Two by Three in Anza Borrego

For mandolin orchestra, two guitars, and contrabass

Joe Michaels

I. Wind Picking Up at Dawn
II. Rub-a-Dub Scrubjay
III. Raymond's Song
IV. Quail Waddle
V. Wind Settling Down at Dusk

Duration: 11-12 minutes

Two by Three in Anza Borrego is a suite of (mostly) bluegrass music arranged for mandolin orchestra, two guitars, and contrabass. I wrote two of the songs for the violin, "Rub-a-dub Scrubjay" and "Quail Waddle," when I was visiting the Anza Borrego Desert in Southern California in the summer of 2021. "Raymond's Song" is an arrangement of a melody written by my uncle, Bob Pryor, in 1998. I added the first and last movements in 2022 to fill out the suite.

Two brief movements set the scene at the beginning and end of the work: a dry wind softly blowing through string instruments sitting outside a desert home. Three bluegrass songs form the center: a scrubjay takes a dirt bath; a song in memory of a loved one; and a quail waddles in patterns of three against two.

Two by Three in Anza Borrego was written for the Louisville Mandolin Orchestra, who will premiere it in Louisville, Kentucky, USA in 2023.

https://lmo.org/

Performance Notes

1. For movement I and V everyone plays independently from each other, so there are parts but not a full score.
2. The mandolins should not tremolo. There is one exception to this in mandolin 1 in movement II "Rub-a-Dub Scrubjay."
3. The use of a pick is up to the mandolin and guitar players in movements II, III, and IV. In the first and last movements, only the flesh of the fingers may be used.
4. The contrabass only plays pizzicato, i.e. no bow.
5. All tempi and duration indications (e.g. 30") are approximations and can be adjusted somewhat.

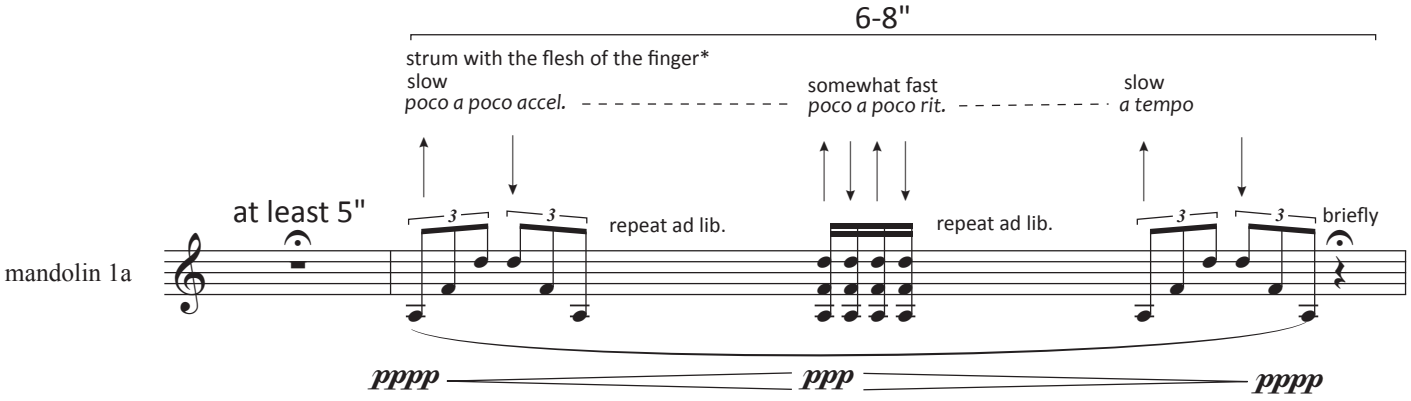
Two by Three in Anza Borrego

I. Wind Picking Up at Dawn

Joe Michaels

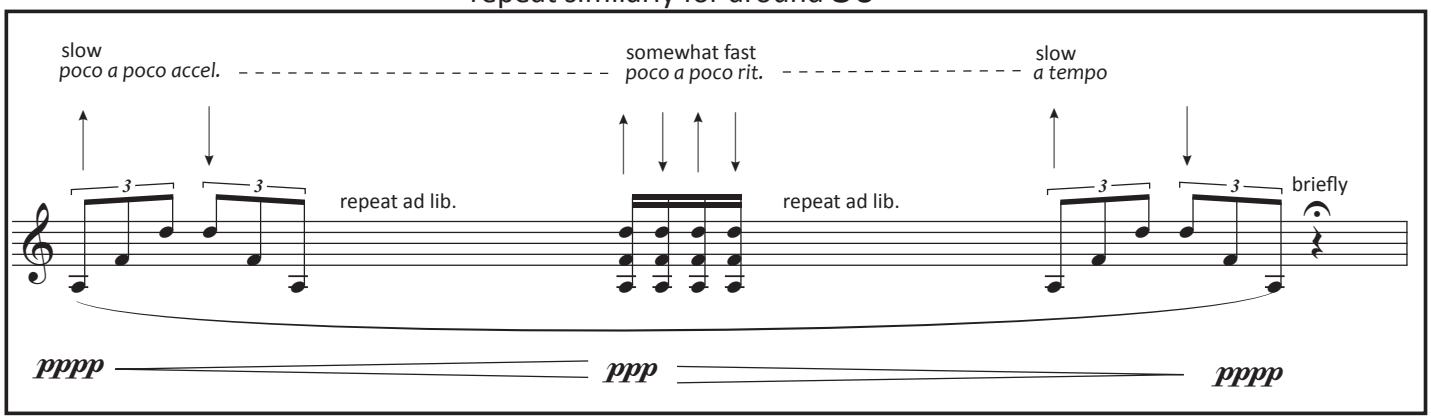
Calm, a quiet rustling, always let ring

Everyone plays independently from each other. Never get loud. A solo mandola begins first, and the other mandolas begin slightly afterwards (but not together). The mandolins, mandocello, and guitars join in after that, staggering their entrances.



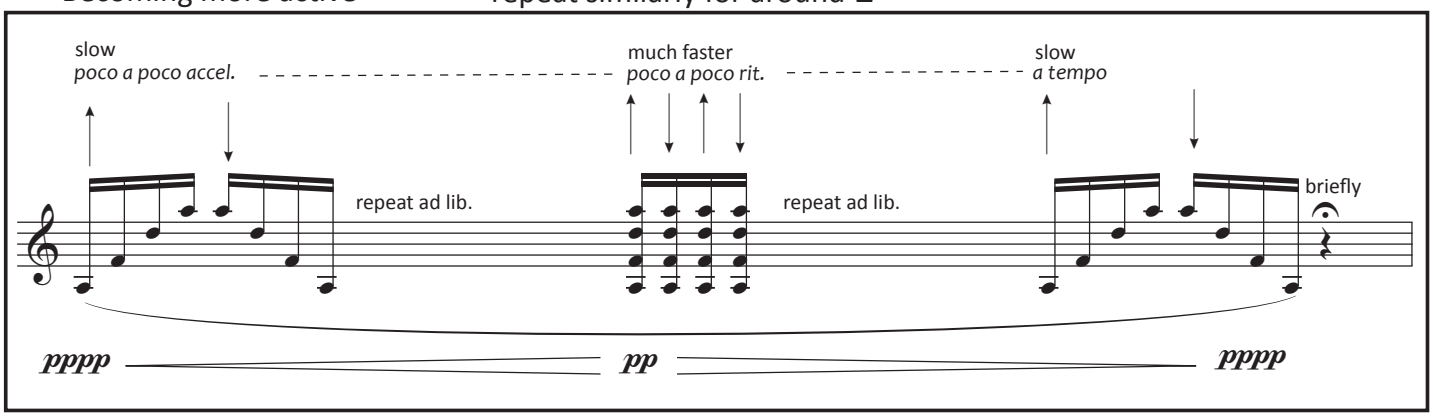
* = Lightly strum up and down as indicated. Mute the E string until the third measure.

repeat similarly for around 30"



Becoming more active

repeat similarly for around 1'



continue to movement II when the mandolin solo begins

© 2022 Joseph Michaels

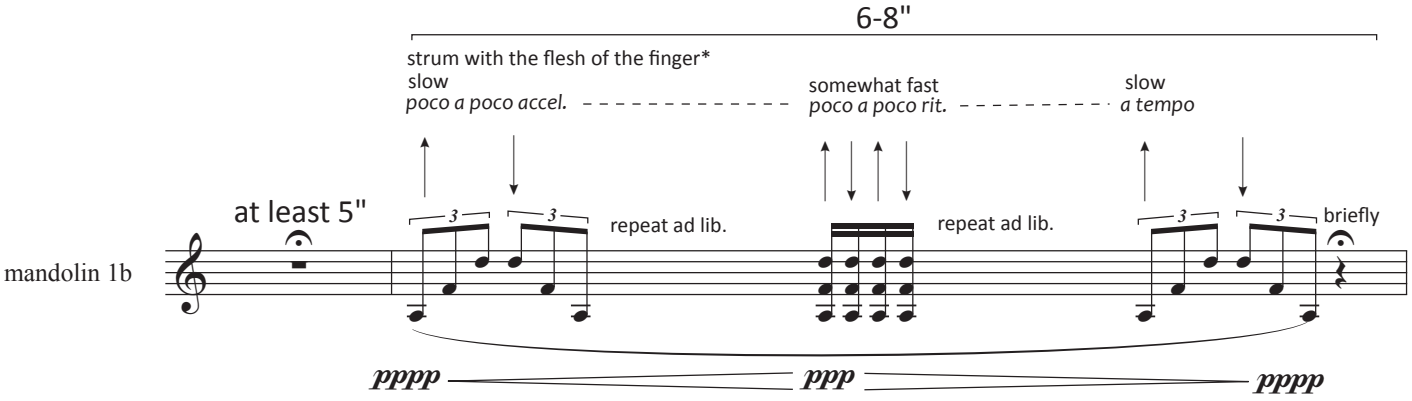
Two by Three in Anza Borrego

I. Wind Picking Up at Dawn

Joe Michaels

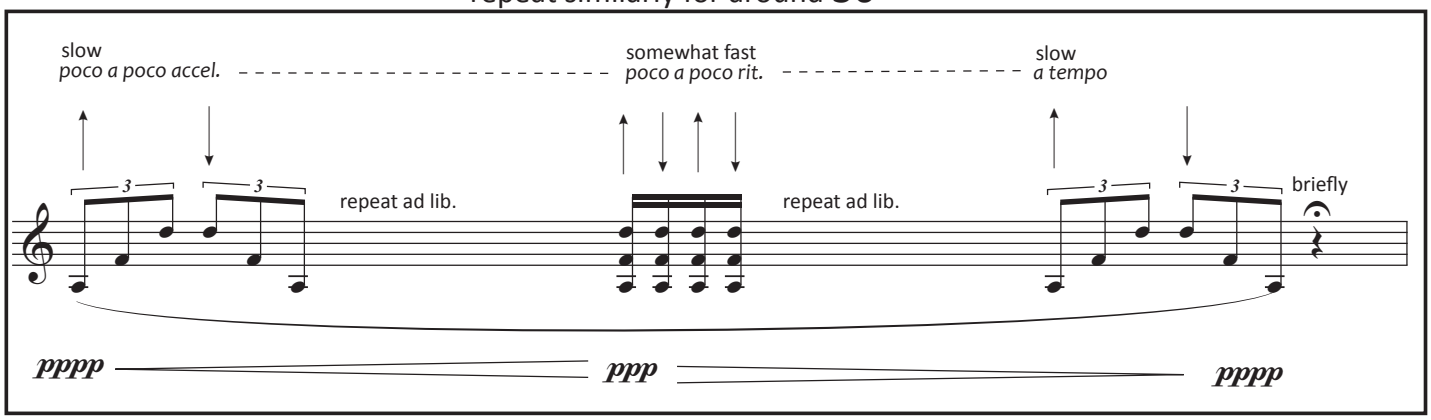
Calm, a quiet rustling, always let ring

Everyone plays independently from each other. Never get loud. A solo mandola begins first, and the other mandolas begin slightly afterwards (but not together). The mandolins, mandocello, and guitars join in after that, staggering their entrances.



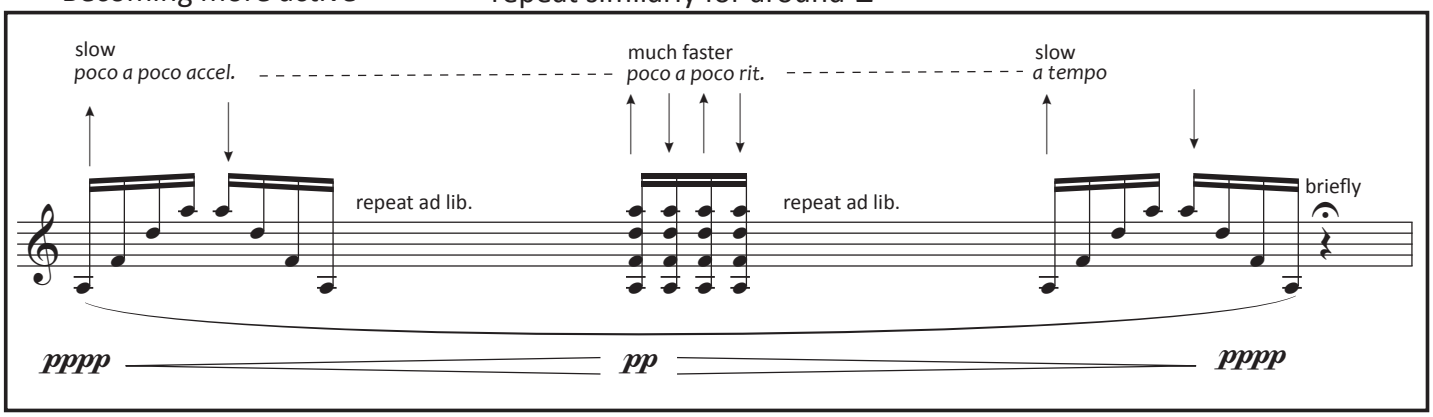
* = Lightly strum up and down as indicated. Mute the E string until the third measure.

repeat similarly for around 30"



Becoming more active

repeat similarly for around 1'



continue to movement II when the mandolin solo begins

© 2022 Joseph Michaels

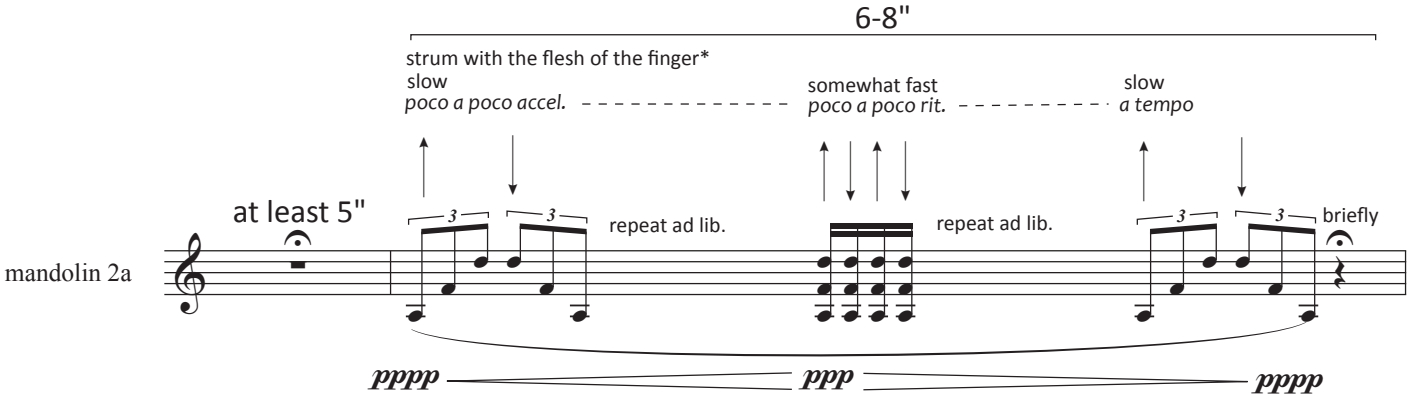
Two by Three in Anza Borrego

I. Wind Picking Up at Dawn

Joe Michaels

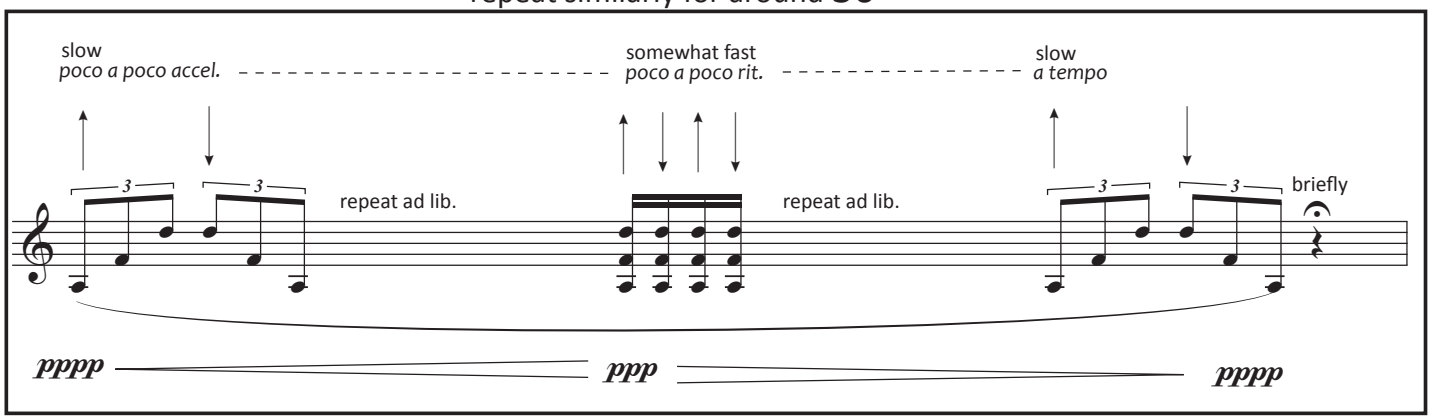
Calm, a quiet rustling, always let ring

Everyone plays independently from each other. Never get loud. A solo mandola begins first, and the other mandolas begin slightly afterwards (but not together). The mandolins, mandocello, and guitars join in after that, staggering their entrances.

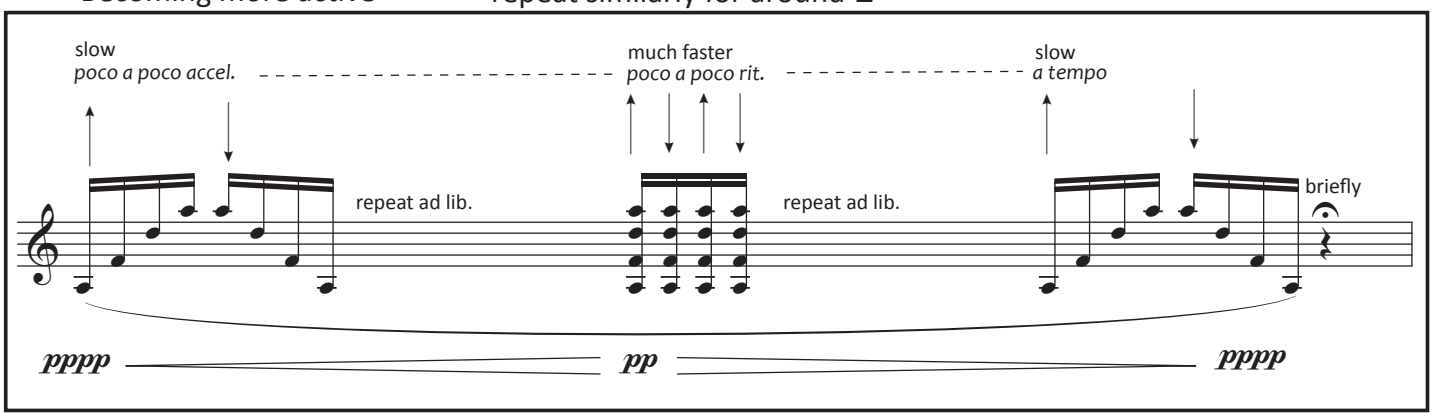


* = Lightly strum up and down as indicated. Mute the E string until the third measure.

repeat similarly for around 30"



Becoming more active repeat similarly for around 1'



continue to movement II when the mandolin solo begins

© 2022 Joseph Michaels

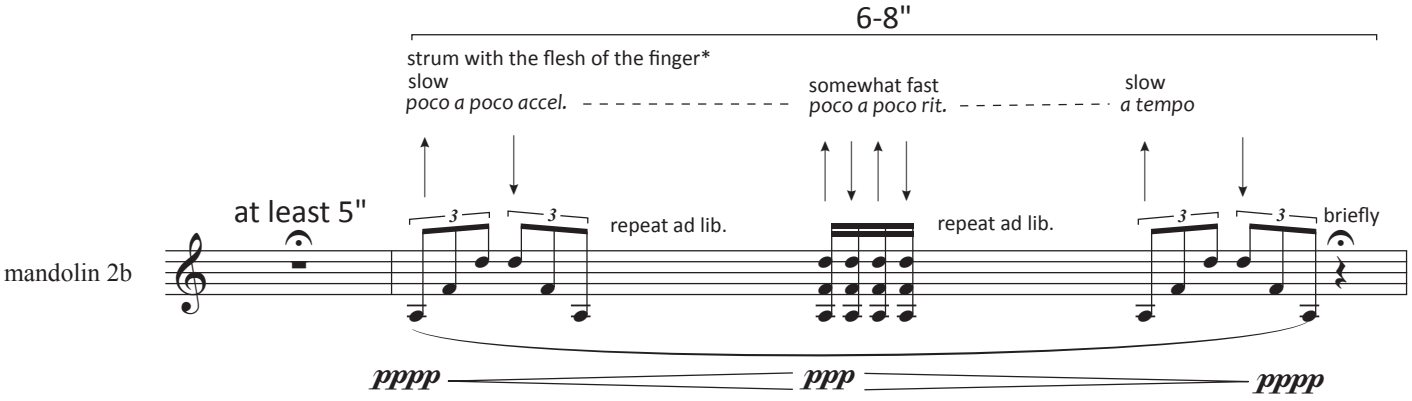
Two by Three in Anza Borrego

I. Wind Picking Up at Dawn

Joe Michaels

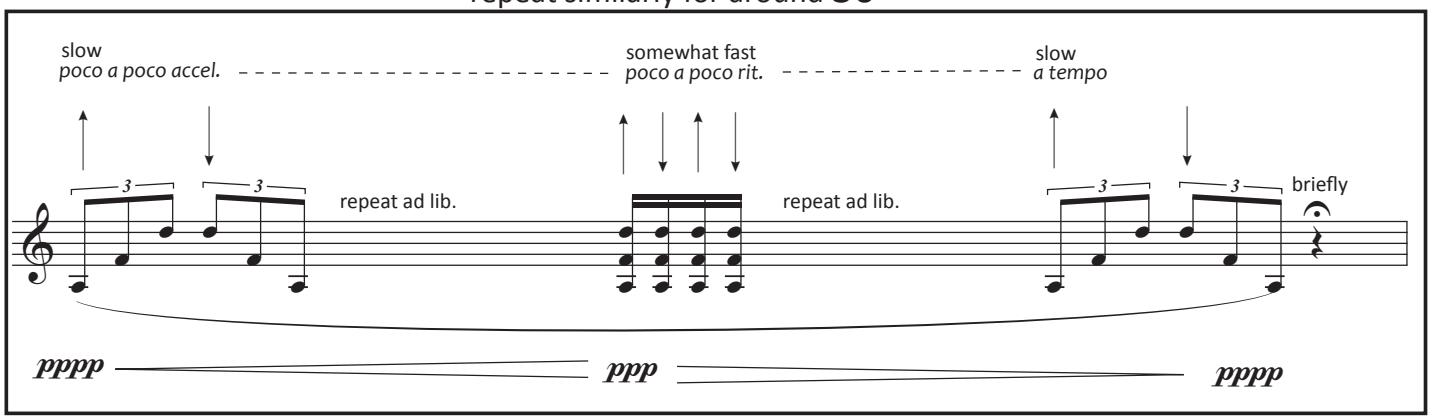
Calm, a quiet rustling, always let ring

Everyone plays independently from each other. Never get loud. A solo mandola begins first, and the other mandolas begin slightly afterwards (but not together). The mandolins, mandocello, and guitars join in after that, staggering their entrances.



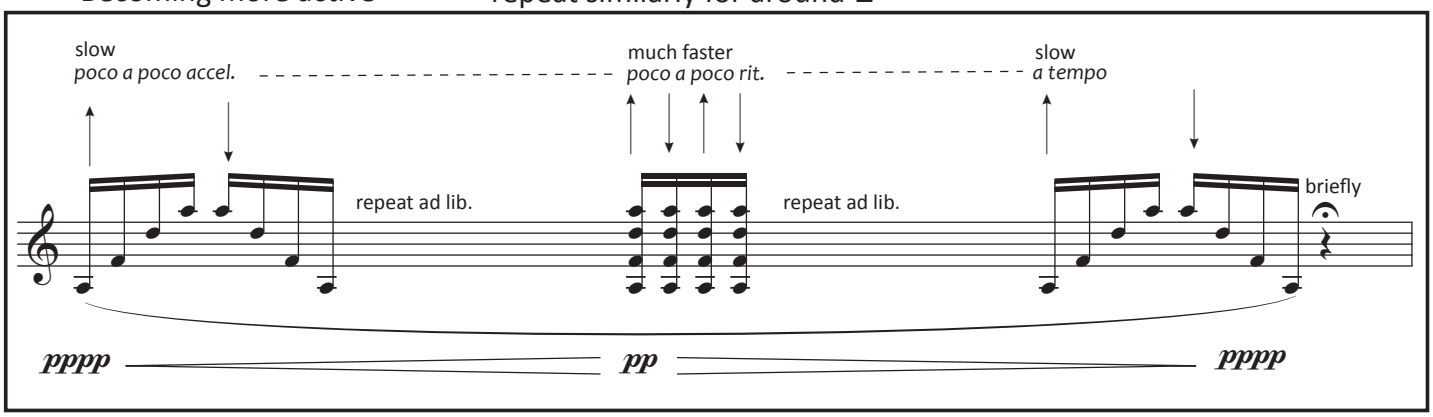
* = Lightly strum up and down as indicated. Mute the E string until the third measure.

repeat similarly for around 30"



Becoming more active

repeat similarly for around 1'



continue to movement II when the mandolin solo begins

© 2022 Joseph Michaels

Two by Three in Anza Borrego

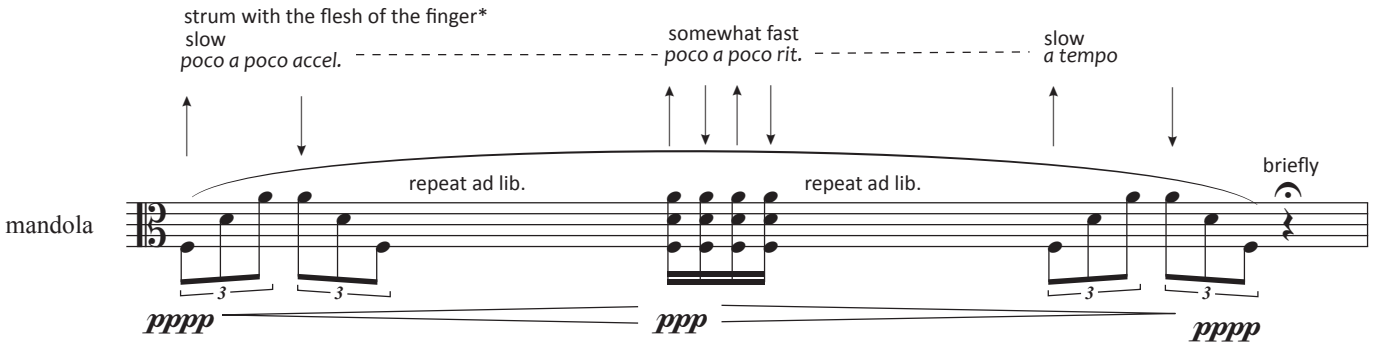
I. Wind Picking Up at Dawn

Joe Michaels

Calm, a quiet rustling, always let ring

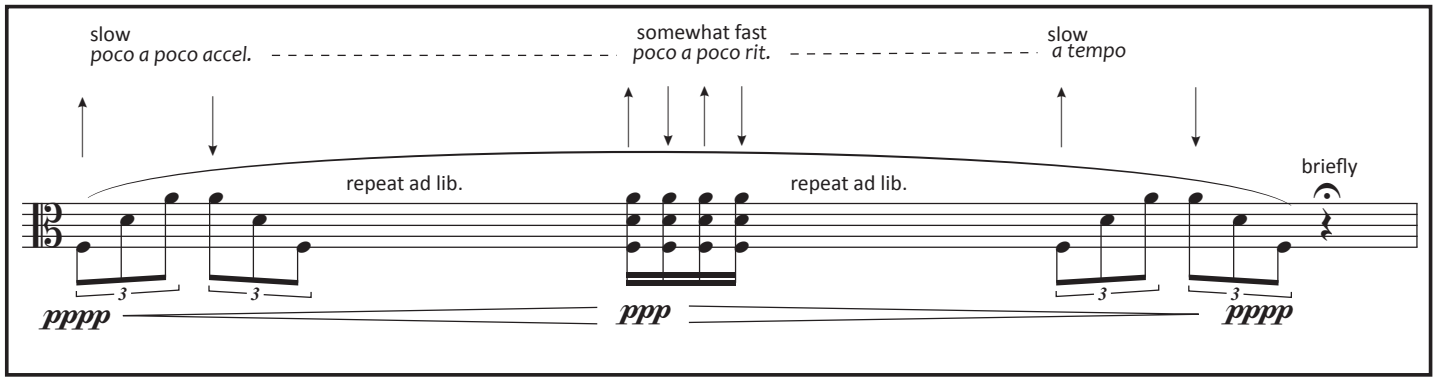
Everyone plays independently from each other. Never get loud. A solo mandola begins first, and the other mandolas begin slightly afterwards (but not together). The mandolins, mandocello, and guitars join in after that, staggering their entrances.

