Gwyneth Walker

A Vision of Hills

for Piano Trio

duration: 11 minutes and 30 seconds

jointly commissioned by

The Bartholdy Ensemble – Montpelier, Vermont

and Trio Tulsa – Tulsa, Oklahoma

A Vision of Hills *is an extended, one-movement musical exploration of the traditional Irish hymn tune, "Be Thou My Vision." This has always been one of the composer's favorite melodies.*

The reference to hills comes from the view of the hilly Vermont countryside as seen from the composer's studio. This landscape infuses the music.

The opening patterns in the piano might be heard as the first light appearing over the hills in the morning. The Violin and Cello are marked "as a voice calling out across a valley." As the fullness of morning arrives, the piano descends into mid-range, and the melody is presented in the strings.

Contrasting lively sections are inspired by dancing particles of light on the hills. These sections frame a middle portion where the theme is presented in an oscillating or trembling texture in the piano. This is perhaps a "quivering reverence."

The final statement of the theme is placed in a 2/2 meter to emphasize the triumphant nature of the hymn tune. This is intended to reflect the strength of faith, and of the hills.

* * * * *

Dr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947) is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. She holds B.A., M.M. and D.M.A. Degrees in Music Composition. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, Walker resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. She now lives on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont.

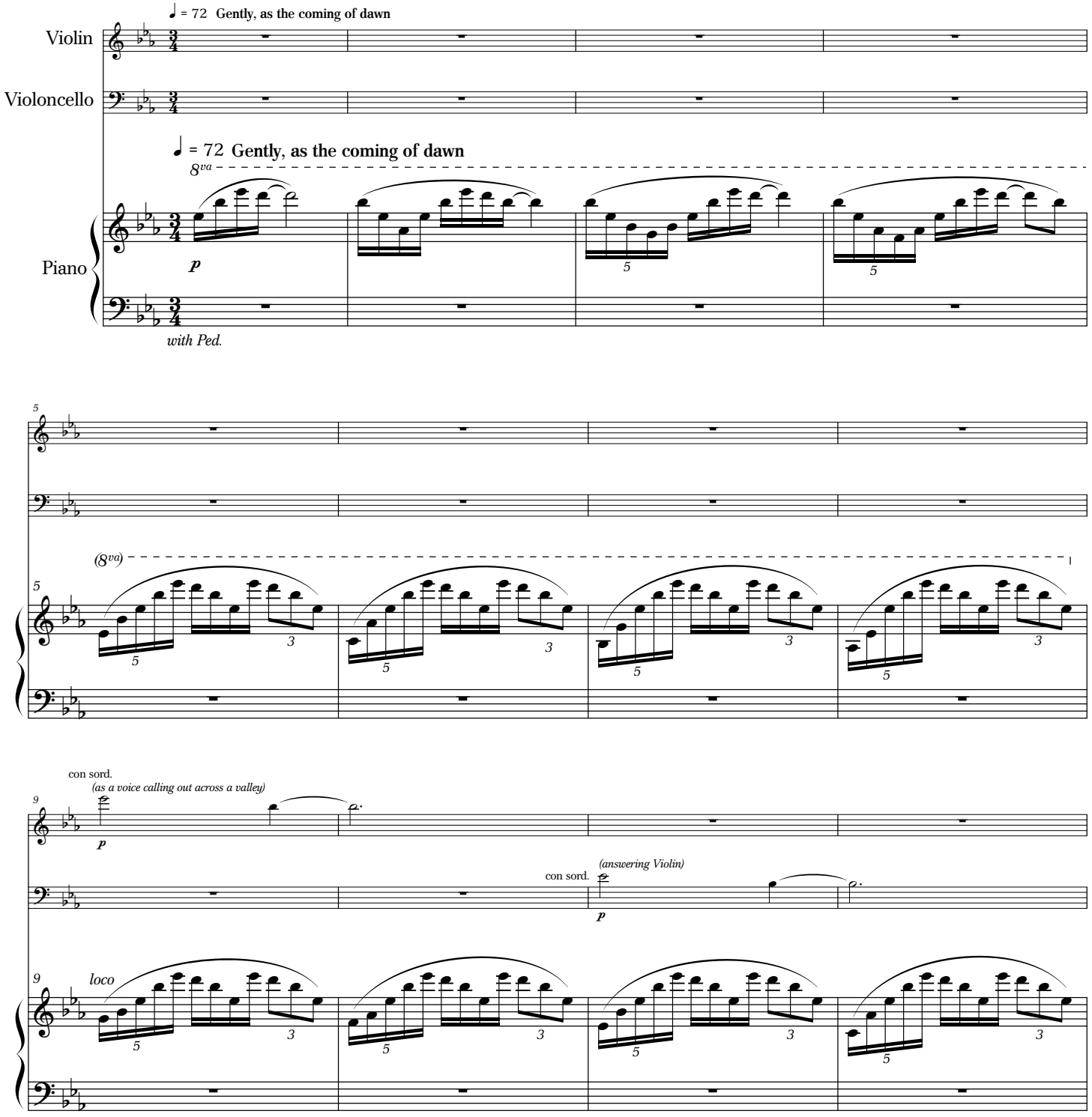
Walker's catalog includes over 130 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E.C. Schirmer of Boston (choral & vocal music) and MMB Music of St. Louis (orchestral & instrumental music).

Gwyneth Walker is a proud resident of Vermont. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Vermont Arts Council.

