Full Score

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

Holberg Suite Op40 arranged for 5-part Cello Ensemble

Performance notes

The Holberg Suite (formally titled "from Holberg's time" and subtitled "in olden style") was composed by Grieg in 1884 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of the Danish-Norwegian playwright Ludvig Holberg. It takes its structure from the forms of the 18th century. Grieg's original version was for piano with the version for strings appearing a year later.

The present arrangement for 5-part Cello Ensemble (or 5 solo cellos) is of moderate to advanced difficulty. The melody lines have been shared among the parts to a greater degree than in the original string orchestra version, although Cello 1 tends to take the lead. The five movements (Praelude, Sarabande, Gavotte with Musette, Air and Rigaudon) are in the keys of the original string orchestra version. However, an alternative version of the Rigaudon has also been included in C major rather than G Major, so that the very fast upper lines lie "under the hand" in first position, as they do in the first violin parts of the original string orchestral version. This could allow a performance of the Rigaudon to approach the minim=144 metronome mark in the score, although it should be noted that, even when performed by string orchestras, a tempo of minim=120 or less is more common for this movement.
The C major version also makes it easier to play the main tune "spiccato", as marked by Grieg.

The main tune of the Air has been written at the exact pitch of the first violin part in the string orchestra version. However, an ossia version an octave lower has also been included in this arrangement to be used as an alternative, if desired.

Timings:
Using the original metronome markings, the duration of the five movements are approximately
1. Praelude = 2minutes:30 seconds
2. Sarabande = 4:40
3. Gavotte + Musette = 3:20
4. Air = 4:20
5. Rigaudon = 3:20

Bergen was Grieg's home town, and the Bergen Philharmonic timings of the five movements are 2:43, 4:00, 3:48, 5:35, 3:52 , a total of 19:58.
An outstanding recording of the Franz Liszt Chamber orchestra is available on three Youtube files (www.youtube.com/watch?v=1J_U1TeYpYQ www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqqBNBWw_GA and www.youtube.com/watch?v=CijcB2zw3bo) . The timings of the 5 movements are 2:44, 3:12, 3:06, 5:27, 3:25, including a particularly crisp Rigaudon, the total time being 17:54

This arrangement was made for James Halsey and members of the Giant Cello Ensemble to perform at the annual Aboyne Cello Festival (in Aberdeenshire, Scotland) on 20th July 2013.
Gwyn Seymour, Stonehaven, Scotland May 2013
d.g.seymour@abdn.ac.uk

Holberg Suite Op40

I Praelude

Allegro Vivace ♩ = 76

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)
arranged by Gwyn Seymour
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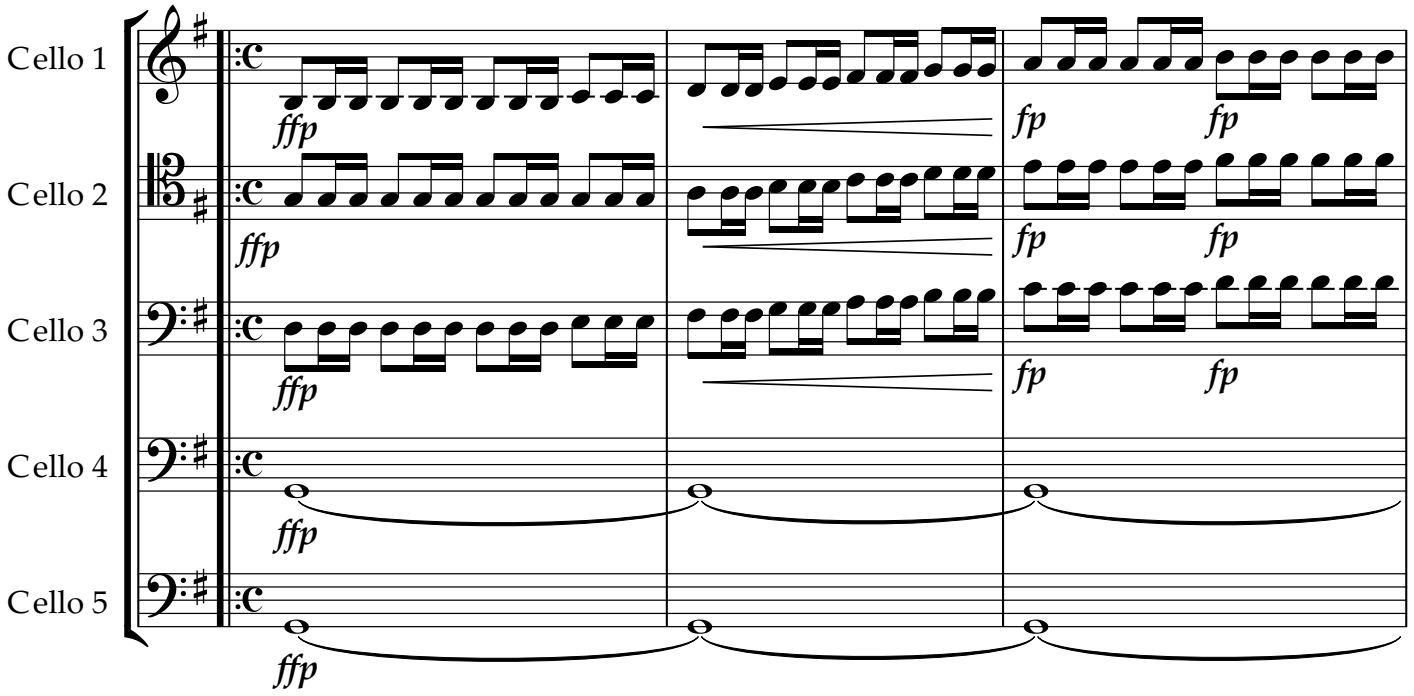
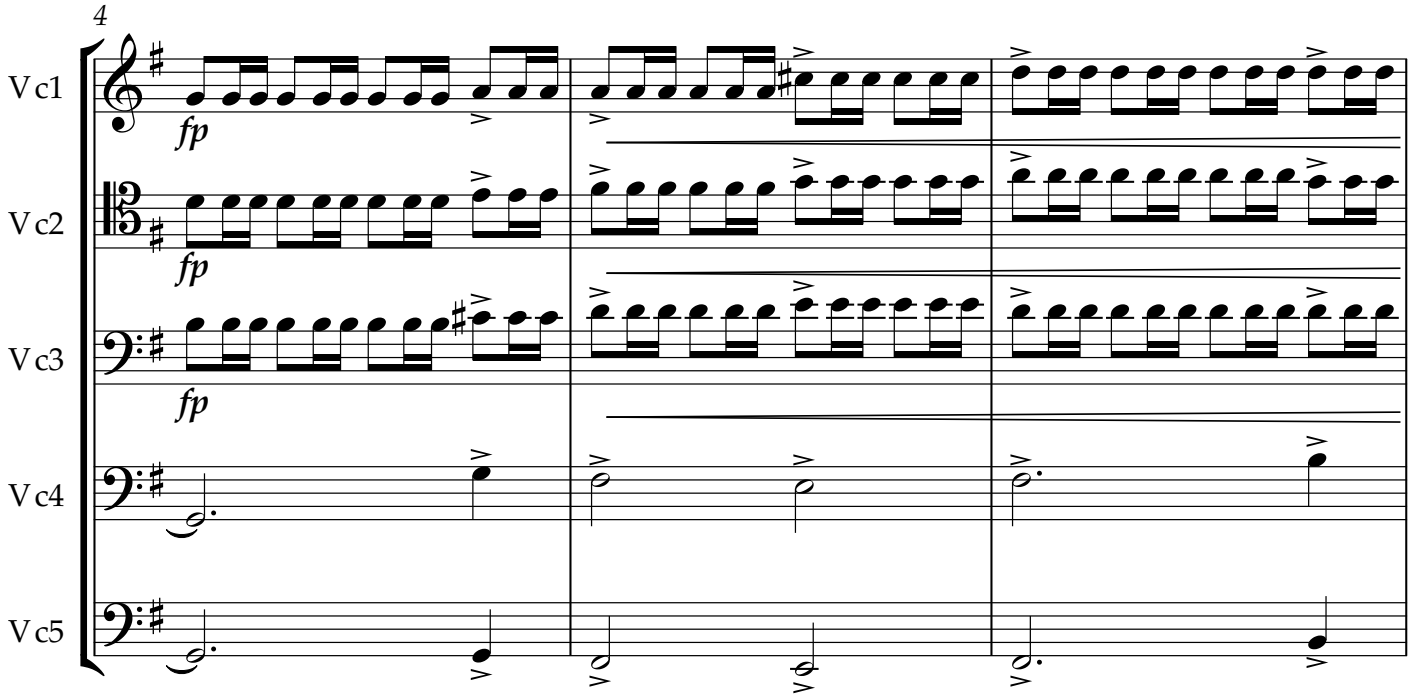
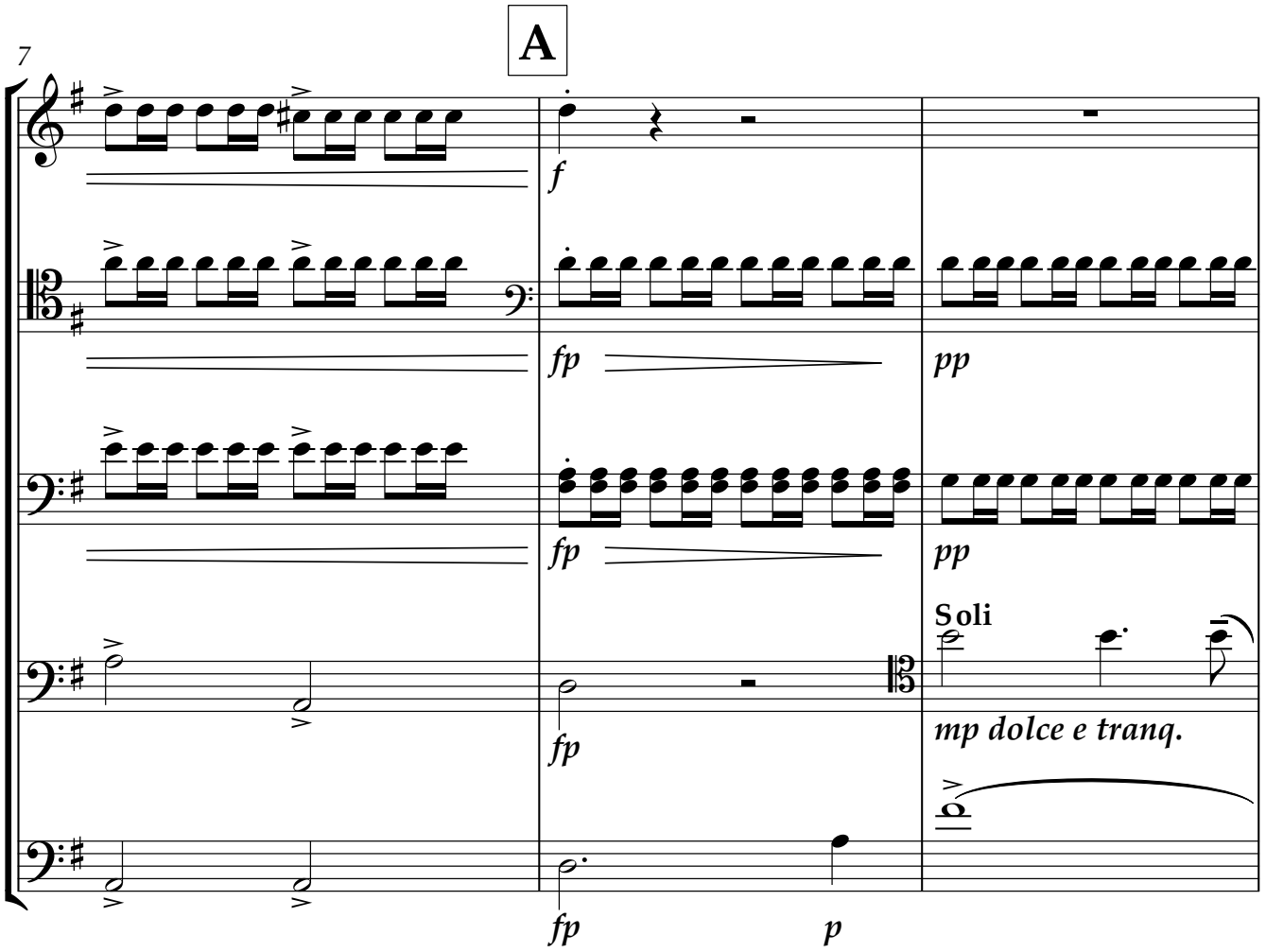
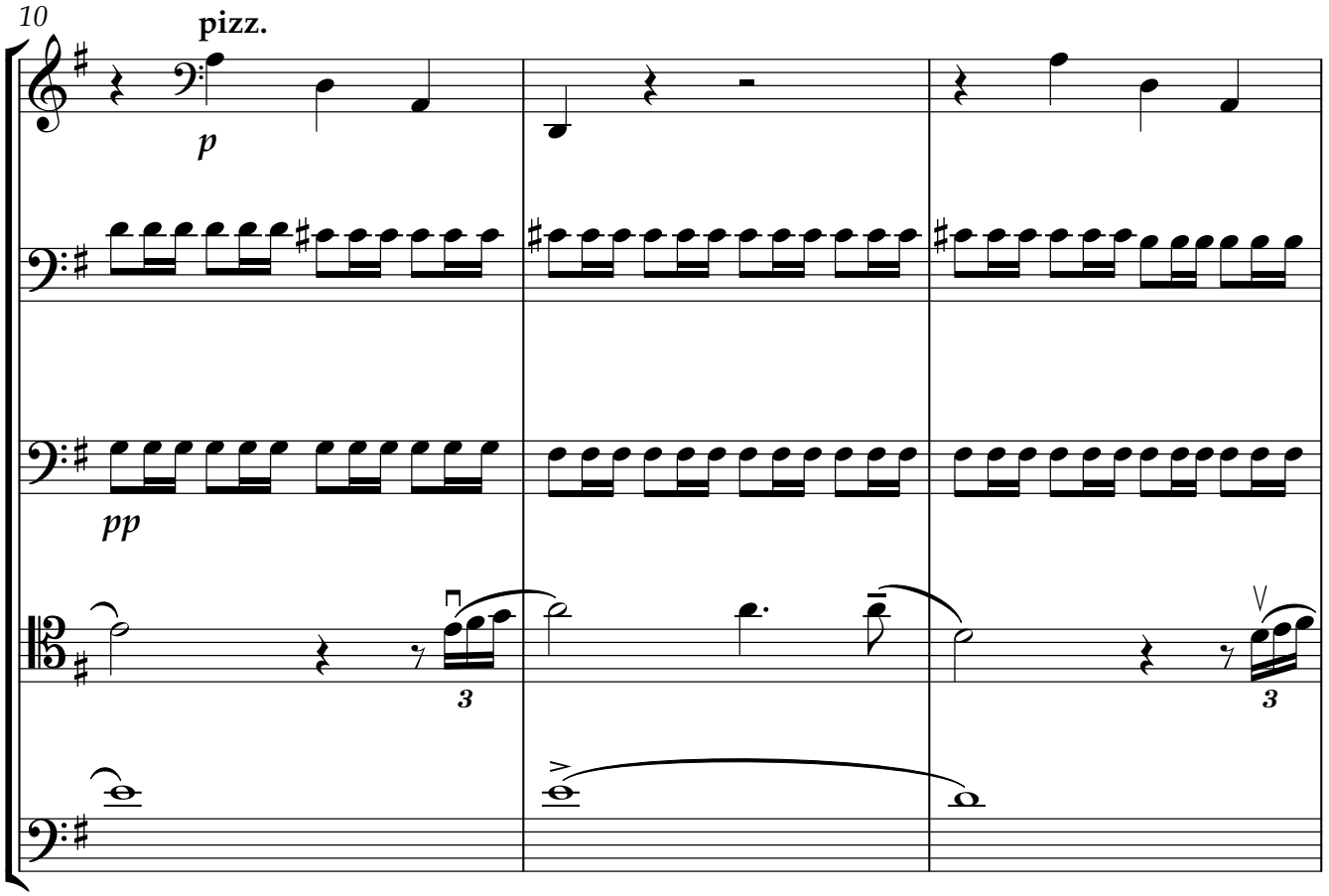
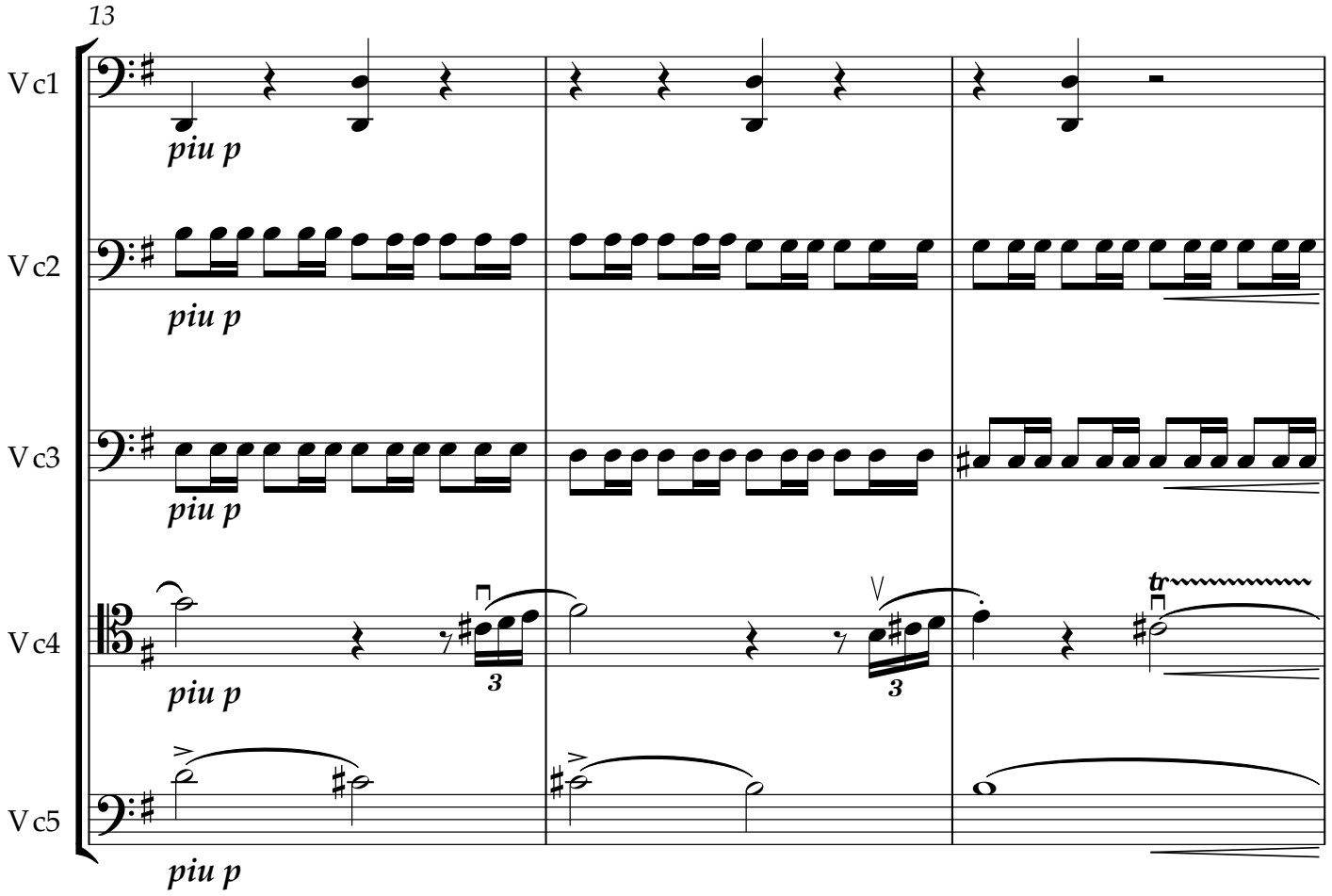
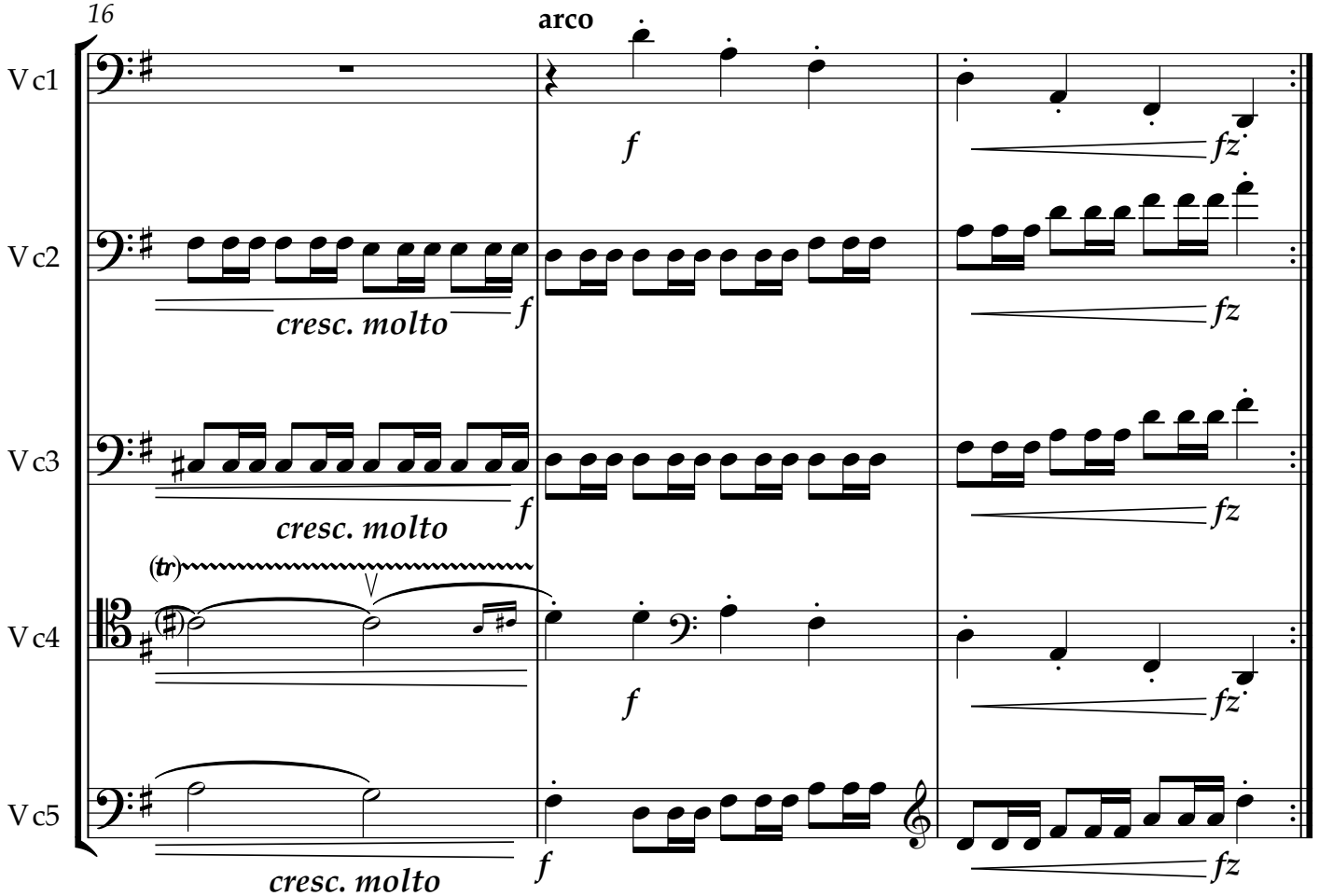


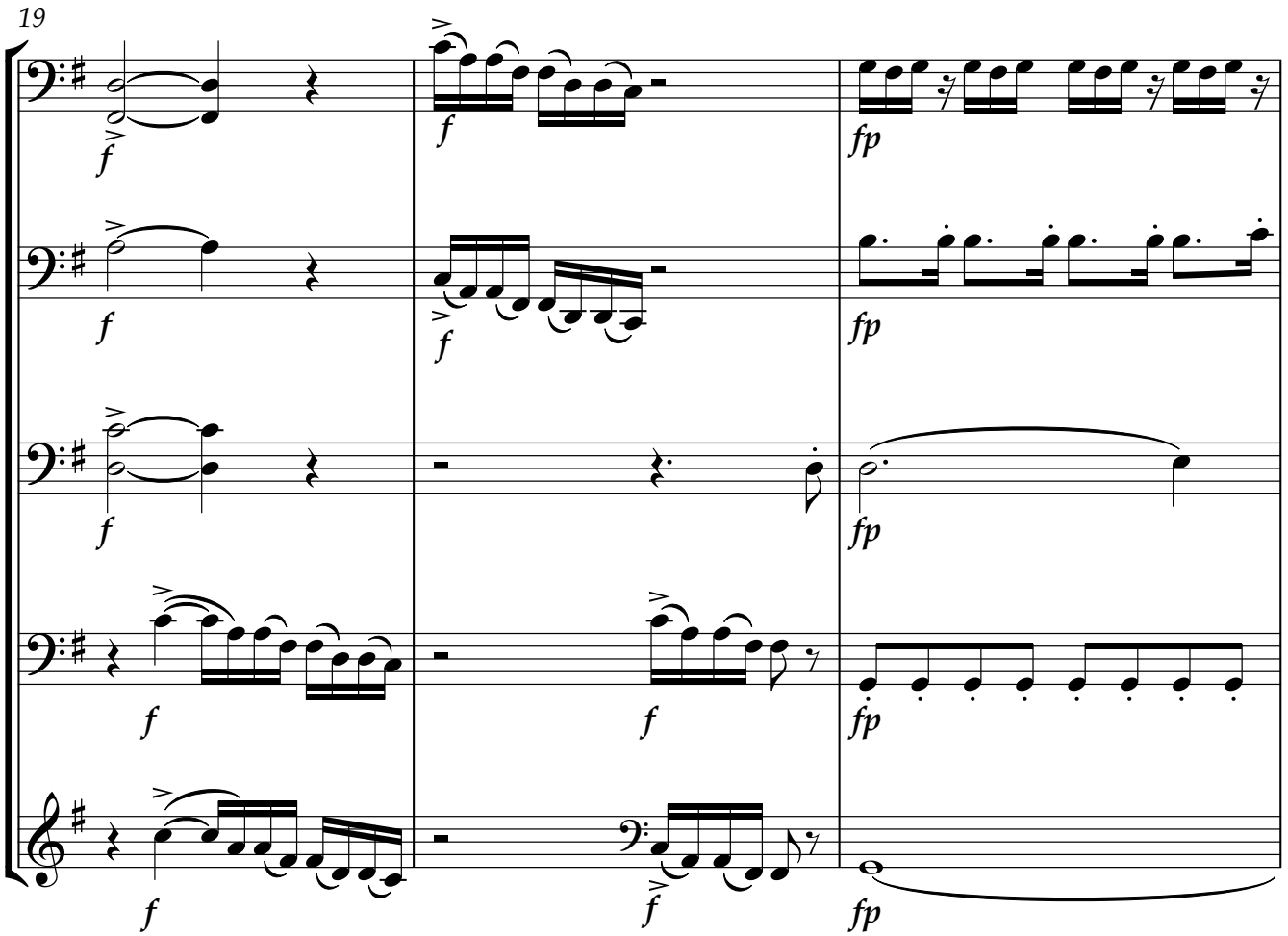


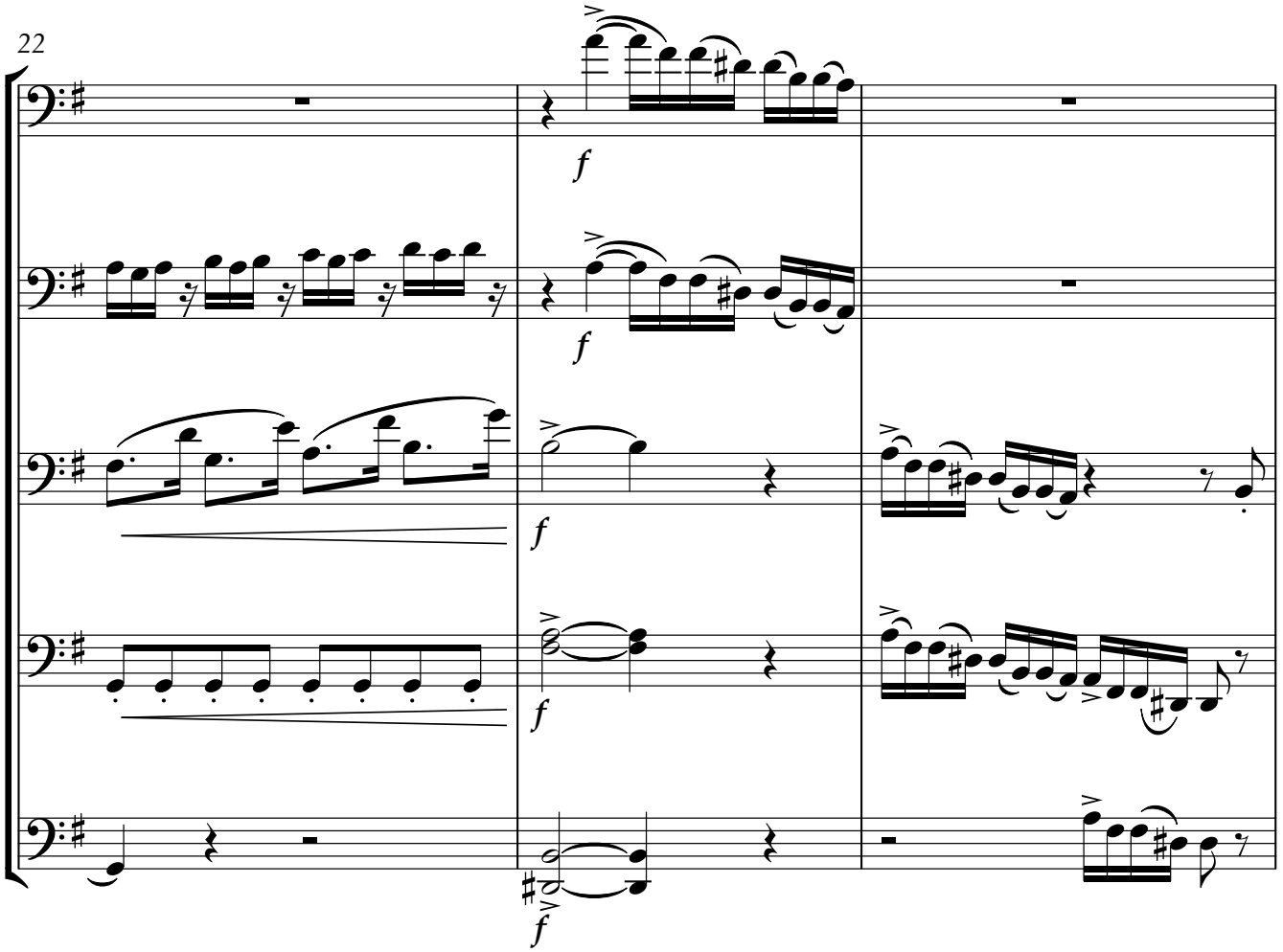

A
7
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
f
fp
pp
Soli
mp dolce e tranq.
p

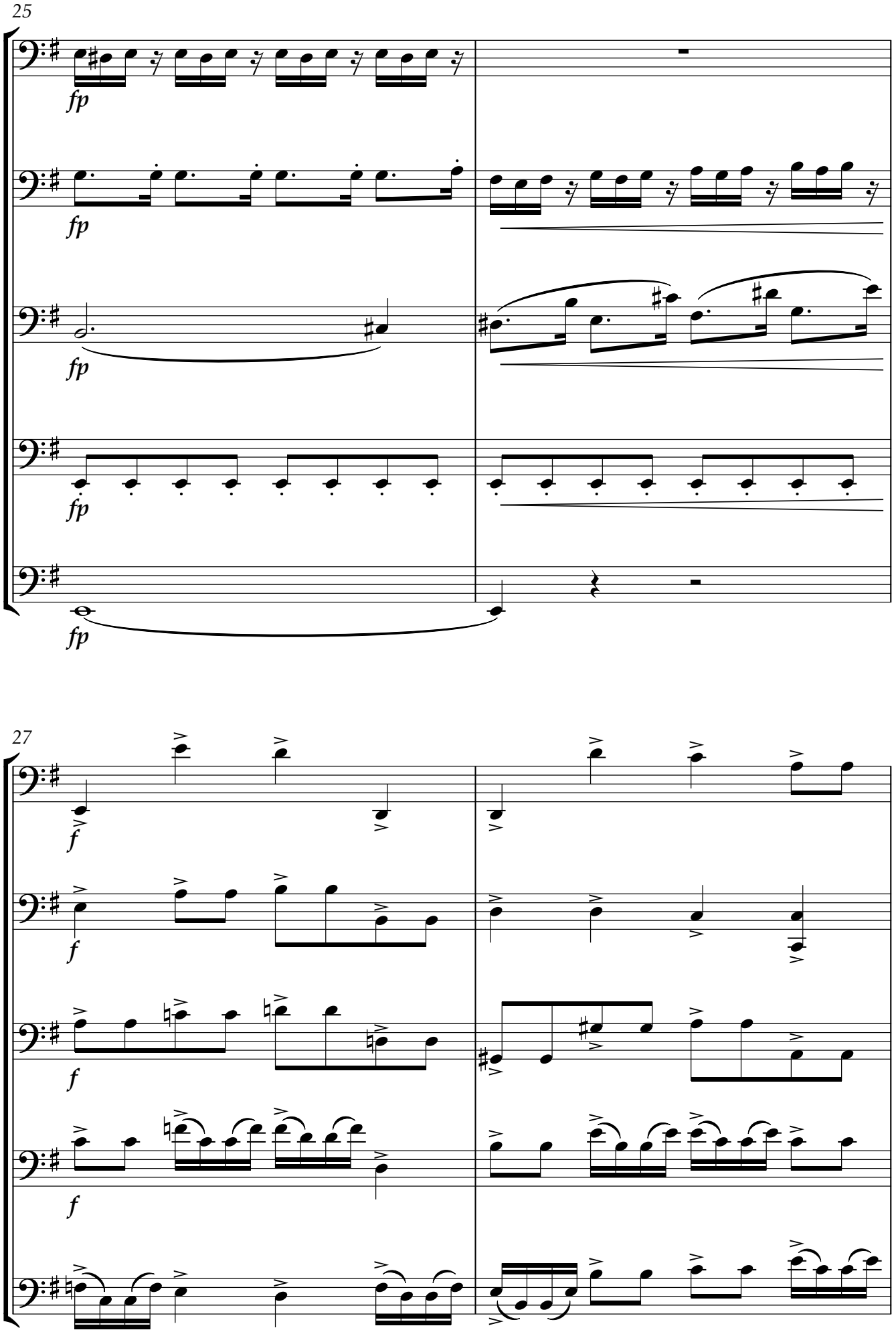

10
pizz.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
p
pp
3
3


13
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
piu p
piu p
piu p
piu p
piu p
3
3
tr


16
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
arco
f
fz
cresc. molto
f
fz
cresc. molto
f
fz
(tr)
f
fz
cresc. molto
f
fz


19
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
f
fp


22
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
f


25
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
fp
27
f

B

29

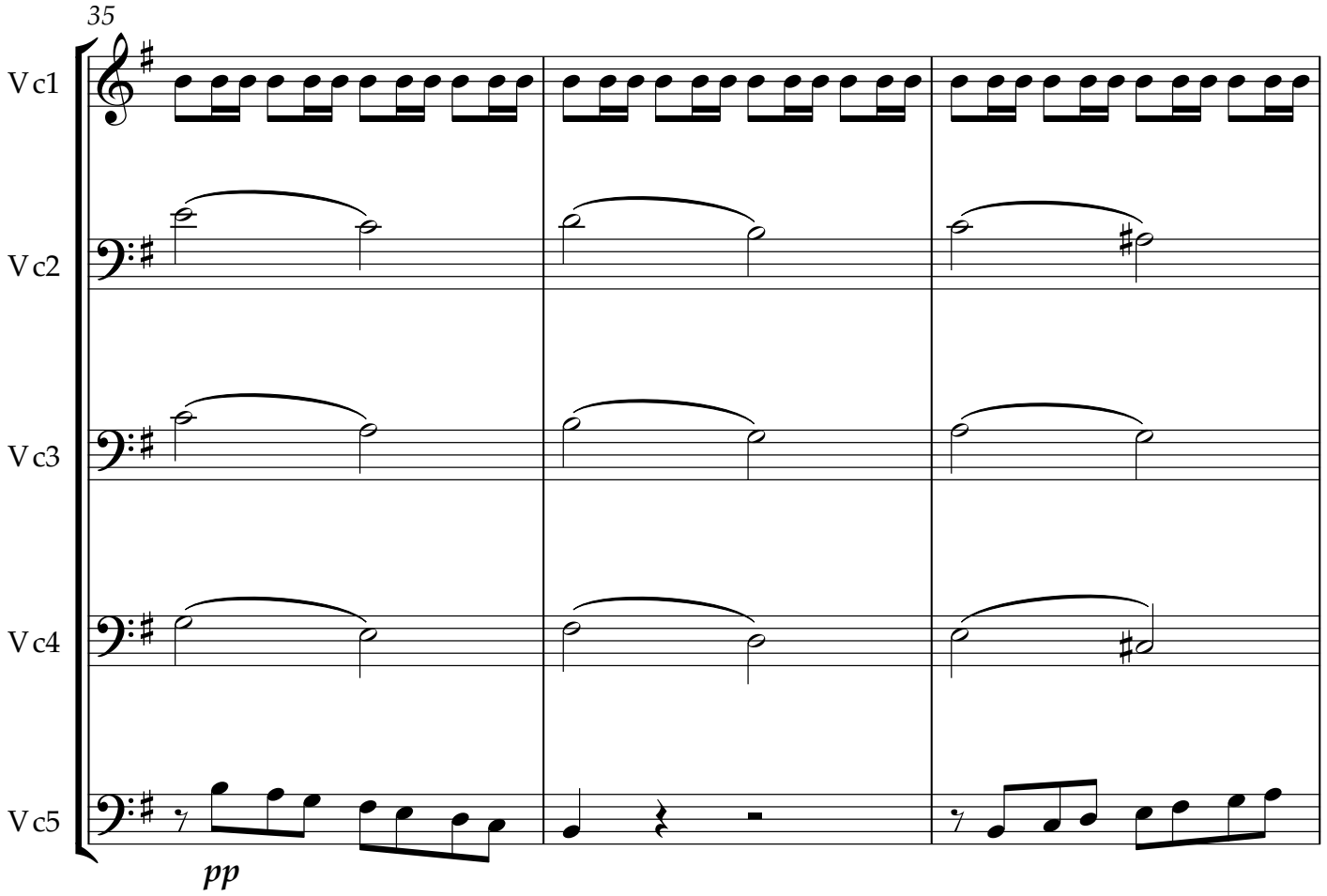
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5

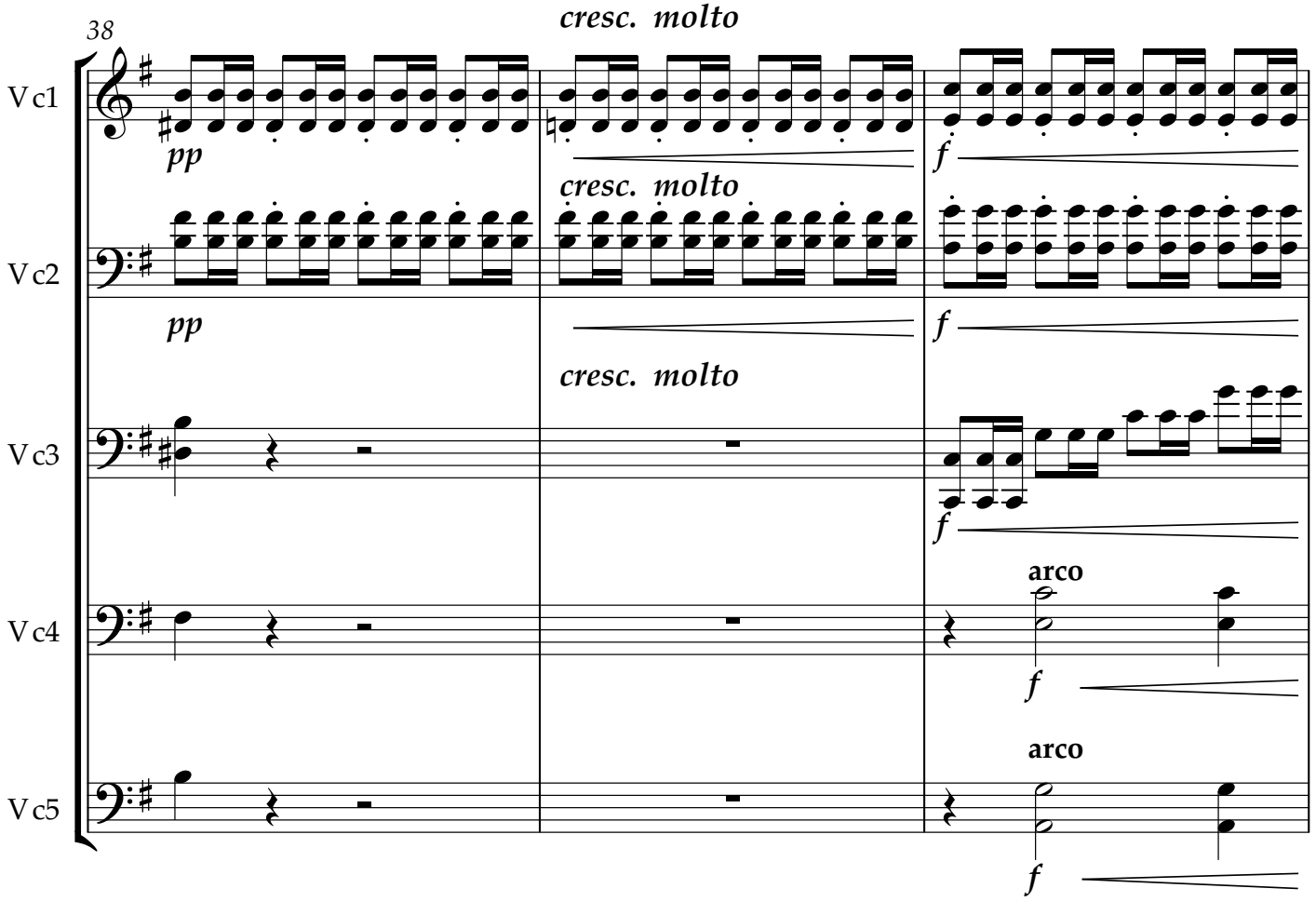
pp
p
p
p
pizz.
p

32

Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5

piu p–
piu p–
piu p–
piu p–


35
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
pp


38
cresc. molto
Vc1
pp
cresc. molto
f
Vc2
pp
f
cresc. molto
Vc3
f
arco
Vc4
f
arco
Vc5
f

