Kelvin Thomson

Montage

for piano trio

2015

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Montage was composed for a composition workshop with the *Fidelio Trio* at Royal Holloway, University of London.

The first performance was given by *The Fidelio Trio*
Darragh Morgan (violin), Adi Tal (Cello), Mary Dullea (piano) at
The Boiler Room, Royal Holloway, University of London on 27th January 2015.

Duration: c. 11 minutes

Performance materials available from the composer

Performance instructions

The tempo instruction *Moderato Funktastico* at bar 103 refers to the popular music style known as funk, normally achieved with a strong bass and drum rhythm. Players should feel this rhythm inwardly.

Piano: the lid will need to be open in order to perform the glissando across strings with fingertips in bars 1-11.

Programme note

For the last time, maybe, upon the knoll
I stand. The eve is golden, languid, sad...
Day like a tragic actor plays his role
To the last whispered word and falls gold-clad.
I, too, take leave of all I ever had.

They shall not say I went with heavy heart :
Heavy I am, but soon I shall be free,
I love them all, but oh I now depart
A little sadly, strangely, fearfully,
As one who goes to try a mystery.

The bell is sounding down in Dedham vale :
Be still, O bell : too often standing here
When all the air was tremulous, fine and pale,
Thy golden note so calm, so still, so clear,
Out of my stony heart has struck a tear.

And now tears are not mine. I have release
From all the former and the later pain,
Like the mid sea I rock in boundless peace
Soothed by the charity of the deep-sea rain. . . .
Calm rain ! Calm sea ! Calm found, long sought in vain !

O bronzen pines, evening of gold and blue,
Steep mellow slope, brimmed twilit pools below,
Hushed trees, still vale dissolving in the dew,
Farewell. Farewell. There is no more to do.
We have been happy. Happy now I go.

Robert Nichols 'Farewell' (1915)

I was struck by the immediacy of the sentiments expressed in 'Farewell', a poem written during expeditionary force leave in 1915 and included in *Muse in Arms*, a collection of poems written by active WW1 servicemen, published in 1918. The poet expresses his fears of possibly not returning home from the front line, through a series of provocative scenes and memories. The last line 'Happy now I go.' indicates, like many other poems in the collection, a fatalistic yet peaceful acceptance of the poet's plight. The trio is both a montage-like sonic exploration of aspects of the poem's imagery and a meditative consideration of the poet's thoughts.

KT

for Joy and Carmen

Montage

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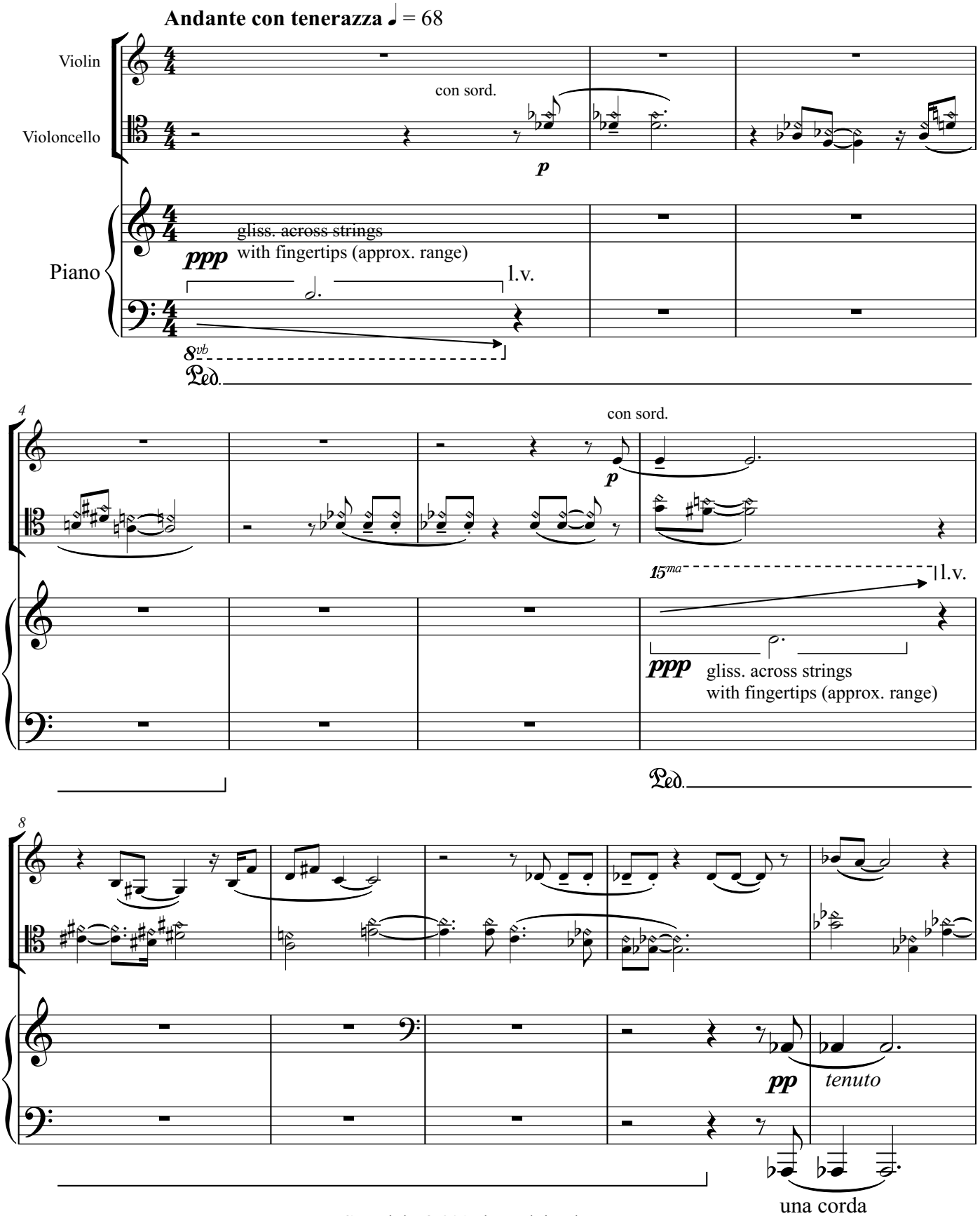

