James Williamson

String Quartet No.1 (Erratic)

(2015)

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NOTES FOR PERFORMANCE

Movement I *piano* dynamic range: ***niente (n), pppp, ppp, pp, p.***

r.o.b. means play right on the bridge (no pitch present, marked with an 'x' notehead).

s.p. means *sul ponticello.*

s.t. means *sul tasto.*

o.p. means bow overpressure.

molto vibrato (shown as a wavy-line) is to be played so that the sense of a fundemental pitch centre is lost i.e. the *portimento* can undulate between a ♯ or ♭ on either side of the pitch.

The boxed number on a repeating section or bar indicates the number of times that section or bar must be repeated.

Microtones include 1/4 ♯, 3/4 ♯ and 1/4 ♭.

Duration: ca. 12 minutes

To my wife, Jodie

String Quartet No.1(erratic)

I

James Williamson

♩ = ca.132

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

ppp
sempre

ppp
sempre

3

♪ = ♪ (♩.=76)

x5

Grace notes on the beat.

col legno batutto
[no. of notes are approximate]

ppp

pizz.

ppp

♪ = ♪ (♩=132)

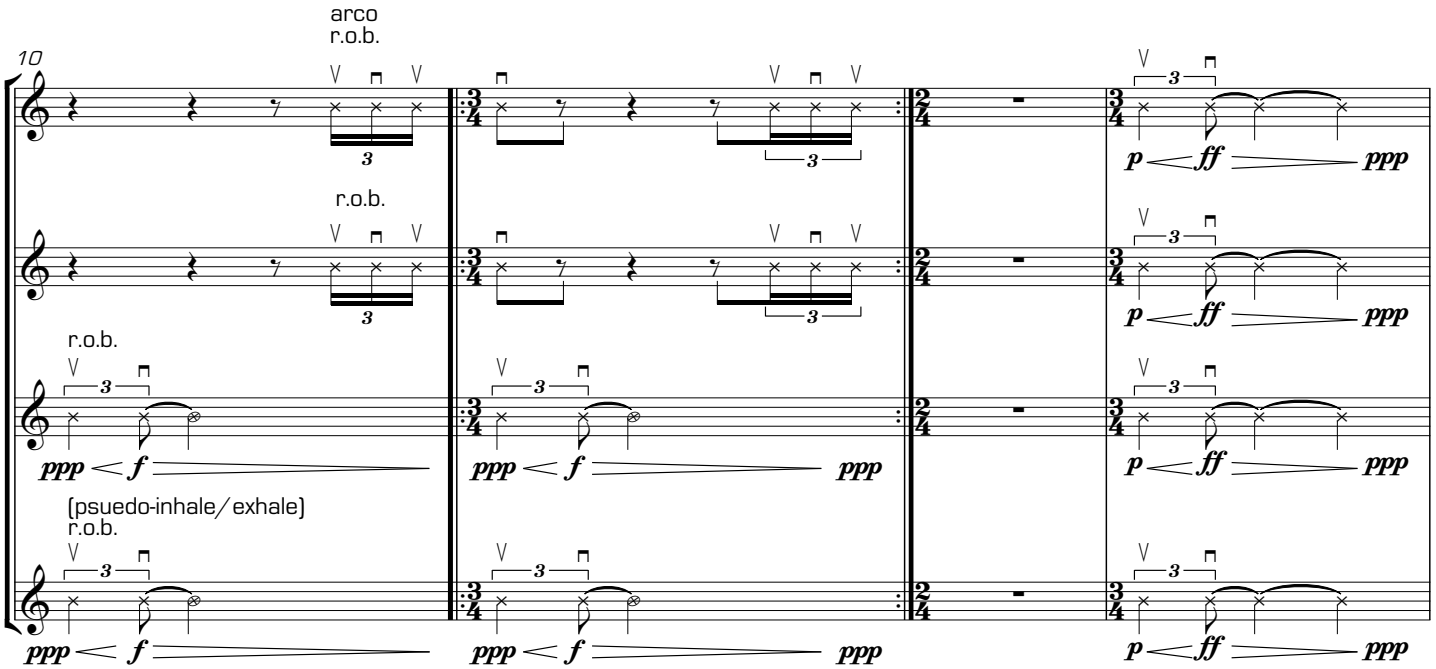
6

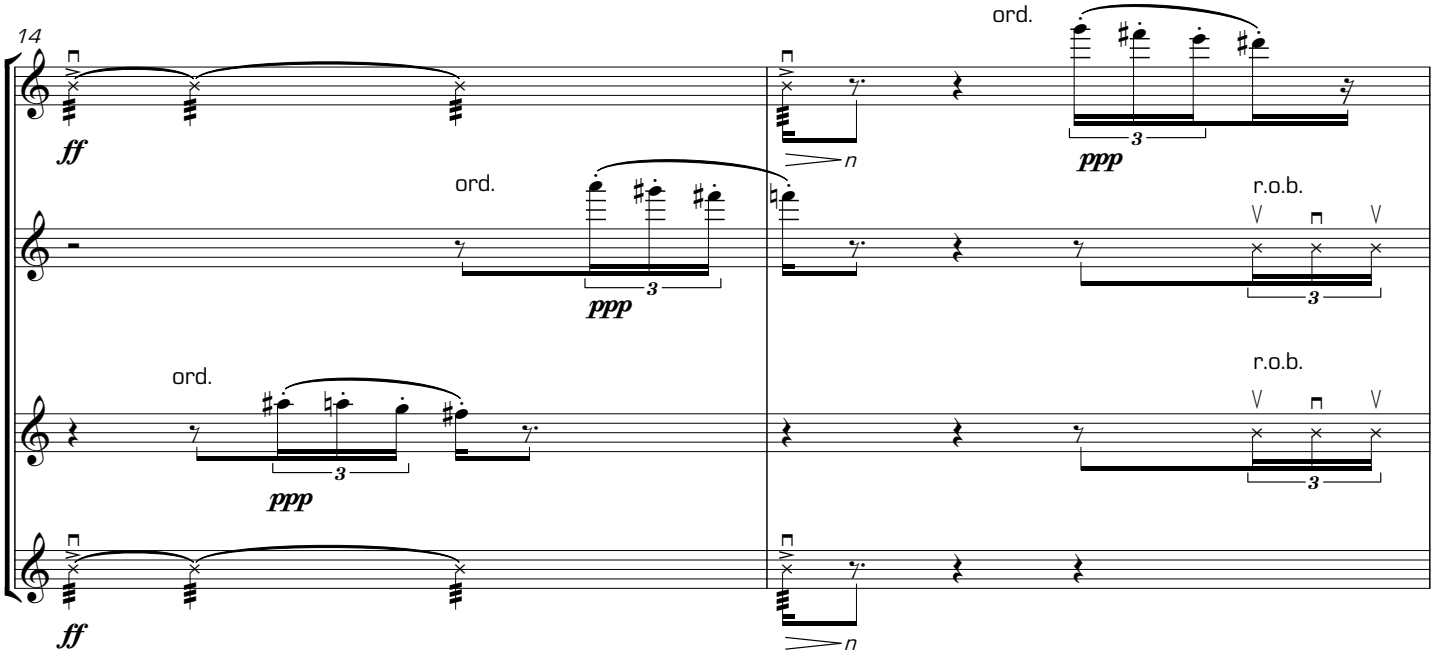
pizz.

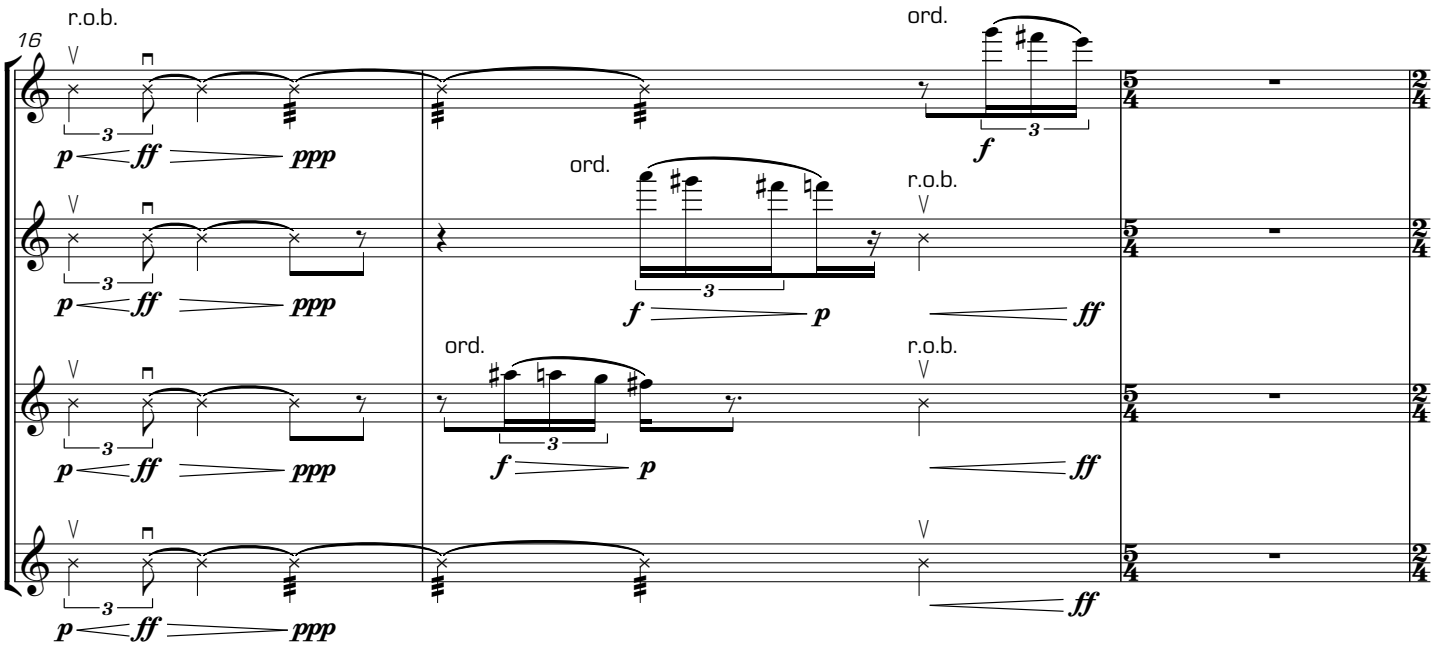
(psuedo-inhale/exhale)
r.o.b.

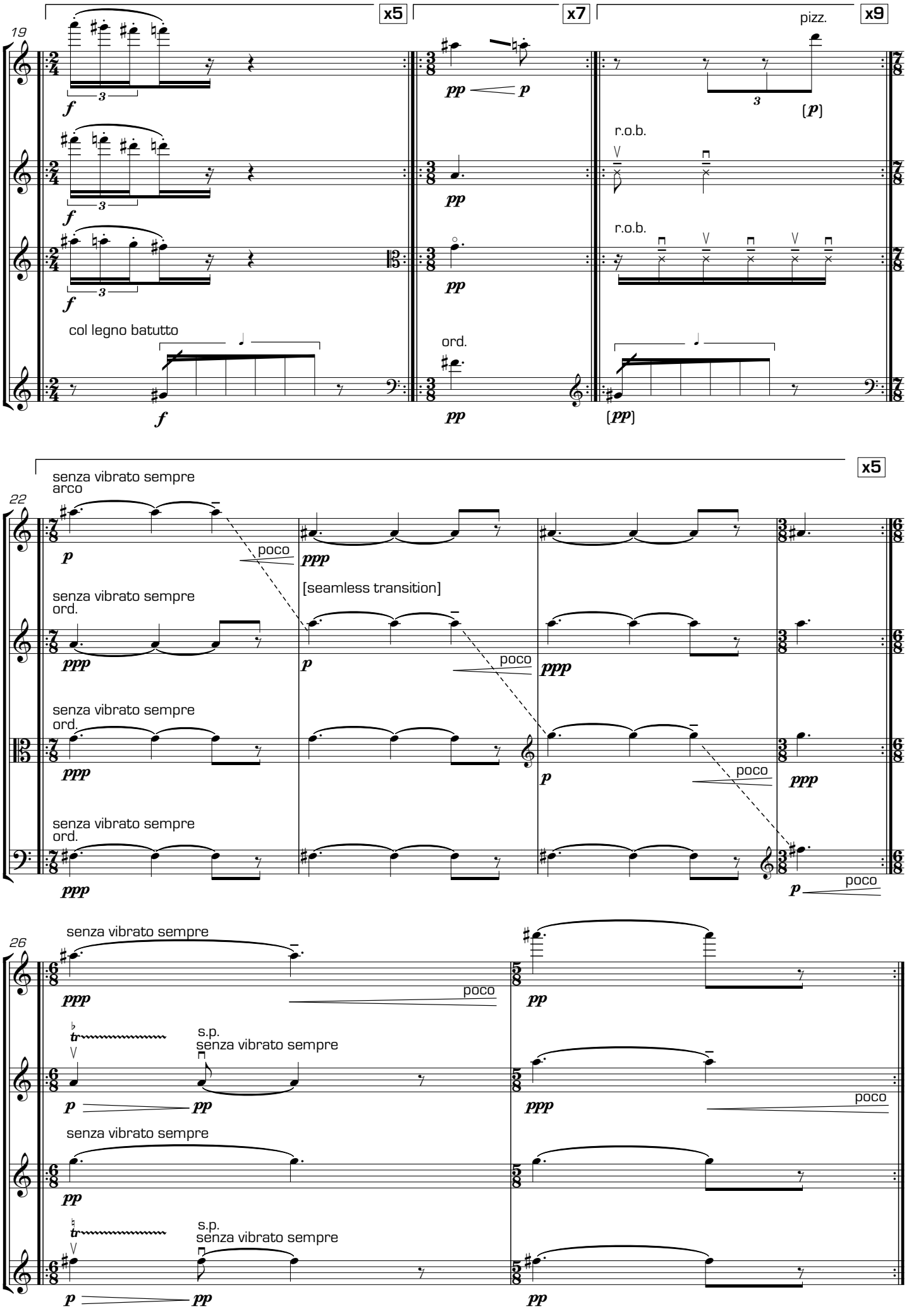
ppp < ***f*** > ***ppp***

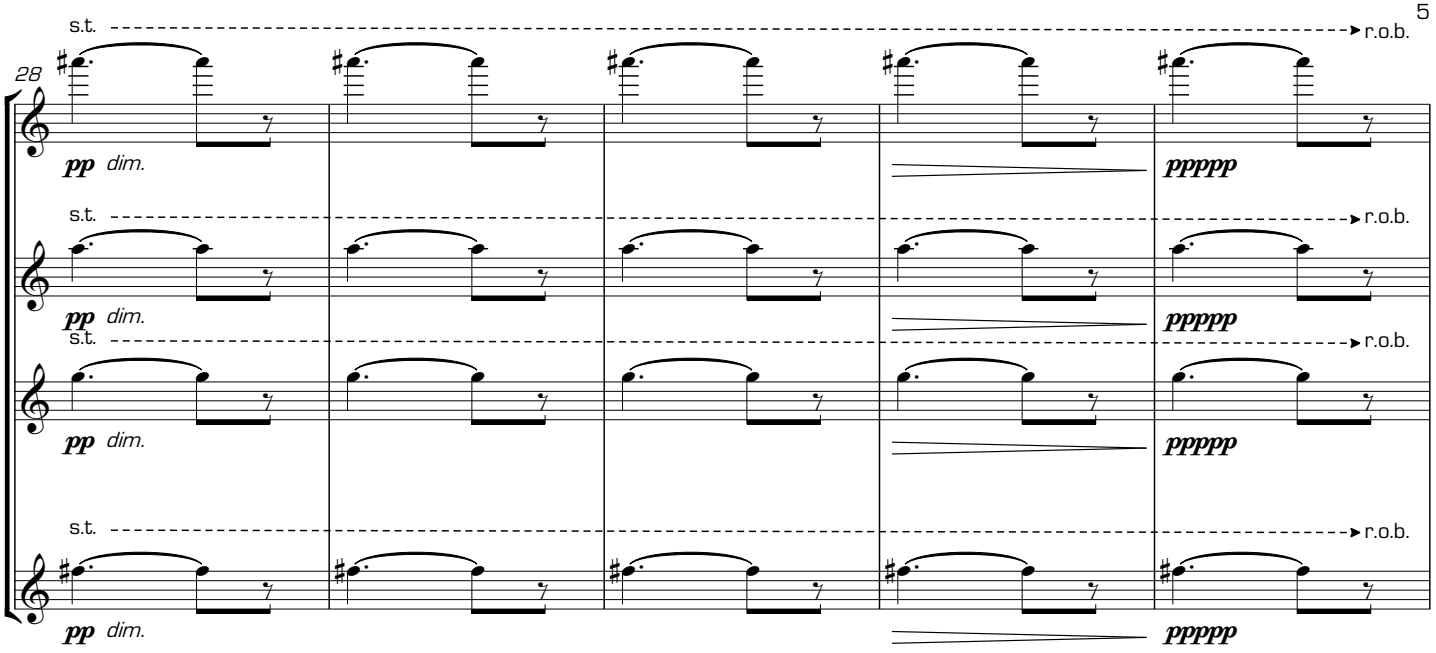
arco

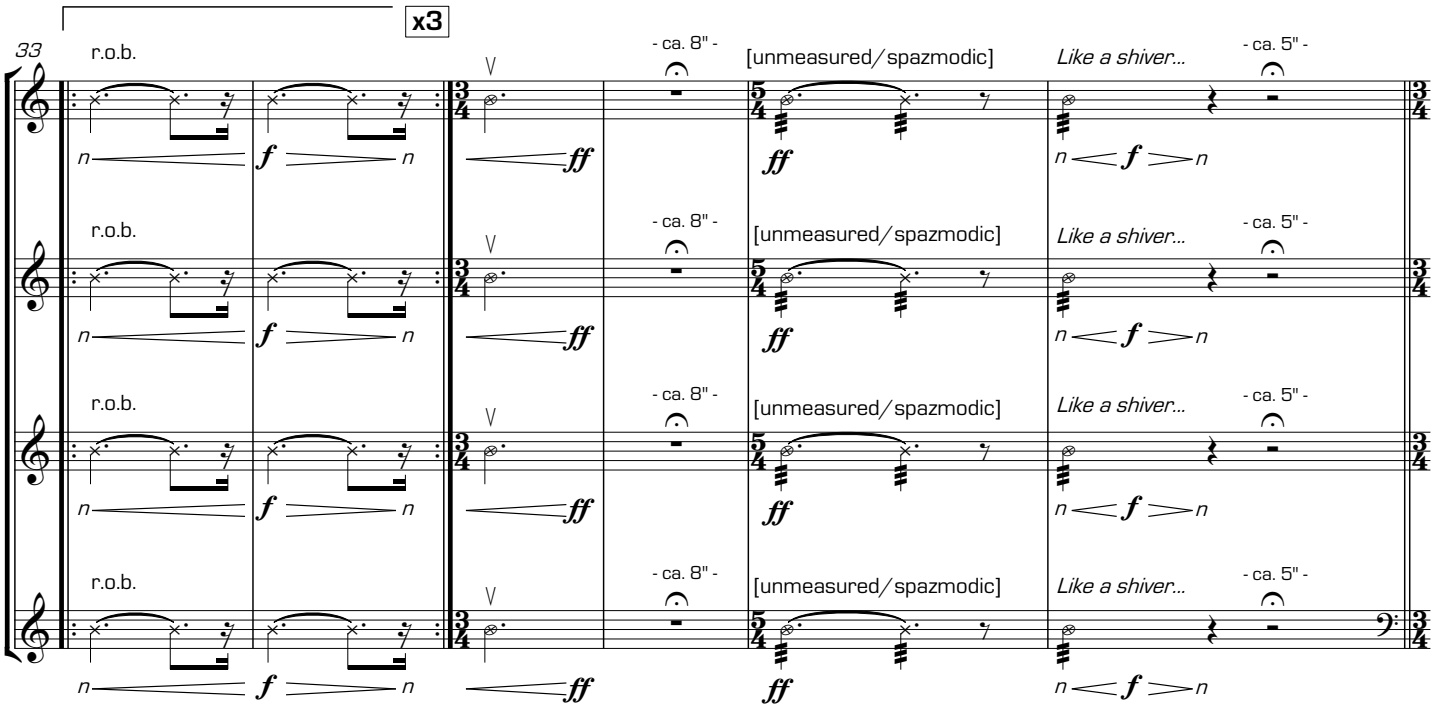

10
arco
r.o.b.
r.o.b.
r.o.b.
[psuedo-inhale/exhale]
r.o.b.

