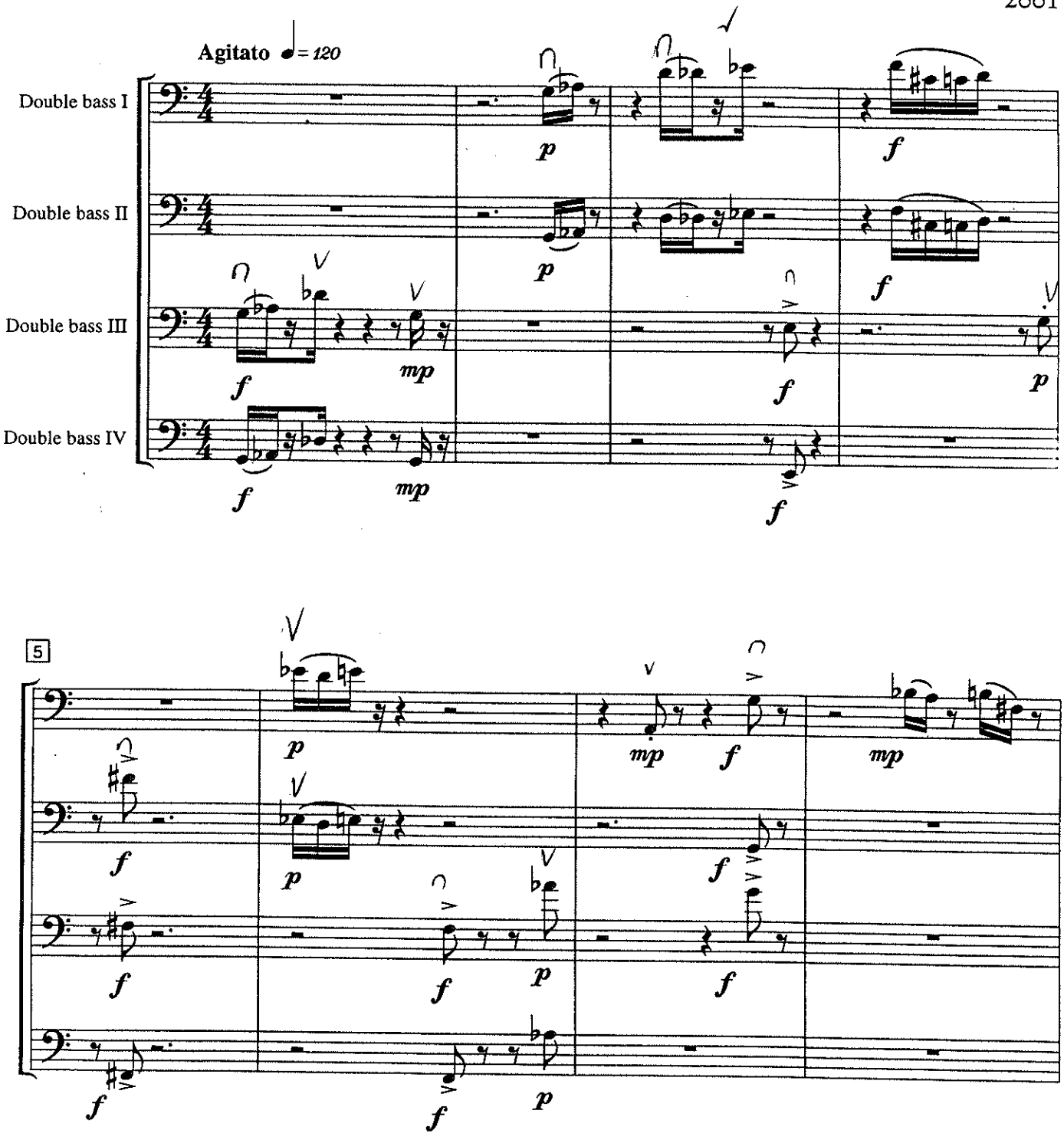
Soundings

for
The National Symphony Bass Quartet

