FULL SCORE

Matthew Grouse

10 Polaroids

for String Trio

2017

10 Polaroids was commissioned by Live Music Now Scotland for the Dohnányi String Trio as part of the 2016 Kimie Composition Prize presented in collaboration with the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and funded by Kimie Trust.

'10 Polaroids' is a work for string trio in ten short movements, each one based on a different Polaroid photograph taken by the seminal Russian filmmaker, Andrey Tarkovsky. The images were selected from a collection of Tarkovsky's personal Polaroids, which were curated and edited by Giovanni Chiaramonte and Tarkovsky's son, published under the title, 'Instant Light'. These hauntingly beautiful stills were taken between 1979 and 1984 in both Russia and Italy. The photos taken in his homeland are melancholic and evoke strong feelings of nostalgia. Often portraits of his wife, son and dog, these earlier photographs embody Tarkovsky's desire to stop time. The Polaroids taken in Italy, in the last few years of his life, appear to capture a certain luminosity, manifested in a focus on ruins and eerie, unsettling interior and exterior shots. They seem to conjure up a powerful feeling of isolation and a sense of longing for his family who were still in Russia. A rather fitting summation of the photographs is posed in the introduction to 'Instant Light' - "His images seem to capture eternity in a moment."

I – It's through the cracks that the light gets in *(November 24, 1983 - Italy)*

II – Learn to love solitude *(September, 1980 - Russia)*

III – Dakas *(September, 1980 - Russia)*

IV – A glimpse with our sightless eyes *(October, 1982 - Italy)*

V – Lara *(September, 1981 - Russia)*

VI – Our earthly lives *(May 10, 1981 - Russia)*

VII – Parade *(June 24, 1984 - Italy)*

VIII – Silhouette *(November 24, 1983 Italy)*

IX – Succession of petals *(October, 1982 - Italy)*

X – Church in the water *(November, 1982 - Italy)*

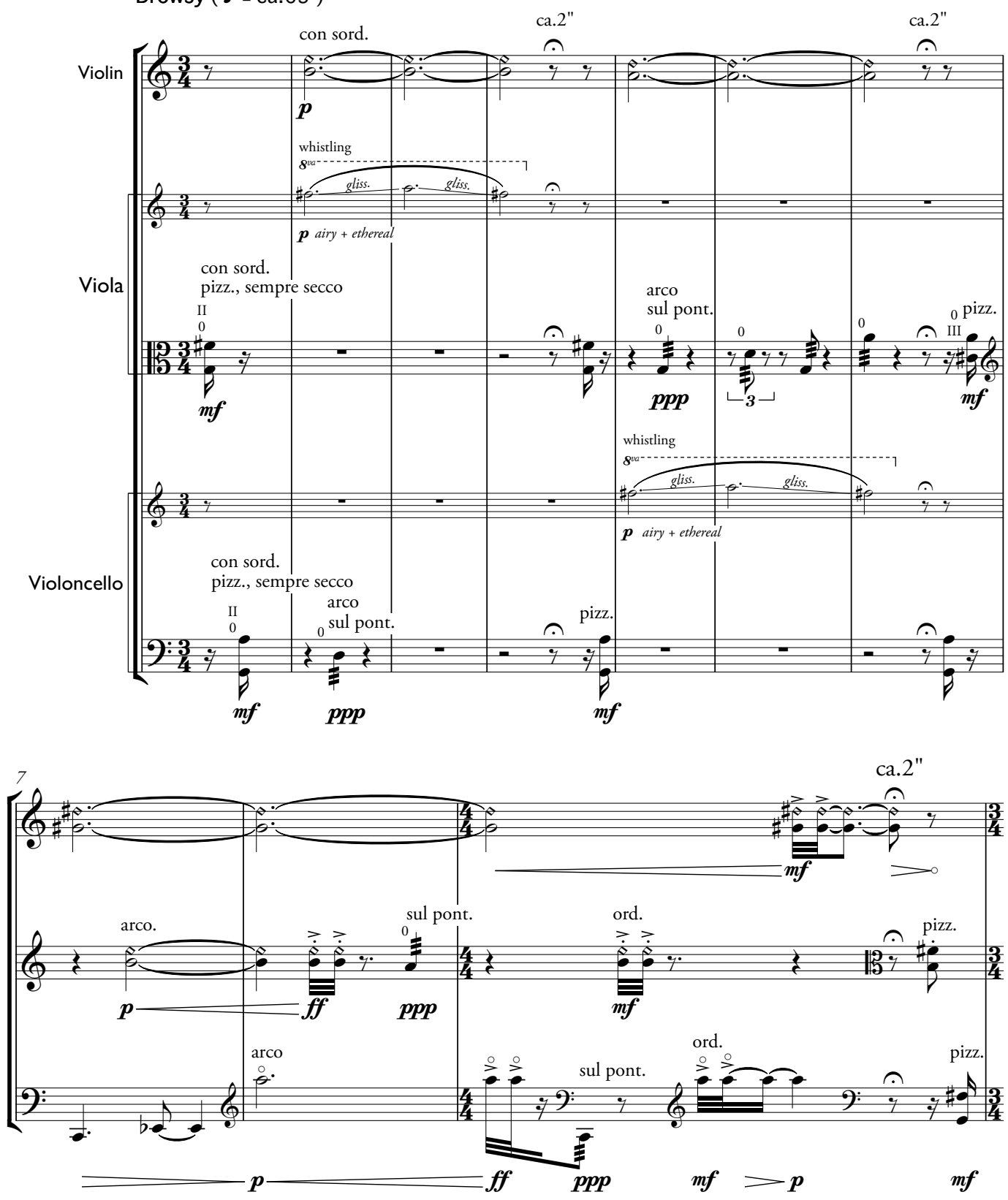
Duration: ca. 13'30"

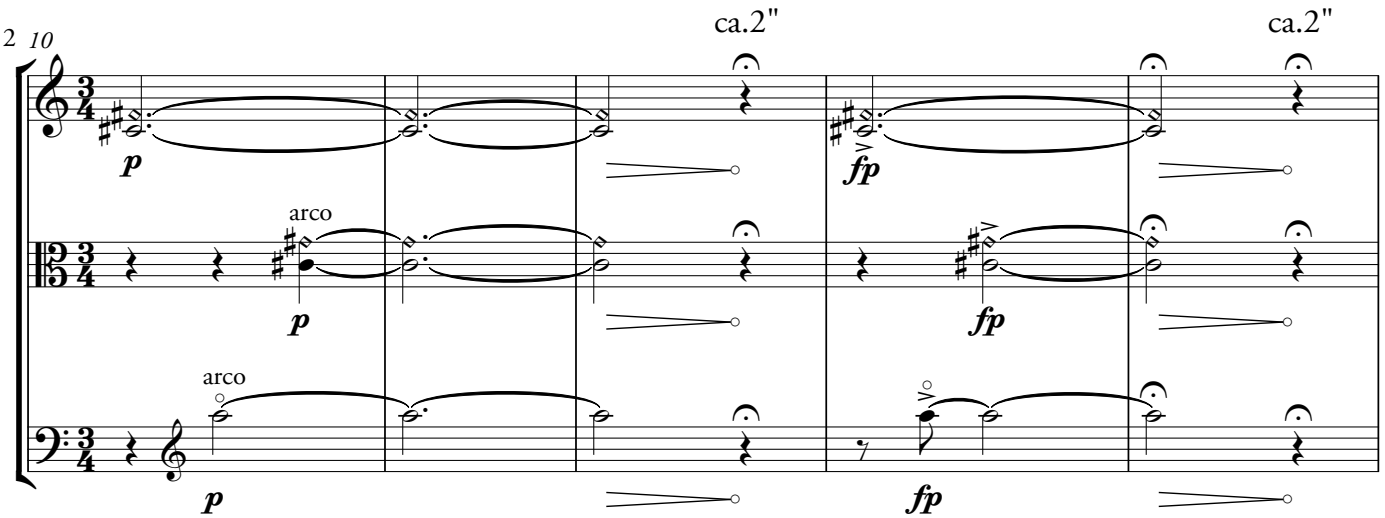
10 Polaroids

Matthew Grouse (b.1996)

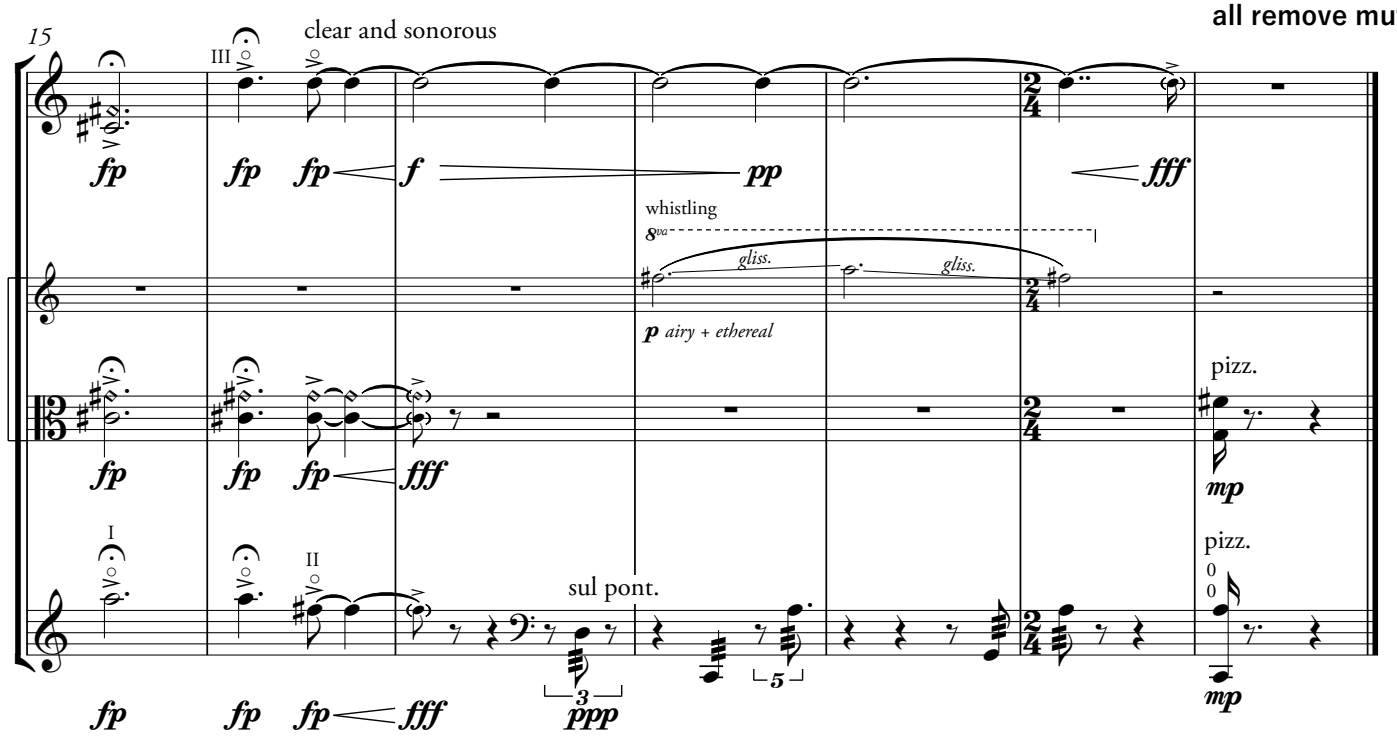
I. It's through the cracks that the light gets in