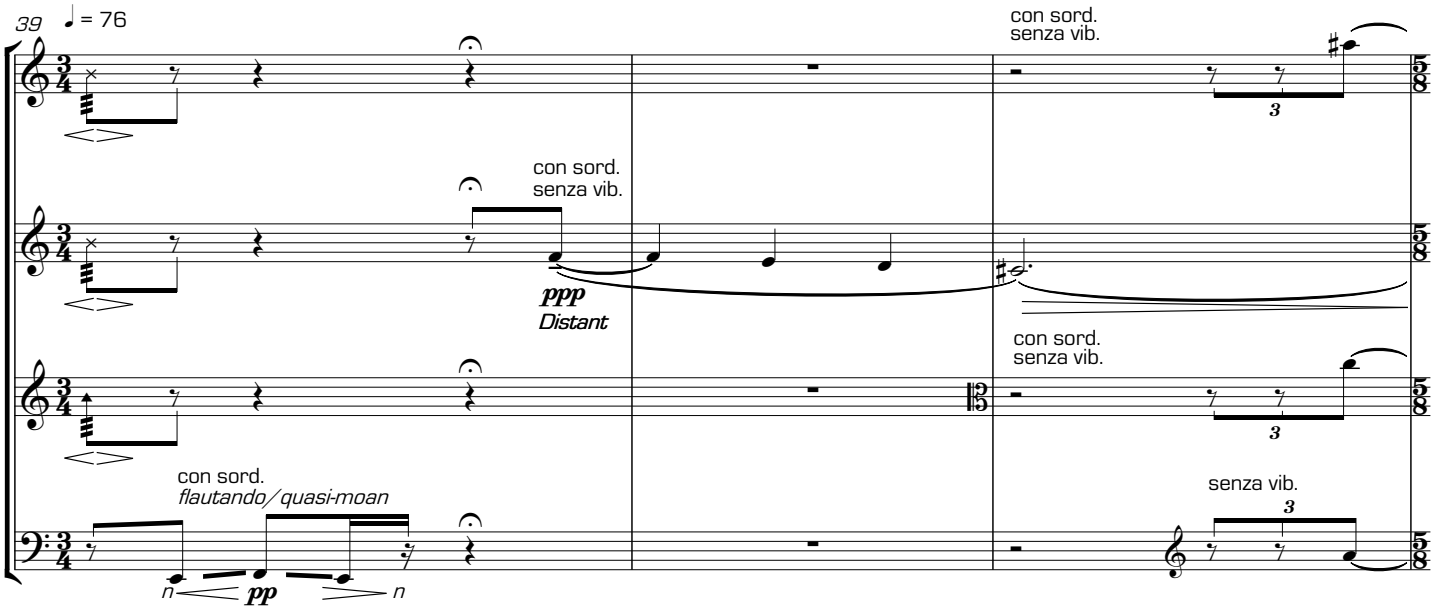

14
ord.
ord.
ord.
r.o.b.
r.o.b.

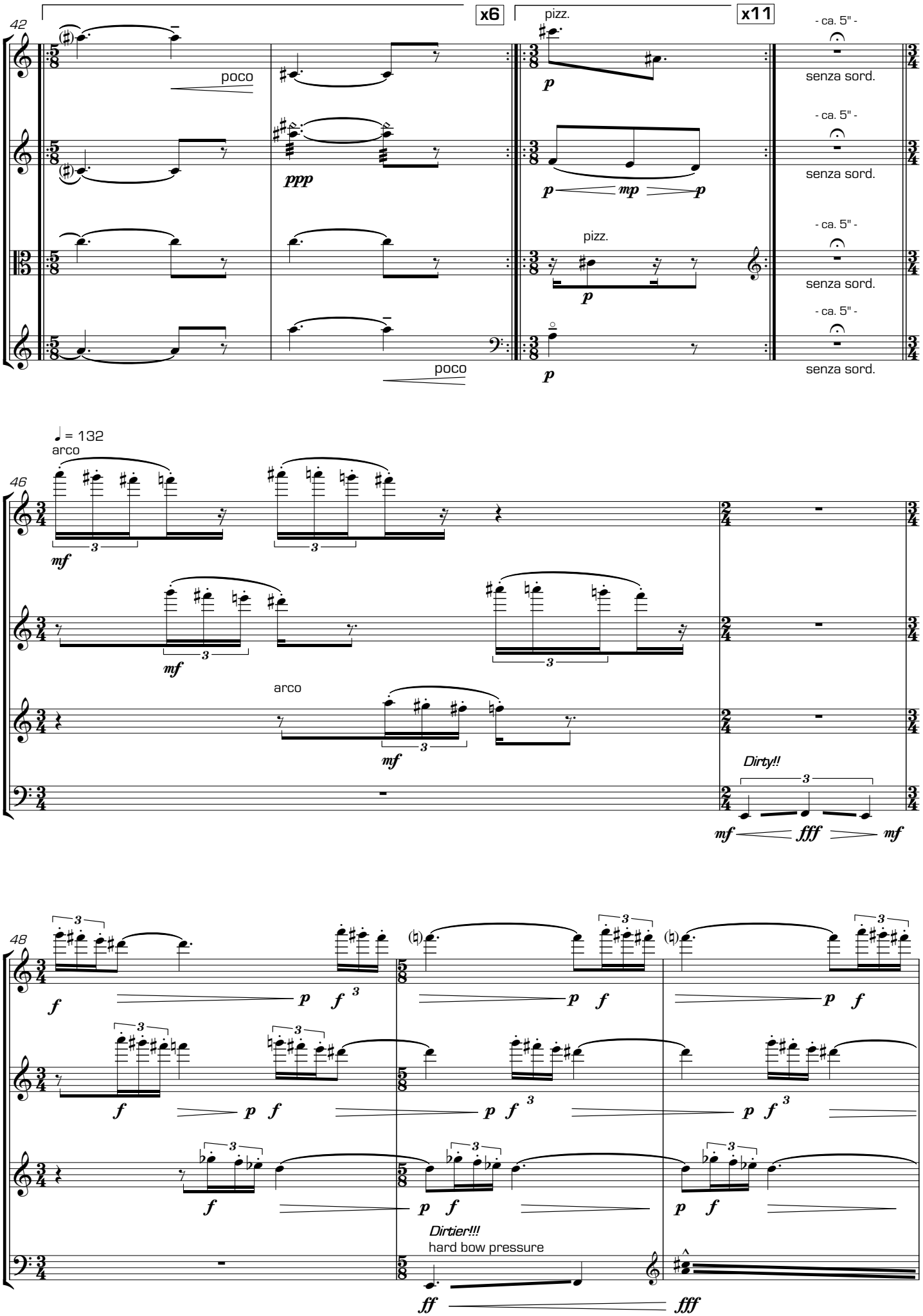

16
r.o.b.
ord.
ord.
r.o.b.
ord.
r.o.b.

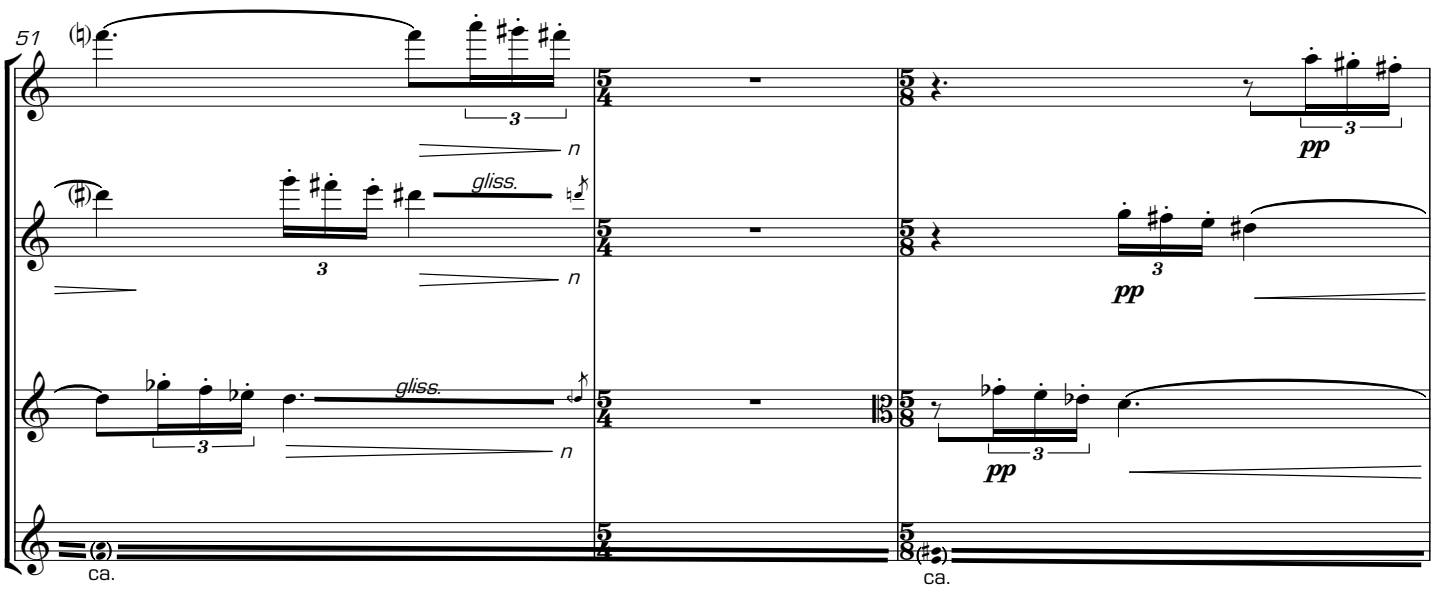

19
x5
x7
x9
pizz.
r.o.b.
r.o.b.
col legno batutto
ord.
22
senza vibrato sempre
arco
poco
[seamless transition]
senza vibrato sempre
ord.
senza vibrato sempre
ord.
senza vibrato sempre
ord.
26
senza vibrato sempre
poco
s.p.
senza vibrato sempre
senza vibrato sempre
s.p.
senza vibrato sempre

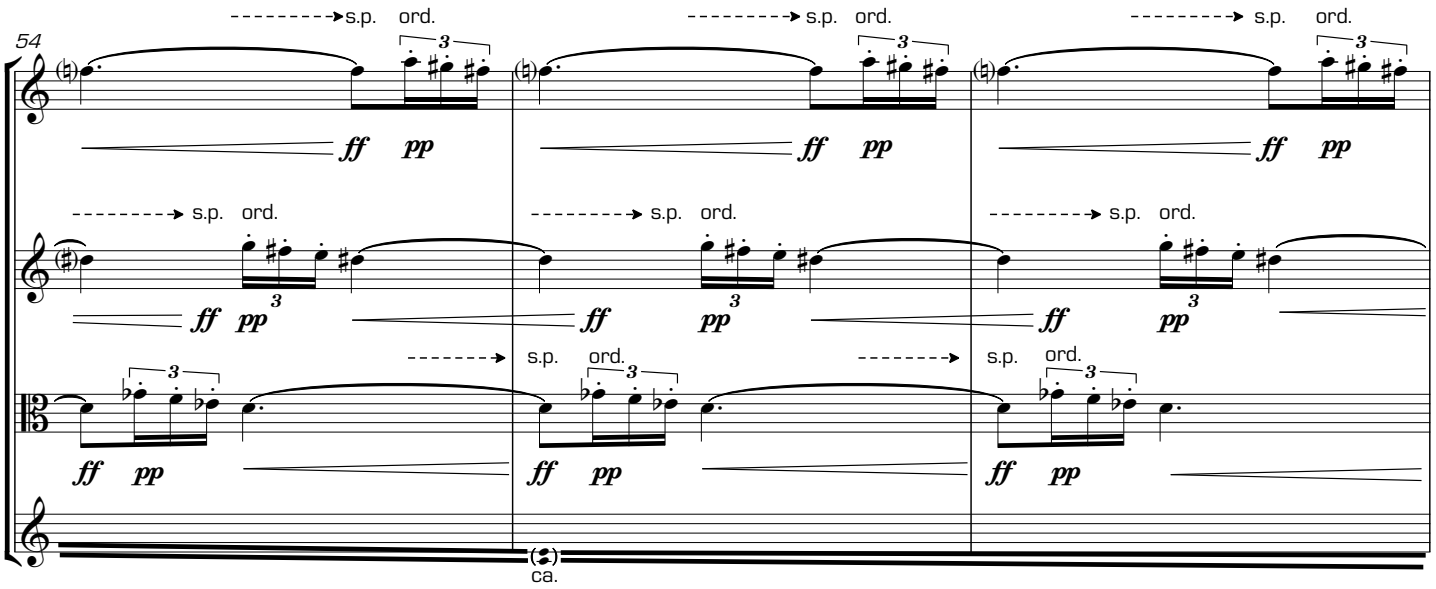

28
s.t.
r.o.b.
pp dim.
ppppp

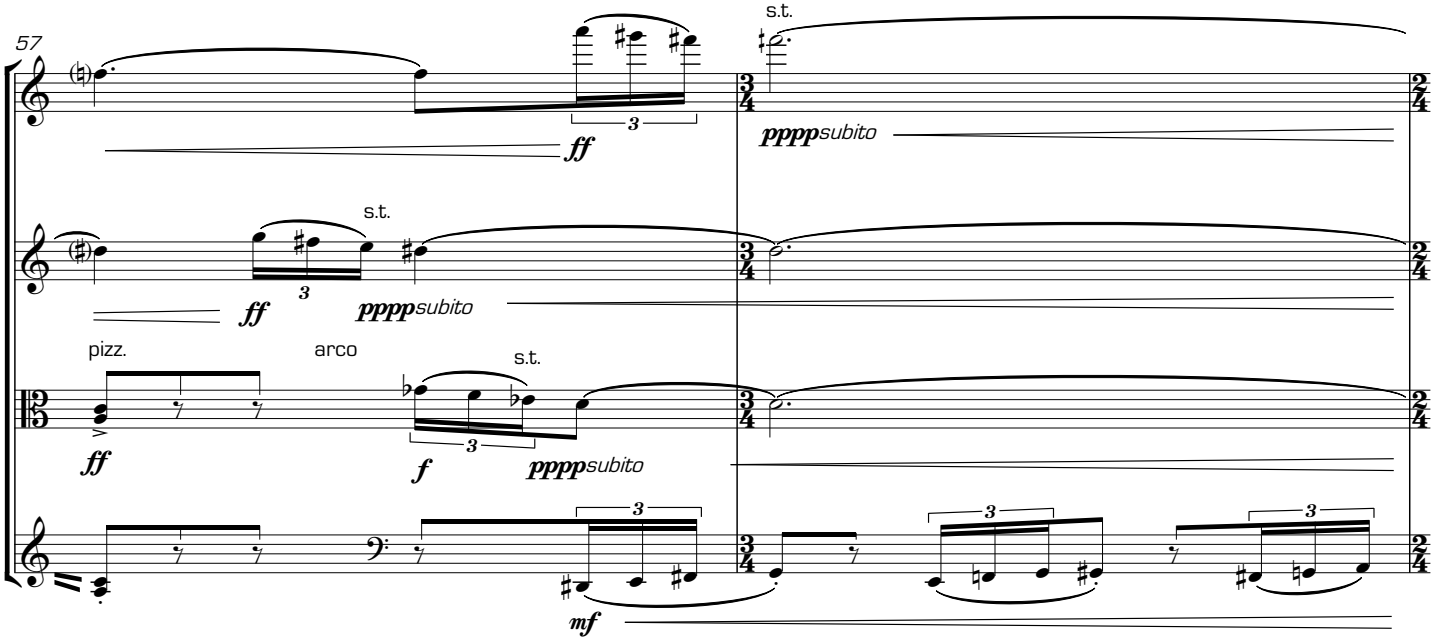

33
x3
r.o.b.
n f n
ff
- ca. 8" -
[unmeasured/spazmodic]
Like a shiver...
- ca. 5" -

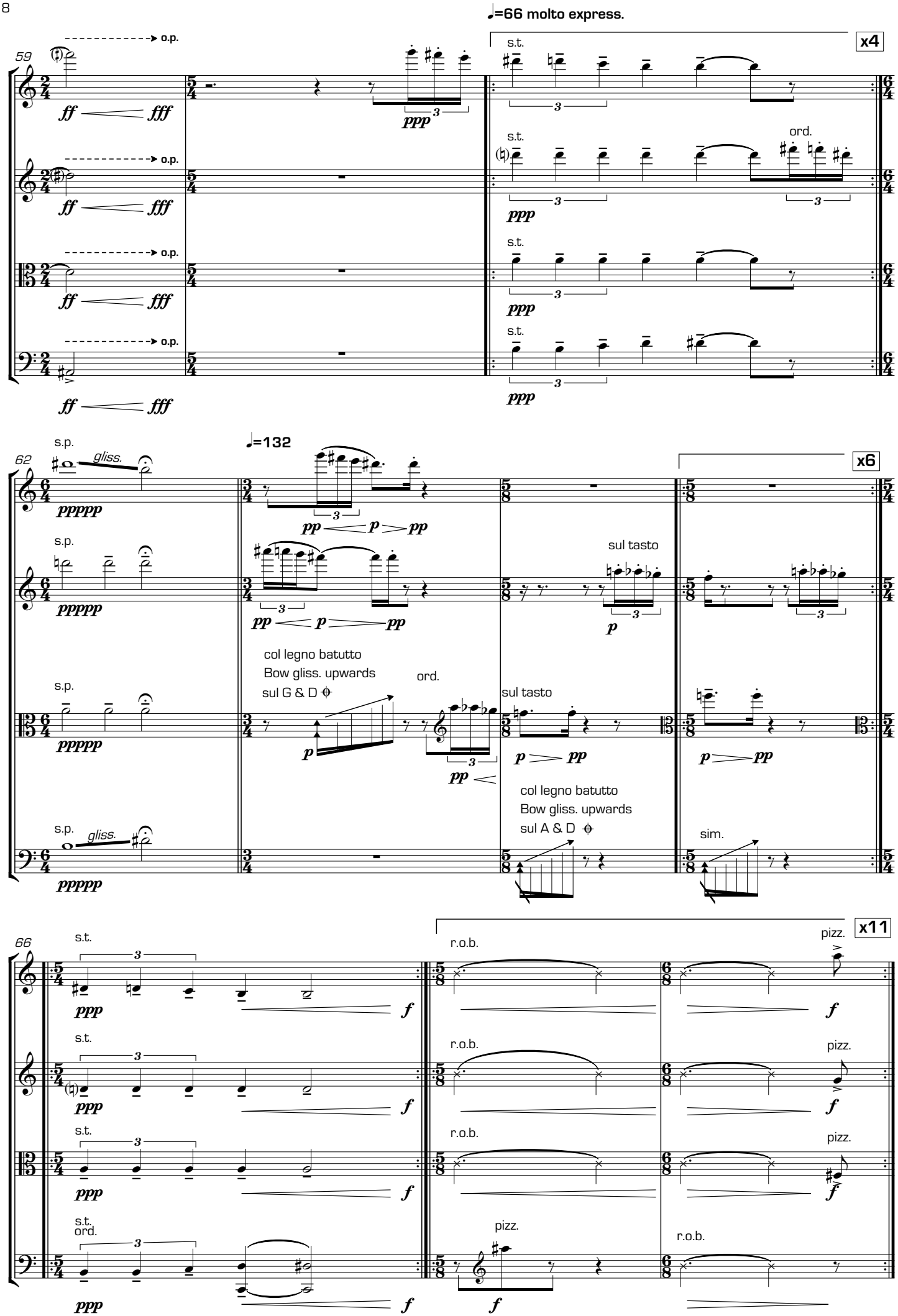

39
♩ = 76
con sord.
senza vib.
ppp
Distant
con sord.
flautando/quasi-moan
pp
senza vib.

