SAM NICHOLS

Wrack

for violin and piano
(2010–11)

Duration: ca. 9 minutes

None of the tempo markings are absolutes; they can all be adjusted slightly if the hall is especially dry, or resonant.

The pedal markings are only suggestions. The stopped notes in mm. 234–37 can be substituted with regular notes if necessary (possibly with the *una corda* pedal depressed).

c.l.b. = col legno battuto
c.l.t. = col legno tratto

Shungo Mise, violin, and Kaori Ohsuga, piano, premiered *Wrack* in Tokyo on September 29, 2011 as part of mmm…'s "Circle of Friends" project. Ben Kreith and Ann Yi gave the US premiere on October 28, 2011, in San Francisco.

Wrack program note

When I wrote this piece I was trying to make something that started out very simply and prettily, but which then, gradually, fell apart. Once I started to write it, this idea mutated, and the piece took some unexpected detours, some unplanned side trips. I tried to treat the piano and violin as more or less equal partners; but the moments when they are cooperating are maybe outnumbered by those times when one is ignoring, or even actively undermining, the other. *Wrack* is dedicated to my friend Pablo Ortiz.

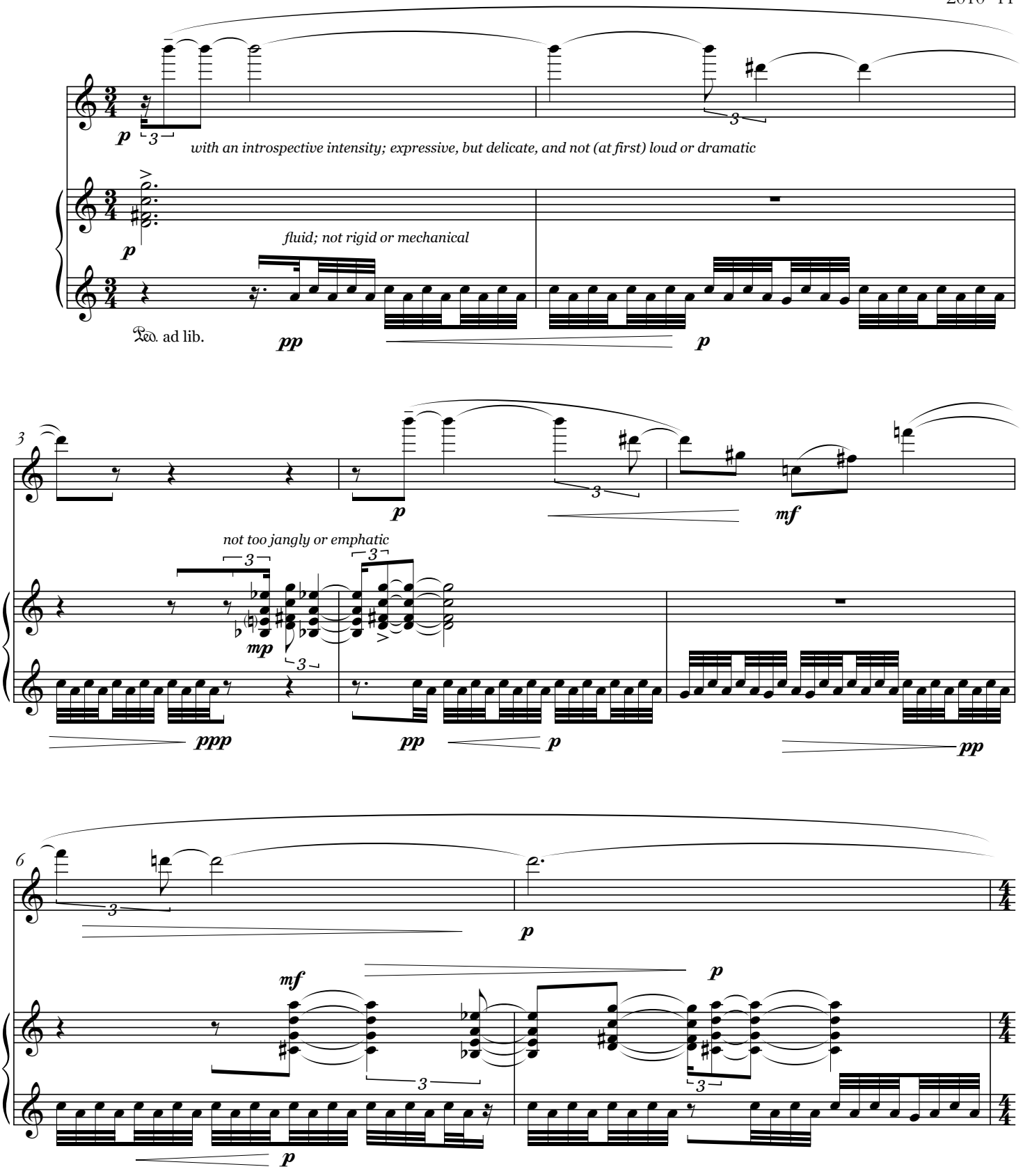
dedicated to Pablo Ortiz

Wrack

for violin and piano

Sam Nichols
2010–11

Calm, but not too slow ♩ = ca. 66–72



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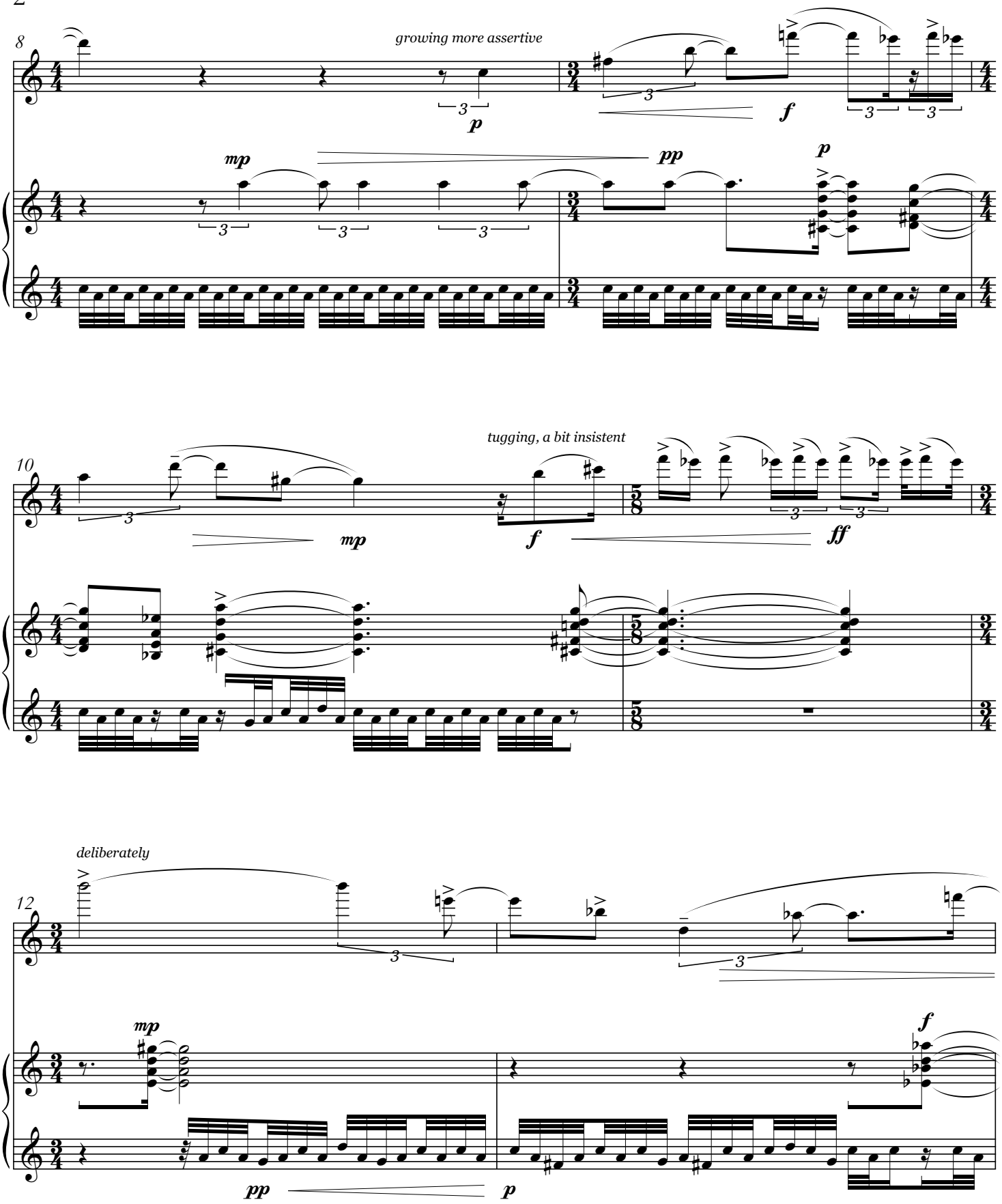
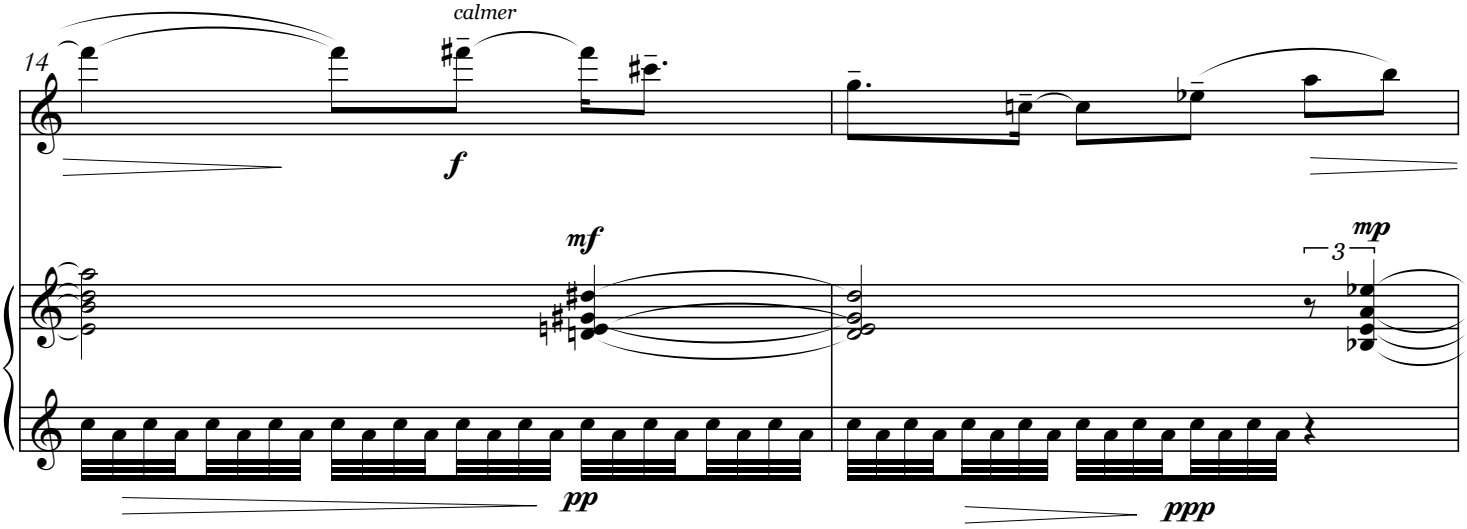
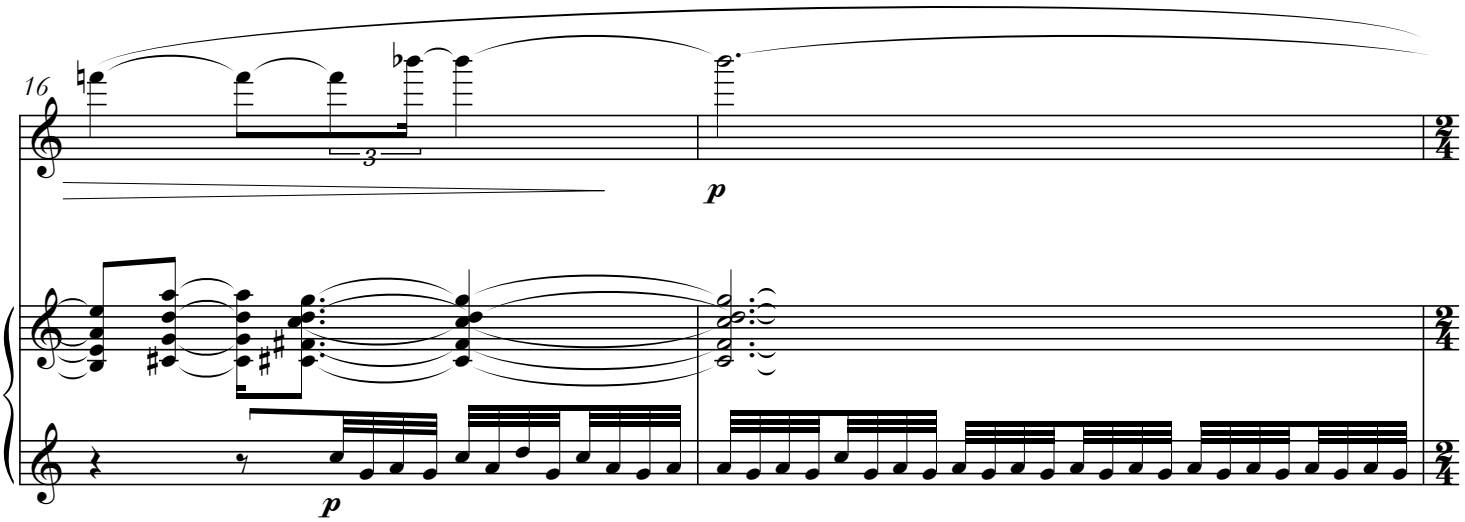
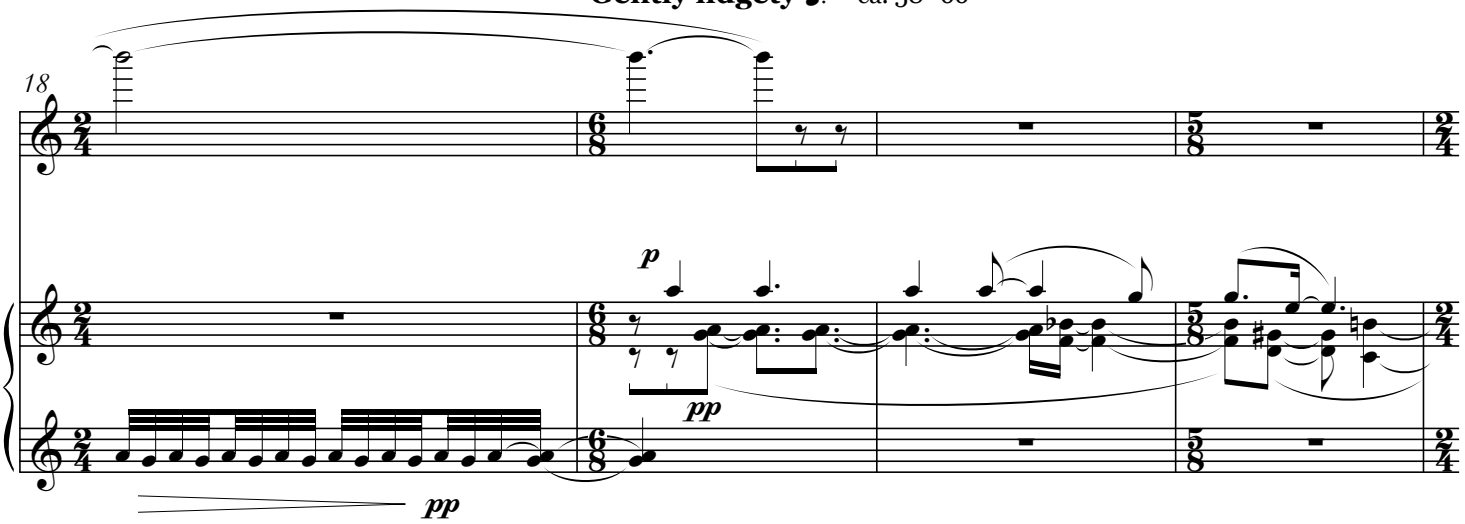
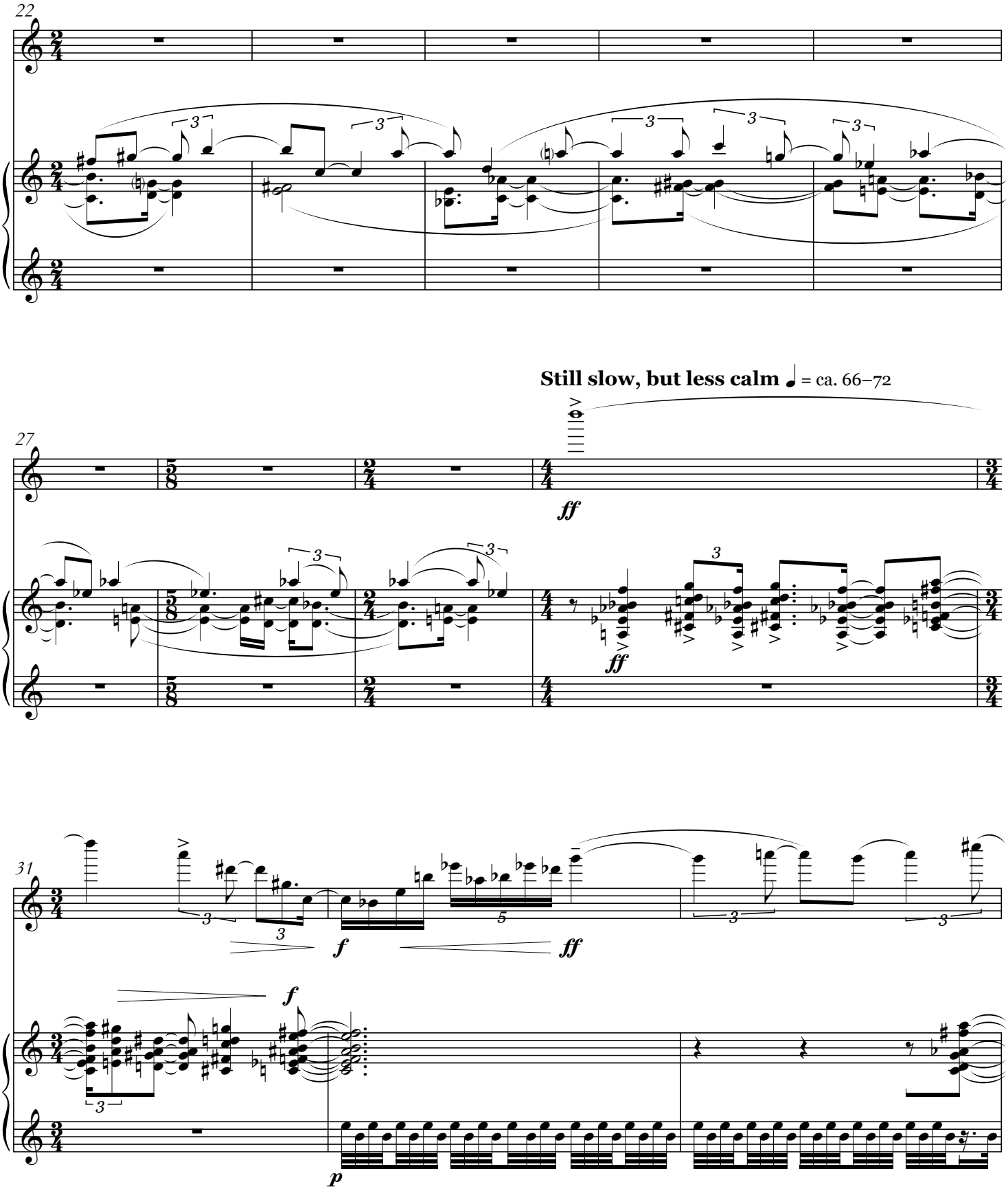

8
growing more assertive
p
f
mp
pp
p
10
tugging, a bit insistent
mp
f
ff
12
deliberately
mp
f
pp
p

