The American Viola Society

SONATA
FOR VIOLA AND PIANO
OP. 78

Frederick Block
(1899-1945)

AVS Publications 047

Preface

Frederick Block (1899–1945) studied piano and composition in his native Vienna during his youth. After serving on the Italian Front during World War I, he furthered his composition training with Josef Bohuslav Foerster at the New Vienna Conservatory and with Hans Gál at the University of Vienna. Block left Austria after the Nazi invasion in 1938, first settling in London and then immigrating to New York in 1940. While Block composed in a variety of genres, including opera, chamber music, and commercial media (film and radio), he is perhaps best remembered for his early attempt at completing Mahler's Tenth Symphony, producing a four-hand piano version of movements II, IV, and V.[1]

The Sonata for Viola and Piano, op. 78 is Block's final work, completed late in January 1945, less than six months before his death on June 1. The work was performed by Raymond Sabinsky (viola) and Sina Berlynn (piano) on a November 12, 1949, radio broadcast under the auspices of the Frederick Block Committee, an organization founded after the composer's death to promote his works.

Notes about the Sources

This edition is based on the manuscript piano score and the manuscript viola part housed in the Frederick Block Papers, JPB 06-21, Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. Those sources include fingerings and other markings in pencil (in unknown hands), possibly added by later performers. Nonetheless, all fingerings have been incorporated into this edition, and editorial metronome markings have been added to approximate timings written in pencil at the end of each movement in the viola part (movement I: 6 minutes; movement II: 4 minutes; movement III: 4 minutes). Other editorial changes have been made without comment.

David M. Bynog, editor
October 2016

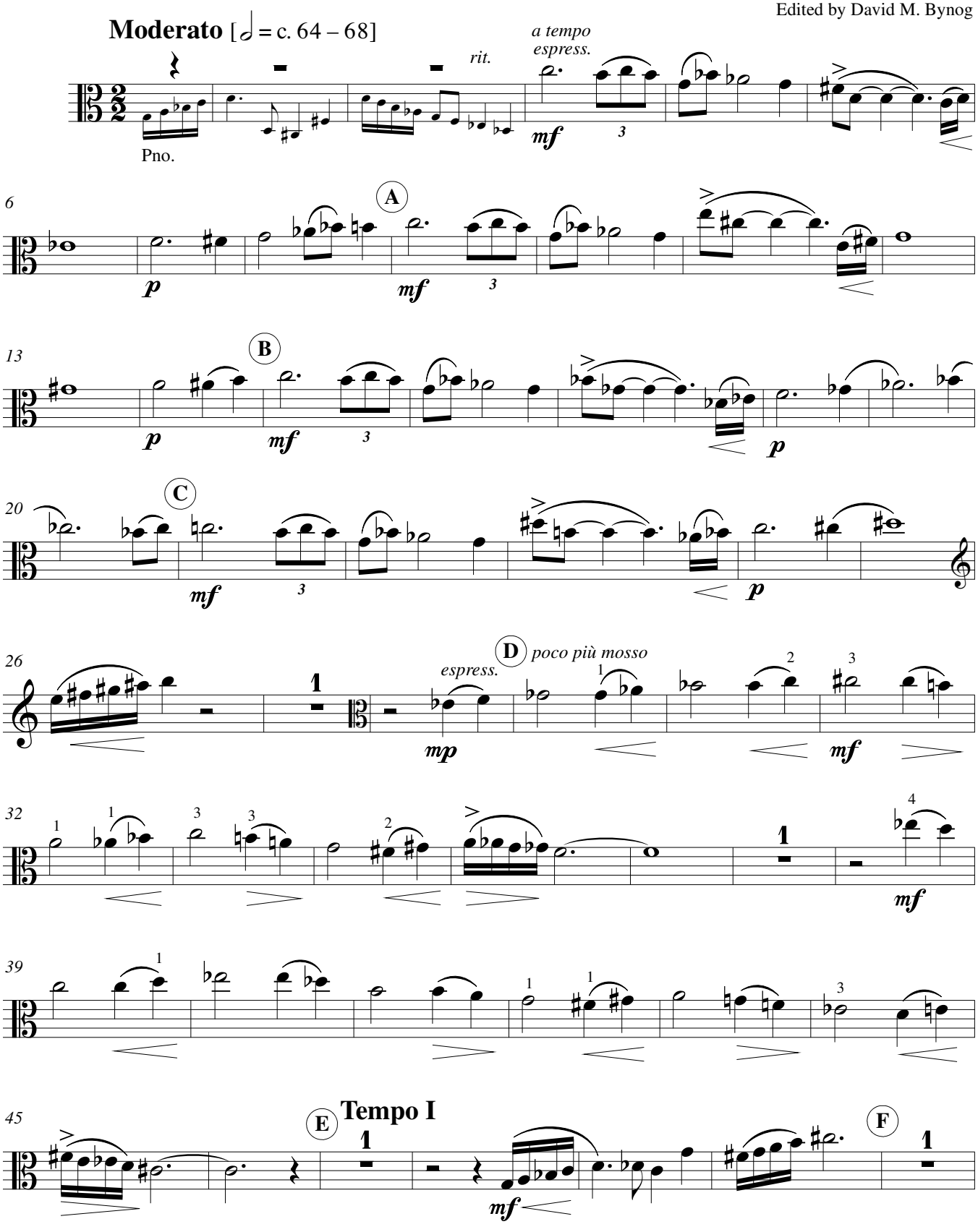
Notes

1. See Frederick Block, "Mahler's Tenth," *Chord and Discord* 2, no. 3 (December 1941): 43–45 and Susan Melanie Filler, "Editorial Problems in Symphonies of Gustav Mahler: A Study of the Sources of the Third and Tenth Symphonies (Ph.D diss, Northwestern University, 1977), 14–15.

Sonata for Viola and Piano, op. 78

Viola

Frederick Block
Edited by David M. Bynog



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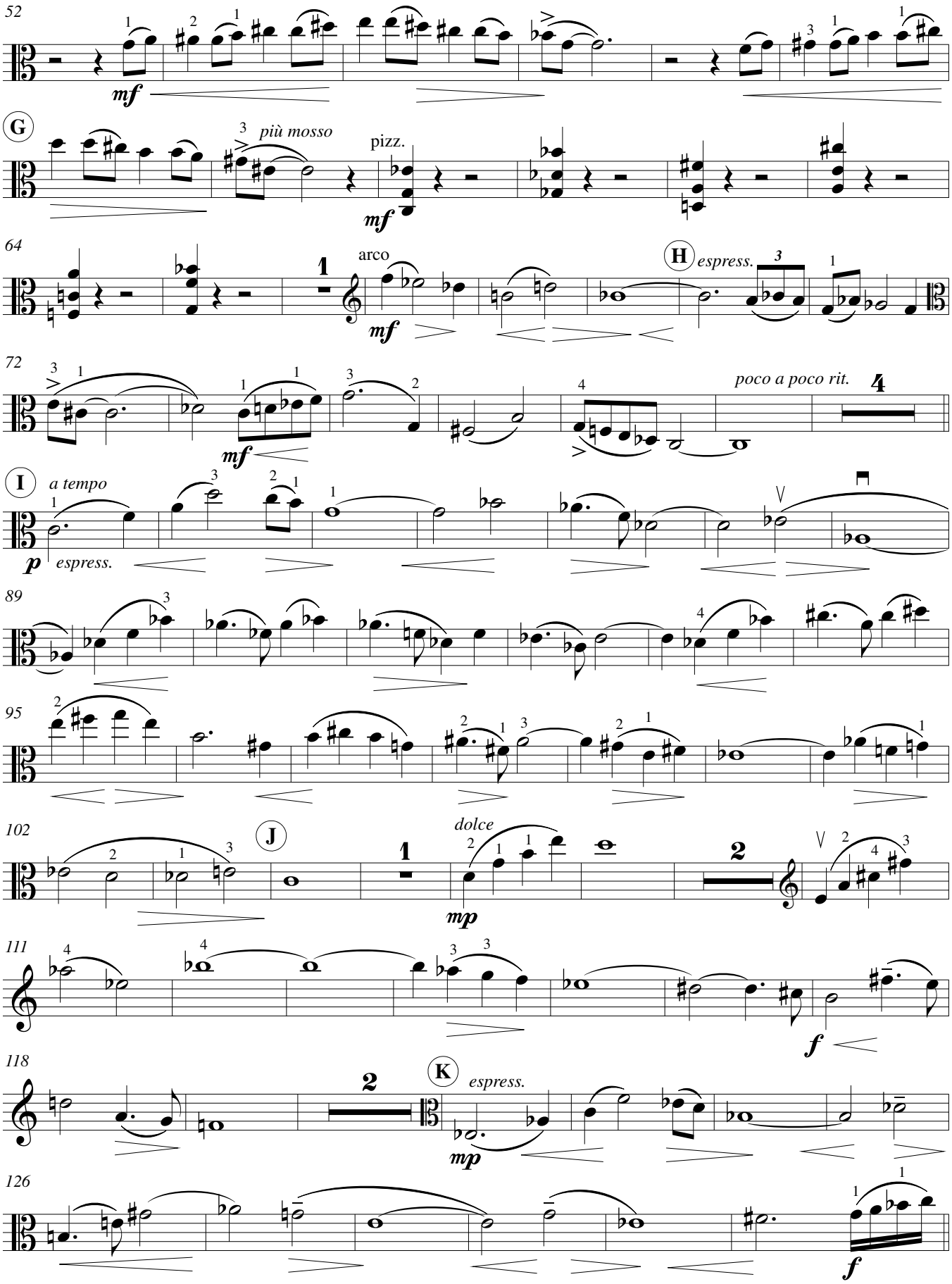
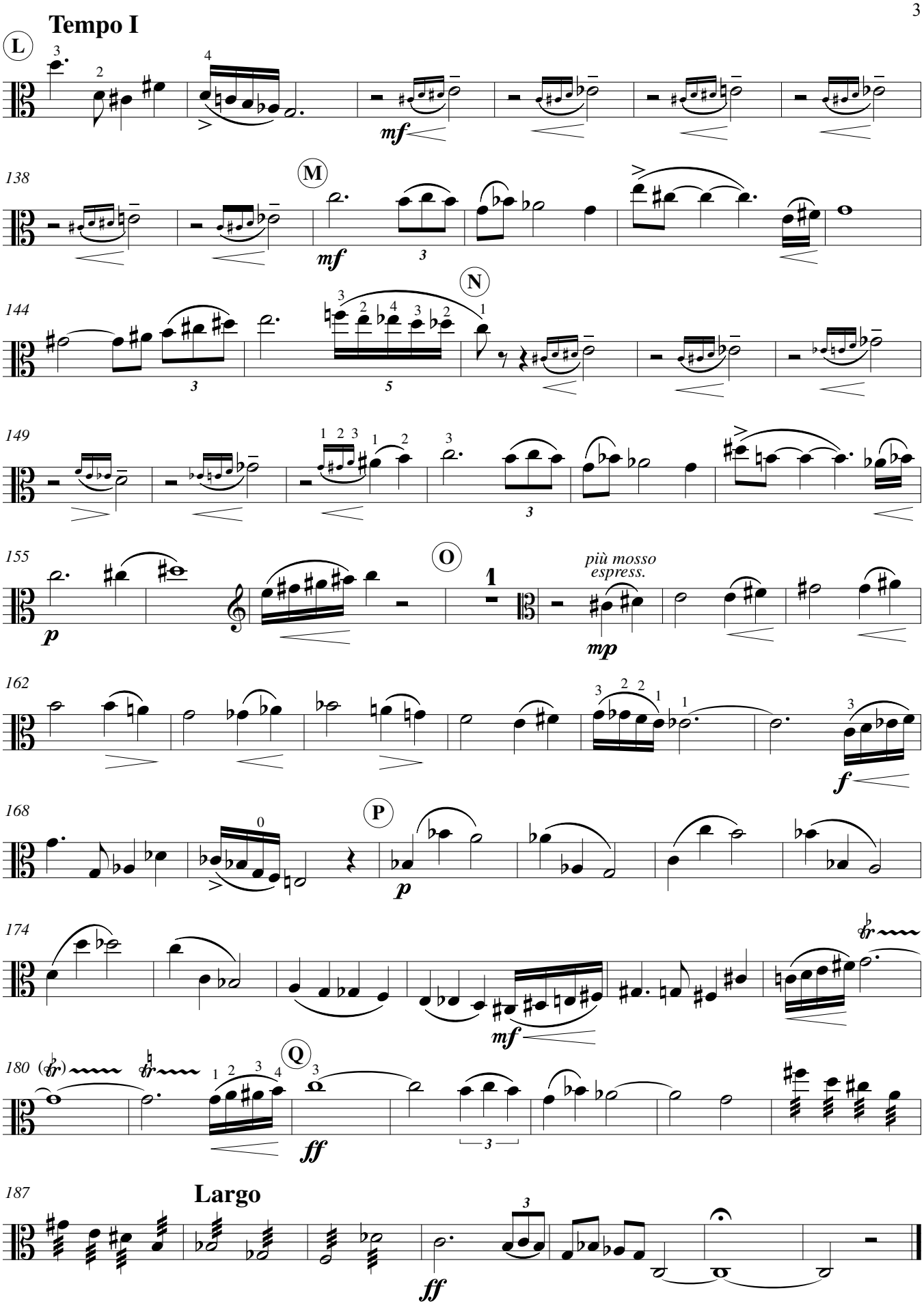
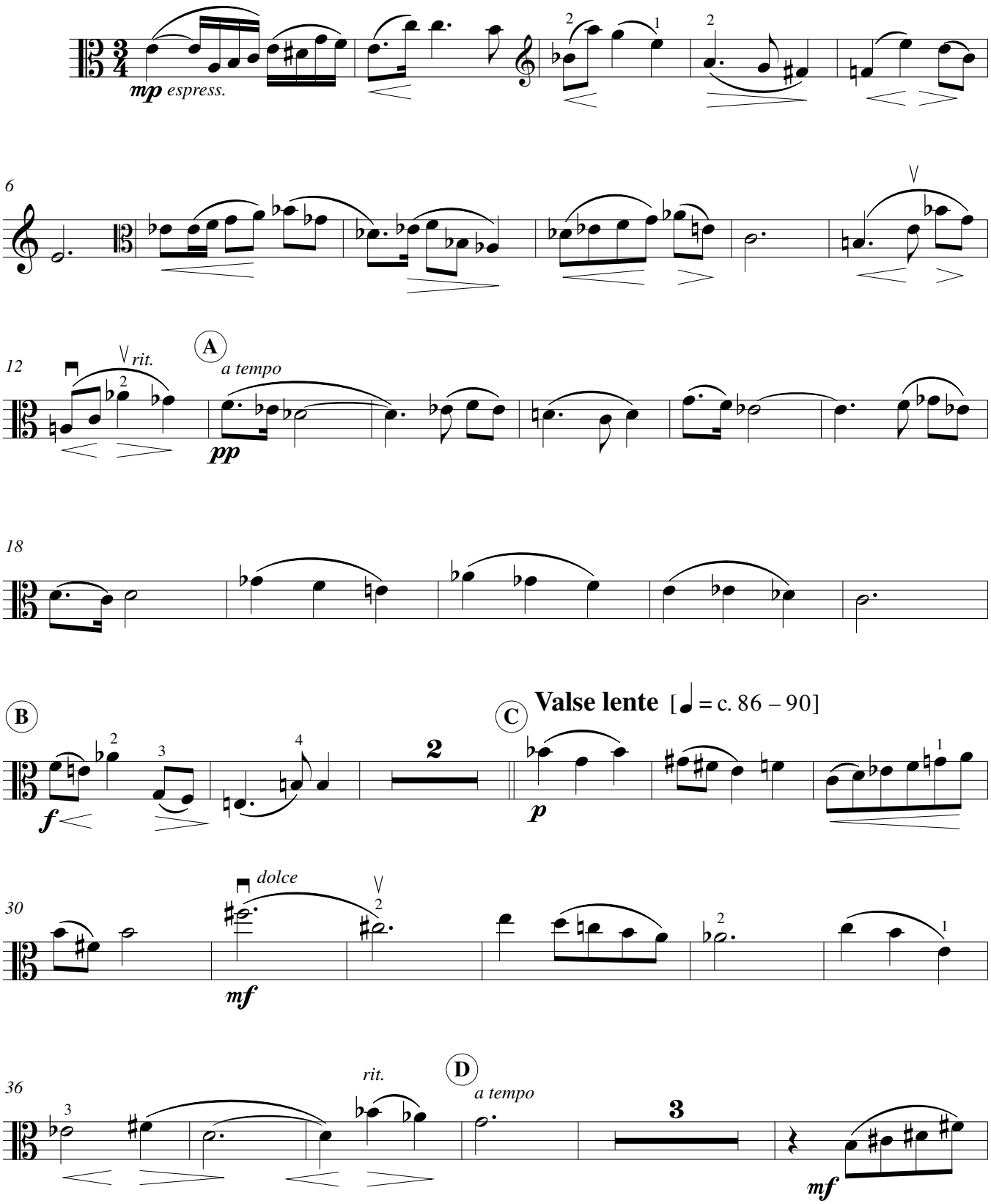
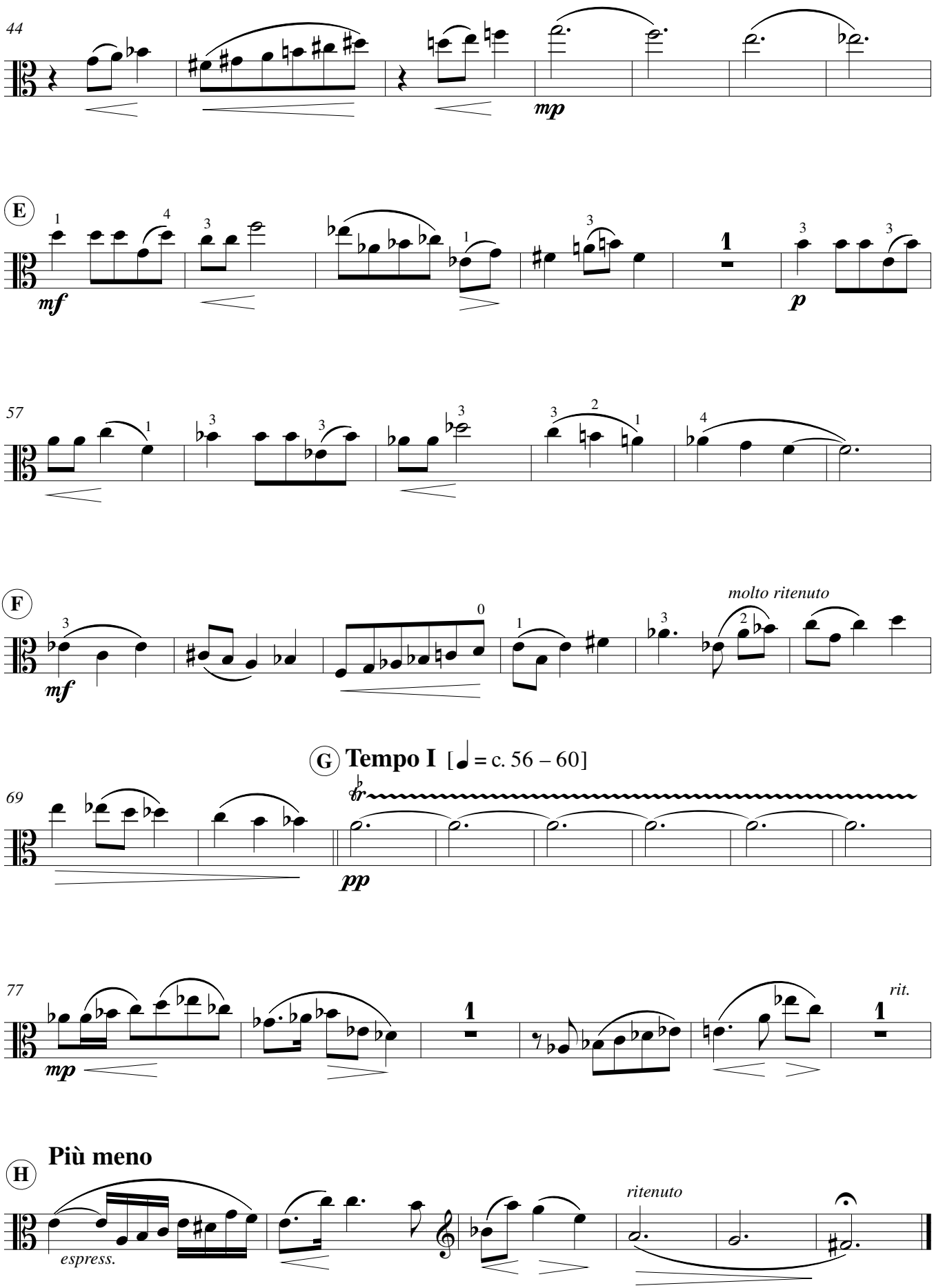

52
mf
G
più mosso
pizz.
mf
64
arco
mf
H
espress.
72
mf
poco a poco rit.
I
a tempo
p
espress.
89
95
102
J
dolce
mp
111
f
118
K
espress.
mp
126
f


Tempo I
L
mf
138
M
mf
144
N
149
155
O
più mosso
espress.
mp
162
f
168
P
p
174
mf
180
Q
ff
187
Largo
ff

