Derek B. Scott

Scherzo, Op. 4

for double bass and piano

Scherzo, Op. 4

for Double Bass and Piano (1974)

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This piece does not follow the conventional form of a scherzo, but is constructed, instead, along the lines of sonata principle. However, it is a serially organized sonata structure in which a conflict between the absence and presence of a key has replaced the traditional conflict between one key and another. This lends itself to metaphorical interpretation here as a conflict between humorous and sentimental moods. Ironically, the sentimental theme has the driest of sources, since it is derived from the first eight digits of π. When put into the order 3.1415926, a series of notes rising in semitonal steps from the note E produces the following:

F♯ (3) – E (1) – G (4) – D♭ (10) – A♭ (5) – C (9) – F♮ (2) – A♮ (6)

The hawk-eyed will spot a little cheating: the digit 10 has been substituted for the repeated appearance of the digit 1.

The formal outline of the scherzo is as follows: Introduction, *Allegro non troppo*; Exposition, *Allegro commodo*, beginning bar 10 (2nd theme, *con molto sentimento*, bar 40); Development beginning bar 63; Recapitulation beginning bar 113; Coda beginning bar 137.

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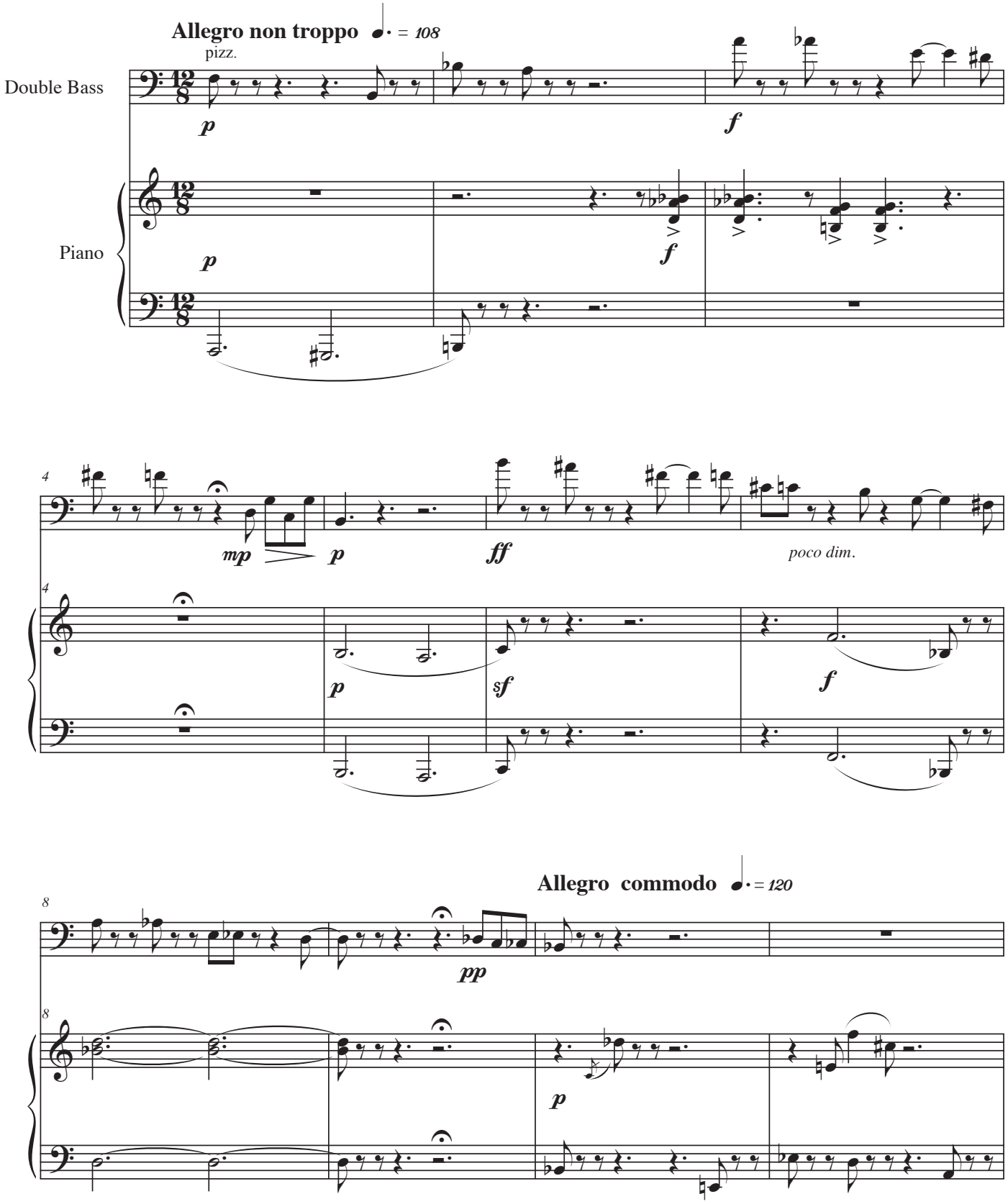

