in the Final Reel

Flute and String Quartet

Don Freund

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in the Final Reel
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Composer's Program Notes:

in the Final Reel was written for Alejandro Escuer and the Cassatt Quartet as a reconstruction of the final movement of my *Flute Concerto in Three Reels.* I can remember reading movie reviews in which the critic would refer to events in the film as occurring in "the second reel" or "the third reel." It seemed strange to think of the extended dramatic form of a motion picture defined as series of reels of film. We, certainly, were never aware of the reels at all, unless the film broke or the projectionist fell asleep, ripping the audience from the continuum of the film's fantasy world into stark reality.

The breaks between the "reels" of my Flute Concerto are purposefully arbitrary. They give the performers a chance to re-tune, and provide the opportunity for the audience's attention span to re-engage. But their principal function is to sharpen the awareness of the counterpoint between the physical properties of the medium and the fantasy world it creates. It could be argued that all art — or more grandiosely, our experience of life itself — is about this meeting of the physical and the spiritual worlds.

Those looking for a deeper meaning might consider the proposition that our prevailing perception of reality is simply a superficial layer, waiting only for the reel to stop, abruptly exposing something more substantial beneath it. One possible lyric for the tune which introduces the flute and dominates this final reel:

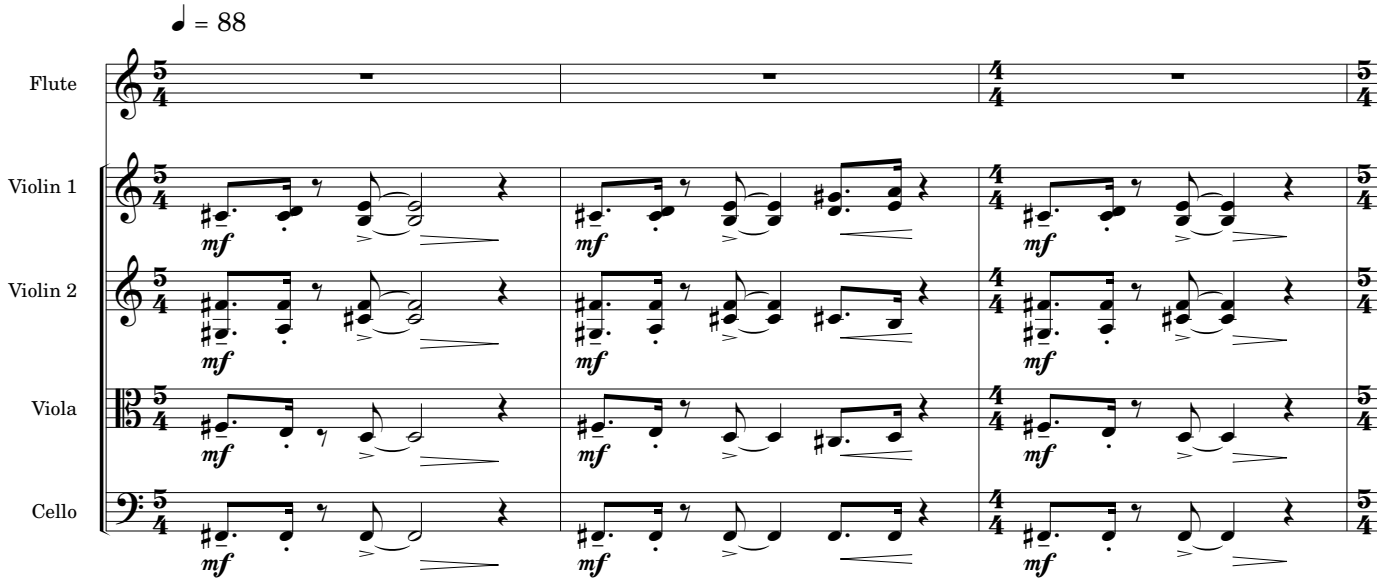
"Show me the way to back to nowhere,
Show me the road to go home."

