Short Stanzas

variations for violin & cello

Alexander Elliott Miller

Short Stanzas, violin & cello

I. Electrifying
II. Patient, Stirring
III. Playful
IV. Volatile
V. Rollicking
VI. Peacefully
VII. Molto Appassionato

Duration: 16 minutes

NOTES

Short Stanzas is a set of variations for violin and cello composed in Boulder, Colorado in 2004, at the end of my studies at the University of Colorado. It was premiered early the following year in Rochester, New York at the Eastman School of Music by David Gerstein and Christopher Otto while I was pursuing graduate studies there.

The work itself is strongly influenced by one of my favorite compositions: Benjamin Britten's *Nocturnal after John Dowland*, a solo guitar work that I was studying and playing at the time. My variation technique was similar to Britten's; also, while Britten's theme was a song by John Dowland where mine is an original theme, both works are structured similarly, however. Both variation sets in which the clearest statement of the "theme" is not the first movement, but the last.

BIO

Alexander Elliott Miller is a composer, guitarist and educator whose music has been described as "wild….unearthly…lyrical…a voice worth listening to" (San Francisco Classical Voice) and "deceptively laid back…inventive….unconventional" (Mark Swed, LA Times). His compositions have been performed by Grammy-nominated musicians including Tony Arnold, Vicki Ray, Aron Kallay and the Los Angeles Percussion Quartet, and ensembles including Earplay New Chamber Music, the Boston New Music Initiative and TEMPO. Miller has collaborated, either as a composer or electric guitarist, with organizations including the Hear Now Festival, Carlsbad Music Festival, Long Beach Opera, People Inside Electronics, the West Coast Composers Forum and received honors including an Earplay Donald Aird Composers Award and a MacDowell Fellowship.

Currently, he teaches theory and composition at California State University Long Beach and Chapman University, and is a Co-Director of the LA based What's Next? Ensemble. He holds degrees from USC, Eastman and the University of Colorado at Boulder.

His works are published by HoneyRock Publishing and VP Music Media. For more information, please visit www.alexanderemiller.com.

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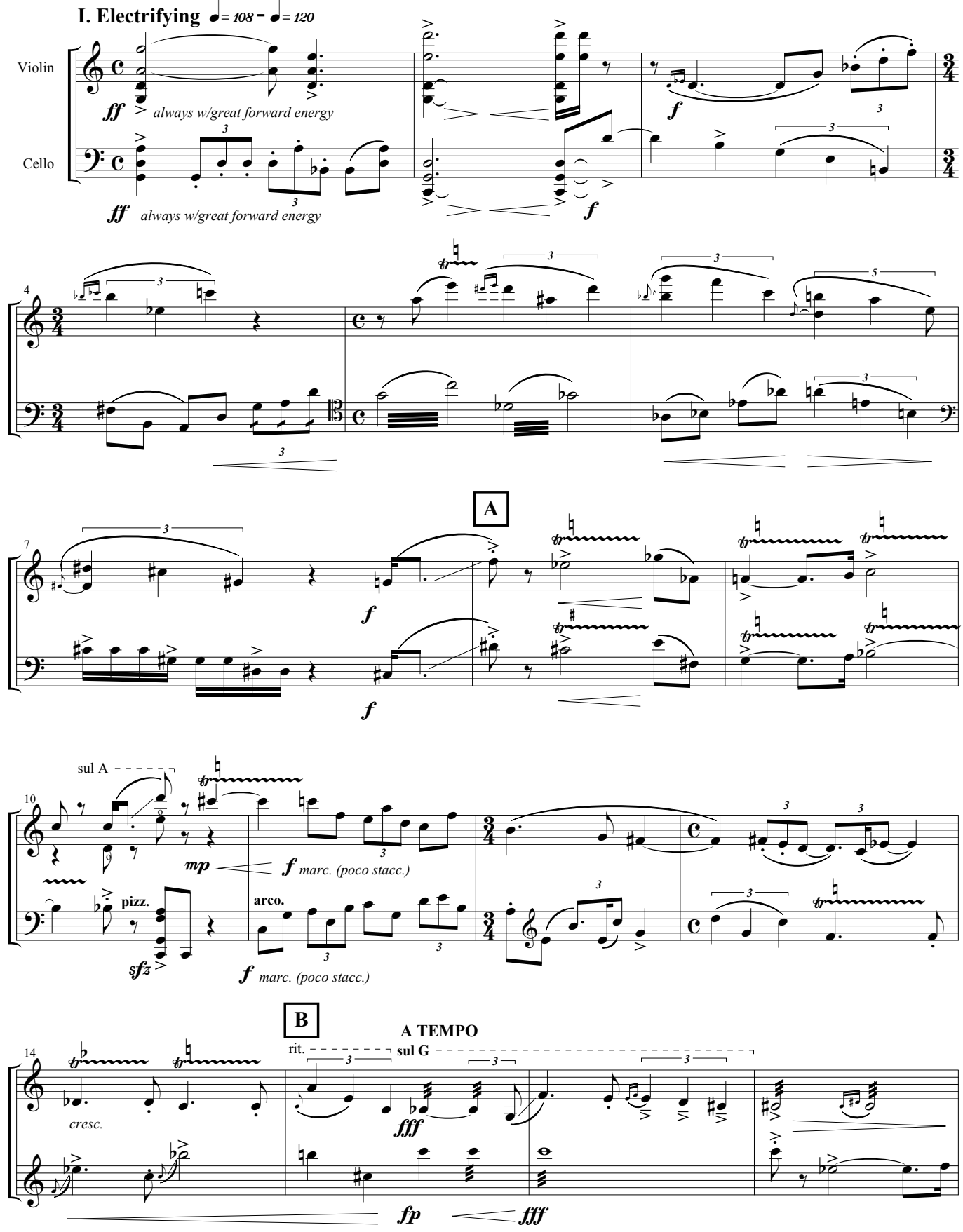
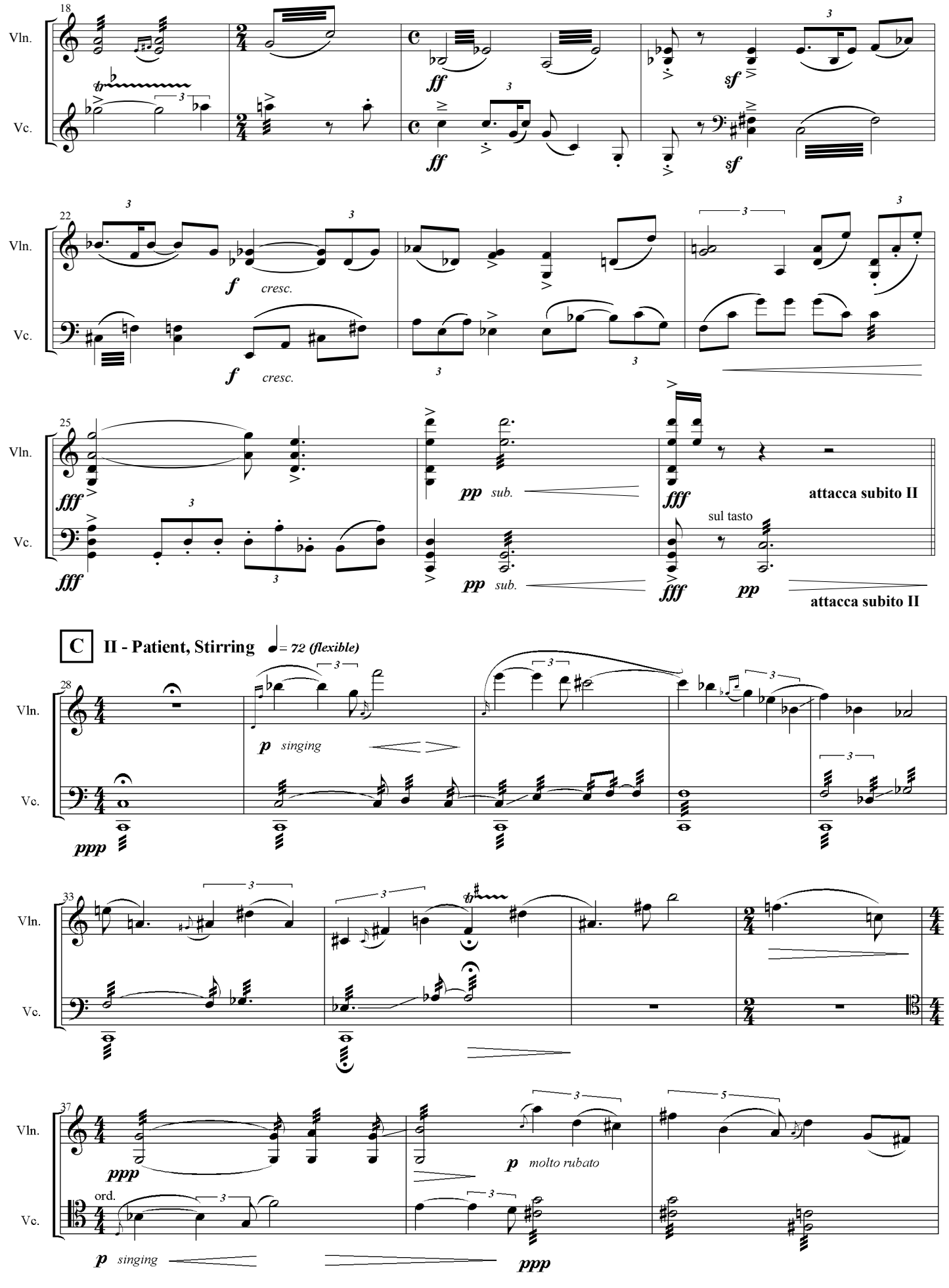
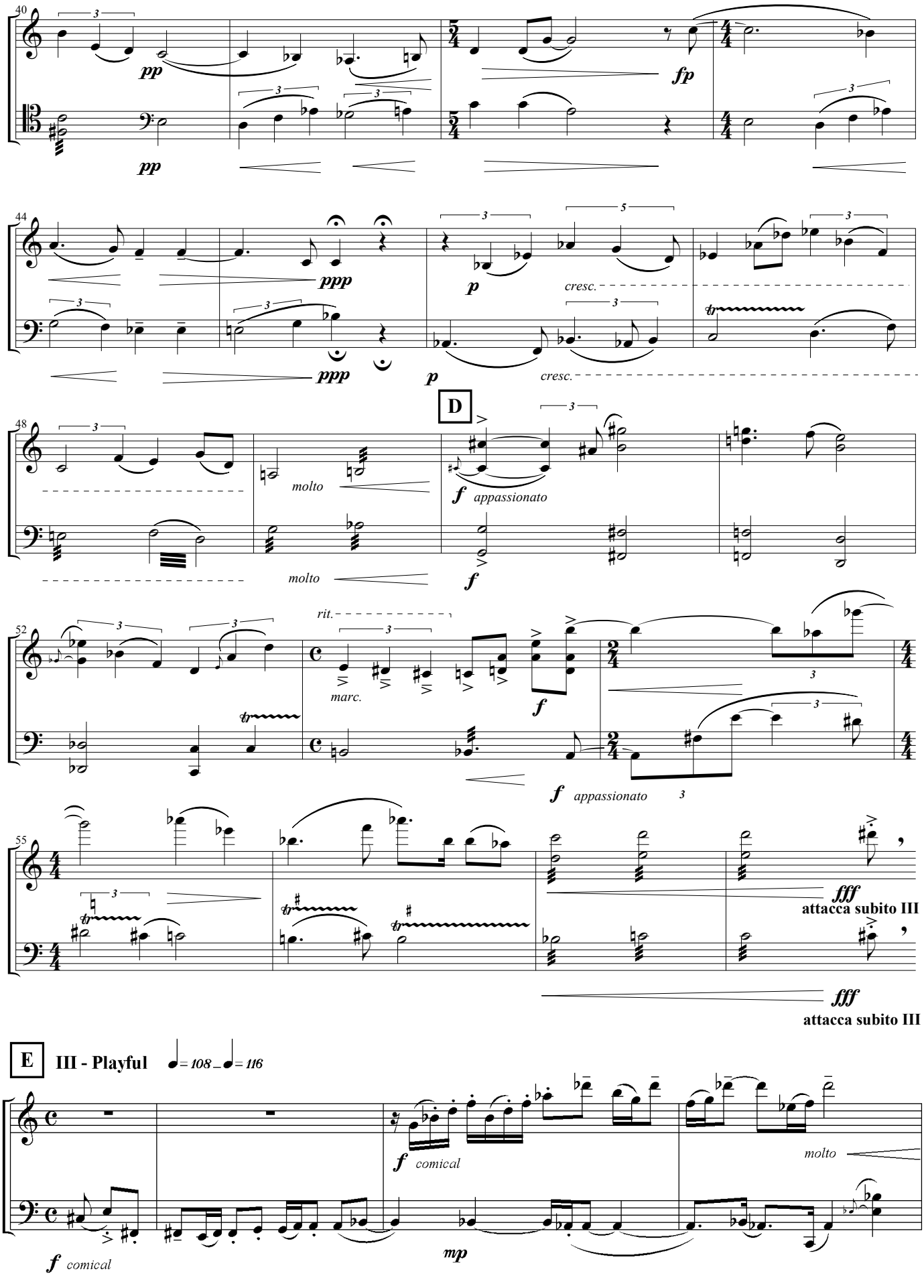
2004

