MICHAEL KIMBER

Four Canons

for two violas

(2006 & 2008)

SoundpointMusic
Iowa City, Iowa USA

Four Canons

Canons 1, 2, and 4 were composed in October 2006 at the request of Timothy Deighton, viola professor at Penn State University, and were premiered by him and Daniel Avshalomov, violist of the American String Quartet, in a shared recital for the New York Viola Society on December 4, 2006.

Canons 1 and 4 are exercises in twelve-tone composition. While I rarely compose in this idiom, I find the process of making engaging music out of pre-compositionally determined sets of pitches to be intriguing. Thank you, Arnold, Alban, Anton, et al.

Canon 2 is not twelve-tone; it could be considered an homage to 20th-century composer and violist Paul Hindemith. Violists will recognize the similarity of the canon's opening to music heard in both the first movement of Hindemith's *Trauermusik* for viola and strings and the "Grablegung" movement of his symphony *Mathis der Maler.*

Canon 3 was composed in April 2008 for Timothy Deighton to perform with Panamanian violinist Graciela Núñez, along with canons 1, 2, and 4 arranged for violin and viola, at the ASM Music Festival of Panama on June 8, 2008. This canon, also twelve-tone, is the first piece that I had managed to compose in over a year. I'm reminded that Arnold Schoenberg returned to composing, after a three-year hiatus, with his first twelve-tone work.

Knowing that the performers for the premiere would have very little time to rehearse together, I tried to keep the music fairly easy to play. I hope that this will also make it accessible to students and that they may benefit from the experience of learning to negotiate its unexpected pitches and sometimes capricious rhythms. In rehearsal it is a good idea to practice the parts together (in unison) before playing them in canon.

Michael Kimber

PLEASE DO NOT PHOTOCOPY THIS MUSIC!

Additional copies of the music can be obtained promptly
and at reasonable price from the composer:

Michael Kimber
12 N. Mount Vernon Drive
Iowa City, IA 52245-3707
USA

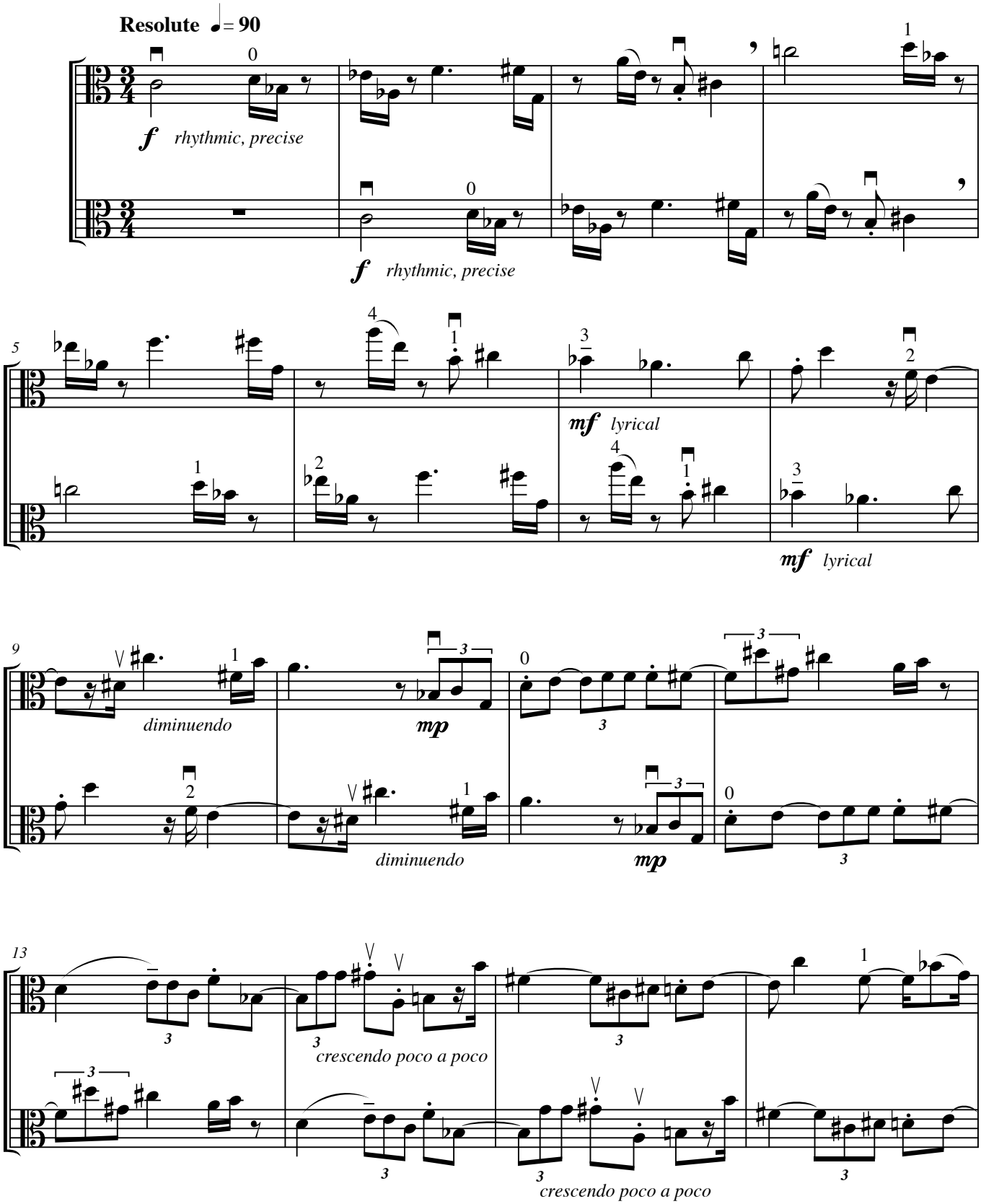
(319) 339-7232
mkimber@centurylink.net
http://m_kimber.tripod.com