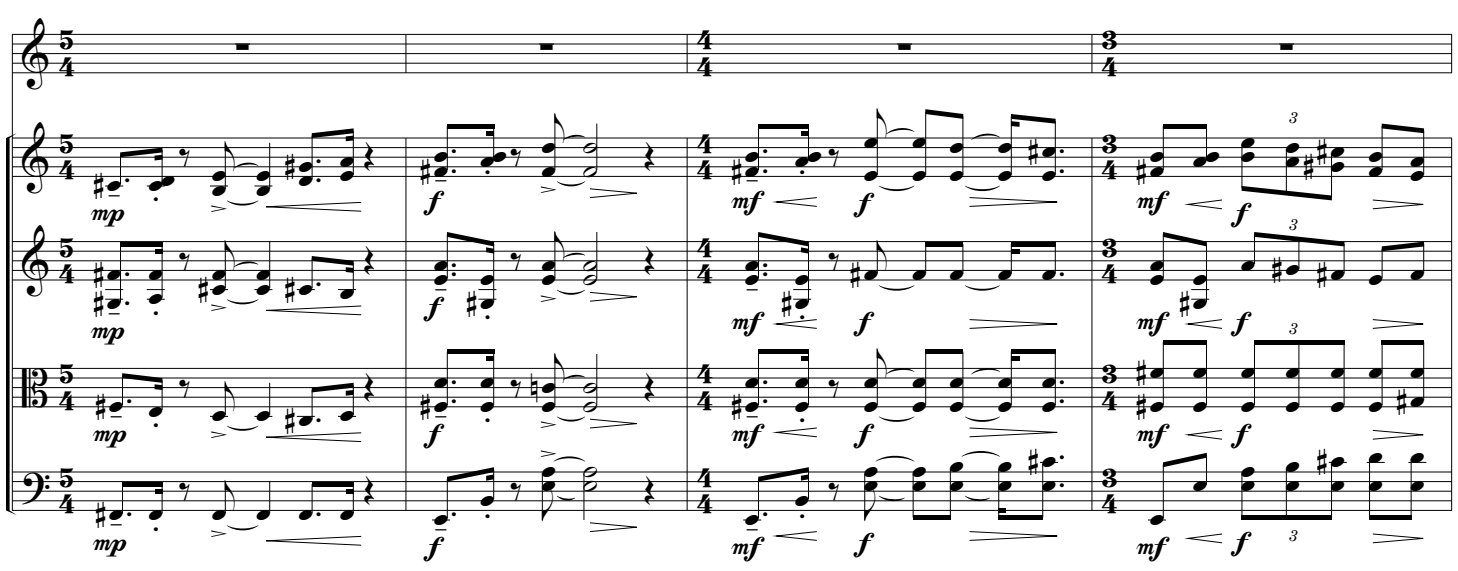
in the Final Reel

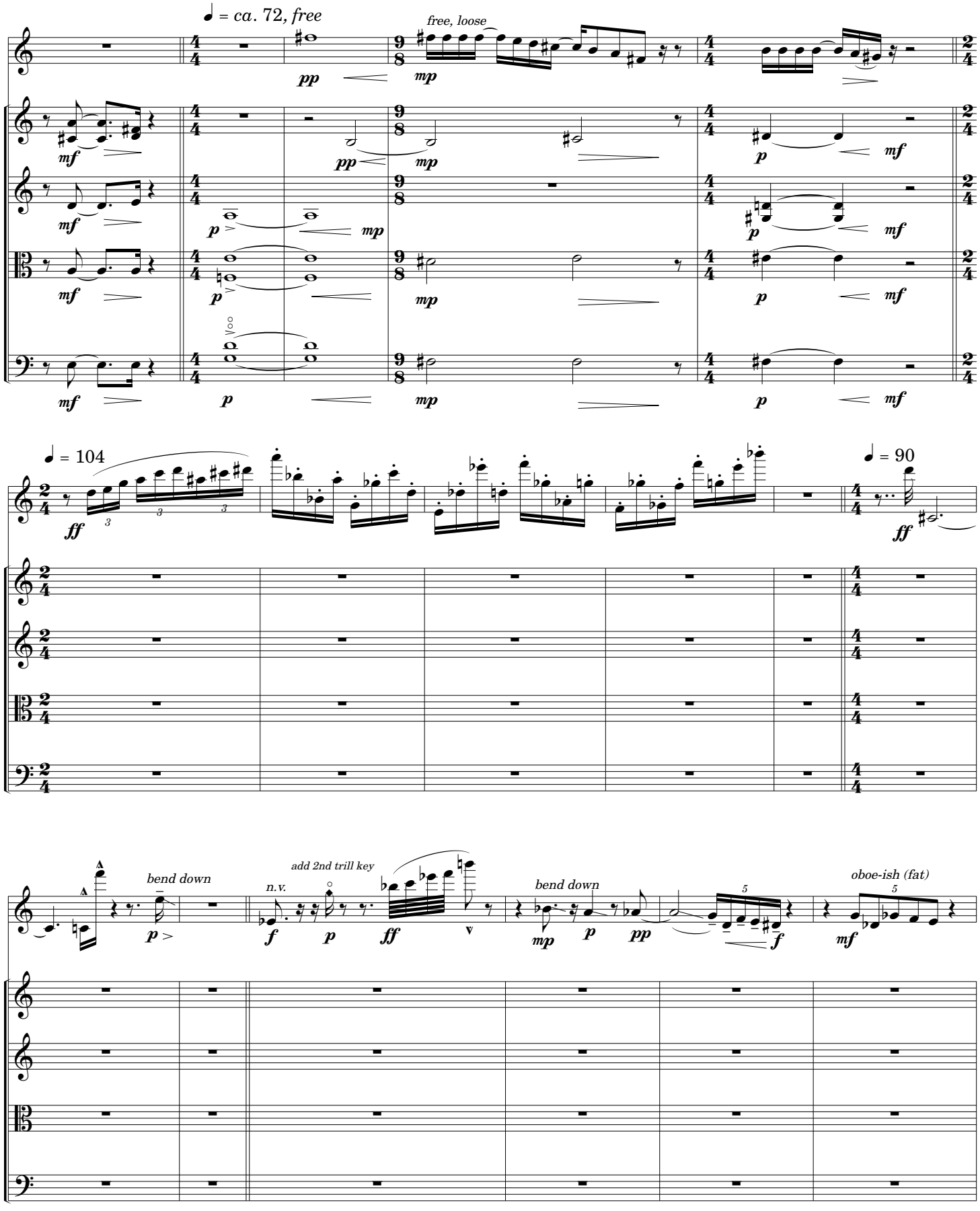
for Flute and String Quartet

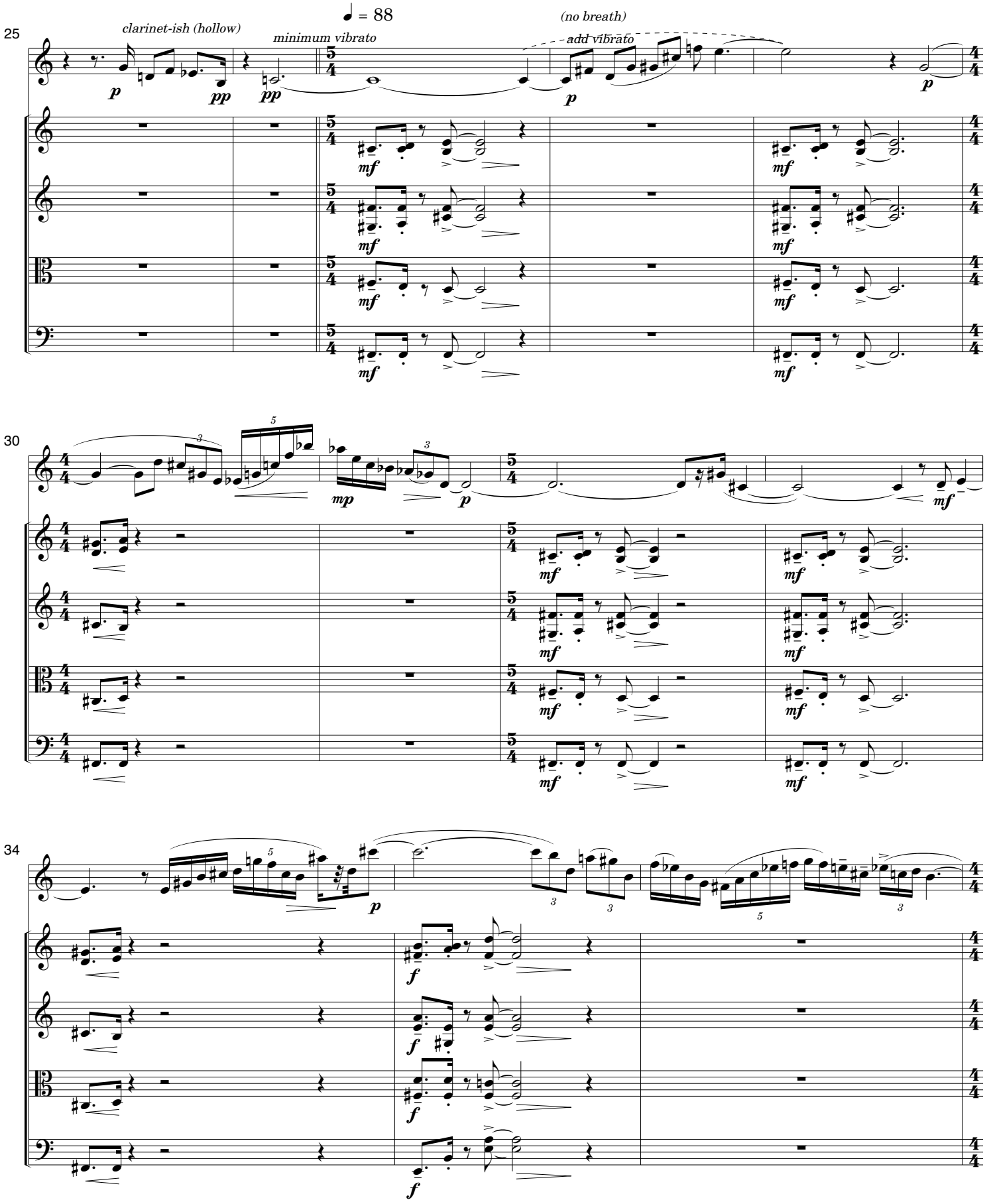
reconstructed from "Flute Concerto in Three Reels"
for Alejandro Escuer and the Cassatt Quartet