Robert Gibson
2001

I. Tenuous



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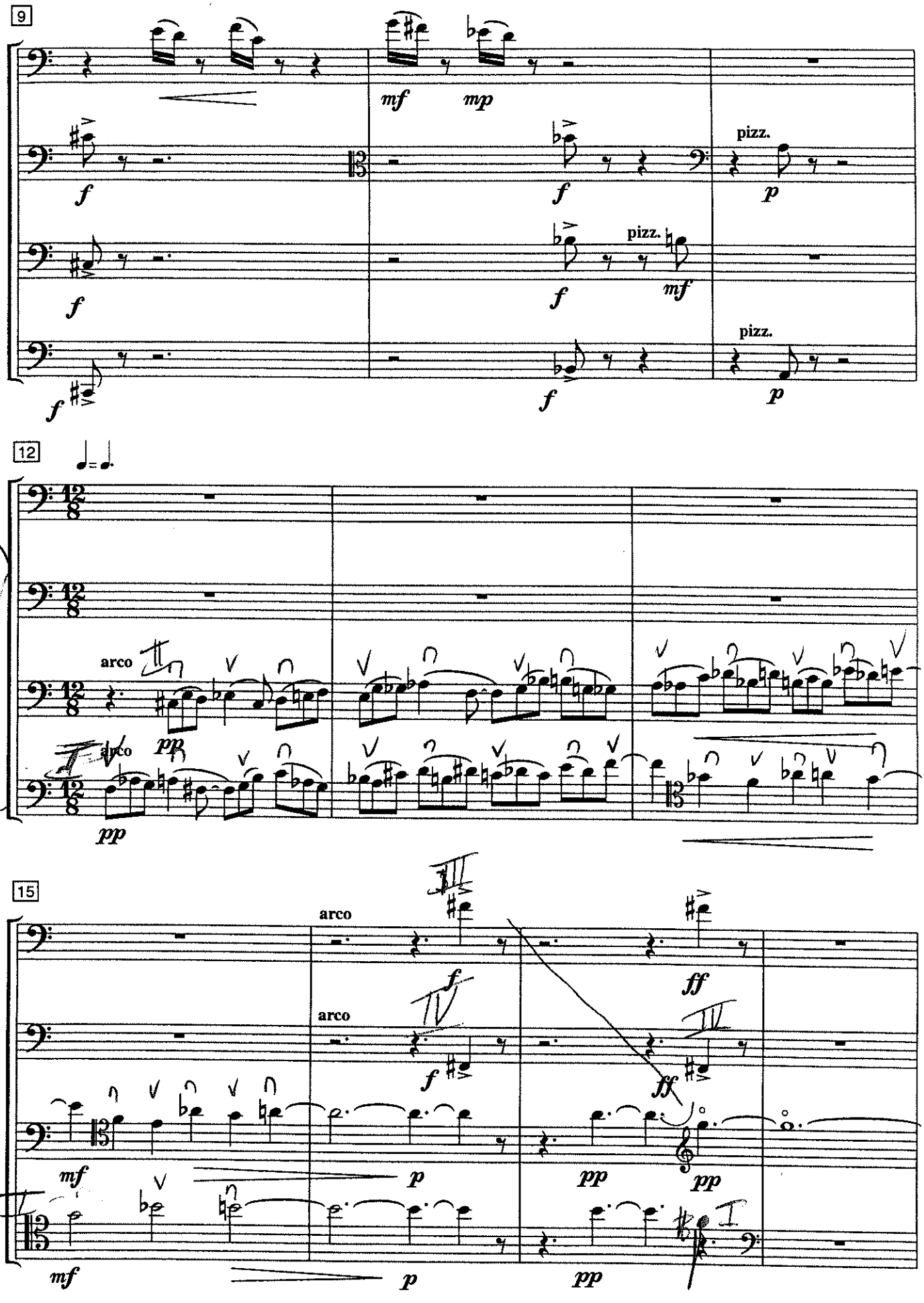
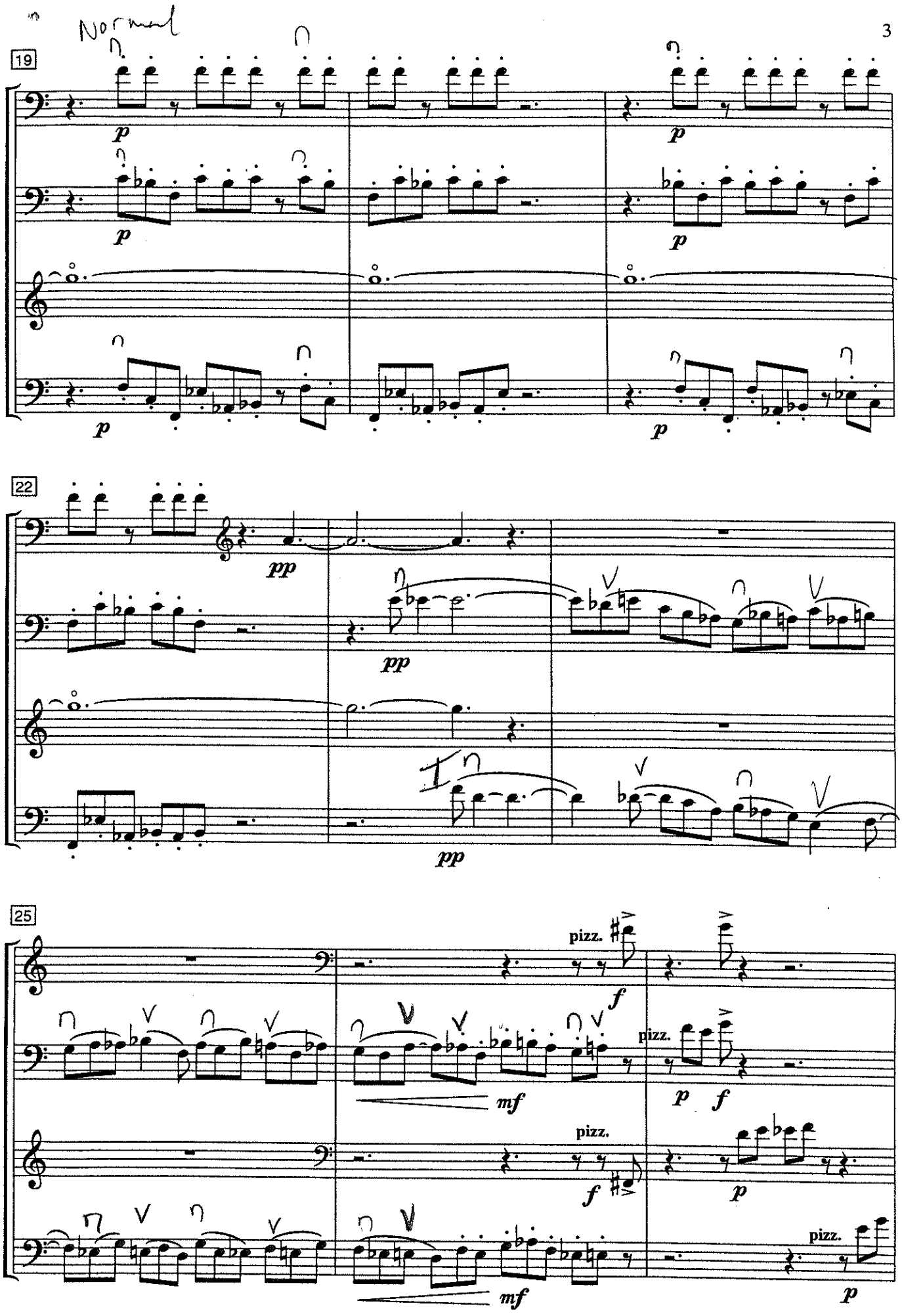
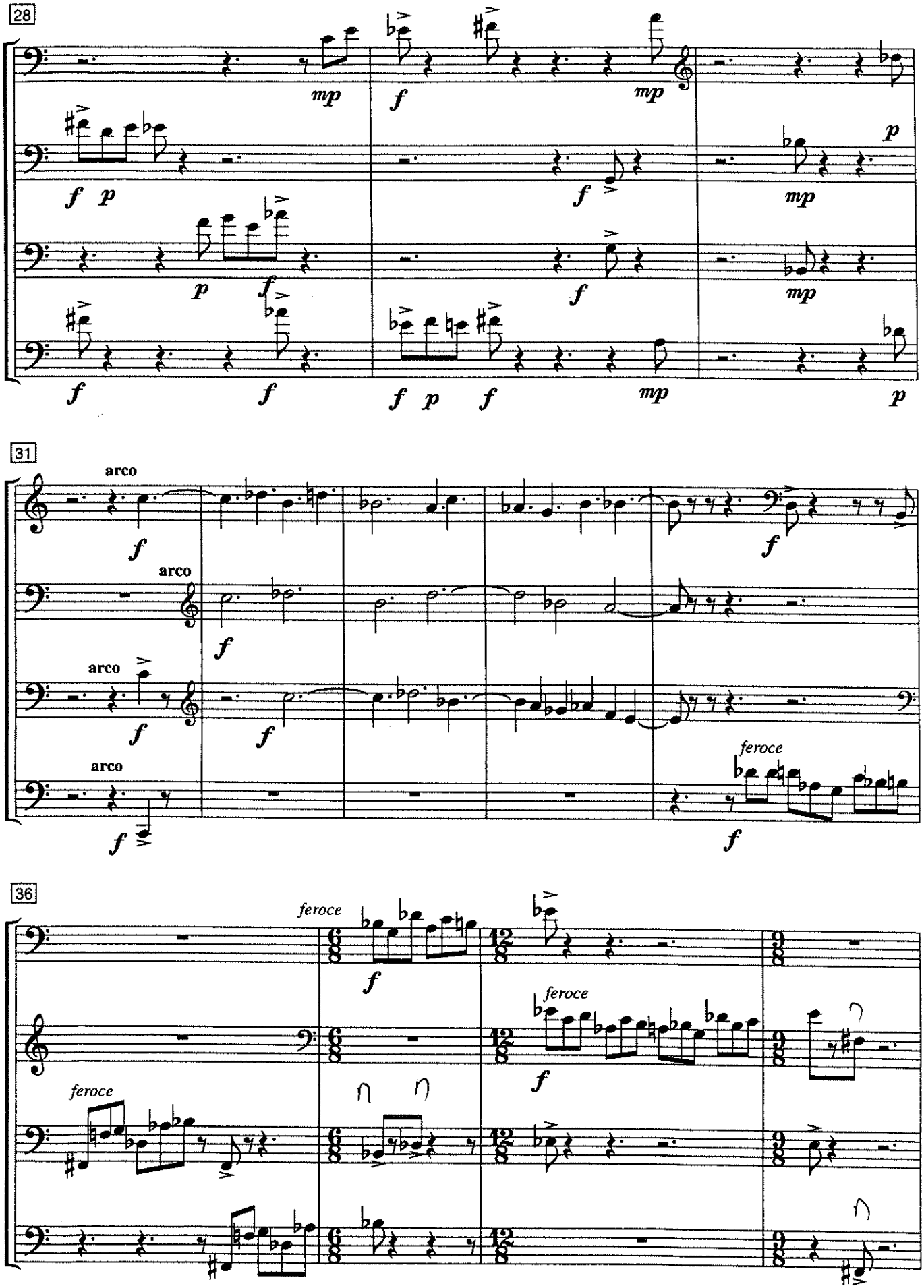