6-8"



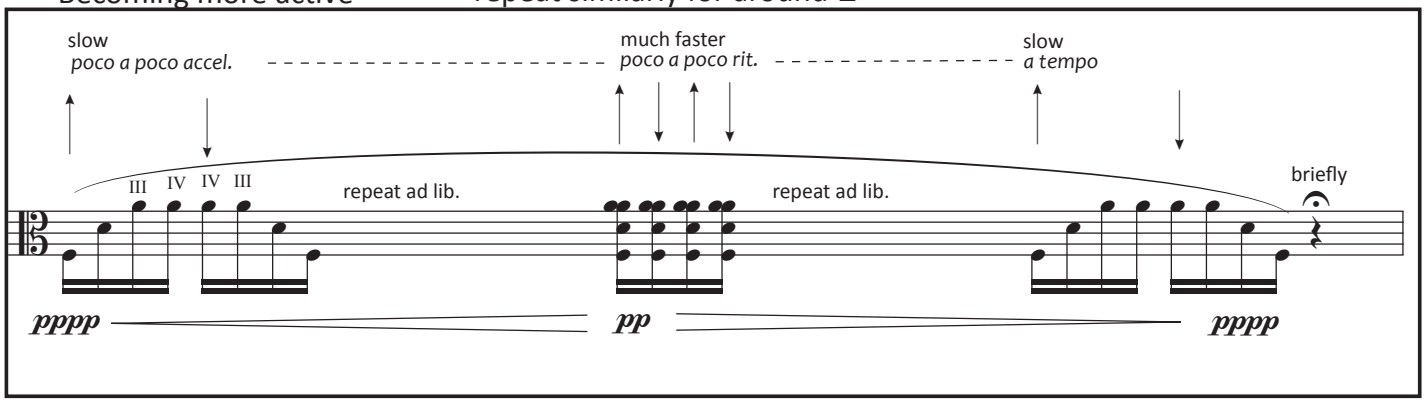
* = Lightly strum up and down as indicated. Mute the A string until measure three.

repeat similarly for around 30"



Becoming more active

repeat similarly for around 1'



continue to movement II when the mandolin solo begins

© 2022 Joseph Michaels

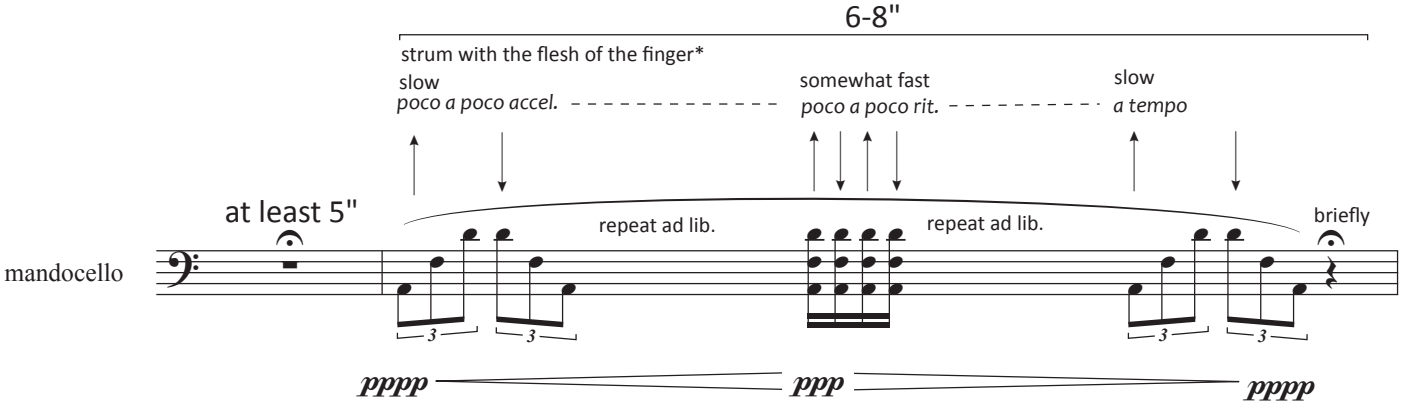
Two by Three in Anza Borrego

I. Wind Picking Up at Dawn

Joe Michaels

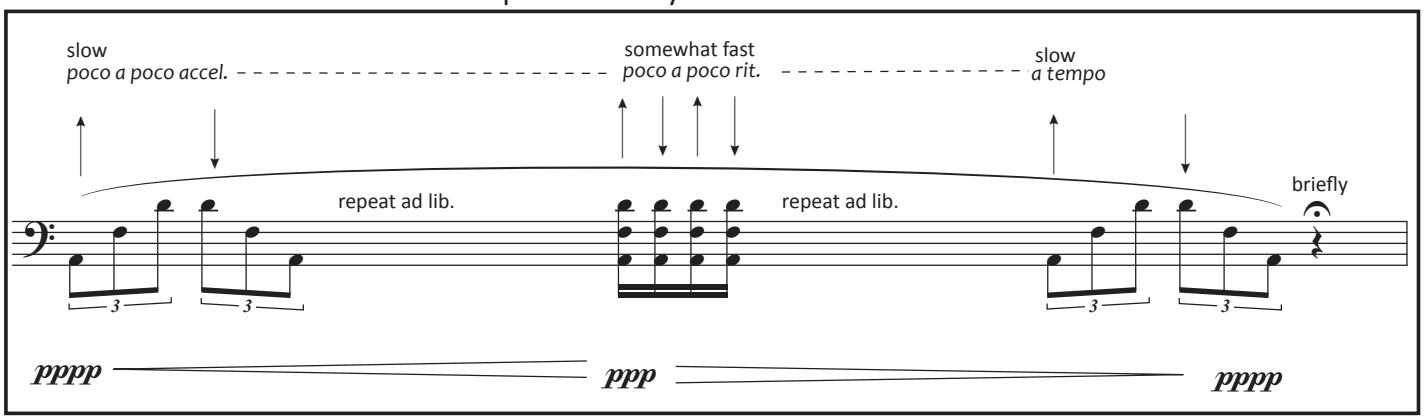
Calm, a quiet rustling, always let ring

Everyone plays independently from each other. Never get loud. A solo mandola begins first, and the other mandolas begin slightly afterwards (but not together). The mandolins, mandocello, and guitars join in after that, staggering their entrances.

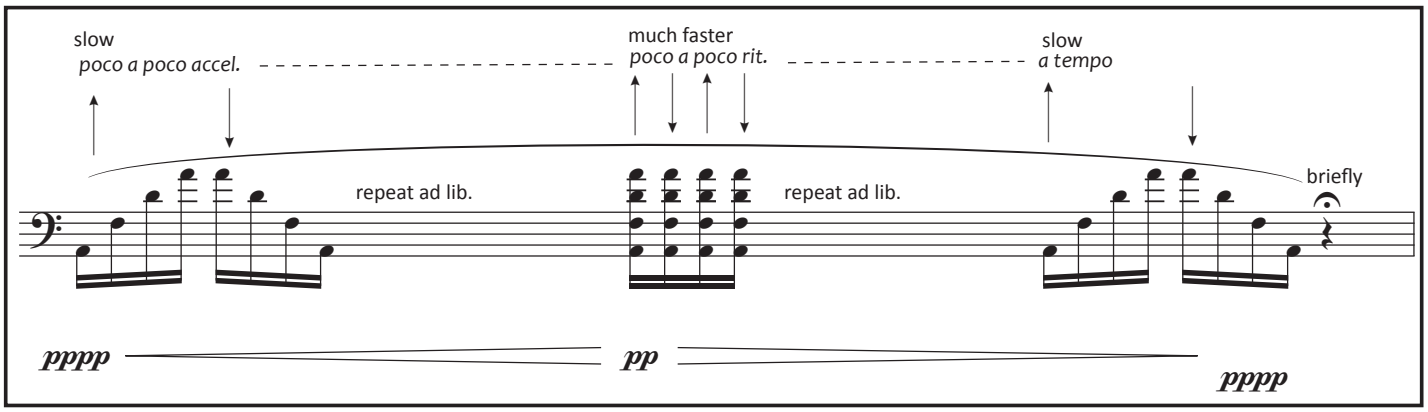


* = Lightly strum up and down as indicated. Mute the A string until the third measure.

repeat similarly for around 30"



Becoming more active repeat similarly for around 1'



continue to movement II when the mandolin solo begins

© 2022 Joseph Michaels

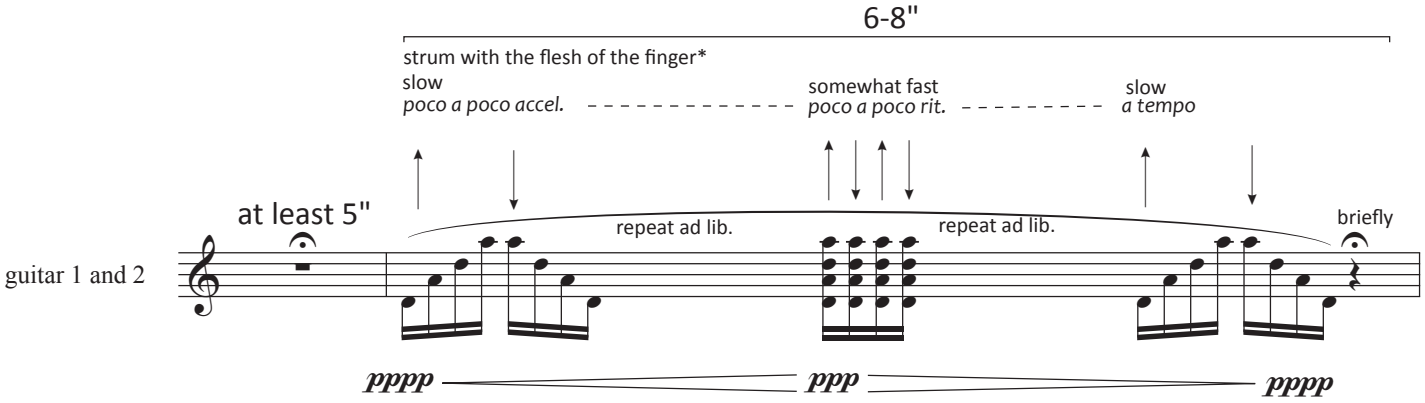
Two by Three in Anza Borrego

Joe Michaels

I. Wind Picking Up at Dawn

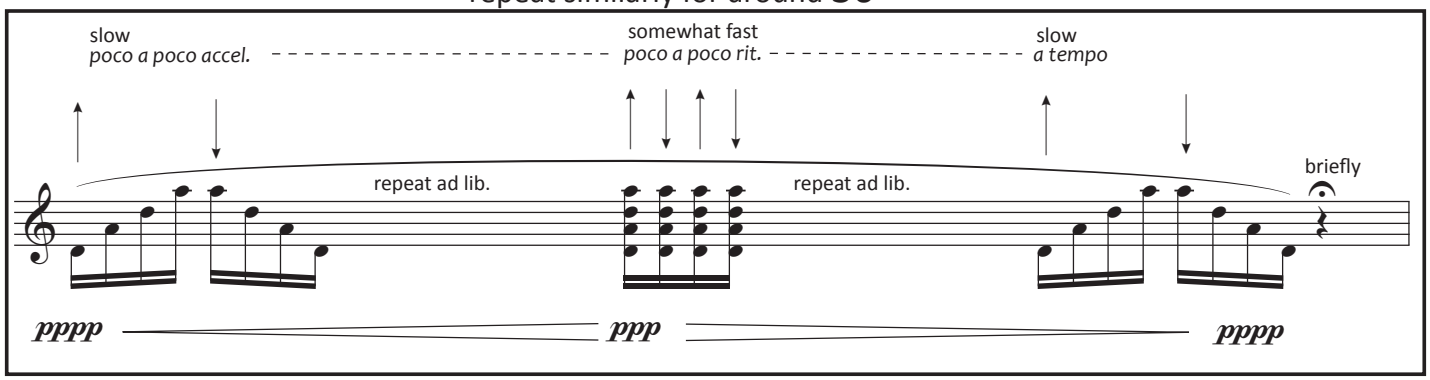
Calm, a quiet rustling, always let ring

Everyone plays independently from each other. Never get loud. A solo mandola begins first, and the other mandolas begin slightly afterwards (but not together). The mandolins, mandocello, and guitars join in after that, staggering their entrances.



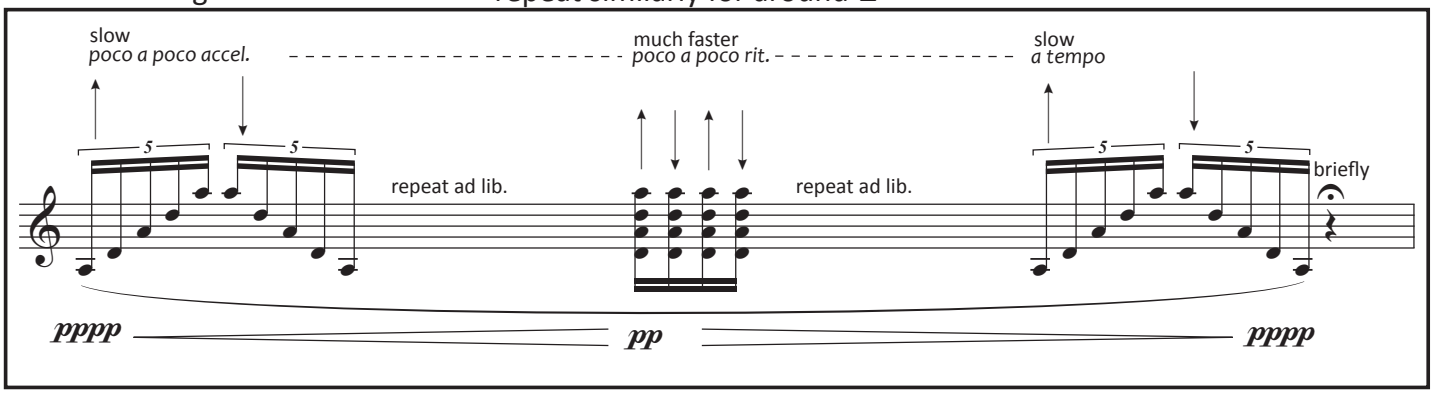
* = Lightly strum up and down as indicated. Always mute the low E string. Mute the high E string until the third measure.

repeat similarly for around 30"



Becoming more active

repeat similarly for around 1'



