Cheong Li

Five Bagatelles *for String Quartet*

2009-10

Five Bagatelles for string quartet

This set of five bagatelles is unified by a common motif, set 4-9 [0167], consisting of a symmetrical pair of semitones and tritones. Besides exploring extended techniques, the first and the last movements are partly inspired by Chinese folk music, with the last movement exploring heterophonic texture by ornamenting the same melodic line differently by two pairs of instruments. The second and the fourth movements are slow chorale-like movements, in which two pairs of intervals interlock with each other. In between the two is a scherzo that provides a contrast to the chorale movements.

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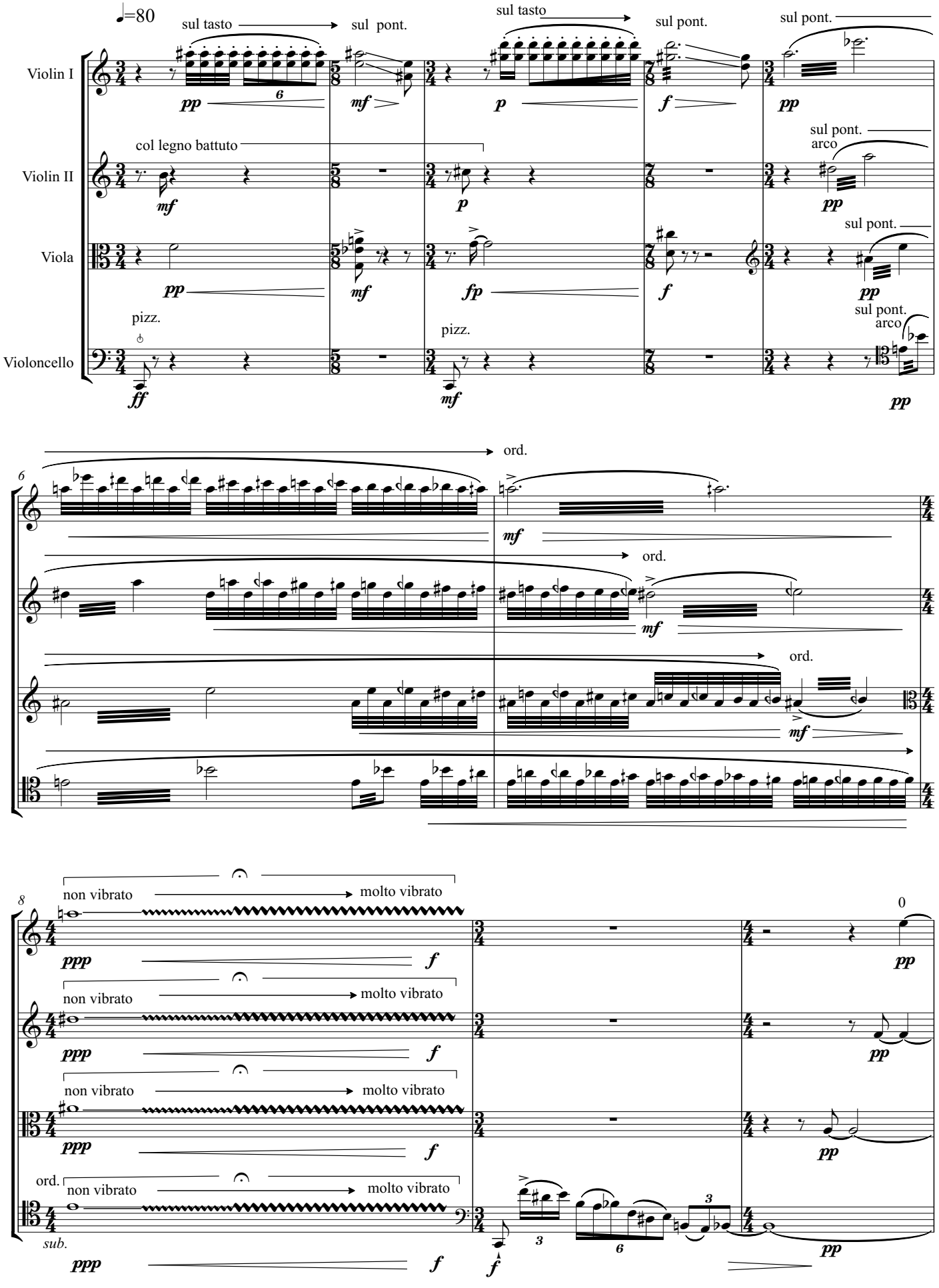
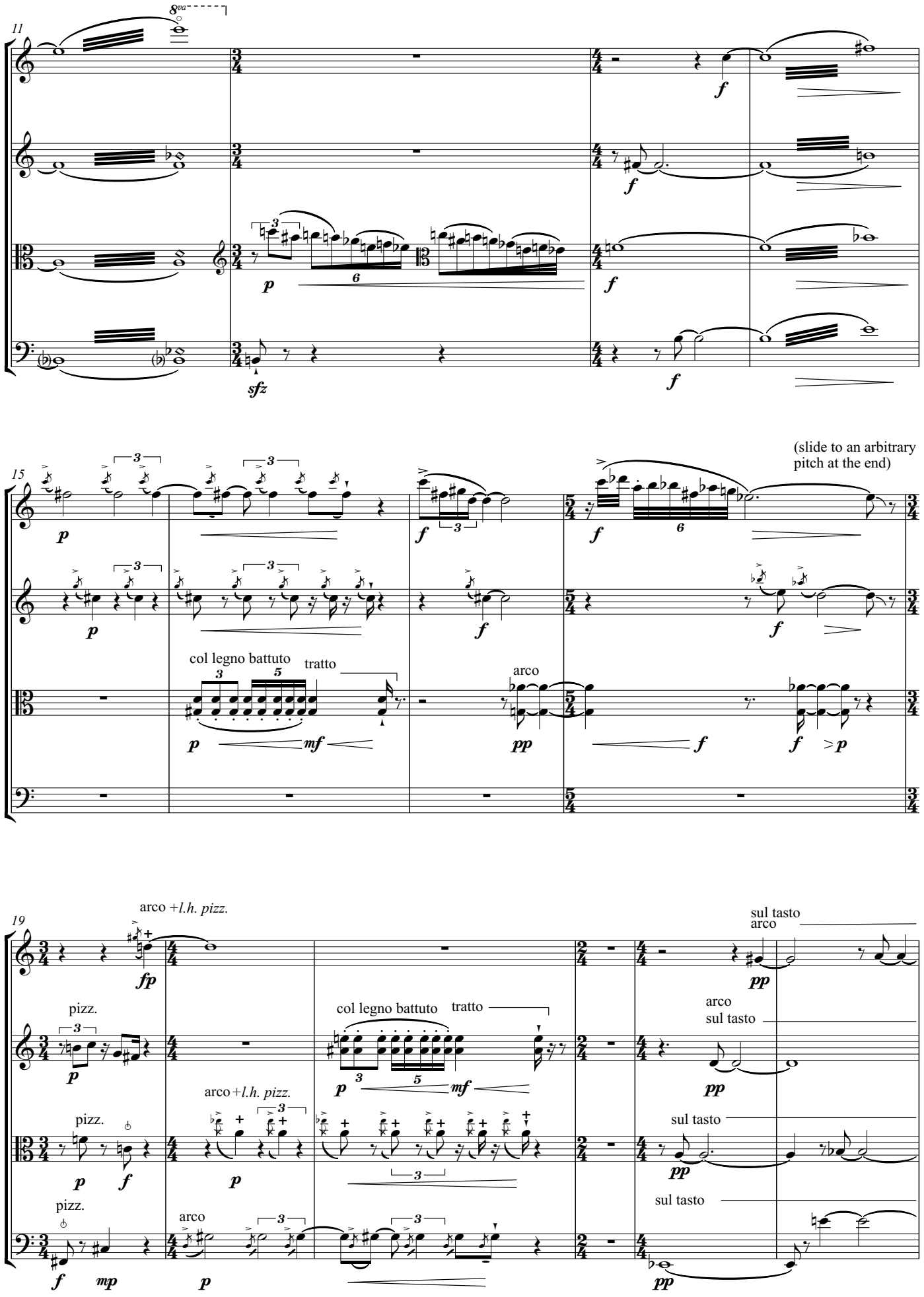
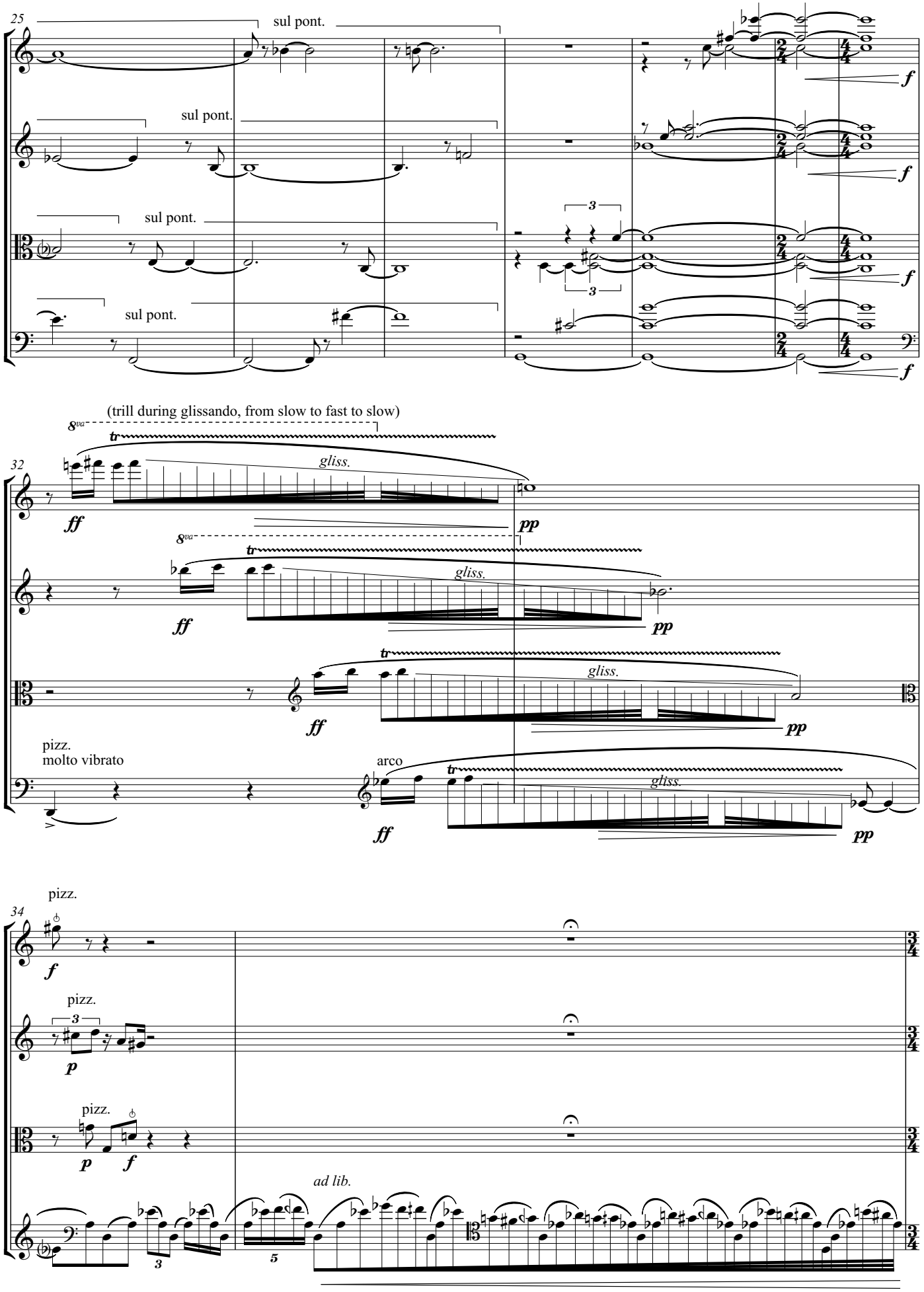
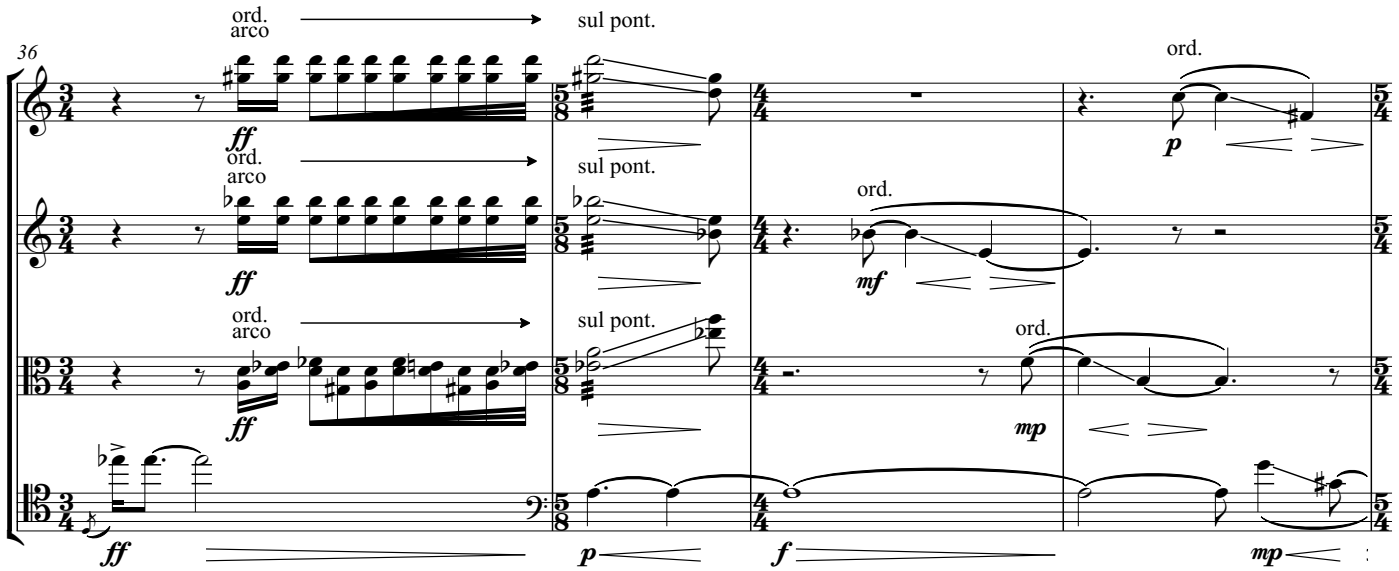
I

