cool water do not drink

for string quartet

(2024)

Joel Rust

Duration: 13 minutes

Performance Notes

All grace notes should come before the beat.

Trills should go to the natural note above, if otherwise unspecified.

Commas indicate a brief lift in one instrument's part (akin to a breath mark), *not* a pause.

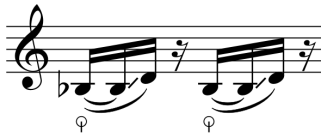
* Viola, bb. 2-46: a practice mute is required. Metal is preferred, but other materials are acceptable. The given dynamics are "absolute," i.e. a note at ***pp*** should be roughly equivalent to an unmuted instrument's ***pp,*** which may require playing as if at a higher dynamic level.

† All *pizzicato* notes should be let ring for the longest possible duration. For open strings or harmonics, efforts should be made to avoid damping them when playing other notes.

‡ bb. 213–25, 262–66: Gradually move between the pressure required for harmonics and normal pressure. While transitioning, the finger on the lower note should be lifted fully each time.

¶ bb. 228–61, 320–28 [va., vc.]: Arpeggiated chords should begin *before* the beat, so that the last note of the arpeggio is on the beat.

§ bb. 240–52: To get the strongest arrival on the higher note, it is recommended to have a shorter *glissando*, like this:



Program Note

I was next to a cool, clear stream of fresh running water, and I was terribly thirsty. I knew that I could not drink the water, but I did not know why. I could only watch as it glittered past me.

I rarely remember my dreams, so when I do, I tend to find significance in them. My attempt to make sense of it was this: a world of care, abundance, justice, and freedom is so achievable, but kept consistently out of our reach—by the forces of prejudice, conformity, predatory capitalism, fear, and so many more things, great and small.

How can we imagine—and try to build—that world, even while we live in this one? How do we hold hope and sadness in our hearts, together? This piece does not, alas, offer any answers. It takes refuge in anger, but anger can only burn so long before it burns out. It *mostly* resists the urge to brood. It reflects, palely, the beauty of what could be, and seeks the beauty in what is.

Note on the Title

The title should be printed without uppercase letters, and with three spaces between "cool water" and "do not drink".

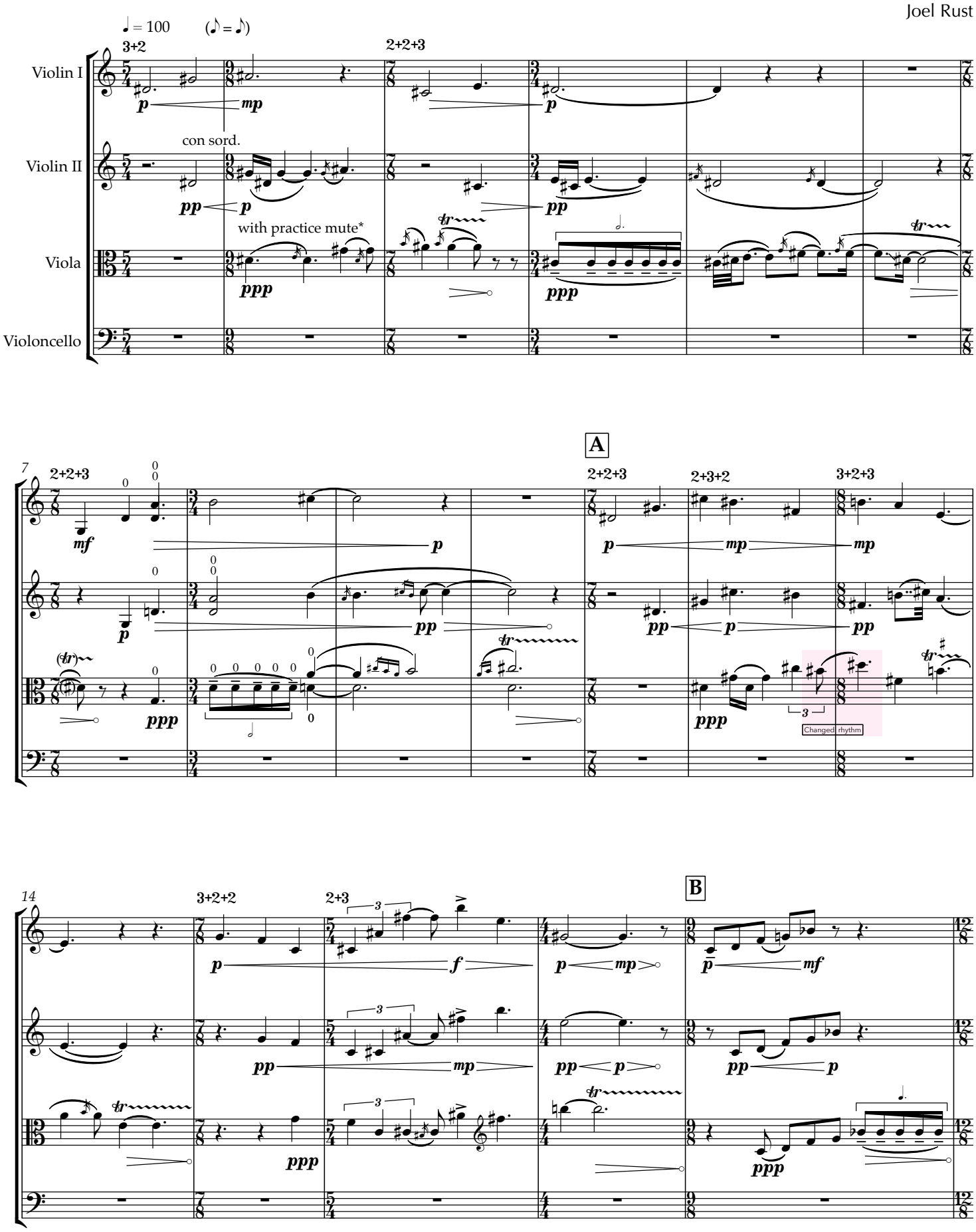
Note on Revisions

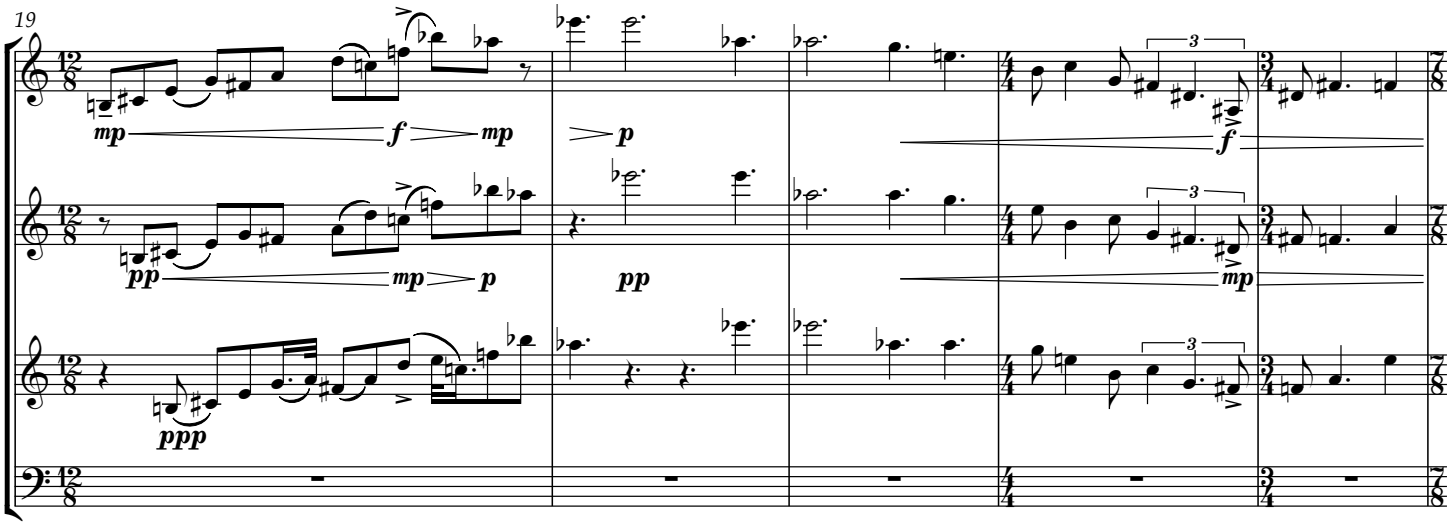
This version of the score contains revisions from the version premiered by the Molinari Quartet on September 27, 2024 (currently, the only extant recording).

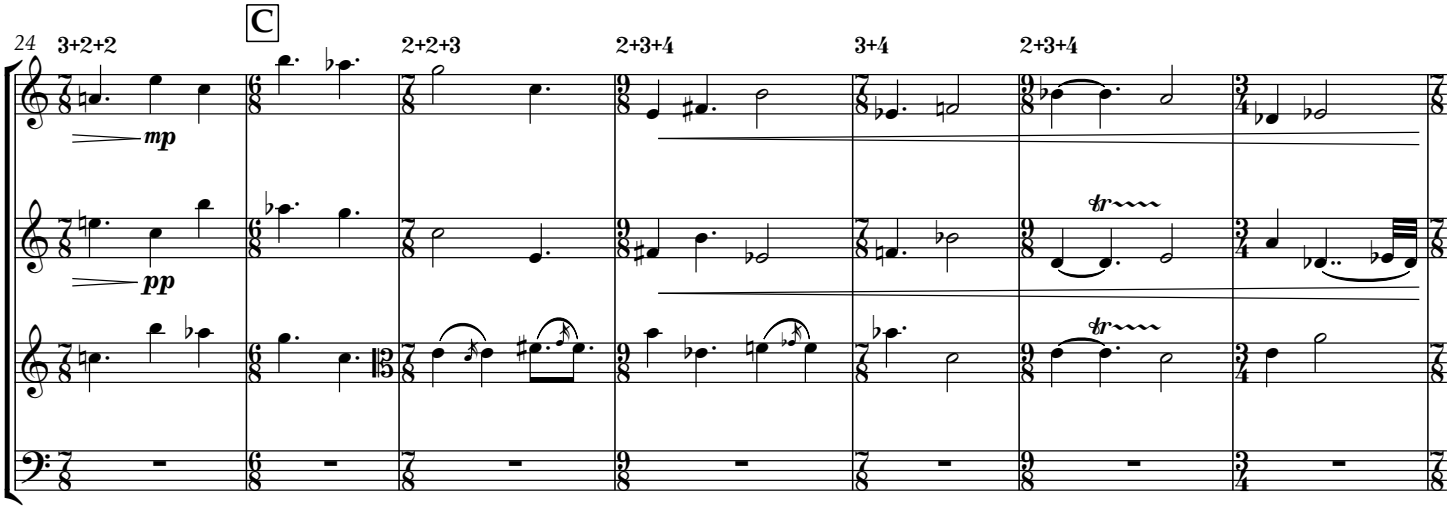
Revised sections are enclosed in pink, and a description of the revisions is provided in boxed text.