continue to movement II when the mandolin solo begins

© 2022 Joseph Michaels

Two by Three in Anza Borrego

I. Wind Picking Up at Dawn

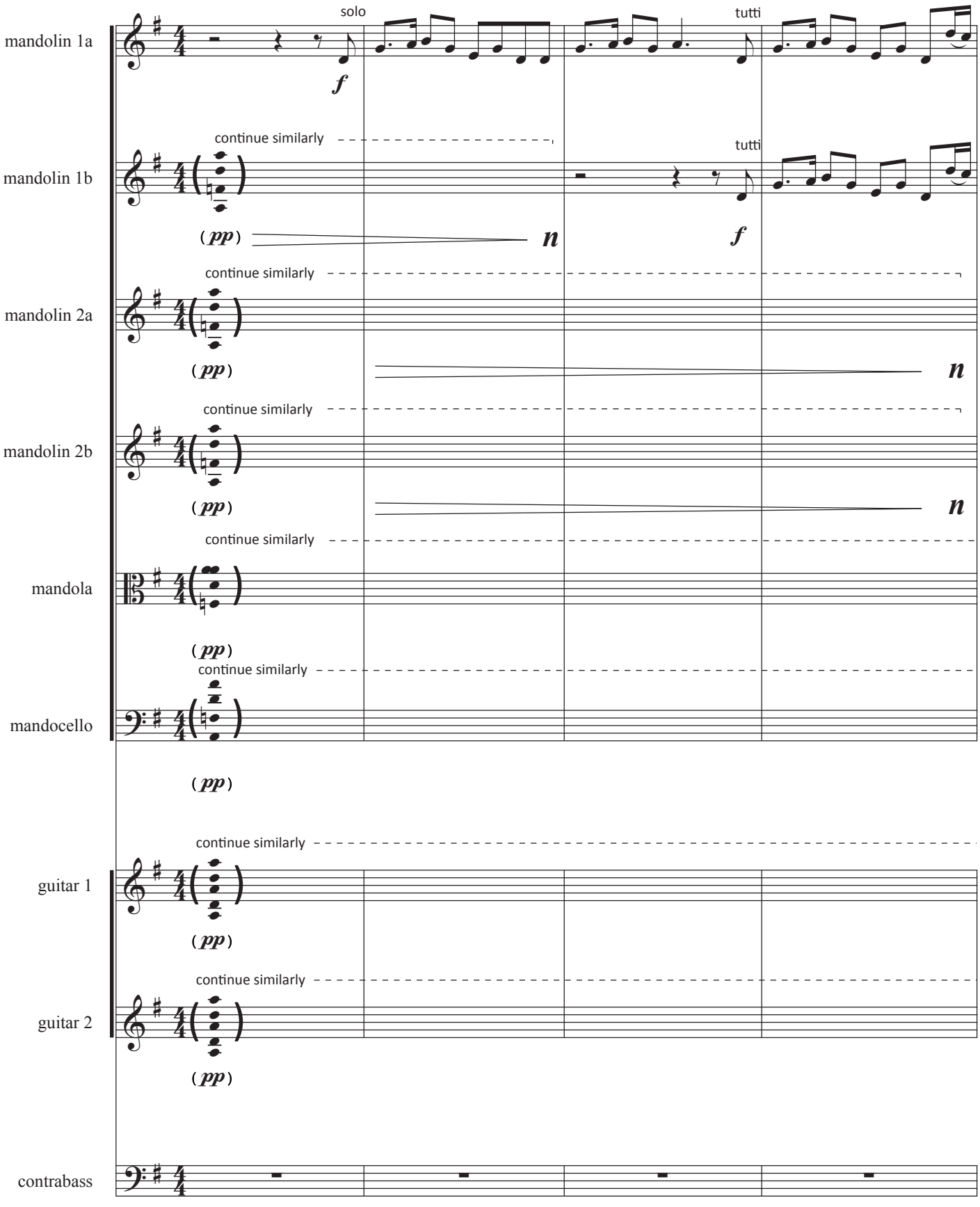
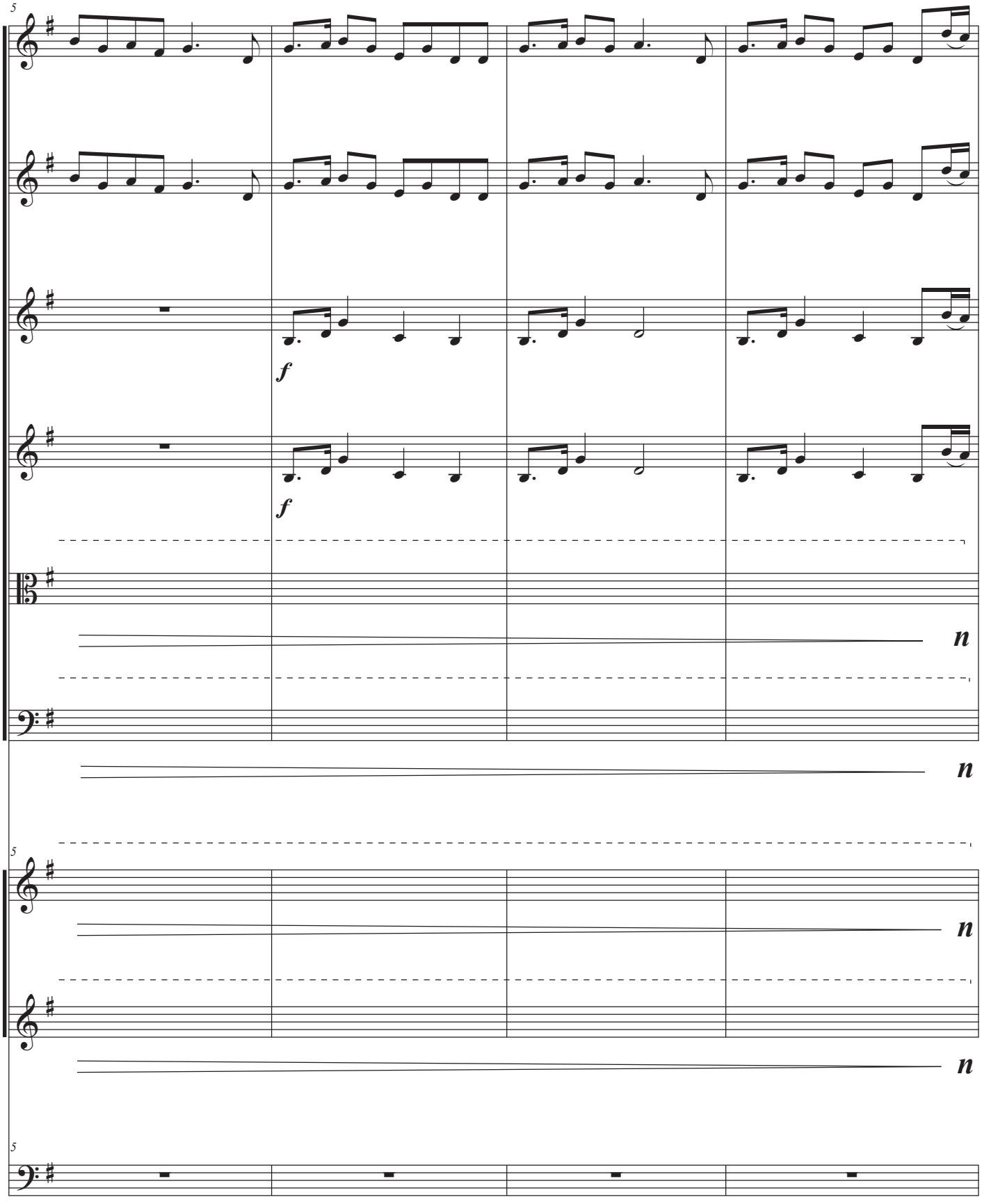
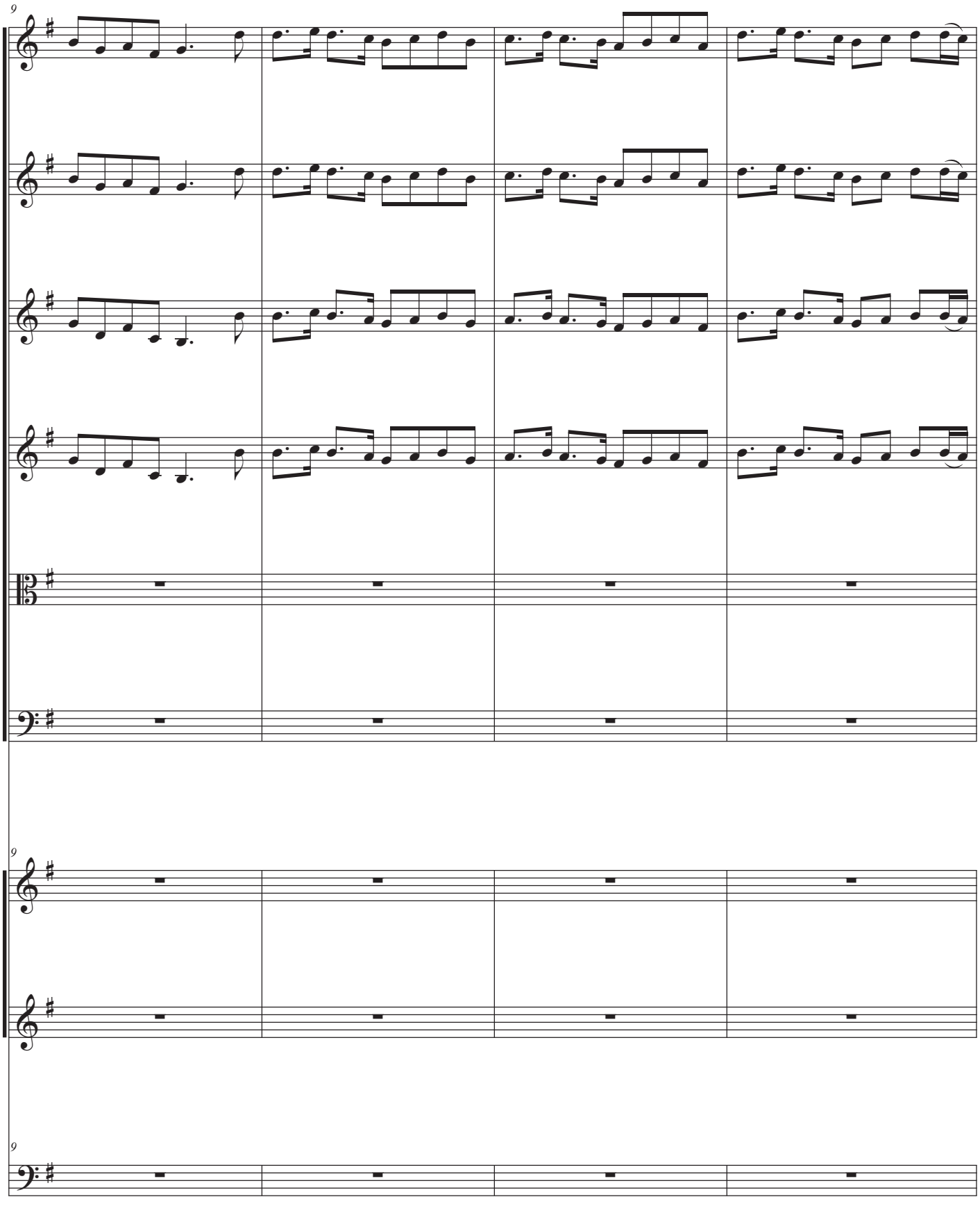
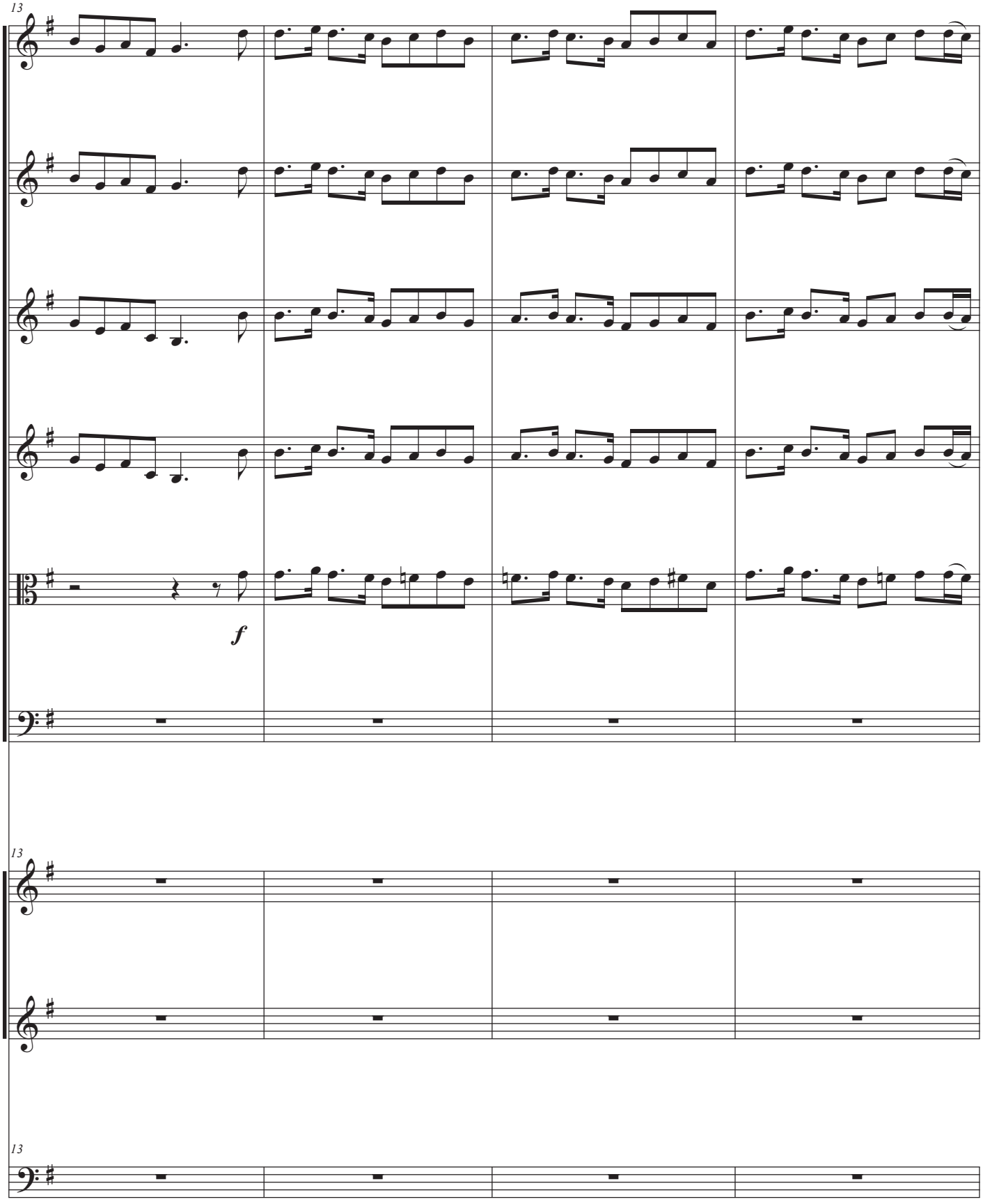
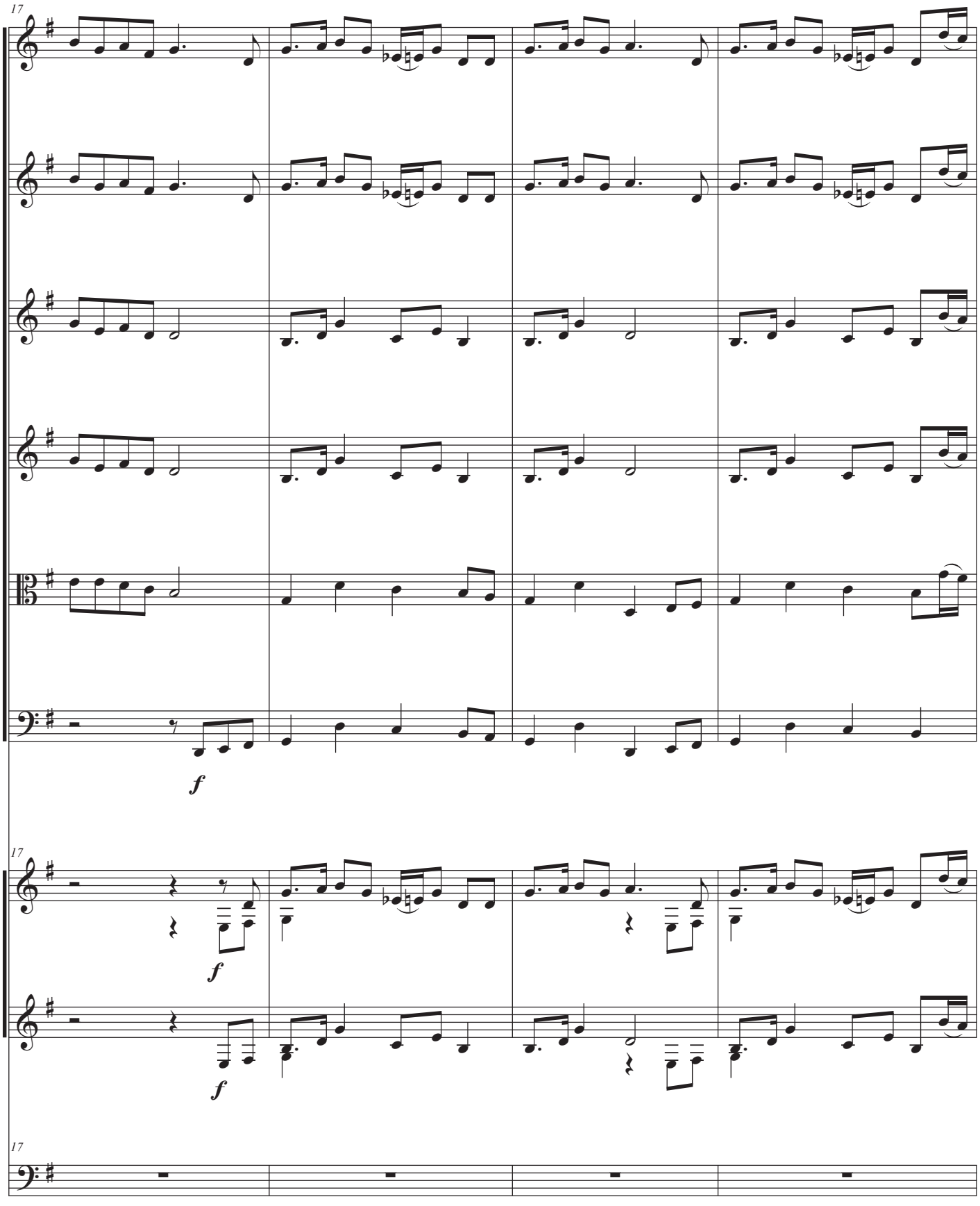
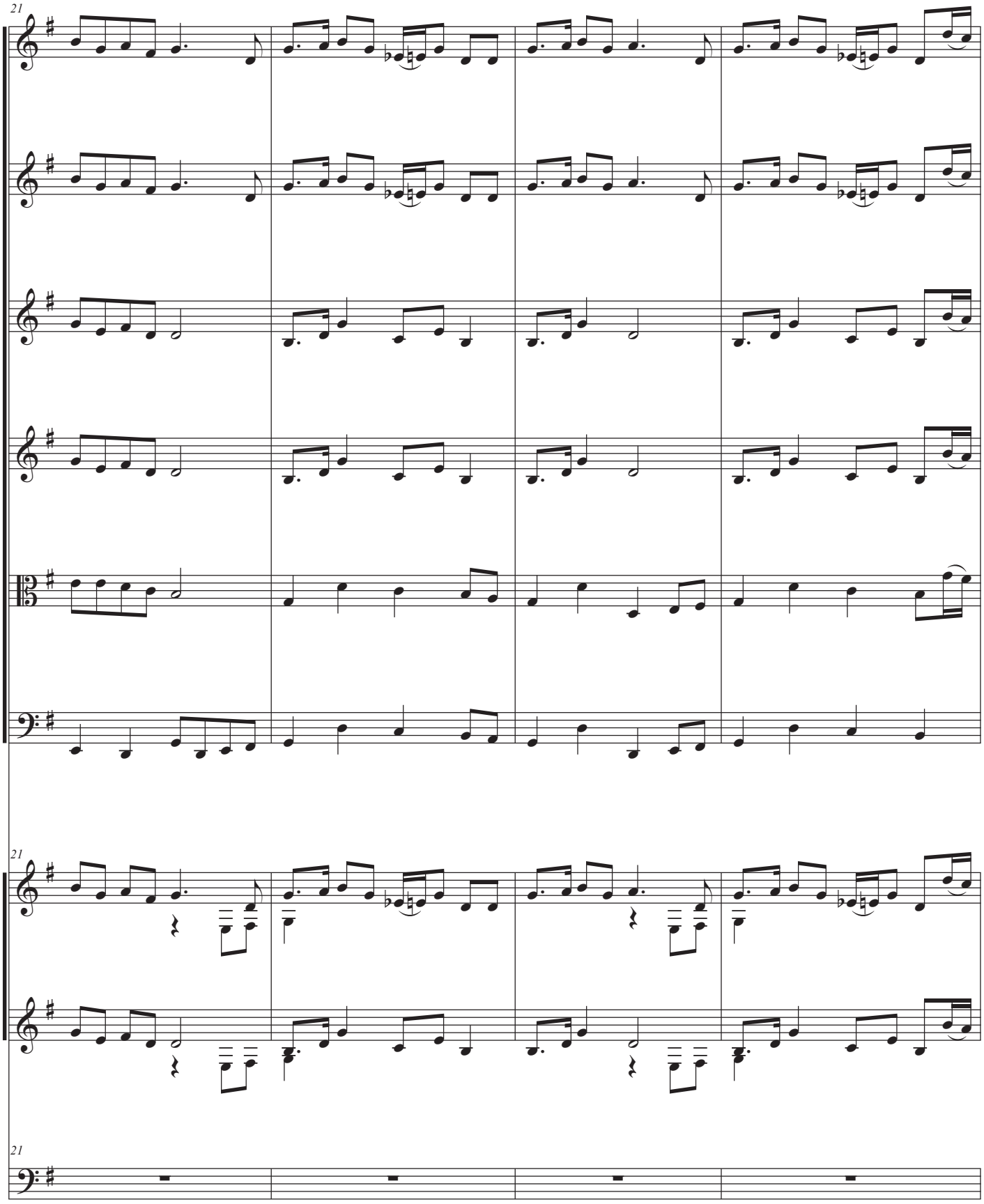
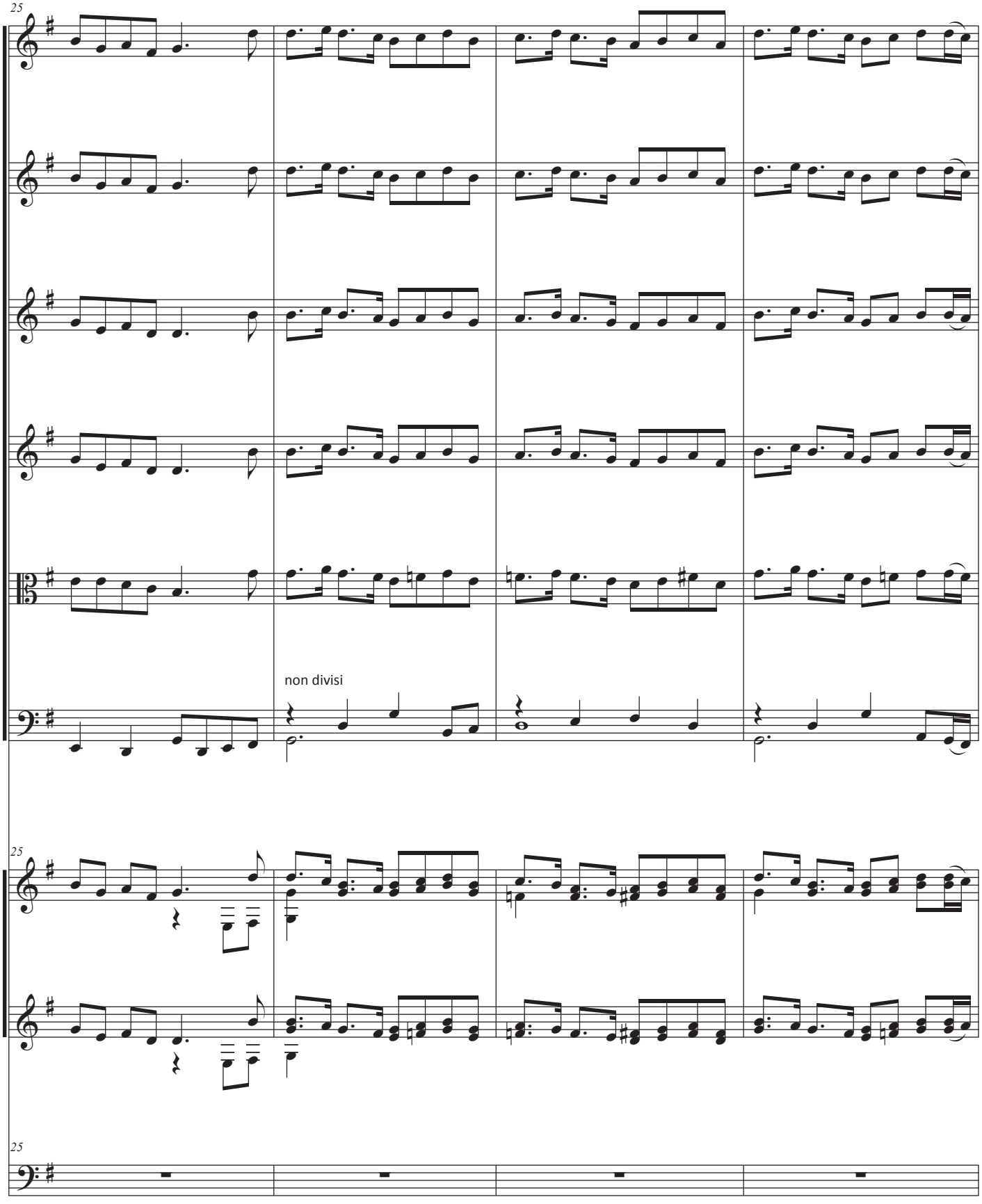
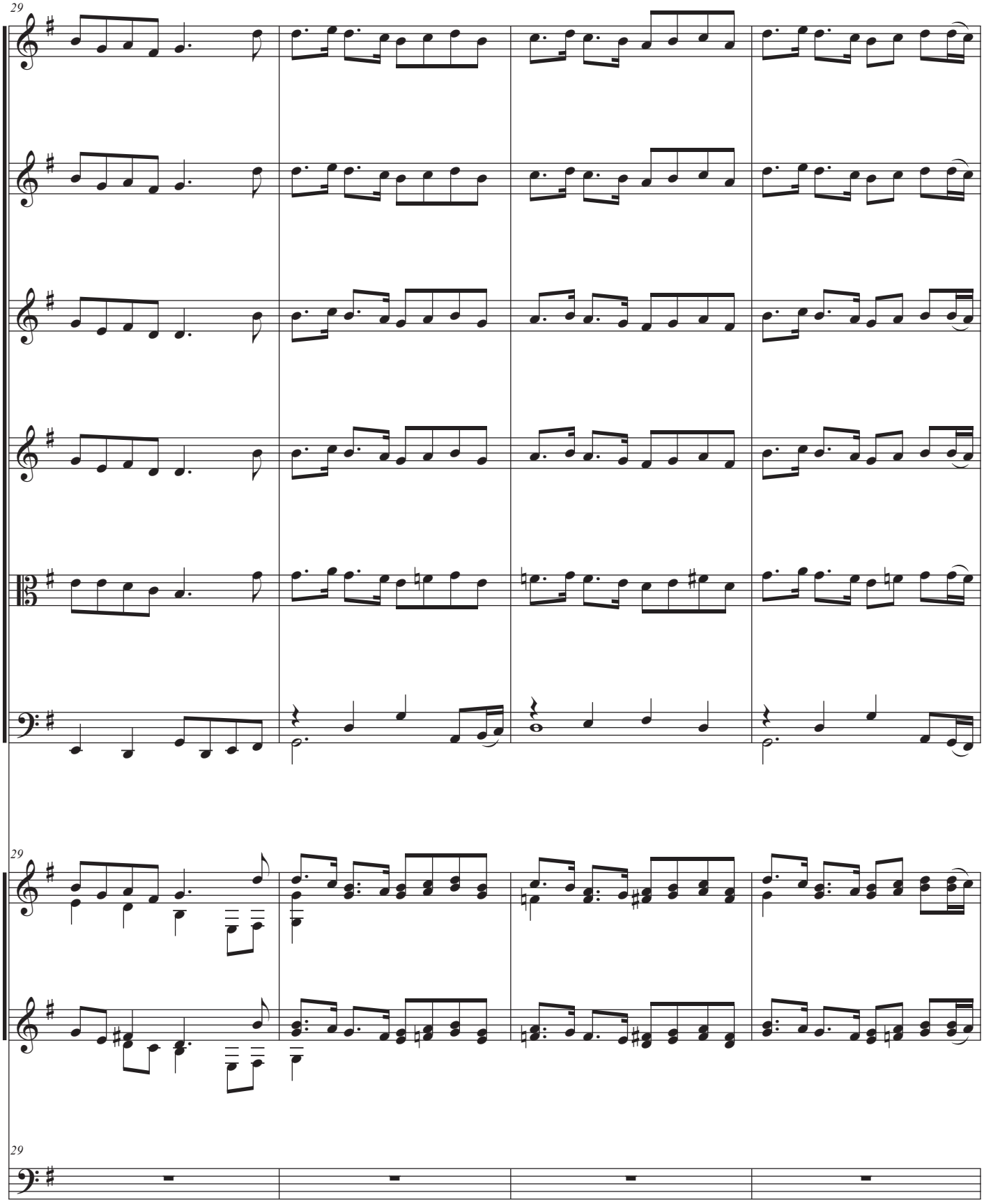
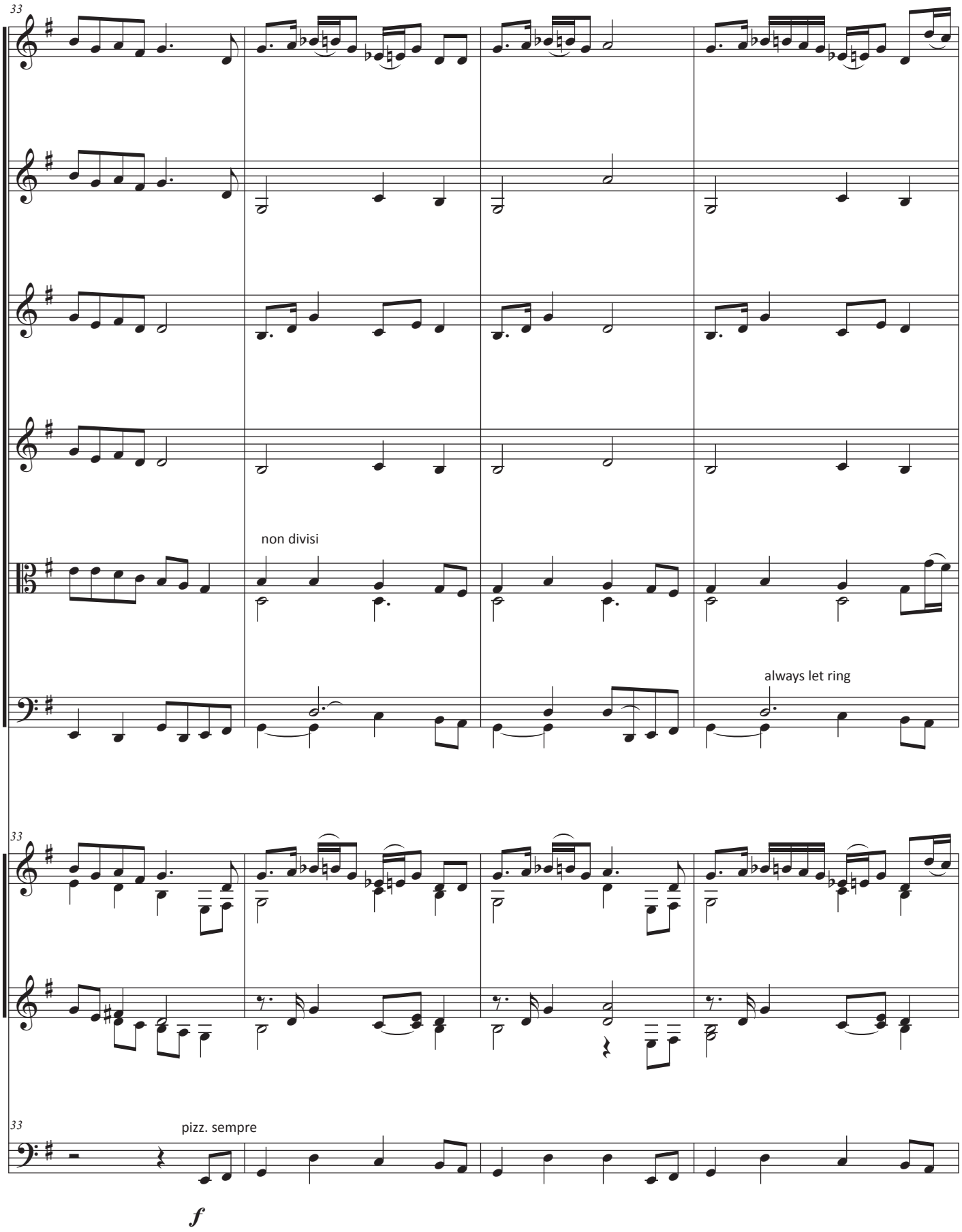
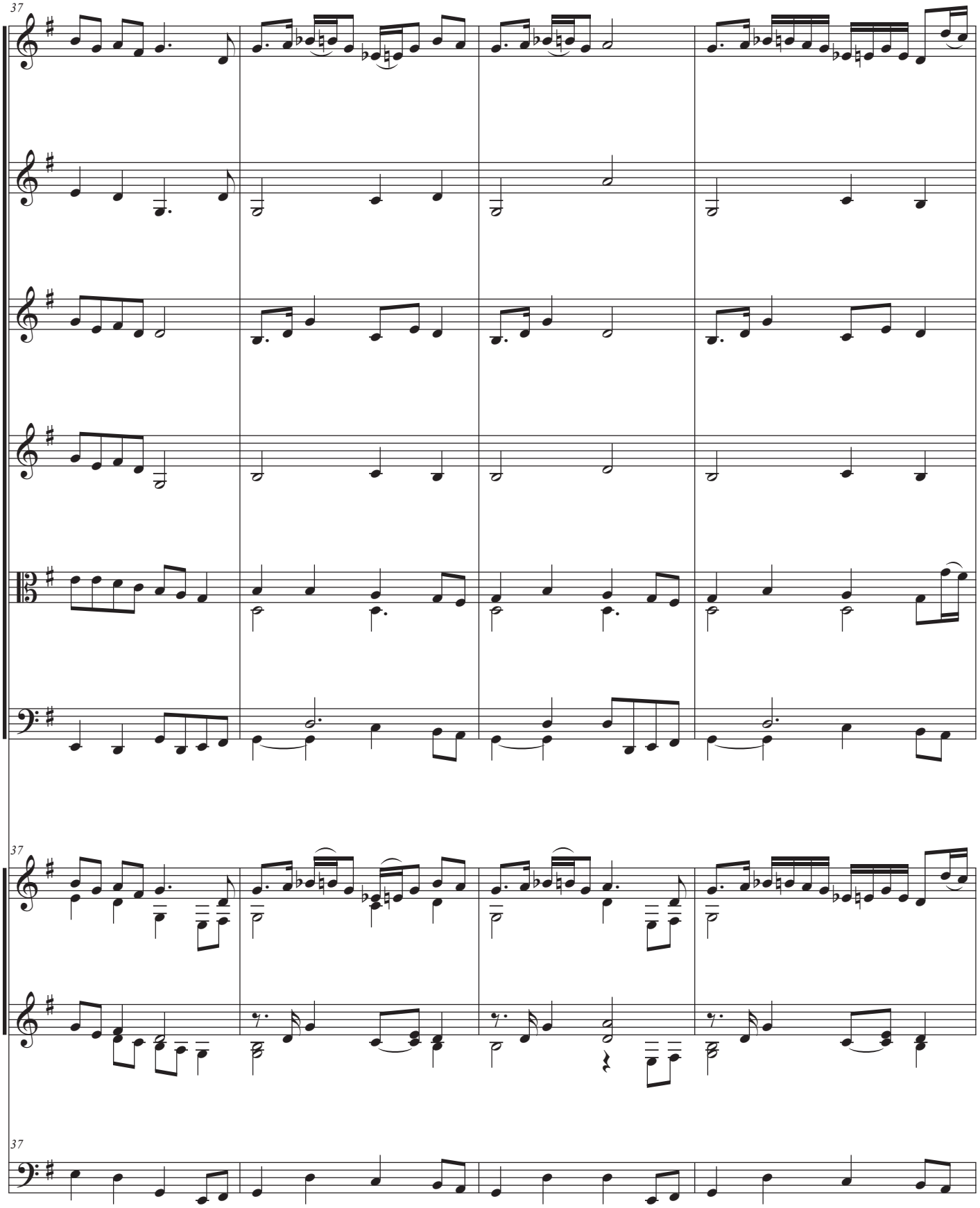
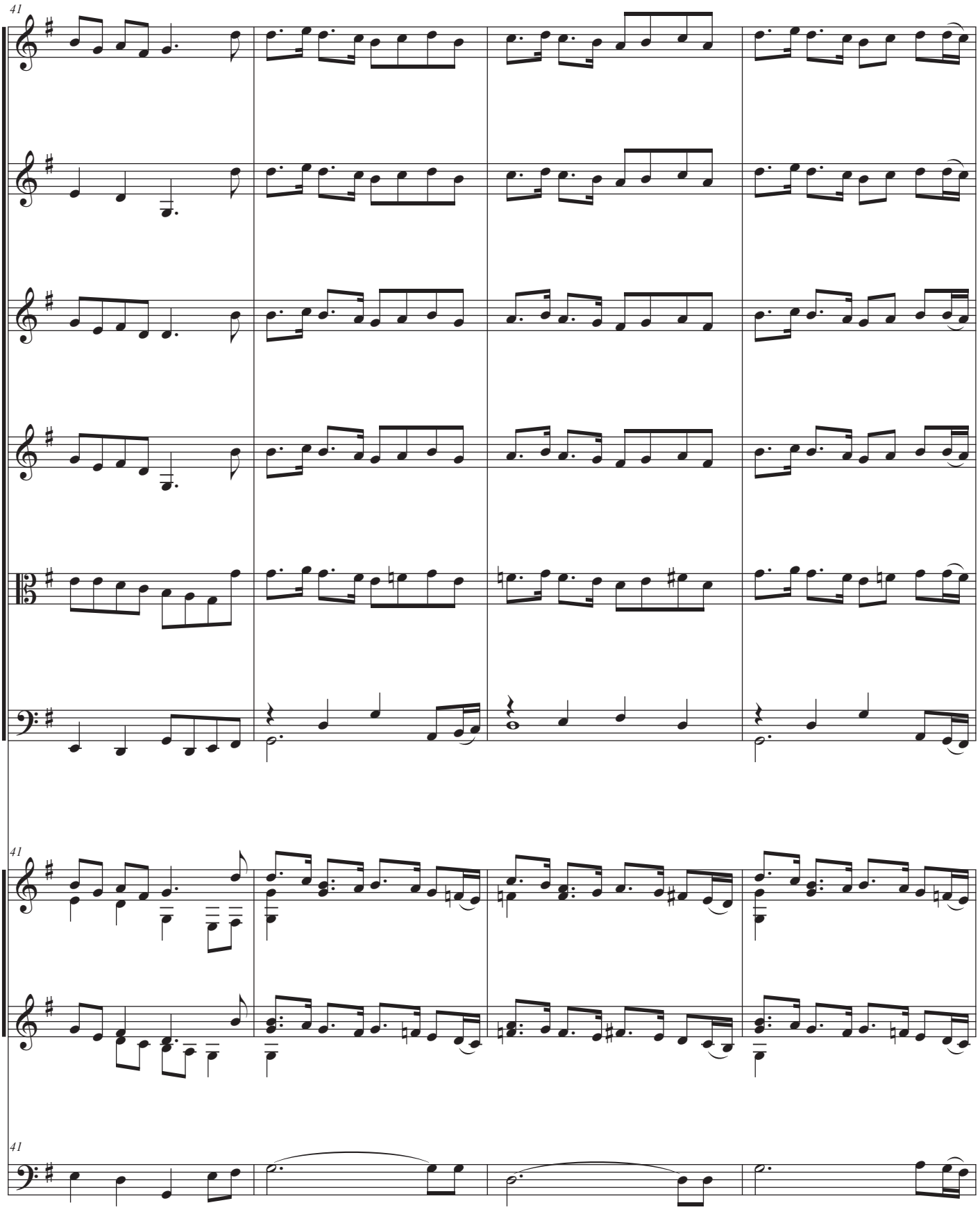
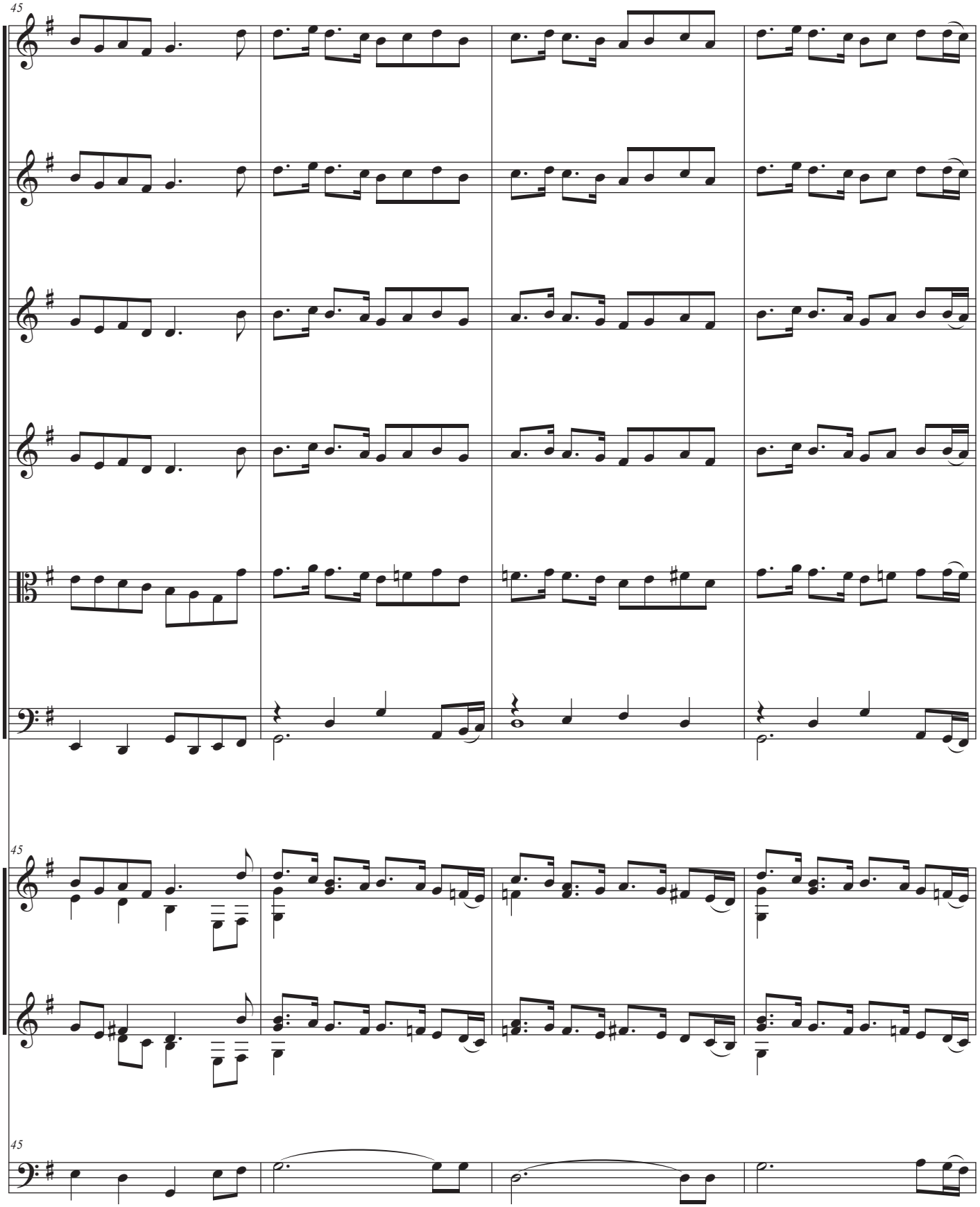
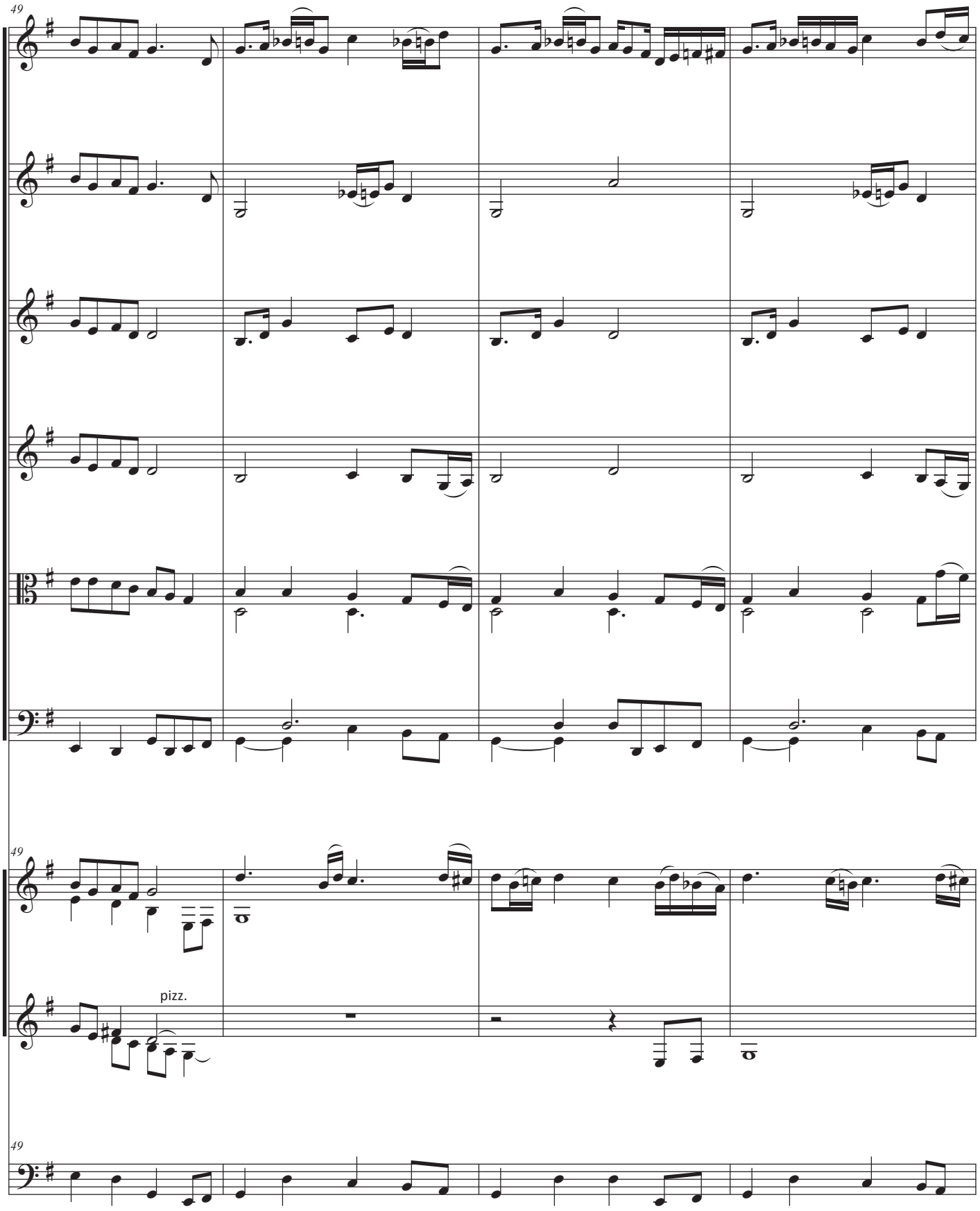
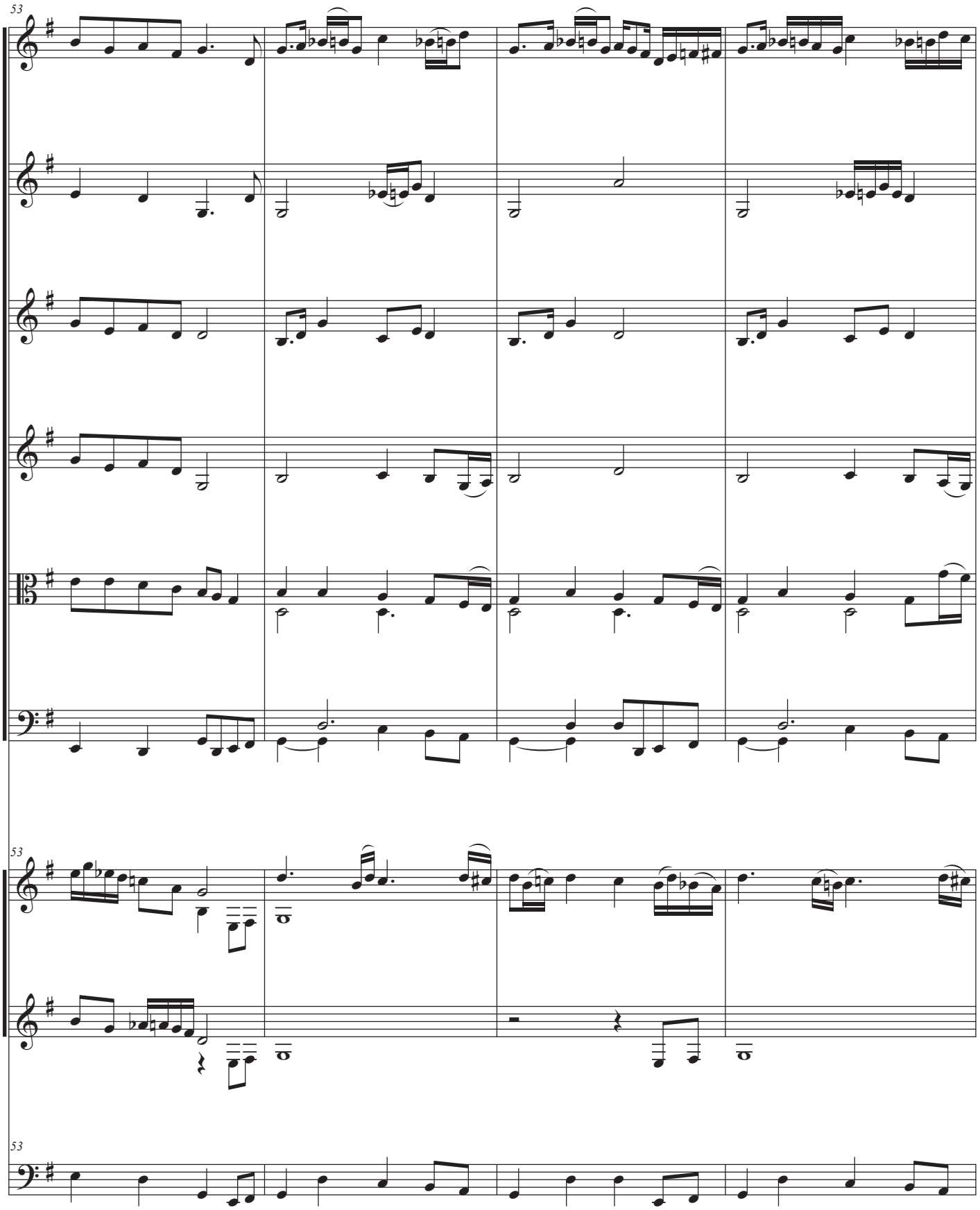
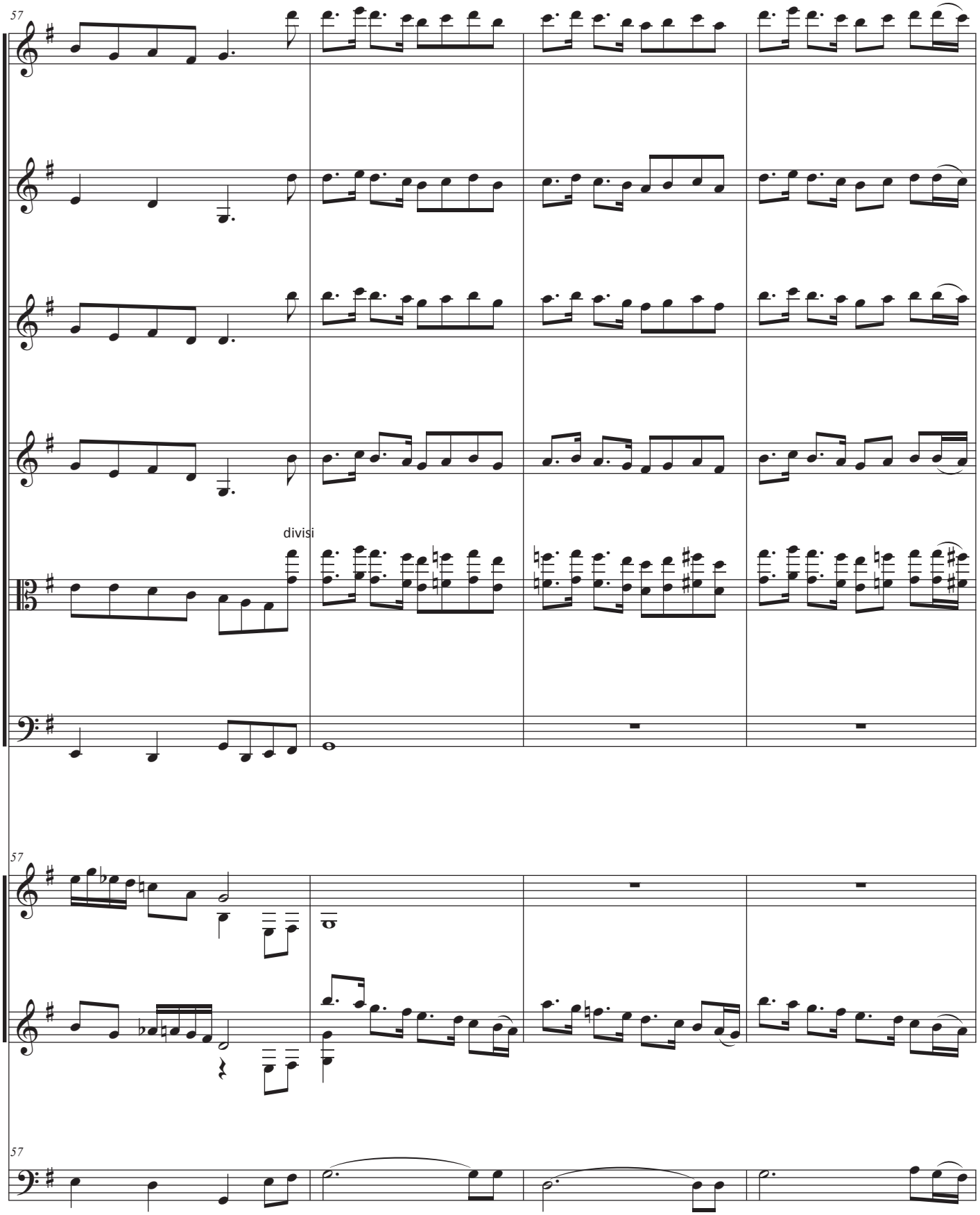
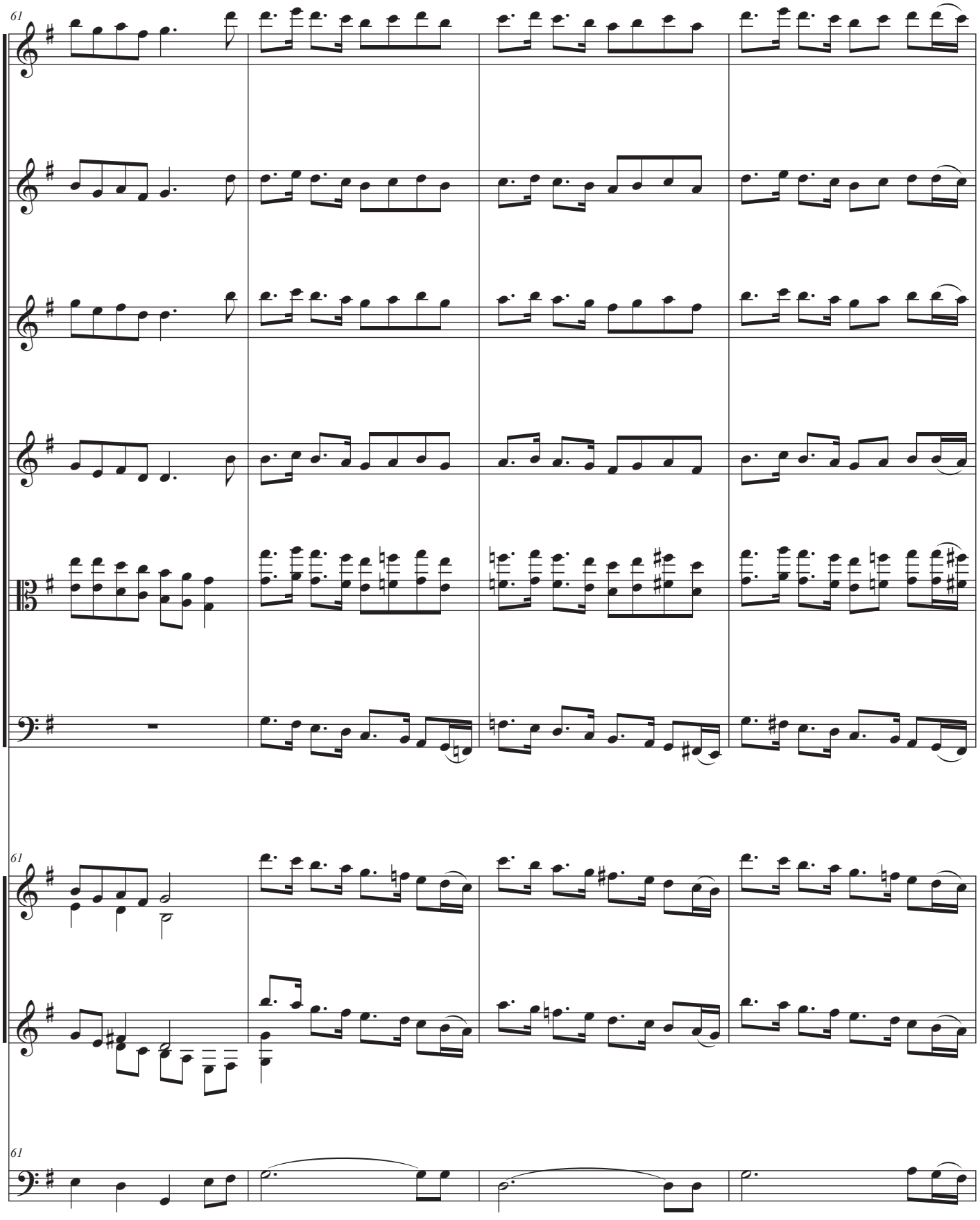
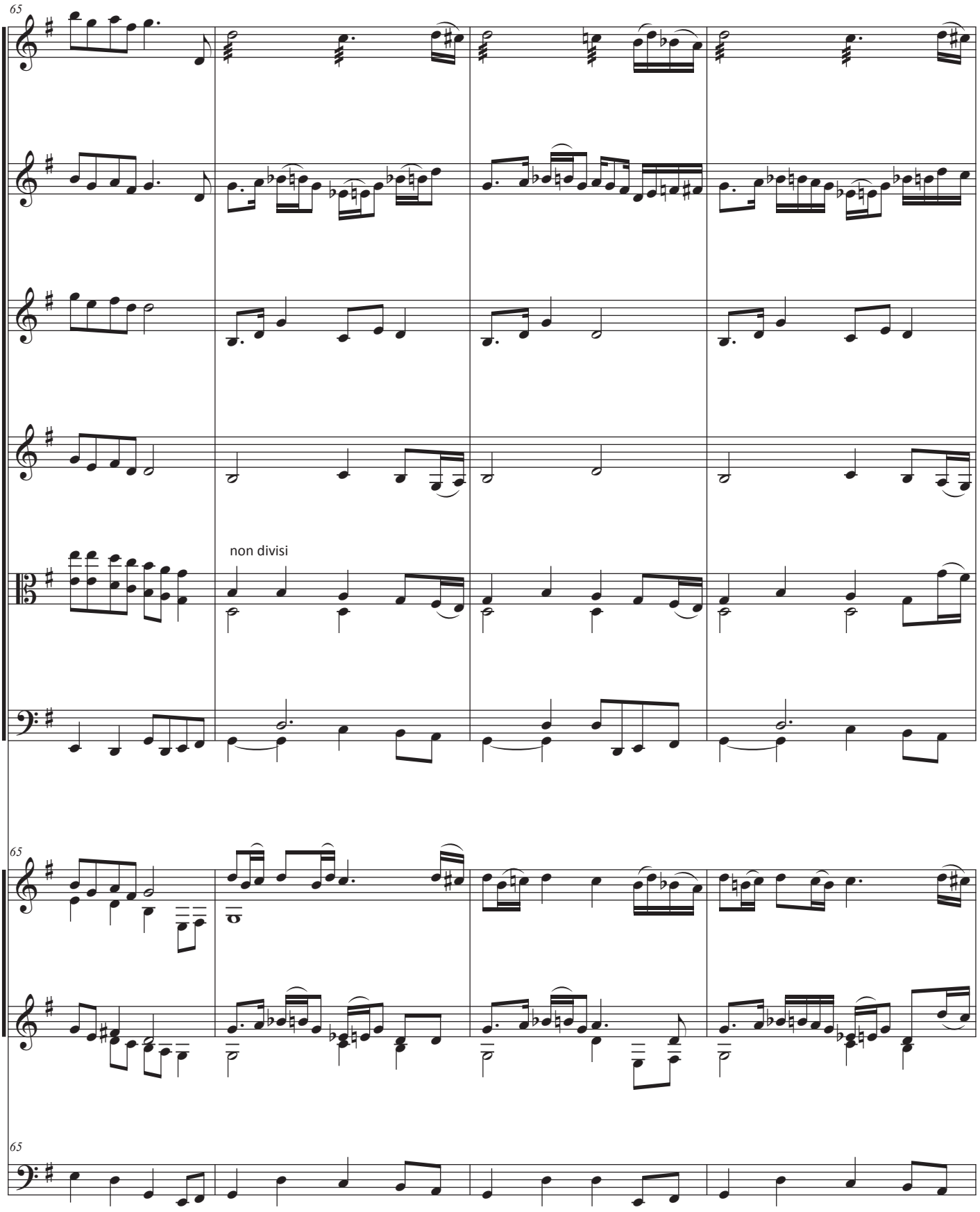
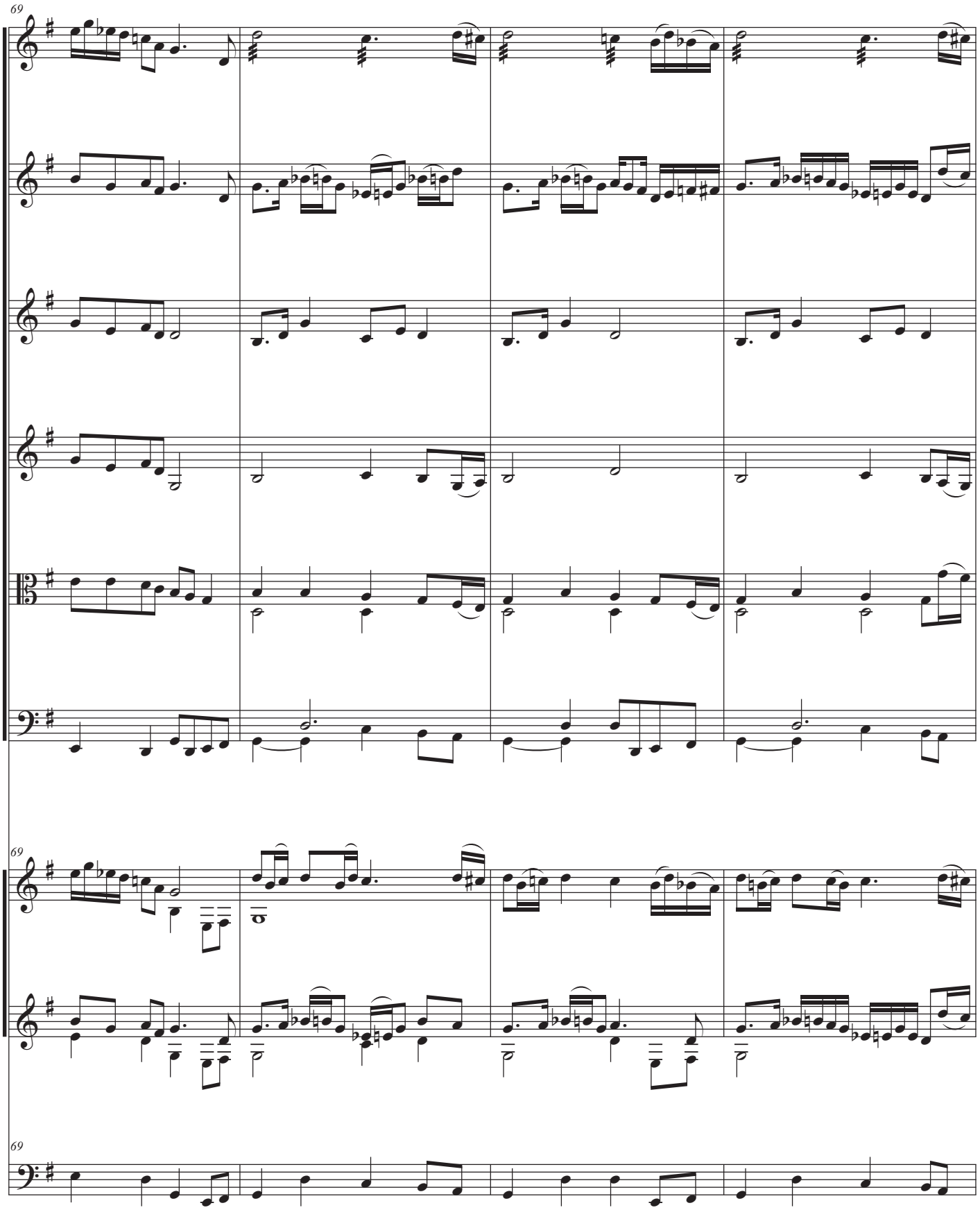
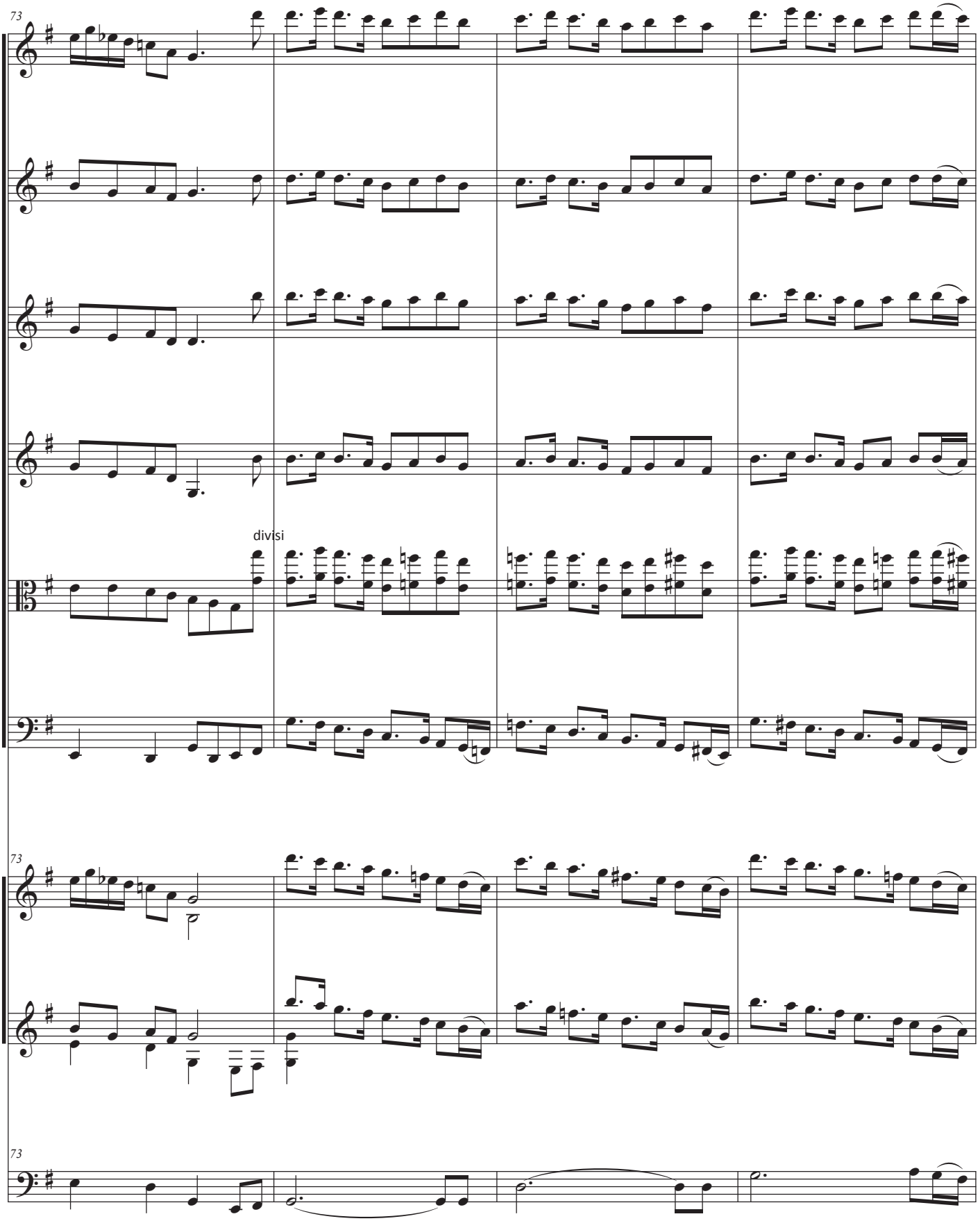
Joe Michaels

