From God's Back 40

for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano

Bill Robinson

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June 22—October 7, 2017
Duration: ~28 minutes

In June 2017, clarinetist Fred Jacobowitz and pianist Carl Banner, director of Washington Musica Viva, asked me to write a trio for clarinet, viola, and piano. I had just moved to the little town of Cleveland, North Carolina, in rural western Rowan County, nestled in the bucolic Piedmont about an hour drive from the nearest big cities. I had lived in Raleigh since 2001, and retired in May after seven years teaching physics at NCSU.

So I settled in with an old friend who had some extra space in his home, where I had time to do what I like and take care of my health. I couldn't compose during my final months in Raleigh, but the new environment proved fertile for creativity. After two years, in 2019, I moved back to the Raleigh area (Garner) to rent-assisted senior housing; it took a couple of years on the wait list.

The first movement is based on various tetrachords, which is very common in my music—not from some theoretical plan, but just because that seems to be how things work out and sound right. I have written a piece before titled *Diatonic Phrygian Tetrachord*, which was more specific about that particular type. There is a somewhat baroque flavor to this section, as I came up with the basic ideas after listening to Bach violin concertos.

The second movement is "Yet Another Waltz", as I have written altogether too many already. I wouldn't recommend trying to dance to this one.

The third movement has a touch of country roots music to it; I am trying my hand at old fiddle tunes, and it was well-suited to the rural surroundings.

The finale is a big fast ending, inspired by my inspiration of albuterol as an inhaled medication for bronchiectasis. One of the main problems of this disease (as well as my arthritis) is extreme fatigue; albuterol is a potent stimulant, as well as helping breathing.

This trio is the basis for *Symphony No. 2: From God's Back 40* for full orchestra. The orchestration in 2023 resulted in a long list of corrections, adjustments, and a few improvements for this fourth edition.

Performance notes

My usual style of piano playing is heavy on the sostenuto pedal; the indicated pedal marks are really required, but please use freely. Notes that do not have dots are not short. Individual movements may be performed by themselves or in any combination.

It is fine with me if the viola is either amplified or electric, such as an electric 5 string violin.

The score is available in either legal- or letter-size formats. Parts are either conventional in letter format, or in a special edition for electronic music readers, with the part full size and the rest of the score included in reduced size.

Cover photo: "Country Boy" from Jim McGuire's studio, 1997, Charlotte NC.

Bill Robinson

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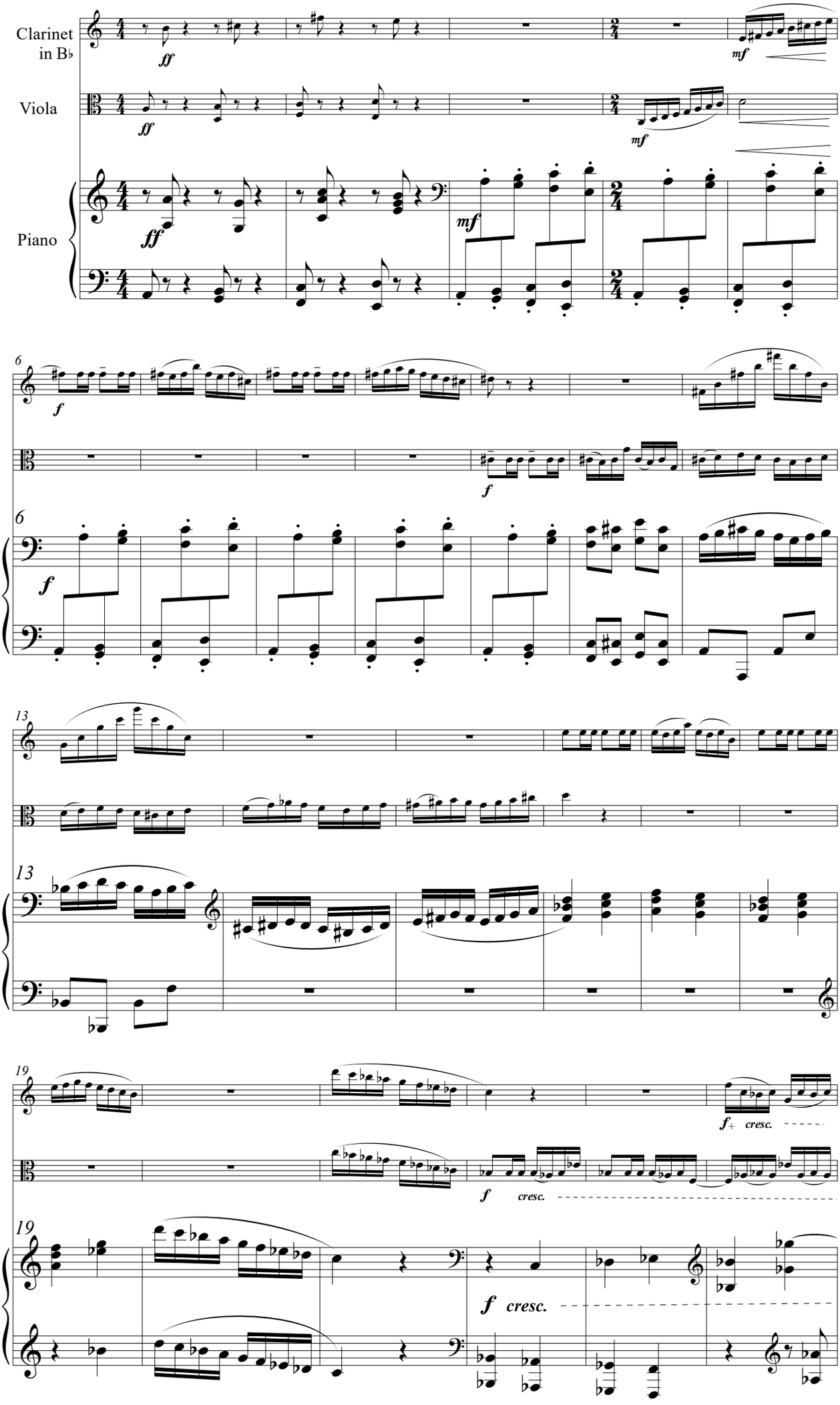
billrobinsonmusic.com

From God's Back 40

I. Gimme that Old-Time Tetrachord [7:40]

Bill Robinson

Don't Be Shy (♩ = 94-100)



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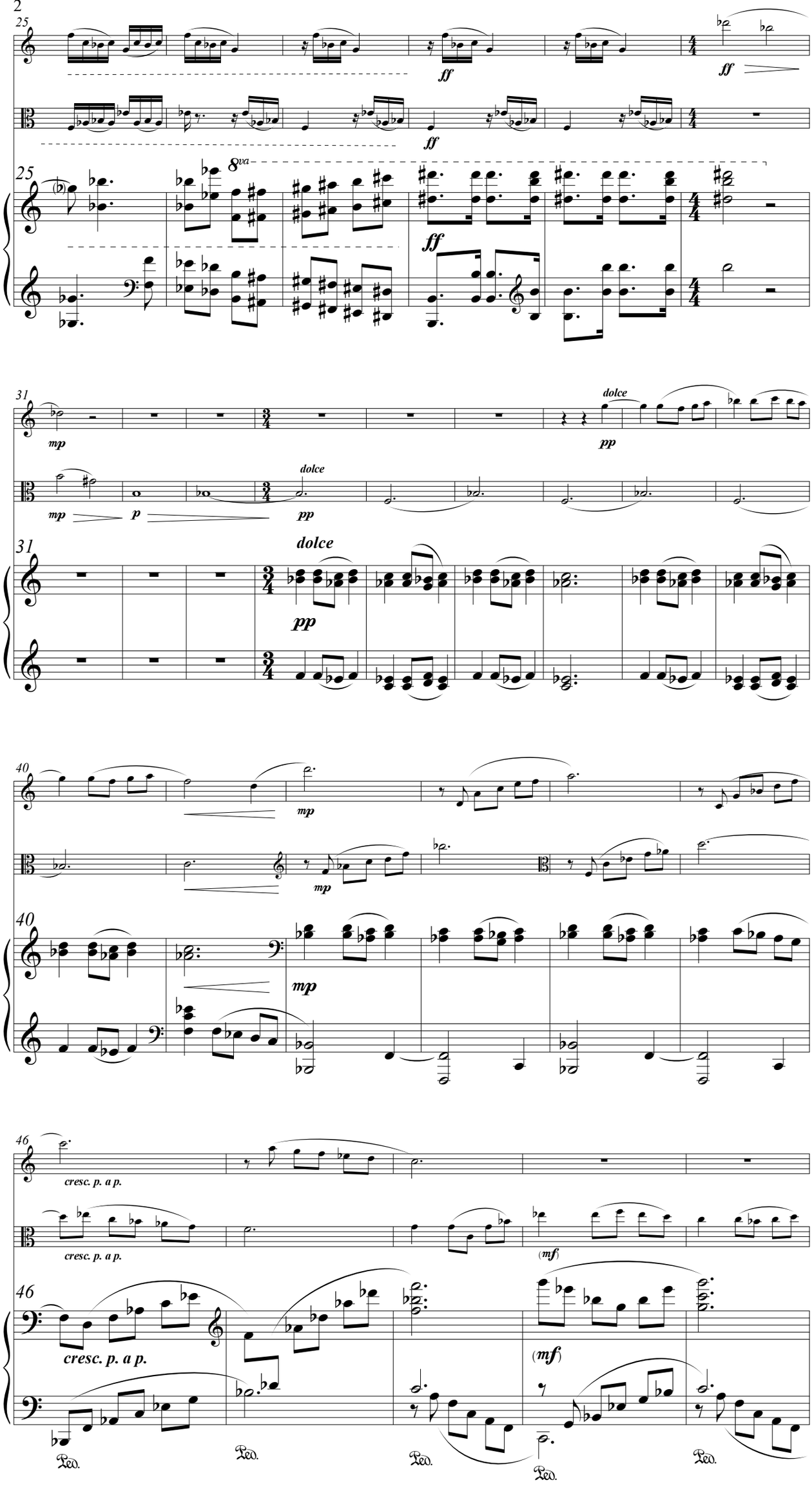
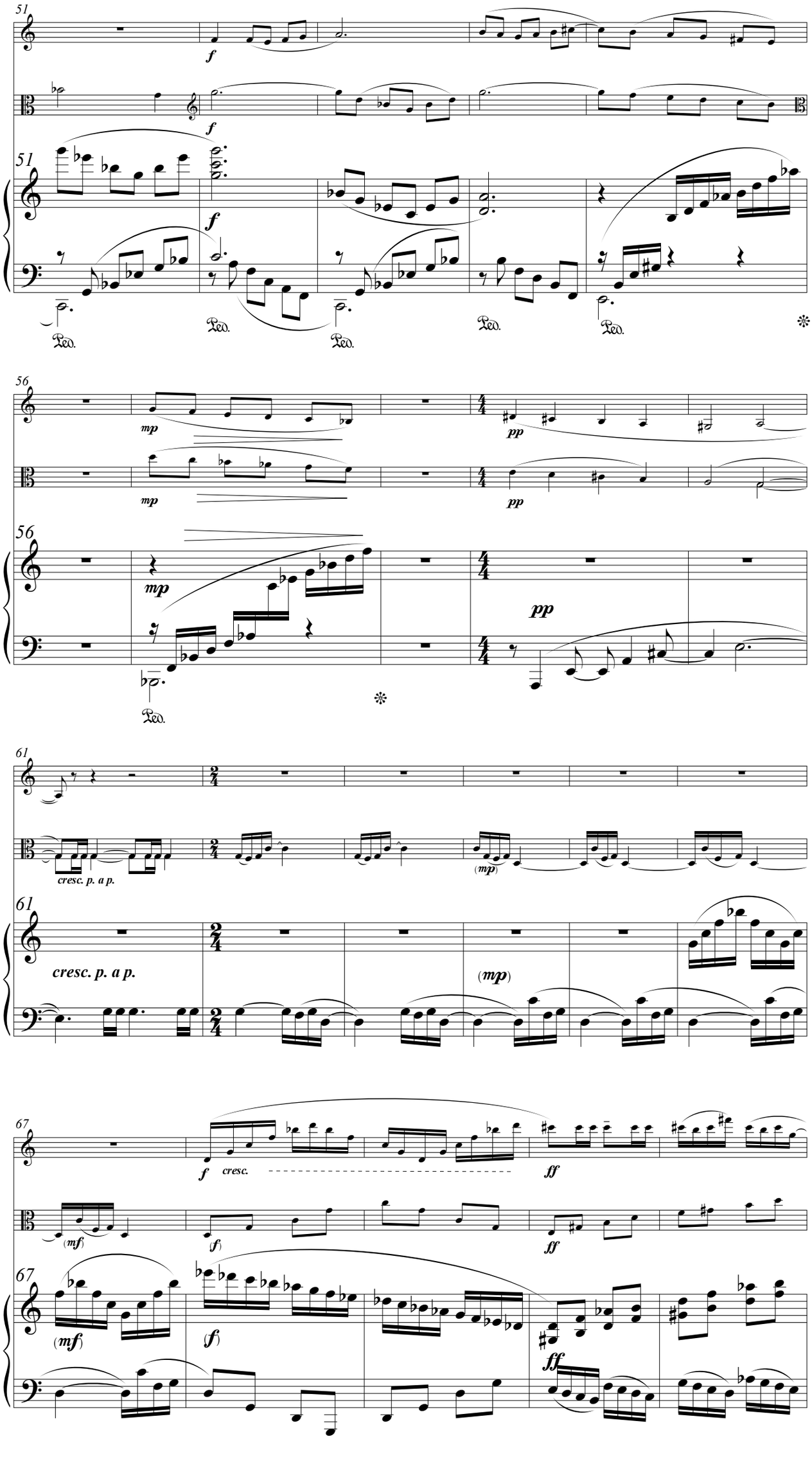
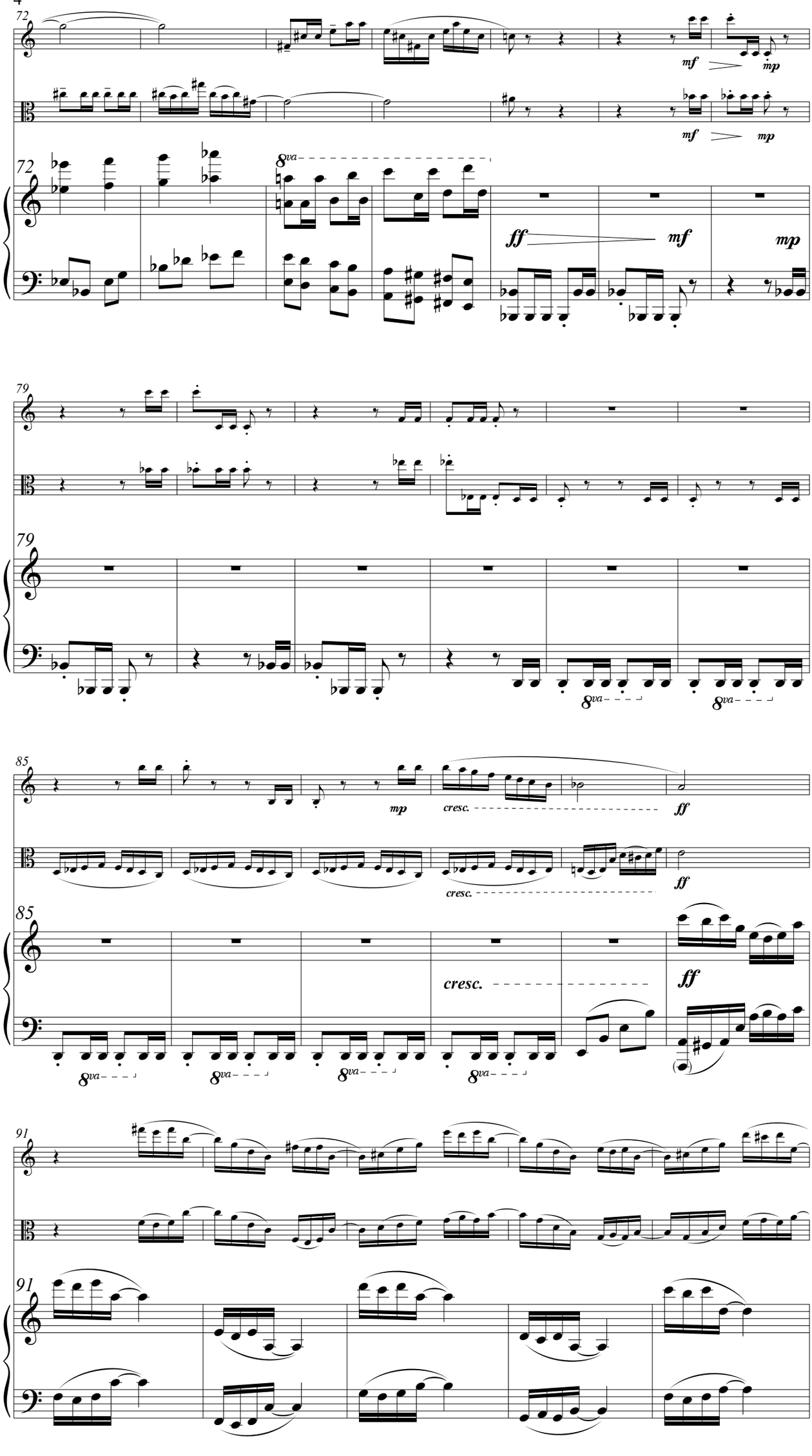
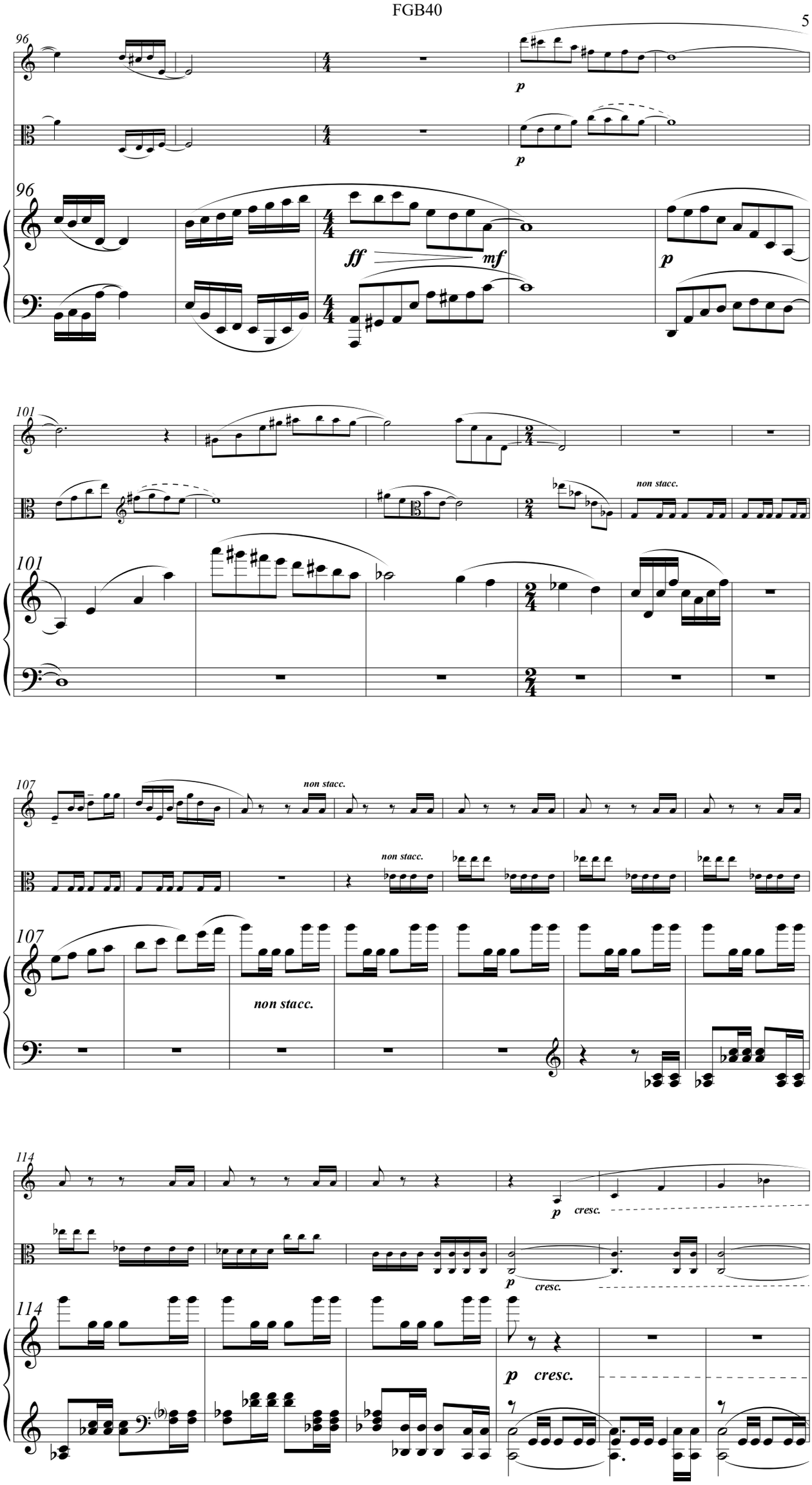
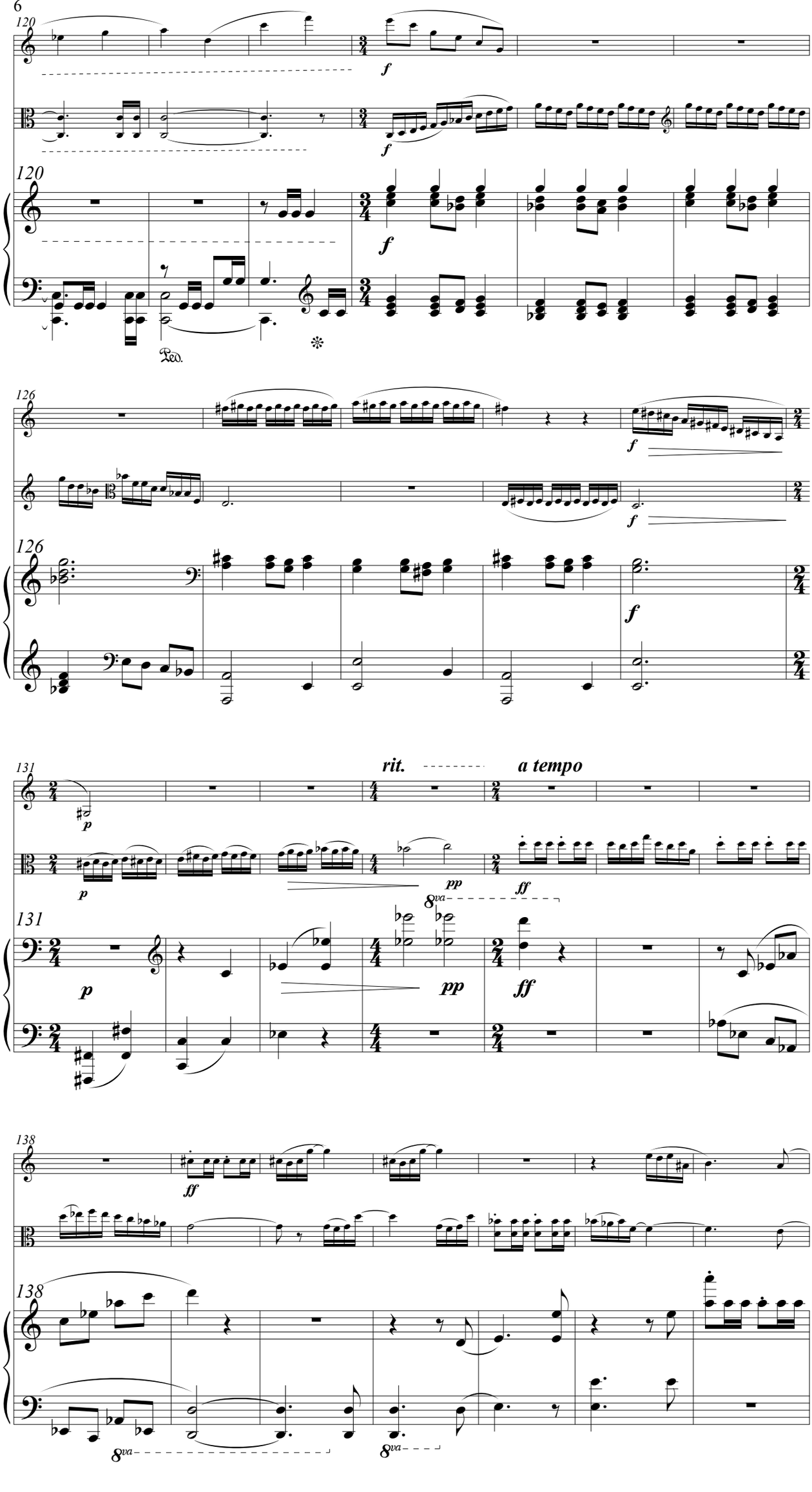
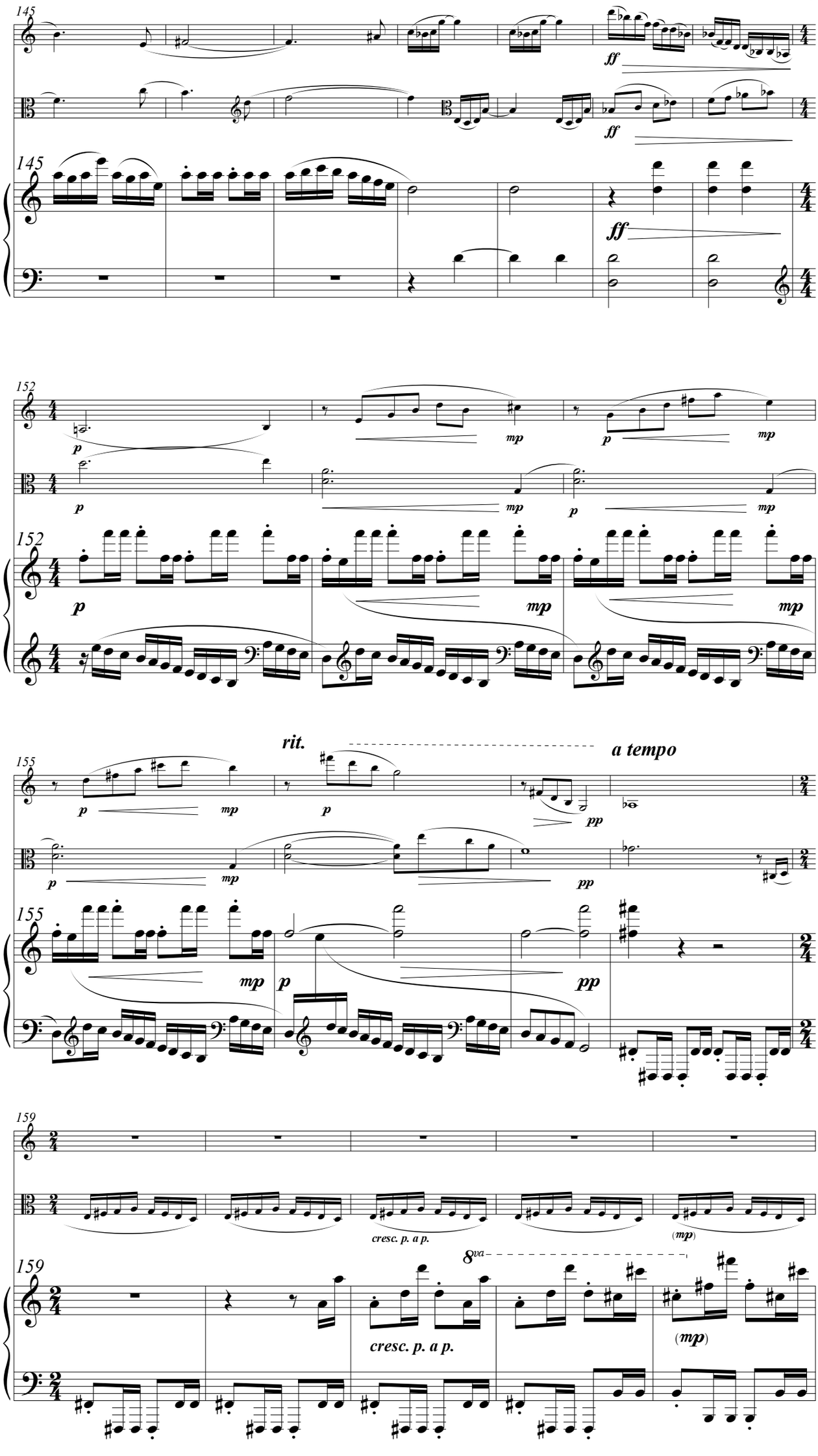