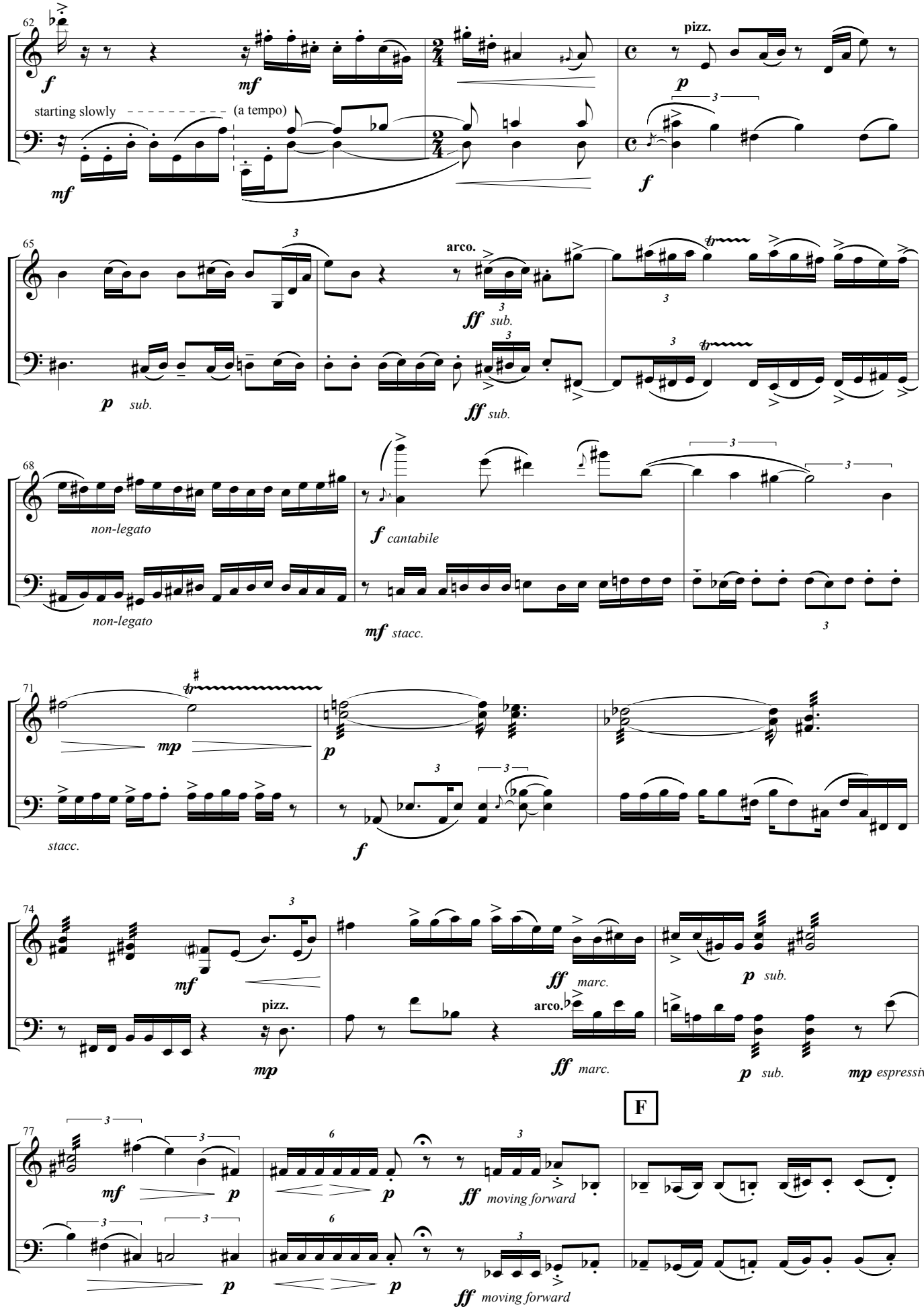
Duration:
16 minutes

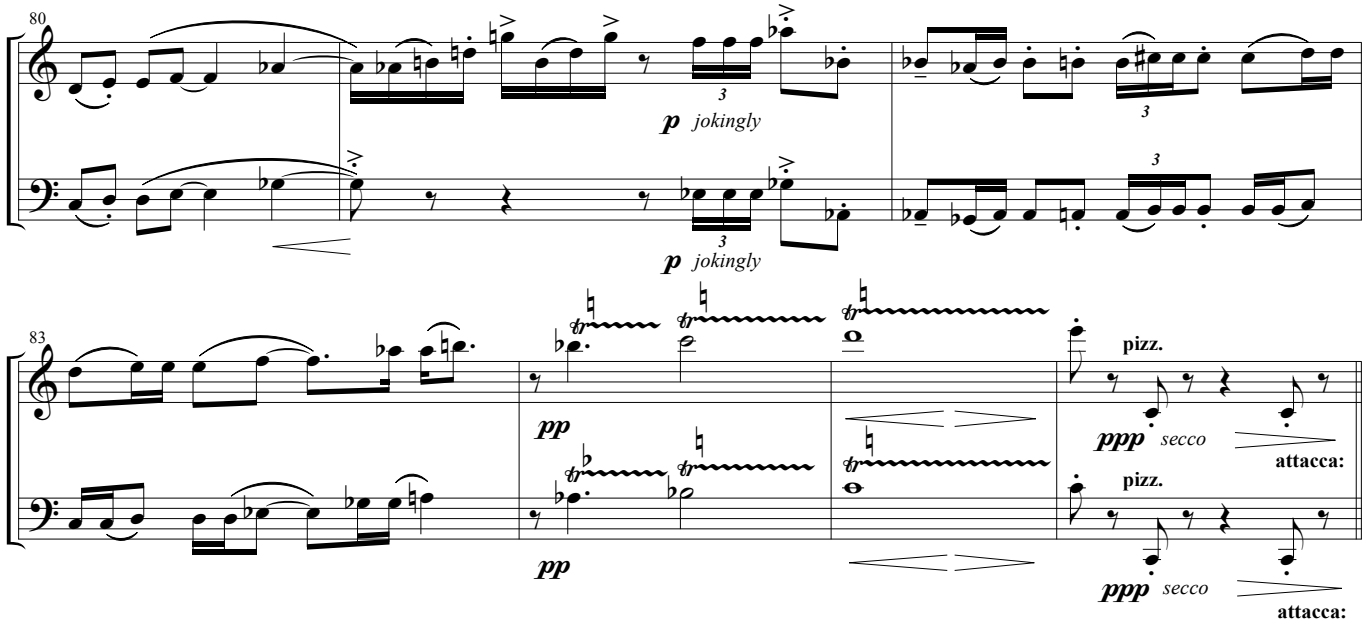
Alexander Elliott Miller
b. 1982



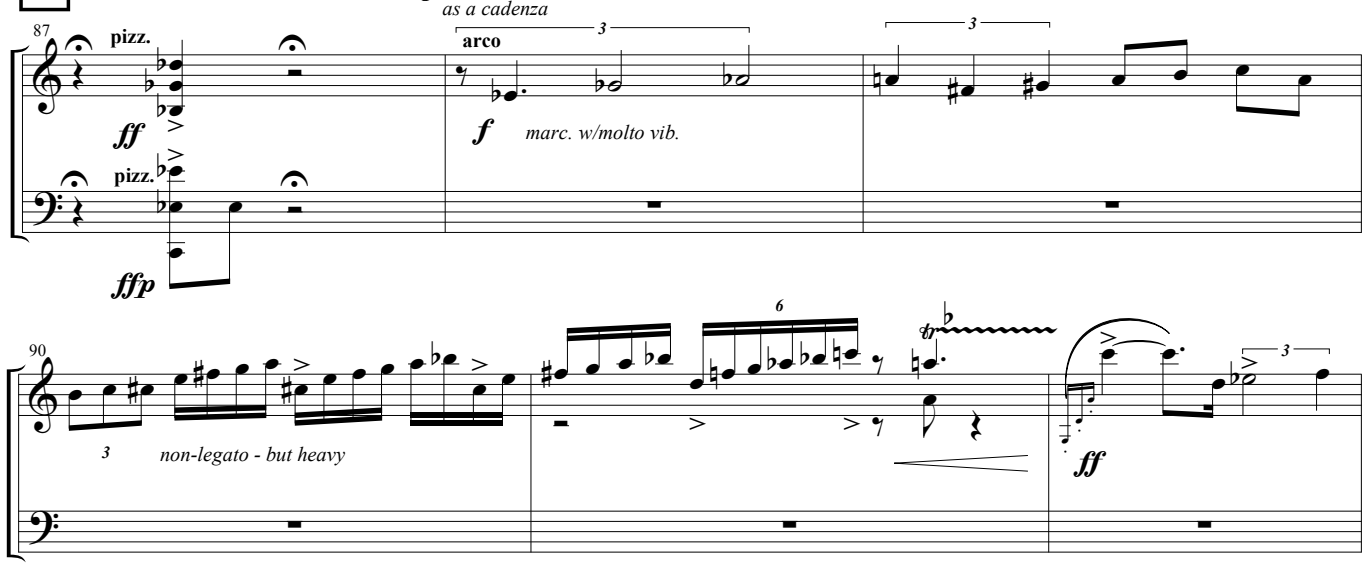

18
Vln.
Vc.
ff
sf
22
f cresc.
25
fff
pp sub.
attacca subito II
sul tasto
C
II - Patient, Stirring
= 72 (flexible)
28
p singing
ppp
33
37
ord.
molto rubato