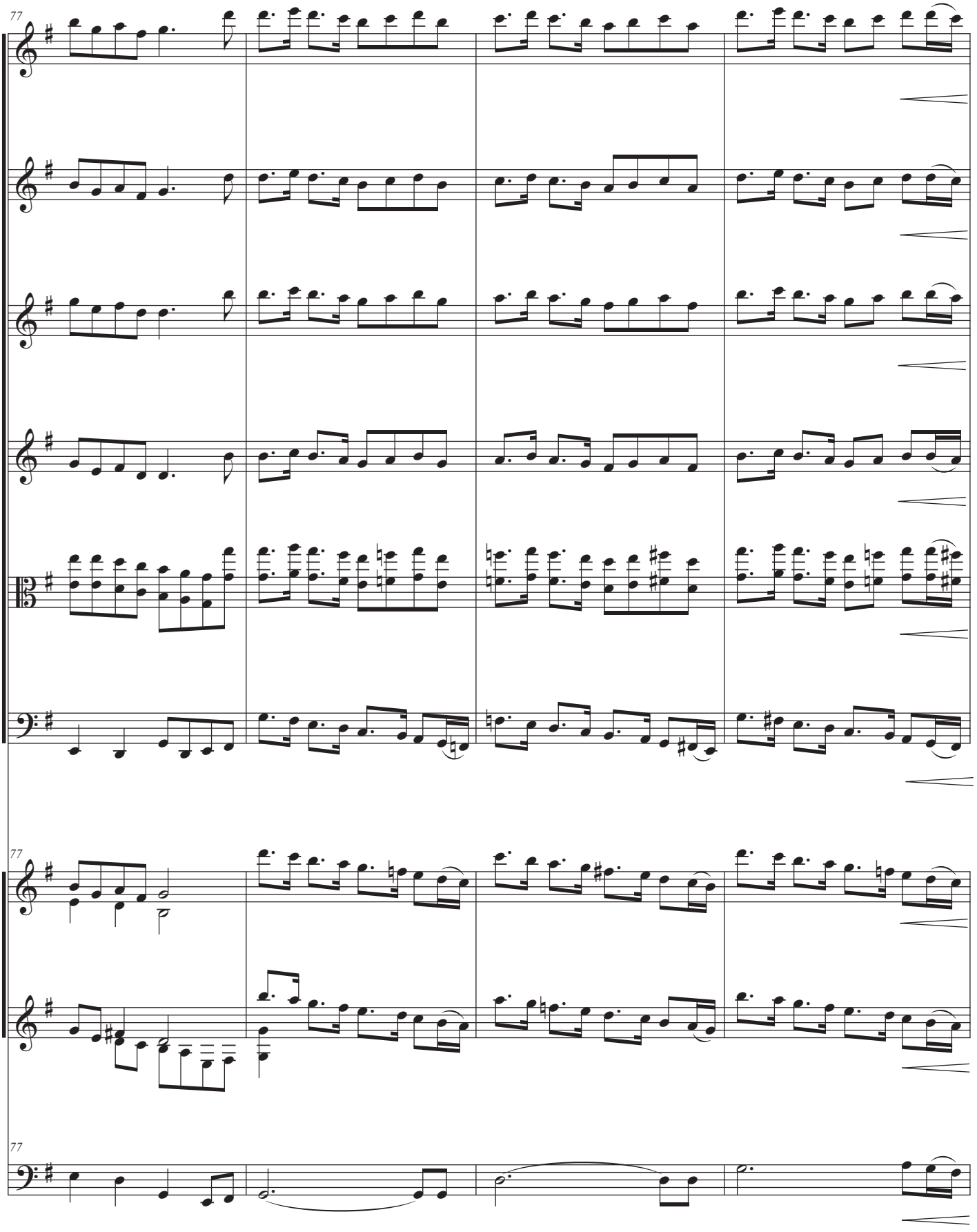
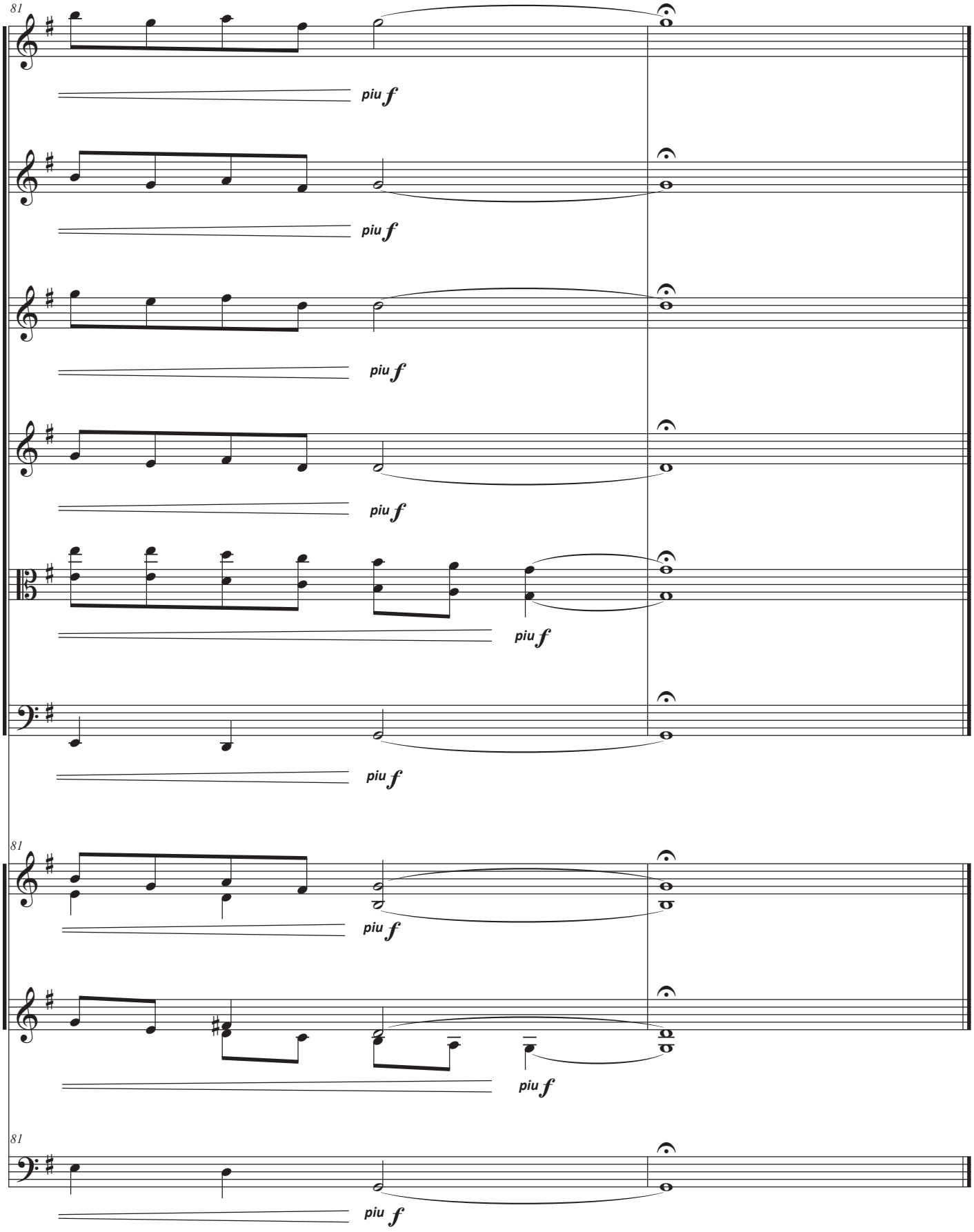
contrabass

