Score

James Primosch

String Quartet No. 3

commissioned by the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society
and composed for the Ying Quartet

THEODORE PRESSER COMPANY

This work was commissioned by the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society and composed for the Ying Quartet. First performance: April 23, 1999, Pennsylvania Convention Center Auditorium, Philadelphia, PA. The composer gratefully acknowledges the support and friendship of the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society's Music Director, Anthony P. Checchia, and its manager, Philip Maneval.

PROGRAM LISTING

String Quartet No. 3 (1999)
I. Theme and Variations
    Theme: Largo
    Var. 1: Andante Moderato
    Var. 2: Allegretto Grazioso
    Var. 3: Vivace
    Var. 4: Prestissimo
II. Fantasia: Allegro Ansioso
    Var. 5 : Adagio
III. Finale: Vivace, Poco Scherzando
    Coda: Largo

PROGRAM NOTE

After writing a series of pieces that either set texts or relied on pre-existing melodies (old sacred tunes) as compositional resources, I set out to create a more autonomous, abstract world in my third quartet. My efforts yielded a somewhat unusual formal scheme: a theme and variations is first interrupted by an anxious ("ansioso") and expressionistic Fantasia; then resumes for a single variation, infiltrated by the gestures from the Fantasia. A viola cadenza follows, introducing a rondo-like finale. This attempt to cap the piece in a playful spirit is surprised by a final reprise of the slow variation theme, this time in a simple unison statement. The entire sequence plays without pauses and runs about 20 minutes.

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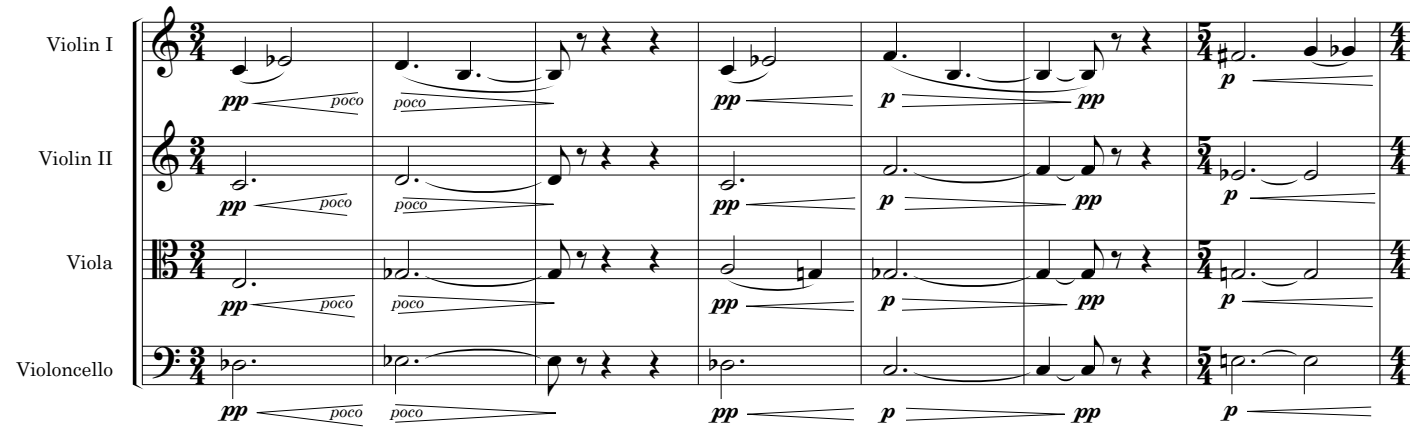
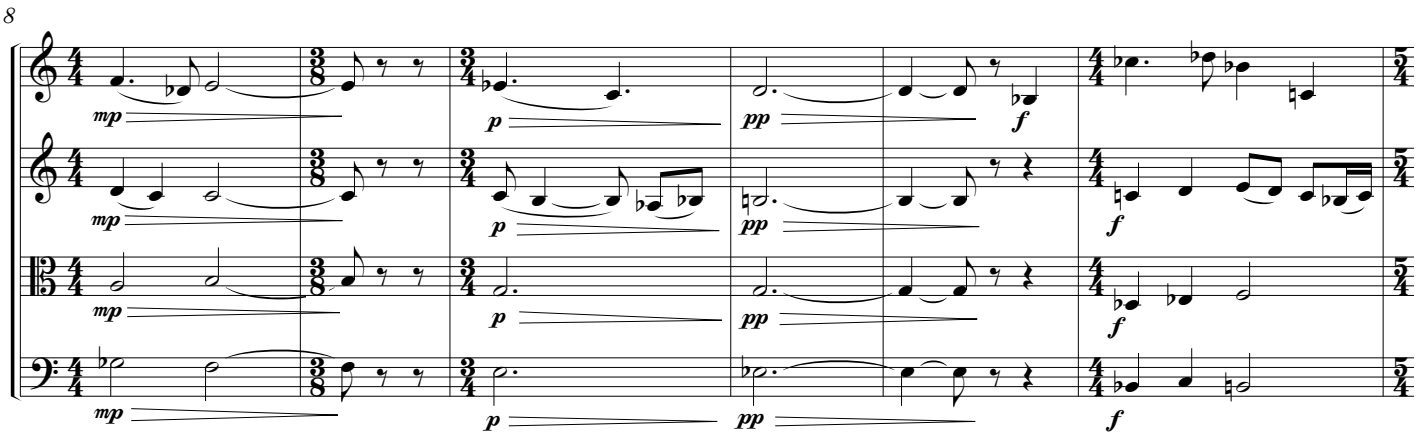
String Quartet No. 3