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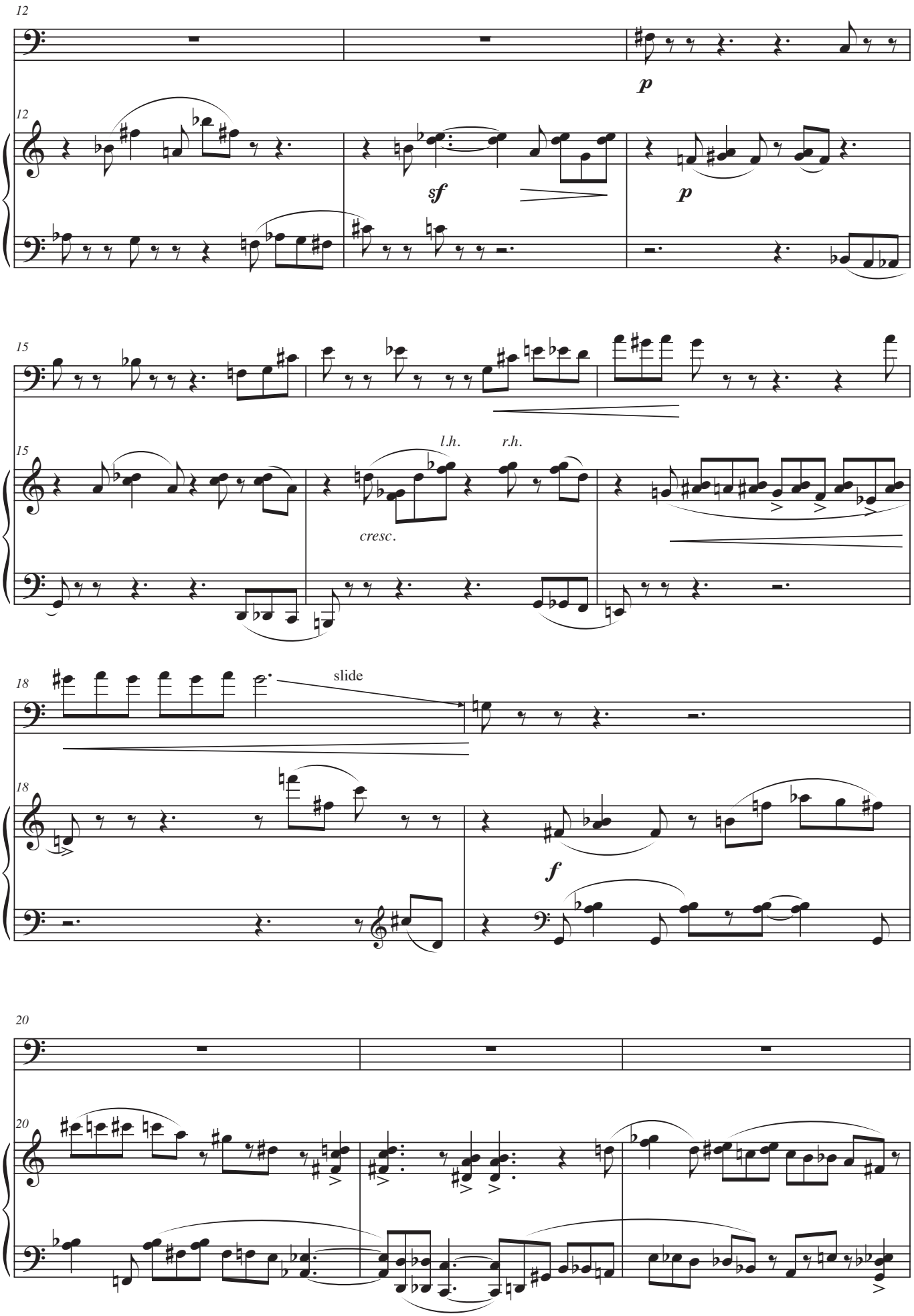
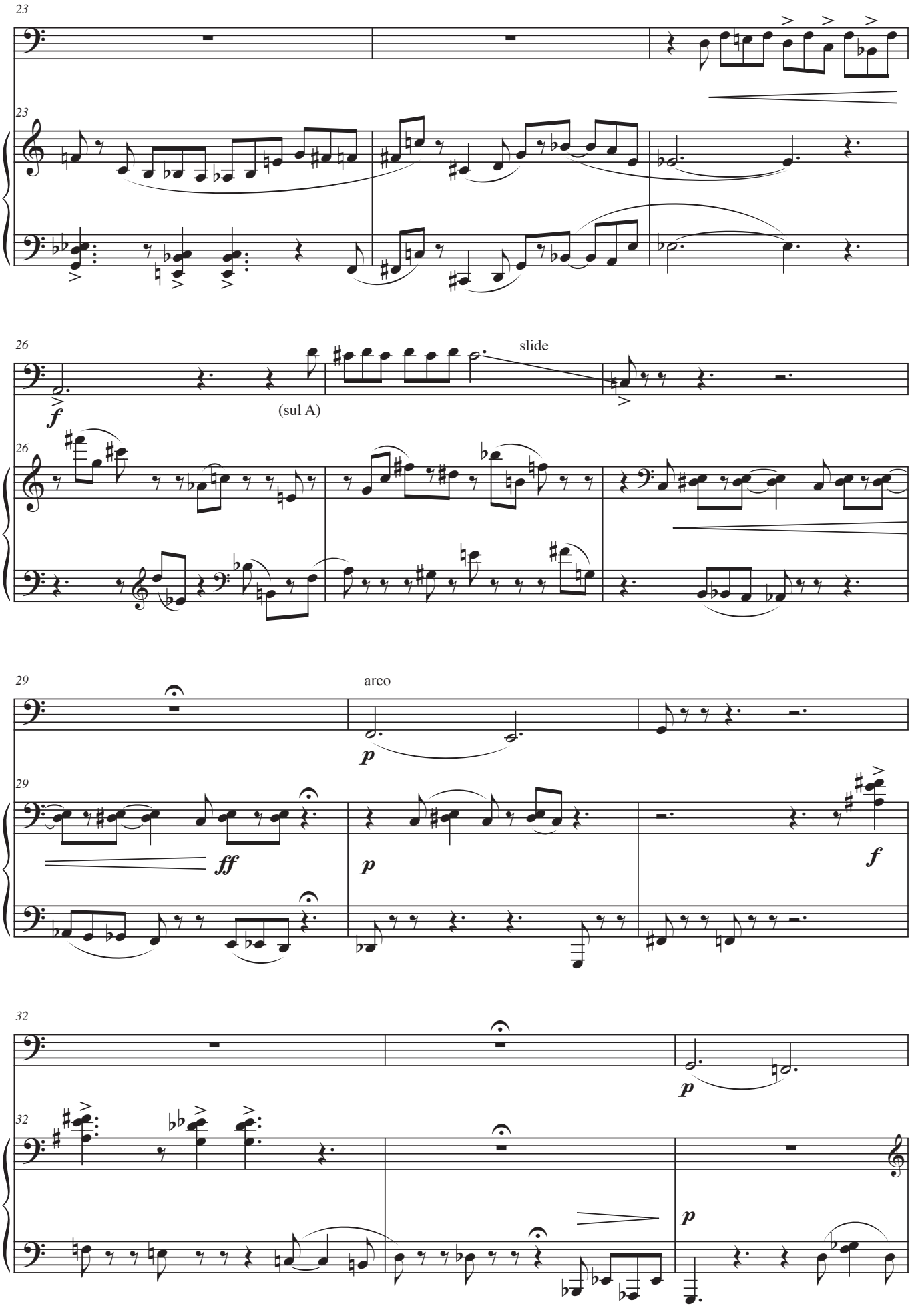
