Full Score

Johannes Brahms

Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80

arranged for 6-part Cello Orchestra

Notes from Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_Festival_Overture (accessed Nov 2012): "Brahms composed the Academic Festival Overture during the summer of 1880 as a musical "thank you" to the University of Breslau (University of Wroclaw), which had awarded him an honorary doctorate the previous year. Initially, Brahms had contented himself with sending a simple handwritten note of acknowledgment to the University, since he loathed the public fanfare of celebrity. However, the conductor Bernard Scholz, who had nominated him for the degree, convinced him that protocol required him to make a grander gesture of gratitude. The University expected nothing less than a musical offering from the composer. "Compose a fine symphony for us!" he wrote to Brahms. "But well orchestrated, old boy, not too uniformly thick!"

Brahms, who was known to be a curmudgeonly joker, filled his quota by creating a "very boisterous potpourri of student drinking songs à la Suppé" in an intricately designed structure made to appear loose and episodic, thus drawing on the "academic" for both his sources and their treatment. The work sparkles with some of the finest virtues of Brahms's orchestral technique, sometimes applied for comic effect. The inventive treatment includes tunes appropriated from student ditties, and most memorably, the broad, triumphant finale on "Gaudeamus igitur", which succinctly engages Brahms's sophisticated mastery of counterpoint, further fulfilling the "Academic" aspect of his program, cheekily applied to the well-worn melody. Brahms manages to evoke ravishing euphoria without sacrificing his commitment to classical balance.

The composer himself conducted the premiere at a special convocation held by the University on January 4, 1881, to the chagrin (and mischievous delight) of many of the academics in the audience. Due to its easily-grasped structure, its lyrical warmth, as well as its excitement and humour, the work has remained a staple of today's concert-hall repertoire. A typical performance lasts around ten minutes."

Additional Notes:

The website **http://www.favorite-classical-composers.com/academic-festival-overture.html** states that the quaver figure which first occurs at the very beginning of the piece was inspired by Johann Strauss's Radetzky March.

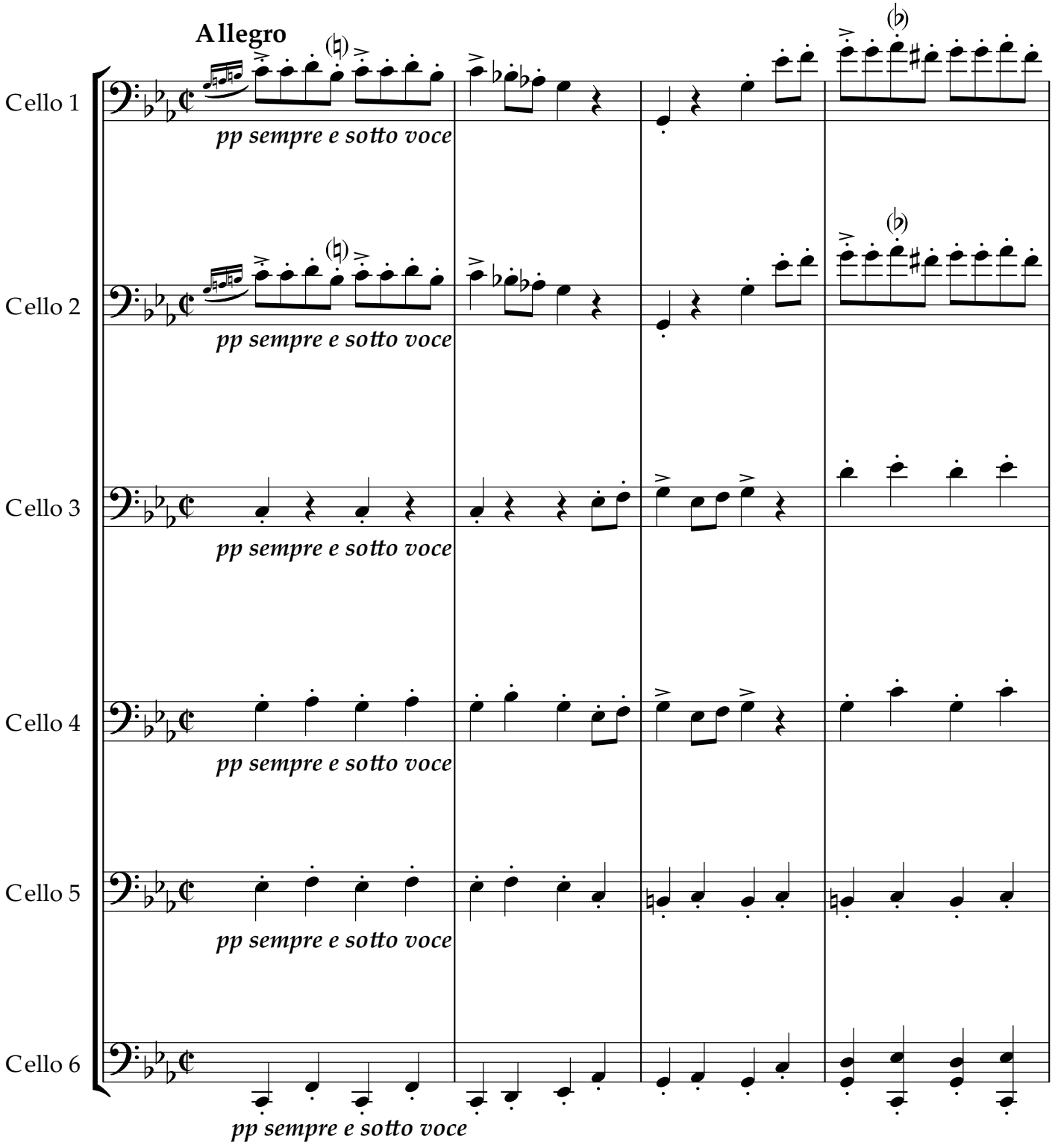
The website **http://imslp.org/wiki/Academic_Festival_Overture,_Op.80_(Brahms,_Johannes)** lists the four student ditties (which appear at bars 64,129,157 and 379 respectively) and gives links to the original voice/piano arrangements. It should be noted that in the case of first two songs, Brahms uses only a fraction of the original melody. In the present arrangement, the first appearance of each song is indicated in the score.

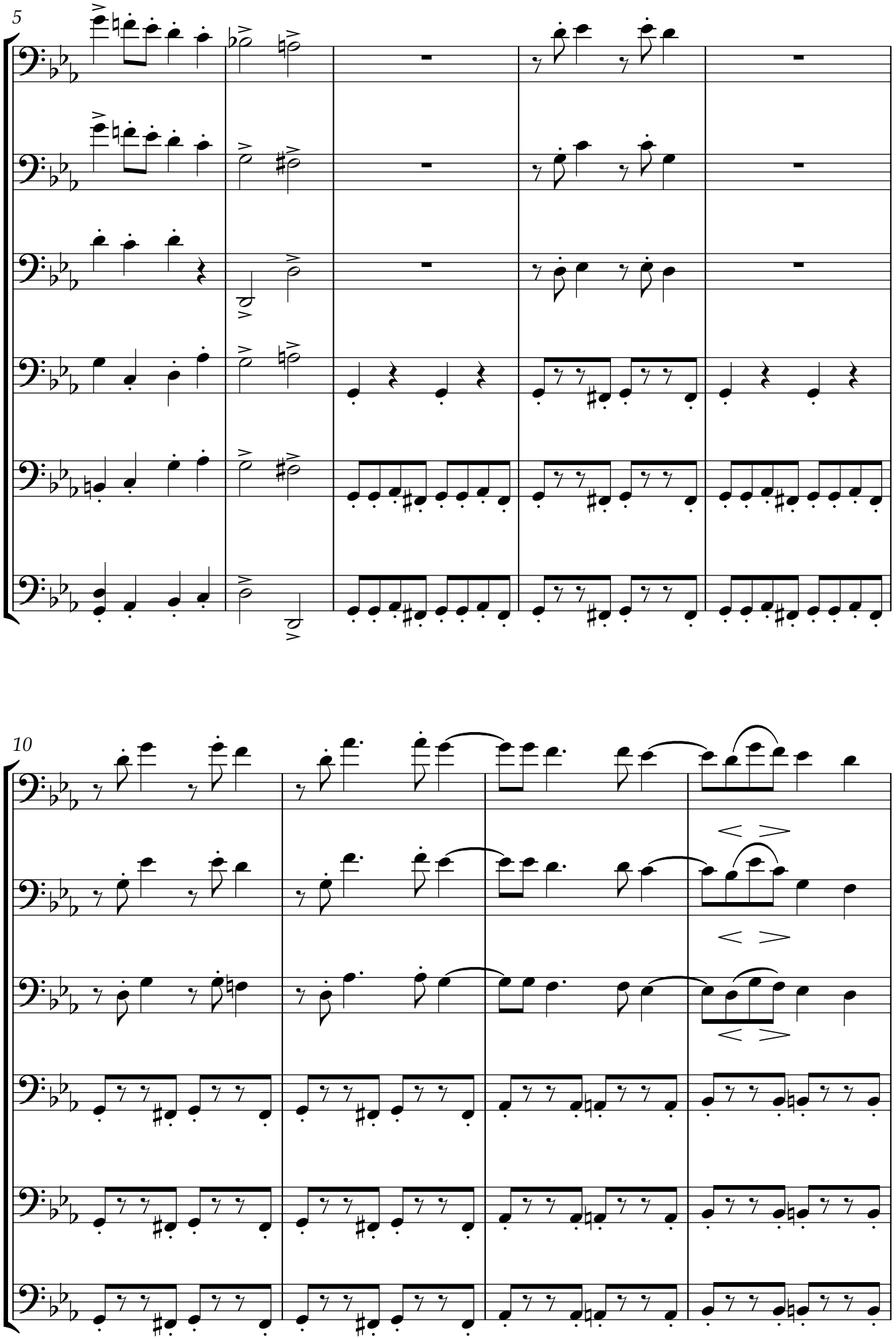
This cello arrangement cannot match the full range of instrumental colour found in the original, but cellists should have some fun in trying to achieve this. The fact that the main tunes, based on male student songs, would have been in the tenor and bass register is a further slight justification for an arrangement for cello ensemble. The arrangement was made for the Giant Cello Ensemble, directed by James Halsey, and was performed as part of the Aboyne Cello Festival (in North-East Scotland) in July 2013, at the end of the week-long annual cello course run by James Halsey and Alice Neary.

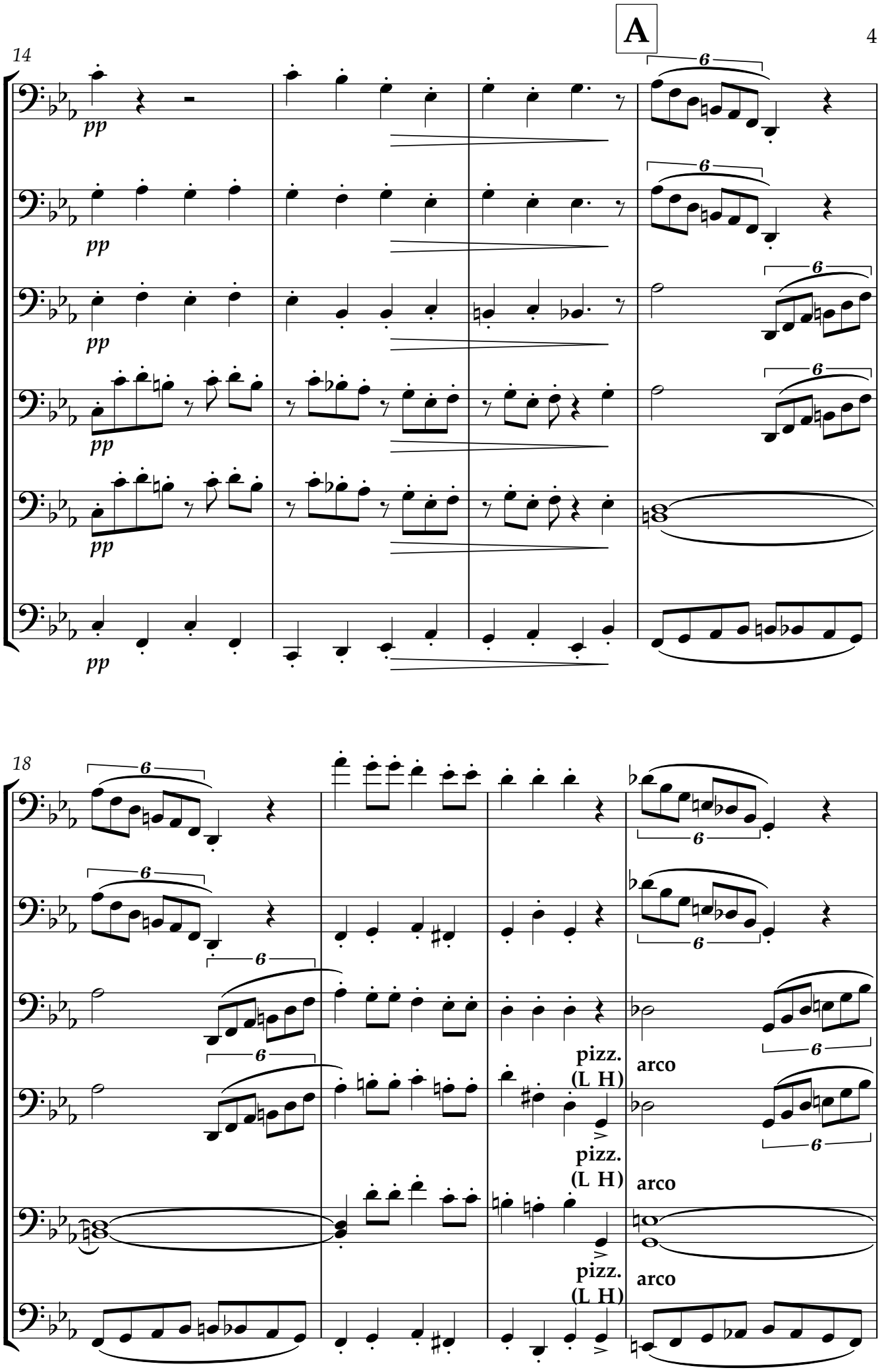
D. Gwyn Seymour, Stonehaven, Scotland, November 2012

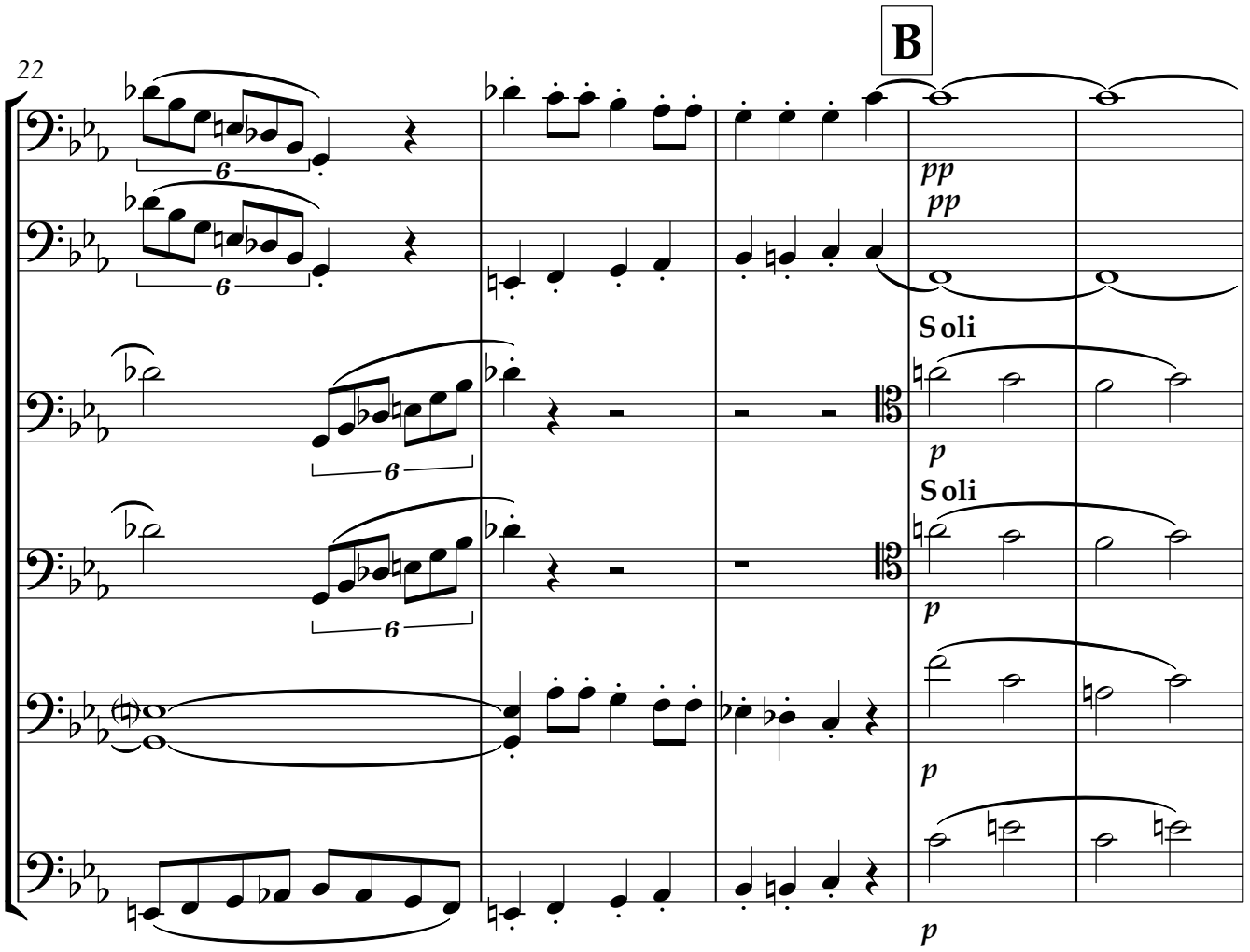
Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80

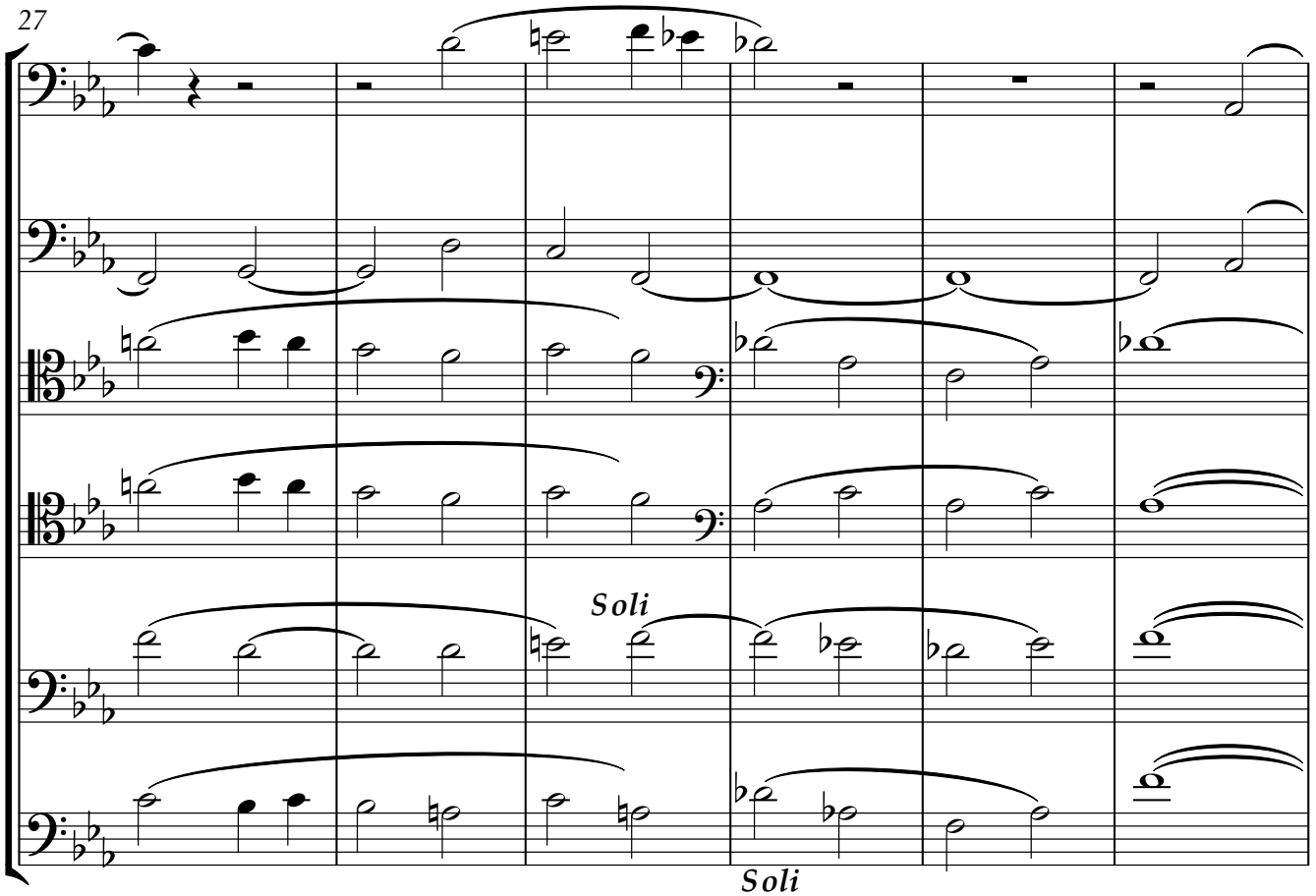
Johannes Brahms 1833-1897
(arr. Gwyn Seymour, d.g.seymour@abdn.ac.uk)

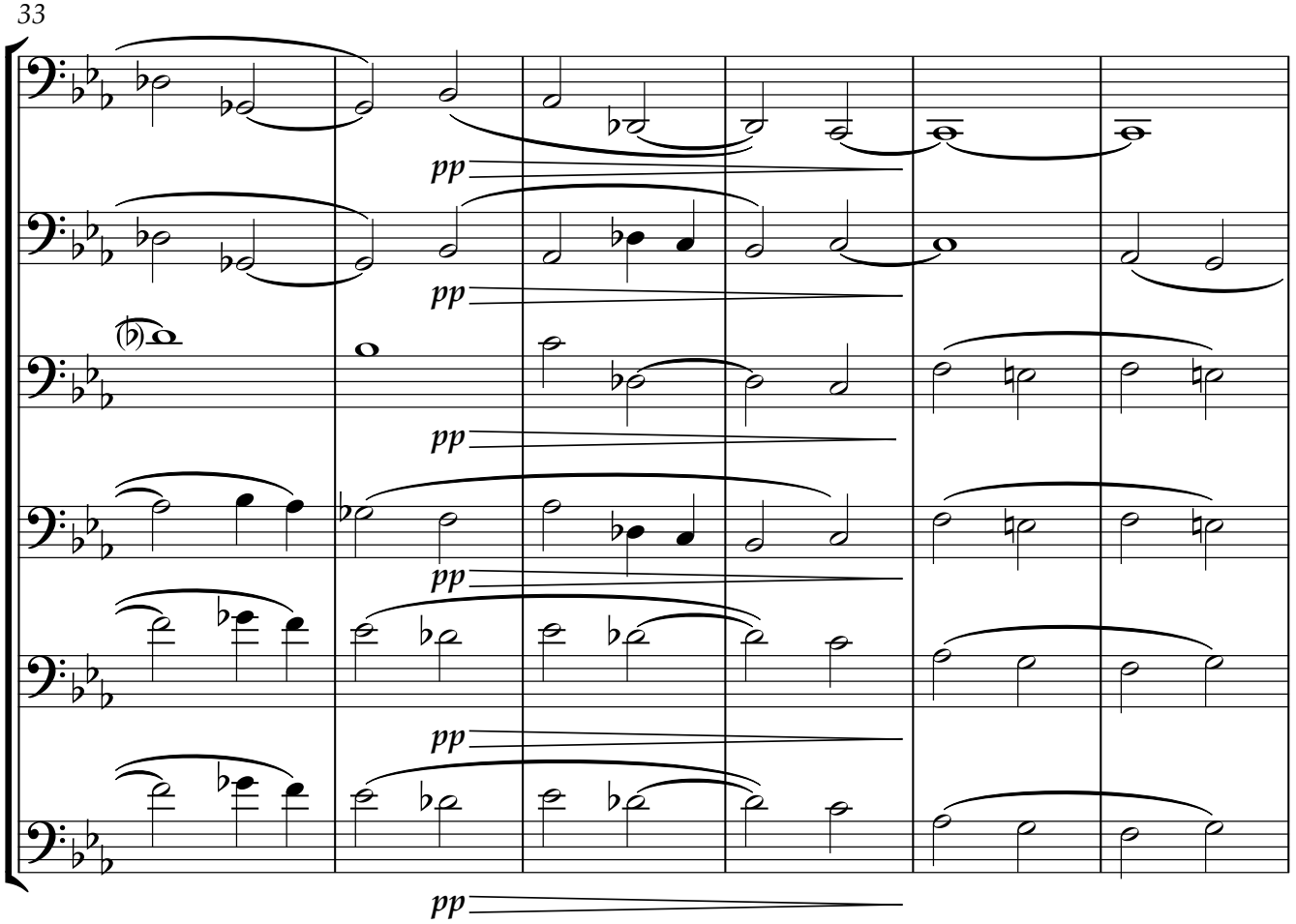


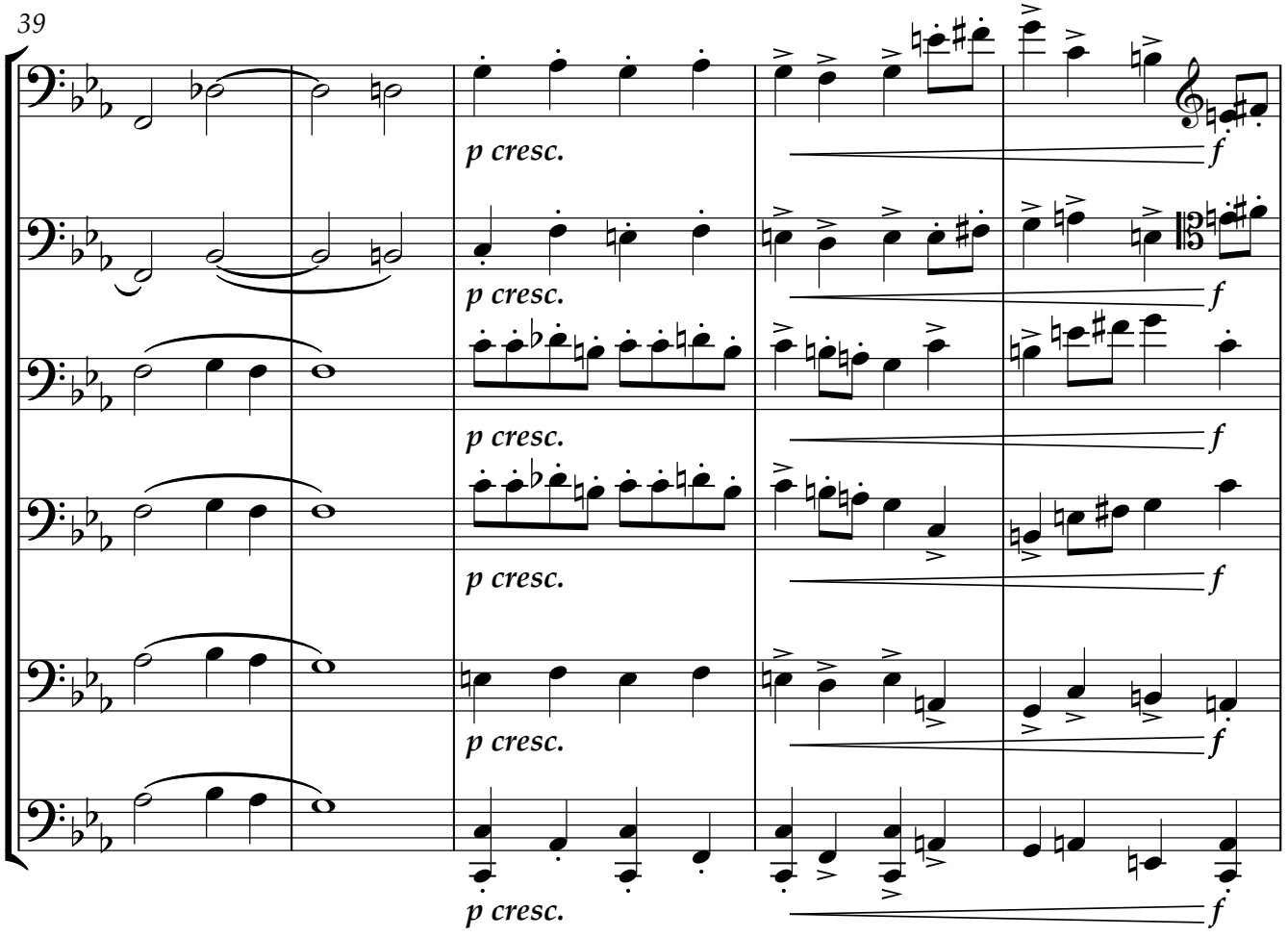

5
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
10
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

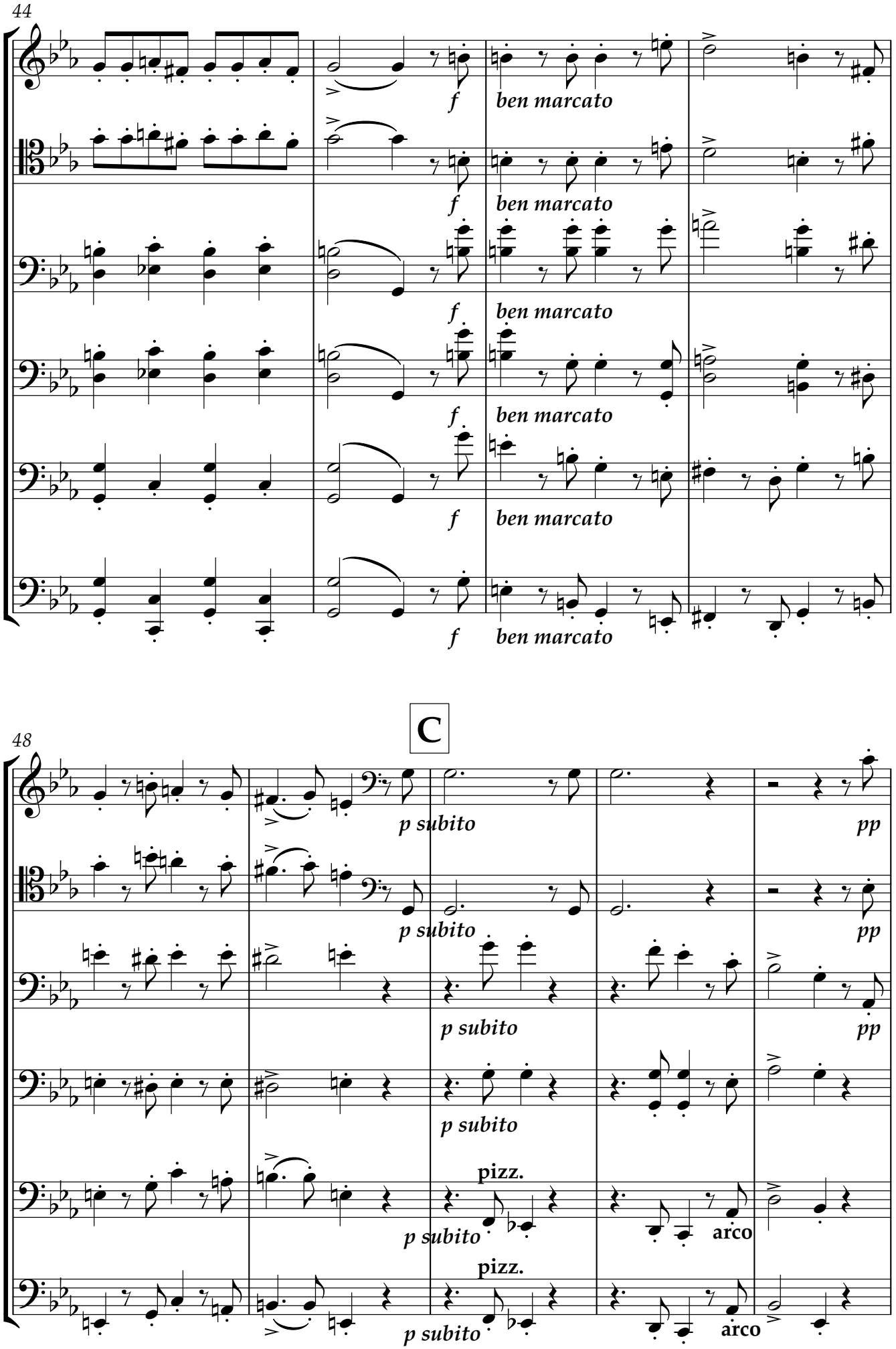

A
14
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pp
6
18
pizz.
(L H)
arco