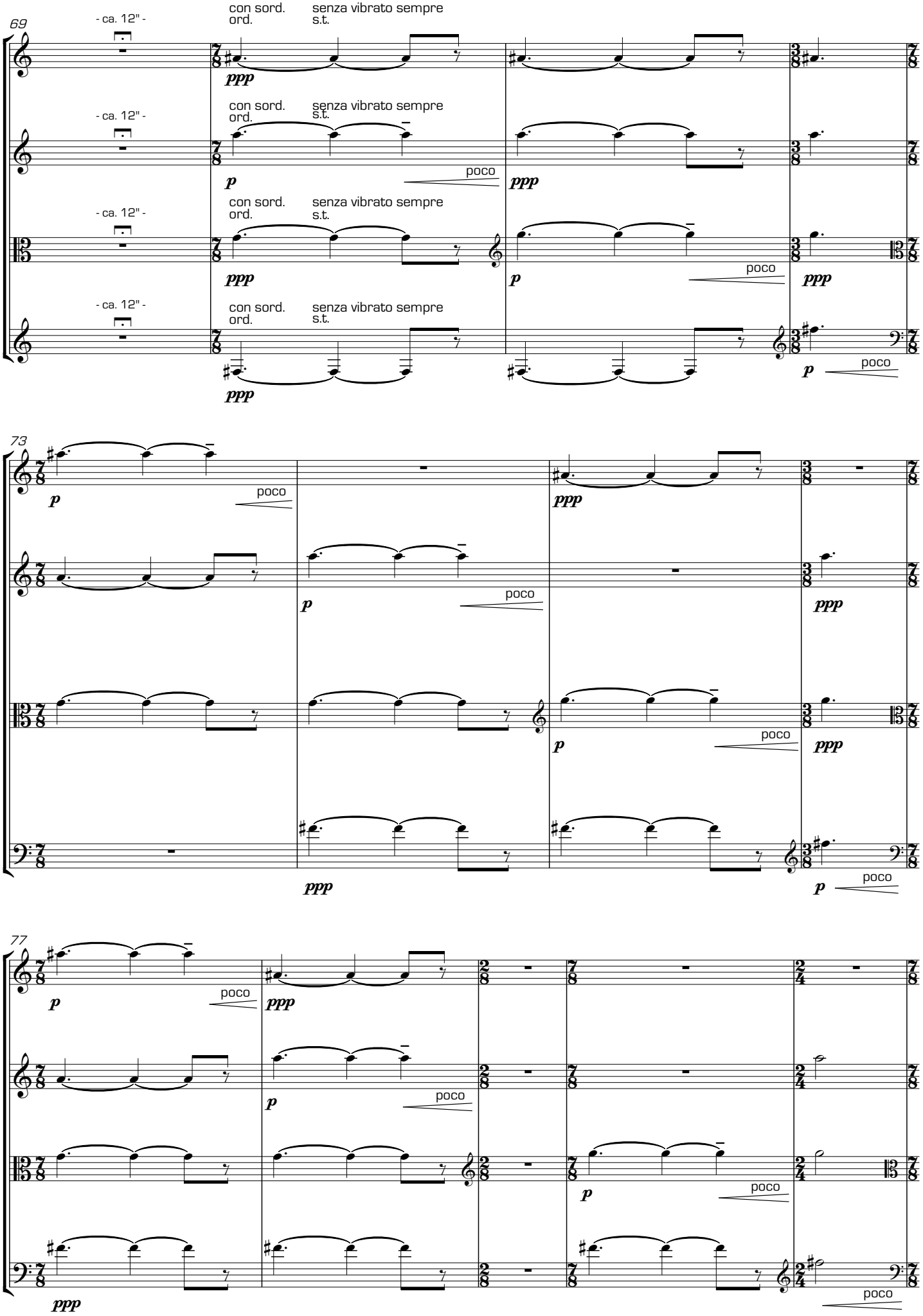

42
x6
x11
pizz.
poco
ppp
p
mp
- ca. 5" -
senza sord.
46
♩ = 132
arco
mf
Dirty!!
fff
48
f
Dirtier!!!
hard bow pressure
ff
fff

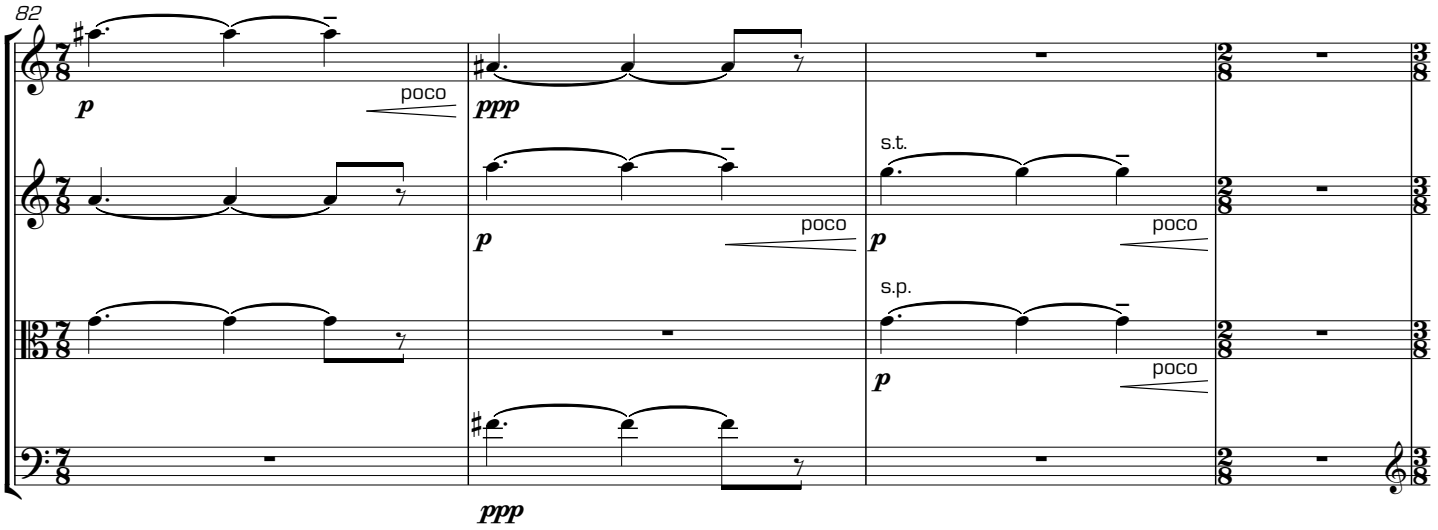

51
gliss.
gliss.
n
pp
ca.

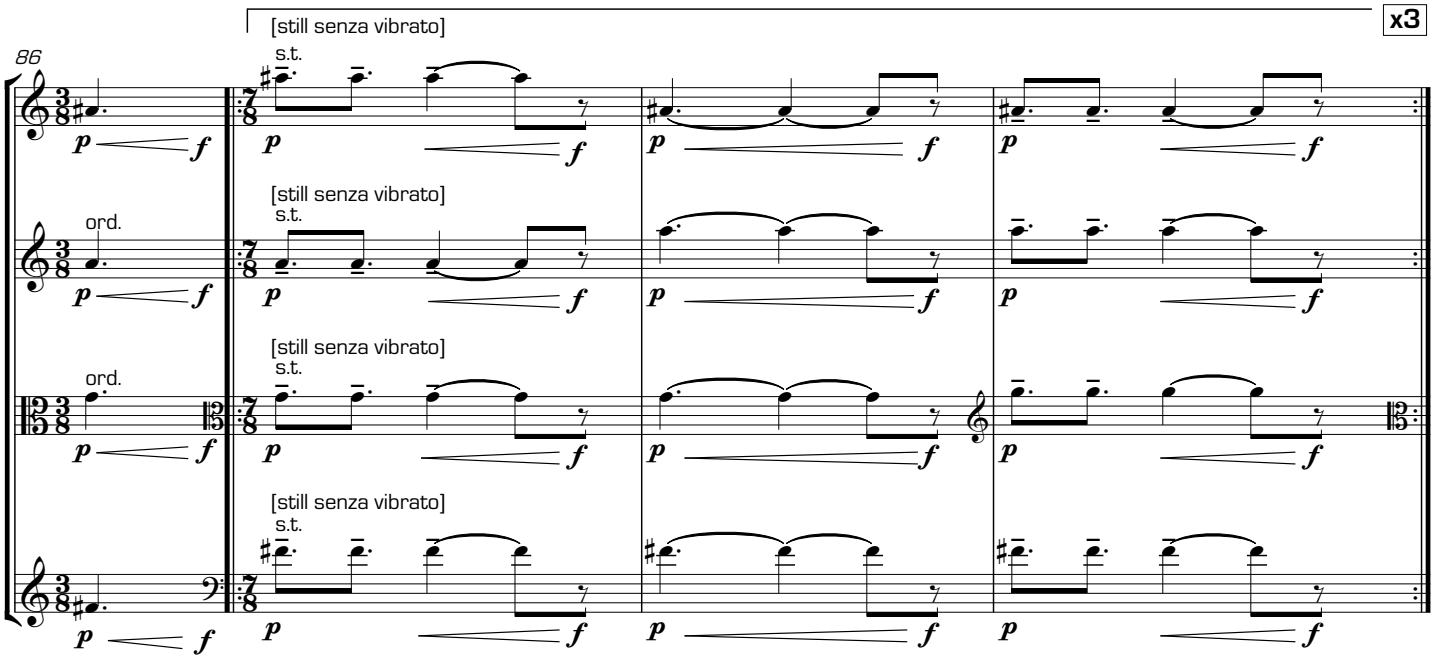

54
s.p.
ord.
ff
pp
ca.

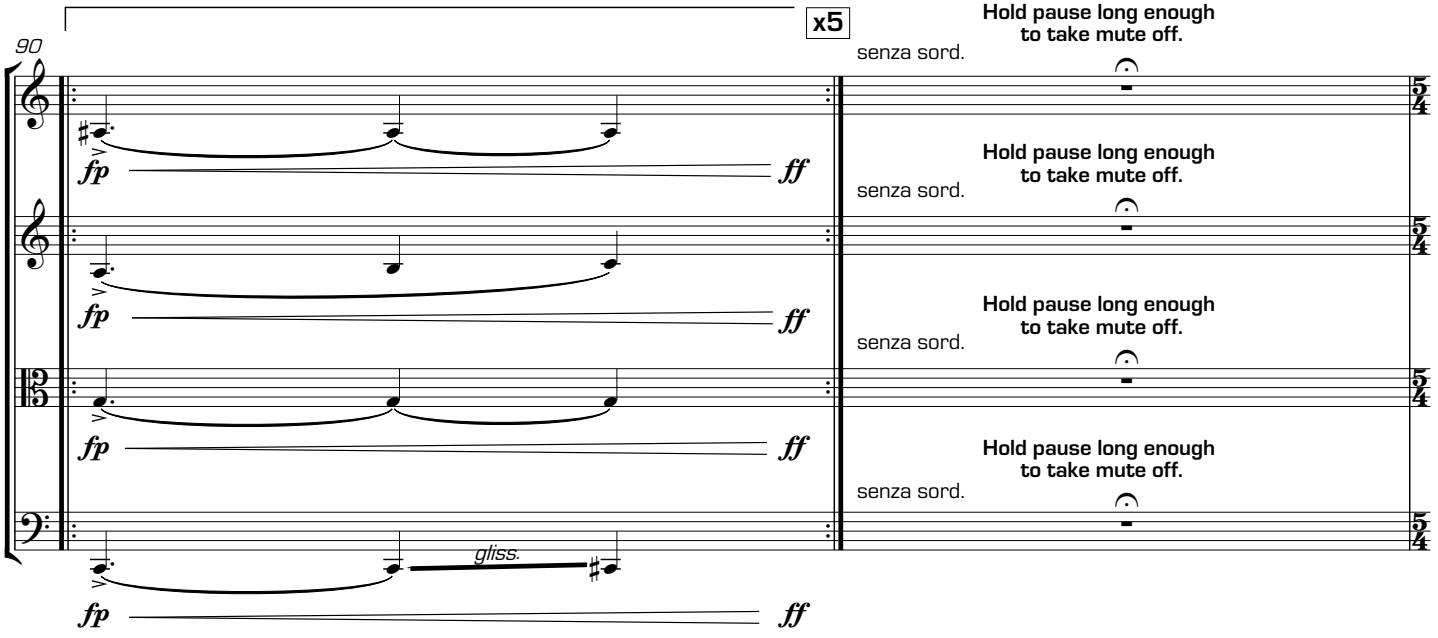

57
s.t.
pppp subito
pizz.
arco
mf

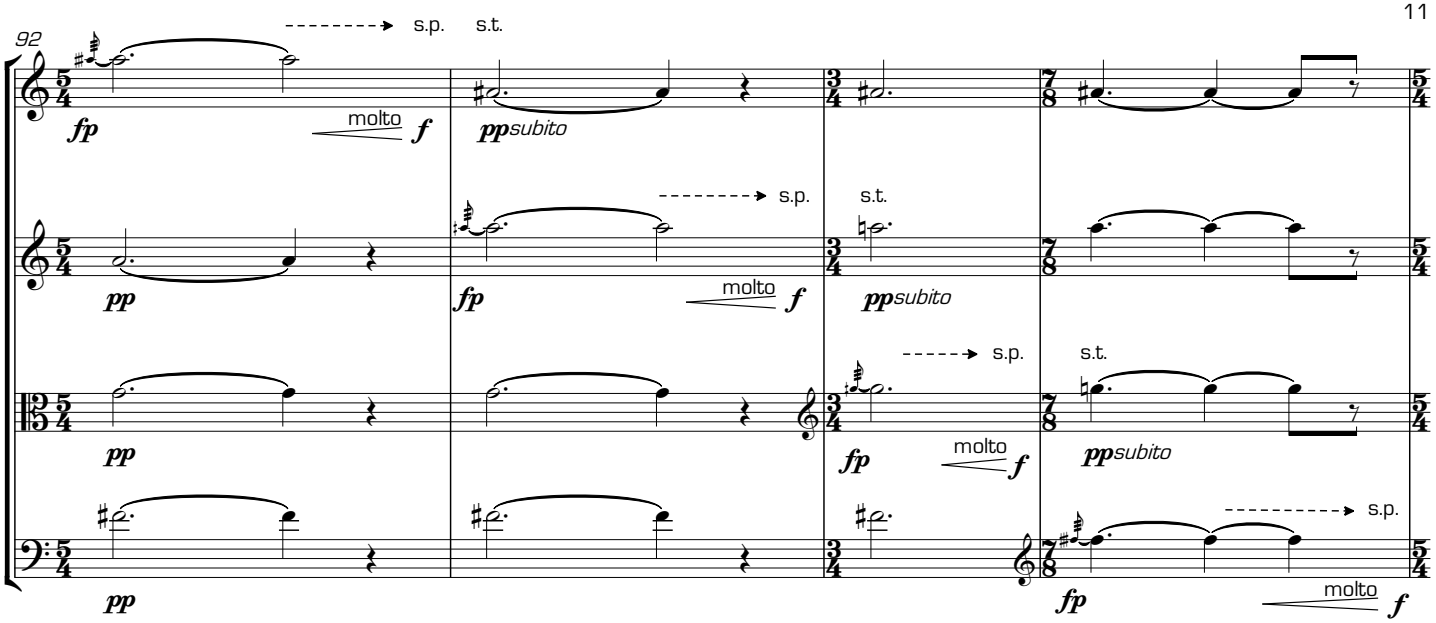

♩=66 molto express.
59
o.p.
ff
fff
ppp
s.t.
x4
ord.
62
s.p.
gliss.
pppp
♩=132
pp
p
sul tasto
col legno batutto
Bow gliss. upwards
sul G & D
ord.
sul A & D
x6
66
r.o.b.
pizz.
x11
sim.

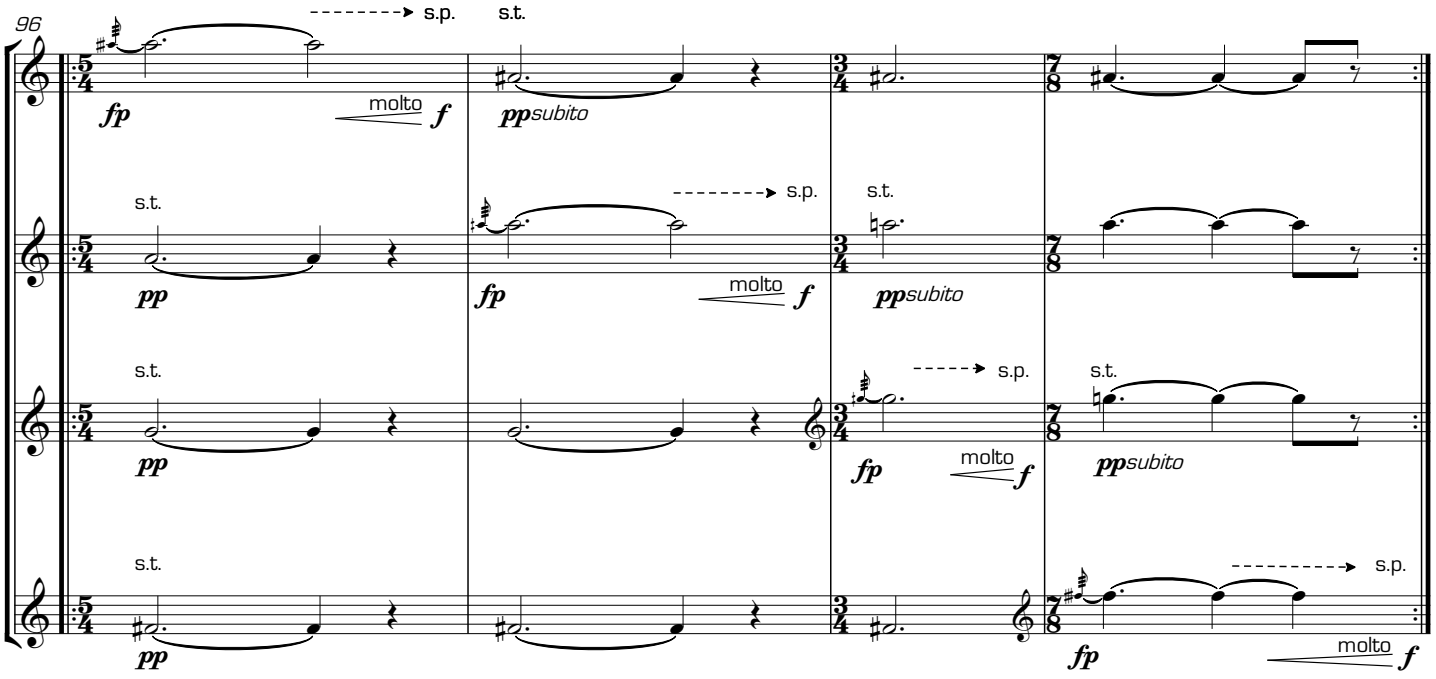

69
- ca. 12" -
con sord.
ord.
senza vibrato sempre
s.t.
ppp
p
poco
73
77

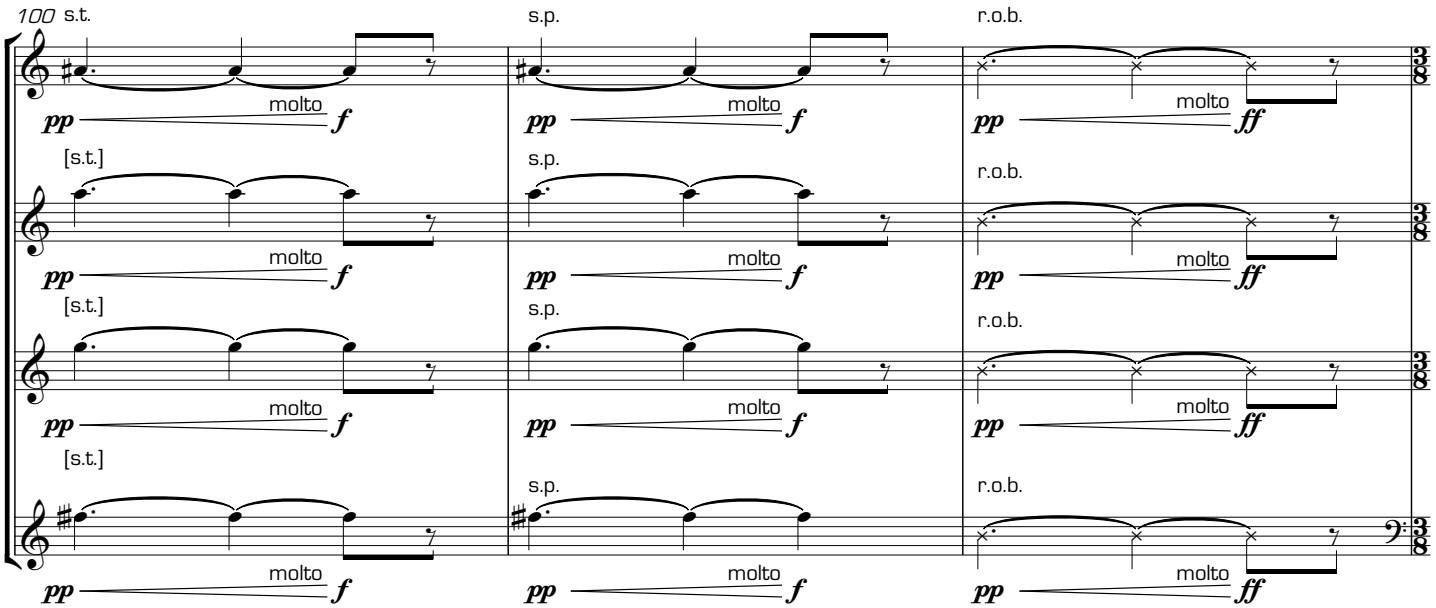

82
poco
ppp
s.t.
s.p.