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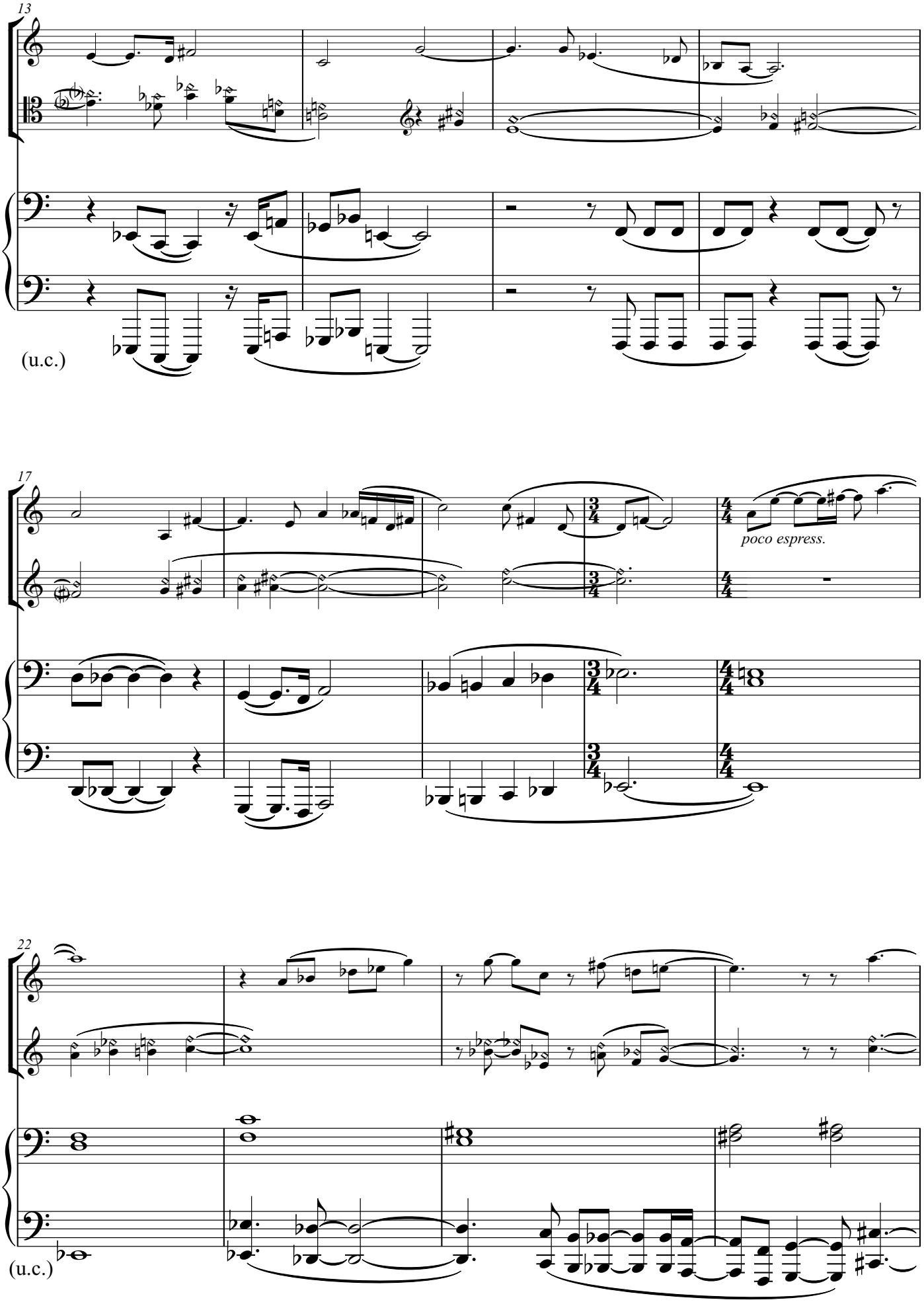