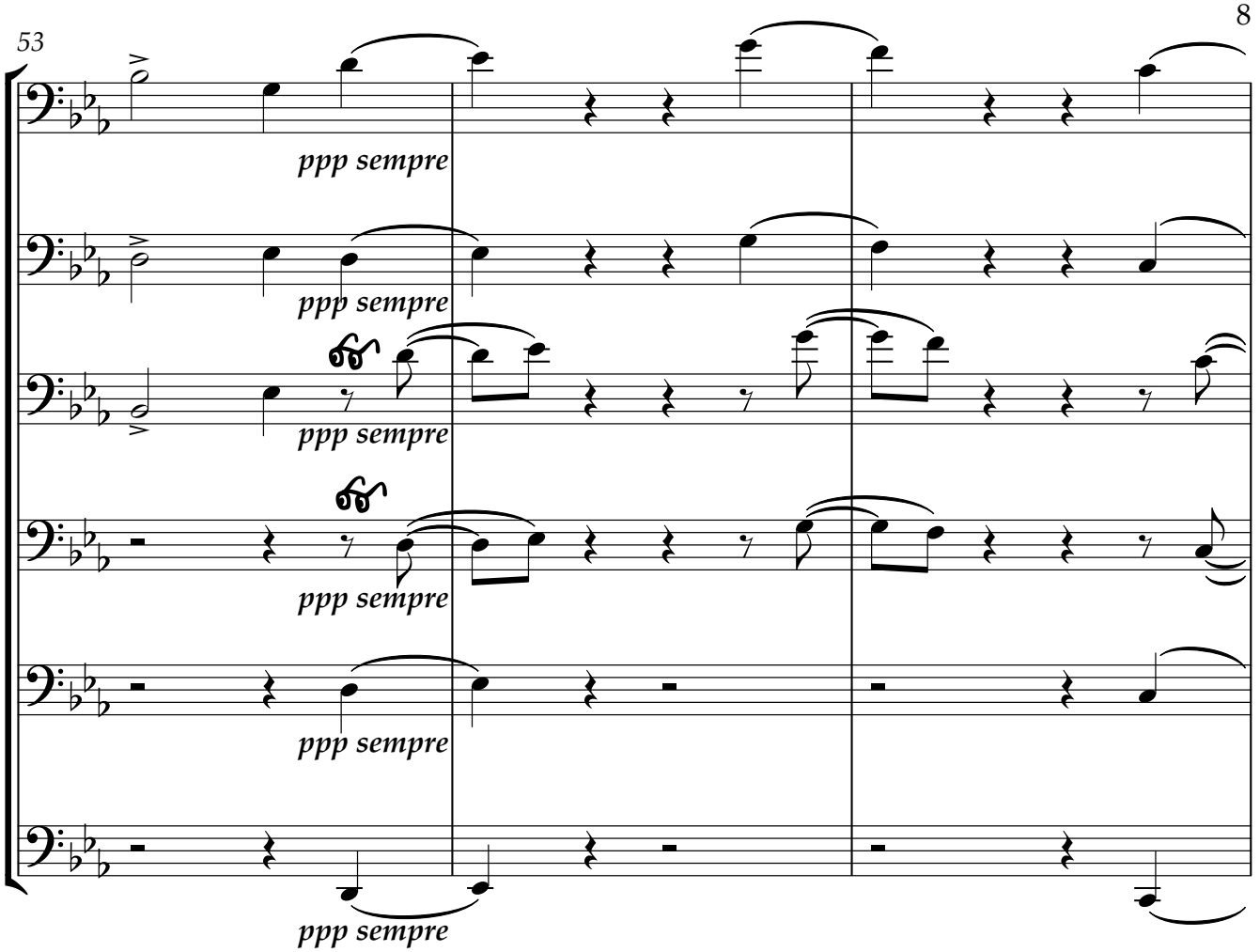

22
B
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pp
pp
Soli
p
Soli
p
p
p

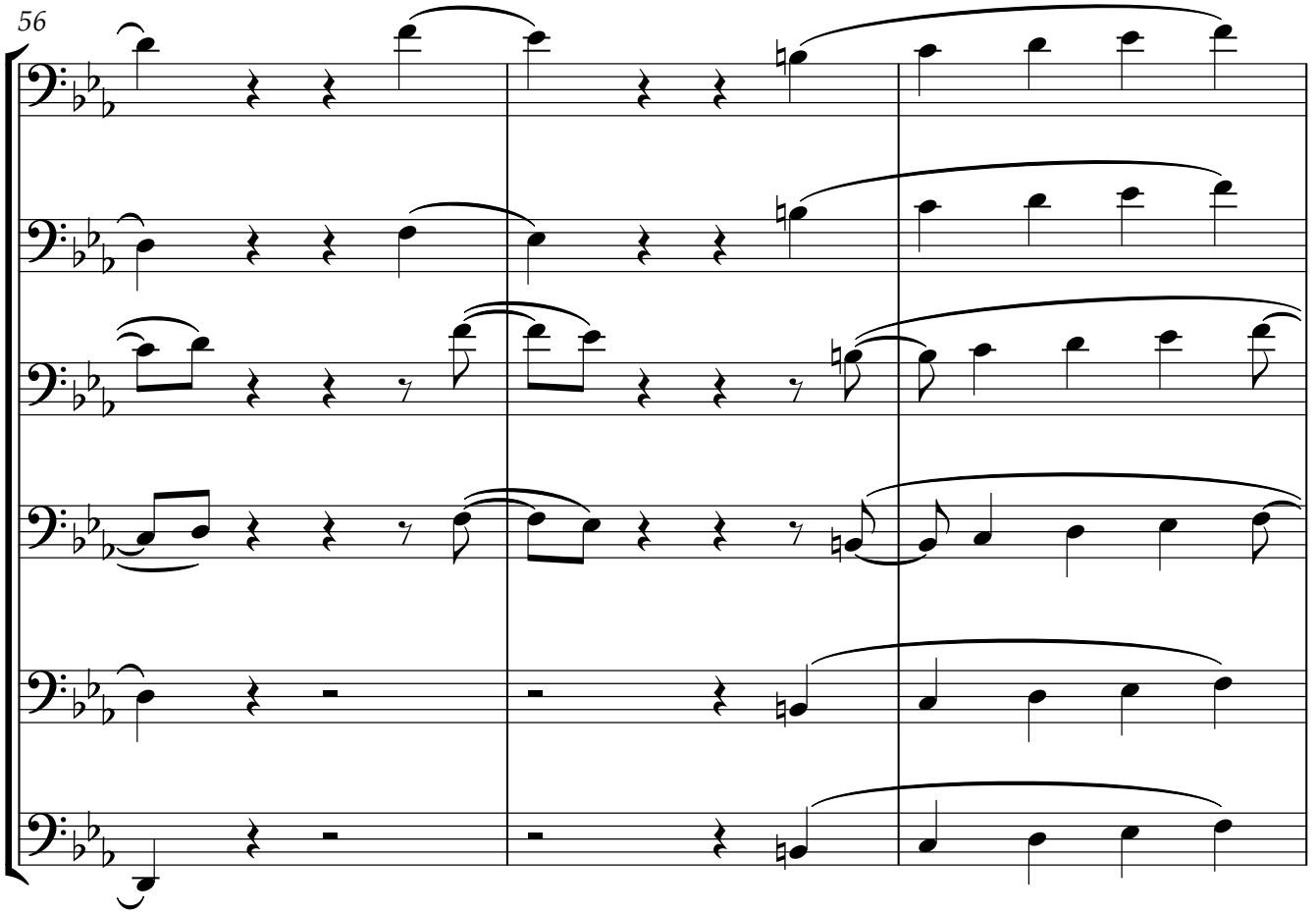

27
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
Soli
Soli

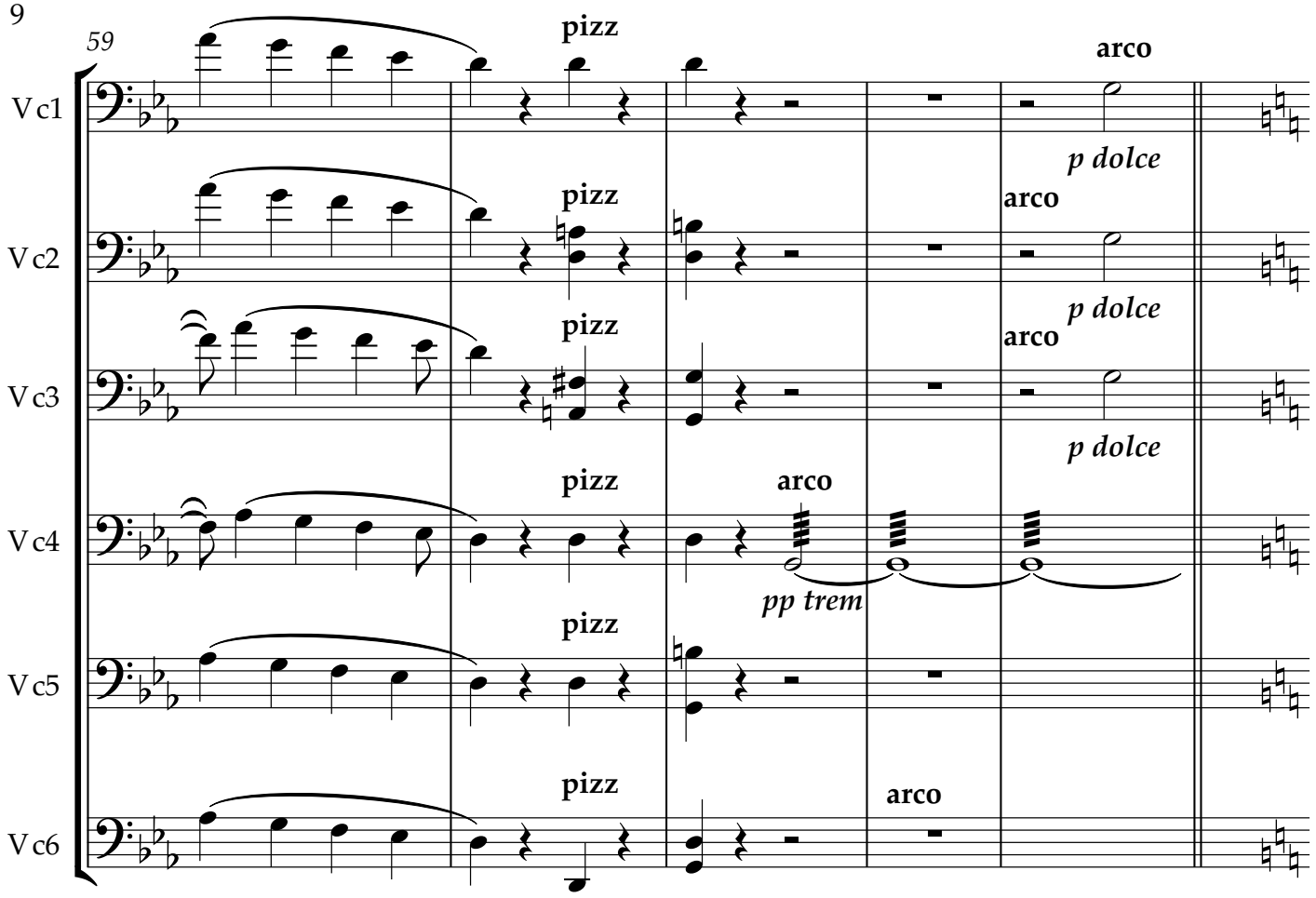

33
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pp


39
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
p cresc.
f

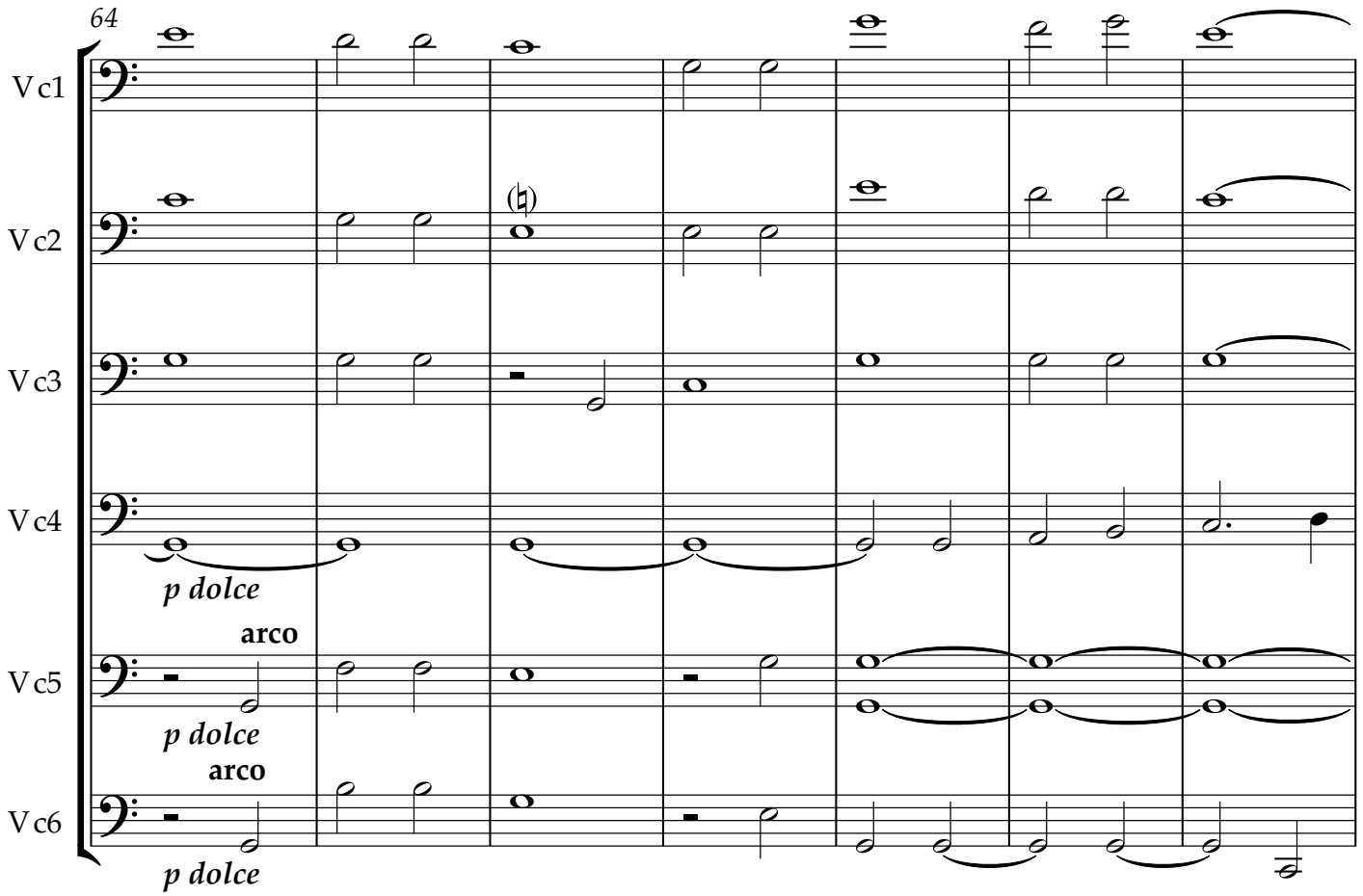

44
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
f
ben marcato
C
48
p subito
pp
pizz.
arco

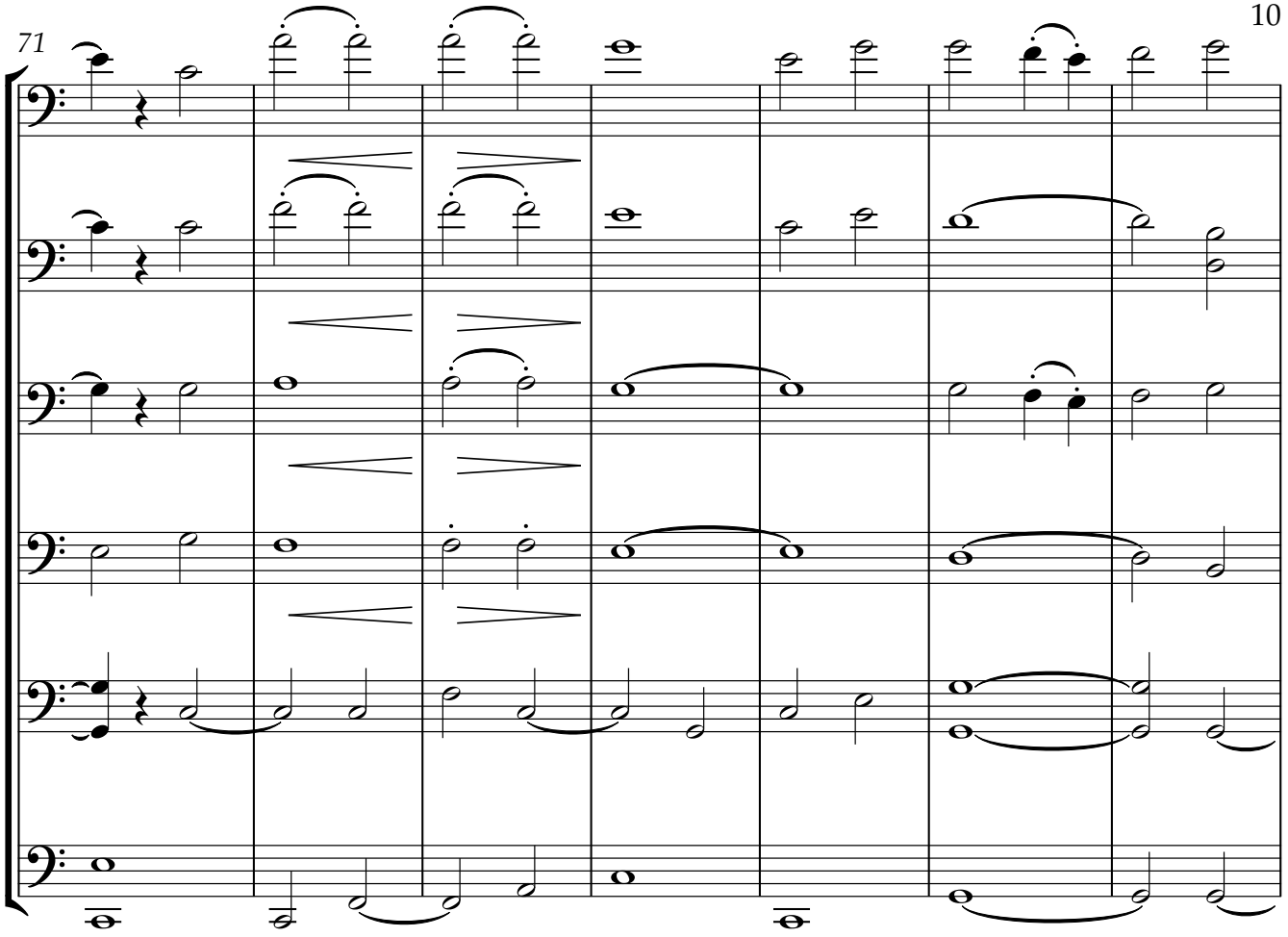

53
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
ppp sempre
ppp sempre
ppp sempre
ppp sempre
ppp sempre
ppp sempre

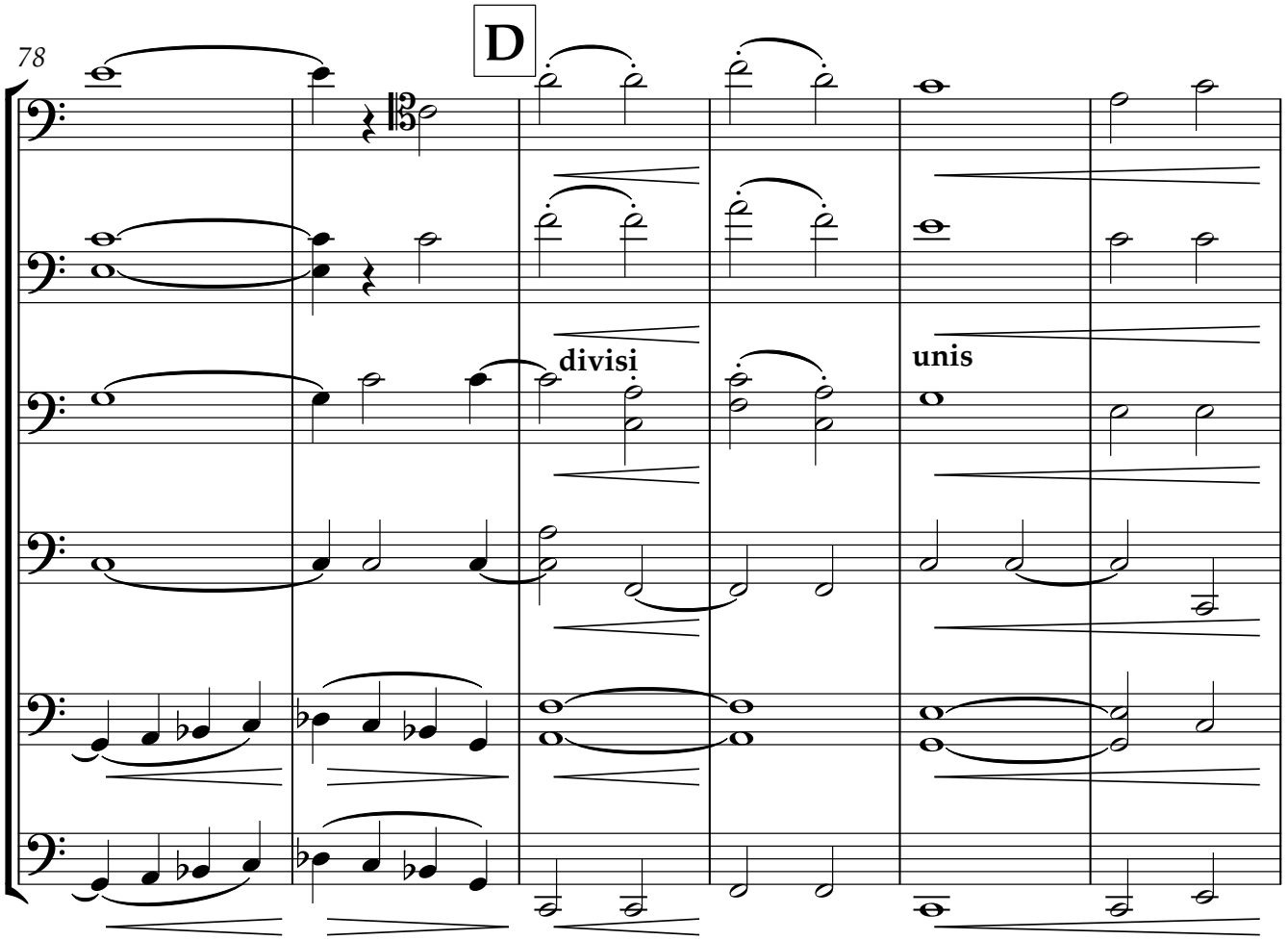

56
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

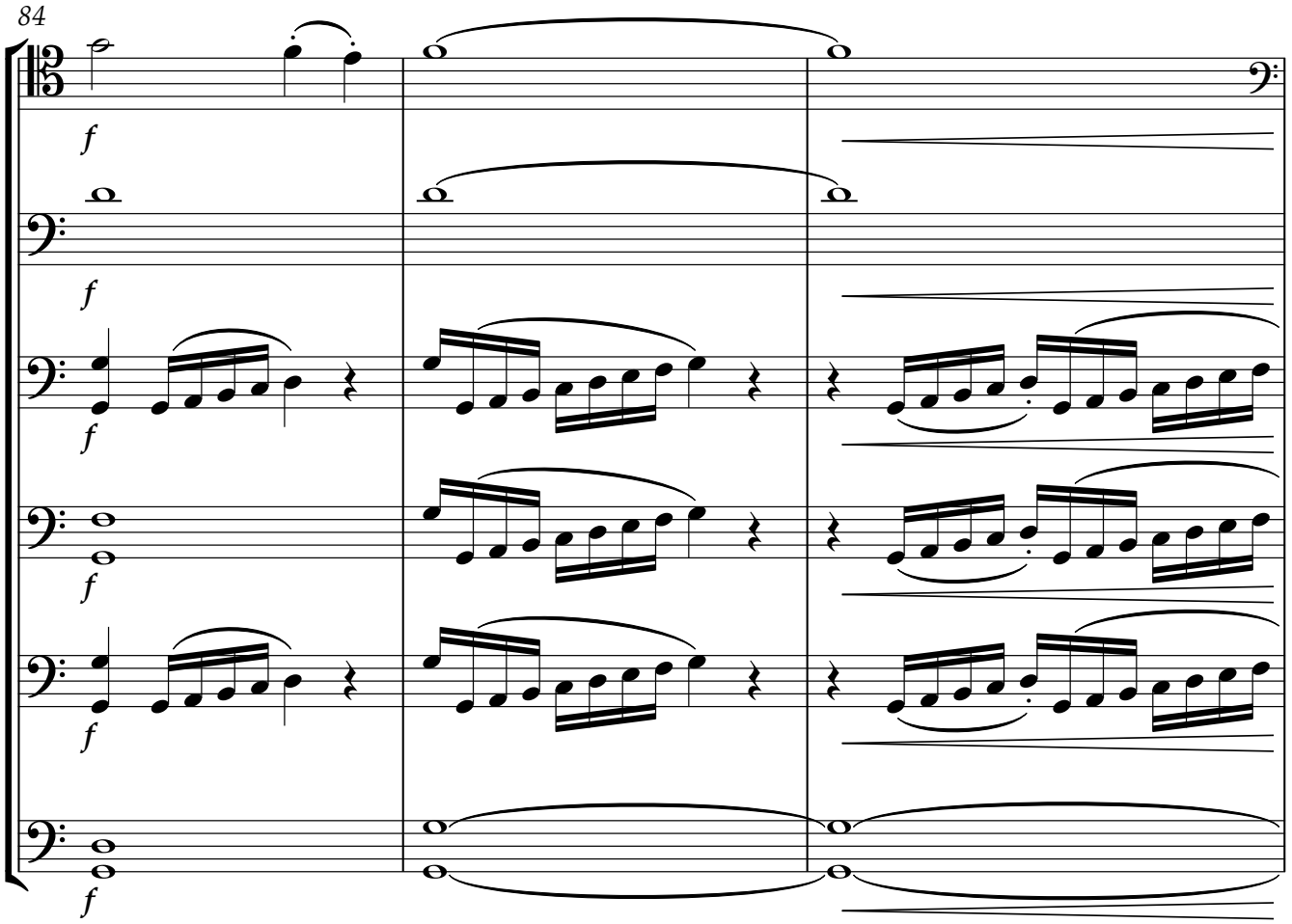


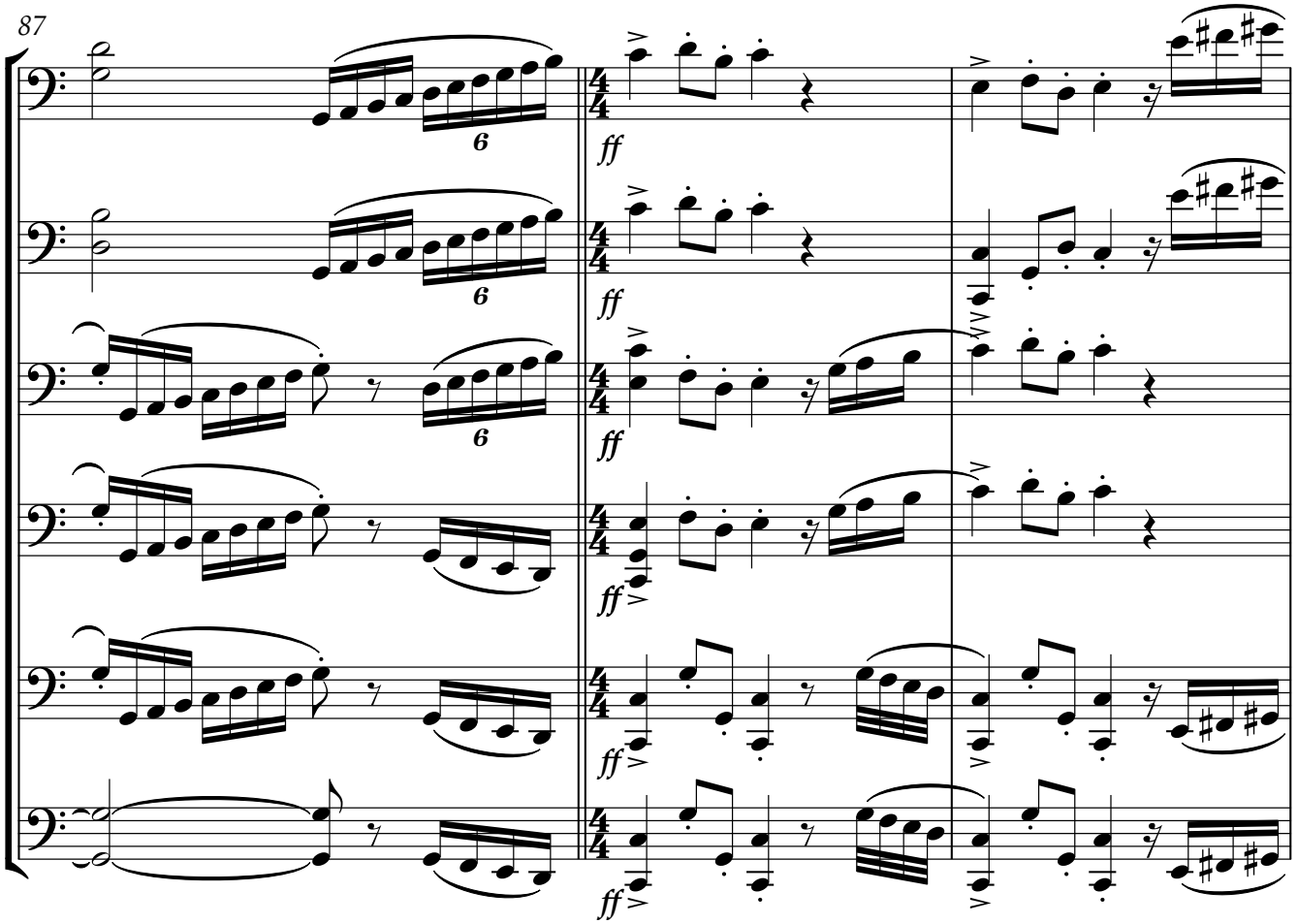
Student song: WIR HATTEN GEBAUET EIN STATTLICHES HAUS (WE HAVE BUILT A STATELY HOME)