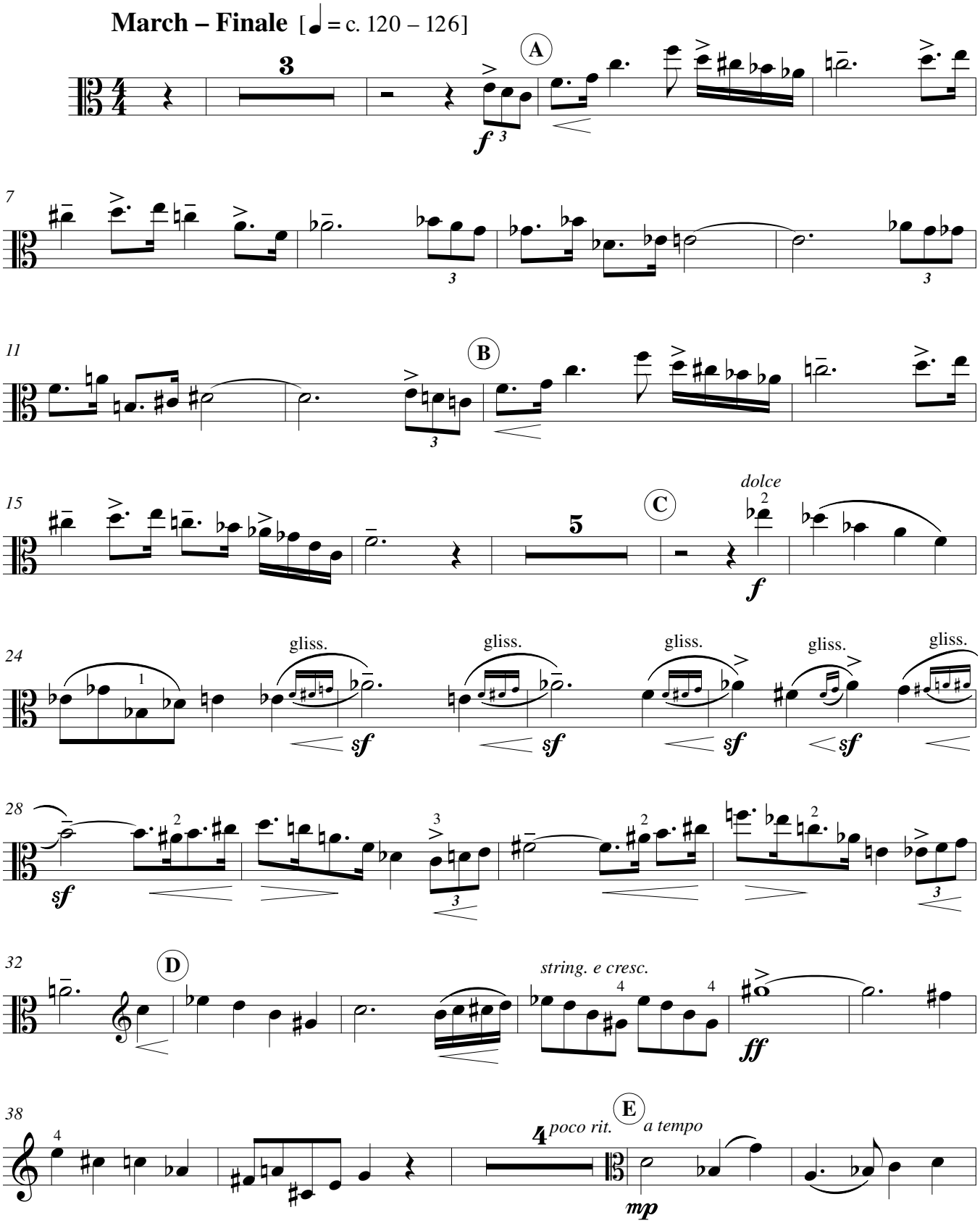
II

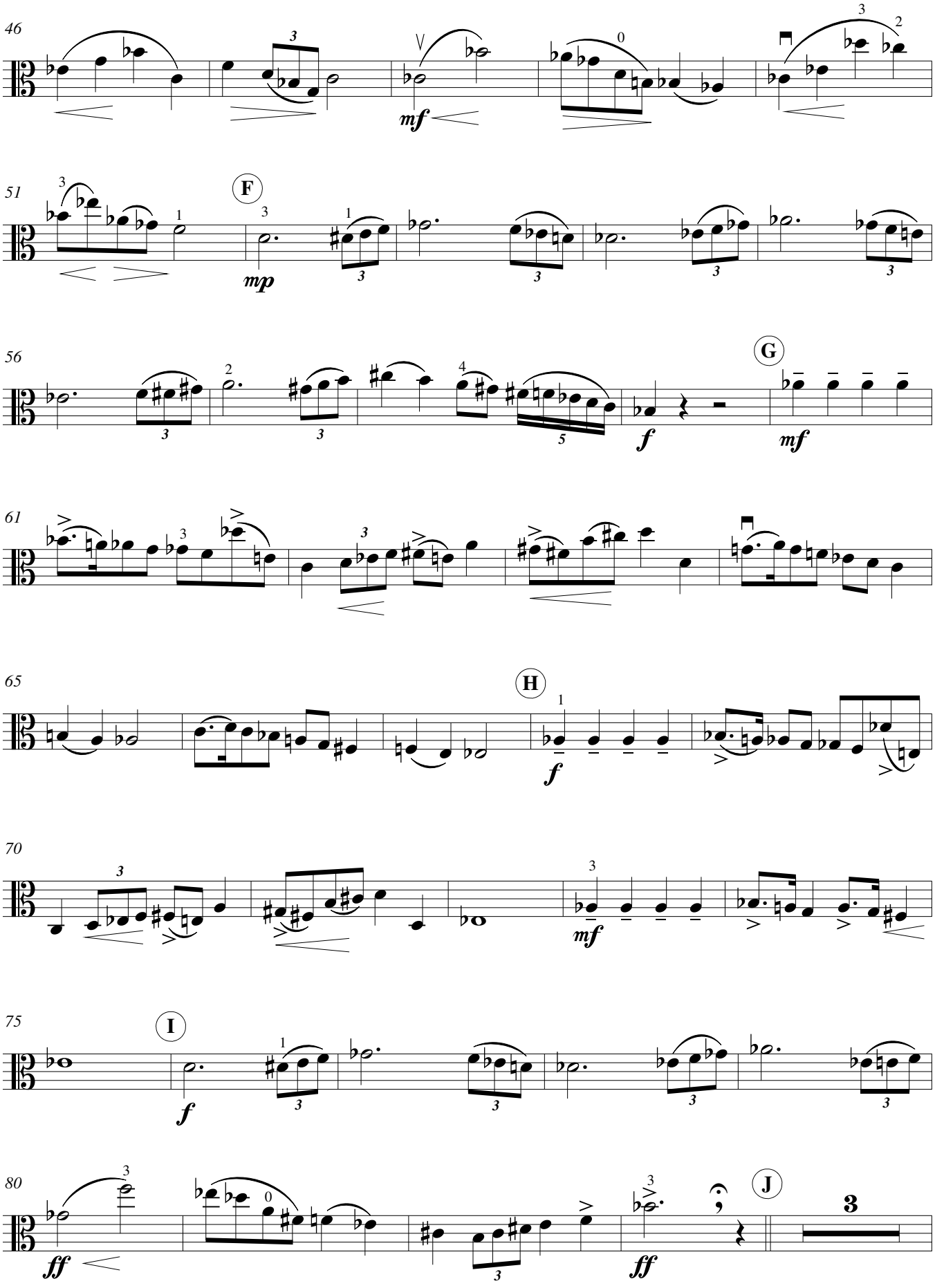
Molto Andante [♩ = c. 56 – 60]

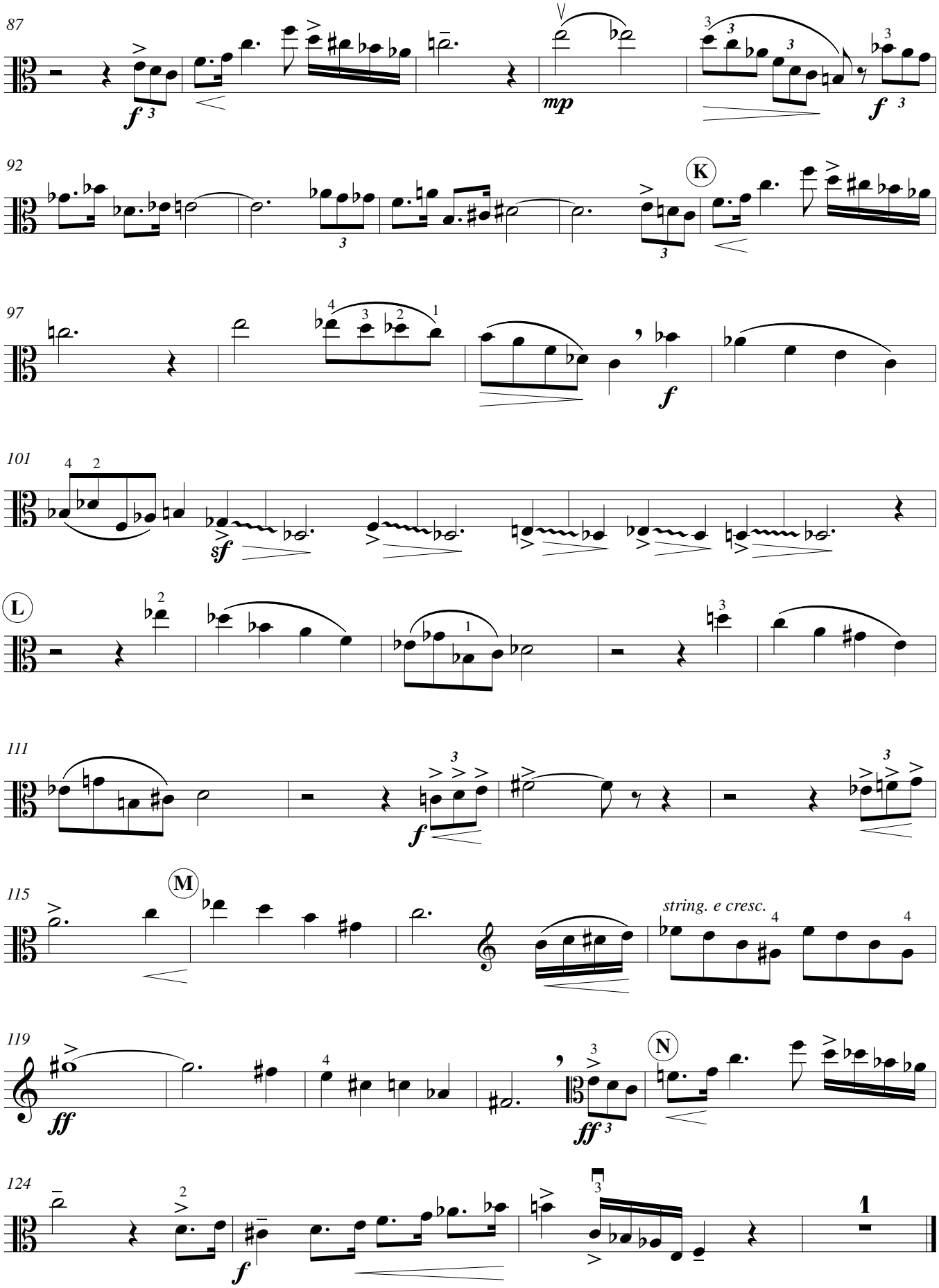



44
mp
E
mf
p
57
F
mf
molto ritenuto
G Tempo I [♩ = c. 56 – 60]
69
pp
77
mp
rit.
H Più meno
espress.
ritenuto

III

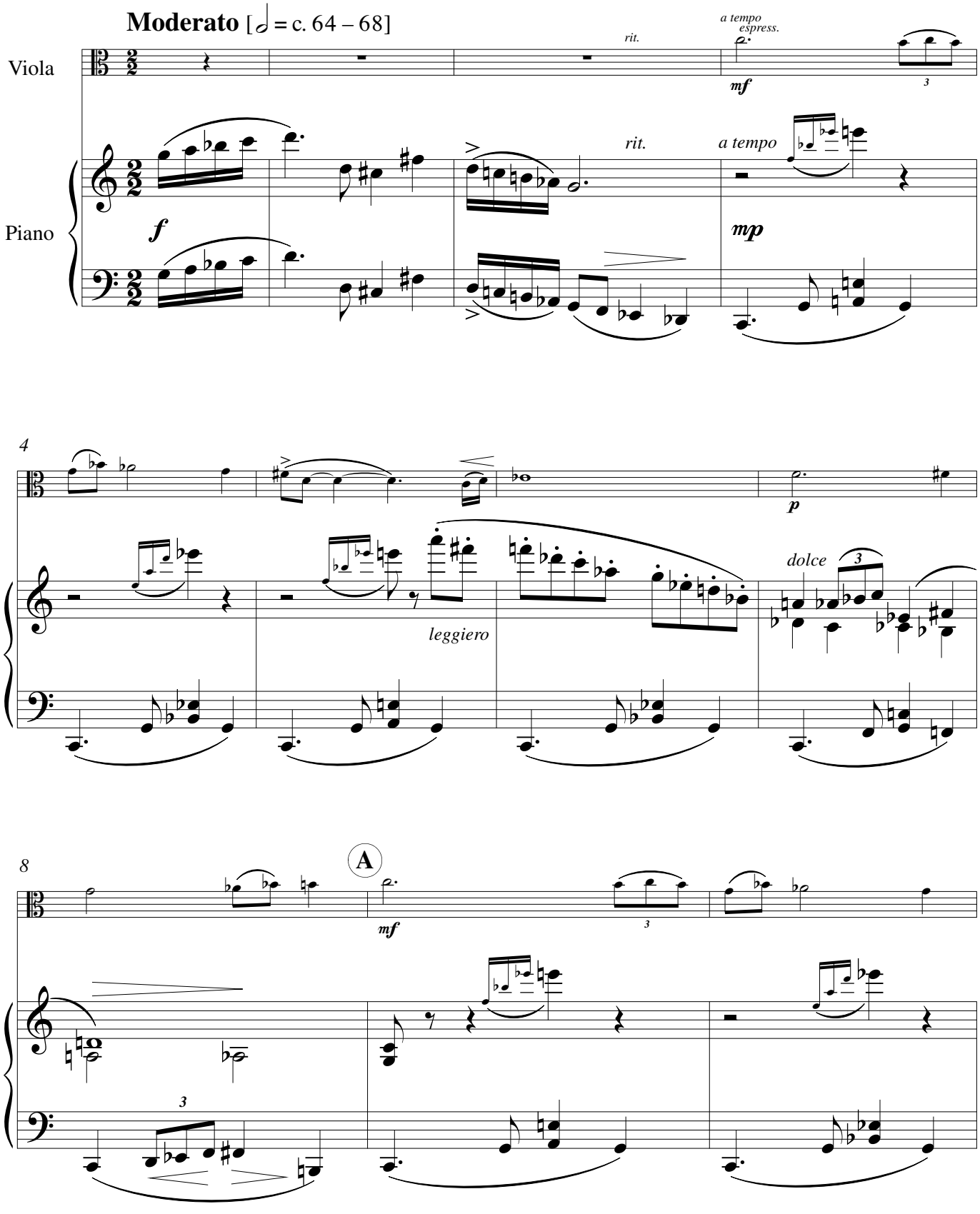

March – Finale [♩ = c. 120 – 126]
A
3
f
7
11
B
15
C
5
dolce
f
24
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
sf
28
sf
32
D
string. e cresc.
ff
38
E
4
poco rit.
a tempo
mp