25
ff
ff
ff
8va
ff
31
mp
dolce
pp
mp
p
dolce
pp
31
dolce
pp
40
mp
mp
40
mp
46
cresc. p. a p.
cresc. p. a p.
(mf)
46
cresc. p. a p.
(mf)
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

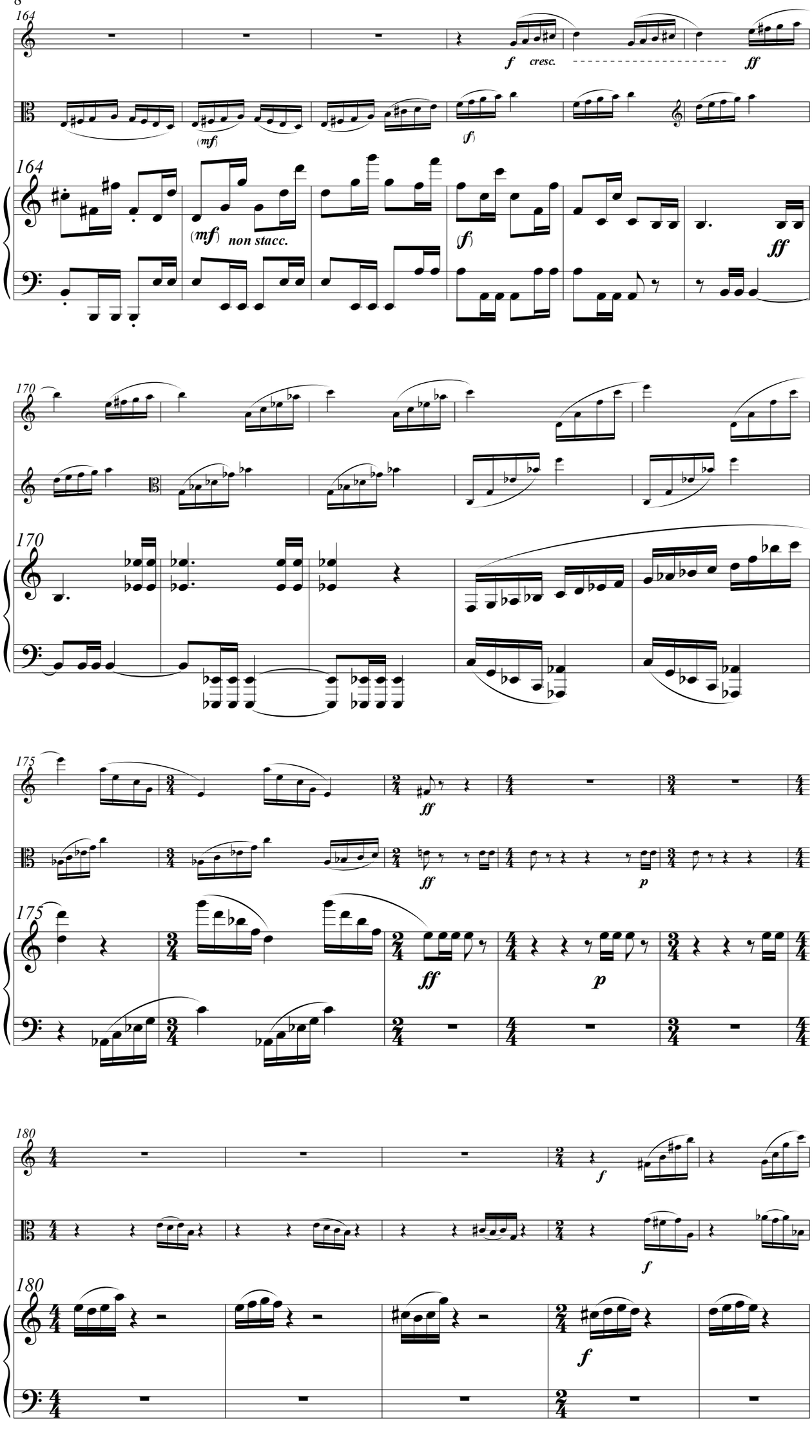

51
f
Ped.
56
mp
pp
61
cresc. p. a p.
(mp)
67
f
cresc.
ff
(mf)

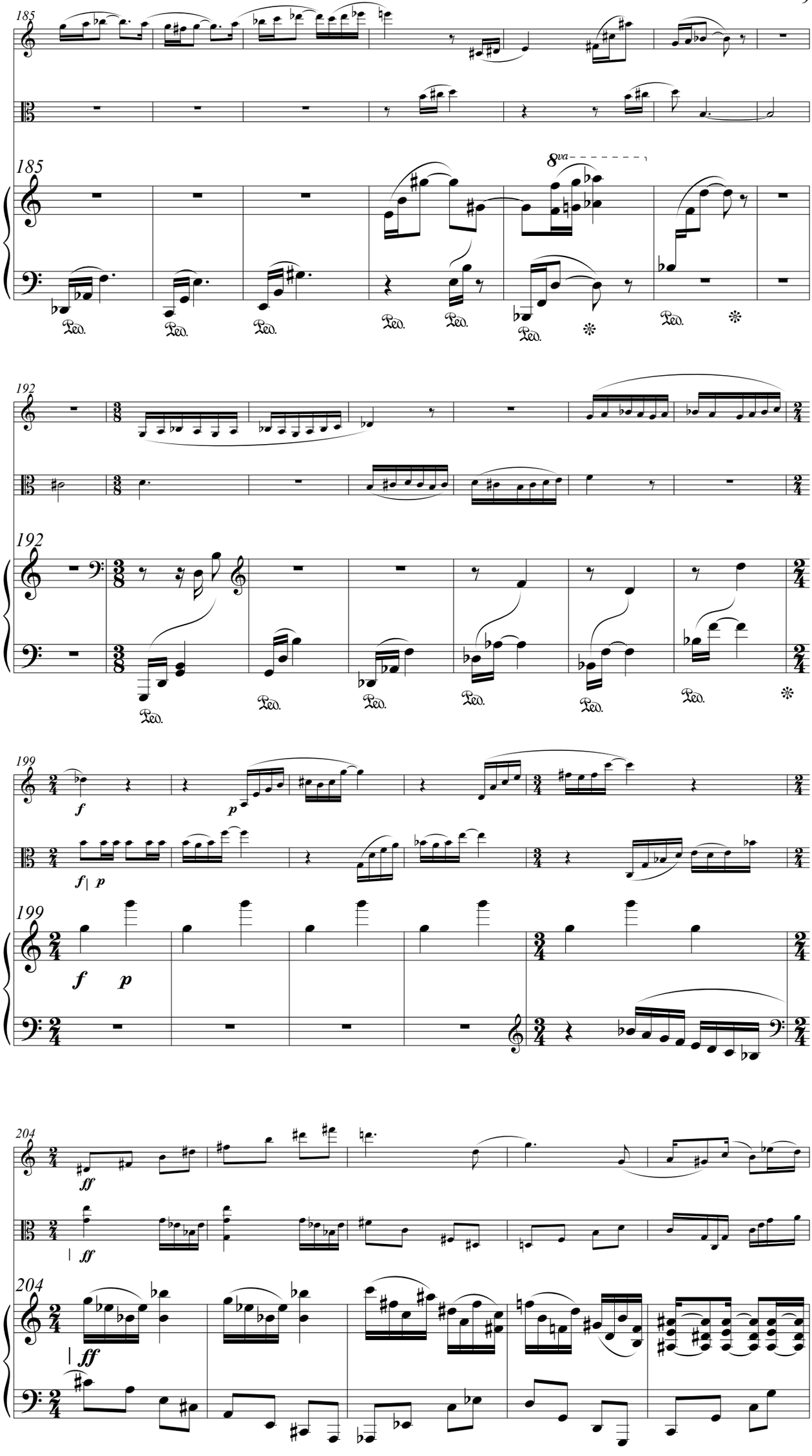

72
mf
mp
8va
ff
mf
mp
79
8va
85
mp
cresc.
ff
cresc.
ff
8va
91

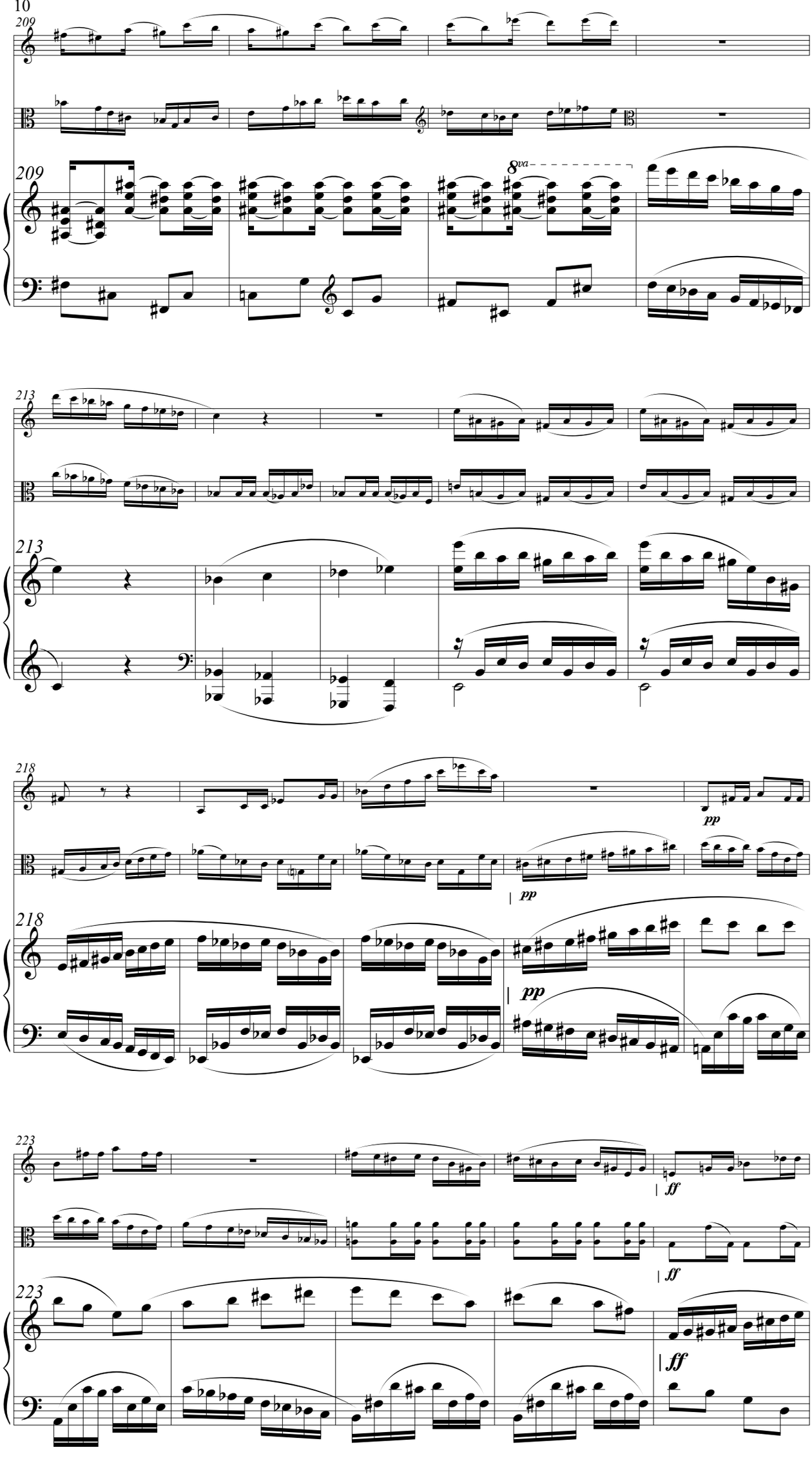

96
p
p
96
ff
mf
p
101
non stacc.
101
107
non stacc.
non stacc.
107
non stacc.
114
p
cresc.
p
cresc.
114
p
cresc.

