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Quartet '74

for trombone quartet

Malcolm Forsyth

Score

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Quartet '74

(1974)
for trombone quartet

Malcolm Forsyth

Program Note:

In Forsyth's own words, "It is an attempt to represent the many colours and textures of the trombone in a slightly more extended work than is generally heard. The opening movement is the most complex, formally, having a slow central section employing mutes, sandwiched by the principal material, a free exposition of opposing themes exploiting extreme dynamic contrasts and a great variety of articulations. The second movement is a simple arioso in a G modality, using an ostinato accompaniment in 11/8 time. The finale opens with a crescendo chord cluster before the toccata enters, this time in a totally unpredictable 11/8 meter. Two contrasting, though both witty, ideas juxtapose themselves to produce many unexpected climaxes and even more surprising anti-climaxes, such as the wry and unassuming end."

Being a professional trombonist himself for many years, Forsyth knows intimately how to write for the instrument and *Quartet '74* is one of his best works for brass. In my opinion, it is also one of the best works for trombone quartet – challenging to work on and great fun to perform. It is a musical representation of Malcolm himself, as I knew him.

Program note by J. Christopher Taylor, long-time friend, former student and colleague

Duration: ca 12 minutes

Composer Biography:

Canadian composer Malcolm Forsyth (1936-2011) enjoyed a distinguished international career as one of Canada's major composers, having written a wide variety of works including three symphonies, as well as much other orchestral music, chamber music (especially for brass and strings), vocal, instrumental and choral music.

He was named "Canadian Composer of the Year" by the Canadian Music Council in 1989, and received many other awards, including three JUNOs for "Best Classical Composition" -- 1987, 1994 and 1998, and several JUNO nominations. Since his arrival in Canada from his native South Africa in 1968 to take up his post as Professor at the University of Alberta, his career included creating works for many distinguished performers. Those performers included contralto Maureen Forrester, conductor Charles Dutoit, mezzo-soprano Judith Forst and orchestras such as the Edmonton Symphony who premiered many of his works, the National Arts Centre, the Montreal Symphony and Calgary Philharmonic. His 1995 work, *Electra Rising*, a cello concerto written for his daughter Amanda Forsyth, a gifted and distinguished cellist, was premiered with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Mario Bernardi. This piece went on to win a JUNO award. A 60th birthday celebratory CD of *Electra Rising*, his saxophone concerto, *Tre Vie*, and *Valley of a Thousand Hills*, for chamber orchestra, released in 1997, was his last JUNO award-winning disc. His *Concerto for Eight* (2003) received rave reviews after its many performances in March 2003. *Double Concerto*, for viola, cello & orchestra was commissioned for violist Rivka Golani and cellist Tanya Prochaska, received its world première in October 2004.

Dr. Forsyth's last major work was A Ballad of Canada, for mixed chorus and orchestra, a joint commission by the National Arts Centre Orchestra and the Edmonton Symphony, Orchestra received its premiere June 9, 2011 to much acclaim, a month before his death. His work was influenced by both the country of his birth and the country he adopted. Since his death, his works continue to be appreciated and performed across Canada and around the world. Many of his former students have made distinguished careers for themselves in orchestras and as performers and teachers around the world.

QUARTET '74

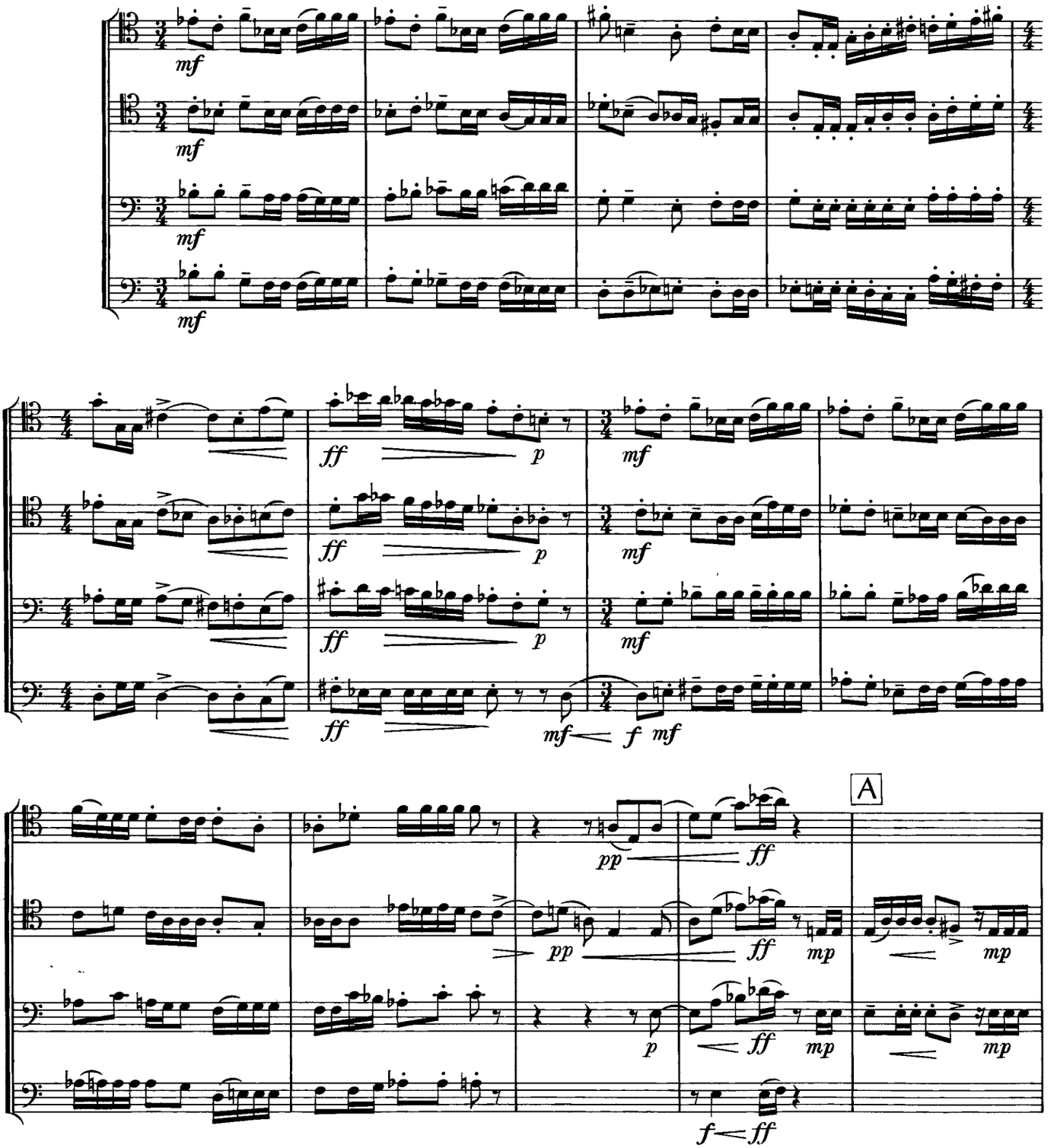
for Trombones / pour trombones

MALCOLM FORSYTH

Duration : I - 5'
II - 3' 30"
III - 4'
Total 12' 30"

I

Risoluto, marcato ma leggero (♩= 108)



