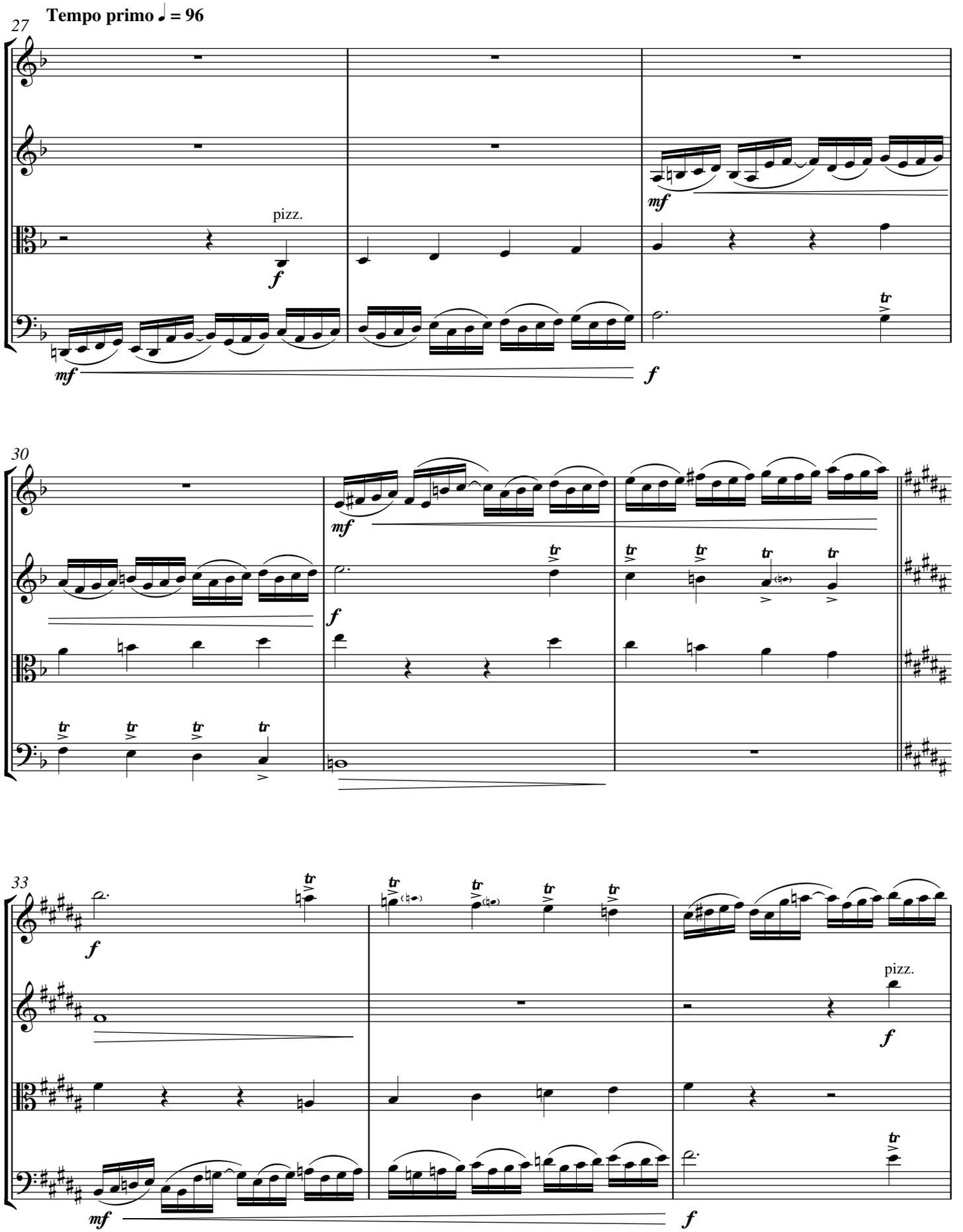
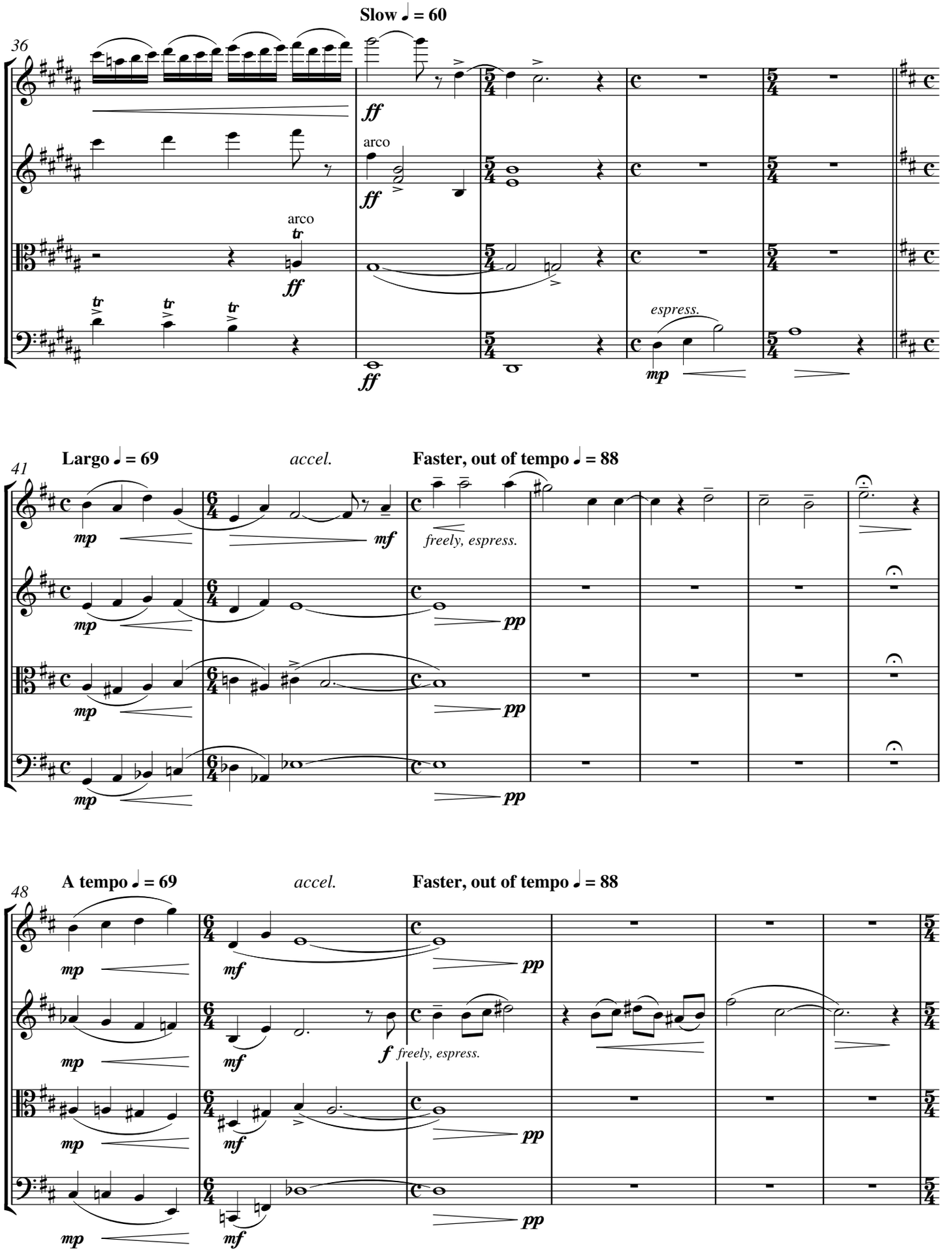
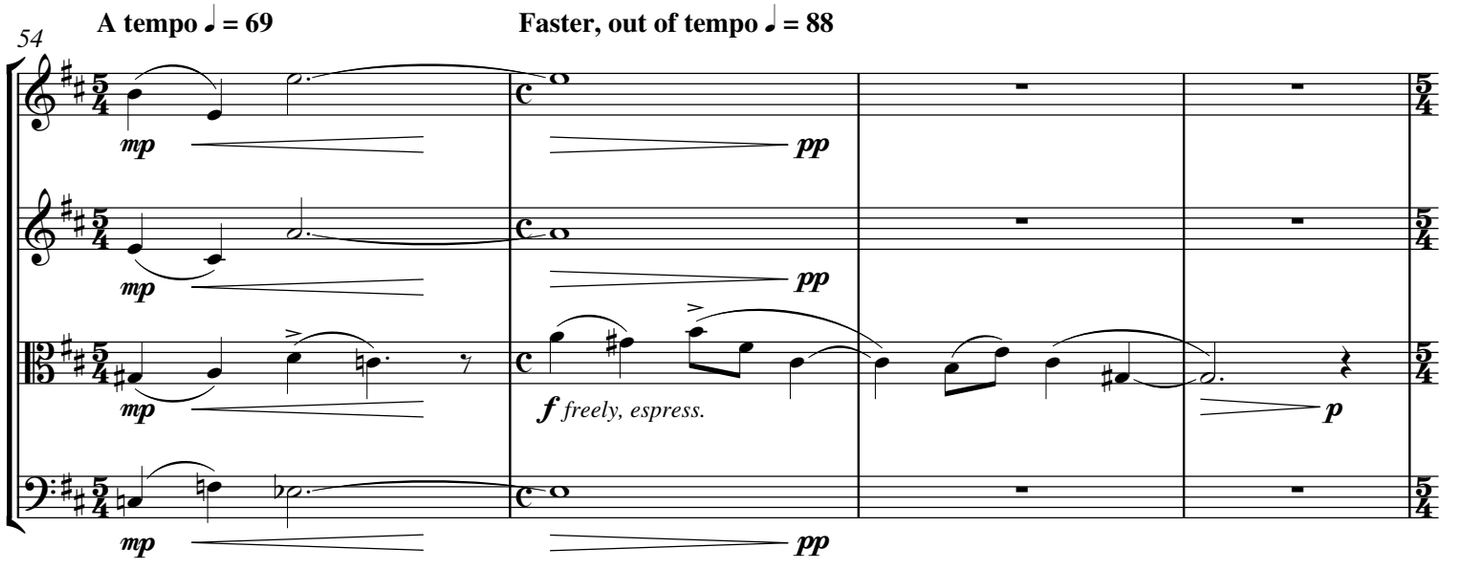

10
rit.
Slower ♩ = 50
ff
p

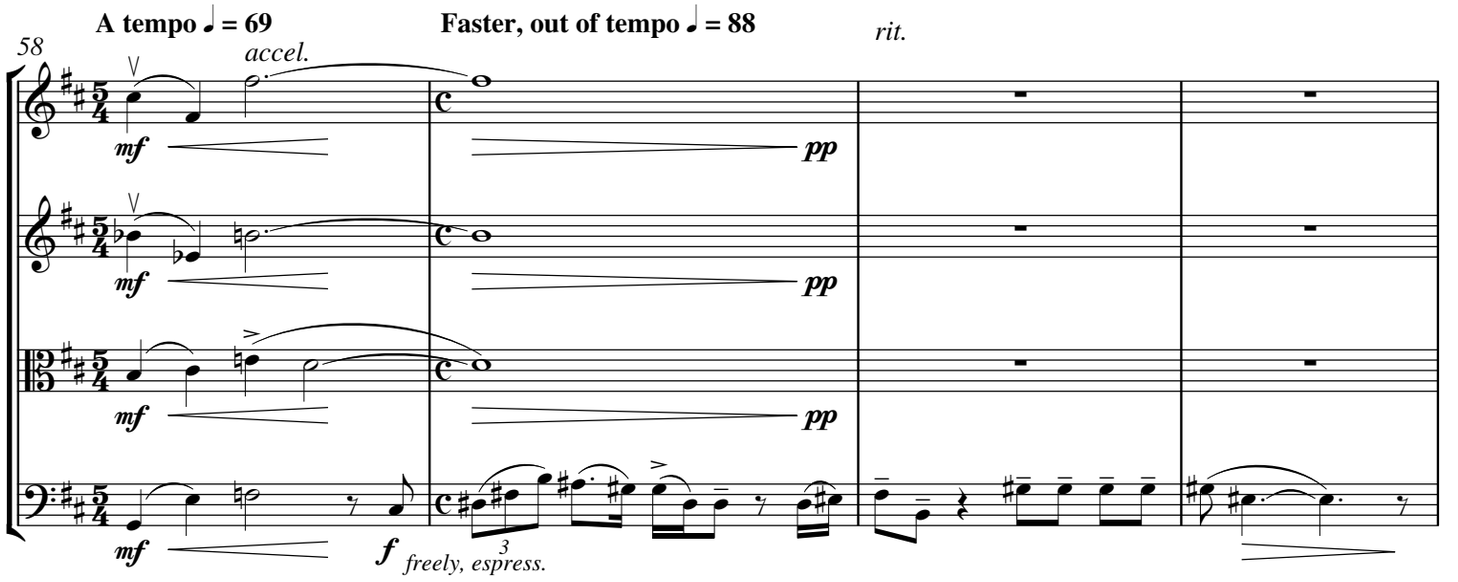

15
Largo ♩ = 69
mp
mf

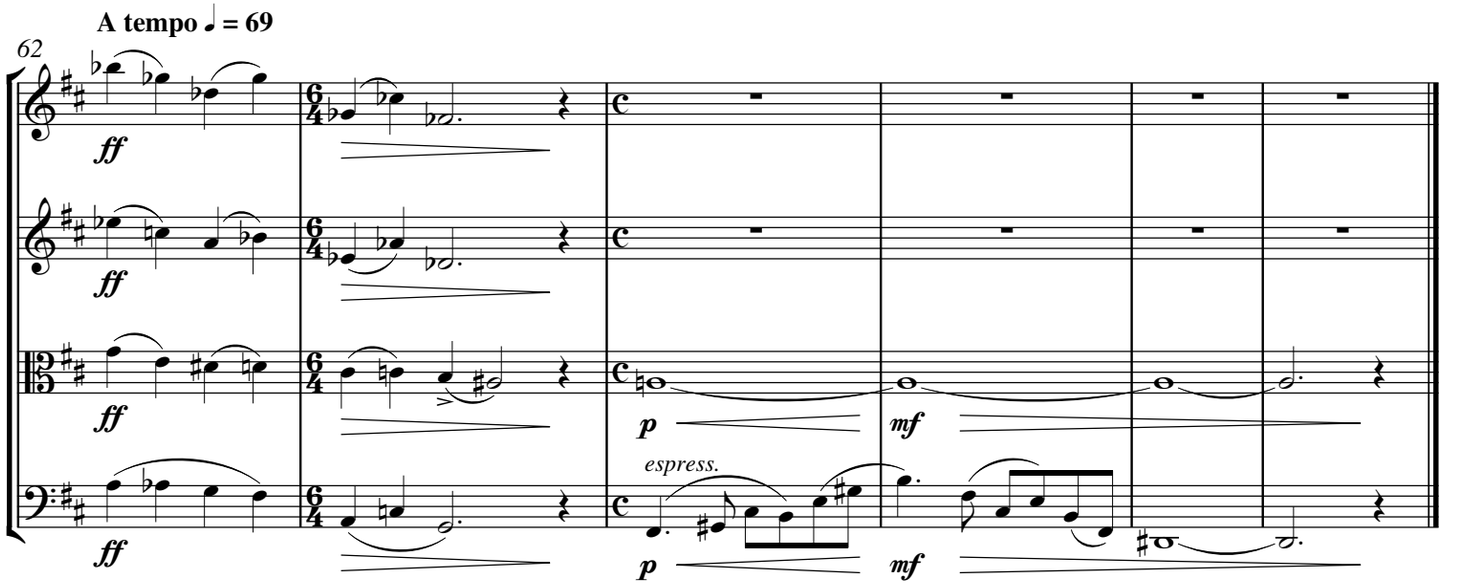

21
ff
p
mf
espress.

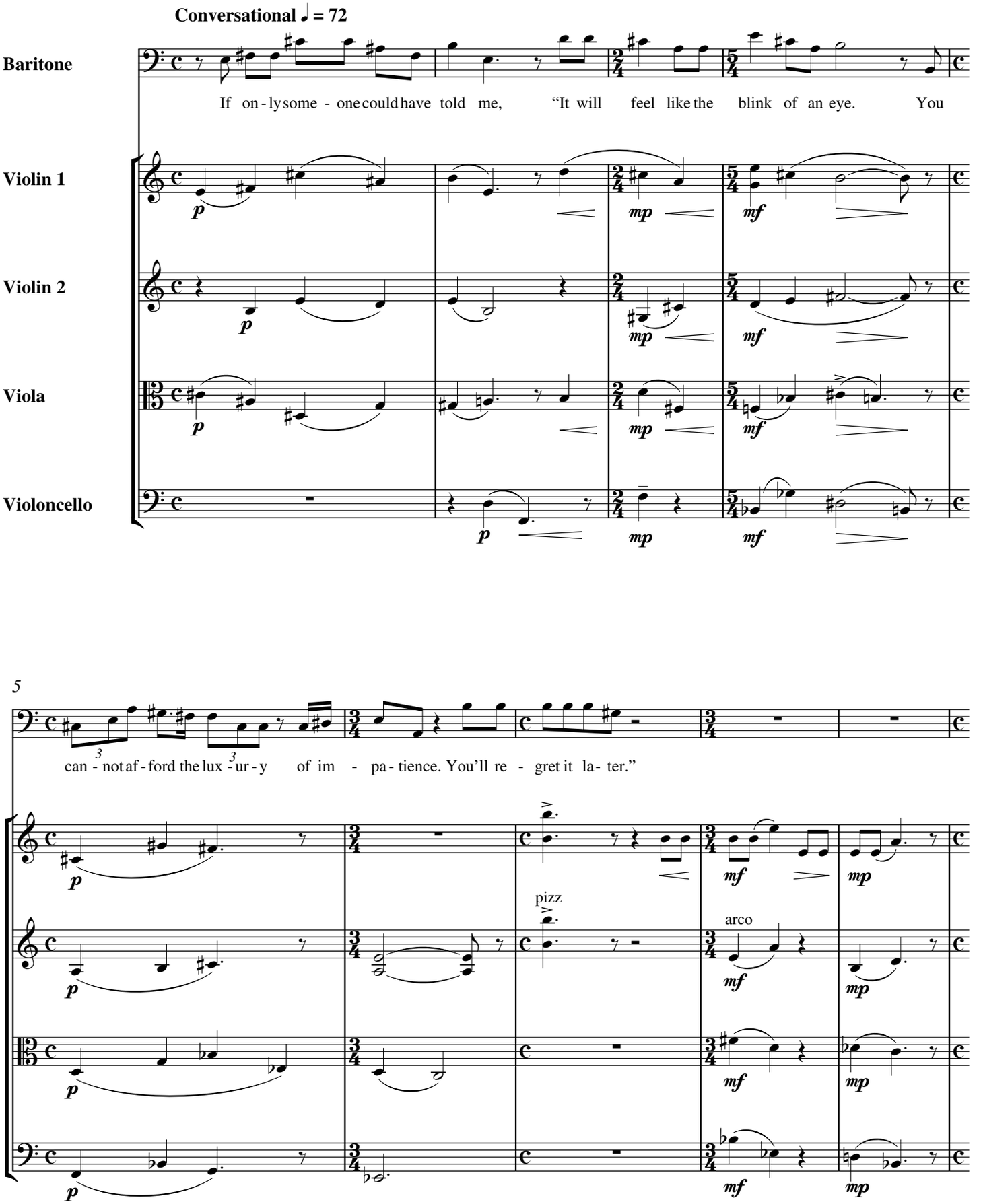

Tempo primo ♩ = 96
27
pizz.
30
33
pizz.


Slow ♩ = 60
36
arco
arco
espress.
Largo ♩ = 69
accel.
Faster, out of tempo ♩ = 88
41
freely, espress.
A tempo ♩ = 69
accel.
Faster, out of tempo ♩ = 88
48
freely, espress.


A tempo ♩ = 69
Faster, out of tempo ♩ = 88
54
mp
pp
f freely, espress.
p


A tempo ♩ = 69
Faster, out of tempo ♩ = 88
rit.
58
accel.
mf
pp
f freely, espress.
3


A tempo ♩ = 69
62
ff
p
mf
espress.

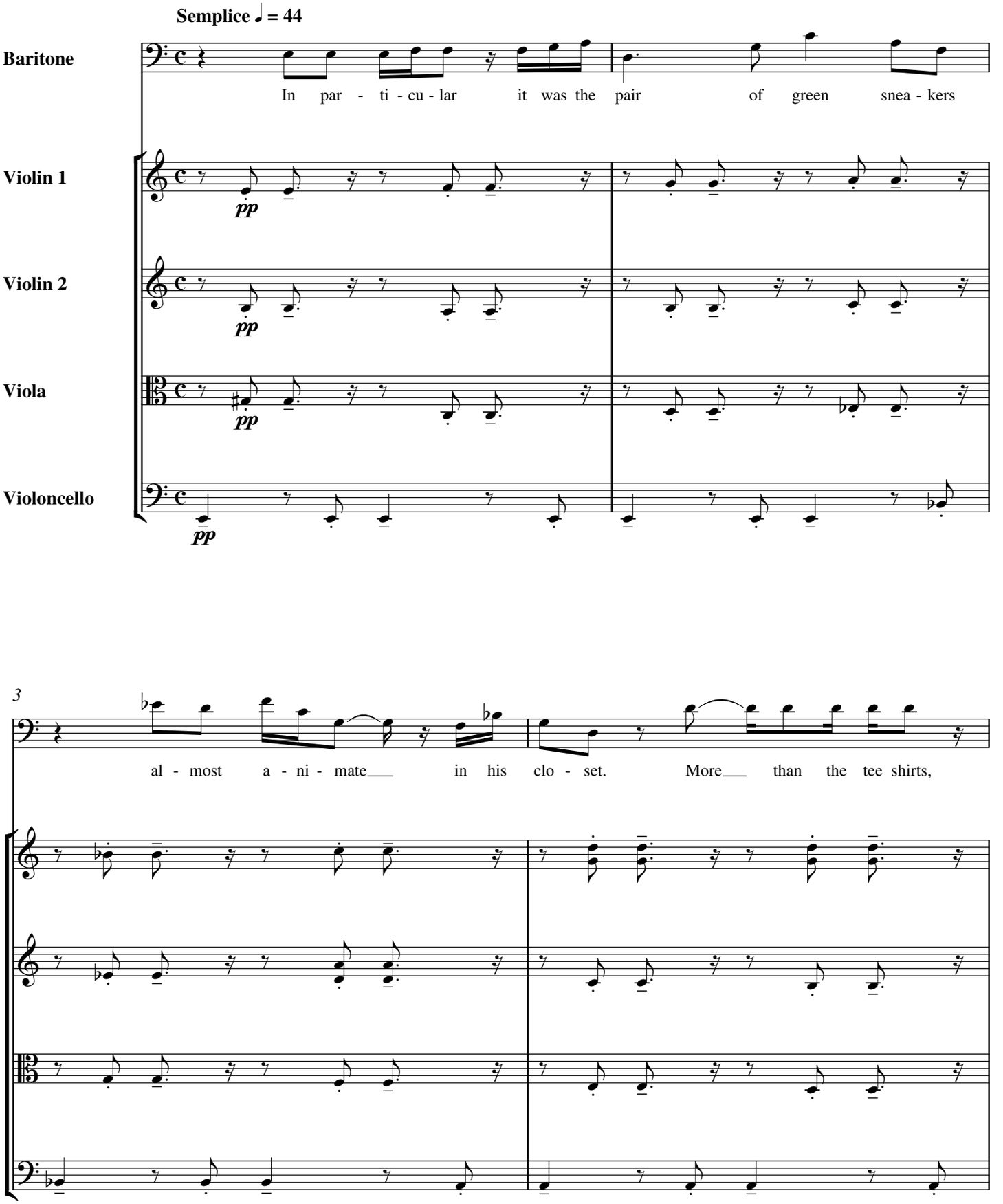

Conversational ♩ = 72
Baritone
If on - ly some - one could have told me, "It will feel like the blink of an eye. You
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
p
mp
mf
5
can - not af - ford the lux - ur - y of im - pa - tience. You'll re - gret it la - ter."
pizz
arco

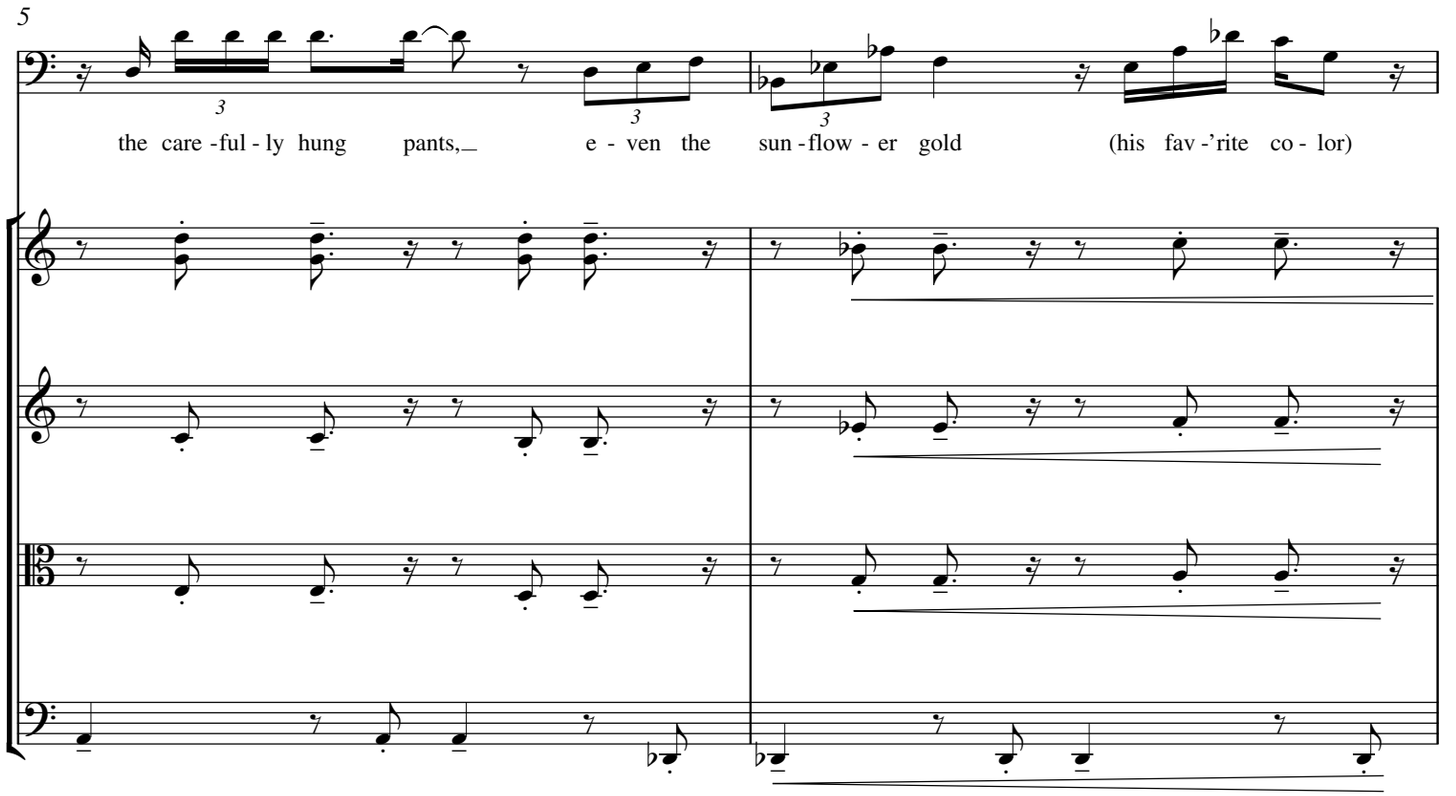
10

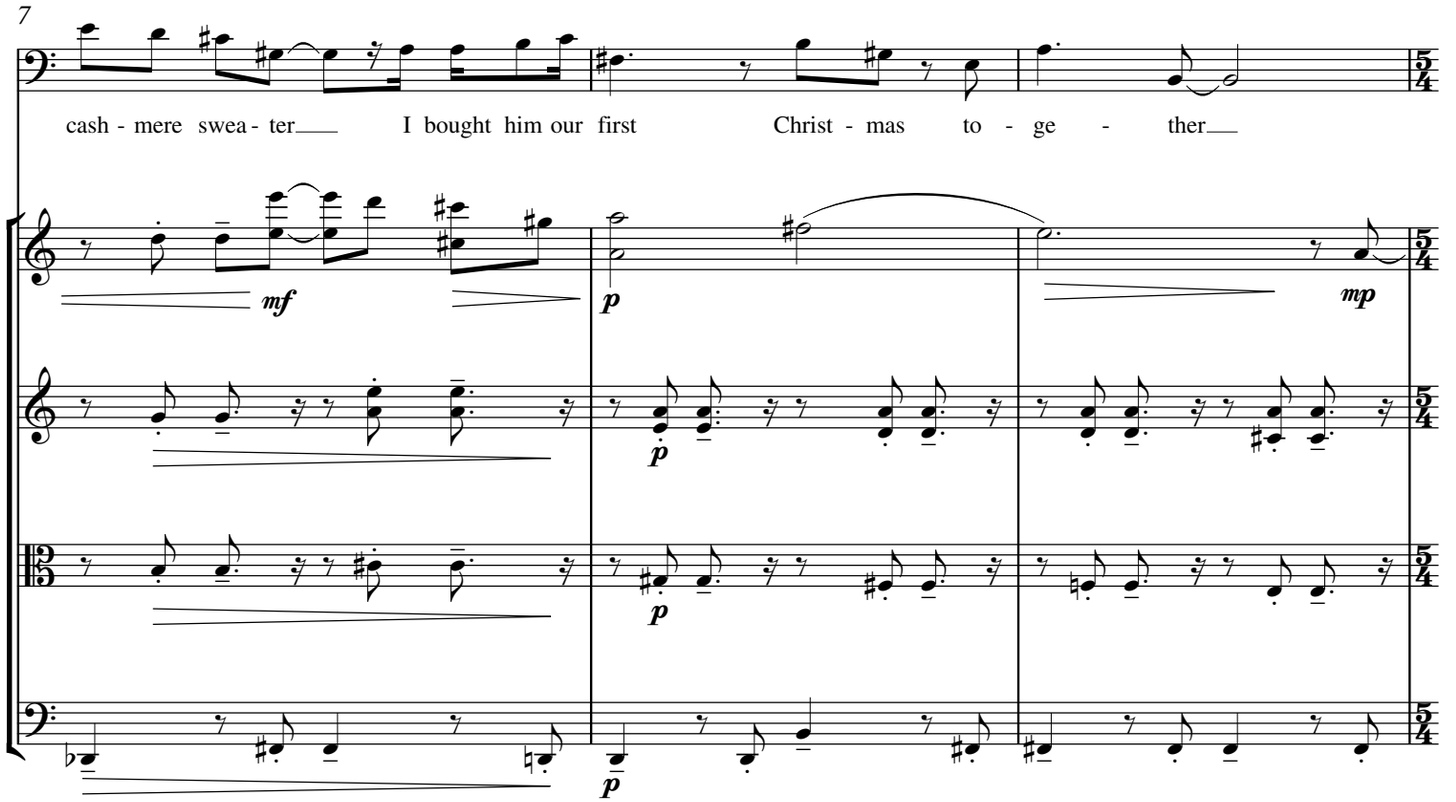
But then, I pro - ba - bly woul - dn't have li- stened.

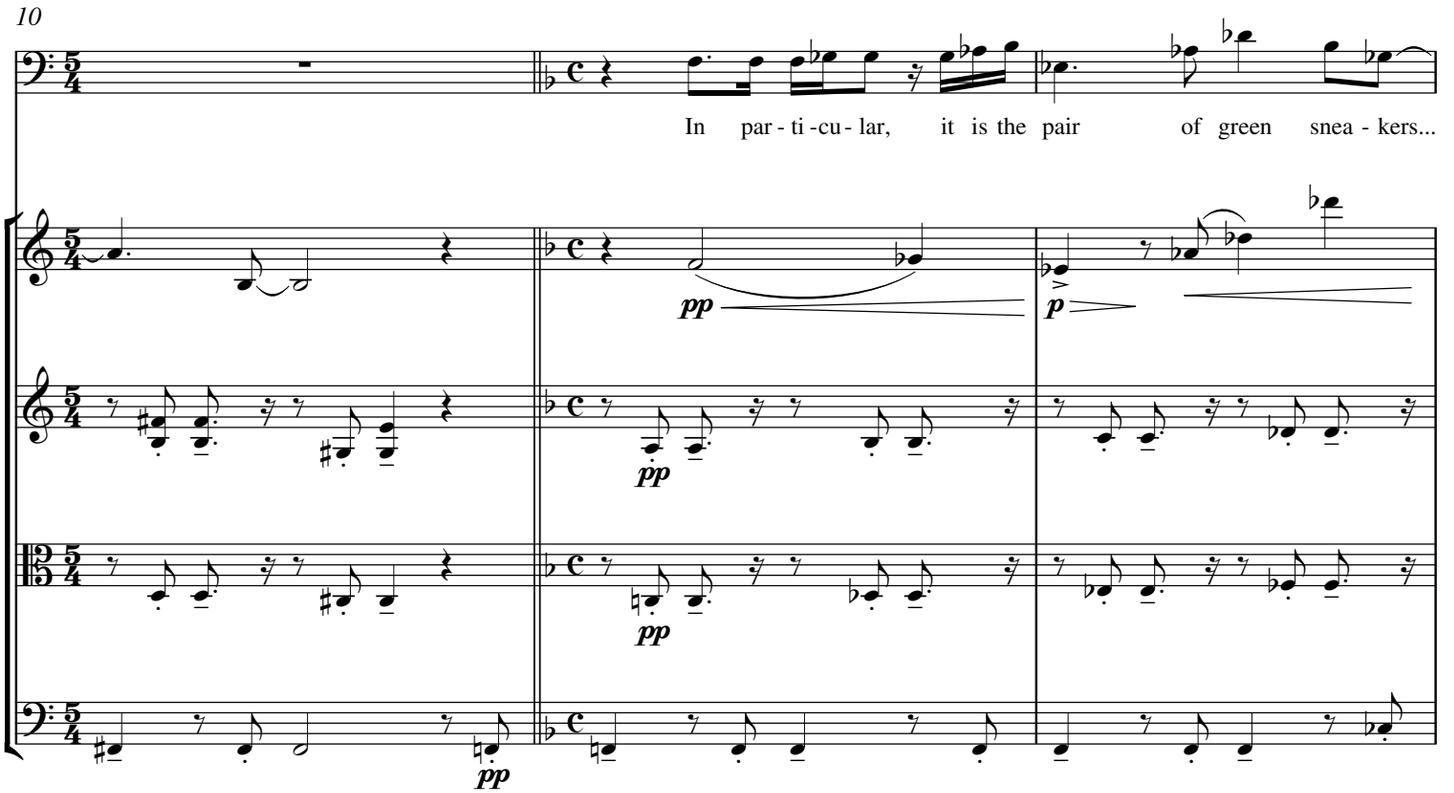
14

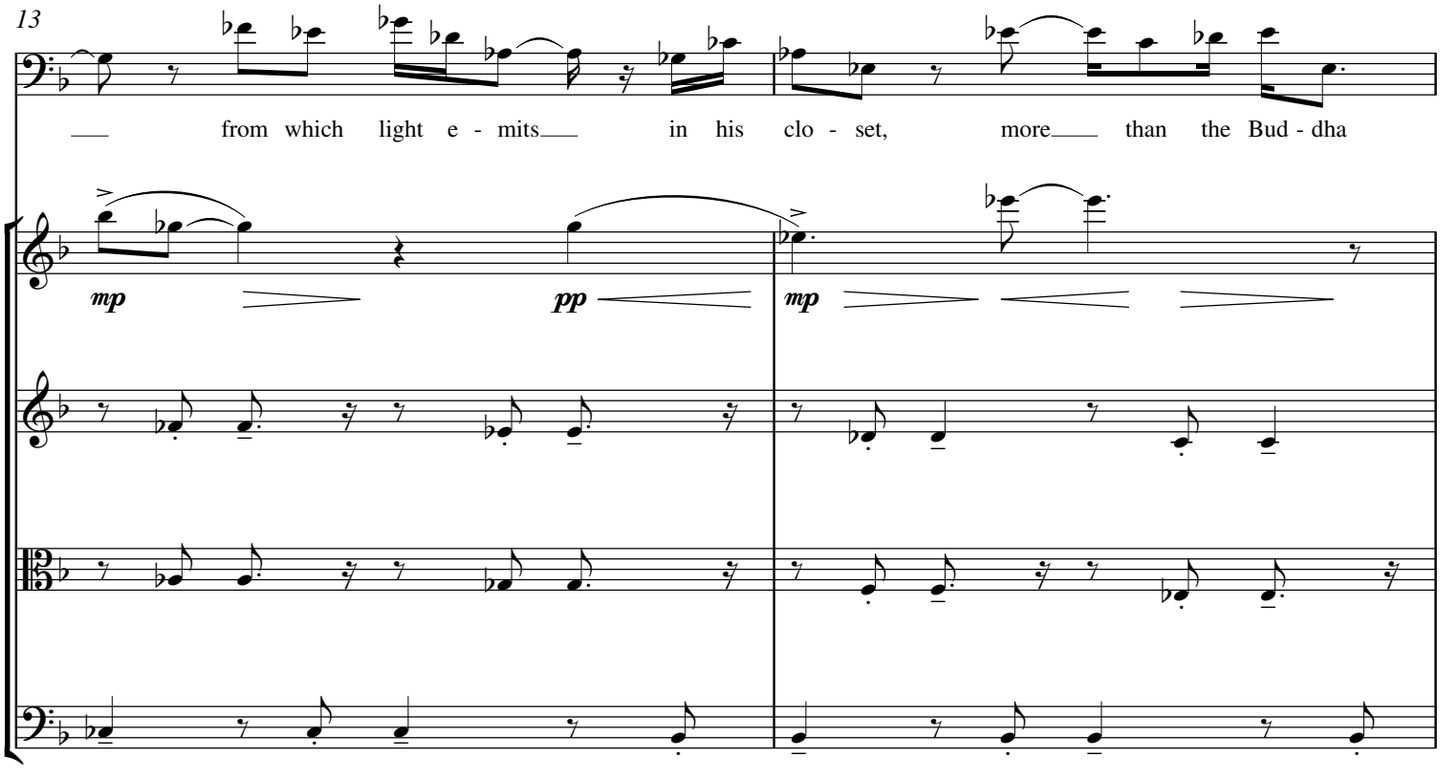
If on - ly some - one could have told me...

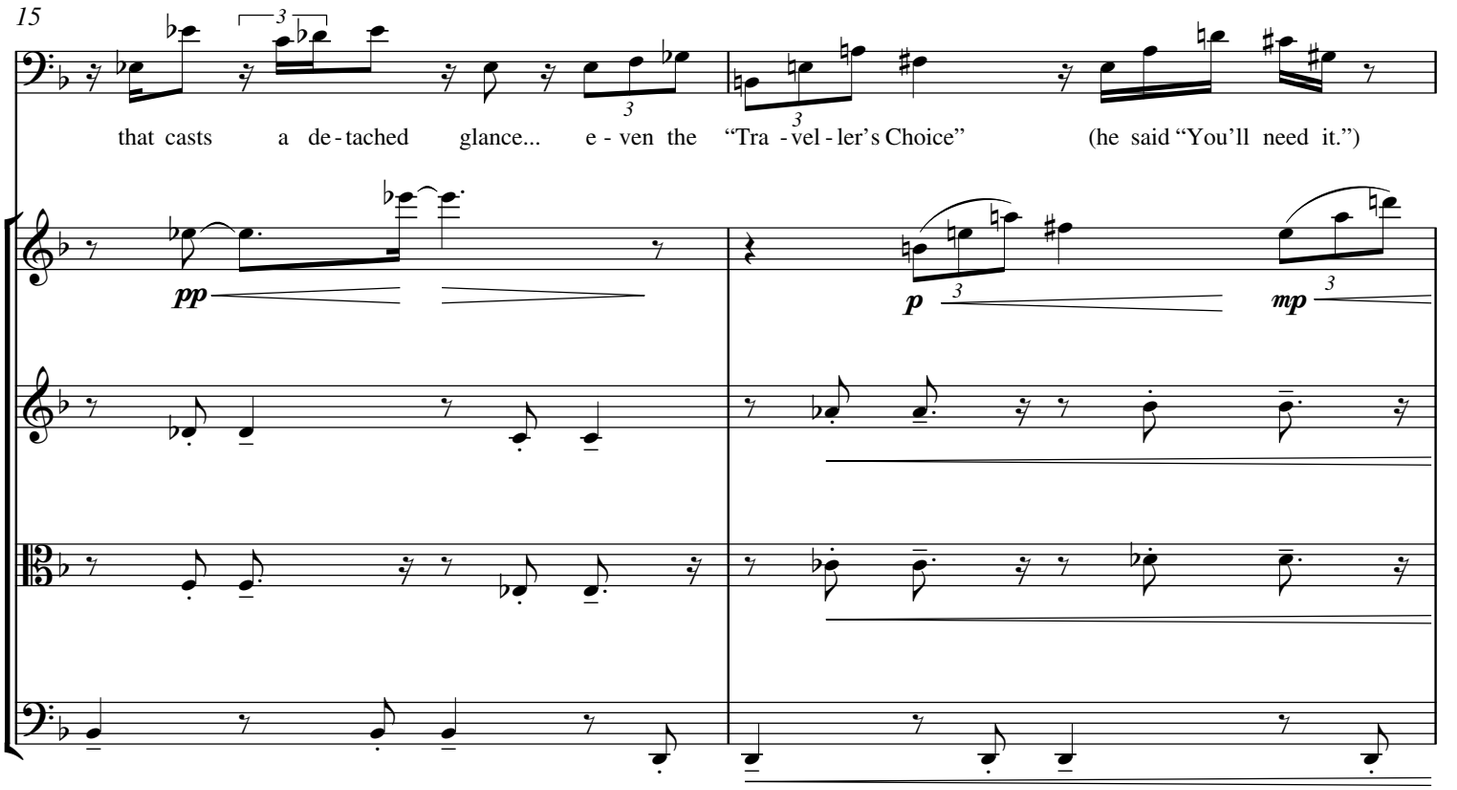

Semplice ♩ = 44
Baritone
In par - ti - cu - lar it was the pair of green snea - kers
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
pp
3
al - most a - ni - mate in his clo - set. More than the tee shirts,

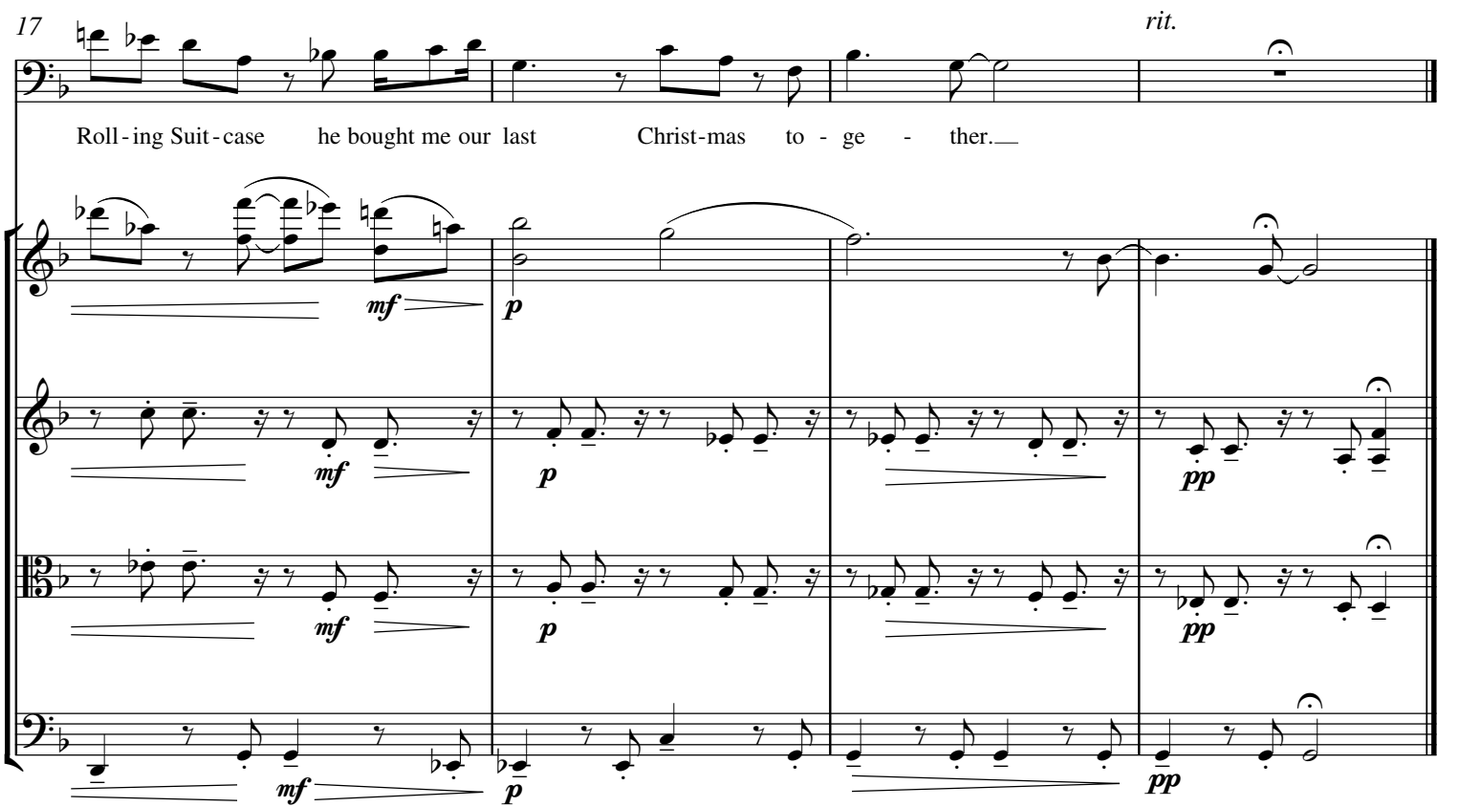

5
the care -ful - ly hung pants, e - ven the sun -flow - er gold (his fav -'rite co - lor)

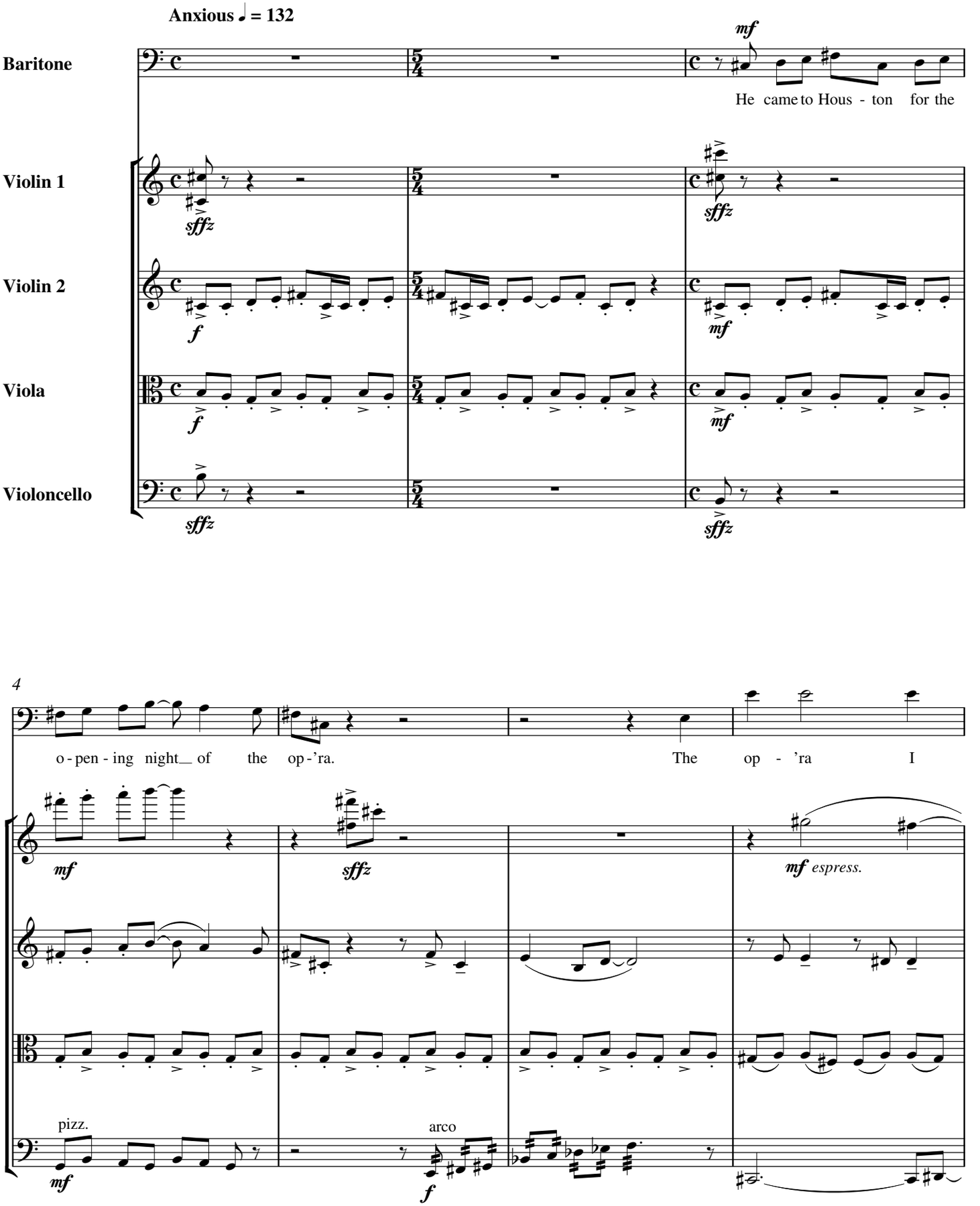

7
cash - mere swea - ter I bought him our first Christ - mas to - ge - ther
mf
p
mp
p
p
p

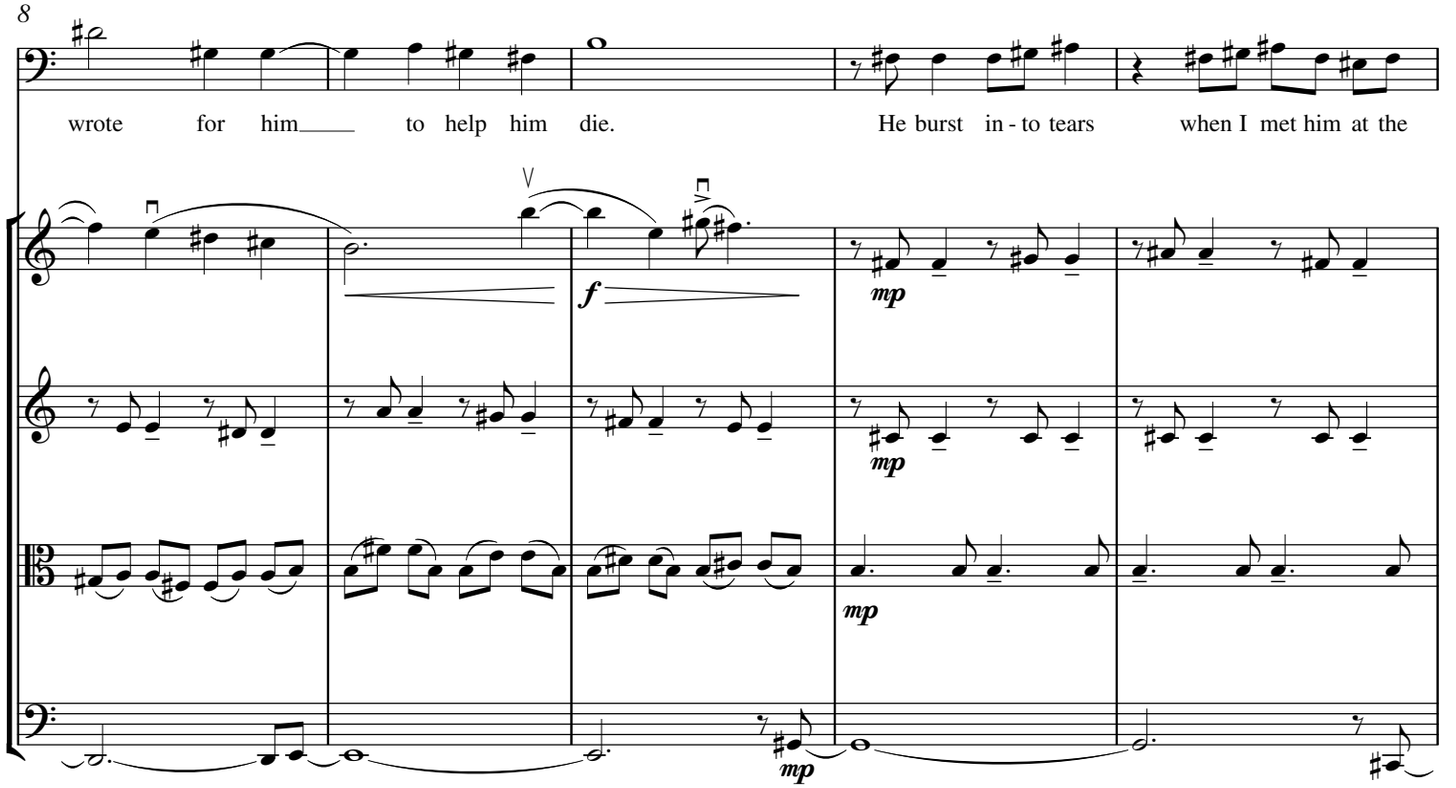

10
In par - ti - cu - lar, it is the pair of green snea - kers...
pp
p
pp
pp
pp

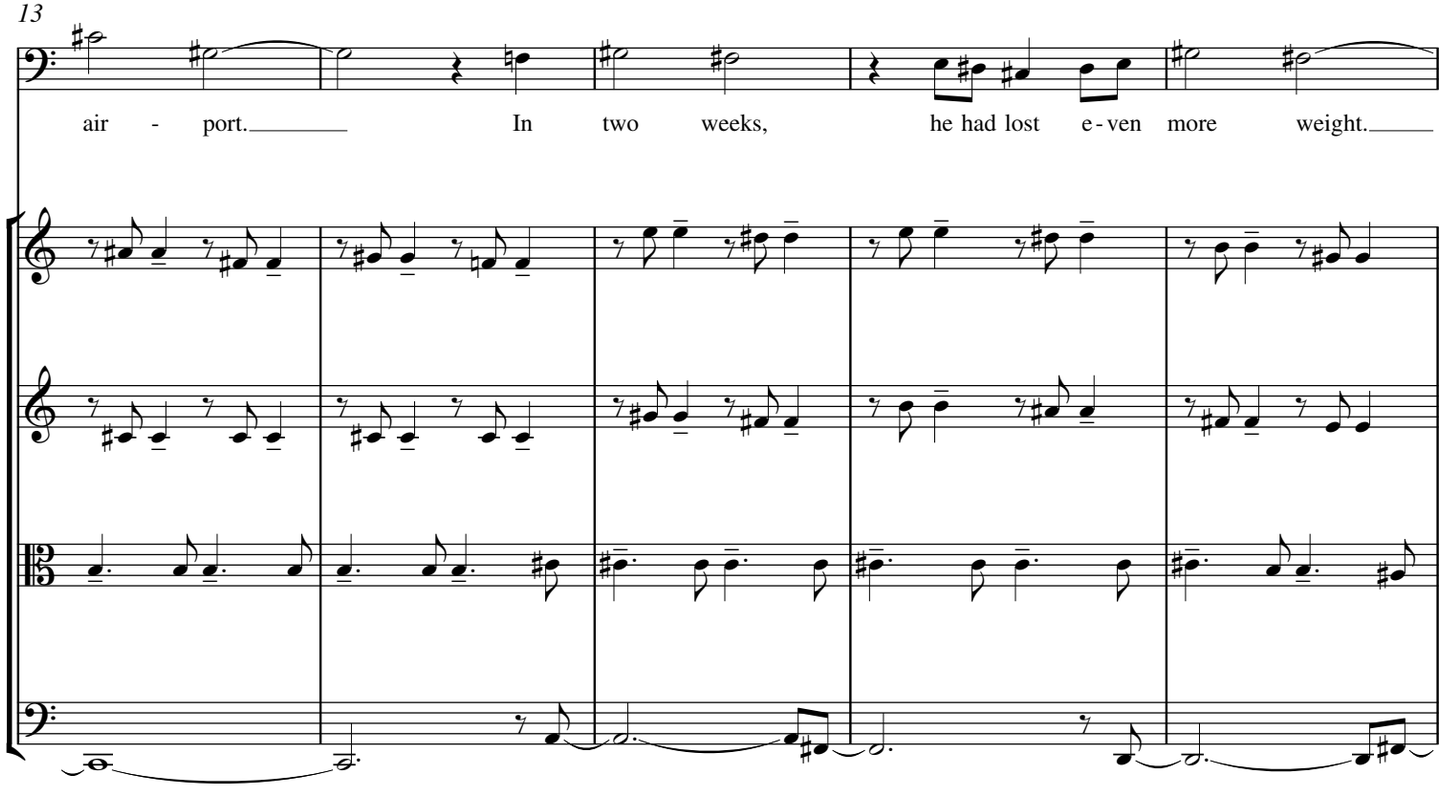

13
from which light e - mits in his clo - set, more than the Bud - dha
mp
pp
mp

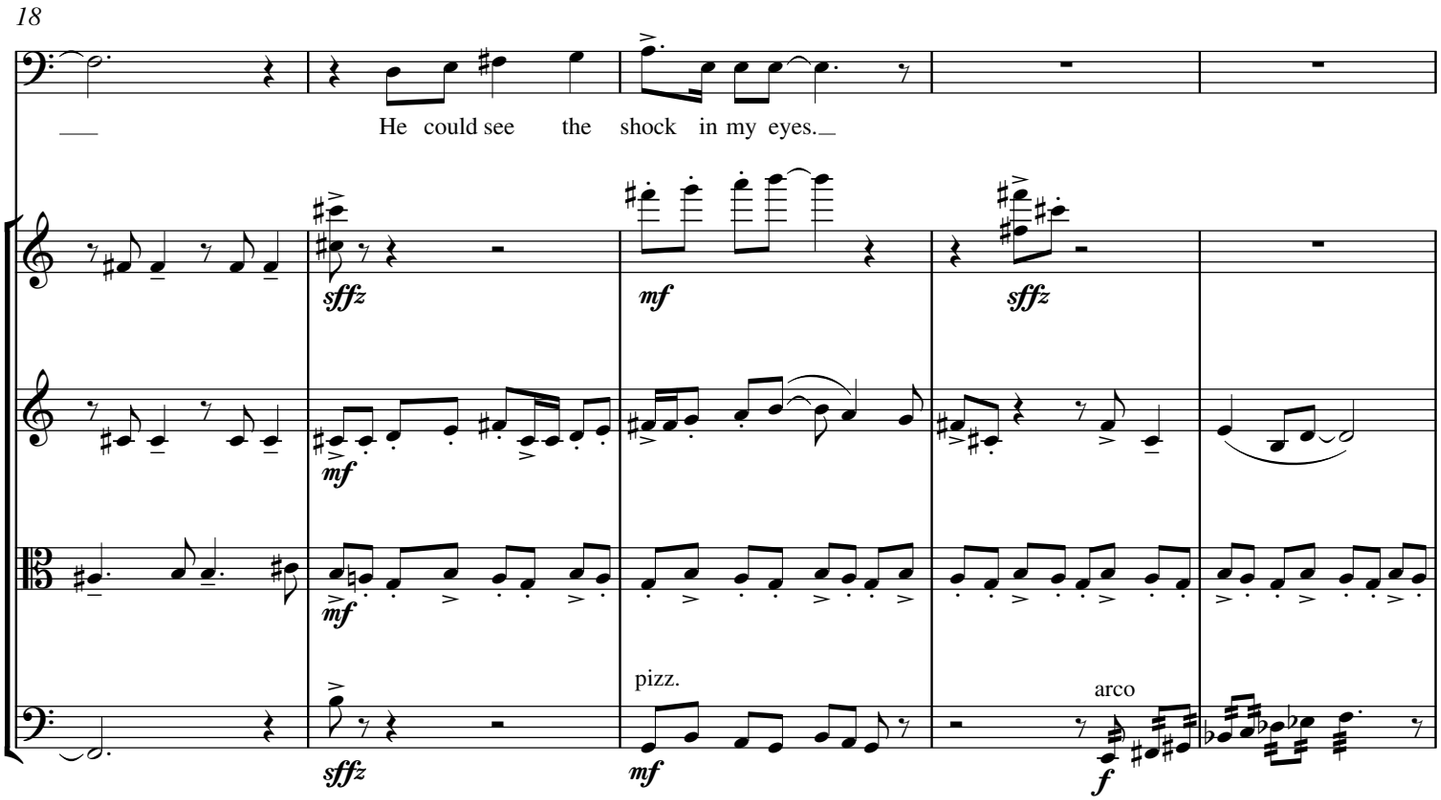

15
that casts a de - tached glance... e - ven the "Tra - vel - ler's Choice" (he said "You'll need it.")
pp
p
mp

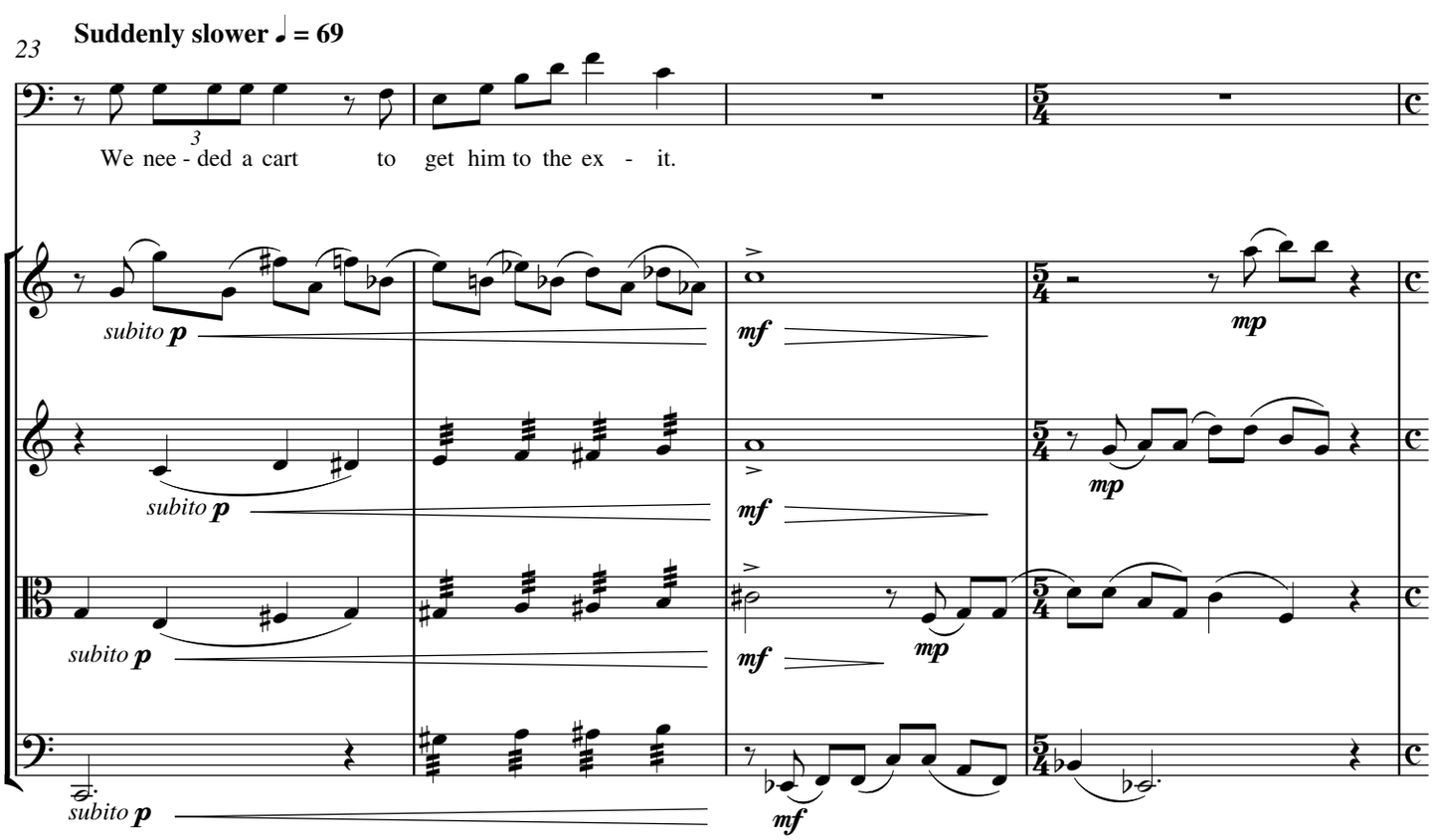

17
rit.
Roll - ing Suit - case he bought me our last Christ - mas to - ge - ther.
mf
p
pp


Anxious ♩ = 132
Baritone
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
mf
He came to Hous - ton for the
sffz
f
mf
4
o - pen - ing night of the op - 'ra.
The op - 'ra I
mf espress.
pizz.
arco


8
wrote for him to help him die. He burst in - to tears when I met him at the
f
mp
mp
mp


13
air - port. In two weeks, he had lost e - ven more weight.


18
He could see the shock in my eyes.
sffz
mf
sffz
mf
mf
sffz
pizz.
mf
arco
f


23
Suddenly slower ♩ = 69
We nee - ded a cart to get him to the ex - it.
subito p
mf
mp
subito p
mf
mp
subito p
mf
mp
subito p
mf

27 **Marcato ♩ = 108**

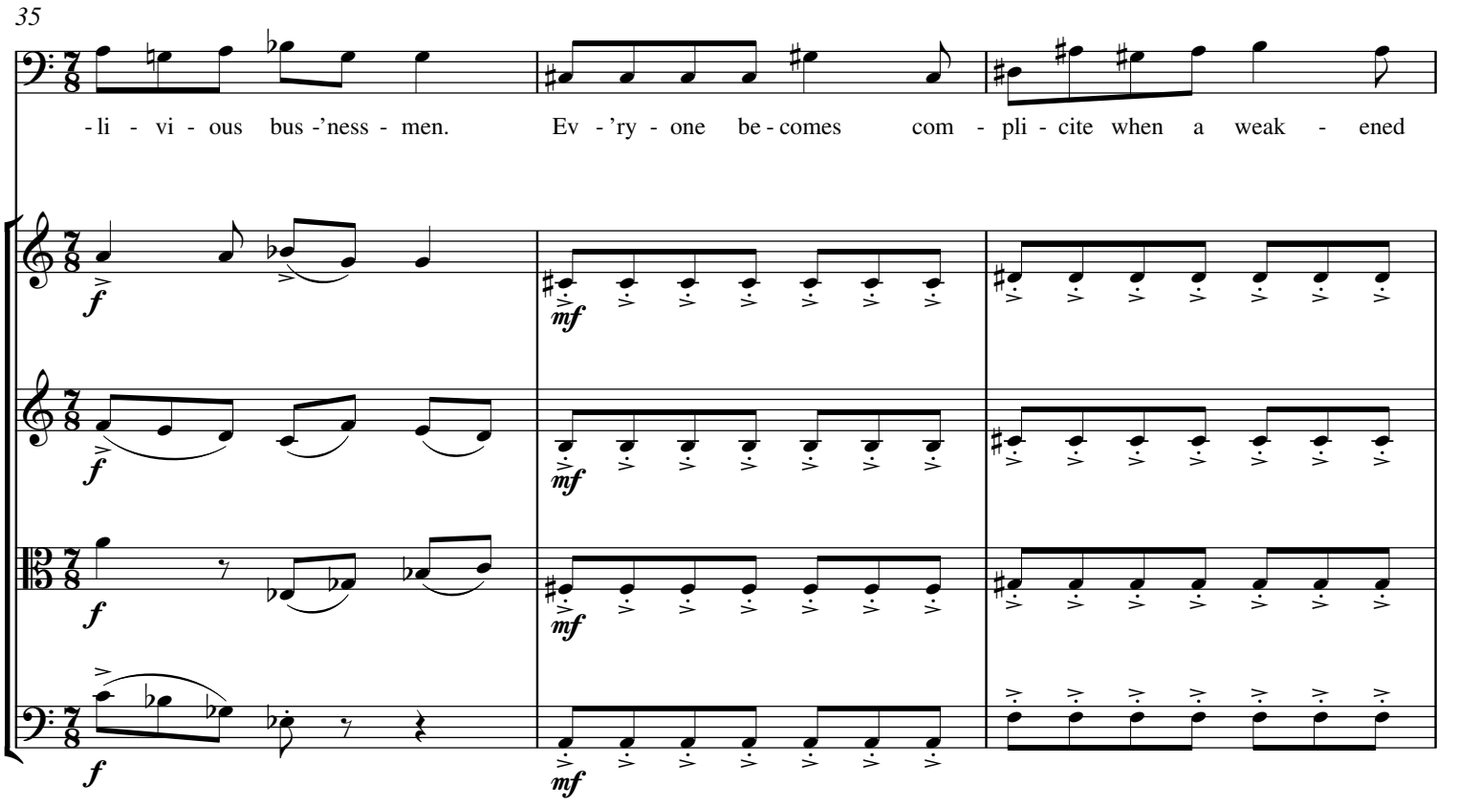
In the park - ing lot, wai - ting for our ride, all the smo - kers lit up, af - ter the

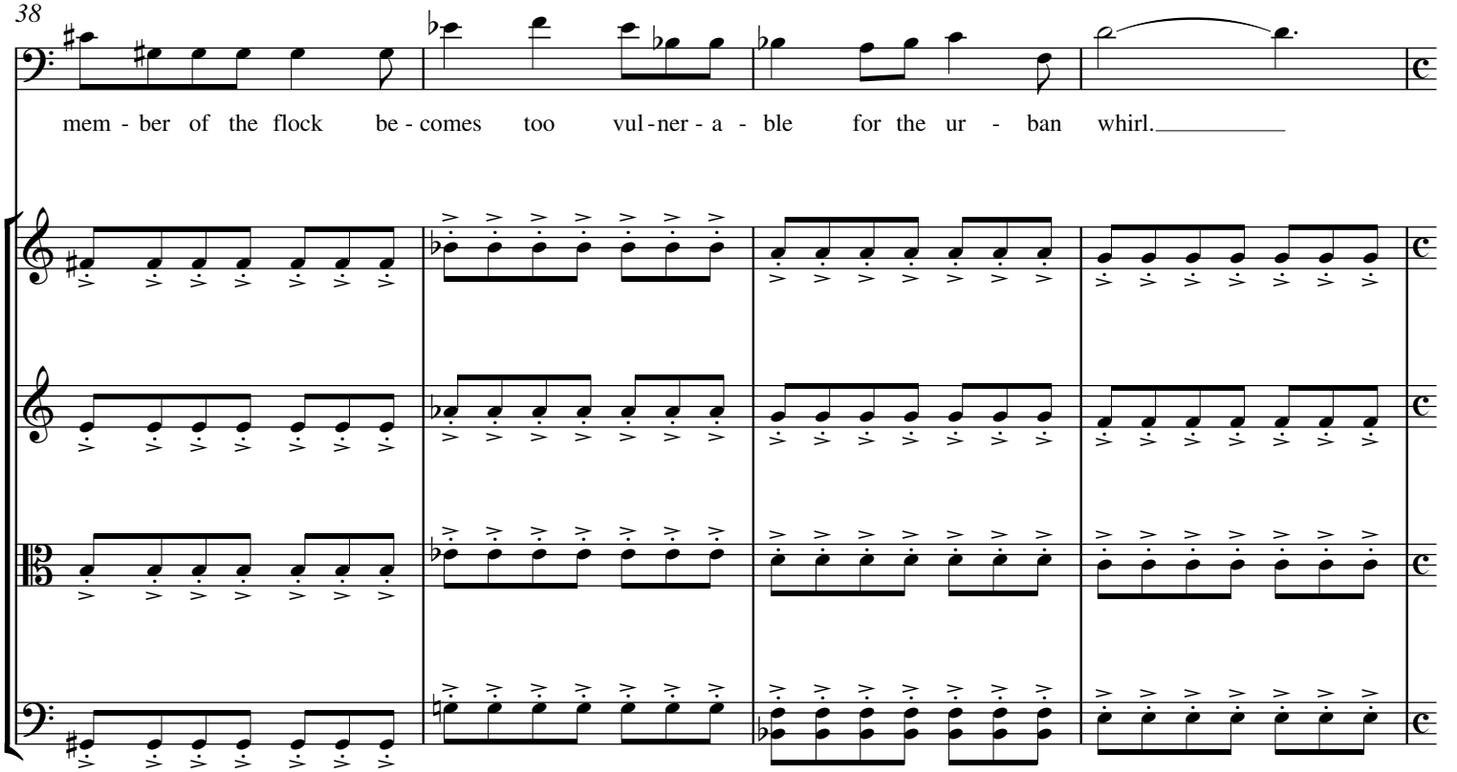
sffz 6 *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

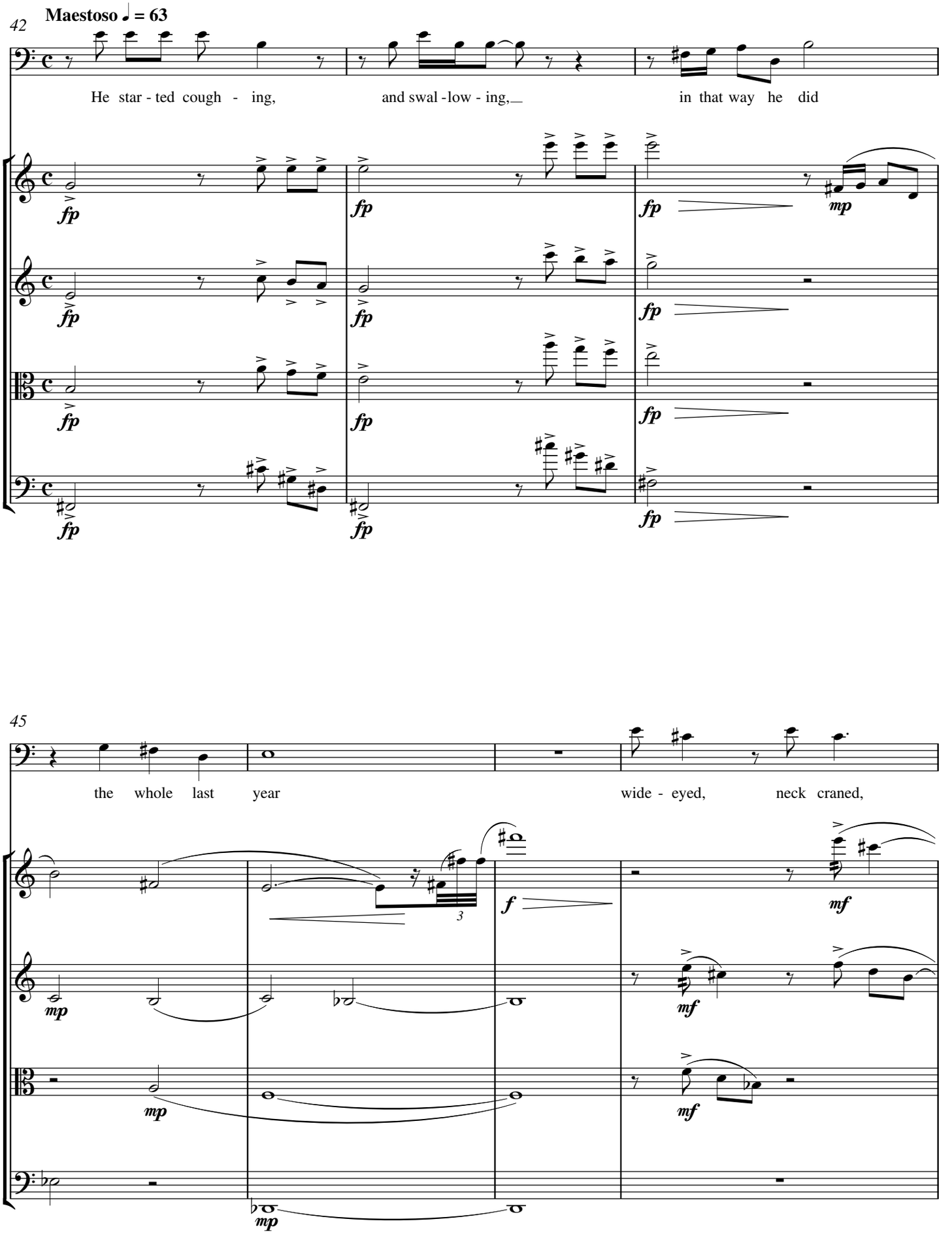
31 *rit.* *a tempo*

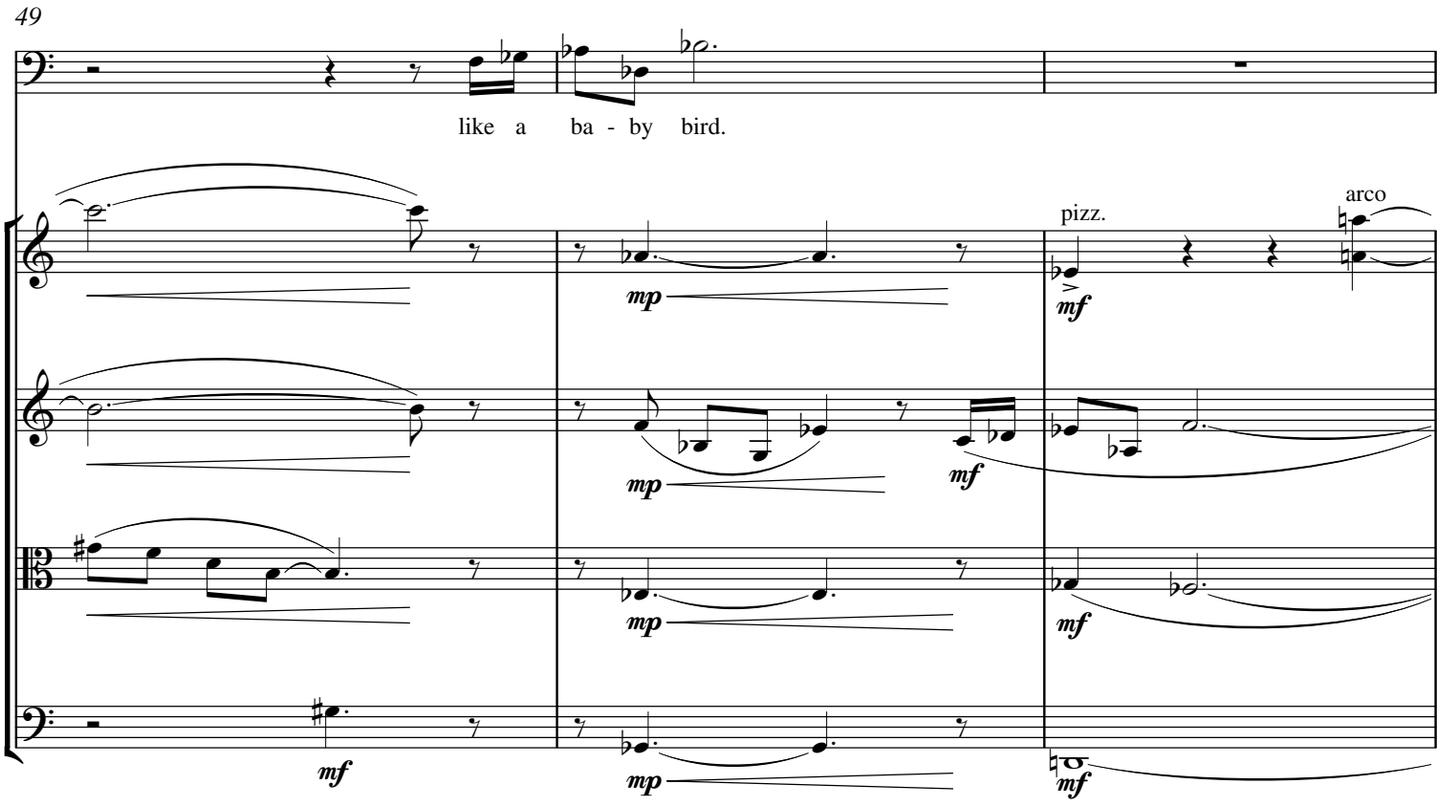
no smo-king flights. I tried to wave, and shoo them a - way ob -

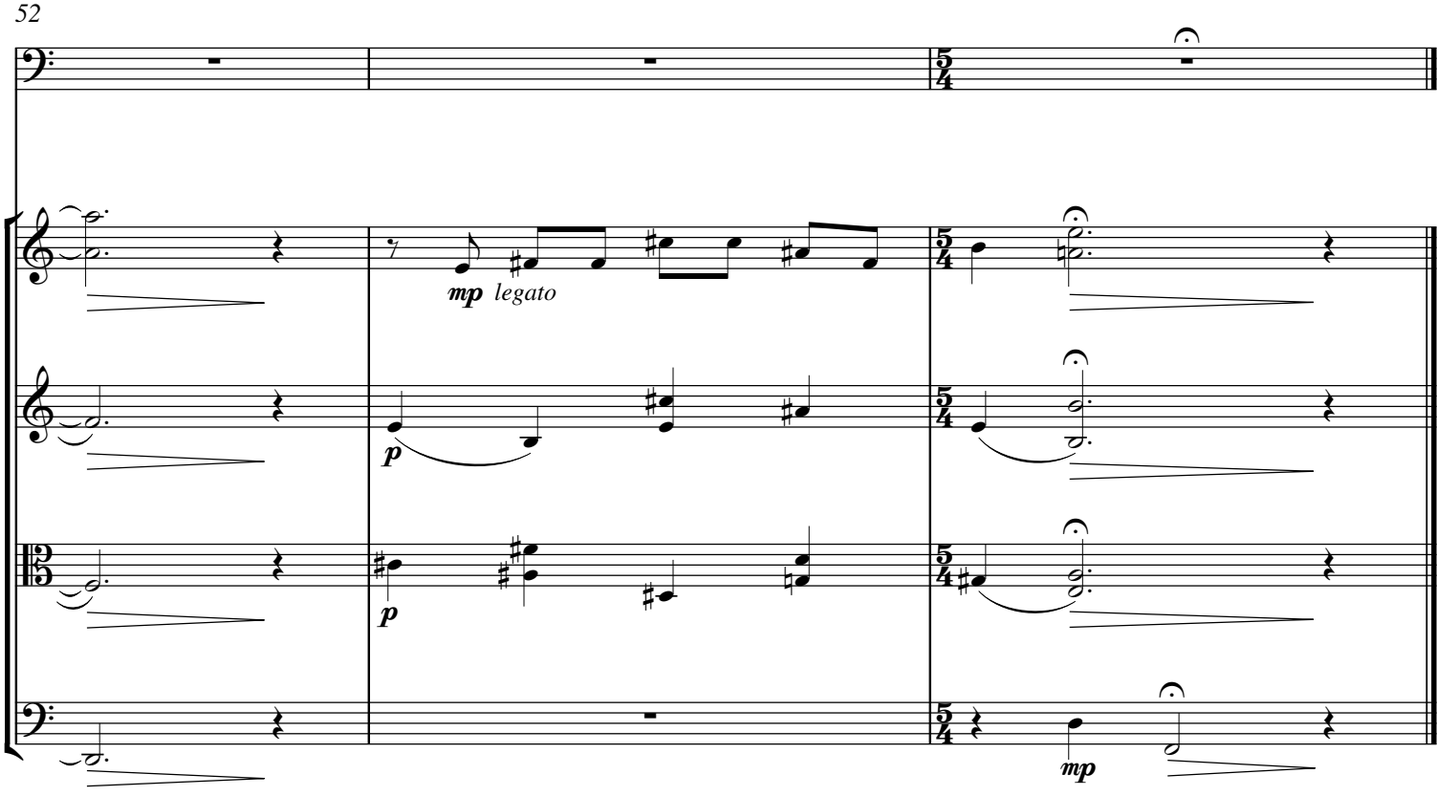
mf *mf* *mp* *mp*

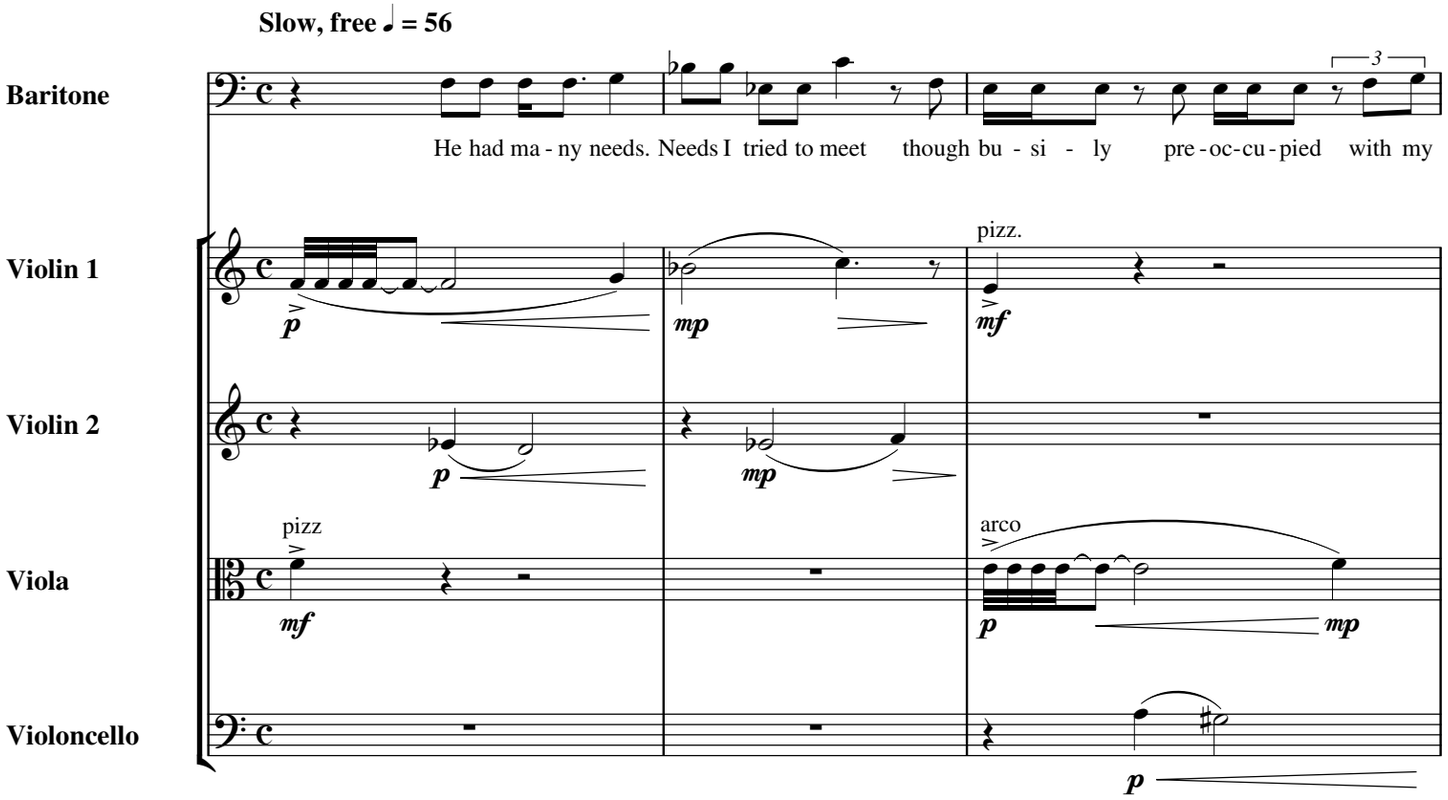

35
-li - vi - ous bus -'ness - men.
Ev - 'ry - one be - comes com - pli - cite when a weak - ened
f
mf

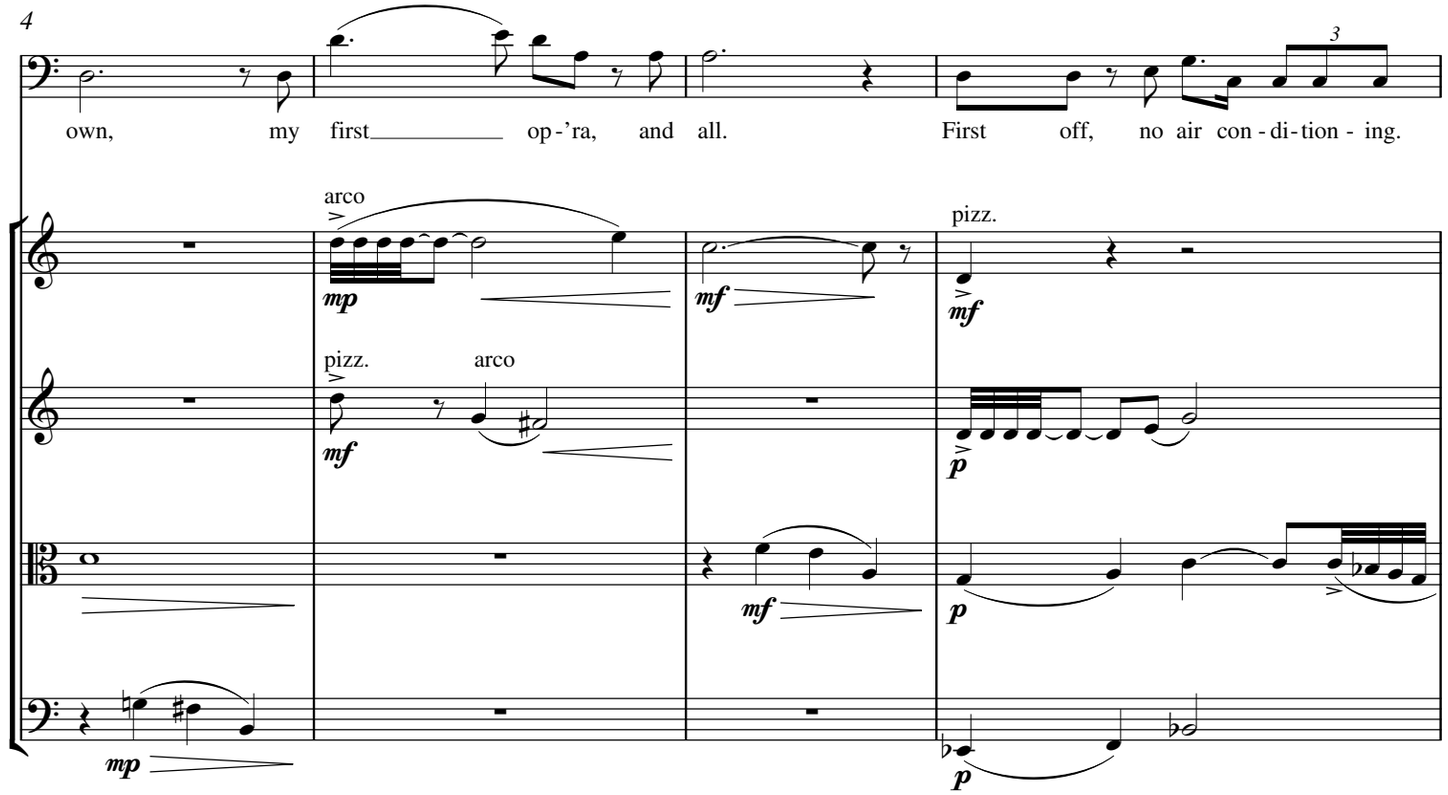

38
mem - ber of the flock be - comes too vul - ner - a - ble for the ur - ban whirl.

