p u n c t u m

for string quartet

11'

C a r o l i n e S h a w

2 0 0 9

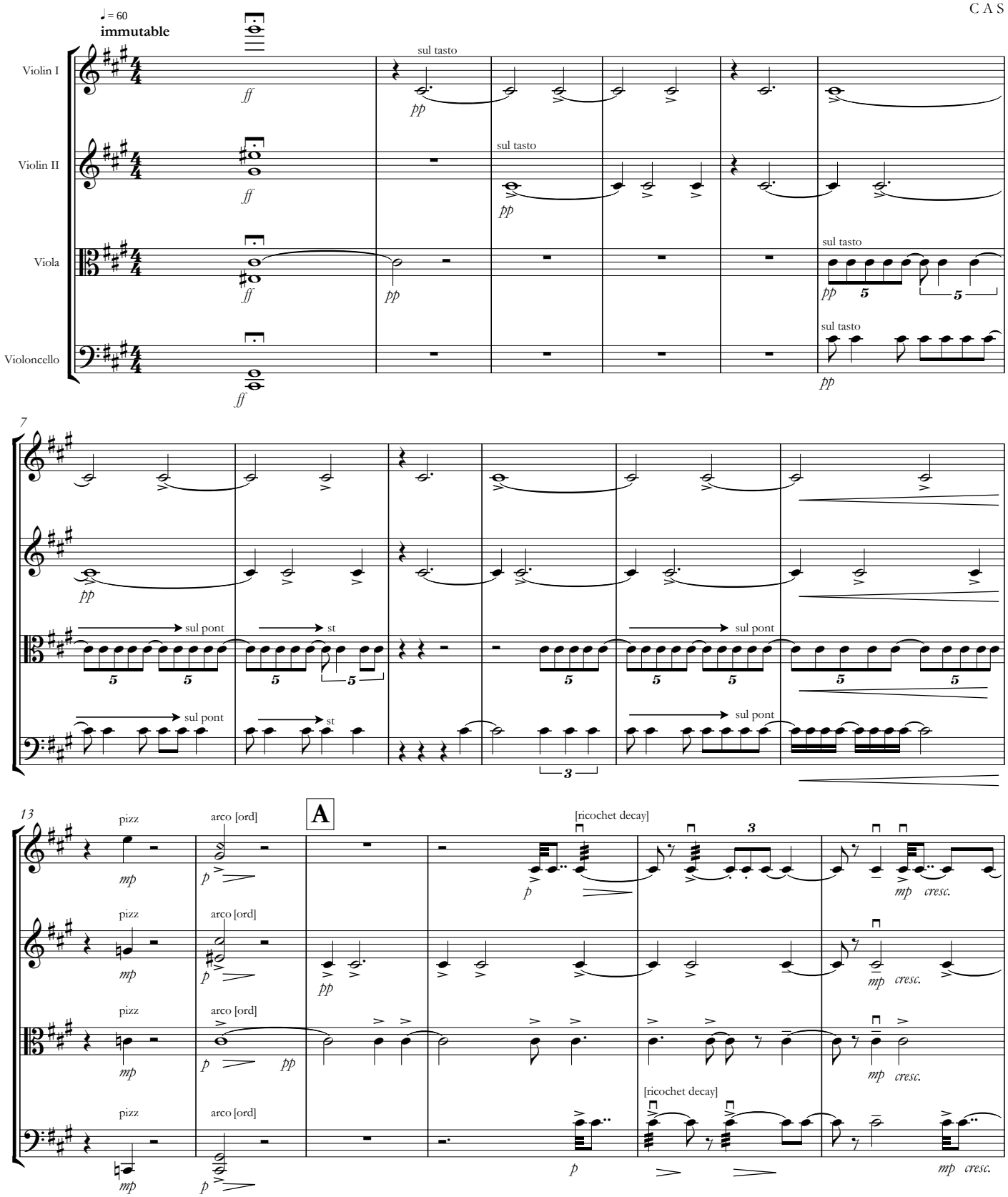
Punctum is essentially an exercise in nostalgia, inspired by Roland Barthes' description of the "unexpected" in photographs and in particular by his extended description of the elusive "Winter Garden" photo in his 1980 book *Camera Lucida.* Through modular sequences strung together out of context, the piece explores a way of saturating the palette with classicism while denying it form, and of disturbing the legibility of a harmonic progression in order to reinforce it later.