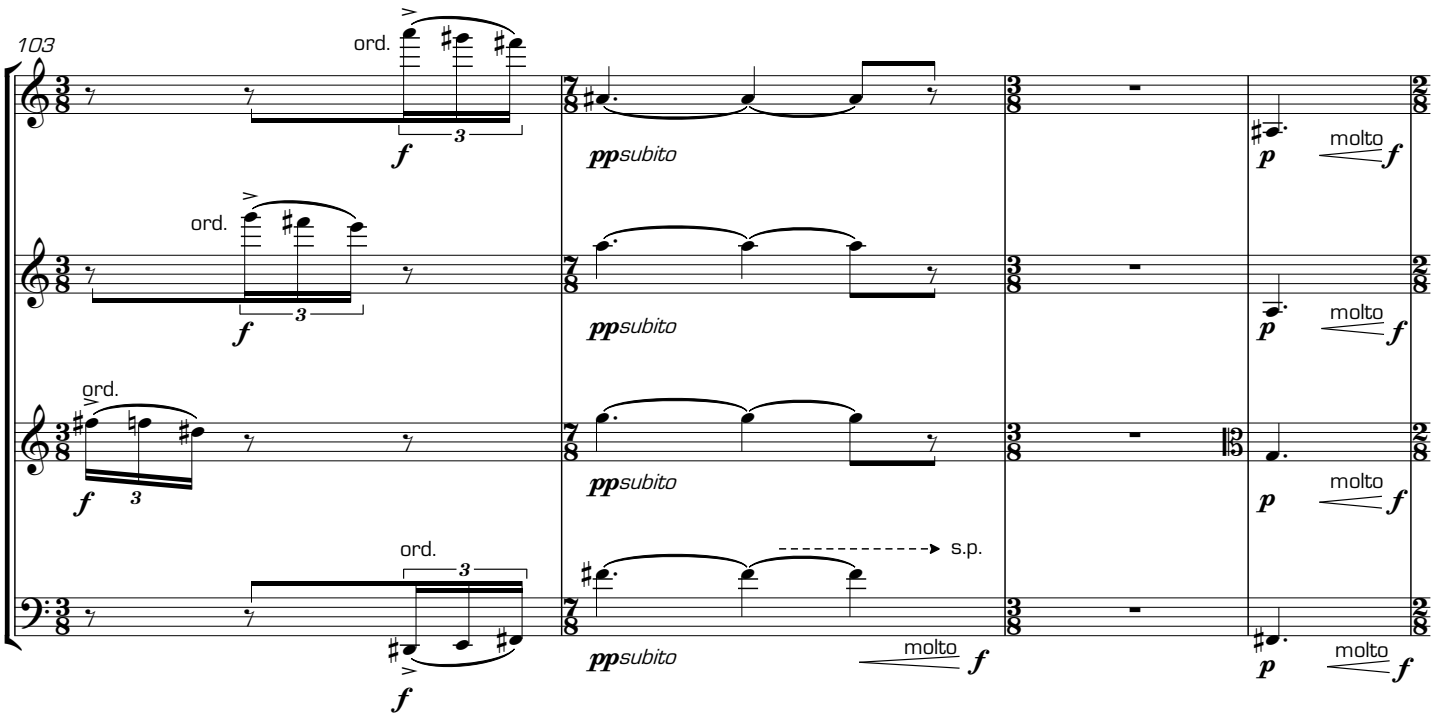

x3
[still senza vibrato]
s.t.
ord.
86

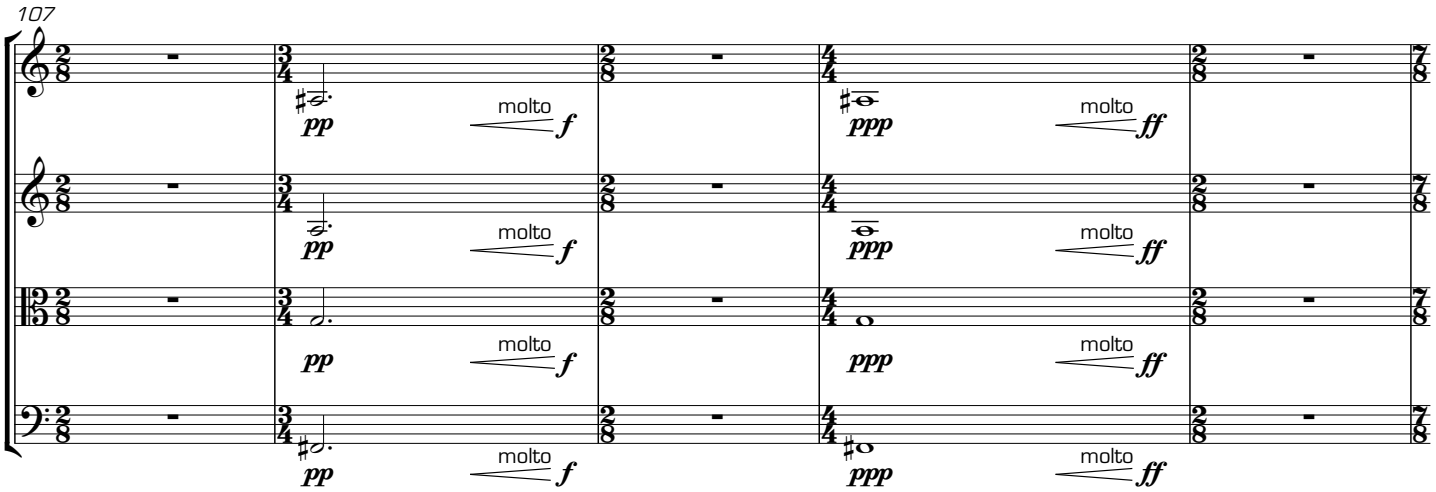

x5
90
senza sord.
Hold pause long enough to take mute off.
gliss.

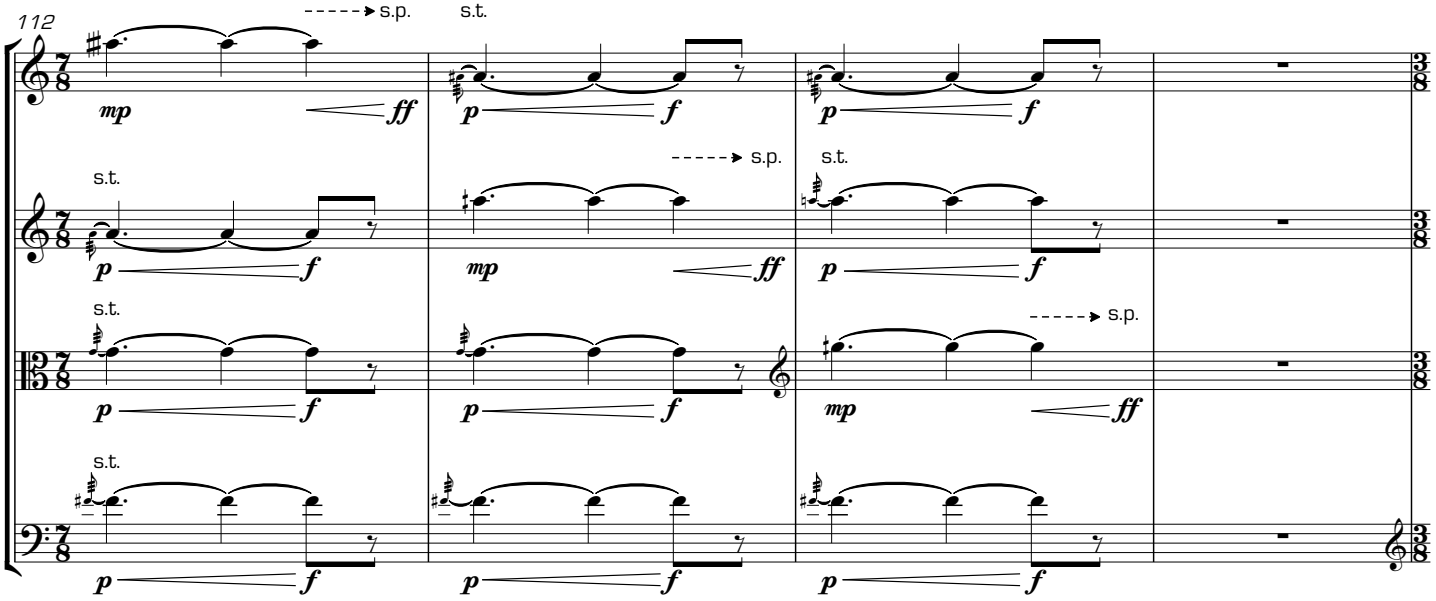

92
s.p.
s.t.
fp
molto
f
pp
ppsubito

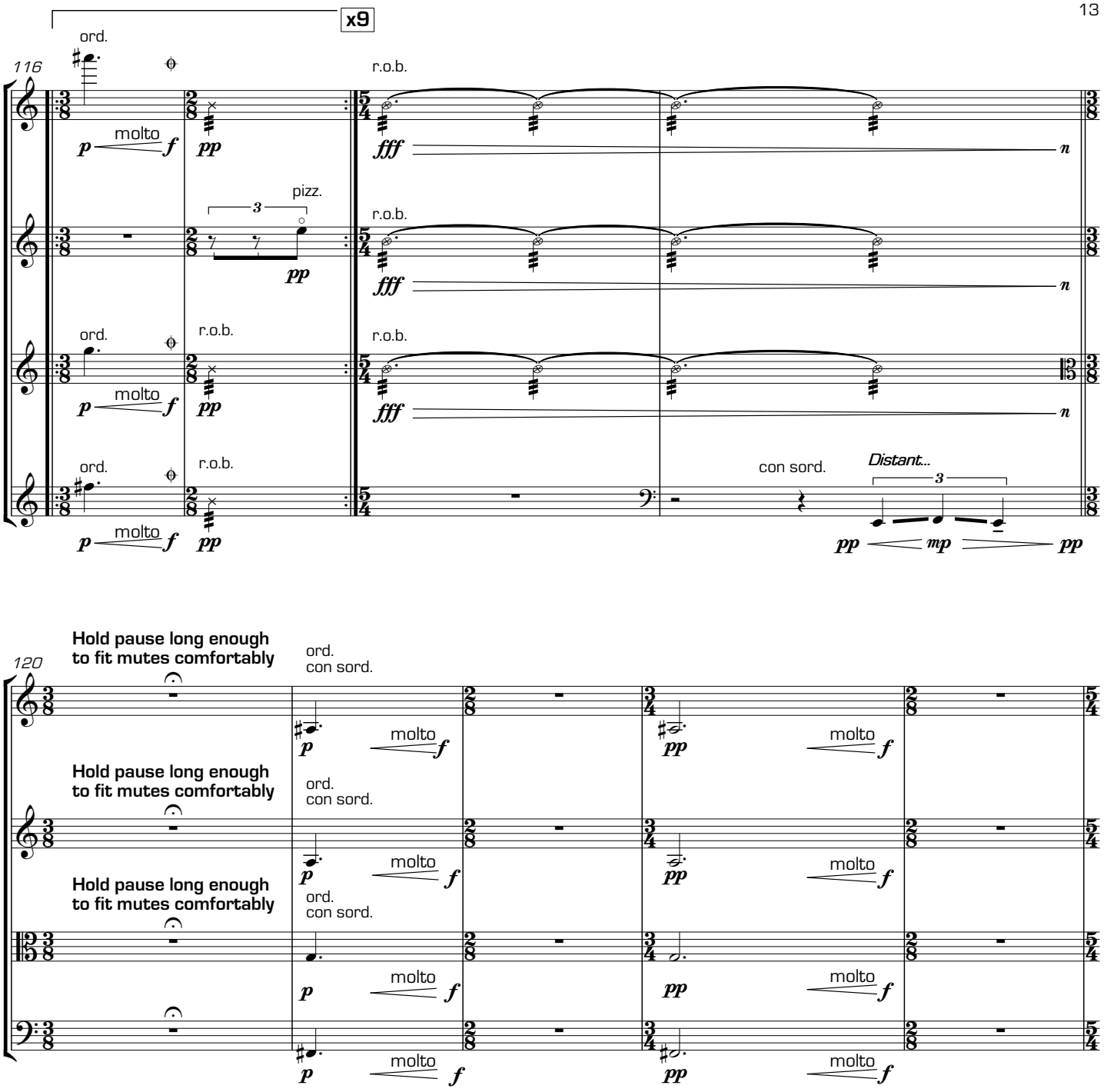

96
s.p.
s.t.
fp
molto
f
pp
ppsubito

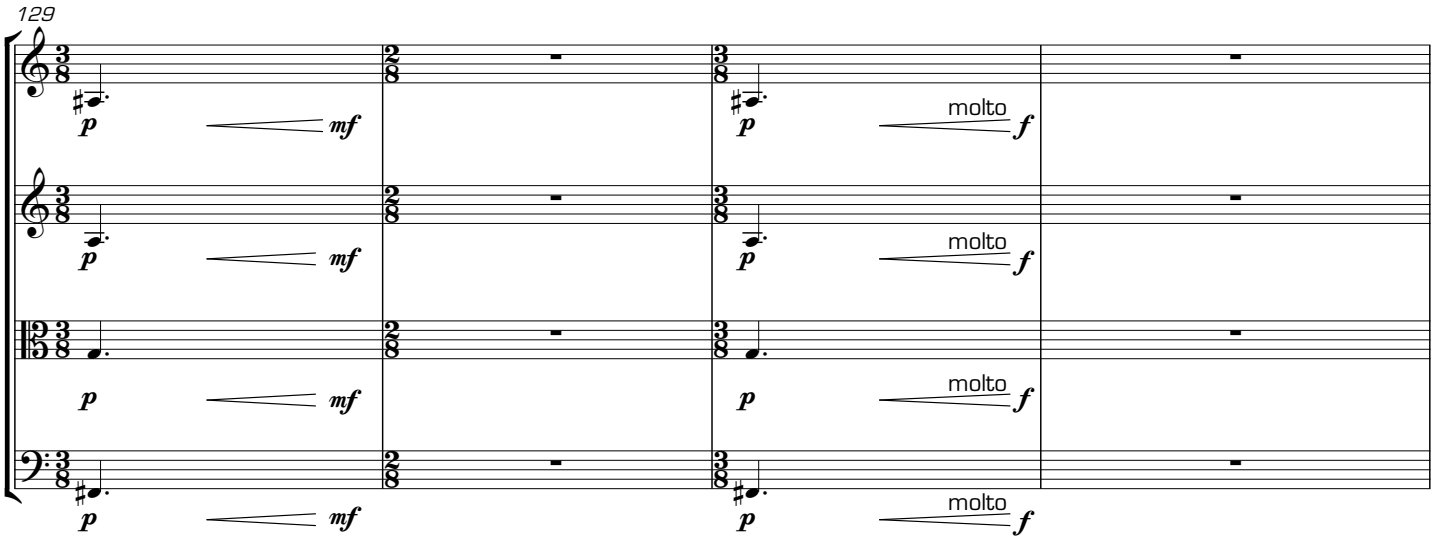

100
s.t.
s.p.
r.o.b.
[s.t.]
pp
molto
f
ff

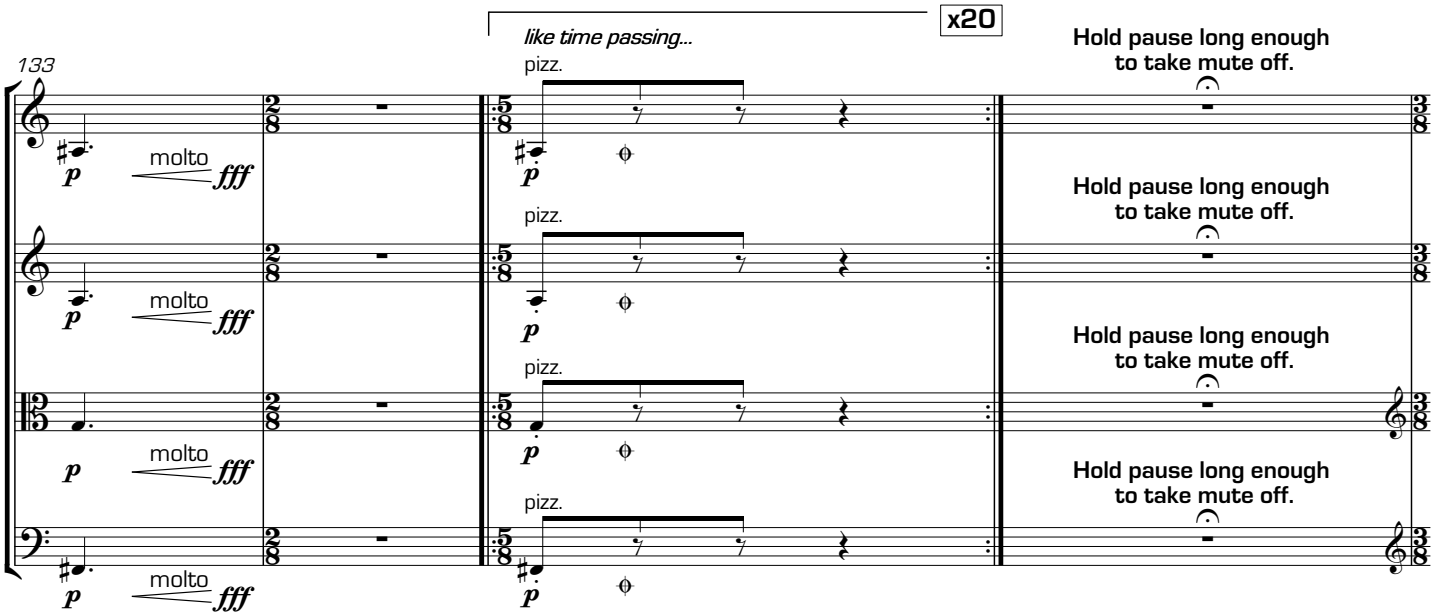

103
ord.
f
3
pp subito
molto
p
f
s.p.

