Quartet Stories

for four trombones

Mark Scott

2008-09

Duration

12’ 30”

(5’ 30” | 7’ 00”)

Dedication

To the *Bell Street Four* trombone quartet: Bill Haugeberg, Jason Hausback, Sean Nelson, and Mark Scott.

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Program Notes

Quartet Stories is a piece whose two movements were written over a period of 16 months. I wrote the second movement, *Spring Lightning*, first. It stood on its own until the summer of 2009, when I completed the first movement, *Winter Nocturne*. I wrote the following notes after completing *Spring Lightning* in March of 2008:

> "In early 2008, UNT's *Bell Street Four* trombone quartet received wonderful news: we had been selected for the final round of the International Trombone Association quartet competition. When the other members of the quartet asked me to write a piece for us to play at the ITF, I was flattered. *Spring Lightning* was the result.
>
> "Spring" refers to the season in which I wrote the piece, and to the joyous energy and sense of rebirth associated with that time of year. The work makes references to musical "springs" as well, especially *The Rite of Spring* and Copland's *Appalachian Spring*. The clearest of these references is a four-note cell (Db-Bb-Eb-Bb), borrowed from Stravinsky and used as a point of departure for harmony, melody, and counterpoint.
>
> The title's "lightning" has no programmatic significance. However, certain colors in the work, and the use of mutes, perpetual-motion structures, and half-step dissonances could be heard as references to it. Nor is the music "lightning-fast," although it contains tremendous energy."

Spring Lightning was premiered by the *Bell Street Four* trombone quartet at the 2008 International Trombone Festival, held from May 28-31 in Salt Lake City, Utah (with the composer playing third trombone). The piece has since become the second movement of a larger work, *Quartet Stories*.

The first movement, *Winter Nocturne*, is a somber, reflective, and dramatic contrast to its companion. Most of the thematic material is presented by unaccompanied soloists within the quartet (including those playing the inner parts!). This frees the music from an always steady tempo, and highlights the expressive, soulful qualities of the trombone. It also allows each member of the quartet to tell their story uninhibited, and to refract it through the music.

About the Composer

Mark Scott is a graduate of the University of North Texas, where he studied composition with Cindy McTee, trombone with Jan Kagarice, and conducting with Anshel Brusilow. He currently attends the University of New Mexico on full scholarship, where he studies conducting with Jorge Perez-Gomez and trombone with Karl Hinterbichler.

In 2009, Mark won tenor trombone division III in the National Classical Solo Competition, held annually at the Eastern Trombone Workshop. In 2008, Mark was a member of the *Bell Street Four* trombone quartet, who won the International Trombone Festival quartet competition playing his own work, *Spring Lightning*. Mark was a finalist in the UNT concerto competition in 2007, and a winner in 2006 with his orchestral work *Design*. He has conducted the UNT Symphony, Chamber and Repertoire Orchestras, and the Wind Symphony; and has performed with the Lone Star Wind Orchestra and the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra.

Mark has heard his works performed by the Richardson Symphony, National Taiwan Youth Orchestra, UNT Symphony Orchestra, Wind Symphony, and by students of euphonium artist Brian Bowman in the United States and Japan. His works are published by MMB Music, Kagarice Brass Editions, and Dominant Shadow Music. For more information, please visit dominantshadow.com.

Duration: 12' 30"
(5' 30"| 7' 00")

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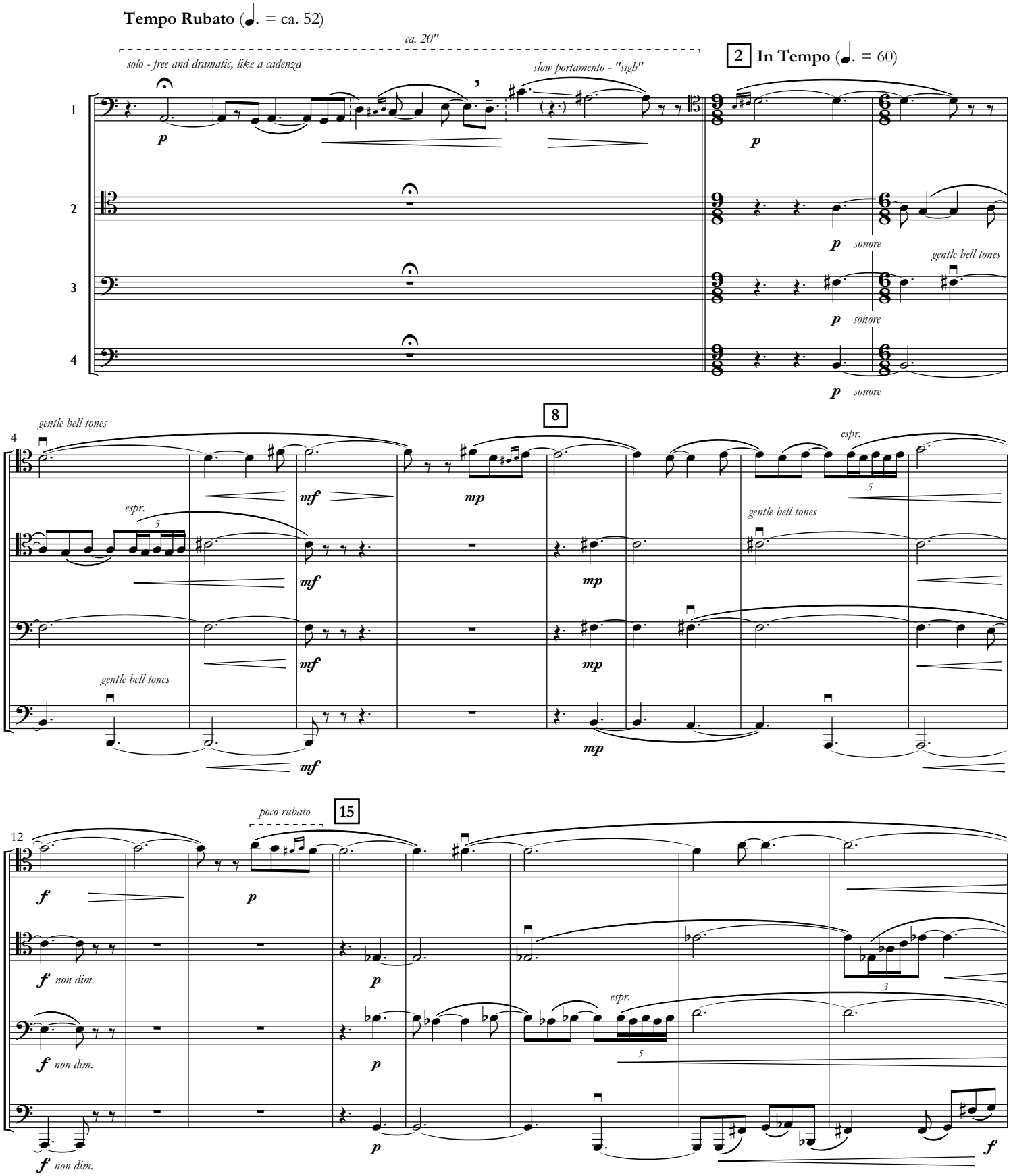
2008-09