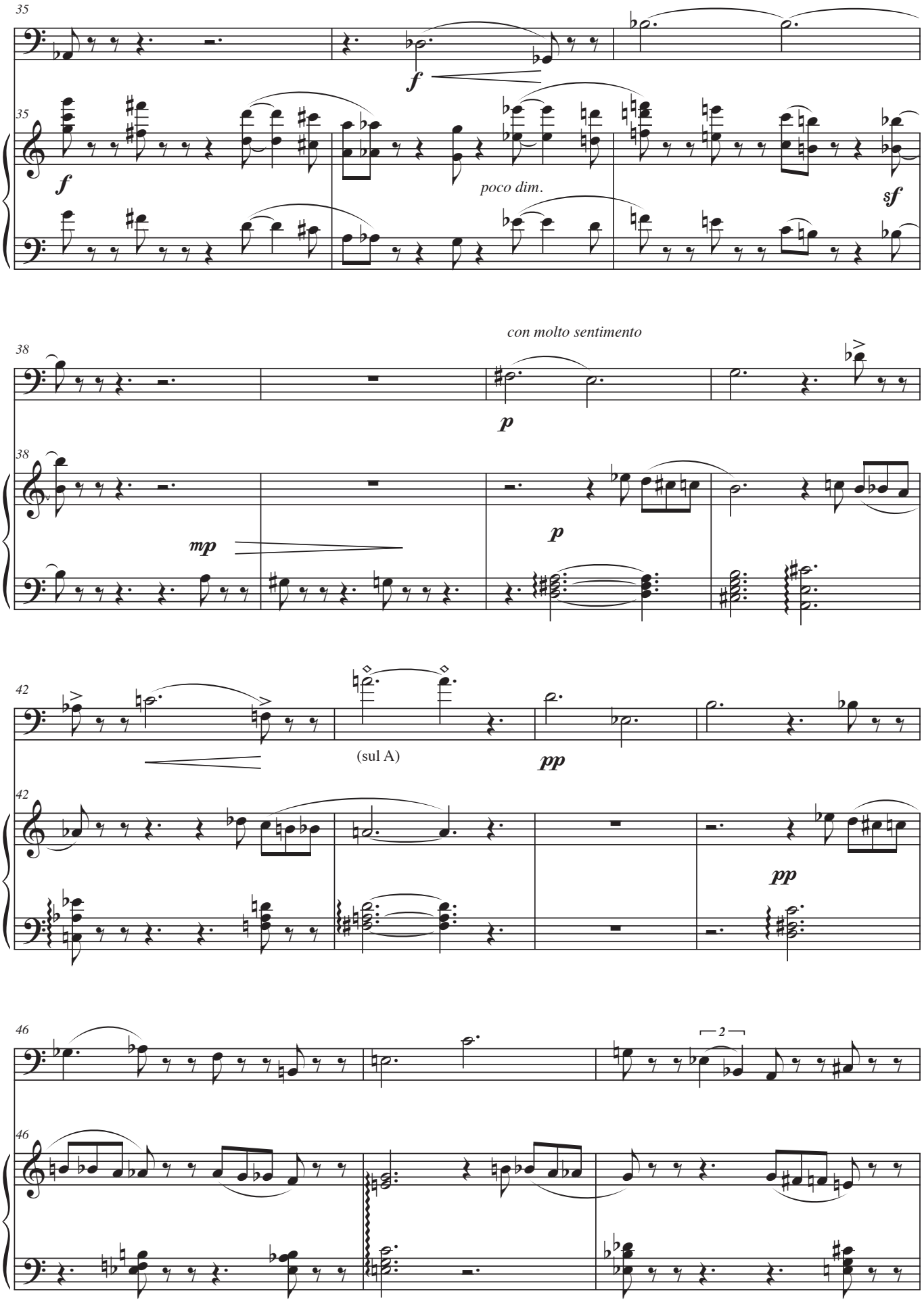
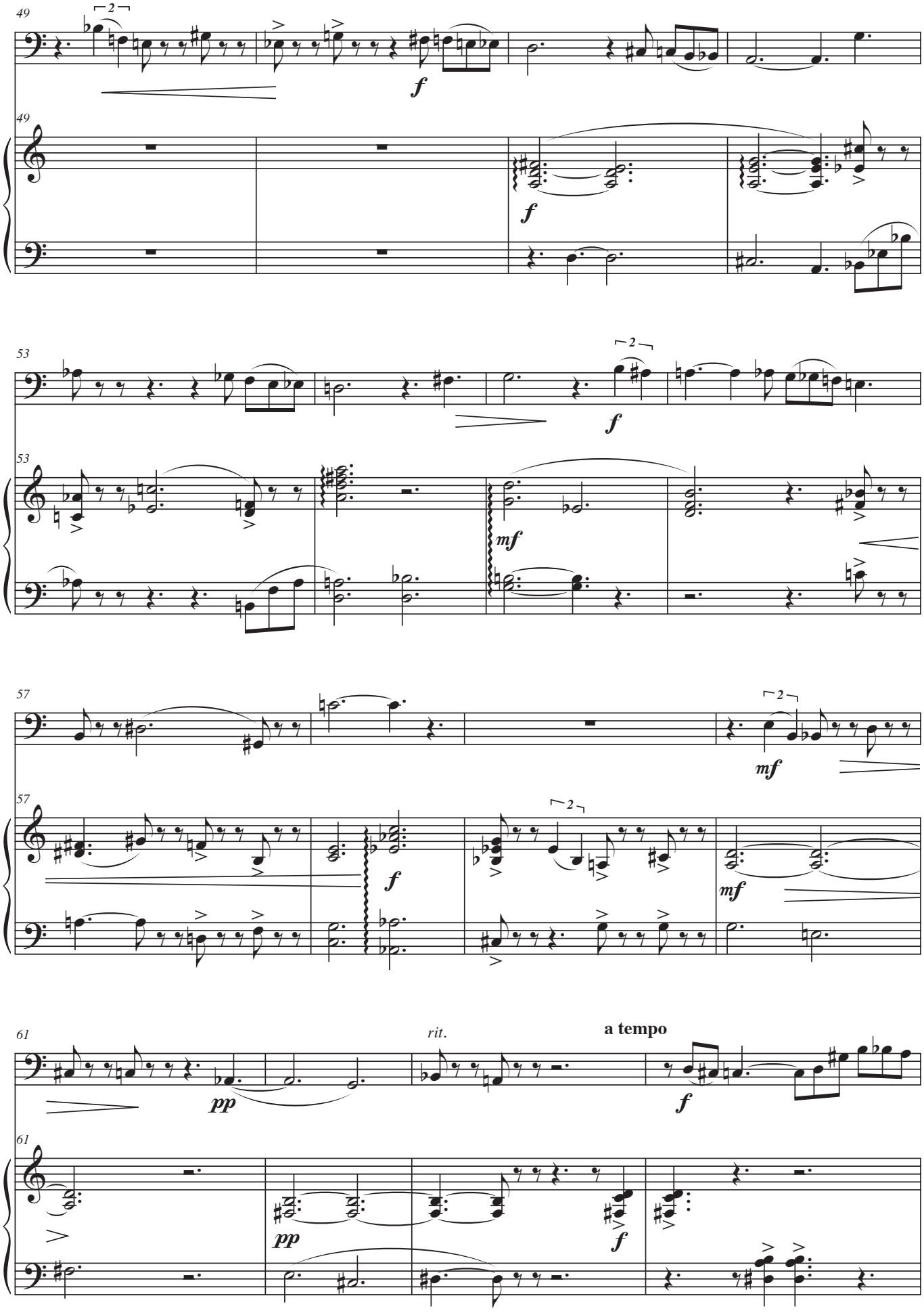
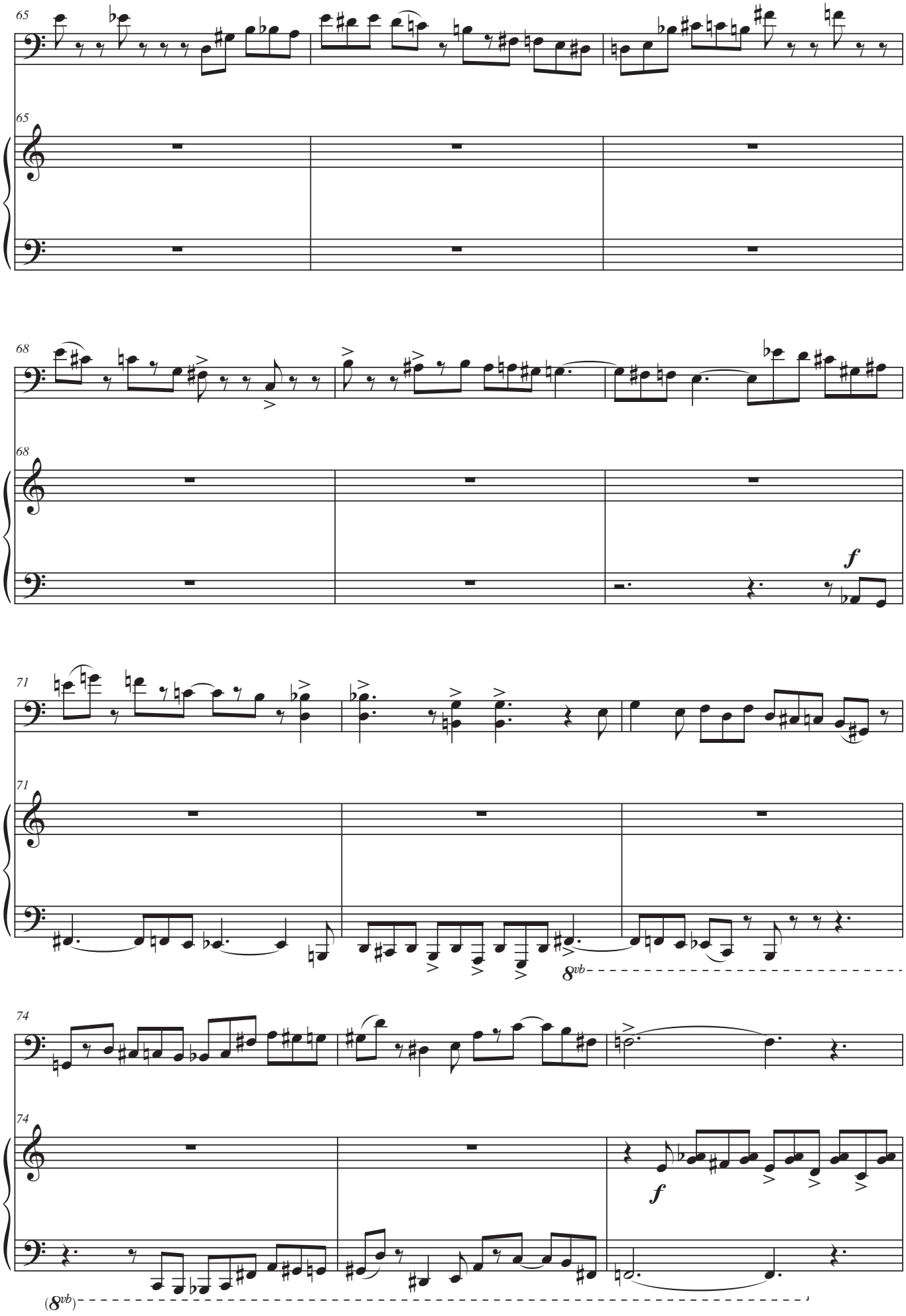
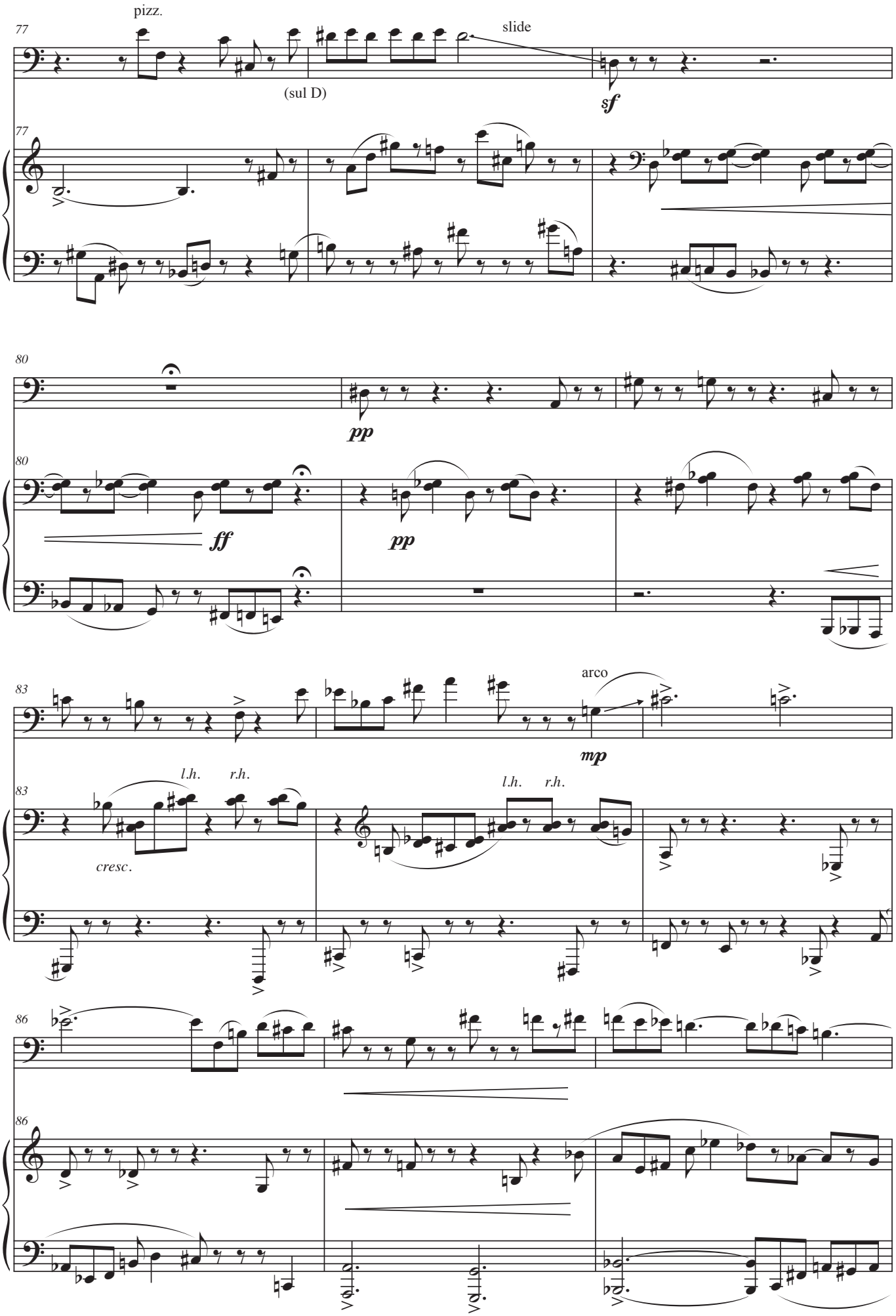