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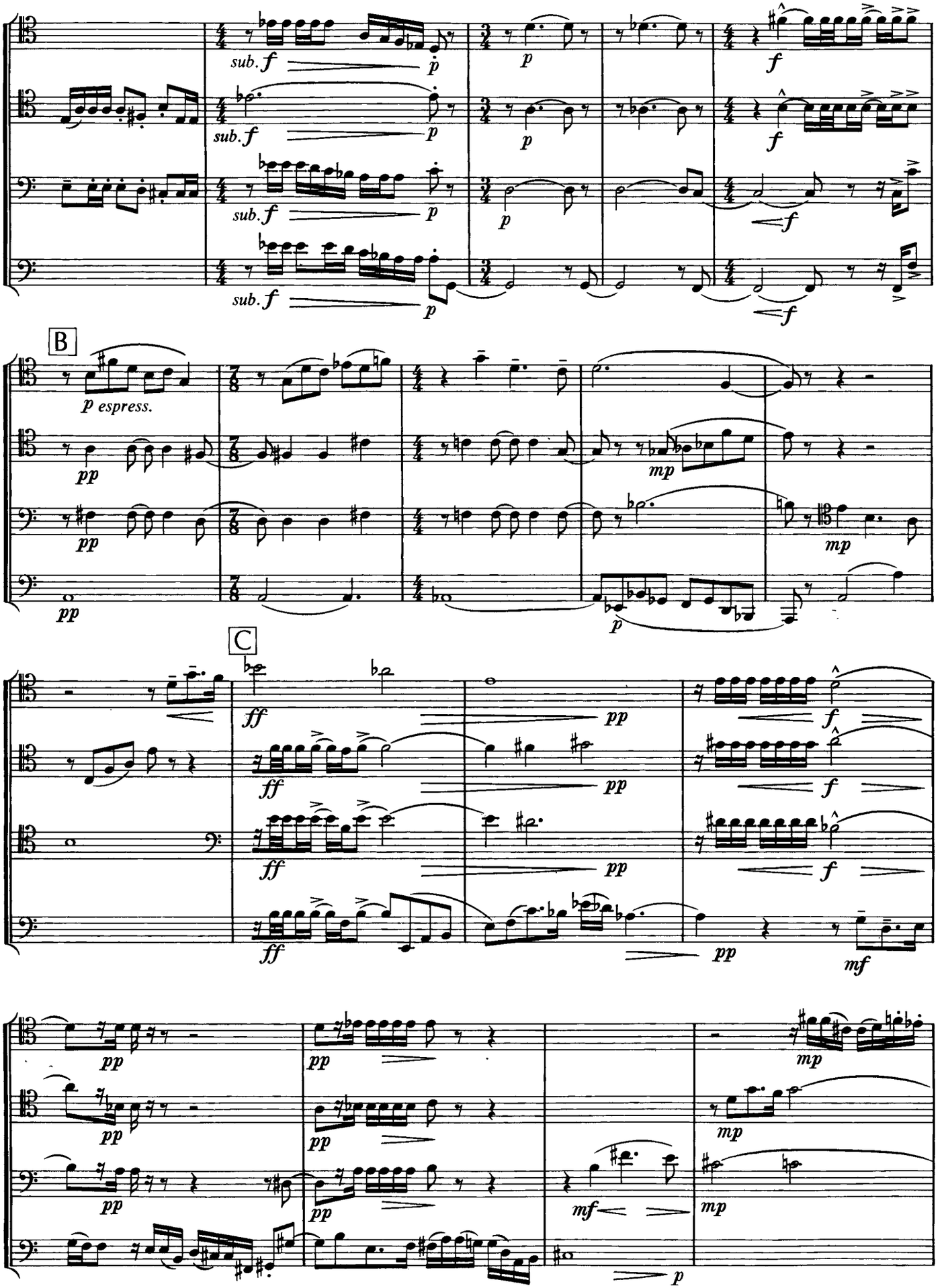