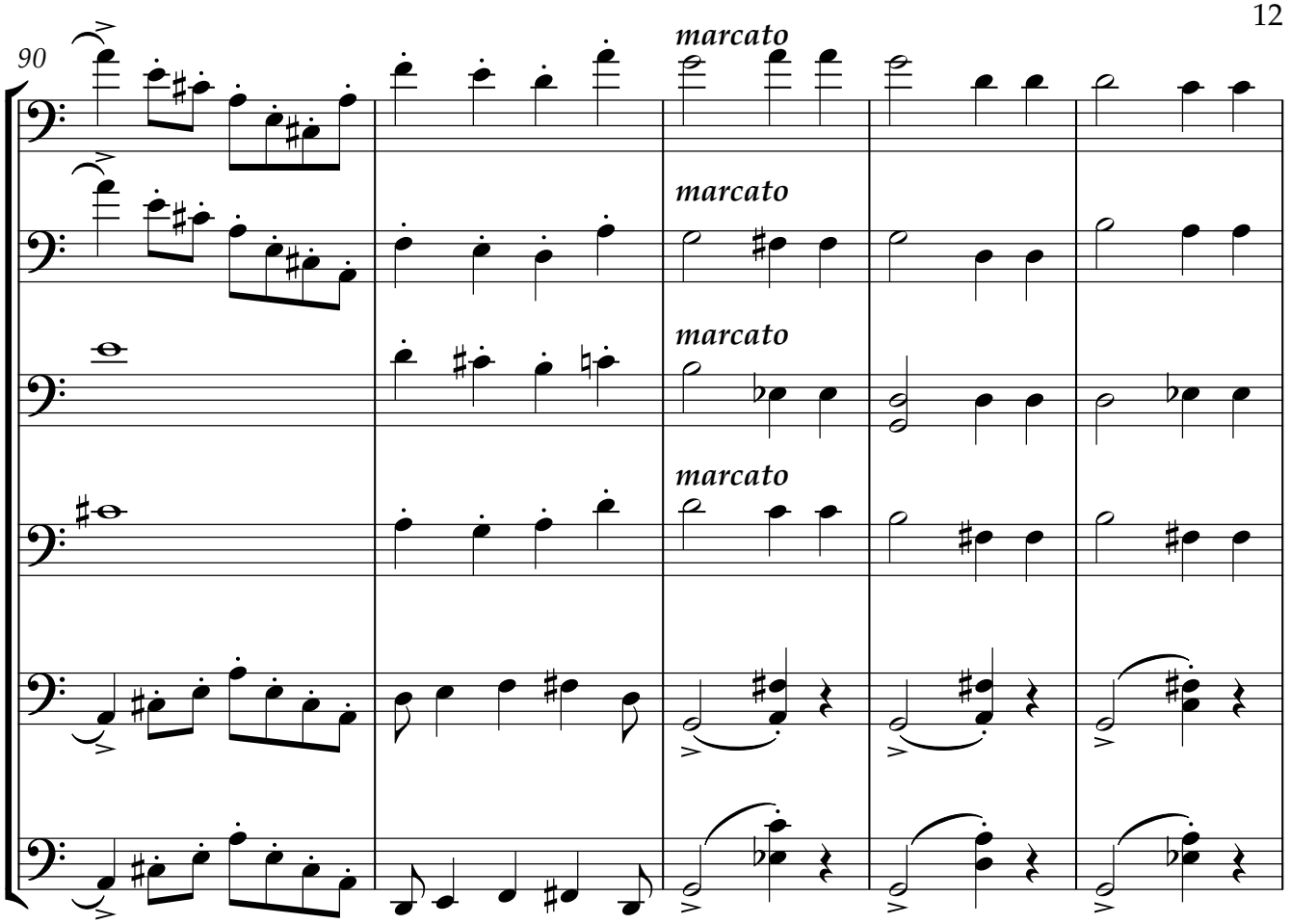


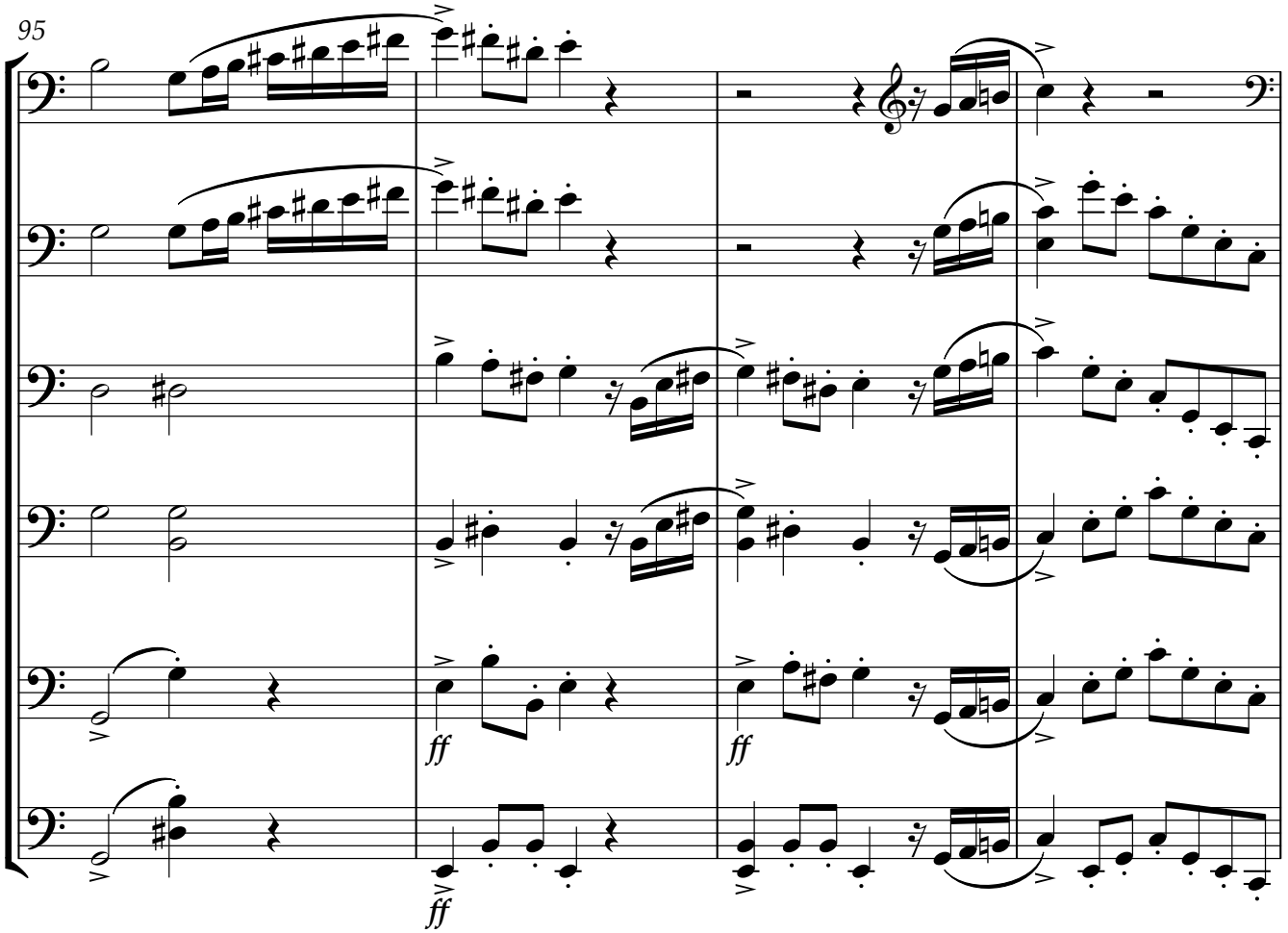

71
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

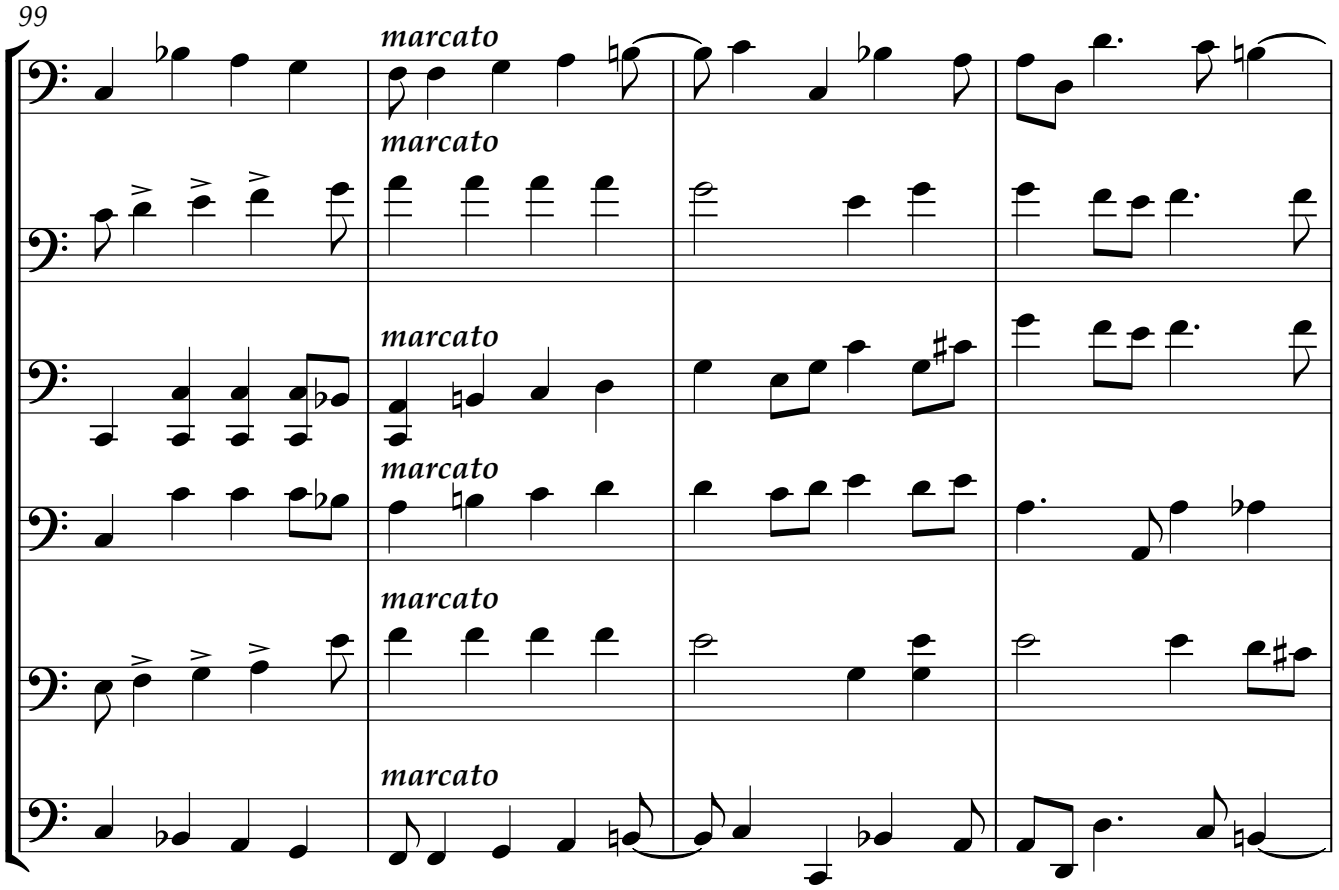

78
D
Vc1
Vc2
divisi
unis
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

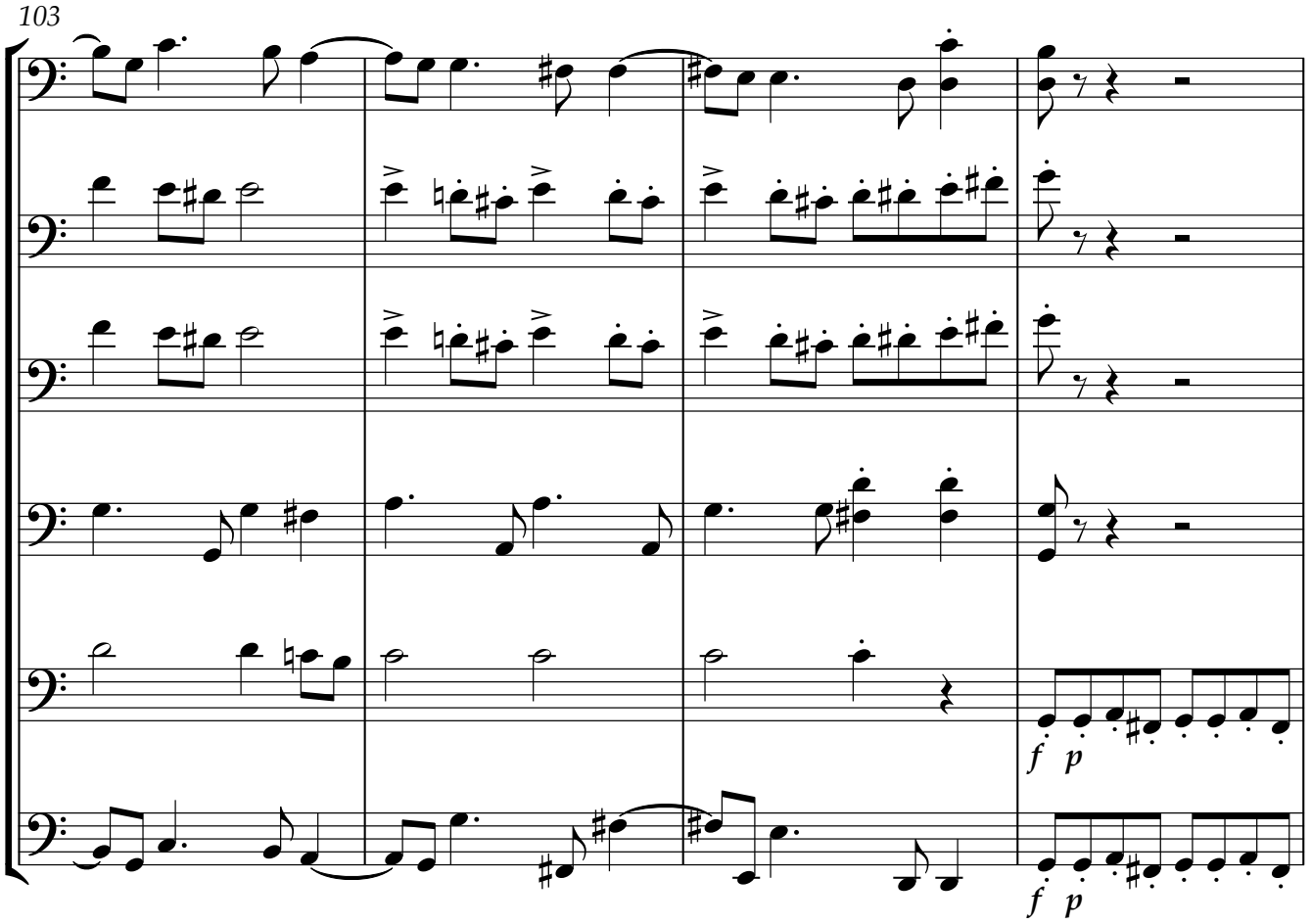

84
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
f

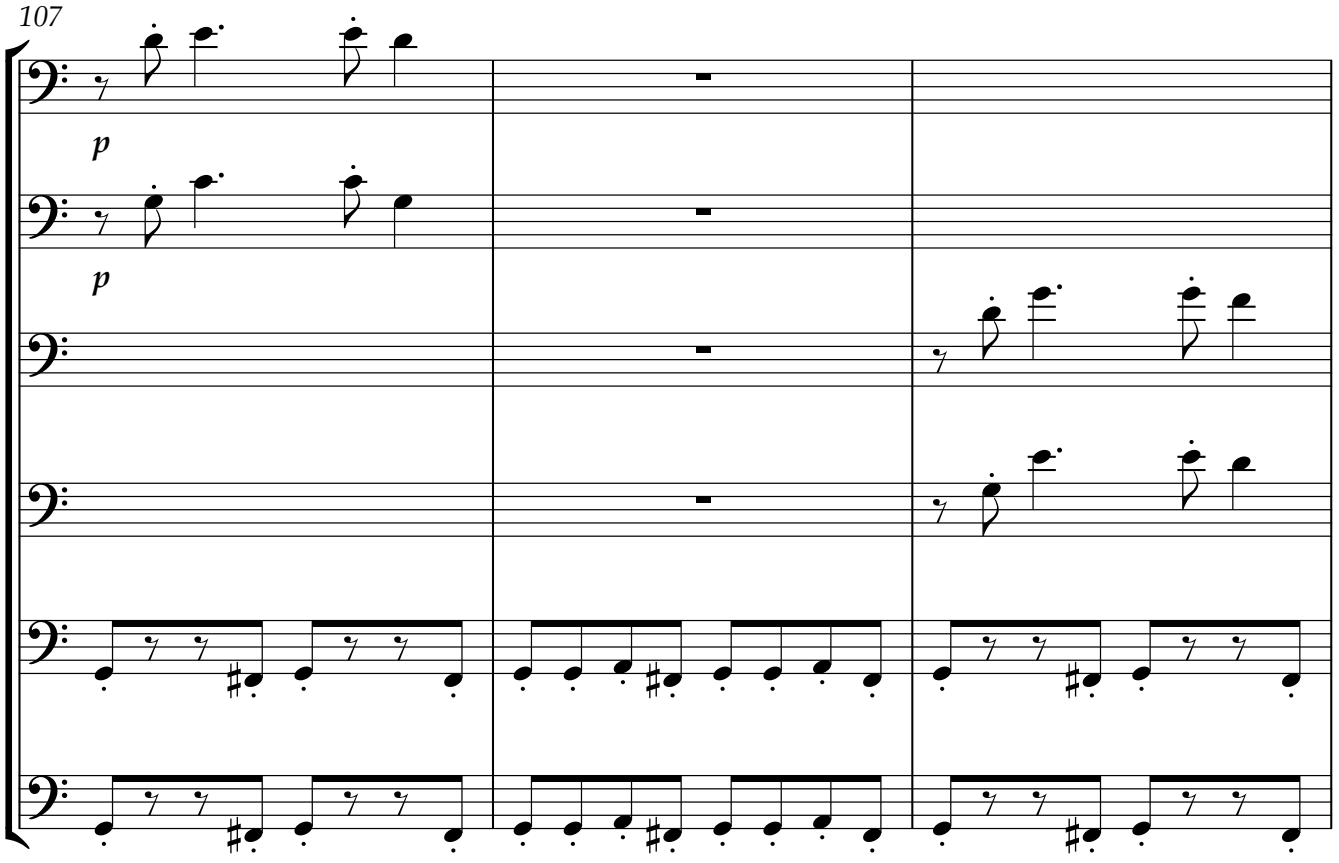

87
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
6
ff

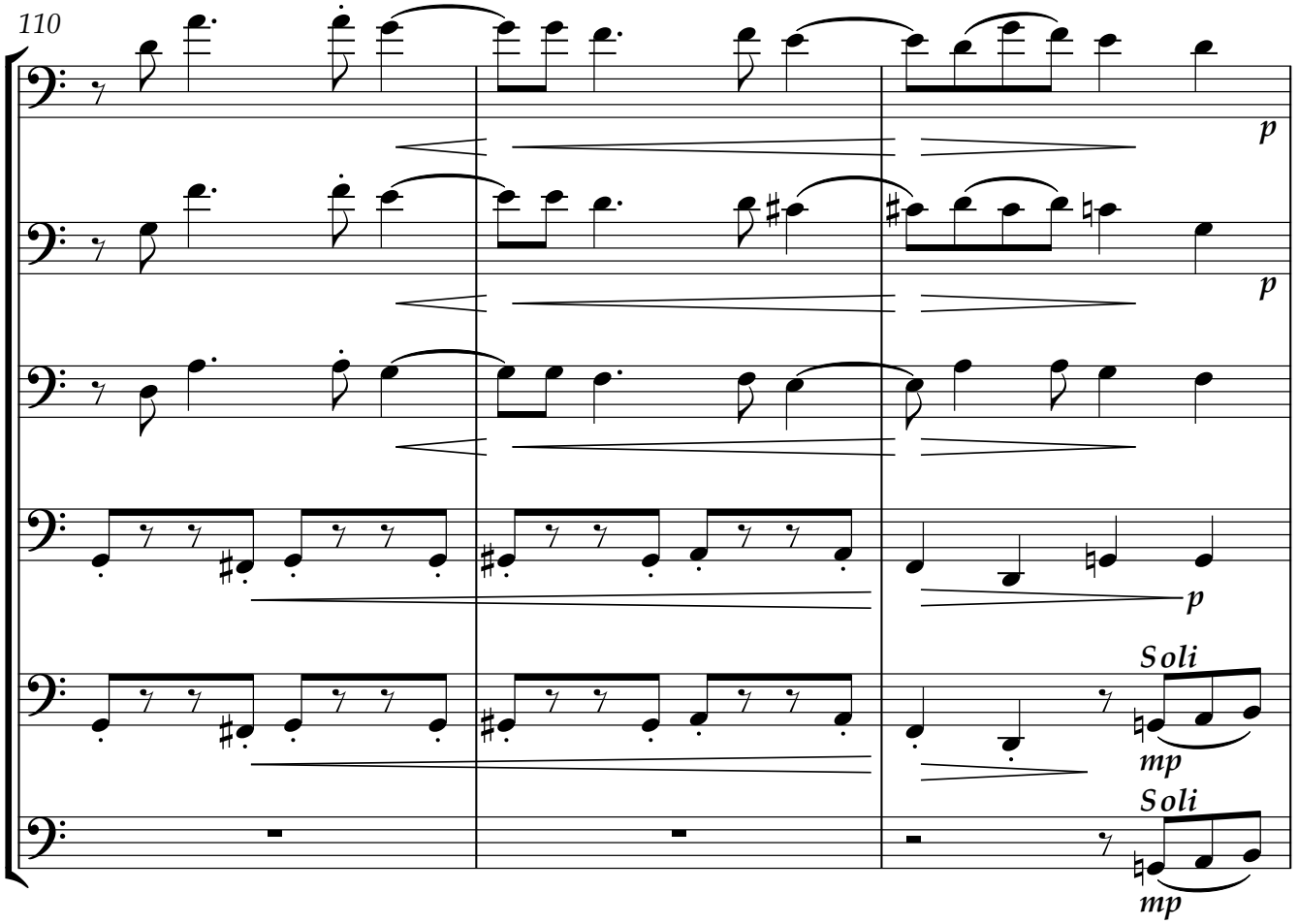

90
marcato
marcato
marcato
marcato
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

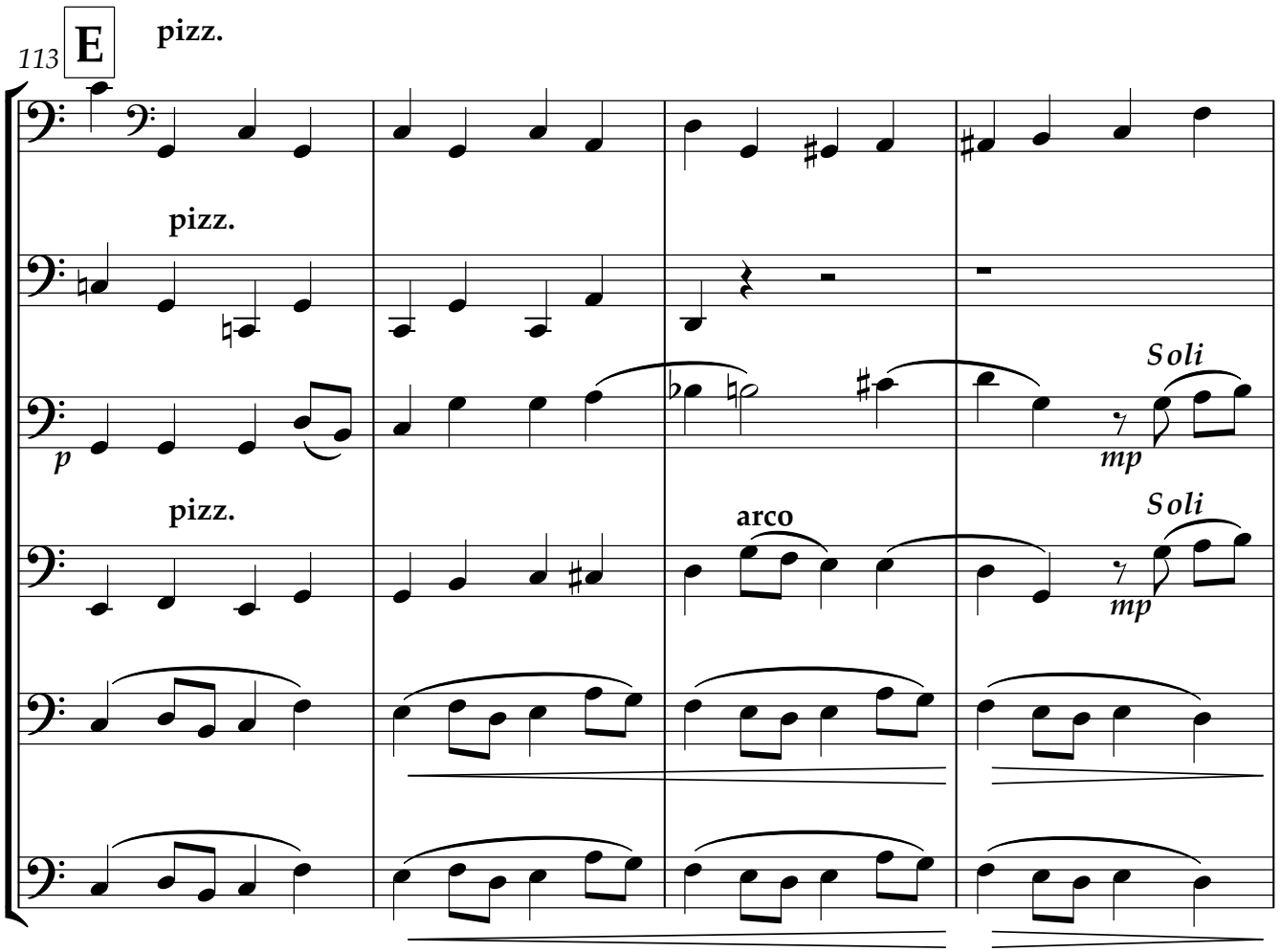

95
ff
ff
ff
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

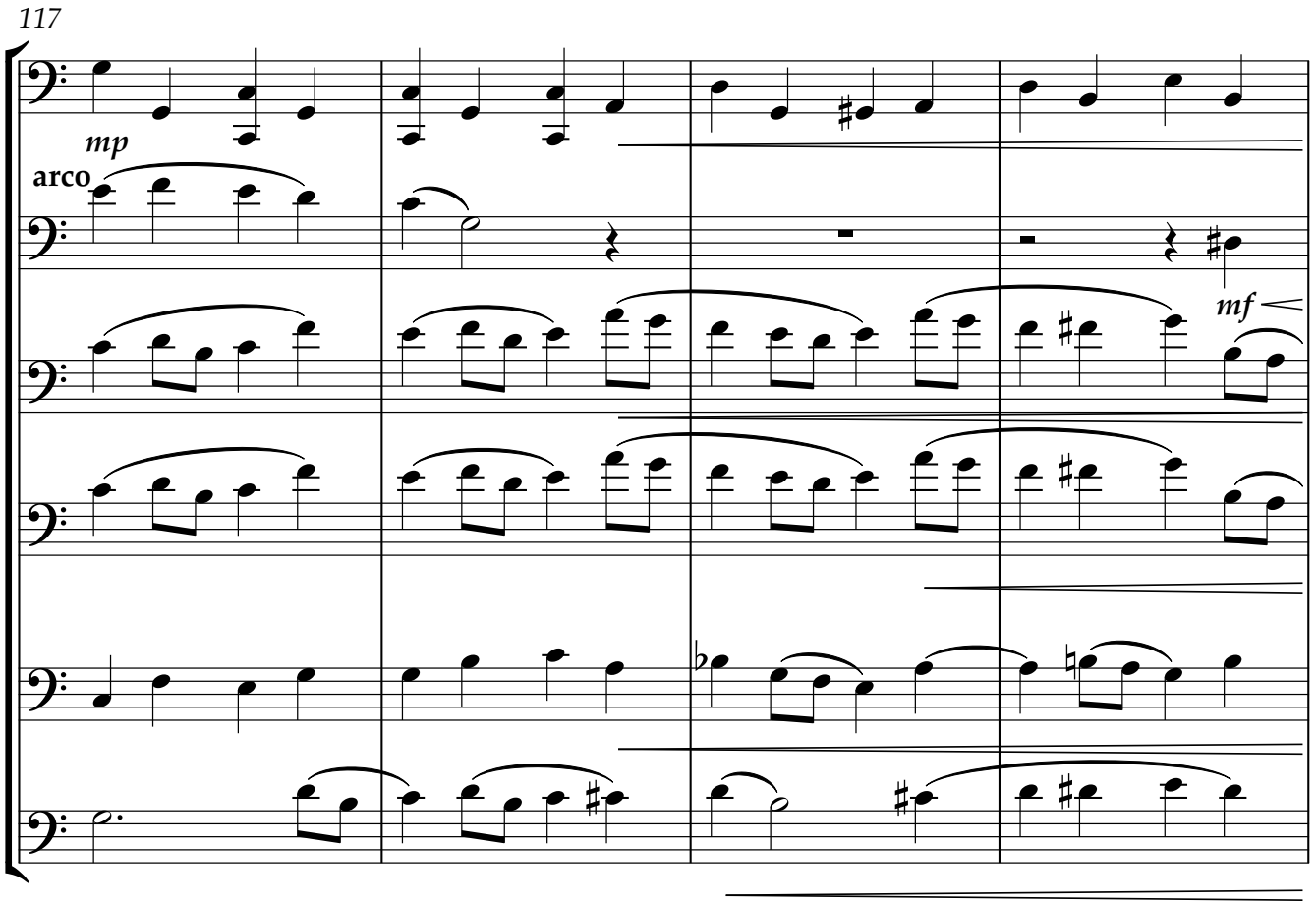

99
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
marcato
marcato
marcato
marcato
marcato
marcato