46
mf
51
F
mp
56
G
f
mf
61
65
H
f
70
mf
75
I
f
80
ff
J
ff


87
mp
92
K
97
101
sf
L
111
M
115
string. e cresc.
119
ff
N
124

Sonata for Viola and Piano, op. 78

Frederick Block
Edited by David M. Bynog



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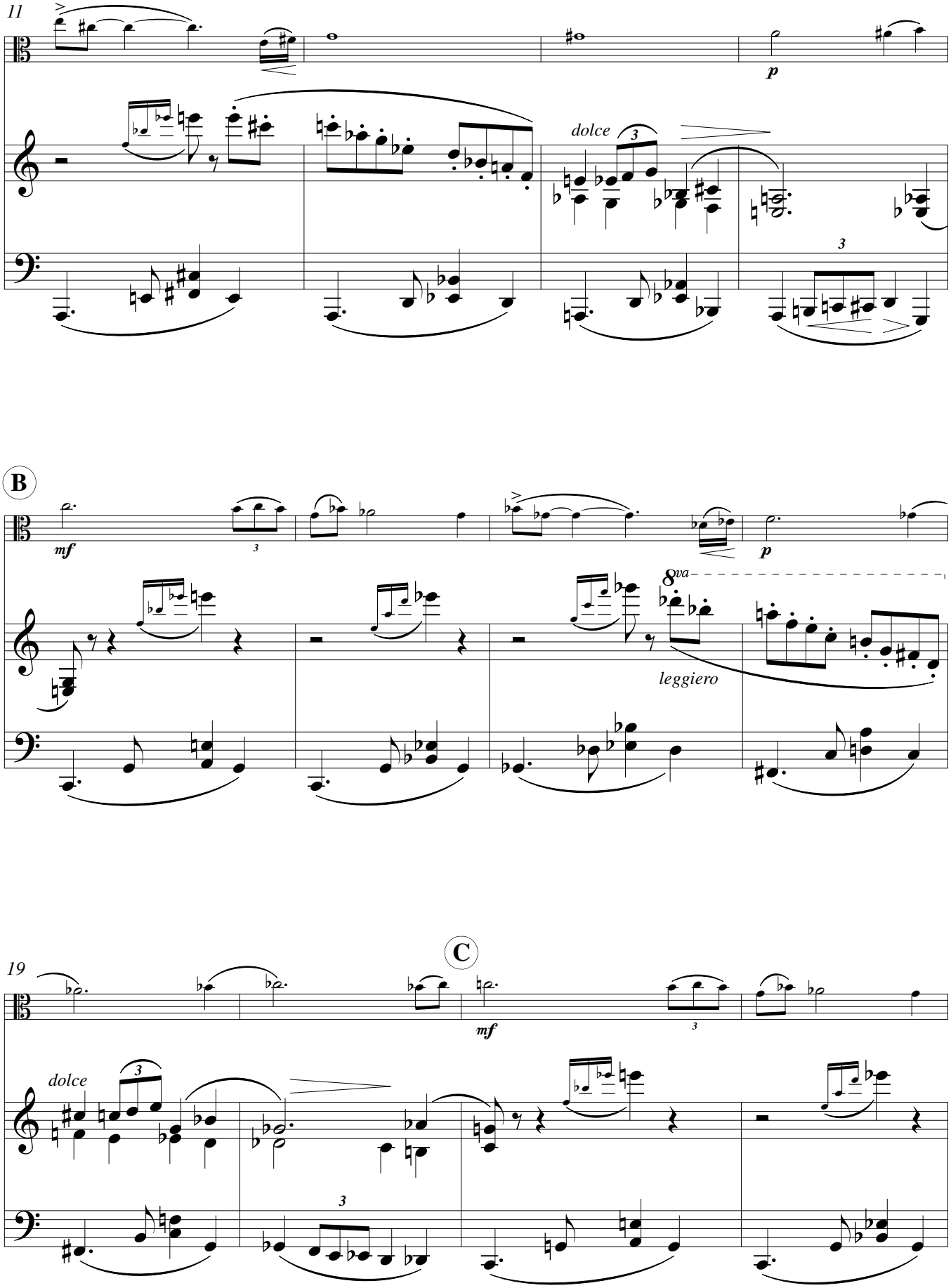
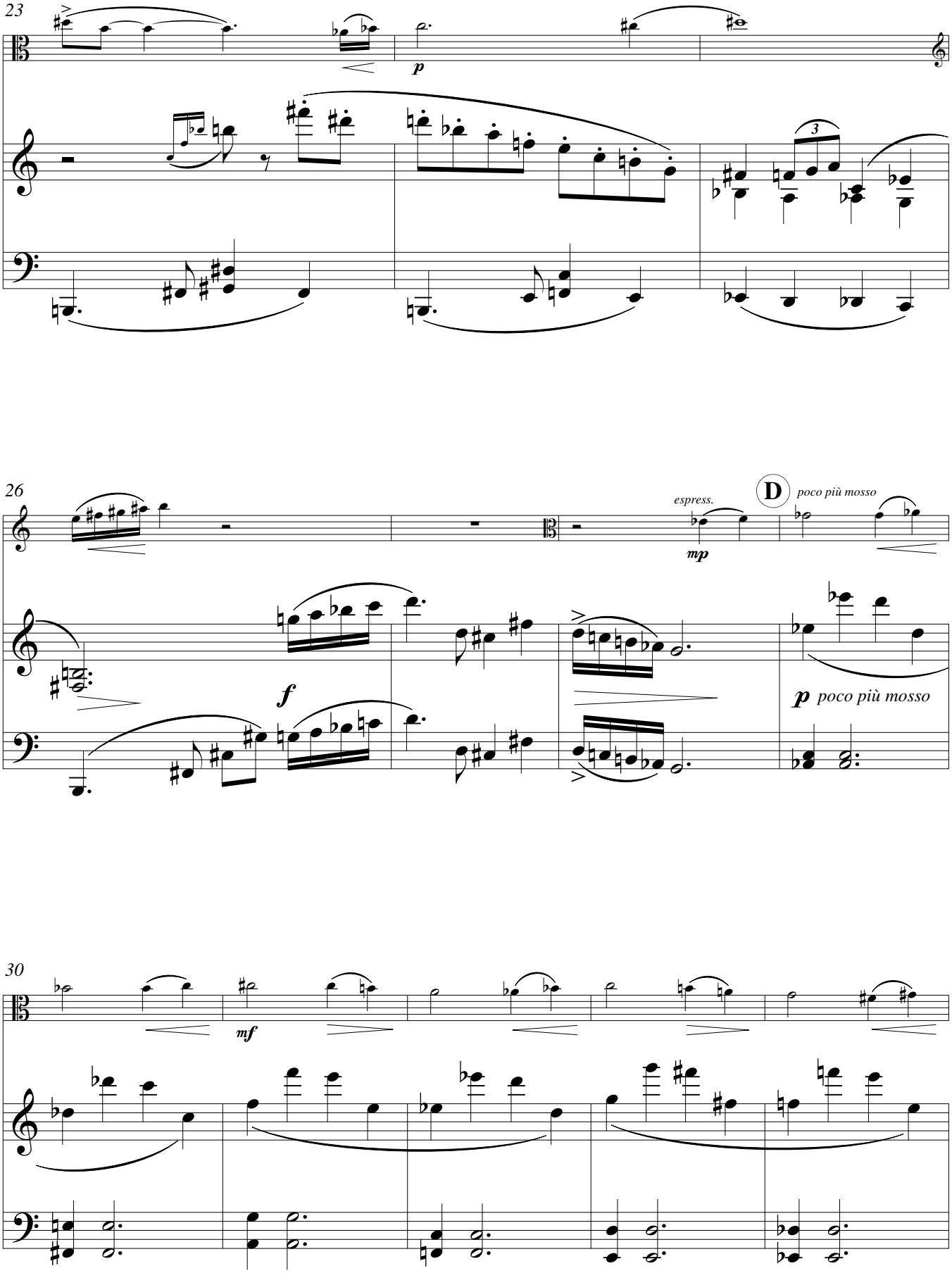
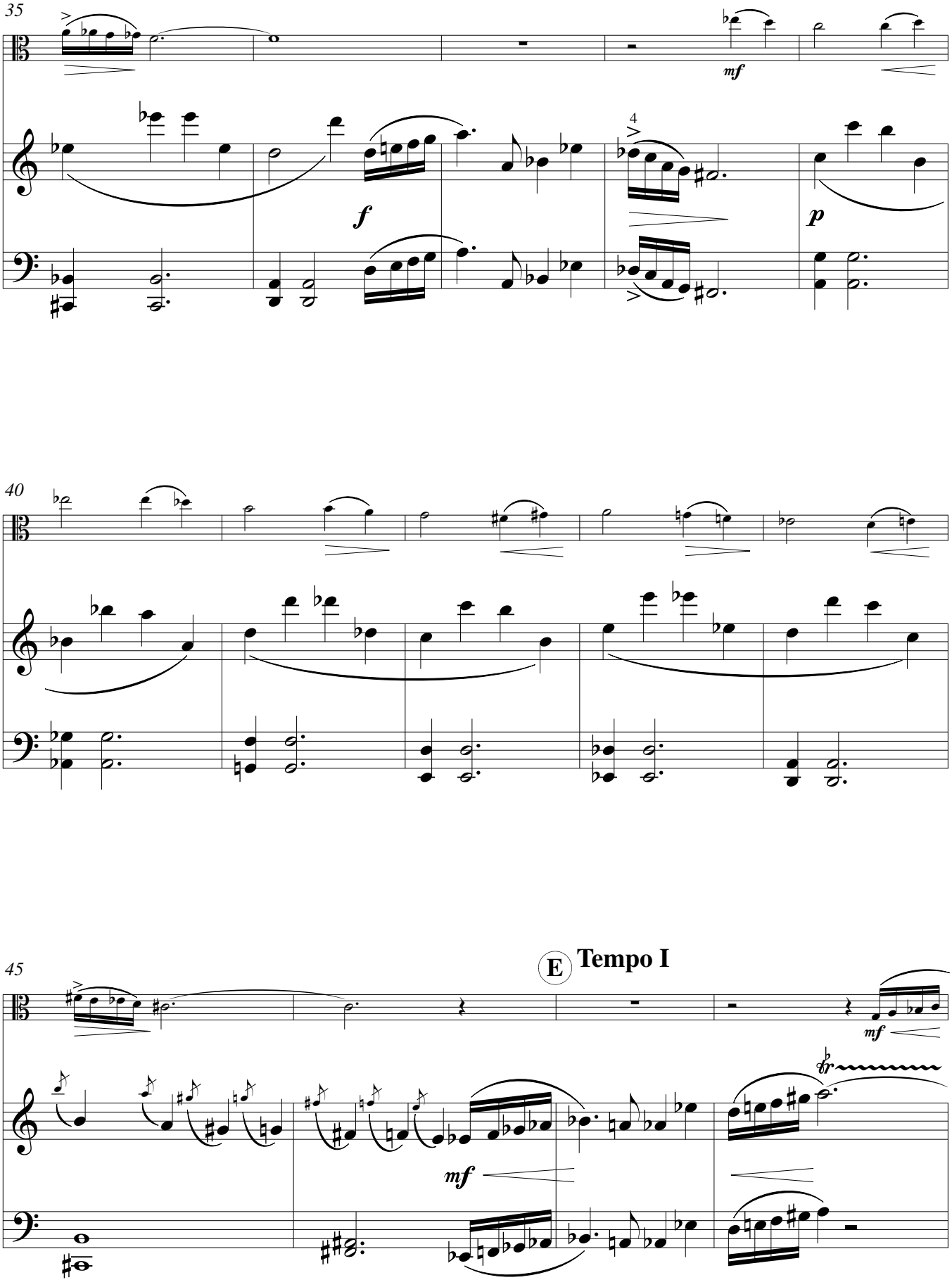
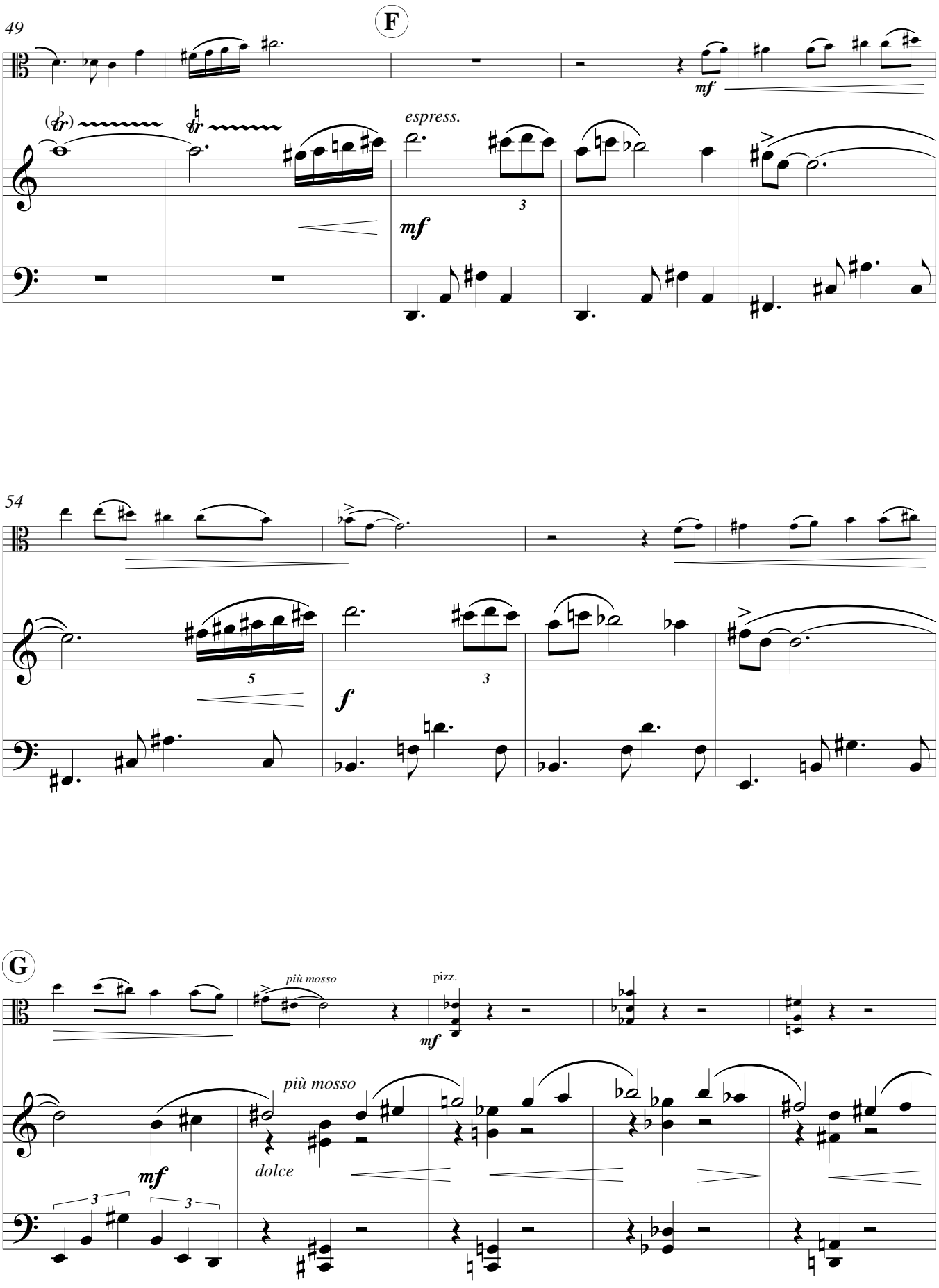
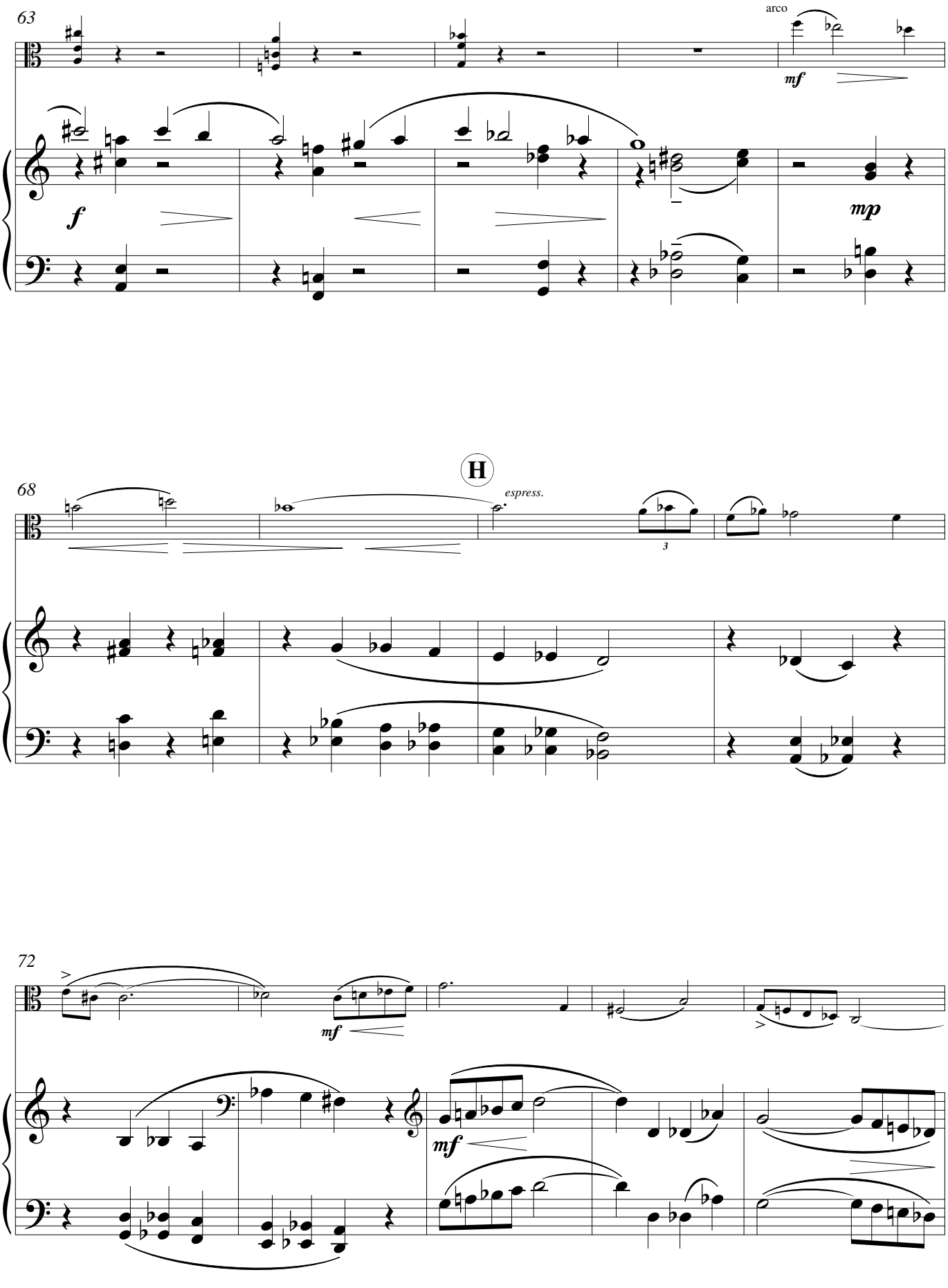
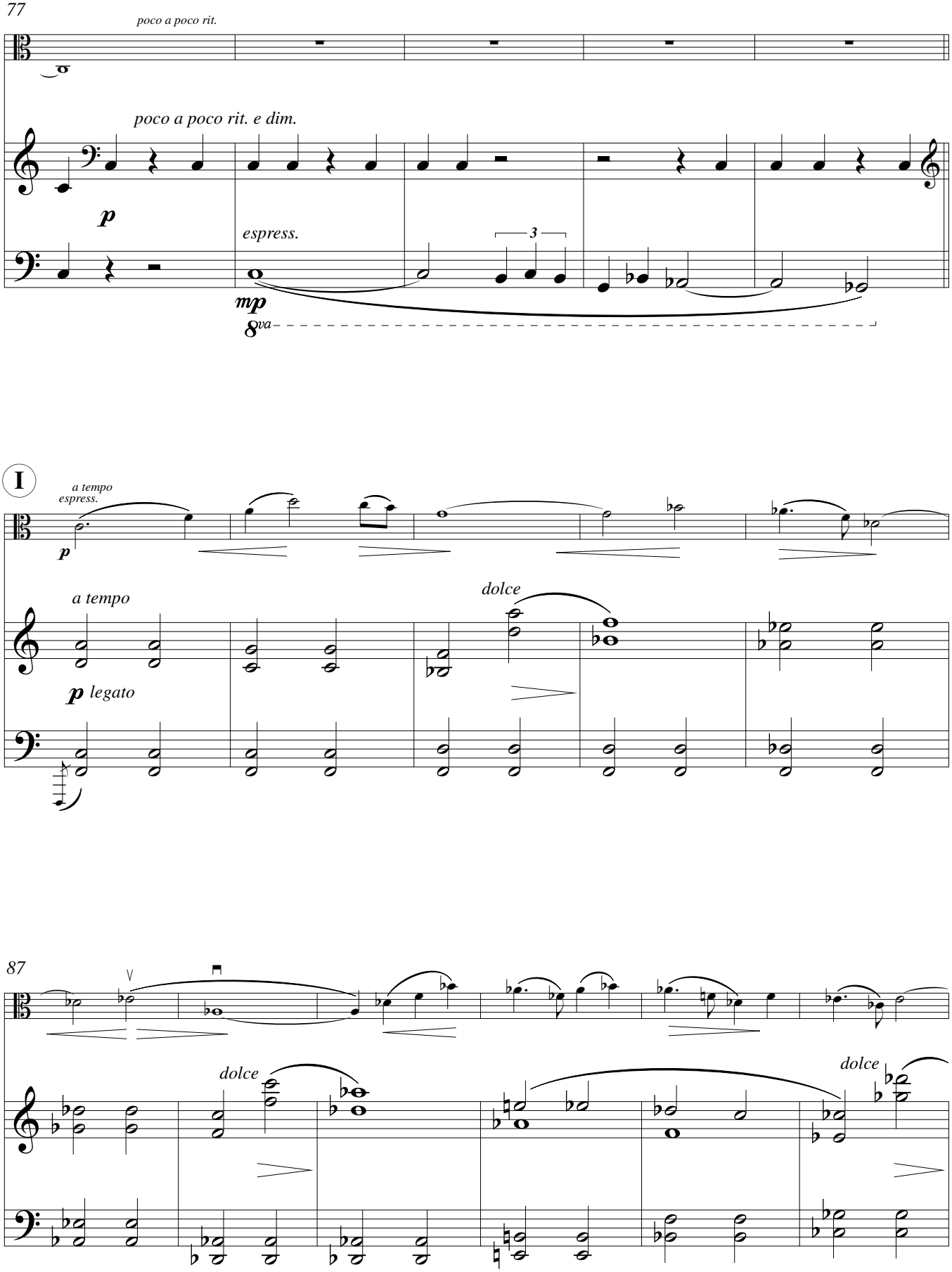

11
p
dolce
3
3
B
mf
3
p
8va
leggiero
C
19
mf
3
dolce
3
3


23
p
26
espress.
mp
D
poco più mosso
f
p poco più mosso
30
mf

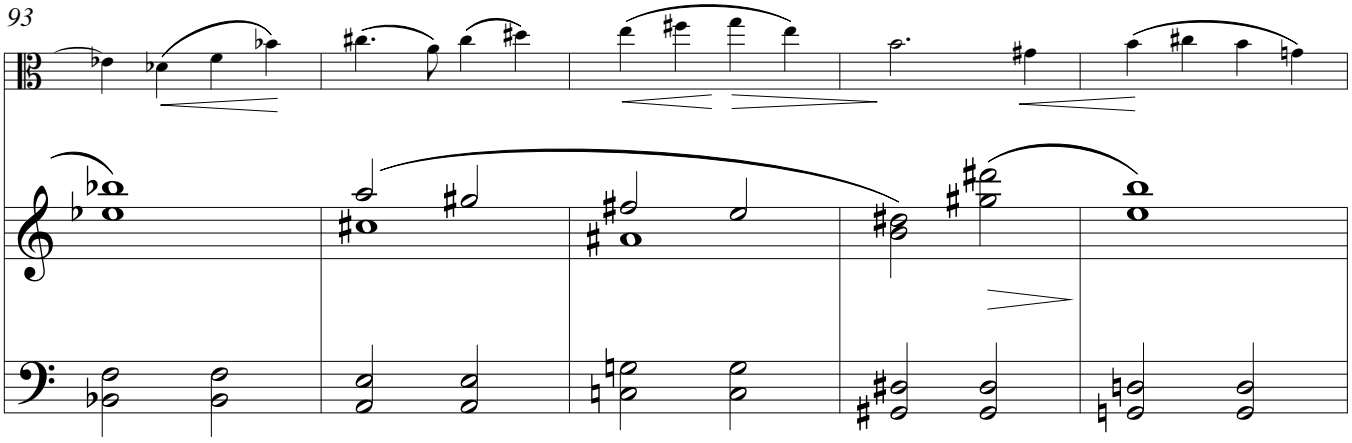

35
mf
f
4
p
40
45
E
Tempo I
mf
mf
tr


49
F
mf
espress.
mf
54
f
G
più mosso
pizz.
mf
più mosso
dolce
mf


63
arco
mf
f
mp
H
68
espress.
3
72
mf
mf


77
poco a poco rit.
poco a poco rit. e dim.
p
espress.
3
mp
8va
I
a tempo
espress.
p
a tempo
dolce
p legato
87
dolce
dolce

93



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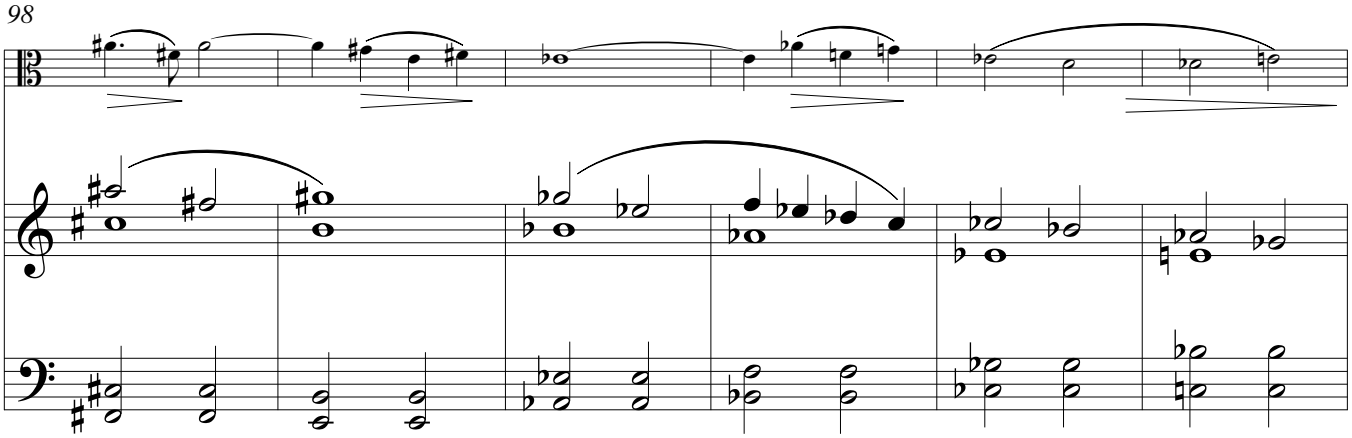