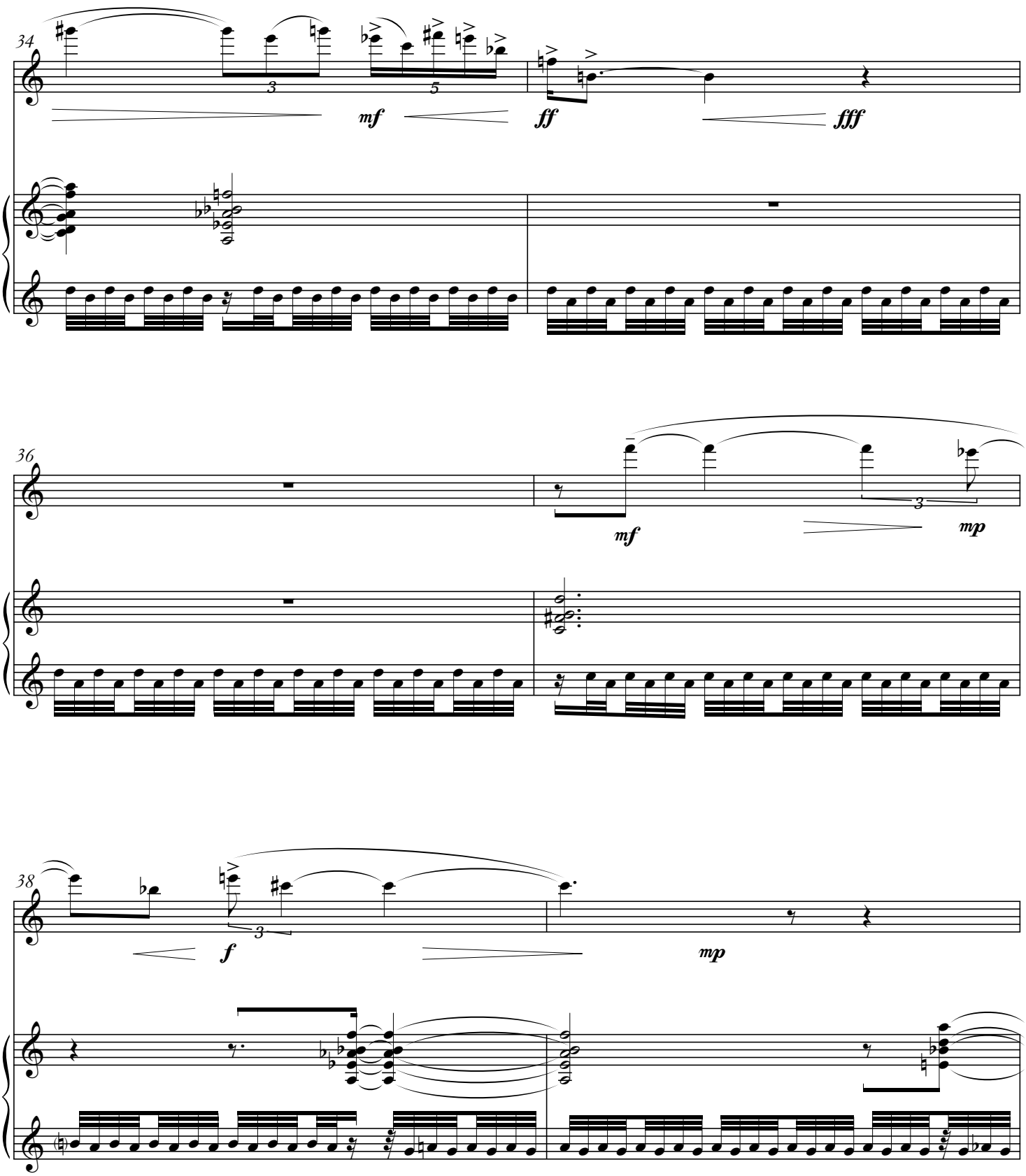


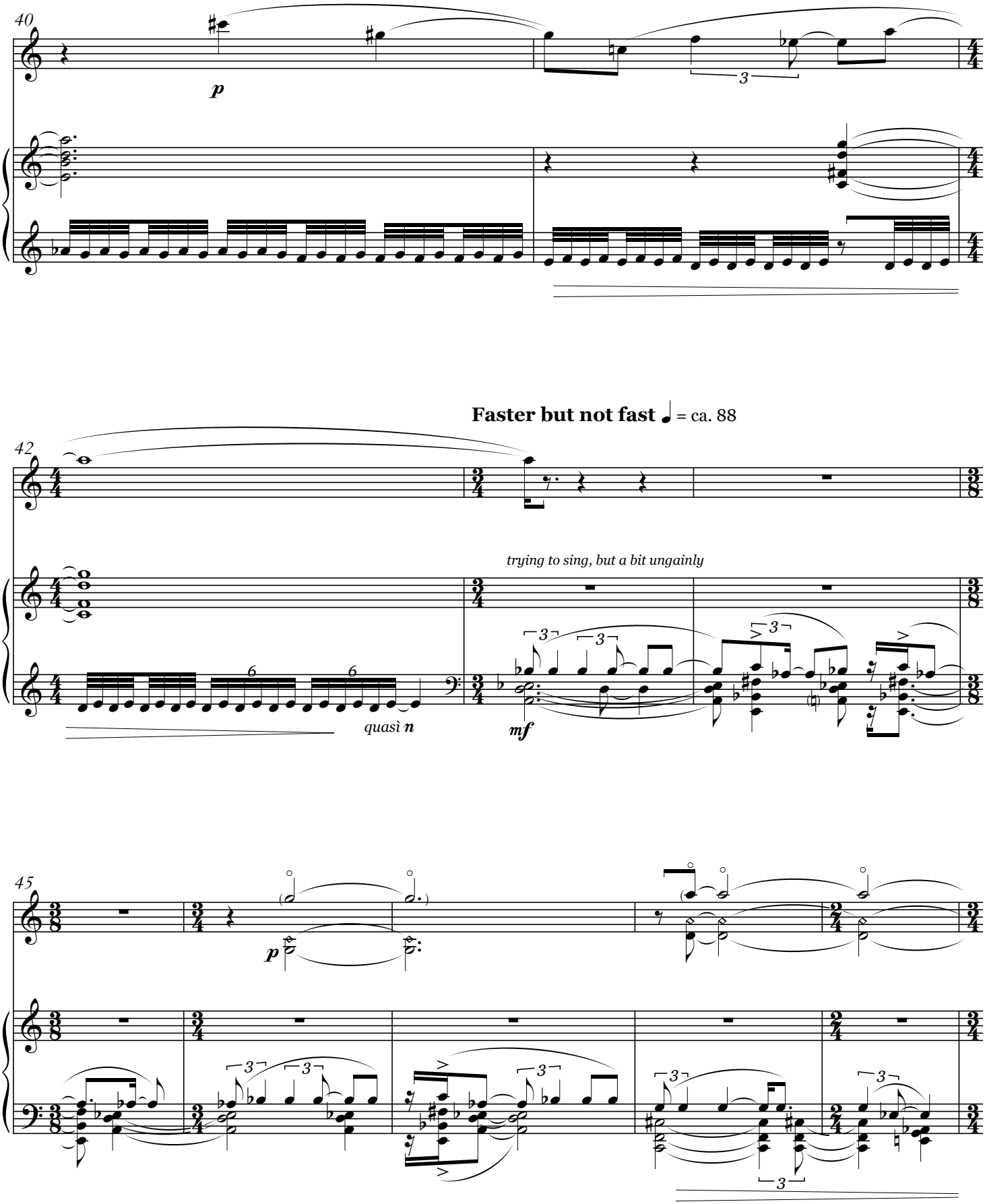


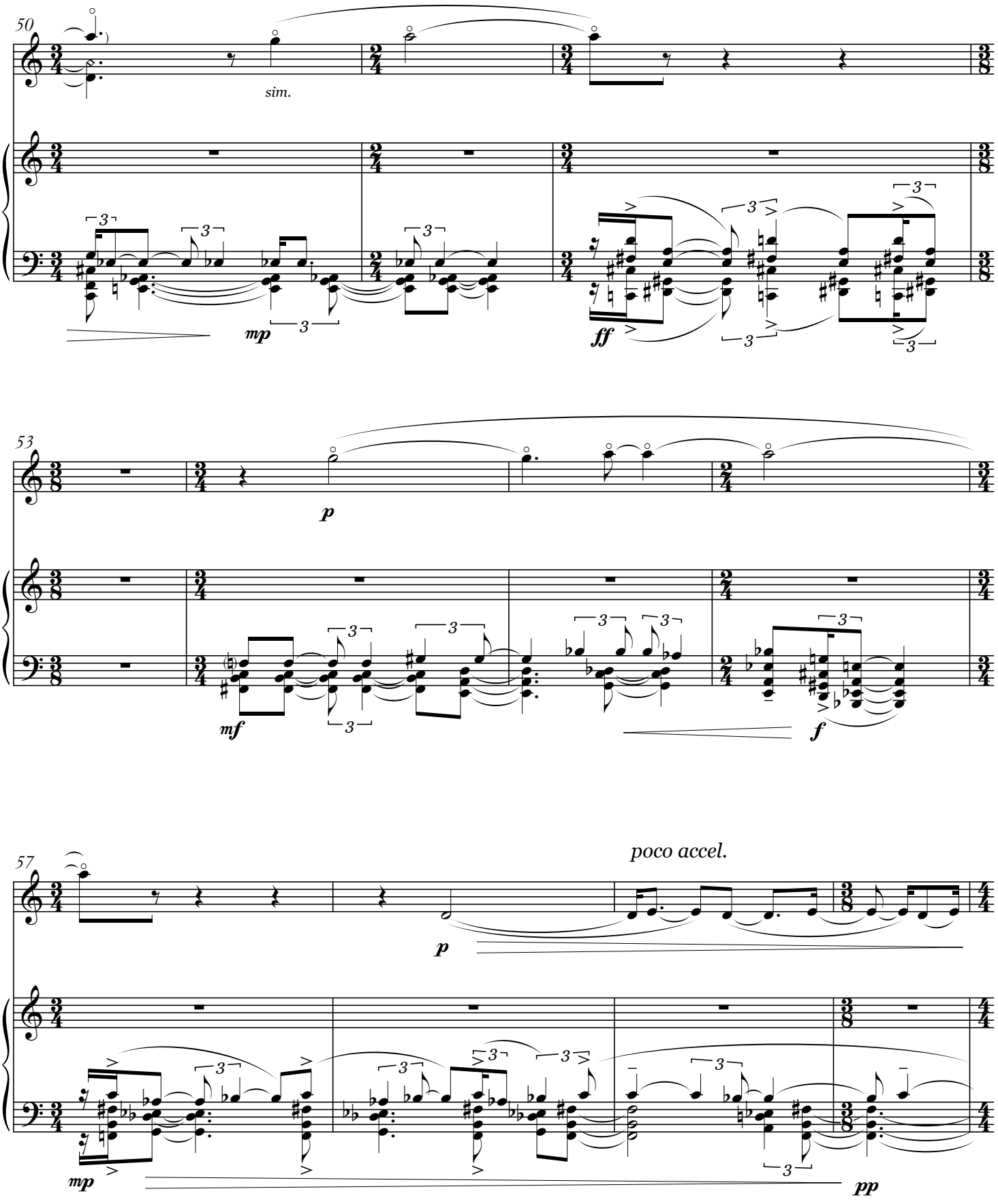
Gently fidgety ♩. = ca. 58–66




22
27
Still slow, but less calm ♩ = ca. 66–72
ff
ff
31
f
ff
f
p


34
mf
ff
fff
36
mf
mp
38
f
mp


40
p
3
42
Faster but not fast ♩ = ca. 88
trying to sing, but a bit ungainly
quasi n
mf
45
p


50
sim.
mp
ff
53
p
mf
f
57
poco accel.
p
mp
pp

Hushed, murmuring ♩ = ca. 120

Delicate, distant (but not slow) ♩ = ca. 108

61

ppp *pppp* *n*

8va

quietly obsessed; not too jagged

pp *pppp* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

ppp *pppp*

66

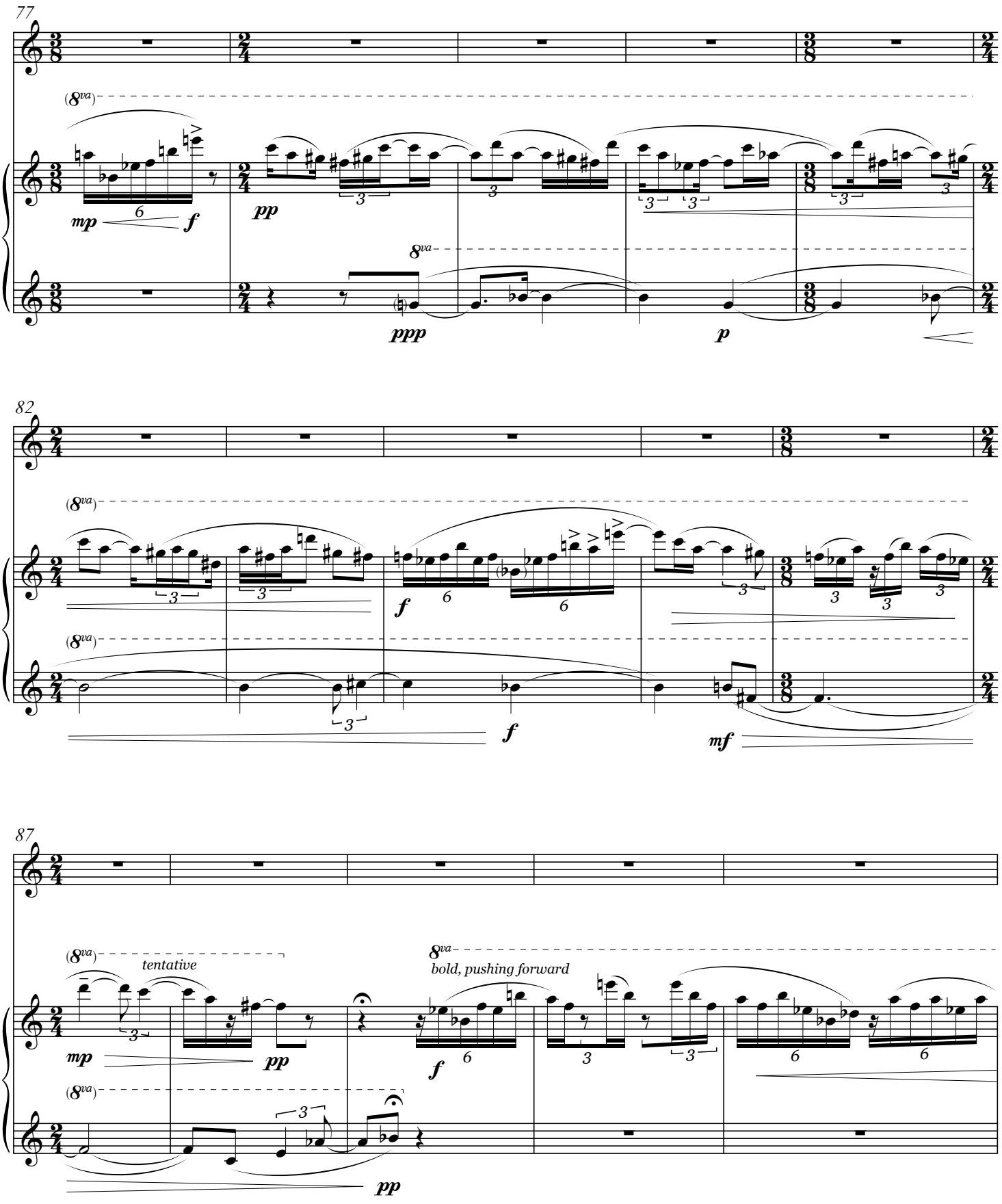
(8va)