I. Winter Nocturne



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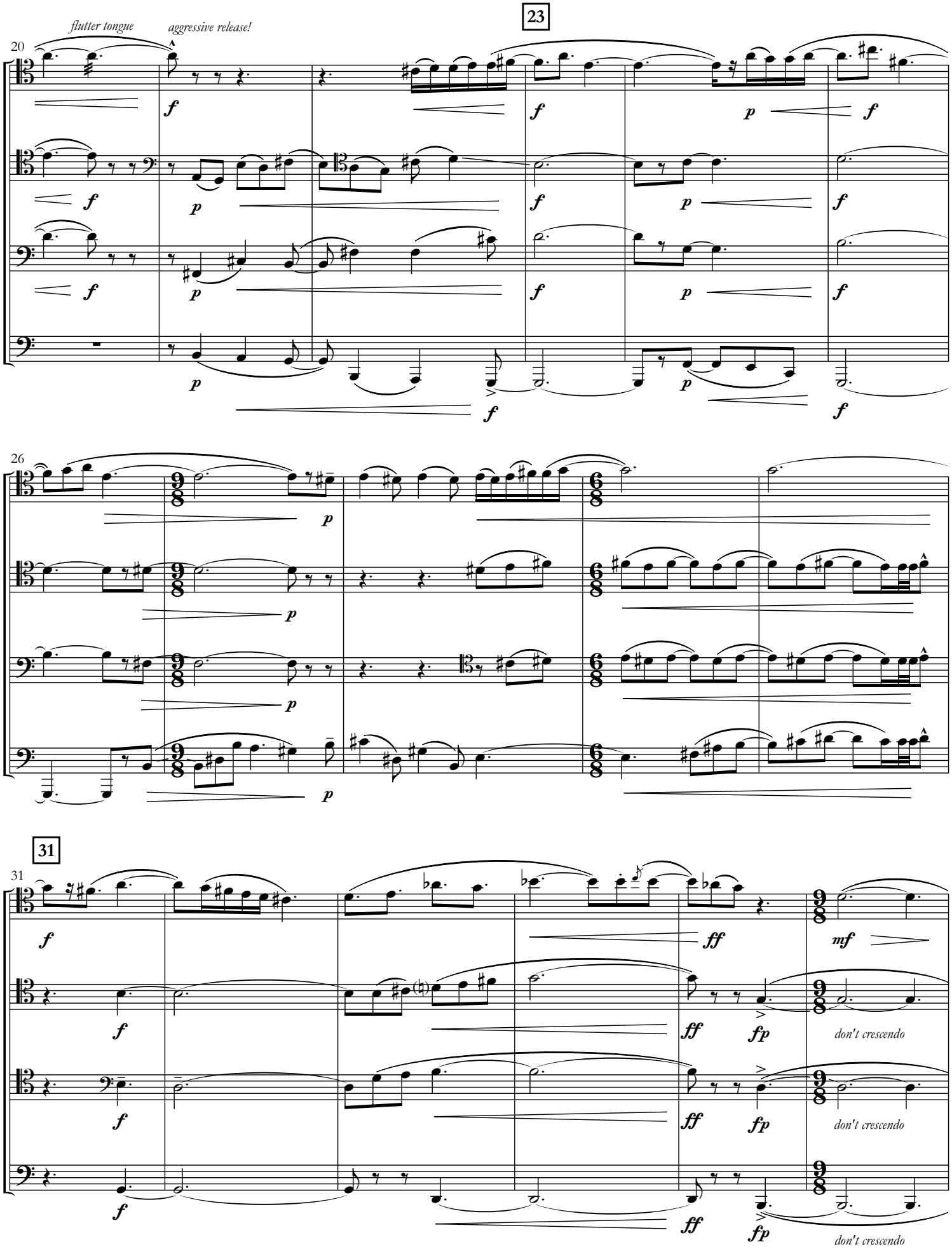
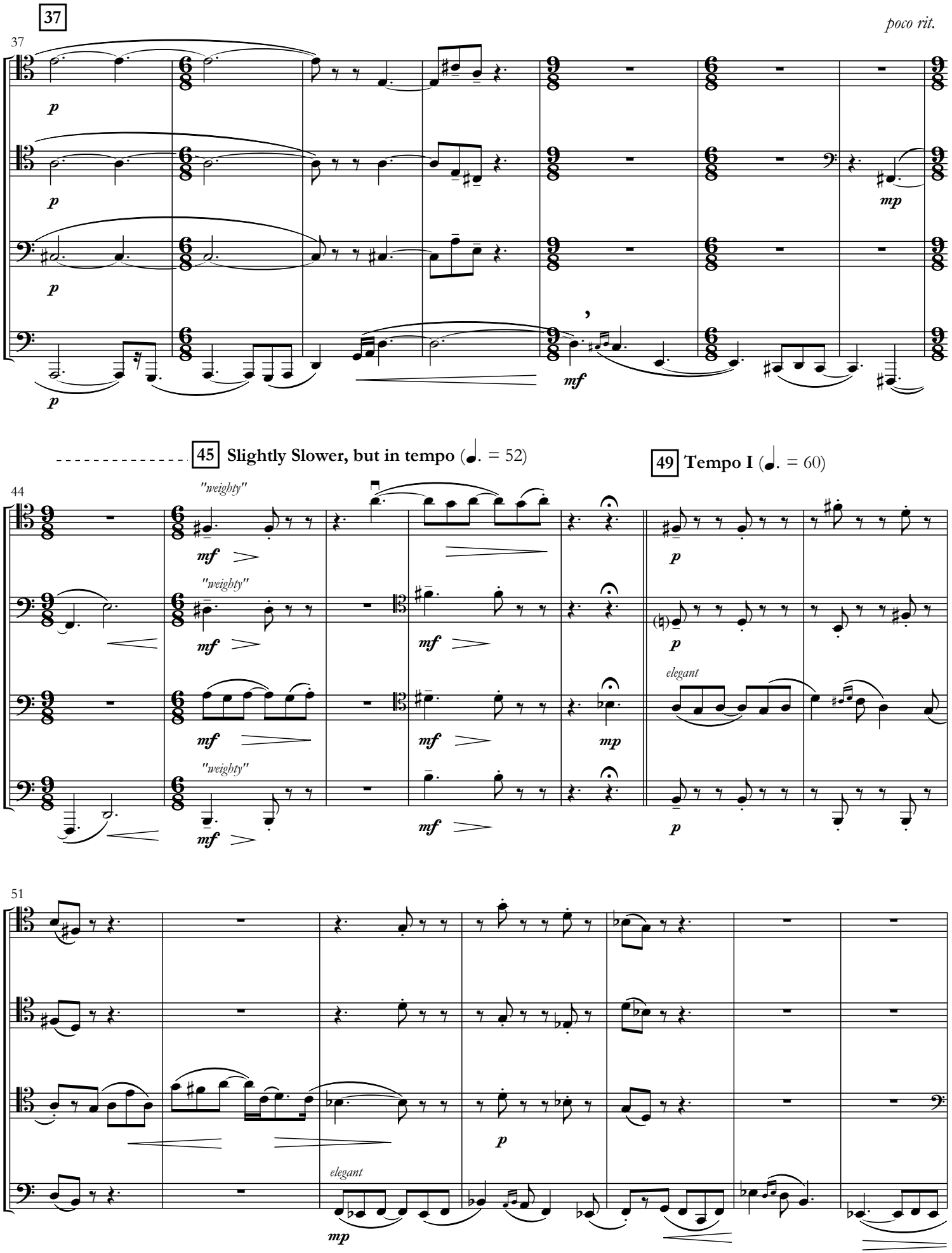
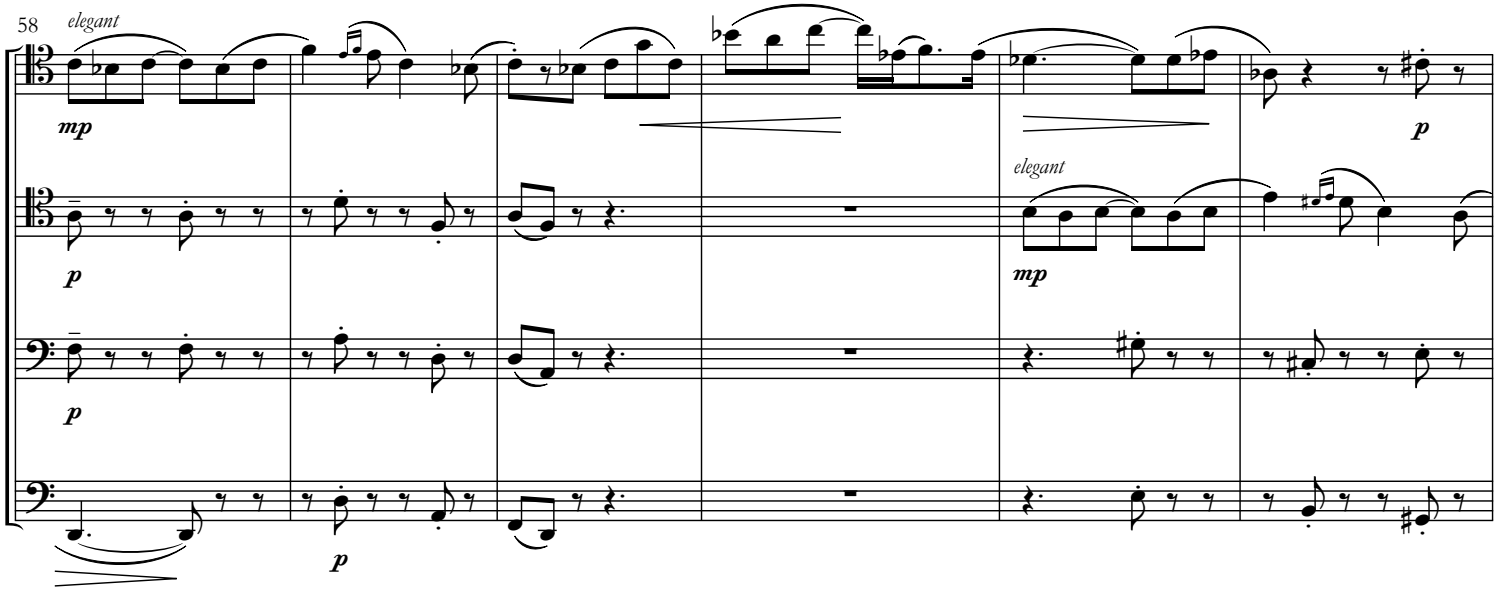
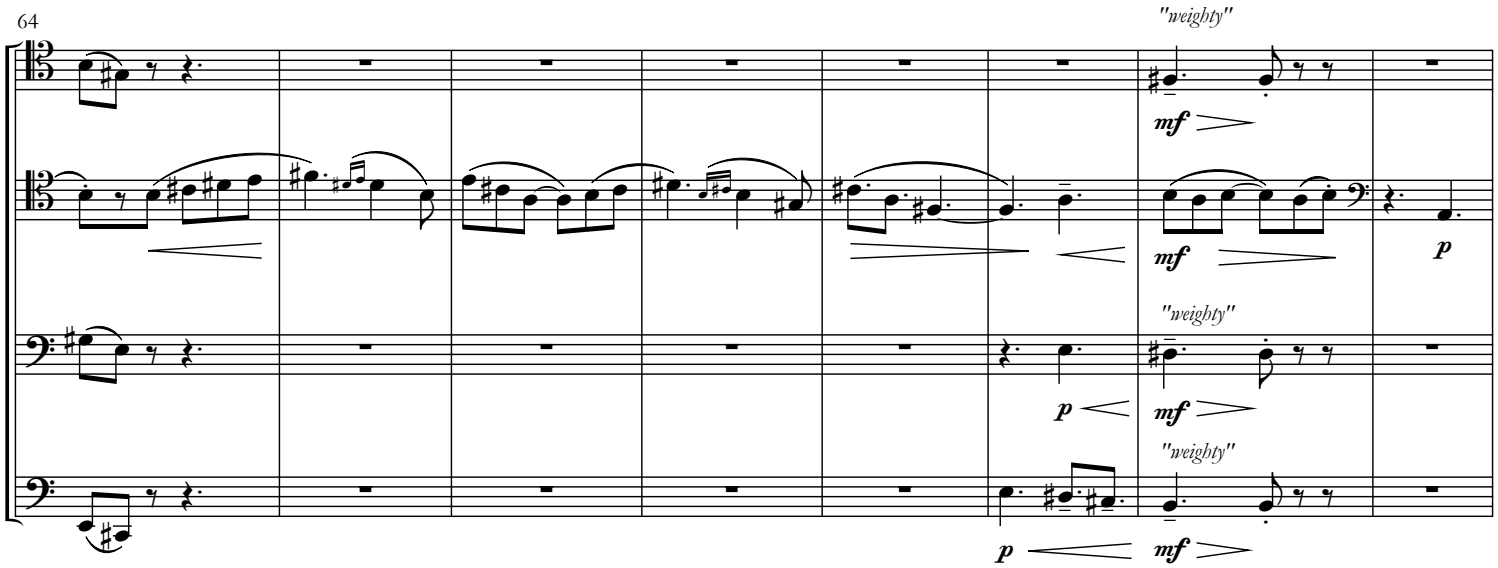

23
flutter tongue
aggressive release!
20
26
31
31
don't crescendo
don't crescendo
don't crescendo

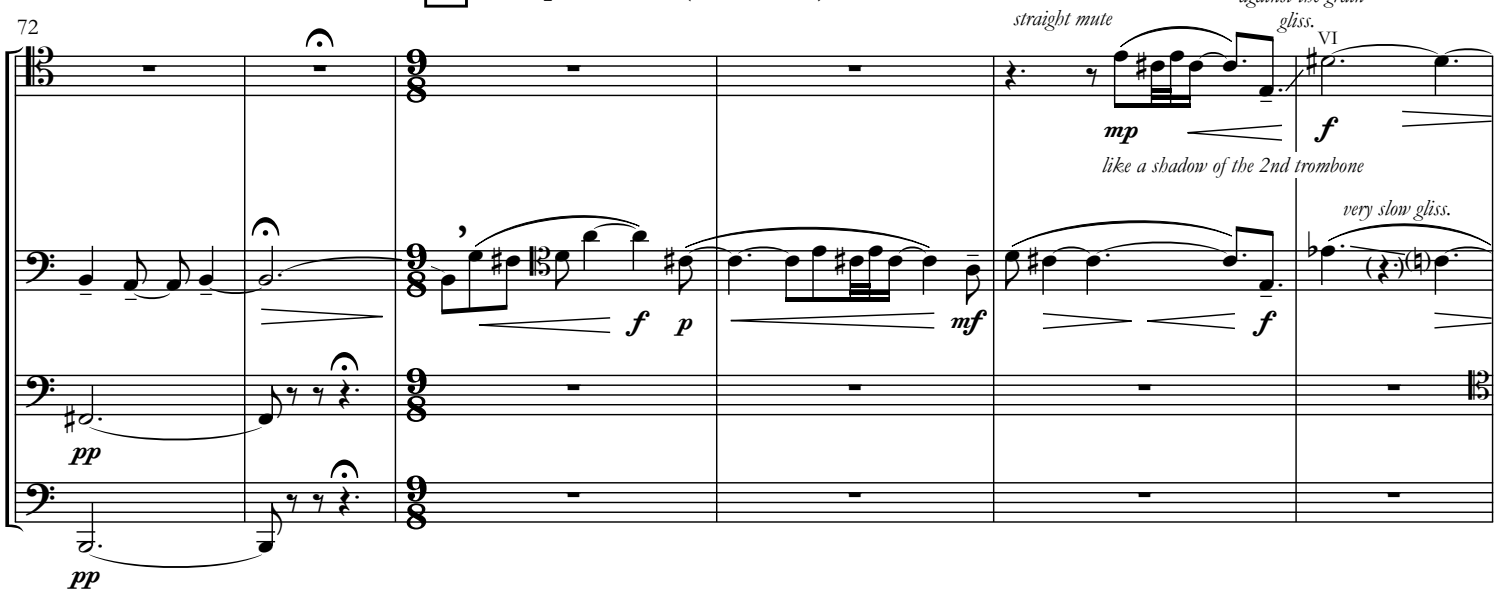

37
poco rit.
37
45 Slightly Slower, but in tempo (♩. = 52)
49 Tempo I (♩. = 60)
44
"weighty"
elegant
51
elegant