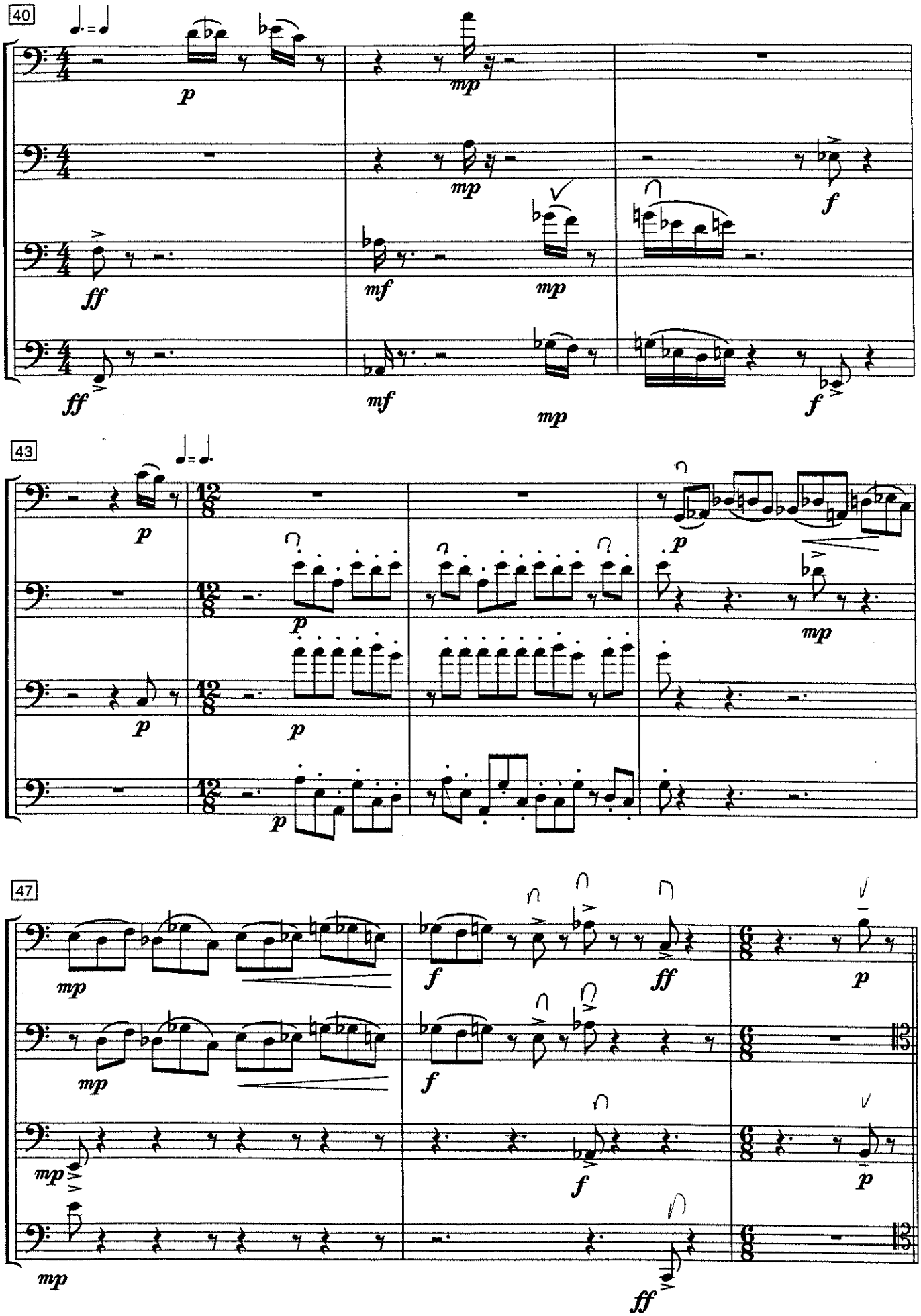
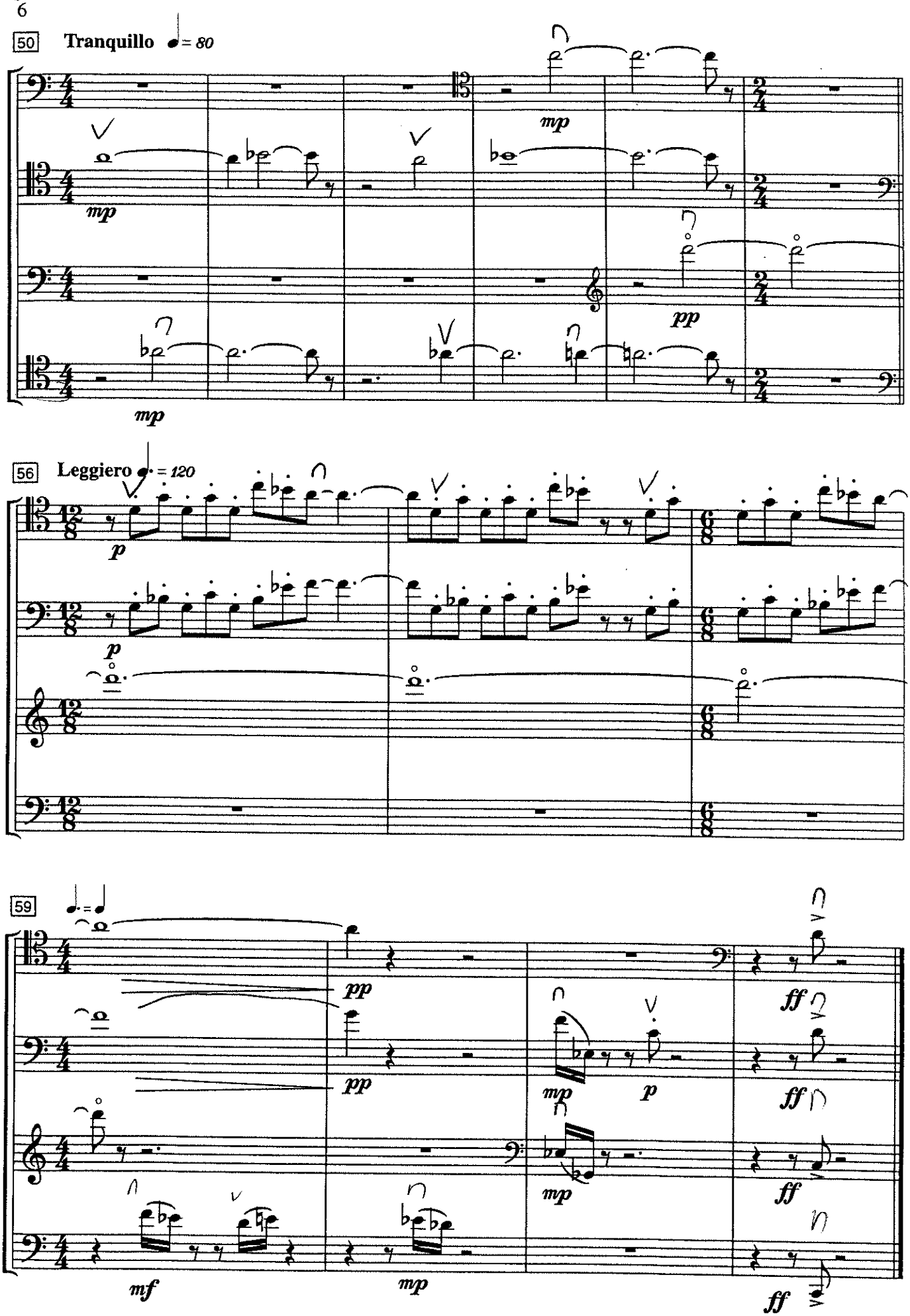