A Vision of Hills

for Violin, Violoncello and Piano

Gwyneth Walker



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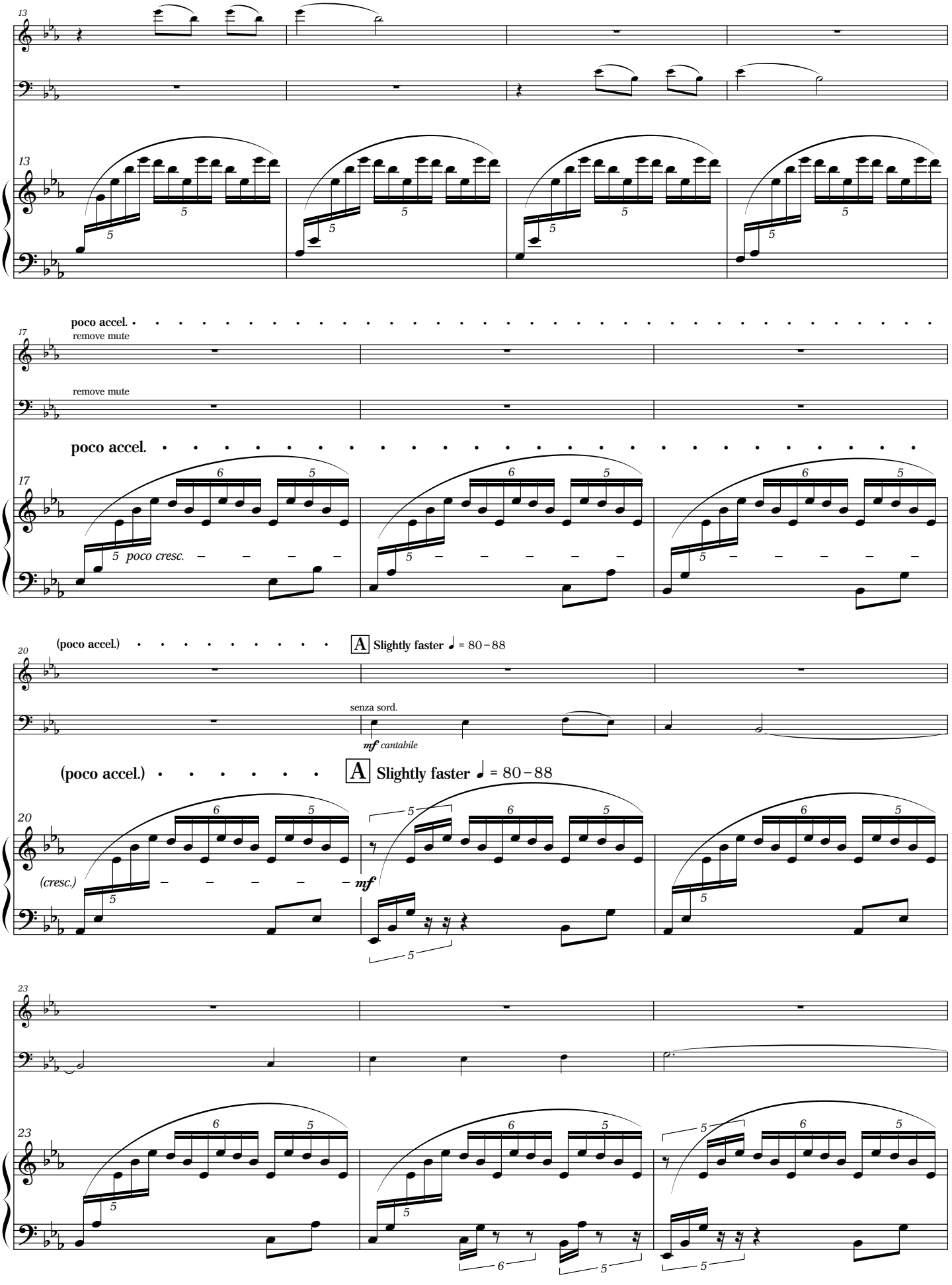
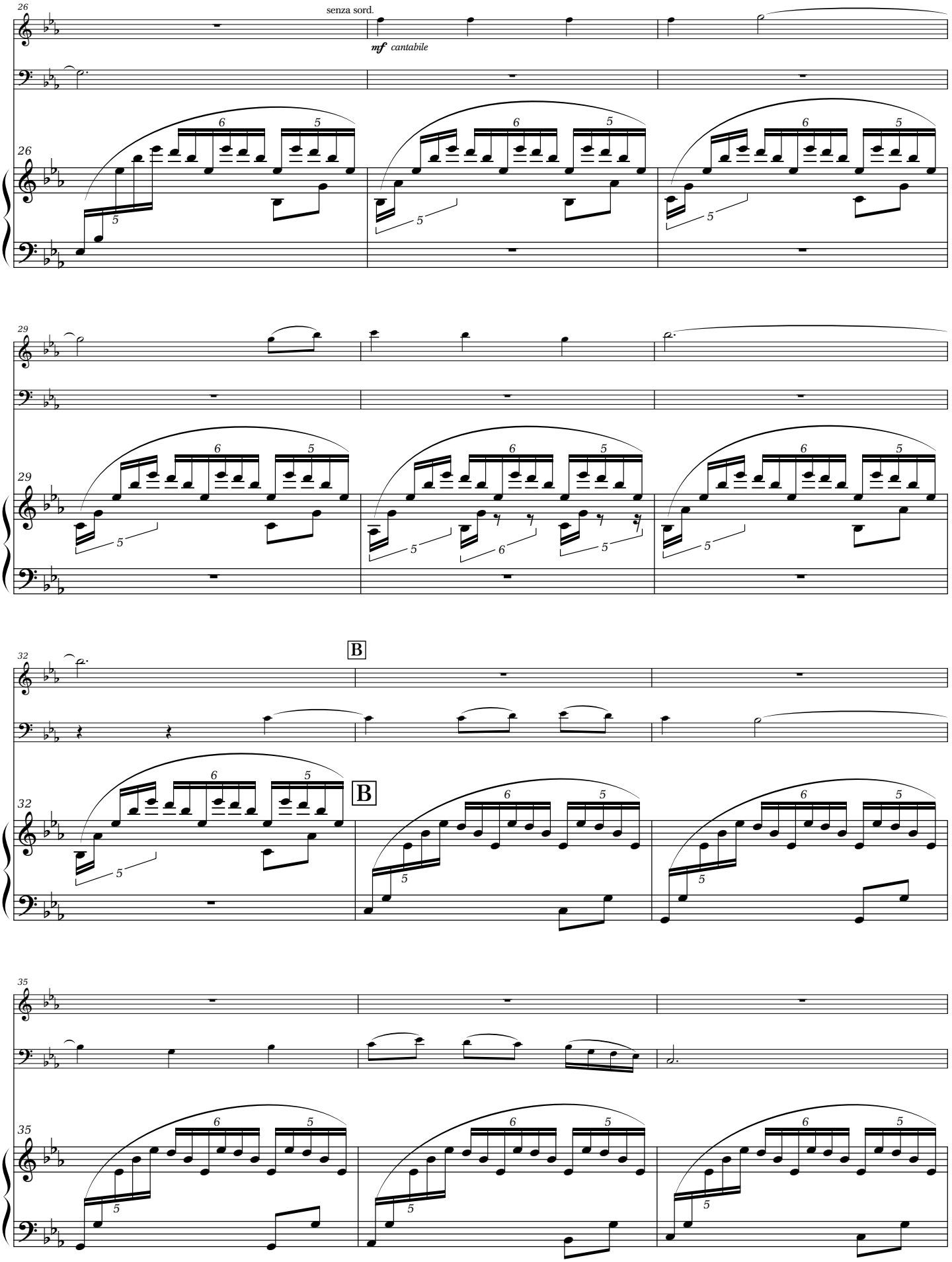
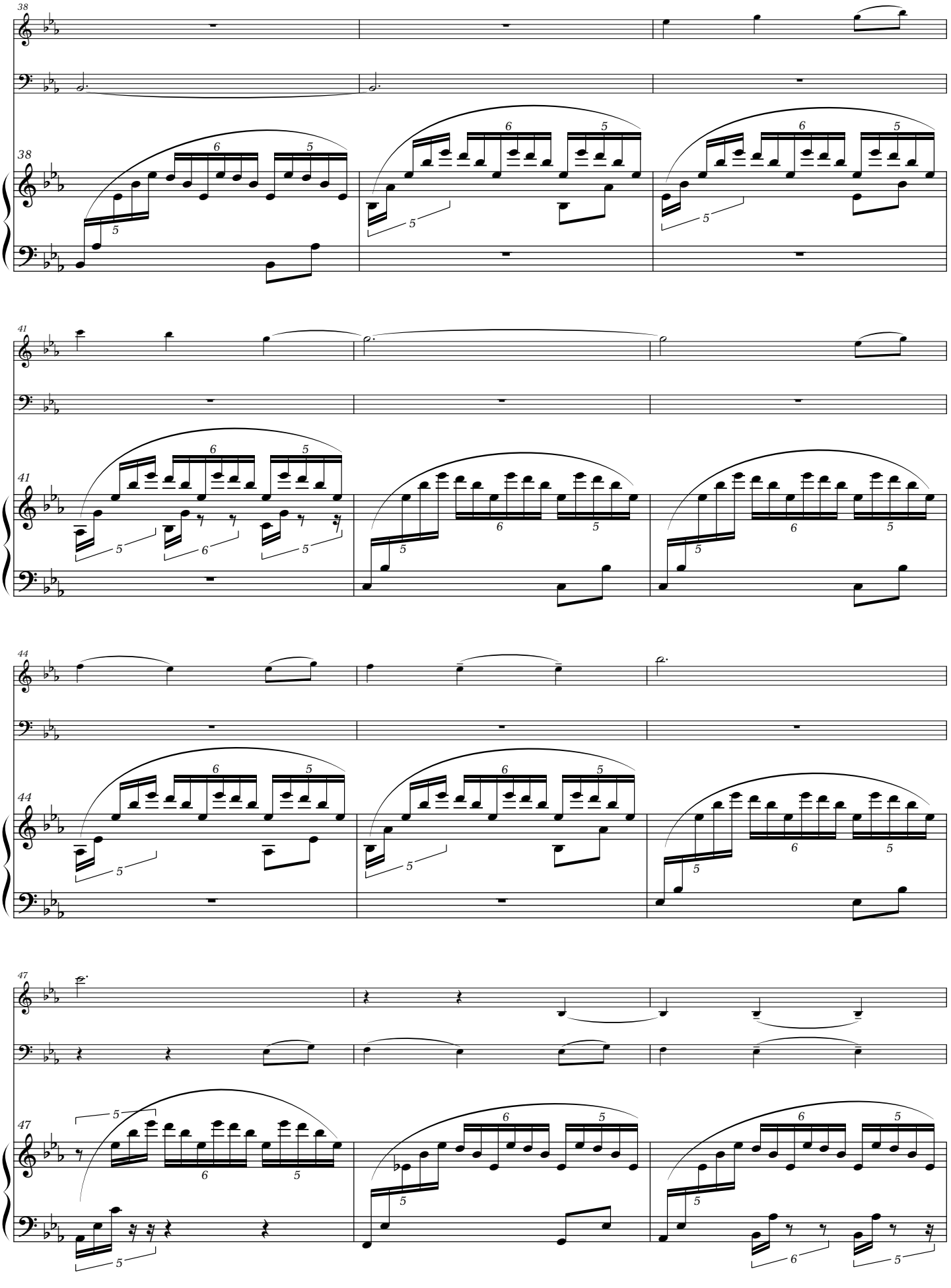