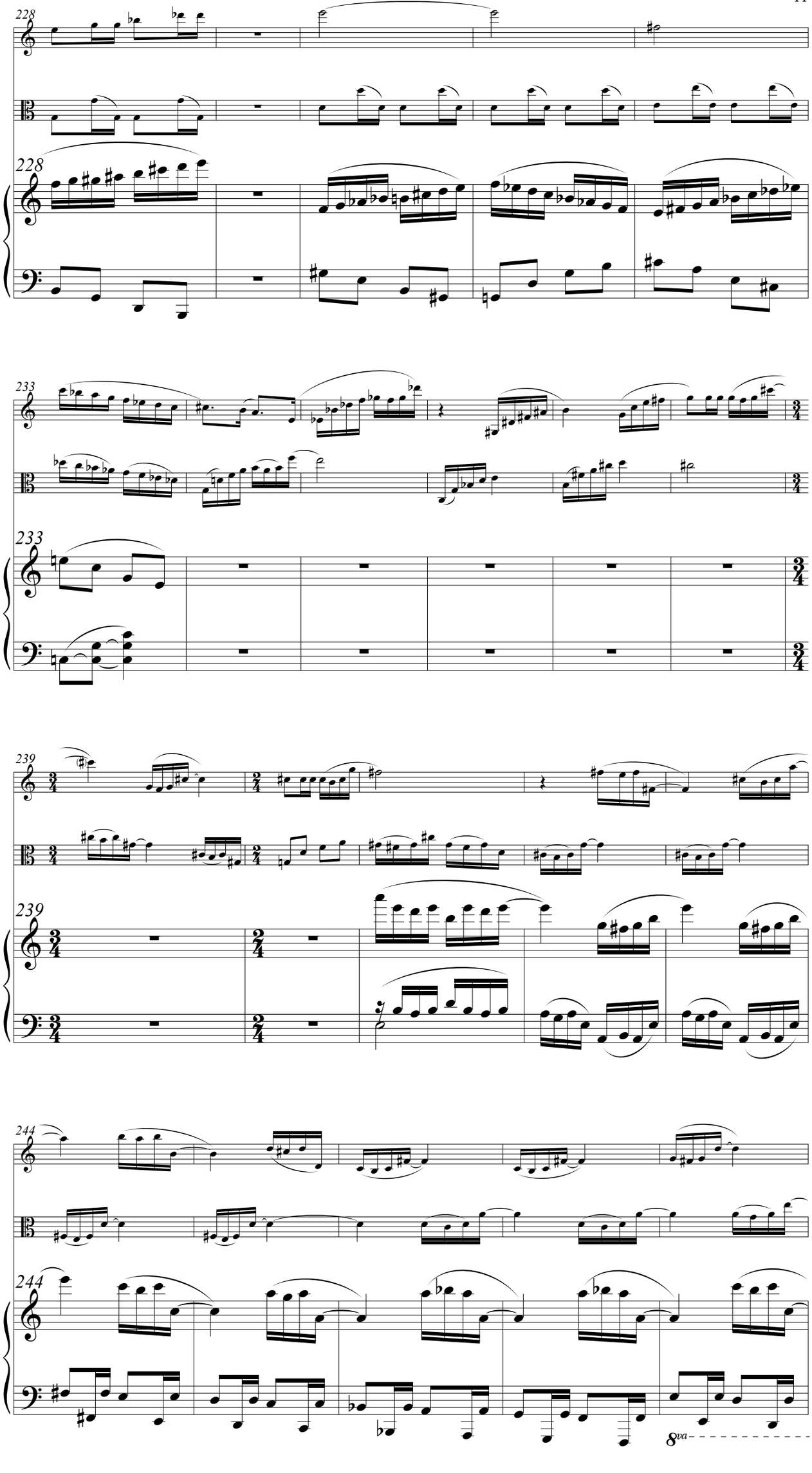

120
f
Ped.
126
rit.
a tempo
131
pp
ff
8va
138

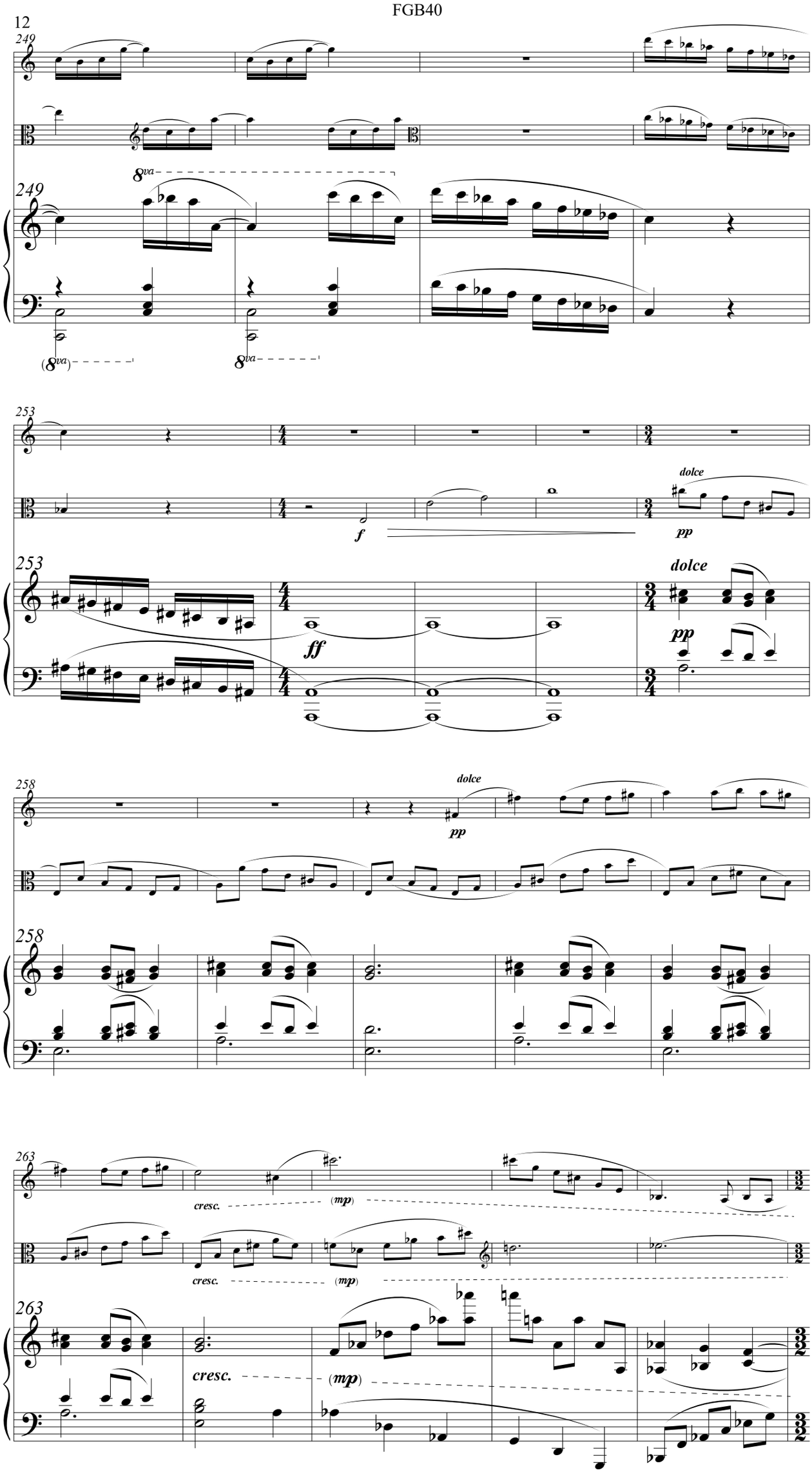

145
ff
ff
145
ff
152
p
mp
p
mp
p
mp
152
p
mp
mp
rit.
a tempo
155
p
mp
p
pp
p
mp
pp
155
mp
p
pp
159
cresc. p. a p.
(mp)
8va
159
cresc. p. a p.
(mp)

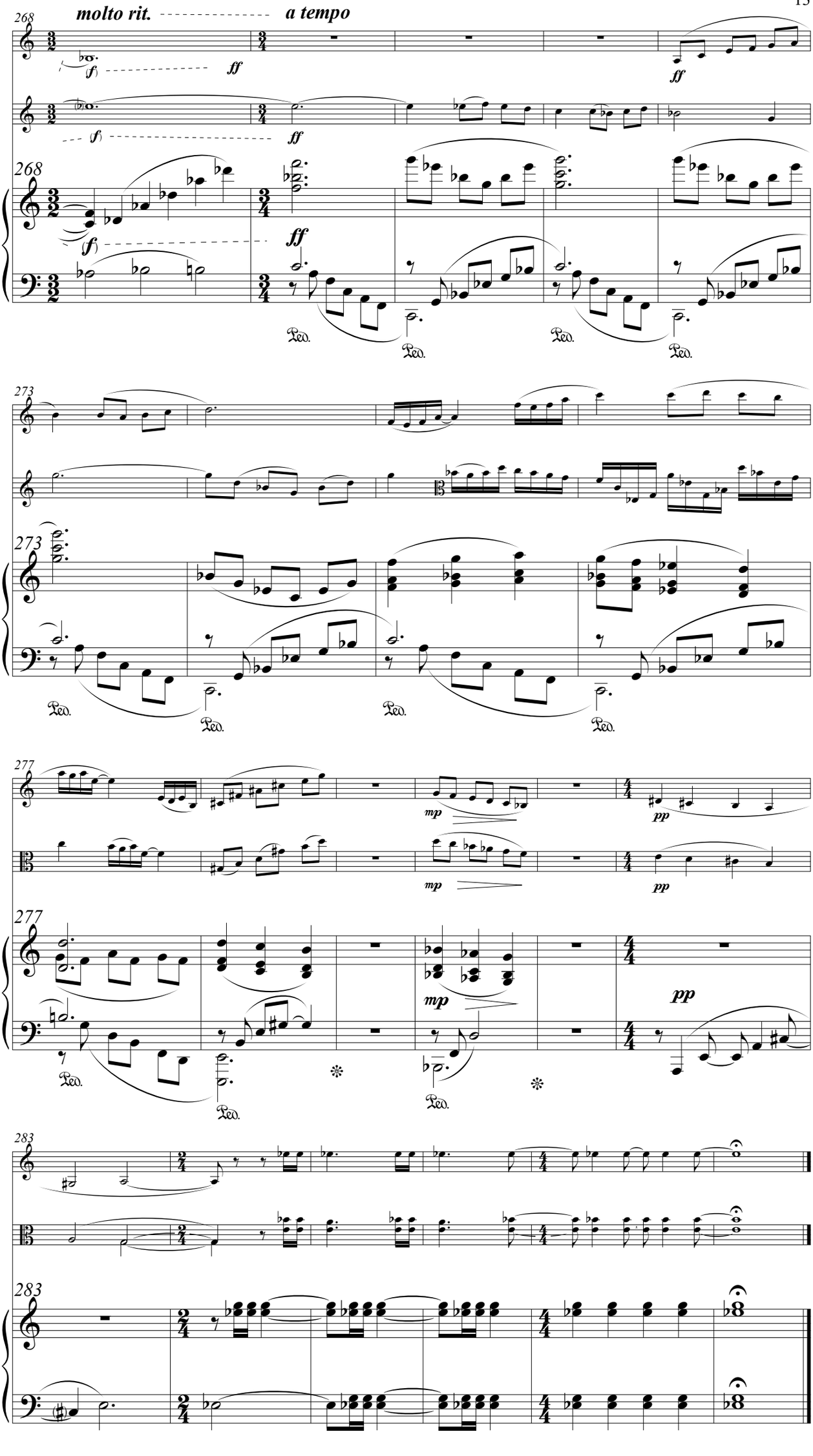

164
f cresc.
ff
(mf)
(f)
164
(mf) non stacc.
(f)
ff
170
170
175
ff
ff
p
175
ff
p
180
f
f
180
f
f


185
8va
Ped.
192
199
f
p
204
ff


209
8va
213
218
pp
223
ff


228
228
233
233
239
239
244
244
8va


249
8va
(8va)
8va
253
f
ff
dolce
pp
258
dolce
pp
263
cresc.
(mp)


268
molto rit.
a tempo
(f)
ff
273
277
mp
pp
283

II. Yet Another Waltz

[6']

Anorexia composa (♩ = 170)