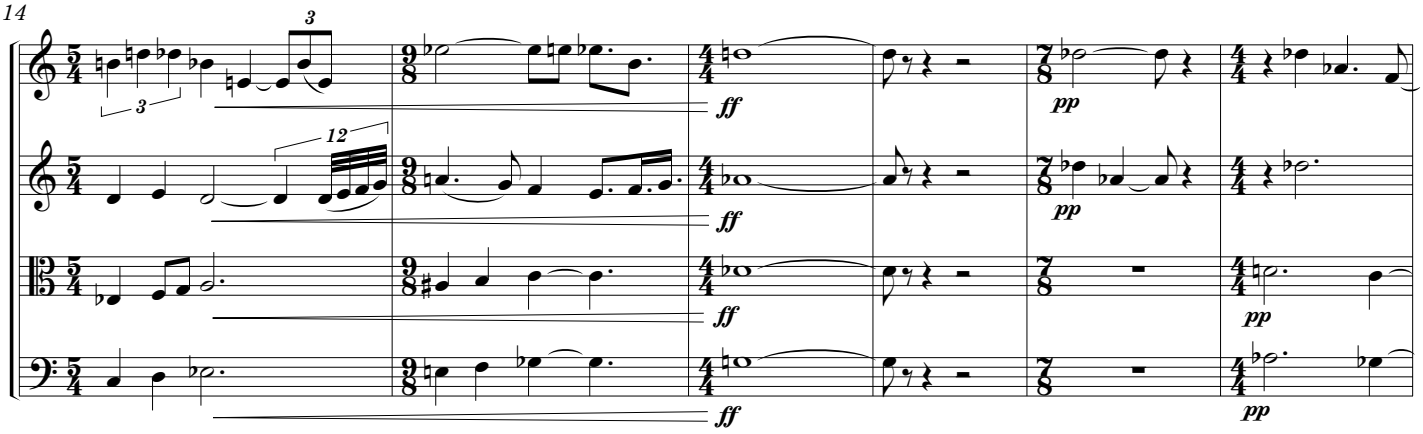
JAMES PRIMOSCH

I. Theme and Variations

Theme: Largo ♩ = 42







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