Italy - November 24th, 1983





all remove mutes

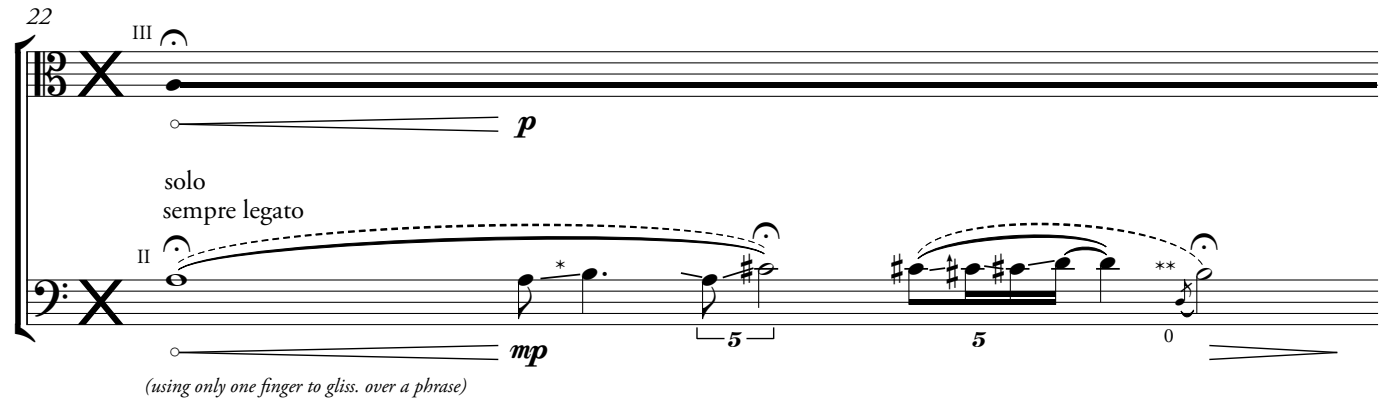


II. Learn to love solitude

Russia - September, 1980

Slow and lyrical, with freedom

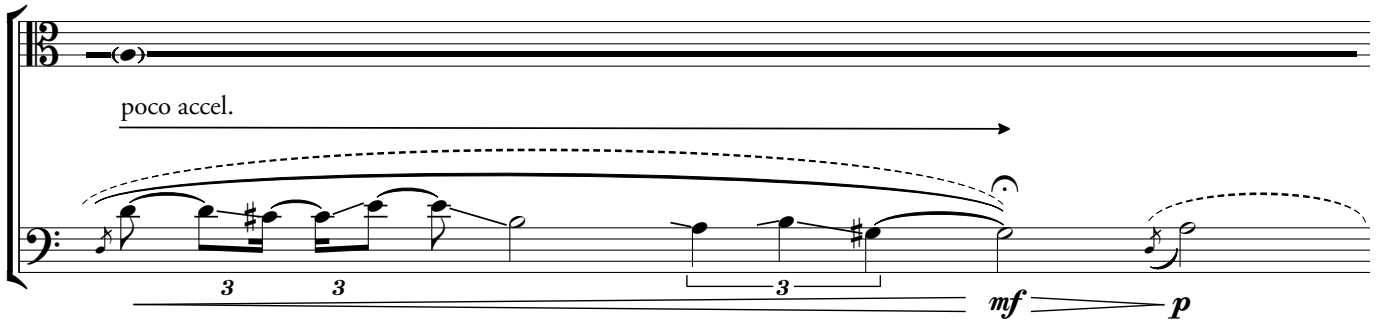
senza vib. (with the colour of an open string)

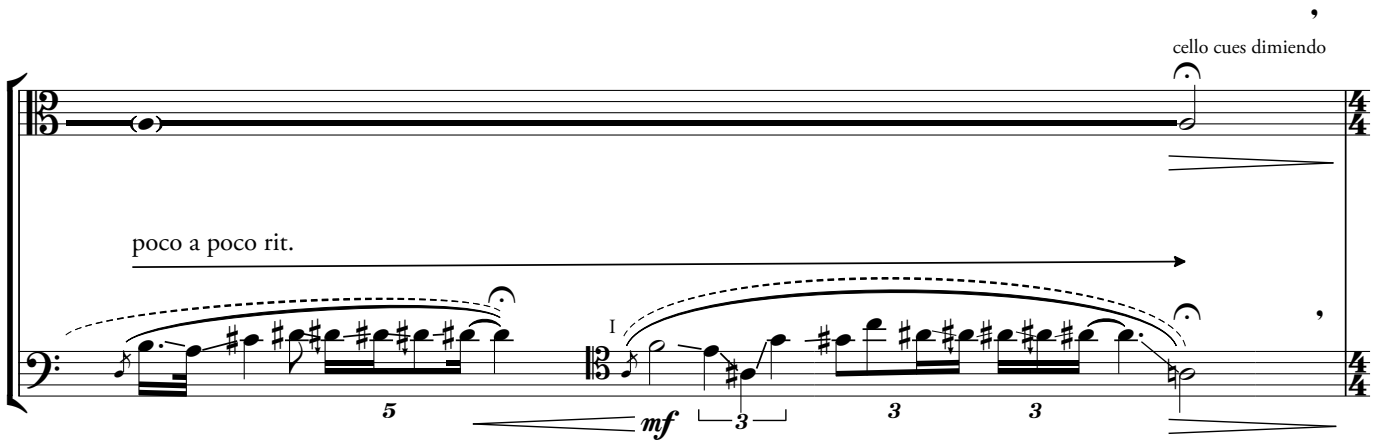


(using only one finger to gliss. over a phrase)

* - The short lines between pitches depict glissandi. When they don't stretch between the whole space, hold on the former pitch before travelling to the next pitch by sliding lazily.

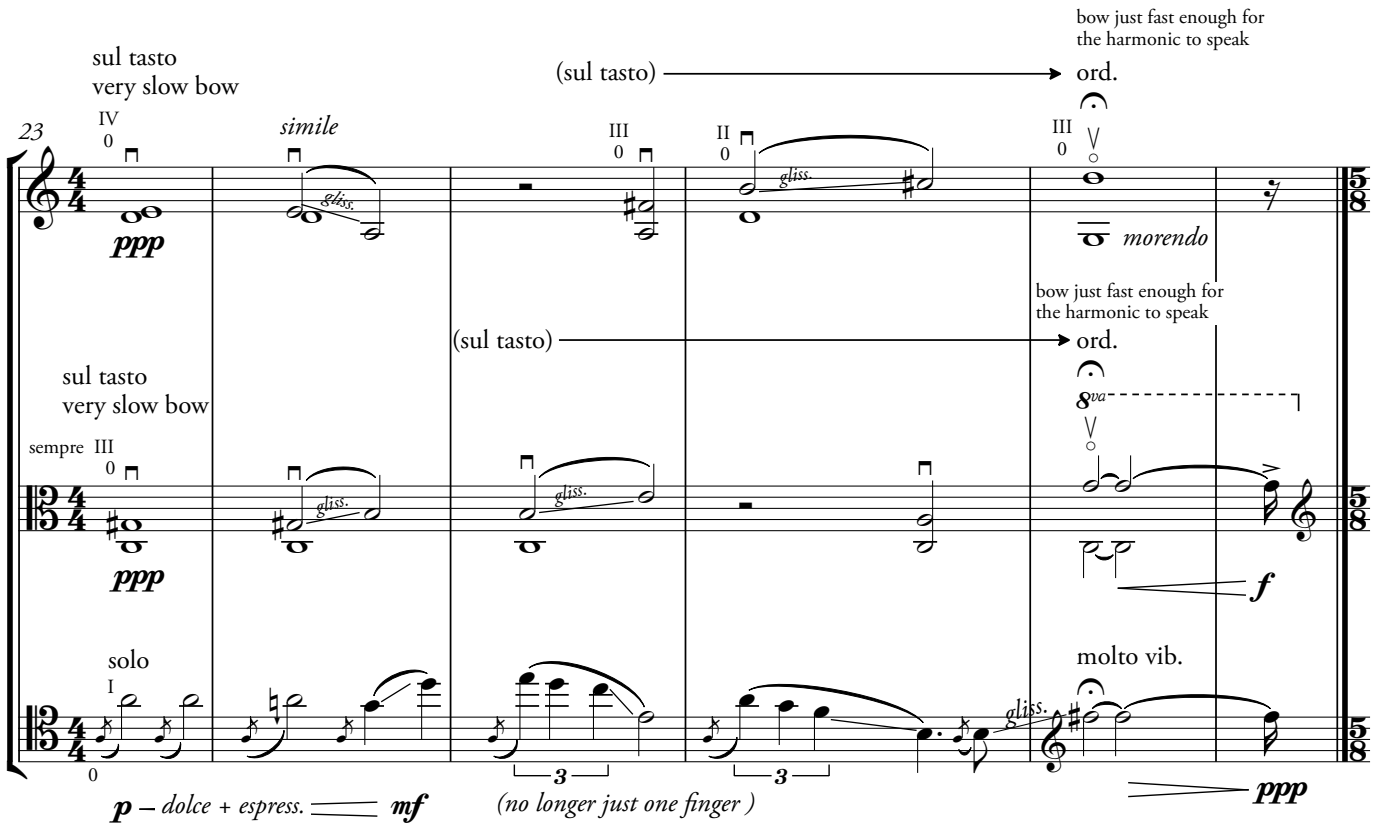
** - suddenly let go of the previous held pitch and let the open string sound momentarily before rapidly hammering on to the next pitch. You should change the finger to gliss with at this point if it makes it easier.





poco rubato (♩ = ca. 45)

rit.



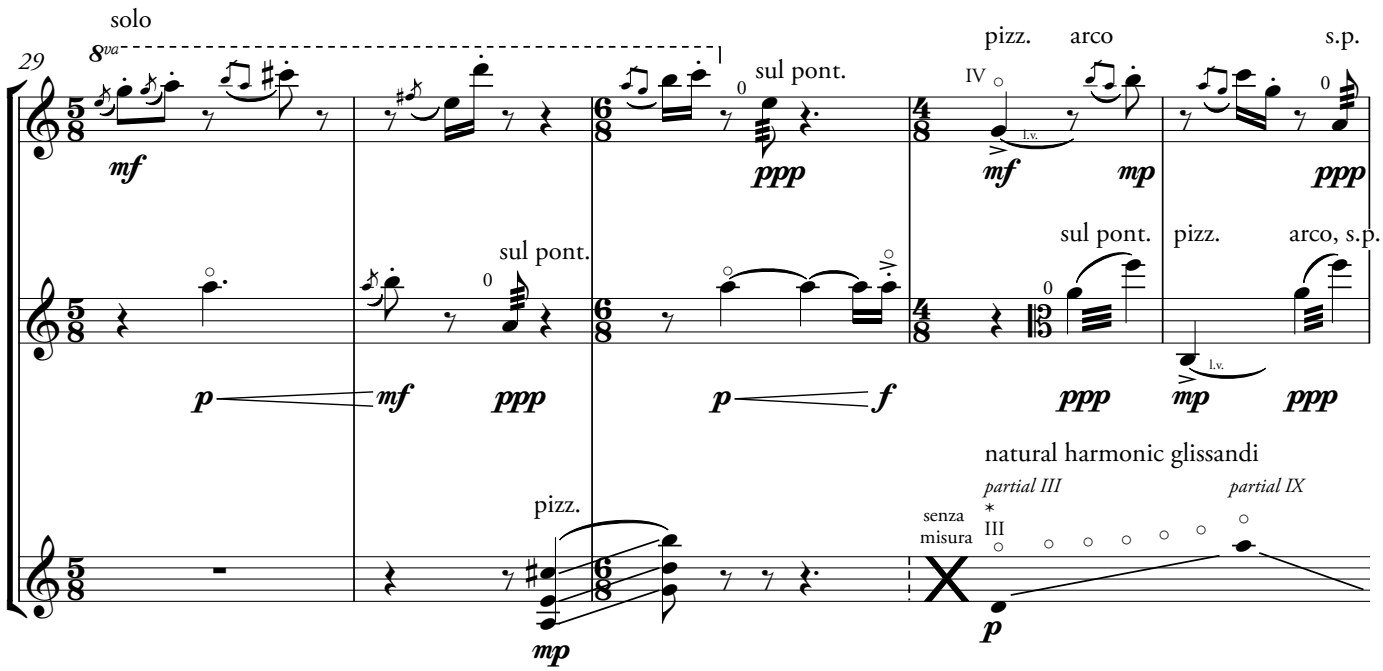
Cued by cello

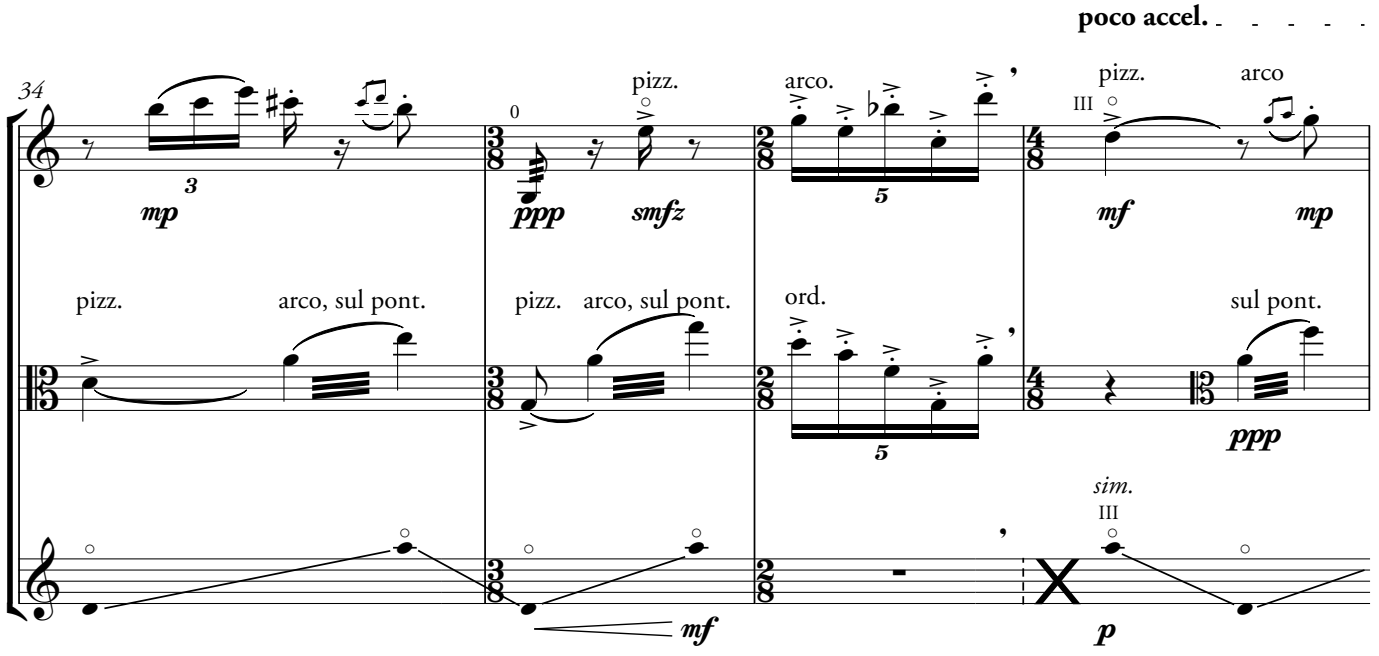
Attacca to III.