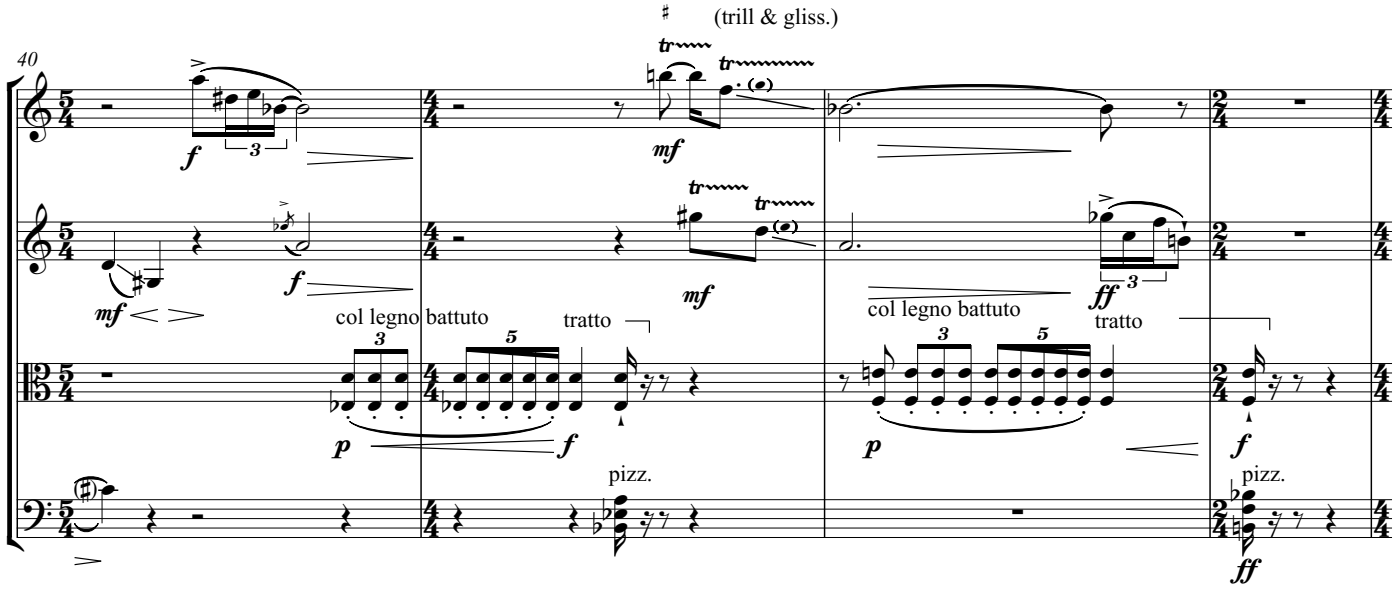
Cheong Li

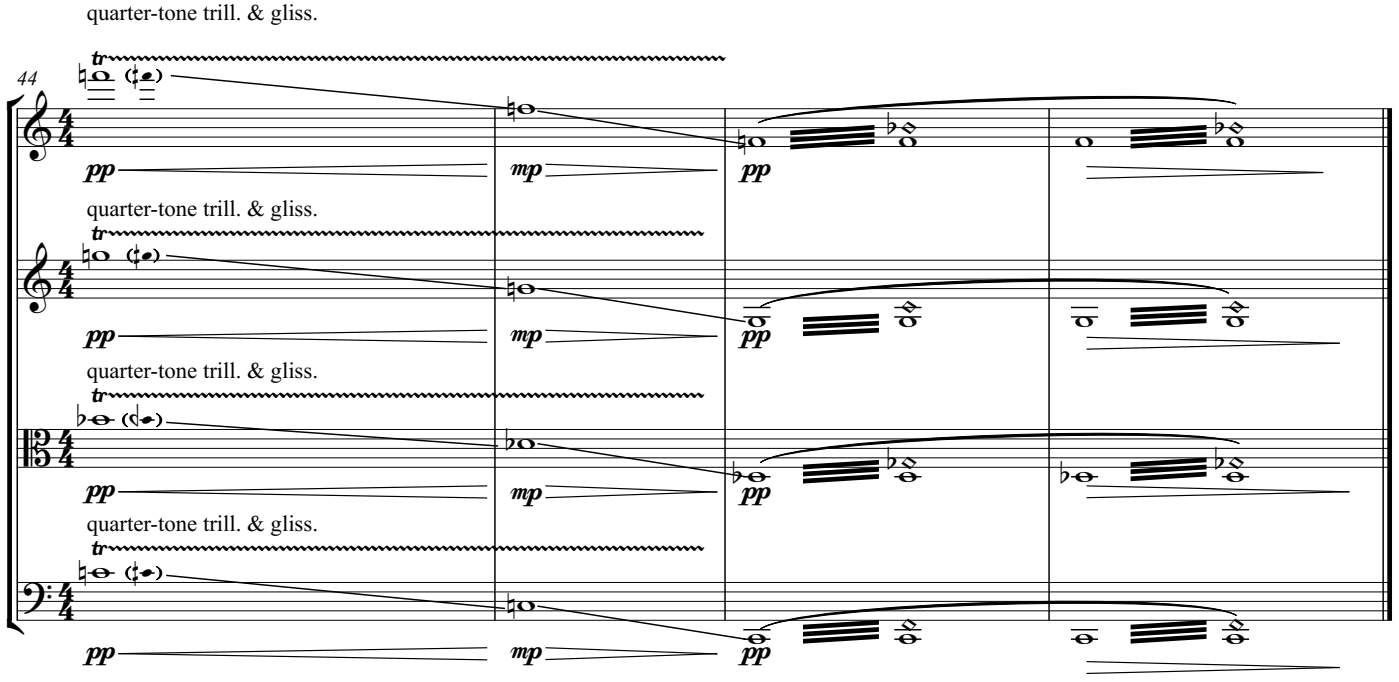


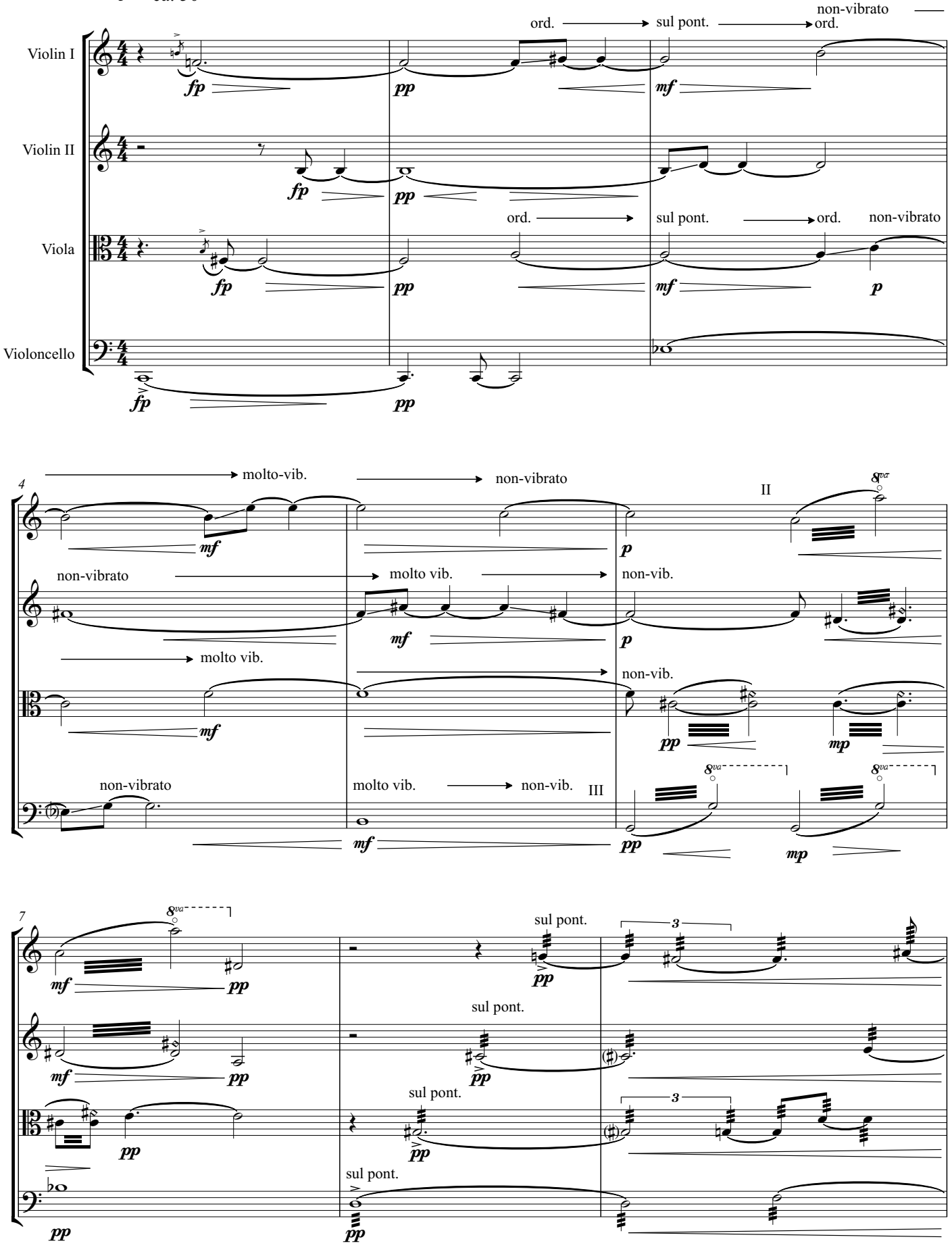

11
8va
f
p
sfz
15
(slide to an arbitrary pitch at the end)
col legno battuto
tratto
arco
mf
pp
19
arco +l.h. pizz.
fp
pizz.
sul tasto
mp