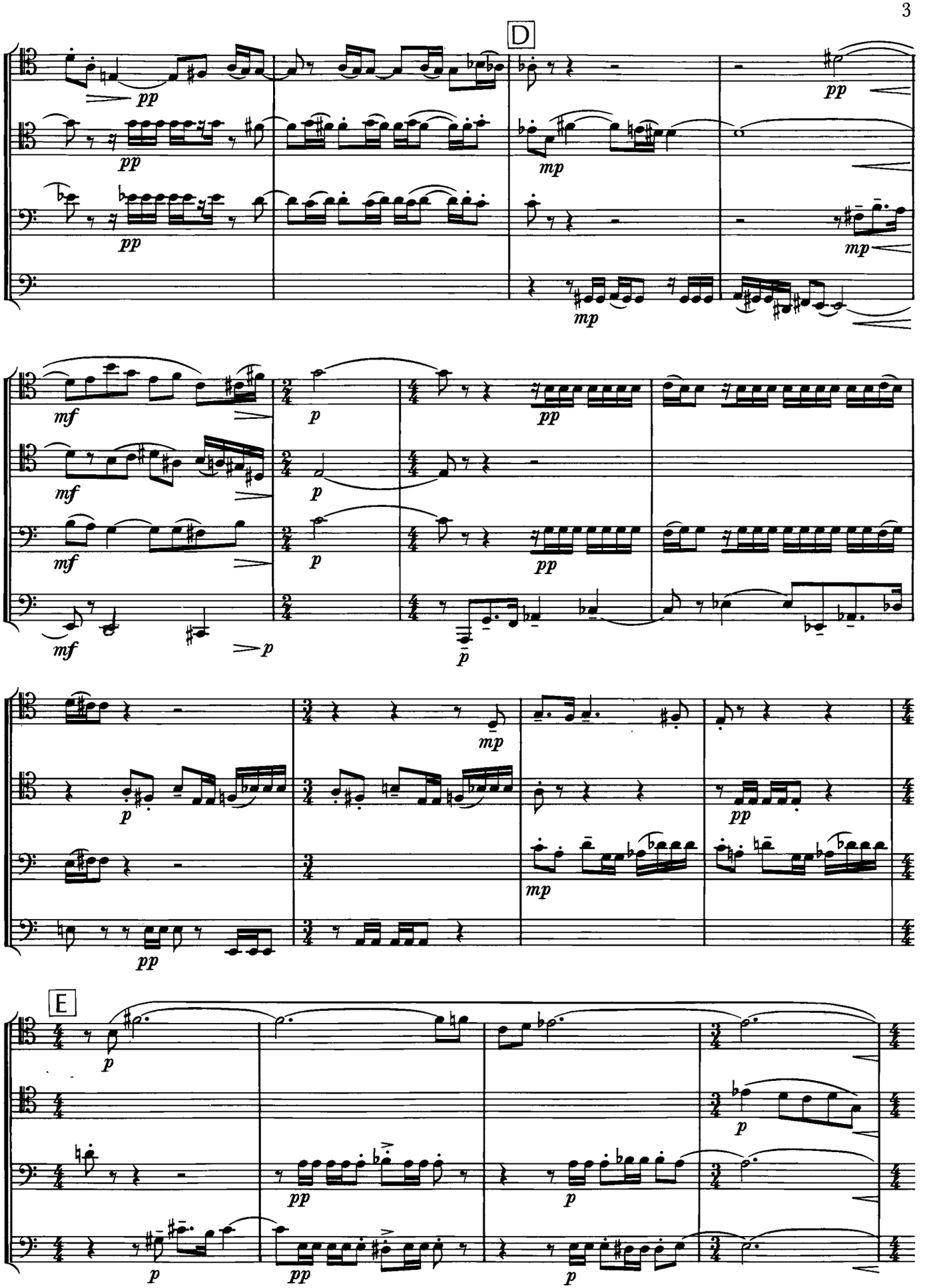
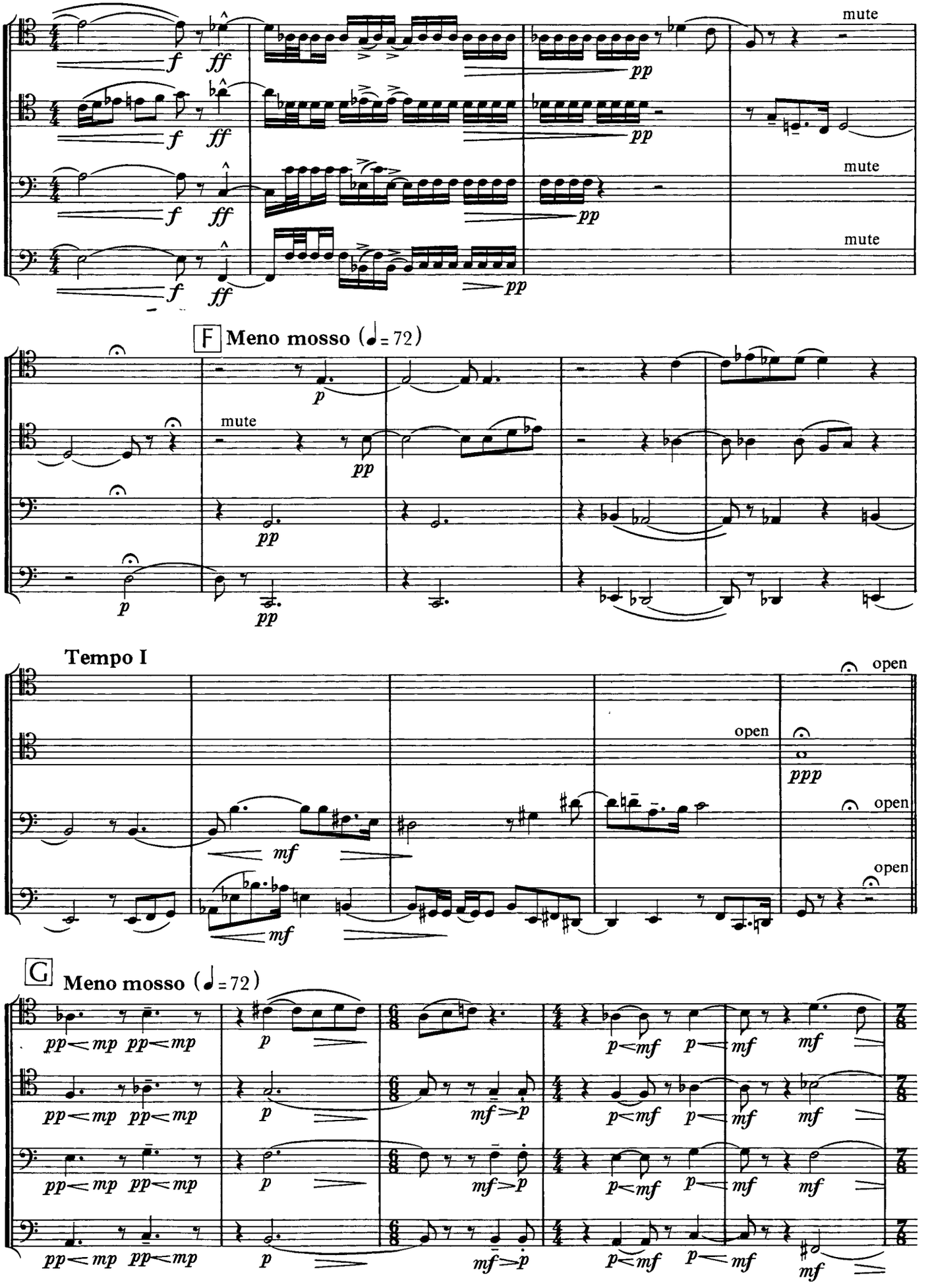
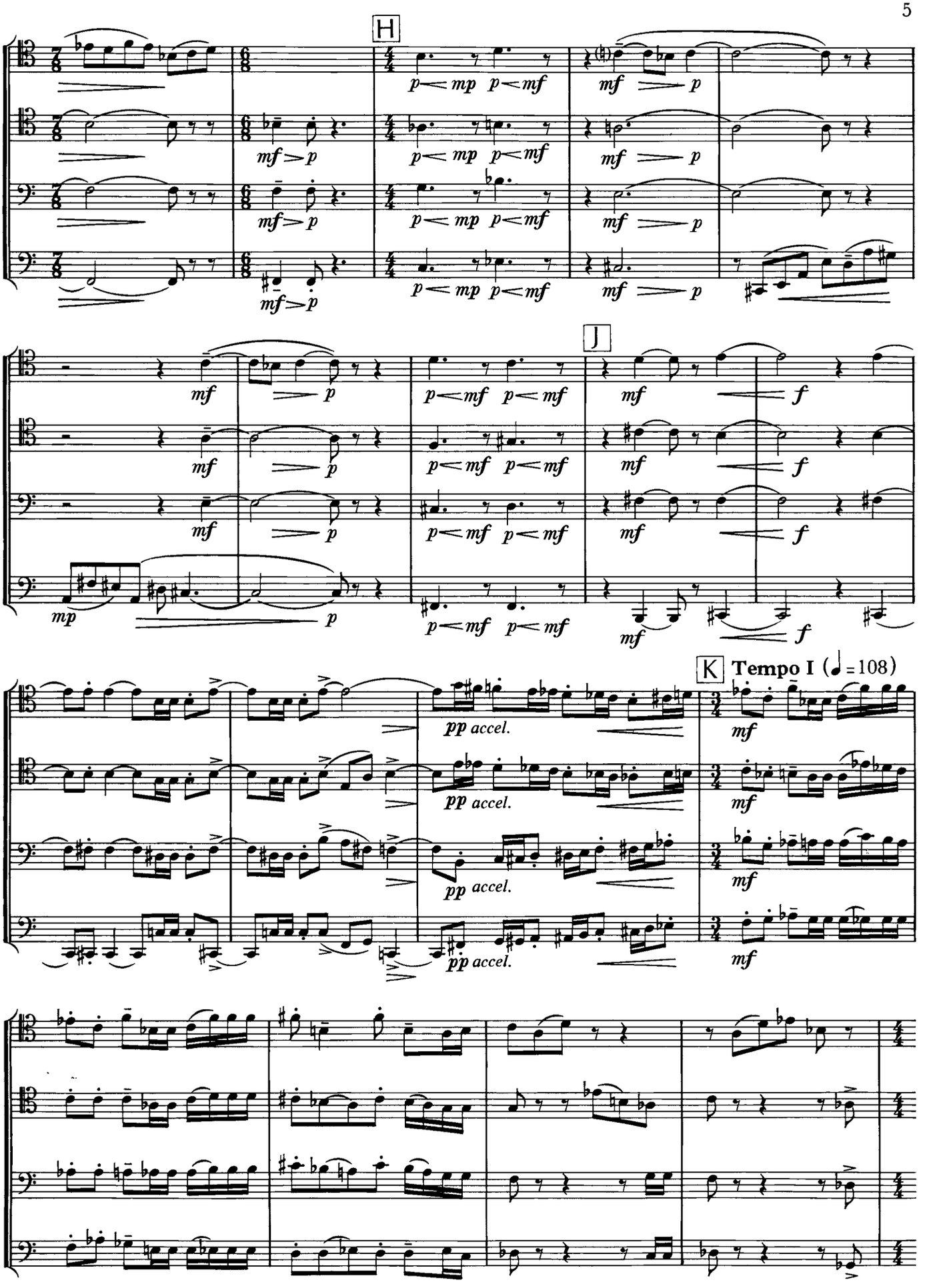