12
p
sf
p
15
l.h.
r.h.
cresc.
18
slide
f
20

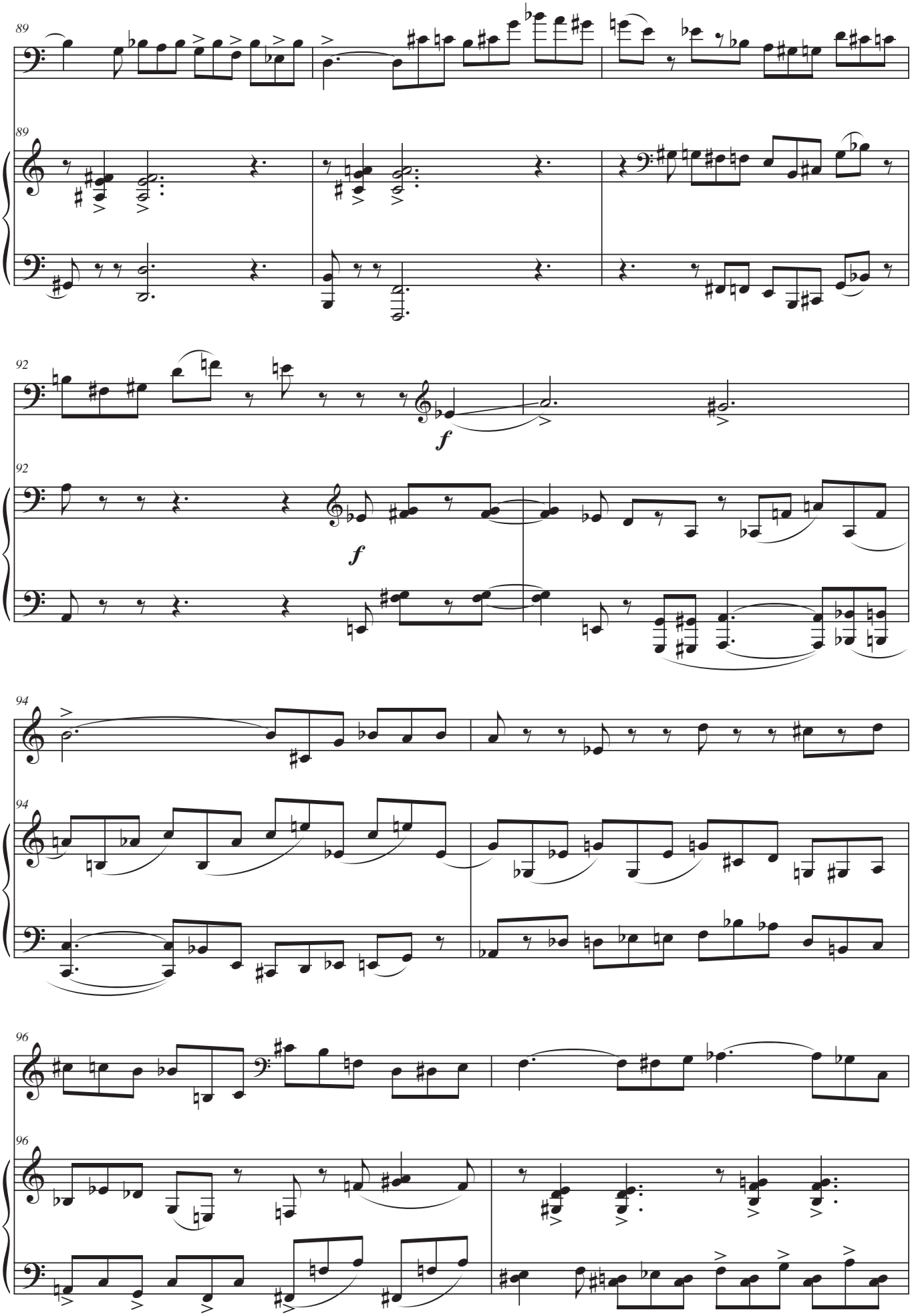

23
23
26
slide
(sul A)
26
29
arco
29
32
32

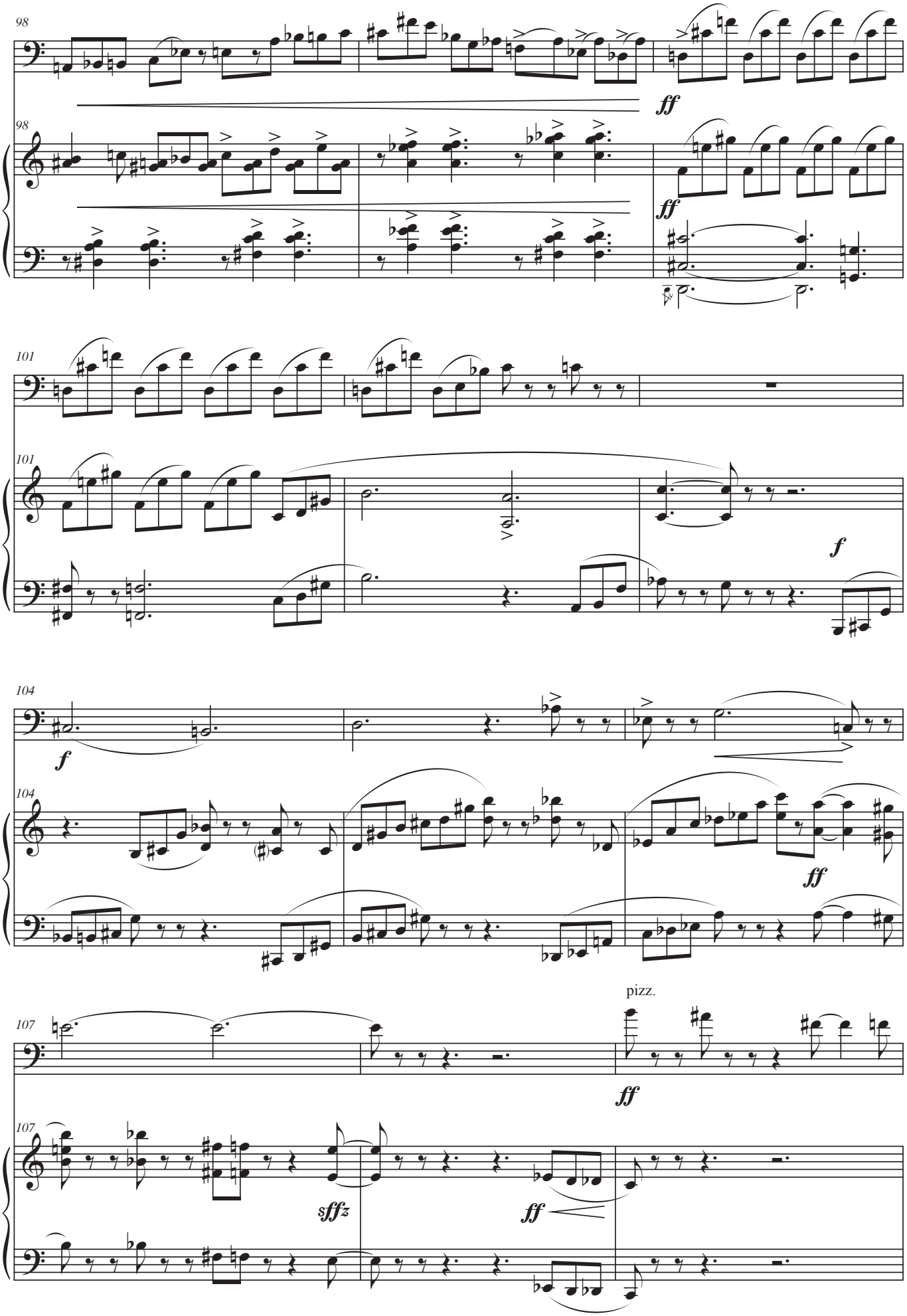

35
f
poco dim.
sf