C

41

Vc1

Vc2

Vc3

Vc4

Vc5

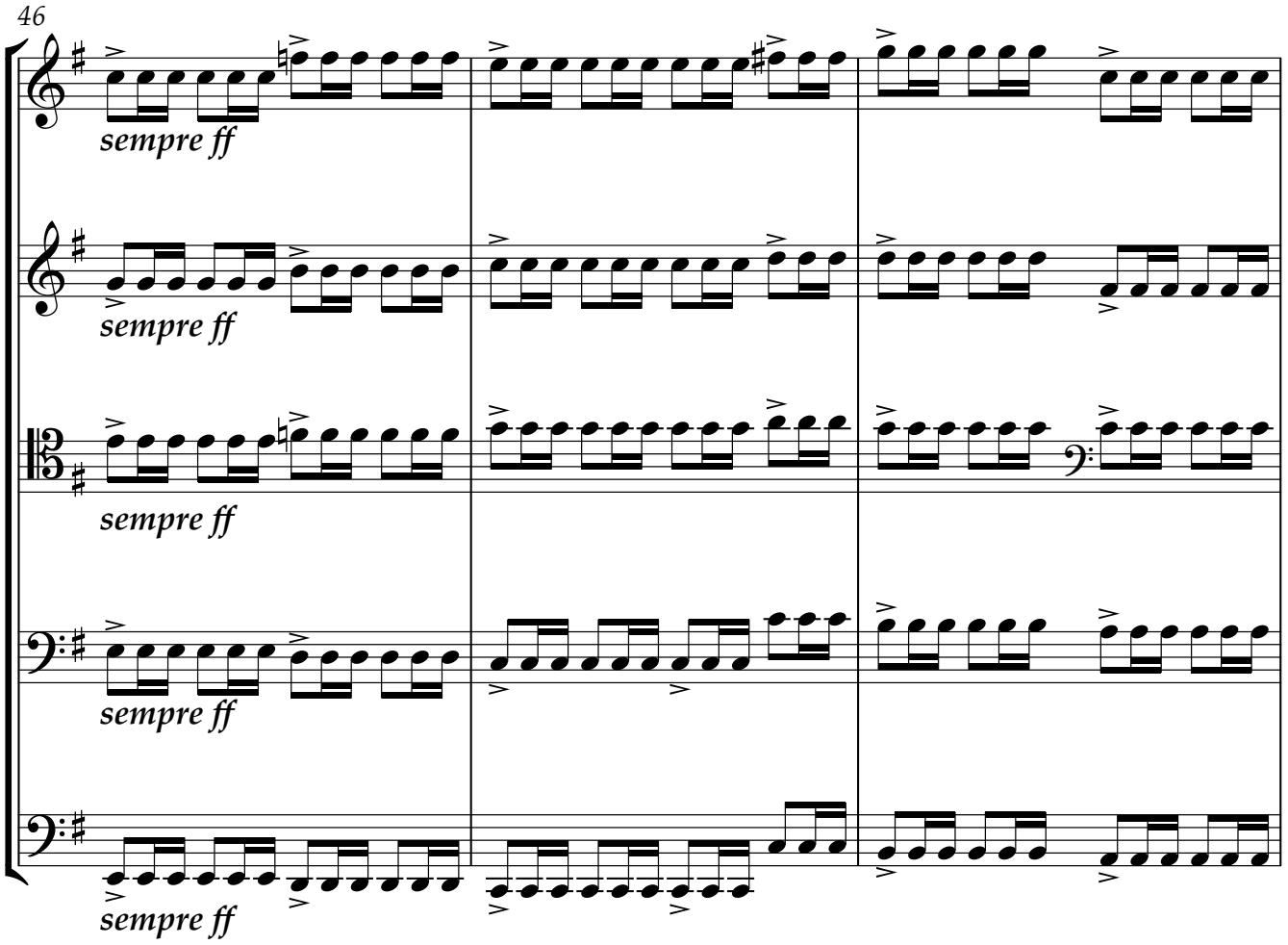
fz

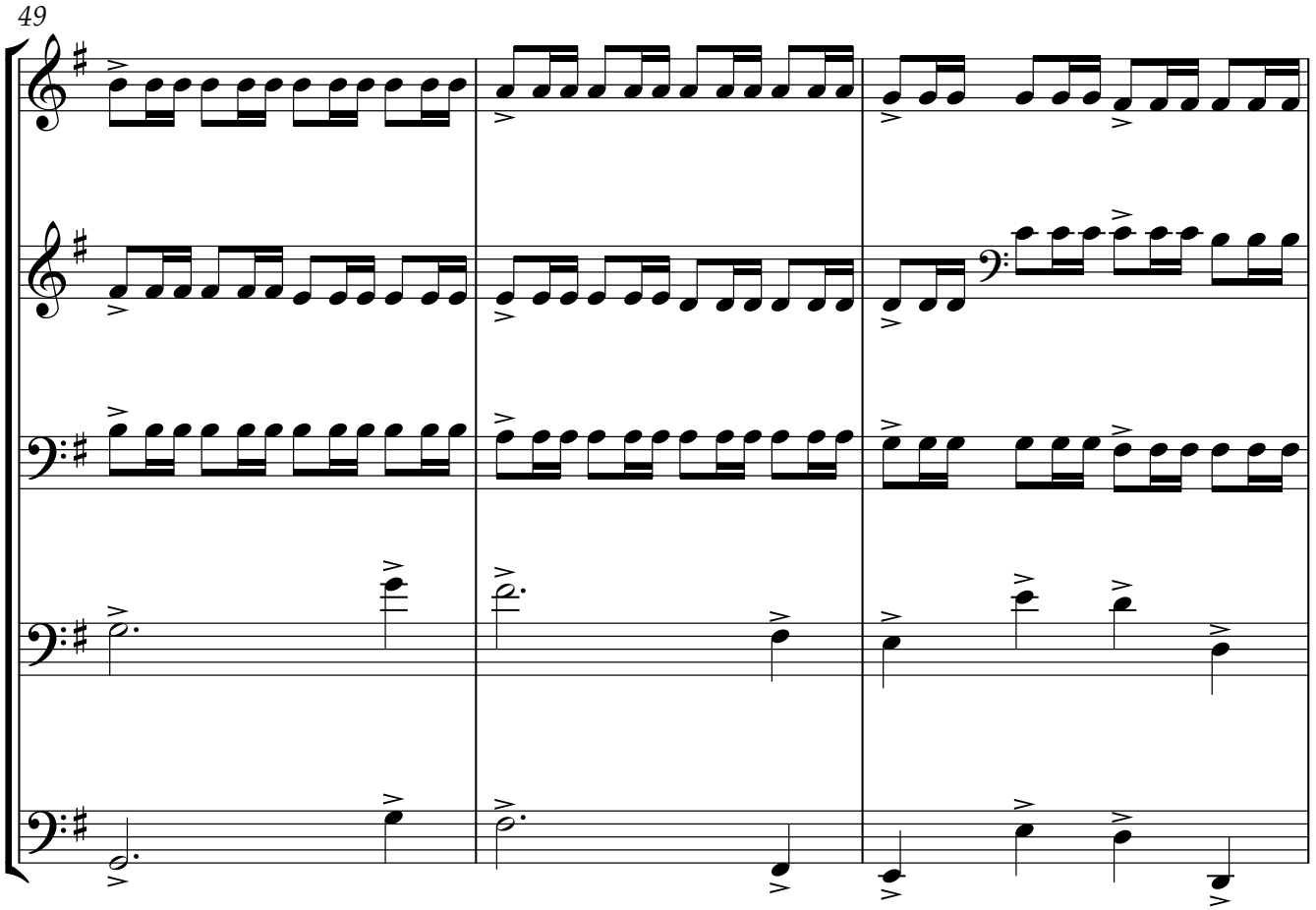
ff

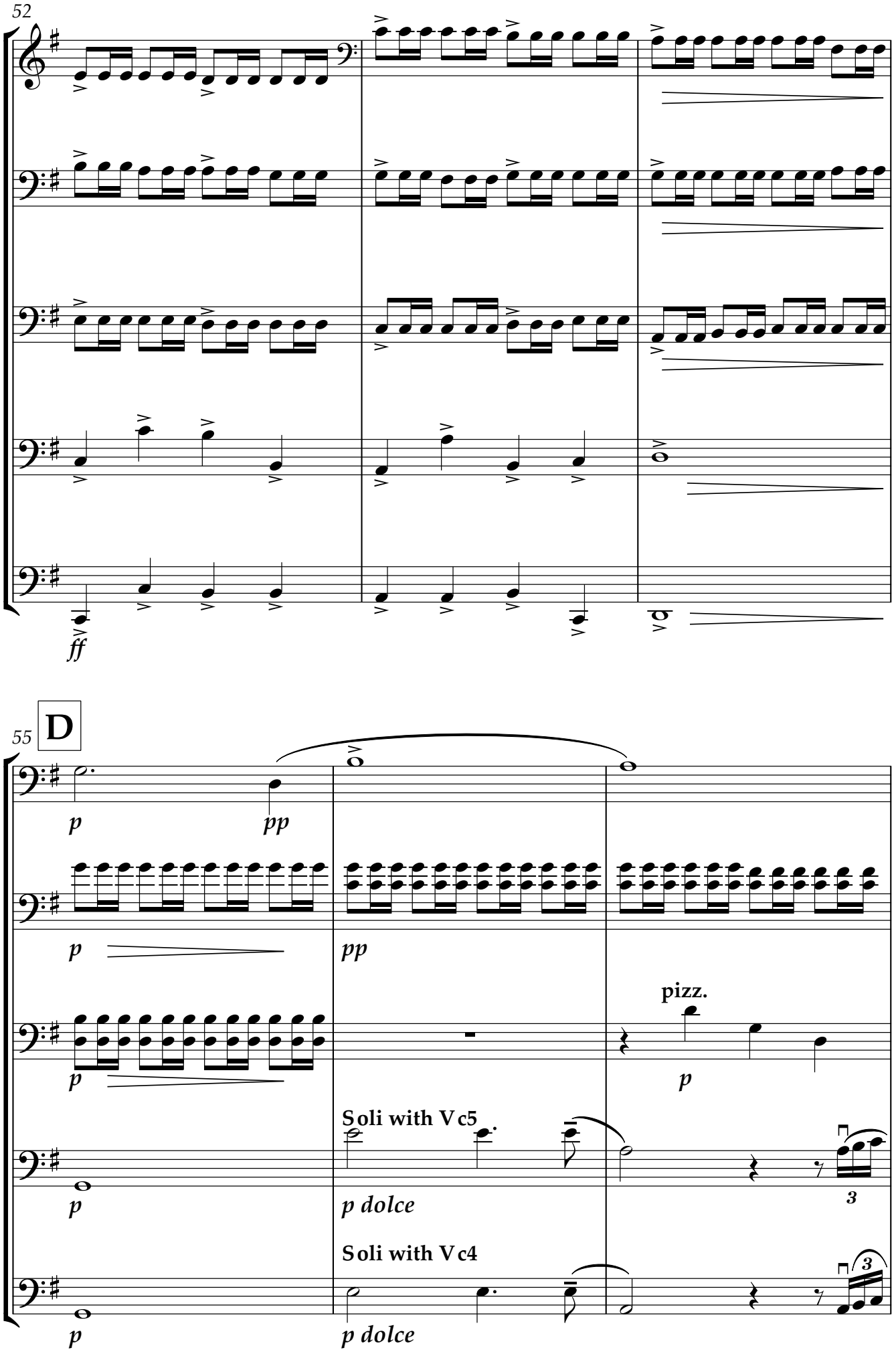
ad lib, omit upper note

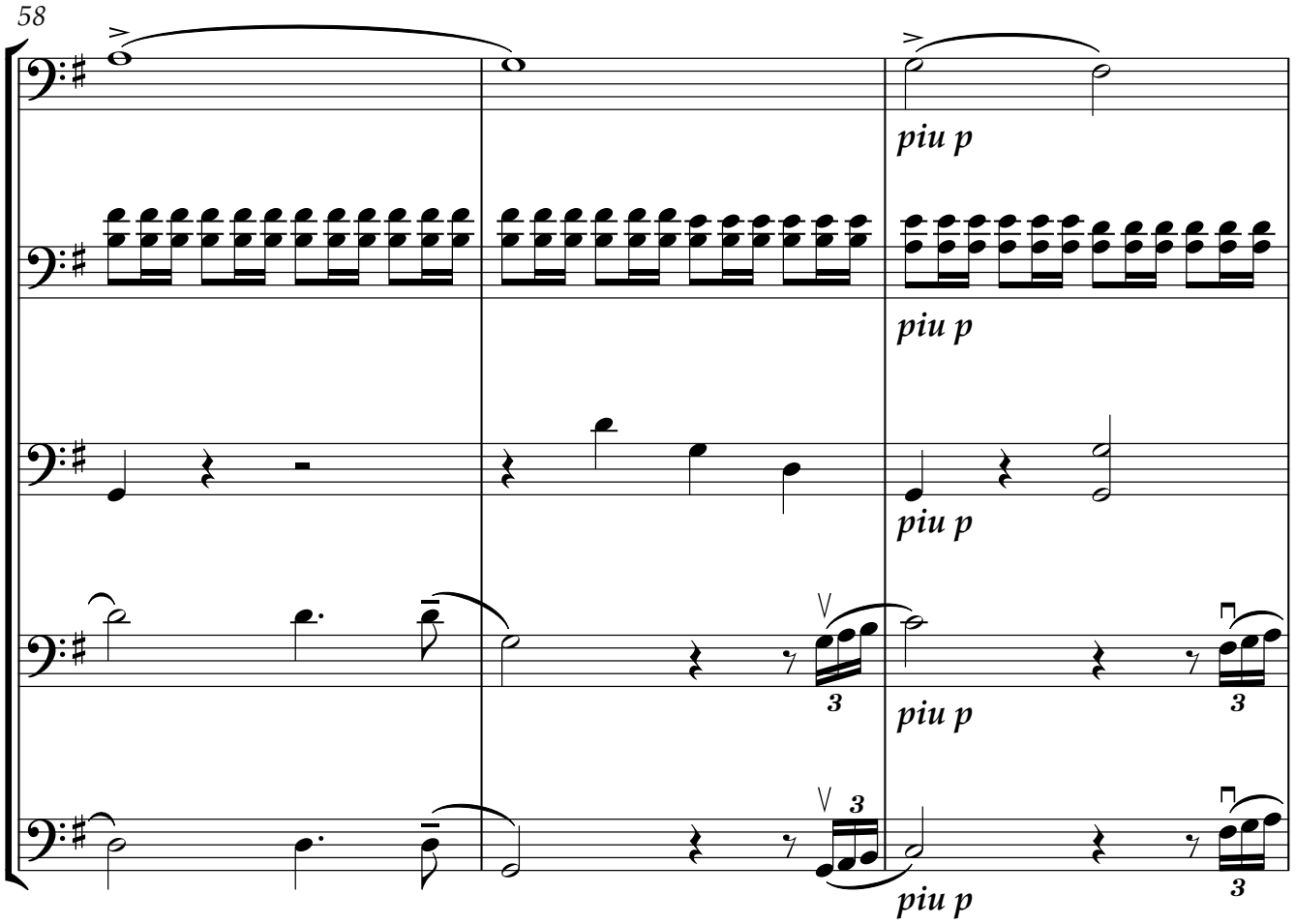
43

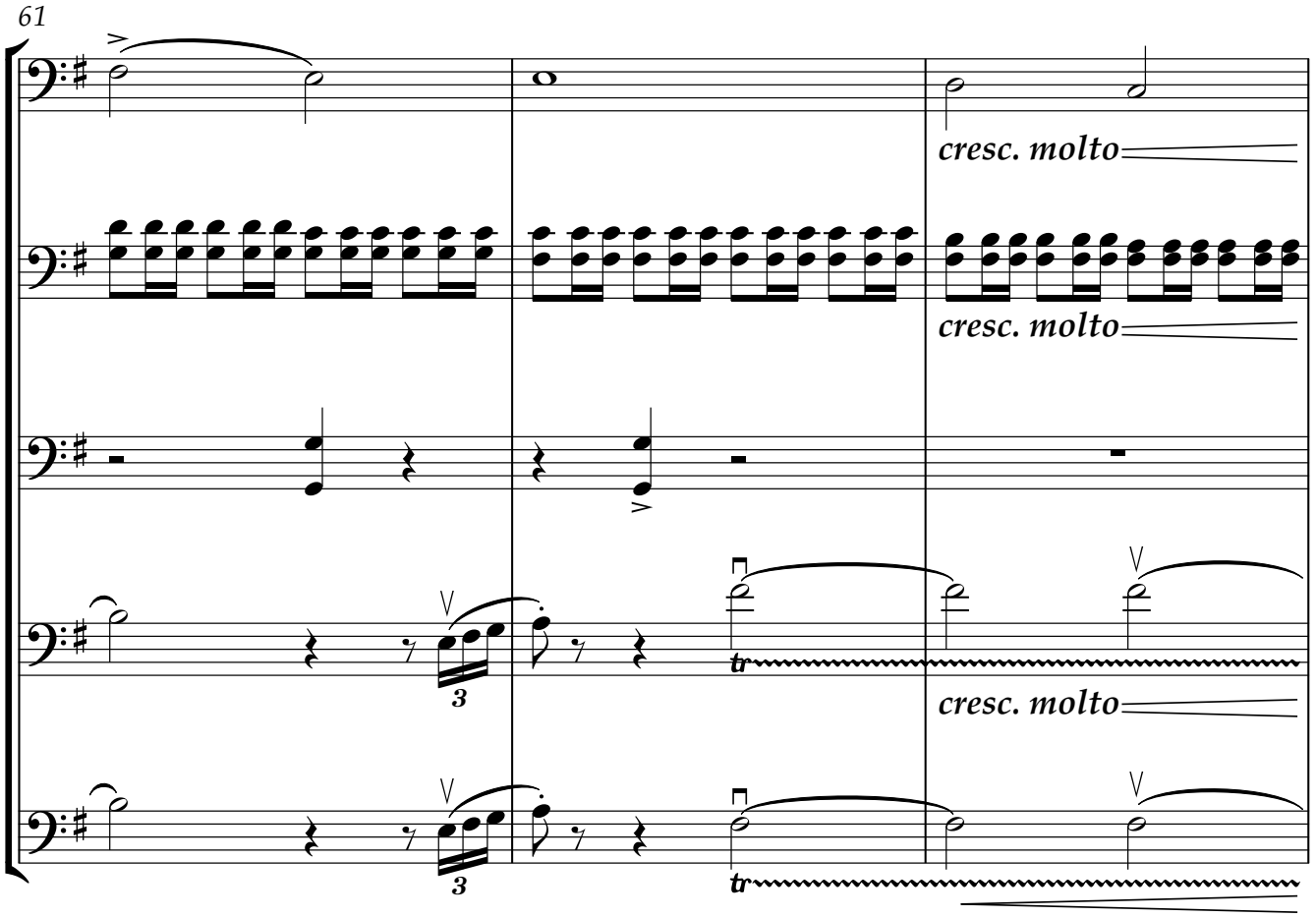
tr

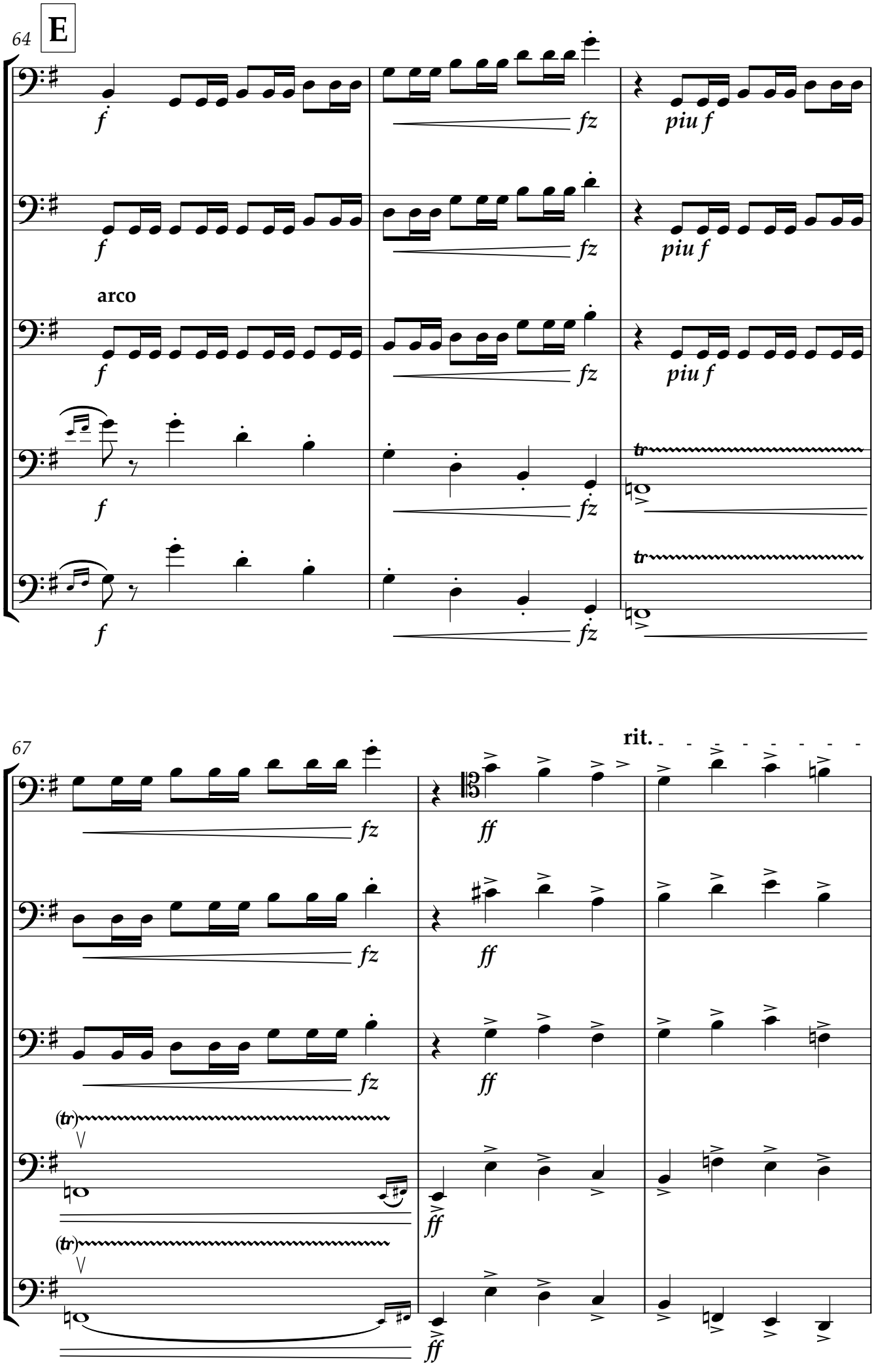

46
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
sempre ff
sempre ff
sempre ff
sempre ff
sempre ff

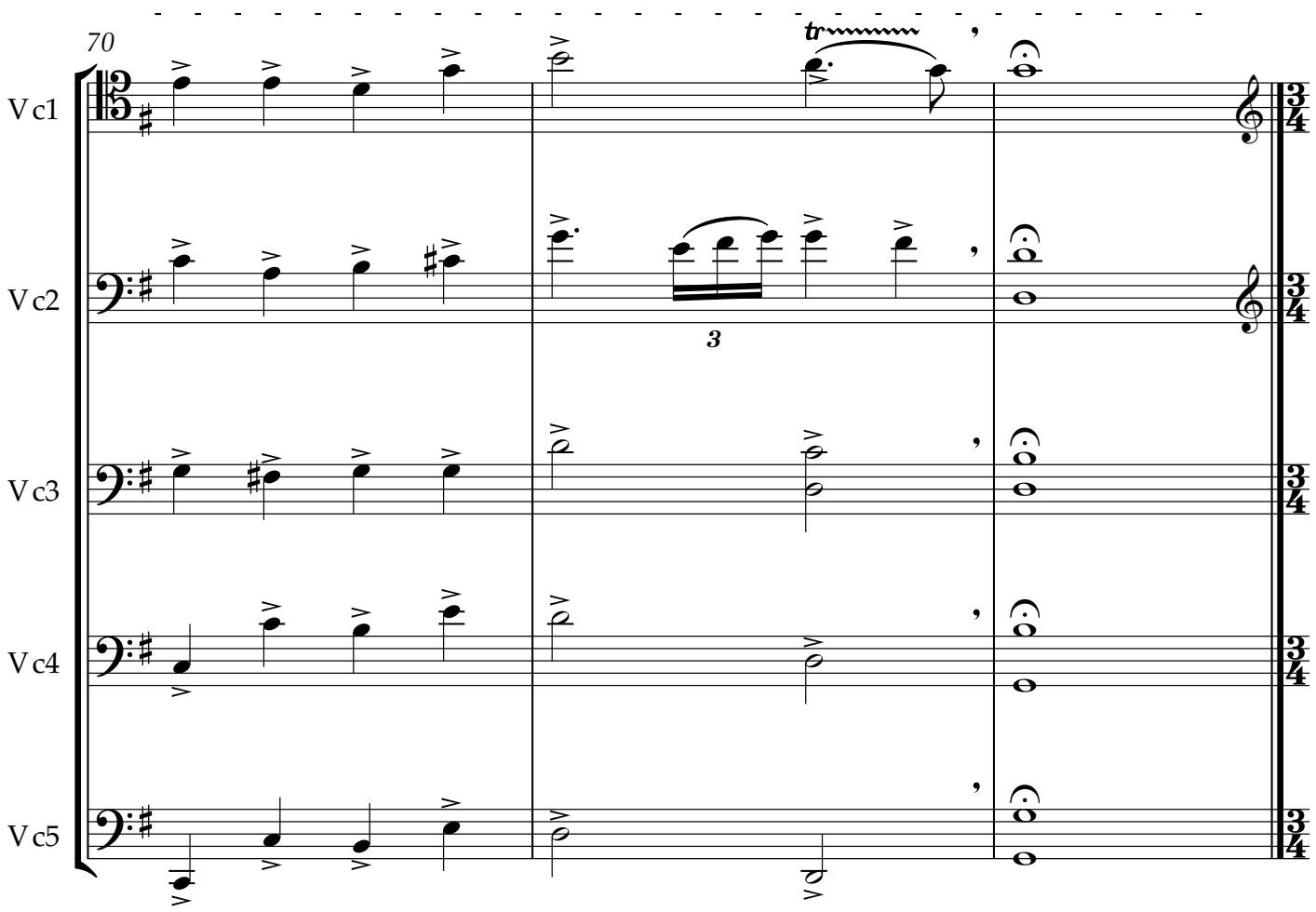

49
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5


52
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
ff
55
D
p
pp
pizz.
Soli with Vc5
p dolce
Soli with Vc4
3

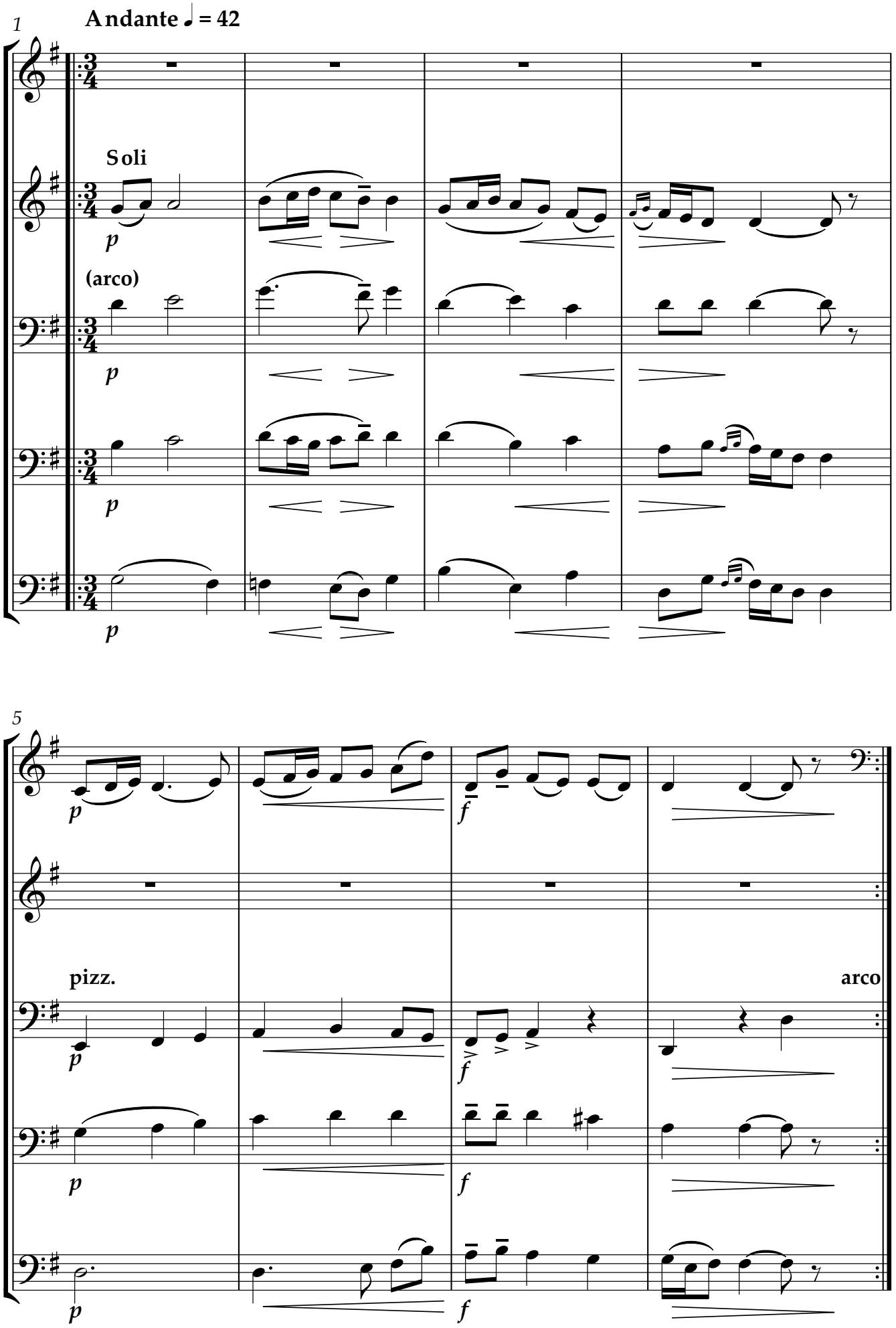

58
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
piu p
piu p
piu p
piu p
piu p
3
3
3


61
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
cresc. molto
cresc. molto
cresc. molto
3
3
tr
tr


E
64
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
arco
f
fz
piu f
tr
67
rit.
ff
(tr)


70
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
tr
3

II Sarabande



un poco mosso

9

pizz.

Vc1

Vc2

arco

Vc3

Vc4

Vc5

13

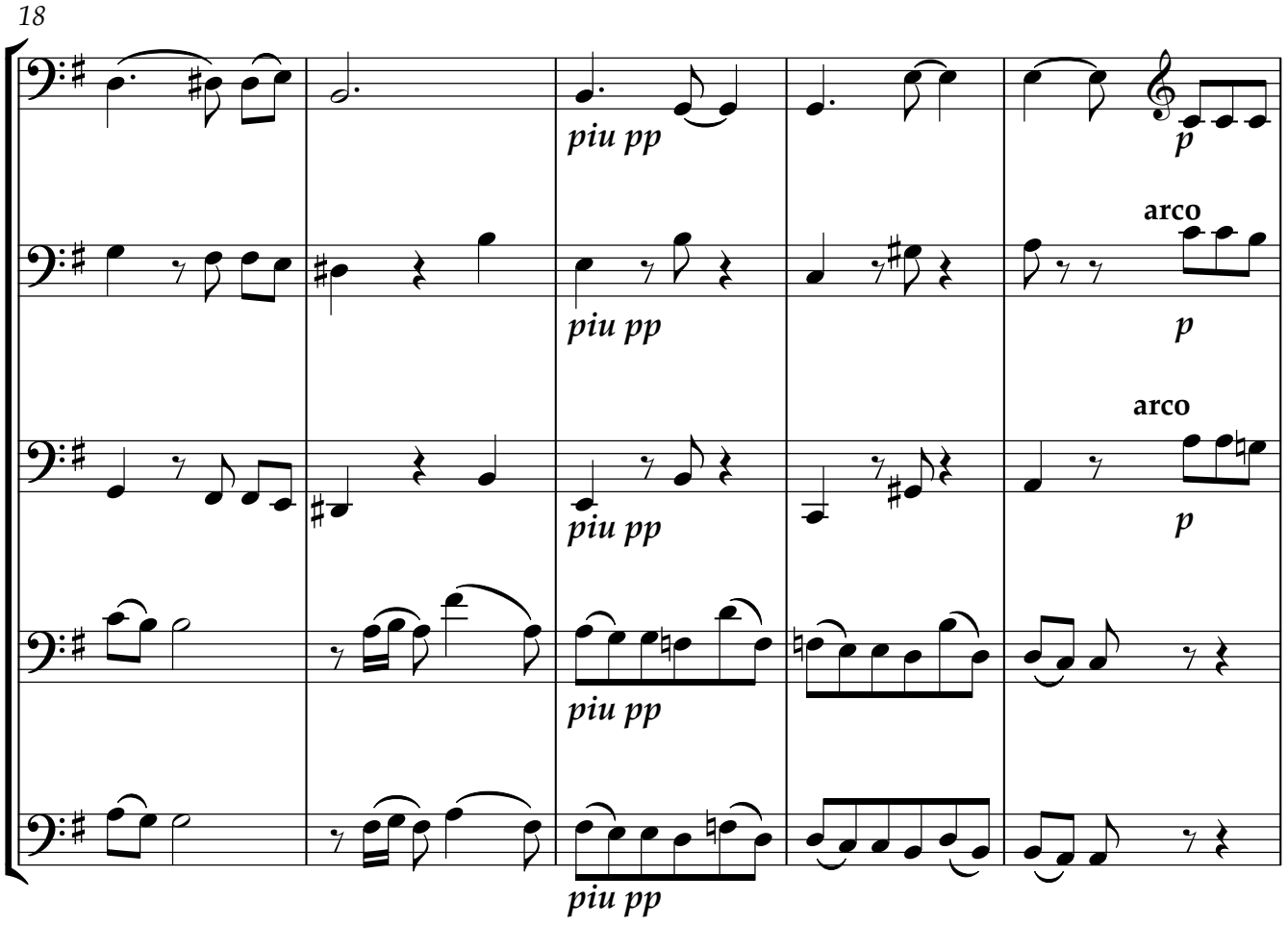
arco

F

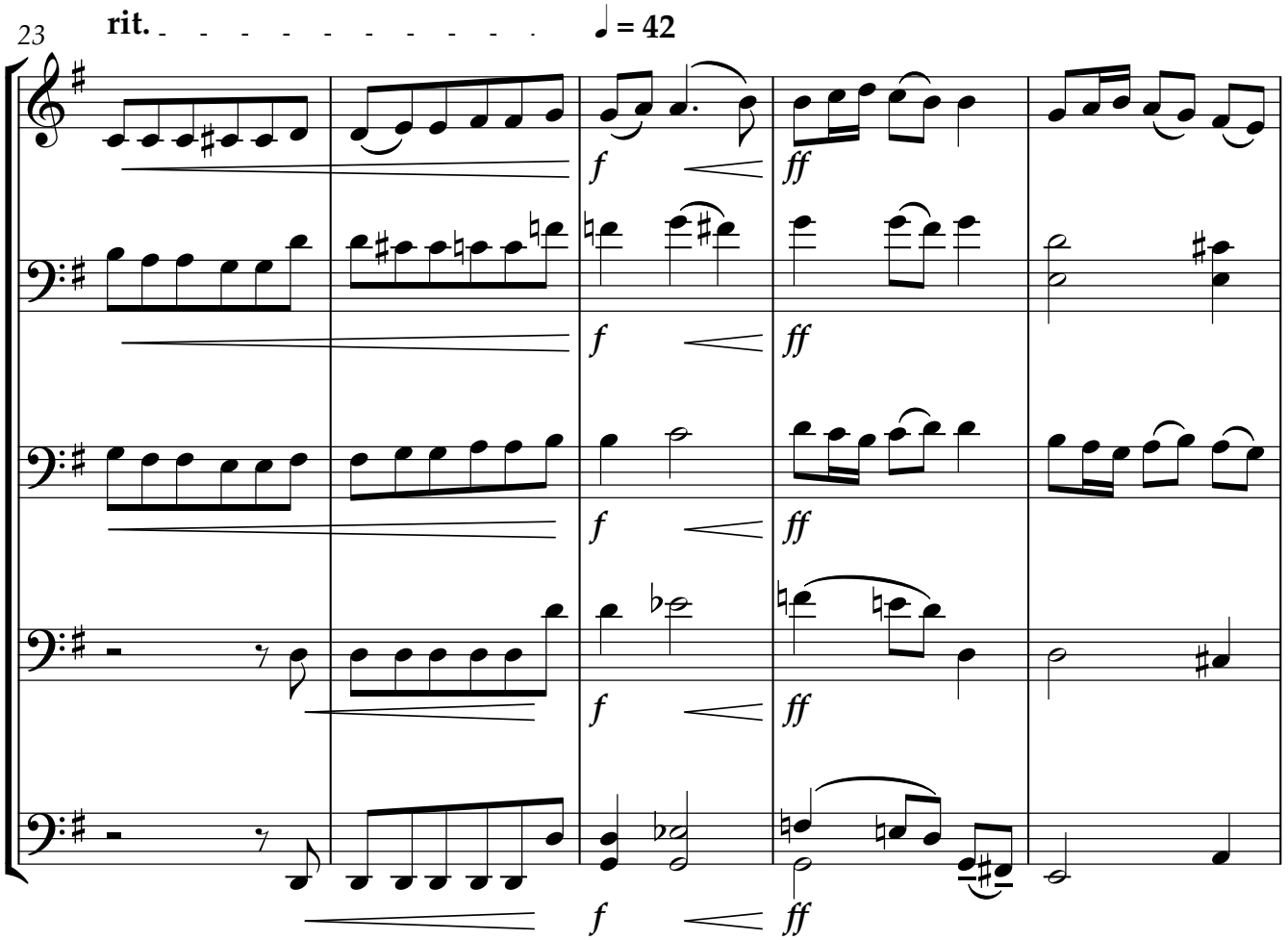
pizz

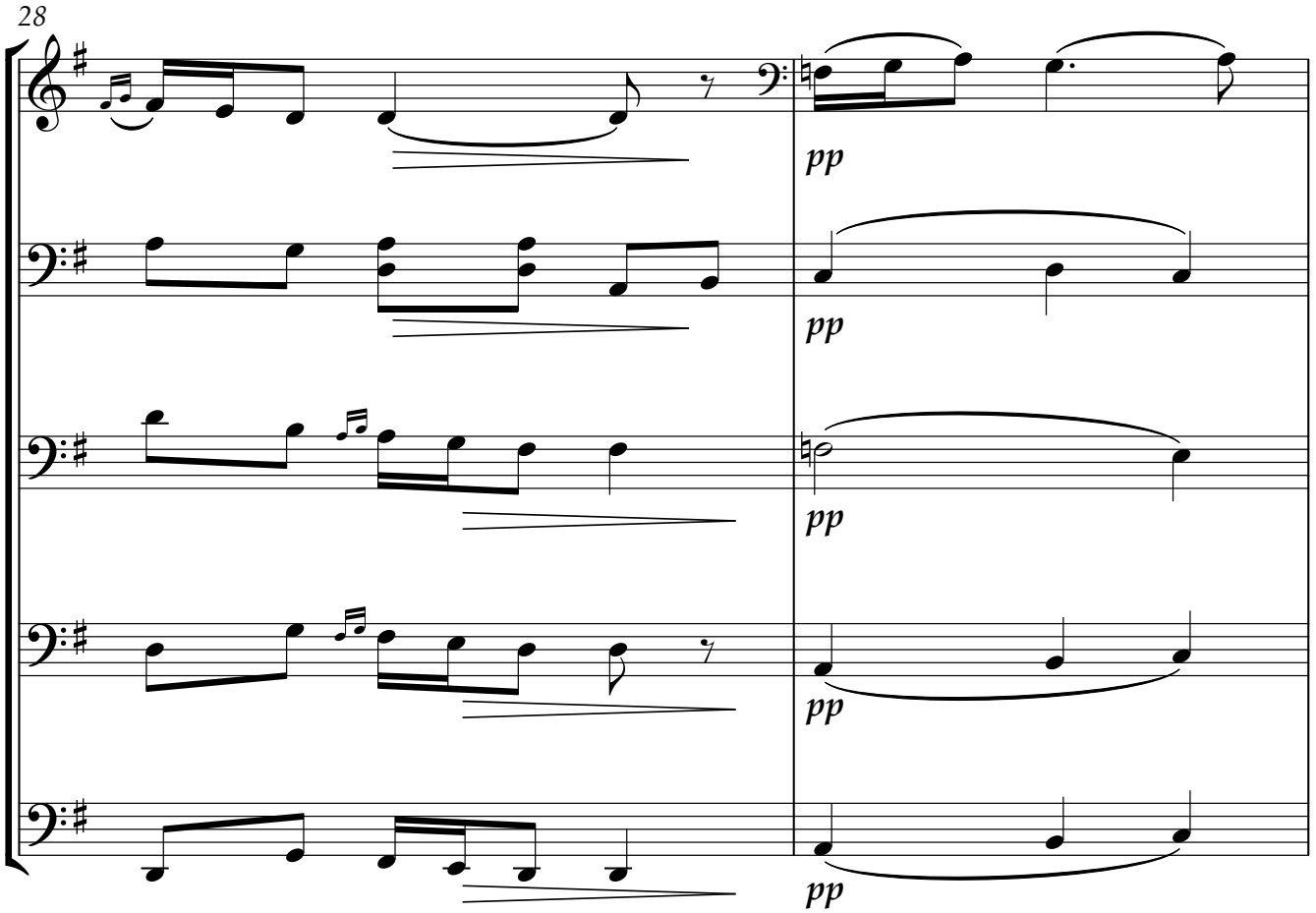
pizz

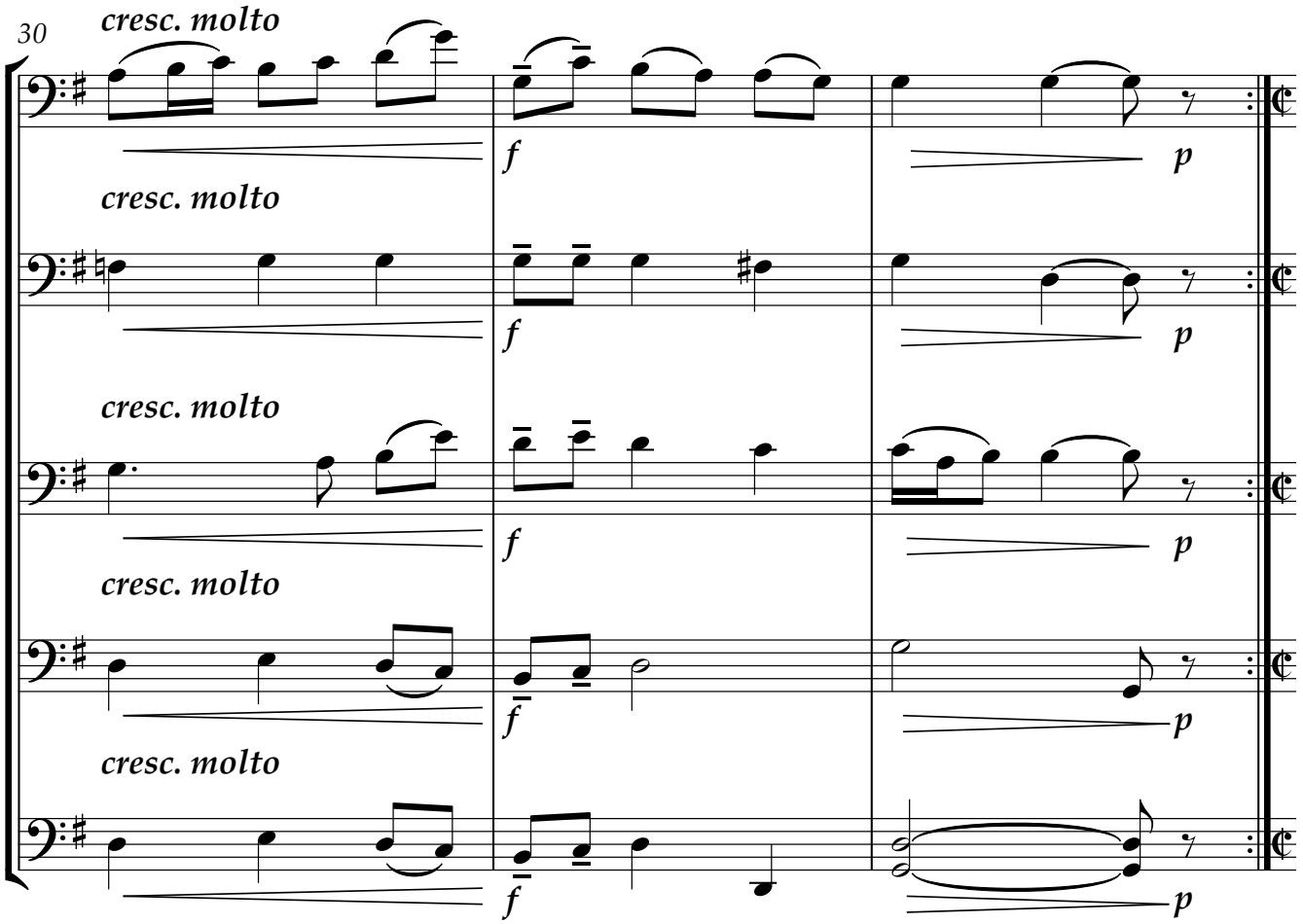
Soli


18
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
piu pp
p
arco

G **a tempo**

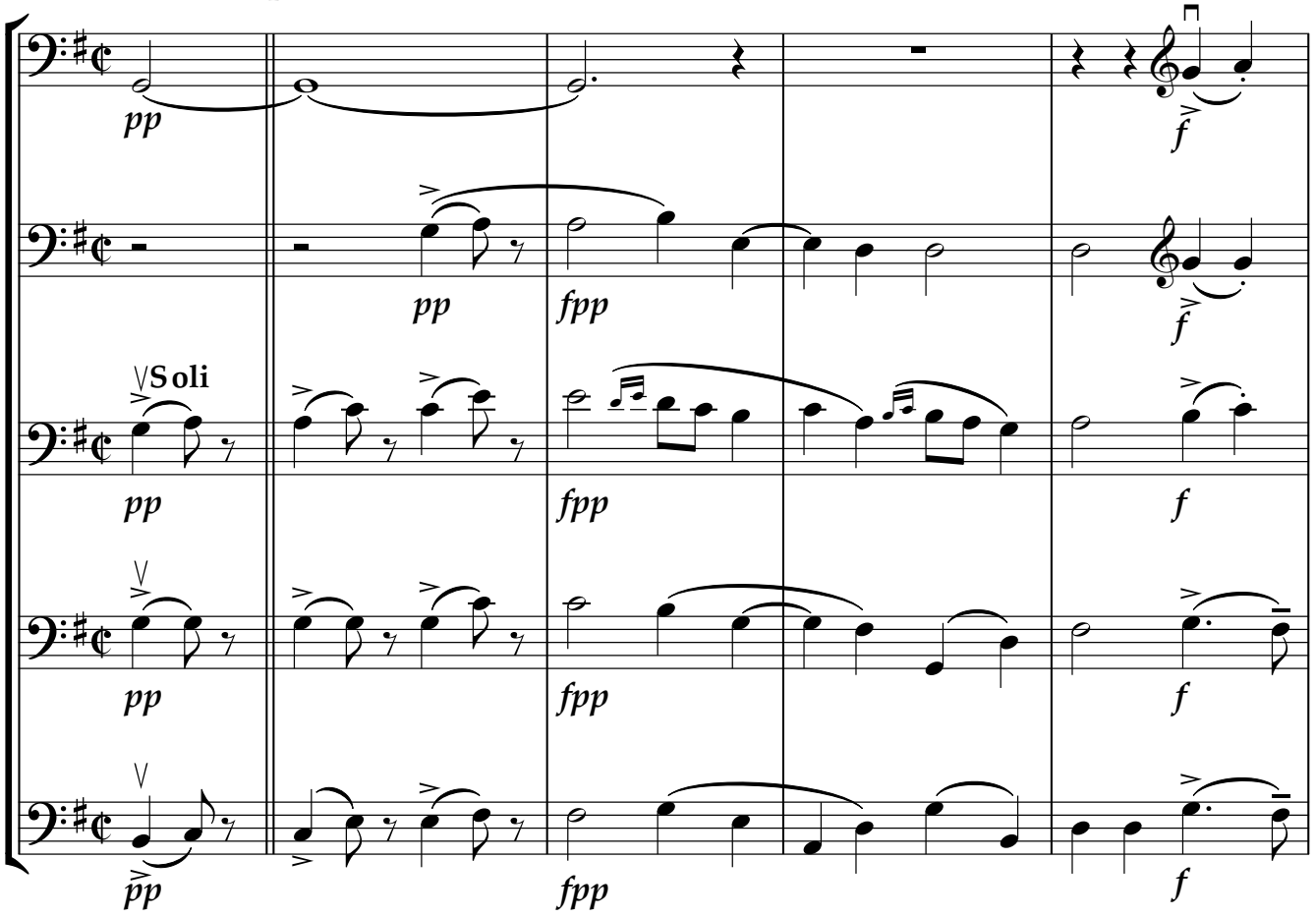

23
rit.
= 42
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
f
ff

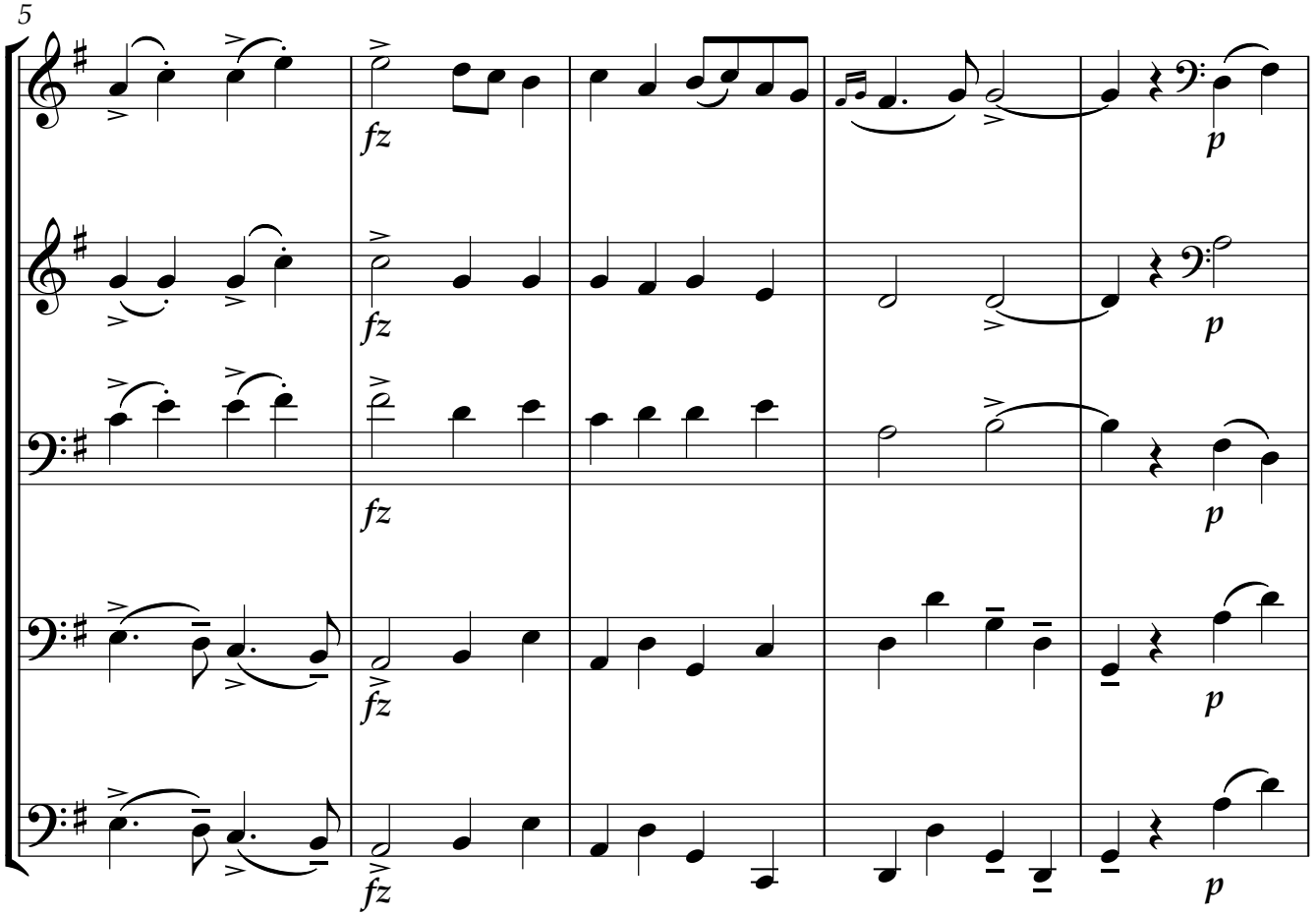

28
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
pp
pp
pp
pp
pp


30
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
cresc. molto
cresc. molto
cresc. molto
cresc. molto
cresc. molto
f
f
f
f
f
p
p
p
p
p

Allegretto ♩=76

III Gavotte (and Musette)





H

10

pizz.