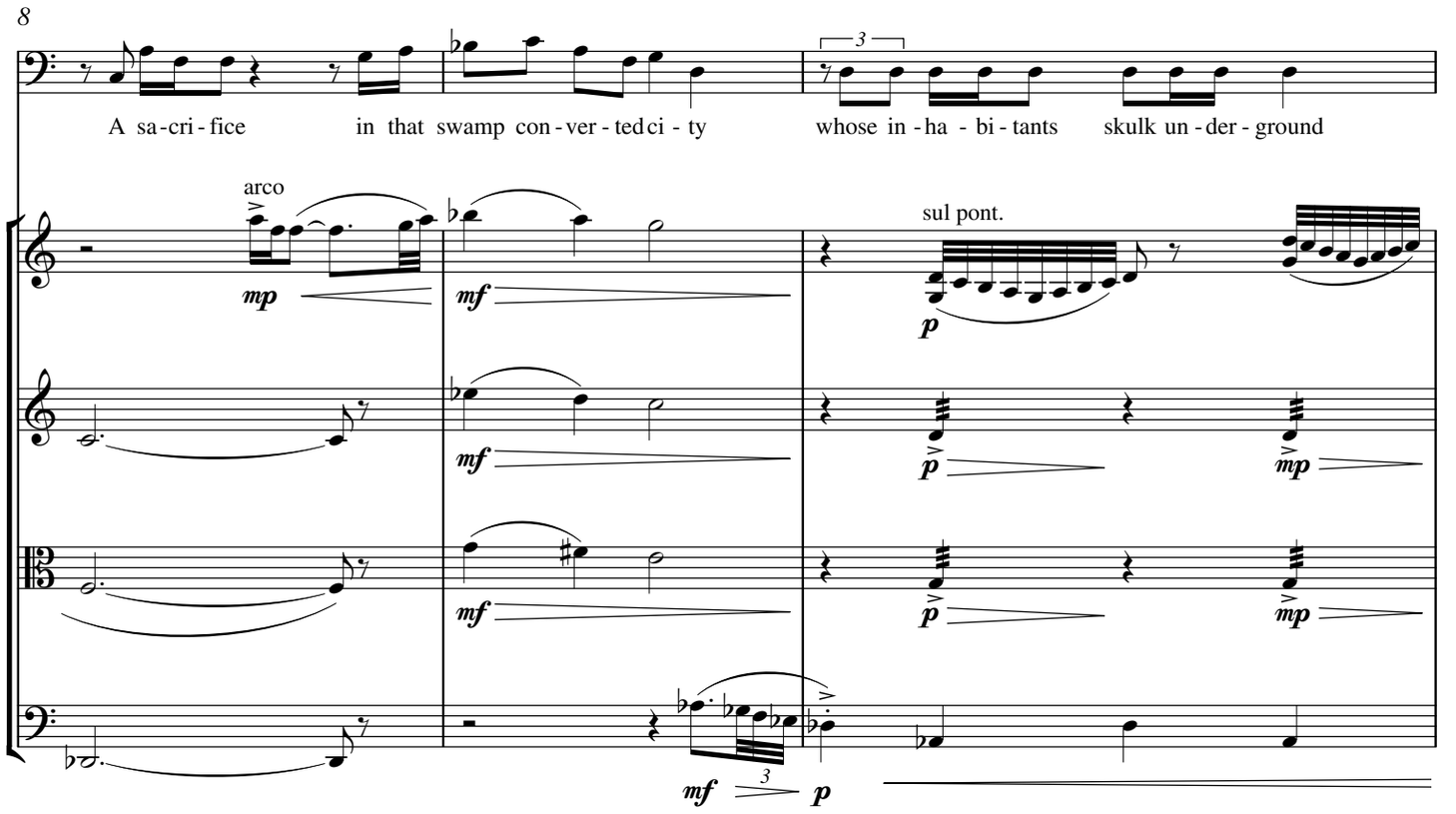

42
Maestoso ♩ = 63
He star - ted cough - ing,
and swal - low - ing,
in that way he did
45
the whole last year
wide - eyed, neck craned,

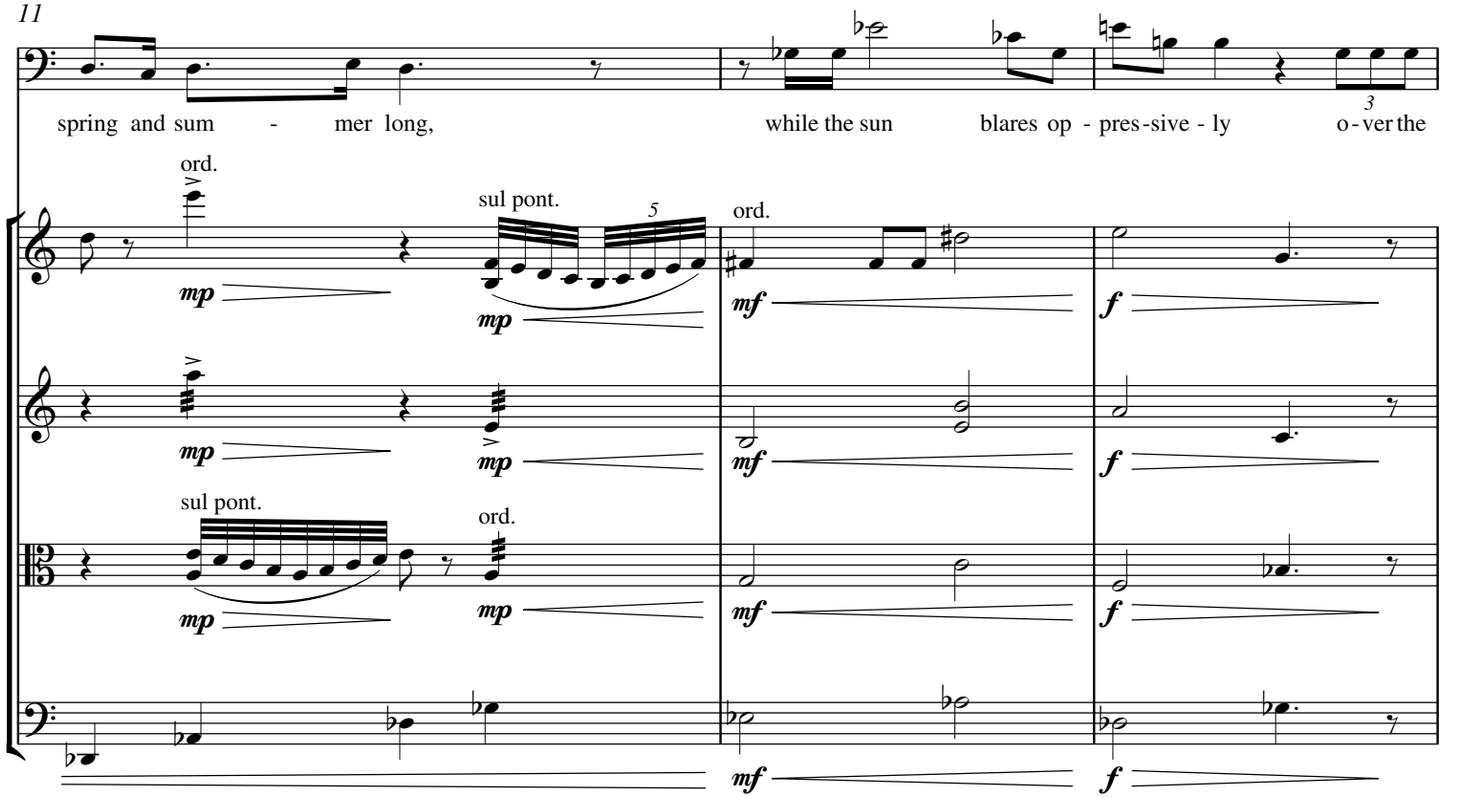

49
like a ba - by bird.
pizz.
arco
mp
mf
mp
mf
mf
mp
mf


52
mp legato
p
p
mp


Slow, free ♩ = 56
Baritone
He had ma - ny needs. Needs I tried to meet though bu - si - ly pre - oc - cu - pied with my
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
pizz.
arco
pizz
p
mp
mf


4
own, my first op - 'ra, and all. First off, no air con - di - tion - ing.
arco
pizz.
pizz.
arco
mp
mf
p


8
A sa-cri-fice in that swamp con-ver-ted ci-ty whose in-ha-bi-tants skulk un-der-ground
arco
sul pont.


11
spring and sum - mer long, while the sun blares op-pres-sive-ly o-ver the
ord.
sul pont.
ord.
sul pont.
ord.

14

pal - pa - ble, so - lid hu - mi - di - ty.

sul pont.

sul pont.

ord.

sul pont.

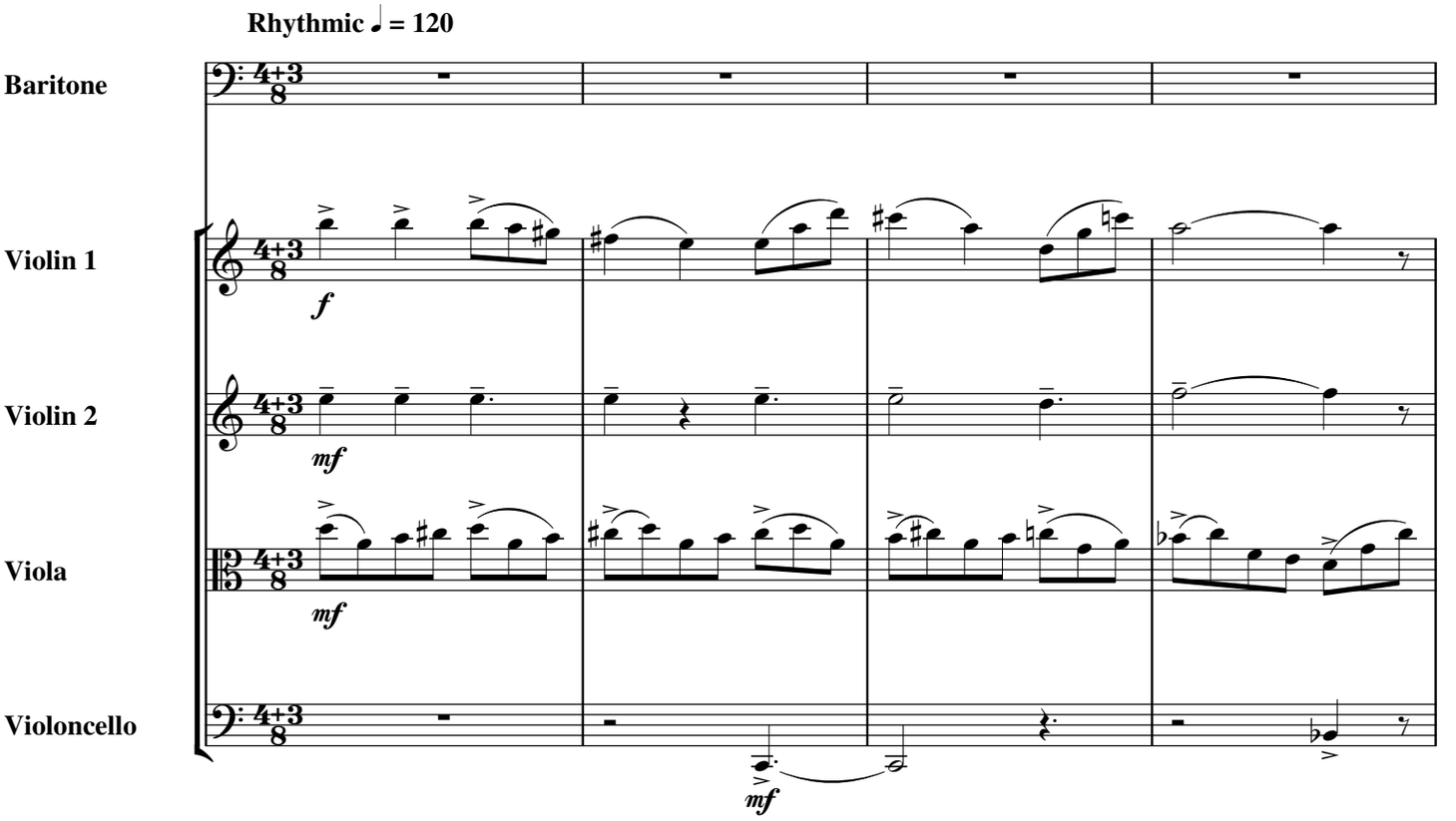
ord.

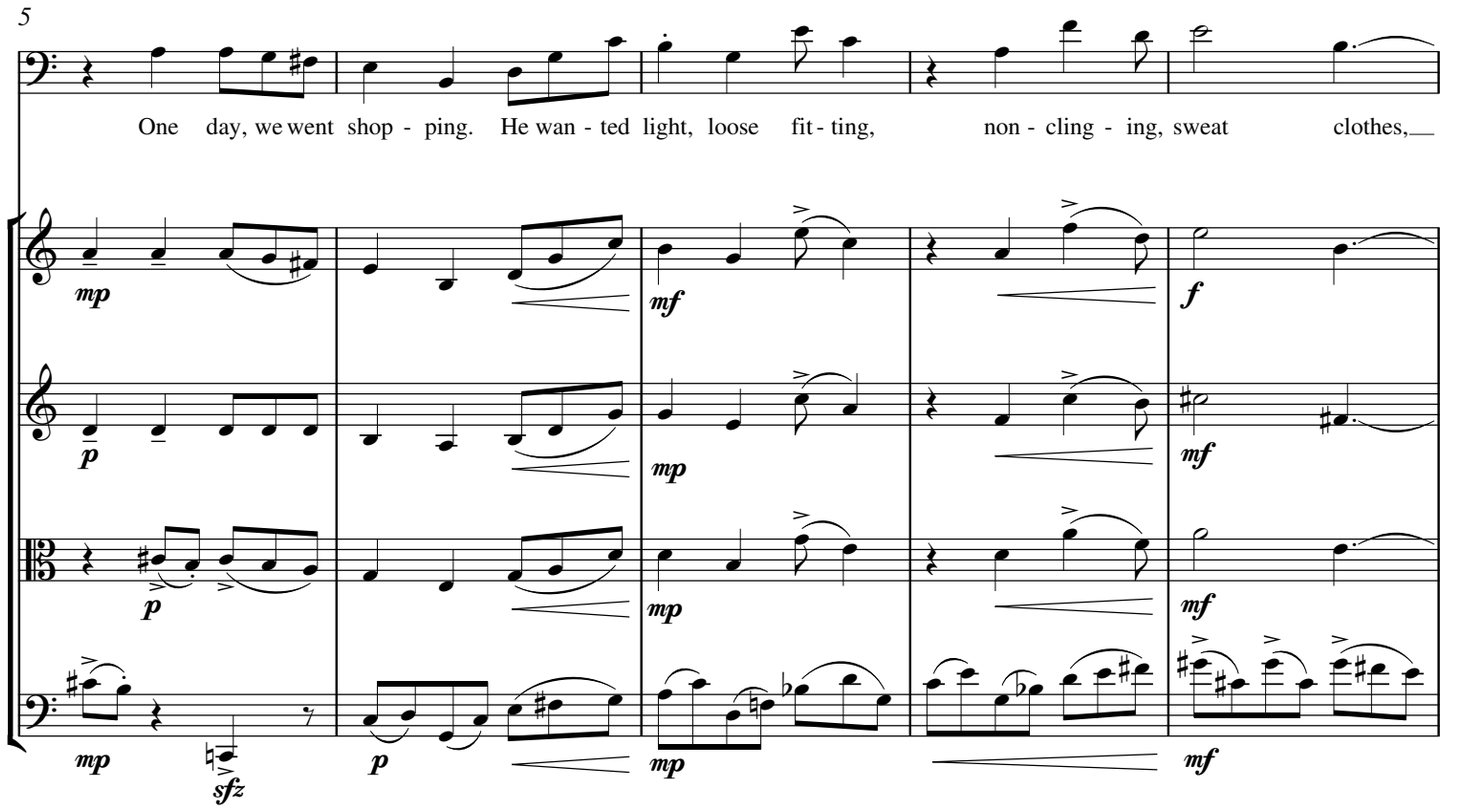
rit.

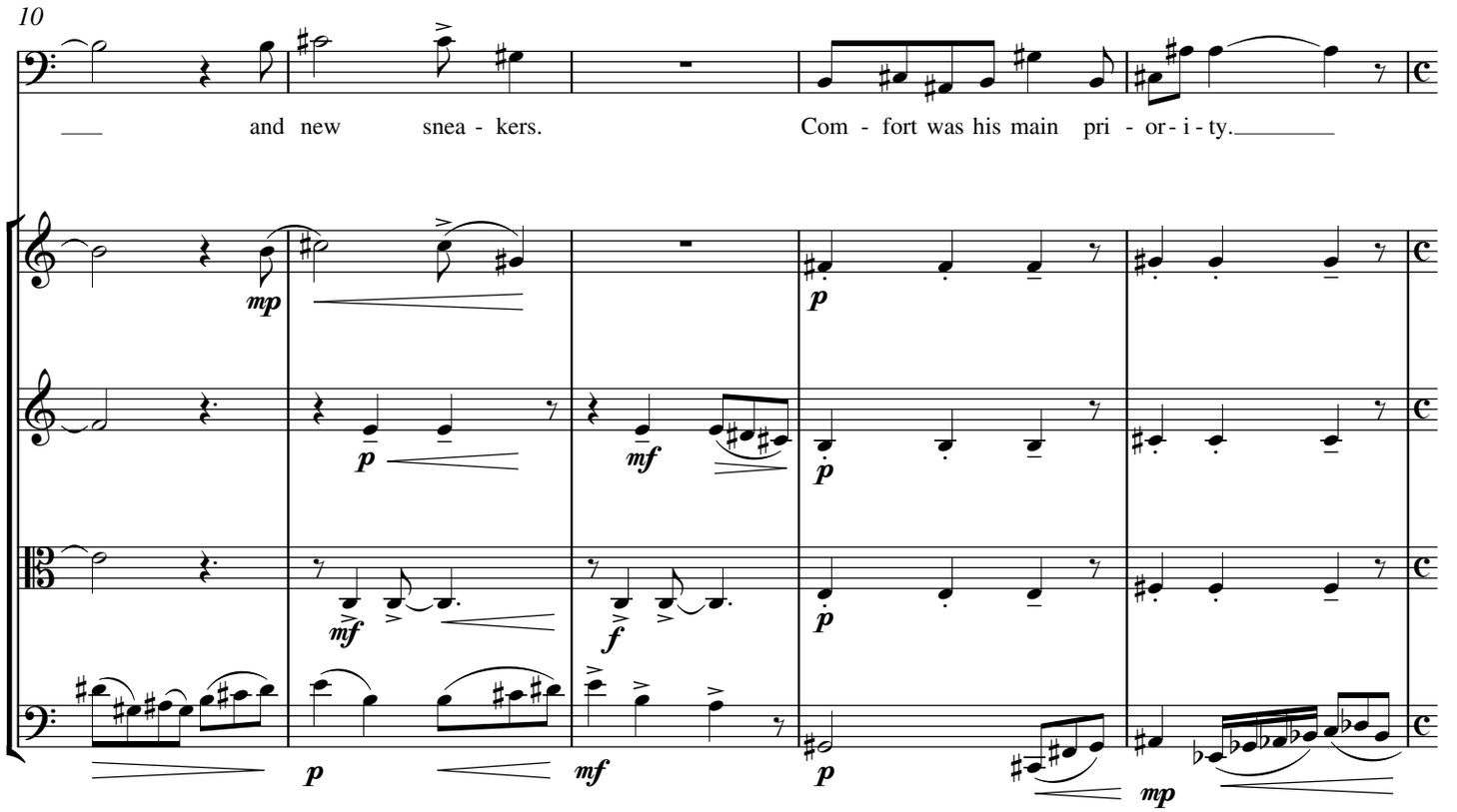
16

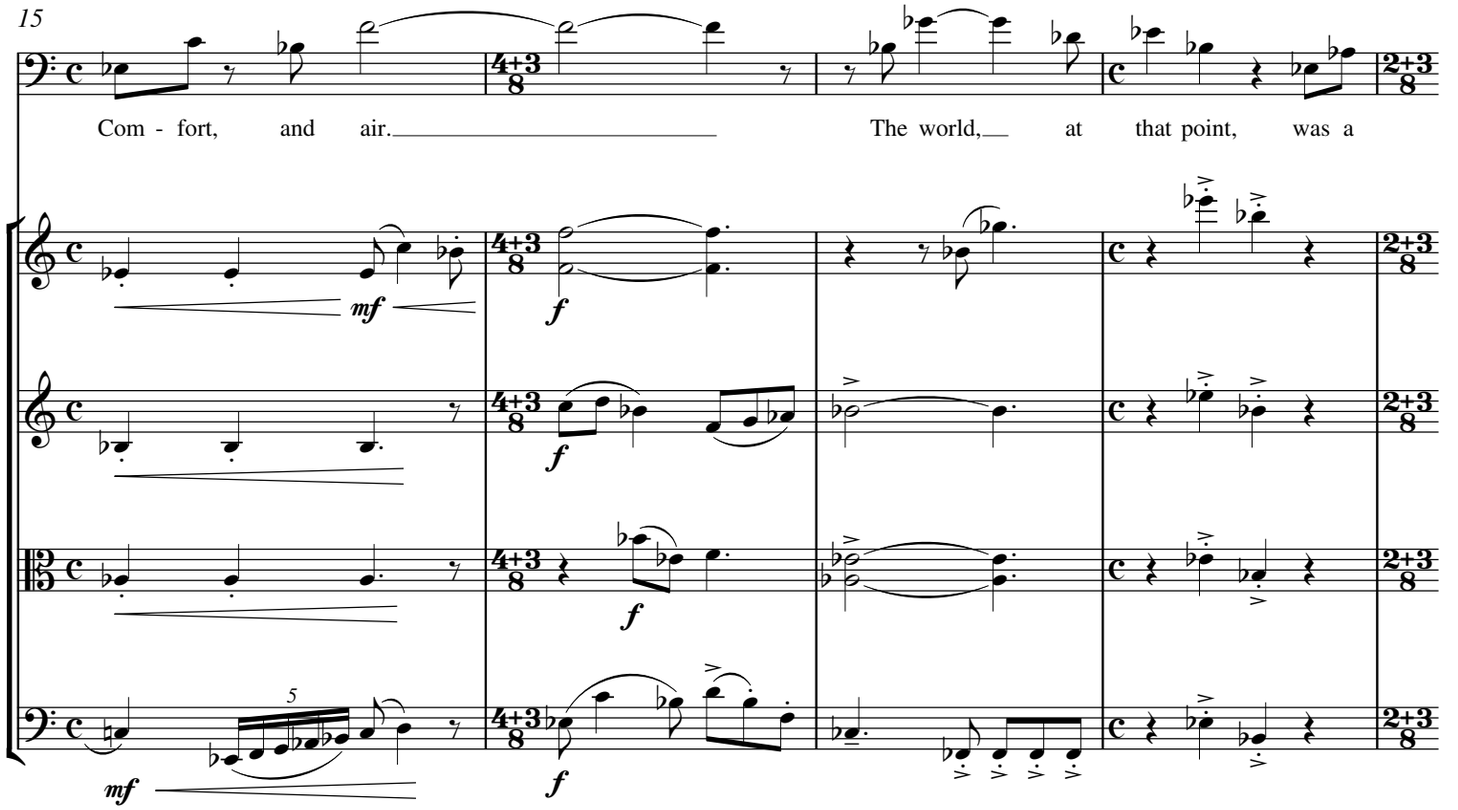
sfz

No. 6 Shopping

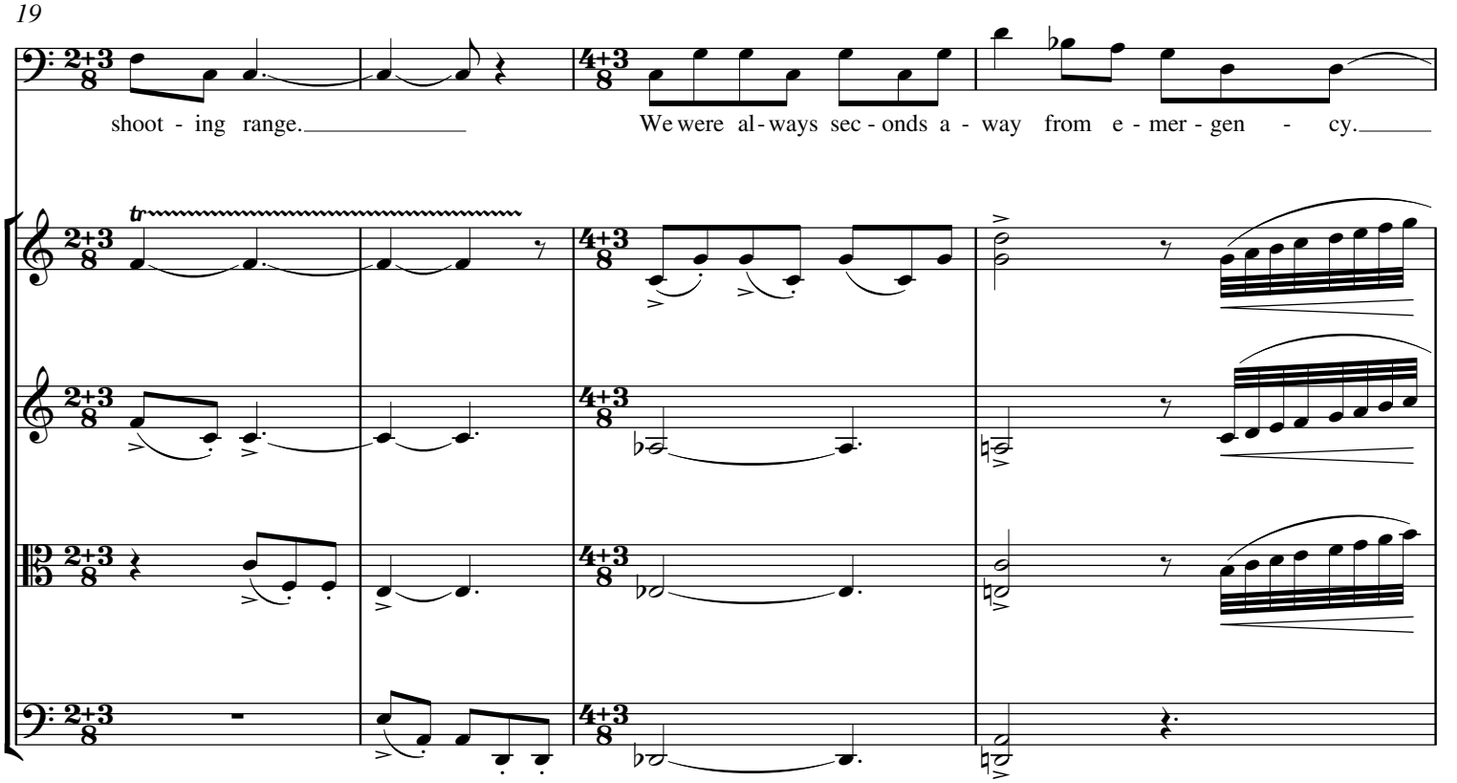




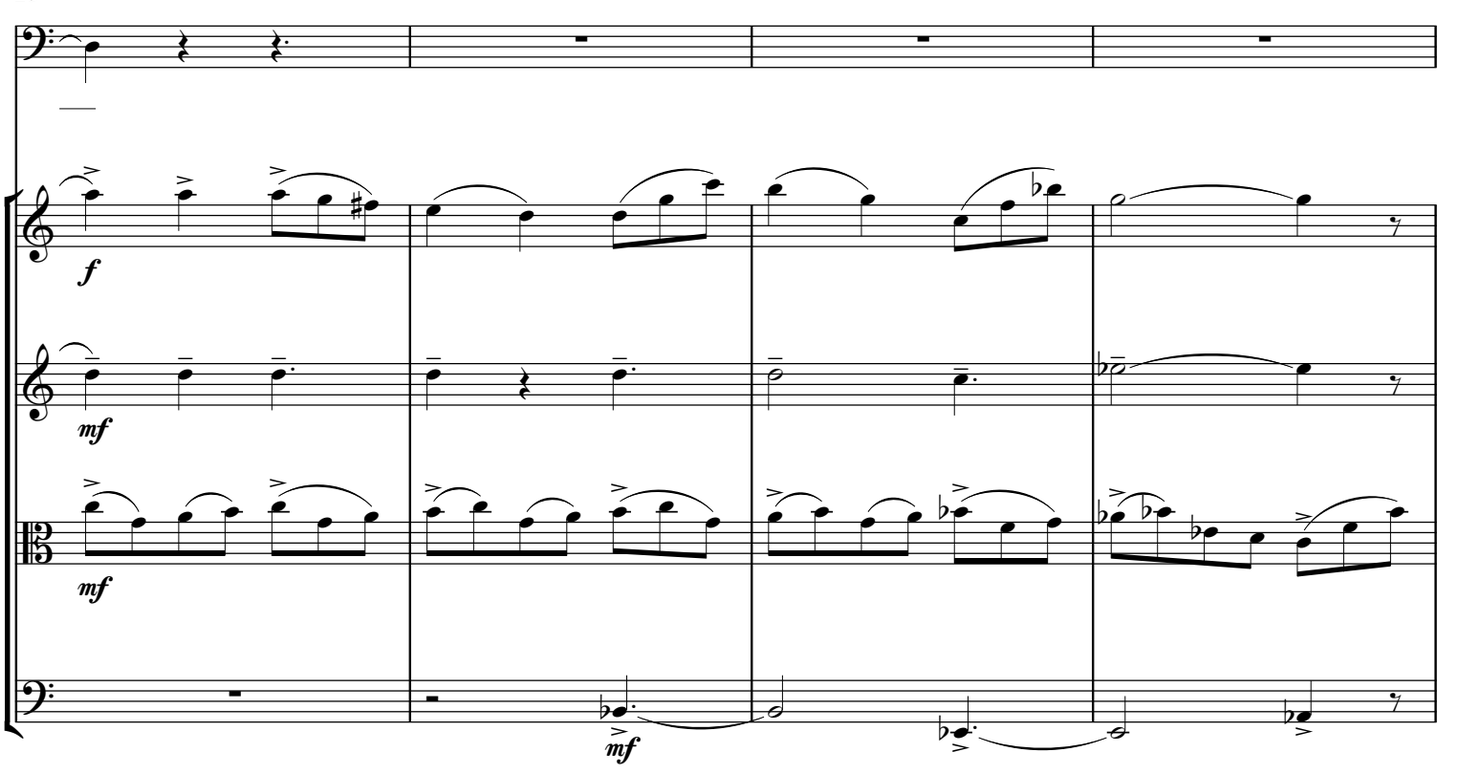

10
and new snea - kers.
Com - fort was his main pri - or - i - ty.

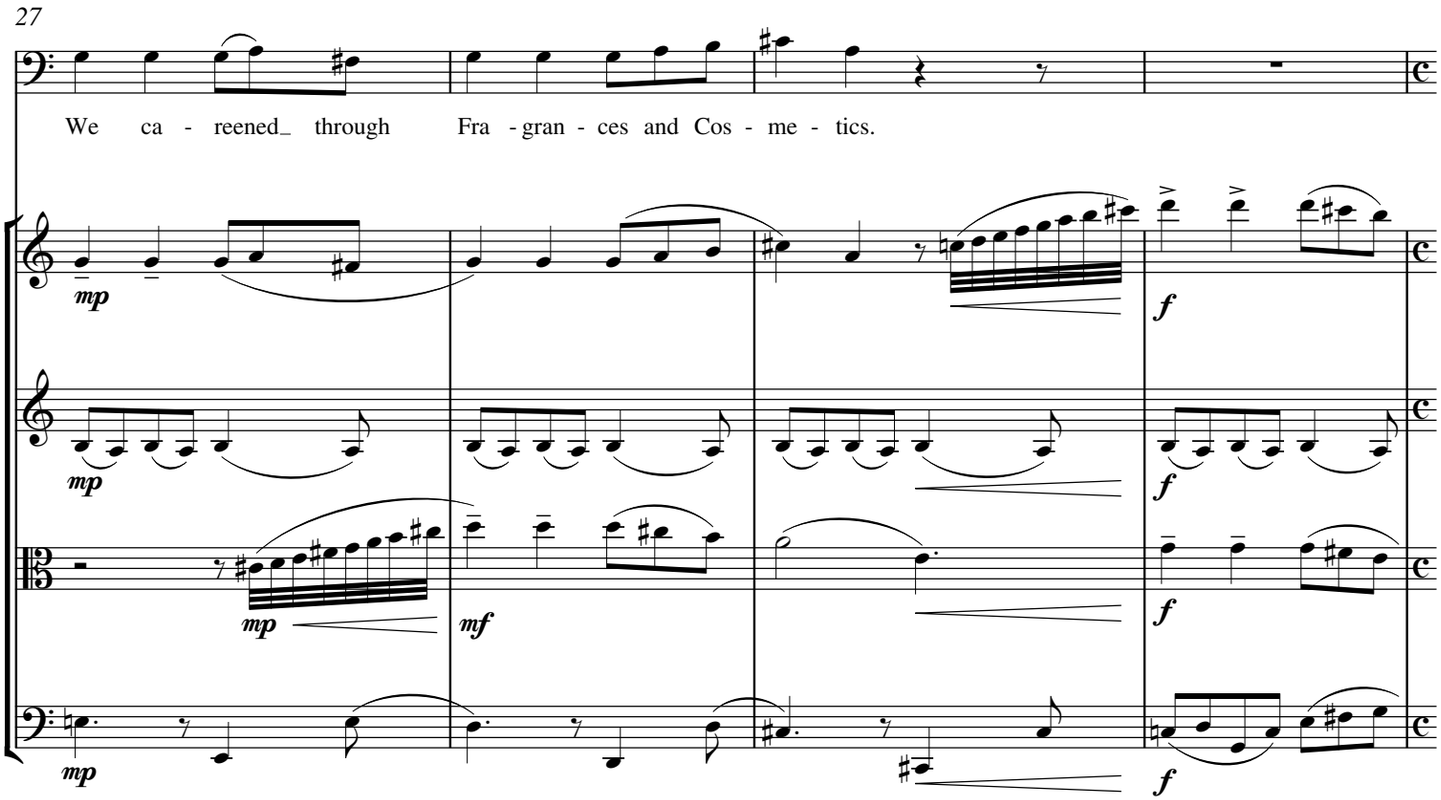

15
Com - fort, and air.
The world, at that point, was a

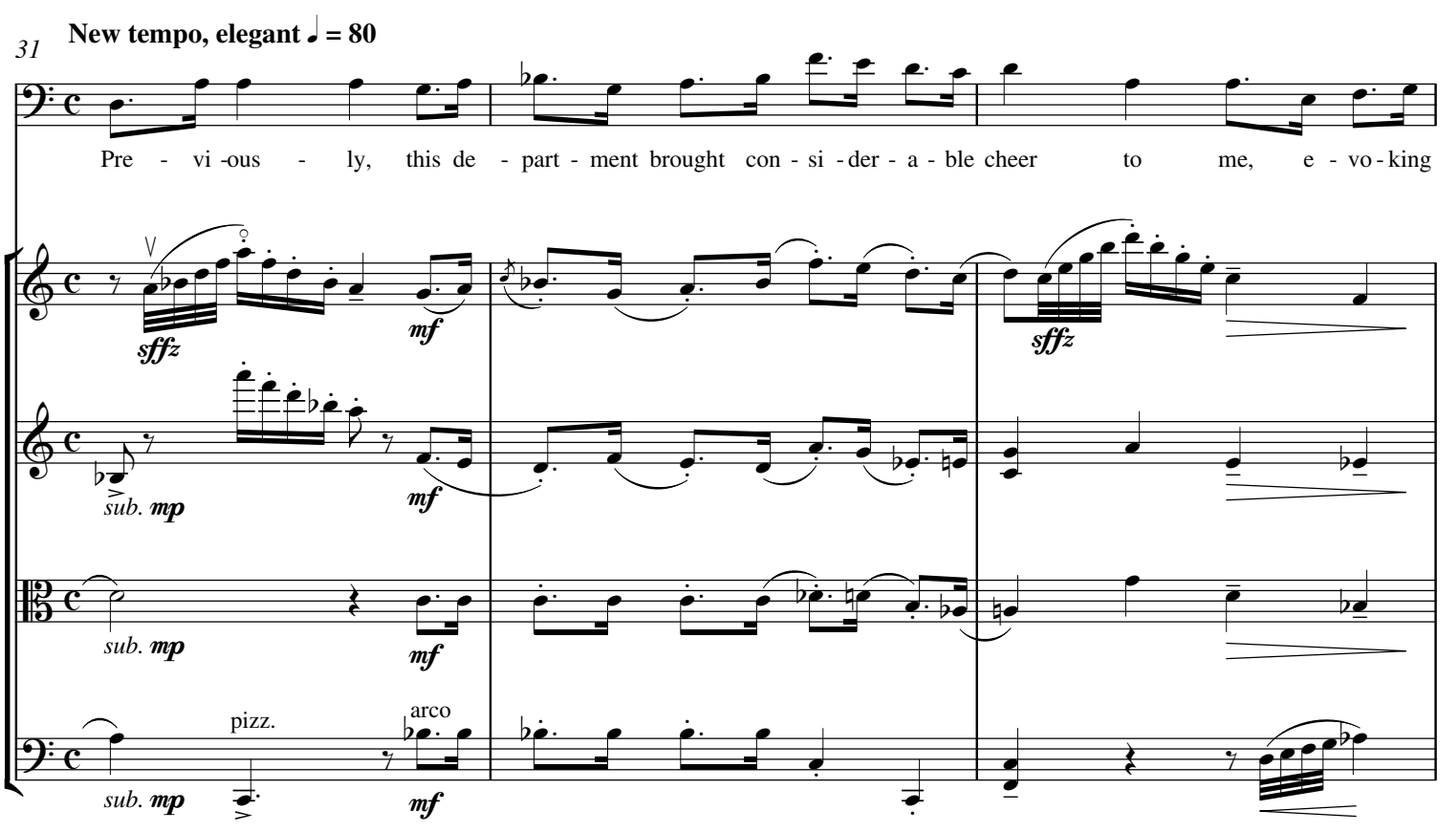
19

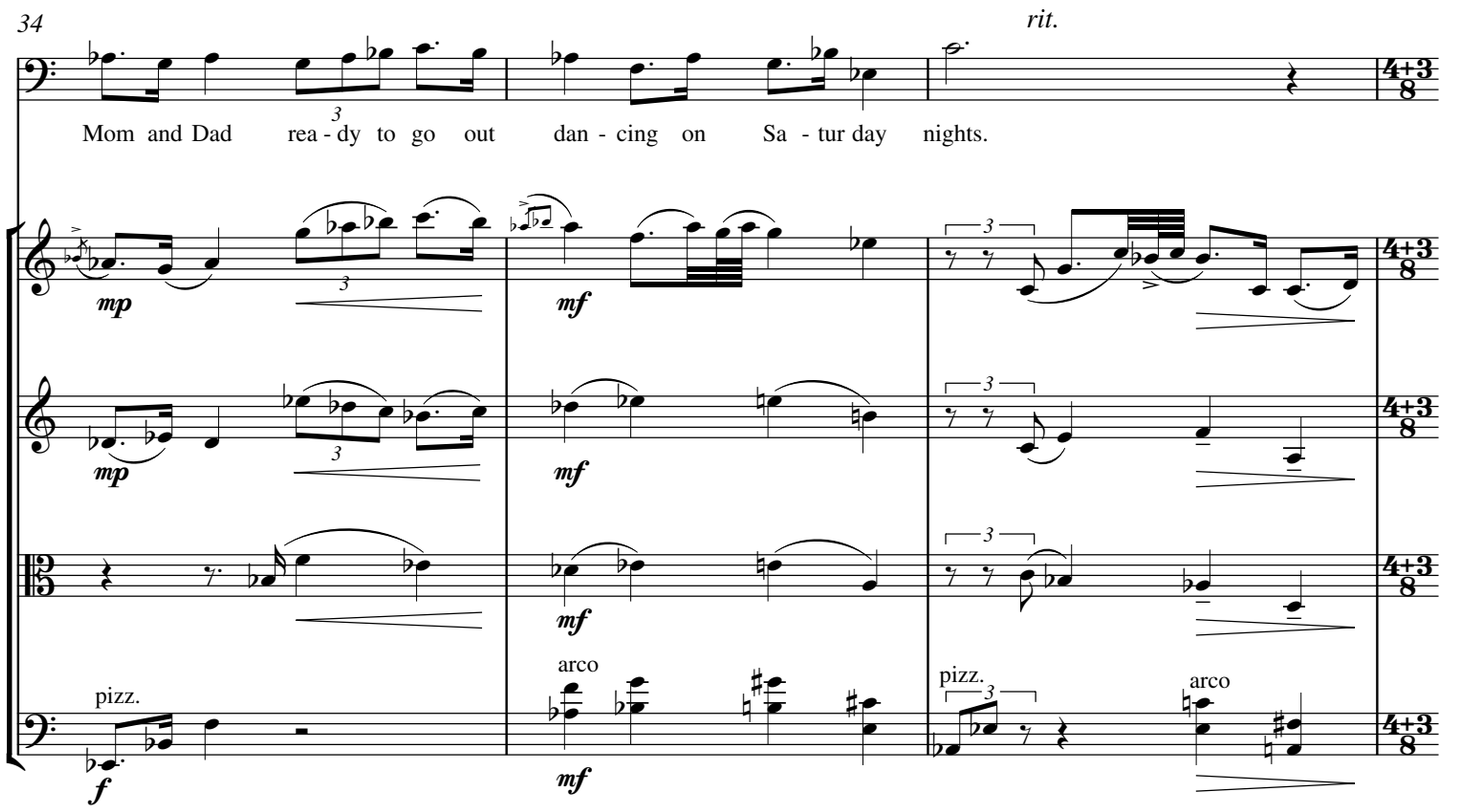

shoot - ing range.
We were al - ways sec - onds a - way from e - mer - gen - cy.

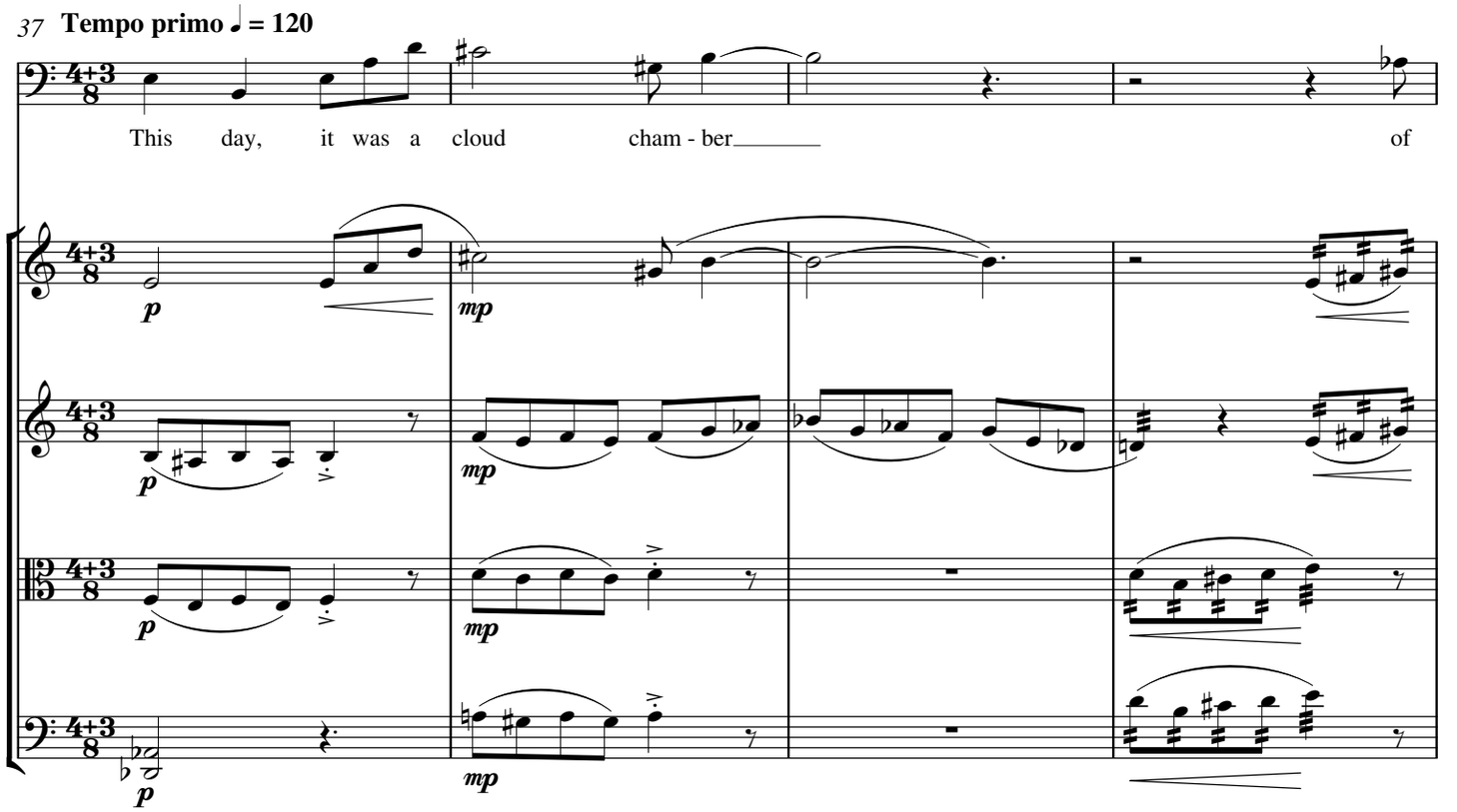
23

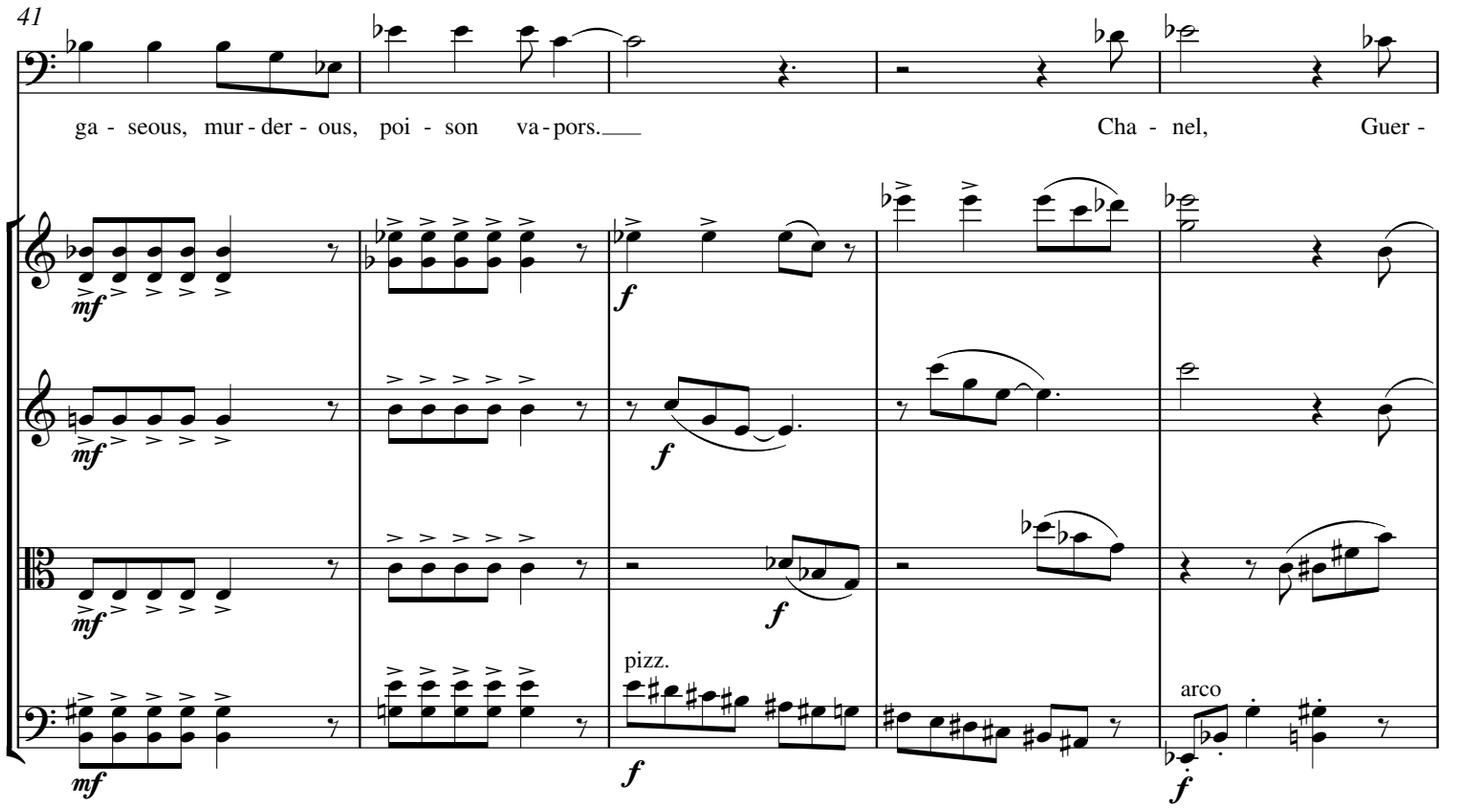

f
mf
mf
mf

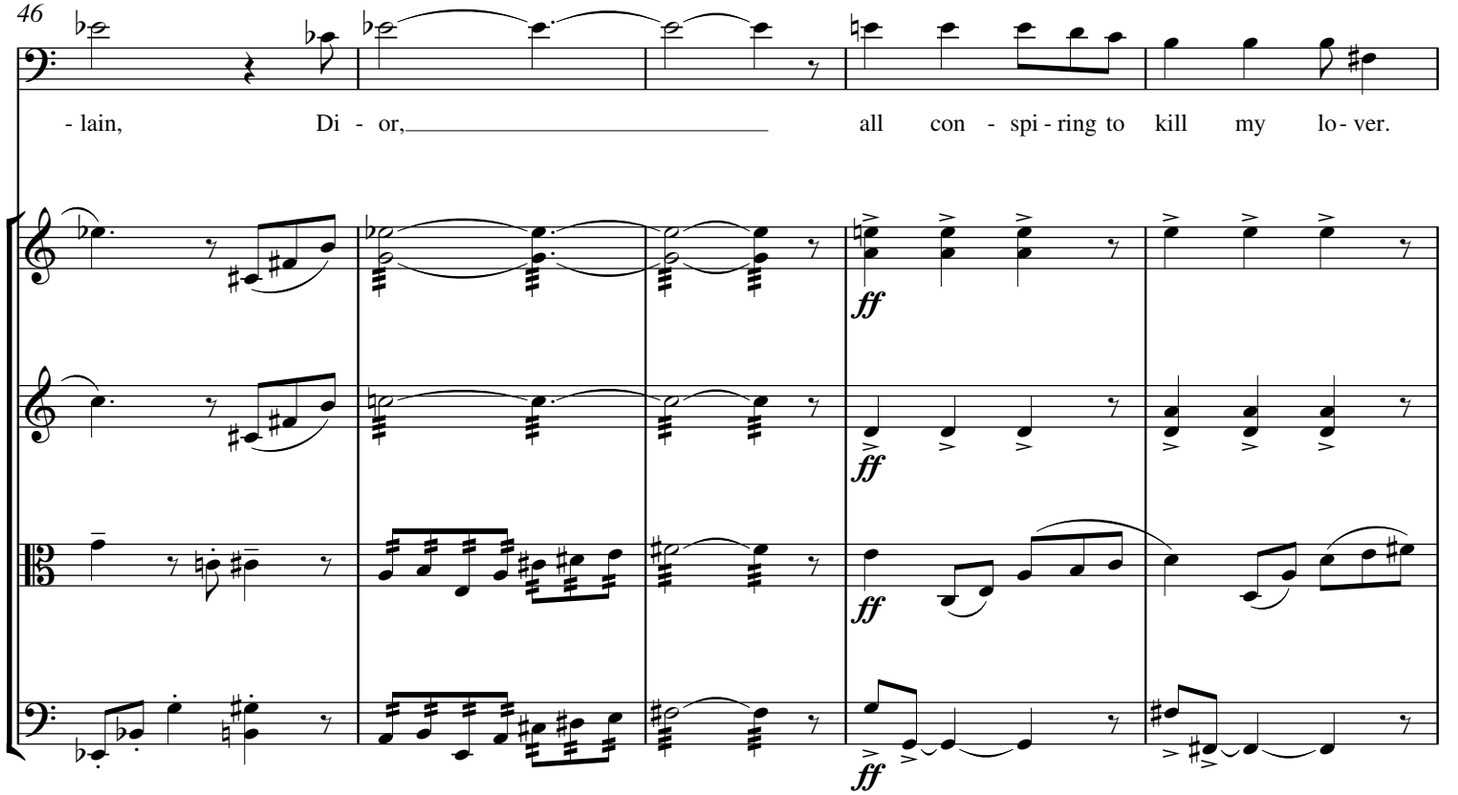

27
We ca - reened_ through Fra - gran - ces and Cos - me - tics.
mp
mp
mp
mf
mp
f
f
f
f


31
New tempo, elegant ♩ = 80
Pre - vi -ous - ly, this de - part - ment brought con - si - der - a - ble cheer to me, e - vo - king
sffz
mf
sffz
sub. mp
mf
sub. mp
mf
pizz.
arco
sub. mp
mf


34
rit.
Mom and Dad rea - dy to go out dan - cing on Sa - tur day nights.
mp
mf
pizz.
arco
f


37 Tempo primo ♩ = 120
This day, it was a cloud cham - ber of
p
mp


41
ga - seous, mur - der - ous, poi - son va - pors.
Cha - nel, Guer -
mf
f
pizz.
arco


46
- lain, Di - or,
all con - spi - ring to kill my lo - ver.
ff

51

mp

mp

mp

56

♩ = 76

3

He gasped, choked, wi - dened his mouth in a ga - ping prayer.

tr

tr

p

p

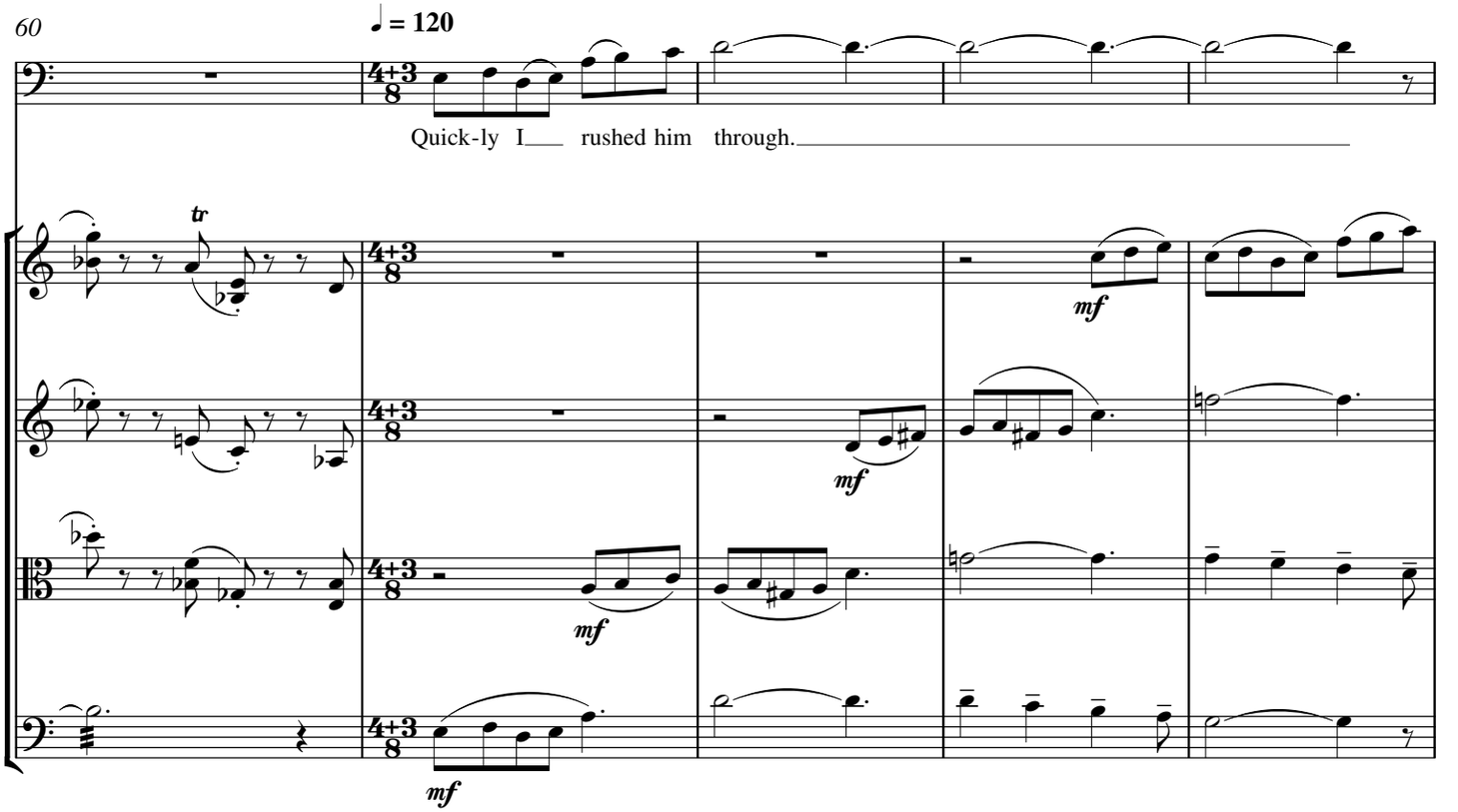
pizz.

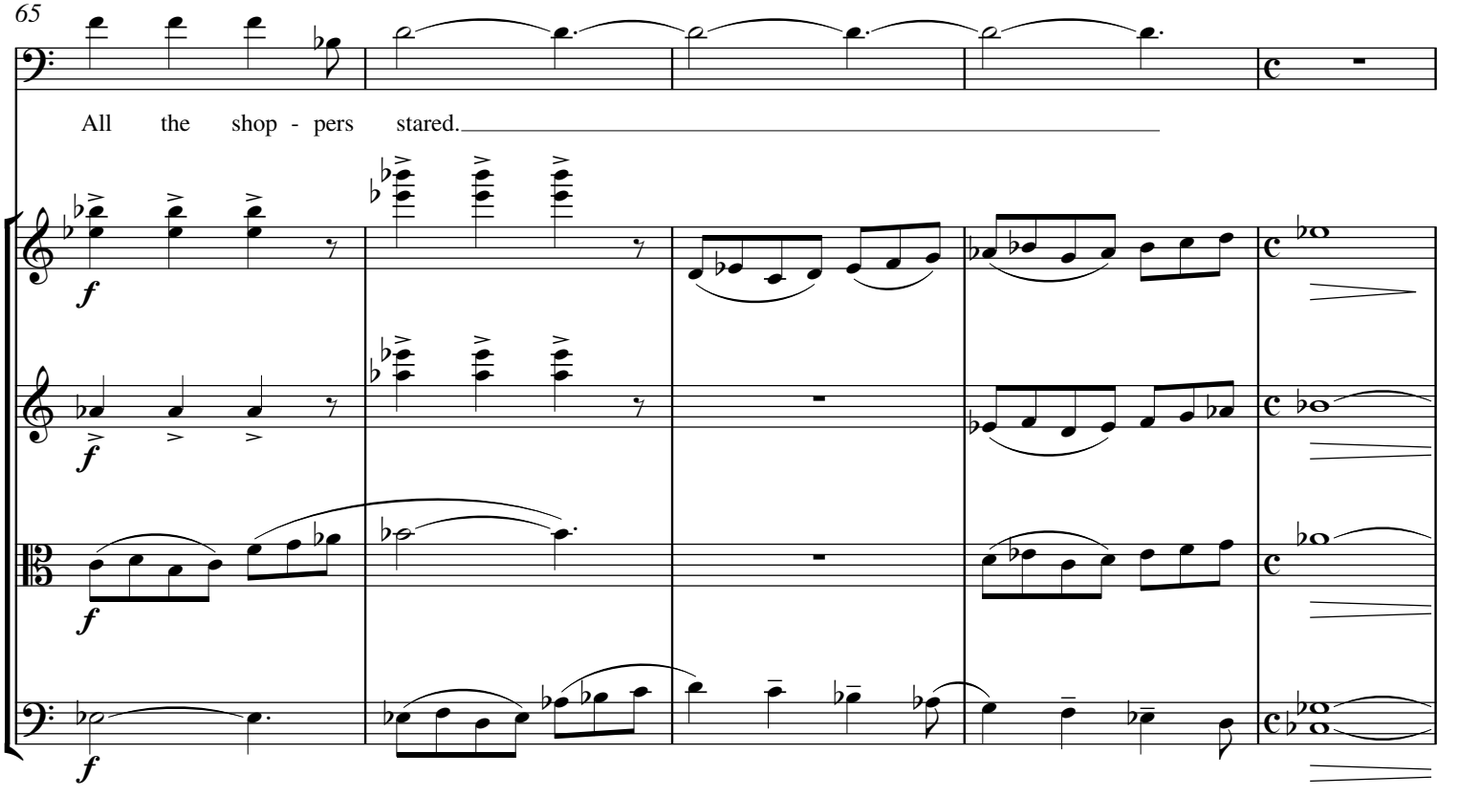
arco

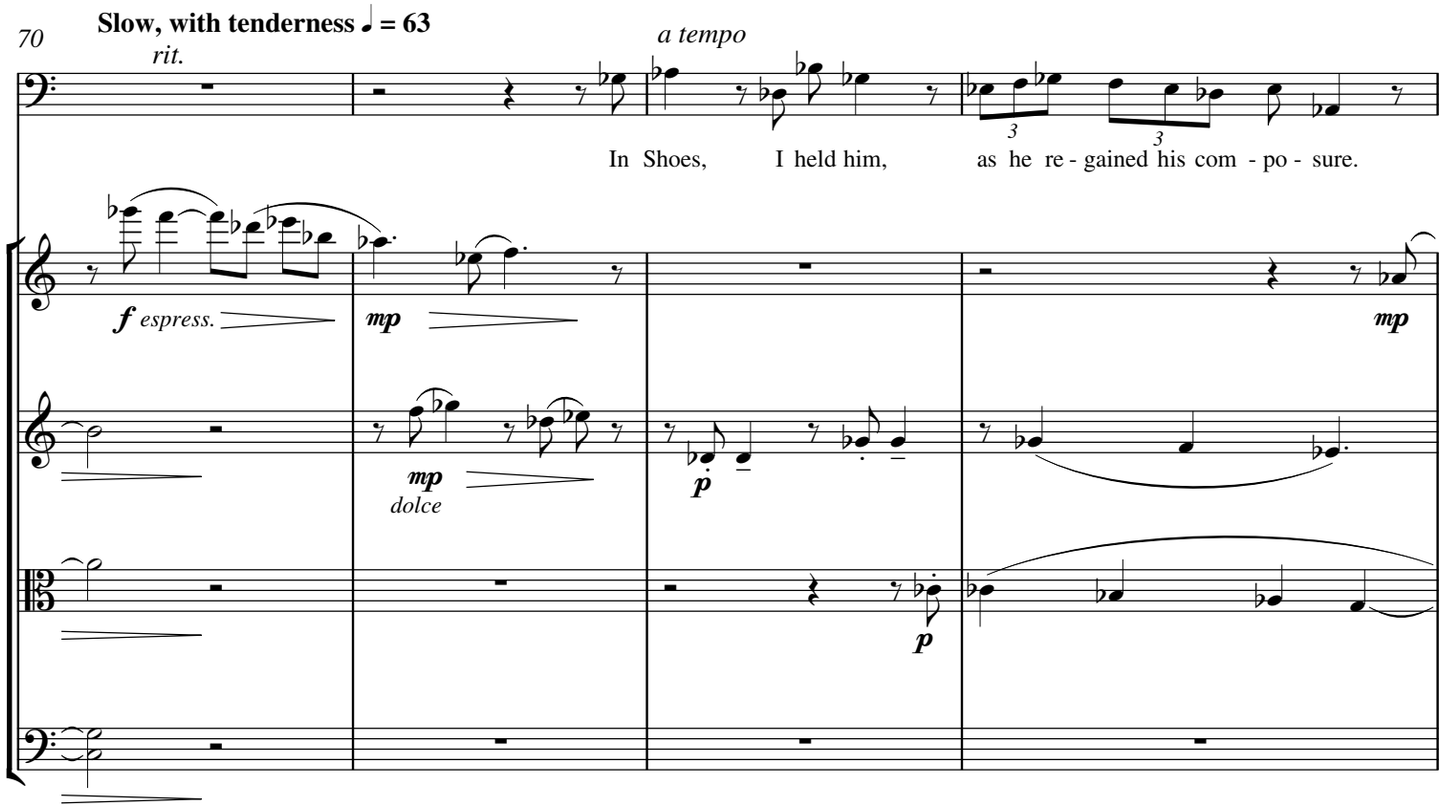
sffz

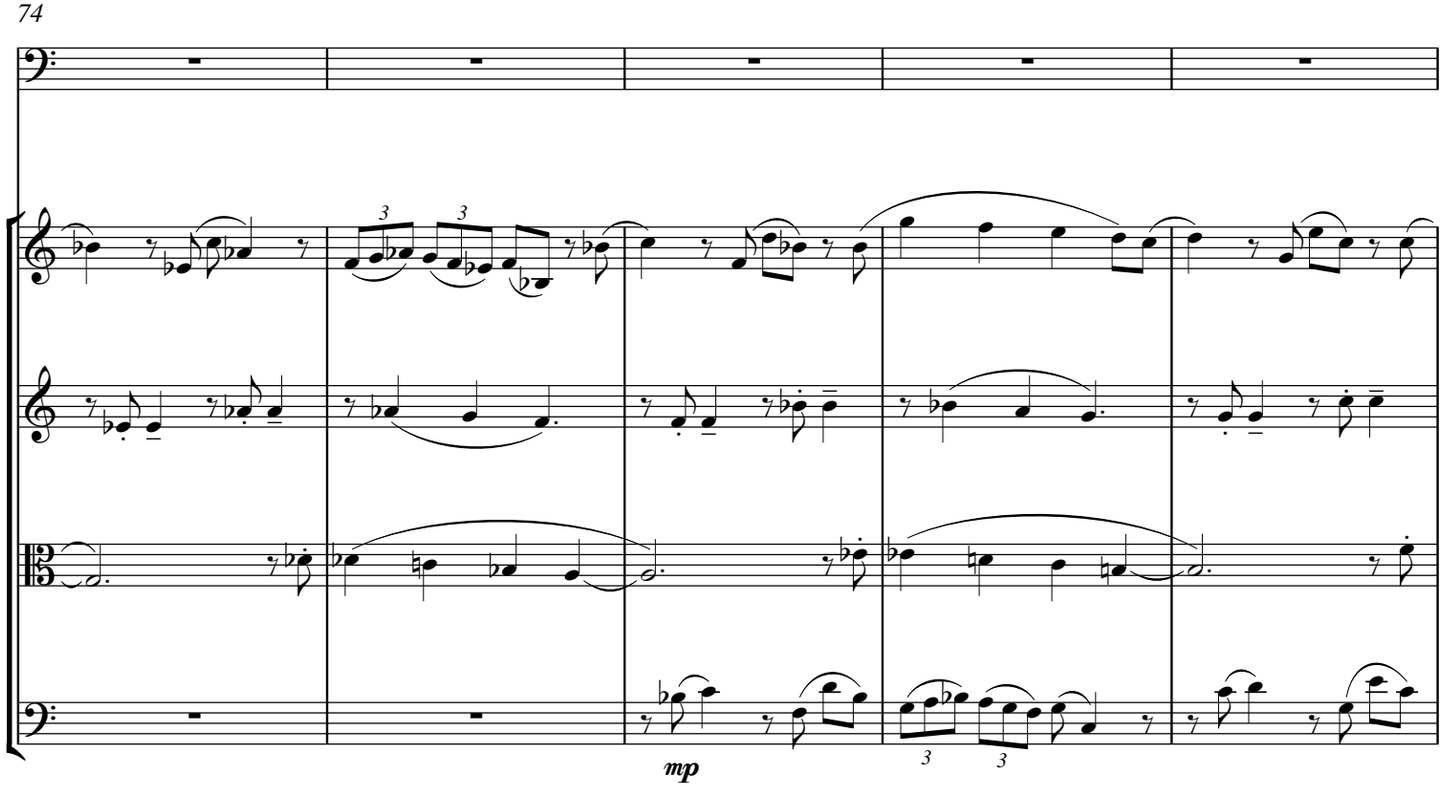
p

fp

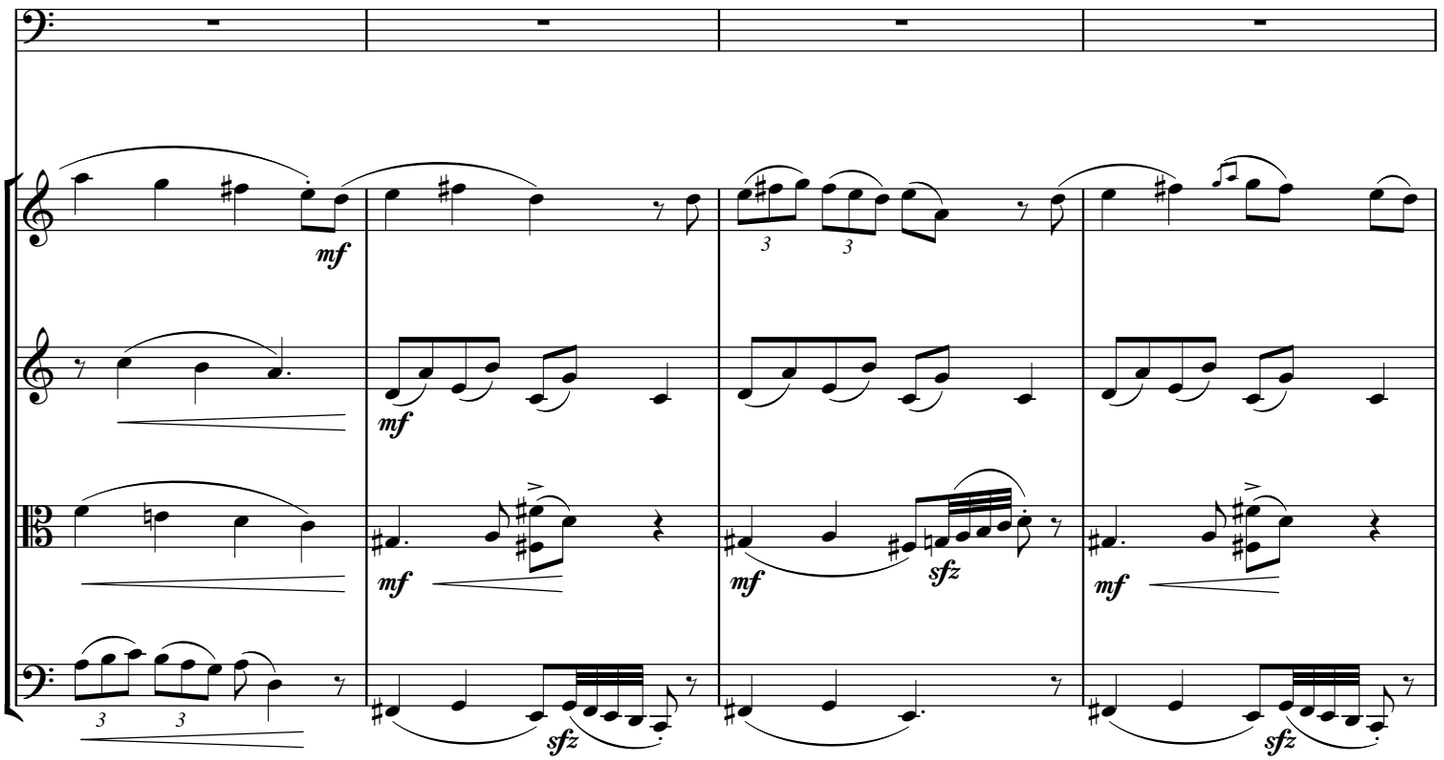

60
♩ = 120
Quick-ly I___ rushed him through.


65
All the shop - pers stared.

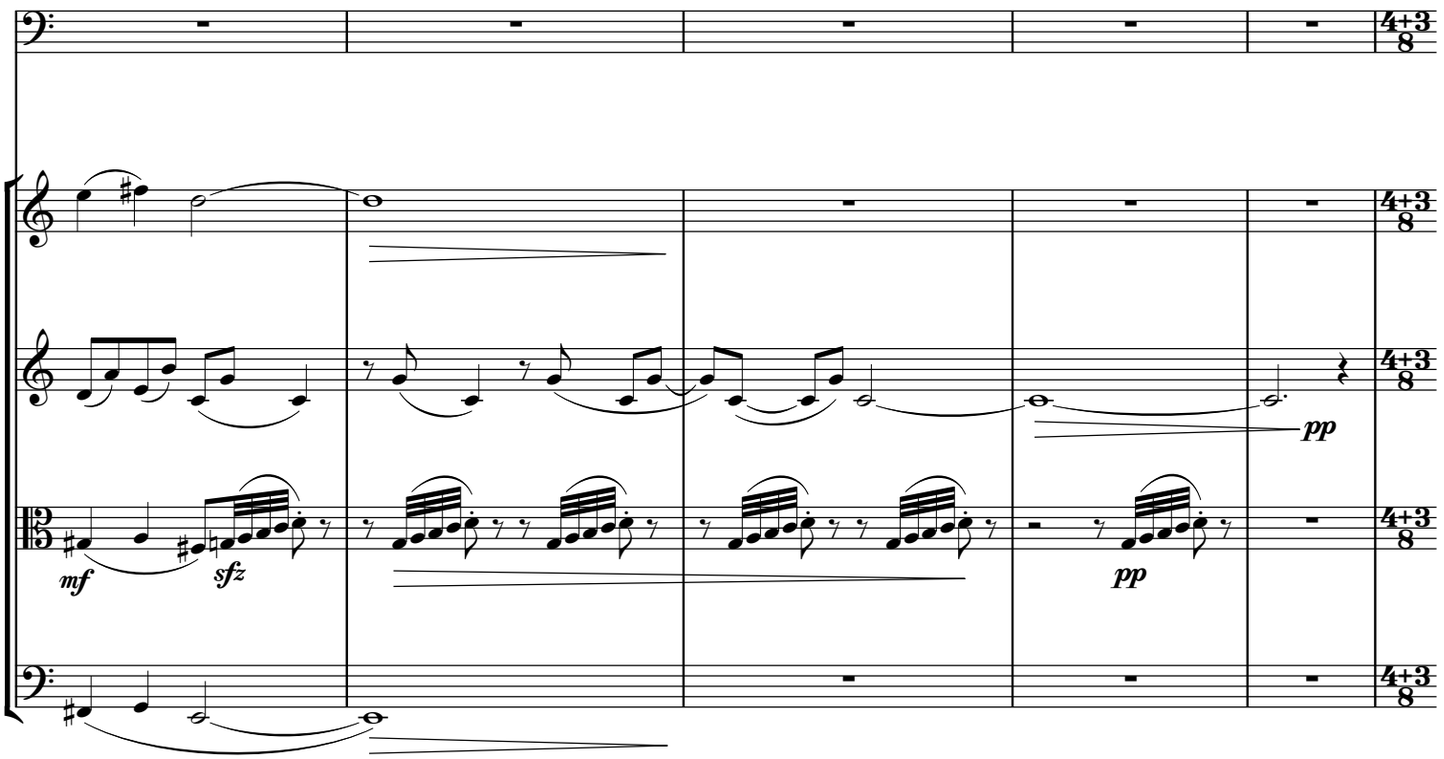

70
Slow, with tenderness ♩ = 63
rit.
a tempo
In Shoes, I held him, as he re - gained his com - po - sure.
f espress.
mp
mp
dolce
p
mp
p


74
mp

79



83



88 **Even slower ♩ = 60**

We found the snea - kers, green, and sweet on his thin litt - le legs,

mp espress.

mp espress.

p espress.

p espress.

mp

92

(*trailing off...*)

short white socks, paid, and left the store.