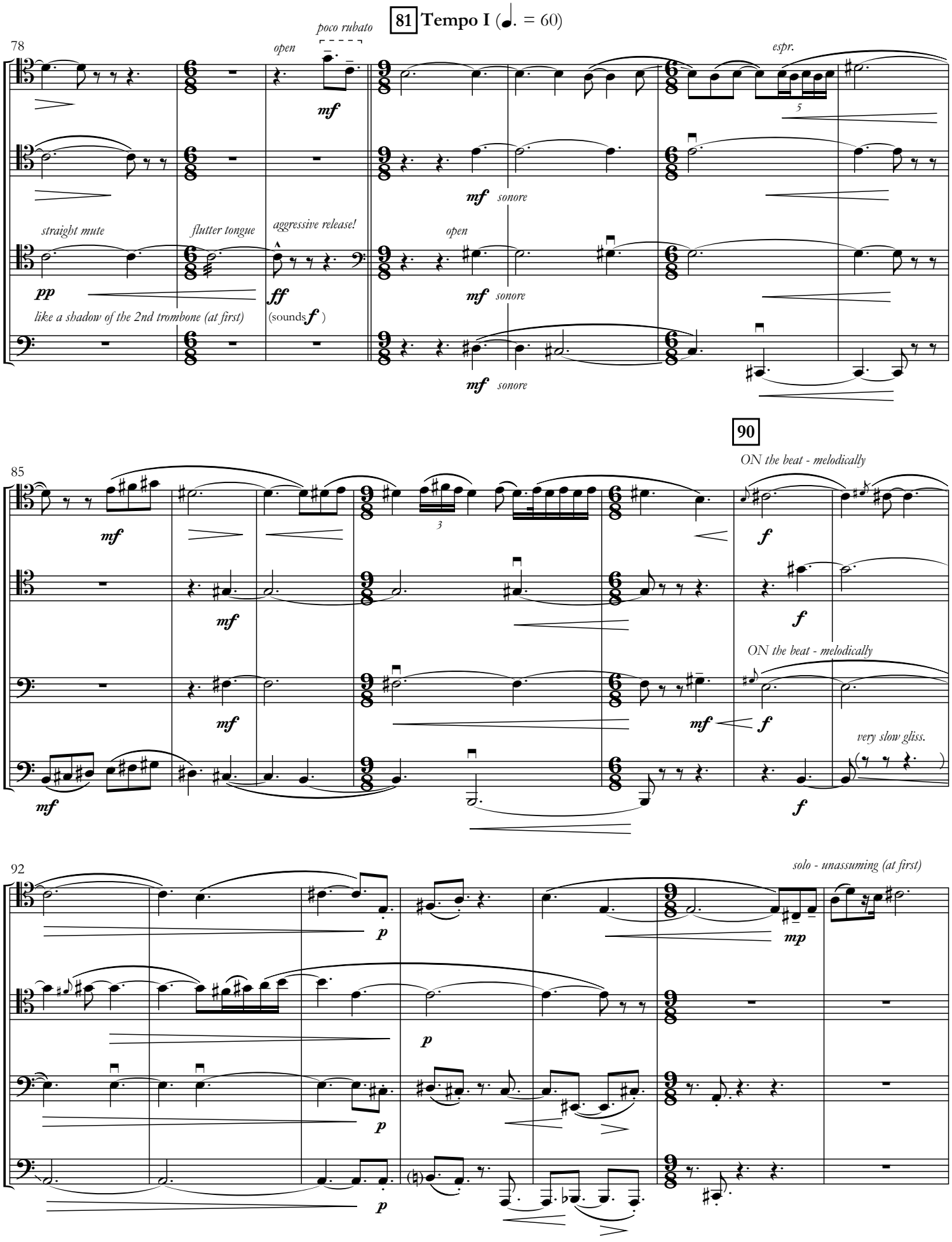
58





74 **Tempo Rubato** (♩. = ca. 52)




81 Tempo I (♩. = 60)
poco rubato
78
open
espr.
mf
mf sonore
straight mute
flutter tongue
aggressive release!
open
pp
ff
mf sonore
like a shadow of the 2nd trombone (at first)
(sounds f)
mf sonore
90
85
ON the beat - melodically
mf
f
mf
f
ON the beat - melodically
mf
mf
f
very slow gliss.
mf
f
92
solo - unassuming (at first)
p
mp
p
p
p

agitato ed accel. **Tempo I** (♩. = 60)

99

angry

straight mute *flutter tongue*

straight mute *flutter tongue*

106 **Misterioso** (♩ = 60) (♩. = ♩)

106

straight mute *molto rit.*

straight mute

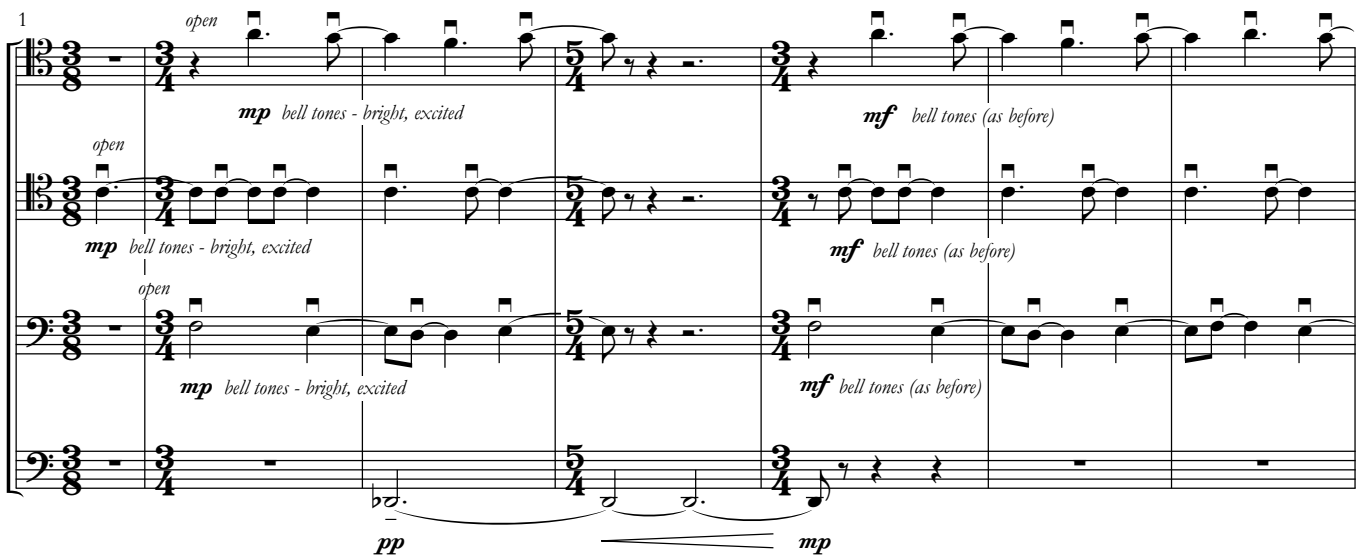
lunga **115** **Tempo Rubato** (♩. = ca. 46)

113

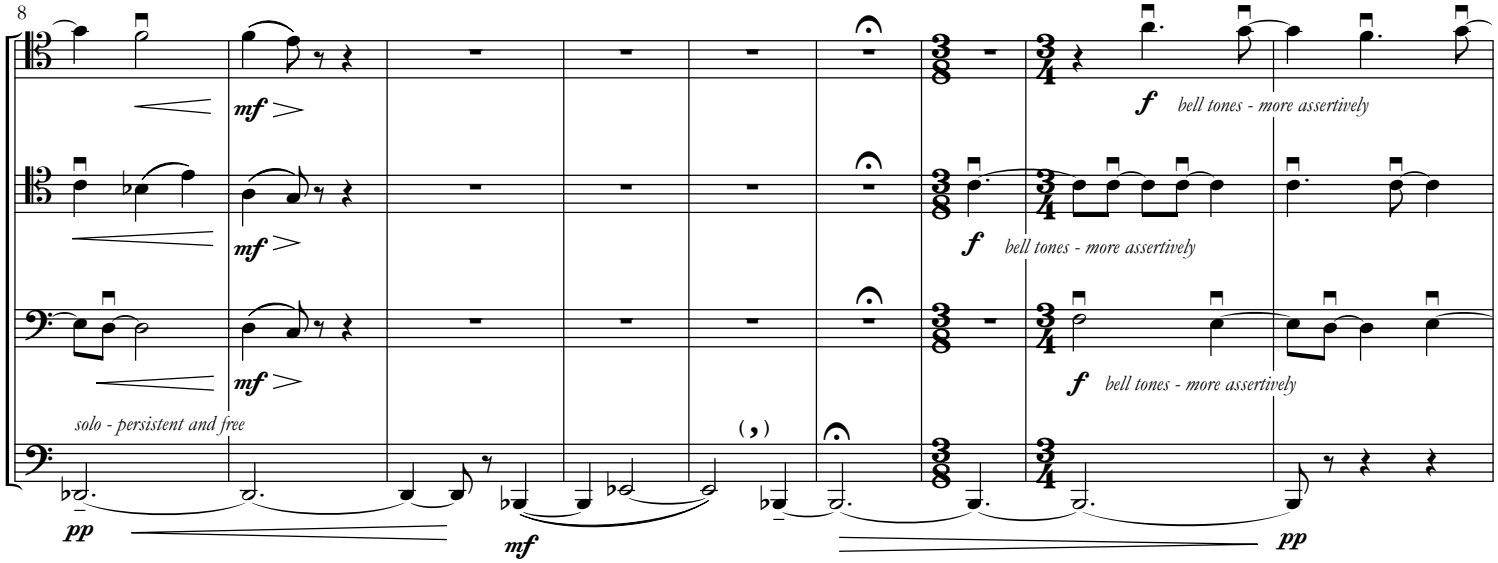
open *solo - ominous* *legatissimo*

II. Spring Lightning

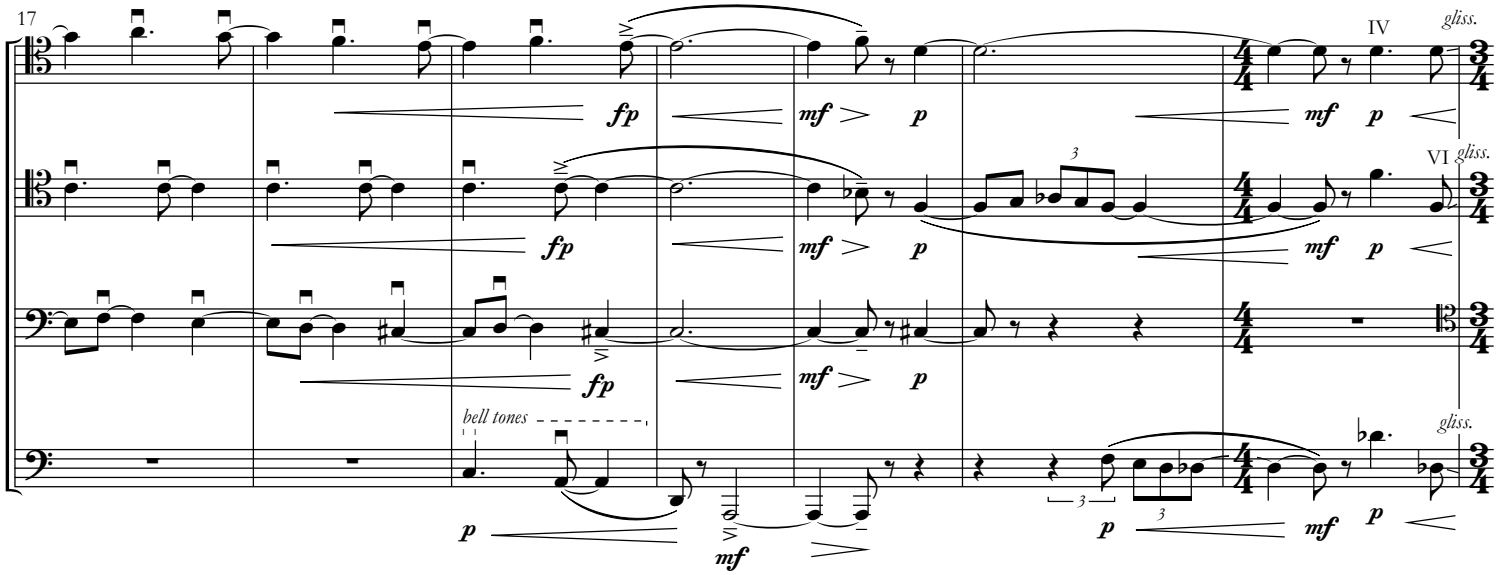
Giocoso (♩ = 126)