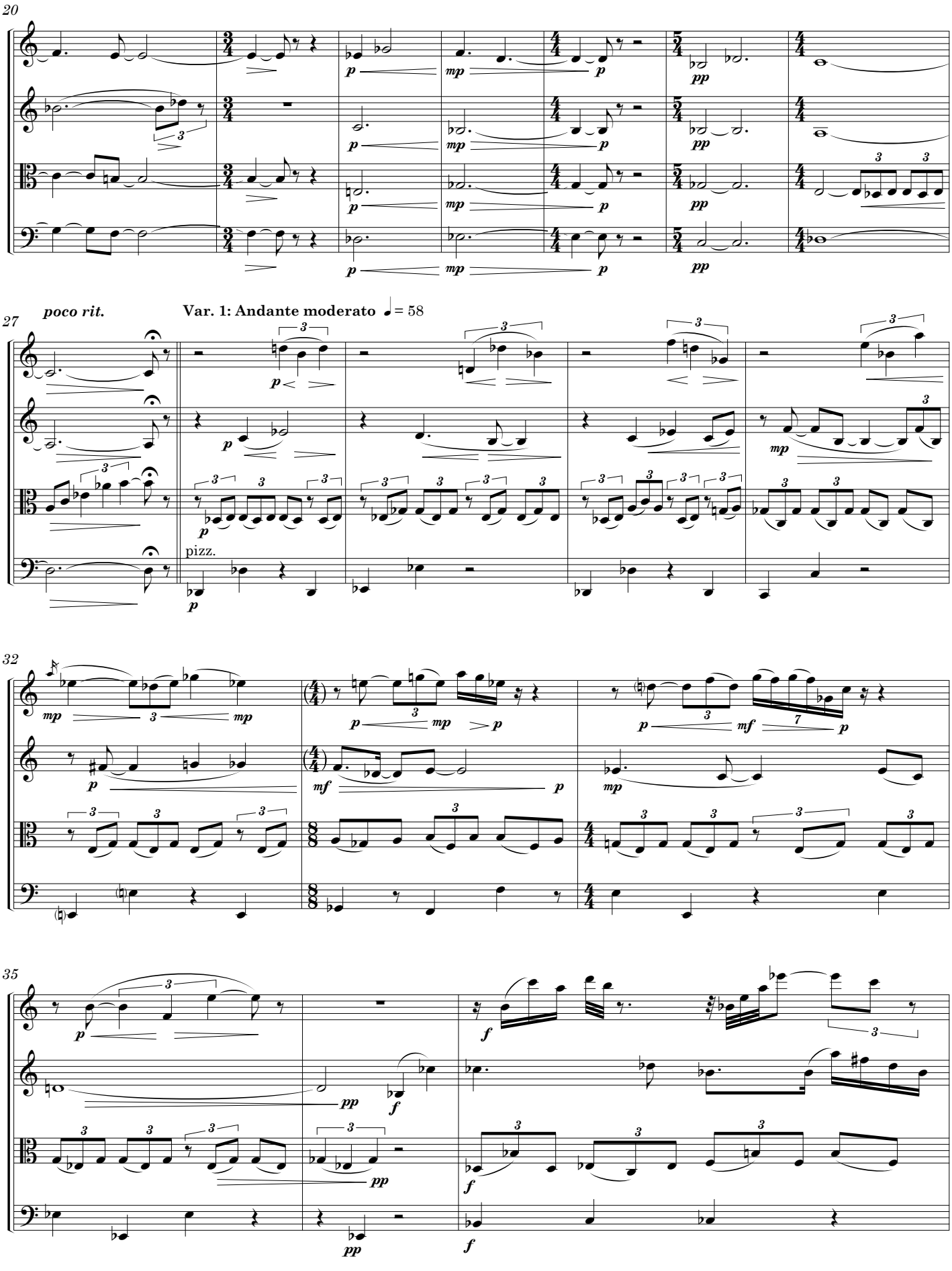
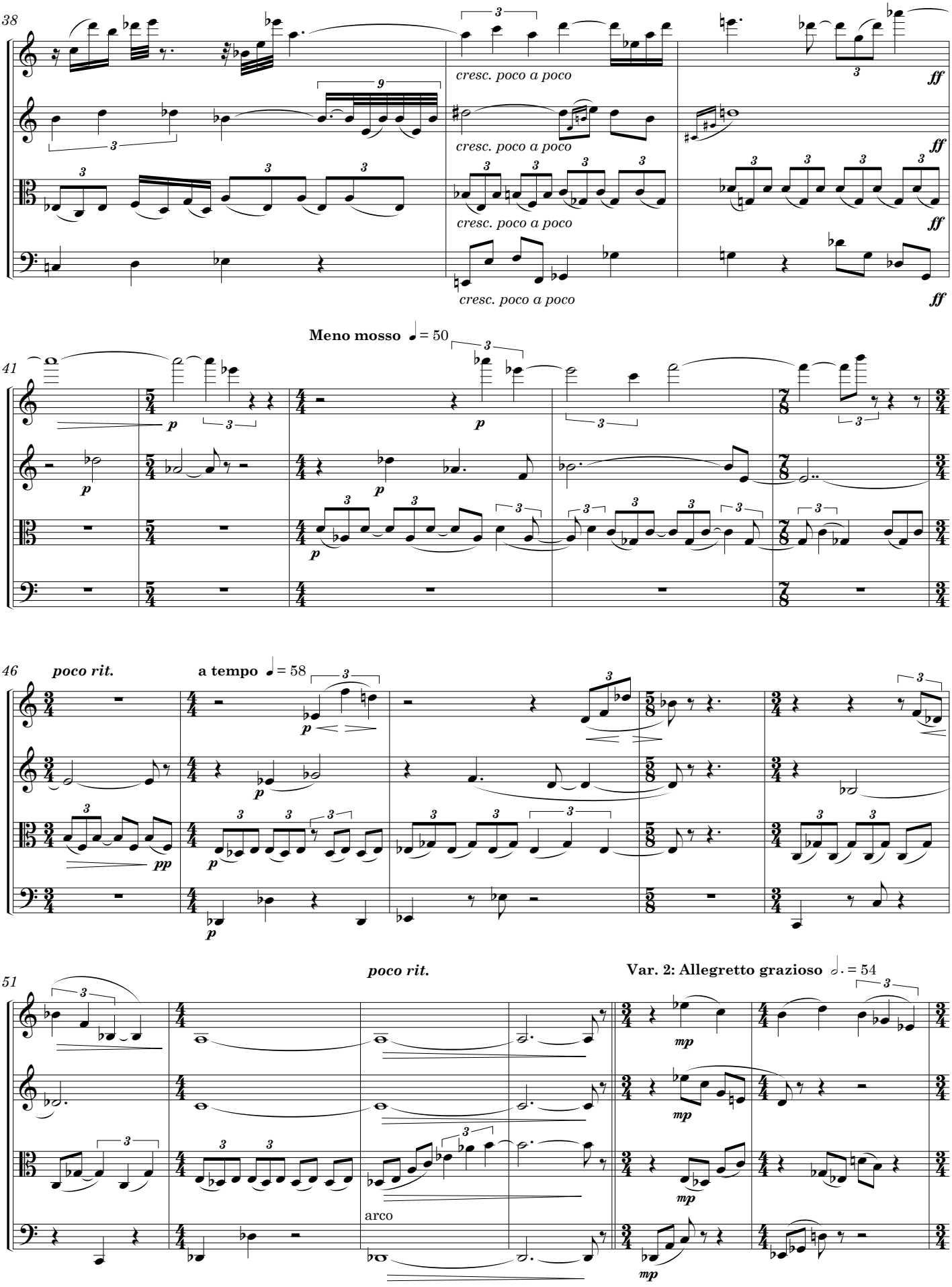
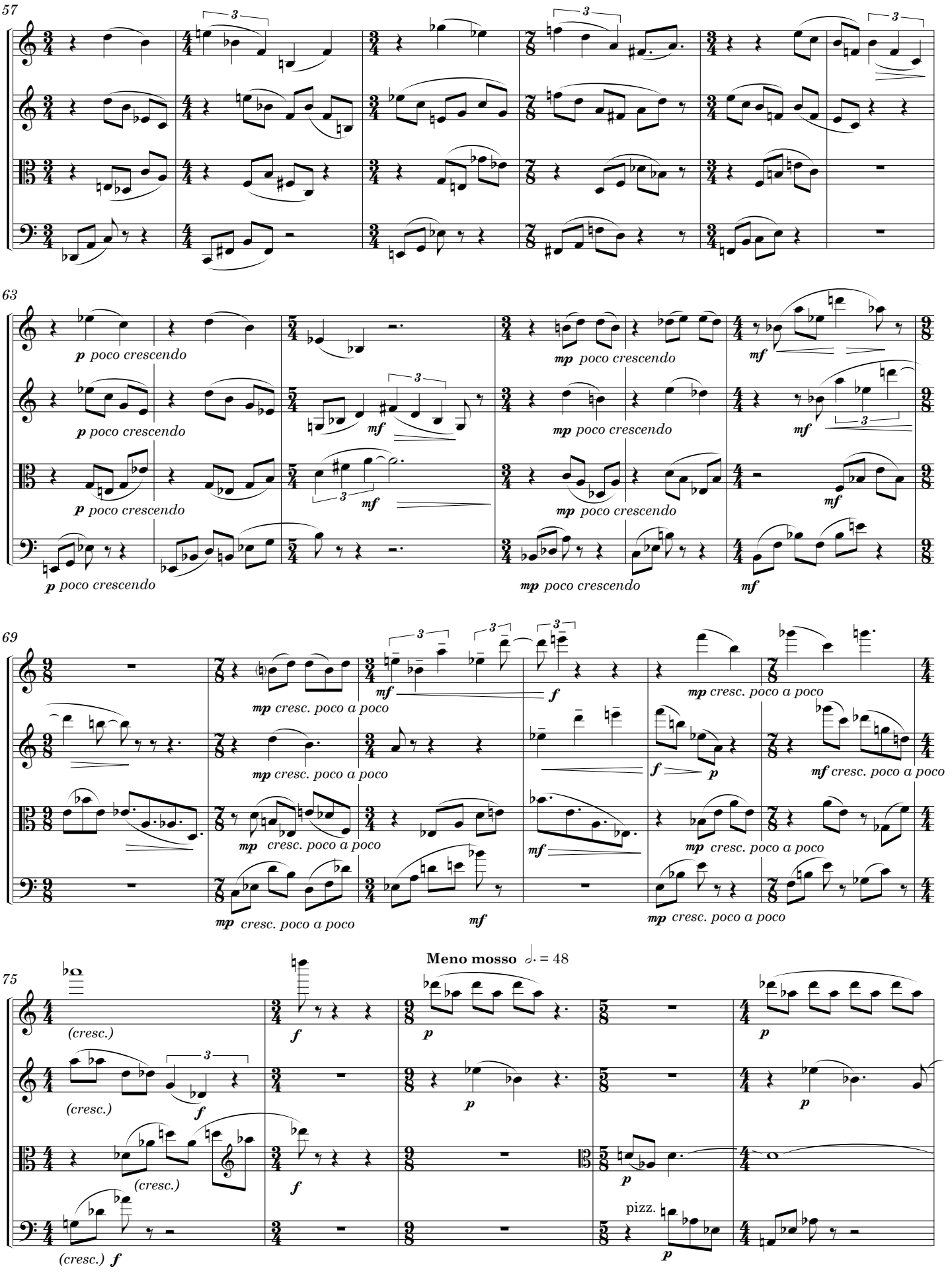
