WALTER ROSS

PORTRAITS

from

LA COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE

II Trio di fantasia

Oboe d'amore (Cor anglais), Bassoon & Piano

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AI CM 004

Walter Ross

(1936-)

Walter Ross was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, USA, in 1936. He began to study the French horn at the age of twelve and, by seventeen, was performing professionally with the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra.

Although spending four years at the University of Nebraska studying mechanical engineering and astronomy, he continued playing with the orchestra. Ross decided to return to university to study music. After his master's degree, he went on to Cornell University for his doctorate. There, he was awarded an Organization of American States Fellowship to study composition privately under Alberto Ginastera at the Instituto Torcuato de Tella (Buenos Aires). He has been the recipient of significant grants and fellowships, numerous awards and prizes.

Ross began teaching composition and theory in the Music Department at the University of Virginia in 1967. He established the Charlottesville University and Community Orchestra, which he conducted for two years. Later, he formed a Baroque trio sonata ensemble in which he played flute and recorder.

During his tenure at the University of Virginia he served as Chairman of the Department of Music and was awarded a University Outstanding Teaching Award. He participated in regional, national, and international juries of composition and performance.

Walter Ross has composed over 150 works, which have been widely performed in over forty countries. Many of his compositions have been published, recorded and broadcast. He is, perhaps, best known for his compositions featuring brass and woodwinds. The influences of his own extensive performance background and diverse musical training (with composers who stressed bright orchestration and rhythmic excitement) can be detected in many of his works. Many of his recent pieces are representative of his current interest in neo-modal, pan-diatonic composition.

He has been a visiting composer at the Aspen Music Festival, a featured composer at several universities and forums, and a board member of the Capital Composers Alliance.

In 1997 he wrote a cantata featuring the poetry of Rita Dove, the American Poet Laureate. Recent choral works include 'Lux Aeterna' to honour the victims of 9/11, which has been performed upon a number of occasions.

Retired from full time teaching, Walter Ross currently performs on double bass in the Blue Ridge Chamber Orchestra. In addition to composing, he continues his interest in chess (in 1969 he won a trophy in the U.S. Open Chess Tournament), astronomy, and the History of Science.

Portraits from La Commedia dell'Arte

II Trio di fantasia

Oboe d'amore (Cor anglais), Bassoon & Piano

A CM 004

My chosen *Trio di fantasia* is assembled from characters of the Italian *Commedia dell'Arte*. This form of open-air improvisational theatre began in Italy during the XV century and is still performed today. The characters *Harlequin*, *Isabella* and *Pulcinella* were the inspiration for this piece.

Harlequin (*Arlecchino*) is a clown - acrobatic and mischievous. His costume is a patchwork of colourful diamond shapes. He often maintains a close relationship with his audience, gesturing to them and involving them in his antics of trying (in vain) to trick his masters.

Isabella is one of the popular names for one of the *Innamorati,* the lovers (as was *Flavio* for the man). The pair often bore masculine and feminine forms of the same name. Young and in love (particularly with themselves), they surmount their endless obstacles at the play's conclusion. This unmasked couple is dressed in similar colours and the latest fashions. They are very vain and self-obsessed.

Pulcinella (sometimes known as *Punch* or *Punchinello* - the *Mister Punch* of England's *Punch and Judy*) is a pitiable, helpless and physically disfigured usually by a distinct limp or a hump. He alternates between foolishness and being very shrewd and joined the *Commedia*'s ranks in the XVII century. He is always dressed in white and masked in black.

In the context of a theatrical concert performance, the players are free to dress in the costumes of their three characters.

The work, composed in 1998, was written for and dedicated to Jennifer Paull. It has three modal/tonal movements, which have the descriptive titles *Capriccio*, *Elegy*, and *Scherzino*.

Walter Ross
1999

❖❖❖

Works by Walter Ross published by ***Amoris International***

Autumn Pastorale	A SI 012
Portraits from *La Commedia dell'Arte* I *Punchinello's Scherzino*	A SI 016
Concerto for Oboe d'amore - Keyboard Reduction	A SI 022
Old Joe Clark's Musical Offering	A CM 006
Variations on *'Auprès de ma blonde'*	A EN 004
Concerto for Oboe d'amore & String Orchestra	A OR 004

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for Jennifer Paull

Portraits from La Commedia dell'Arte

II TRIO DI FANTASIA

I

Walter Ross
(b. 1936)