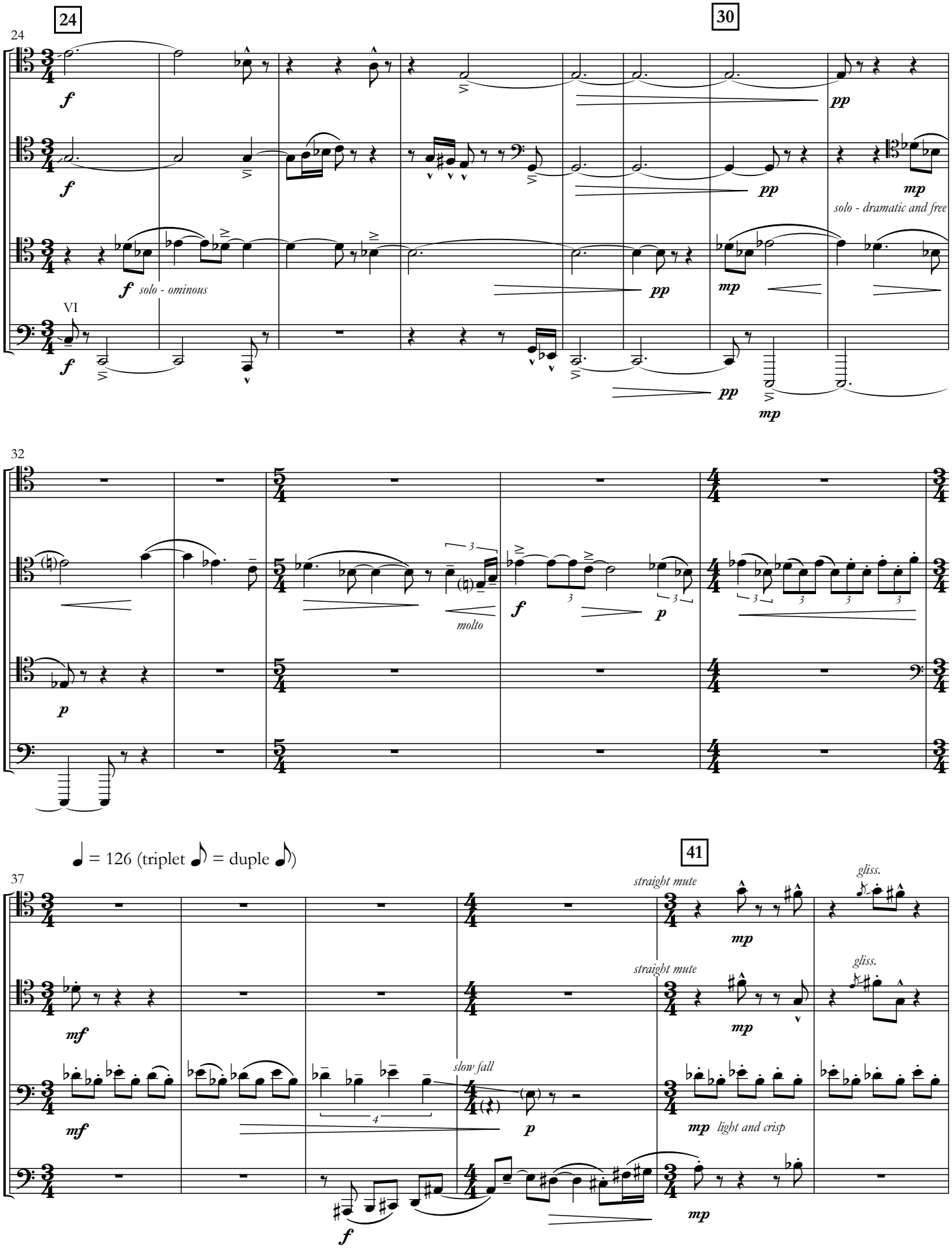


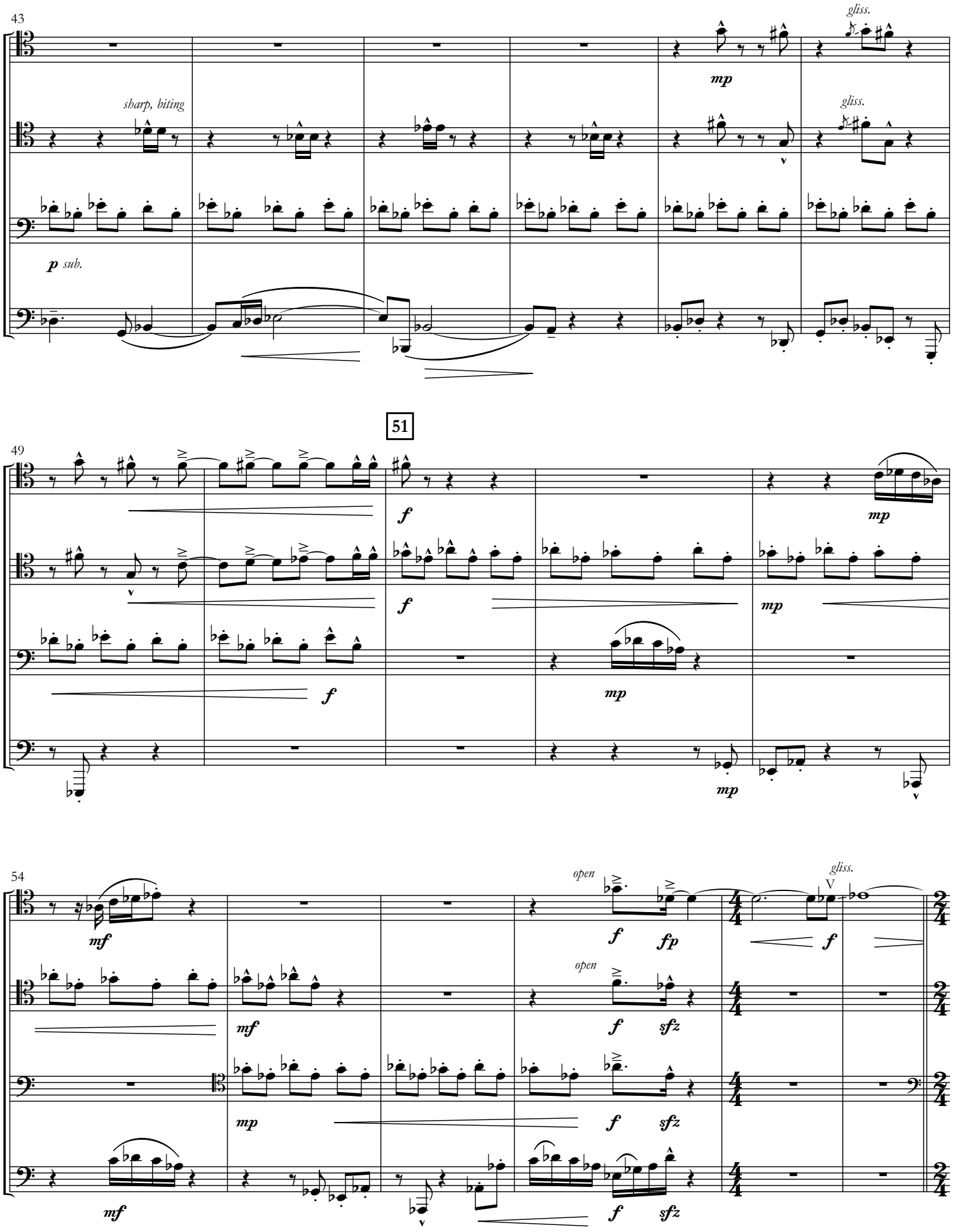
14 **A Tempo** (♩ = 126)

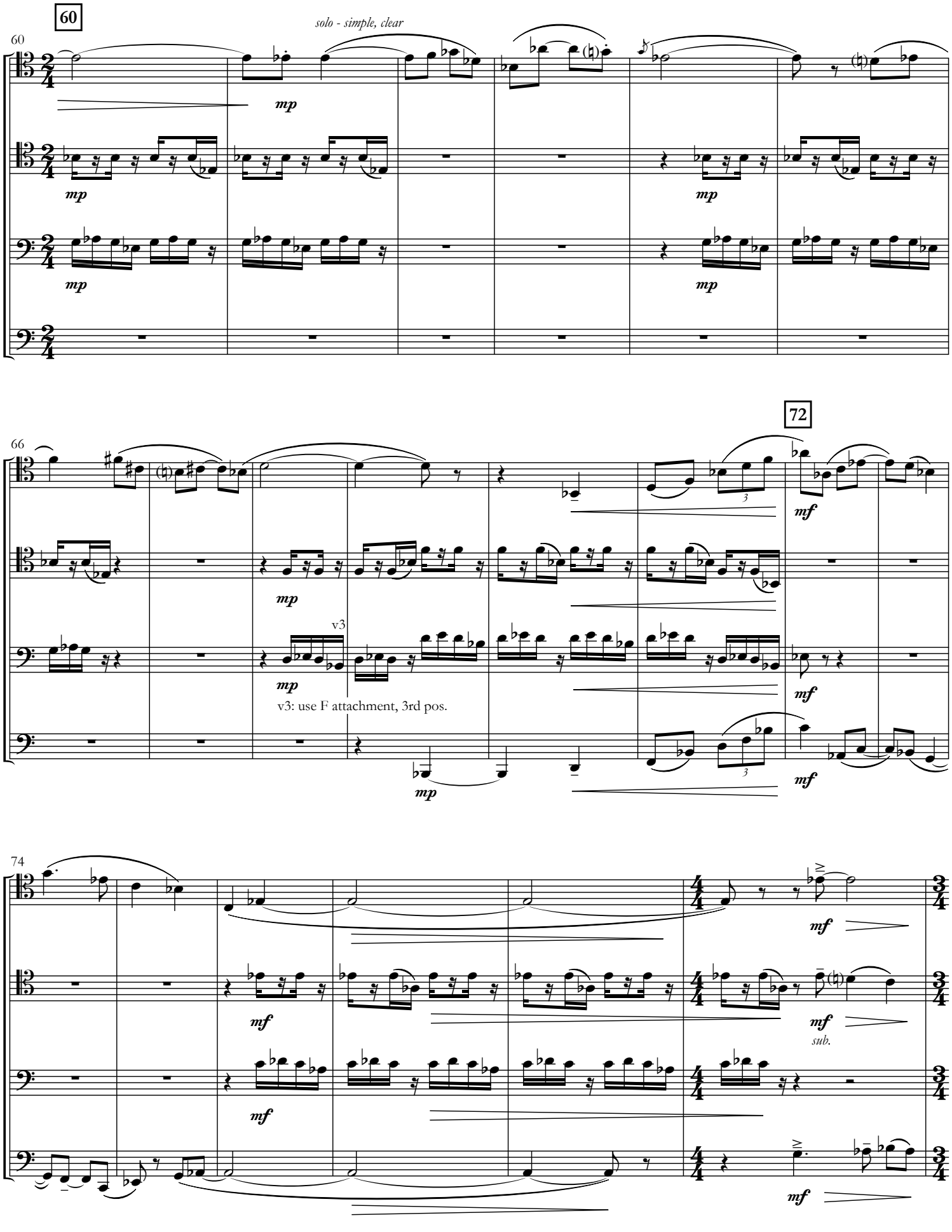


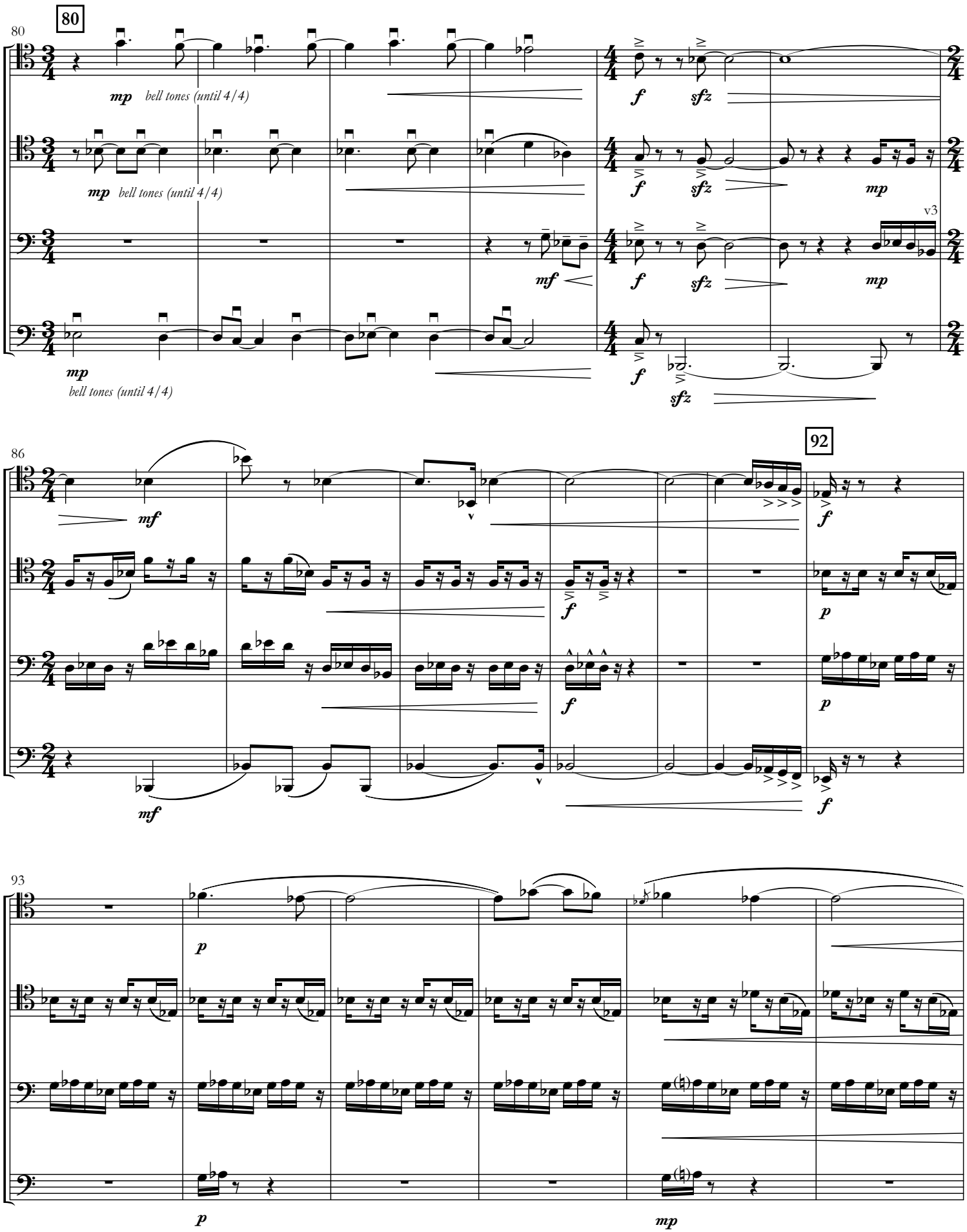
♩ = 84 (♩. = ♩)