Four Canons

Duration: 1:04

I

Michael Kimber



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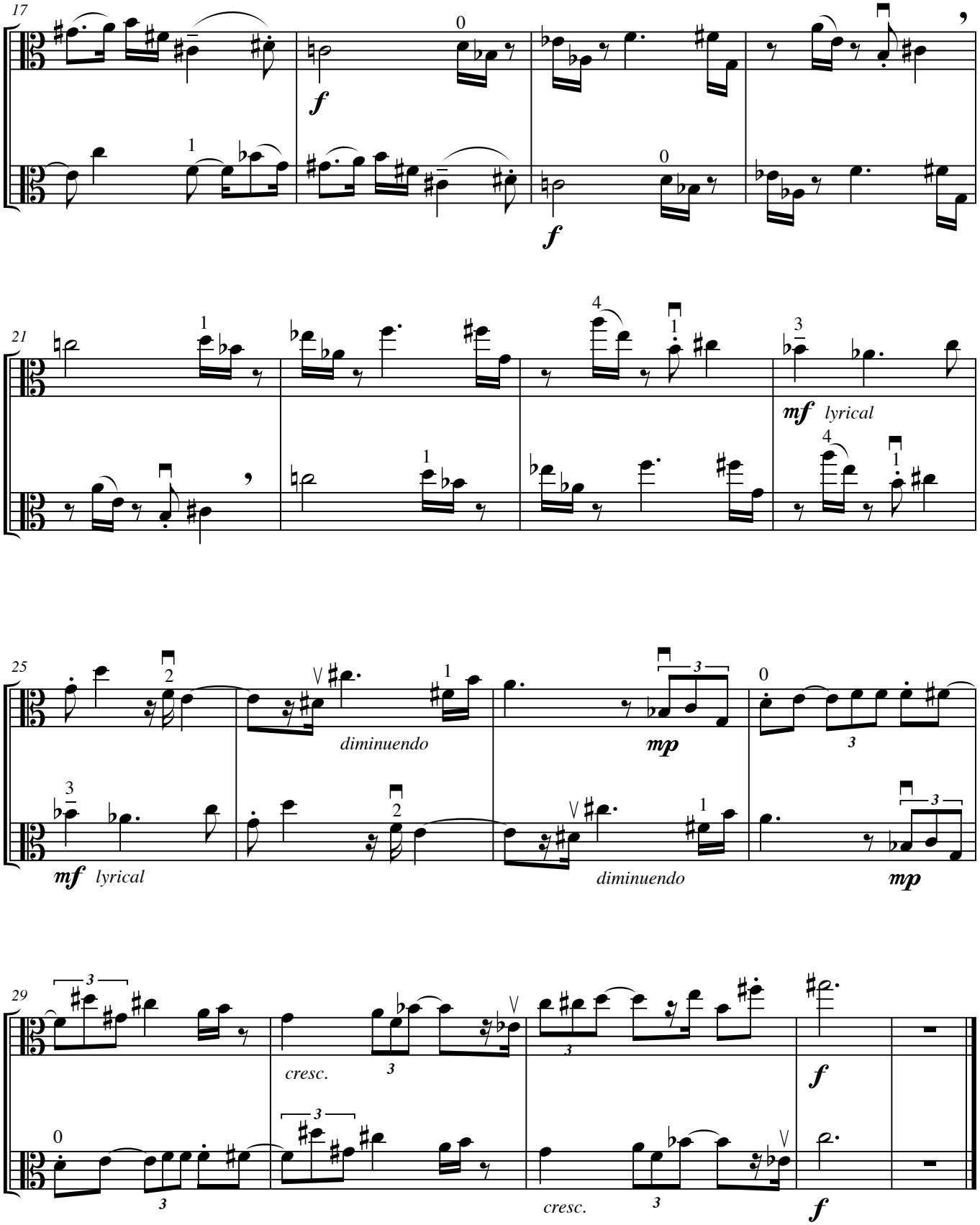
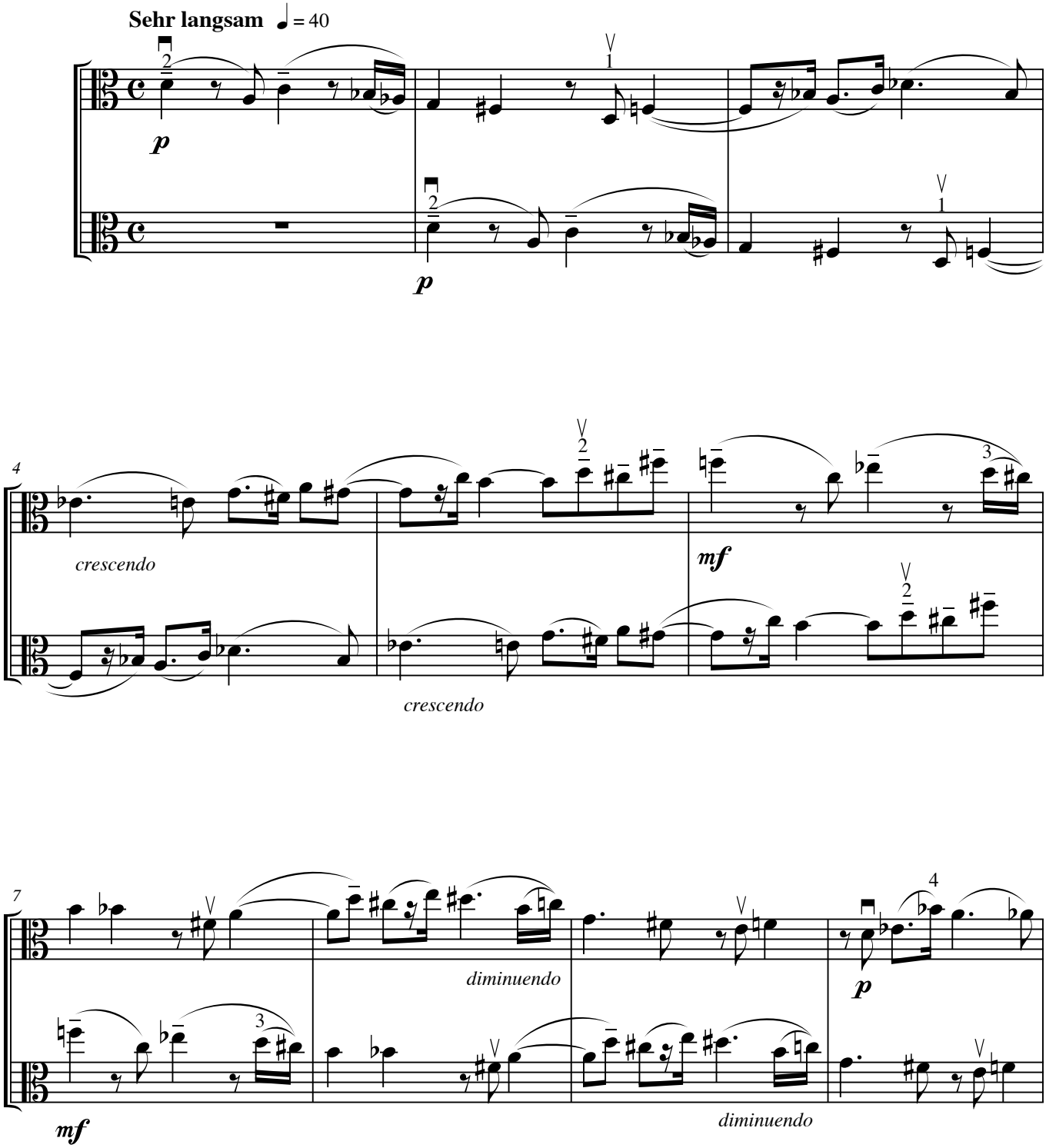