Clarinet in B♭

Viola

Piano

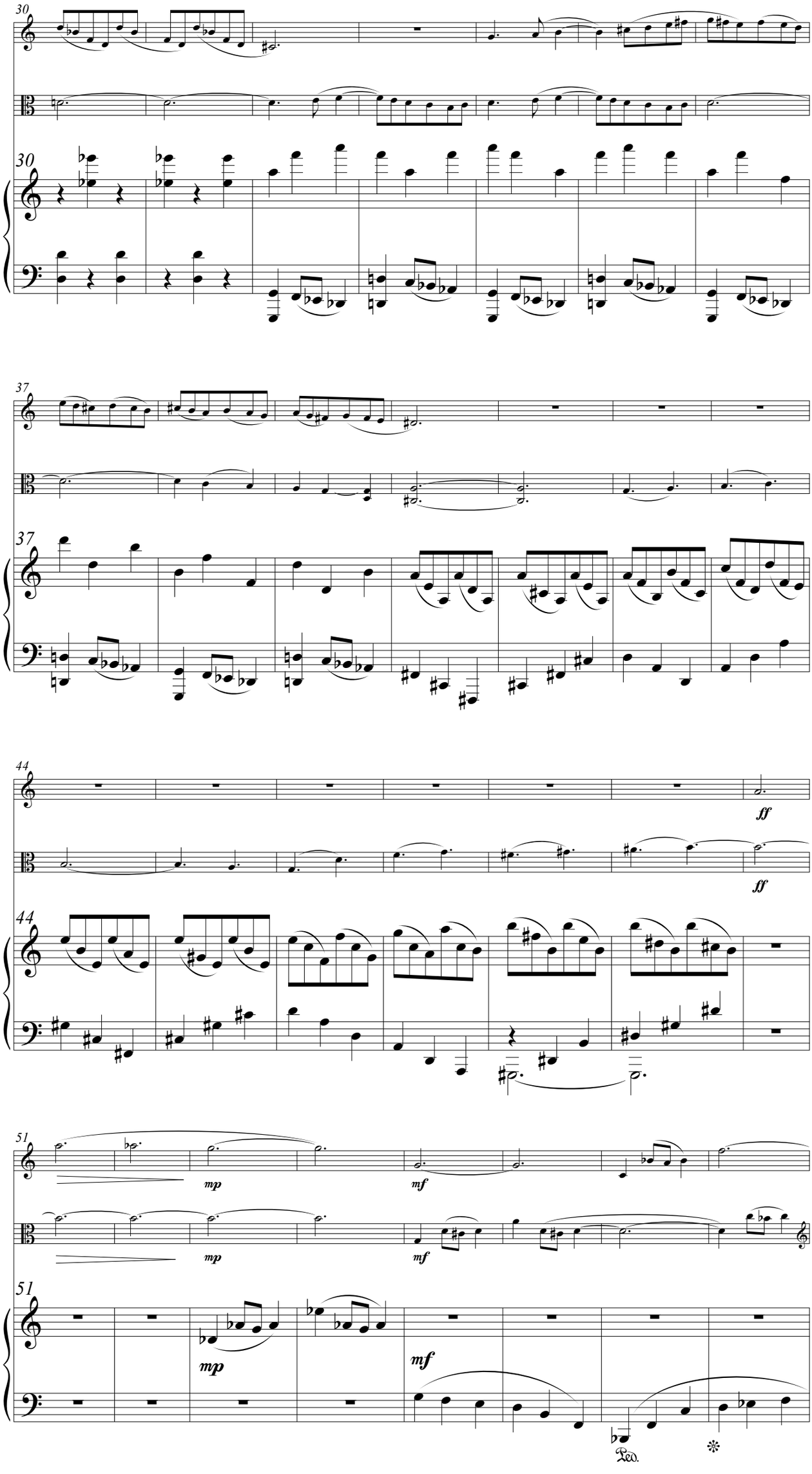
ff

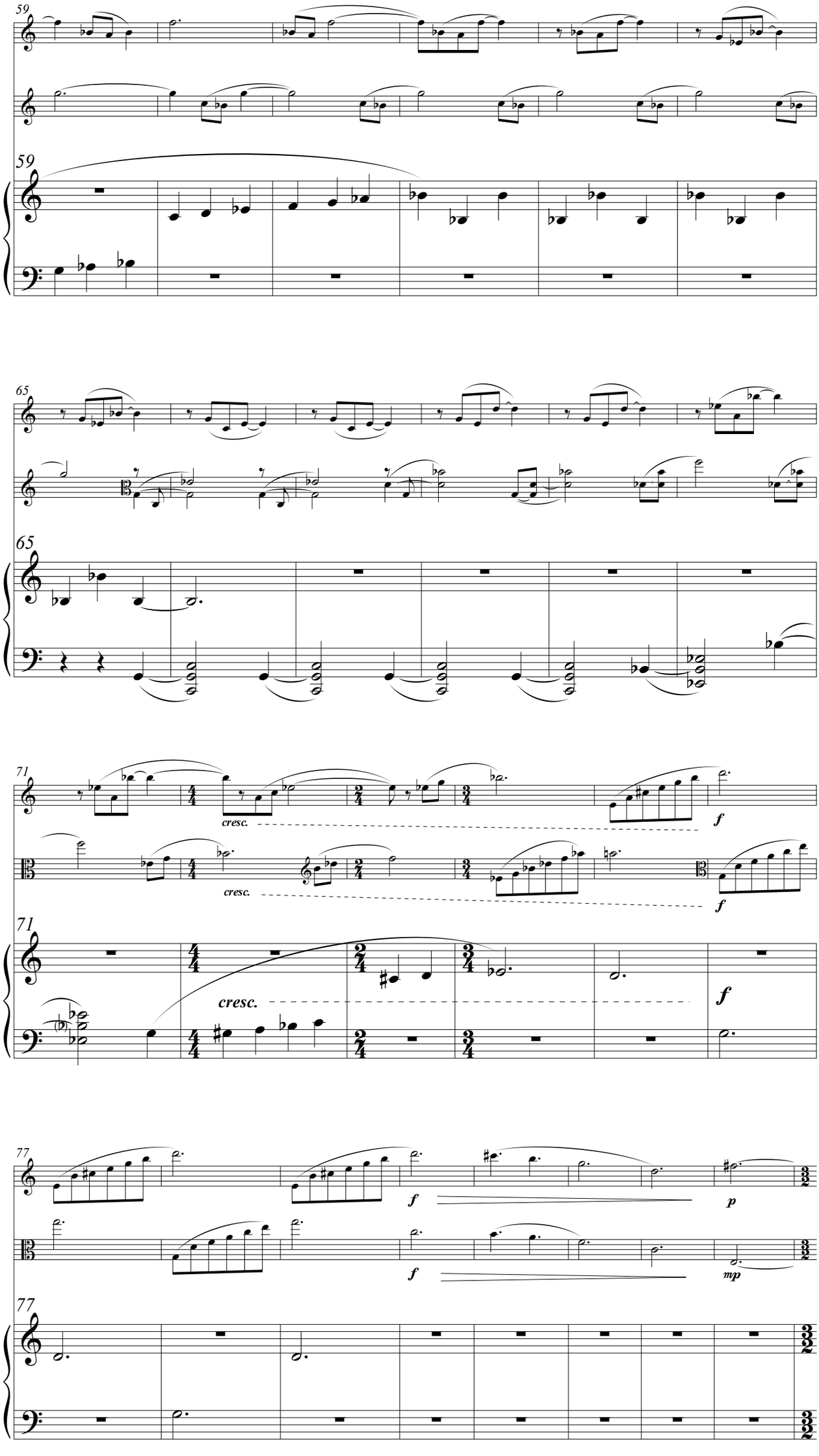
8

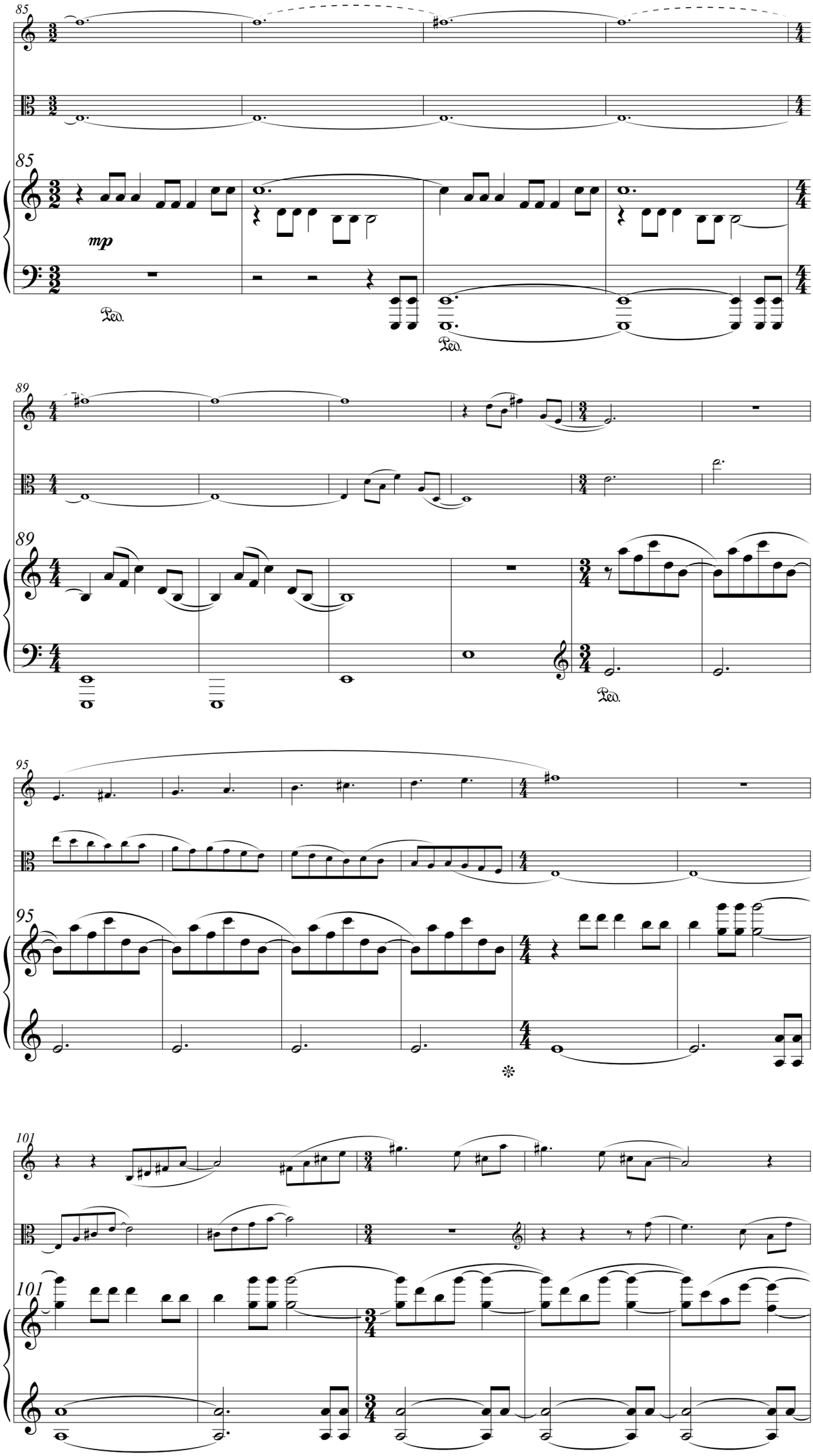
15

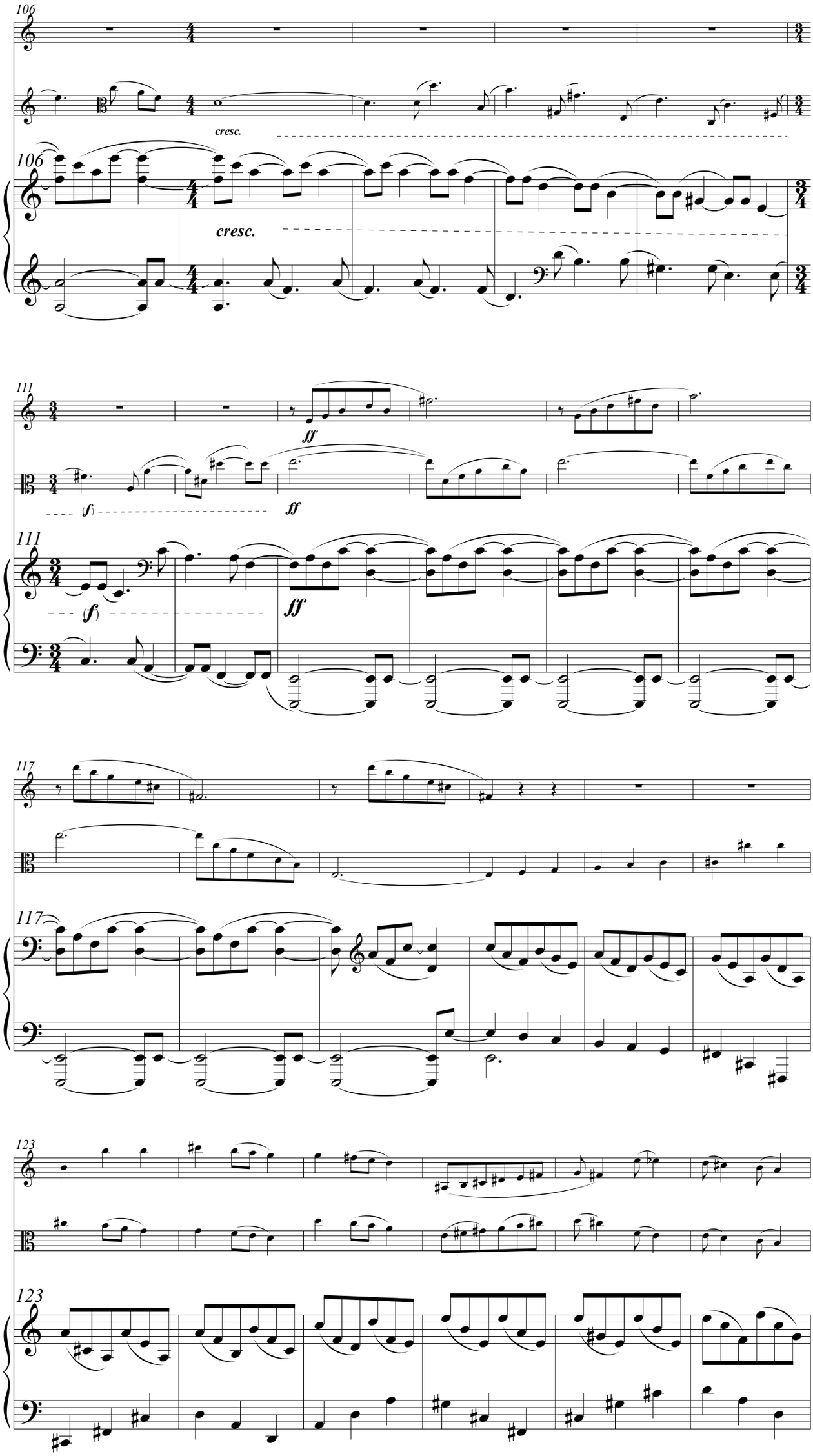
22

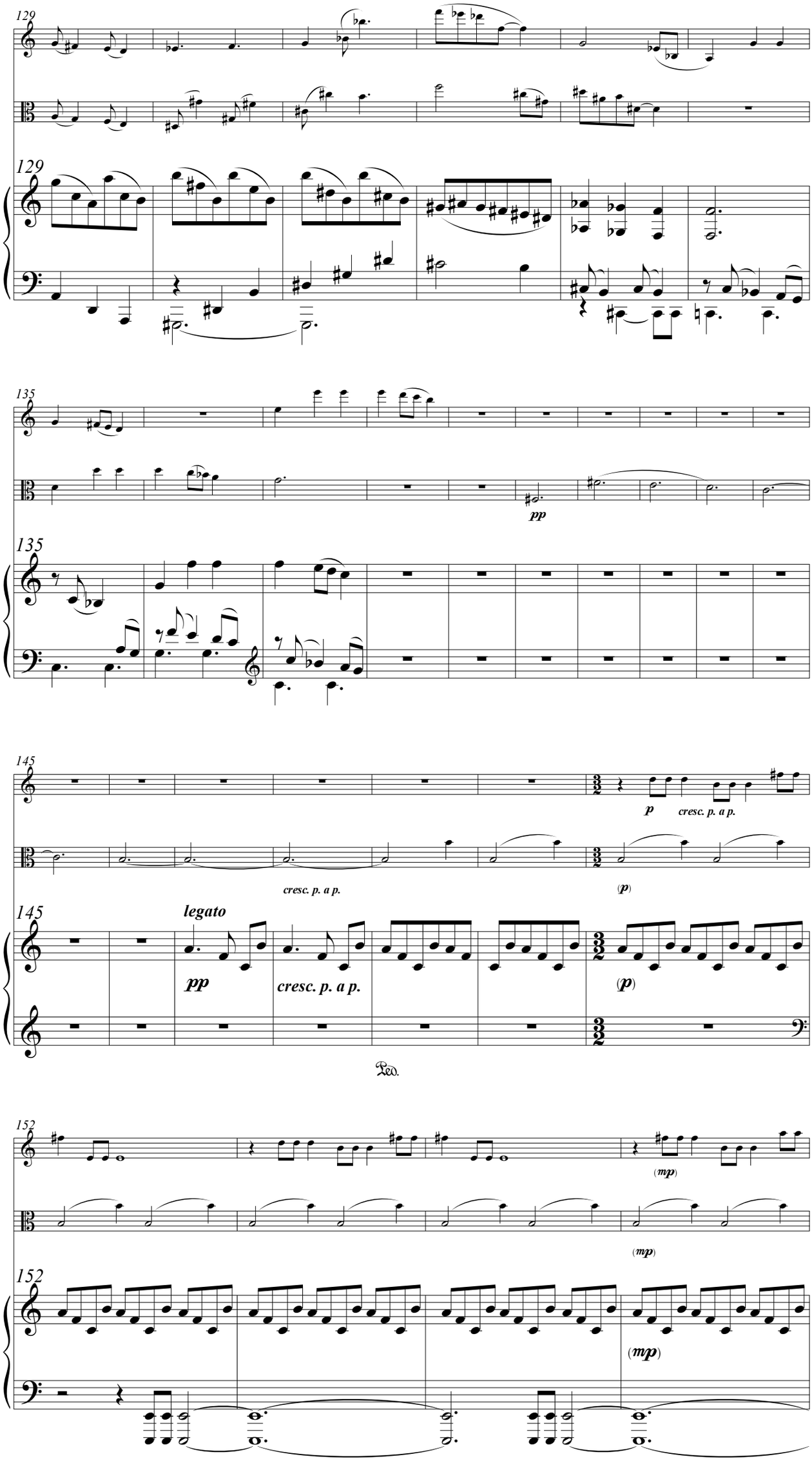
8va

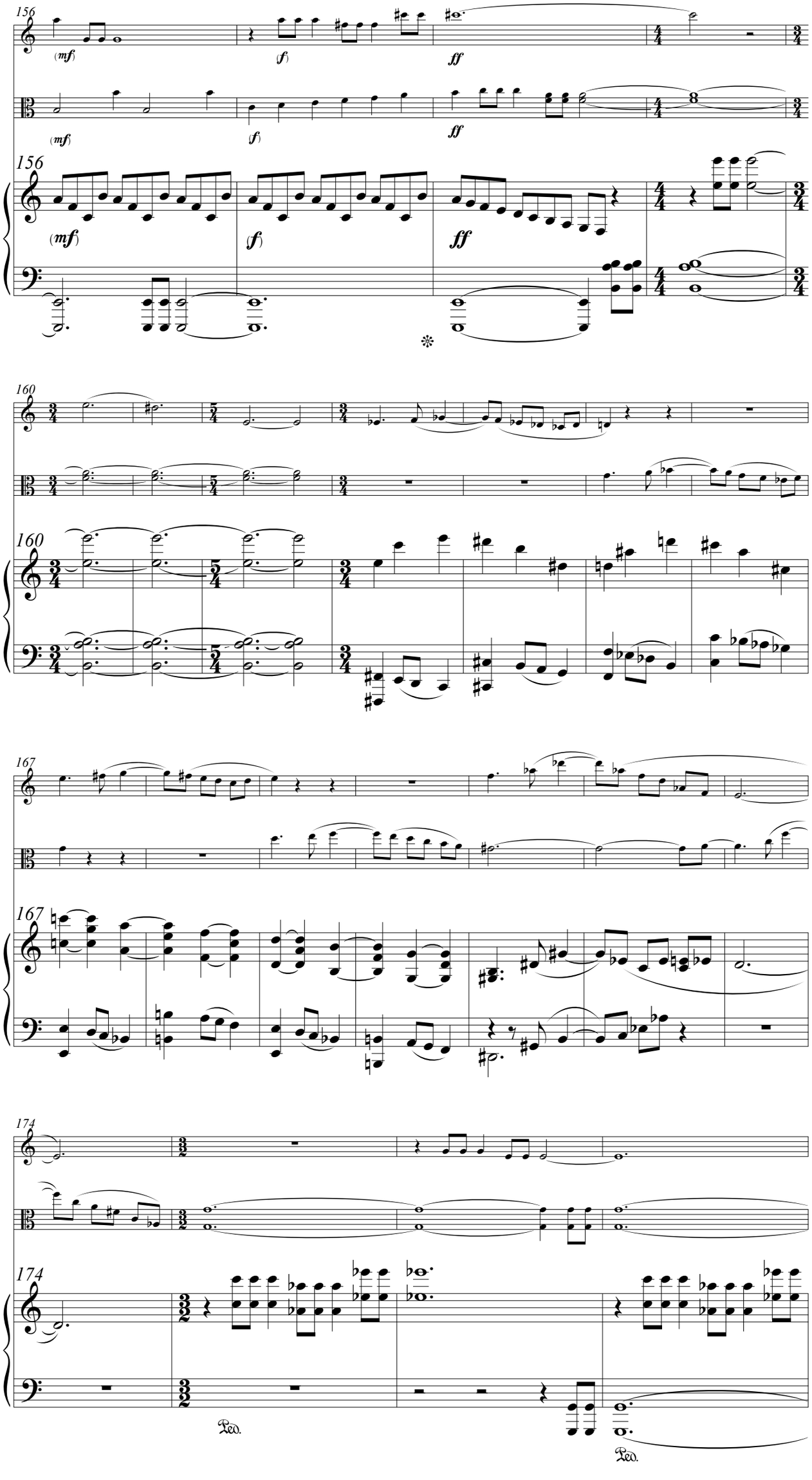

30
37
44
51
mp
mf
ff
Ped.