9
mf
mp
f
pizz.
p
12
arco
pp
15
ff

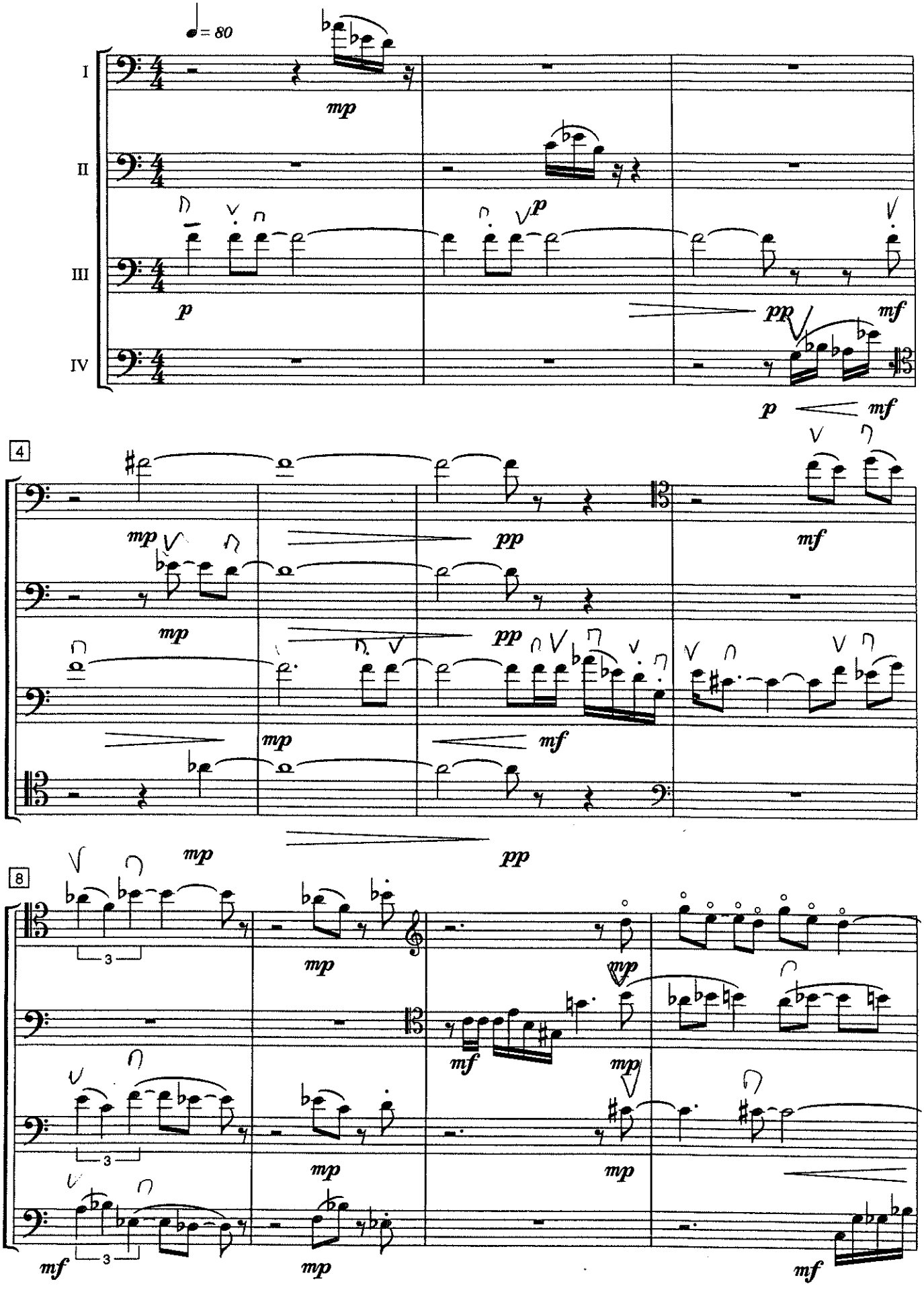

Normal
19
p
22
pp
25
pizz.
f
mf

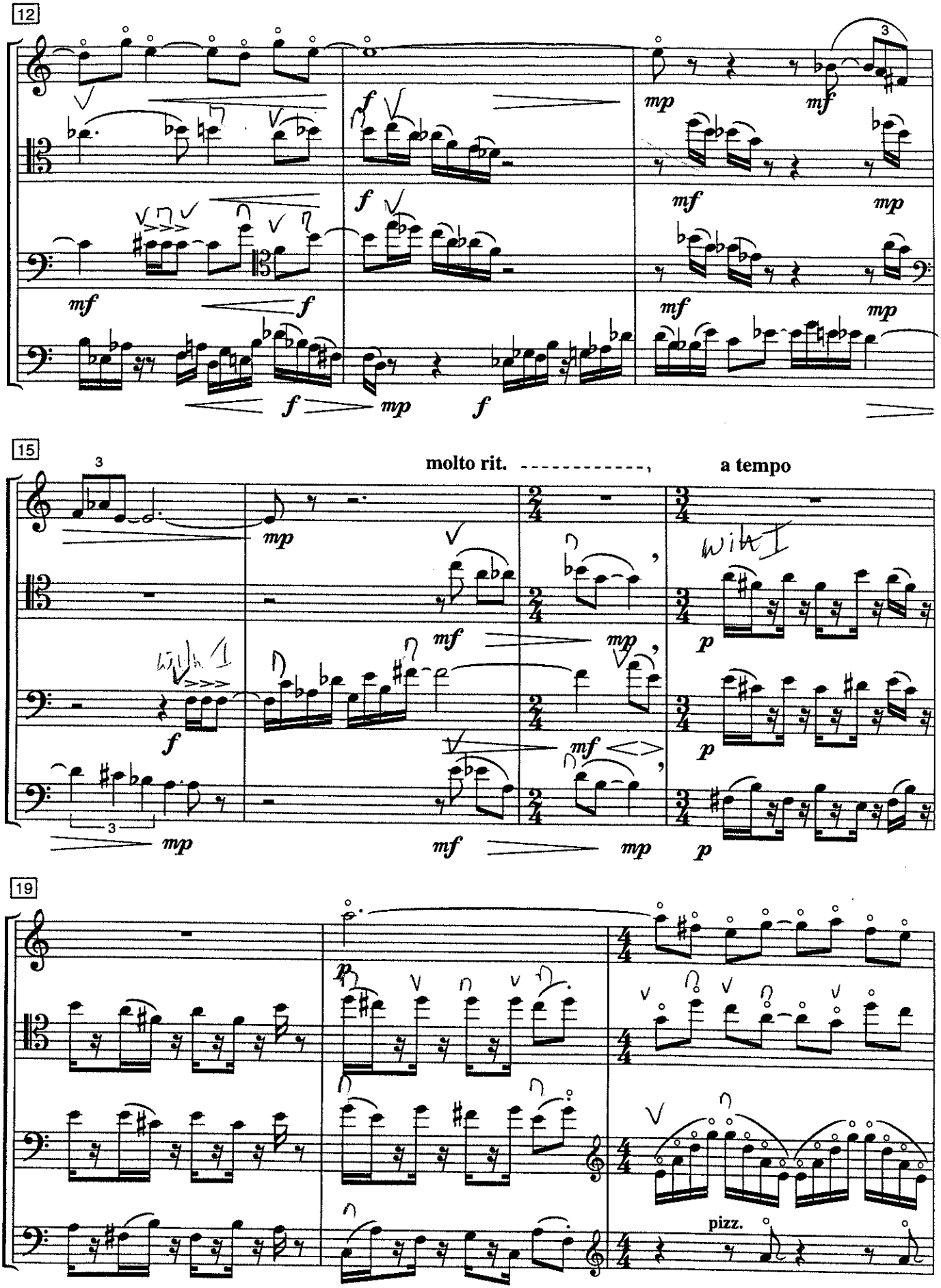

28
31
arco
arco
arco
arco
feroce
36
feroce
feroce
feroce

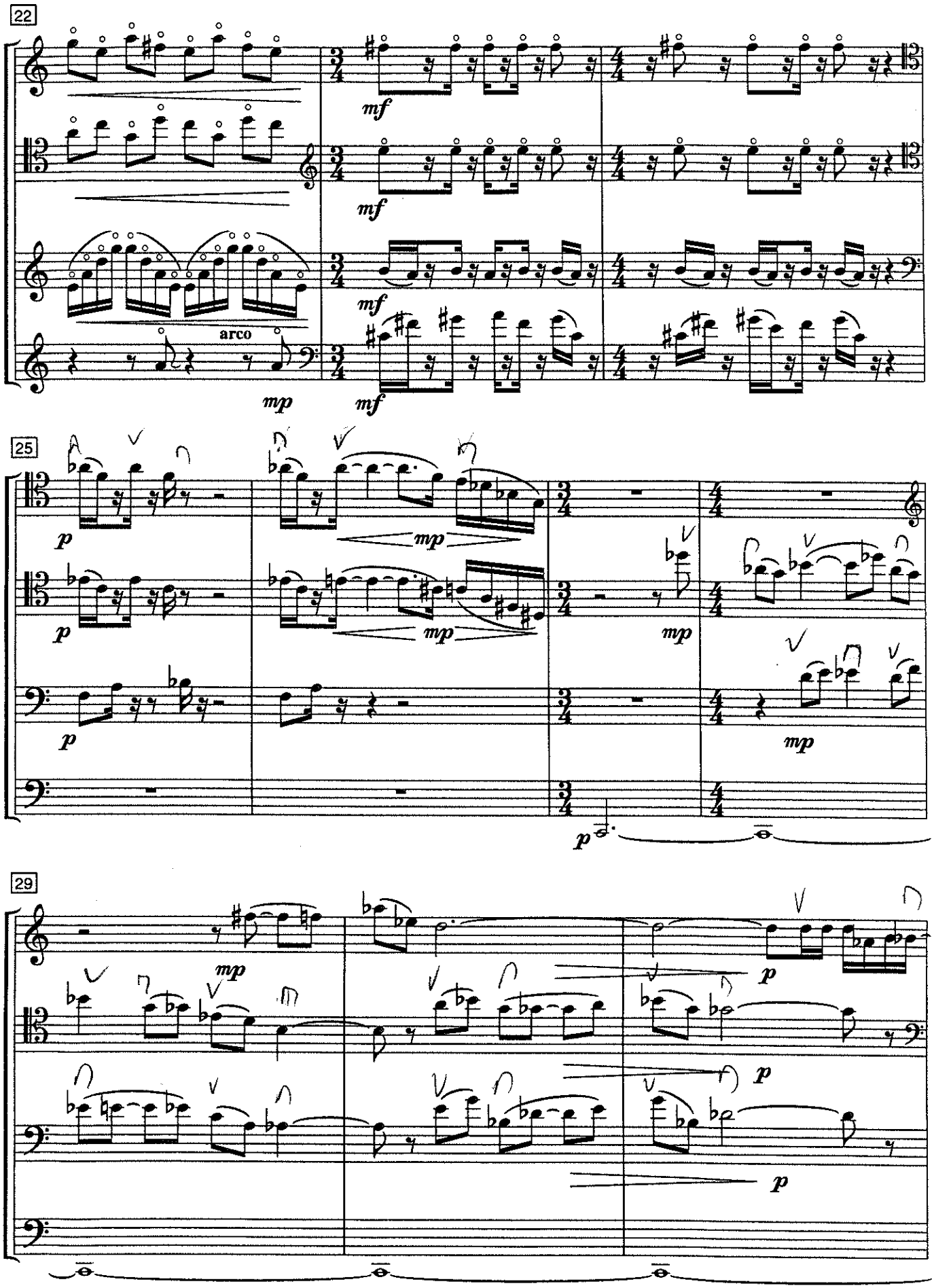

40
43
47

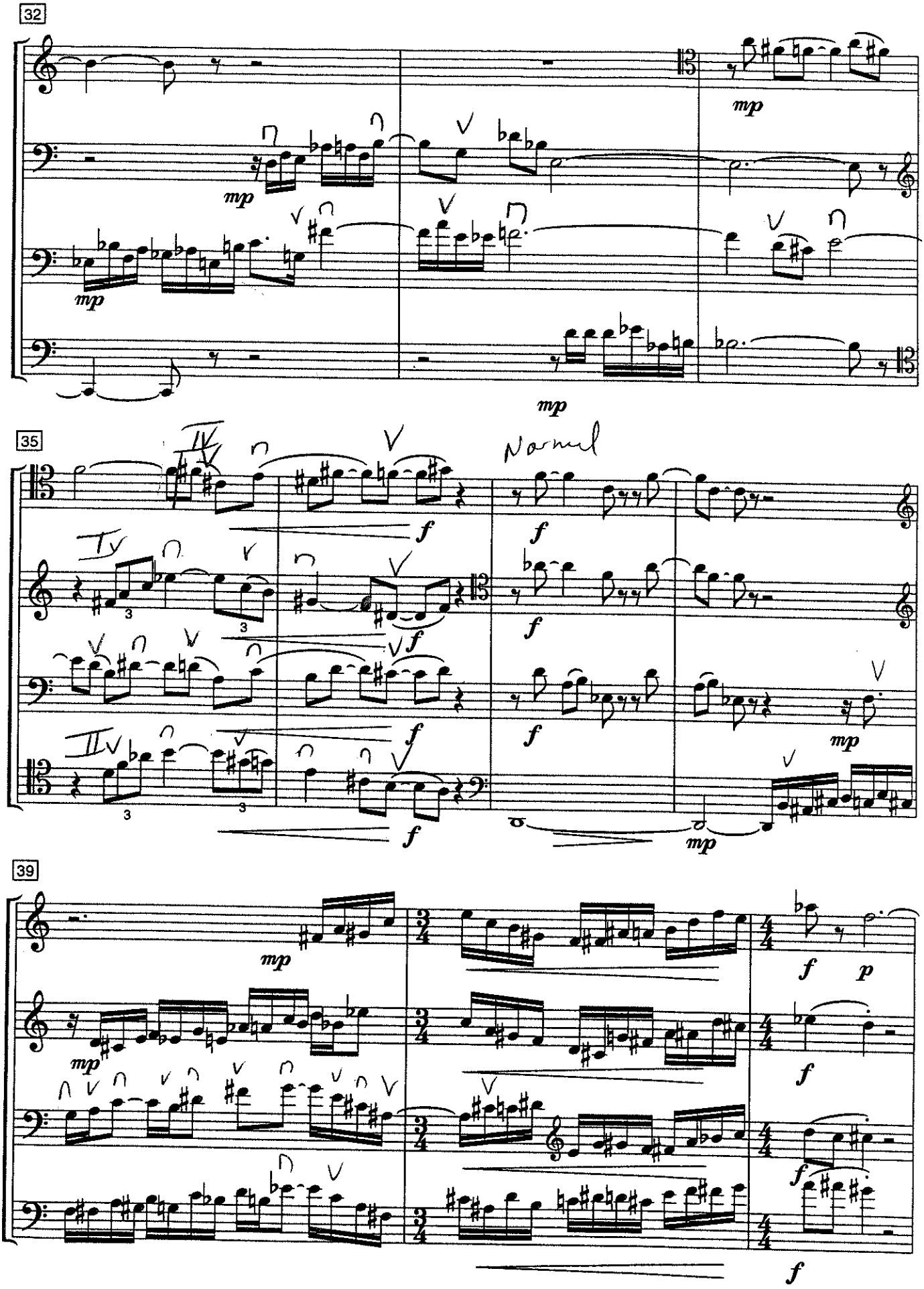

50
Tranquillo
= 80
mp
mp
pp
mp
56
Leggiero
= 120
p
p
59
pp
pp
mp
p
ff
ff
ff
mf
mp
ff

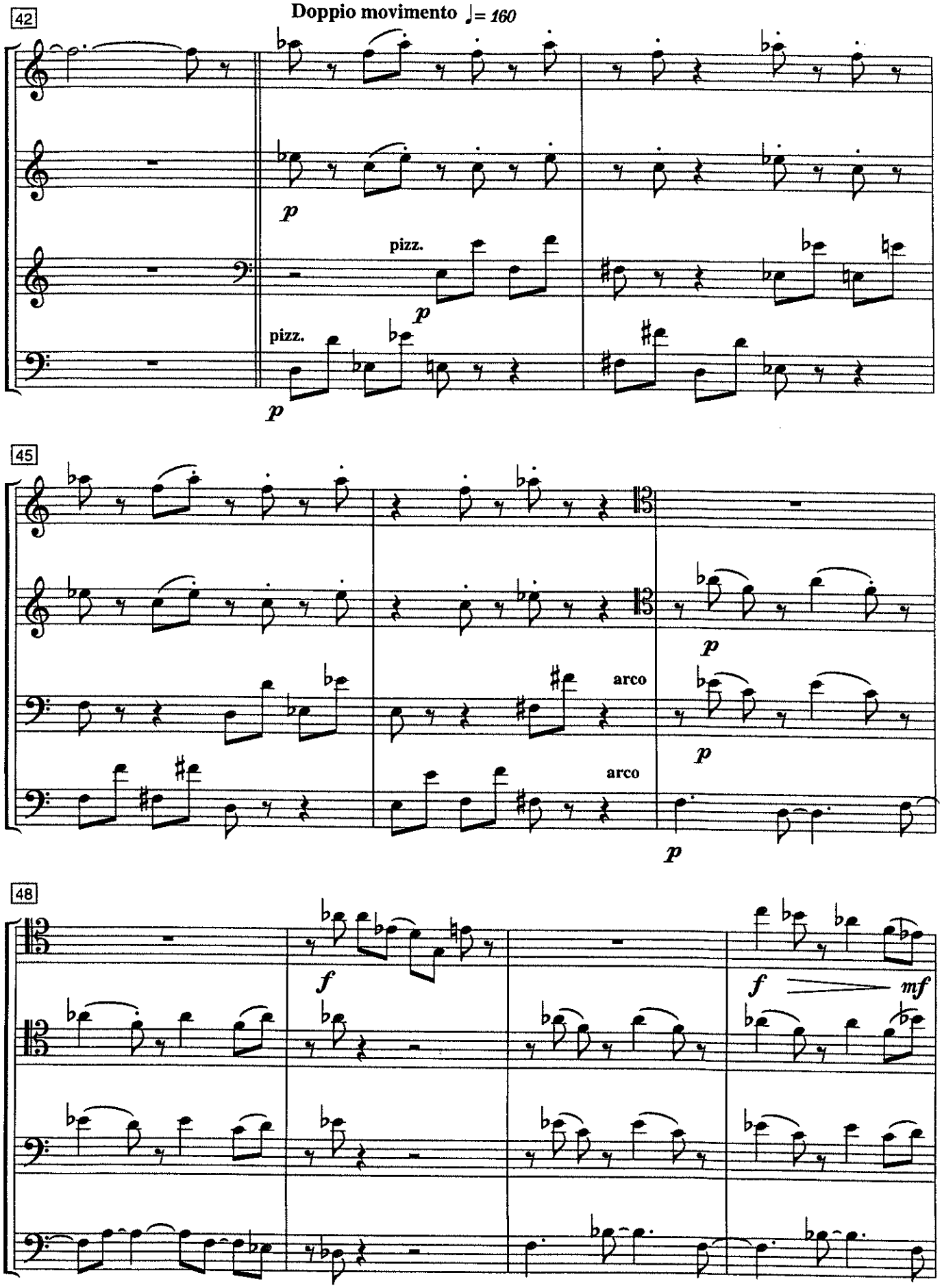
V. Capricious

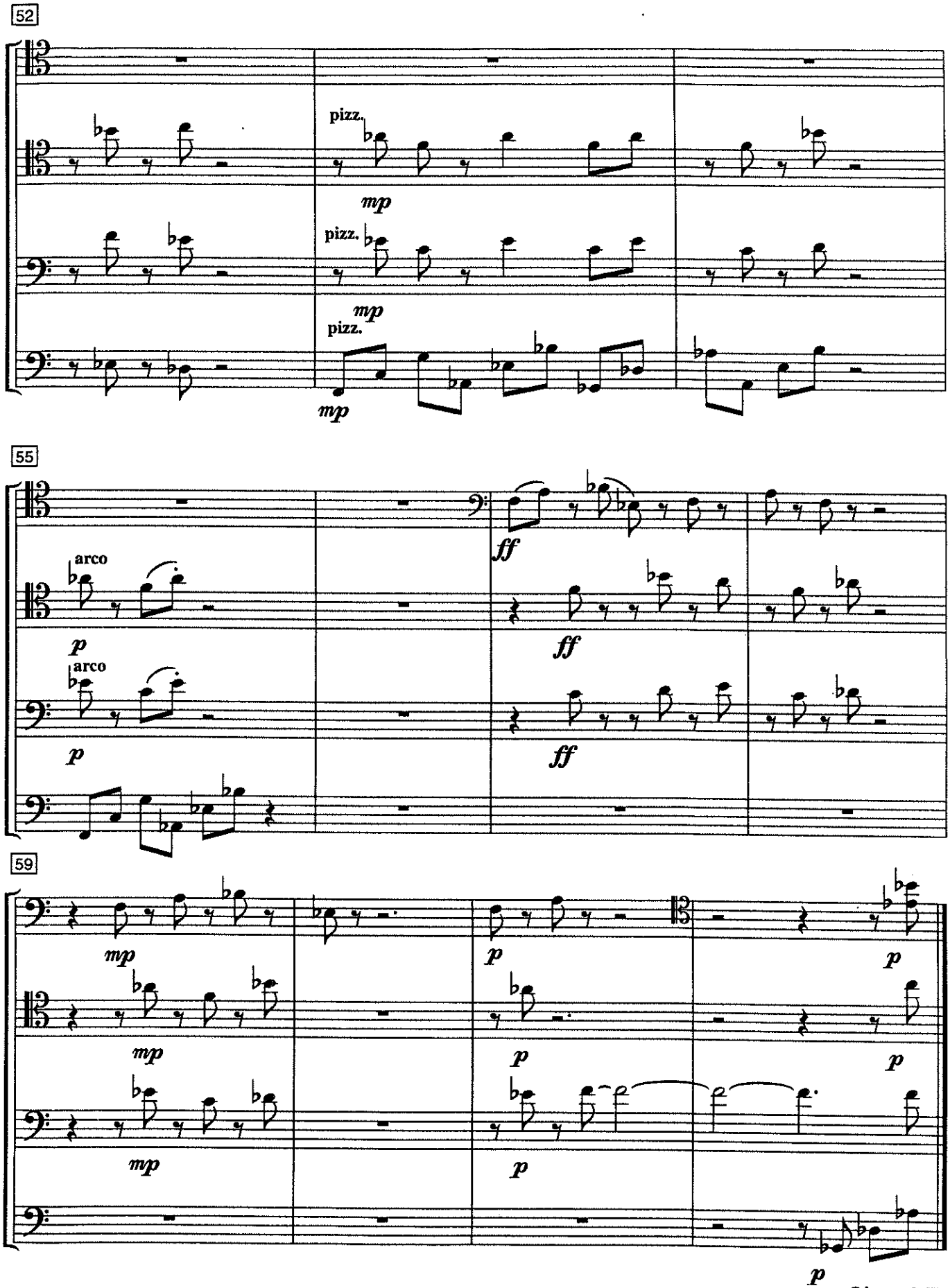



12
15
molto rit. ----------, a tempo
19
pizz.


22
mf
mf
mf
arco
mp
mf
25
p
mp
p
mp
mp
p
mp
p
29
mp
p
p
p


32
mp
35
Normal
f
39
p


42
Doppio movimento ♩= 160
p
pizz.
p
pizz.
p
45
p
arco
p
arco
p
48
f
f
mf



Olney, MD
June 2001

Duration: ca 12:30

Soundings (2001) Robert Gibson