Capriccio

❖ **In Concert Pitch**

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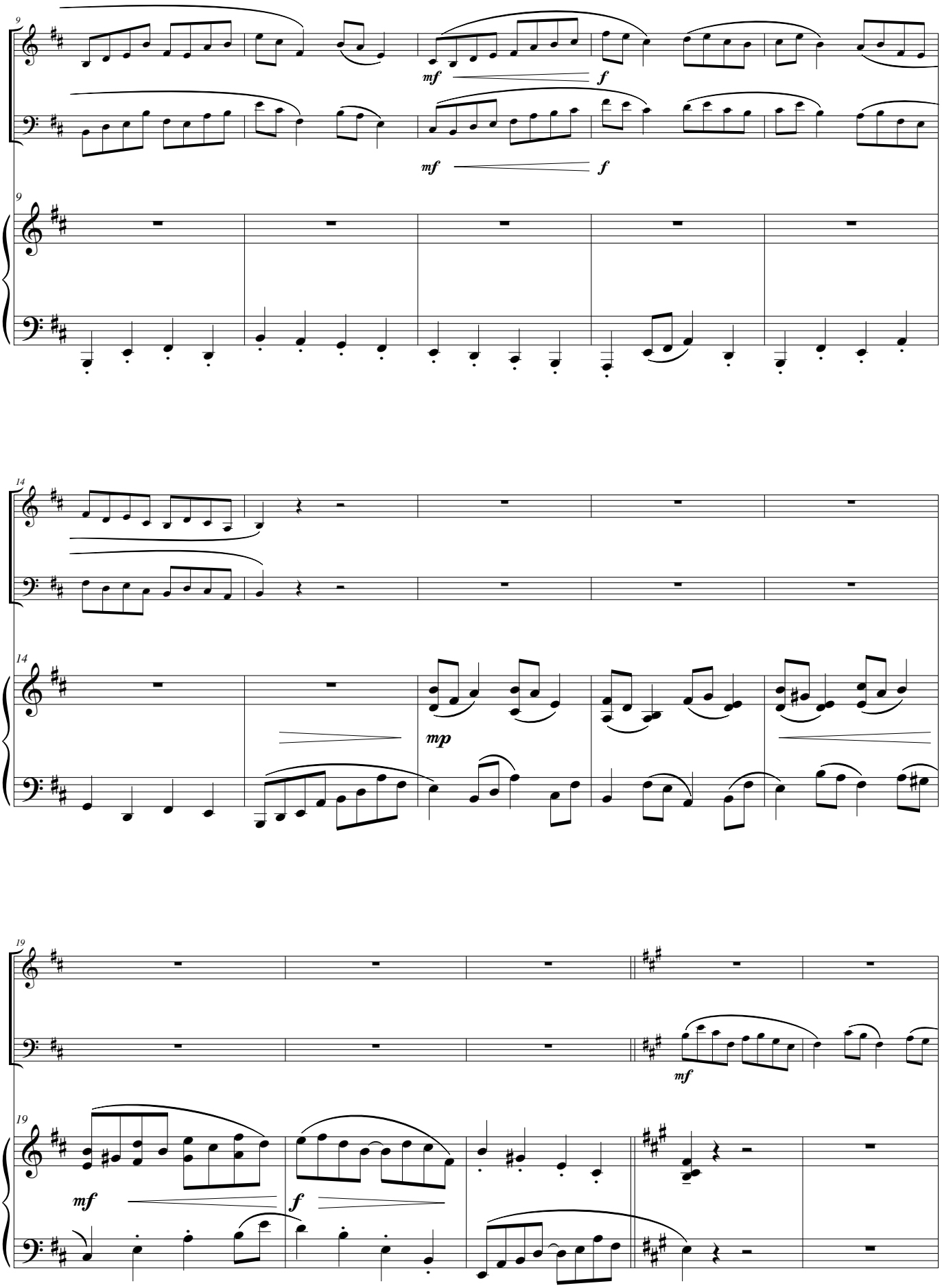
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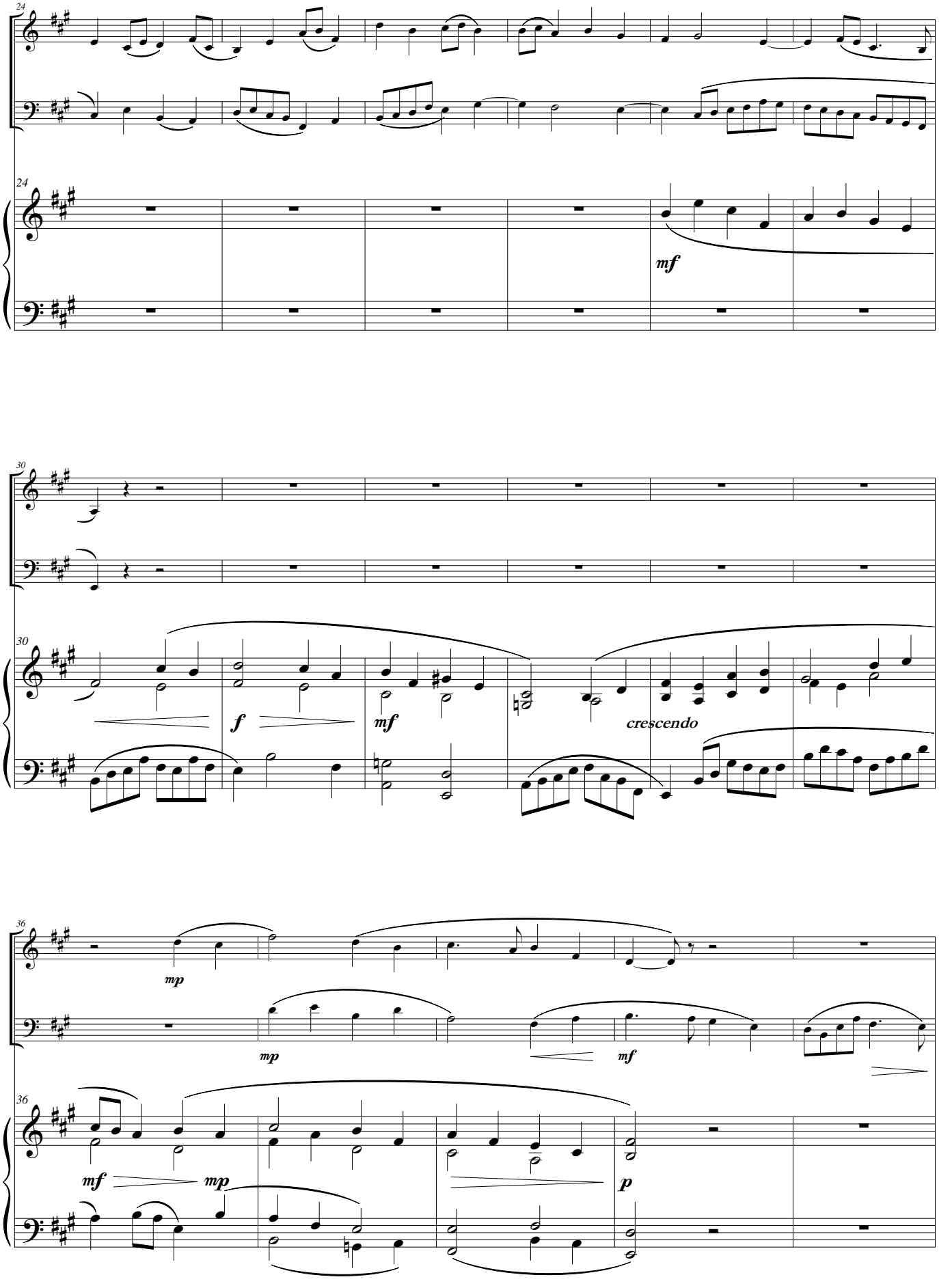
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mf
mf
mp
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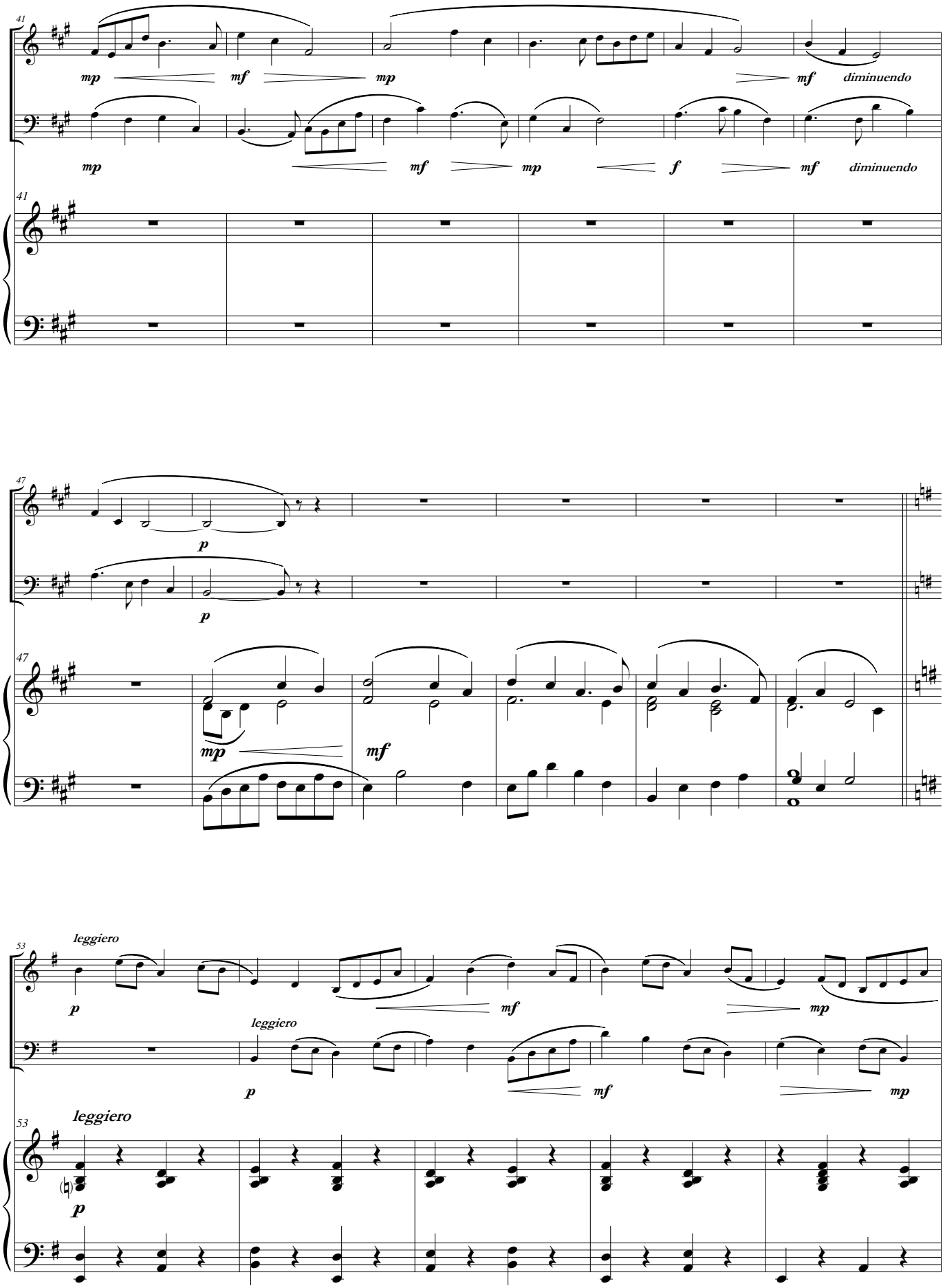
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mf
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mf
mp
leggiero
p
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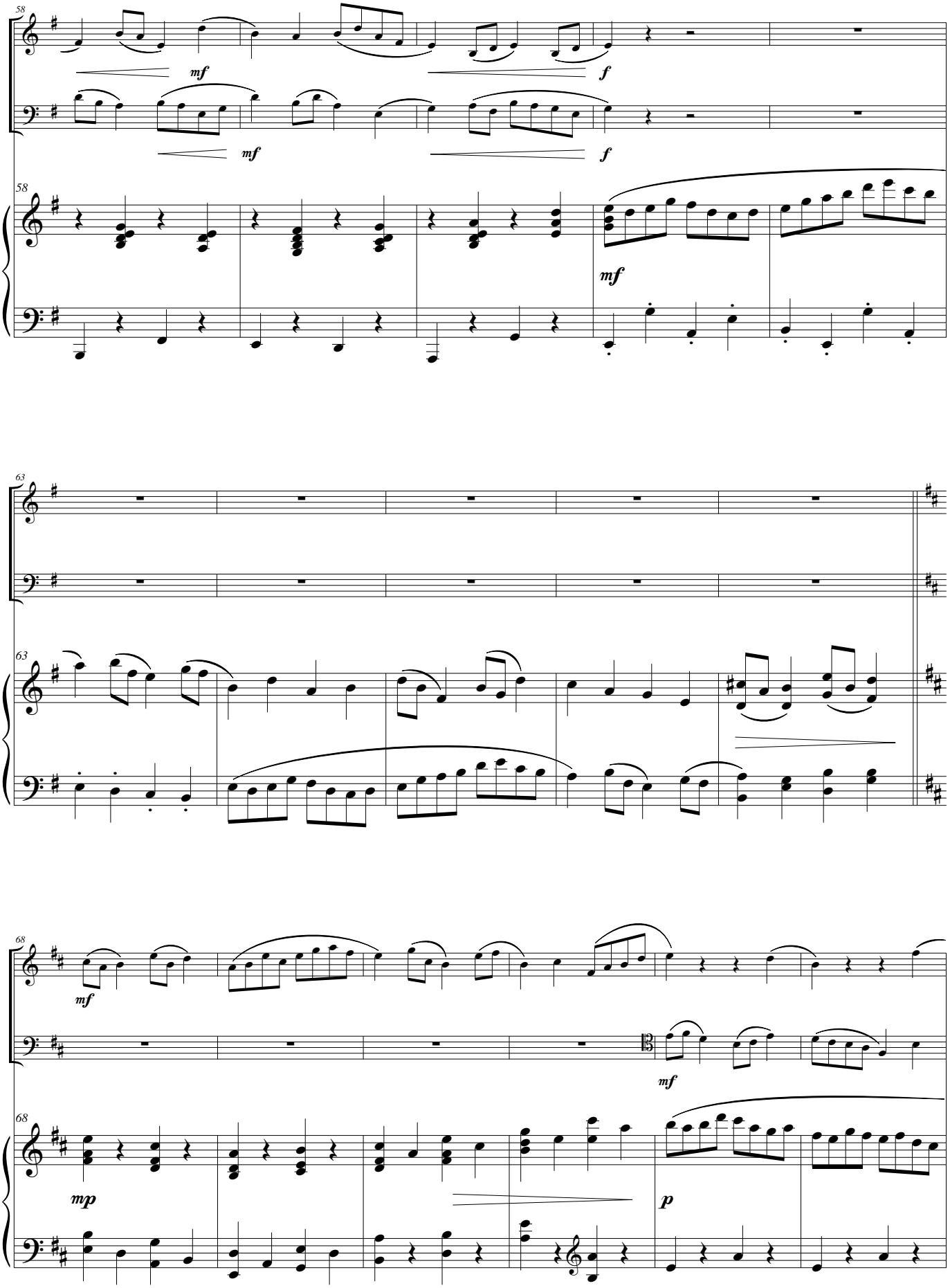
mp
53
leggiero
p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68
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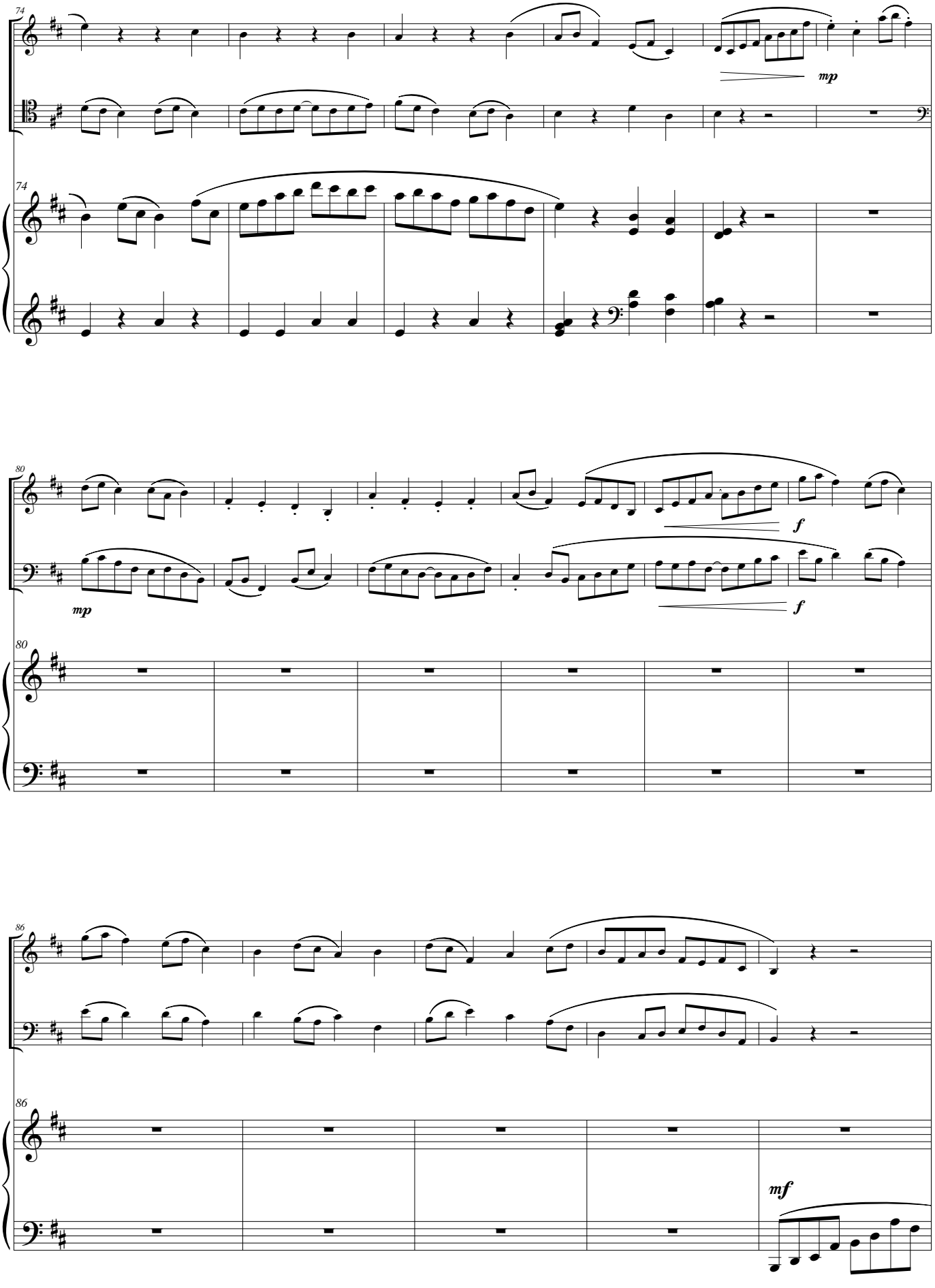
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80
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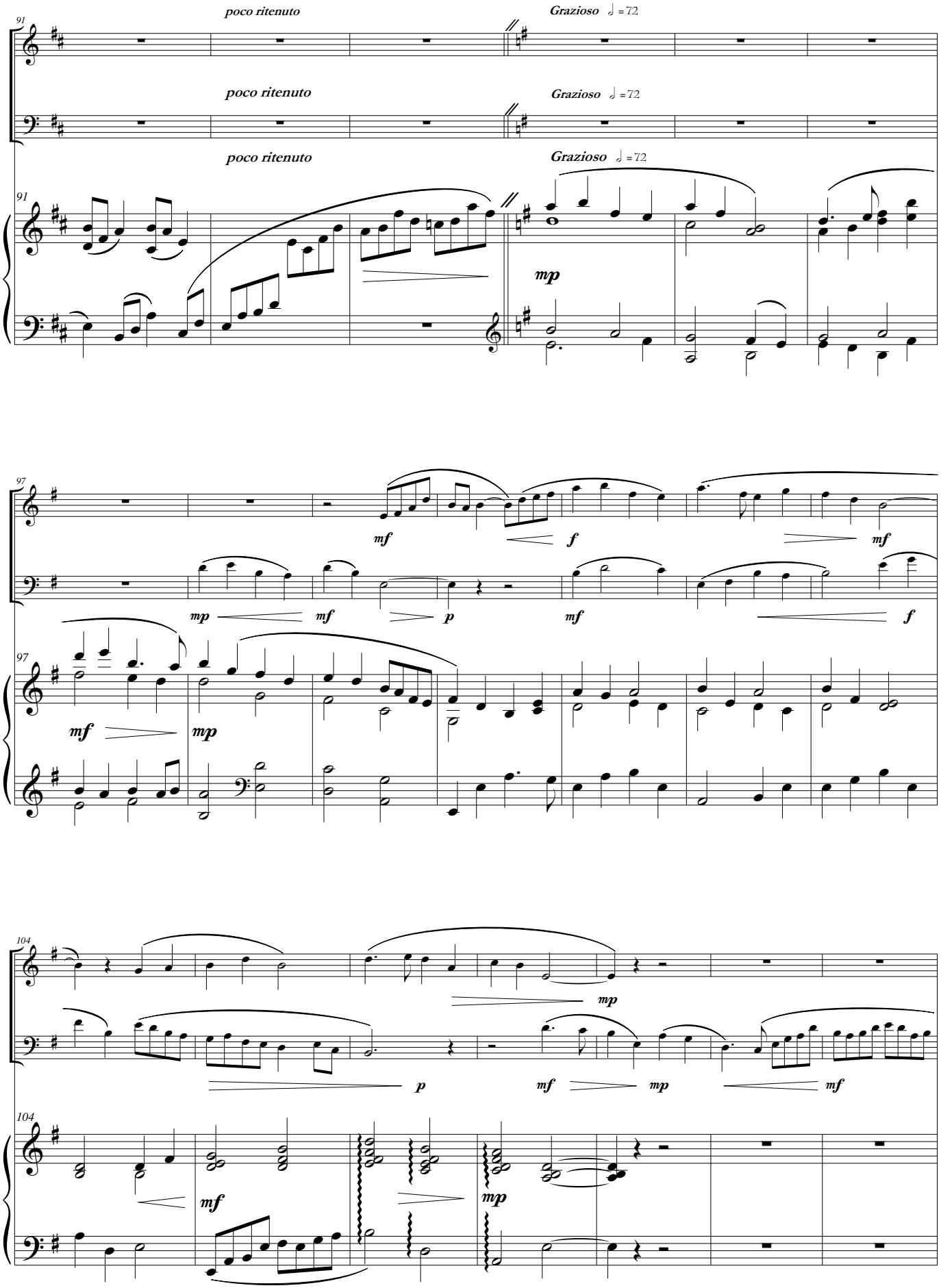
mf
86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Grazioso ♩ = 72
poco ritenuto
Grazioso ♩ = 72
poco ritenuto
Grazioso ♩ = 72
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mf
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f
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mf
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104
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p
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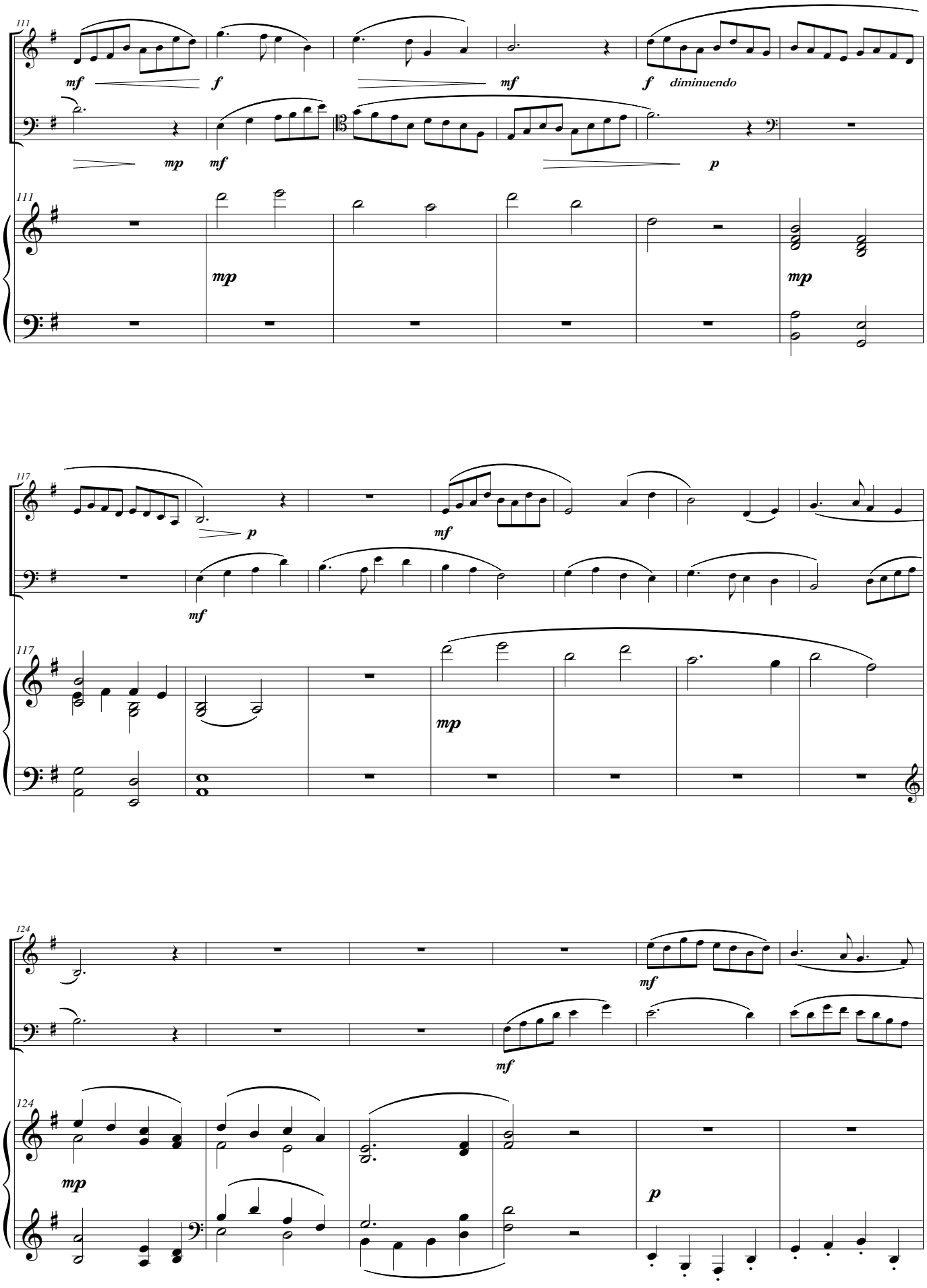
mp
mf
104
mf
mp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mf
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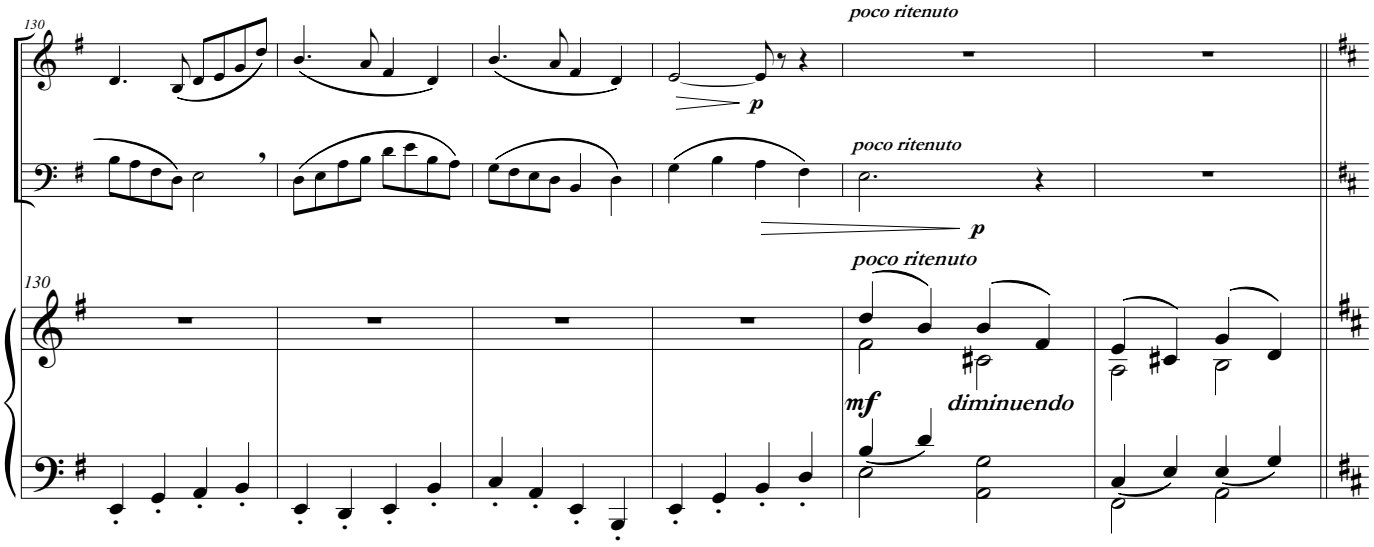
mf
mf
124
mp
p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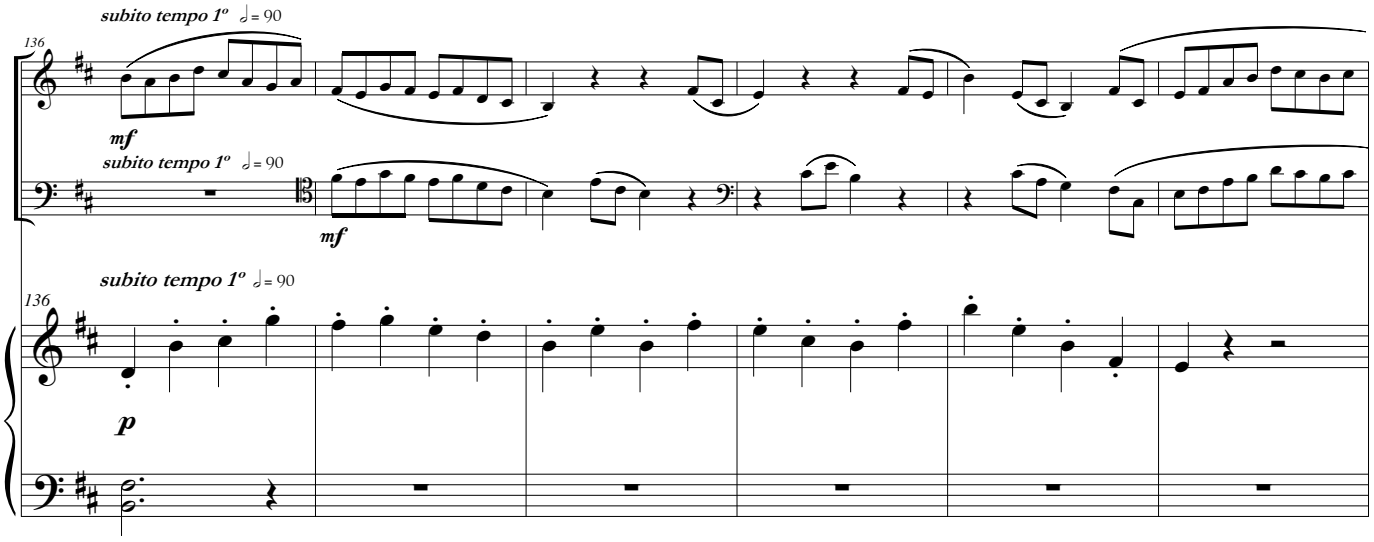
p
poco ritenuto
p
130
poco ritenuto
mf
diminuendo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mf
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136
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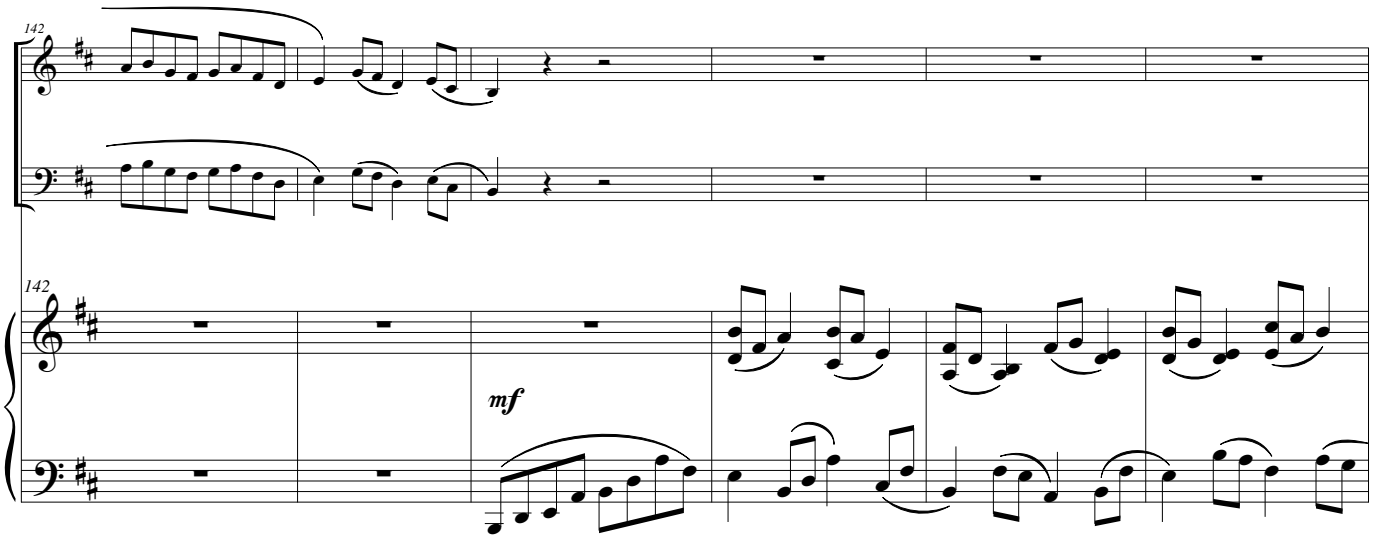
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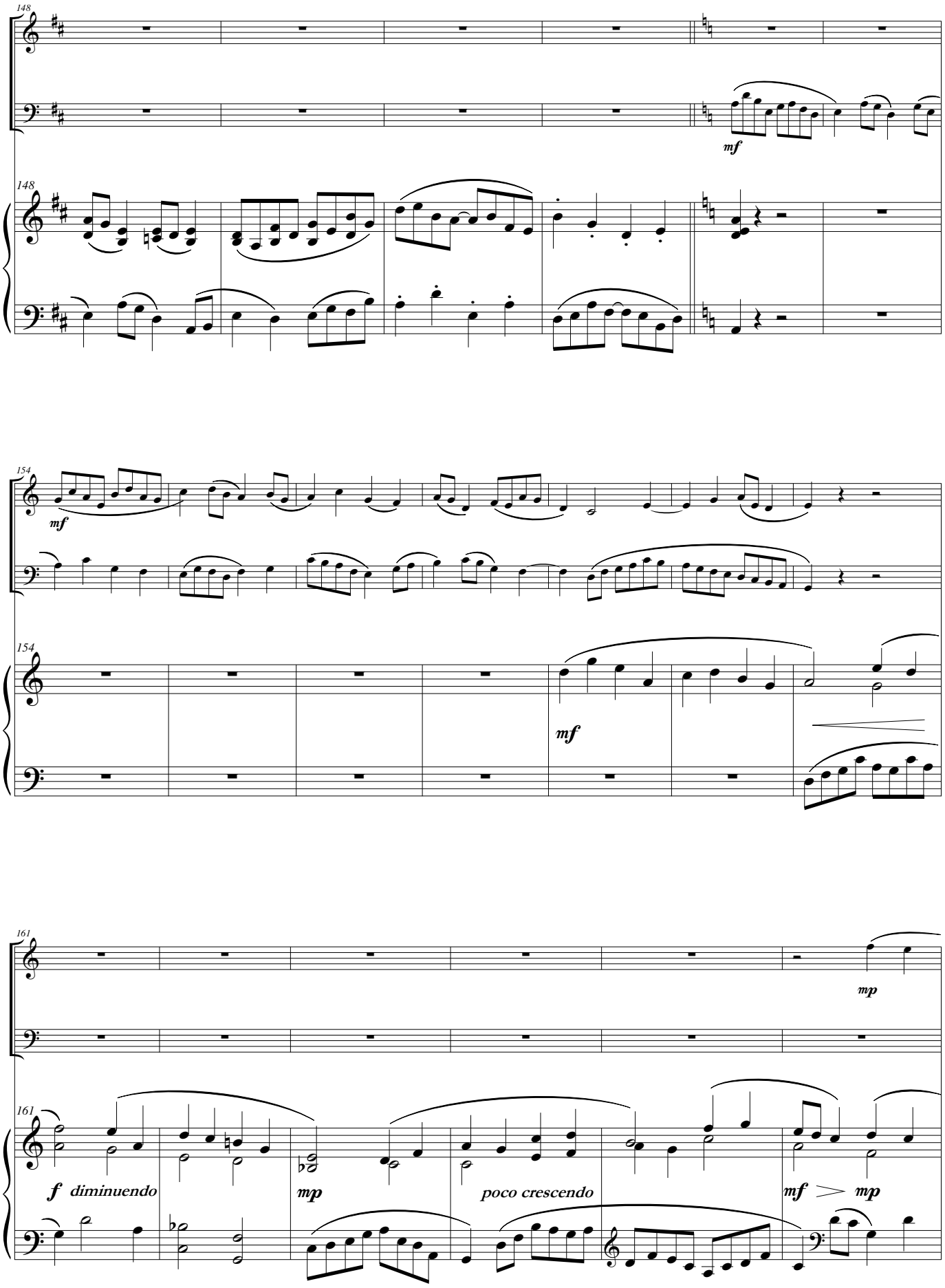
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mf
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154
mf
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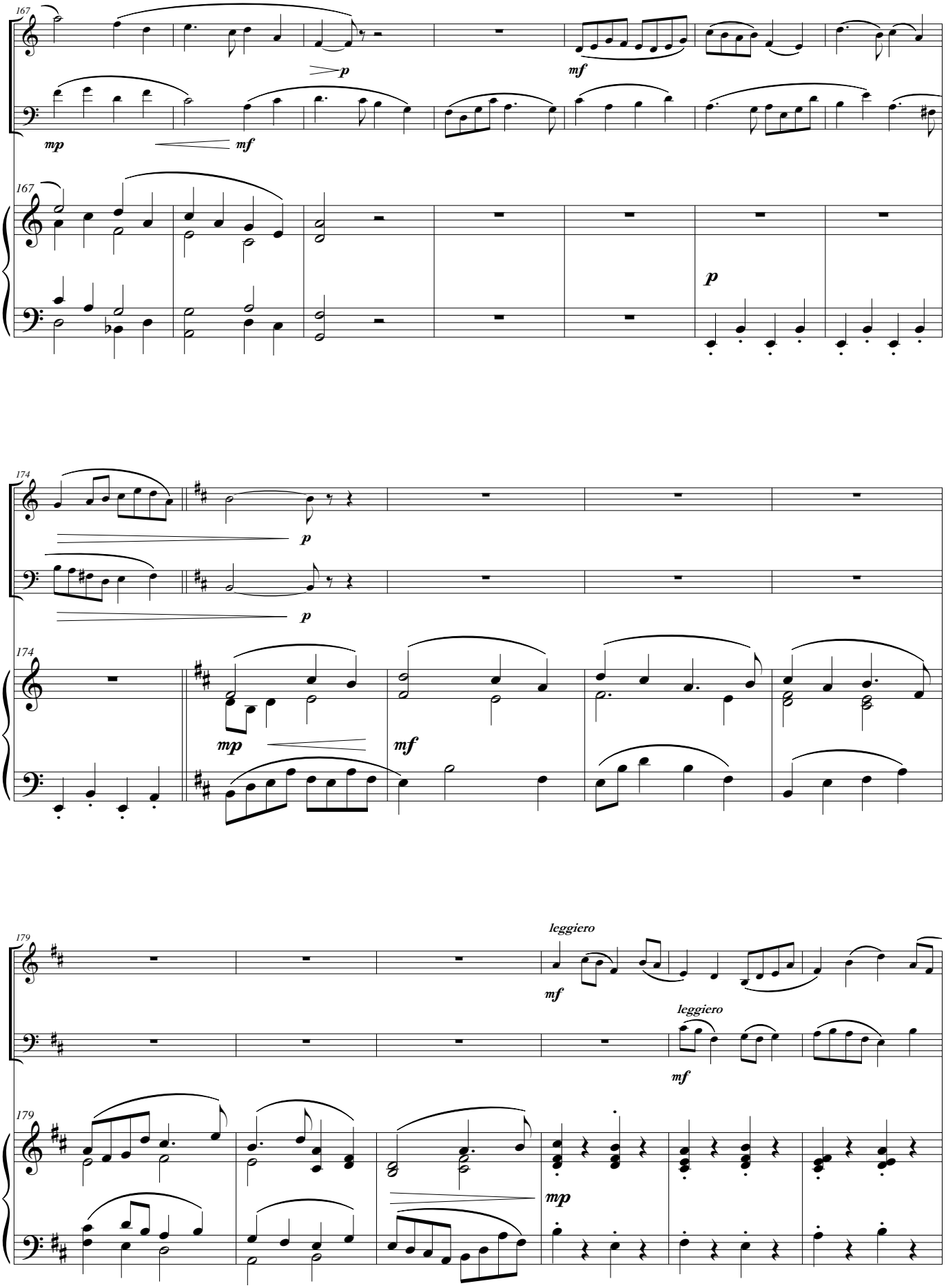
mp
161
f diminuendo
mp
poco crescendo
mf > mp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174
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174
mp
mf
179
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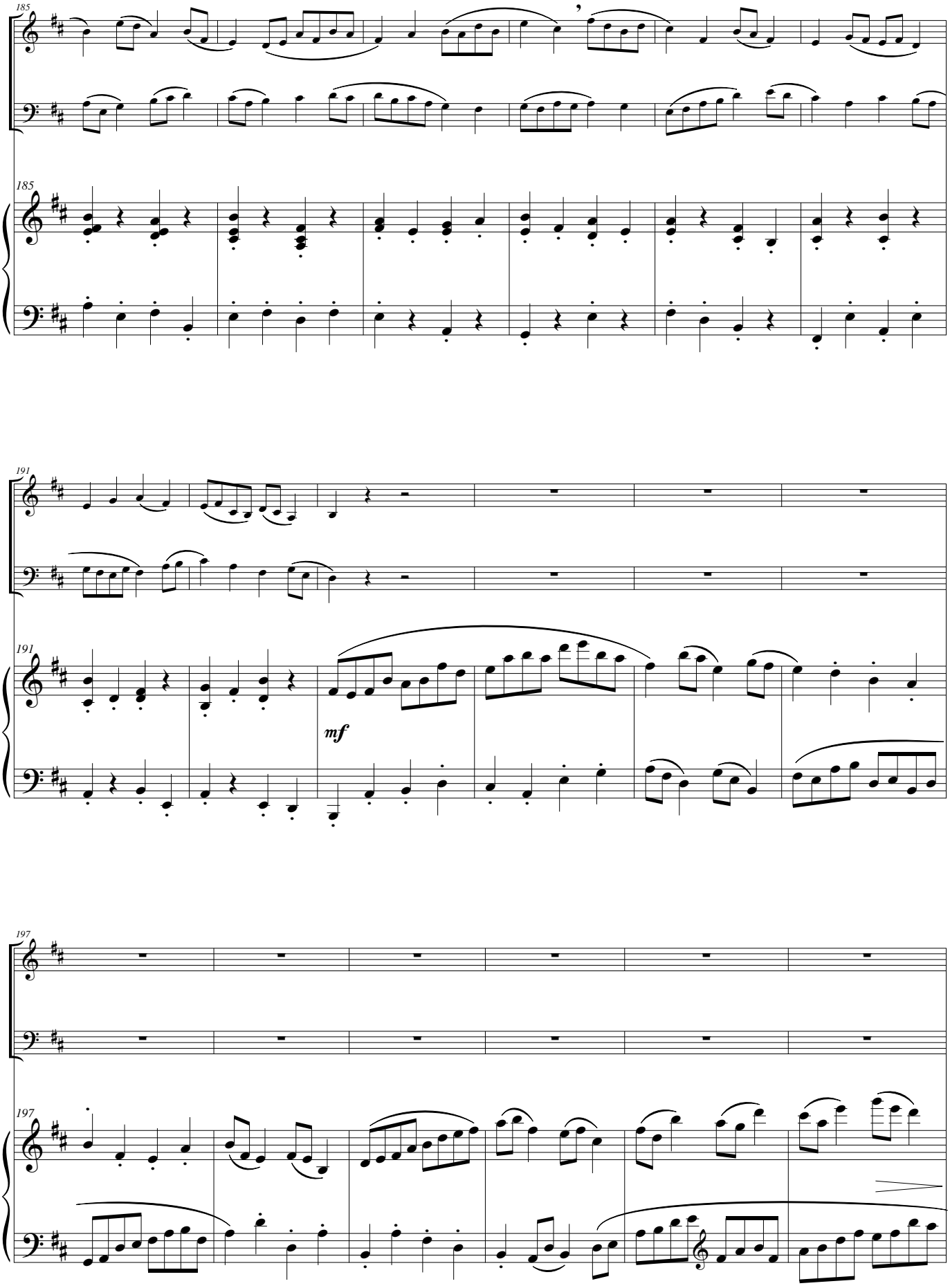
mf
leggiero
mf
179
mp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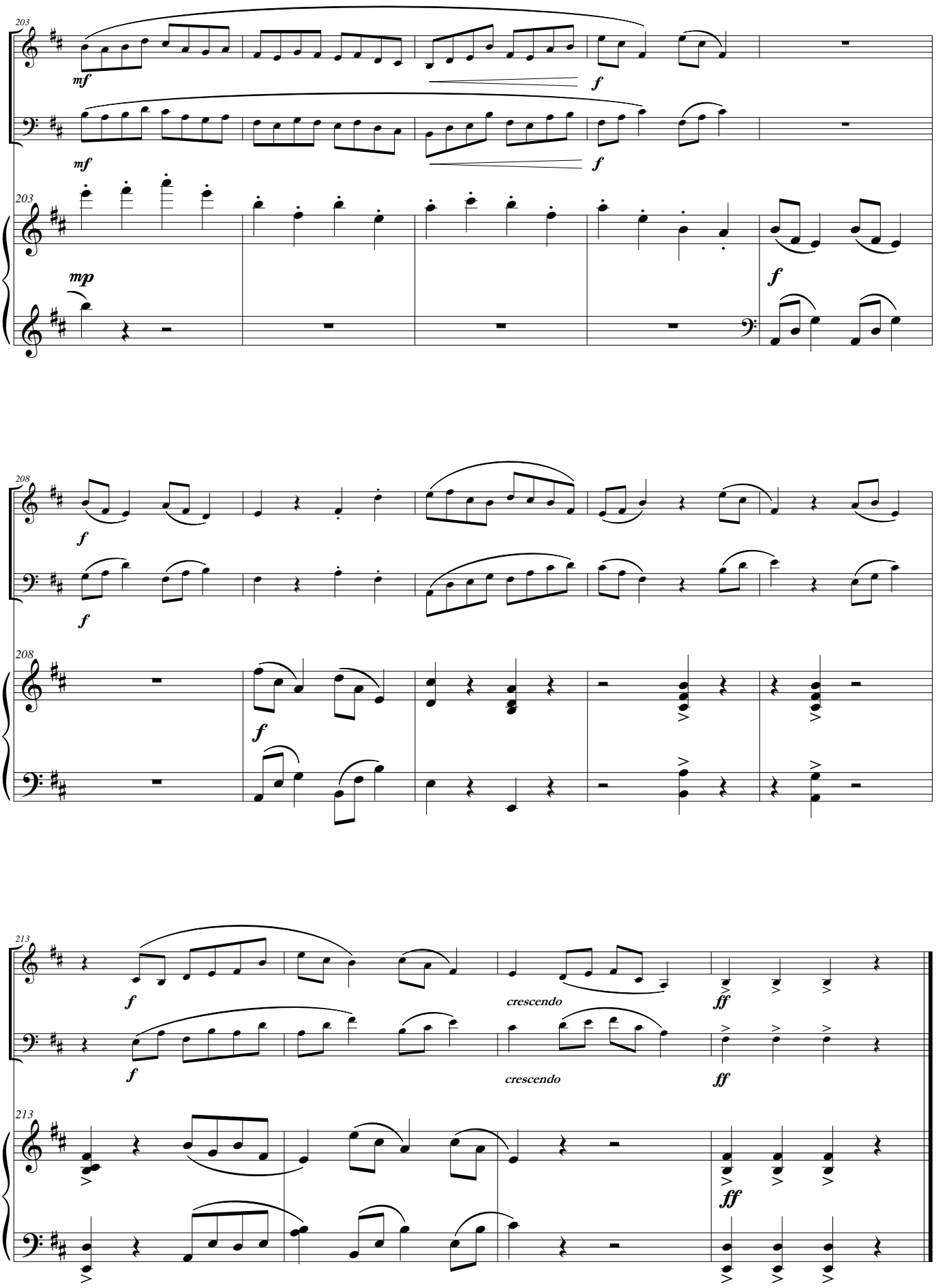
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f
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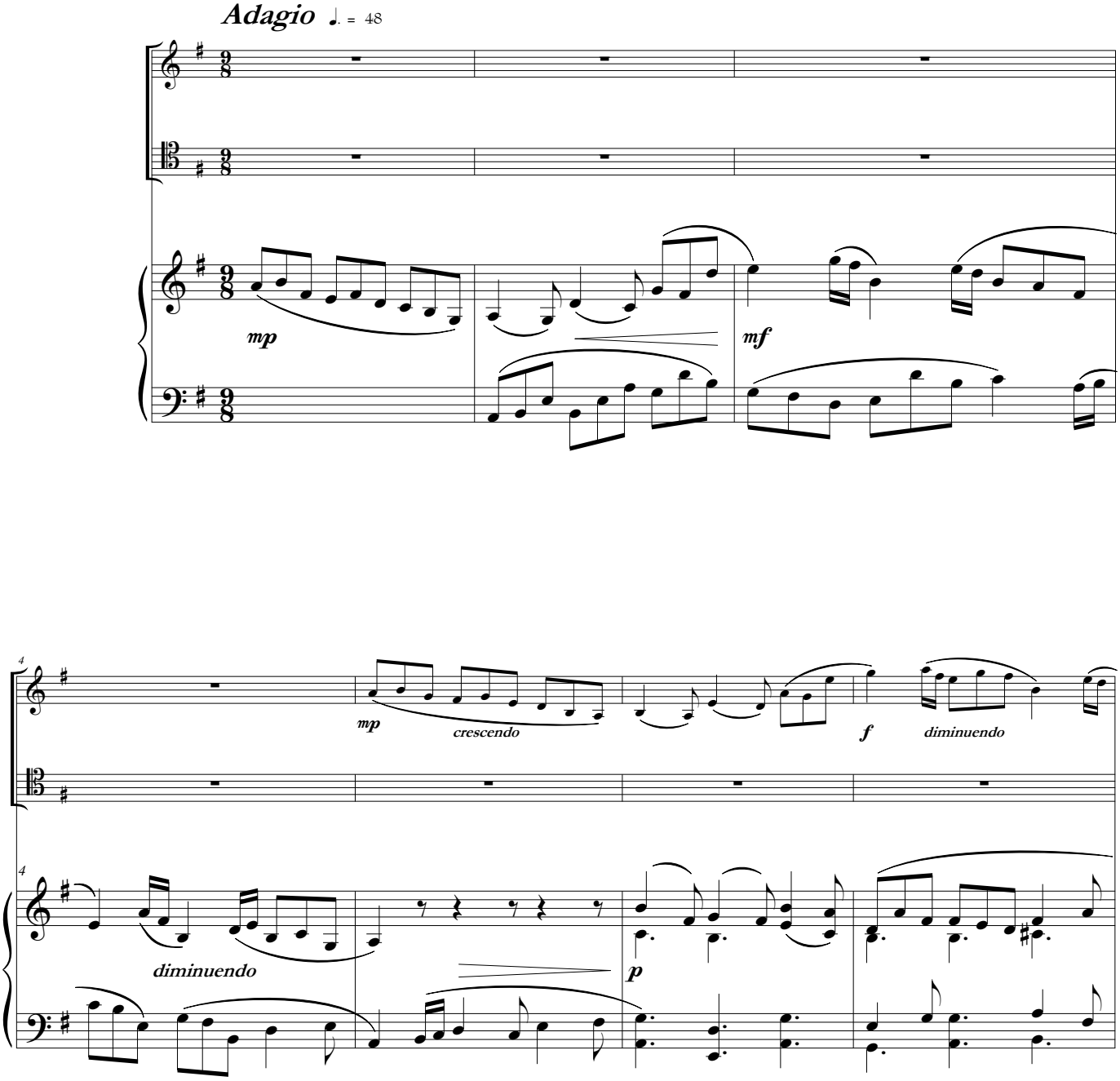
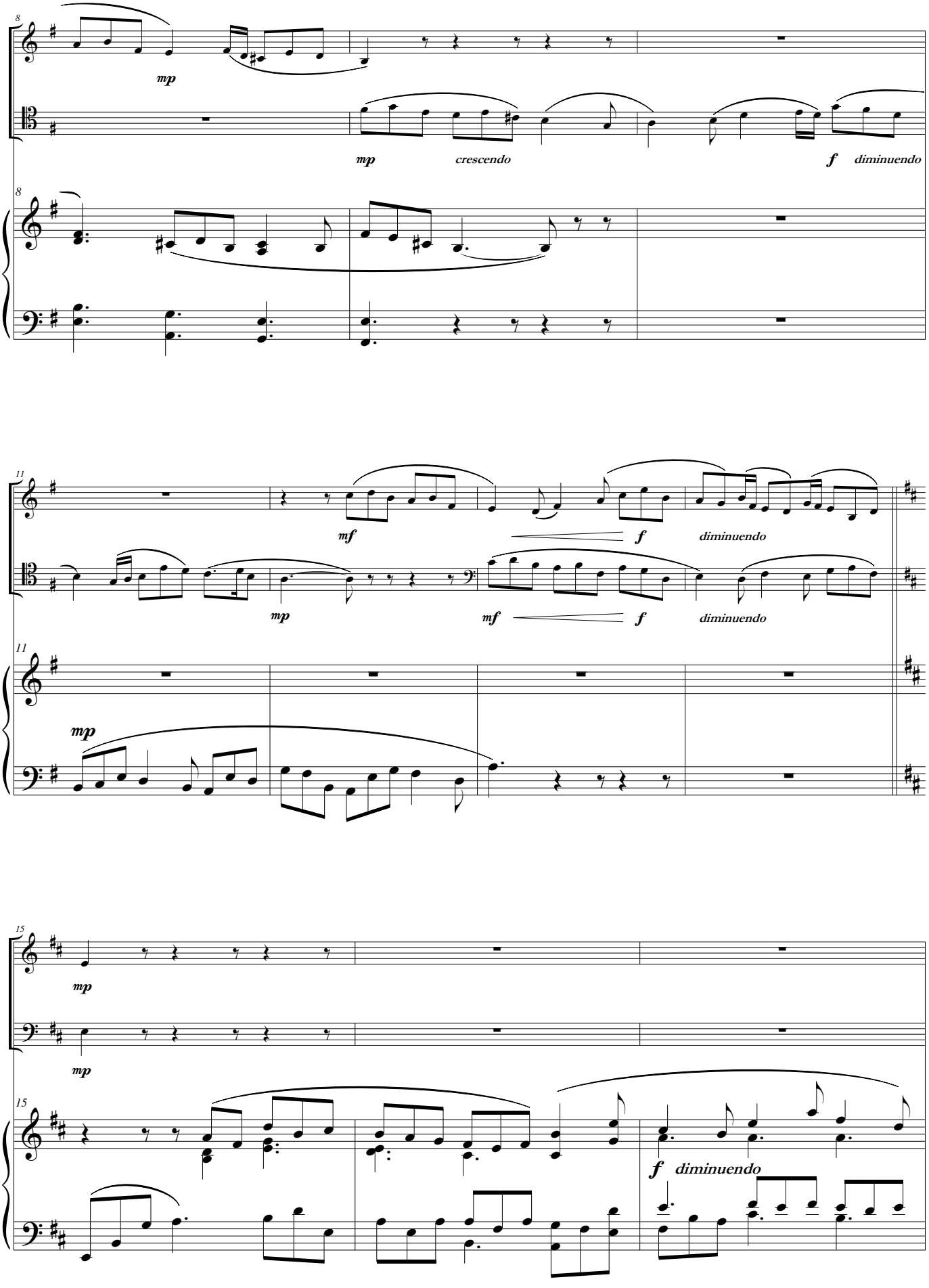
ff
f
crescendo
ff
213
ff