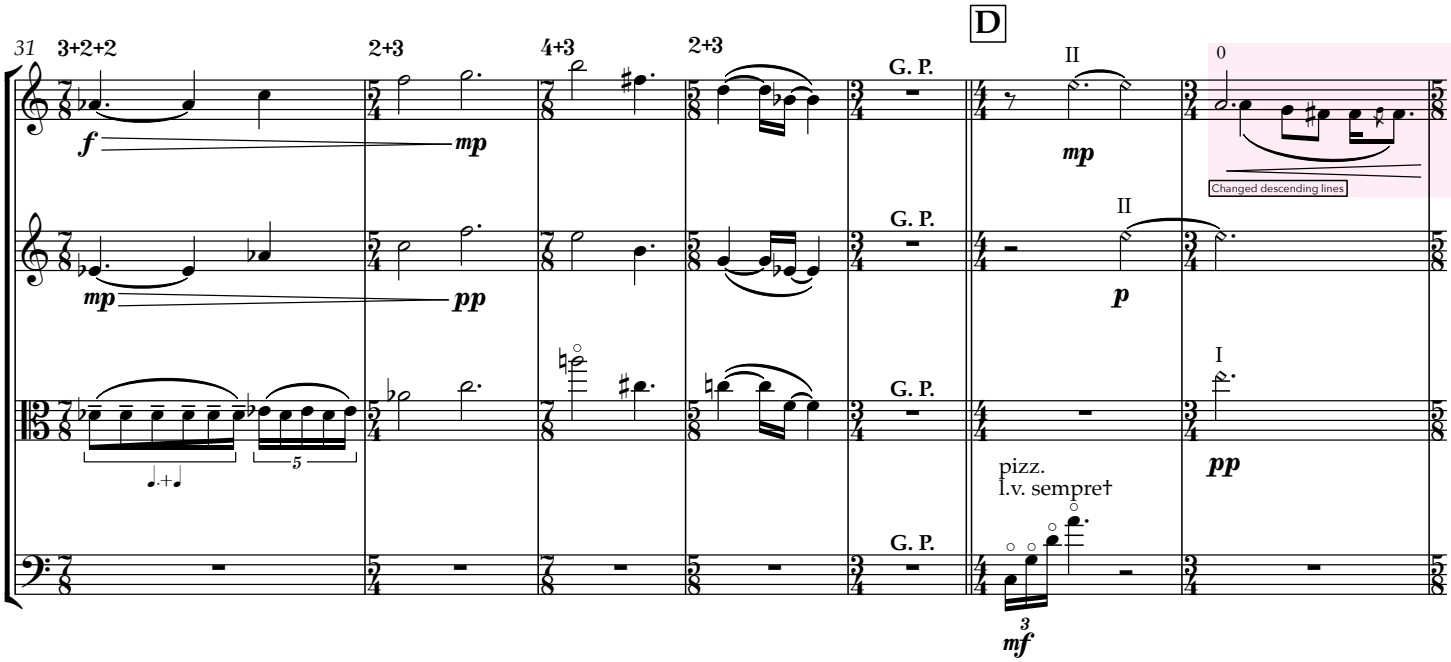
cool water do not drink

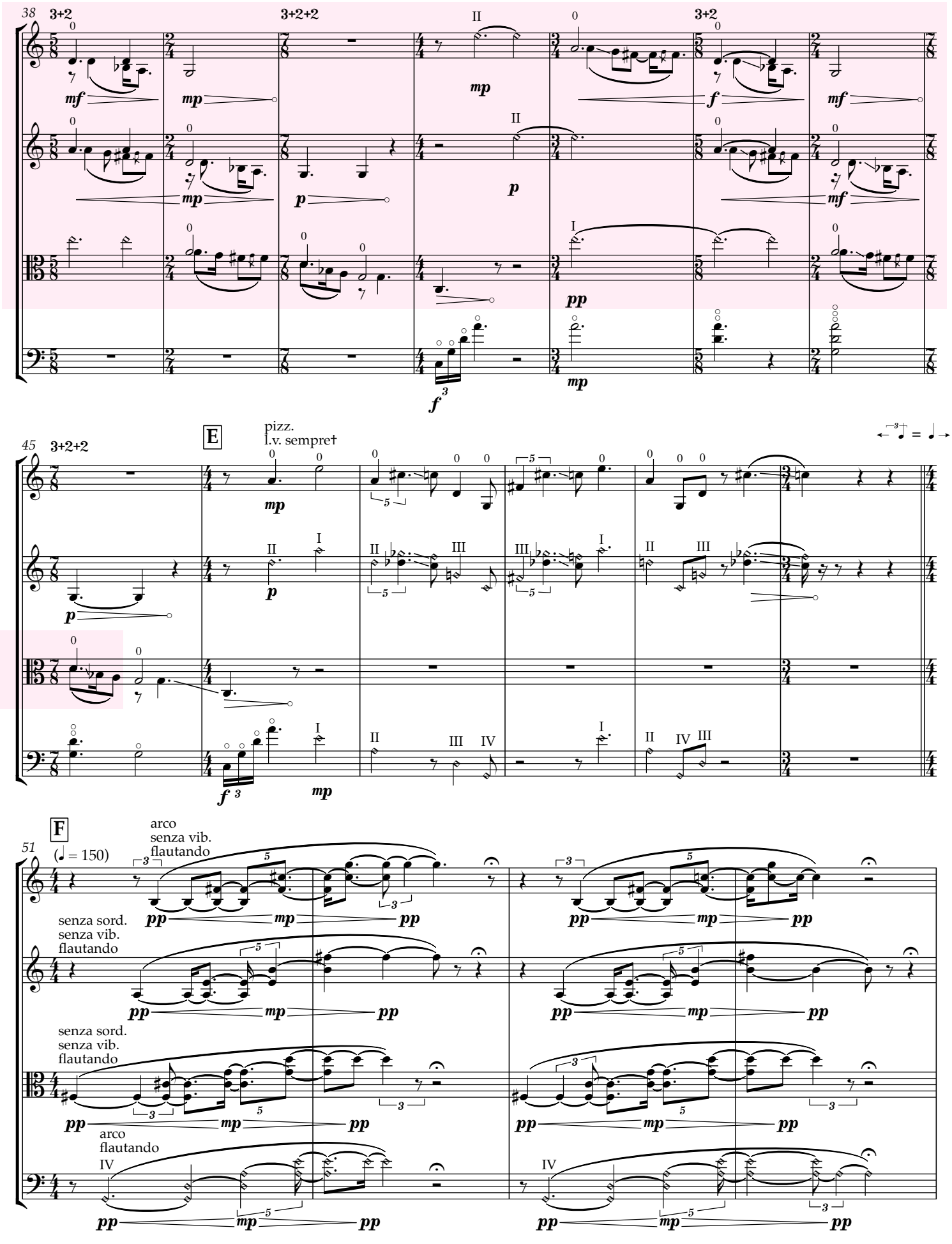
Joel Rust

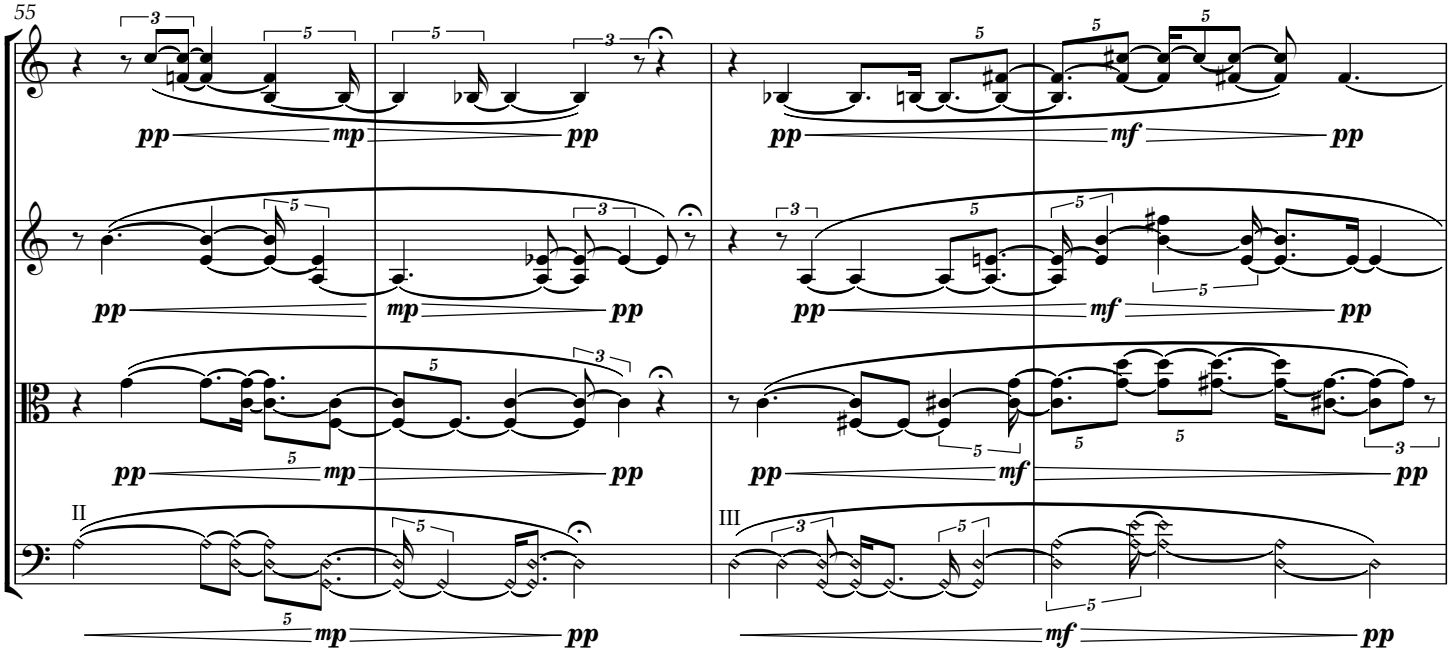


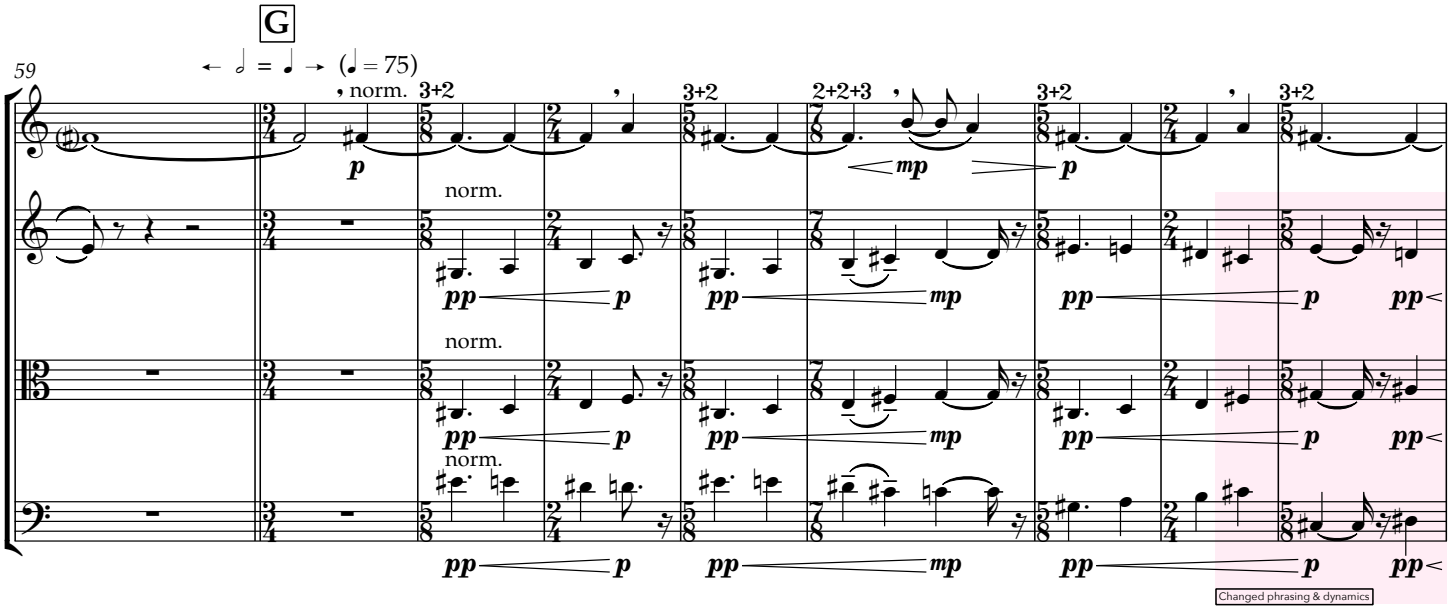

19
mp
f
mp
p
pp
mp
p
pp
ppp
f
mp
3

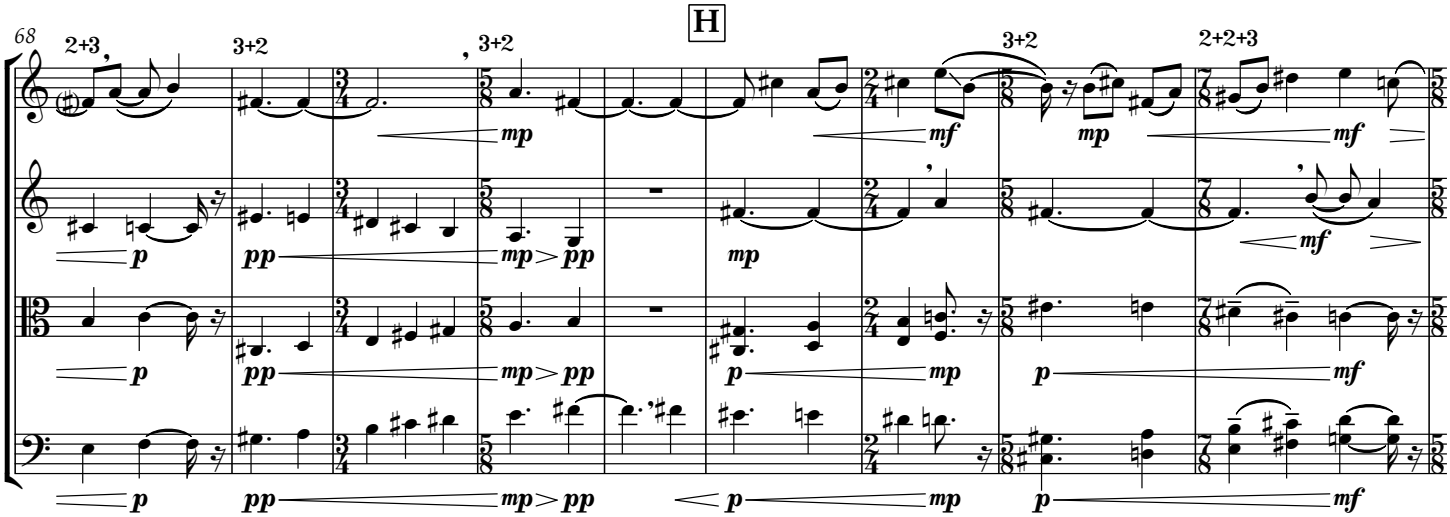

C
24
3+2+2
2+2+3
2+3+4
3+4
2+3+4
mp
pp
tr

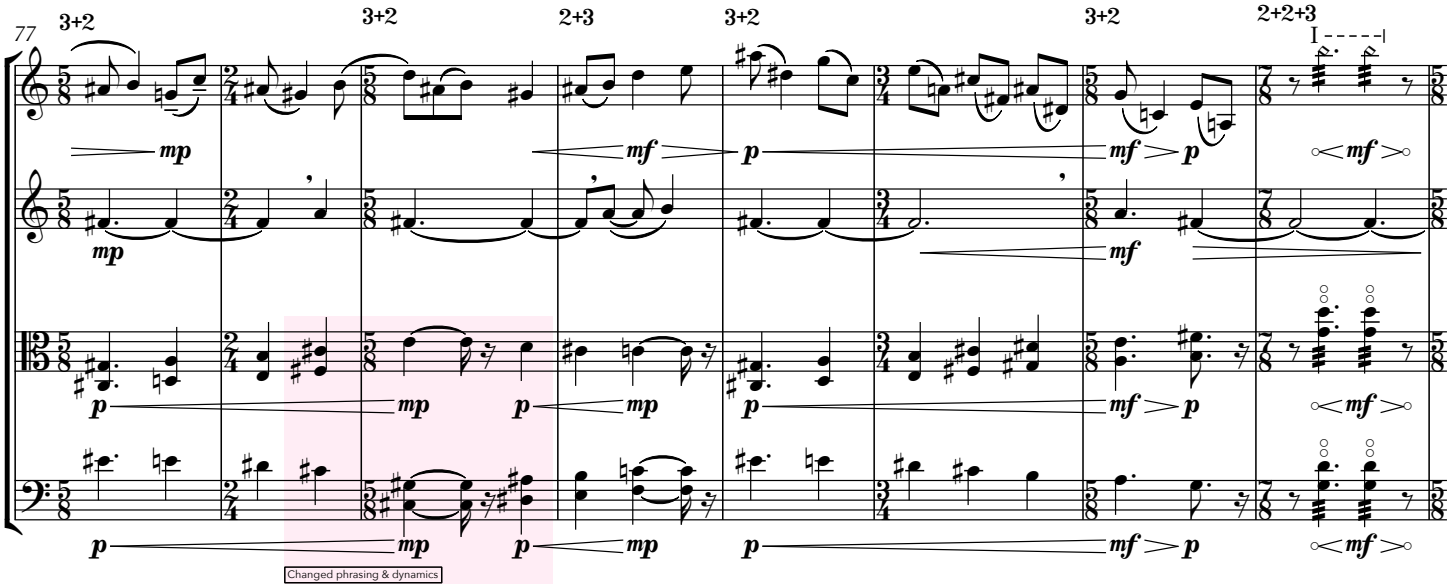

D
31
3+2+2
2+3
4+3
2+3
G. P.
f
mp
pp
II
p
0
Changed descending lines
I
pp
pizz.
l.v. sempre†
3
mf
5

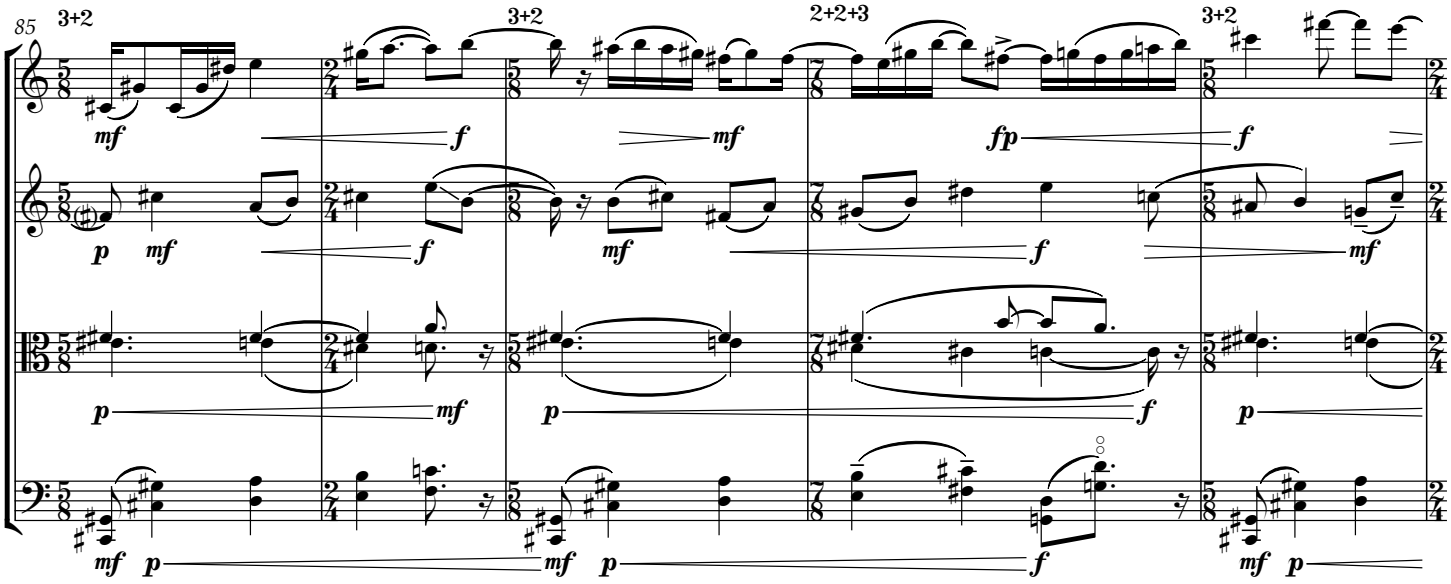

38
3+2
3+2+2
3+2
45
3+2+2
E
pizz.
l.v. sempre†
F
51
(♩ = 150)
arco
senza vib.
flautando
senza sord.
senza vib.
flautando
senza sord.
senza vib.
flautando
arco
flautando