III. Dakas

Russia - September, 1980

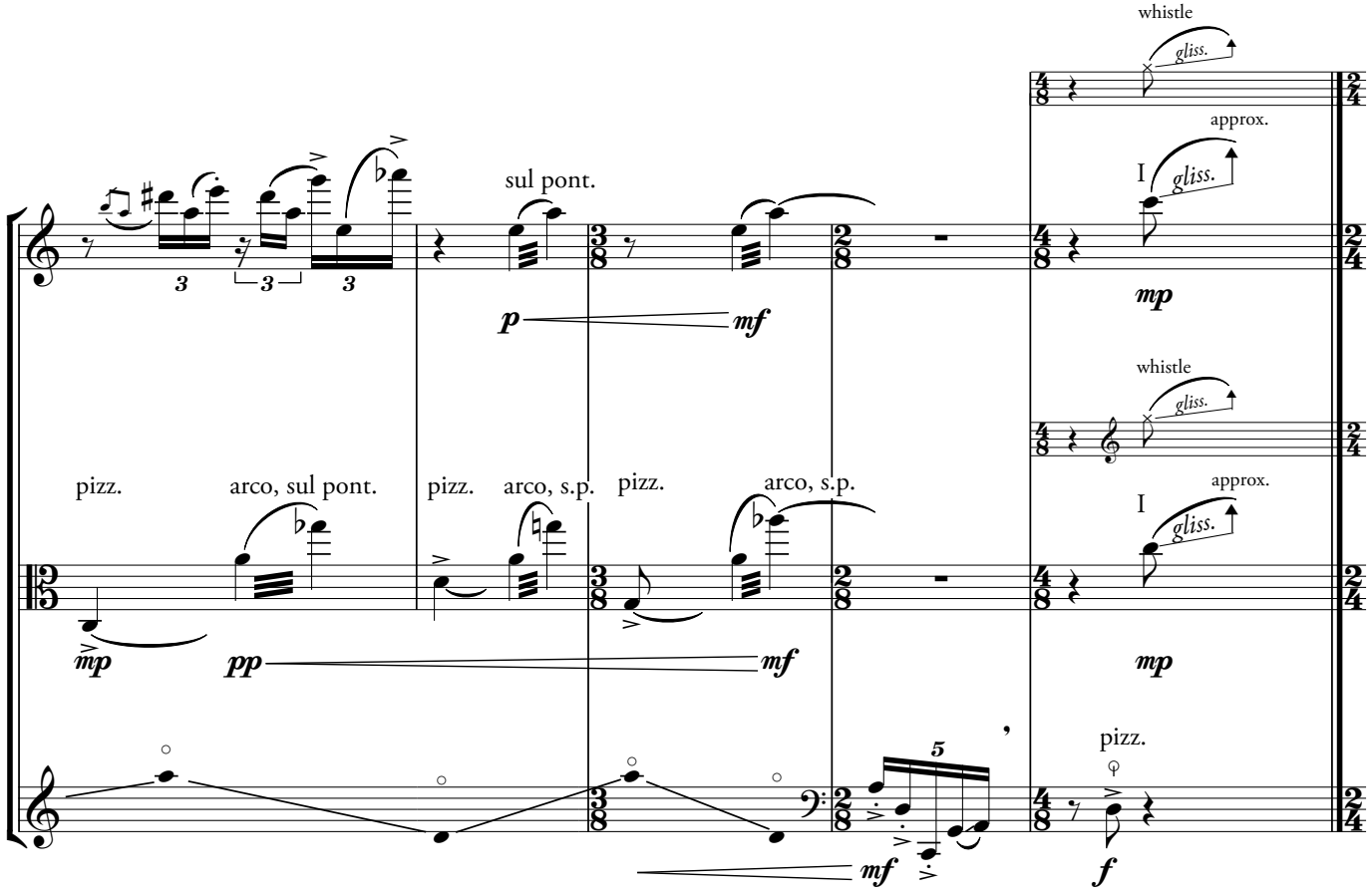
Excitable (♪ = ca. 140)





* - For the harmonic glissandi, freely drift over the partials between the designated points.
The position to find these nodes should always be past the 1/2 way point of the string (closer to the bridge than the nut)

A tempo

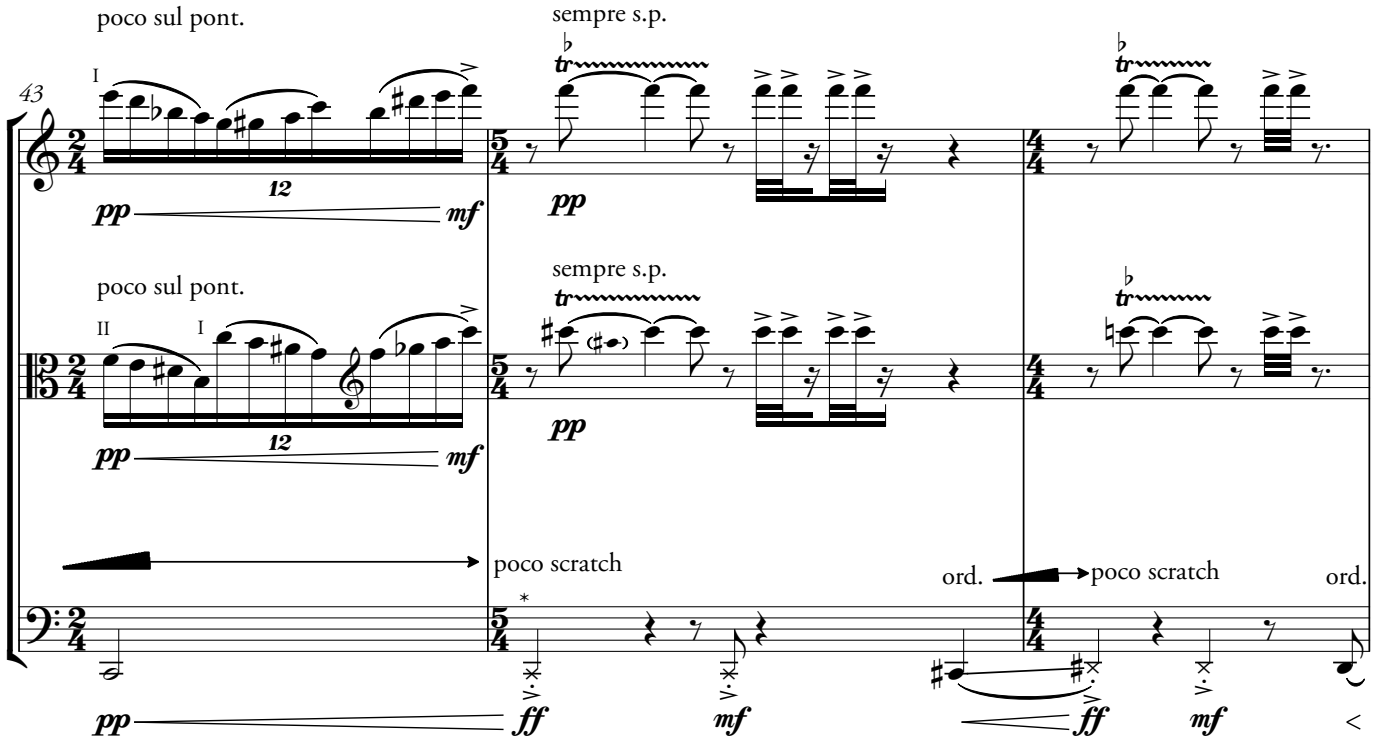


IV. A glimpse with our sightless eyes

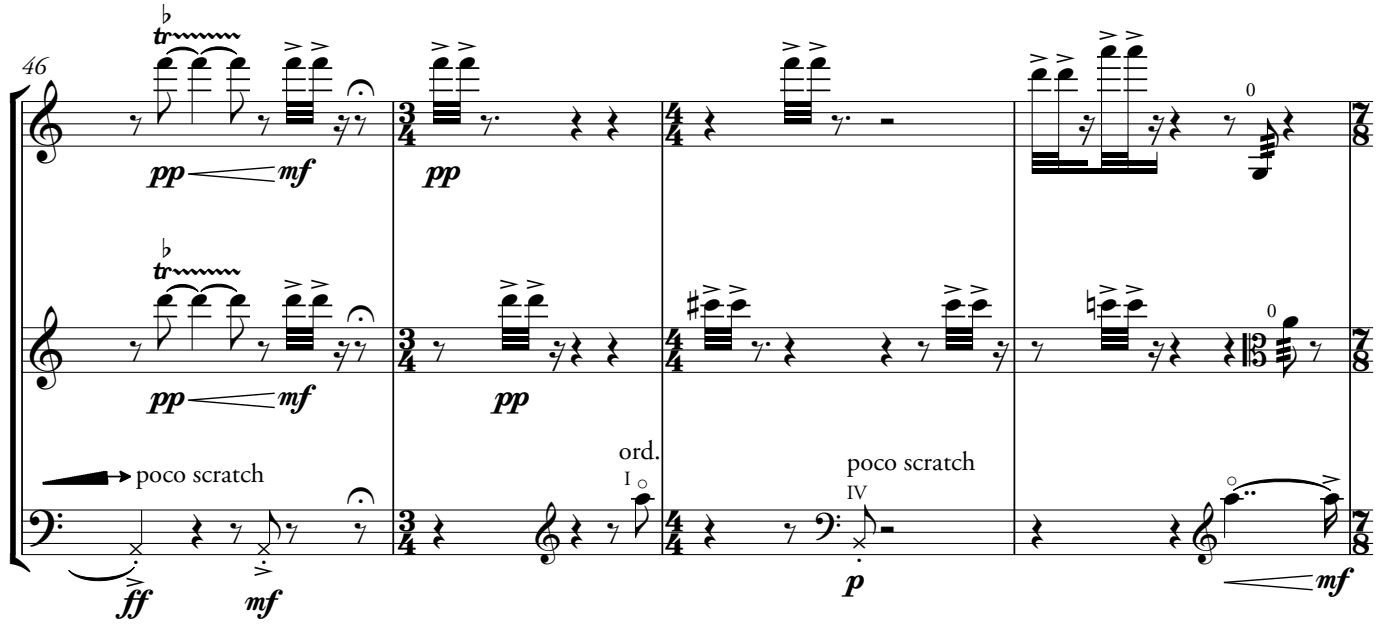
Italy - October, 1982

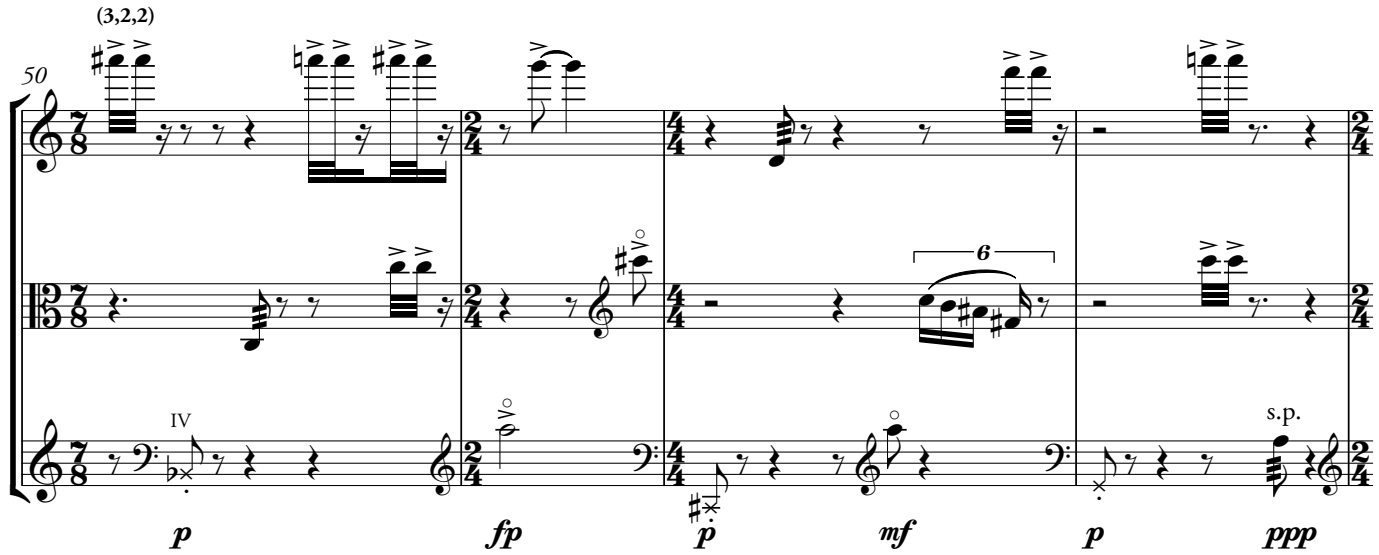
Eerie (♩ = ca. 60)

