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Lancaster, David ORCID logoORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1691-4320 (2012) Velocity - for string quartet. [Composition]

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Velocity

For String Quartet

David Lancaster

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Velocity

Velocity (composed in 2012) is a companion piece to my earlier *Vertigo* quartet (based on Bernard Herrmann's film music). *Velocity* doesn't quote directly from Herrmann but does emulate the 'sighing' cadential gestures which are a striking characteristic of Herrmann's score.

The title refers to one of the simple ideas behind the work, namely that closer objects appear to move more quickly than distant ones, so in the music the fast passages are in the foreground at a louder dynamic level than the slower passages, to create a dynamic, three-dimensional quality where surprise and inevitability co-exist.

The opening of *Velocity* contrasts the fast, loud music in the viola and the soft, sustained sounds of the others; it establishes D as tonal centre and outlines the minor third as an important structural unit. Contrasting musical ideas form a steady processional, interrupted at bar 60 by the first extended loud passage. This template (a montage of slow, soft elements leading to explosive outburst) is applied in successive cycles. The longest passage of soft music is abruptly interrupted by the final extended explosion of hocketing monody; the intensity subsequently subsides into a return of the opening music and loud outbursts become momentary interjections rather than foreground activity.

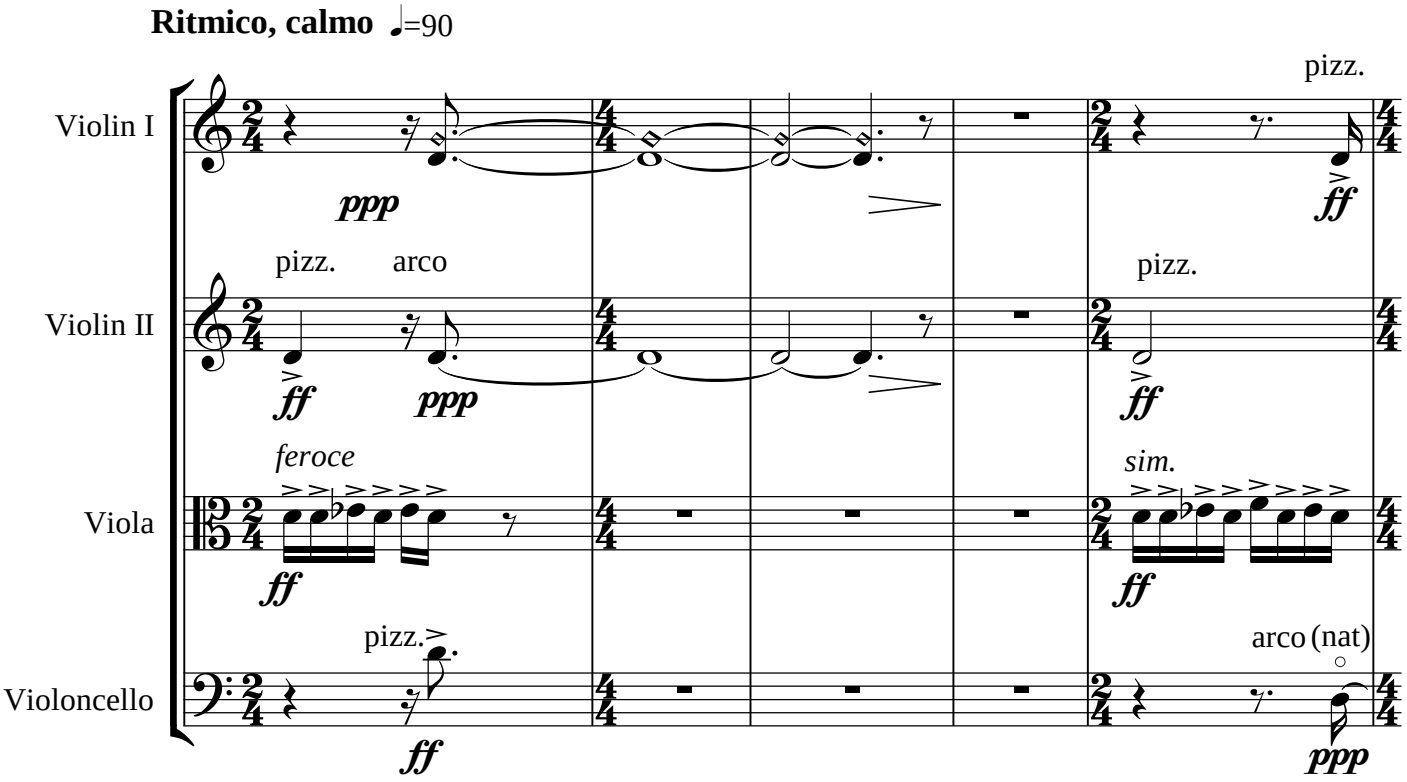
For String Quartet

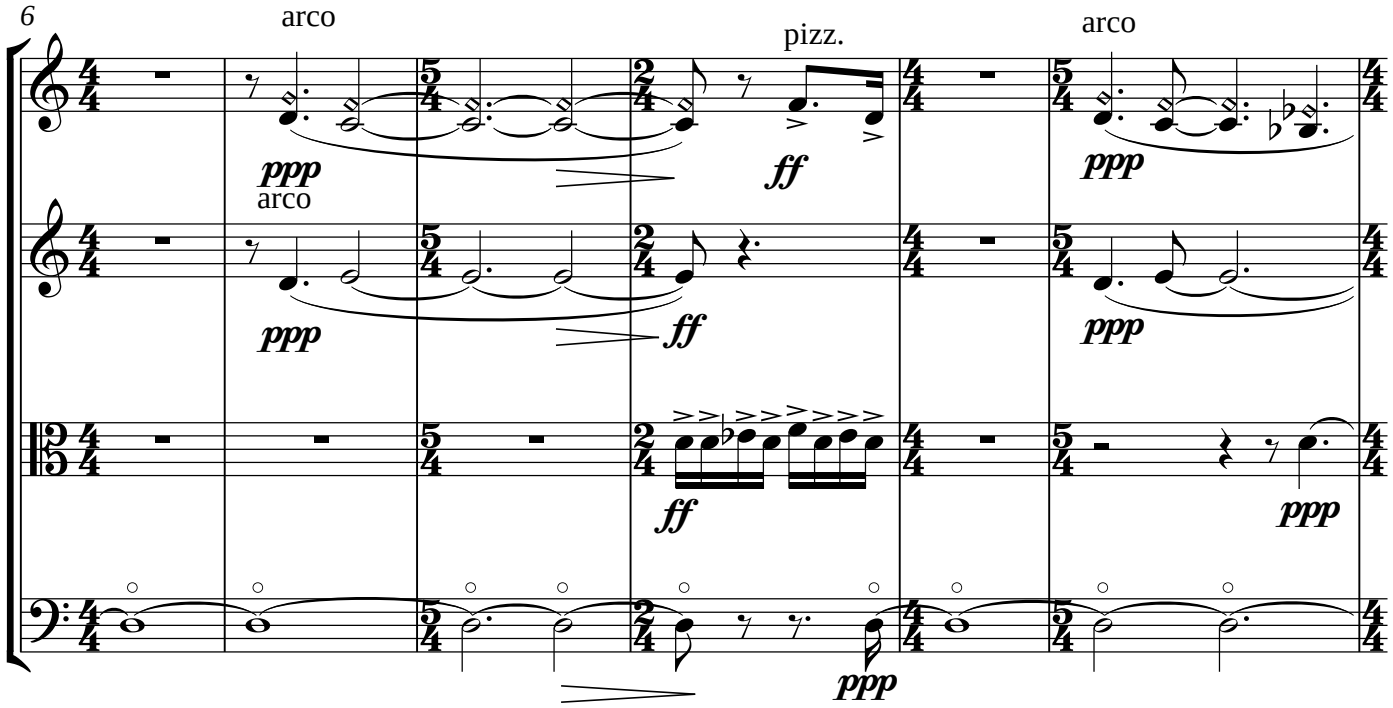
Duration: 10 minutes

Velocity

String Quartet

David Lancaster





12

A

pizz.

pizz.