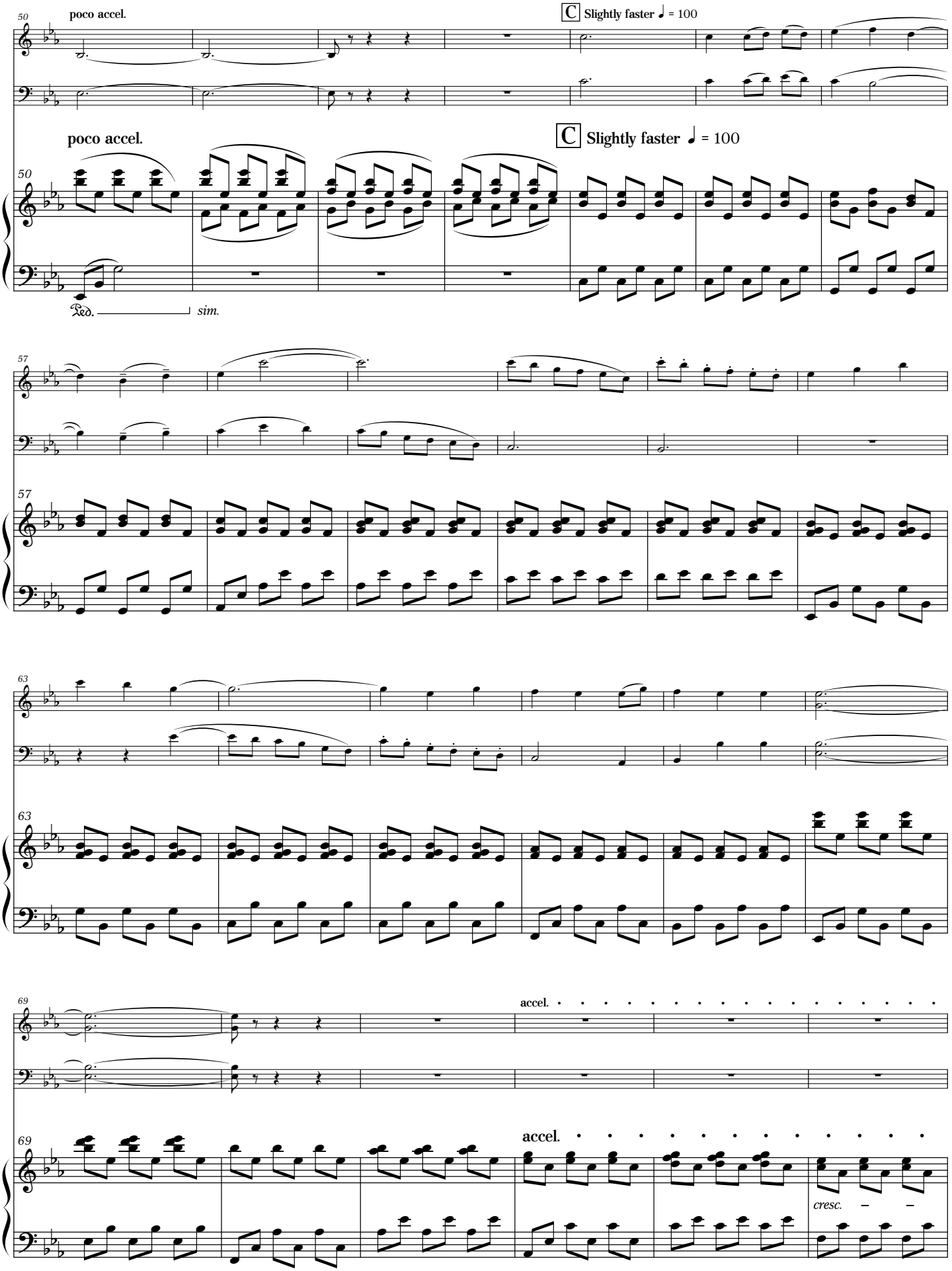
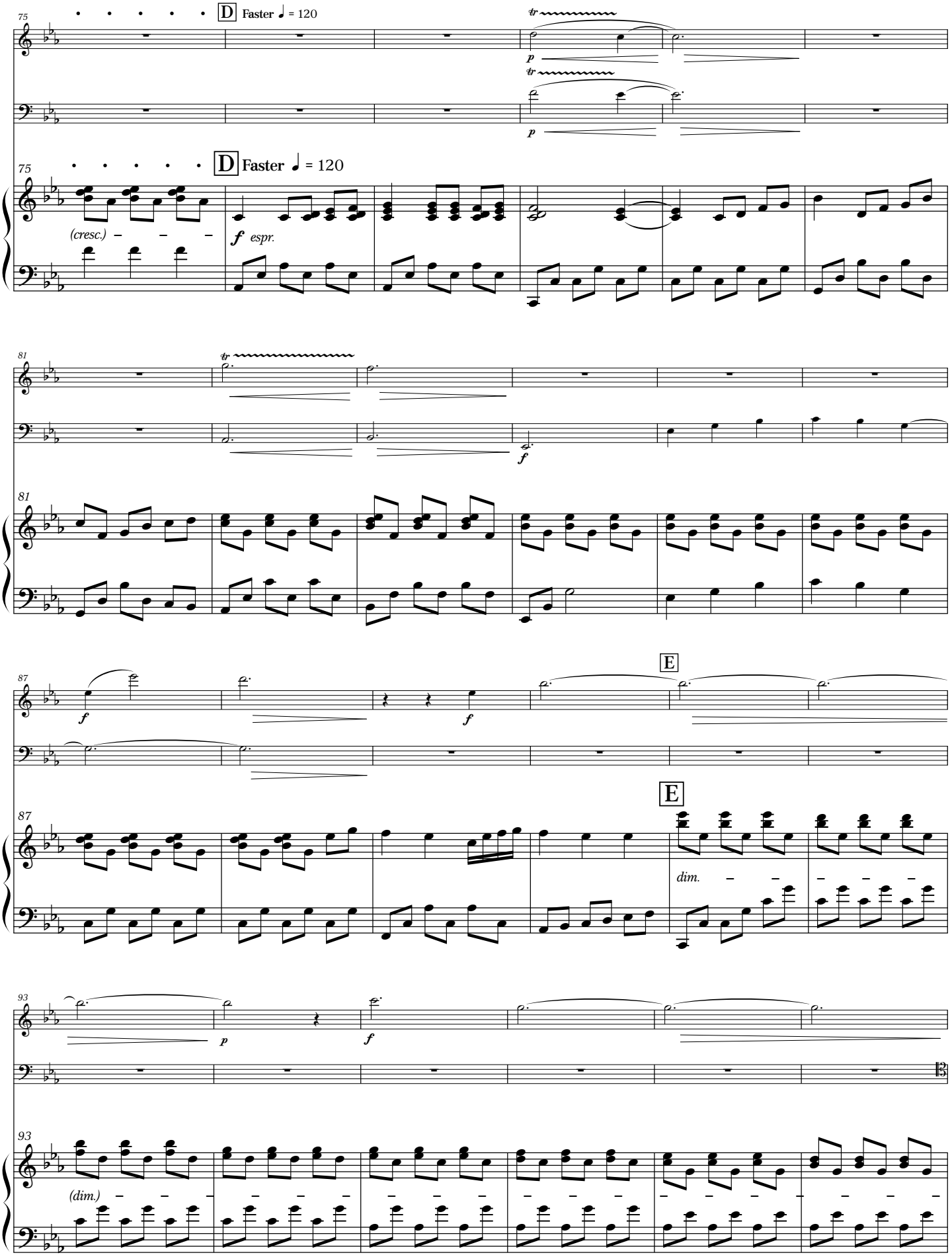
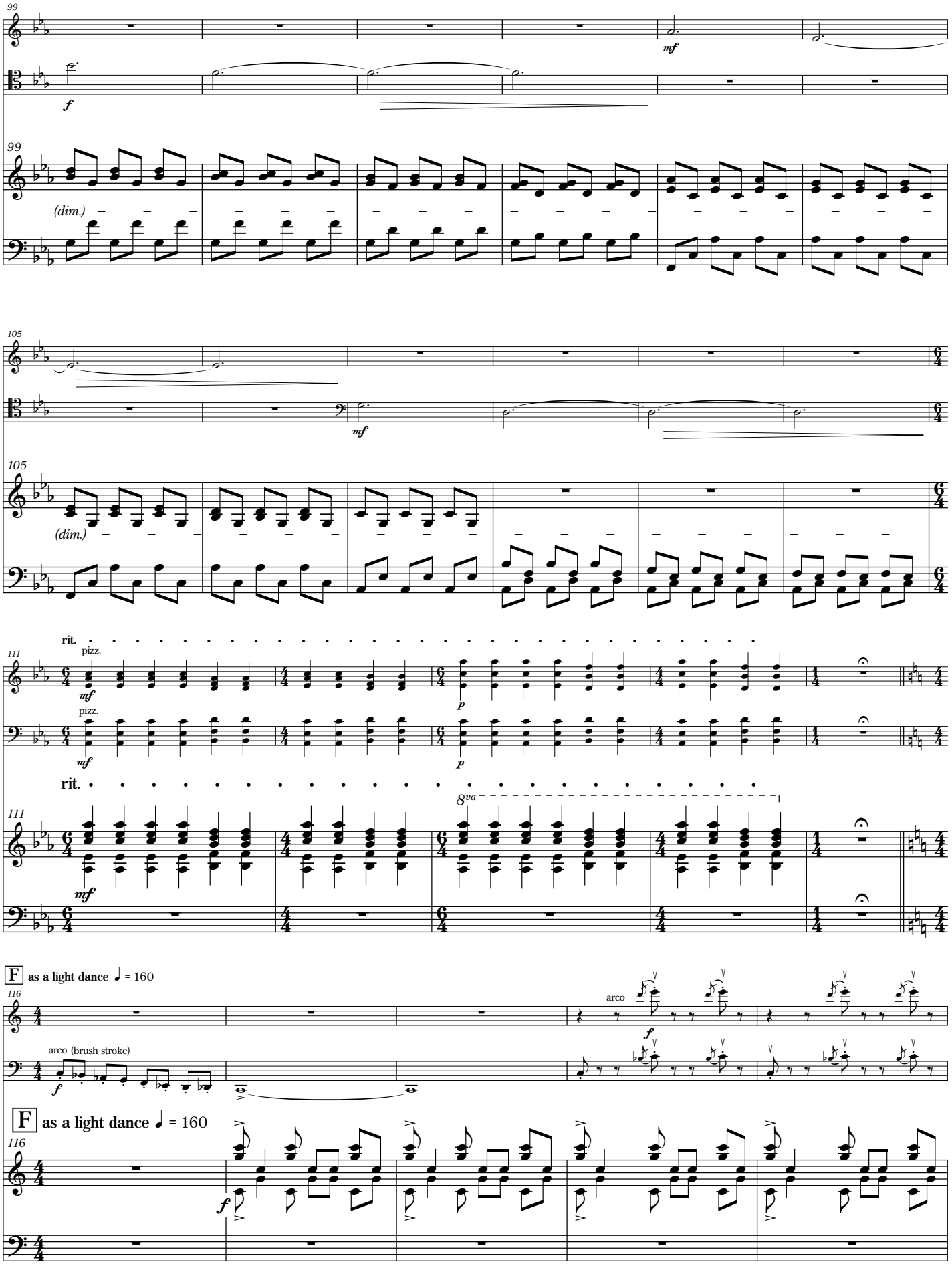