17
f
f
21
mf lyrical
mf lyrical
25
diminuendo
mp
diminuendo
mp
29
cresc.
f
cresc.
f

Four Canons

II

Duration: 2:00

Michael Kimber



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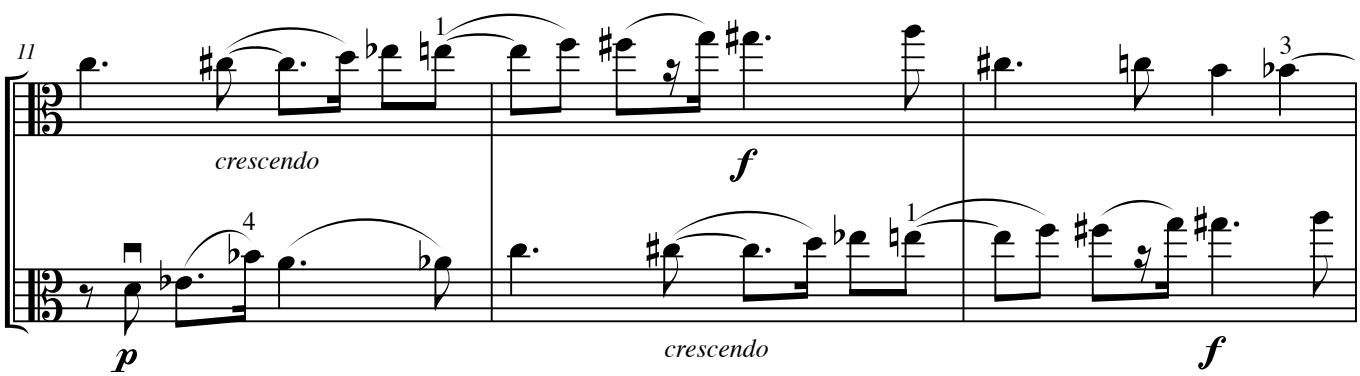
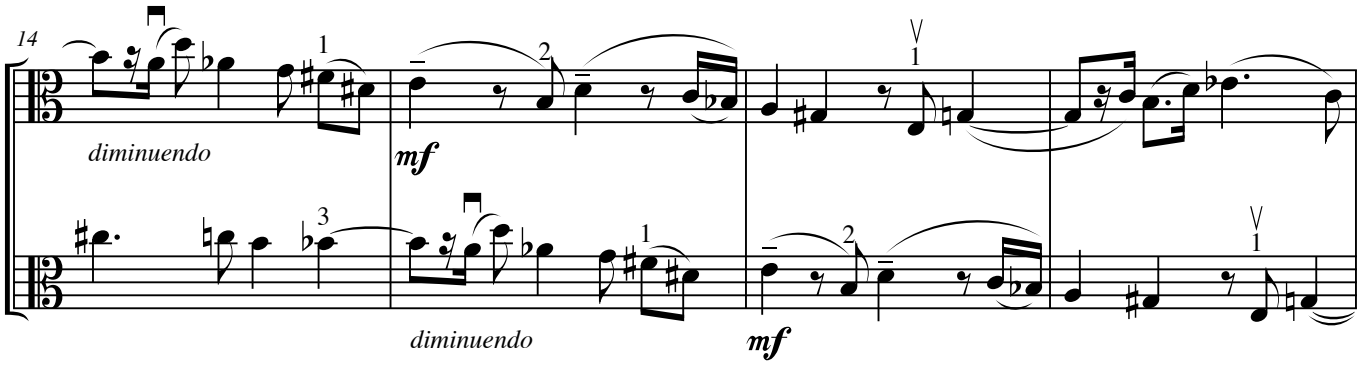
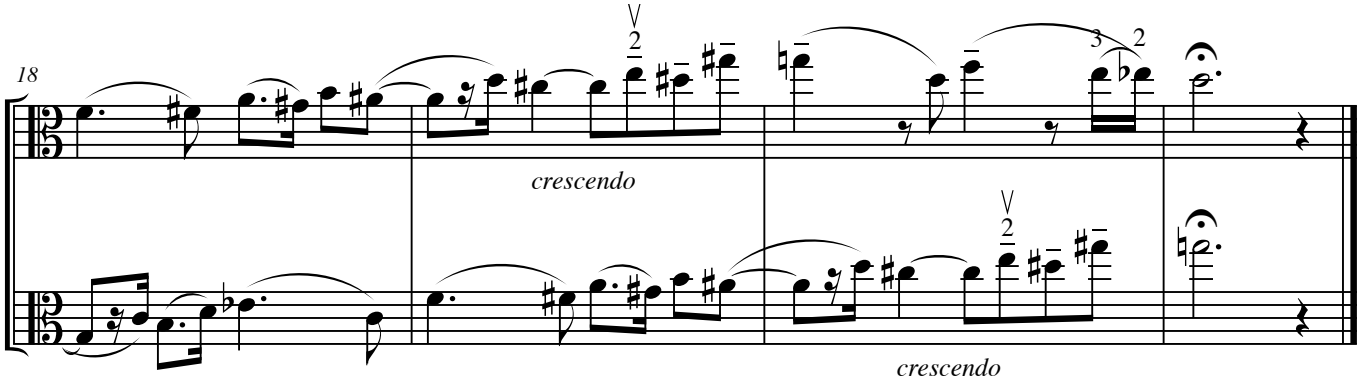