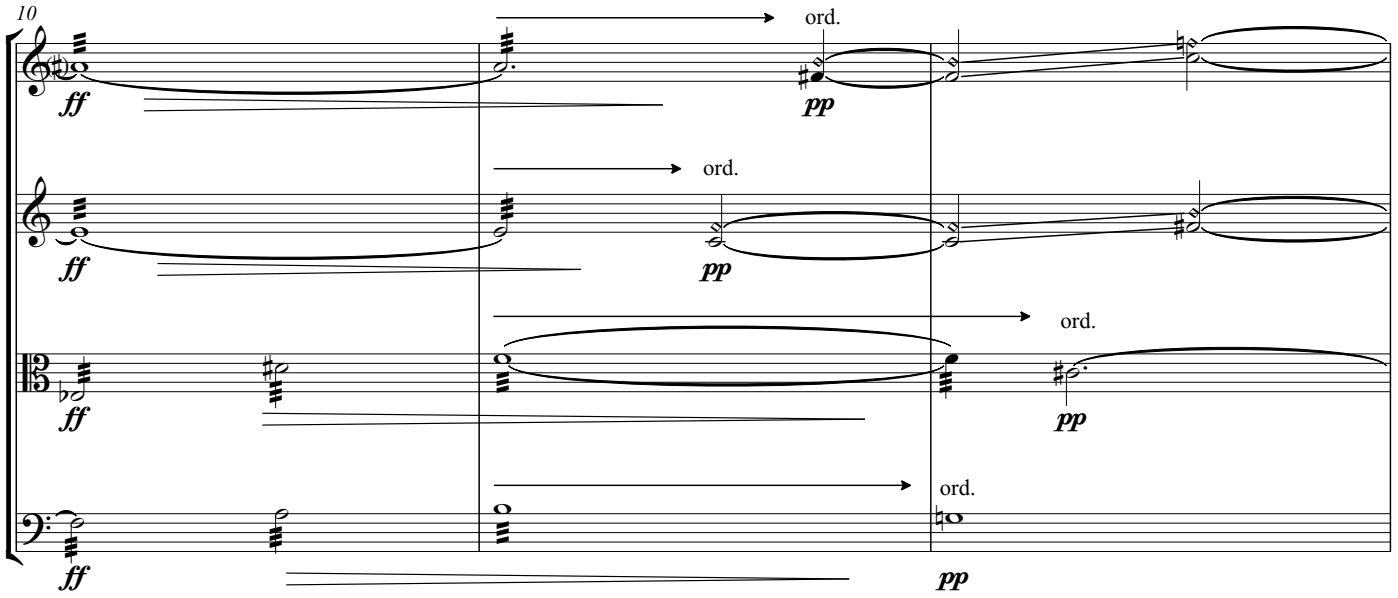

25
sul pont.
sul pont.
sul pont.
sul pont.
f
3
(trill during glissando, from slow to fast to slow)
8va
tr
gliss.
32
ff
pp
pizz.
molto vibrato
arco
34
pizz.
p
ad lib.
5