con molto sentimento
38
p
mp
42
(sul A)
pp
46
2

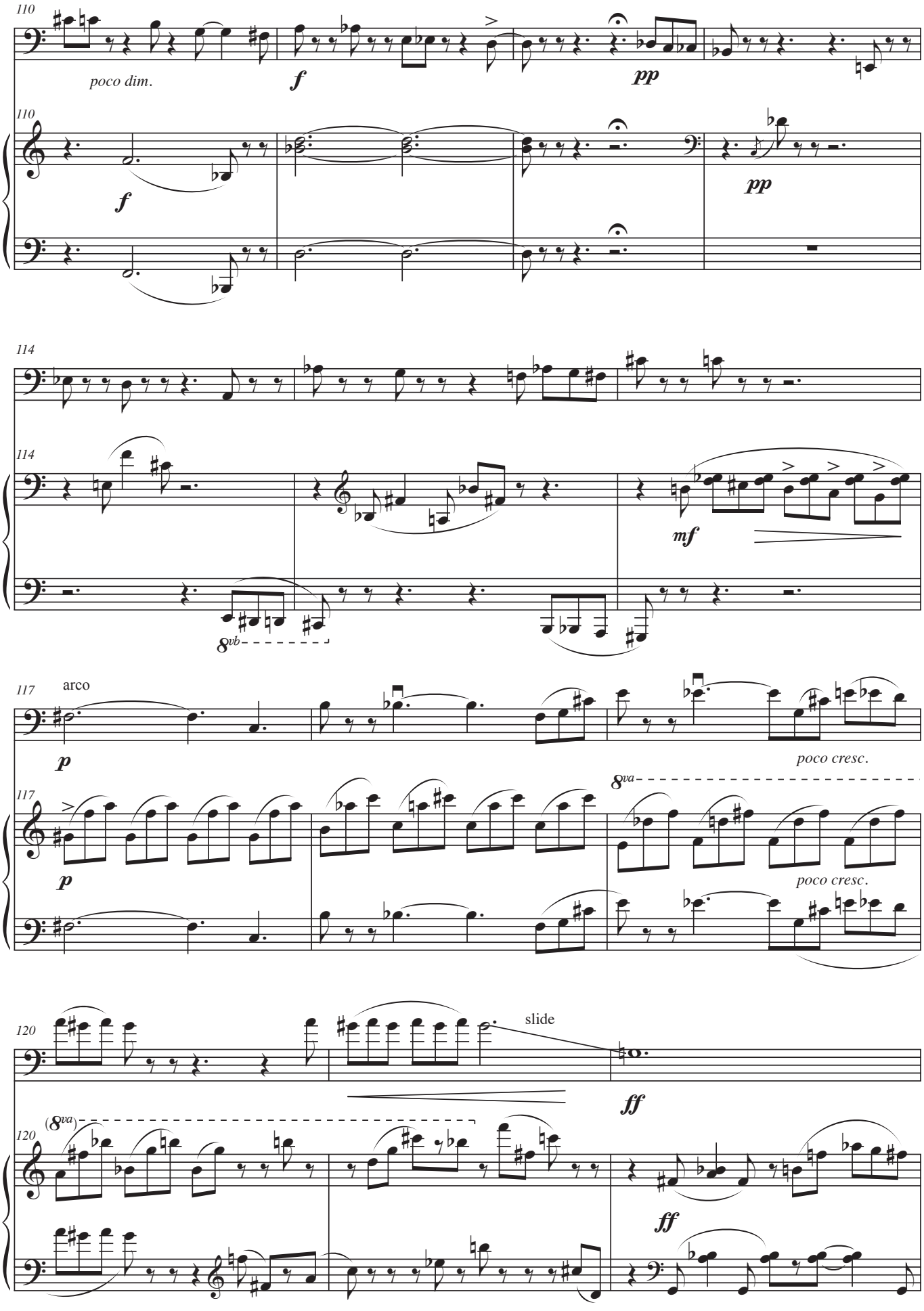

49
53
57
61
rit.
a tempo

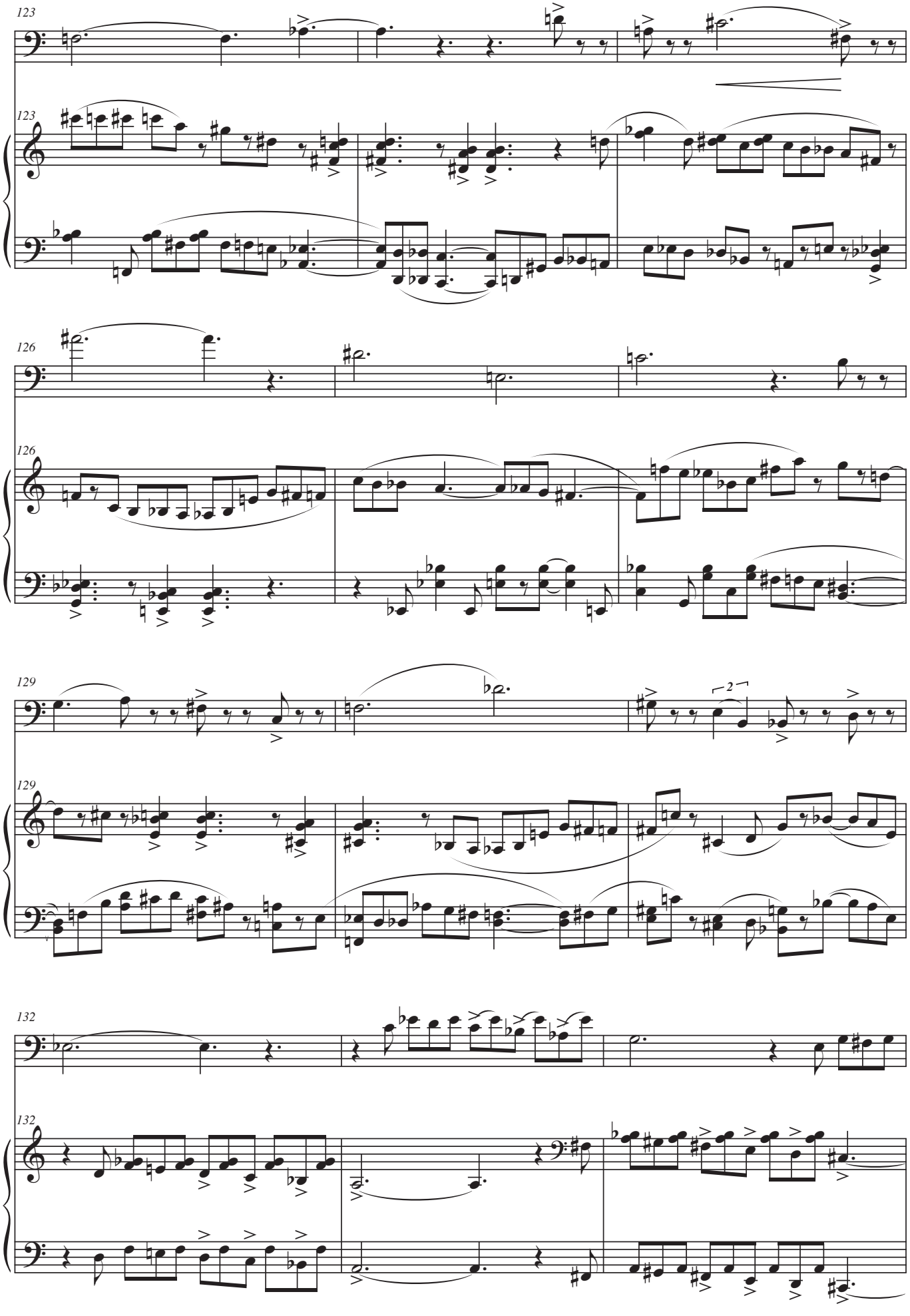

65
65
68
68
f
71
71
8vb
74
74
f
(8vb)