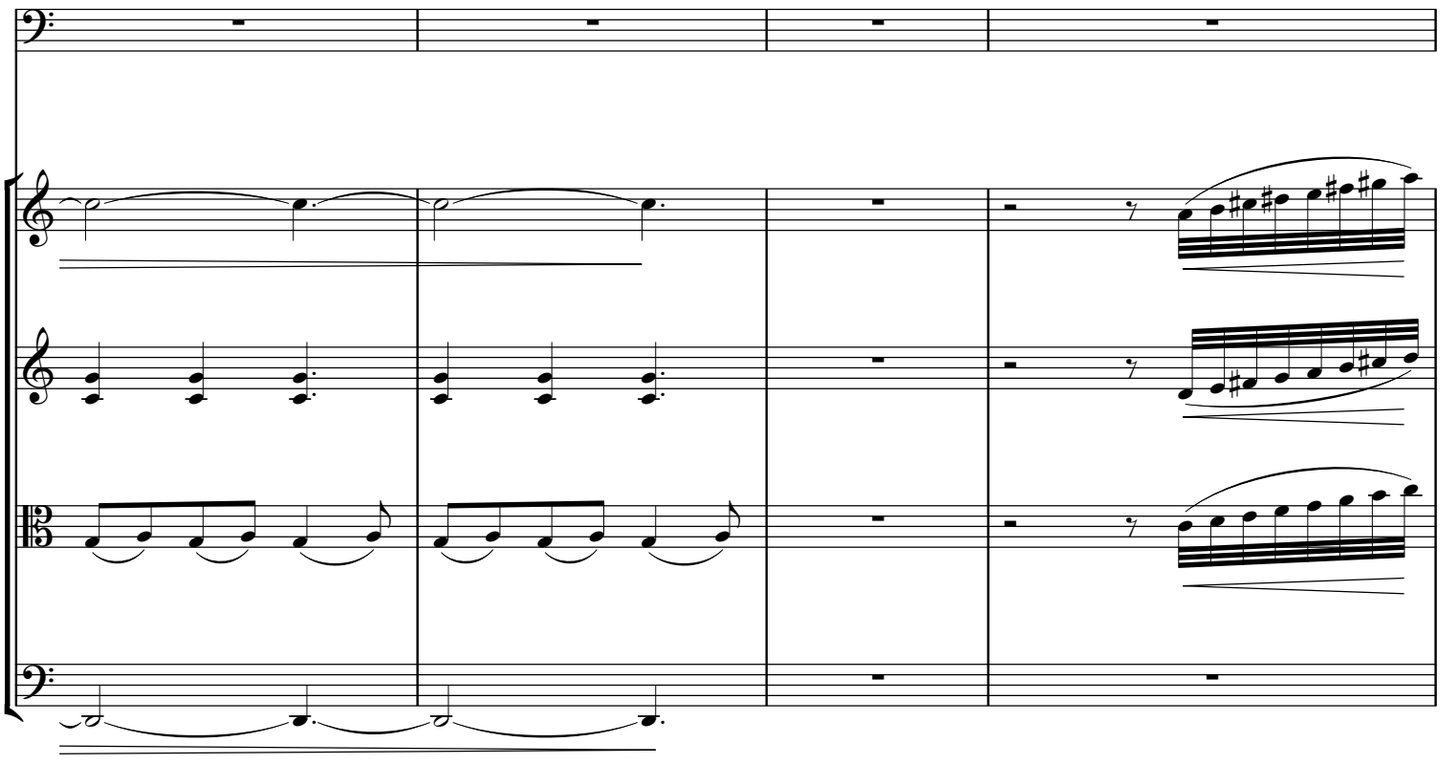
pp

pp

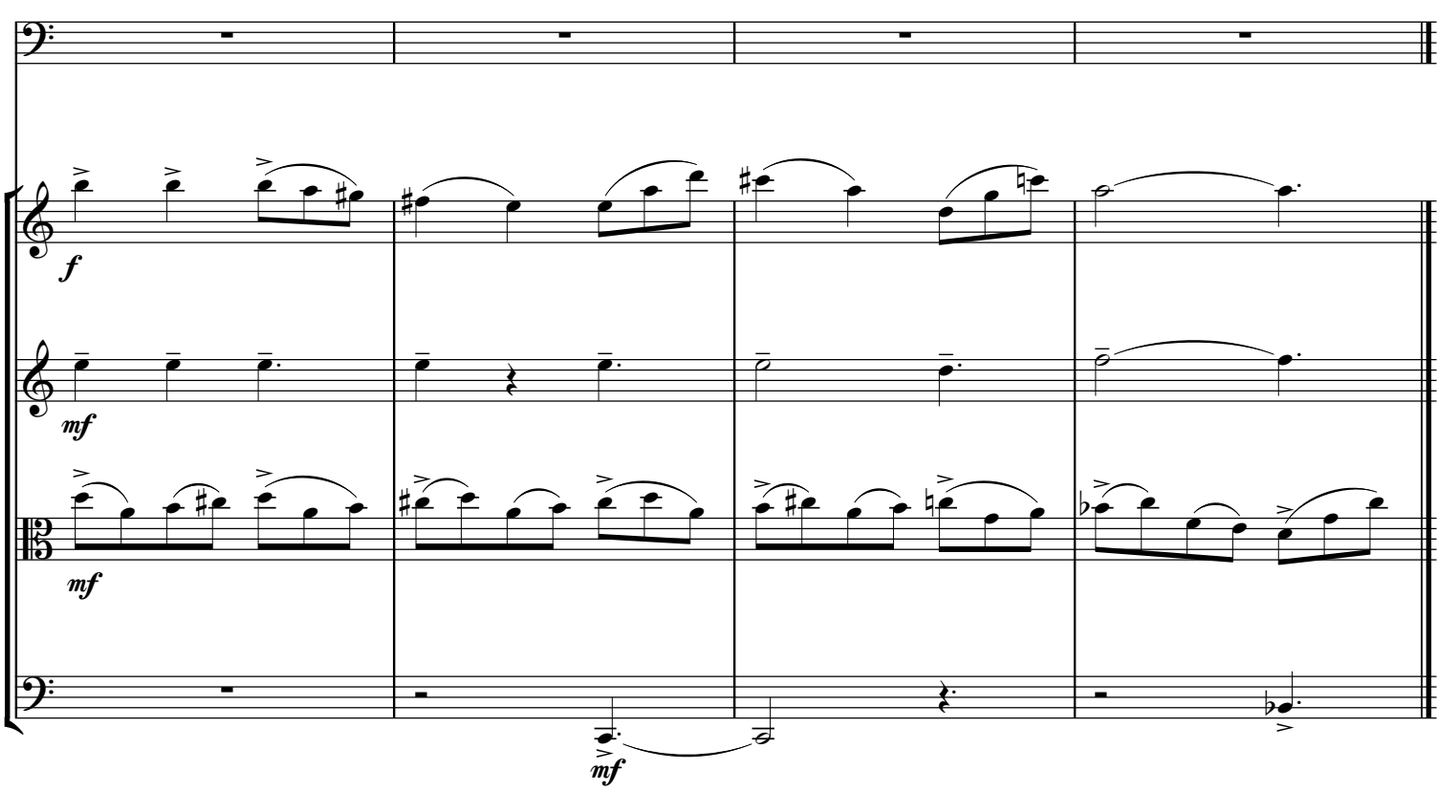
pp

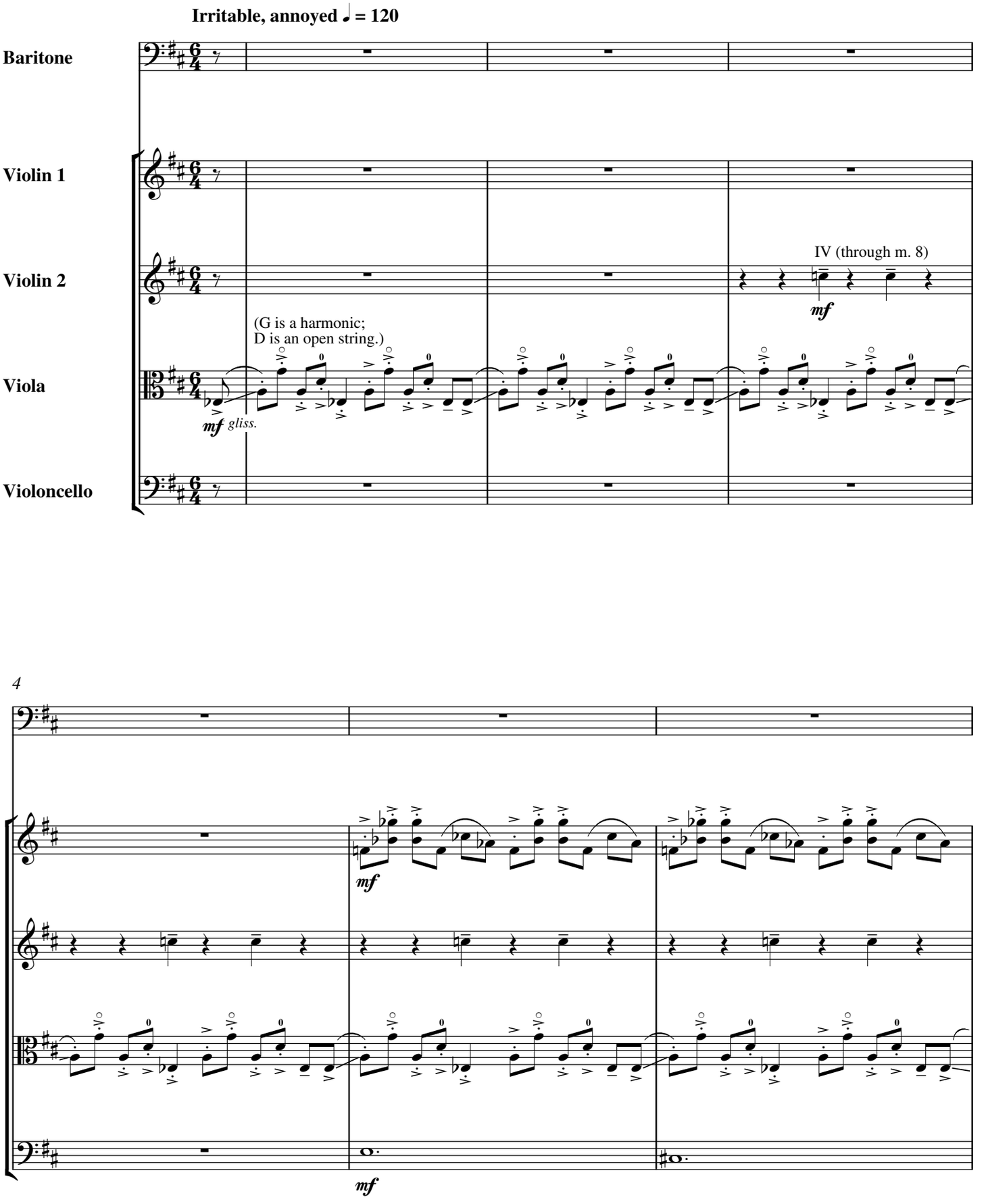
97

Tempo primo ♩ = 120

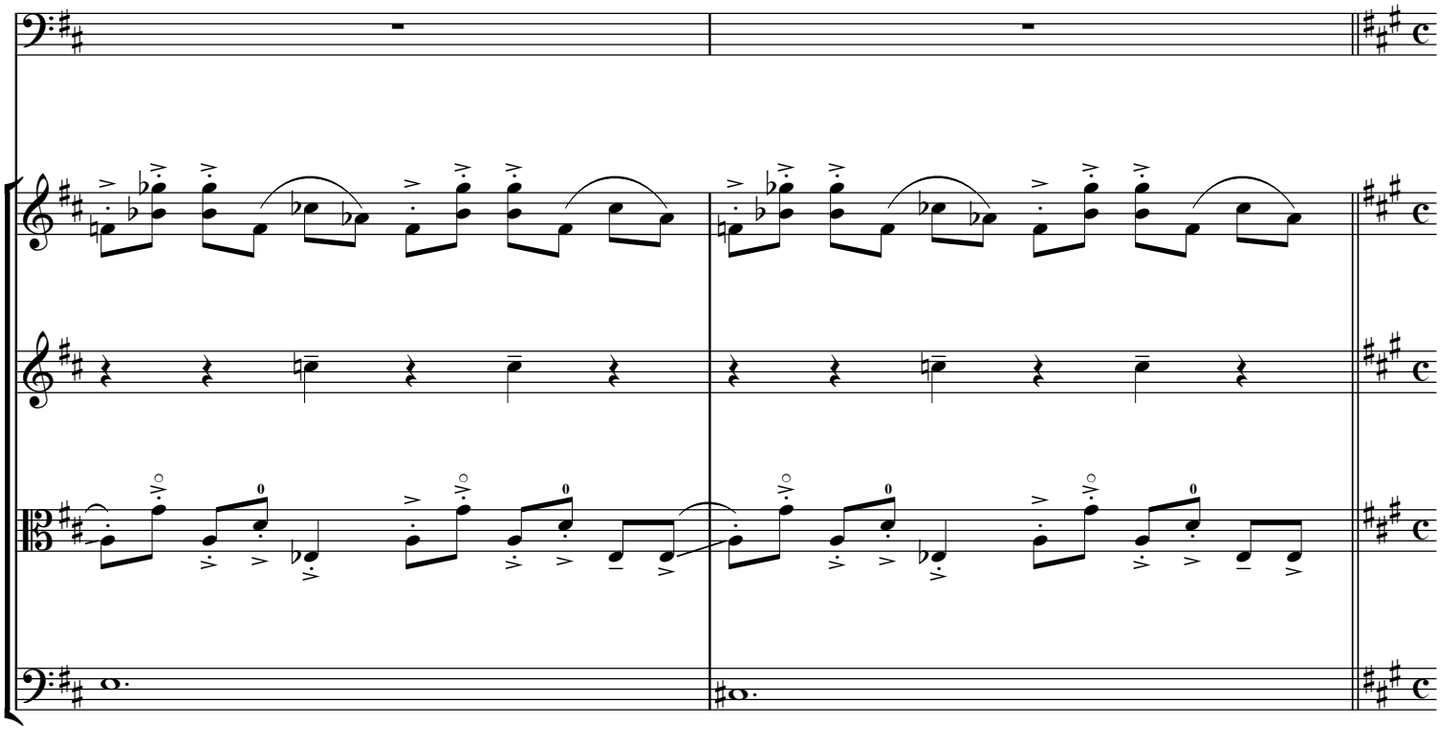


101

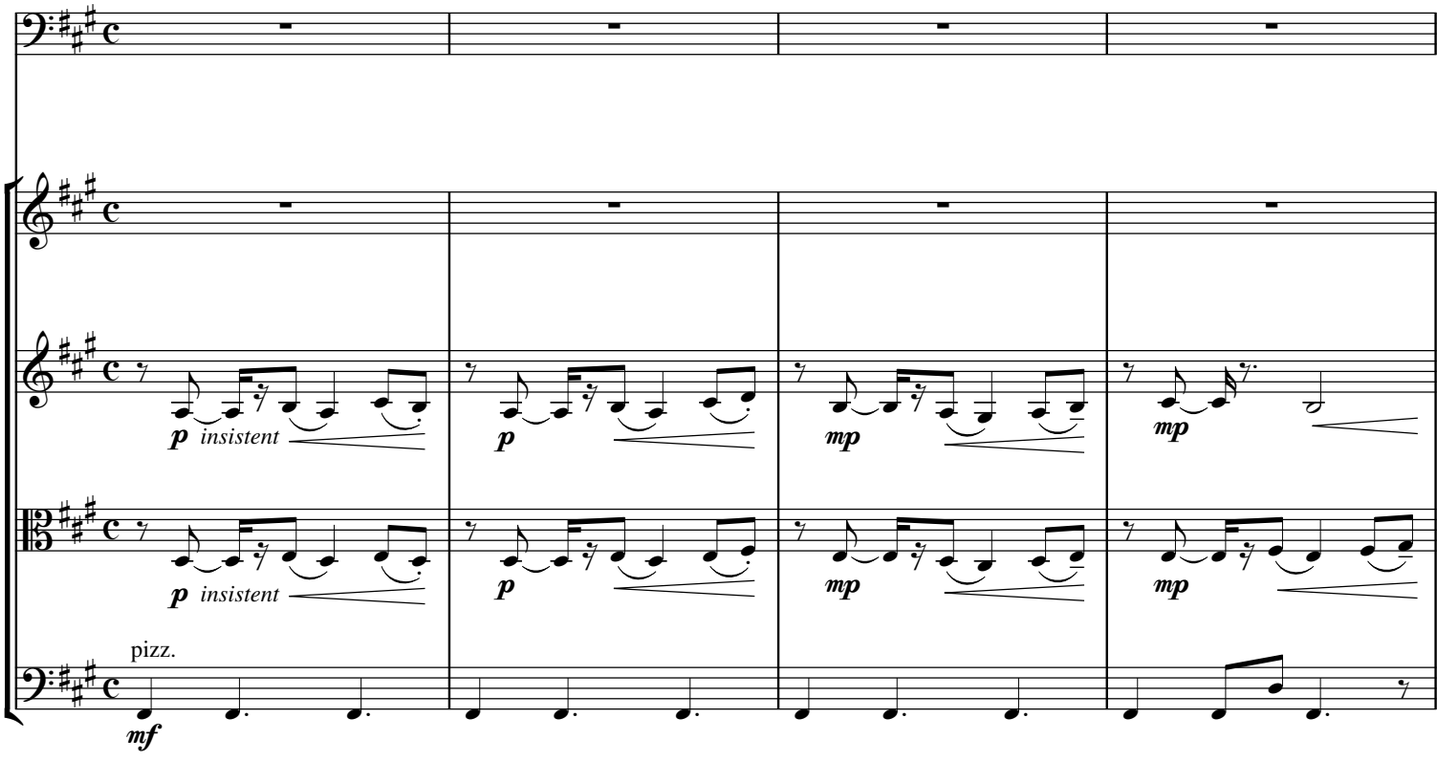


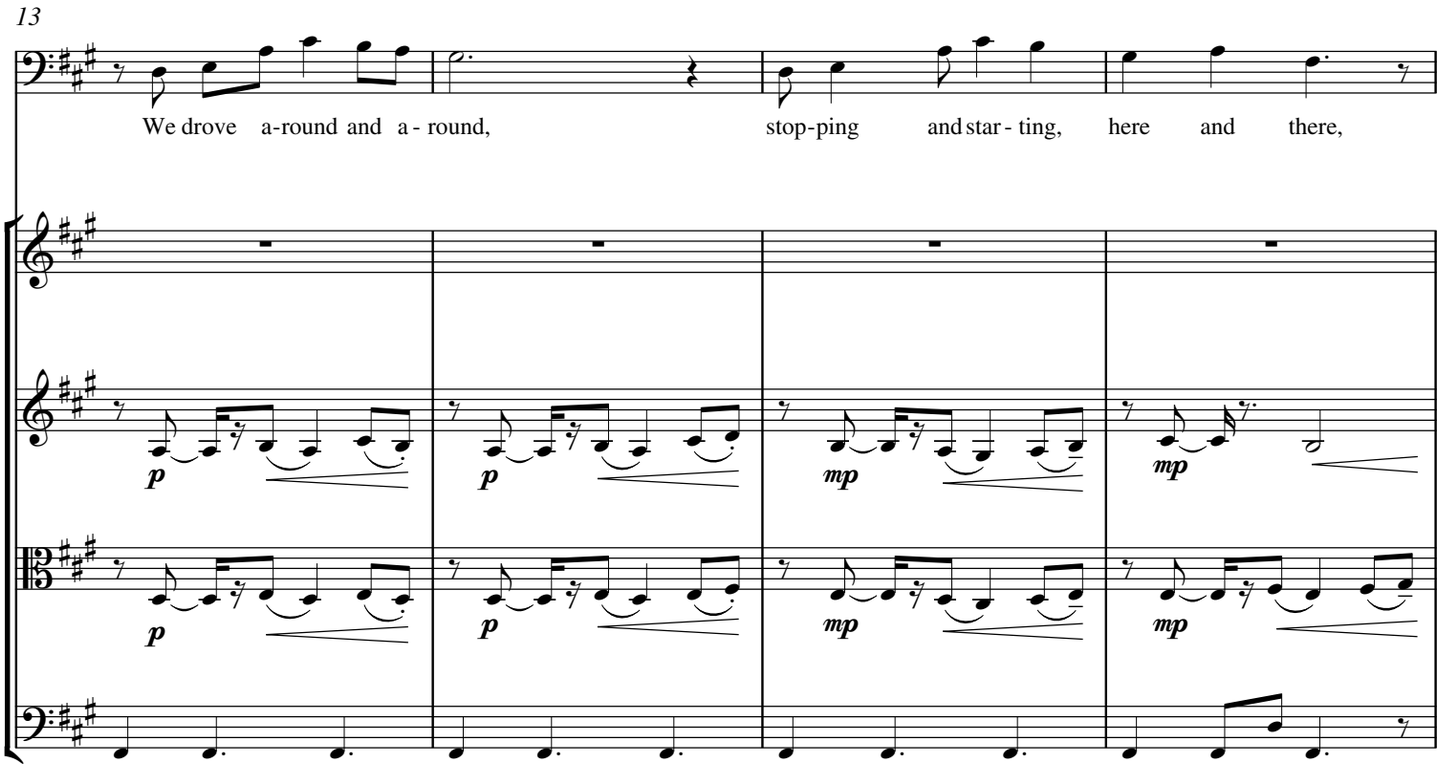

Irritable, annoyed ♩ = 120
Baritone
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
IV (through m. 8)
mf
(G is a harmonic;
D is an open string.)
mf gliss.
4
mf
mf

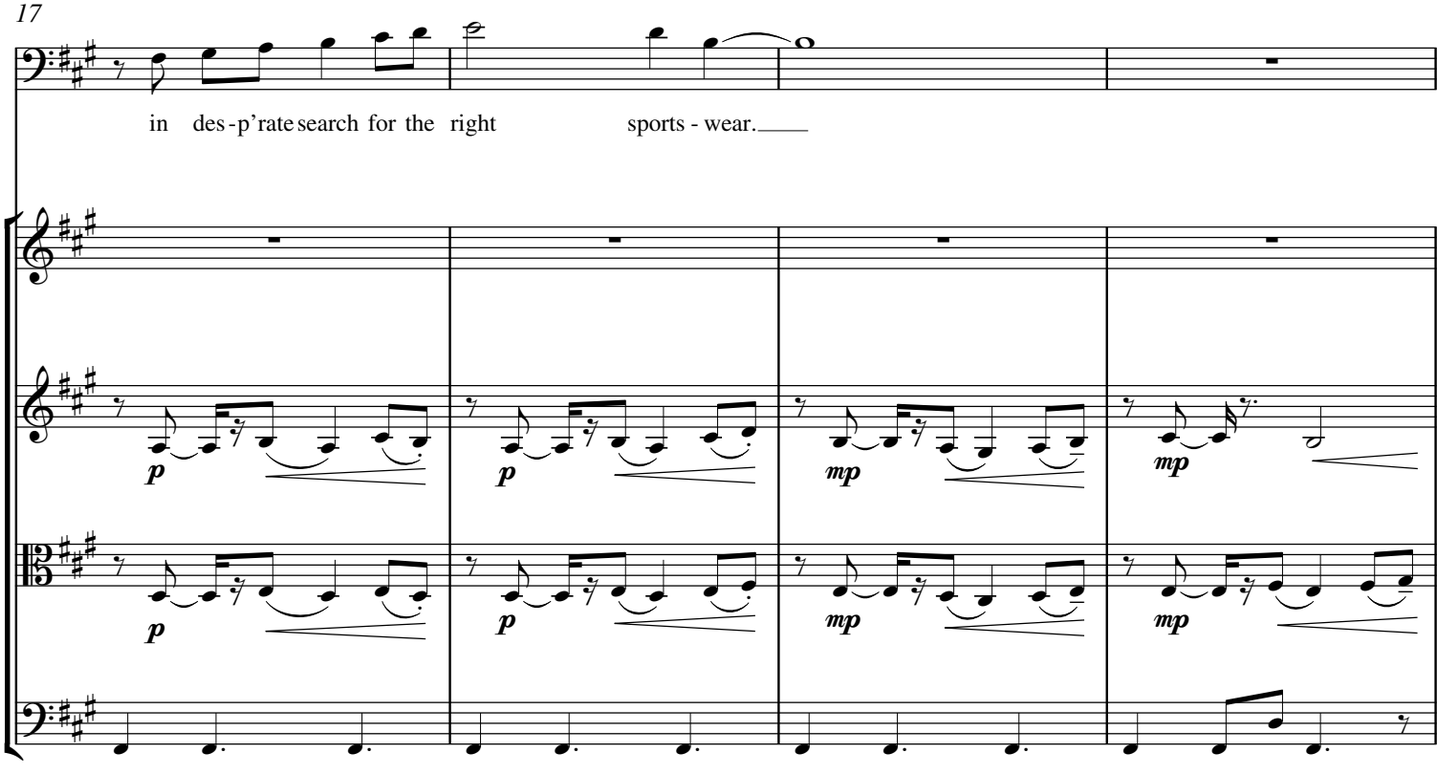
7

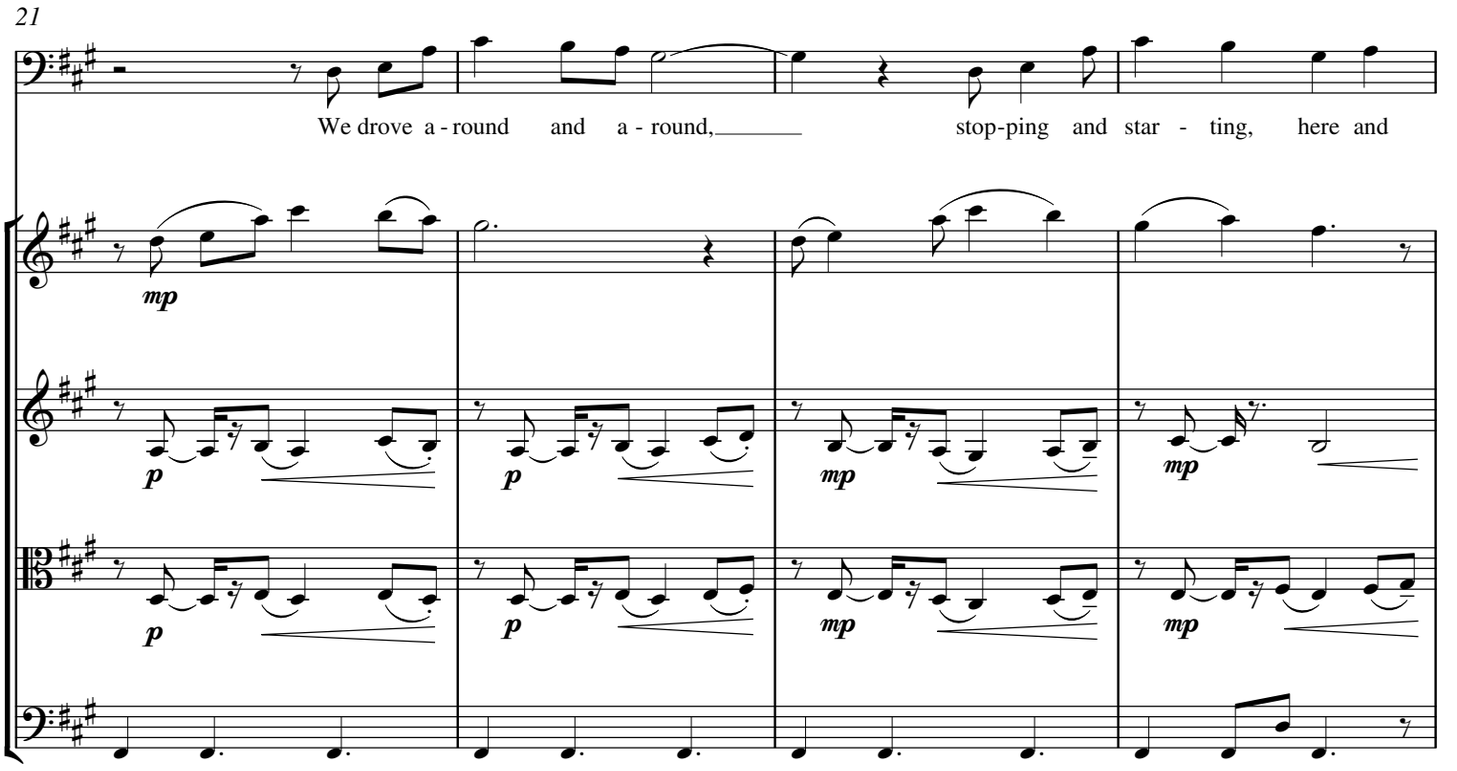


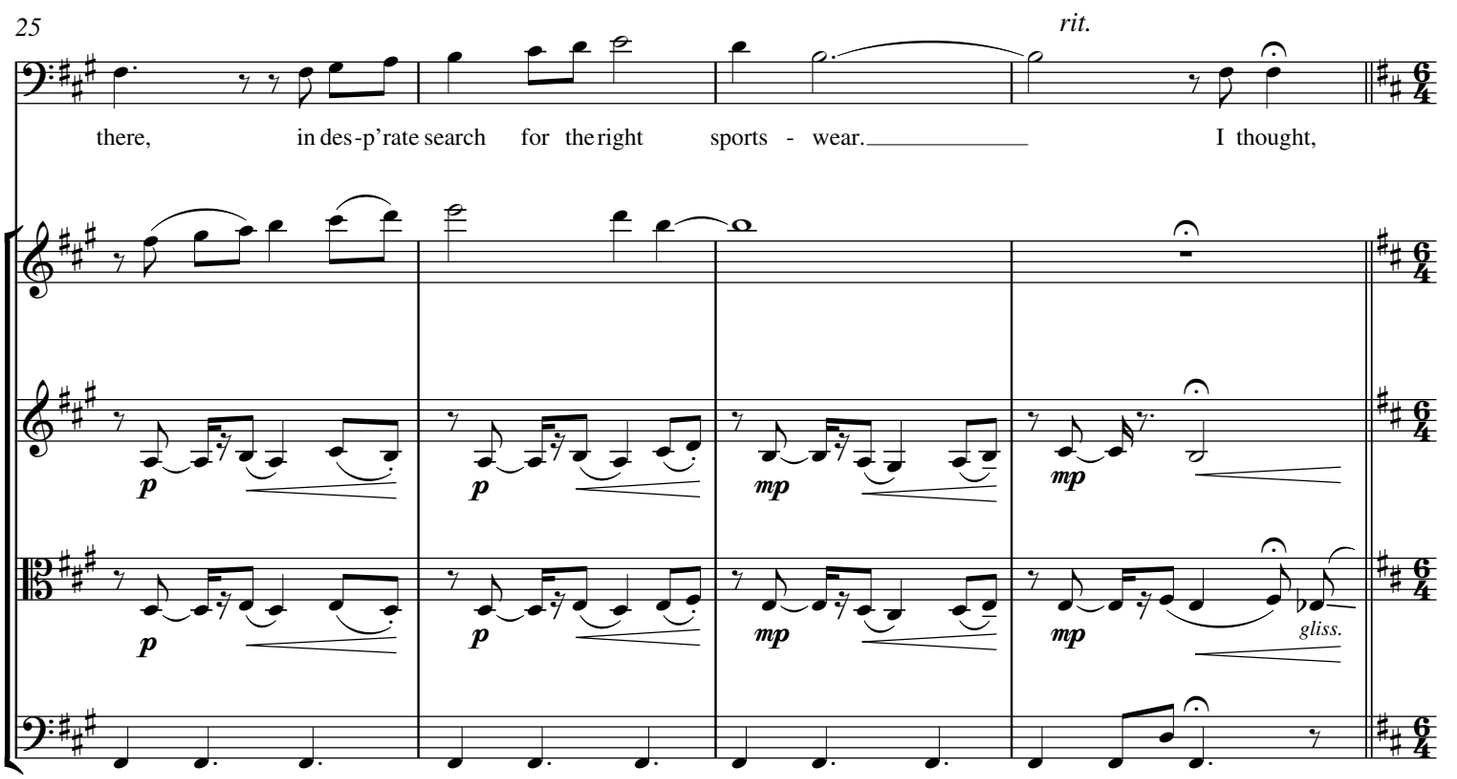
9 **Slower, hypnotic ♩ = 82**

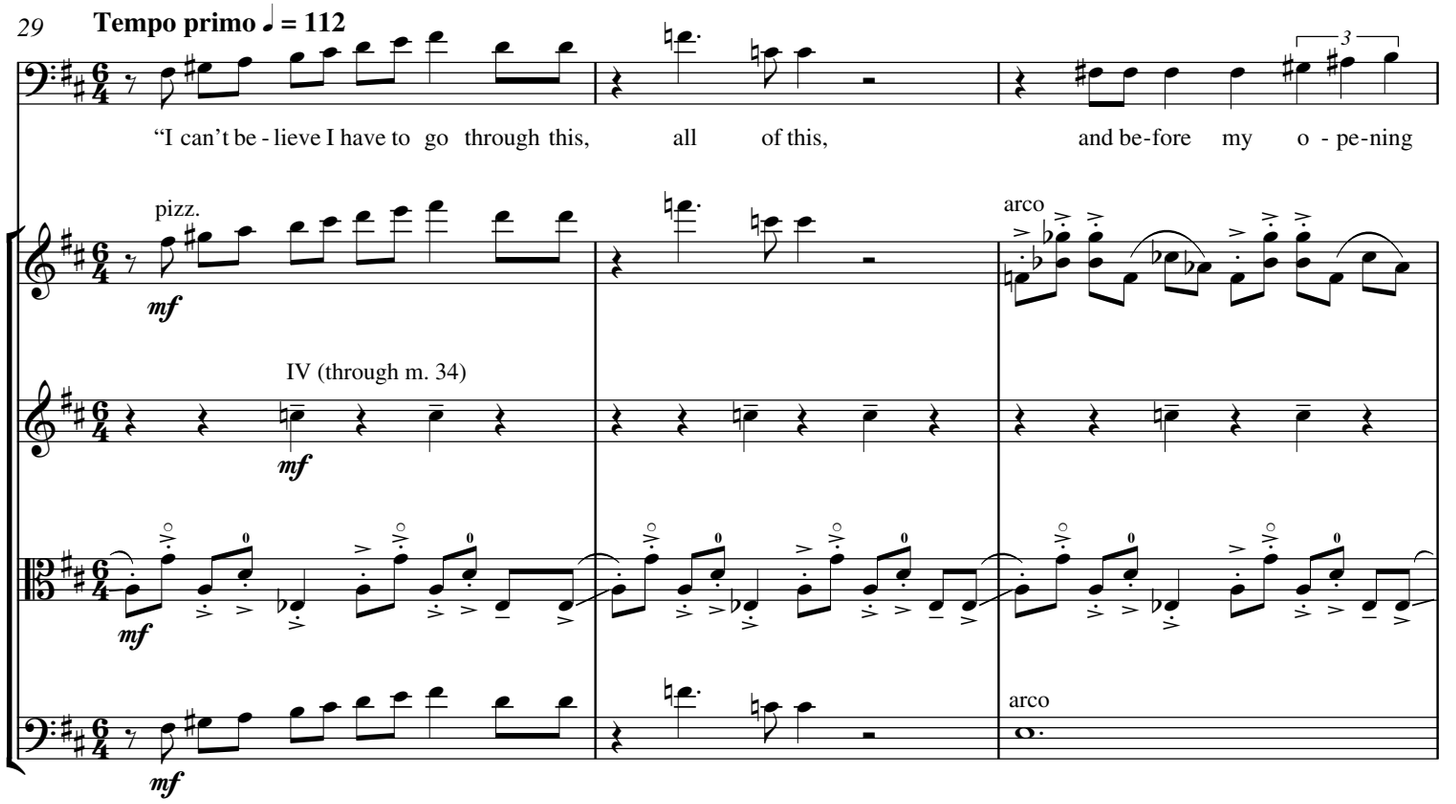


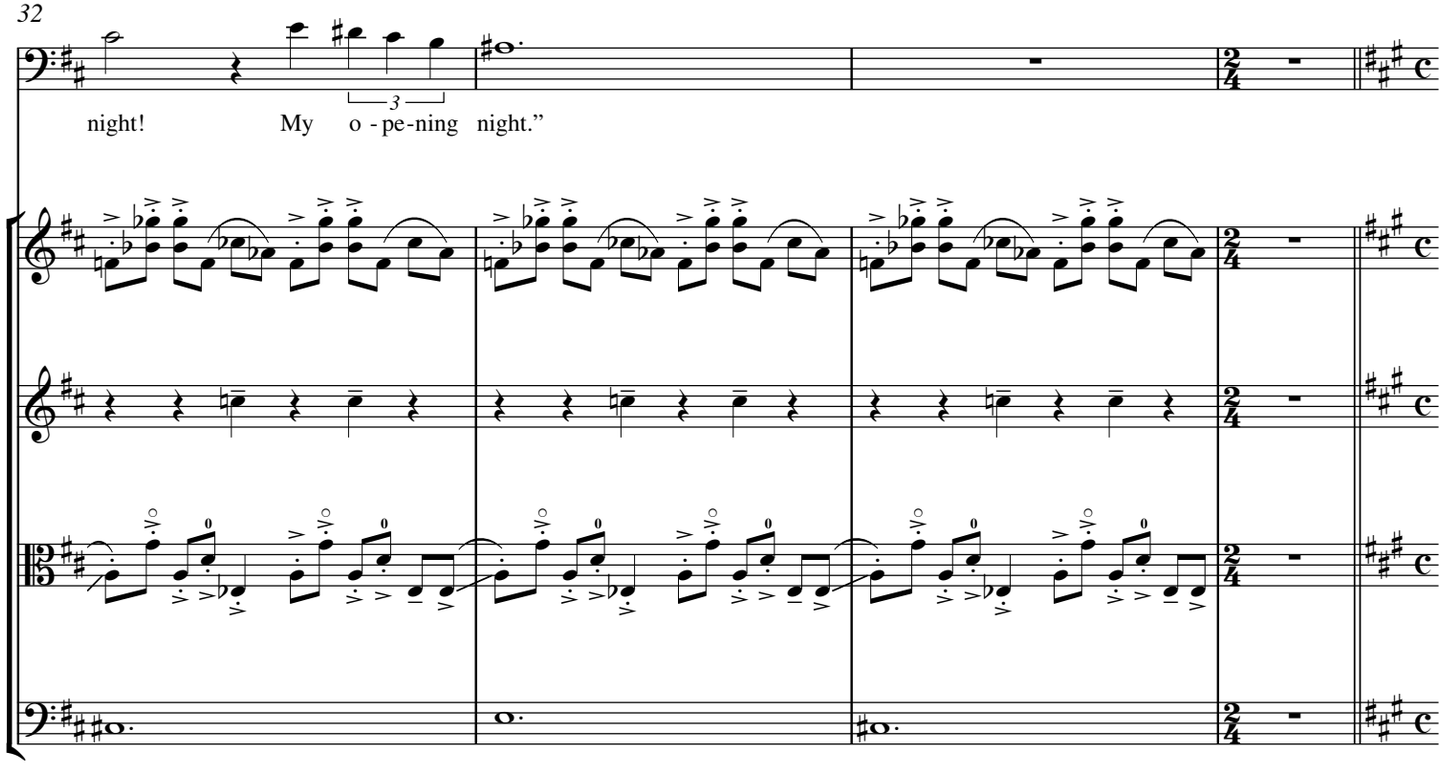

13
We drove a-round and a - round,
stop-ping and star - ting, here and there,
p
p
mp
mp
p
p
mp
mp

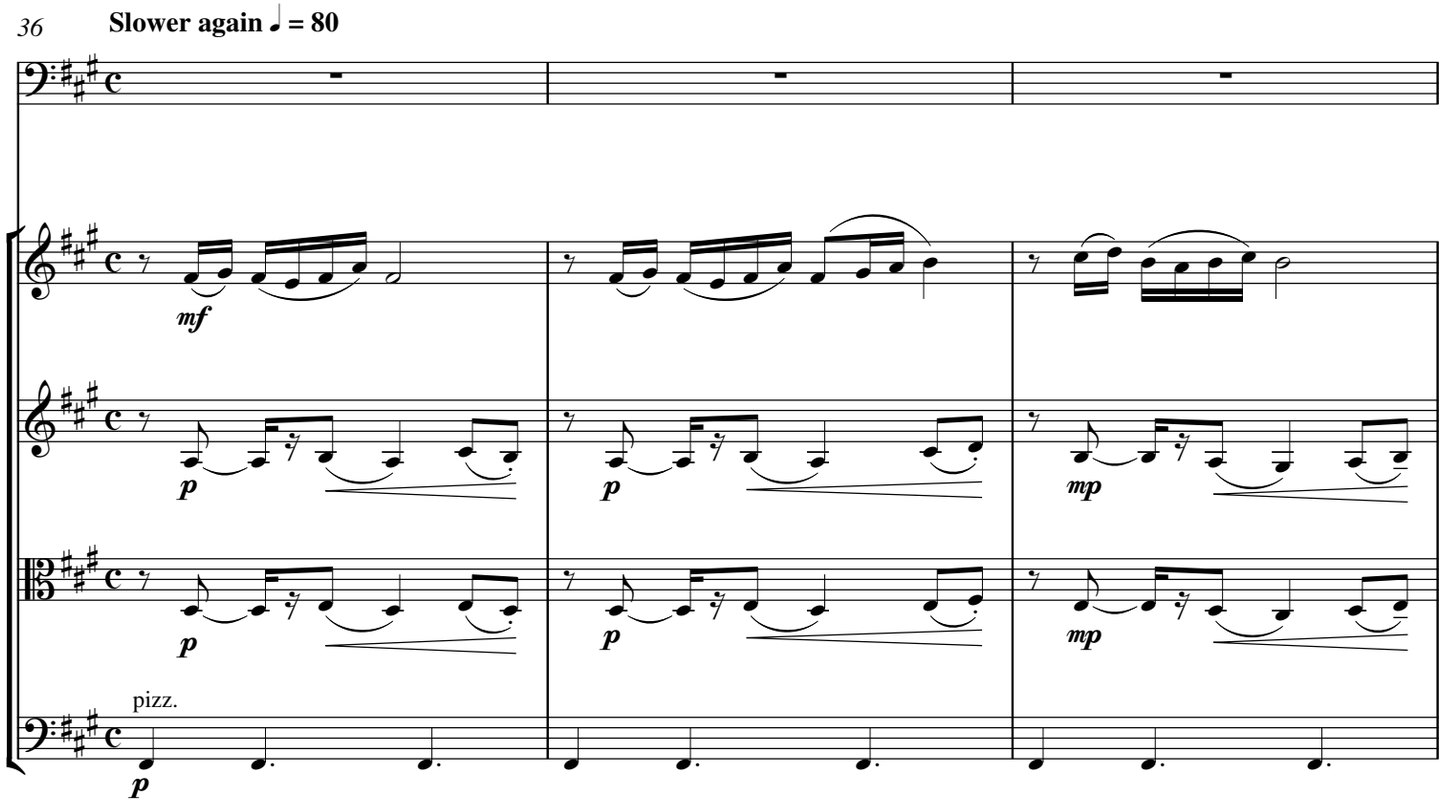

17
in des - p'rate search for the right sports - wear.
p
p
mp
mp
p
p
mp
mp

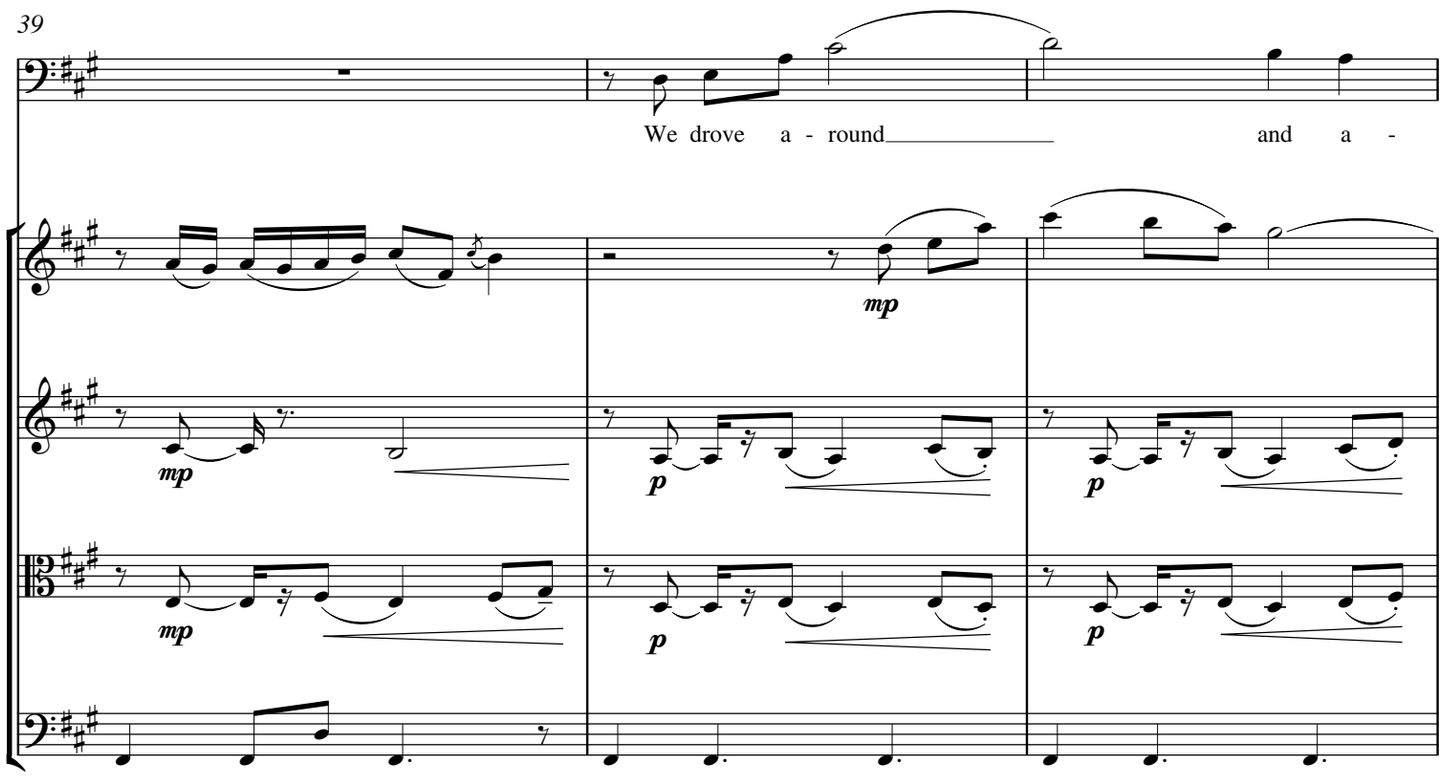

21
We drove a - round and a - round, stop-ping and star - ting, here and
mp
p
p
mp
mp
p
p
mp
mp

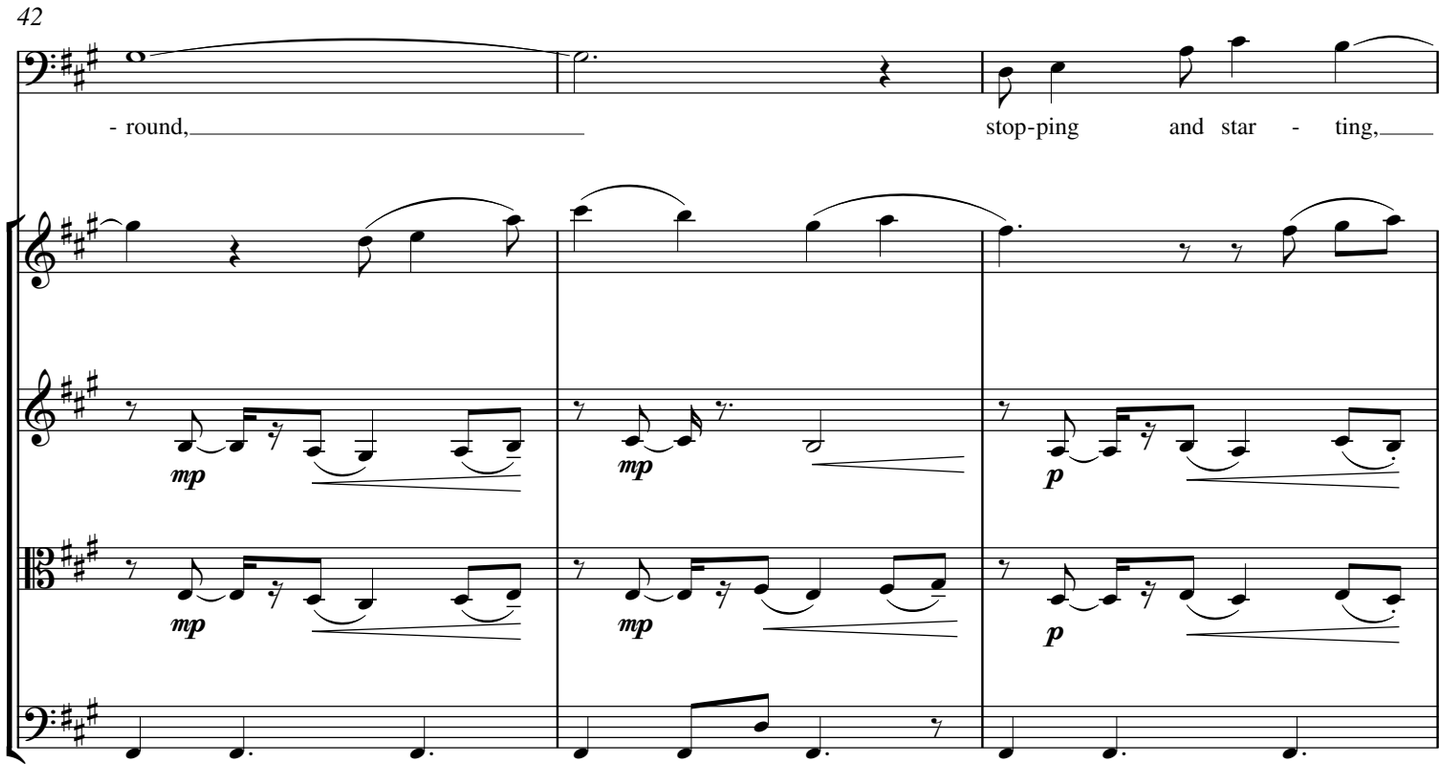

25
rit.
there, in des - p'rate search for the right sports - wear. I thought,
p
p
mp
mp
p
p
mp
mp
gliss.

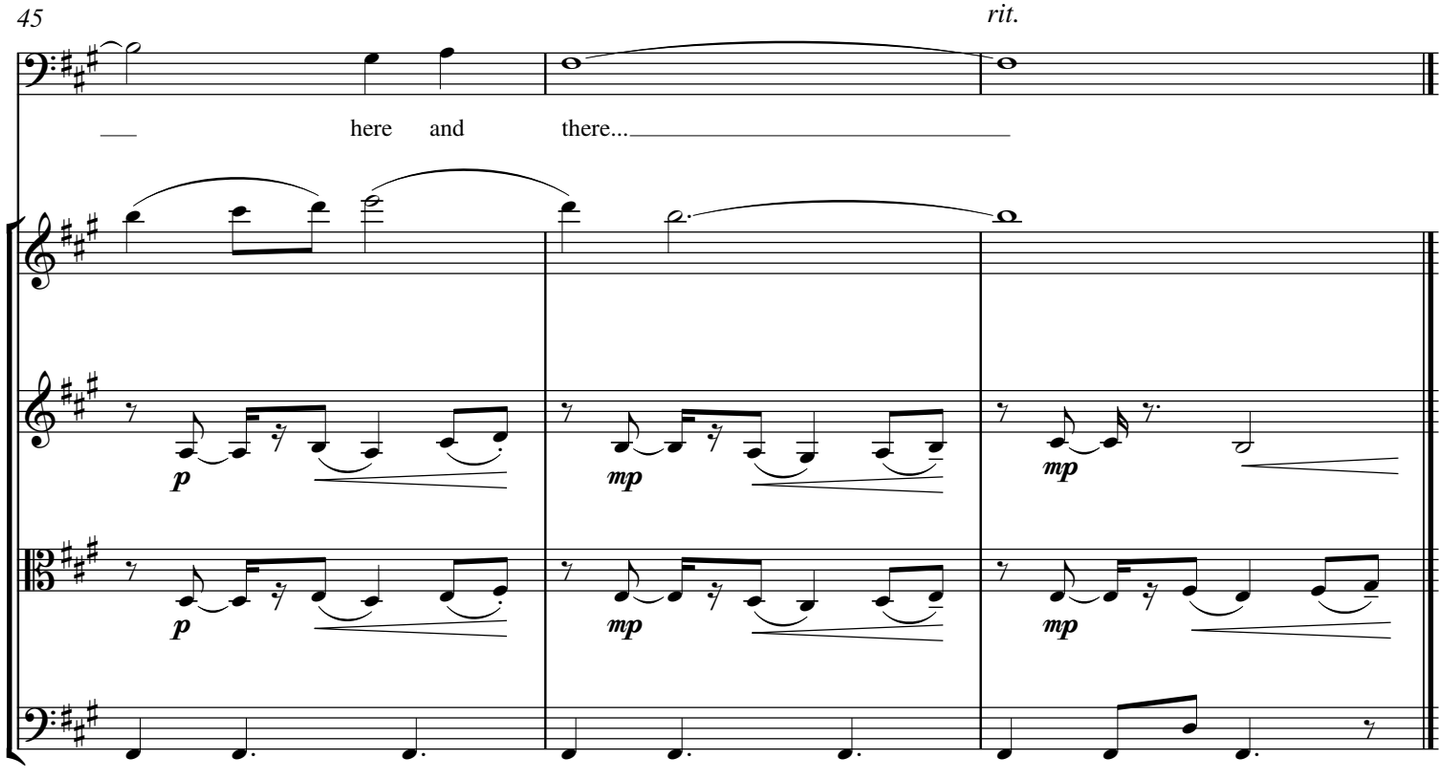

29
Tempo primo ♩ = 112
"I can't be - lieve I have to go through this, all of this, and be-fore my o - pe-ning
pizz.
mf
arco
IV (through m. 34)
mf
mf
arco
mf

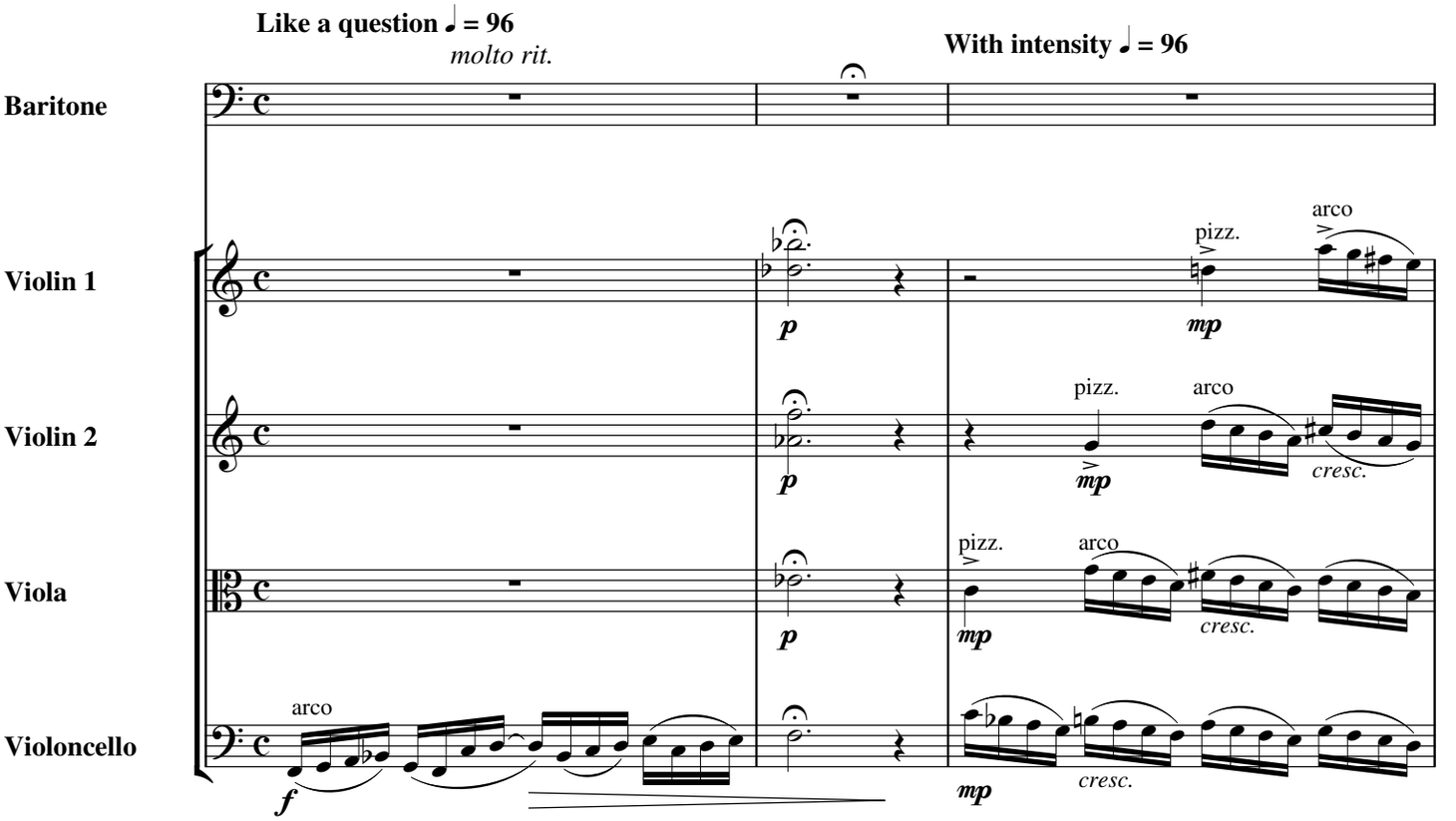

32
night! My o - pe-ning night."

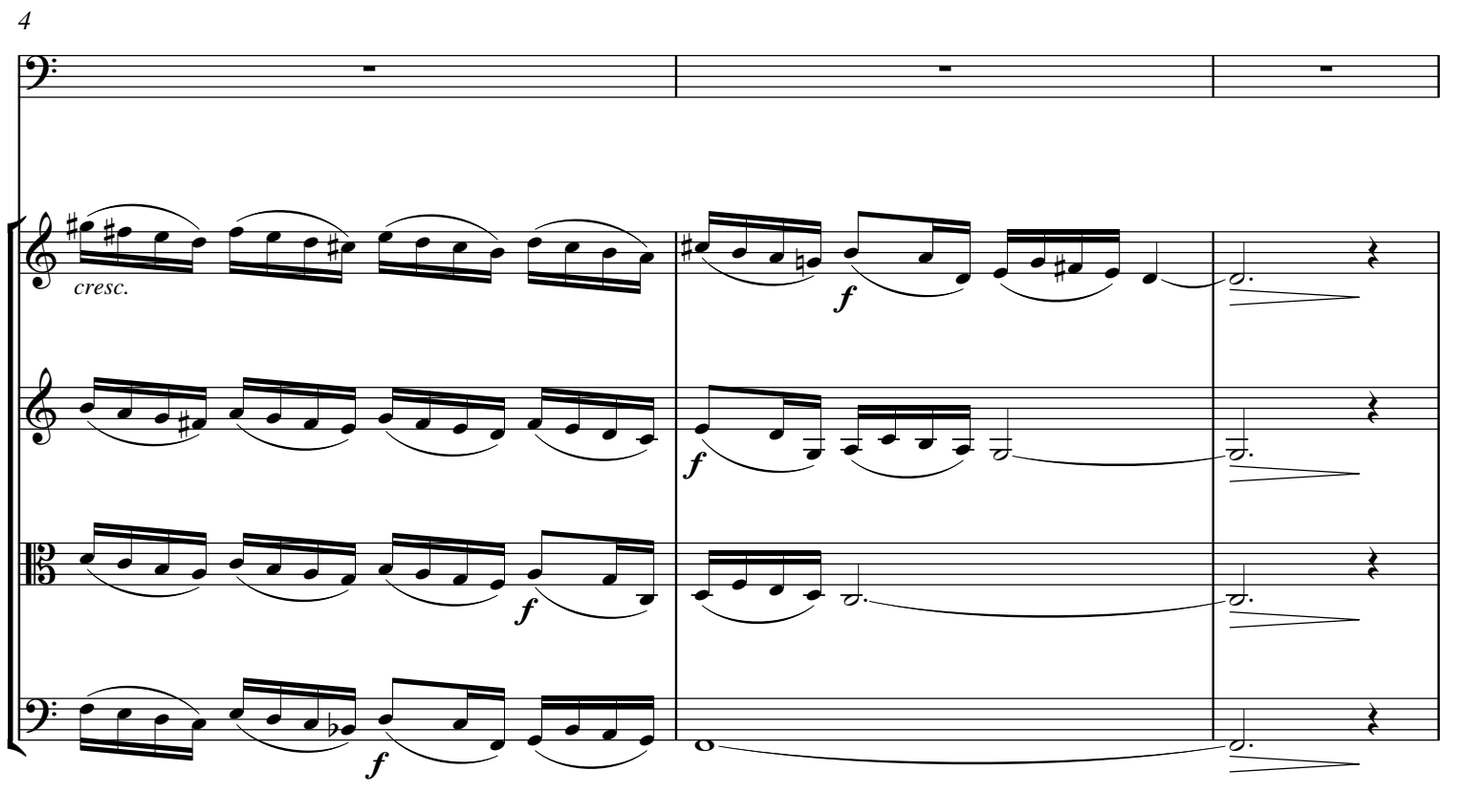

36
Slower again ♩ = 80
mf
p
p
mp
p
p
mp
pizz.
p


39
We drove a - round
and a -
mp
mp
p
p
mp
p
p

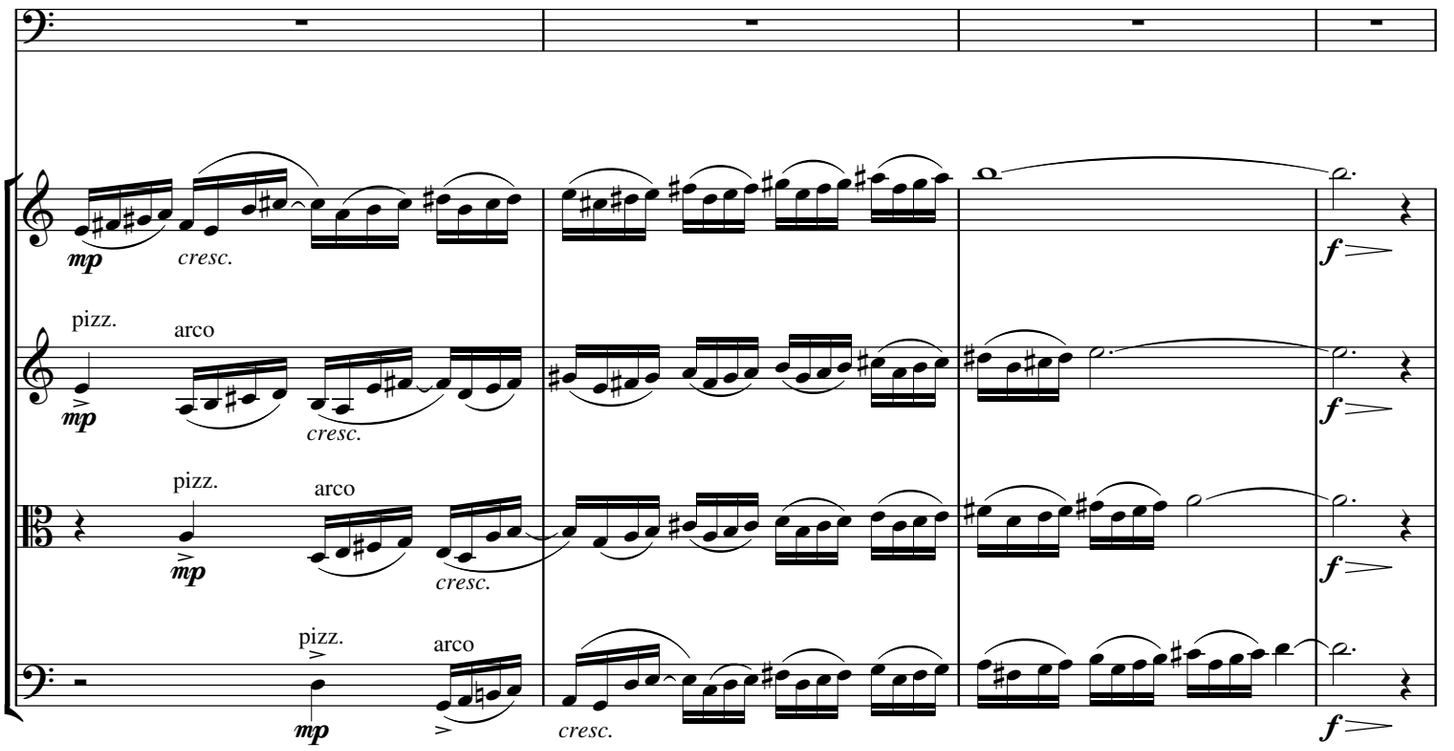

42
- round,
stop-ping and star - ting,
mp
mp
p
mp
mp
p


45
rit.
here and there...
p
mp
mp
p
mp
mp

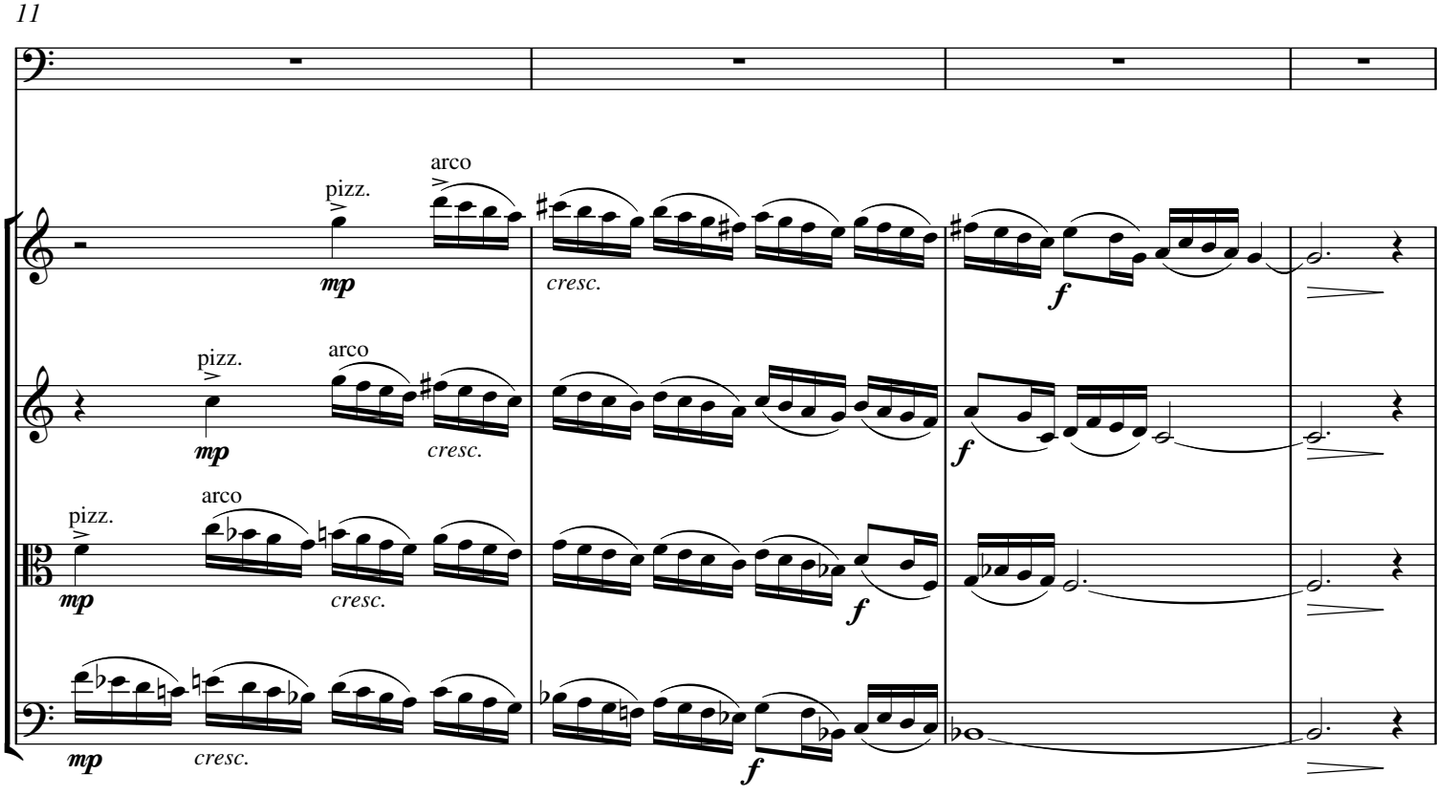

Like a question ♩ = 96
molto rit.
With intensity ♩ = 96
Baritone
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
arco
pizz.
arco
cresc.
pizz.
arco
cresc.
pizz.
arco
cresc.
f
p
mp


4
cresc.
f

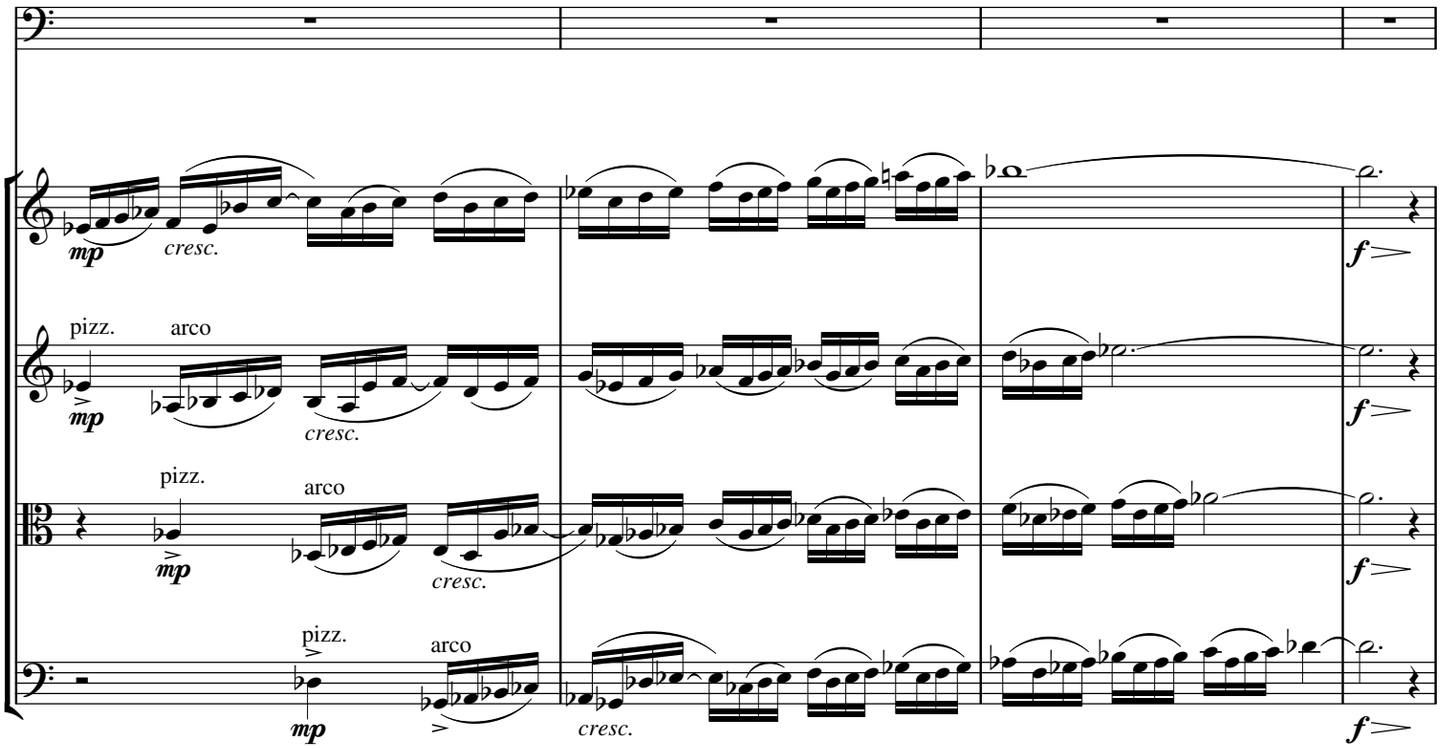
7



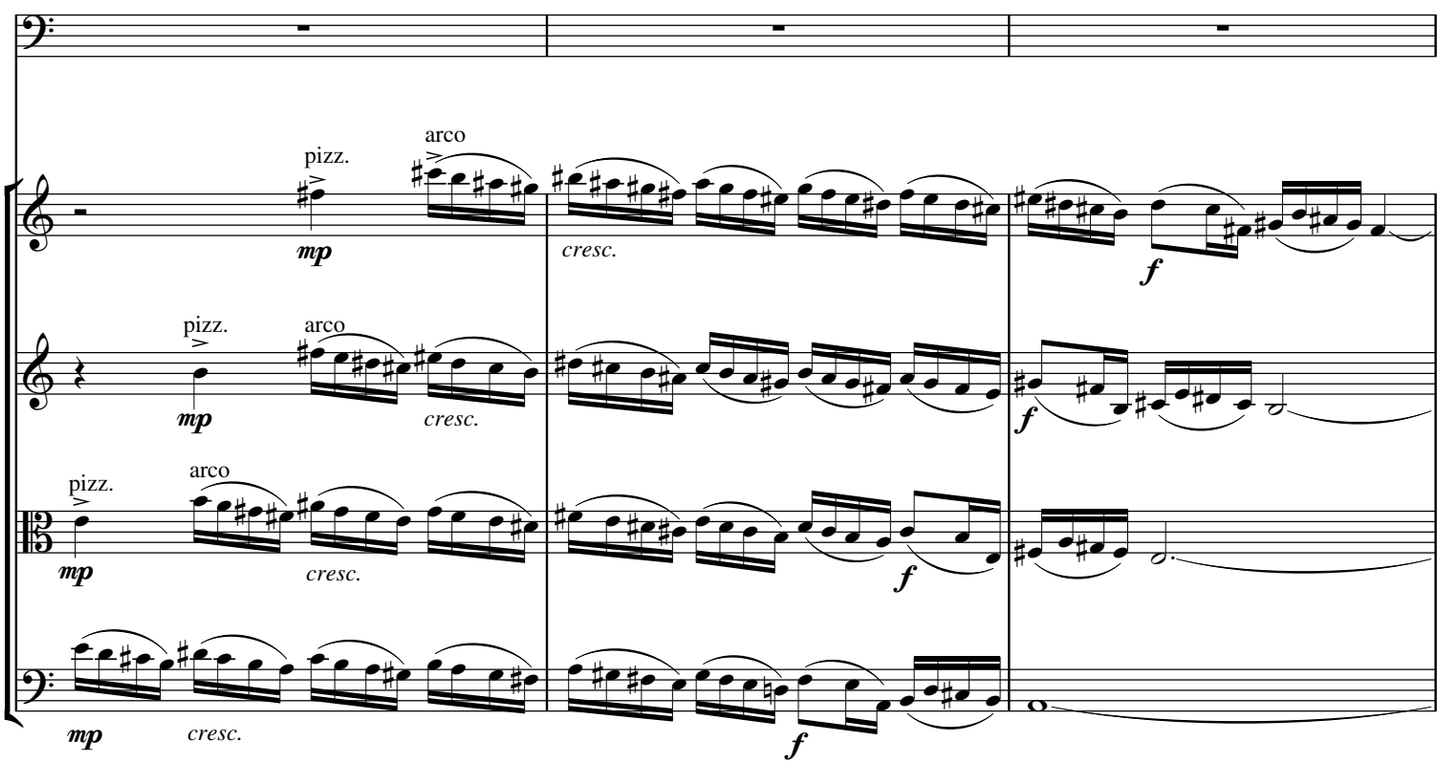
11

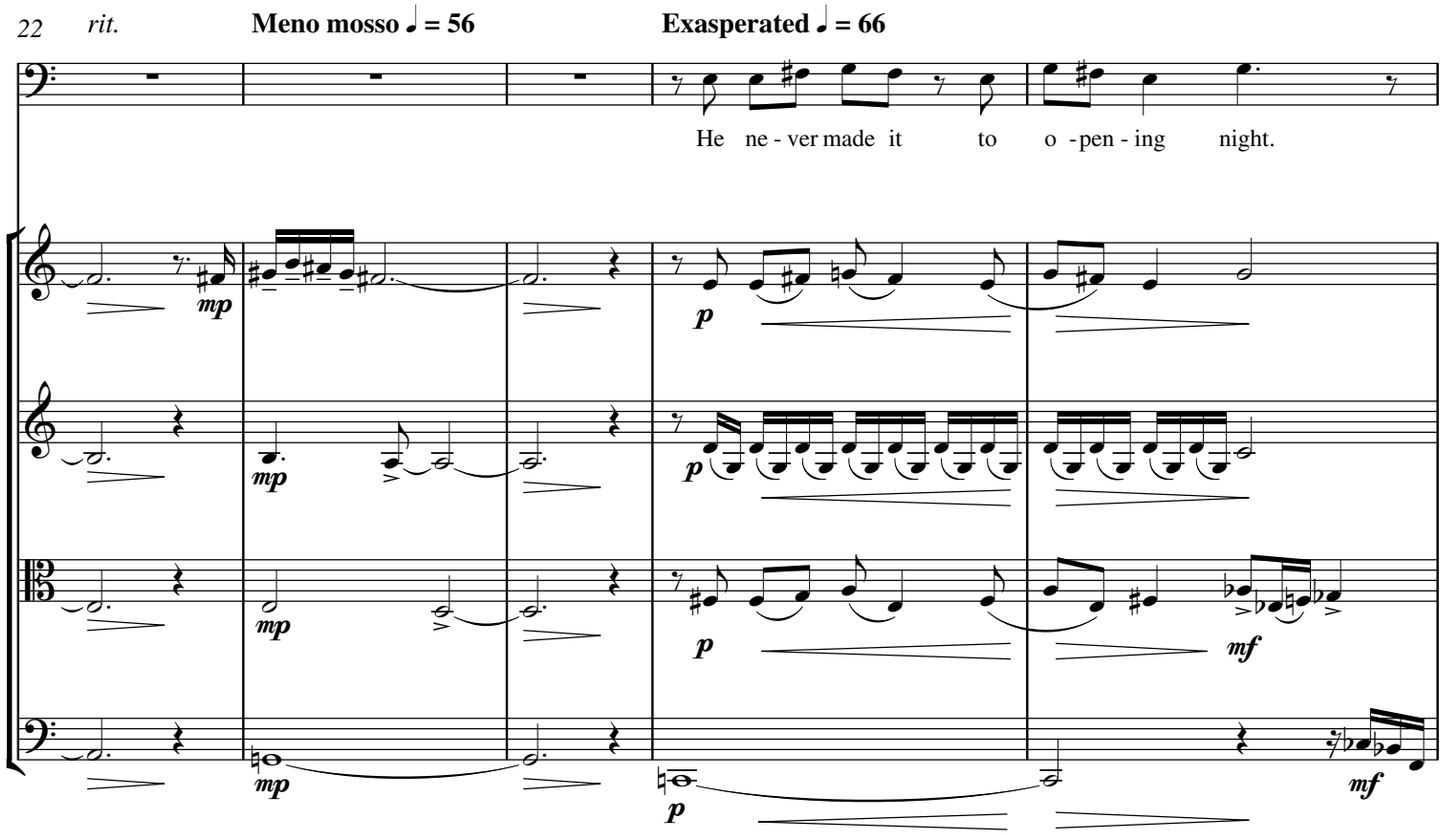


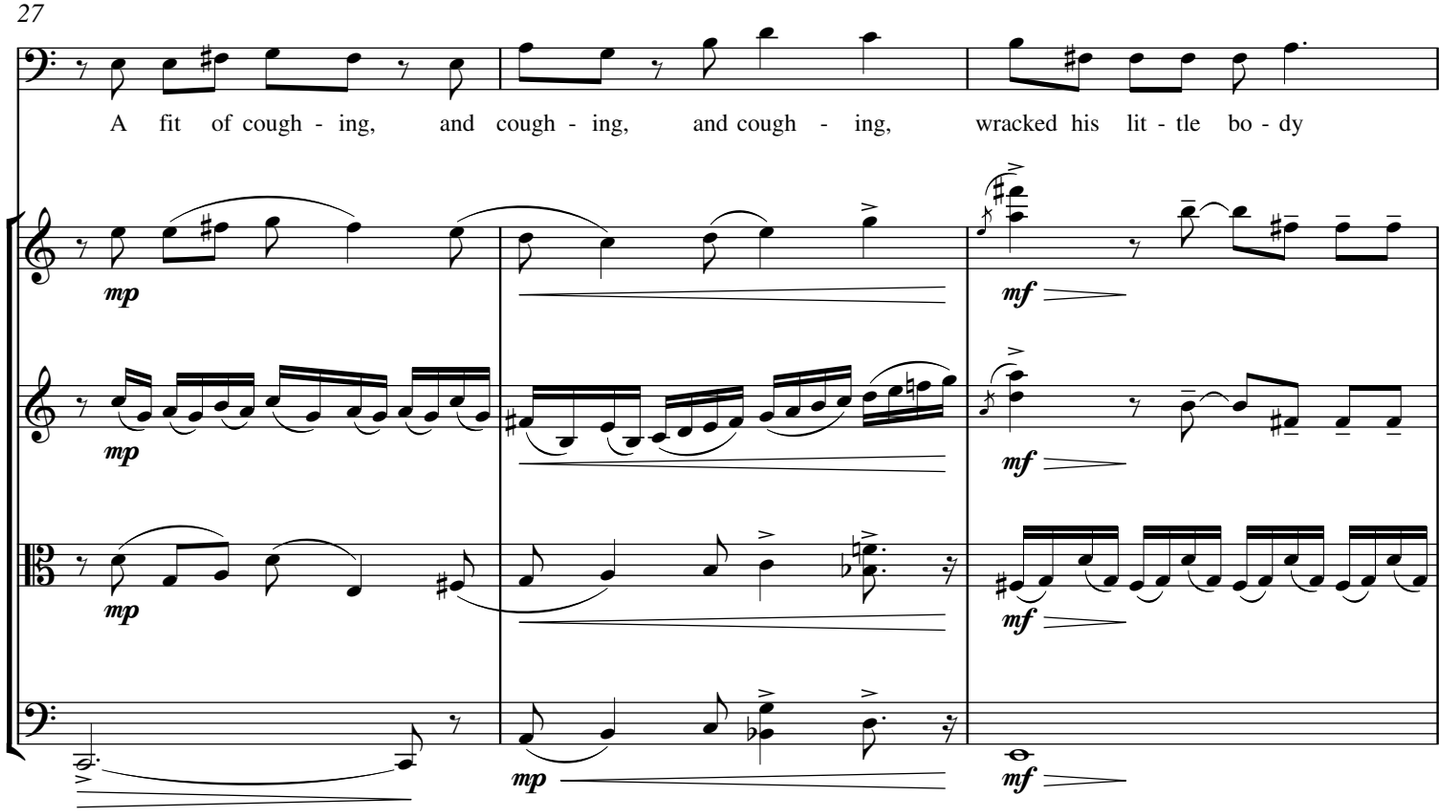
15

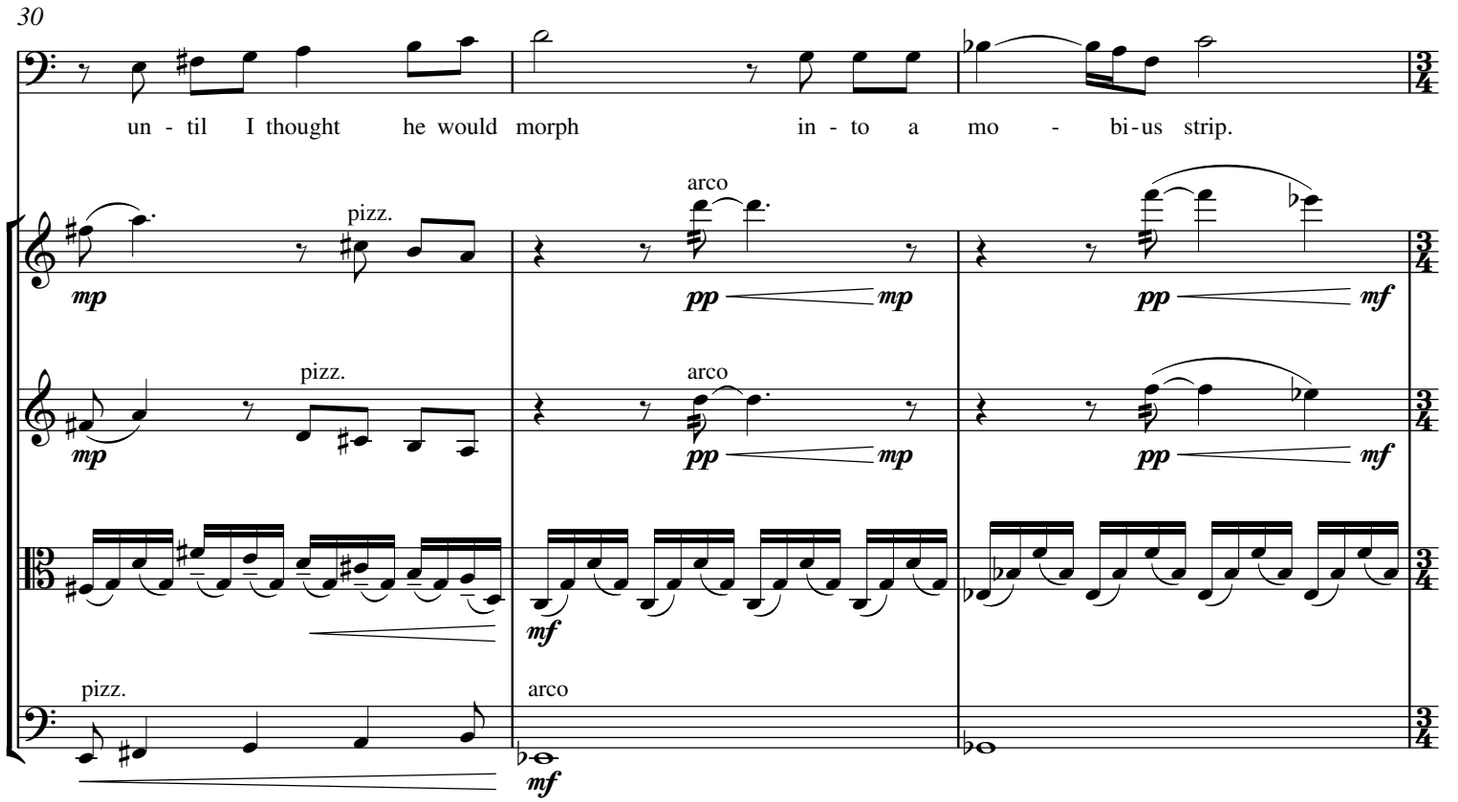


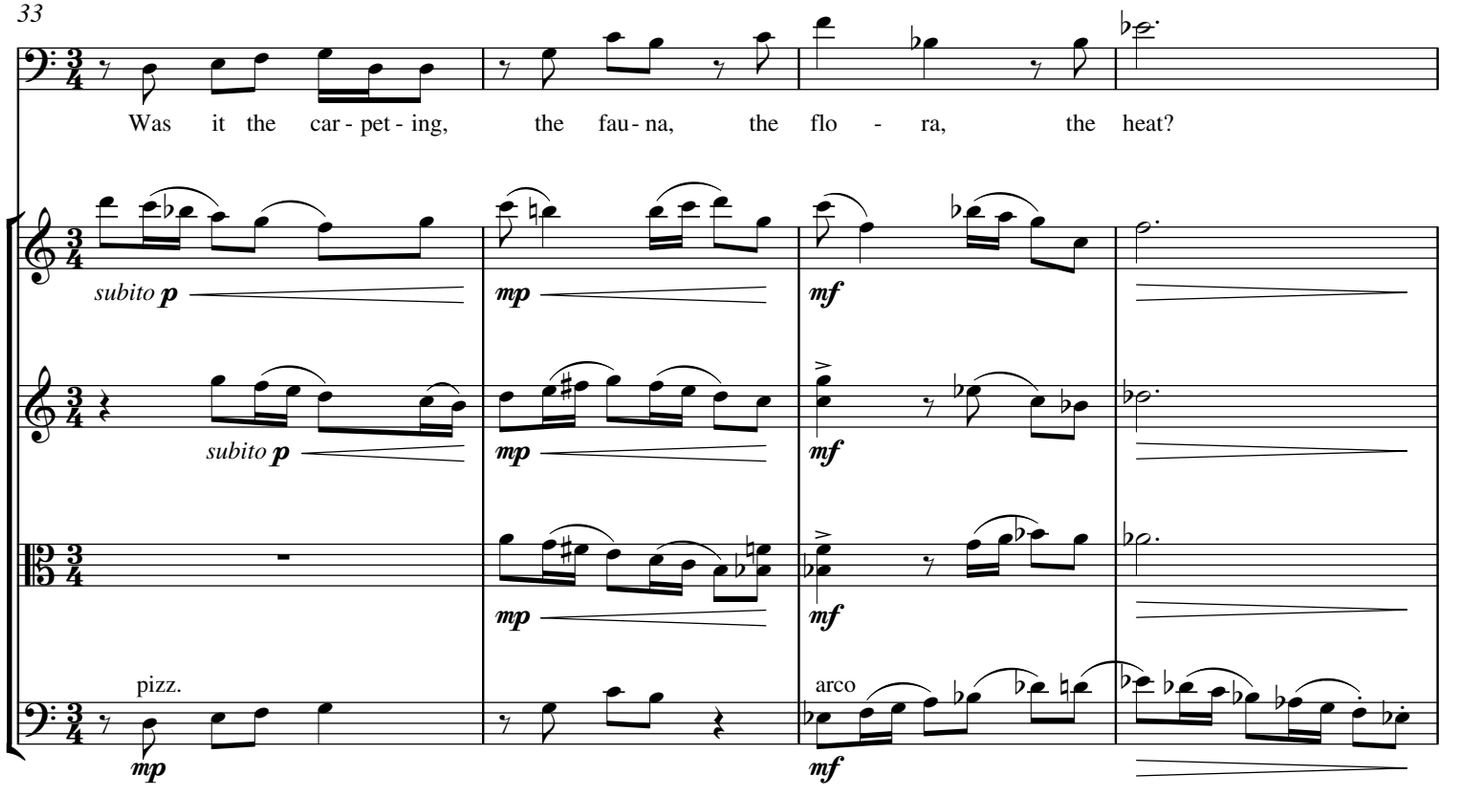
19

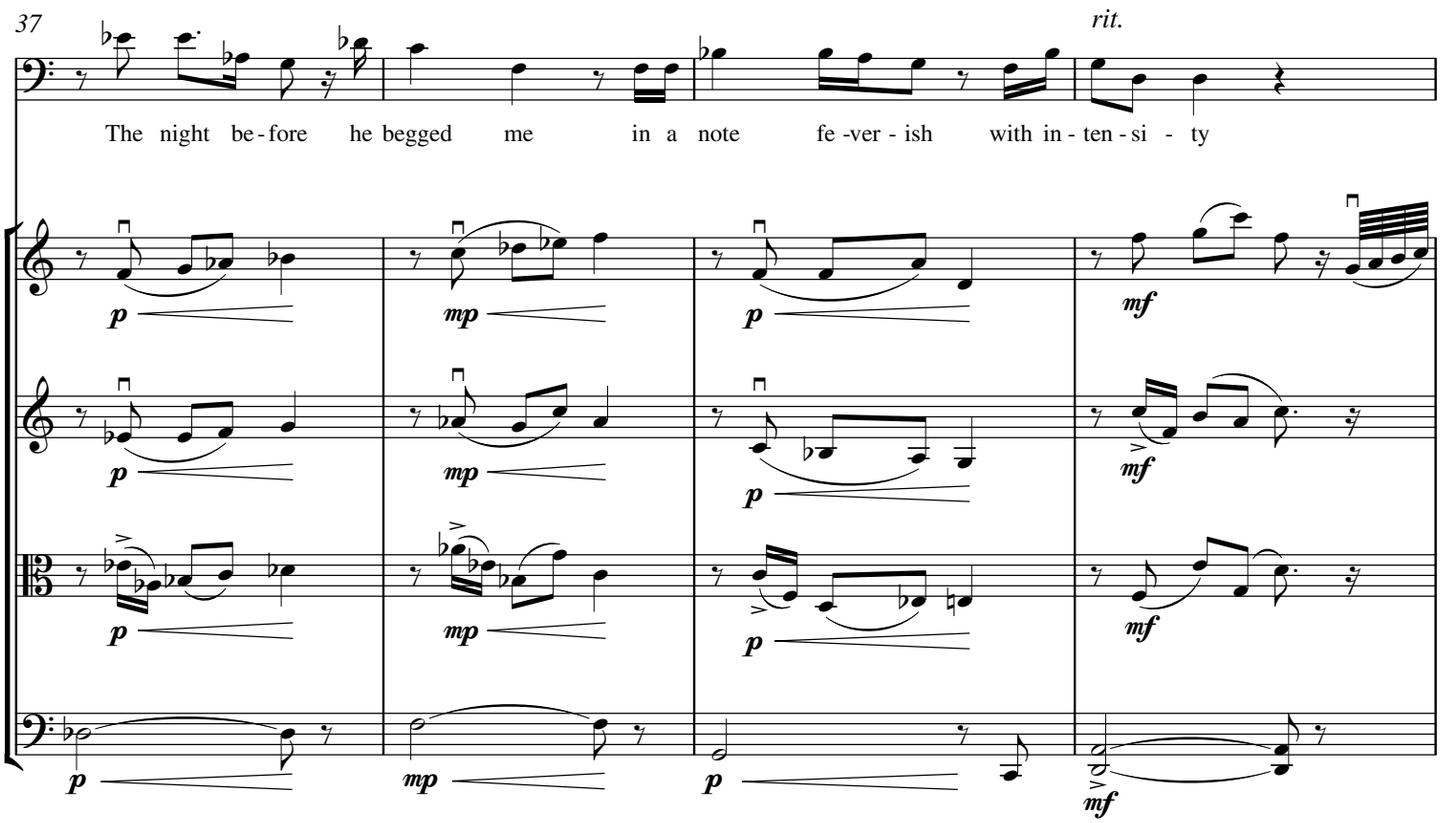


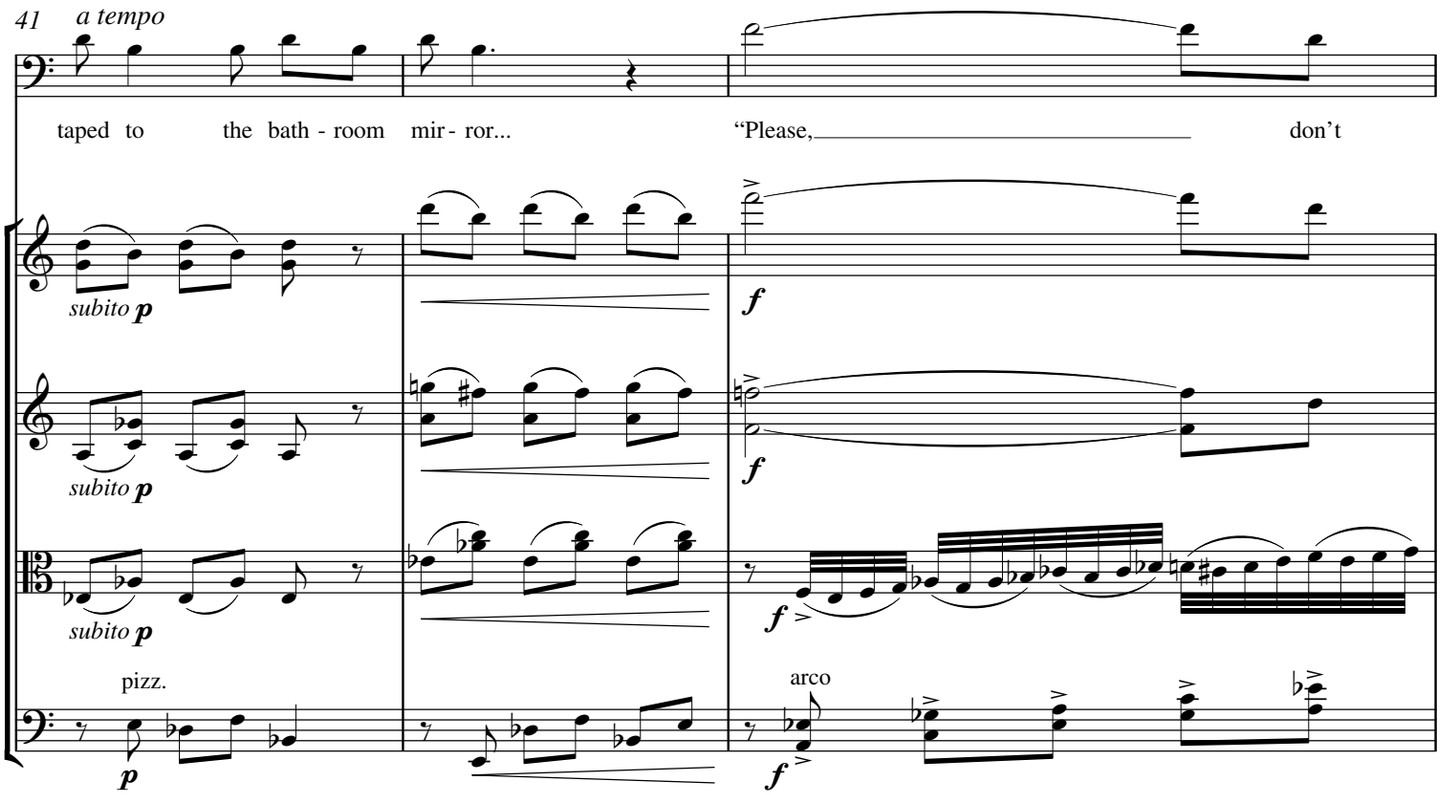

22
rit.
Meno mosso ♩ = 56
Exasperated ♩ = 66
He ne - ver made it to o - pen - ing night.