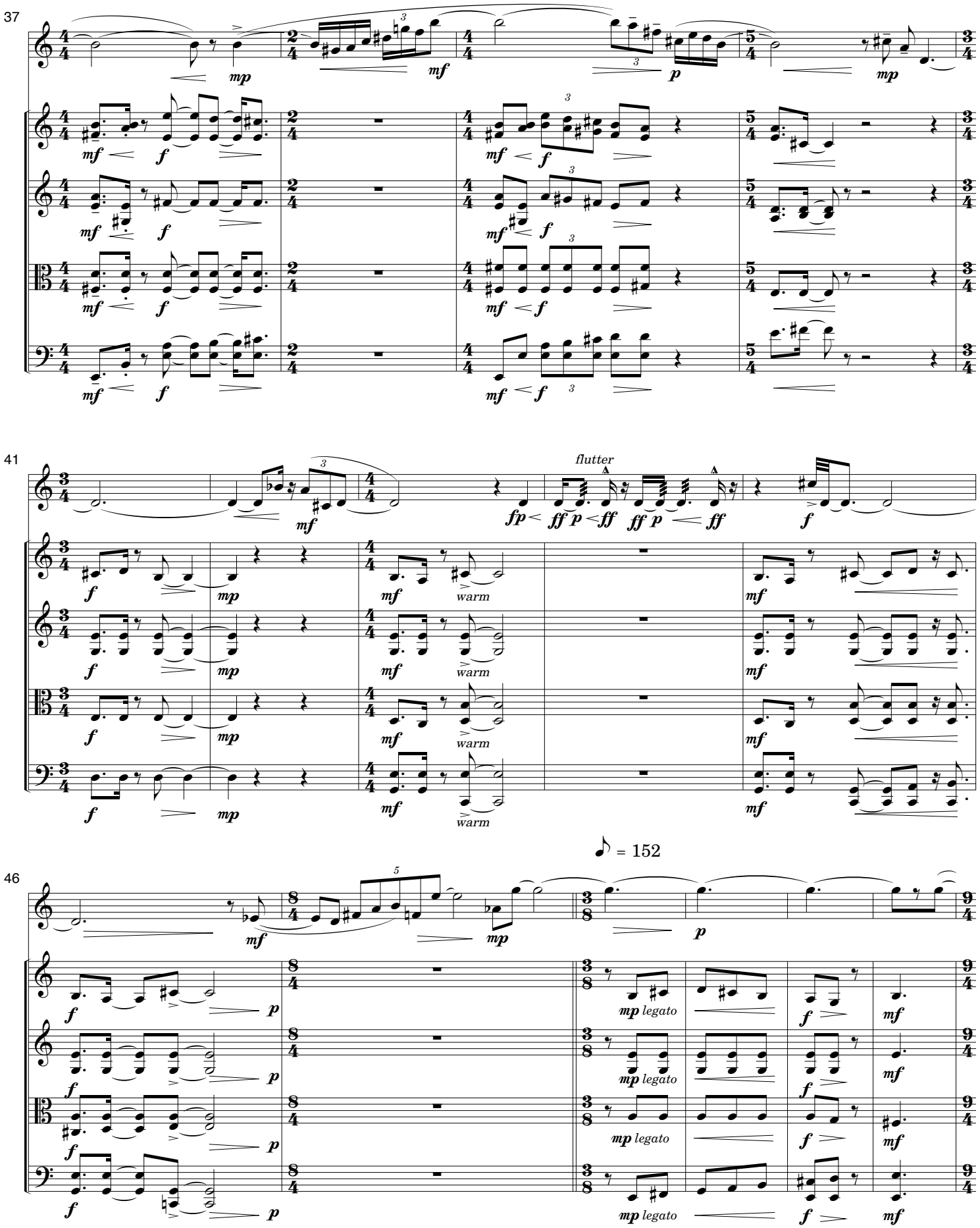
(2011)
Don Freund



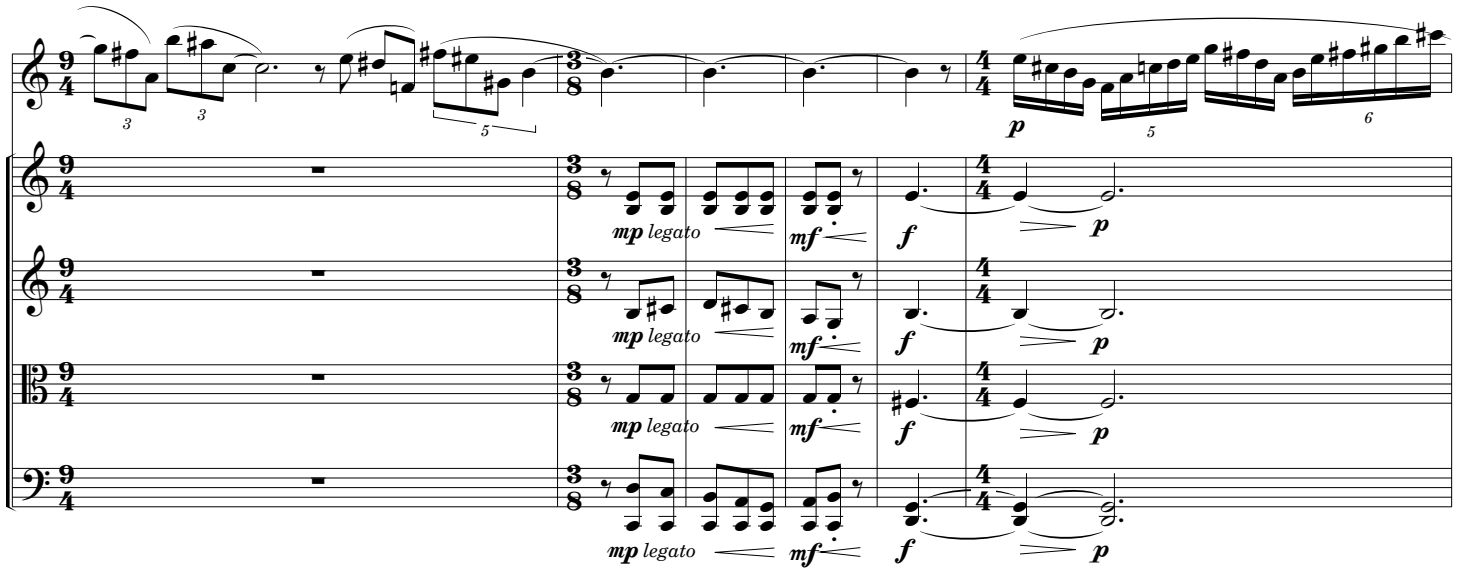



8
♩ = ca. 72, free
free, loose
13
♩ = 104
♩ = 90
19
bend down
n.v.
add 2nd trill key
bend down
oboe-ish (fat)