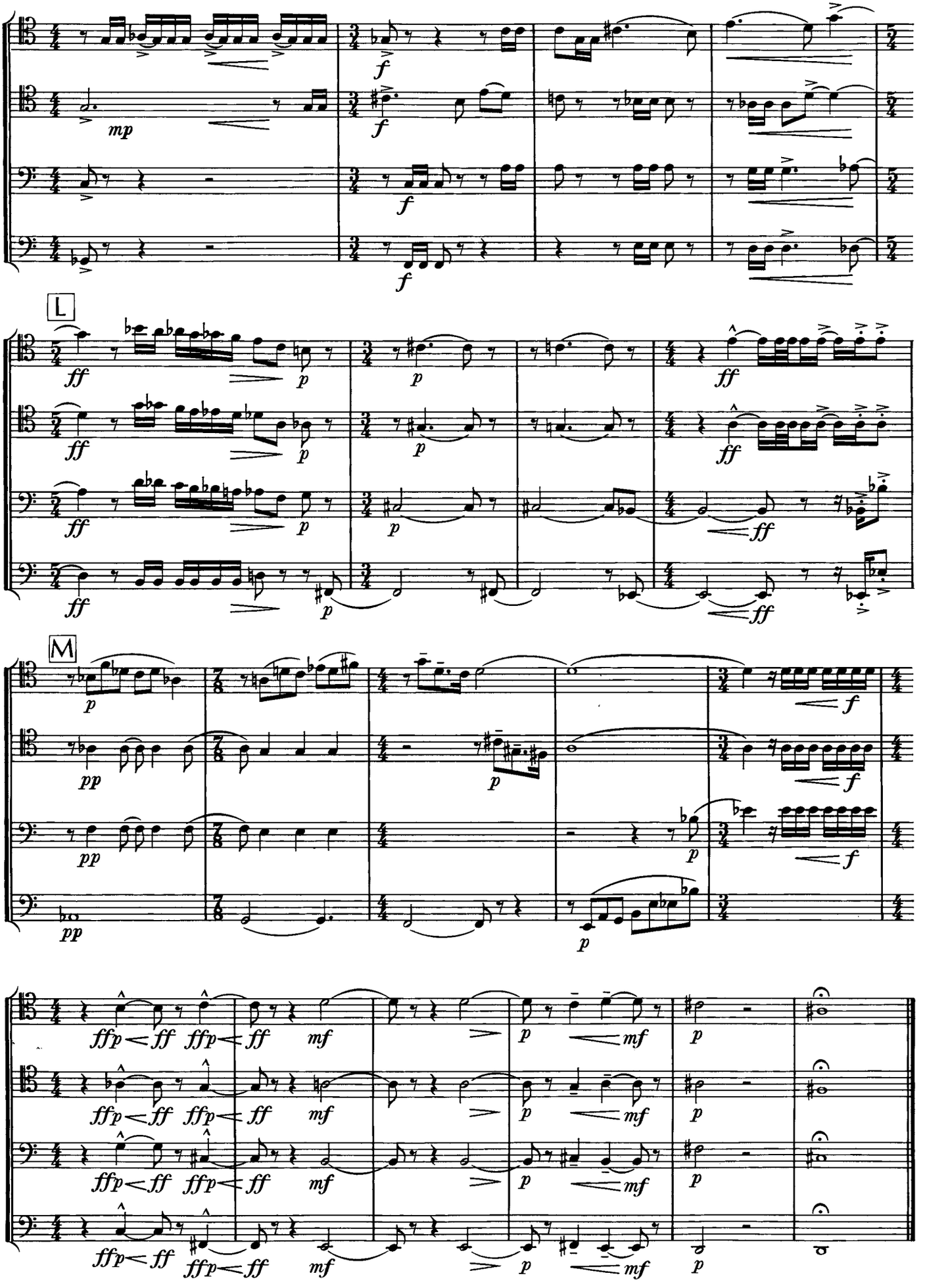
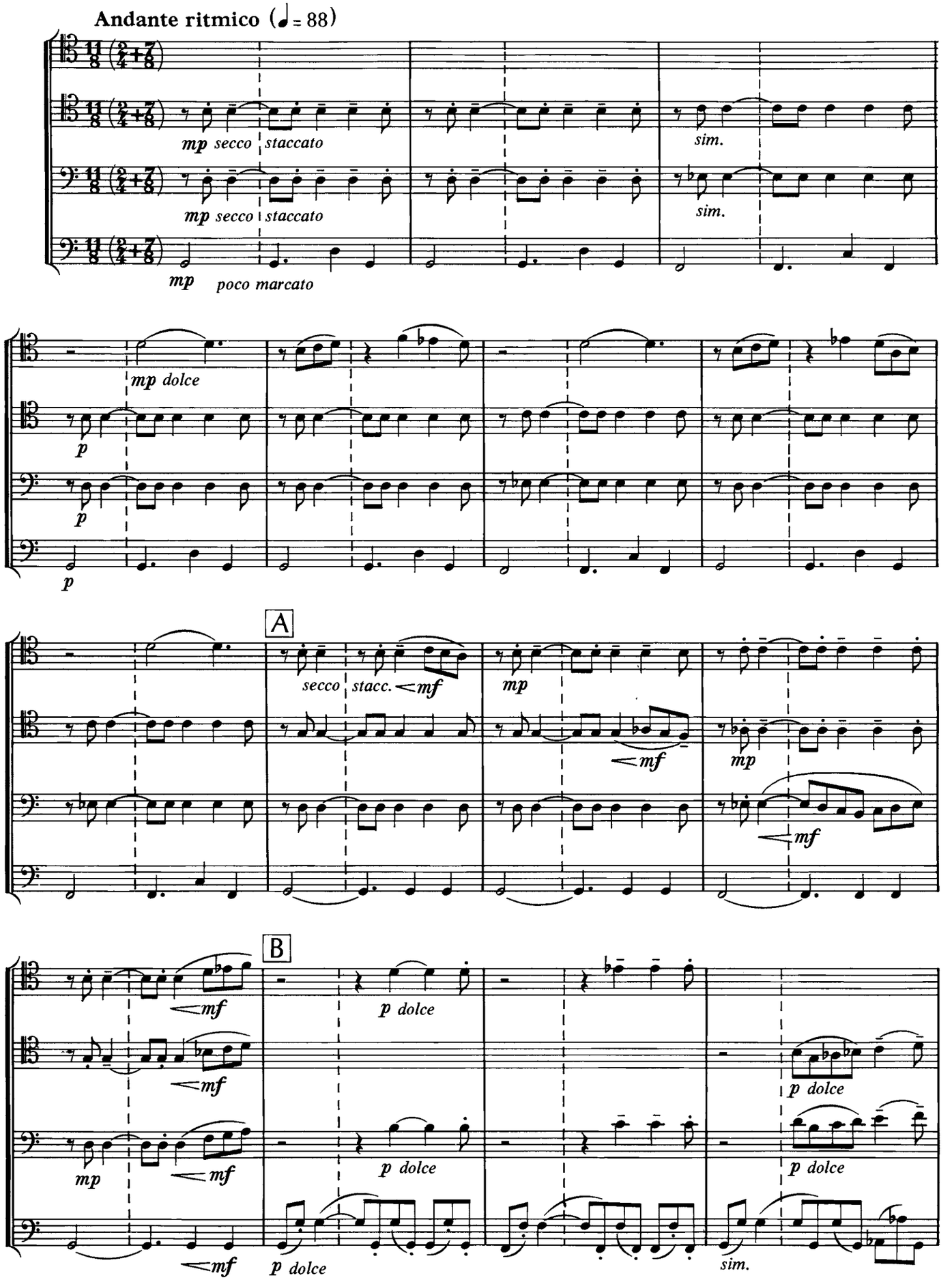