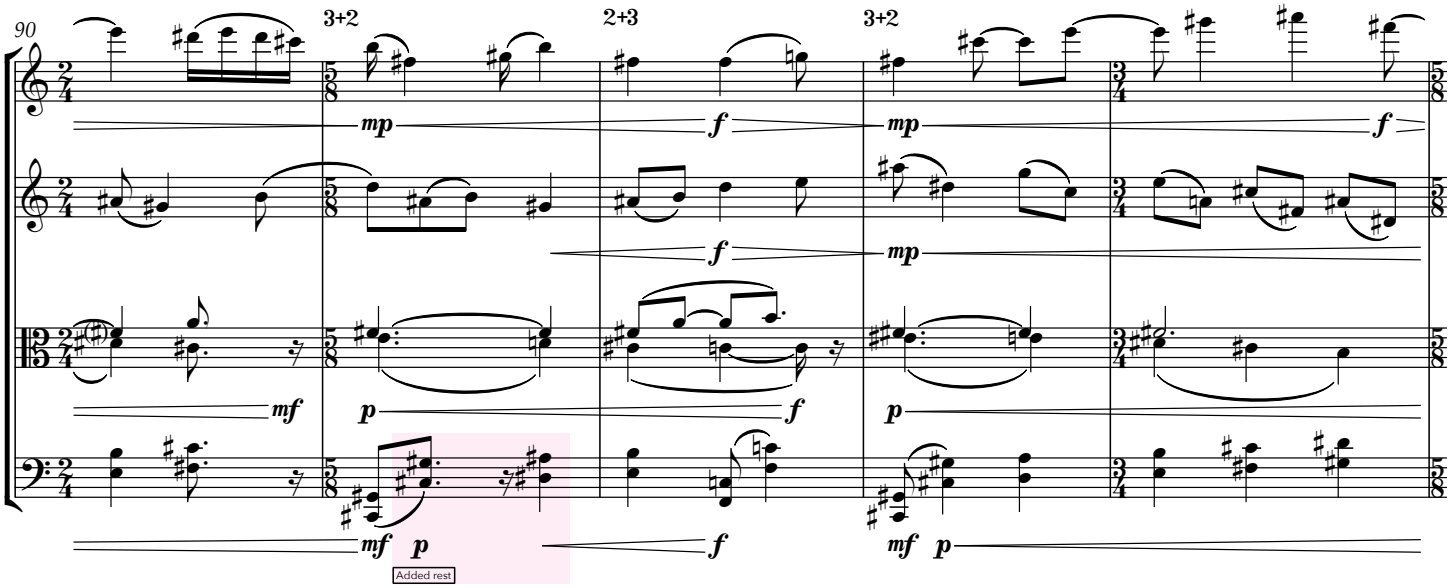

55
II
III

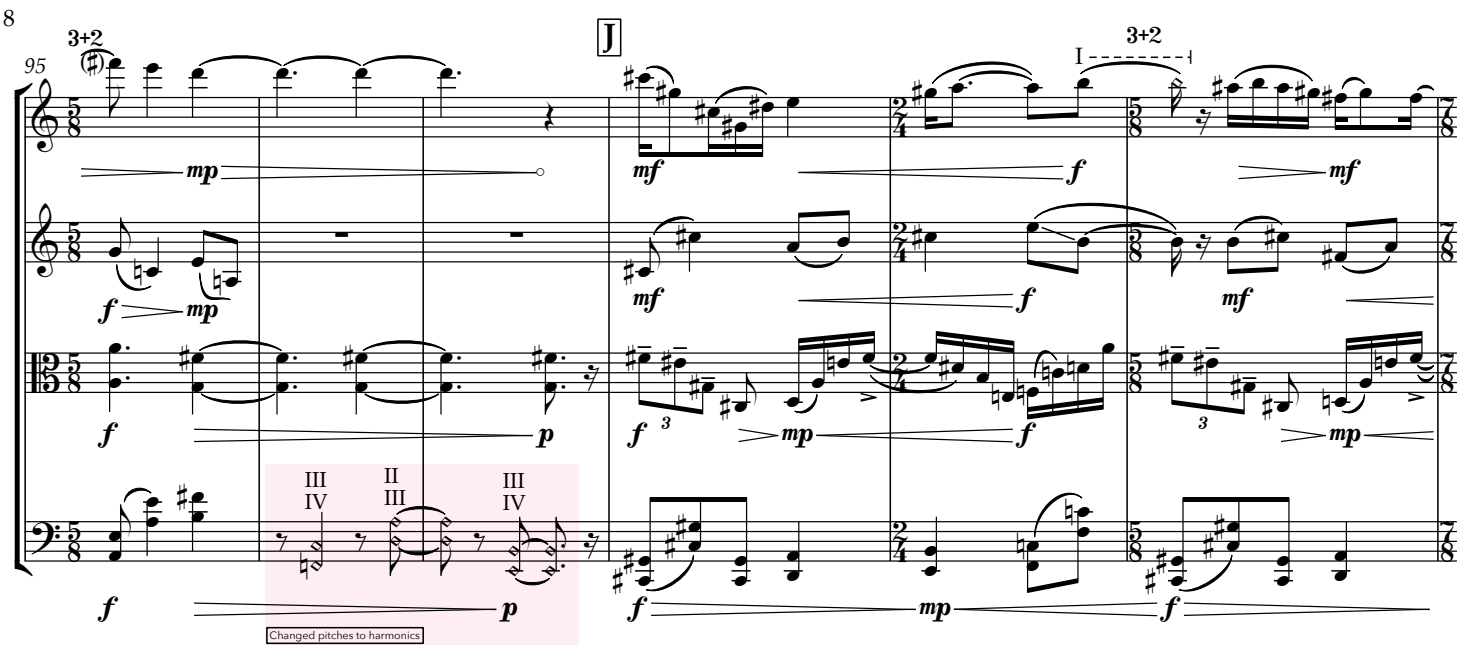

G
59
norm.
Changed phrasing & dynamics

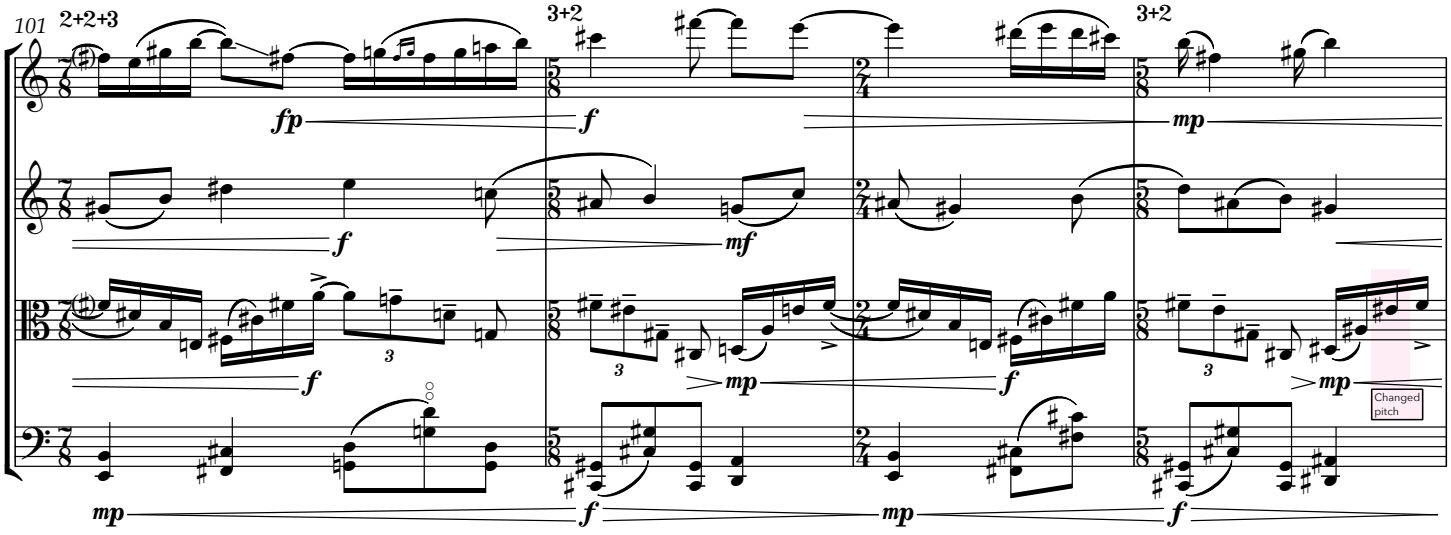

H
68

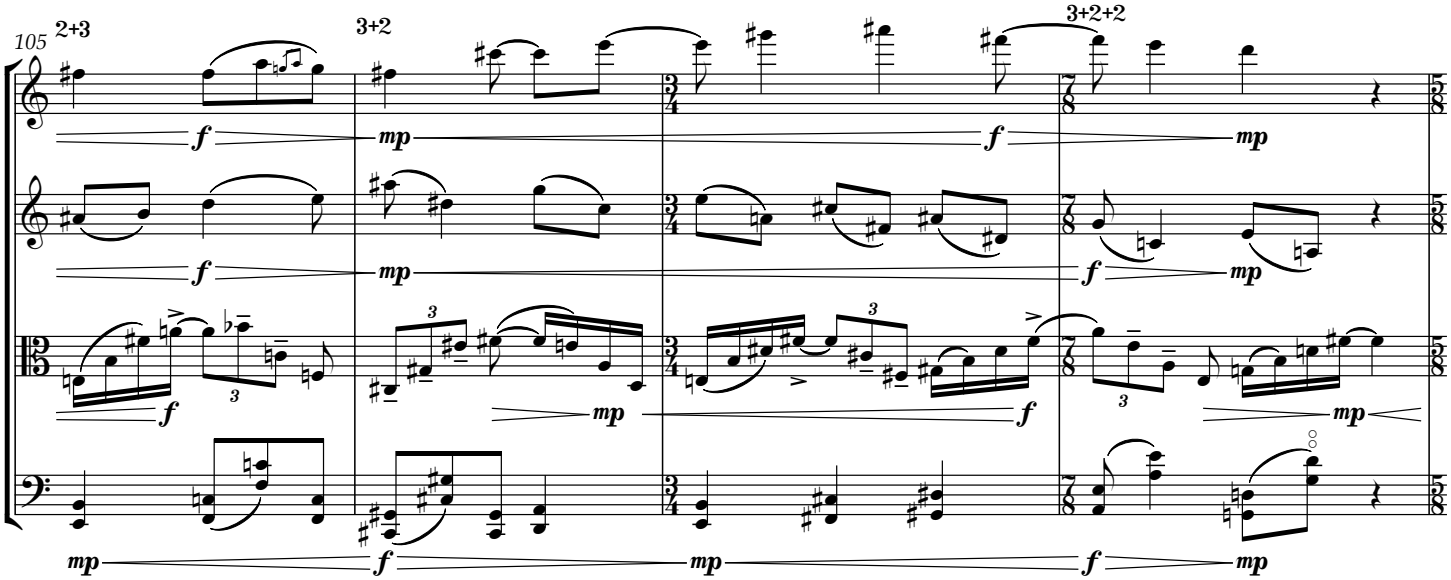

77
3+2
3+2
2+3
3+2
3+2
2+2+3
I
Changed phrasing & dynamics

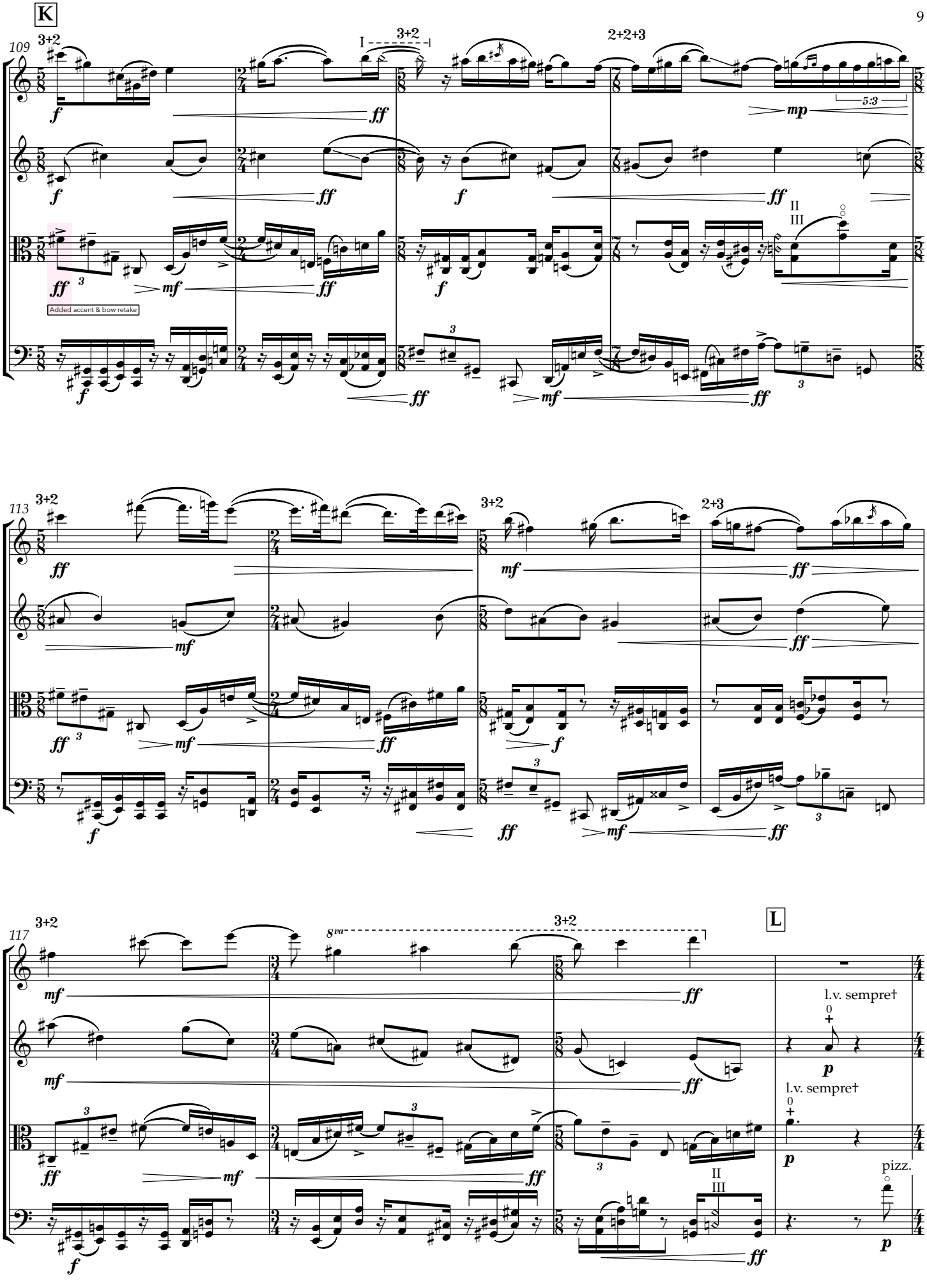

I
85
3+2
3+2
2+2+3
3+2

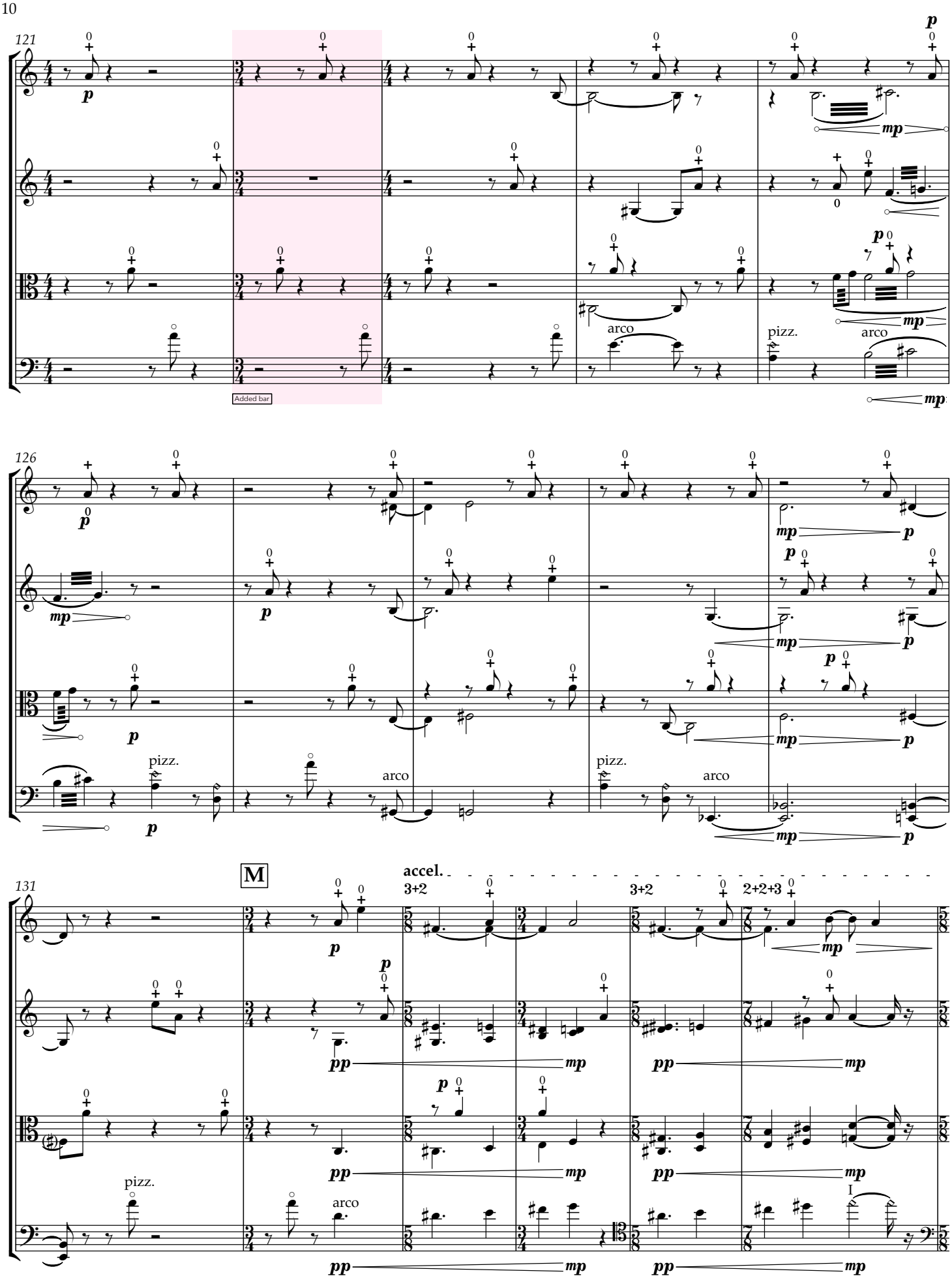

90
3+2
2+3
3+2
Added rest

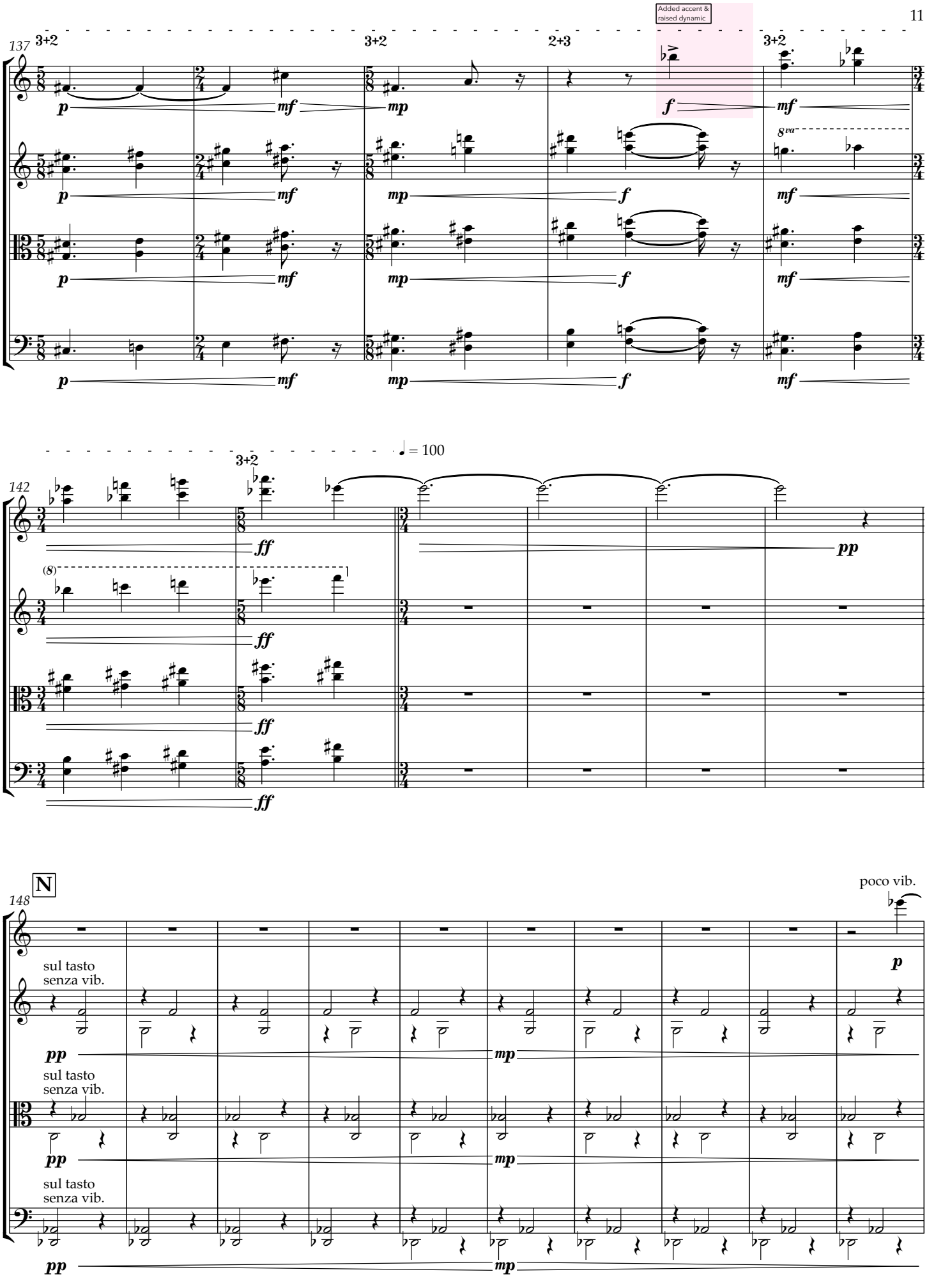

95
3+2
J
3+2
III
IV
II
III
III
IV
Changed pitches to harmonics


