String Trio

(The Magician)

violin, viola, cello

Lewis Nielson (1981)

String Trio was written in 1981, undedicated. As yet unperformed, I am indebted to Dylan Messina for encouraging me to make a performing edition of the work. At such a lengthy time remove I can give it no dedication except to the loyal, splendid, and idealistic members of *Bonne Action* who always give me hope.

Performance Directions:

Natural harmonics are notated as a sounding pitch with a circle above the notehead. Artificial harmonics are notated in tablature with (from the bottom up) stopped note and touched node. Only "touch 4" and "touch 5" artificial harmonics are used.

Accidentals apply only to the notes they precede. Precautionary accidentals are use frequently.

At the tempo markings of "Thirty-second = fast as possible," these thirty-seconds should be faster than thirty-seconds in any other tempo.

In general, this piece represents a journey from lightness and clarity to an atmosphere of darkness and violence that is cleansing rather than destructive (hence, the subtitle of thework, the first card of the Major Arcana of the Tarot). The cadence, then, is anything but a throw-away gesture but one that completes a circle.

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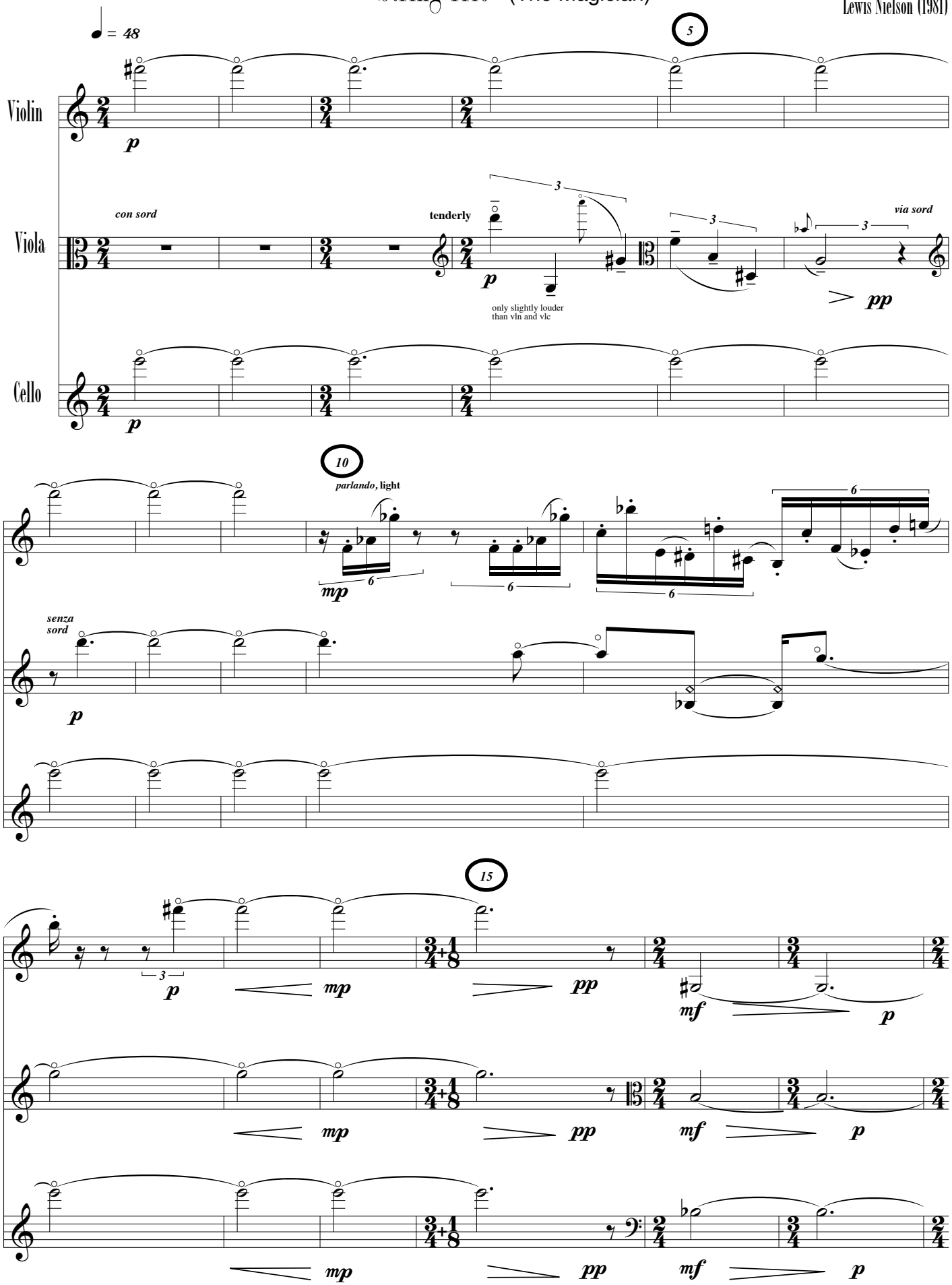