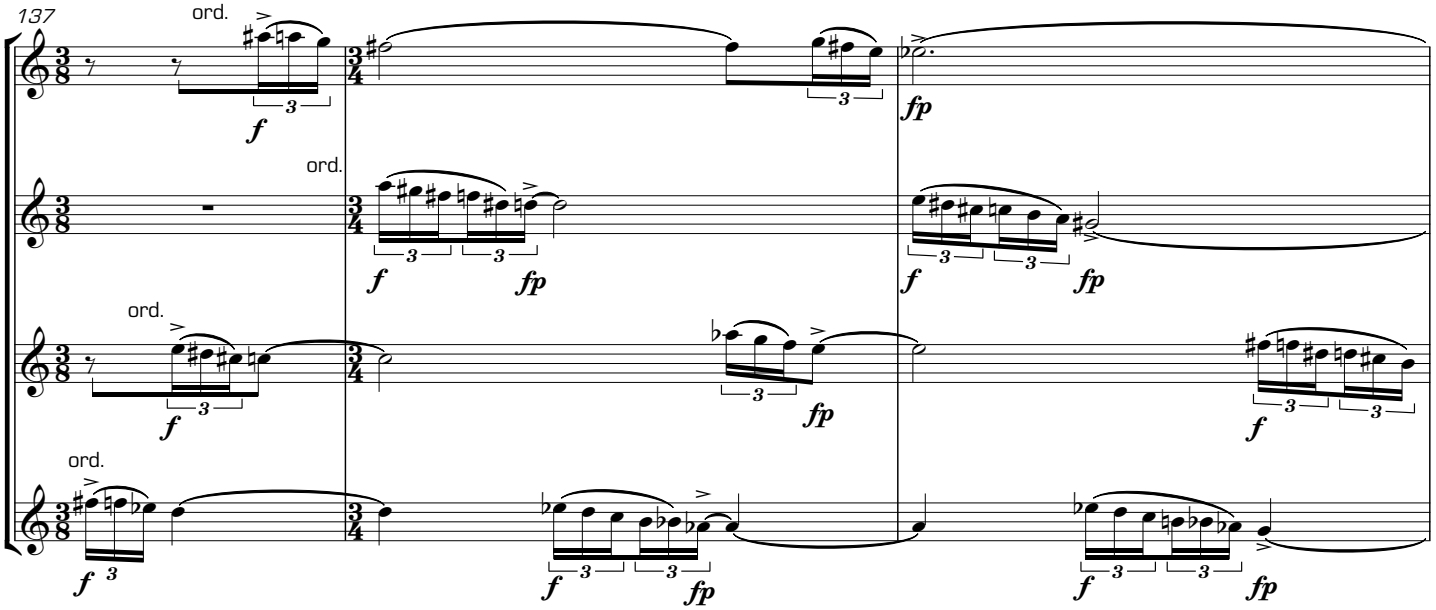

107
pp
molto
f
ppp
ff

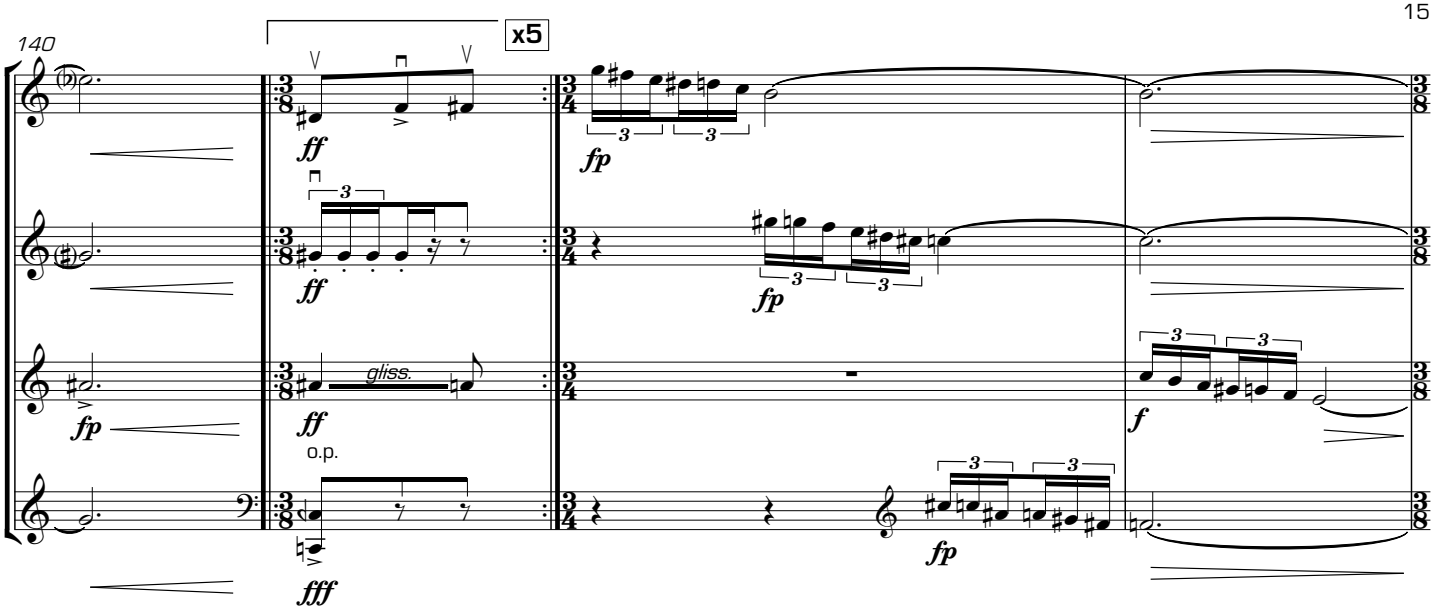

112
s.p.
s.t.
mp
ff
p
f

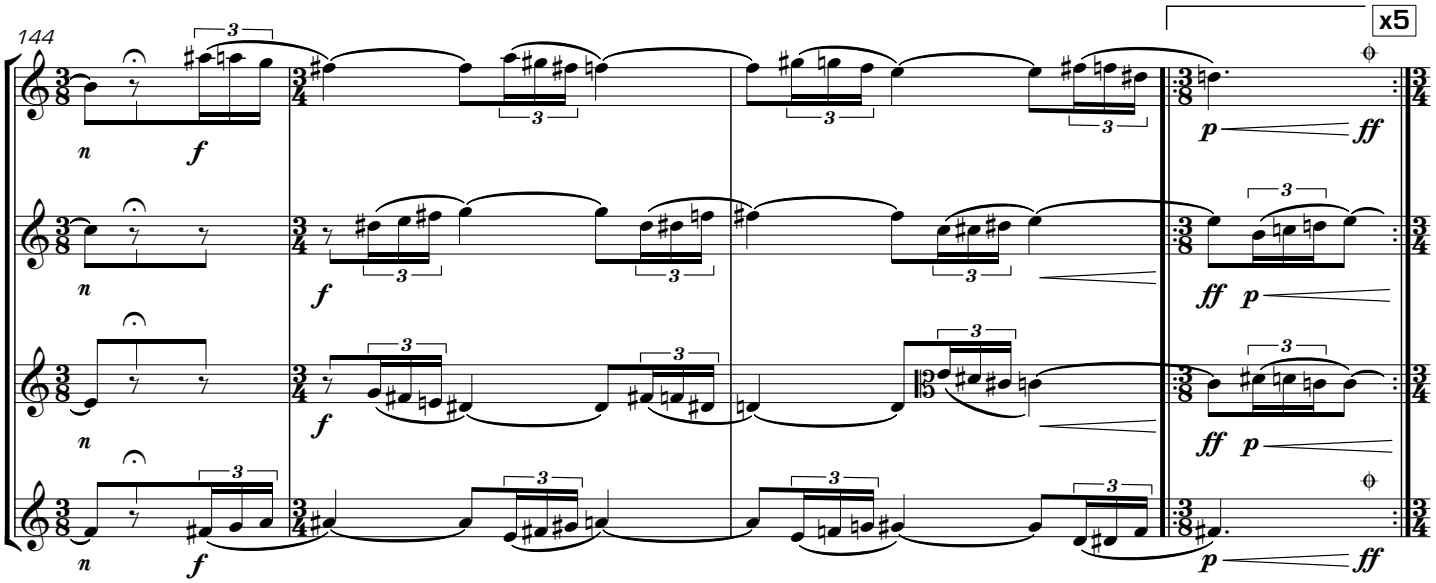

x9
116
ord.
molto
r.o.b.
pizz.
con sord.
Distant...
Hold pause long enough to fit mutes comfortably
120
125

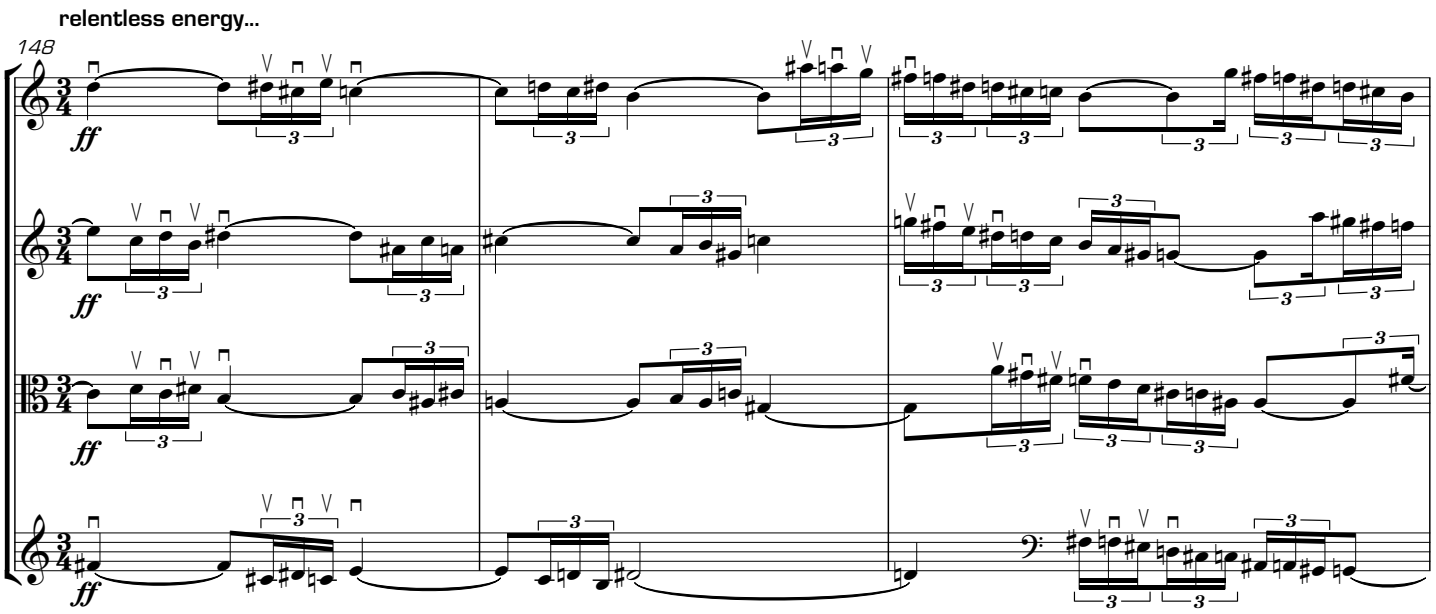

129
p
mf
molto
f

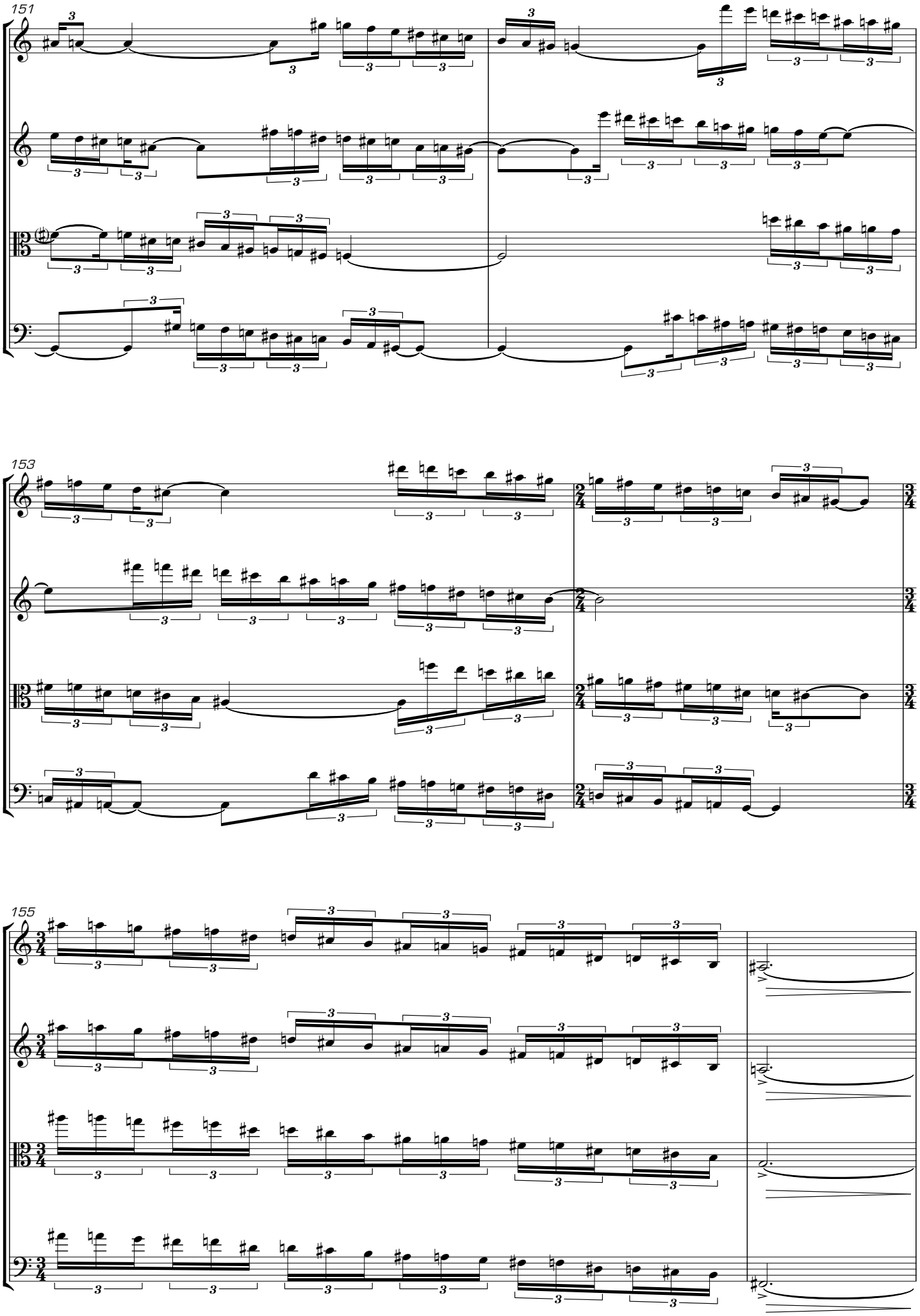

133
x20
like time passing...
pizz.
molto
fff
Hold pause long enough
to take mute off.


137
ord.
f
fp


140
x5
ff
fp
gliss.
o.p.
fff
f

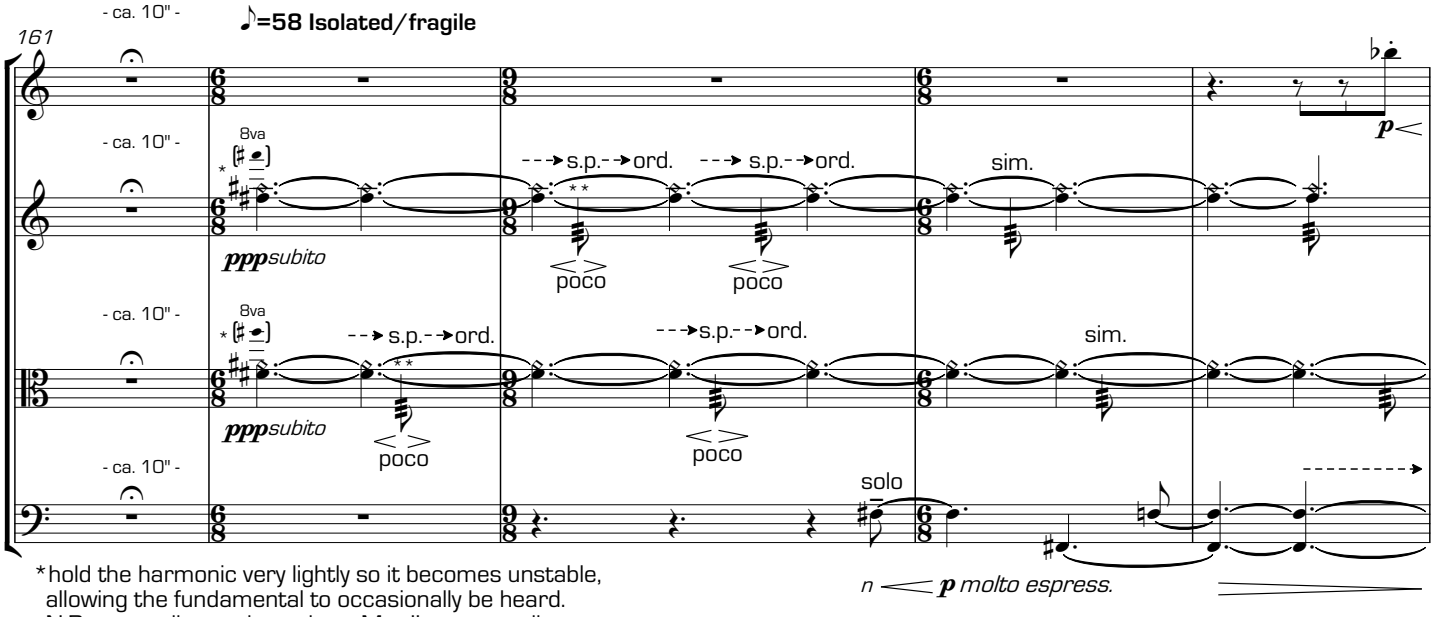

144
x5
n
f
p
ff


relentless energy...
148
ff


151
153
155

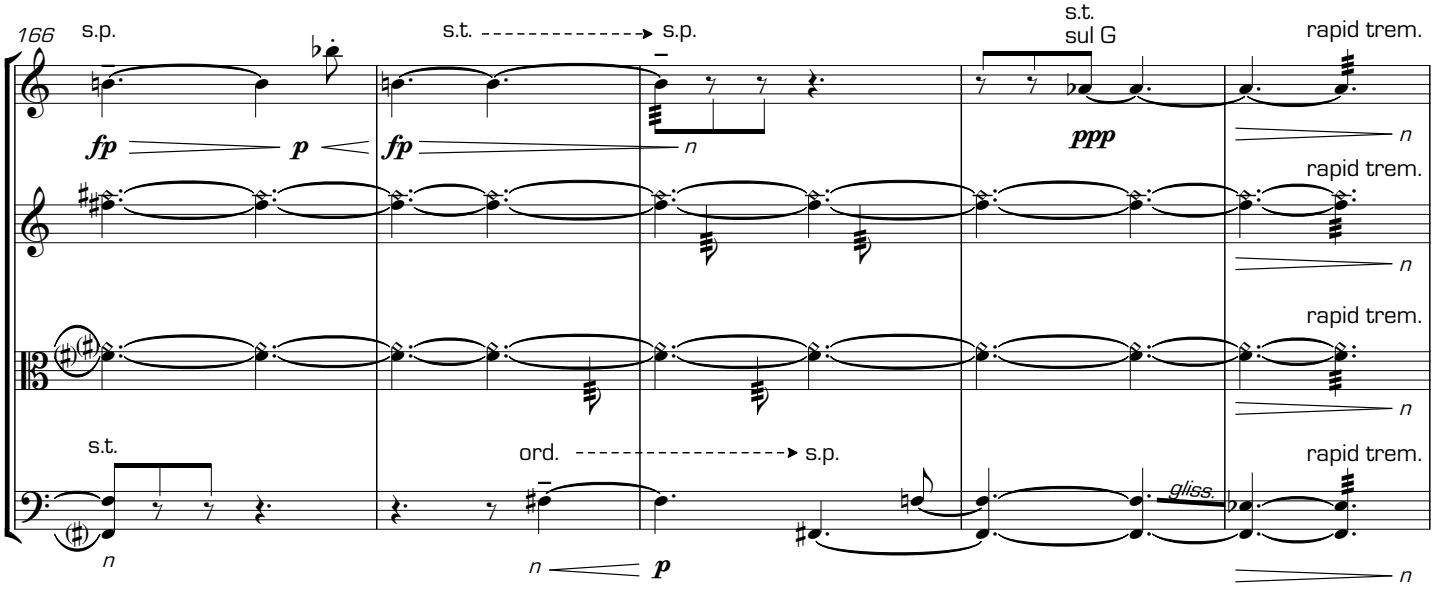
Gradually adding bow pressure towards fff, creating more noise than pitch.
157
[3/4♯]
pp
ffp
fff
Gradually adding bow pressure towards fff, creating more noise than pitch.
Gradually adding bow pressure towards fff, creating more noise than pitch.
[1/4♯]
Gradually adding bow pressure towards fff, creating more noise than pitch.