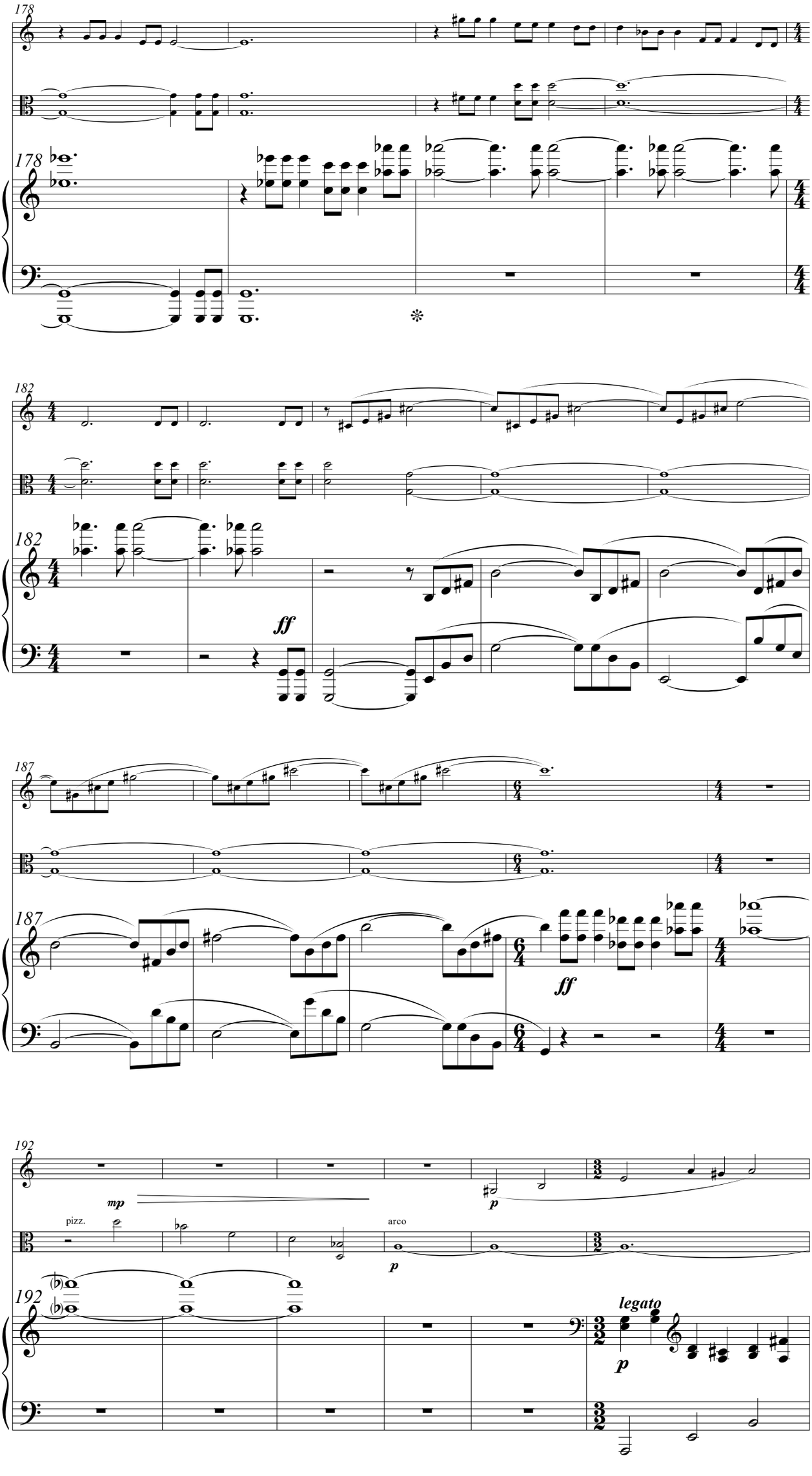

59
59
65
65
71
cresc.
cresc.
f
f
71
cresc.
f
77
f
p
f
mp
77

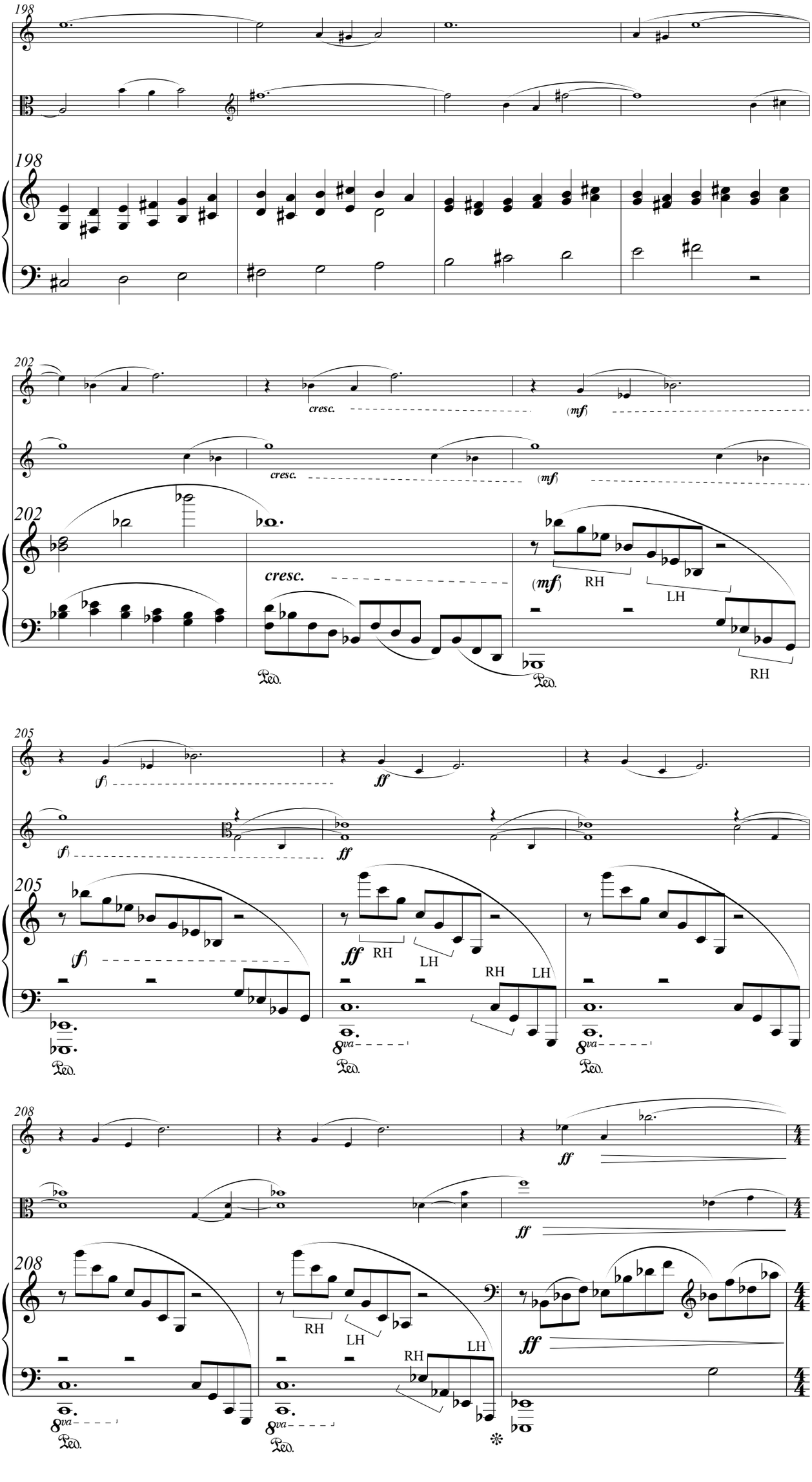

85
mp
Ped.
Ped.
89
Ped.
95
101

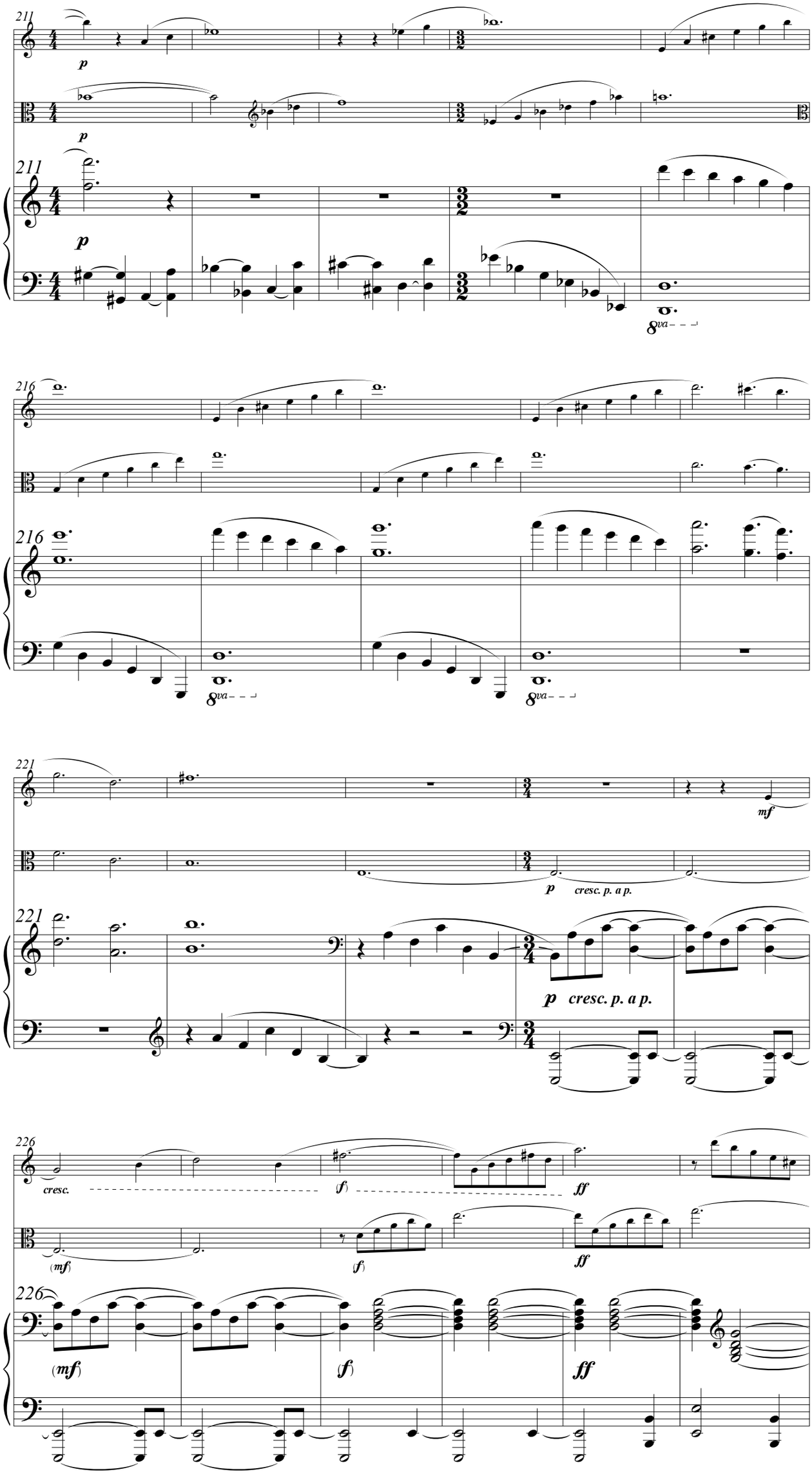

106
cresc.
106
cresc.
111
ff
(f)
ff
111
(f)
ff
117
117
123
123

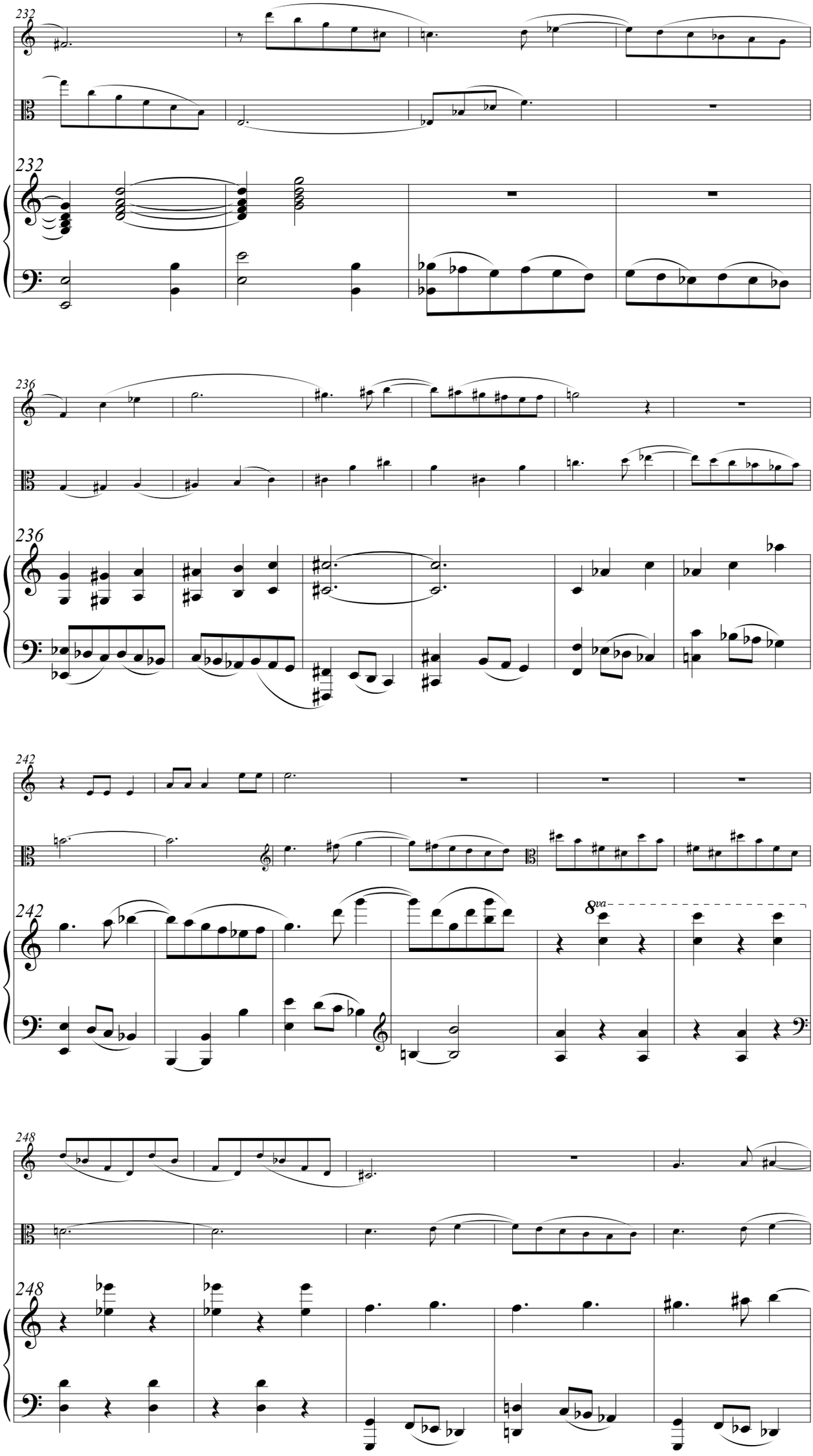

129
129
135
pp
135
145
p
cresc. p. a p.
cresc. p. a p.
(p)
145
legato
pp
cresc. p. a p.
(p)
Ped.
152
(mp)
(mp)
152
(mp)

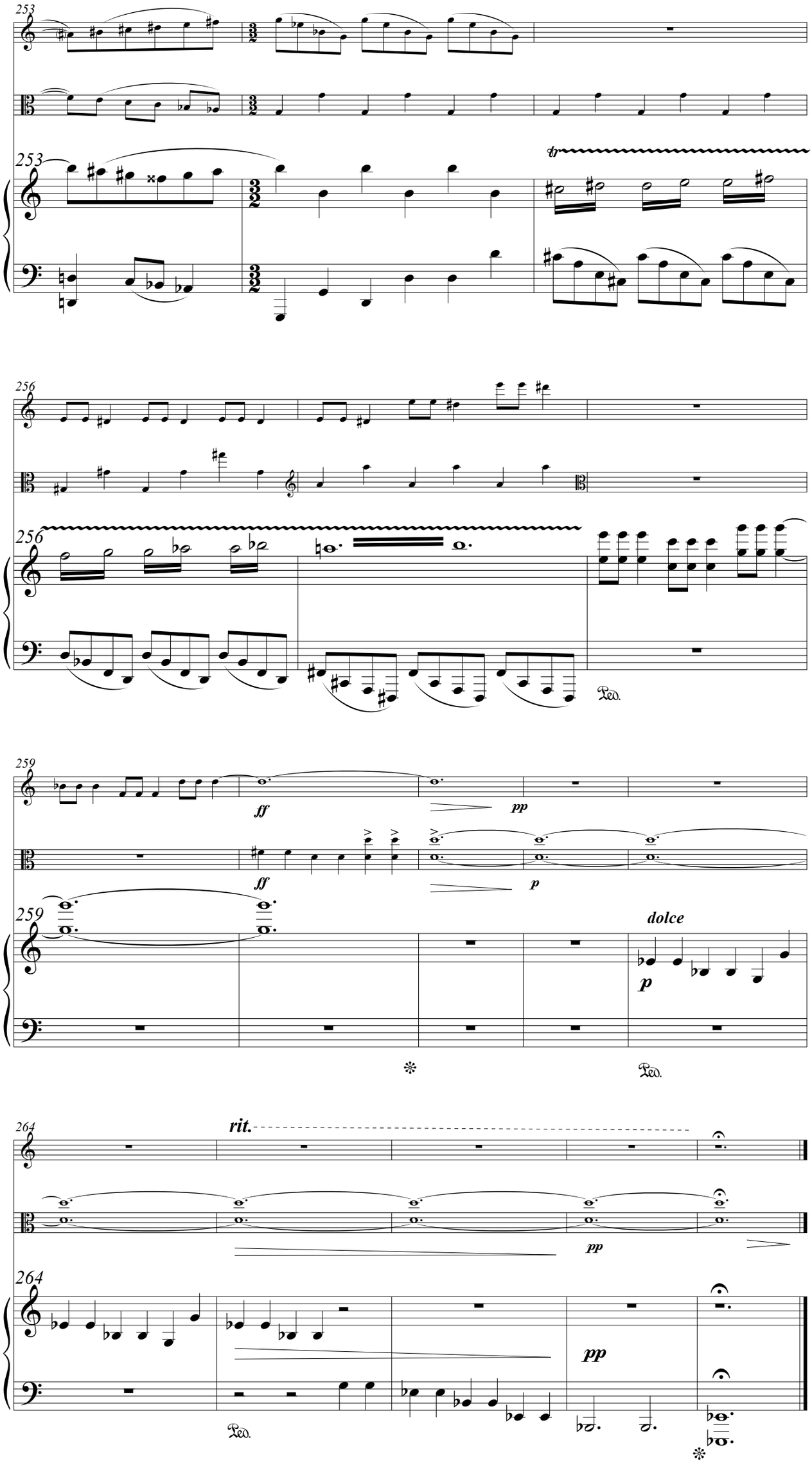

156
(mf)
(f)
ff
156
(mf)
(f)
ff
160
160
167
167
174
174
Ped.
Ped.


178
178
182
182
ff
187
187
ff
192
mp
pizz.
arco
p
192
legato
p


198
198
202
cresc.
(mf)
cresc.
(mf)
202
cresc.
(mf)
RH
LH
RH
Ped.
Ped.
205
(f)
ff
(f)
ff
205
(f)
ff
RH
LH
RH
LH
8va
8va
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
208
ff
ff
208
RH
LH
RH
LH
ff
8va
8va
Ped.
Ped.


211
p
8va
216
8va
8va
221
mf
p
cresc. p. a p.
p cresc. p. a p.
226
cresc.
(f)
ff
(mf)
(f)
ff
(mf)
(f)
ff


232
232
236
236
242
242
8va
248
248


253
tr
256
Ped.
259
ff
pp
ff
p
dolce
p
Ped.
264
rit.
pp
pp
Ped.

III. Sic Transit Gloria Mundi

[7:30]

Lento (♩. = 46)