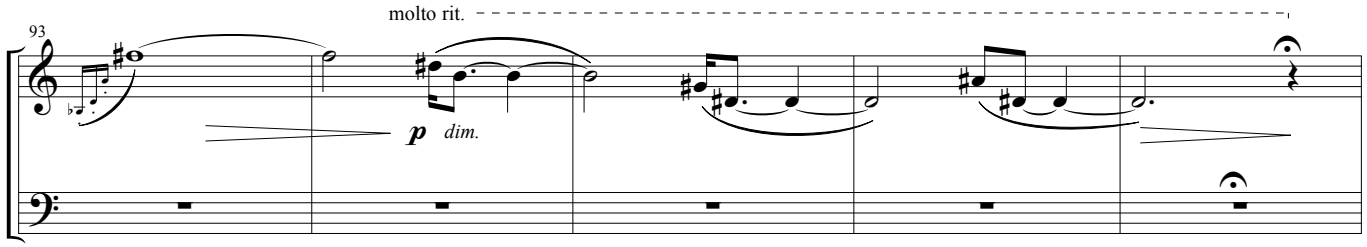

40
Vln.
Vc.
pp
pp
fp
44
ppp
ppp
p
cresc.
p
cresc.
D
48
molto
molto
f appassionato
f
52
rit.
marc.
f
f appassionato
55
fff
attacca subito III
fff
attacca subito III
E
III - Playful
♩= 108 _ ♩= 116
f comical
f comical
molto
mp


62
Vln.
Vc.
f
mf
starting slowly
(a tempo)
mf
pizz.
p
f
65
arco.
ff sub.
p sub.
ff sub.
68
non-legato
non-legato
f cantabile
mf stacc.
71
mp
p
stacc.
f
74
mf
pizz.
mp
ff marc.
arco.
ff marc.
p sub.
p sub.
mp espressivo
F
77
mf
p
p
p
ff moving forward
ff moving forward