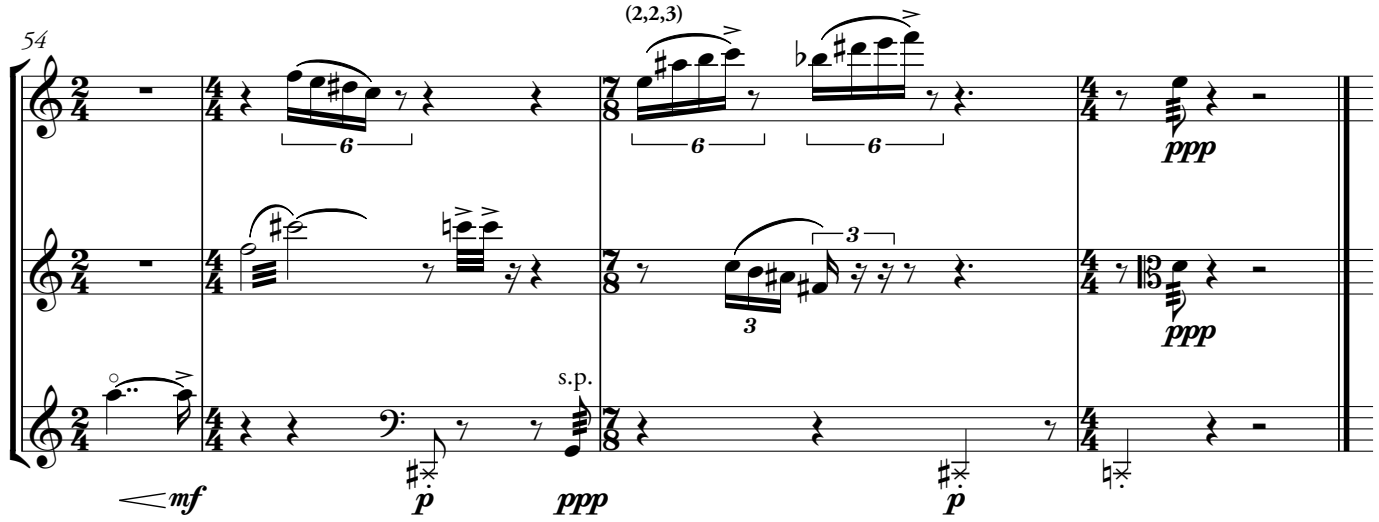
accel. (♩ = ca. 80)



* - For 'x' note heads, the bow should be already resting on the string before nudging.
The desired effect is one of a short but scratchy / distorted sound. Alter accordingly depending on dynamics.


46
pp
mf
pp
poco scratch
ff
mf
ord.
I
poco scratch
IV
p
mf


(3,2,2)
50
IV
p
fp
p
mf
p
s.p.
ppp

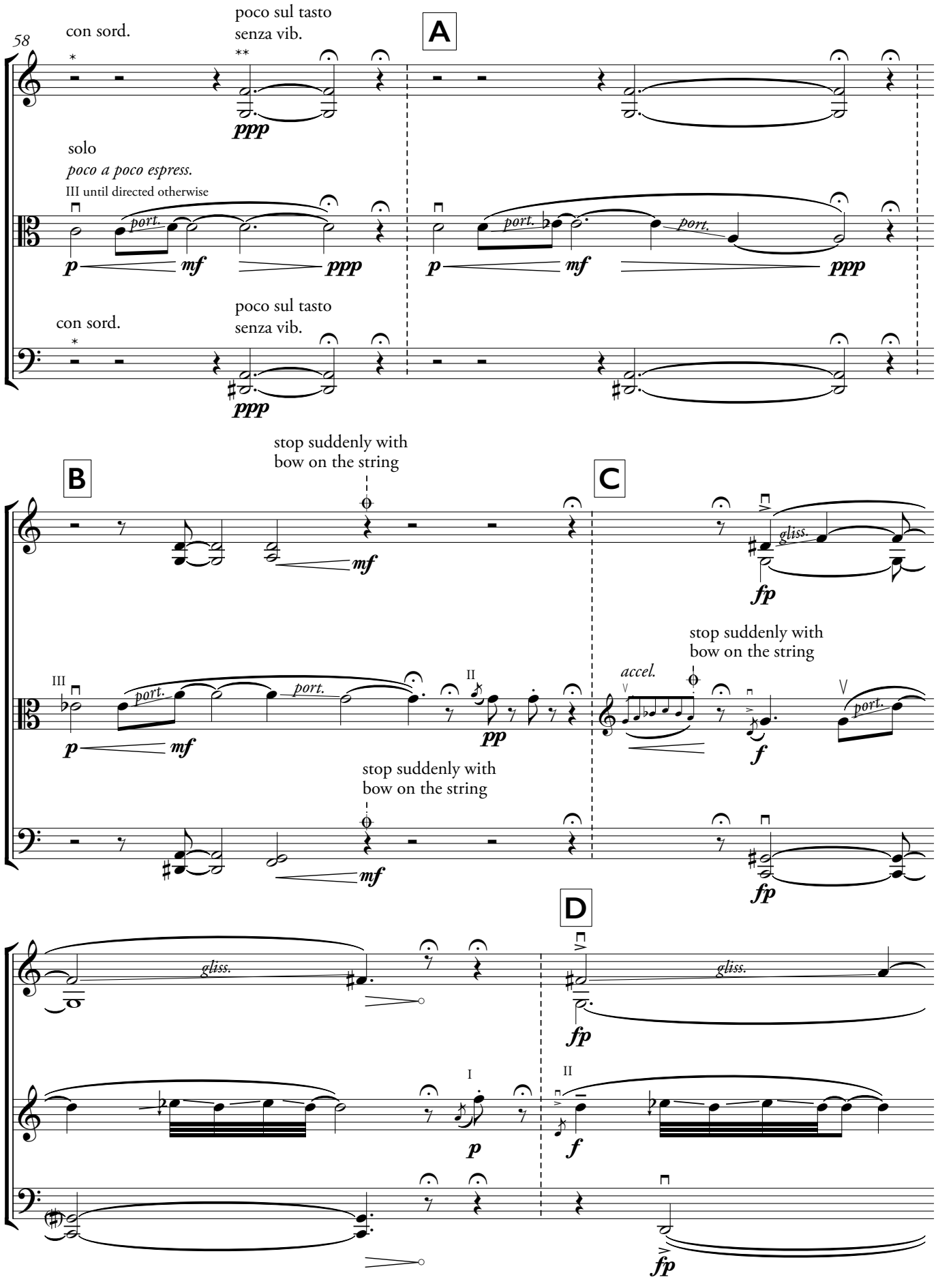

54
(2,2,3)
ppp
ppp
mf
p
s.p.
ppp
p

Attacca to V.

V. Lara

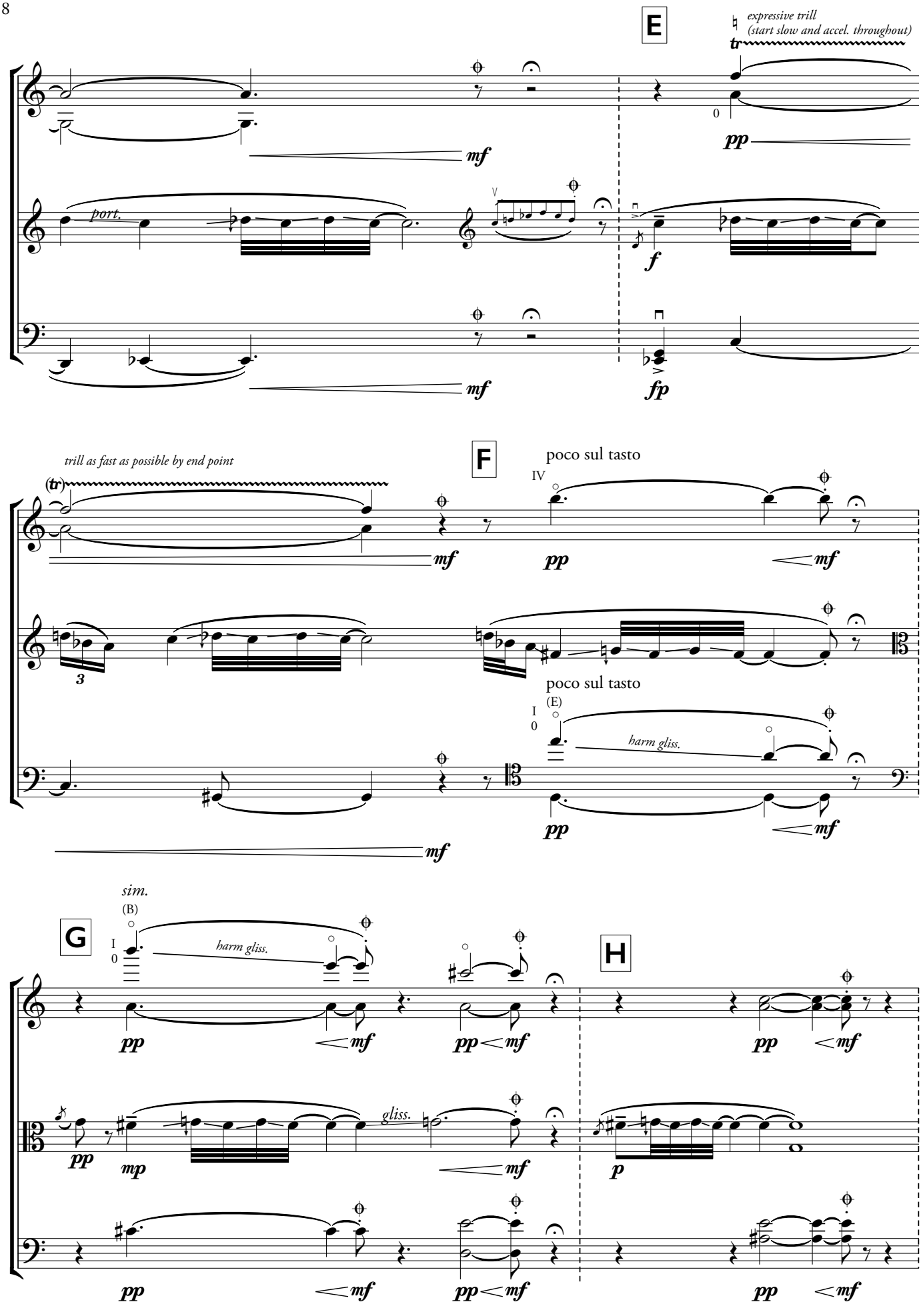
Russia - September, 1981

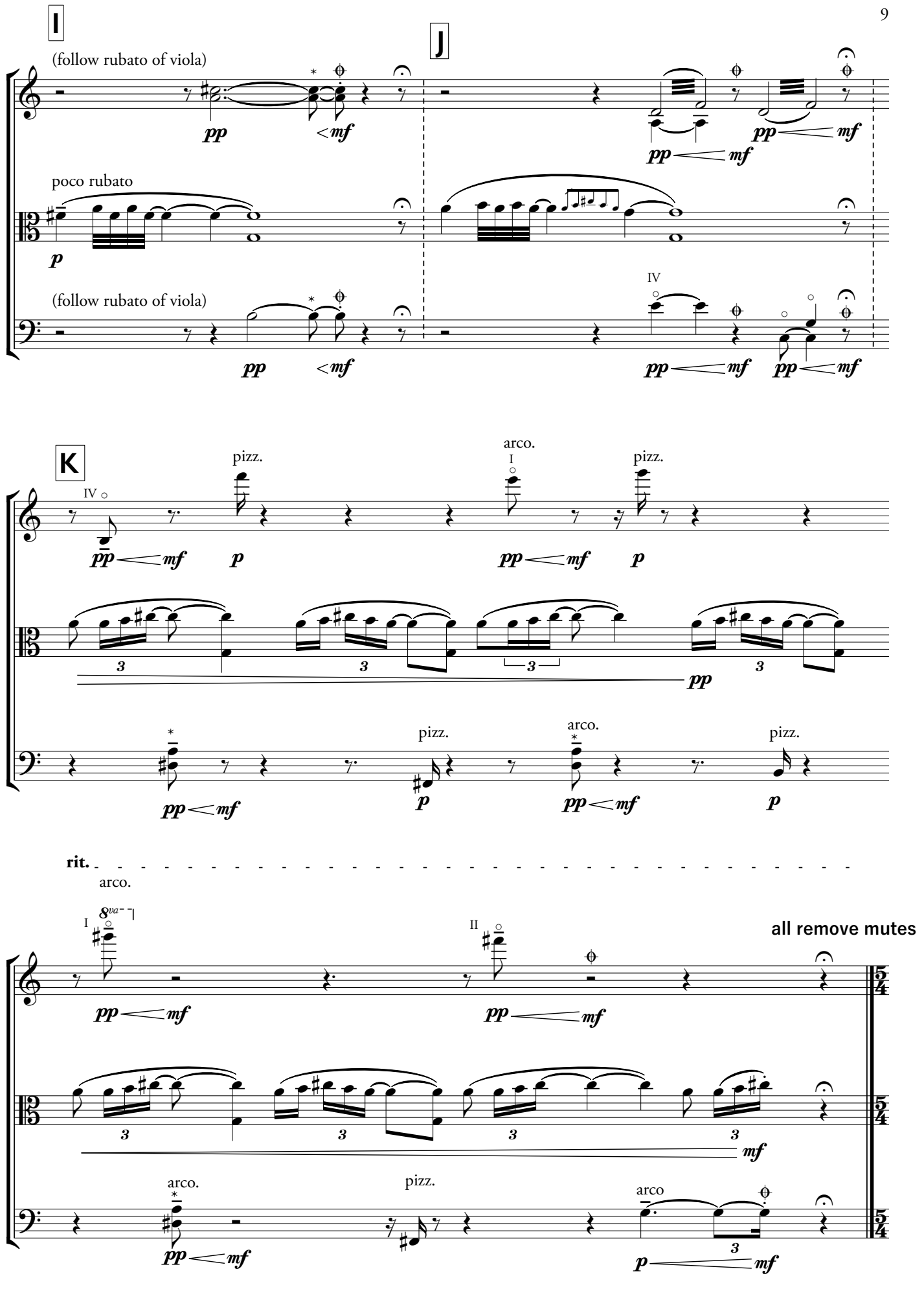
With longing and melancholy (𝅗𝅥 = ca. 26 / ♪ = ca. 104)