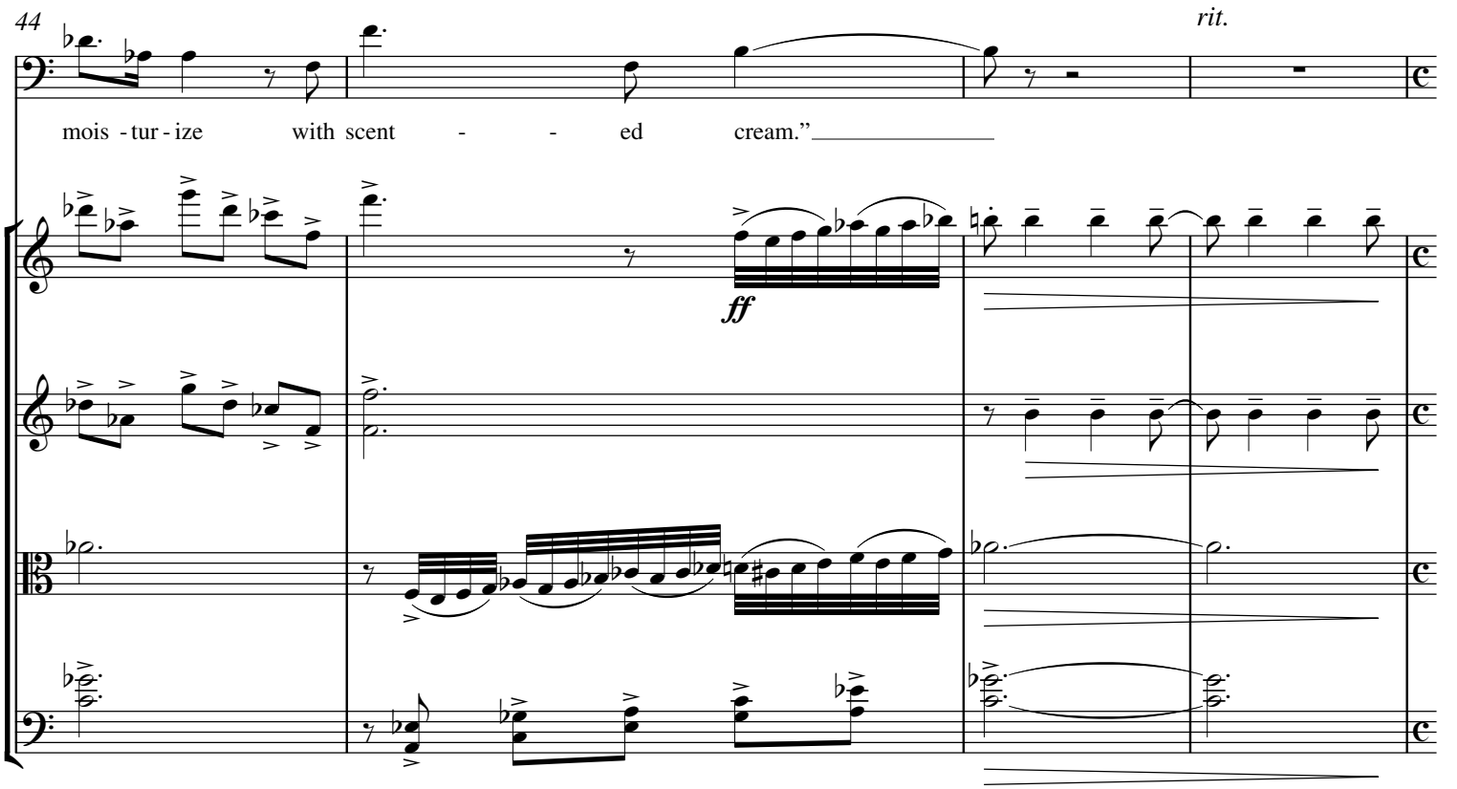

27
A fit of cough - ing, and cough - ing, and cough - ing, wracked his lit - tle bo - dy

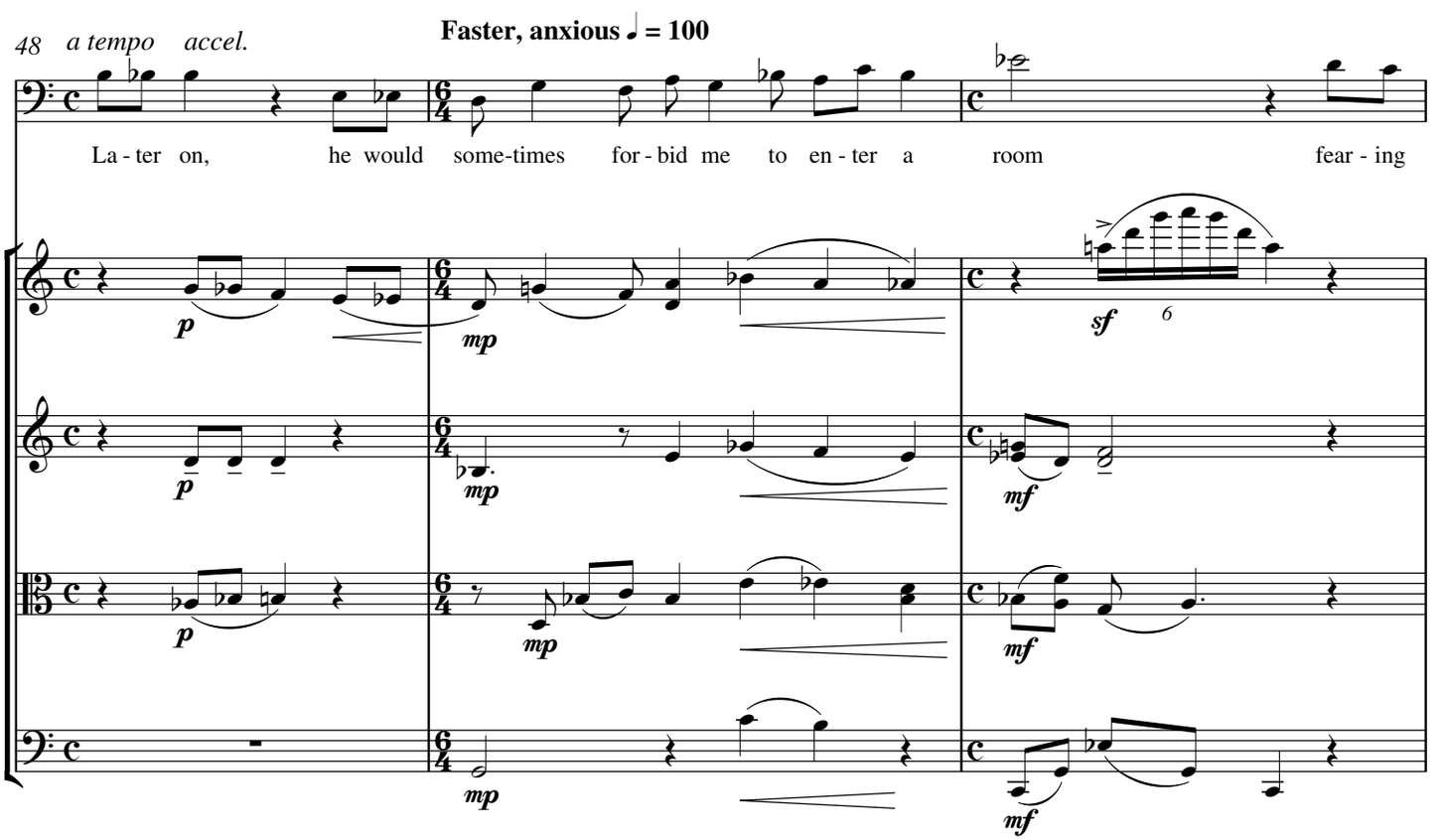

30
un - til I thought he would morph in - to a mo - bi-us strip.
pizz.
arco
mp
pp
mf

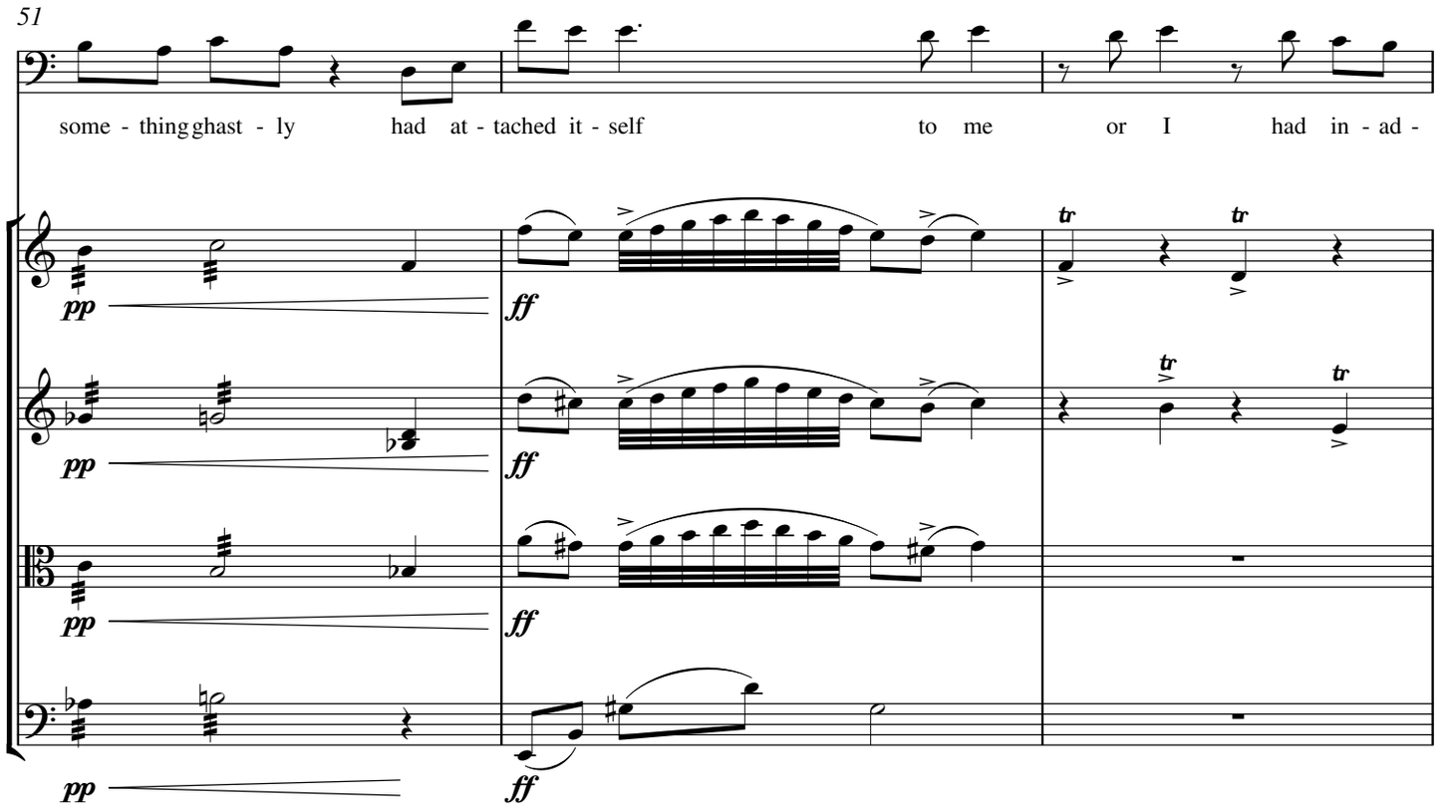

33
Was it the car - pet - ing, the fau - na, the flo - ra, the heat?
subito p
mp
mf
pizz.
arco

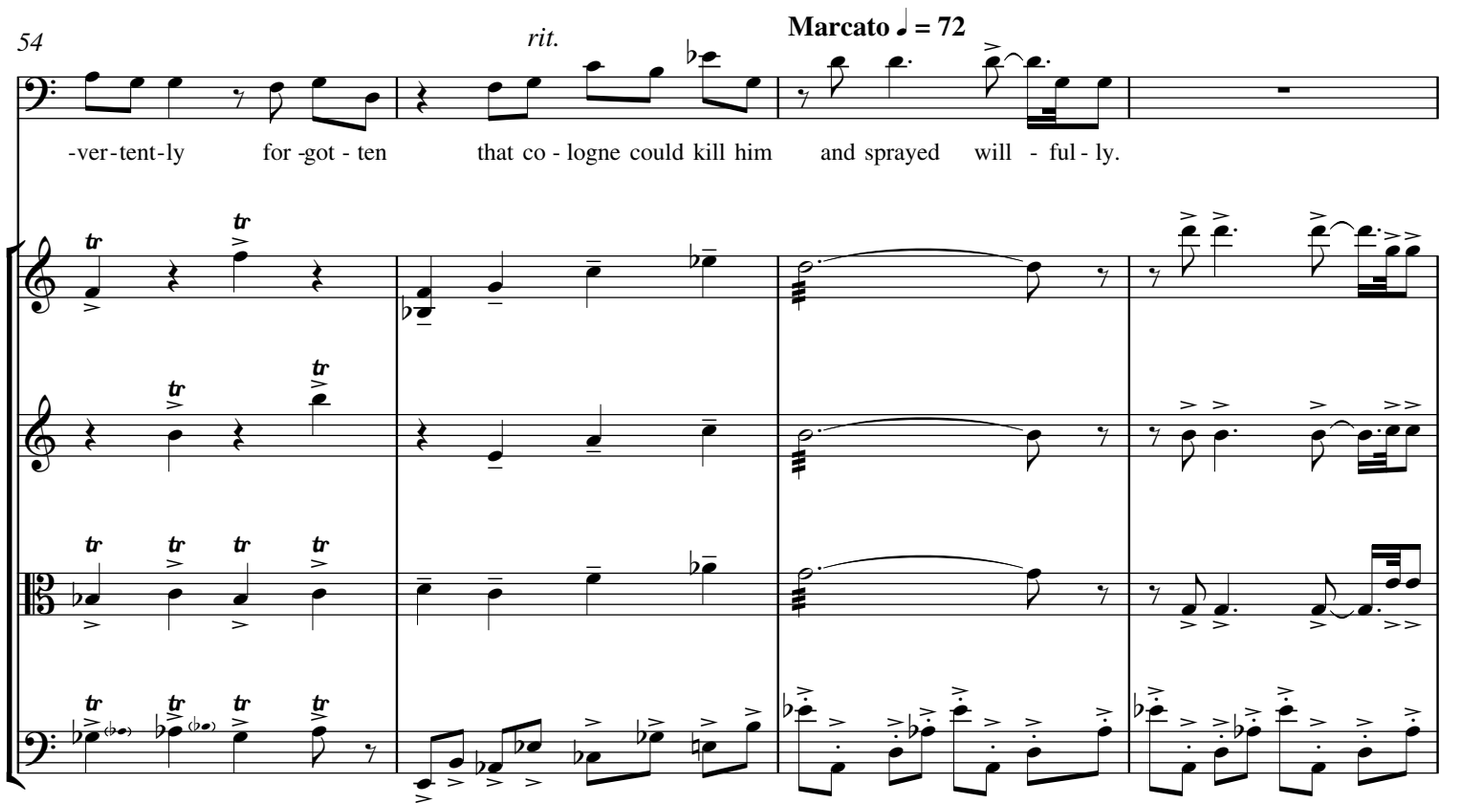

37
rit.
The night be - fore he begged me in a note fe -ver - ish with in - ten - si - ty
p
mp
p
mf
p
mp
p
mf
p
mp
p
mf
p
mp
p
mf

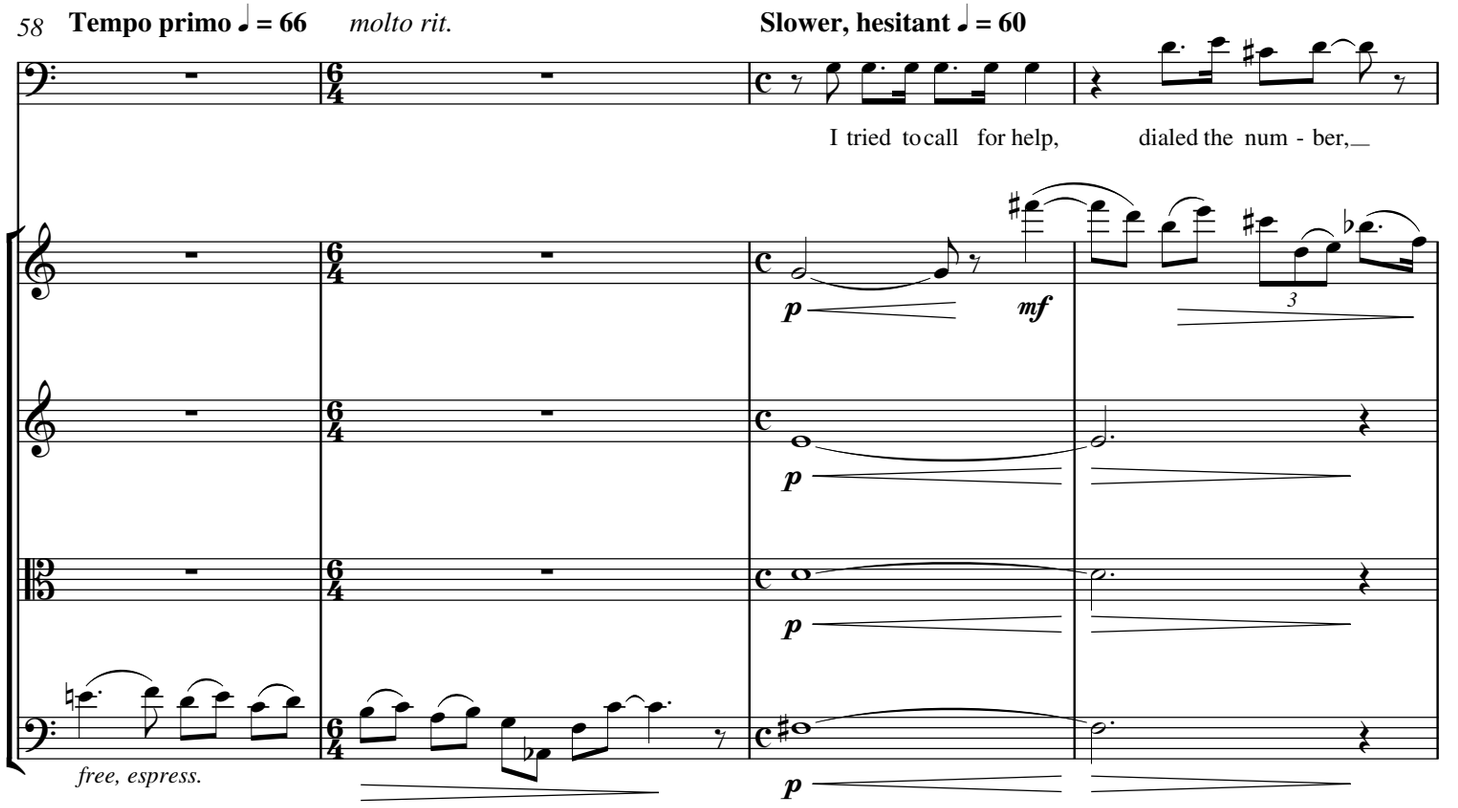

41
a tempo
taped to the bath - room mir - ror... "Please, don't
subito p
subito p
subito p
pizz.
p
f
f
f
arco
f

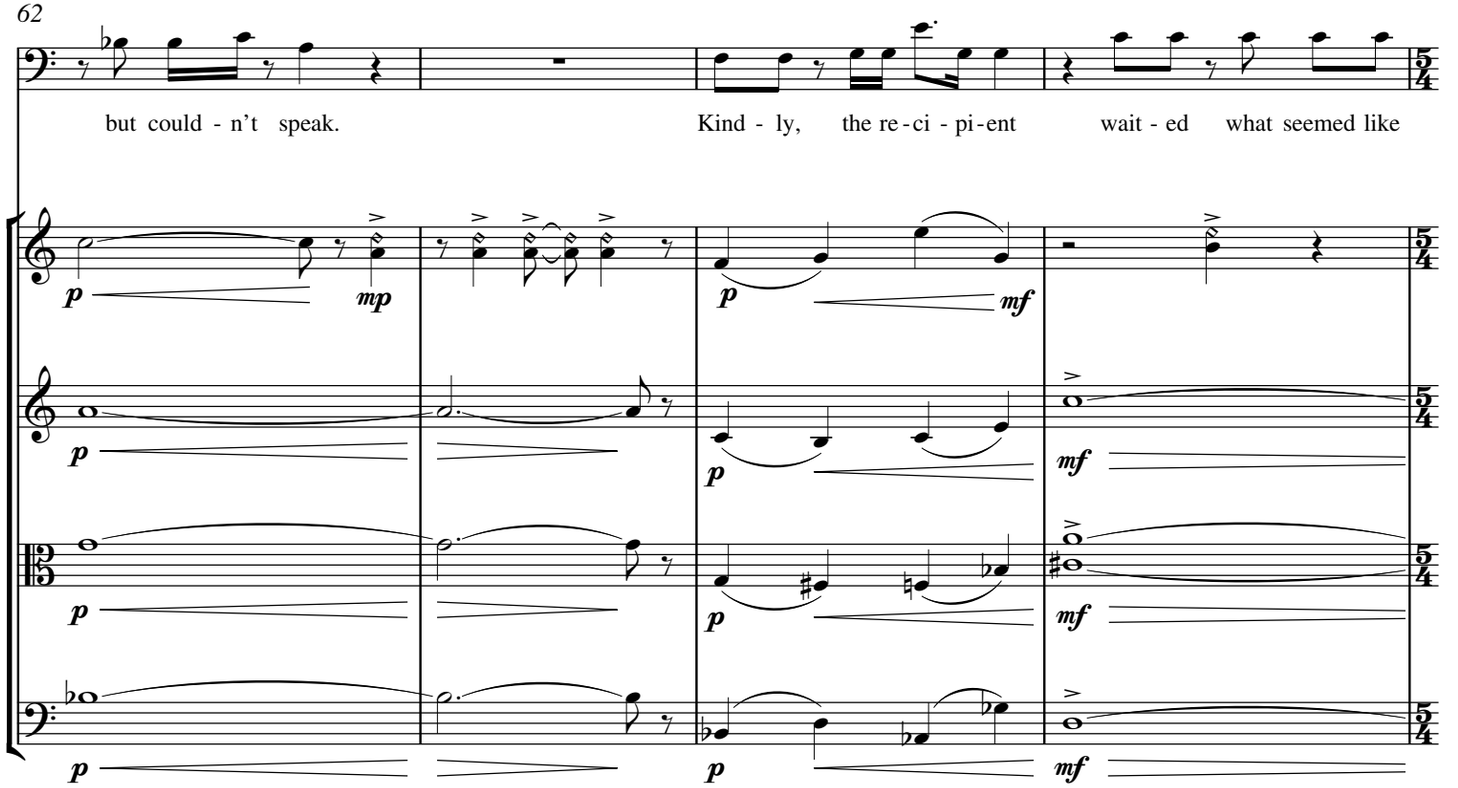

44
rit.
mois - tur - ize with scent - - ed cream."
ff

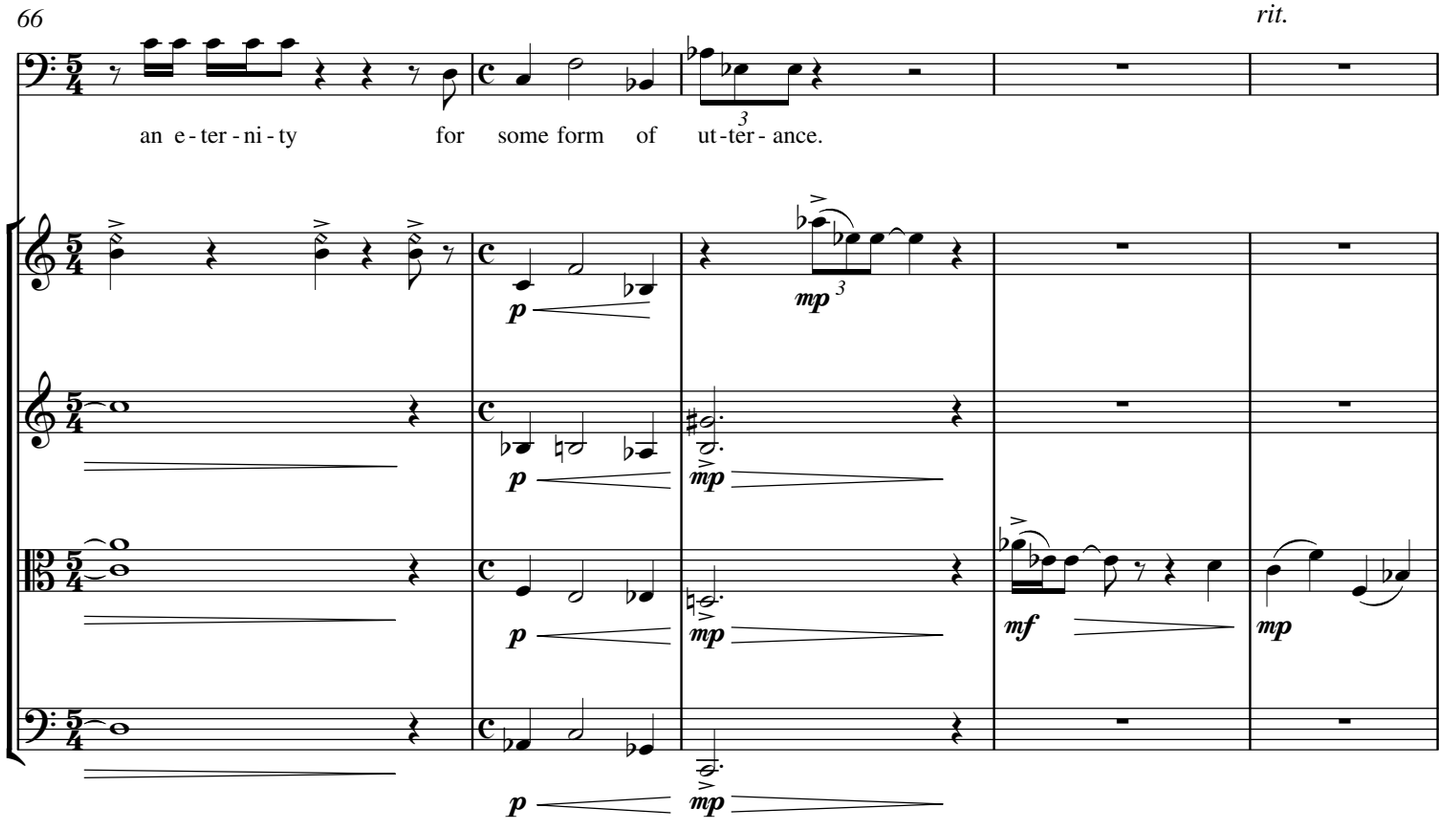

48 a tempo accel.
Faster, anxious ♩ = 100
La - ter on, he would some-times for - bid me to en - ter a room fear - ing
p
mp
sf
6
mf

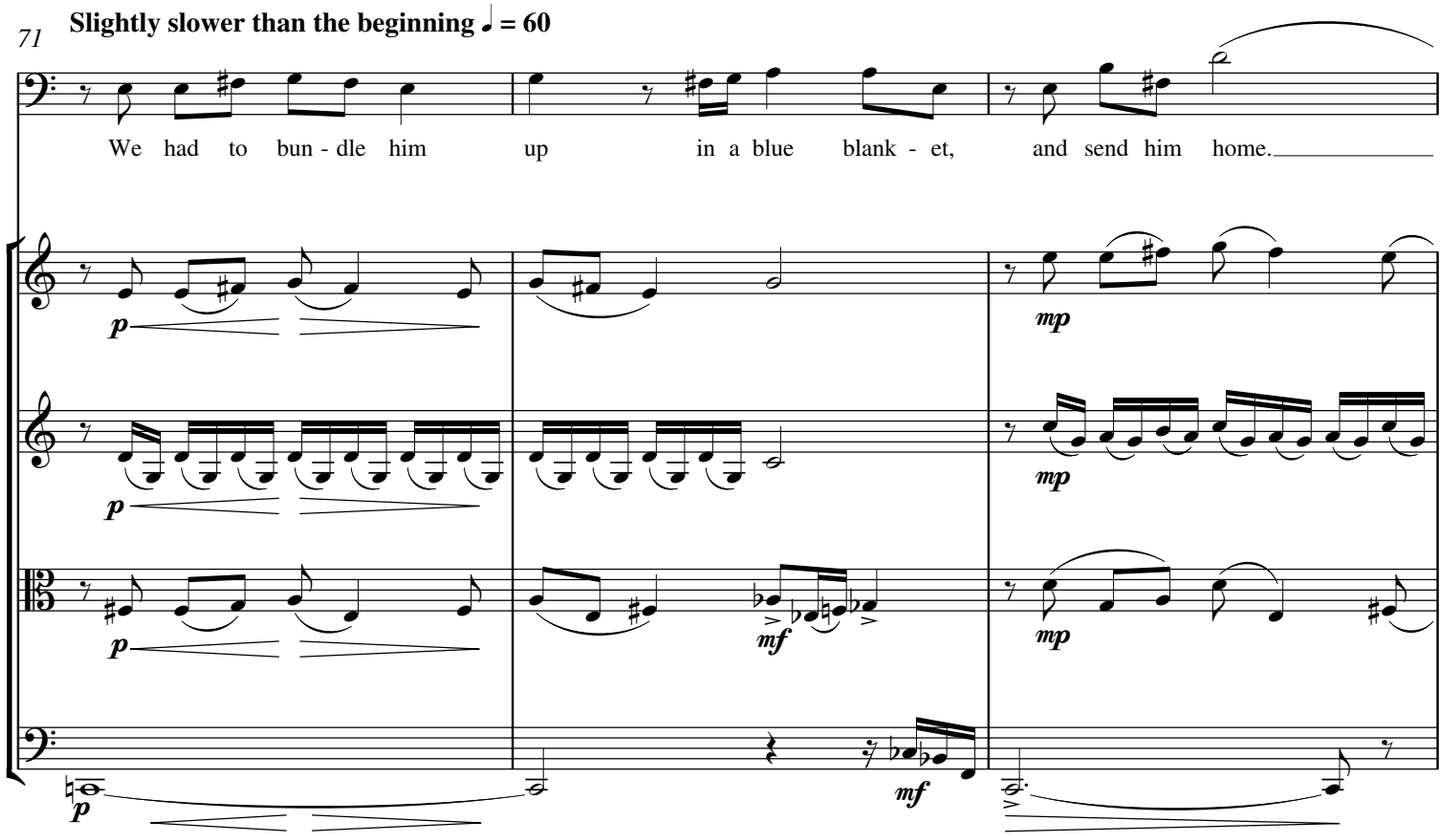

51
some - thing ghast - ly had at - tached it - self to me or I had in - ad -
pp
ff

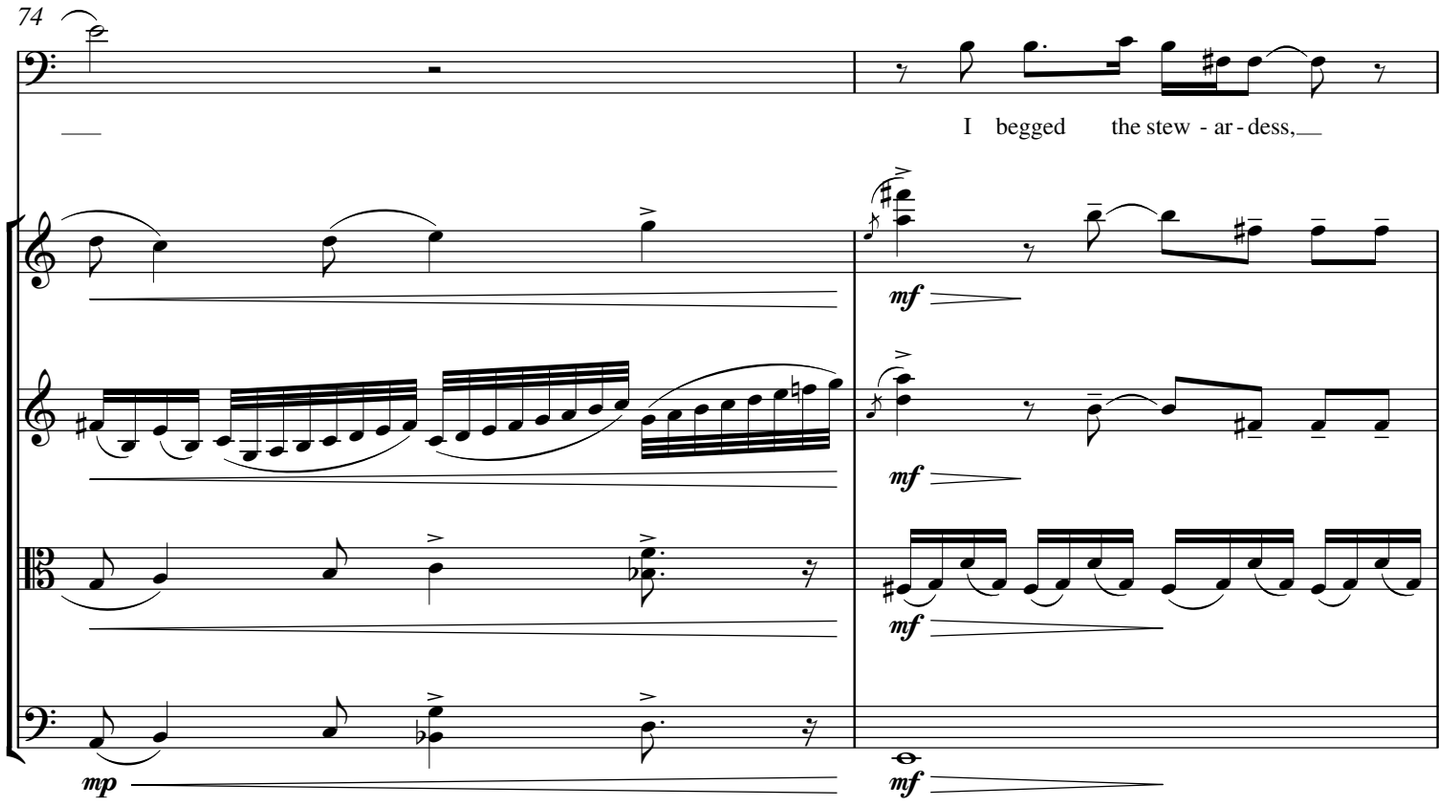

54
rit.
Marcato ♩ = 72
-ver-tent-ly for -got - ten that co - logne could kill him and sprayed will - ful - ly.

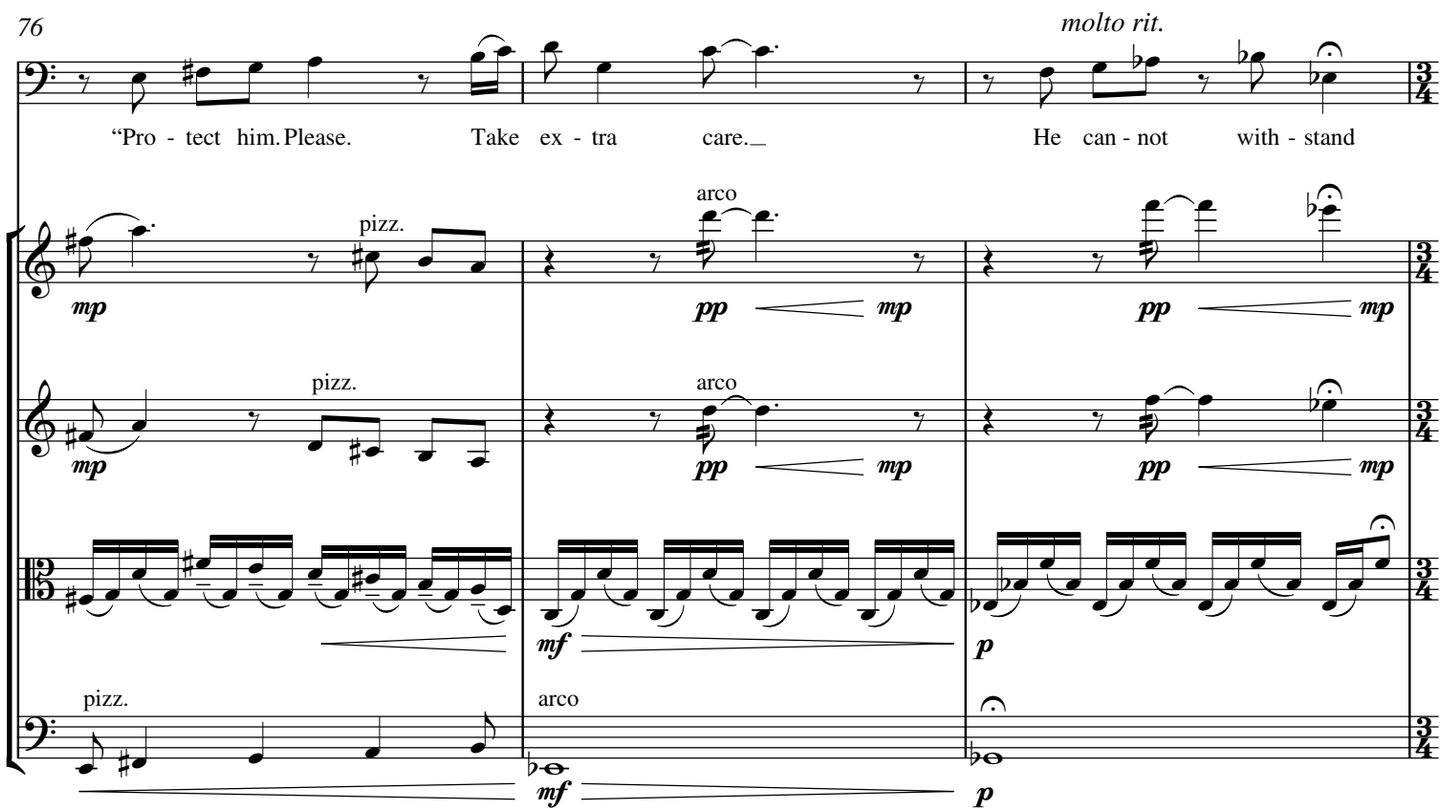

58
Tempo primo ♩ = 66
molto rit.
Slower, hesitant ♩ = 60
I tried to call for help, dialed the num - ber,
free, espress.


62
but could - n't speak.
Kind - ly, the re - ci - pi - ent wait - ed what seemed like

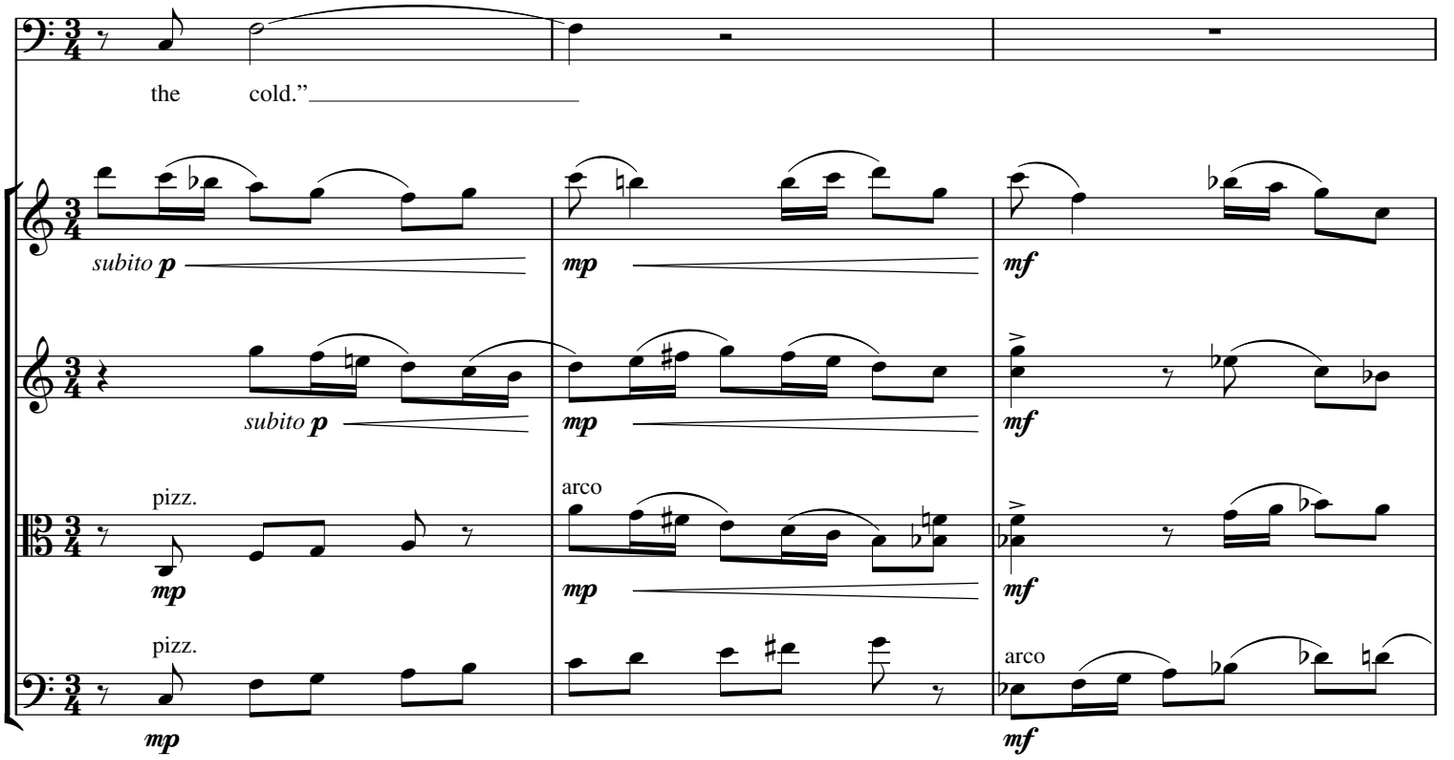

66
rit.
an e - ter - ni - ty for some form of ut - ter - ance.


71
Slightly slower than the beginning ♩ = 60
We had to bun - dle him up in a blue blank - et, and send him home.

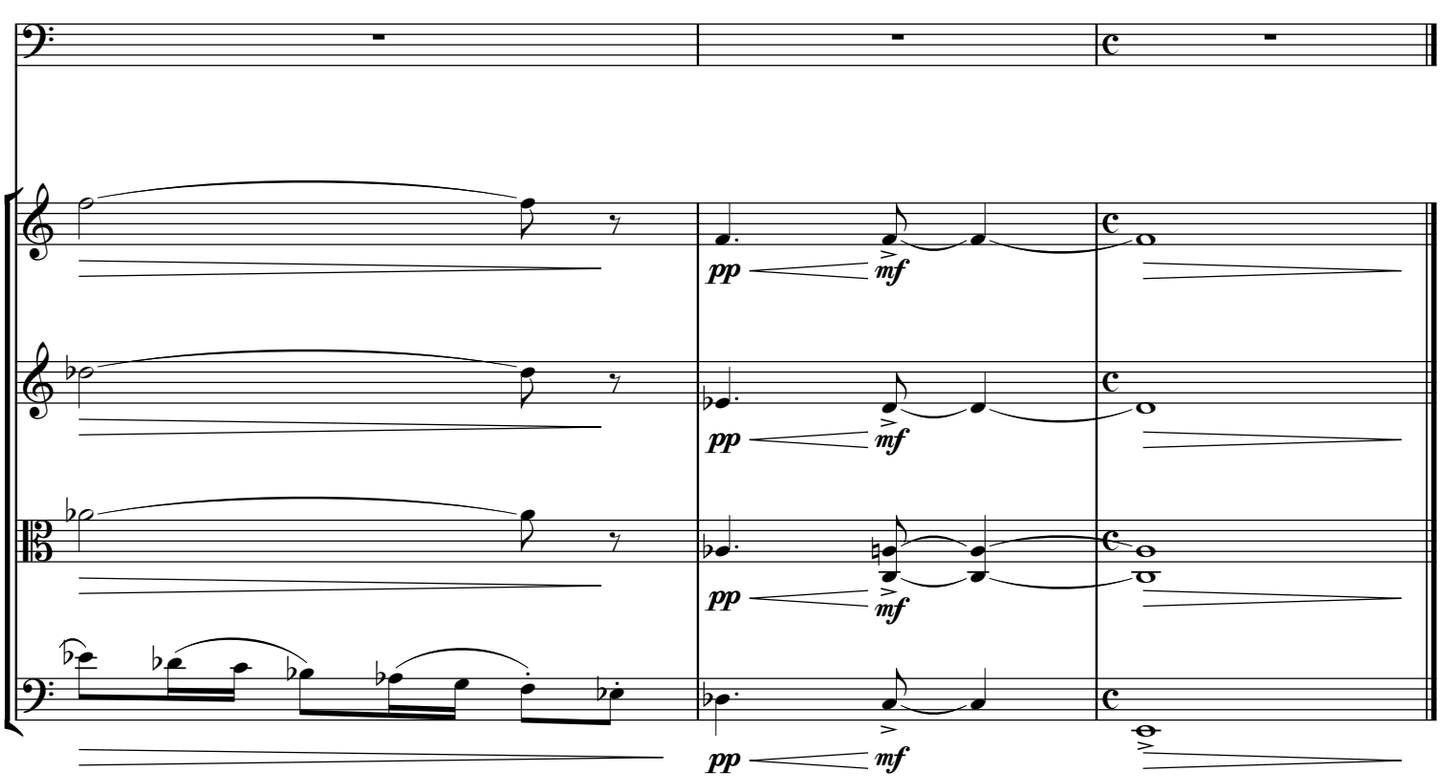

74
I begged the stew - ar - dess,
mf
mf
mf
mp
mf

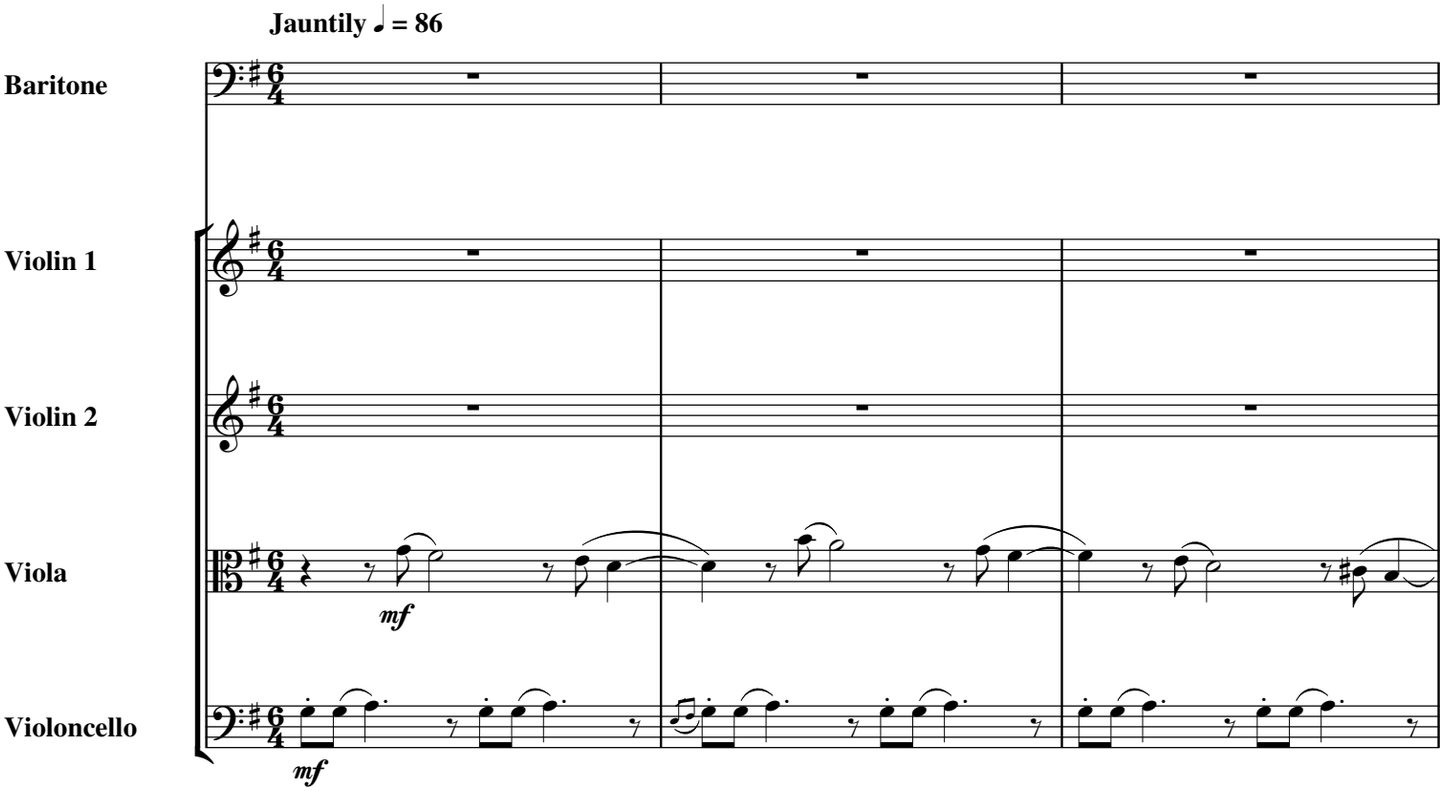

76
molto rit.
"Pro - tect him. Please. Take ex - tra care. He can - not with - stand
pizz.
arco
mp
pp
mp
pp
mp
pizz.
arco
mp
pp
mp
pp
mp
mf
p
pizz.
arco
mf
p
3/4

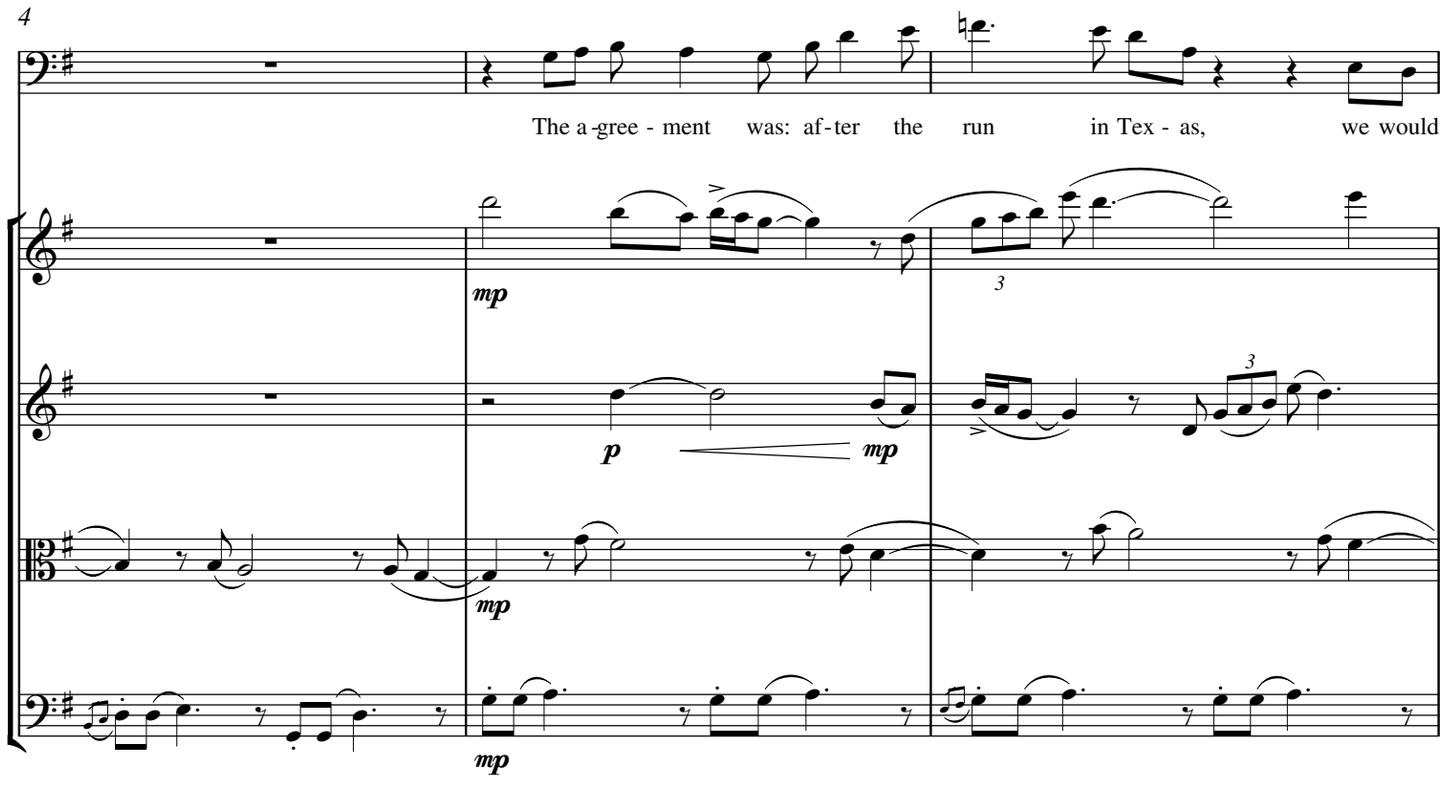
79 *a tempo*

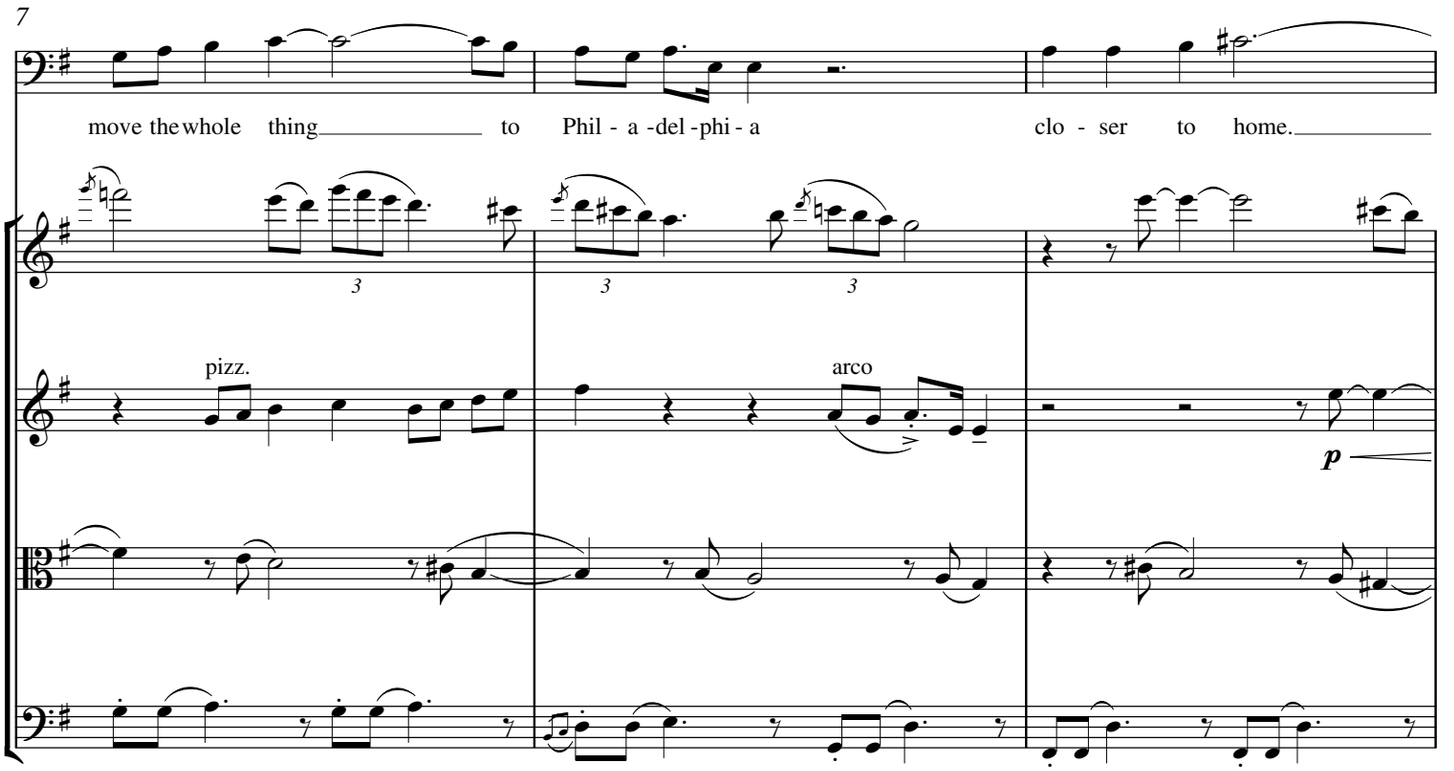


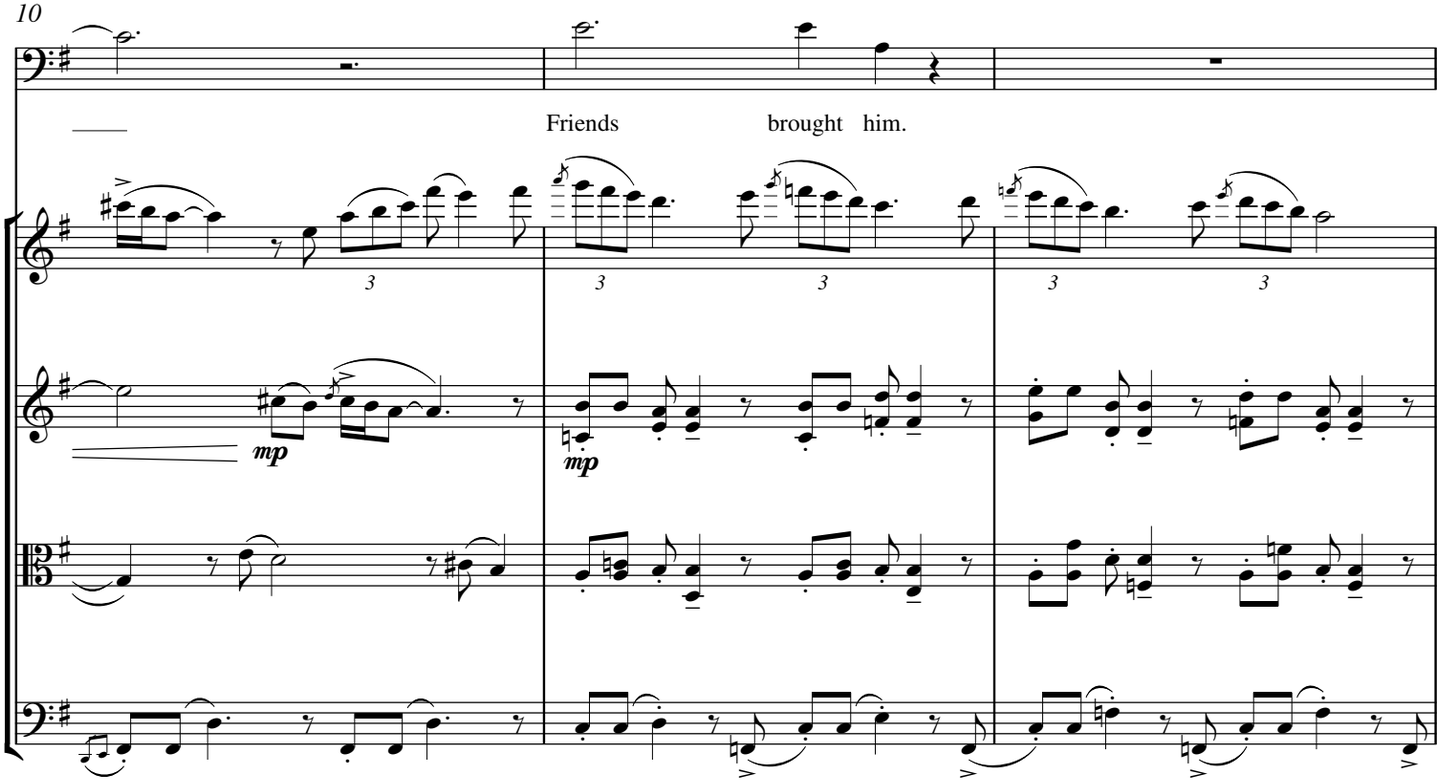
82 *rit.*




Jauntily ♩ = 86
Baritone
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
mf
mf


4
The a-gree - ment was: af-ter the run in Tex - as, we would
mp
p
mp
mp
mp
3
3


7
move the whole thing to Phil - a -del -phi - a clo - ser to home.
pizz.
arco
p


10
Friends brought him.
mp
mp

13

In the Ho - tel, be - fore - hand, af - ter he stum - bled down the hall

pp mp mp

pp mp

pp mp

pizz.

pp mf

16

fa-tigued from the long jour-ney,

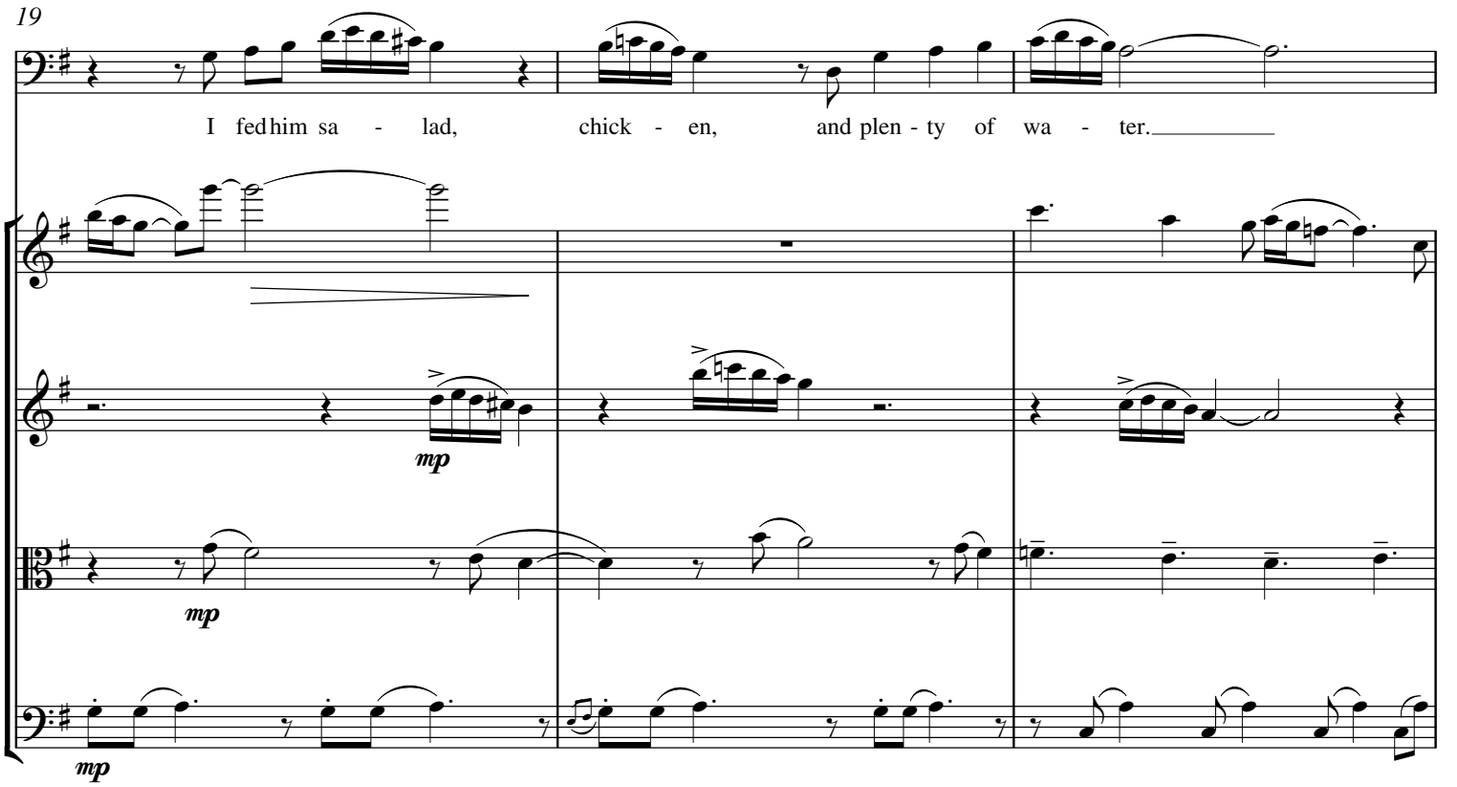
p f

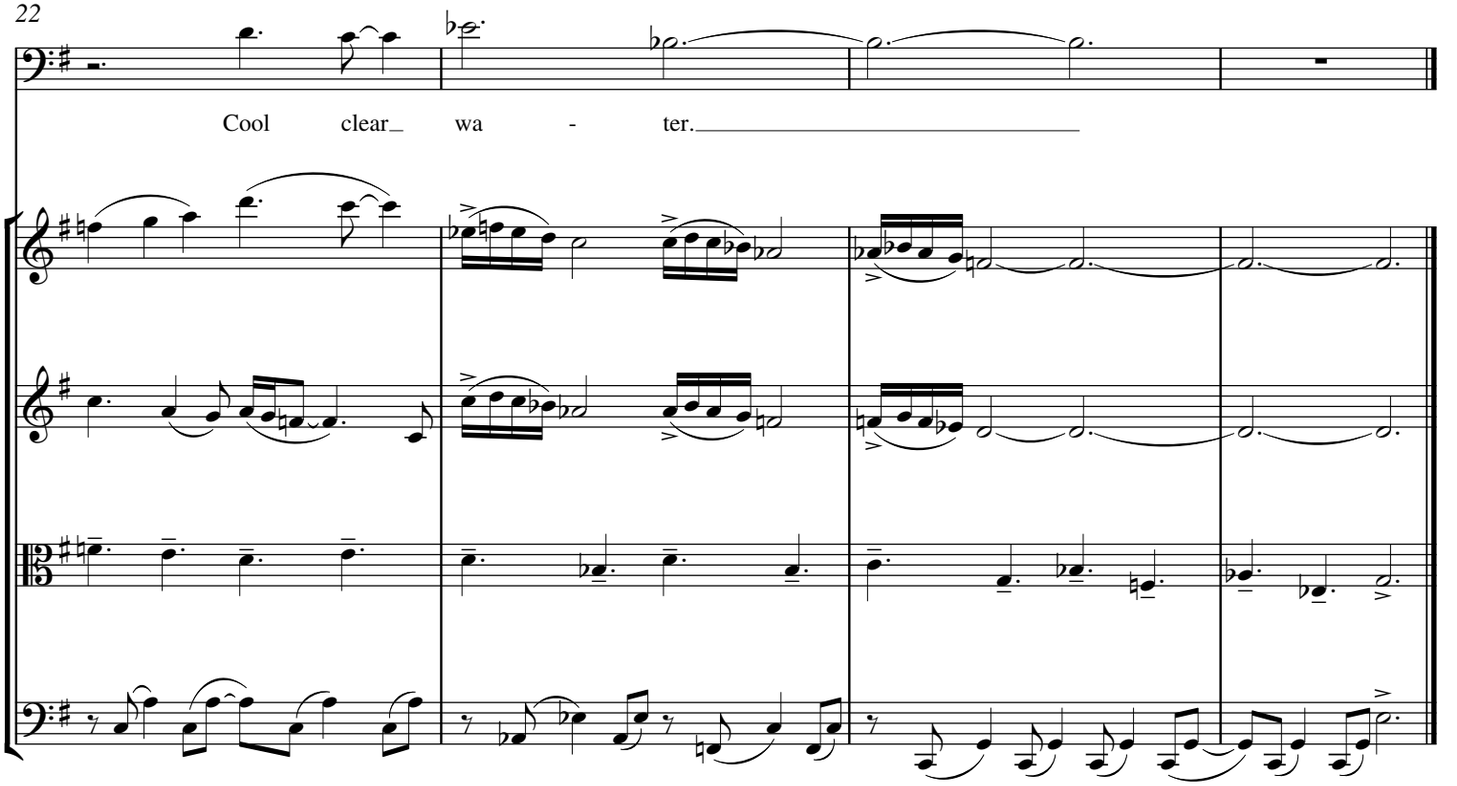
p mf

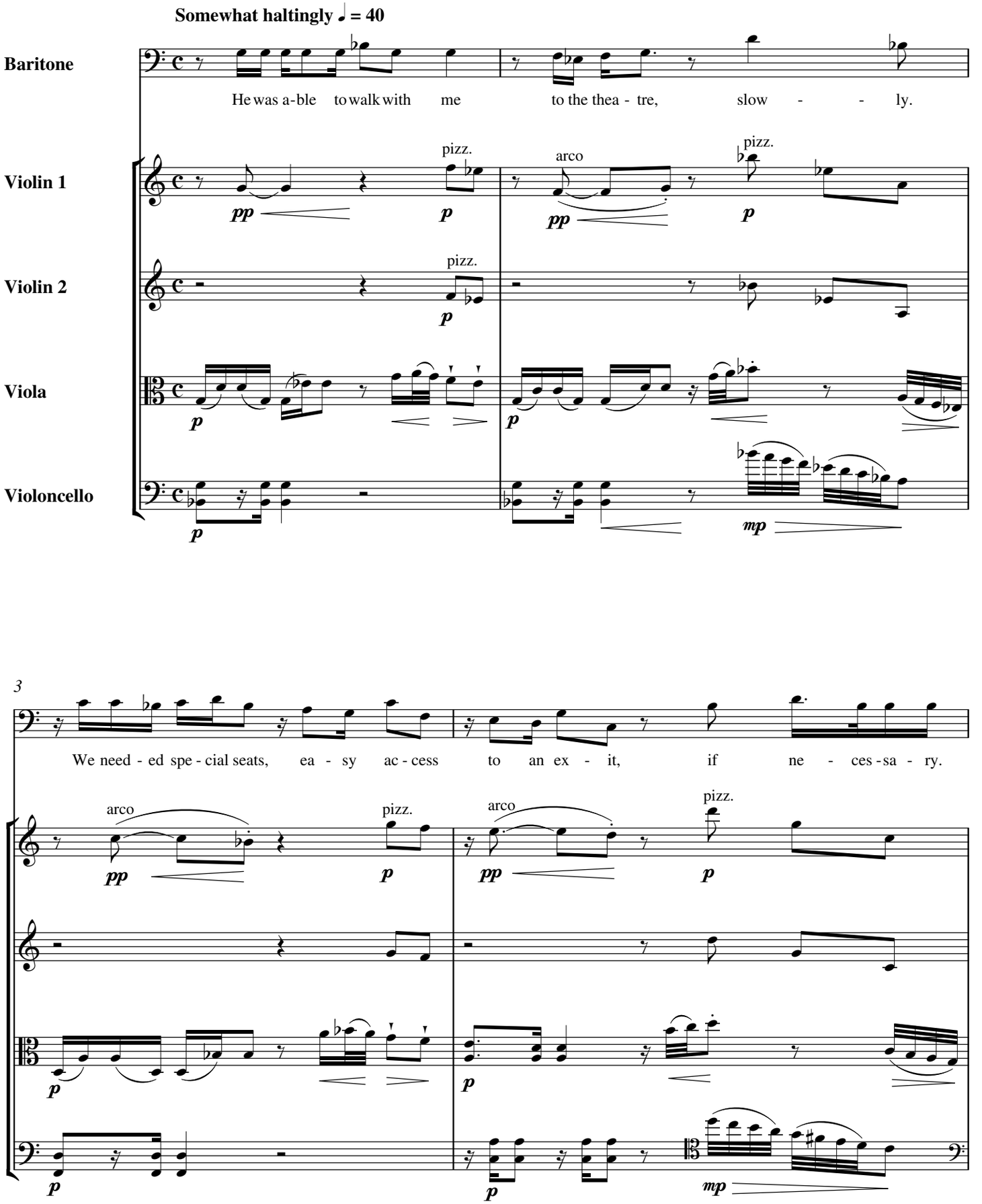
p mf

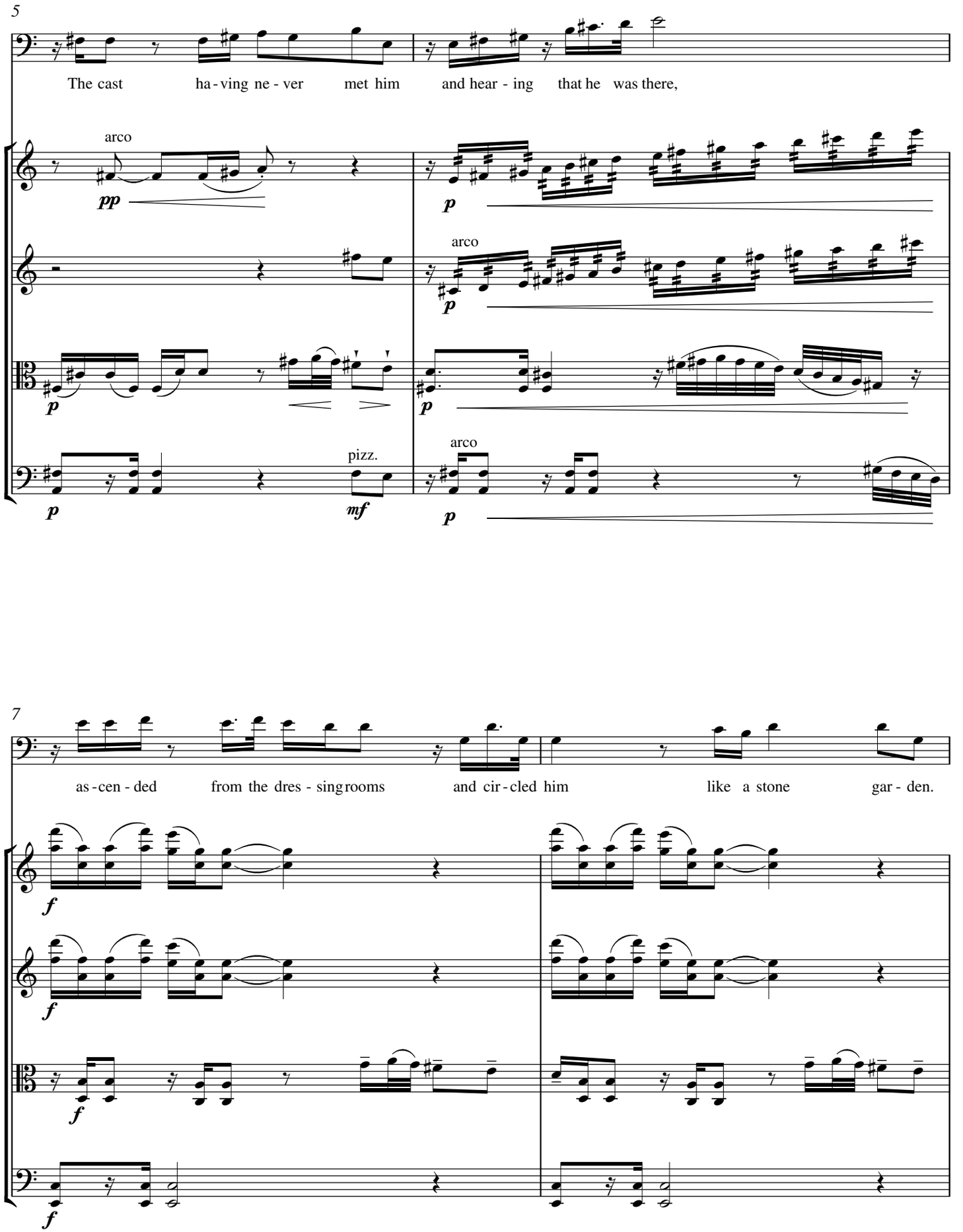
arco

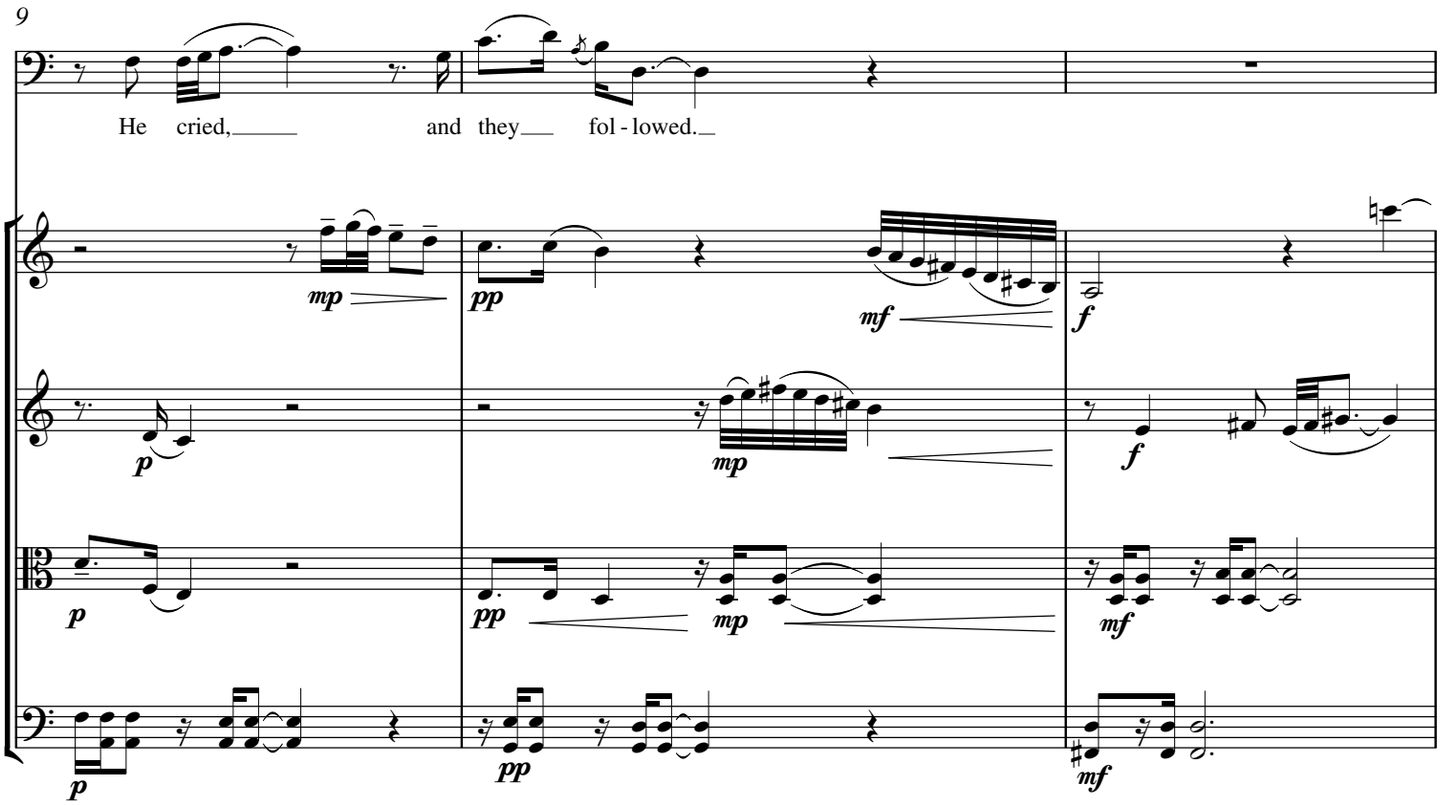
p mf

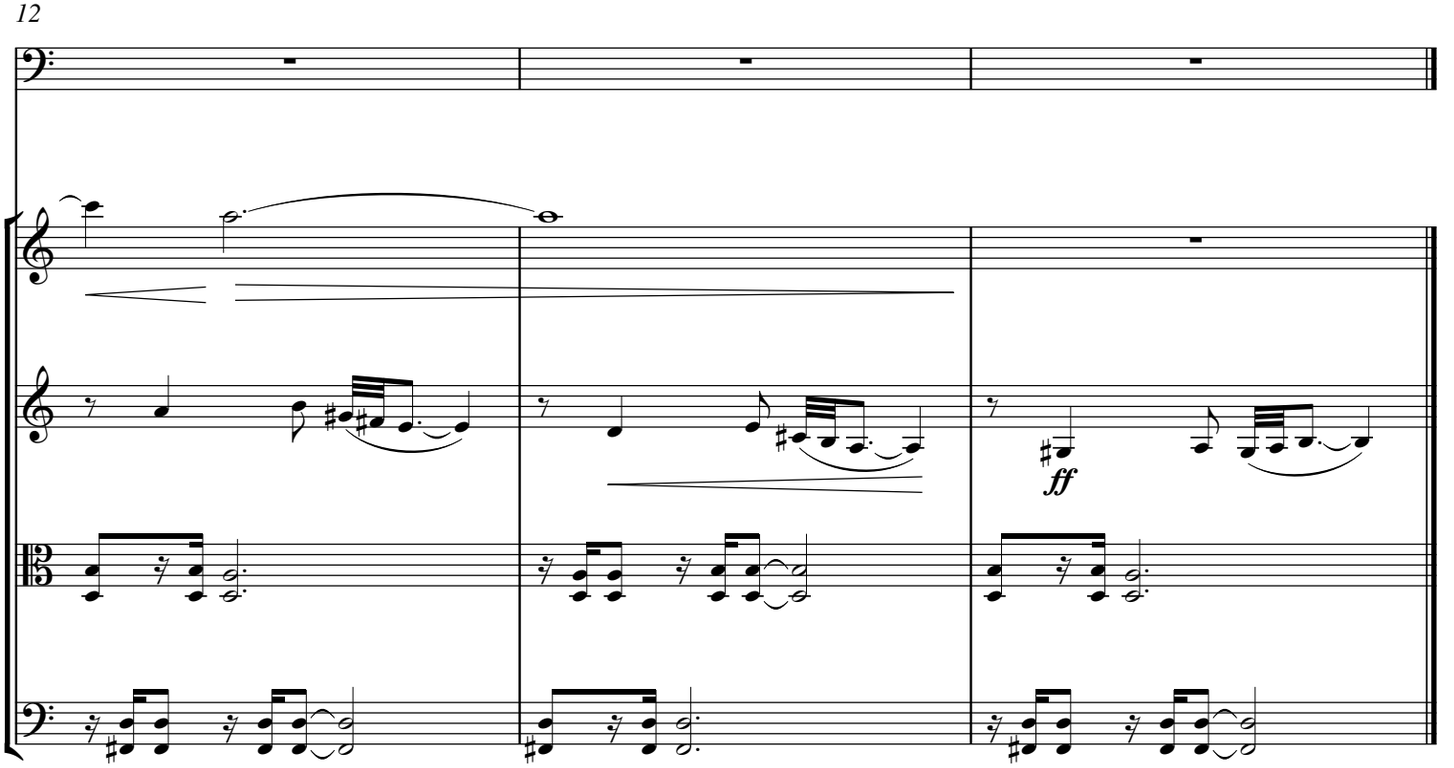

19
I fed him sa - lad, chick - en, and plen - ty of wa - ter.
mp
mp
mp

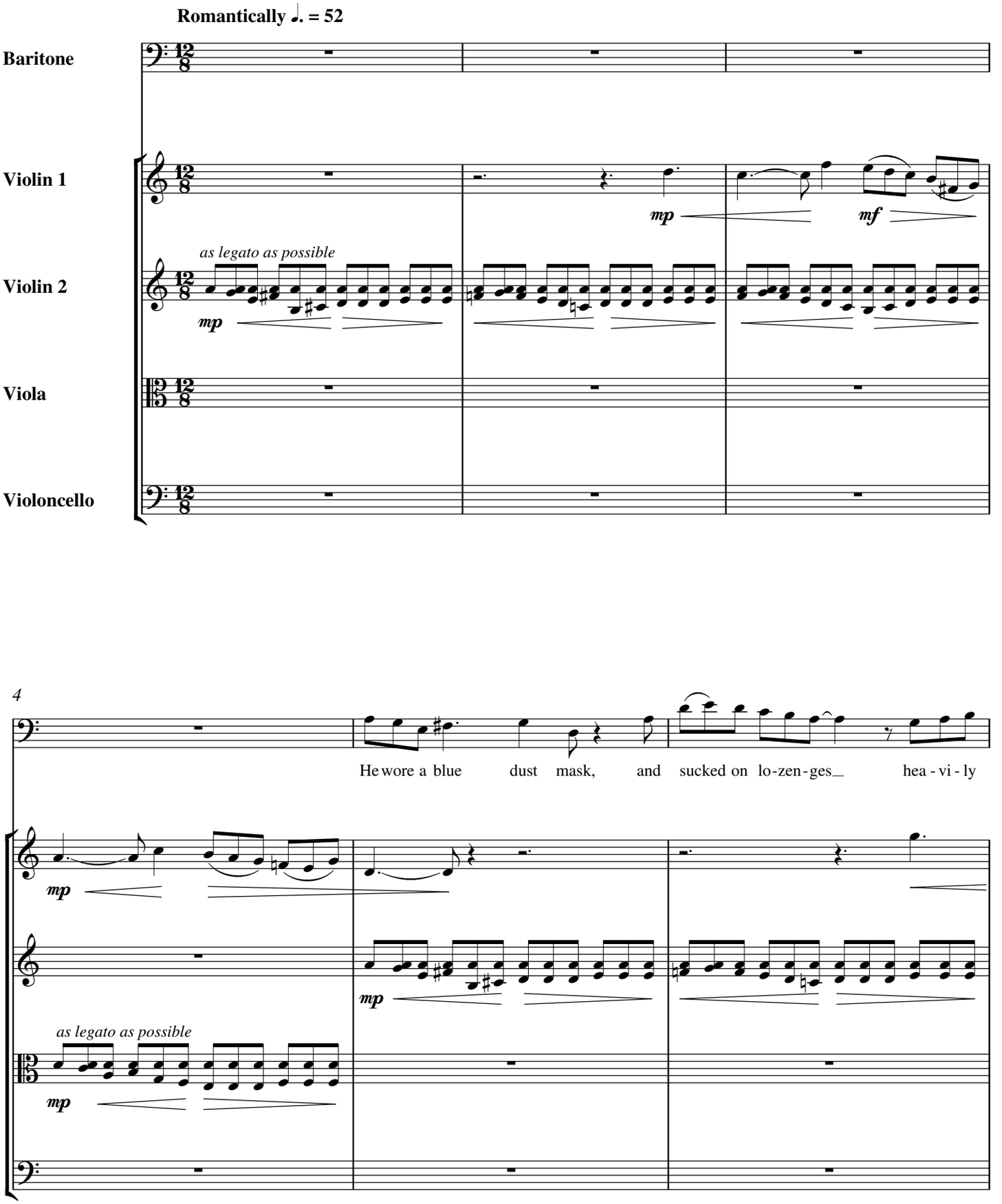

22
Cool clear wa - ter.


Somewhat haltingly ♩ = 40
Baritone
He was a-ble to walk with me to the thea - tre, slow - - ly.
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
pizz.
arco
pp
p
mp
3
We need - ed spe - cial seats, ea - sy ac - cess to an ex - it, if ne - ces - sa - ry.