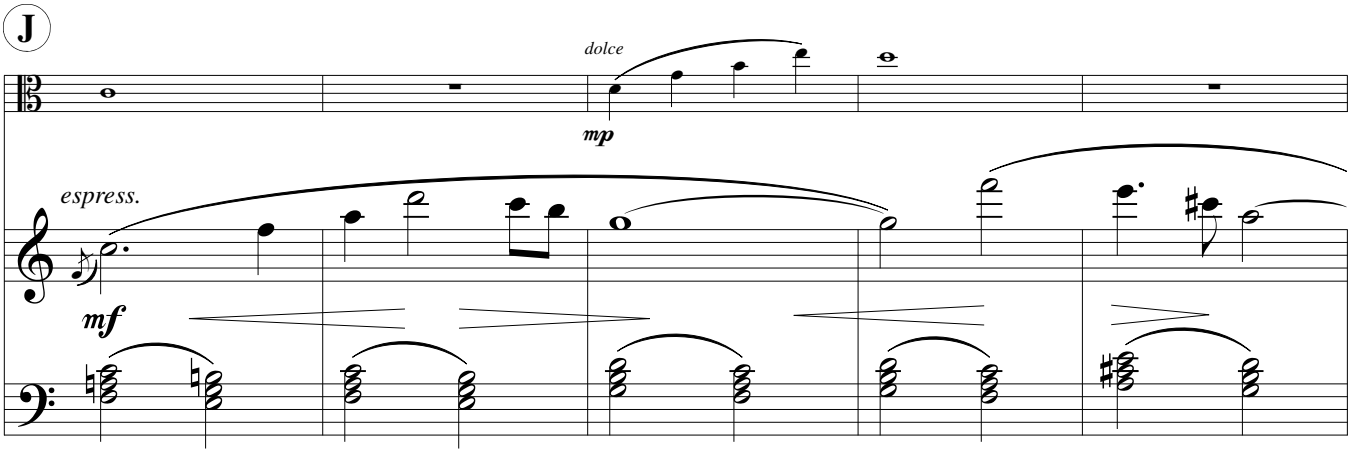
J

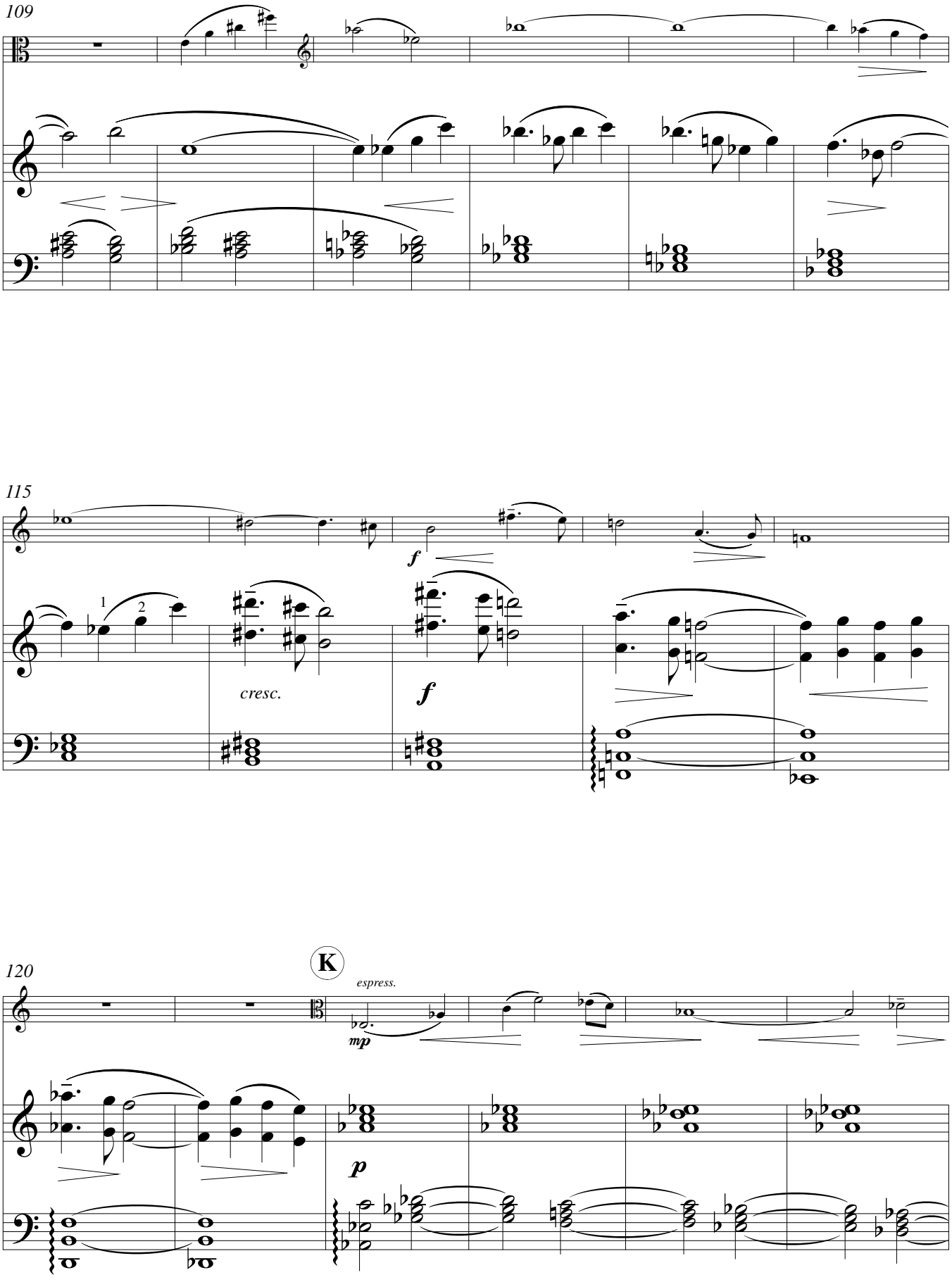
dolce

mp

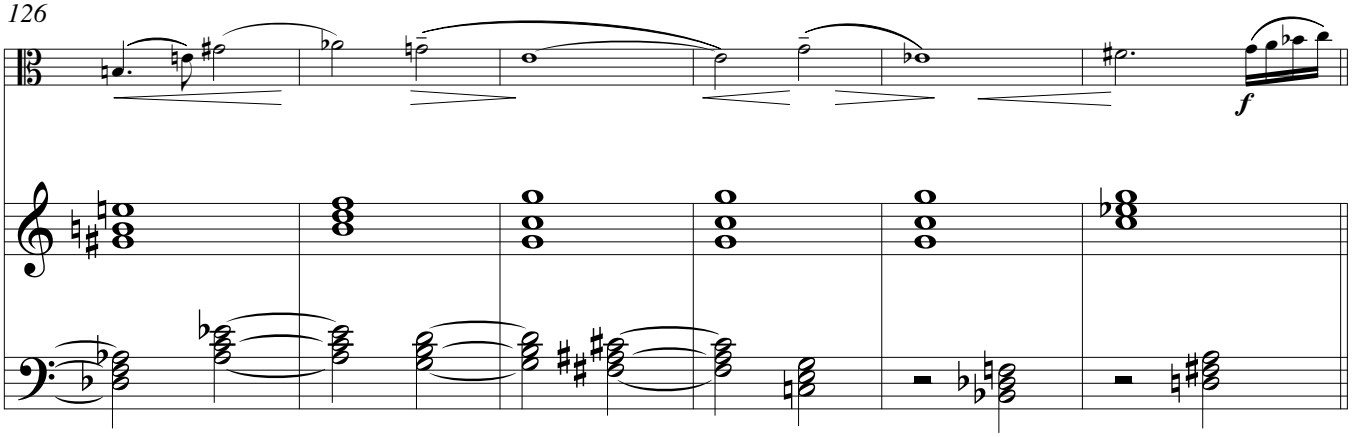
espress.

mf



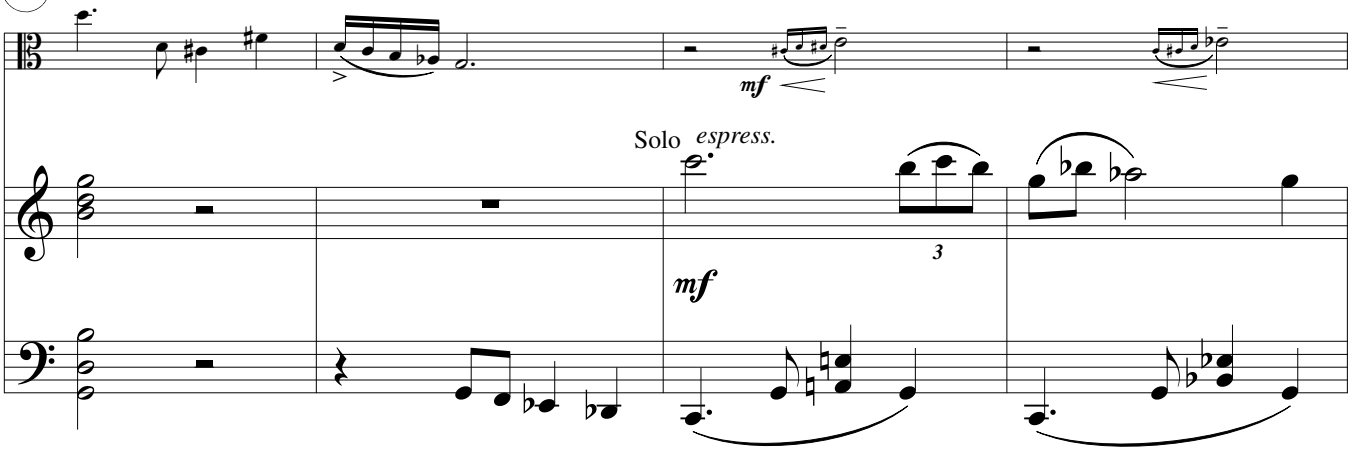

109
115
1
2
cresc.
f
f
120
K
espress.
mp
p

126



L

Tempo I



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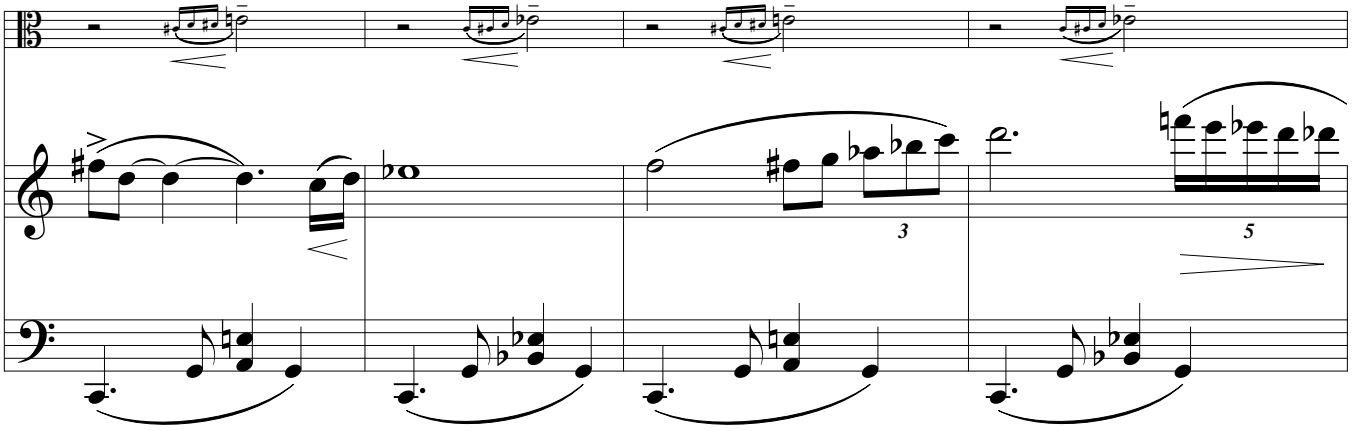
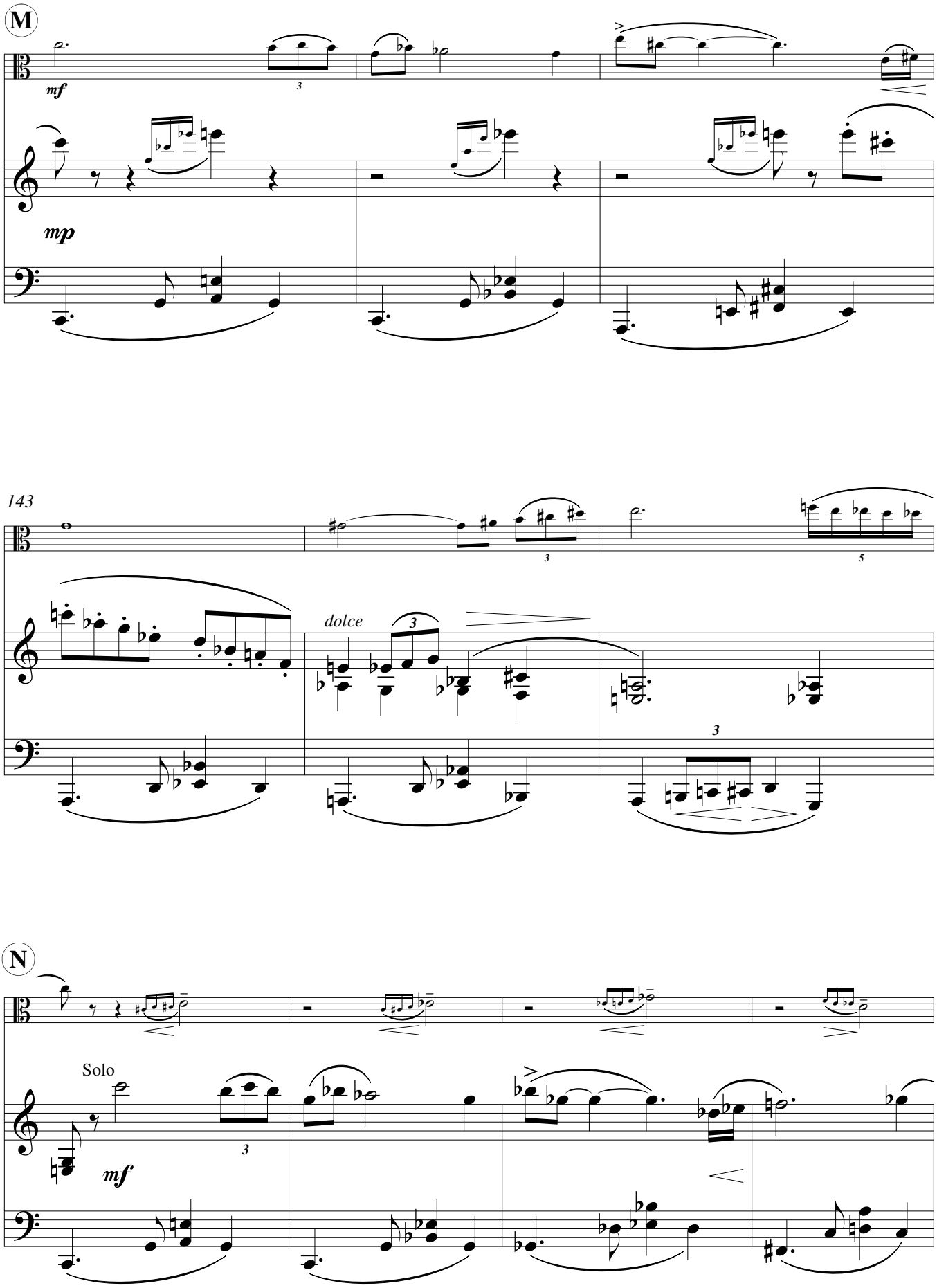
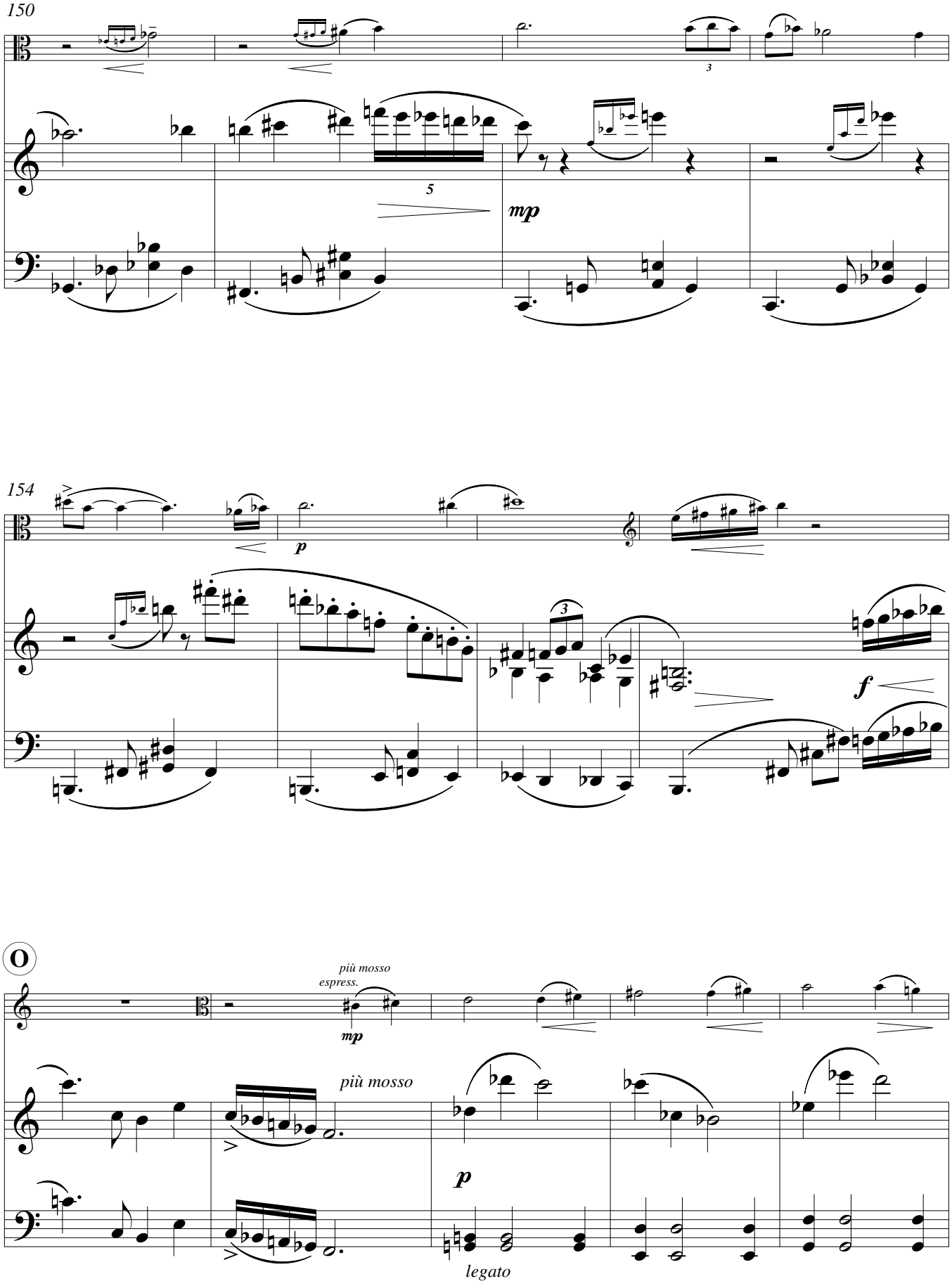
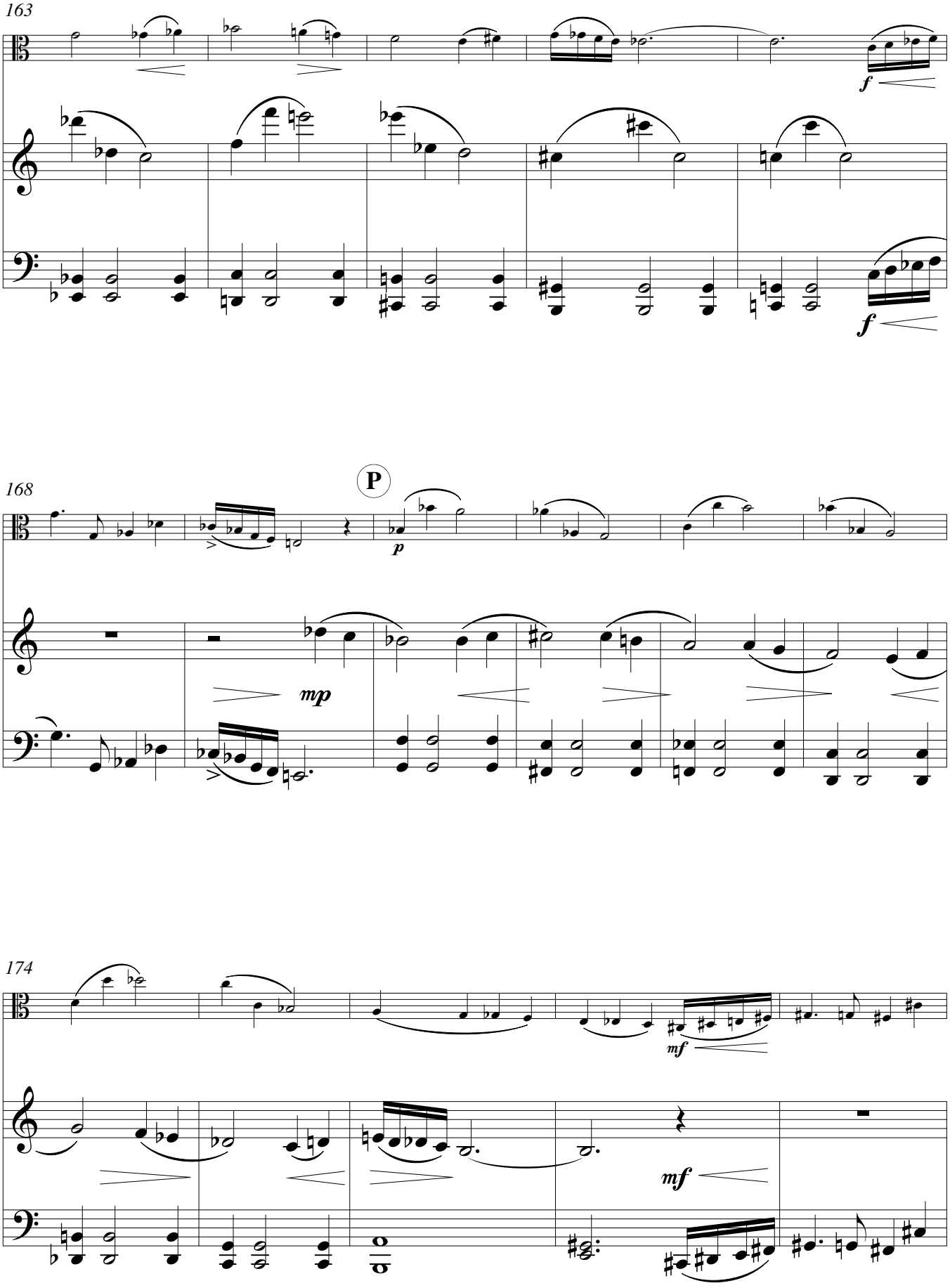
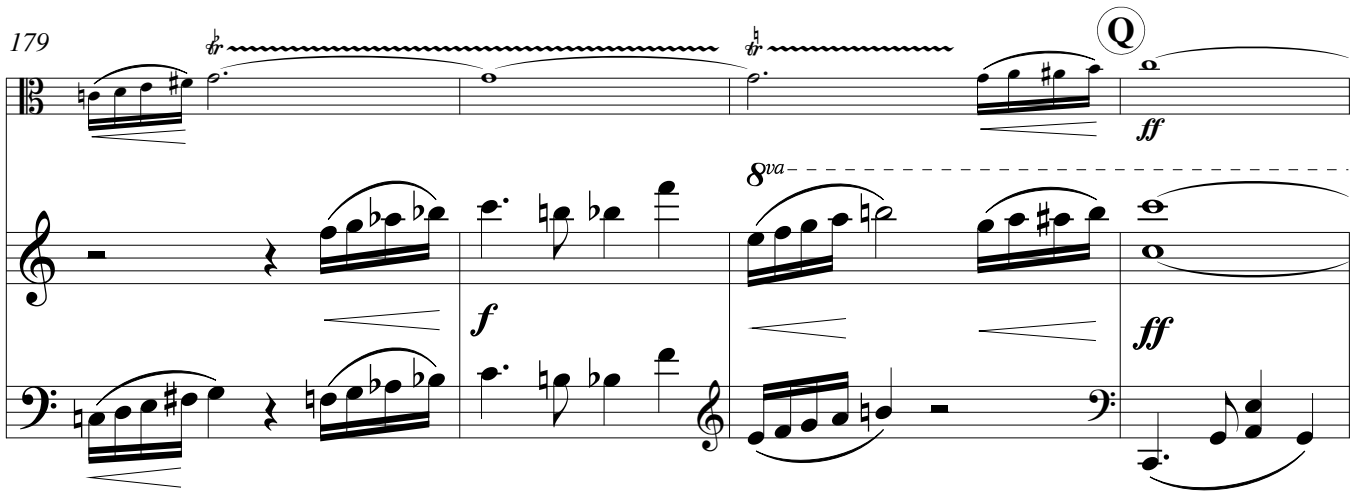
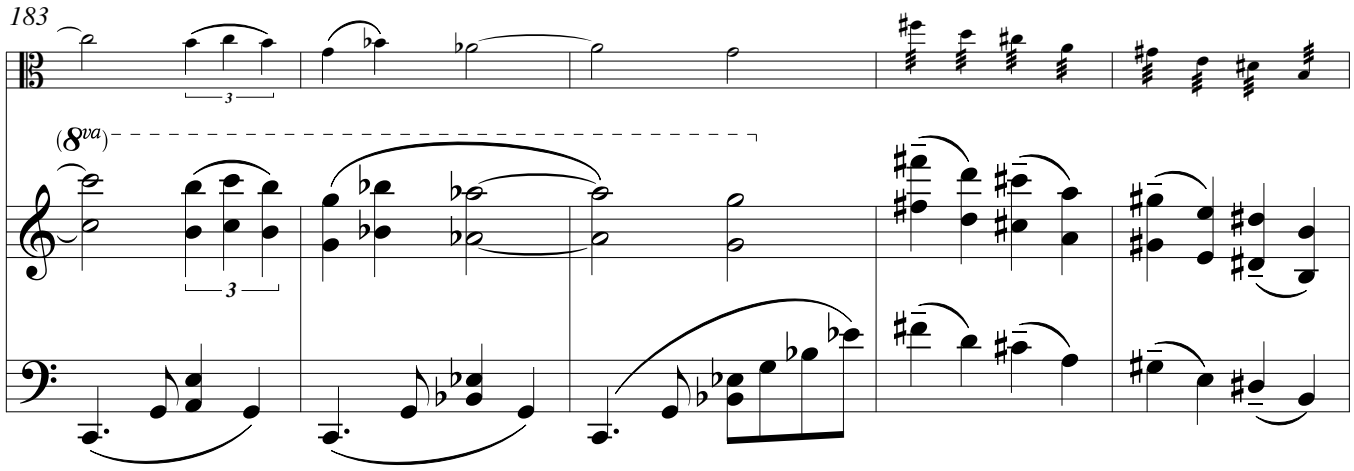