101
2+2+3
3+2
3+2
Changed pitch


105
2+3
3+2
3+2+2

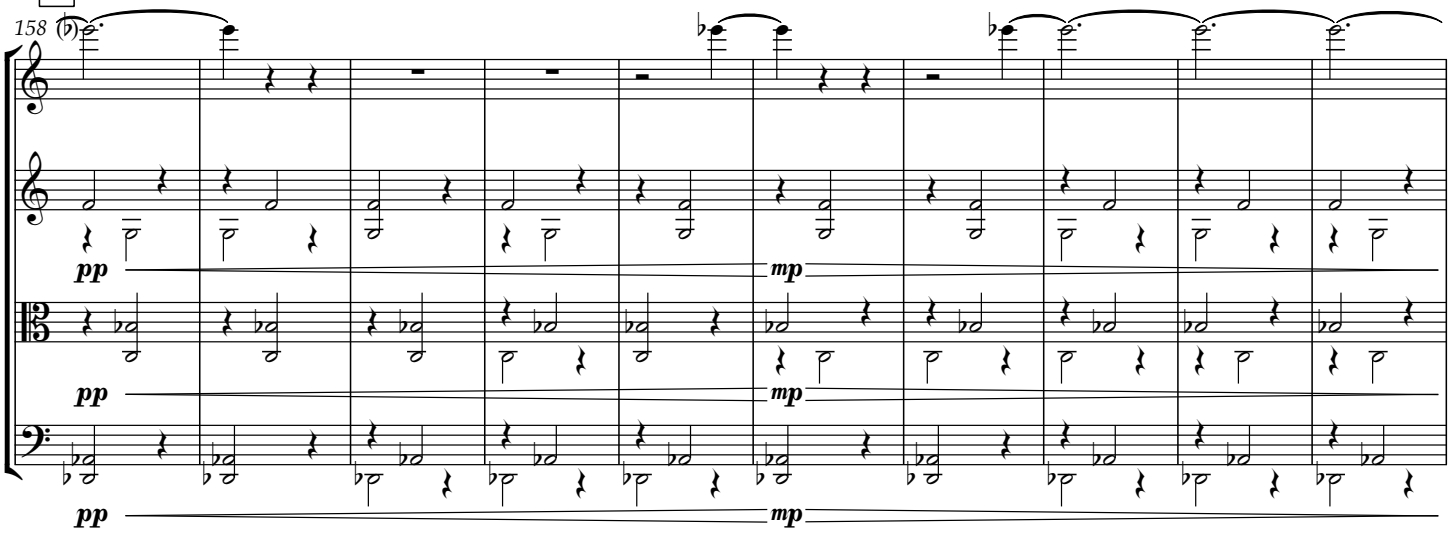

K
109
3+2
I
3+2
2+2+3
II
III
Added accent & bow retake
113
3+2
3+2
2+3
117
3+2
8va
3+2
L
l.v. sempre†
l.v. sempre†
II
III
pizz.


121
Added bar
arco
pizz.
arco
126
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
131
M
accel.
3+2
3+2
2+2+3
pizz.
arco
I


Added accent & raised dynamic
137
3+2
3+2
2+3
3+2
8va
142
3+2
♩ = 100
(8)
148
N
poco vib.
sul tasto senza vib.
sul tasto senza vib.
sul tasto senza vib.