sub. f
p
p
f
B
p espress.
pp
mp
C
ff
pp
mf
mp

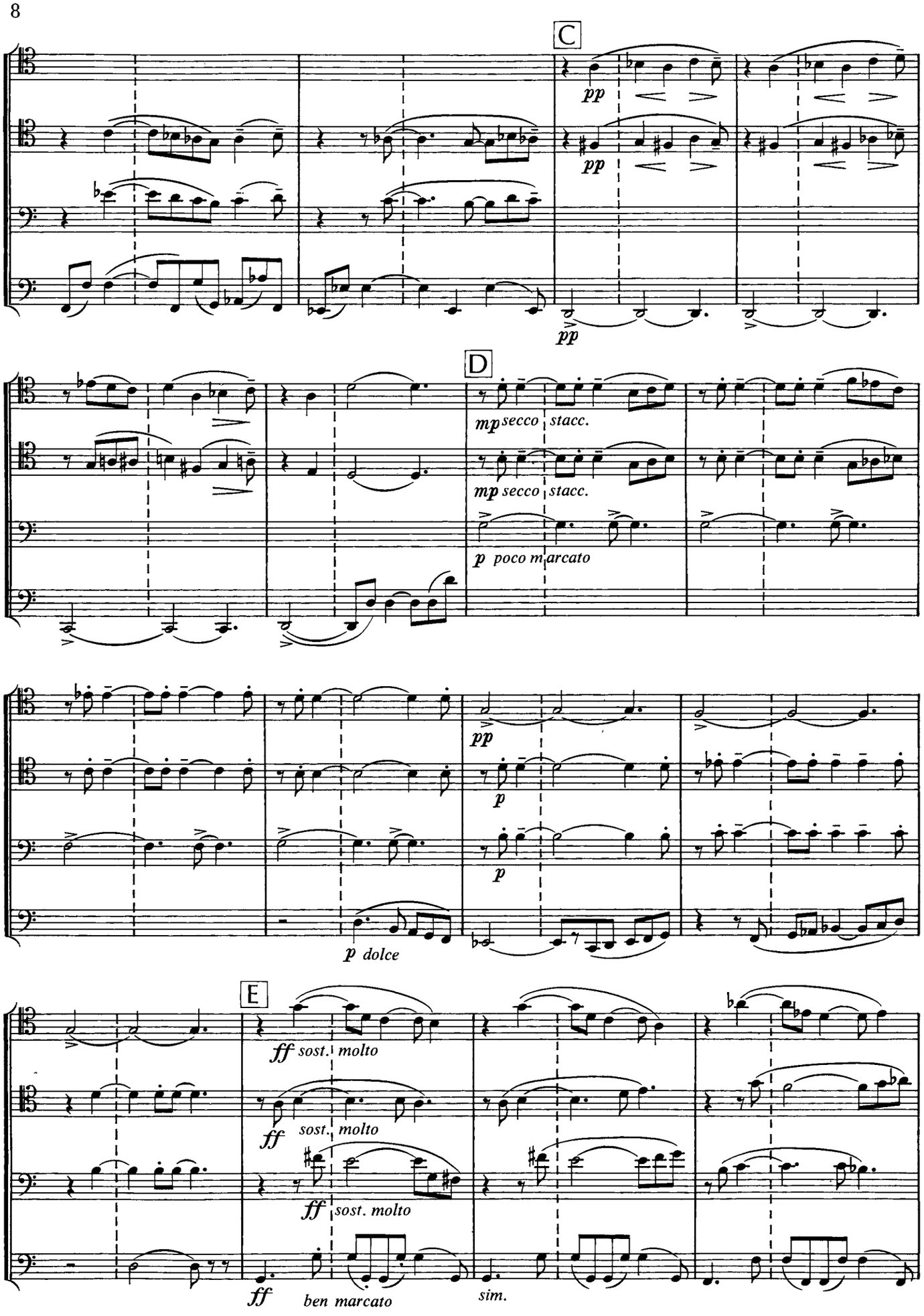

D
E

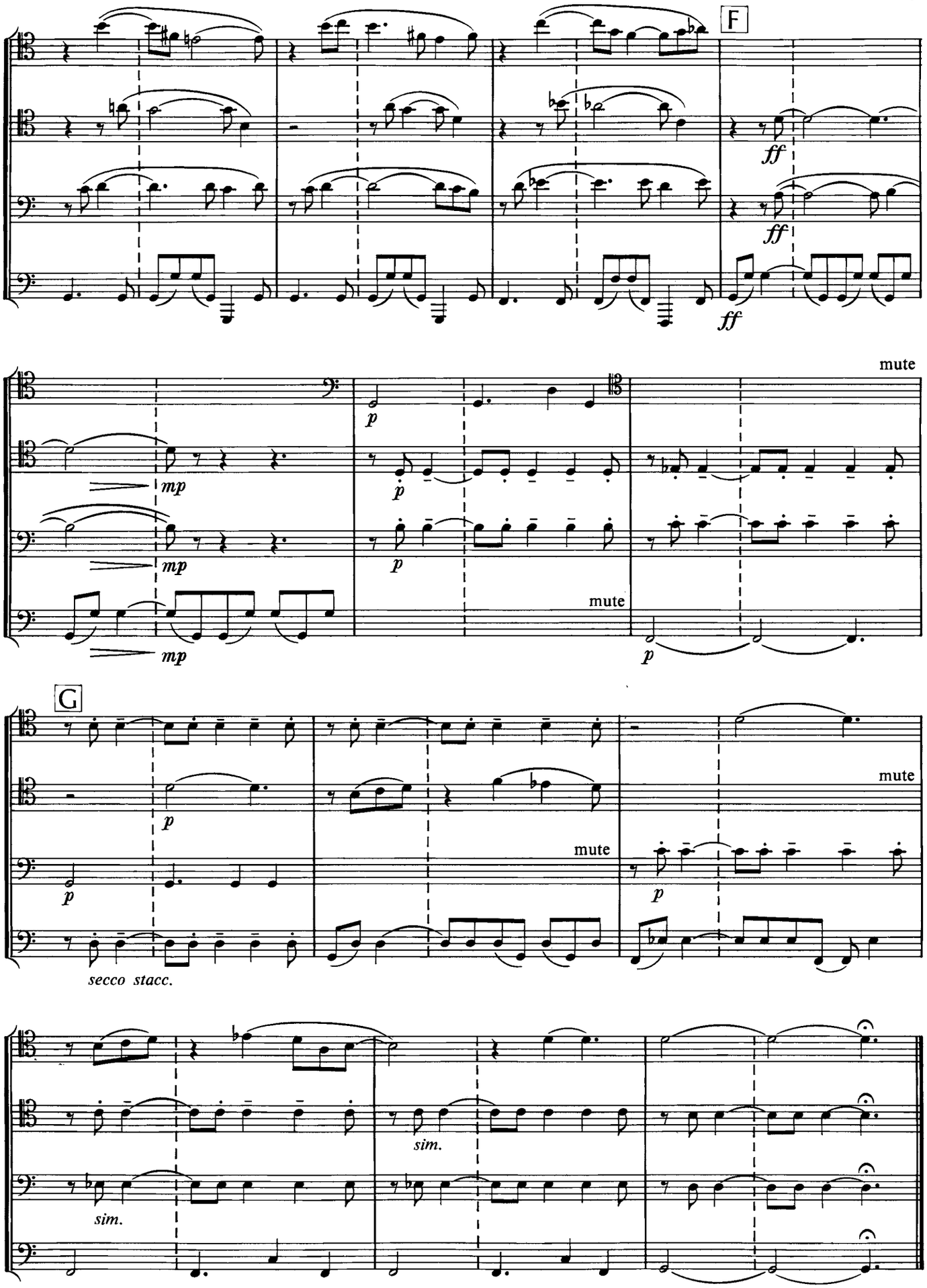

mute
mute
mute
F Meno mosso (♩= 72)
mute
Tempo I
open
open
open
open
G Meno mosso (♩= 72)


H
J
K
Tempo I (♩=108)
pp accel.

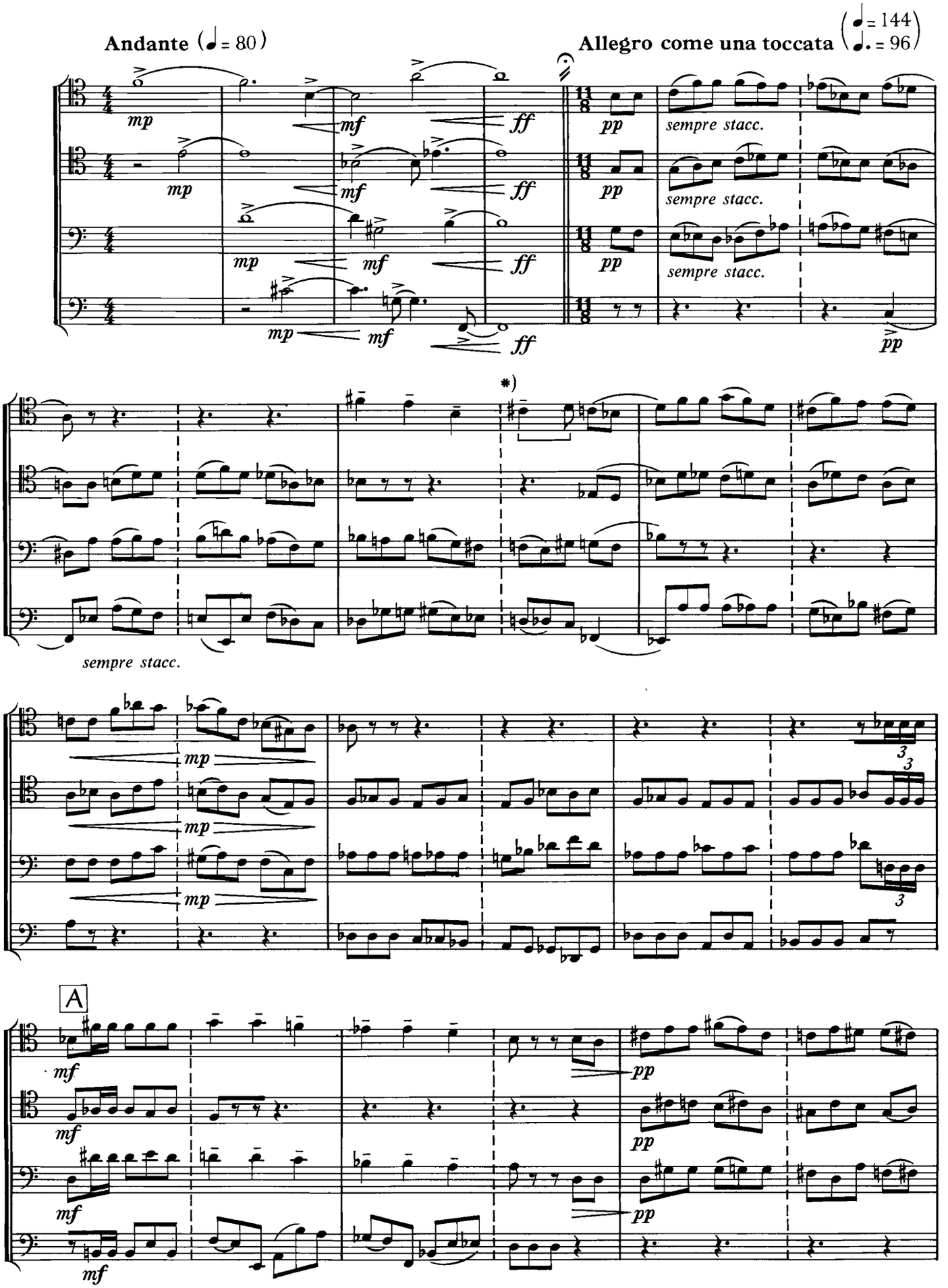

L
M


Andante ritmico (♩= 88)
mp secco staccato
sim.
mp secco staccato
sim.
mp poco marcato
mp dolce
p
p
p
A
secco stacc.
mf
mp
mf
mp
mf
B
mf
p dolce
mf
p dolce
p dolce
mp
mf
p dolce
p dolce
mf
p dolce
sim.