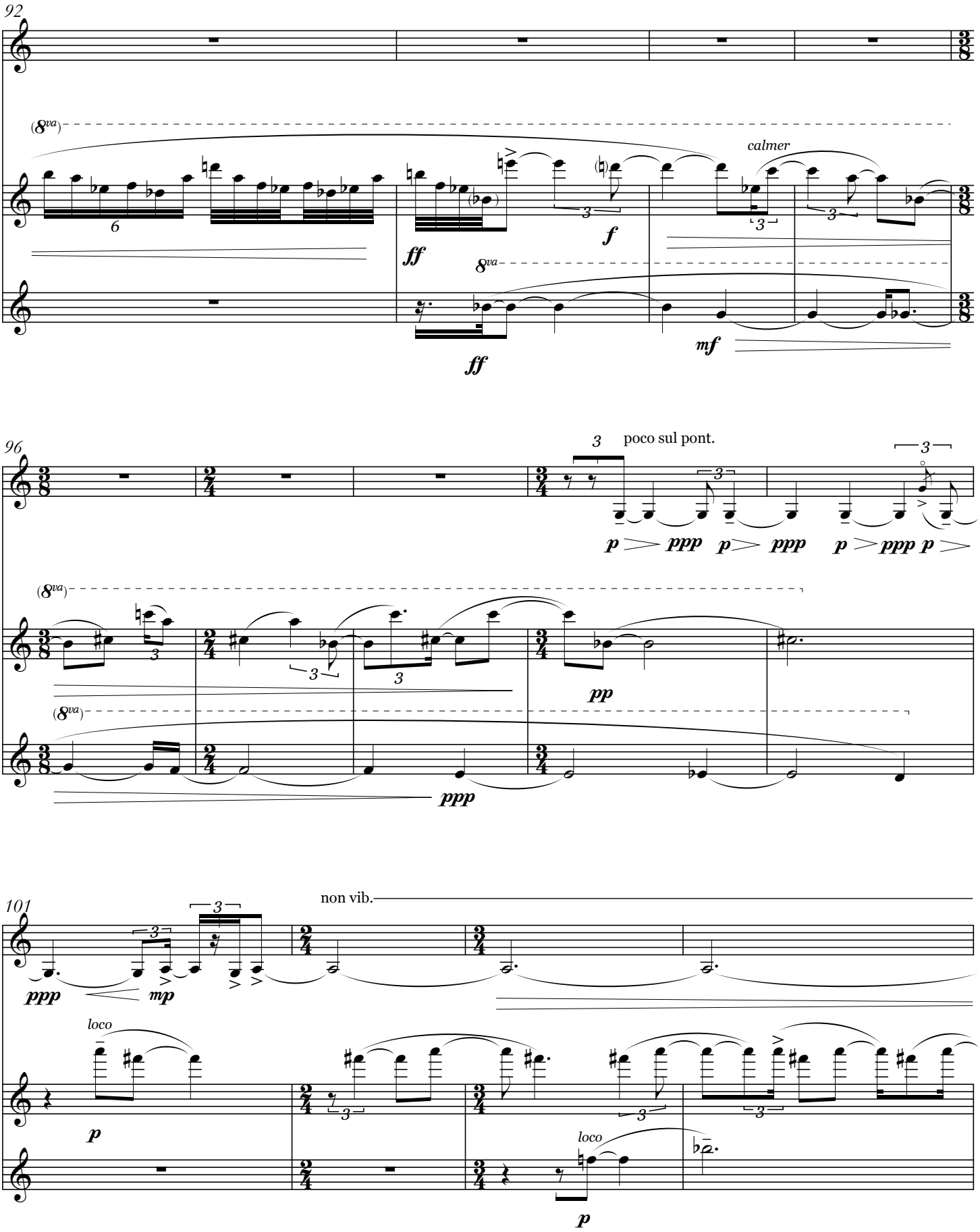
mp *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *pp*

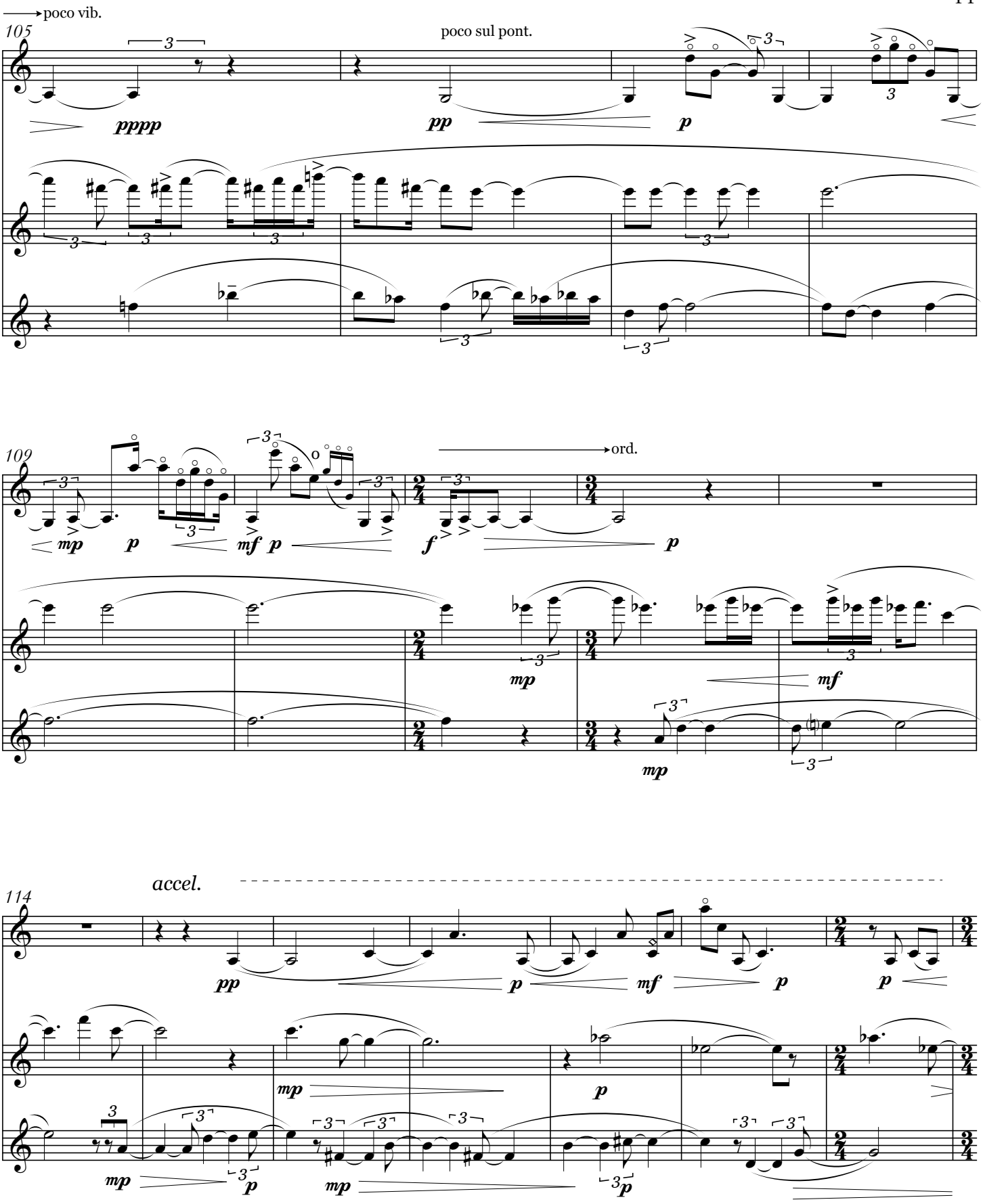
71

8va

p *(poco)* *mp* *pp subito* *(poco)* *p* *p*


77
(8va)
mp
f
pp
8va
ppp
p
82
(8va)
f
(8va)
f
mf
87
(8va)
tentative
mp
pp
8va
bold, pushing forward
f
(8va)
pp


92
(8va)
calmer
ff
f
ff
mf
96
poco sul pont.
p ppp p ppp p ppp p
(8va)
pp
(8va)
ppp
101
non vib.
ppp
mp
loco
p
loco
p


poco vib.
105
poco sul pont.
pppp
pp
p
109
ord.
mp
p
mf
p
f
p
mp
mf
mp
114
accel.
pp
p
mf
p
p
mp
p
mp
p
mp
p