Vc1

Vc2

Vc3

Vc4

Vc5

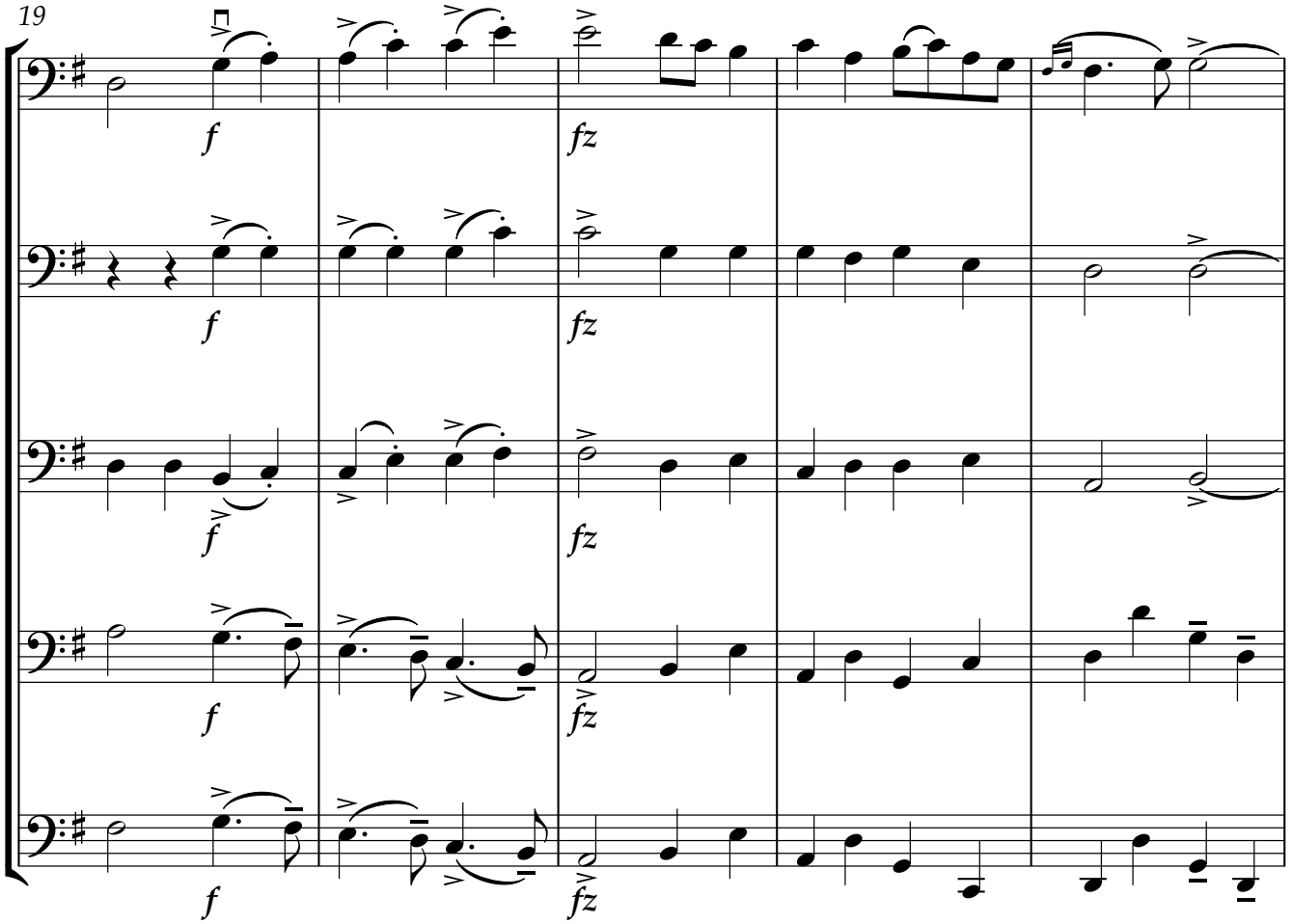
14

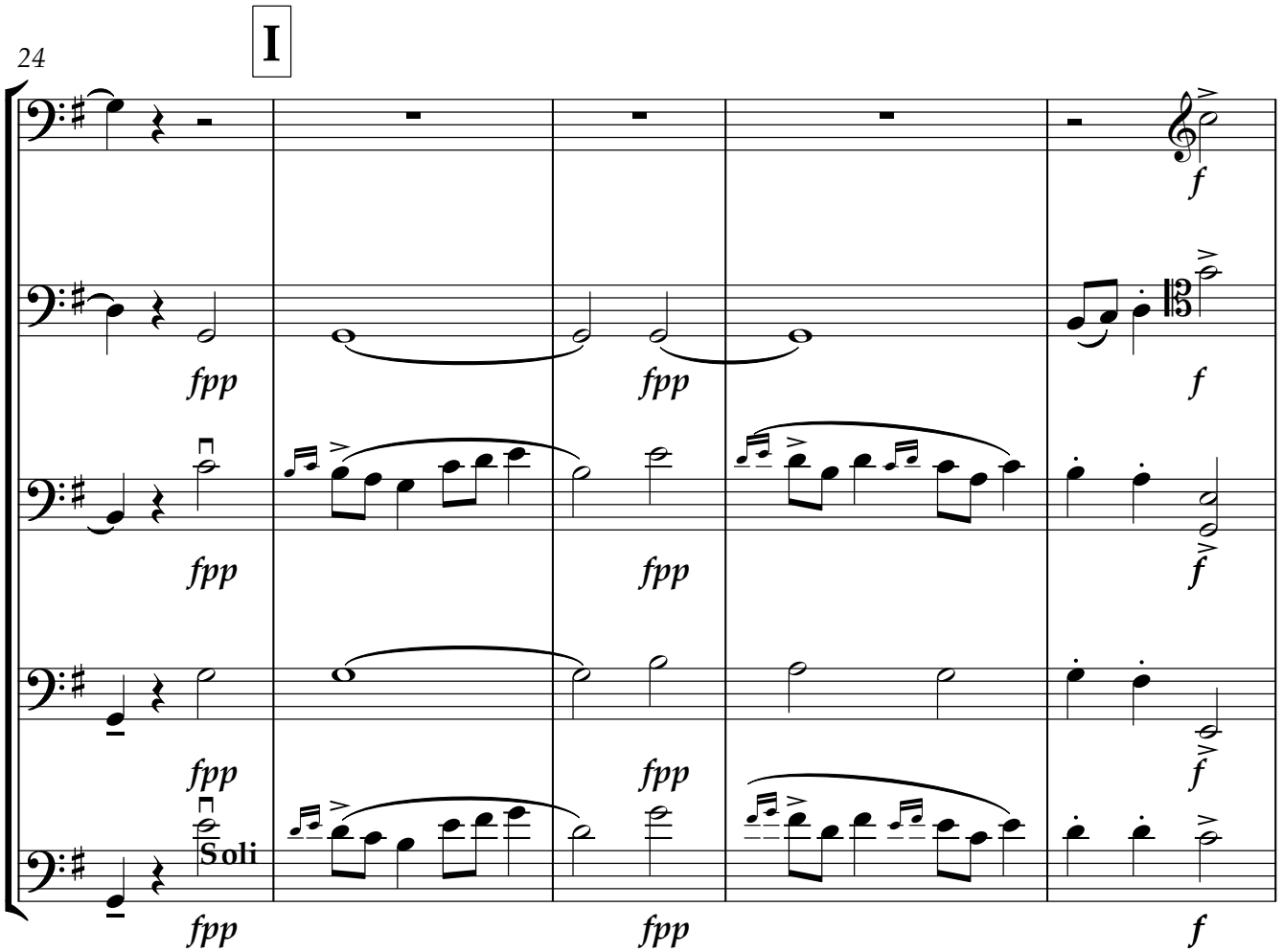
arco

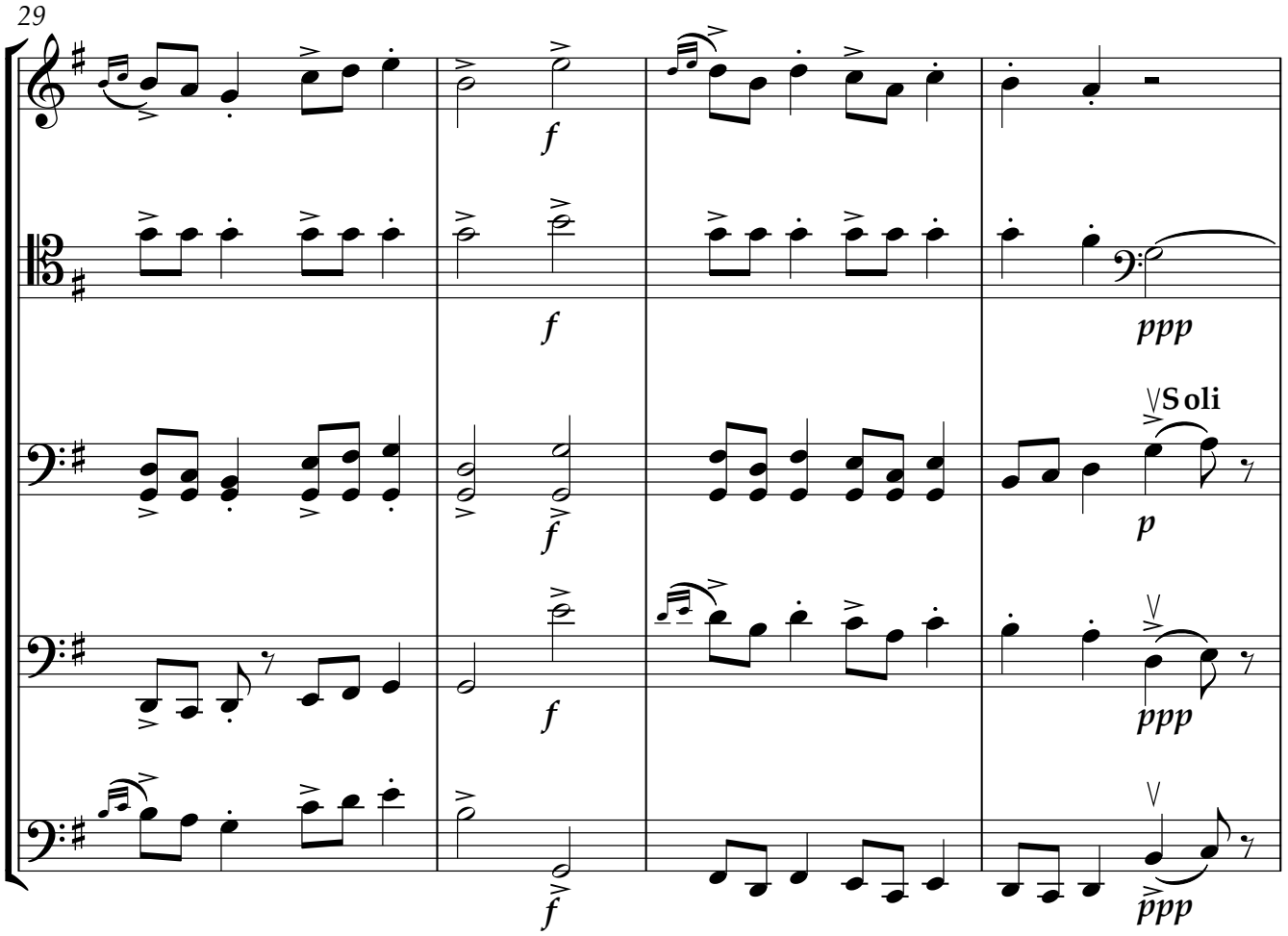
pp

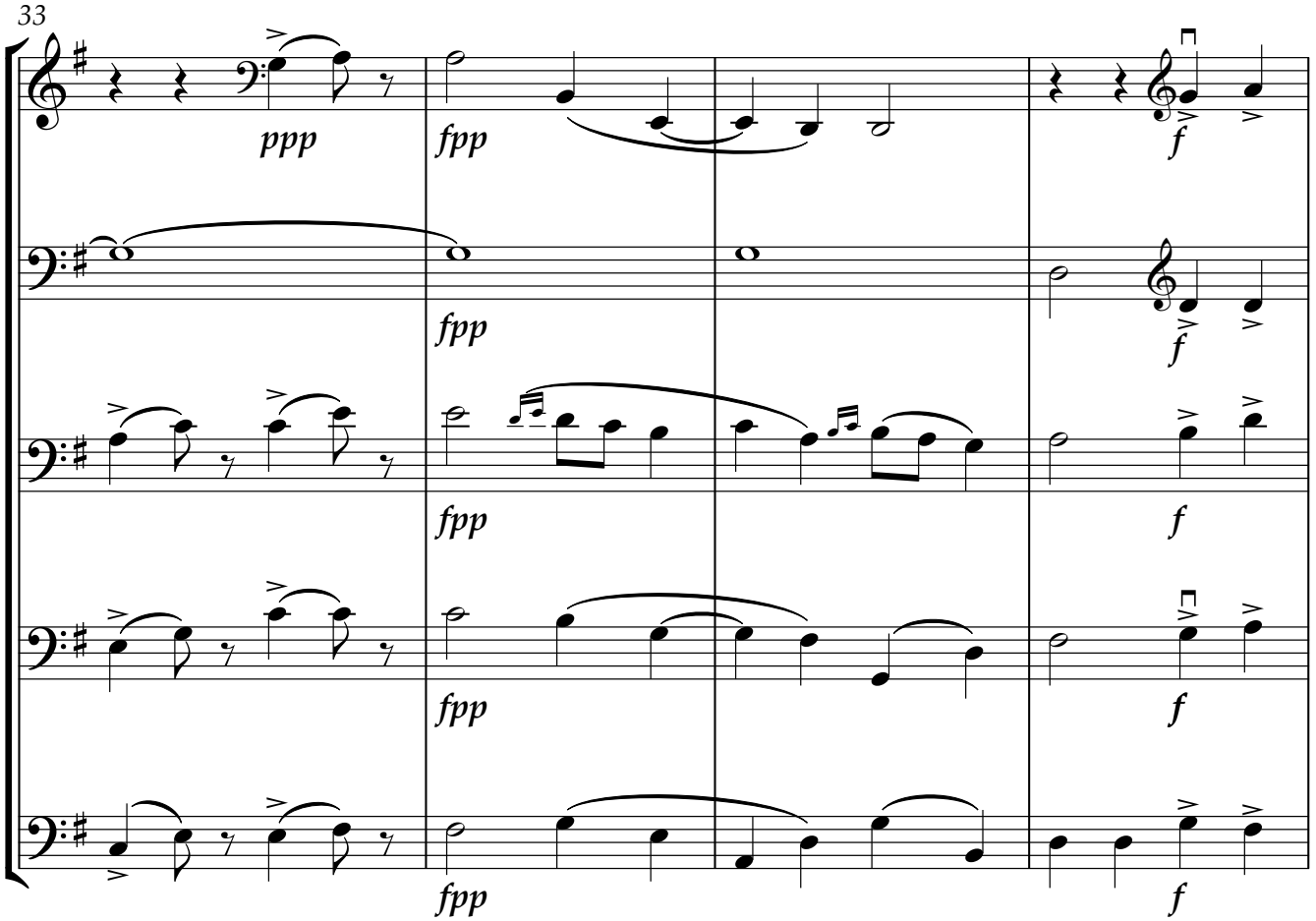
fpp

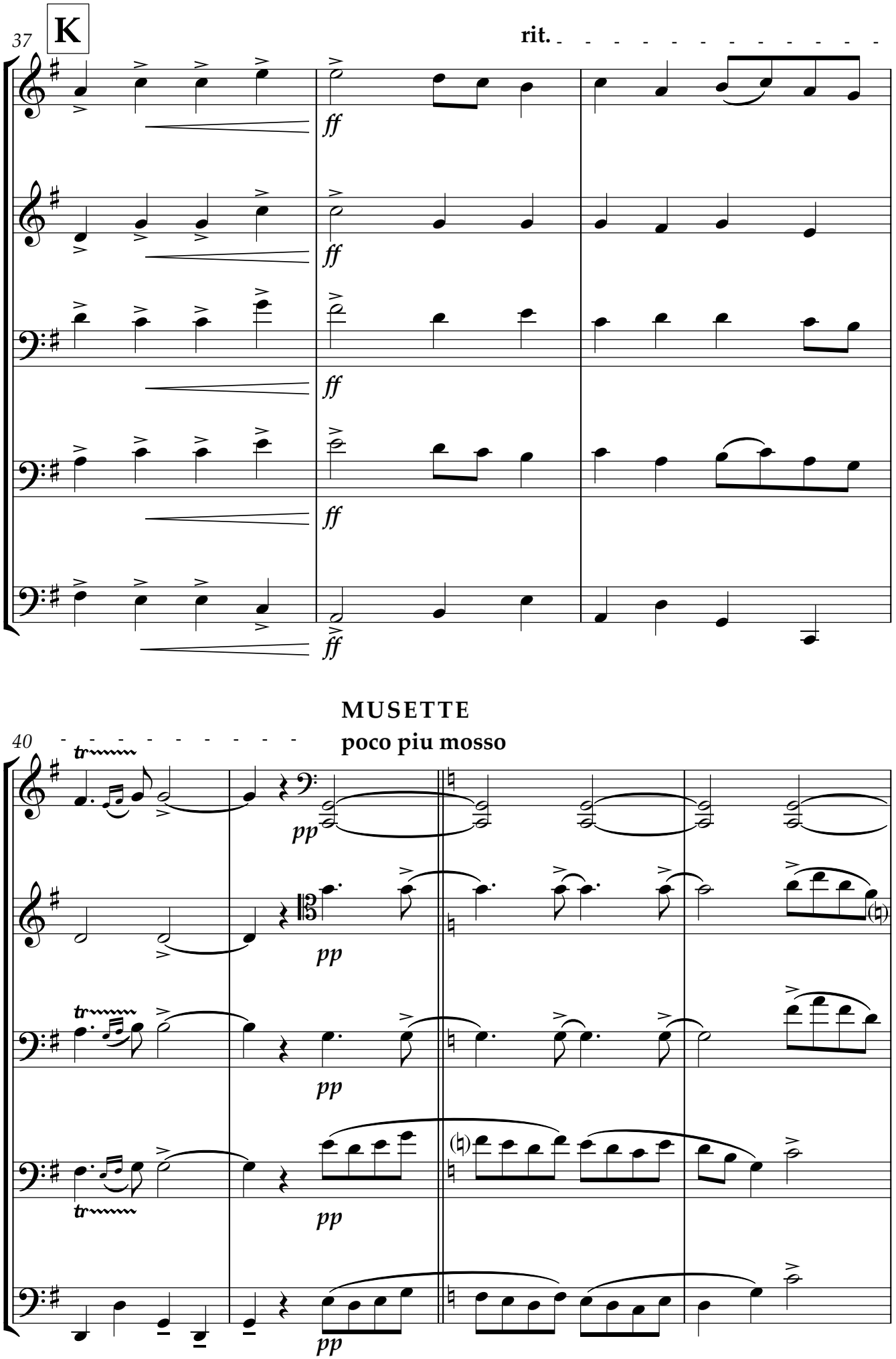
Soli

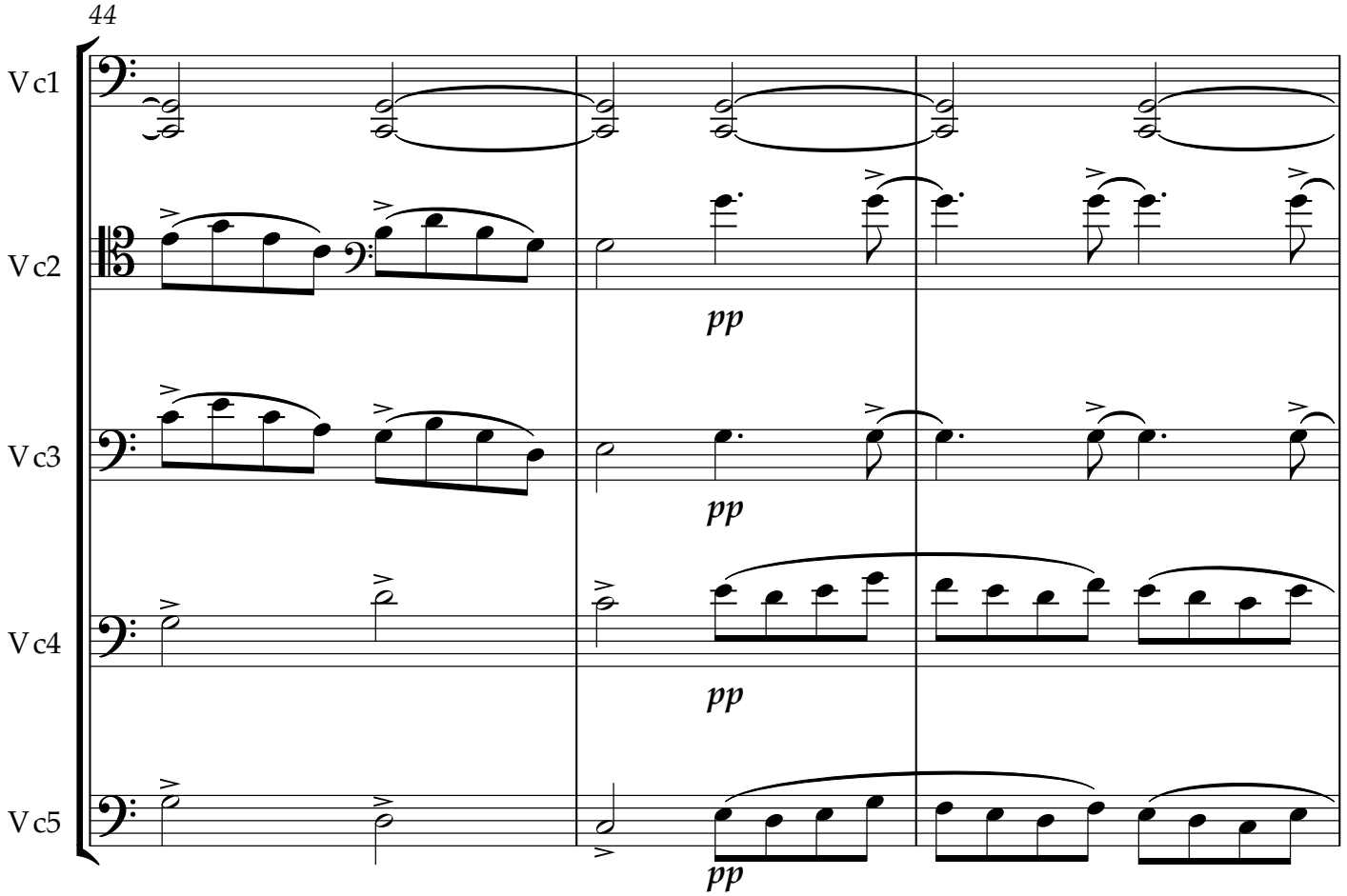

19
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
f
fz

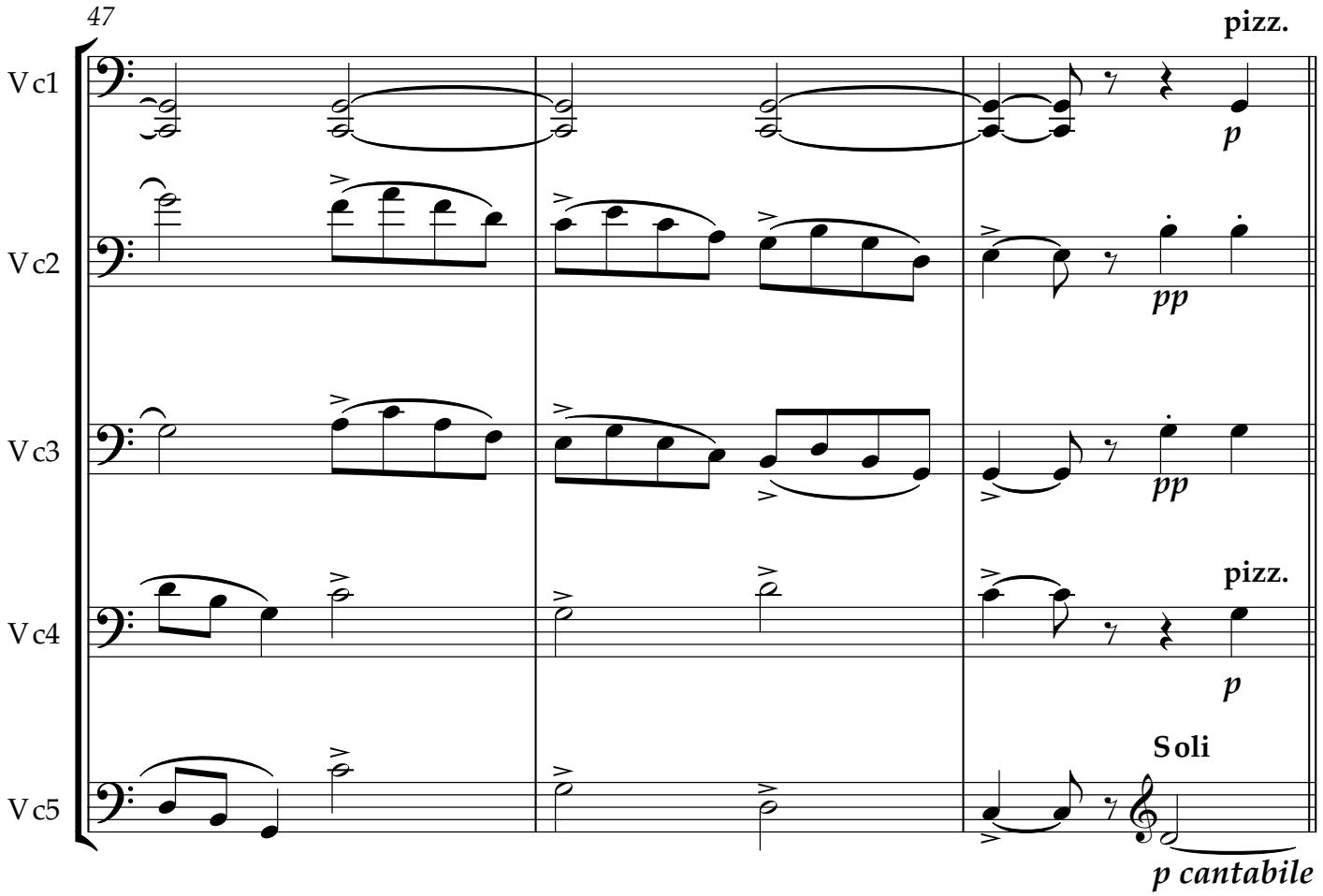

I
24
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Soli
fpp
f

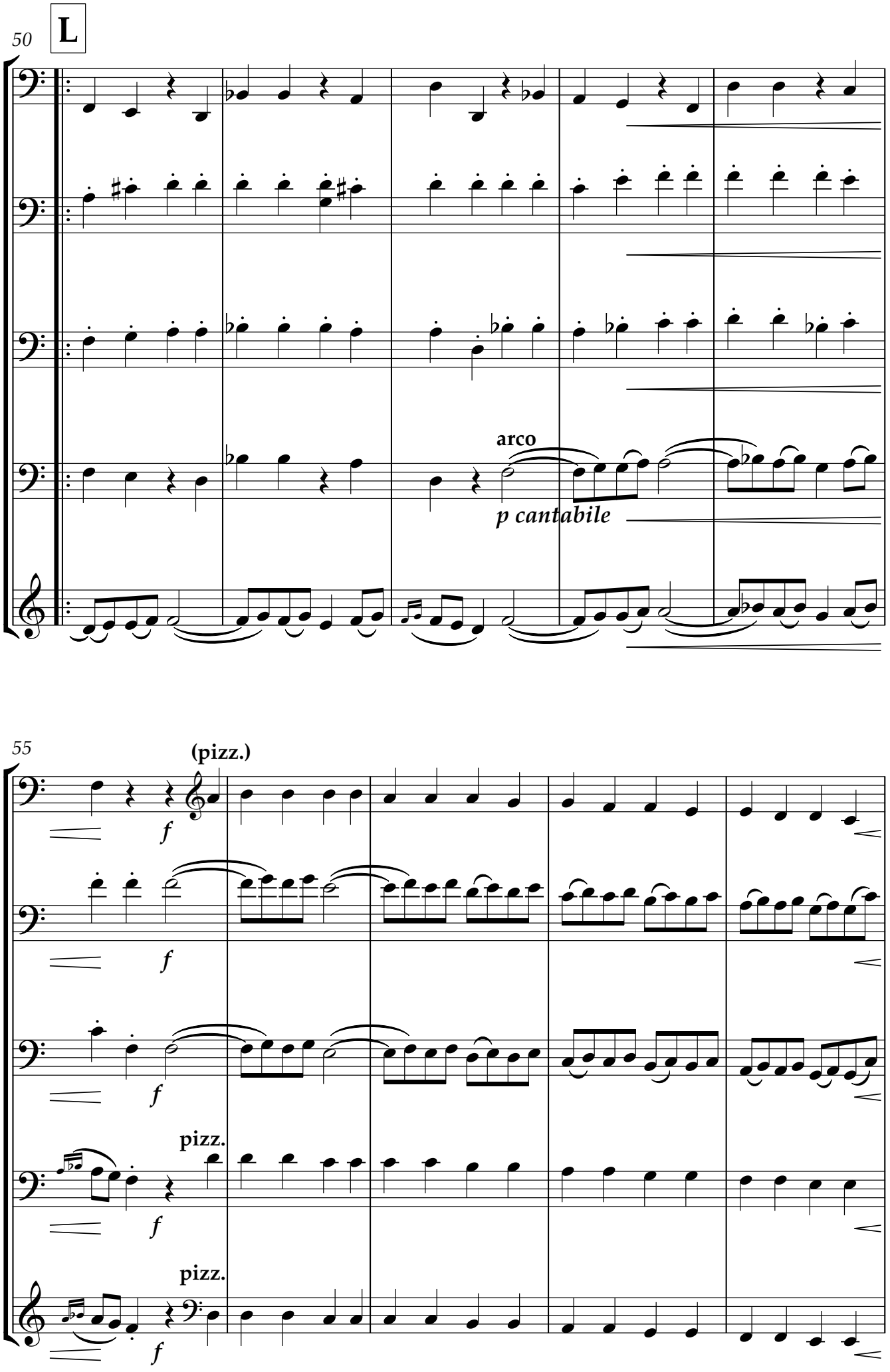

29
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
f
ppp
Soli
p

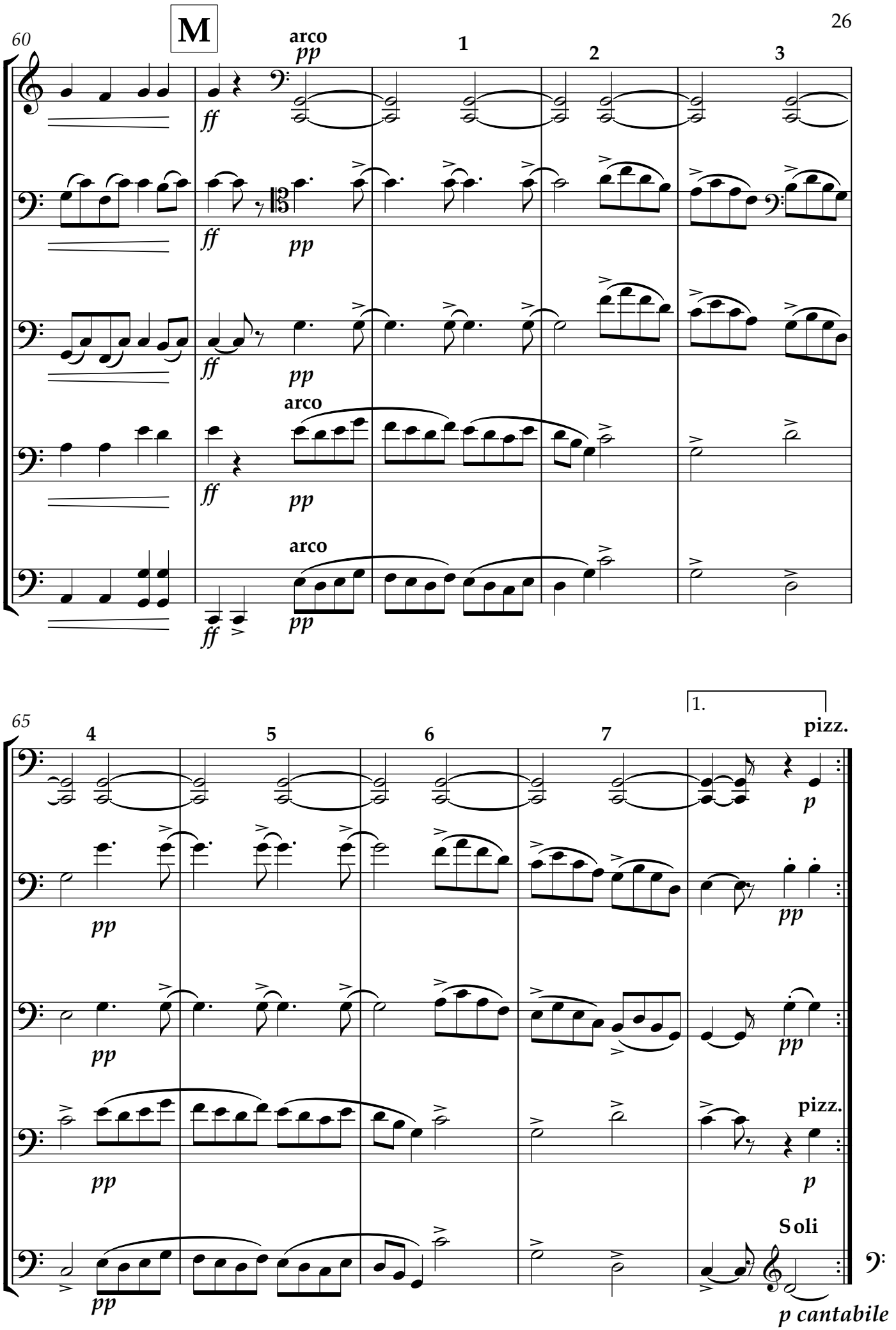

33
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
ppp
fpp
f


K
37
rit.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
ff
MUSETTE
poco piu mosso
40
tr
pp


44
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
pp
pp
pp
pp


47
pizz.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
p
pp
pp
pizz.
p
Soli
p cantabile


50
L
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
arco
p cantabile
55
(pizz.)
f
pizz.


M
60
arco
pp
1
2
3
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
ff
pp
arco
65
4
5
6
7
1.
pizz.
p
Soli
p cantabile

Allegretto ♩=76

78

2.