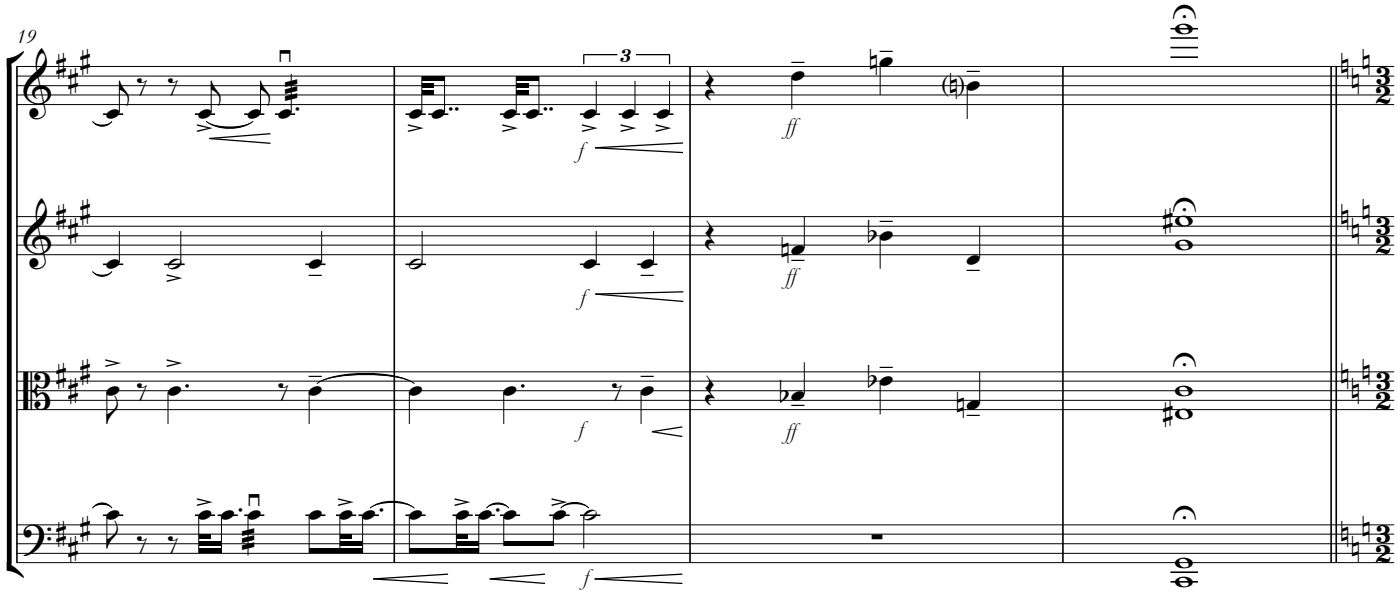
One could also say the piece is about the sensation of a particular secondary dominant in Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*.

For the Hudson Quartet - to be premiered on March 11, 2010, at the Greenwich House on Barrow Street in New York, on the North River Music series.

p u n c t u m

C A S

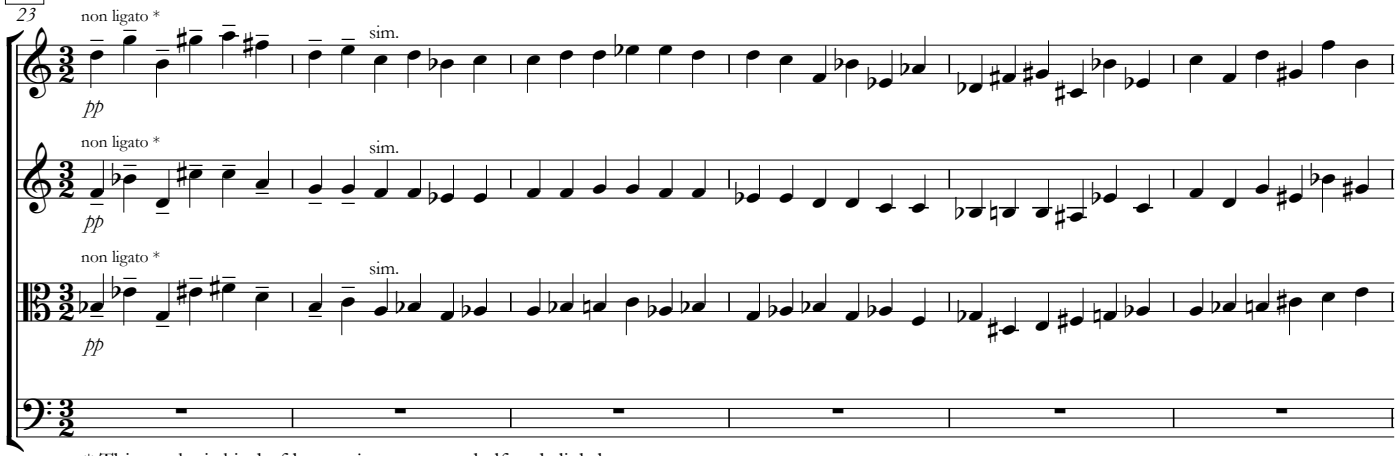

♩= 60
immutable
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
sul tasto
sul pont
st
pizz
arco [ord]
A
[ricochet decay]
cresc.