20

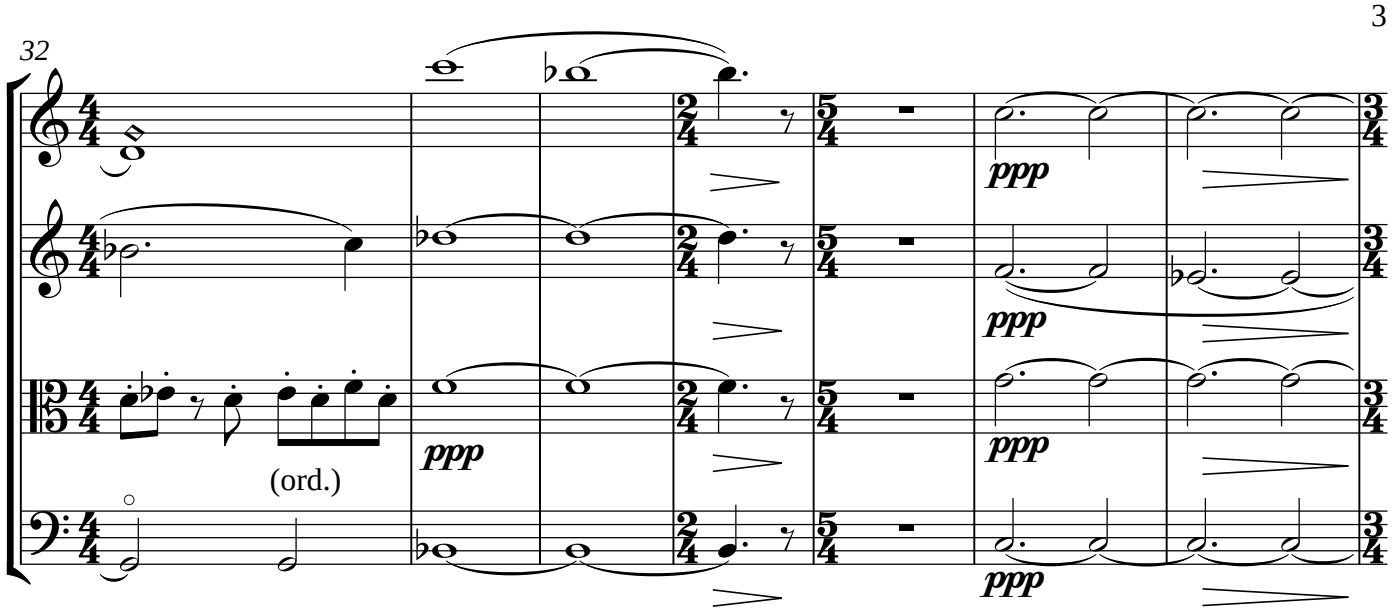
arco

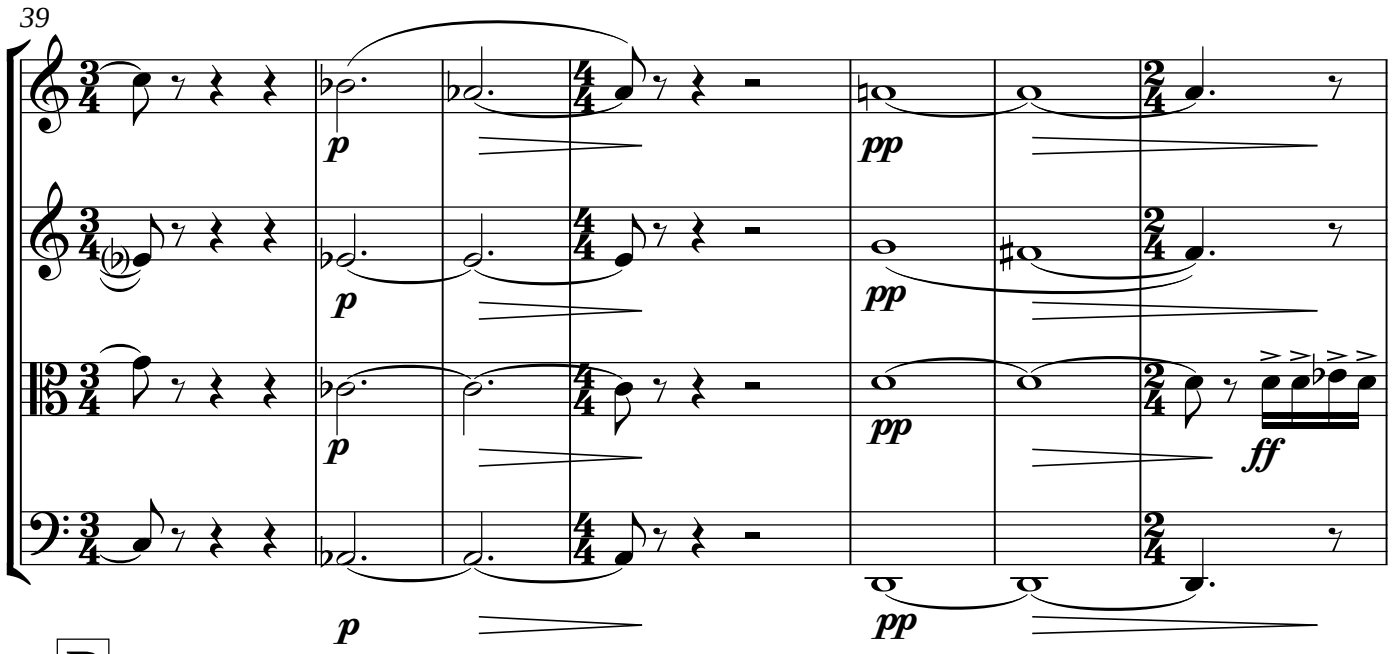
arco

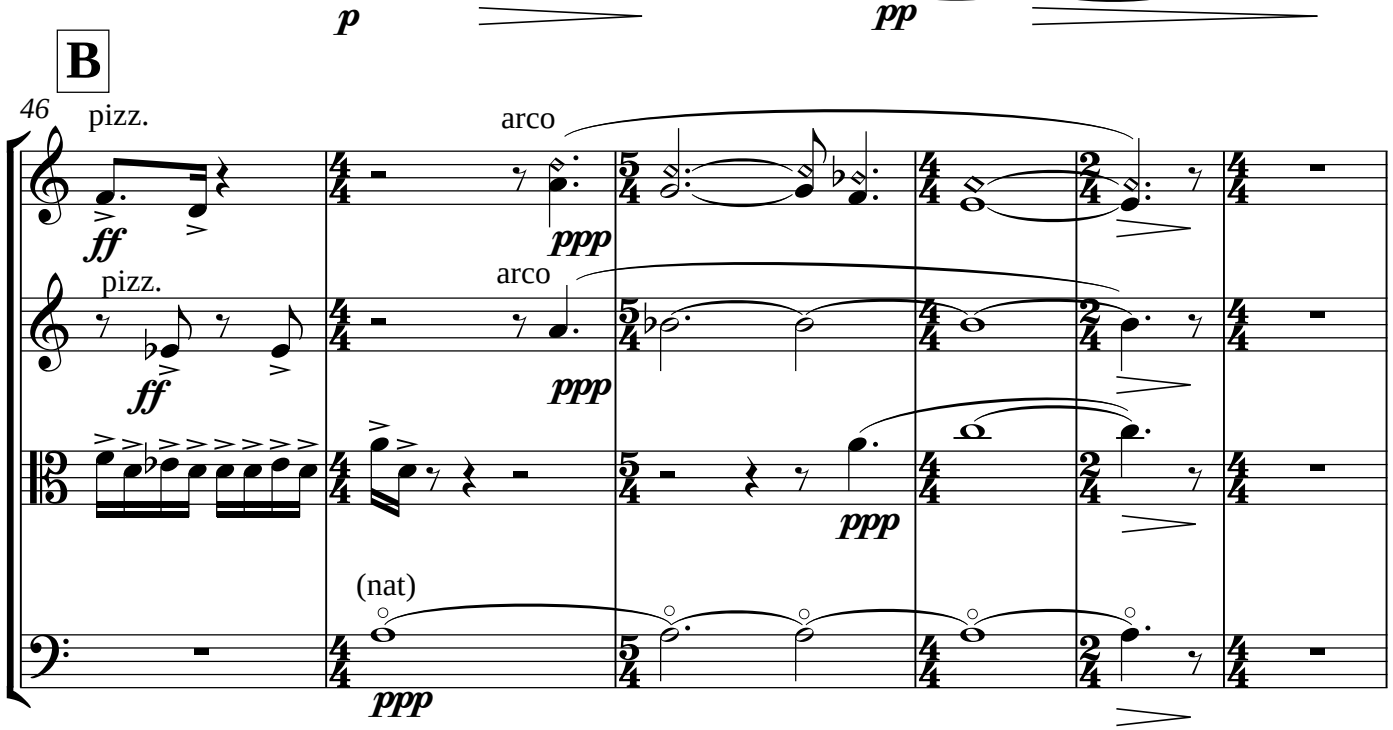
28

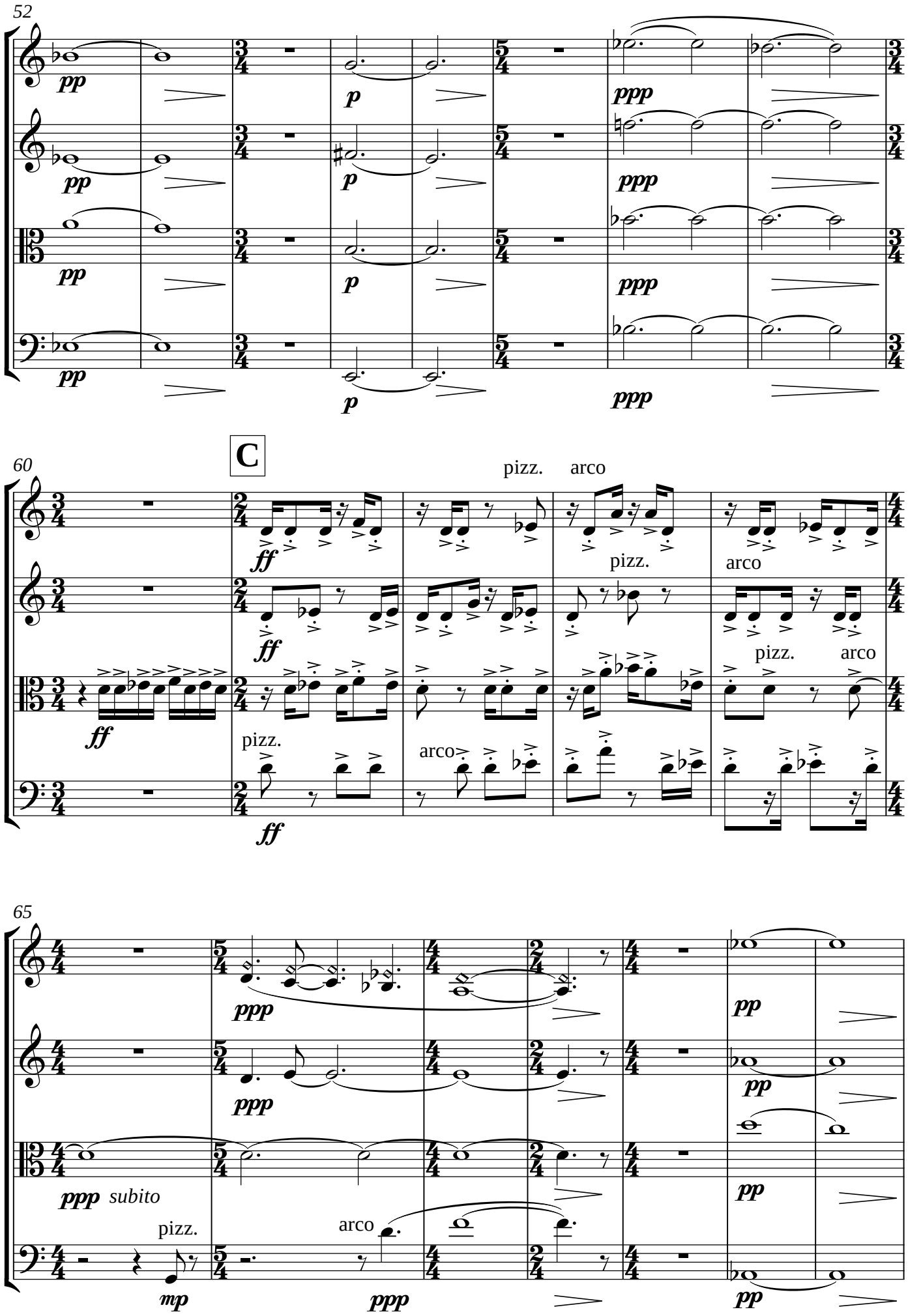
pizz.