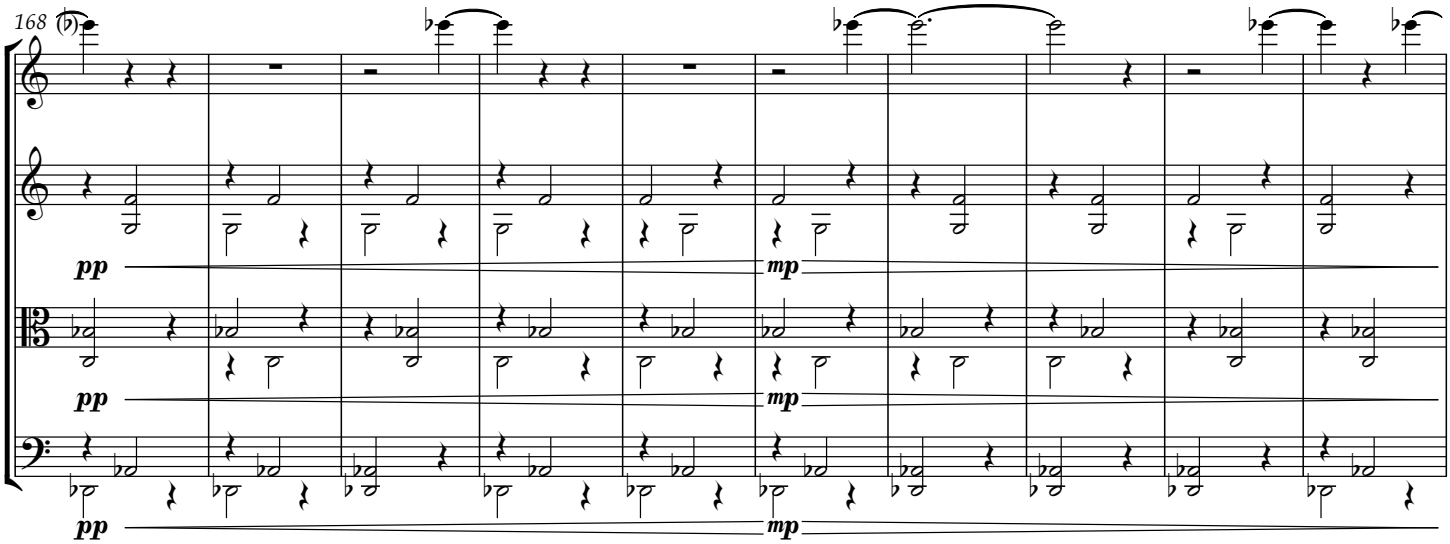
O

158



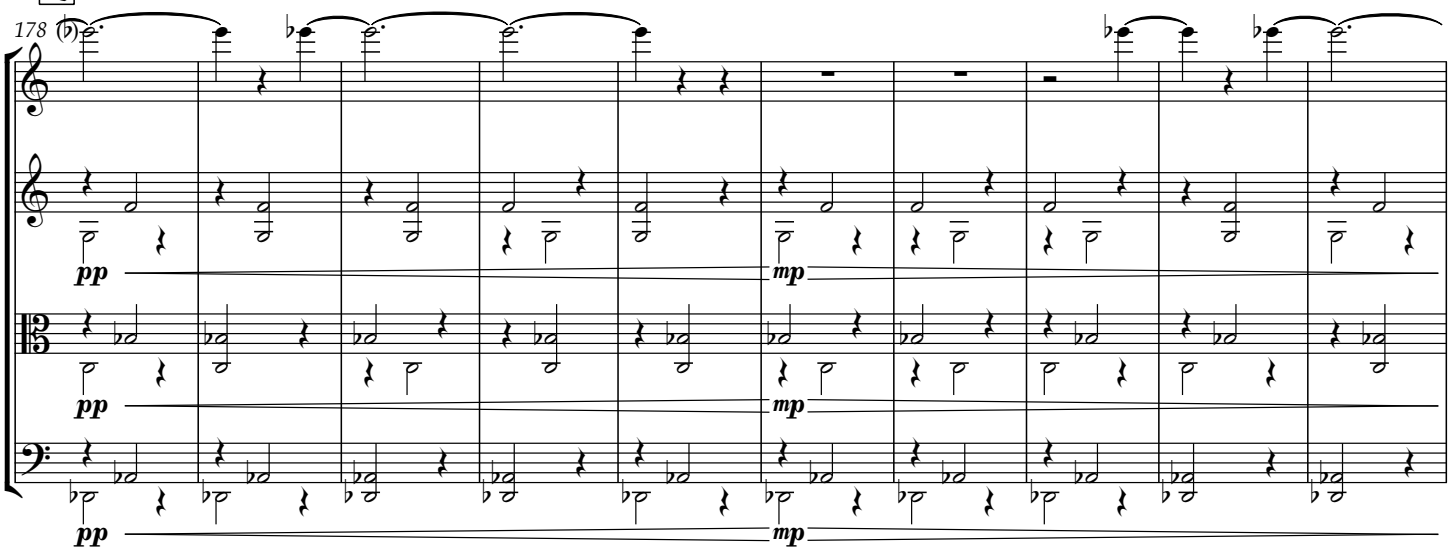
P

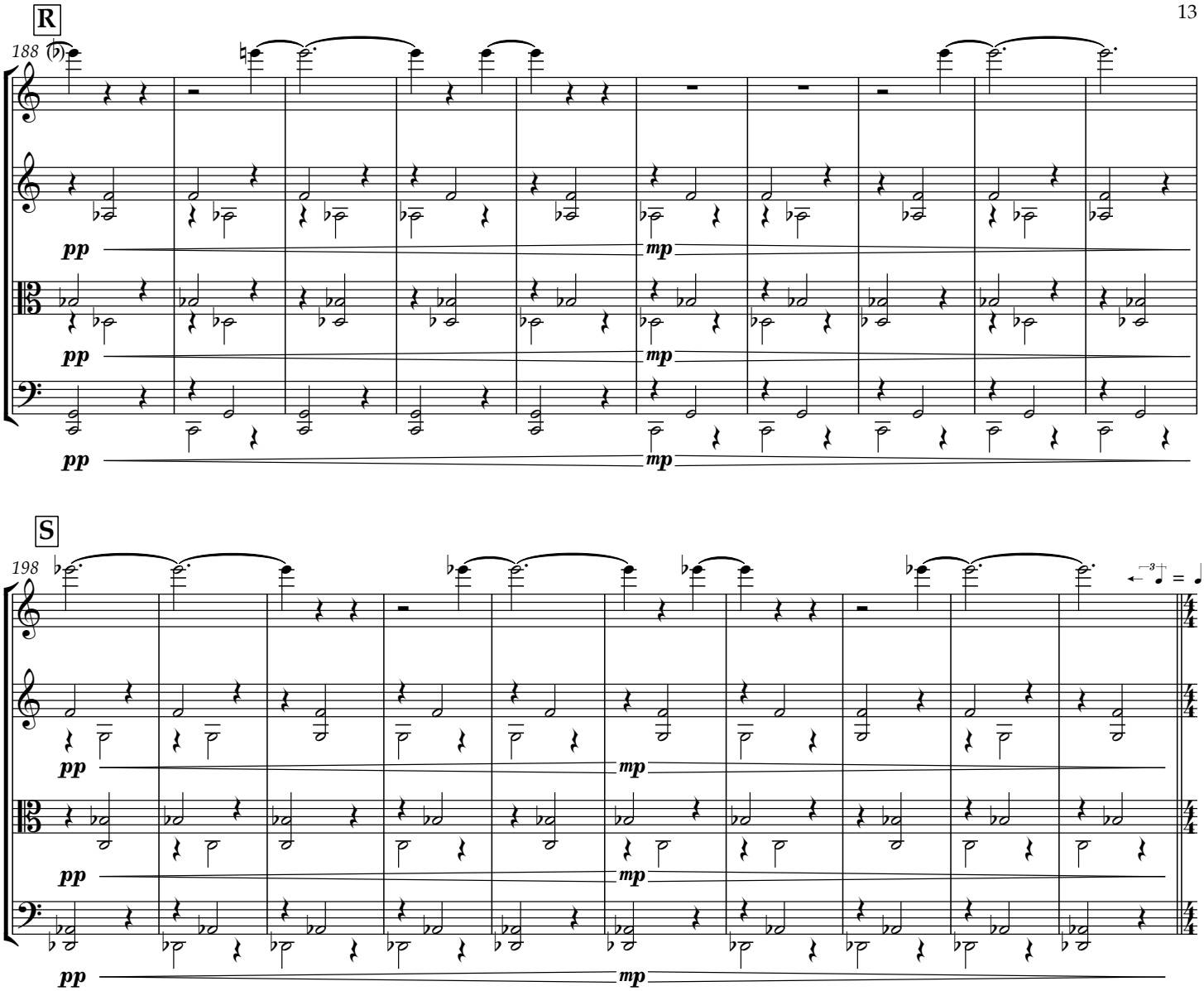
168

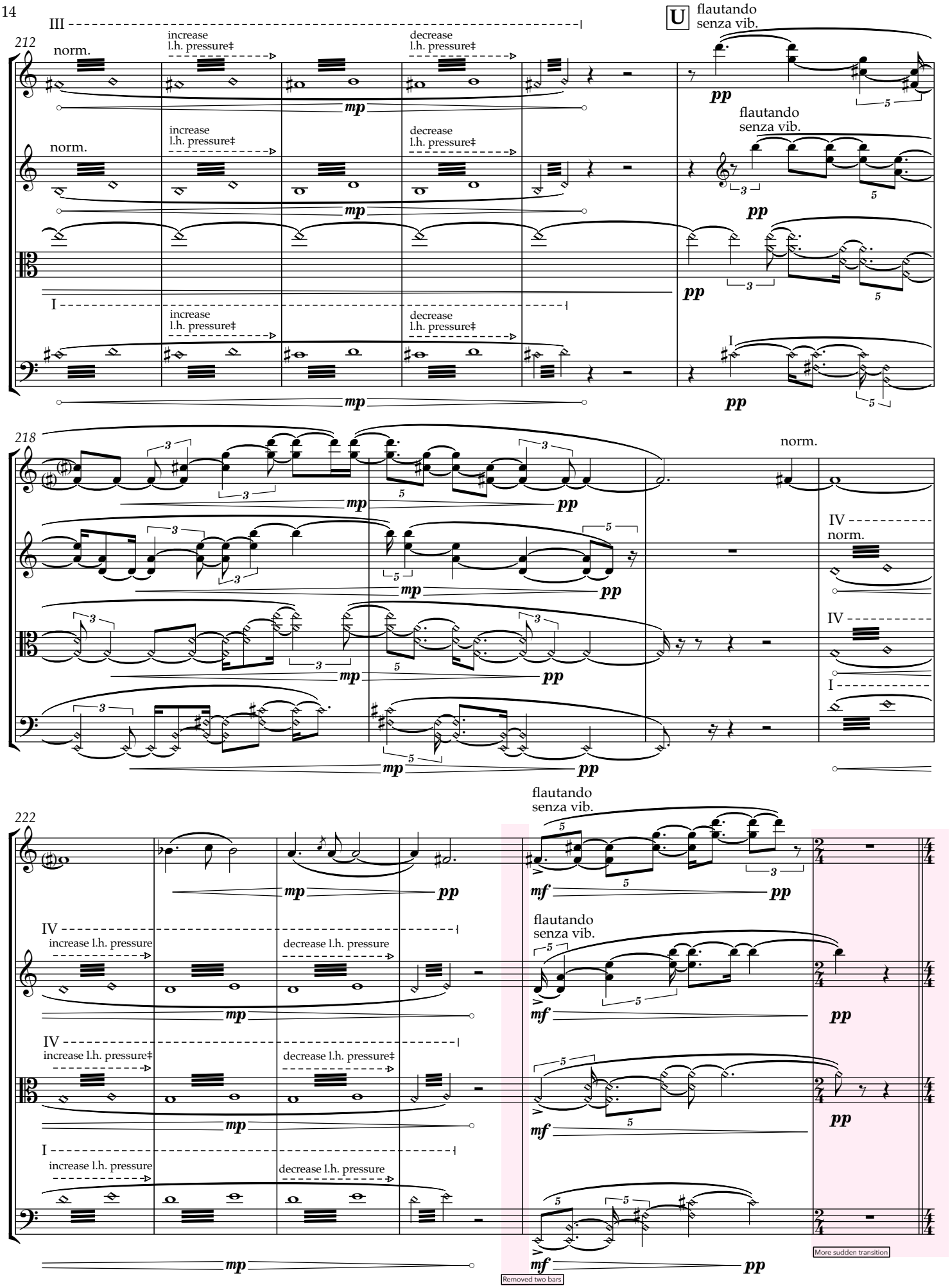


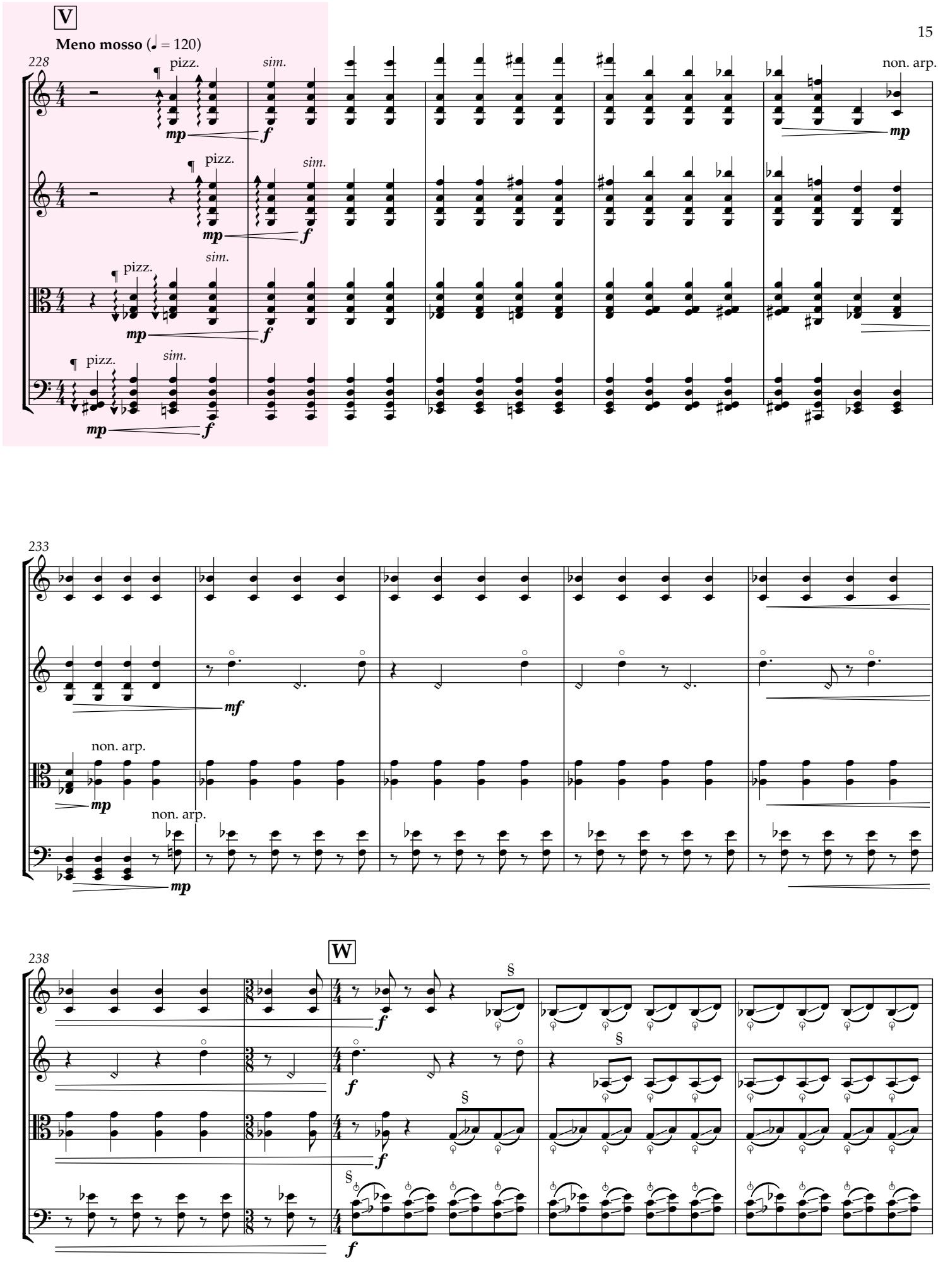
Q

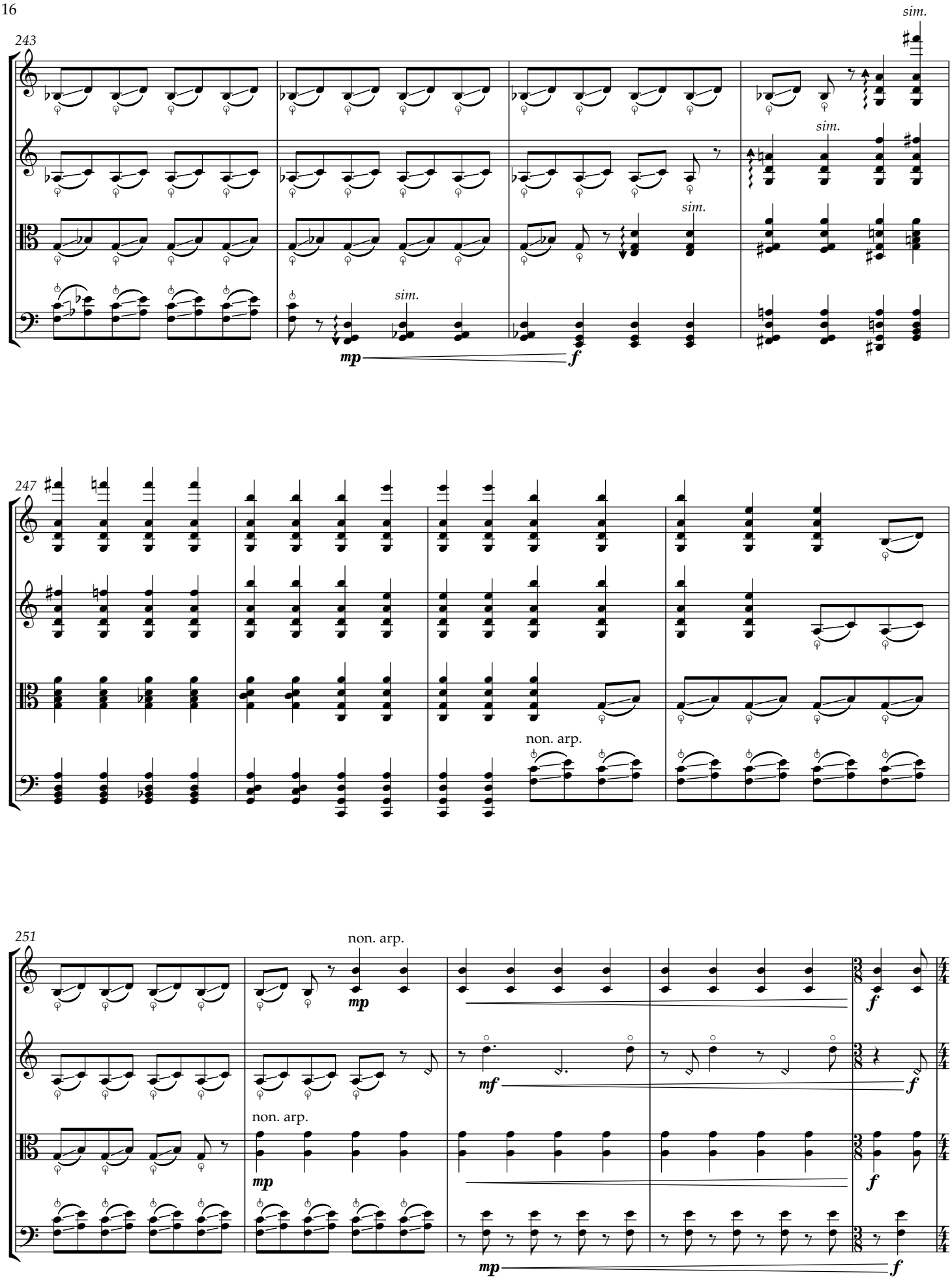
178

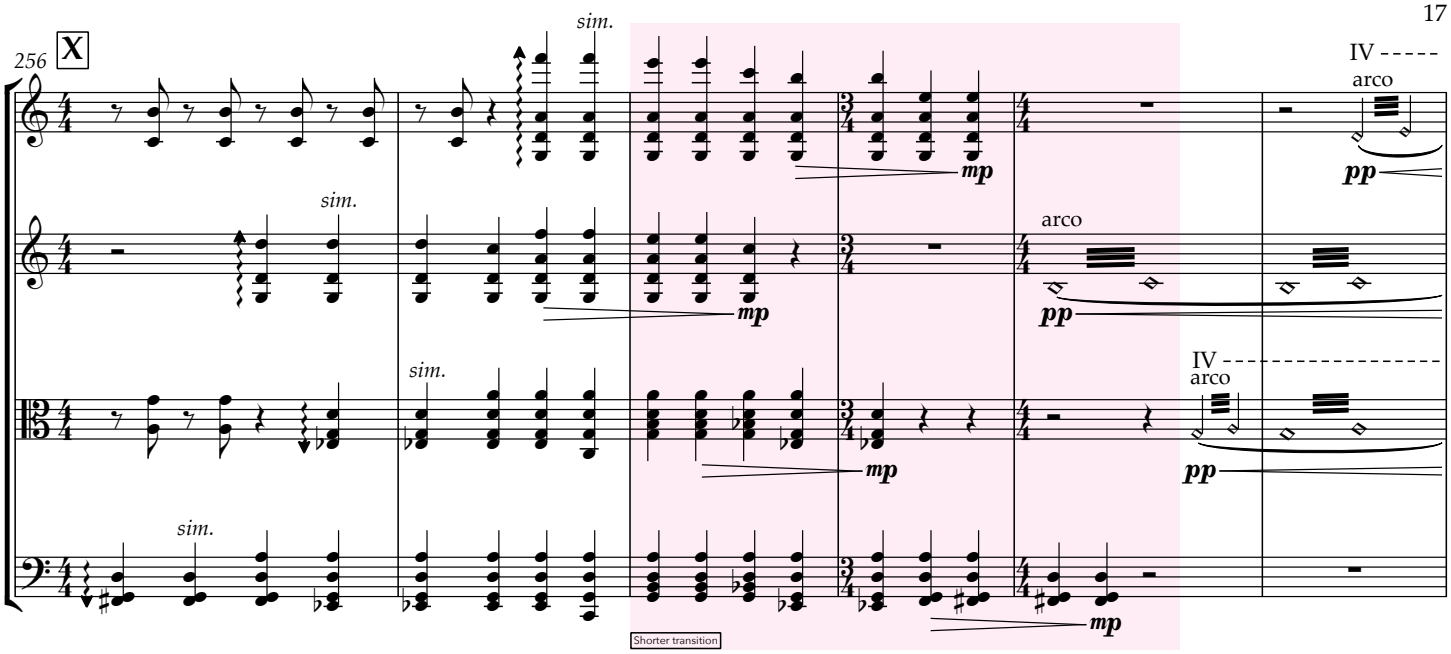


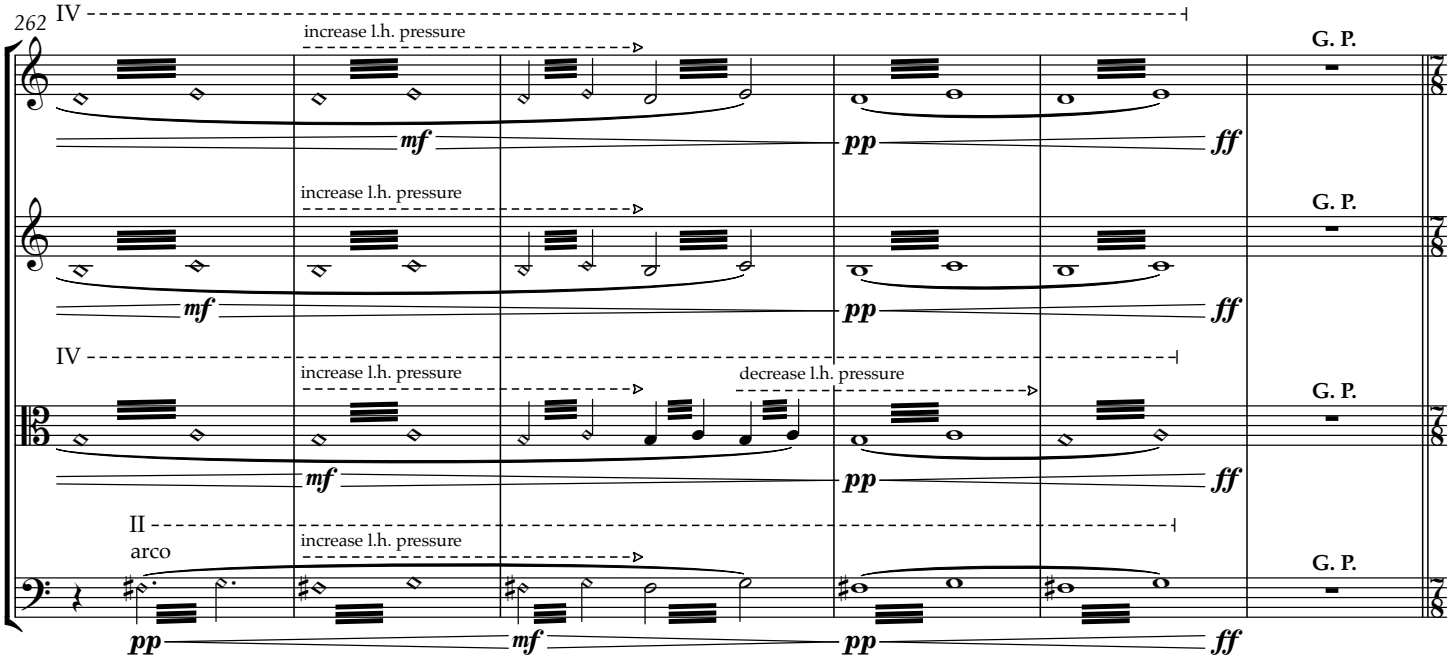

R
188
pp
mp
S
198
T
208
(♩ = 150)
G. P.
flautando
senza vib.
flautando
(senza vib.)
norm.
I
Shortened phrase

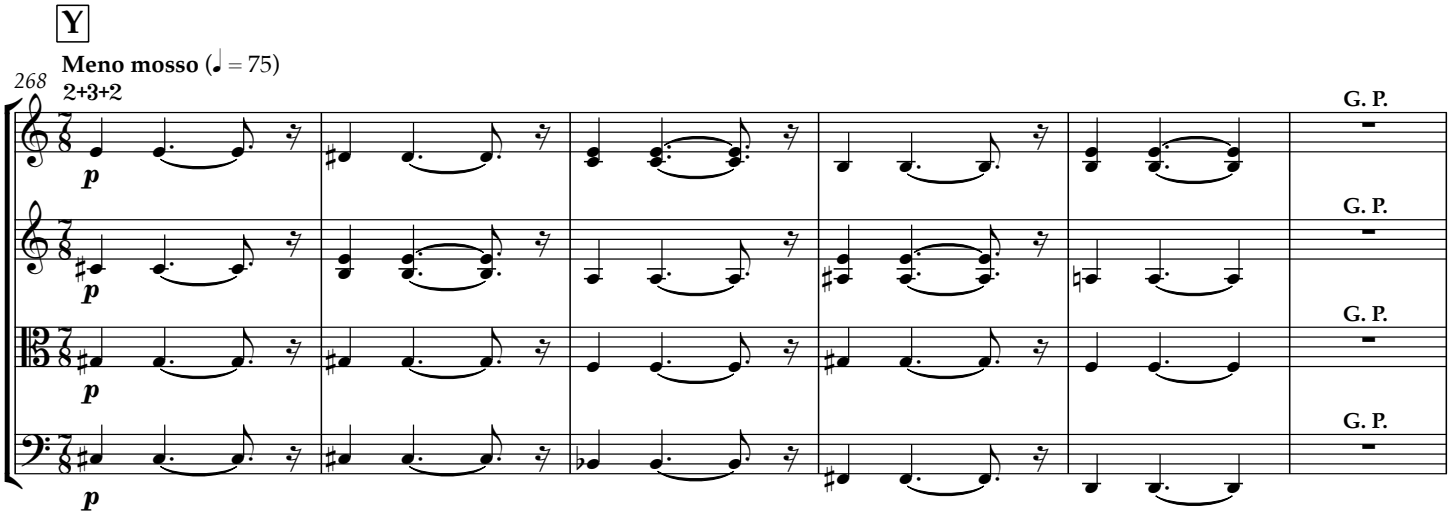

212
III
norm.
increase l.h. pressure‡
decrease l.h. pressure‡
mp
U
flautando senza vib.
pp
norm.
increase l.h. pressure‡
decrease l.h. pressure‡