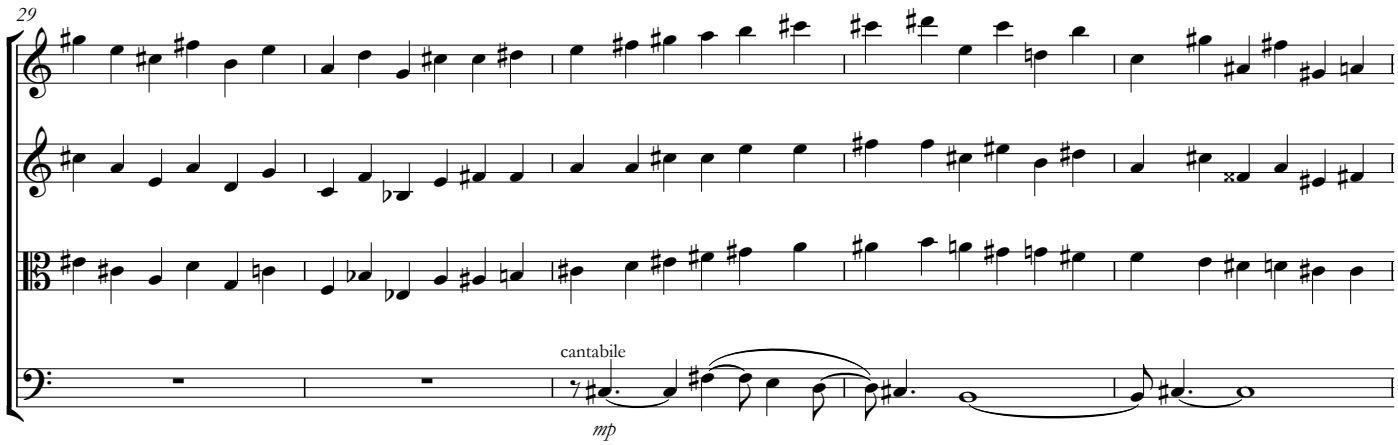
♩ = 116

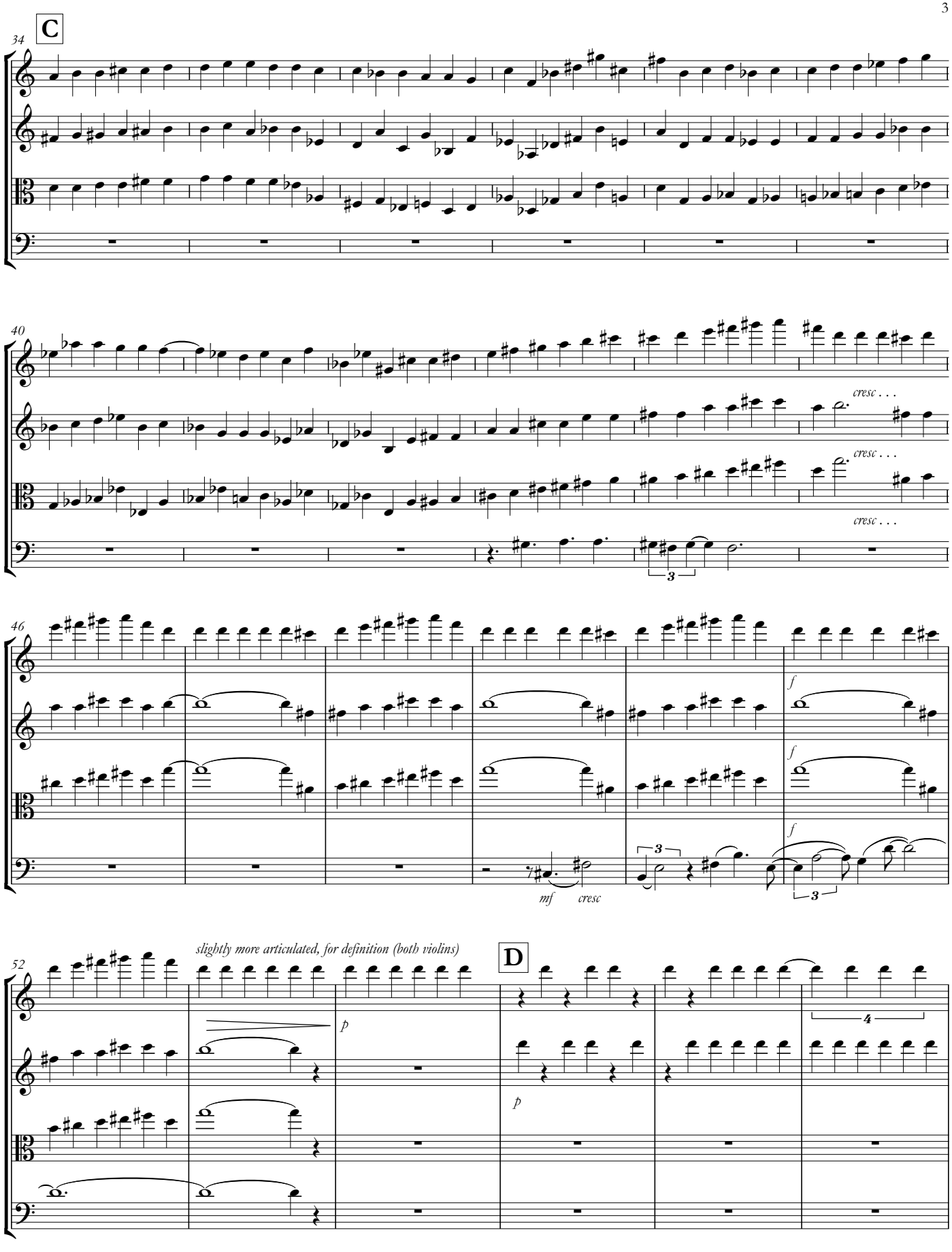
B

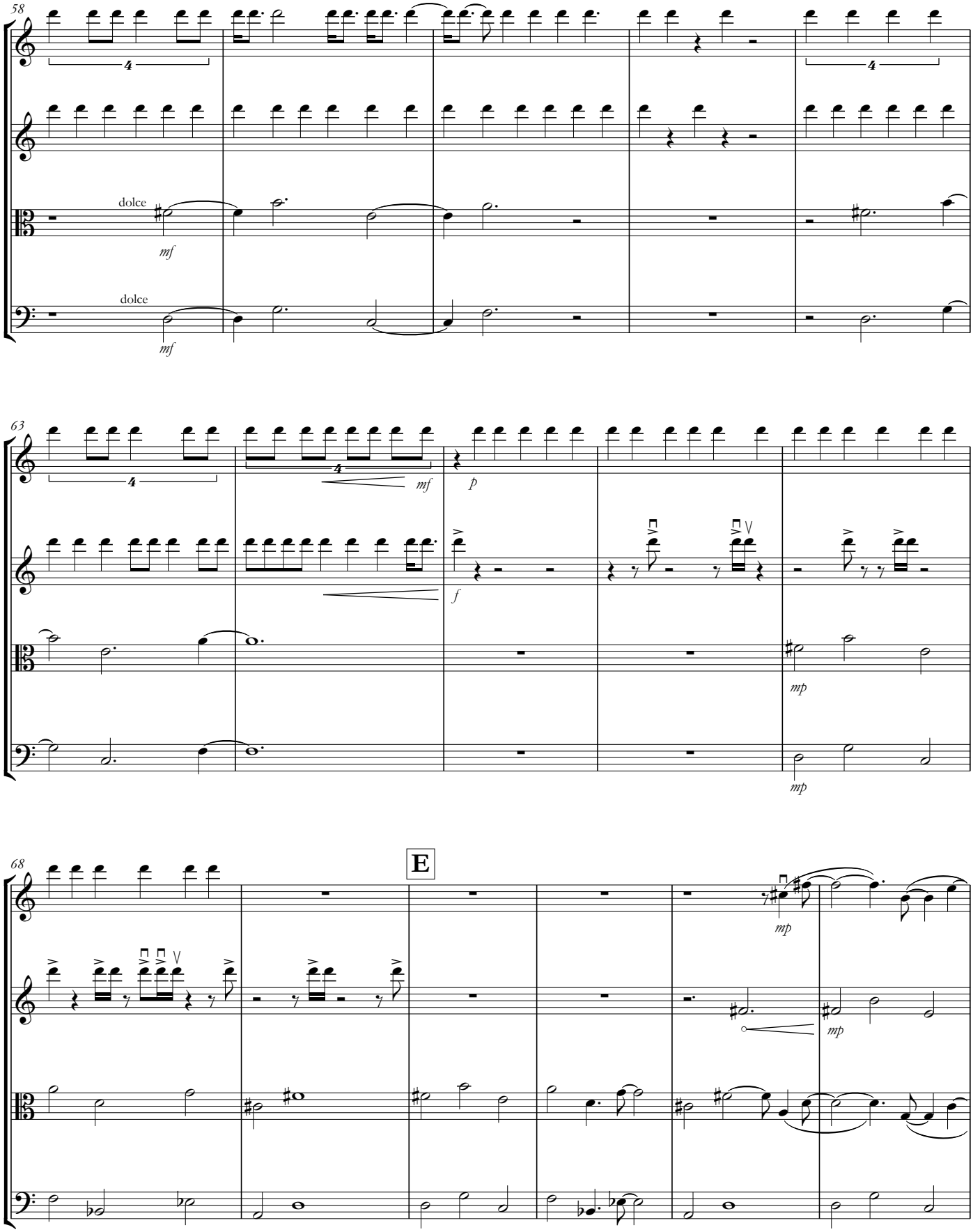