II

Elegy

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mp
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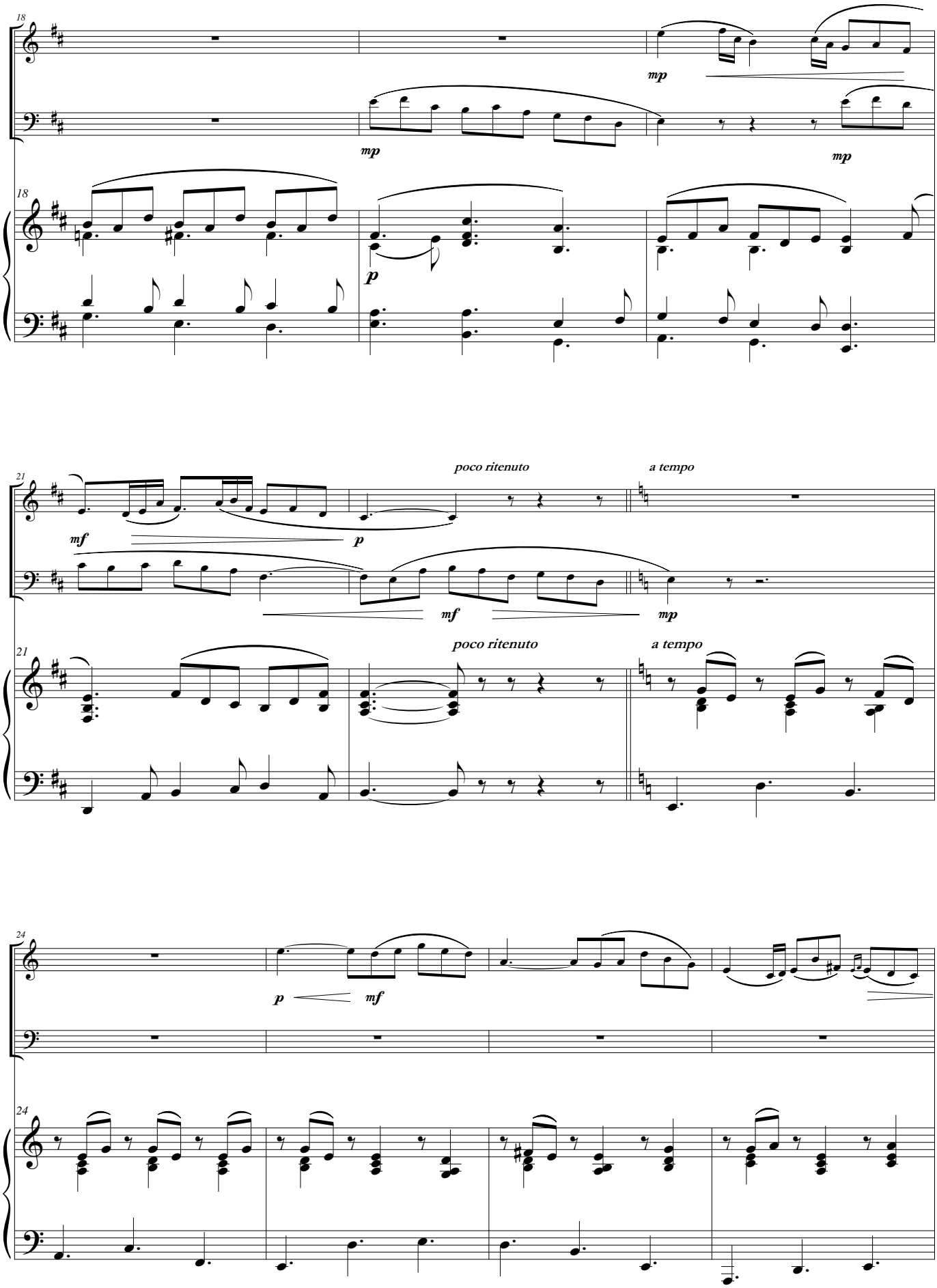
mp
mp
15
f
diminuendo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mp
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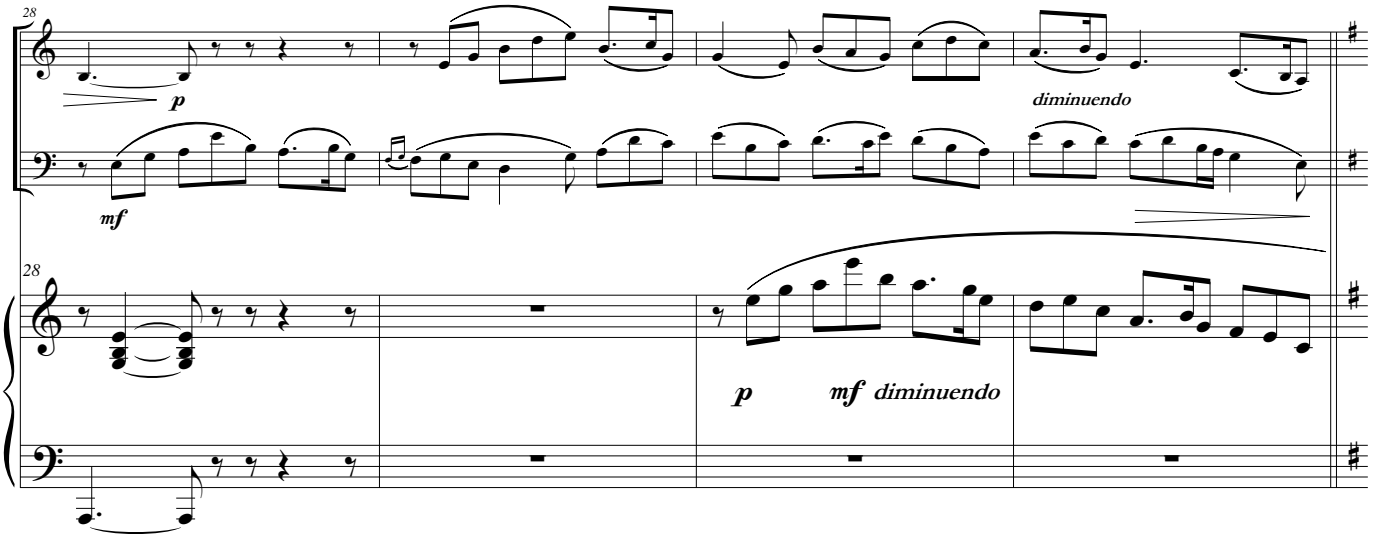
a tempo
mf
p
mf
mp
21
poco ritenuto
a tempo
24
p
mf
24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mf
28
p
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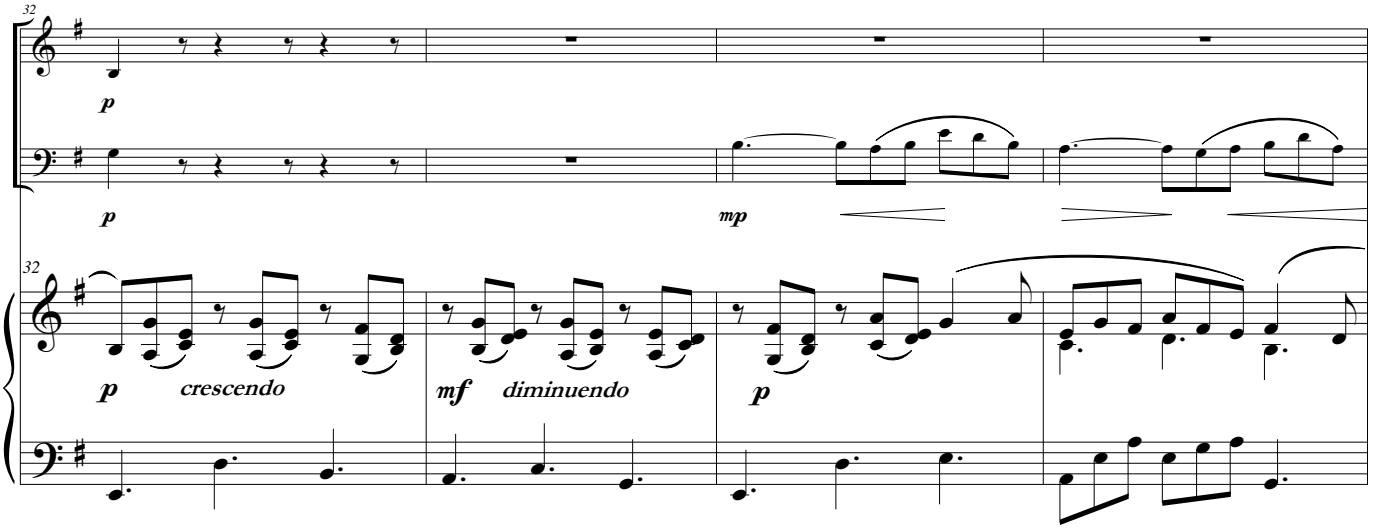
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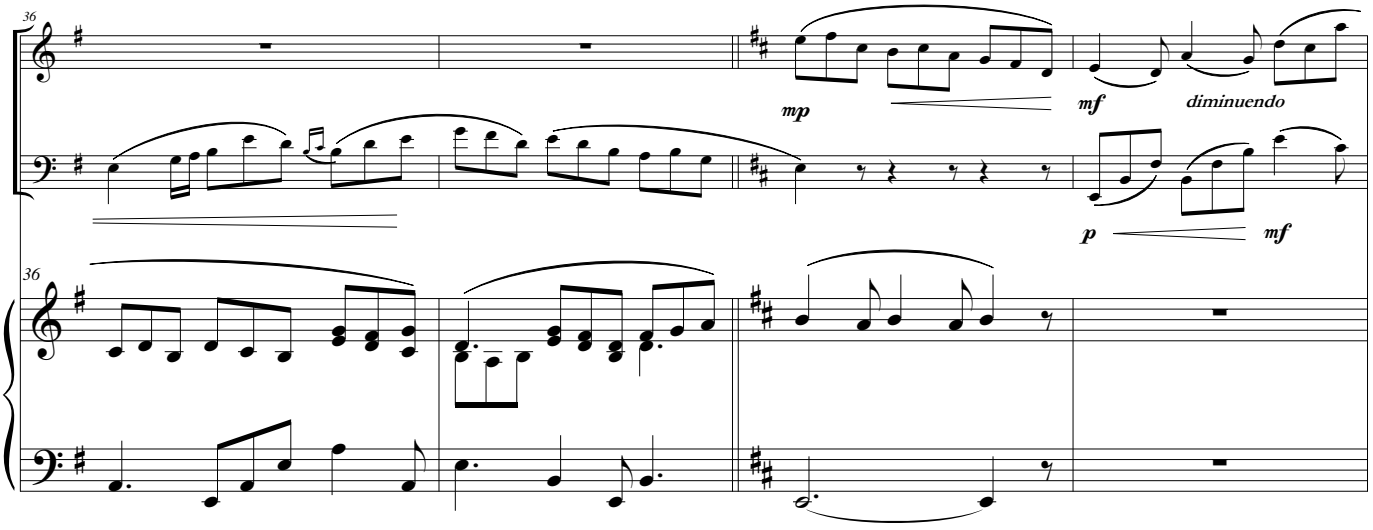
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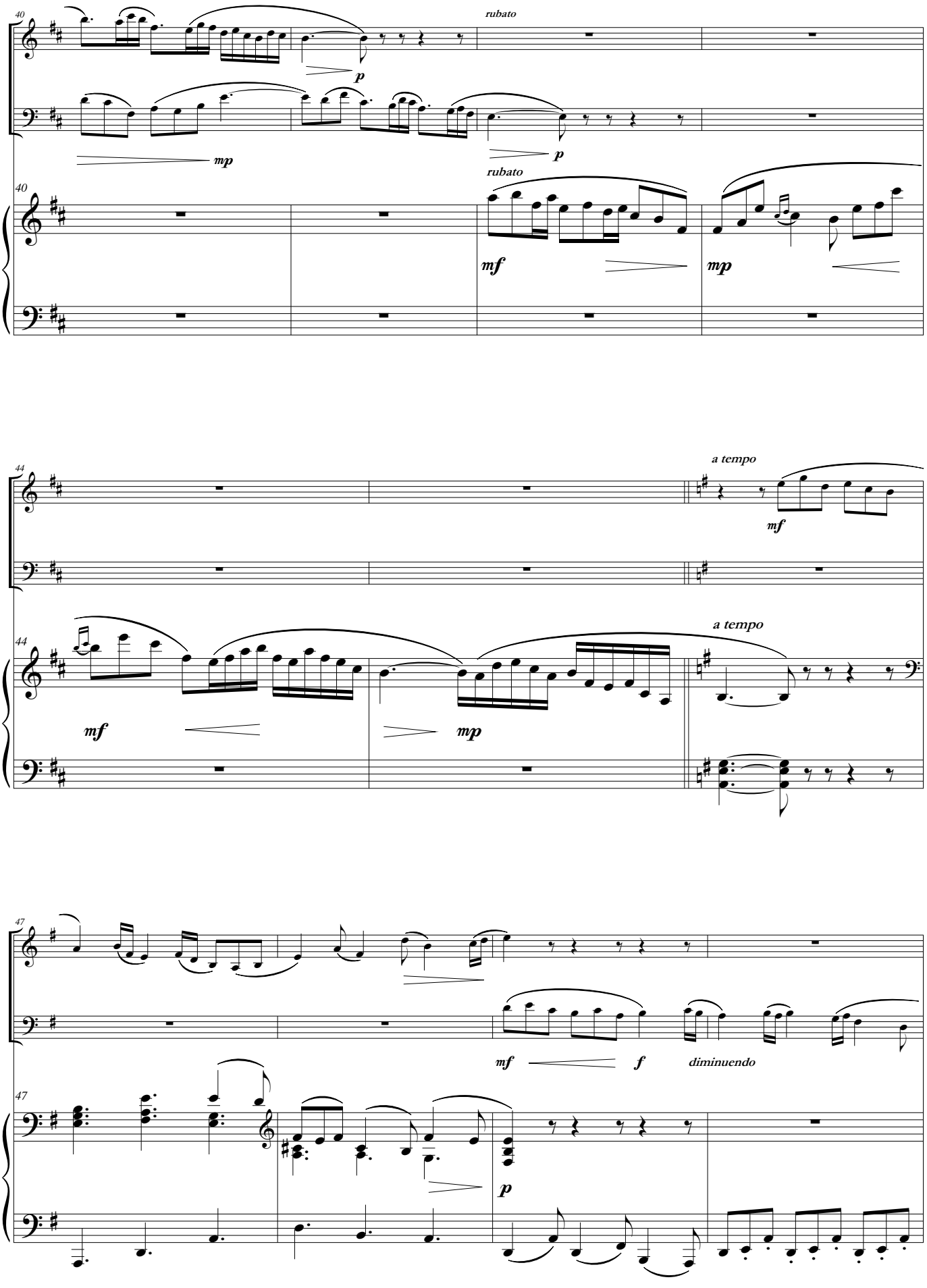
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rubato
p
mp
p
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mf
mp
44
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a tempo
mf
mp
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mf
f
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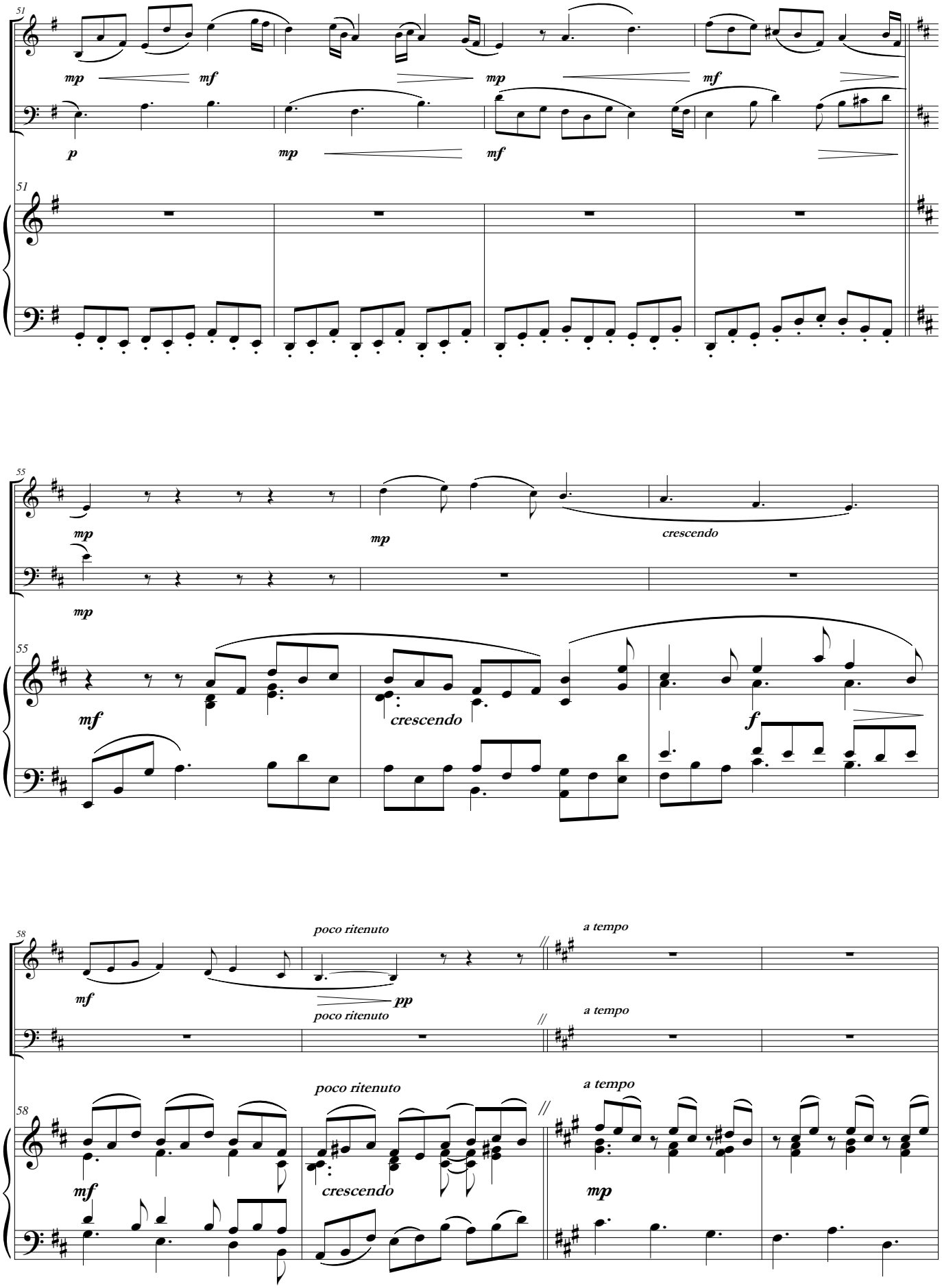
47
p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mp
mp
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mp
55
mf
crescendo
f
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a tempo
poco ritenuto
a tempo
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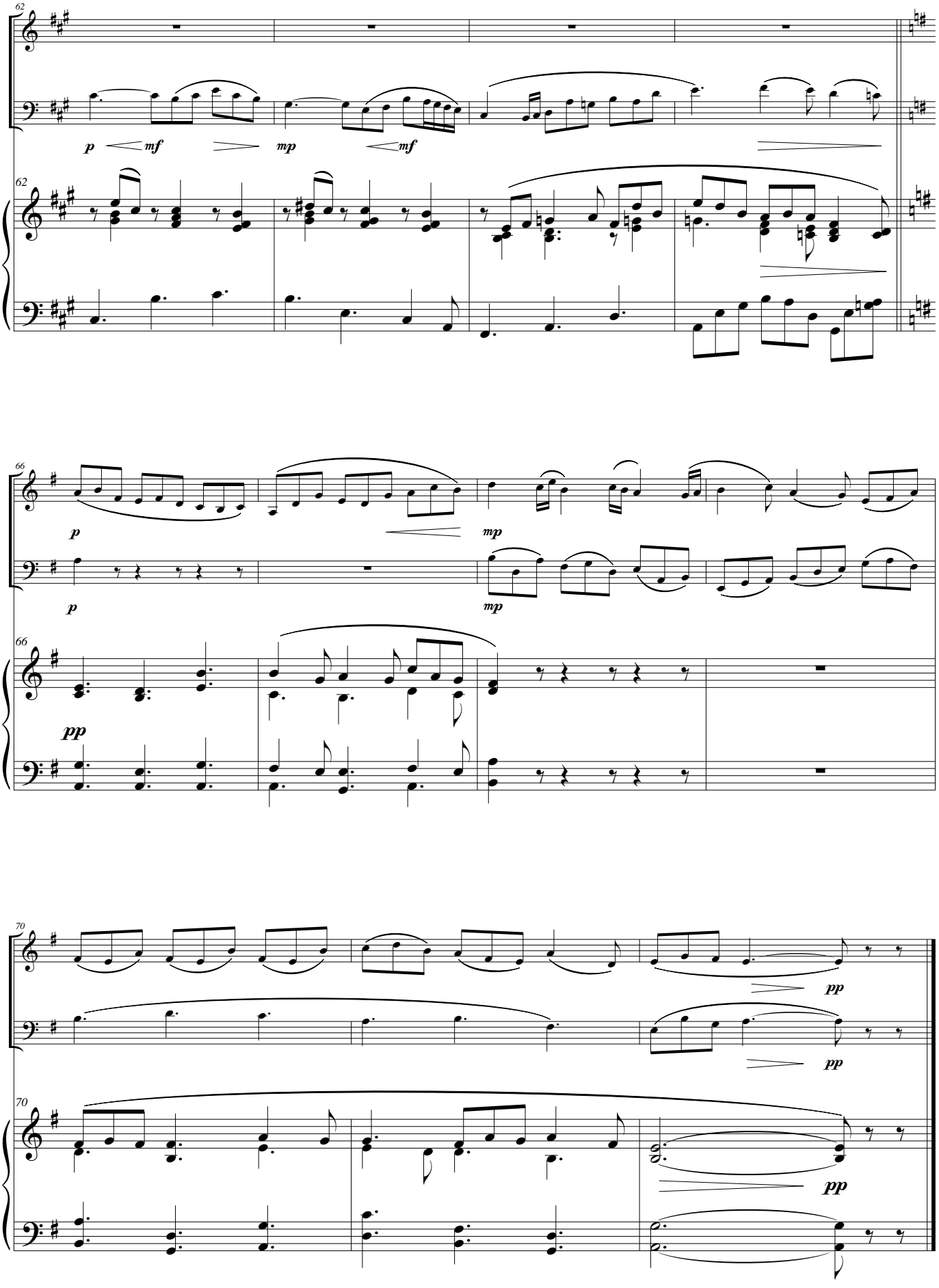
mf
crescendo
mp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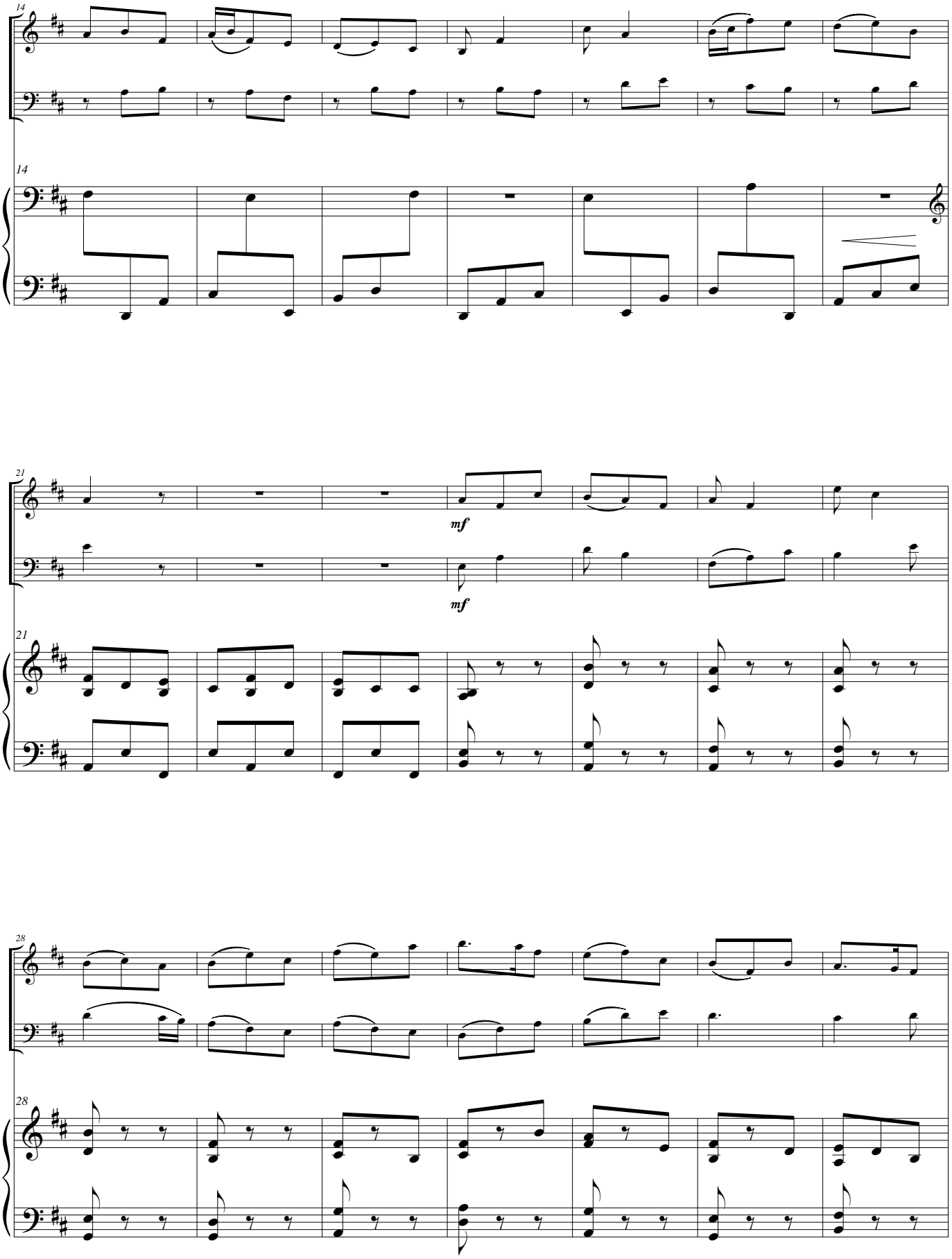
pp
70
pp
pp
70
pp