13
poco accel.
remove mute
17
poco cresc.
(poco accel.)
A Slightly faster ♩ = 80–88
senza sord.
mf cantabile
20
(cresc.)
mf
23

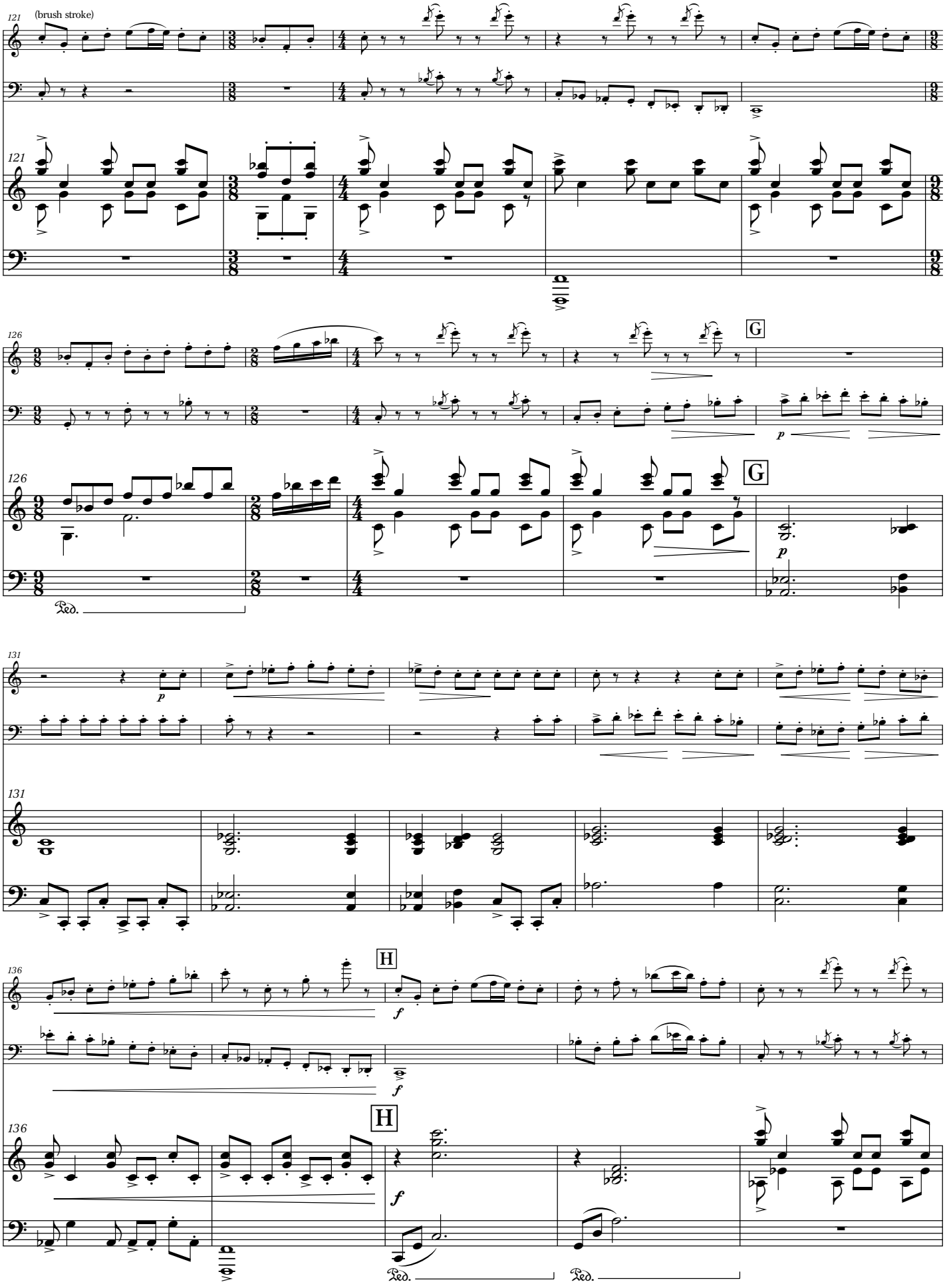

26
senza sord.
mf cantabile
29
32
B
35

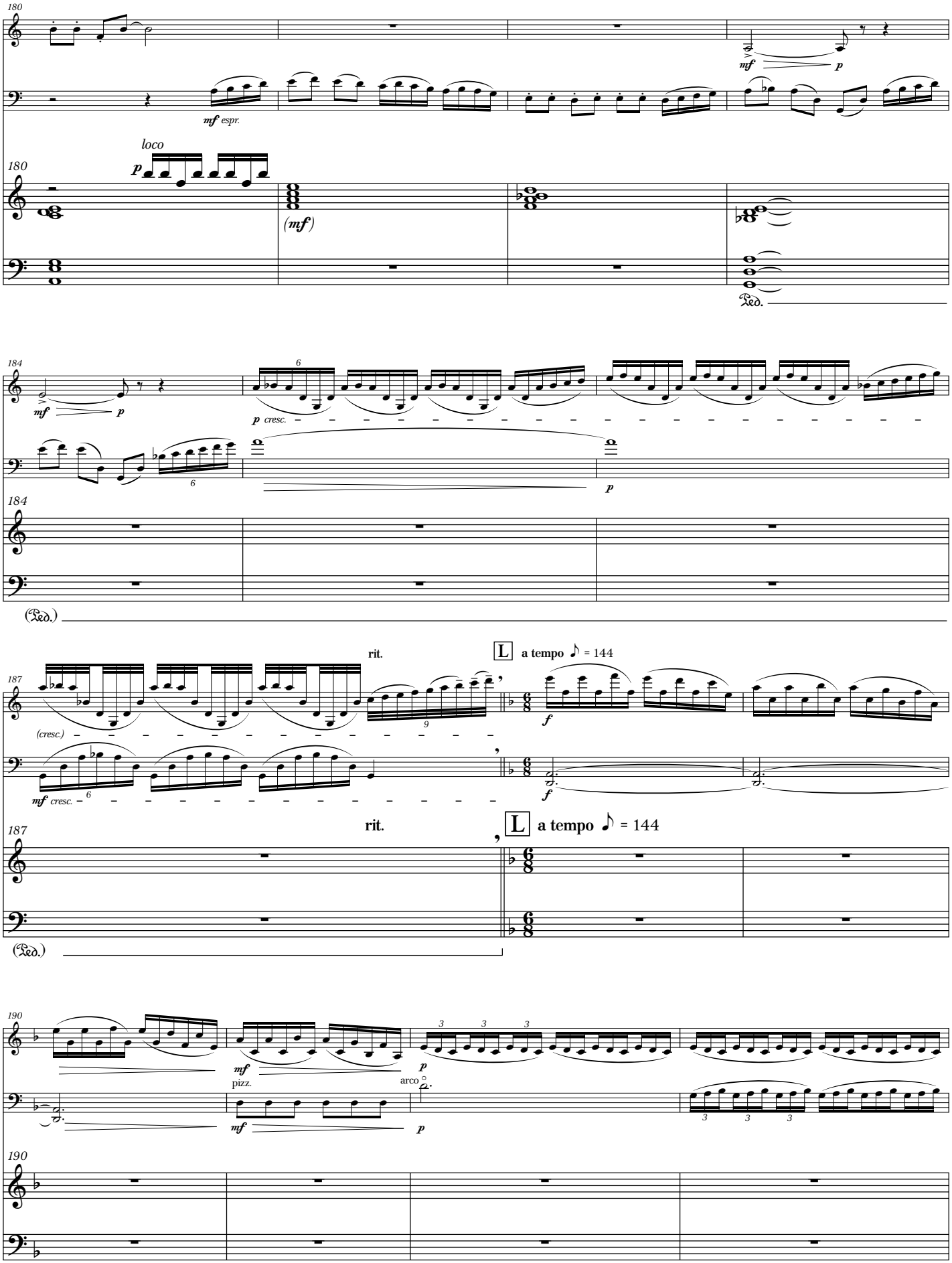

38
41
44
47

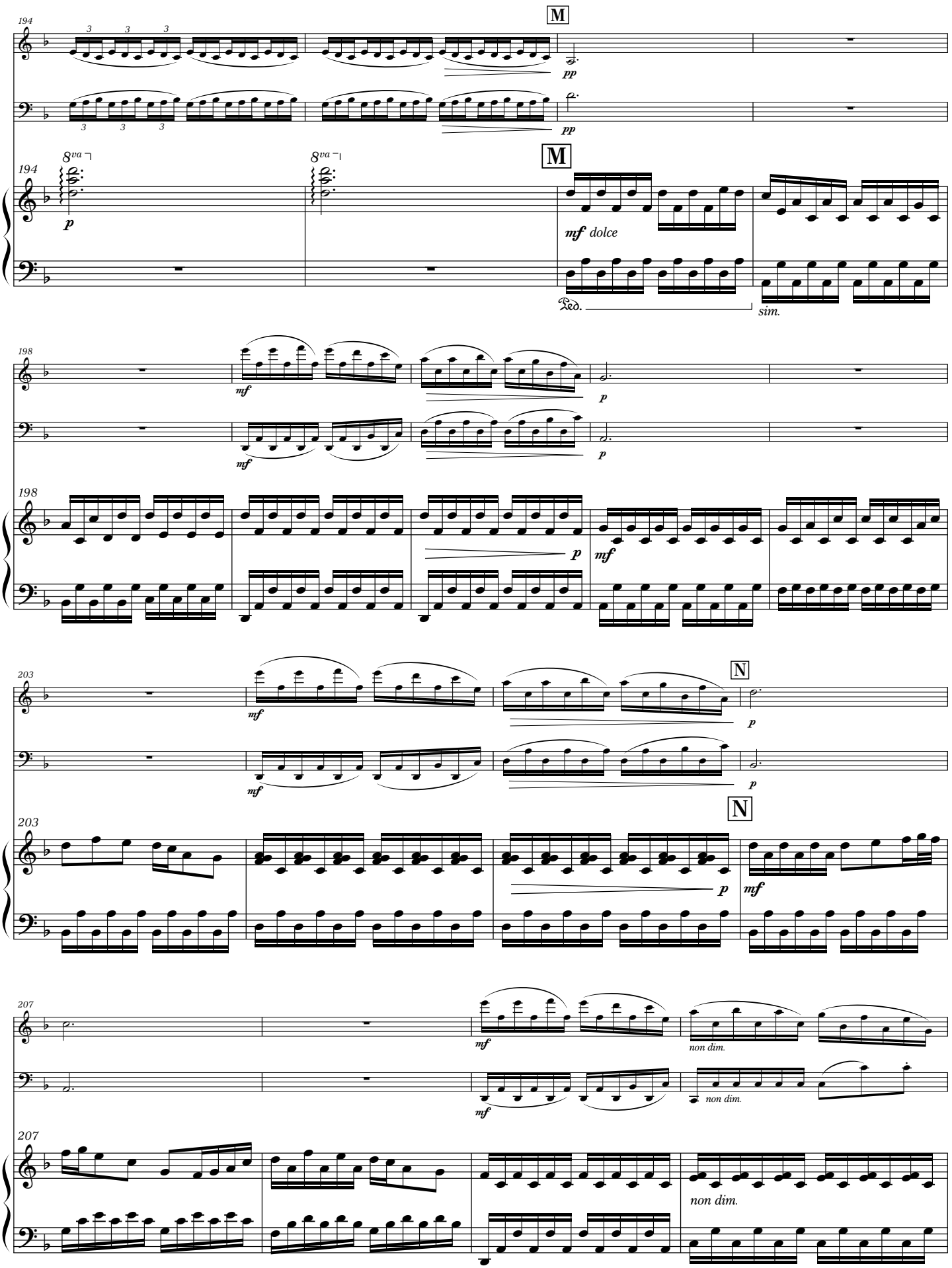

50
poco accel.
C Slightly faster ♩ = 100
poco accel.
C Slightly faster ♩ = 100
50
Ped.
sim.
57
57
63
63
69
accel.
accel.
69
cresc.