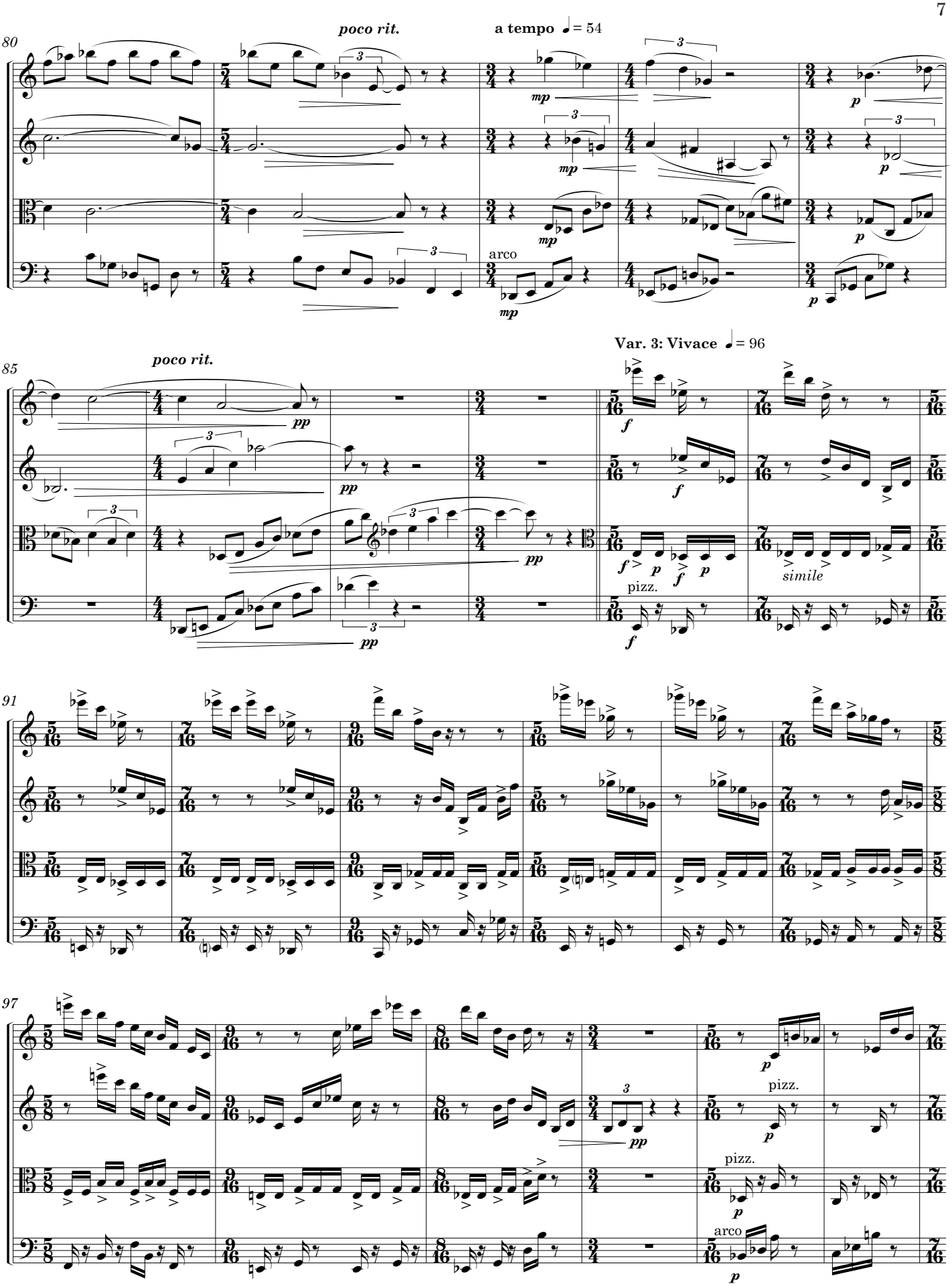
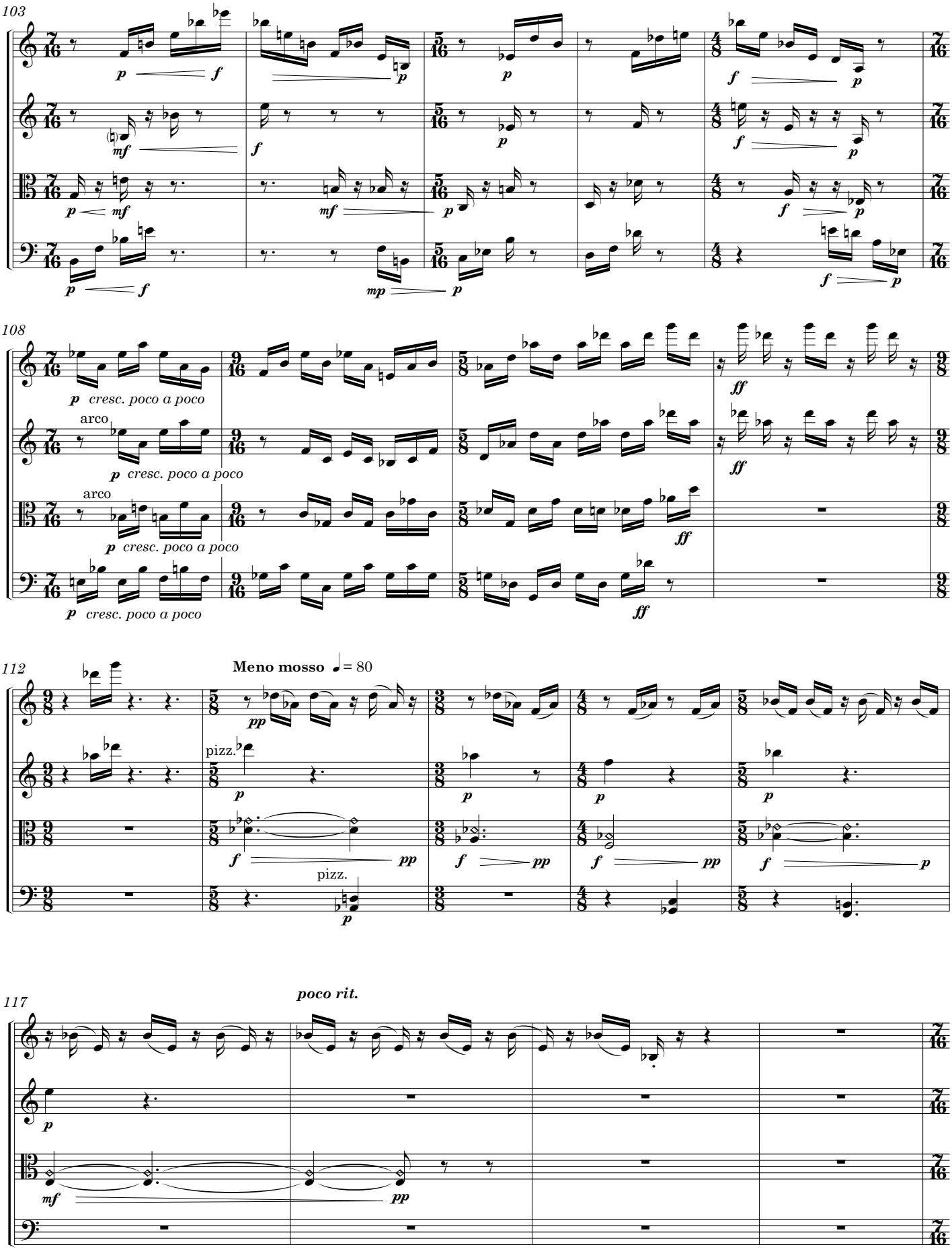
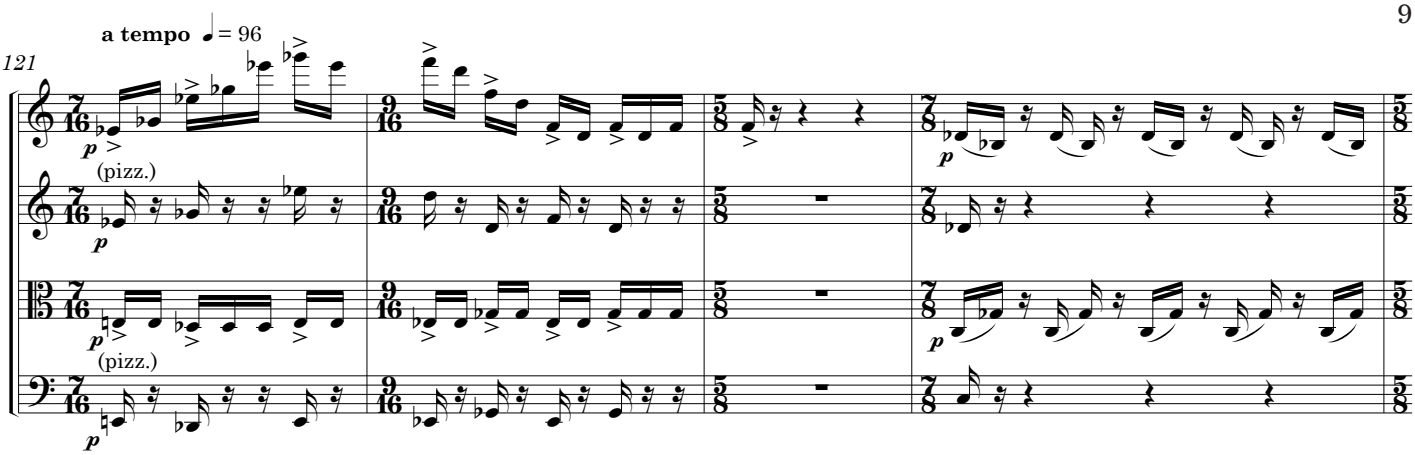