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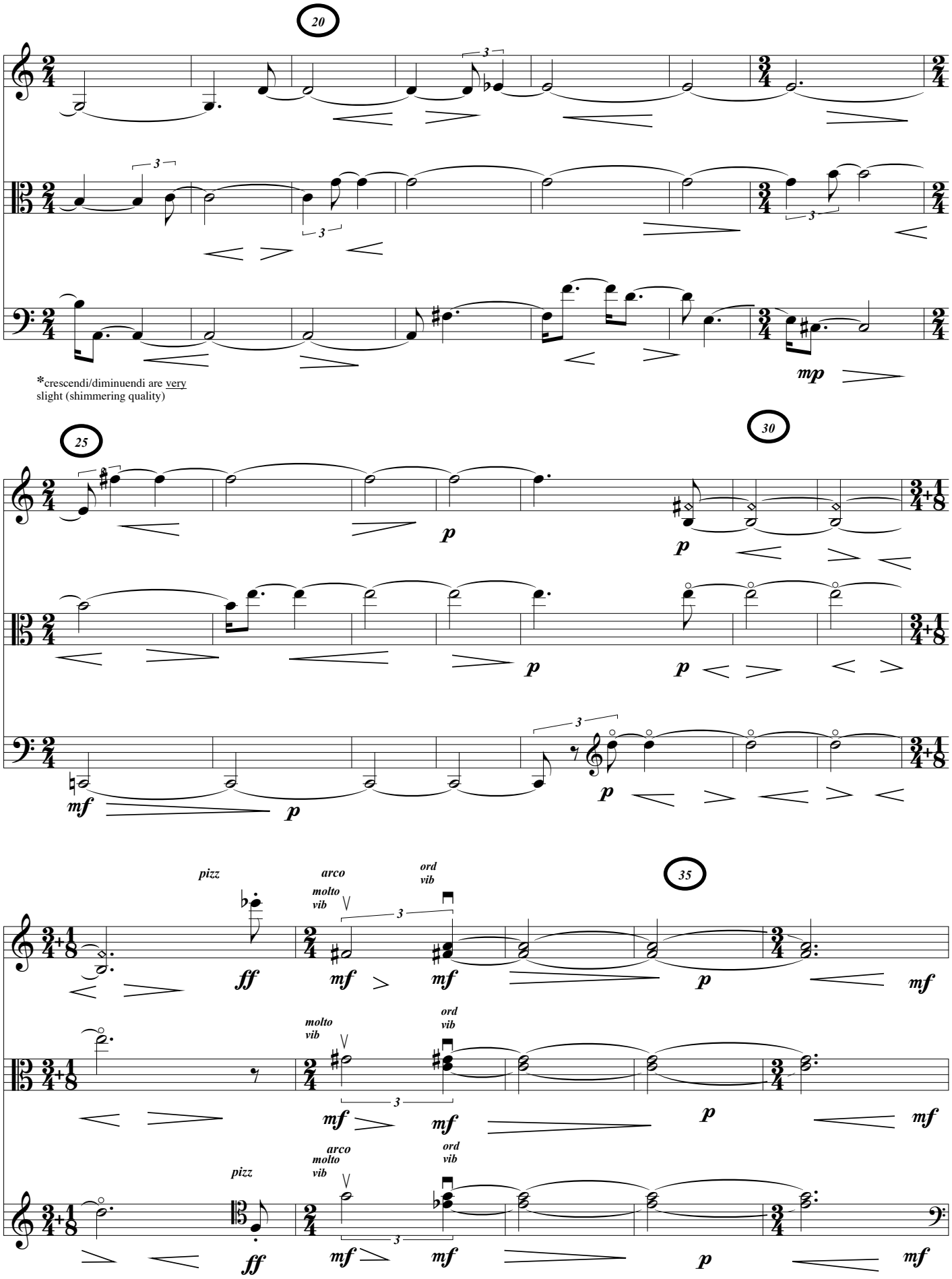
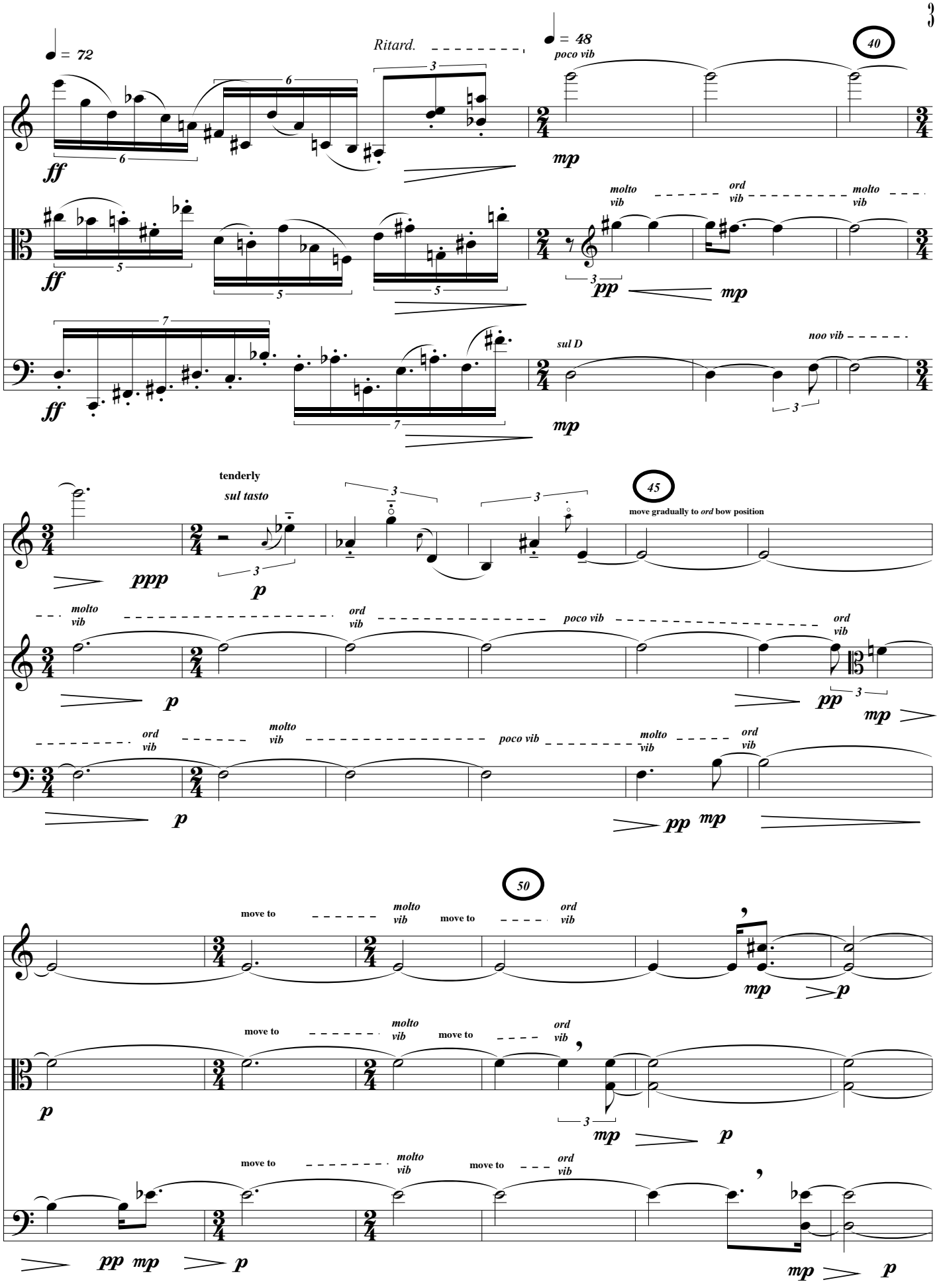