GAVOTTE

Vc1

Vc2

Vc3

Vc4

Vc5

pp

fpp

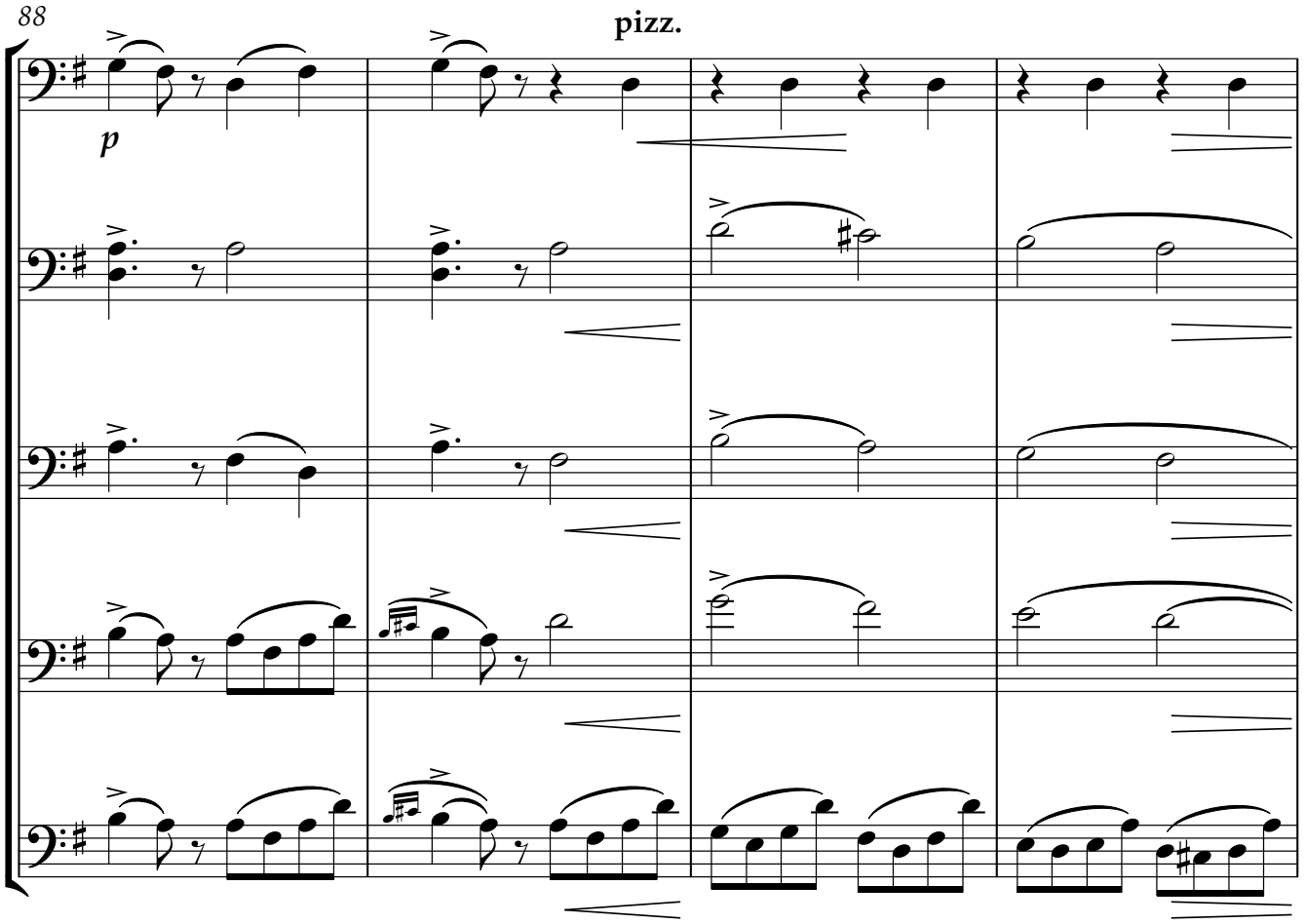
f

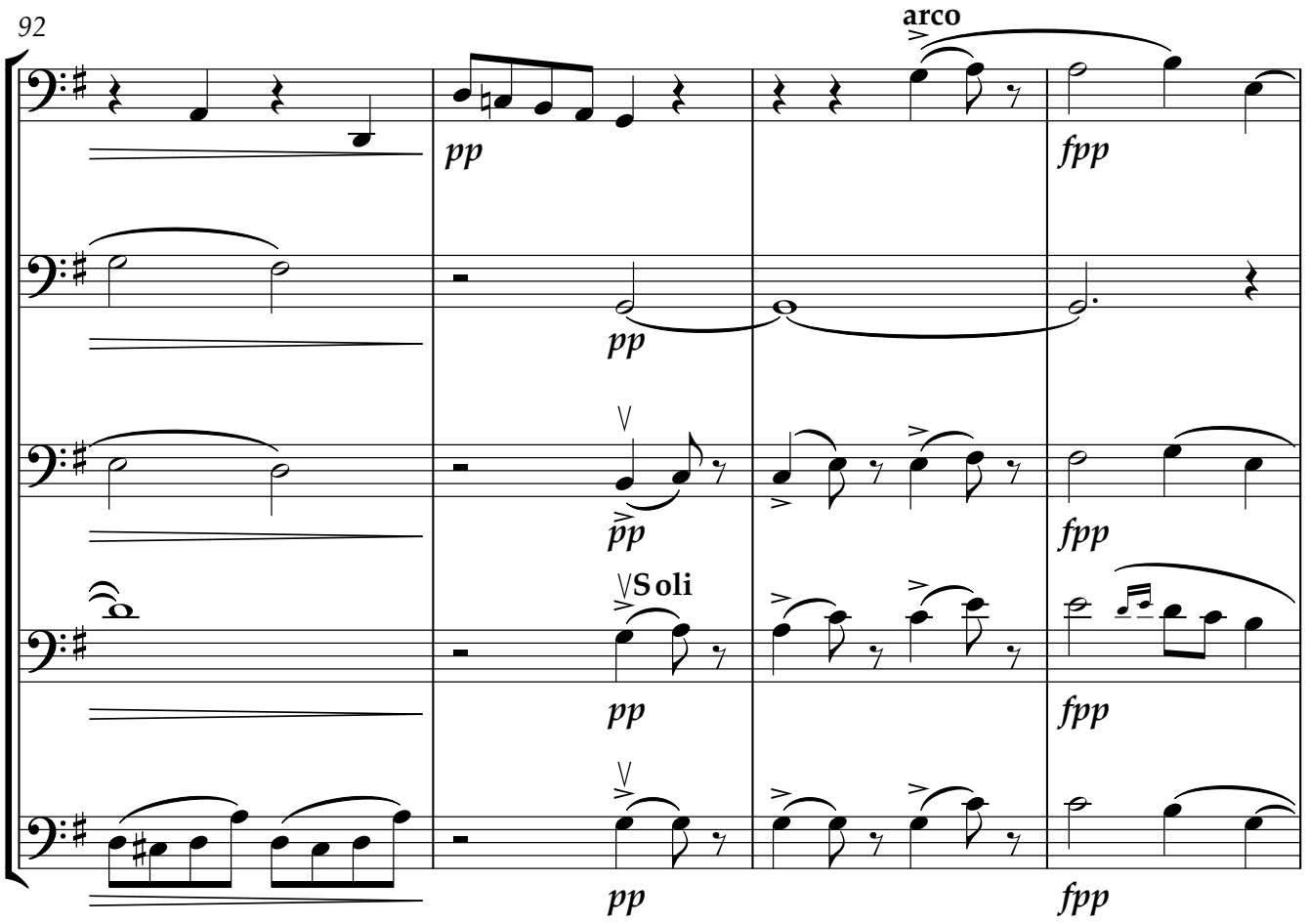
Soli

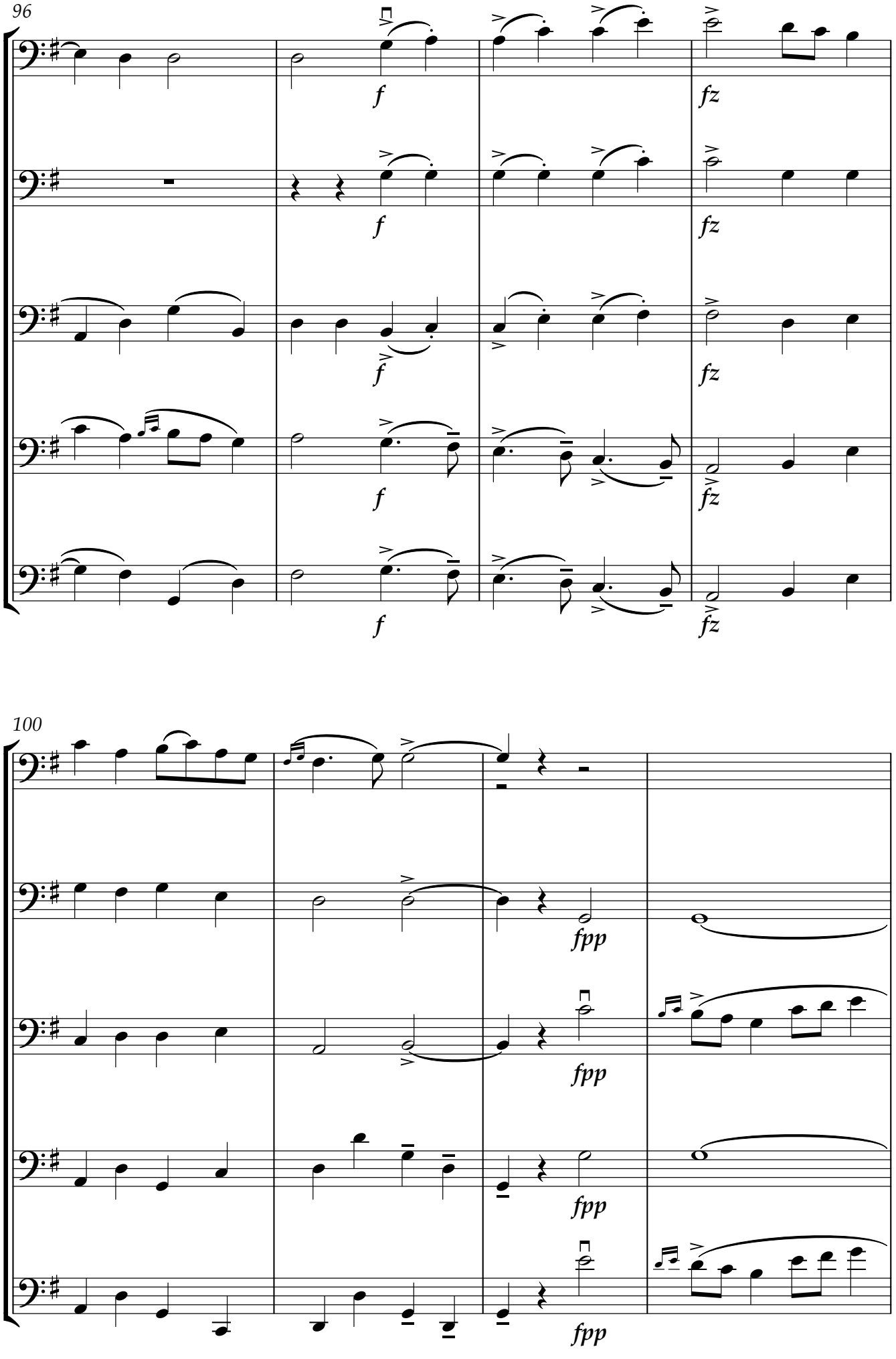
83

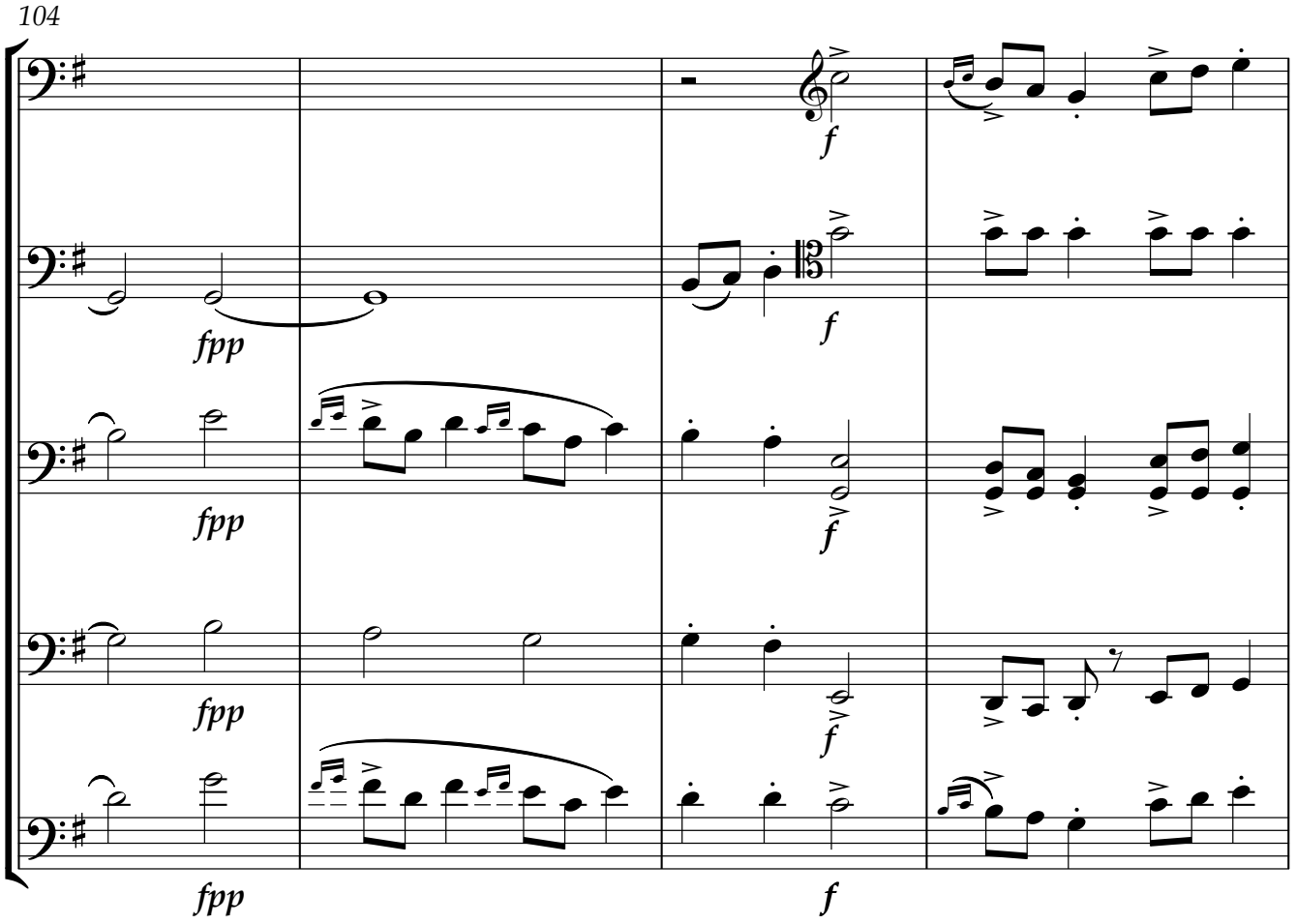
fz

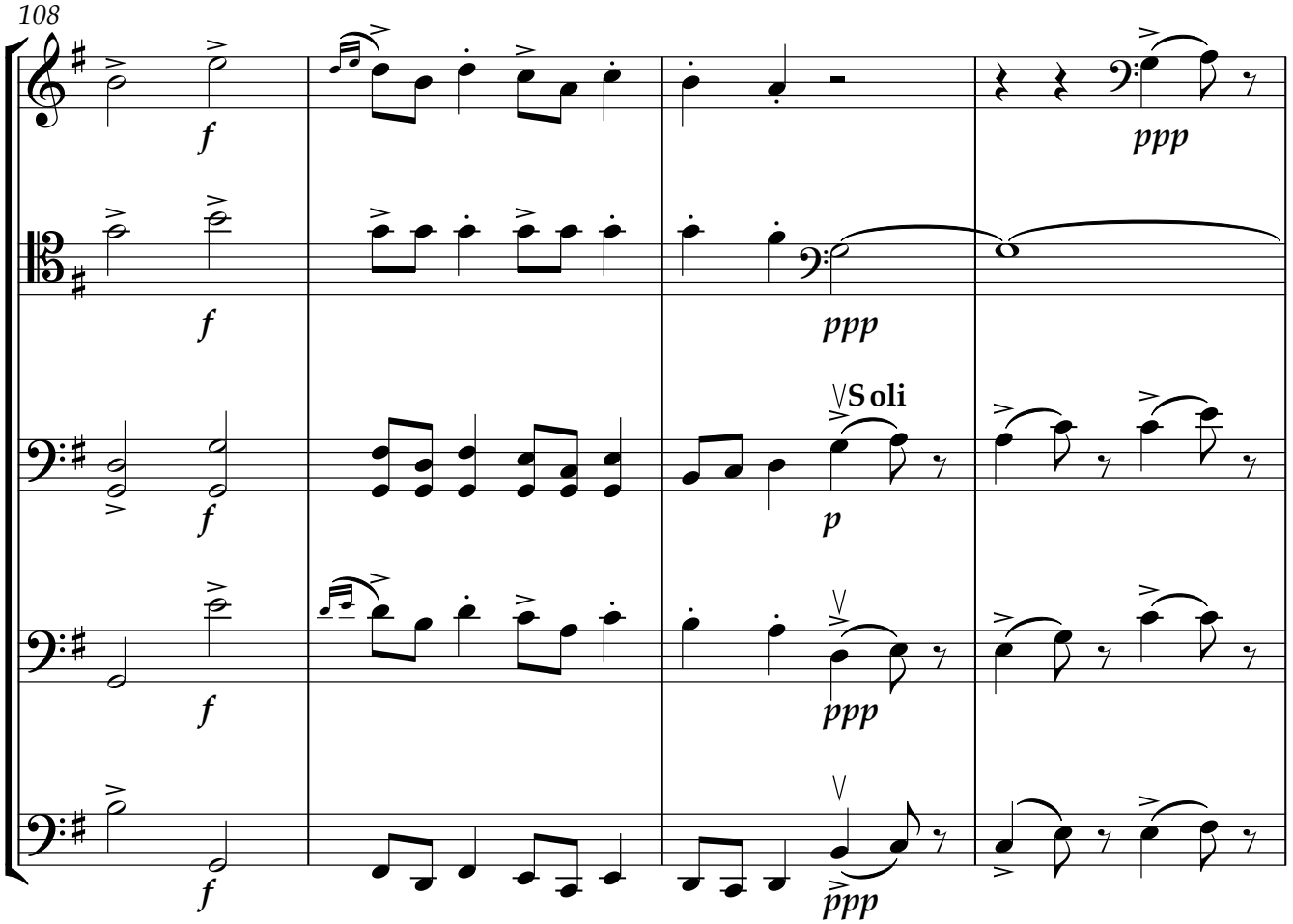
p

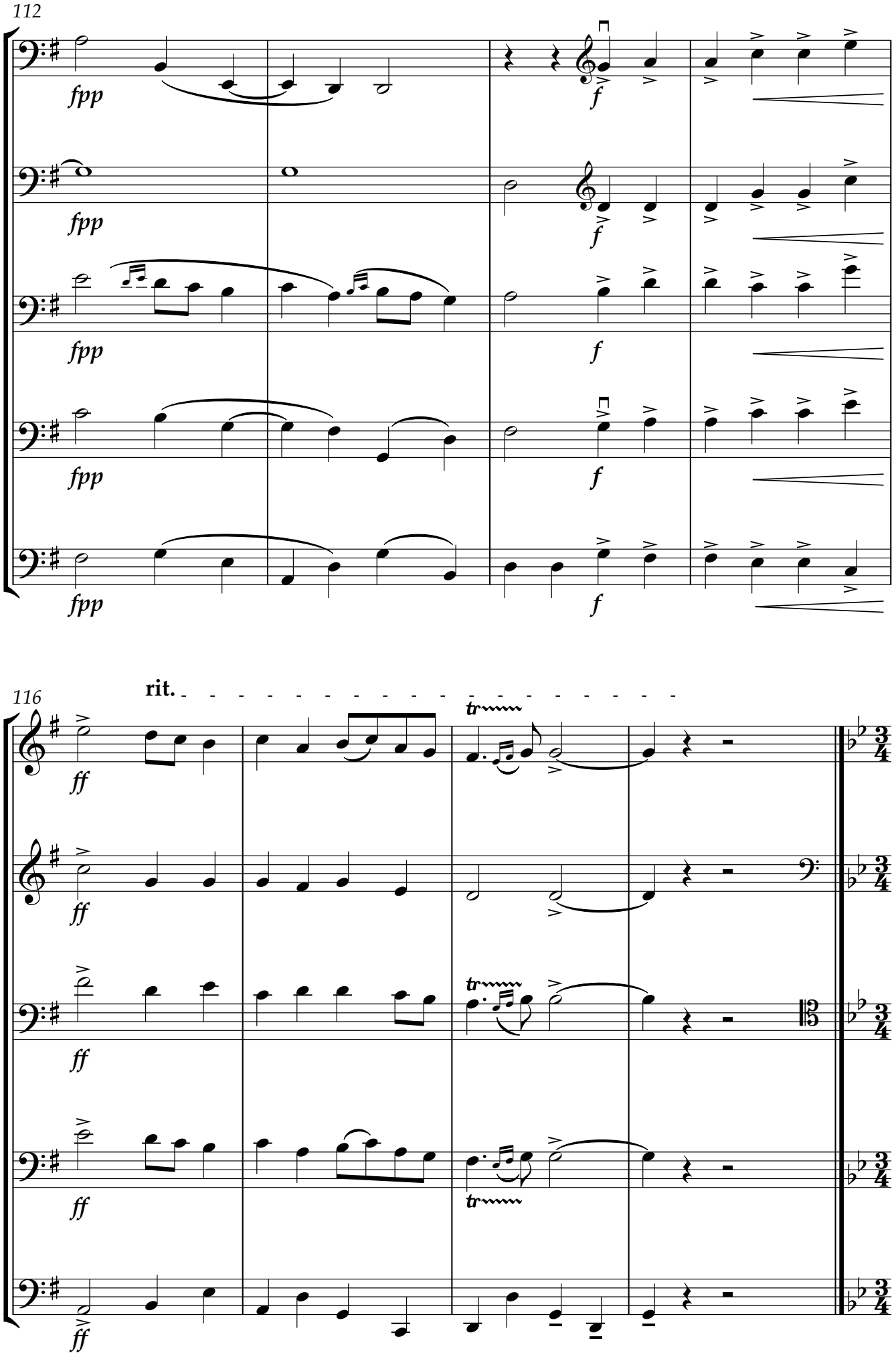

88
pizz.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
p


92
arco
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
pp
fpp
Soli


96
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
f
fz
100
fpp

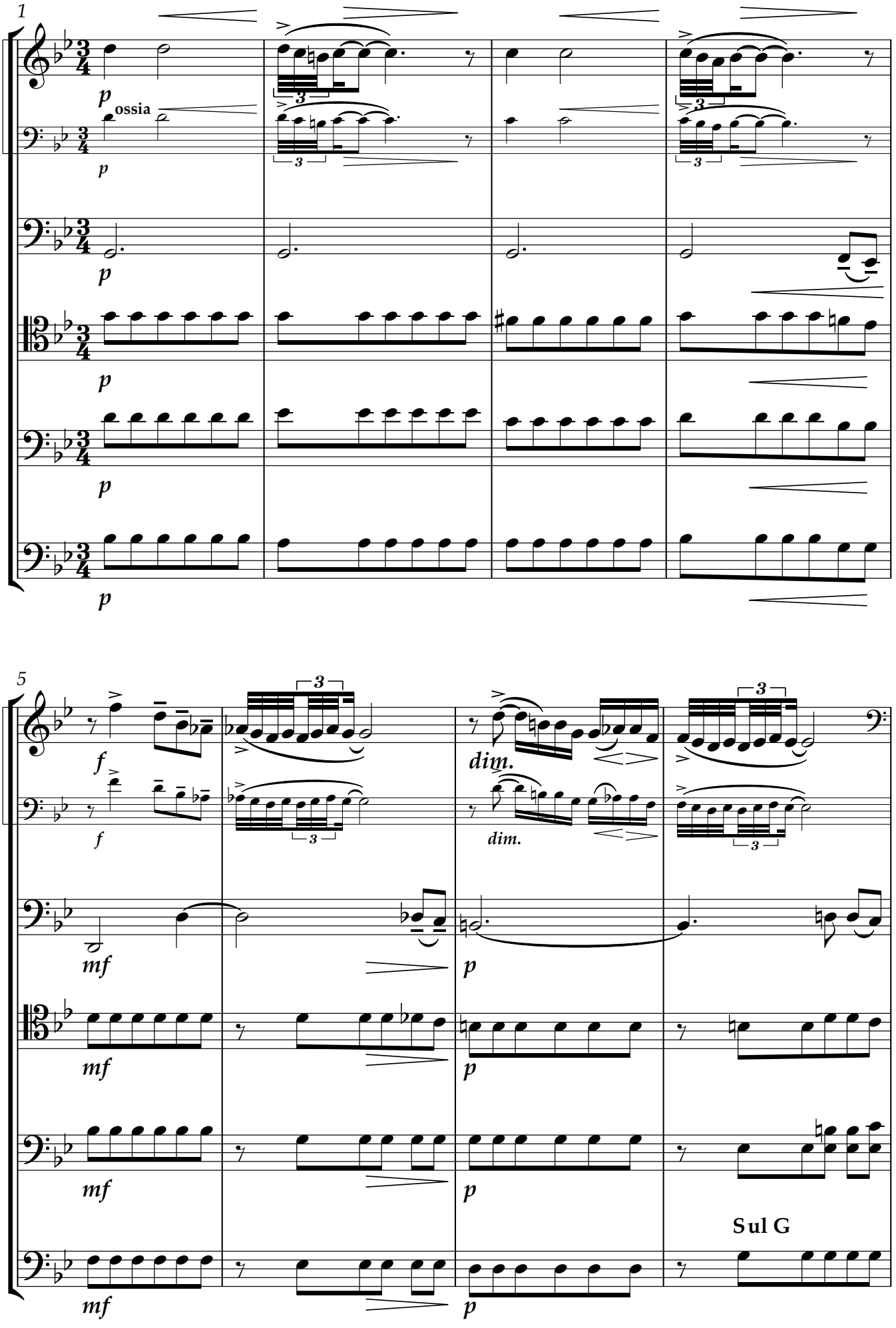

104
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
fpp
f

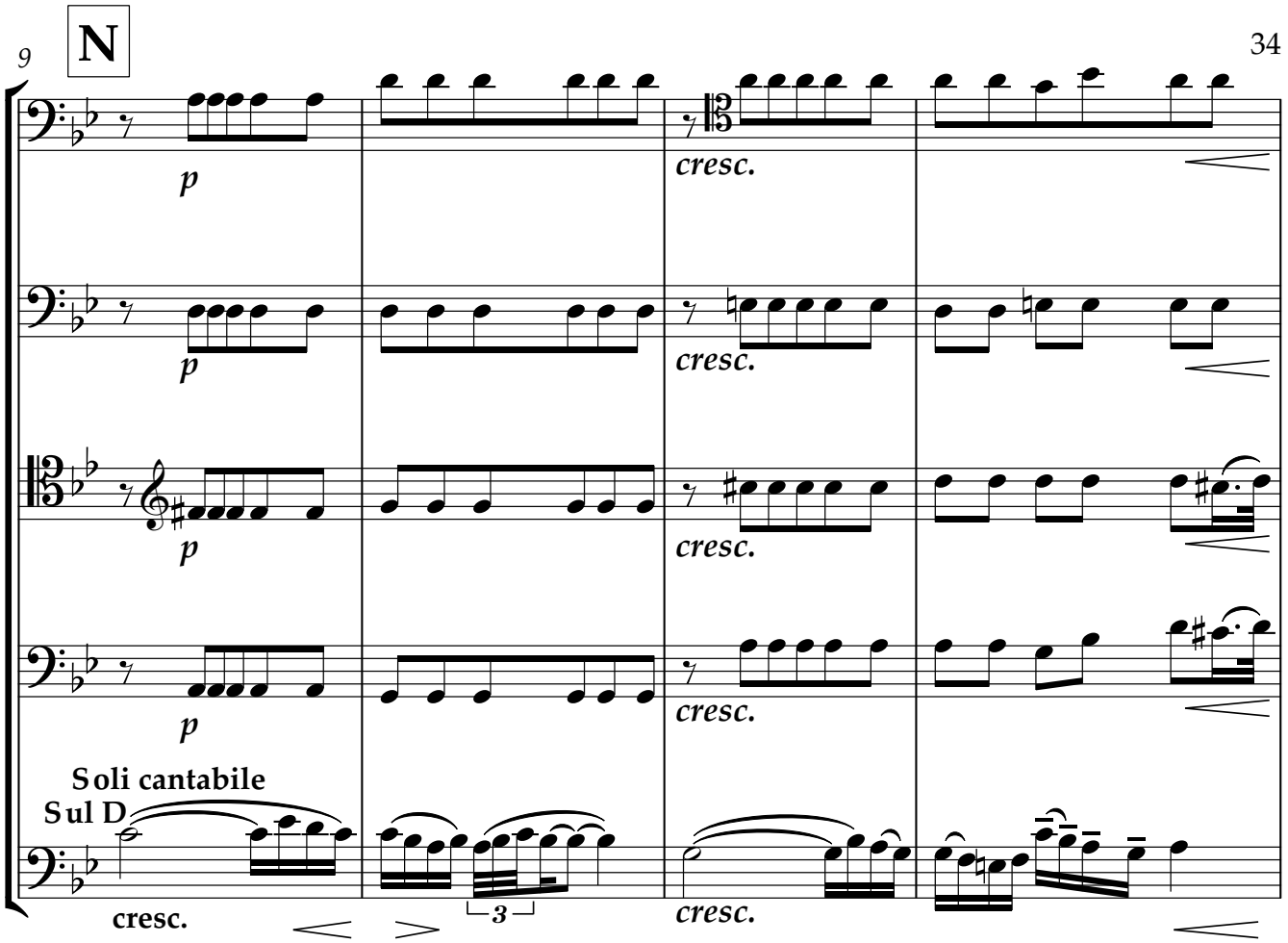

108
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
f
ppp
Soli
p

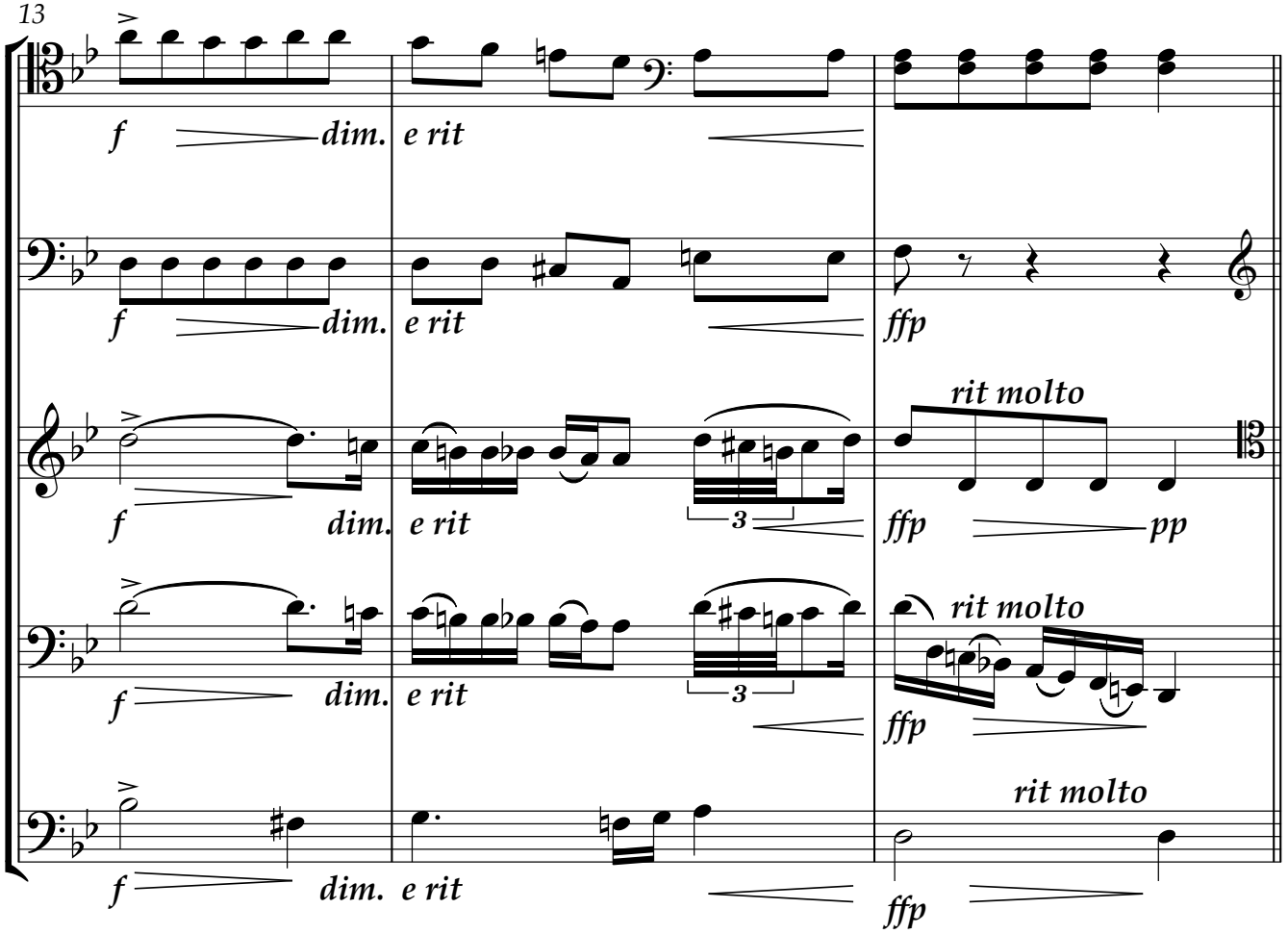

112
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
fpp
f
116
rit.
ff
tr

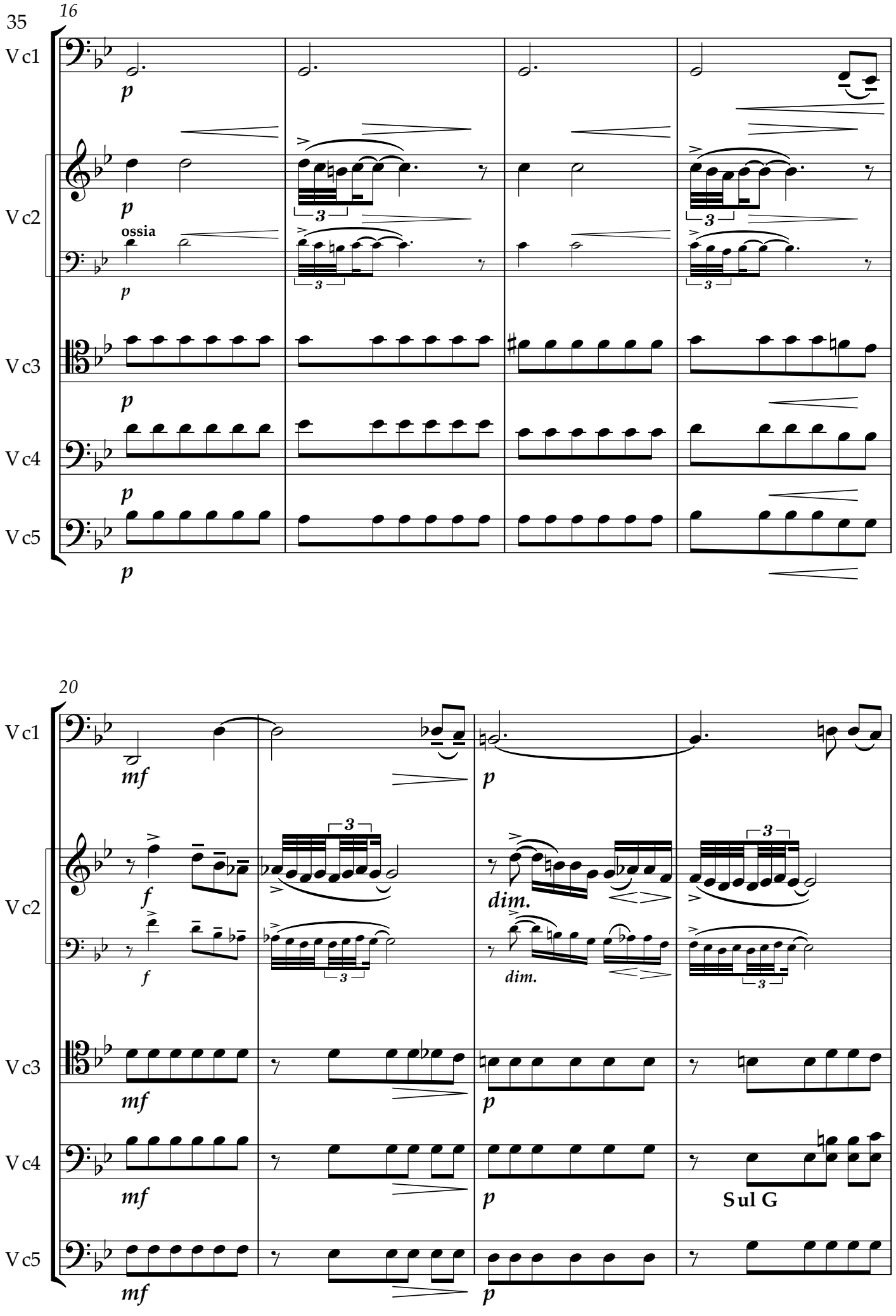
IV. AIR

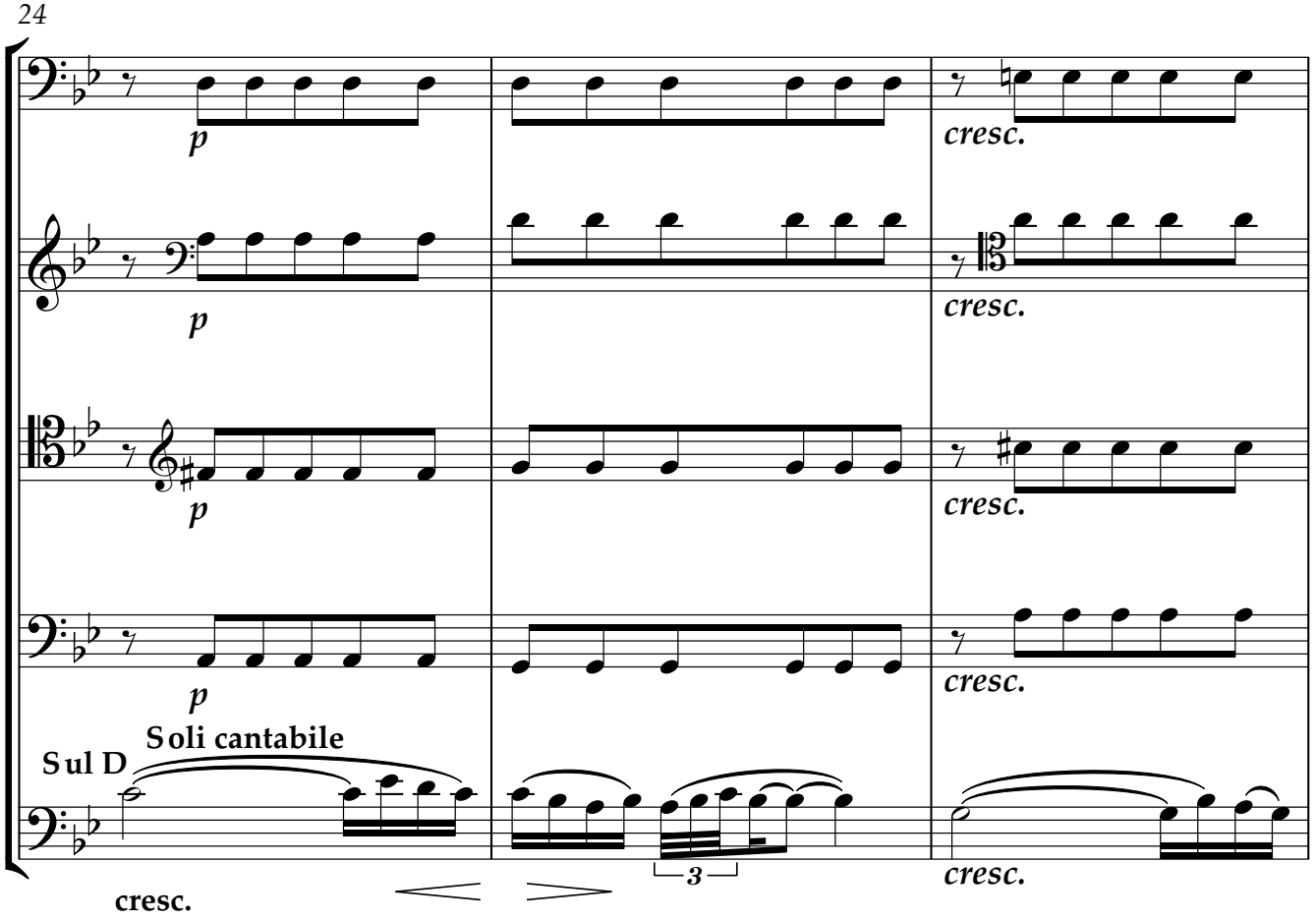
Andante religioso ♩=50

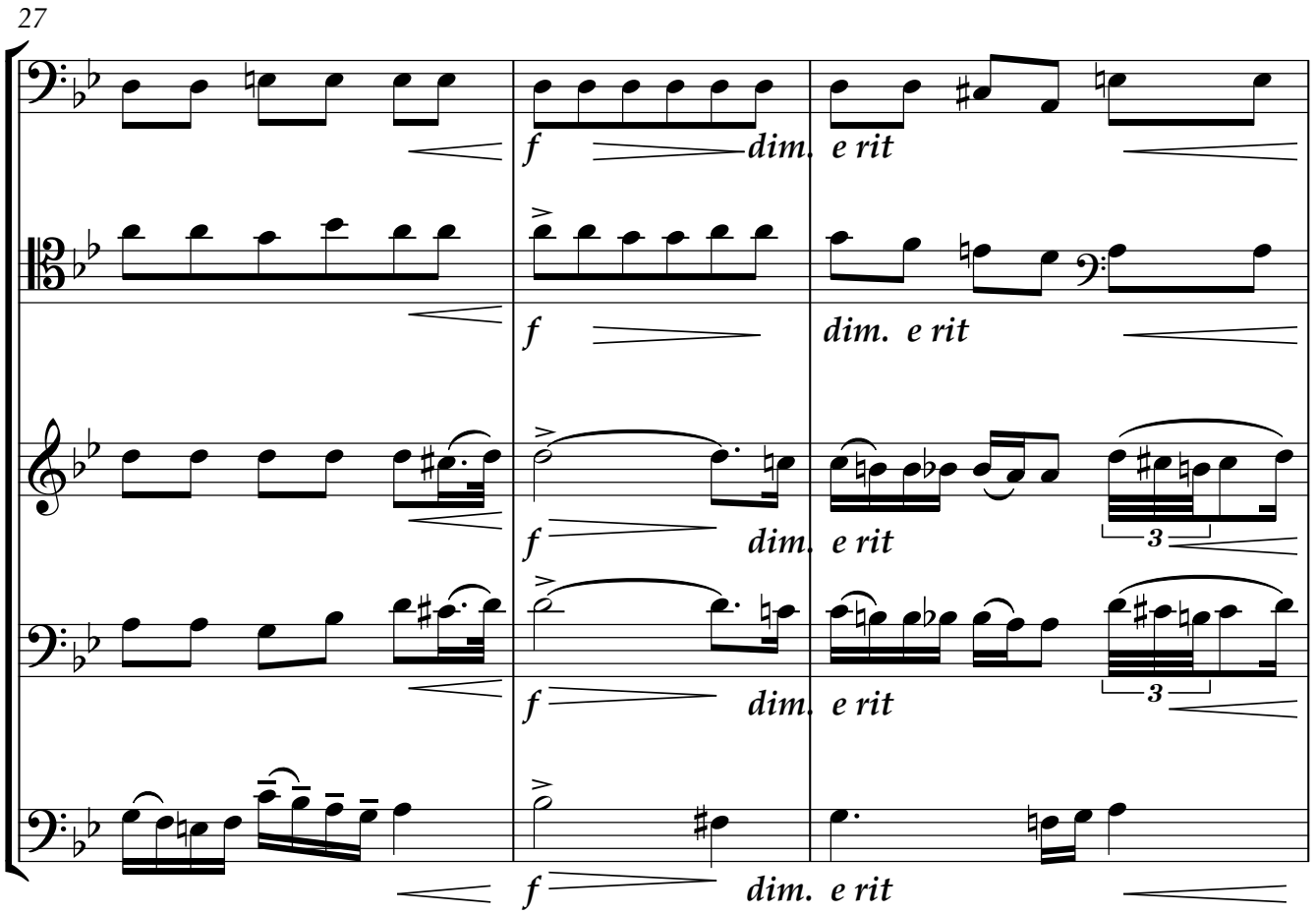


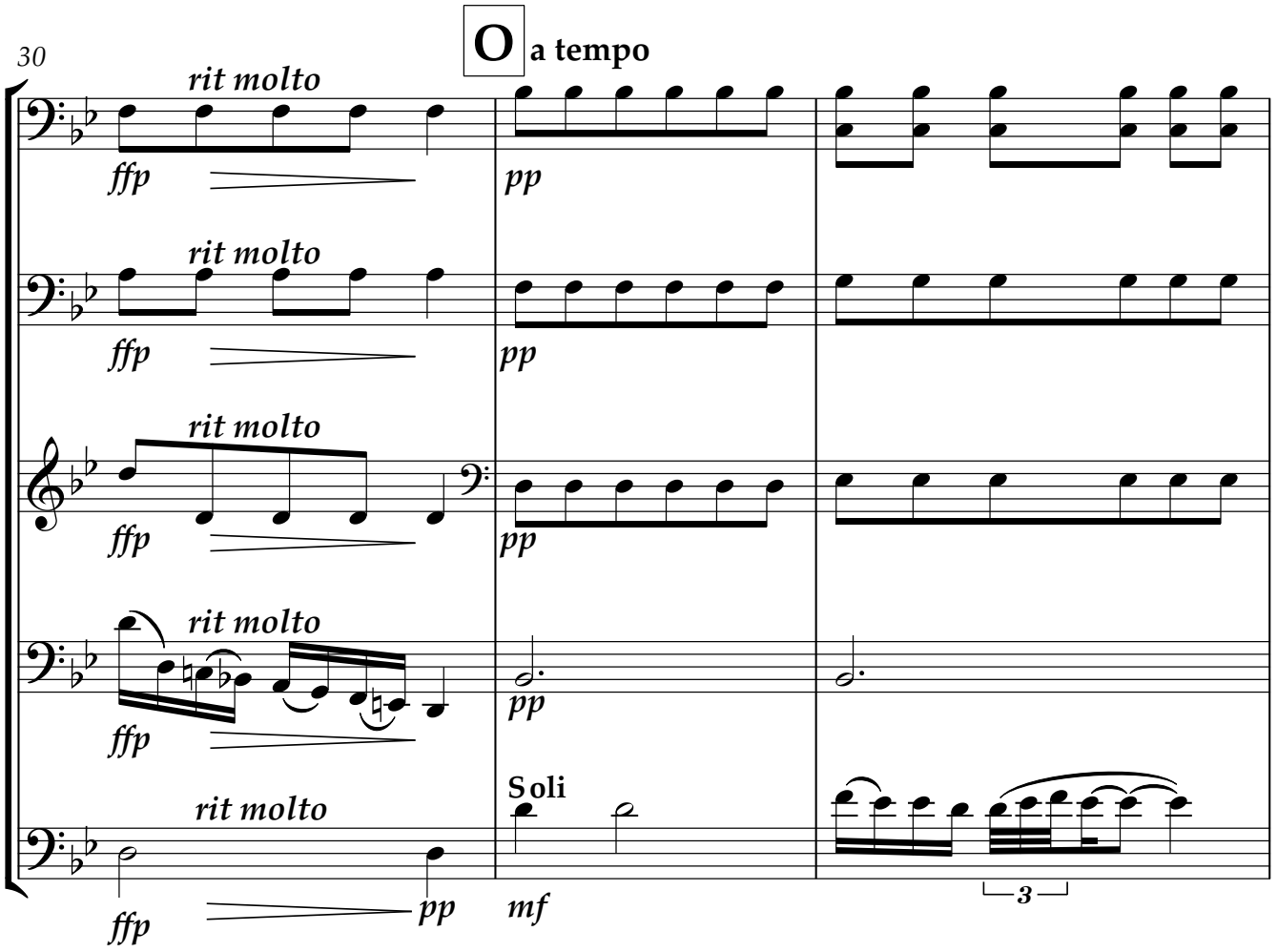

N
9
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
p
cresc.
Soli cantabile
Sul D
3

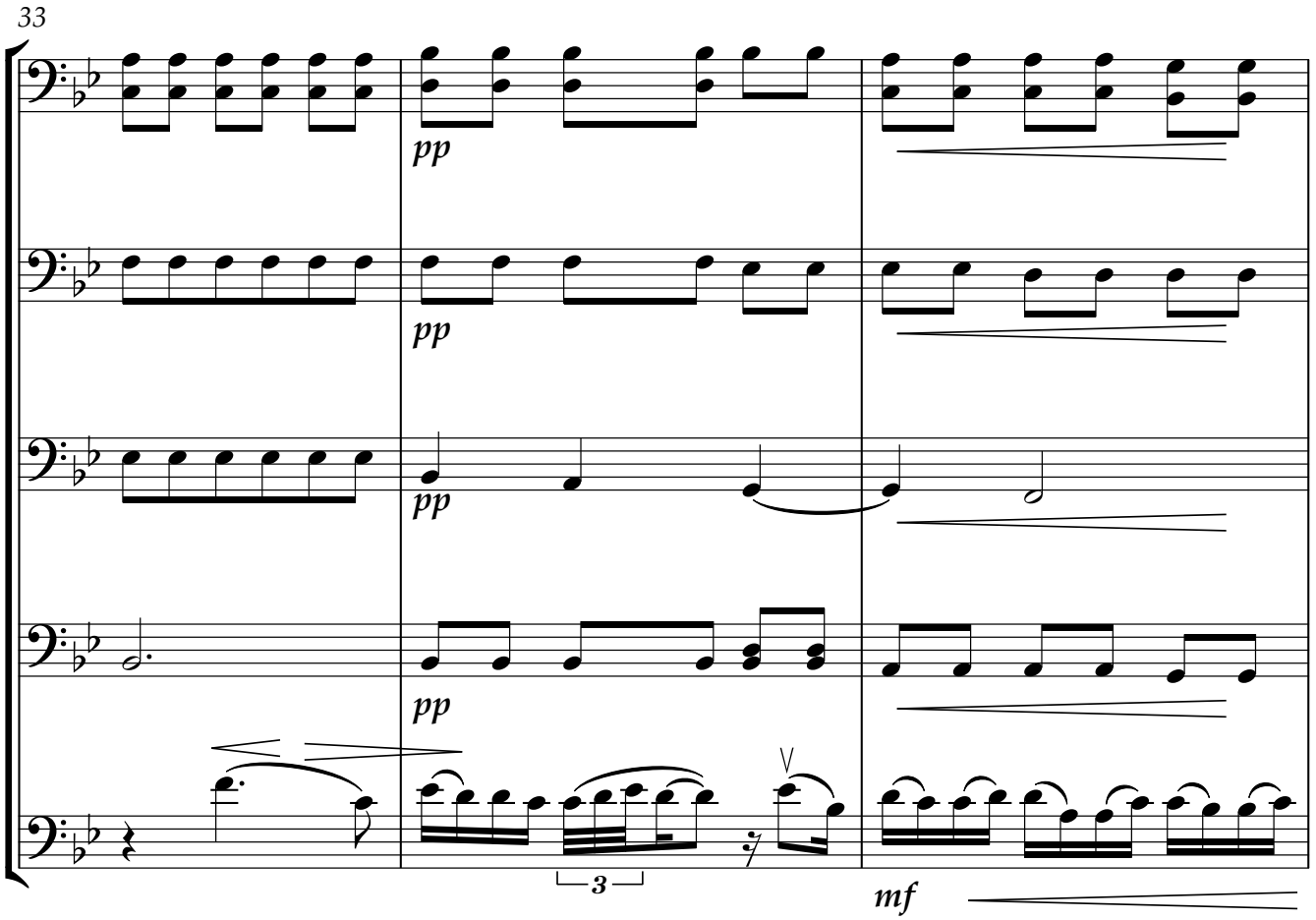

13
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
f
dim.
e rit
ffp
rit molto
pp
3

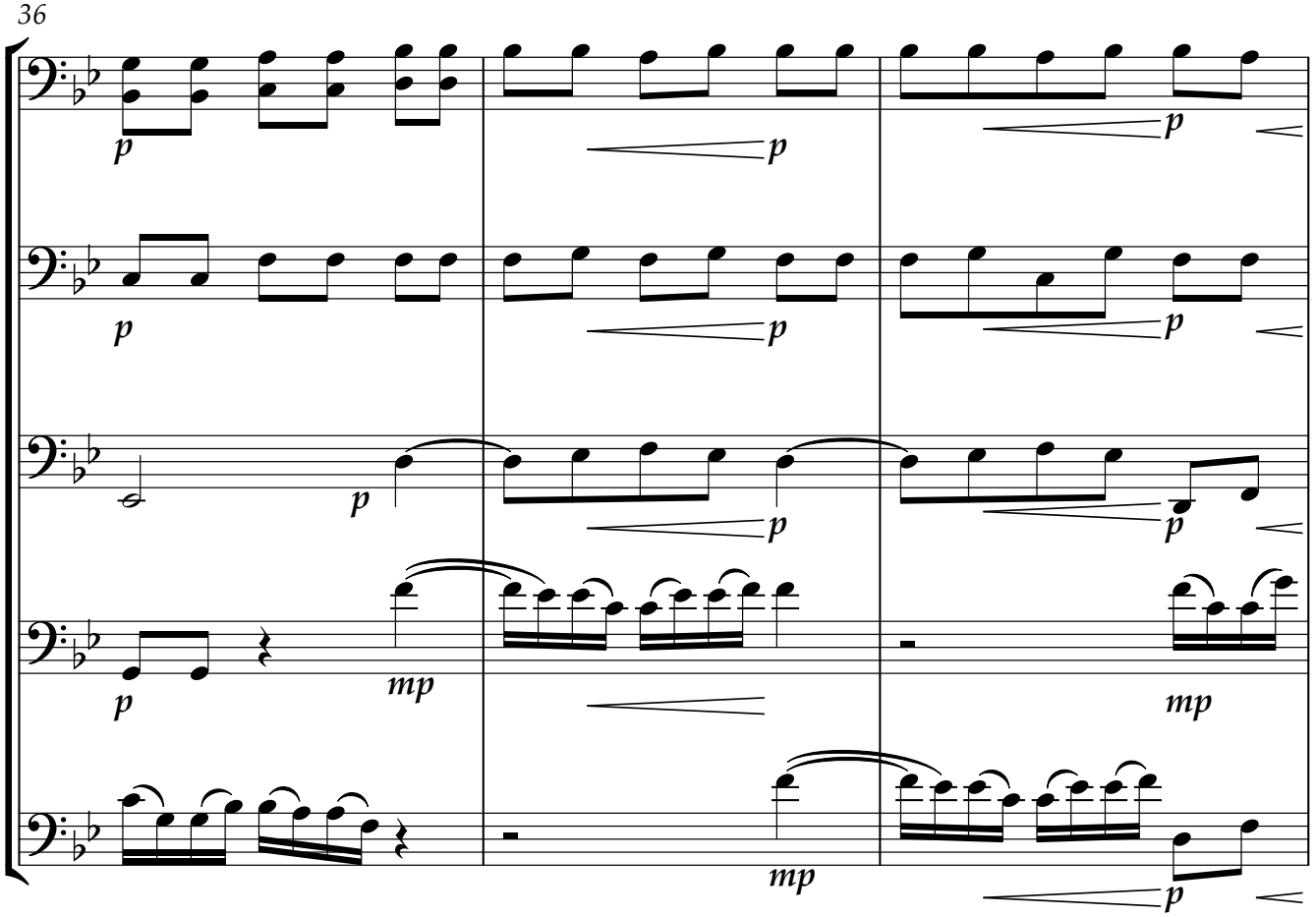

35
16
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
p
ossia
3
20
mf
f
dim.
Sul G

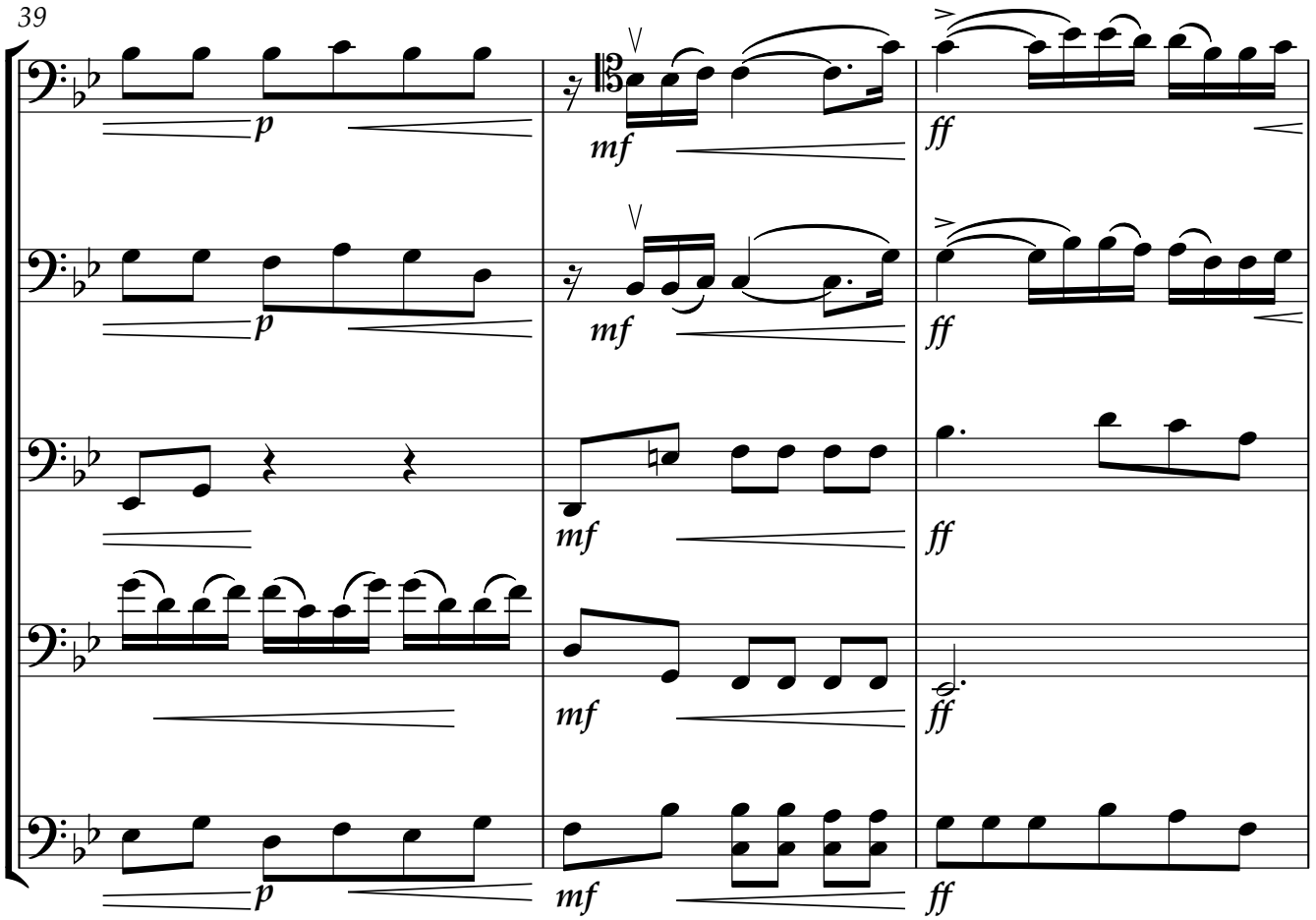

24
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
p
cresc.
Sul D
Soli cantabile
3
cresc.