* - These rests are always worth 𝅗𝅥 NOT 𝅝

** - Violin cues cello for accompaniment entries


E
expressive trill
(start slow and accel. throughout)
tr
0
pp
mf
port.
f
mf
fp
trill as fast as possible by end point
(tr)
F
poco sul tasto
IV
mf
pp
mf
3
poco sul tasto
(E)
I
0
harm gliss.
pp
mf
mf
sim.
(B)
G
I
0
harm gliss.
pp
mf
pp
mf
H
pp
mf
gliss.
pp
mp
mf
p
pp
mf
pp
mf
pp
mf

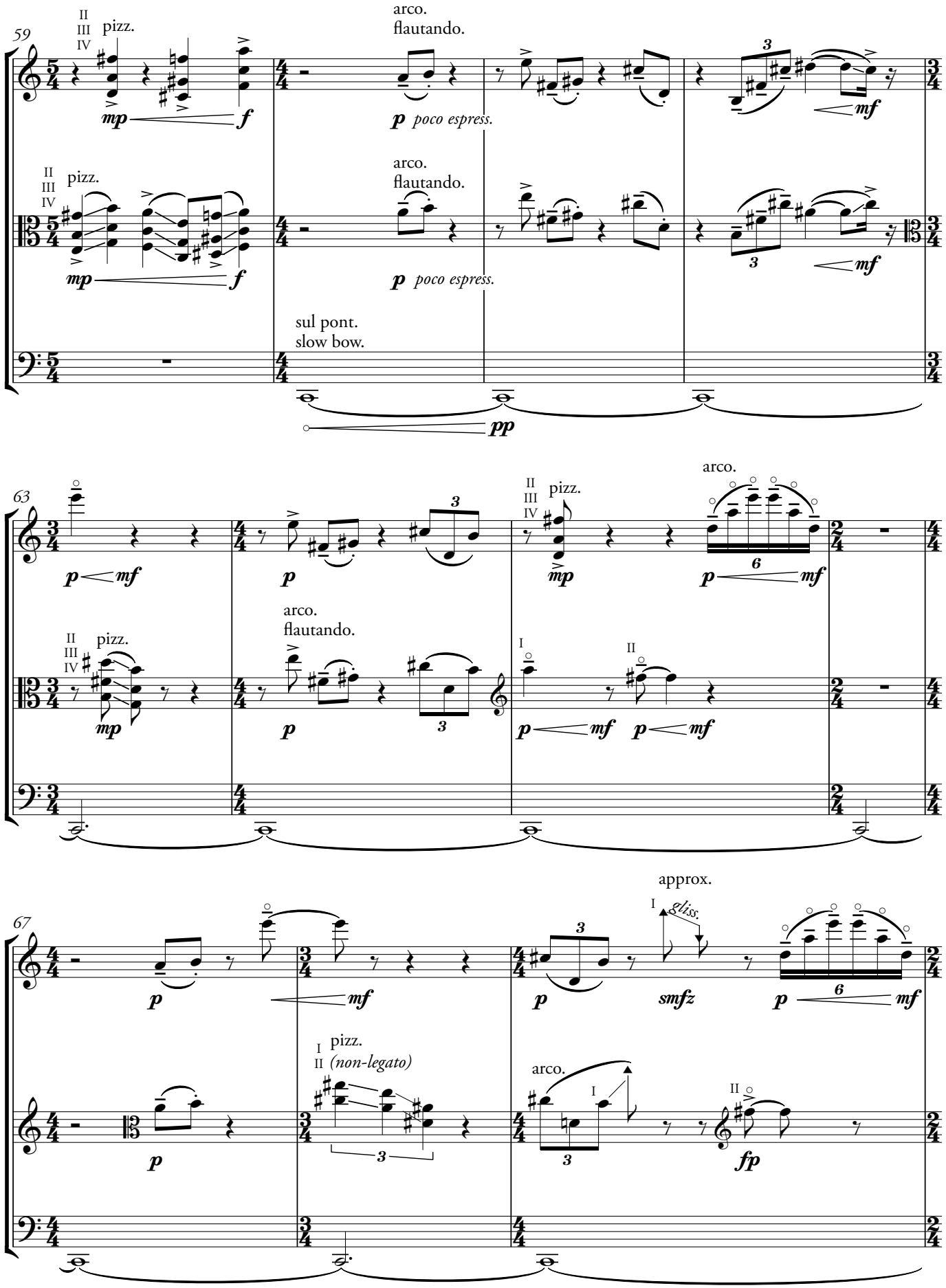


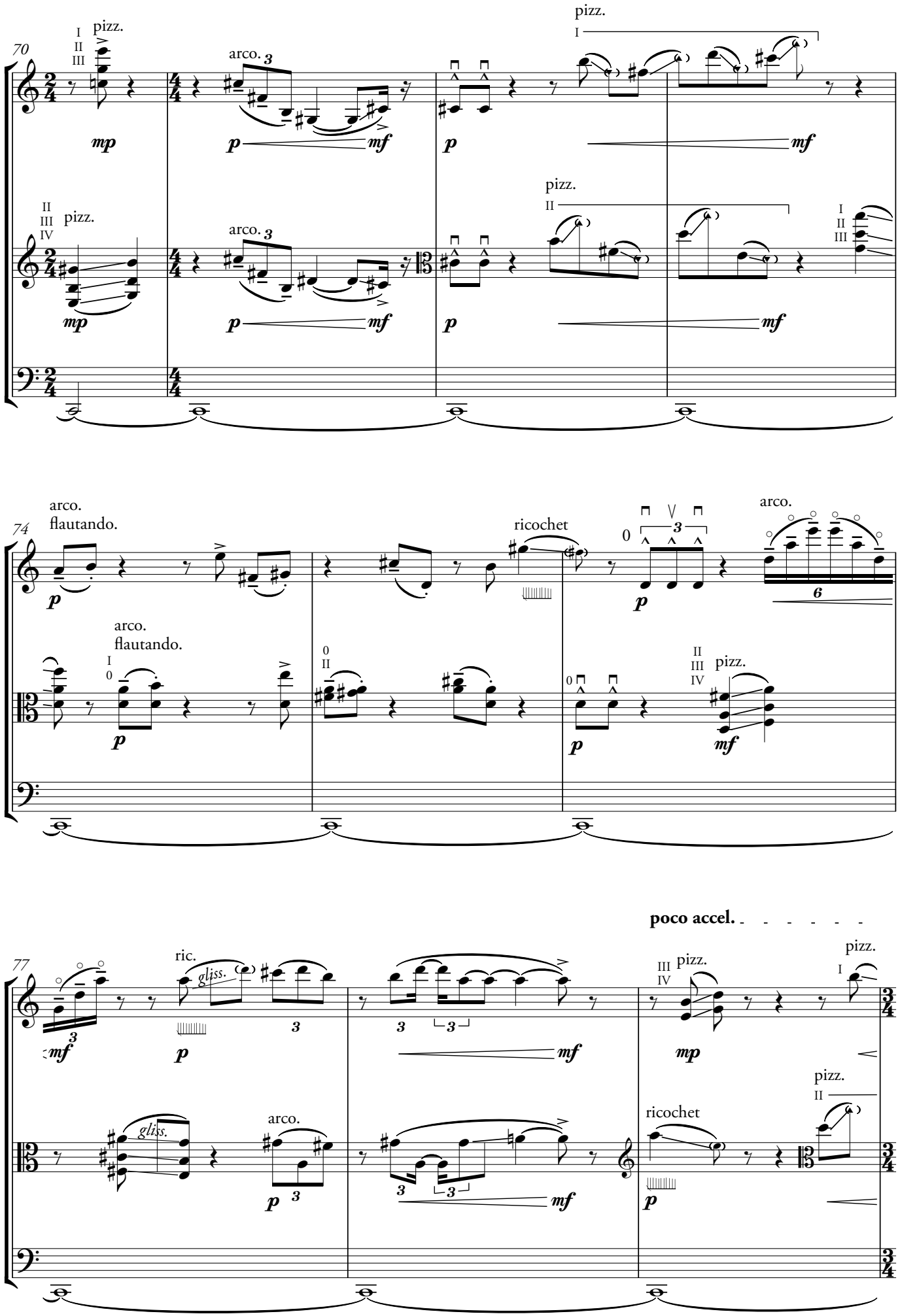
* - At the starred phrases, increase vibrato as well as the dynamic during the short crescendos