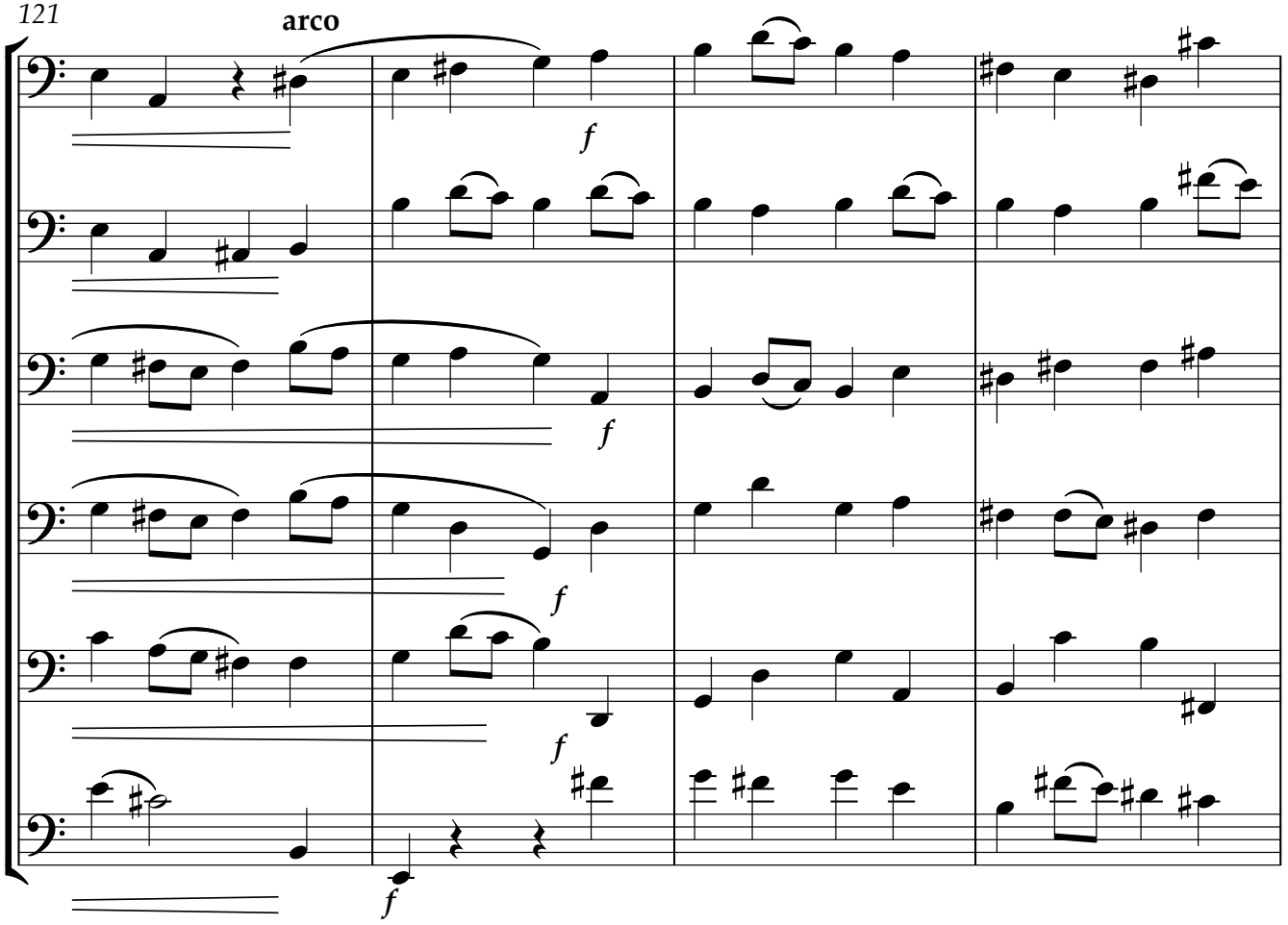

103
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
f p
f p

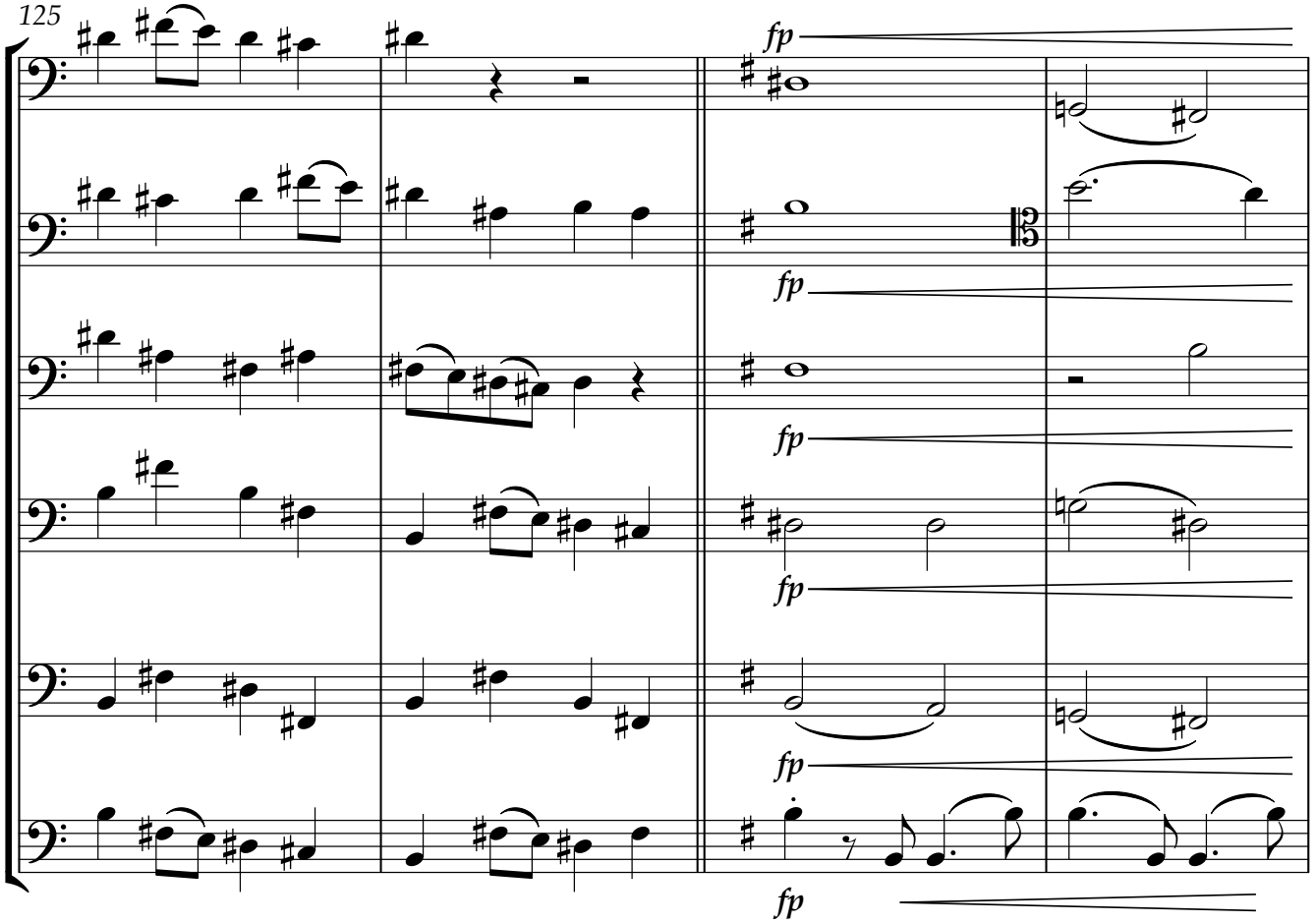

107
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
p
p


110
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
p
p
p
Soli
mp
Soli
mp

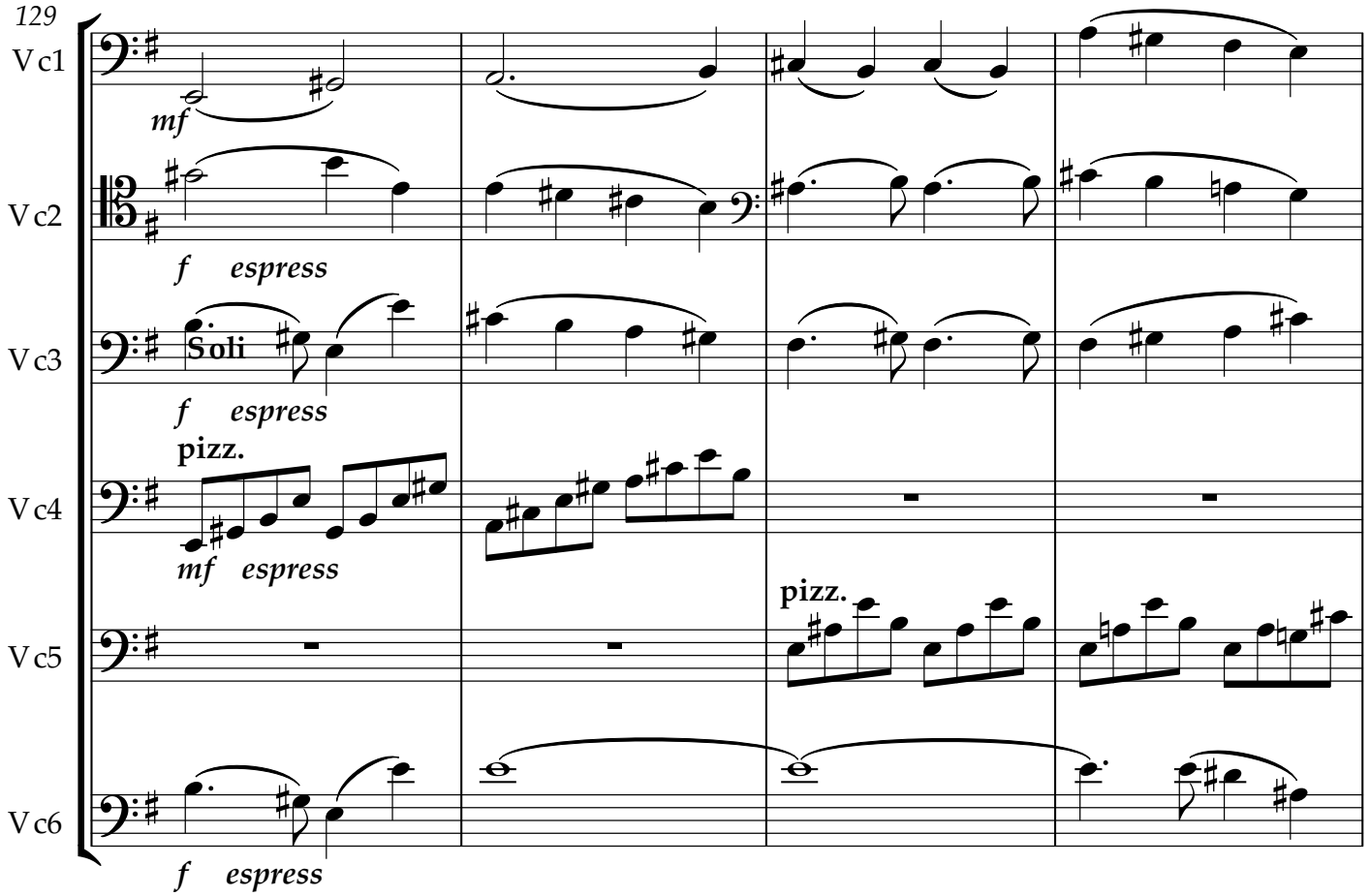

E
pizz.
113
Vc1
pizz.
Vc2
Soli
Vc3
p
mp
pizz.
arco
Soli
Vc4
mp
Vc5
Vc6

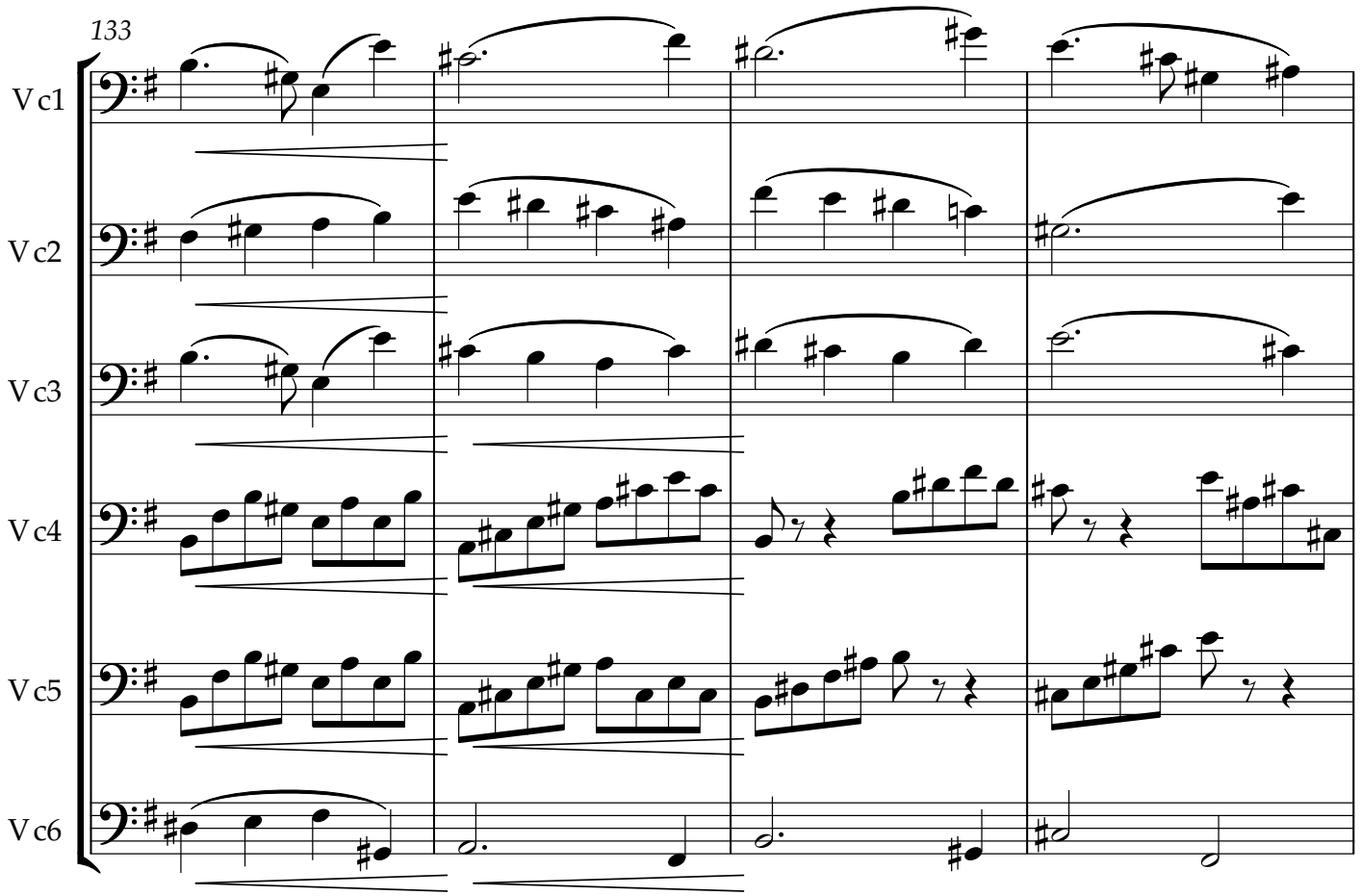

117
Vc1
mp
arco
Vc2
mf
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

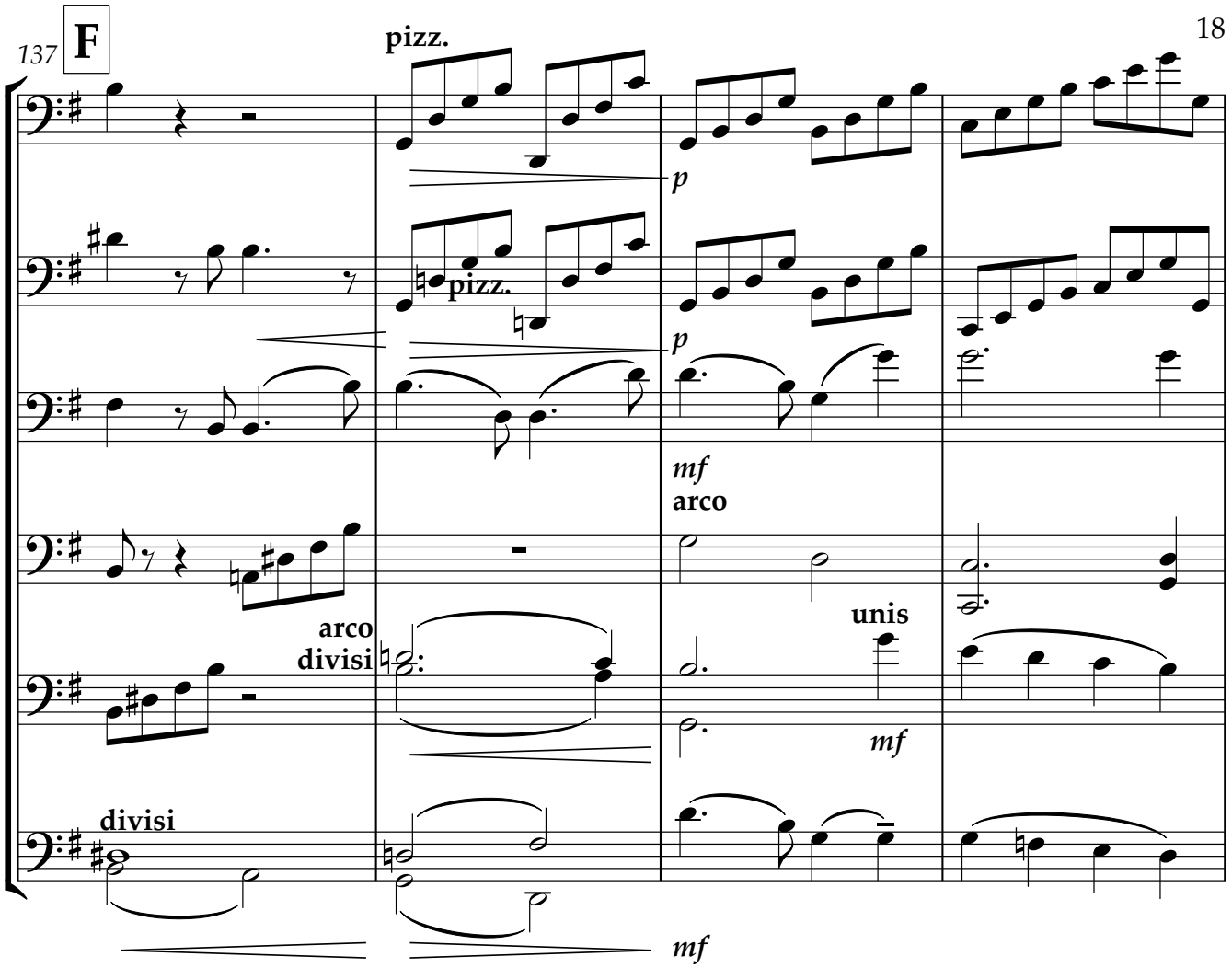

121
arco
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
f

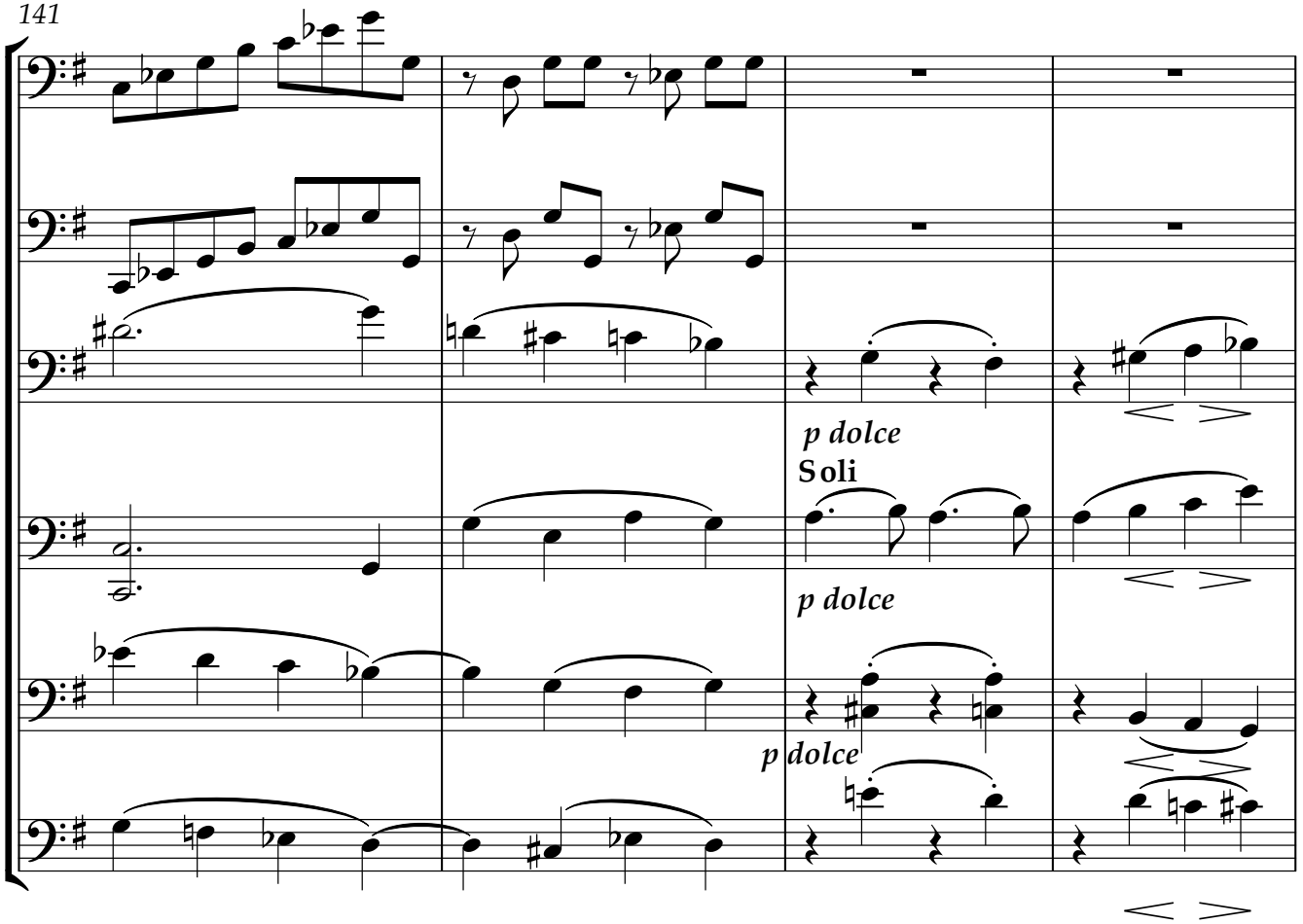

125
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
fp

Student song: Chorus of DER LANDESVATER (COUNTRY OF OUR FATHERS - "Listen, I sing the Song of Songs")






137
F
pizz.
Vc1
Vc2
pizz.
Vc3
mf
arco
Vc4
unis
arco
divisi
Vc5
mf
divisi
Vc6
mf


141
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
p dolce
Soli
Vc4
p dolce
Vc5
p dolce
Vc6

arco

145

Vc1

Vc2

arco

Vc3

Vc4

Vc5

Vc6

149

Vc1

p

Vc2

p

pizz.

Vc3

p

pizz.

Vc4

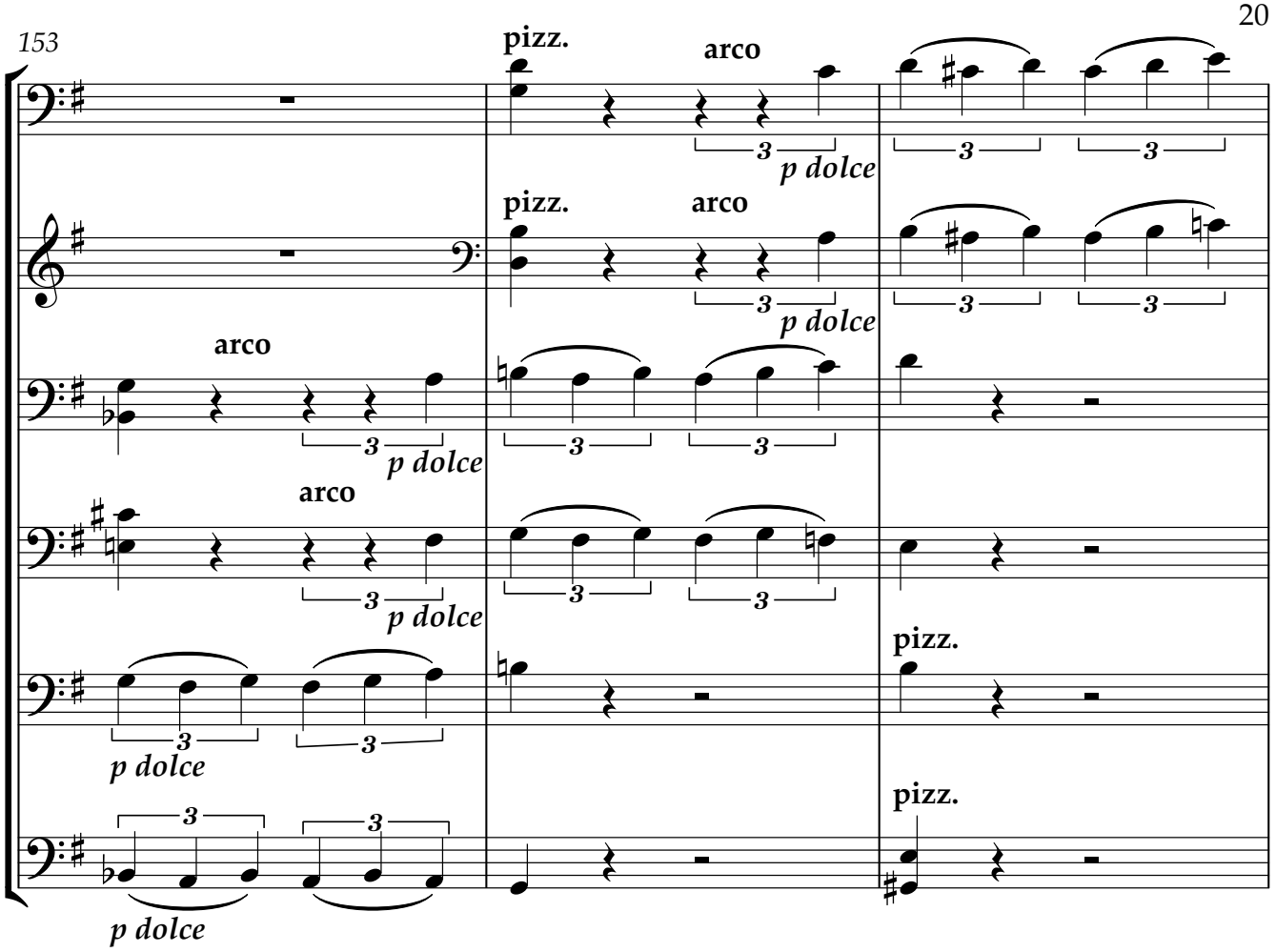
p

Vc5

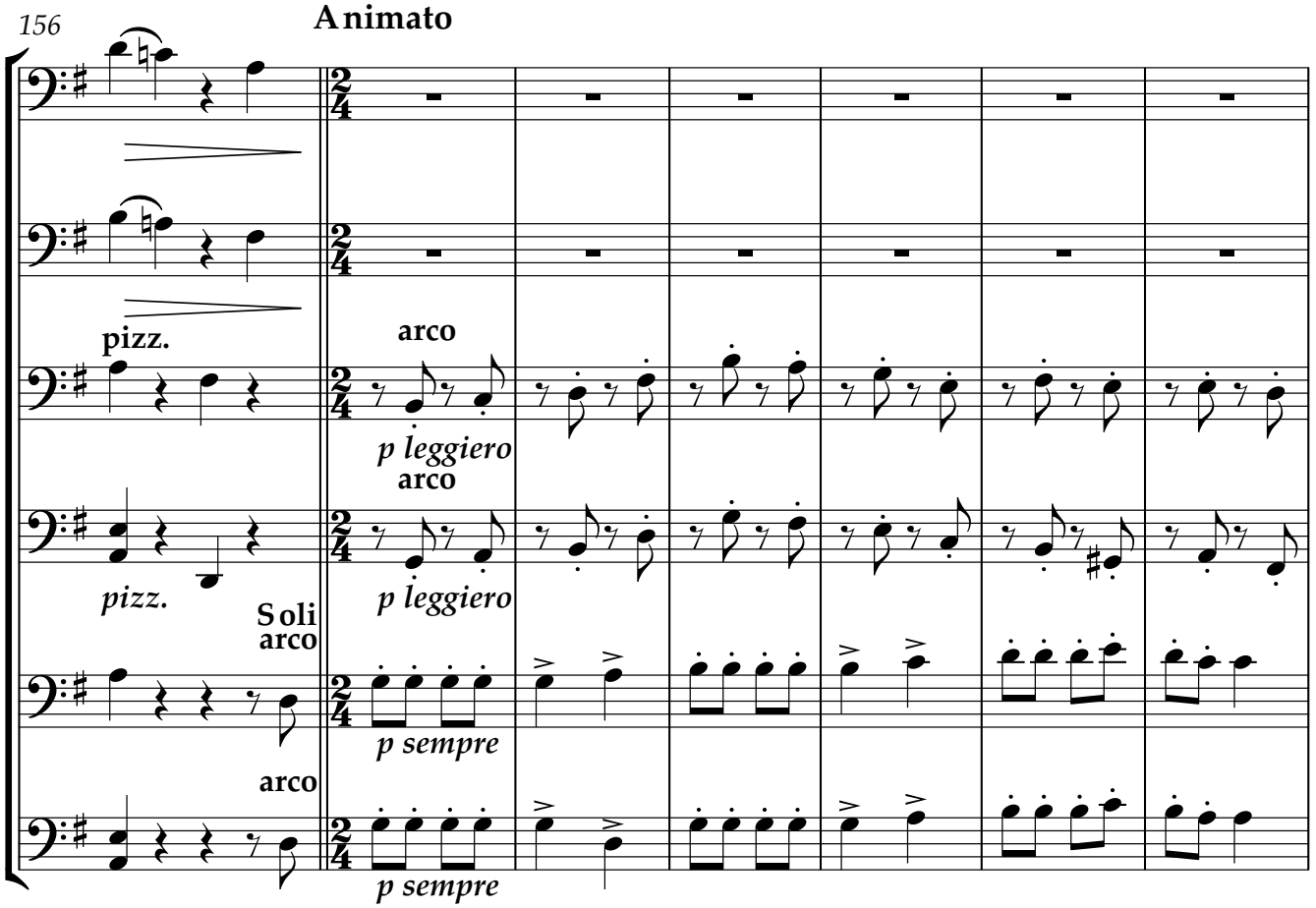
p

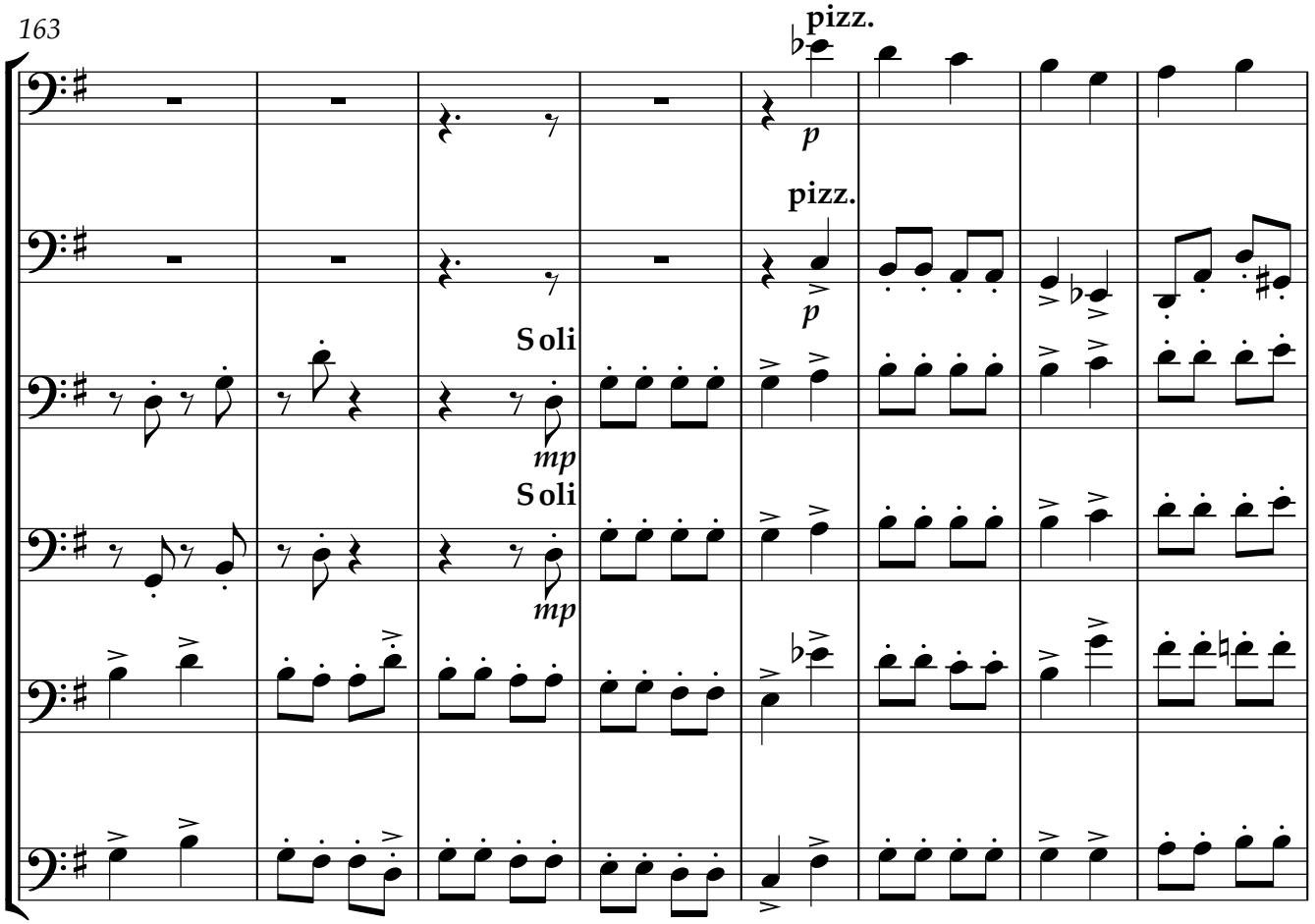
Vc6

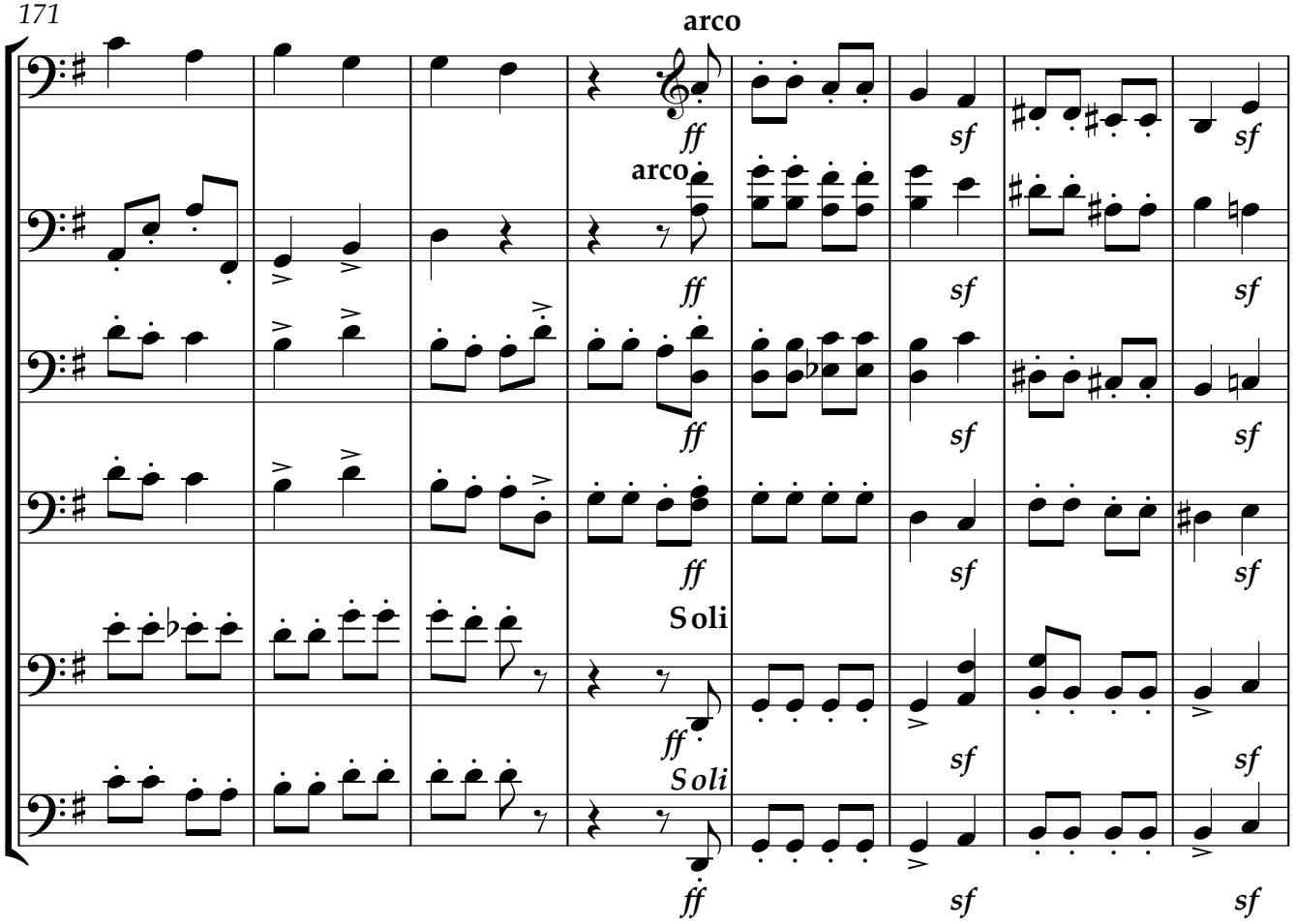
p

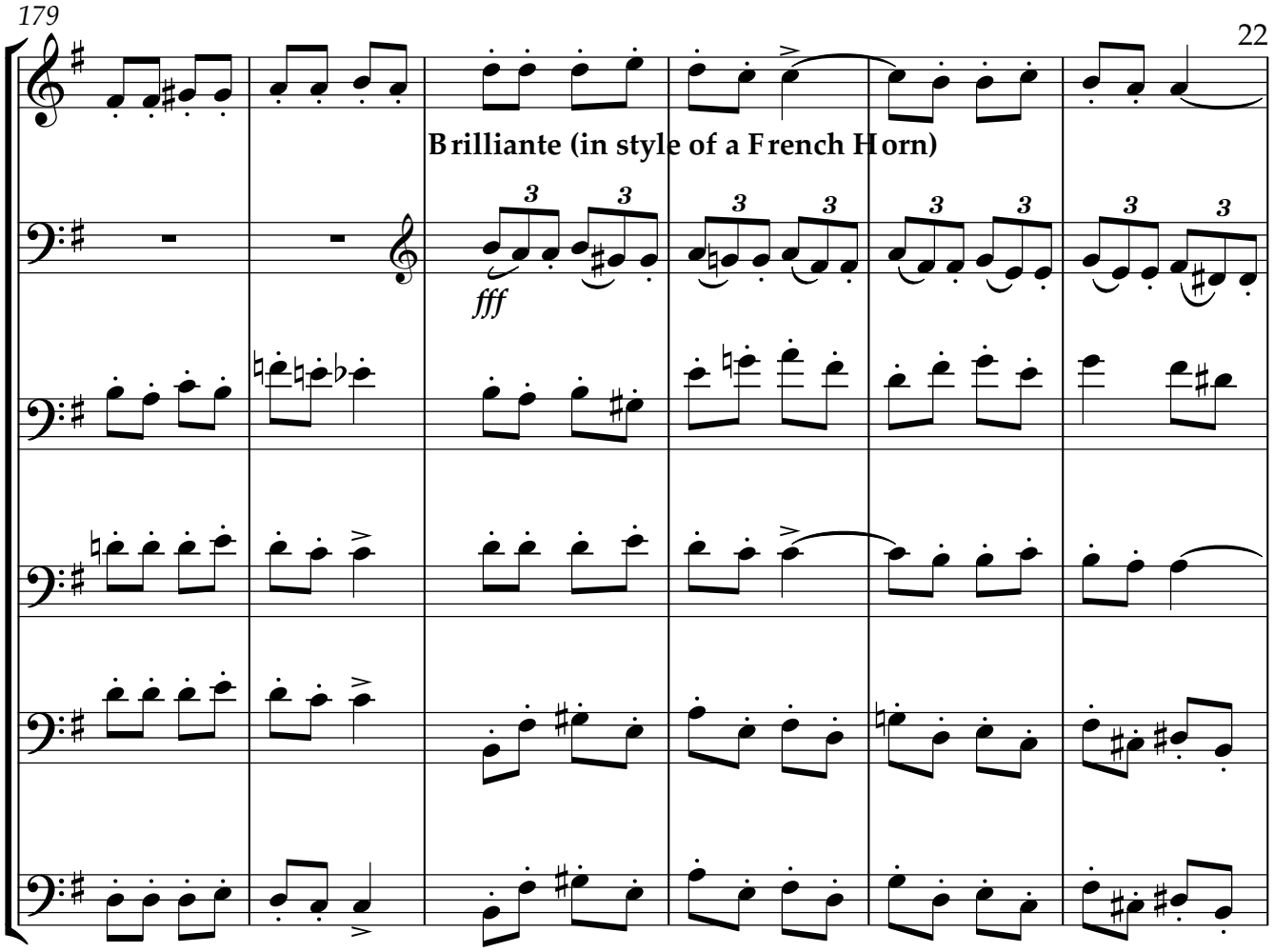


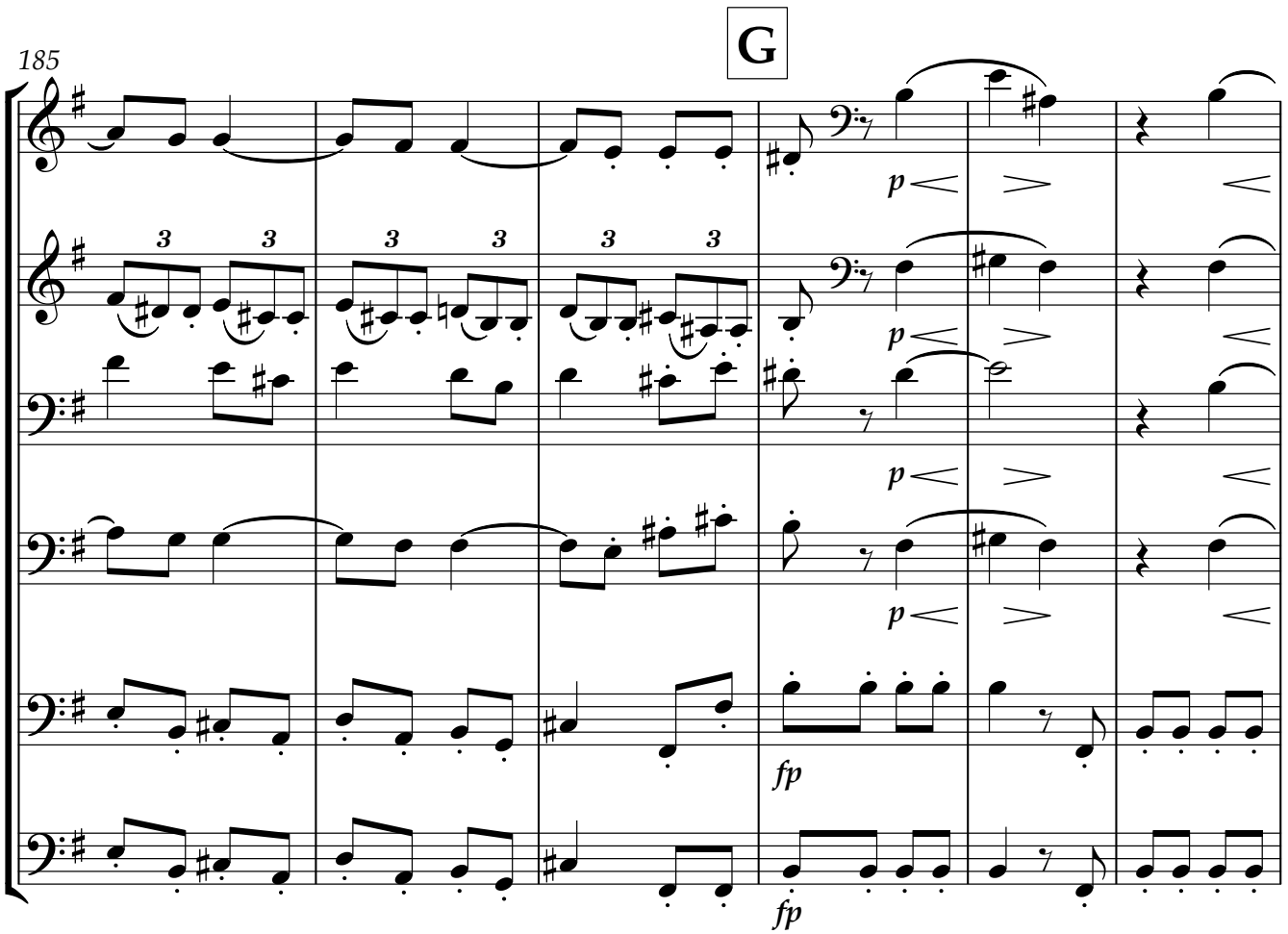
Student song: FUCHSENRITT (FOX RIDE - "What awaits them on high?")