absolutely even, without inflection

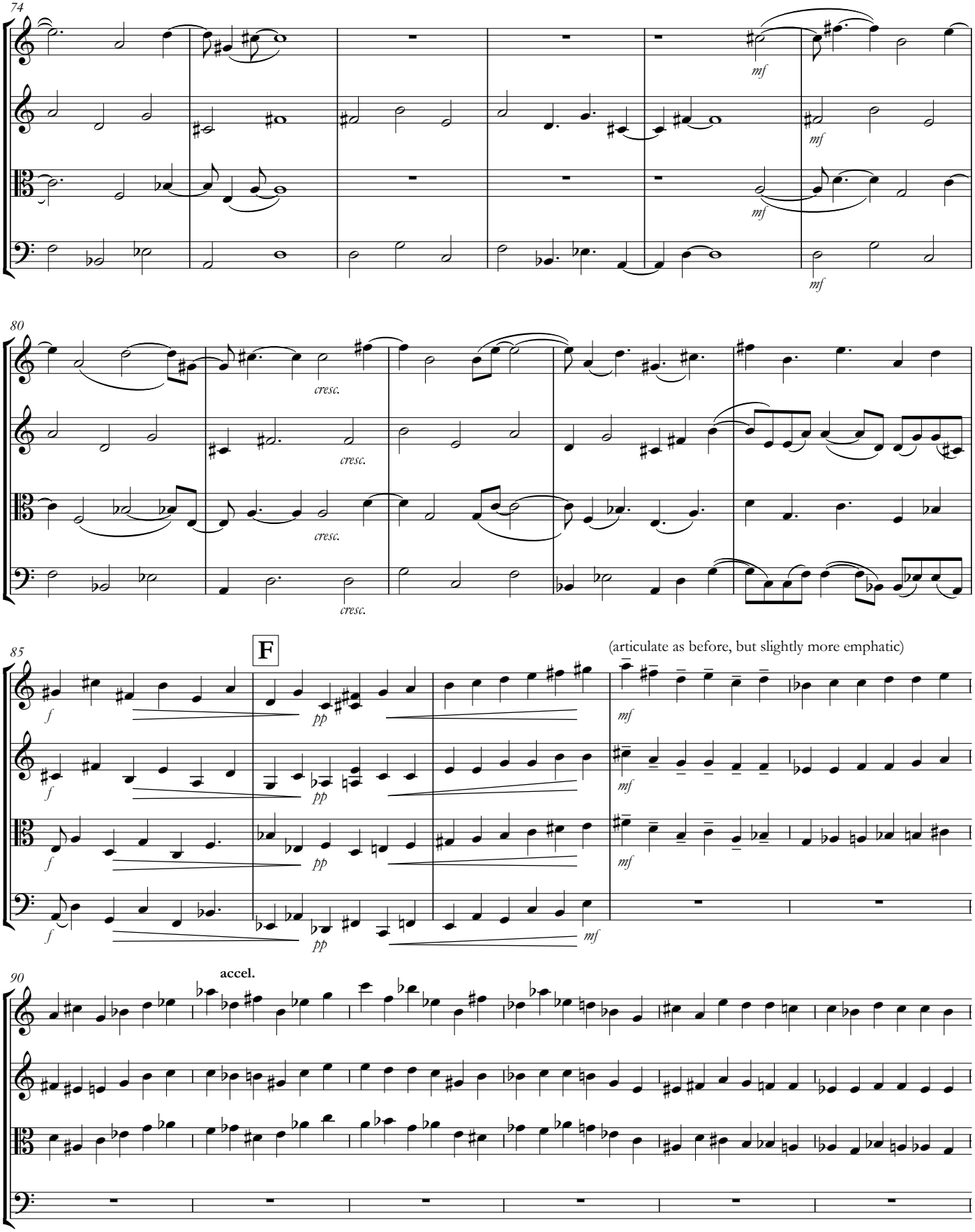


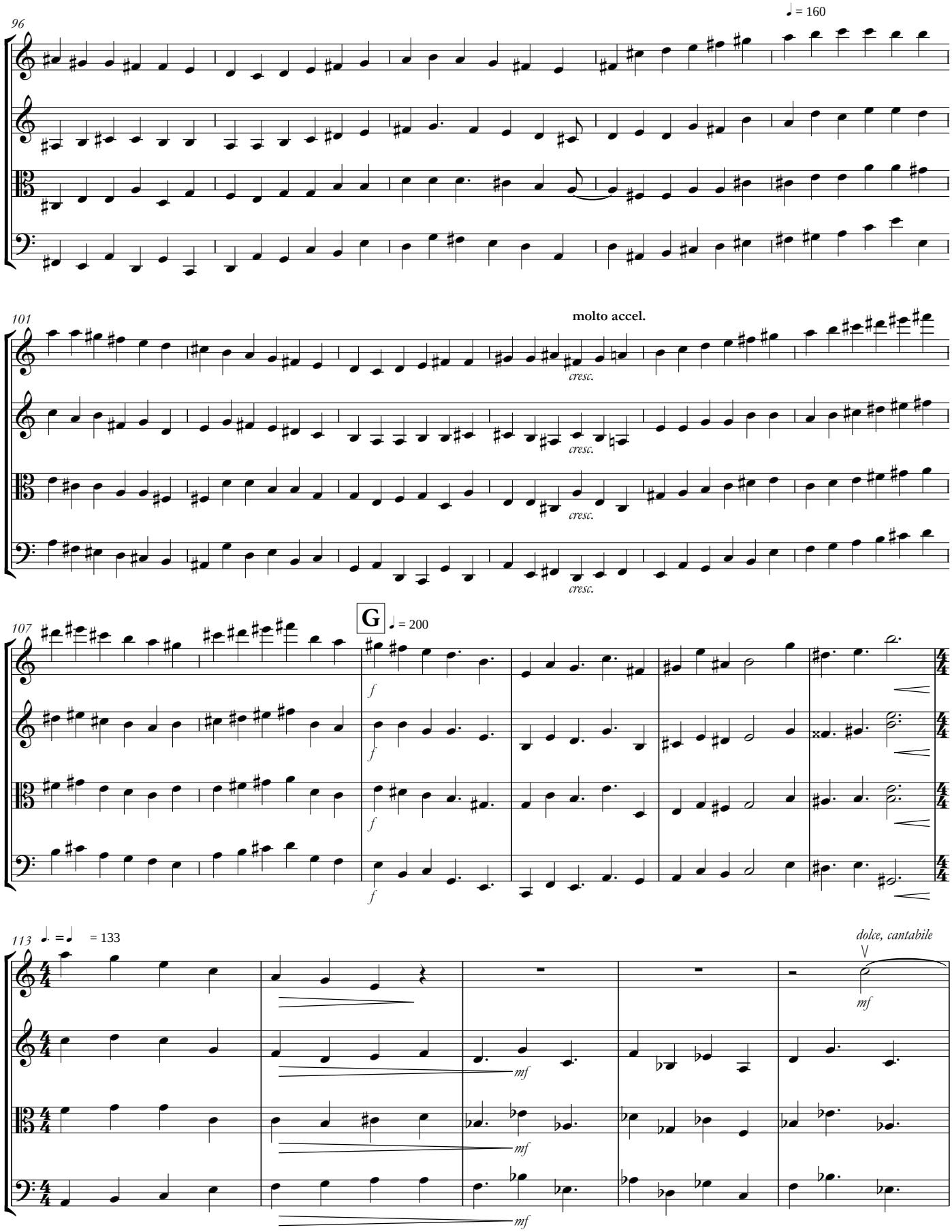
* This stroke is kind of lounge jazz -- upper half and slightly separated. Always in the pocket and never ahead of the beat.