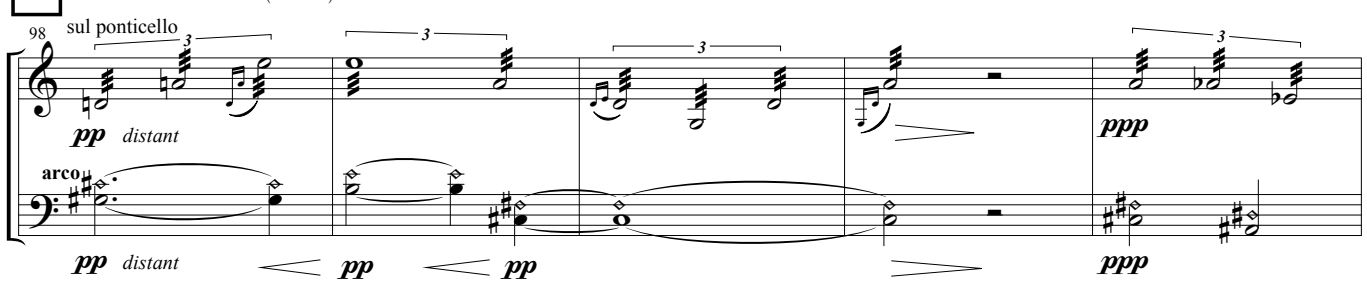


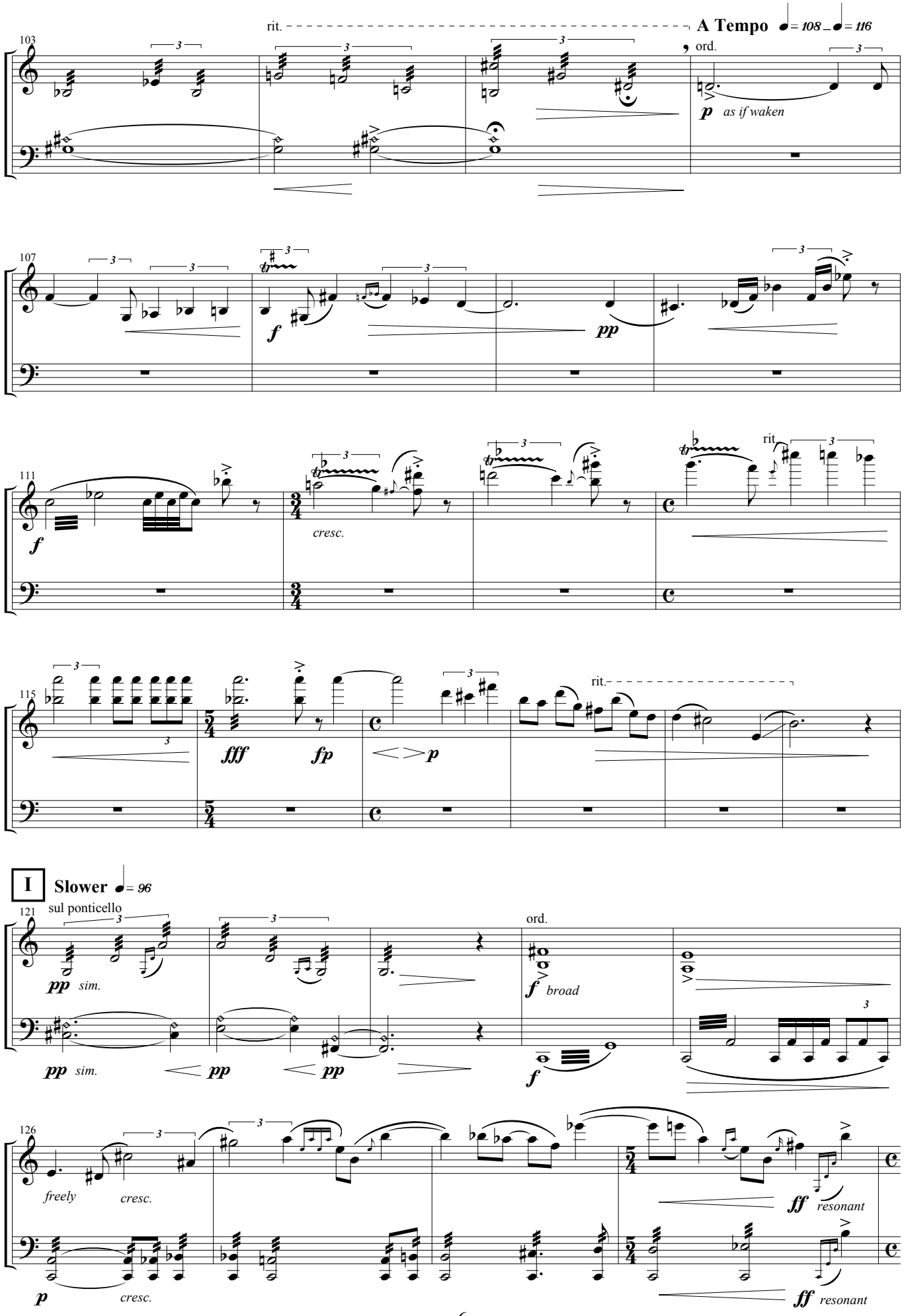
G **IV - Volatile Lo stesso Tempo**