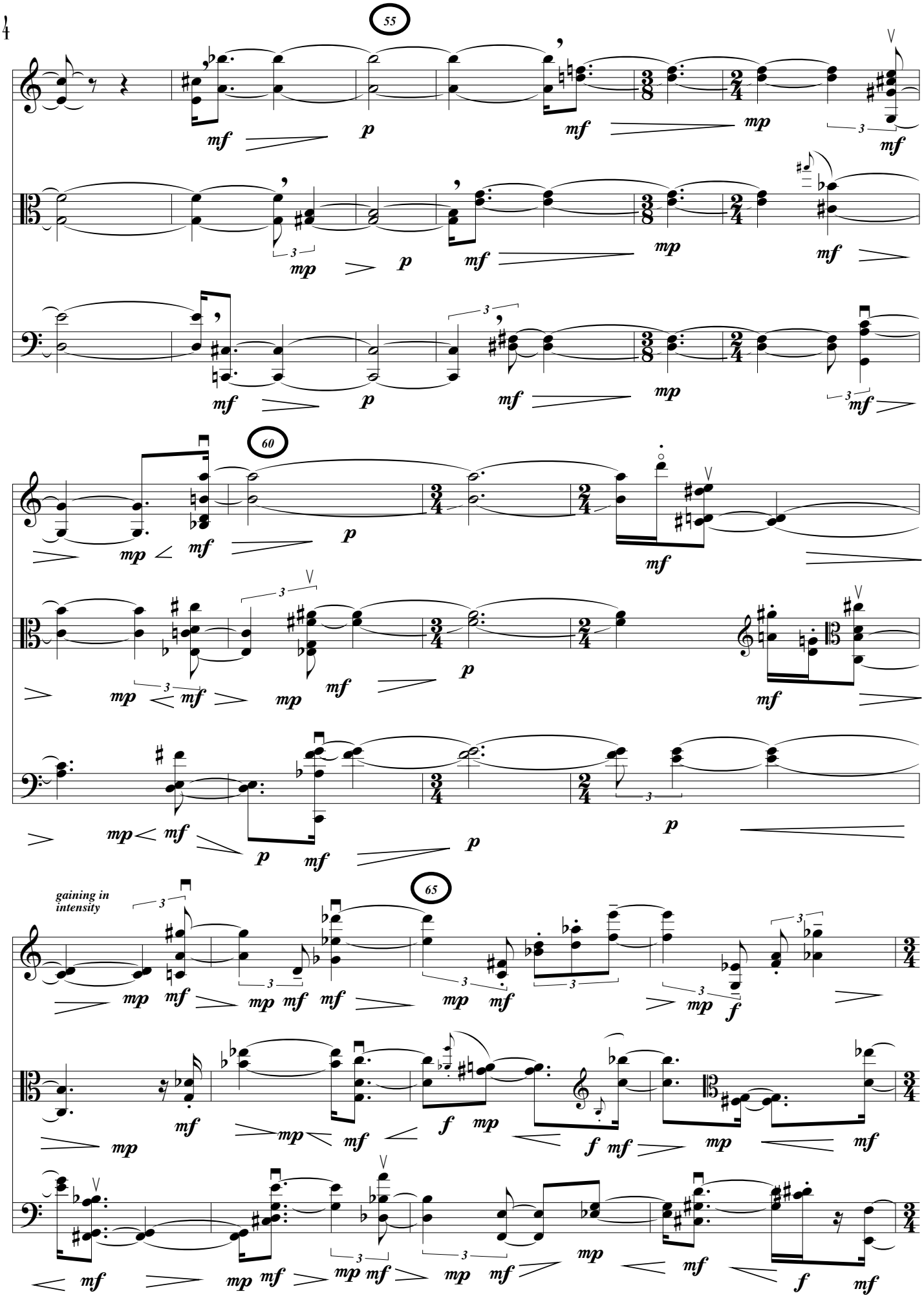
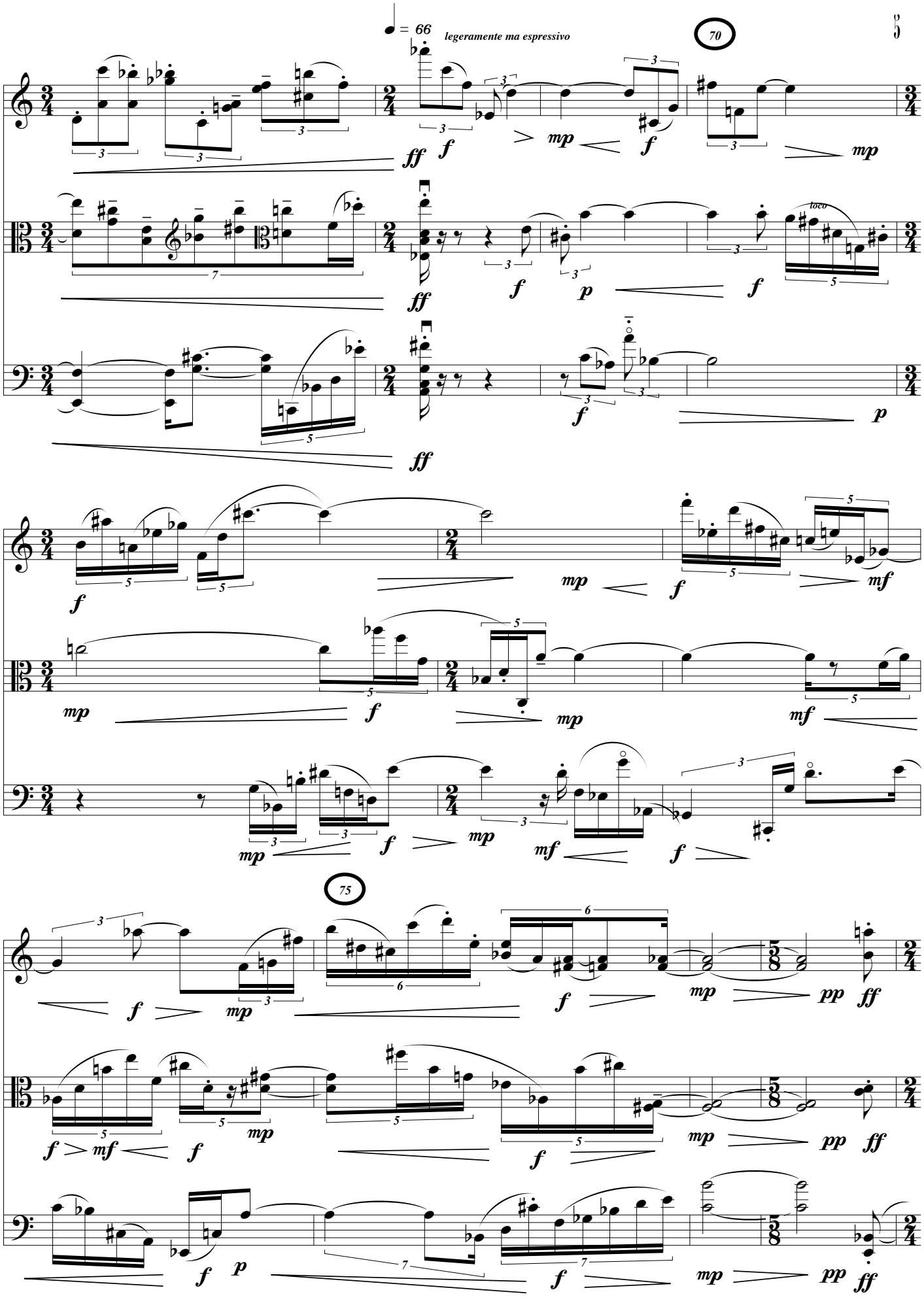
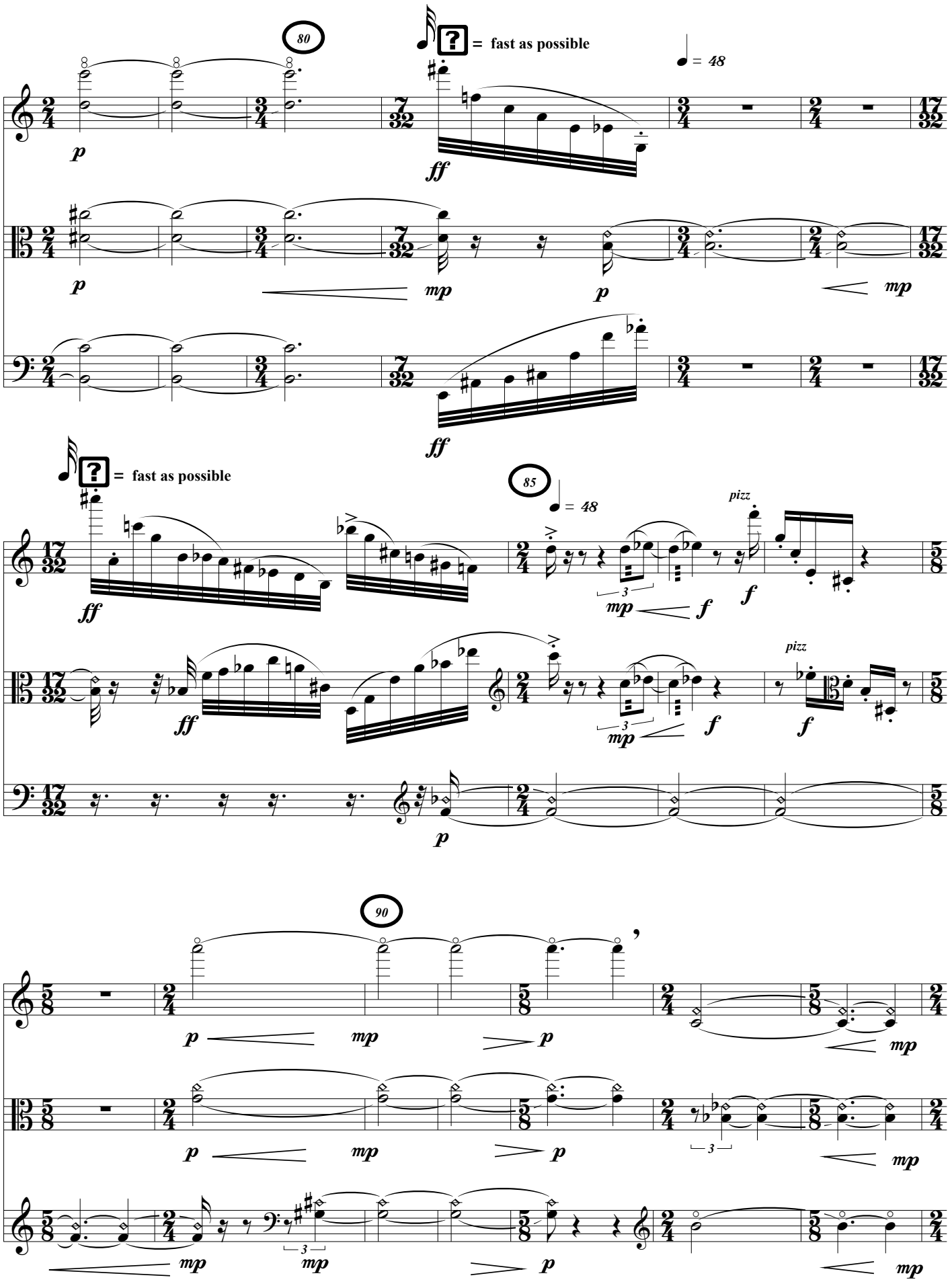
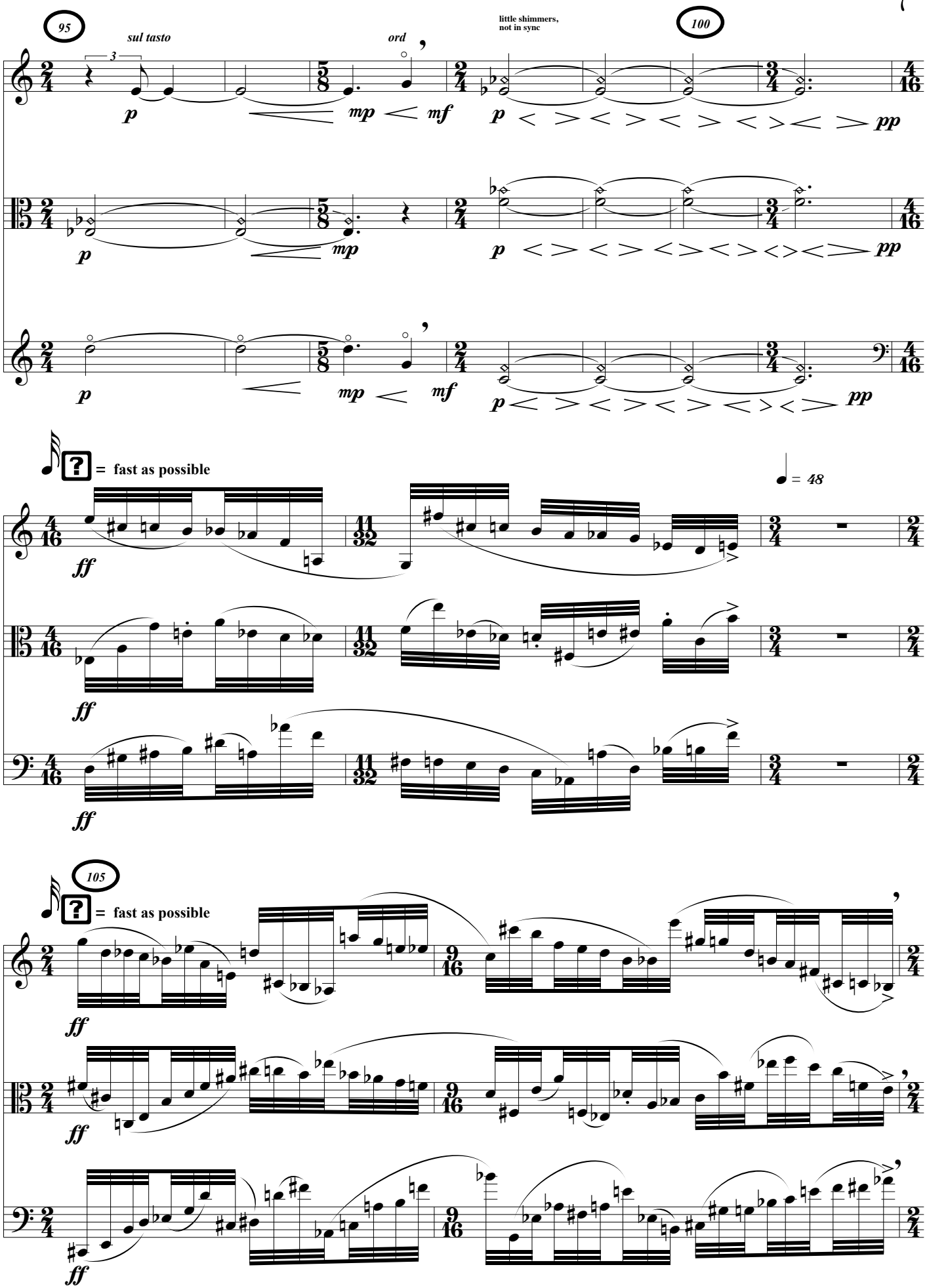