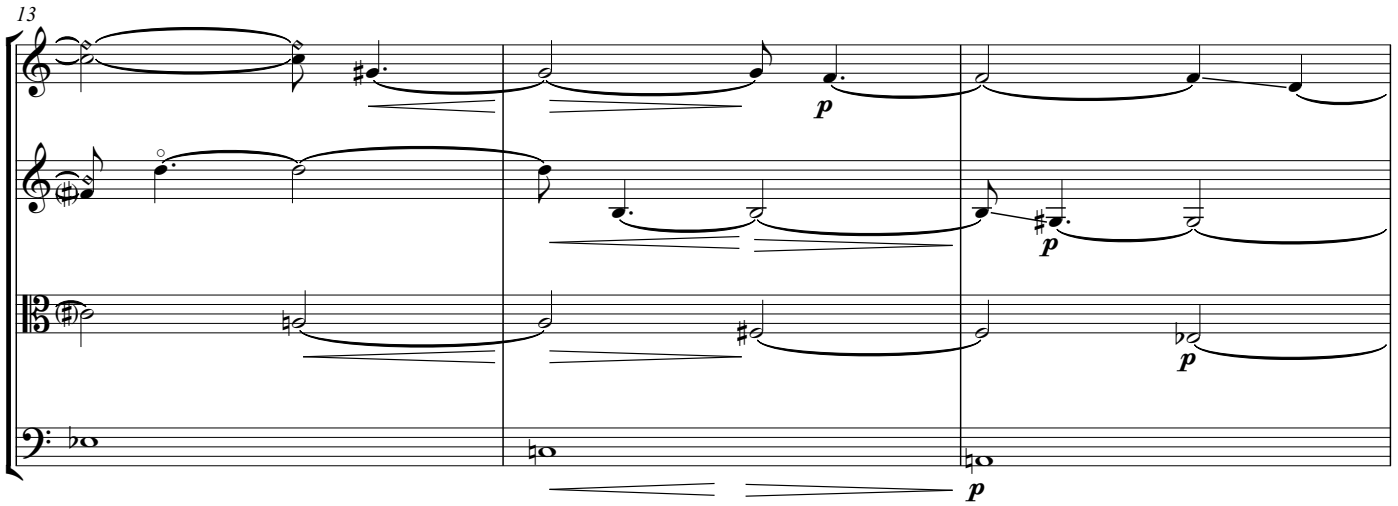

36
ord.
arco
sul pont.
ff
p
mf
mp
f

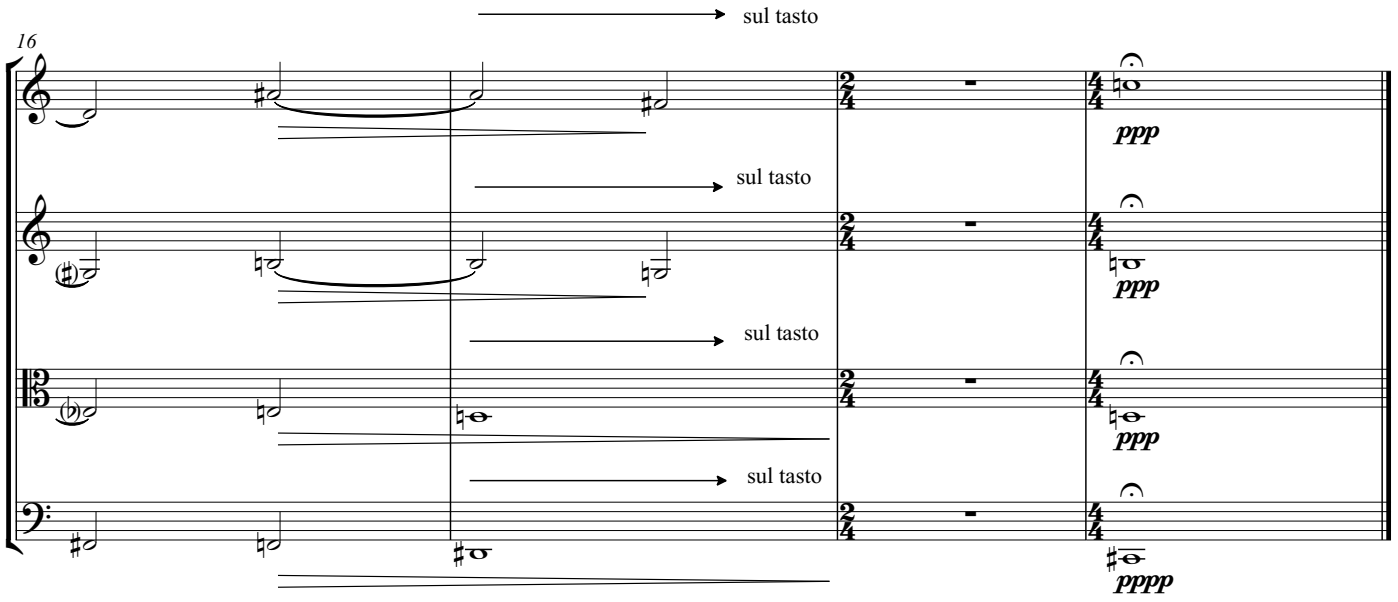

40
(trill & gliss.)
col legno battuto
tratto
pizz.
mf
f
p
ff


quarter-tone trill. & gliss.
44
pp
mp

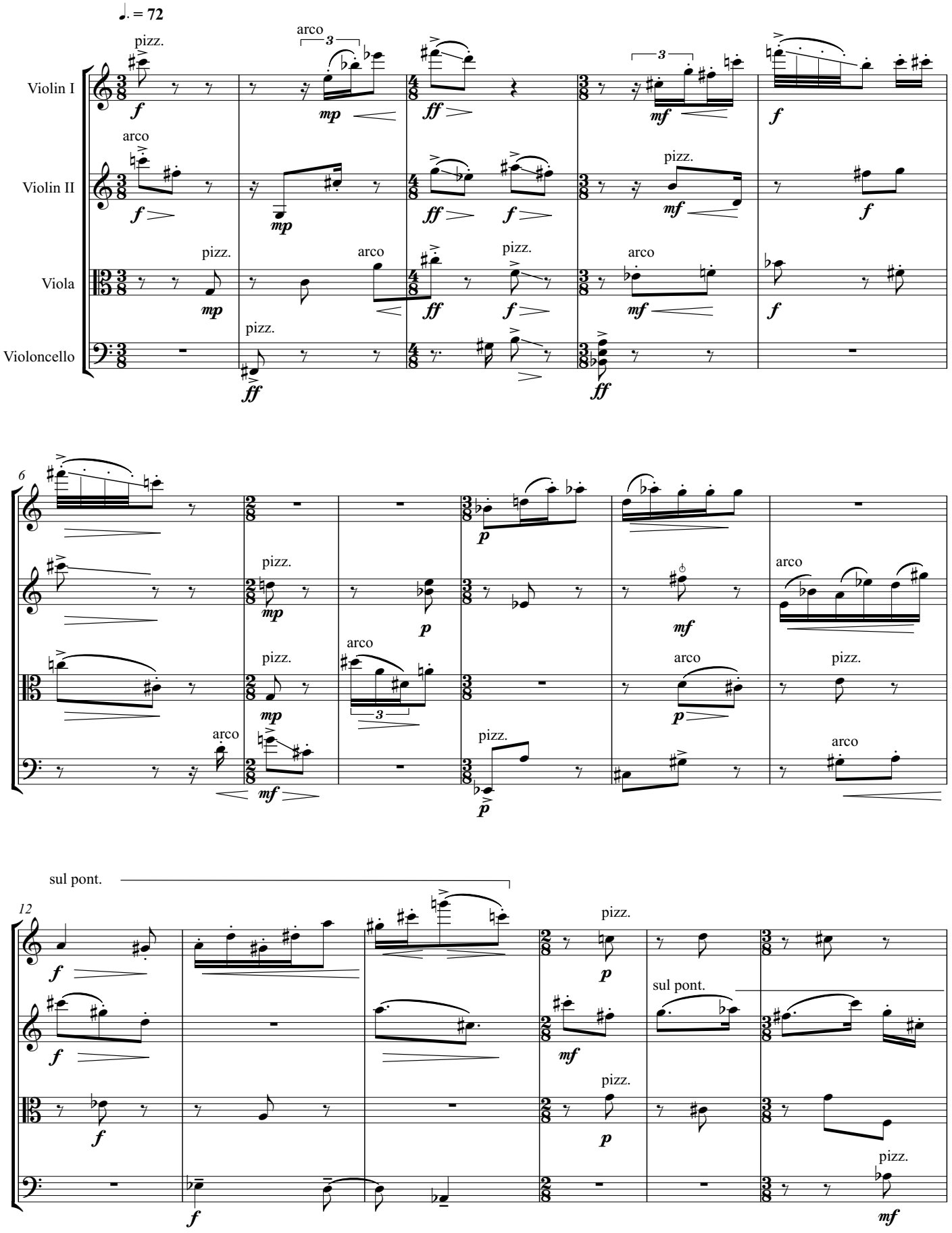

II
♩ = ca. 50
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
ord.
sul pont.
non-vibrato
molto-vib.
molto vib.
non-vib.
III
fp
pp
mf
p
mp
8va
sul pont.
3