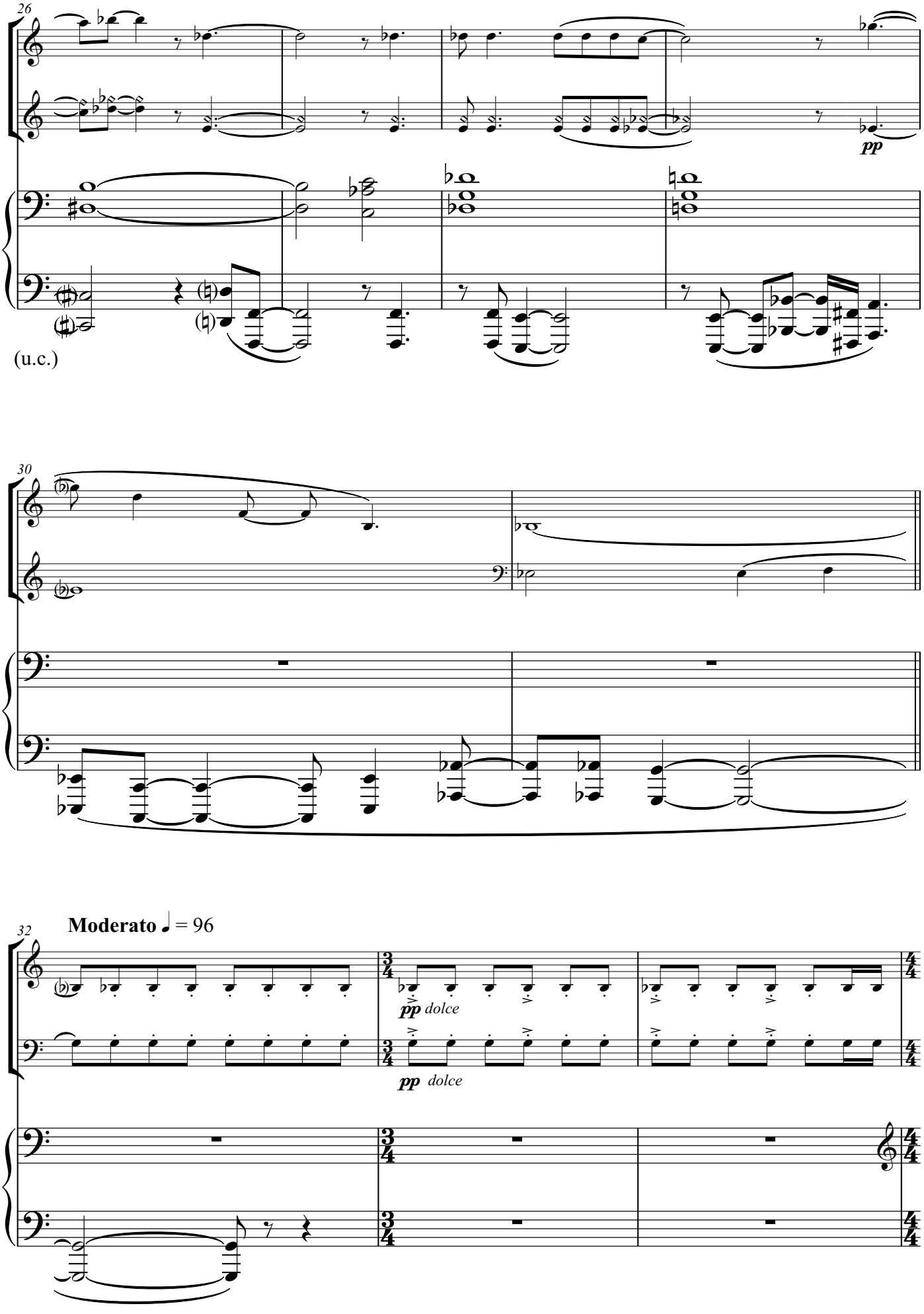
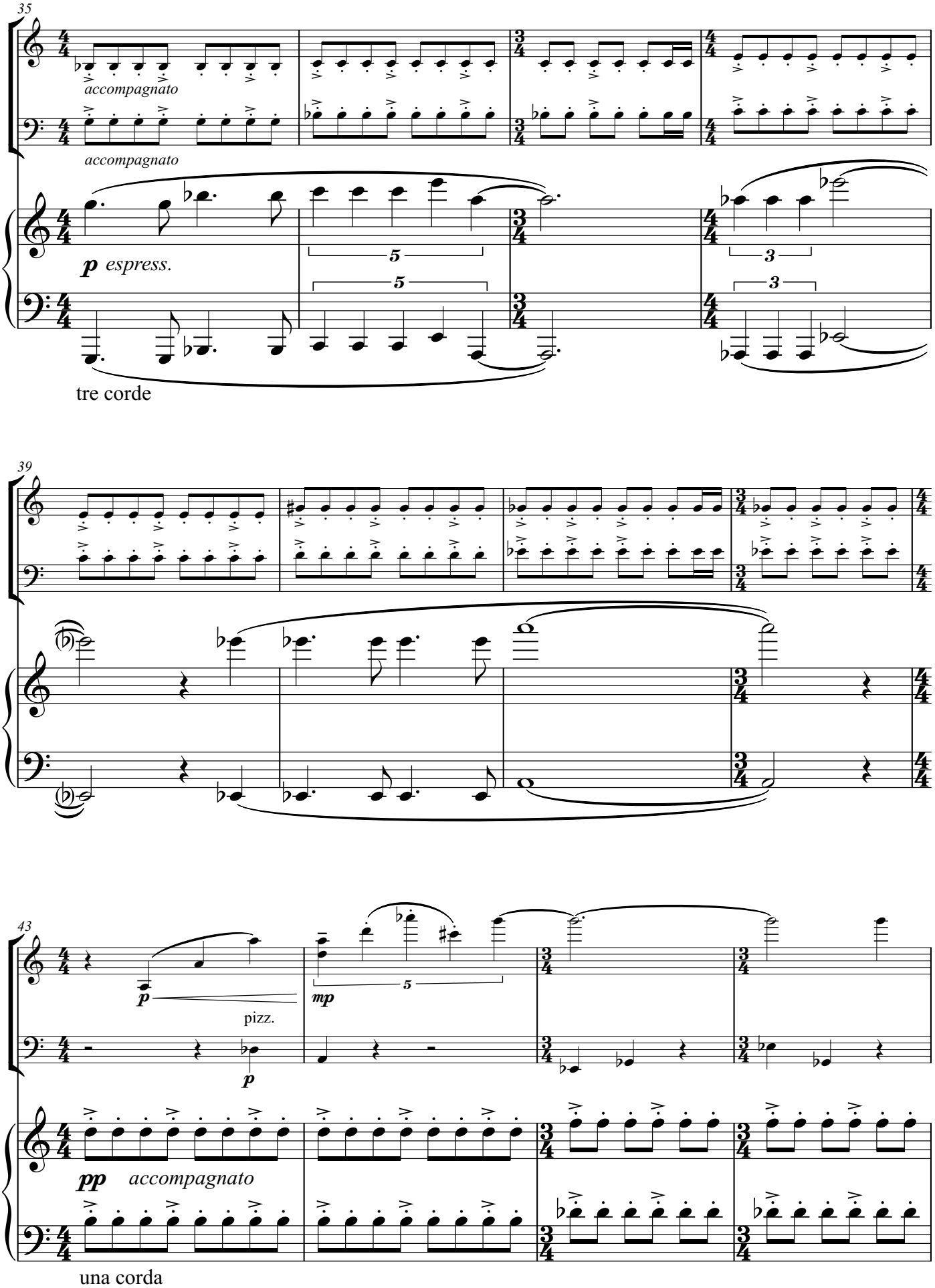
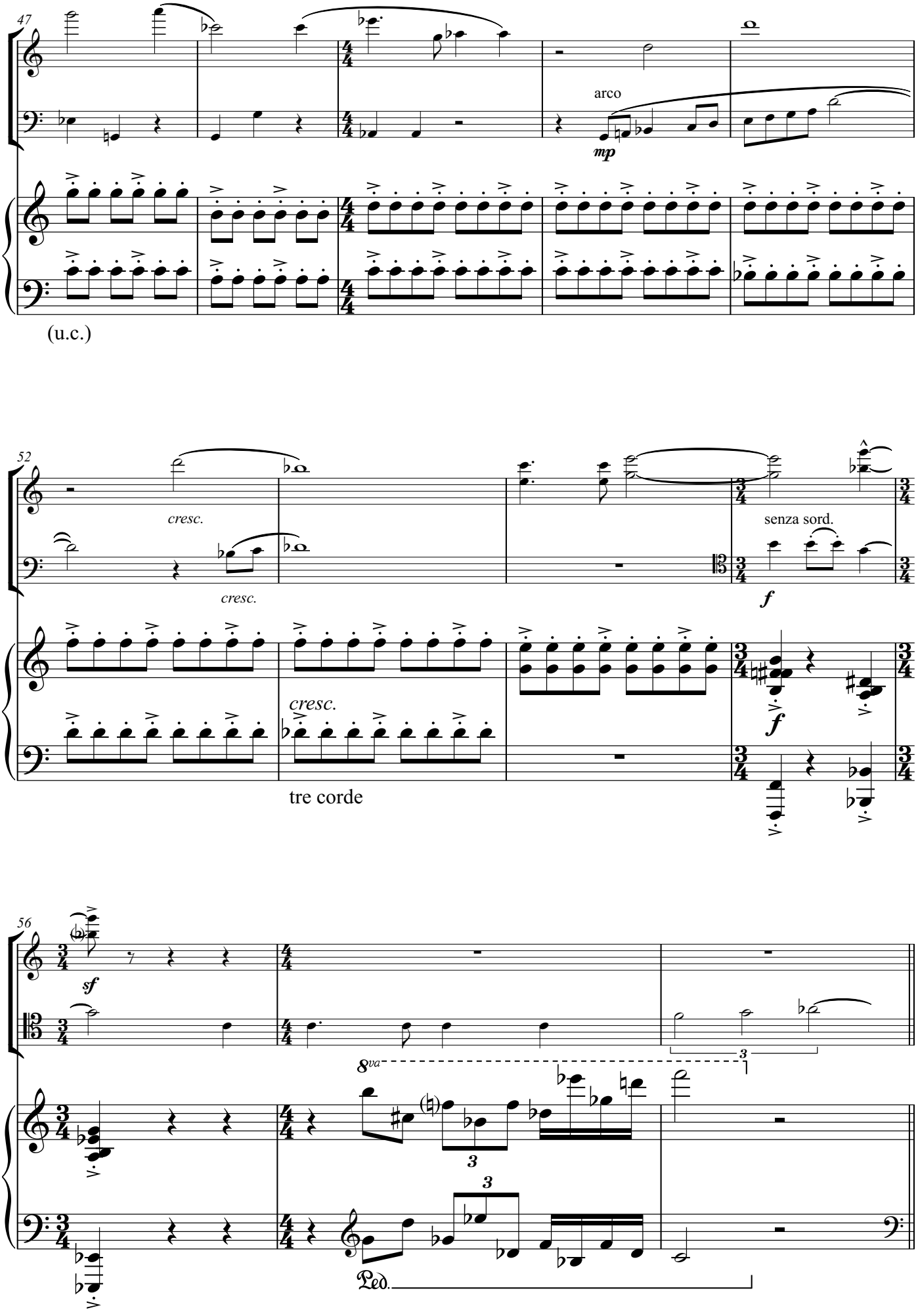