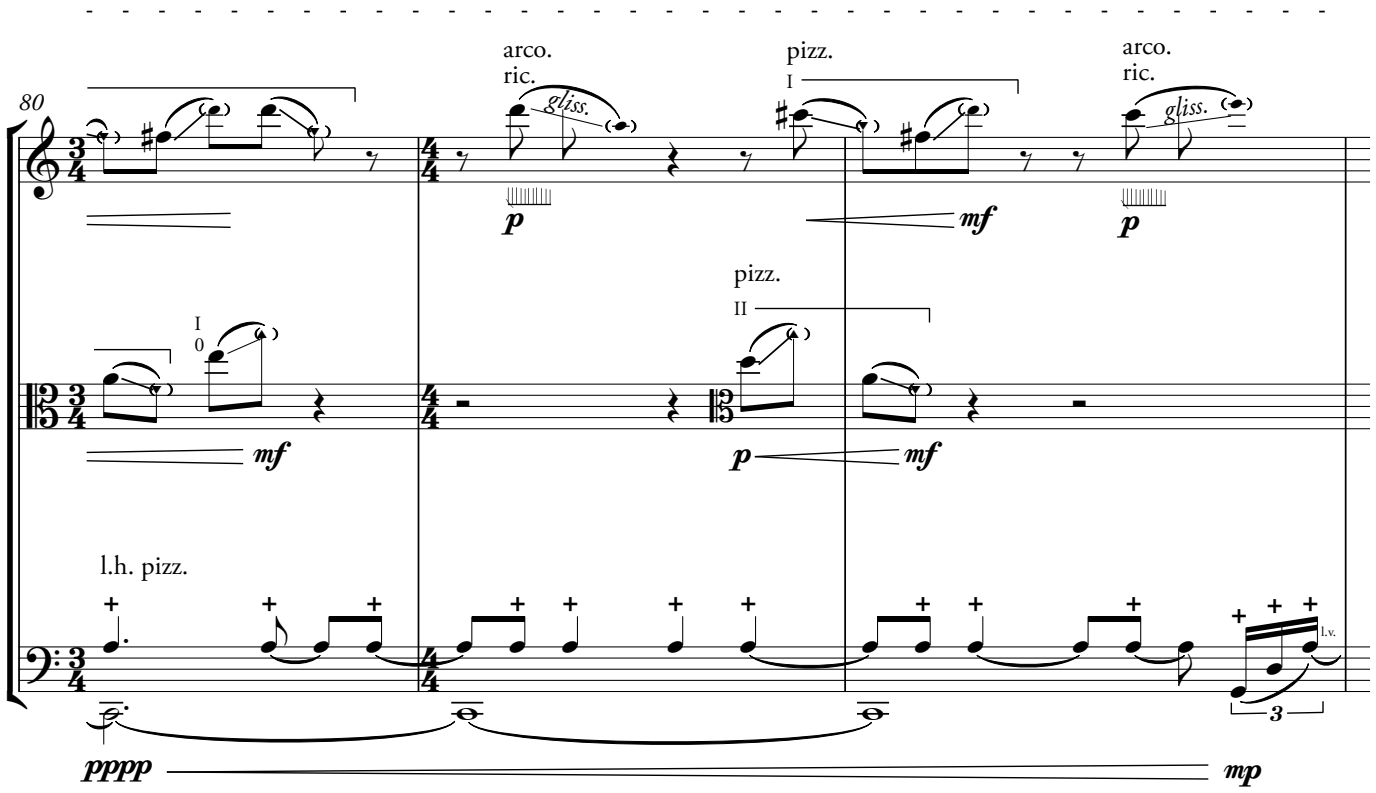
VI. Our earthly lives

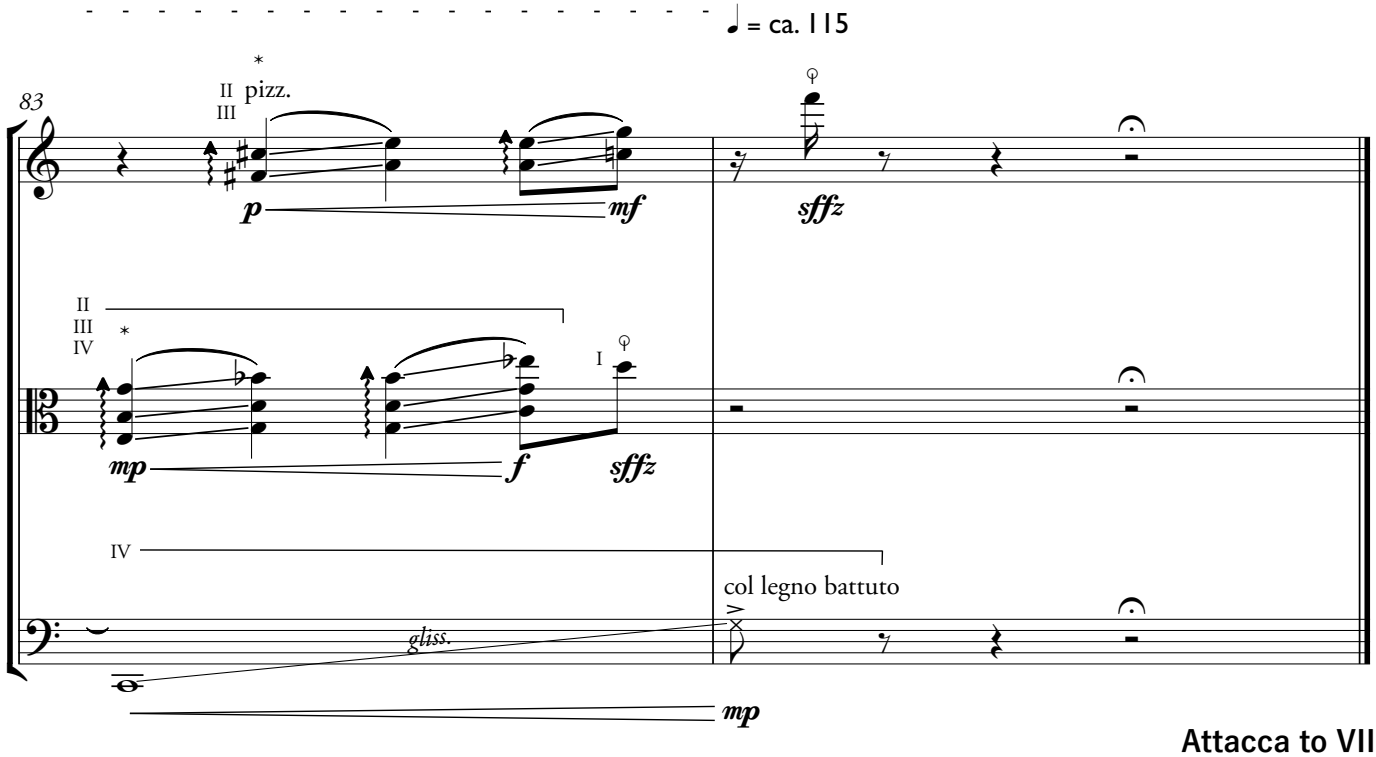
Russia - September, 1981

Light and playful (♩ = ca.90)




70
pizz.
arco.
pizz.
arco.
pizz.
pizz.
74
arco.
flautando.
ricochet
arco.
arco.
flautando.
pizz.
77
poco accel.
ric.
gliss.
pizz.
pizz.
gliss.
arco.
ricochet
pizz.





Attacca to VII.

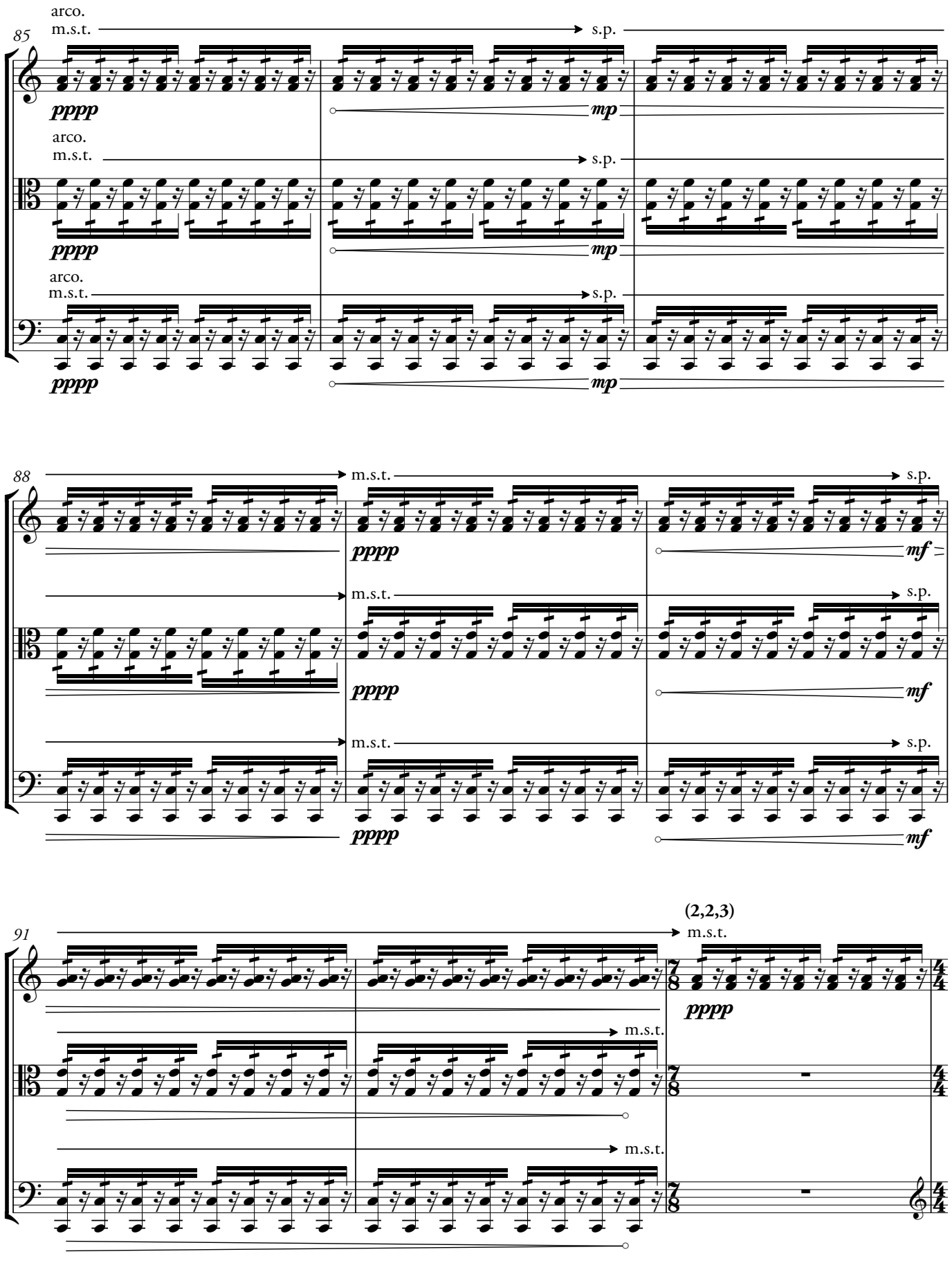
* - Spread multiple stop expressively whilst sliding up the fingerboard to the next chord