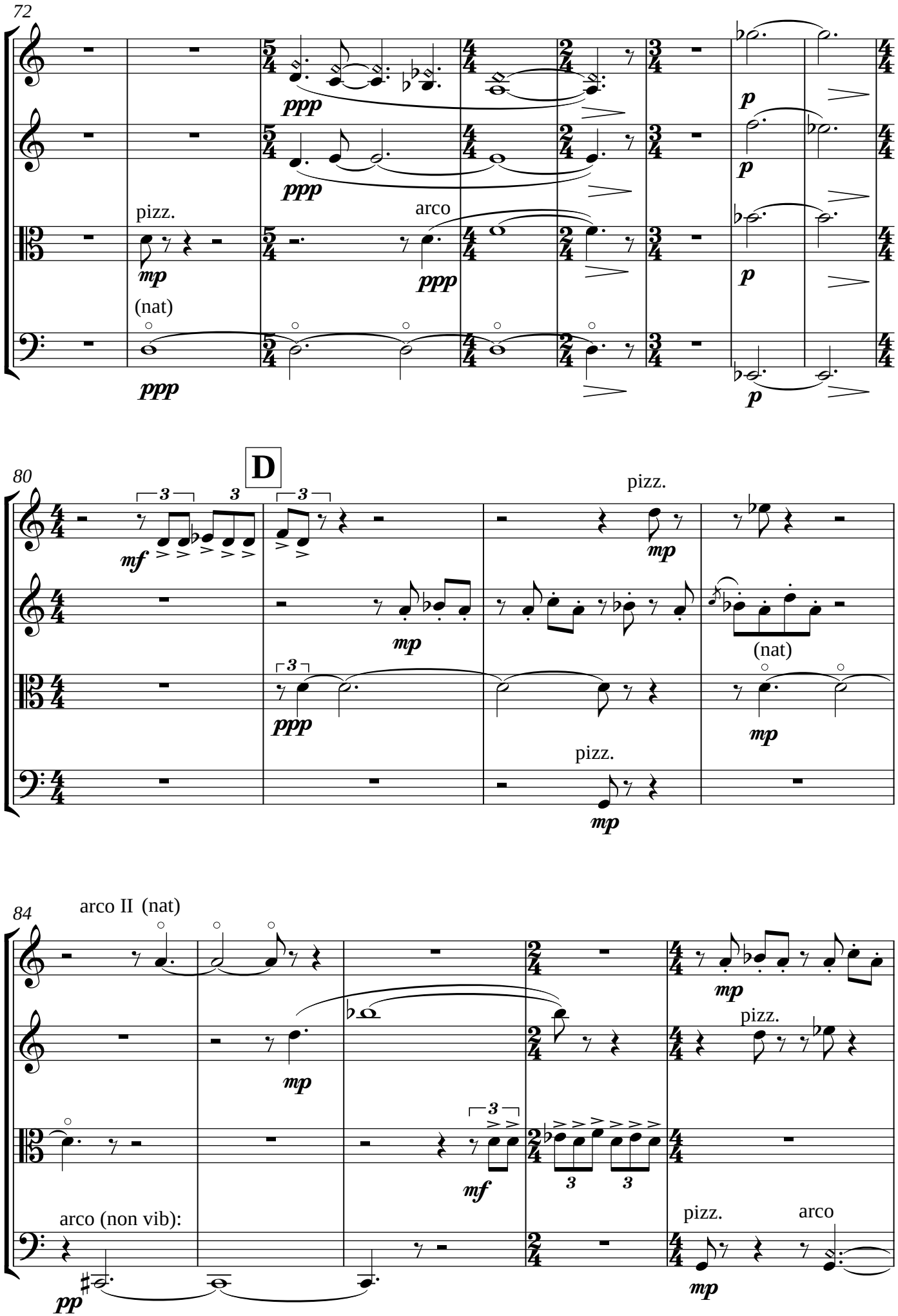
arco (nat)