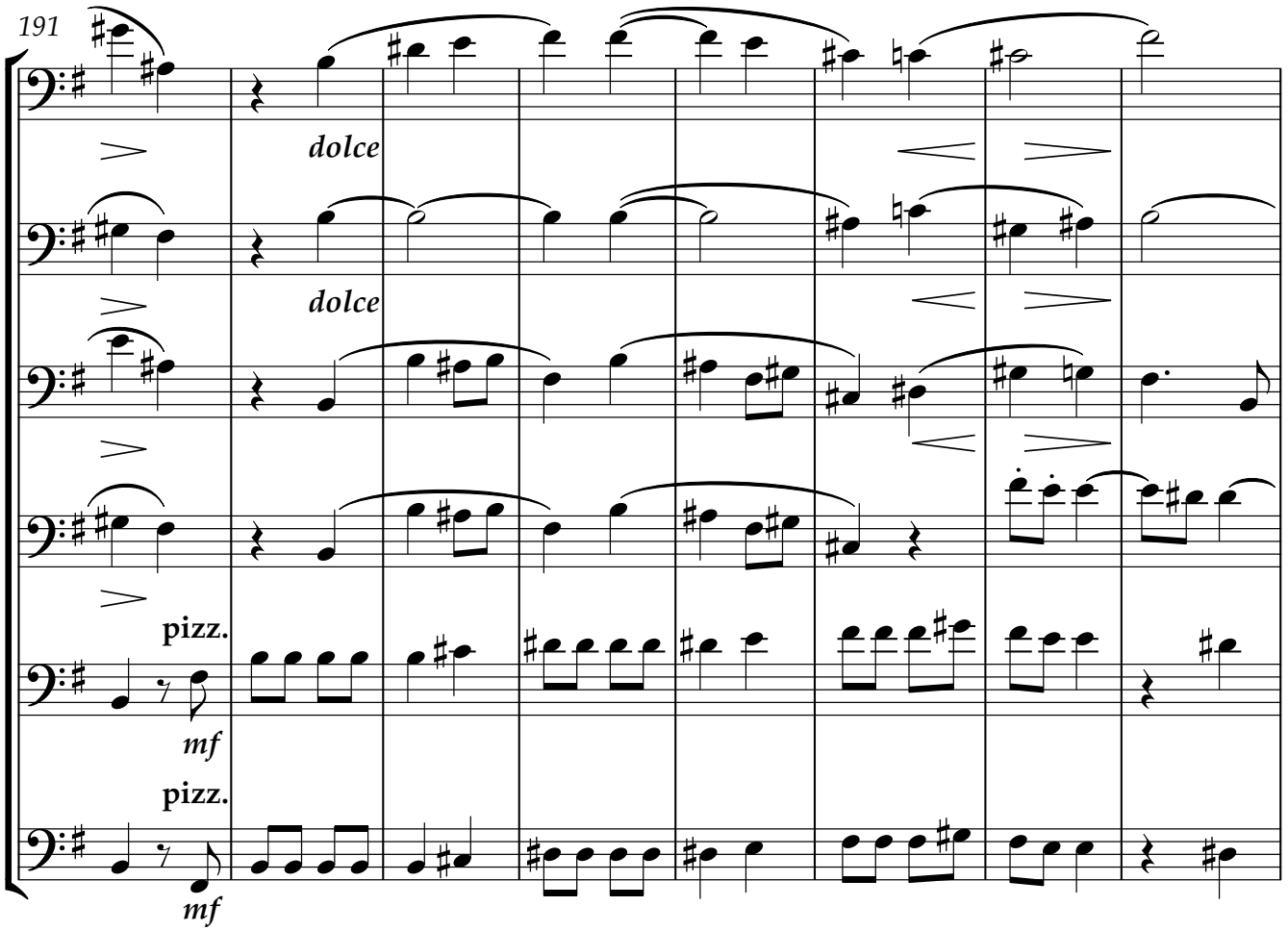


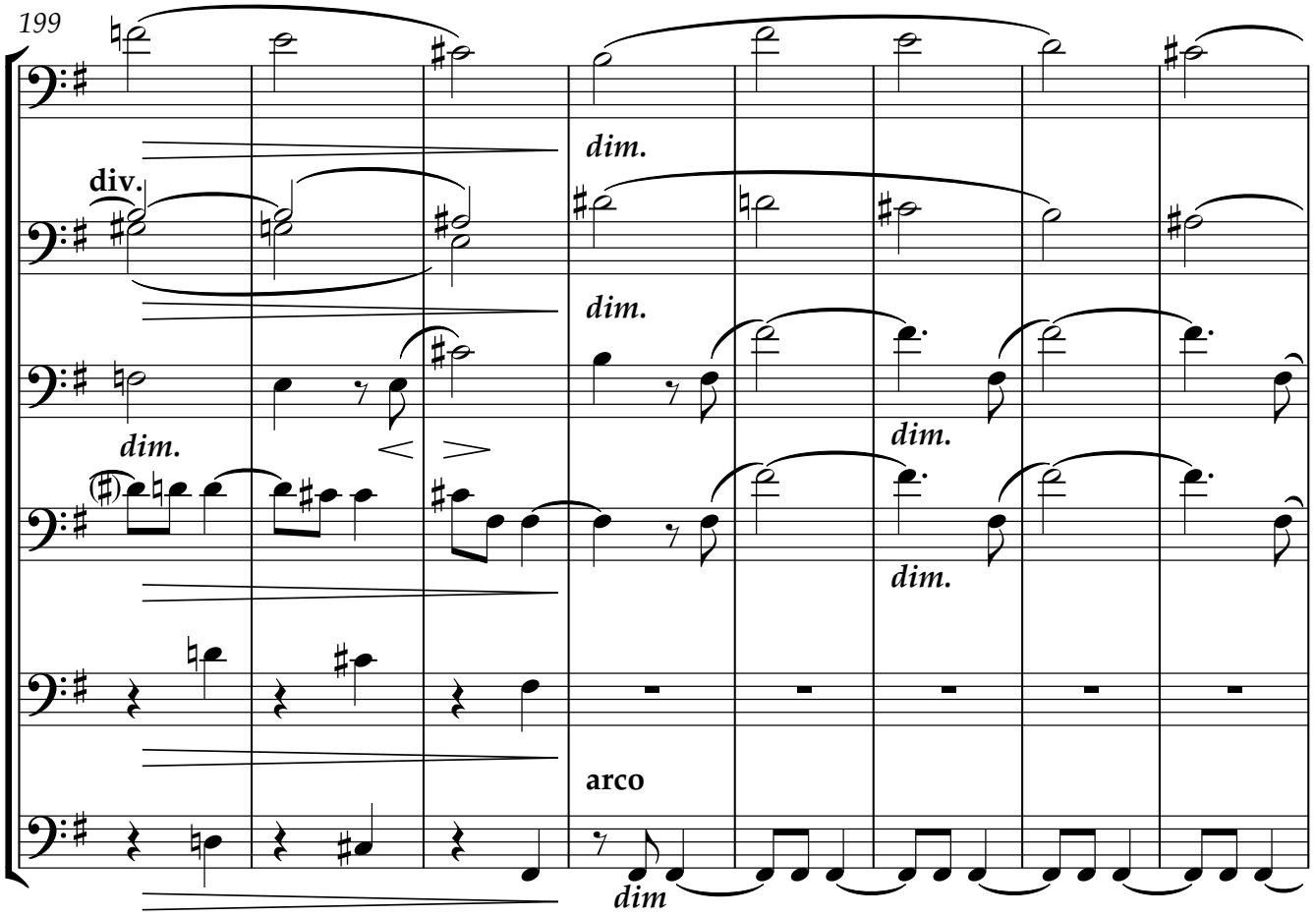

163
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pizz.
p
pizz.
p
Soli
mp
Soli
mp


171
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
arco
ff
sf
arco
ff
sf
ff
sf
ff
sf
Soli
ff
sf
Soli
ff
sf

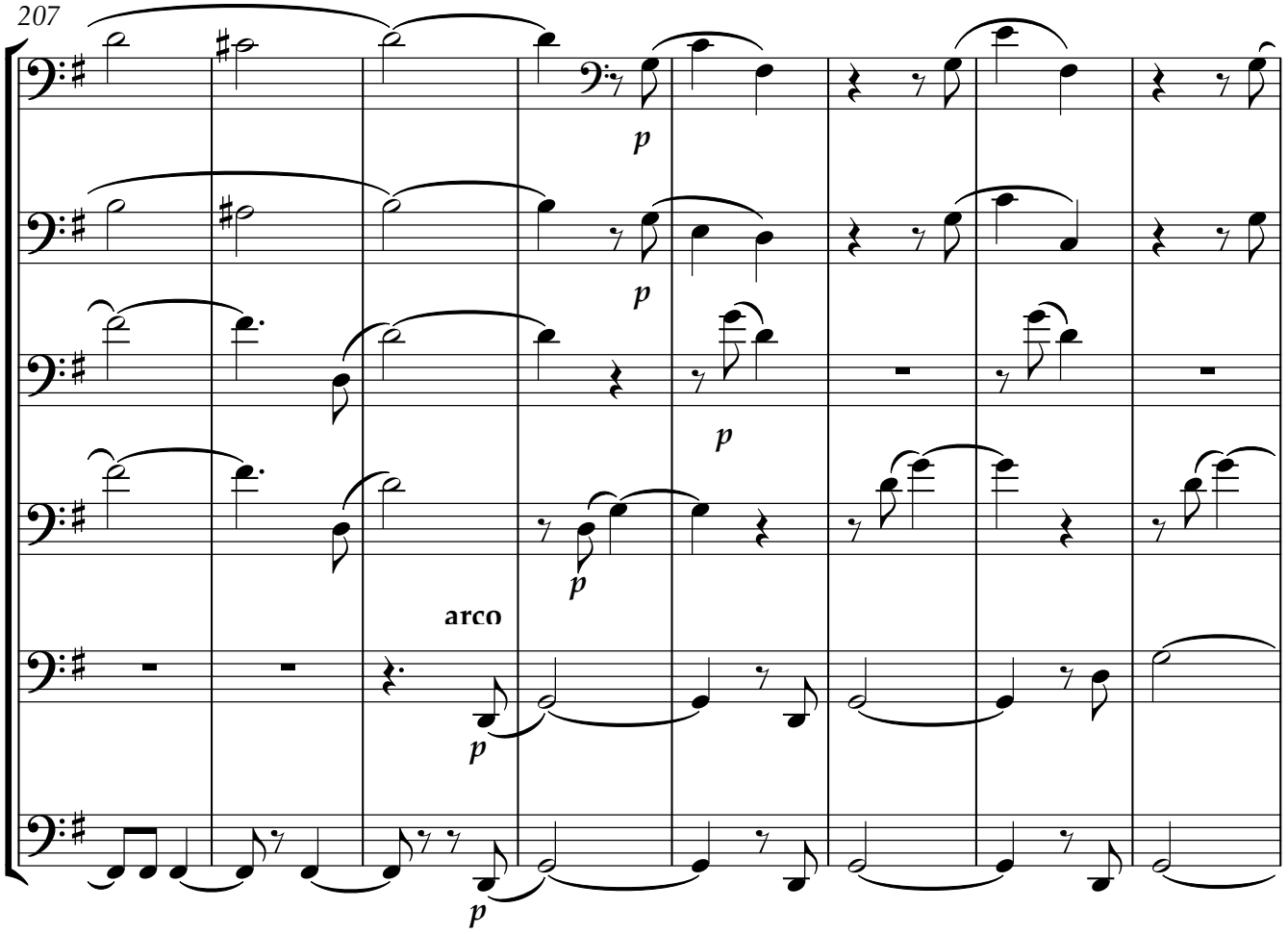

179
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
Brilliante (in style of a French Horn)
fff


185
G
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
p
fp


191
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
dolce
dolce
pizz.
mf
pizz.
mf


199
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
div.
dim.
dim.
dim.
dim.
dim.
dim.
arco

H


207
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Vc3
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Vc6
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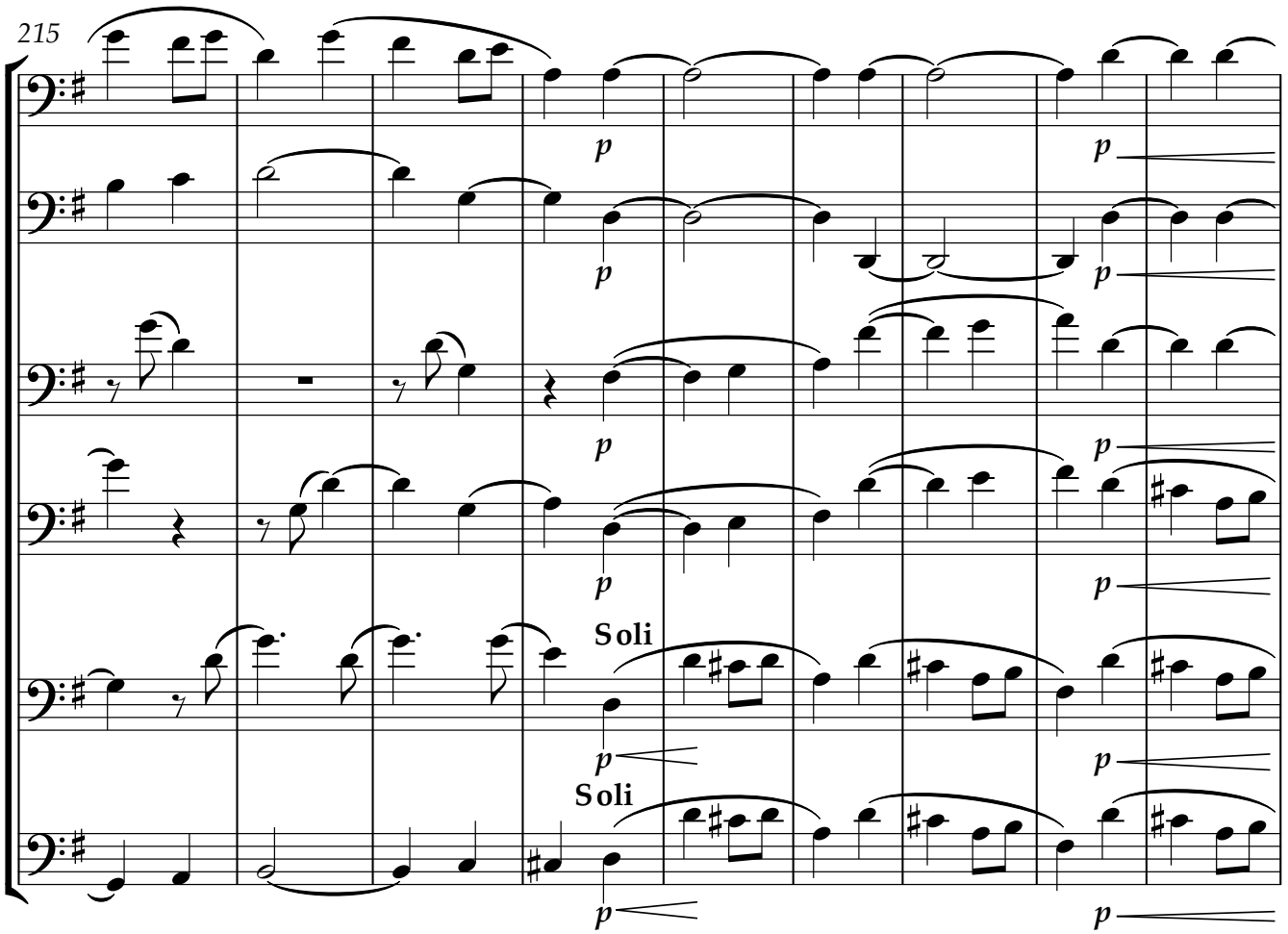
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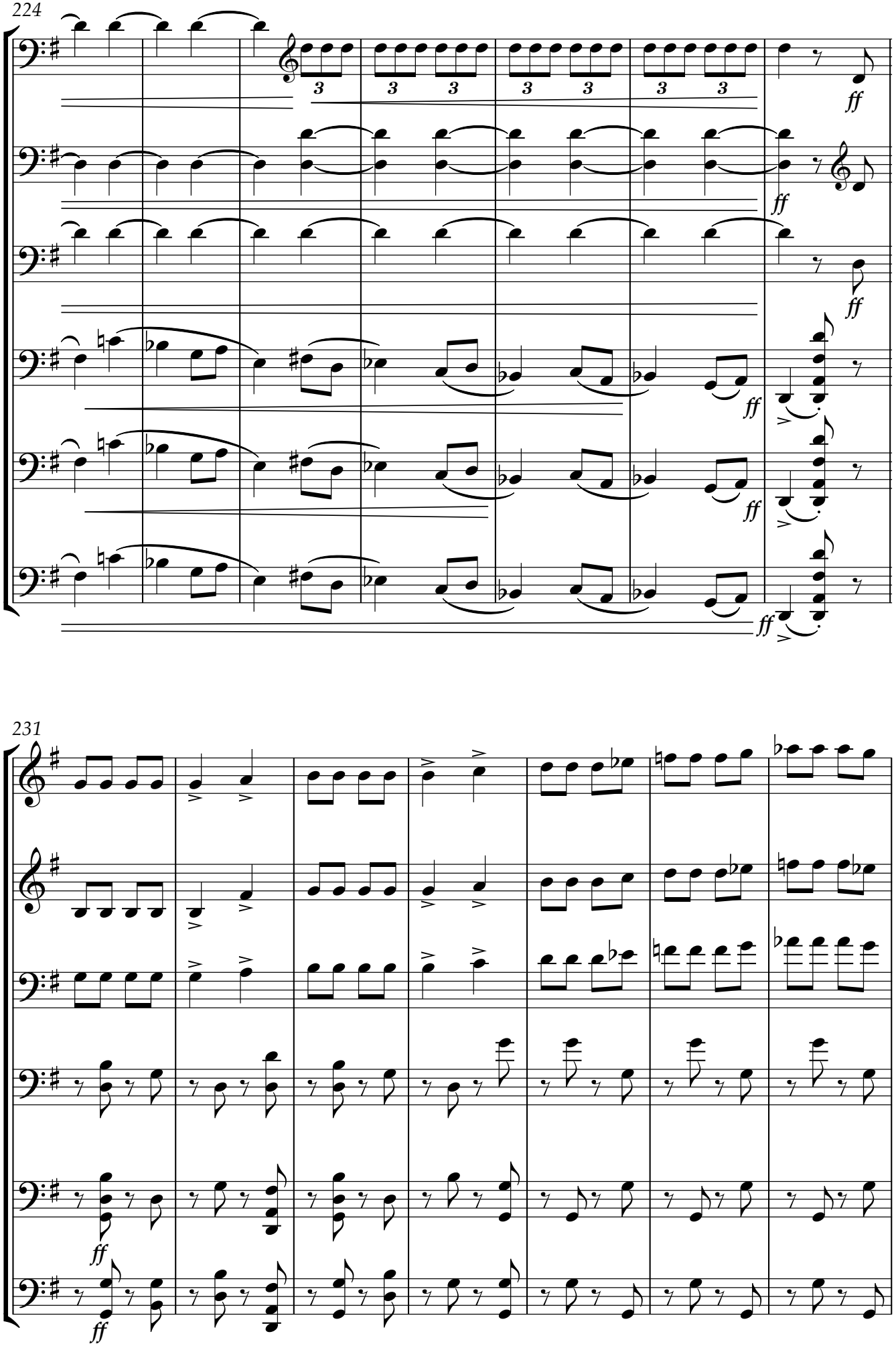
Soli


224
Vc1
Vc2
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231
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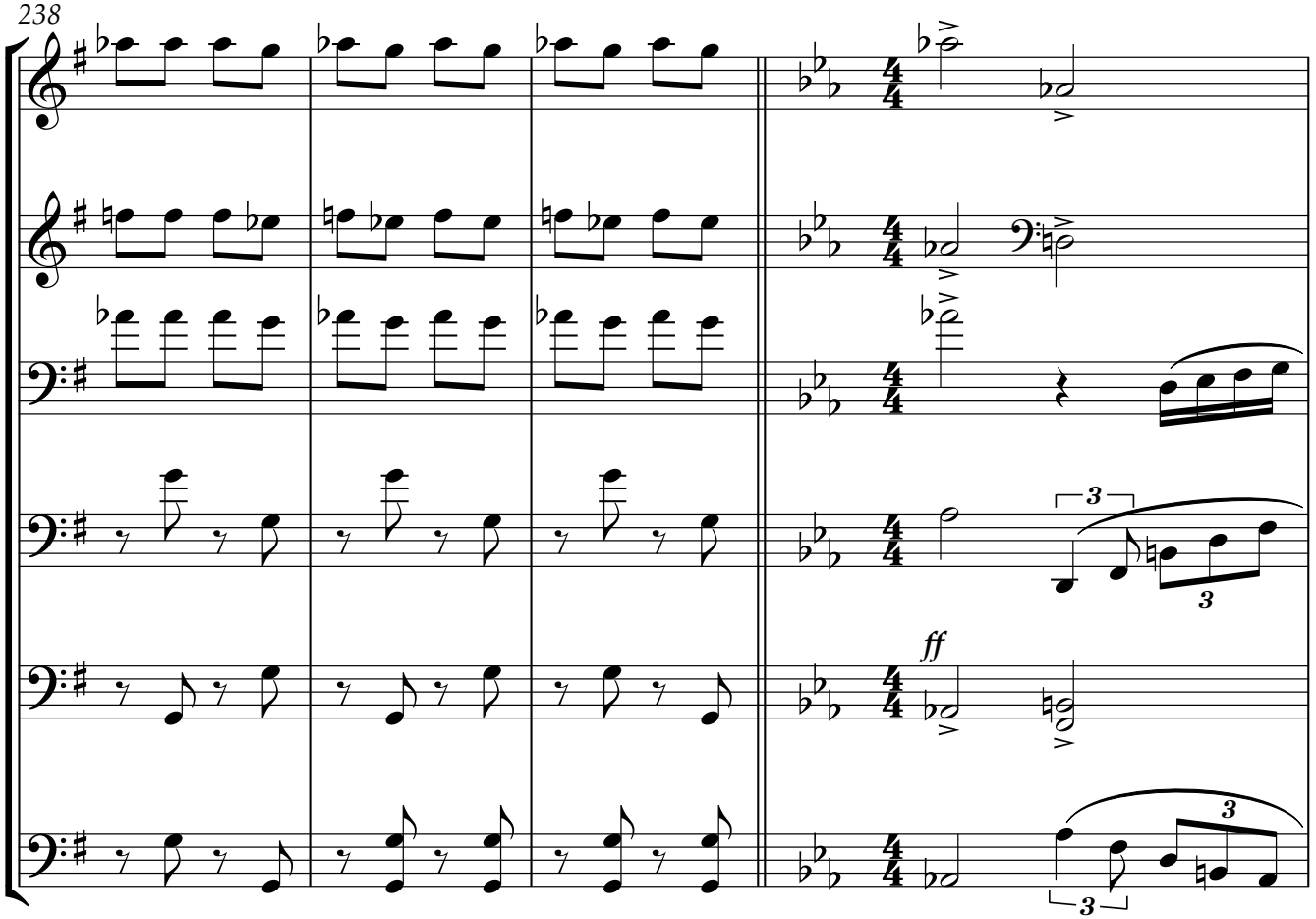
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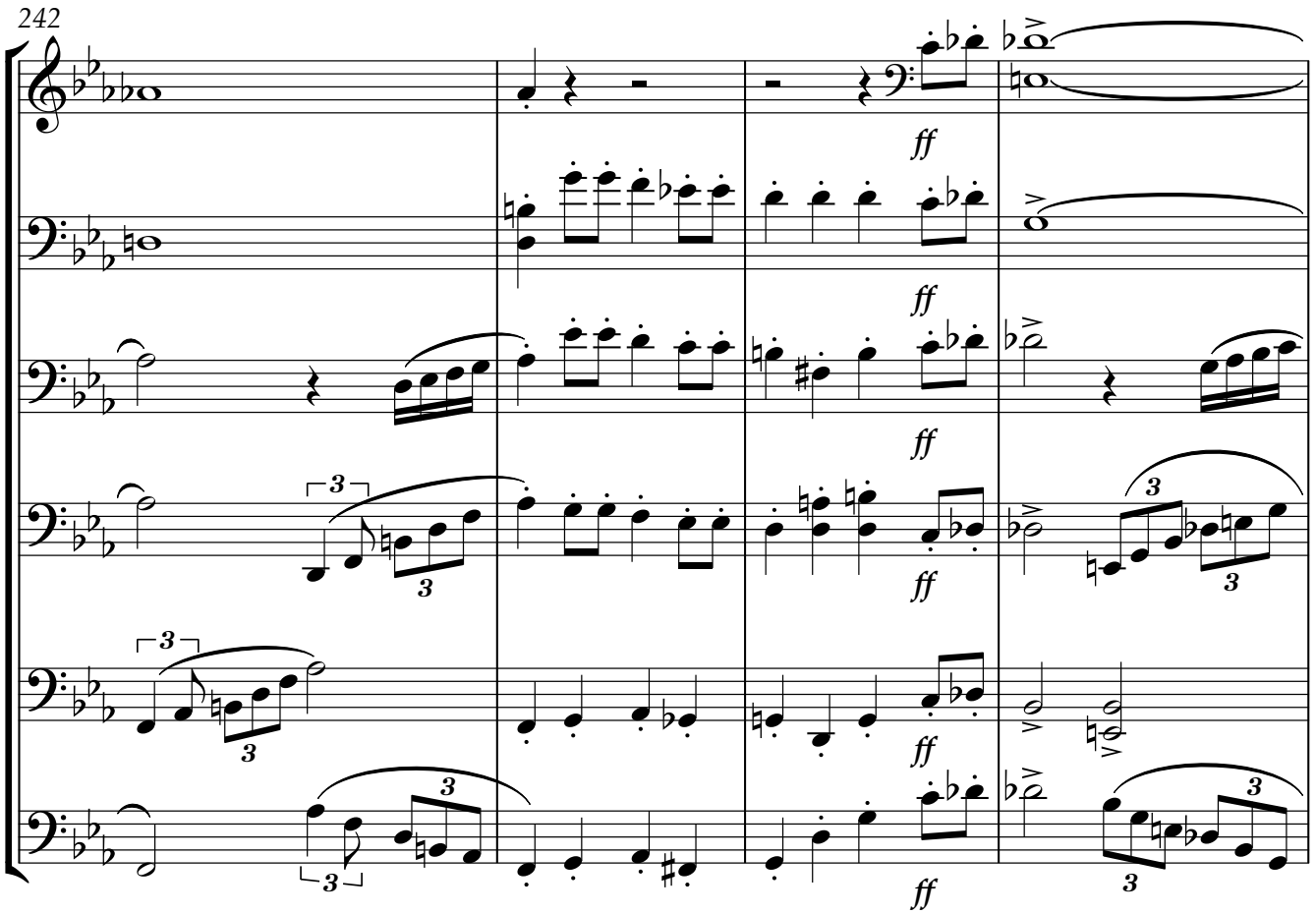
242
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
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Vc5
Vc6
ff

246

Vc1
Vc2
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Vc5
Vc6

ff

250

Vc1
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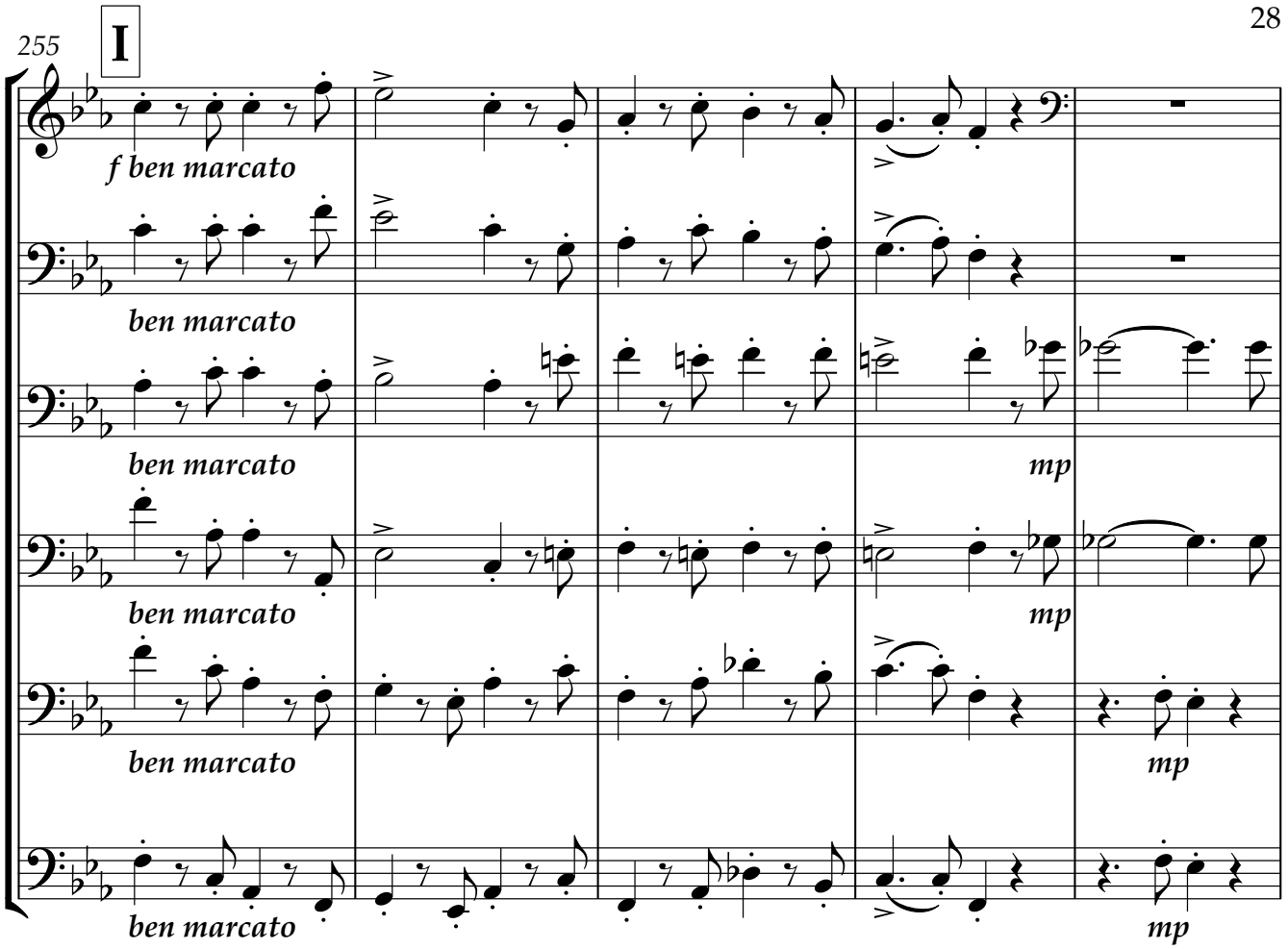
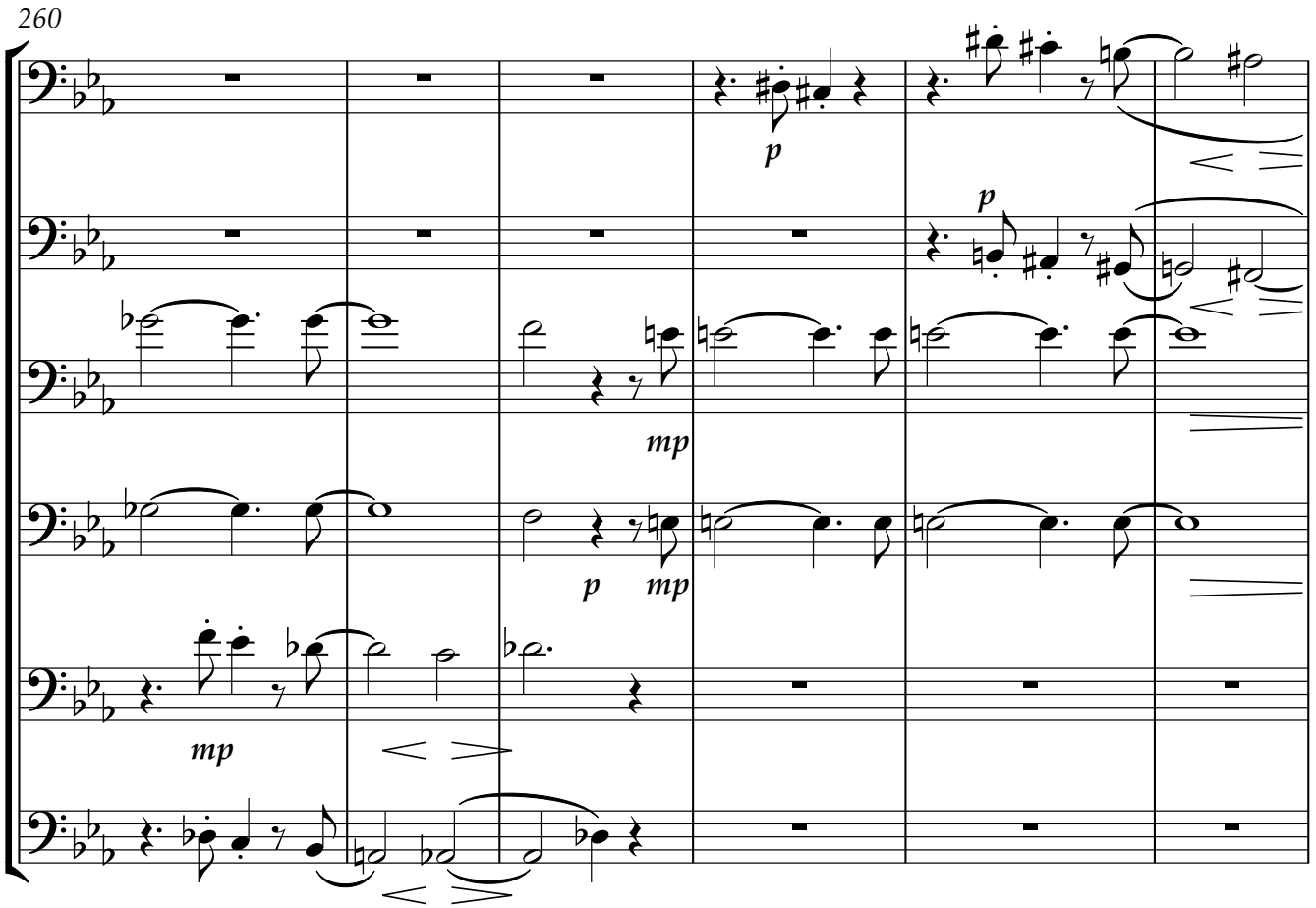
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

f


255
I
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
f ben marcato
ben marcato
mp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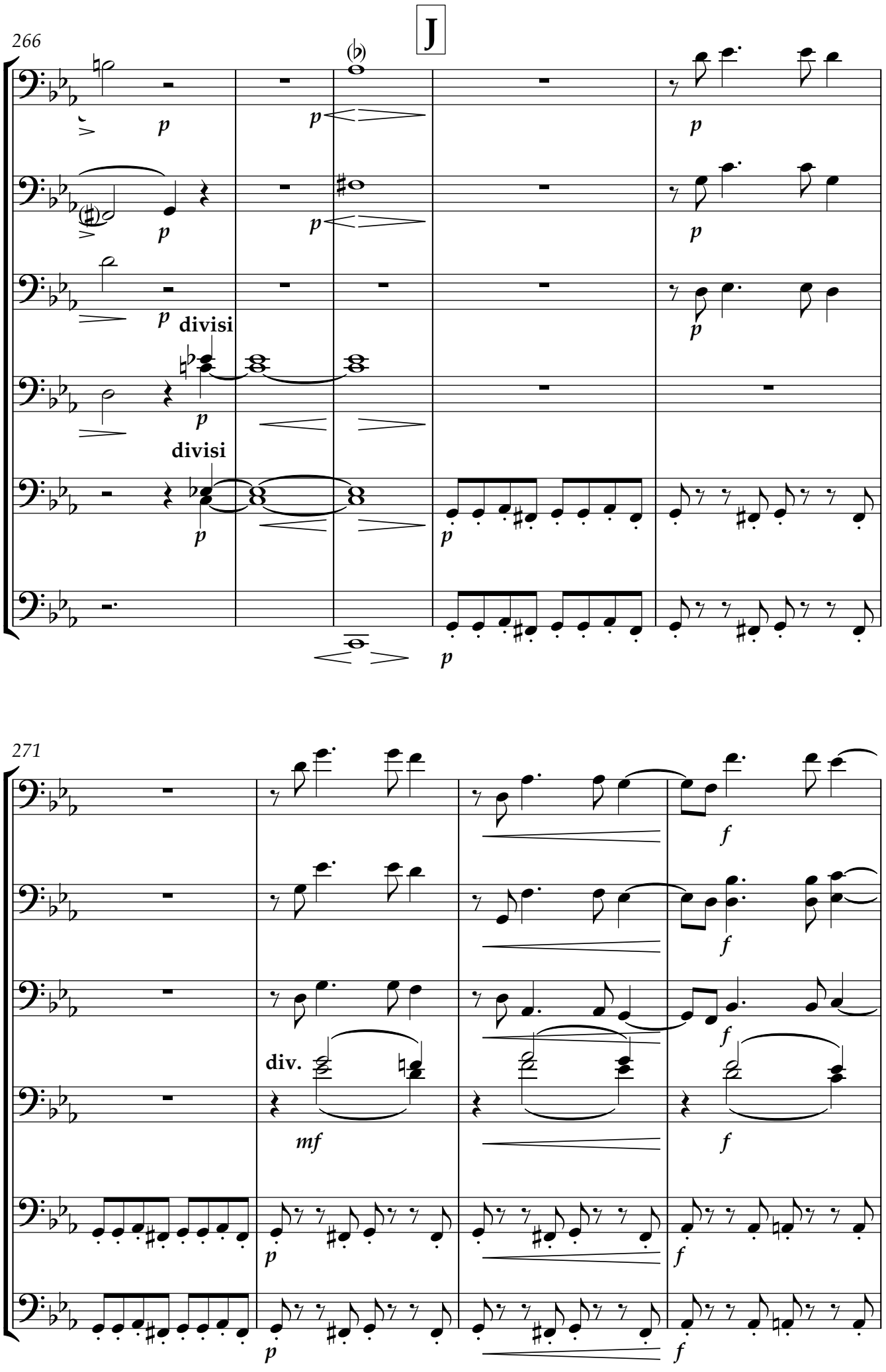
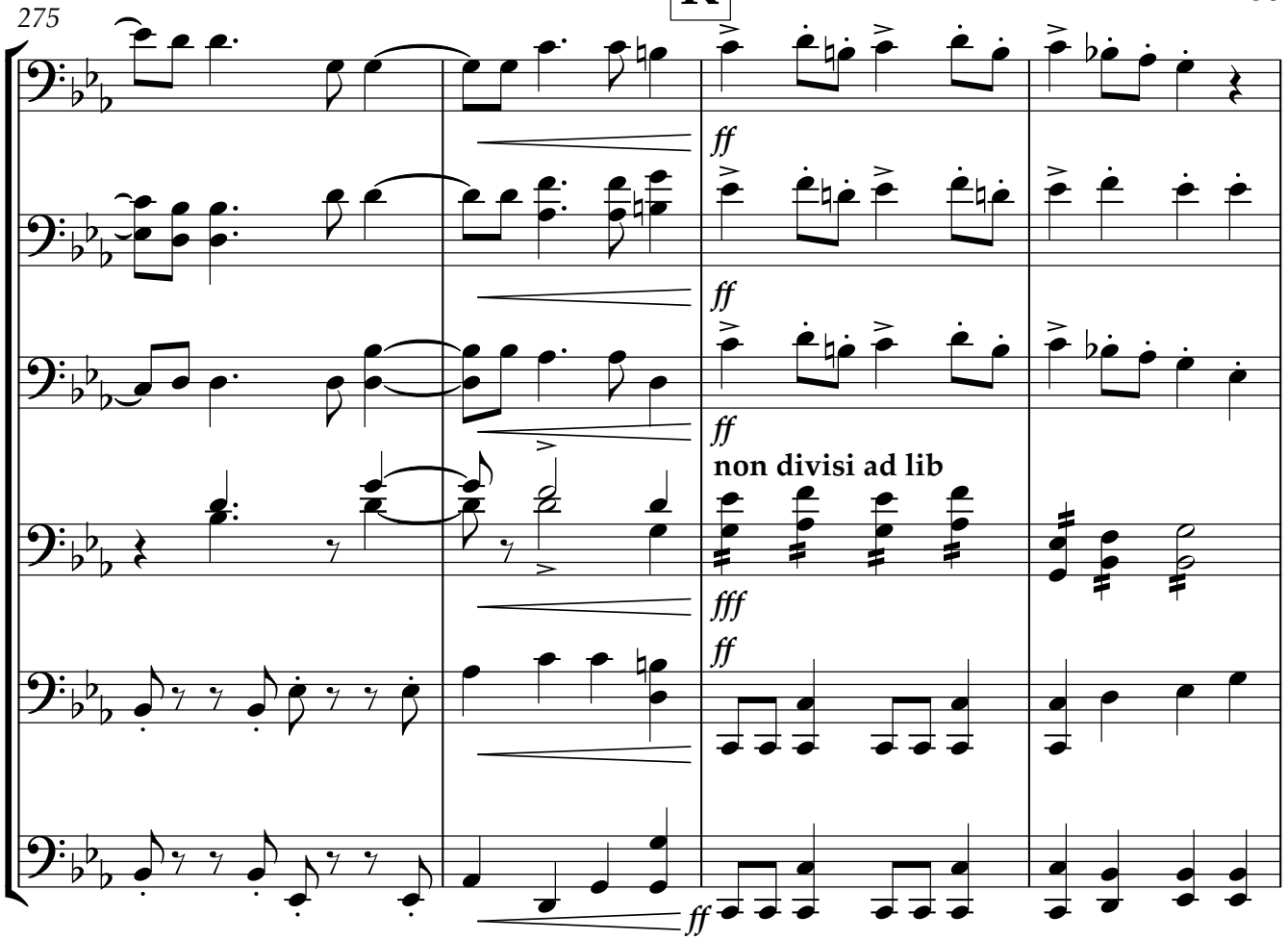