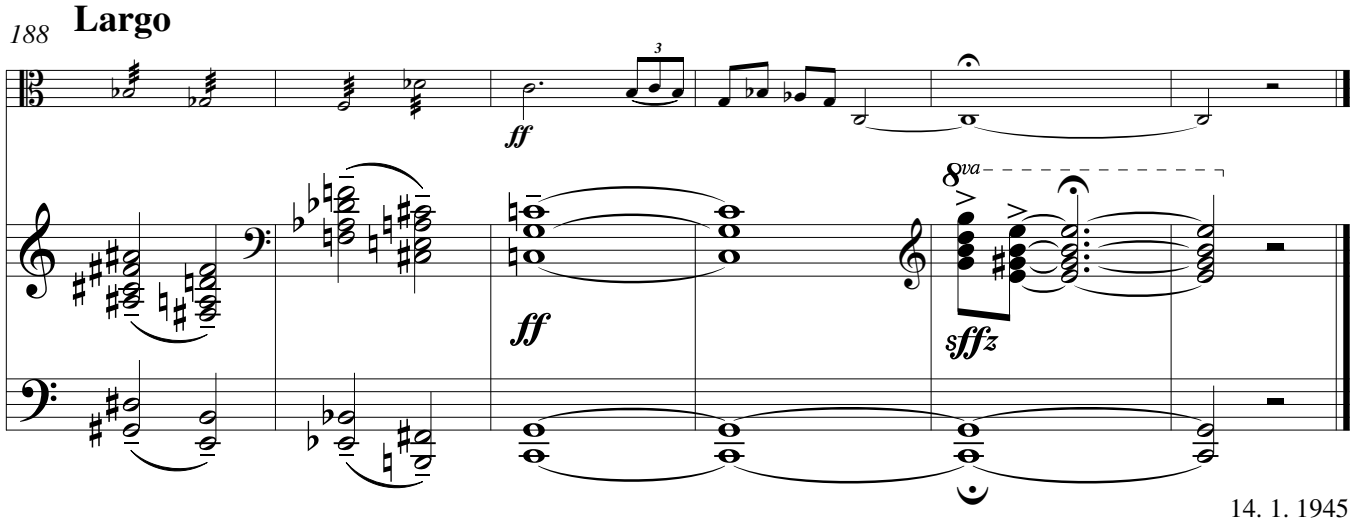

M
mf
mp
143
dolce
N
Solo
mf


150
mp
154
p
f
O
più mosso
espress.
mp
più mosso
p
legato


163
f
f
168
P
p
mp
174
mf
mf



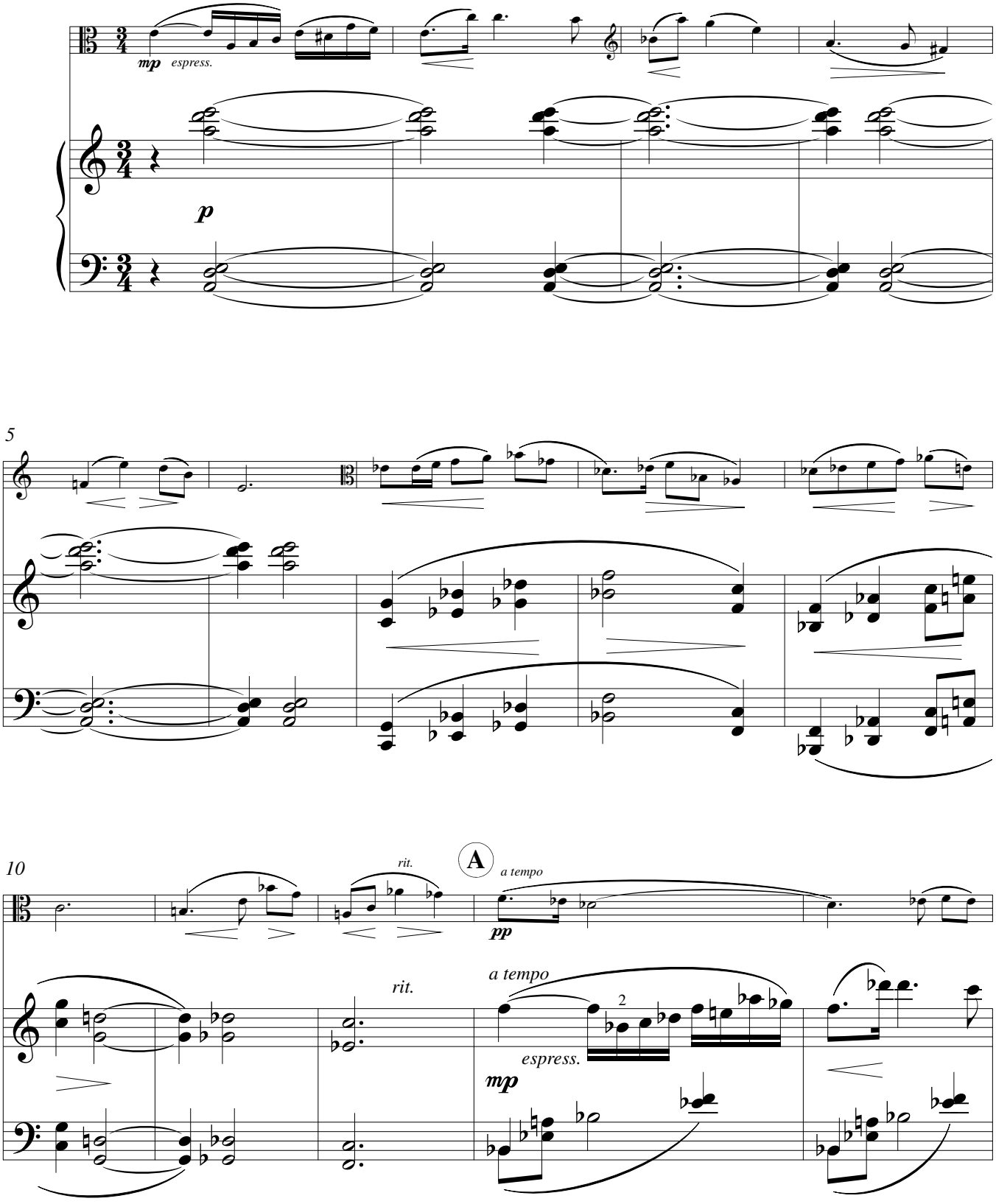




14. 1. 1945

II

Molto Andante [♩ = c. 56 – 60]



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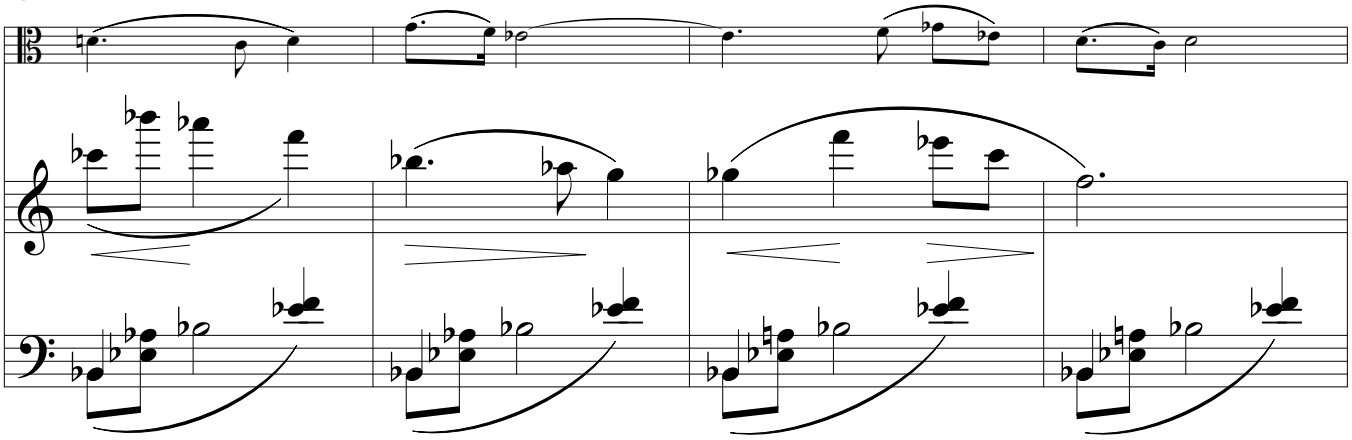

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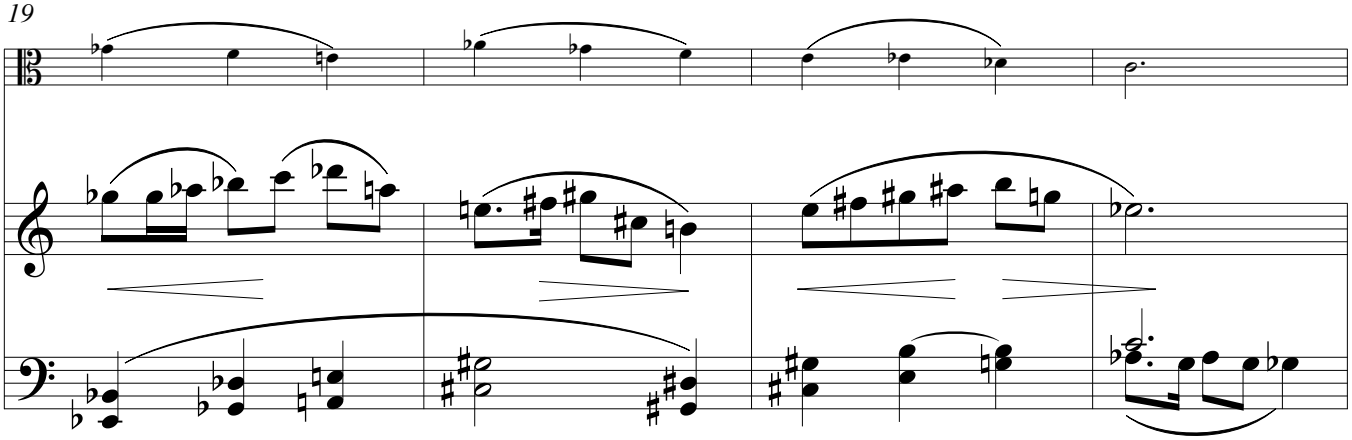
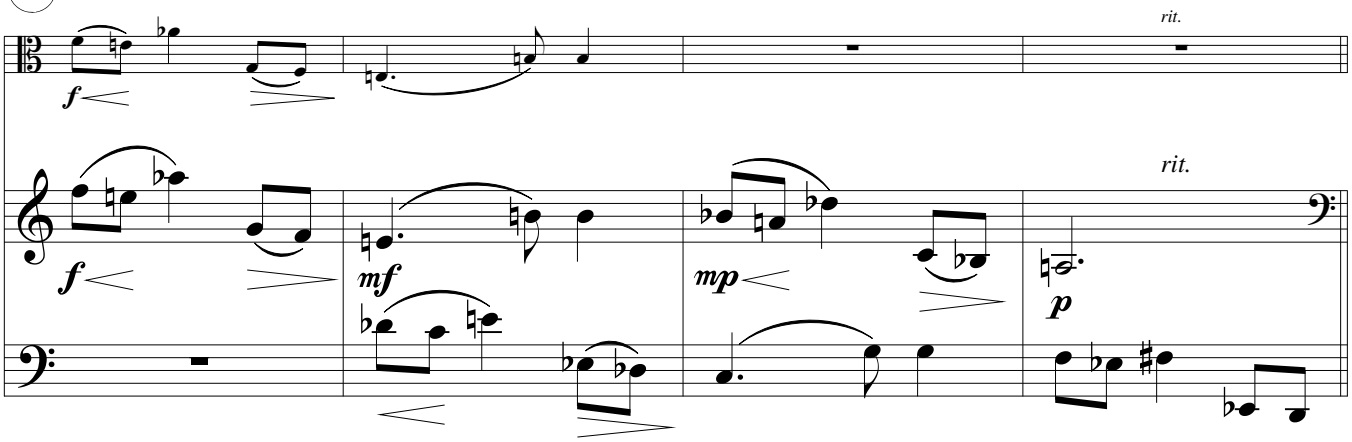
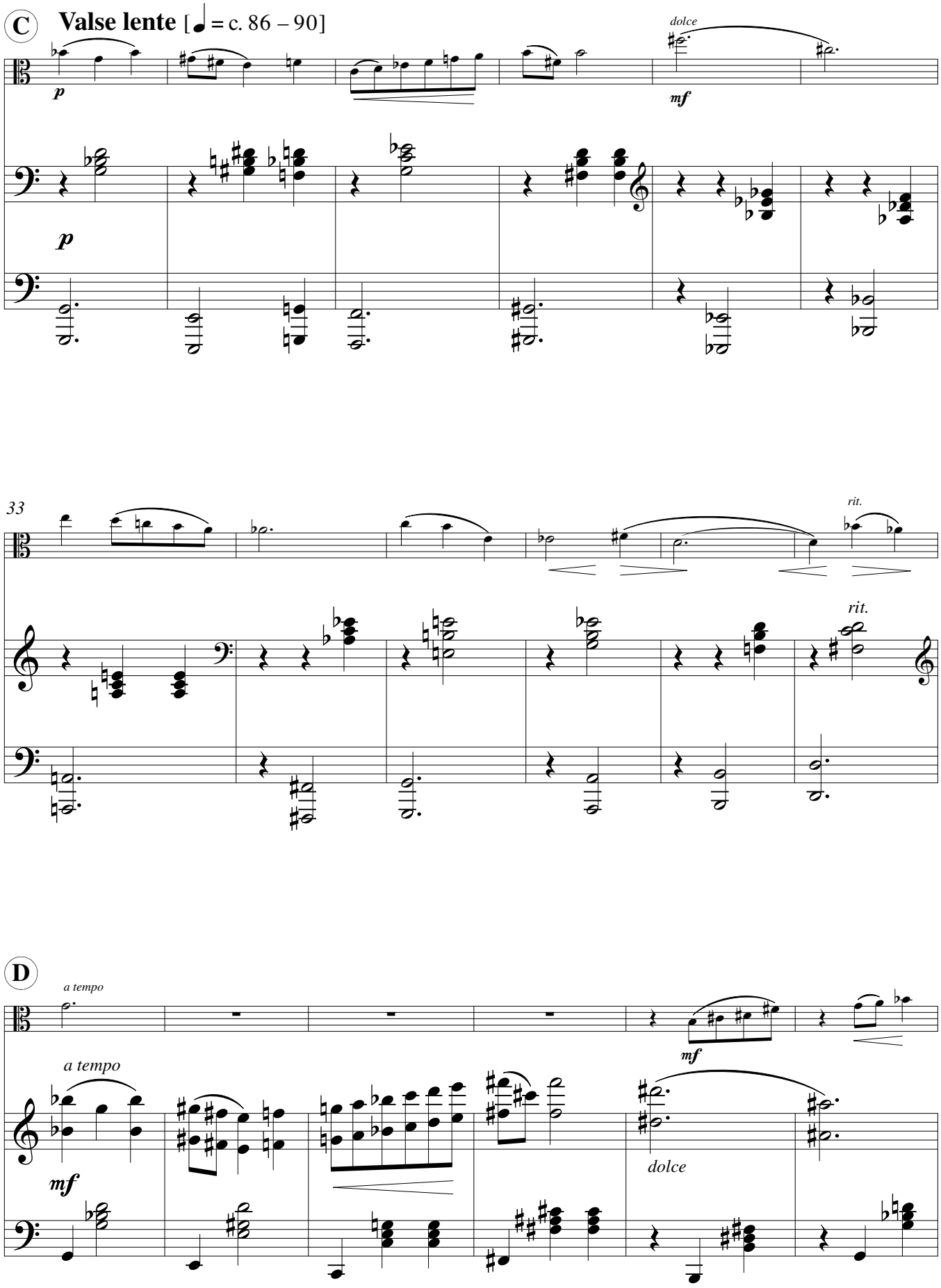
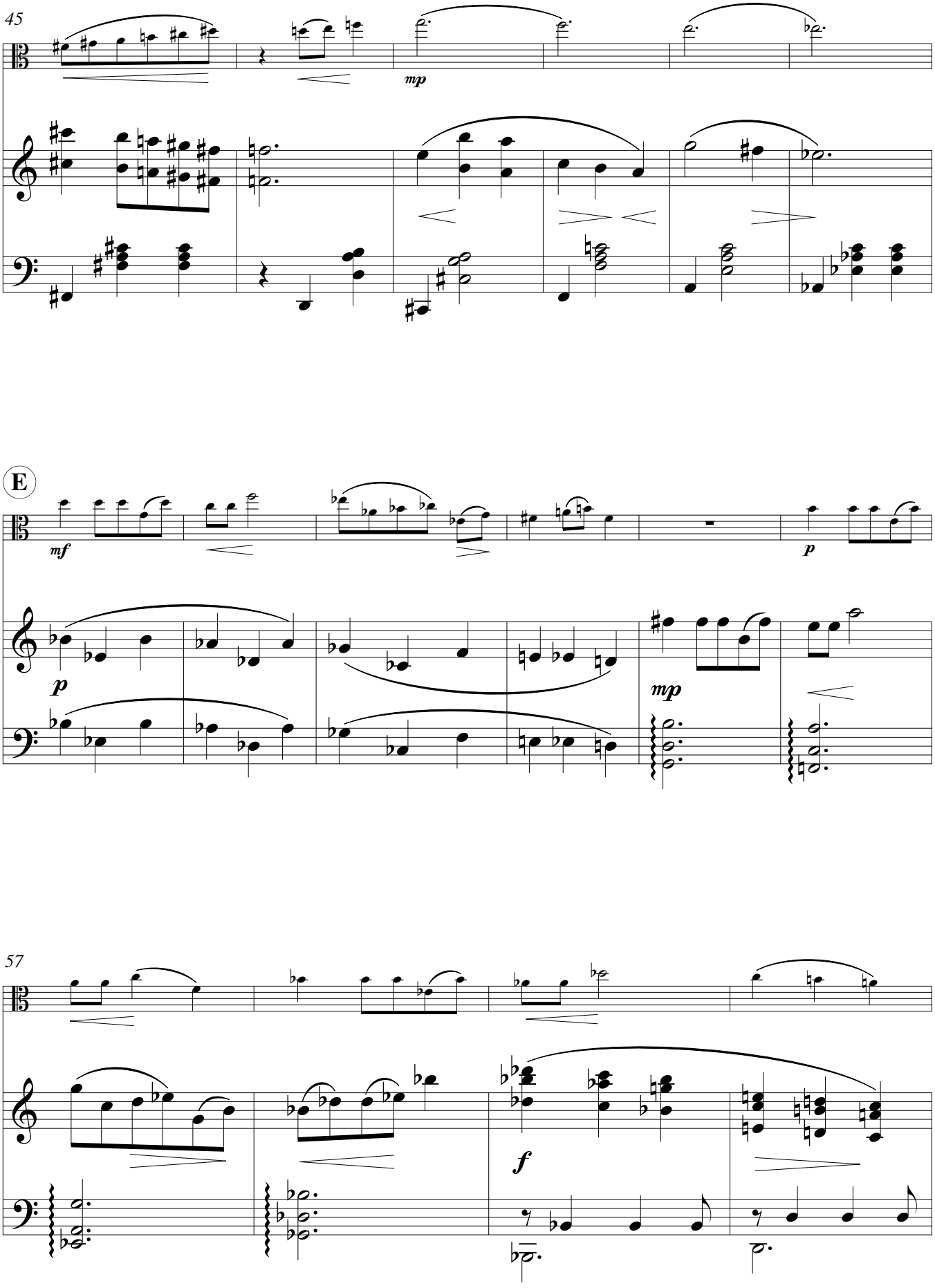
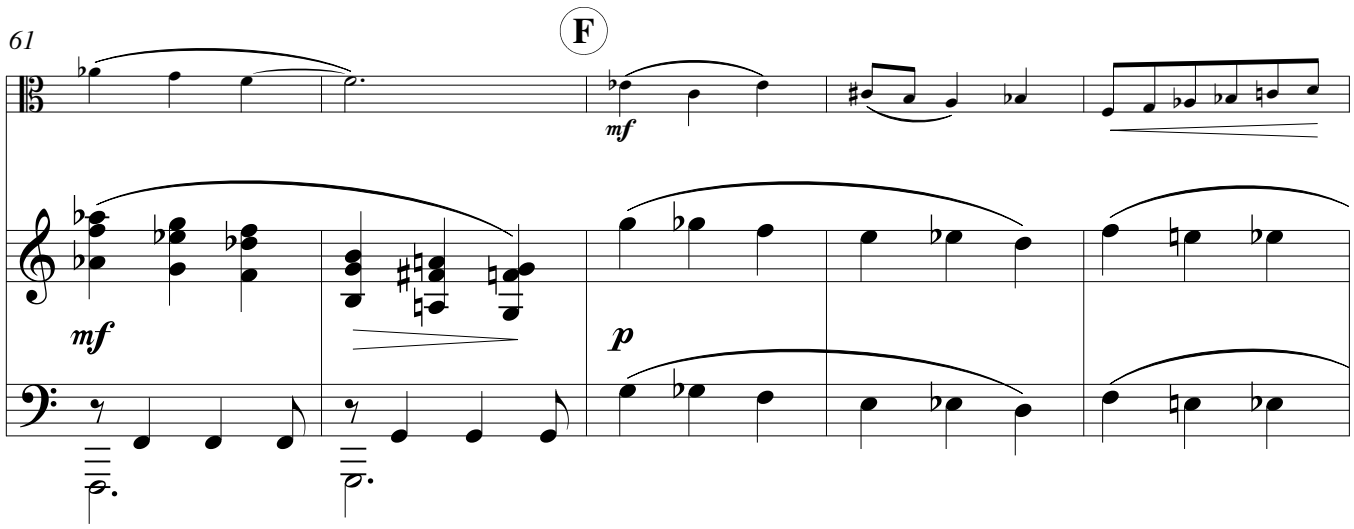