20
27
poco rit.
Var. 1: Andante moderato ♩= 58
pizz.
32
35

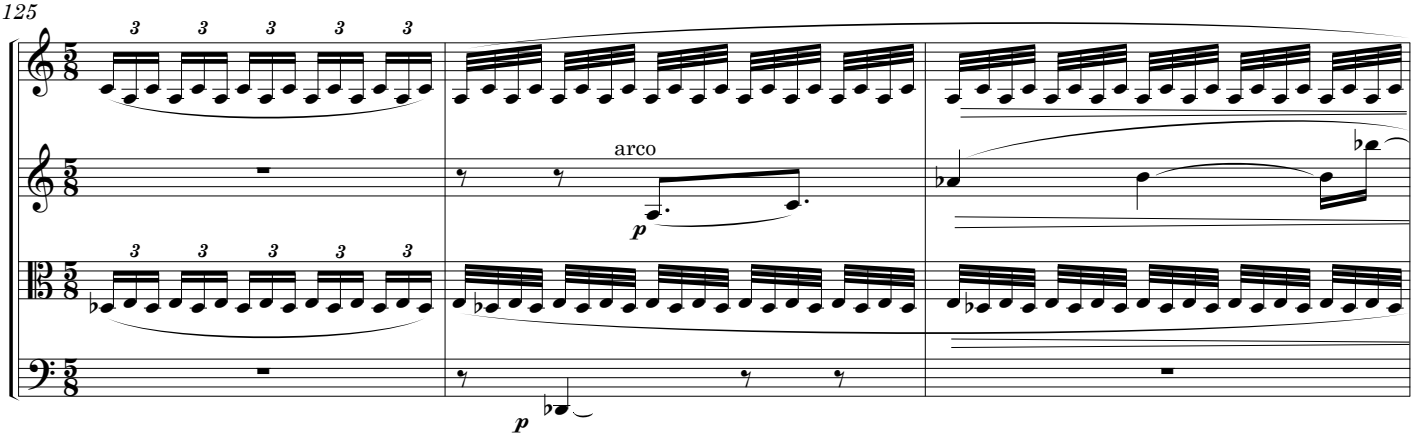

38
cresc. poco a poco
cresc. poco a poco
cresc. poco a poco
cresc. poco a poco
ff
Meno mosso ♩ = 50
41
p
46
poco rit.
a tempo ♩ = 58
pp
51
poco rit.
Var. 2: Allegretto grazioso ♩. = 54
mp
arco


57
63
p poco crescendo
mp poco crescendo
mf
69
mp cresc. poco a poco
f
p
mf cresc. poco a poco
75
Meno mosso ♩. = 48
(cresc.)
f
p
pizz.