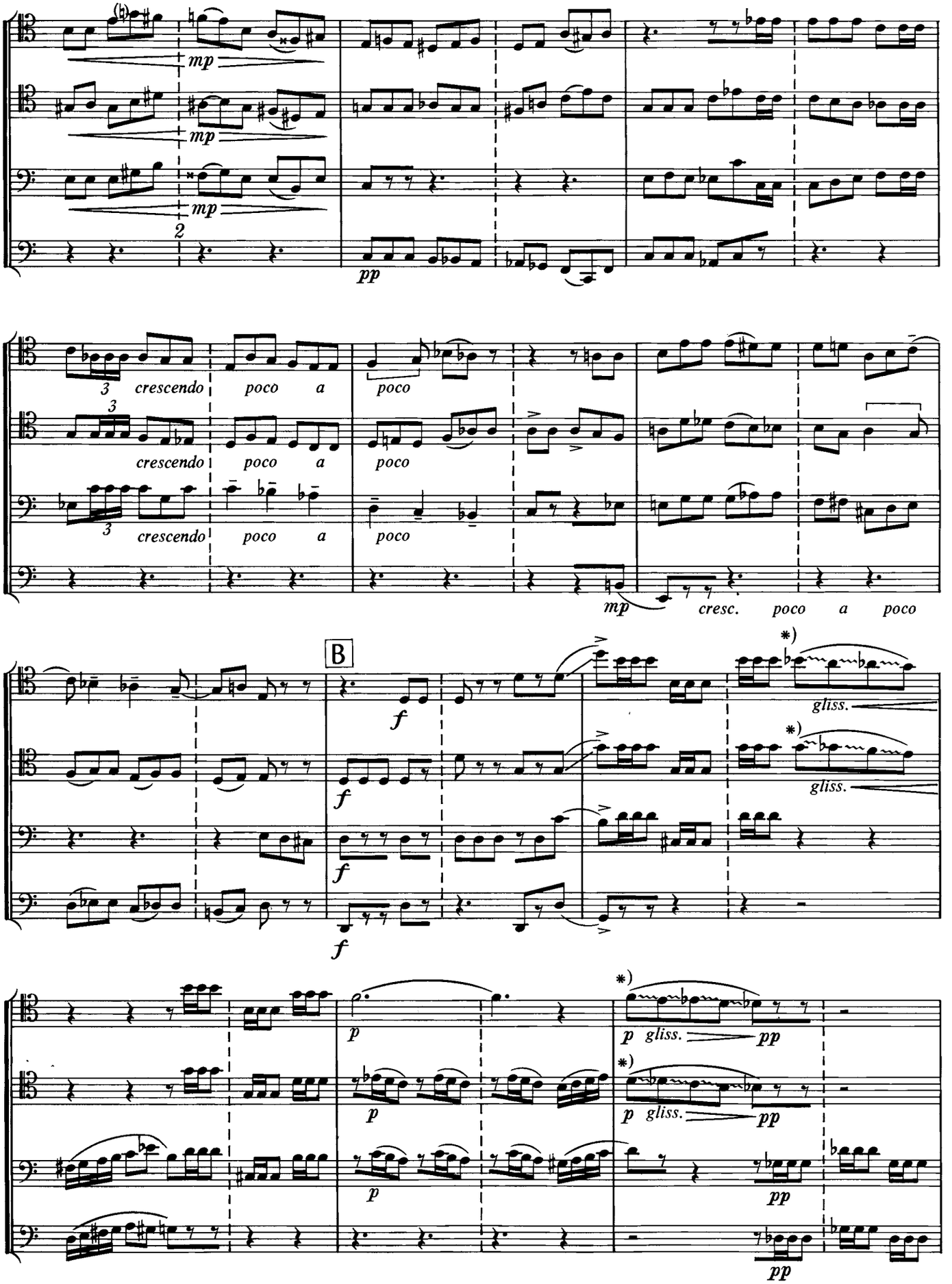

C
pp
pp
pp
D
mp secco stacc.
mp secco stacc.
p poco marcato
pp
p
p
p dolce
E
ff sost. molto
ff sost. molto
ff sost. molto
ff ben marcato
sim.


F
ff
ff
ff
mute
mp
mp
mp
p
p
p
p
mute
G
p
p
mute
mute
p
secco stacc.
sim.
sim.