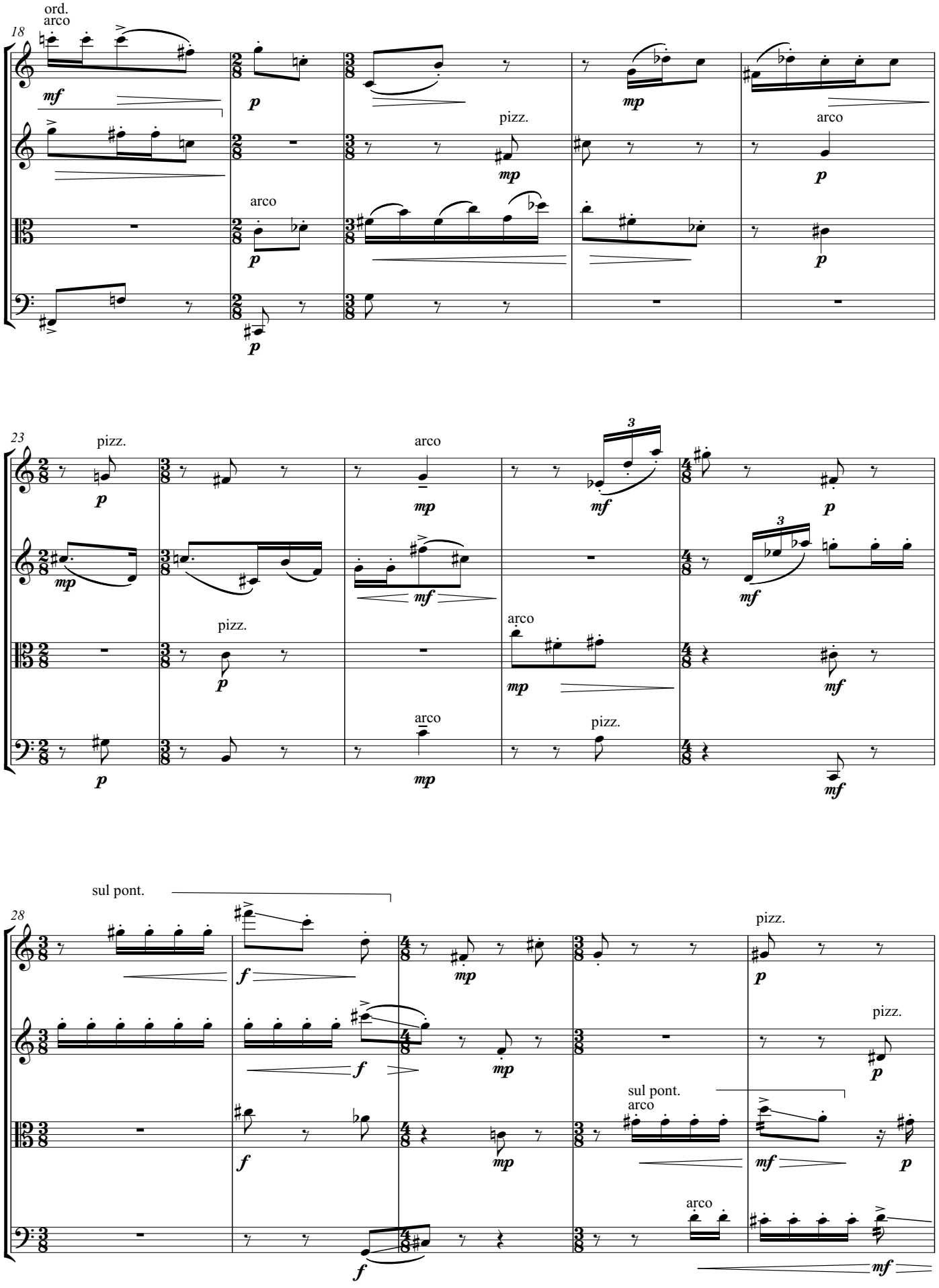

10
ord.
ff
pp
ord.
ff
pp
ord.
ff
pp
ord.
ff
pp

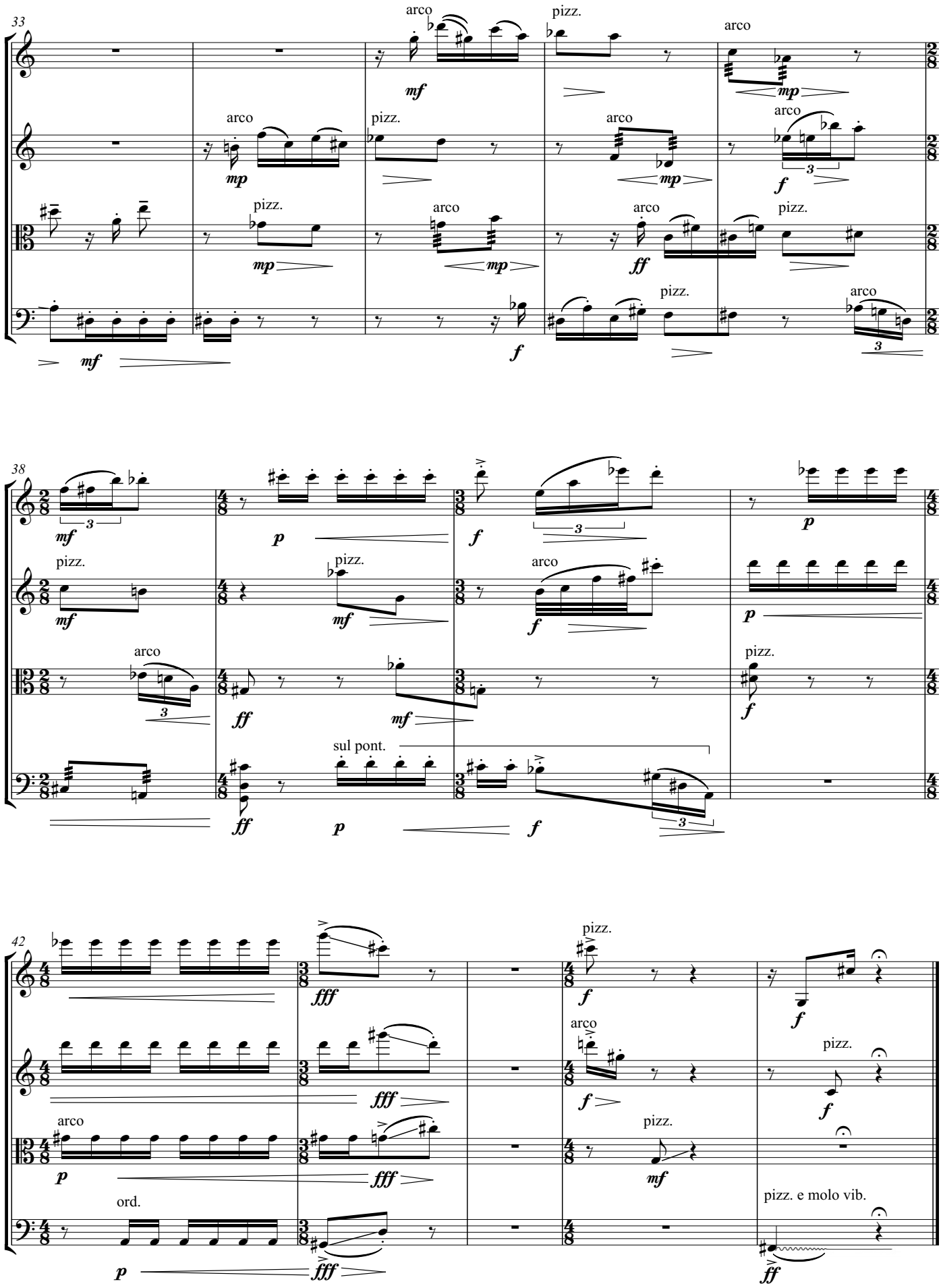

13
p
p
p
p


16
sul tasto
sul tasto
sul tasto
sul tasto
ppp
ppp
ppp
pppp

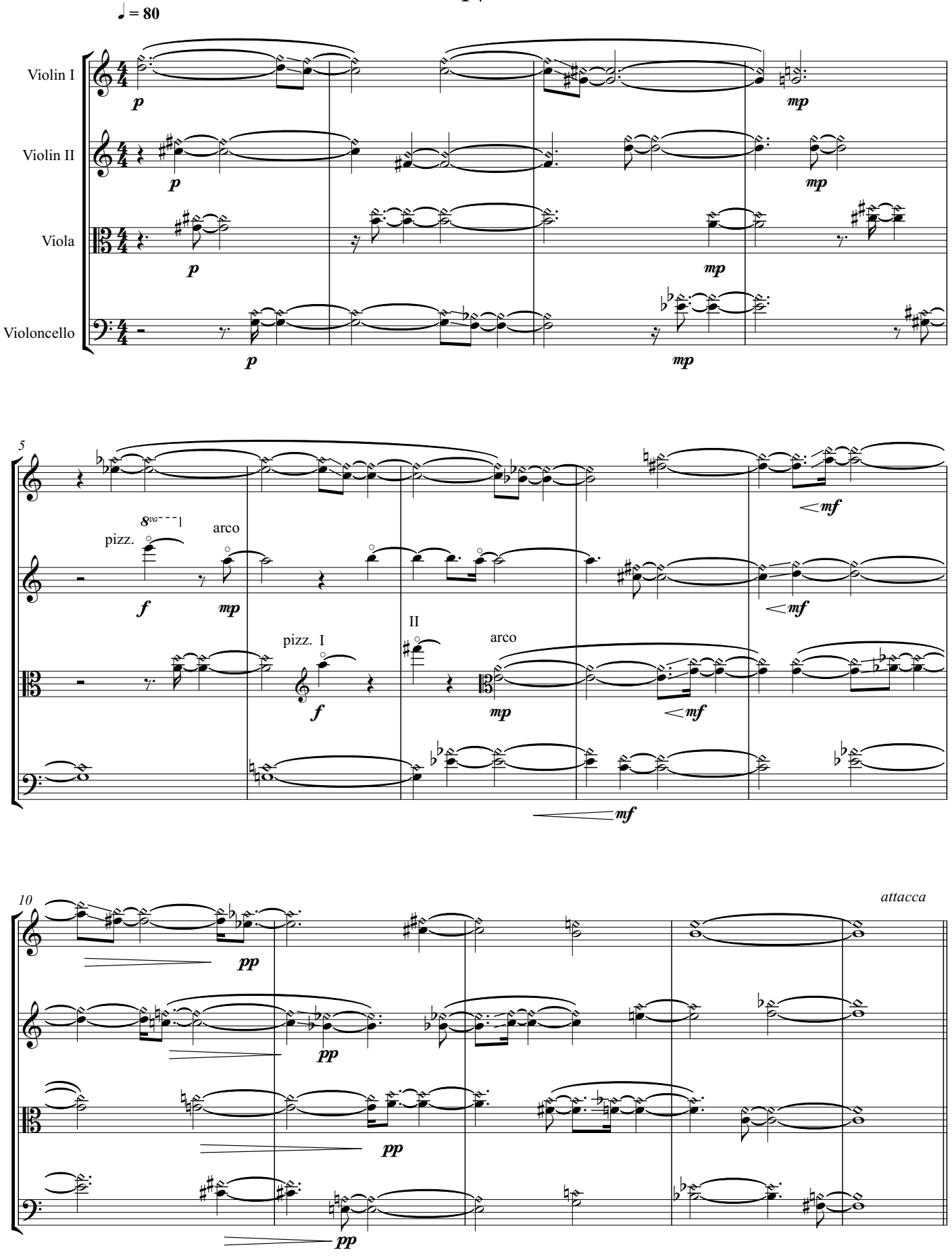