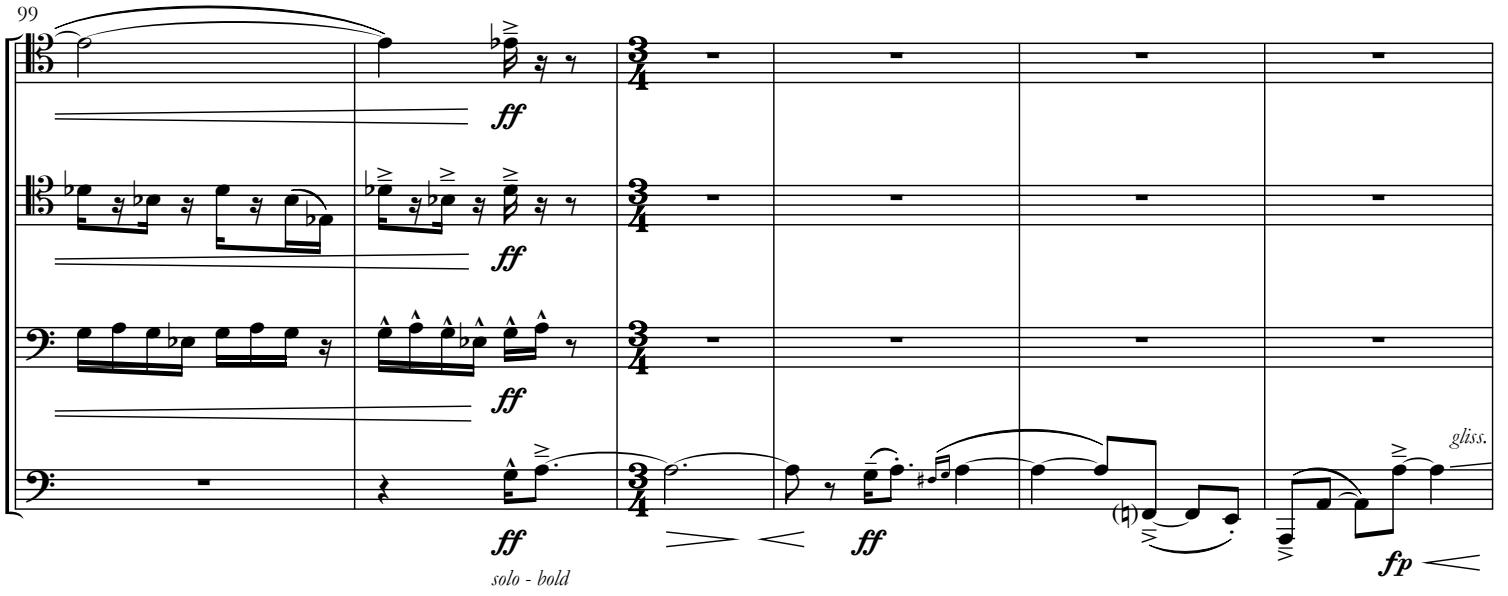



24
30
f
pp
mp
solo - dramatic and free
solo - ominous
VI
32
molto
p
37
♩ = 126 (triplet ♪ = duple ♪)
41
straight mute
gliss.
mf
slow fall
light and crisp

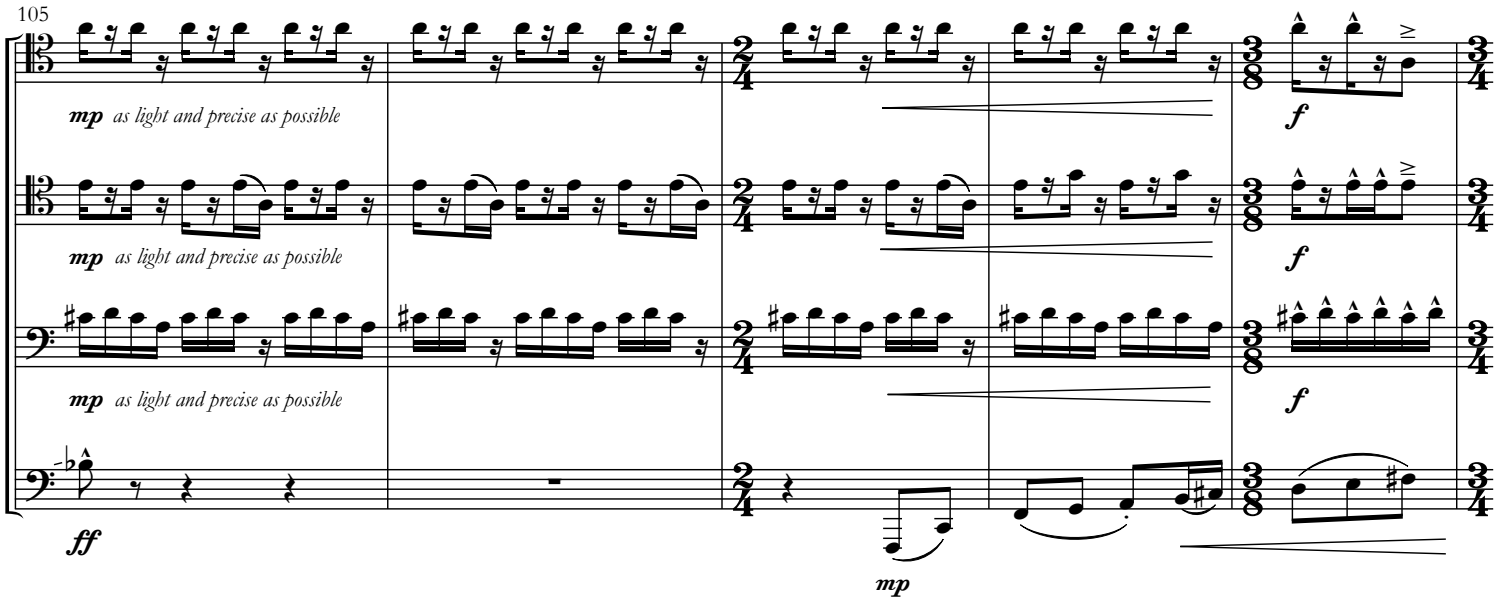

43
gliss.
mp
sharp, biting
gliss.
p sub.
51
49
f
mp
f
mp
f
mp
mp
54
open
gliss.
mf
f
fp
f
open
mf
f
sfz
mp
f
sfz
mf
f
sfz

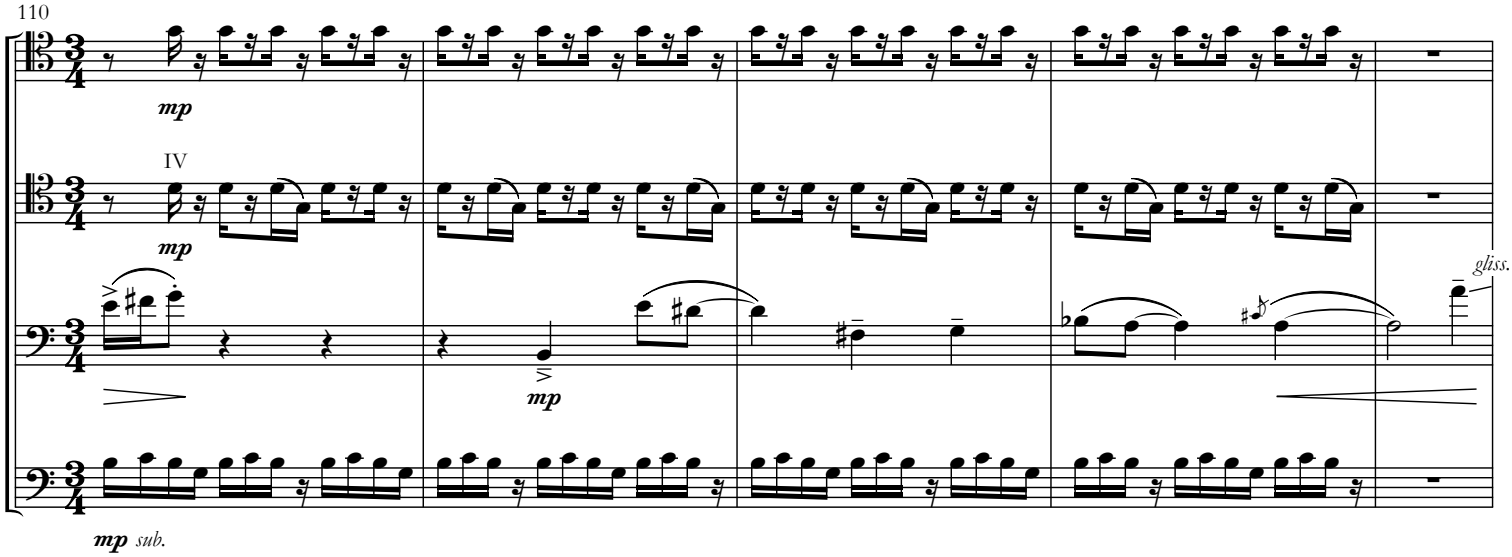

60
solo - simple, clear
mp
66
72
v3
v3: use F attachment, 3rd pos.
mf
74
sub.

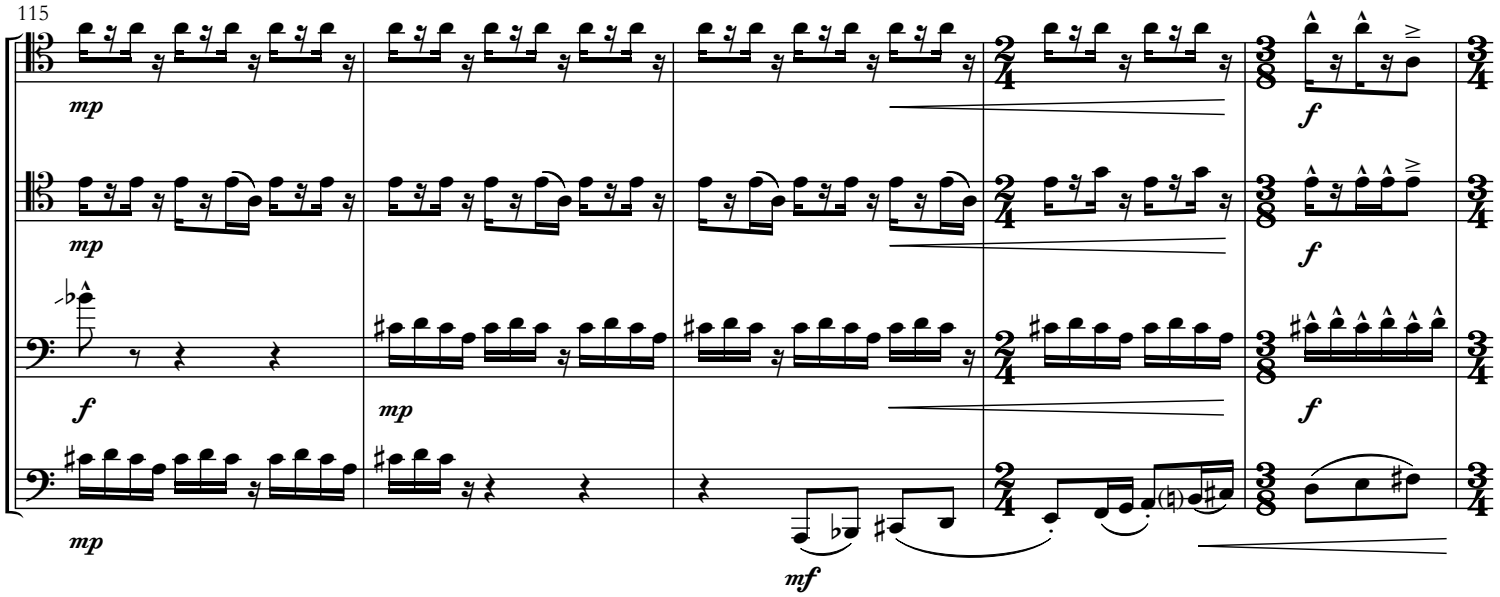

80
80
mp bell tones (until 4/4)
mp bell tones (until 4/4)
mp
bell tones (until 4/4)
f
sfz
mf
v3
86
92
93
p
mp