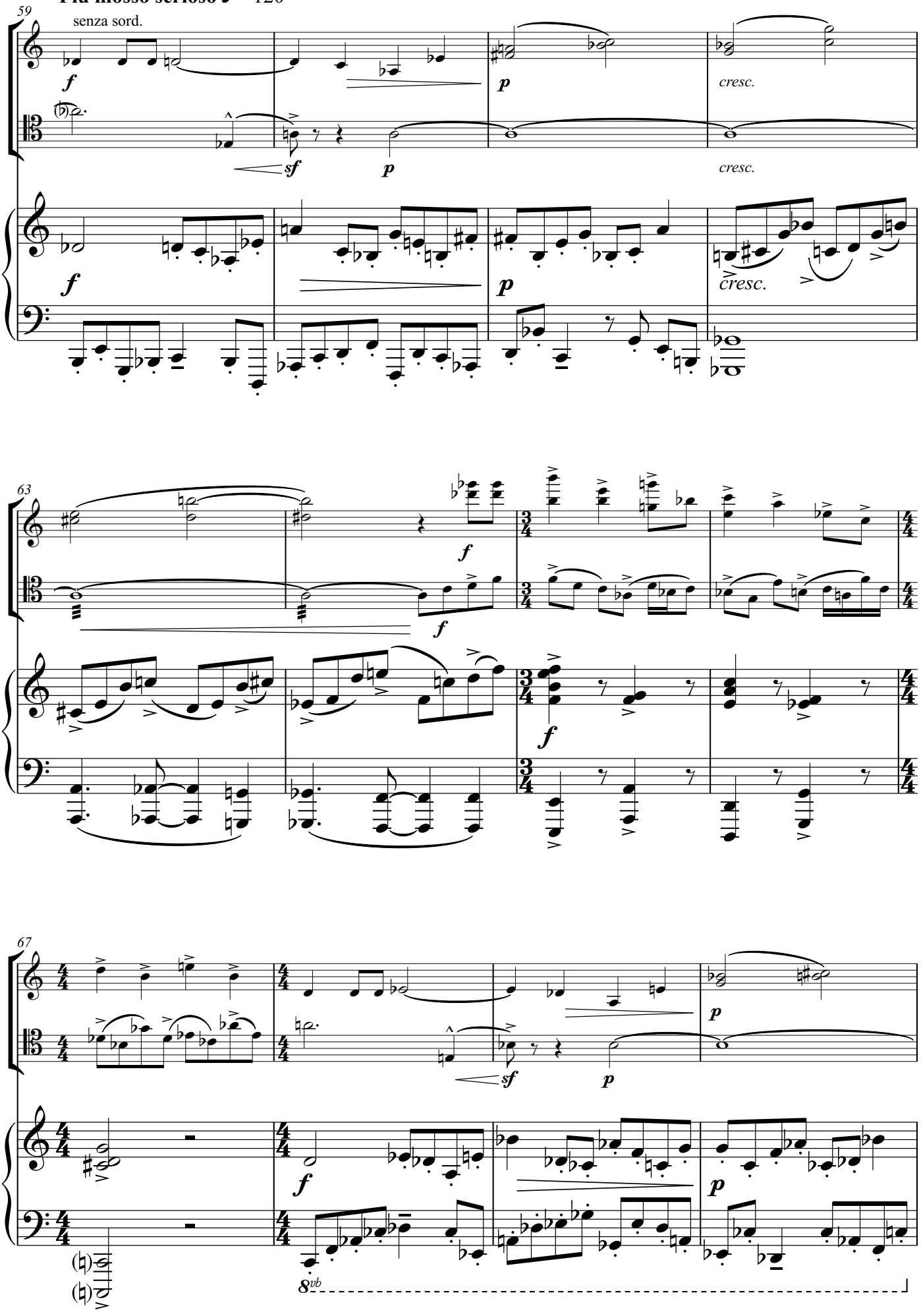
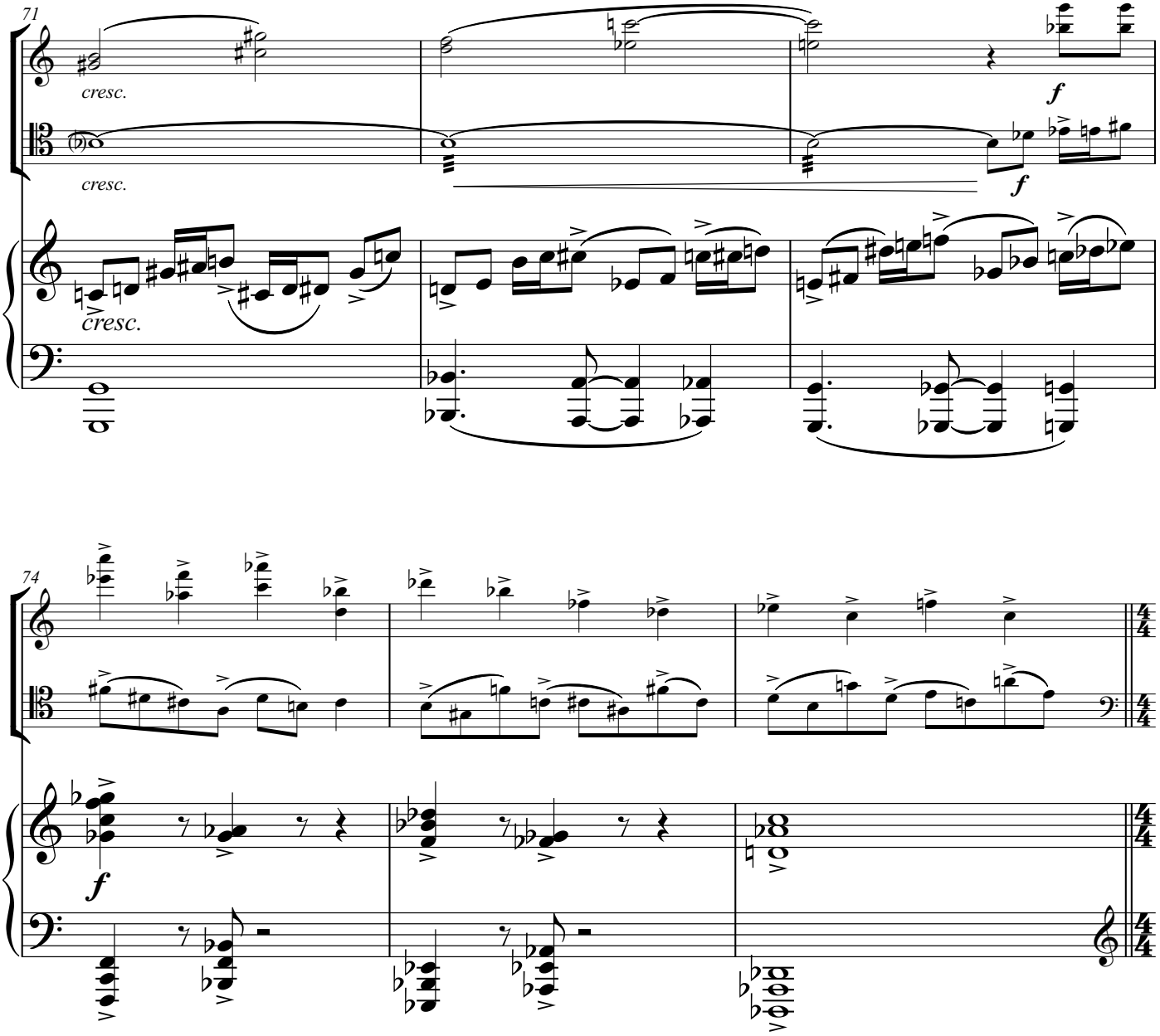