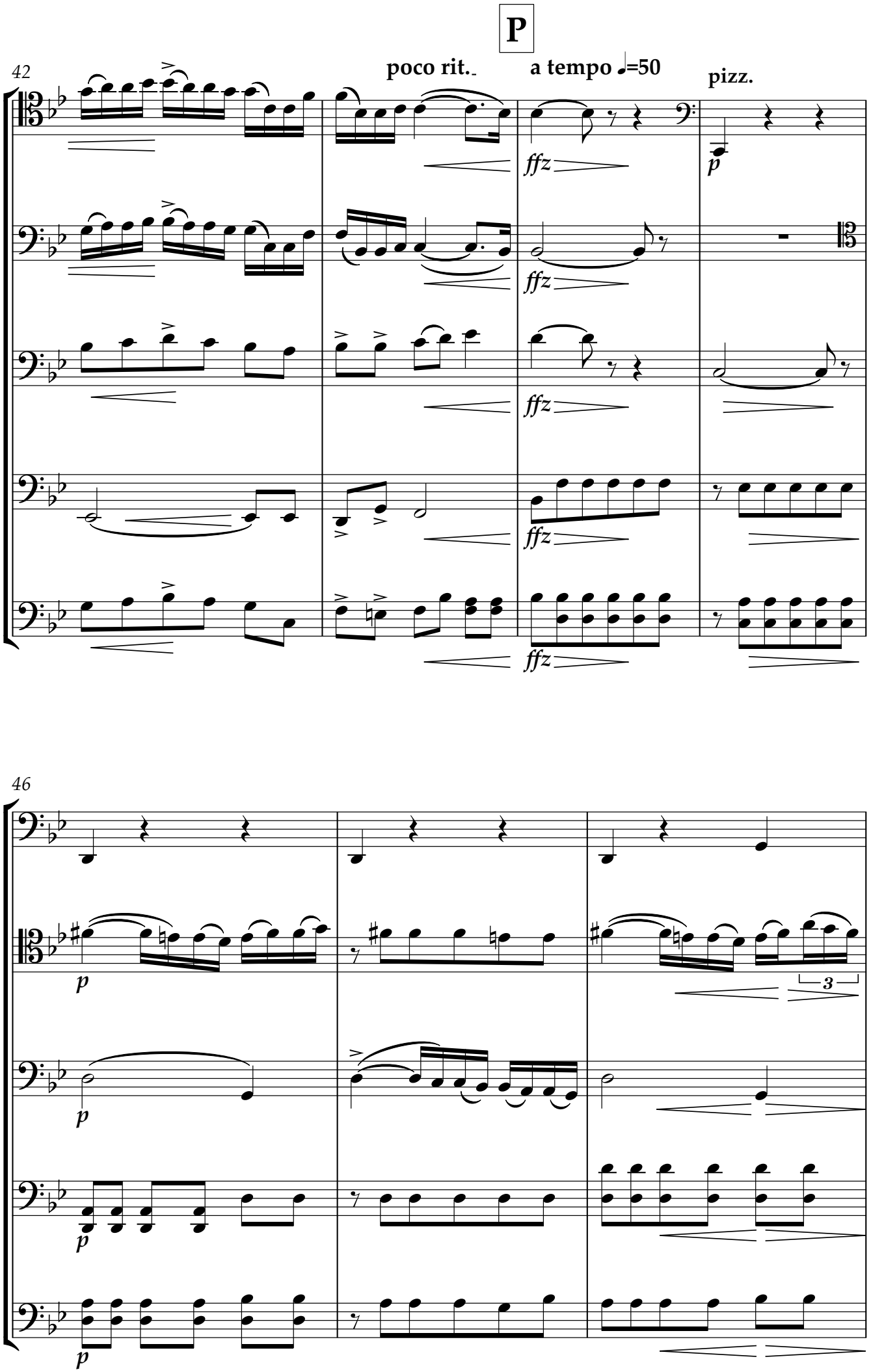

27
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
f
dim. e rit
3

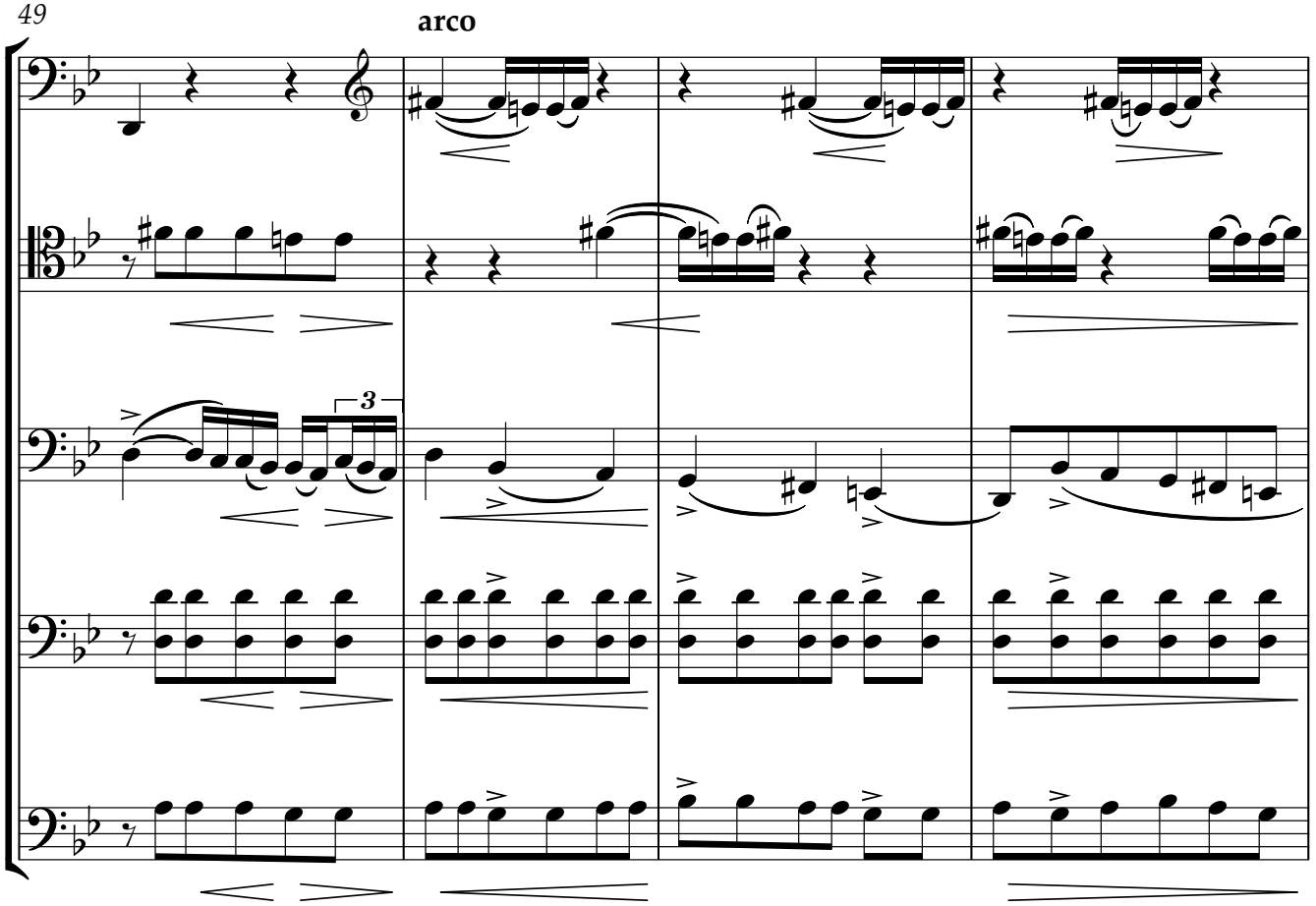

30
O a tempo
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
rit molto
ffp
pp
Soli
mf
3

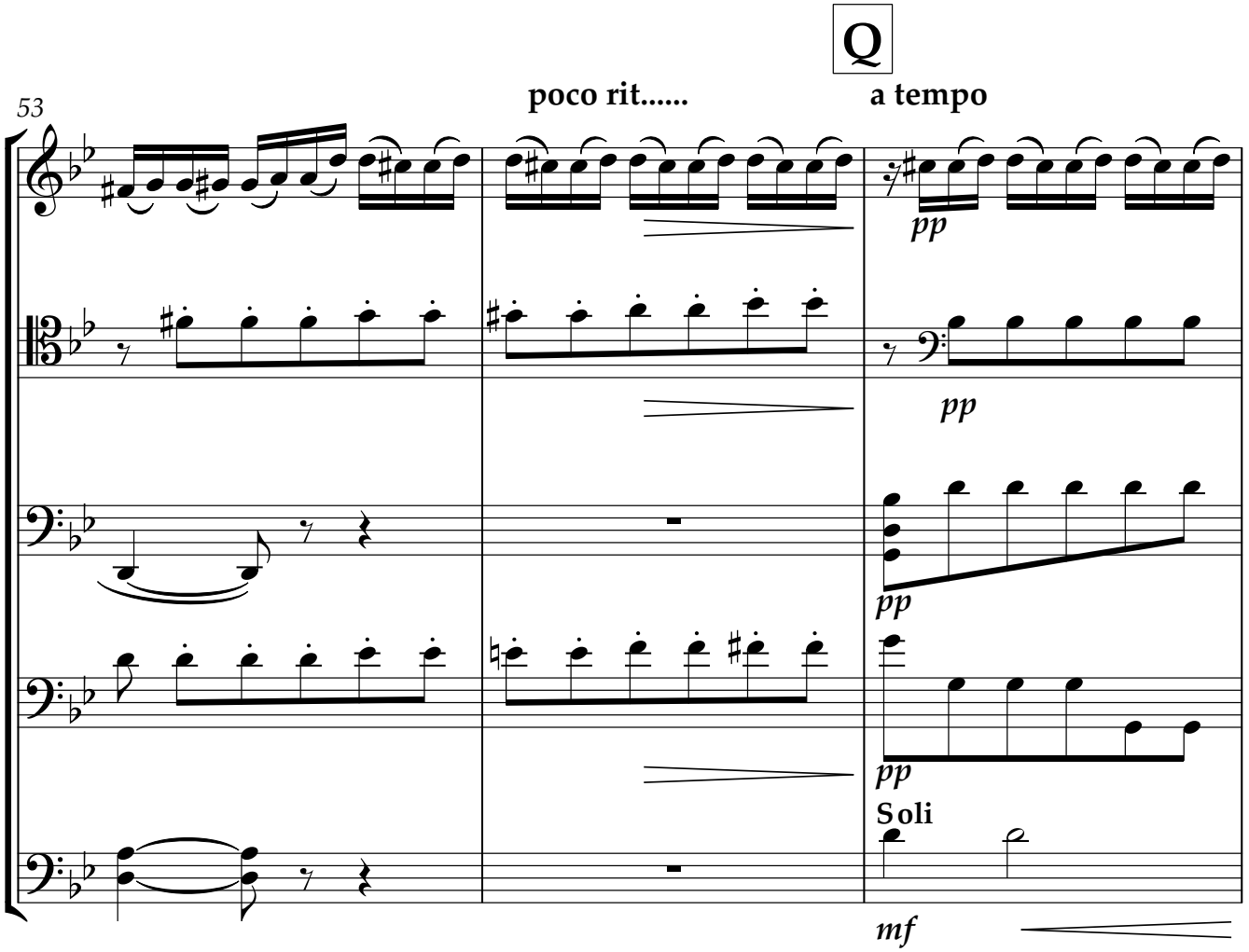

33
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
pp
3
mf

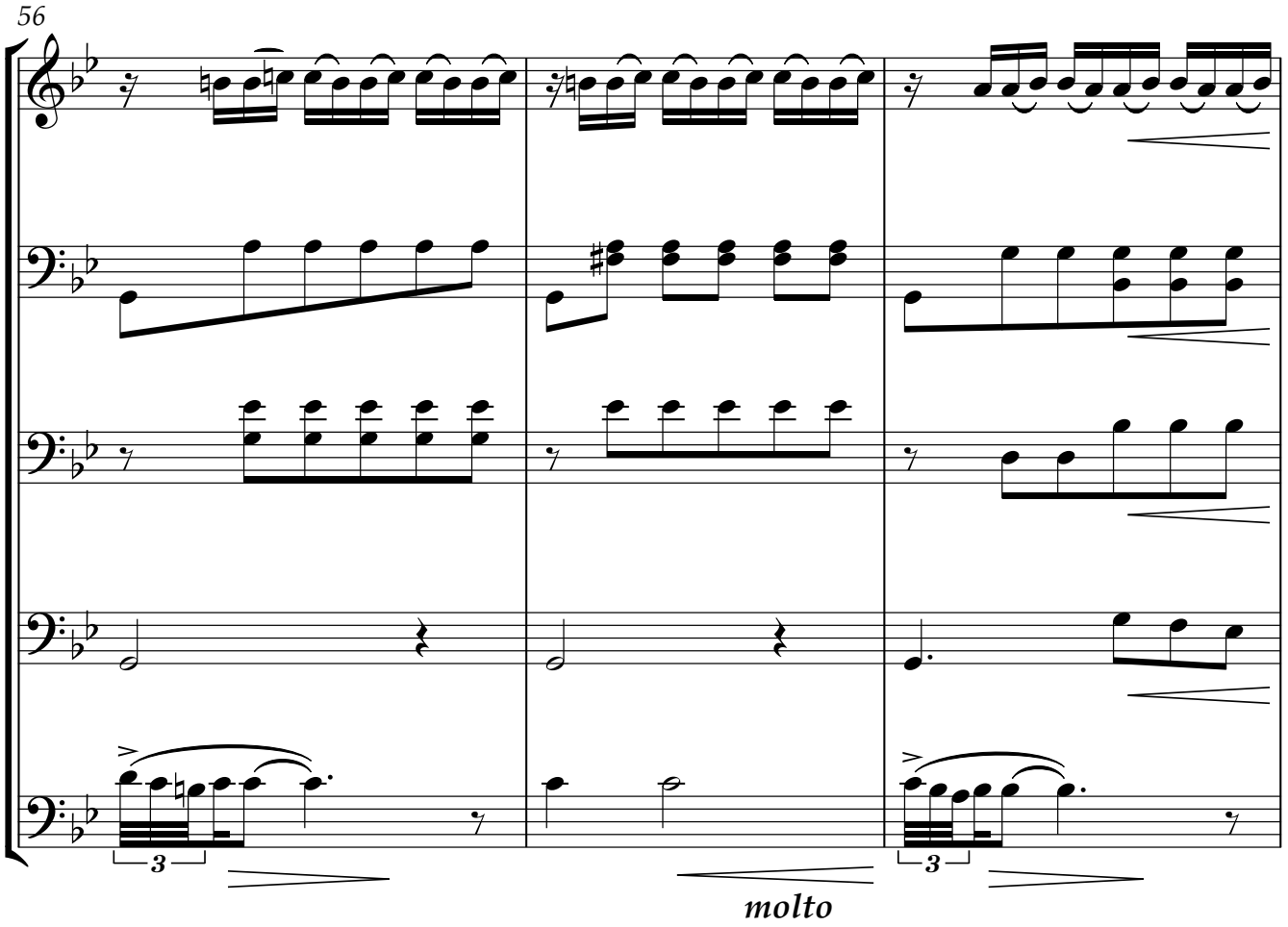

36
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
p
mp

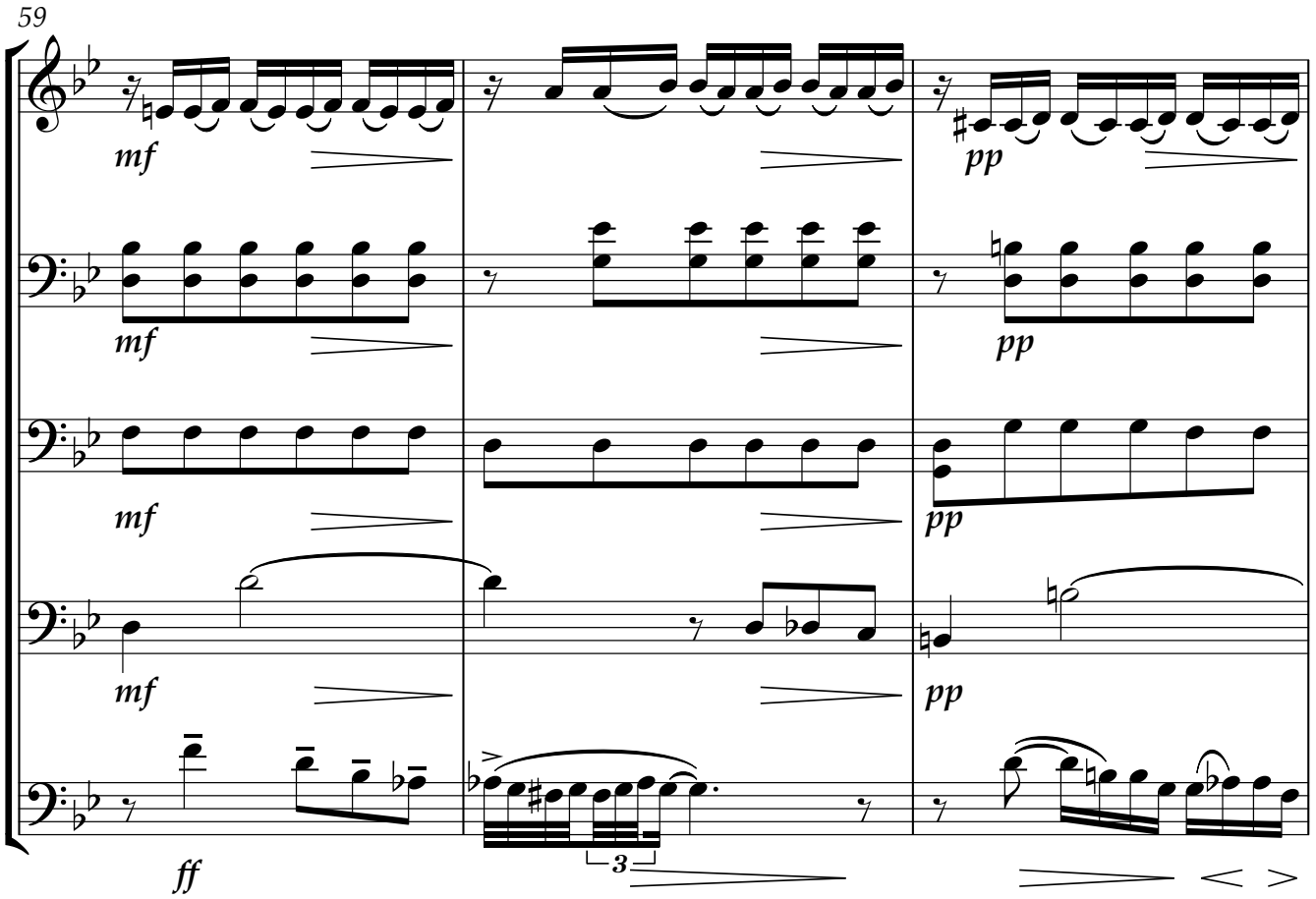

39
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
p
mf
ff


P
42
poco rit.
a tempo ♩=50
pizz.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
ffz
p
46
3


49
arco
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
3


Q
53
poco rit.....
a tempo
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
pp
pp
pp
pp
Soli
mf


56
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
3
molto
3


59
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
mf
mf
mf
mf
ff
3
pp
pp
pp
pp

R

62

Vc1

Vc2

Vc3

Vc4

Soli

mp

Vc5

3

65

Vc1

f

Vc2

f

Vc3

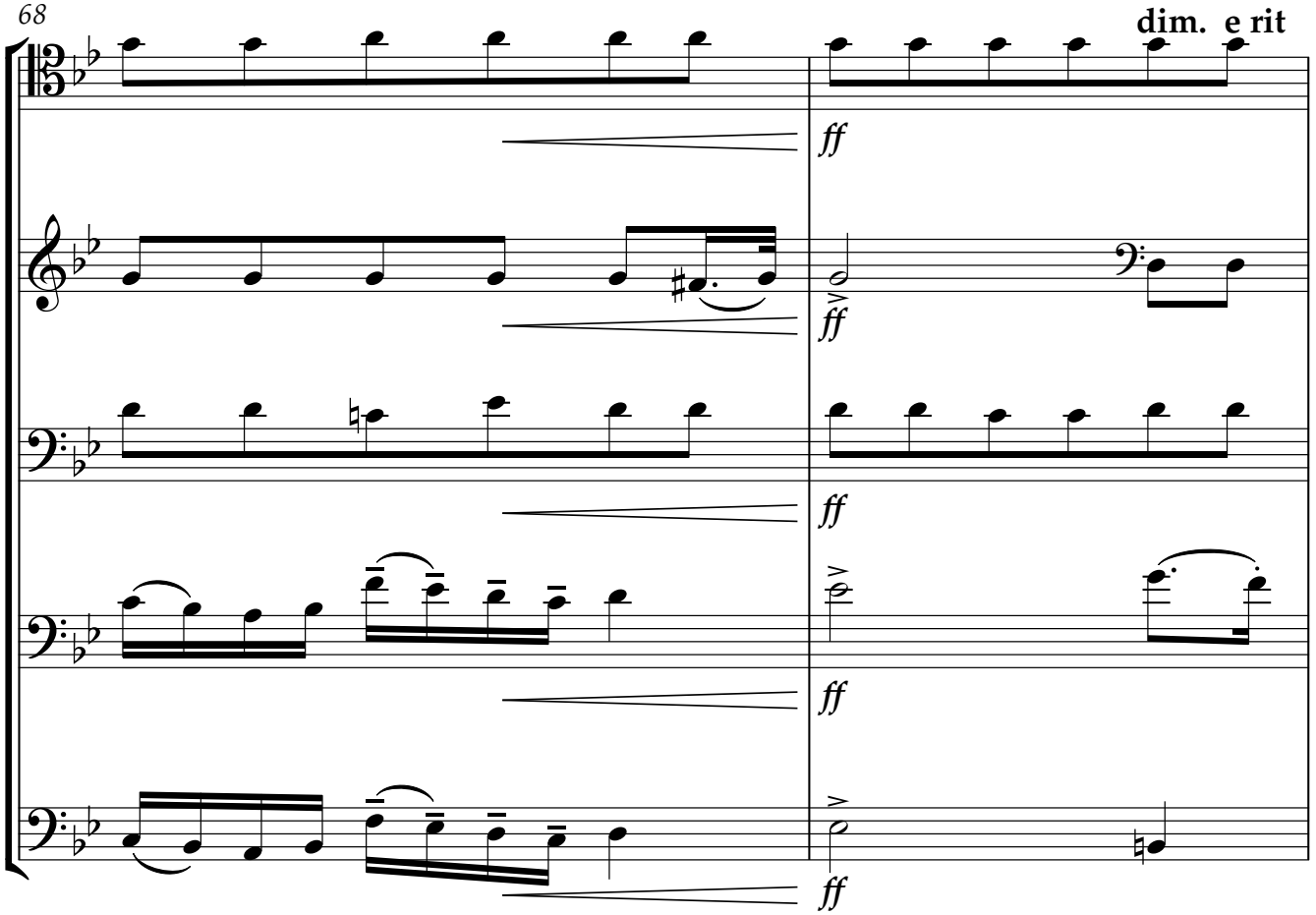
f

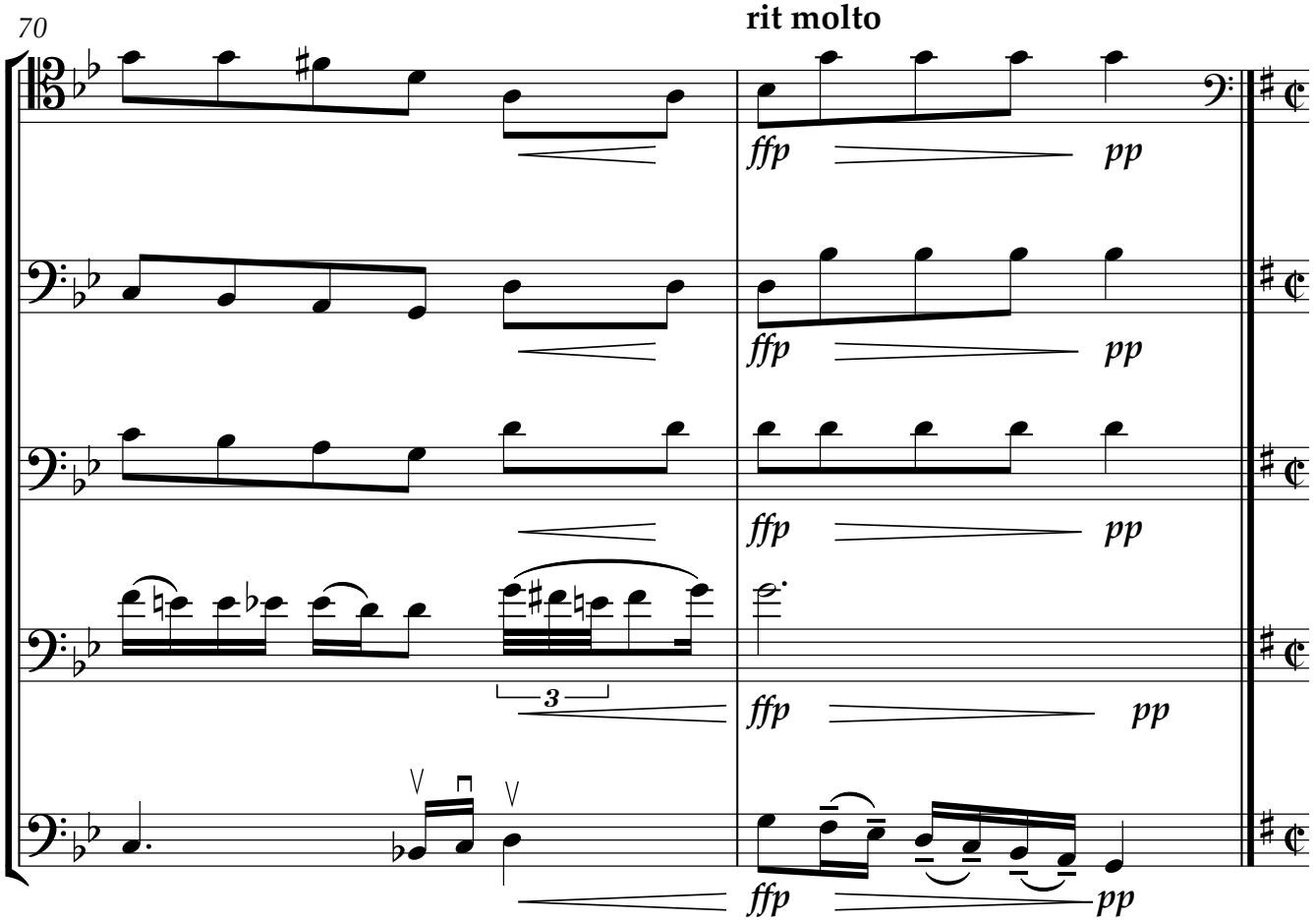
Vc4

f

Vc5

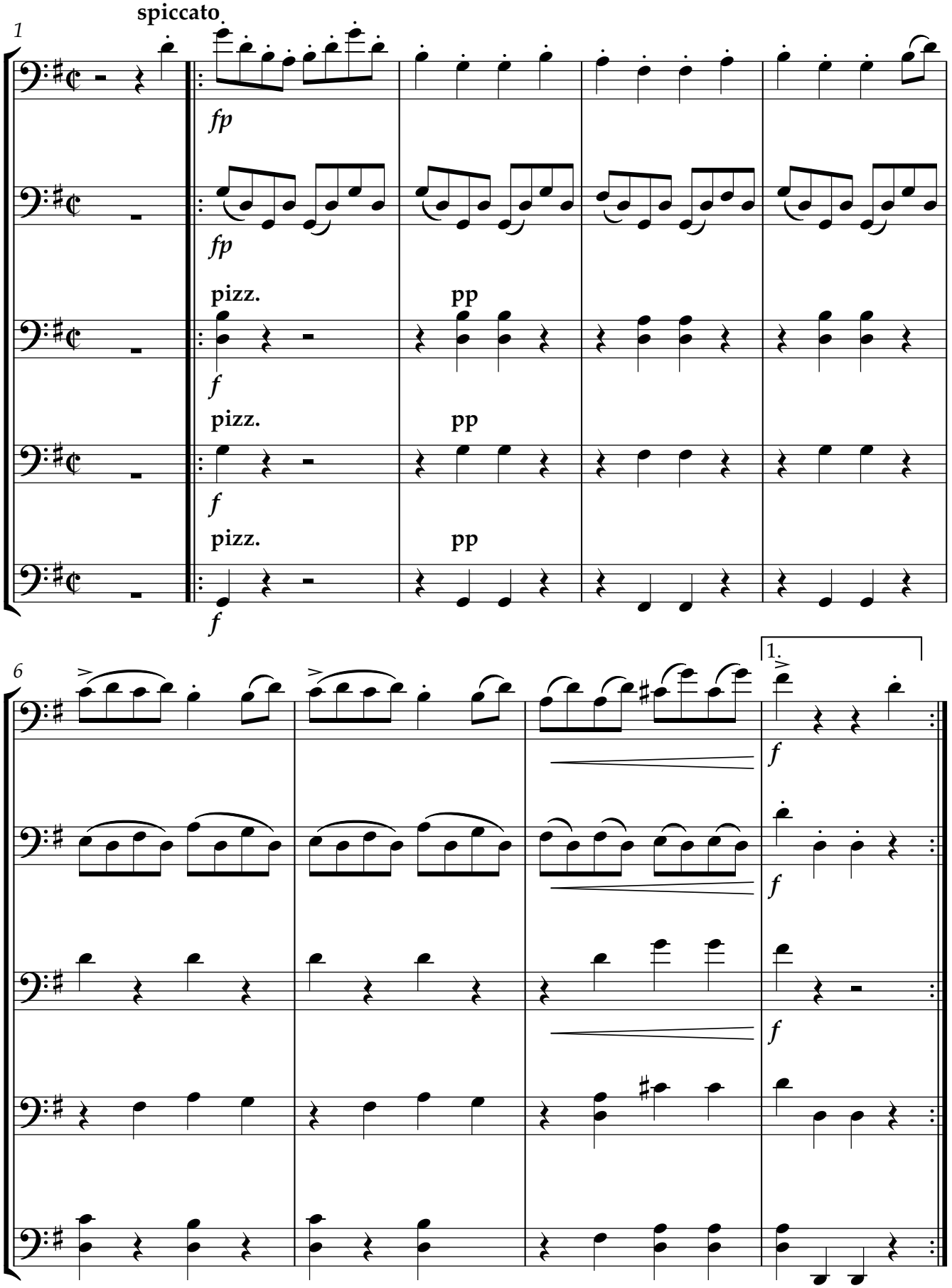
f

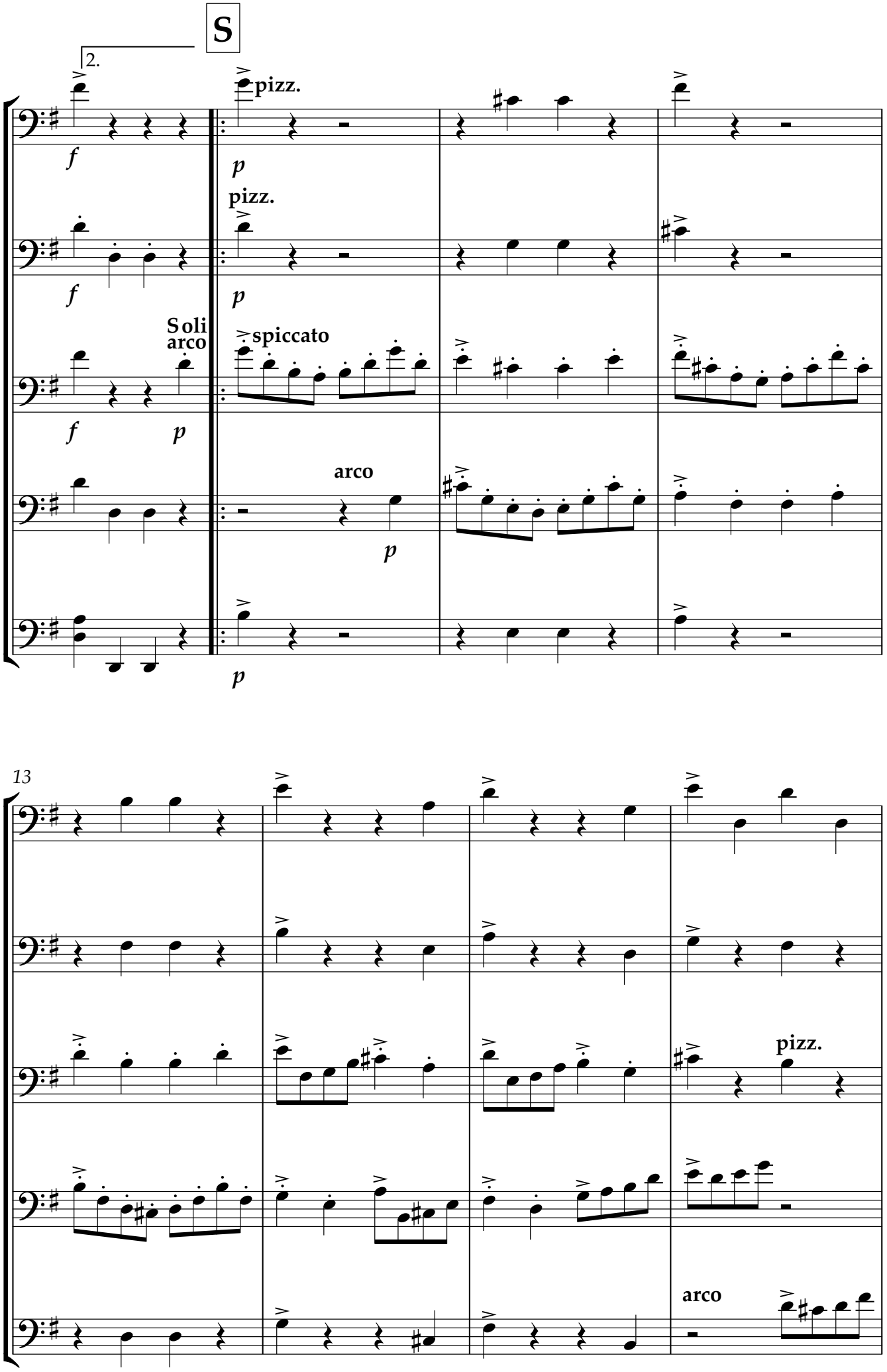

68
dim. e rit
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
ff

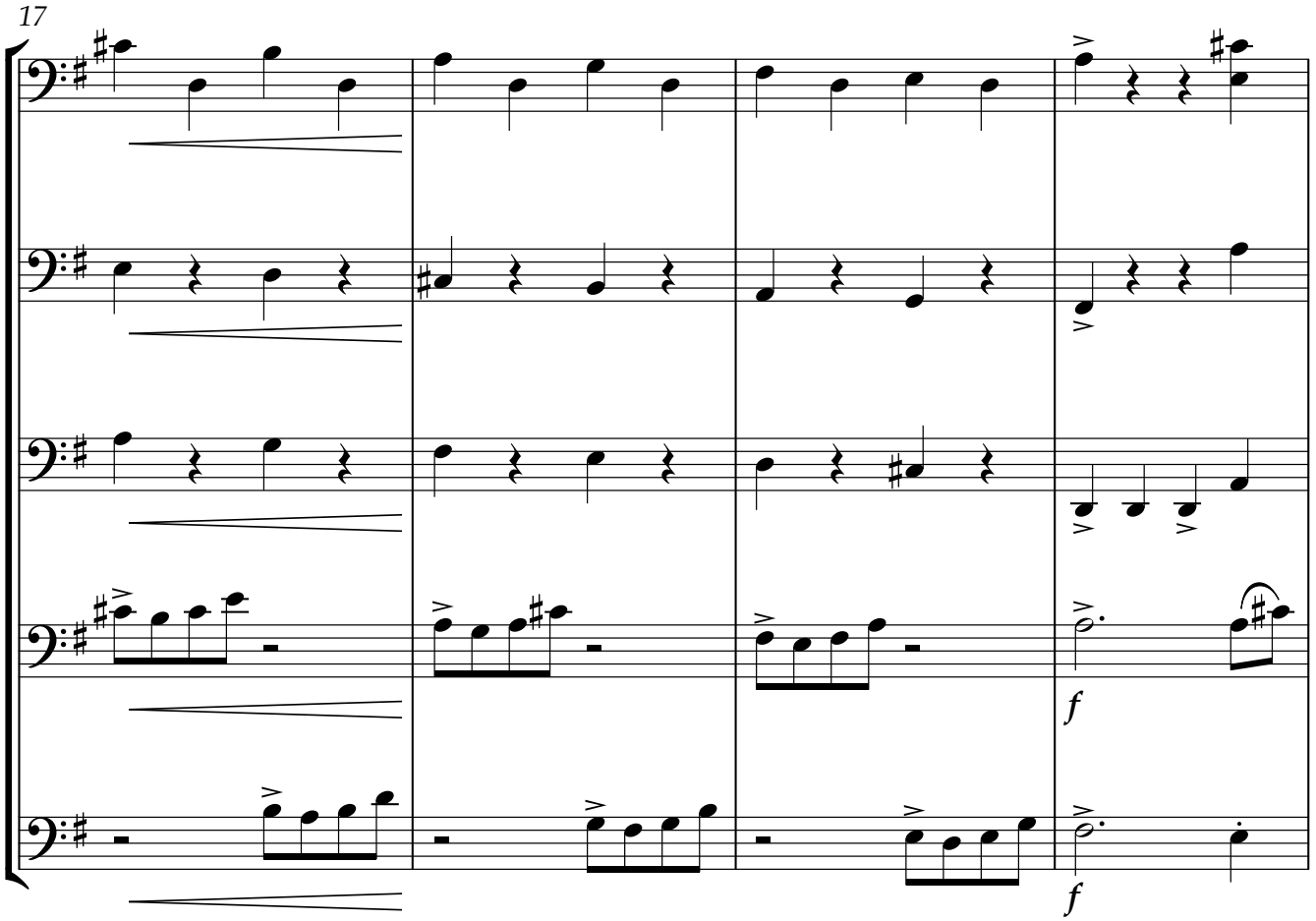

70
rit molto
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
ffp
pp
3

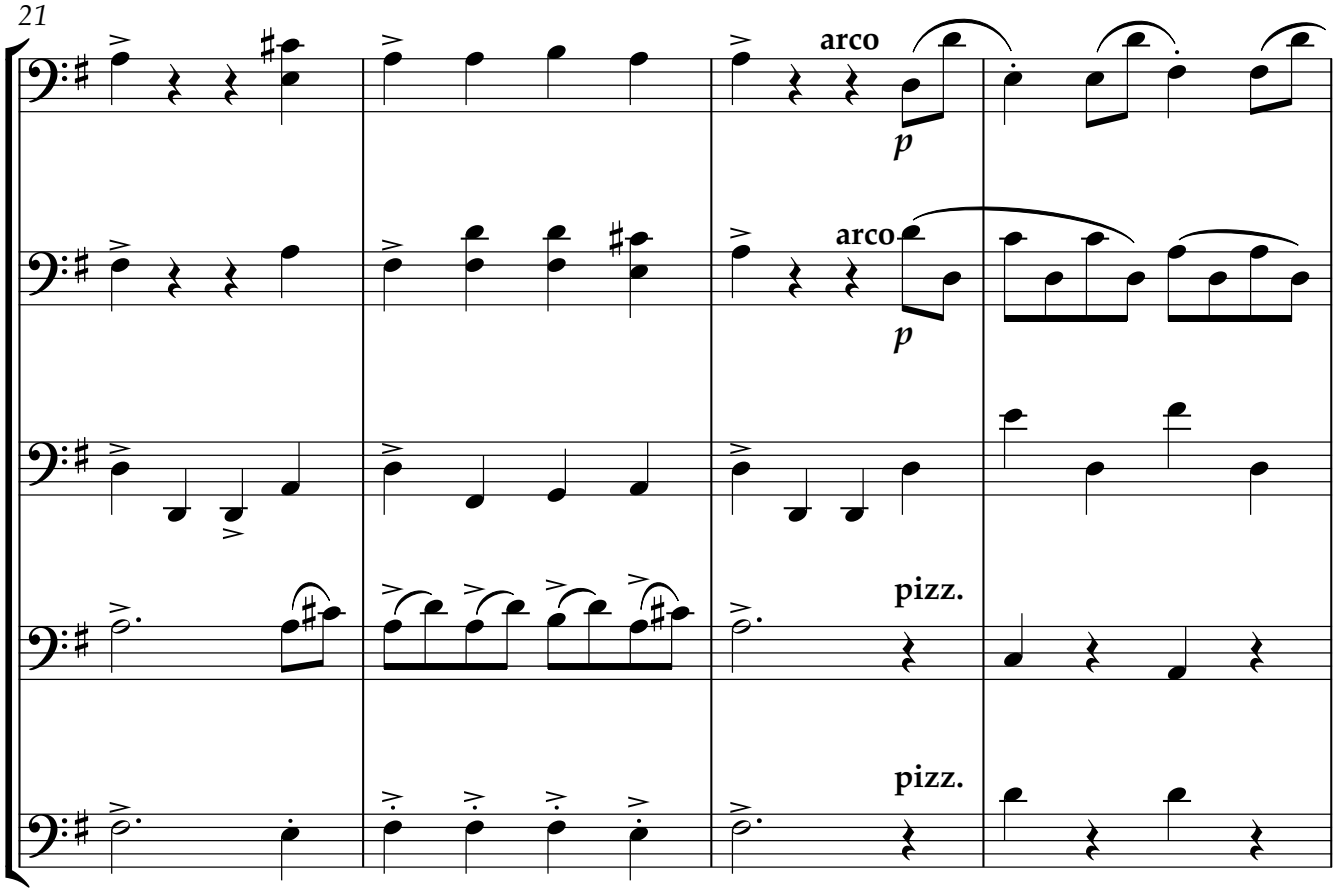
V. RIGAUDON

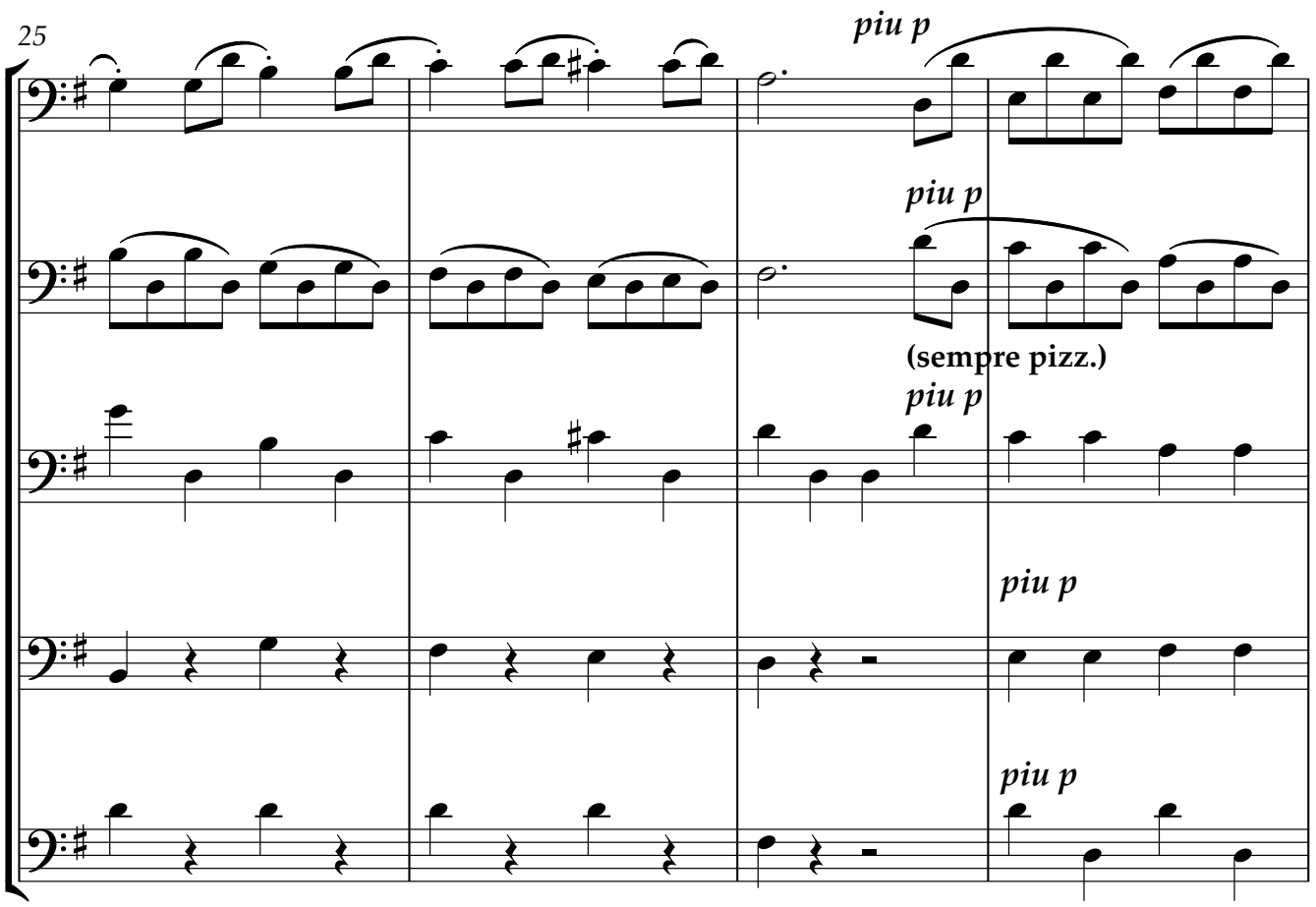
Allegro con brio 𝅗𝅥=144
(commonly played at minim=120 or slower!)