J
266
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
divisi
divisi
271
div.
mf

K


275
Vc1
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ff
ff
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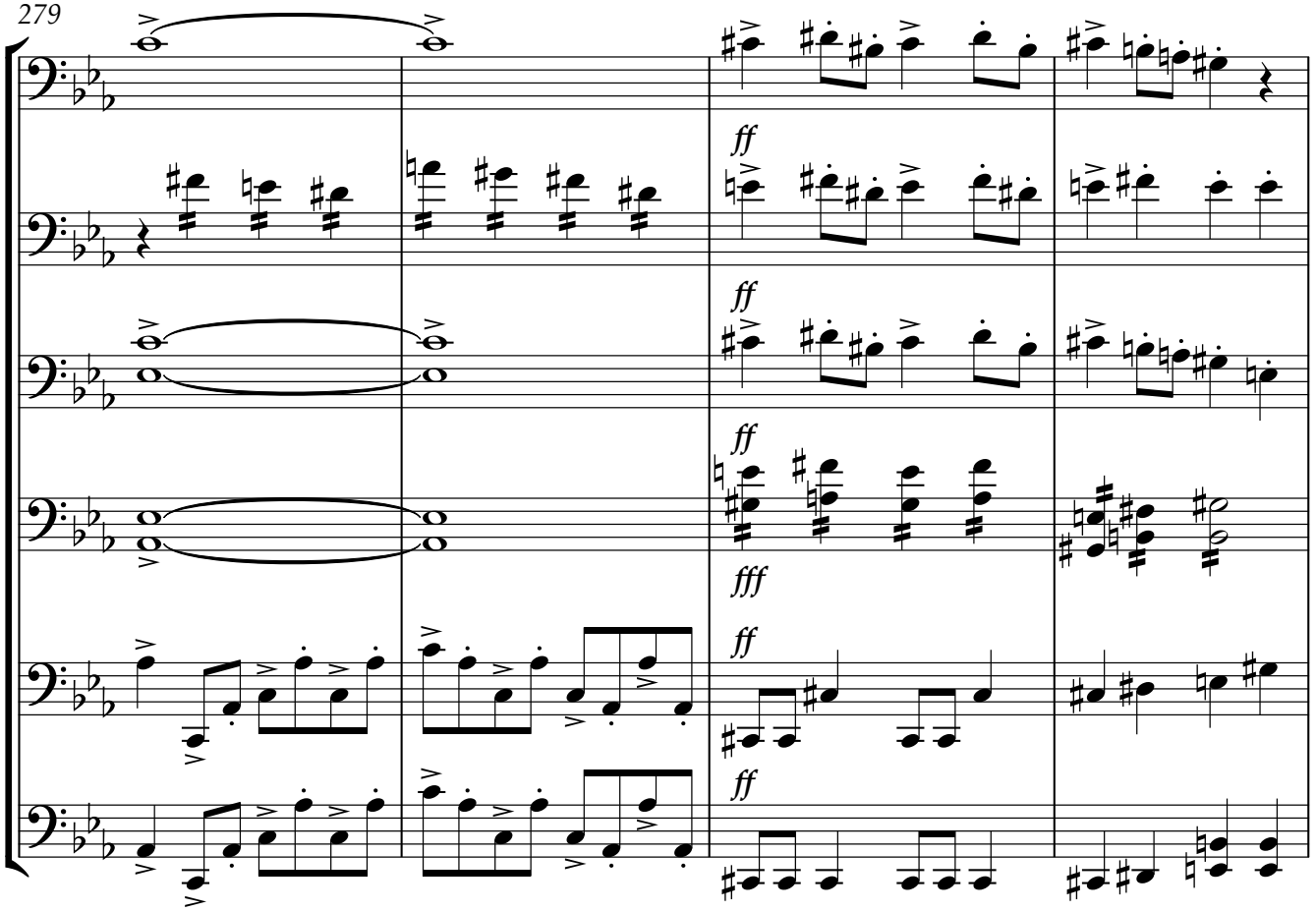
fff
ff
ff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Vc1
Vc2
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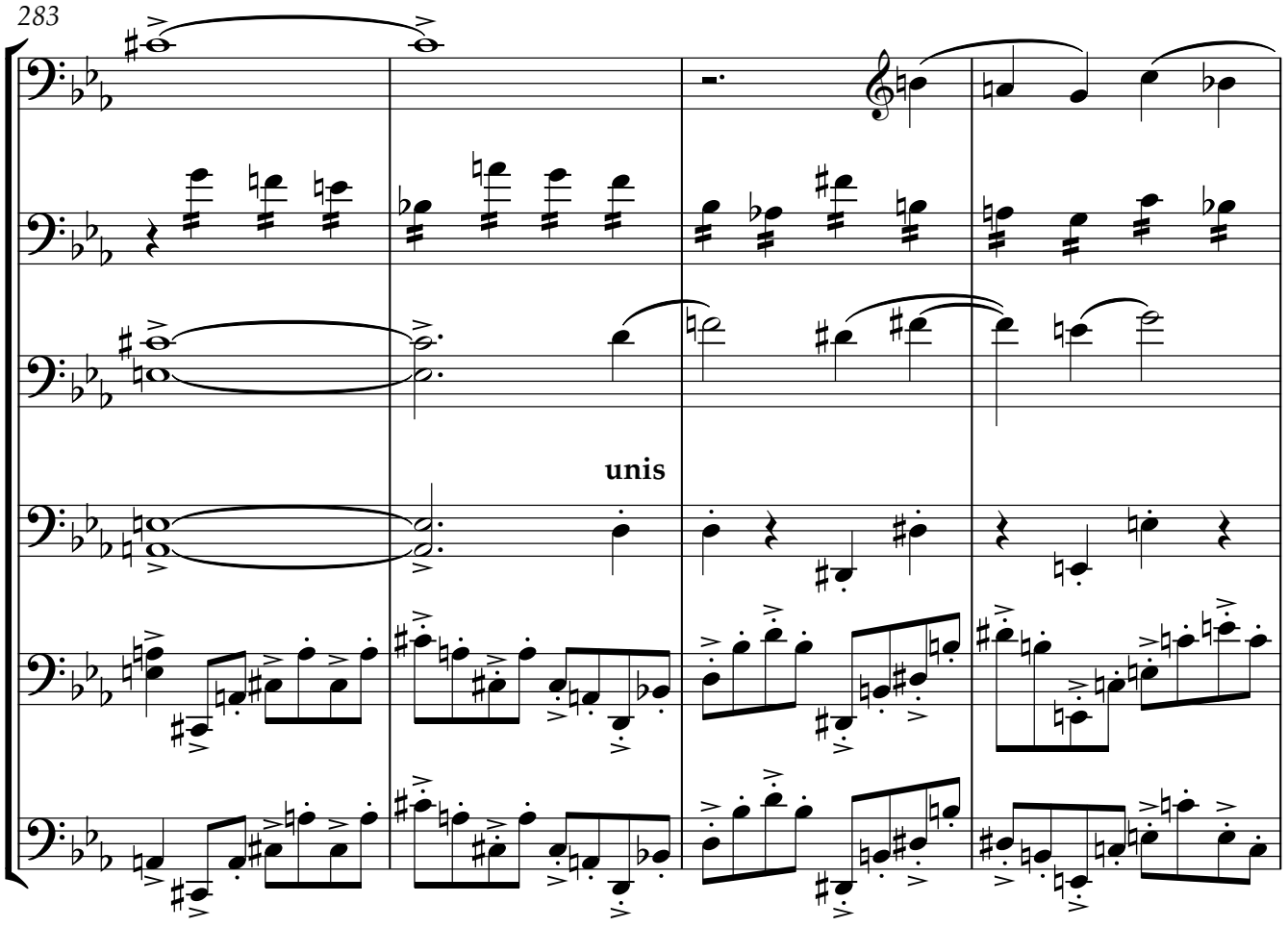
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
ff
ff
ff
fff
ff
ff


283
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
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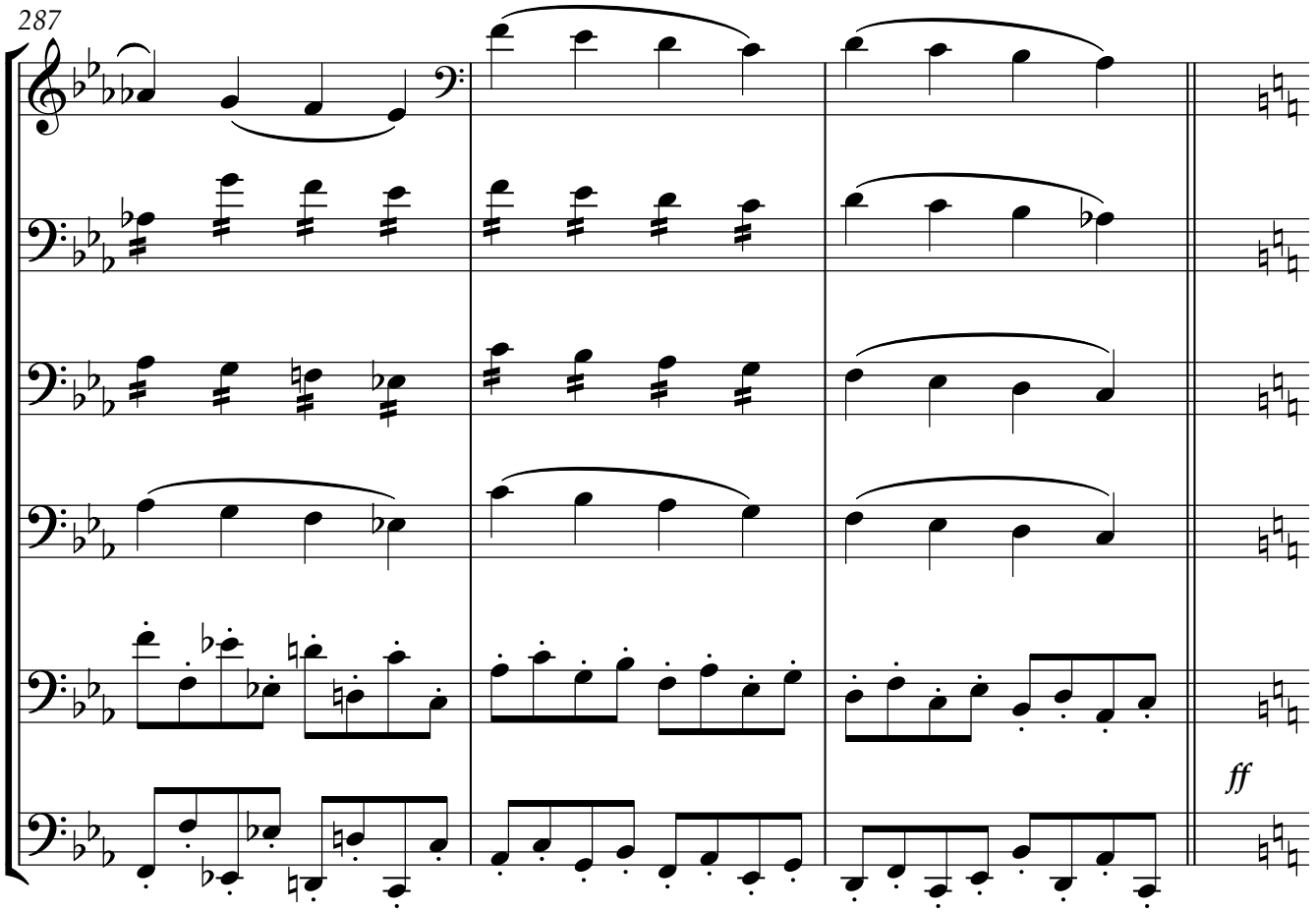
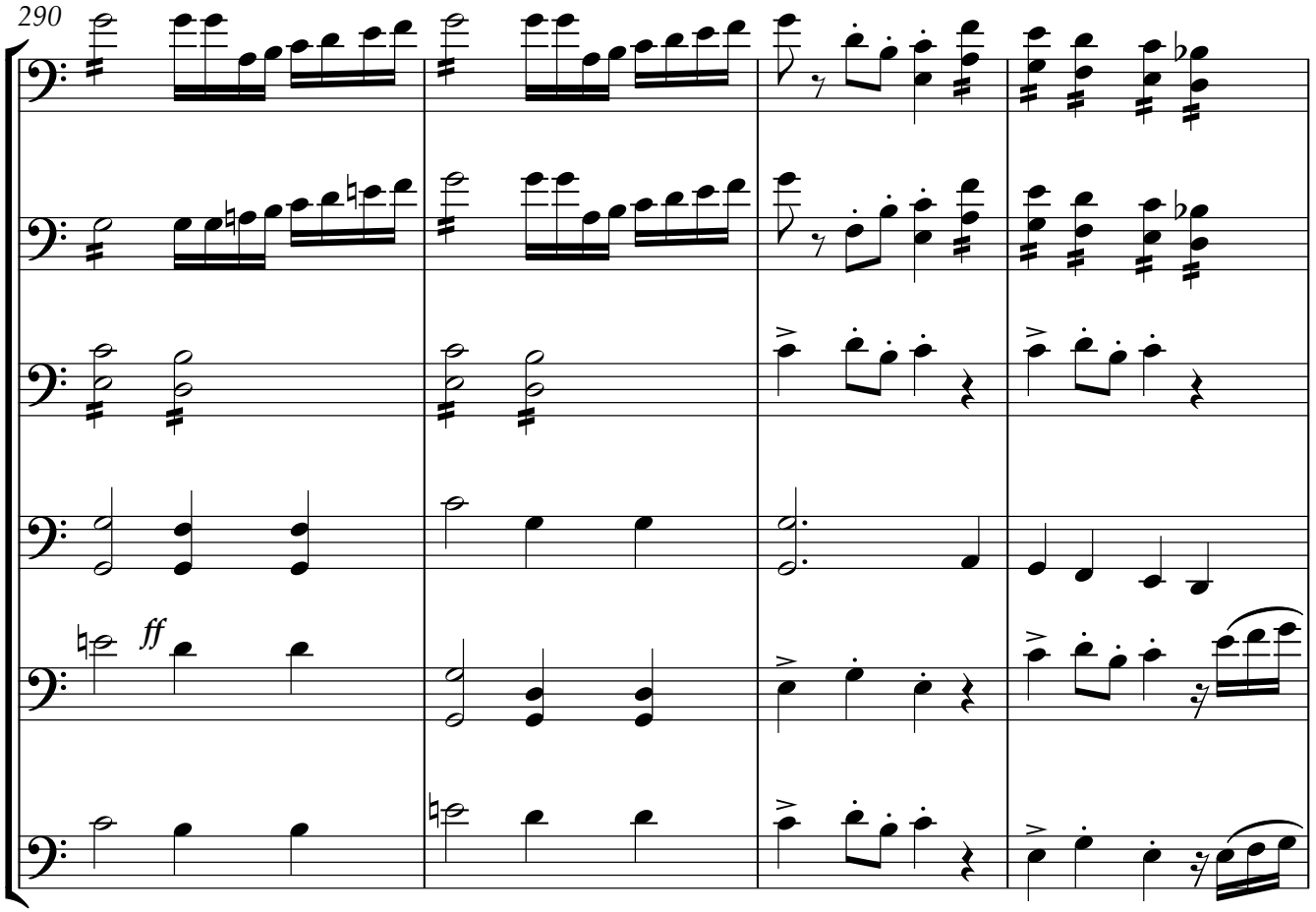
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6


287
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
ff
Vc6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Vc3
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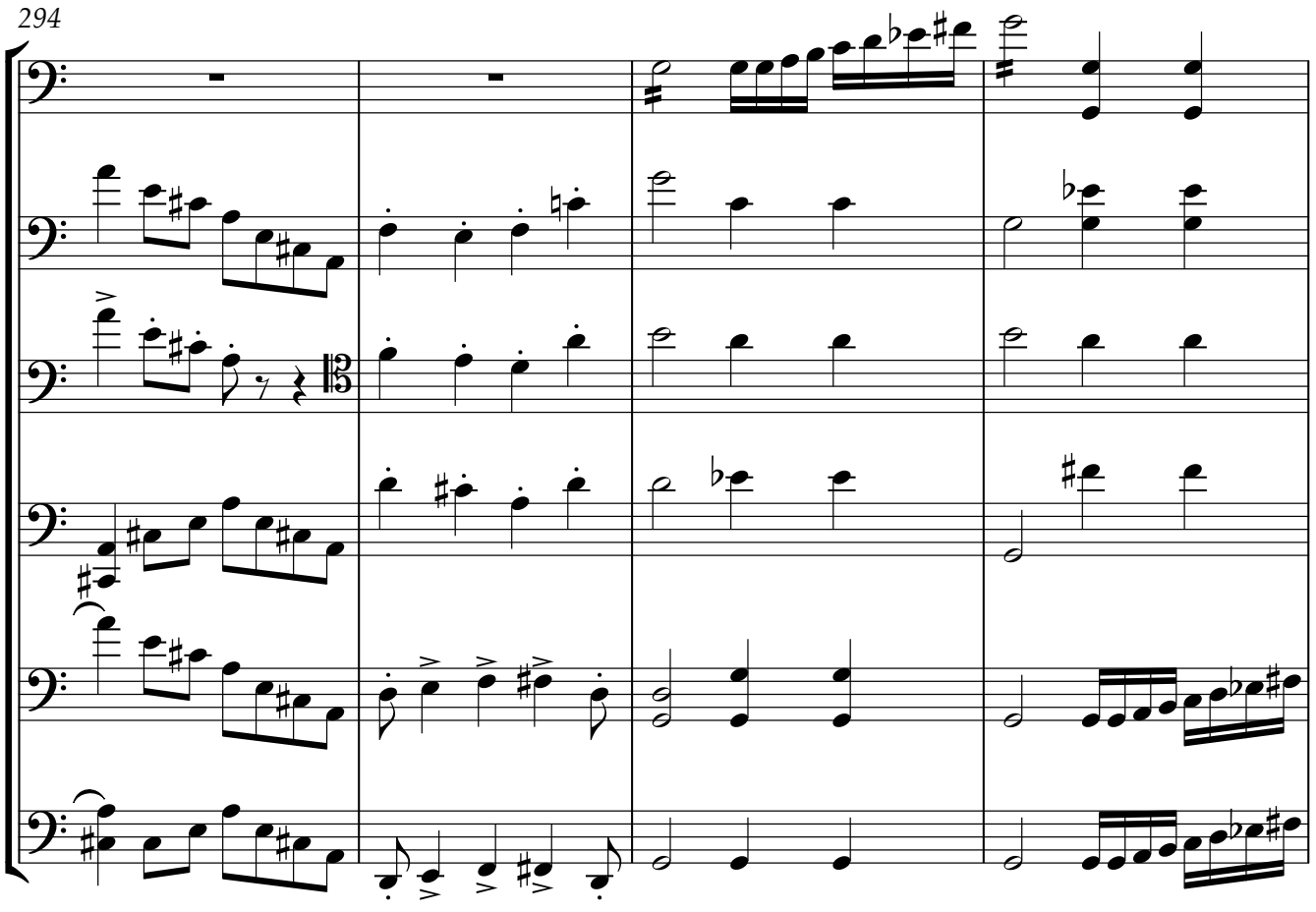
ff


294
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

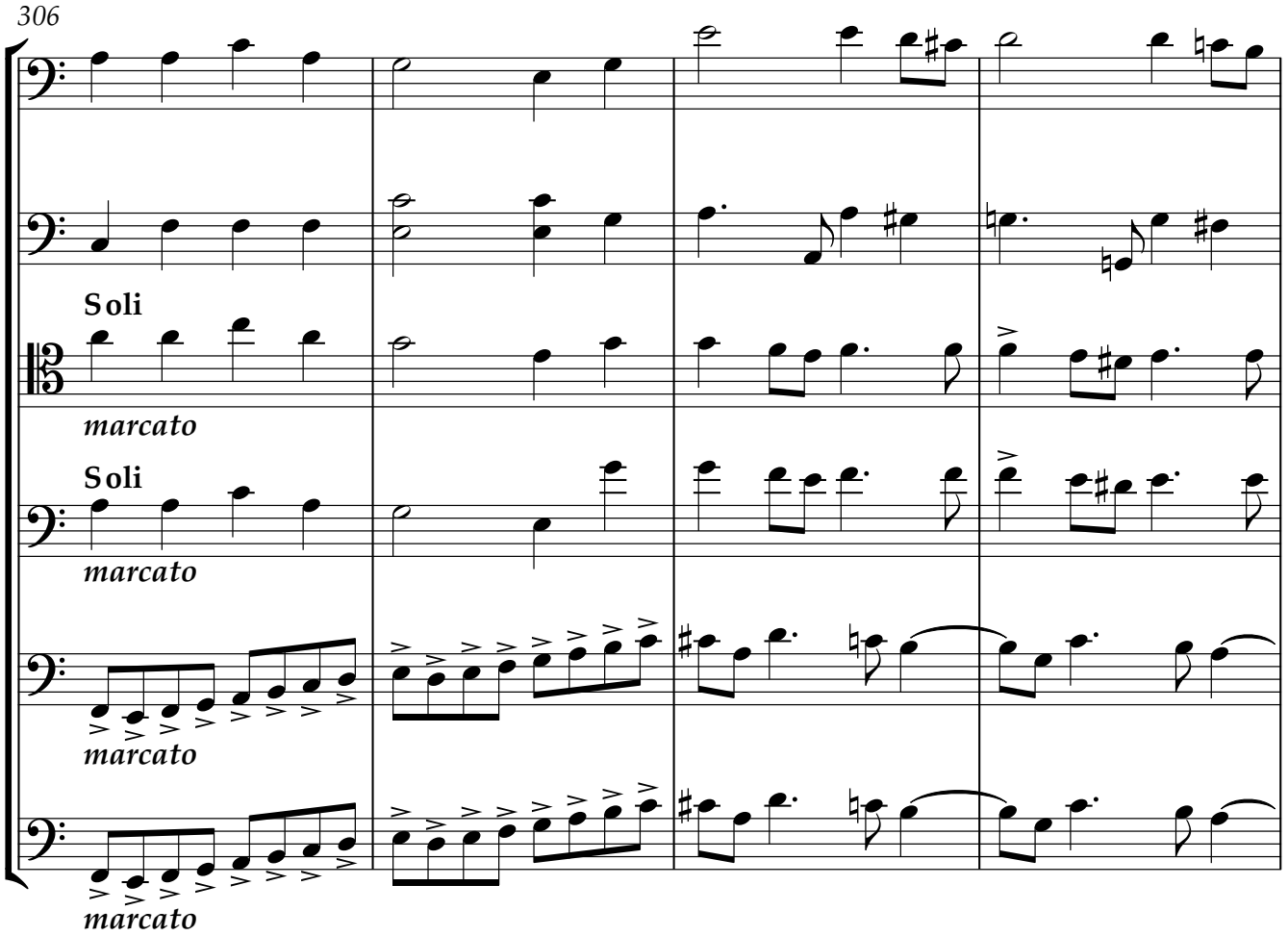
298

Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

302

Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

marcato
marcato
marcato
marcato
marcato


306
Vc1
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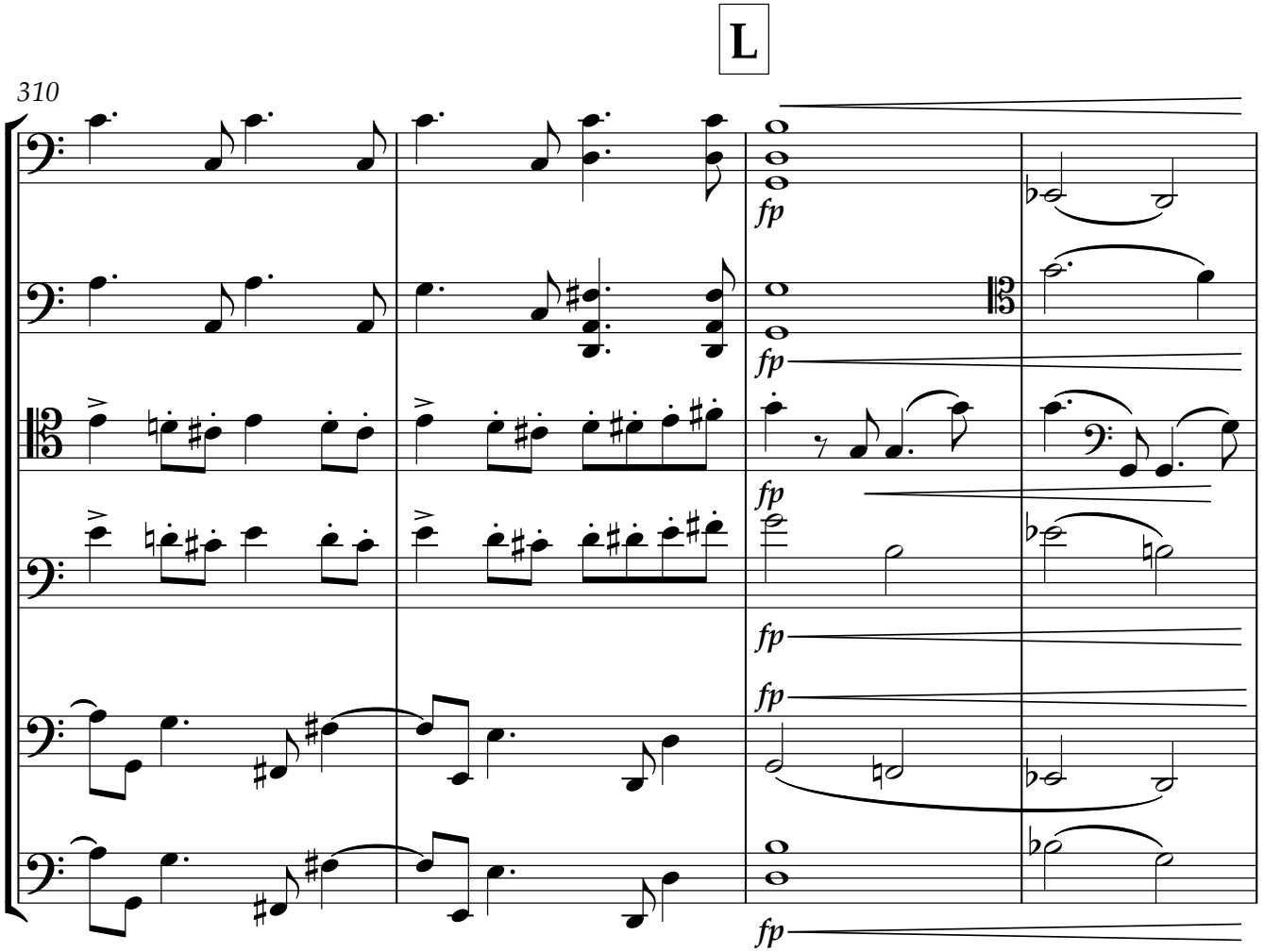
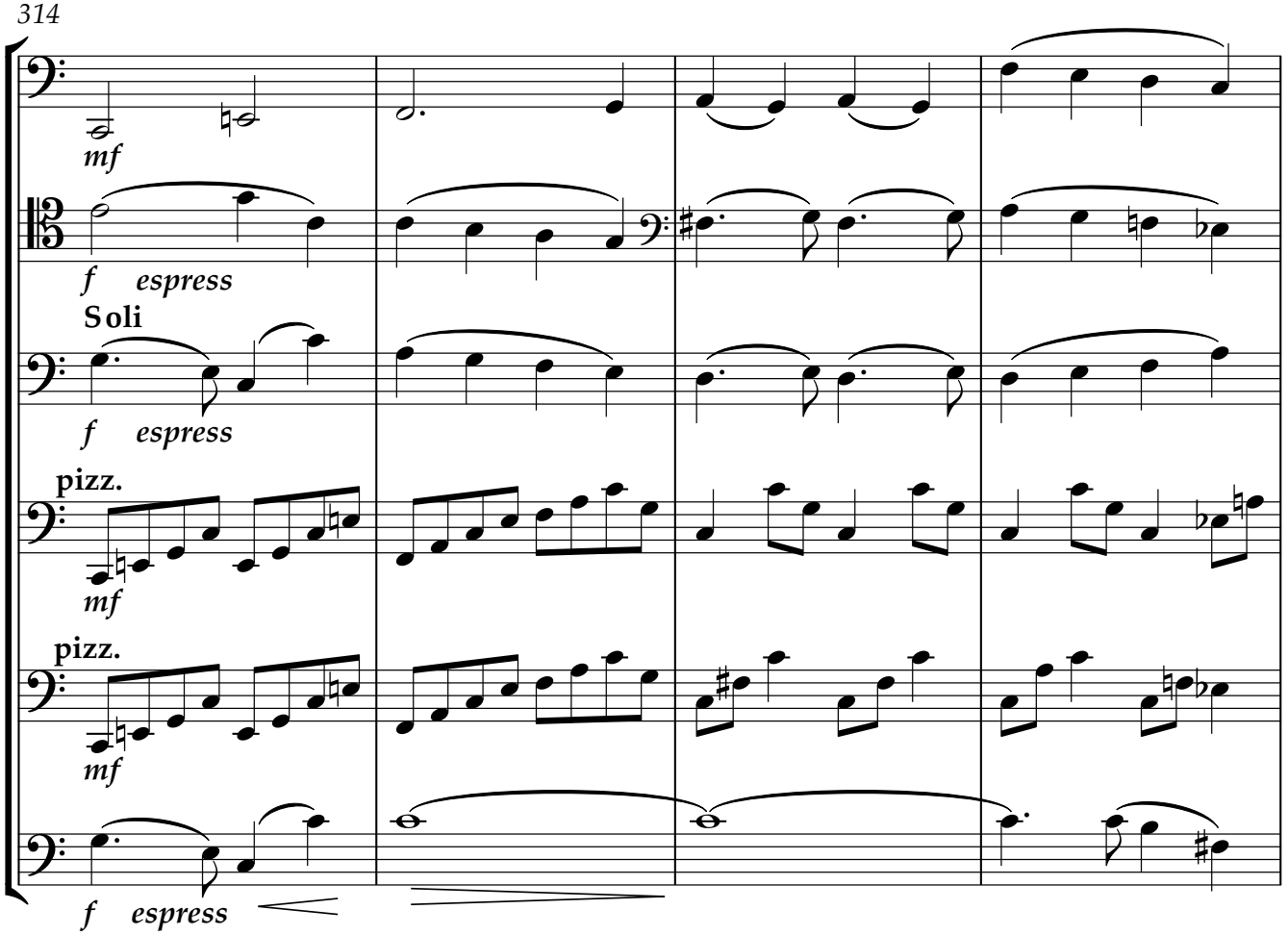
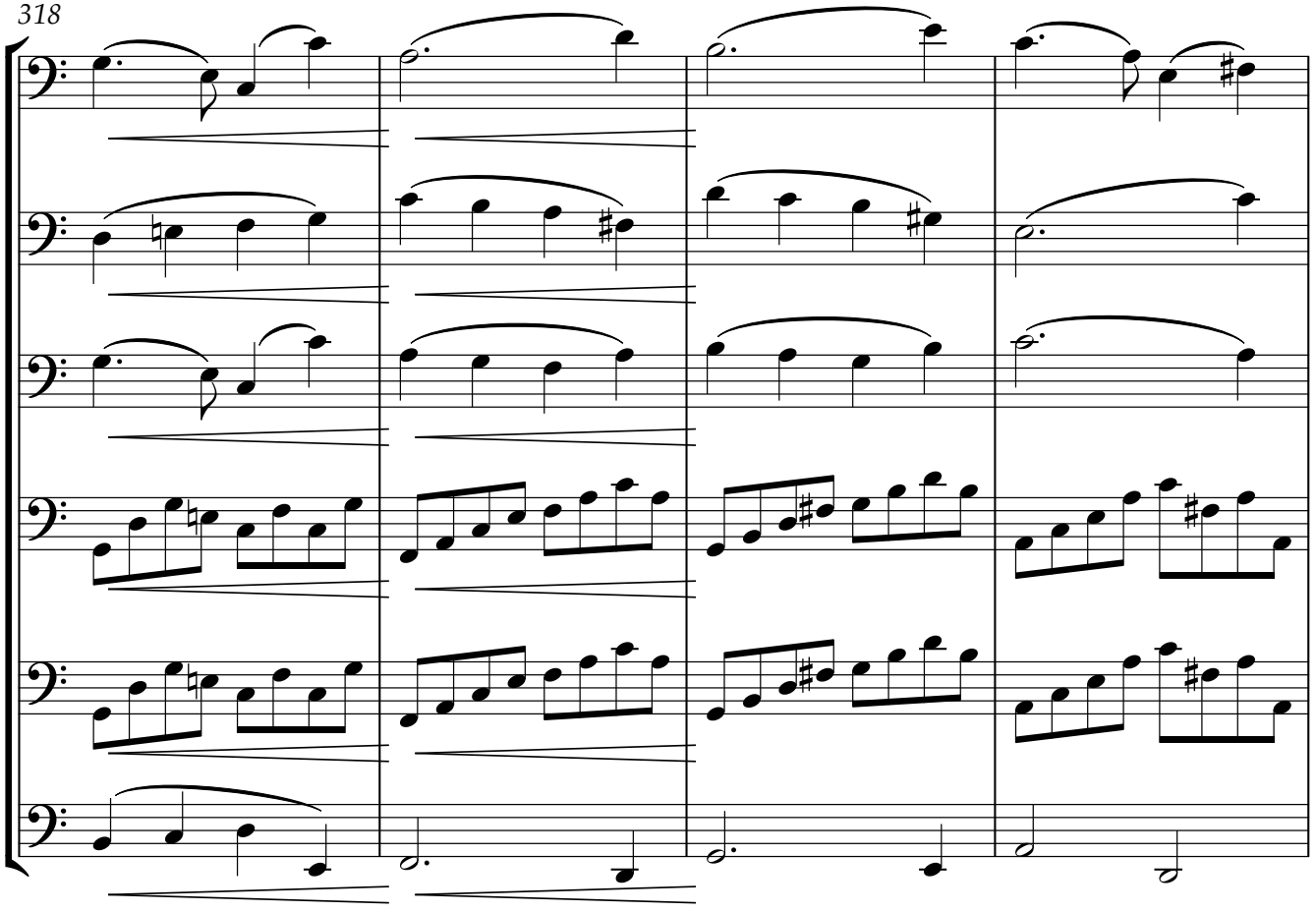
Soli
Vc3
marcato
Soli
Vc4
marcato
Vc5
marcato
Vc6
marcato