13
(u.c.)
17
poco espress.
22
(u.c.)

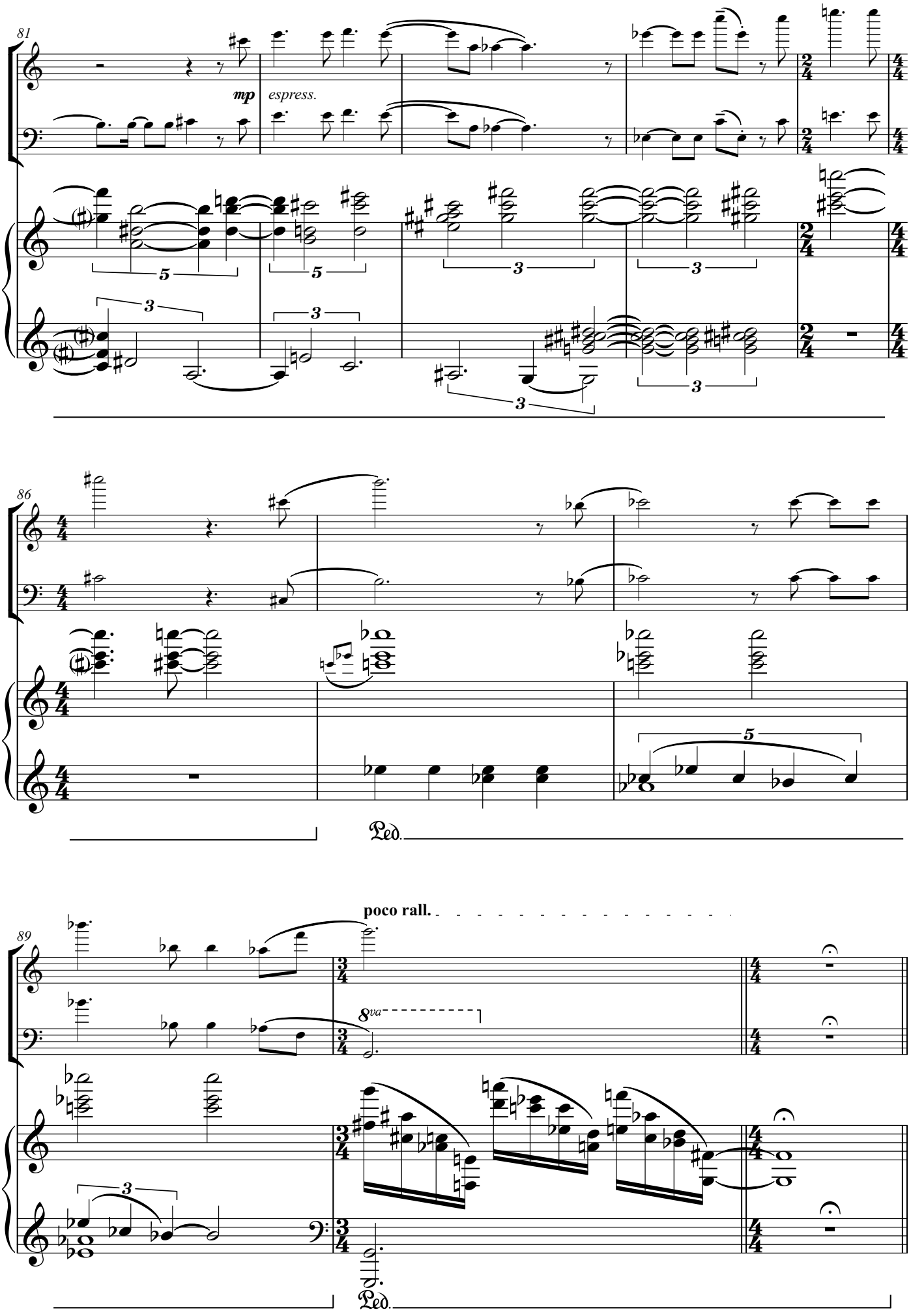

26
pp
(u.c.)
30
32
Moderato ♩ = 96
pp dolce
pp dolce

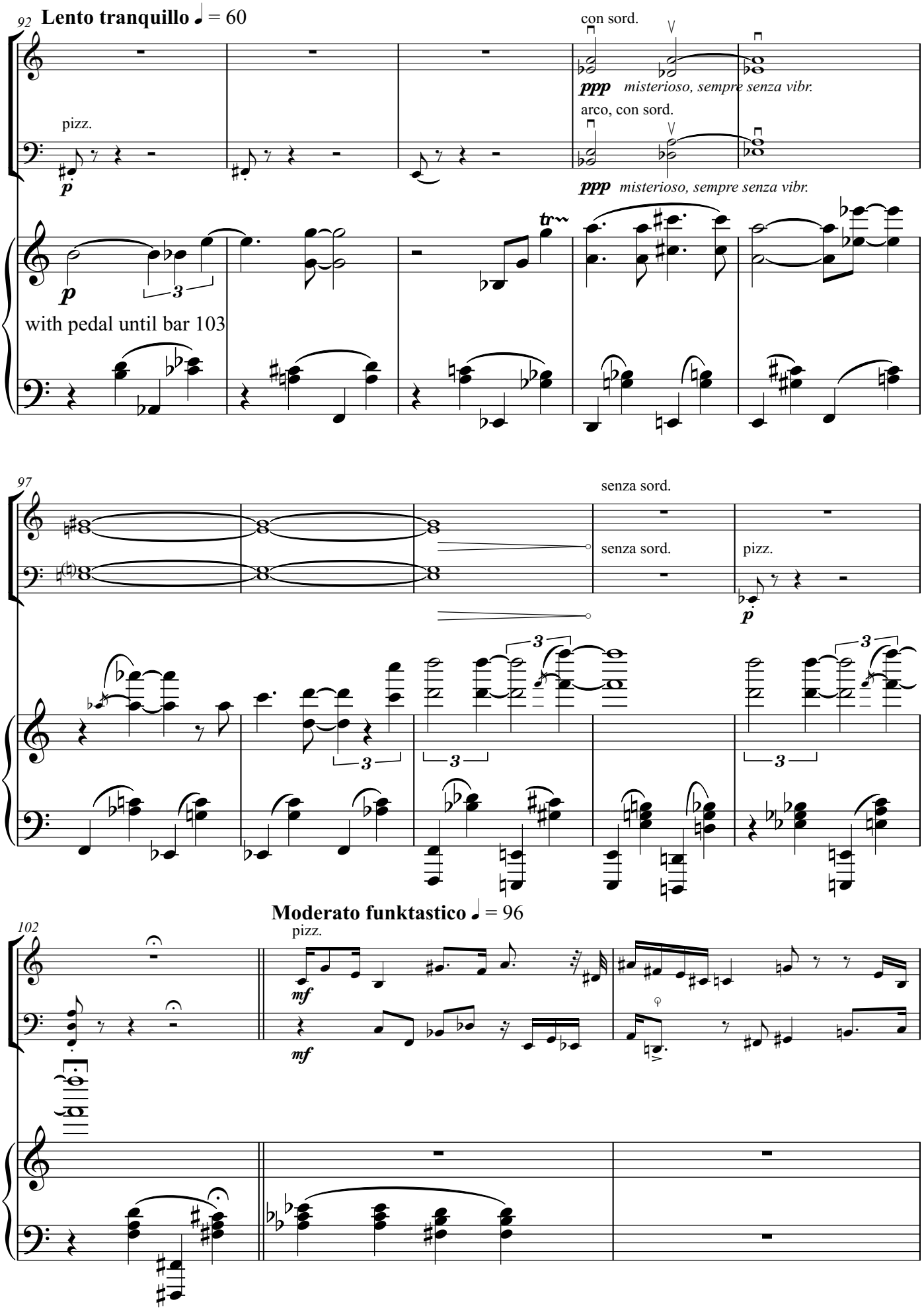

35
accompagnato
accompagnato
p espress.
5
5
3
3
tre corde
39
43
p
pizz.
p
mp
5
pp accompagnato
una corda

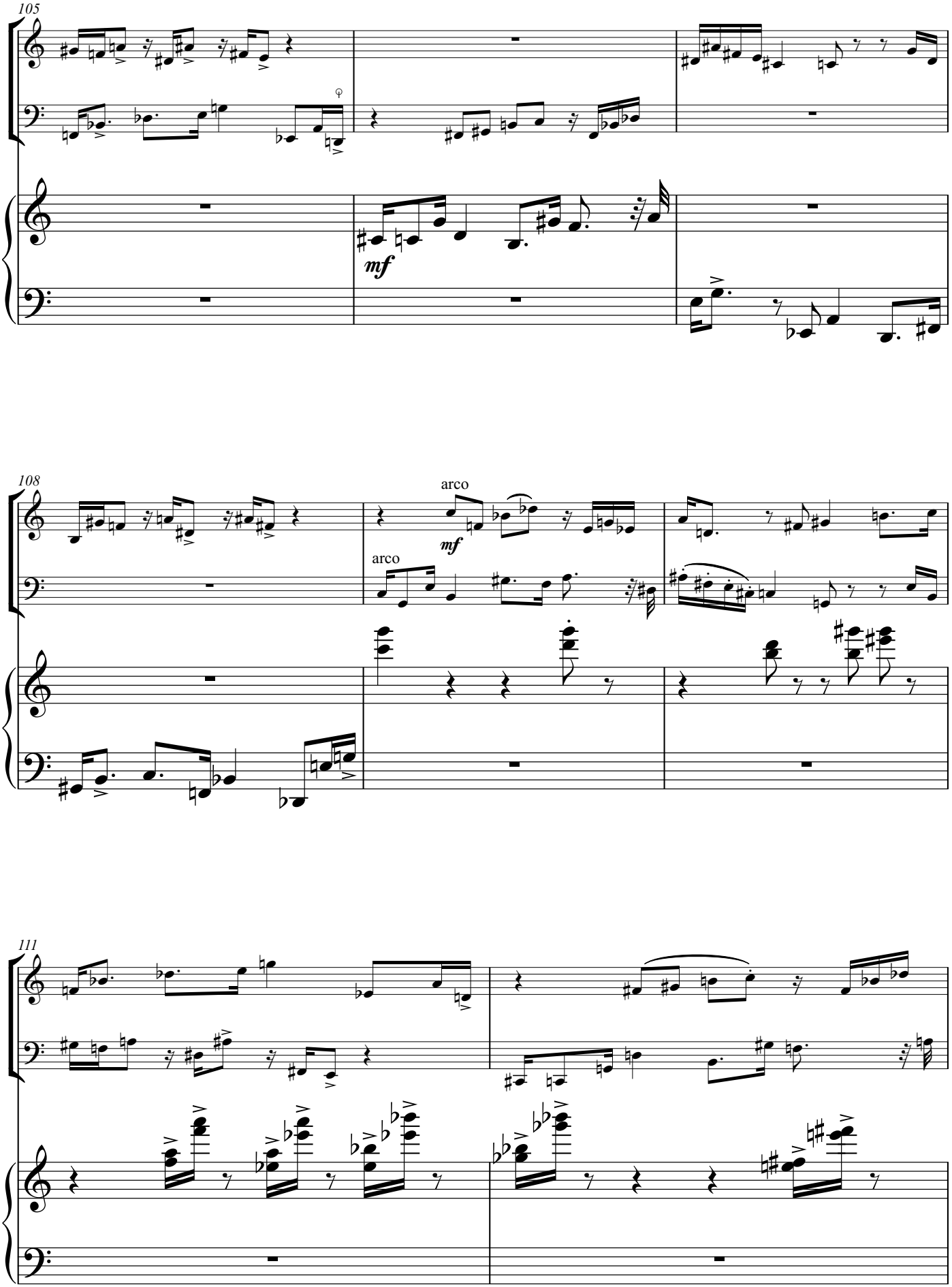

47
arco
mp
(u.c.)
52
cresc.
cresc.
senza sord.
f
cresc.
f
tre corde
56
sf
8va
3
3
Ped.