for double bass quartet

I. Tenuous
II. Diaphanous
III. Nebulous
IV. Luminous
V. Capricious

PROGRAM NOTES

The title of my double bass quartet, *Soundings*, is a reference in part to the nautical term for measuring the depth of water. The term has an obvious connection to the double bass as the deepest sounding string instrument of the orchestra. Soundings can also refer to various types of exploration, and the five movements of the piece are my personal explorations of the instrument that is closest to me. *Soundings* is dedicated to The National Symphony Bass Quartet, who commissioned the composition.

Robert Gibson

COMPOSER BIOGRAPHY

Robert Gibson s compositions have been performed throughout the United States and in Europe, China and South America. His music has also been presented on National Public Radio, and by noted performers and ensembles, including bassists Bertram Turetzky and David Walter, clarinetist Esther Lamneck, the Clarion Wind Quintet, the Contemporary Music Forum, the 20th Century Consort, the Meridian String Quartet and The National Symphony Bass Quartet, who commissioned his composition *Soundings* (2001).

Mr. Gibson has been a composer member of the Contemporary Music Forum of Washington, DC (1987—2000), and he is also a performer of new music. As a jazz bassist and composer he has appeared leading his own groups and, during the early 80 s, as a sideman with internationally recognized artists including Mose Allison, Bob Berg, Marc Copland, Tom Harrell, Eddie Harris and Barney Kessel.

Since 1985 he has also worked with computer music systems, and his electronic works have been performed at national and international conferences and festivals, including The Society for Electro—Acoustic Music in the United States national conferences and the Sonic Circuits Electronic Music Festival. Mr. Gibson s compositions have been recorded on Golden Crest (*The American Music Project*, Clarion Wind Quintet, 1979) and Spectrum Records (*Soundscapes*, 1982; *Music of Robert Gibson,* 1986). *Chamber Music,* a Capstone compact disc of chamber works by Gibson appears on *Fanfare* magazine s 1996 Want List as one of critic William Zagorski s five notable recordings of the year. Mr. Gibson is professor of music at the University of Maryland, College Park.