III


♩. = 72
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
pizz.
arco
sul pont.
6
12

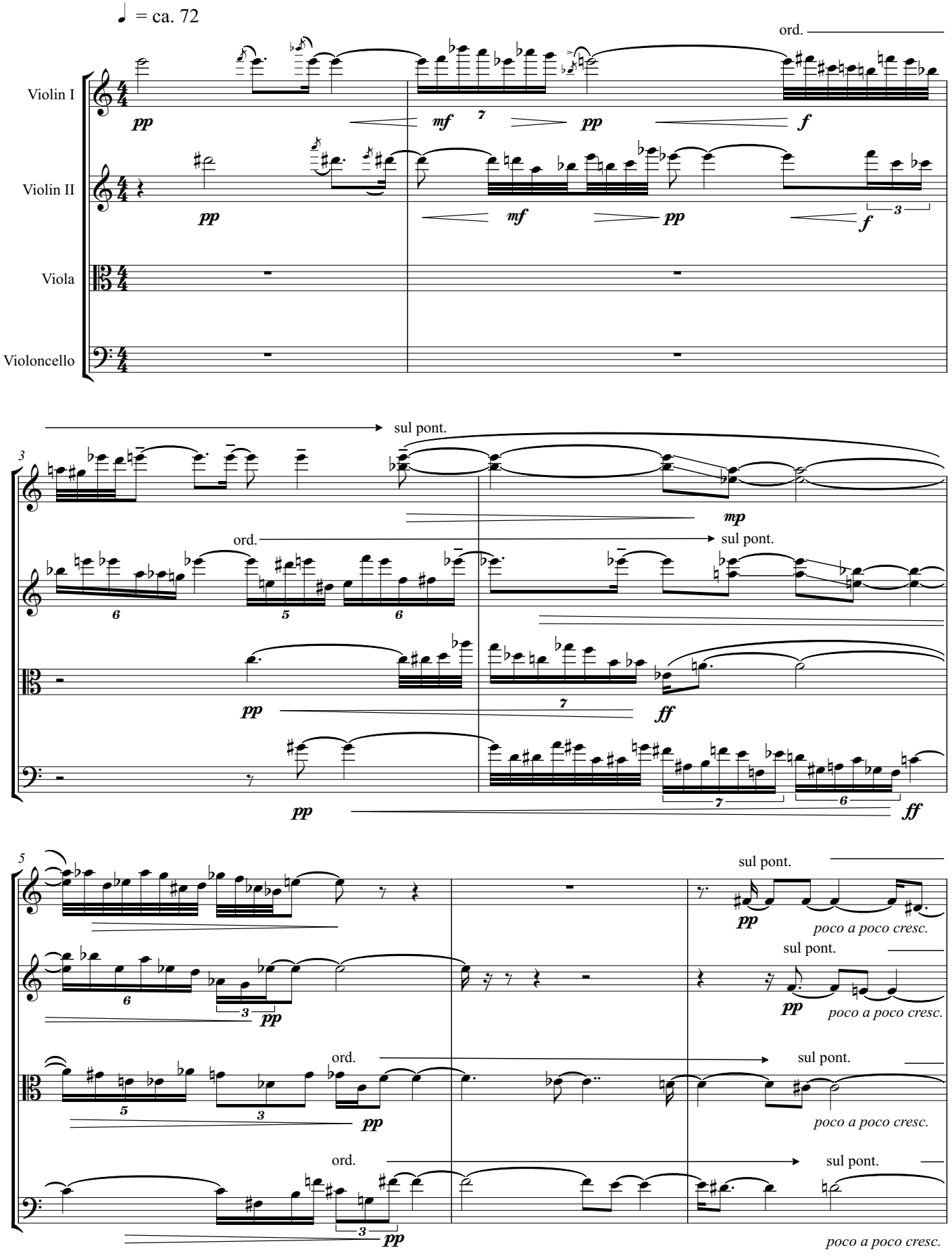

18
ord.
arco
mf
p
mp
pizz.
arco
23
pizz.
arco
3
mf
28
sul pont.
f
pizz.
sul pont.
arco