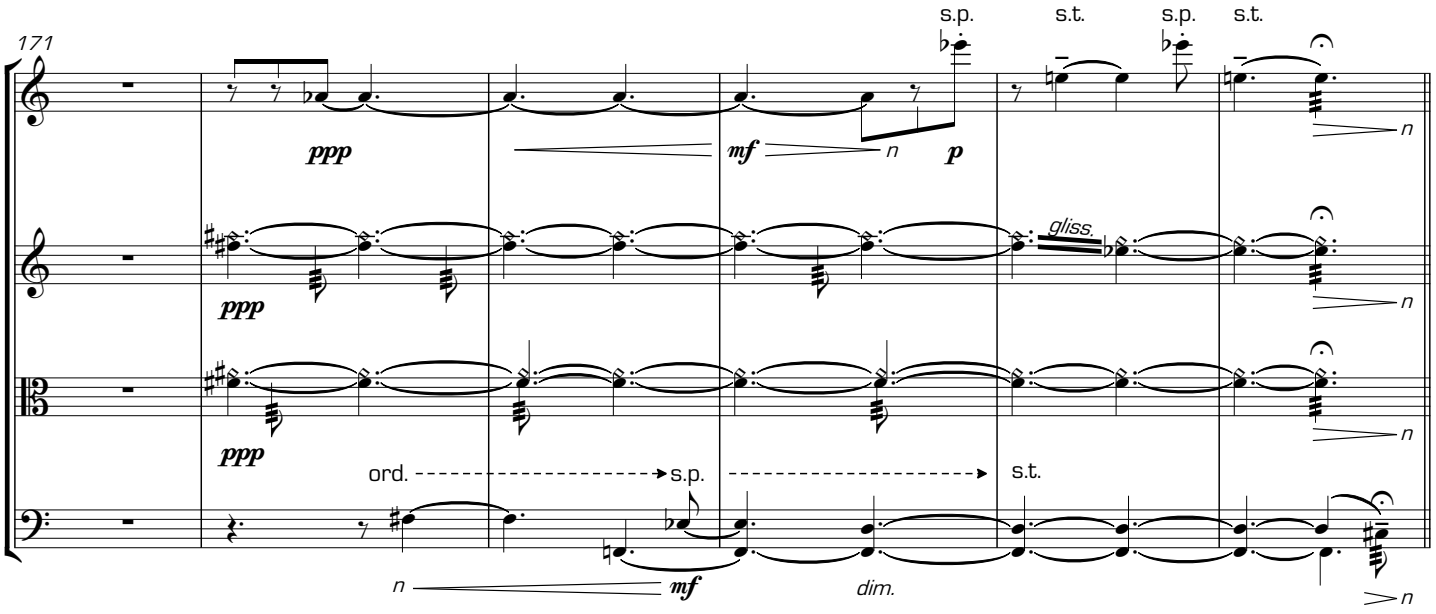
II

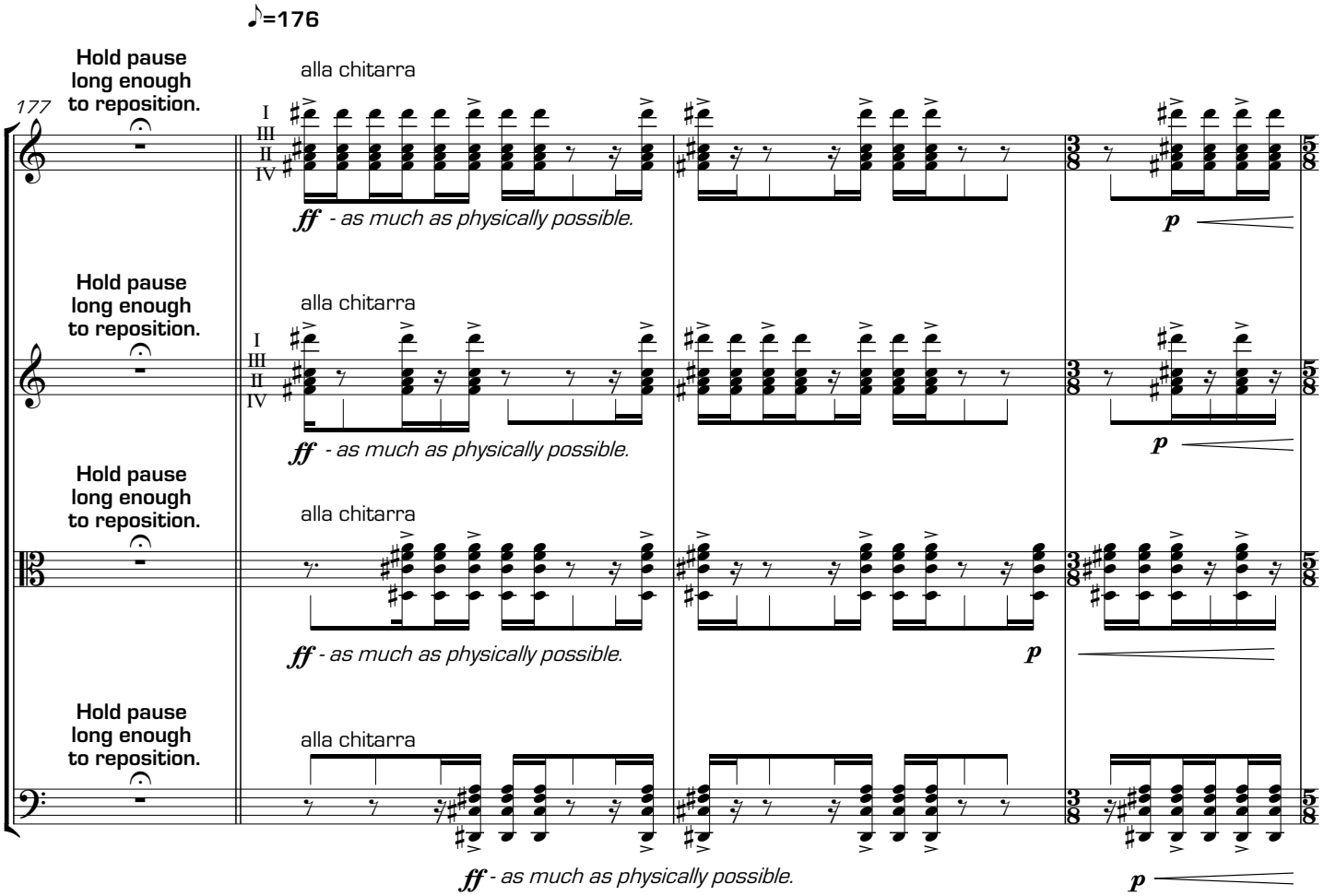


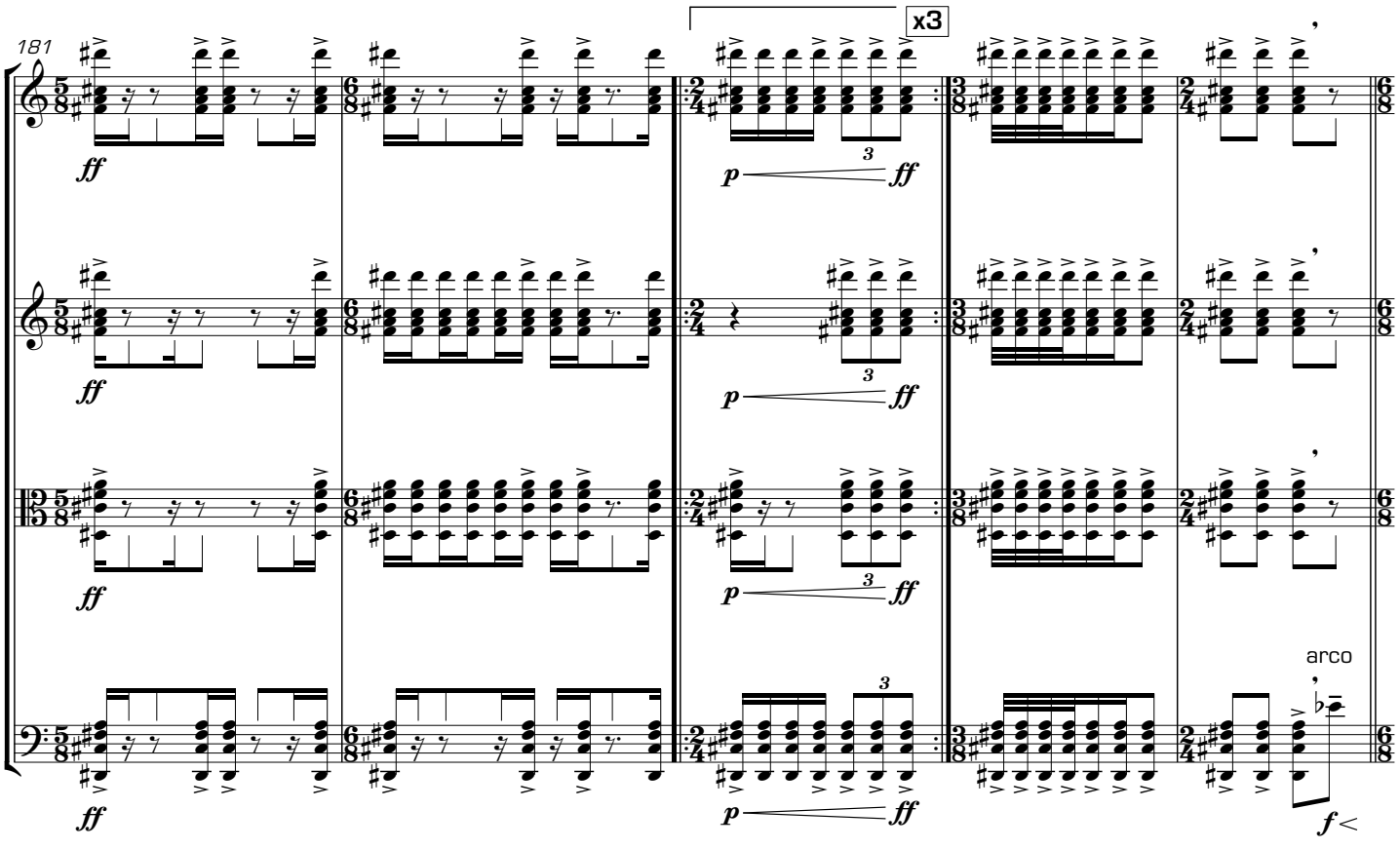
*hold the harmonic very lightly so it becomes unstable, allowing the fundamental to occasionally be heard.
N.B. senza vibrato throughout Mov.II, except cello.

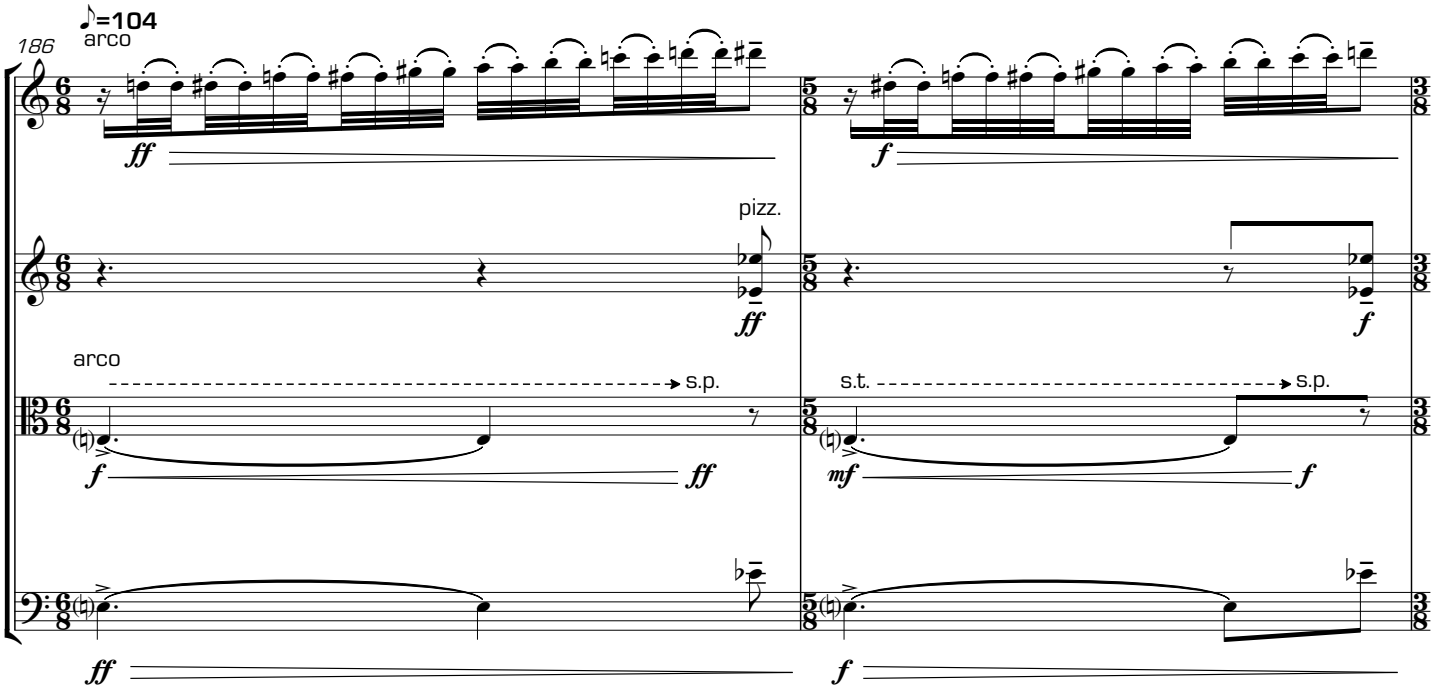
**N.B. placement of tremolandi are approximate.

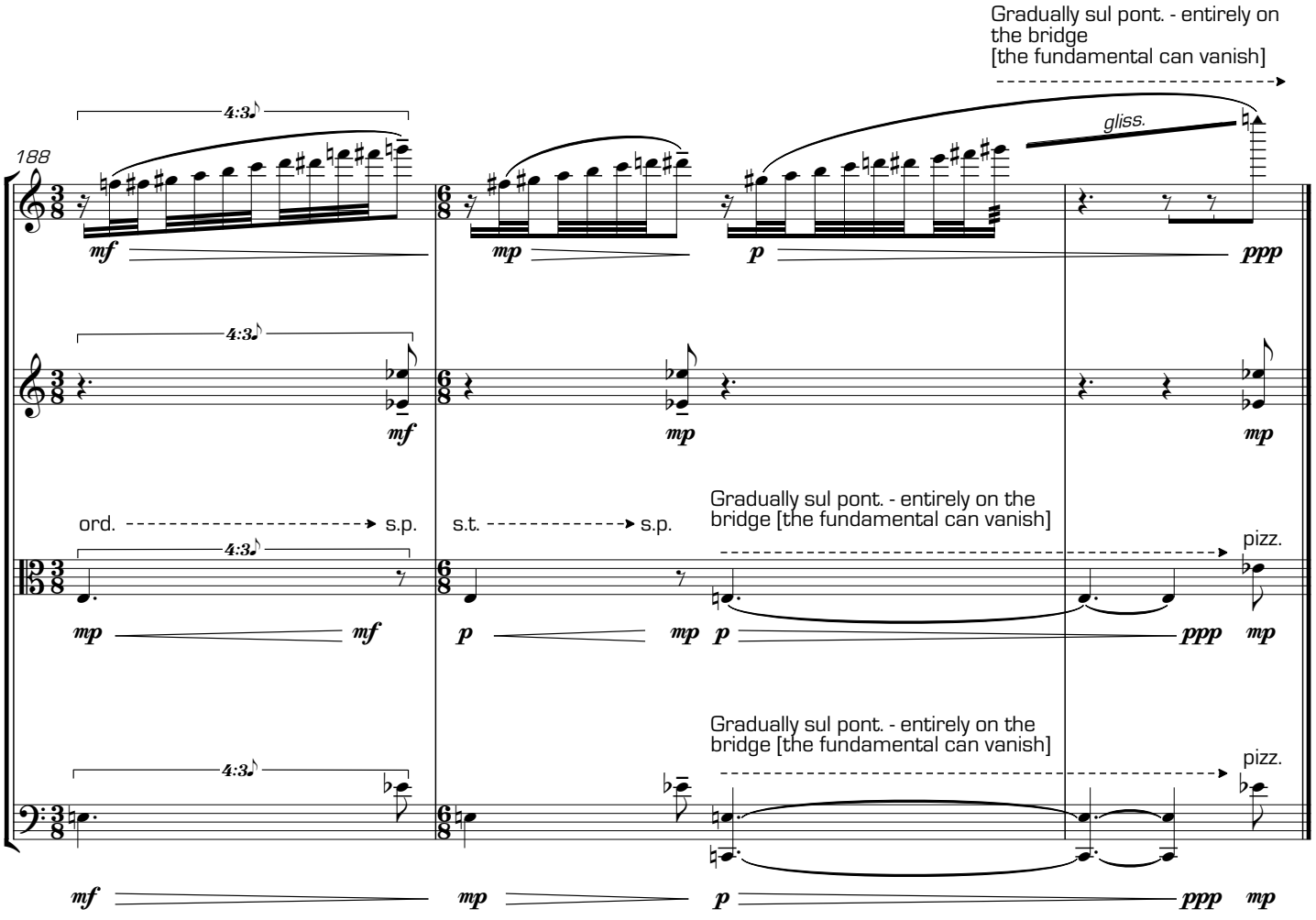


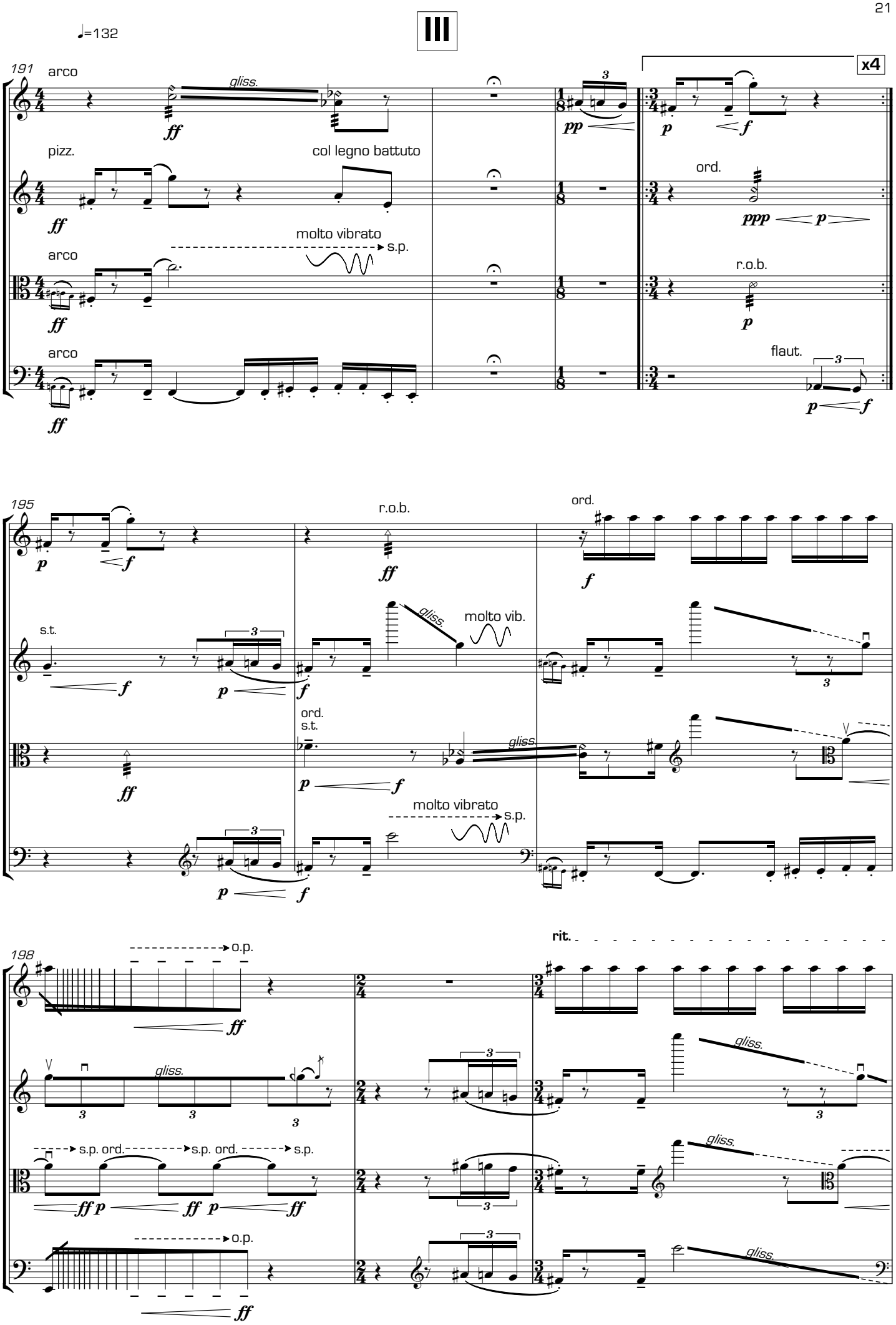


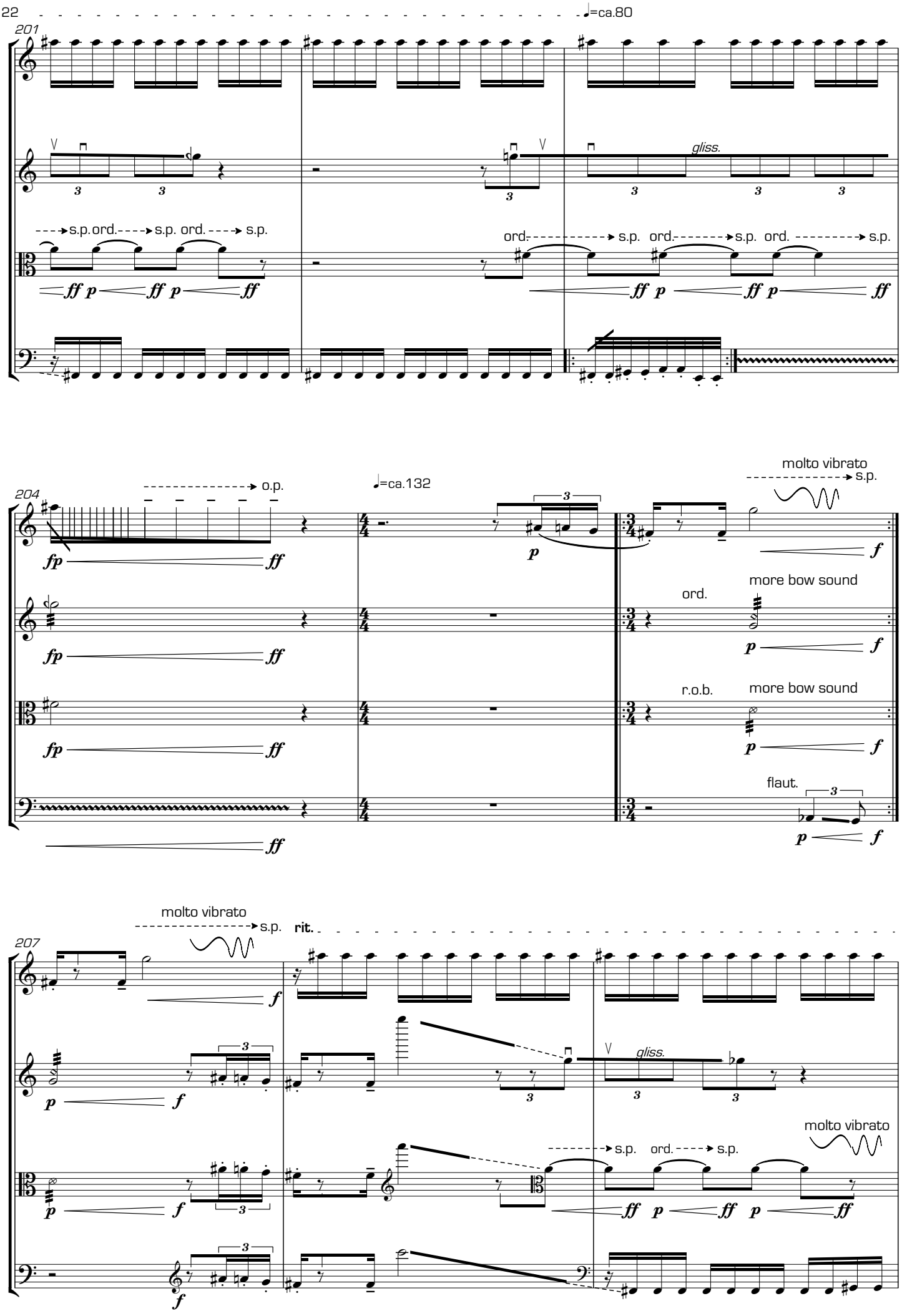

♪=176
177
Hold pause long enough to reposition.
alla chitarra
I
III
II
IV
ff - as much as physically possible.
p
Hold pause long enough to reposition.
alla chitarra
ff - as much as physically possible.
p
Hold pause long enough to reposition.
alla chitarra
ff - as much as physically possible.
p
Hold pause long enough to reposition.
alla chitarra
ff - as much as physically possible.
p