20
25
30
35
*crescendi/diminuendi are very slight (shimmering quality)
mp
mf
p
ff
pizz
arco
molto vib
ord vib

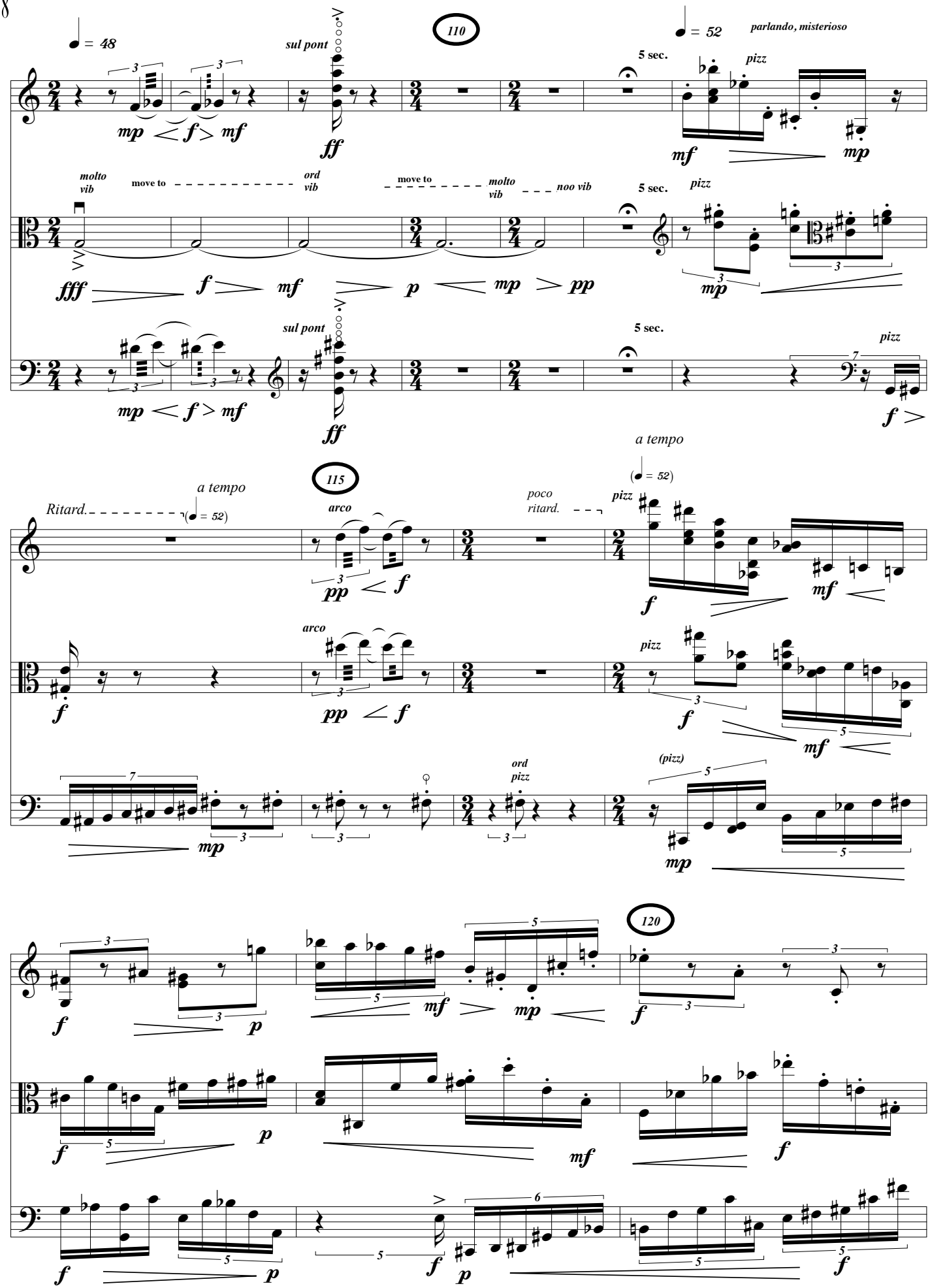

♩ = 72
Ritard.
♩ = 48
poco vib
40
ff
mp
molto vib
ord vib
molto vib
pp
sul D
noo vib
tenderly
sul tasto
45
move gradually to ord bow position
ppp
p
poco vib
50
move to
molto vib
ord vib