Clarinet in B♭

Viola

Piano

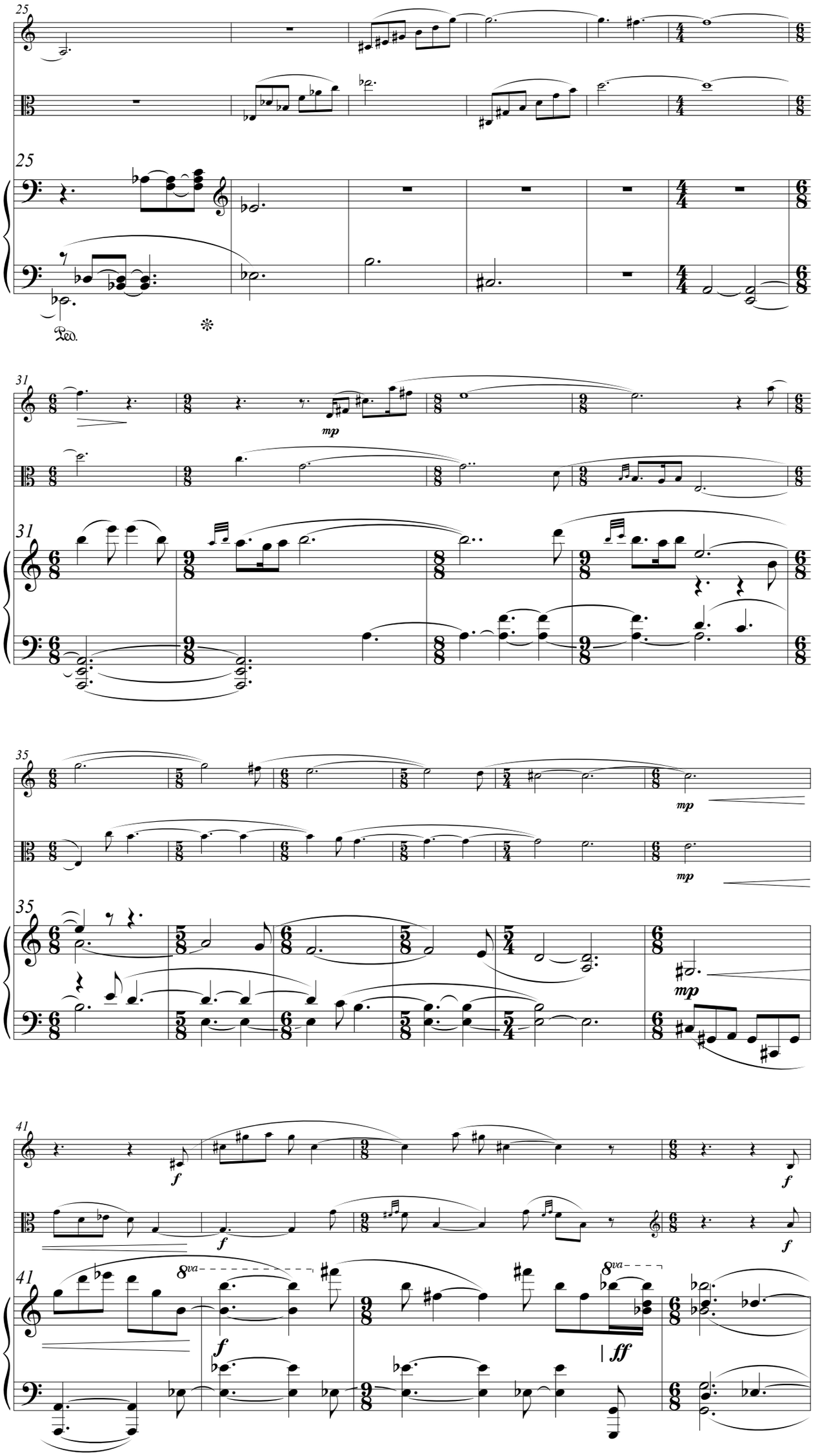
mp

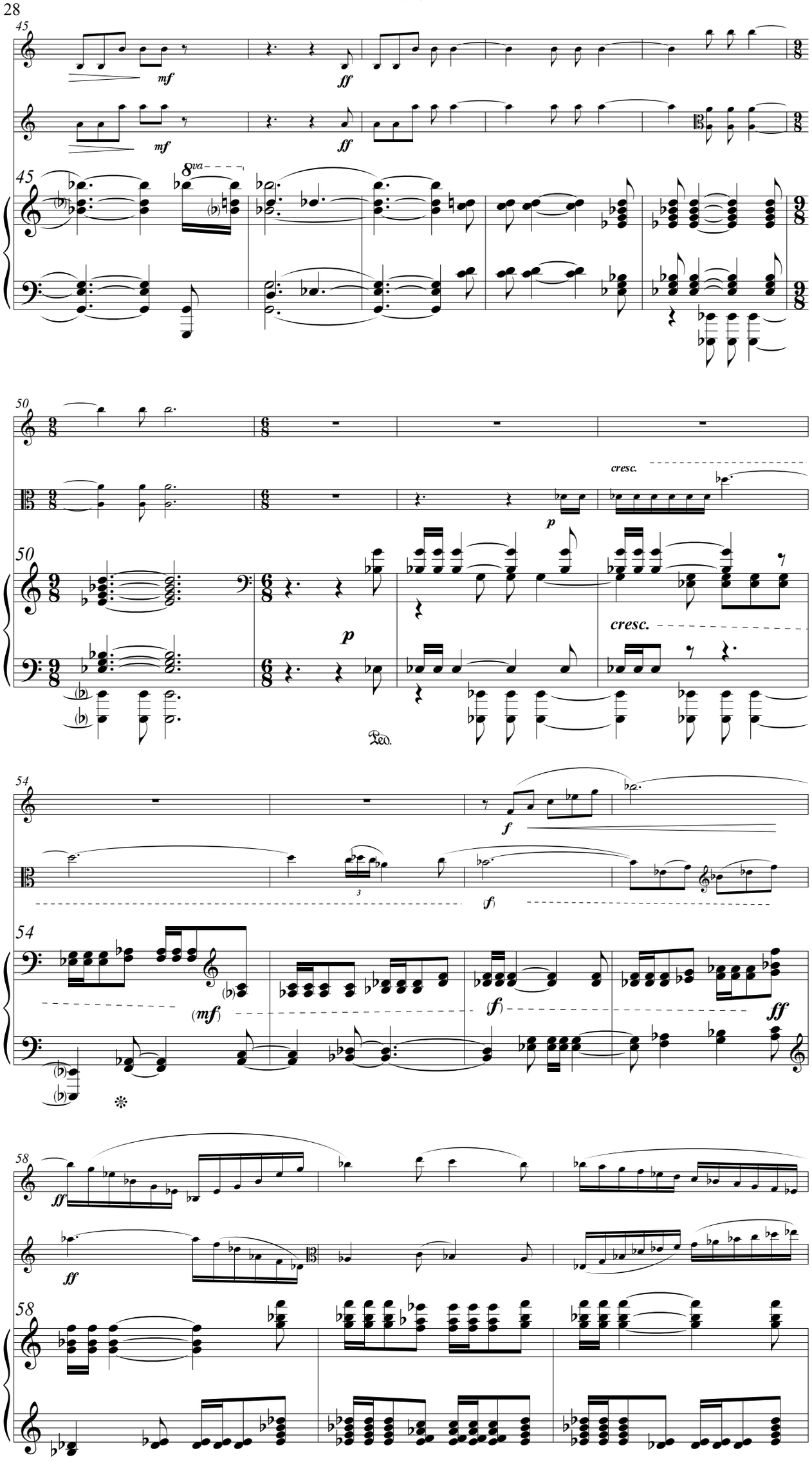
8va

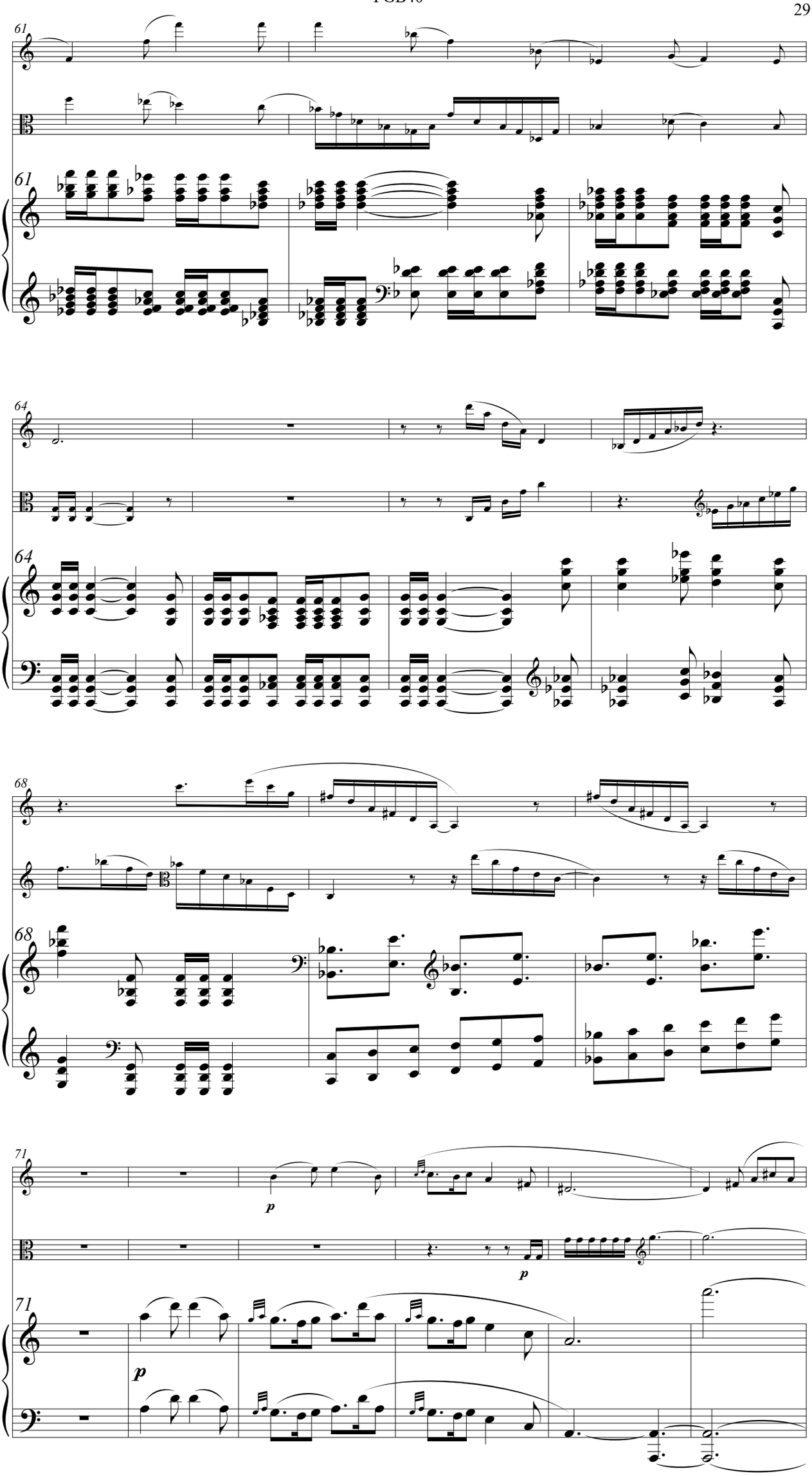
7

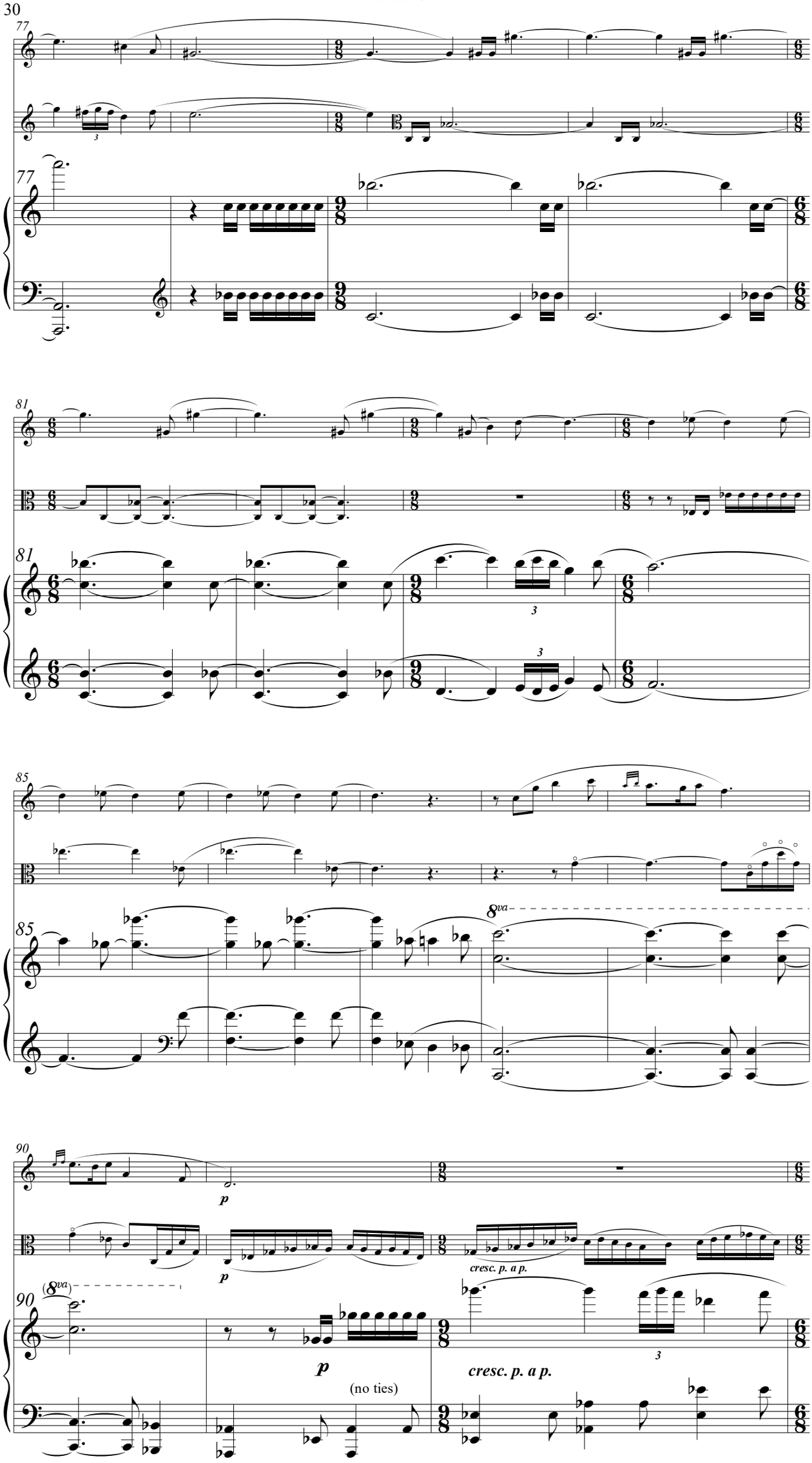
13

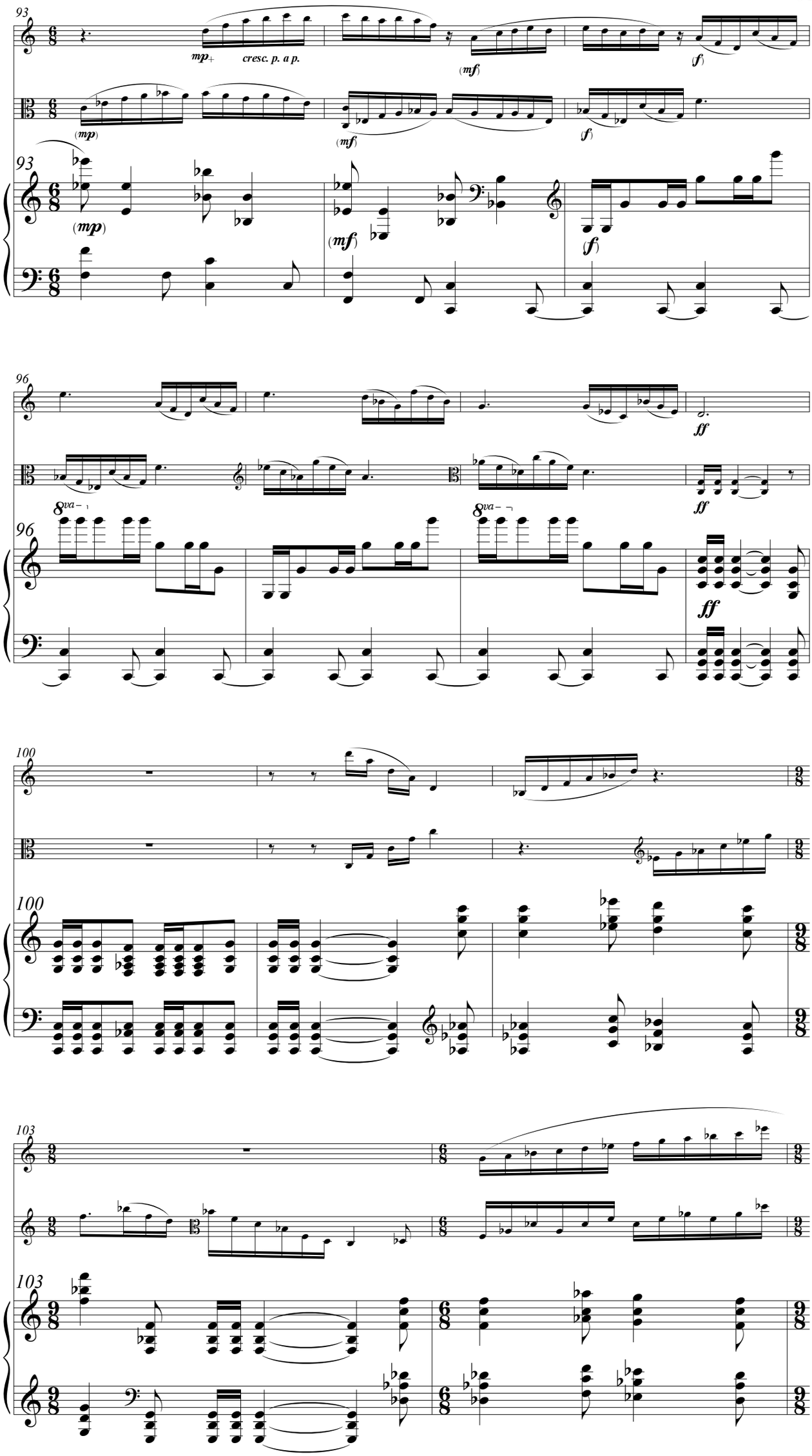
19

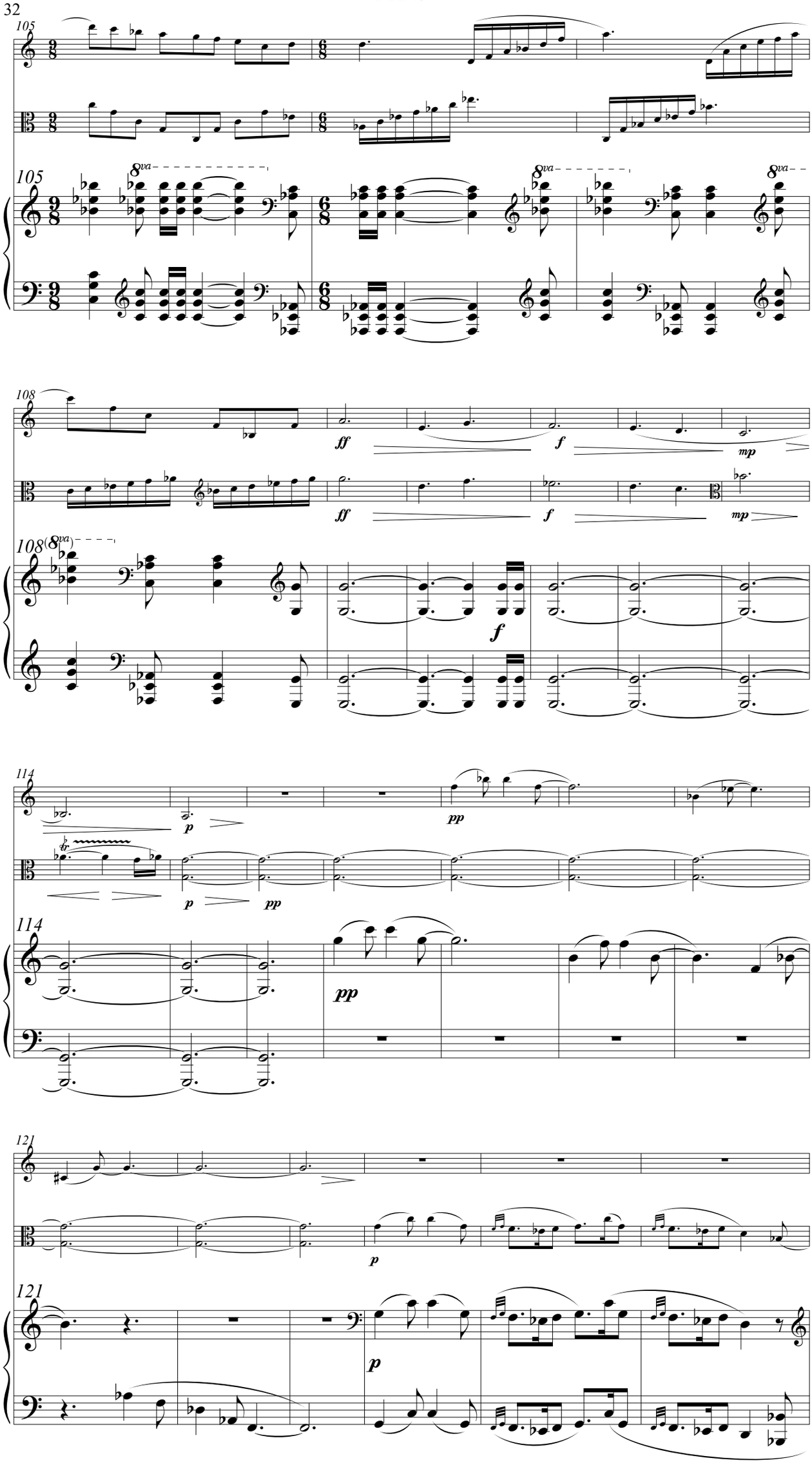

25
Ped.
31
mp
35
mp
mp
41
f
f
f
f
8va
f
8va
ff

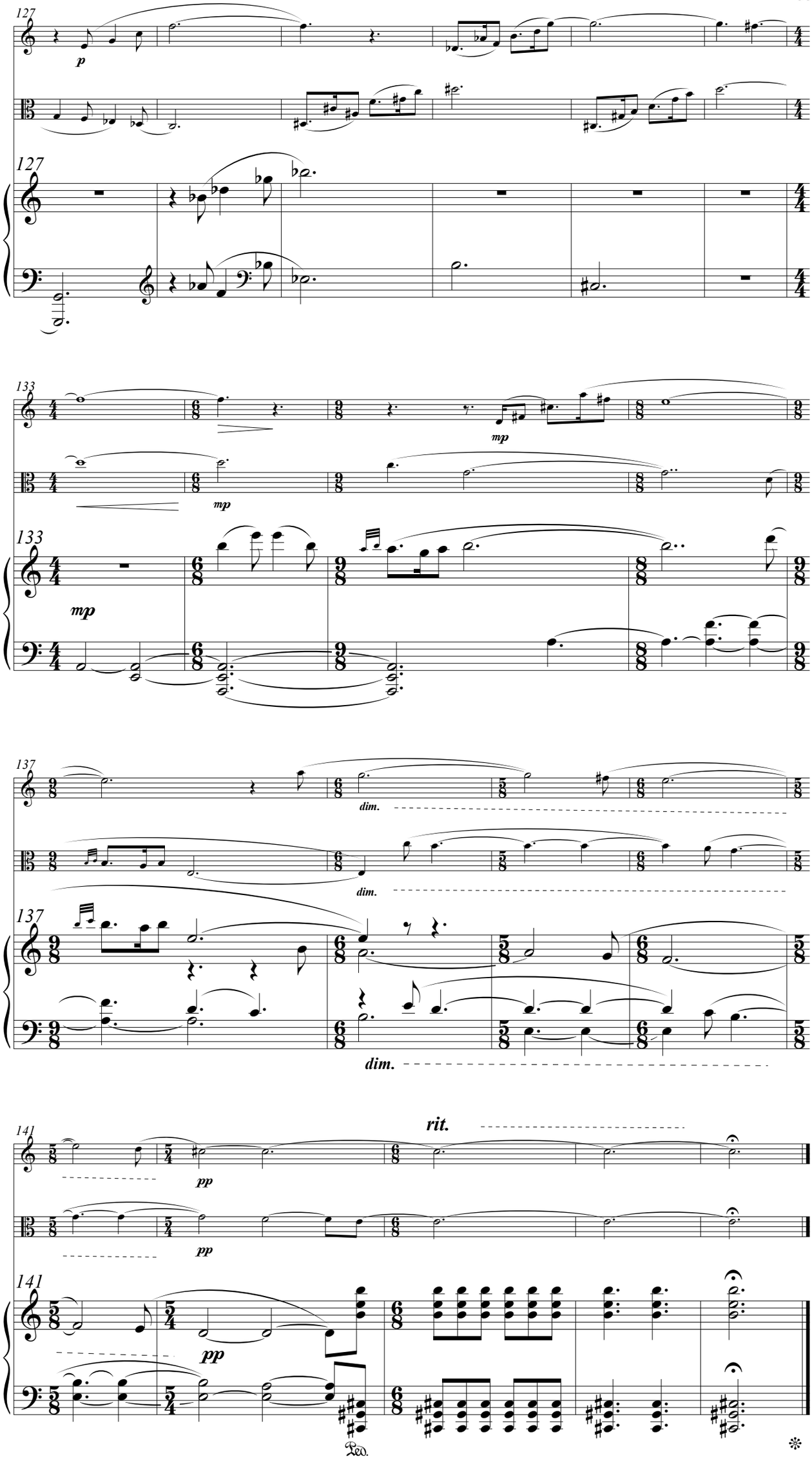

45
mf
ff
8va
50
cresc.
p
Ped.
54
f
(f)
(mf)
ff
58


61
64
68
71
p
p
p

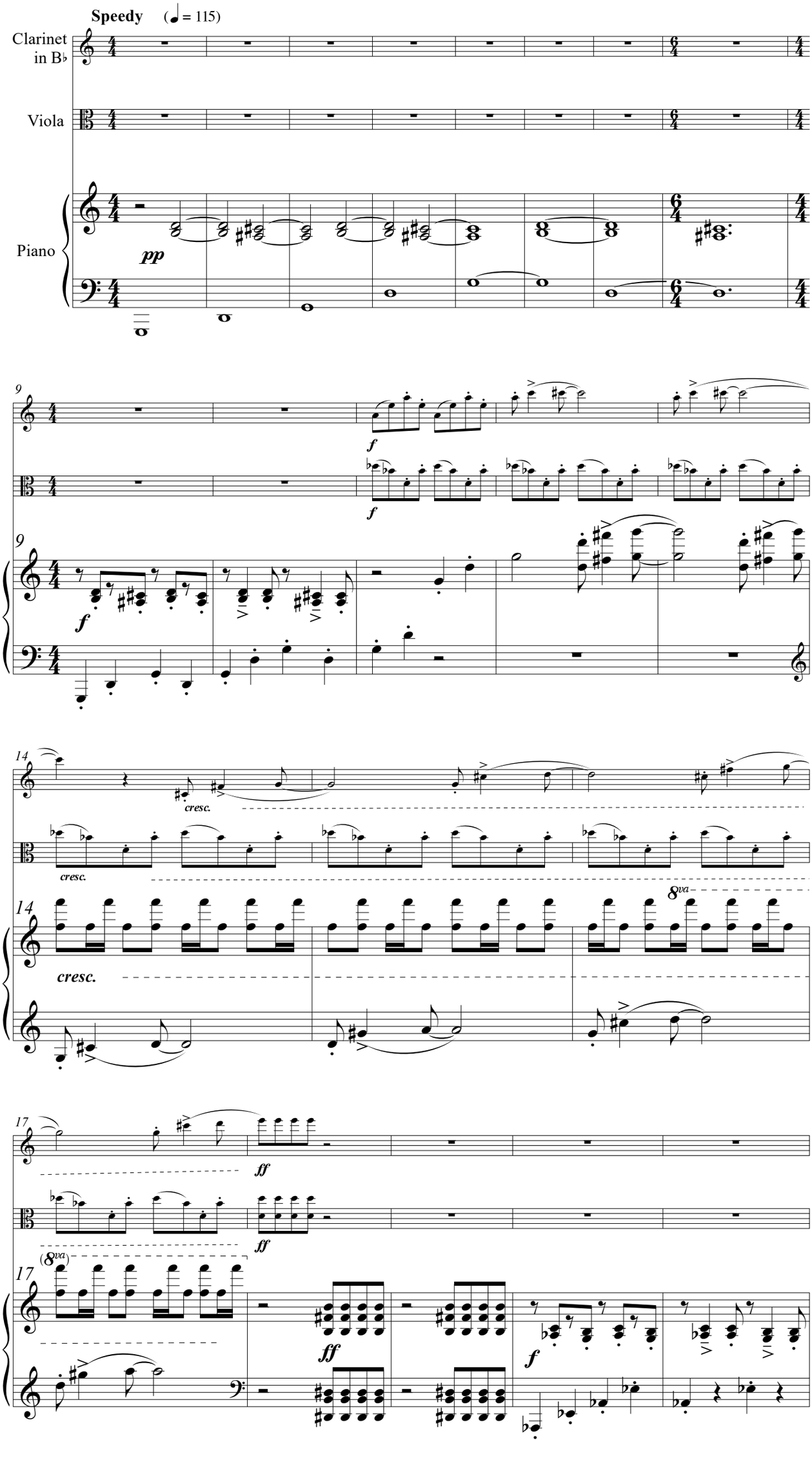

77
81
85
90
8va
(8va)
p
(no ties)
cresc. p. a p.