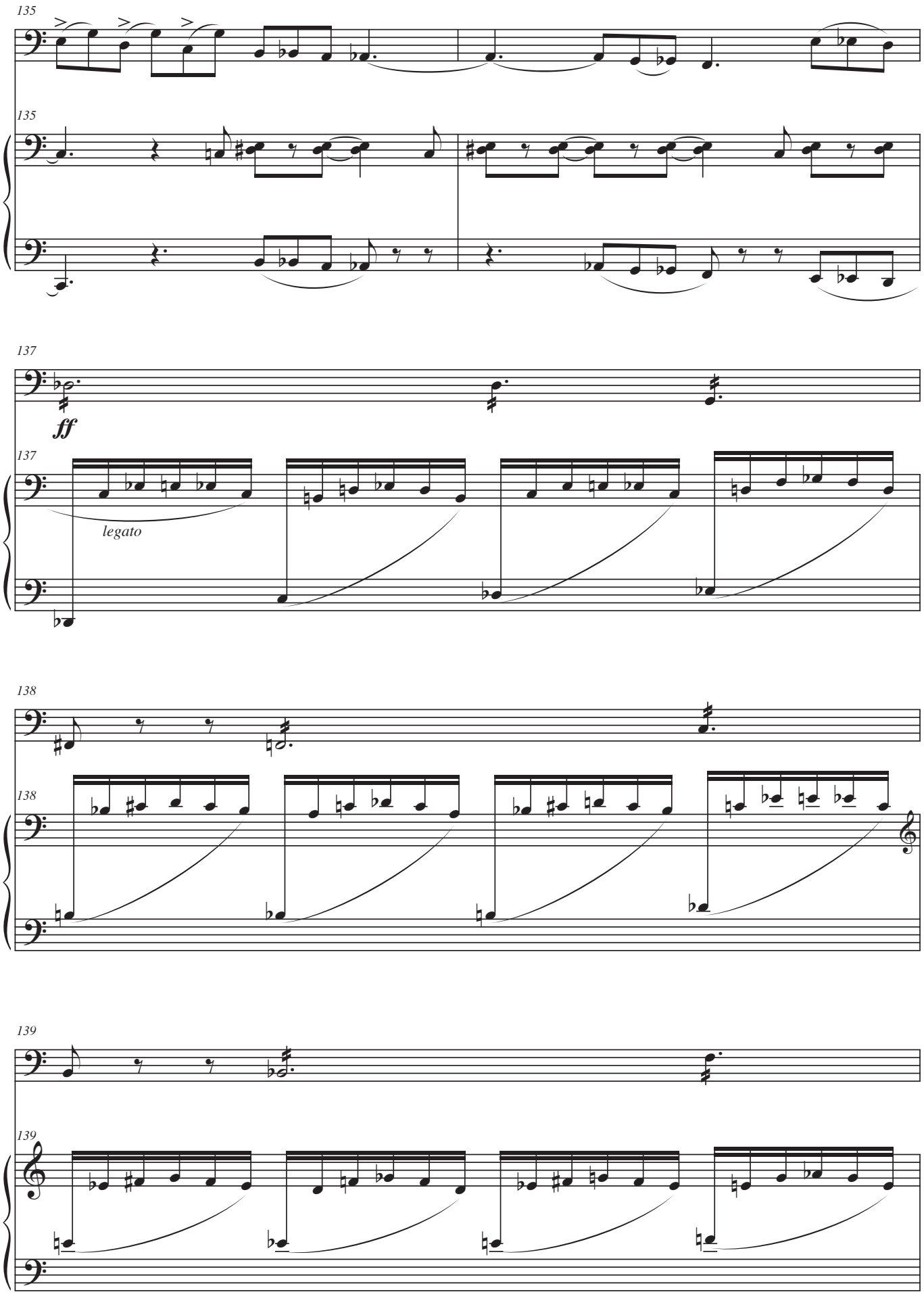

77
pizz.
(sul D)
slide
sf
77
80
pp
80
ff
pp
83
arco
mp
83
l.h.
r.h.
cresc.
l.h.
r.h.
86
86

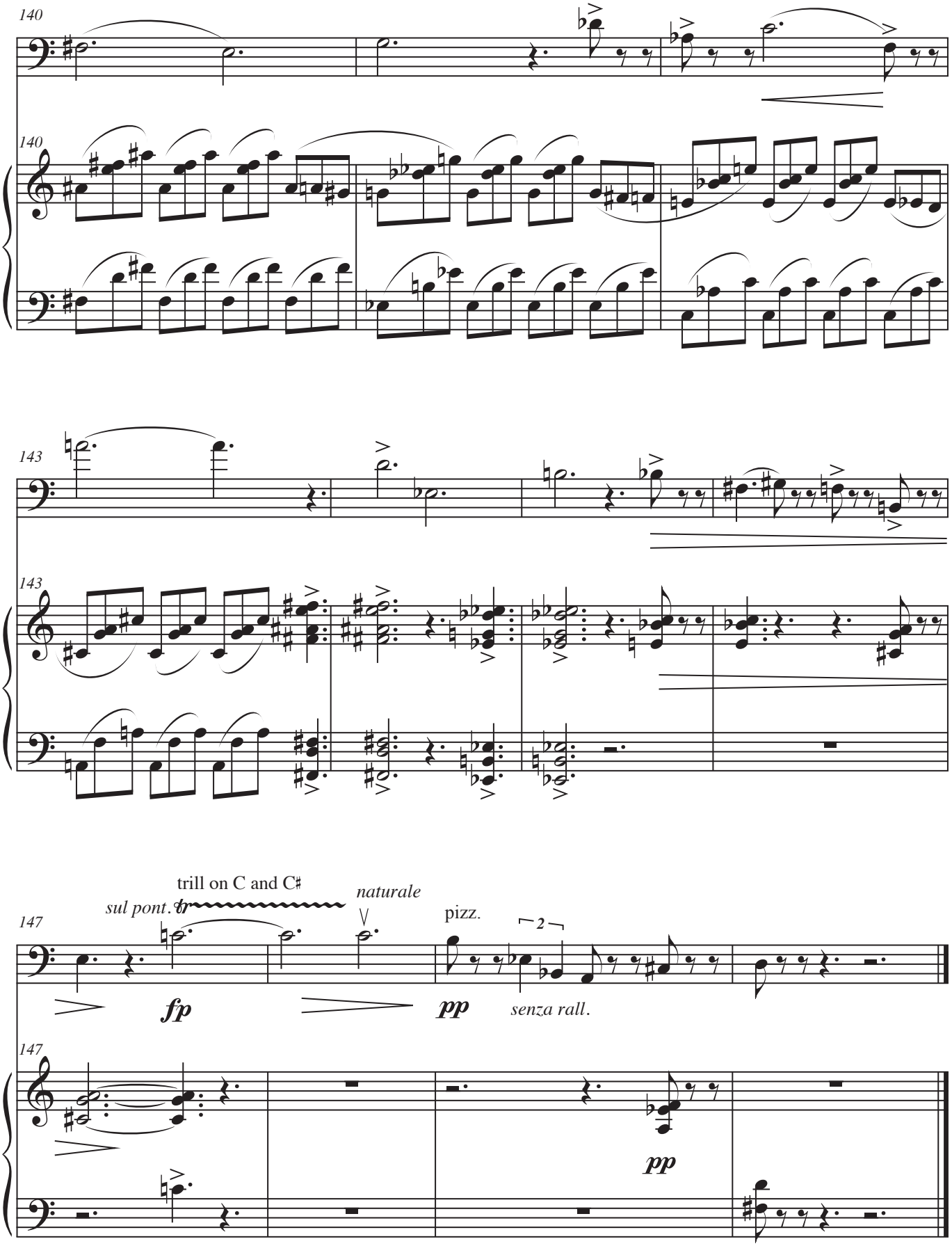

89
89
92
92
f
f
94
94
96
96


98
ff
98
ff
101
101
f
104
f
104
ff
pizz.
107
ff
107
sffz
ff


110
poco dim.
f
pp
110
f
pp
114
114
mf
8vb
117
arco
p
poco cresc.
117
p
8va
poco cresc.
120
slide
ff
120
(8va)
ff