continue to movement II when
the mandolin solo begins

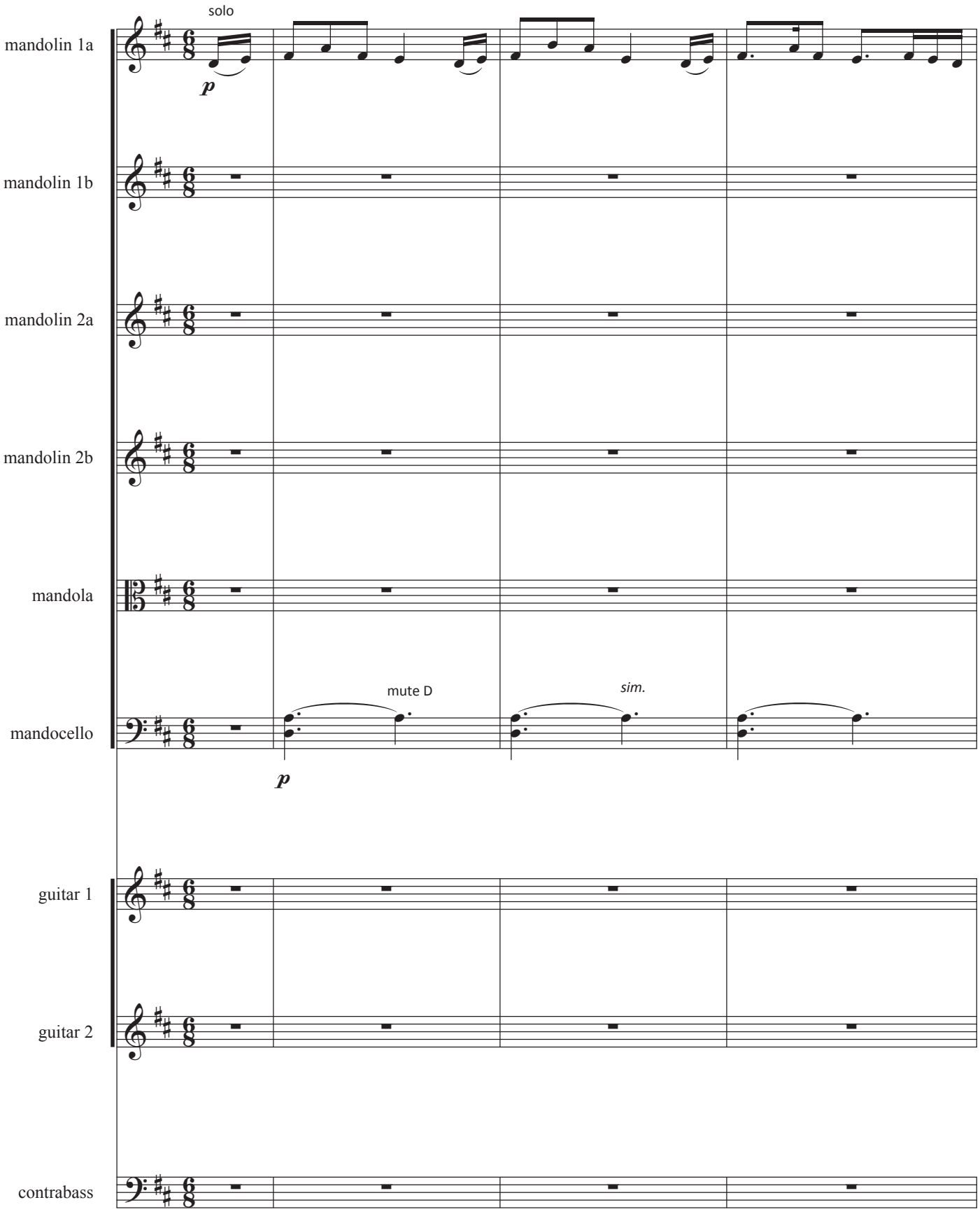
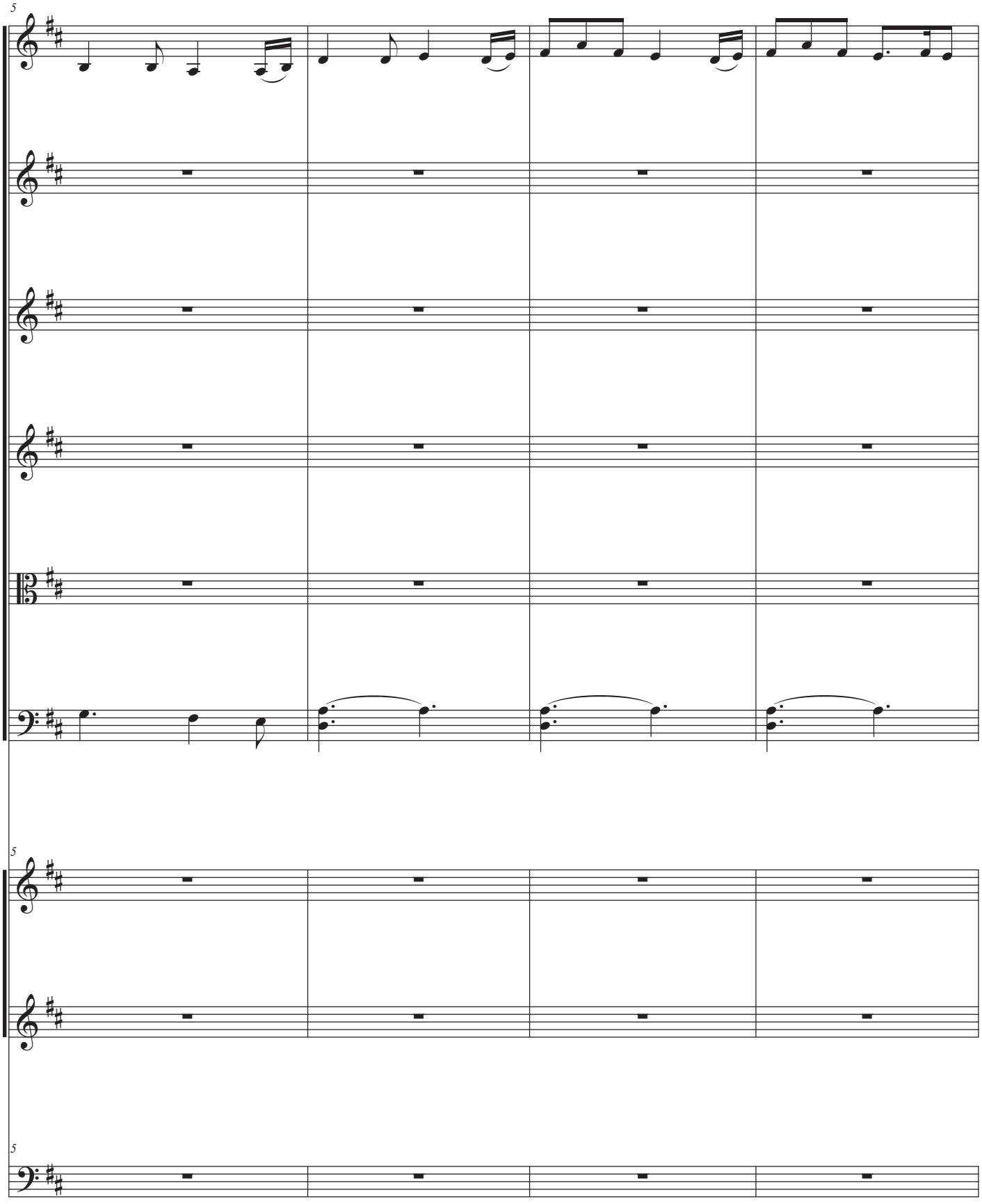
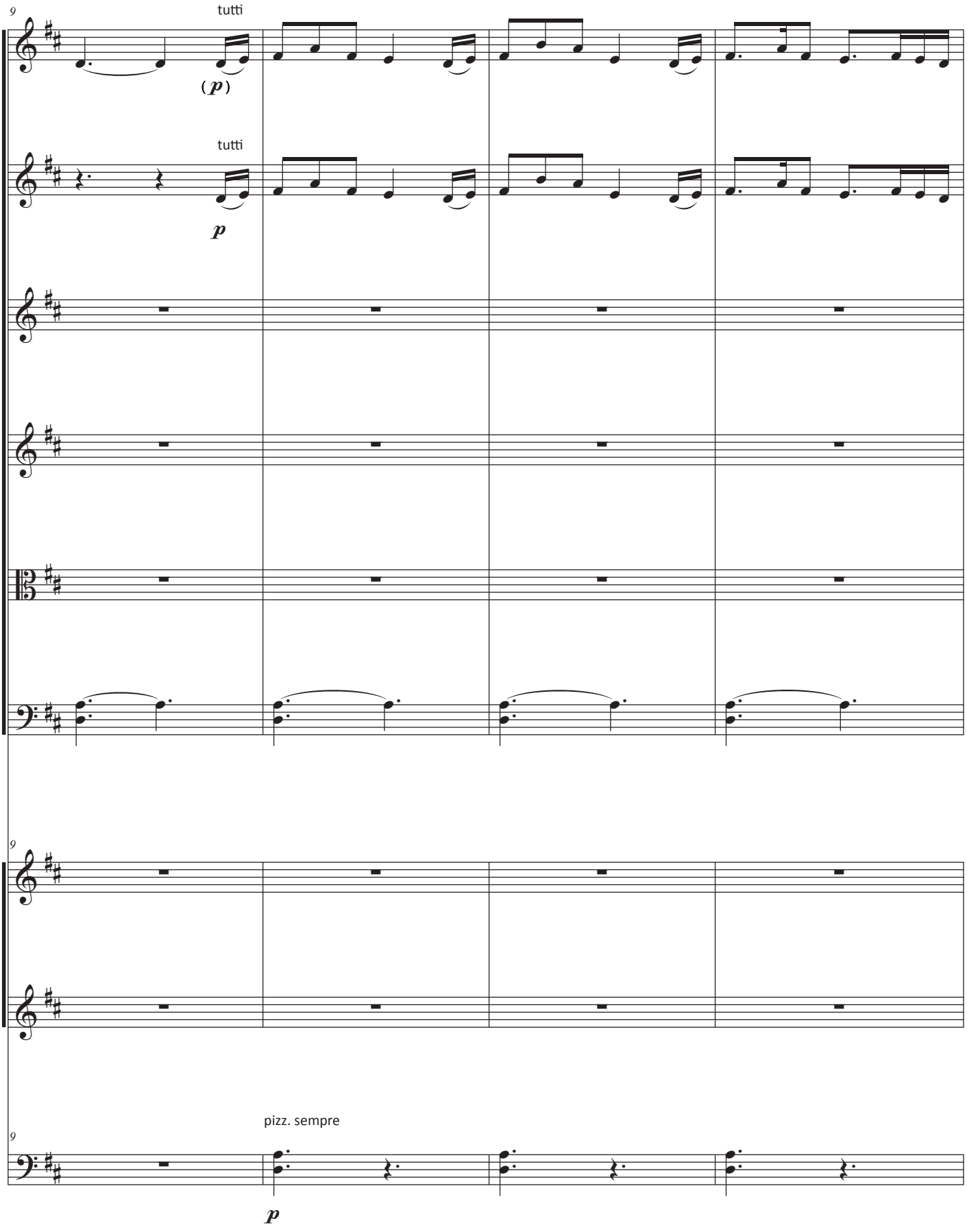
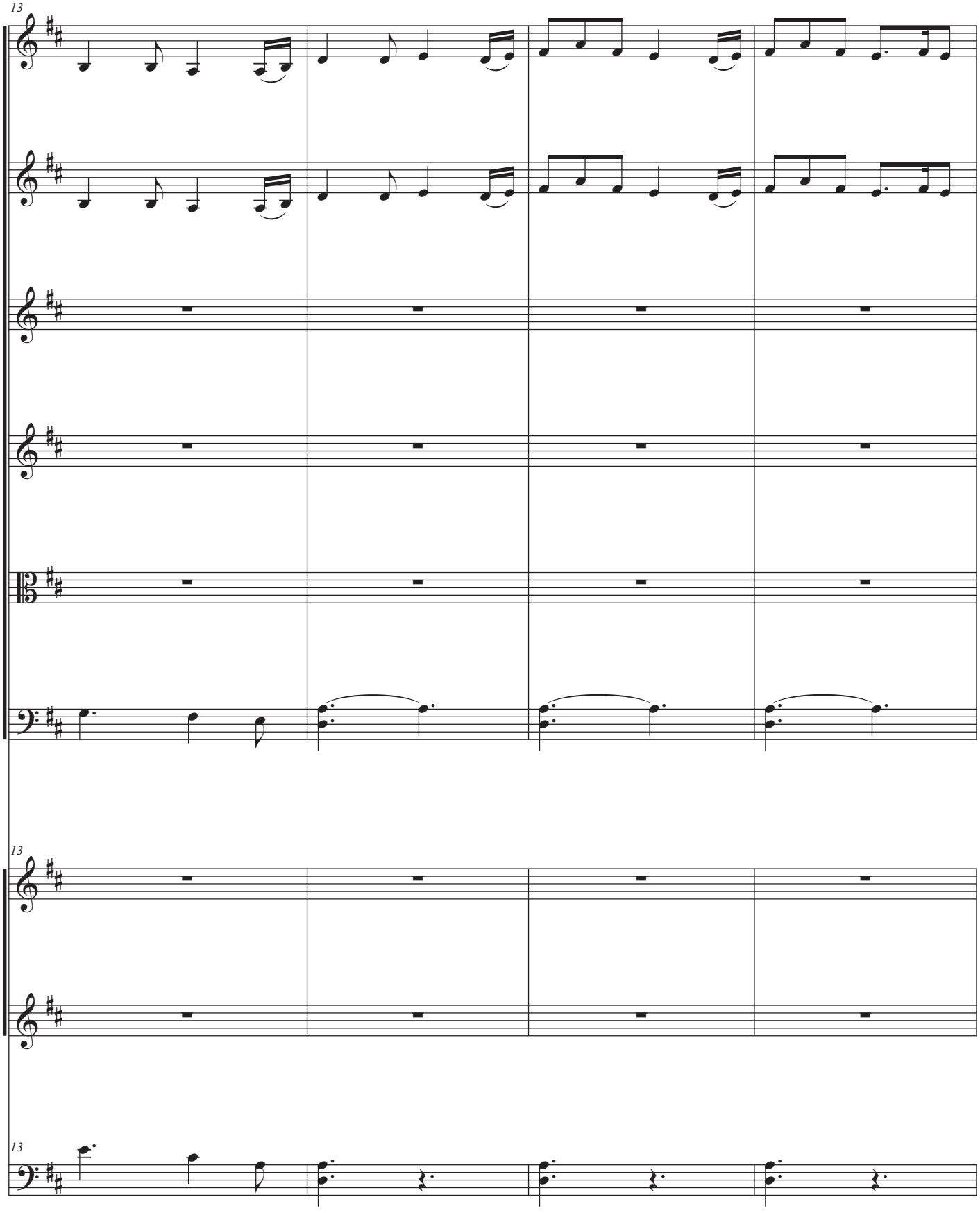
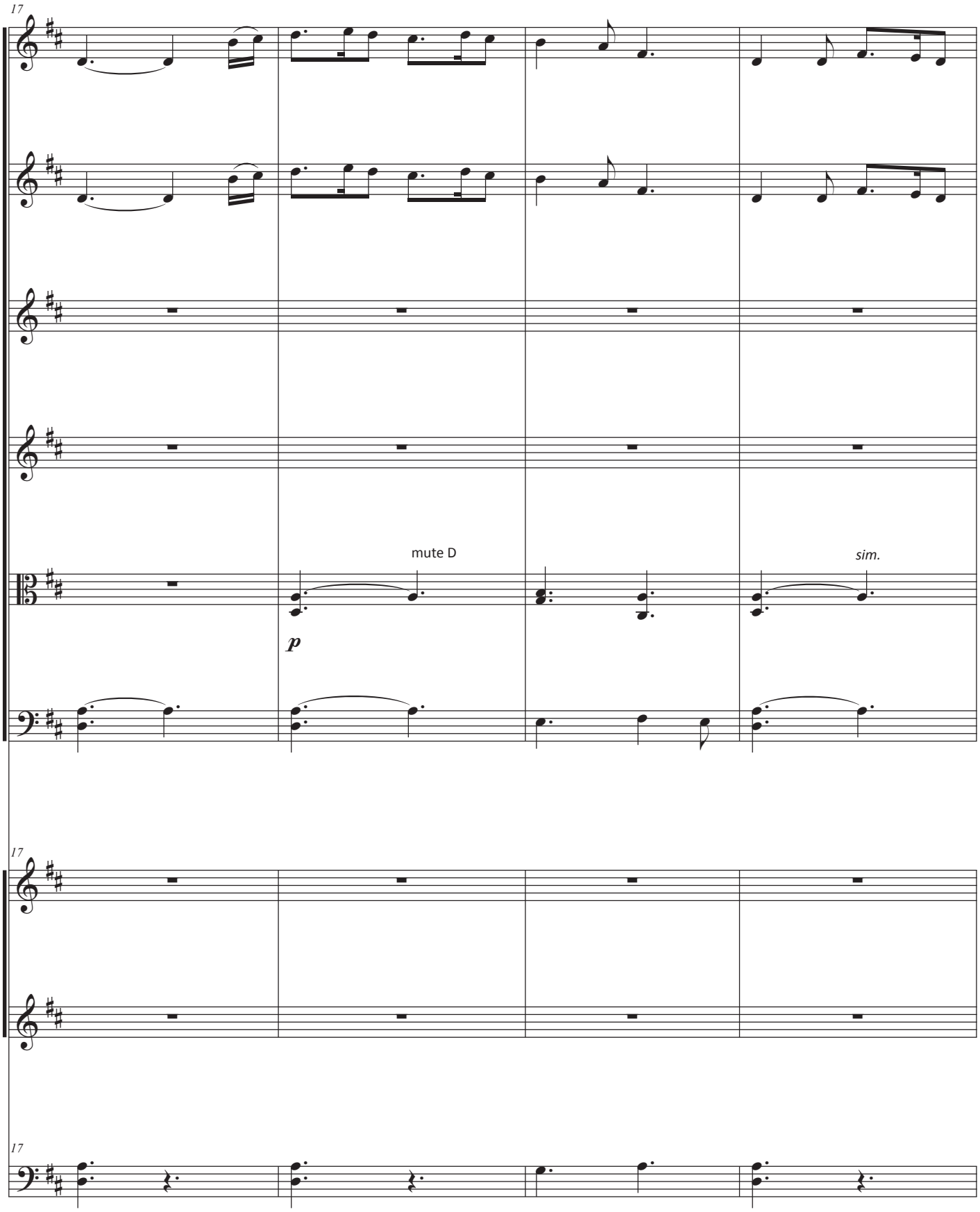
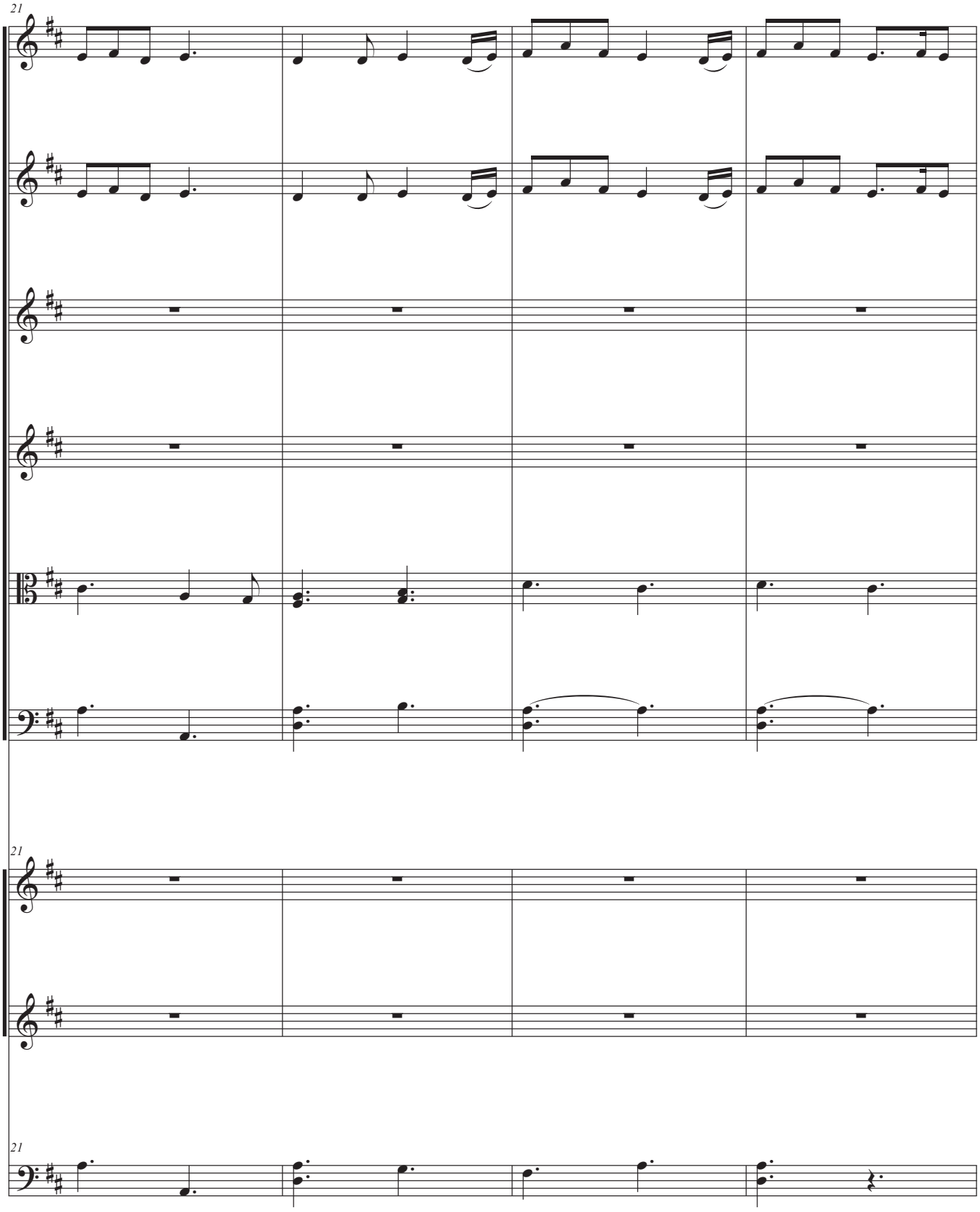
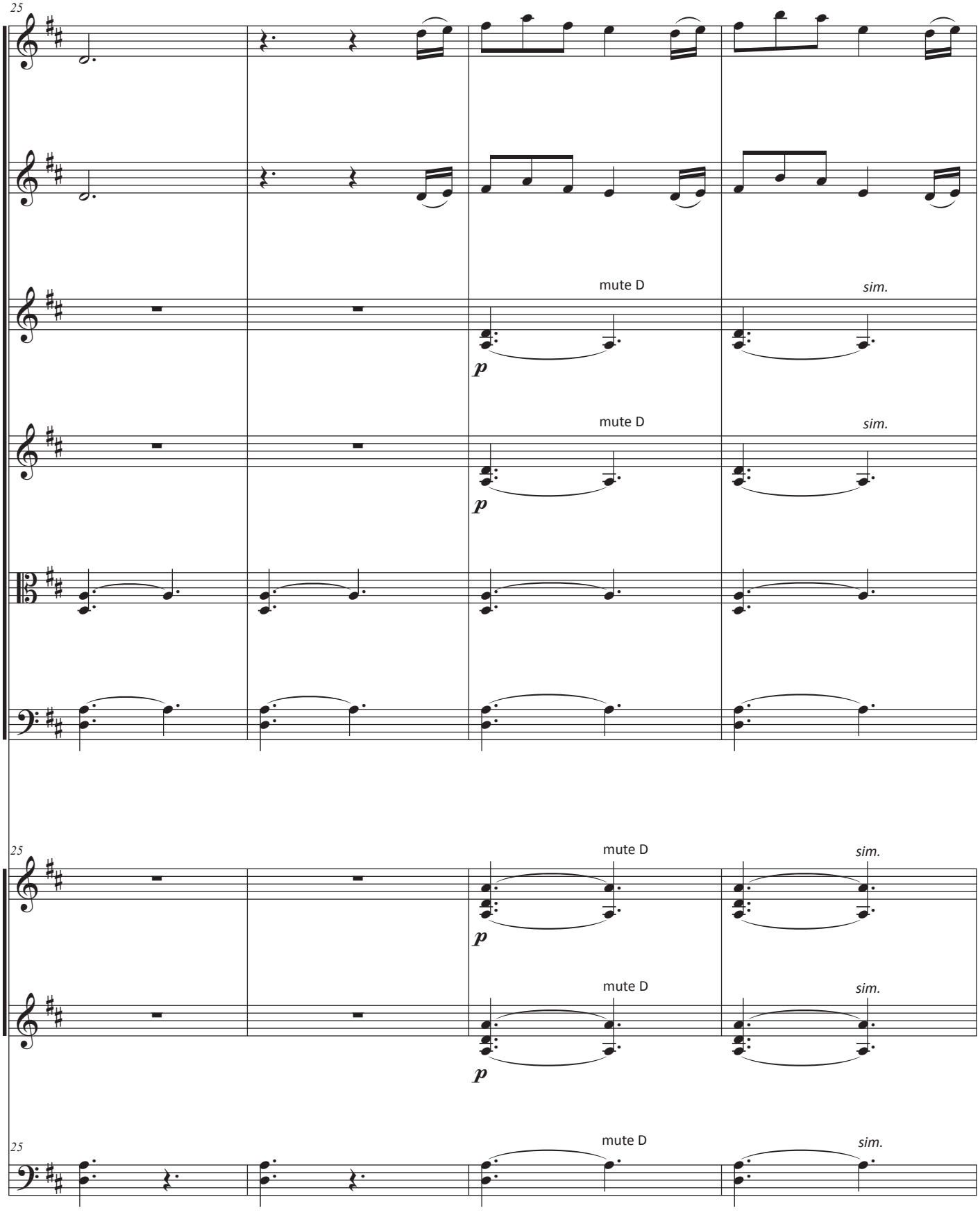
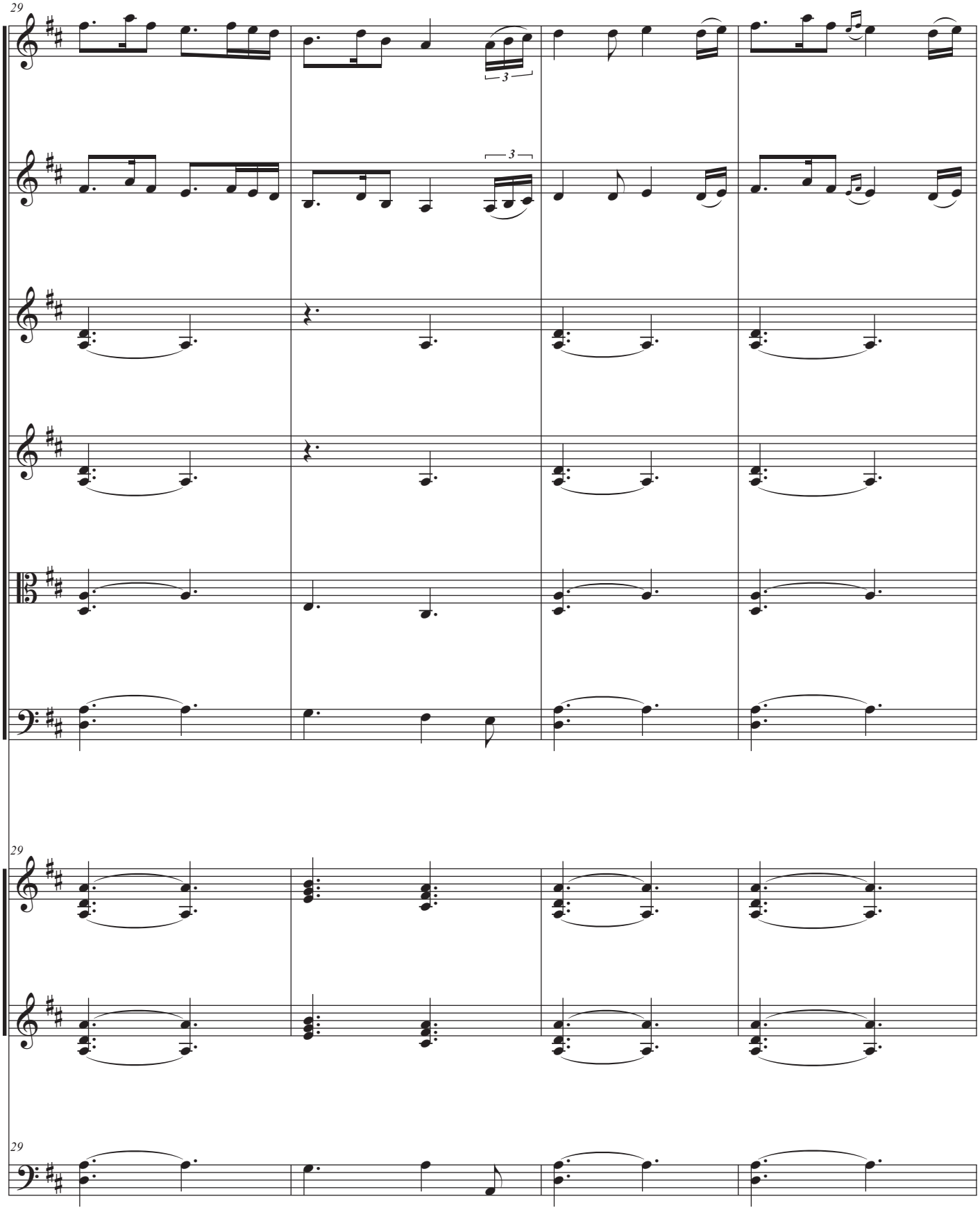
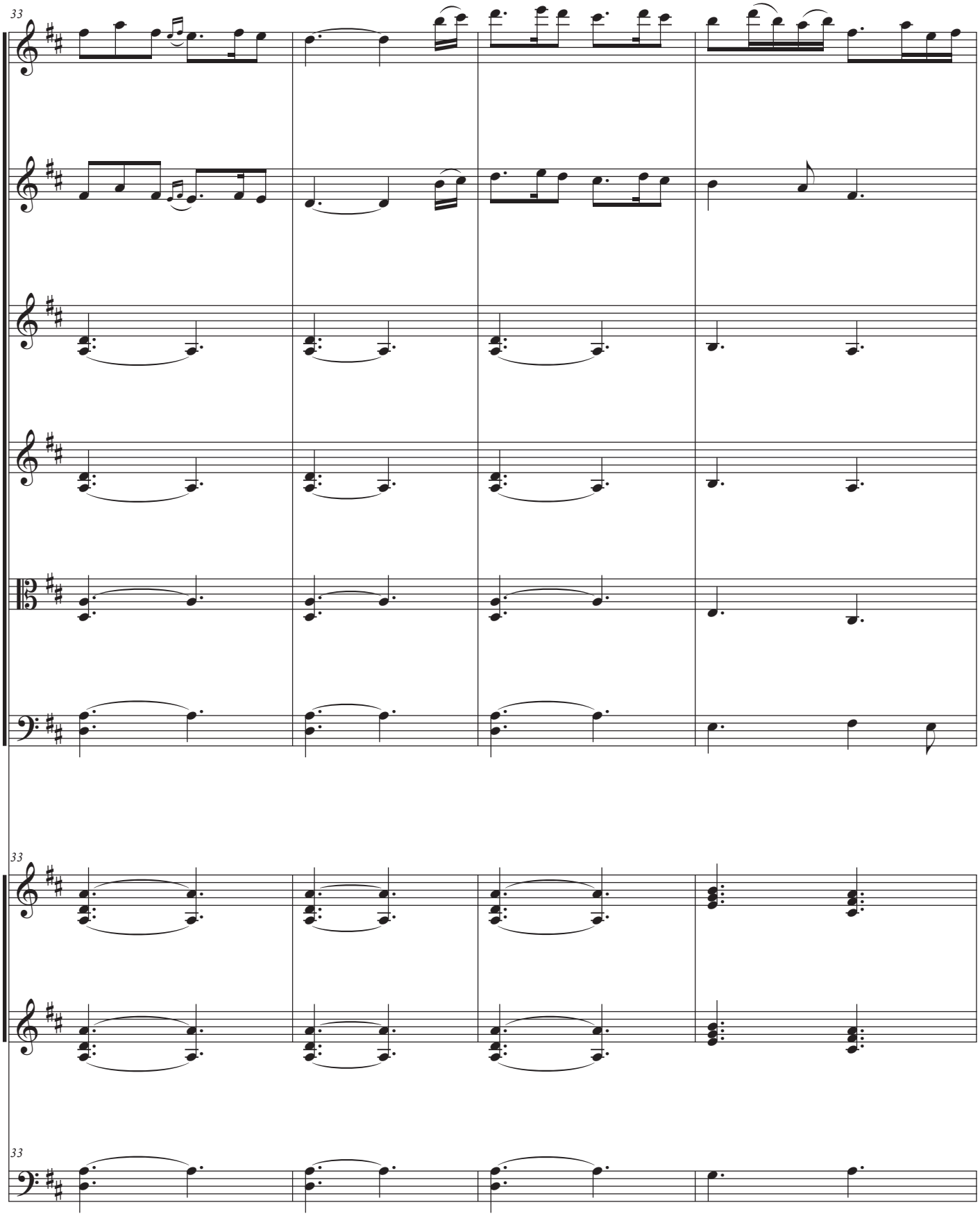
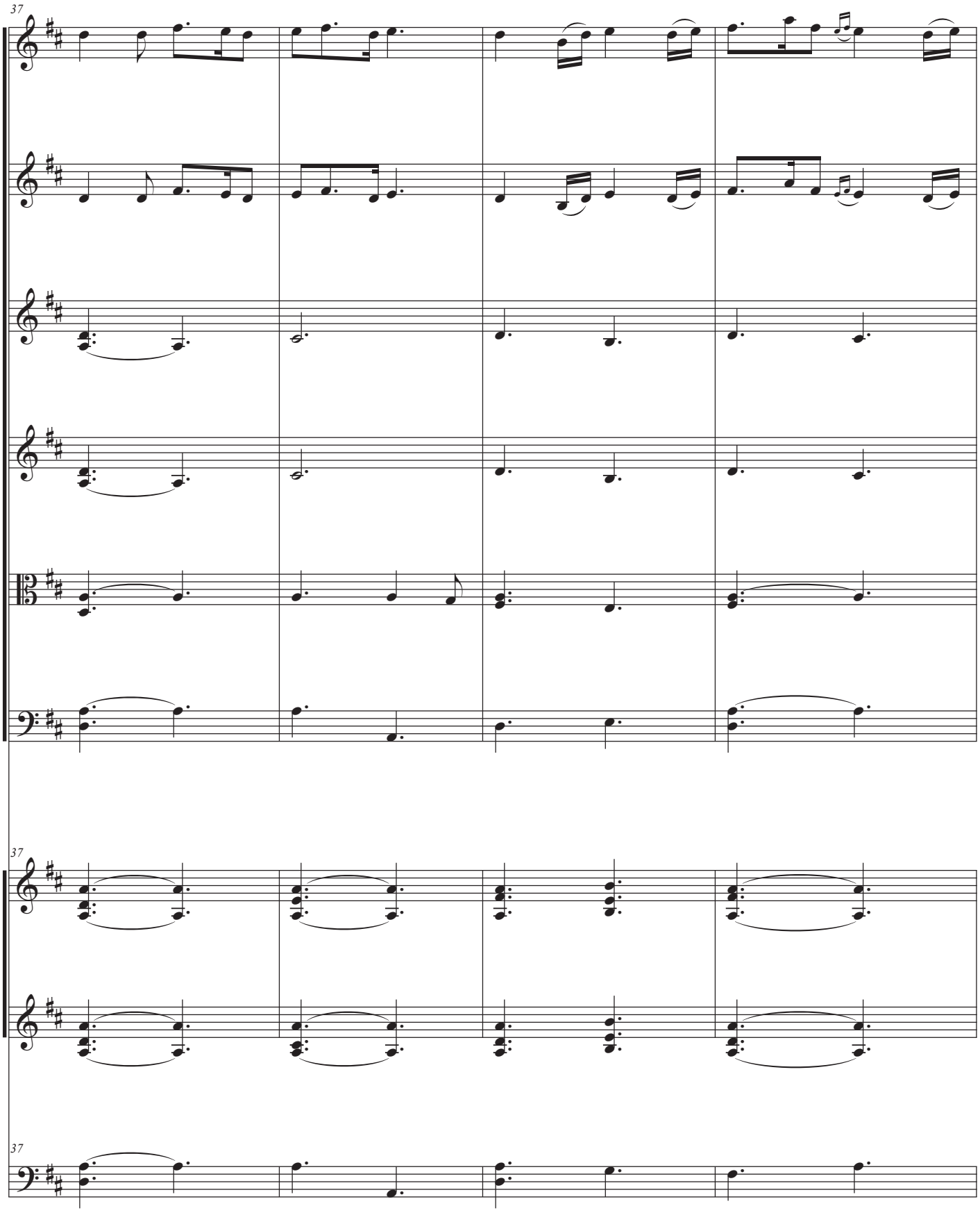
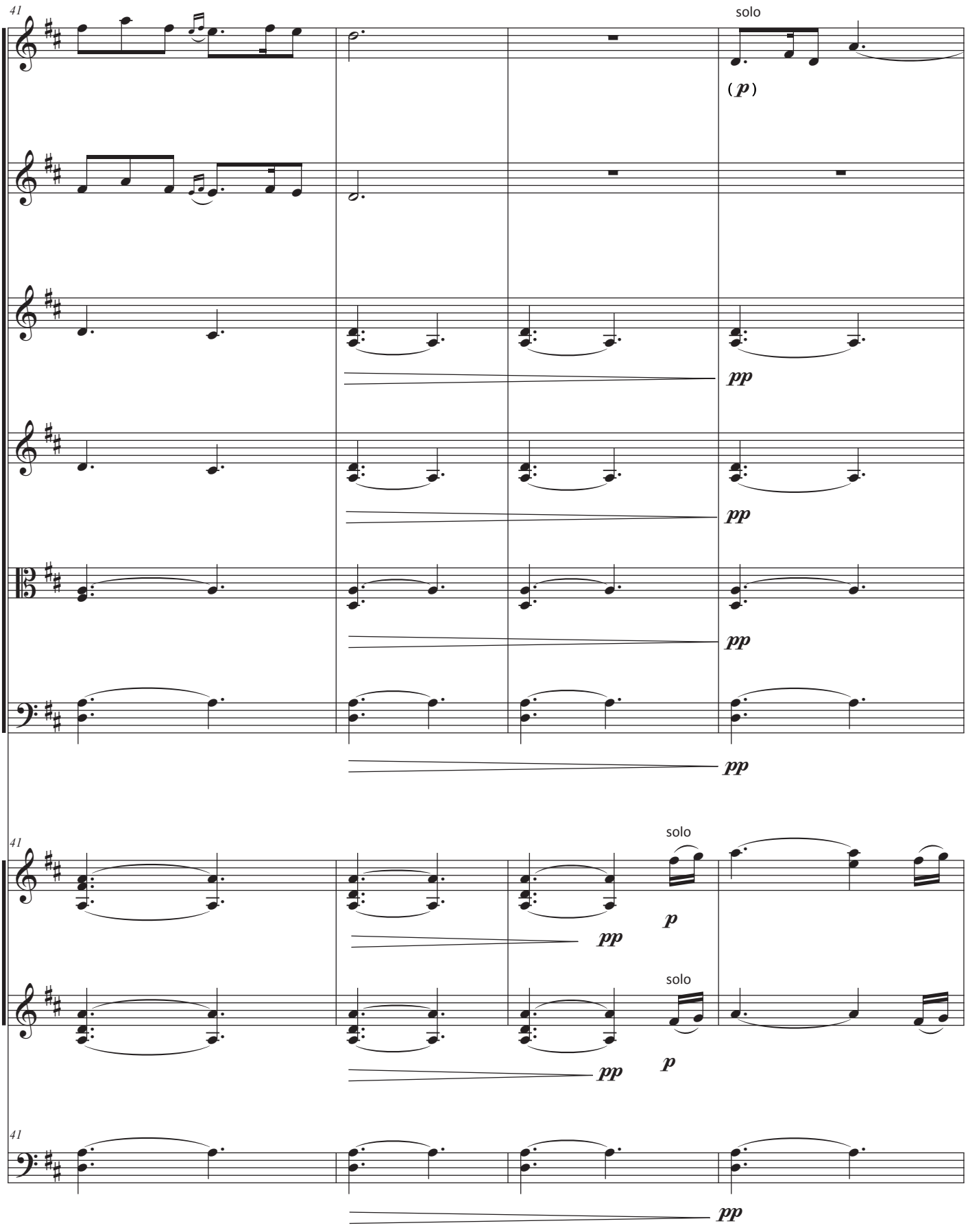
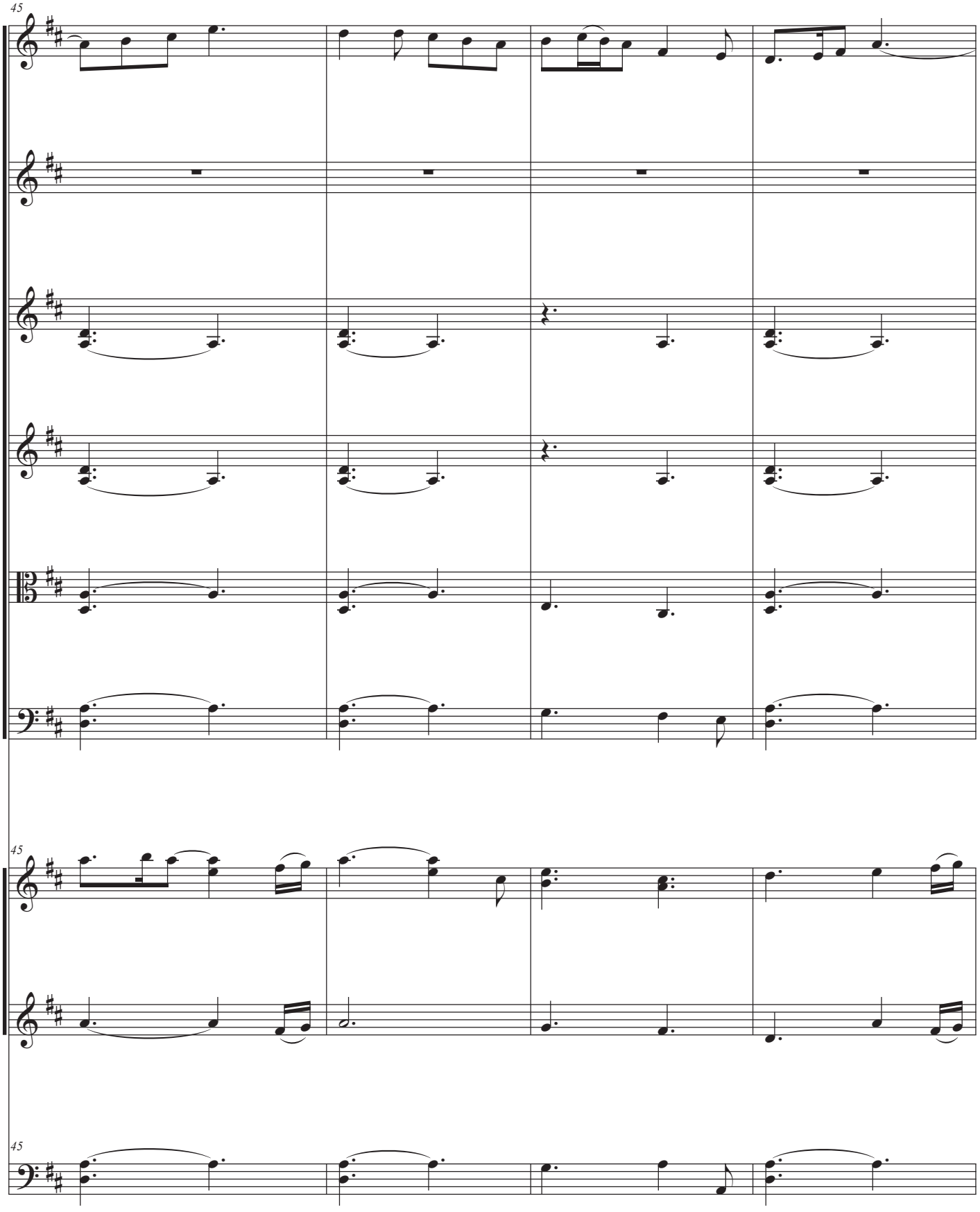
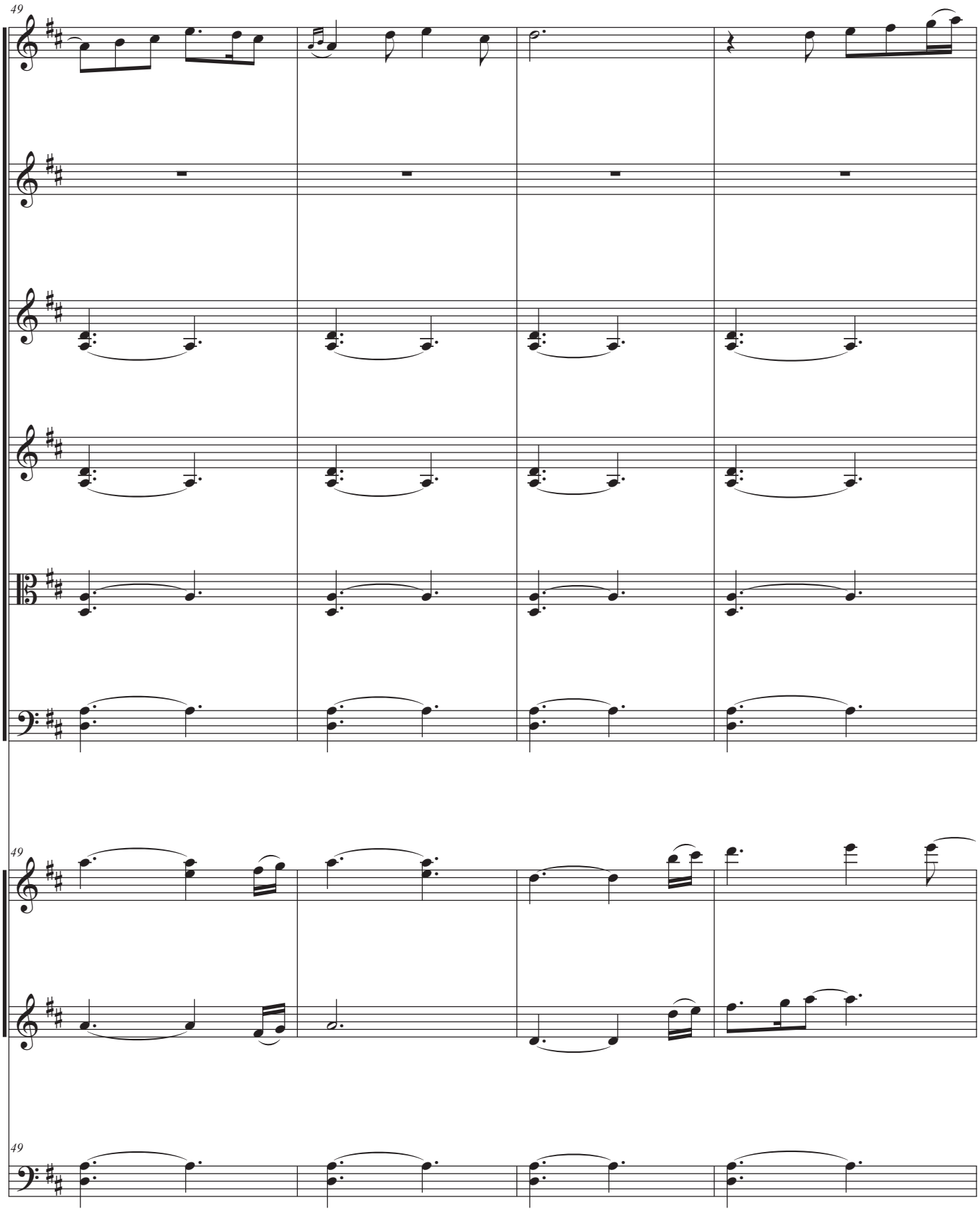
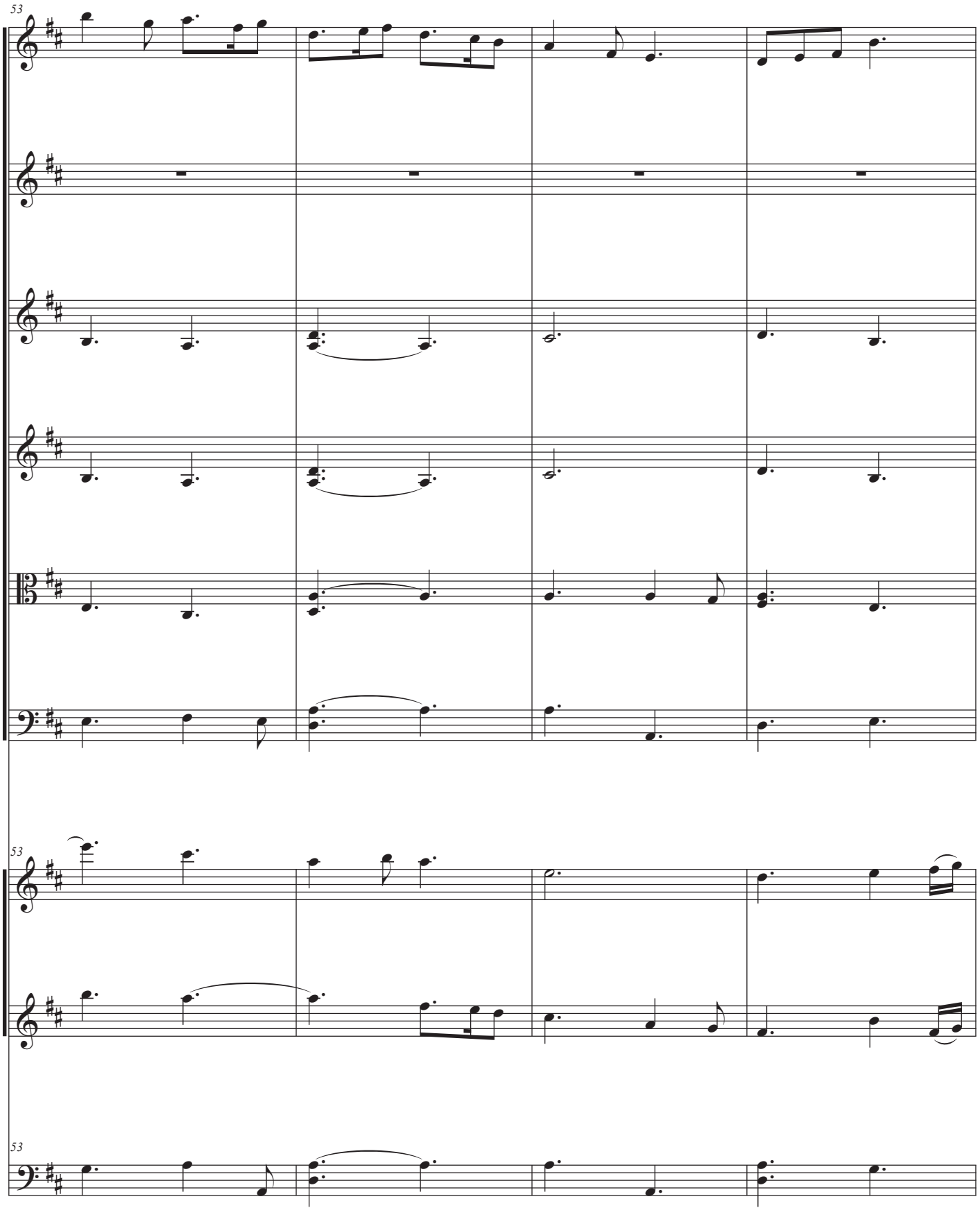
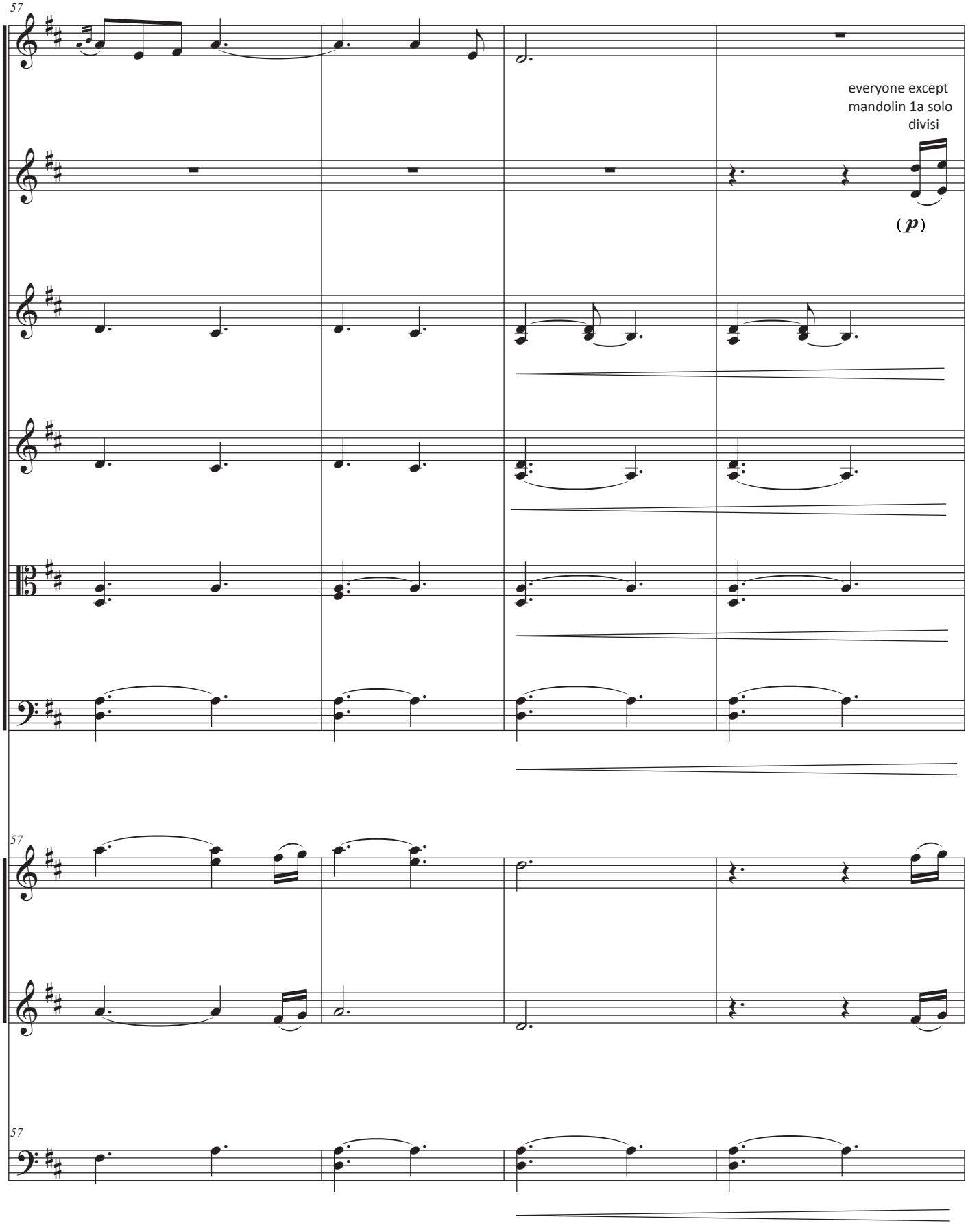
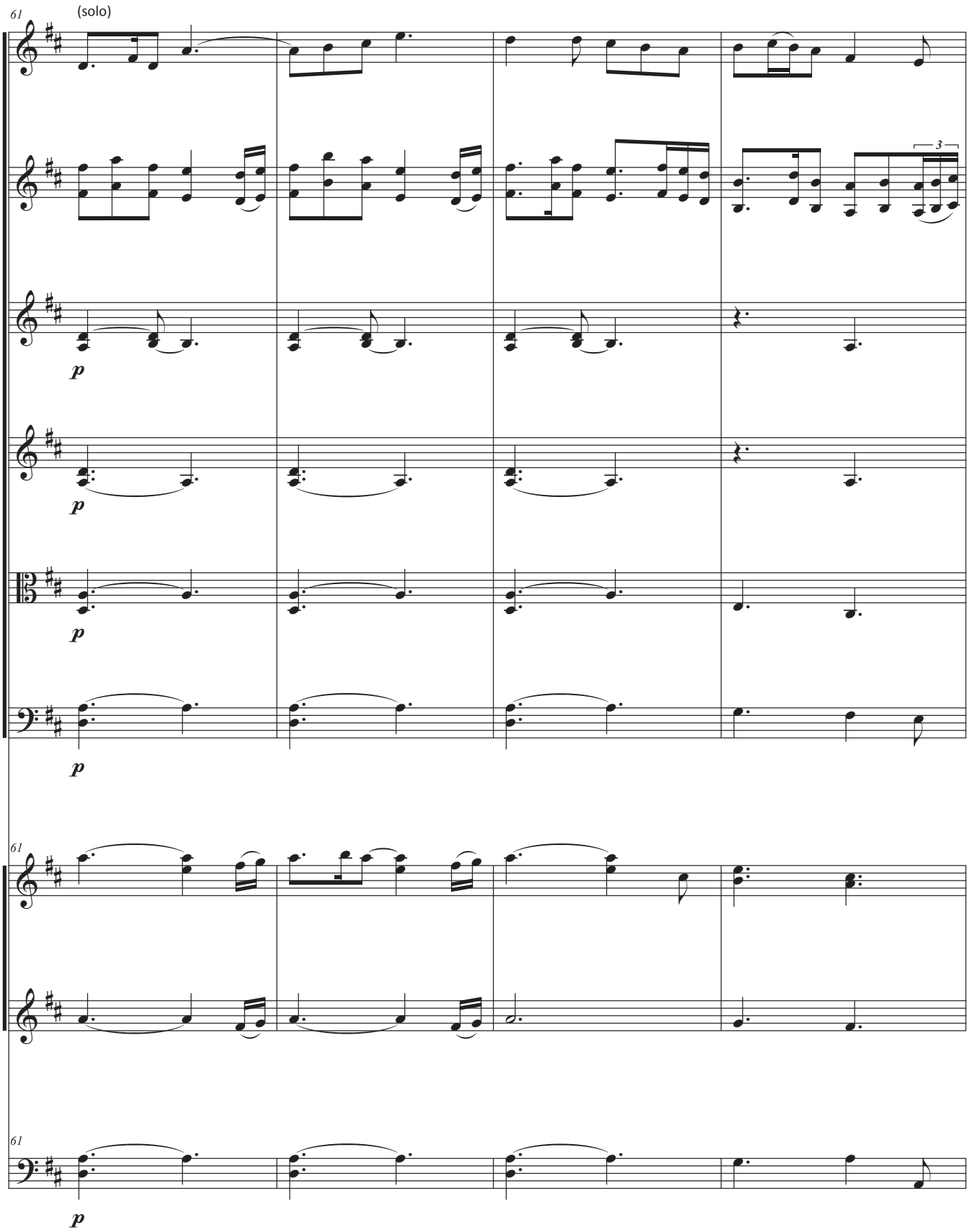
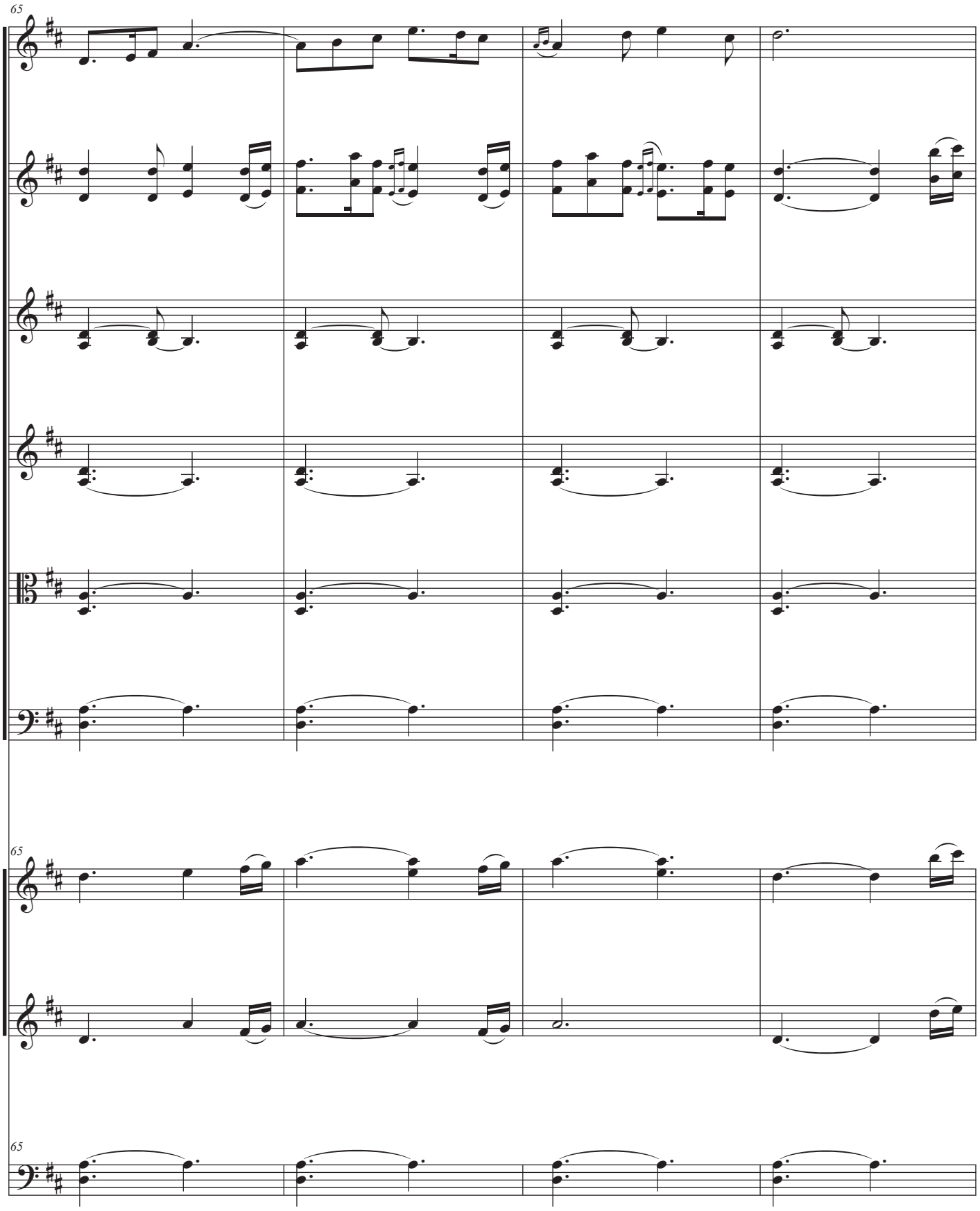
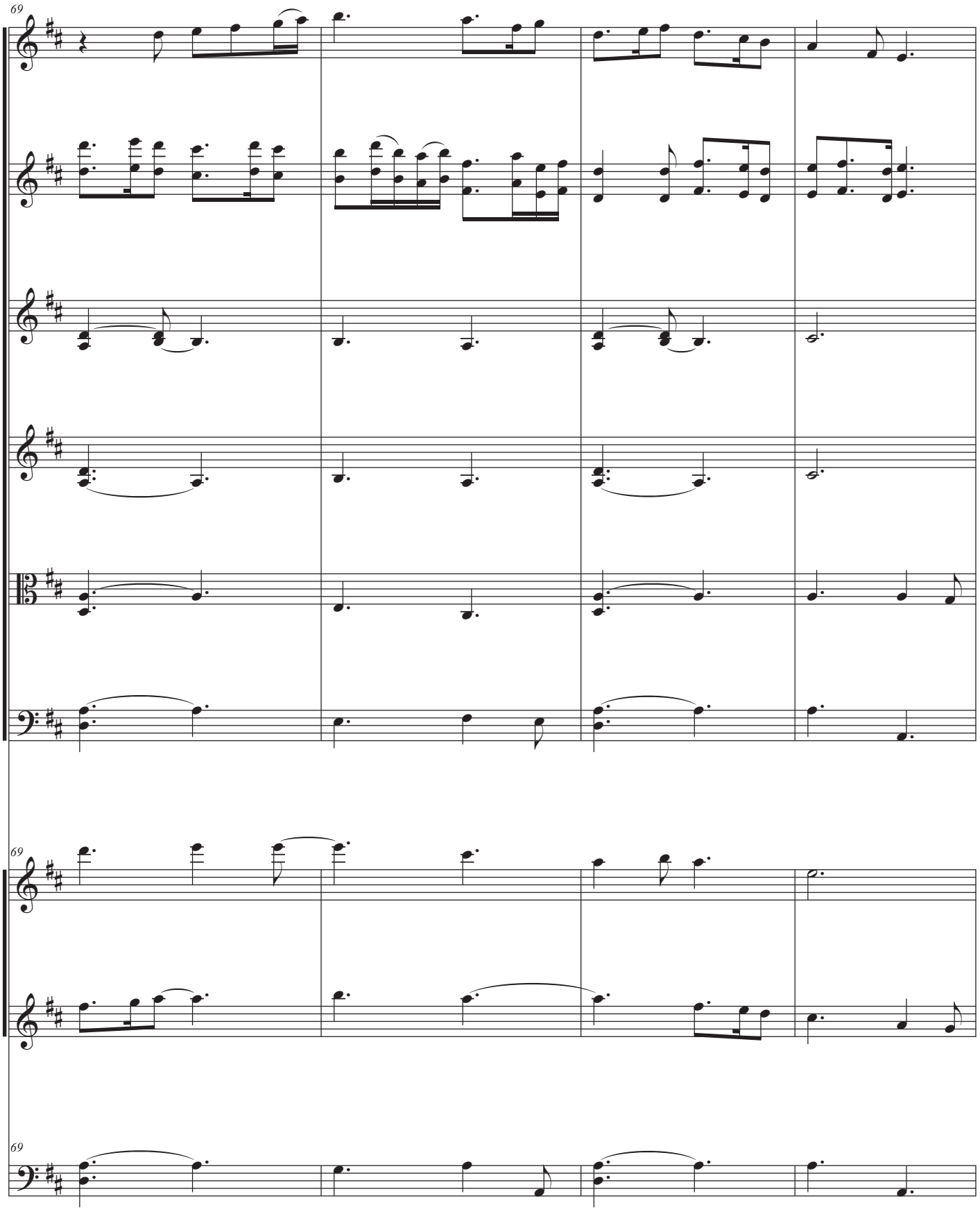
© 2022 Joseph Michaels