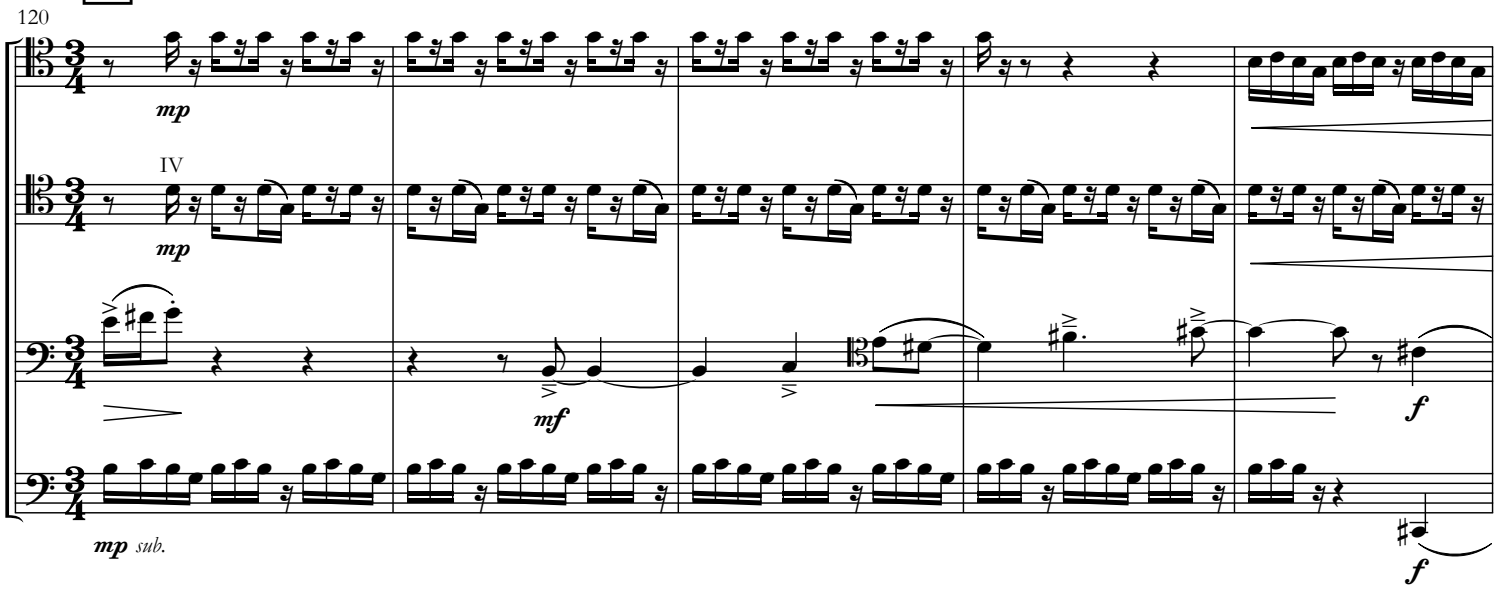
105 **Suddenly Exhilarating** (♩ = 132)