11
crescendo
f
p
crescendo
f


14
diminuendo
mf
diminuendo
mf


18
crescendo
crescendo

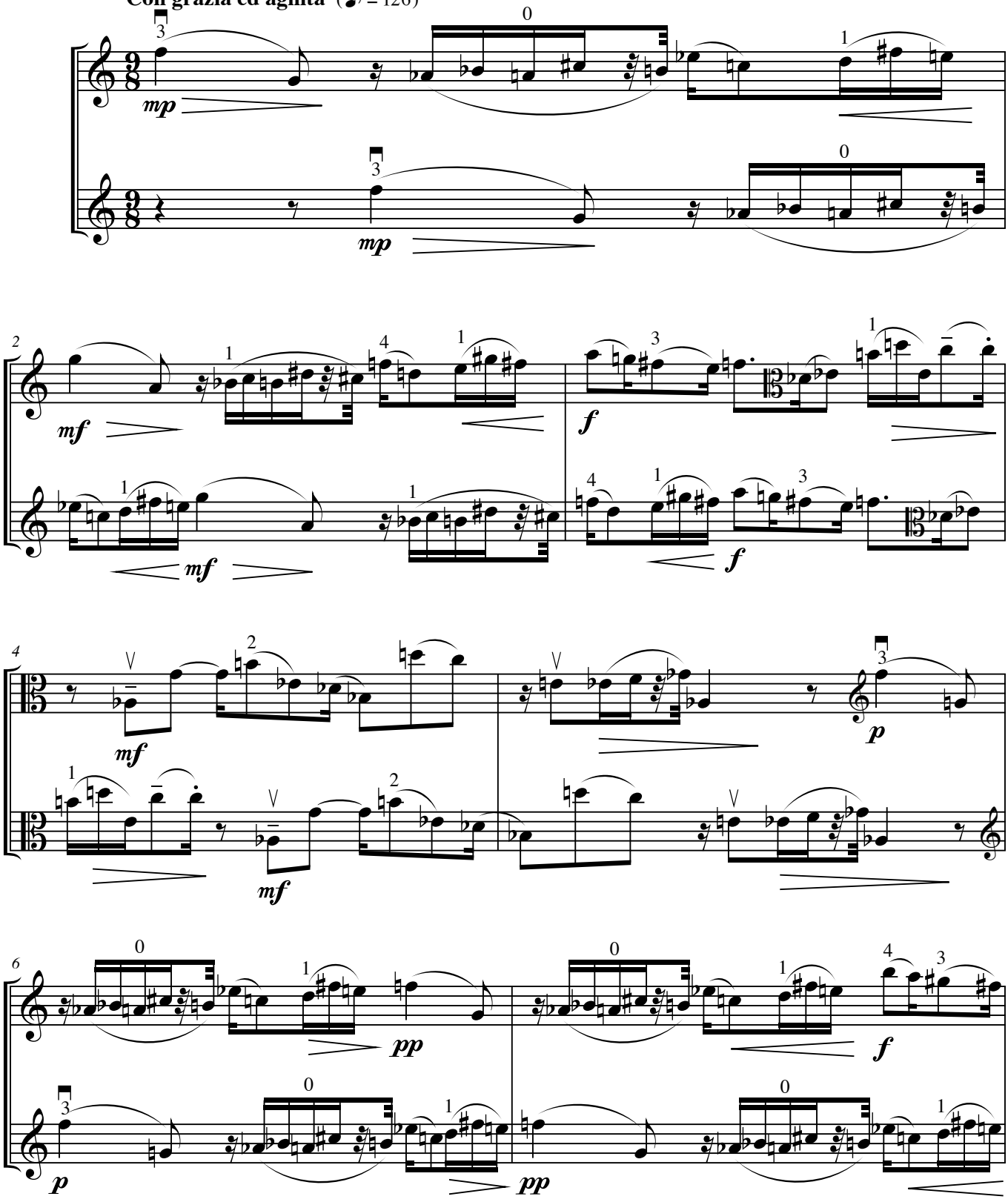
Four Canons

III

Duration: 1:00

Michael Kimber