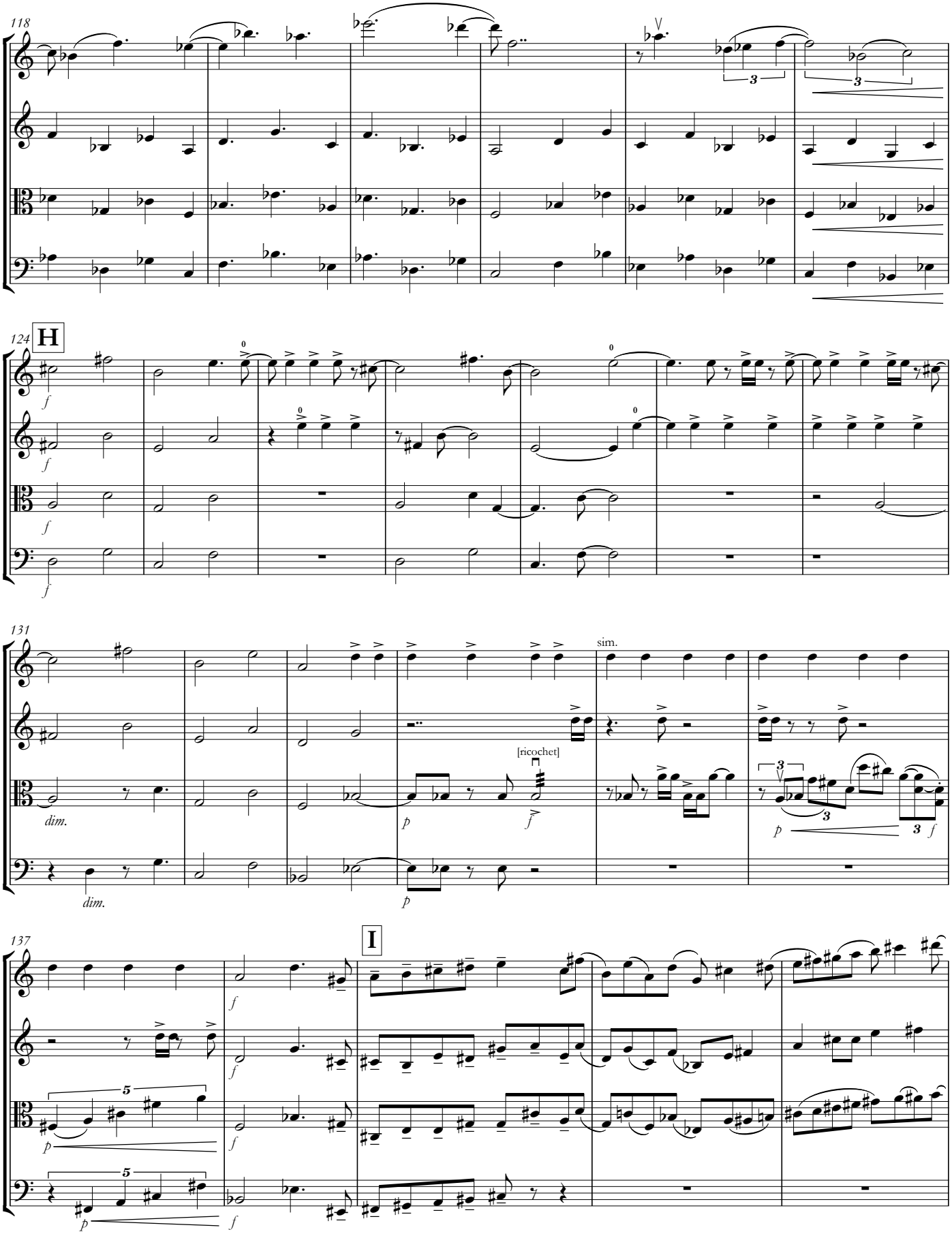


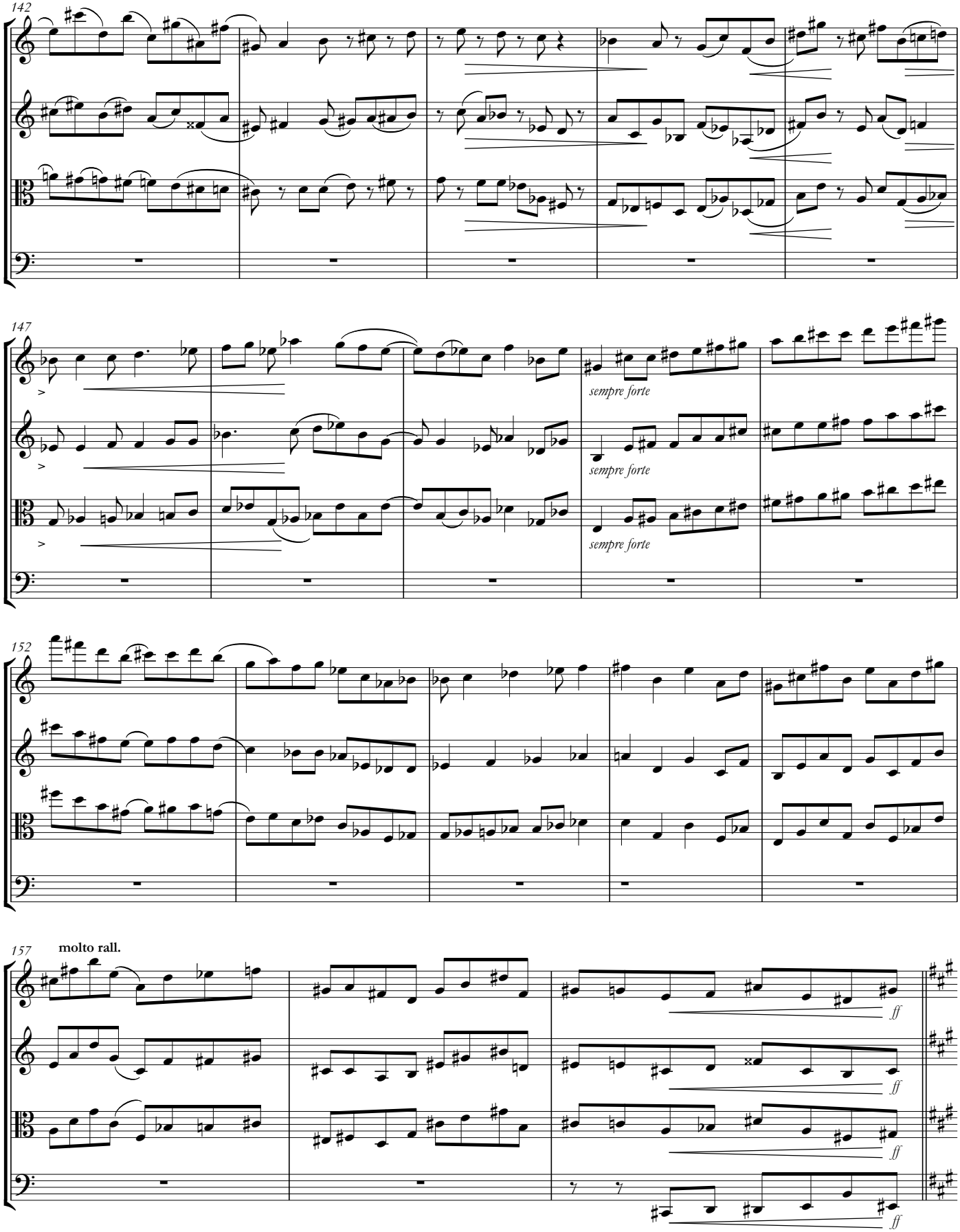

C
34
40
cresc . . .
cresc . . .
cresc . . .
46
f
f
f
mf
cresc
52
slightly more articulated, for definition (both violins)
D
p
p