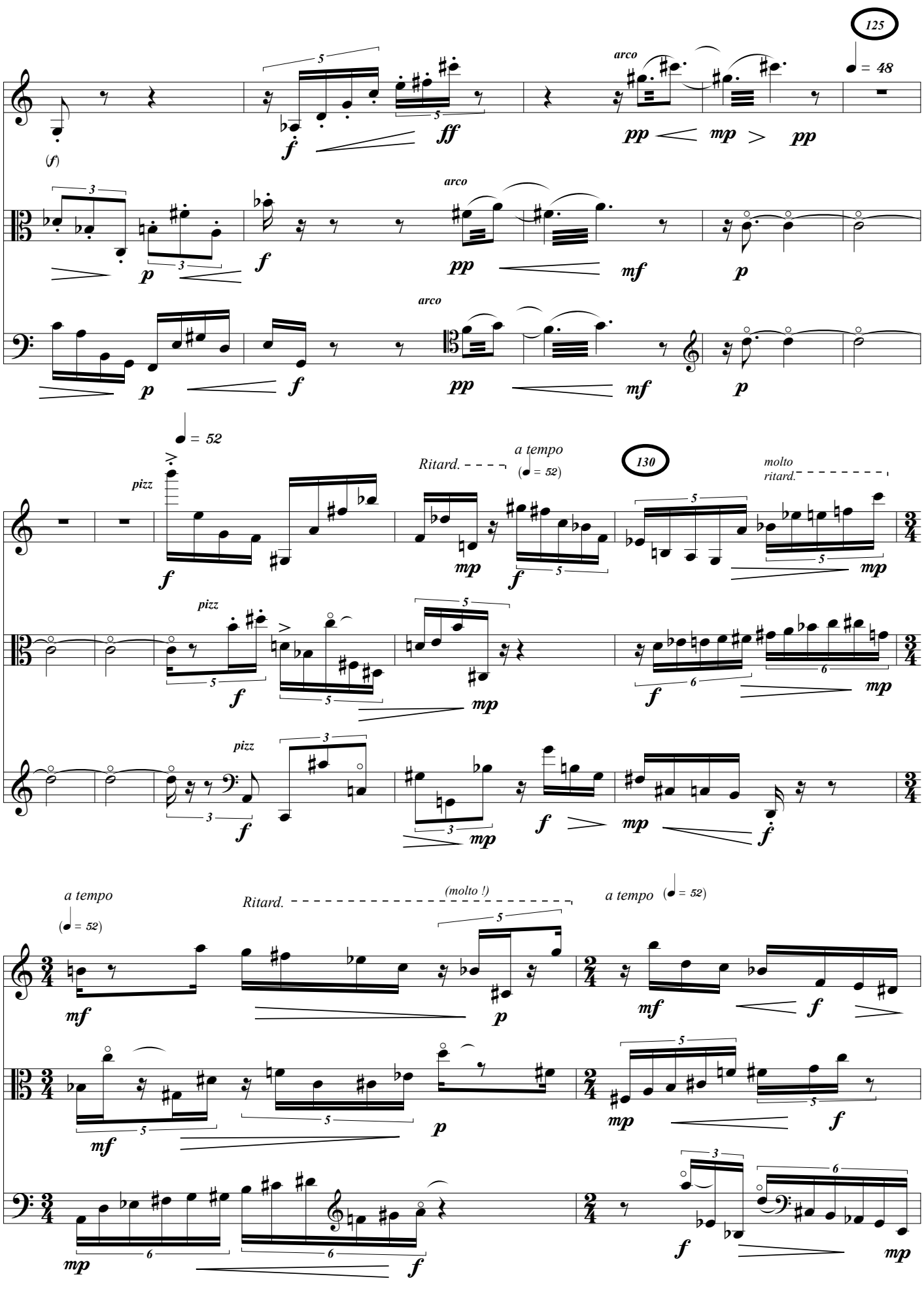

55
60
65
gaining in intensity

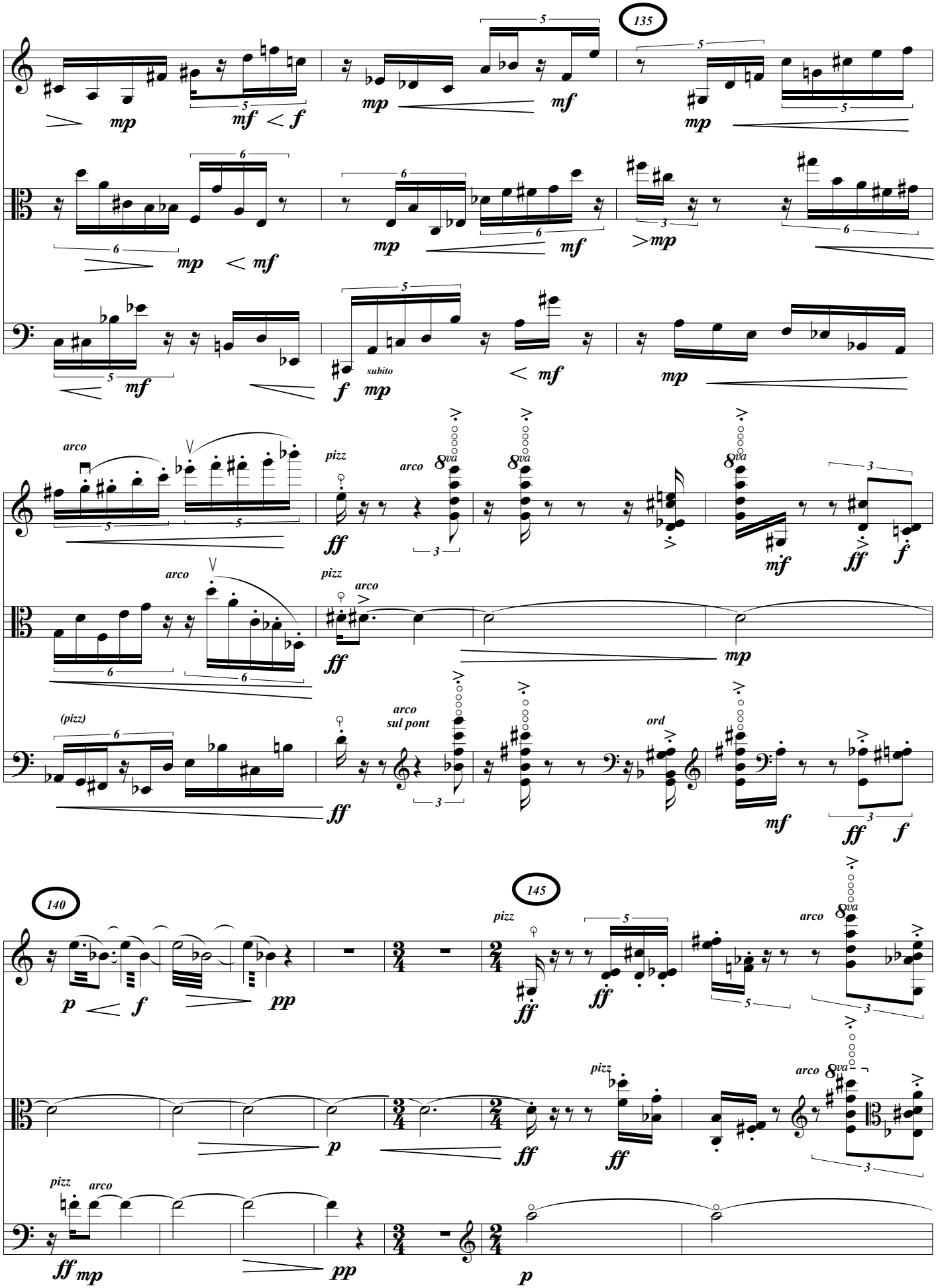

♩ = 66
legeramente ma espressivo
70
75
toco

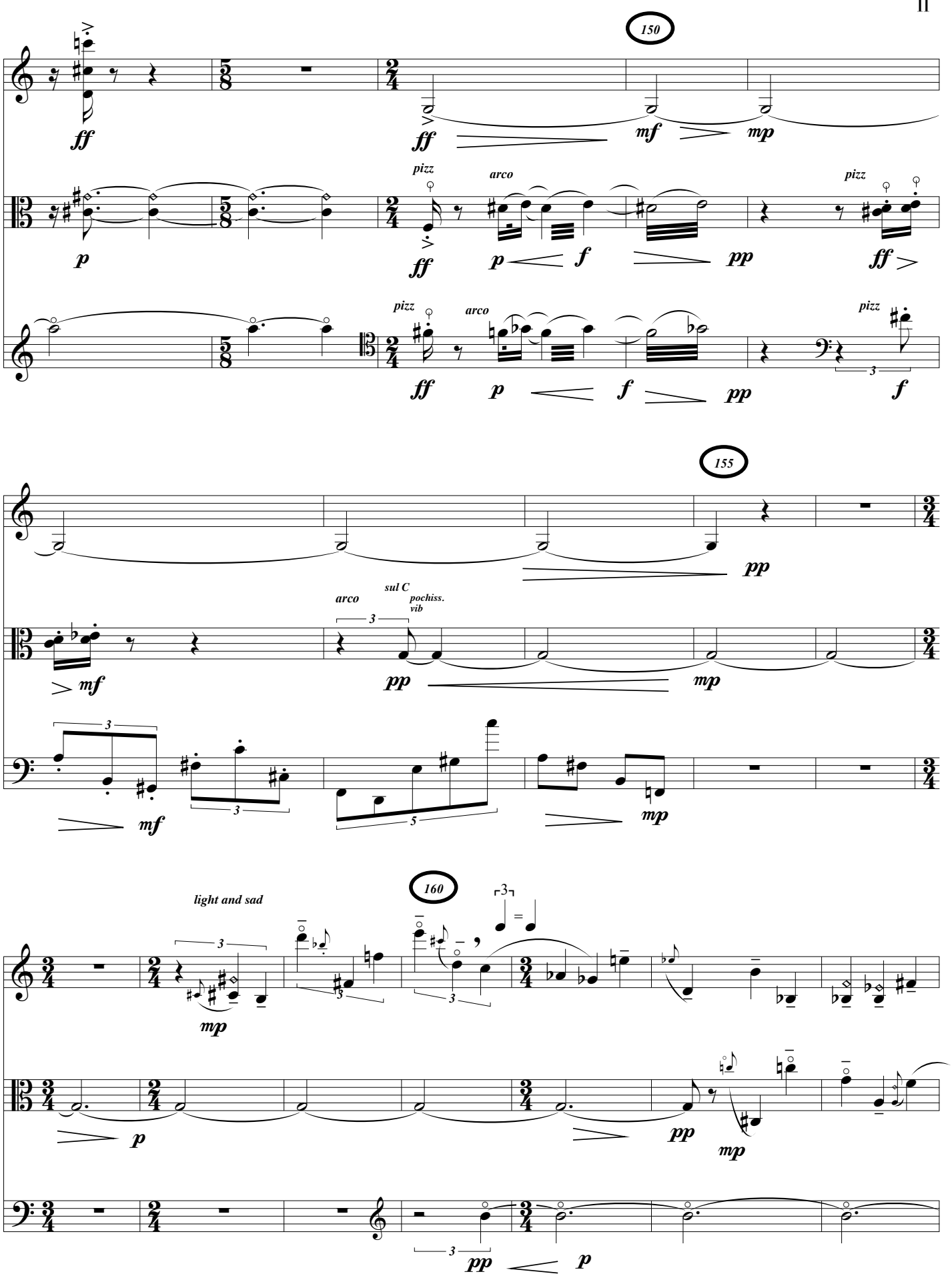

80
= fast as possible
= 48
p
ff
mp
p
mp
ff
= fast as possible
85
= 48
pizz
ff
mp
f
f
pizz
ff
mp
f
f
p
90
p
mp
p
mp
p
mp
mp
mp
p
mp