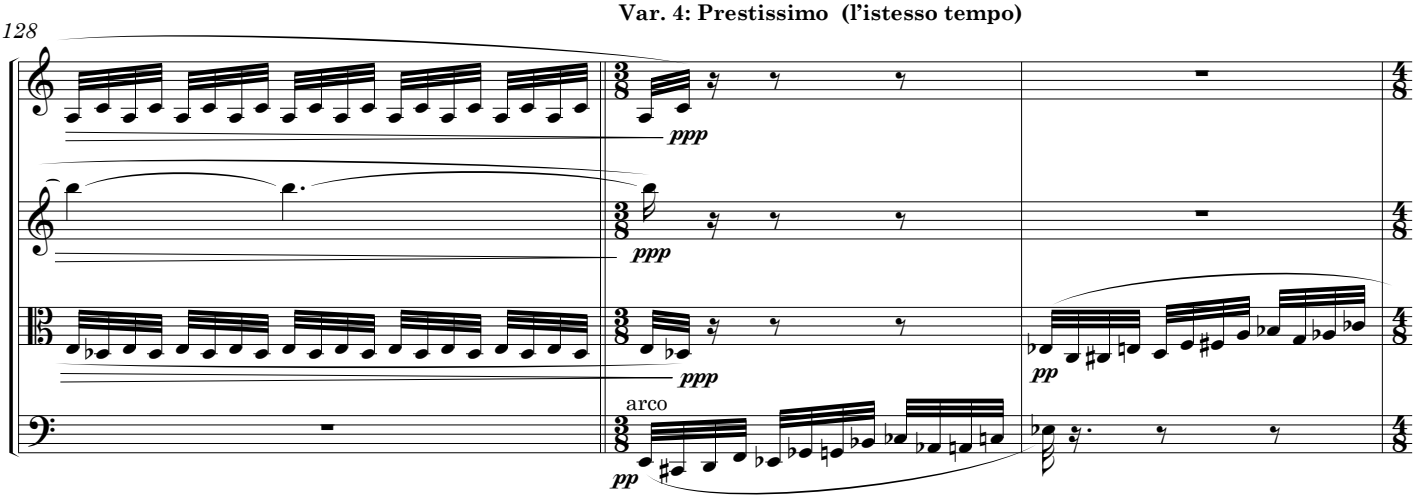

80
poco rit.
a tempo ♩ = 54
mp
arco
p
85
poco rit.
pp
Var. 3: Vivace ♩ = 96
f
simile
pizz.
91
97
pizz.
arco

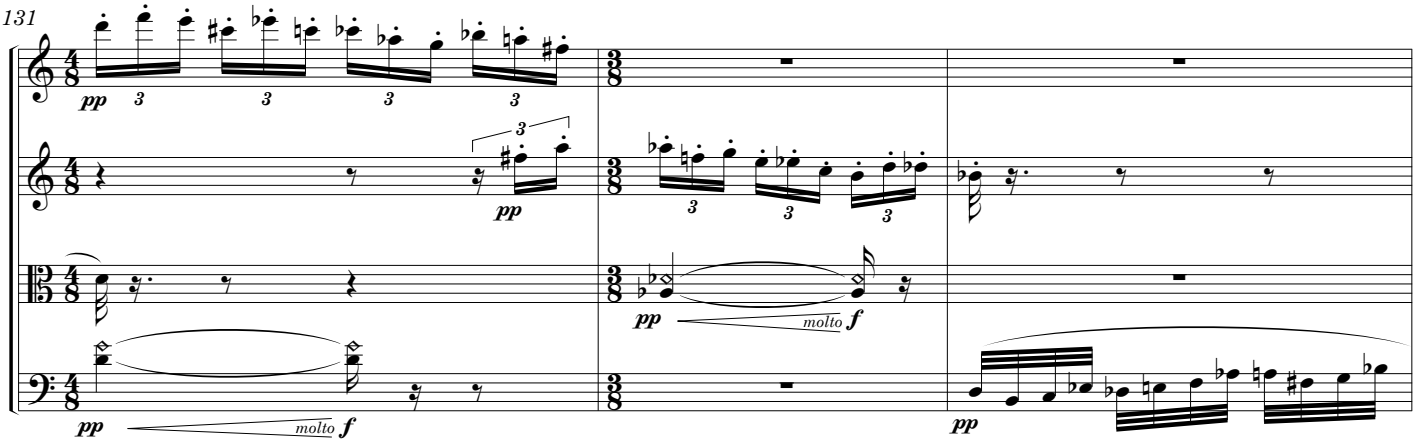

103
108
arco
arco
cresc. poco a poco
112
Meno mosso ♩ = 80
pizz.
pizz.
117
poco rit.