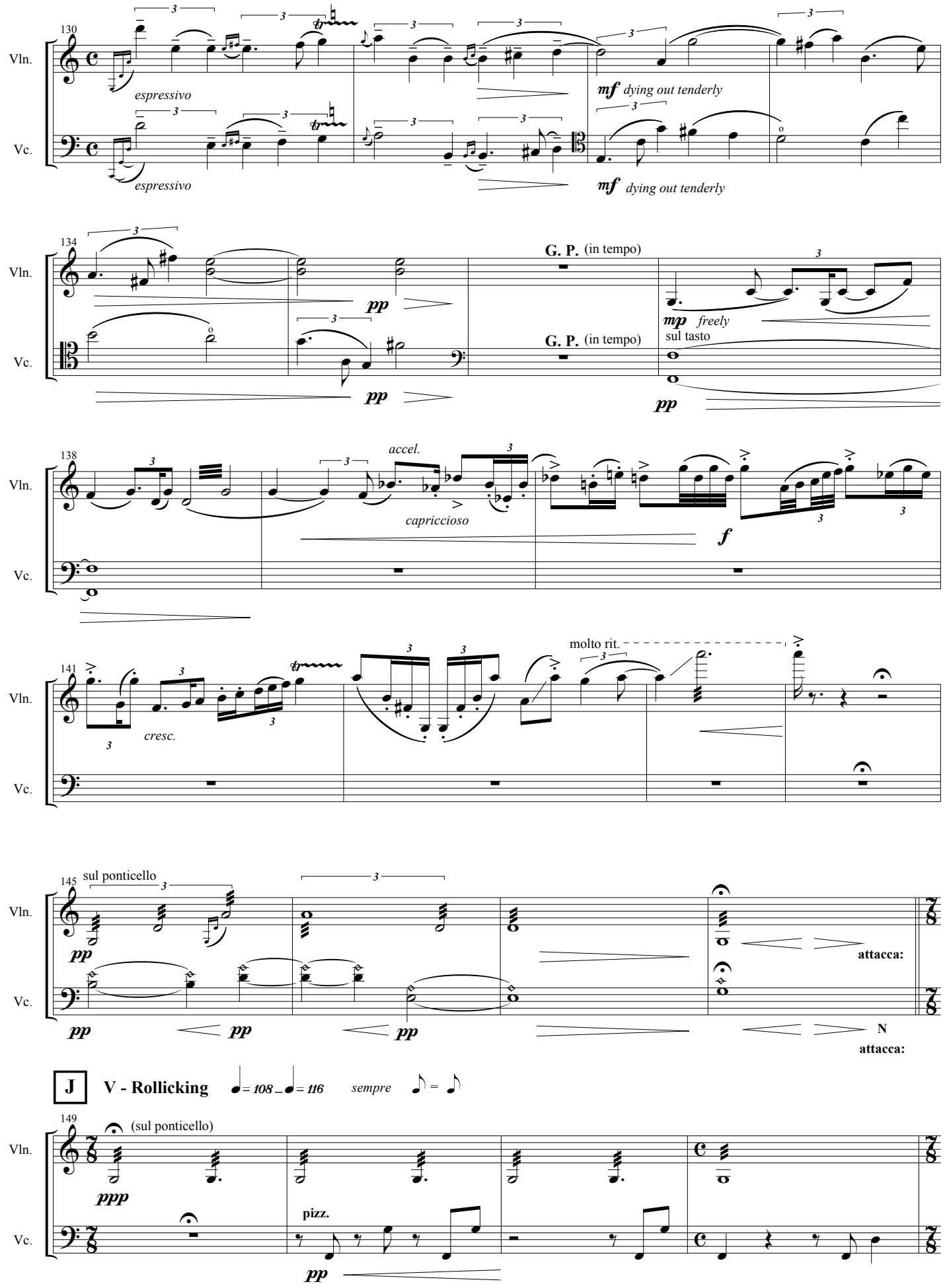


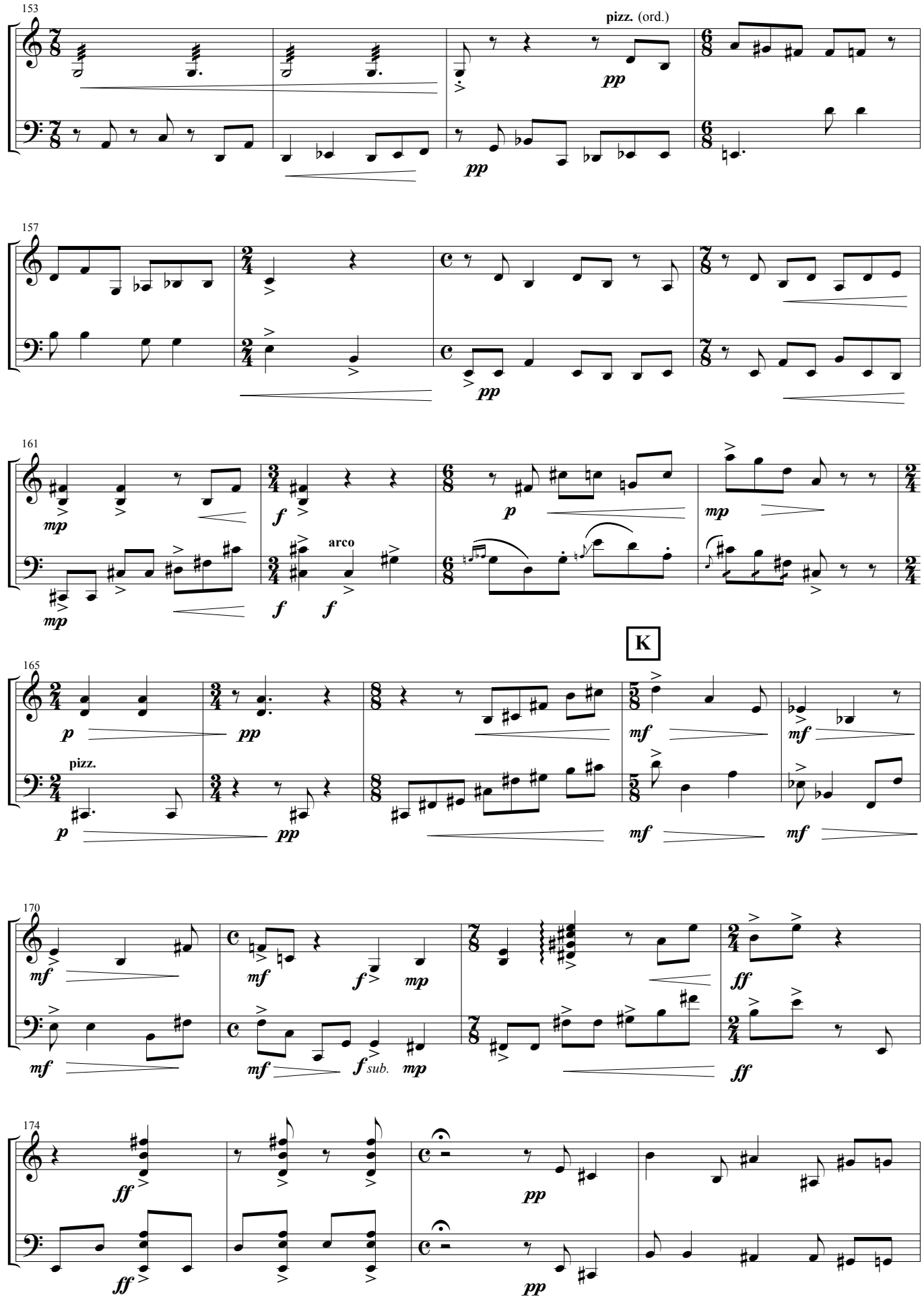


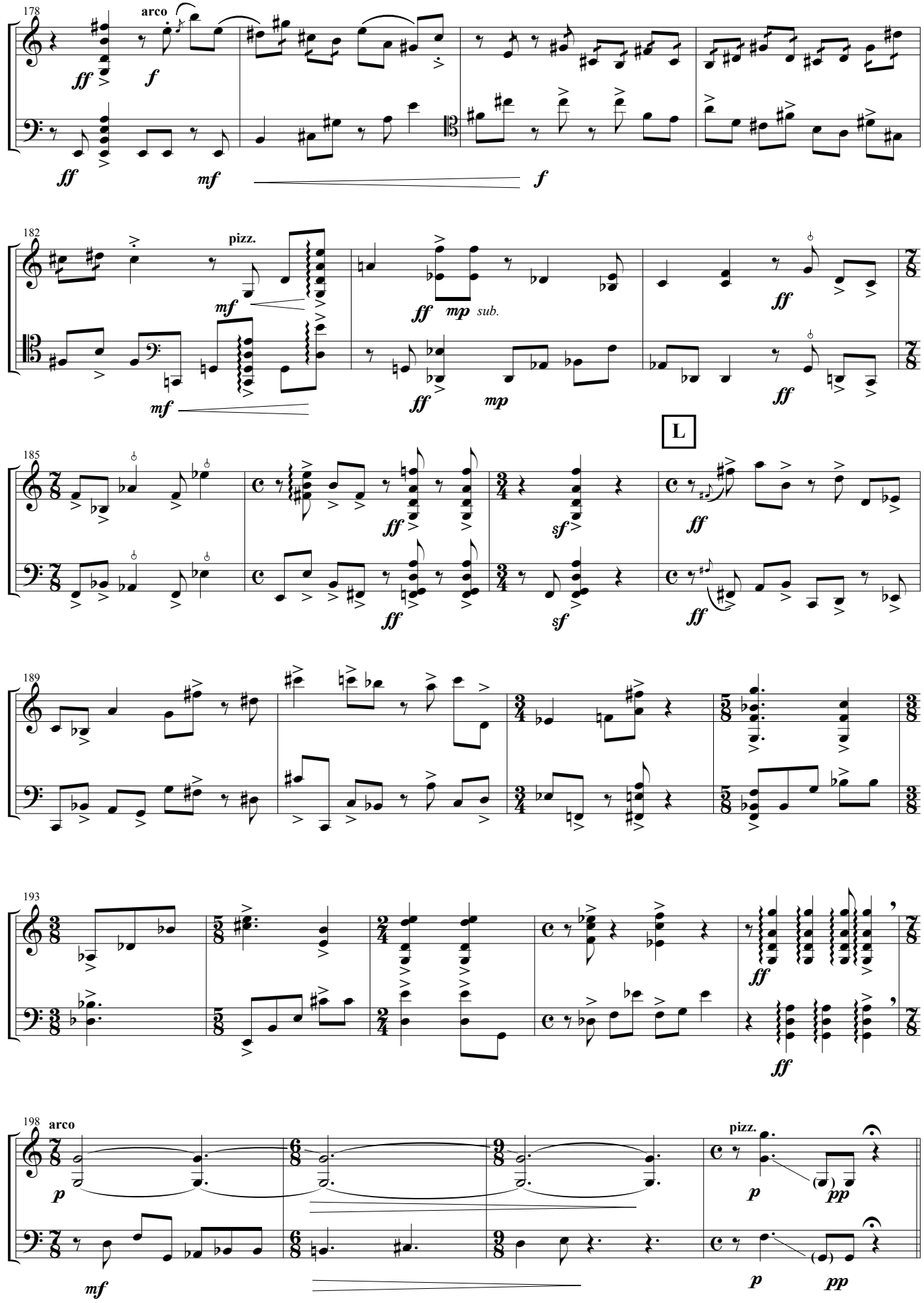
H **Slower** ♩ = 96 (𝅗𝅥 = 72)