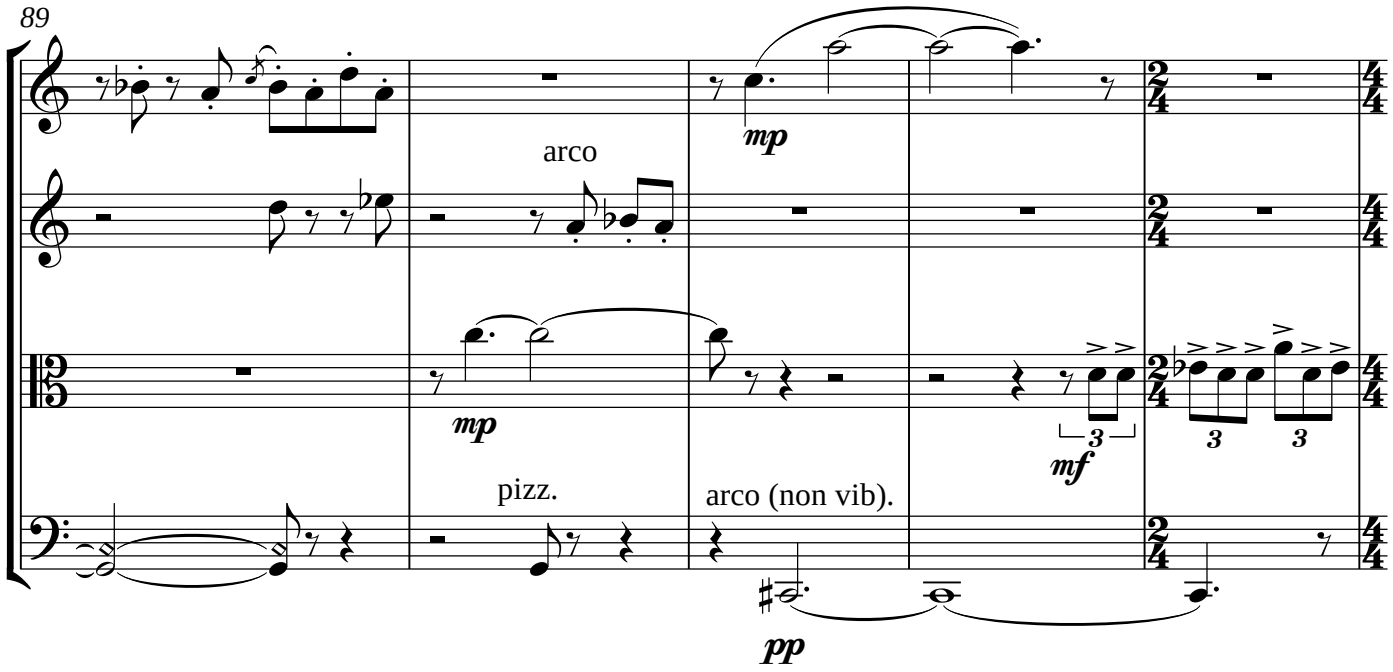

32
(ord.)
ppp

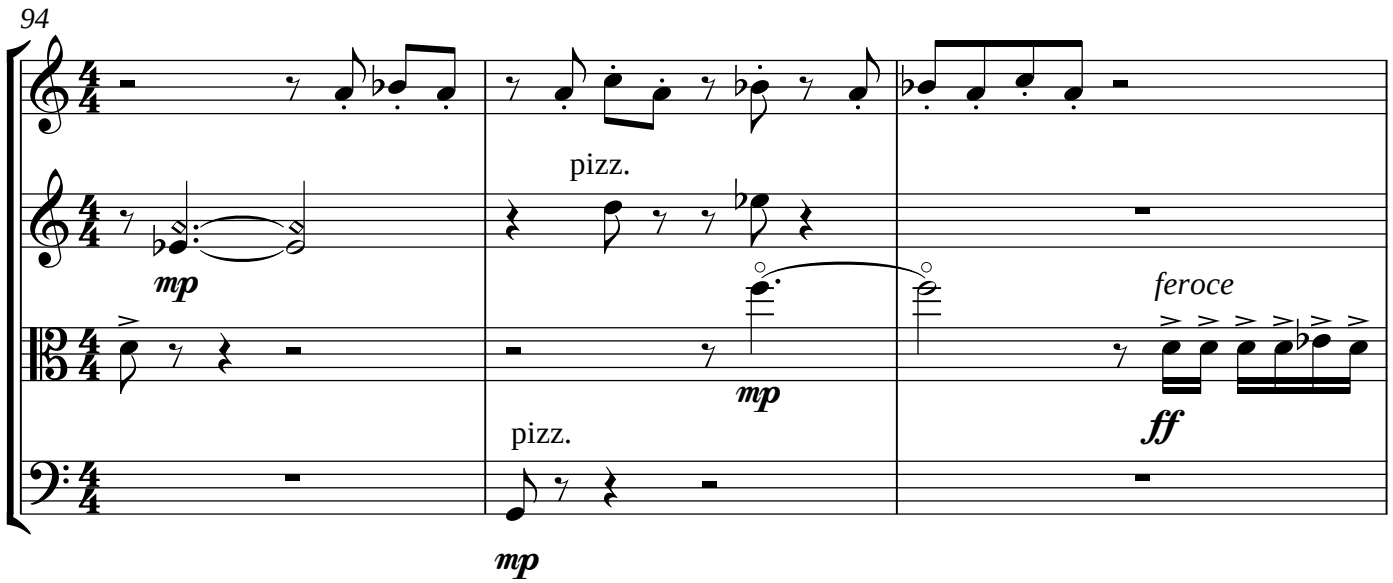

39
p
pp
ff

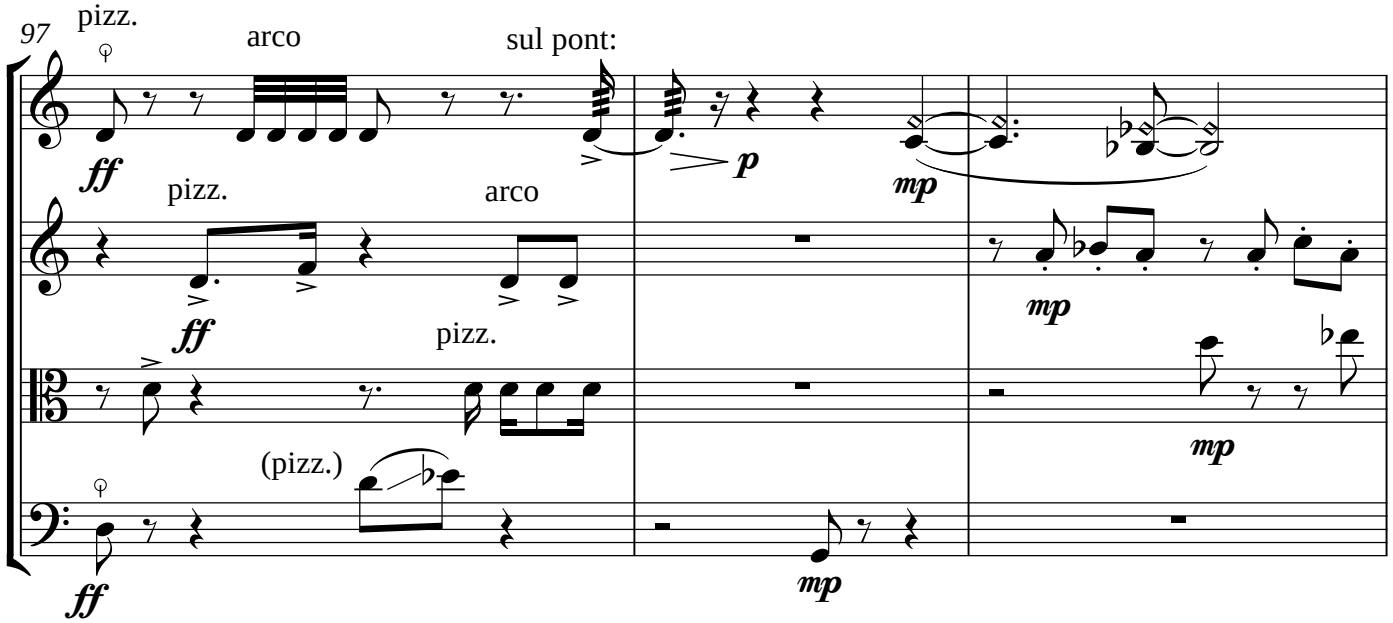

B
46
pizz.
arco
(nat)
ff
ppp


52
pp
p
ppp
60
C
pizz.
arco
ff
65
ppp
subito
mp


72
pizz.
arco
(nat)
80
D
pizz.
(nat)
84
arco II (nat)
arco (non vib):
pizz.
arco


89
arco
mp
mp
mf
3
3
3
pizz.
arco (non vib).
pp


94
mp
pizz.
mp
feroce
ff
pizz.
mp


97
pizz.
arco
sul pont:
ff
p
mp
pizz.
arco
ff
pizz.
mp
(pizz.)
mp
ff
mp

E

100

pizz. arco

ff ff

arco pizz.

ff arco

mp ff

104

pizz. arco

pizz.

arco pizz.