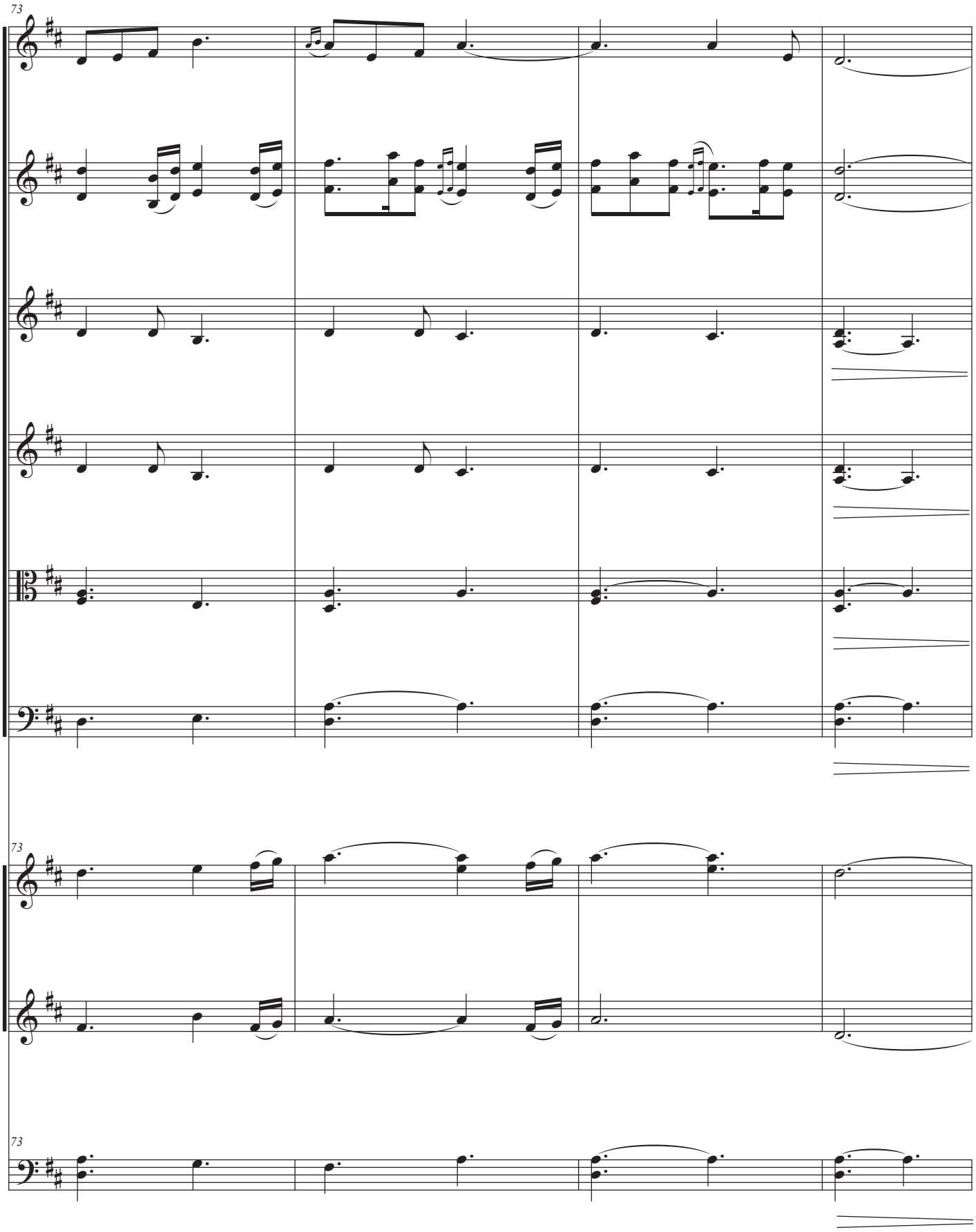
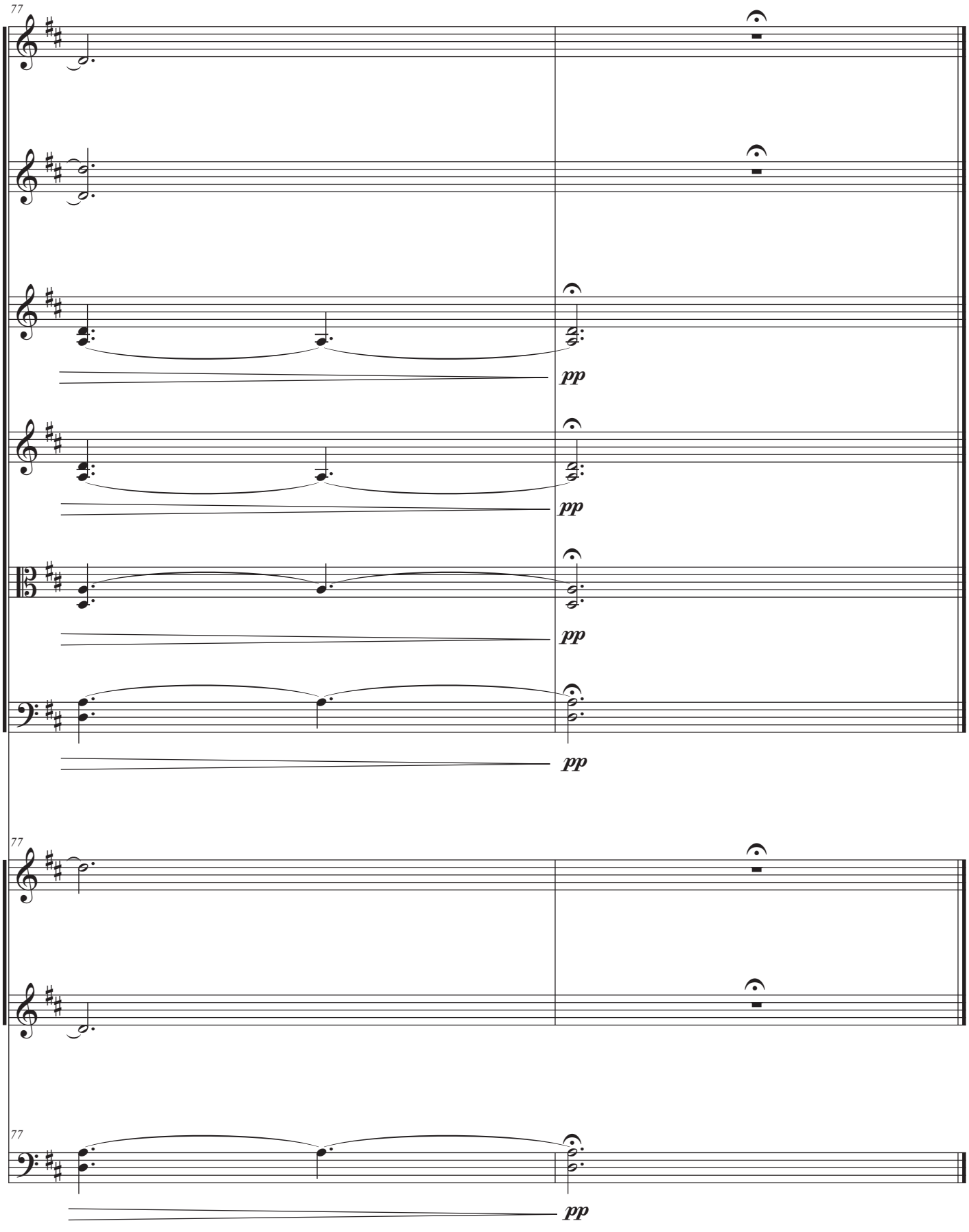
II. Rub-a-Dub Scrubjay