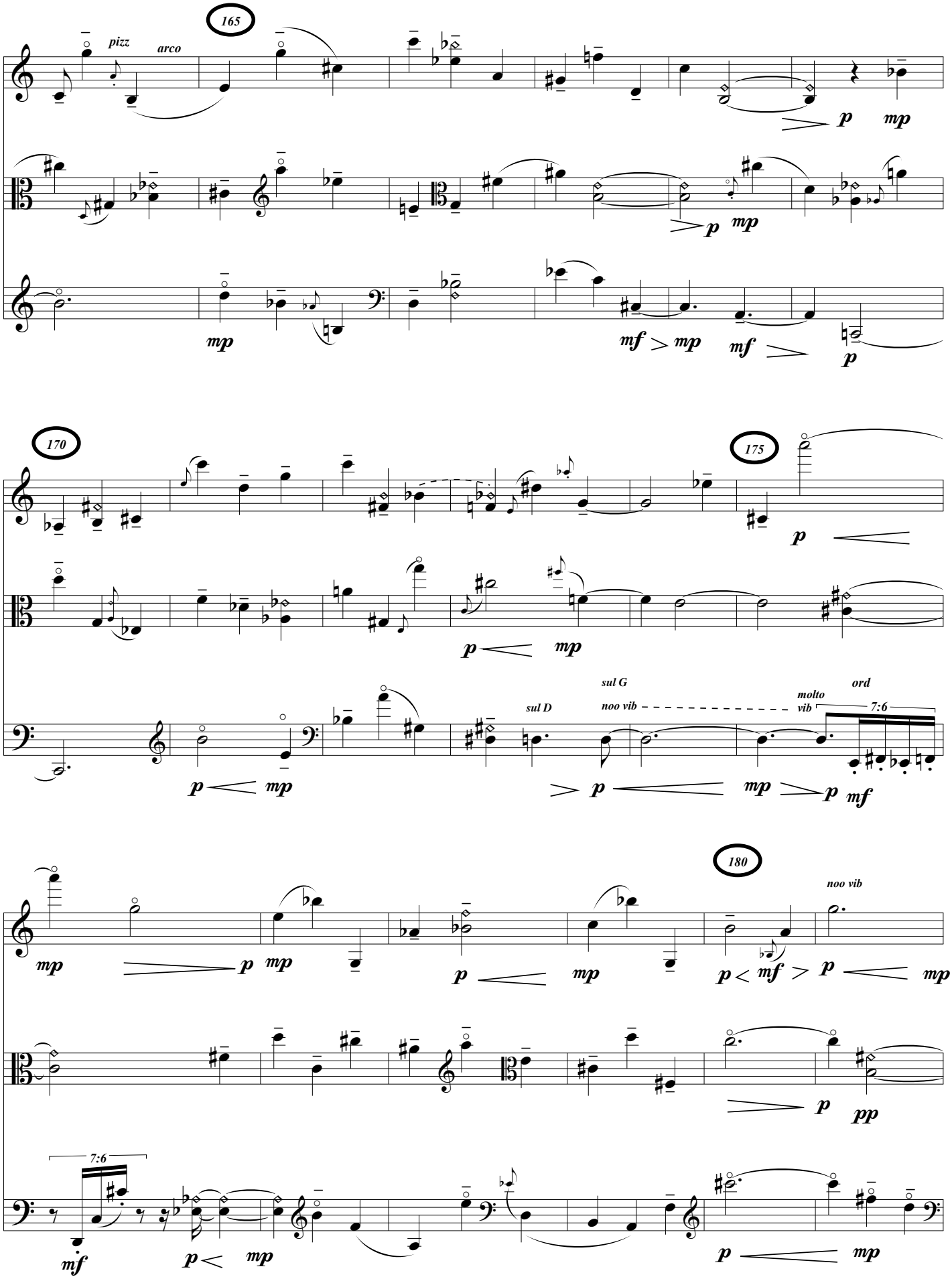

95
sul tasto
ord
little shimmers,
not in sync
100
105
= fast as possible
= 48

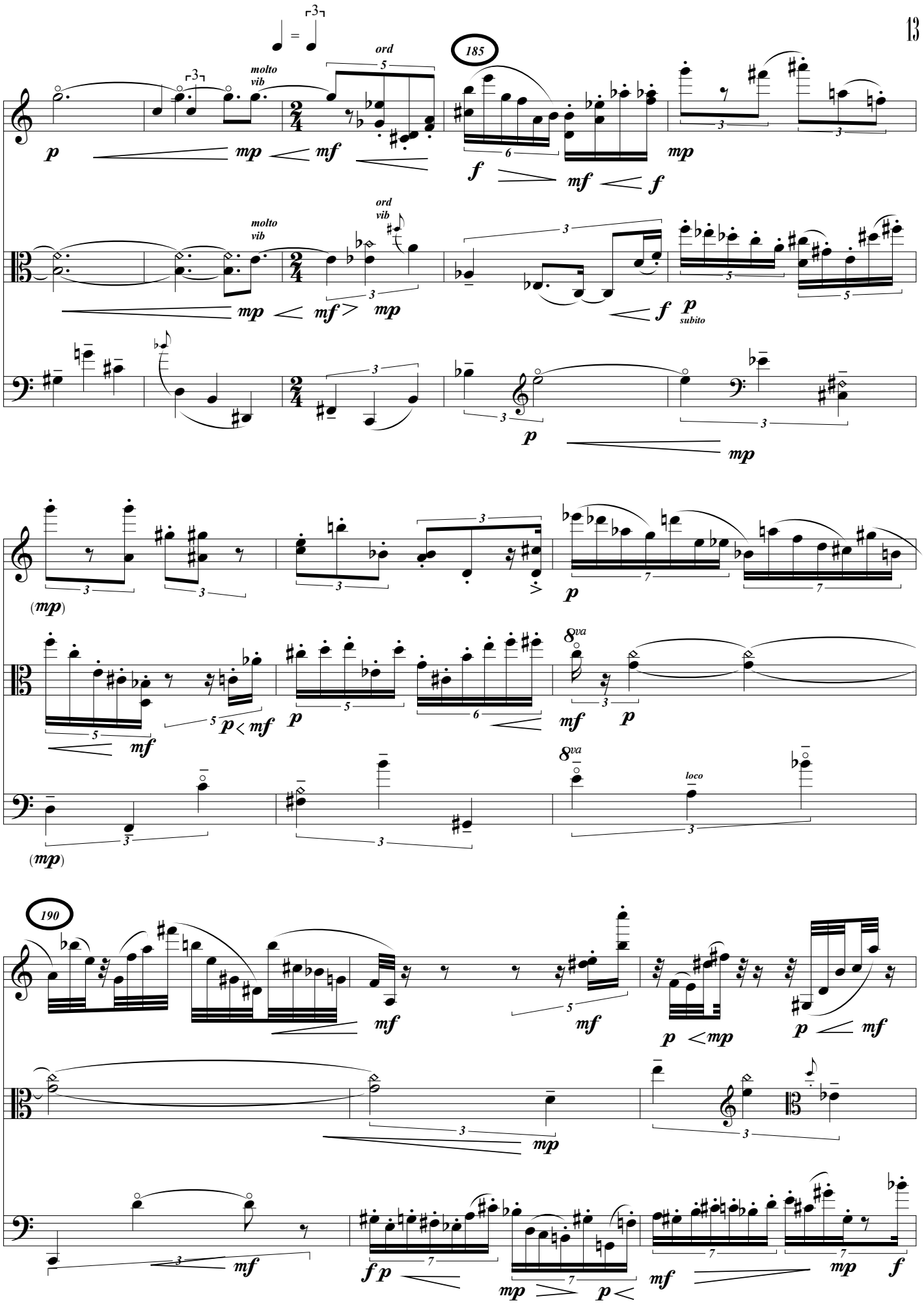

110
♩ = 48
sul pont
♩ = 52
parlando, misterioso
5 sec.
pizz
molto vib
move to
ord vib
move to
molto vib
noo vib
115
a tempo
Ritard.
arco
poco ritard.
(pizz)
ord pizz
120