Con grazia ed agilità (♪ = 126)



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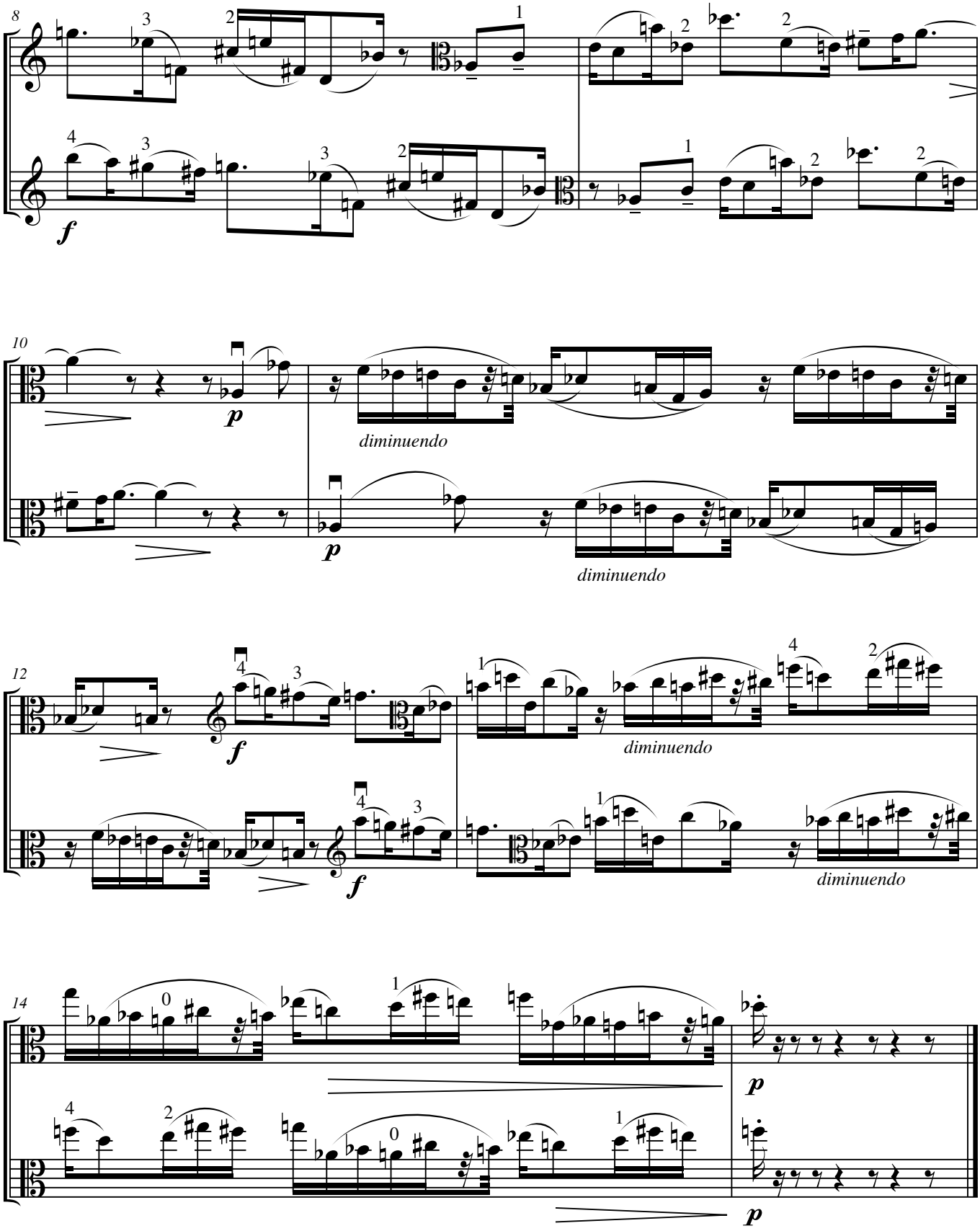
8
f
10
p
diminuendo
p
diminuendo
12
f
diminuendo
f
diminuendo
14
p
p