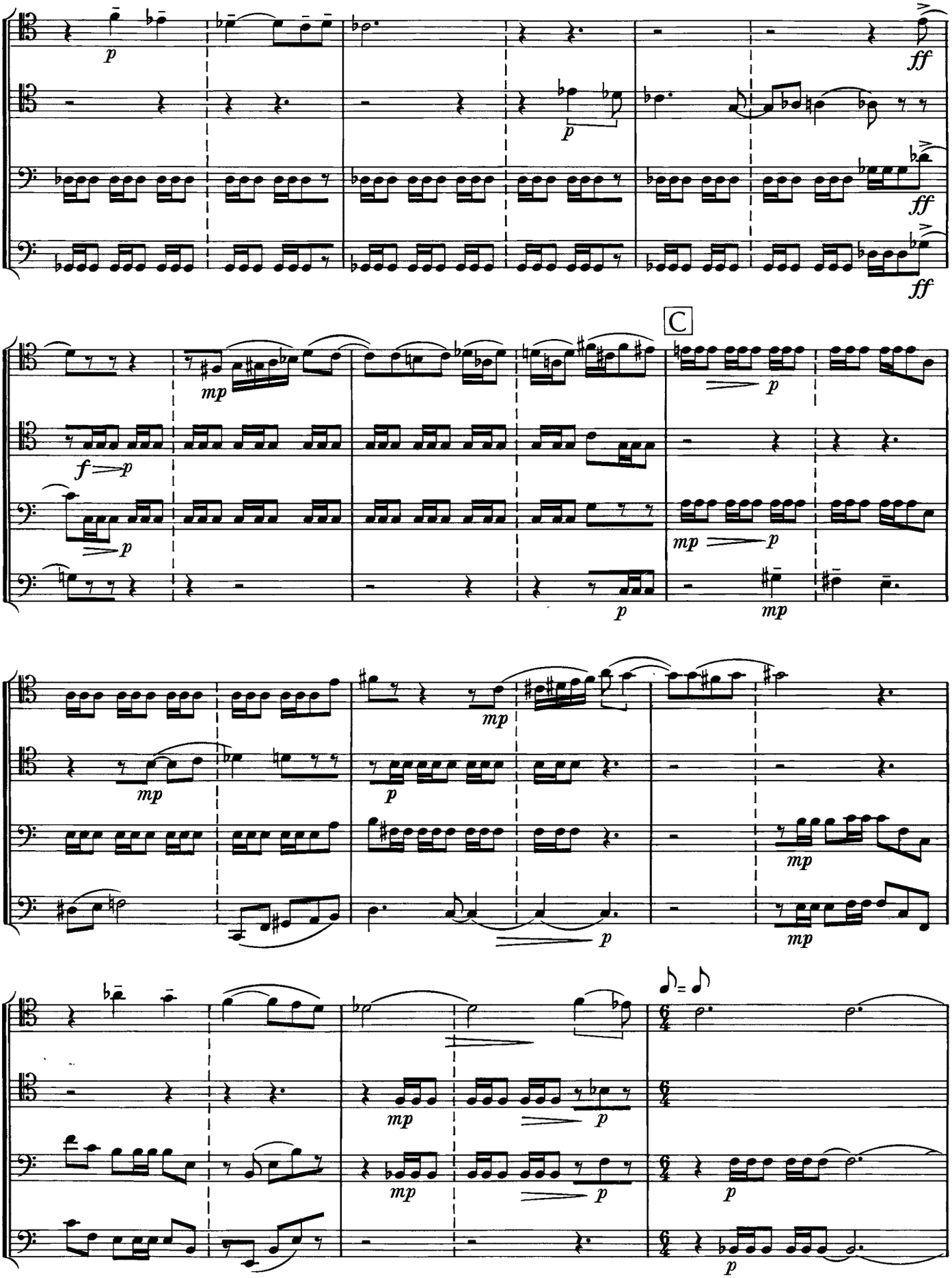
III

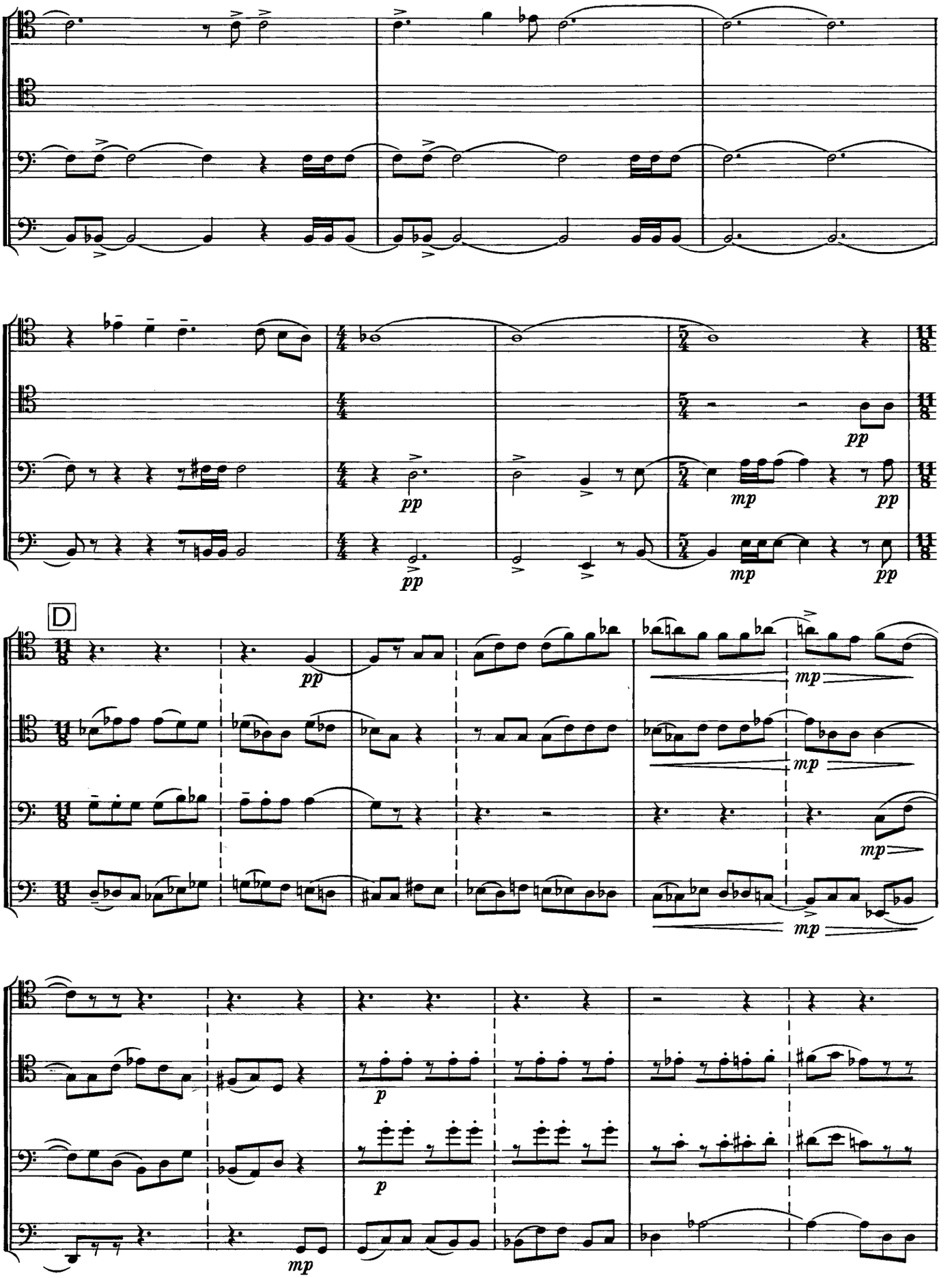


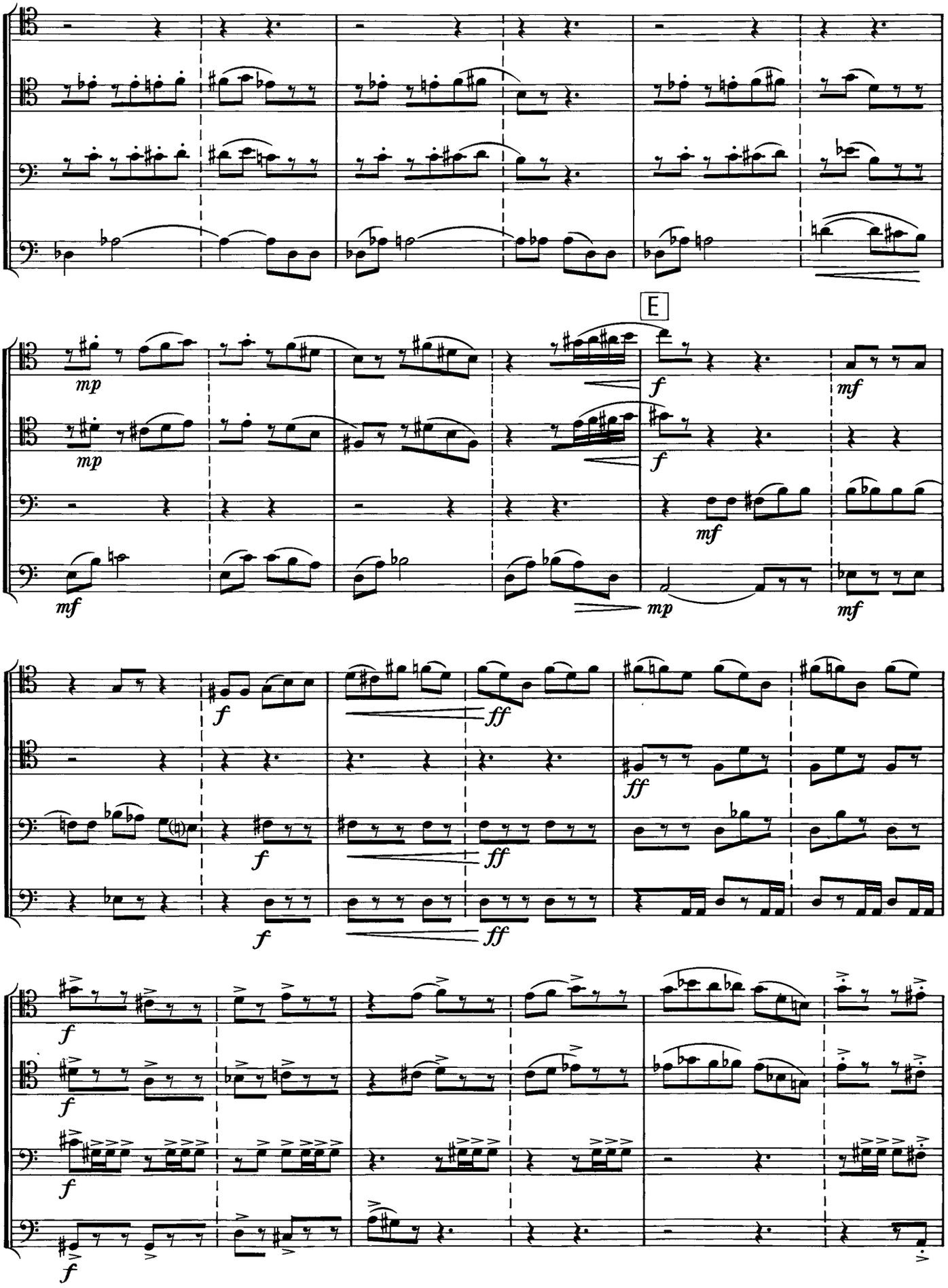
*) Square brackets are used to denote a grouping of notes in one beat, where it might not otherwise be clear, and in no way imply a slur.