mp
flautando senza vib.
pp
pp
I
increase l.h. pressure‡
decrease l.h. pressure‡
mp
I
pp
218
mp
pp
norm.
IV
norm.
IV
I
222
flautando senza vib.
mp
pp
mf
pp
IV
increase l.h. pressure
decrease l.h. pressure
mp
flautando senza vib.
mf
pp
IV
increase l.h. pressure‡
decrease l.h. pressure‡
mp
mf
pp
I
increase l.h. pressure
decrease l.h. pressure
mp
mf
pp
Removed two bars
More sudden transition

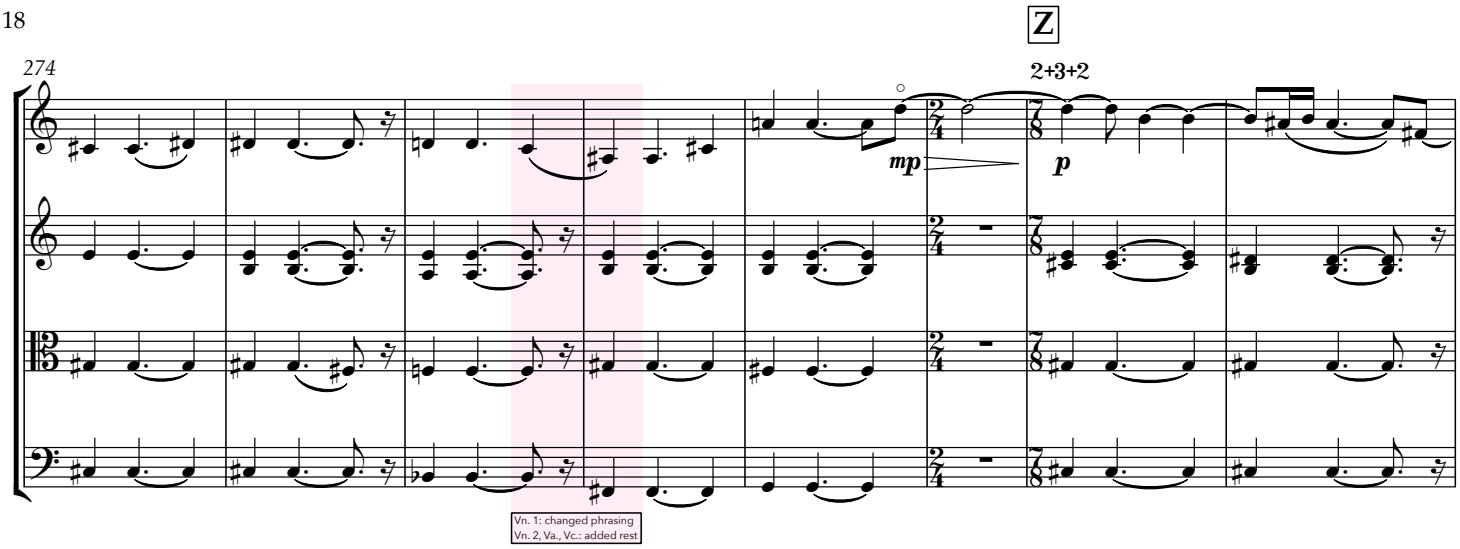

V
Meno mosso (♩ = 120)
228
pizz.
sim.
non. arp.
mp
f
233
mf
non. arp.
238
W
§

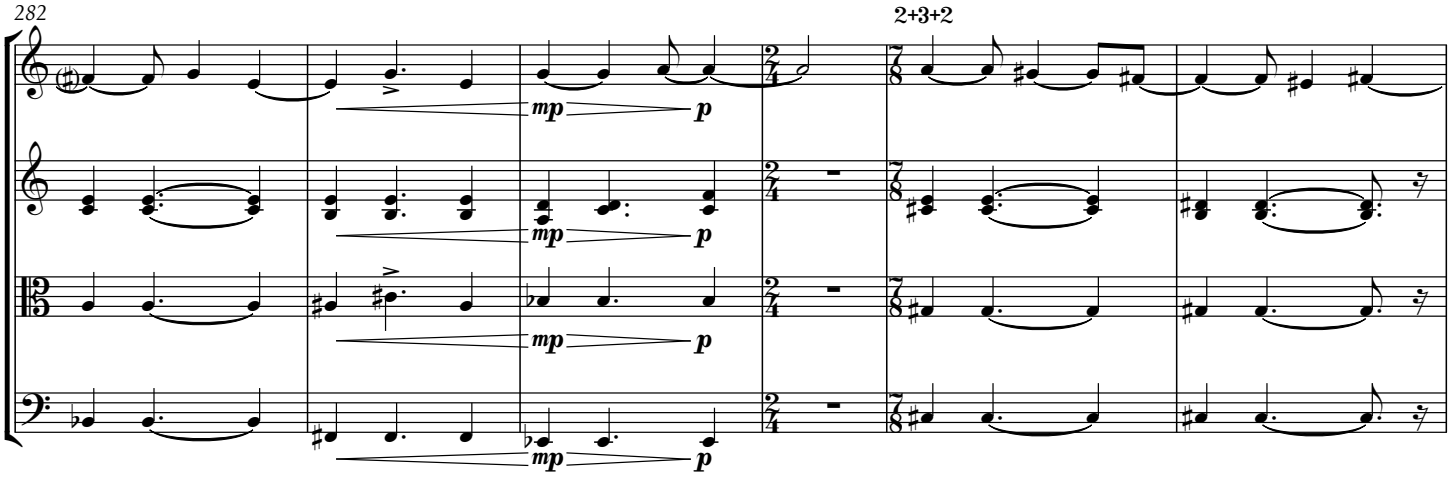

243
sim.
sim.
sim.
sim.
mp
f
247
non. arp.
251
non. arp.
non. arp.
mp
mf
f
mp
f
mp
f