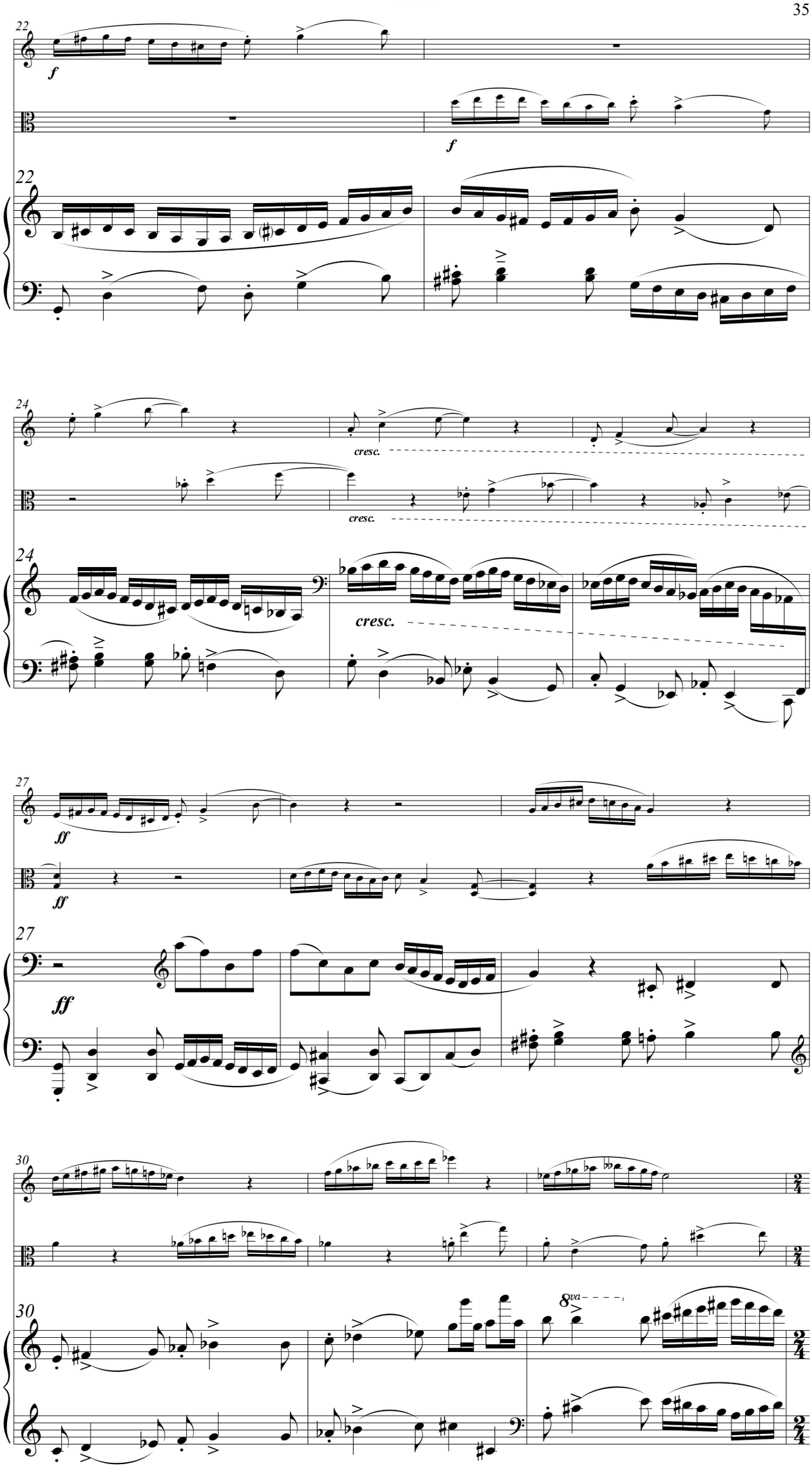

93
mp+
cresc. p. a p.
(mf)
(f)
(mp)
(mf)
(f)
93
(mp)
(mf)
(f)
96
ff
8va
ff
96
8va
ff
100
100
103
103

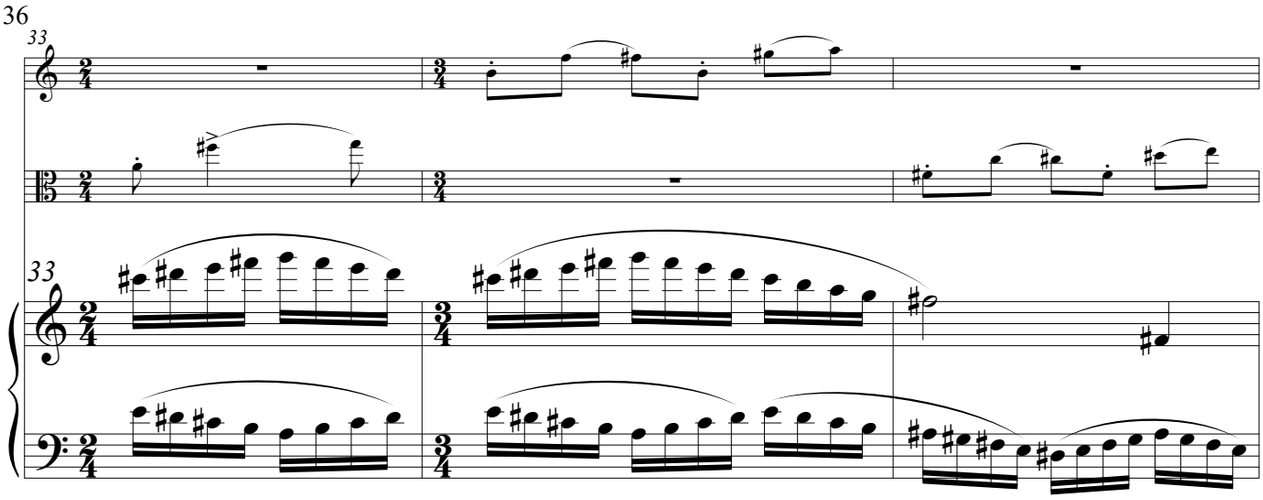

105
8va
105
108
ff
f
mp
ff
f
mp
108
(8va)
f
114
p
pp
p
pp
114
pp
121
p
121
p

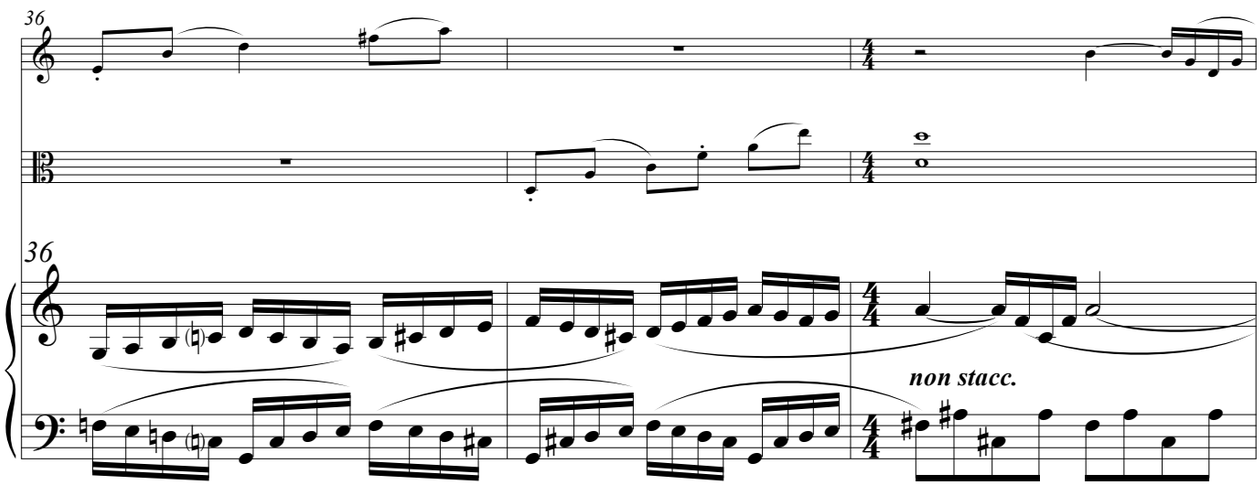

127
p
127
133
mp
mp
mp
133
137
dim.
dim.
137
dim.
141
rit.
pp
pp
pp
141
Ped.
*

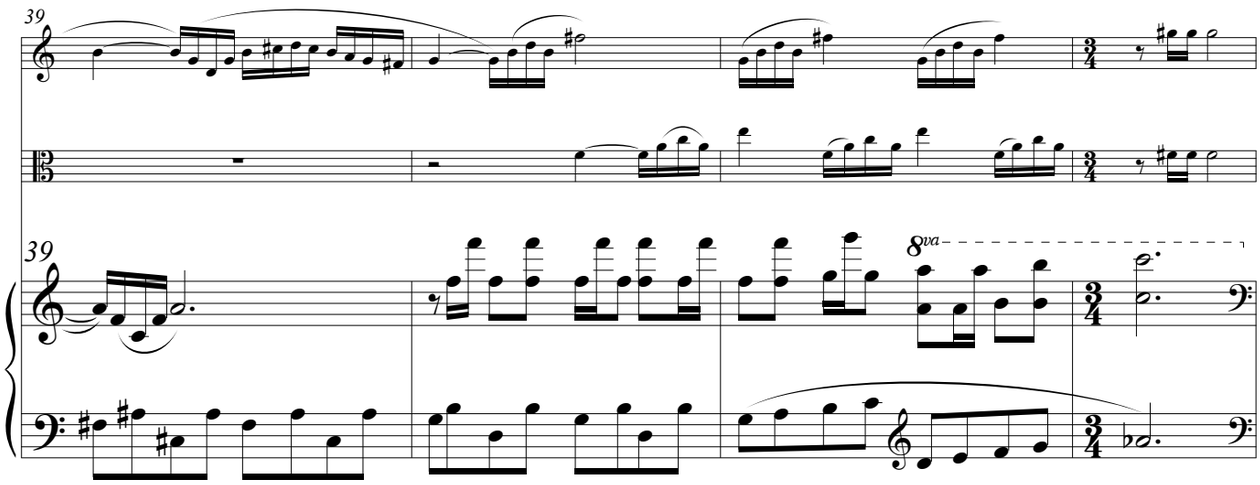
IV. The Albuterol Stomp [5:30]

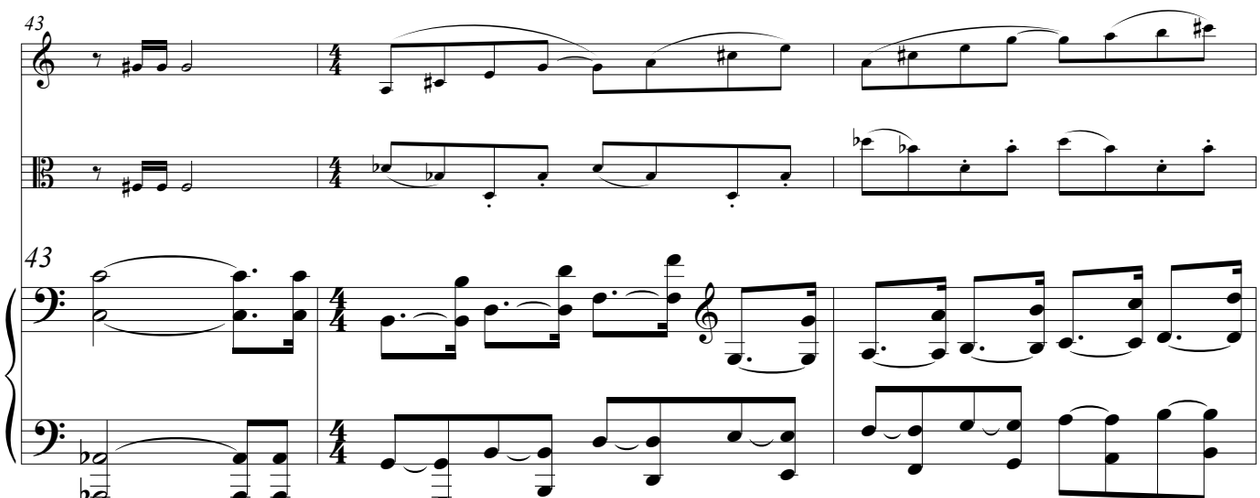


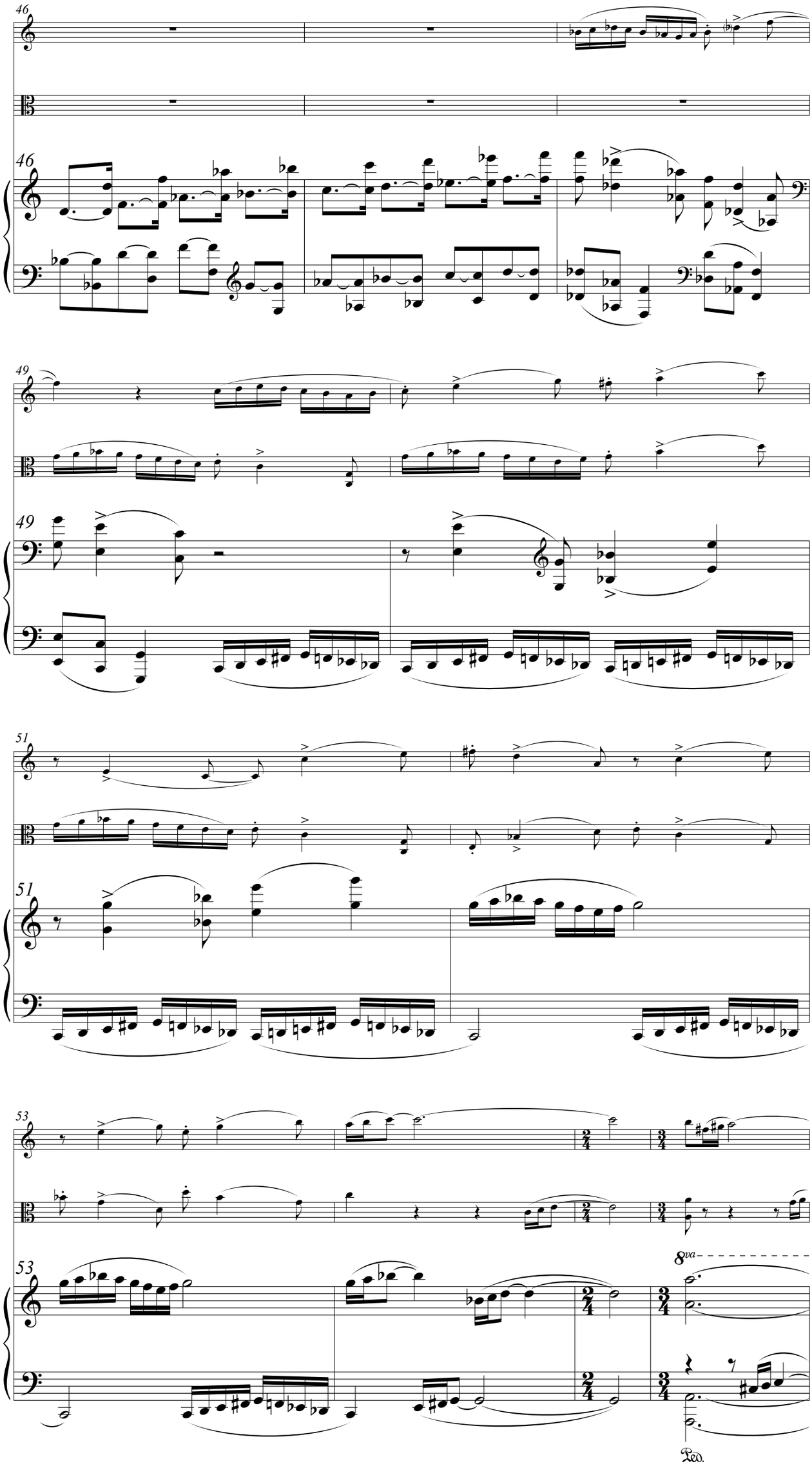

22
f
f
22
24
cresc.
cresc.
24
cresc.
27
ff
ff
27
ff
30
30
8va

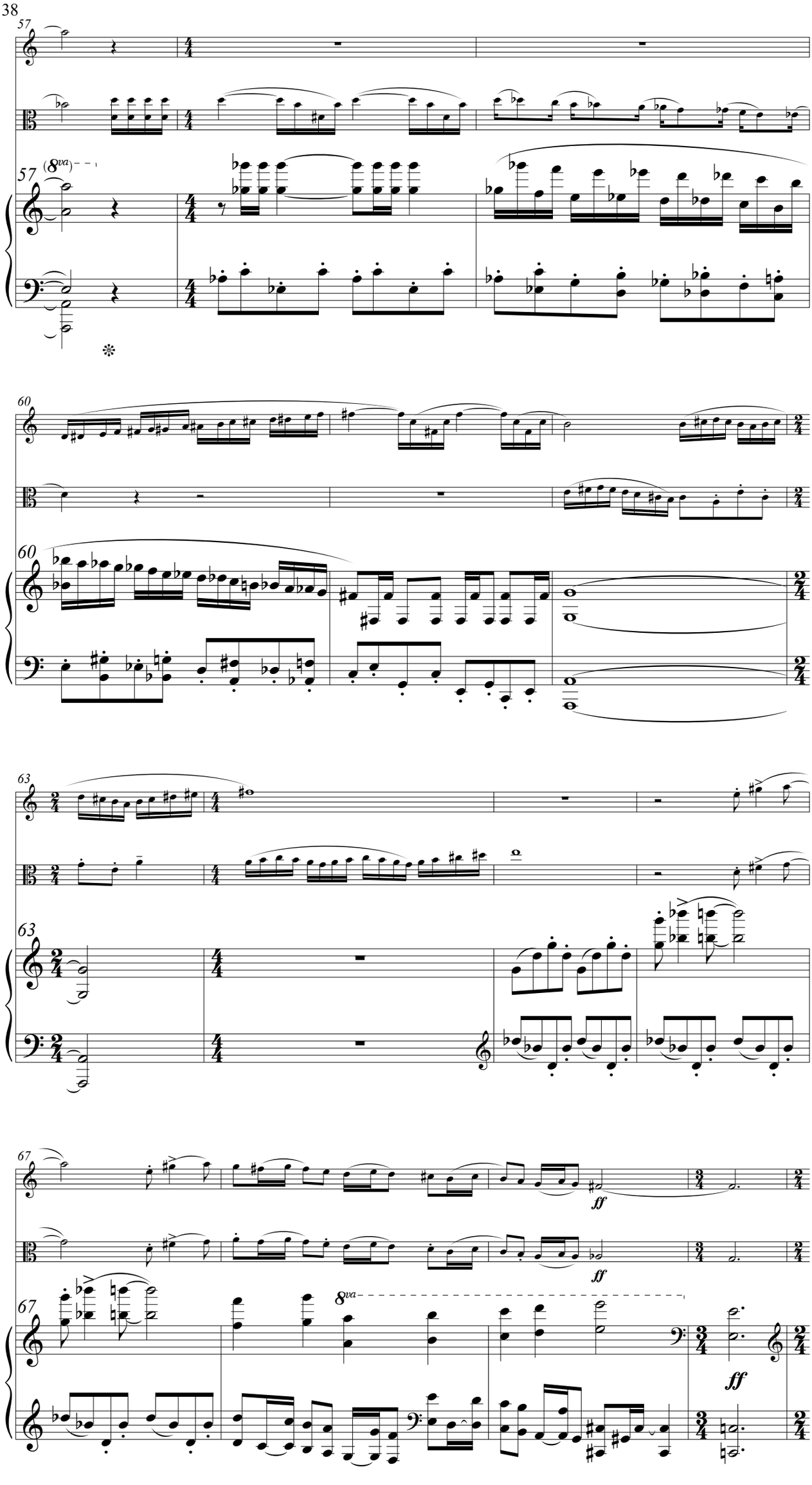

33
33

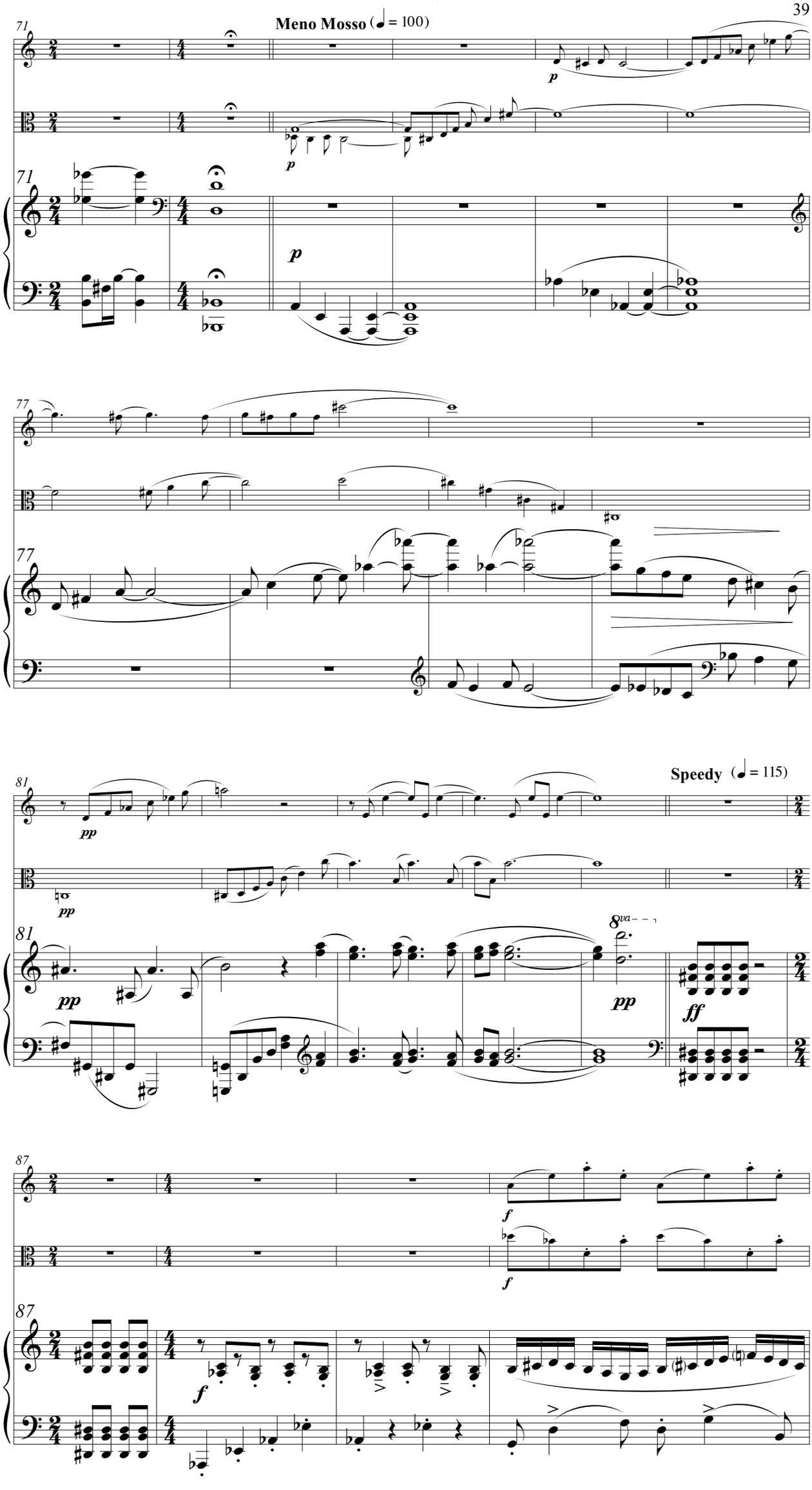

36
36
non stacc.