Four Canons

IV

Duration: 0:50

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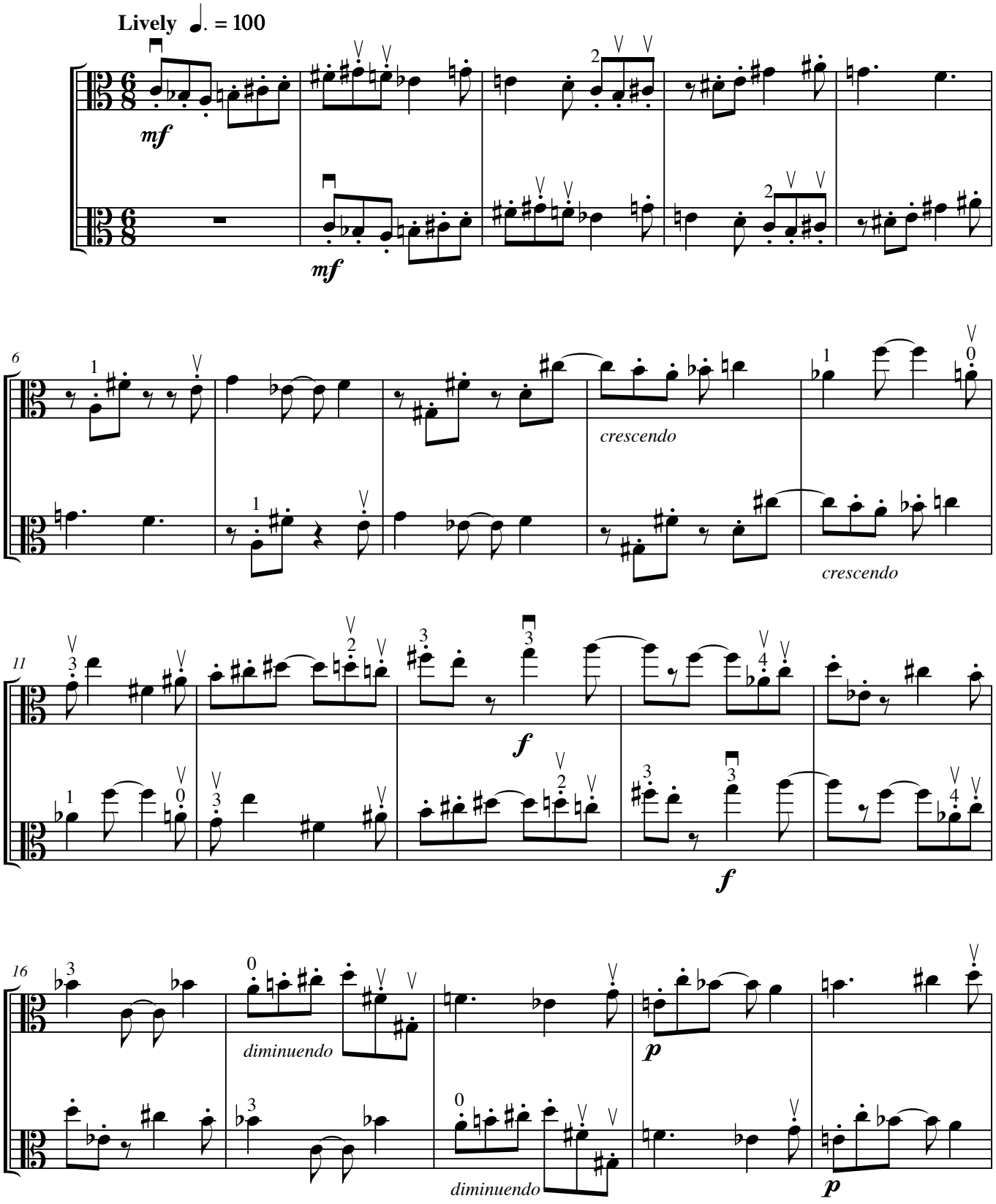