5
The cast having never met him and hearing that he was there,
arco
pp
p
arco
p
p
pizz.
mf
arco
p
p
7
ascended from the dressingrooms and circled him like a stone garden.
f
f
f
f


9
He cried, and they fol - lowed.
mp
pp
mf
f
p
mp
f
p
pp
mp
mf
p
pp
mf


12
ff


Romantically ♩. = 52
Baritone
Violin 1
mp
mf
as legato as possible
Violin 2
mp
Viola
Violoncello
4
He wore a blue dust mask, and sucked on lo-zen-ges_ hea-vi-ly
mp
mp
as legato as possible
mp

7

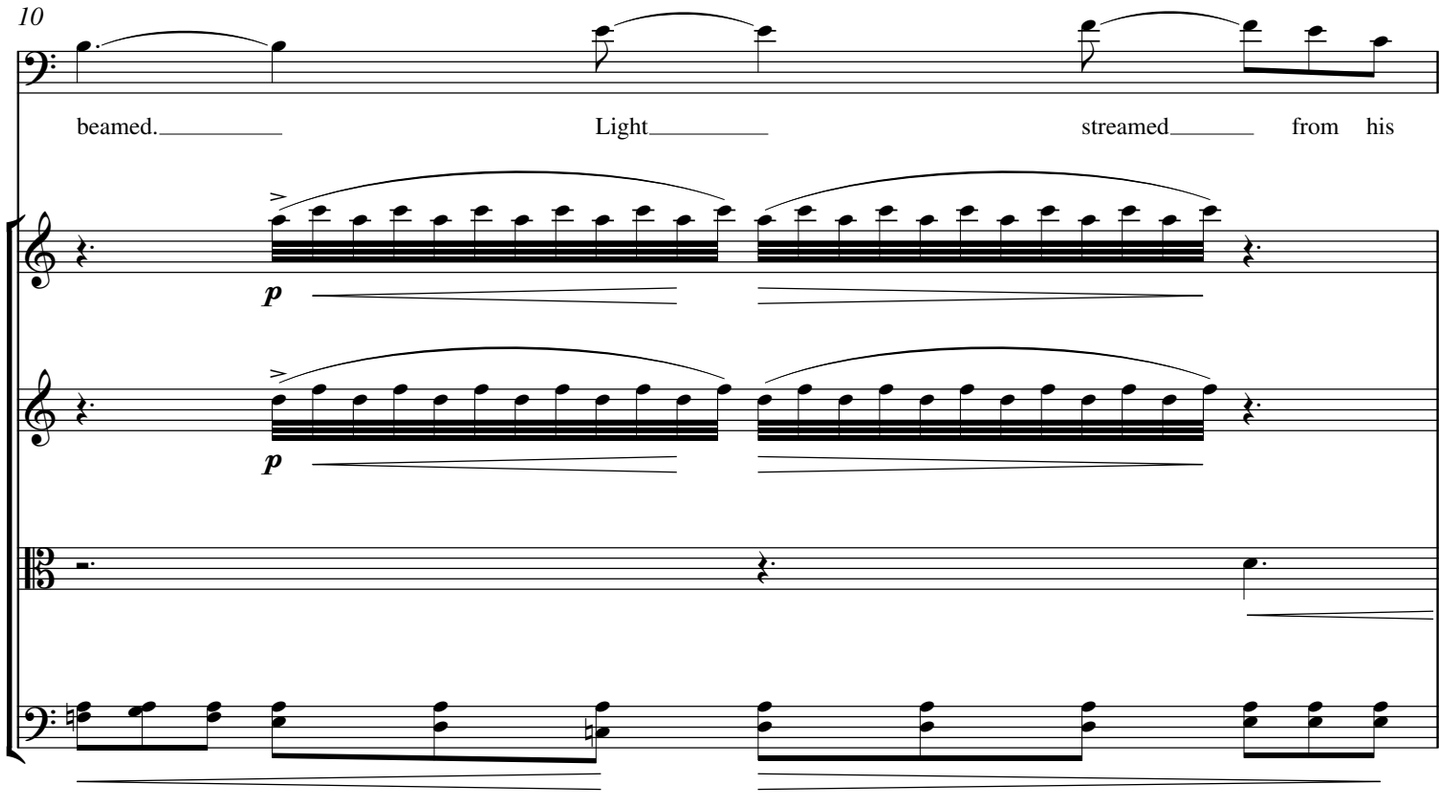
men - tho - la - ted, to keep_ the cough - ing down.

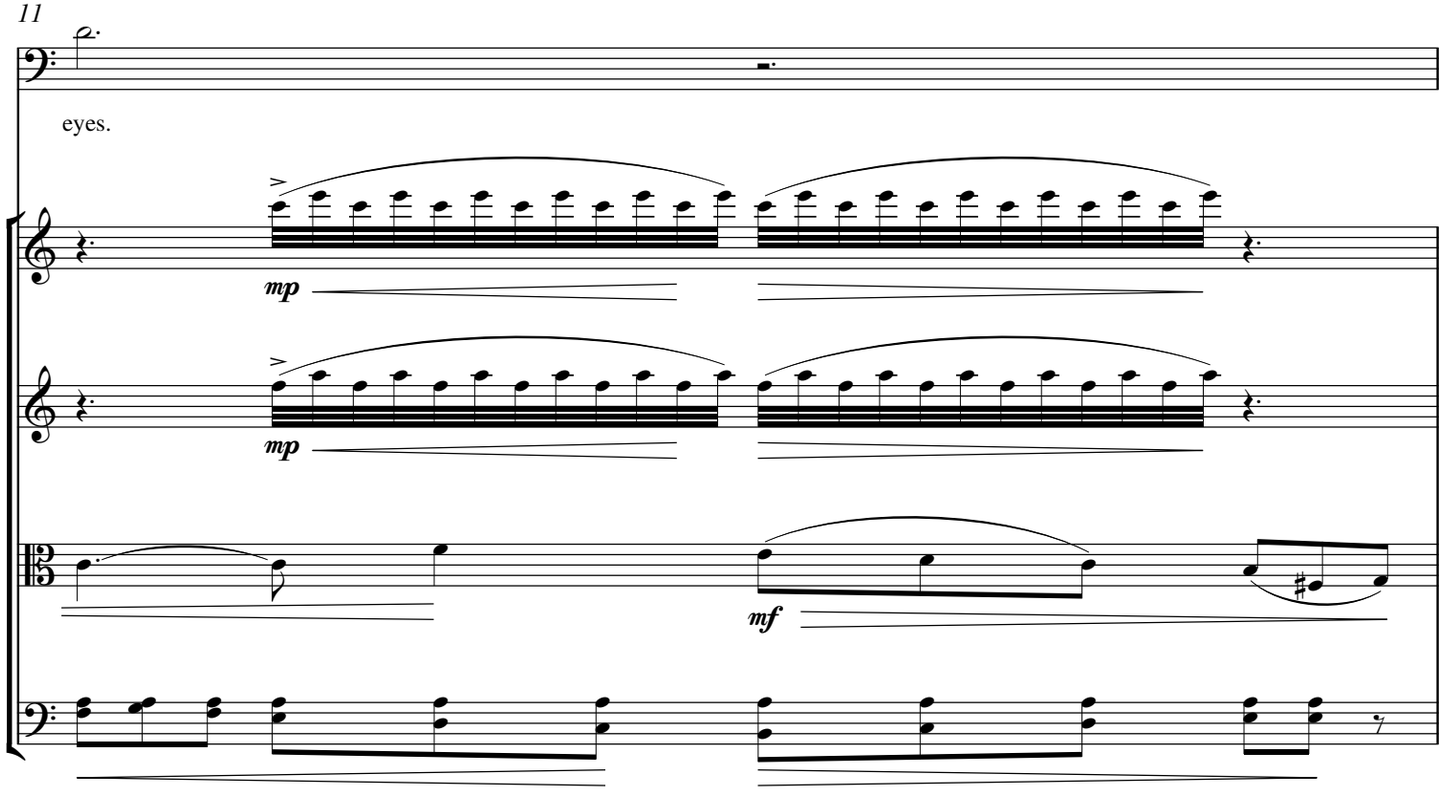
9

From the first notes, he

as legato as possible

mp


10
beamed.
Light
streamed
from his
p
p

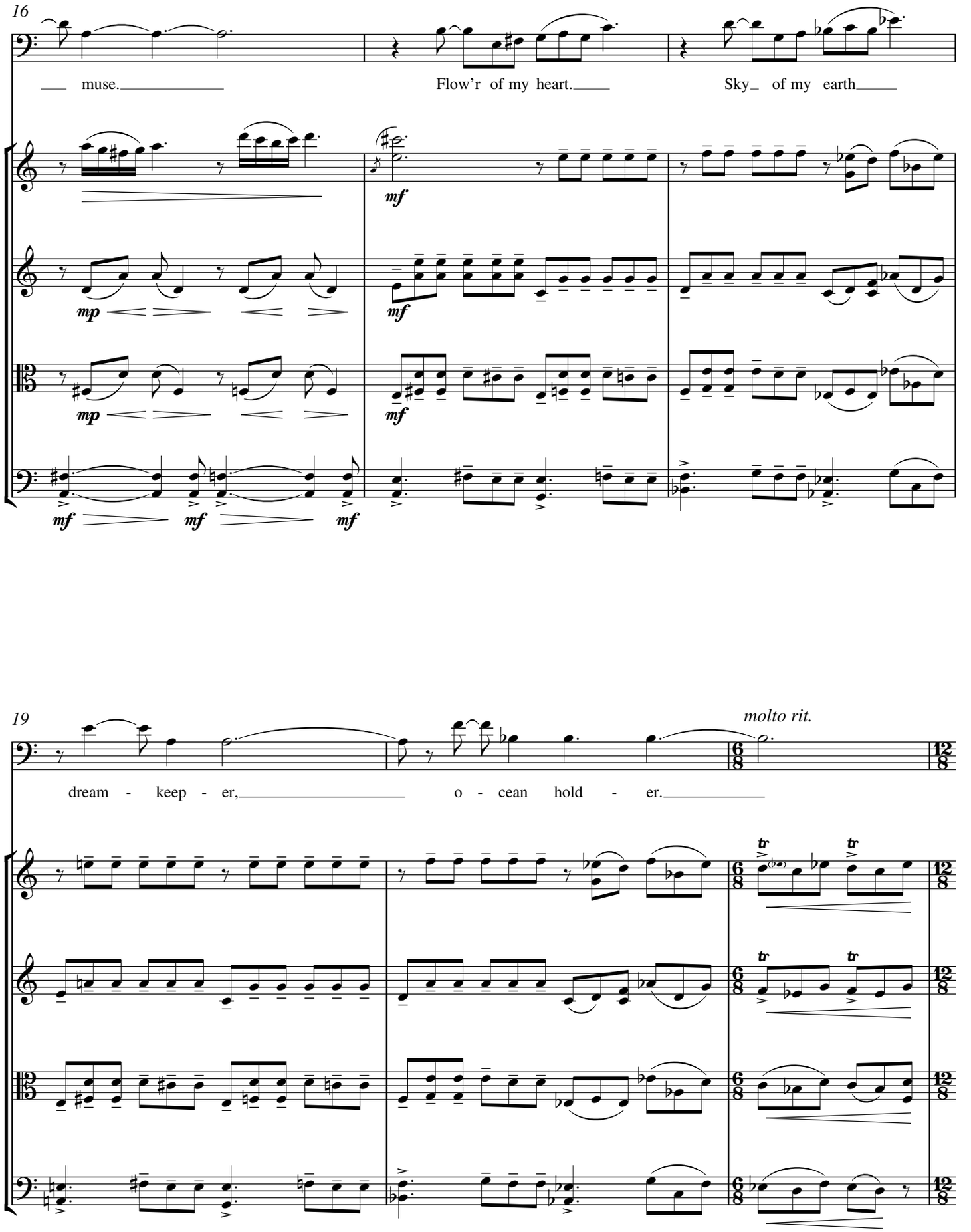

11
eyes.
mp
mp
mf

12

Af - ter the bows,

14

and the fi - nal cues, I in - tro - duced him, as my


16
muse.
Flow'r of my heart.
Sky of my earth
mf
mp
mf
mp
mf
mf
mf
mf
19
molto rit.
dream - keep - er,
o - cean hold - er.
tr
tr
tr
tr
6/8
12/8

22 **Slightly slower ♩. = 46**

Ev - - - - - - - - - 'ry - -

p

p

p *mp*

p *mp*

23

- thing...

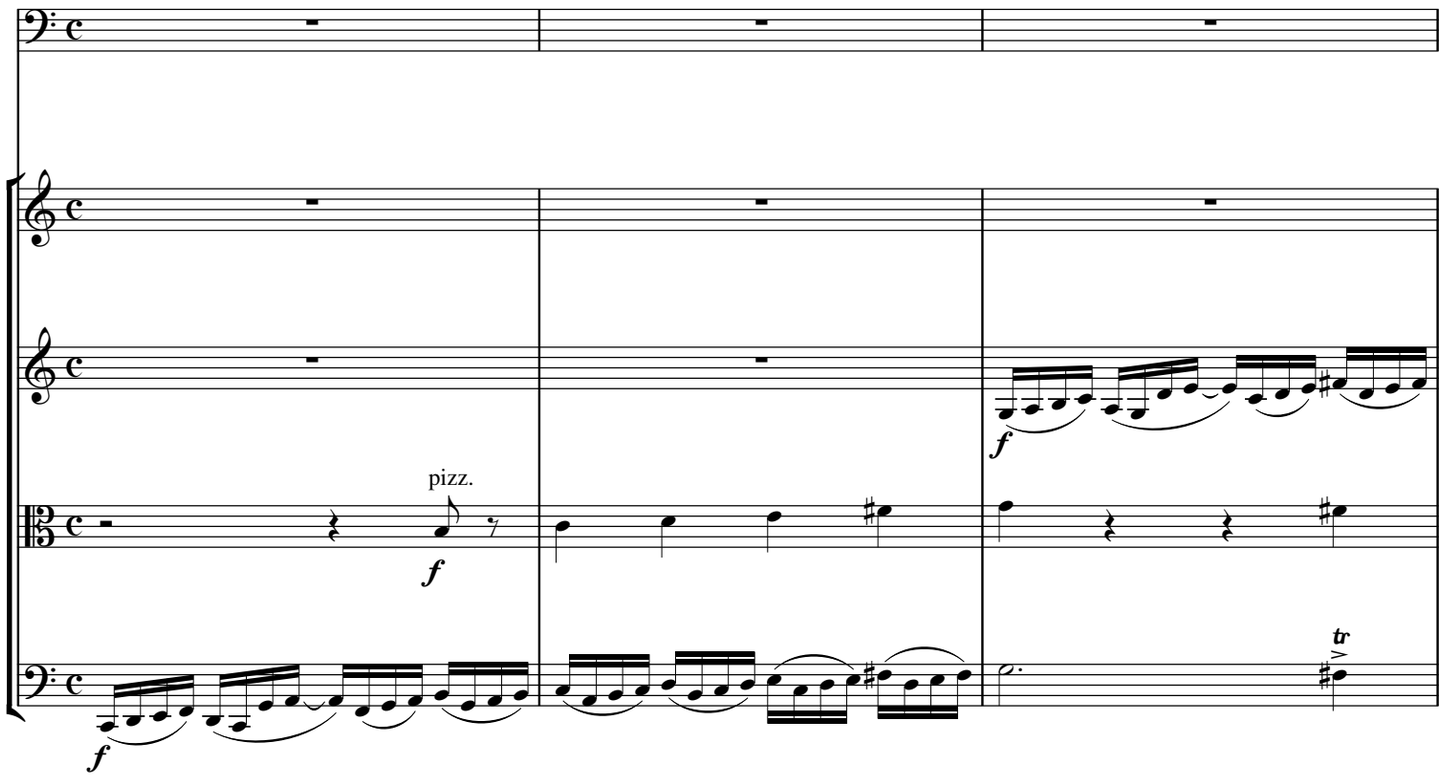
mp

mp

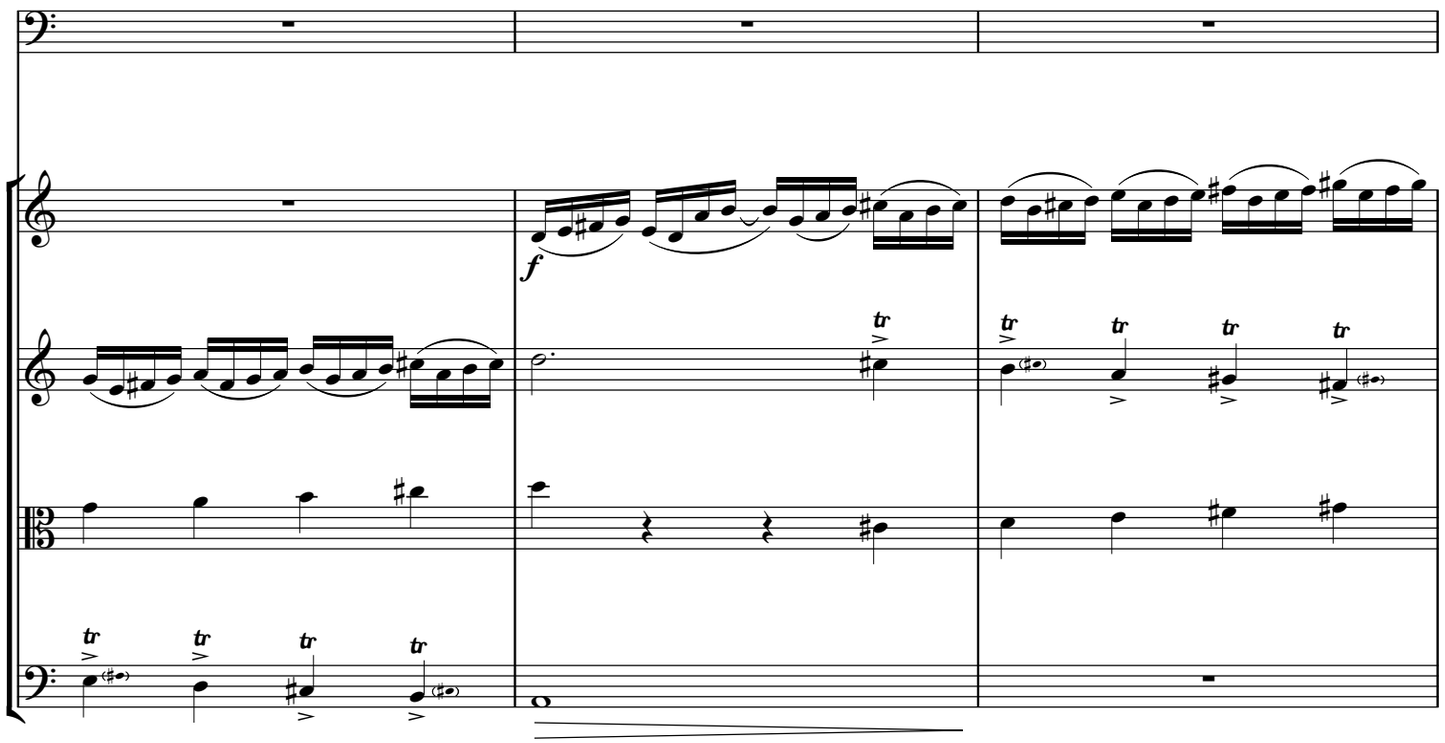
mf *cresc.*

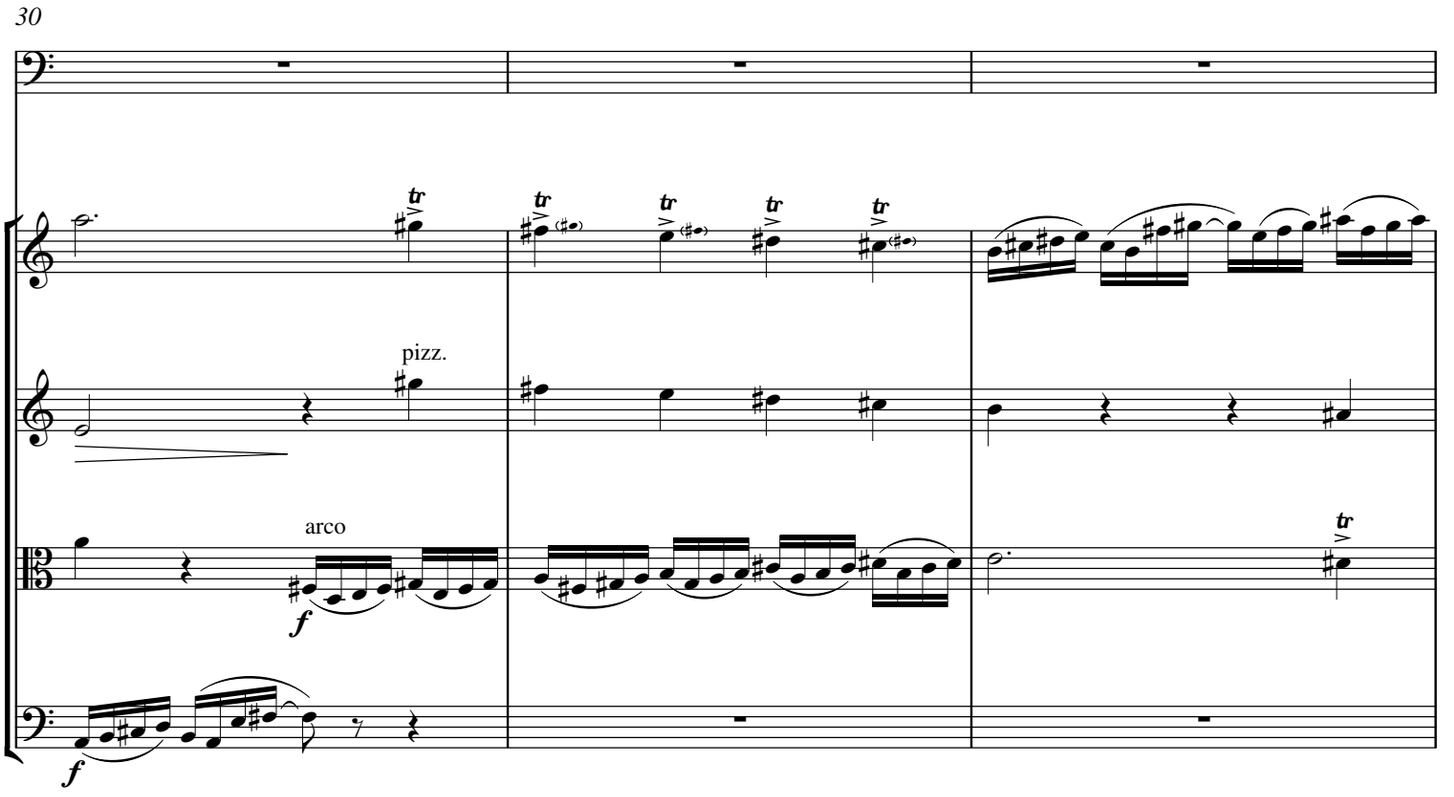
mf *cresc.*

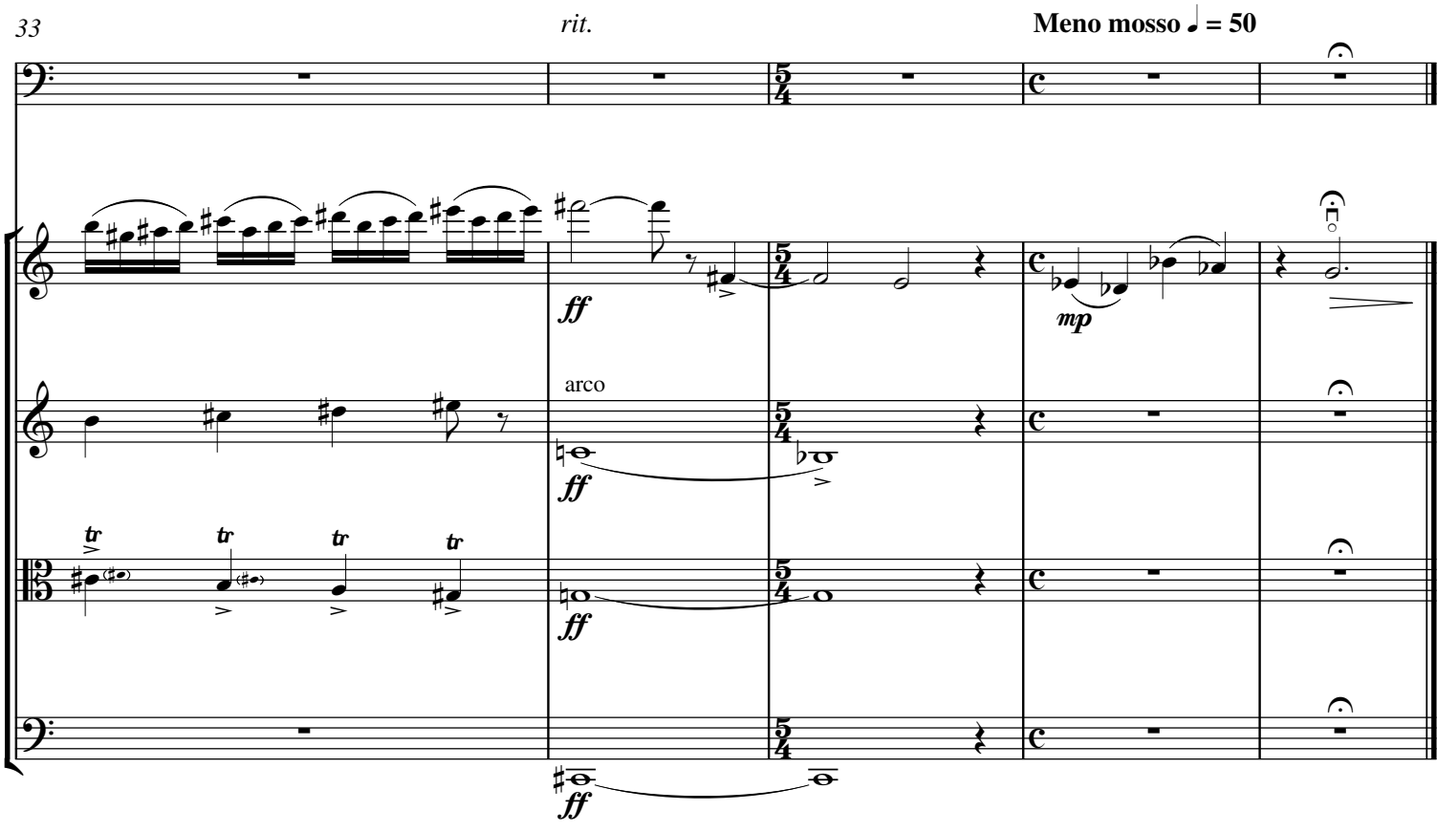
24 **Vibrant ♩ = 96**

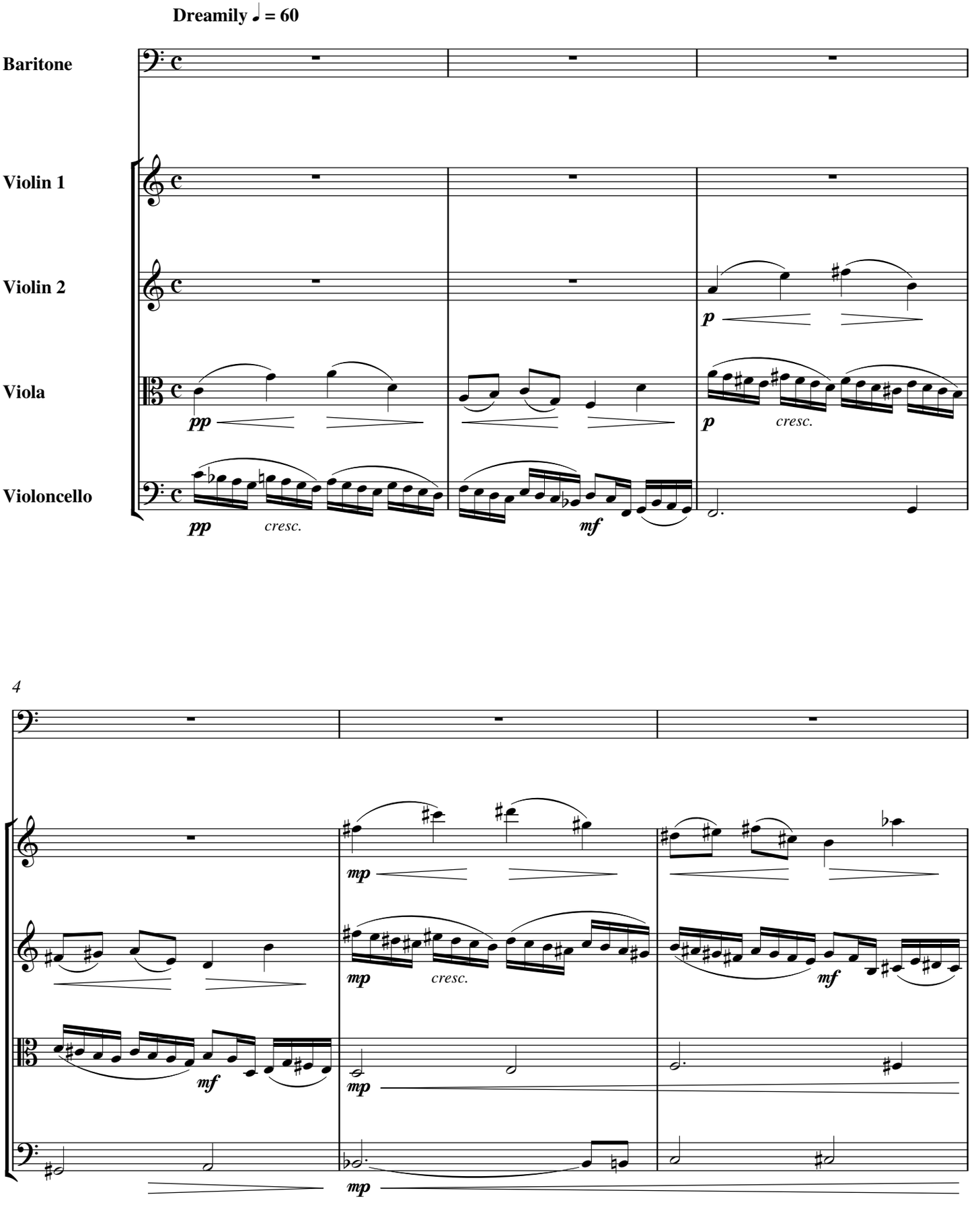


27

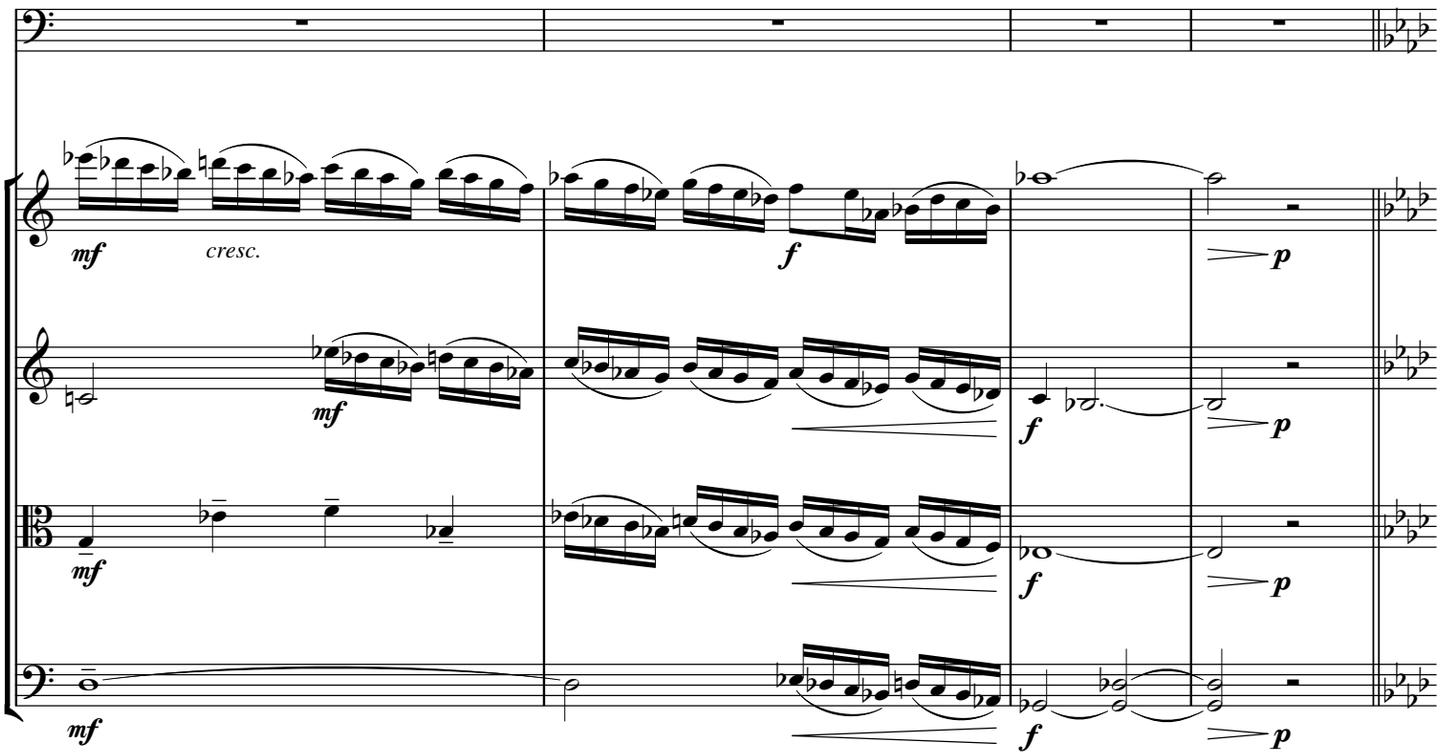



30
pizz.
arco
f
f

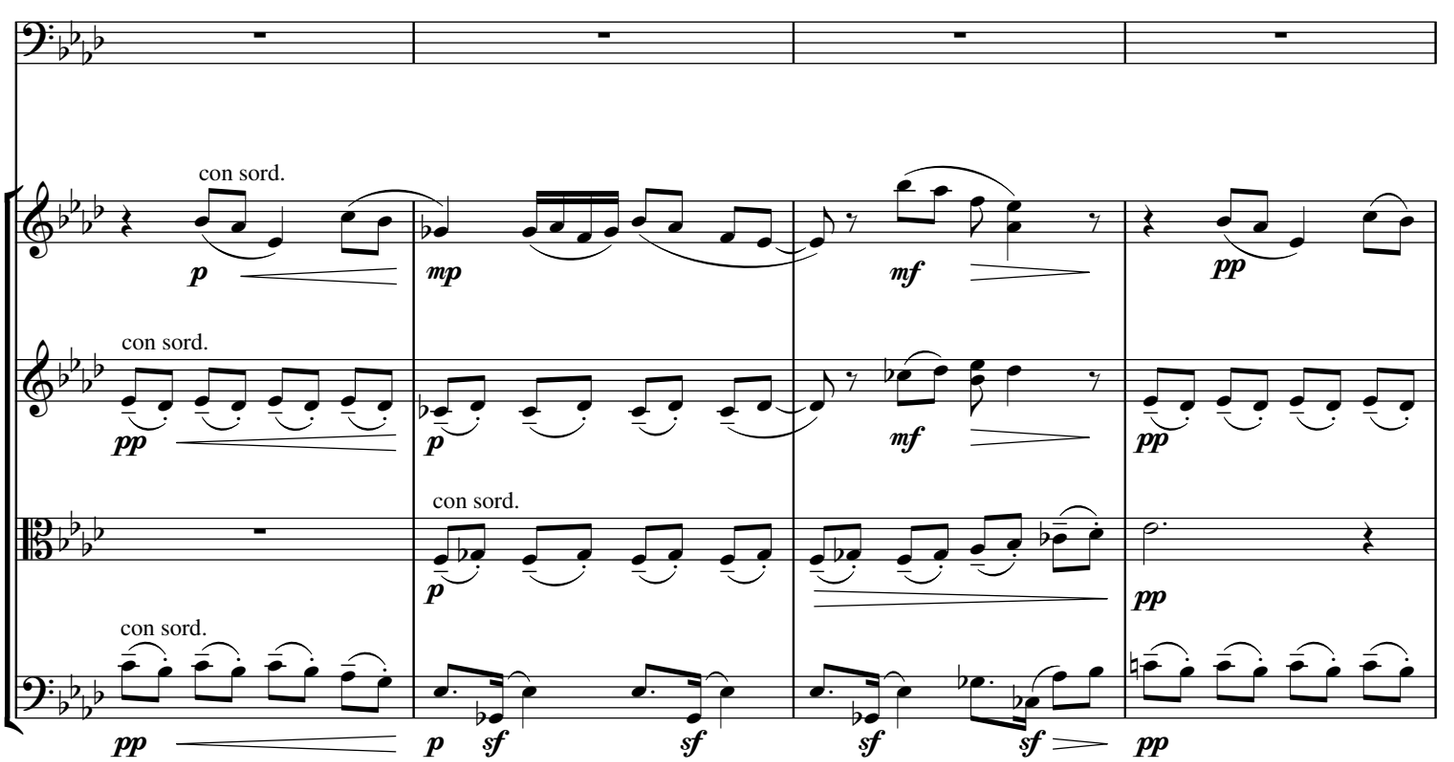

33
rit.
Meno mosso ♩ = 50
ff
mp
arco
ff
ff
ff


Dreamily ♩ = 60
Baritone
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
pp
cresc.
mf
p
cresc.
4
mp
mp
cresc.
mf
mf
mp
mp

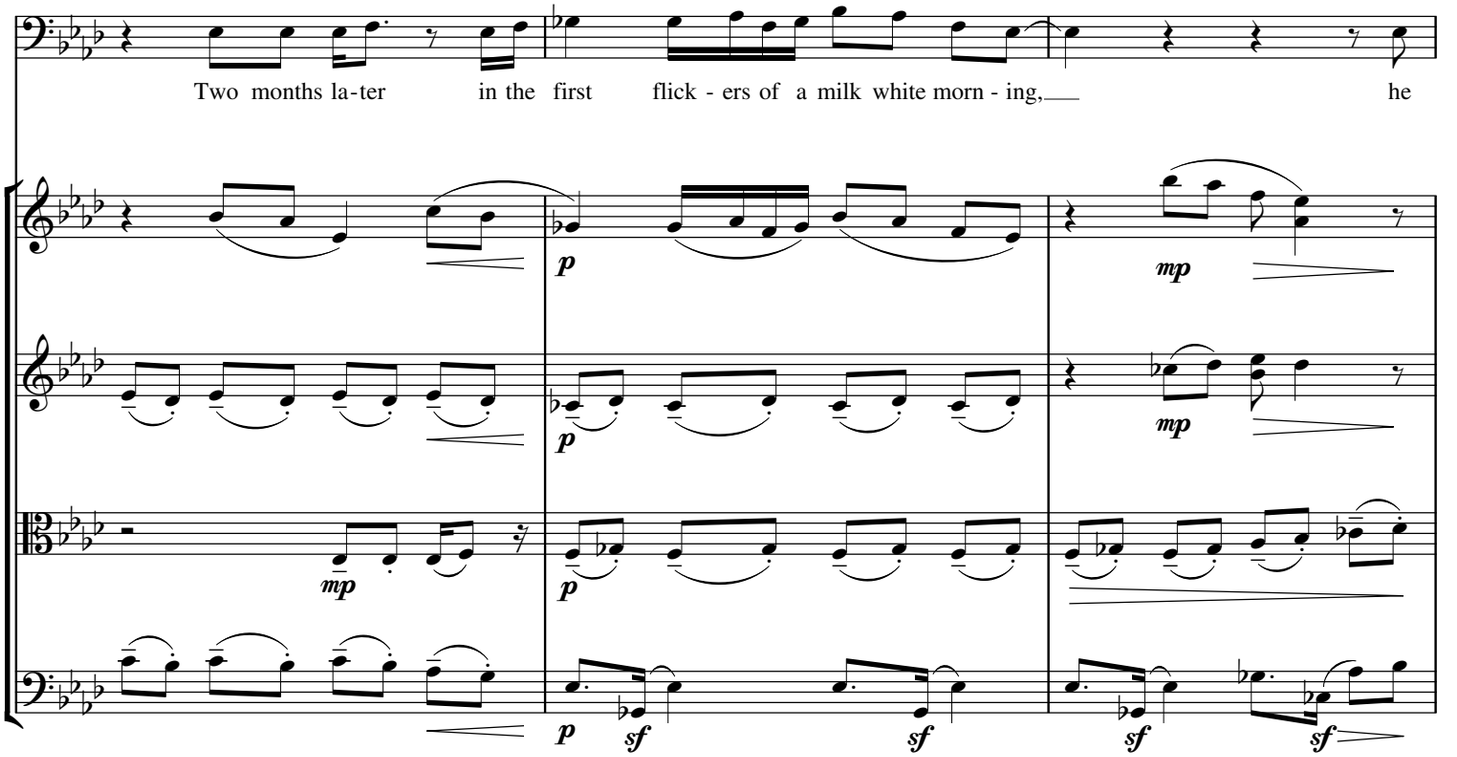
7



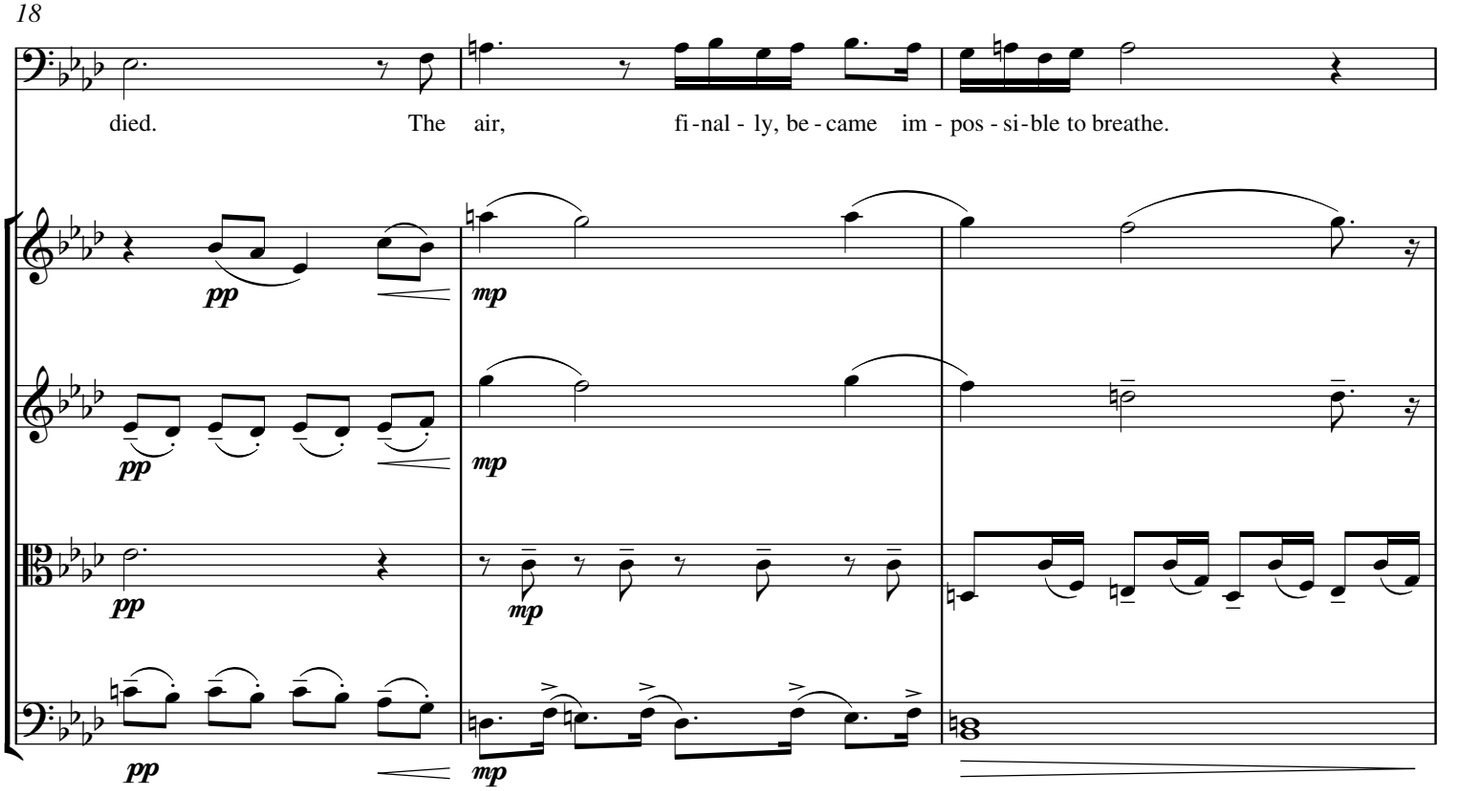
11 **Semplice ♩ = 46**

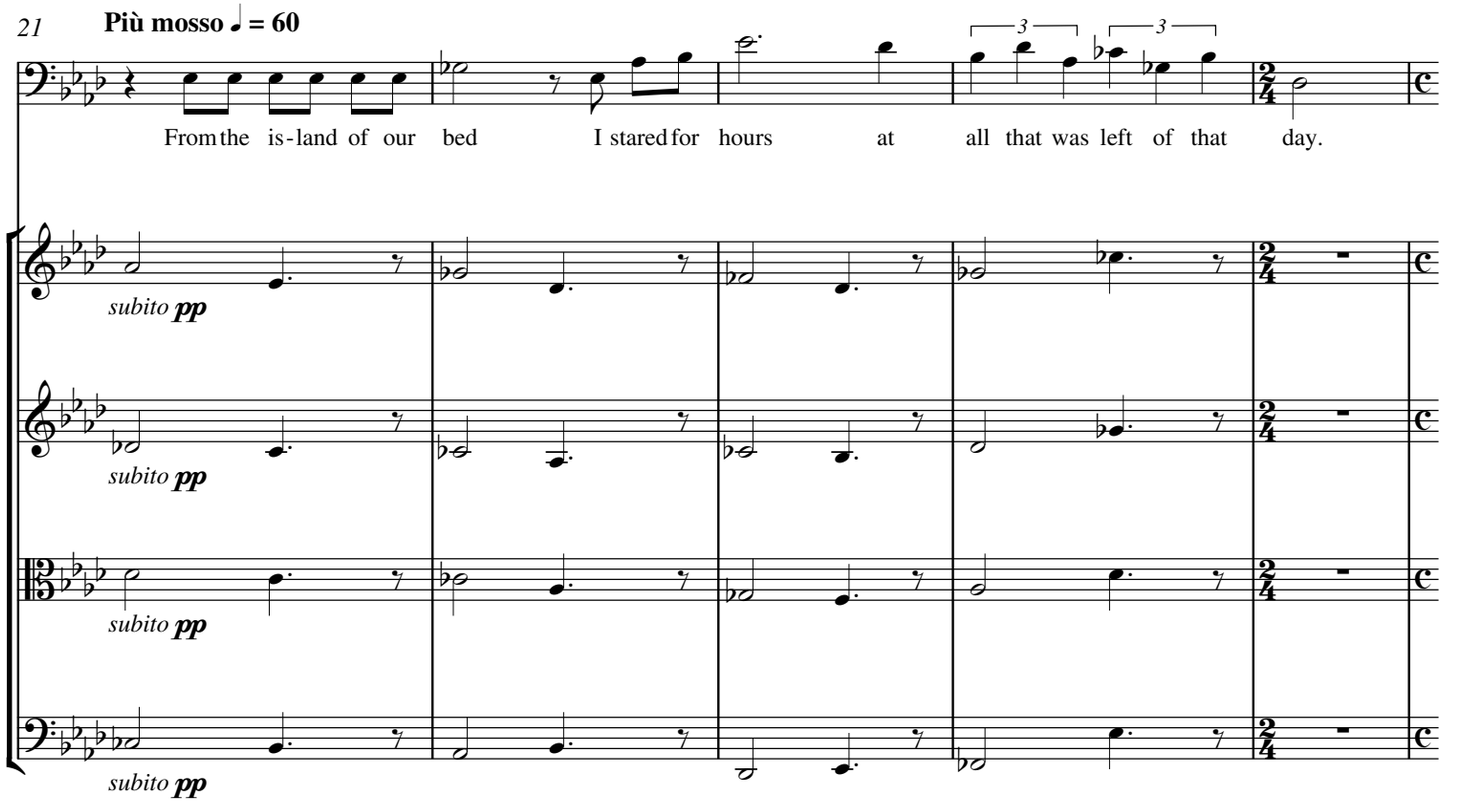


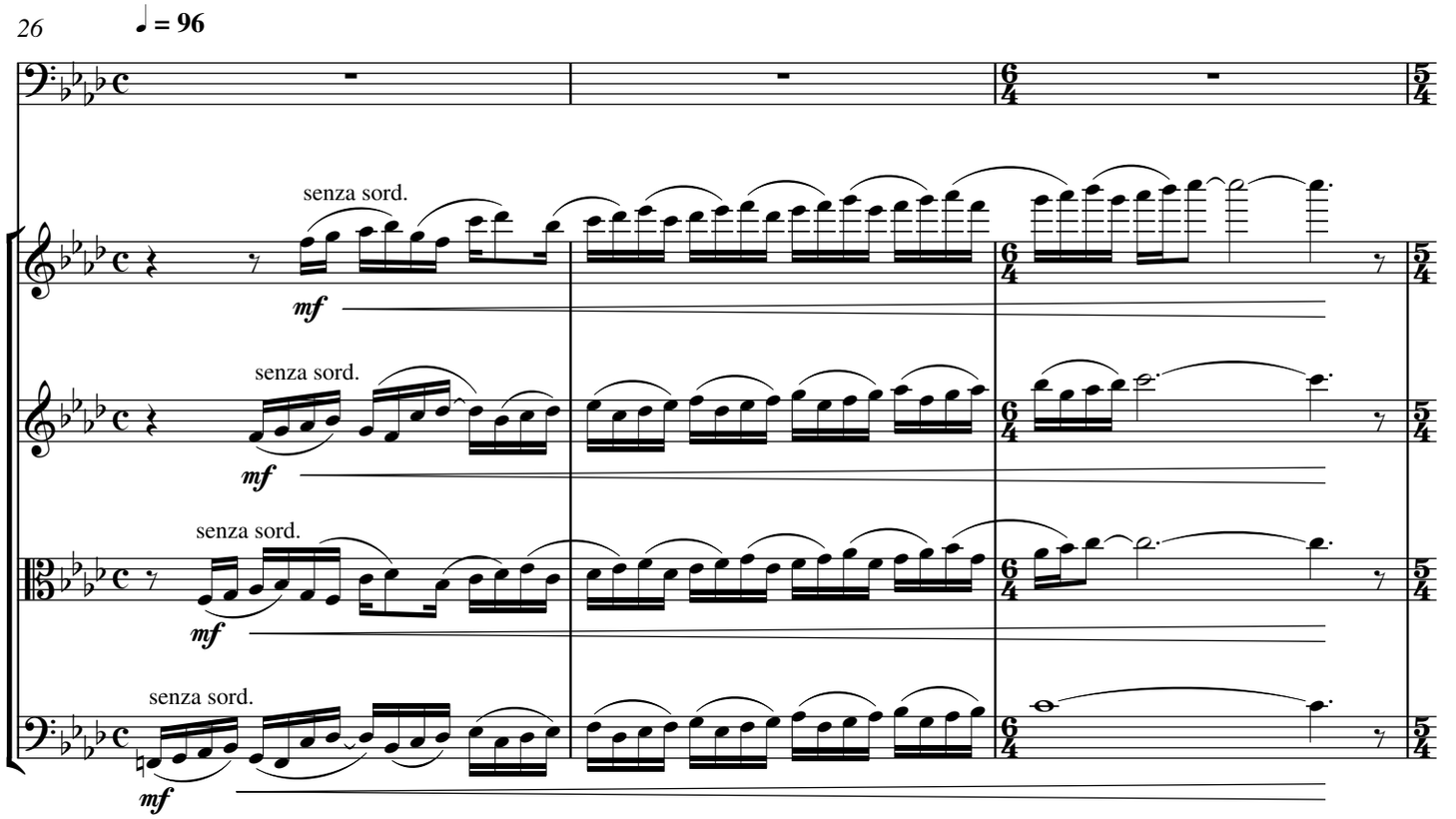
15

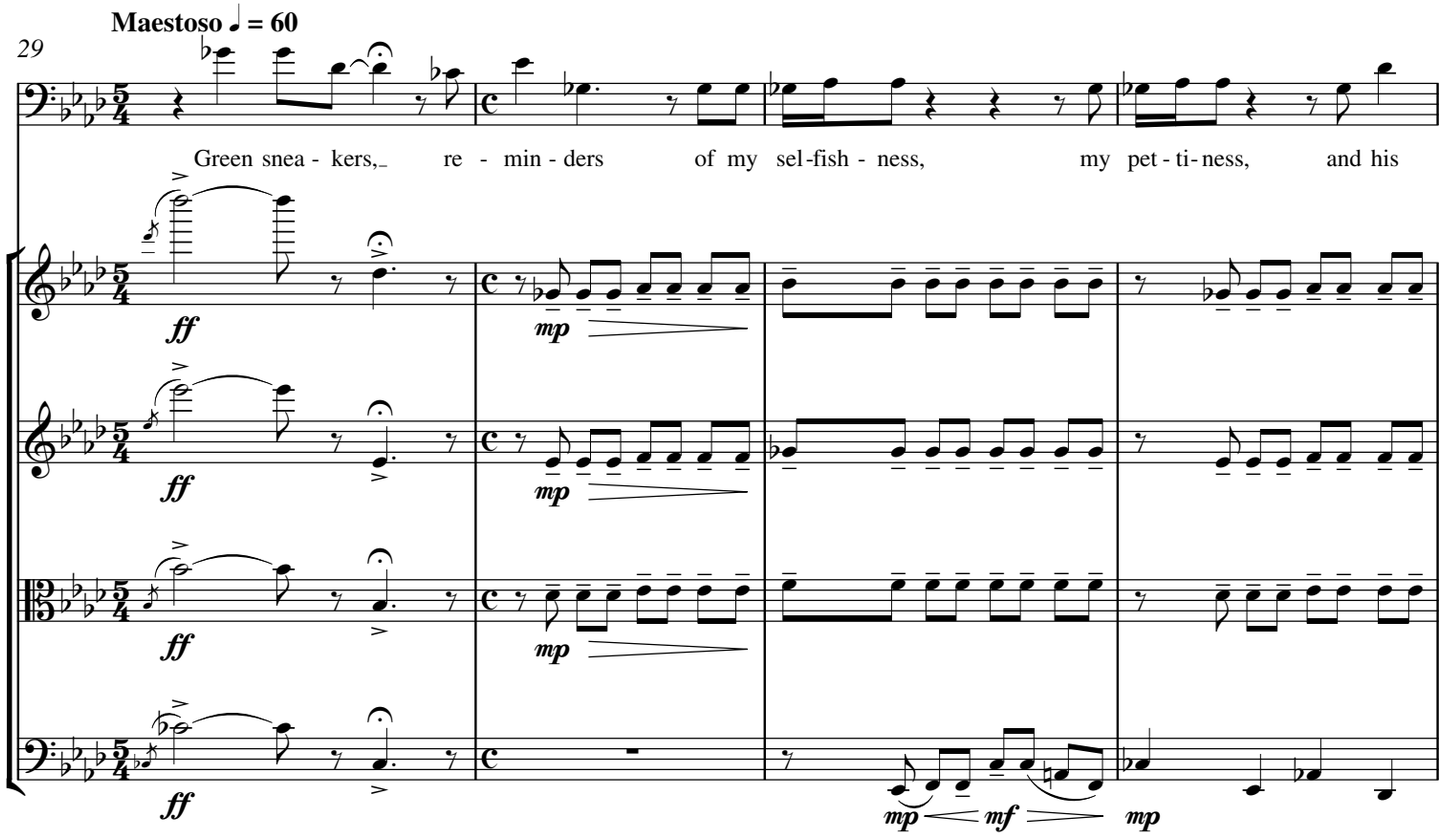

Two months la-ter in the first flick - ers of a milk white morn - ing, he
p
mp
mp
mp
p
p
mp
p
sf
sf
sf
sf

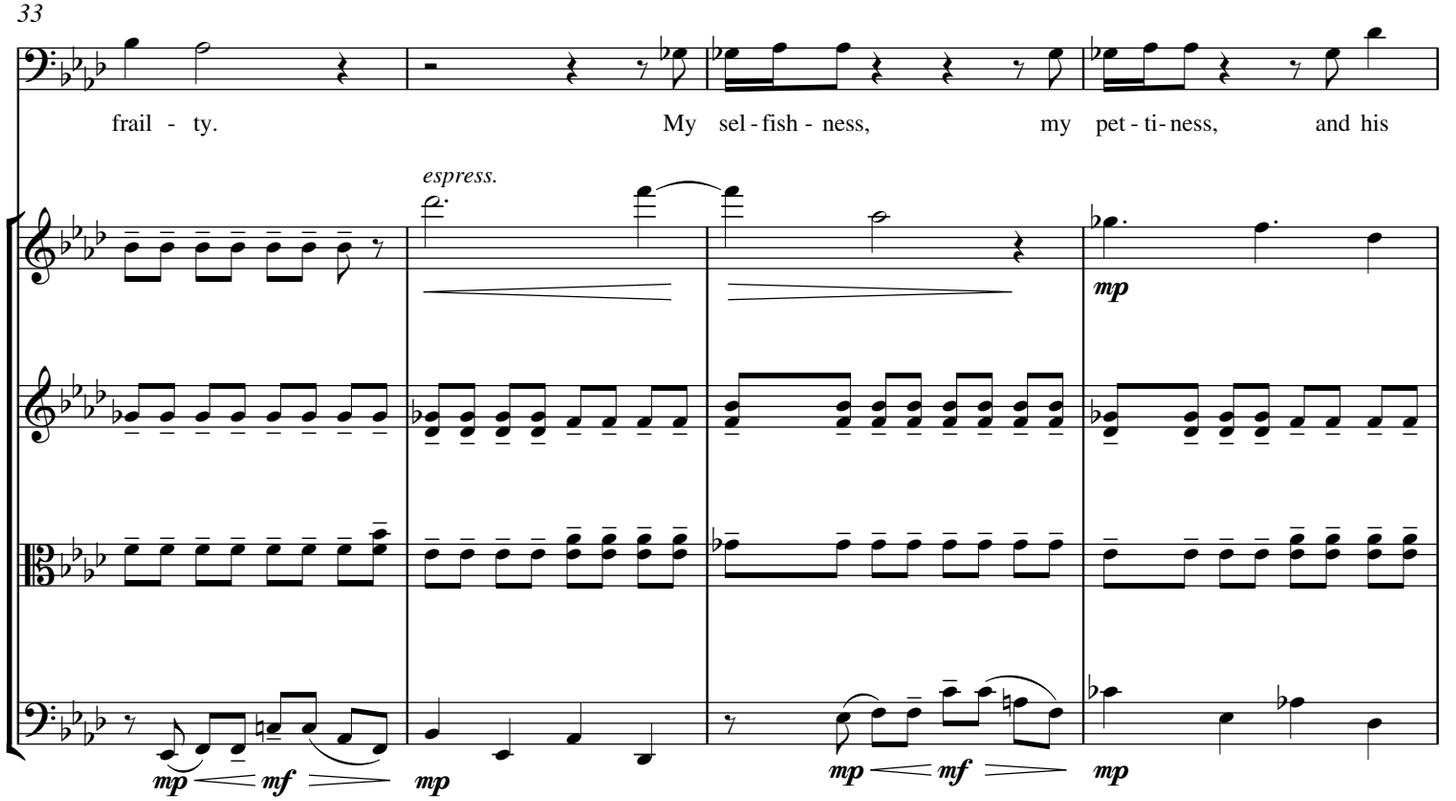
18

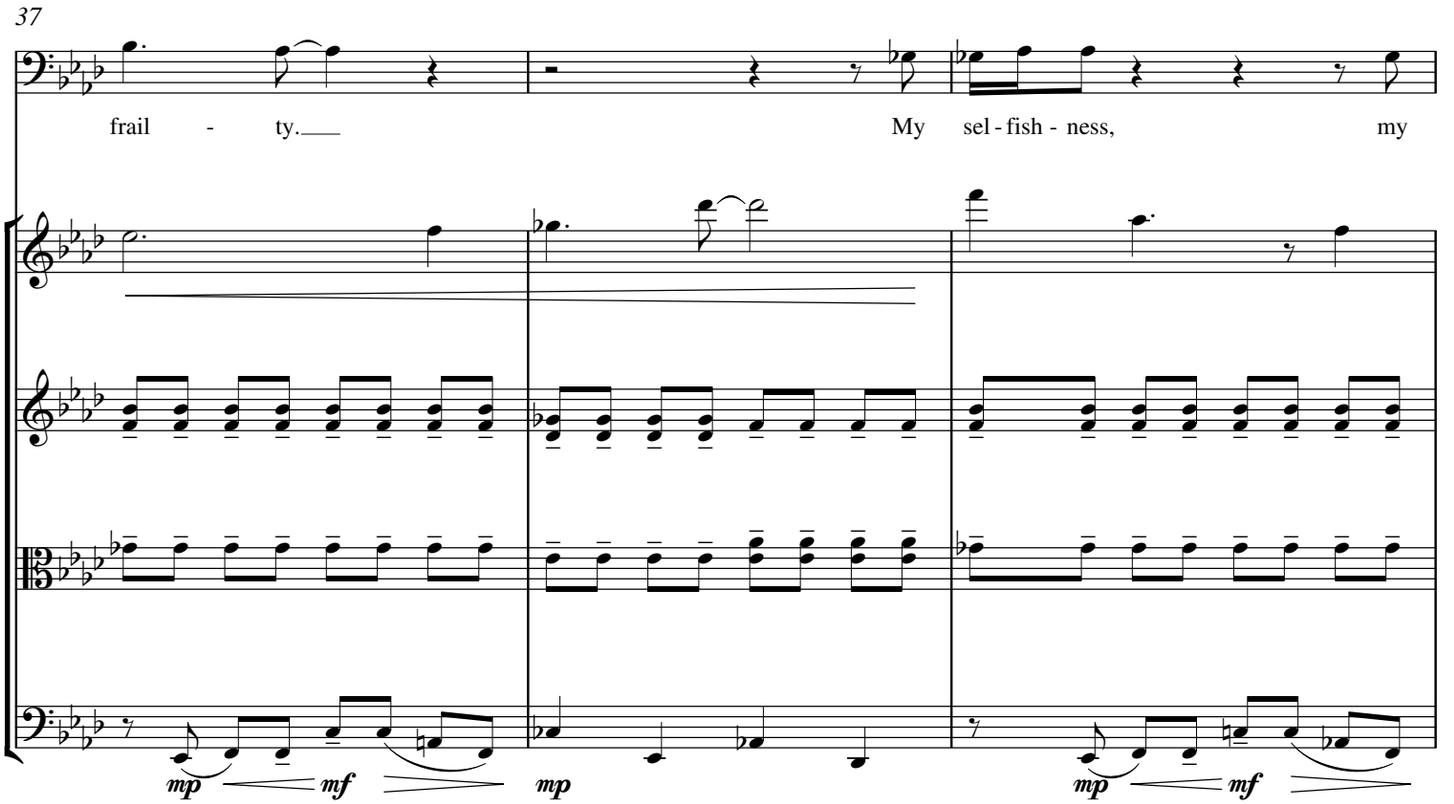

died. The air, fi-nal - ly, be - came im - pos - si-ble to breathe.
pp
mp
pp
mp
pp
mp
pp
mp

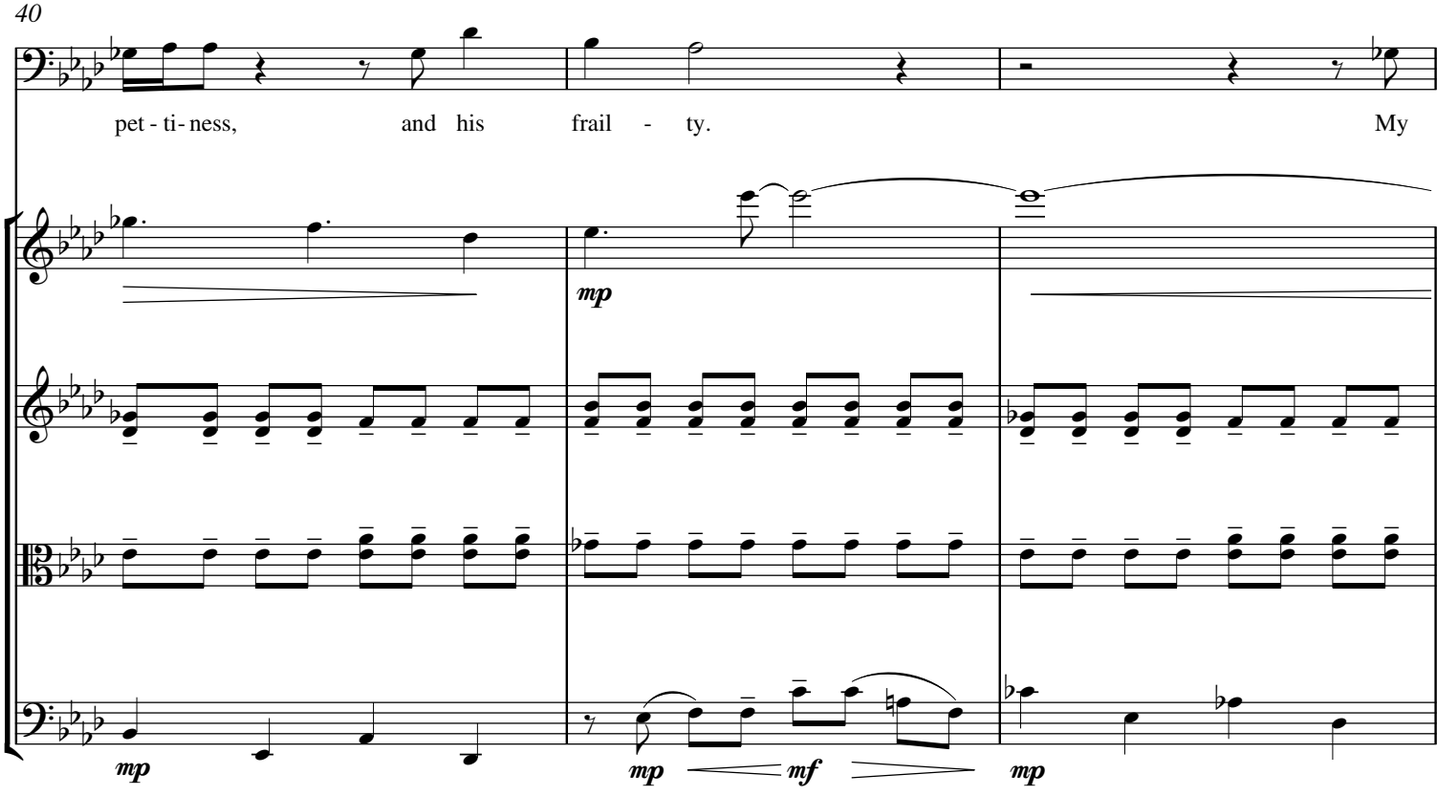

21
Più mosso ♩ = 60
From the is-land of our bed I stared for hours at all that was left of that day.
subito pp
subito pp
subito pp
subito pp

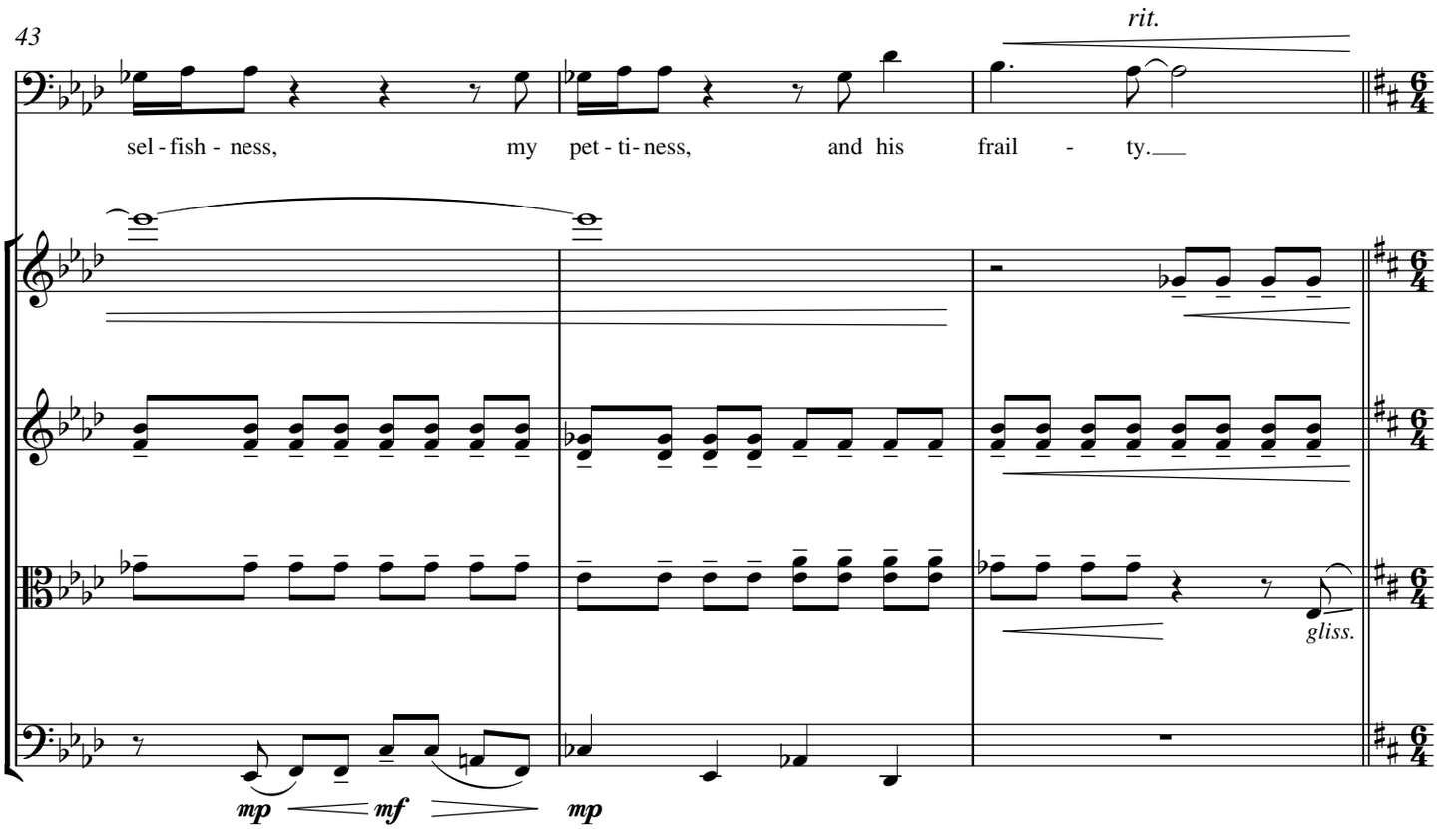

26
♩ = 96
senza sord.
mf
senza sord.
mf
senza sord.
mf
senza sord.
mf

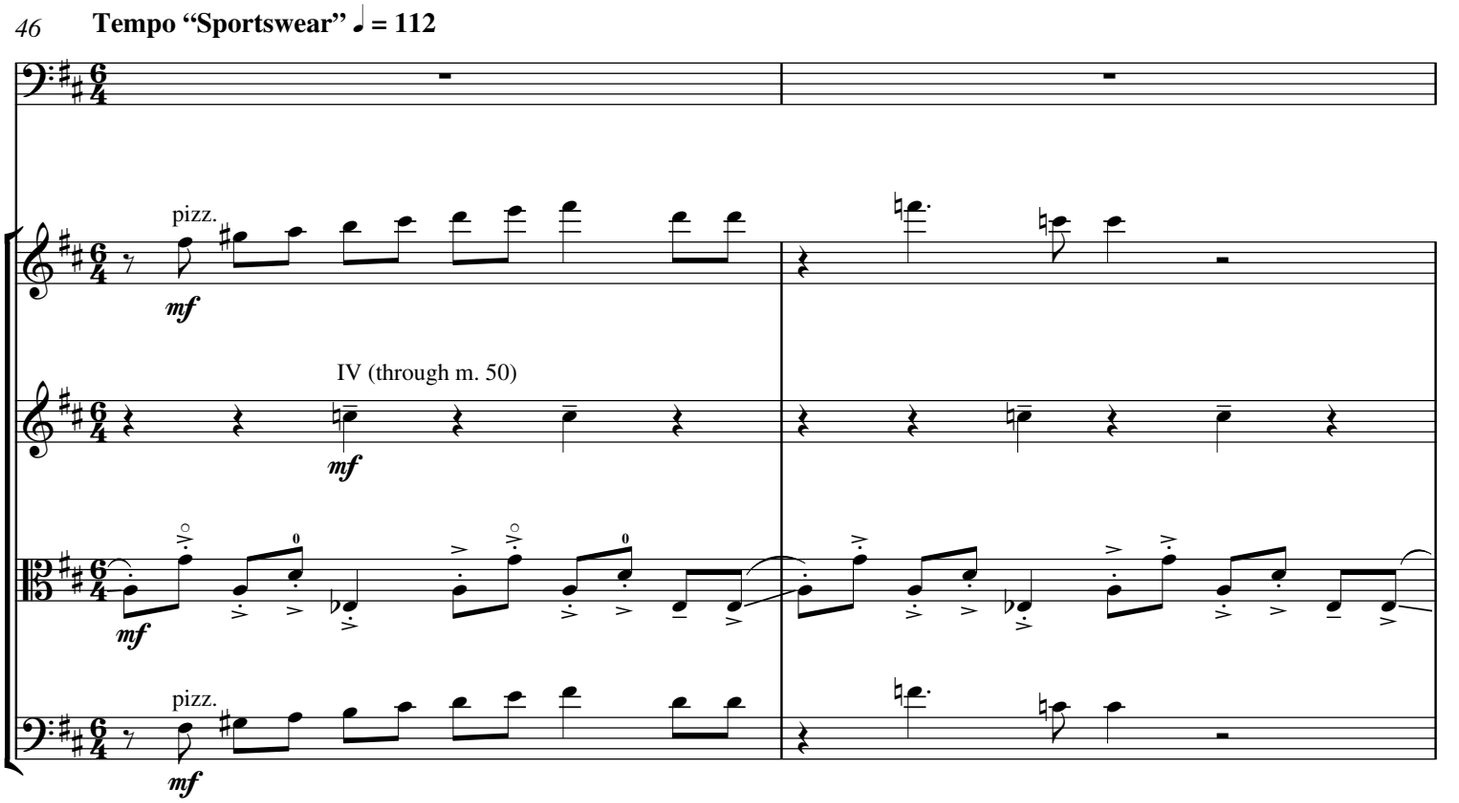

Maestoso ♩ = 60
29
Green snea - kers, re - min - ders of my sel-fish - ness, my pet - ti - ness, and his
ff
mp
mp
mf
mp

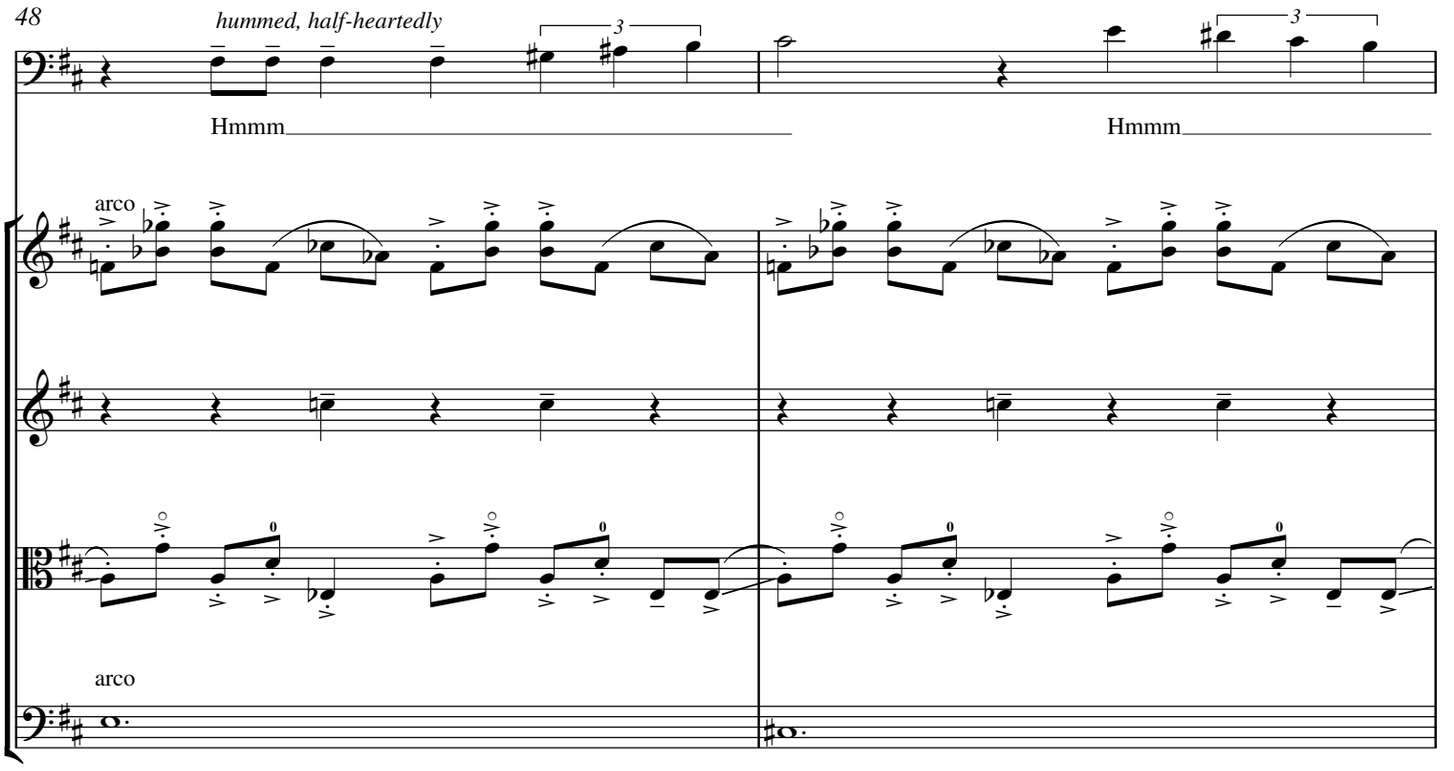

33
frail - ty. My sel - fish - ness, my pet - ti - ness, and his
espress.
mp
mp
mf
mp
mp
mf
mp

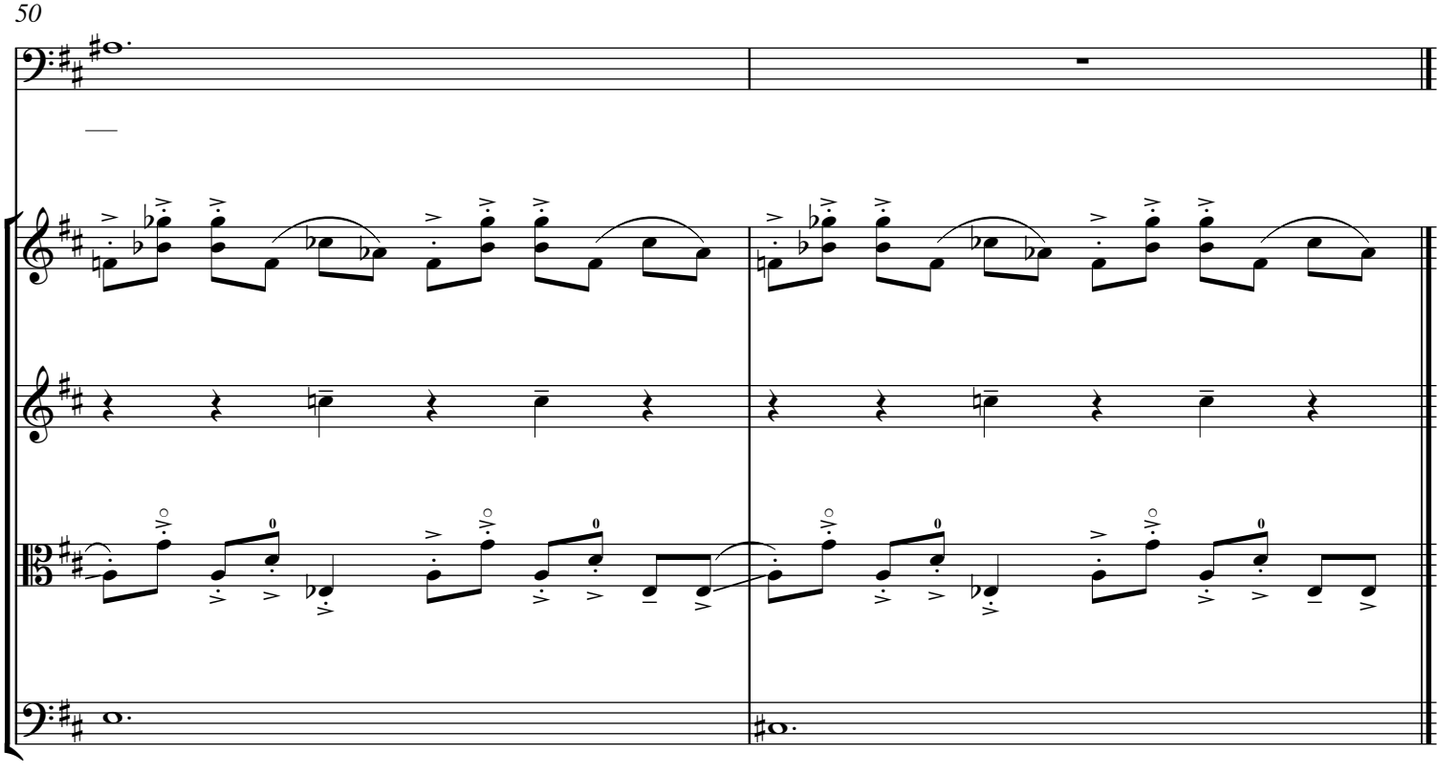

37
frail - ty.
My sel - fish - ness, my
mp
mf
mp
mp
mf

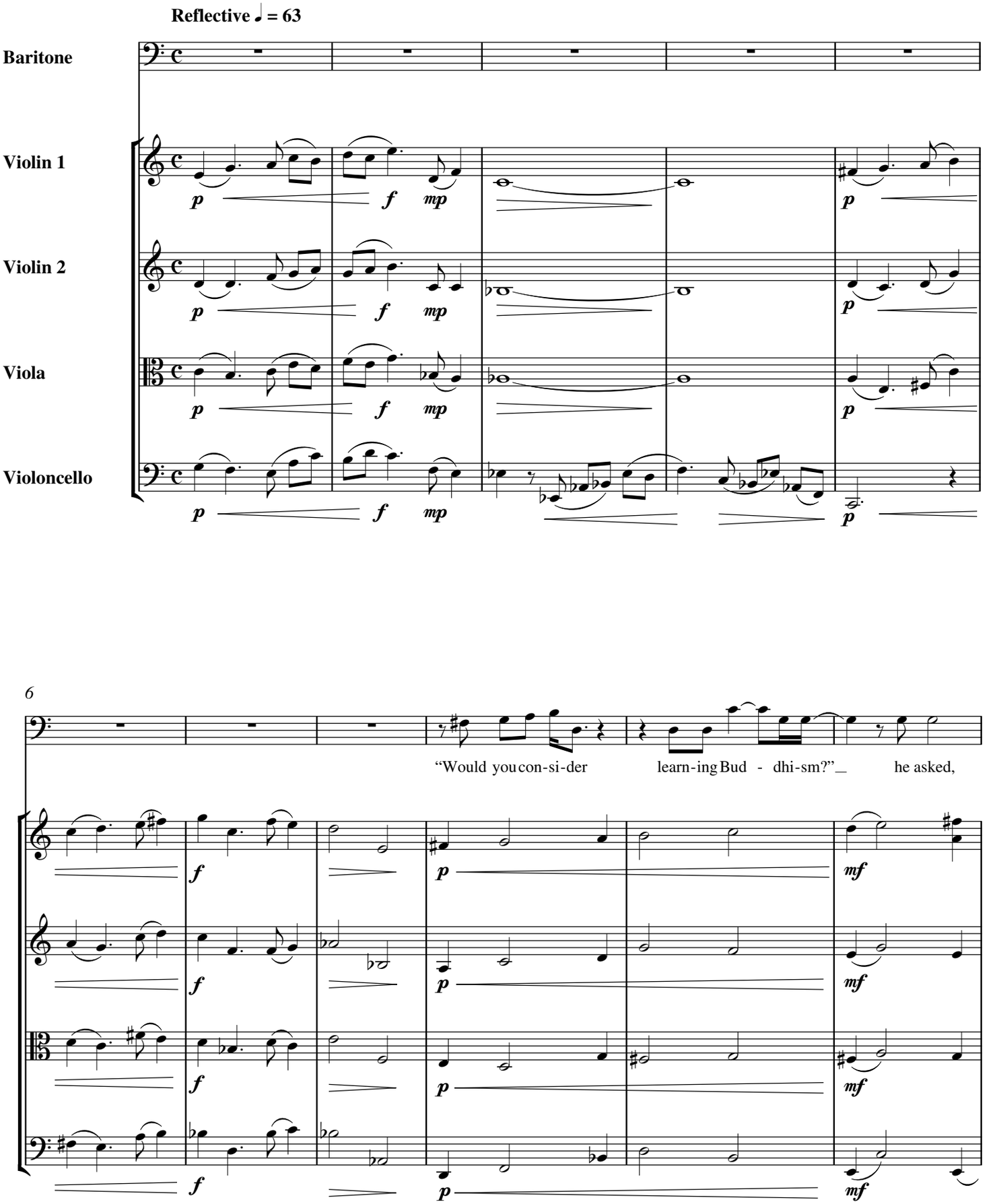

40
pet - ti - ness, and his frail - ty. My
mp
mp
mp
mf
mp

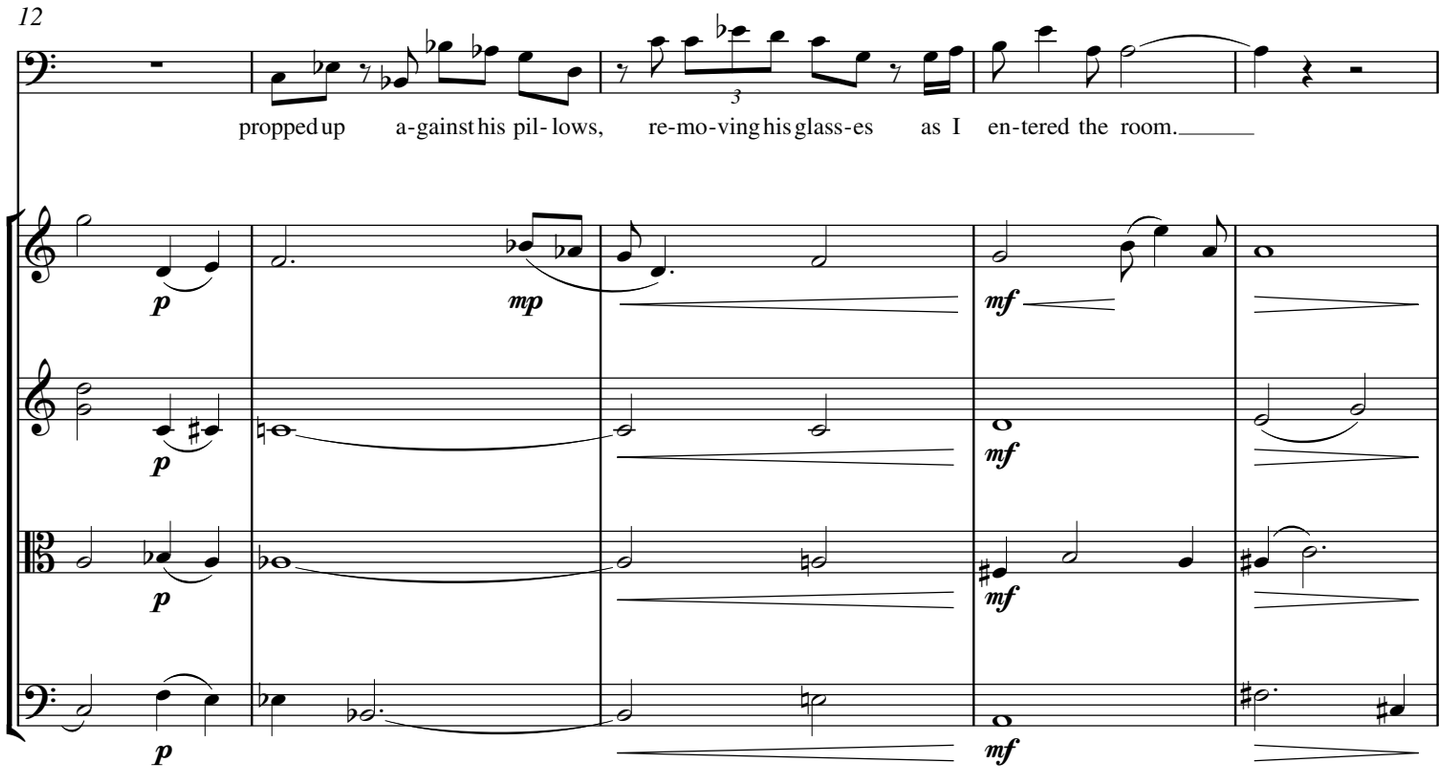

43
rit.
sel - fish - ness, my pet - ti - ness, and his frail - ty.
gliss.
mp
mf
mp