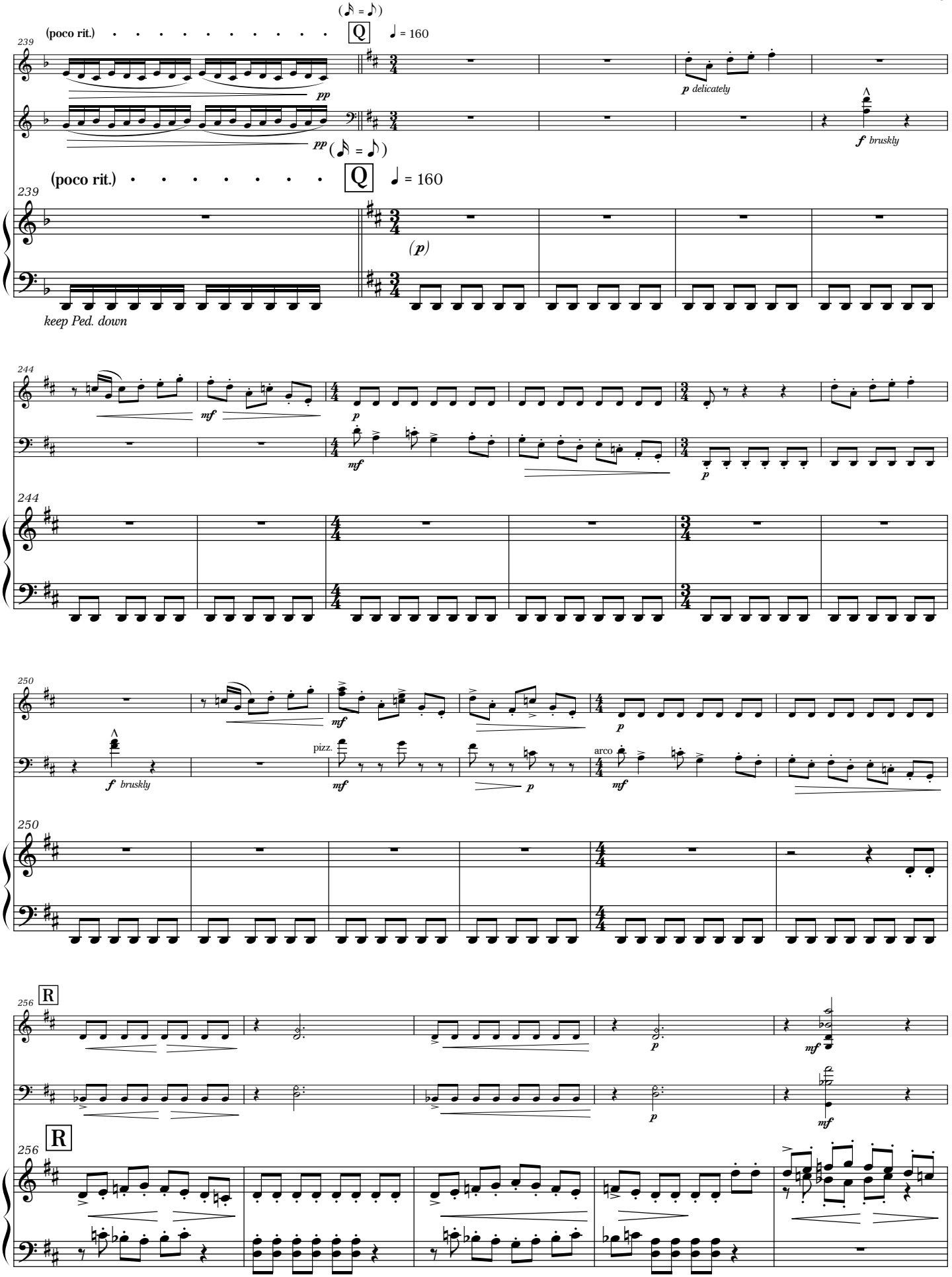

75
D Faster ♩ = 120
p
(cresc.)
f espr.
81
f
87
E
dim.
93
p
f
(dim.)

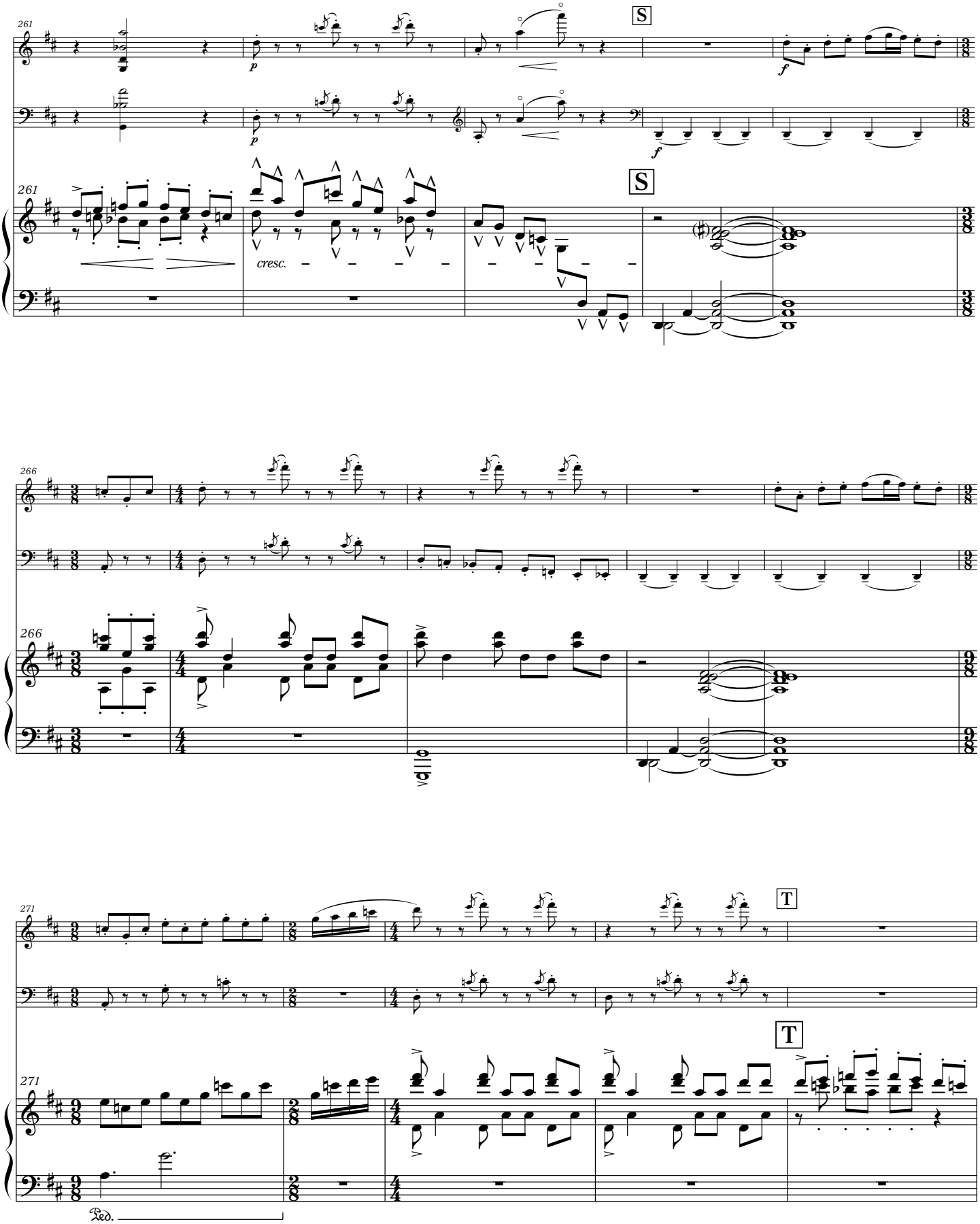

99
mf
f
99
(dim.)
105
mf
105
(dim.)
rit.
pizz.
111
mf
p
pizz.
mf
p
rit.
8va
111
mf
F as a light dance ♩ = 160
116
arco
f
arco (brush stroke)
f
F as a light dance ♩ = 160
116
f