L
310
Vc1
fp
Vc2
fp
Vc3
fp
Vc4
fp
fp
Vc5
Vc6
fp


314
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
mf
f espress
Soli
f espress
pizz.
mf
pizz.
mf
f espress


318
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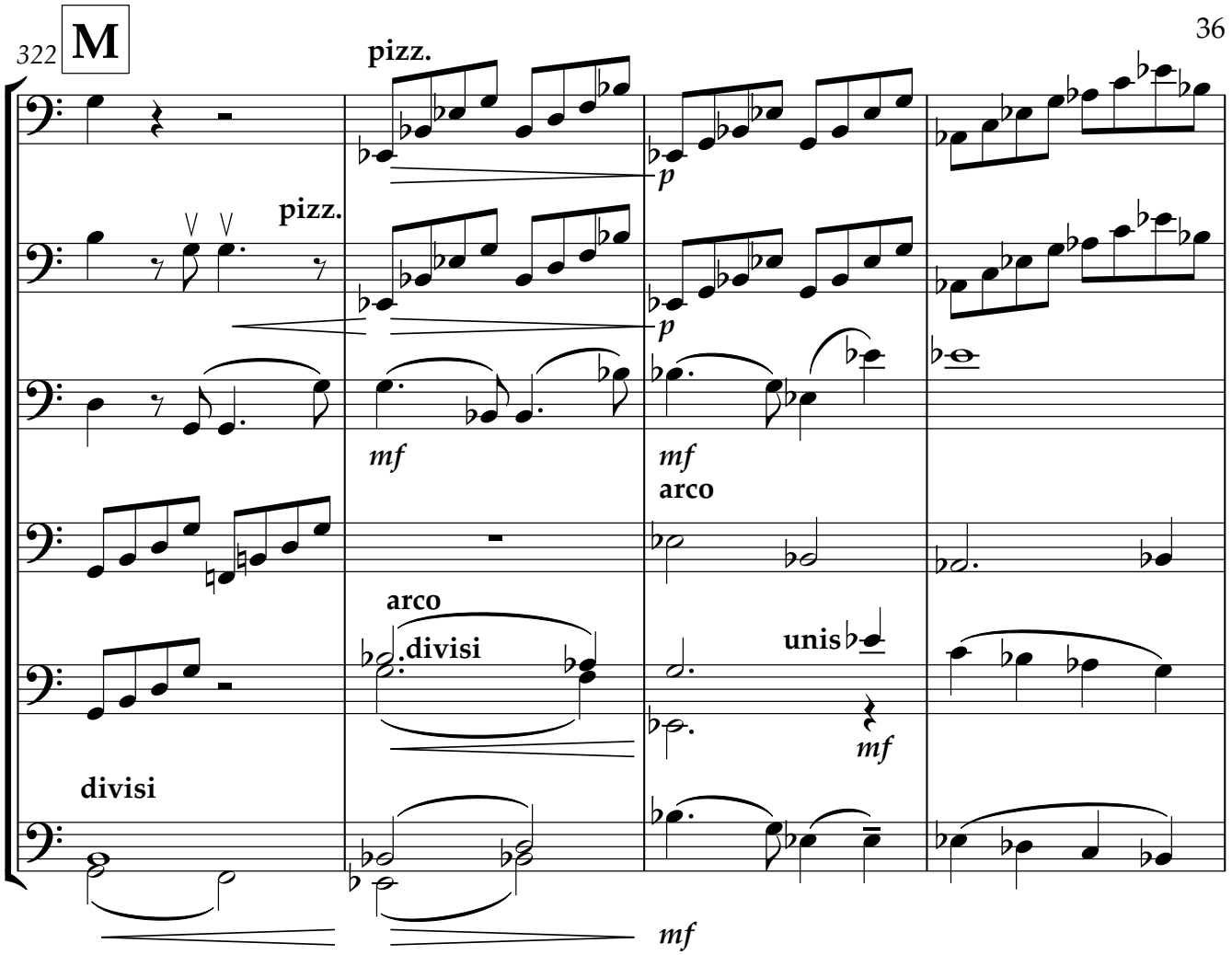
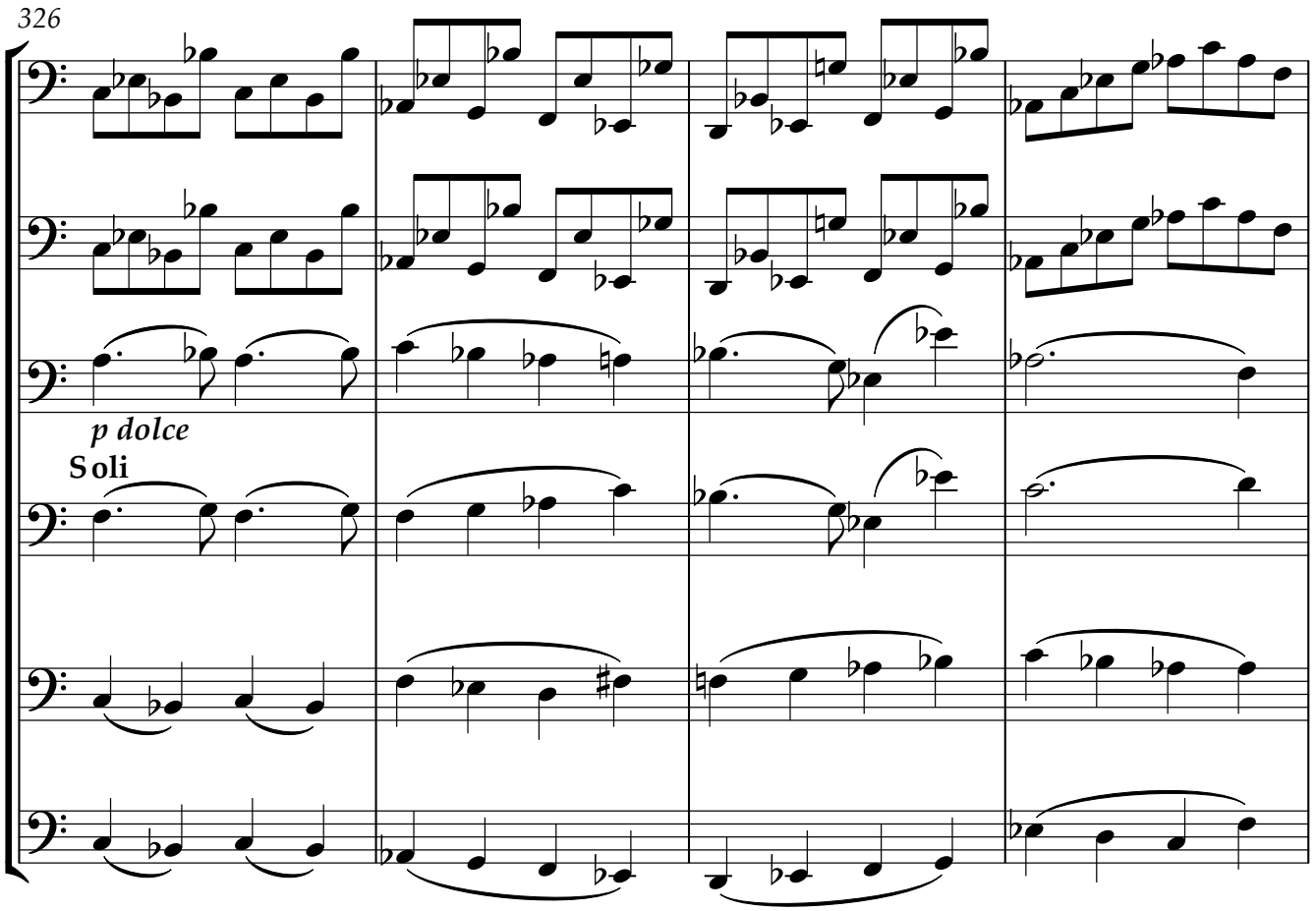
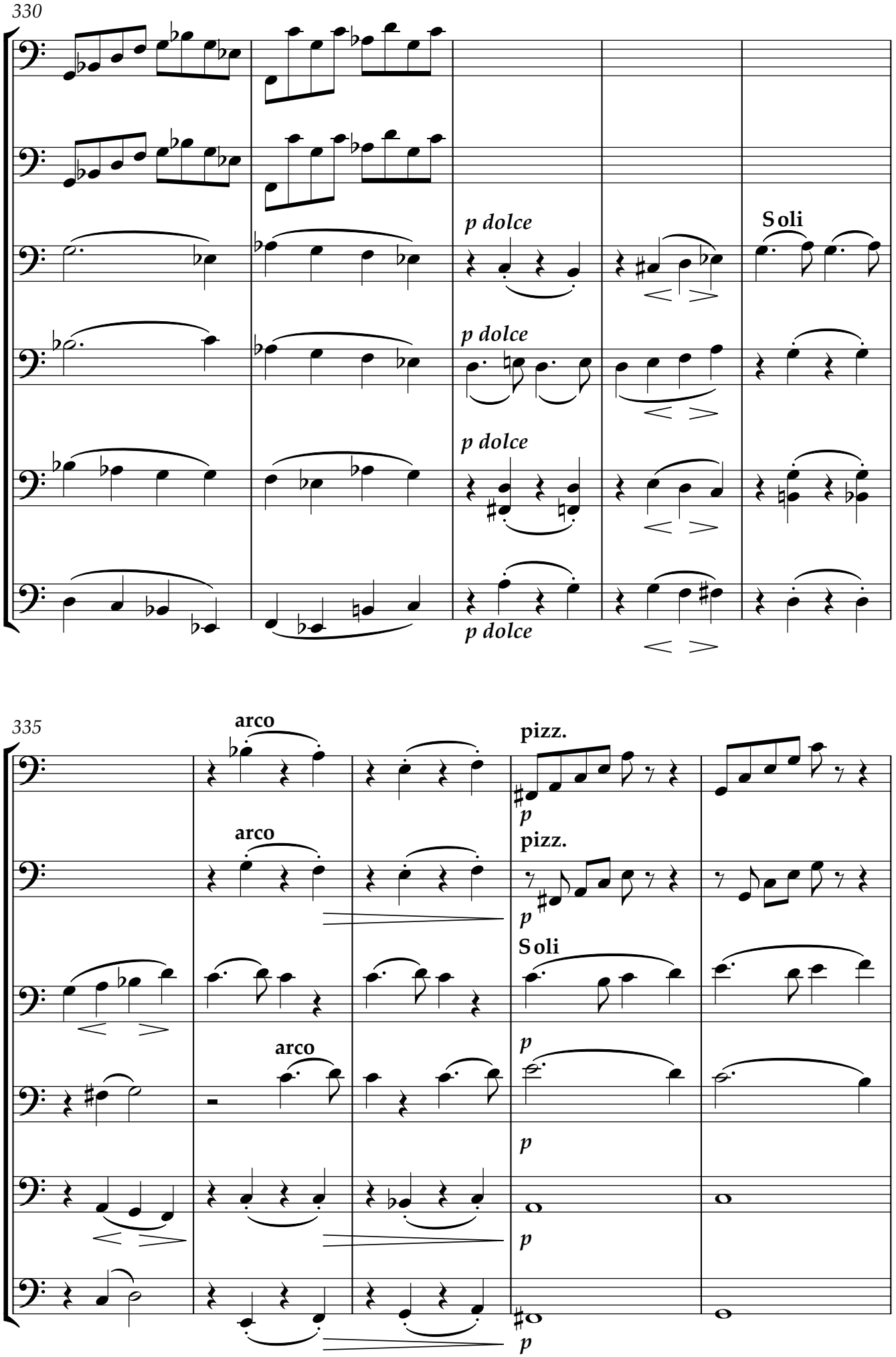
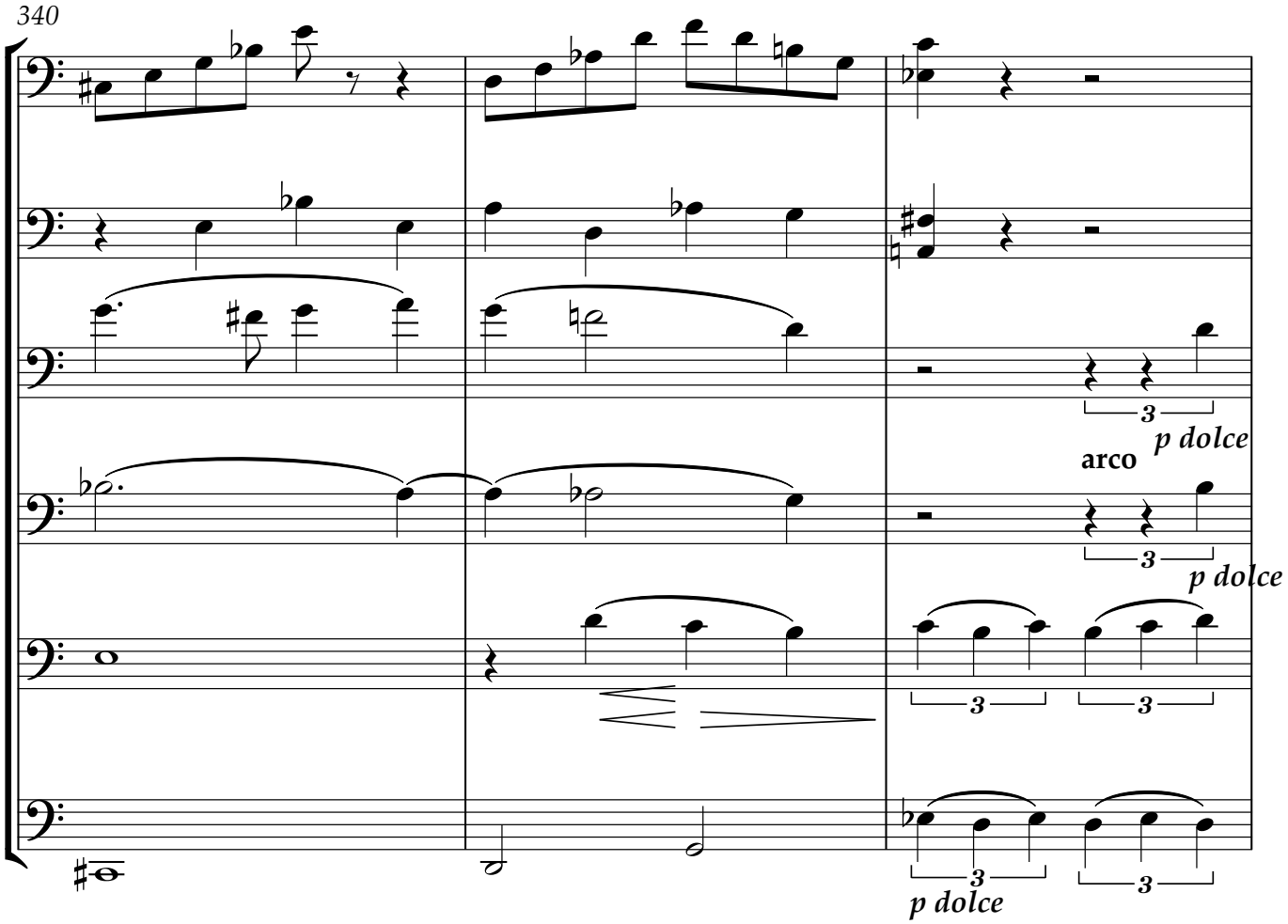
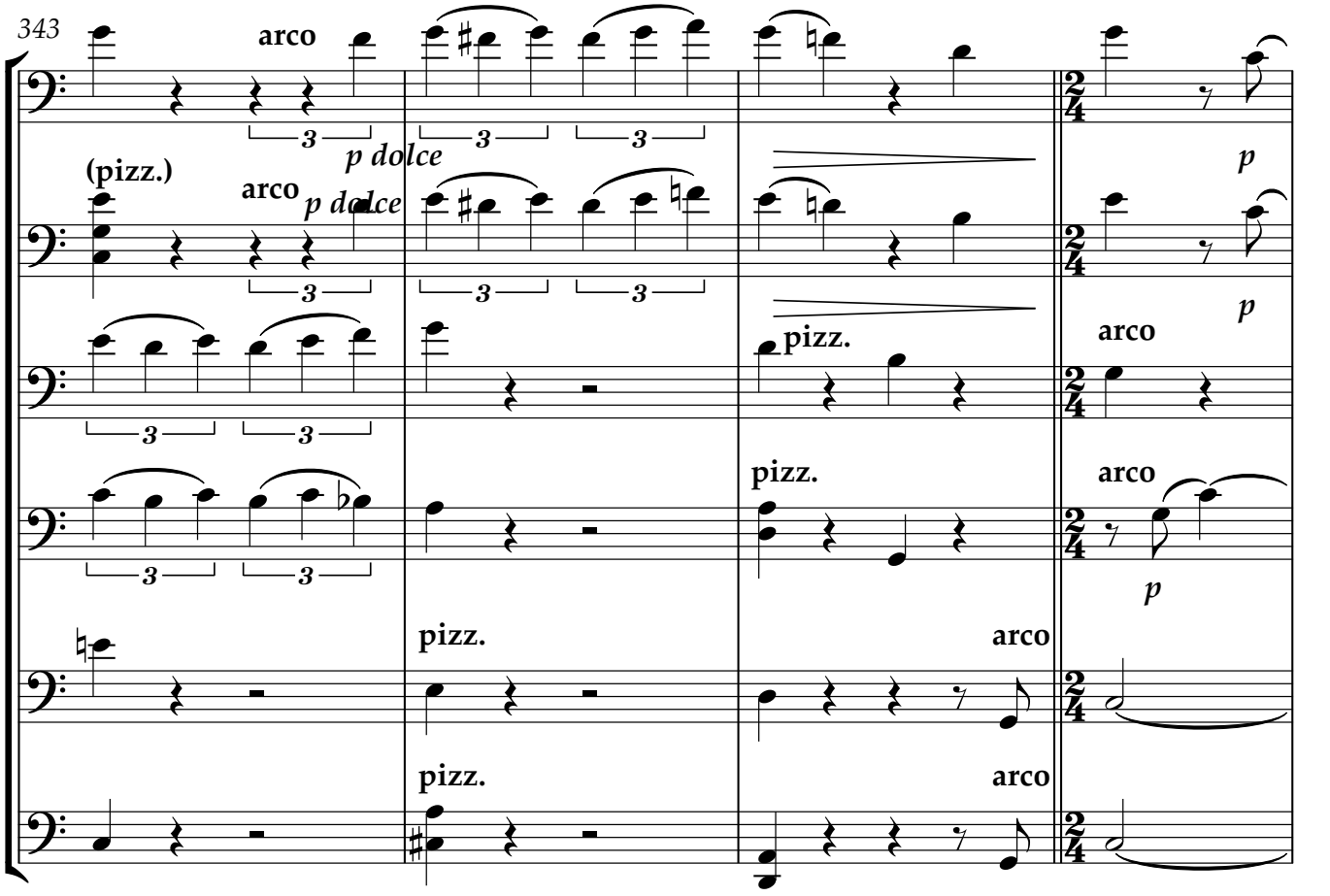
Vc6

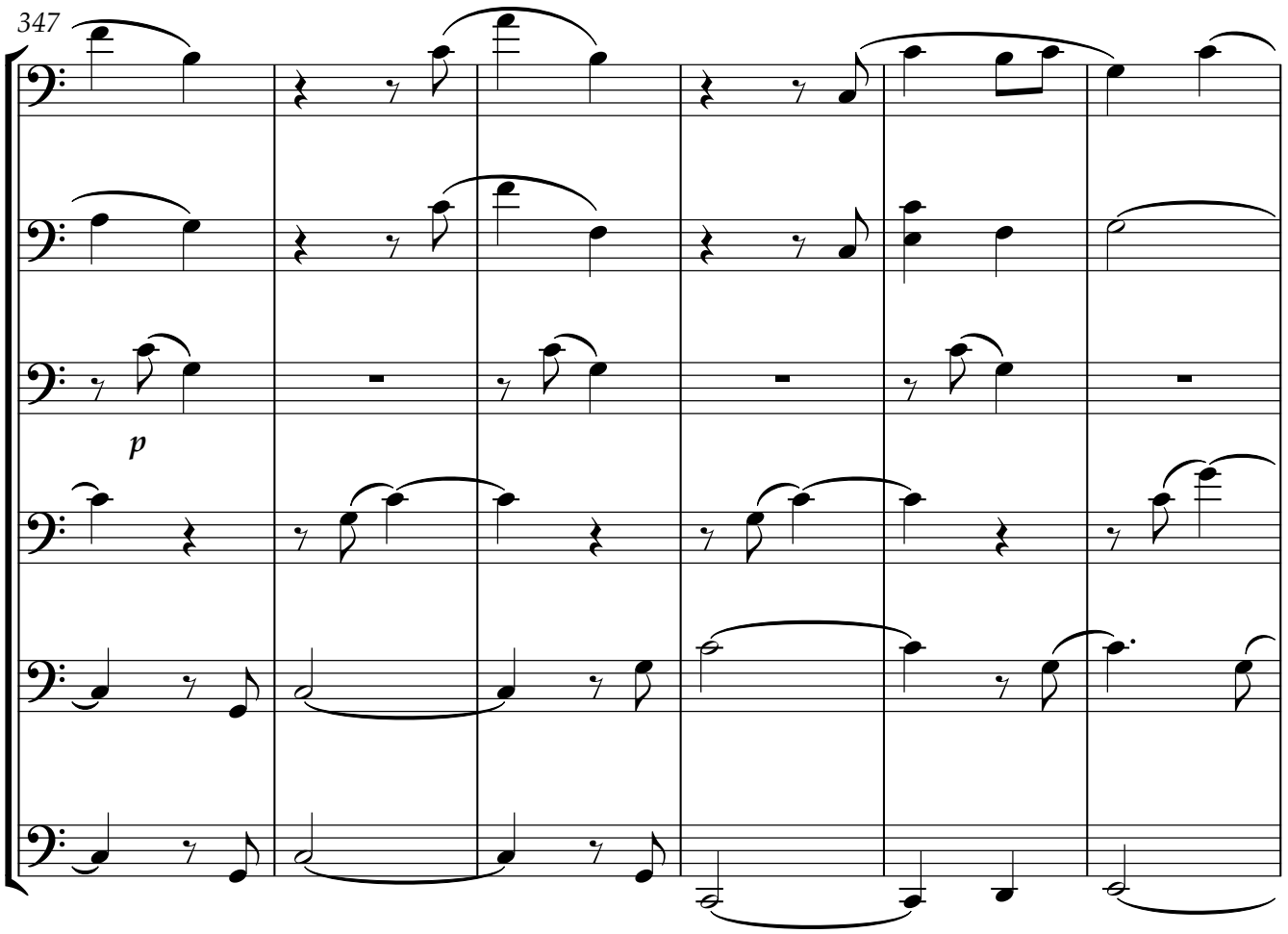

322
M
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pizz.
pizz.
p
p
mf
mf
arco
arco
divisi
unis
mf
divisi
mf


326
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
p dolce
Soli


330
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
p dolce
Soli
335
arco
pizz.
p


340
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
arco
p dolce
p dolce
p dolce


343
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
arco
(pizz.)
arco
p dolce
p dolce
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
arco
arco
arco
p
p
p


347
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
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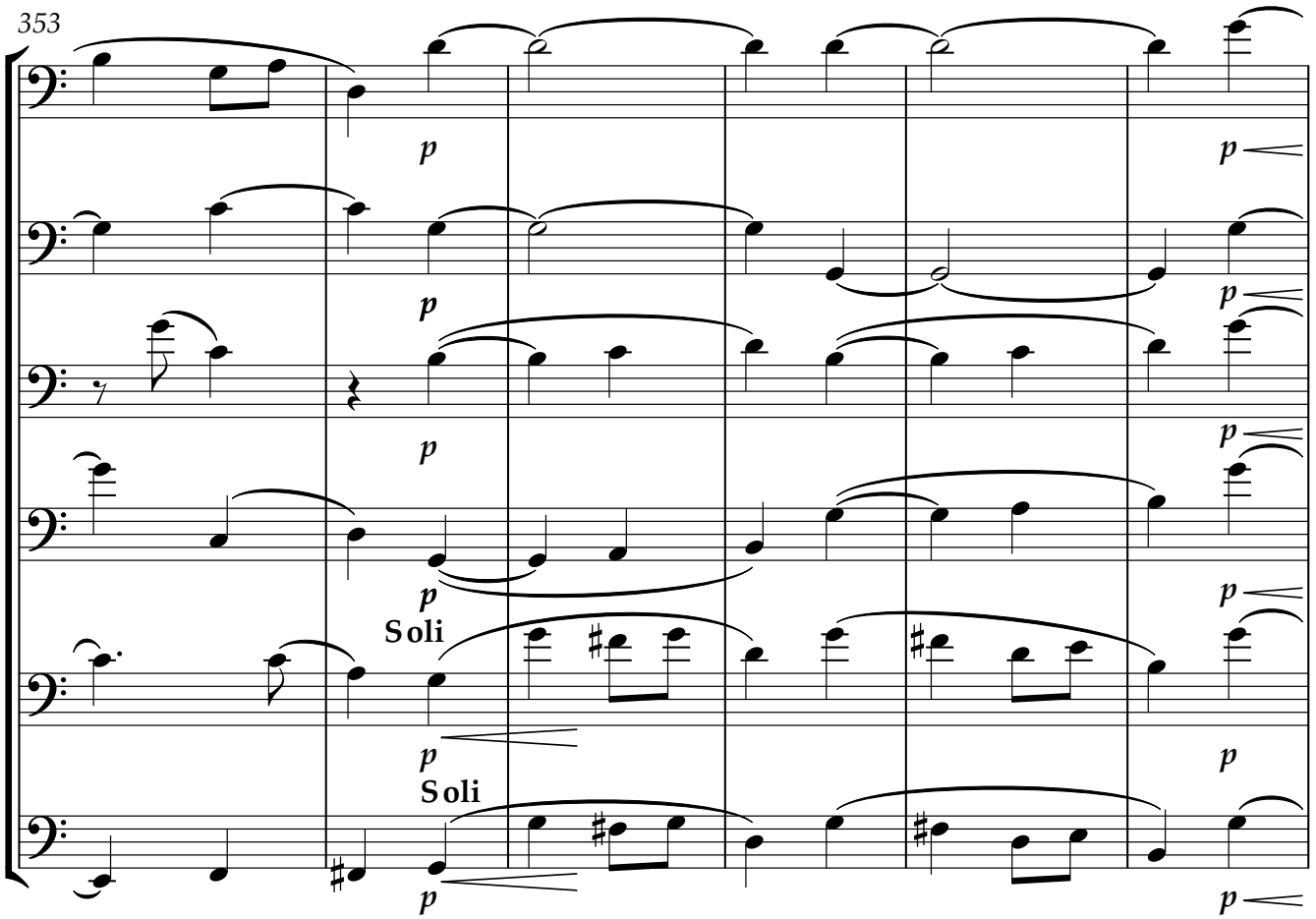
p


353
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
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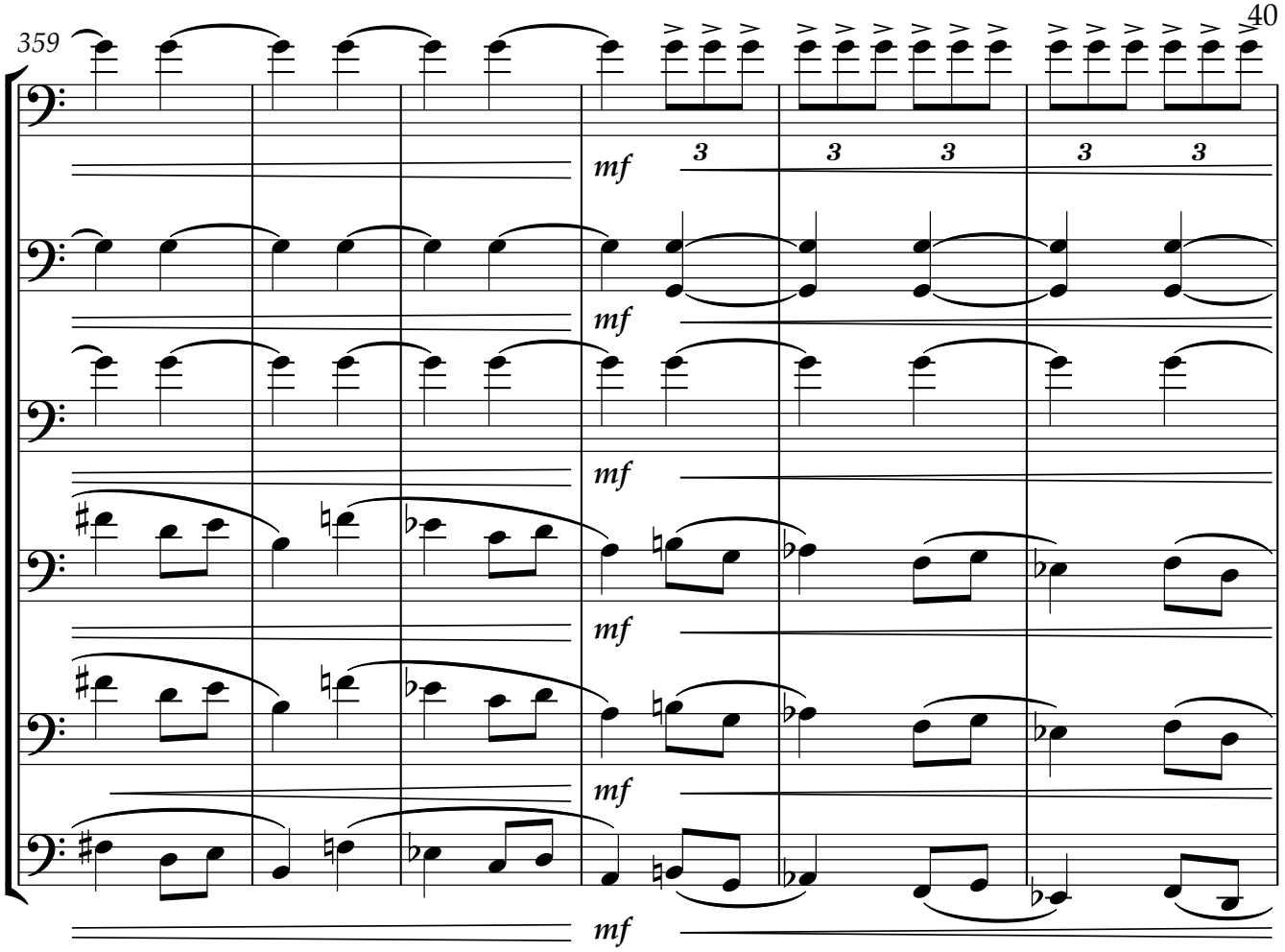
Soli
Soli