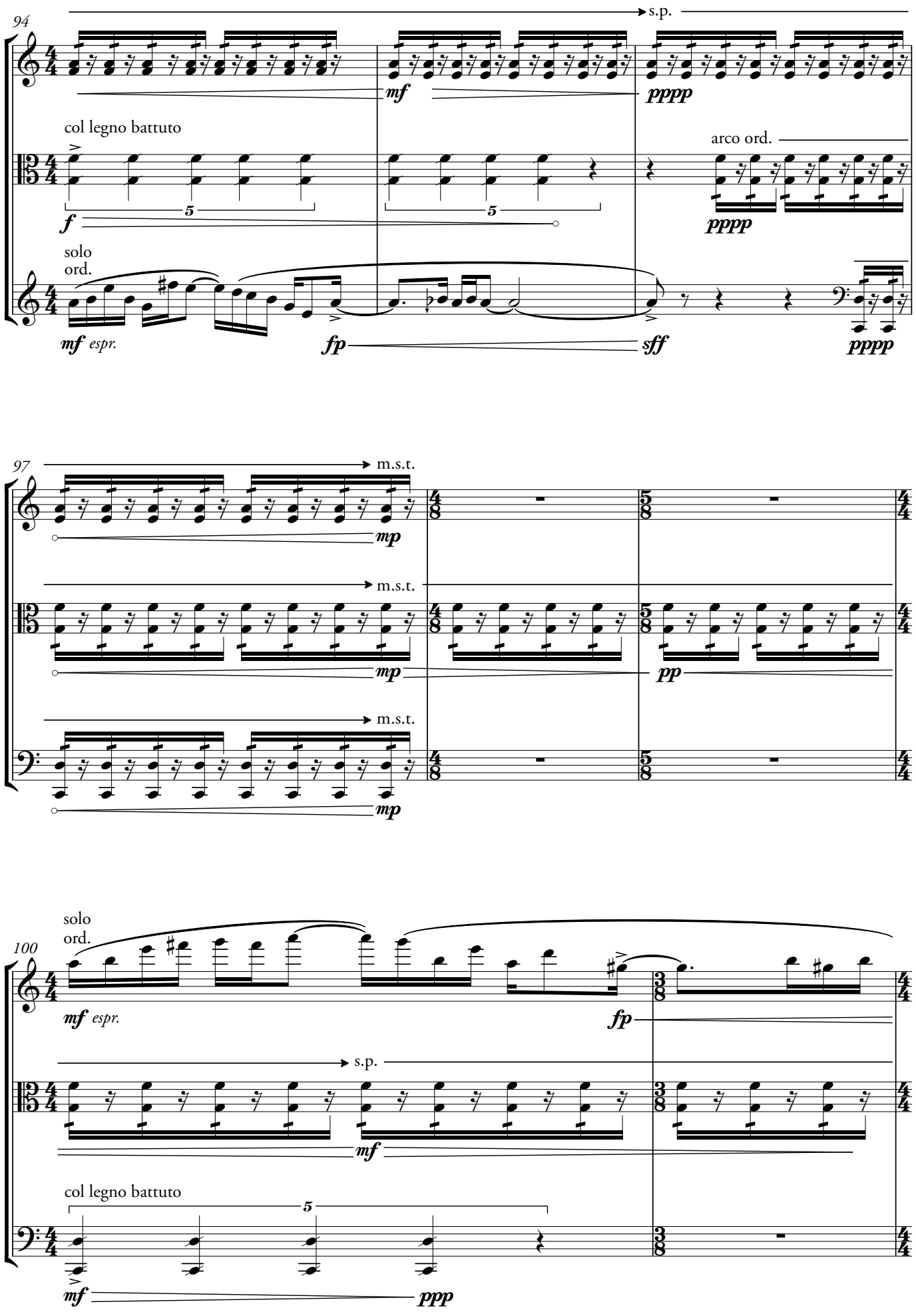
VII. Parade

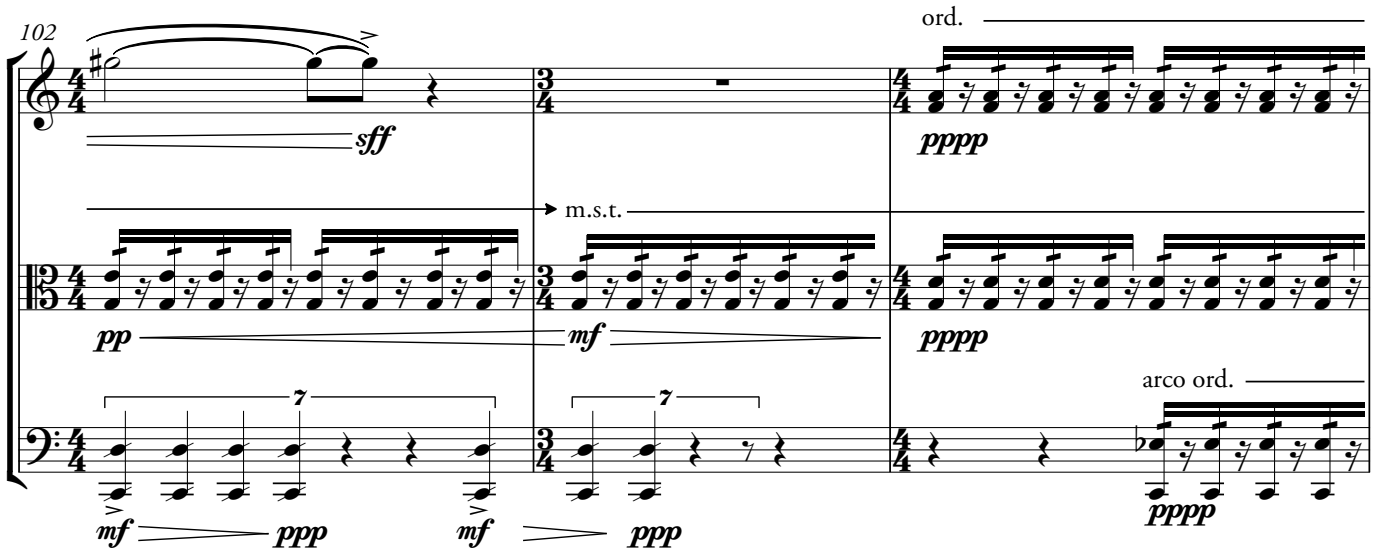
Italy - 24 June, 1984

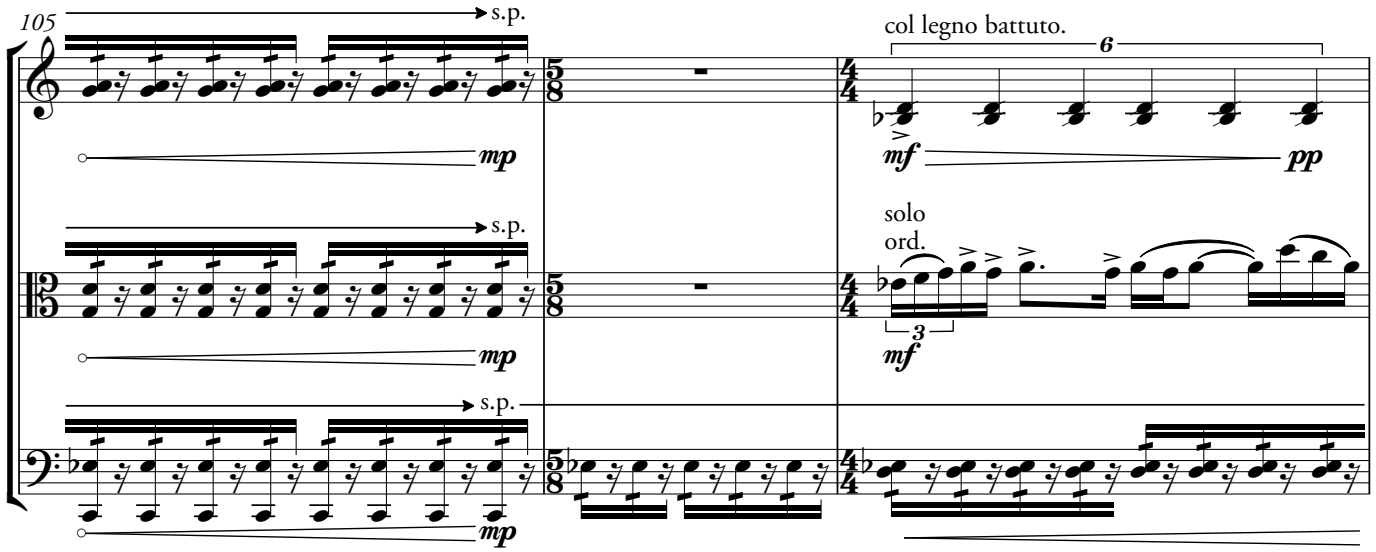
ritualistic

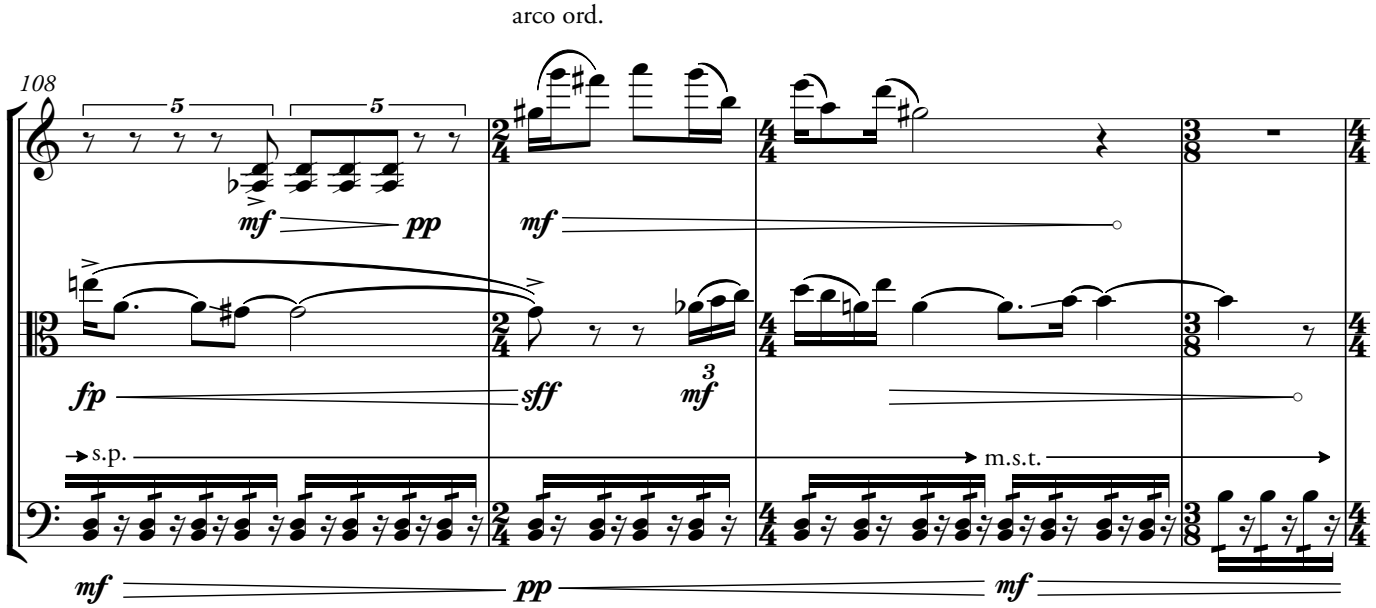
(♩ = ca.70) con poco rubato (led by violin)

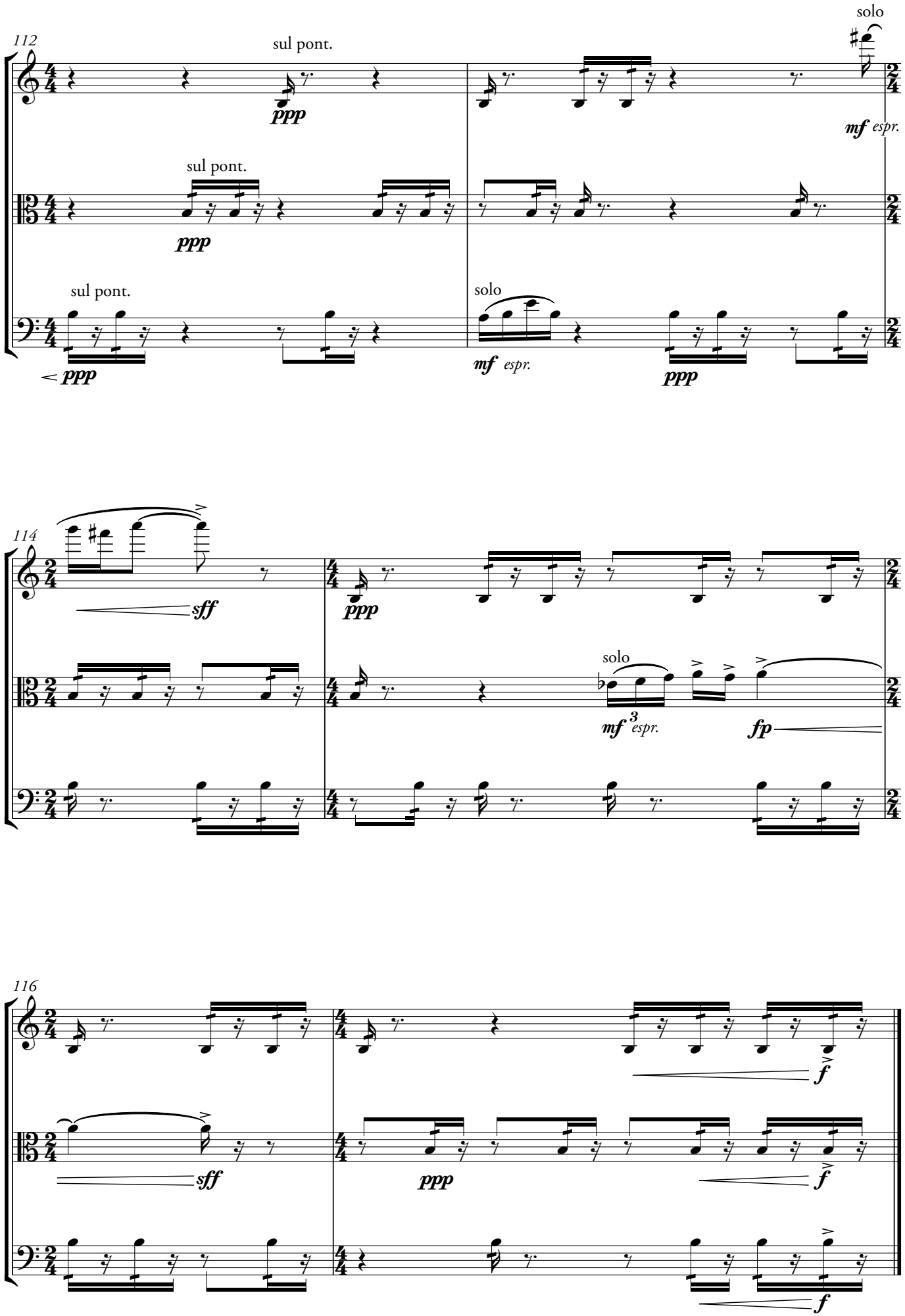



94
s.p.
mf
pppp
col legno battuto
arco ord.
f
5
5
pppp
solo
ord.
mf espr.
fp
sff
pppp
97
m.s.t.
mp
m.s.t.
mp
pp
m.s.t.
mp
100
solo
ord.
mf espr.
fp
s.p.
mf
col legno battuto
5
mf
ppp