Upbeat ♩ = ca. 120

5
f
f
n
n
5
n
n
5

13
f
13
13

17
f
17
f
f
17

21
21
21

25
non divisi
25
25

29
29
29

33
non divisi
always let ring
33
33
pizz. sempre
f

37
37
37

41
41
41

45
45
45

49
49
pizz.
49

53
53
53

57
divisi
57
57

61
61
61

65
non divisi
65
65

69
69
69

73
divisi
73
73

tutti rit.

81
piu f
piu f
piu f
piu f
piu f
piu f
81
piu f
piu f
81
piu f

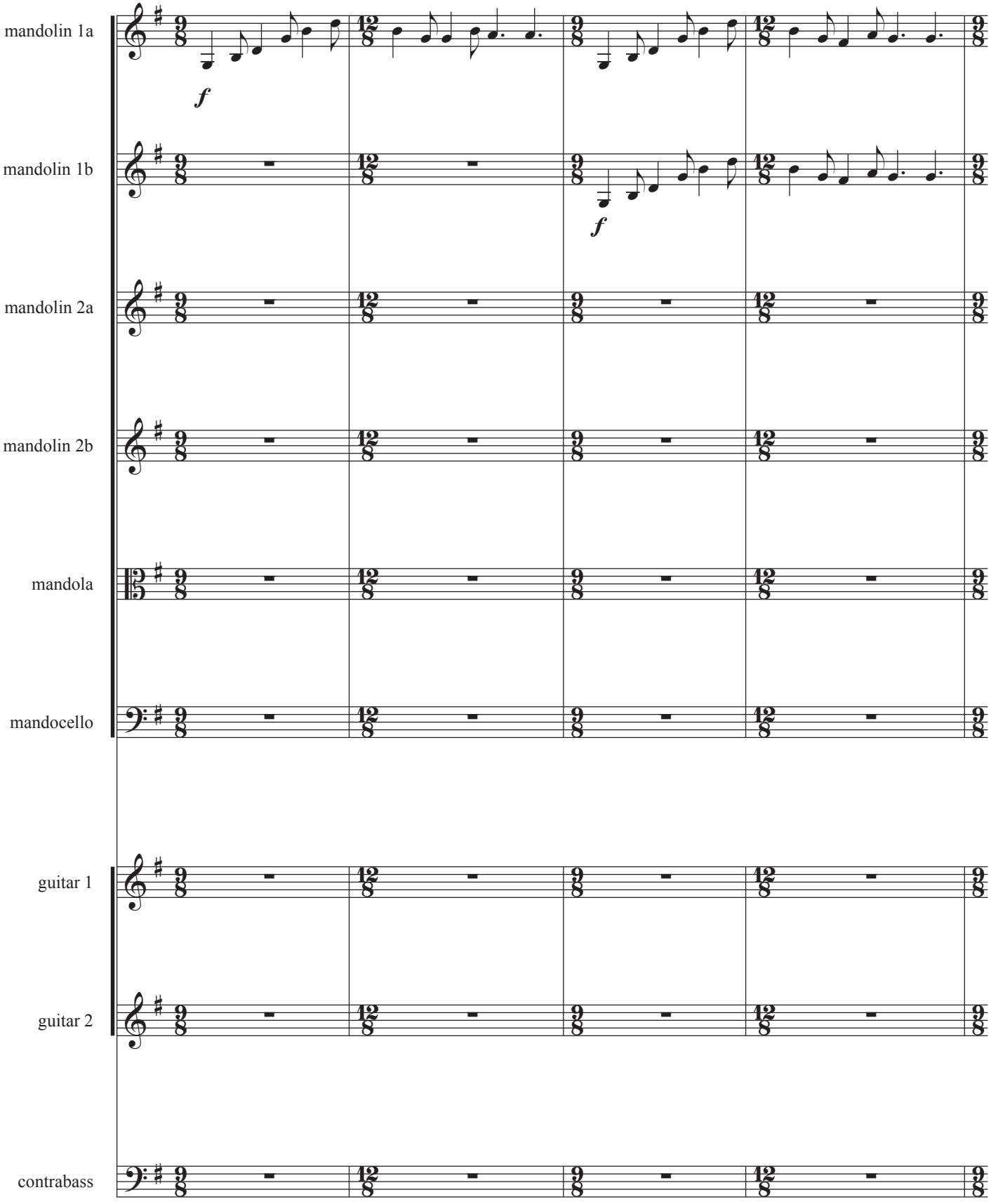
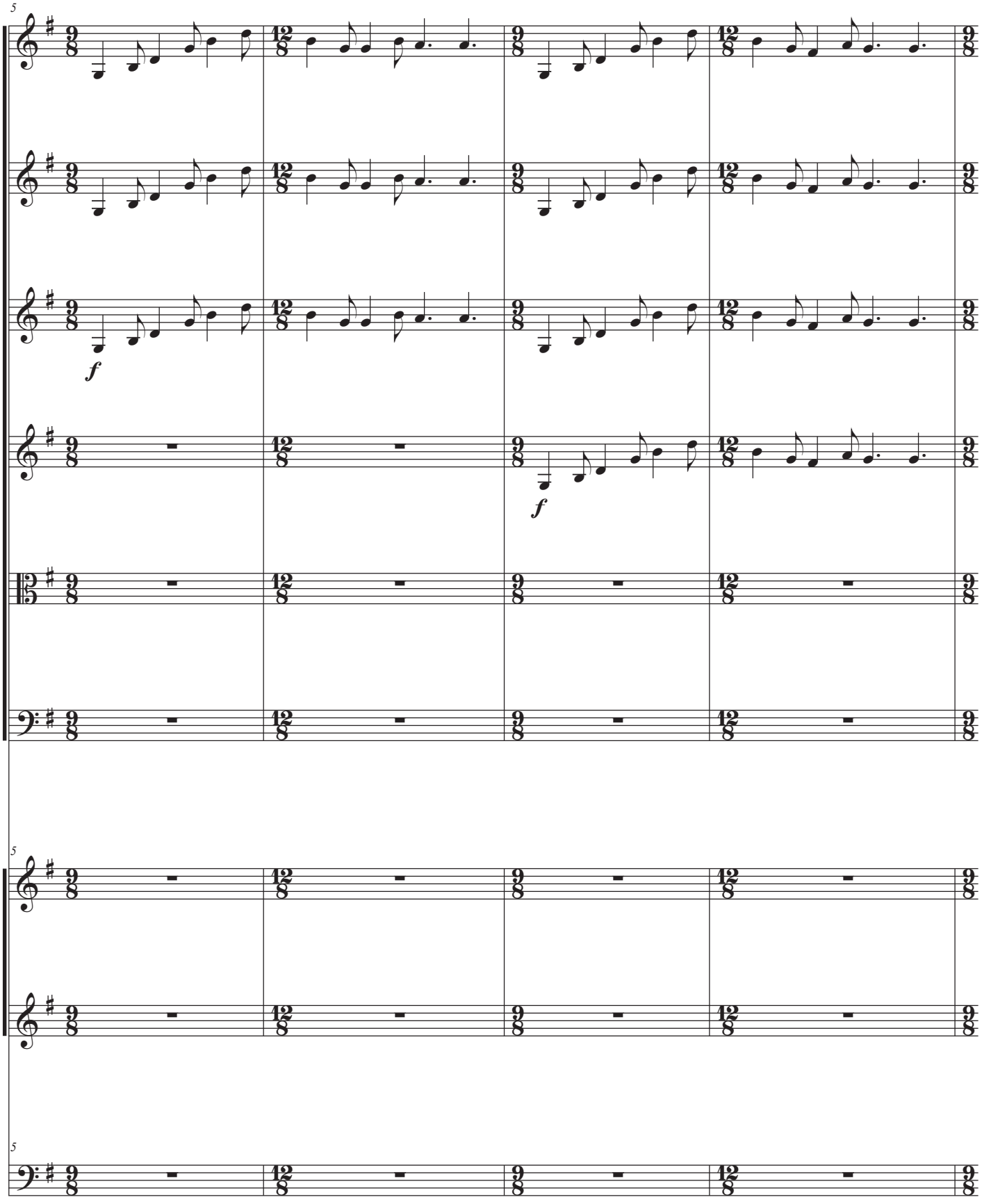
III. Raymond's Song