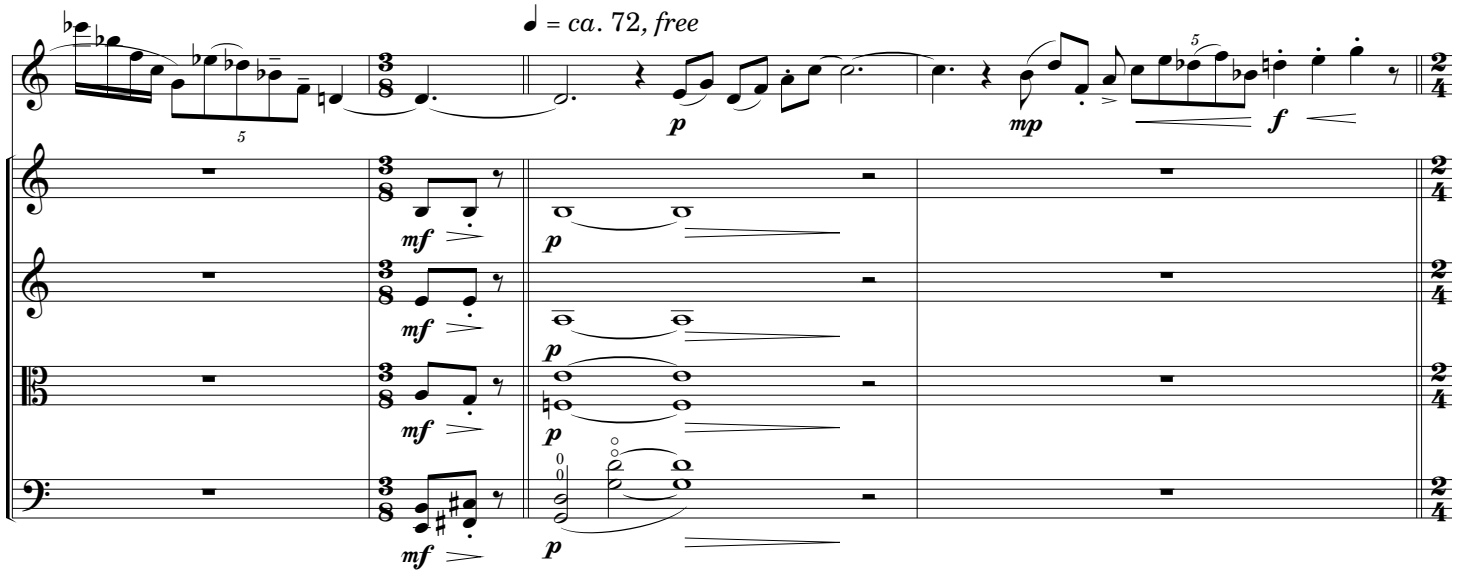

♩ = 88
25
clarinet-ish (hollow)
minimum vibrato
(no breath)
add vibrato
30
34


37
41
flutter
warm
46
♪ = 152
legato

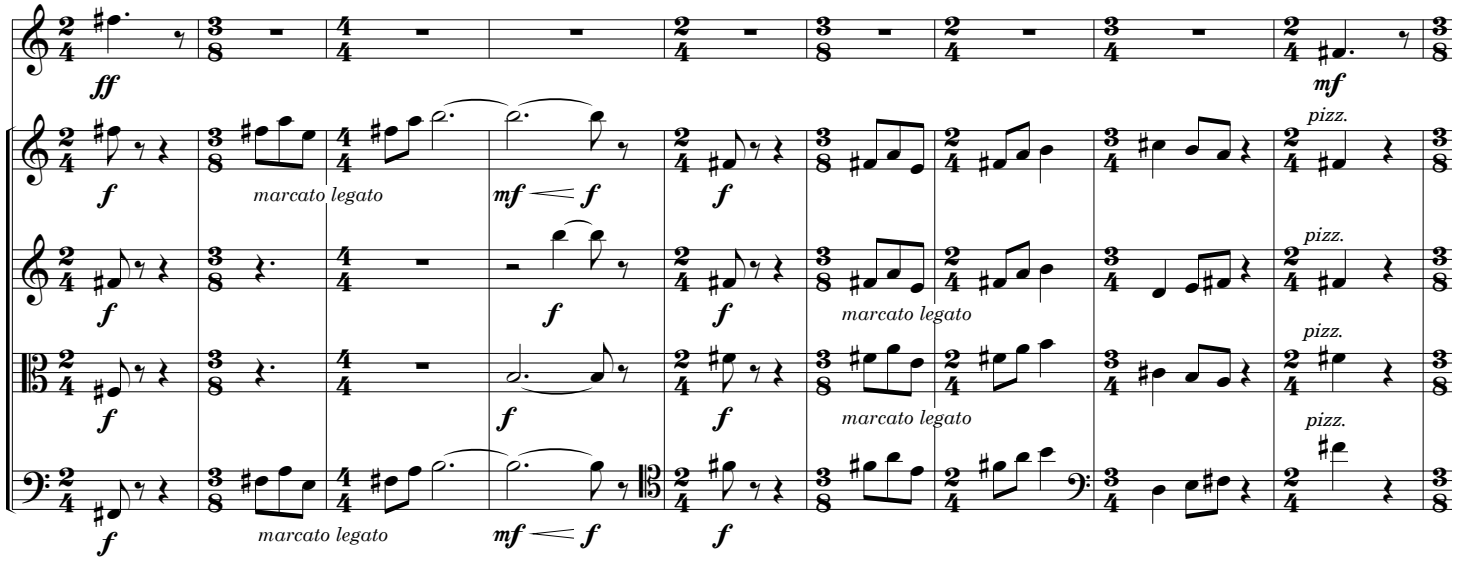
52