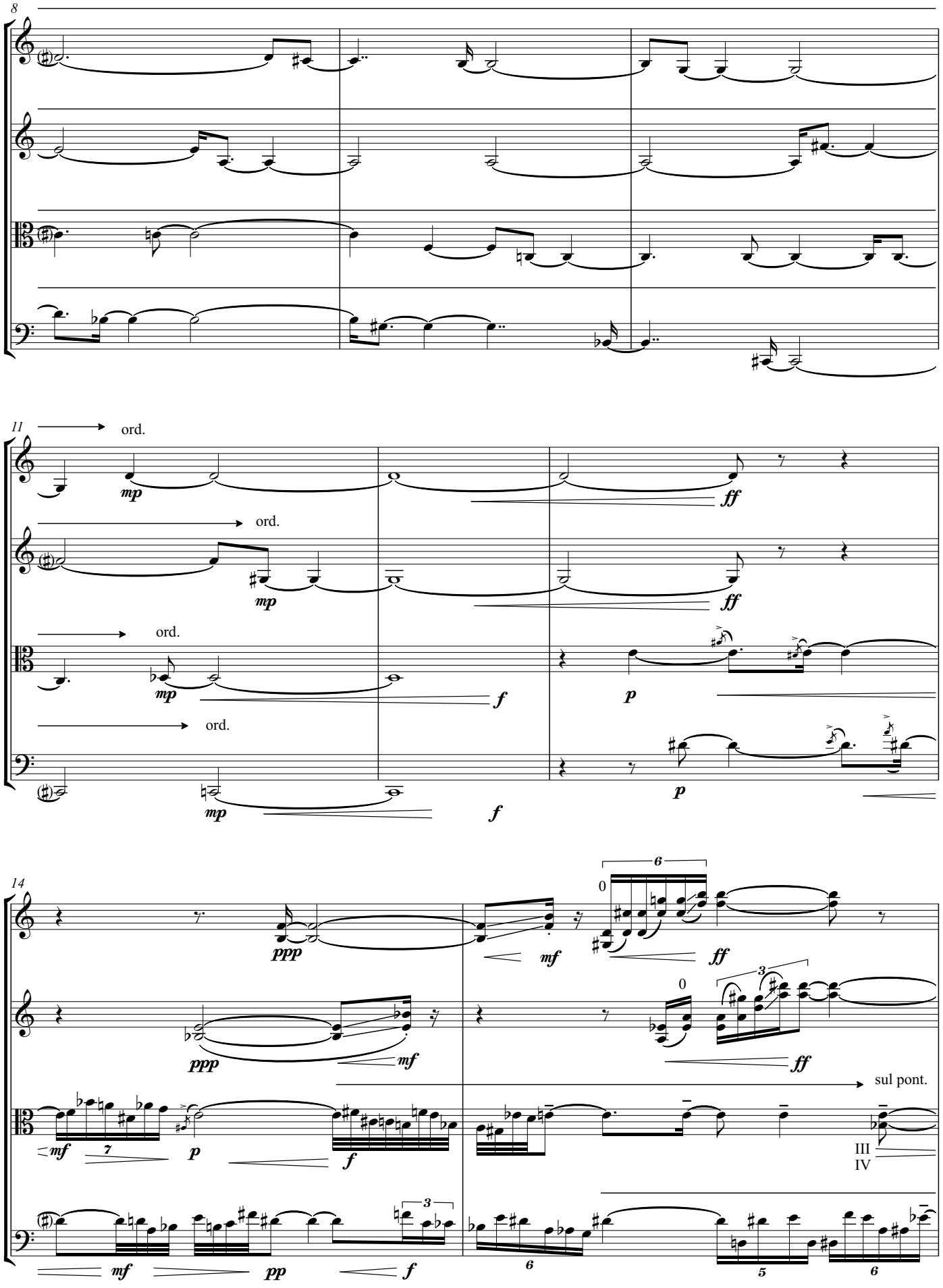

33
arco
pizz.
arco
mf
mp
arco
pizz.
arco
arco
mp
f
pizz.
arco
arco
pizz.
mp
mp
ff
mf
f
pizz.
arco
38
mf
p
f
p
pizz.
pizz.
arco
mf
mf
f
p
arco
pizz.
ff
mf
f
sul pont.
ff
p
f
42
fff
f
pizz.
arco
fff
f
pizz.
arco
pizz.
p
mf
ord.
pizz. e molo vib.
p
fff
ff