359
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
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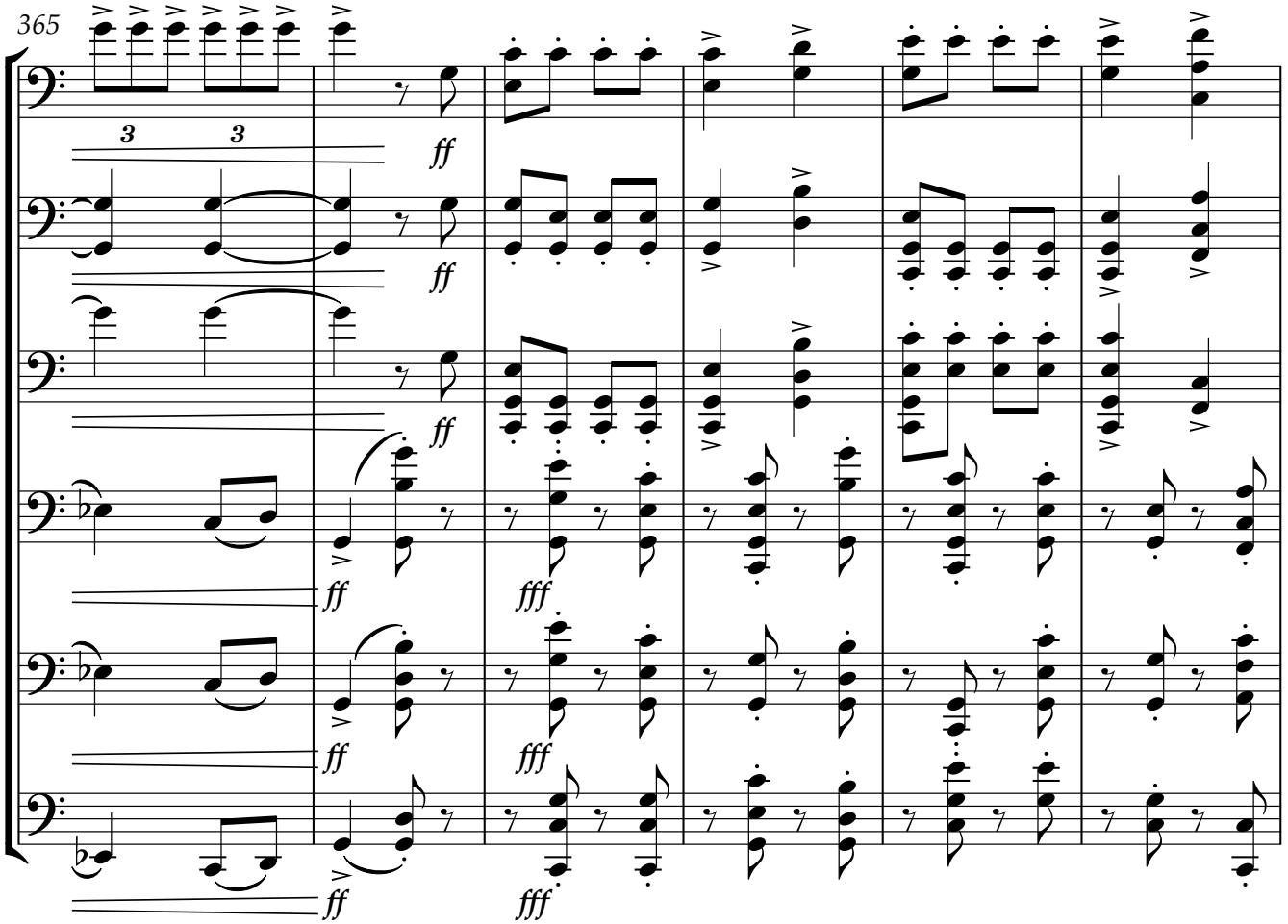
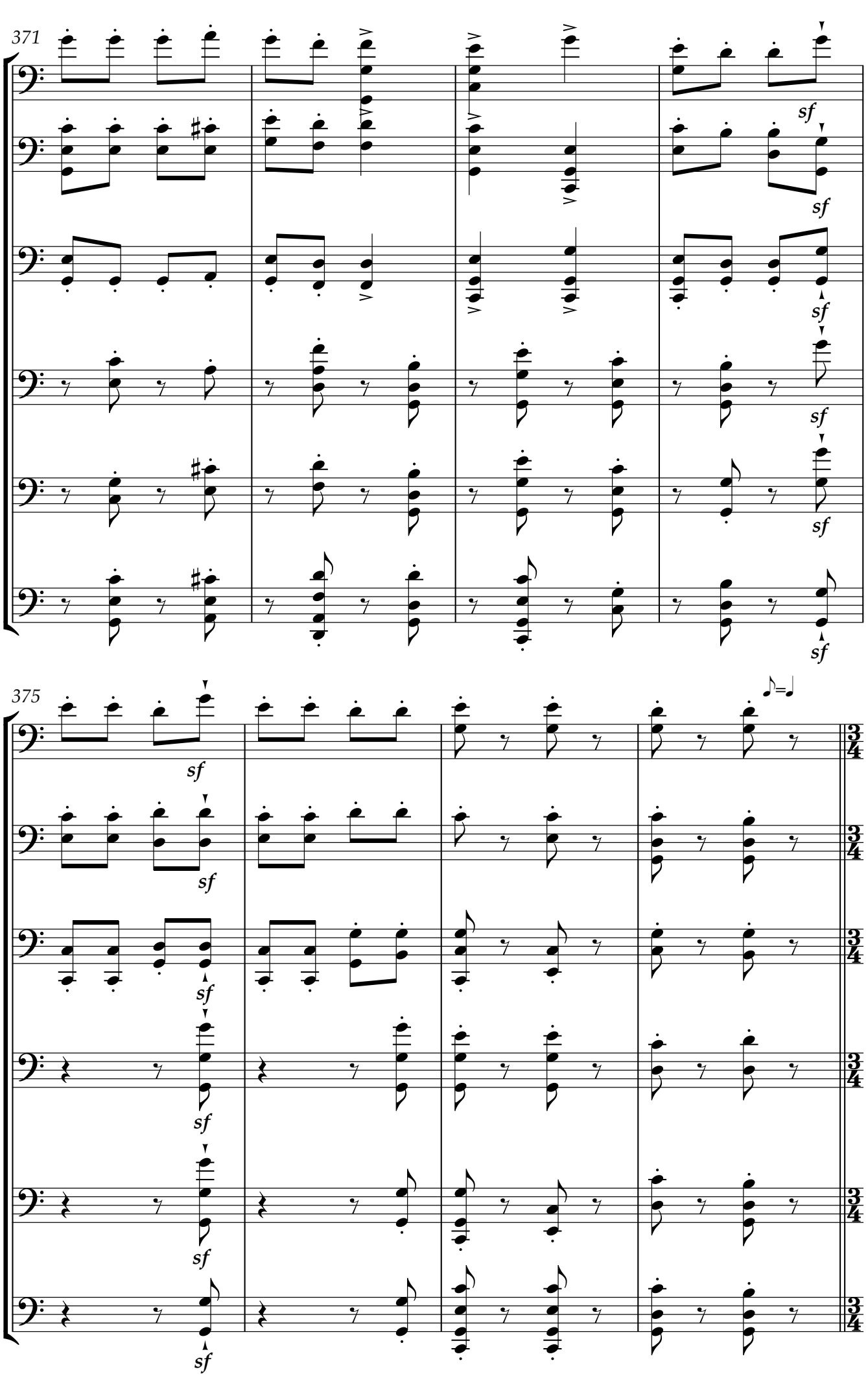
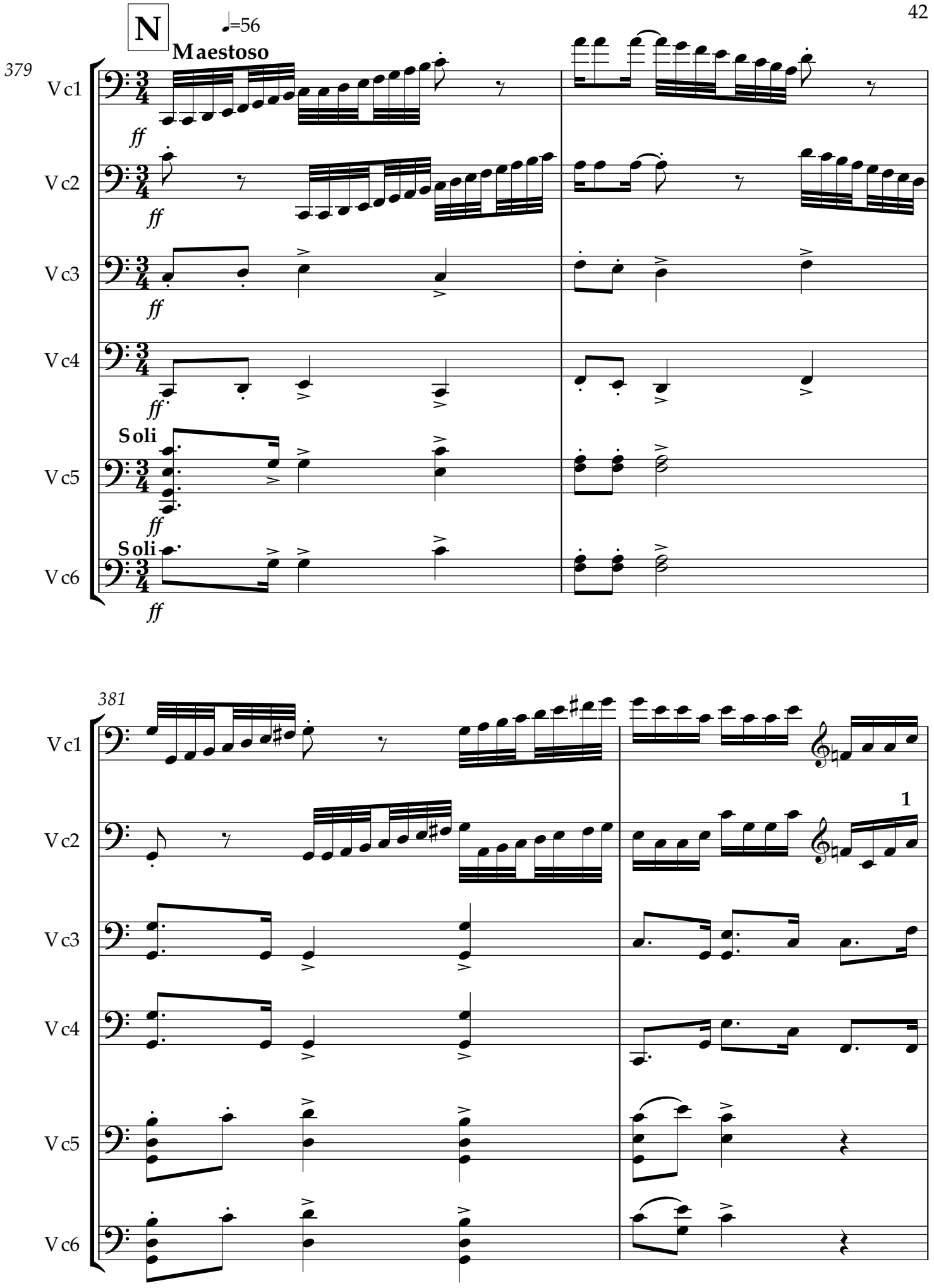
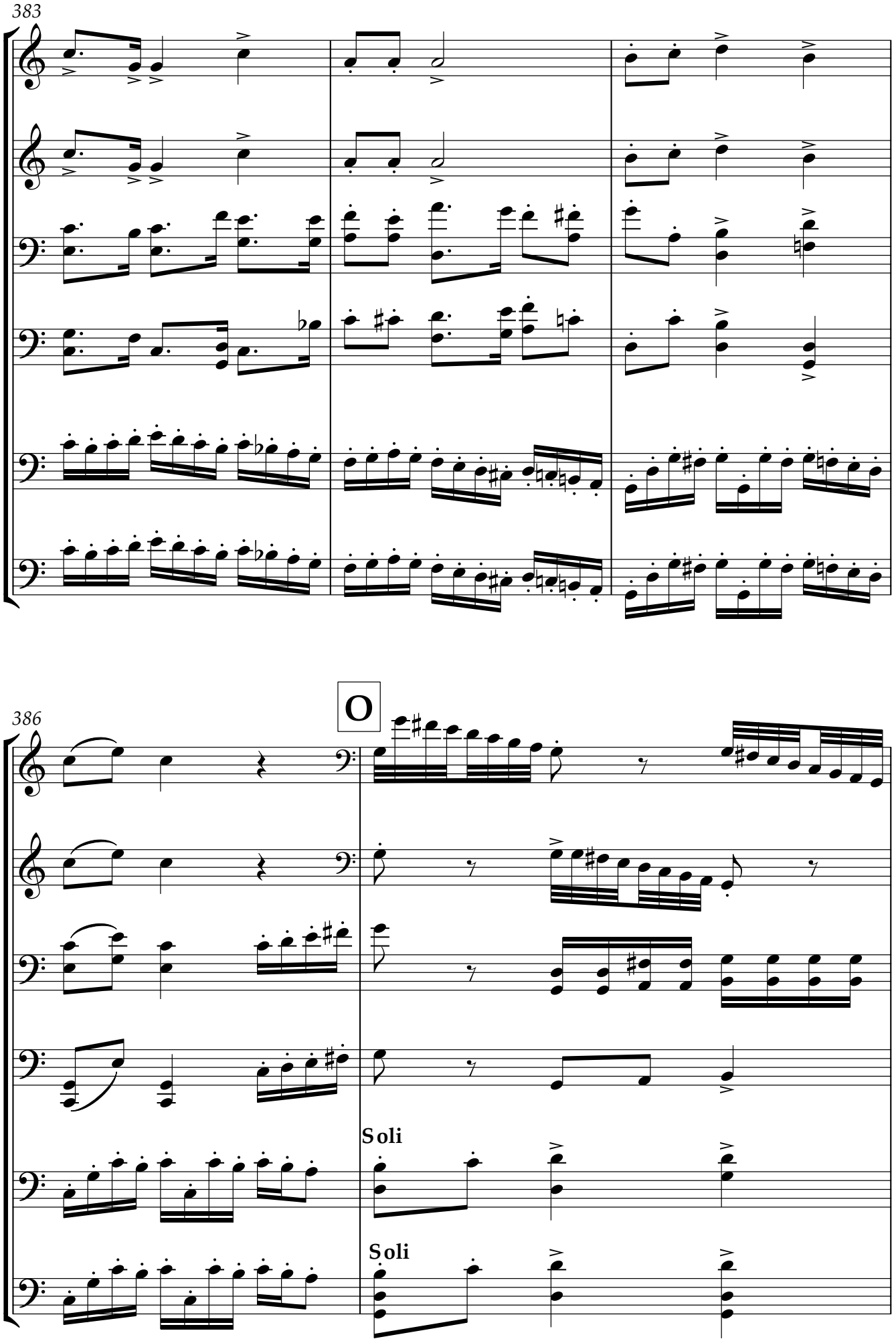
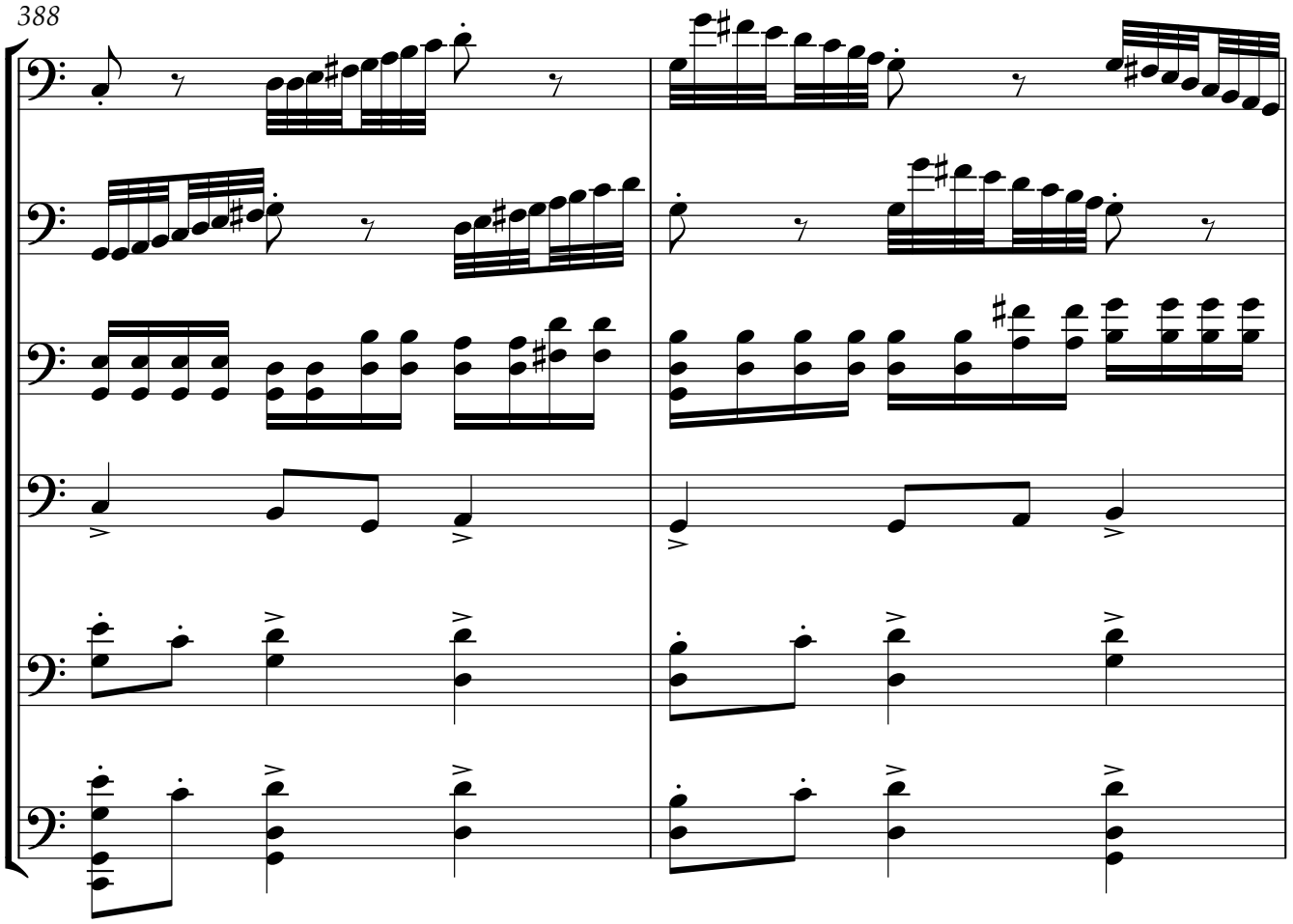

365
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
ff
fff
3


371
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
sf
375
3/4


N
♩=56
Maestoso
379
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
ff
Soli
381
1


383
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
386
O
Soli
Soli


388
Vc1
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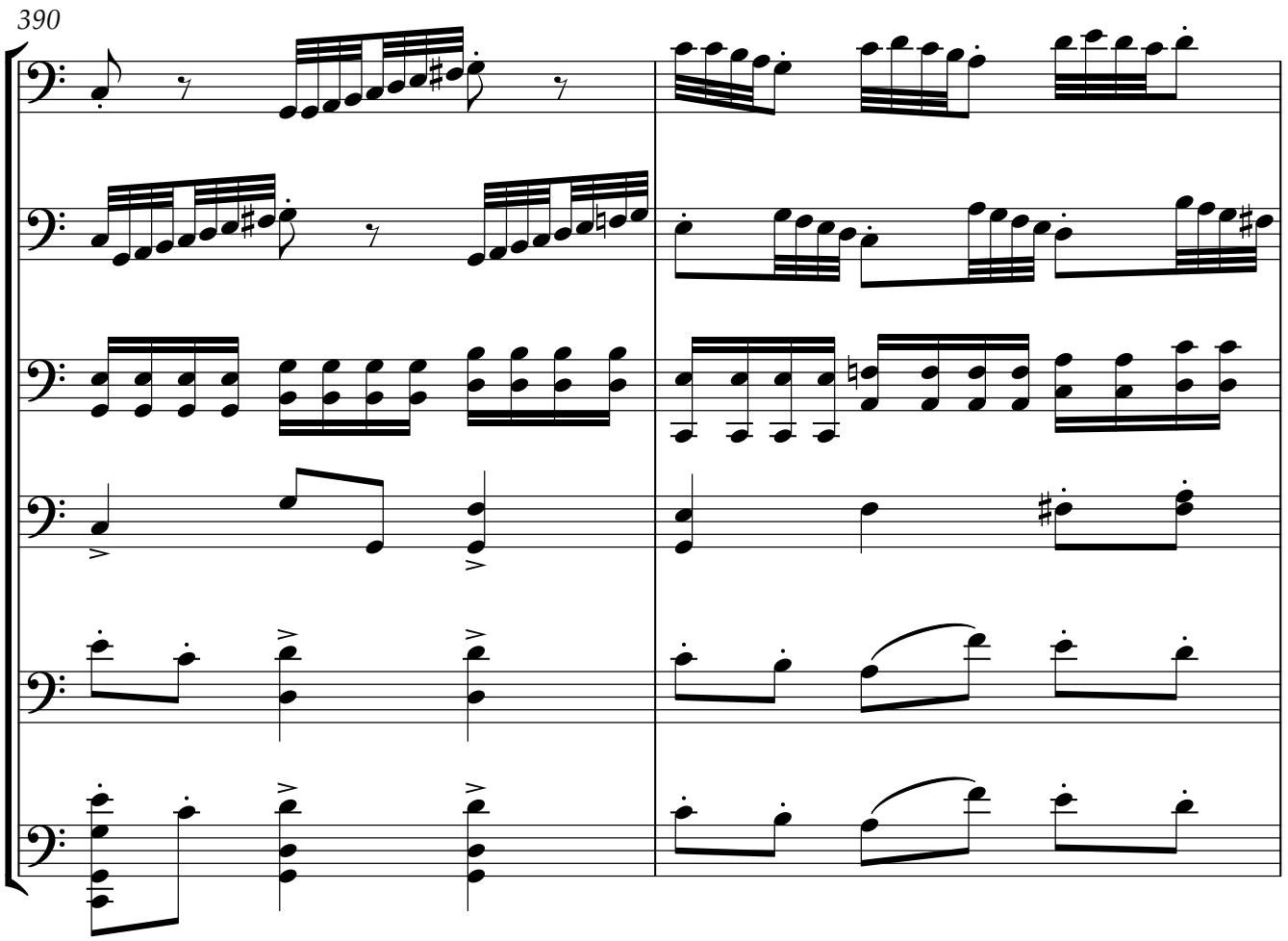
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6


390
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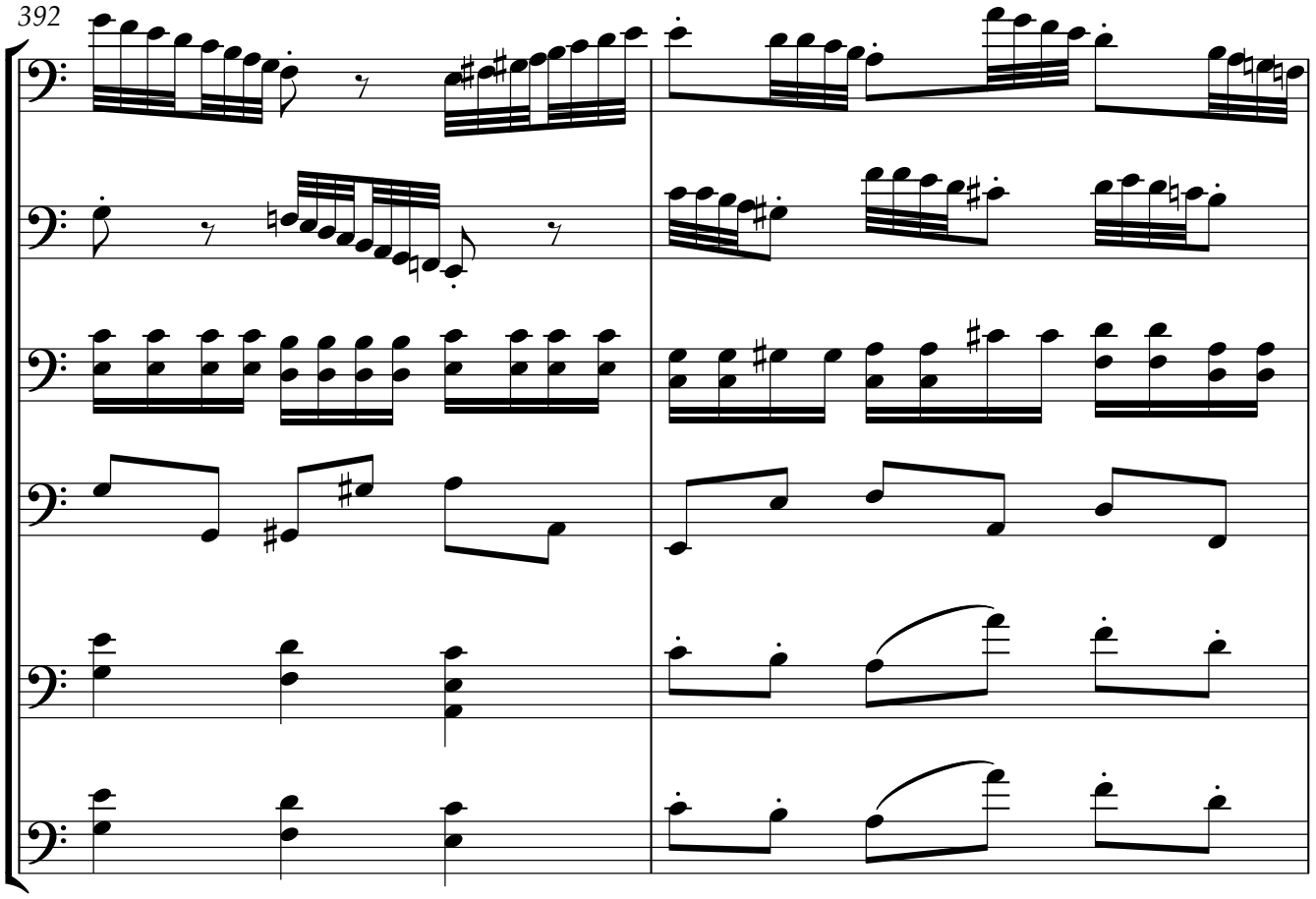
Vc5
Vc6


392
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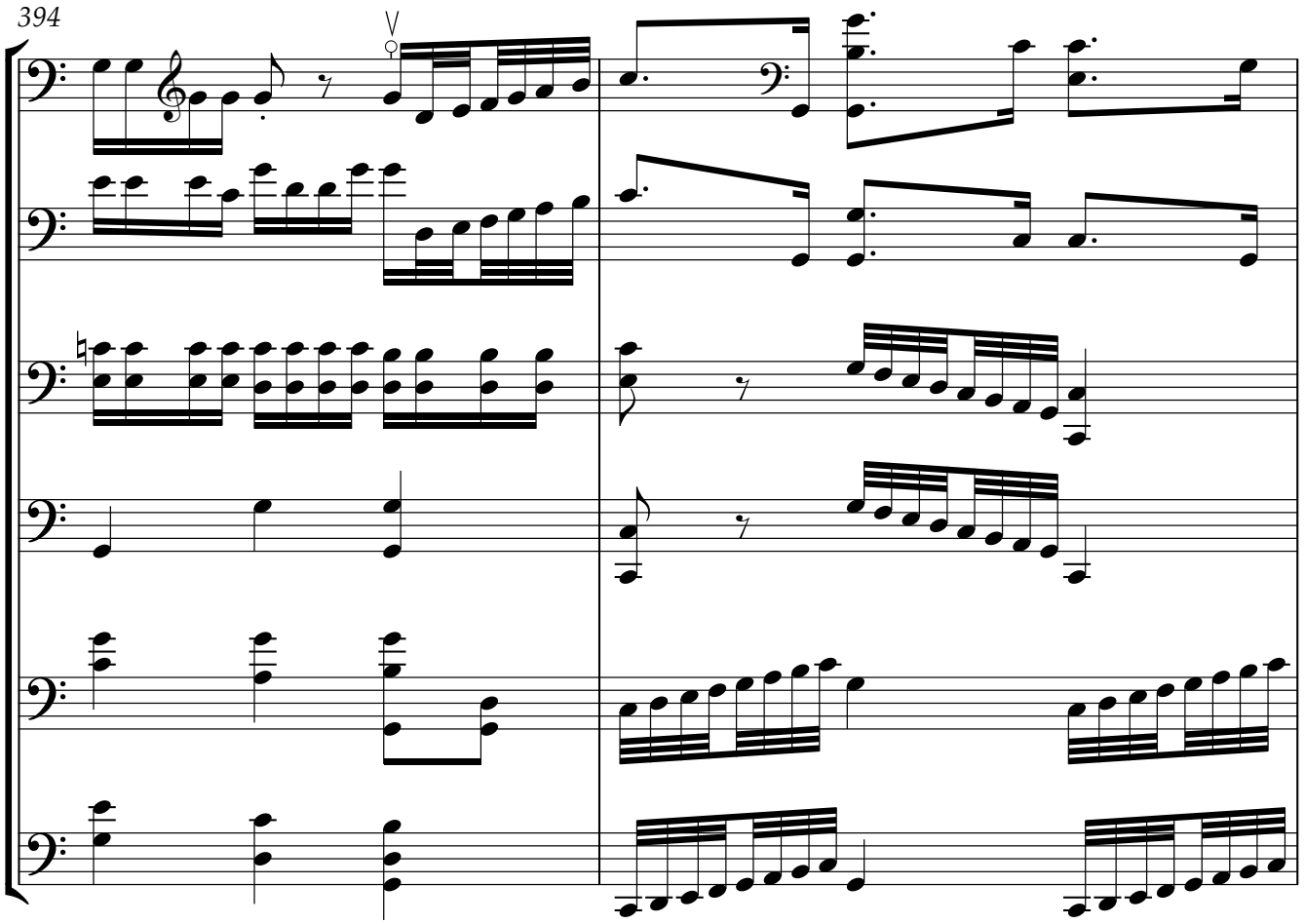
Vc6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Vc4
Vc5
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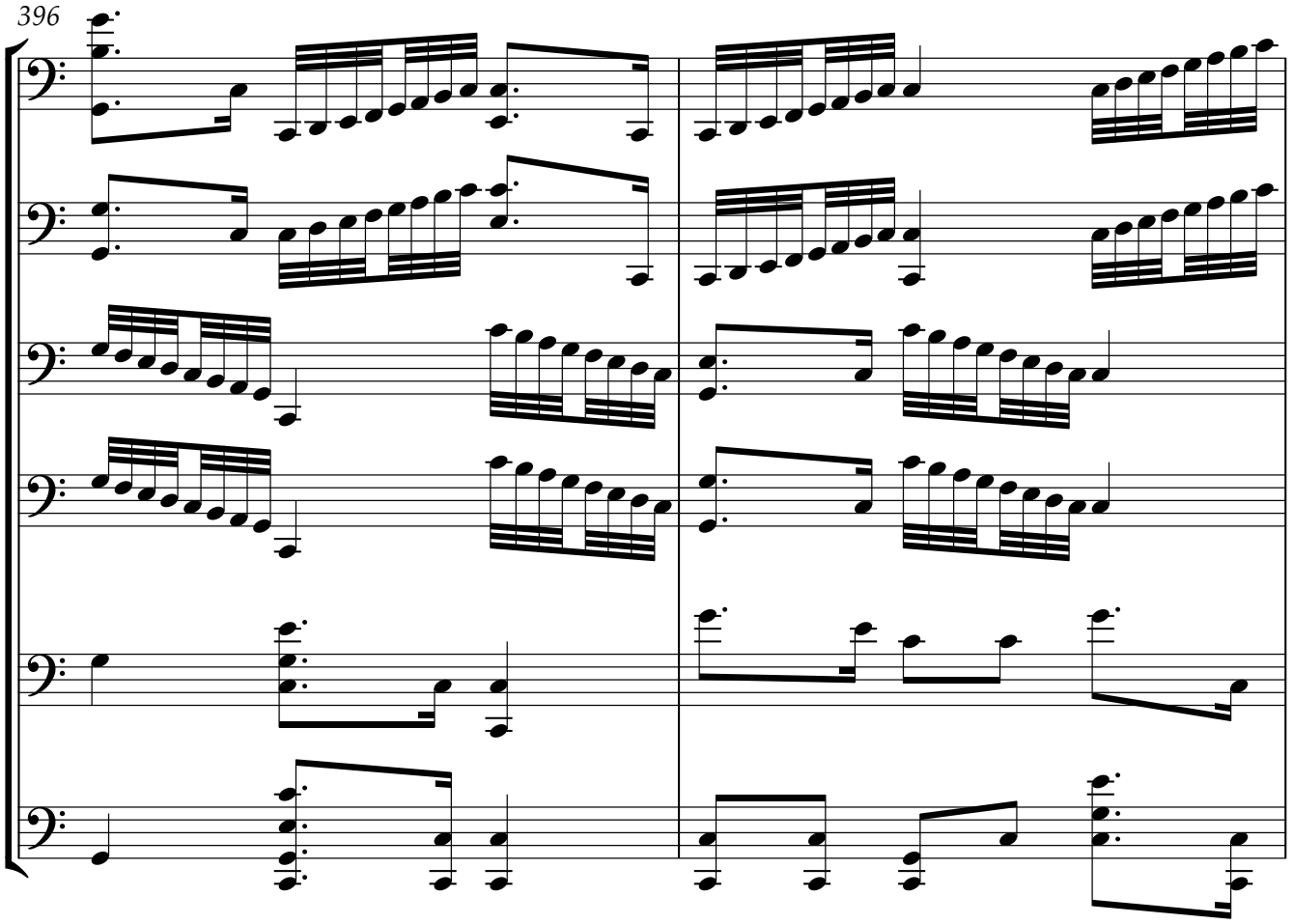
396
Vc1
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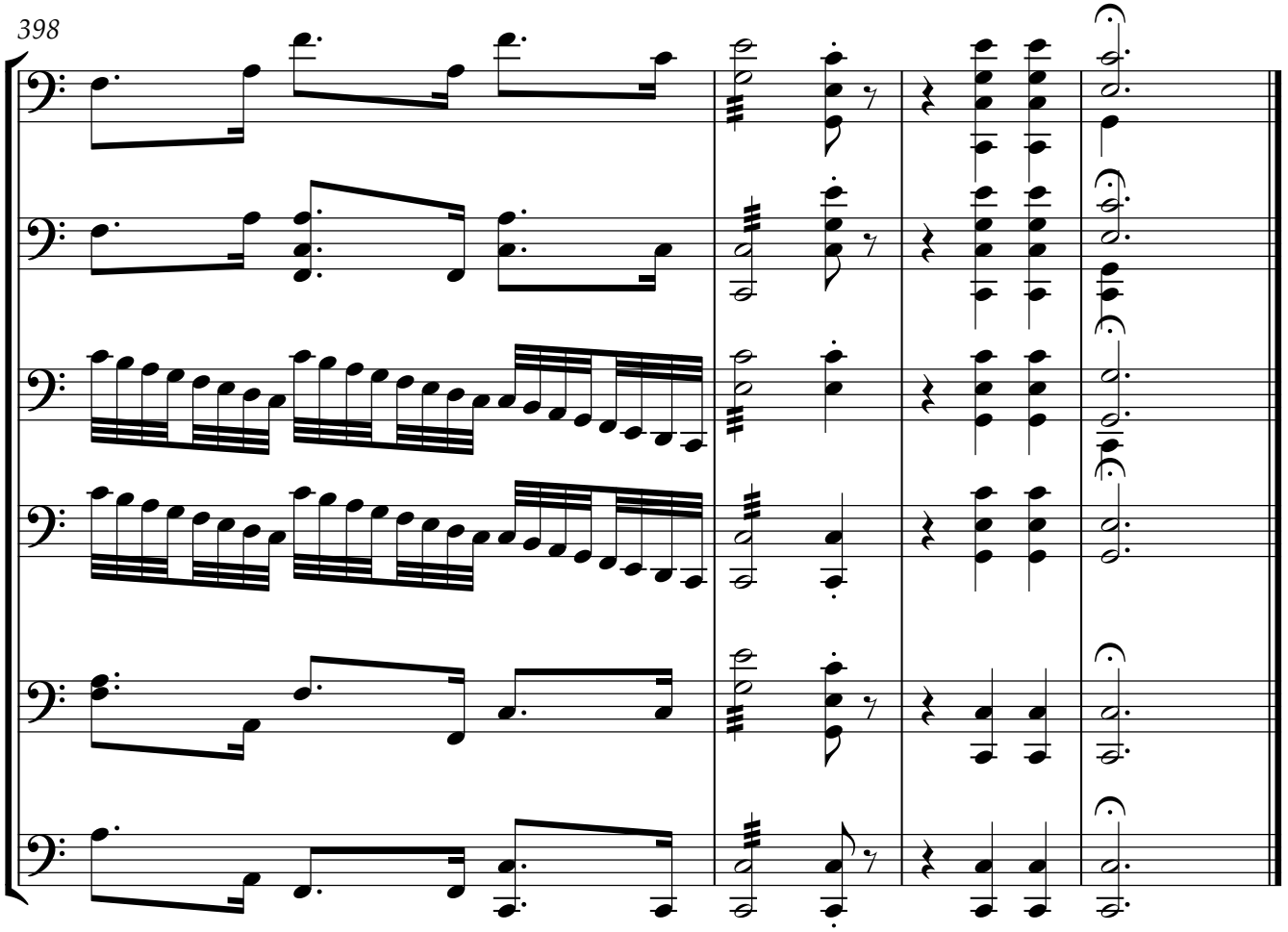
Vc6


398
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6