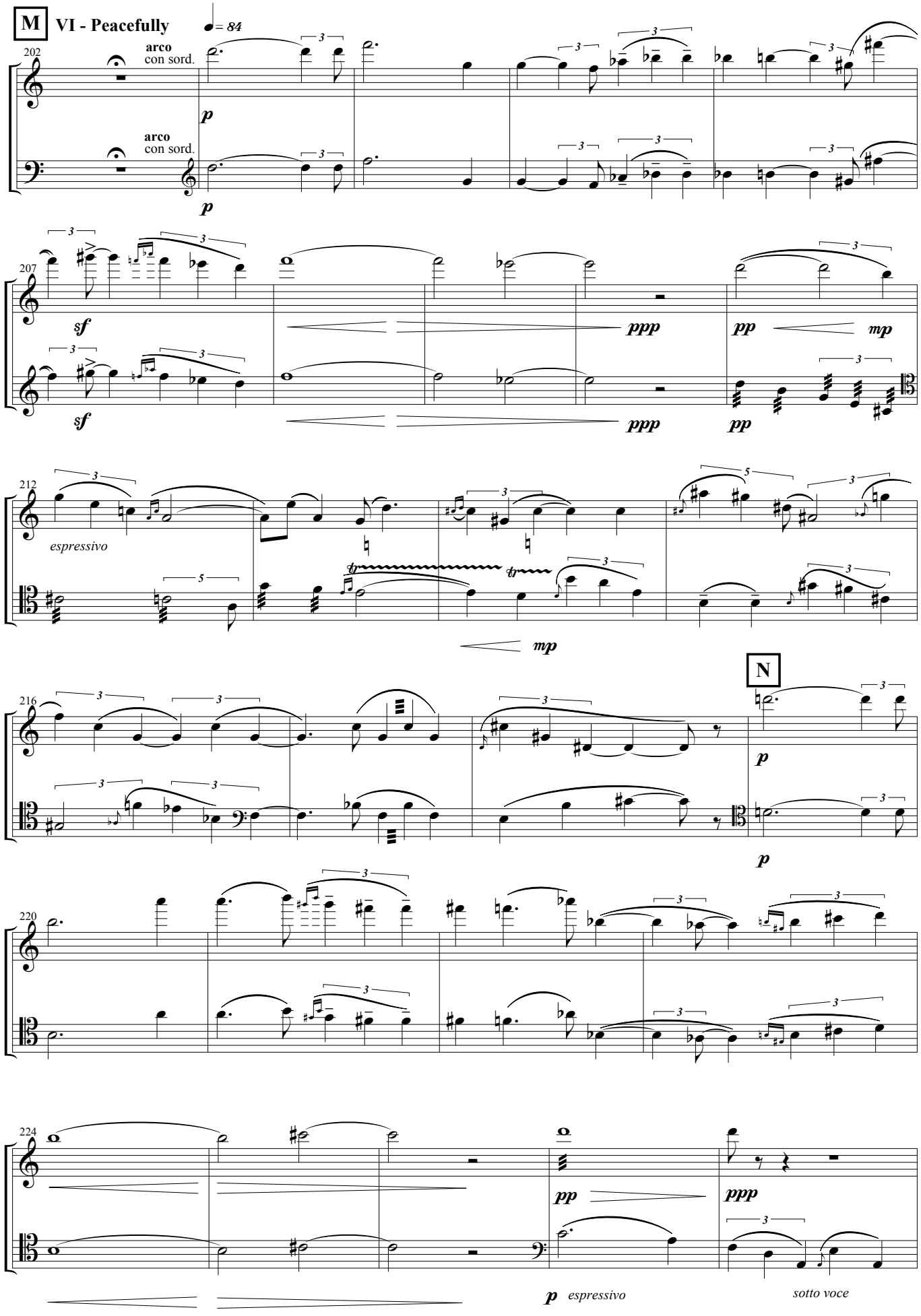


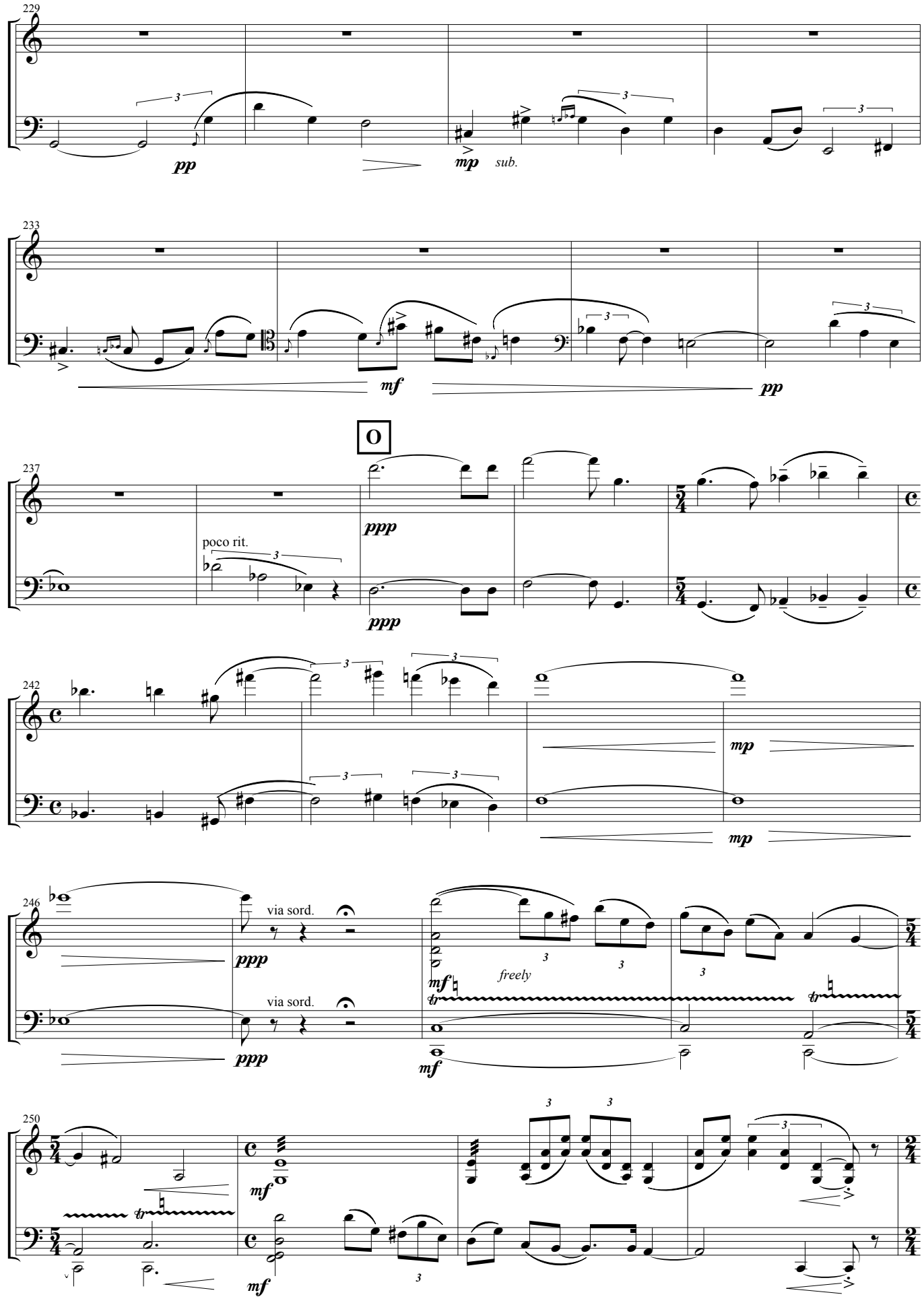

103
rit.
A Tempo ♩= 108 _ ♩= 116
ord.
Vln.
Vc.
p as if waken
107
f
pp
111
f
cresc.
rit.
115
fff
fp
p
rit.
I
Slower ♩= 96
sul ponticello
121
pp sim.
ord.
f broad
126
freely
cresc.
ff resonant
p
cresc.
ff resonant

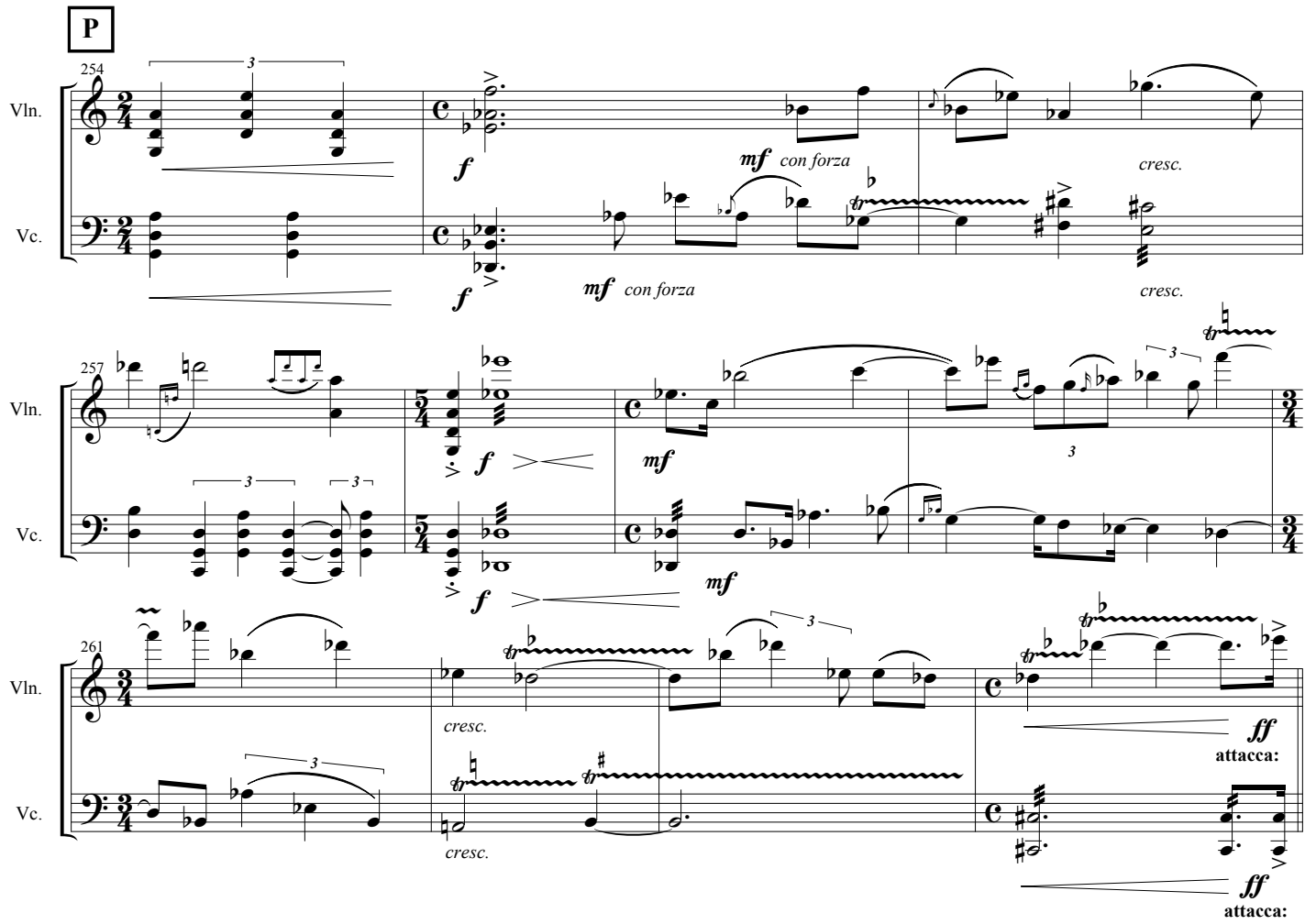

130
Vln.
Vc.
espressivo
espressivo
mf dying out tenderly
mf dying out tenderly
134
G. P. (in tempo)
G. P. (in tempo)
pp
pp
mp freely
sul tasto
pp
138
accel.
capriccioso
f
141
molto rit.
cresc.
145
sul ponticello
pp
attacca:
N
attacca:
J
V - Rollicking
= 108 _ = 116
sempre
=
149
(sul ponticello)
ppp
pizz.
pp