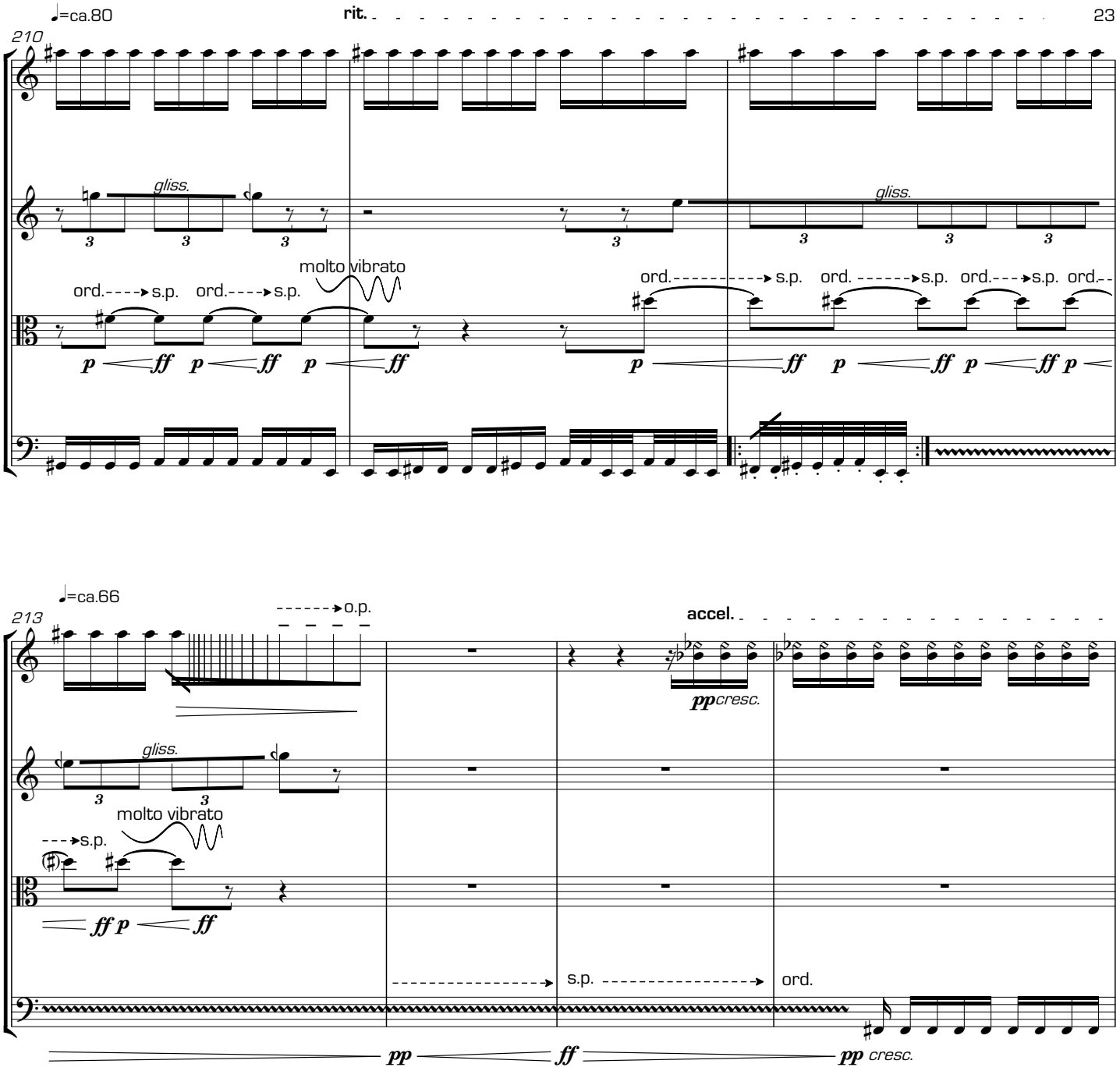

181
x3
ff
p
3
ff
arco
f

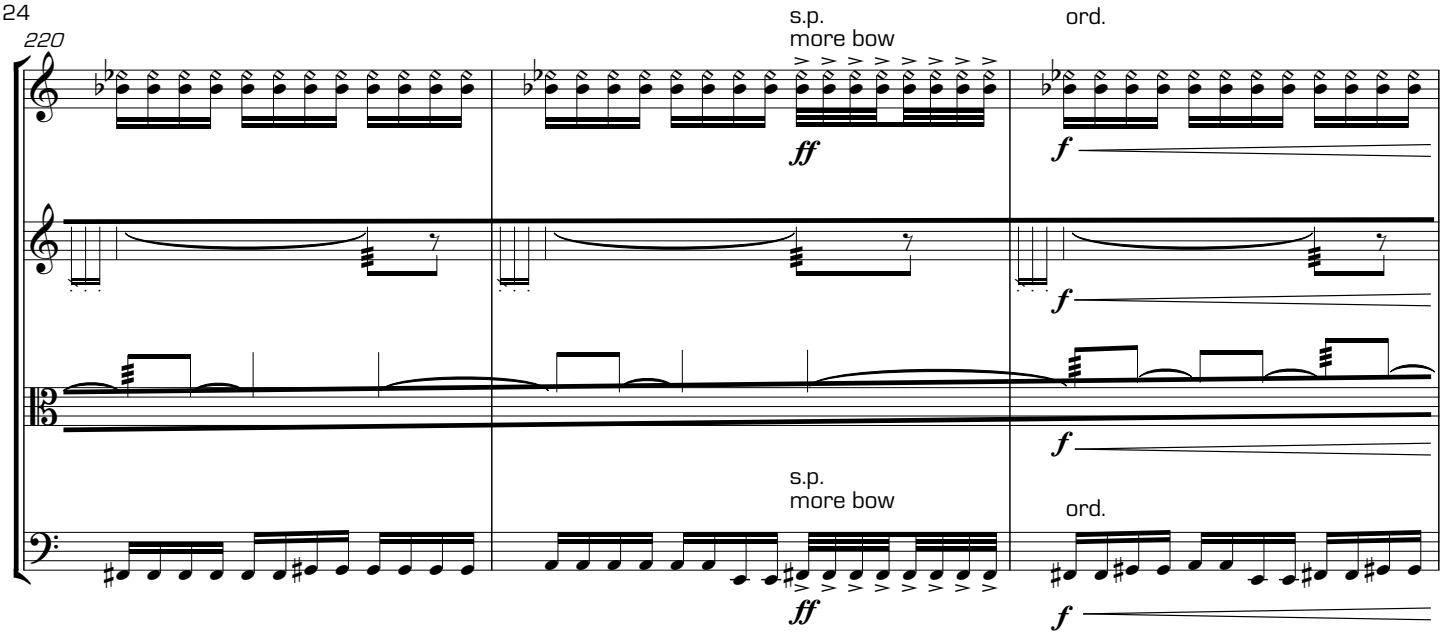

♪=104
186
arco
pizz.
arco
s.p.
s.t.
s.p.

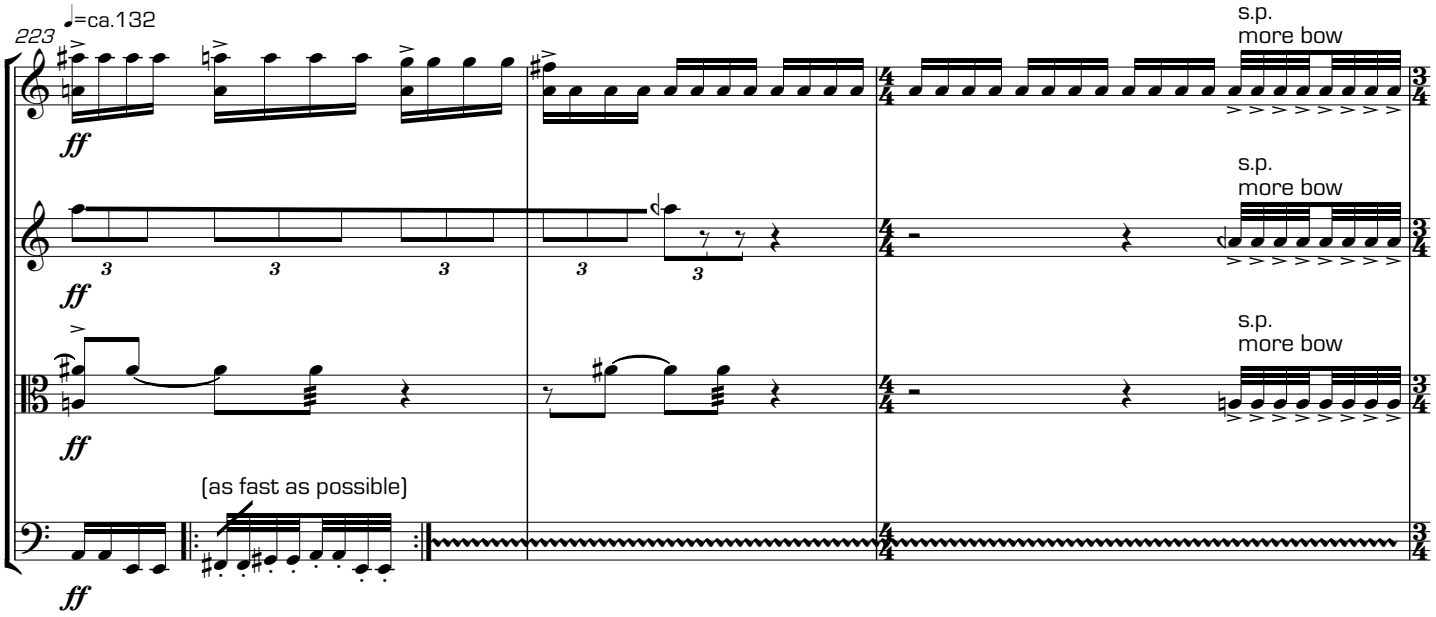

Gradually sul pont. - entirely on the bridge [the fundamental can vanish]
188
4:3
gliss.
ord.
s.p.
s.t.
s.p.
Gradually sul pont. - entirely on the bridge [the fundamental can vanish]
pizz.
Gradually sul pont. - entirely on the bridge [the fundamental can vanish]
pizz.

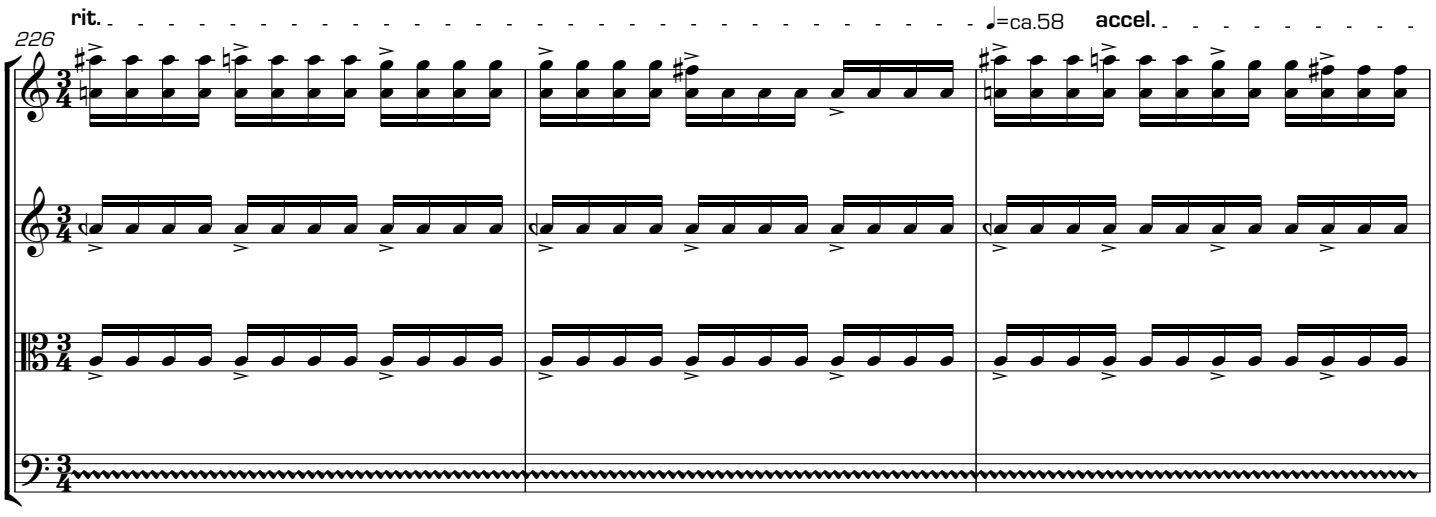

♩=132
III
191
arco
gliss.
ff
col legno battuto
pizz.
ff
molto vibrato
s.p.
arco
ff
arco
ff
pp
x4
p
f
ord.
ppp
p
r.o.b.
p
flaut.
p
f
195
p
f
r.o.b.
ff
ord.
f
s.t.
f
p
f
gliss.
molto vib.
ord.
s.t.
ff
p
f
gliss.
molto vibrato
s.p.
p
f
198
o.p.
ff
rit.
gliss.
s.p. ord.
s.p. ord.
s.p.
ff p
ff p
ff
gliss.
o.p.
ff
gliss.

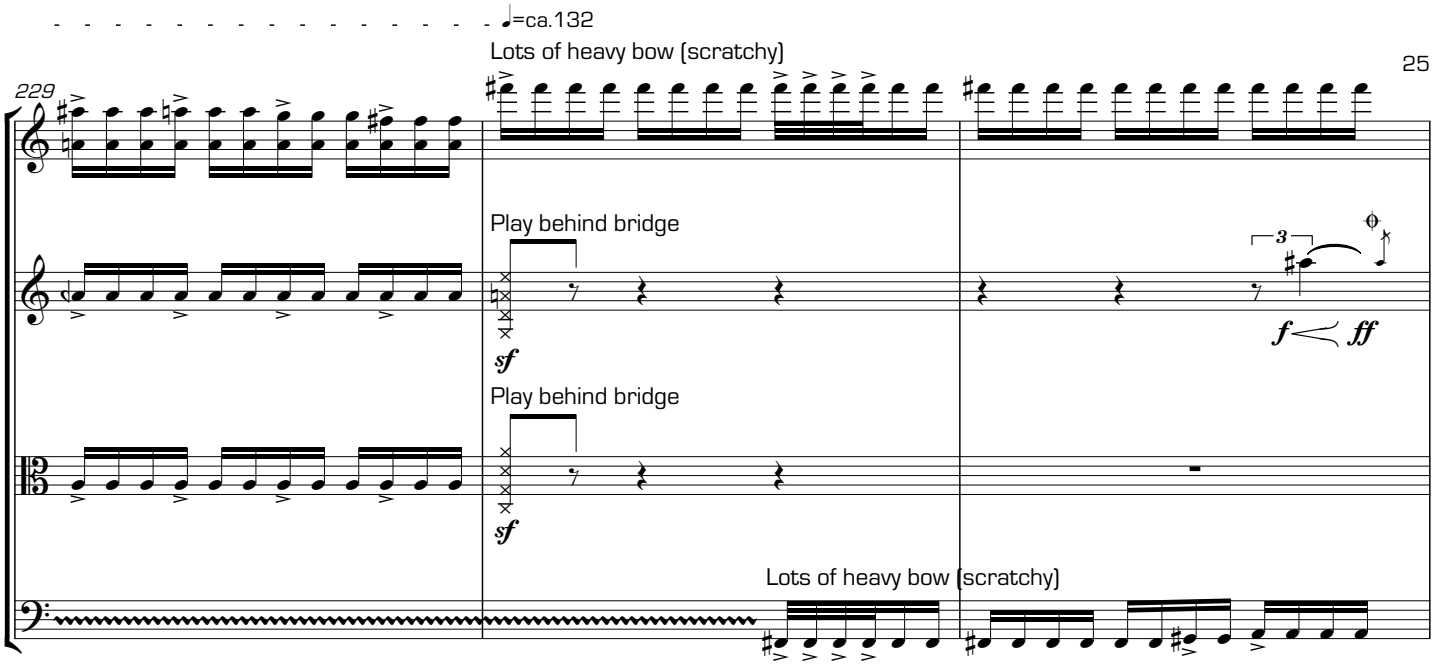

♩=ca.80
201
gliss.
s.p. ord. s.p. ord. s.p.
ord. s.p. ord. s.p. ord. s.p.
ff p ff p ff
ff p ff p ff
204
o.p.
fp ff
♩=ca.132
p
molto vibrato
s.p.
f
more bow sound
ord.
p f
r.o.b.
more bow sound
p f
flaut.
p f
207
molto vibrato
s.p.
rit.
f
p f
gliss.
molto vibrato
s.p. ord. s.p.
ff p ff p ff

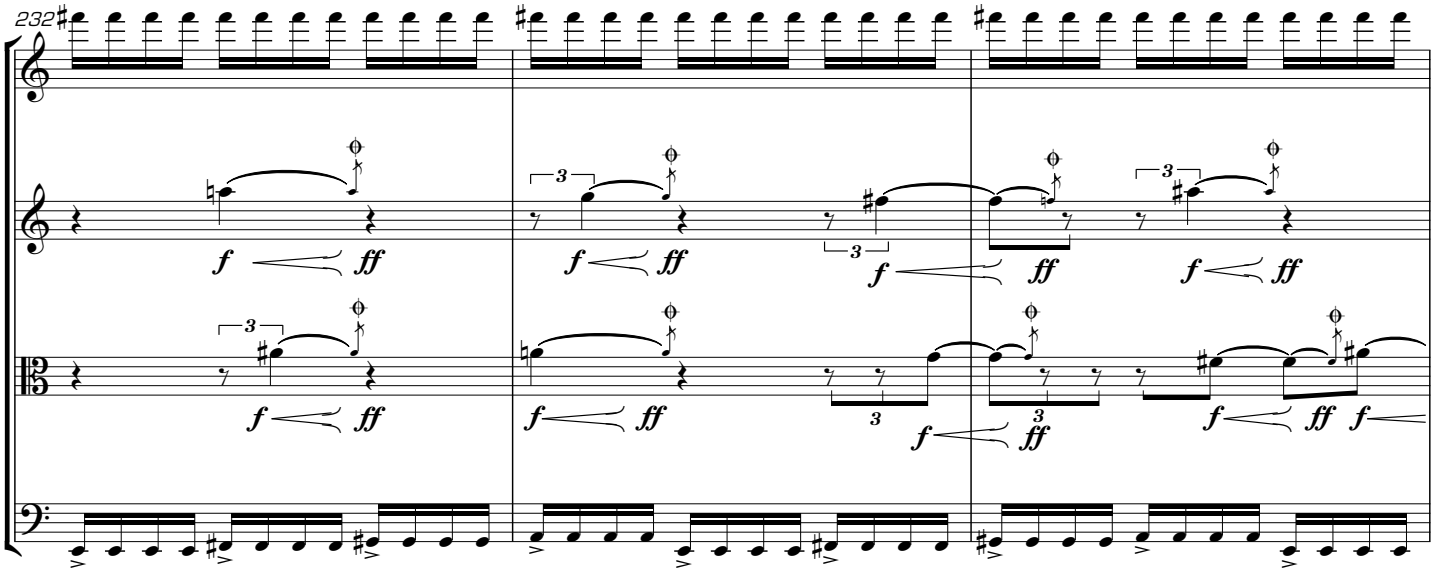

♩=ca.80
rit.
210
gliss.
gliss.
molto vibrato
ord. s.p. ord. s.p.
ord. s.p. ord. s.p. ord. s.p. ord.
p ff p ff p ff
p ff p ff p ff p
♩=ca.66
213
o.p.
accel.
ppcresc.
gliss.
molto vibrato
s.p.
ff p ff
s.p.
ord.
pp ff pp cresc.
217
s.p. ord.
more bow
s.p. ord.
more bow
ff mp
ff mf
pcresc.
pcresc.
s.p. ord.
more bow
s.p. ord.
more bow
ff mp
ff mf