arco pizz. arco

ppp

108

arco

mp

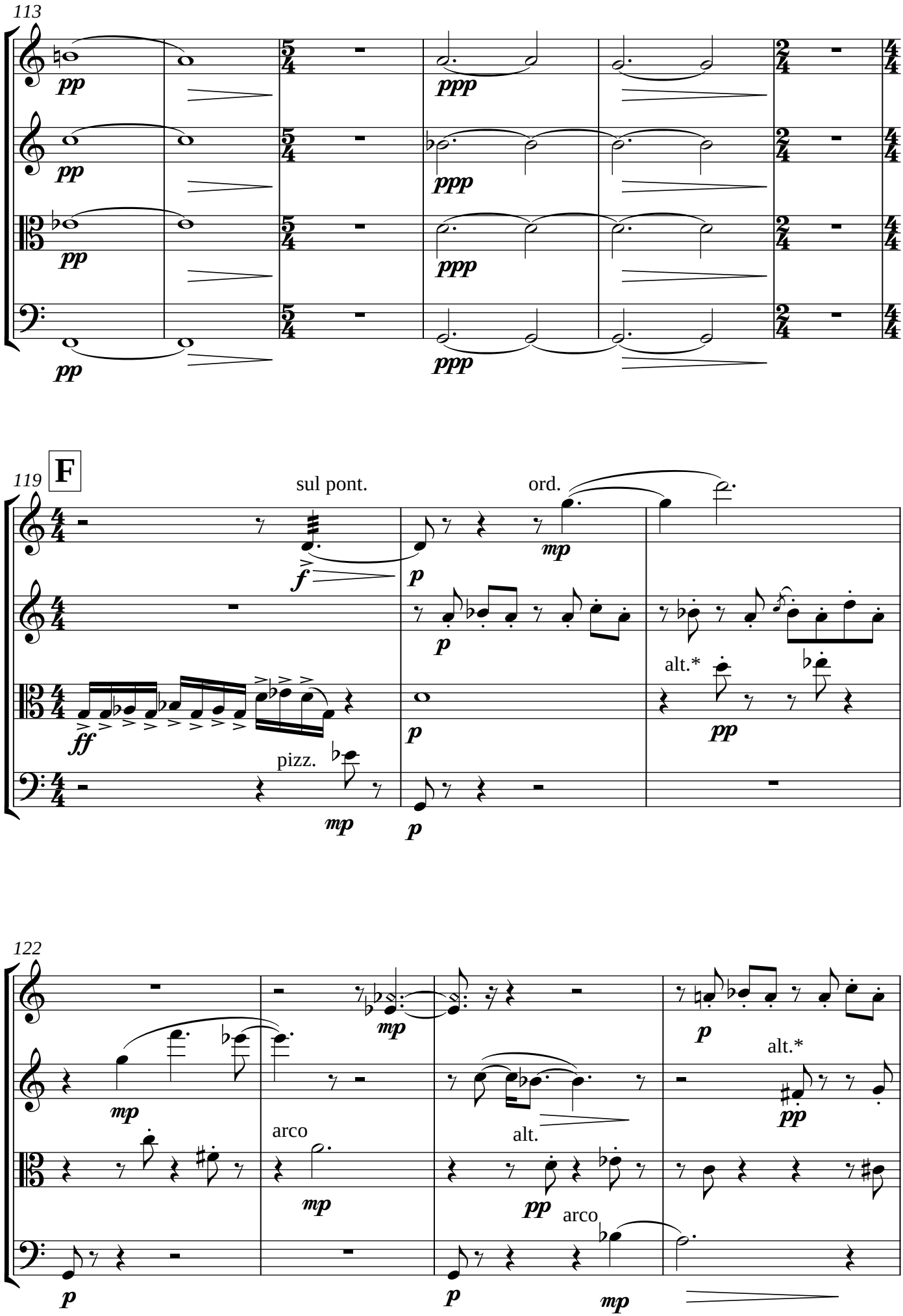
ppp

ppp

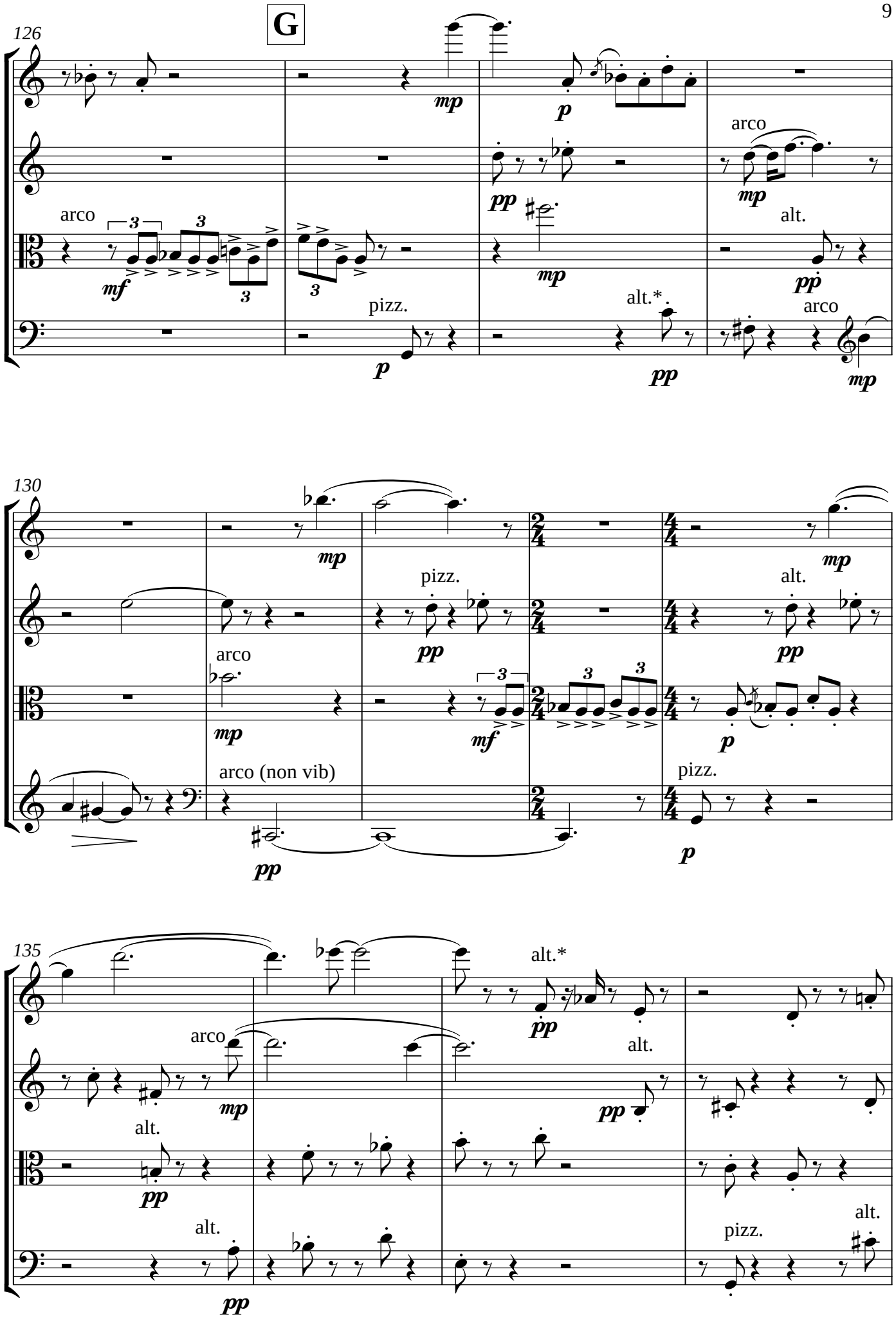
3 3 3

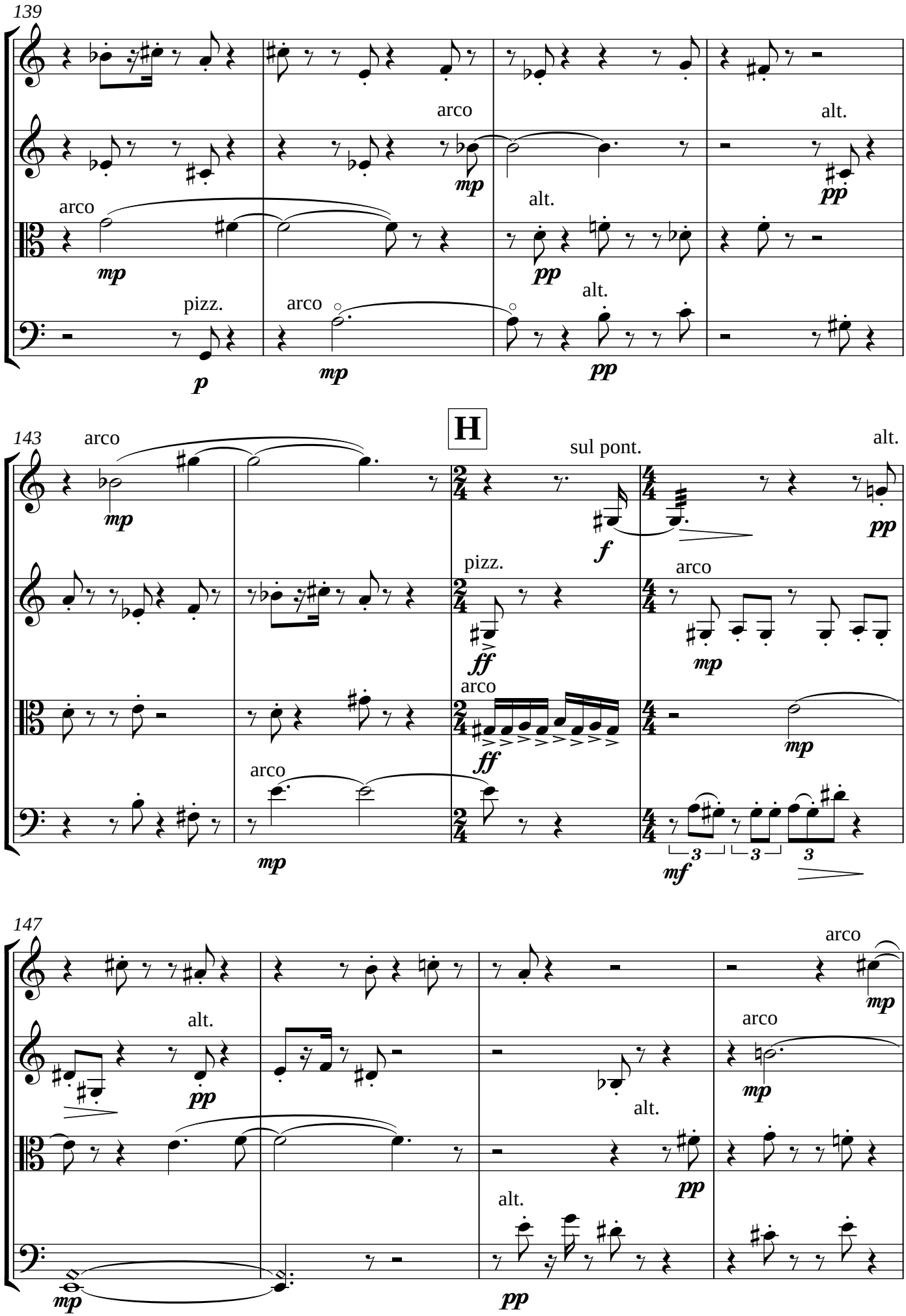
mf

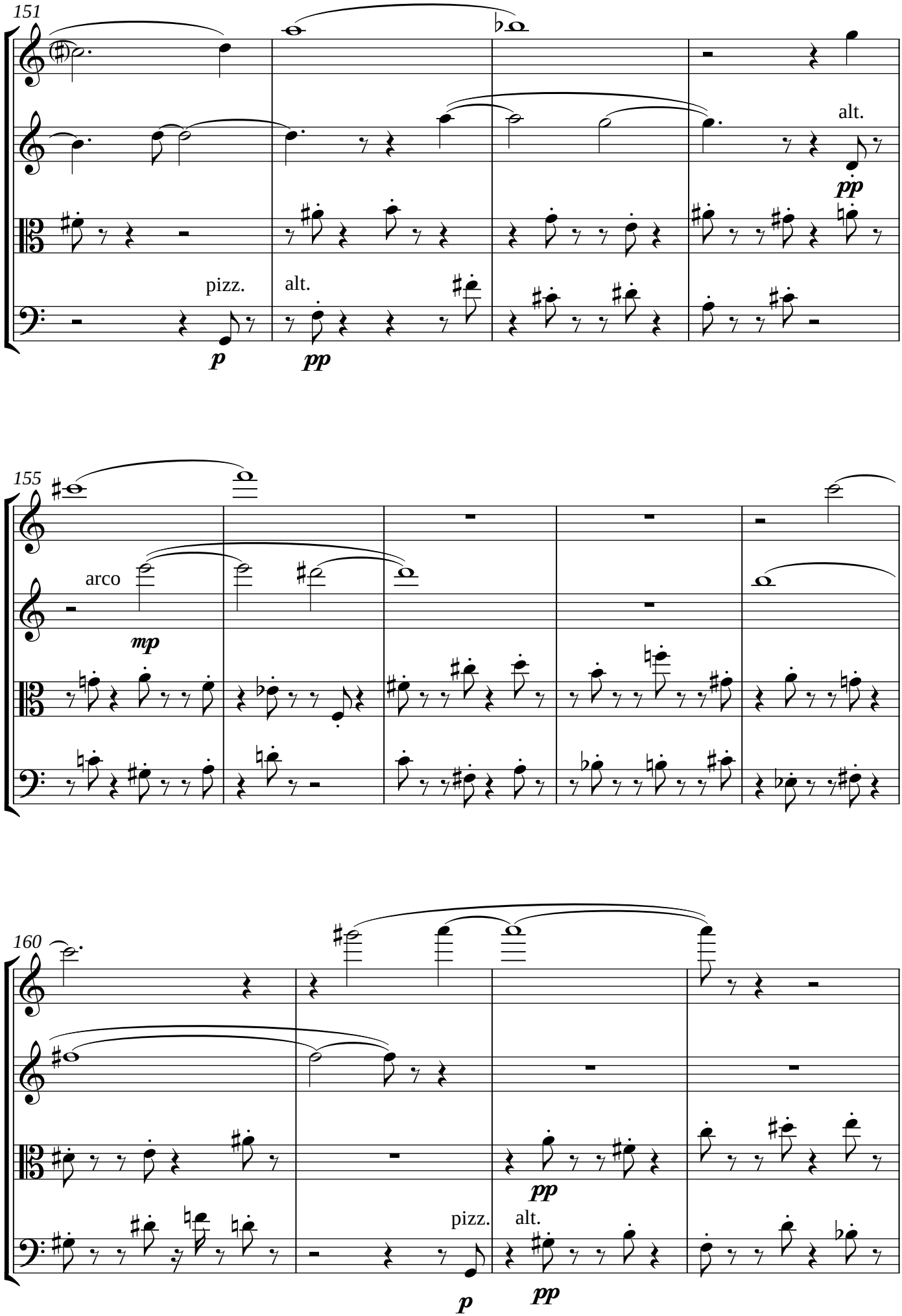
ppp



* alt = freely alternate pizz, spicc, col legno, battuto, sempre pp


G
126
arco
pizz.
alt.*
arco
alt.
130
arco
pizz.
alt.
arco (non vib)
pizz.
135
alt.*
arco
alt.
alt.
alt.
pizz.
alt.