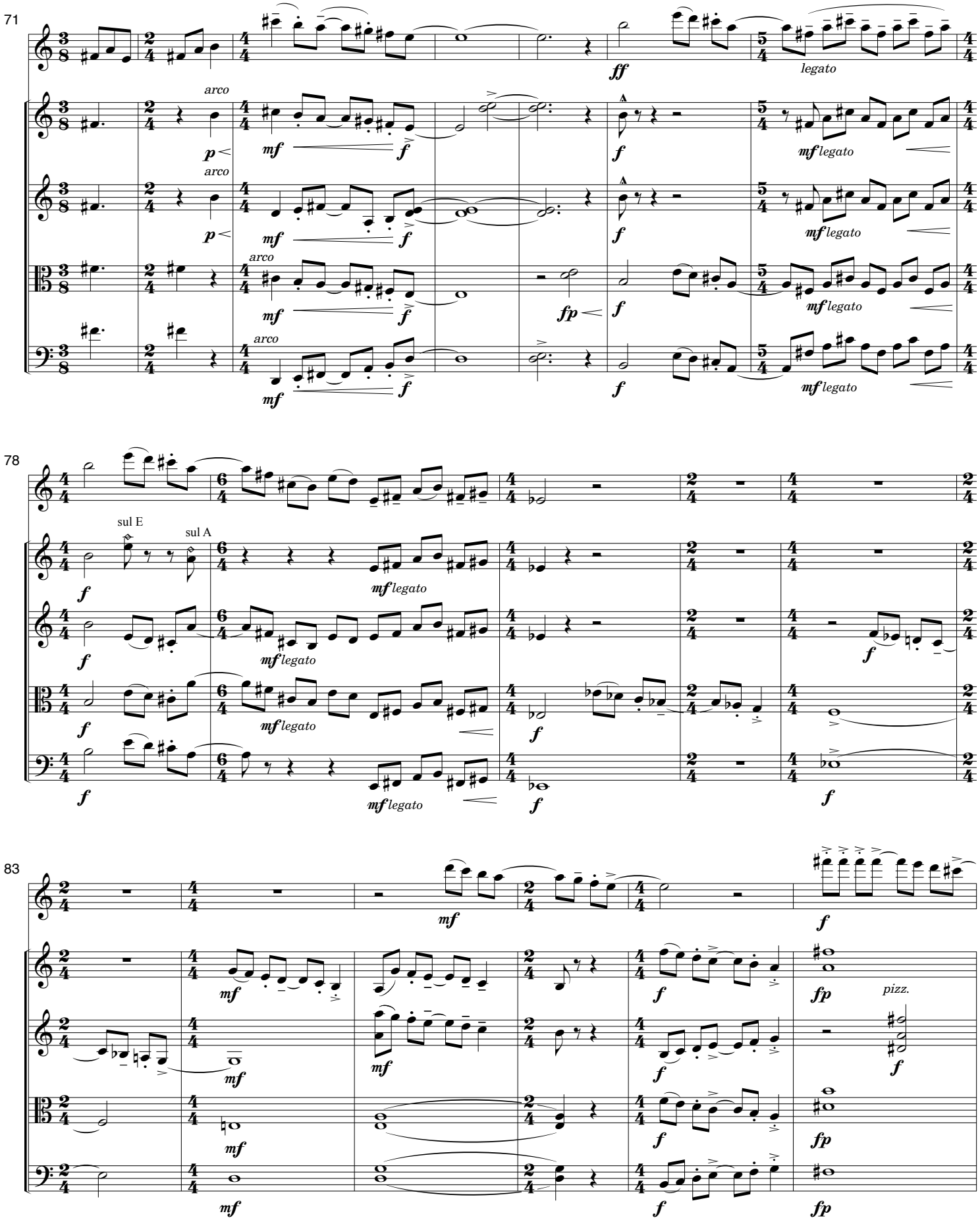

mp legato
mf
f
p

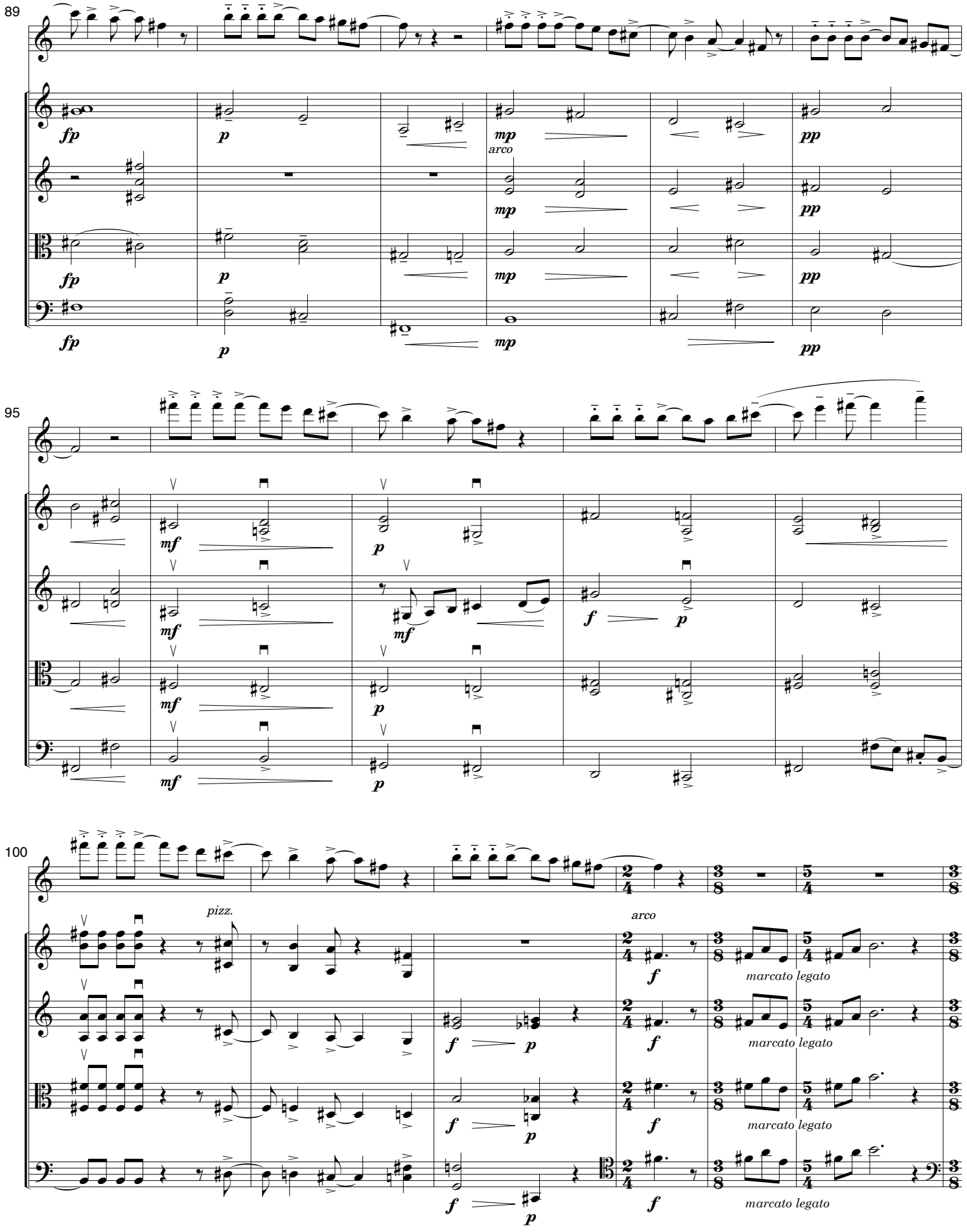
58

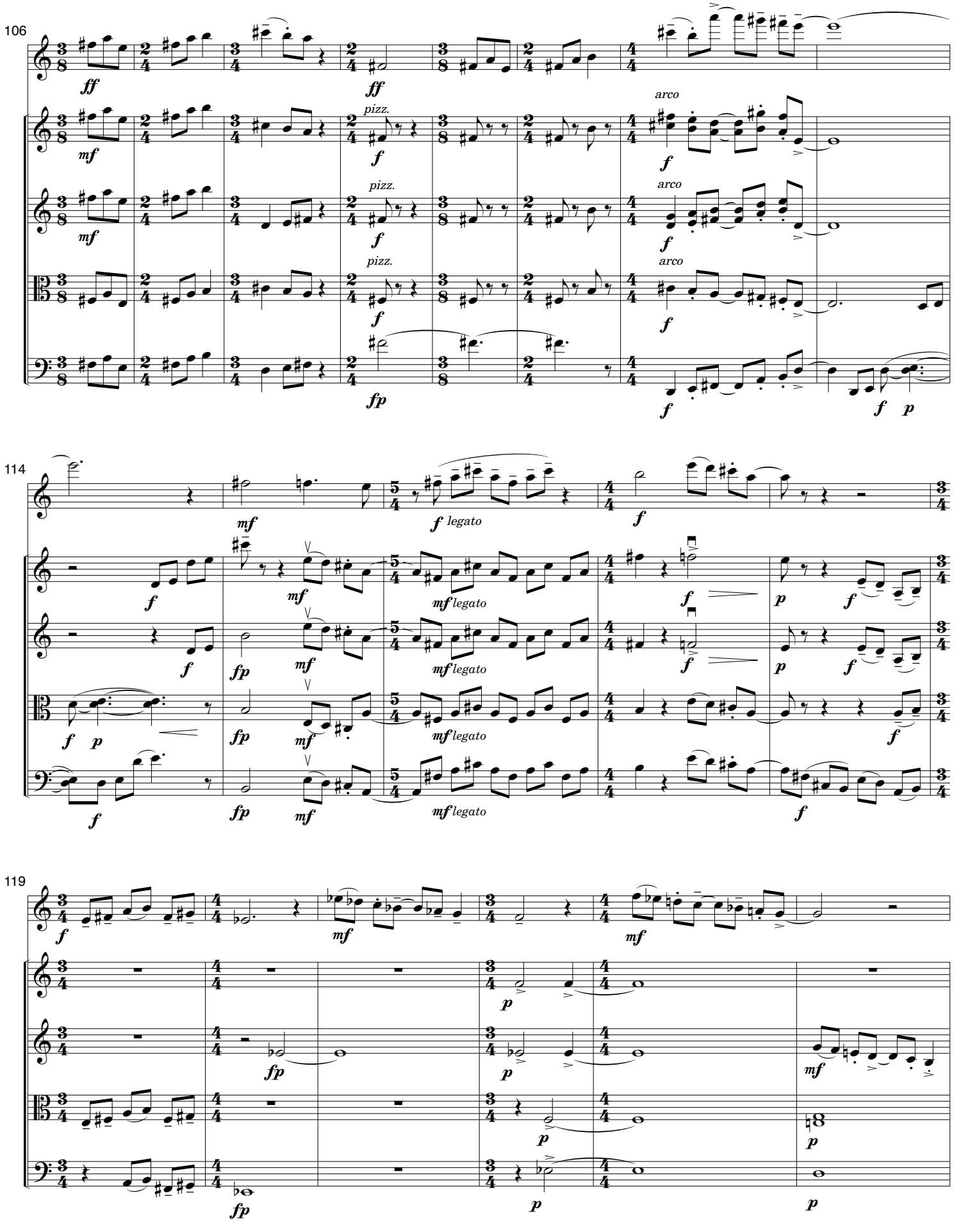

♩ = ca. 72, free
p
mp
f
mf

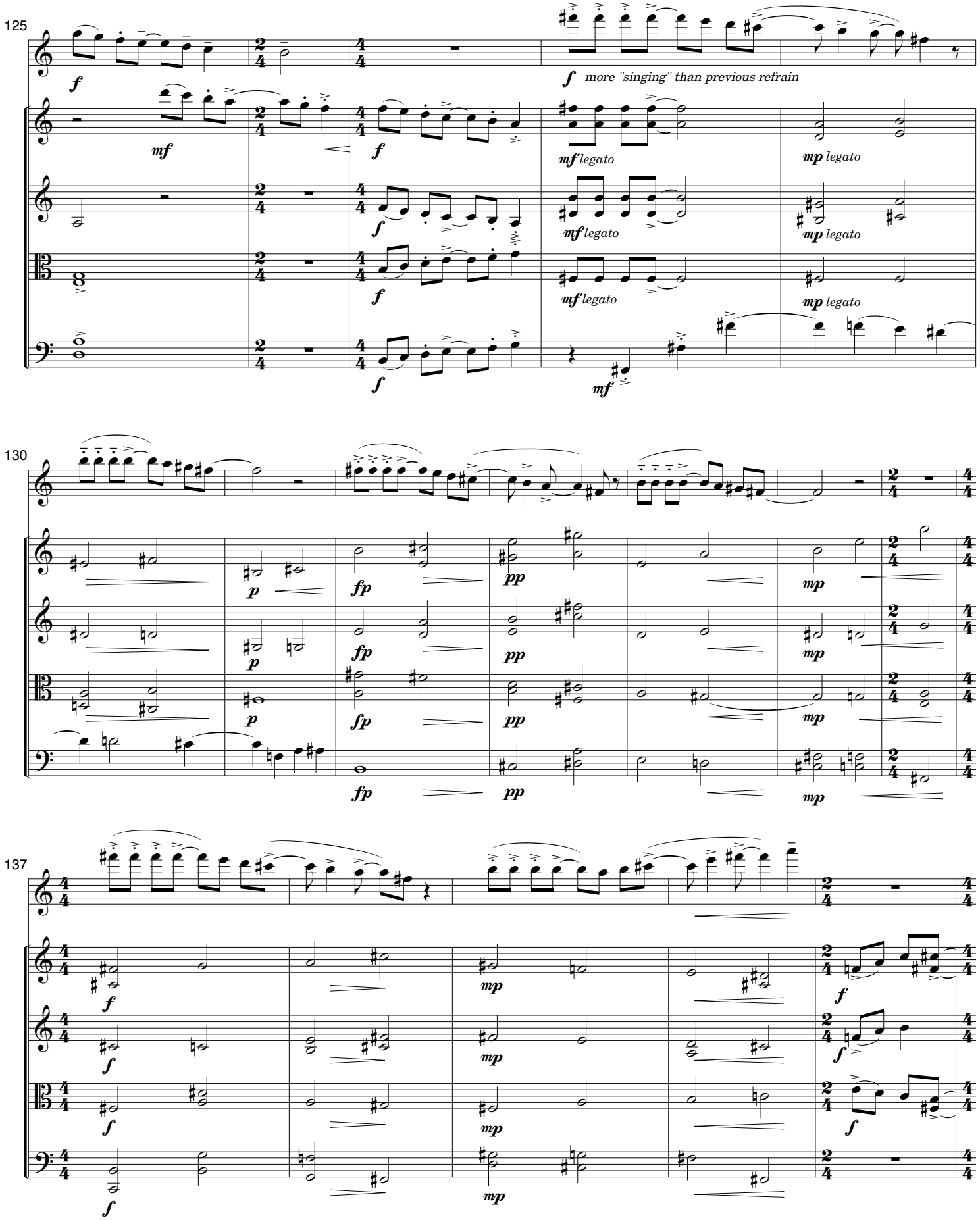