Briefly quite fast ♩ = ca. 160

Suddenly slower, but steady ♩ = ca. 96

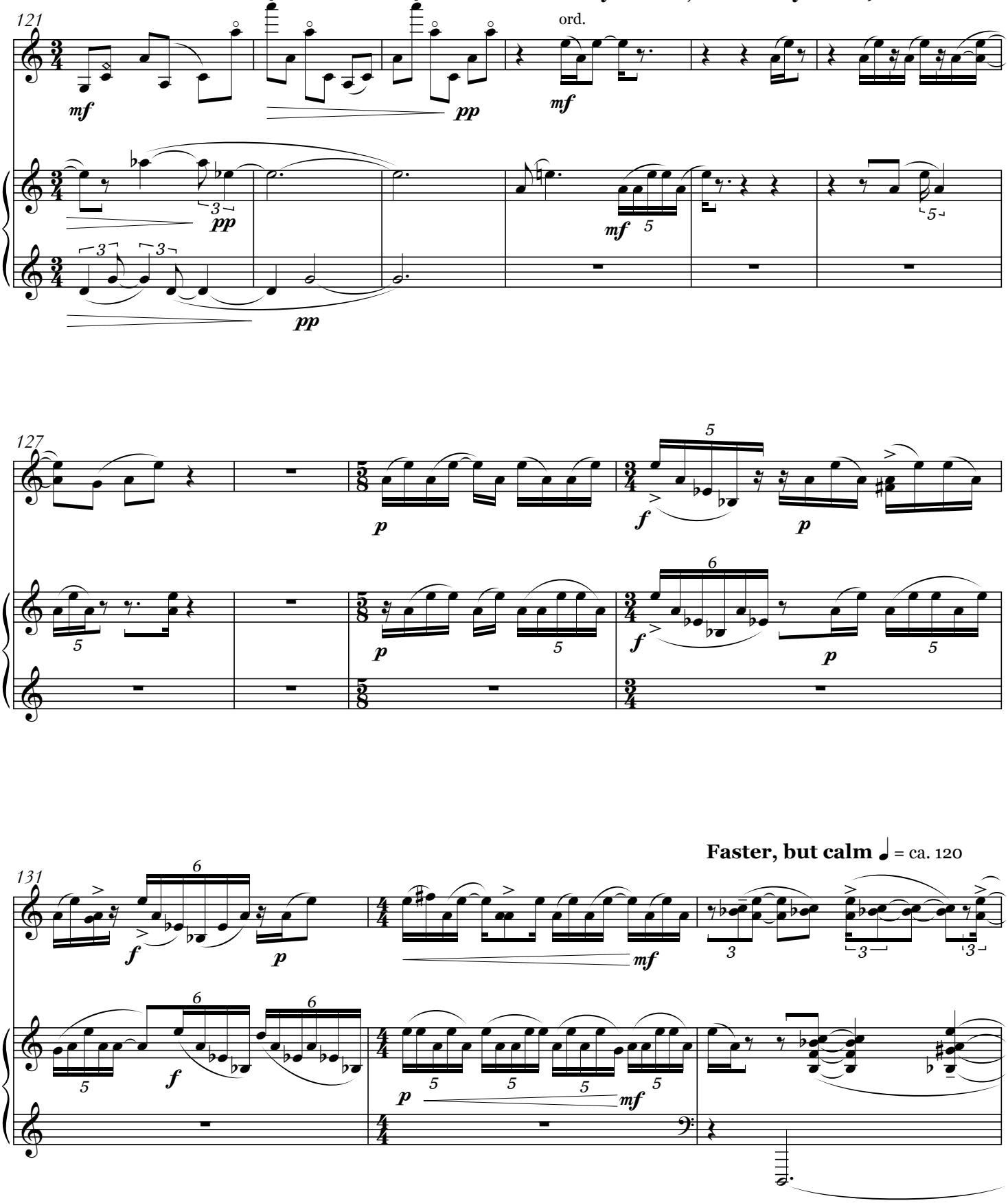
121

ord.

127

Faster, but calm ♩ = ca. 120

131



Sparkly and unstable ♩ = ca. 96

134

139

scrambling ahead

half-pedalled; let it bleed and blur together

143

5 =

Rushing forward ♩ = ca. 120

147

the notes bleeding together; gently disruptive

151

155

(Slower)

jeté (each note a thrown bow)

A tempo

159

ord.