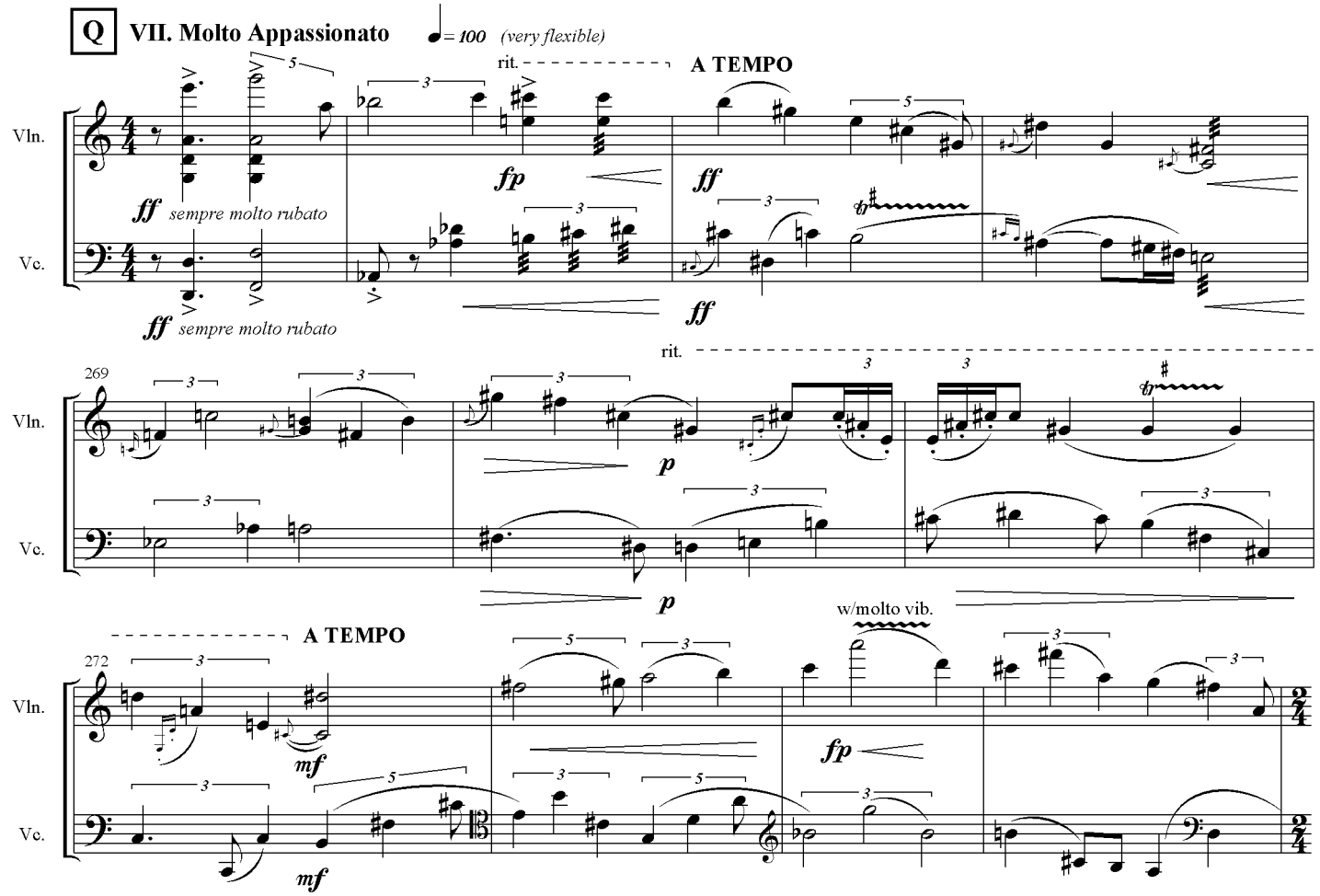

153
Vln.
Vc.
pizz. (ord.)
pp
157
161
mp
f
arco
p
165
pizz.
K
mf
170
ff
sub.
174

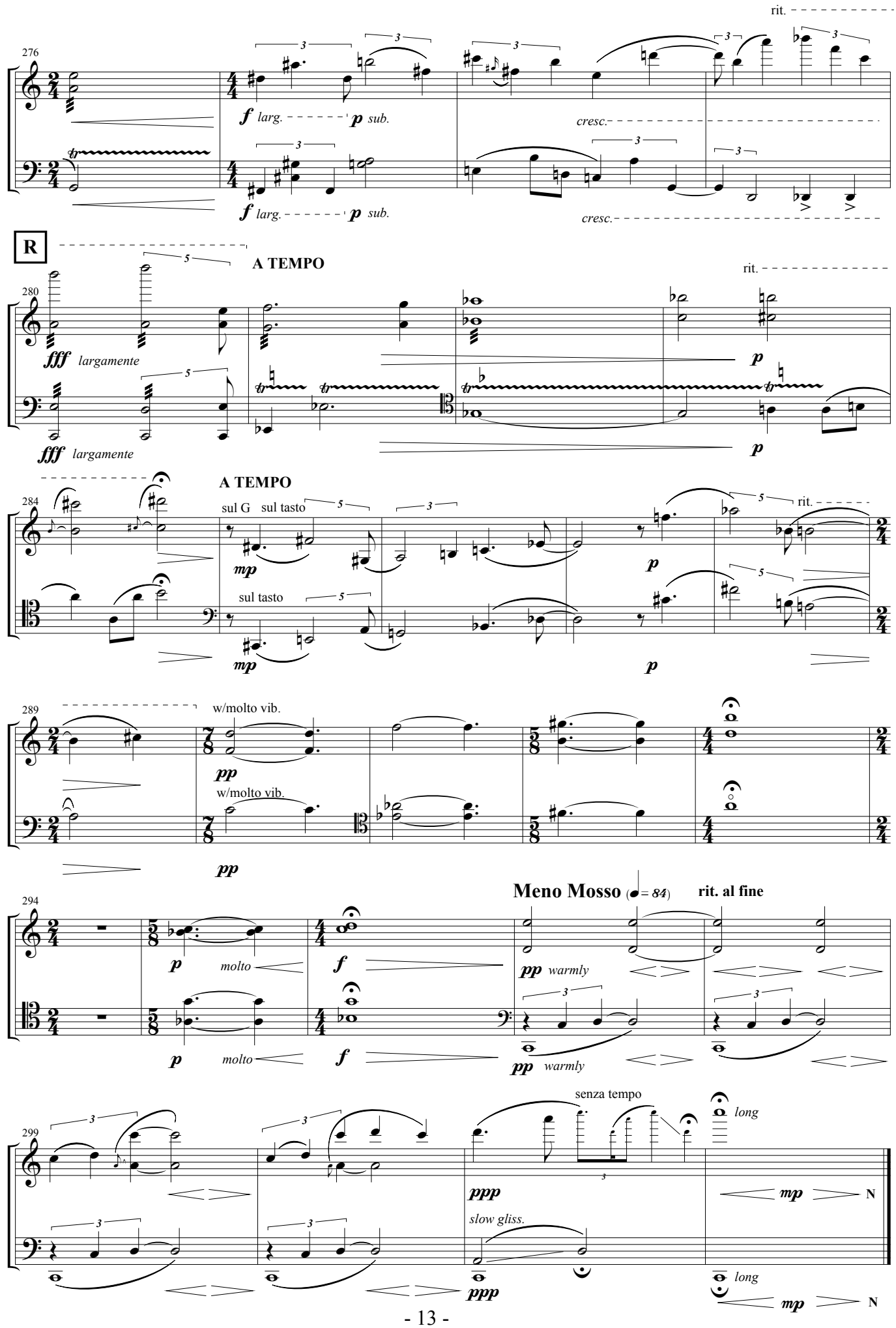

178
arco
Vln.
Vc.
182
pizz.
sub.
L
185
189
193
198
arco
pizz.


M
VI - Peacefully
♩= 84
202
arco
con sord.
Vln.
Vc.
p
207
sf
ppp
pp
mp
212
espressivo
mp
N
216
220
224
sotto voce


229
Vln.
Vc.
pp
mp
sub.
233
mf
pp
O
237
ppp
poco rit.
242
mp
246
via sord.
freely
mf
250


P
254
Vln.
Vc.
f
mf con forza
cresc.
257
261
ff
attacca:


Q
VII. Molto Appassionato
= 100 (very flexible)
rit.
A TEMPO
ff sempre molto rubato
fp
p
269
272
w/molto vib.
mf


rit.
276
Vln.
Vc.
f larg.
p sub.
cresc.
R
A TEMPO
280
fff largamente
rit.
p
284
sul G
sul tasto
mp
rit.
289
w/molto vib.
pp
294
molto
f
Meno Mosso (♩= 84)
rit. al fine
warmly
299
senza tempo
ppp
slow gliss.
long
mp
N