123
123
126
126
129
129
132
132


135
135
137
ff
137
legato
138
138
139
139


140
140
143
143
147
147
trill on C and C♯
sul pont.
naturale
pizz.
2
fp
pp
senza rall.
pp

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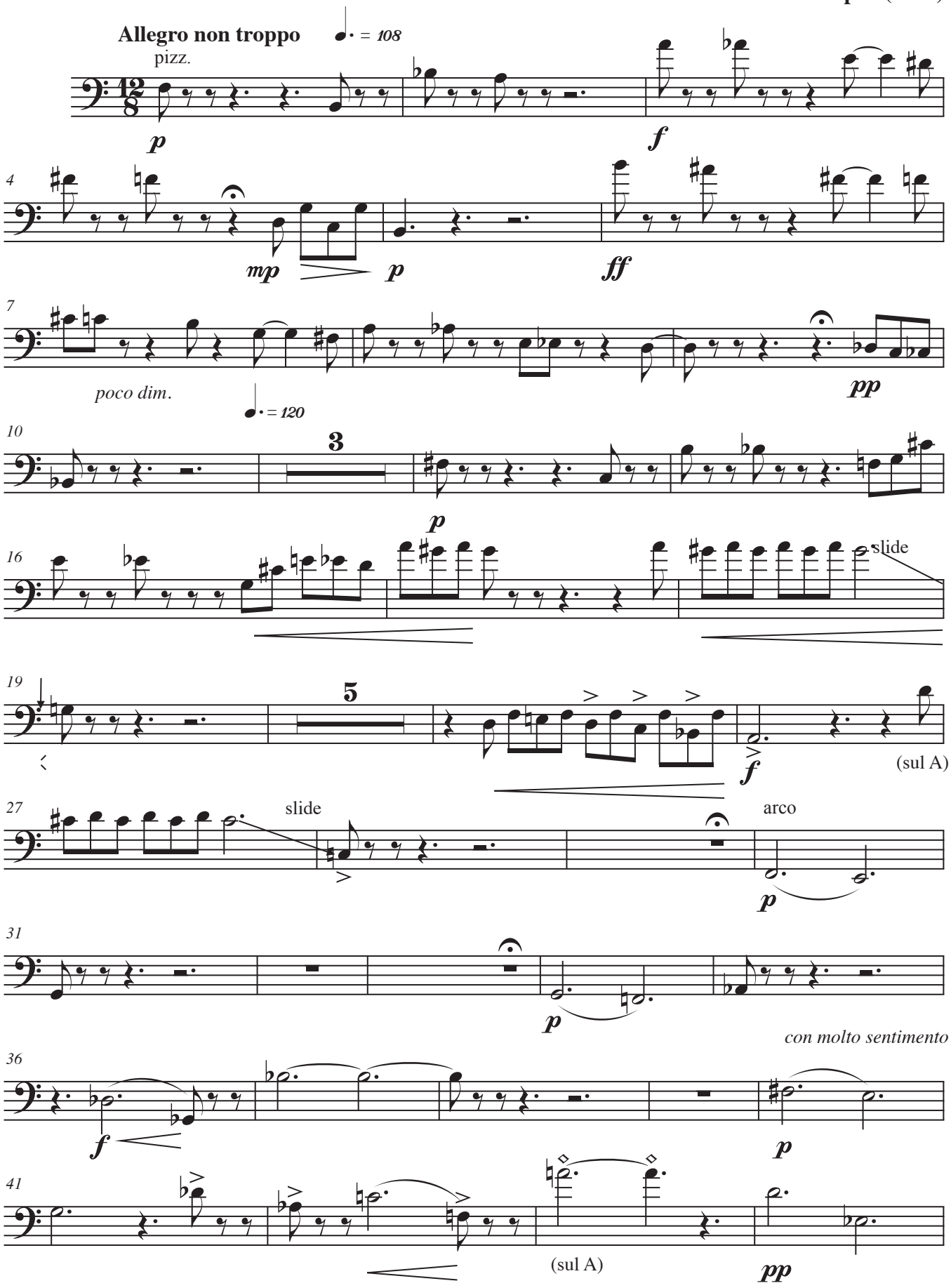