III

Scherzino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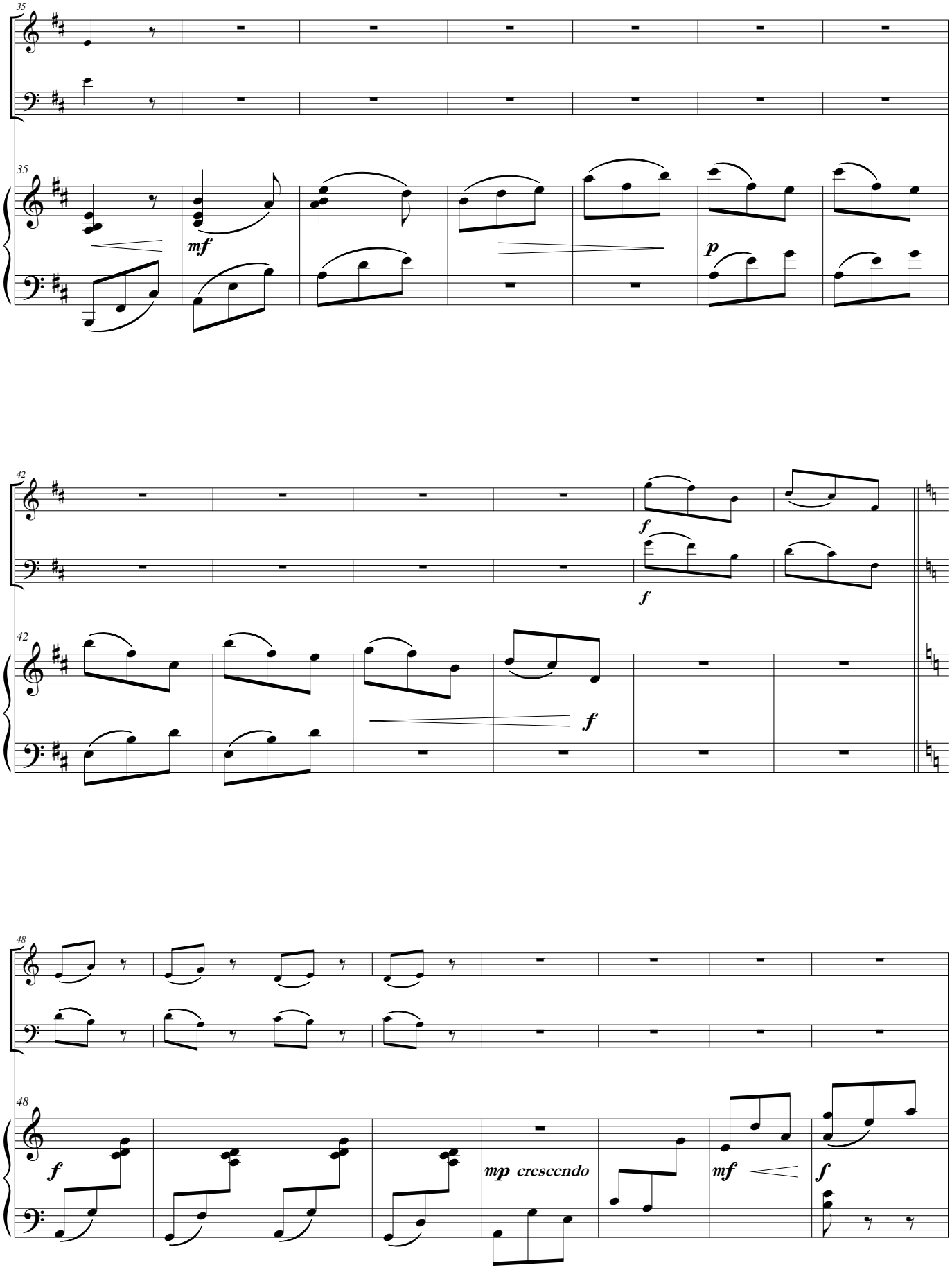
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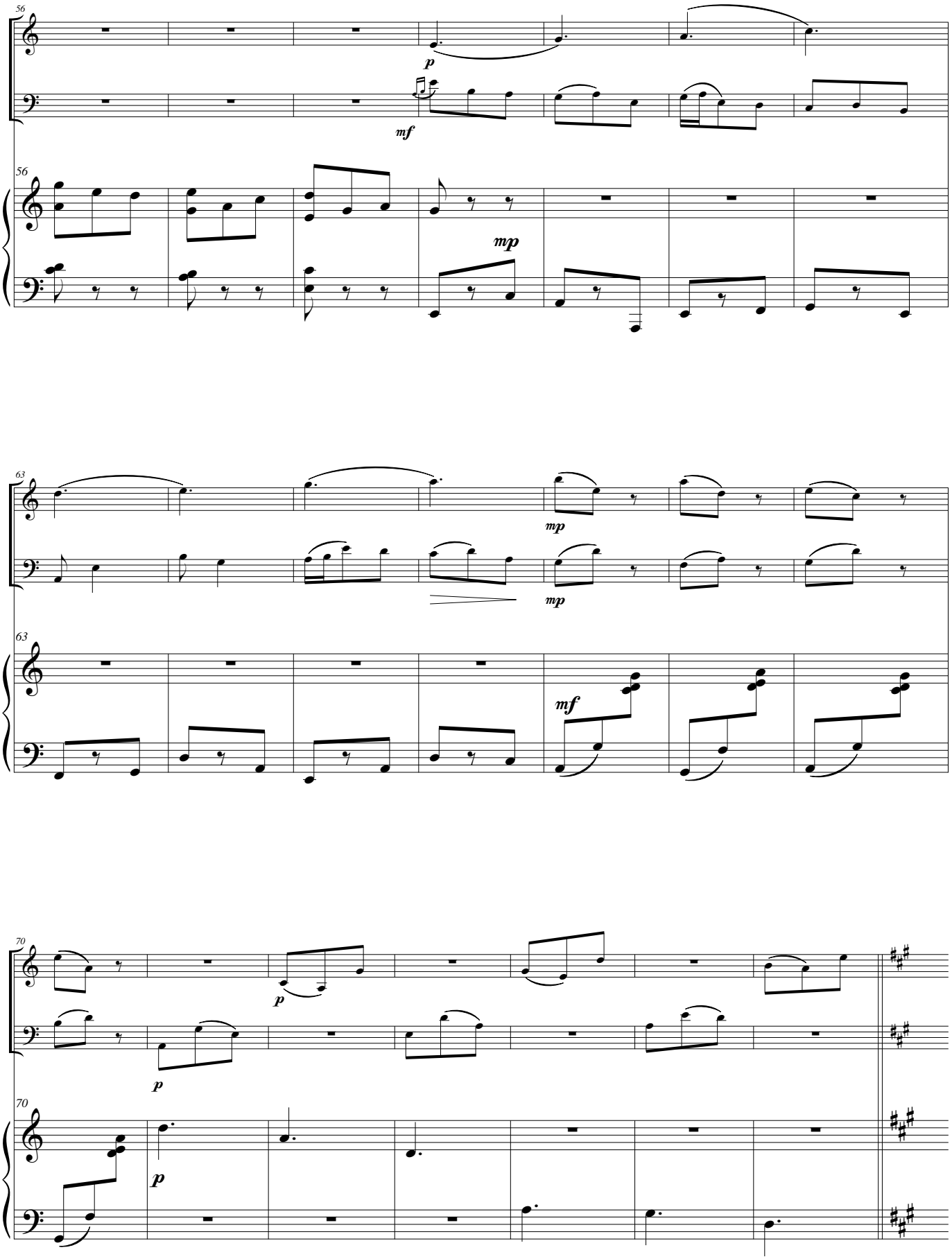
mf
f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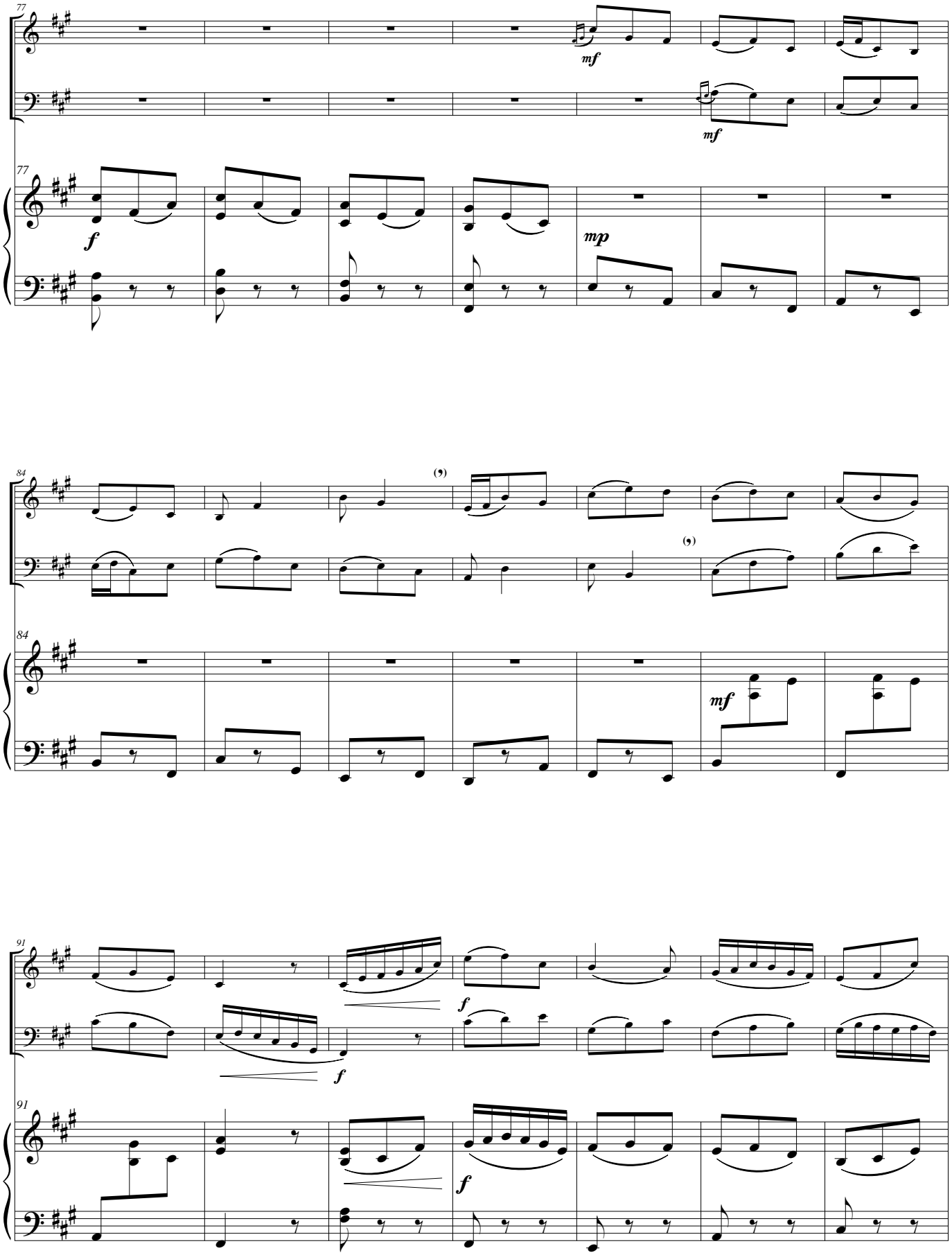
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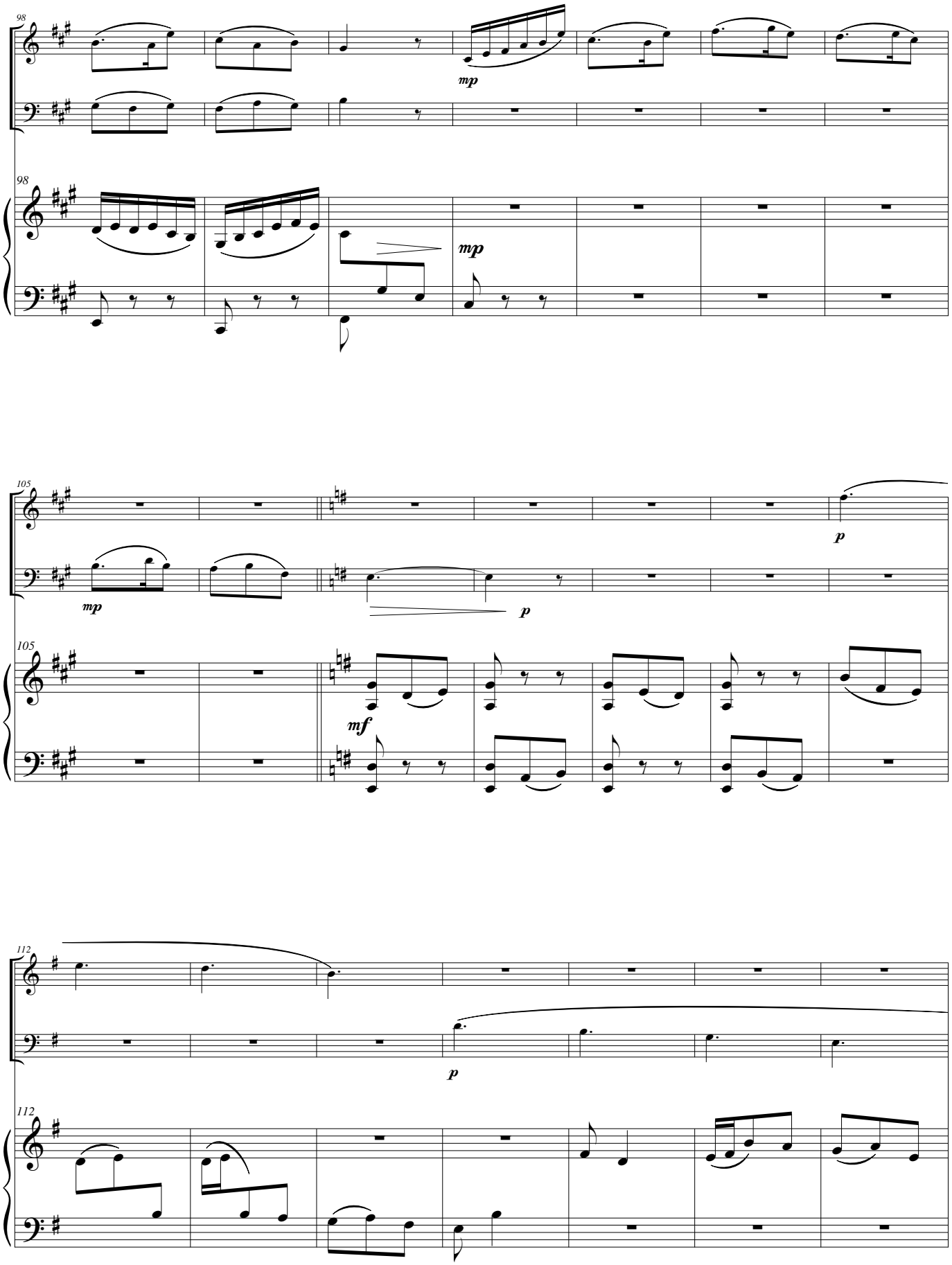
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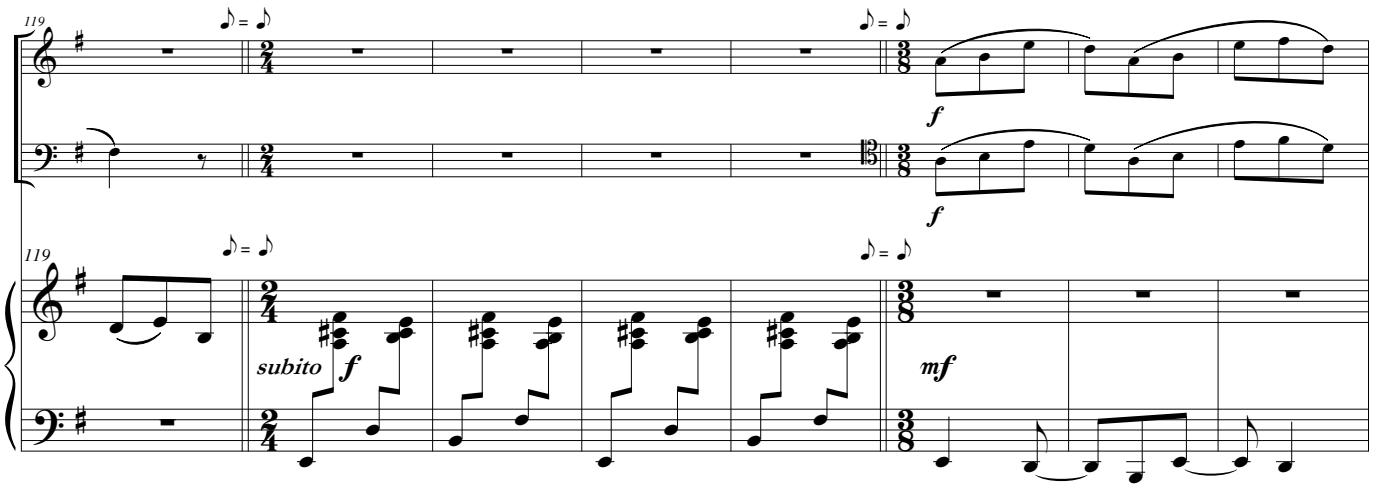
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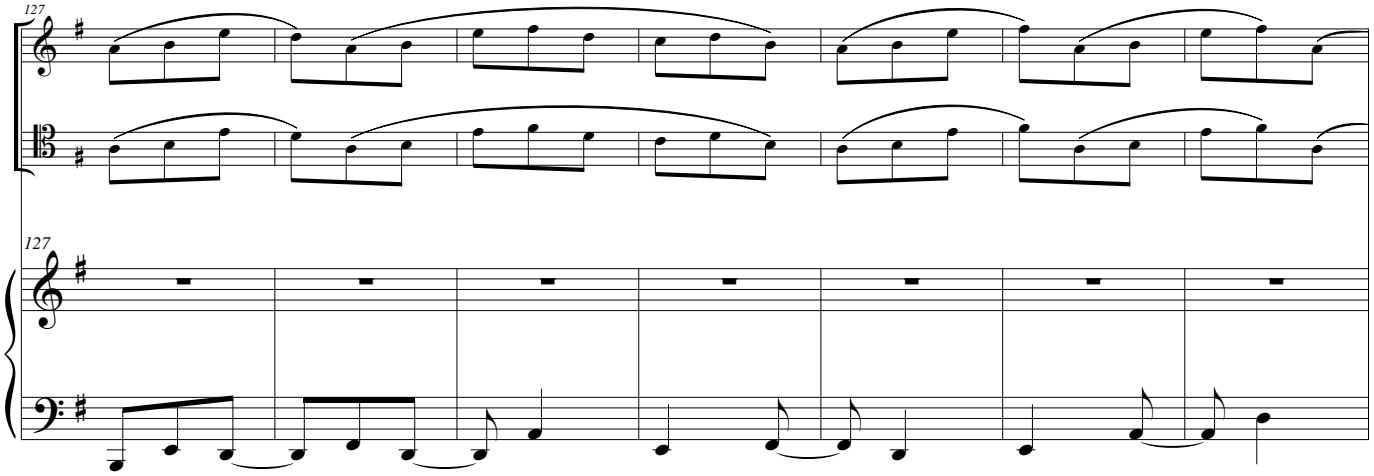
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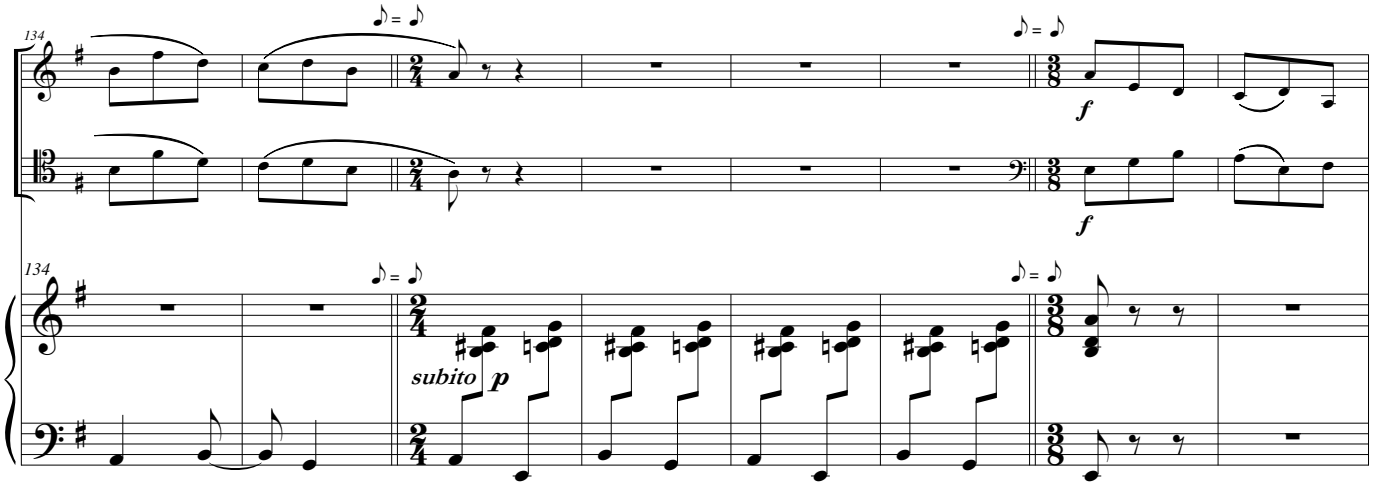
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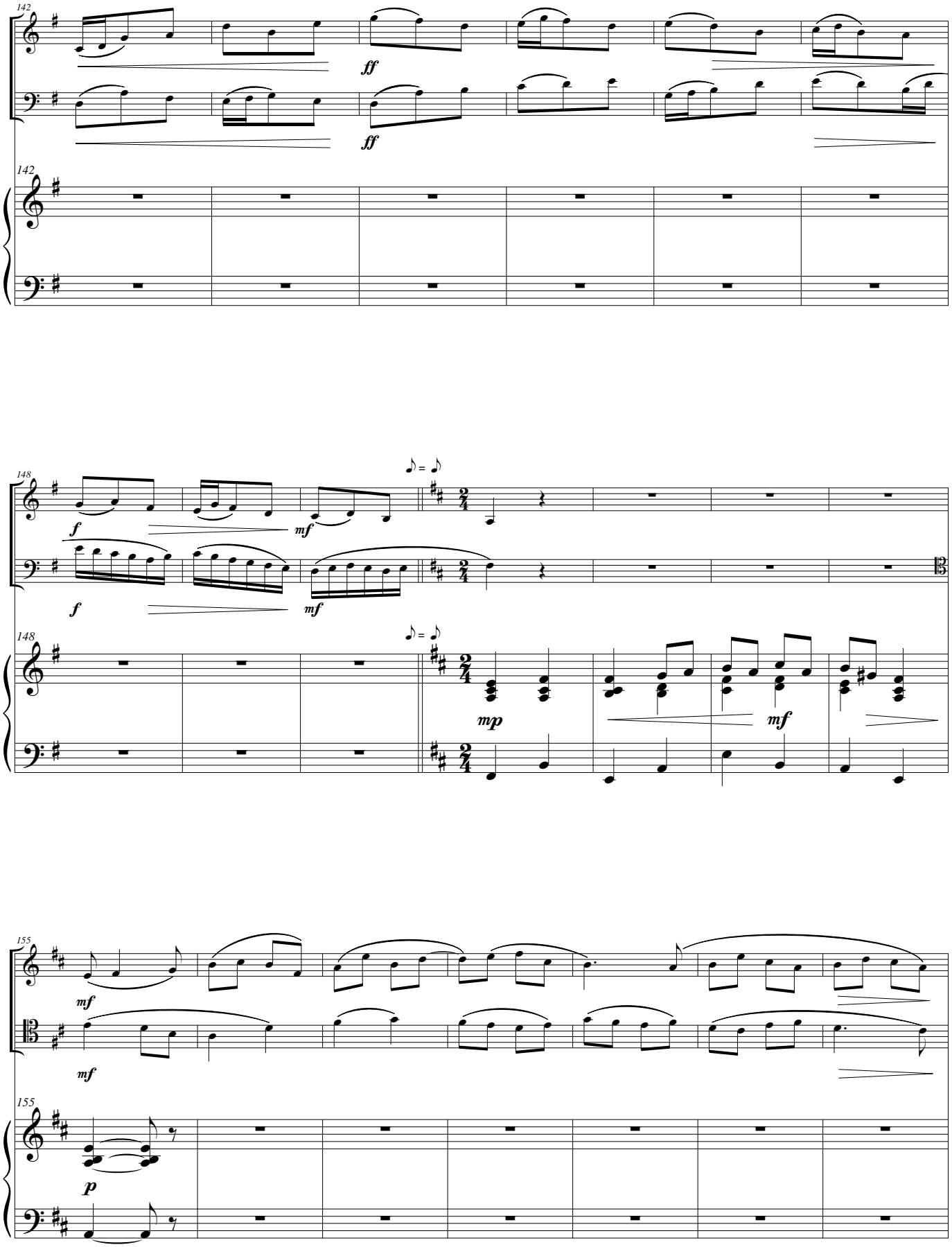
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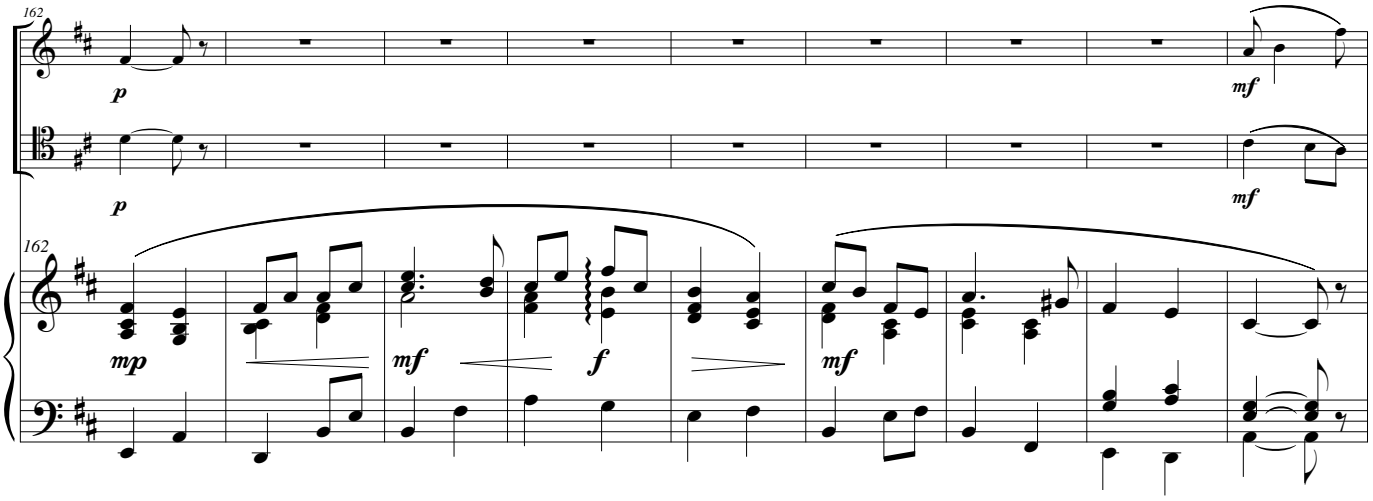
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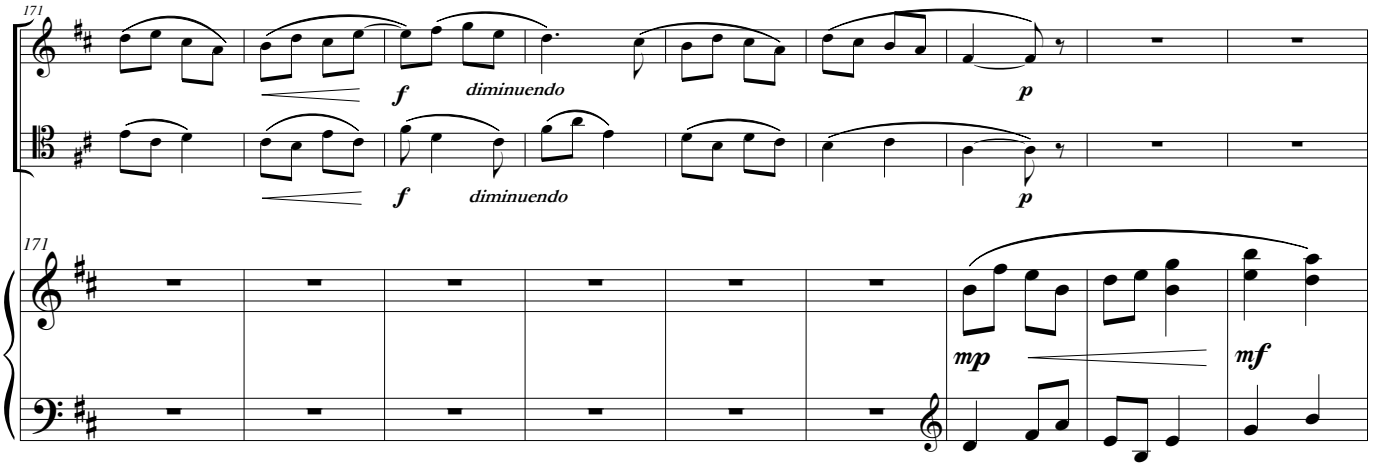
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diminuendo
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f
diminuendo
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171
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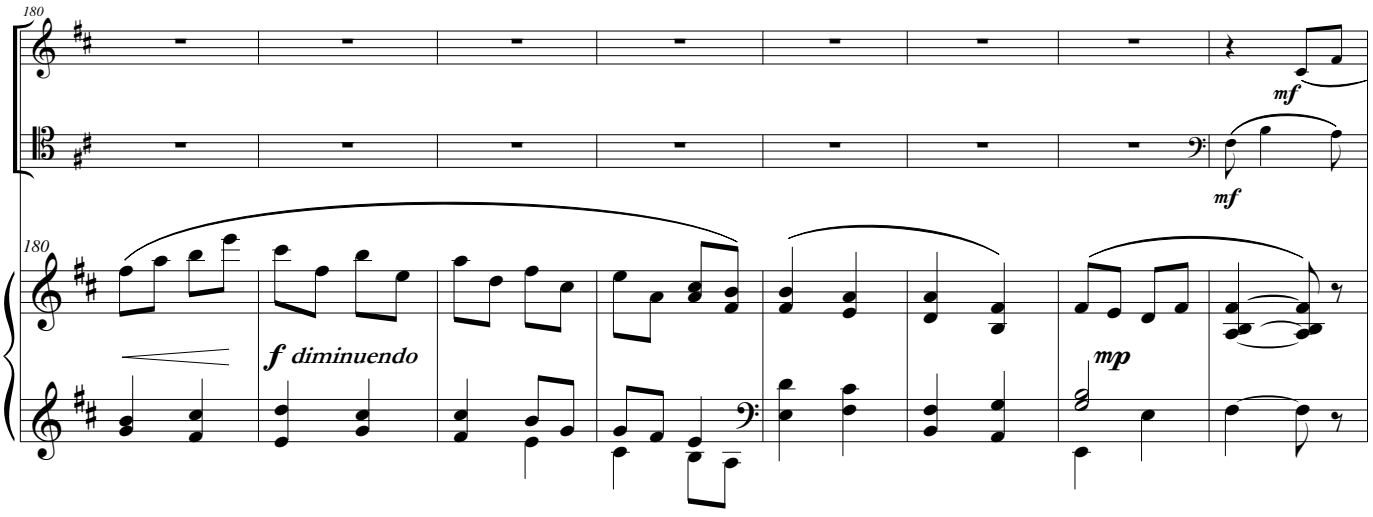
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mf
mf
180
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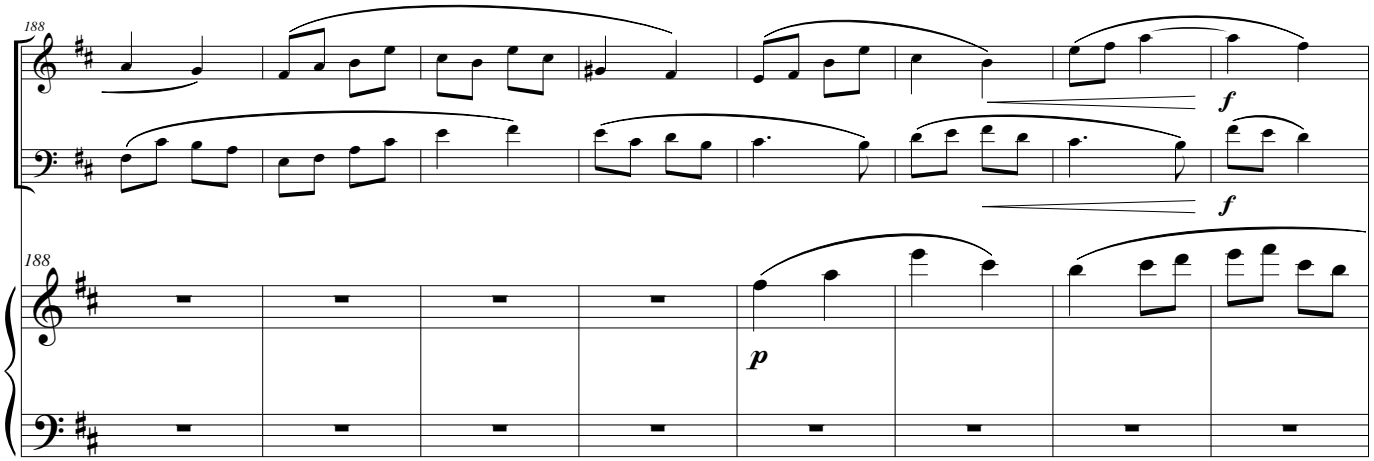
mp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188
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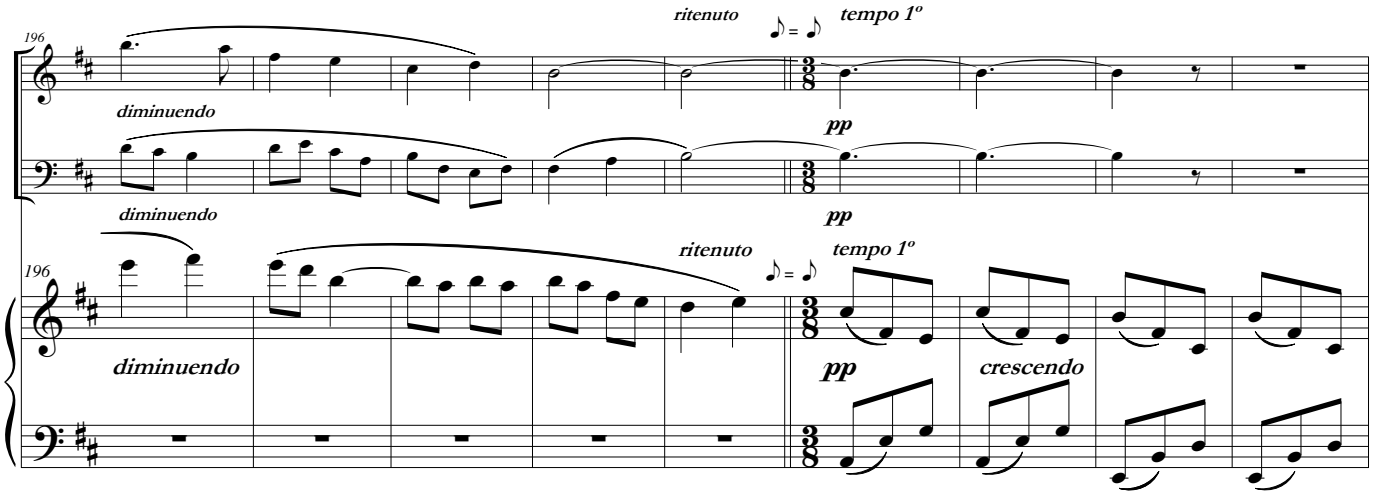
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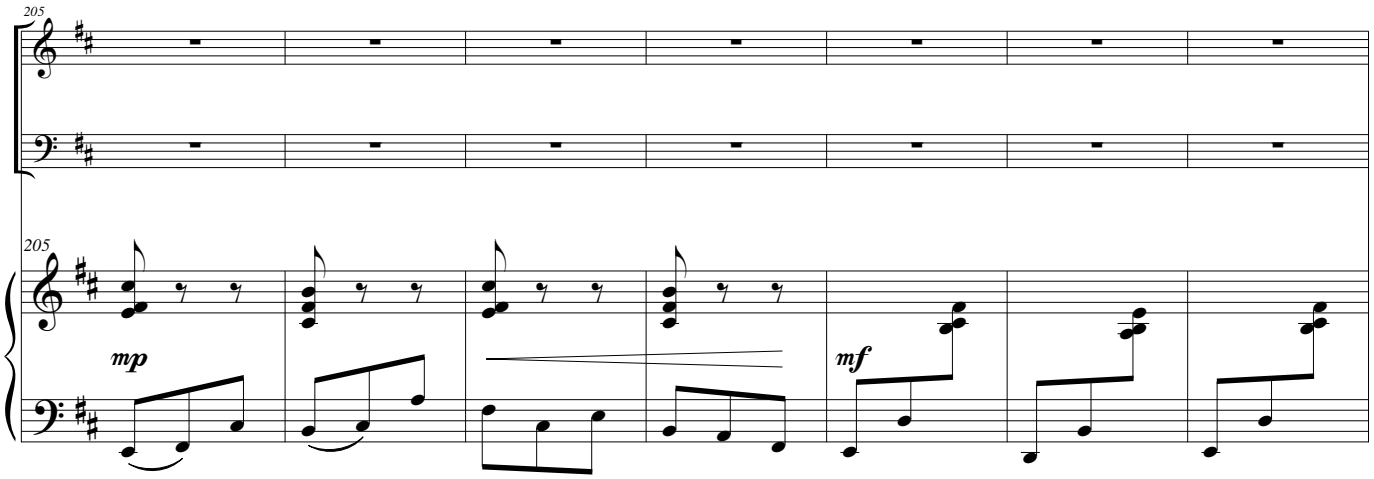
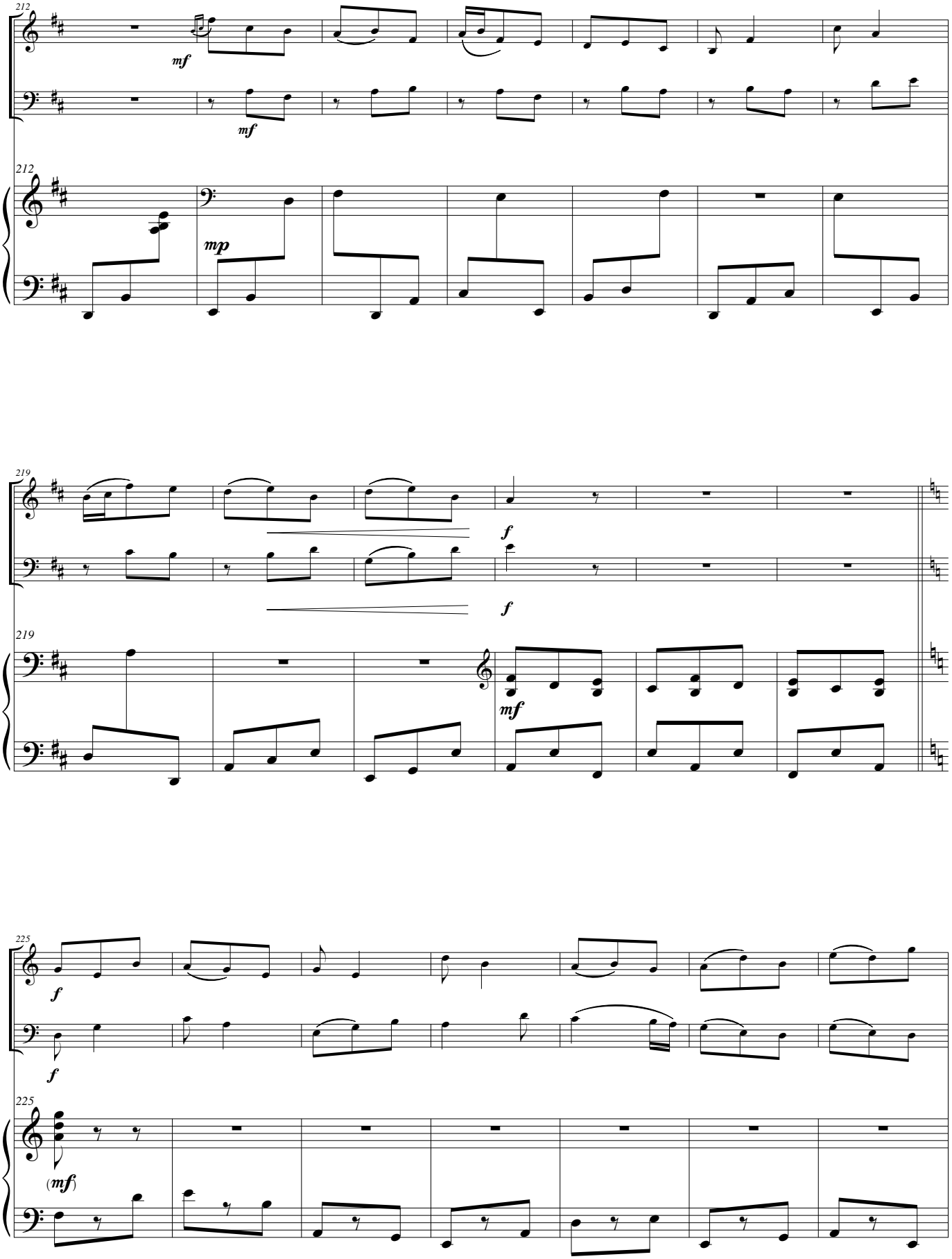
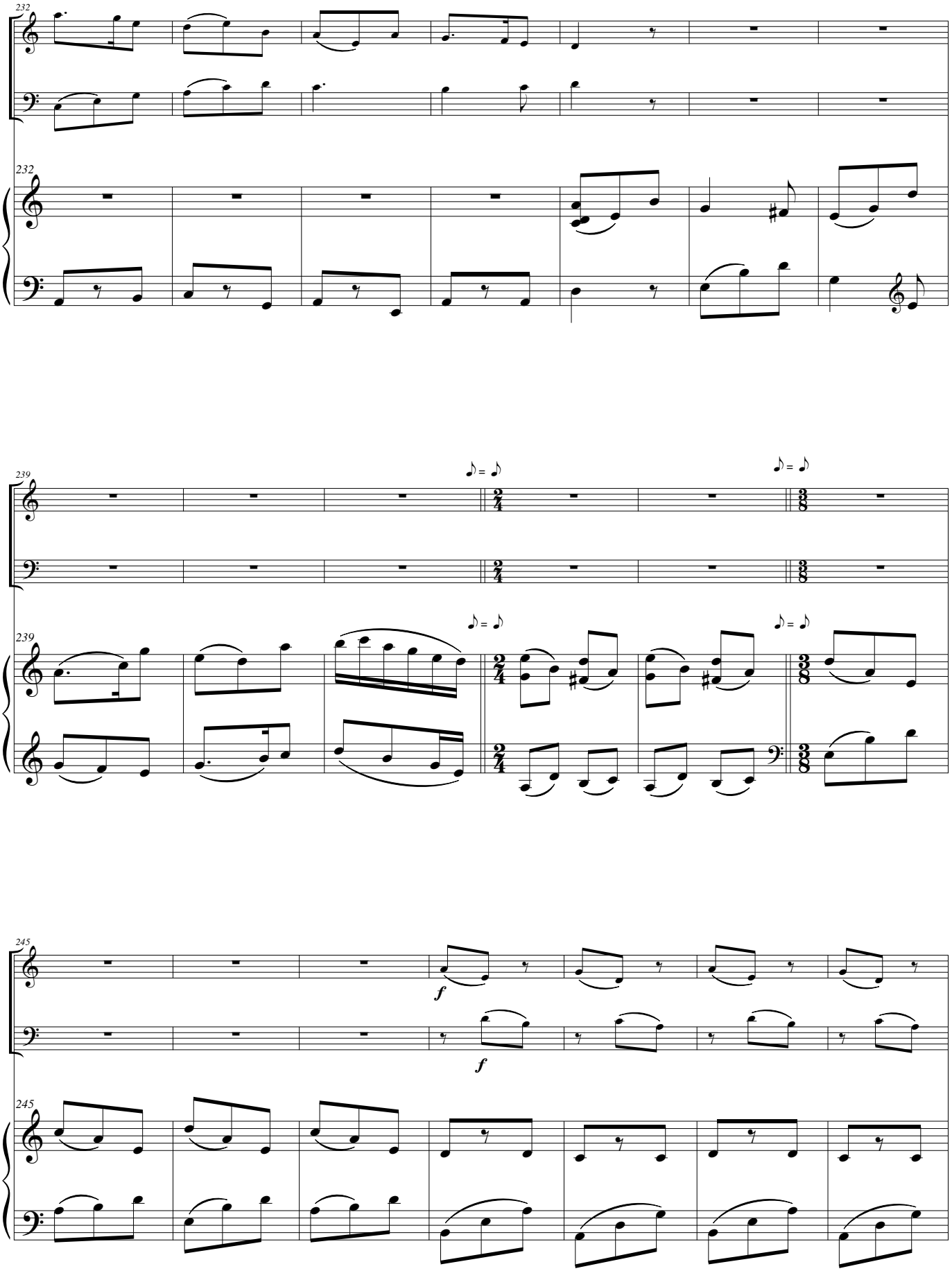
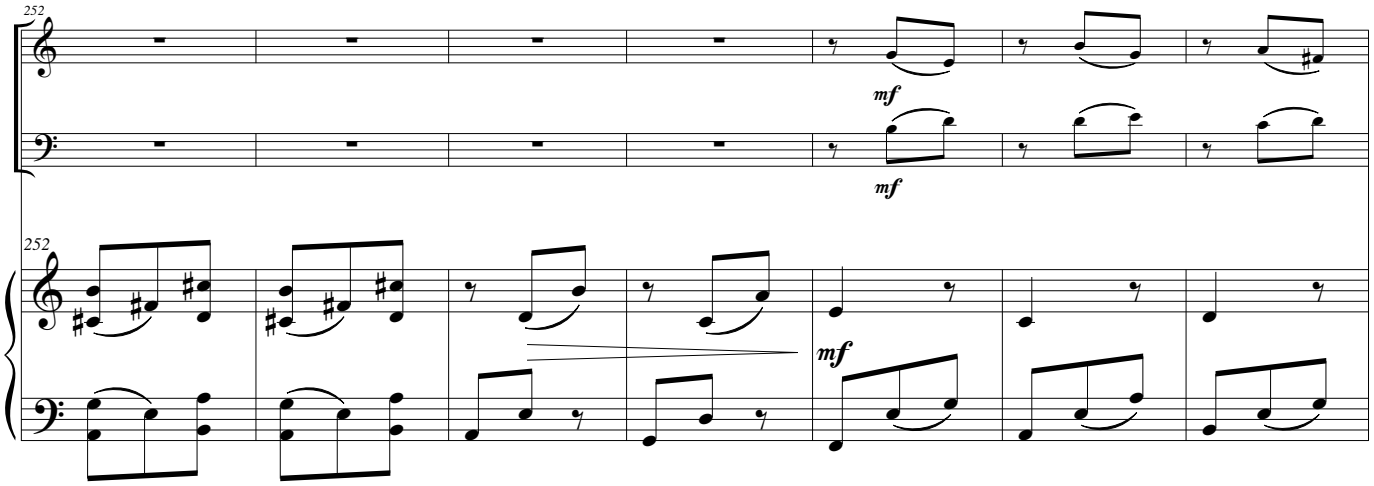
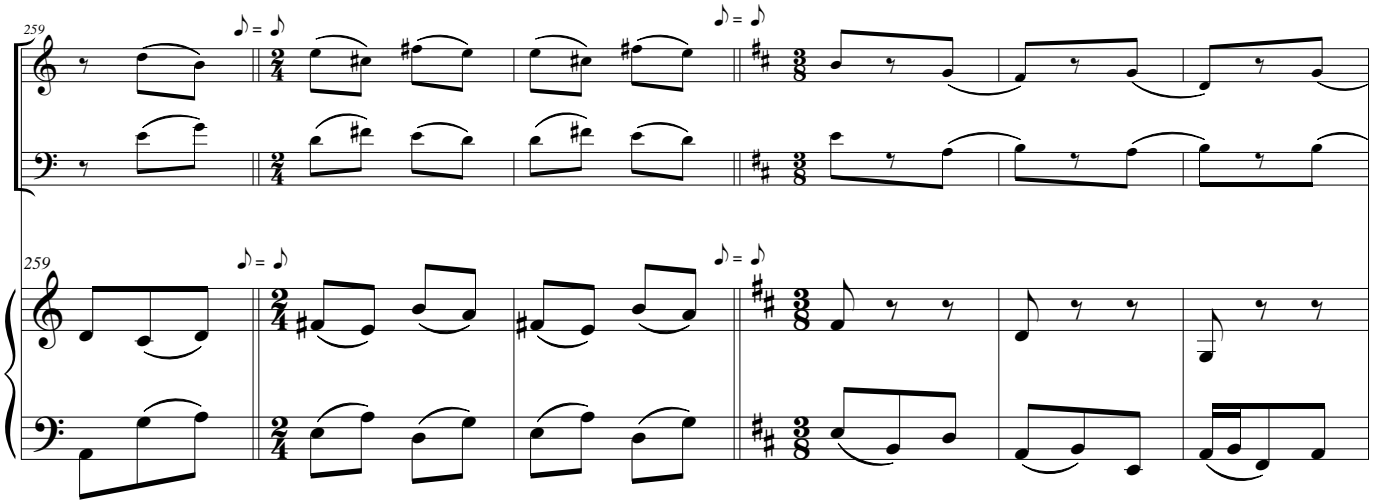
tempo 1º
196
diminuendo
pp
diminuendo
pp
196
ritenuto
tempo 1º
diminuendo
pp
crescendo