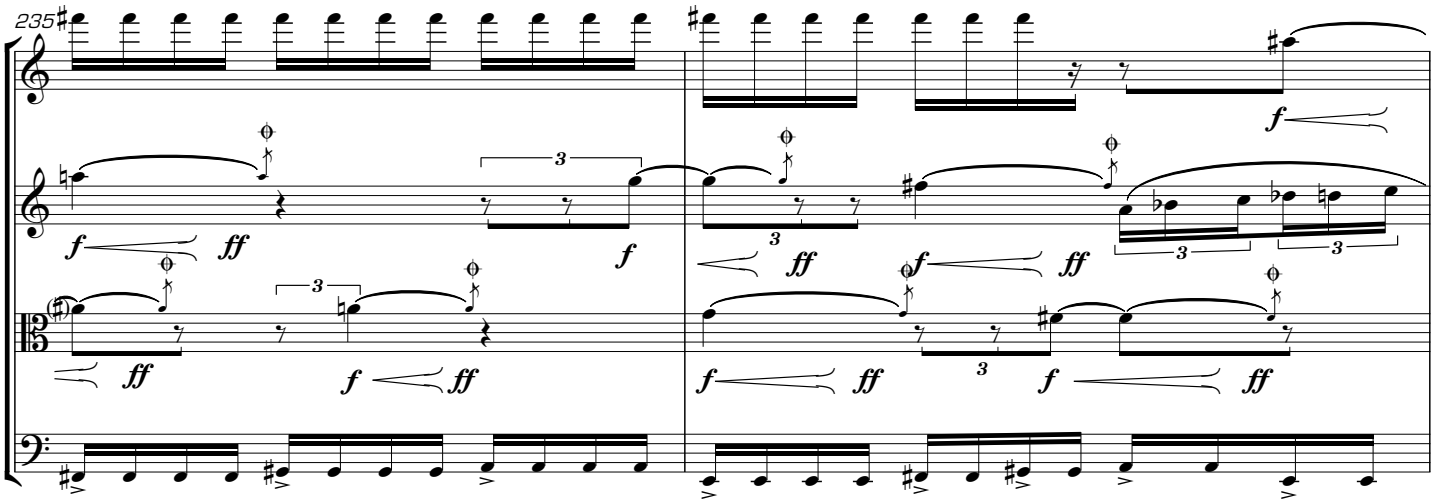

220
s.p.
more bow
ord.
ff
f
s.p.
more bow
ord.
ff
f

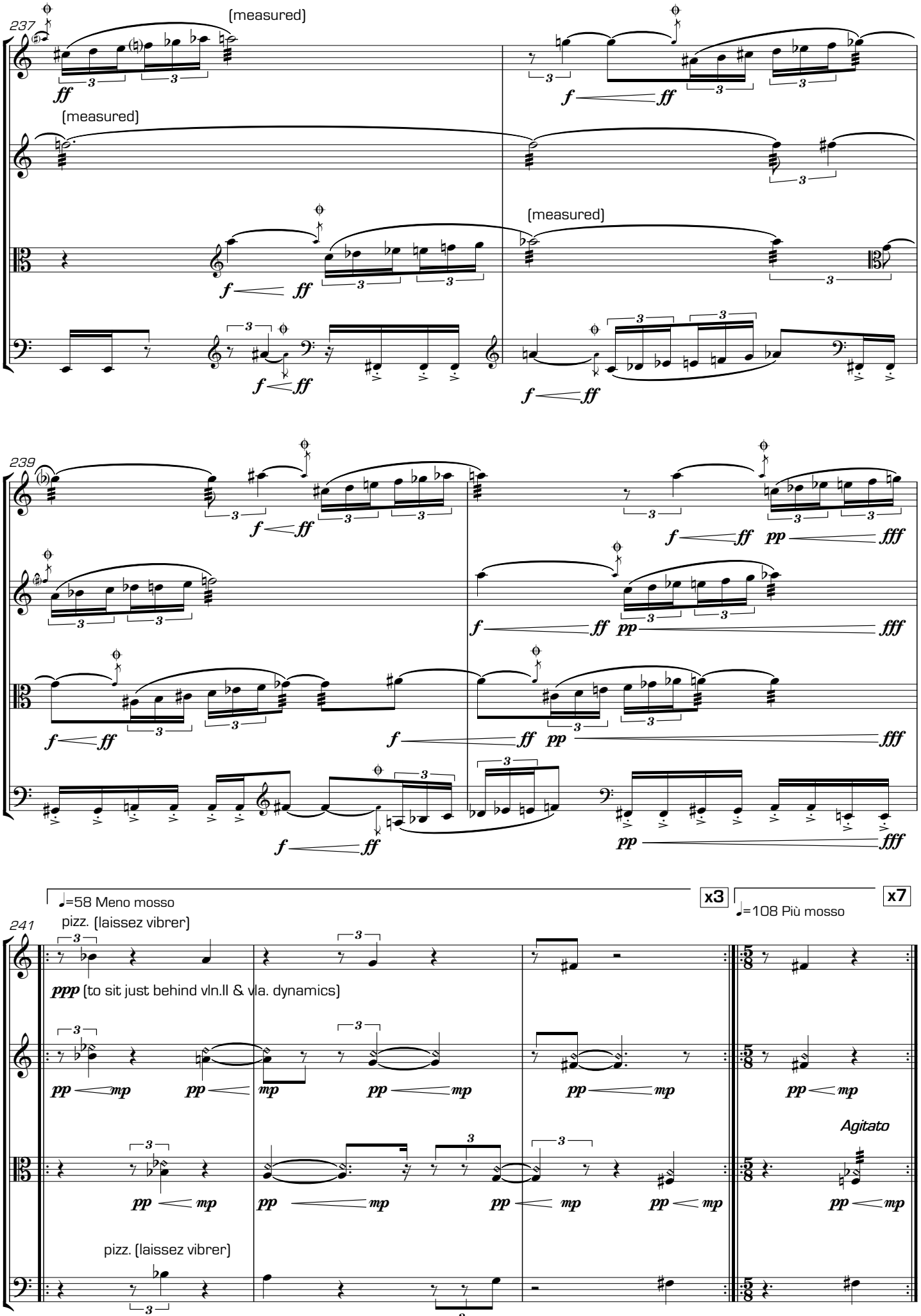

223
♩=ca.132
s.p.
more bow
ff
3
s.p.
more bow
s.p.
more bow
(as fast as possible)

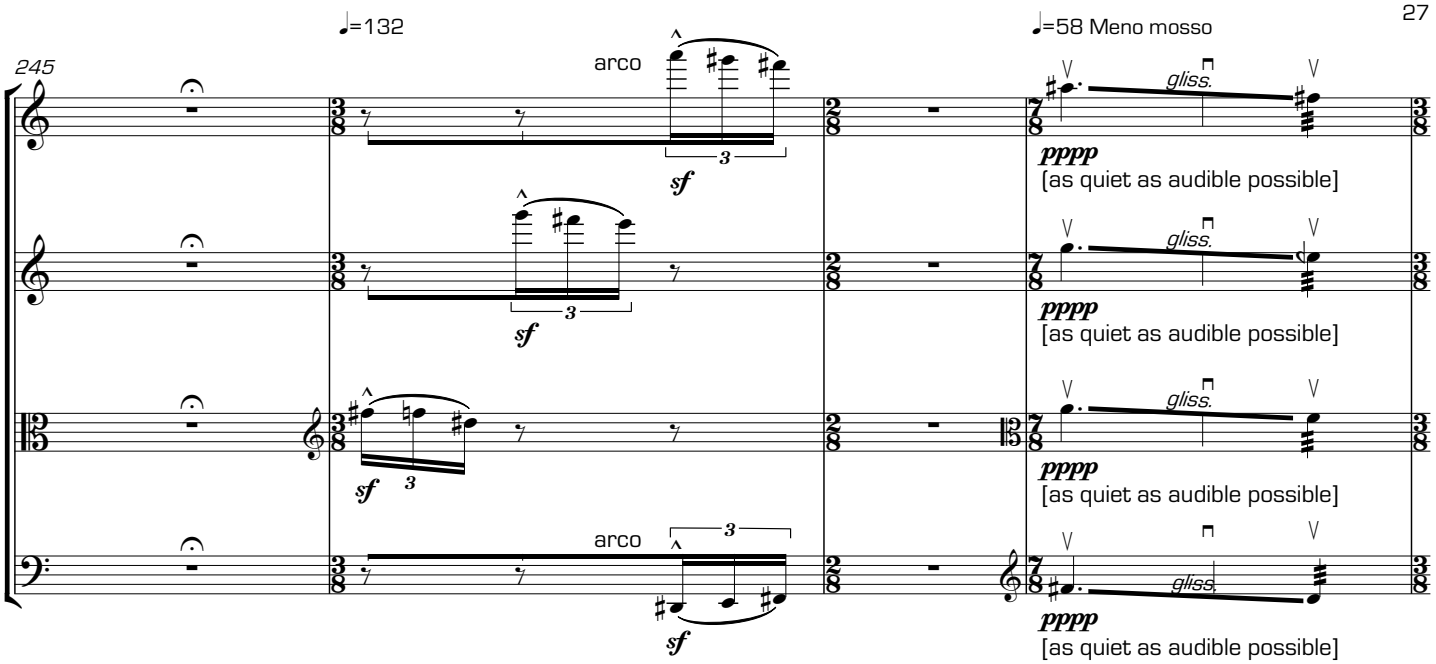

226
rit.
♩=ca.58
accel.

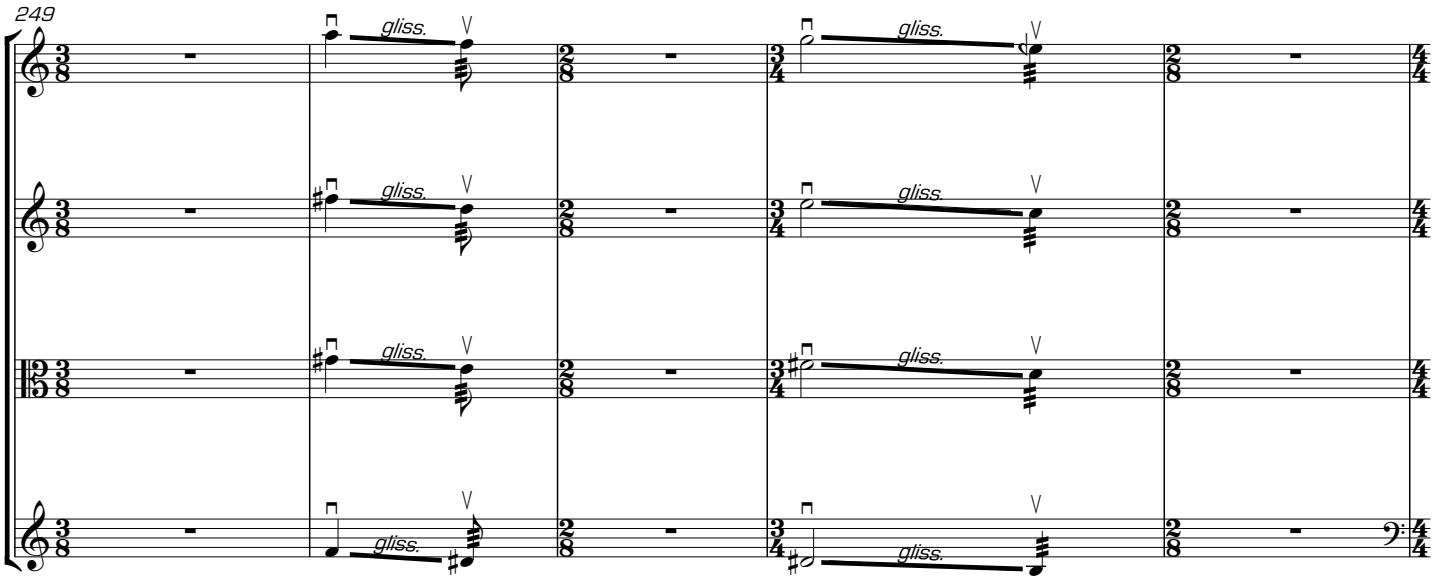

♩=ca.132
Lots of heavy bow (scratchy)
229
Play behind bridge
sf
Play behind bridge
sf
Lots of heavy bow (scratchy)
f ff

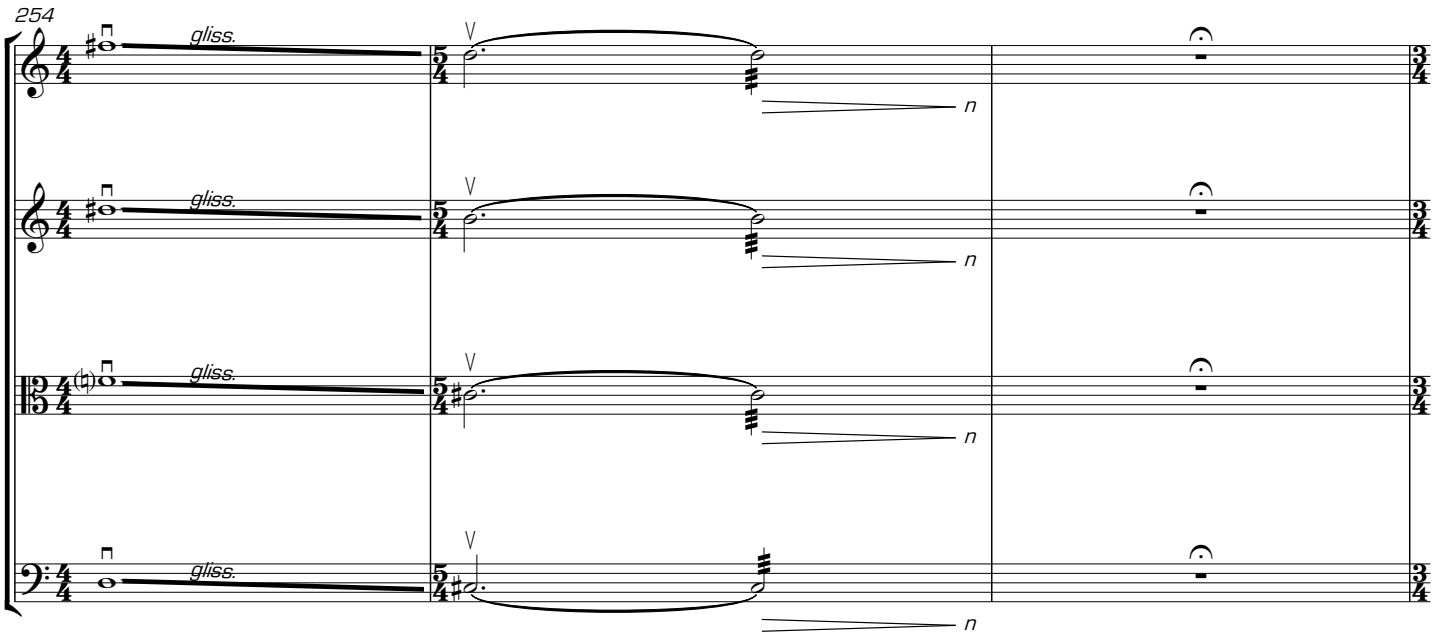

232
f ff


235
f ff


237
[measured]
[measured]
[measured]
239
x3
x7
♩=58 Meno mosso
♩=108 Più mosso
241
pizz. (laissez vibrer)
ppp (to sit just behind vln.II & vla. dynamics)
Agitato
pizz. (laissez vibrer)
ppp (to sit just behind vln.II & vla. dynamics)


245
♩=132
arco
sf
3
gliss.
pppp
[as quiet as audible possible]
♩=58 Meno mosso


249
gliss.


254
gliss.
n

♩=108 Lots of Energy

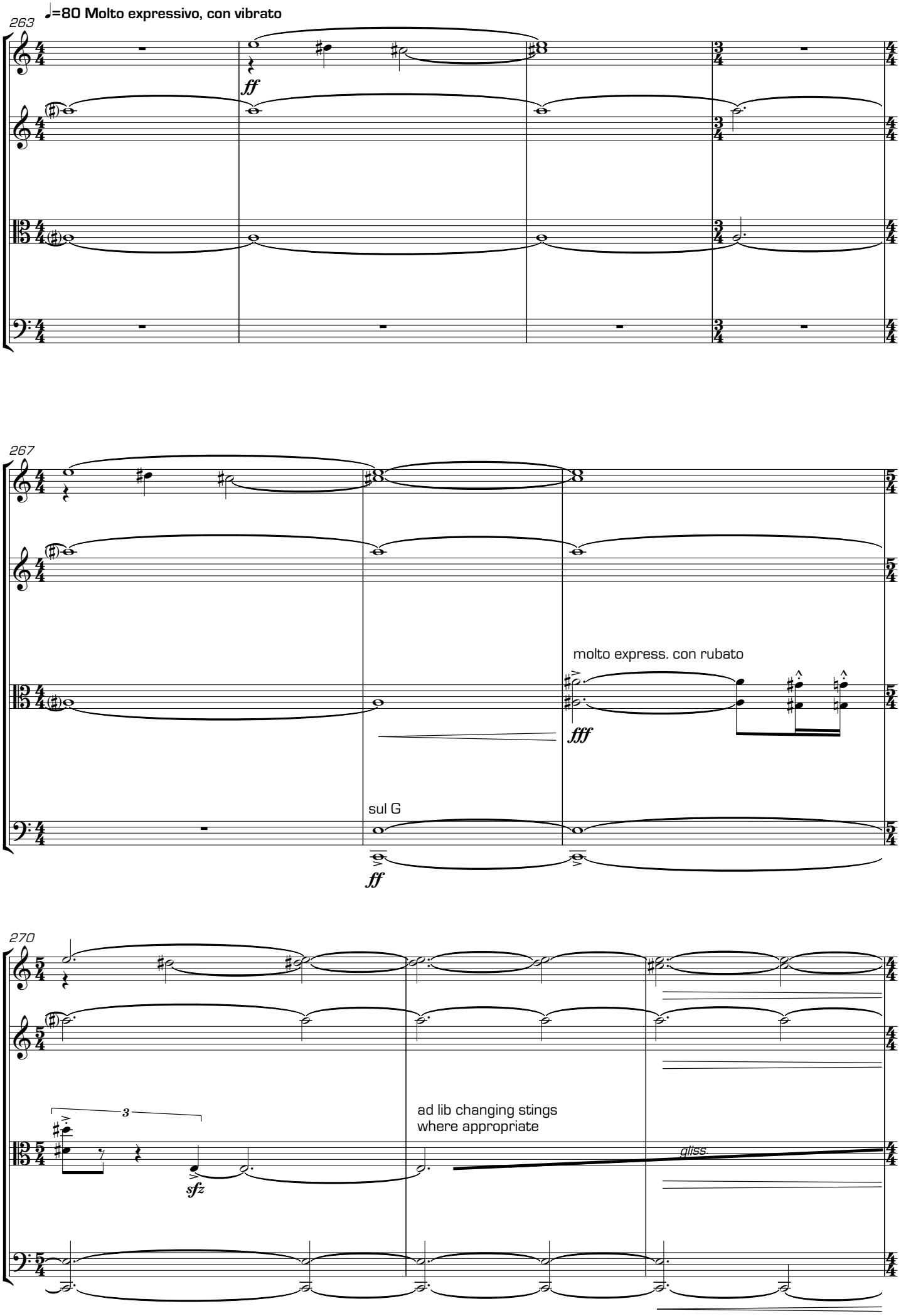
257

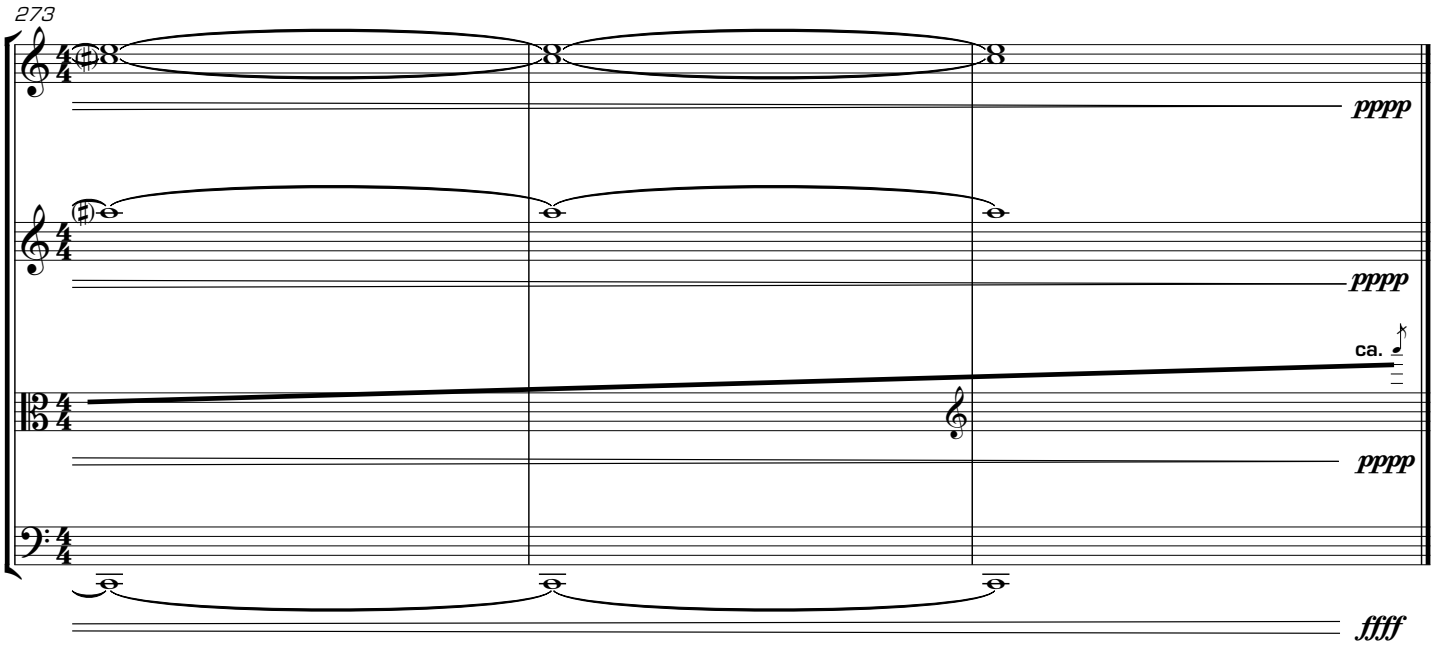
arco

259

Glissando upwards to the highest pitches possible in a similar ad lib. pattern. NB Pitches do not have to be precise & in tune.

261


263
♩=80 Molto expressivo, con vibrato
ff
267
molto express. con rubato
fff
sul G
ff
270
3
sfz
ad lib changing stings
where appropriate
gliss.



November 3rd 2015
York