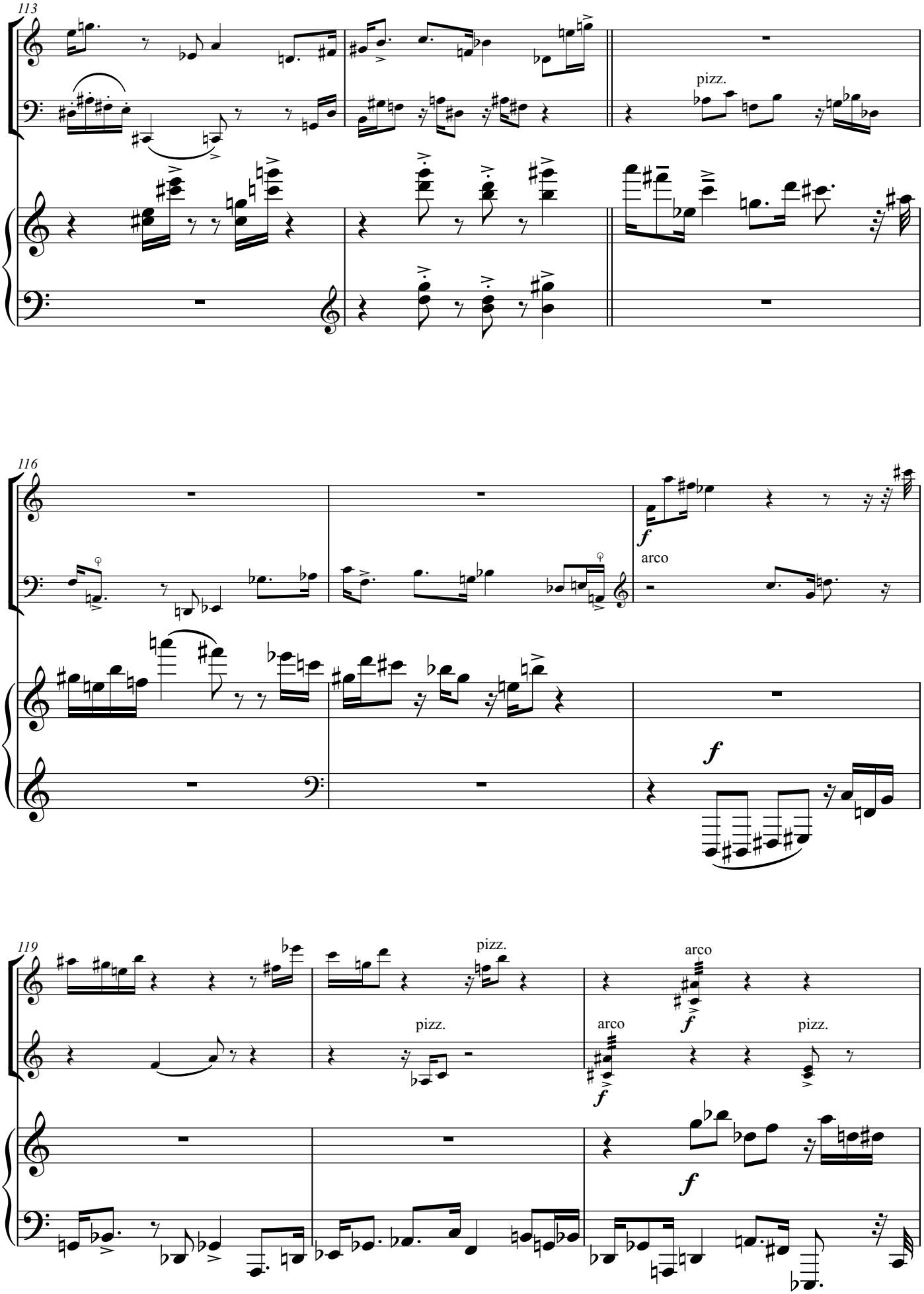

Più mosso serioso ♩ = 120
59
senza sord.
cresc.
63
67
8vb

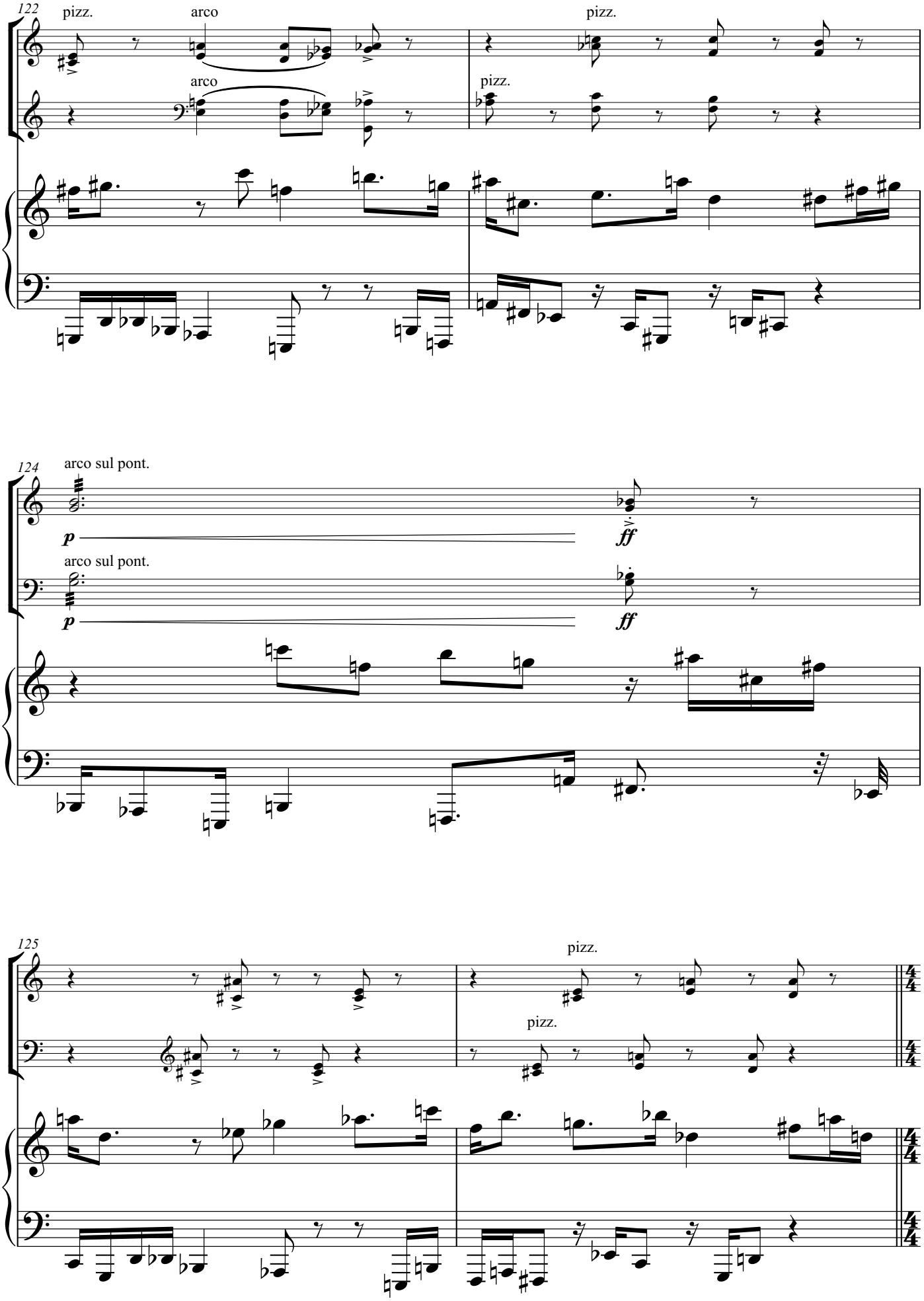

71
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
f
f
74
f
77
Lento religioso ♩ = 60
mp espress.
p
Ped.

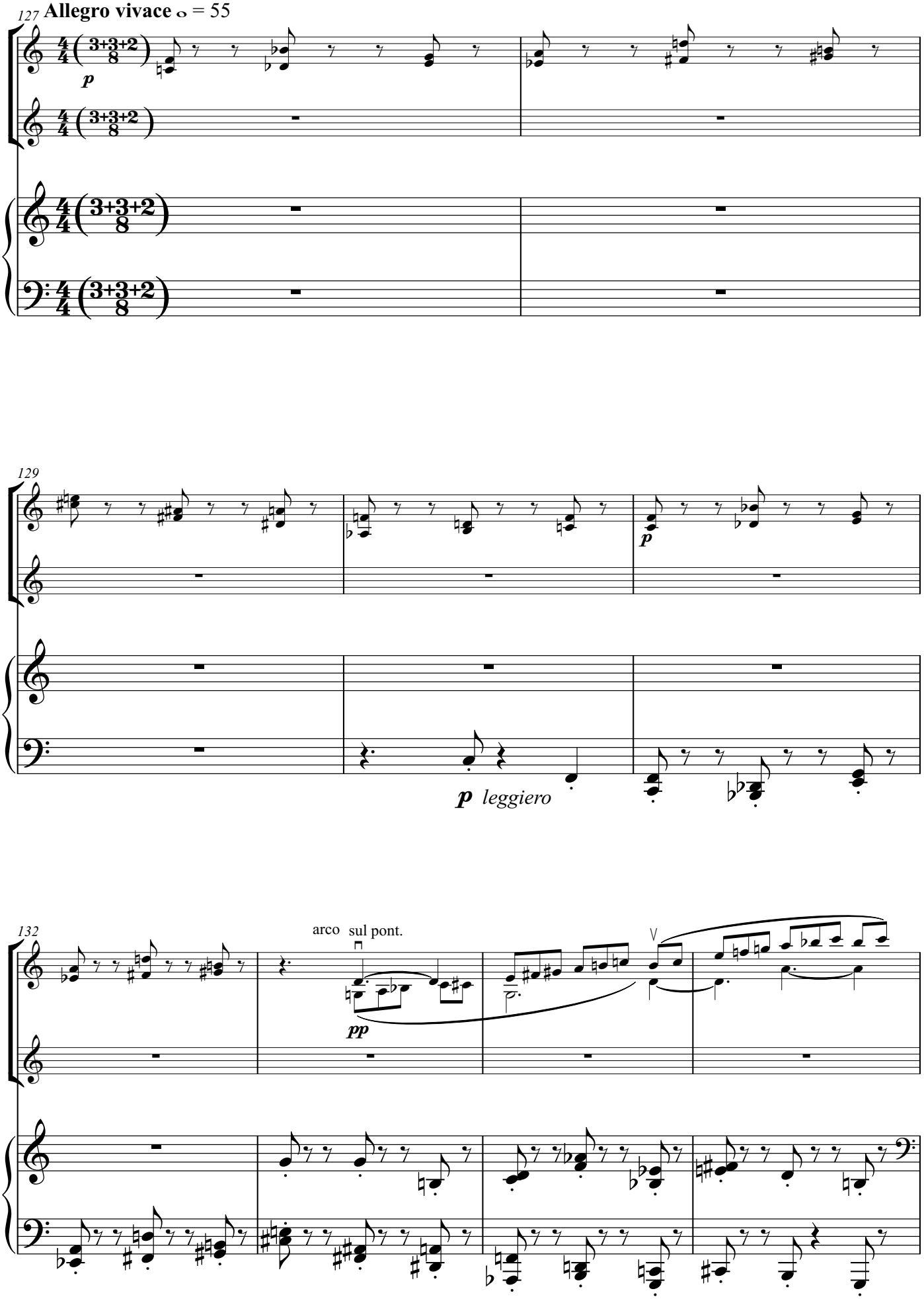

81
mp
espress.
86
Ped.
poco rall.
89
8va
Ped.