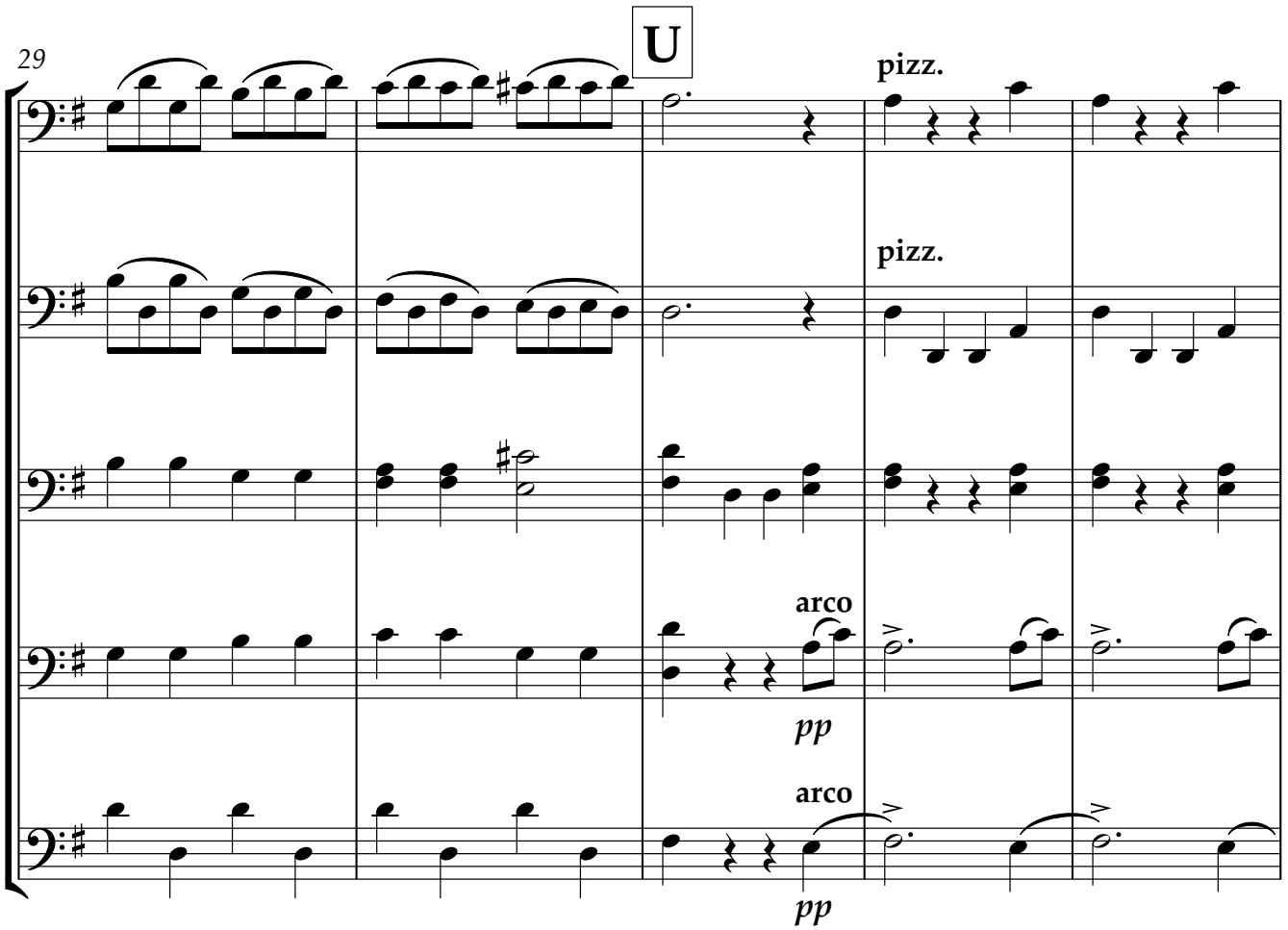


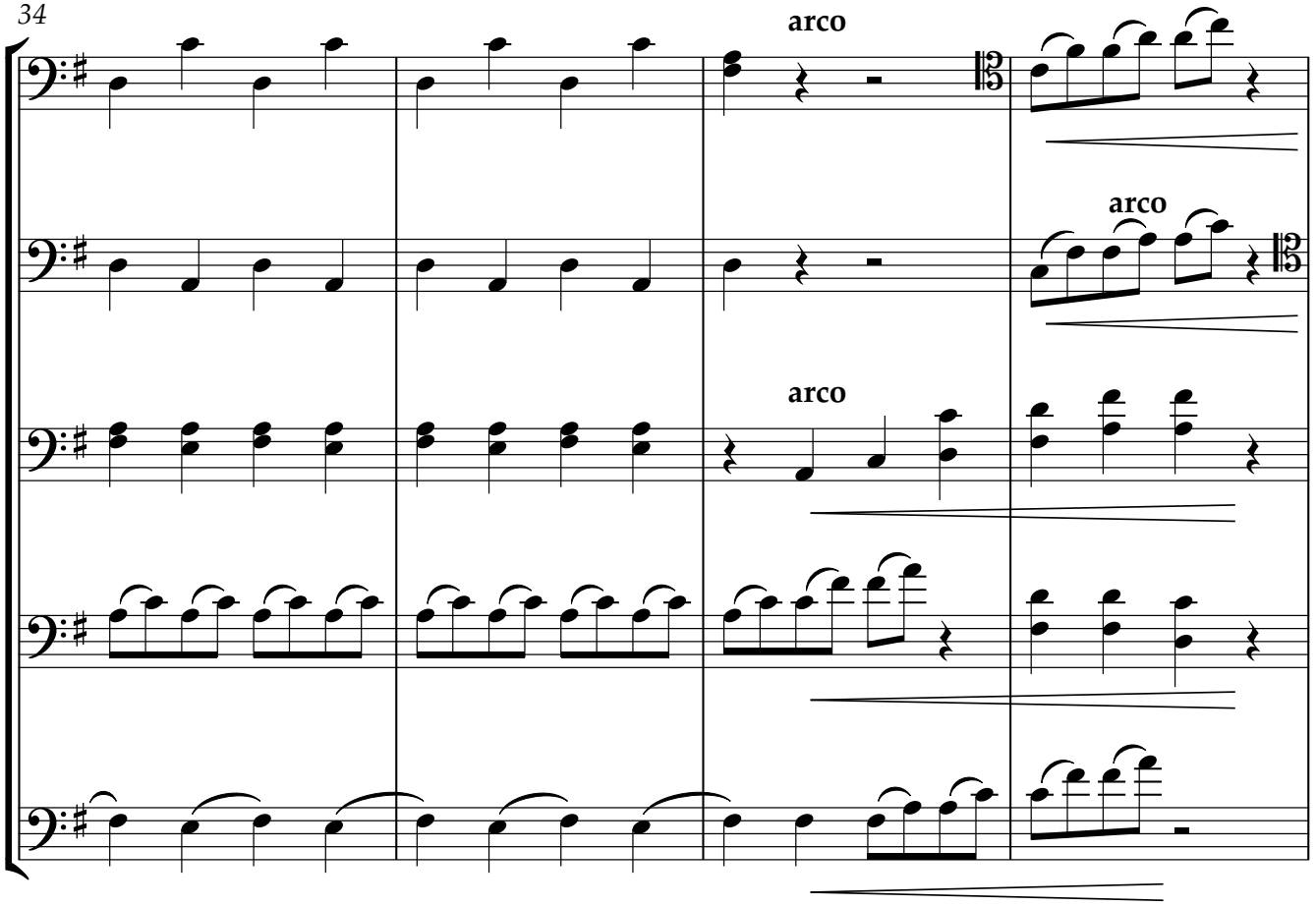

S
2.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
pizz.
pizz.
Soli
arco
spiccato
arco
pizz.
arco
13

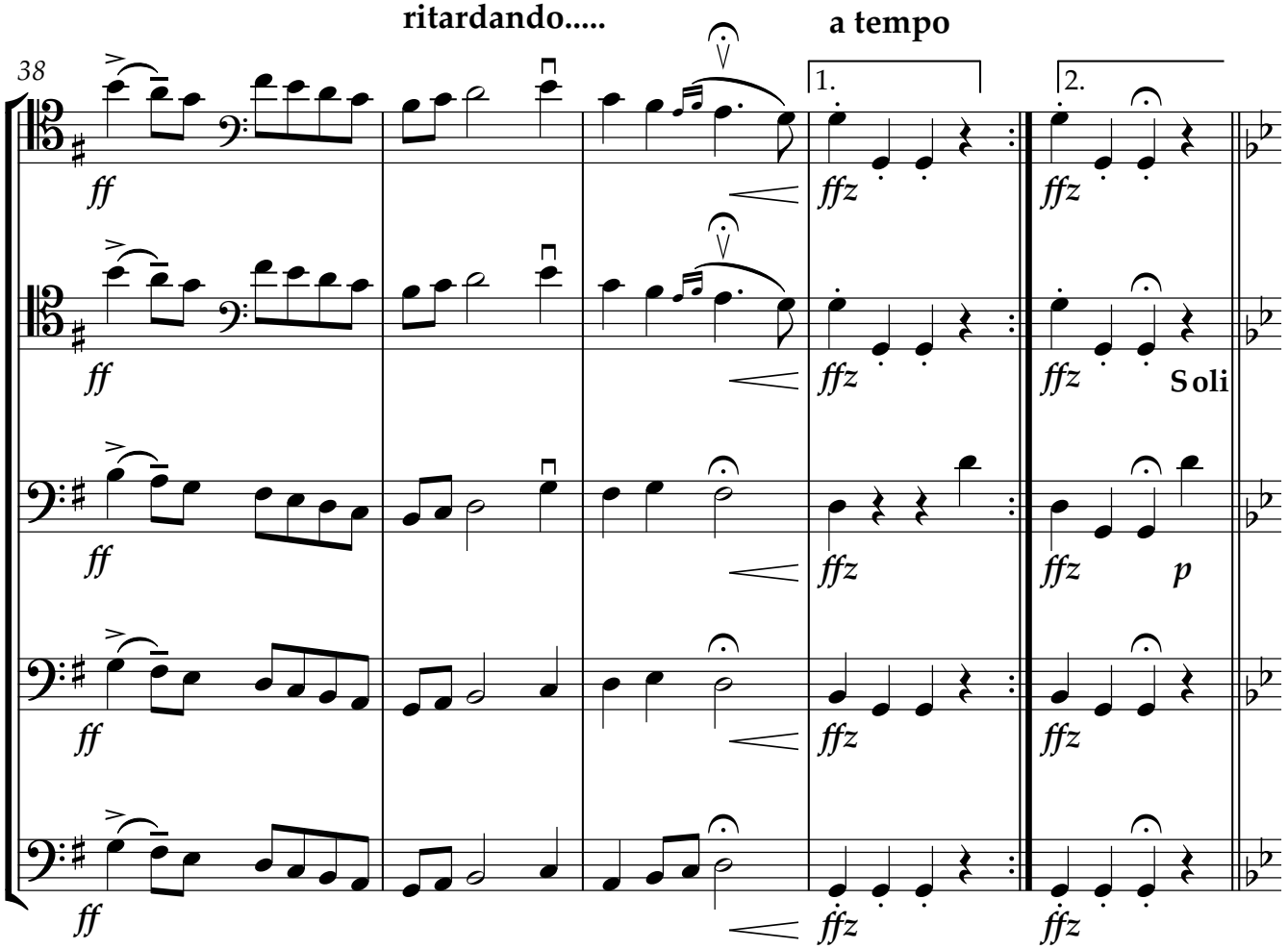

17
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
f
f


21
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
arco
p
arco
p
pizz.
pizz.

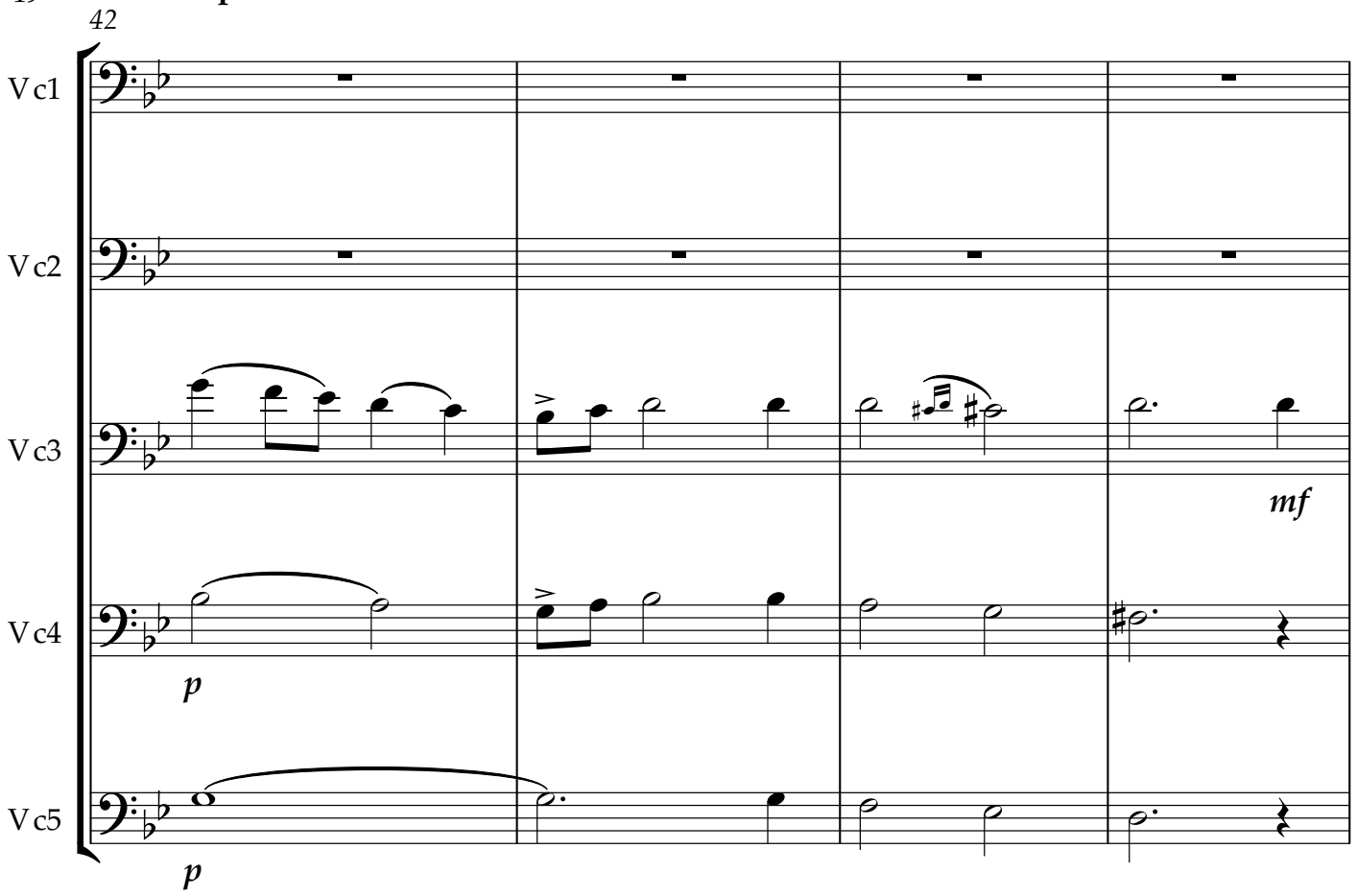

25
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
piu p
piu p
(sempre pizz.)
piu p
piu p
piu p

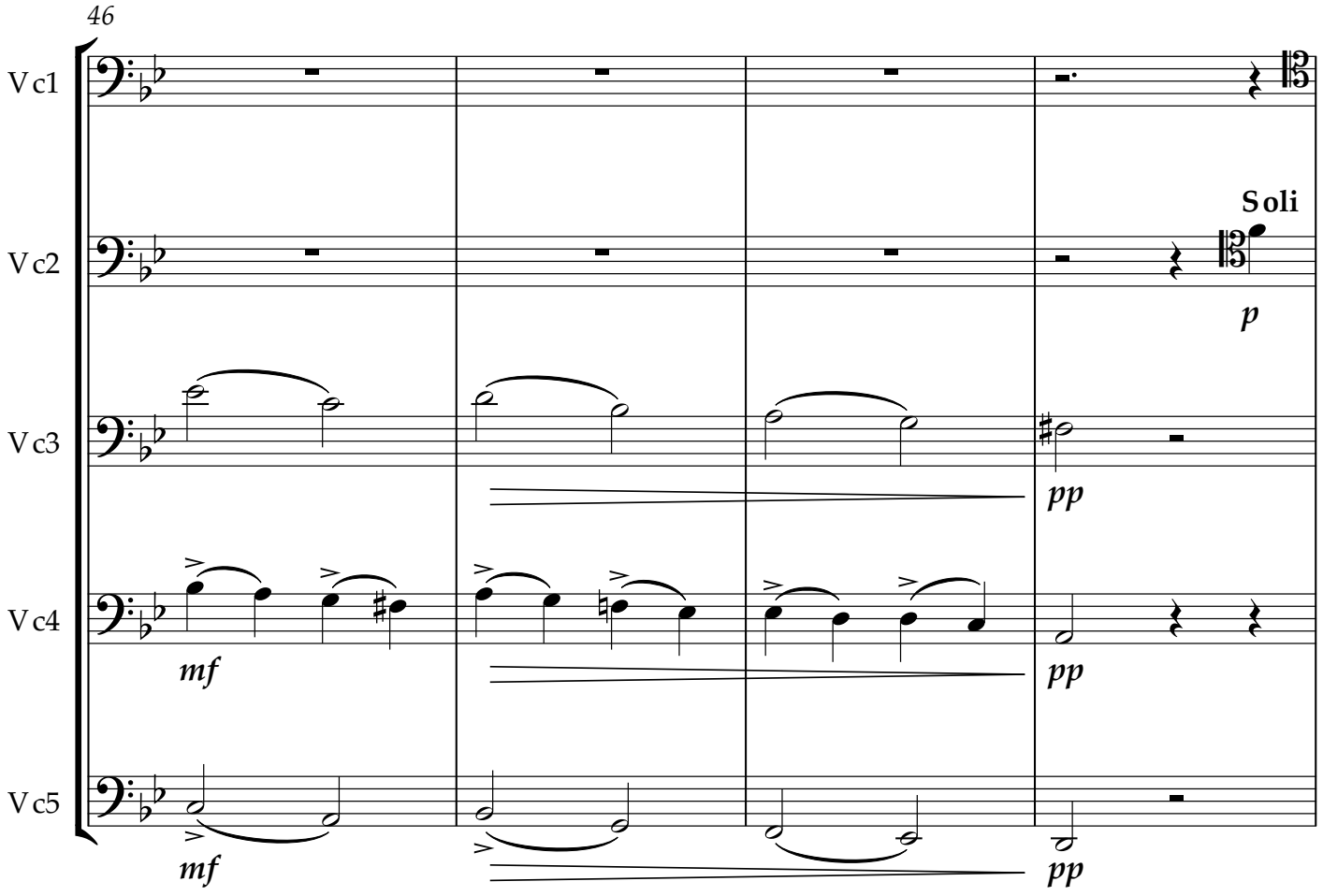

29
U
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
pizz.
pizz.
arco
pp
arco
pp

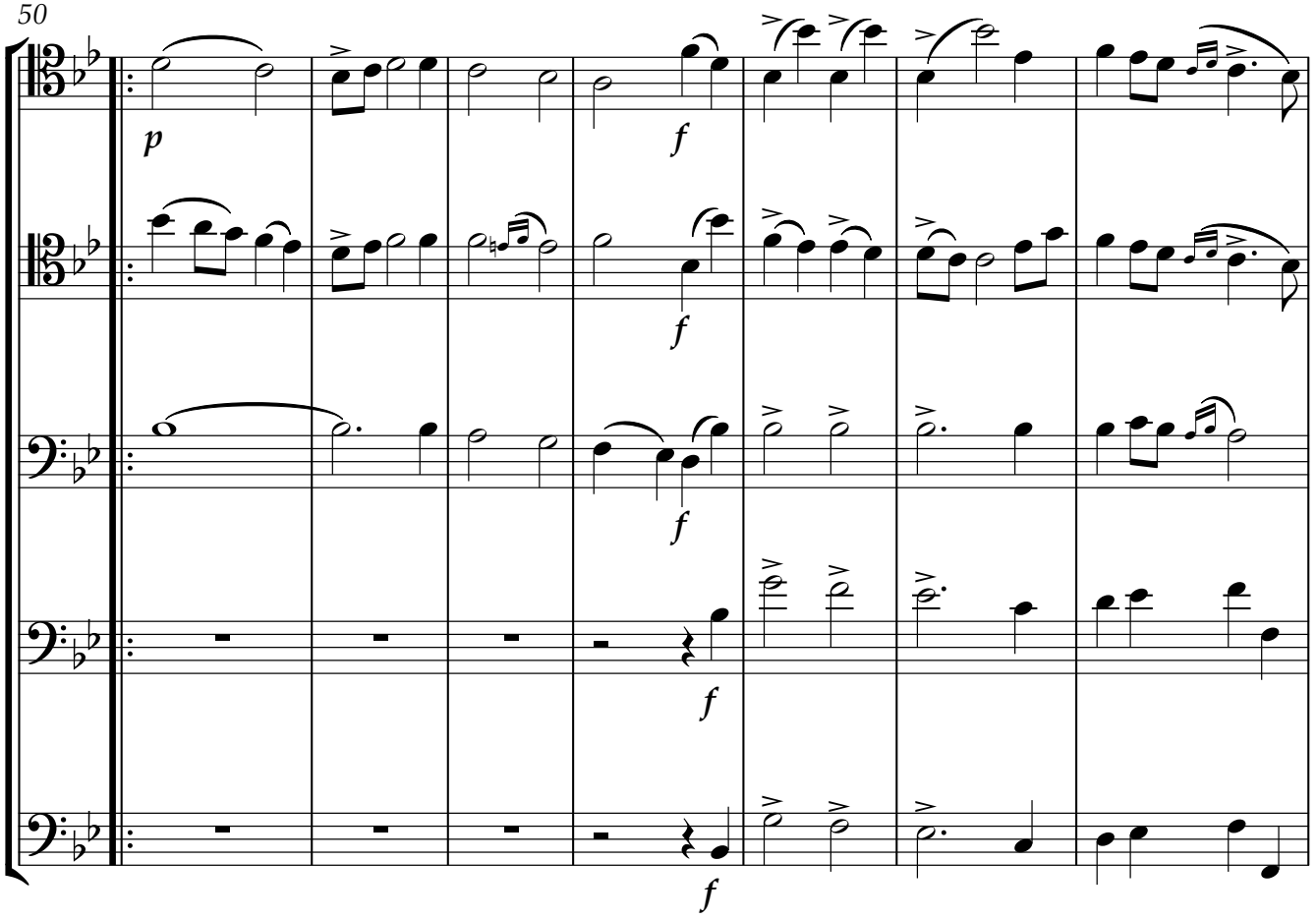

34
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
arco
arco
arco

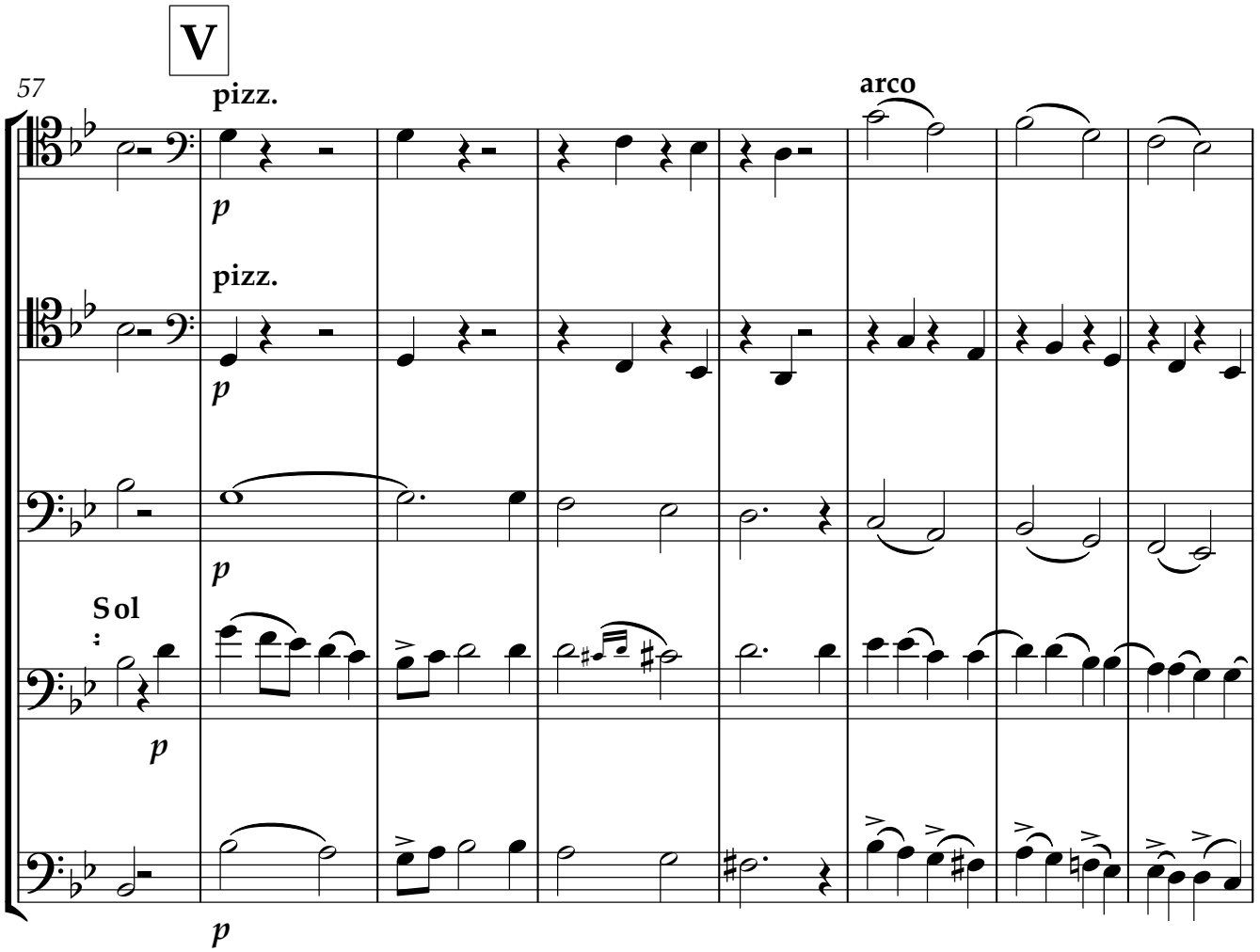

38
ritardando.....
a tempo
1.
2.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
ff
ffz
Soli
p

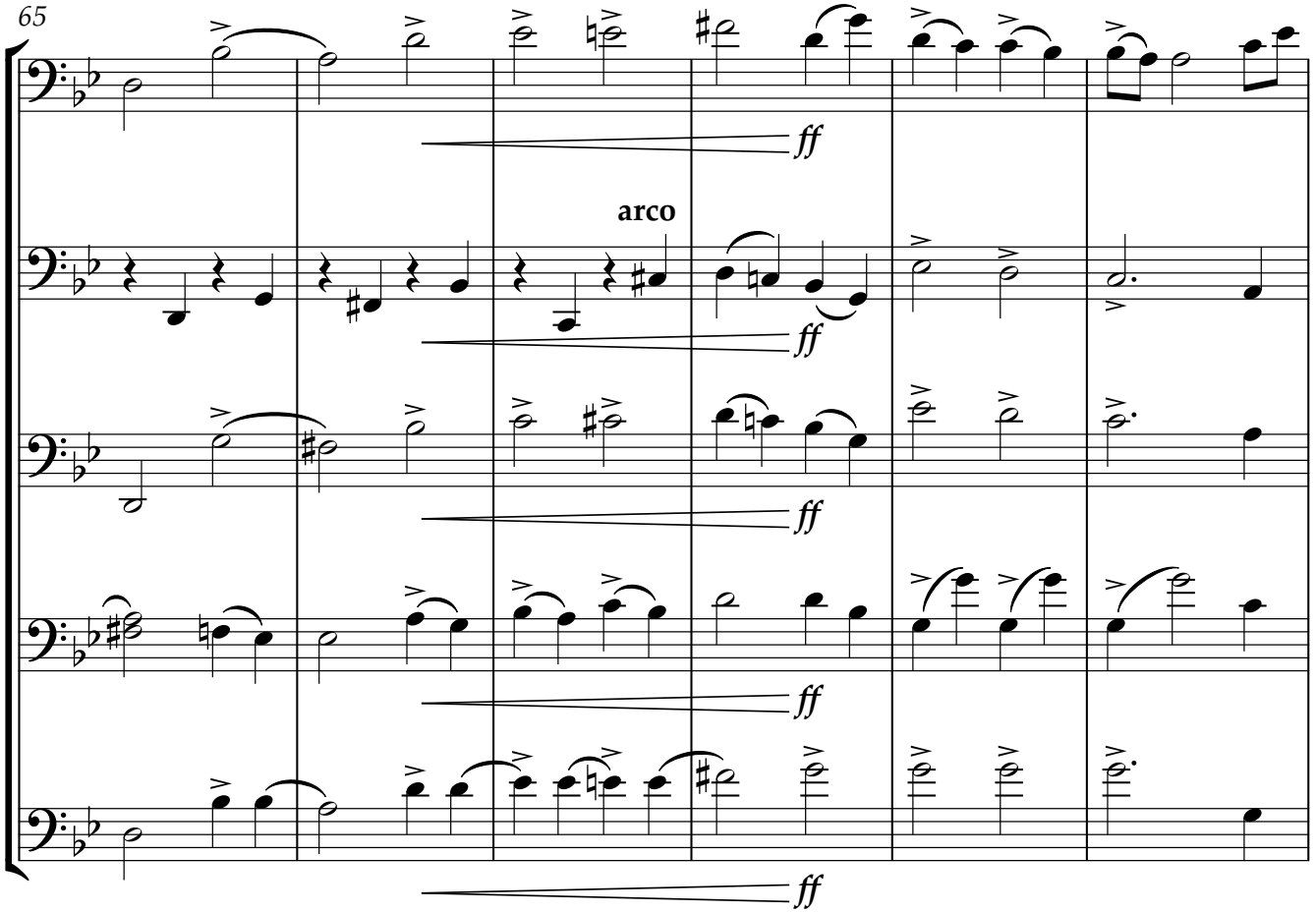
poco meno mosso

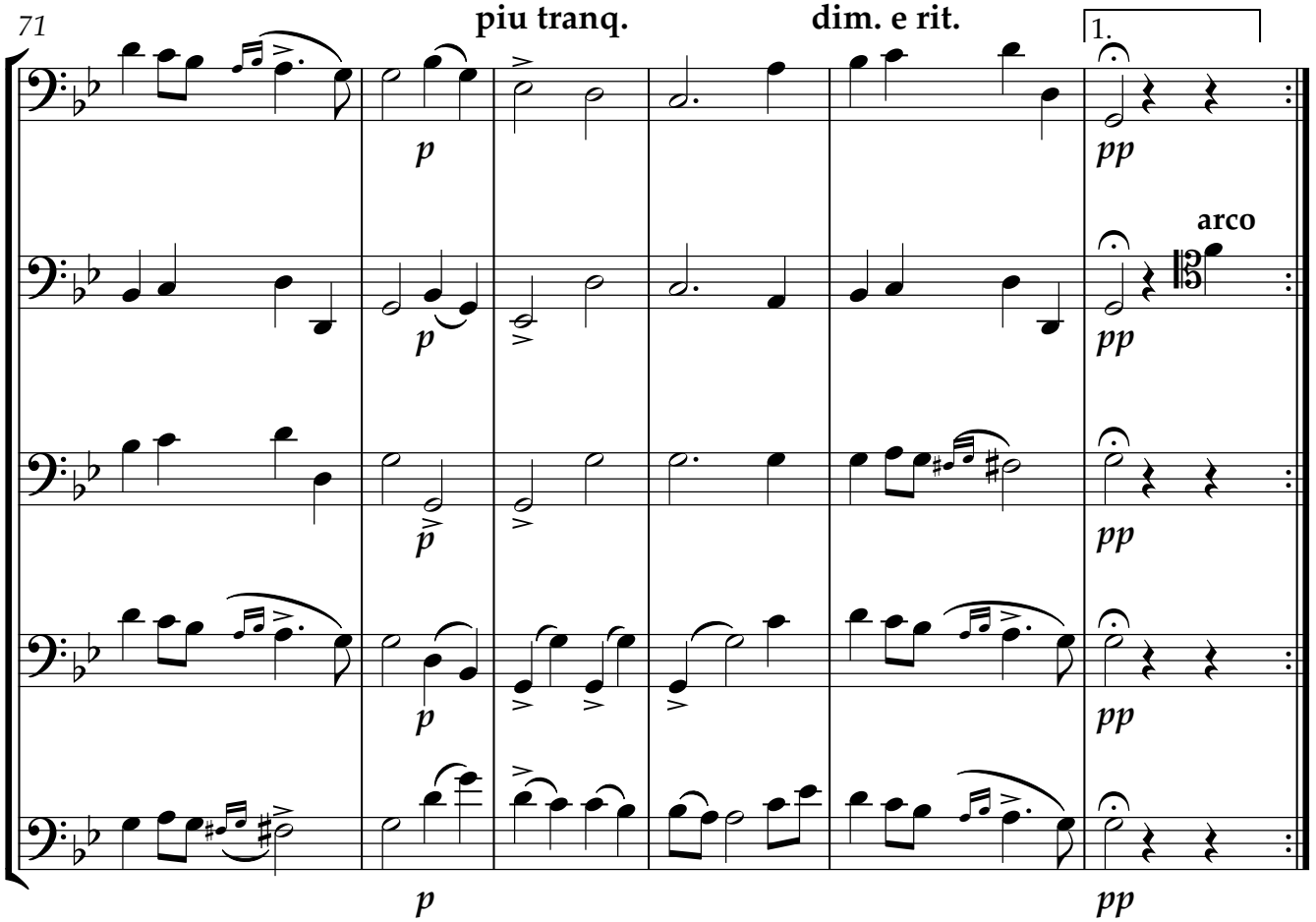




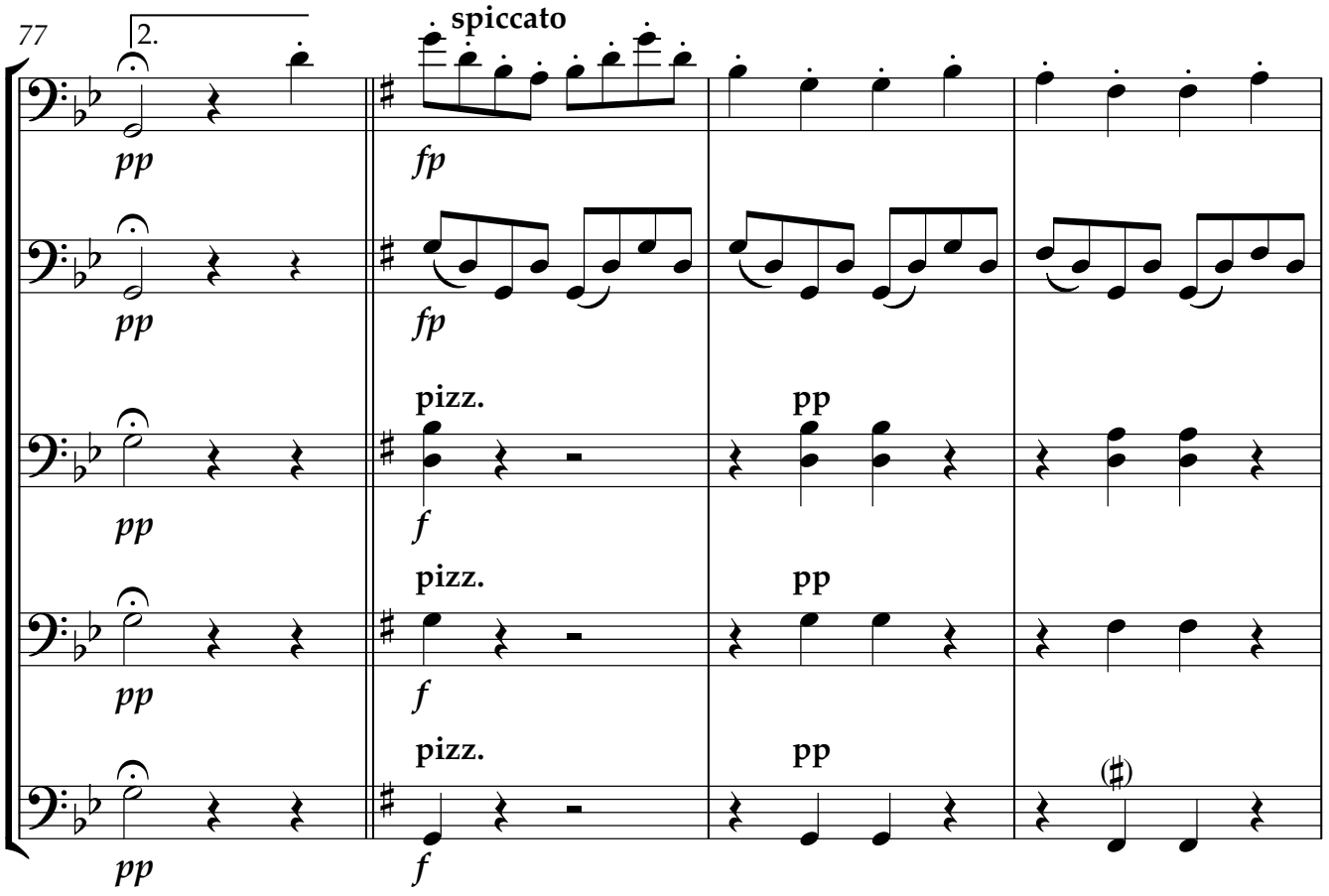

50
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
p
f

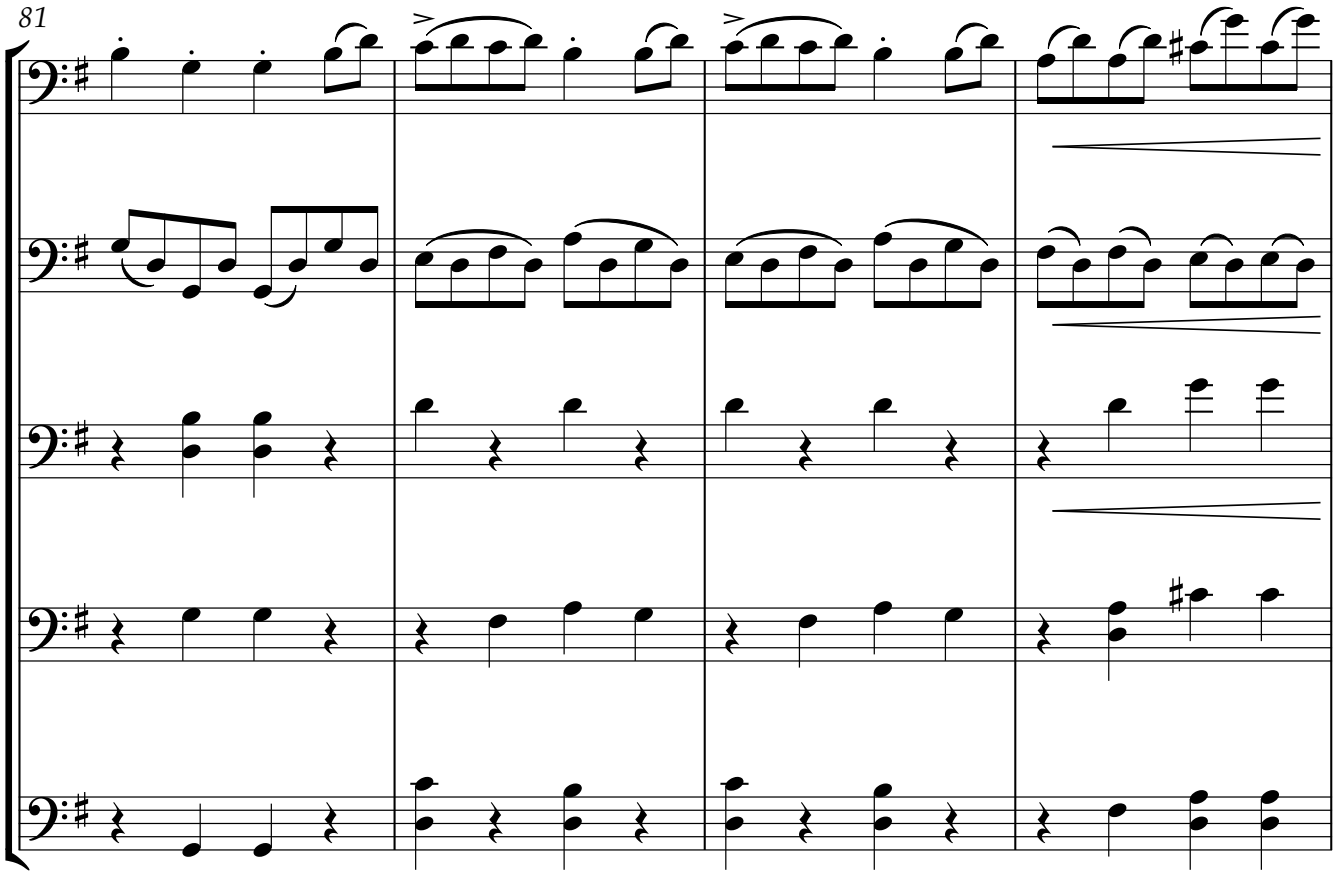

V
57
pizz.
arco
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Sol
p

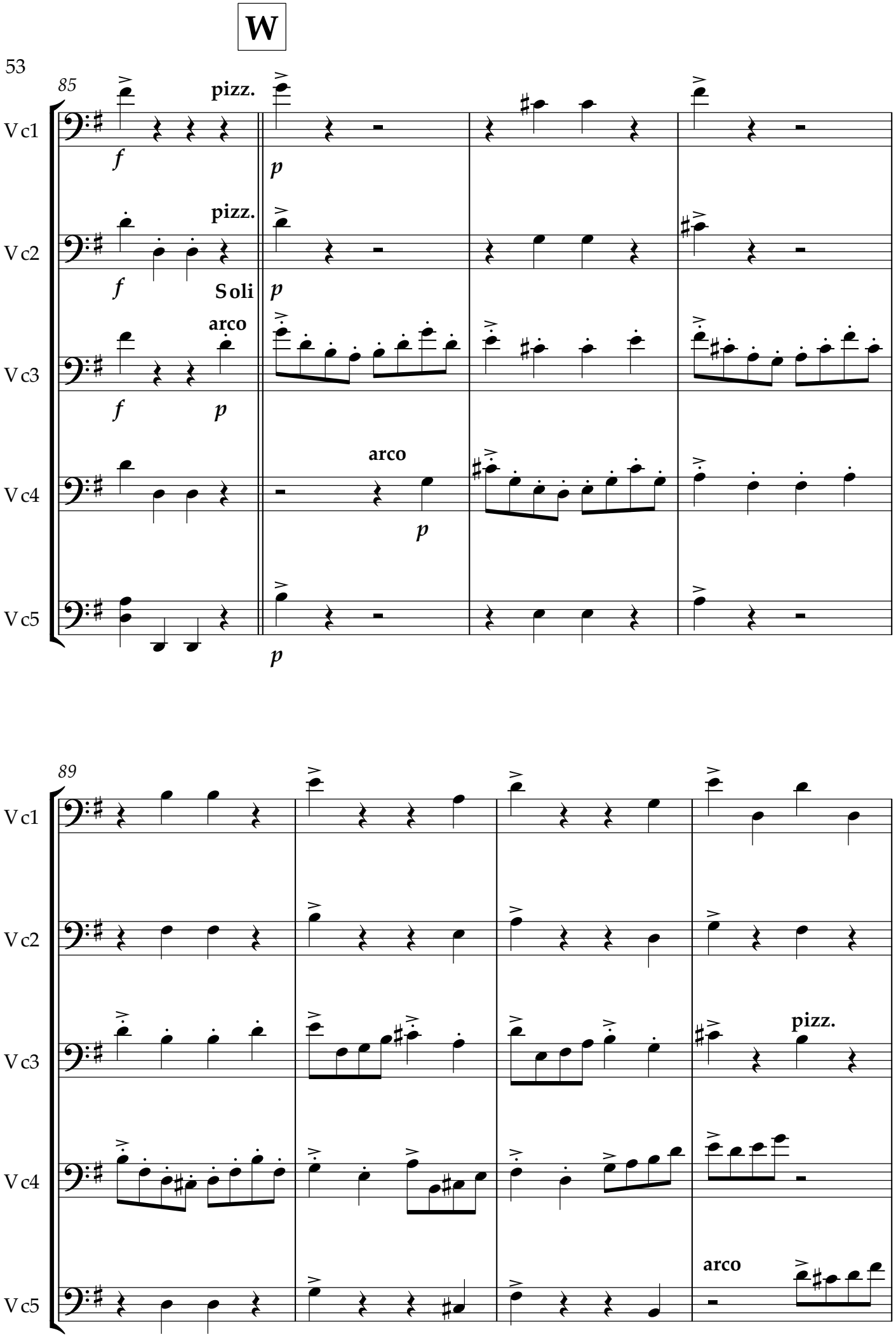

65
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
arco
ff

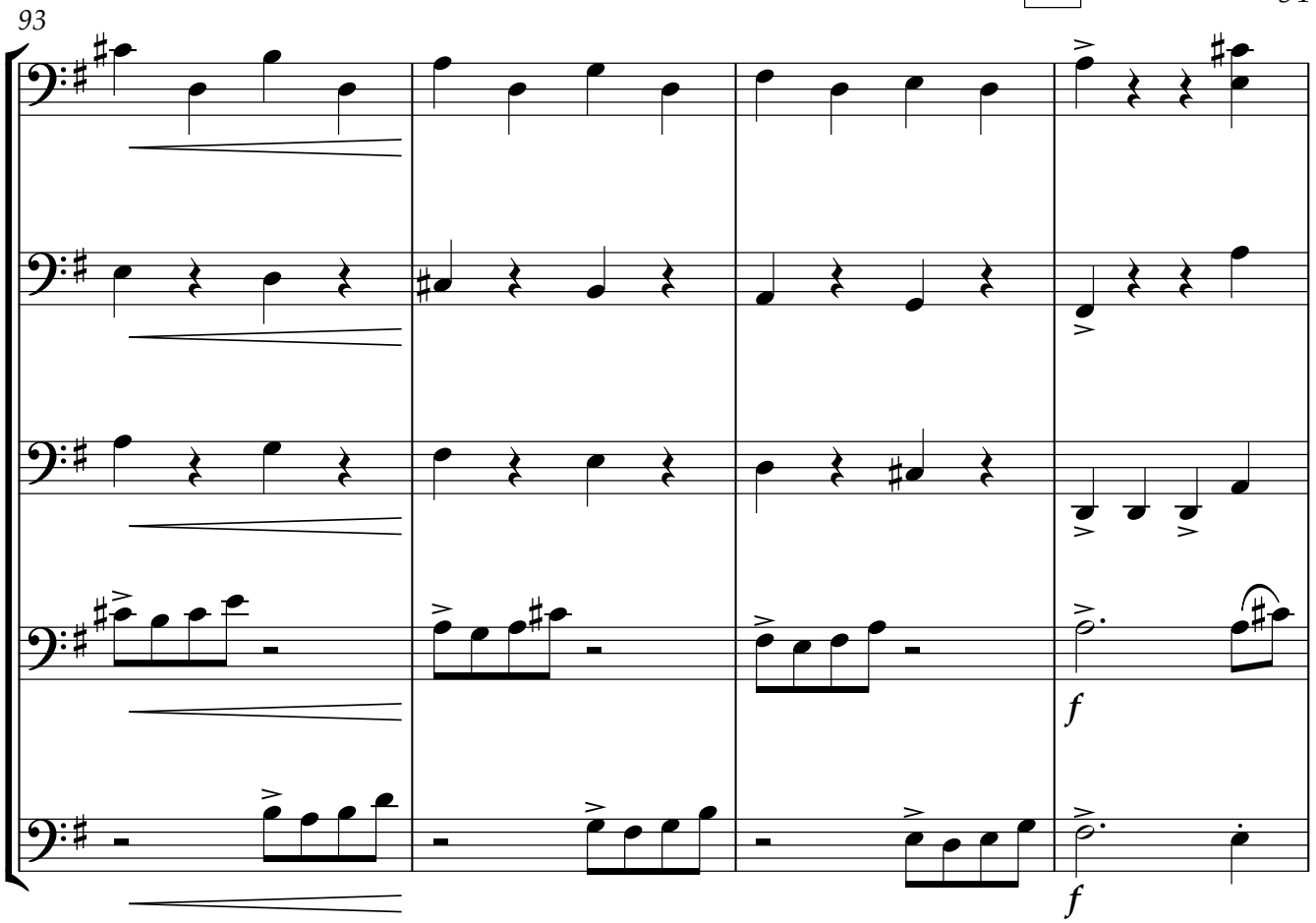

71
piu tranq.
dim. e rit.
1.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
arco
p
pp