f

f *p*

163

as if suddenly waking up

f

3

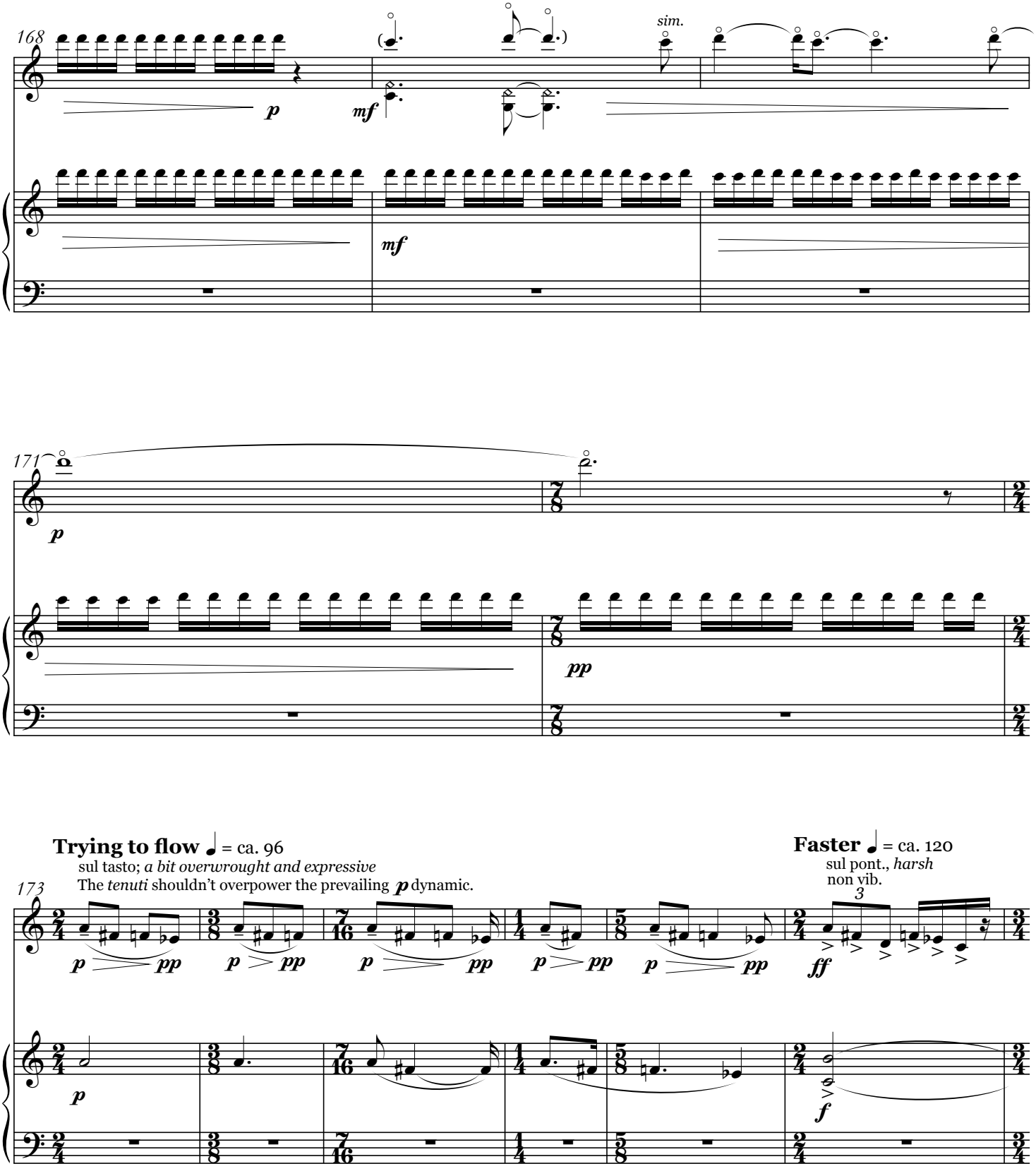
166

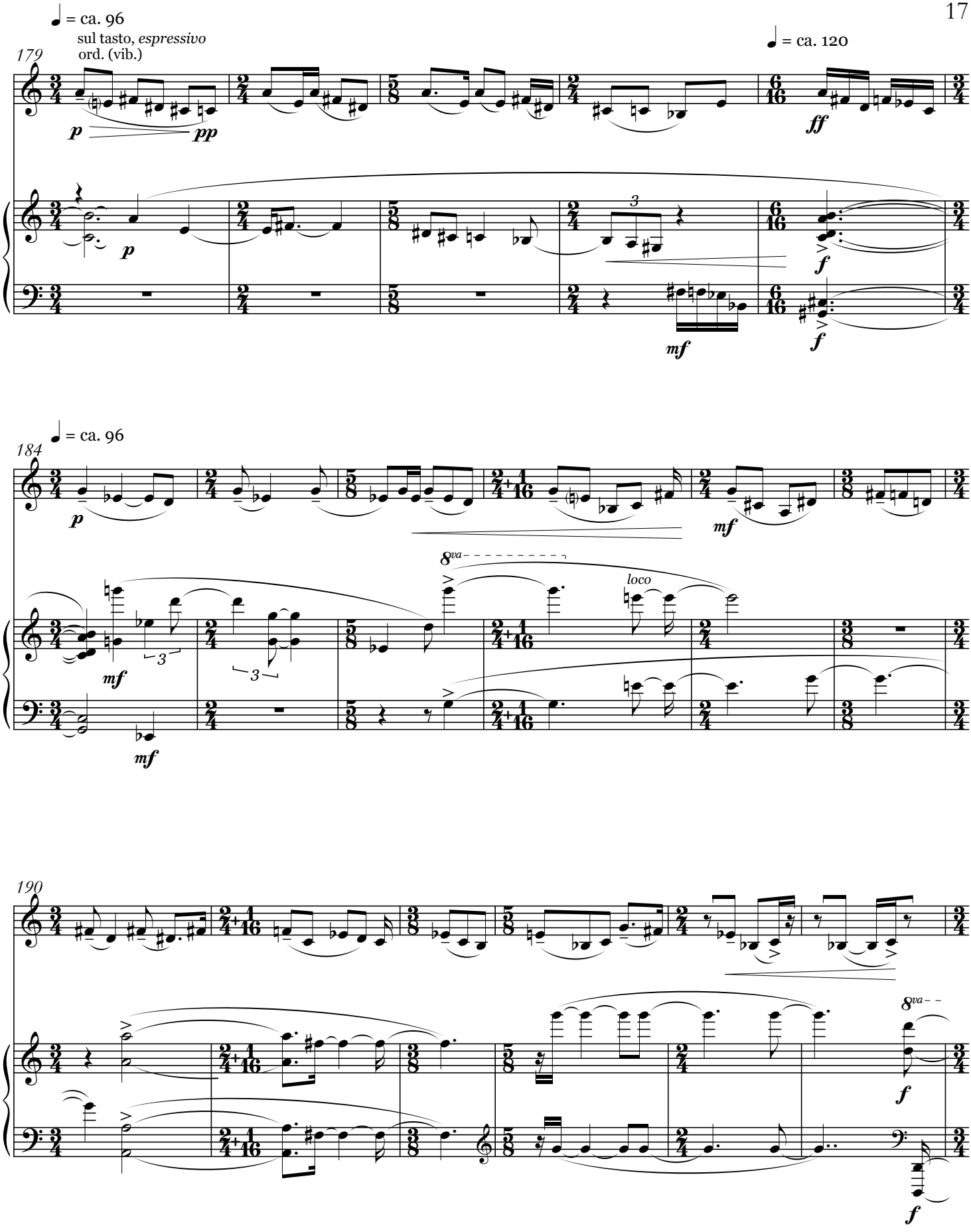
ff

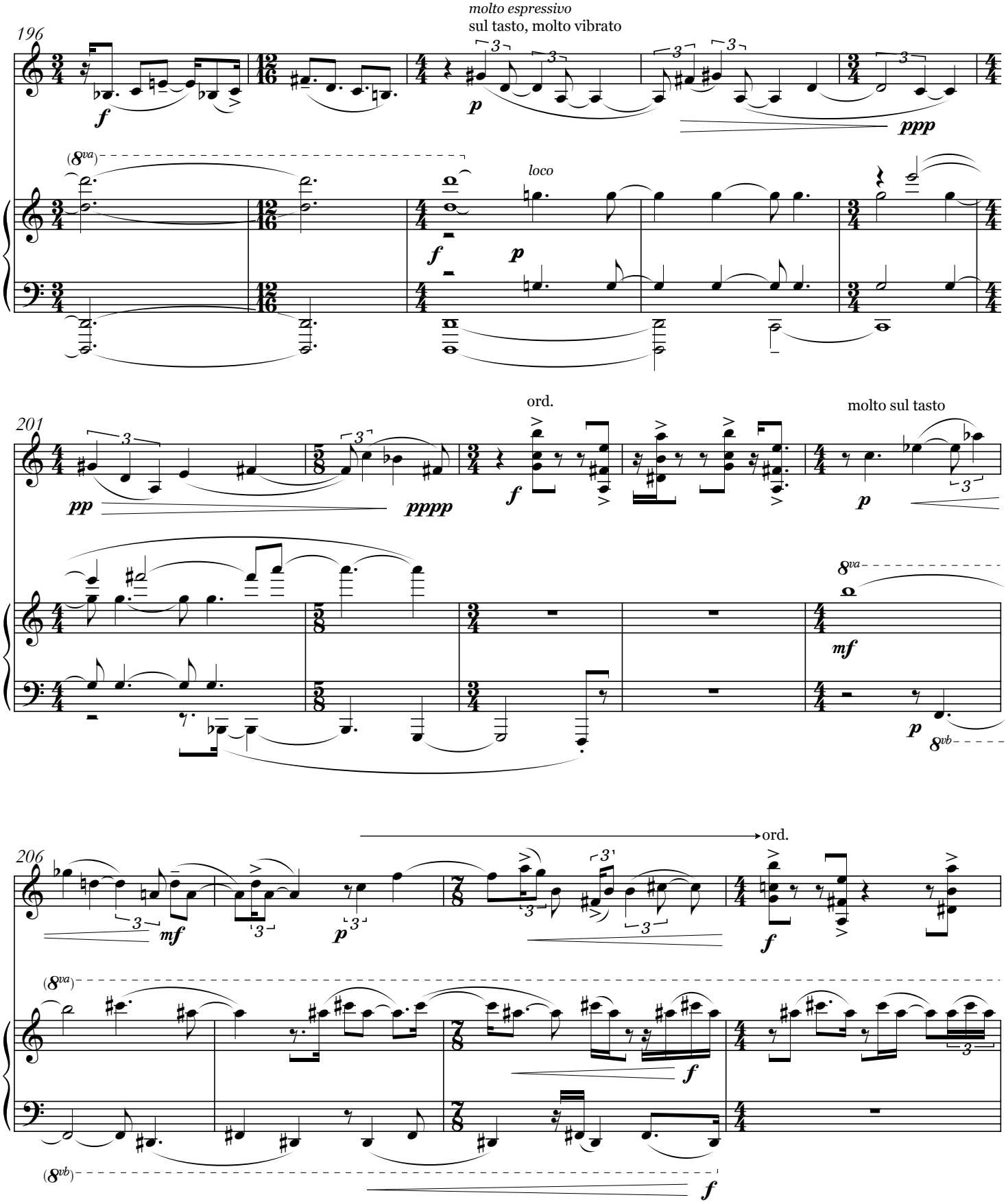
5 5 5

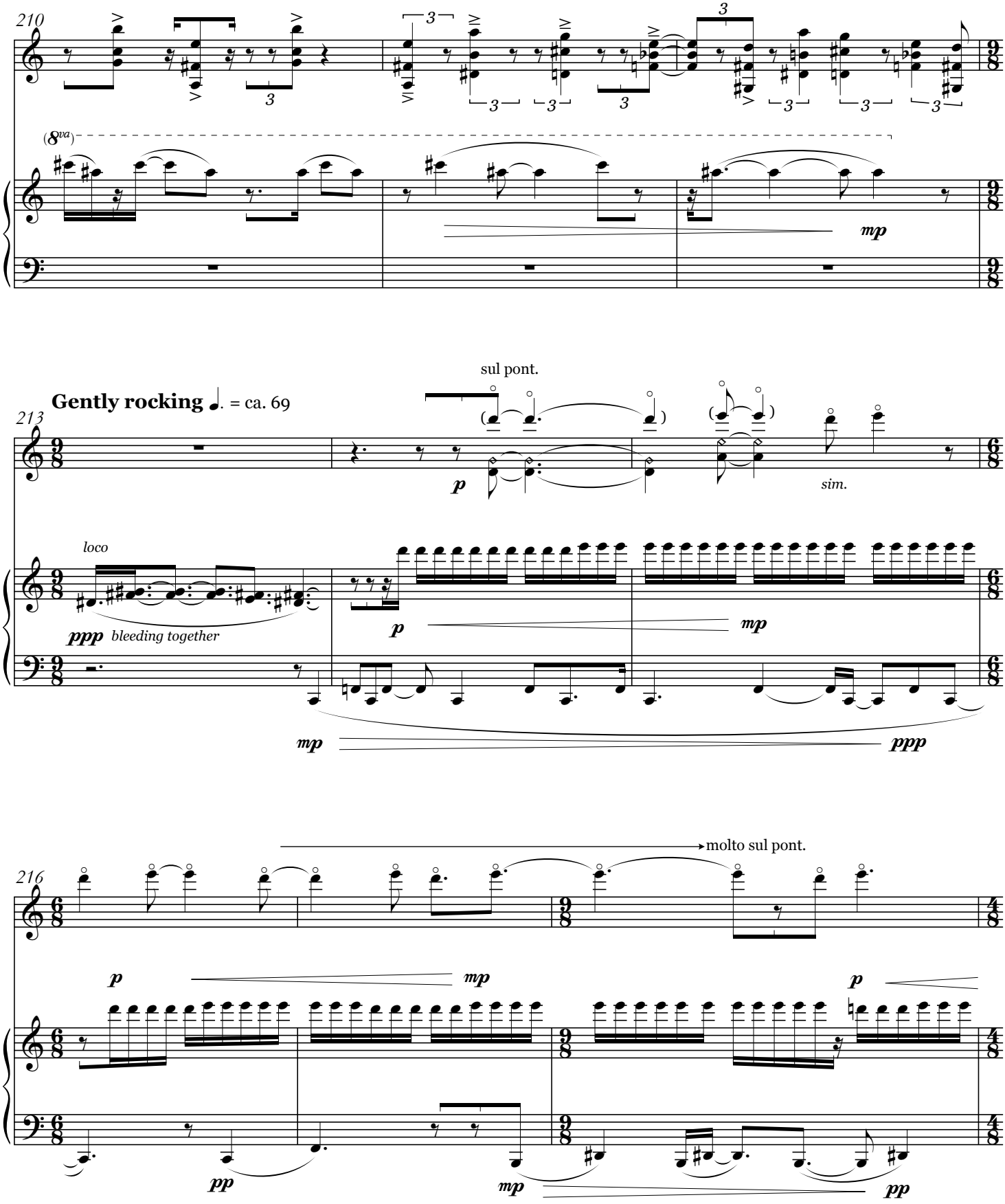
5

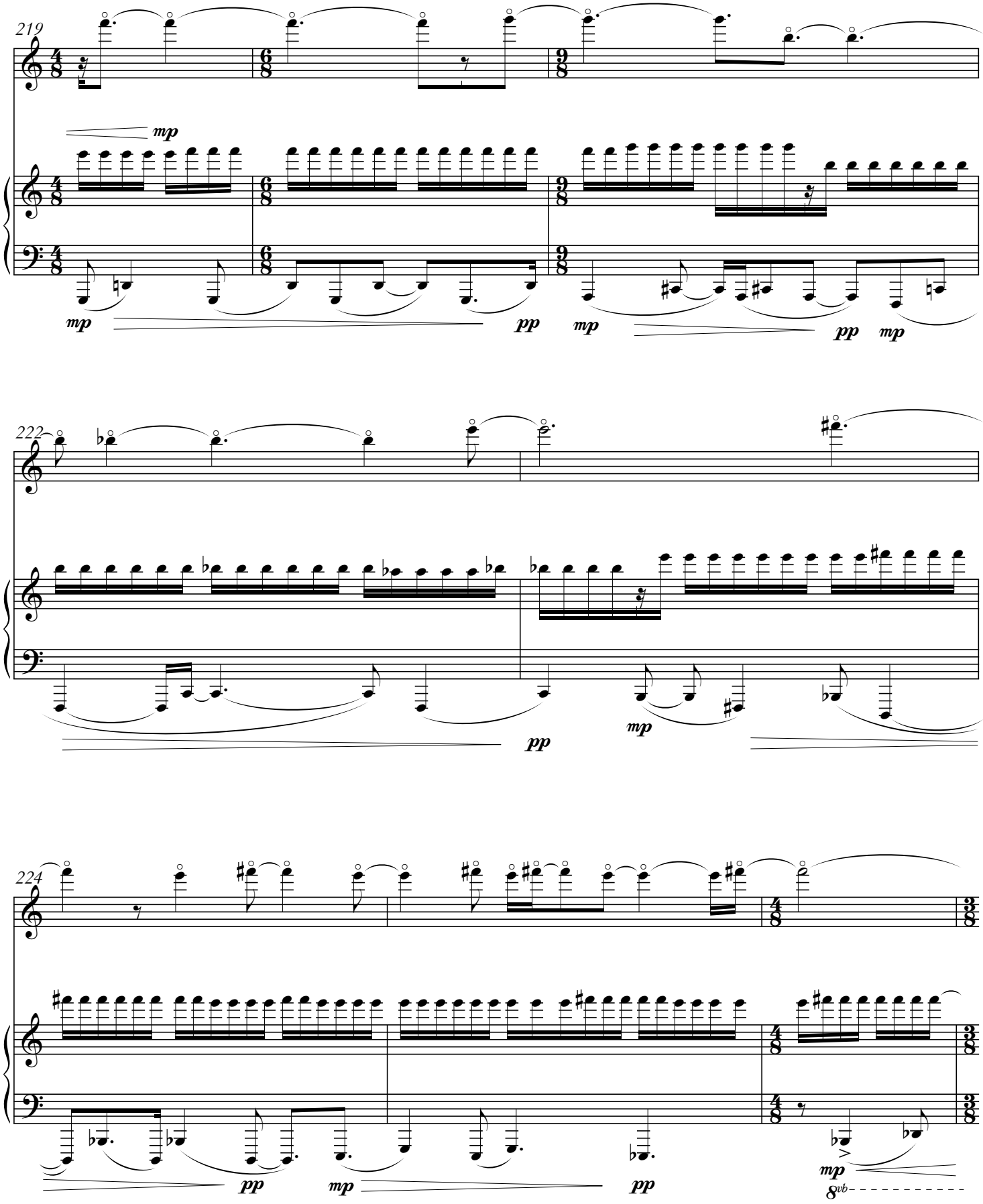
ff

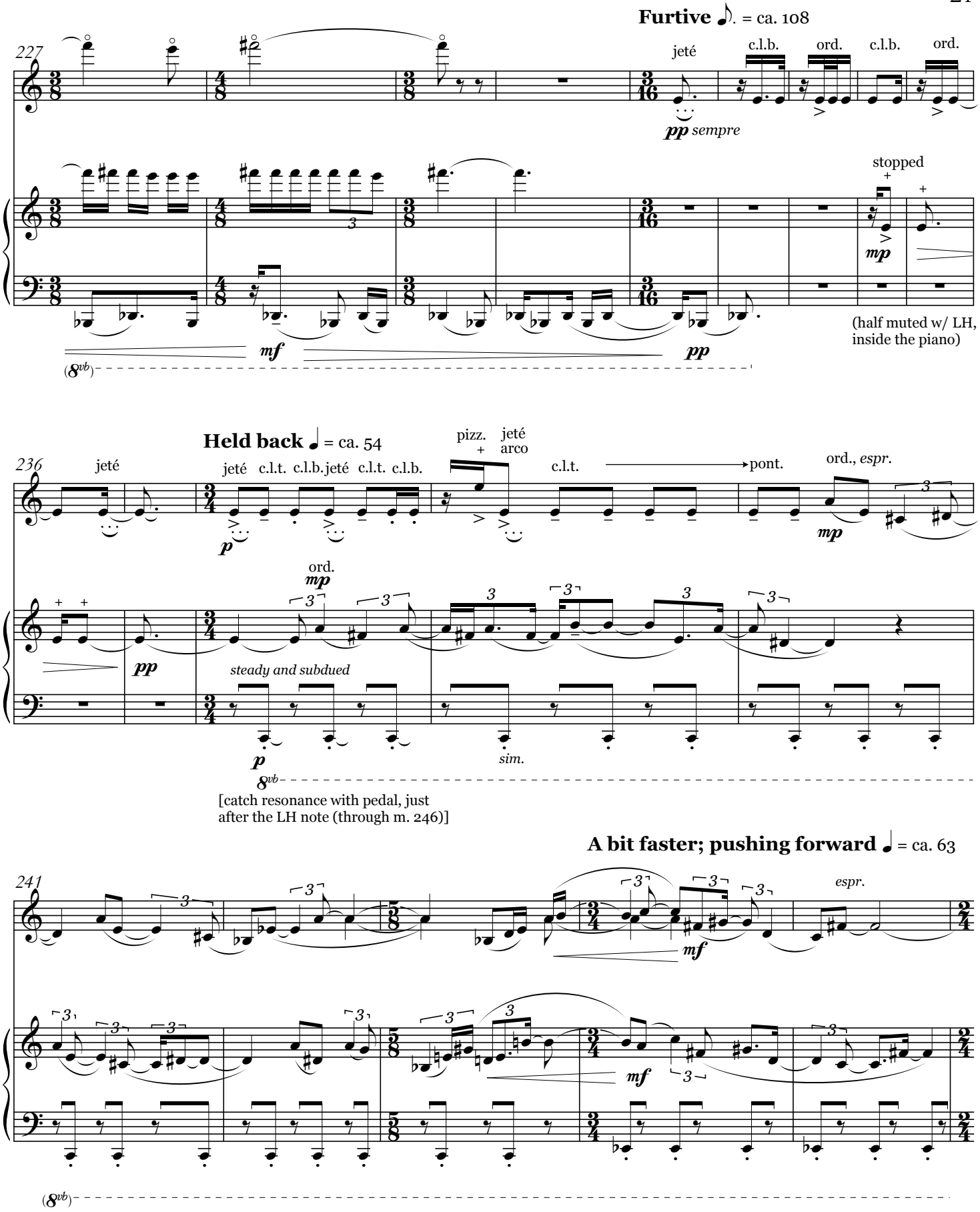

168
sim.
p
mf
mf
171
p
pp
Trying to flow ♩ = ca. 96
sul tasto; a bit overwrought and expressive
The tenuti shouldn't overpower the prevailing p dynamic.
Faster ♩ = ca. 120