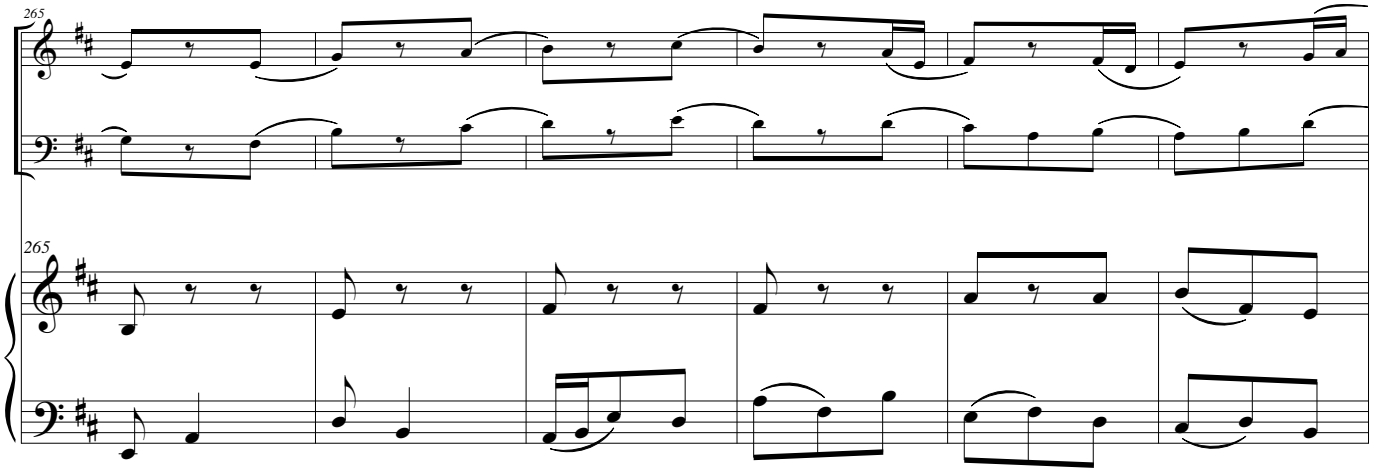

205
205
mp
mf

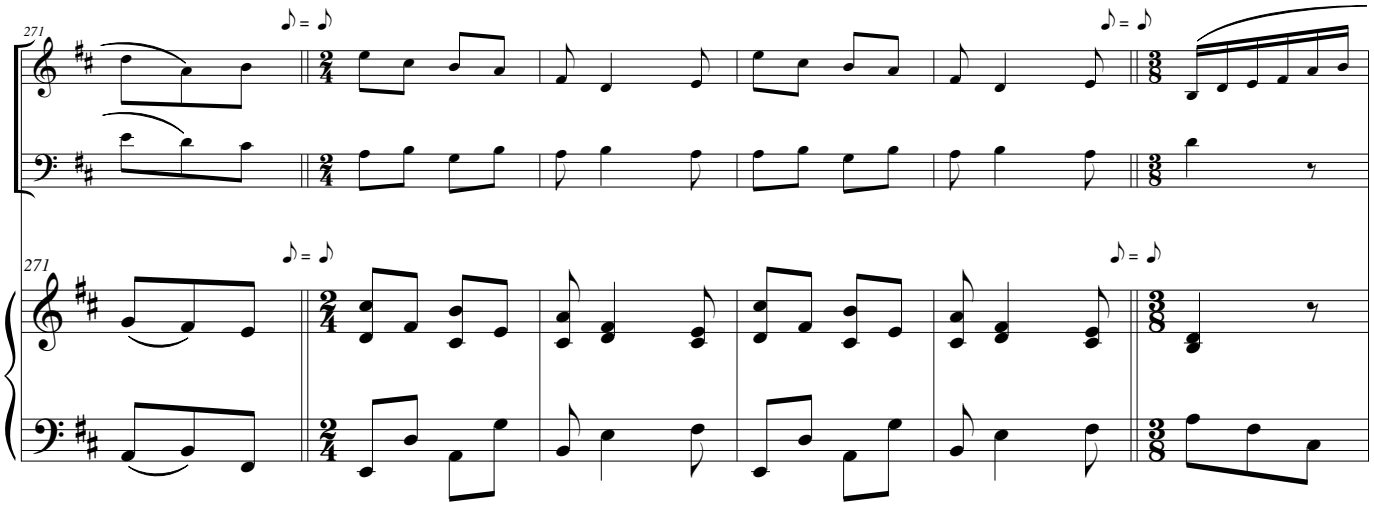

212
mf
mf
212
mp
219
f
f
219
mf
225
f
f
225
(mf)

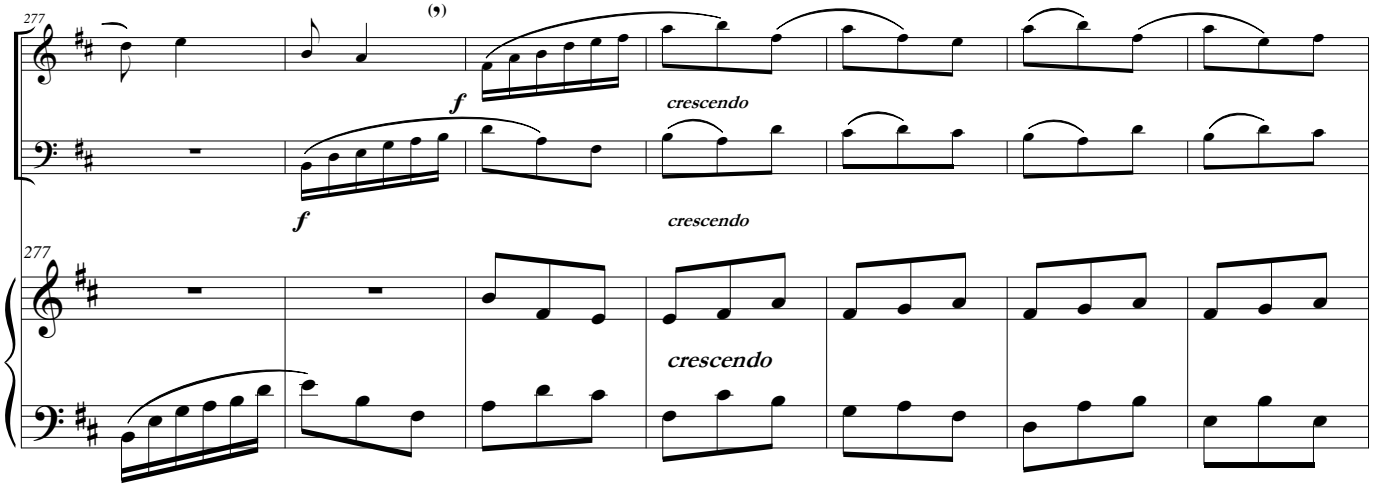

232
232
239
239
245
245
f
f

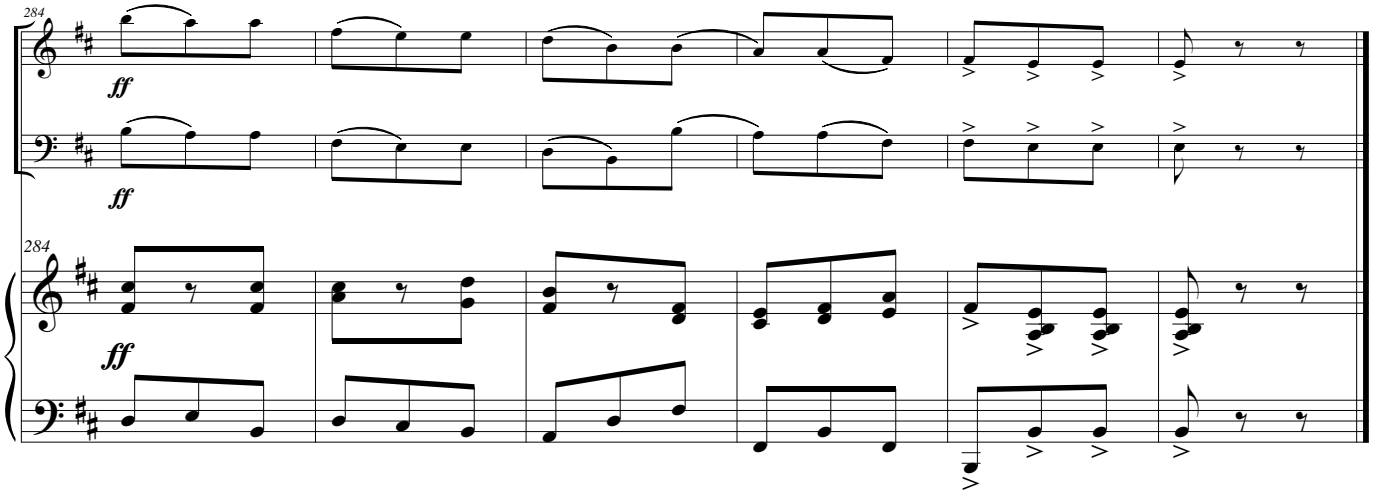

252
mf
mf
252
mf


259
259


265
265


271
271


277
277
f
f
crescendo
crescendo
crescendo


284
284
ff
ff
ff

Portraits from La Commedia dell'Arte

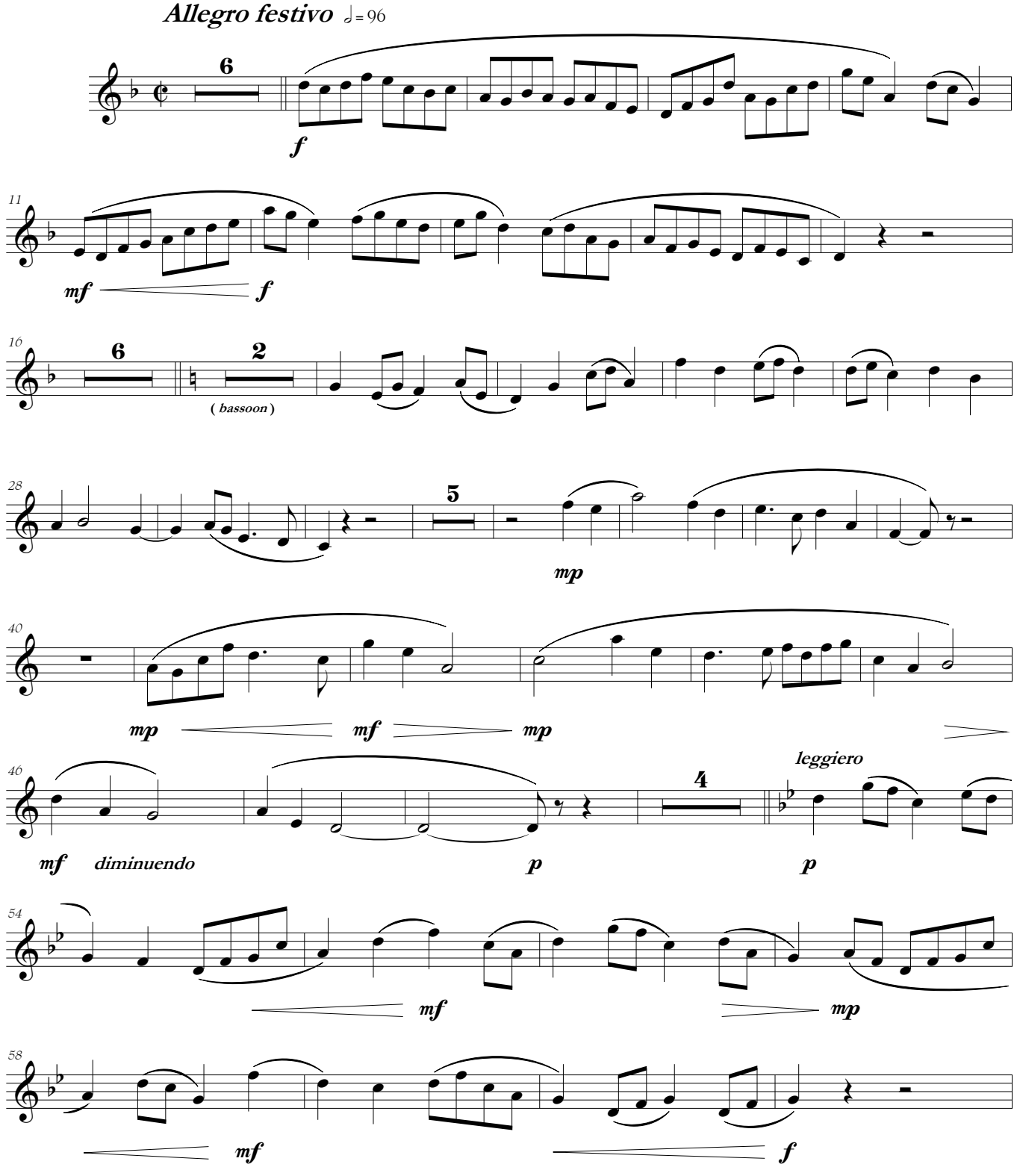
II TRIO DI FANTASIA

I

Oboe d'amore

Capriccio

Walter Ross
(b. 1936)



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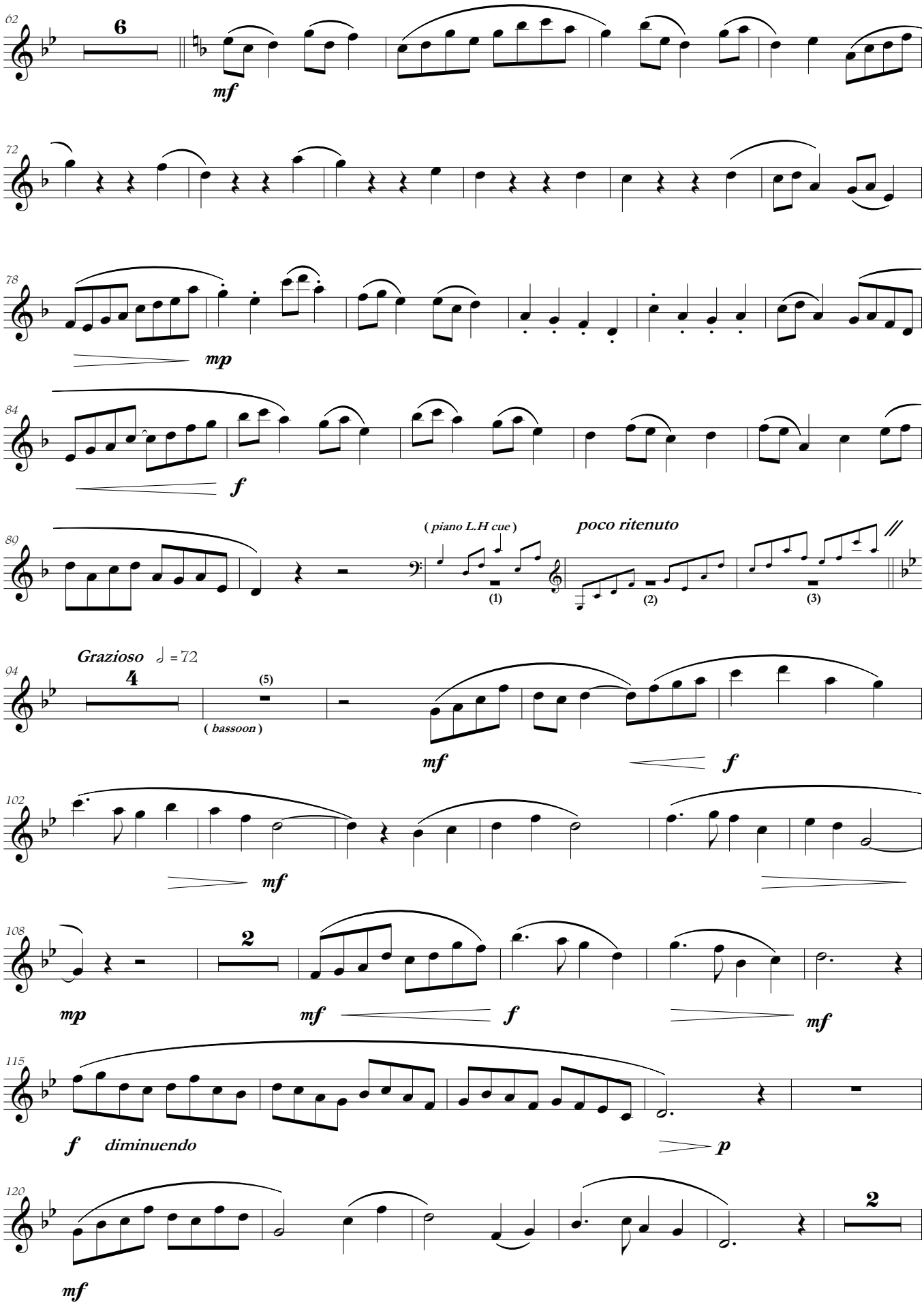
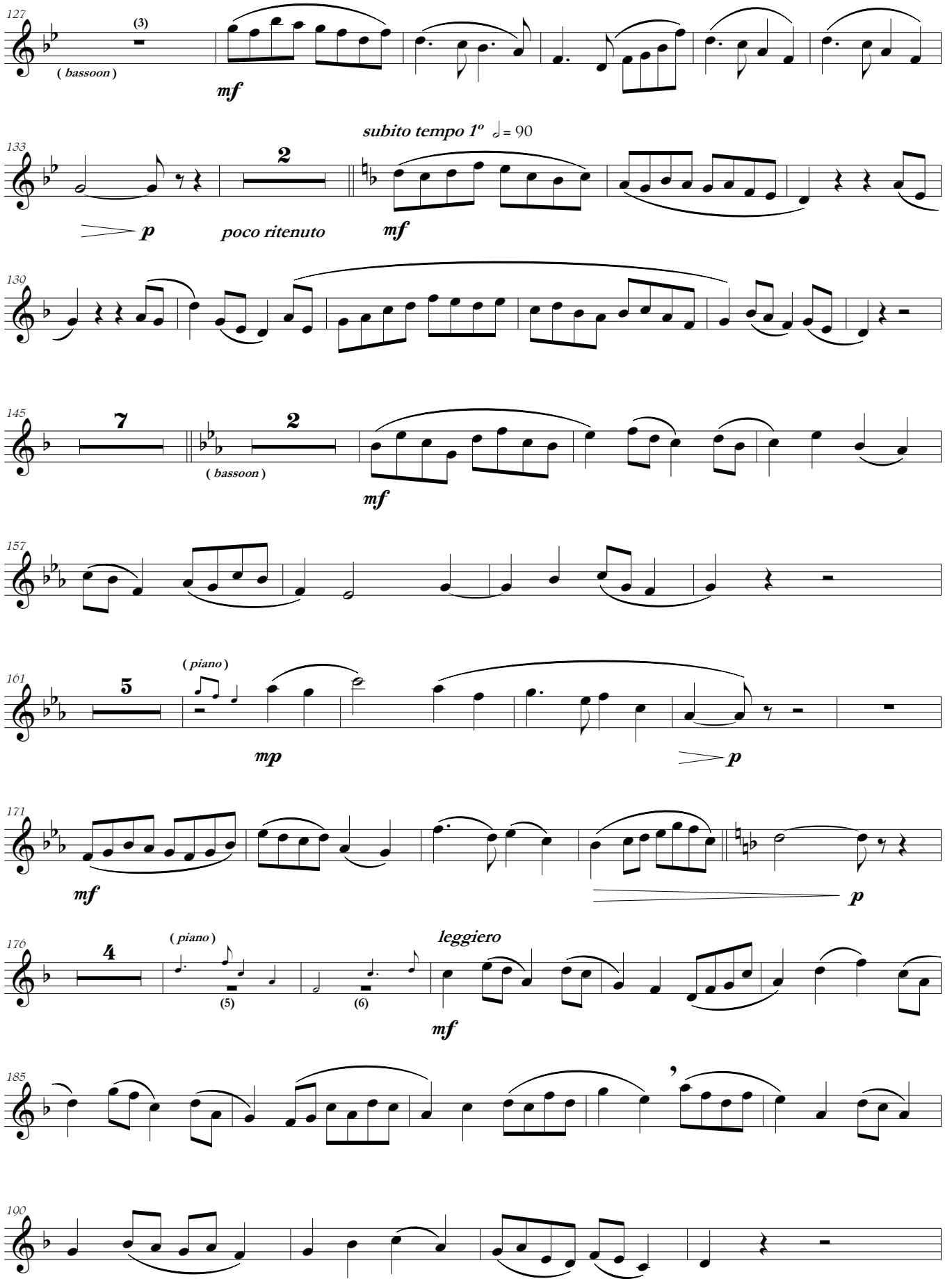
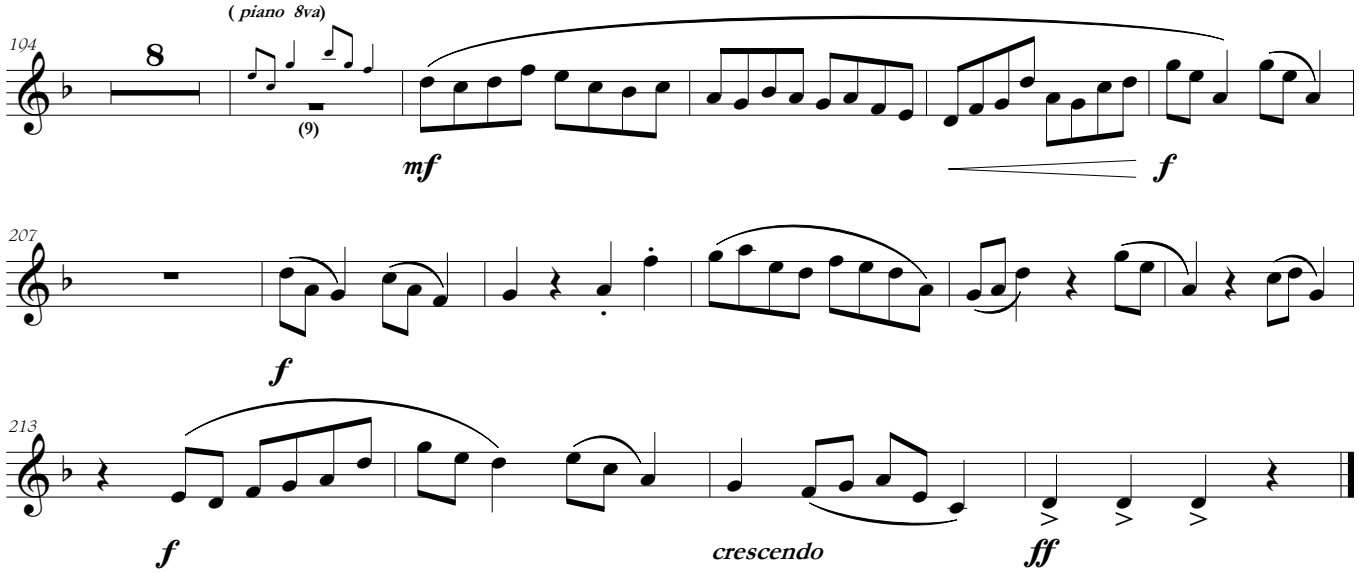
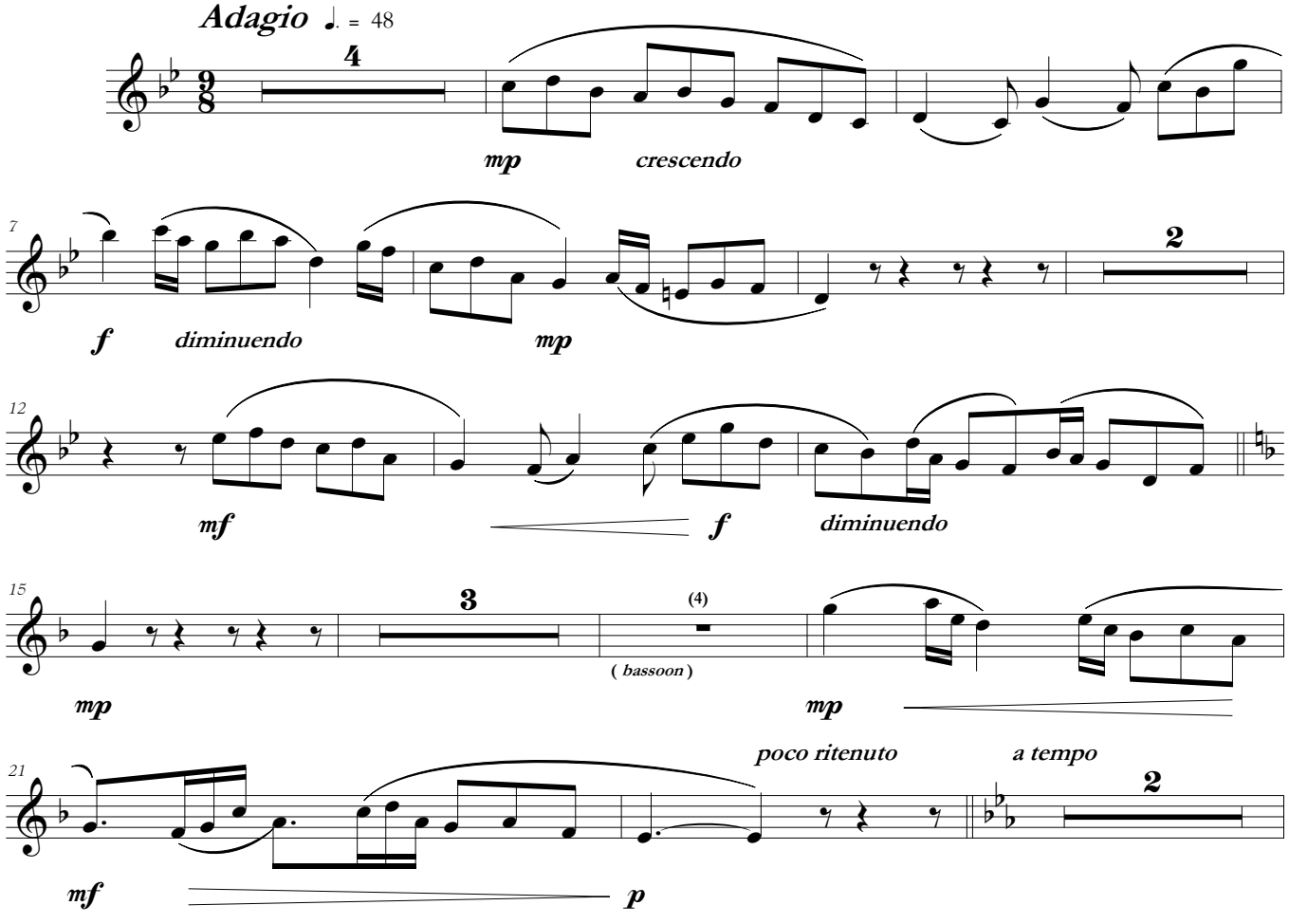