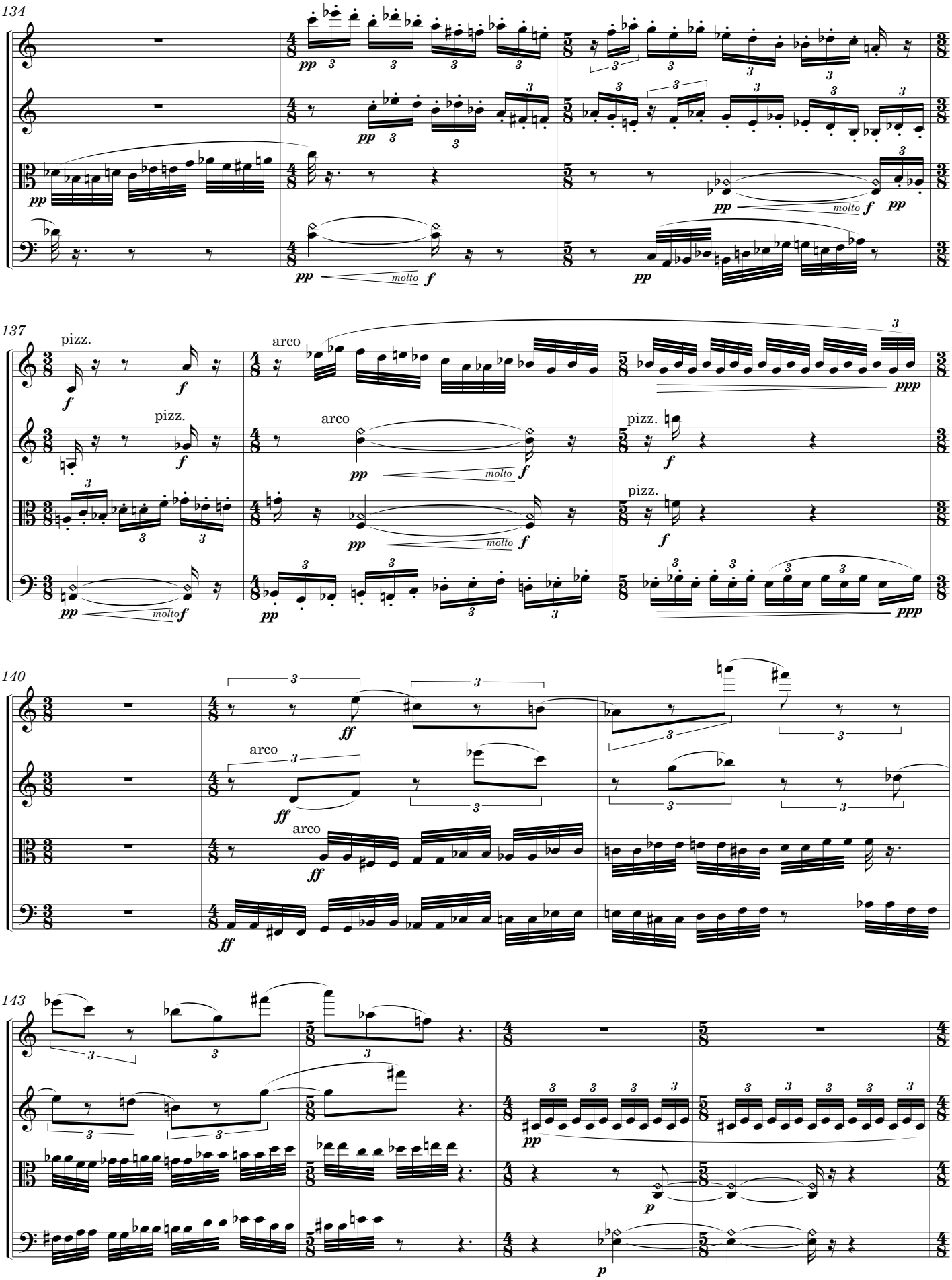




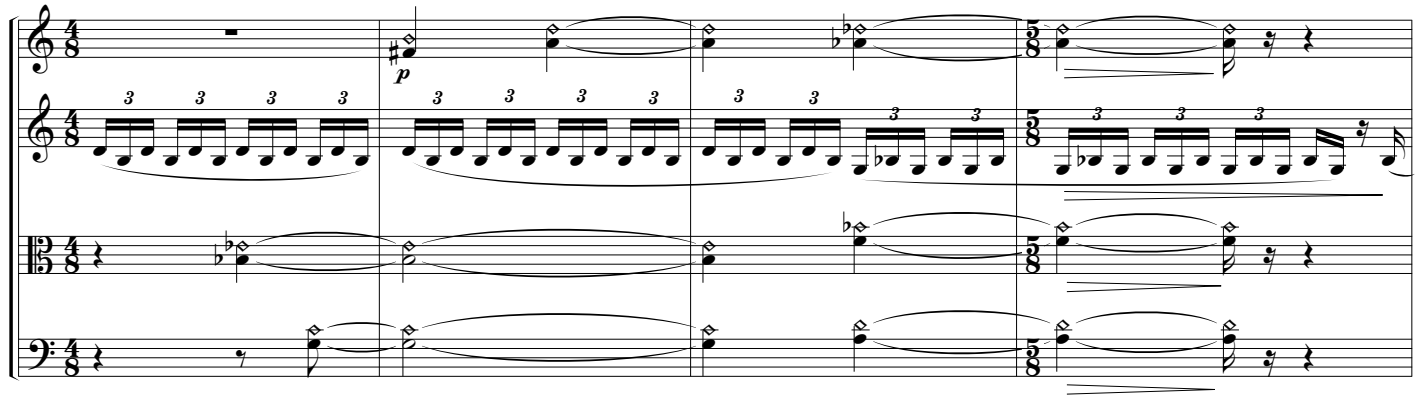
Var. 4: Prestissimo (l'istesso tempo)






134
137
pizz.
arco
molto
140
143

147



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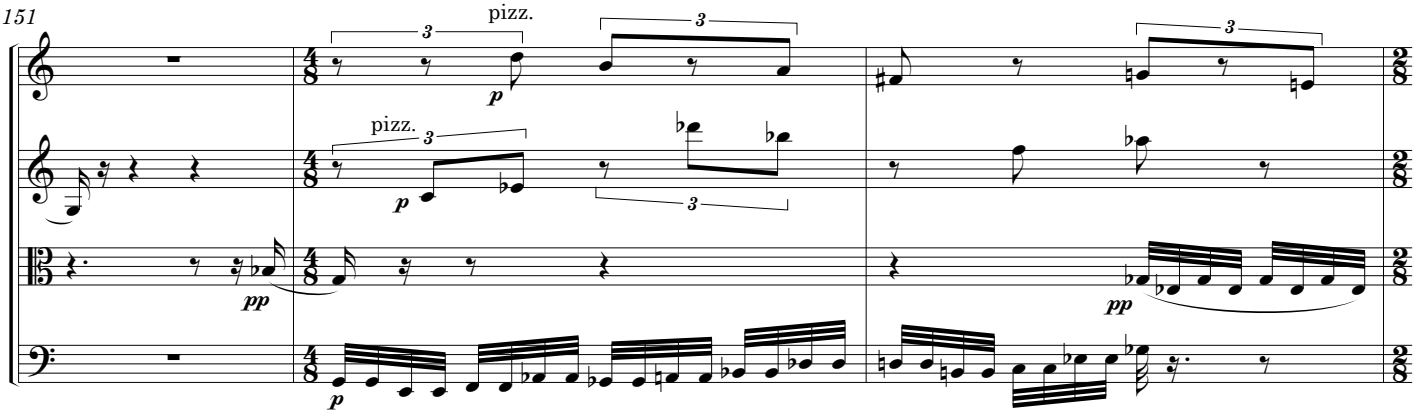

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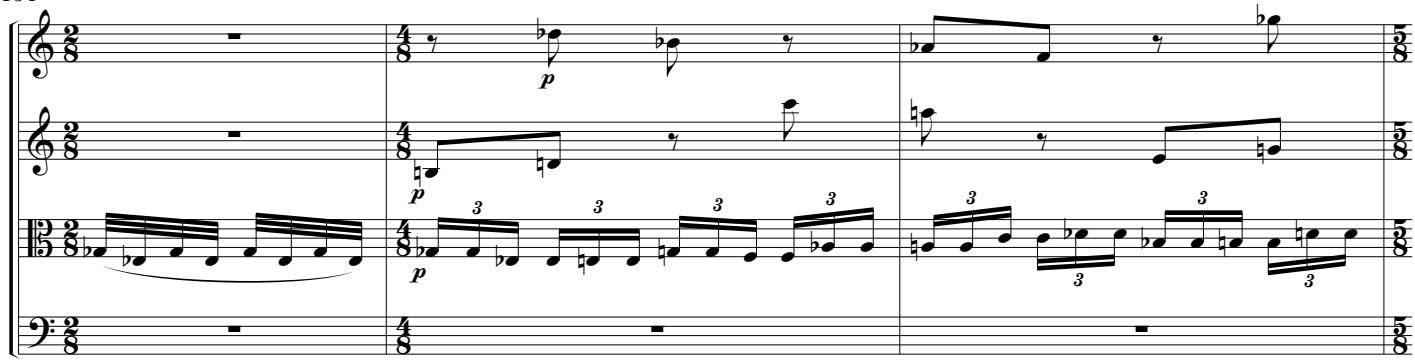