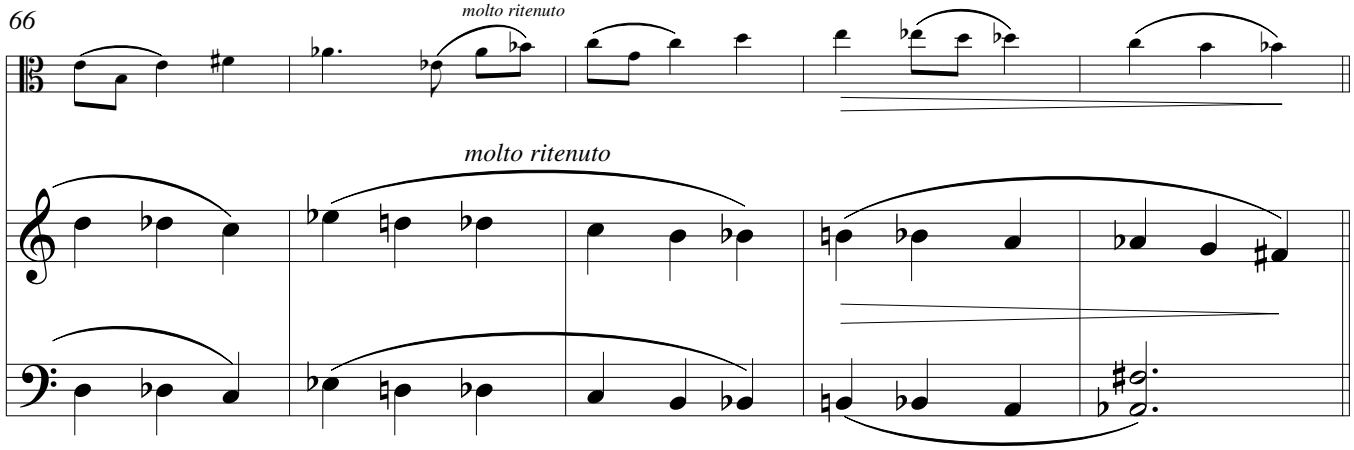
B



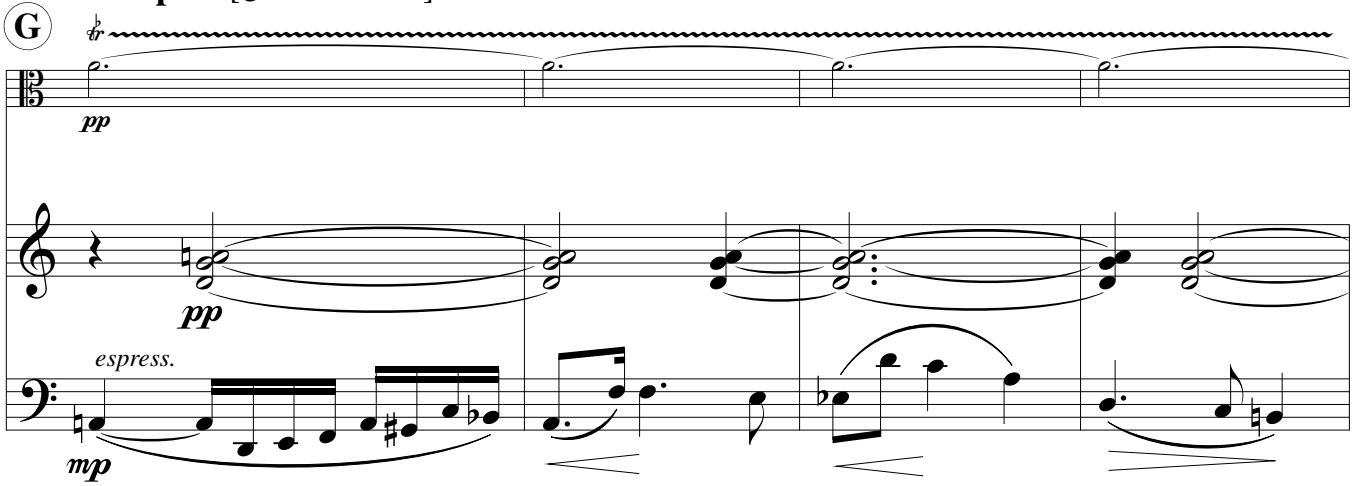

C
Valse lente [♩ = c. 86 – 90]
dolce
p
mf
p
33
rit.
rit.
D
a tempo
a tempo
mf
mf
dolce

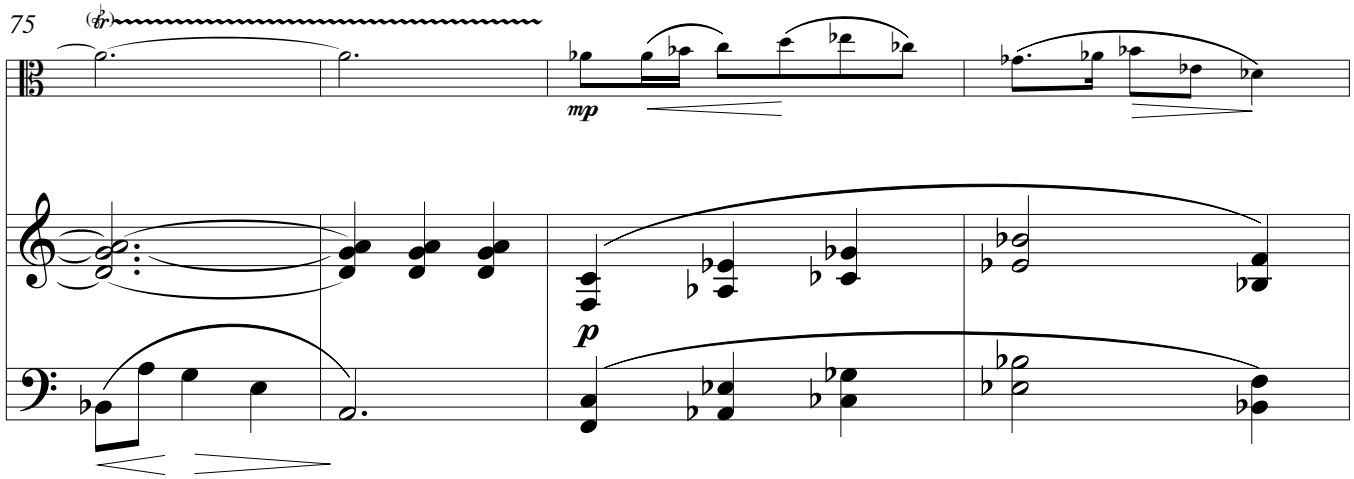

45
mp
E
mf
p
p
mp
57
f

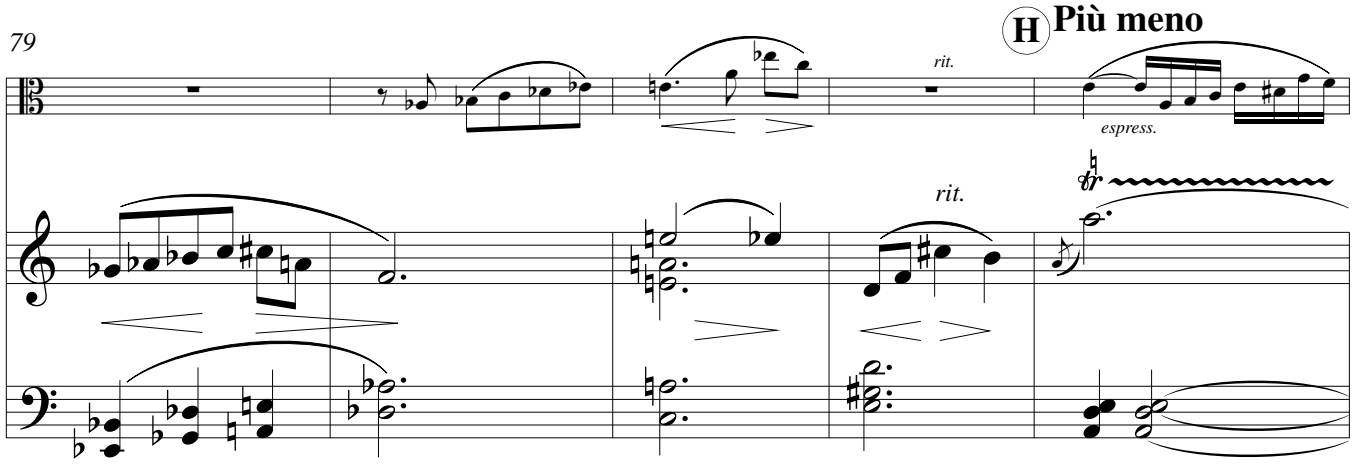


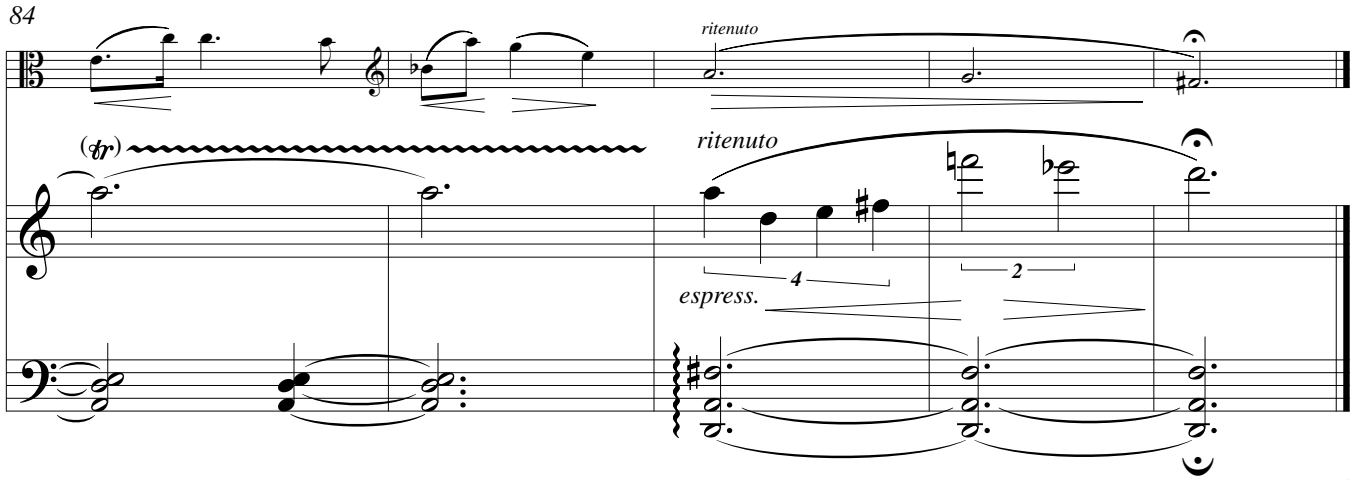


Tempo I [♩ = c. 56 – 60]




75
mp
p

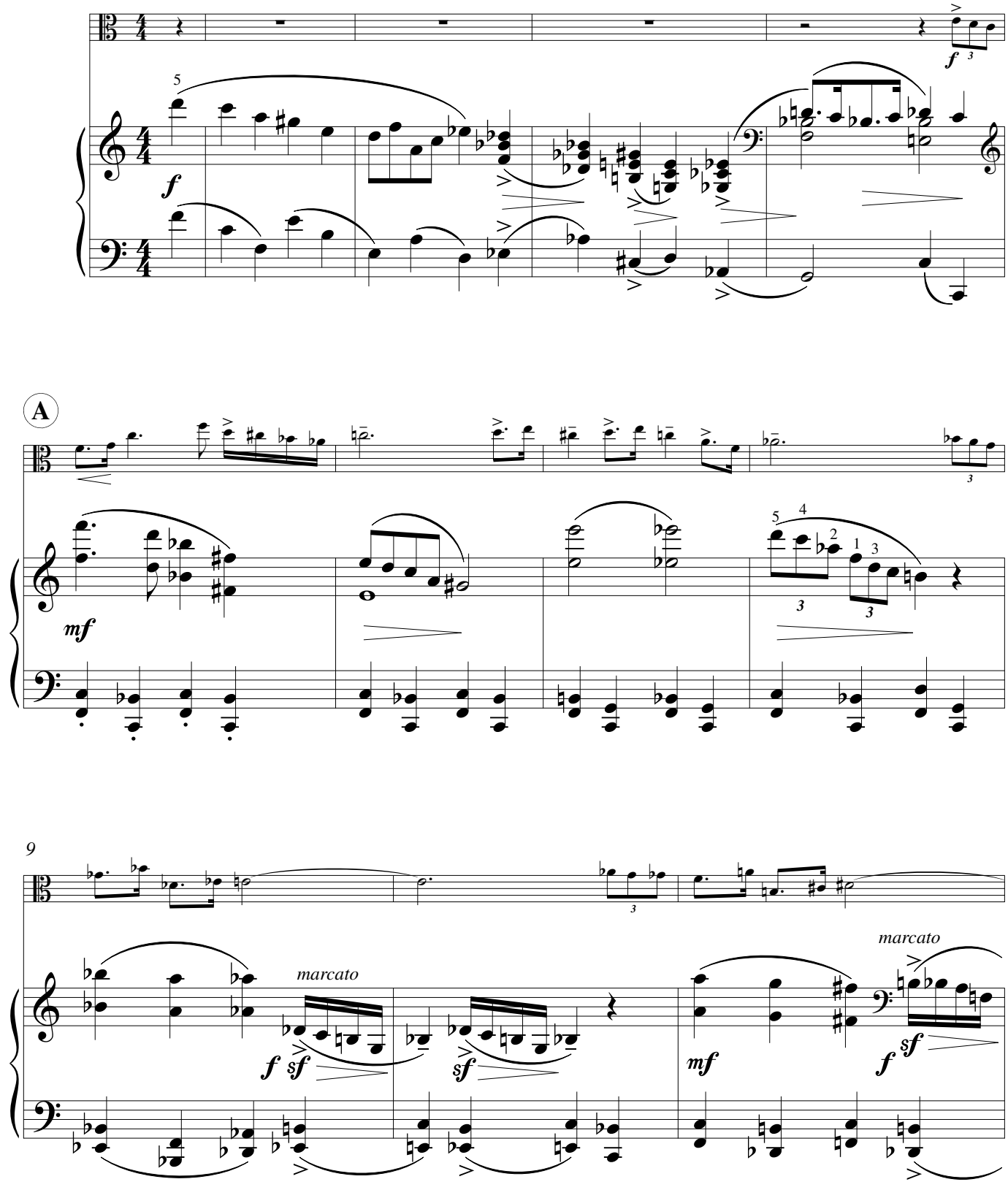

79
H Più meno
rit.
espress.
rit.


84
ritenuto
ritenuto
4
2
espress.