62
6
mf
72
78
mp
84
f
80
(piano L.H cue)
poco ritenuto
(1)
(2)
(3)
Grazioso ♩ = 72
94
4
(5)
(bassoon)
mf
f
102
mf
108
2
mp
mf
f
mf
115
f
diminuendo
p
120
2
mf

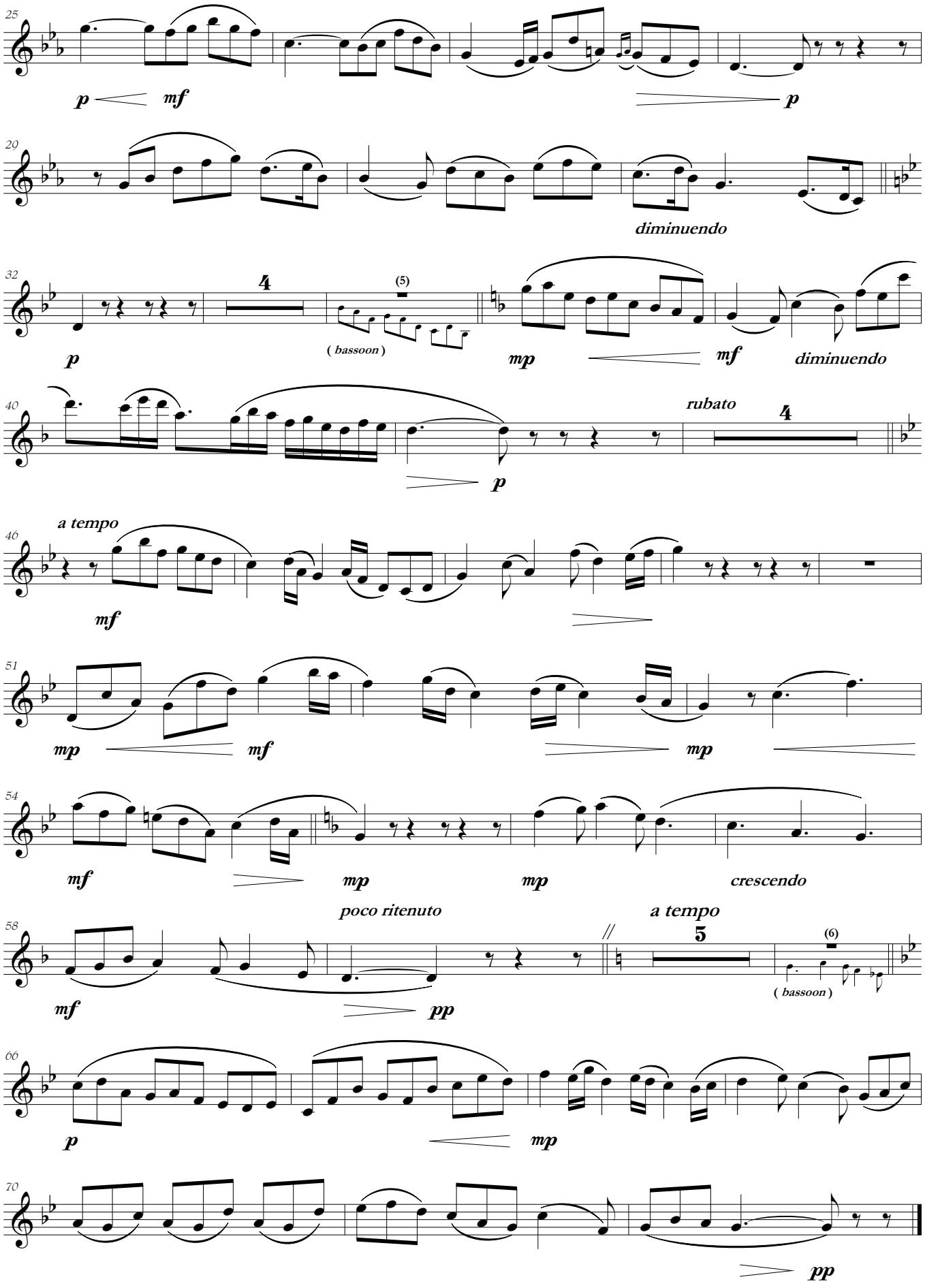

127
(3)
(bassoon)
mf
subito tempo 1º ♩= 90
133
2
p
poco ritenuto
mf
130
145
7
2
(bassoon)
mf
157
161
5
(piano)
mp
p
171
mf
p
176
4
(piano)
(5)
(6)
leggiero
mf
185
190


(piano 8va)
104
8
(9)
mf
f
207
f
213
f
crescendo
ff

II

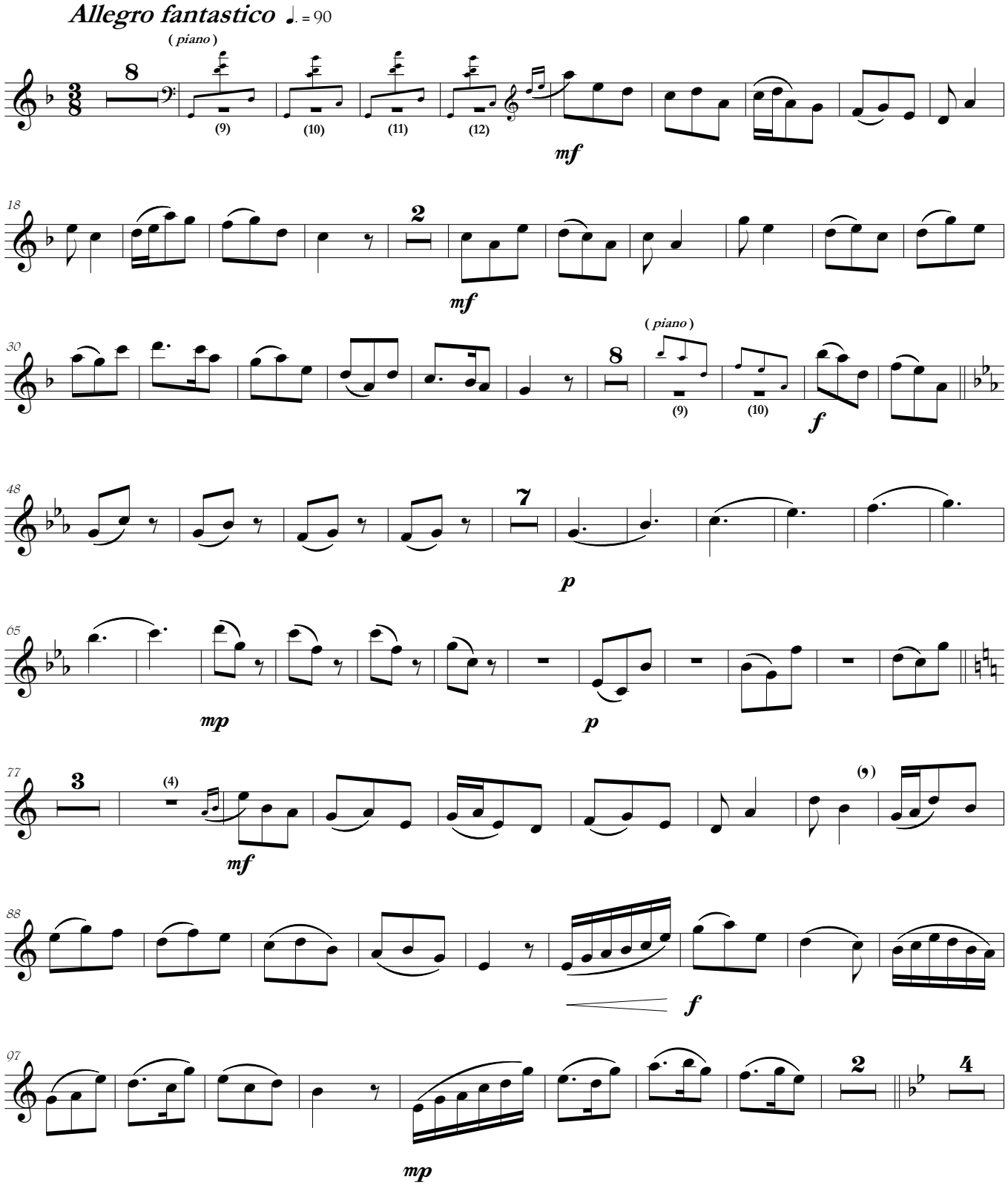
Elegy

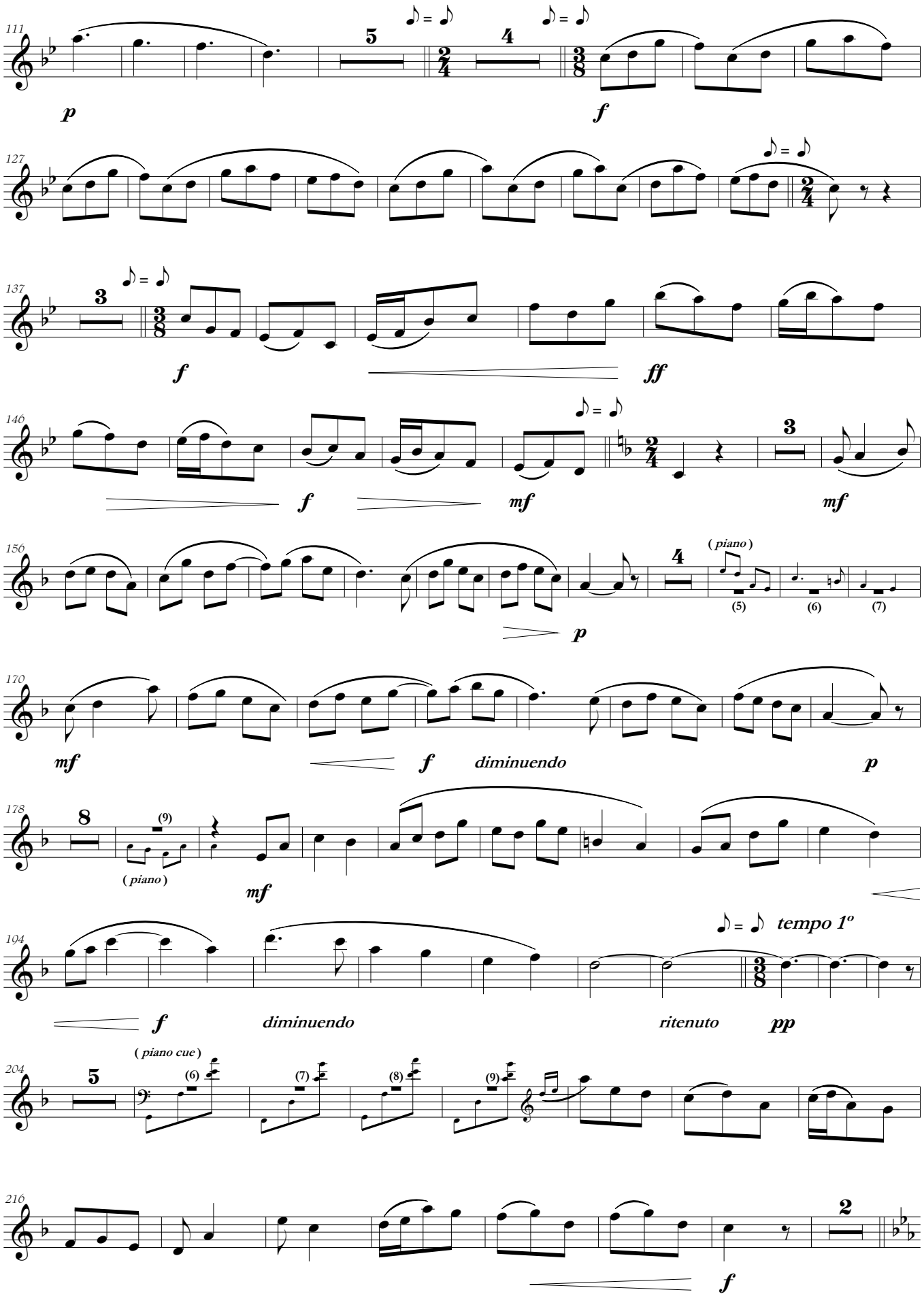

Adagio ♩. = 48
4
mp
crescendo
7
f
diminuendo
mp
2
12
mf
f
diminuendo
15
mp
3
(4)
(bassoon)
mp
poco ritenuto
a tempo
21
mf
p
2

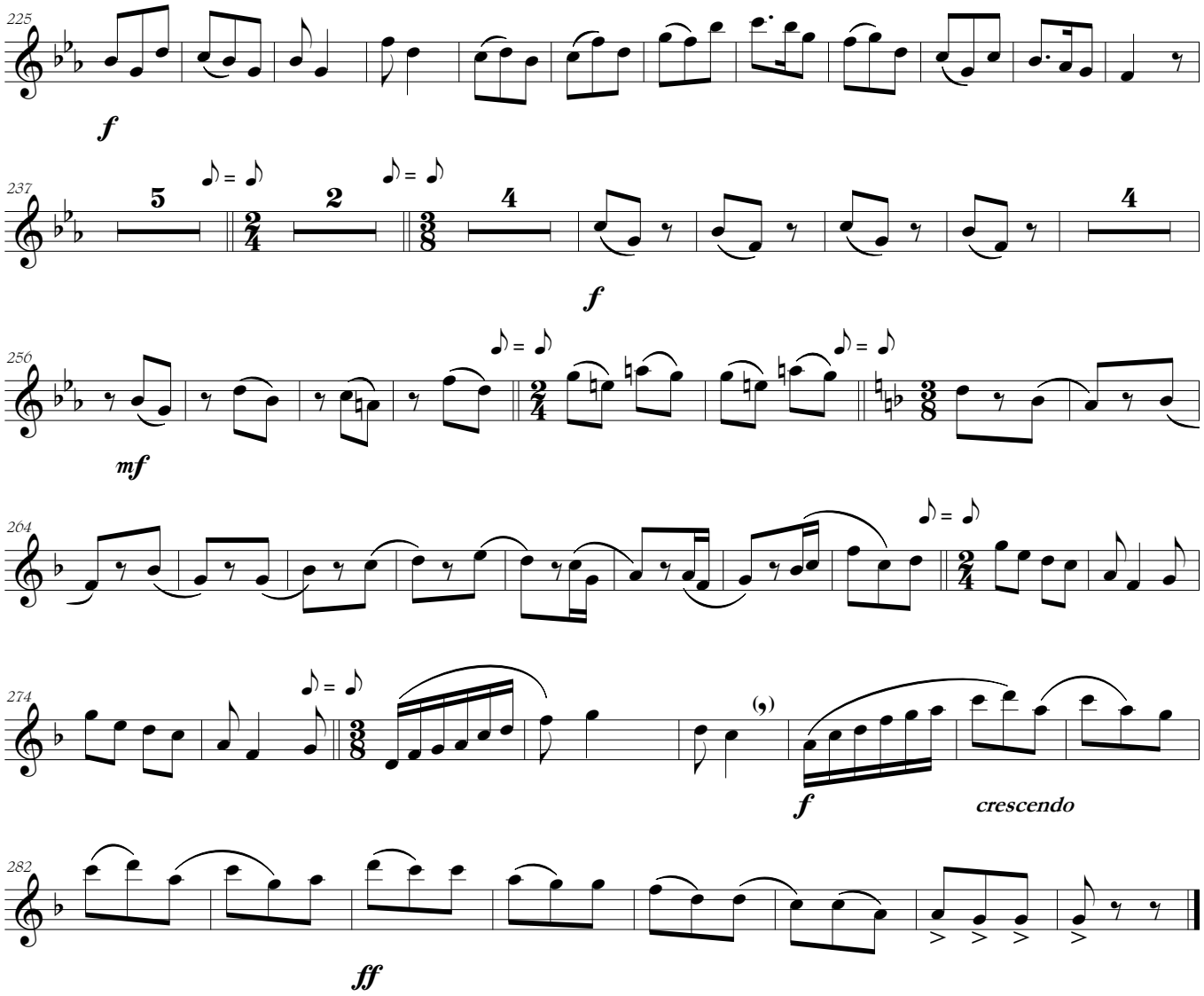

25
p
mf
p
20
diminuendo
32
4
(5)
p
(bassoon)
mp
mf
diminuendo
40
rubato
4
p
a tempo
46
mf
51
mp
mf
mp
54
mf
mp
mp
crescendo
poco ritenuto
a tempo
58
5
(6)
mf
pp
(bassoon)
66
p
mp
70
pp

III

Scherzino




111
p
f
127
137
f
ff
146
f
mf
mf
156
(piano)
(5)
(6)
(7)
p
170
mf
f
diminuendo
p
178
(piano)
(9)
mf
194
tempo 1º
f
diminuendo
ritenuto
pp
204
(piano cue)
(6)
(7)
(8)
(9)
216
f


225
f
237
5
2
4
f
256
mf
204
274
f
crescendo
282
ff

Portraits from La Commedia dell'Arte

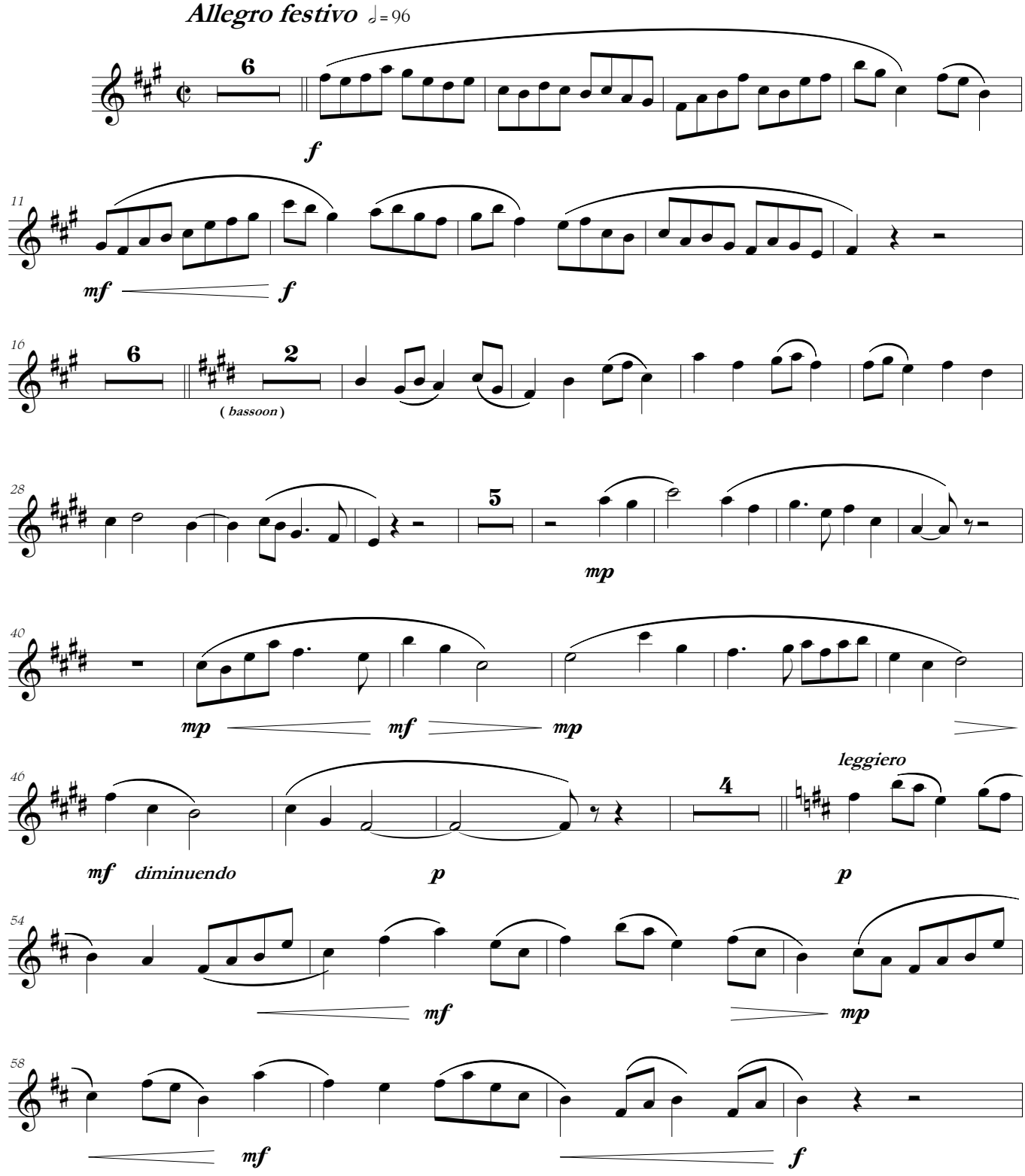
II TRIO DI FANTASIA

I

Cor anglais

Capriccio

Walter Ross
(b. 1936)