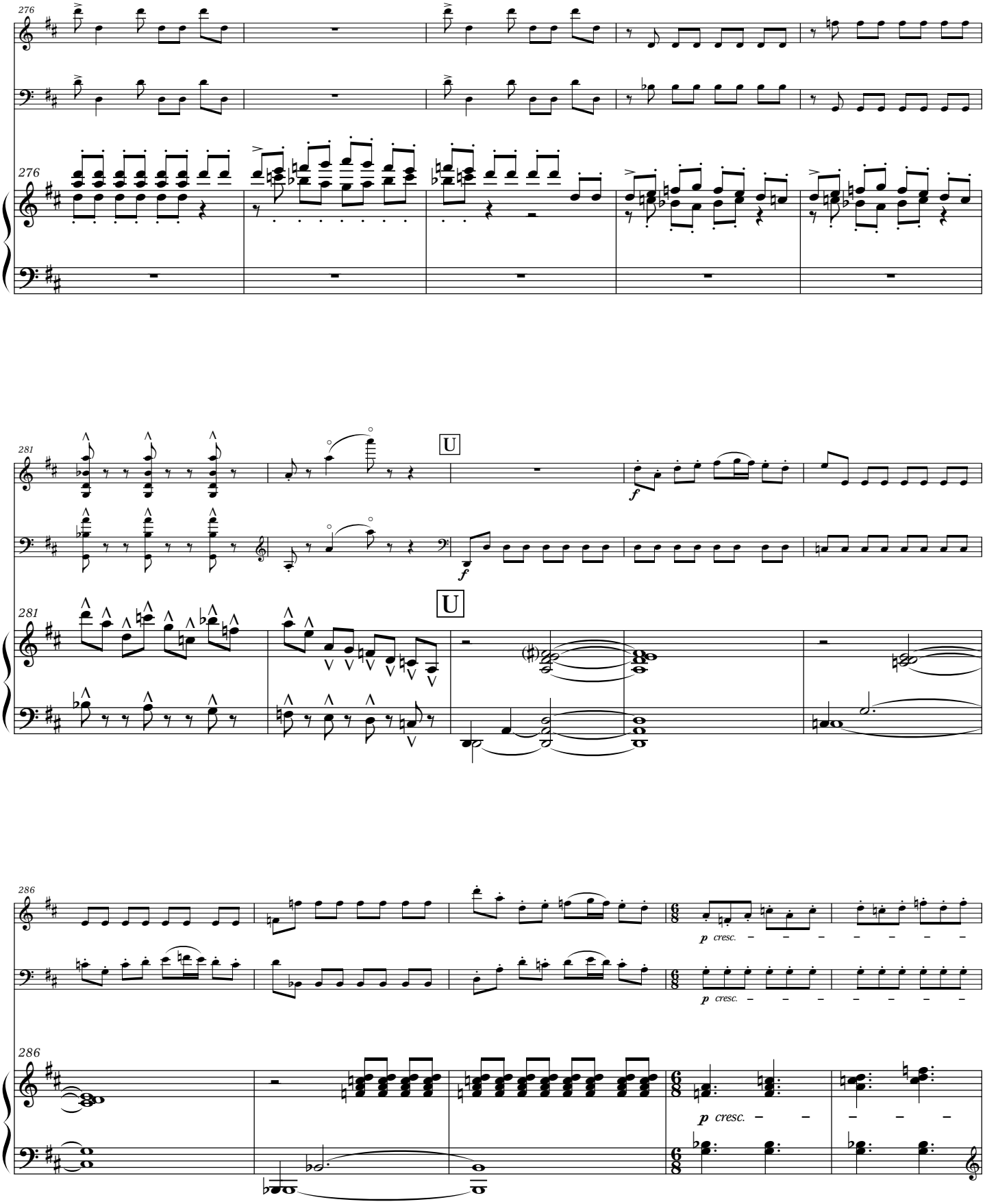

121
(brush stroke)
126
G
131
136
H
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

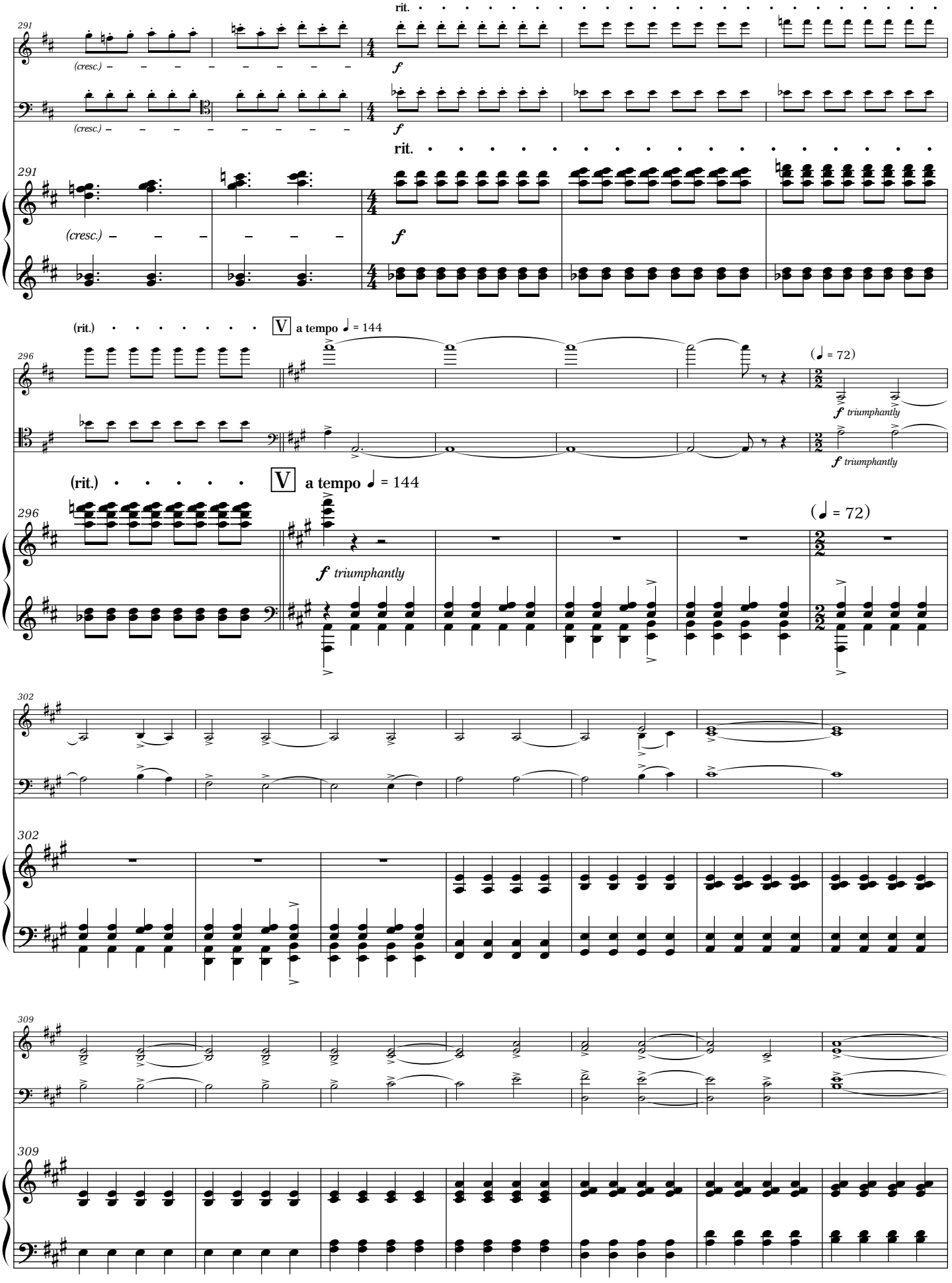

180
mf espr.
loco
p
180
(mf)
Ped.
184
mf
p
6
p cresc.
6
p
184
(Ped.)
rit.
L a tempo ♪ = 144
187
(cresc.)
mf cresc.
6
9
f
f
187
rit.
L a tempo ♪ = 144
(Ped.)
190
mf
pizz.
p
arco
3
3
3
mf
p
3
3
3
190