sul pont., harsh
non vib.
173
p
pp
ff
f


♩ = ca. 96
sul tasto, espressivo
ord. (vib.)
179
p
pp
p
♩ = ca. 120
ff
3
f
mf
f
♩ = ca. 96
184
p
mf
mf
8va
loco
3
3
mf
190
8va
f
f

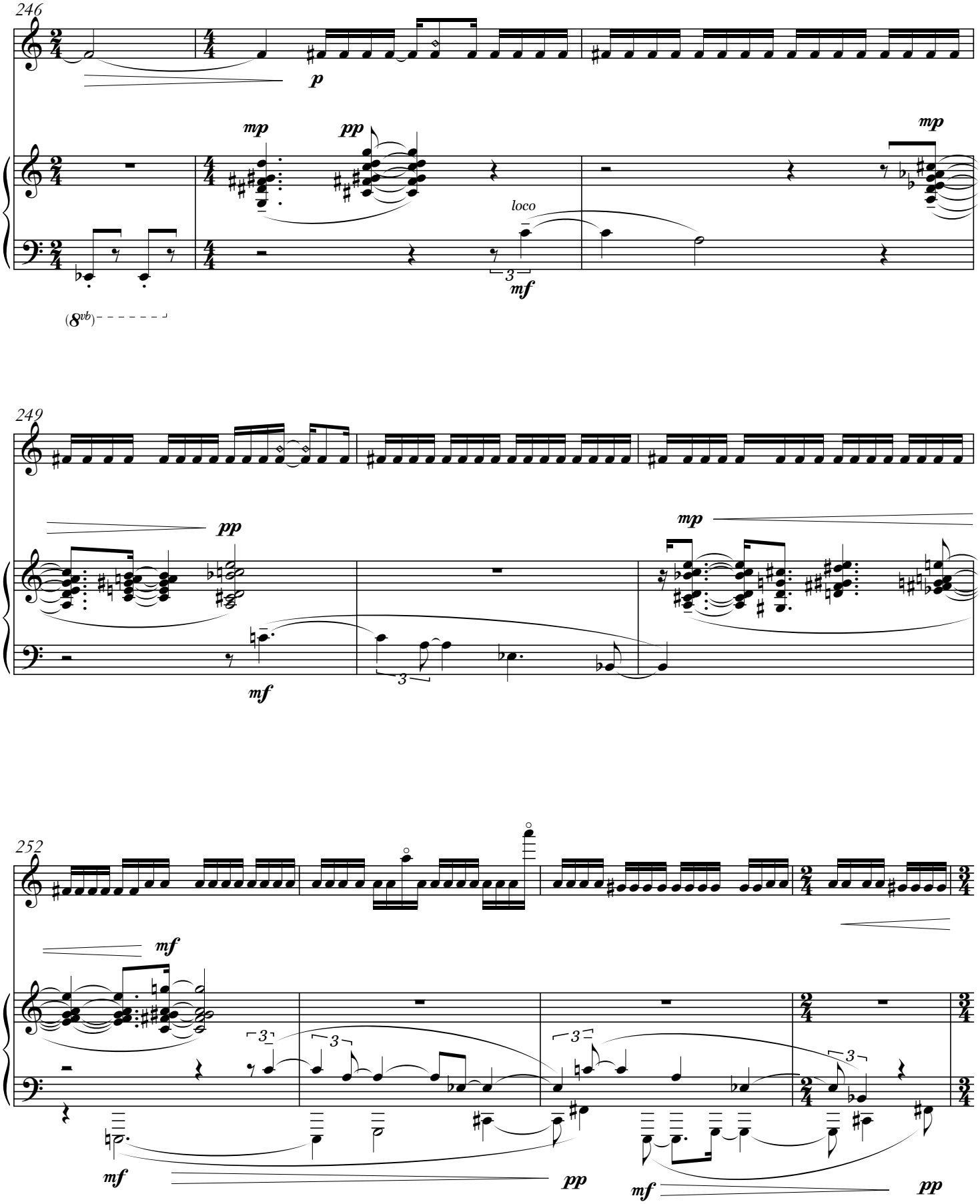

196
molto espressivo
sul tasto, molto vibrato
loco
201
ord.
molto sul tasto
206
ord.

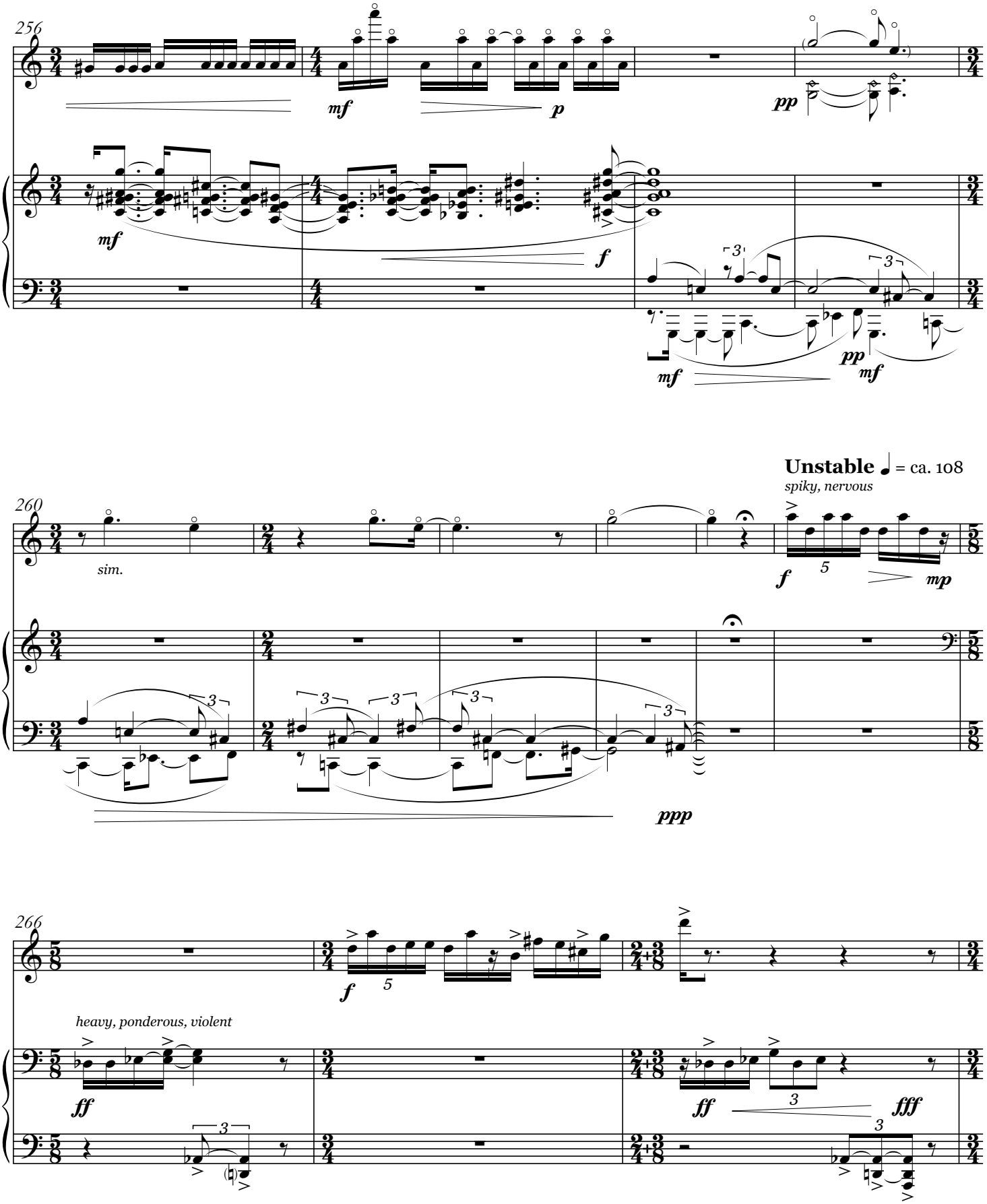

210
(8va)
mp
sul pont.
Gently rocking ♩. = ca. 69
213
p
sim.
loco
ppp bleeding together
p
mp
mp
ppp
molto sul pont.
216
p
mp
p
pp
mp
pp