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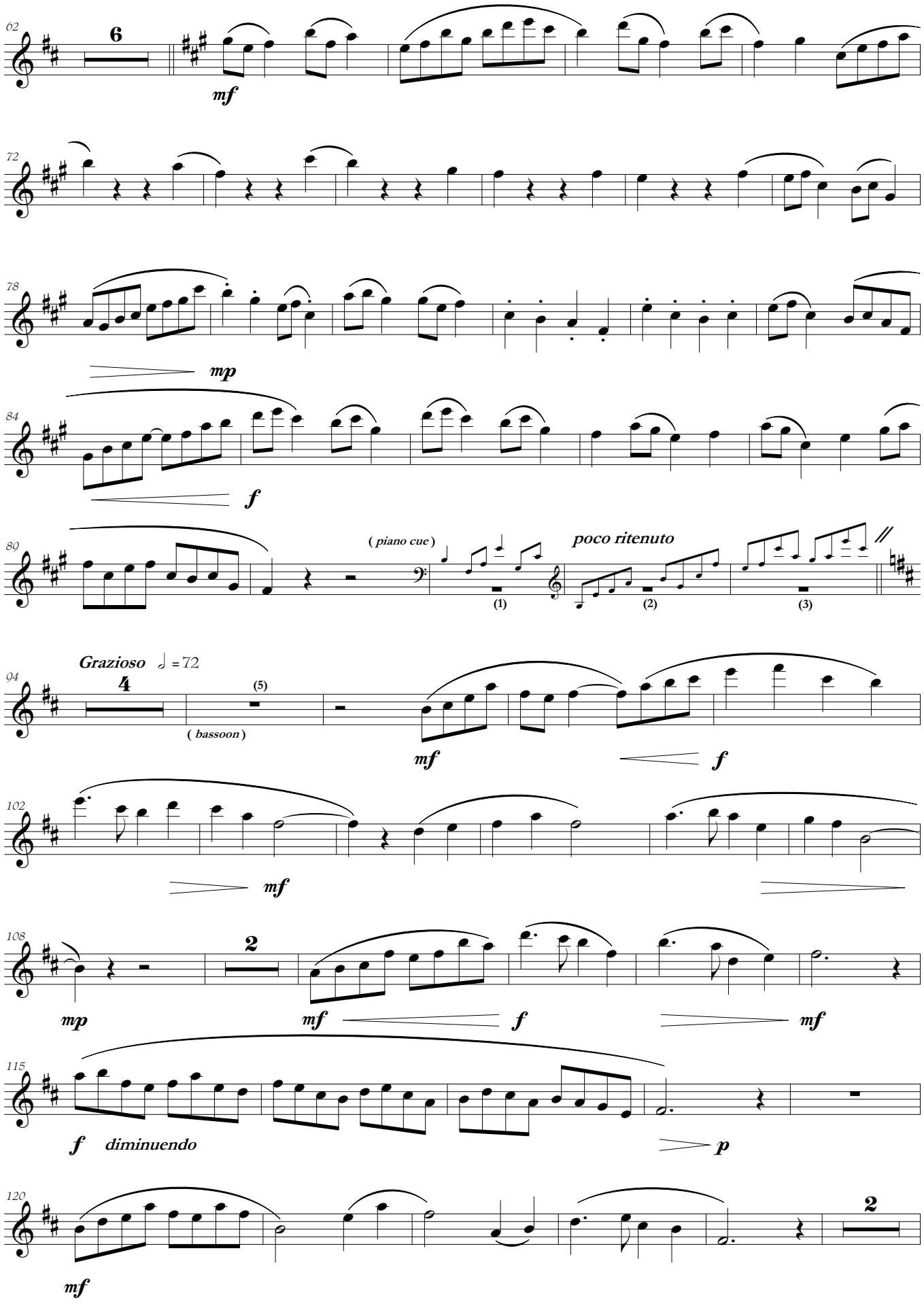
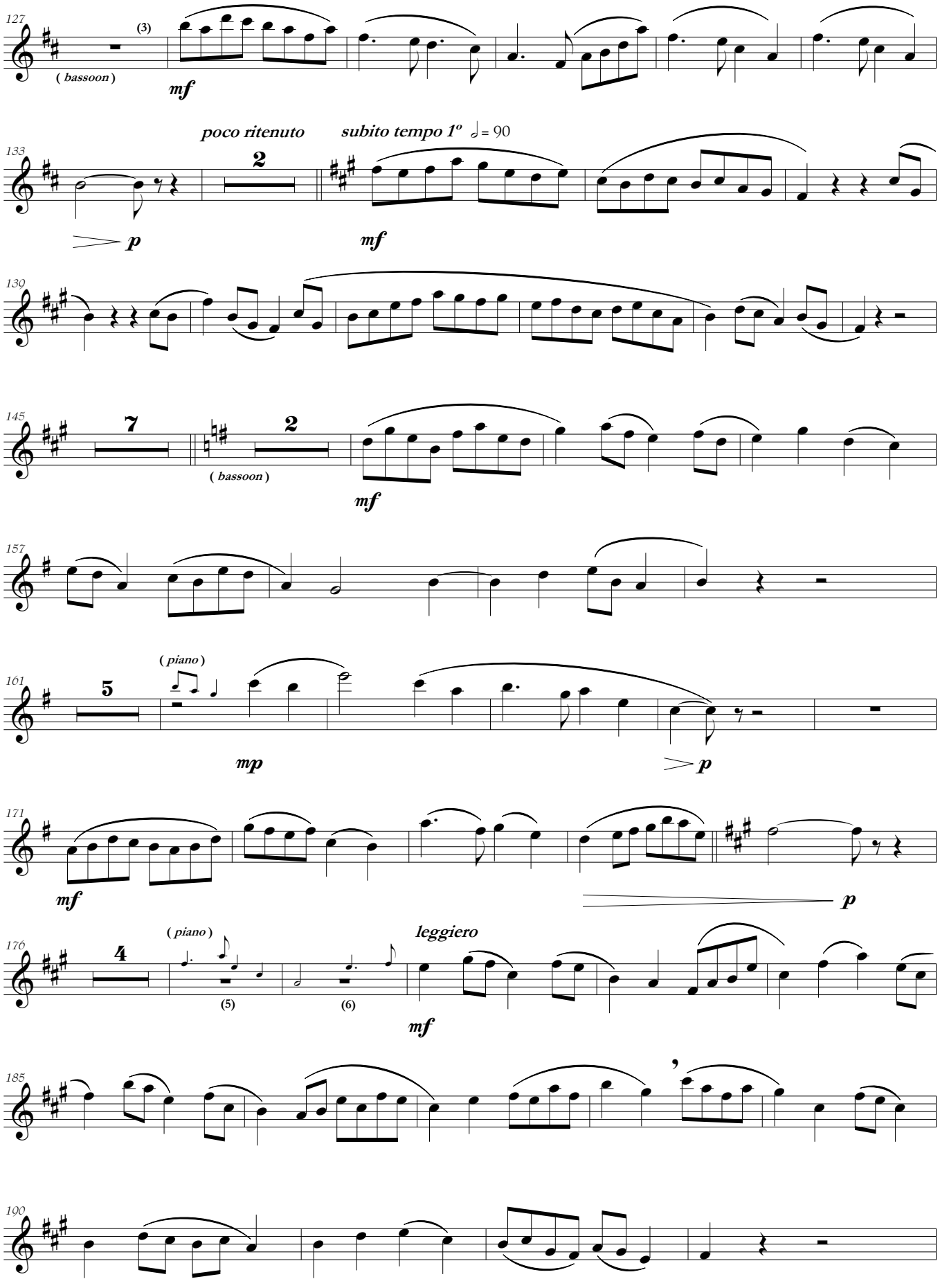
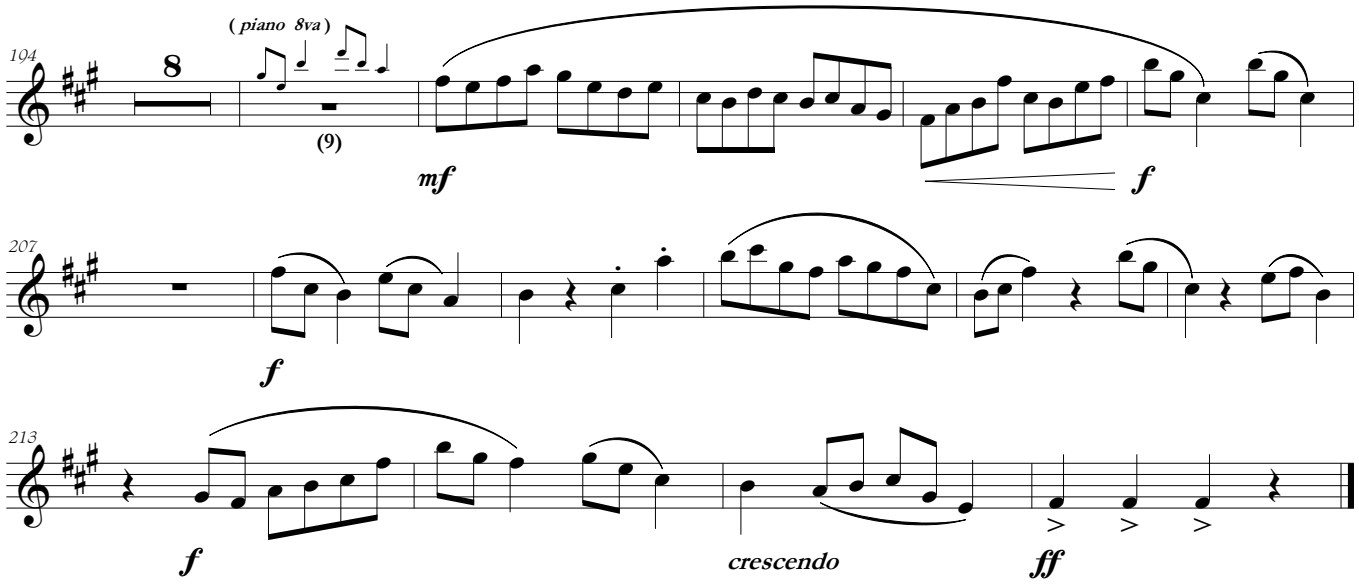
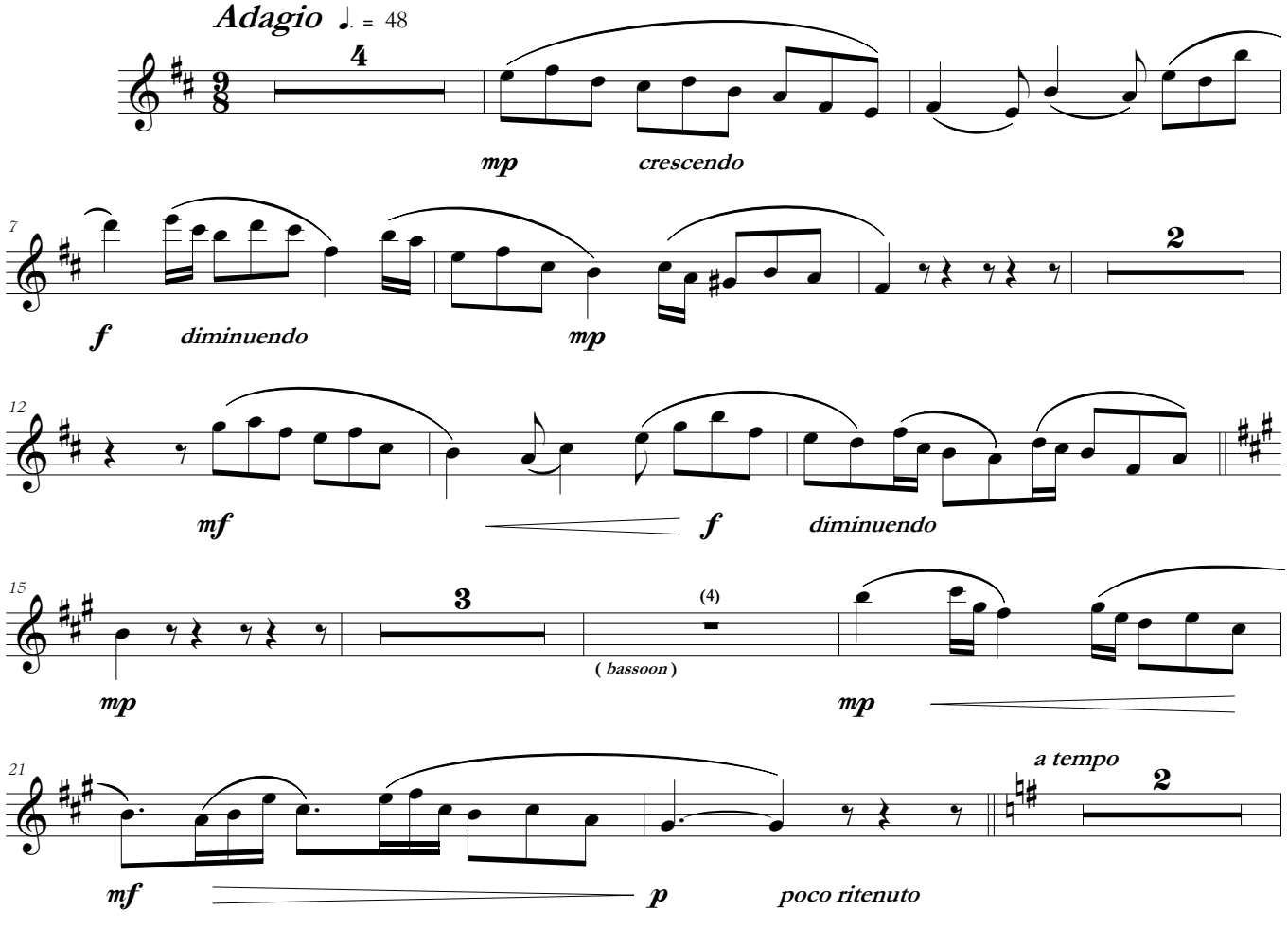

62
6
mf
72
78
mp
84
f
90
(piano cue)
(1)
poco ritenuto
(2)
(3)
94
Grazioso ♩ = 72
4
(5)
(bassoon)
mf
f
102
mf
108
2
mp
mf
f
mf
115
f diminuendo
p
120
mf
2

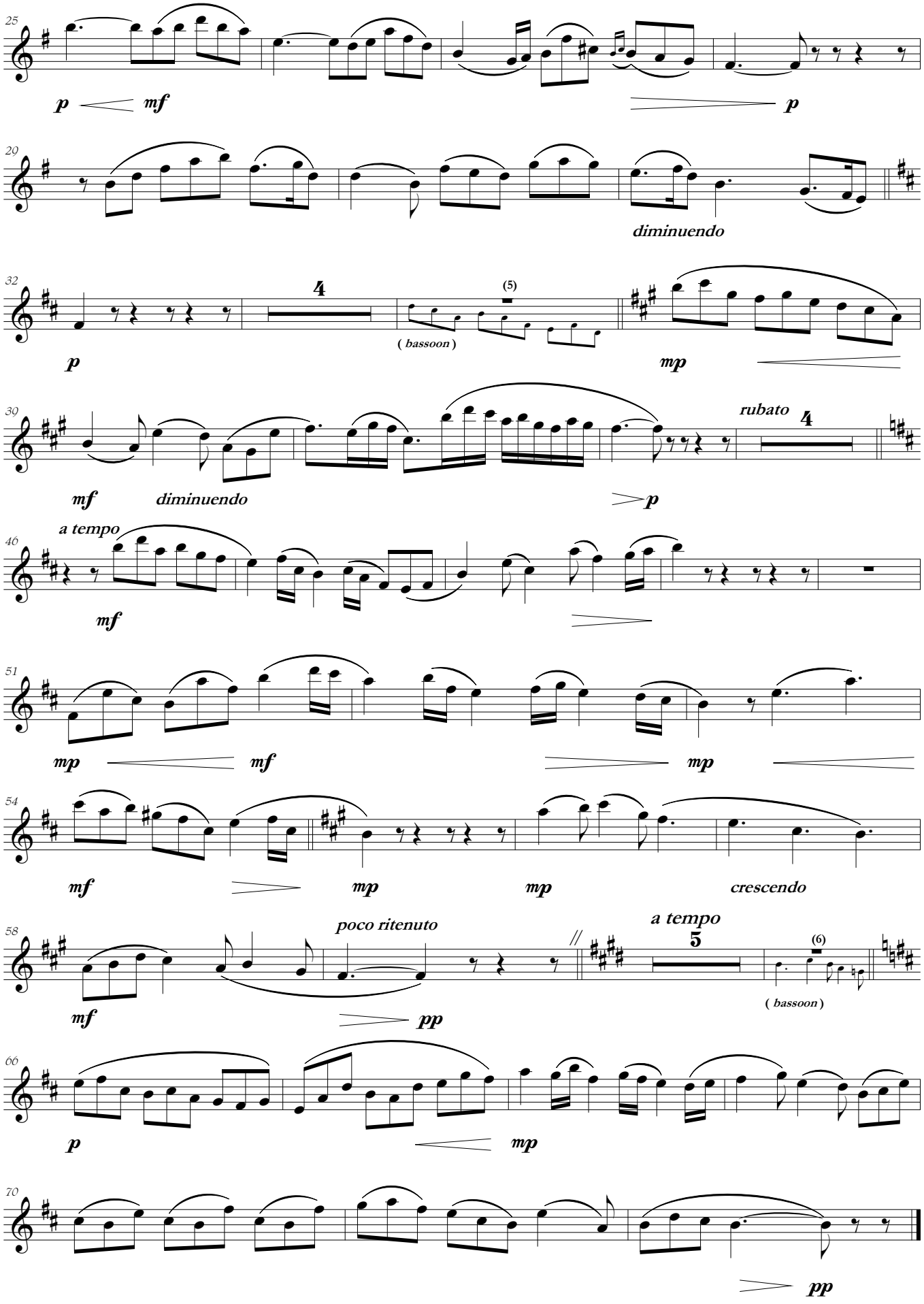

127
(3)
(bassoon)
mf
poco ritenuto
subito tempo 1º
♩= 90
133
2
p
mf
130
145
7
2
(bassoon)
mf
157
(piano)
161
5
mp
p
171
mf
p
(piano)
176
4
leggiero
(5)
(6)
mf
185
190


104
8
(piano 8va)
(9)
mf
f
207
f
213
f
crescendo
ff

II

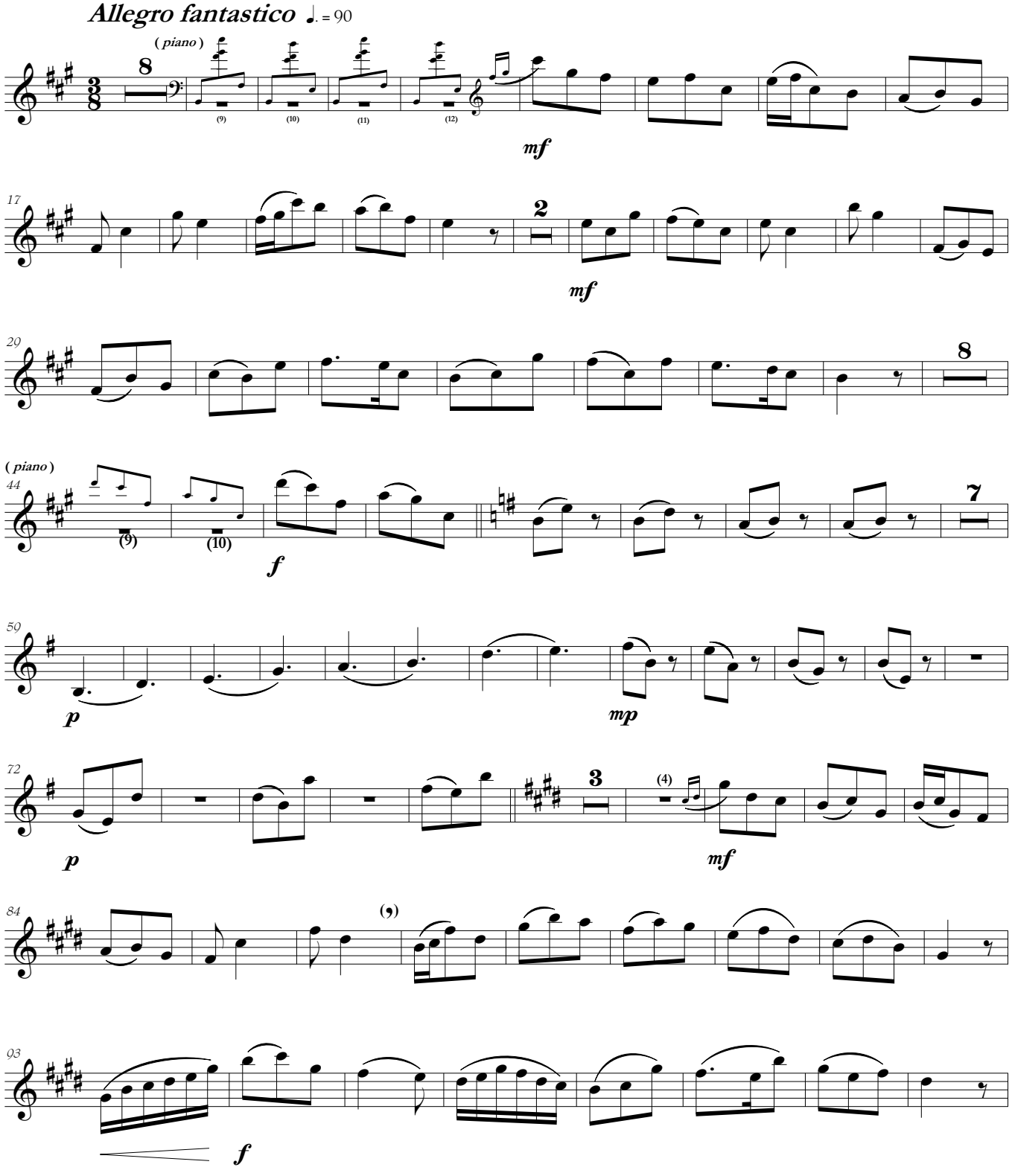
Elegy

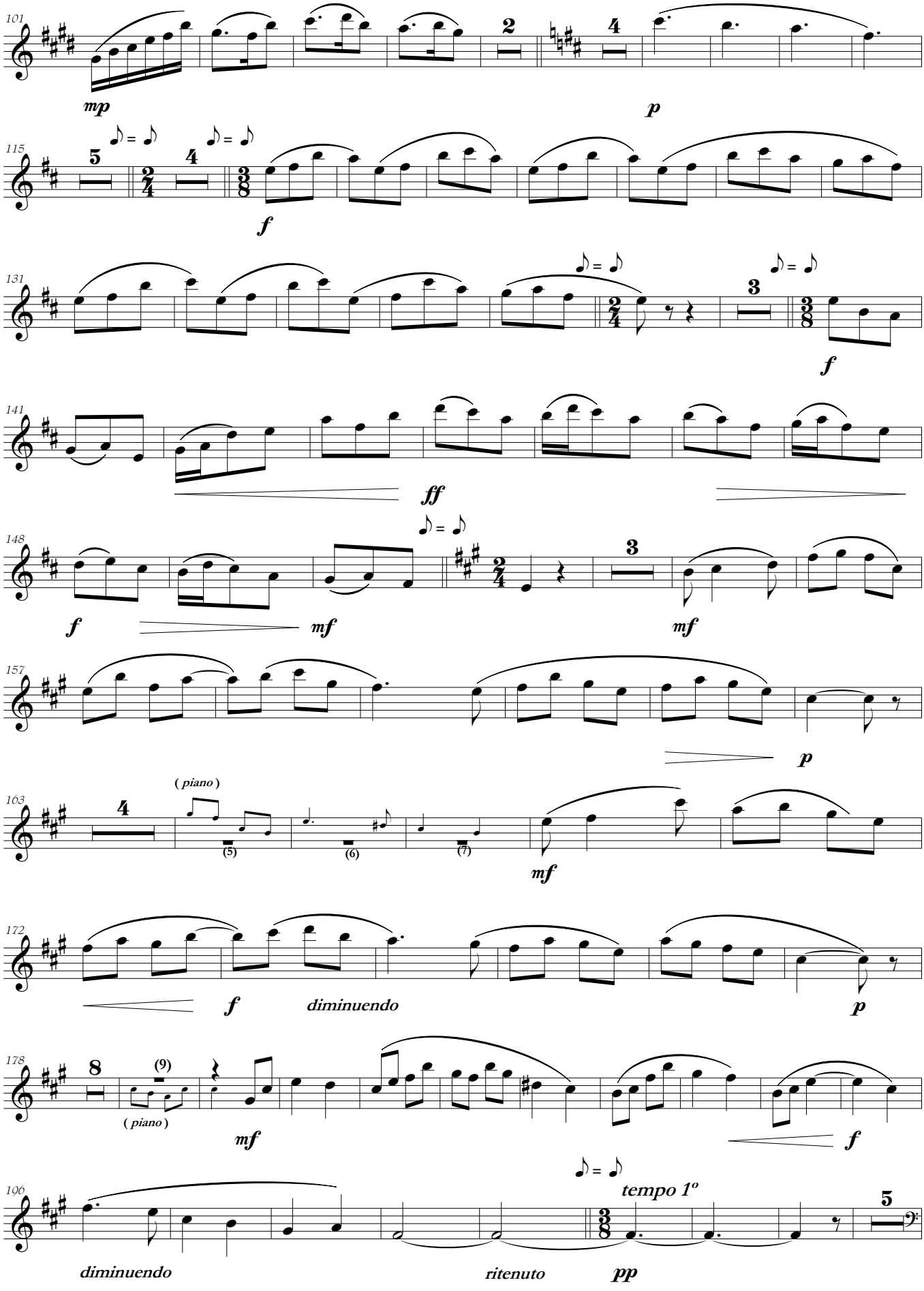

Adagio ♩. = 48
4
mp
crescendo
7
f
diminuendo
mp
2
12
mf
f
diminuendo
15
mp
3
(4)
(bassoon)
mp
21
mf
p
poco ritenuto
a tempo
2

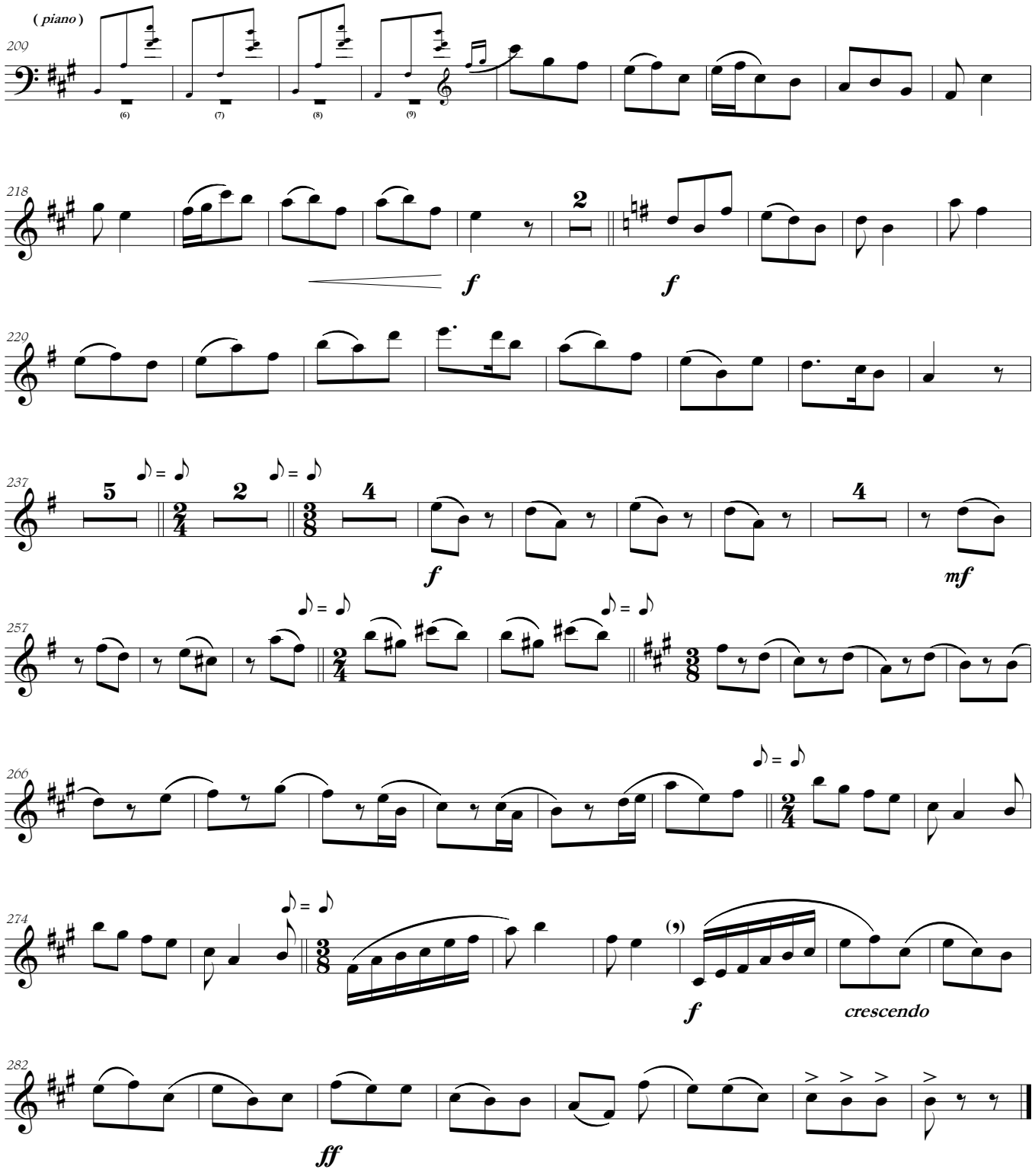

25
p
mf
p
20
diminuendo
32
4
(5)
(bassoon)
p
mp
30
rubato
4
mf
diminuendo
p
a tempo
40
mf
51
mp
mf
mp
54
mf
mp
mp
crescendo
58
poco ritenuto
a tempo
5
(6)
mf
pp
(bassoon)
66
p
mp
70
pp

III

Scherzino




101
mp
2
4
p
115
5
4
f
131
3
f
141
ff
148
f
mf
3
mf
157
p
163
4
(piano)
(5)
(6)
(7)
mf
172
f
diminuendo
p
178
8
(9)
(piano)
mf
f
196
diminuendo
ritenuto
pp
tempo 1º
5


(piano)
209
(6)
(7)
(8)
(9)
218
2
f
f
220
237
5
2
4
4
f
mf
257
206
274
f
crescendo
282
ff

for Jennifer Paull

Portraits from La Commedia dell'Arte

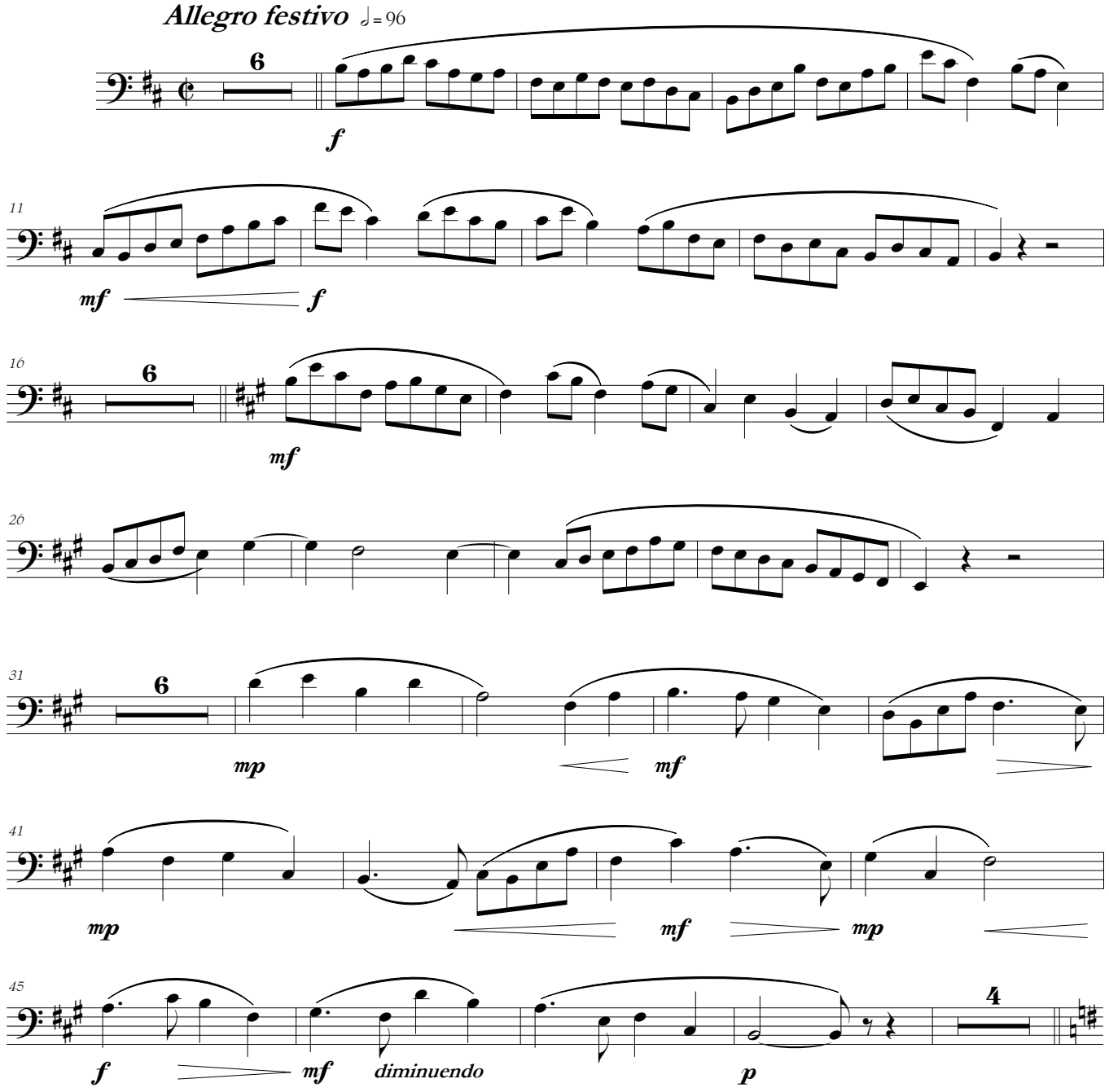
II TRIO DI FANTASIA

I

Bassoon

Capriccio

Walter Ross
(b. 1936)