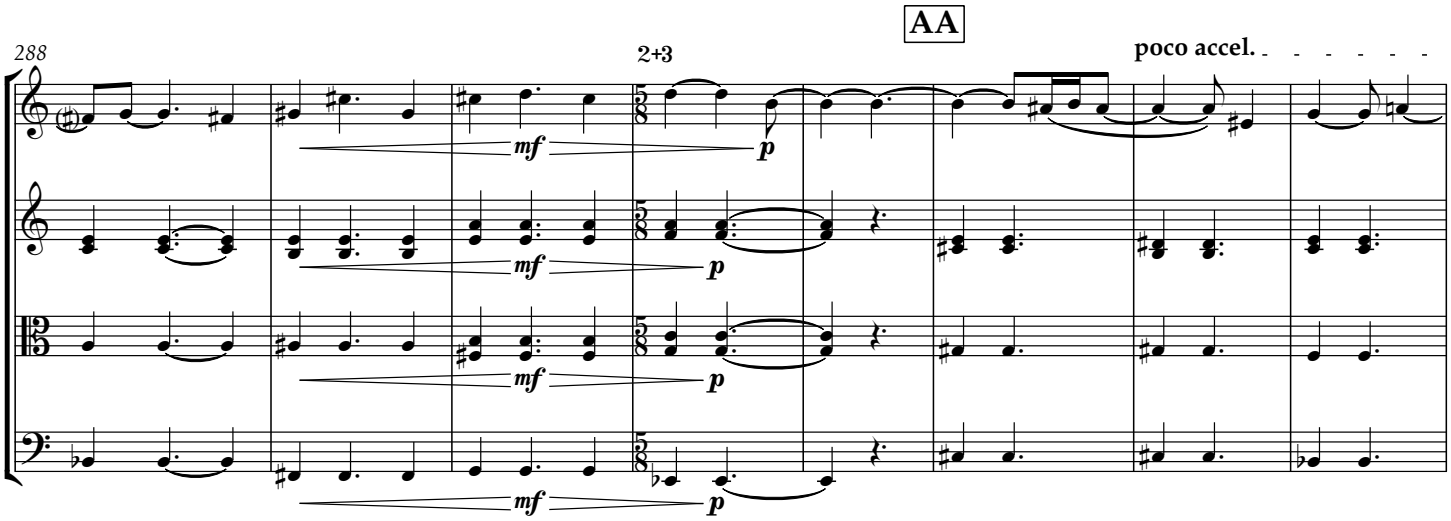

256
X
sim.
sim.
sim.
sim.
mp
IV
arco
pp
Shorter transition

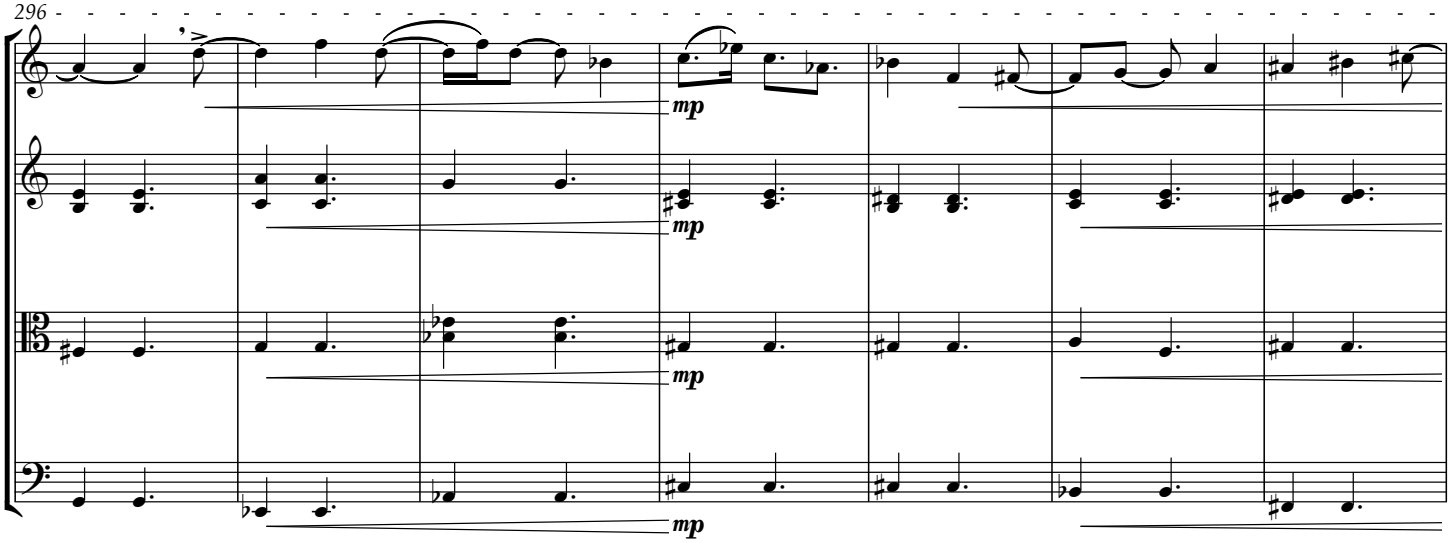

262
IV
increase l.h. pressure
decrease l.h. pressure
II
arco
mf
pp
ff
G. P.

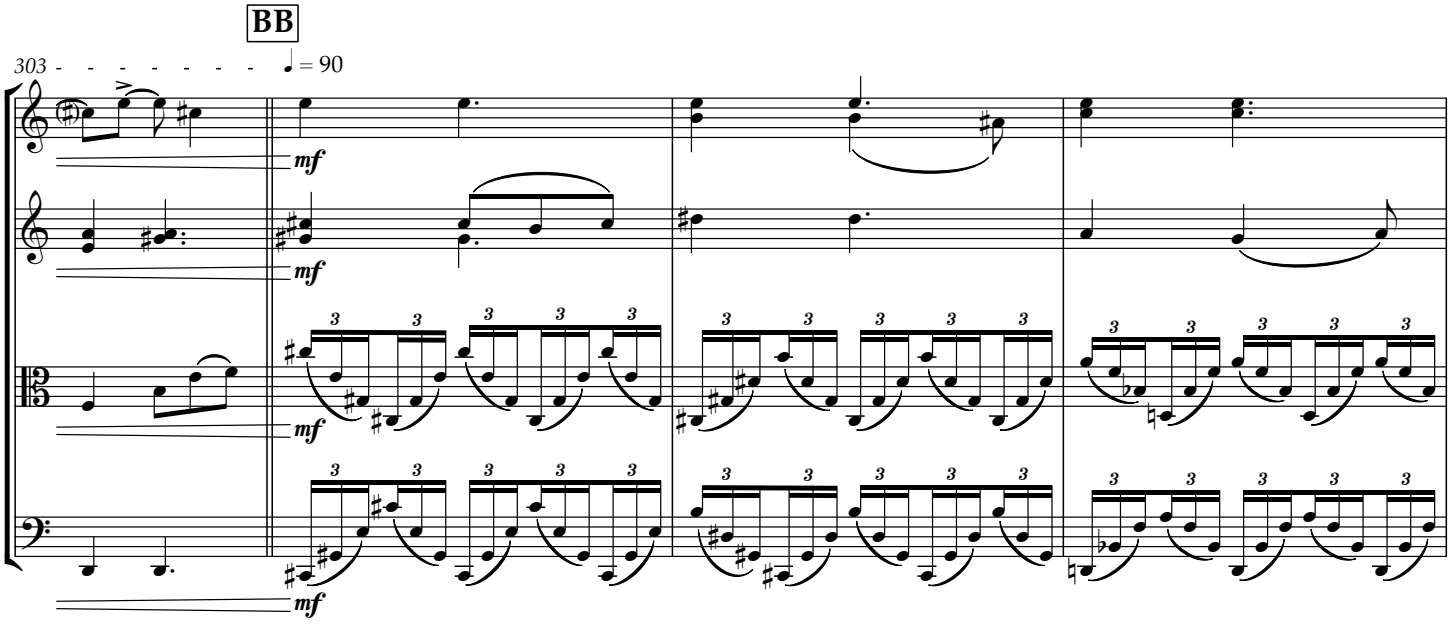

Y
Meno mosso (♩ = 75)
268
2+3+2
p
G. P.