139
arco
mp
pizz.
p
arco
mp
arco
mp
alt.
pp
alt.
pp
alt.
pp
143
arco
mp
H
sul pont.
f
alt.
pp
pizz.
ff
arco
mp
arco
ff
mp
arco
mp
3
3
3
mf
147
alt.
pp
arco
mp
arco
mp
alt.
pp
alt.
pp
mp


151
pizz.
alt.
alt.
p
pp
pp
155
arco
mp
160
pizz.
alt.
pp
p
pp

I

164

pizz.

alt.

p

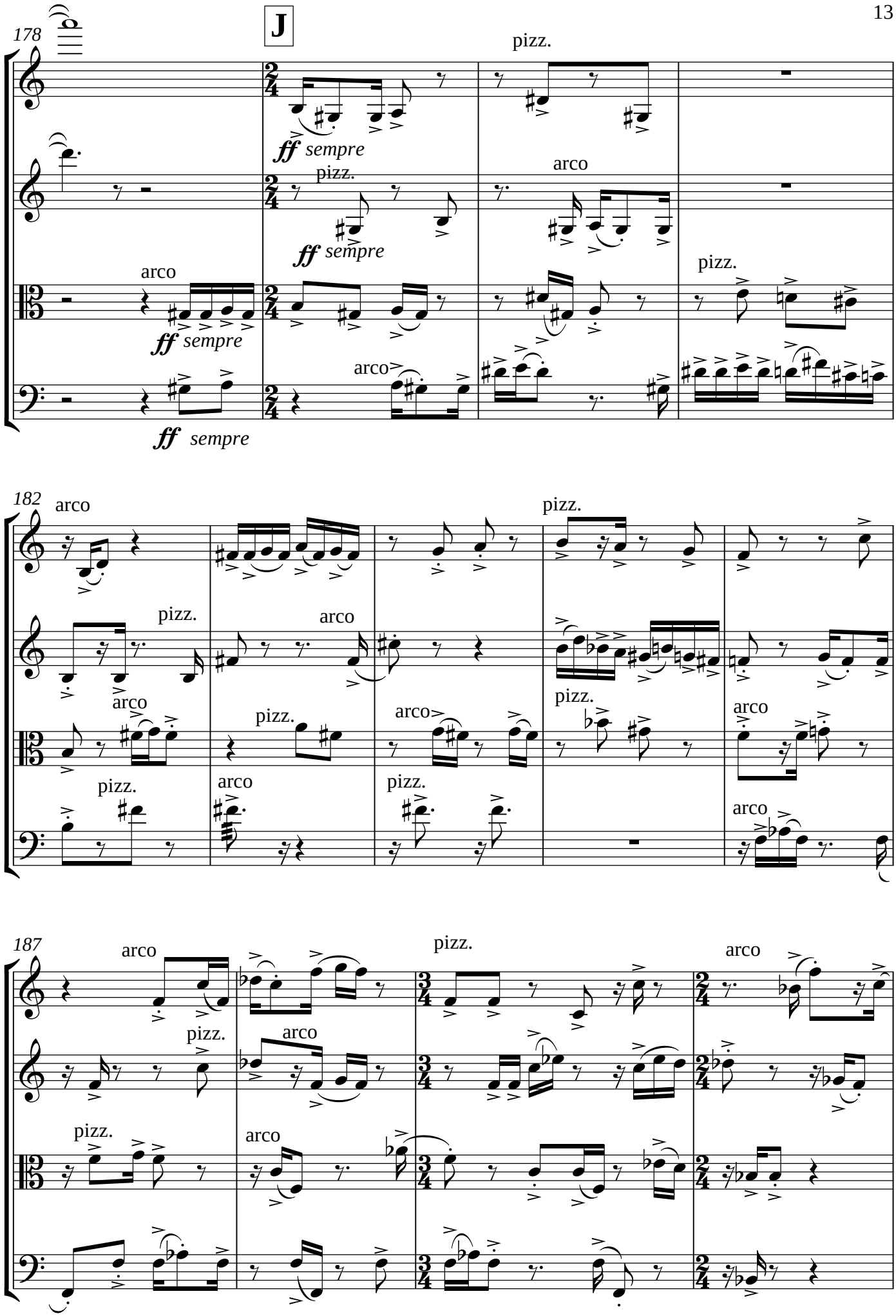
pp

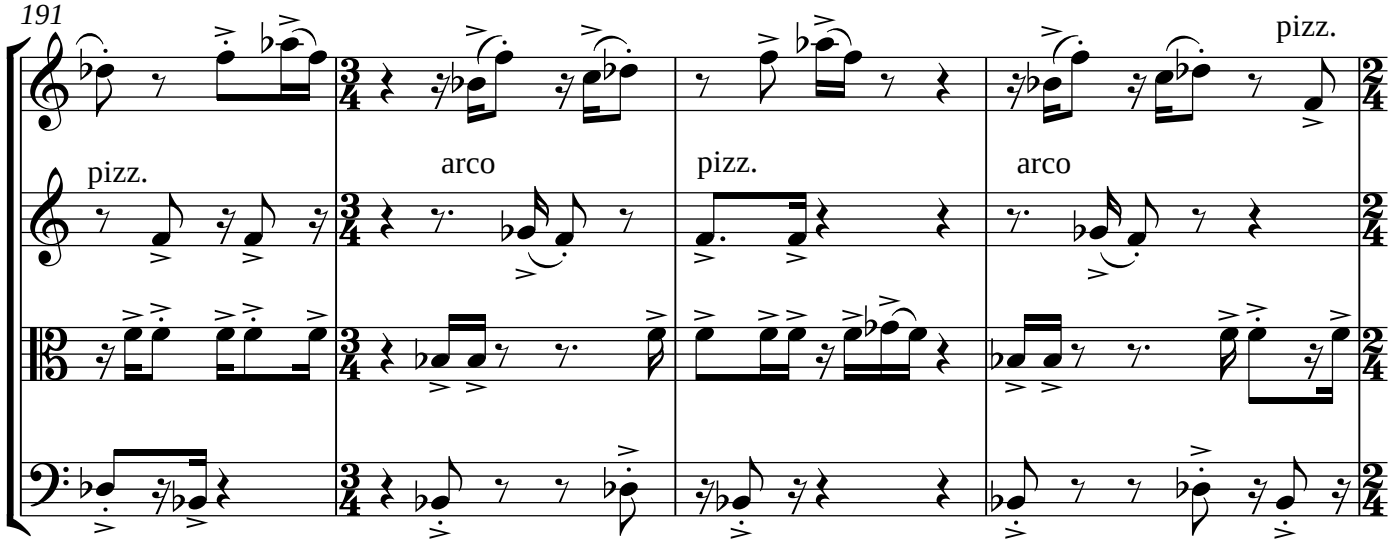
169

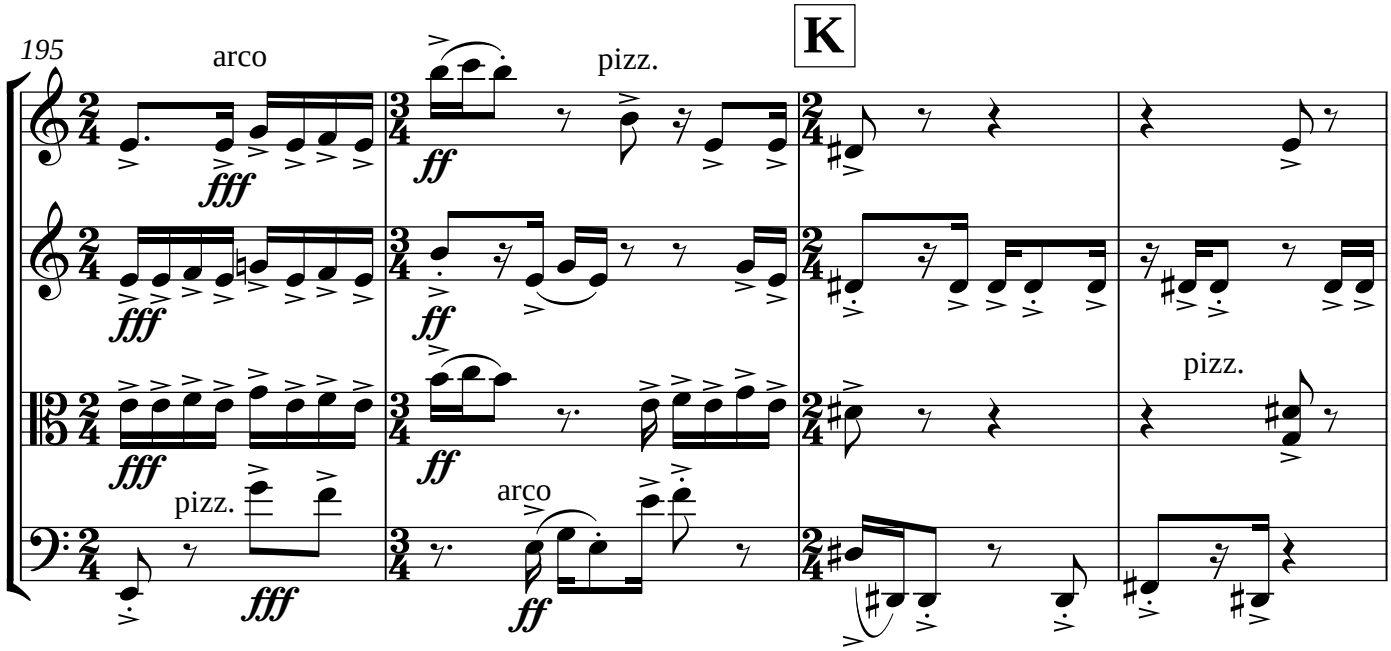
173

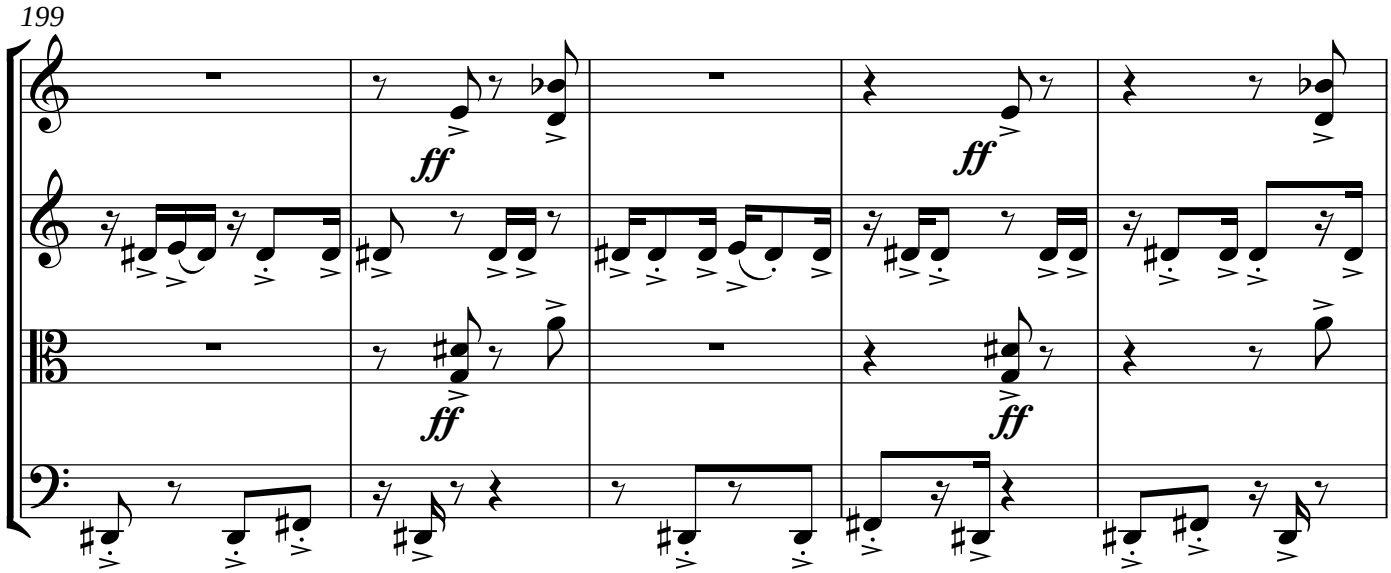
pizz.