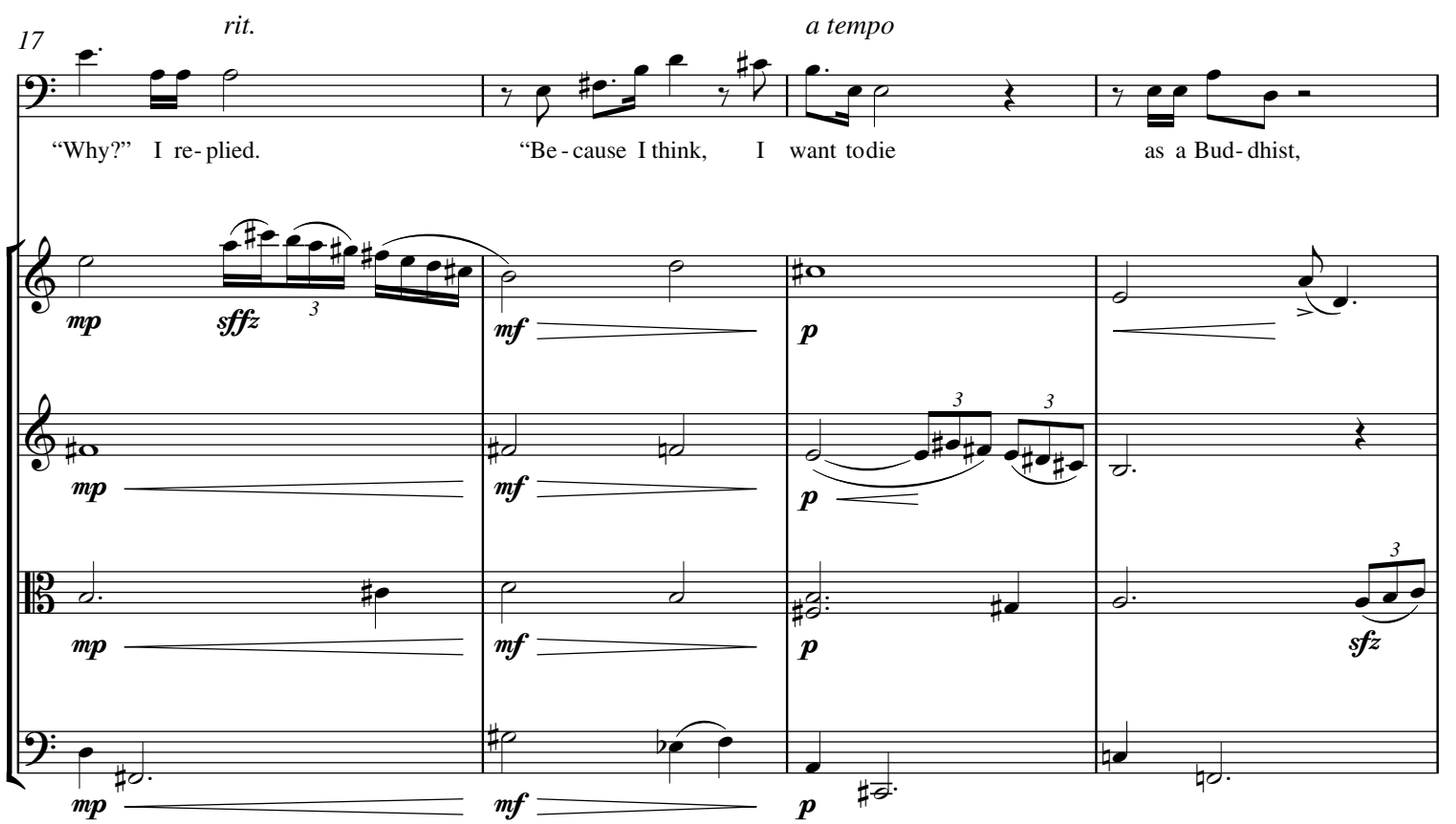

46
Tempo "Sportswear" ♩ = 112
pizz.
mf
IV (through m. 50)
mf
mf
pizz.
mf

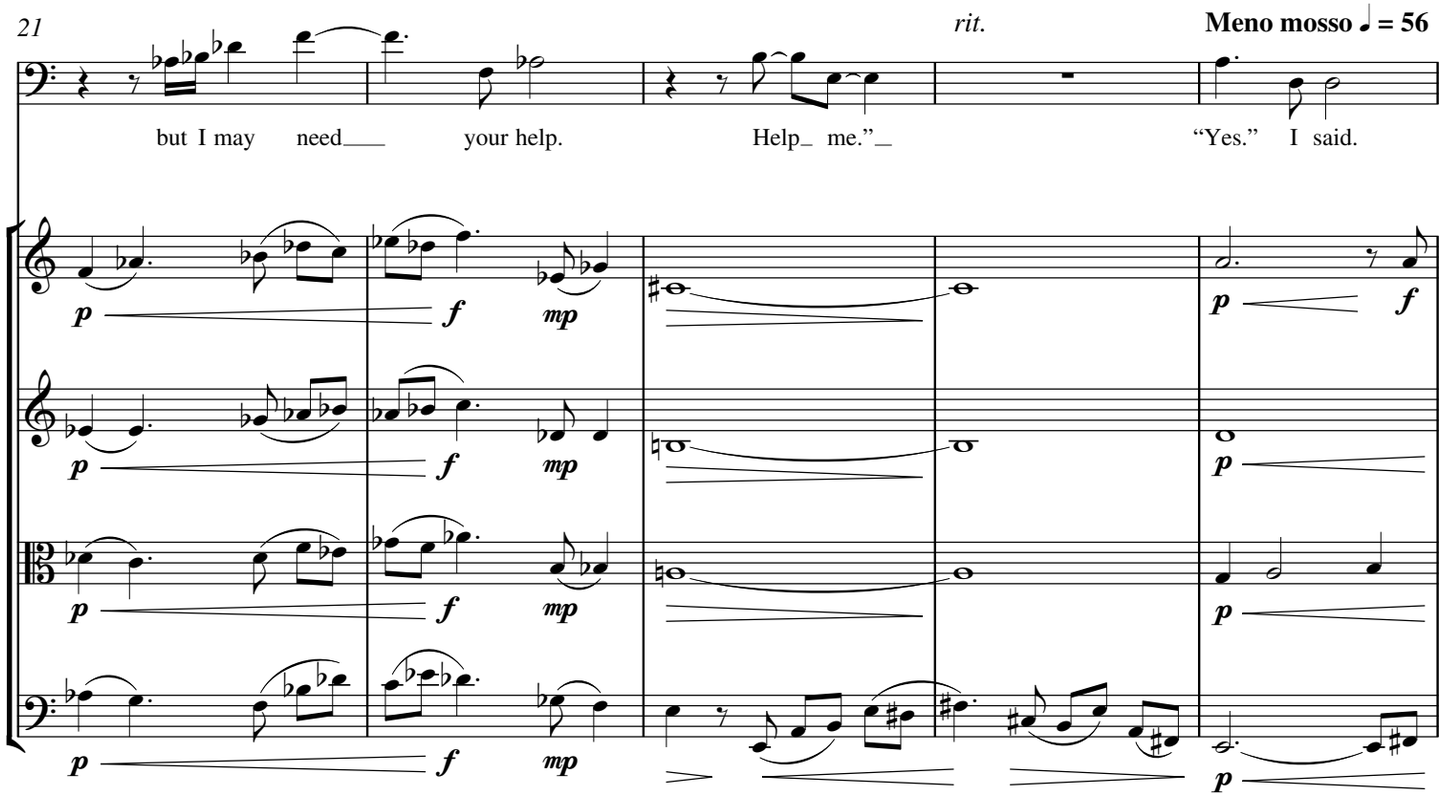

48
hummed, half-heartedly
3
3
Hmmm
Hmmm
arco
arco

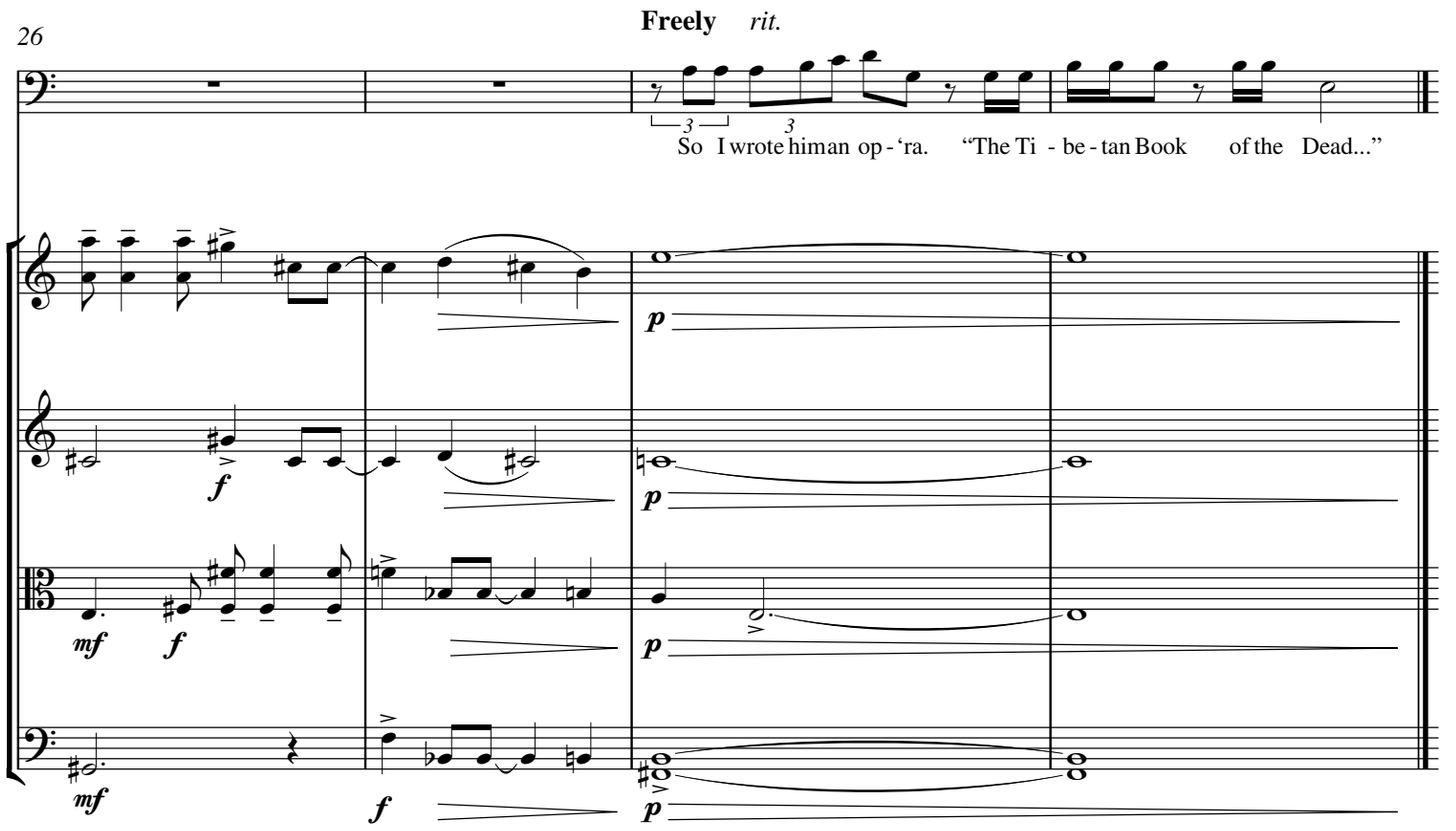

50

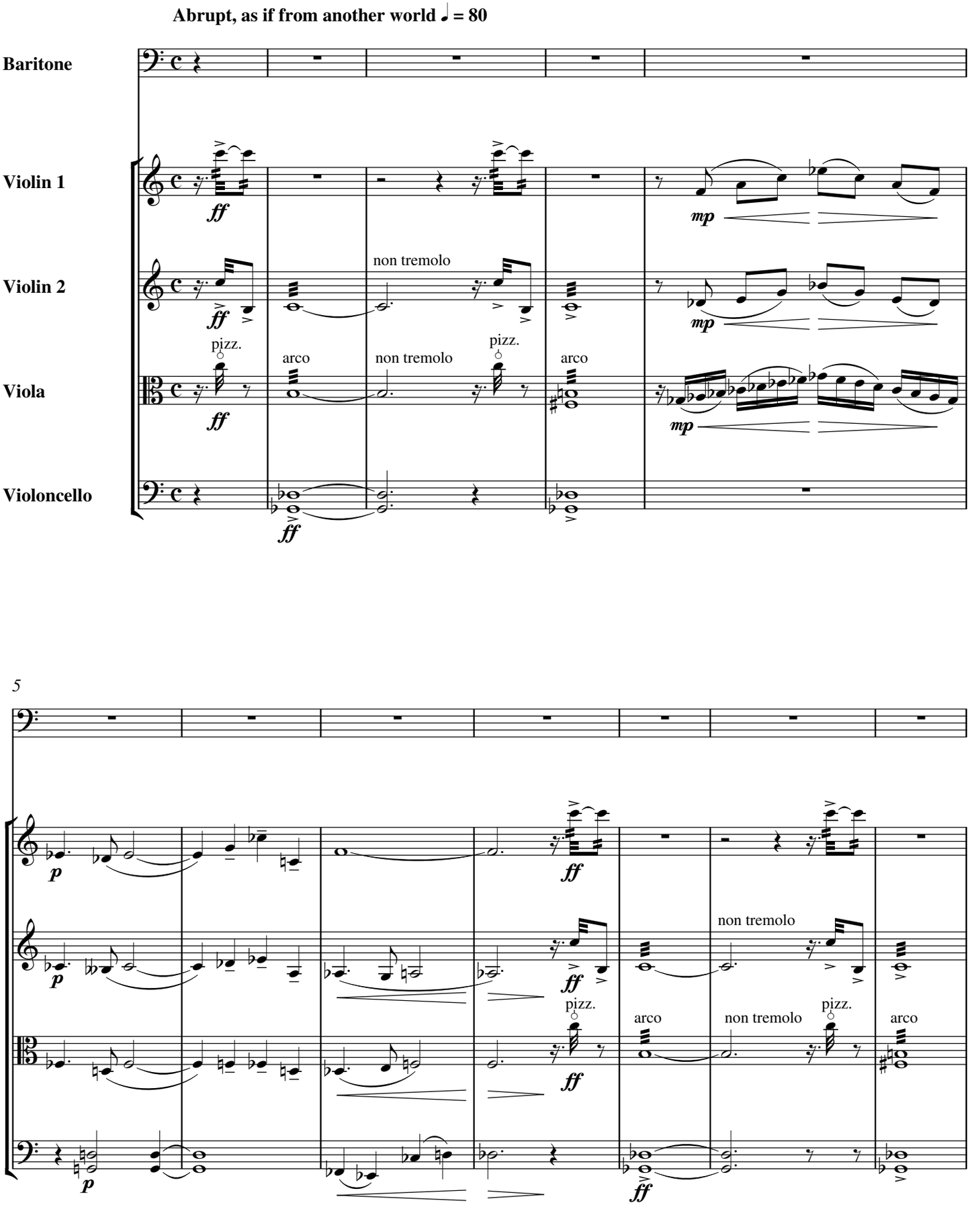

Reflective ♩ = 63
Baritone
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
p
f
mp
6
"Would you con-si-der learn-ing Bud - dhi-sm?"_ he asked,
mf


12
propped up a-gainst his pil- lows, re-mo-ving his glass-es as I en-tered the room.
p
mp
mf


17
rit.
a tempo
"Why?" I re- plied. "Be - cause I think, I want to die as a Bud- dhist,
mp
sffz
mf
p
sfz

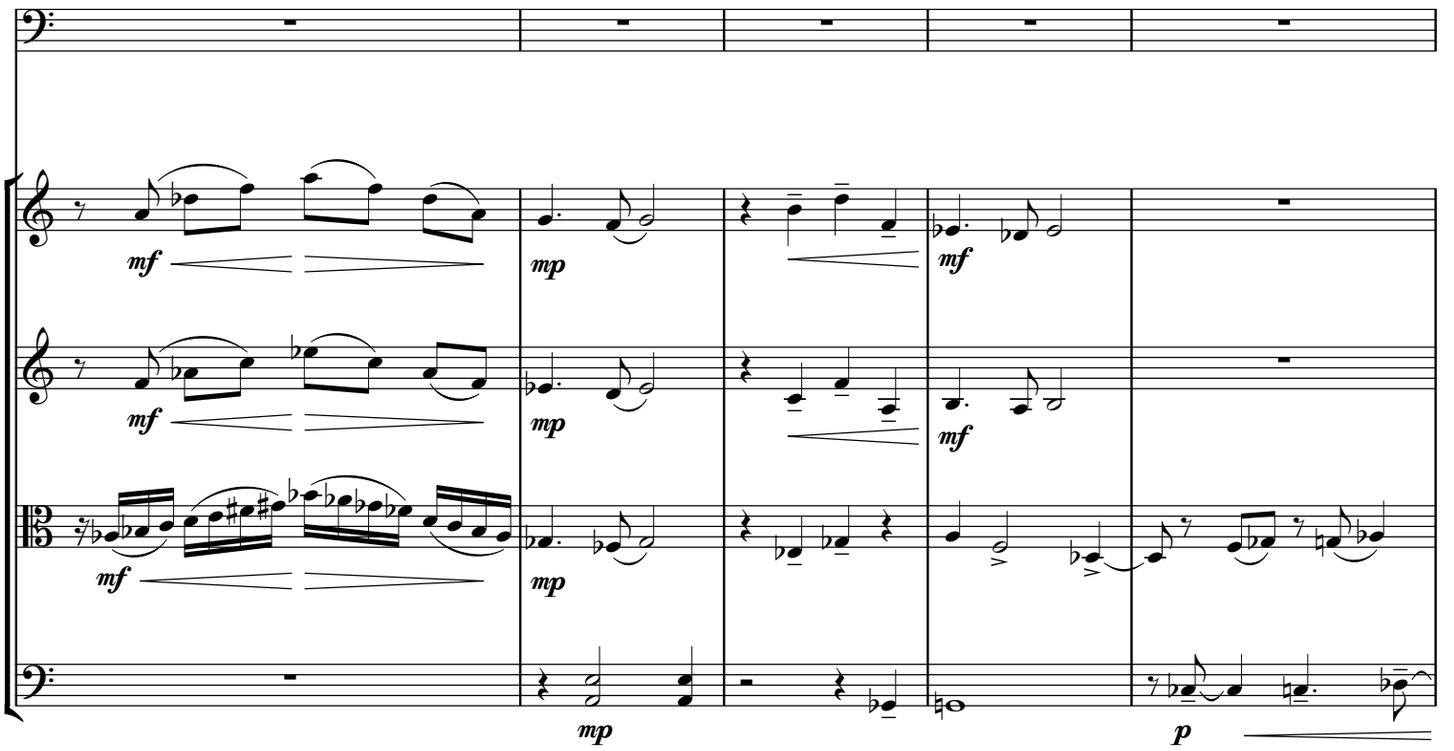

21
rit.
Meno mosso ♩ = 56
but I may need your help. Help me." "Yes." I said.


26
Freely
rit.
So I wrote him an op - 'ra. "The Ti - be - tan Book of the Dead..."


Abrupt, as if from another world ♩ = 80
Baritone
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
ff
mp
non tremolo
pizz.
arco
5
p

12

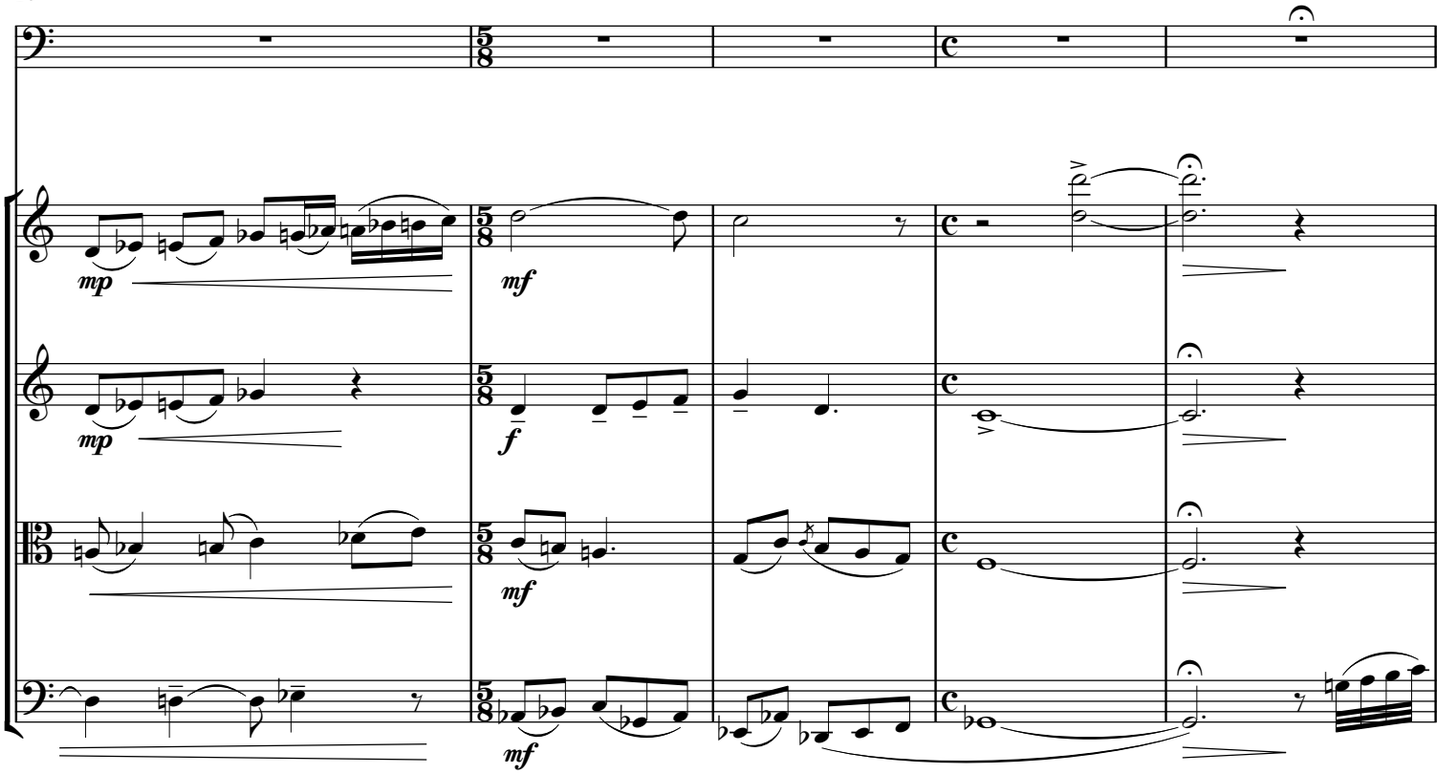
accel.



17

♪ = 184

♩ = 108



Slower, reflective ♩ = 56

22

Op - 'ras come and go. A few notes scratched on - to pa - per in a fe - ver of good -

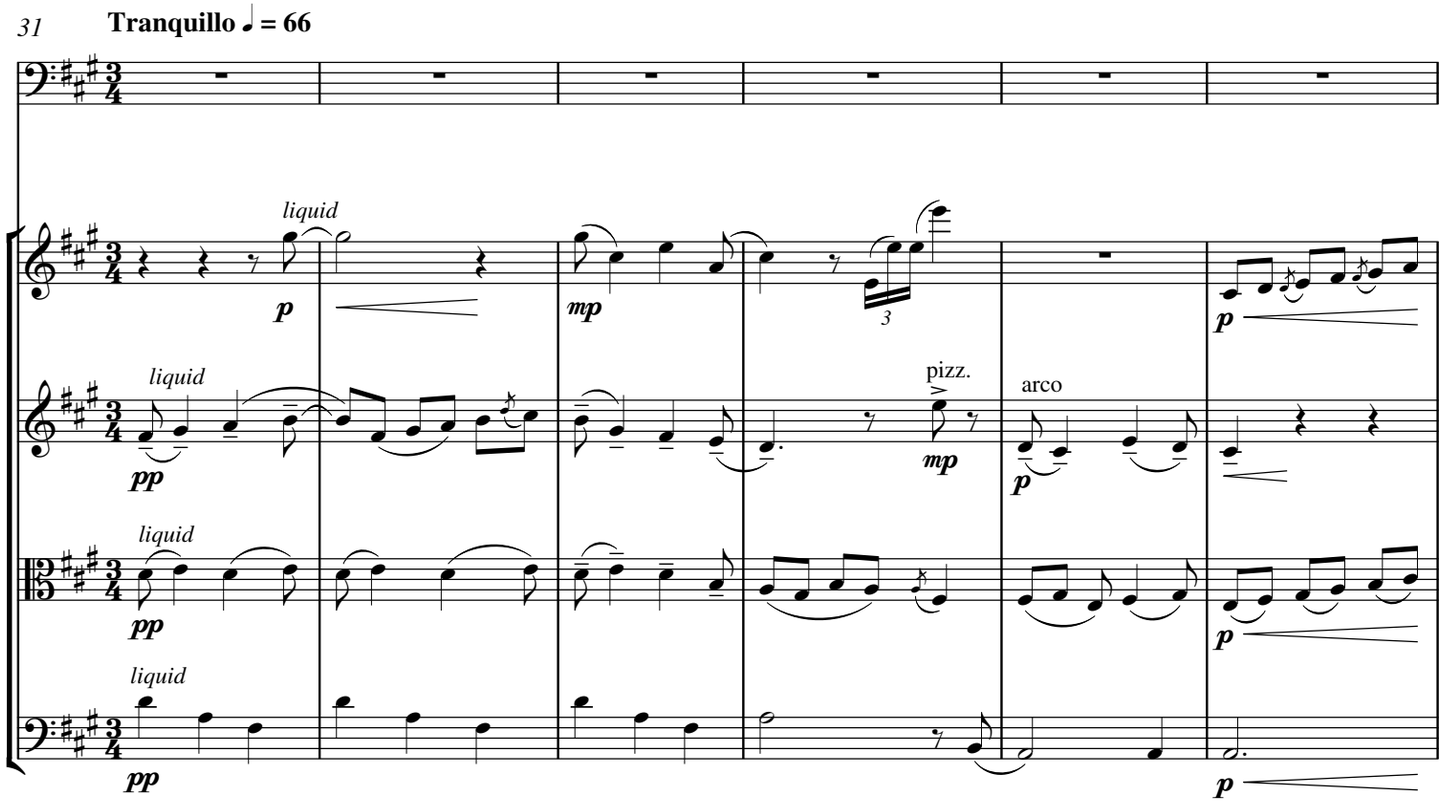
pizz. arco

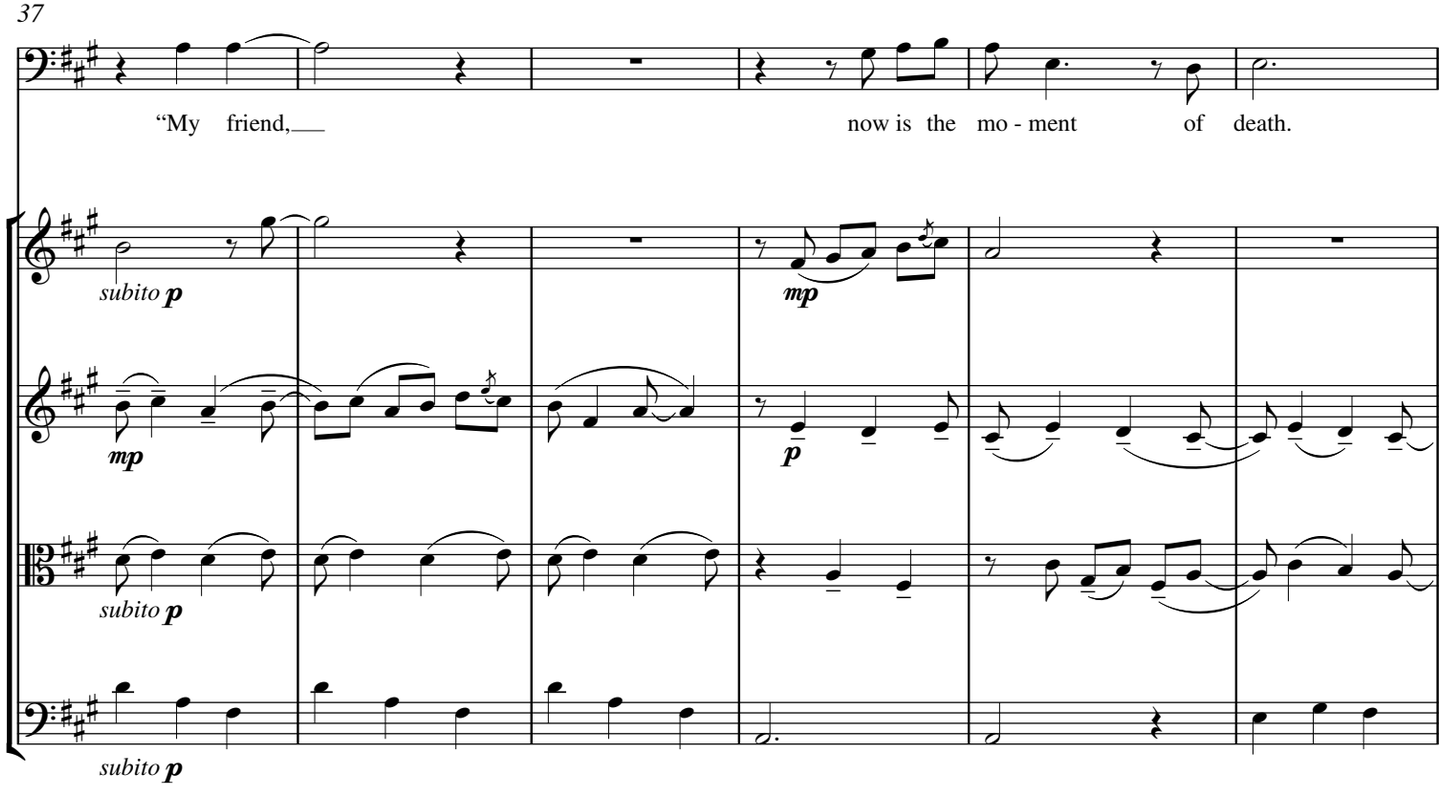
p *molto legato*

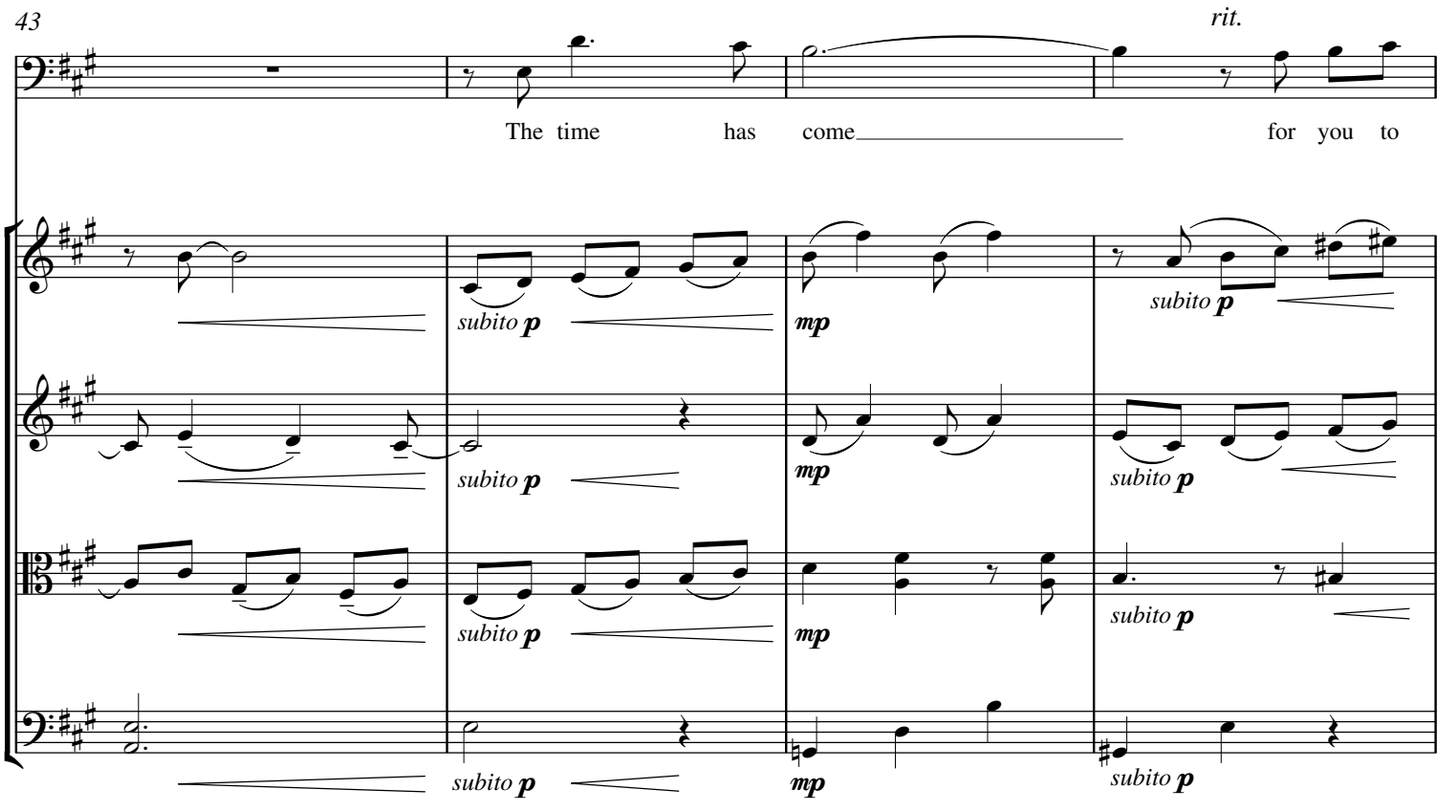
26 *molto rit.*

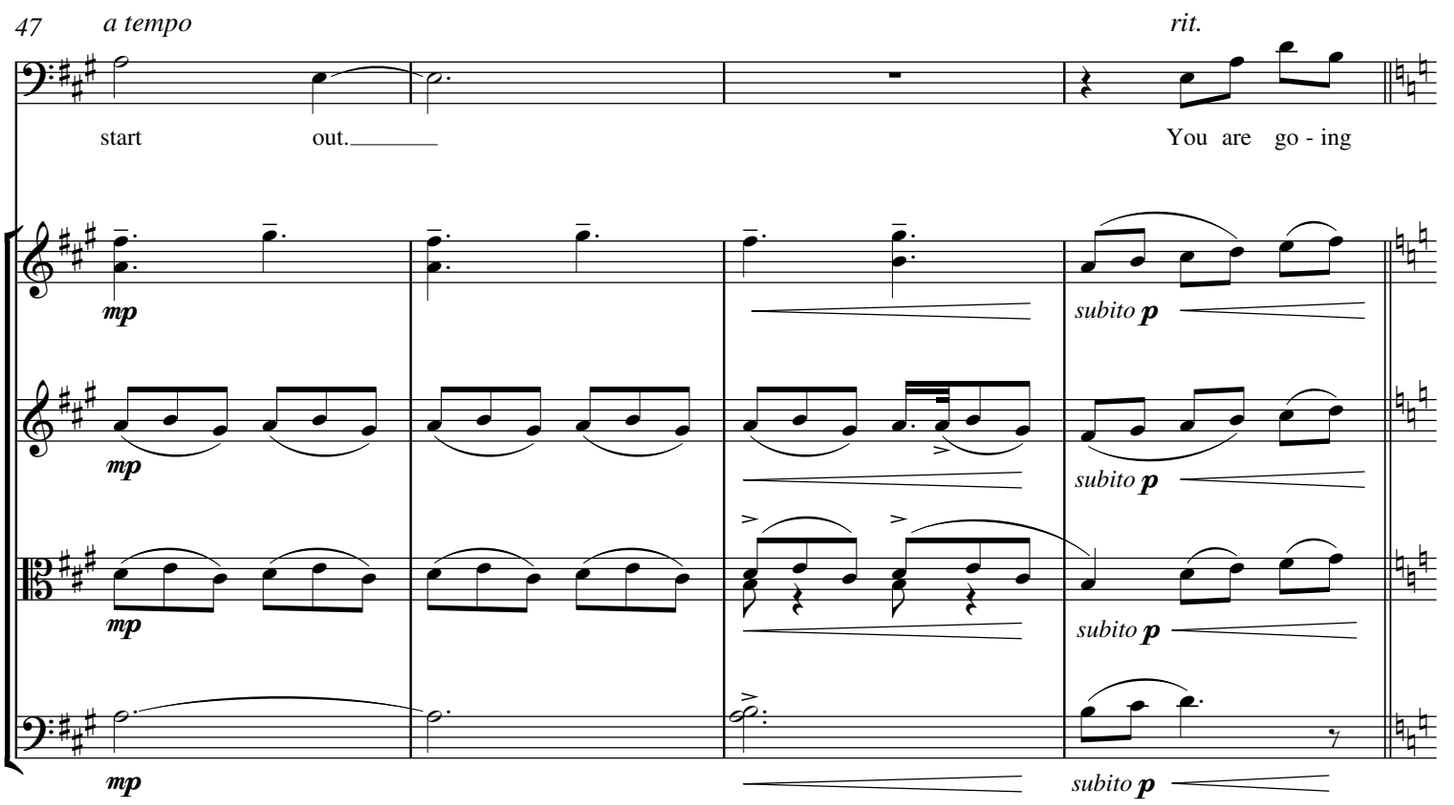
- bye. As he want - ed, at the end, I sang from it, while I held him in my arms:

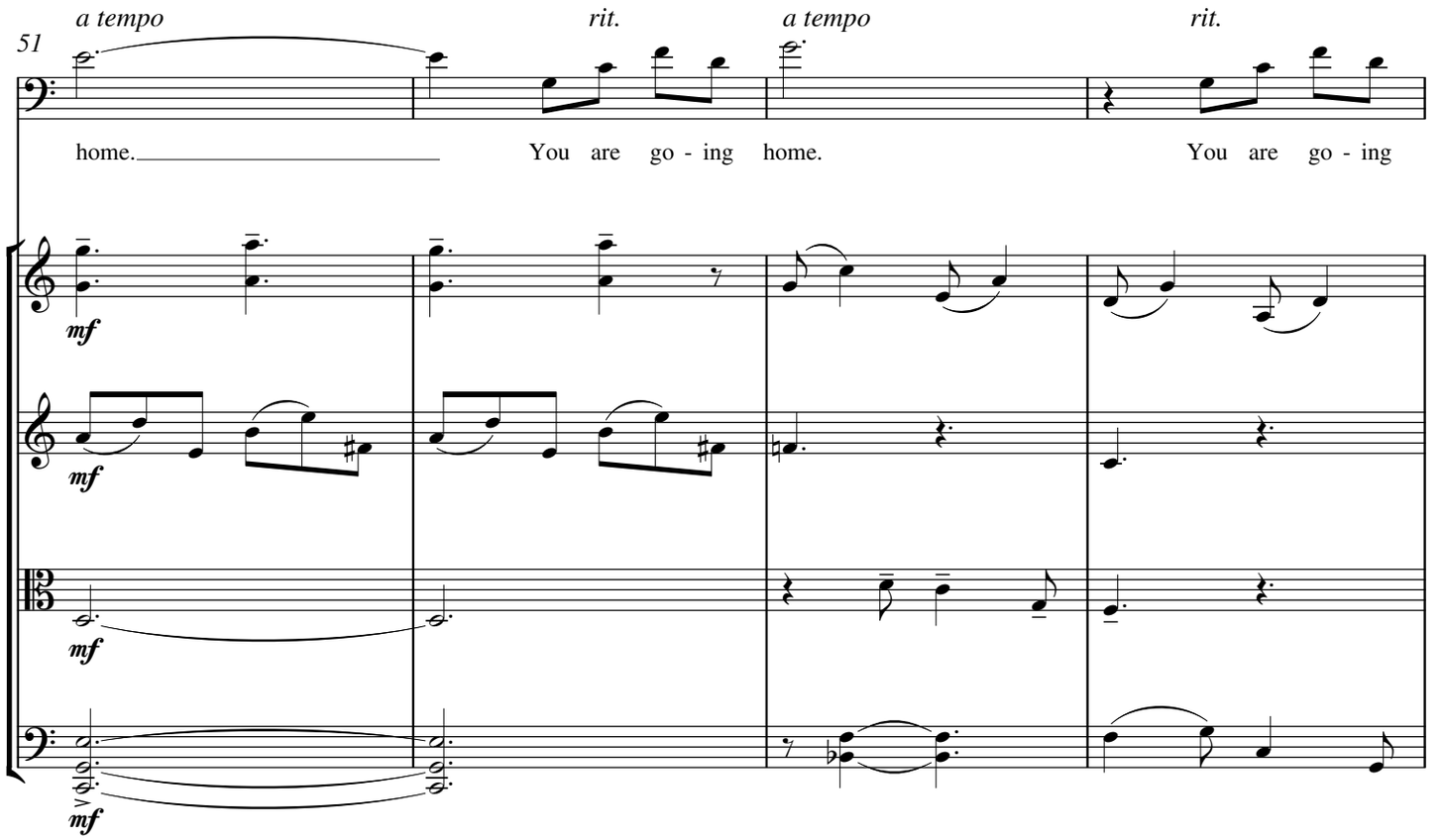
mf *pp* *p* *pp*

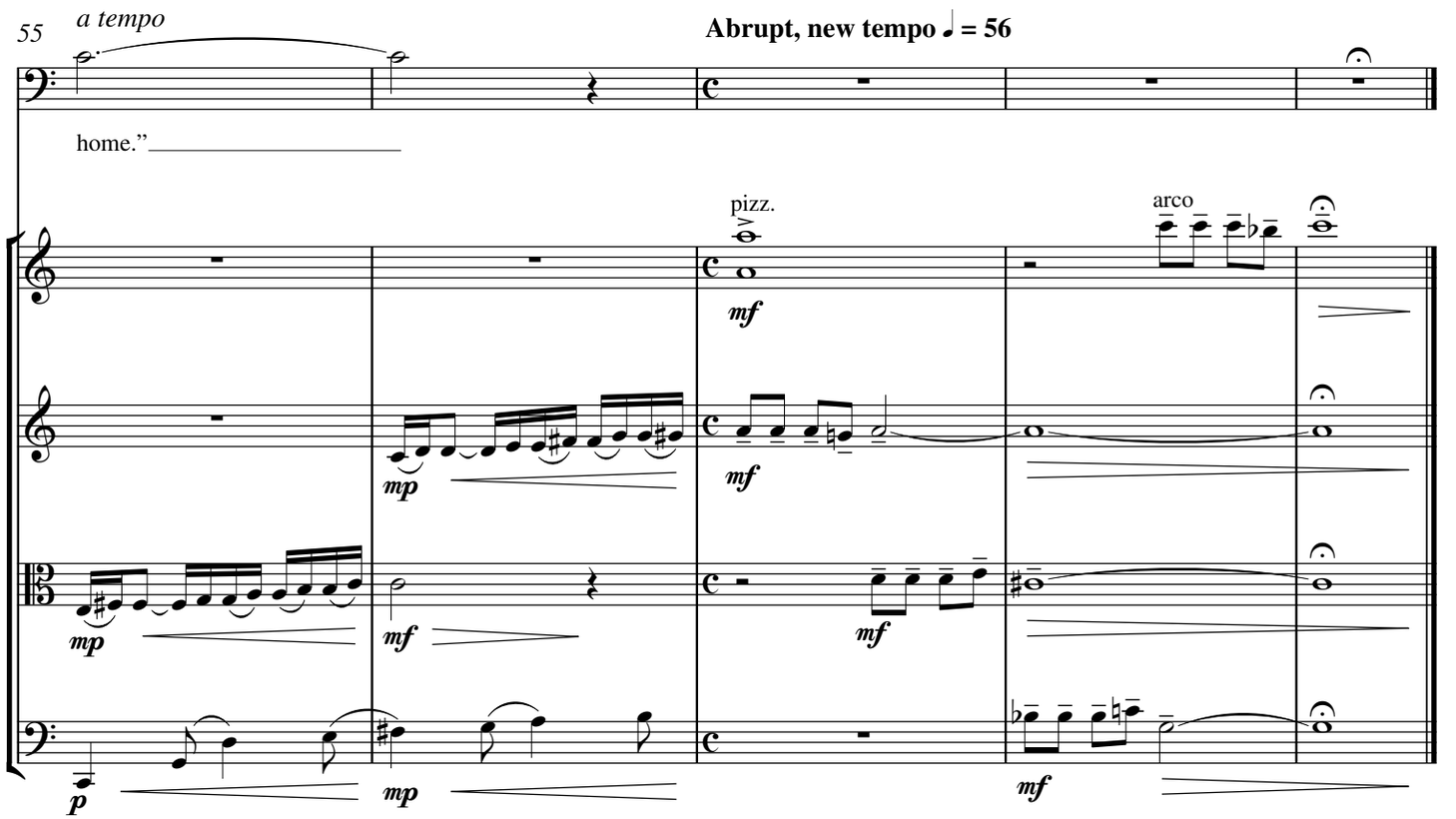

31
Tranquillo ♩ = 66
liquid
liquid
liquid
liquid
pizz.
arco

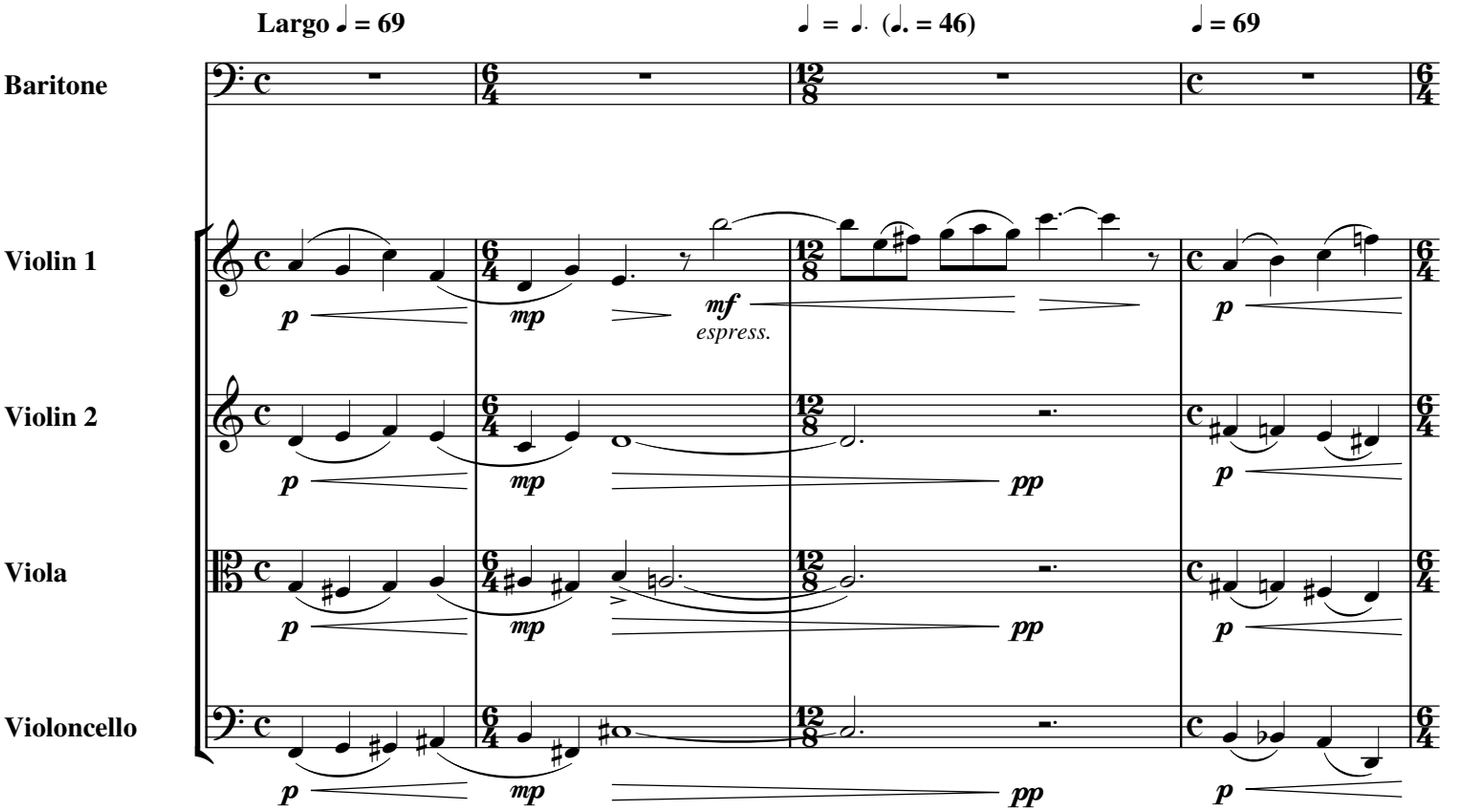

37
"My friend,
now is the mo - ment of death.
subito
subito
subito

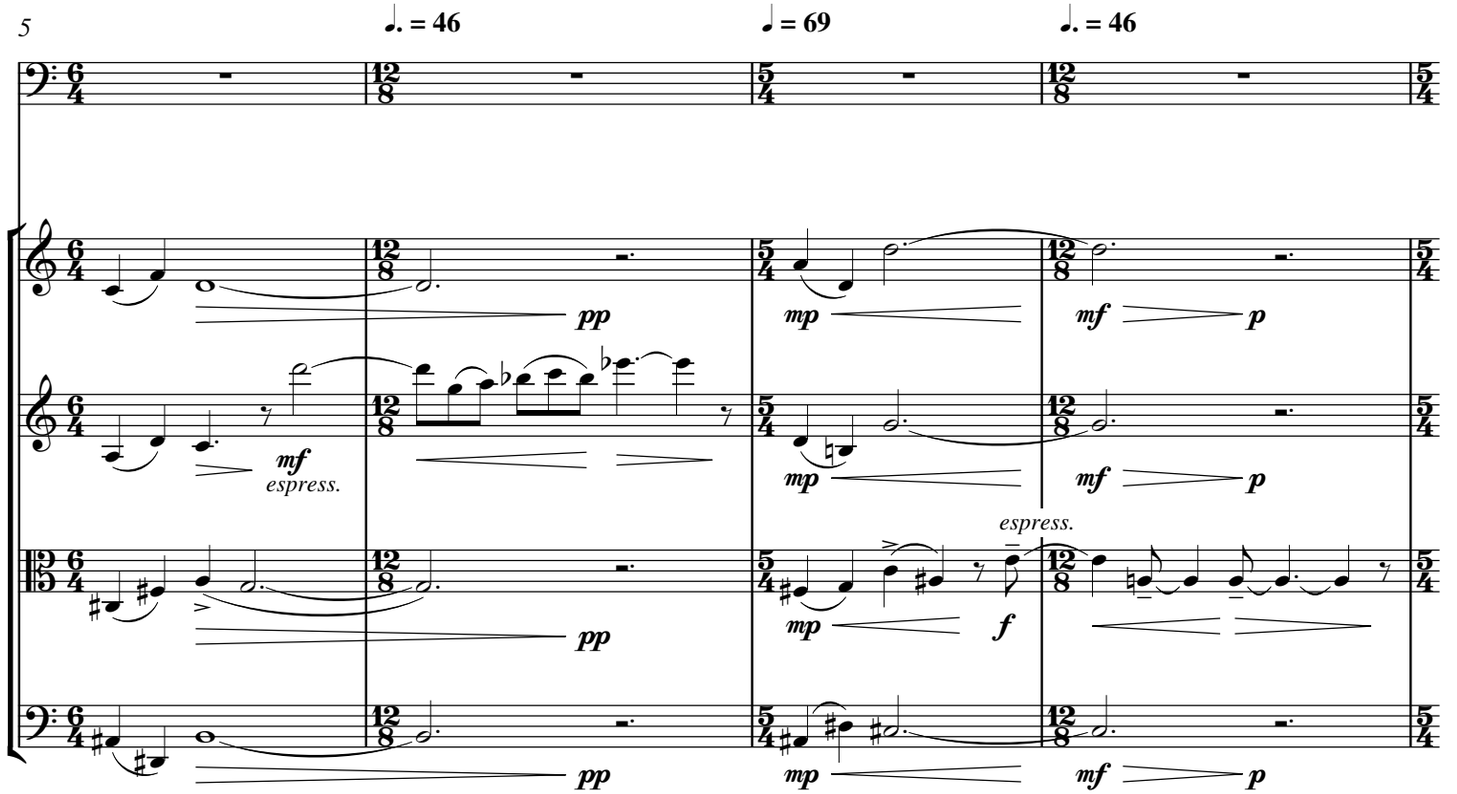

43
rit.
The time has come for you to
subito p
mp
subito p
subito p
mp
subito p
subito p
mp
subito p
subito p
mp
subito p

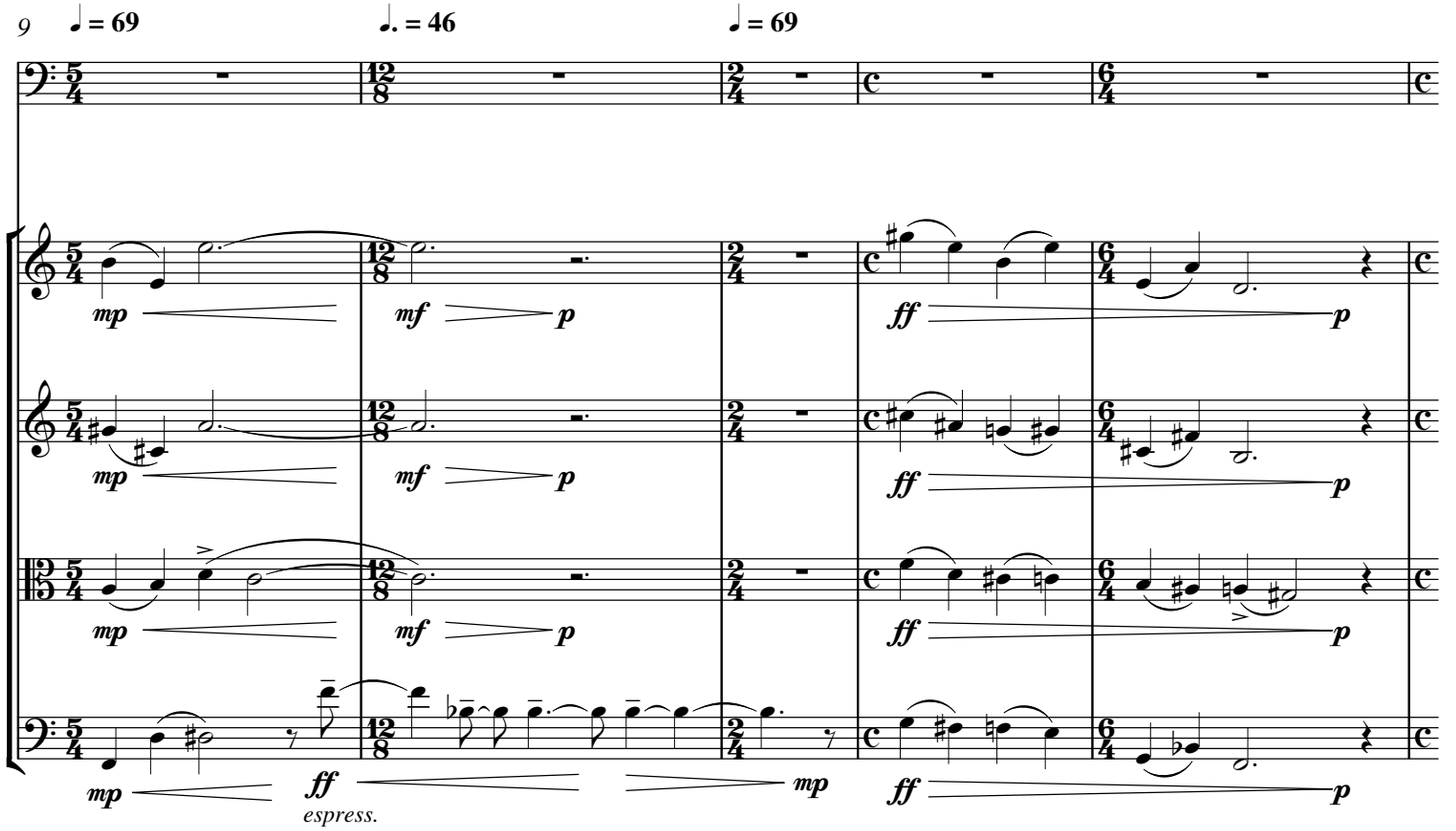

47
a tempo
rit.
start out.
You are go - ing
mp
subito p
mp
subito p
mp
subito p
mp
subito p

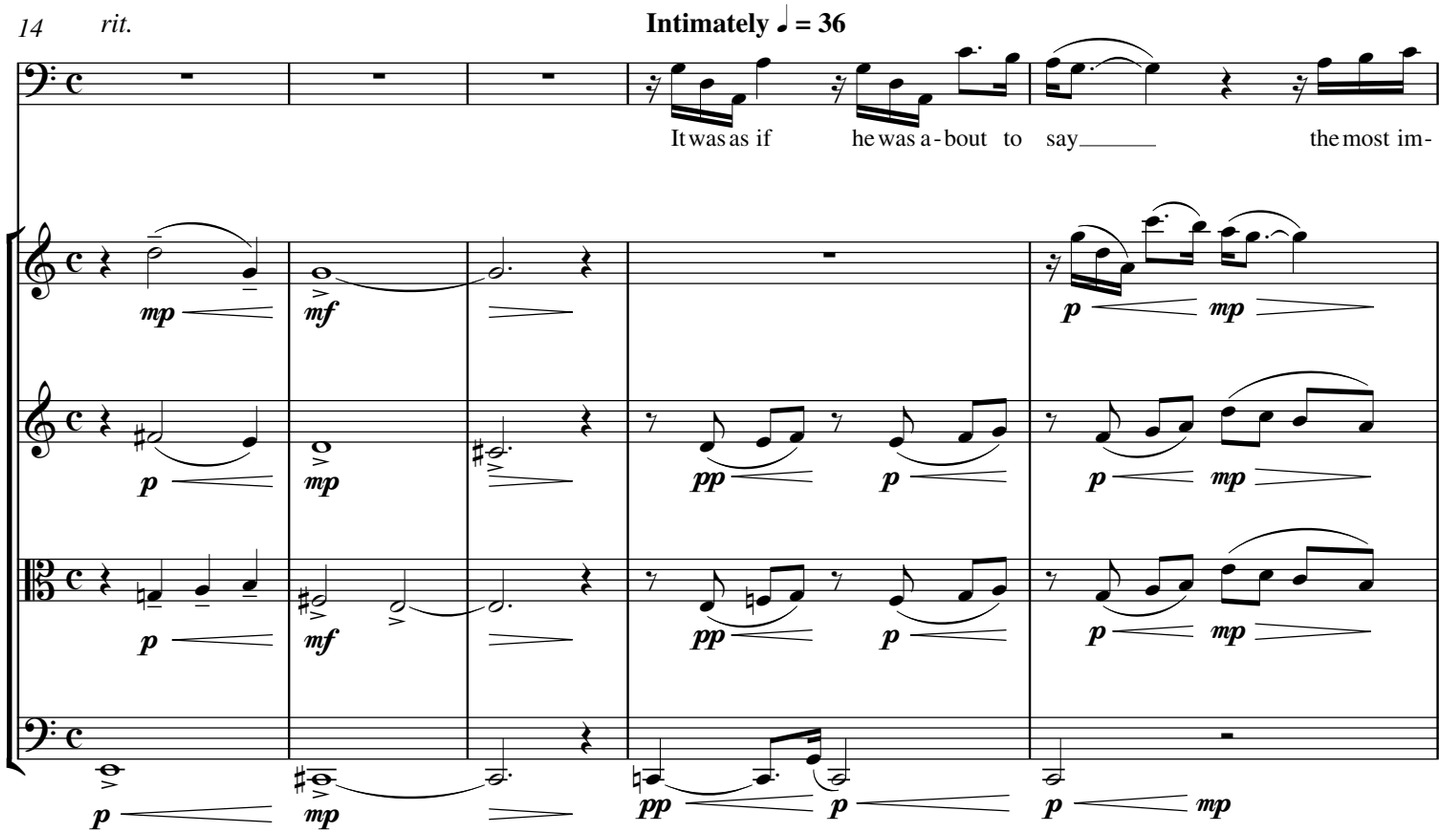

51
a tempo
rit.
a tempo
rit.
home.
You are go - ing home.
You are go - ing
mf
mf
mf
mf

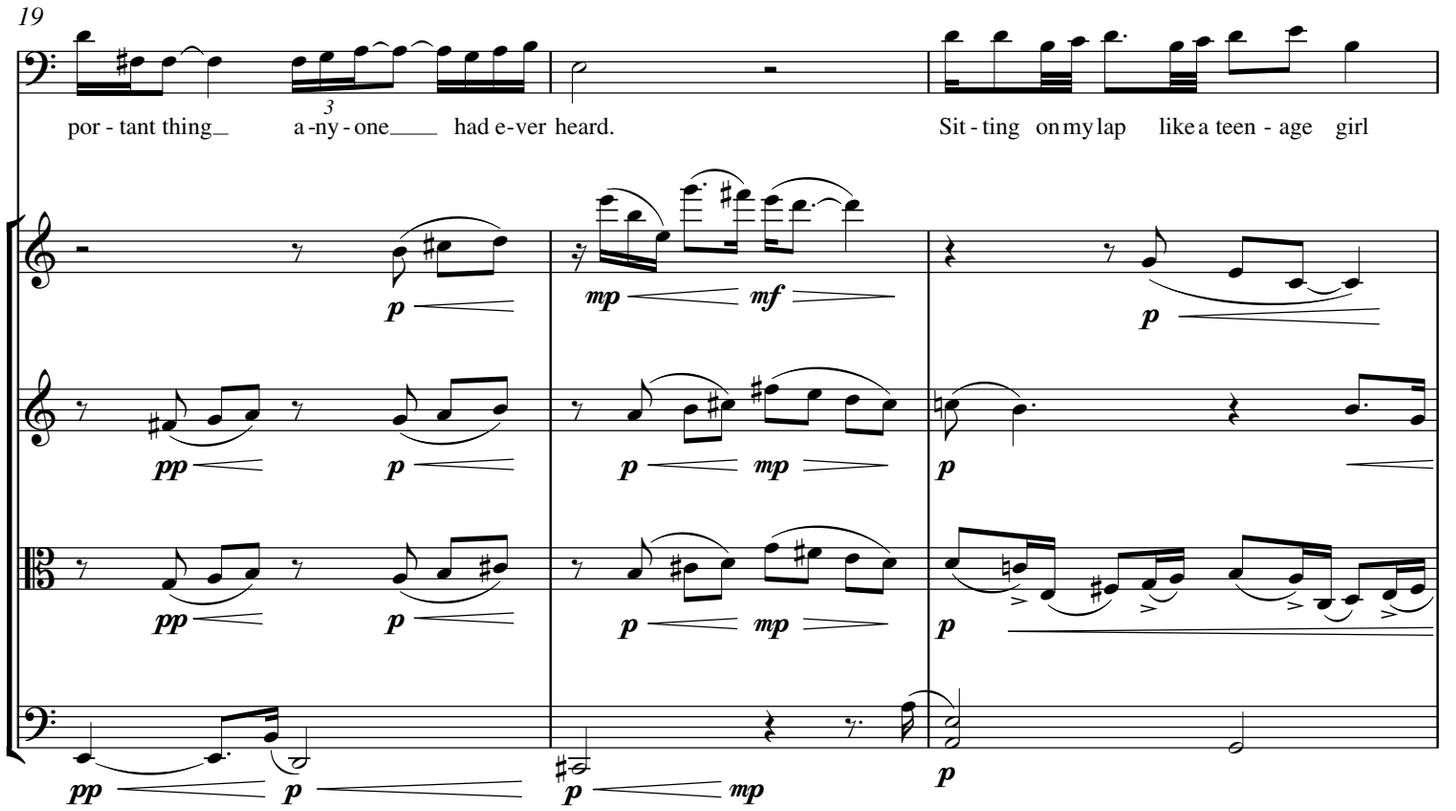

55
a tempo
Abrupt, new tempo ♩ = 56
home."
pizz.
arco
mf
mp
mf
mp
mf
mf
p
mp
mf

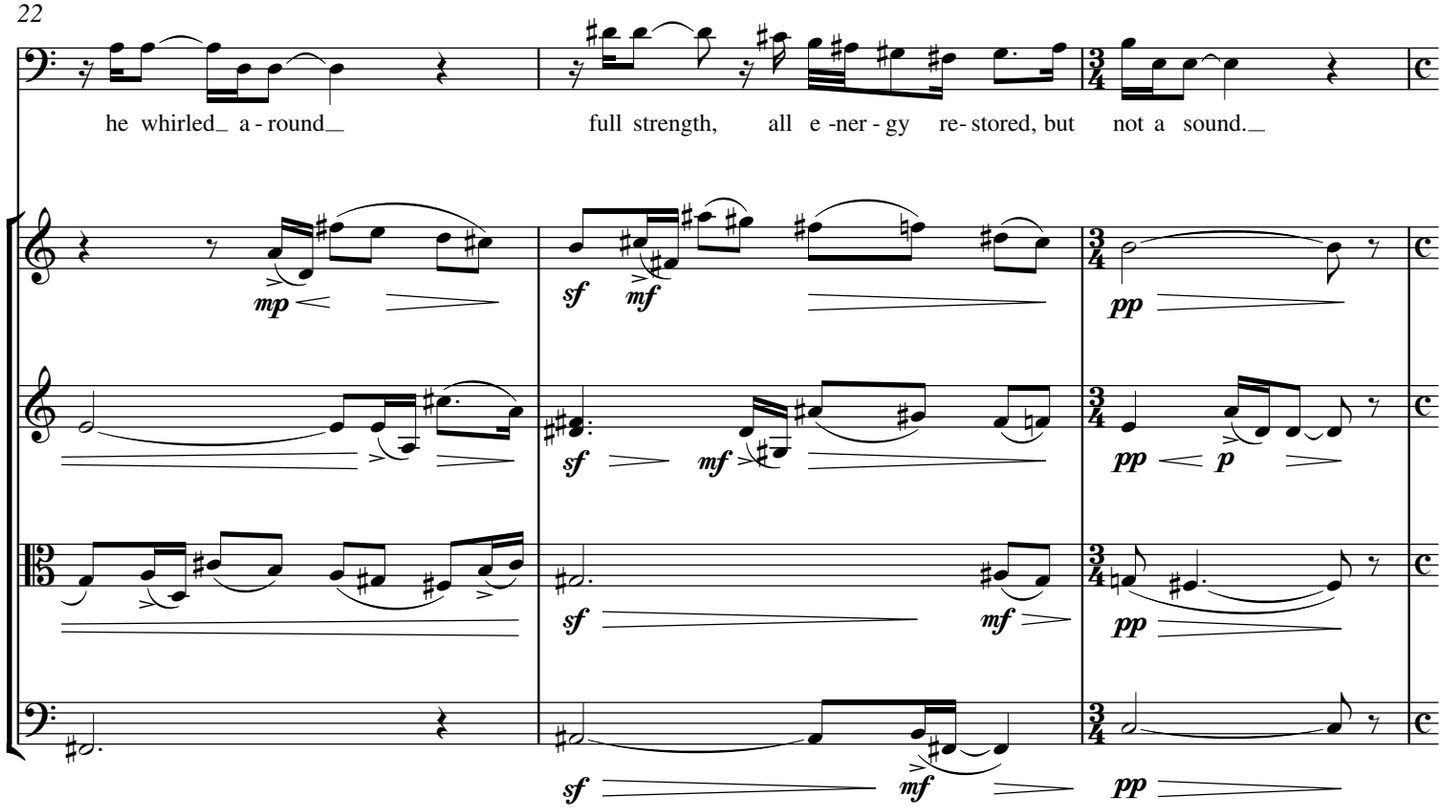

Largo ♩ = 69
♩ = ♩. (♩. = 46)
♩ = 69
Baritone
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
p
mp
mf
espress.
pp

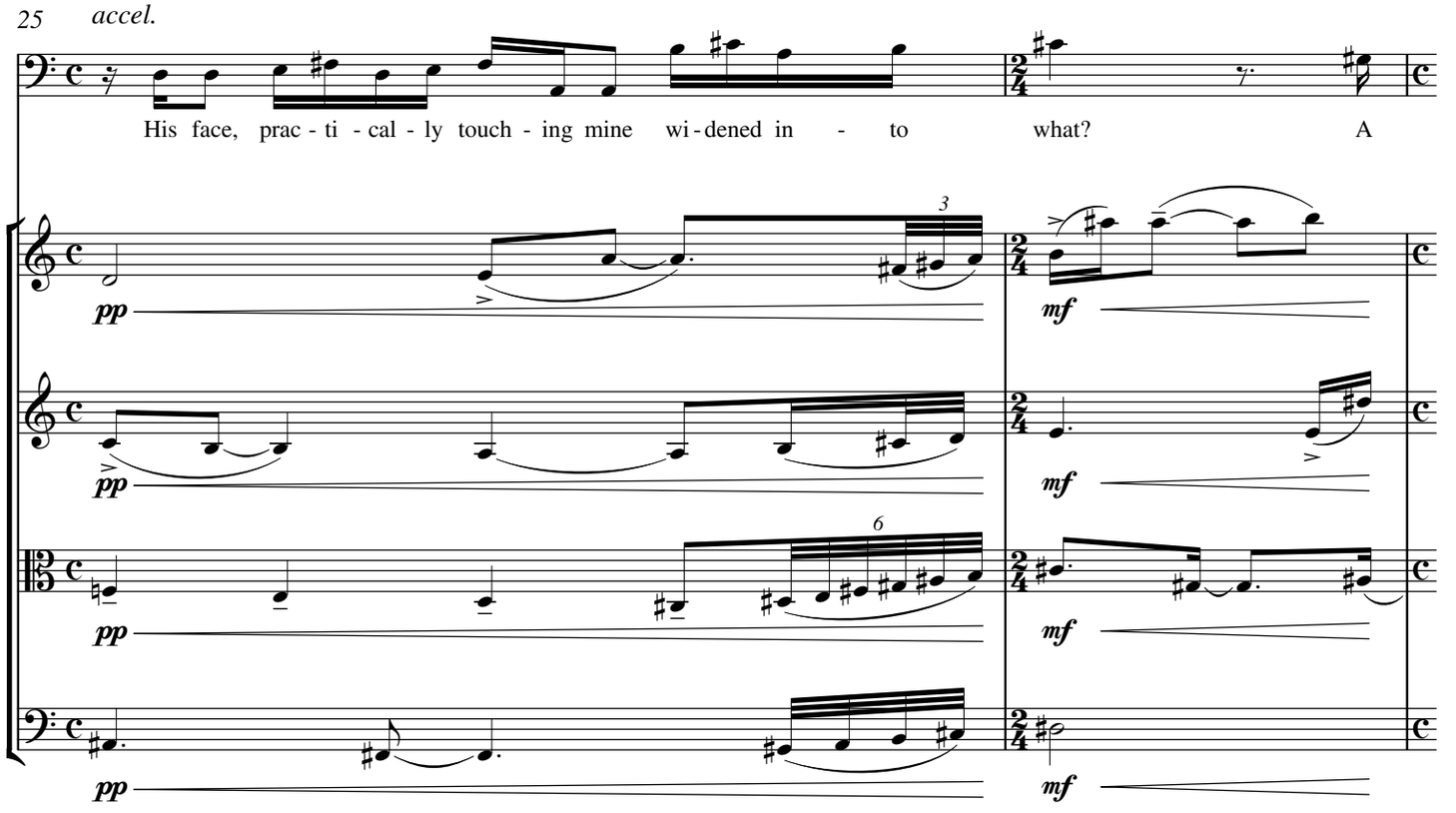

5
♩. = 46
♩ = 69
♩. = 46
mf
espress.
pp
mp
f
p

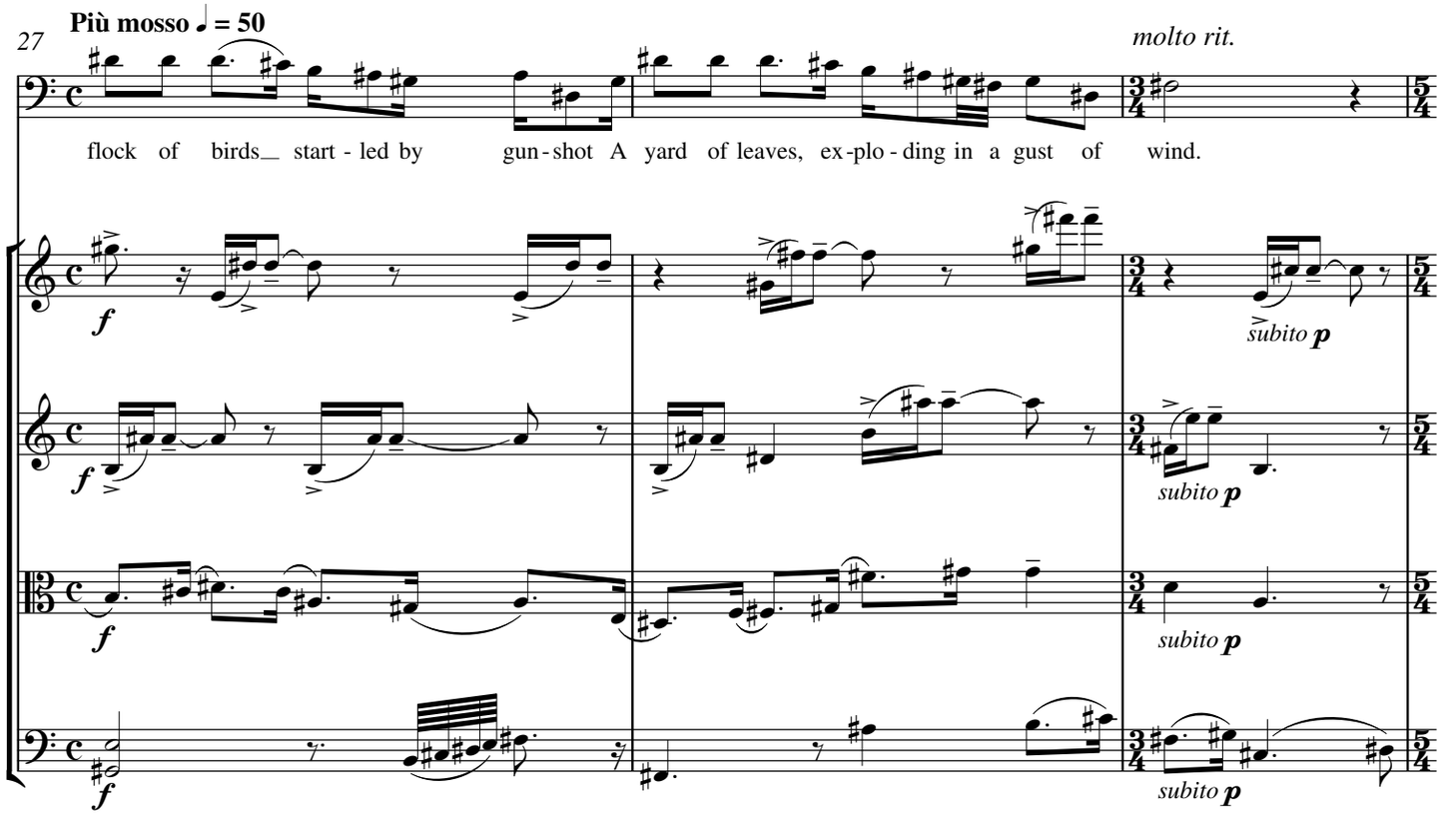

9
♩ = 69
♩. = 46
♩ = 69
mp
mf
p
ff
p
mp
mf
p
ff
p
mp
mf
p
ff
p
mp
ff
espress.
mp
ff
p


14
rit.
Intimately ♩ = 36
It was as if
he was a - bout
to
say
the most im-
mp
mf
p
mp
p
mf
p
pp
p
p
mp
p
mf
p
pp
p
p
mp
p
mp
pp
p
p
mp


19
por - tant thing a -ny - one had e-ver heard. Sit - ting on my lap like a teen - age girl


22
he whirled a - round full strength, all e -ner - gy re- stored, but not a sound.


25
accel.
His face, prac - ti - cal - ly touch - ing mine wi - dened in - to what? A
pp
mf


27
Più mosso ♩ = 50
molto rit.
flock of birds start - led by gun - shot A yard of leaves, ex - plo - ding in a gust of wind.
f
subito p

30 **A tempo, ma poco meno mosso ♩ = 34**

And his mouth a per - fect O. One tear trick - led from his left eye.

pizz. arco

32 *rit.*

Ho - ly Wa - ter and then the ra - di - ance, the peace.

35 **As before ♩ = 36**

What was it you meant to say, Jeff- rey? What was it? The clo - set

pp p p mp p mp pp p p mp pp p p mp

37 *rit.*

doors are still shi -ver - ing. And the for - mi - ca siz - zles with your last ap- proach.

p mp mf pp p p mp pp p p mp pp p p mp

39 *a tempo*

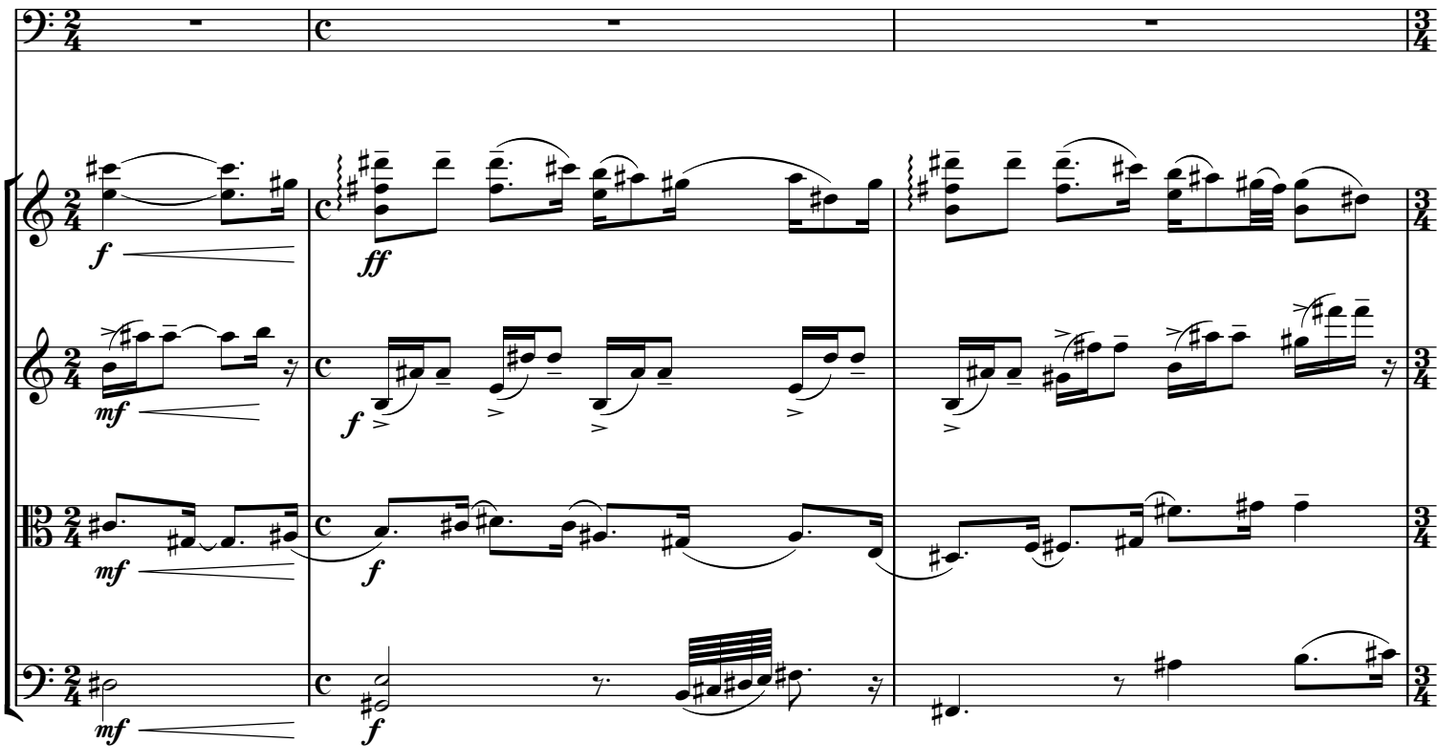
I am wri-ting this poem on your_ com-pu-ter. Here are the words...