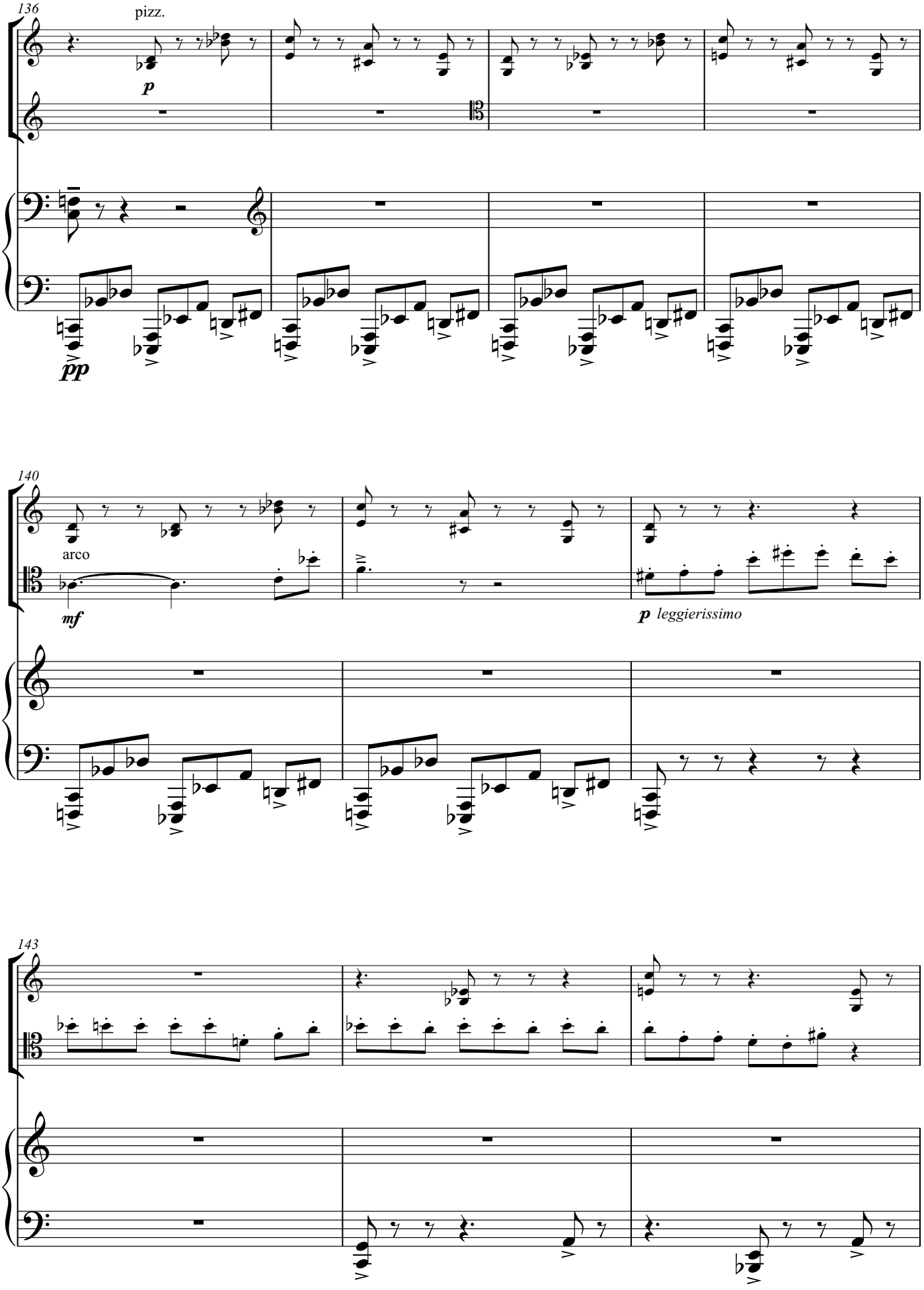

92
Lento tranquillo ♩ = 60
con sord.
ppp misterioso, sempre senza vibr.
pizz.
p
arco, con sord.
ppp misterioso, sempre senza vibr.
tr
p
3
with pedal until bar 103
97
senza sord.
senza sord.
pizz.
p
3
3
3
3
102
Moderato funktastico ♩ = 96
pizz.
mf
mf