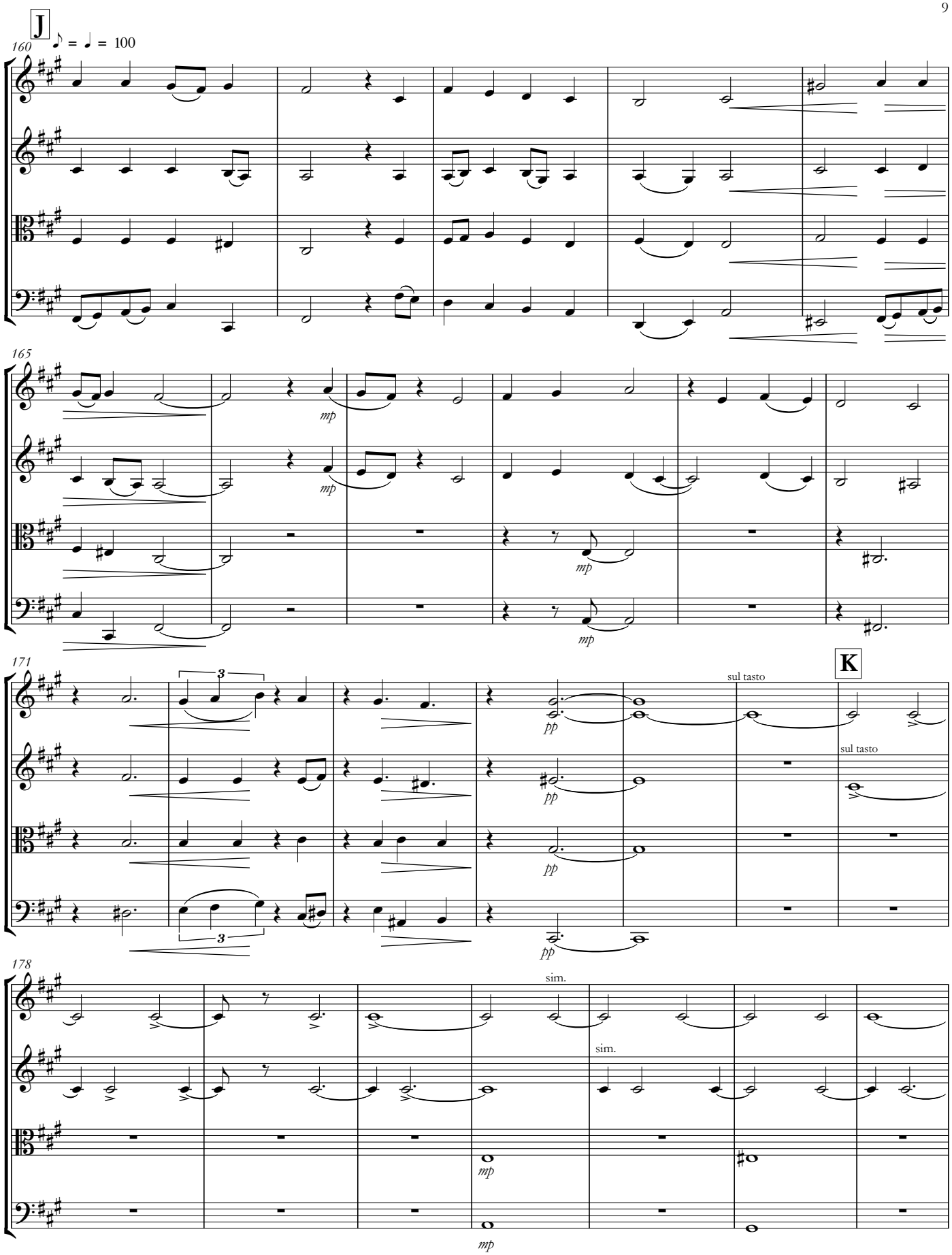

58
dolce
mf
dolce
mf
63
mf
p
f
mp
mp
68
E
mp
mp

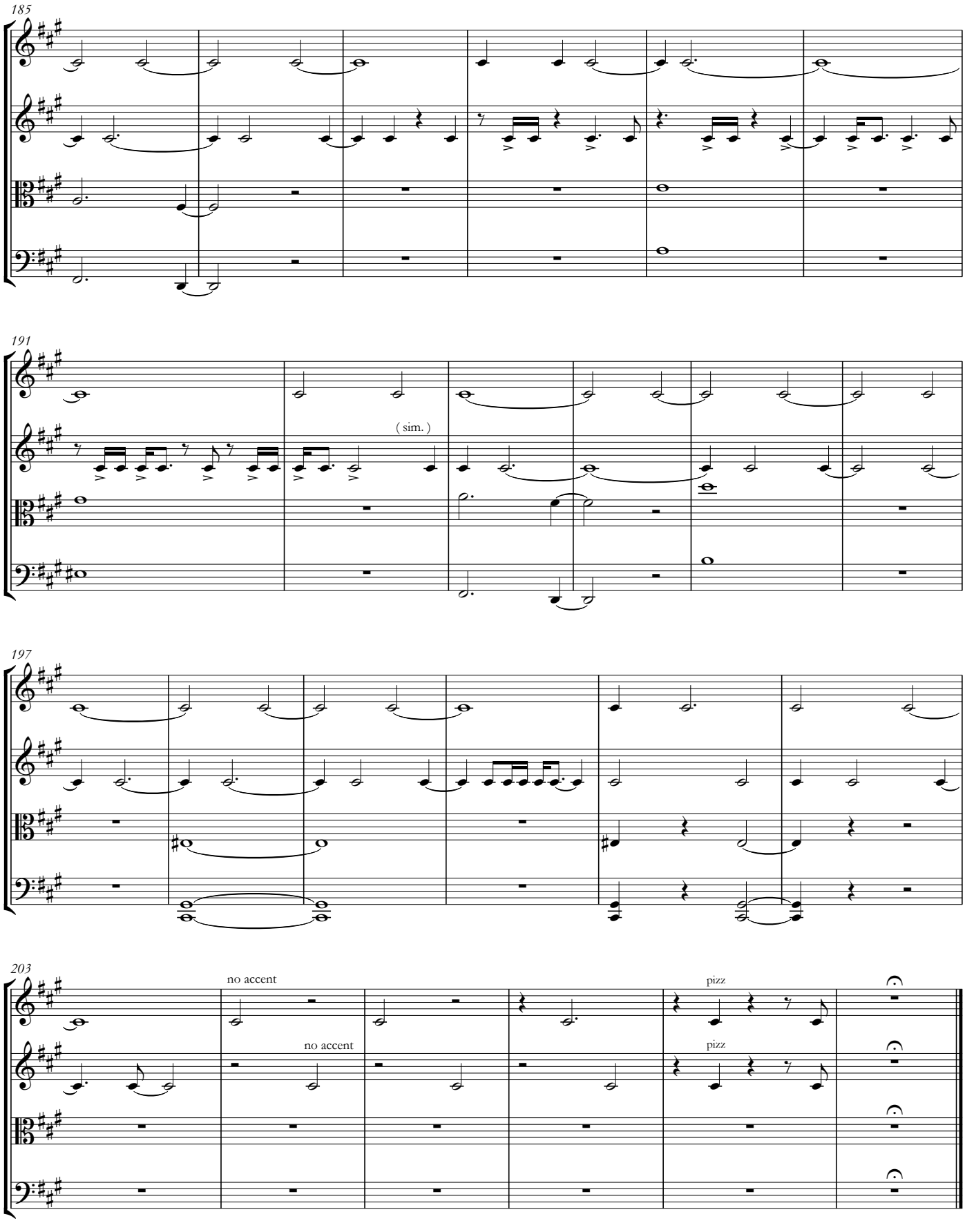

74
mf
mf
mf
80
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
85
F
(articulate as before, but slightly more emphatic)
f
pp
mf
90
accel.


96
♩ = 160
101
molto accel.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
107
G
♩ = 200
f
f
f
f
113
𝅗𝅥. = 𝅗𝅥 = 133
dolce, cantabile
mf
mf
mf
mf


118
124
H
131
sim.
[ricochet]
dim.
dim.
137
I


142
147
sempre forte
sempre forte
sempre forte
152
157
molto rall.
ff
ff
ff
ff


J
♪ = ♩ = 100
160
165
mp
171
3
pp
sul tasto
K
178
sim.
mp


185
191
(sim.)
197
203
no accent
no accent
pizz
pizz