41 *accel.*

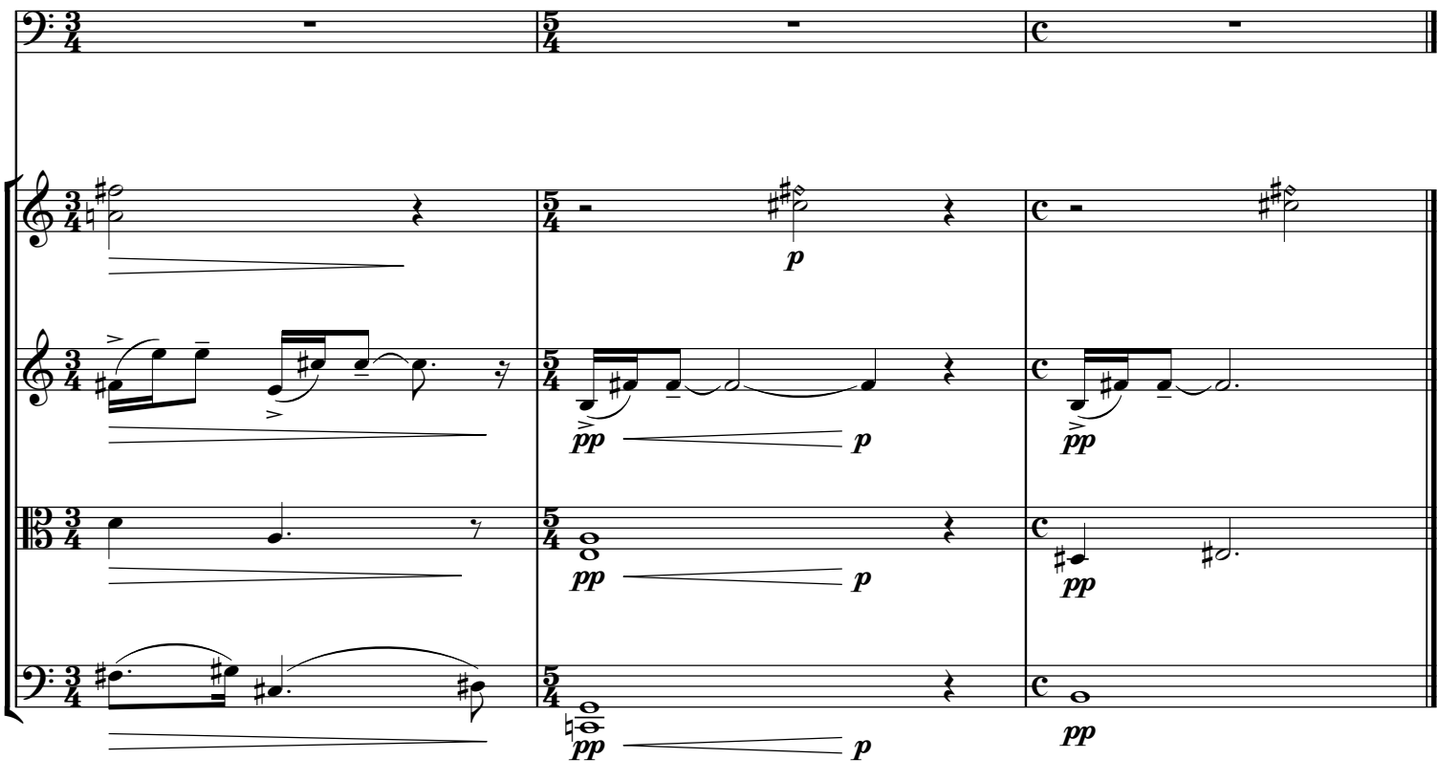
I love you,___ dar-ling_ For - e - ver._

44

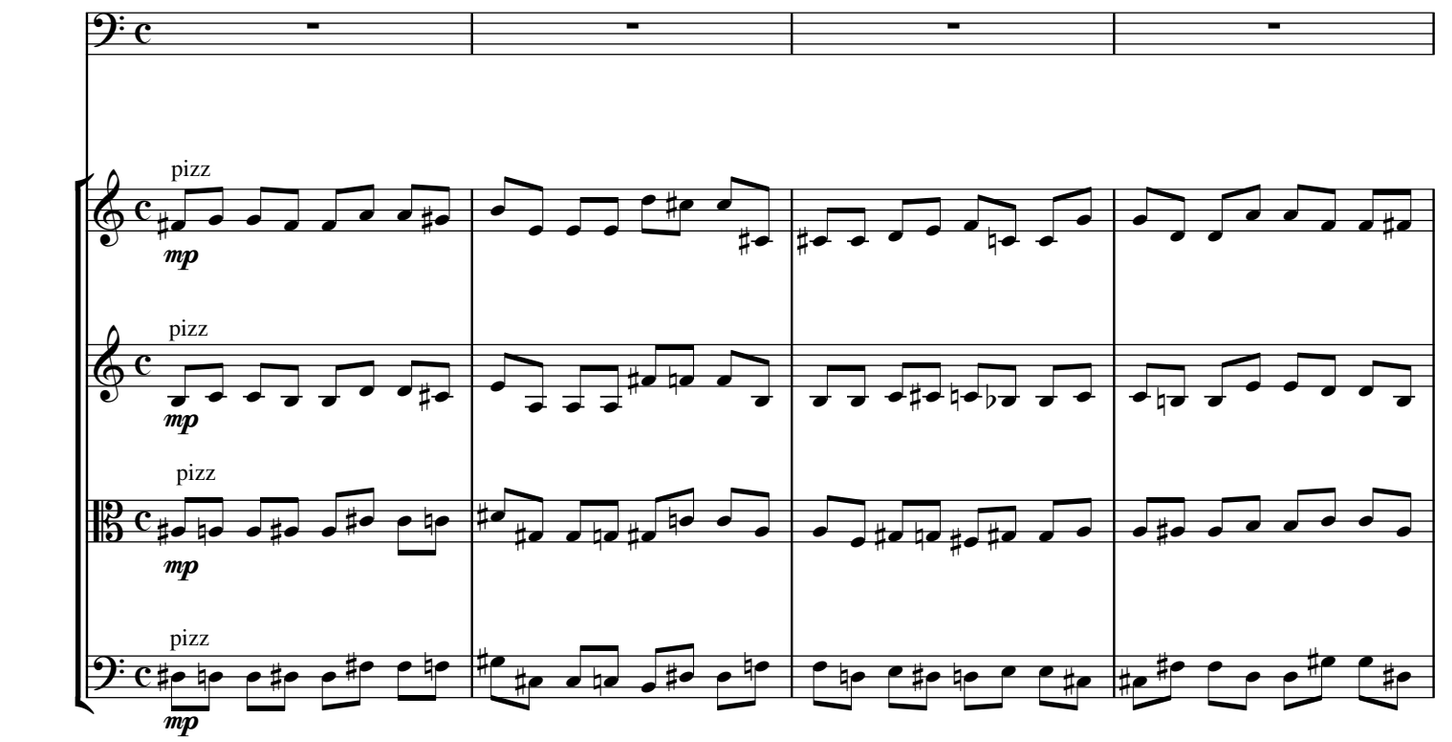
Poco più mosso di prima ♩ = 52

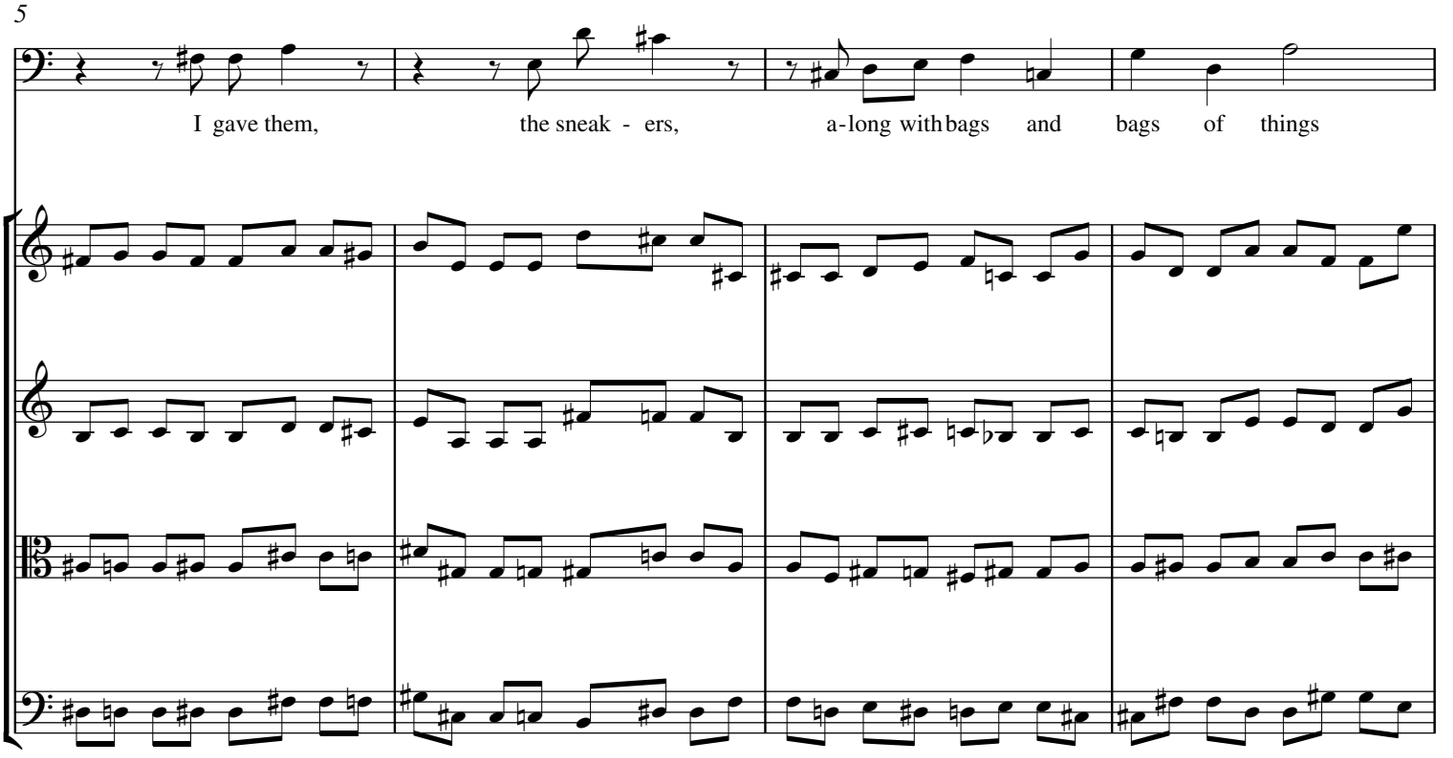


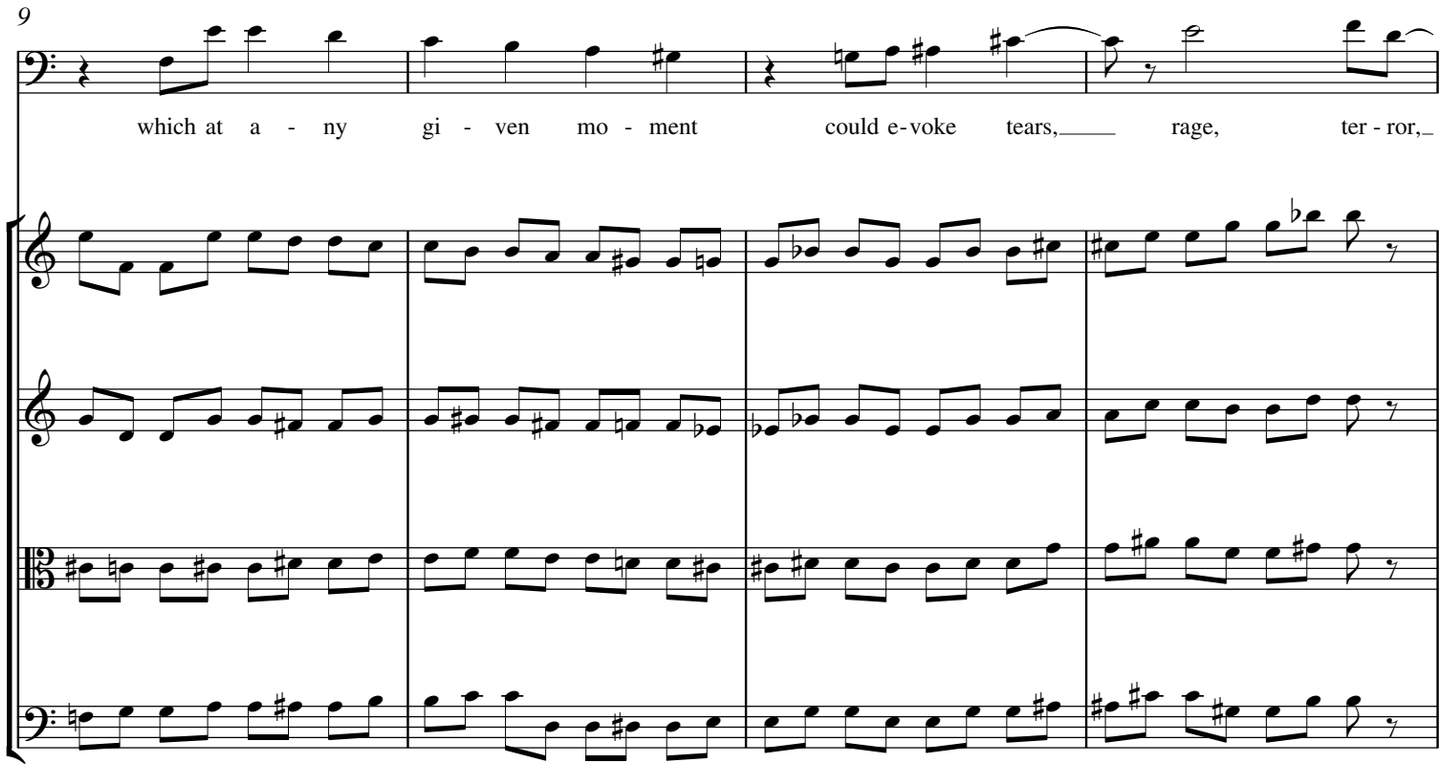
47 *molto rit.*

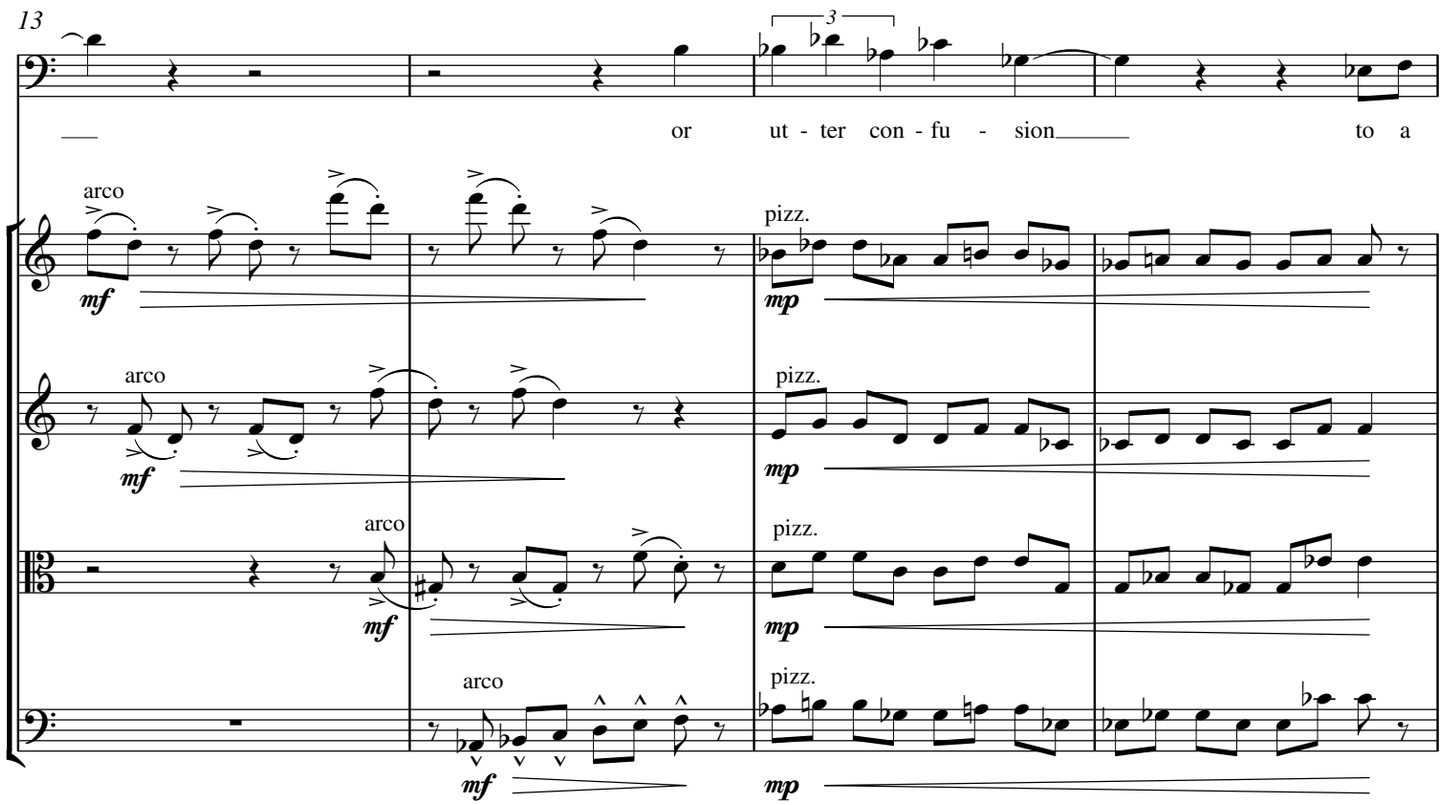


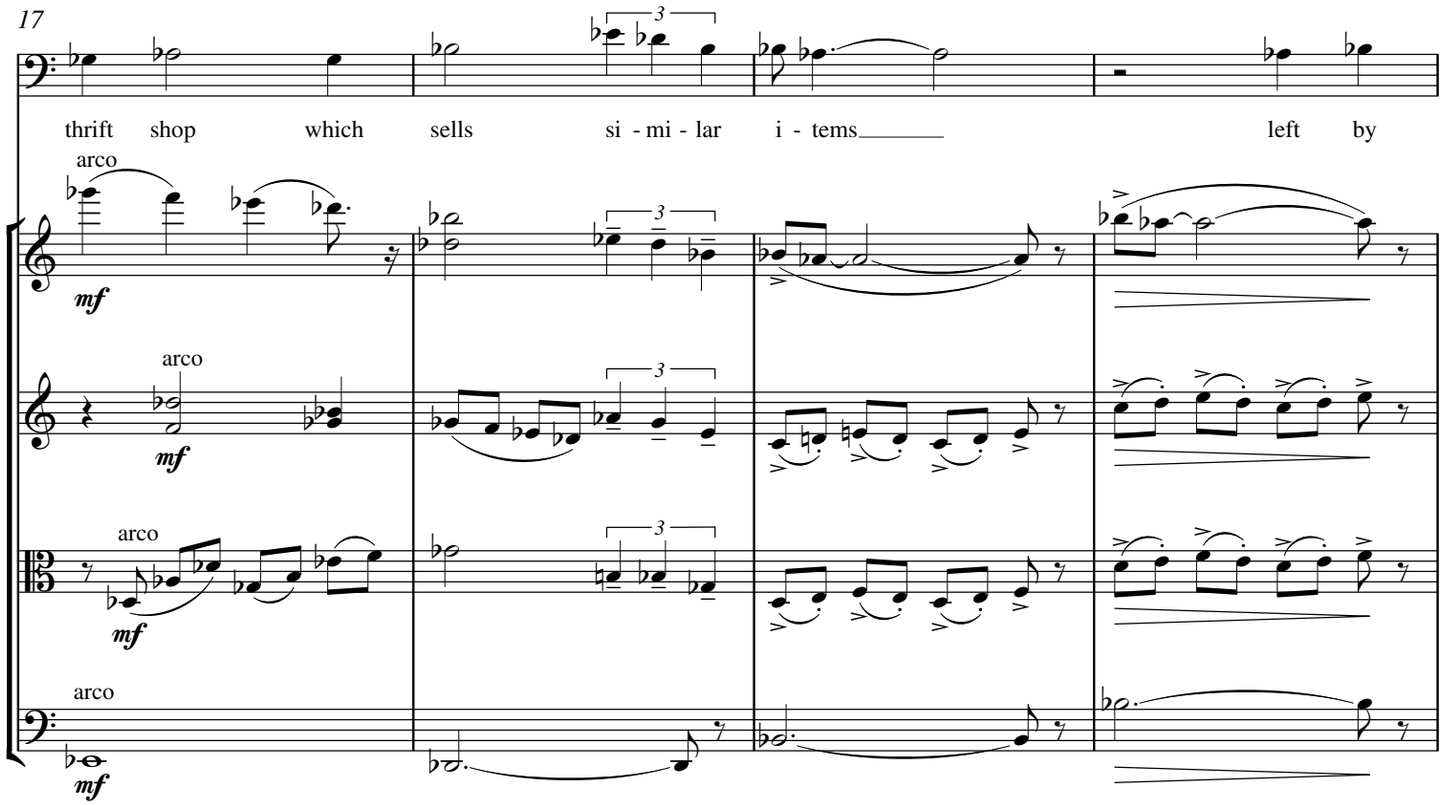
Nervously ♩ = 100

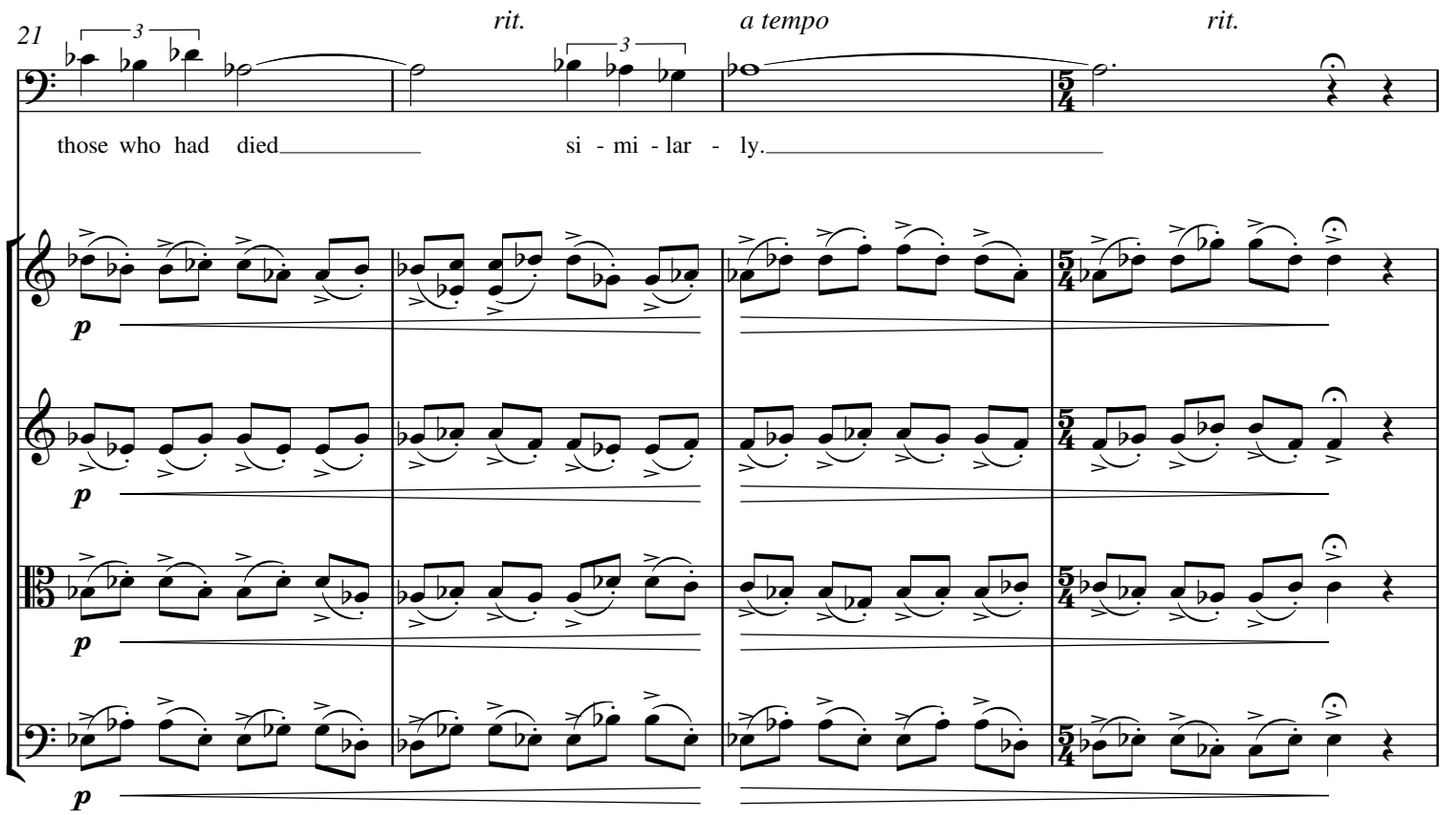




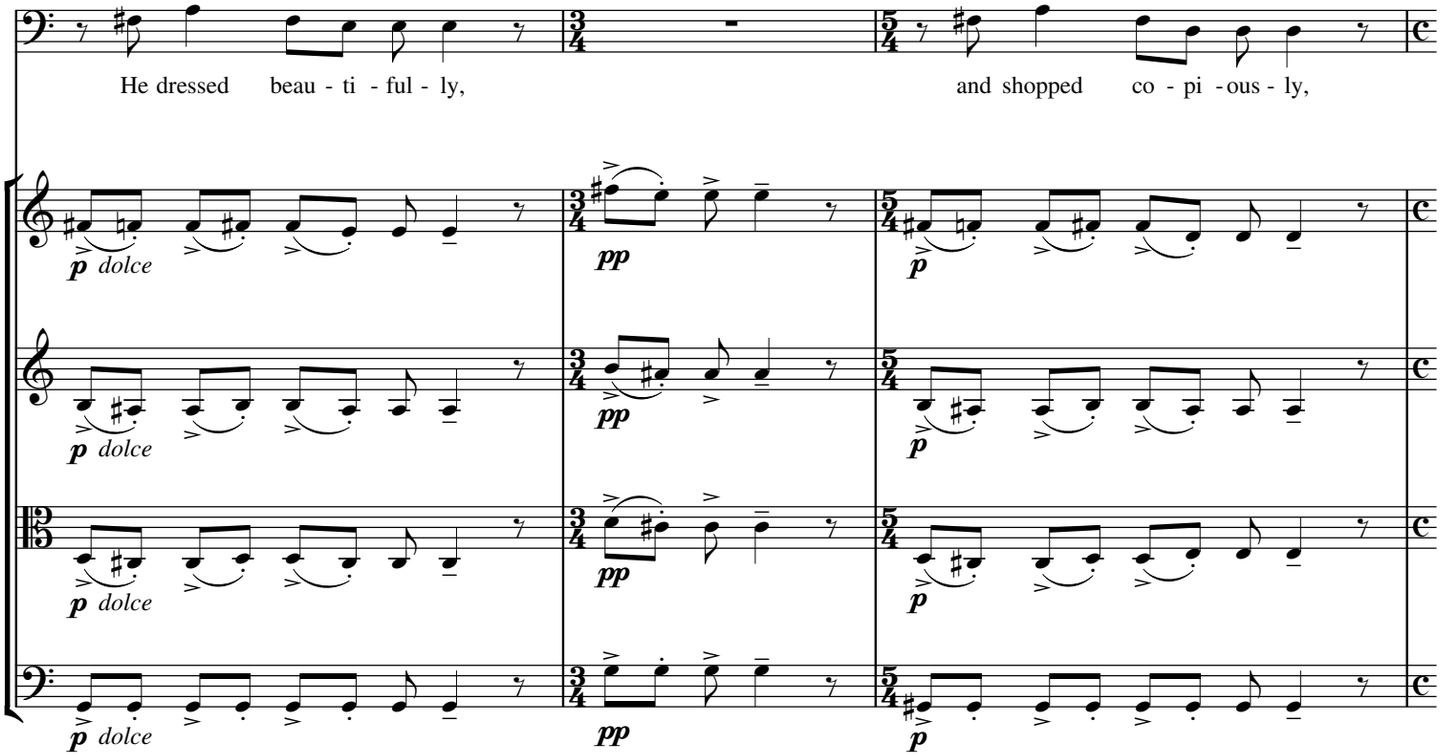

9
which at a - ny gi - ven mo - ment could e-voke tears, rage, ter - ror,


13
3
or ut - ter con - fu - sion to a
arco
mf
pizz.
mp

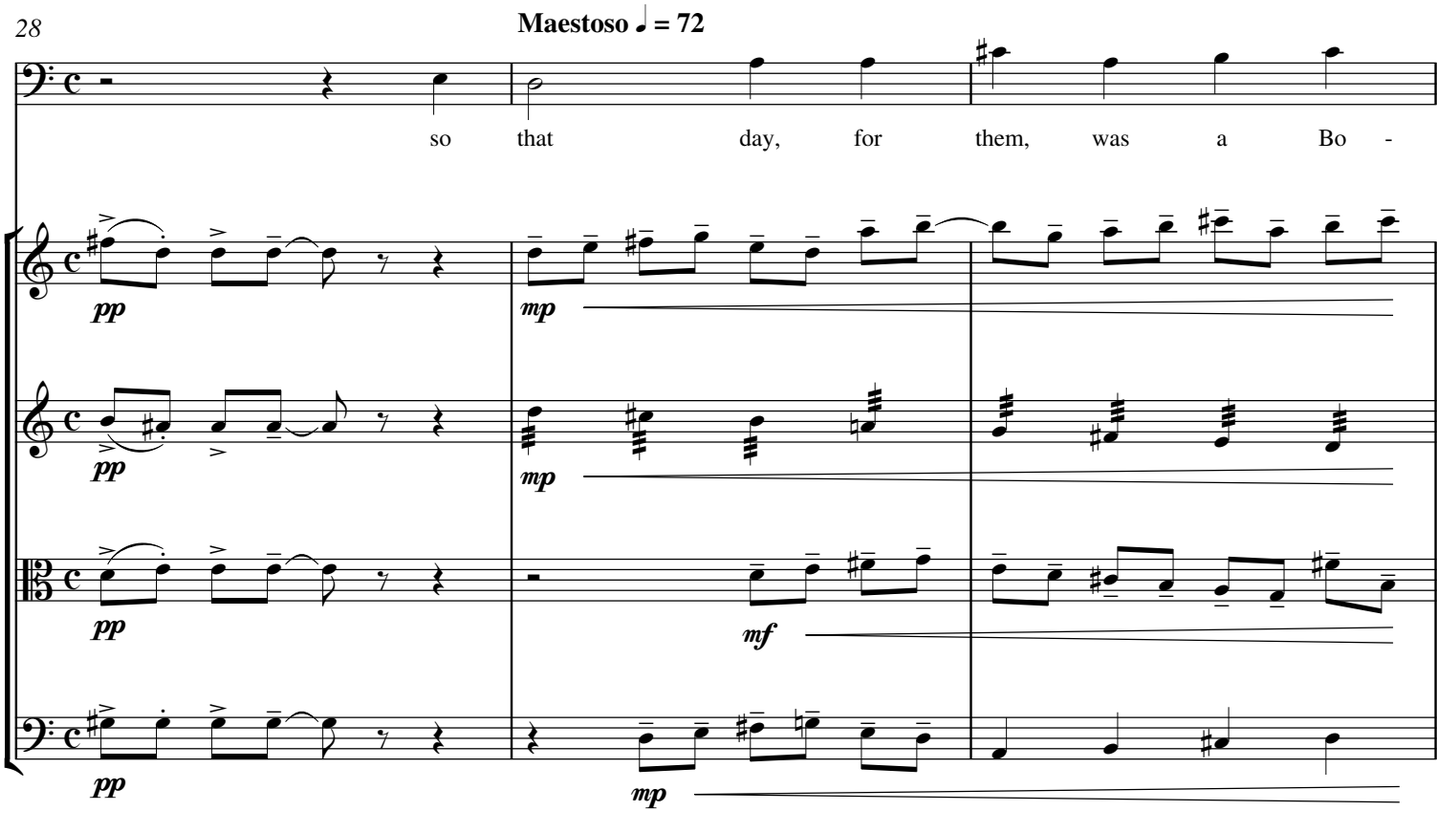

17
thrift shop which sells si - mi - lar i - tems left by
arco
mf
arco
mf
arco
mf
arco
mf

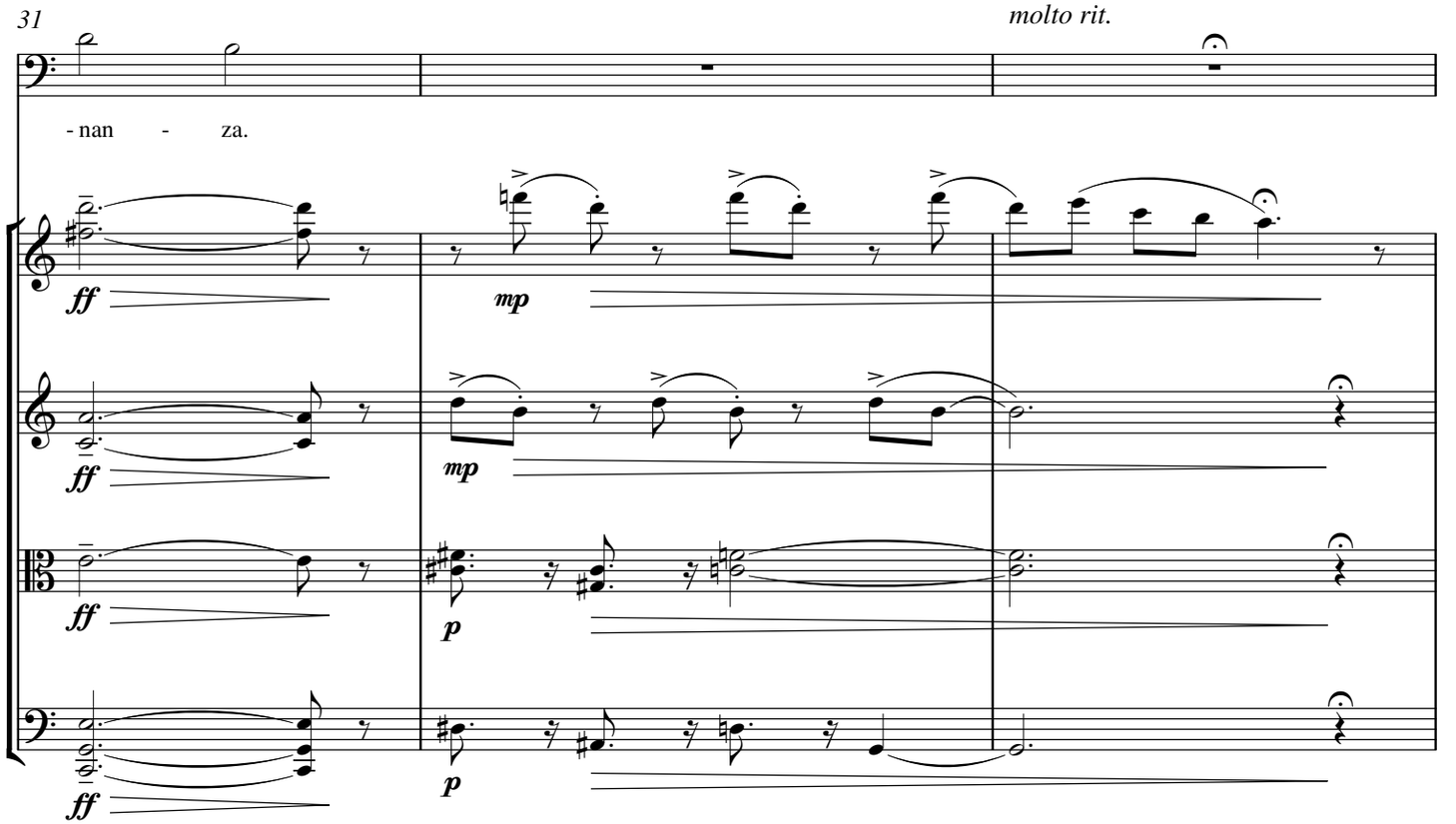

21
rit.
a tempo
rit.
those who had died si - mi - lar - ly.
p
p
p
p

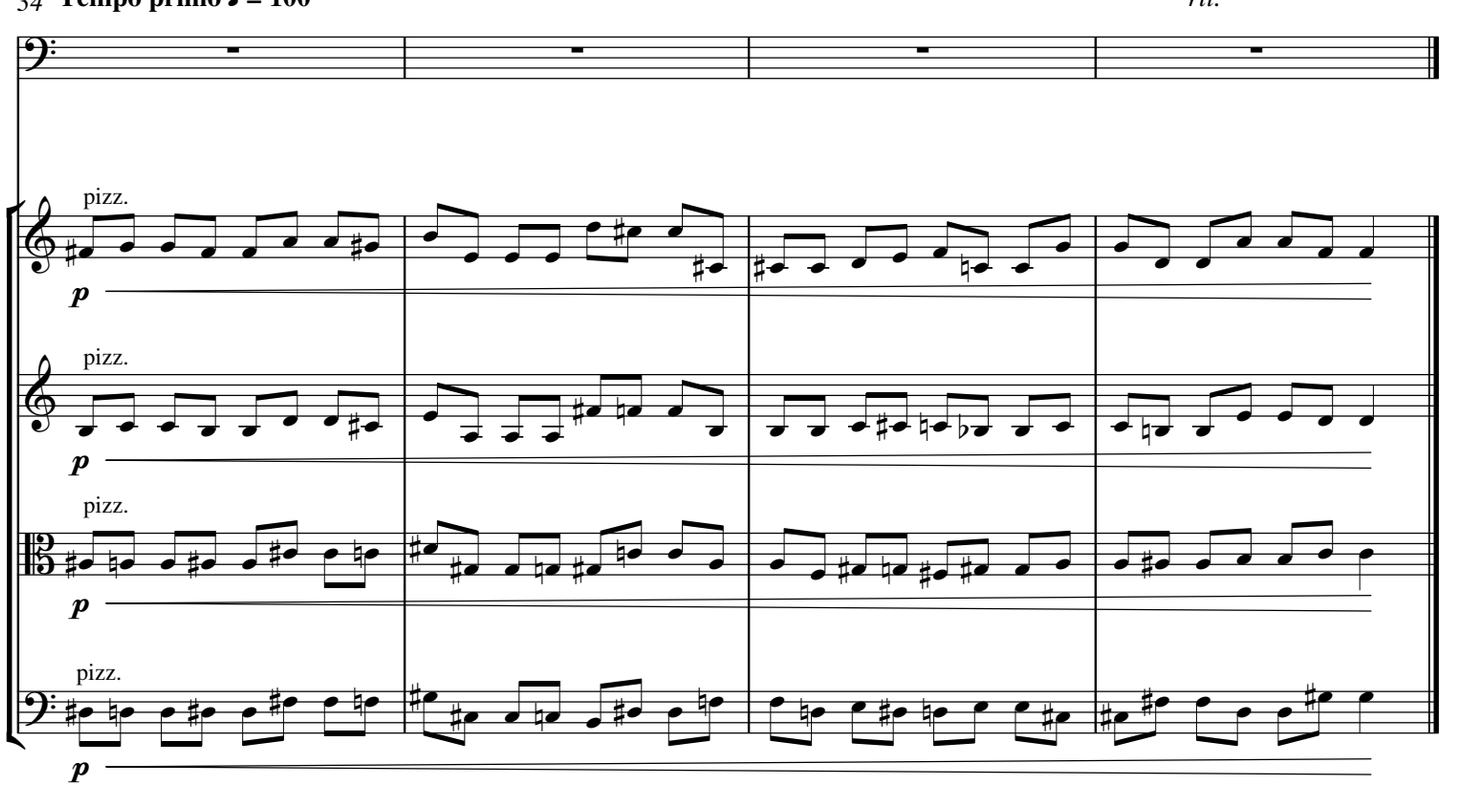
25 **Slower, more hesitant ♩ = 66**

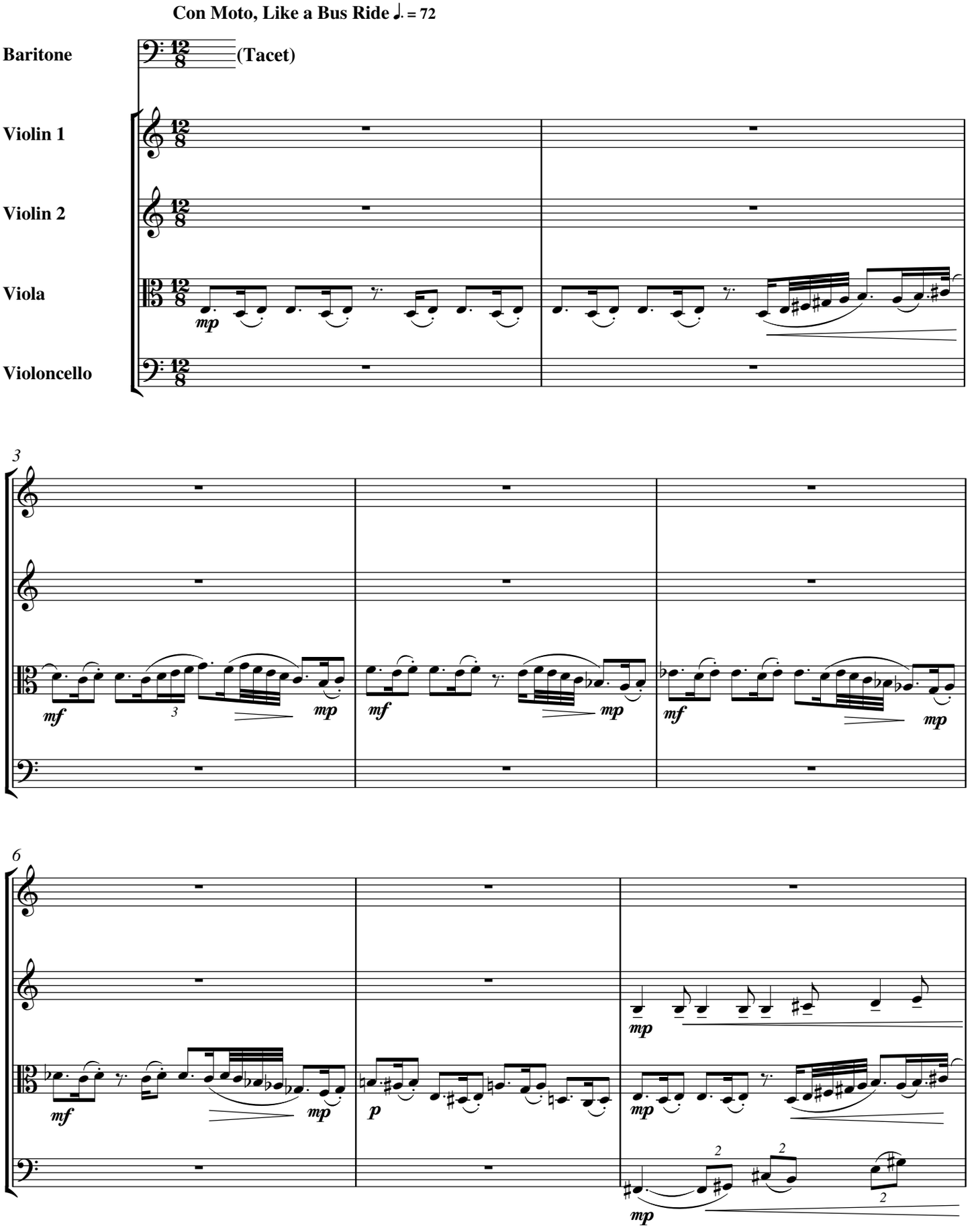


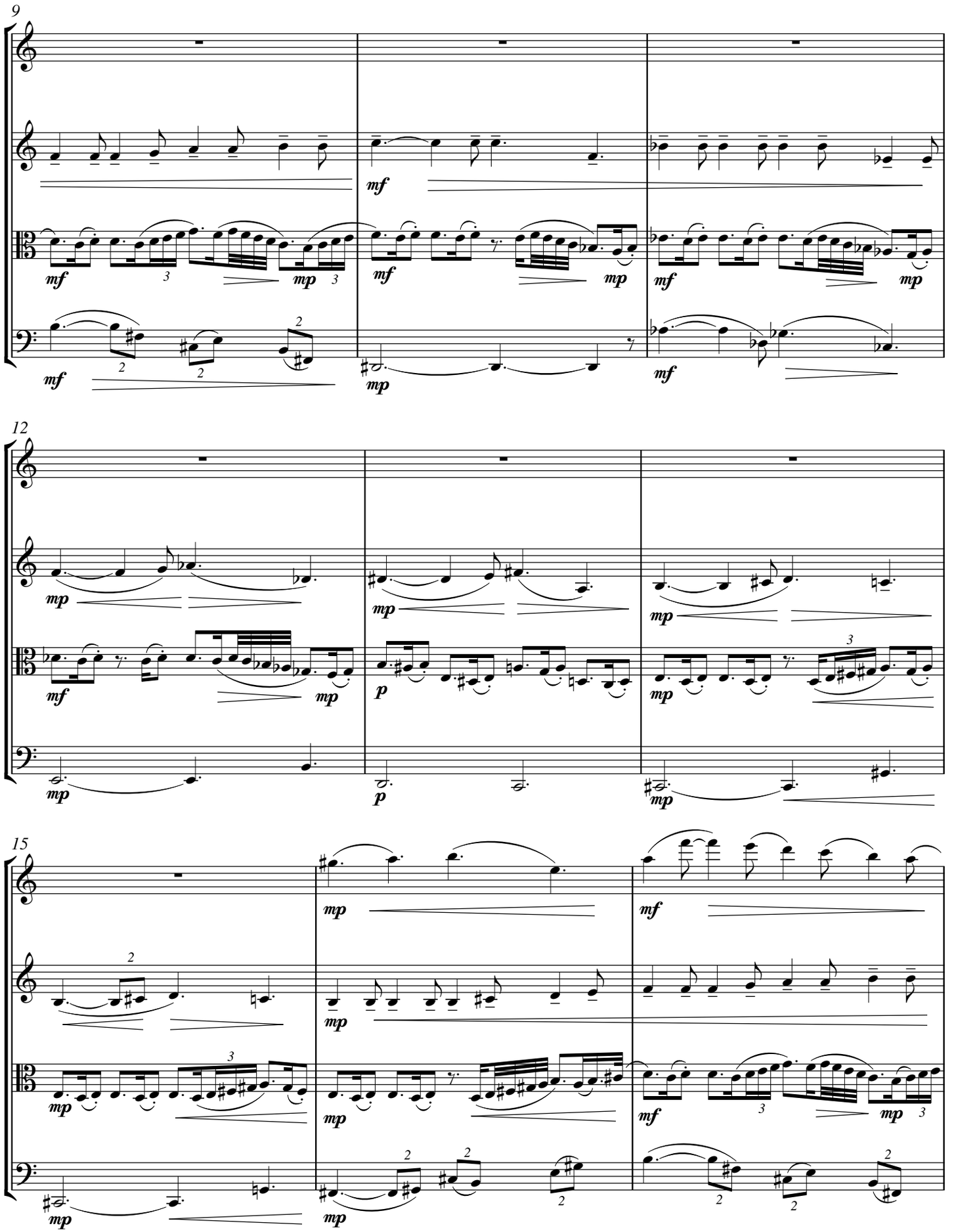
28 **Maestoso ♩ = 72**

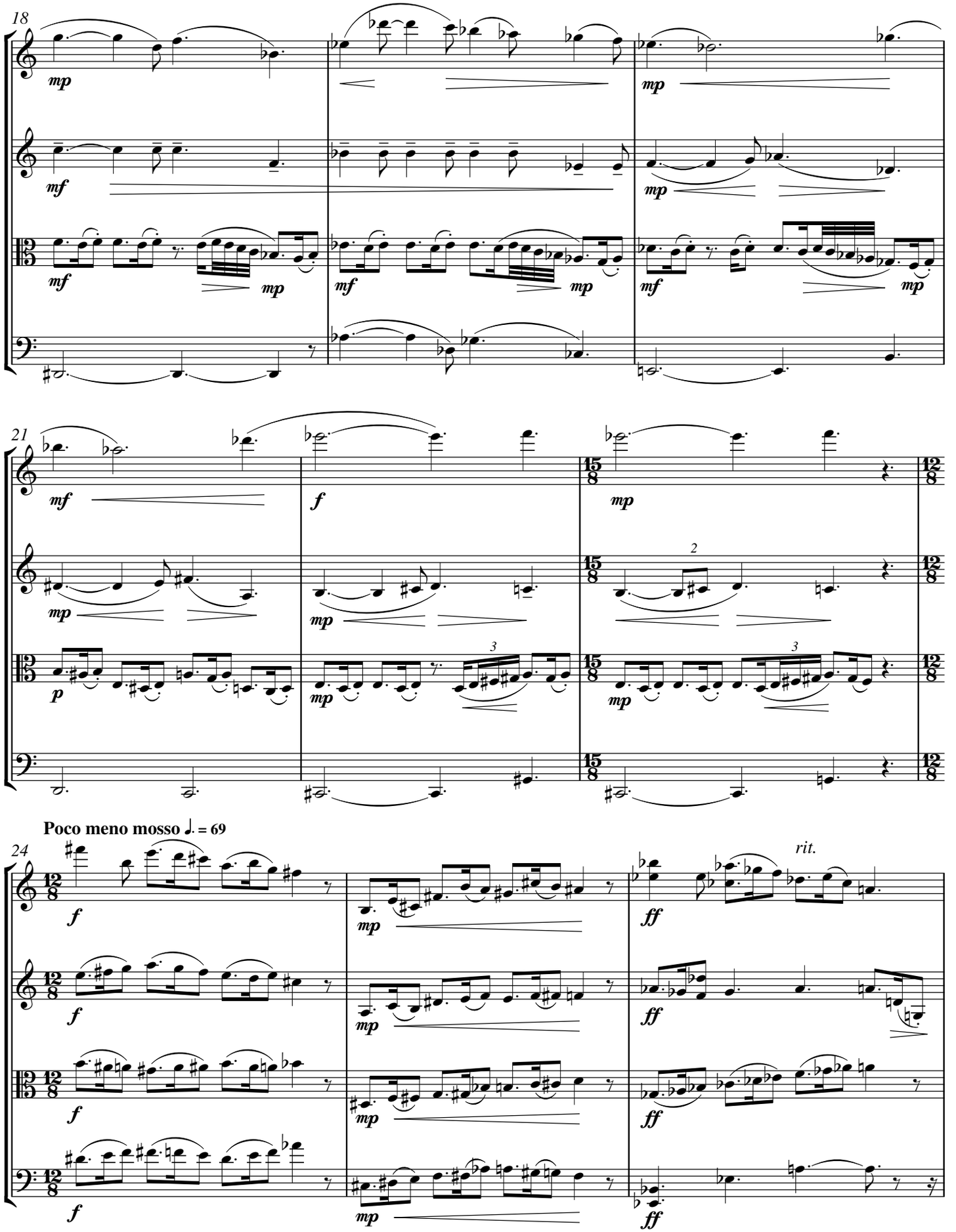


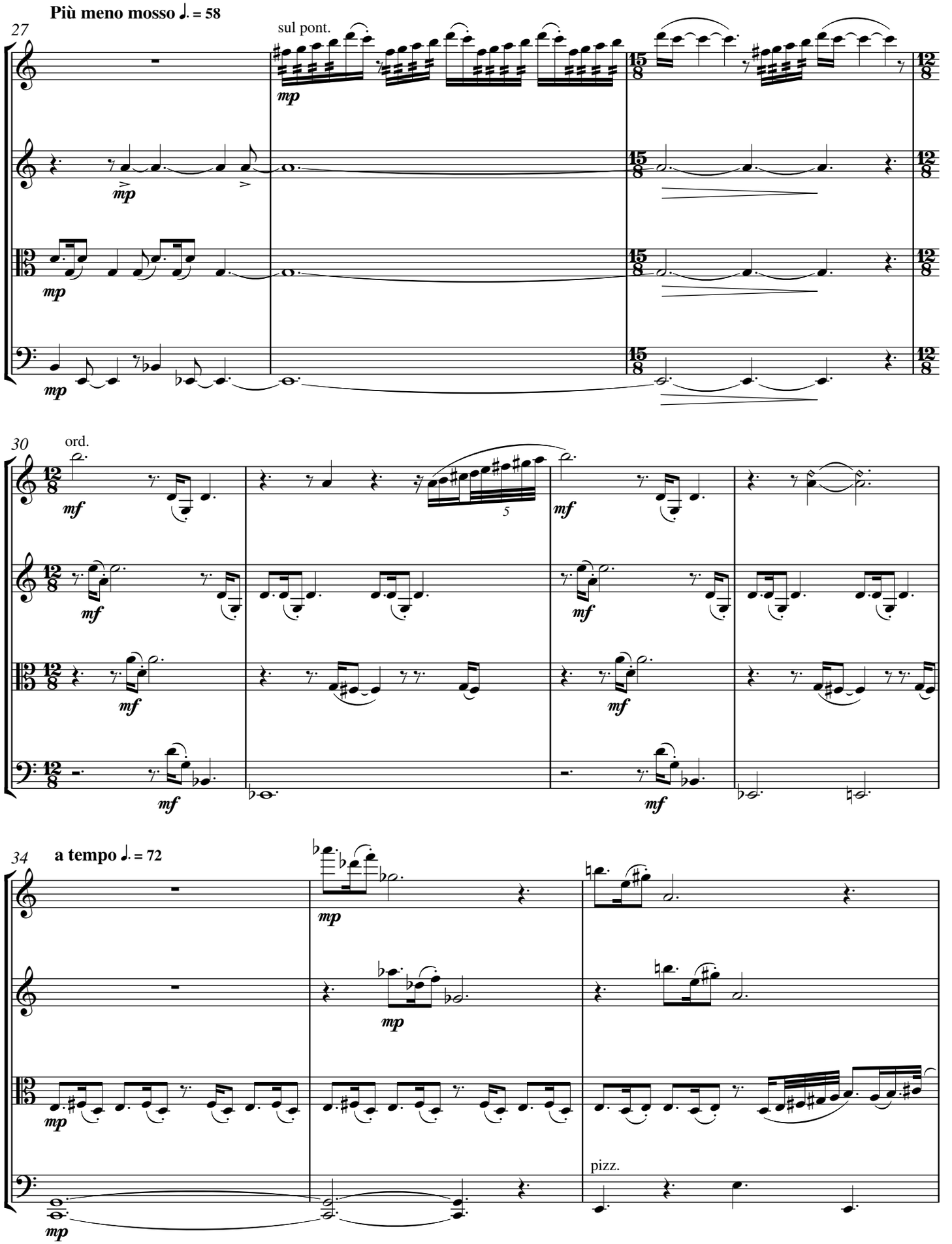

31
molto rit.
- nan - za.
ff
mp
ff
mp
ff
p
ff
p

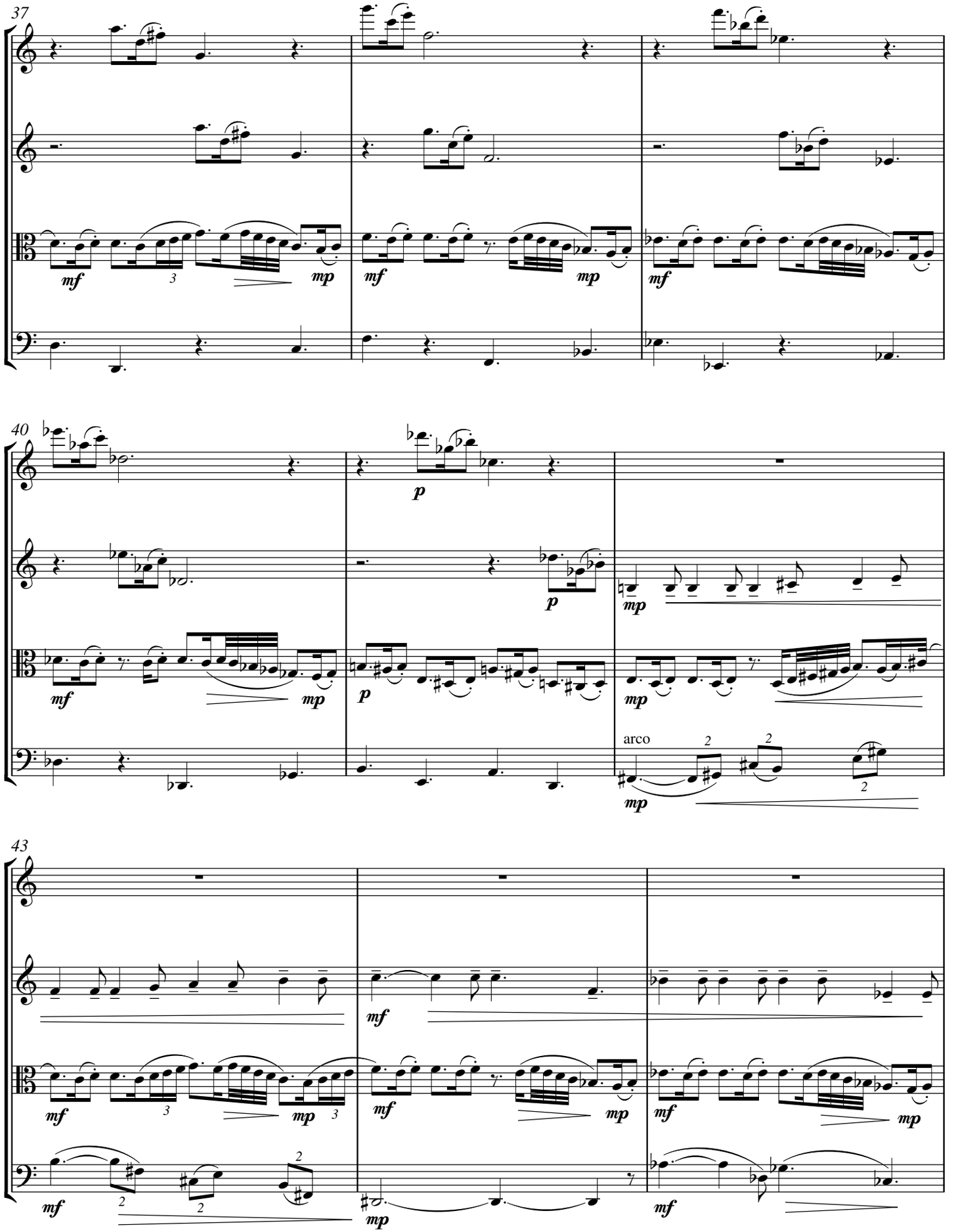

34 Tempo primo ♩ = 100
rit.
pizz.
p
pizz.
p
pizz.
p
pizz.
p

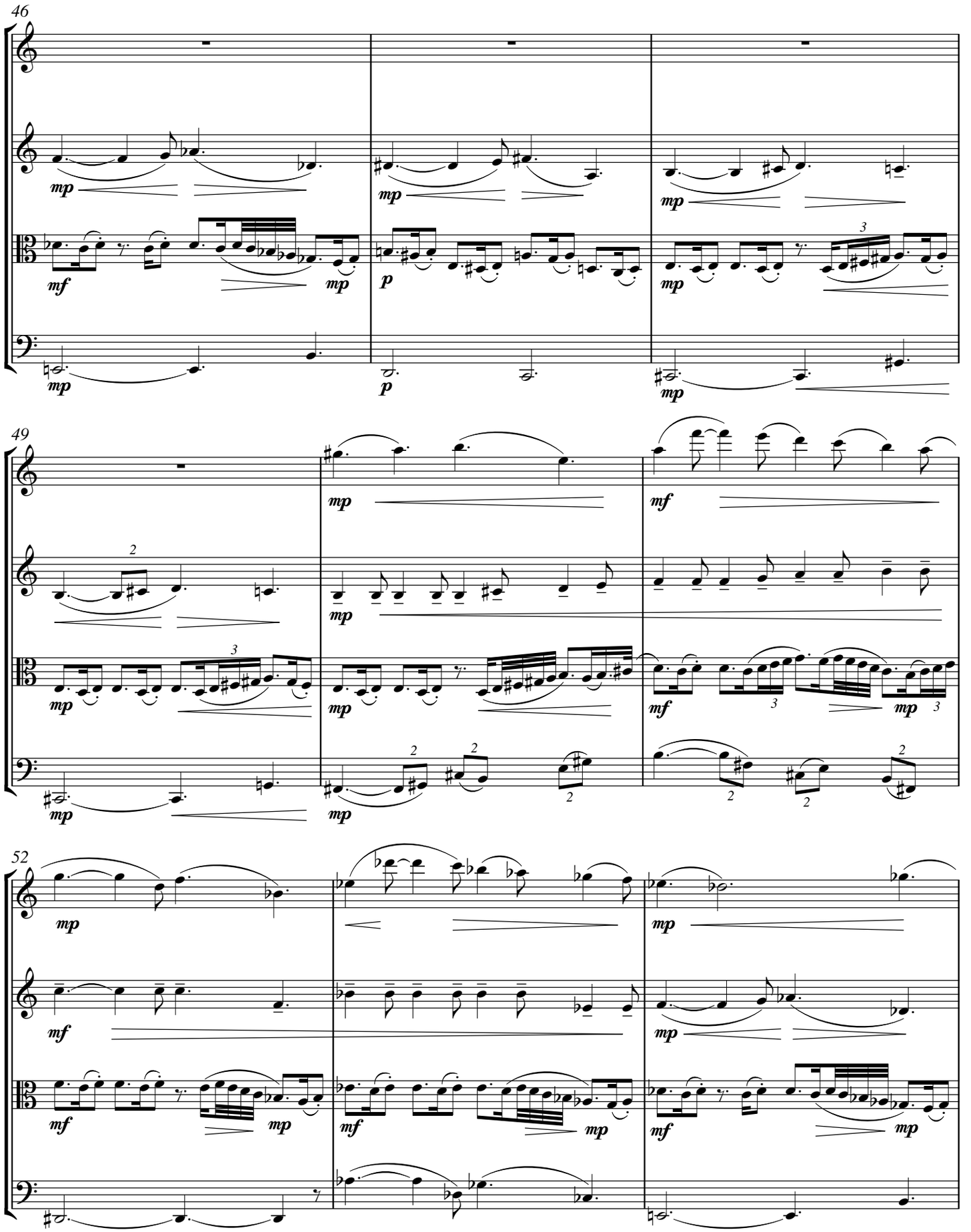

Con Moto, Like a Bus Ride ♩. = 72
Baritone
(Tacet)
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
mp
3
mf
mp
6
p

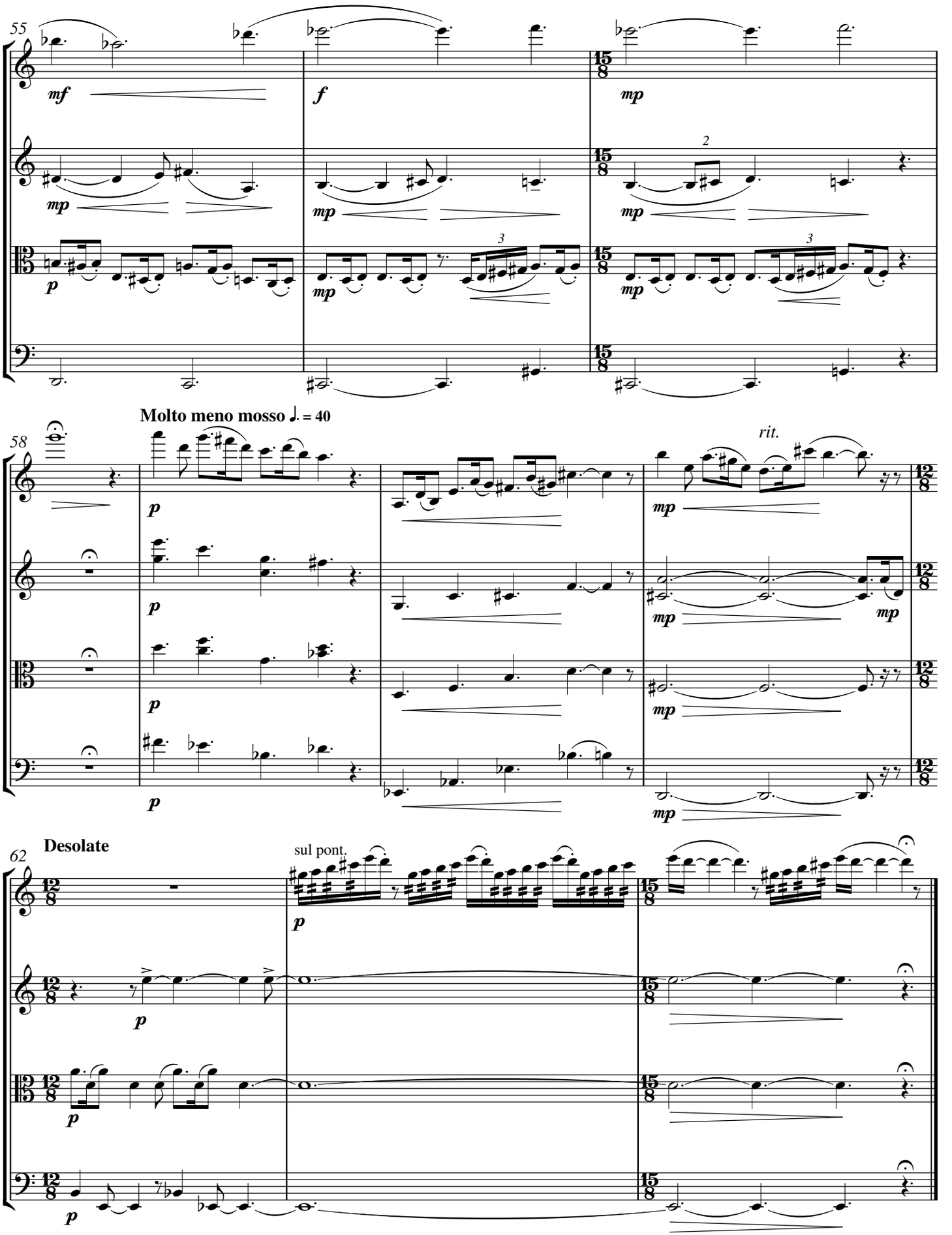

9
12
15

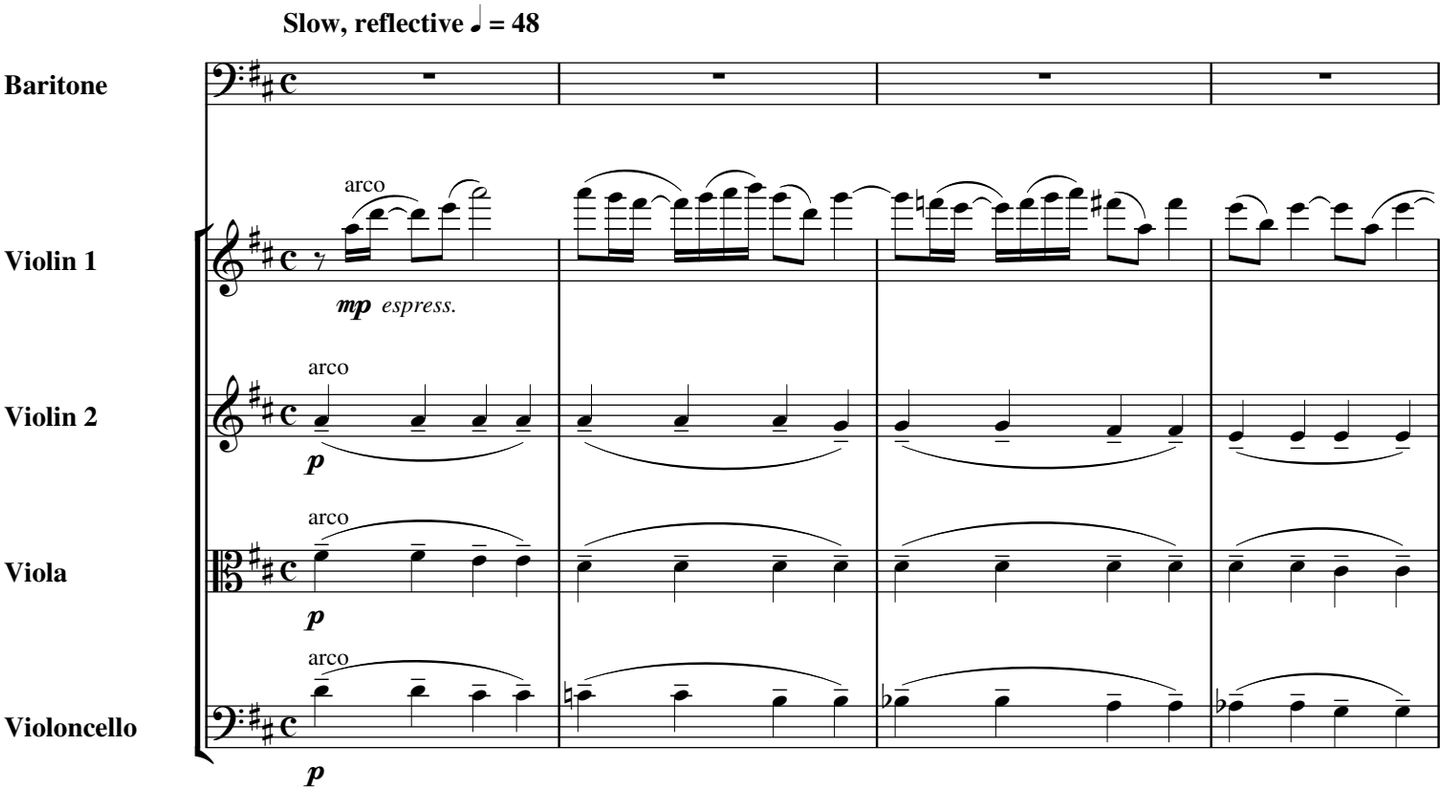

18
mp
mf
mp
mf
mp
mf
mp
mp
mp
mf
mp
21
mf
f
mp
mp
mp
p
mp
mp
2
3
3
Poco meno mosso ♩. = 69
24
f
f
f
f
mp
mp
mp
mp
ff
ff
ff
ff
rit.

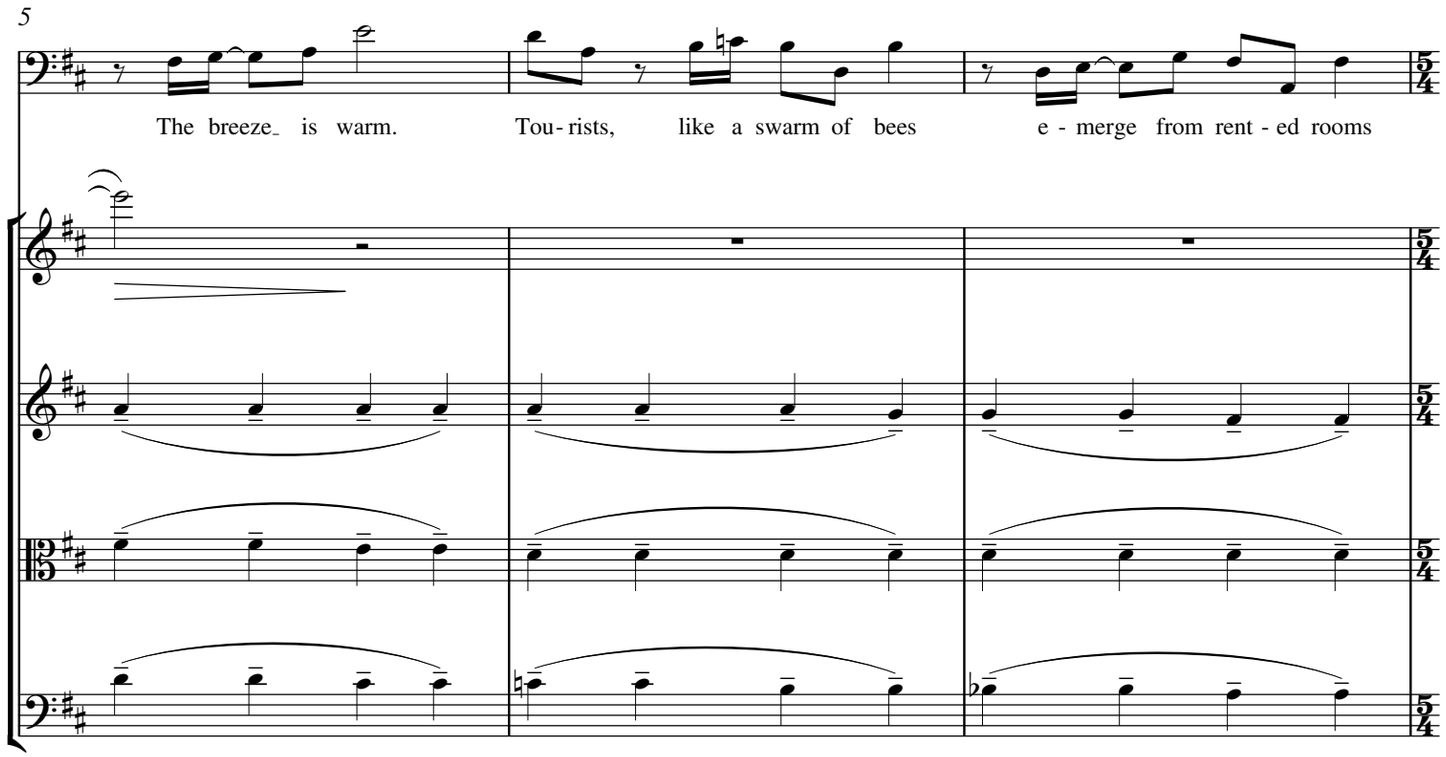

Più meno mosso ♩. = 58
27
sul pont.
mp
30
ord.
mf
5
34
a tempo ♩. = 72
pizz.

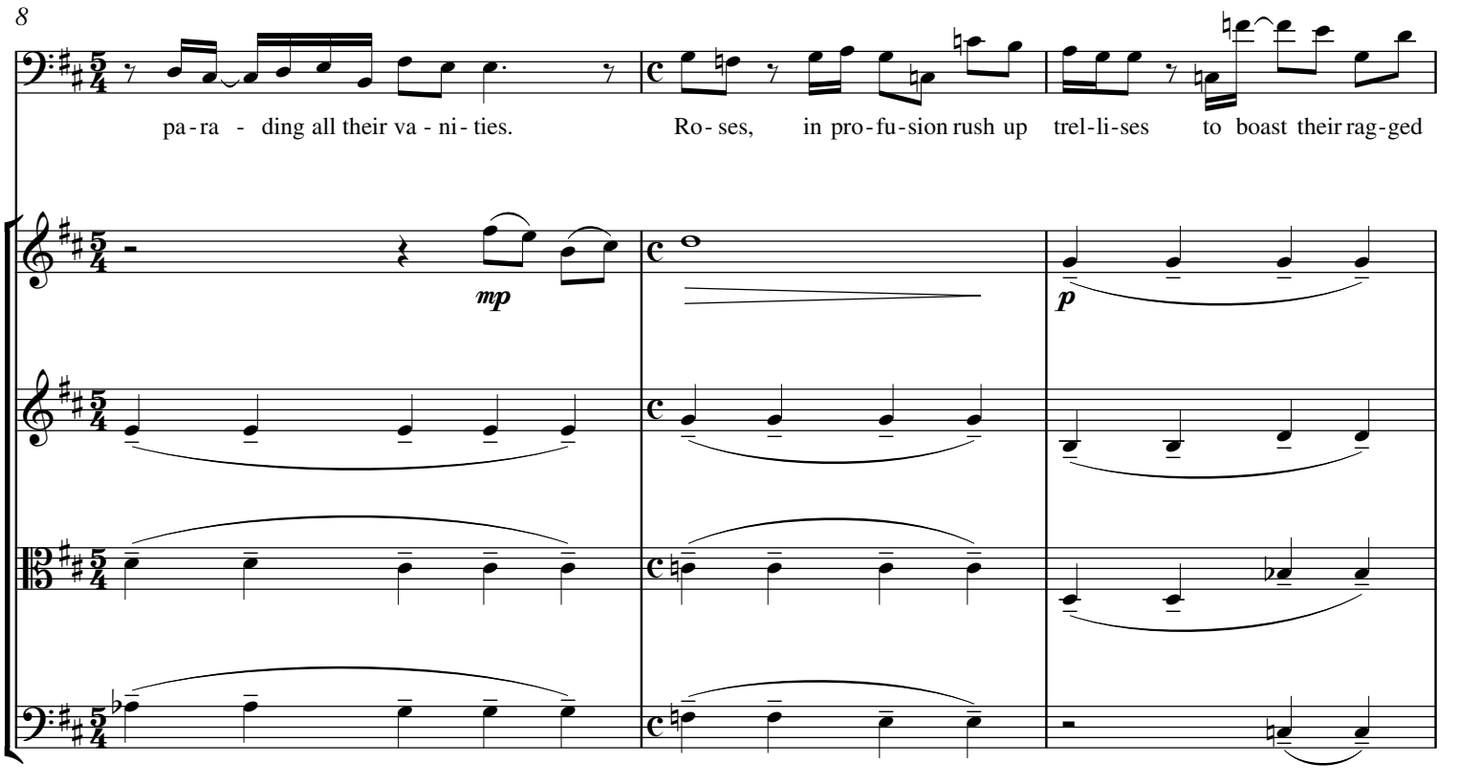

37
40
43
arco

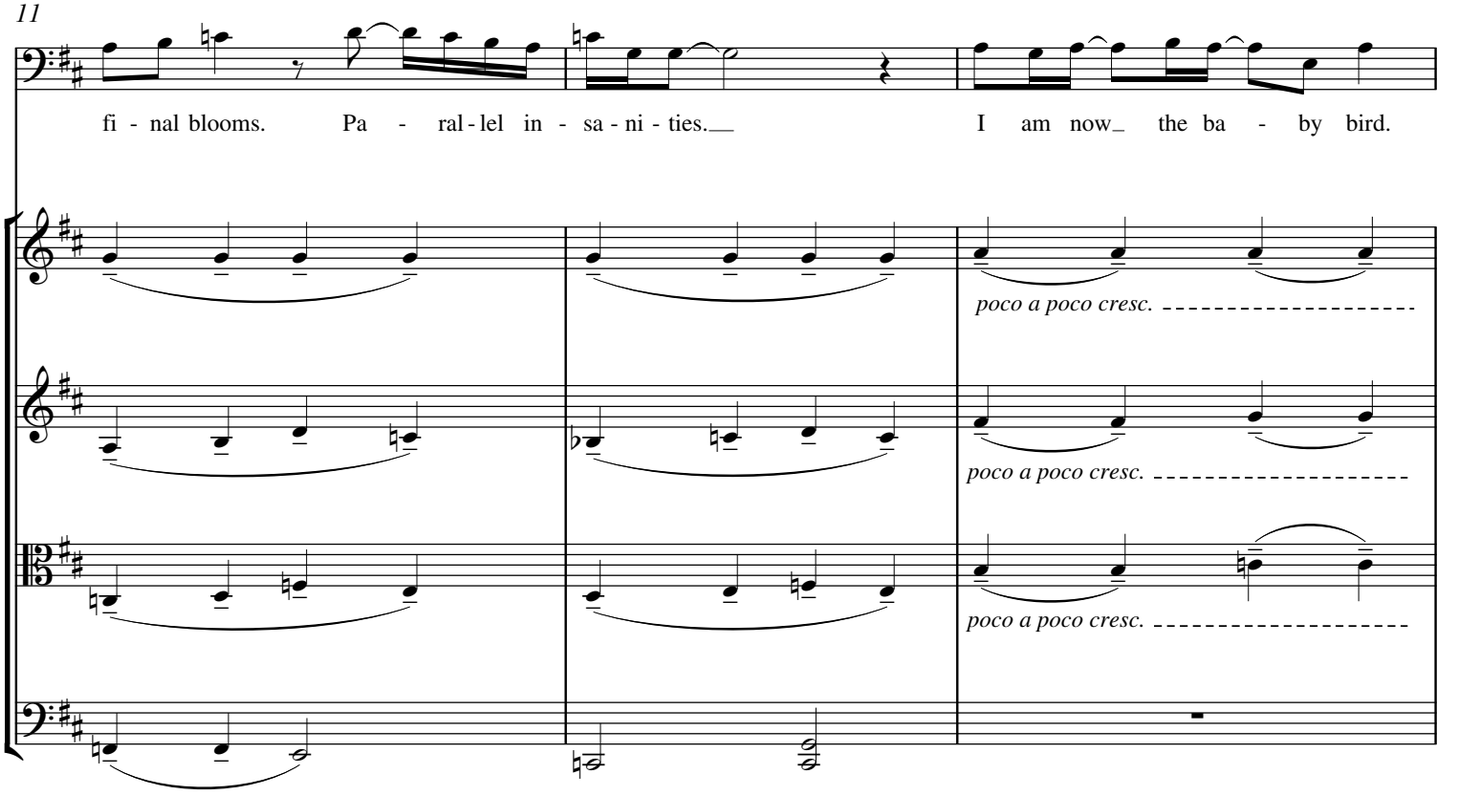

46
49
52

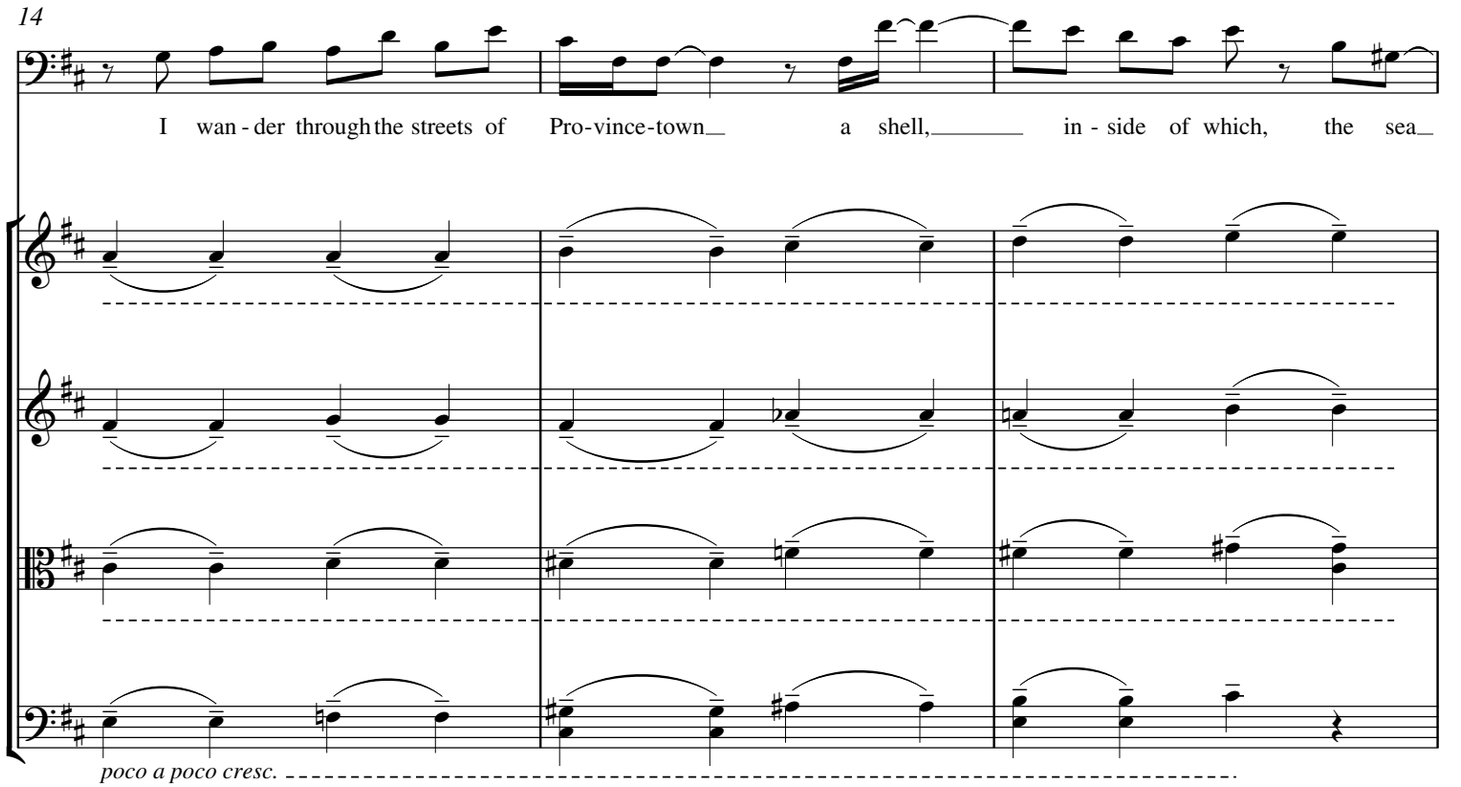

55
mf
f
mp
2
3
Molto meno mosso ♩. = 40
58
rit.
Desolate
62
sul pont.

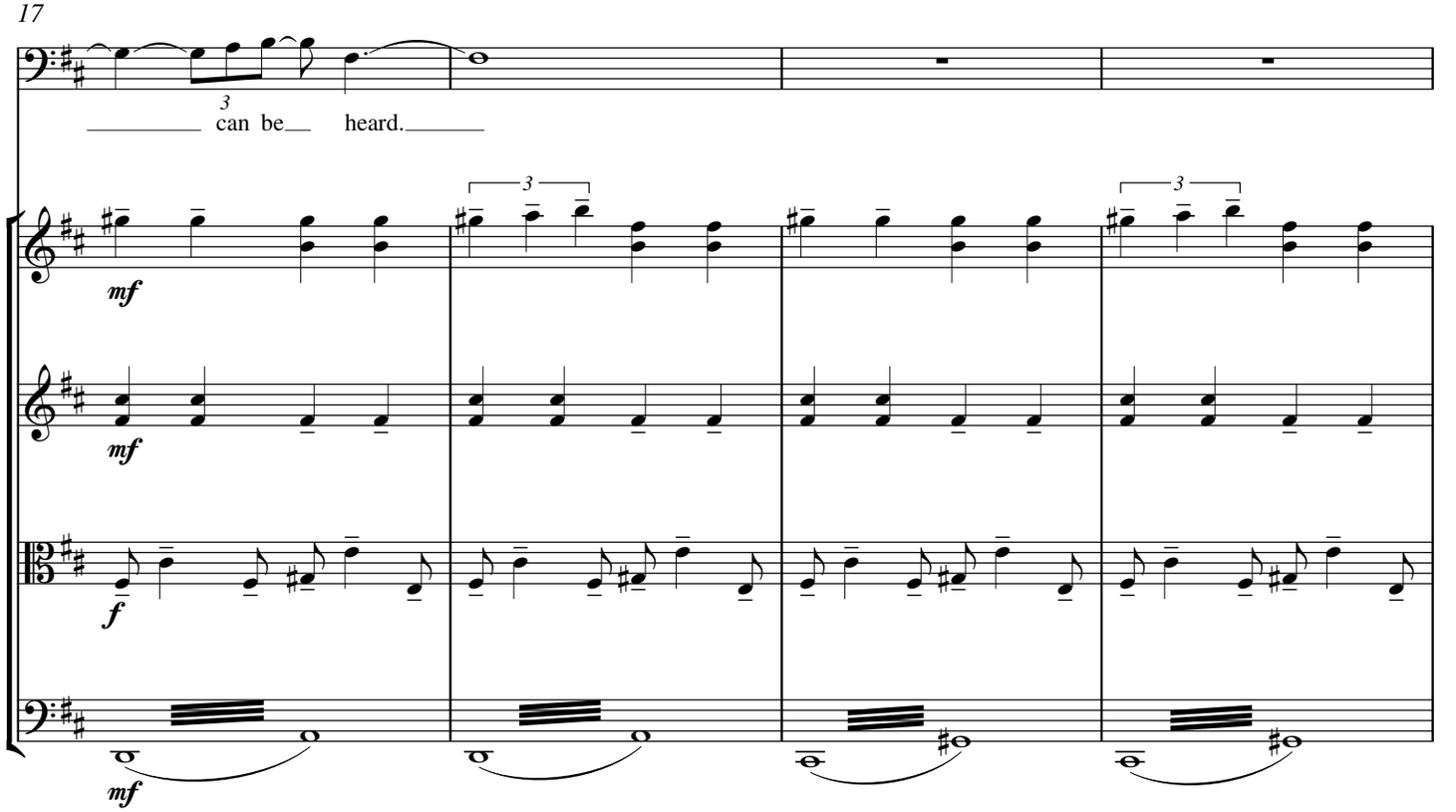

Slow, reflective ♩ = 48
Baritone
Violin 1
arco
mp espress.
Violin 2
arco
p
Viola
arco
p
Violoncello
arco
p

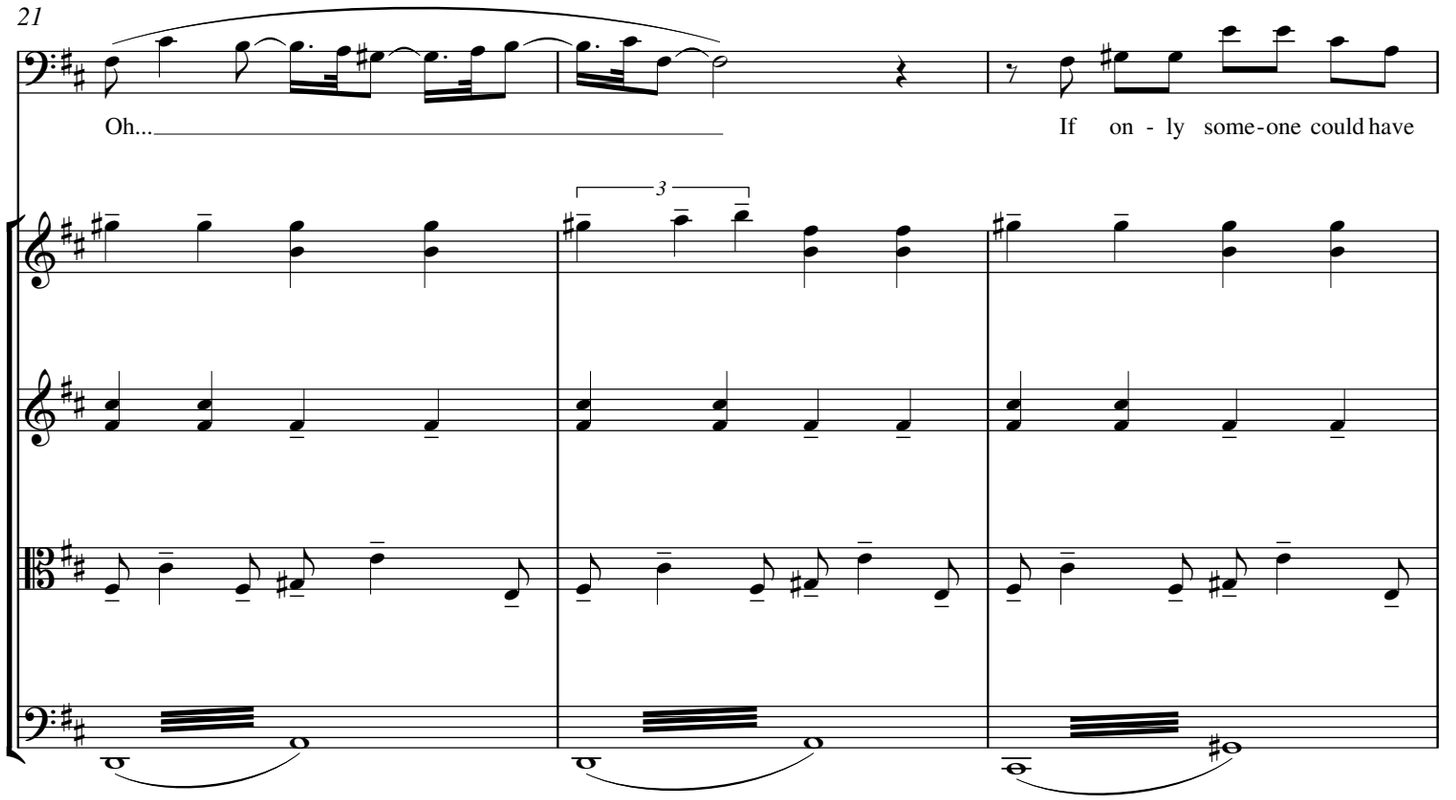

5
The breeze_ is warm.
Tou- rists, like a swarm of bees
e - merge from rent - ed rooms
5/4

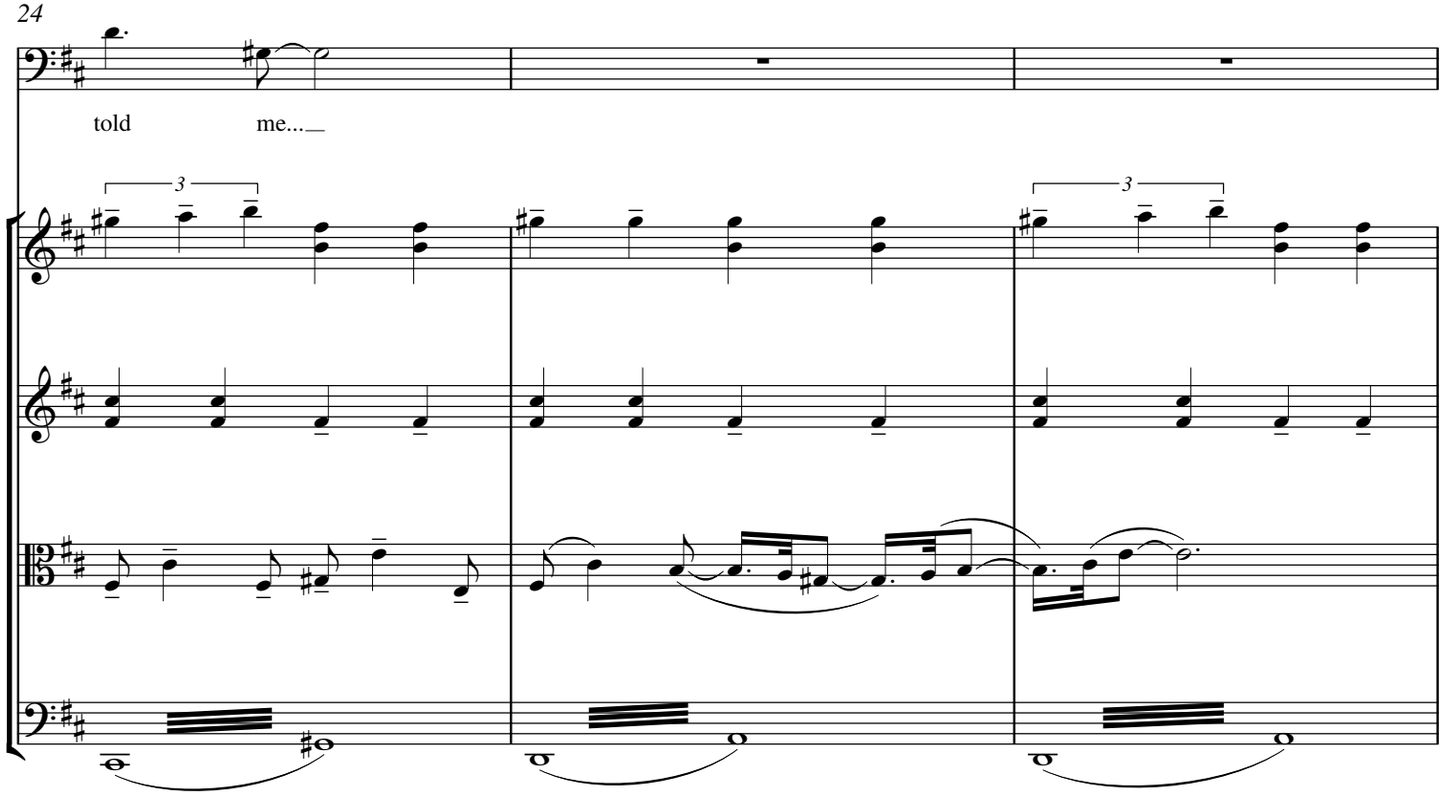

8
pa-ra - ding all their va - ni - ties.
Ro- ses, in pro-fu-sion rush up trel-li-ses to boast their rag-ged
mp
p

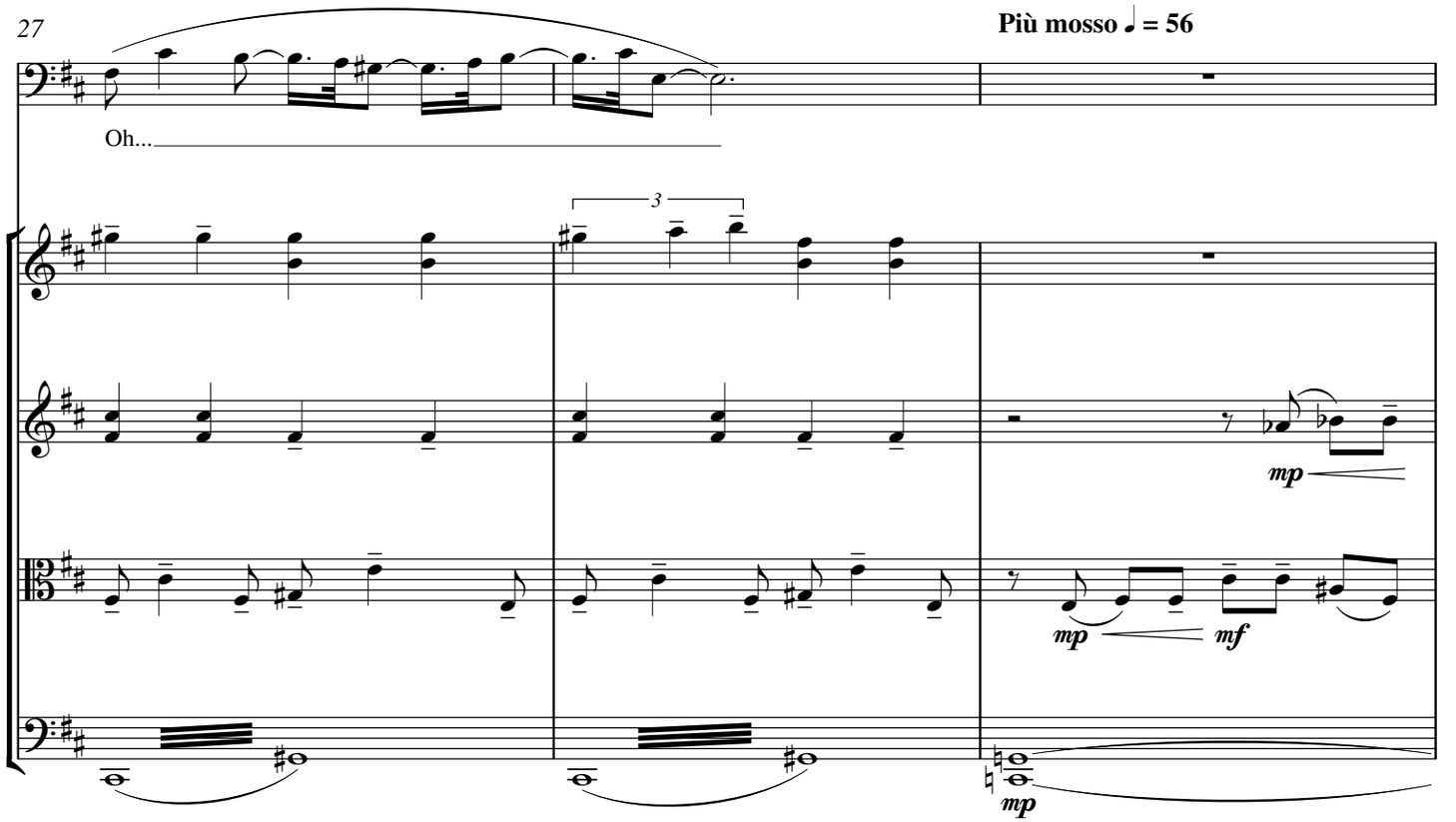

11
fi - nal blooms. Pa - ral-lel in - sa - ni - ties.
I am now the ba - by bird.
poco a poco cresc.
poco a poco cresc.
poco a poco cresc.