102
ord.
sff
pppp
m.s.t.
pp
mf
pppp
7
7
arco ord.
mf
ppp
mf
ppp
pppp

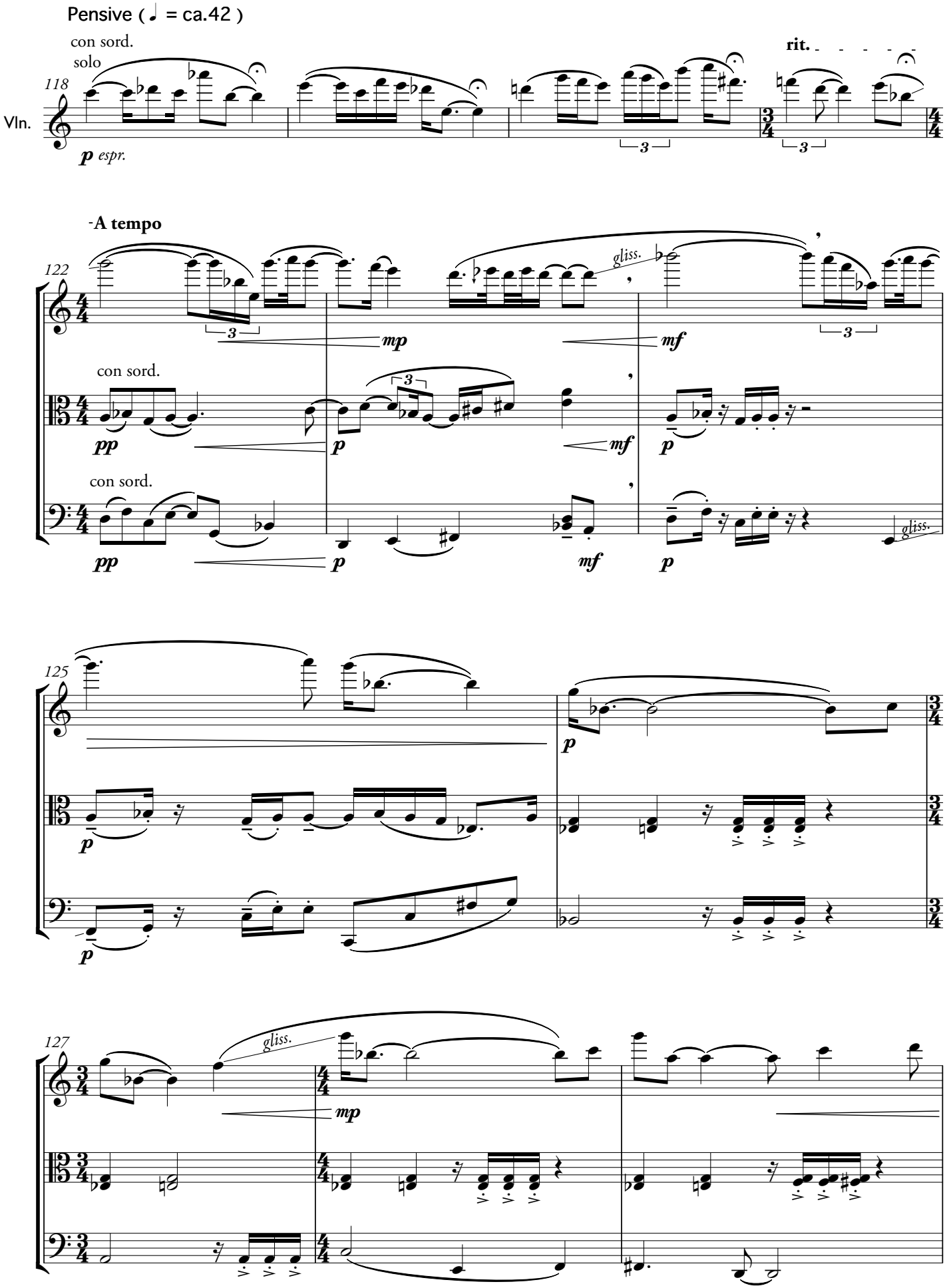

105
s.p.
col legno battuto.
6
mp
mf
pp
s.p.
solo
ord.
mp
3
mf
s.p.
mp

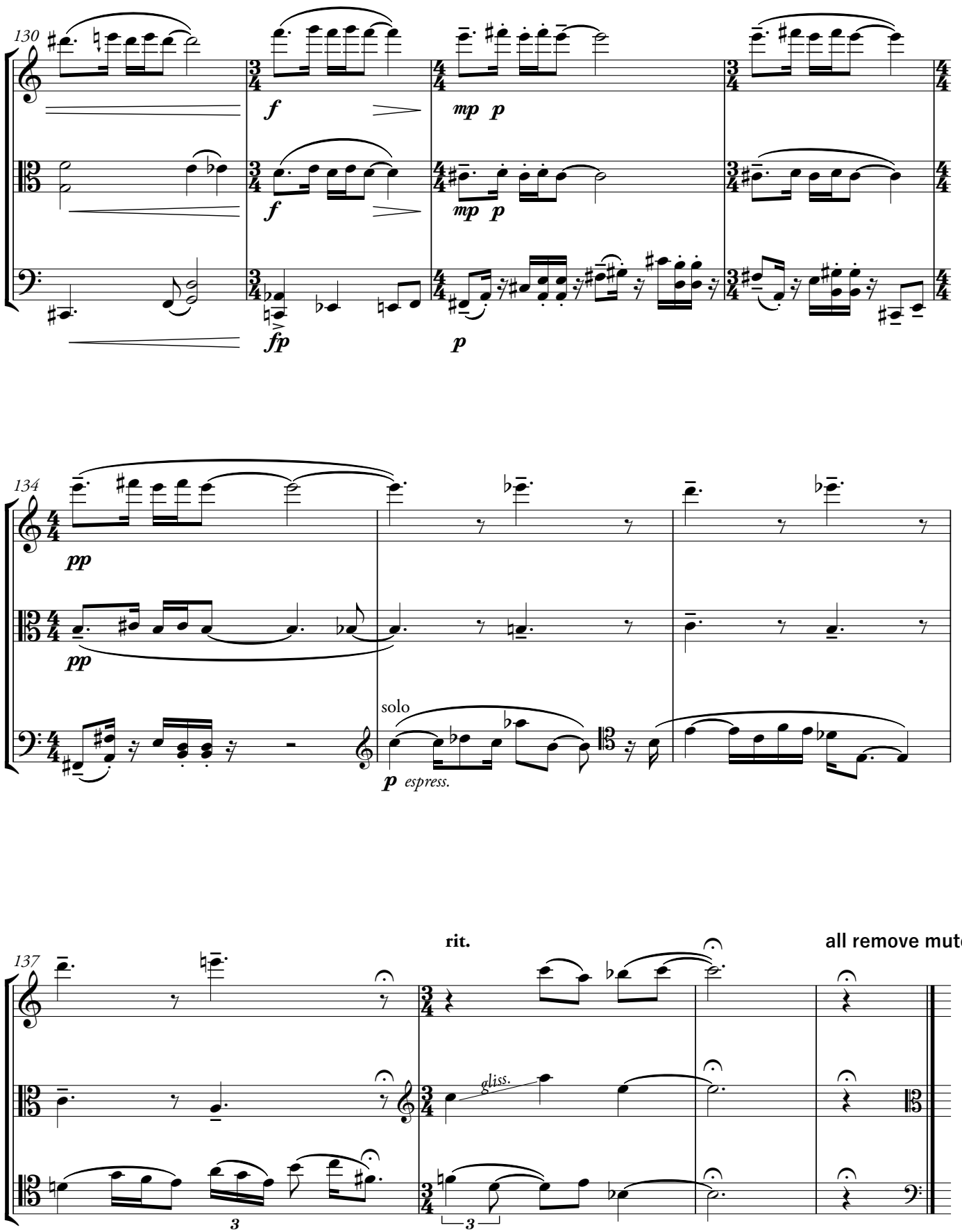

arco ord.
108
5
5
mf
pp
mf
fp
sff
3
mf
s.p.
m.s.t.
mf
pp
mf


112
sul pont.
ppp
solo
mf espr.
sul pont.
ppp
sul pont.
ppp
solo
mf espr.
ppp
114
sff
ppp
solo
mf 3 espr.
fp
116
f
sff
ppp
f
f

VIII. Silhouette

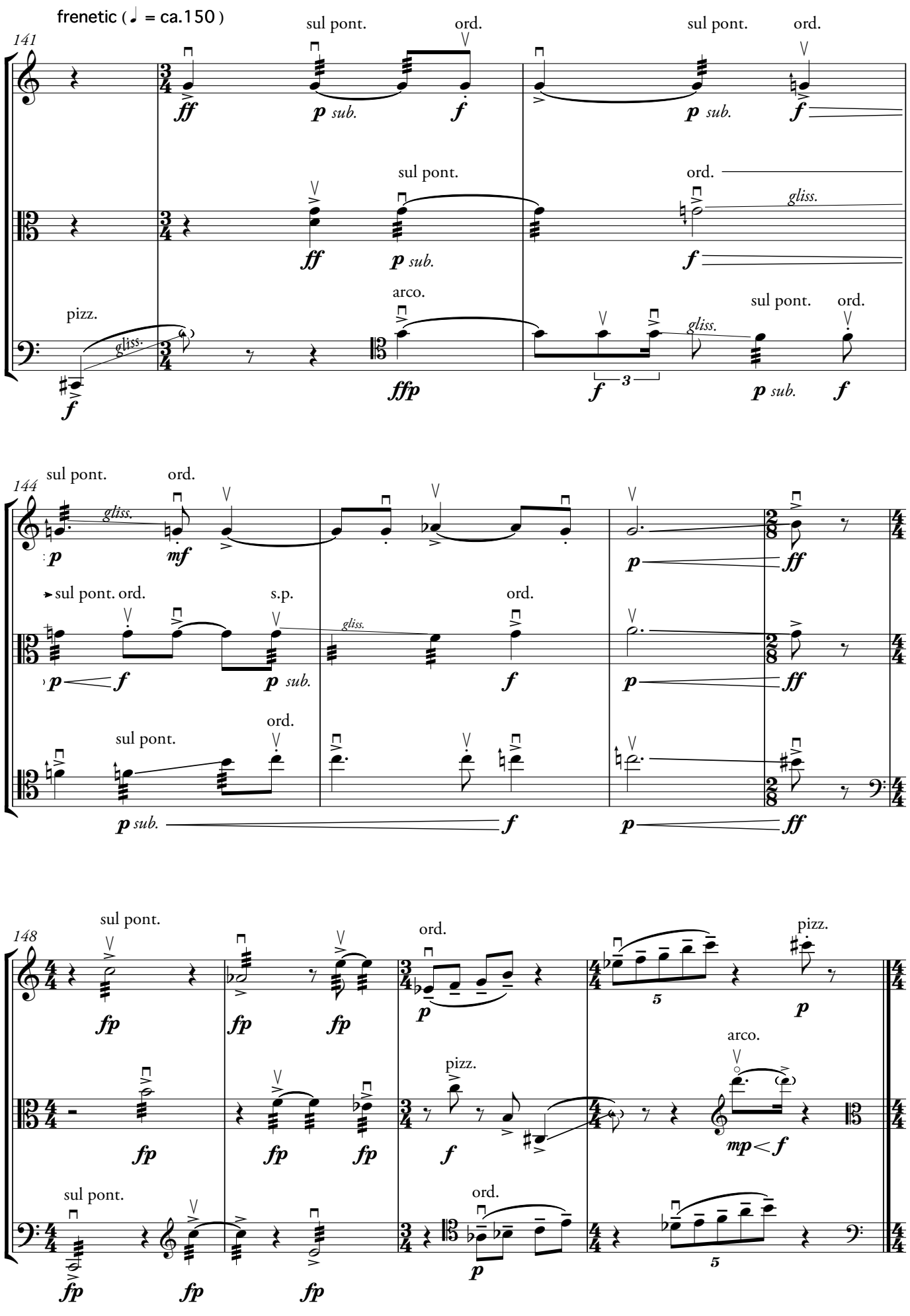
Italy - October, 1982



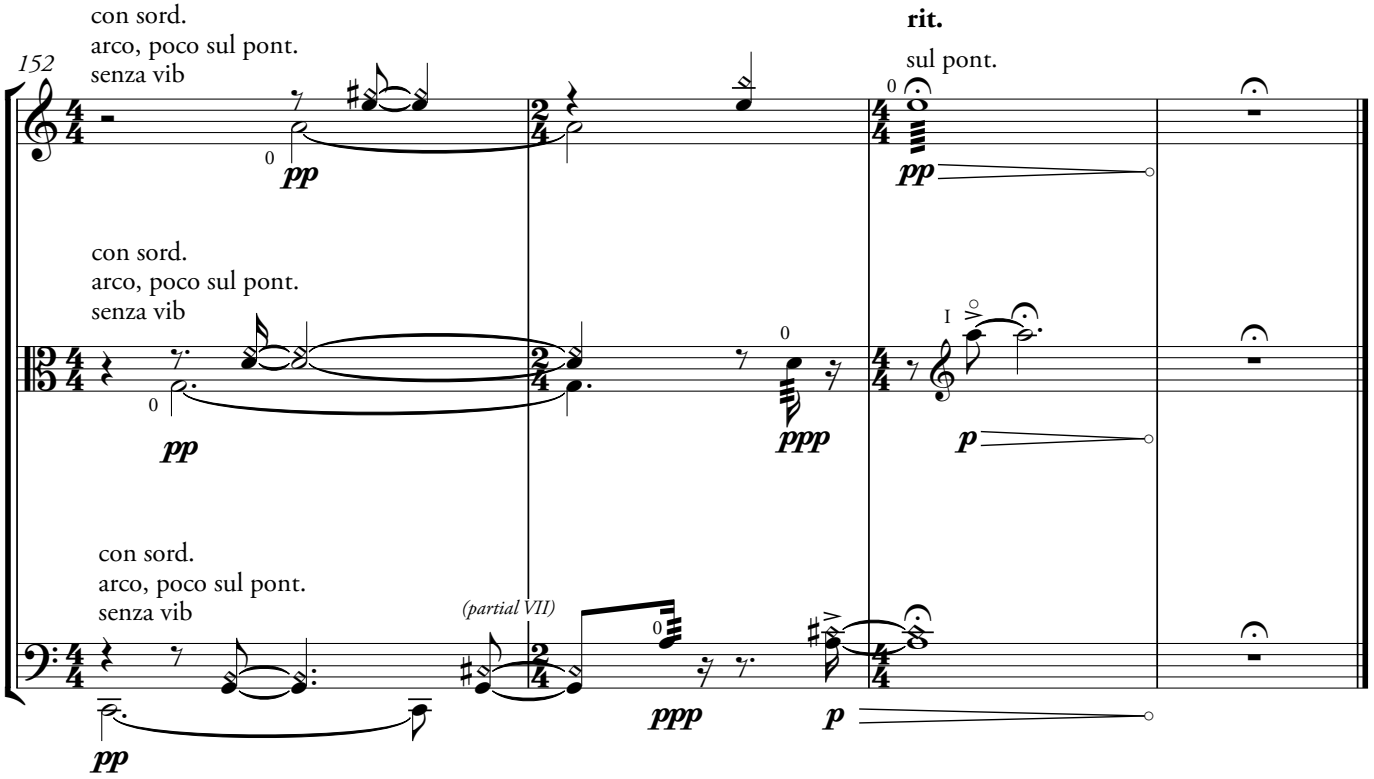

130
f
mp p
f
mp p
fp
p
134
pp
pp
solo
p espress.
137
rit.
all remove mutes
gliss.
3
3

IX. Succession of petals

Italy - June 24, 1984



X. Church in the water

Italy - November, 1982

a frozen moment (♪ = ca.42)