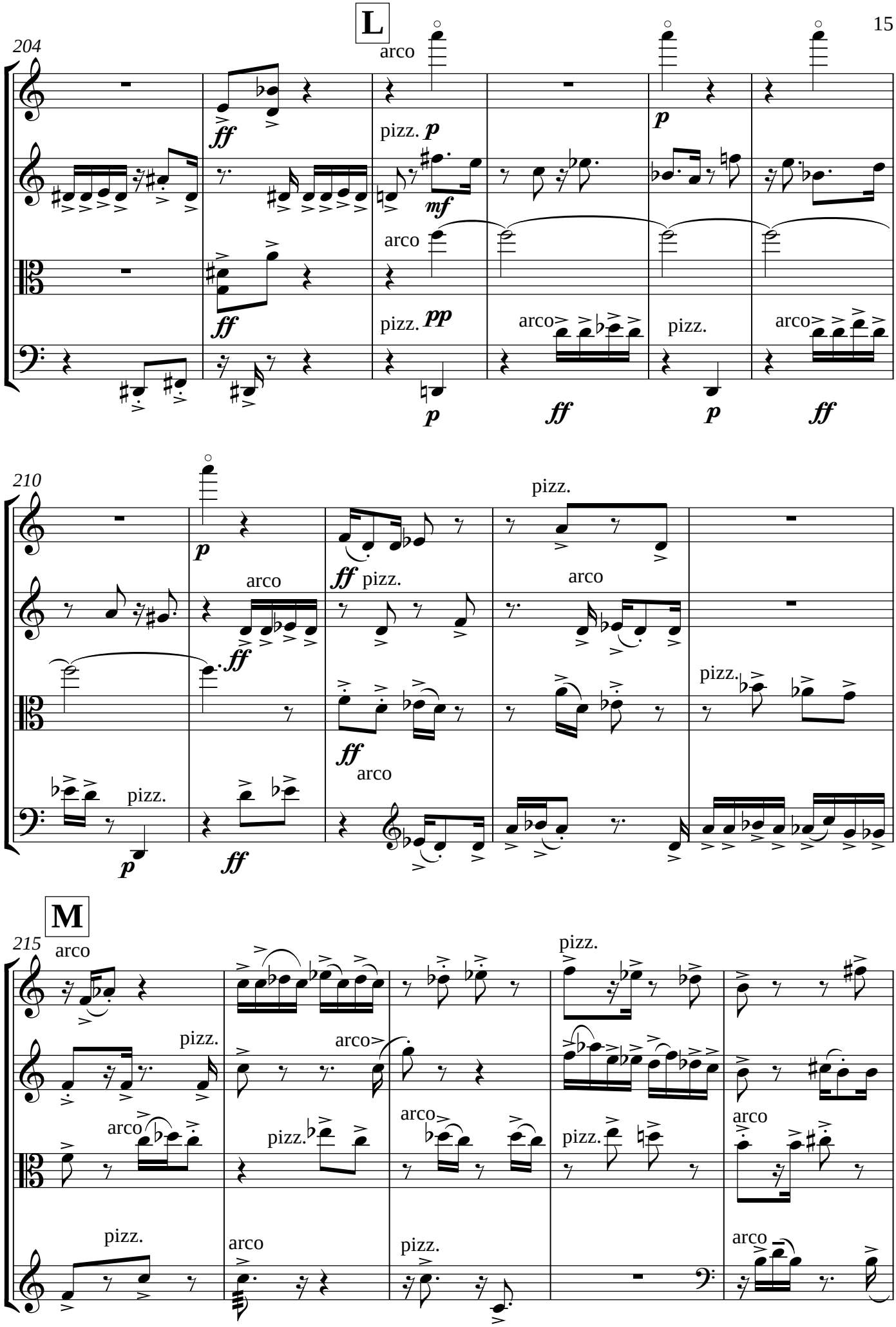
p

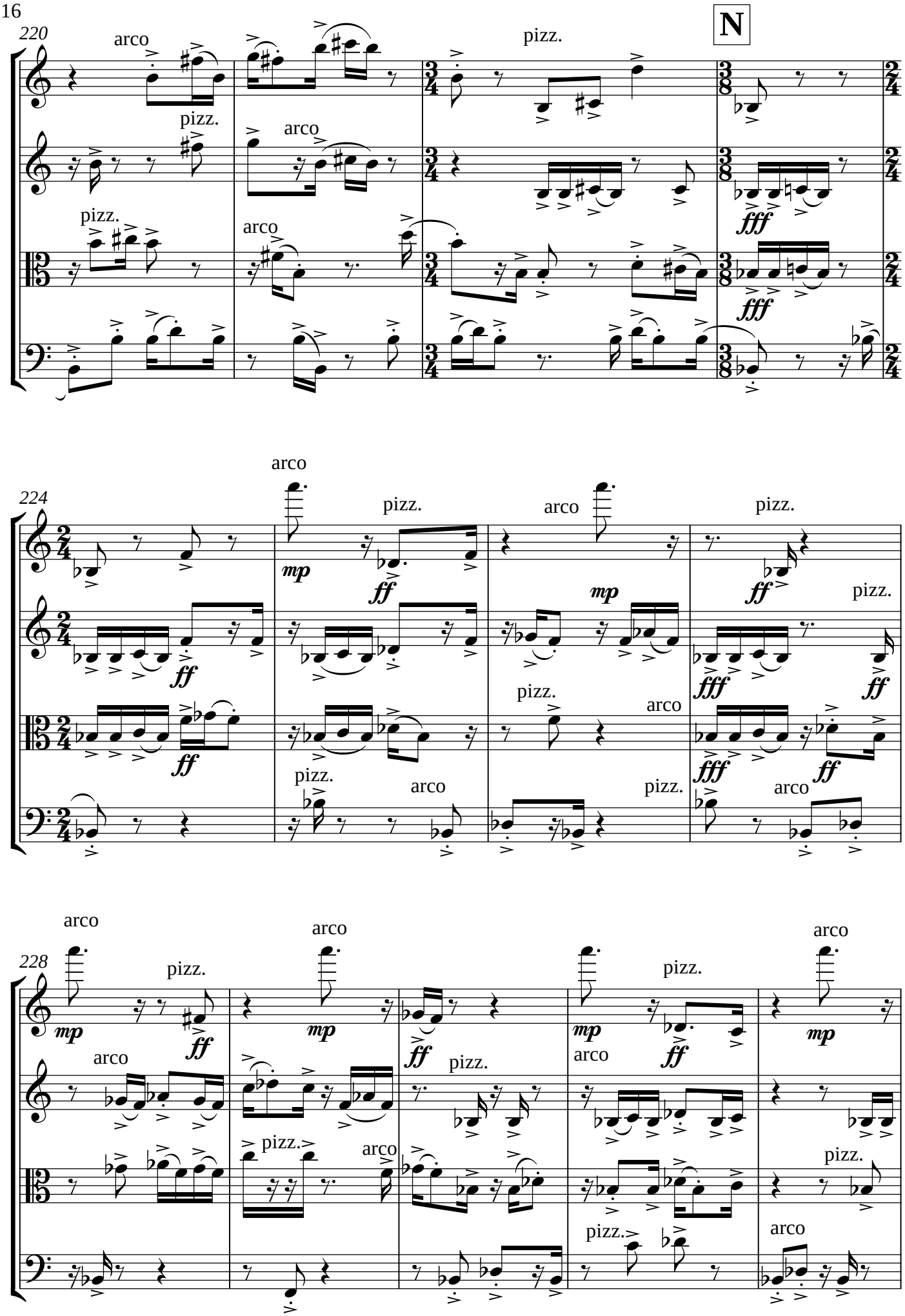

178
J
pizz.
ff sempre
pizz.
arco
ff sempre
arco
pizz.
ff sempre
arco
ff sempre
182
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
187
arco
pizz.
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
arco