19. 1. 1945

III

March – Finale [♩ = c. 120 – 126]



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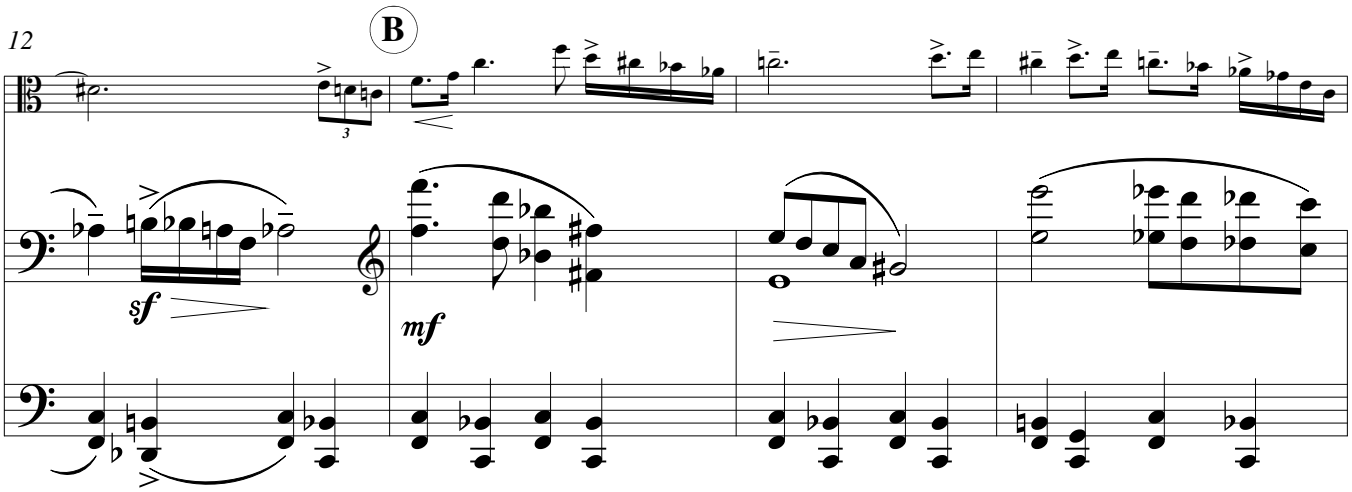

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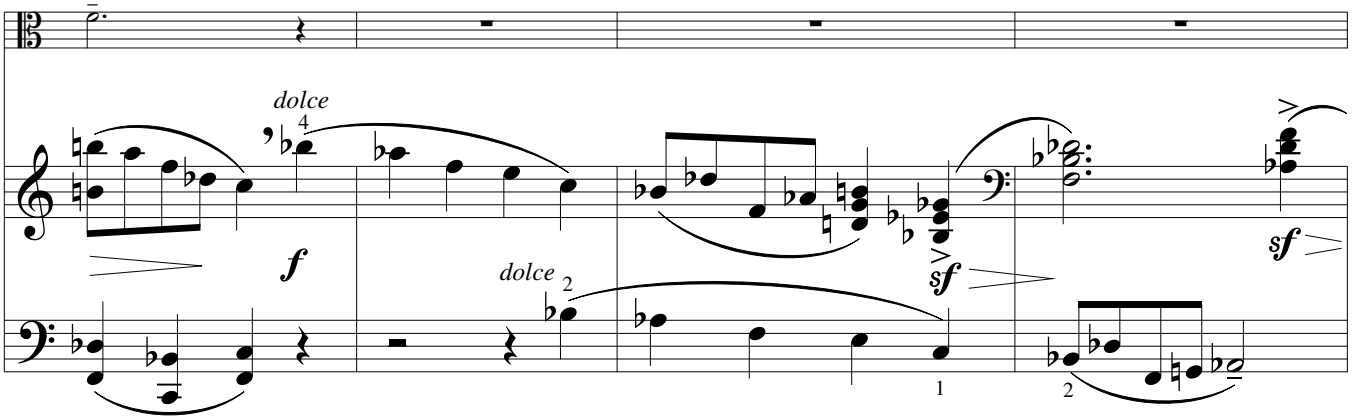
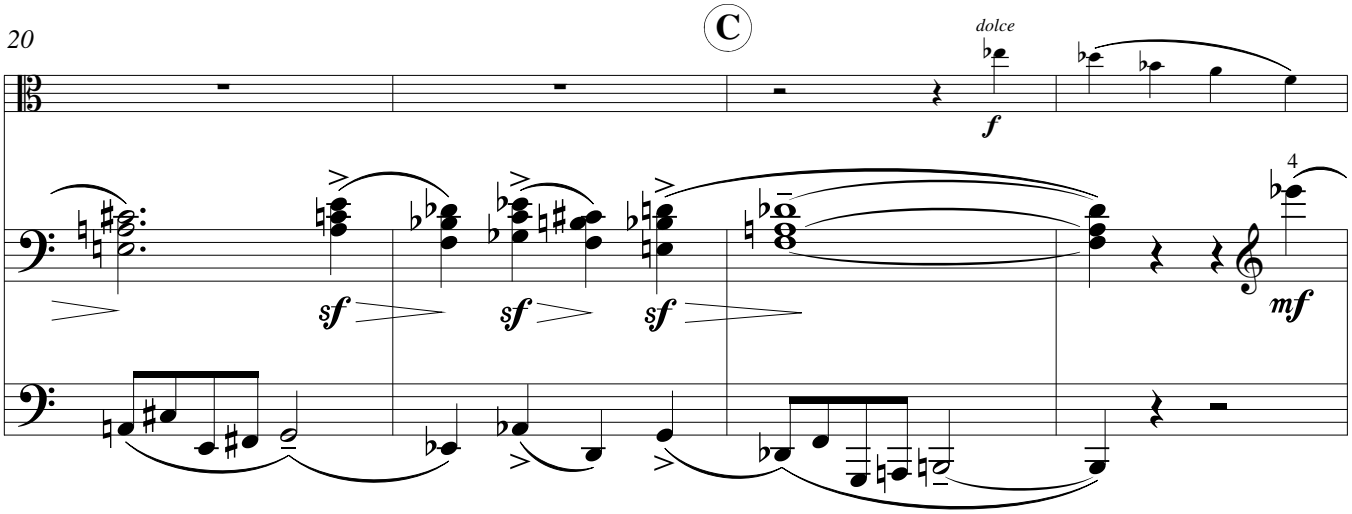
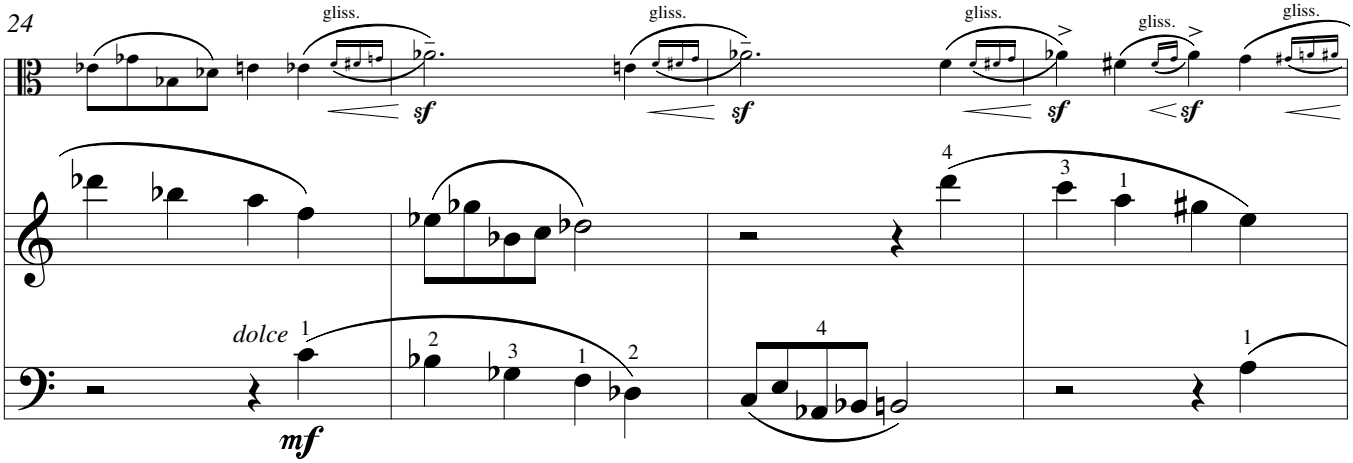
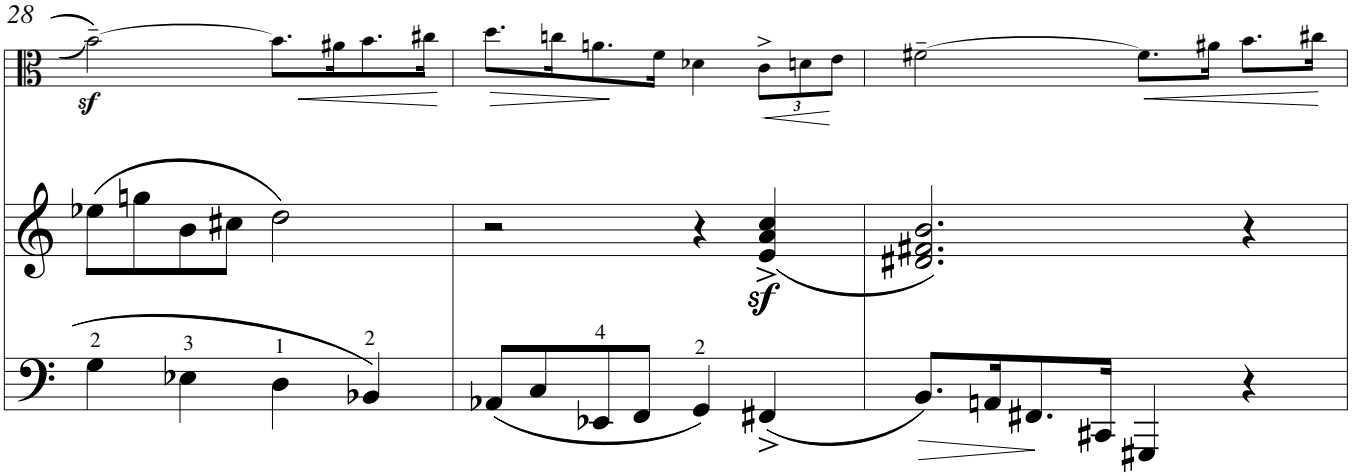
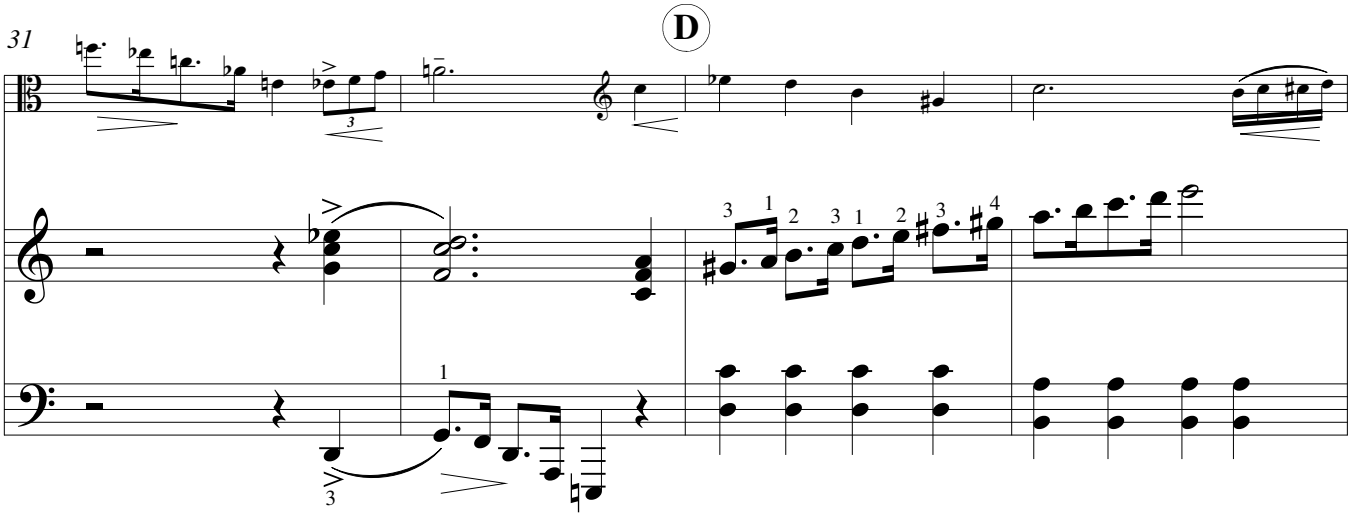