62

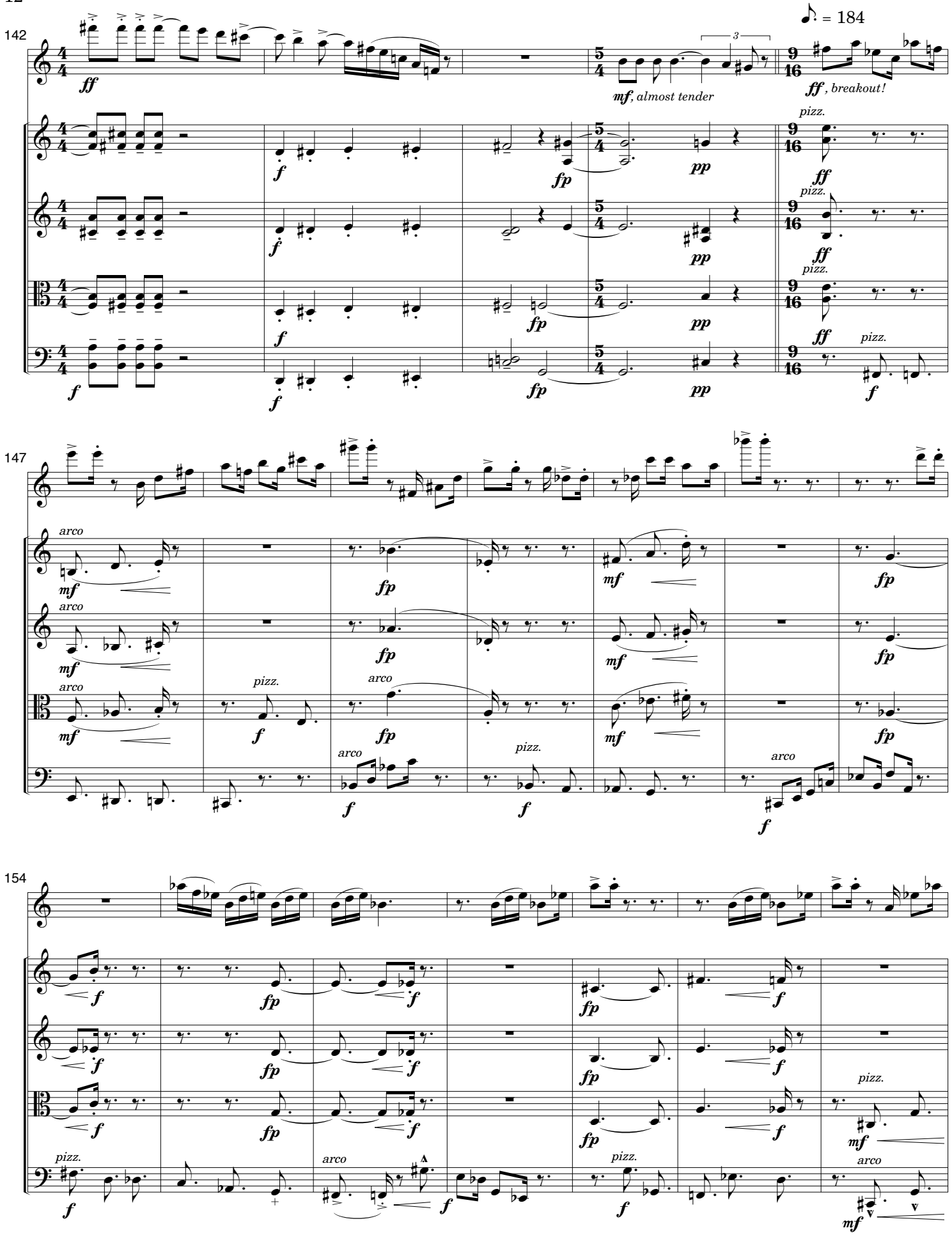

♩ = 160, with obsessive rhythmic urgency
ff
mf
f
marcato legato
mf f
pizz.

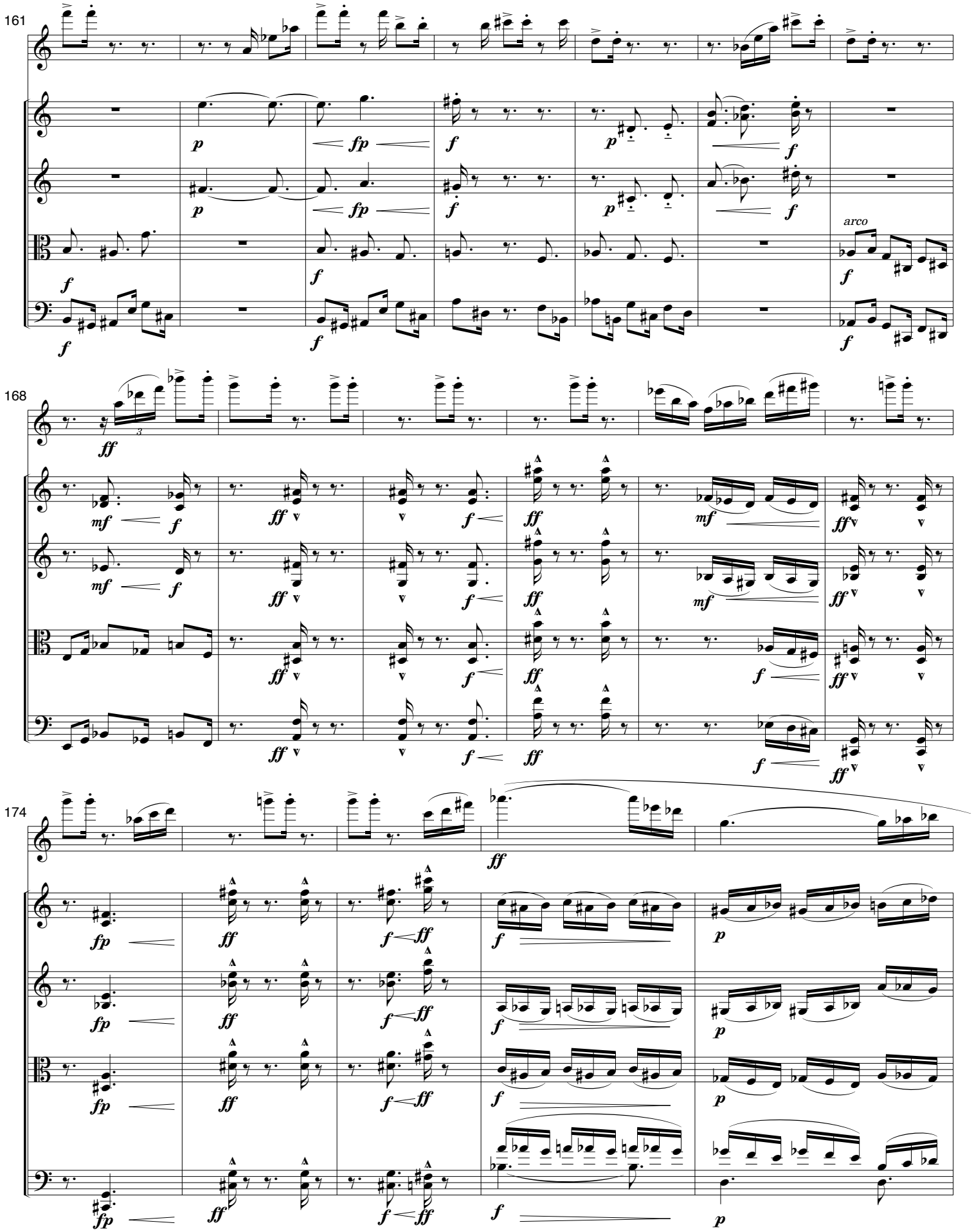

71
arco
legato
78
sul E
sul A
83
pizz.