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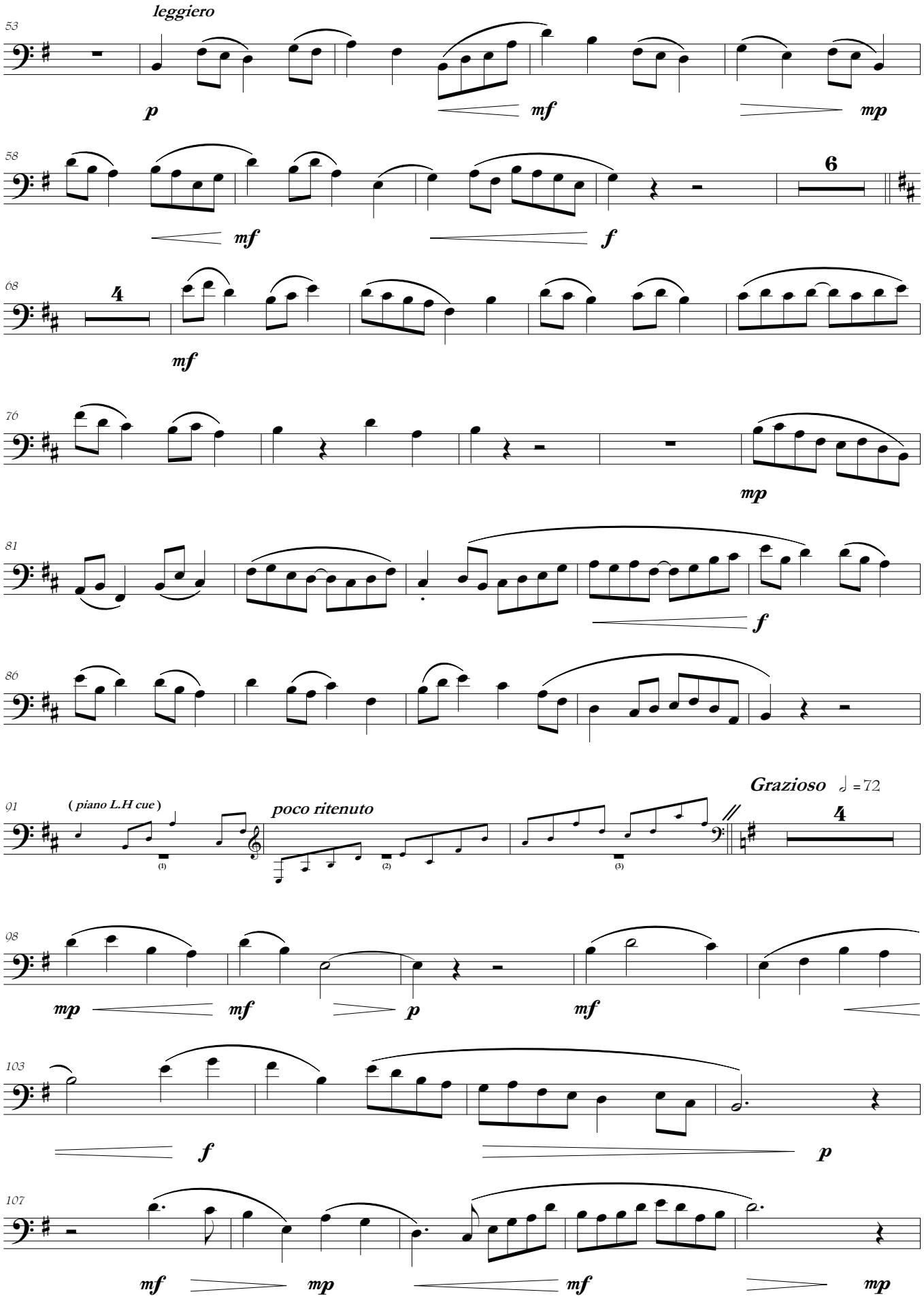
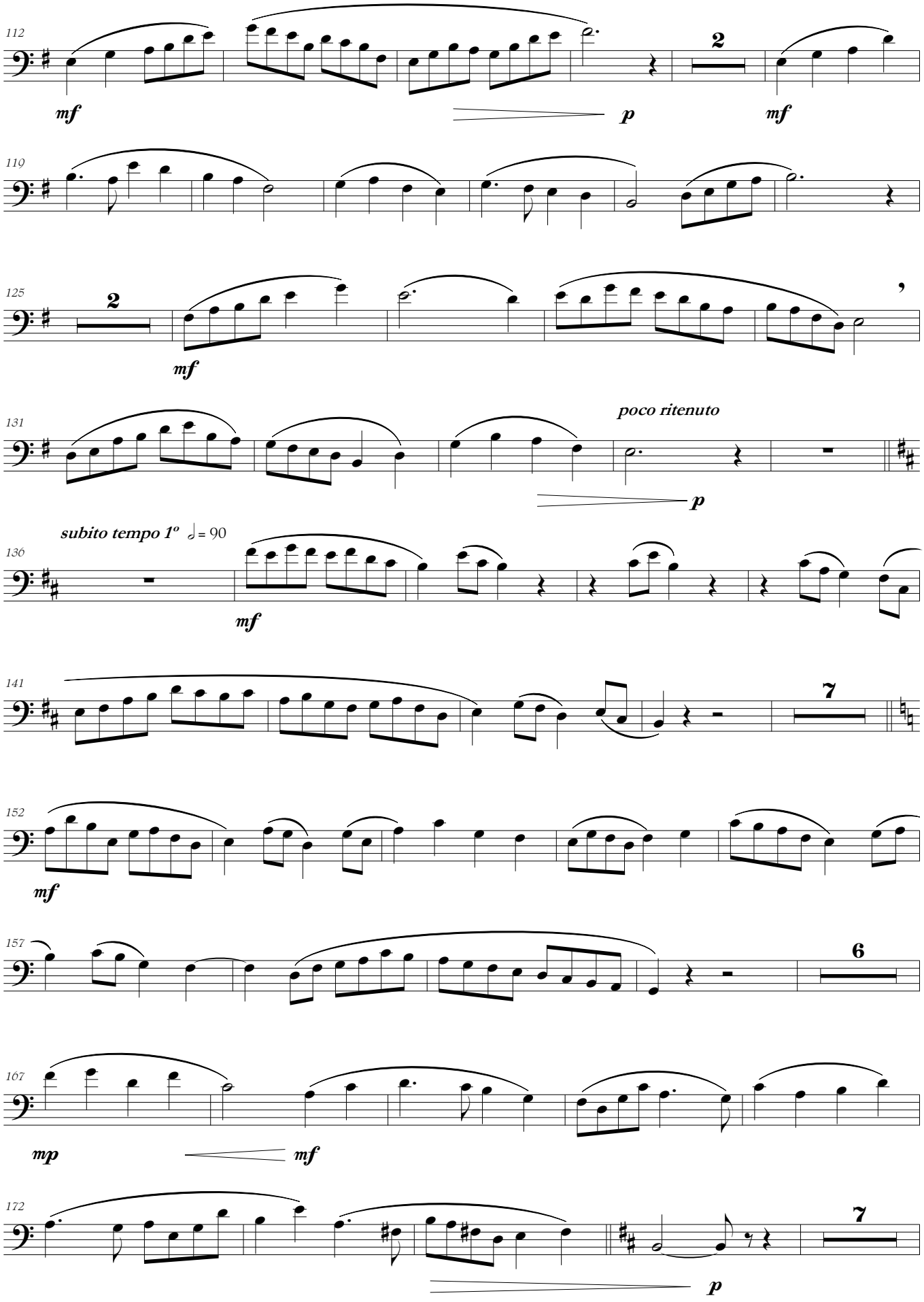
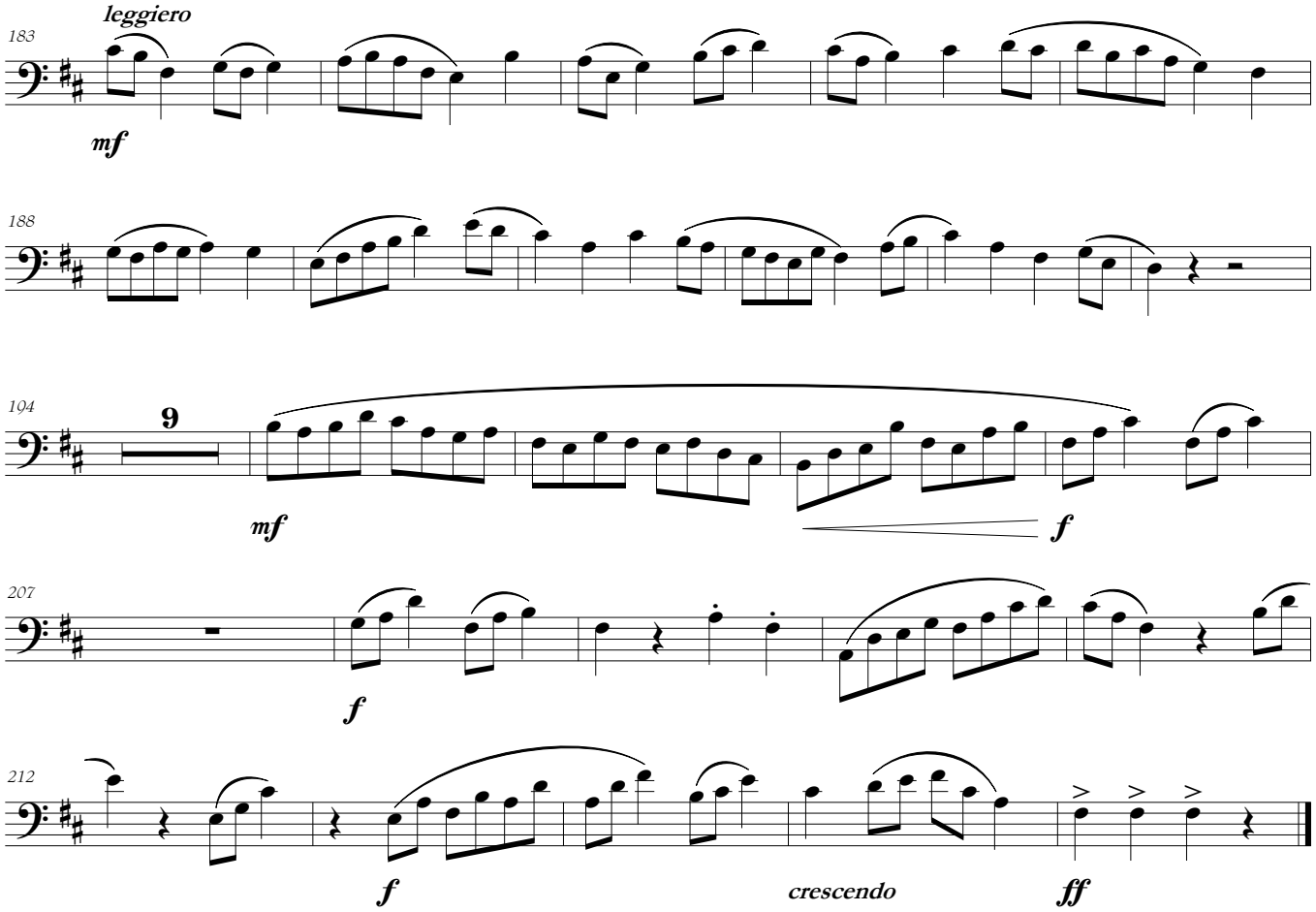
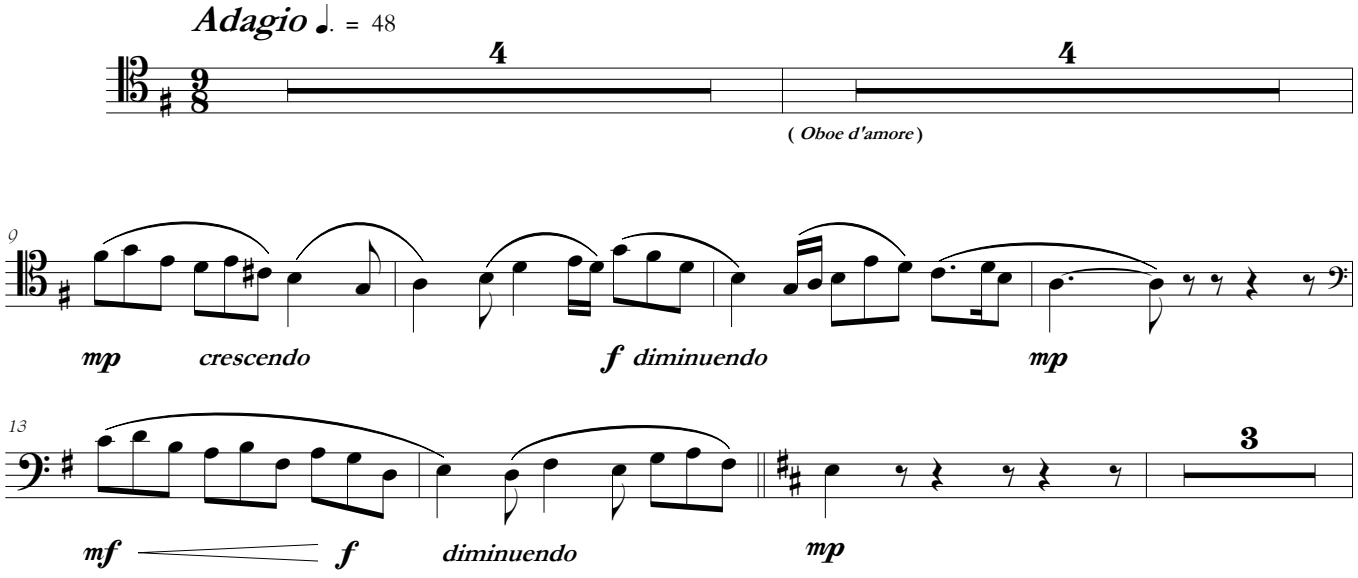

leggiero
53
p
mf
mp
58
6
mf
f
68
4
mf
76
mp
81
f
86
Grazioso ♩ = 72
91
(piano L.H cue)
poco ritenuto
4
98
mp
mf
p
mf
103
f
p
107
mf
mp
mf
mp

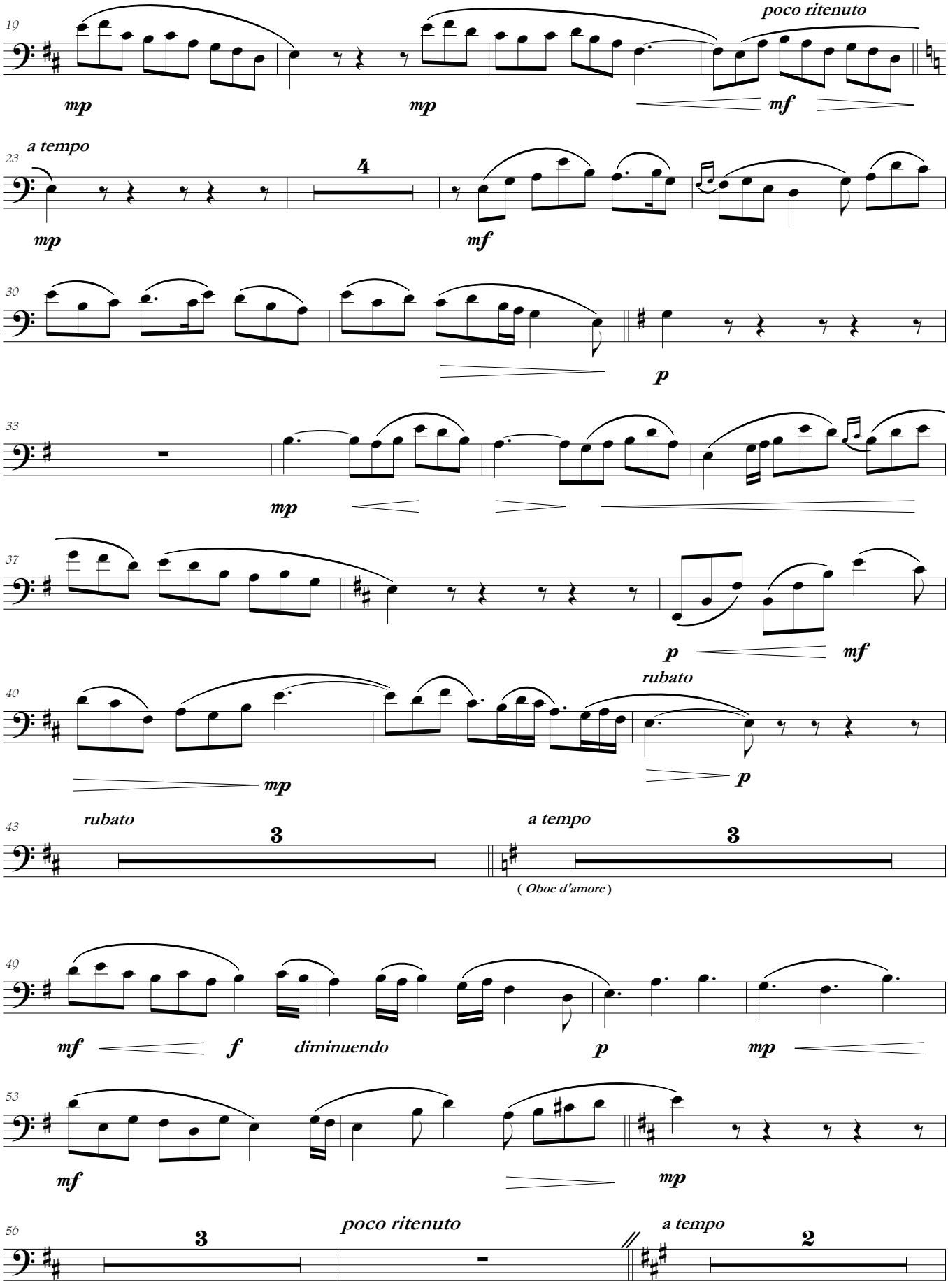

112
mf
p
2
mf
119
125
2
mf
131
poco ritenuto
p
subito tempo 1º ♩= 90
136
mf
141
7
152
mf
157
6
167
mp
mf
172
7
p

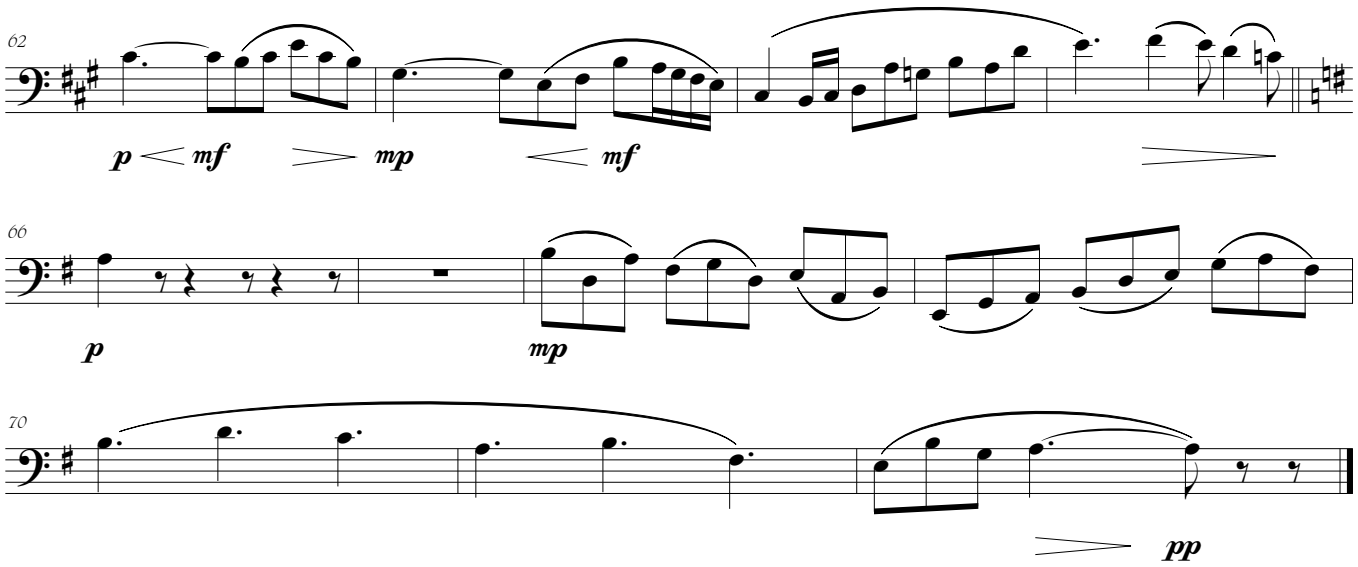

leggiero
183
mf
188
194
9
mf
f
207
f
212
f
crescendo
ff

II

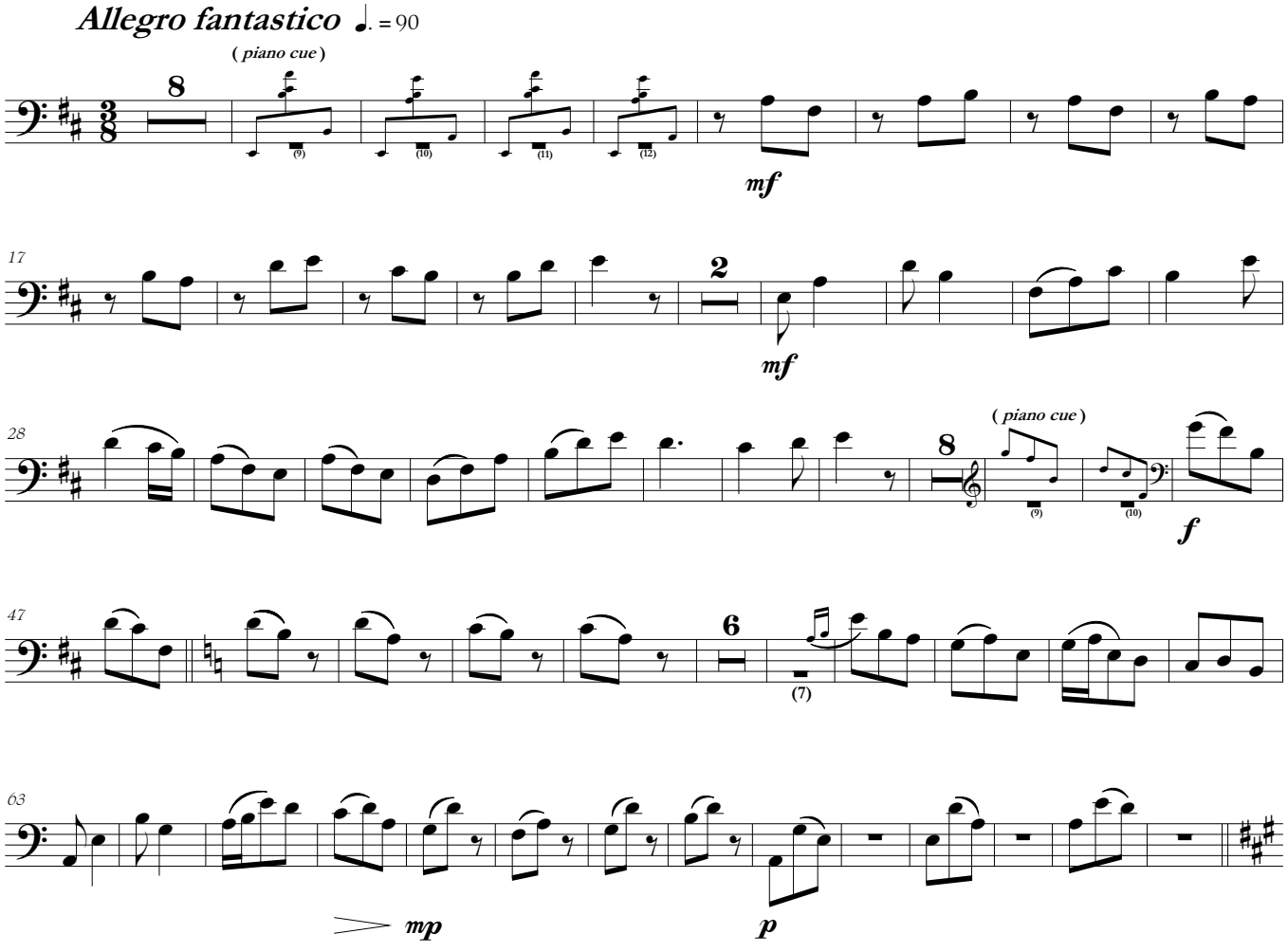
Elegy

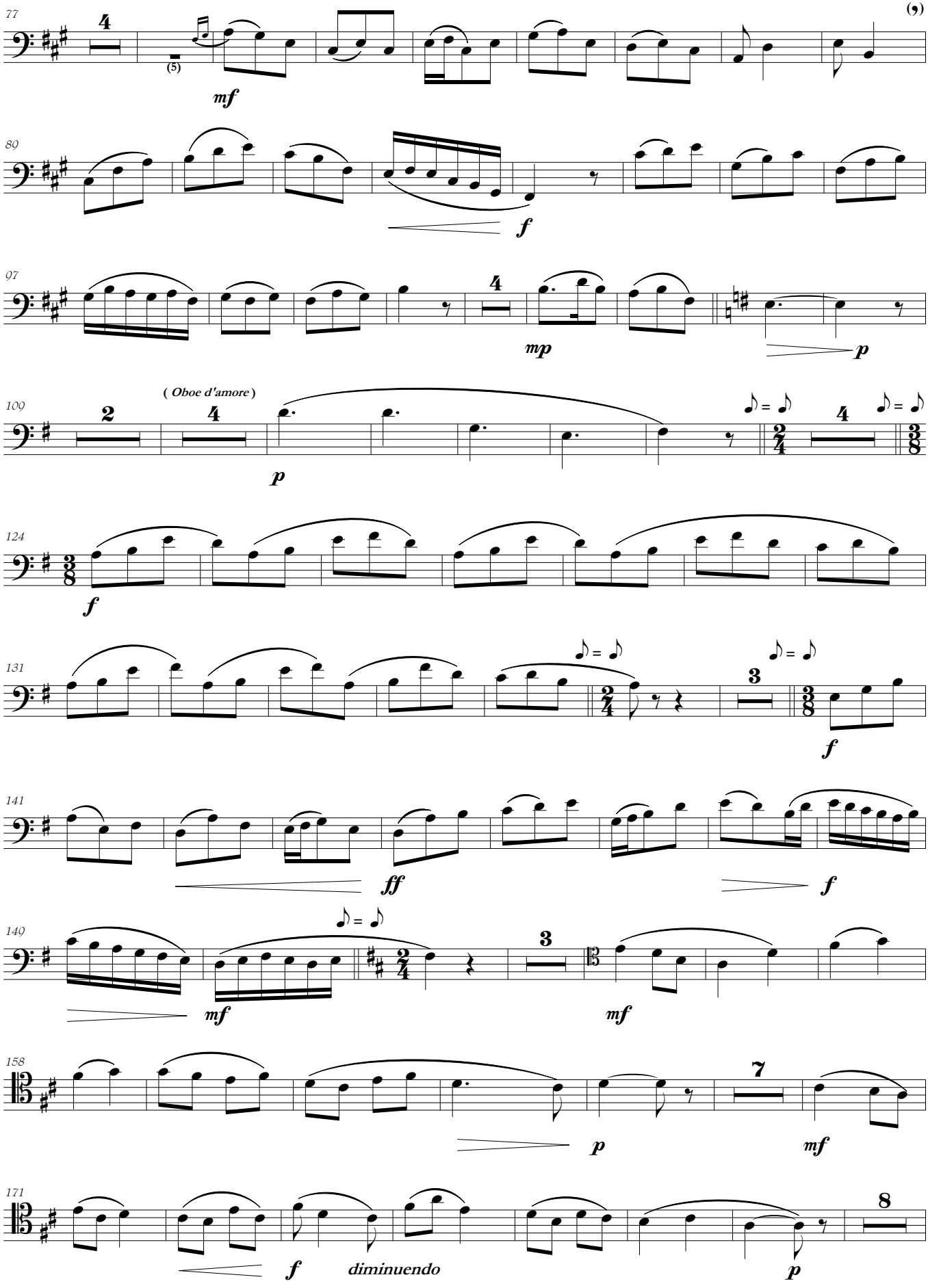

Adagio ♩. = 48
4
4
(Oboe d'amore)
0
mp
crescendo
f diminuendo
mp
13
3
mf
f
diminuendo
mp

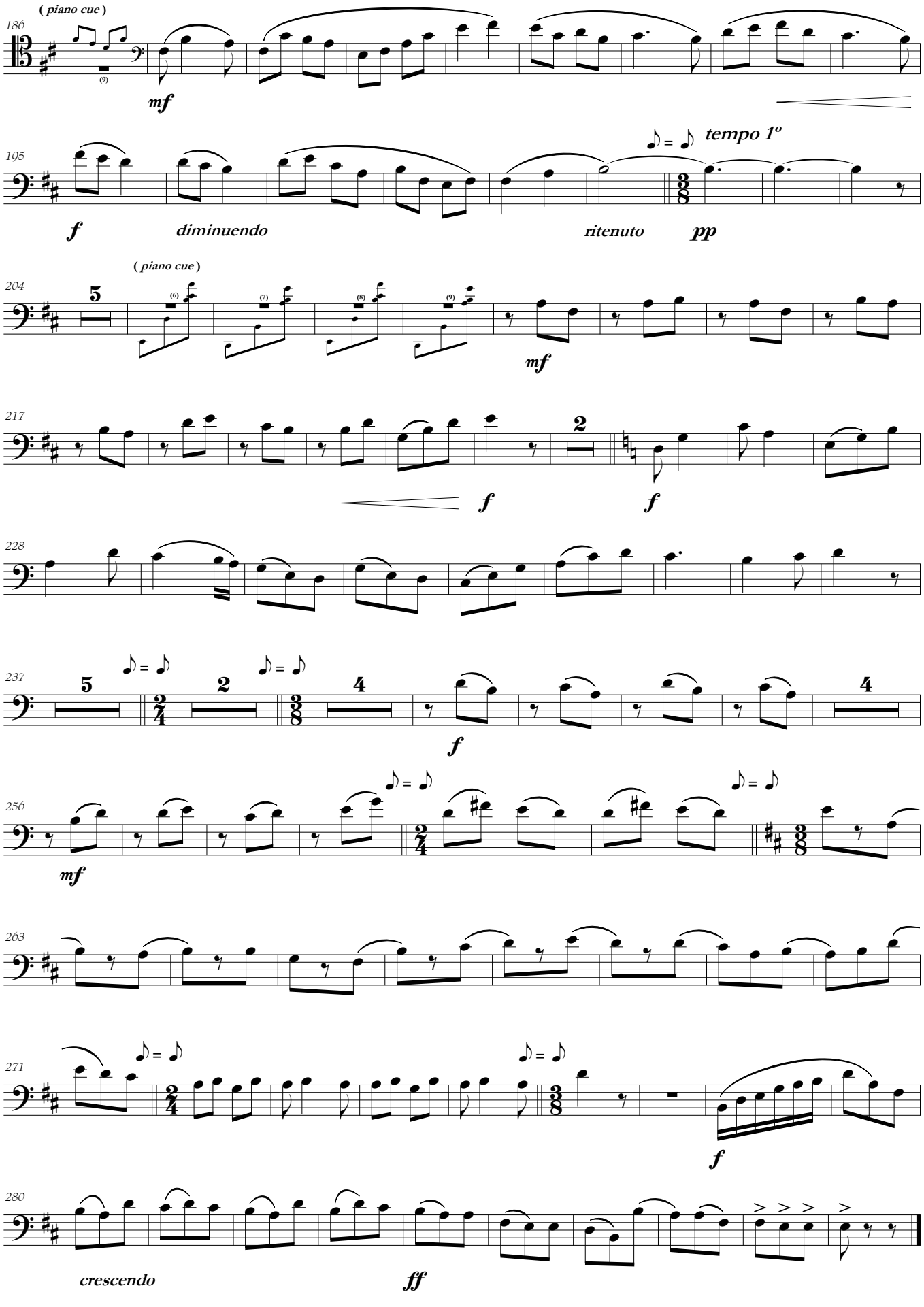

10
poco ritenuto
mp
mp
mf
23
a tempo
4
mp
mf
30
p
33
mp
37
p
mf
40
rubato
mp
p
43
rubato
3
a tempo
3
(Oboe d'amore)
40
mf
f
diminuendo
p
mp
53
mf
mp
56
3
poco ritenuto
a tempo
2



III
Scherzino




77
4
(5)
mf
89
f
97
4
mp
p
109
2
4
(Oboe d'amore)
p
124
f
131
3
f
141
ff
f
149
mf
3
mf
158
p
7
mf
171
f
diminuendo
8
p


(piano cue)
186
mf
105
f
diminuendo
ritenuto
pp
tempo 1º
(piano cue)
204
mf
217
f
f
228
237
f
256
mf
263
271
f
280
crescendo
ff