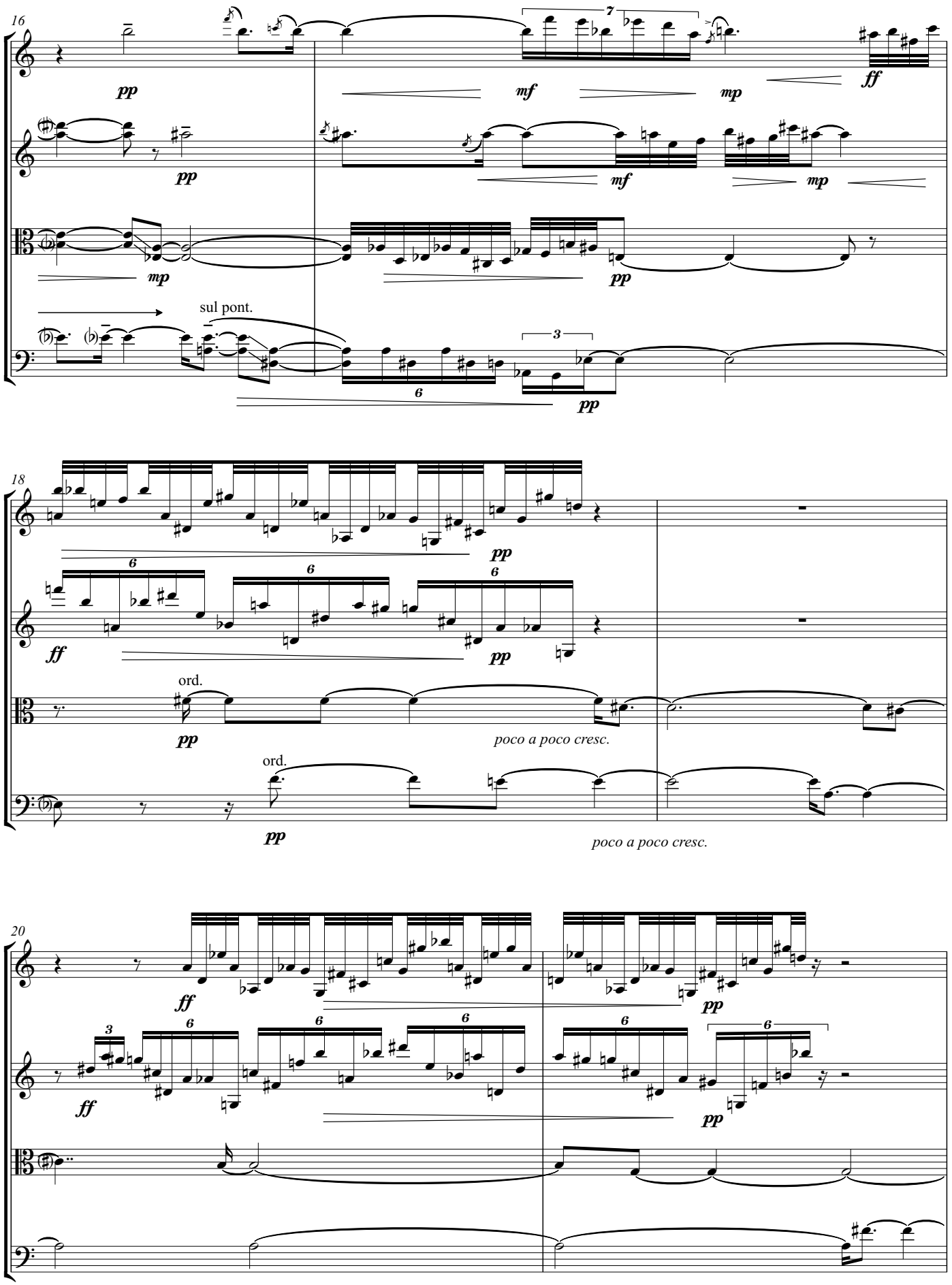
IV

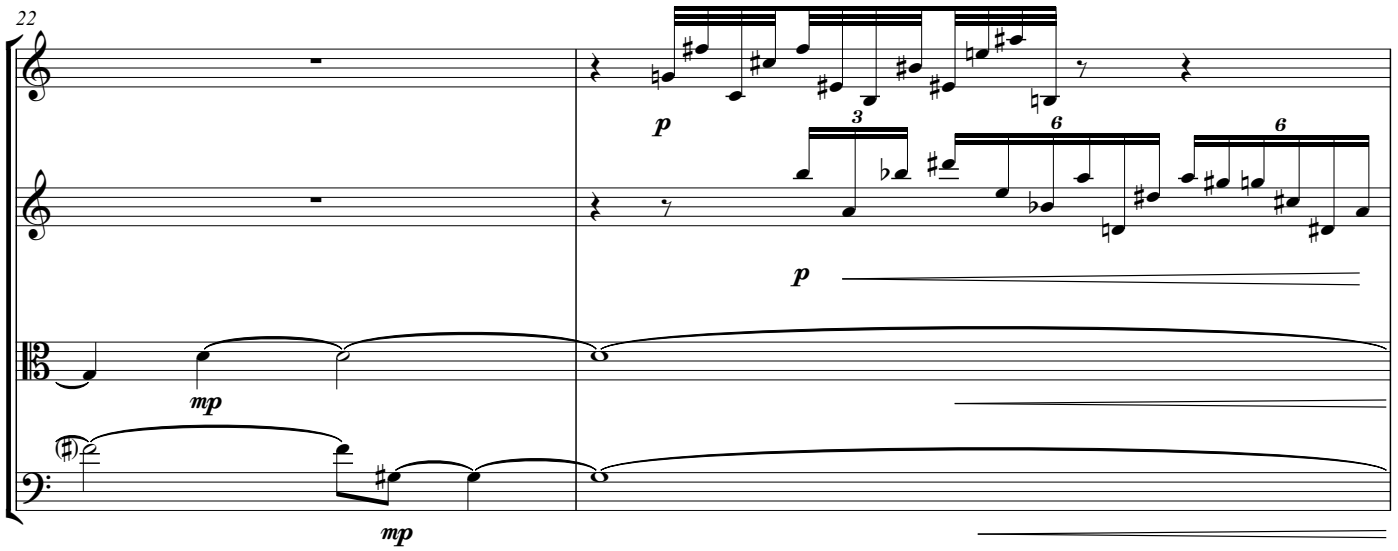

♩ = 80
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
p
mp
5
8va
pizz.
arco
f
mp
mf
pizz. I
II
10
pp
attacca

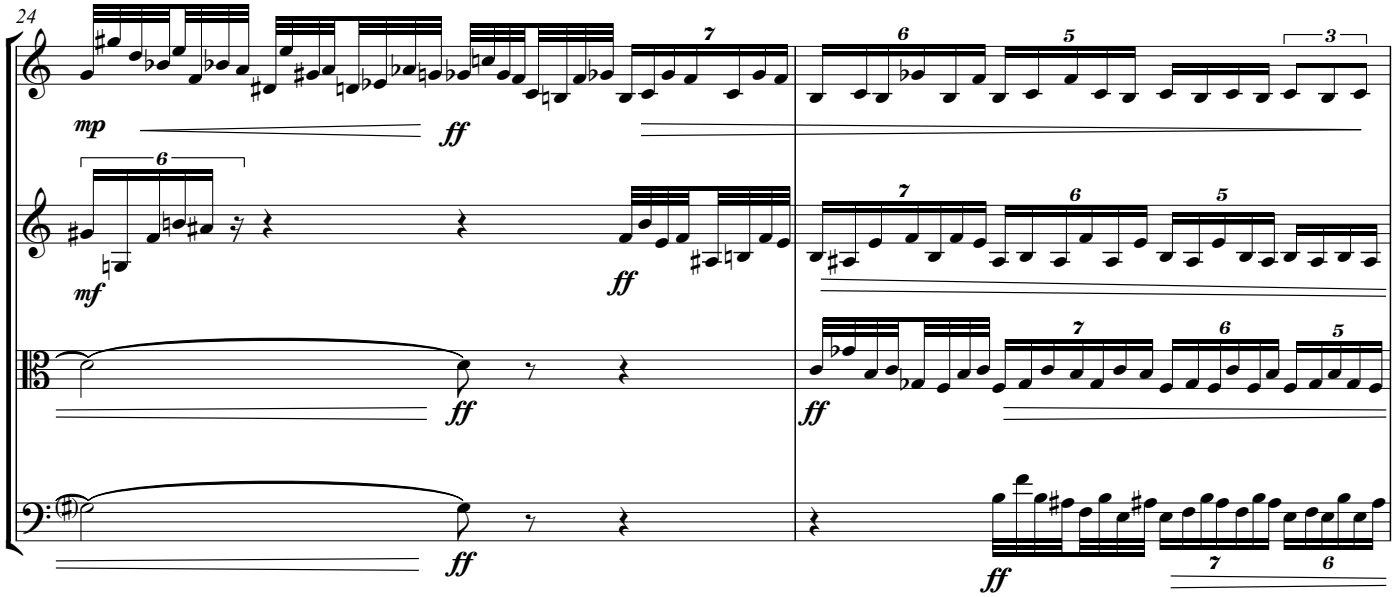
V

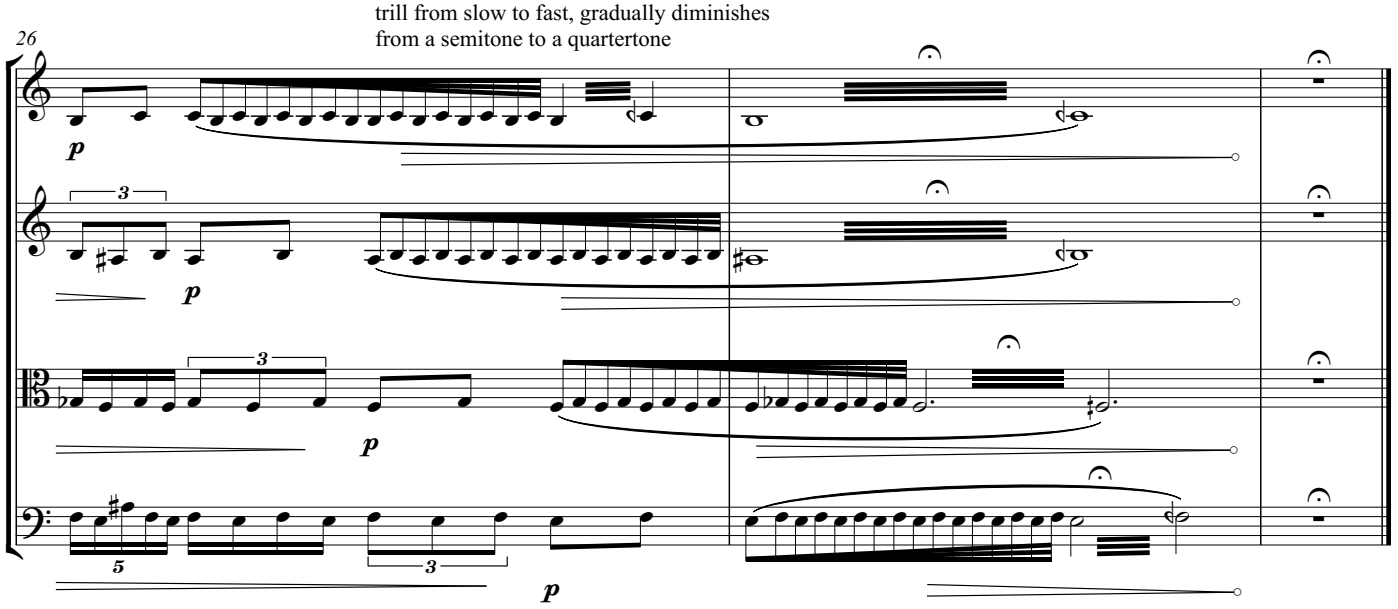

♩ = ca. 72
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
ord.
sul pont.
poco a poco cresc.


8
11
ord.
mp
ff
f
p
14
ppp
mf
sul pont.
III
IV
pp


16
pp
mf
mp
ff
sul pont.
18
ord.
poco a poco cresc.
20


22
p
mp
mp


24
mp
ff
mf
ff
ff
ff
ff


trill from slow to fast, gradually diminishes
from a semitone to a quartertone
26
p
p
p
p