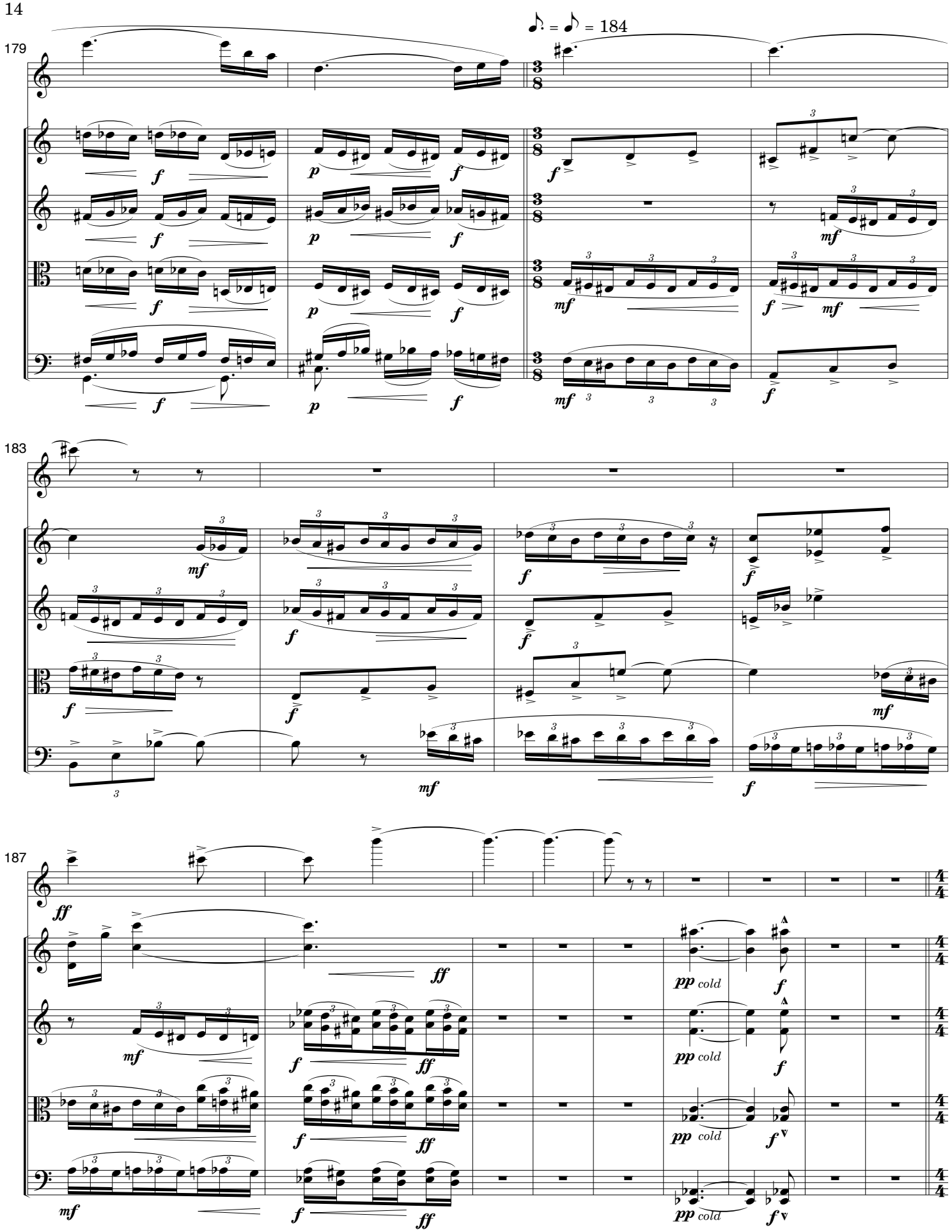

89
fp
p
mp
arco
pp
95
mf
p
f
100
pizz.
arco
marcato legato

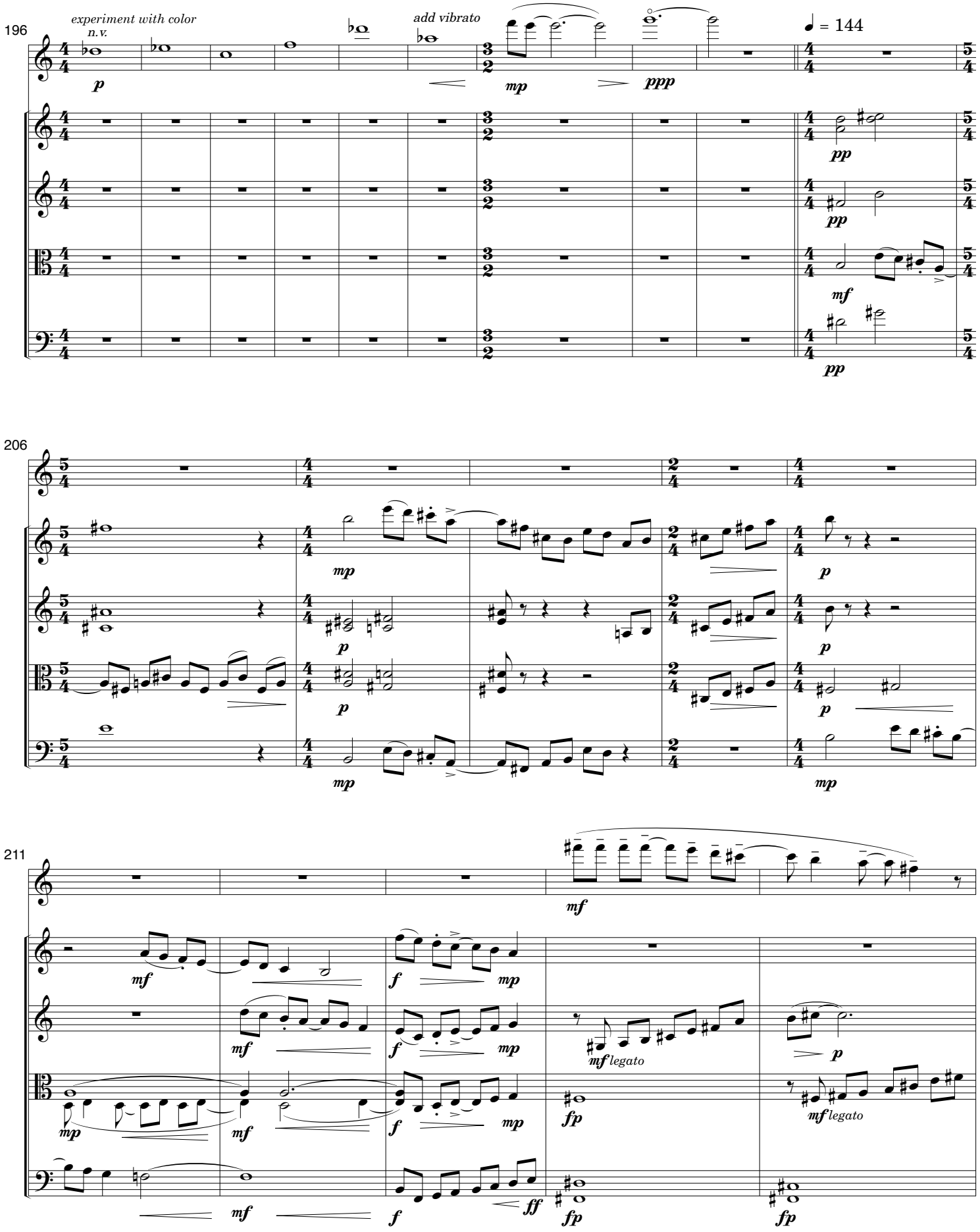

106
ff
ff
mf
pizz.
f
arco
f
mf
pizz.
f
arco
f
pizz.
f
arco
f
fp
f
f
p
114
mf
f legato
f
f
f
mf
mf legato
f
p
f
f
fp
mf
mf legato
f
f
f
p
fp
mf
mf legato
f
f
fp
mf
mf legato
f
119
f
mf
mf
fp
p
p
mf
p
fp
p
p