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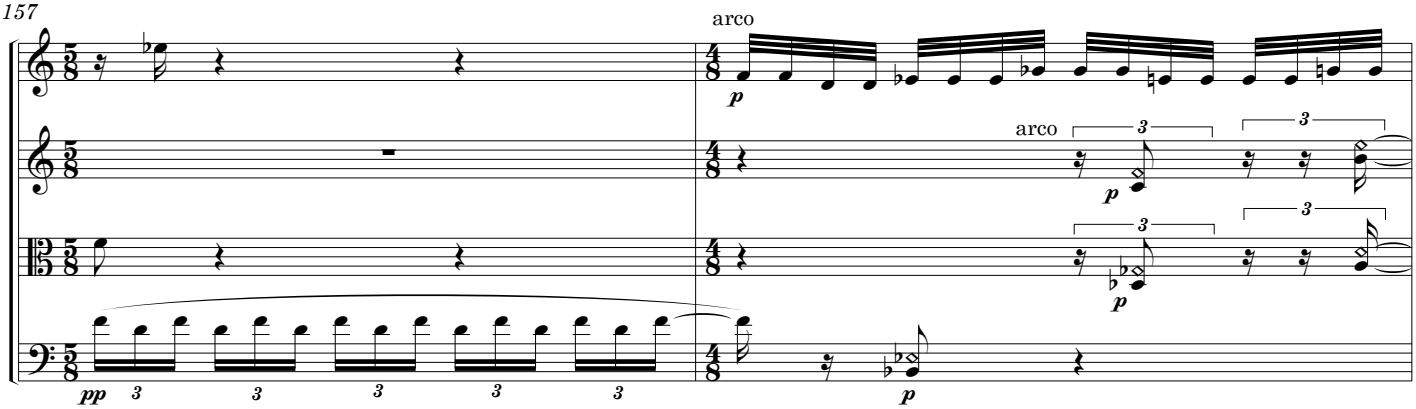

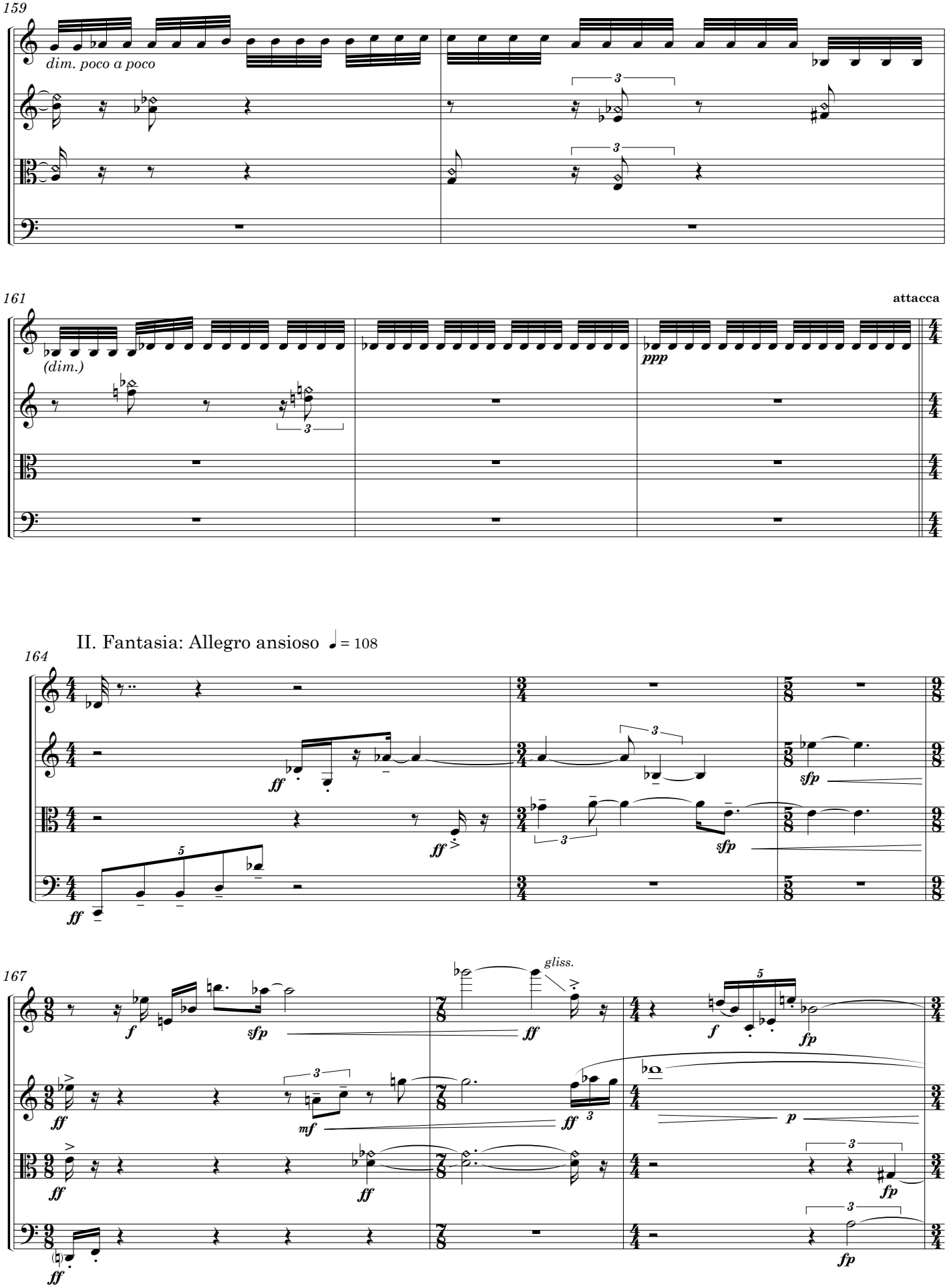
159
dim. poco a poco
161
(dim.)
ppp
attacca
II. Fantasia: Allegro ansioso ♩ = 108
164
ff
sfp
167
f
sfp
gliss.
ff
mf
p
fp