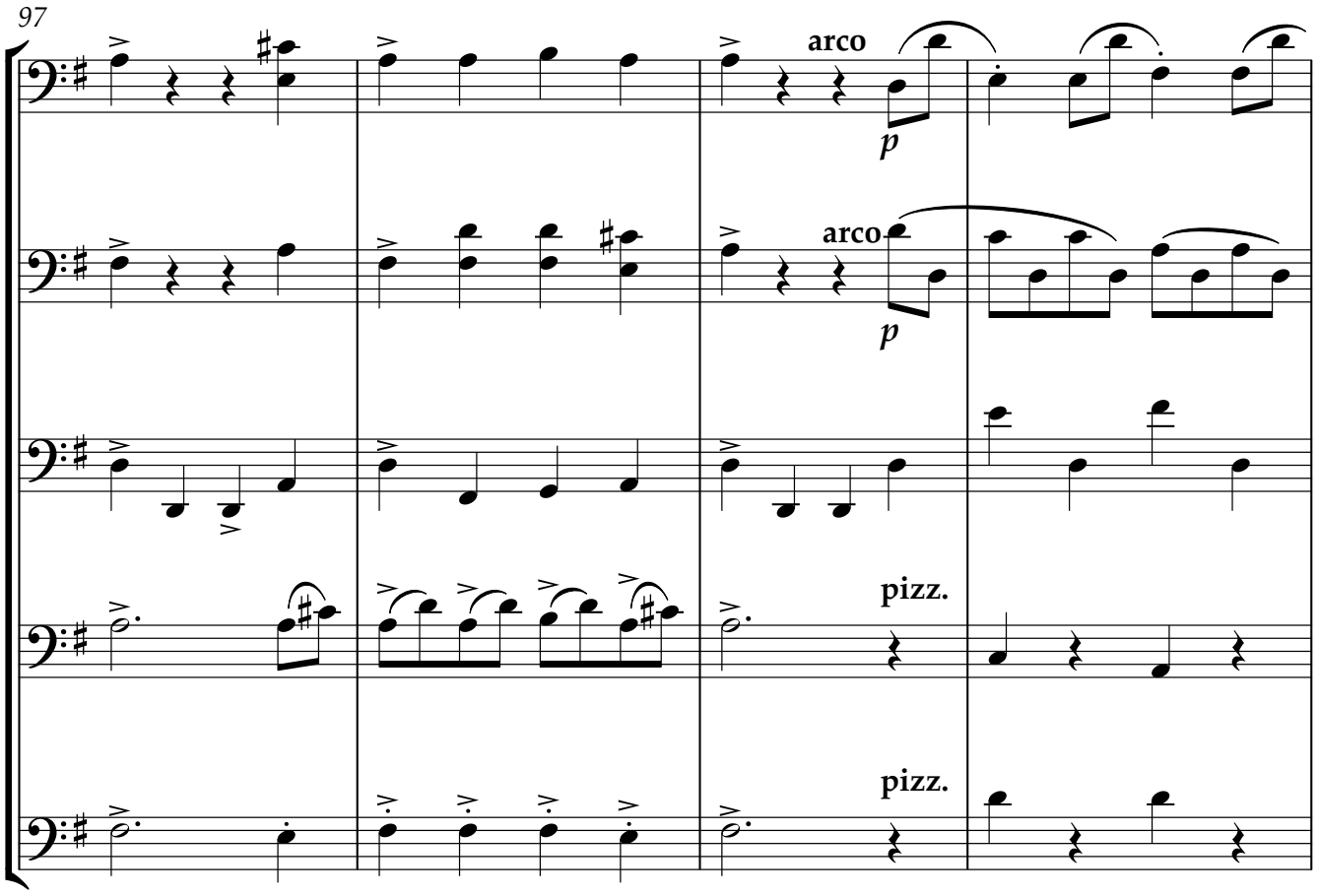
Allegro con brio 𝅗𝅥=144

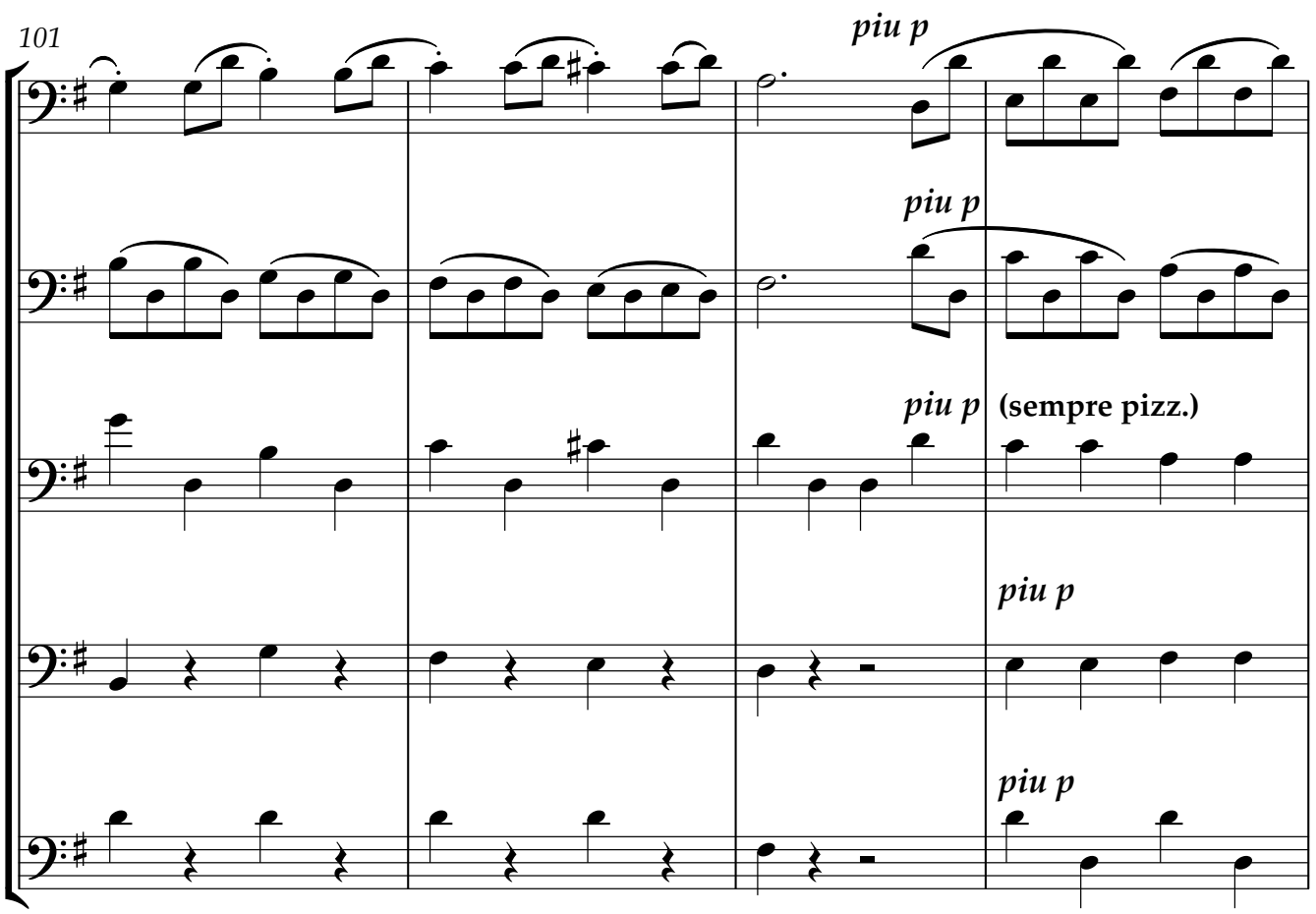


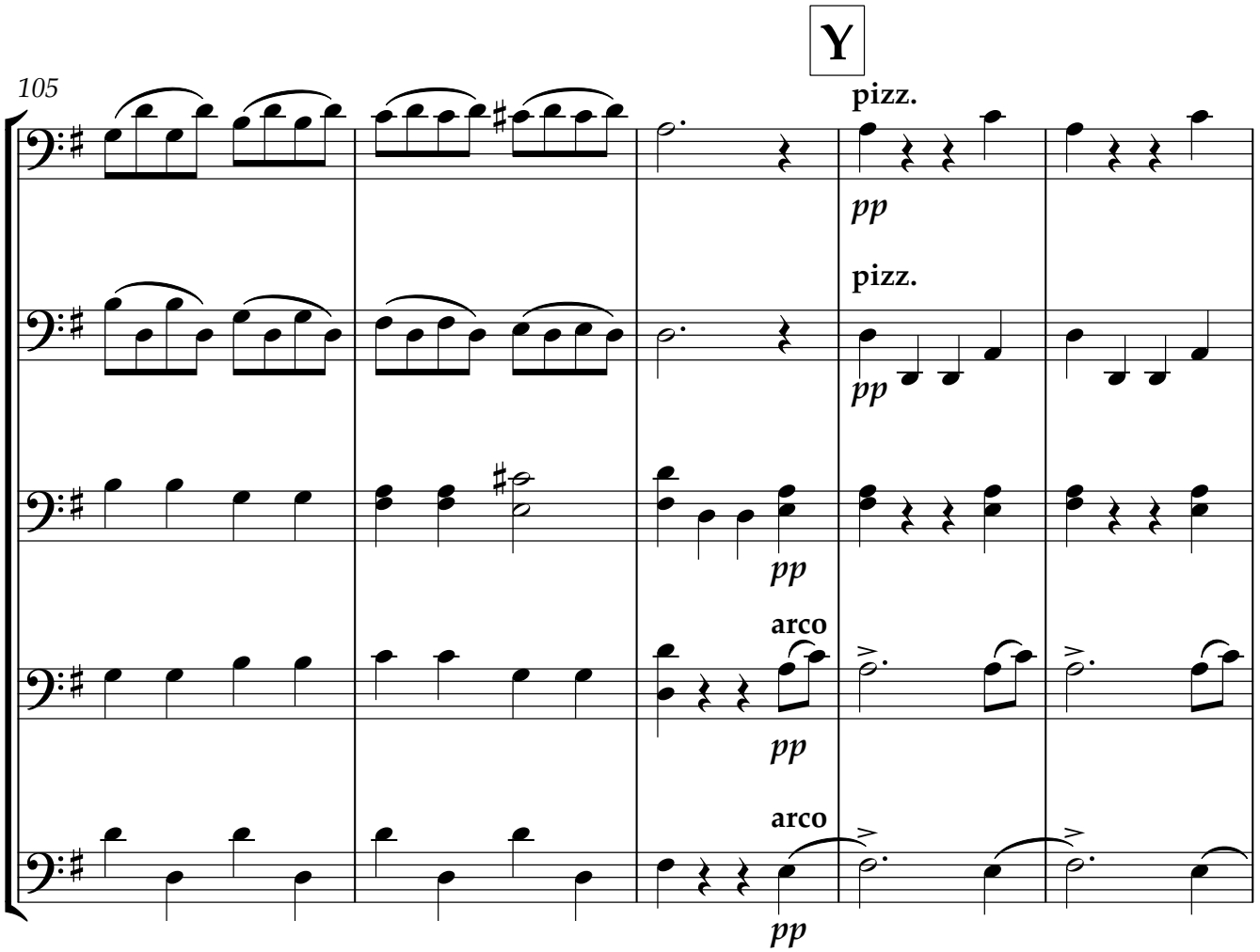


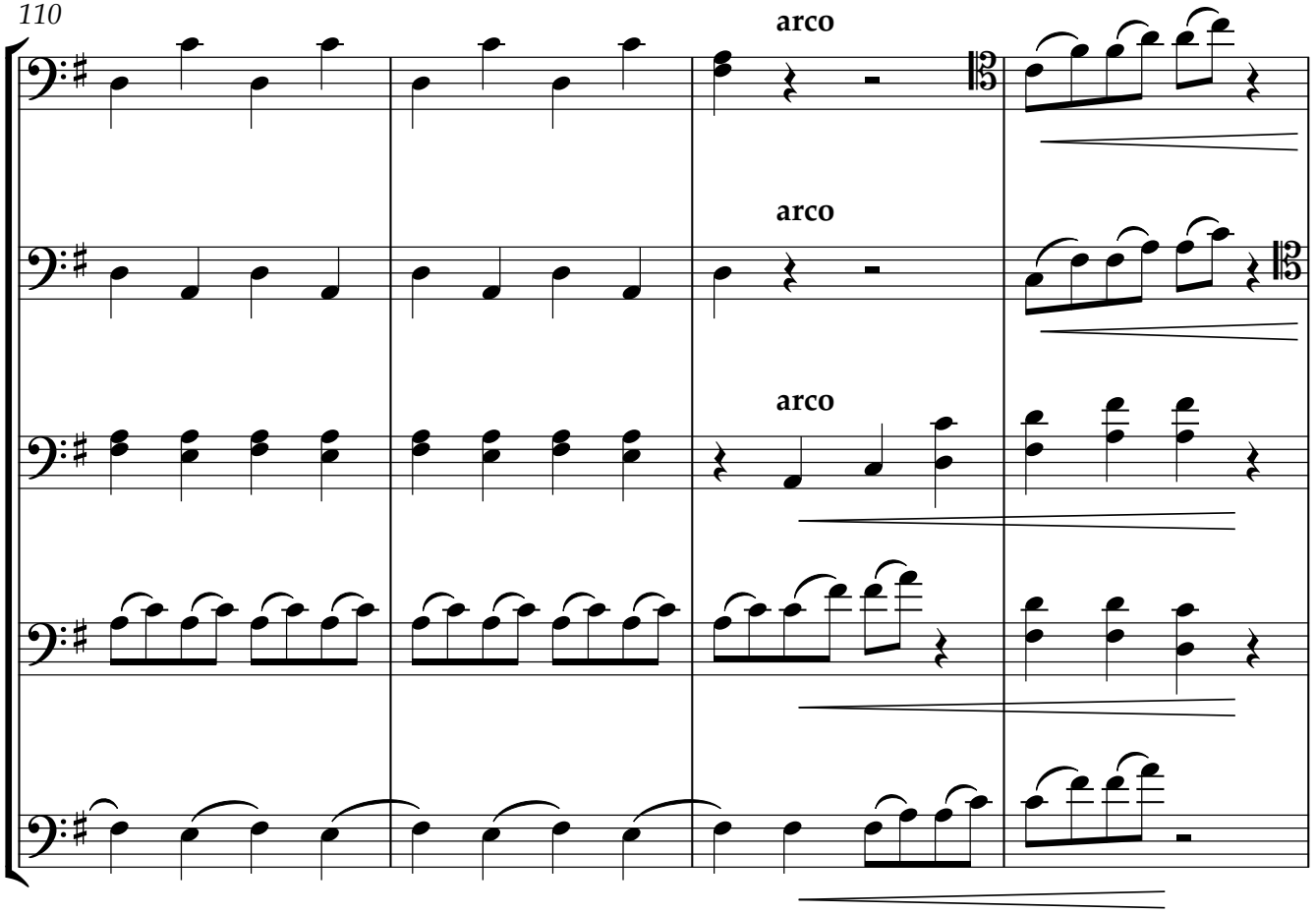

W
85
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
pizz.
pizz.
Soli
arco
arco
f
p
89
pizz.
arco

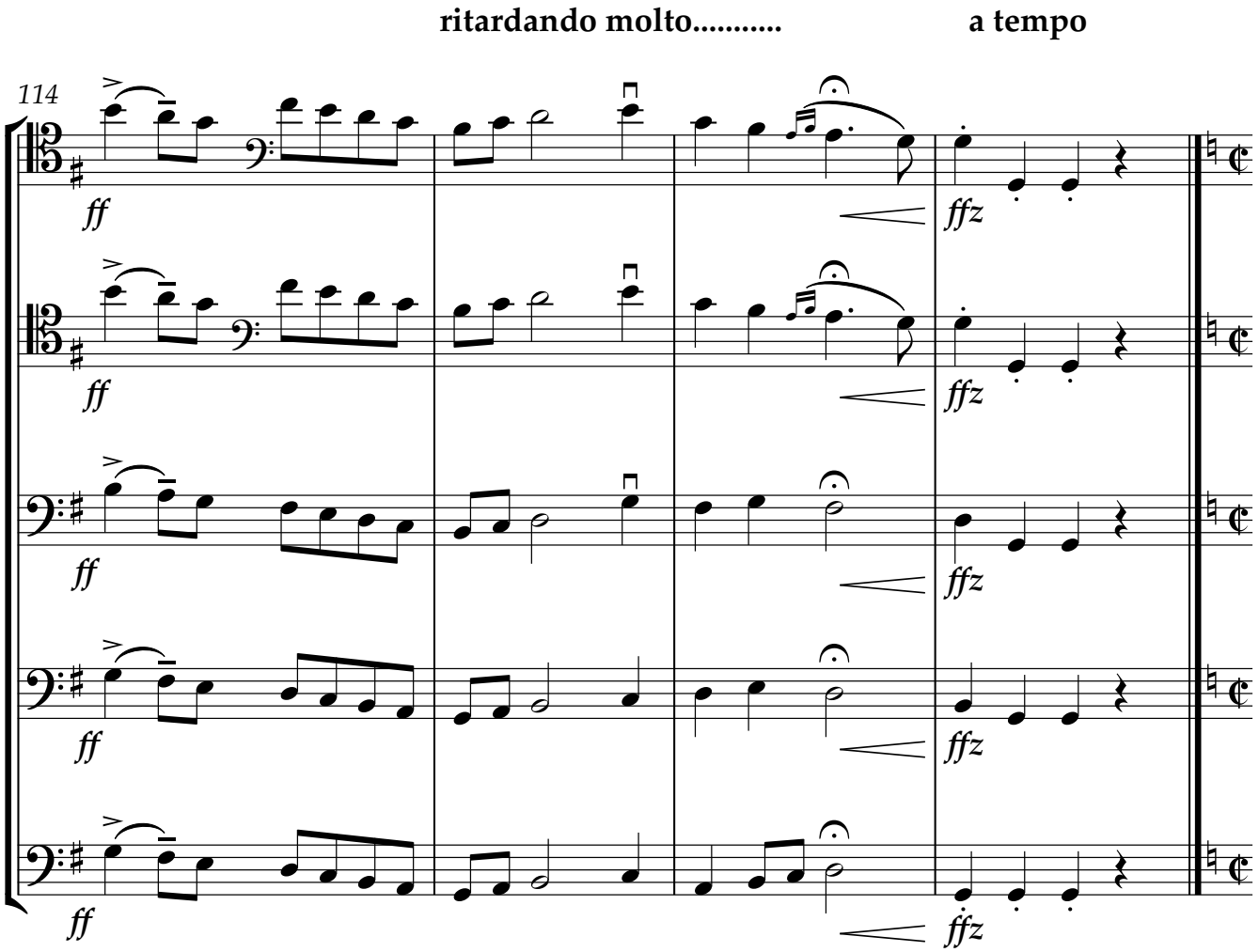

93
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
f
f


97
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
arco
p
arco
p
pizz.
pizz.


101
piu p
Vc1
piu p
Vc2
piu p
(sempre pizz.)
Vc3
piu p
Vc4
piu p
Vc5

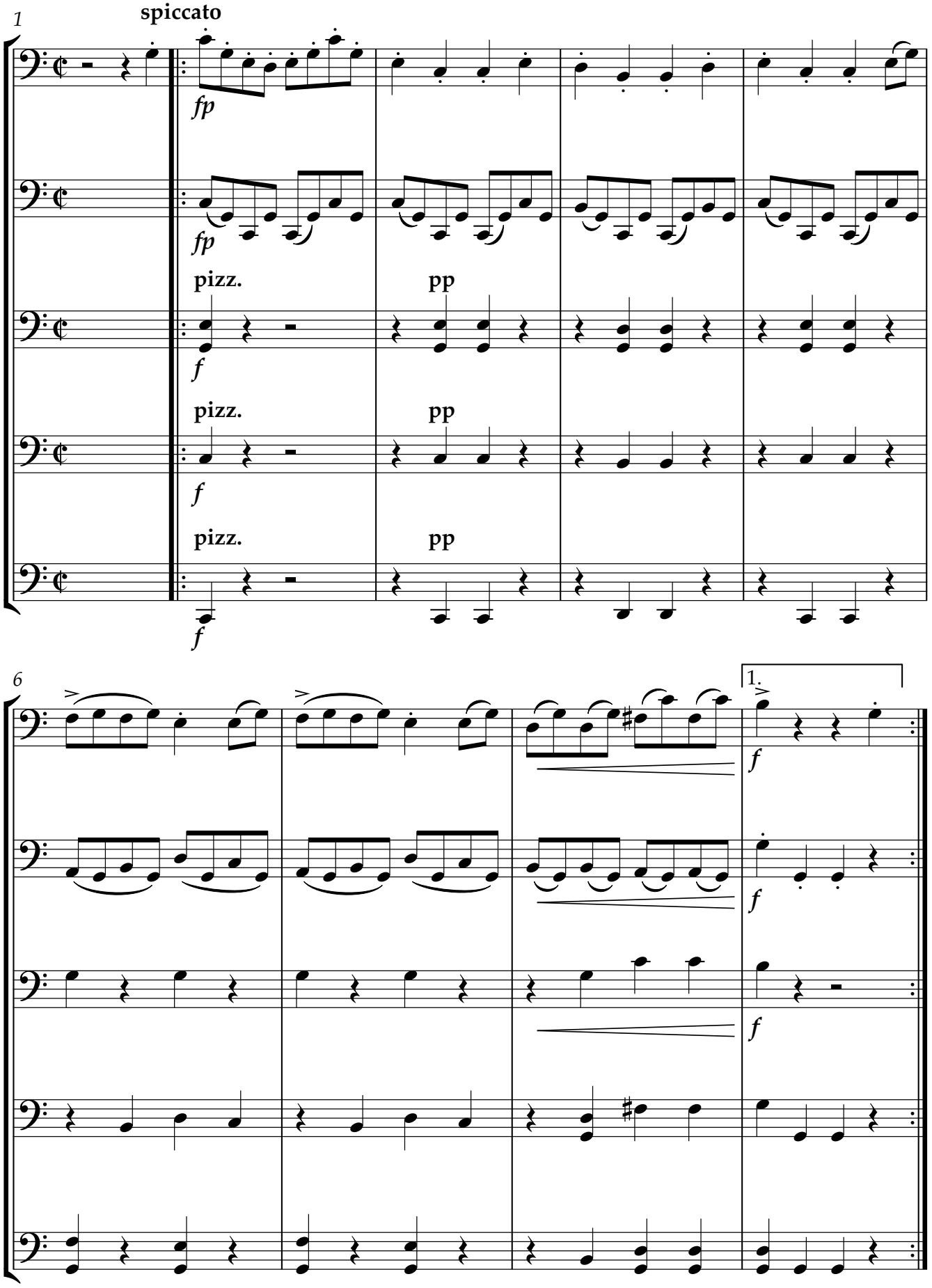

Y
105
pizz.
Vc1
pp
pizz.
Vc2
pp
Vc3
pp
arco
Vc4
pp
arco
Vc5
pp

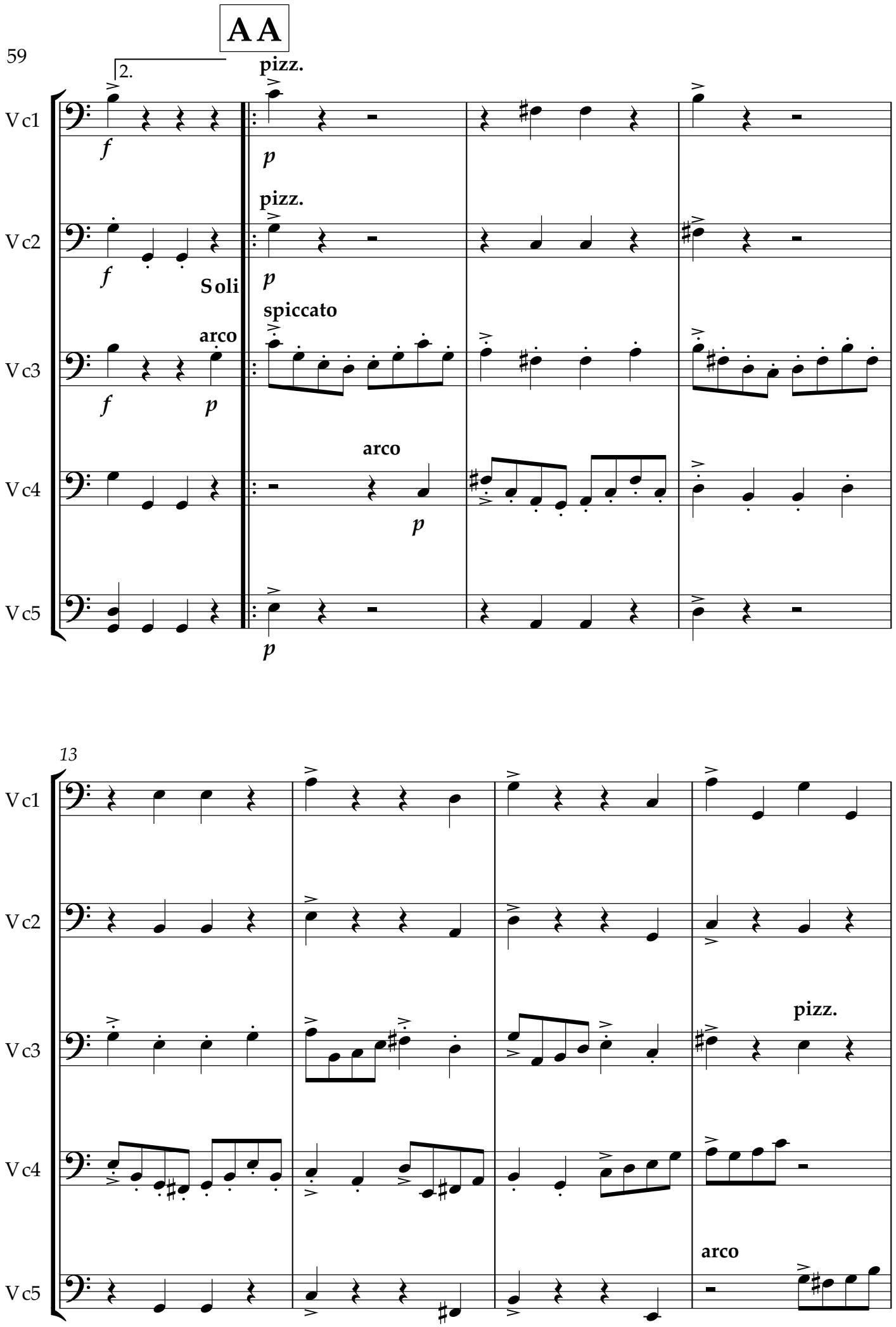

110
arco
arco
arco
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5

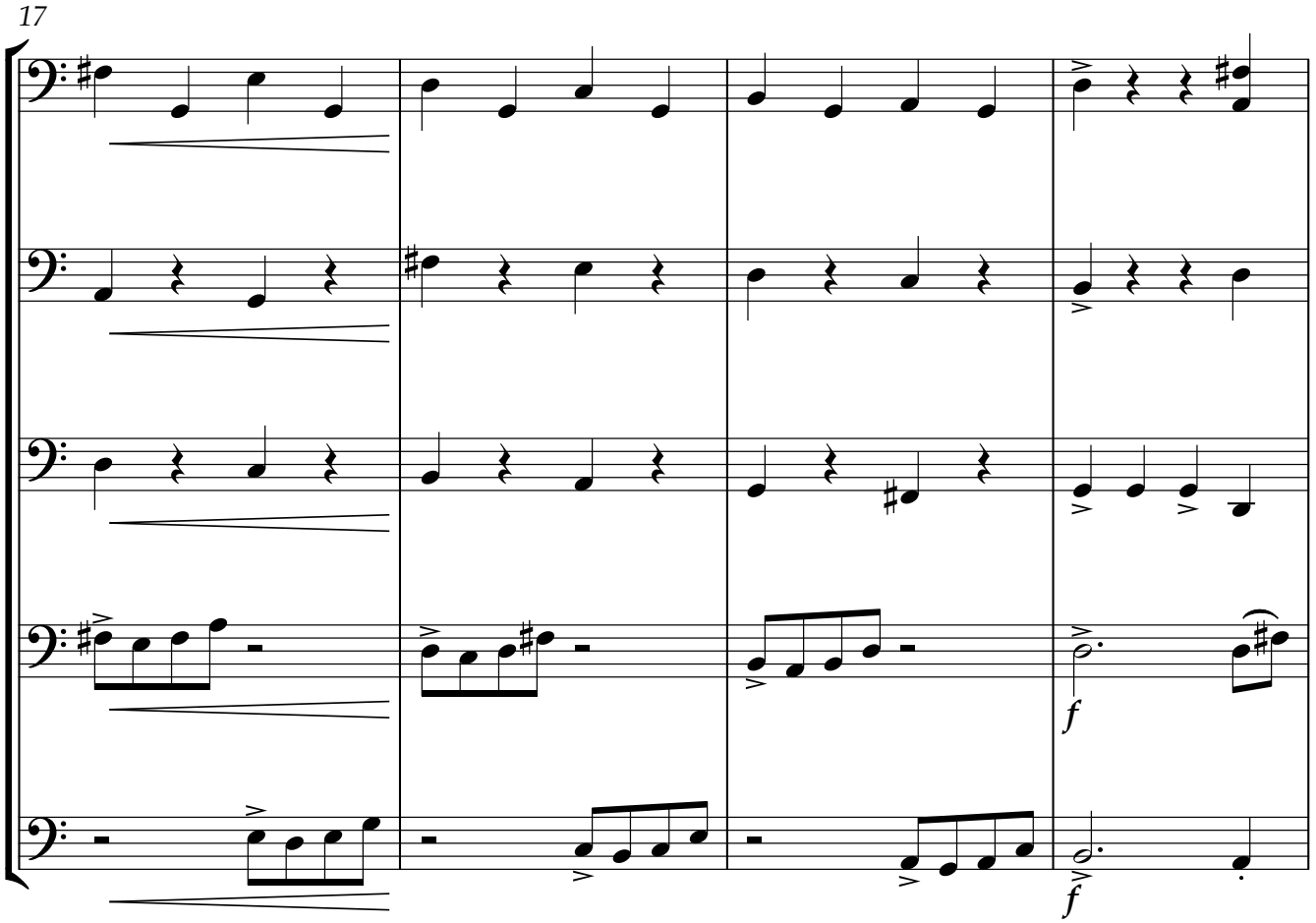

ritardando molto.....
a tempo
114
ff
ffz
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5

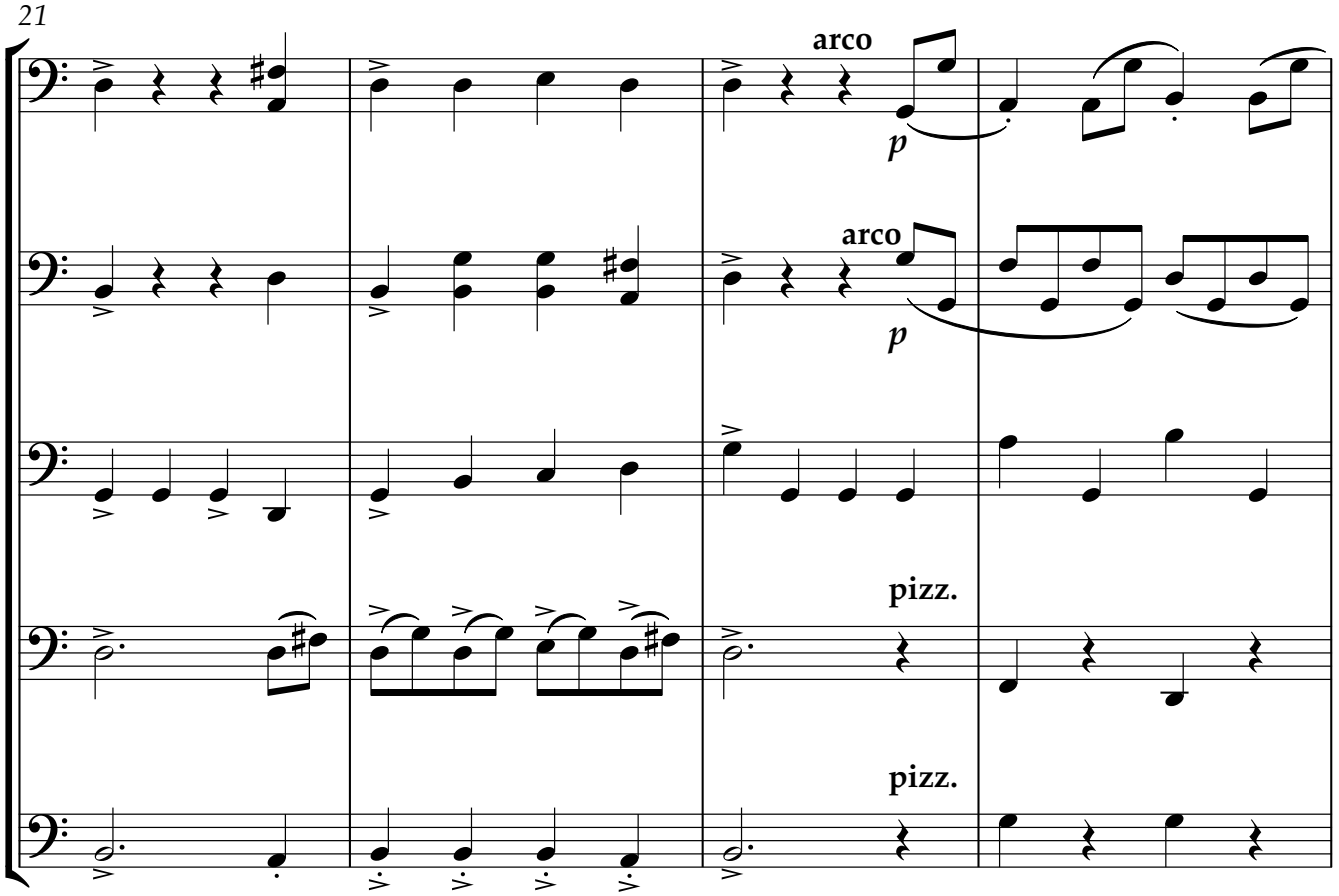
V. ALTERNATIVE VERSION OF RIGAUDON IN C MAJOR

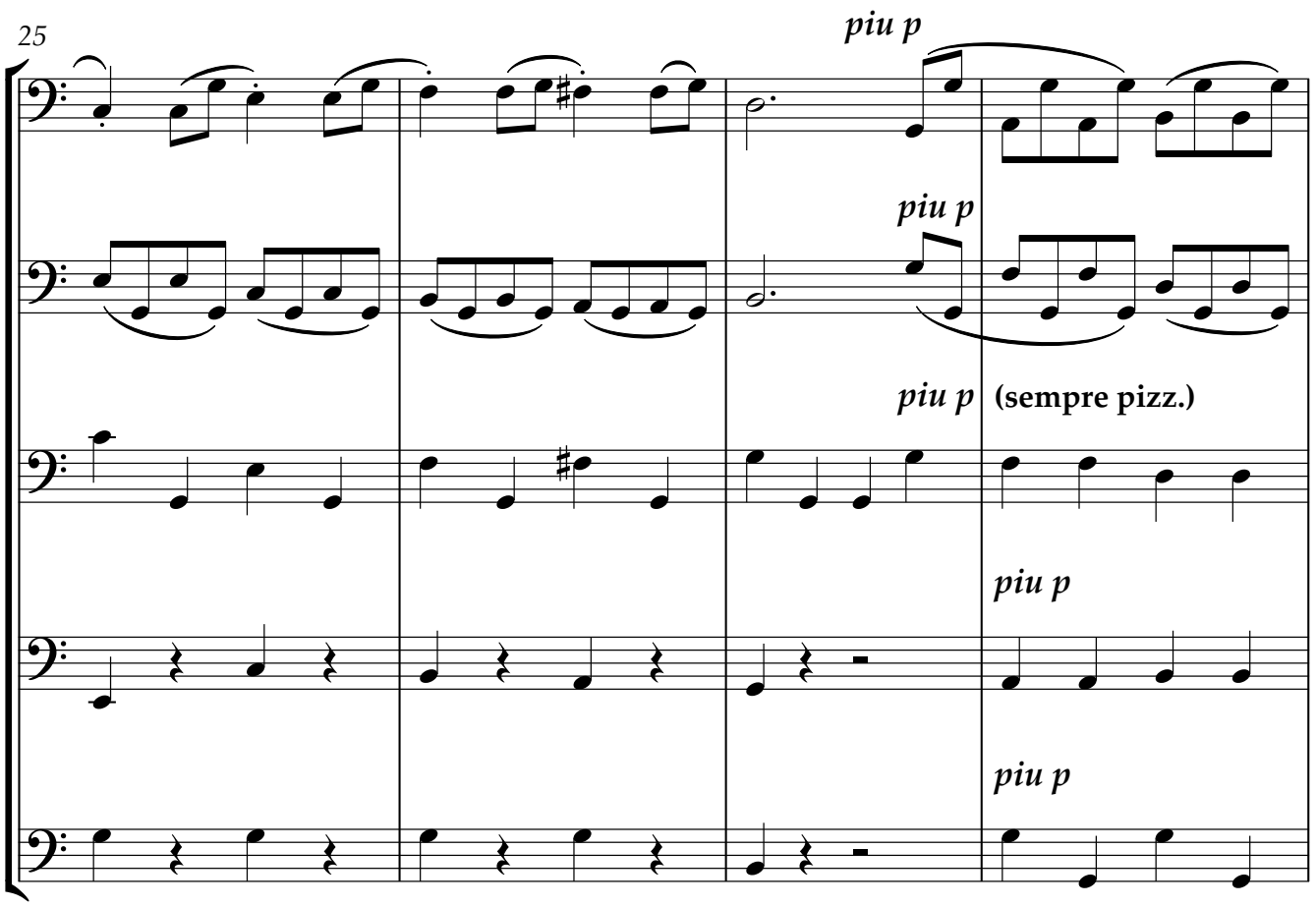
Allegro con brio 𝅗𝅥=144

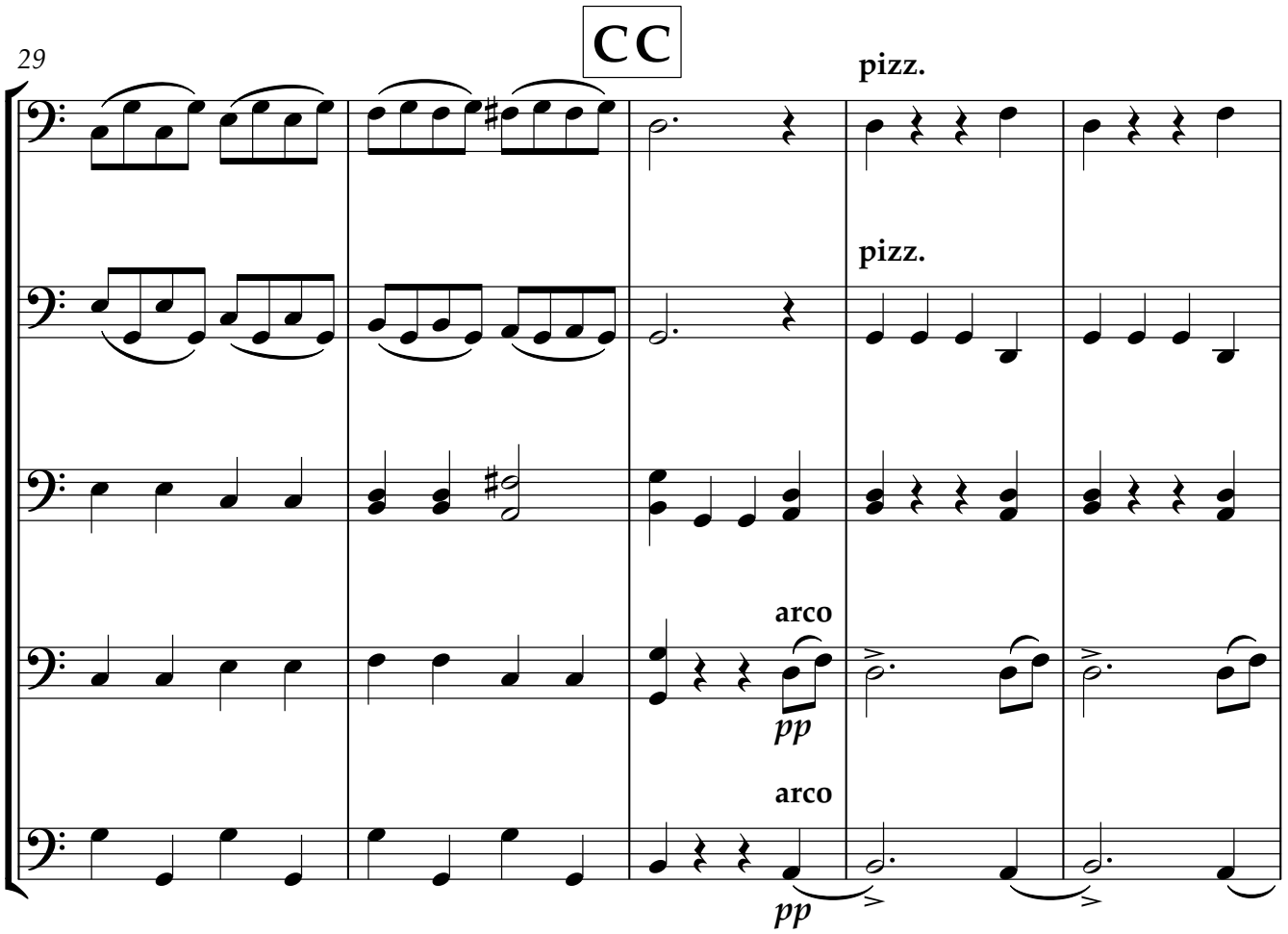


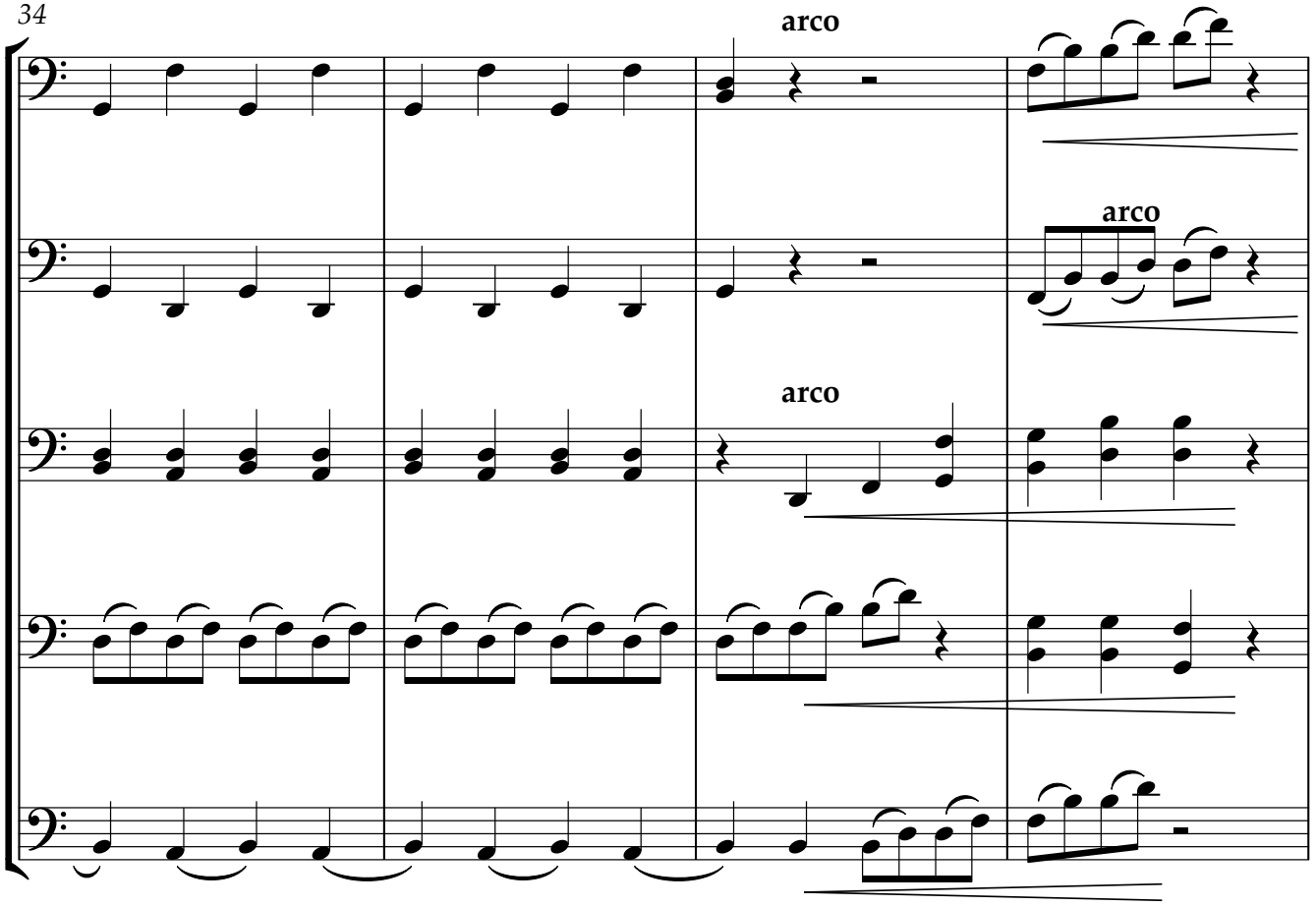

59
A A
2.
pizz.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
f
p
pizz.
Soli
arco
spiccato
arco
13
pizz.
arco

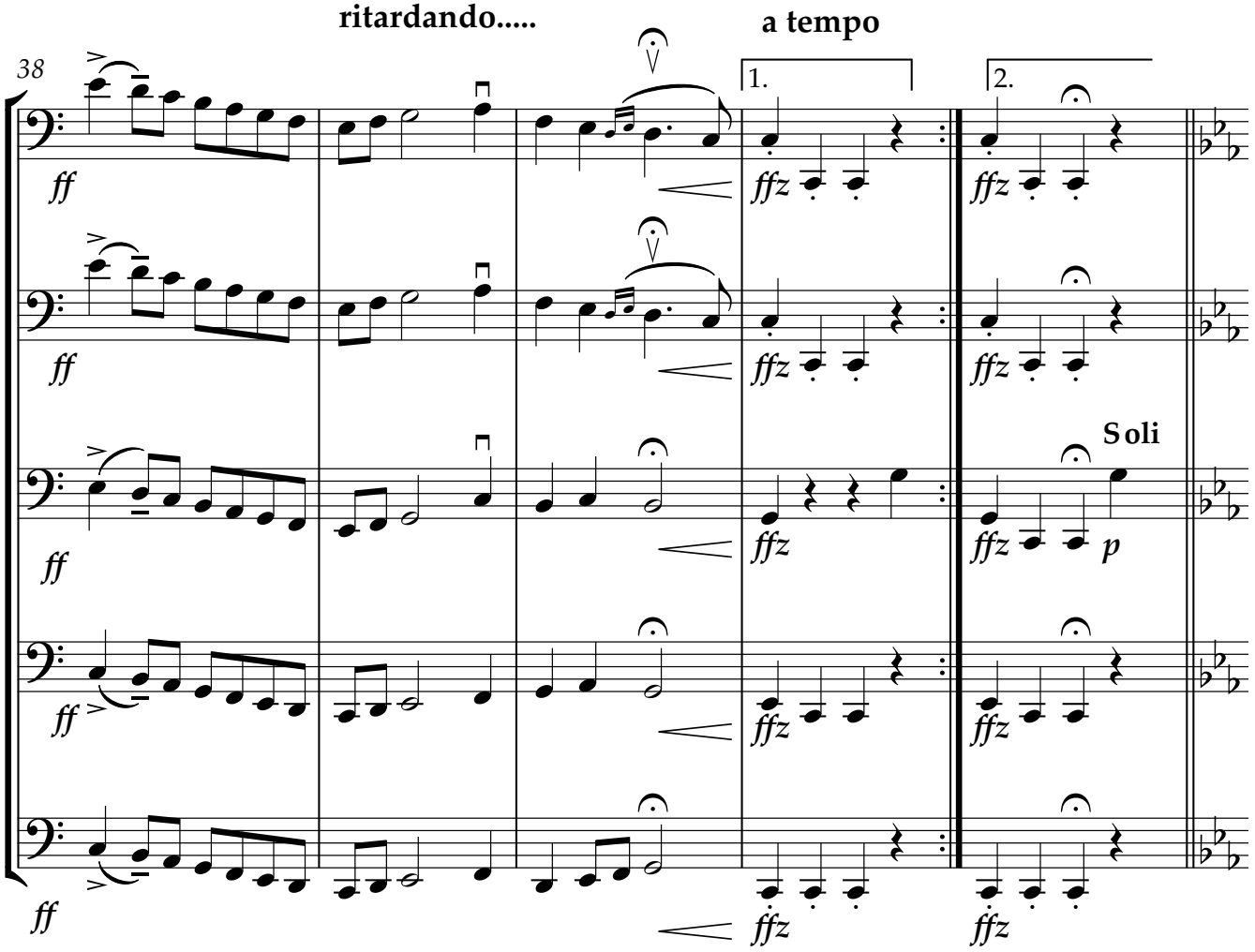

17
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
f
f


21
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
arco
p
arco
p
pizz.
pizz.