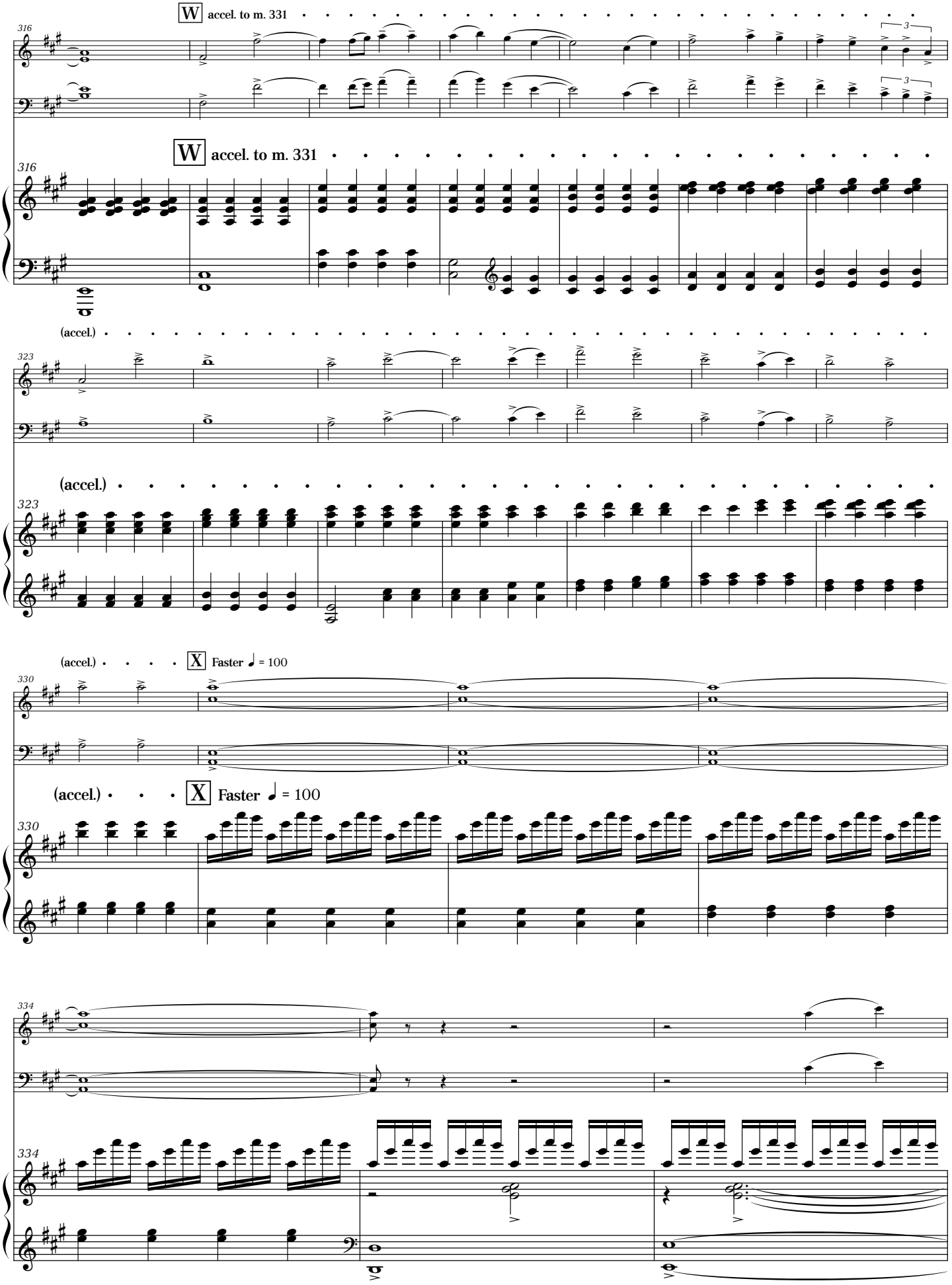

194
M
pp
8va
p
mf dolce
Ped.
sim.
198
mf
p
203
N
207
non dim.

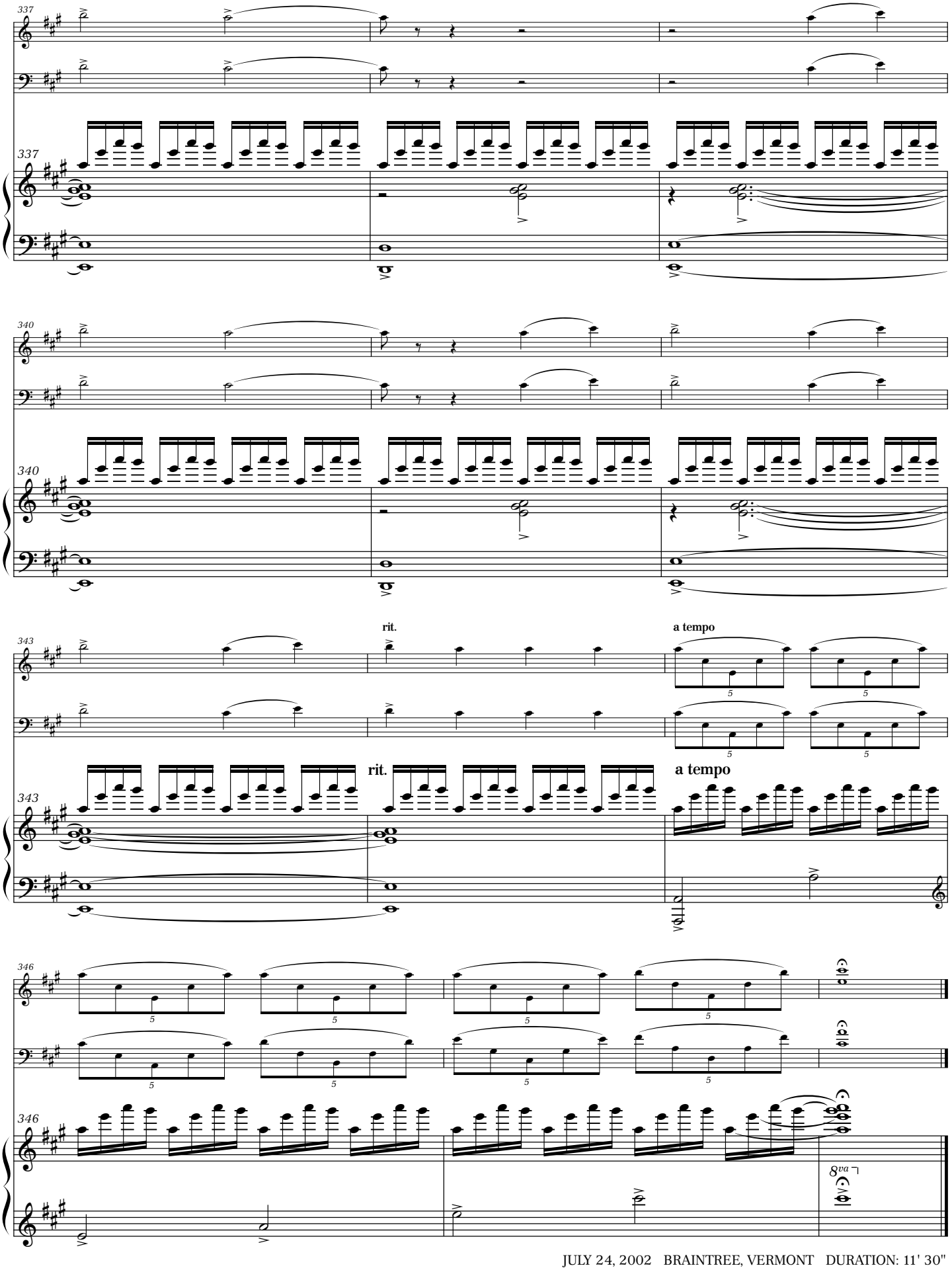

(poco rit.)
Q
♩ = 160
239
pp
p delicately
f bruskly
keep Ped. down
244
mf
p
250
pizz.
arco
256
R


261
S
p
f
cresc.
266
271
T
Ped.


276
276
281
281
U
U
f
f
286
286
p cresc.
p cresc.
p cresc.


291
rit.
(cresc.)
f
291
(cresc.)
f
rit.
(rit.)
V a tempo ♩ = 144
296
(♩ = 72)
f triumphantly
(rit.)
V a tempo ♩ = 144
296
(♩ = 72)
f triumphantly
302
302
309
309


W accel. to m. 331
316
W accel. to m. 331
316
(accel.)
323
(accel.)
323
(accel.)
X Faster ♩ = 100
330
(accel.)
X Faster ♩ = 100
330
334
334


337
337
340
340
rit.
a tempo
343
rit.
a tempo
343
346
346
8va