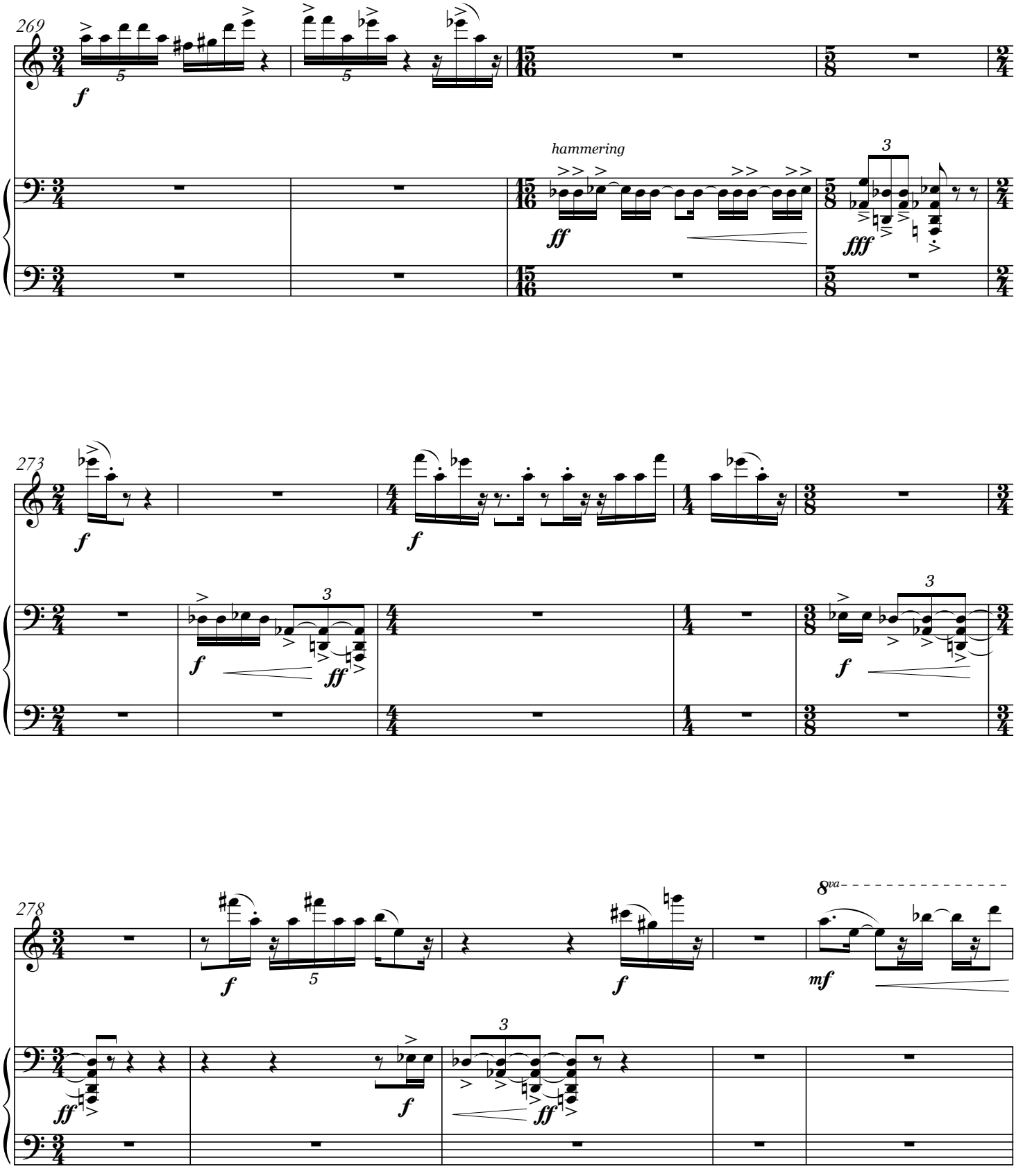

219
mp
mp
pp
mp
pp
mp
222
pp
mp
224
pp
mp
pp
mp
8vb


Furtive ♪. = ca. 108
227
jeté
c.l.b.
ord.
c.l.b.
ord.
pp sempre
stopped
mp
mf
pp
(8vb)
(half muted w/ LH, inside the piano)
Held back ♩ = ca. 54
236
jeté
jeté c.l.t. c.l.b. jeté c.l.t. c.l.b.
pizz. + jeté arco
c.l.t.
pont.
ord., espr.
p
mp
ord.
mp
pp
steady and subdued
p
sim.
8vb
[catch resonance with pedal, just after the LH note (through m. 246)]
A bit faster; pushing forward ♩ = ca. 63
241
espr.
mf
mf
(8vb)

Quietly flowing ♩ = ca. 96–100




256
mf
p
pp
mf
f
mf
pp
mf
Unstable ♩ = ca. 108
spiky, nervous
260
sim.
f
mp
ppp
266
f
heavy, ponderous, violent
ff
ff
fff


269
hammering
273
278
8va

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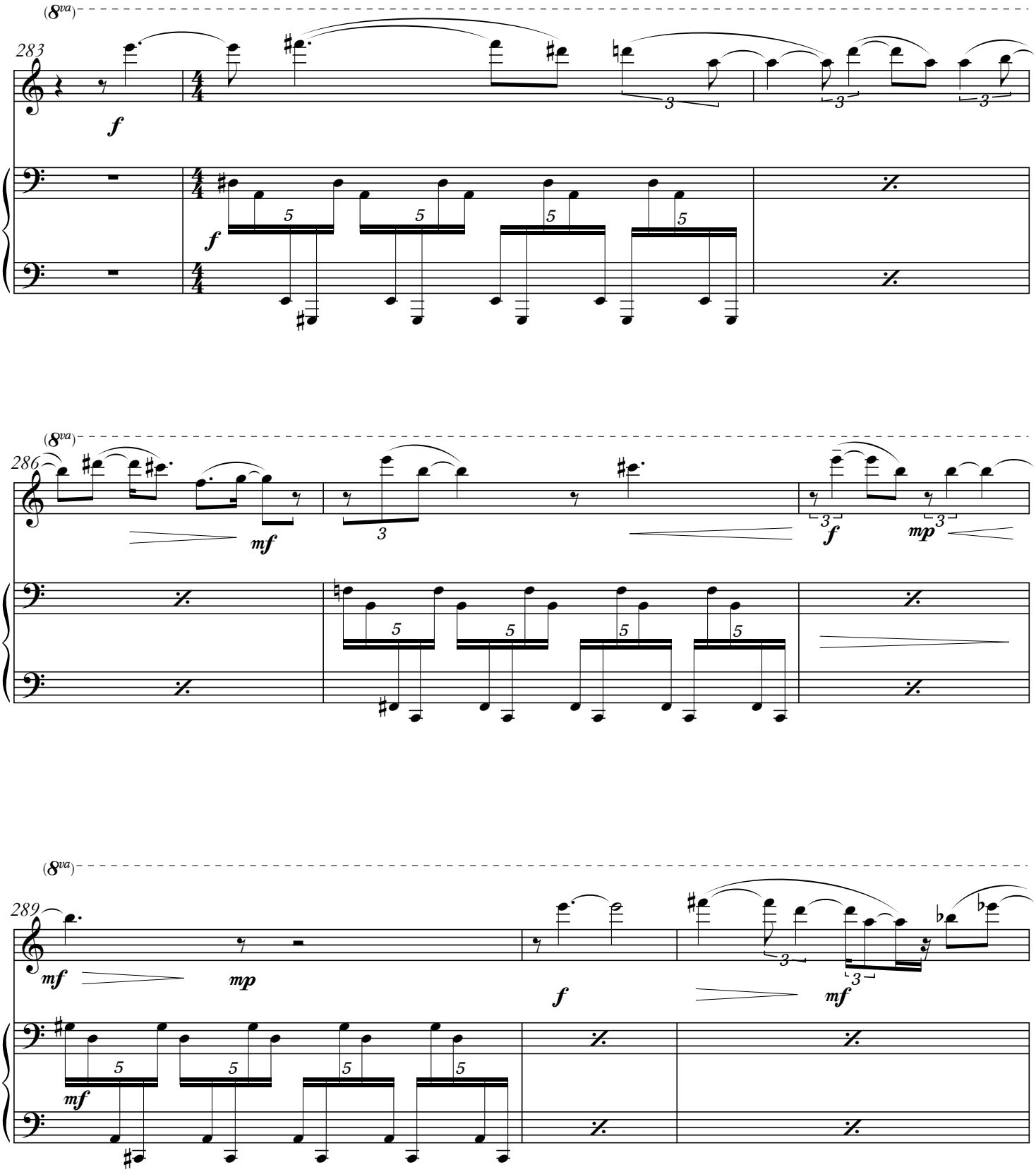
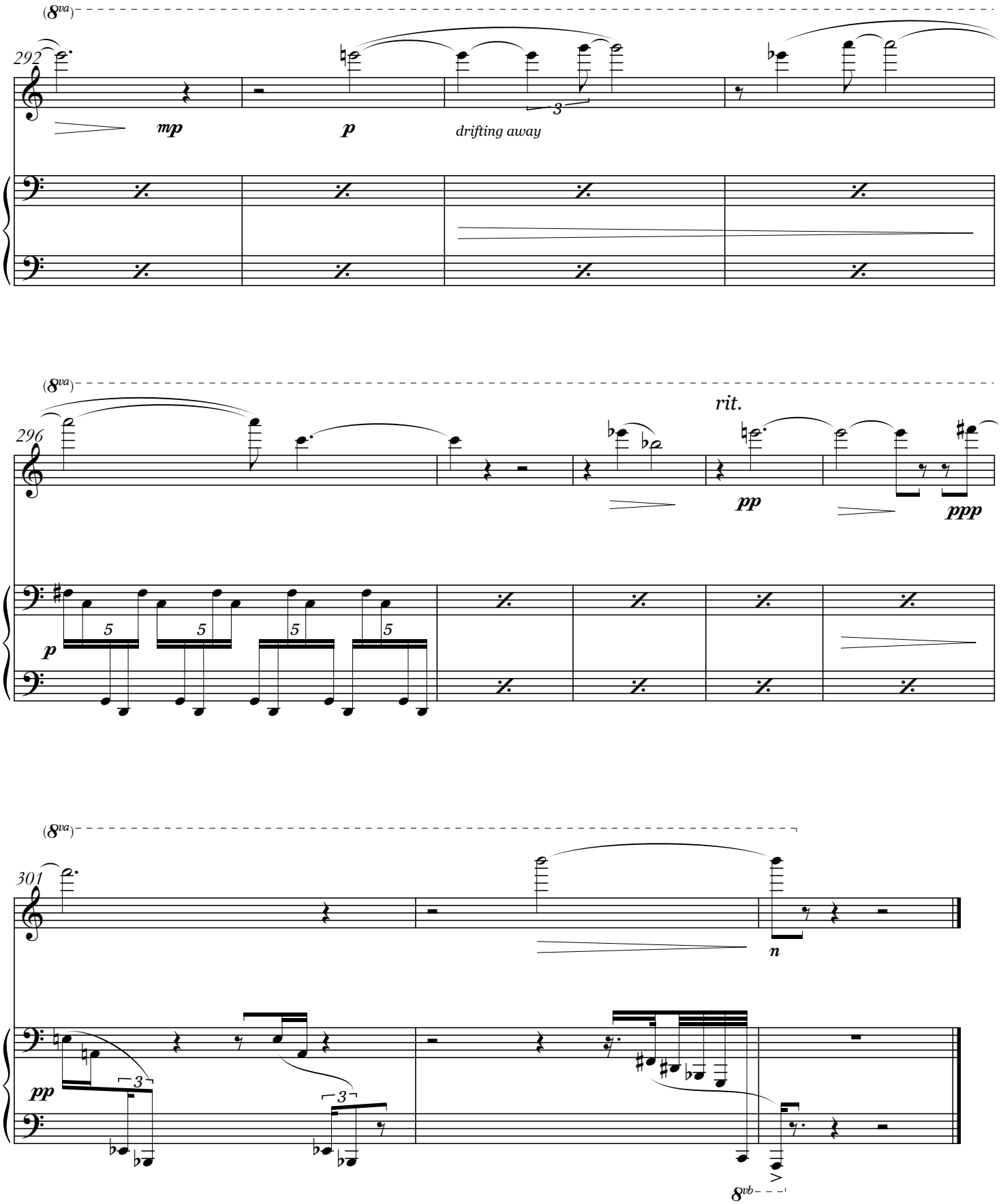
Faster, turbulent ♩ = ca. 132





12/2010–7/3/2011, Woodland, CA and Saratoga, CA.