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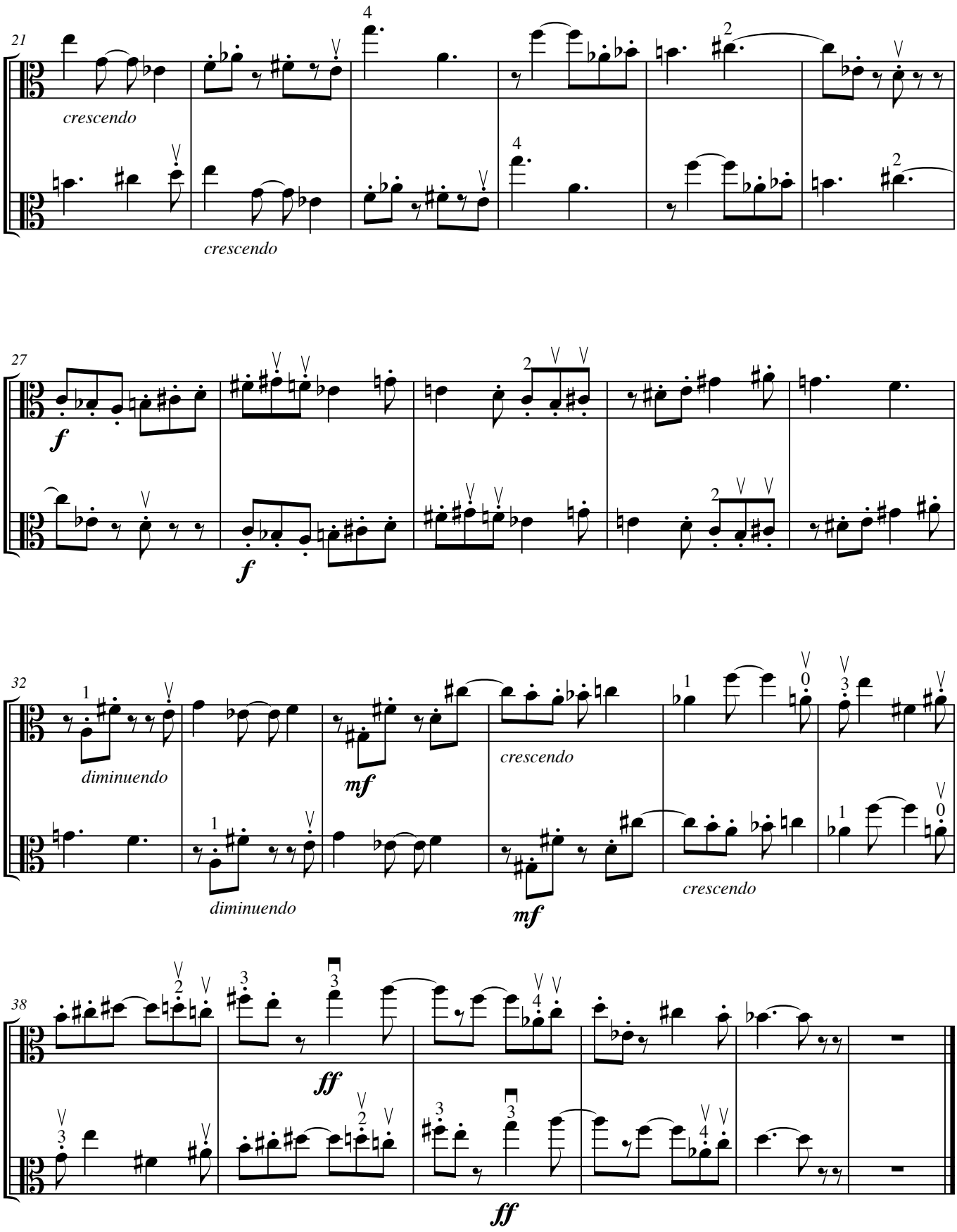
21
crescendo
crescendo
27
f
f
32
diminuendo
diminuendo
mf
mf
crescendo
crescendo
38
ff
ff