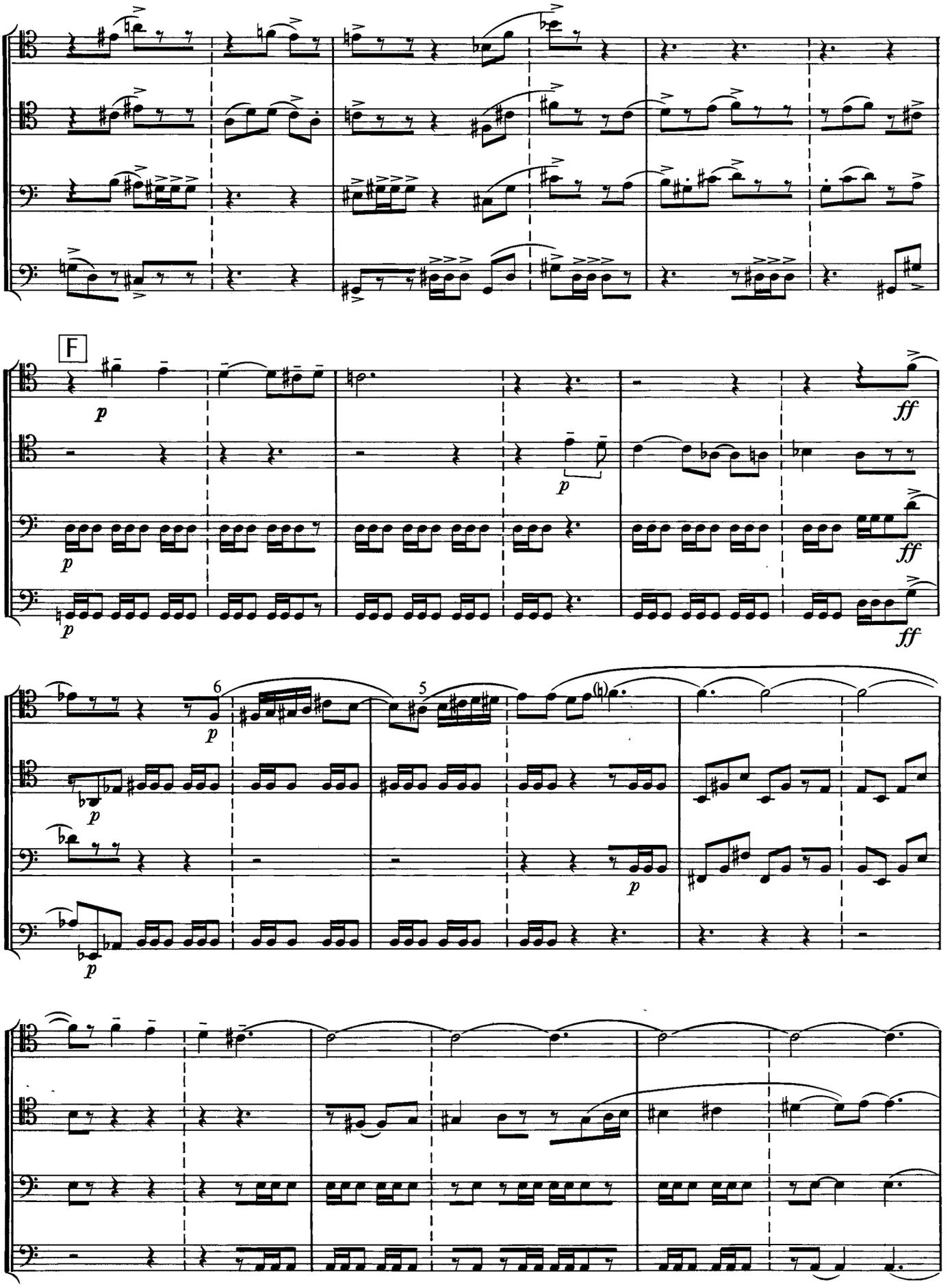


*) A succession of 3 or 4 quick glissandi, rhythmically emphasizing the written pitches, but without tonguing.

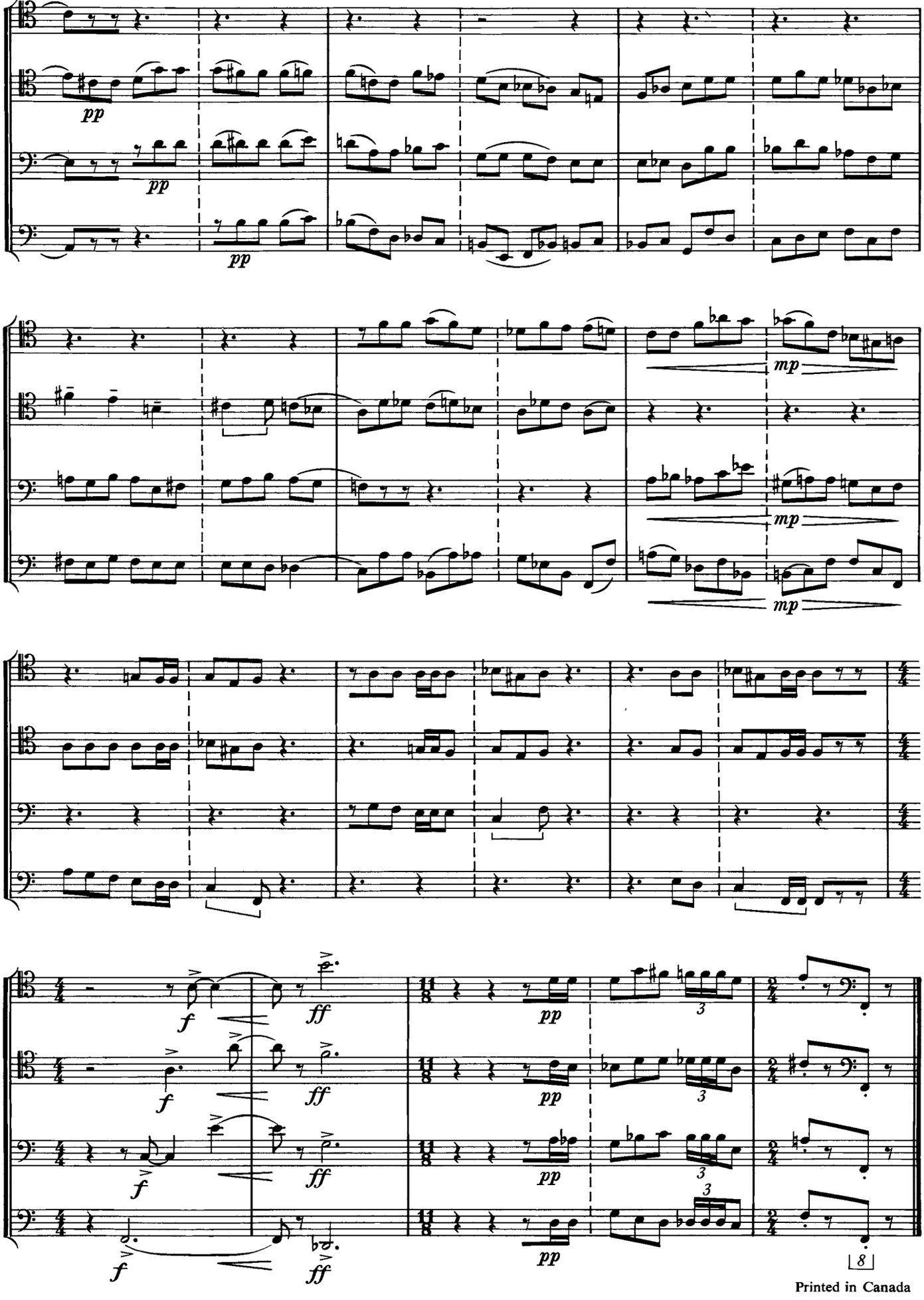

C


D
pp
mp
p


E
mp
mf
f
ff


F
p
ff
6
5

G



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