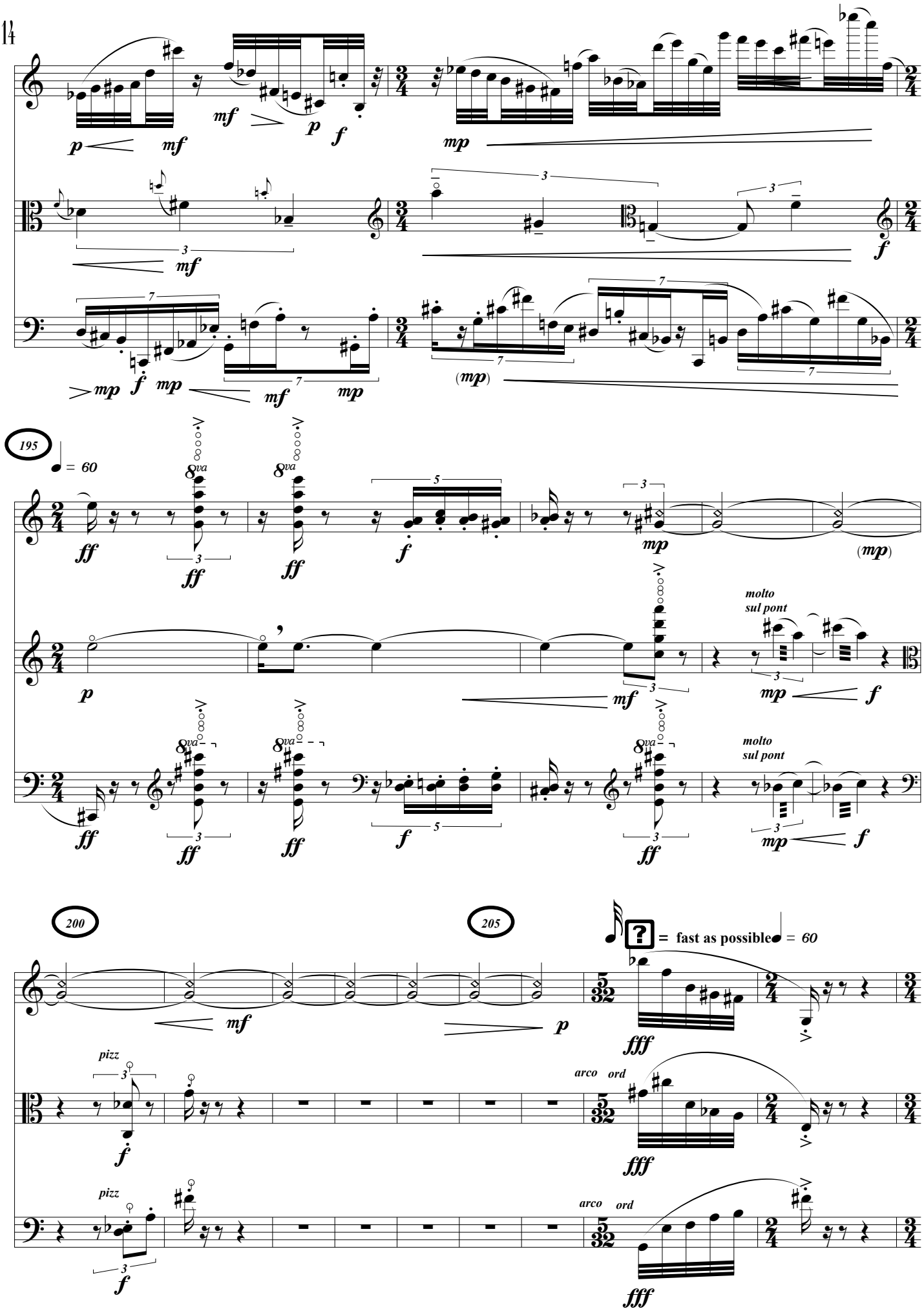

125
= 48
arco
(f)
ff
pp
mp
pp
arco
p
f
pp
mf
p
arco
p
f
pp
mf
p
= 52
pizz
f
Ritard.
a tempo
(= 52)
130
molto
ritard.
mp
f
mp
pizz
f
mp
f
mp
pizz
f
mp
f
mp
f
a tempo
(= 52)
Ritard.
(molto !)
a tempo
(= 52)
mf
p
mf
f
mf
p
mp
f
mp
f
f
mp

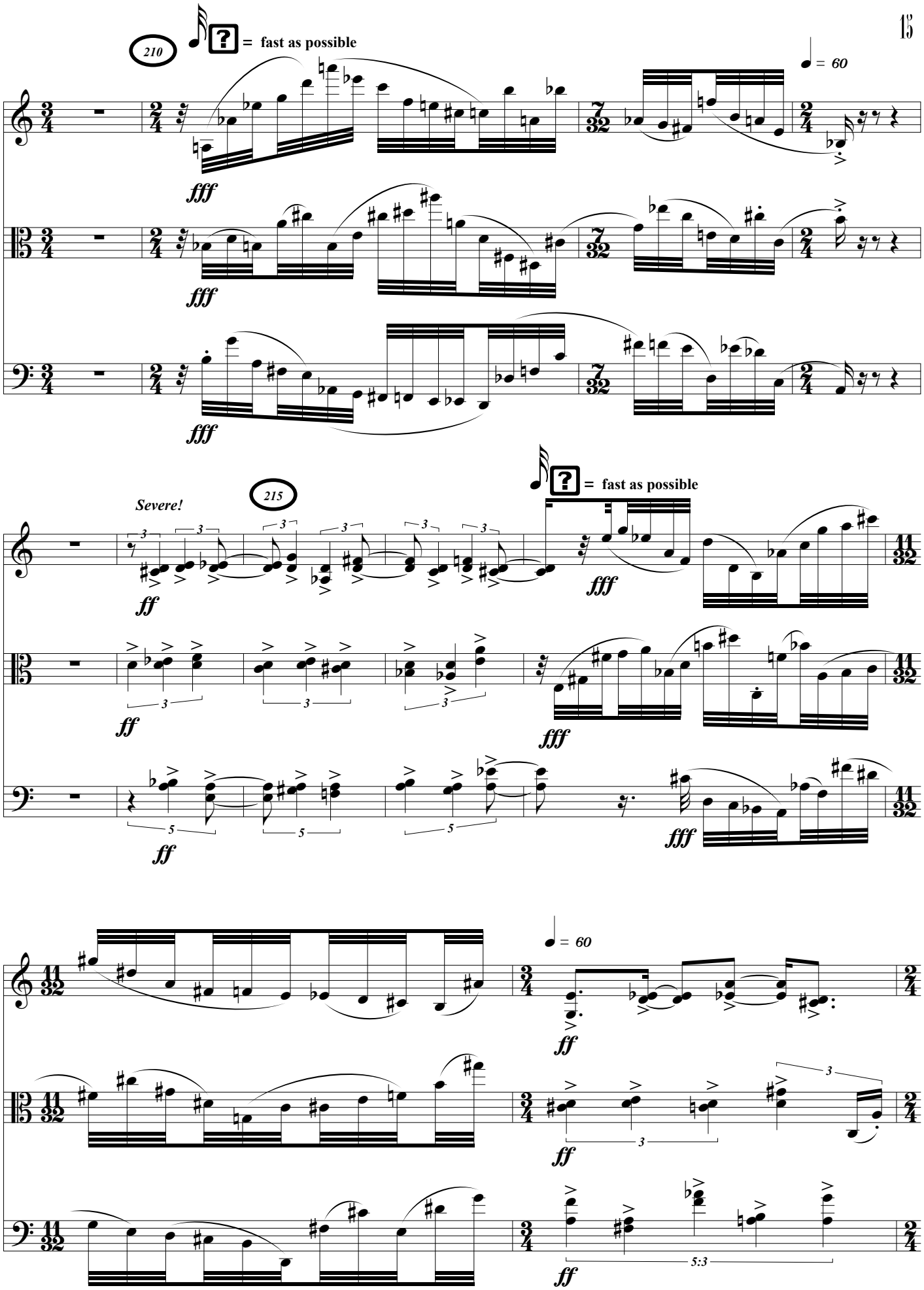

135
140
145
arco
pizz
(pizz)
arco sul pont
ord
subito
8va


150
ff
mf
mp
pizz
arco
p
f
pp
155
sul C
pochiss. vib
mf
light and sad
160


165
pizz
arco
p
mp
mp
p
mp
mf > mp
mf >
p
170
175
p
p
mp
sul D
sul G
noo vib
molto
vib
ord
7:6
p
mp
p
mf
180
noo vib
mp
p
mp
p
mf >
p
mp
p
pp
7:6
mf
p <
mp
p
mp


ord
molto vib
185
ord vib
subito
8va
loco
190


195
= 60
molto sul pont
molto sul pont
200
205
= fast as possible
= 60
pizz
arco ord
pizz
arco ord