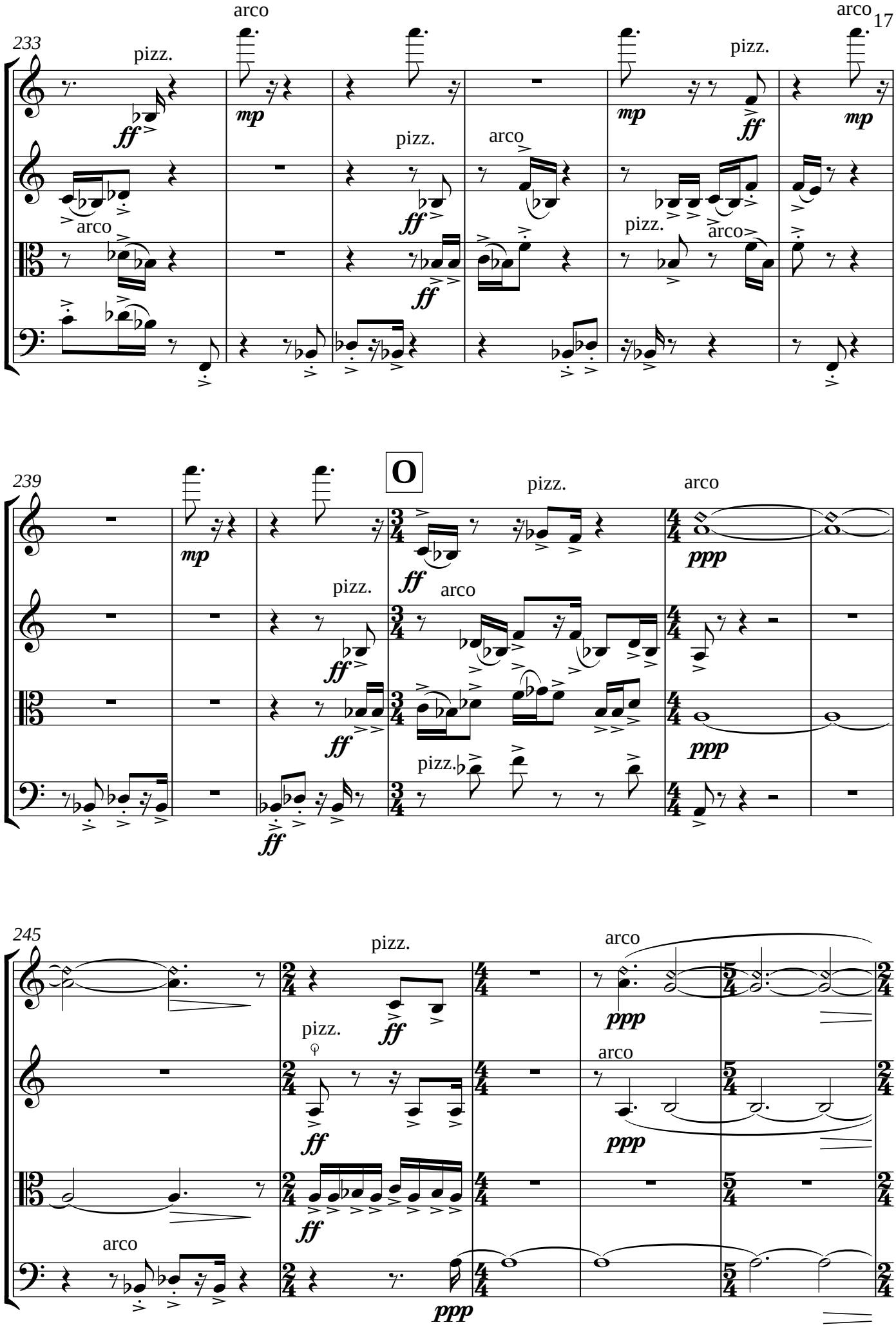

191
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.

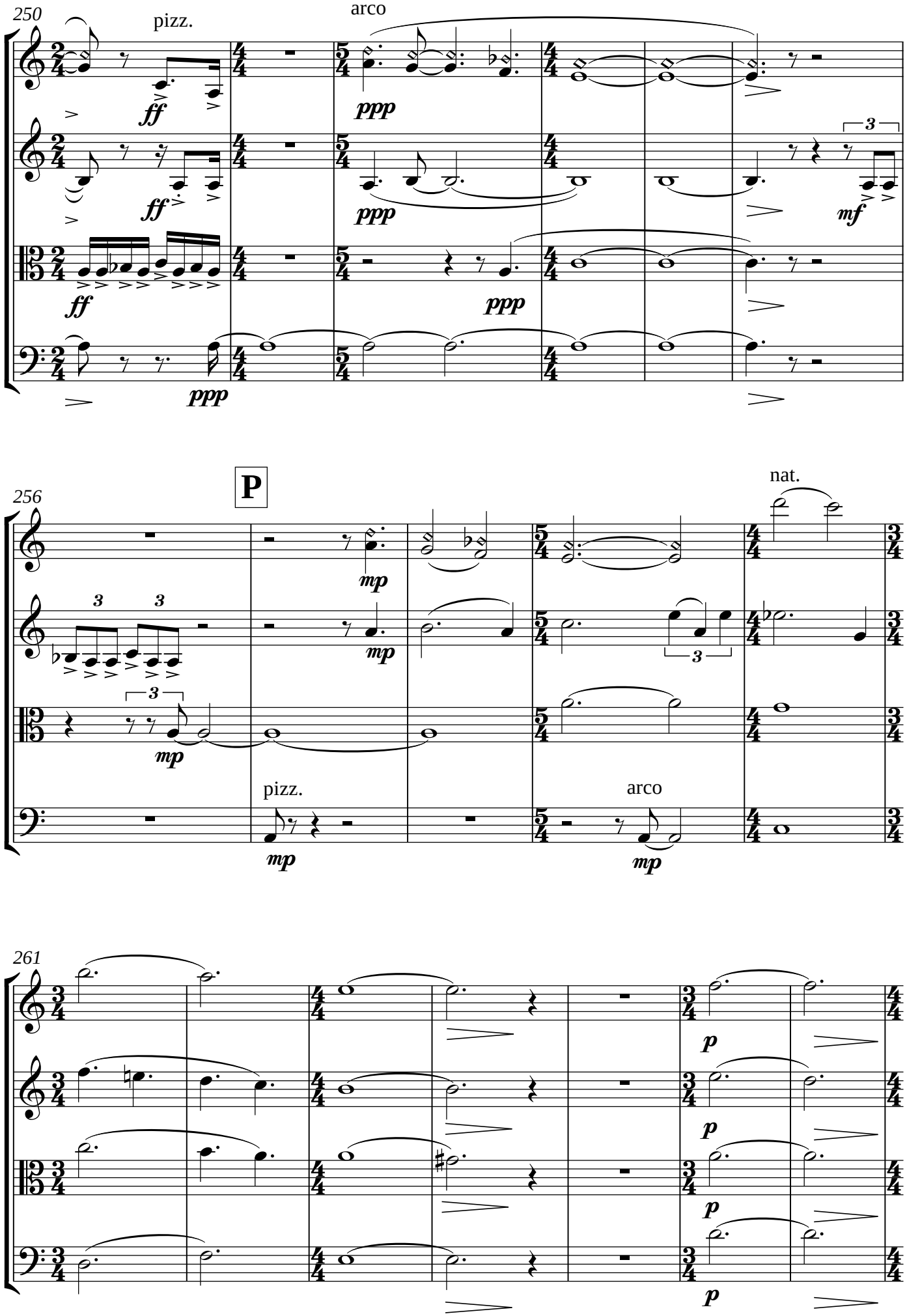

195
arco
fff
pizz.
ff
K
pizz.
arco

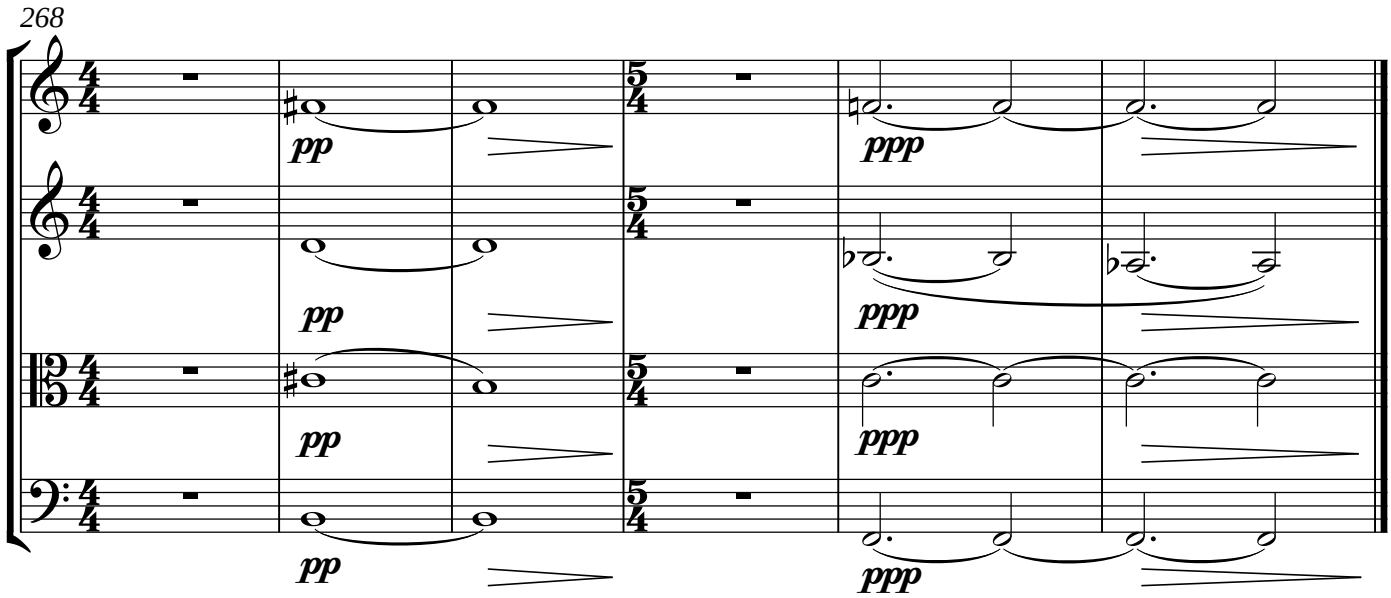

199
ff


L
204
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
210
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
M
215
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco


220
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
N
fff
fff
224
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
228
arco
pizz.
arco
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco


233
pizz.
arco
ff
mp
pizz.
arco
ff
ff
arco
pizz.
arco
mp
ff
mp
239
mp
O
pizz.
arco
ff
ppp
pizz.
arco
ff
ff
ppp
pizz.
ff
245
pizz.
arco
ff
ppp
pizz.
arco
ff
ppp
ff
arco
ppp


250
pizz.
arco
ff
ppp
mf
P
256
nat.
mp
pizz.
arco
261
p


268
pp
pp
pp
pp
ppp
ppp
ppp
ppp