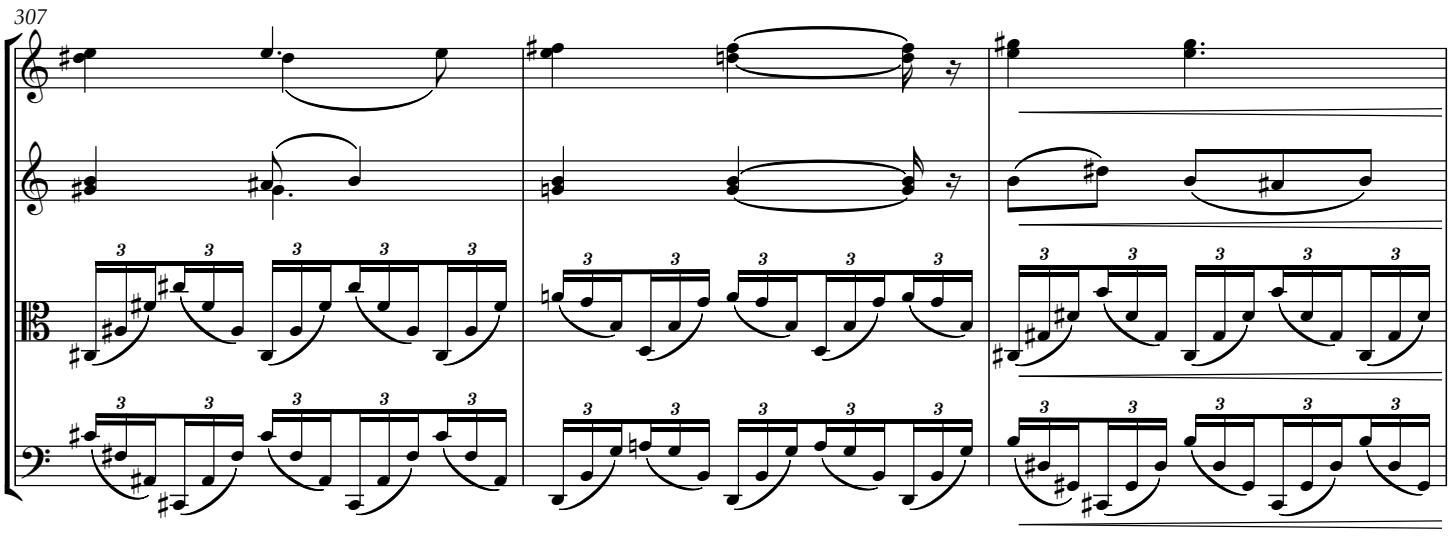

Z
274
2+3+2
mp
p
Vn. 1: changed phrasing
Vn. 2, Va., Vc.: added rest

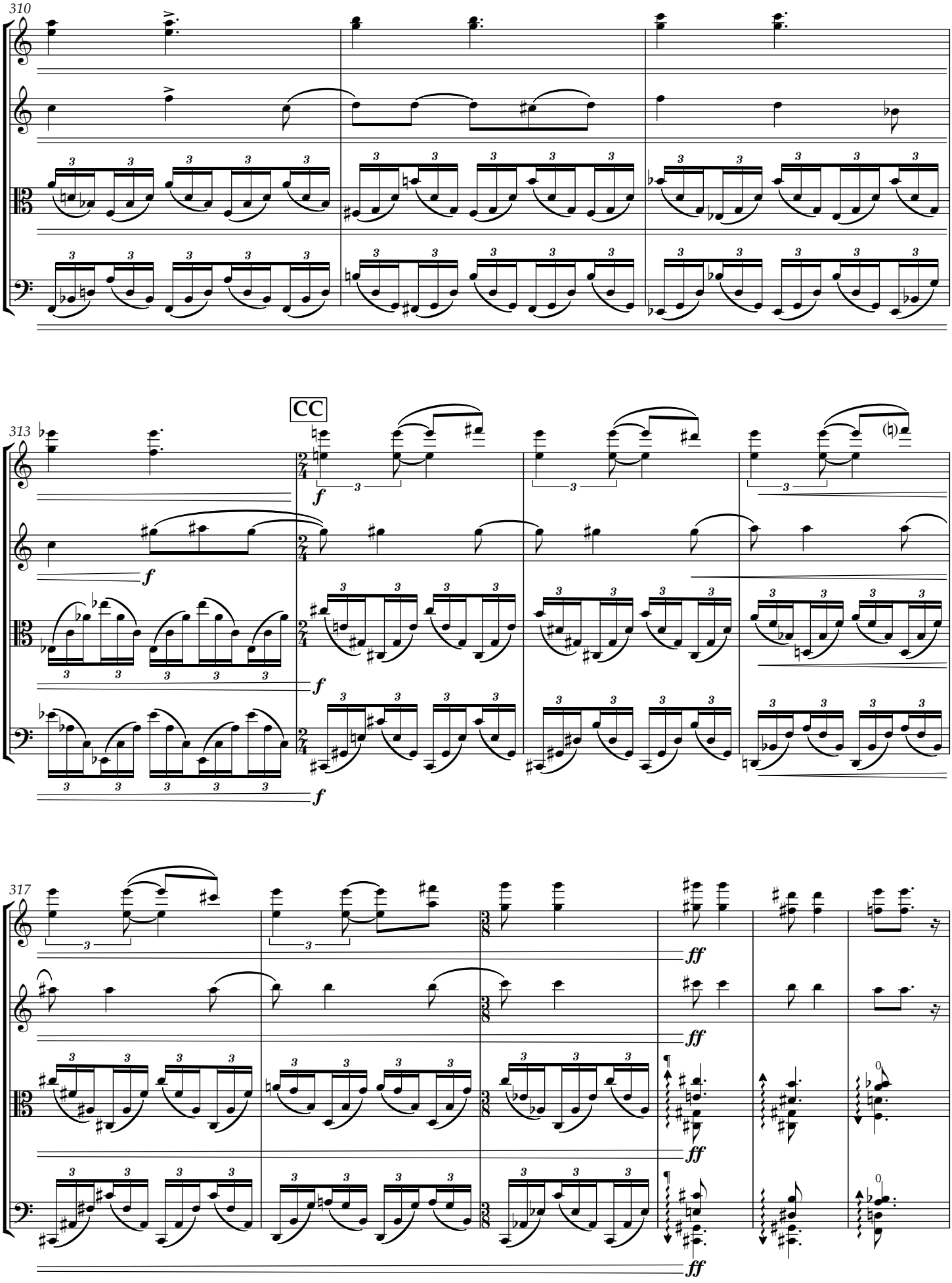

282
2+3+2
mp
p

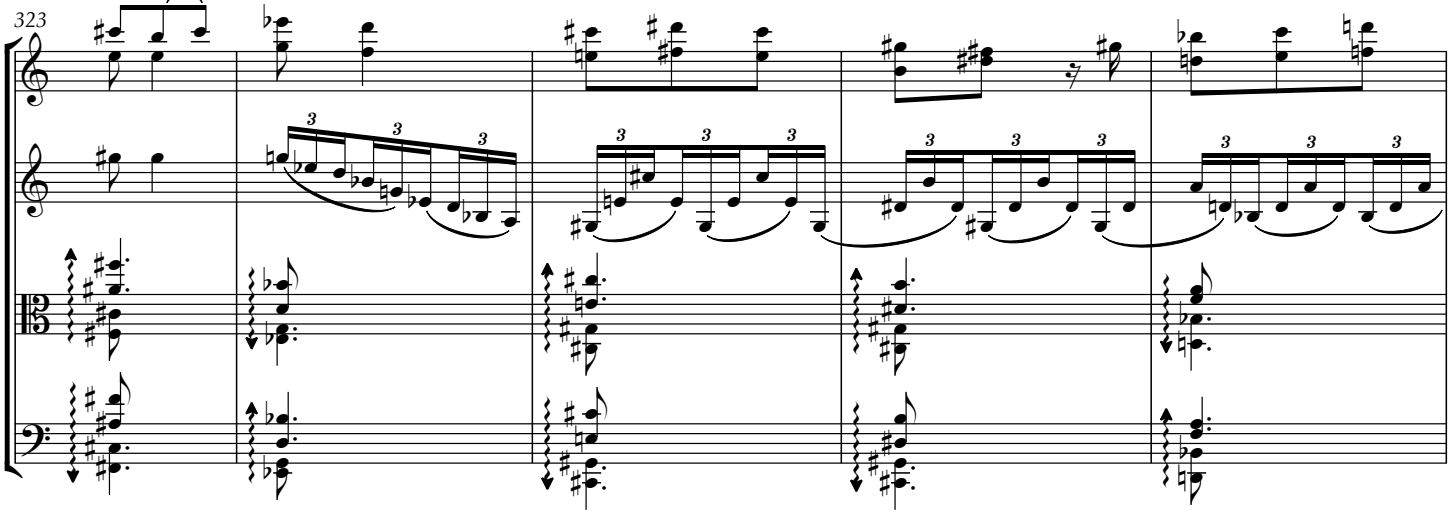

AA
288
2+3
poco accel.
mf
p


296
mp
mp
mp
mp


BB
303
♩ = 90
mf
mf
mf
mf


307


310
313
CC
317
f
ff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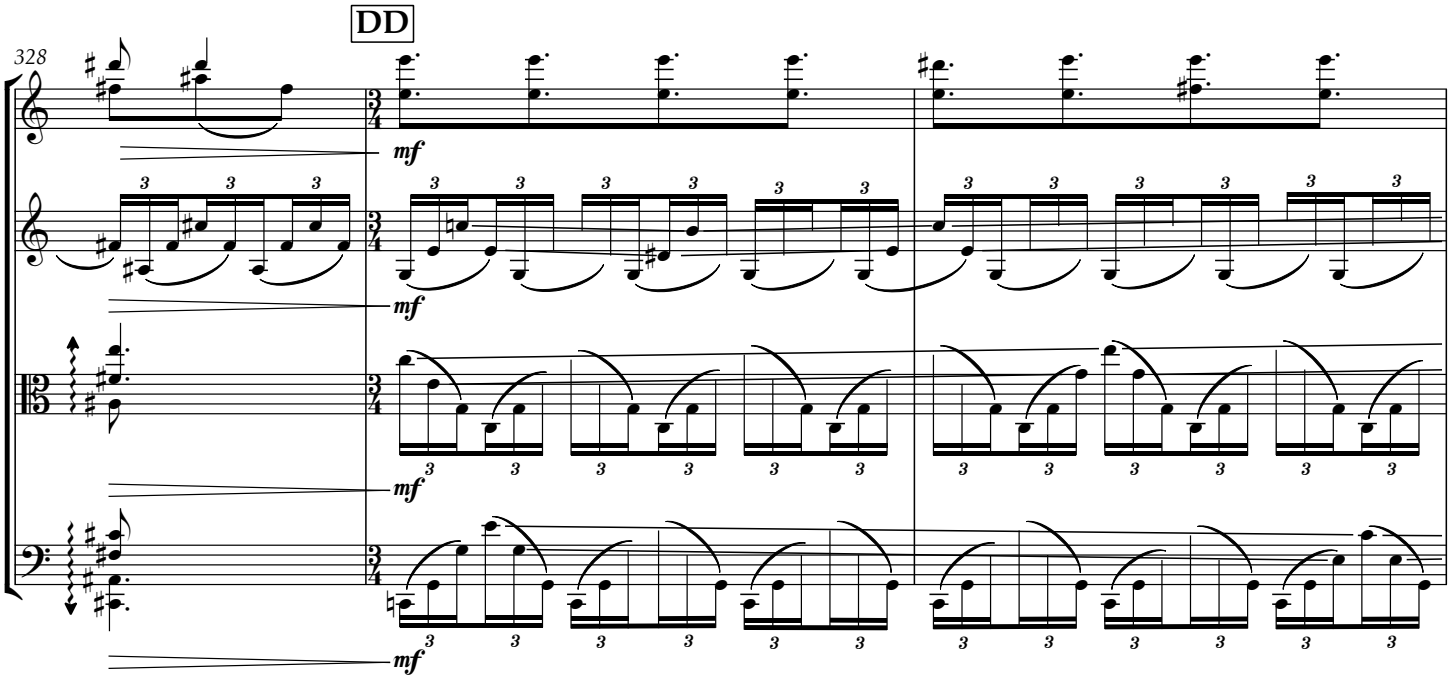
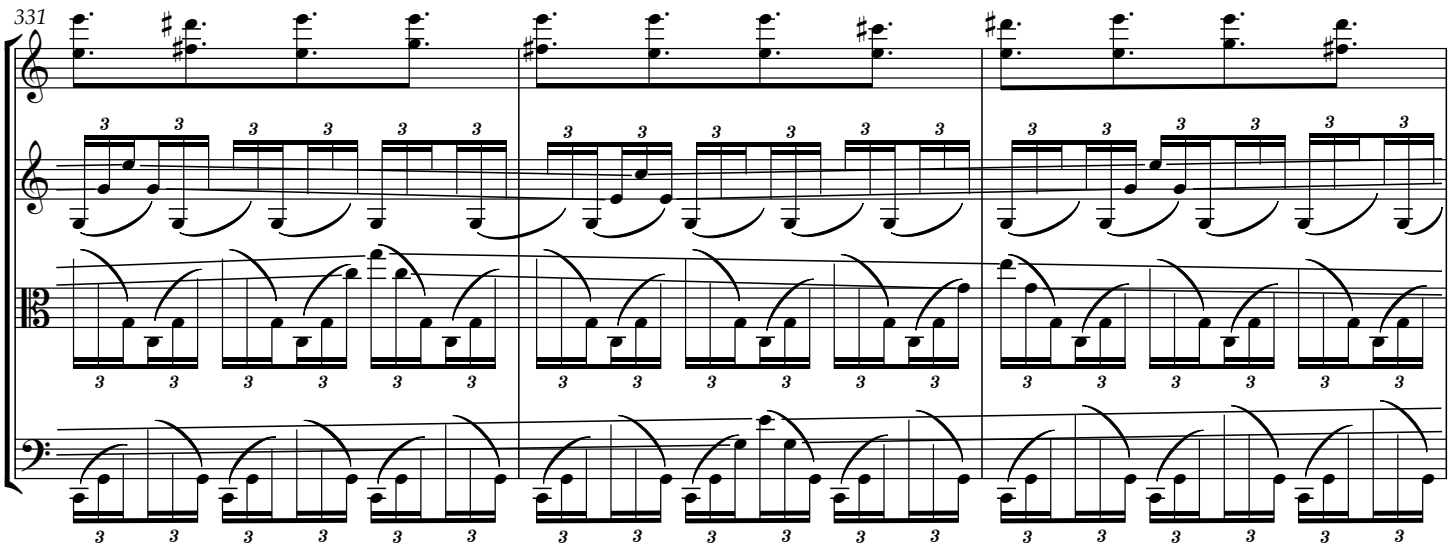

328
DD
mf
mf
mf
mf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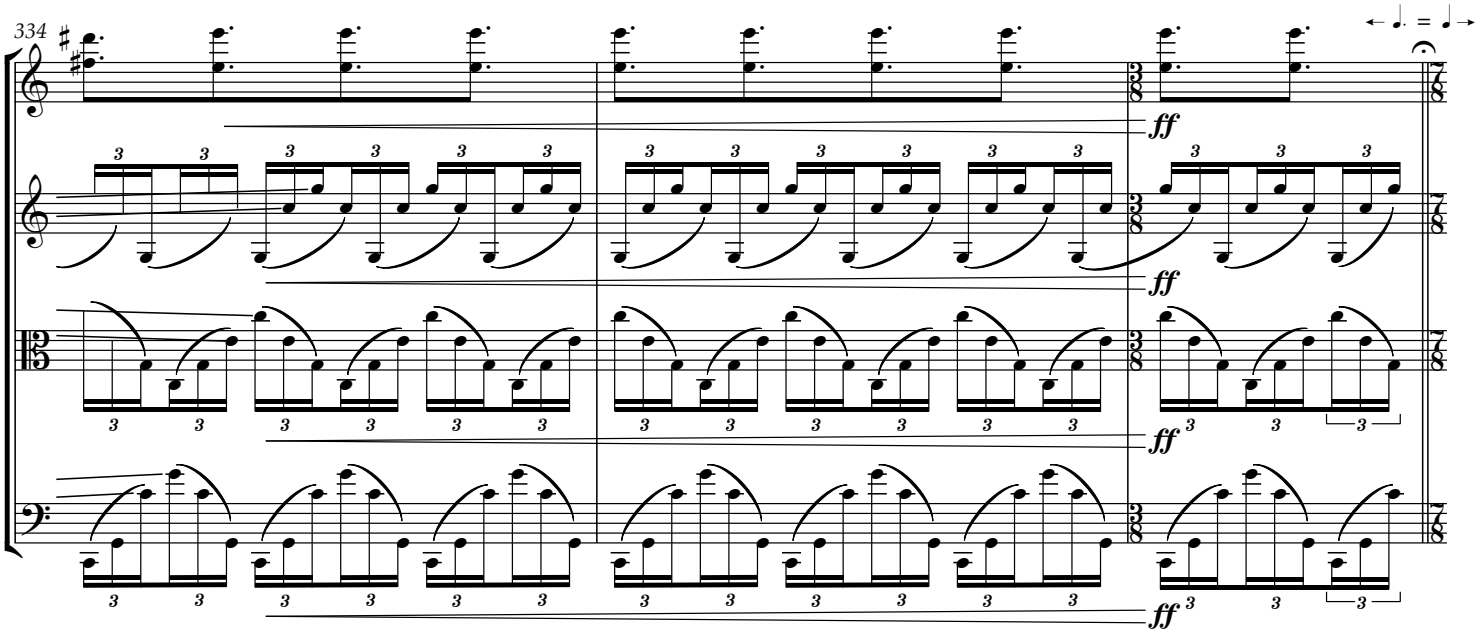
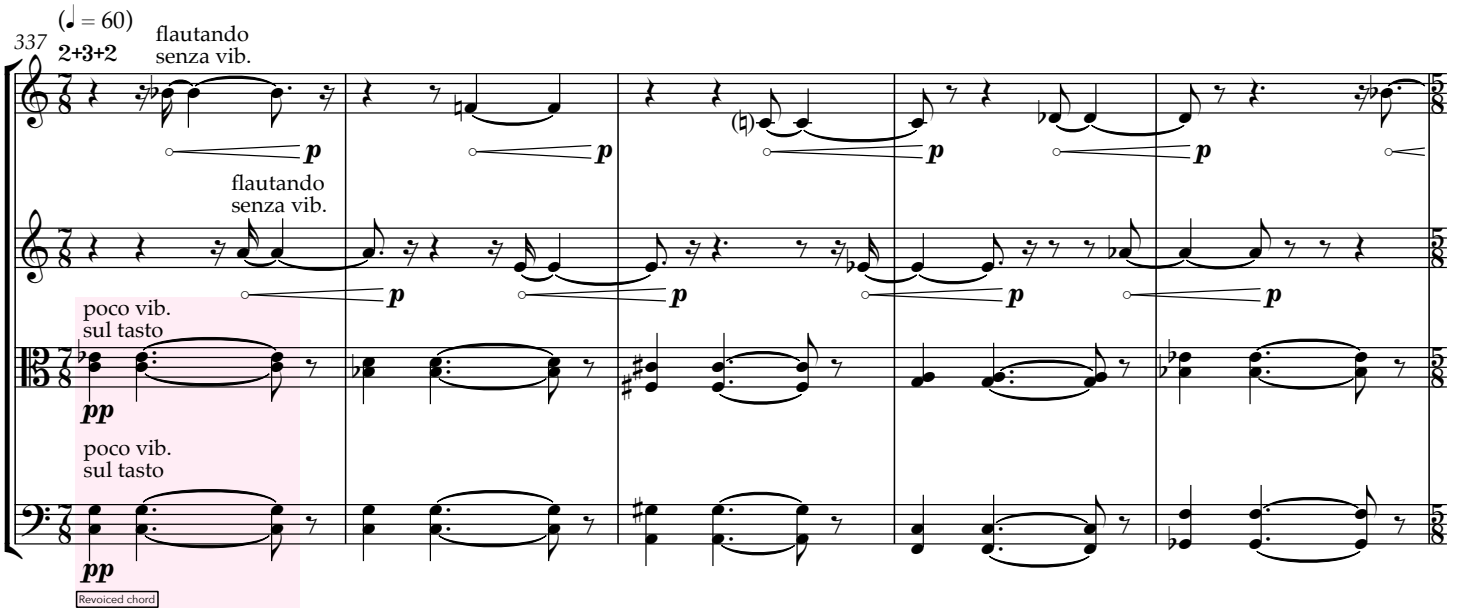
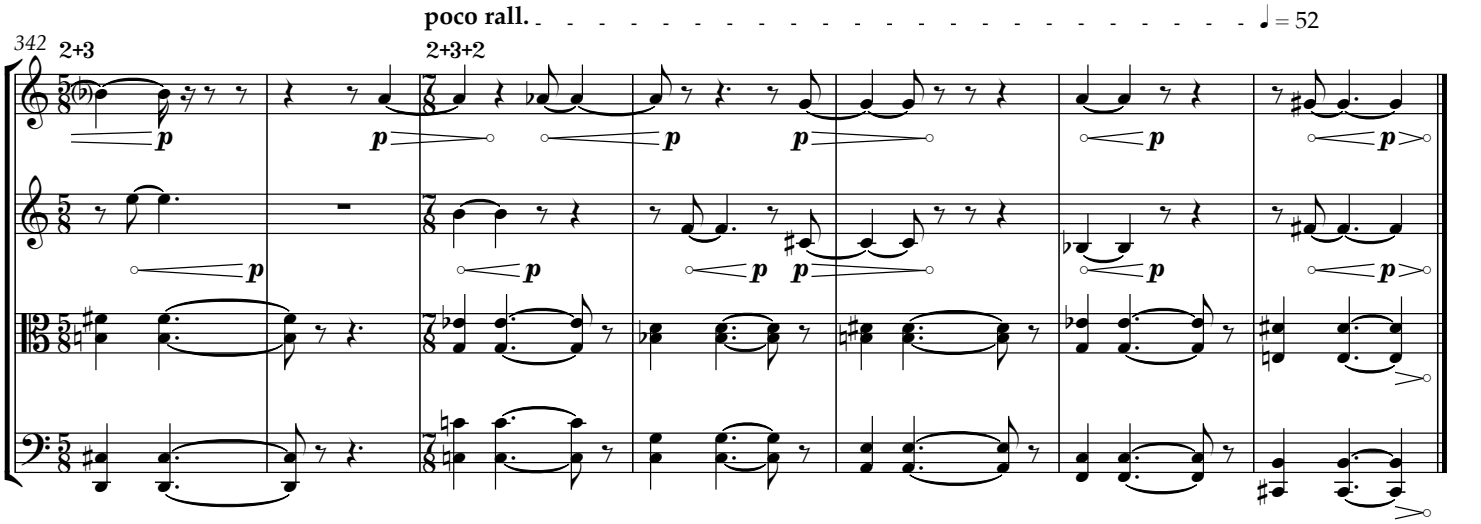

334
ff

EE


337
(♩ = 60)
2+3+2
flautando
senza vib.
p
flautando
senza vib.
poco vib.
sul tasto
pp
poco vib.
sul tasto
pp
Revoiced chord


342
2+3
poco rall.
♩ = 52
2+3+2
p