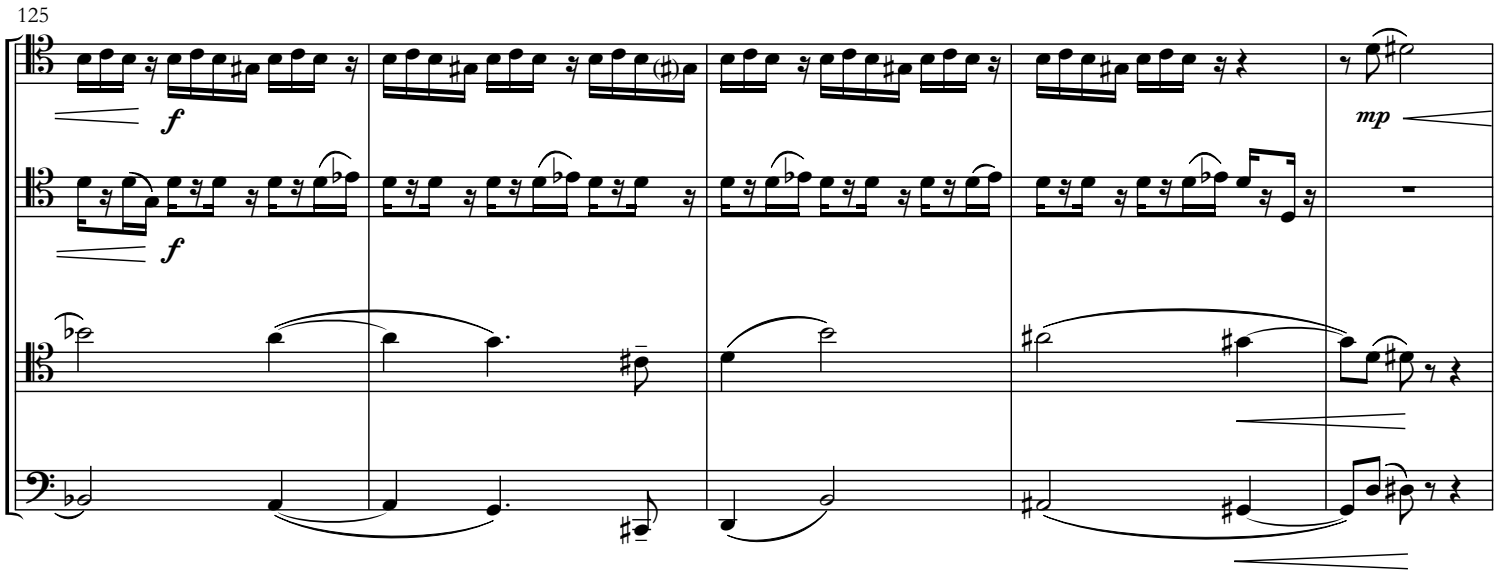


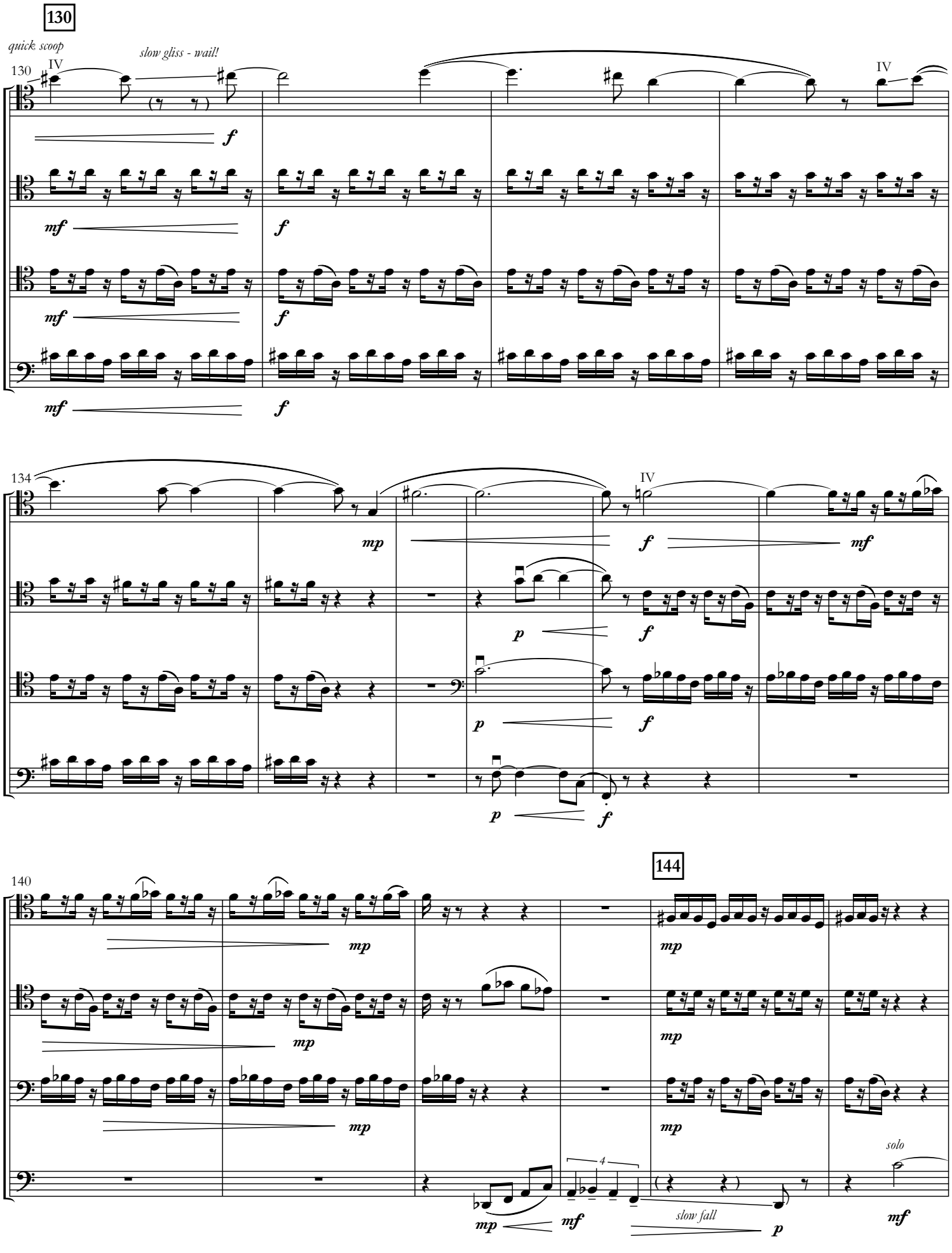


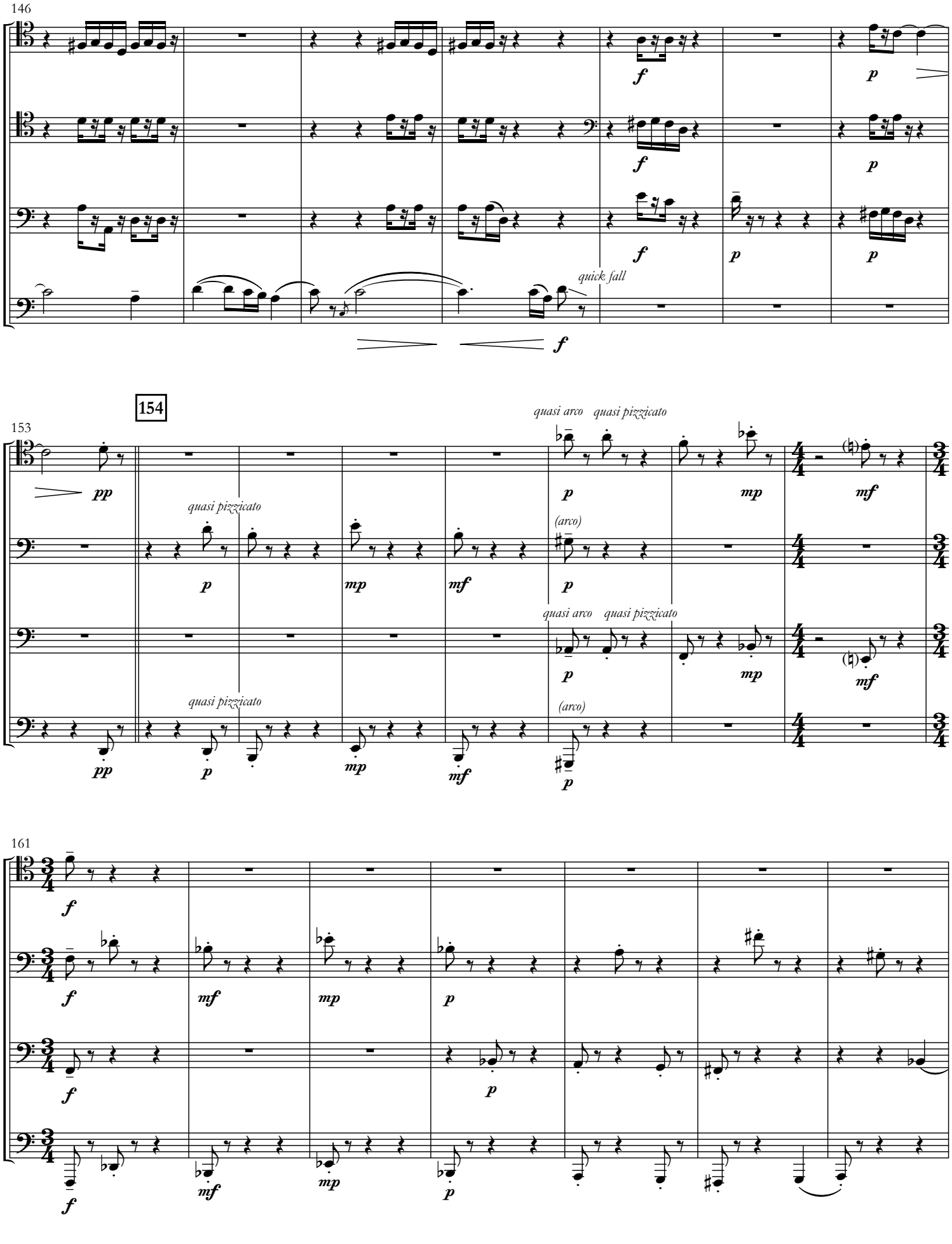


120



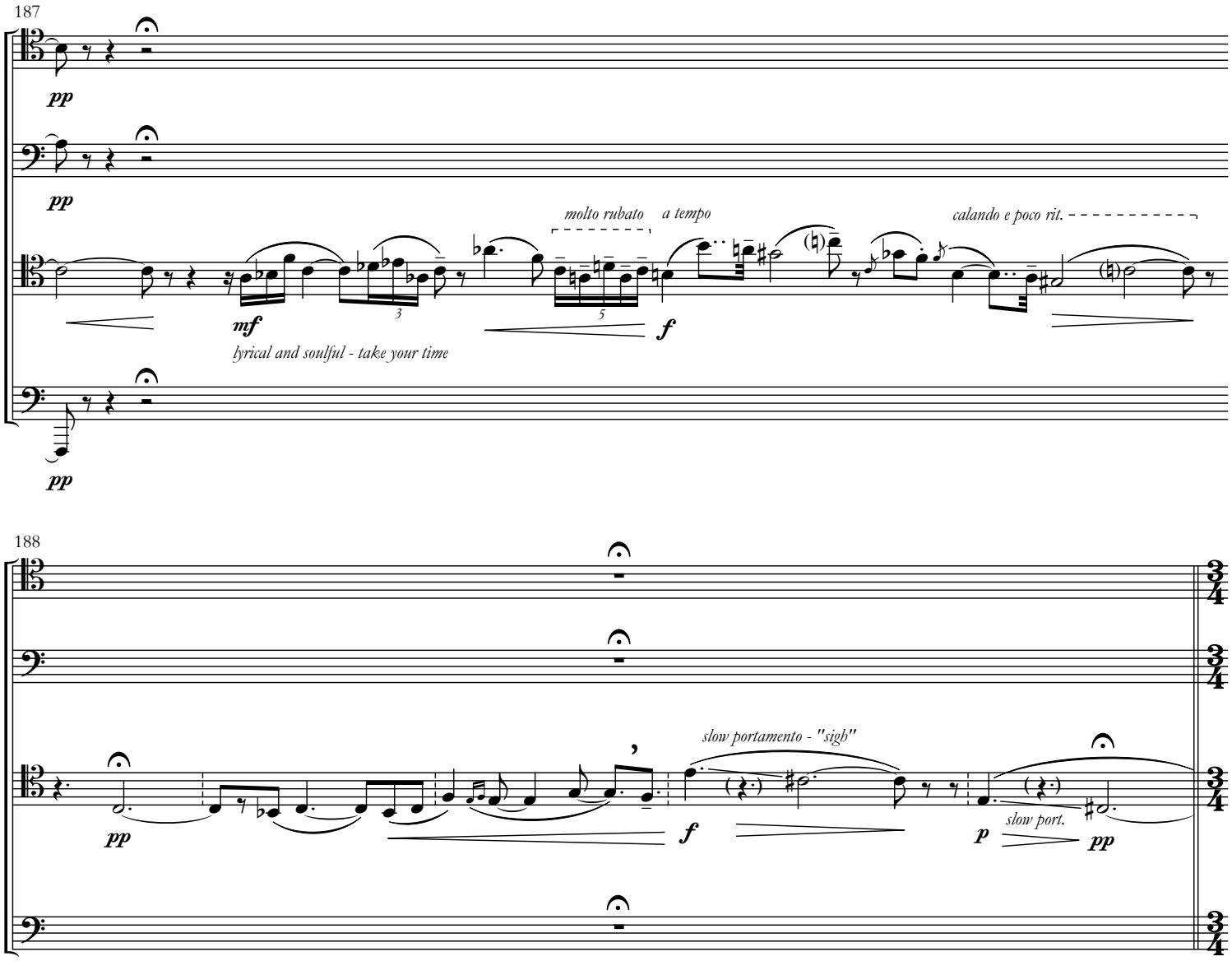



130
quick scoop
slow gliss - wail!
130
IV
IV
f
mf
f
mf
f
mf
f
134
IV
mp
f
mf
p
f
p
f
p
f
140
144
mp
mp
mp
mp
mp
mp
4
solo
mp
mf
slow fall
p
mf


146
quick fall
154
153
quasi arco
quasi pizzicato
(arco)
161

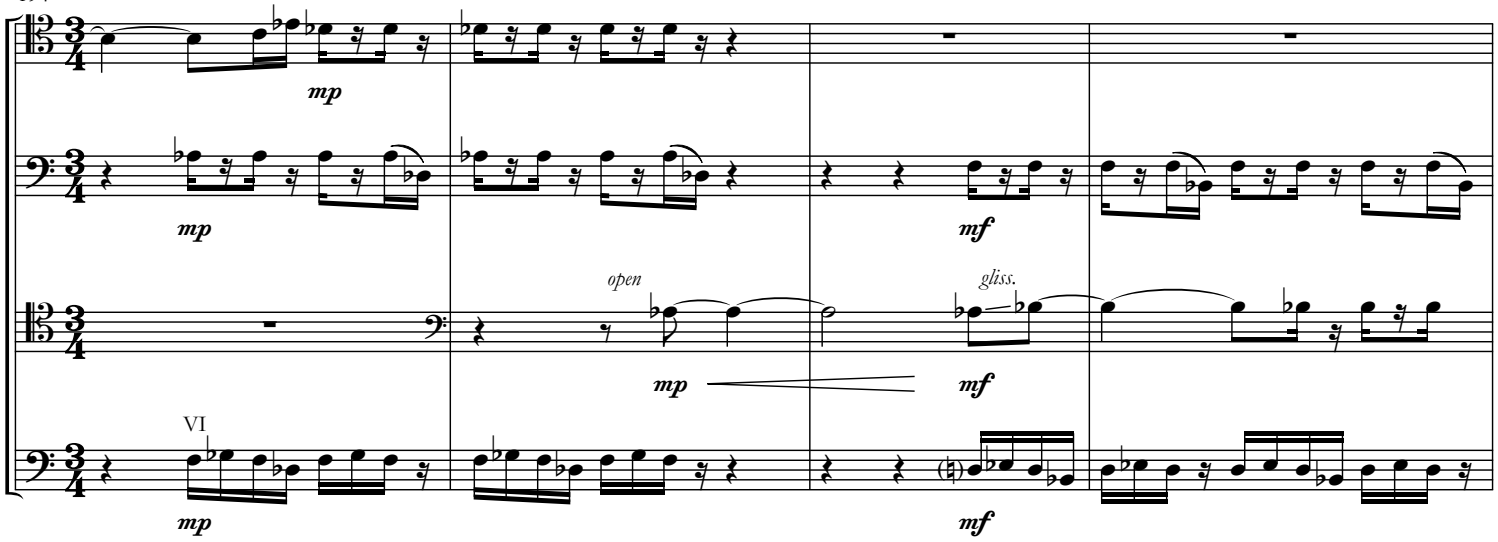
poco rit. - - -

Cadenza



v3: use F attachment, 3rd pos.

194



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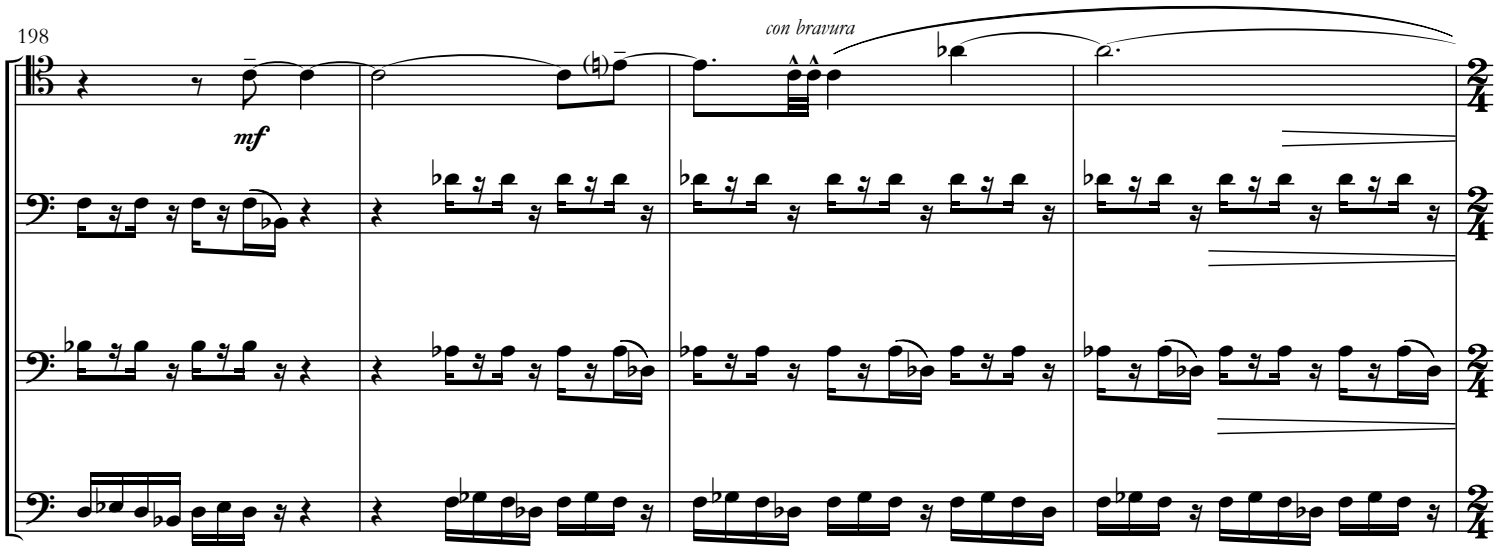
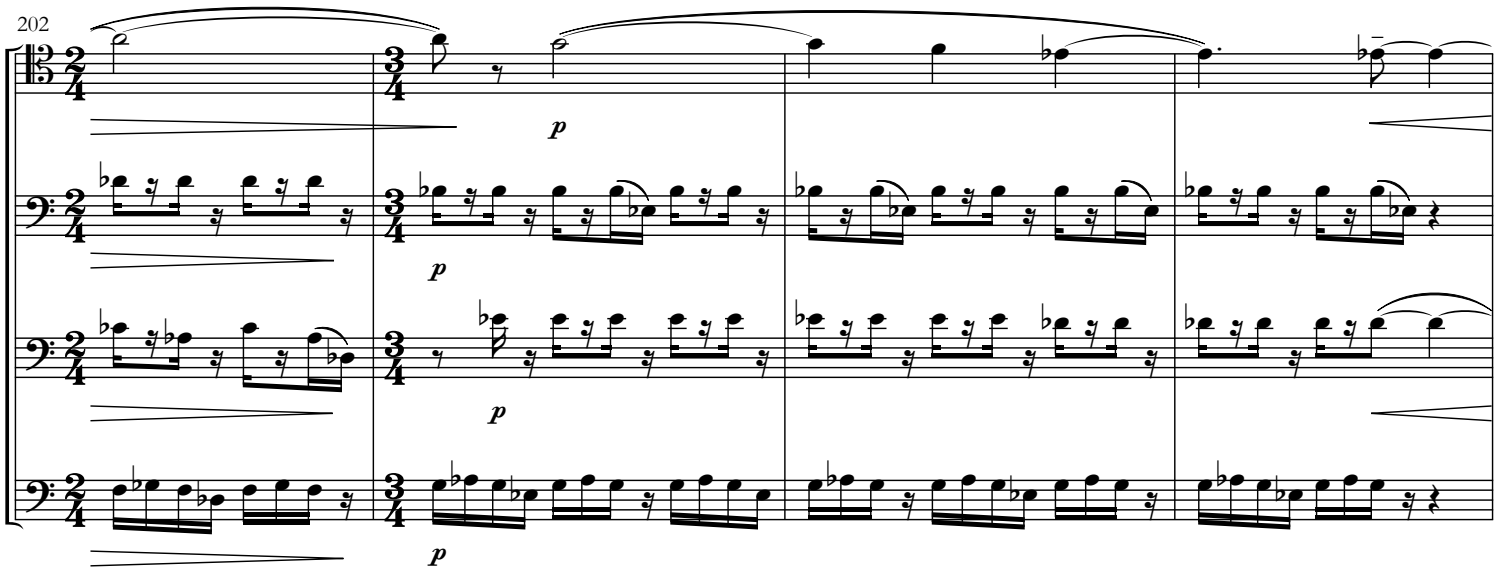
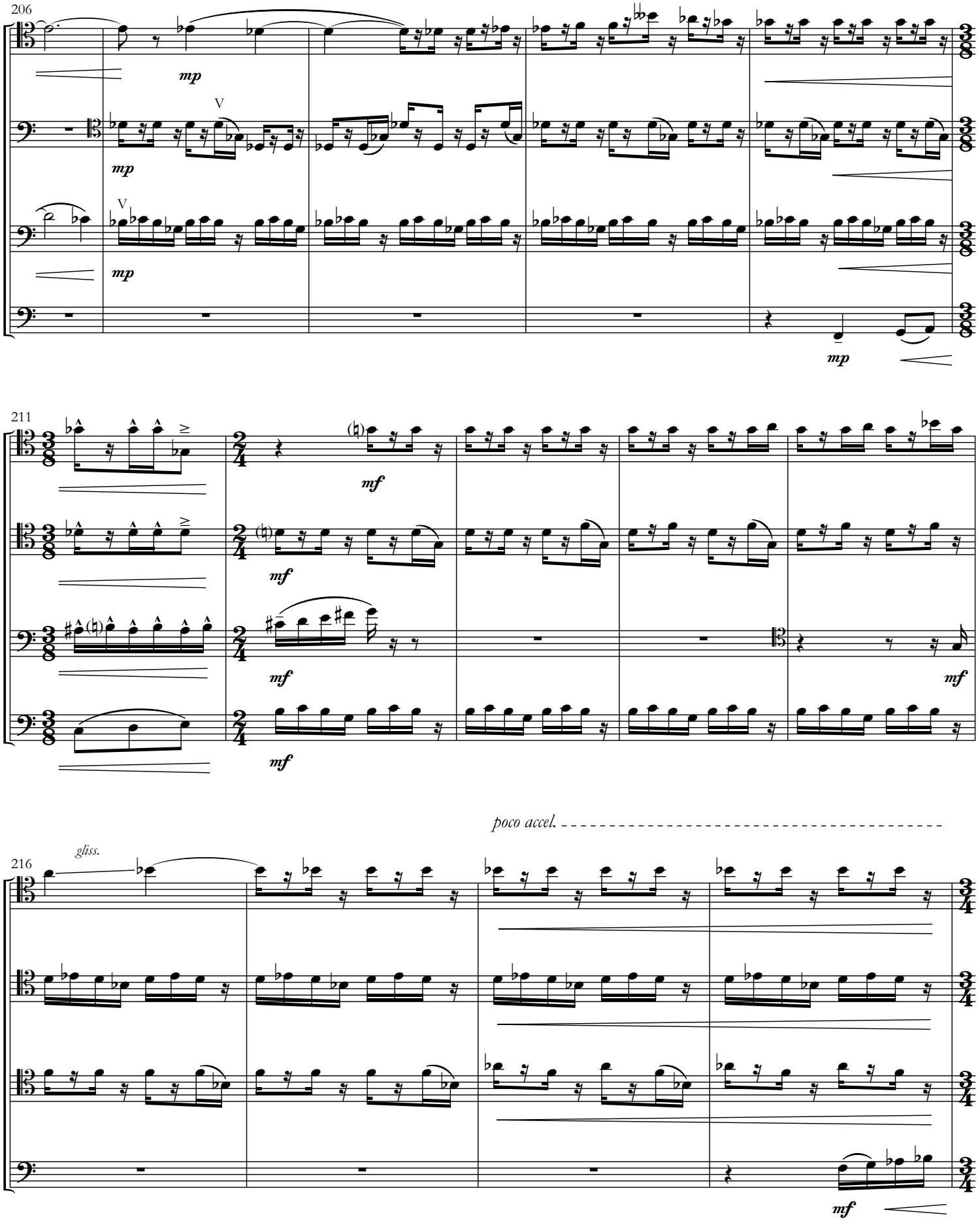