210
= fast as possible
♩ = 60
fff
fff
fff
215
Severe!
= fast as possible
ff
fff
ff
fff
ff
fff
♩ = 60
ff
ff
5:3
ff

220

= fast as possible

fff

fff

fff

= fast as possible

♩ = 60

3

ff

fff

5

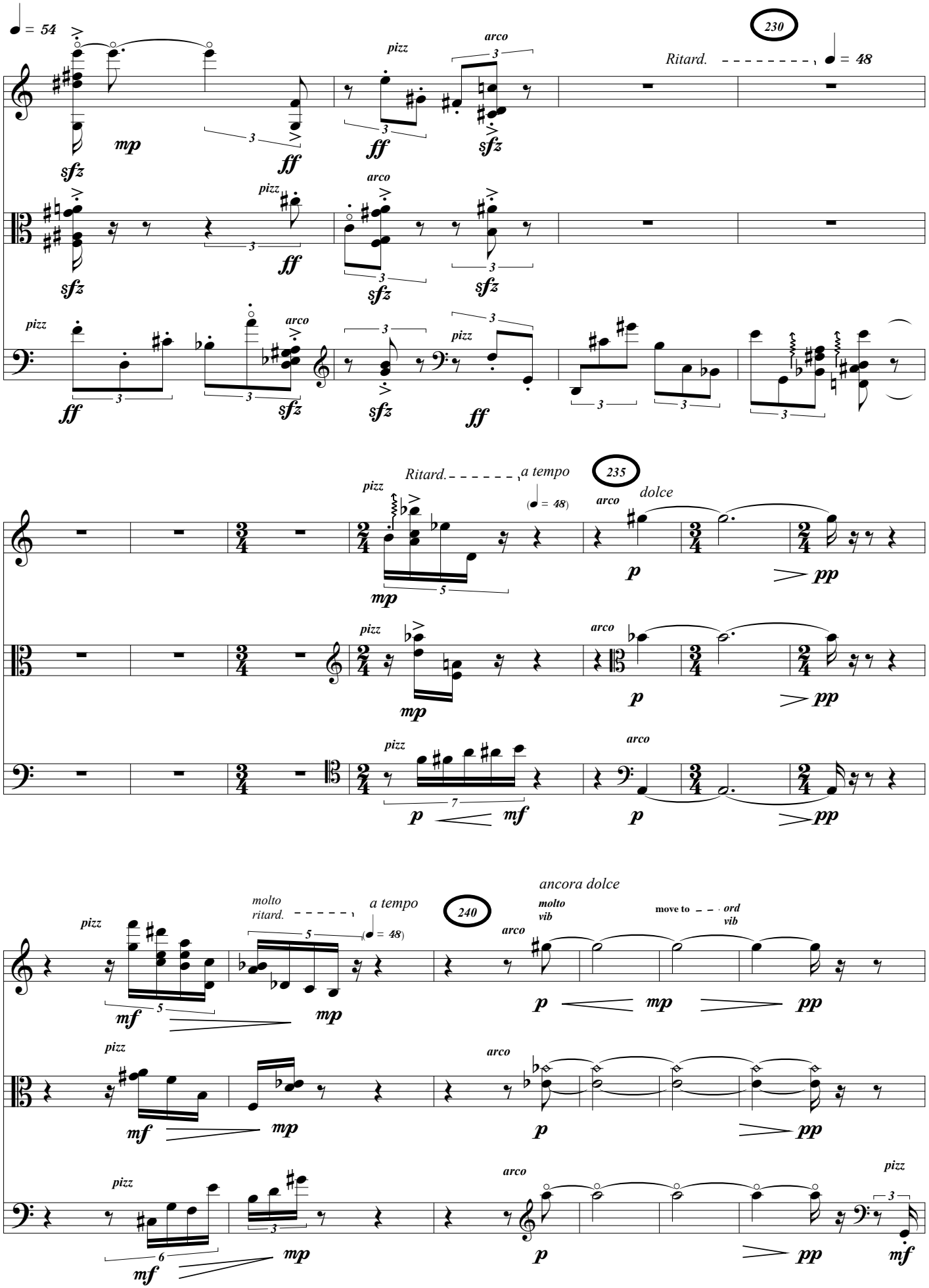
ff

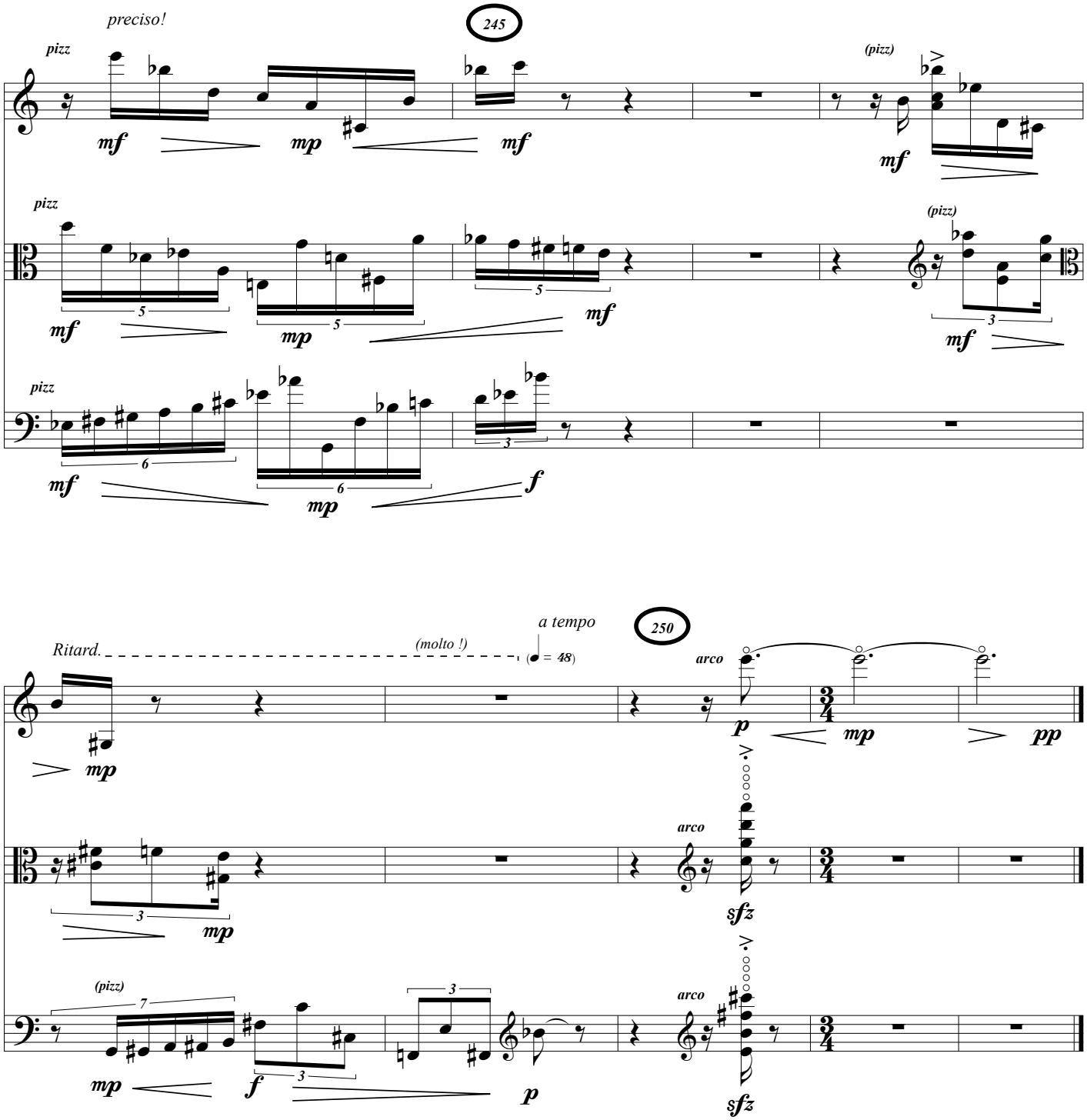
fff

ff

fff

225


♩ = 54
230
Ritard.
♩ = 48
pizz
arco
235
a tempo
dolce
molto ritard.
240
ancora dolce
molto vib
move to ord vib



Athens, GA, Dec. 1981;
Oberlin, OH, May, 2011.
in n.D.