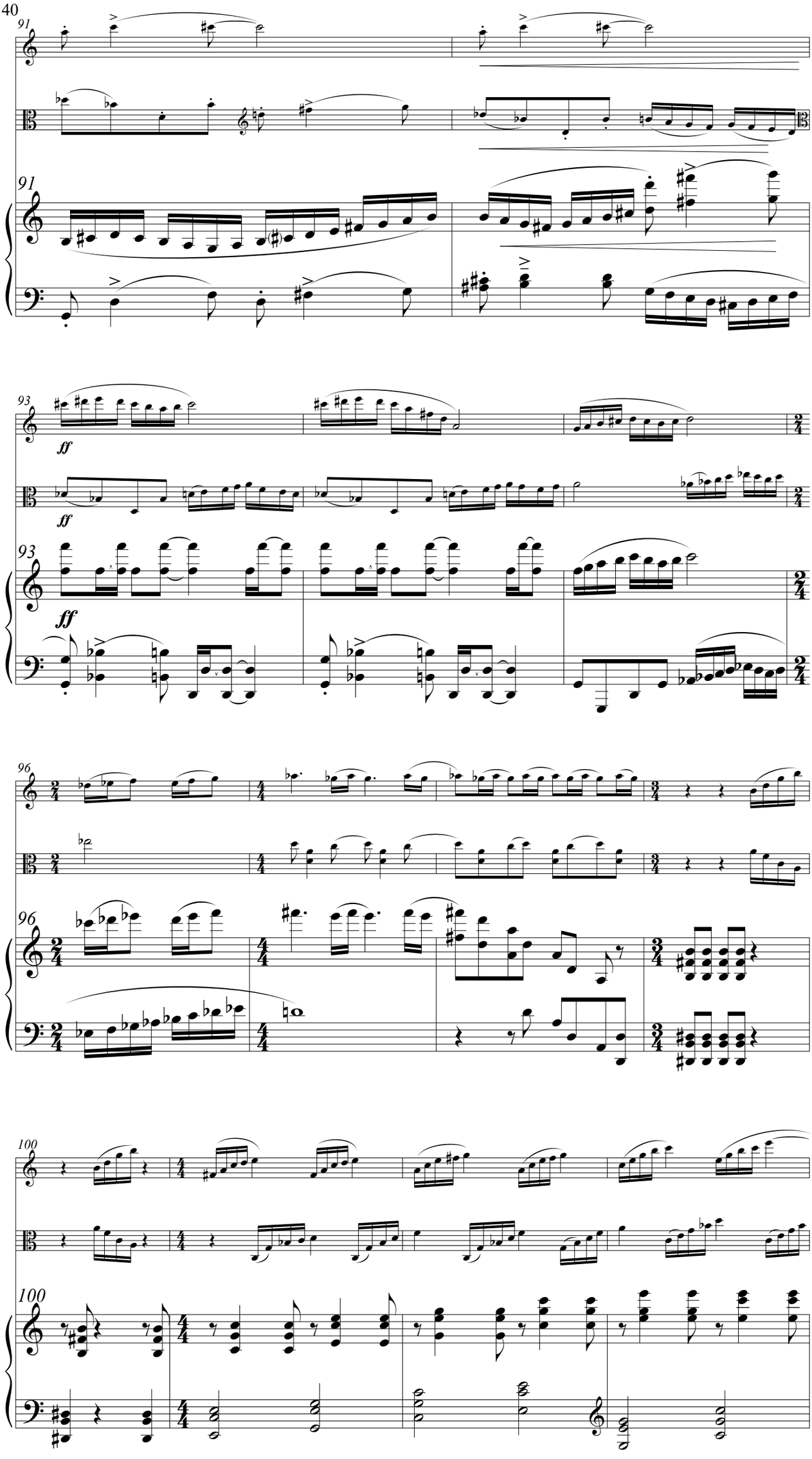

39
39
8va

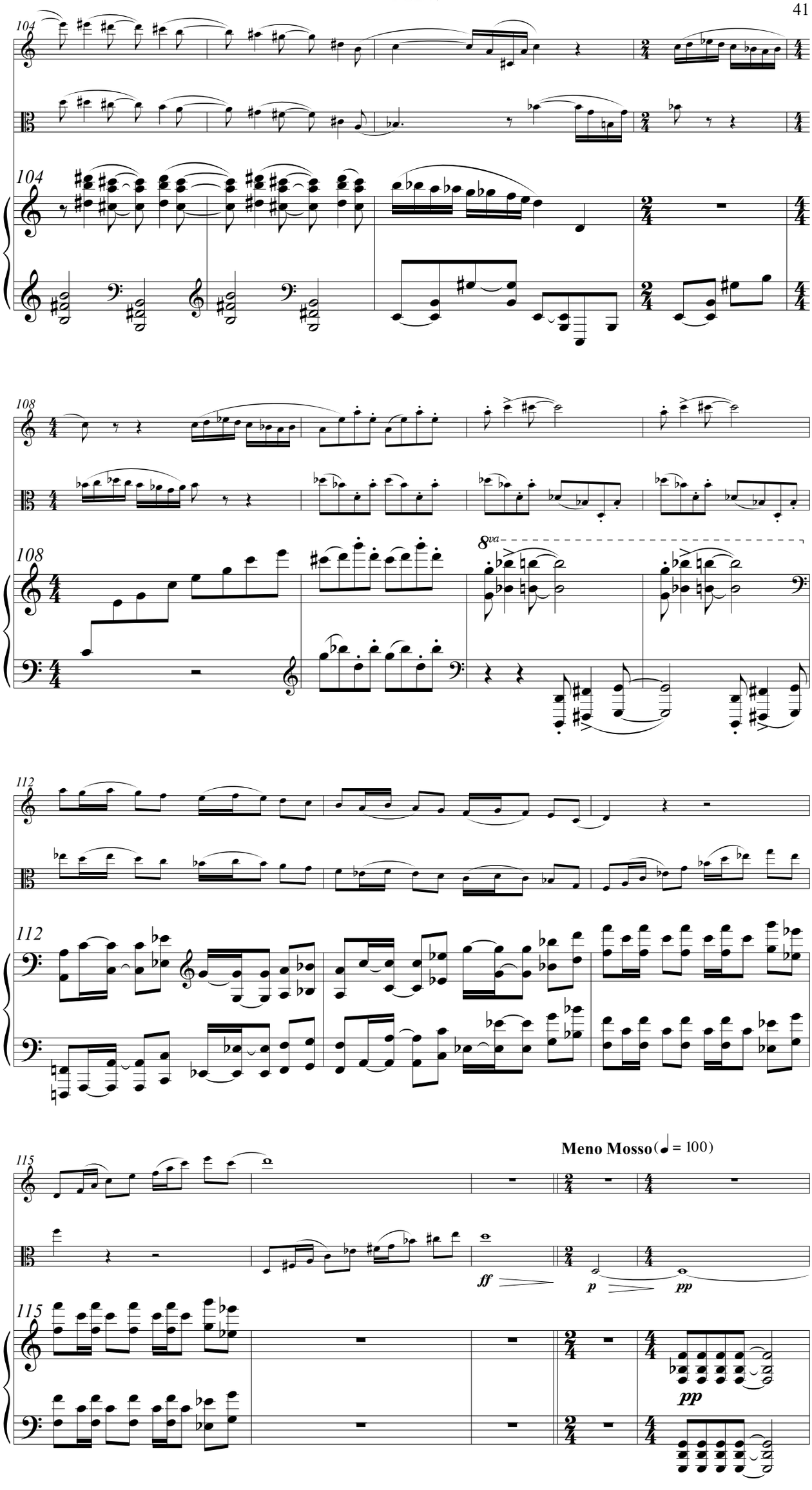

43
43

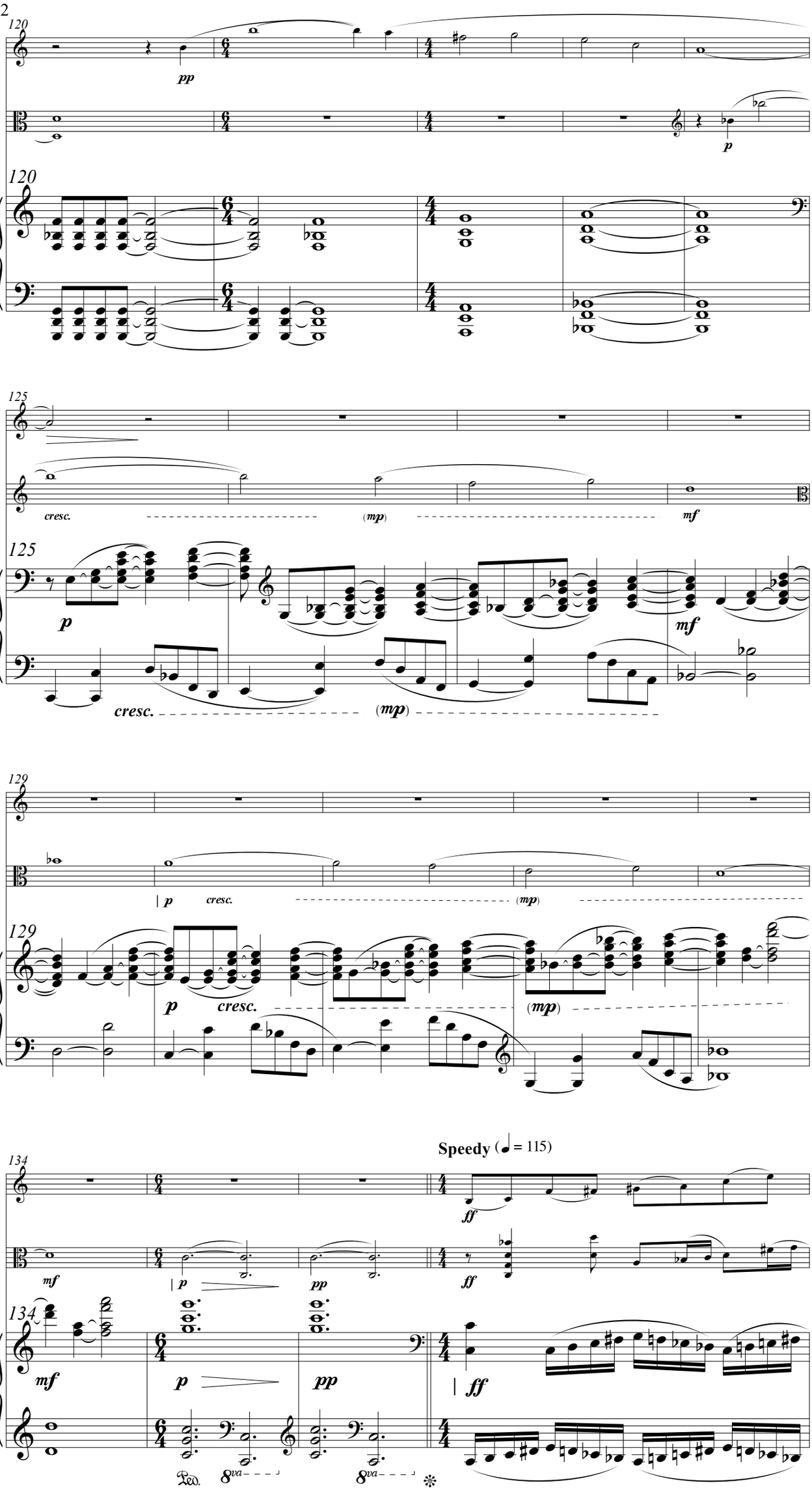

46
49
51
53
8va
Ped.

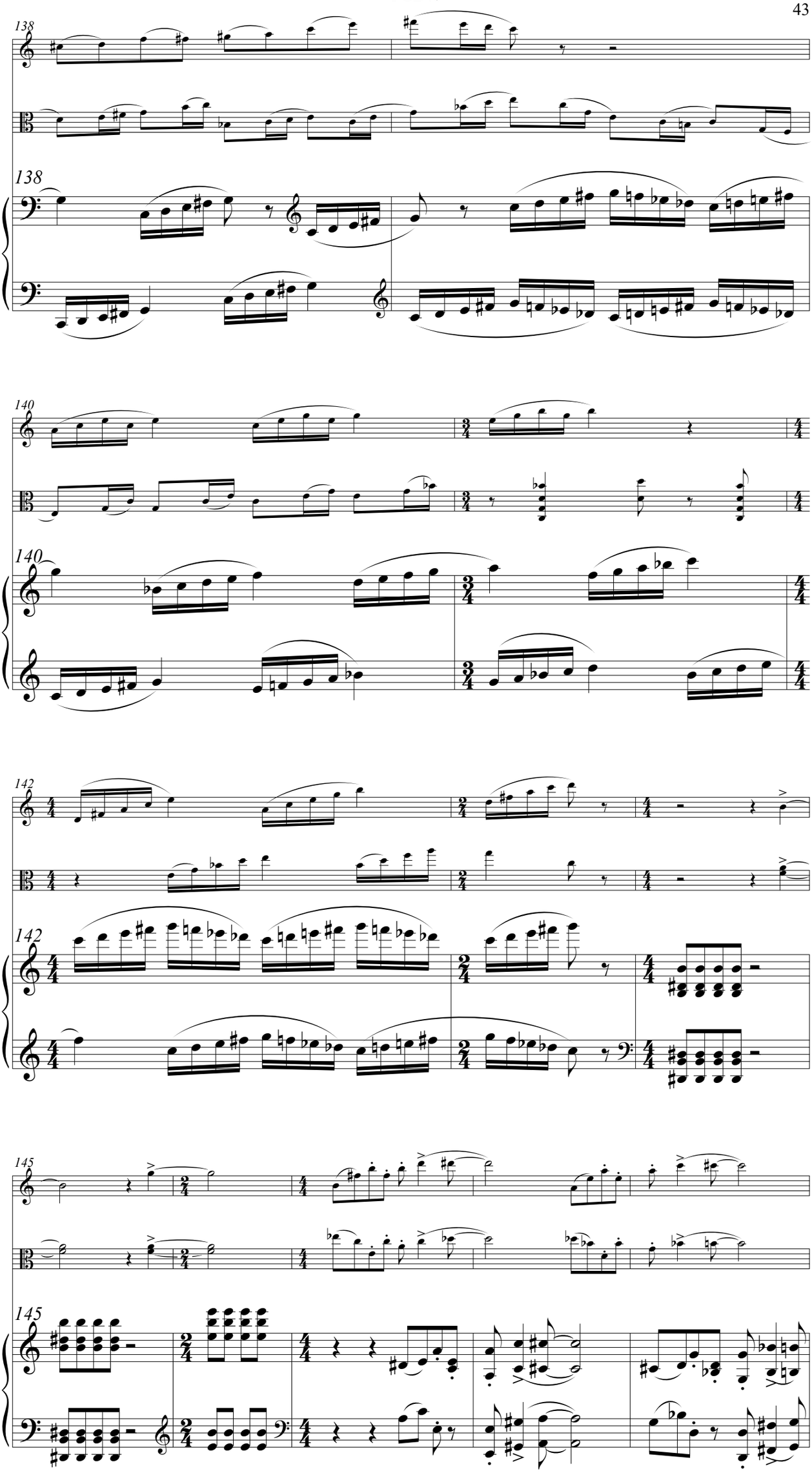

57
(8va)
60
63
67
8va
ff


71
Meno Mosso (♩ = 100)
p
77
81
pp
Speedy (♩ = 115)
8va
ff
87
f


91
91
93
ff
ff
93
ff
96
96
100
100


104
104
108
108
8va
112
112
115
Meno Mosso (♩ = 100)
ff
p
pp
115
pp


120
pp
p
120
125
cresc.
(mp)
mf
125
p
mf
cresc.
(mp)
129
p
cresc.
(mp)
129
134
Speedy (♩ = 115)
mf
p
pp
ff
134
mf
p
pp
ff
Ped.
8va
8va


138
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140
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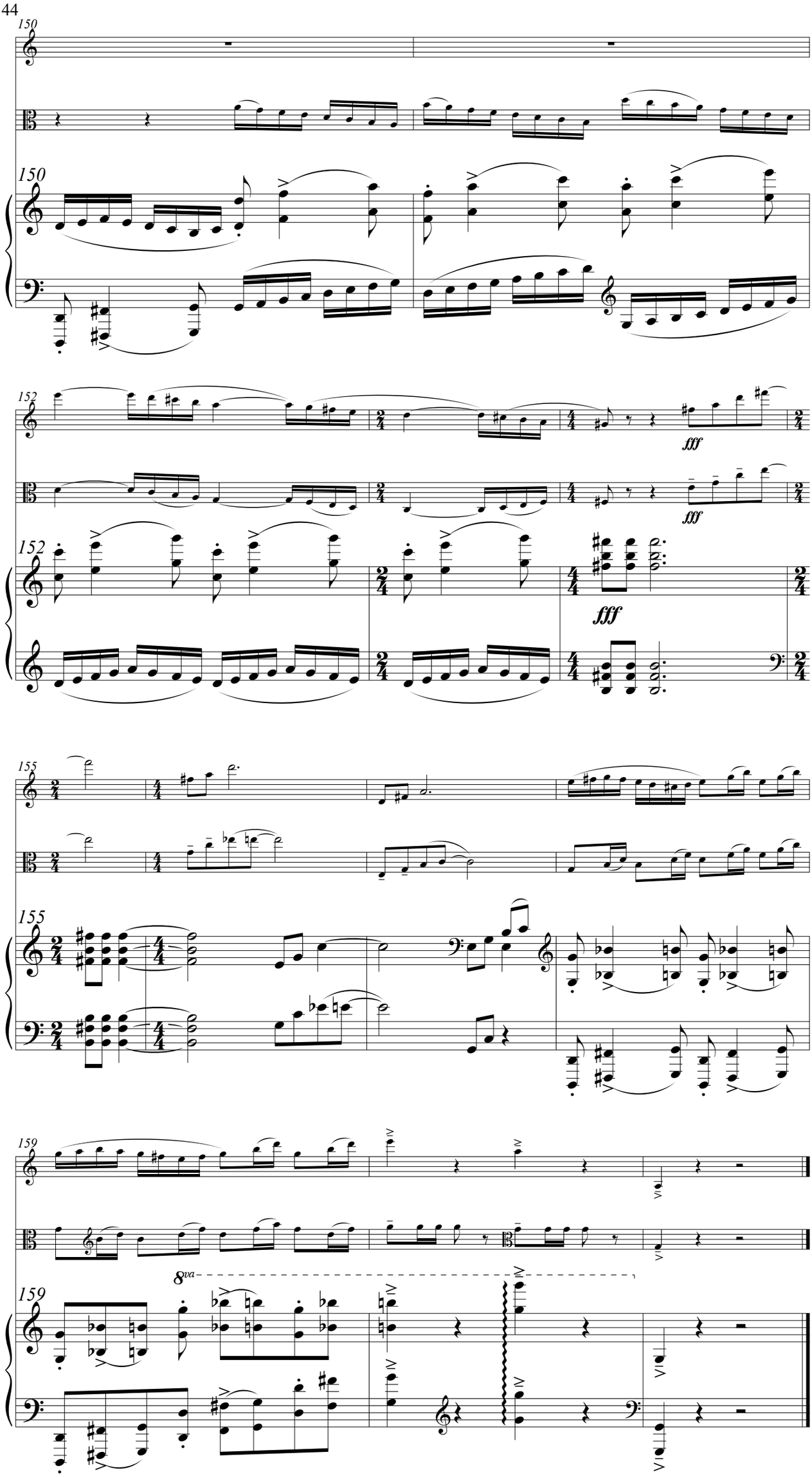
142
142
145
145


150
150
152
152
fff
fff
fff
155
155
159
159
8va