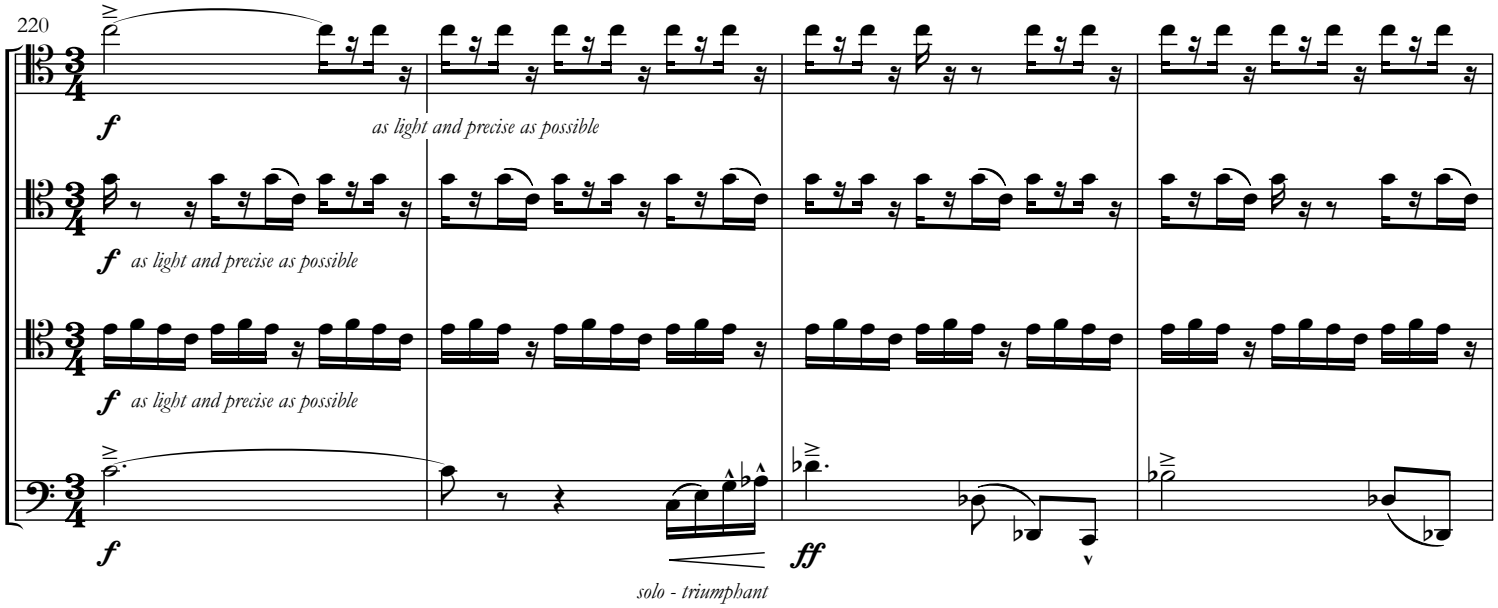
203

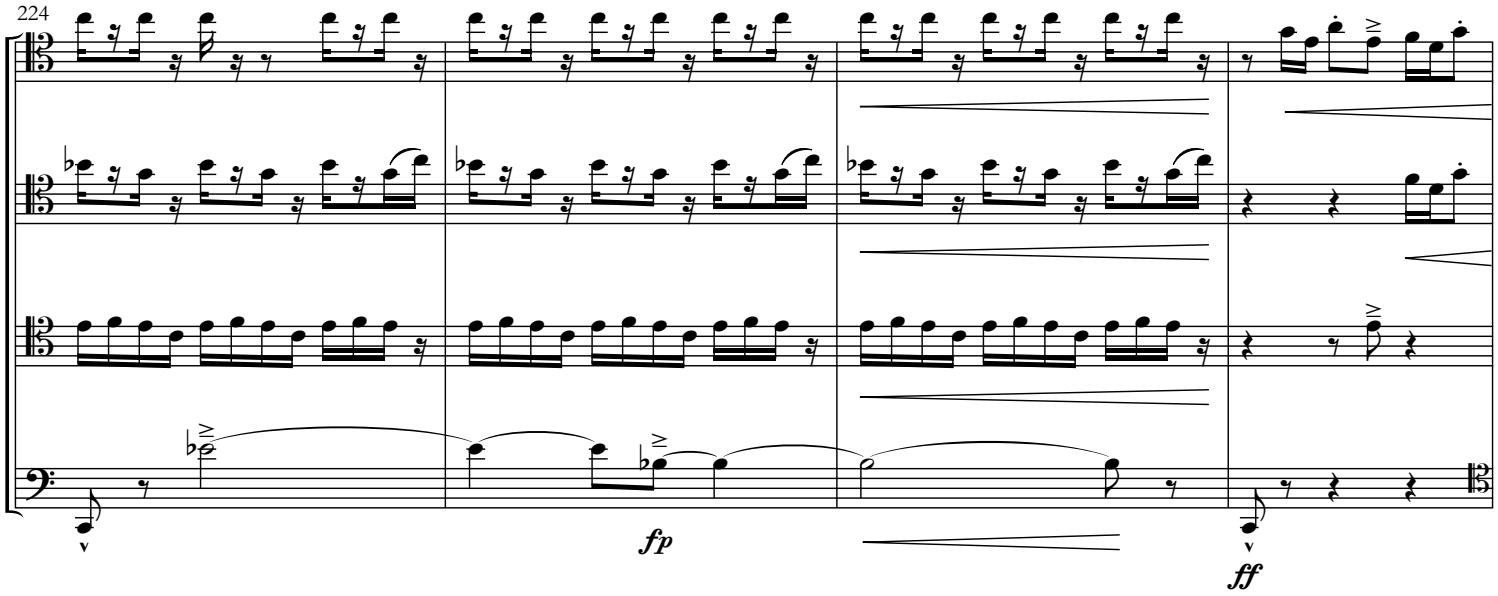
202

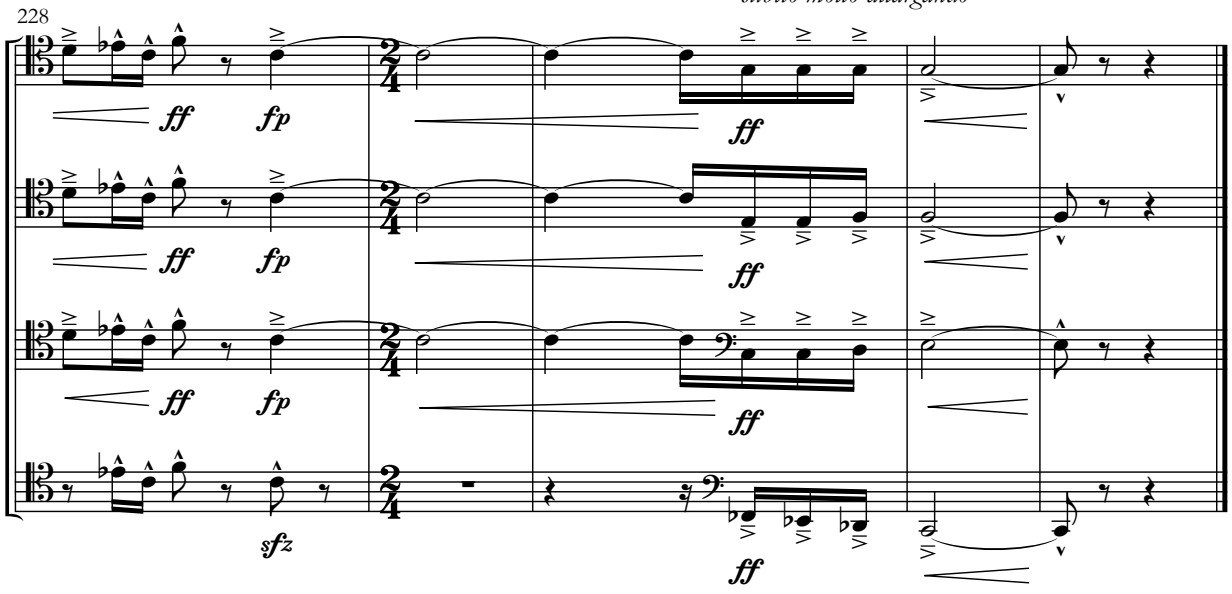



206
mp
V
mp
V
mp
mp
211
mf
mf
mf
mf
mf
poco accel.
216
gliss.
mf

220 Exhilarating (♩ = 132)







Movement 1
July 10, 2009
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Movement 2
March 29, 2008
Denton, Texas