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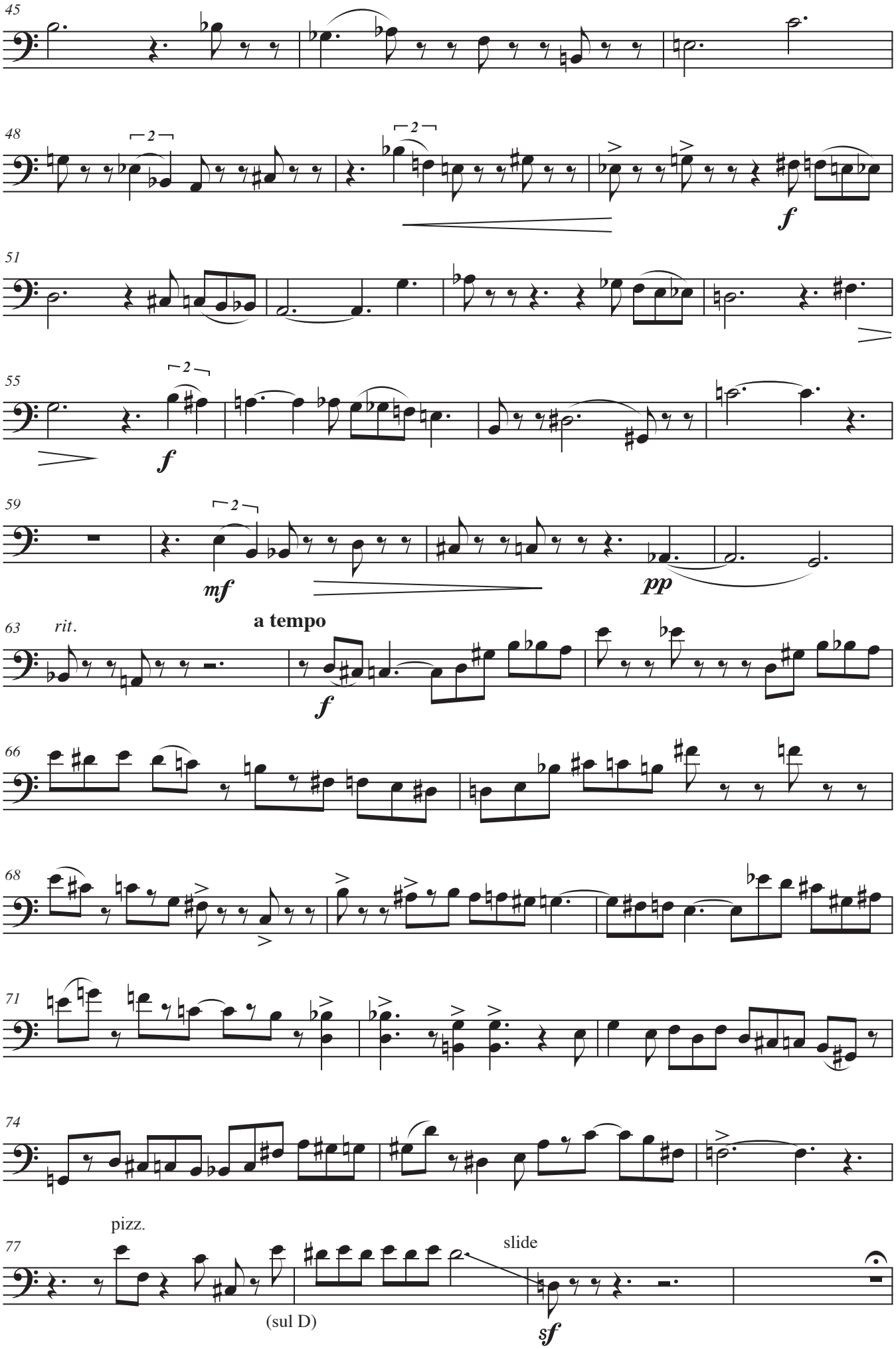
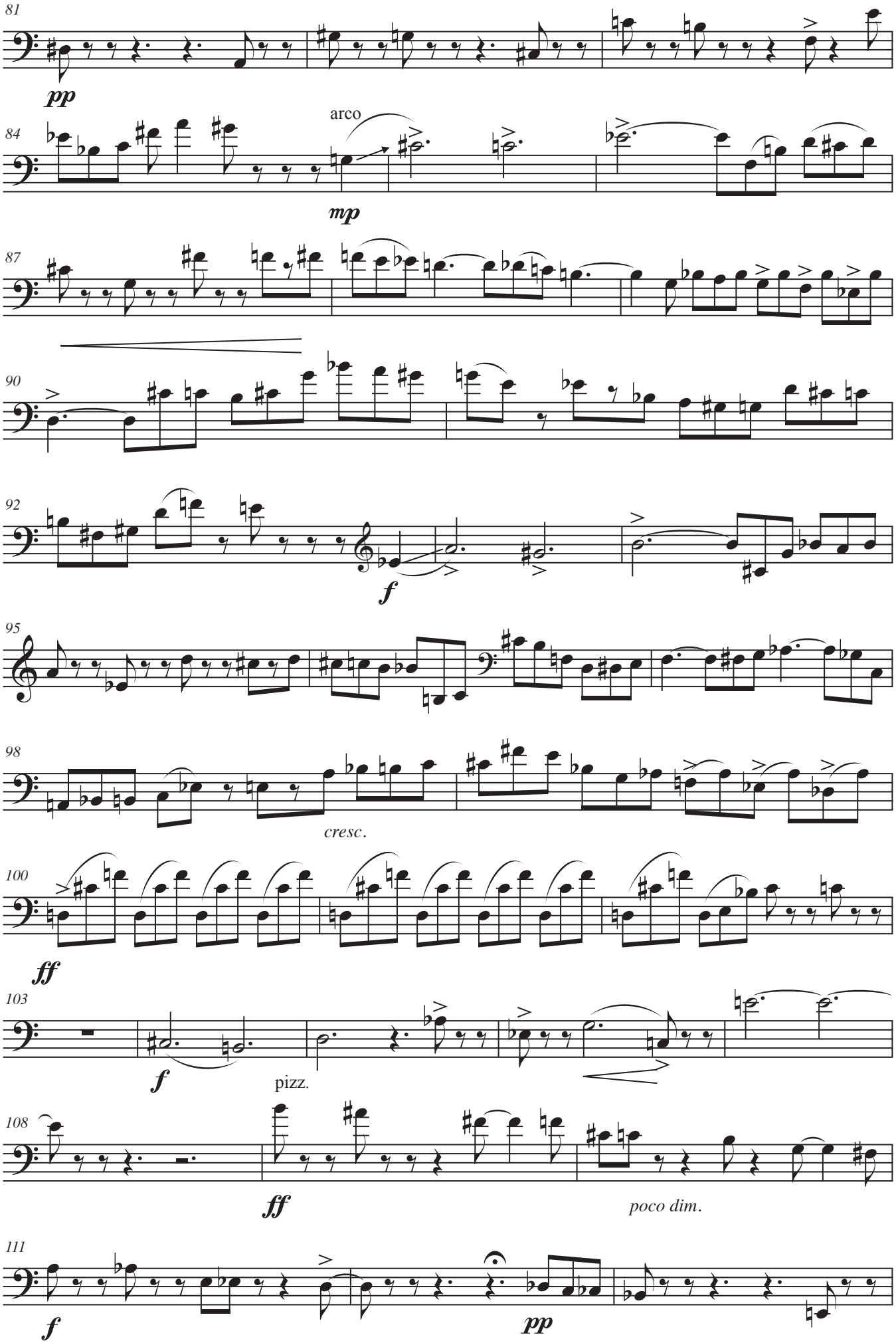
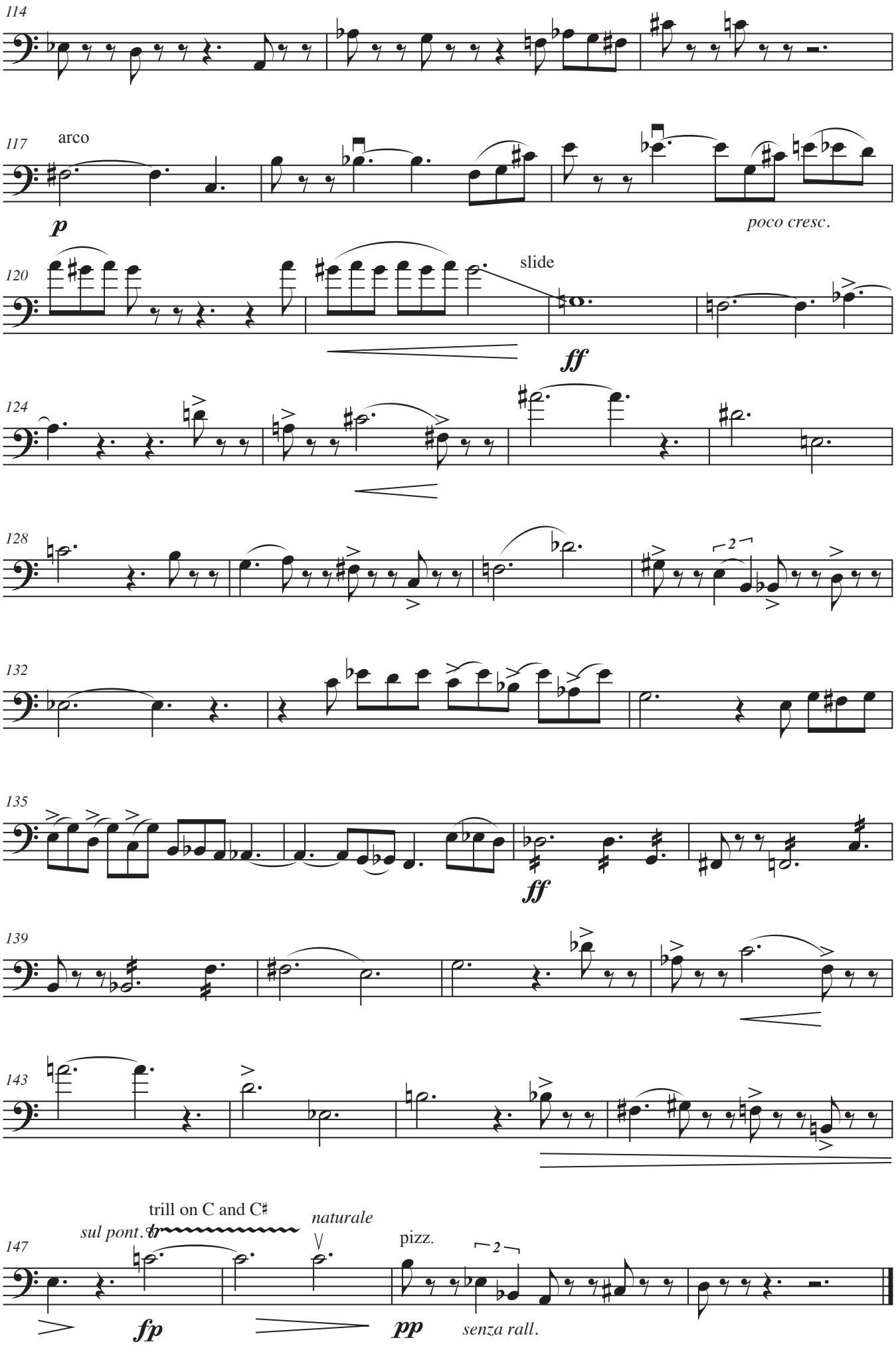

45
48
2
f
51
55
2
f
59
2
mf
pp
63
rit.
a tempo
f
66
68
71
74
pizz.
77
slide
(sul D)
sf


81
pp
84
arco
mp
87
90
92
f
95
98
cresc.
100
ff
103
f
pizz.
108
ff
poco dim.
111
f
pp


114
117
arco
p
poco cresc.
120
slide
ff
124
128
2
132
135
ff
139
143
147
sul pont.
tr
trill on C and C♯
naturale
fp
pizz.
2
pp
senza rall.