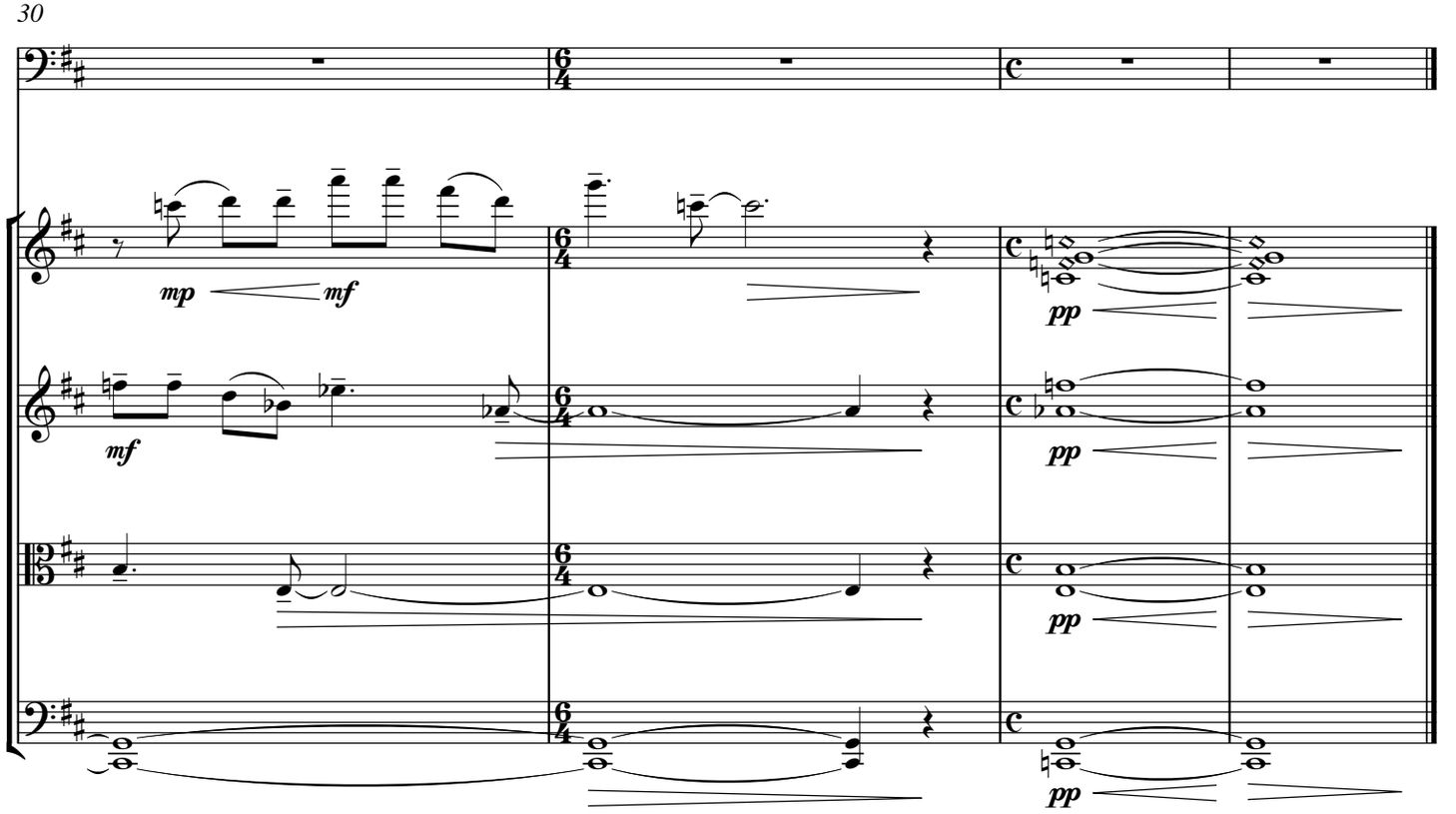

14
I wan - der through the streets of Pro - vince - town a shell, in - side of which, the sea
poco a poco cresc.


17
3
can be heard.
3
3
mf
mf
f
mf


21
Oh...
If on - ly some-one could have
3

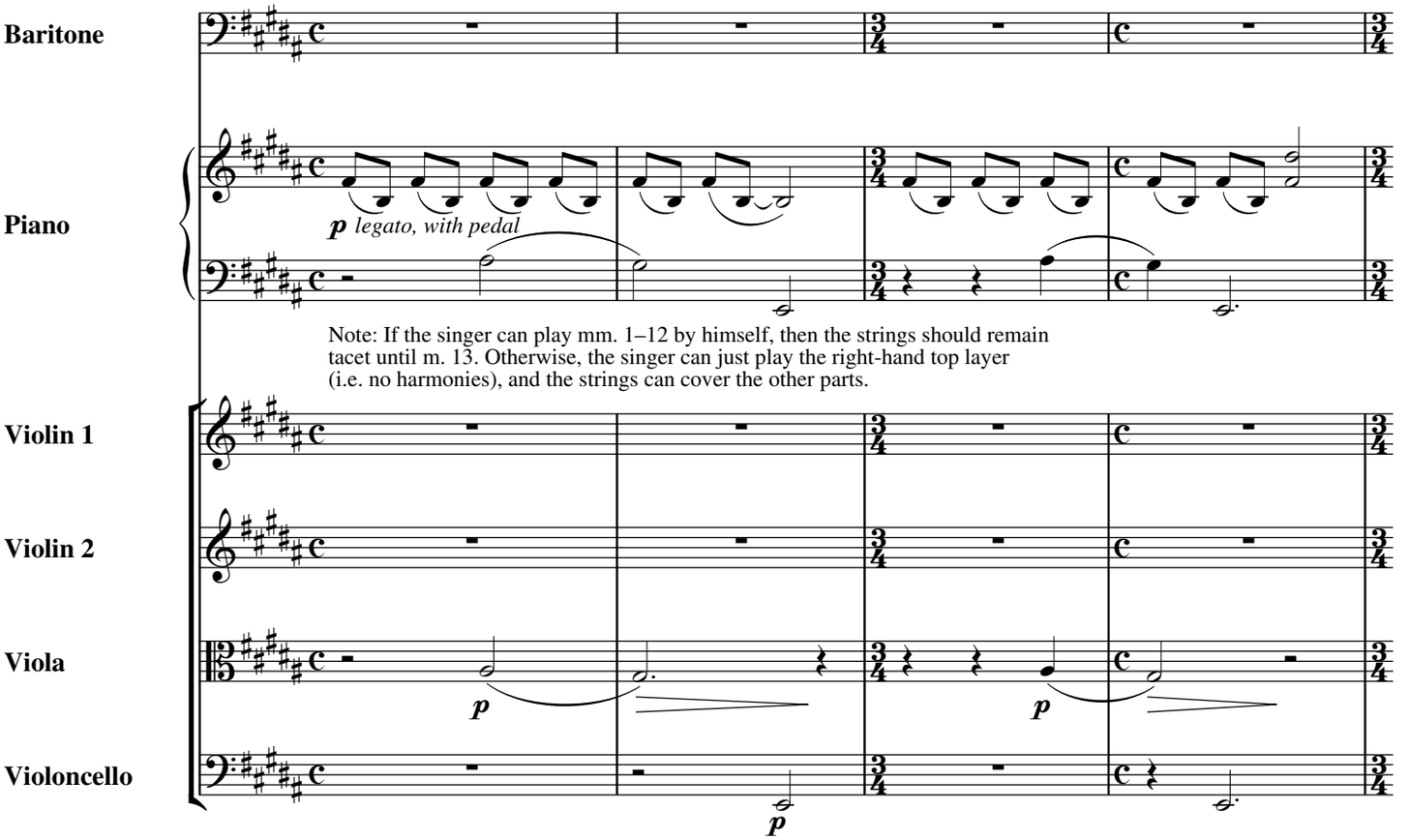

24
told me...
3
3


27
Più mosso ♩ = 56
Oh...
3
mp
mp
mf
mp

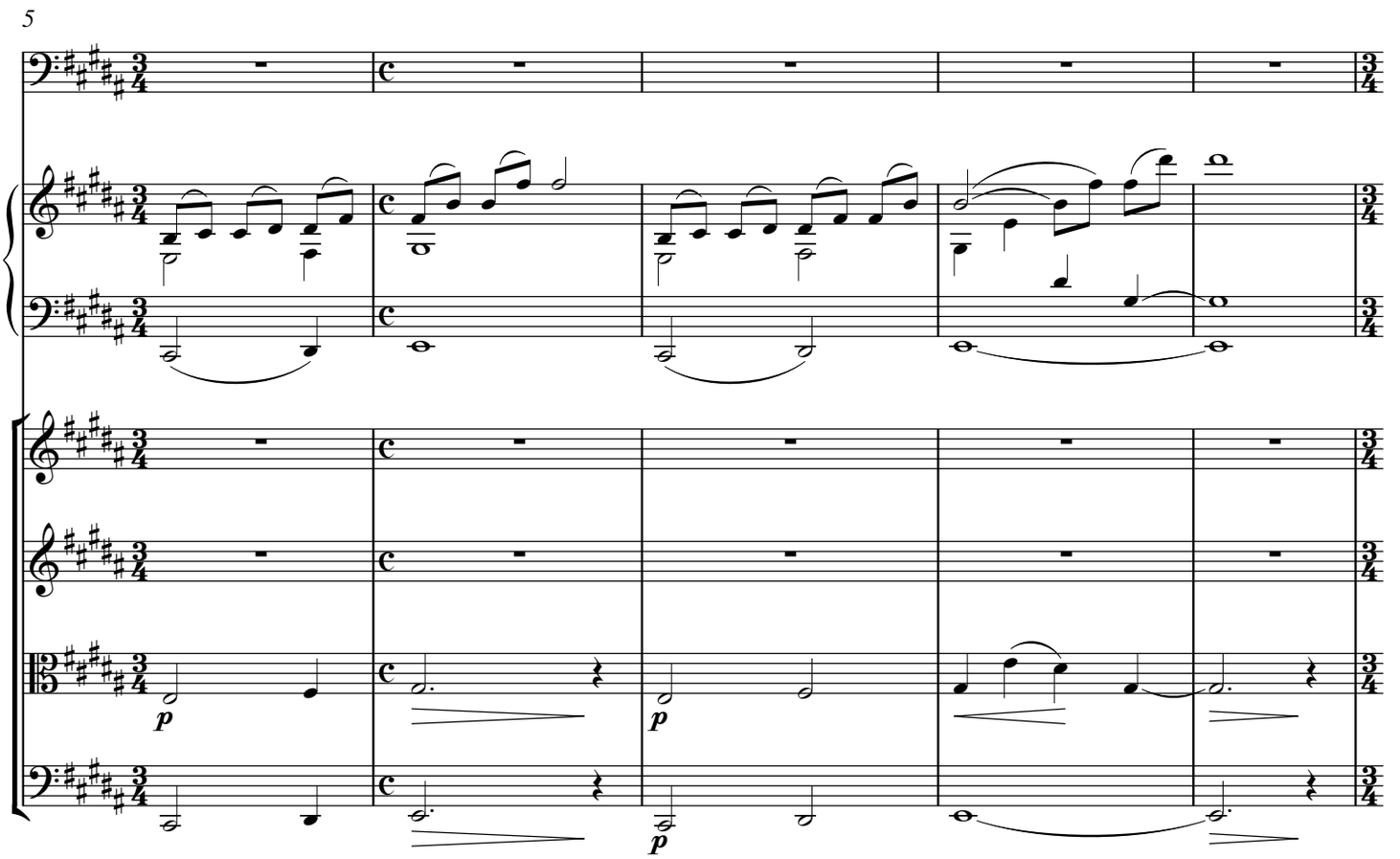

30
mp
mf
mf
pp
pp
pp
pp

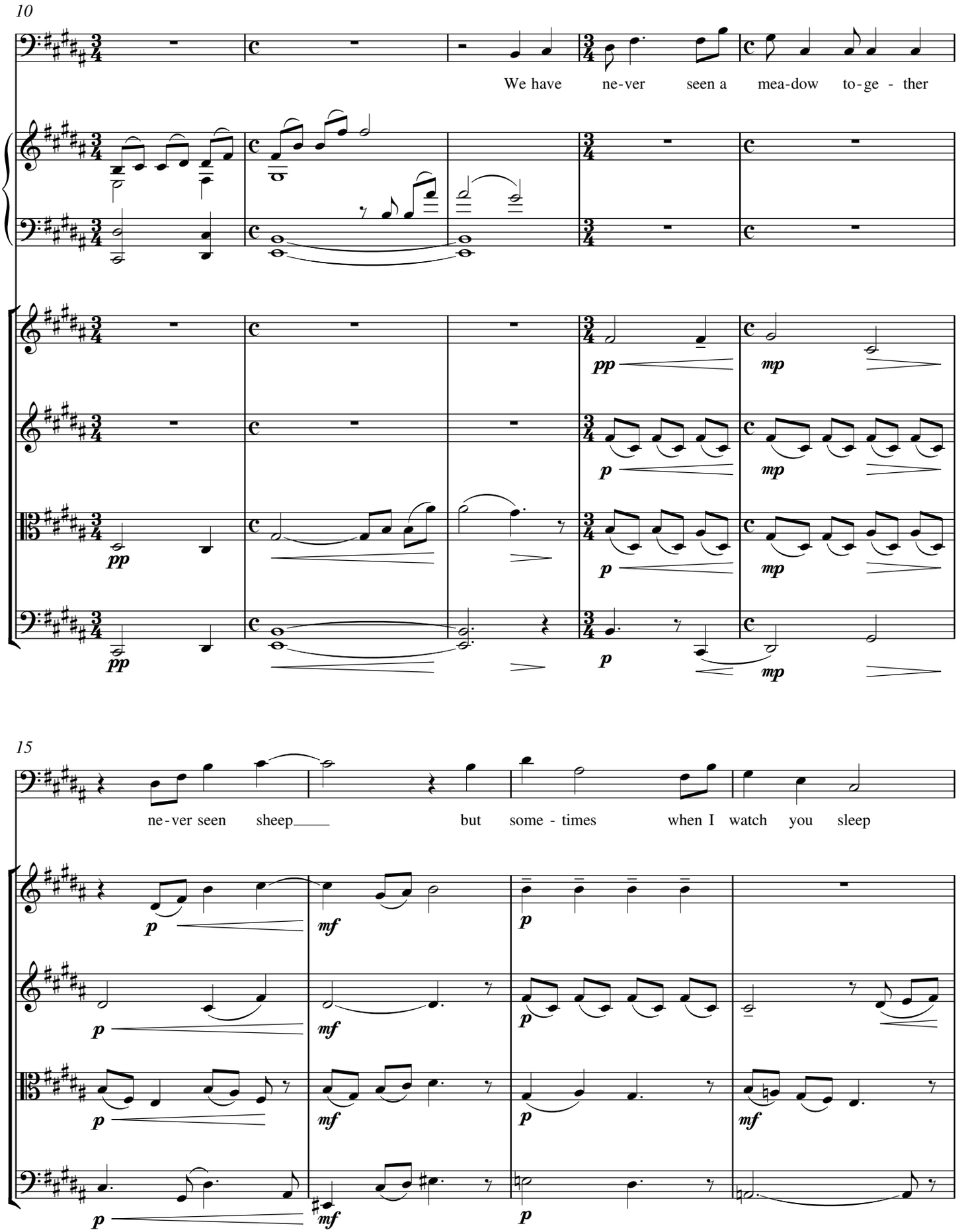
No. 19 Epilogue–Sleep

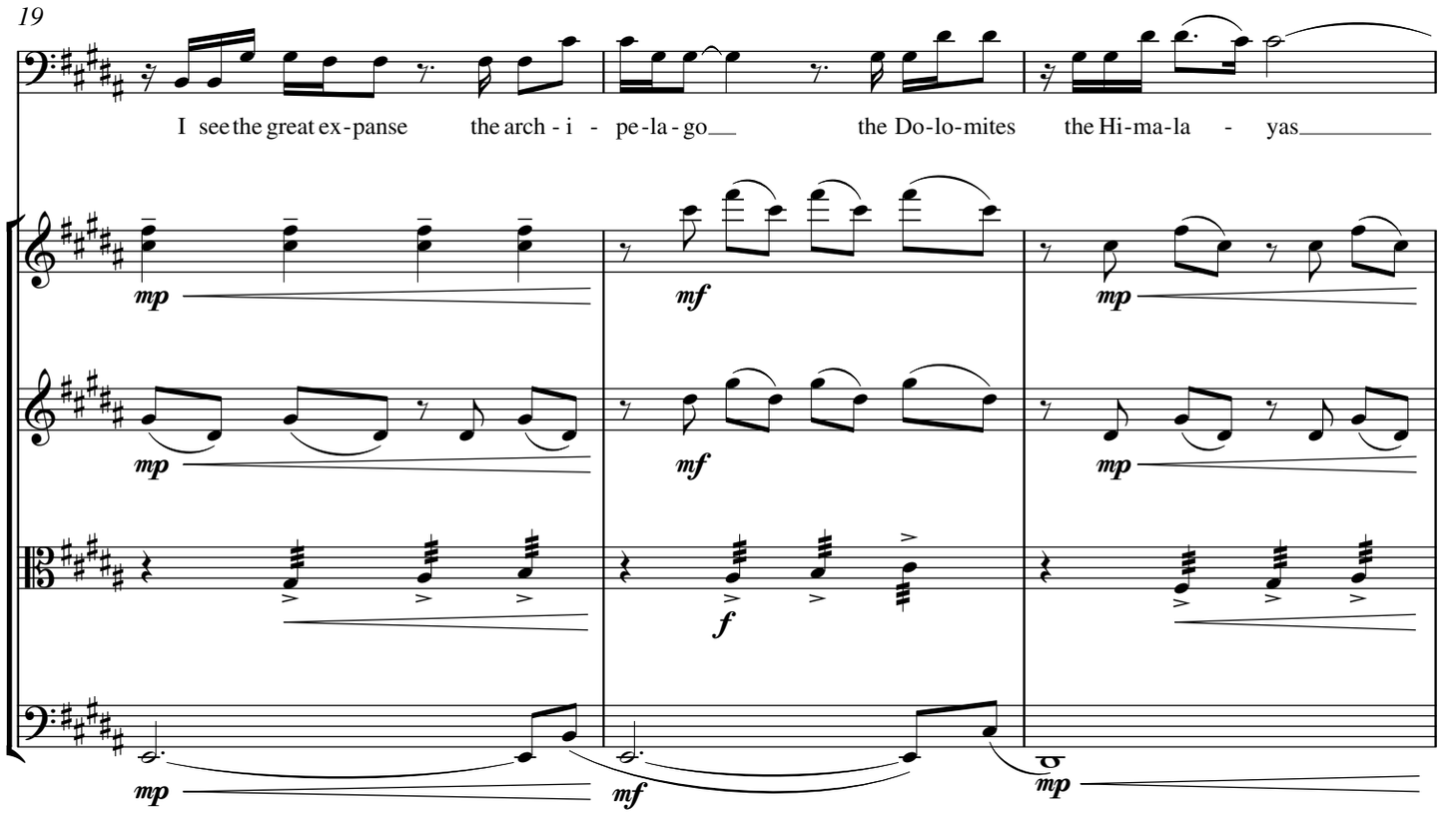
Free, dreamlike ♩ = 63

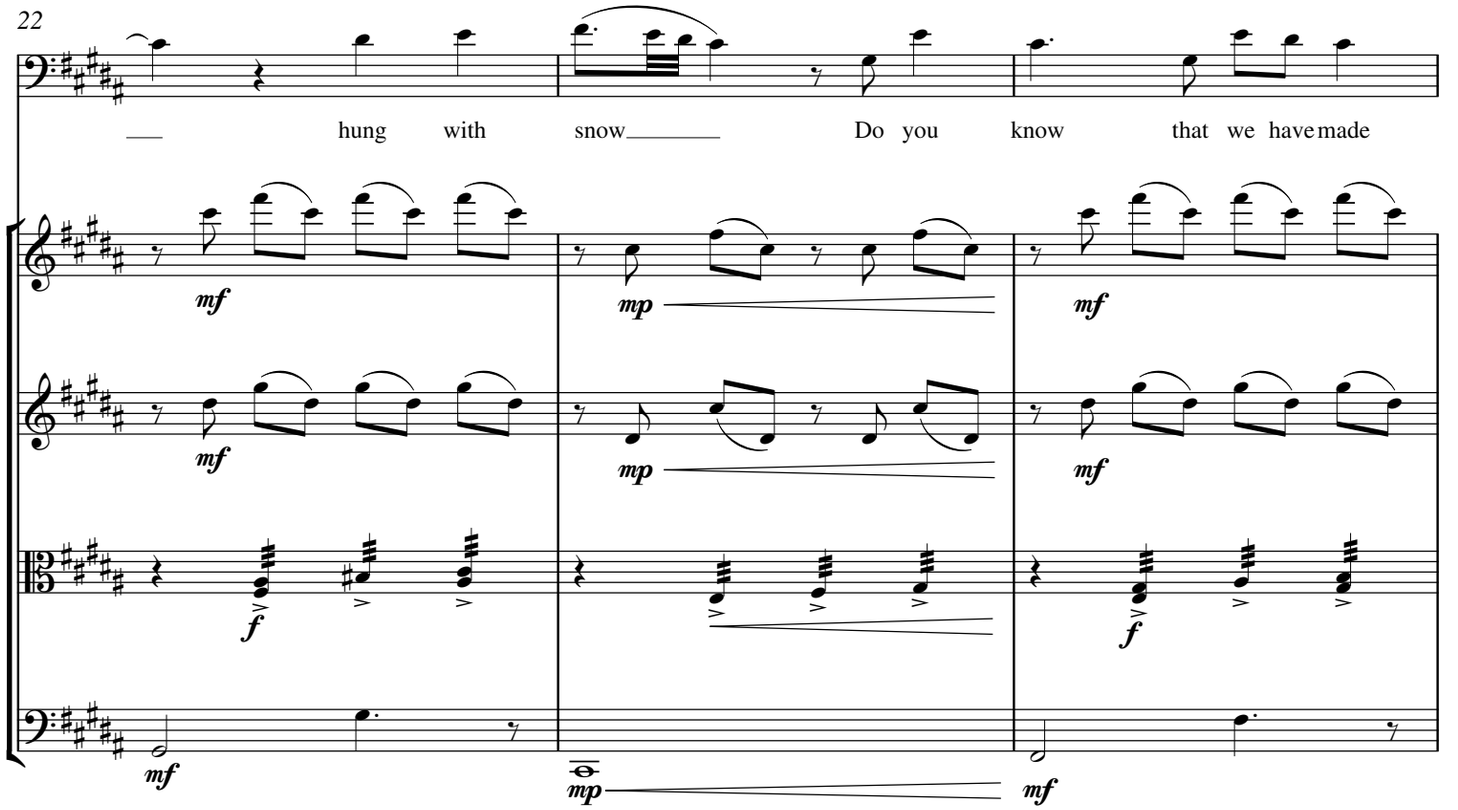


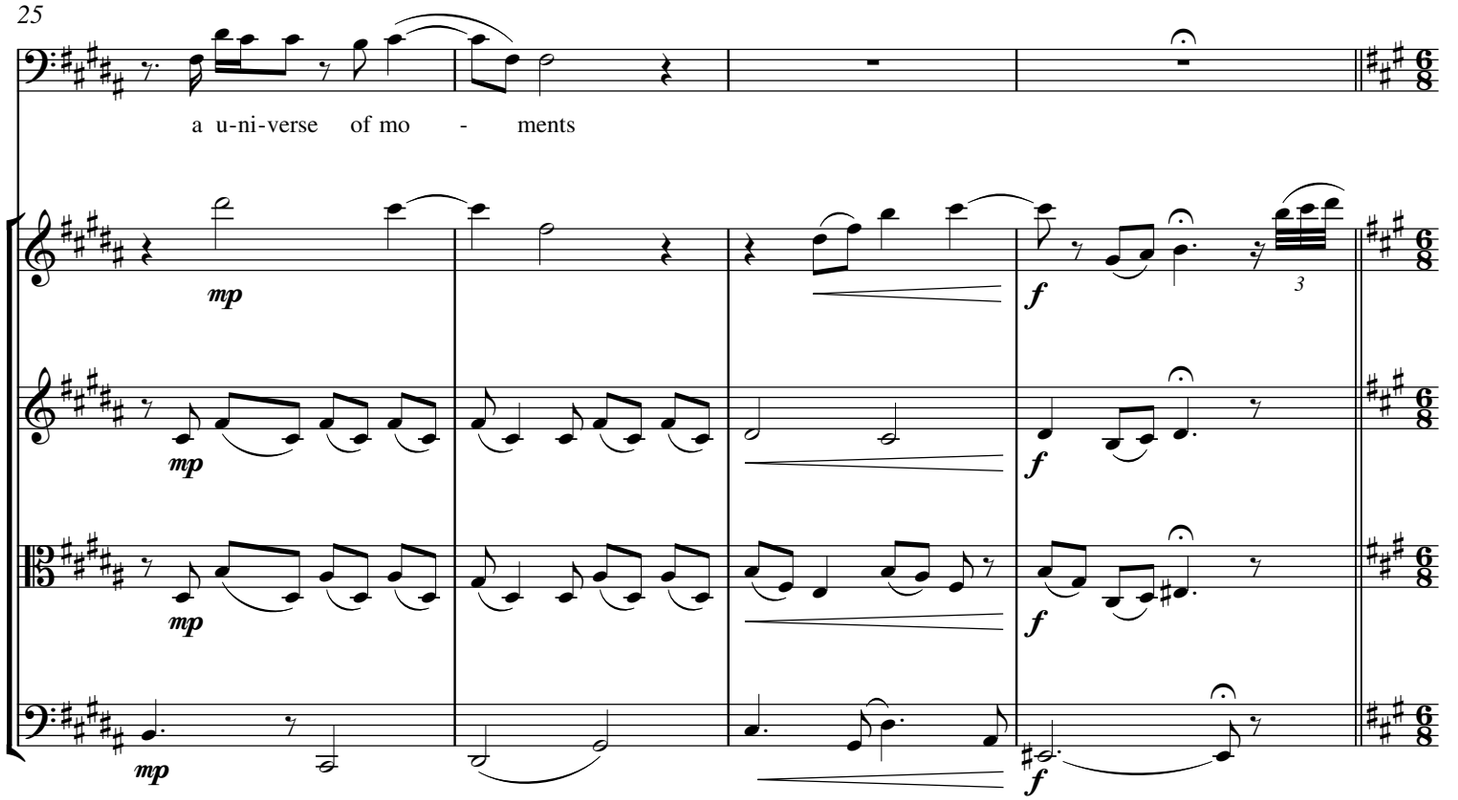
Note: If the singer can play mm. 1–12 by himself, then the strings should remain tacet until m. 13. Otherwise, the singer can just play the right-hand top layer (i.e. no harmonies), and the strings can cover the other parts.

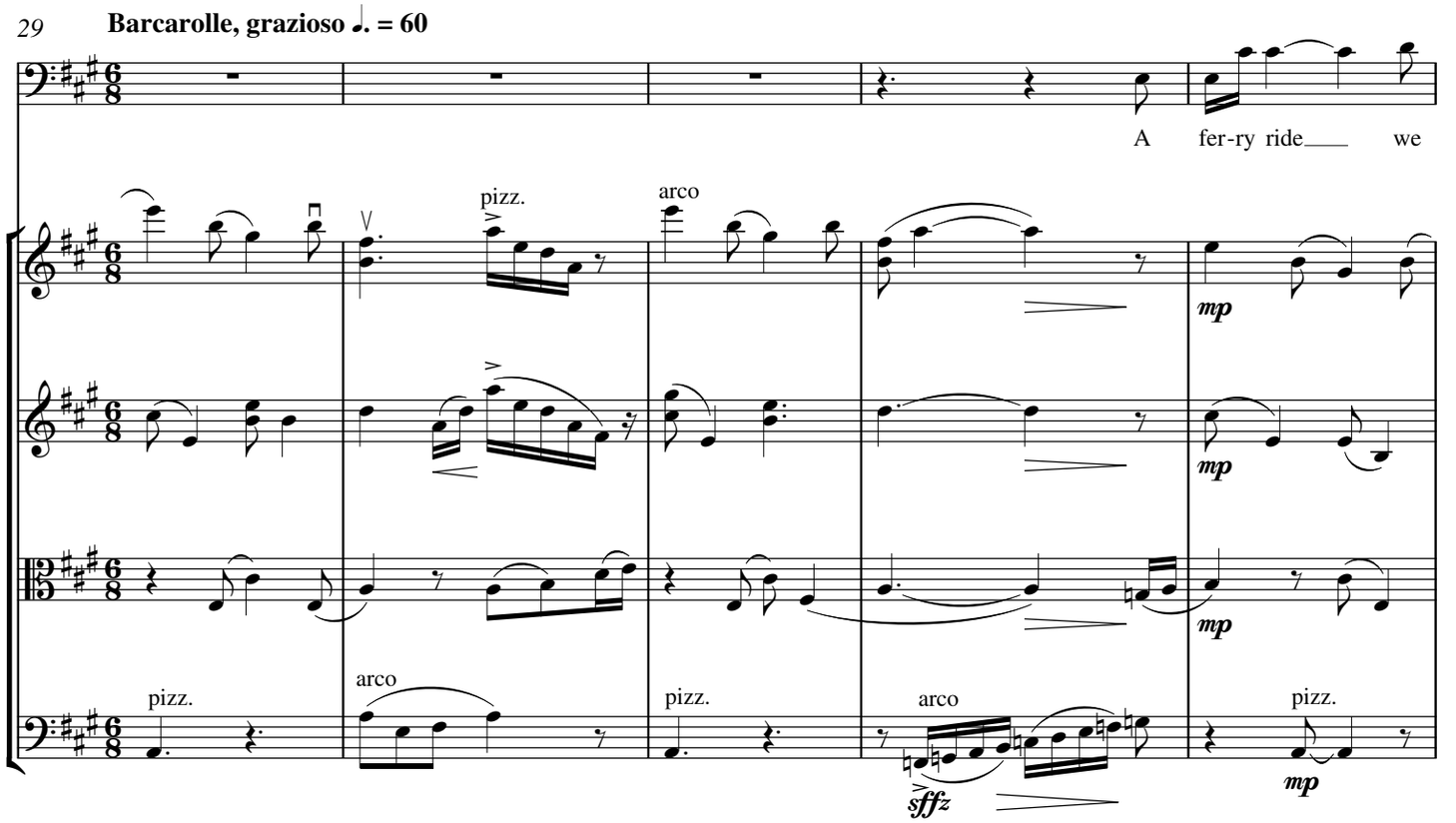


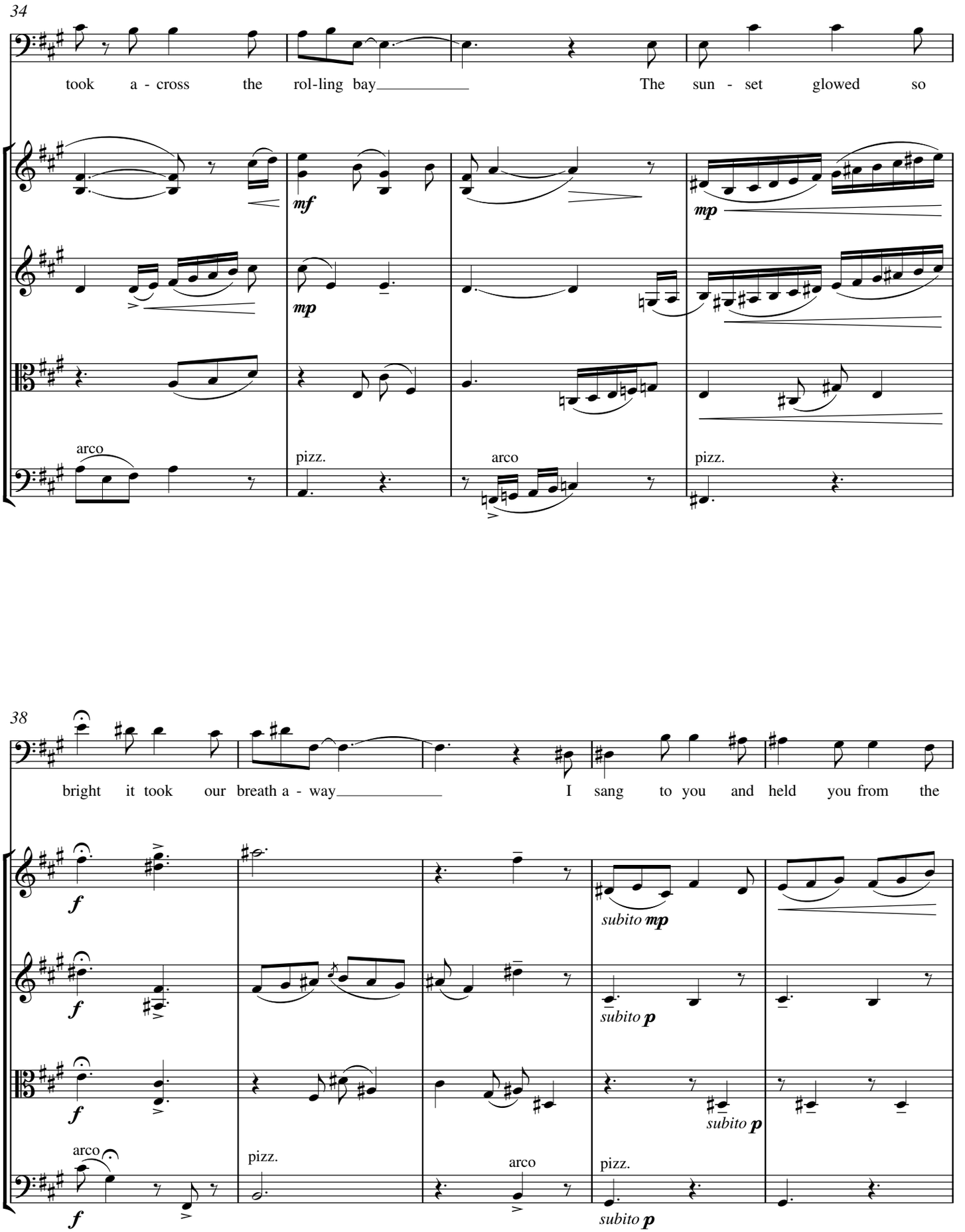

10
We have ne-ver seen a mea-dow to-ge - ther
15
ne-ver seen sheep but some - times when I watch you sleep

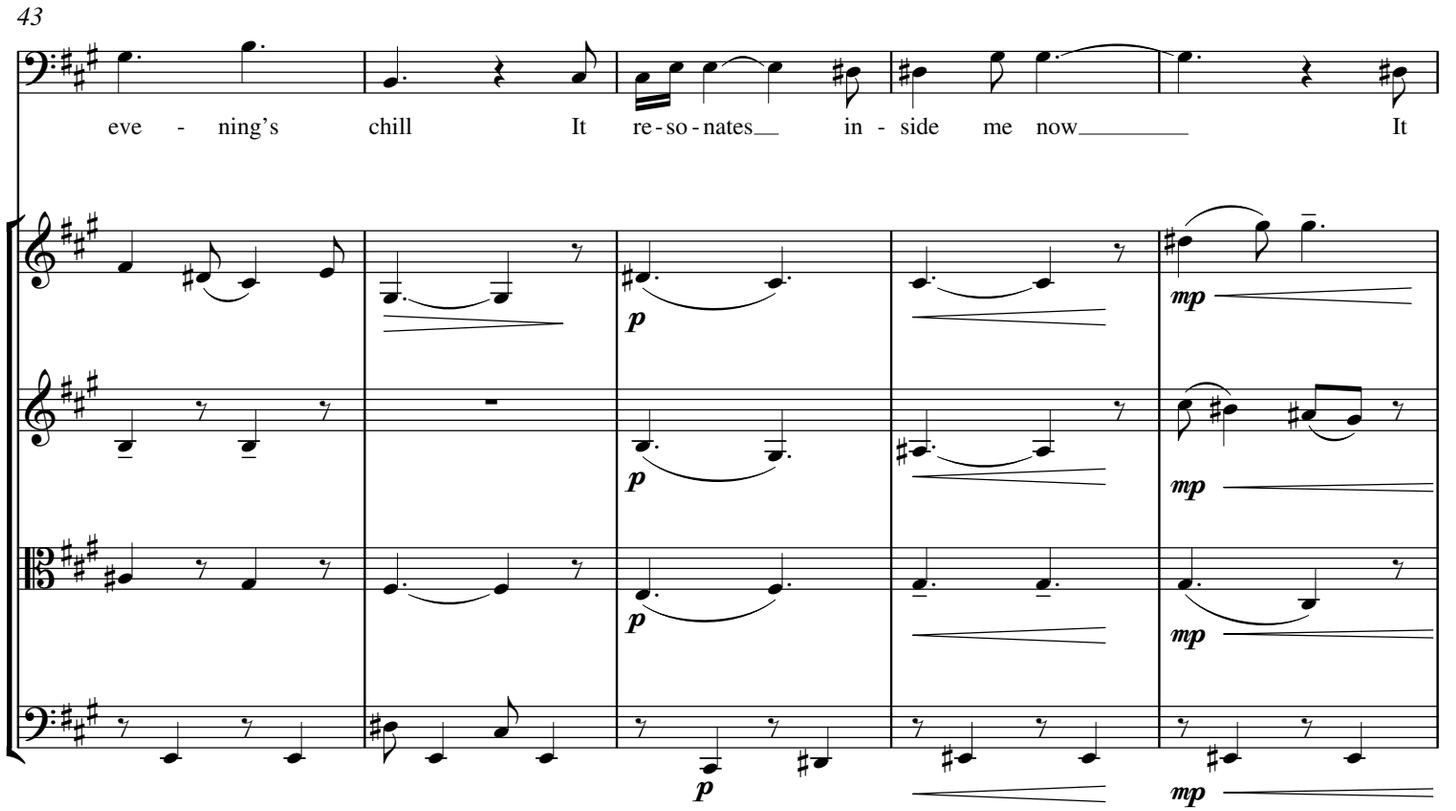

19
I see the great ex - panse the arch - i - pe - la - go the Do - lo - mites the Hi - ma - la - yas
mp
mf
mp
mp
mf
mp
f
mp
mf
mp

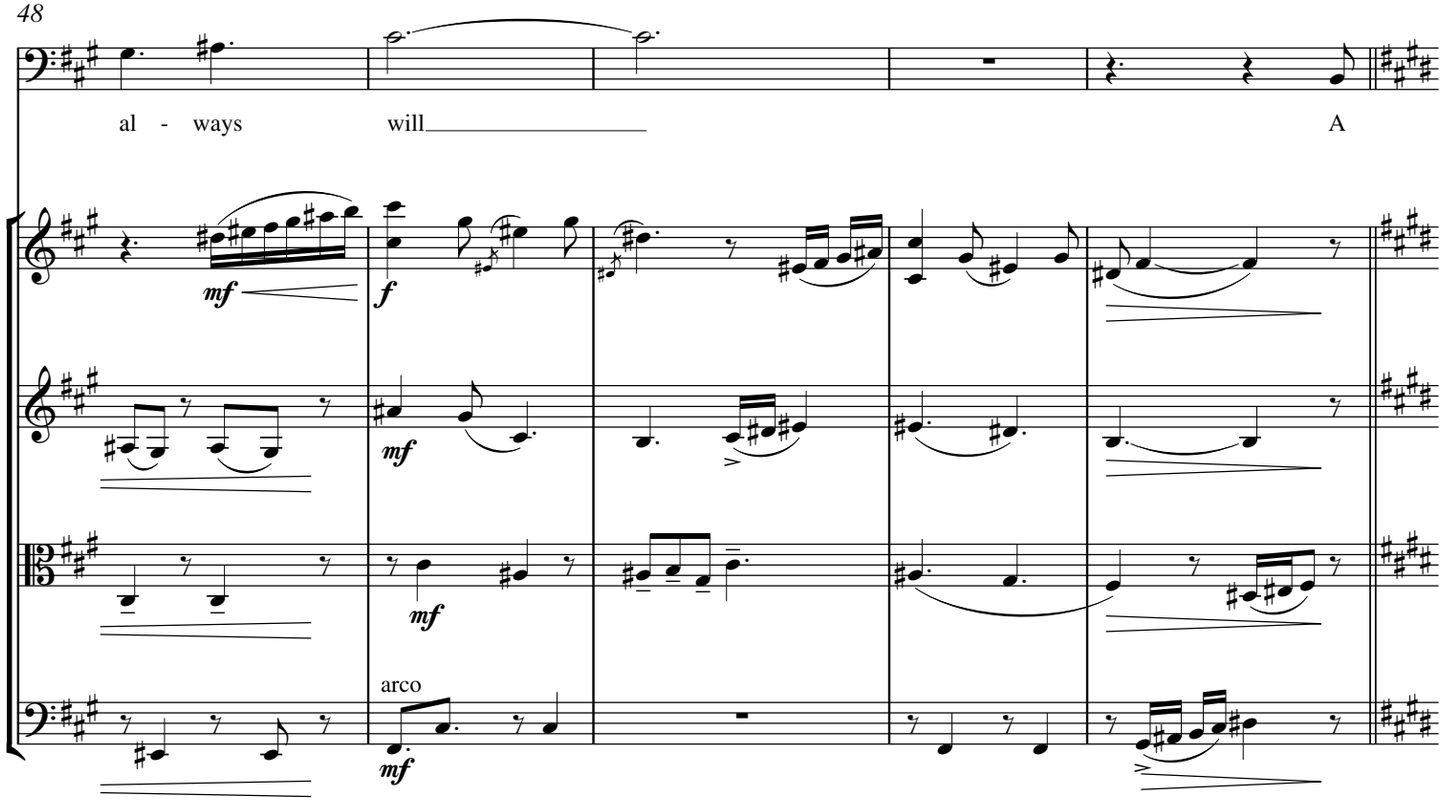

22
hung with snow Do you know that we have made
mf
mp
mf
mf
mp
mf
f
f
mf
mp
mf

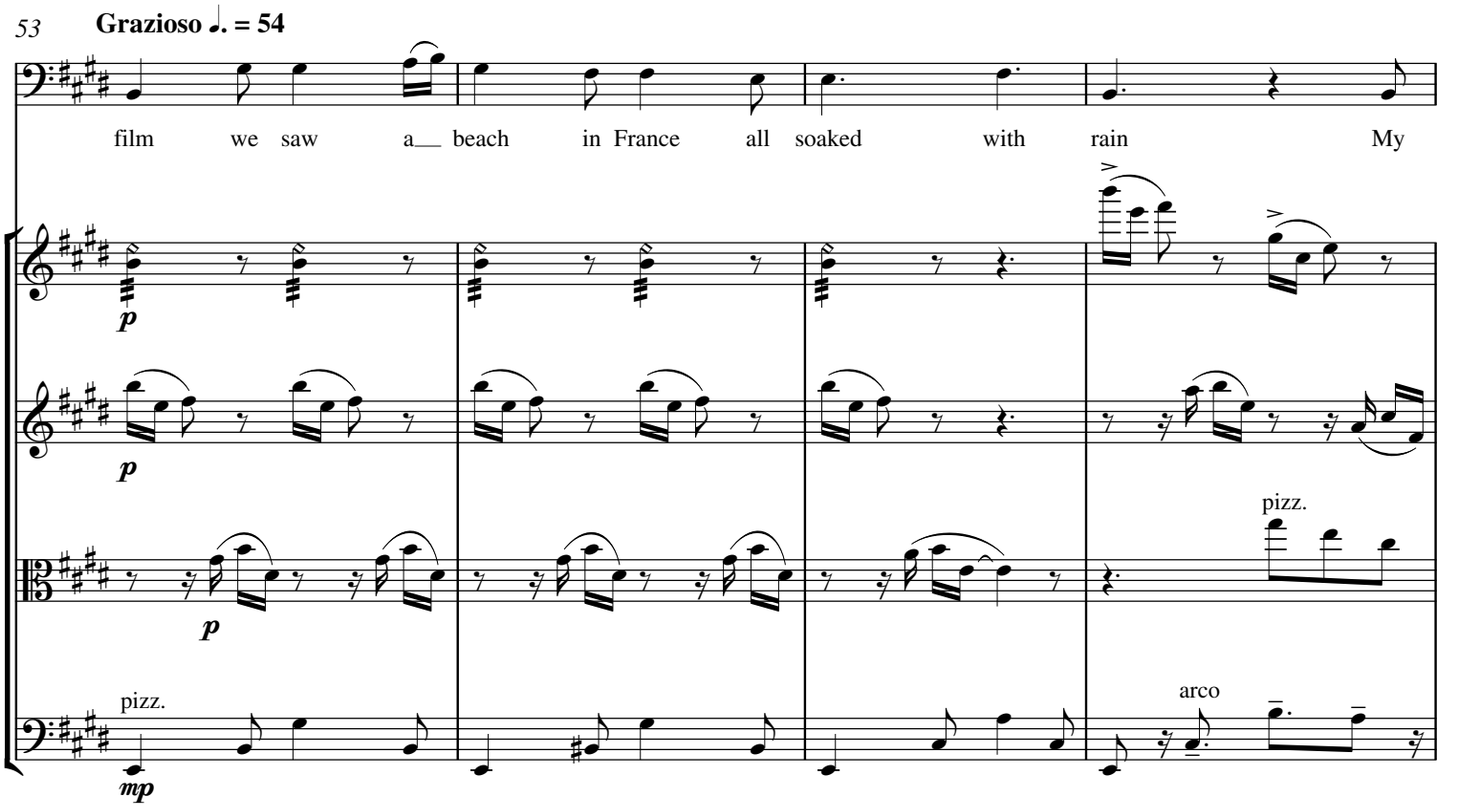

25
a u-ni-verse of mo - ments
mp
f
3

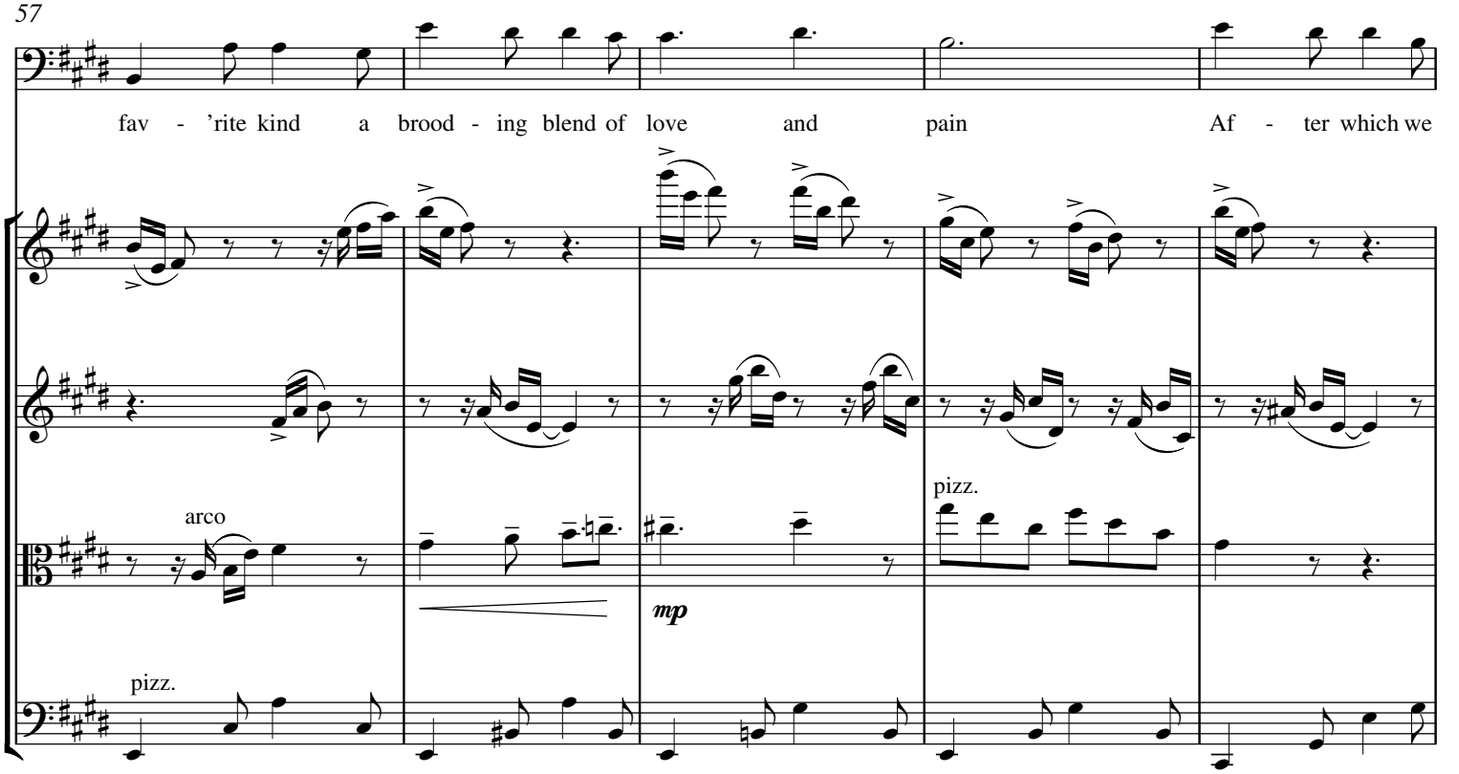

29
Barcarolle, grazioso ♩. = 60
A fer-ry ride we
pizz.
arco
mp
sffz

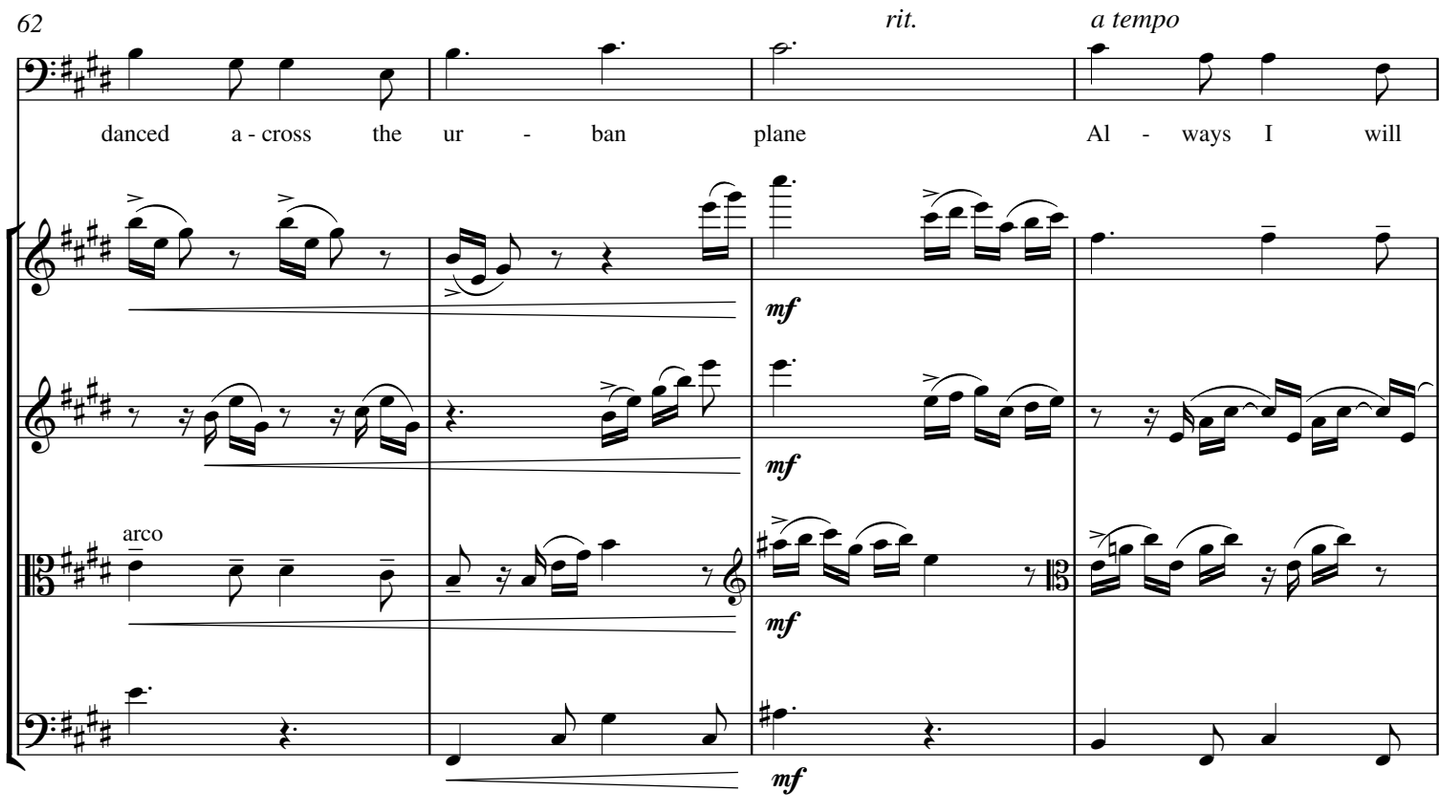

34
took a - cross the rol-ling bay
The sun - set glowed so
mf
mp
mp
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
38
bright it took our breath a - way
I sang to you and held you from the
f
f
f
f
subito mp
subito p
subito p
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
subito p

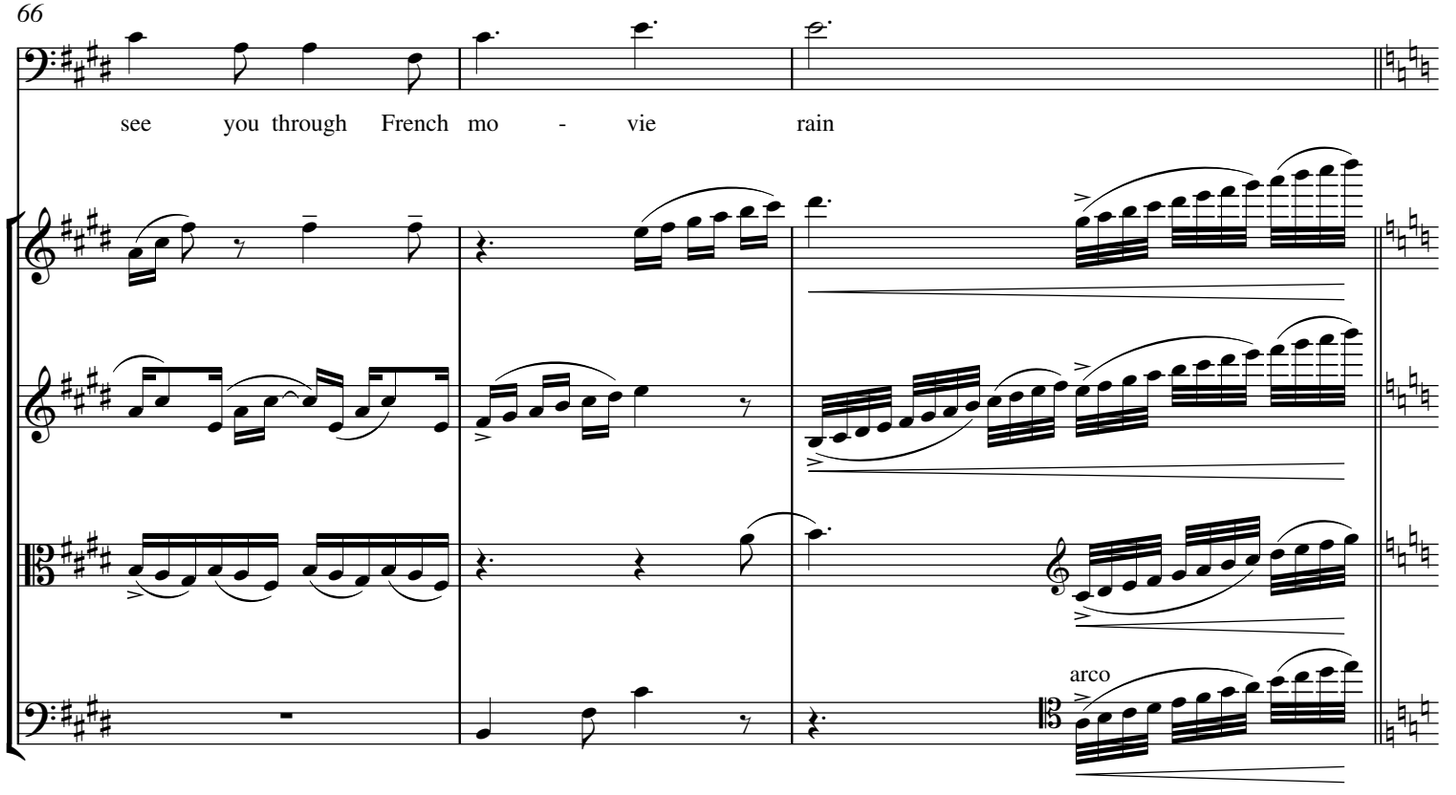

43
eve - ning's chill It re - so - nates in - side me now It
p
p
p
p
mp
mp
mp
mp

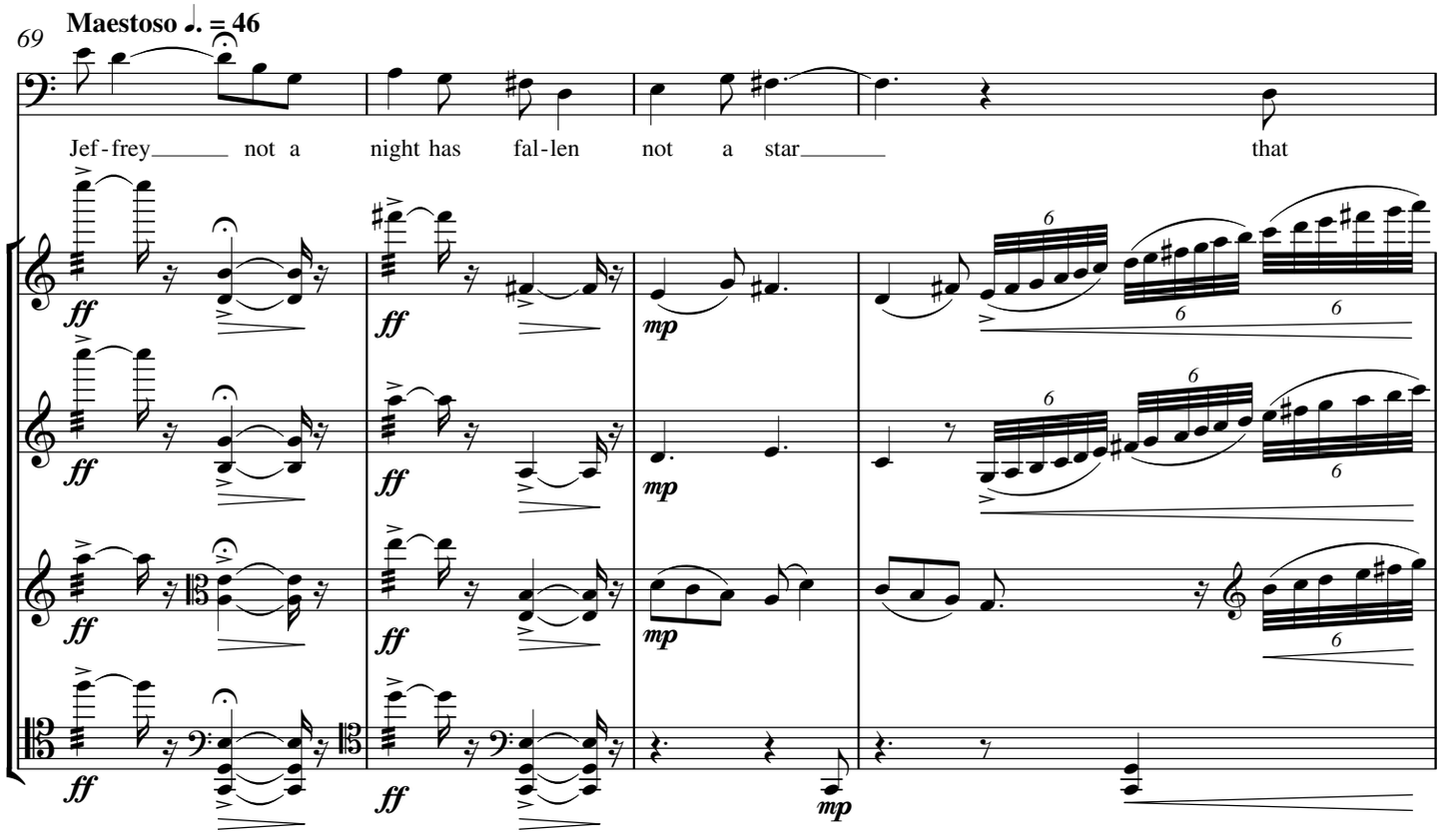

48
al - ways will A
mf
f
mf
mf
arco
mf

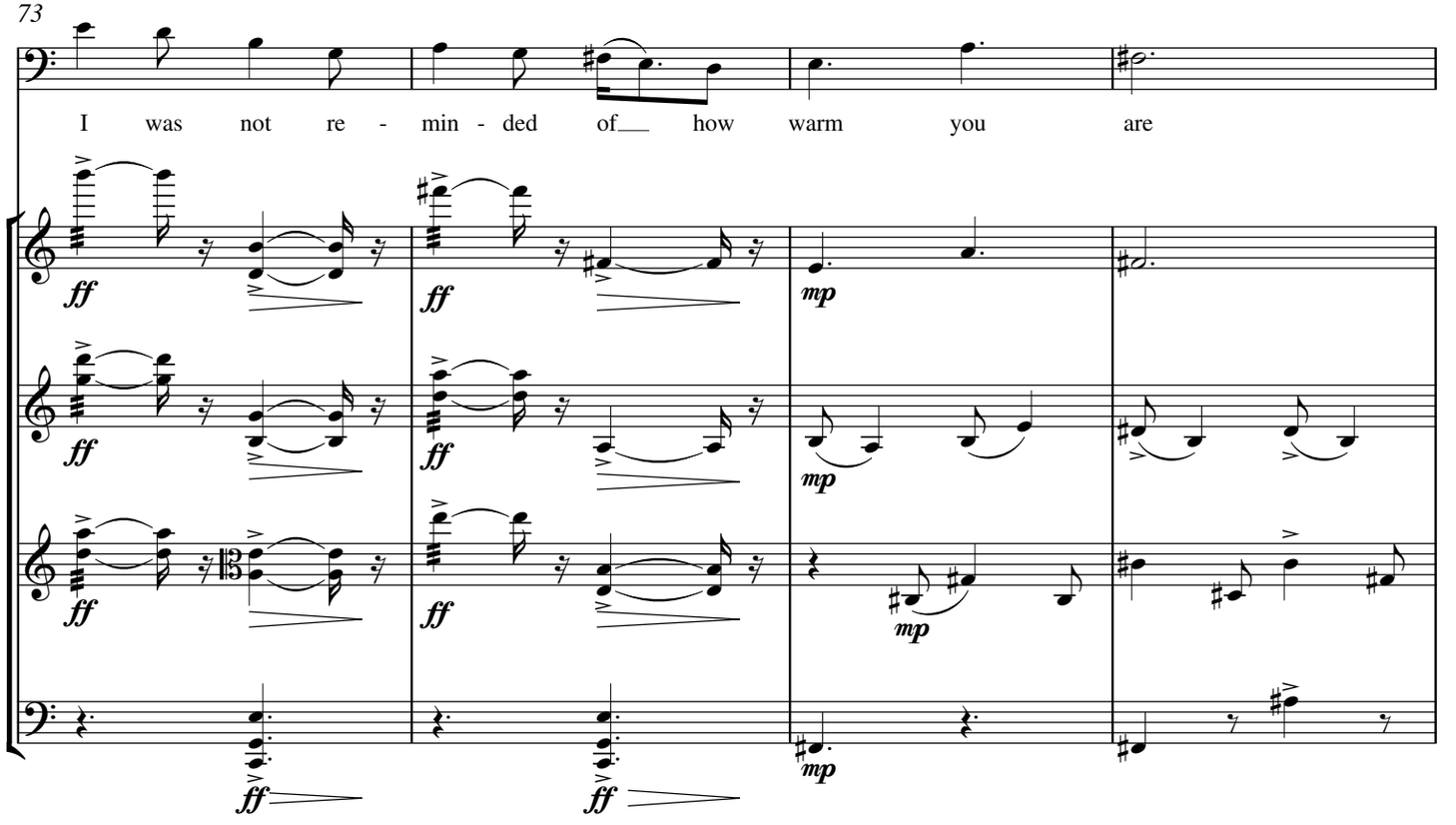

53
Grazioso ♩. = 54
film we saw a beach in France all soaked with rain My
p
p
p
pizz.
mp
pizz.
arco

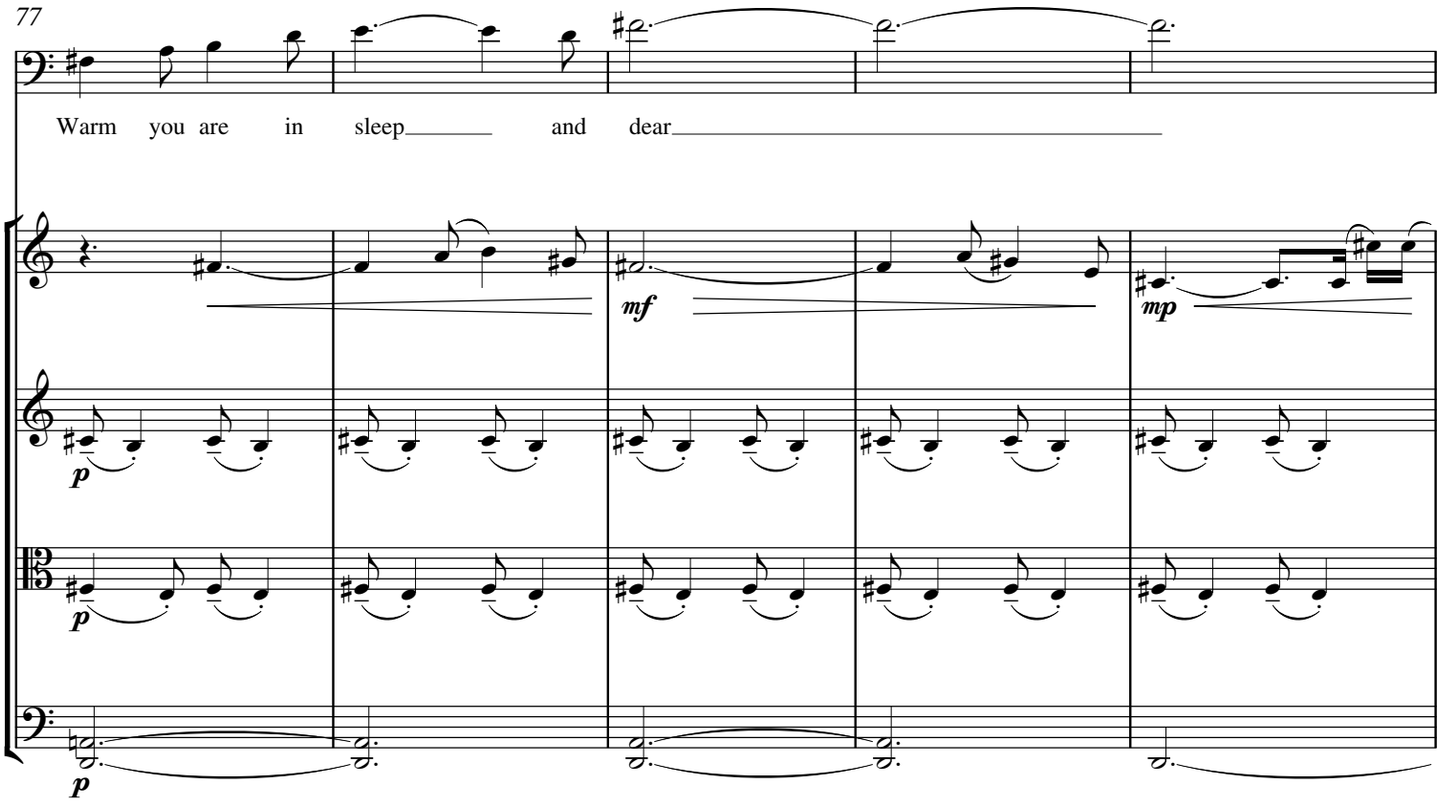

57
fav - 'rite kind a brood - ing blend of love and pain Af - ter which we
arco
pizz.
mp
pizz.

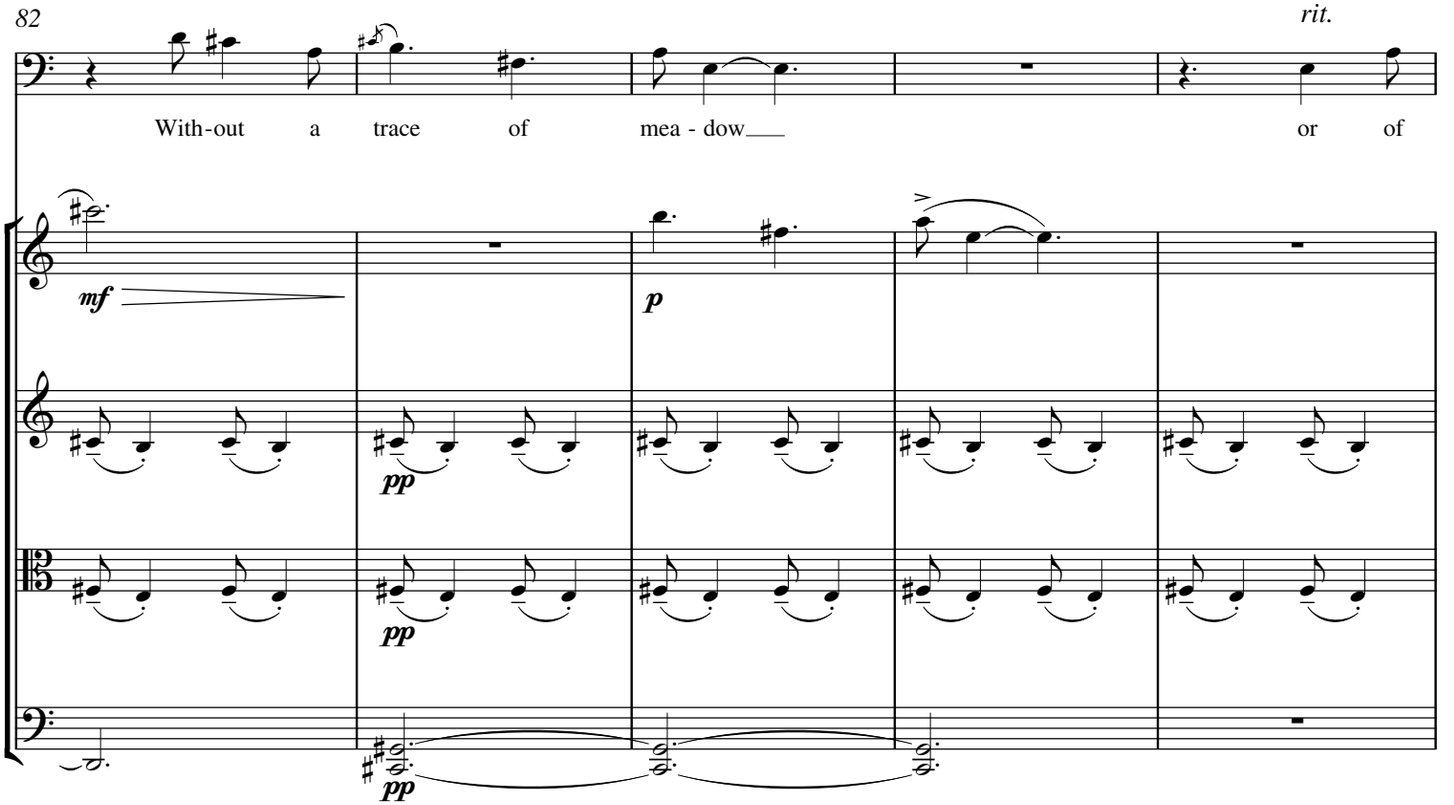

62
rit.
a tempo
danced a - cross the ur - ban plane
Al - ways I will
arco
mf
mf
mf
mf


66
see you through French mo - vie rain
arco

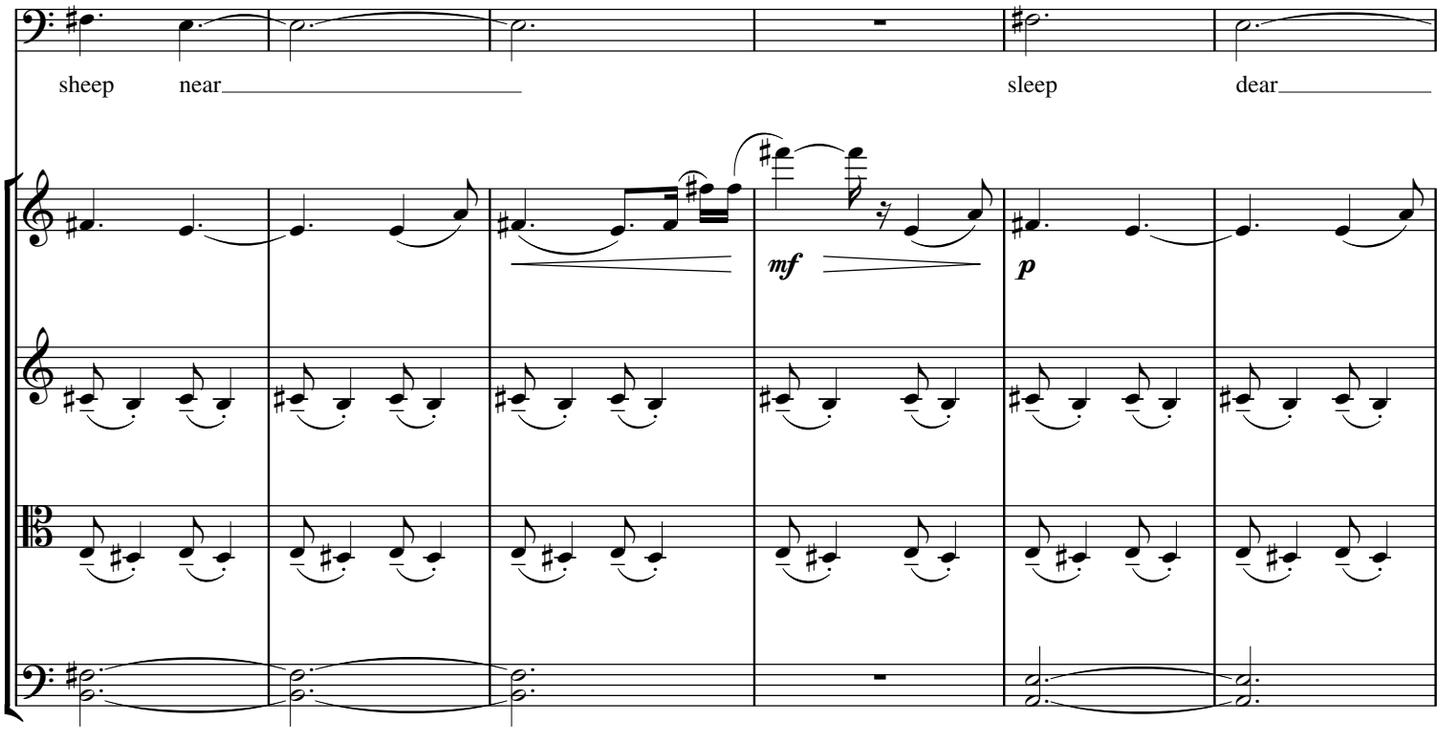

69
Maestoso ♩. = 46
Jef - frey not a night has fal - len not a star that


73
I was not re - min - ded of how warm you are

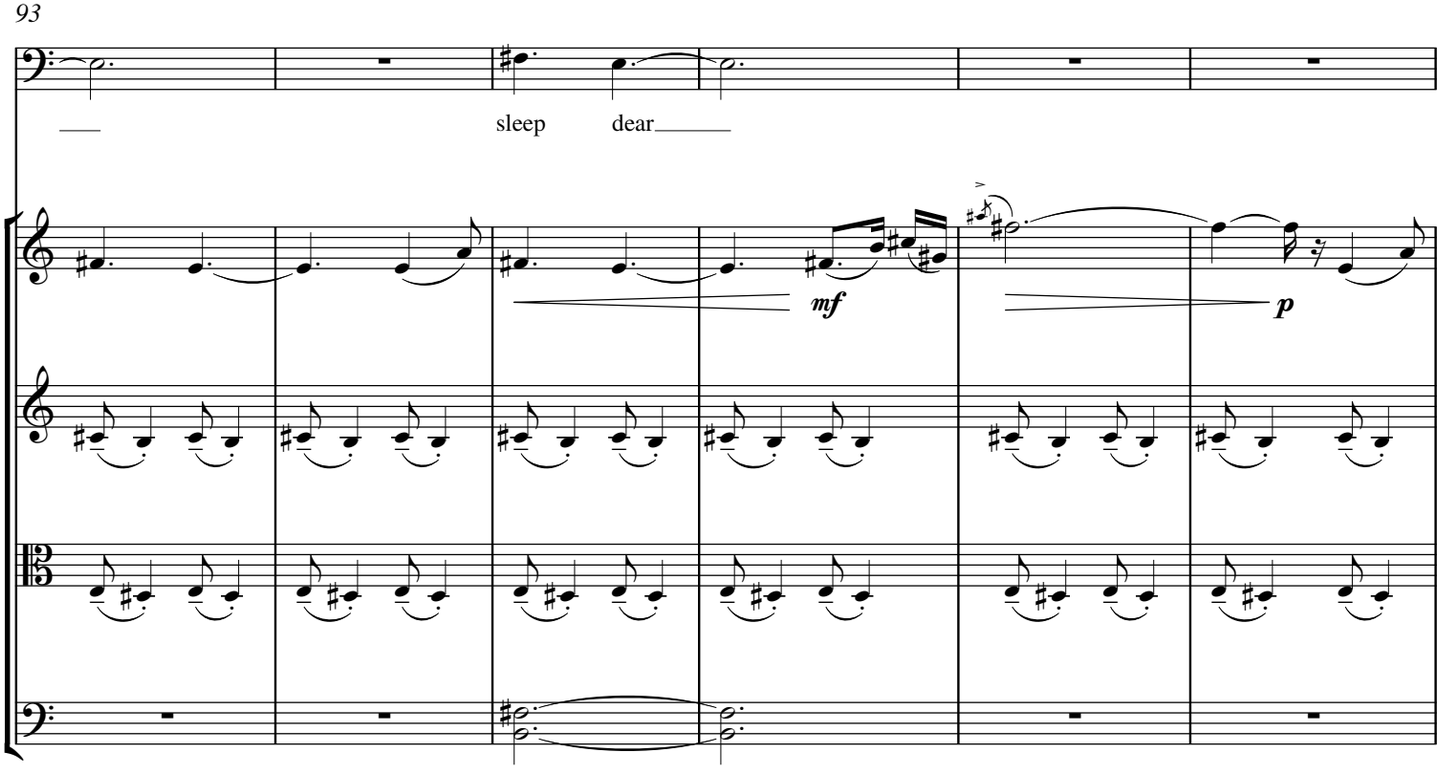

77
Warm you are in sleep and dear
mf
mp
p
p
p

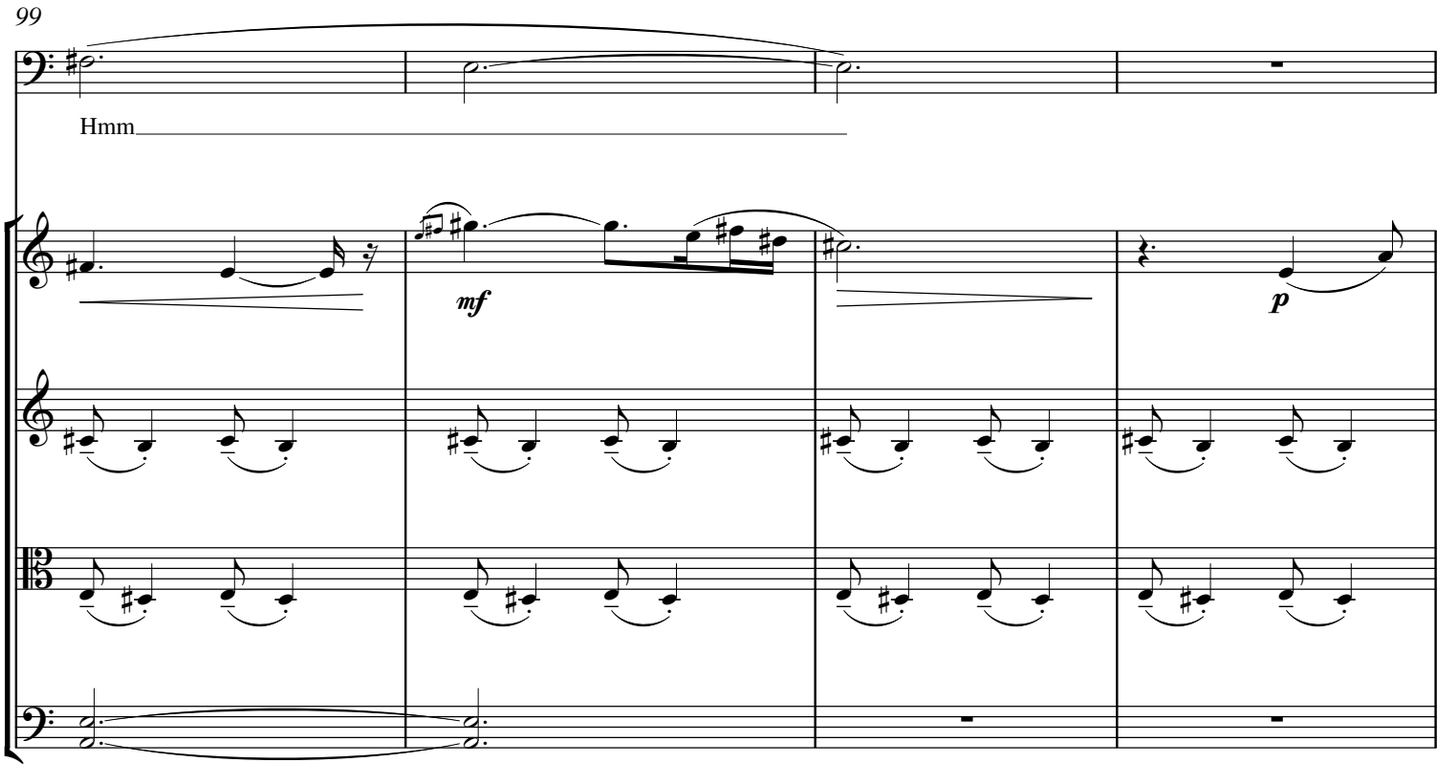

82
rit.
With-out a trace of mea - dow or of
mf
p
pp
pp
pp

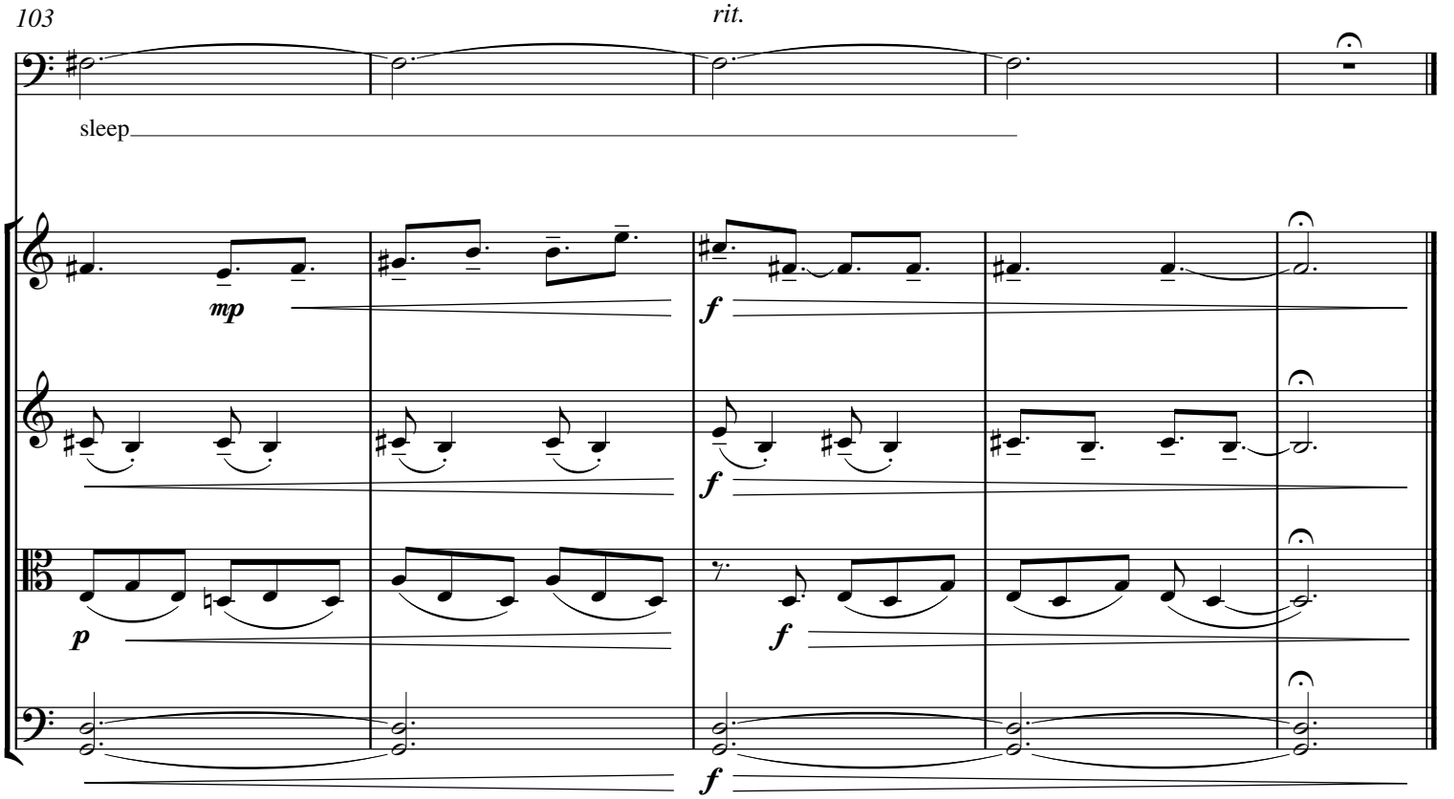
87 **Poco più lento ♩. = 40**



93




99
Hmm
mf
p


103
rit.
sleep
mp
f
p
f
f
f