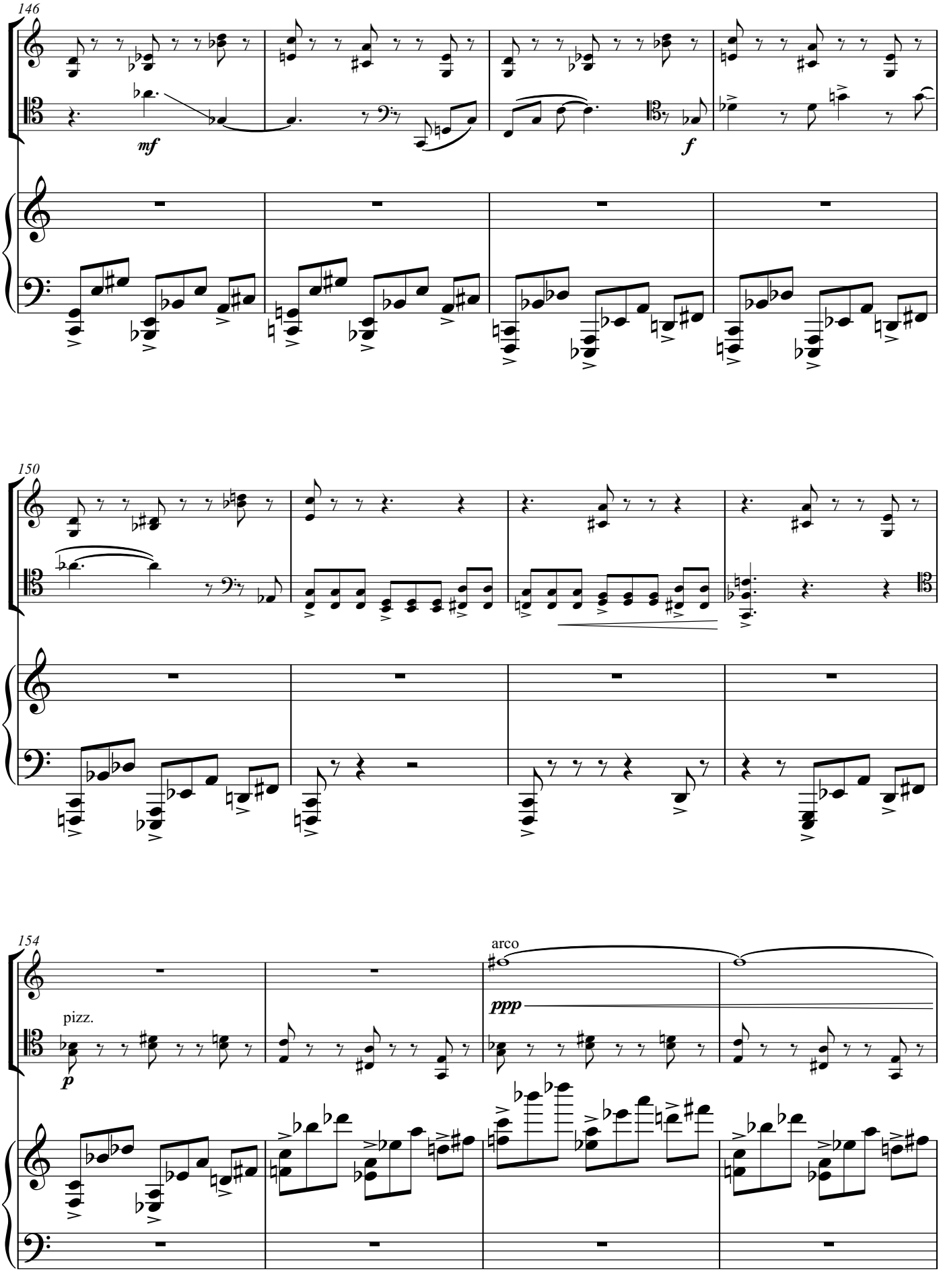

105
mf
108
arco
mf
arco
111

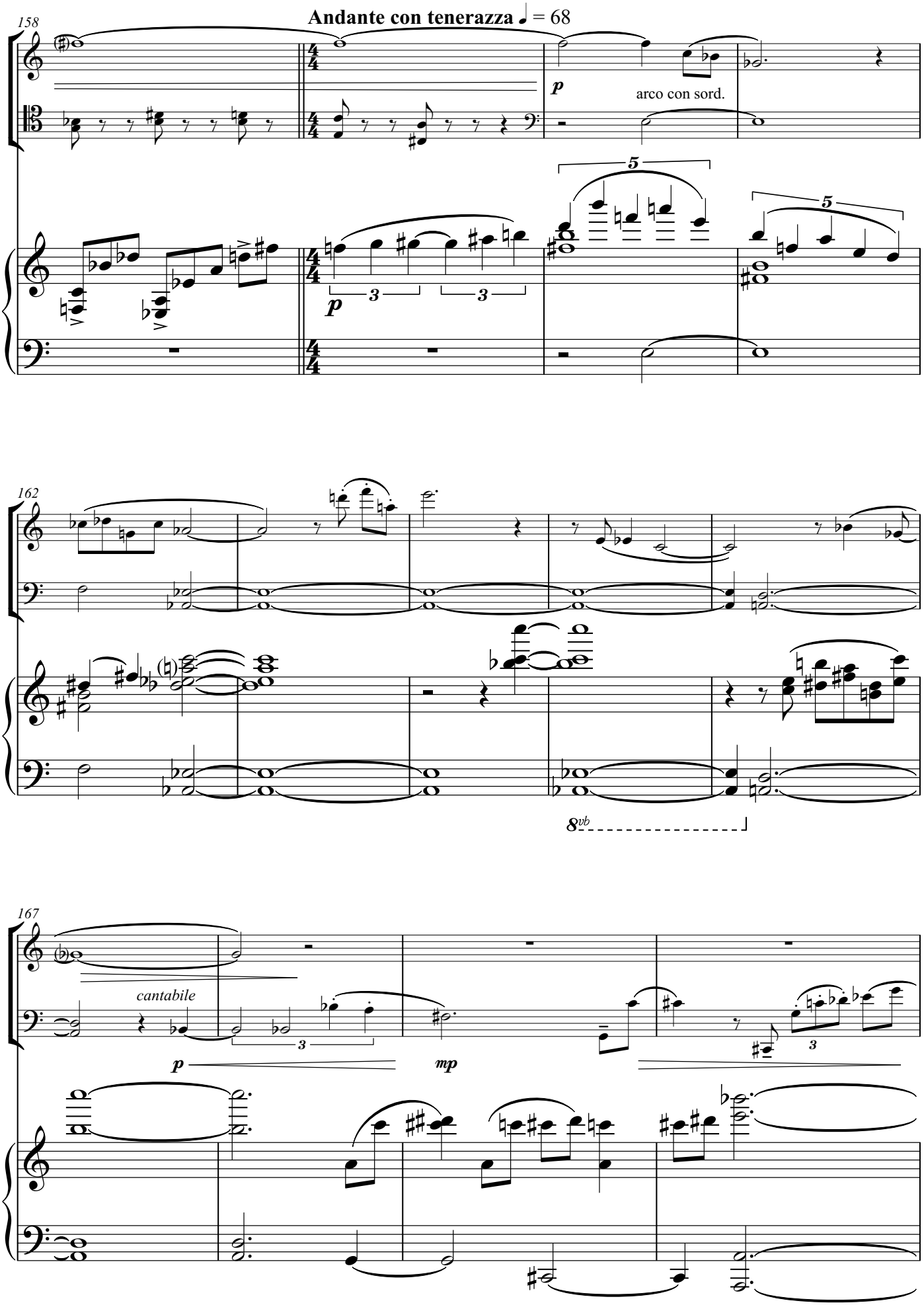

113
pizz.
116
f
arco
f
119
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
f
f
pizz.
f

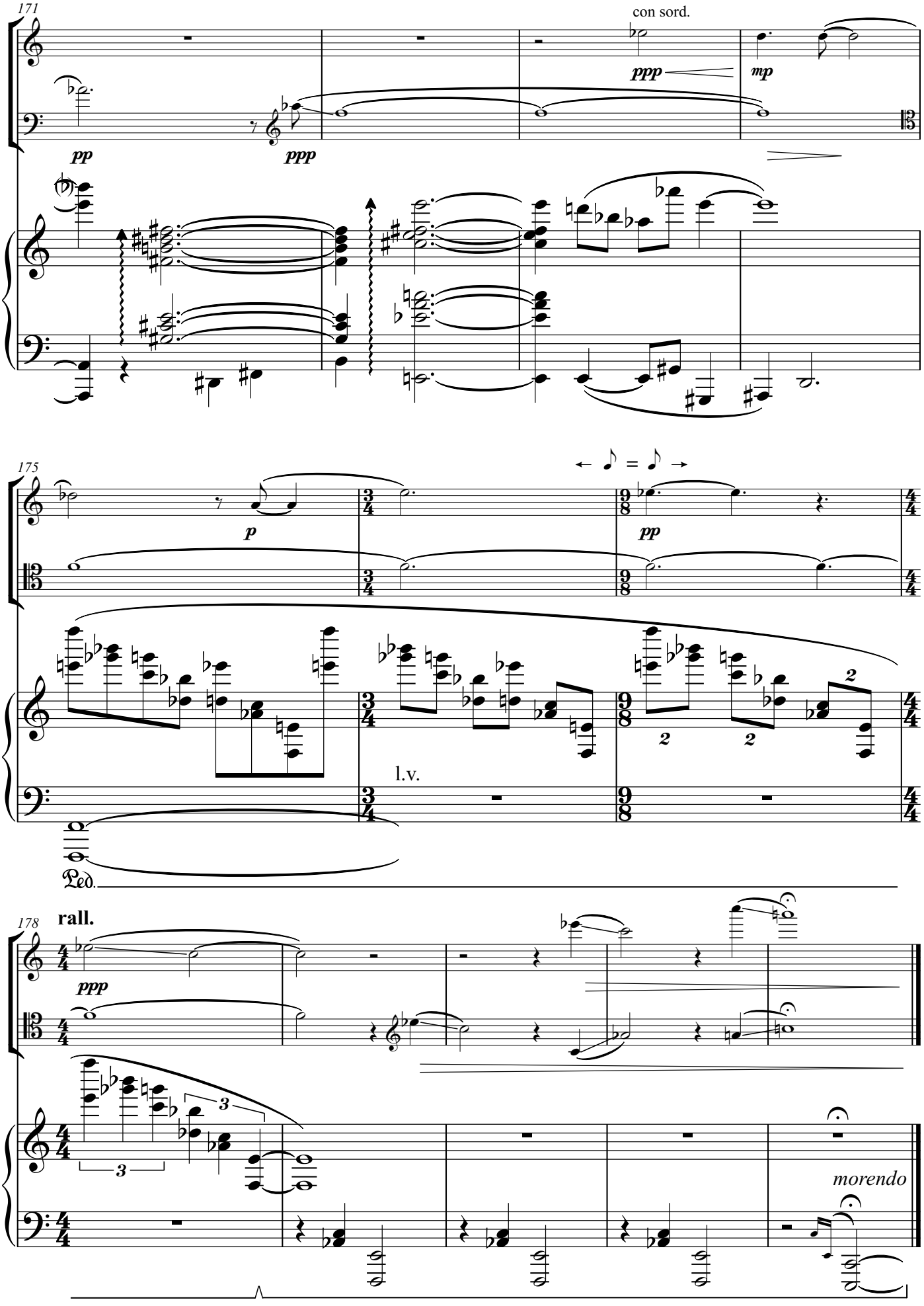

122
pizz.
arco
arco
pizz.
pizz.
124
arco sul pont.
p
ff
arco sul pont.
p
ff
125
pizz.
pizz.


127
Allegro vivace
= 55
3+3+2
8
p
129
p leggiero
132
arco sul pont.
pp


136
pizz.
p
pp
140
arco
mf
p leggierissimo
143


146
mf
f
150
154
pizz.
p
arco
ppp


158
Andante con tenerazza ♩ = 68
p
arco con sord.
5
5
p
3
3
162
8vb
167
cantabile
p
3
mp
3


171
con sord.
ppp
mp
pp
ppp
175
p
pp
l.v.
Ped.
178
rall.
ppp
morendo