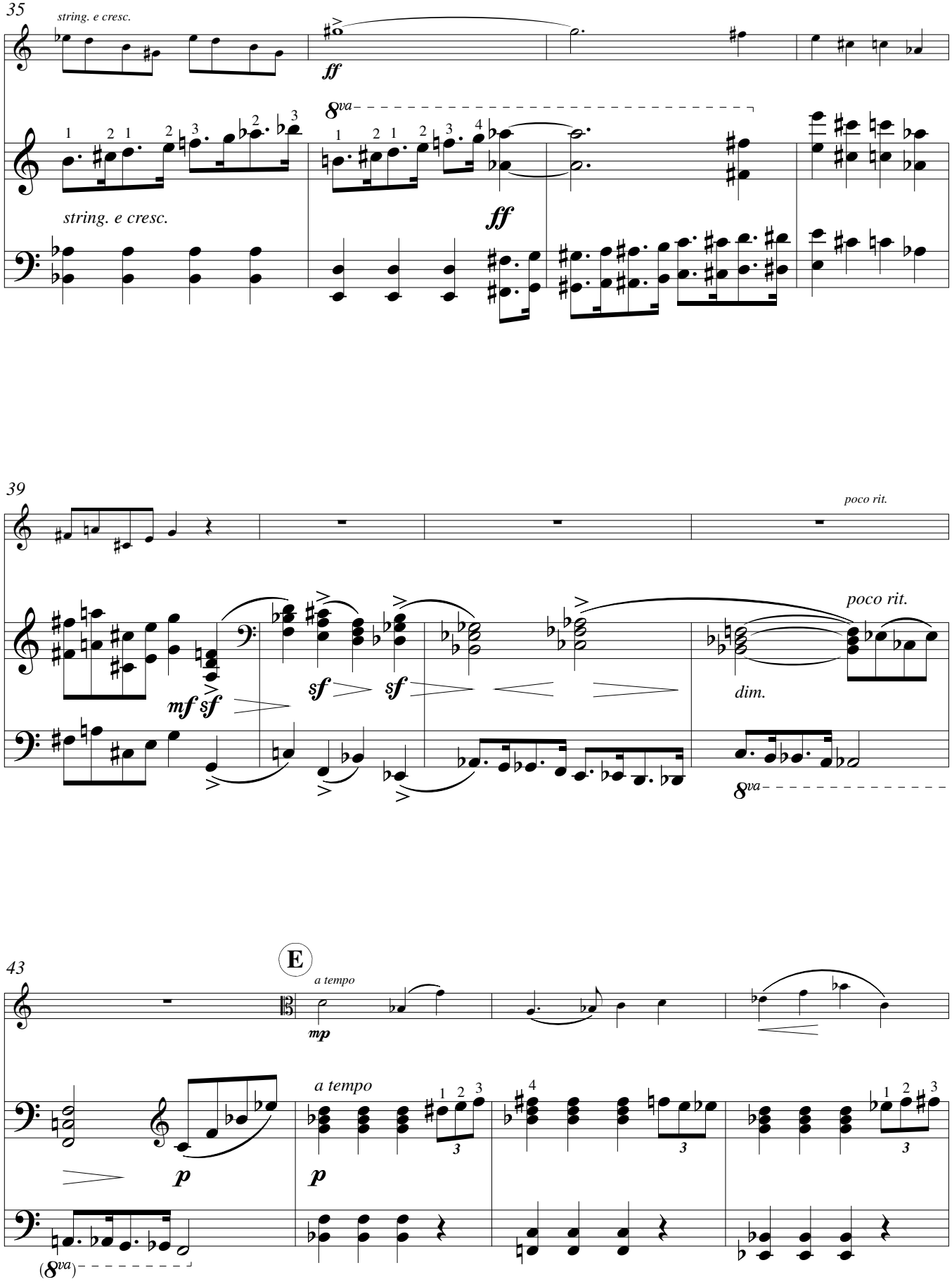
20

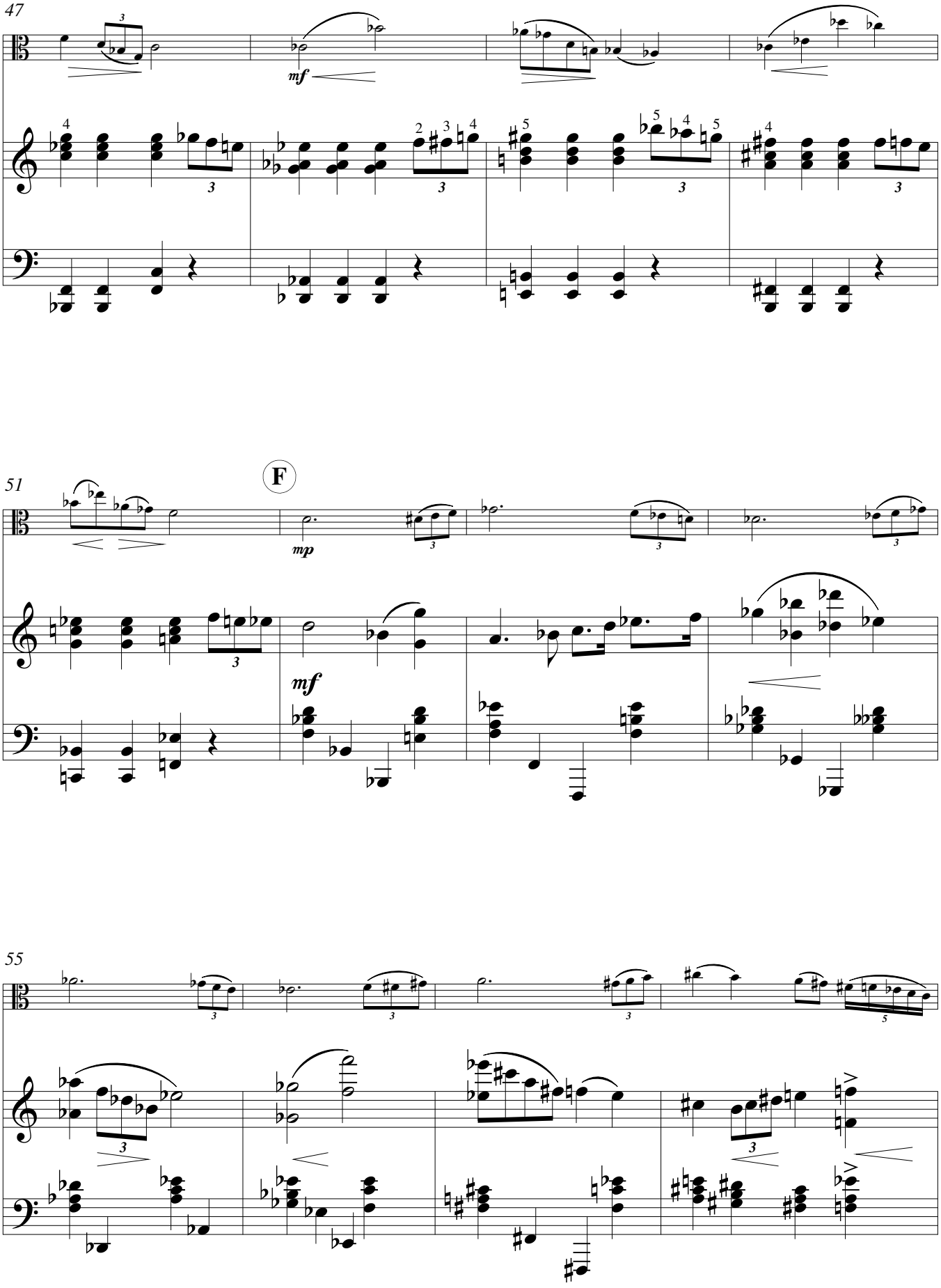


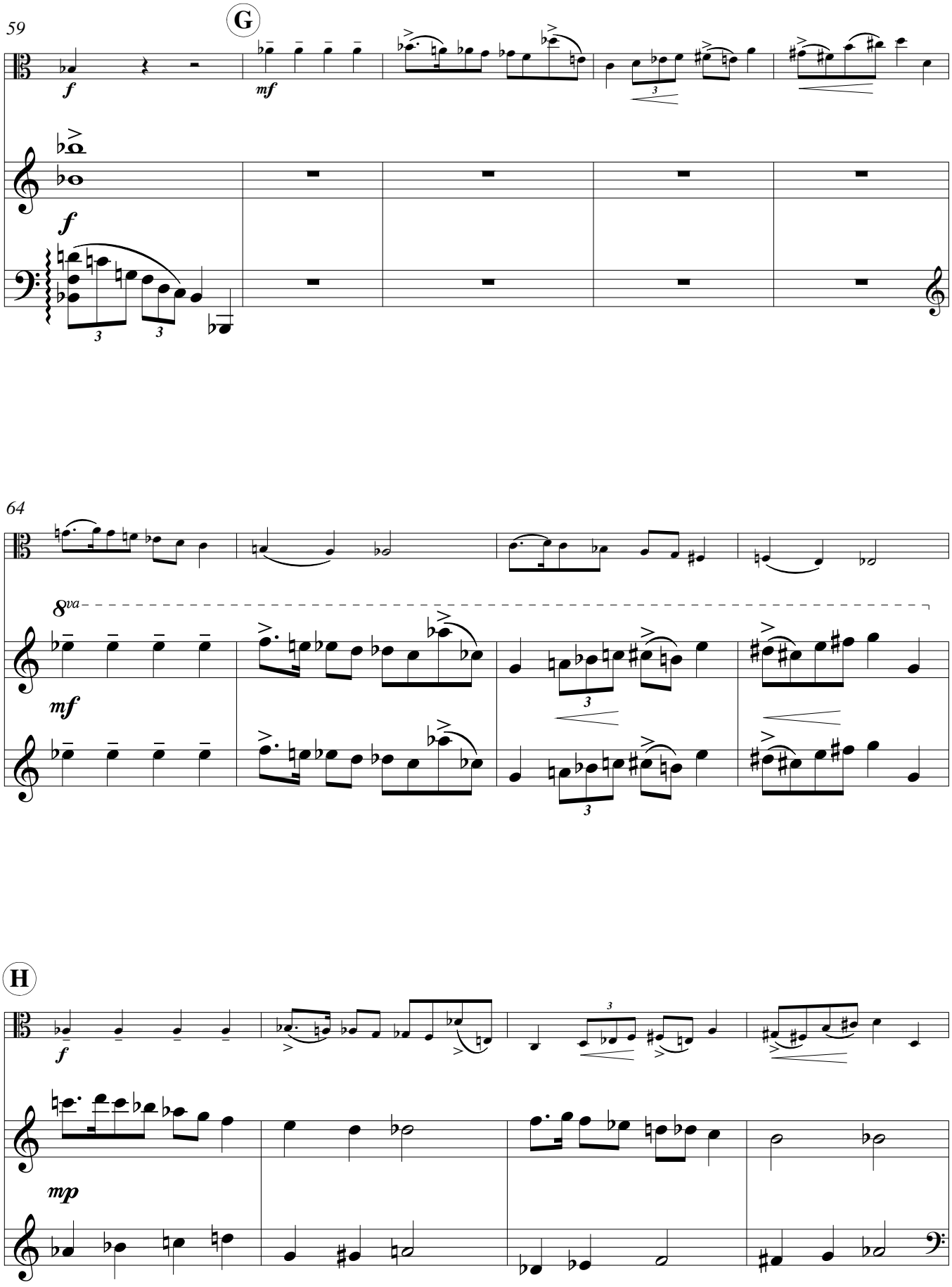

24
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
sf
sf
sf
sf
dolce
mf

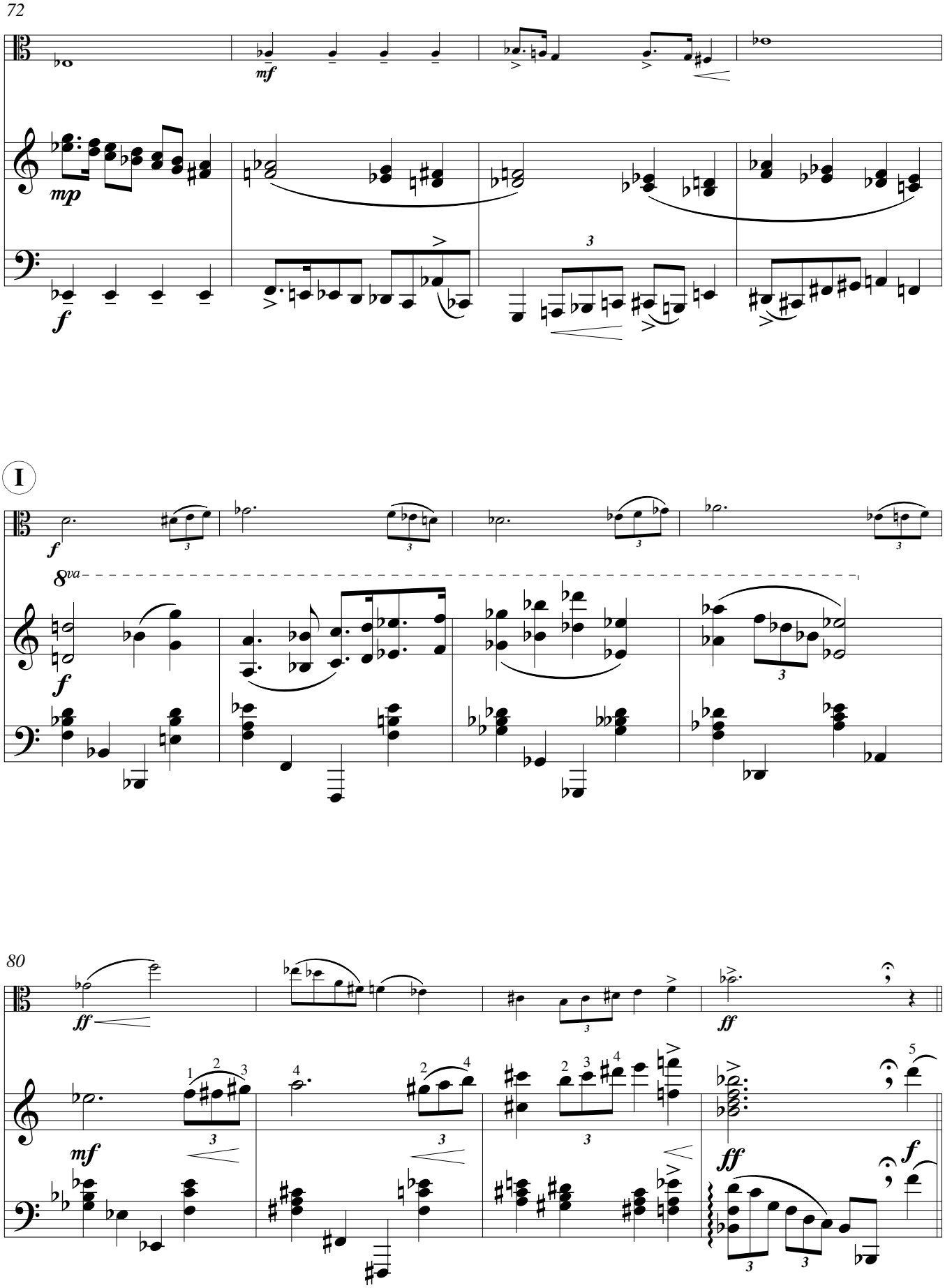

28
sf
sf


31
D

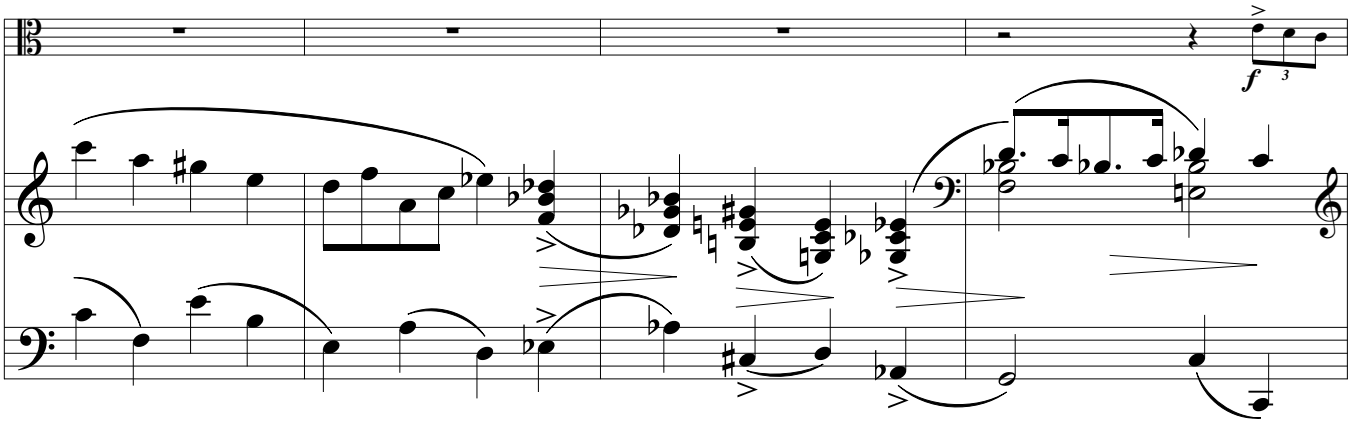

35
string. e cresc.
ff
8va
string. e cresc.
ff
39
poco rit.
poco rit.
mf sf
sf
sf
dim.
8va
43
E
a tempo
mp
a tempo
p
p
(8va)


47
mf
51
F
mp
mf
55

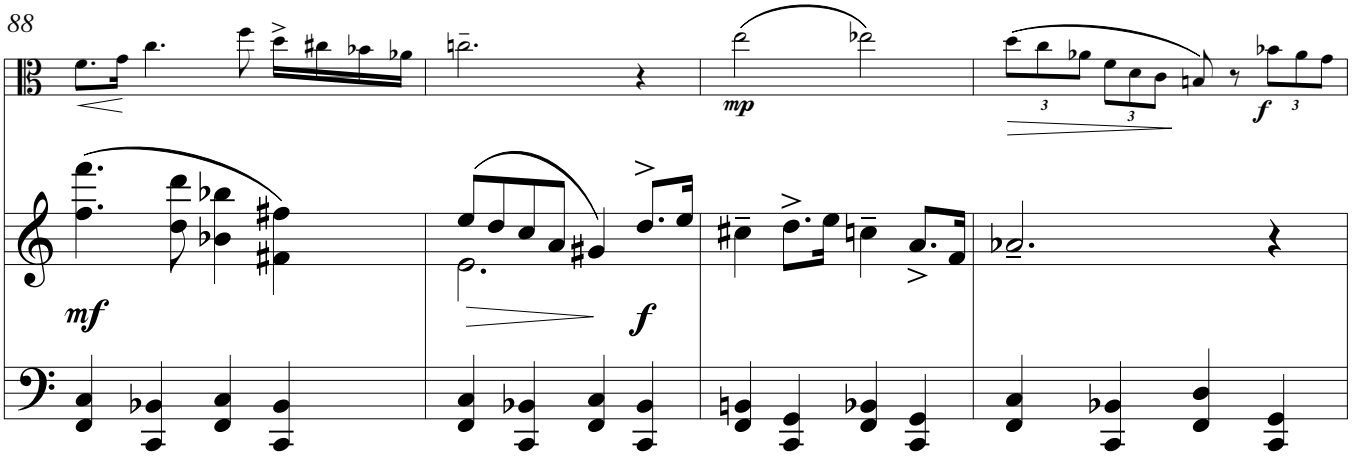

59
G
f
mf
f
64
8va
mf
H
mp


72
mf
mp
f
I
f
8va
80
ff
mf
ff
ff
f

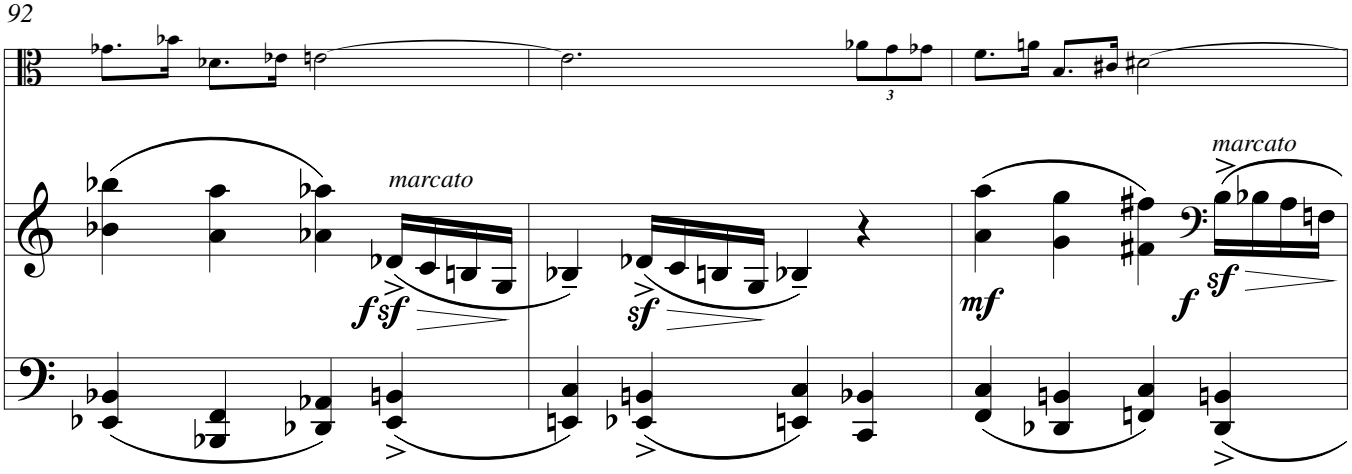
J

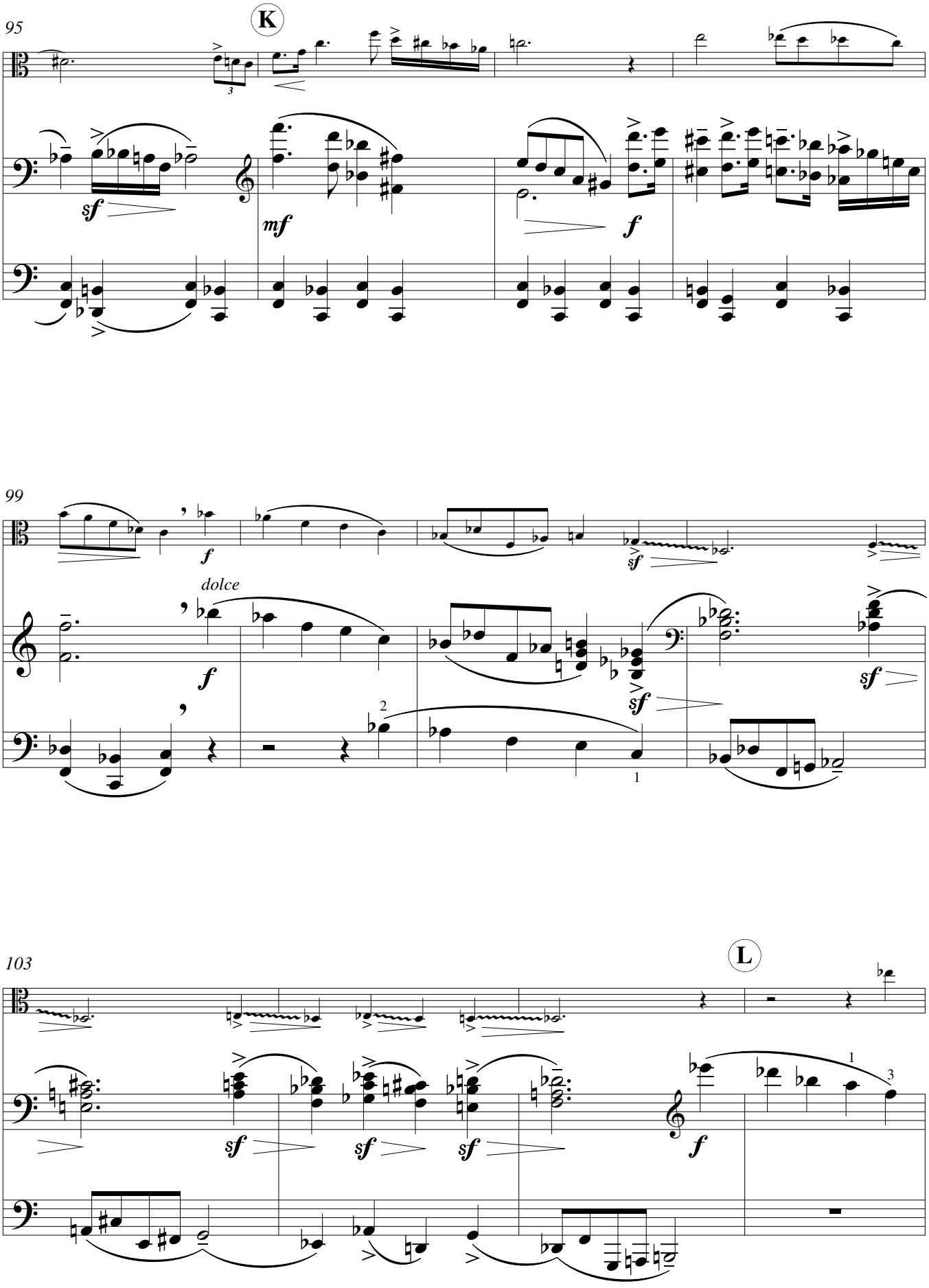


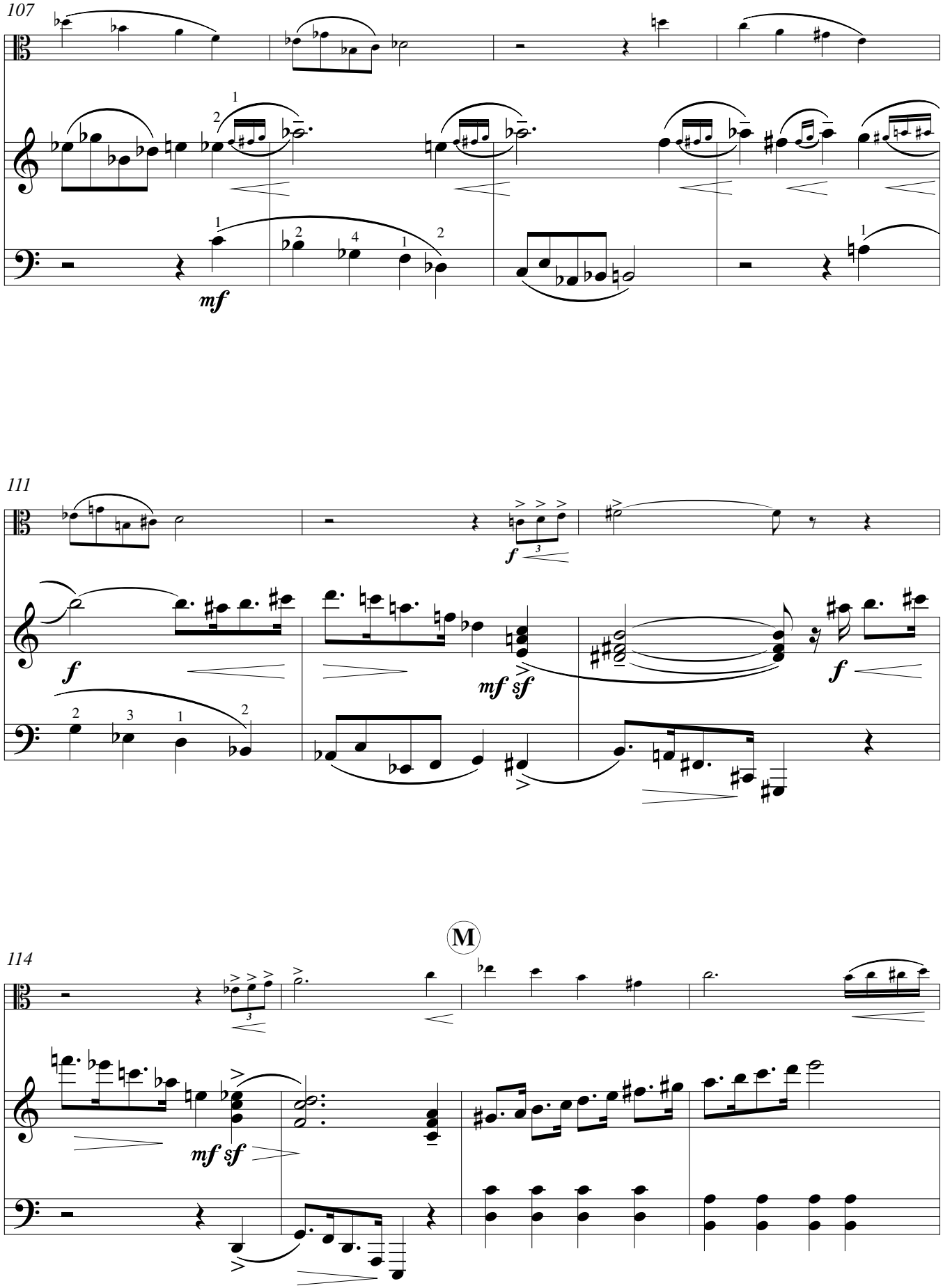
88

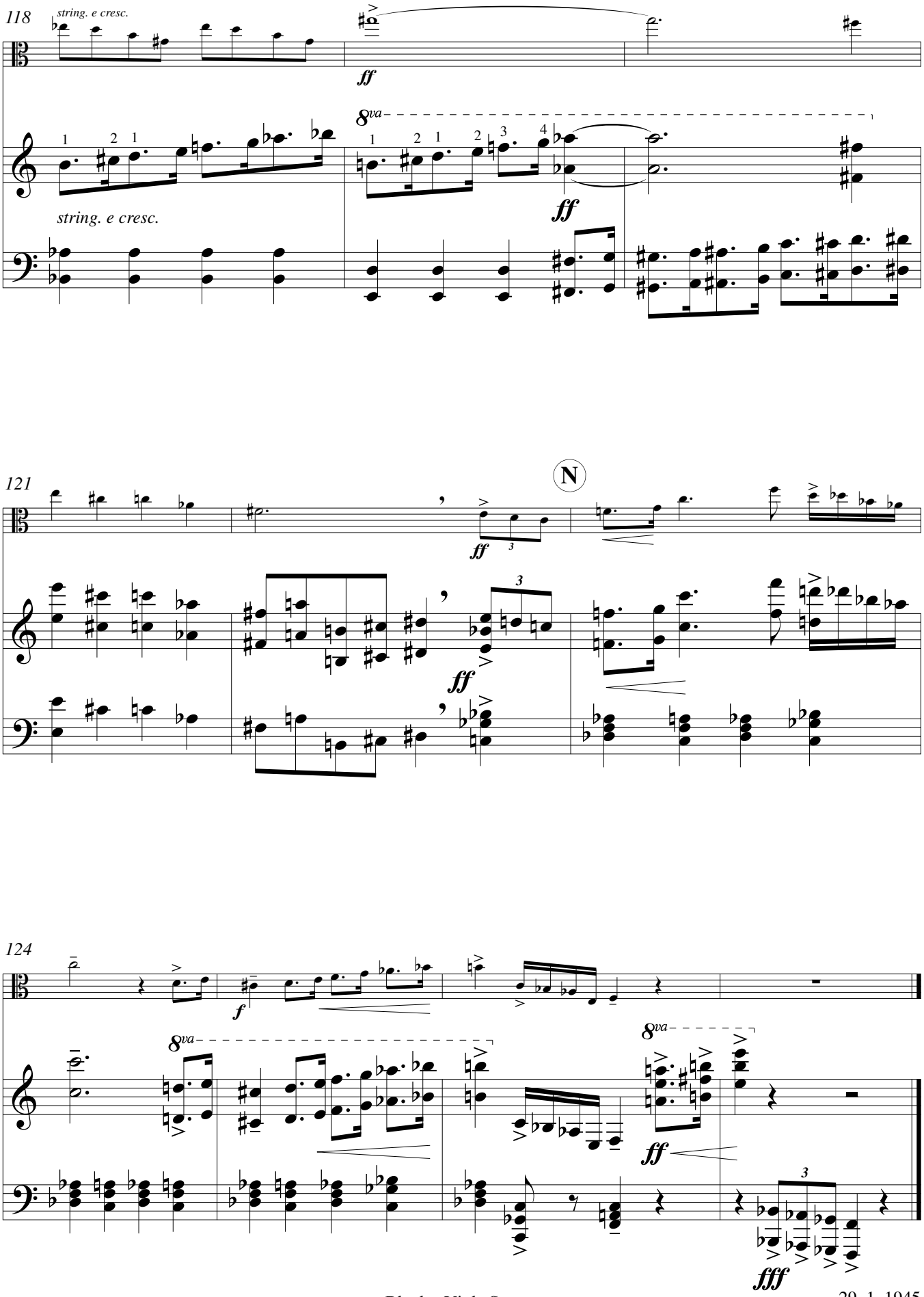


92




95
K
sf
mf
f
99
f
dolce
sf
103
L


107
mf
111
f
mf sf
f
M
114
mf sf


118
string. e cresc.
ff
8va
string. e cresc.
ff
121
N
ff
ff
124
f
8va
8va
ff
fff

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