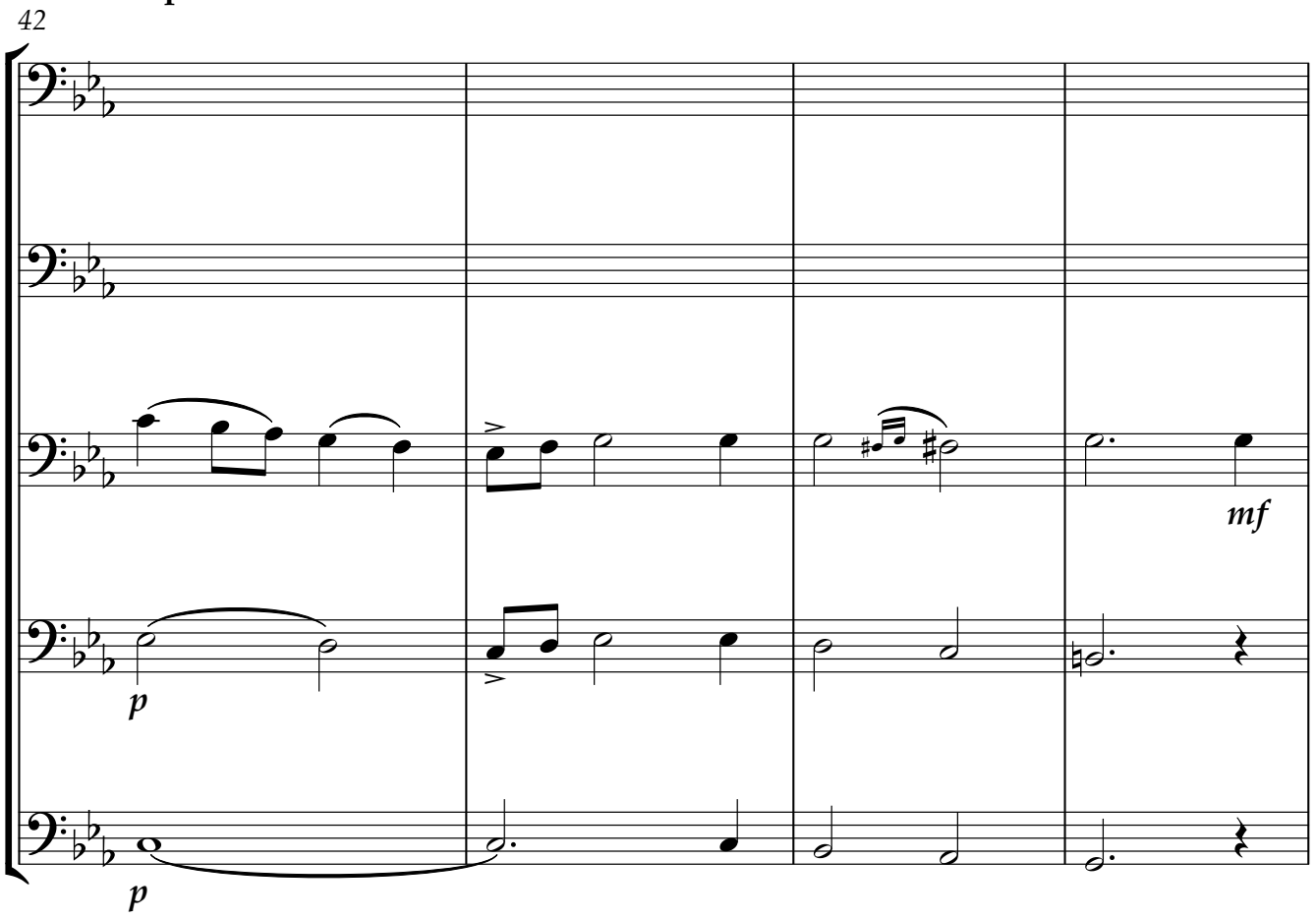

25
piu p
Vc1
piu p
Vc2
piu p
(sempre pizz.)
Vc3
piu p
Vc4
piu p
Vc5

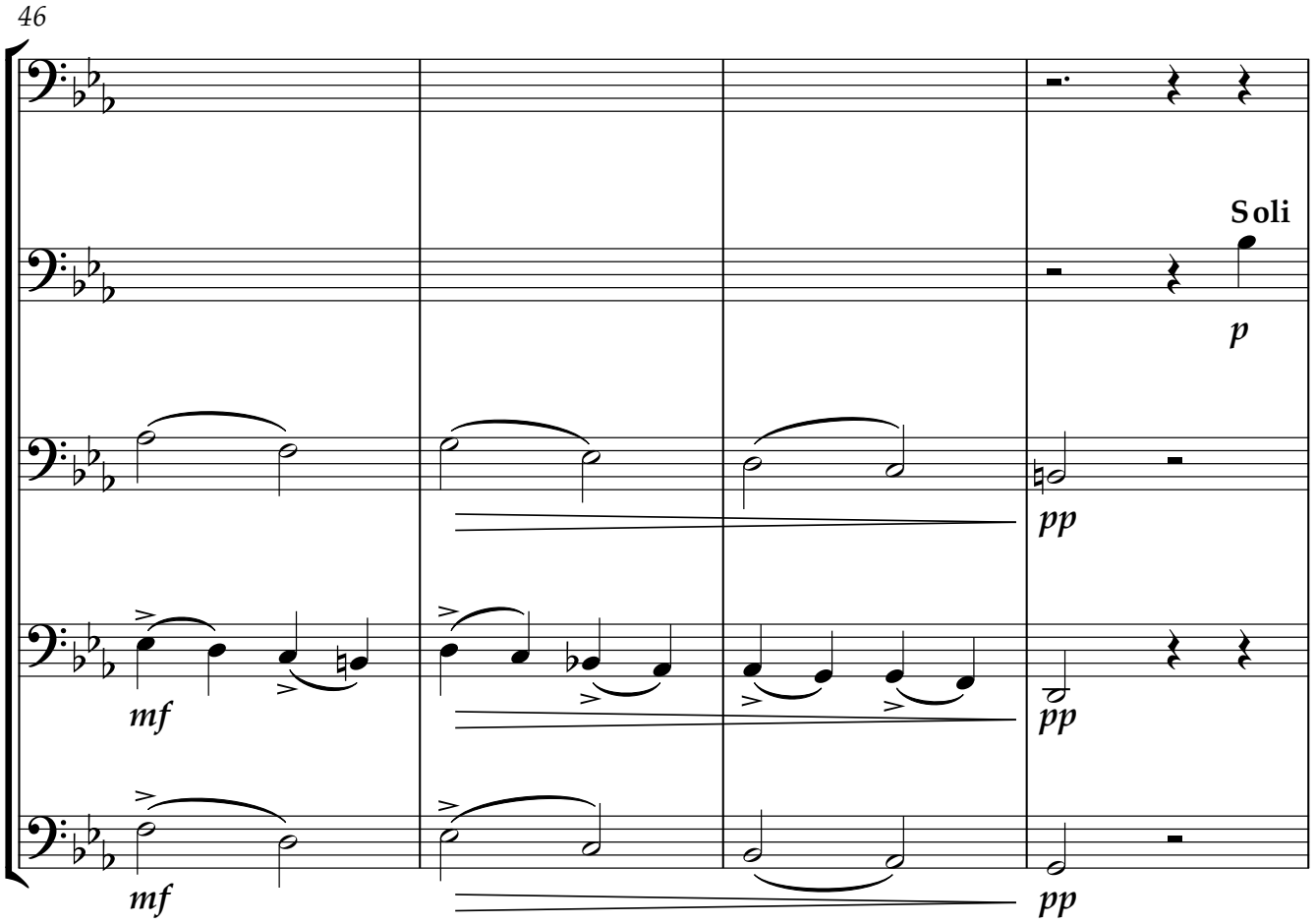

29
CC
pizz.
Vc1
pizz.
Vc2
Vc3
arco
pp
Vc4
arco
pp
Vc5

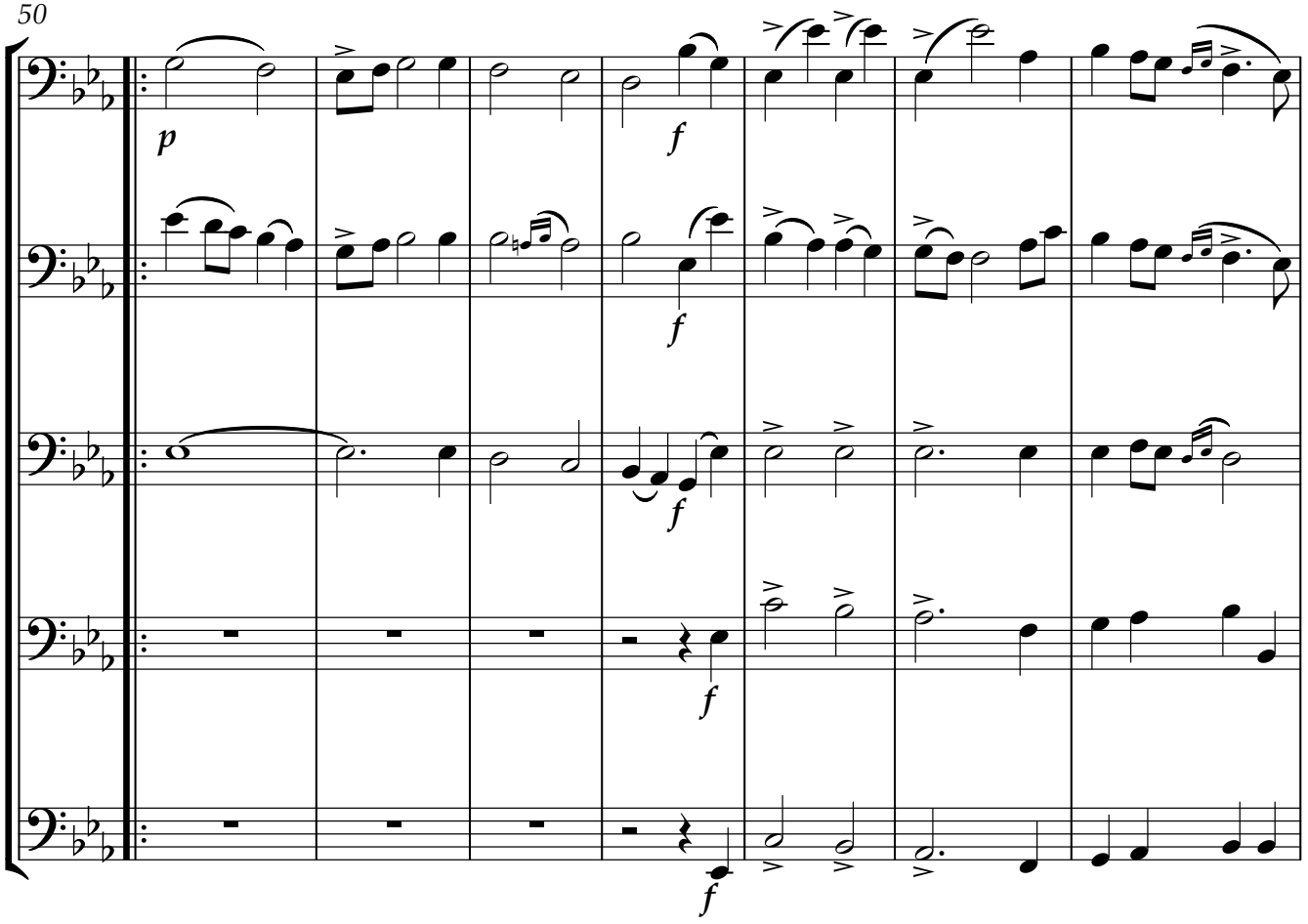

34
arco
arco
arco
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5

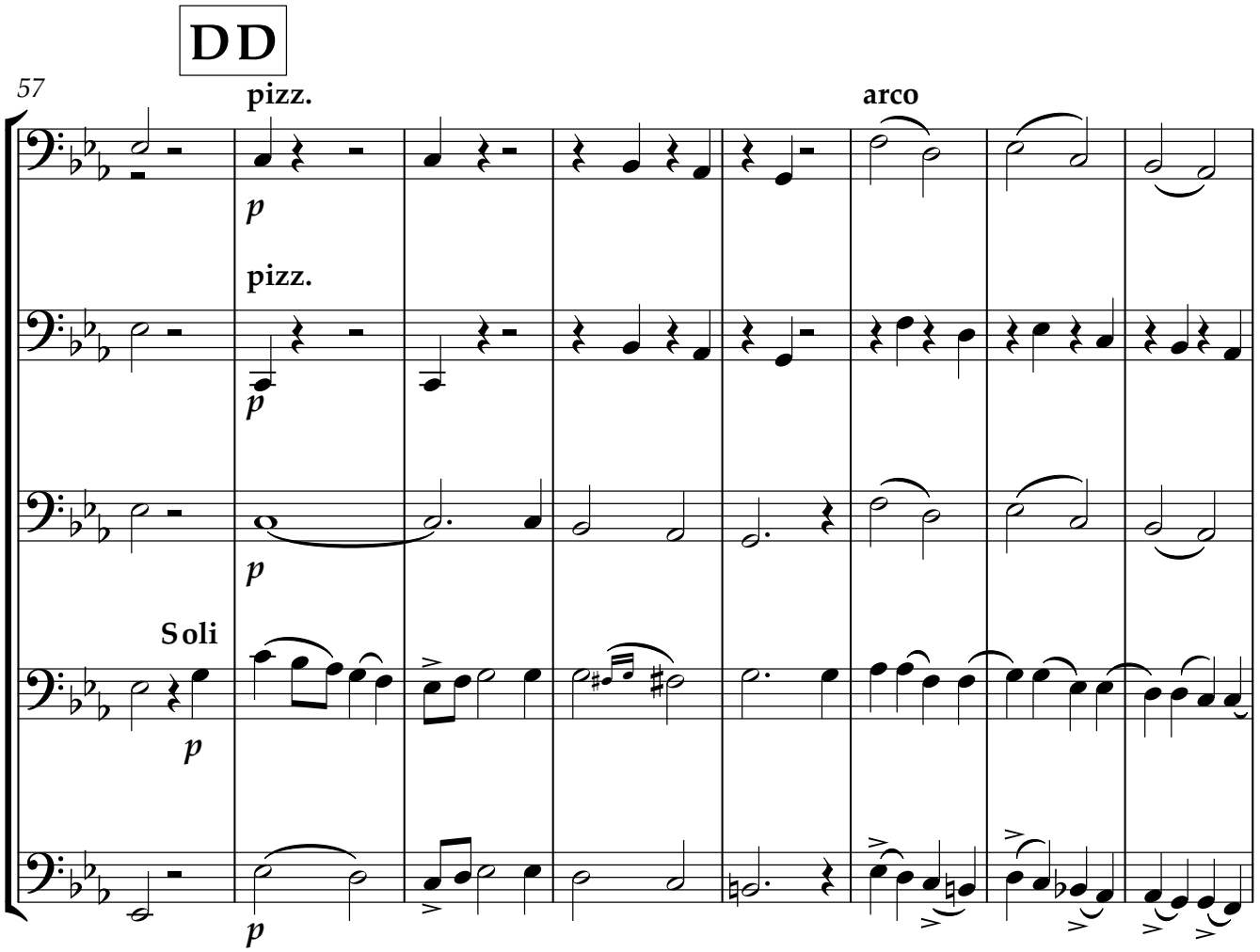

ritardando.....
a tempo
38
1.
2.
Soli
ff
ffz
p
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5

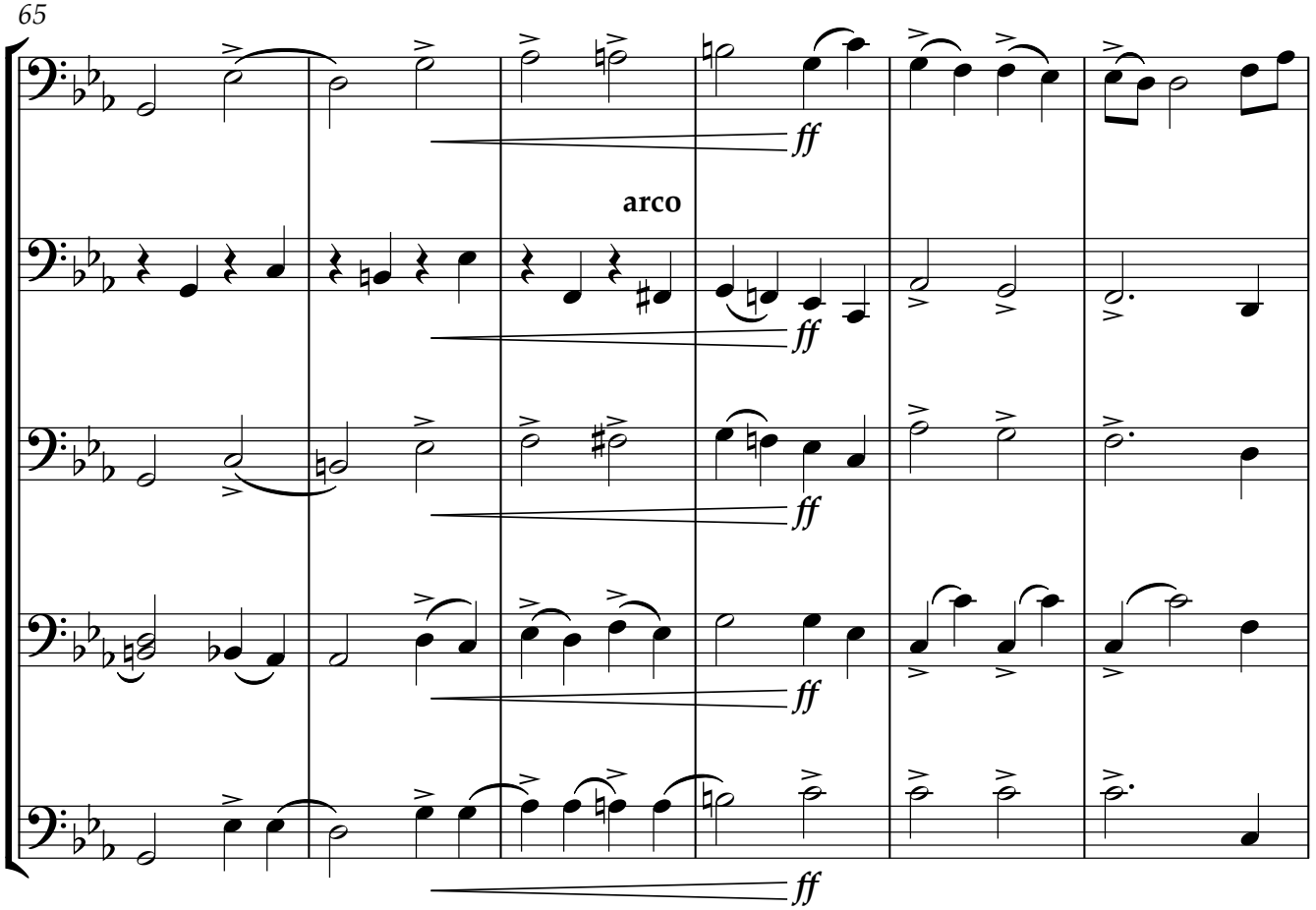
poco meno mosso

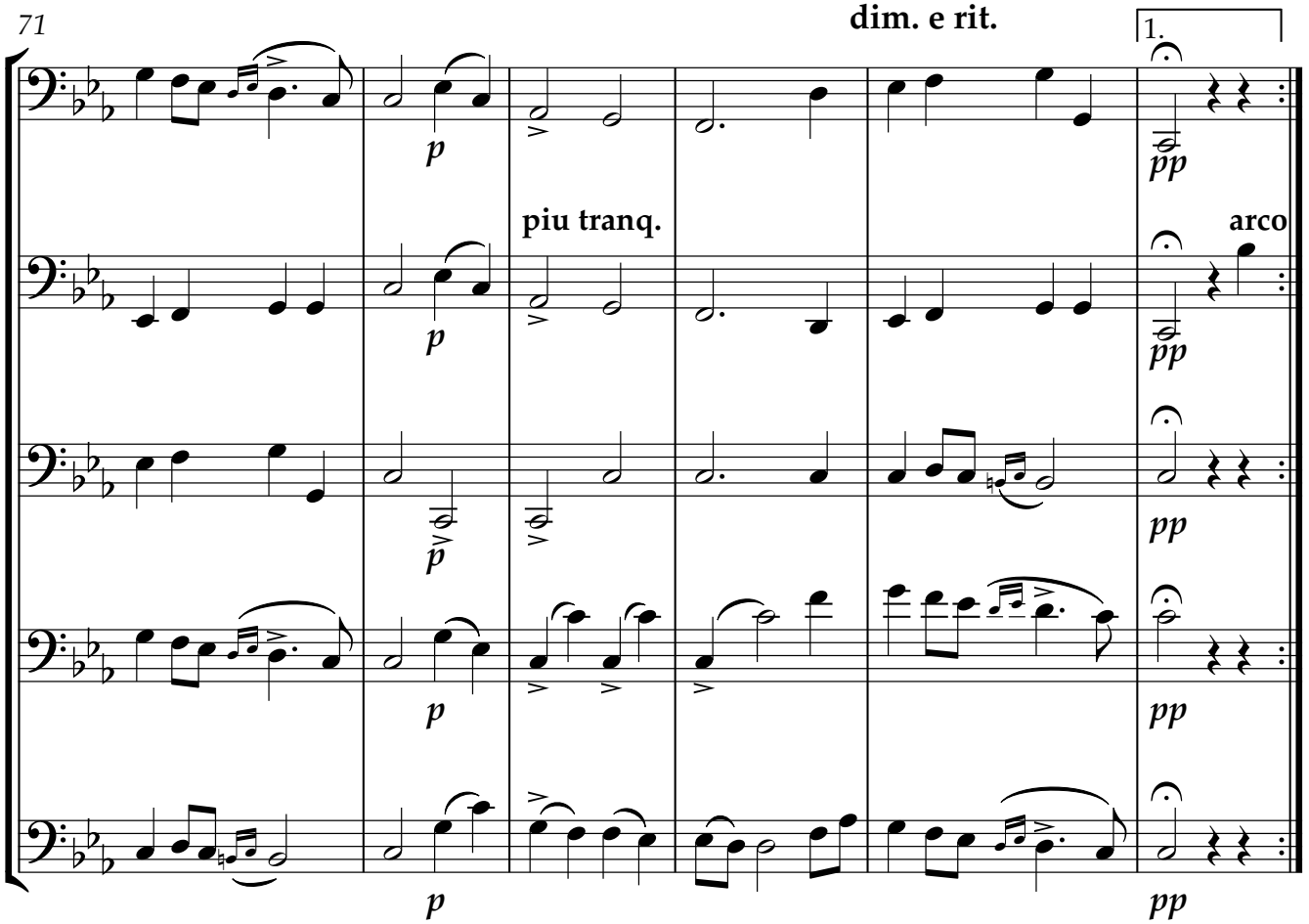




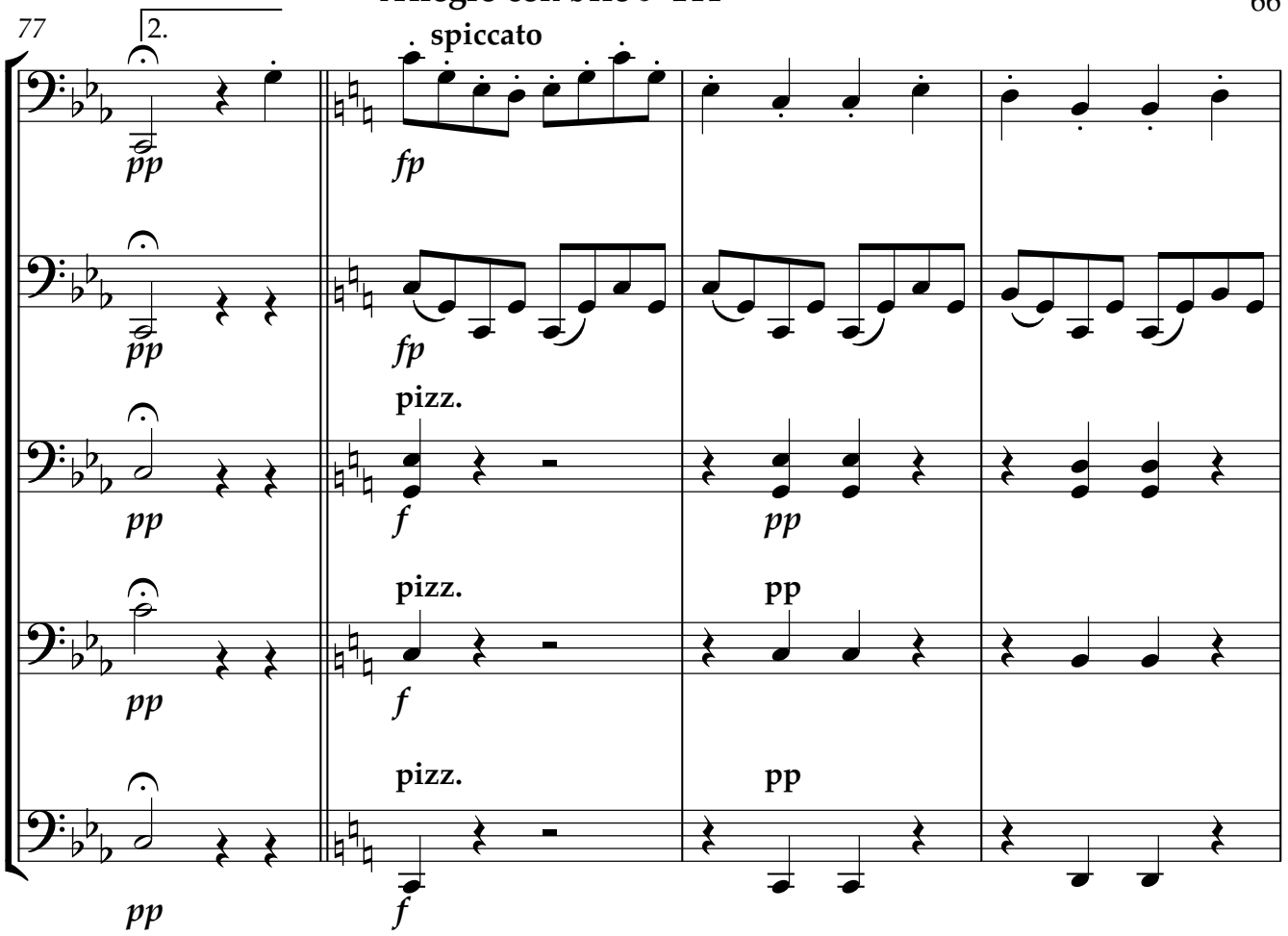

50
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
p
f

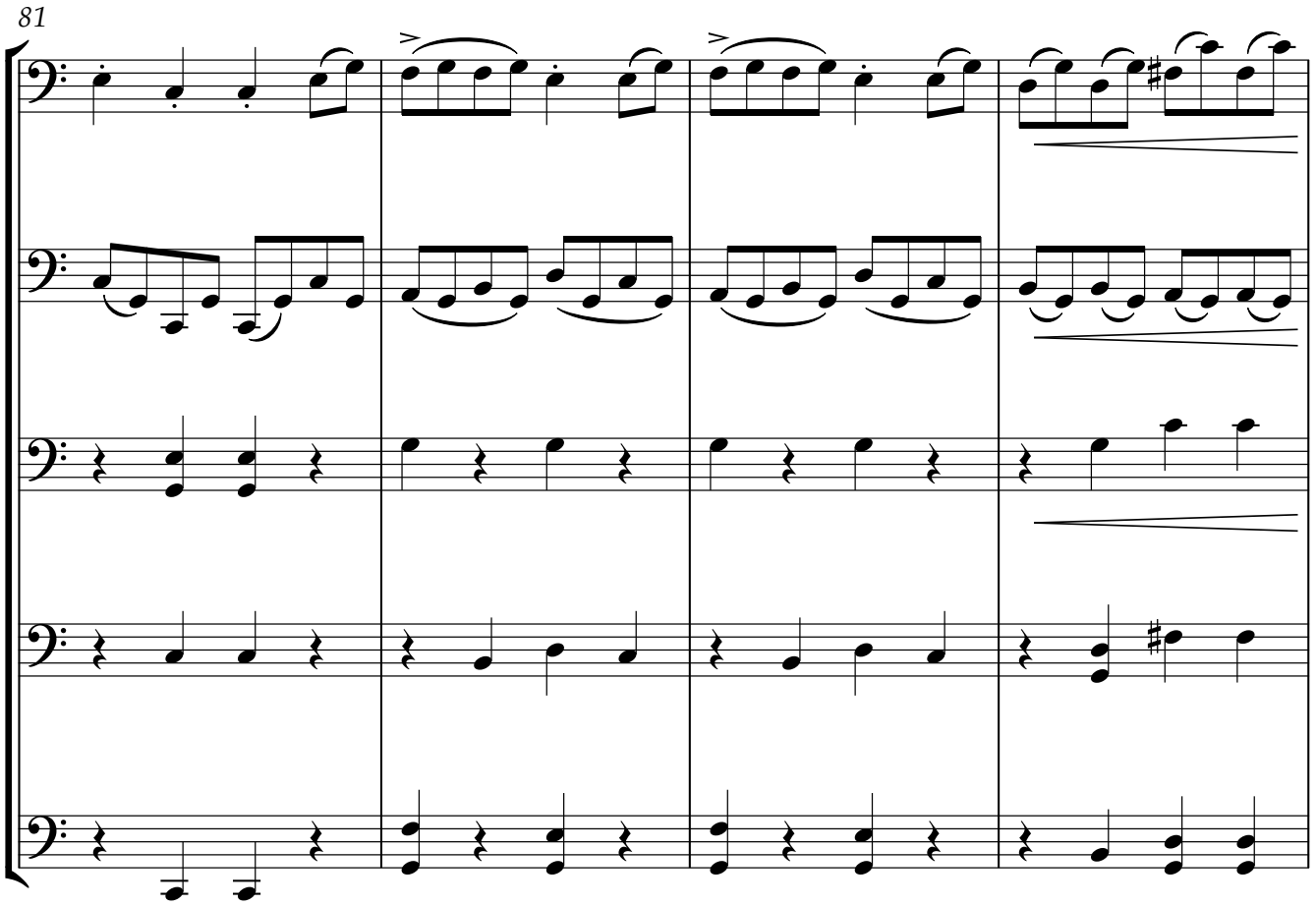

DD
57
pizz.
arco
pizz.
Soli
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
p

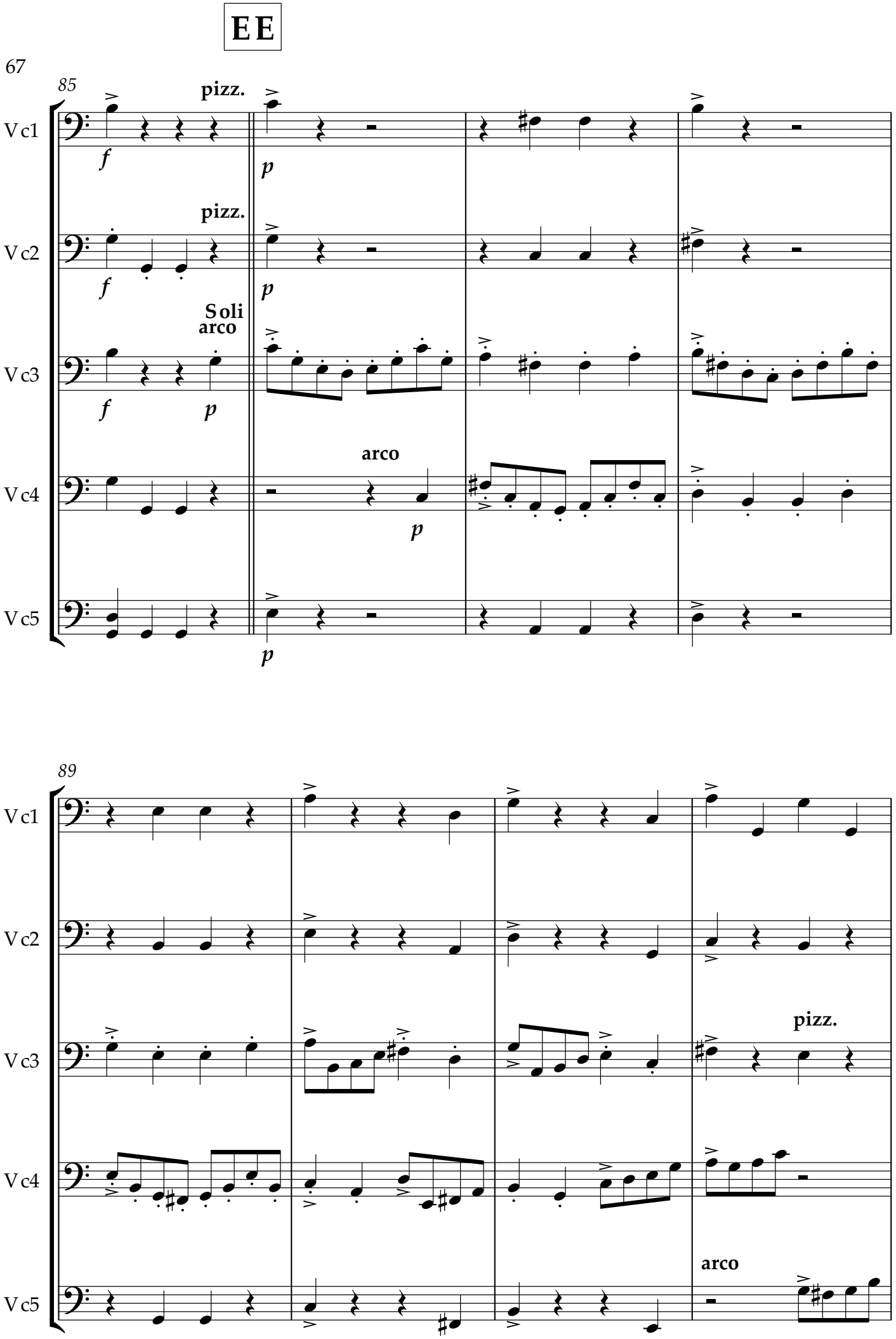

65
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
arco
ff


71
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
dim. e rit.
1.
piu tranq.
arco
p
pp

Allegro con brio ♩=144






EE
85
pizz.
Vc1
f
p
pizz.
Vc2
f
p
Soli
arco
Vc3
f
p
arco
Vc4
p
Vc5
p
89
Vc1
Vc2
pizz.
Vc3
Vc4
arco
Vc5

FF

93

Vc1

Vc2

Vc3

Vc4

Vc5

f

f

97

Vc1

arco

p

Vc2

arco

p

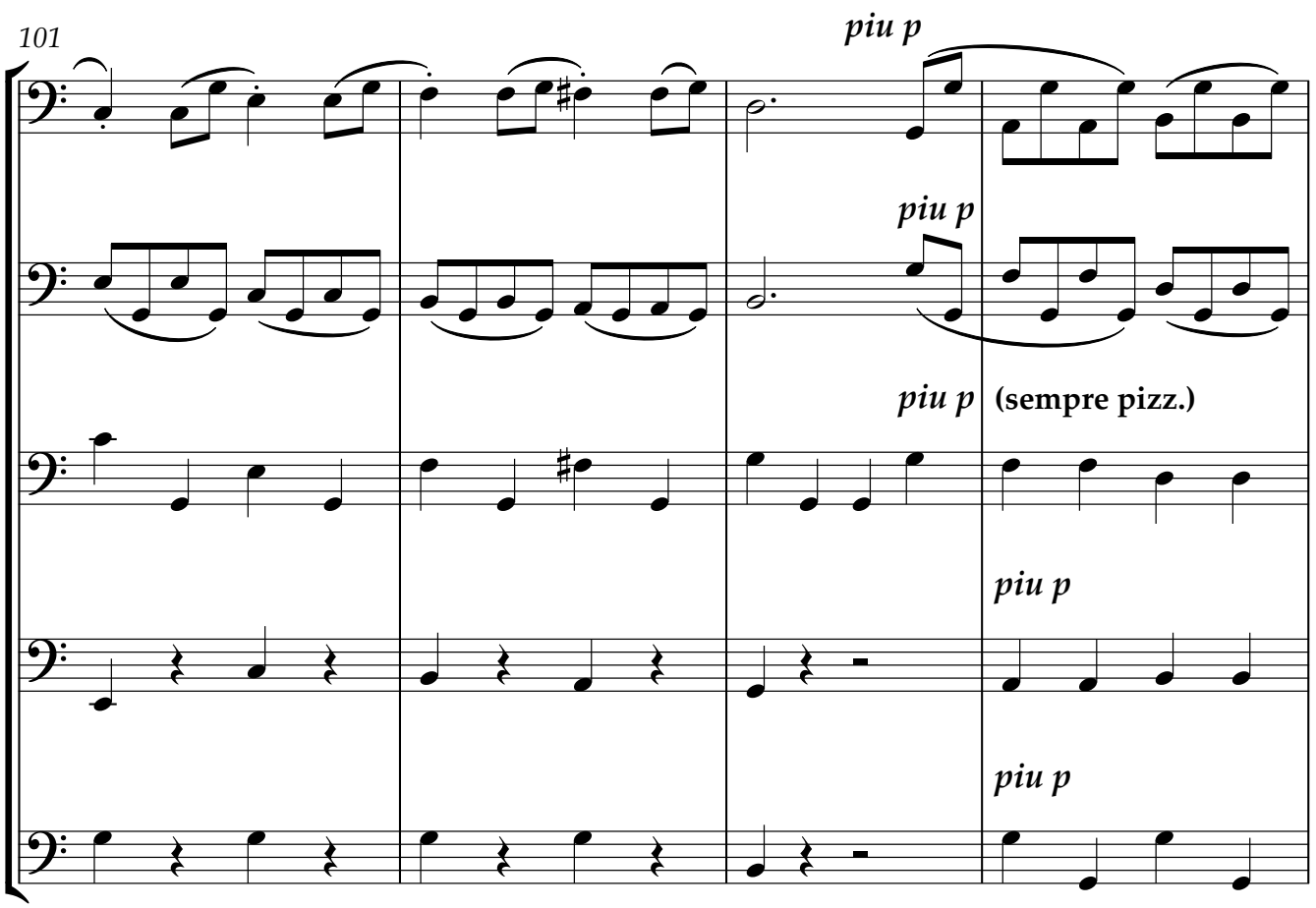
Vc3

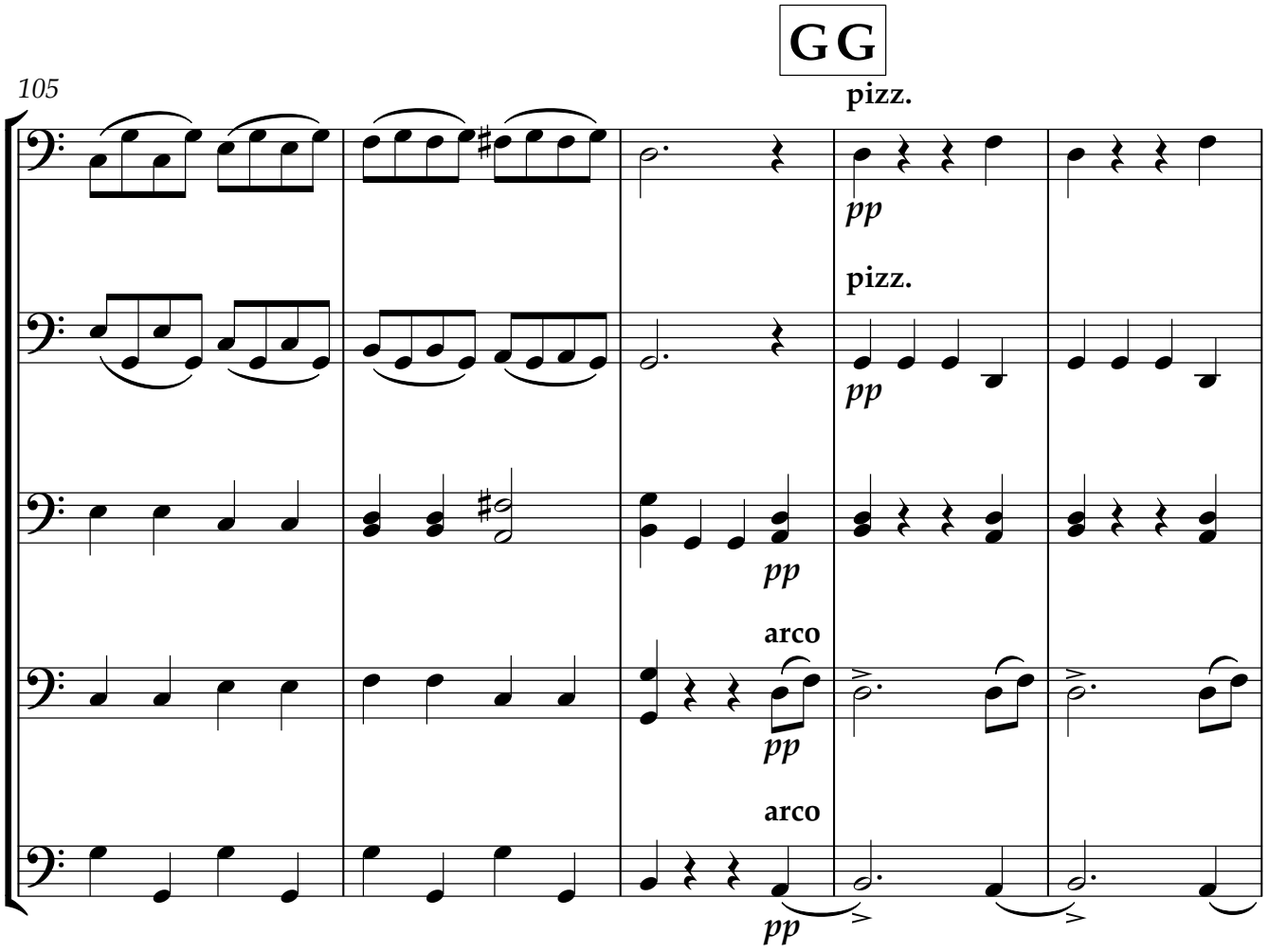
Vc4

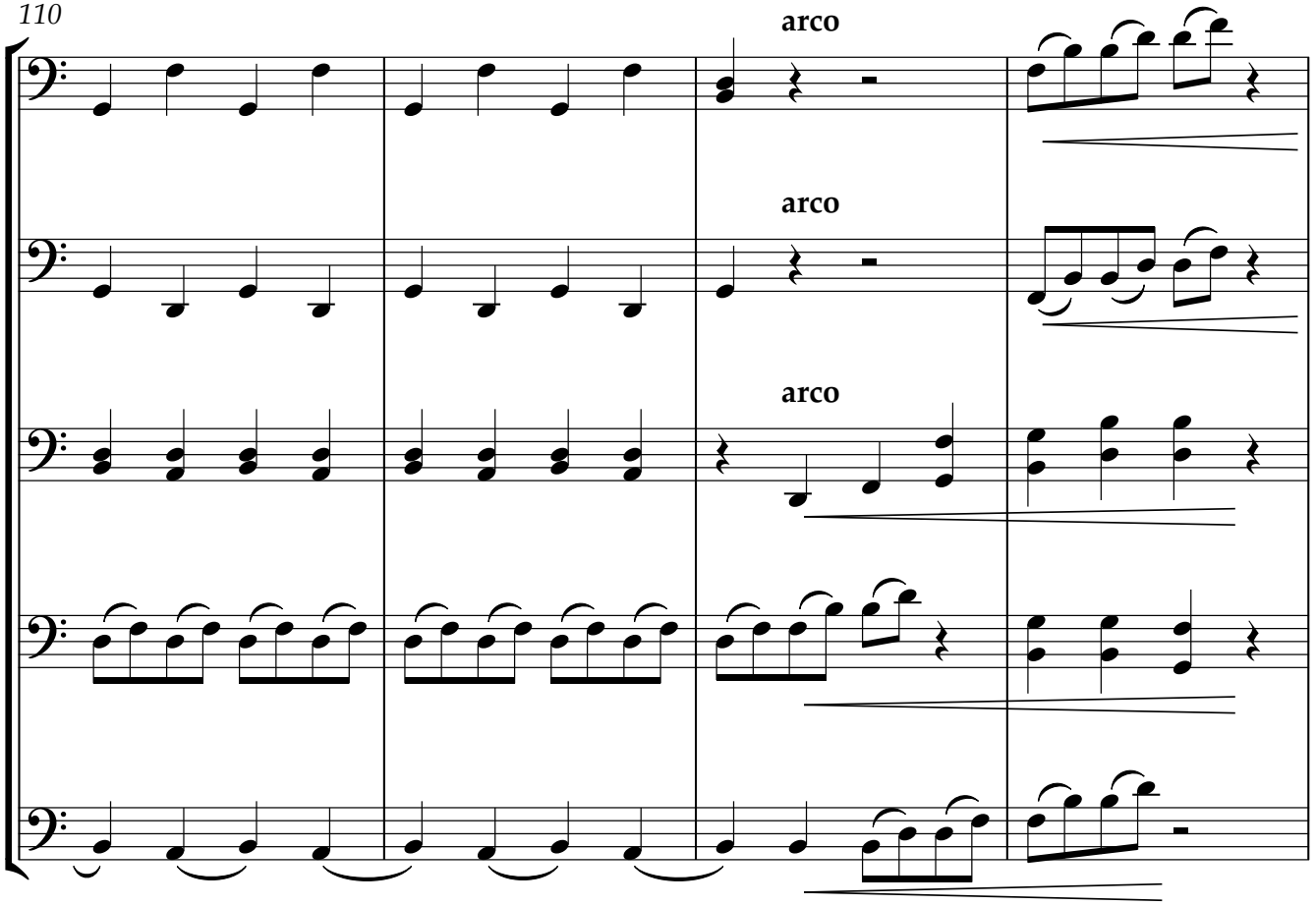
pizz.

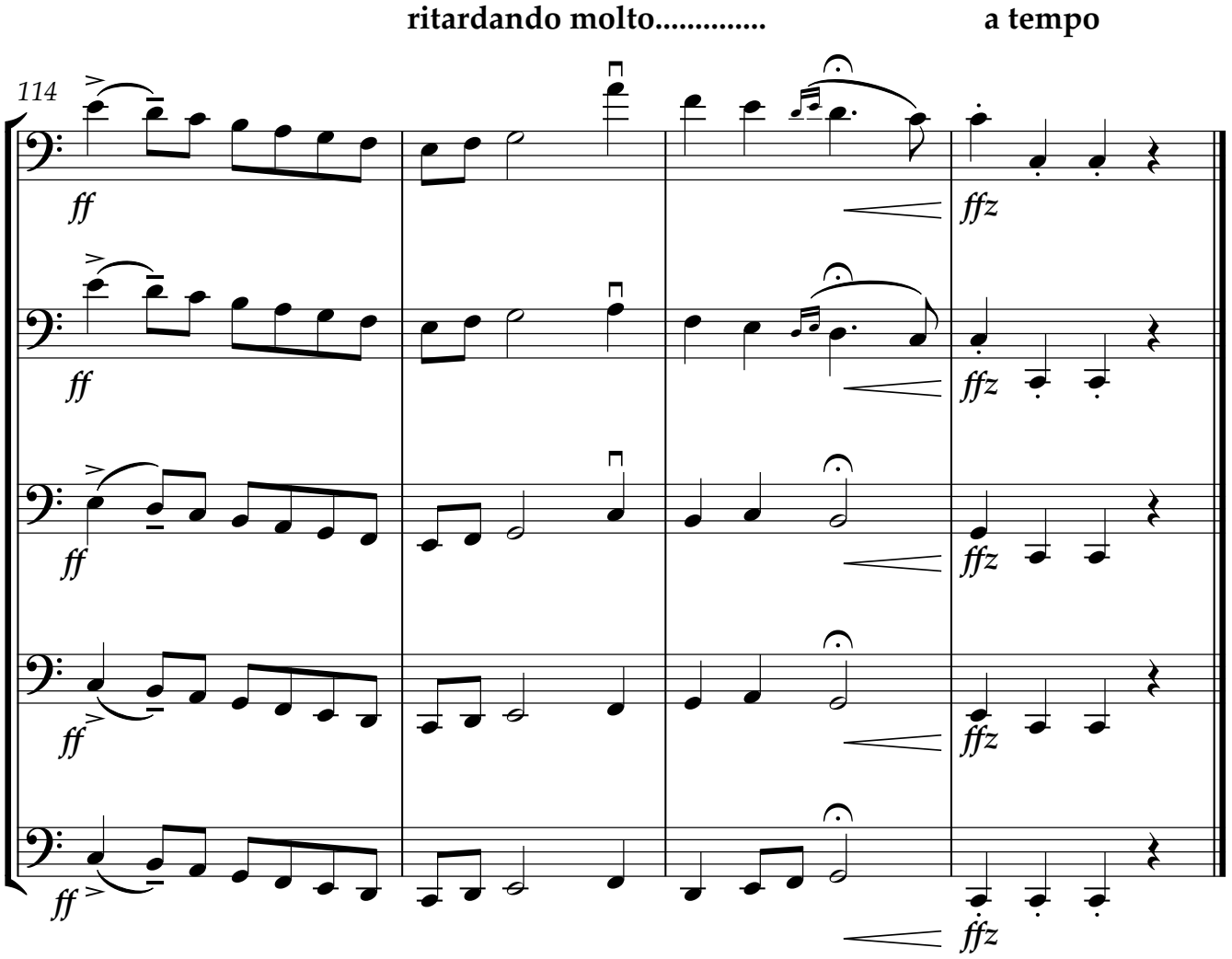
Vc5

pizz.


101
piu p
Vc1
piu p
Vc2
piu p
(sempre pizz.)
Vc3
piu p
Vc4
piu p
Vc5


GG
105
pizz.
Vc1
pp
pizz.
Vc2
pp
Vc3
pp
arco
Vc4
pp
arco
Vc5
pp


110
arco
arco
arco
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5


ritardando molto.....
a tempo
114
ff
ffz
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5