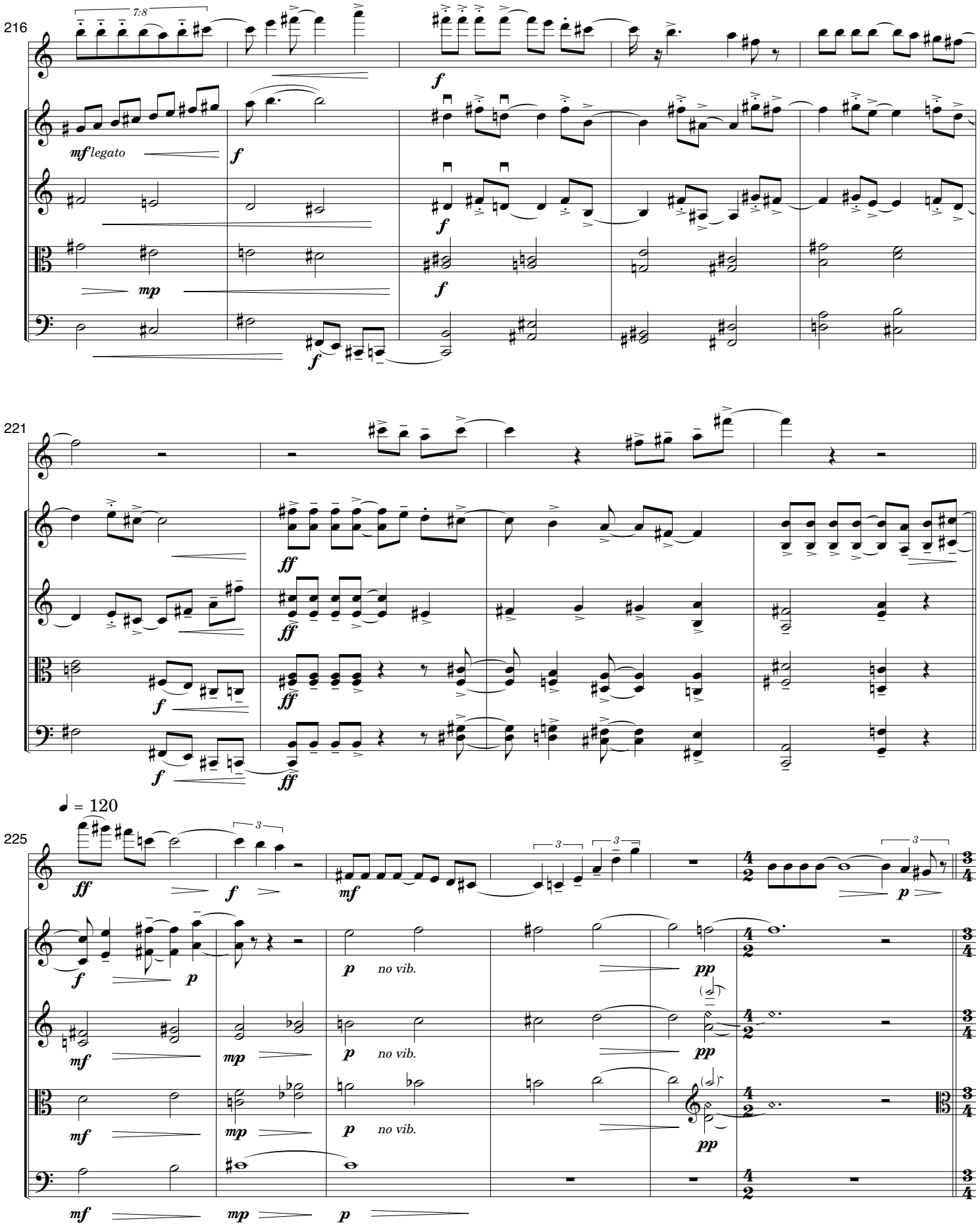

125
f
more "singing" than previous refrain
mf
mf legato
mp legato
130
p
fp
pp
mp
137
f
mp

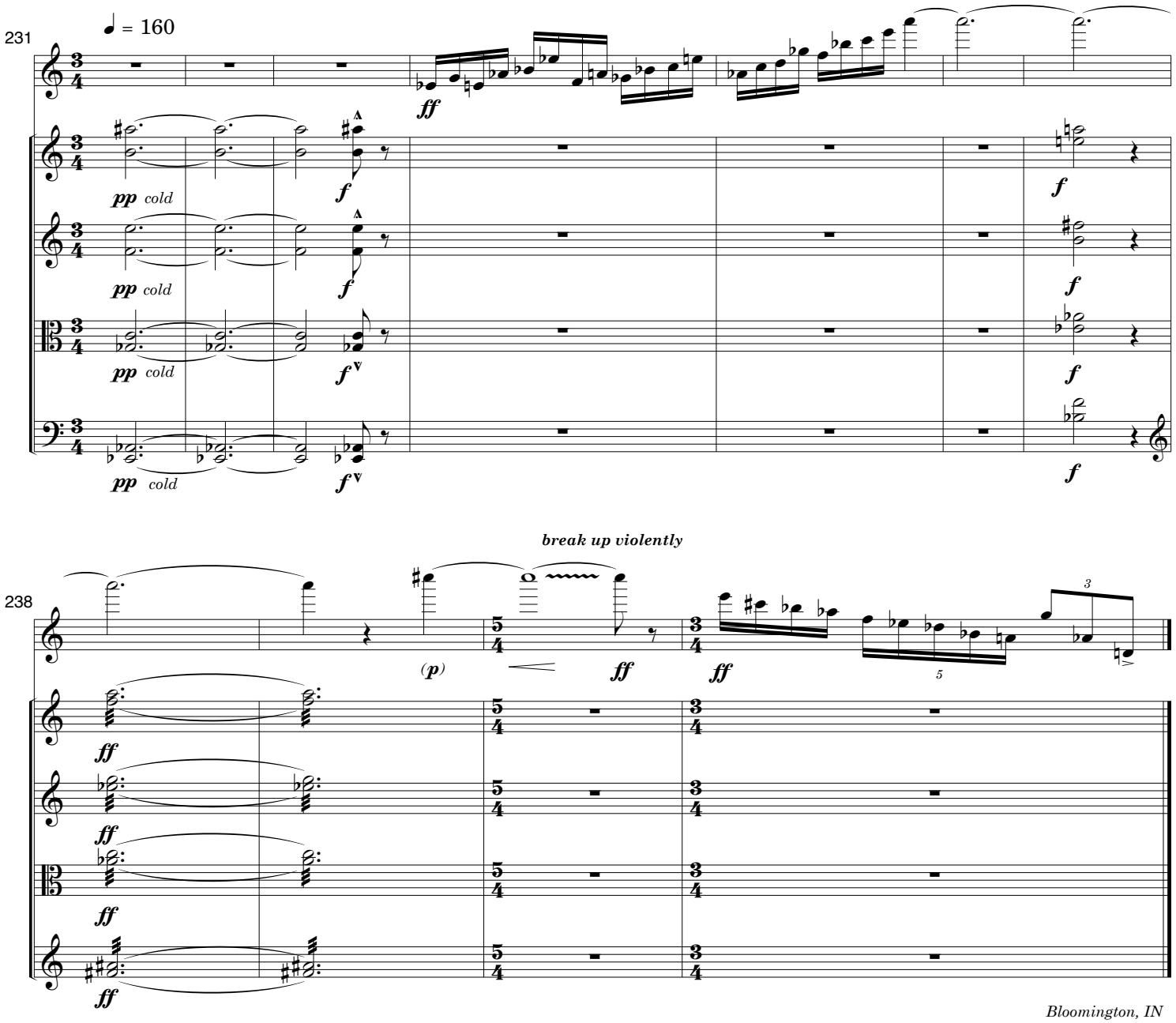

142
♩. = 184
ff
mf, almost tender
ff, breakout!
pizz.
147
arco
pizz.
154


161
arco
168
174


179
♩. = ♩ = 184
183
187
cold
cold
cold
cold


196
experiment with color
n.v.
add vibrato
♩ = 144
206
211
legato
legato


216
7:8
mf legato
f
mp
221
ff
225
♩ = 120
3
p
no vib.
pp



Bloomington, IN
5/26/2011