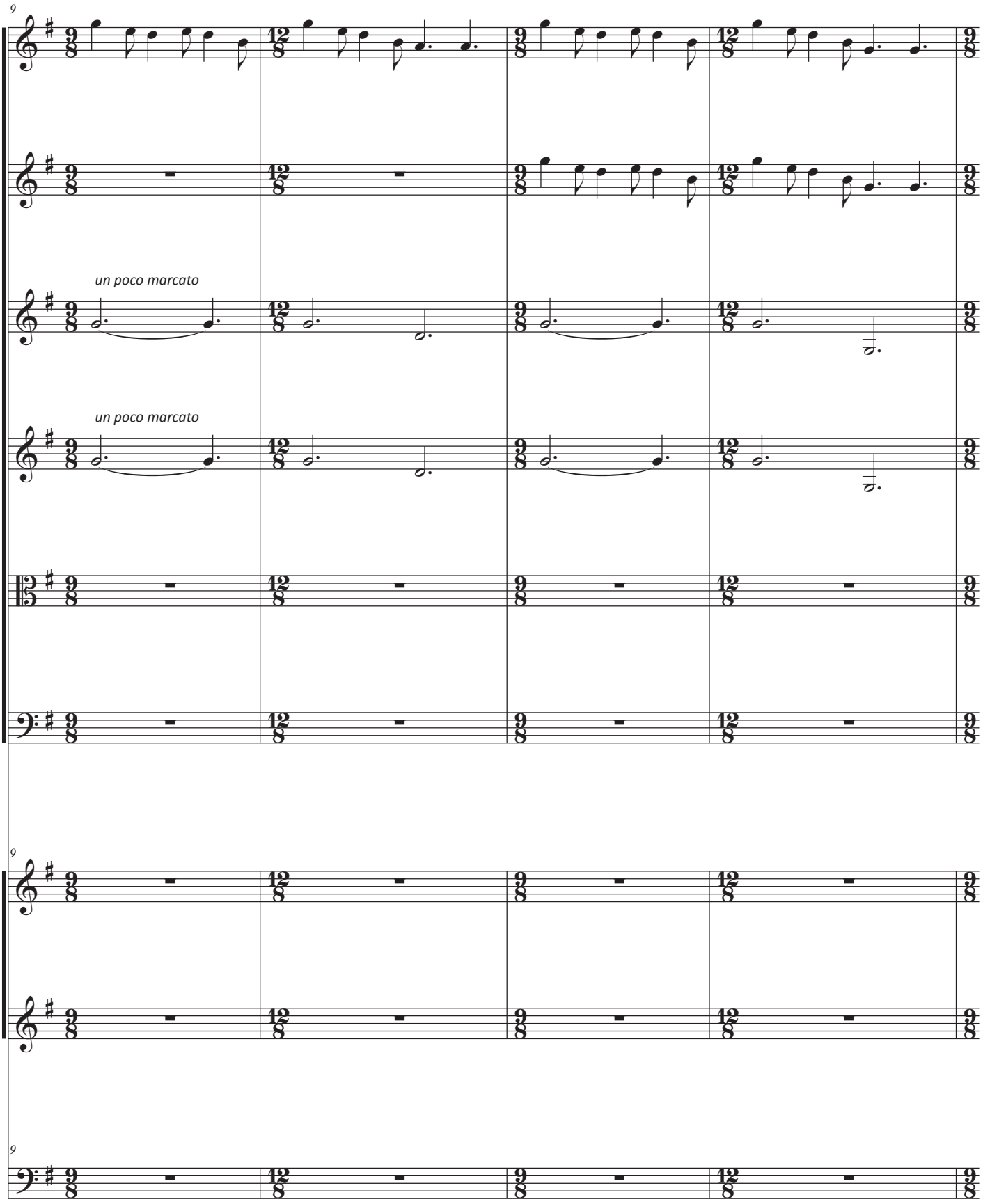
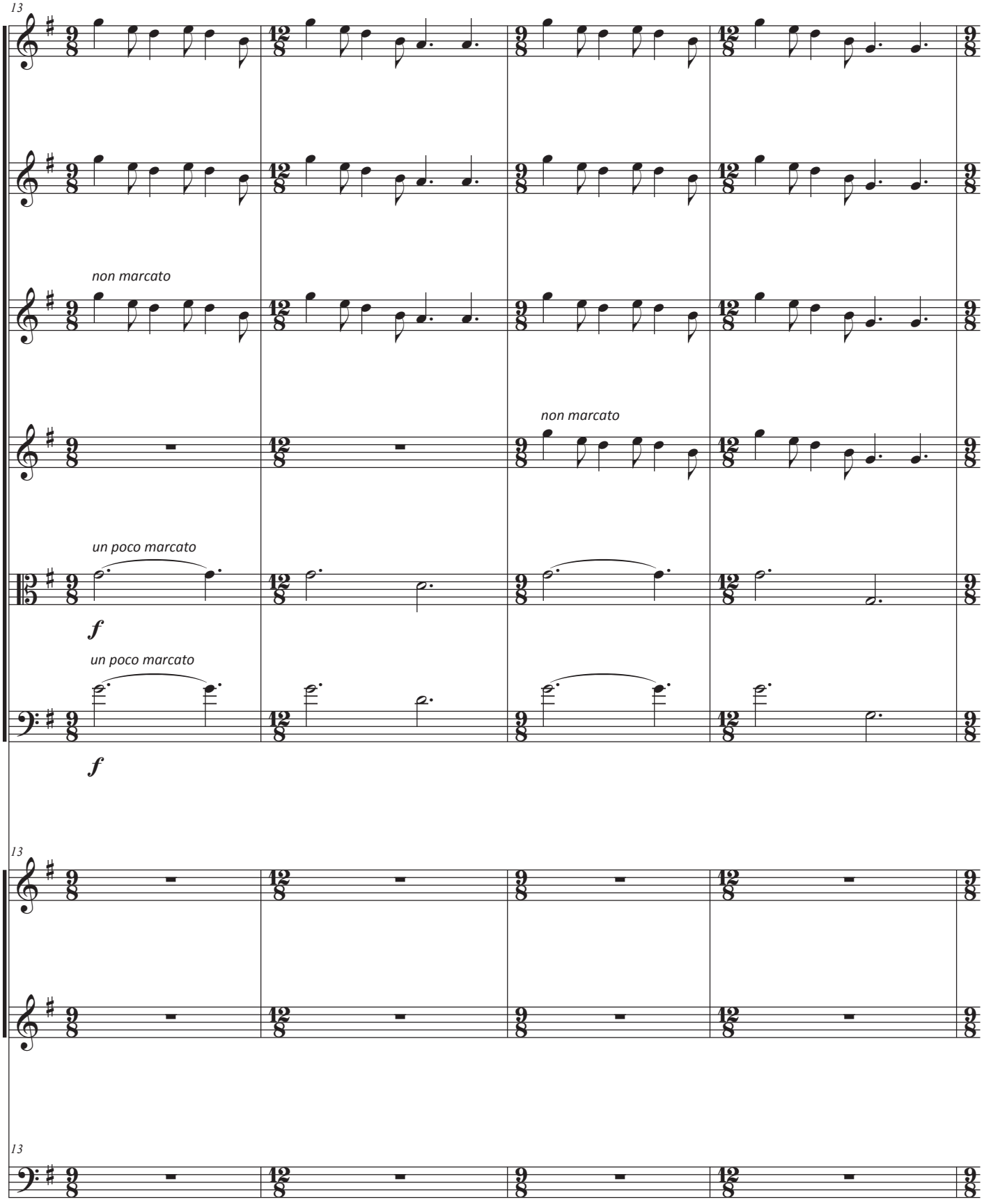
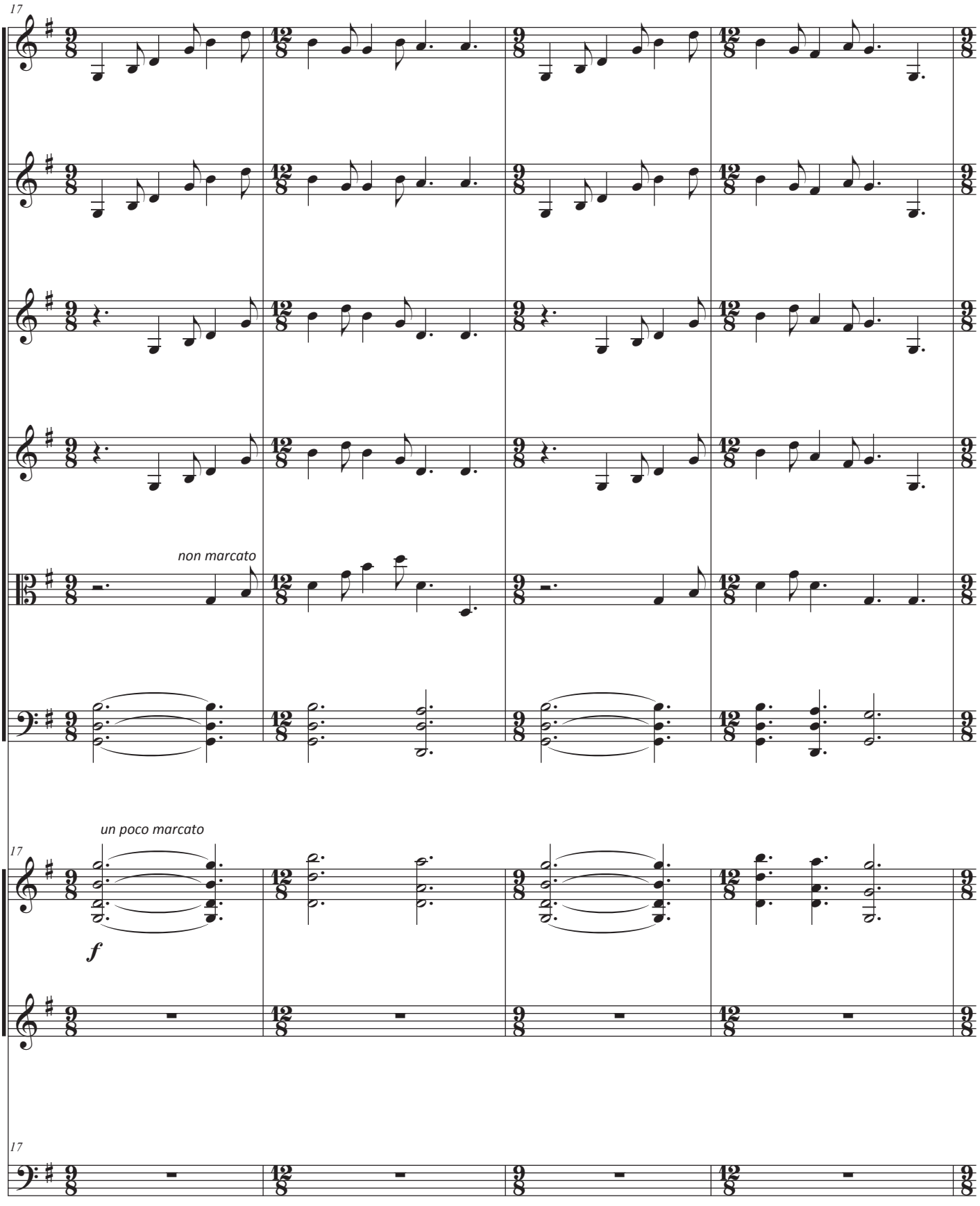
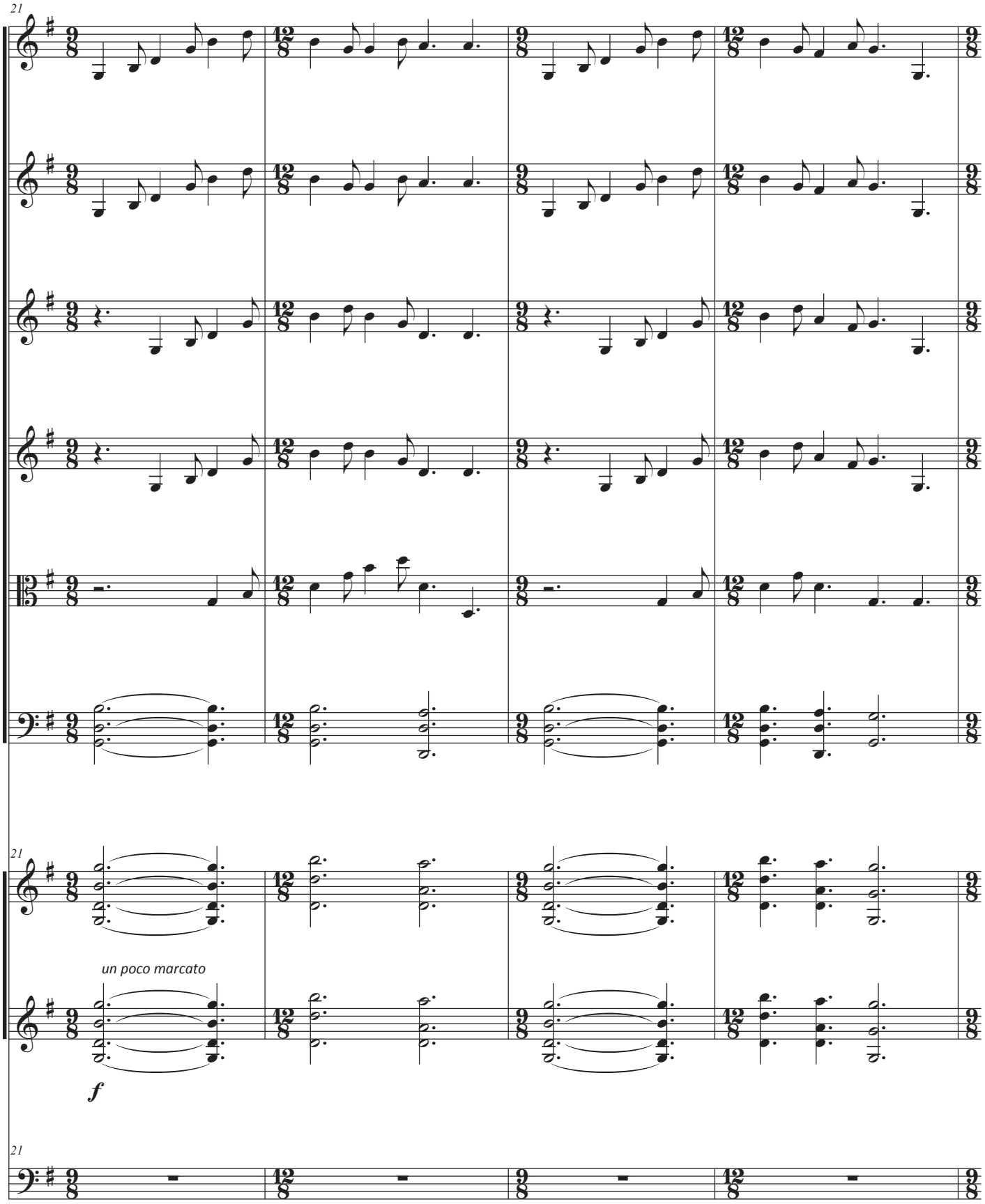
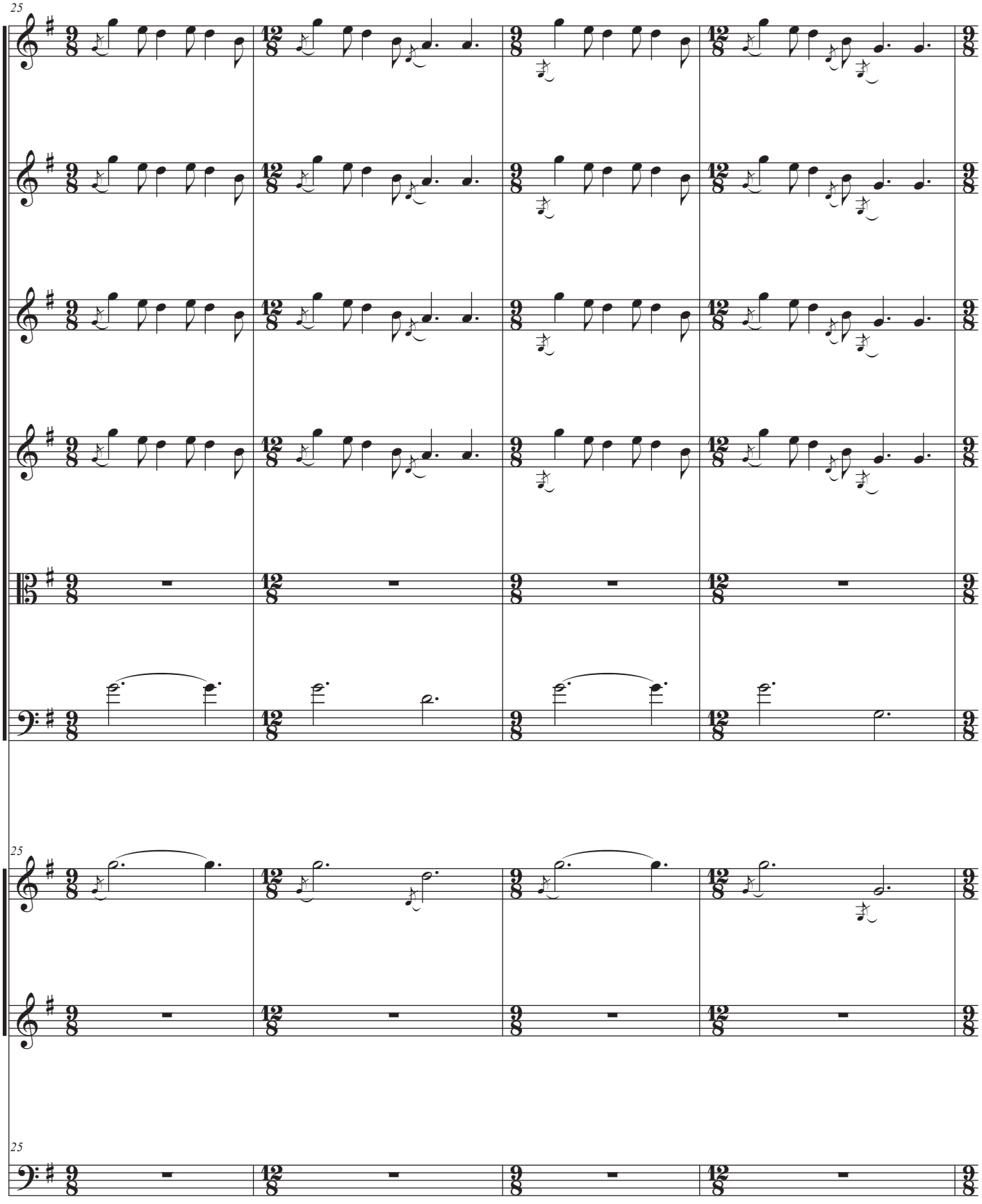
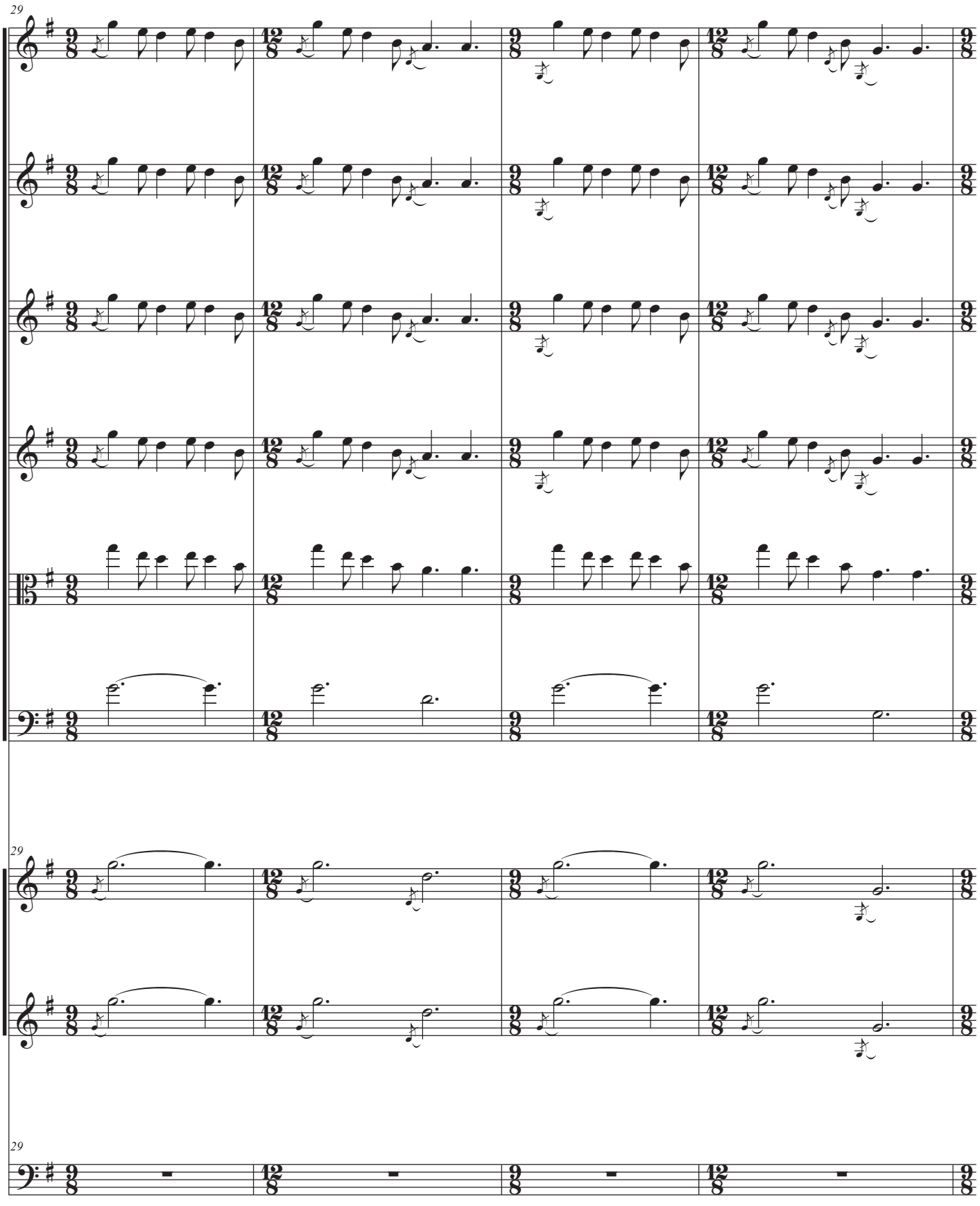
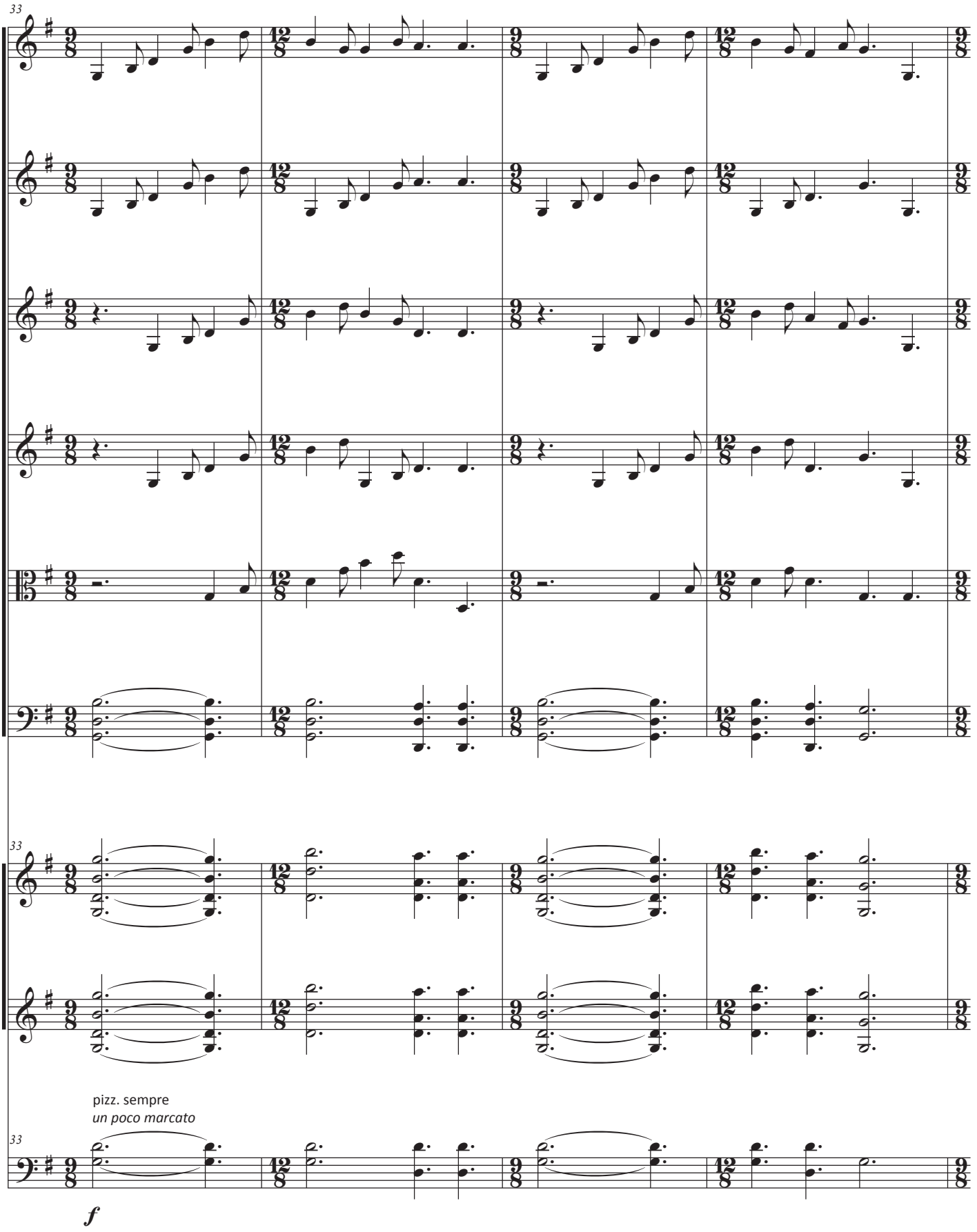
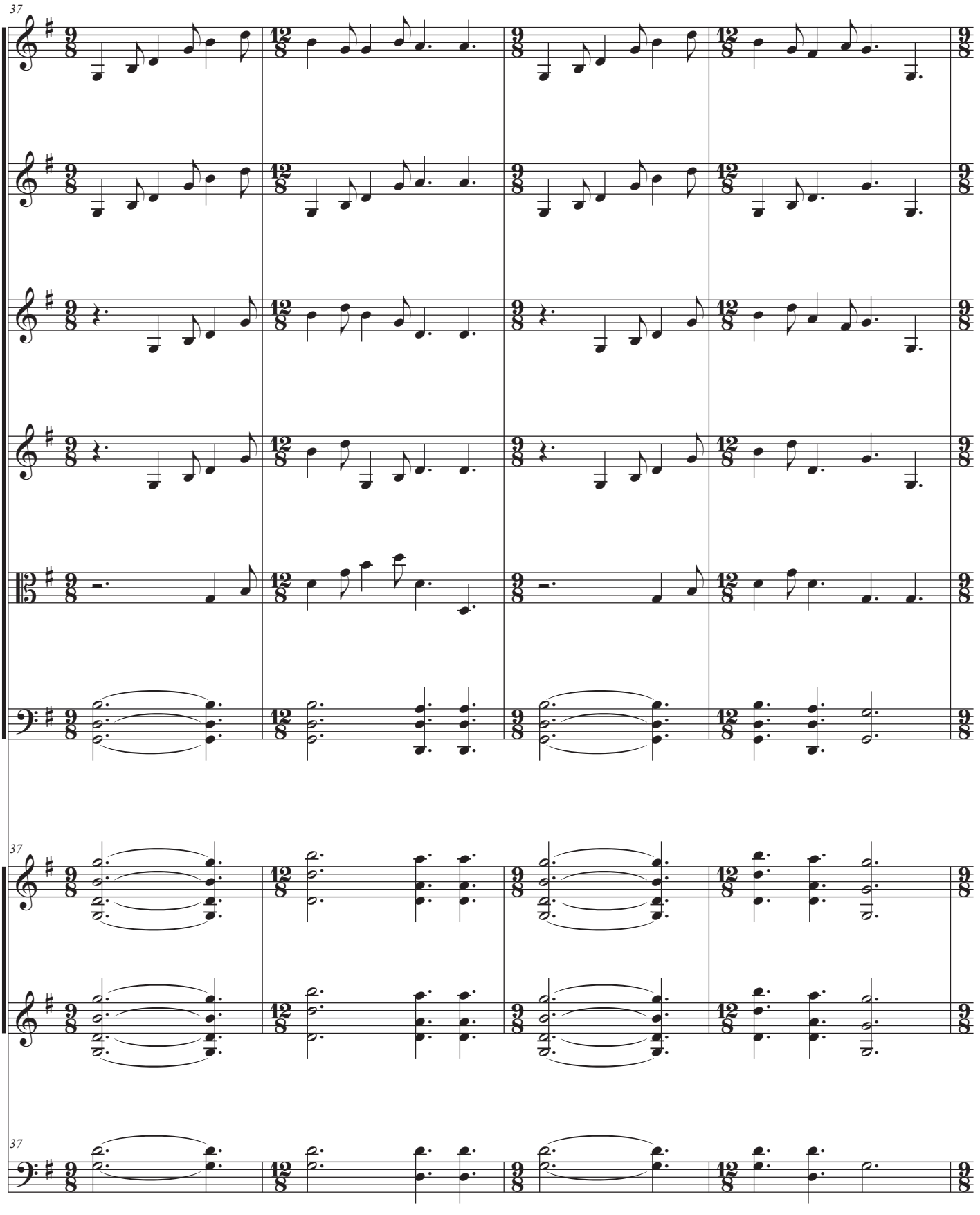
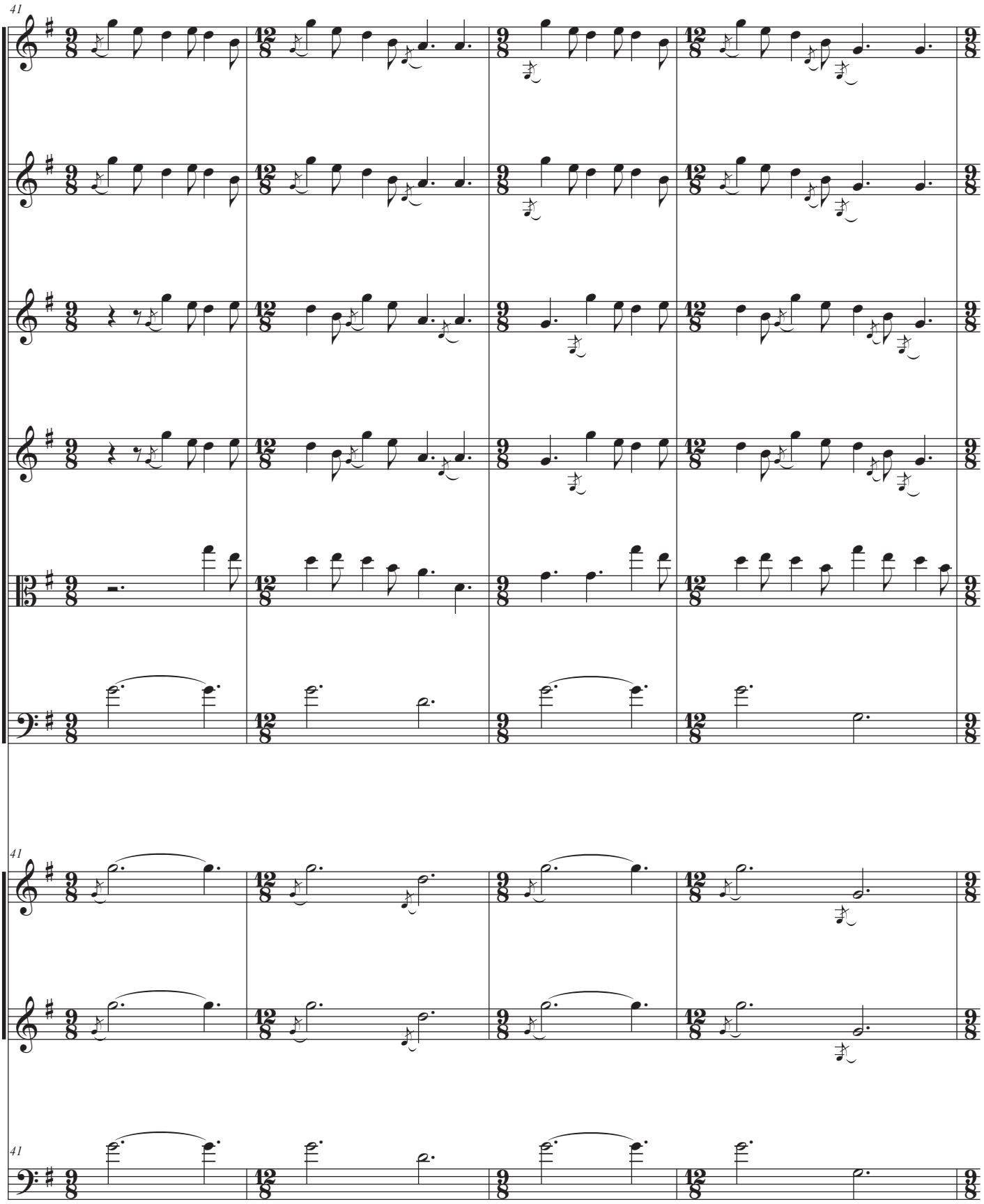
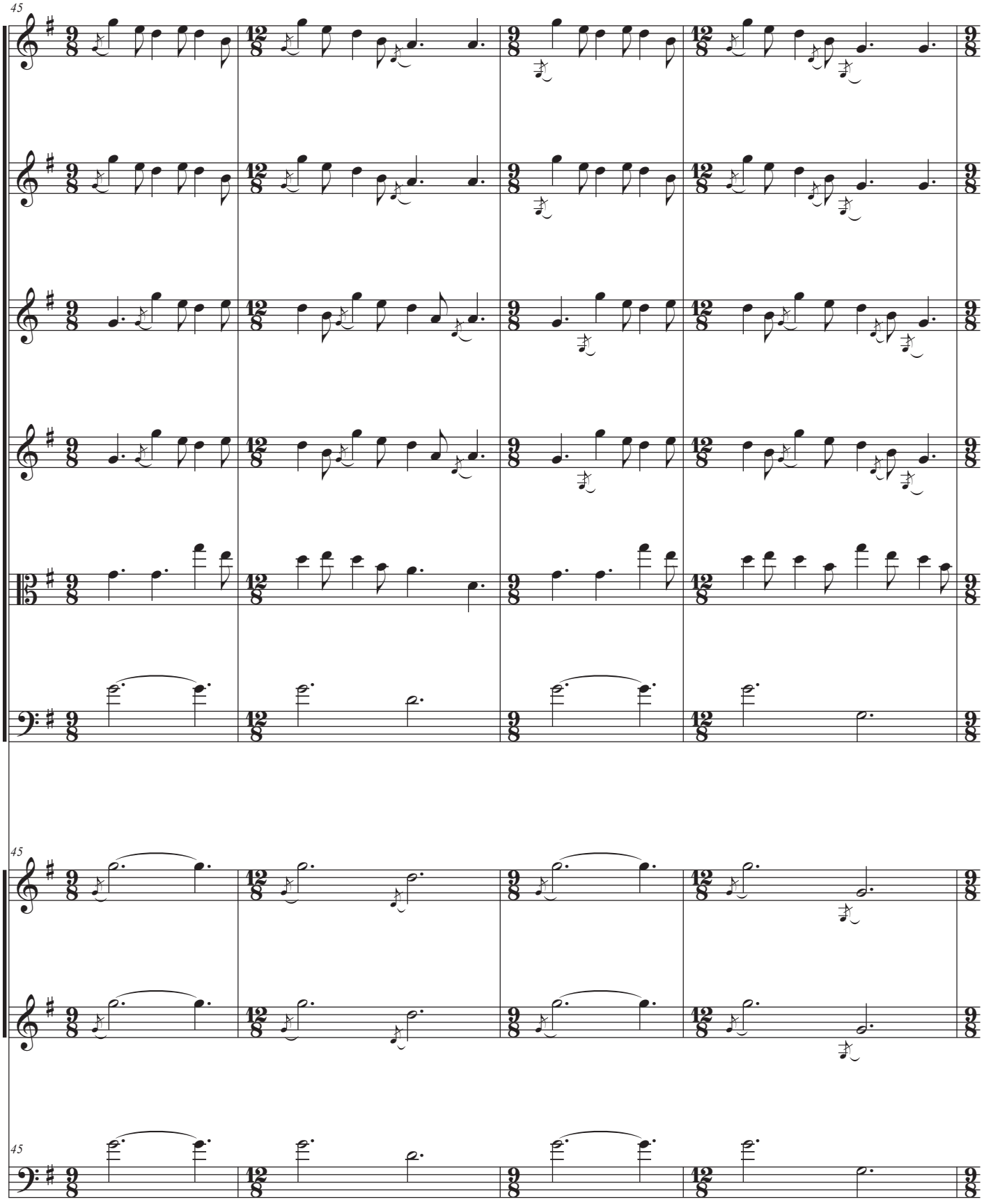
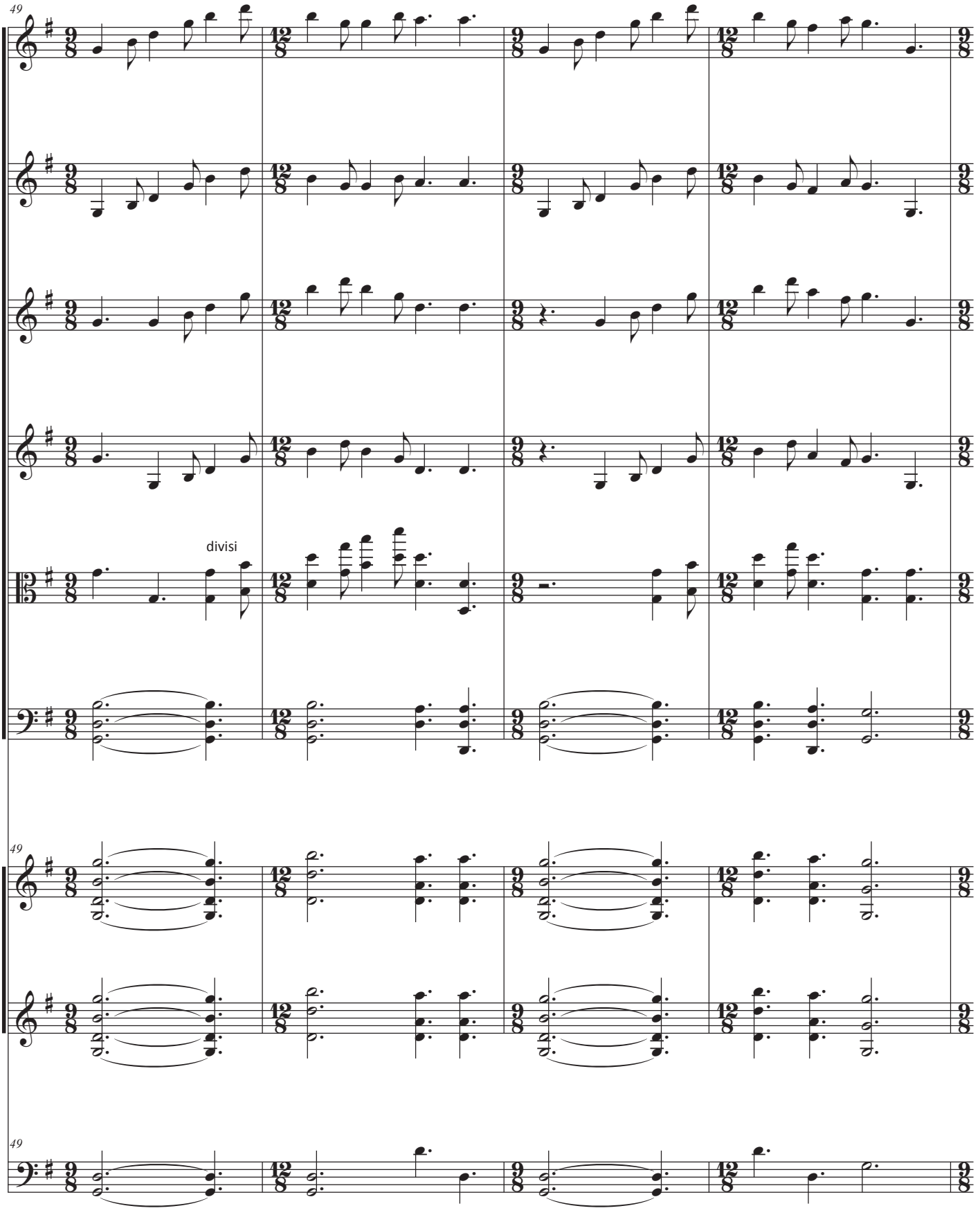
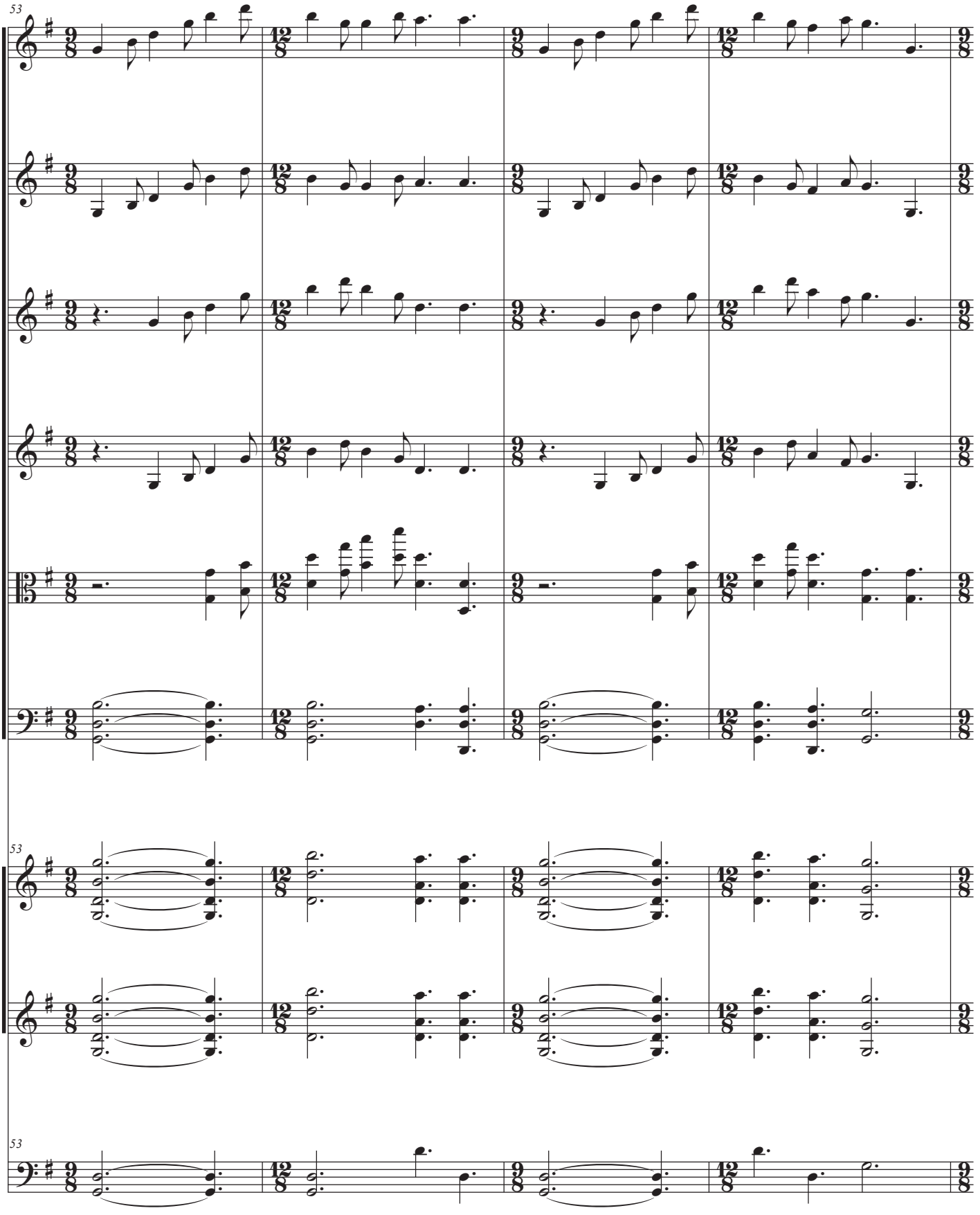
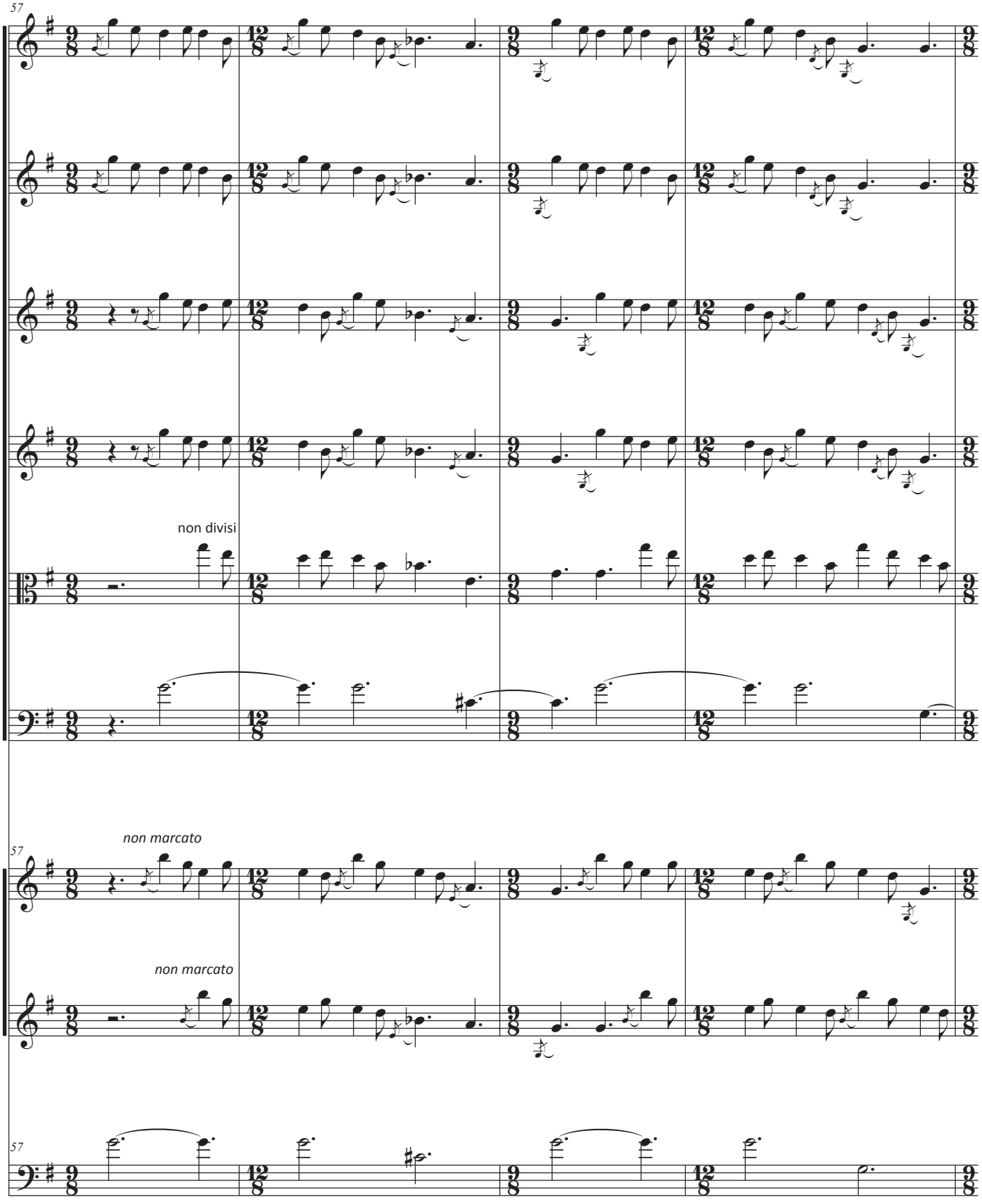
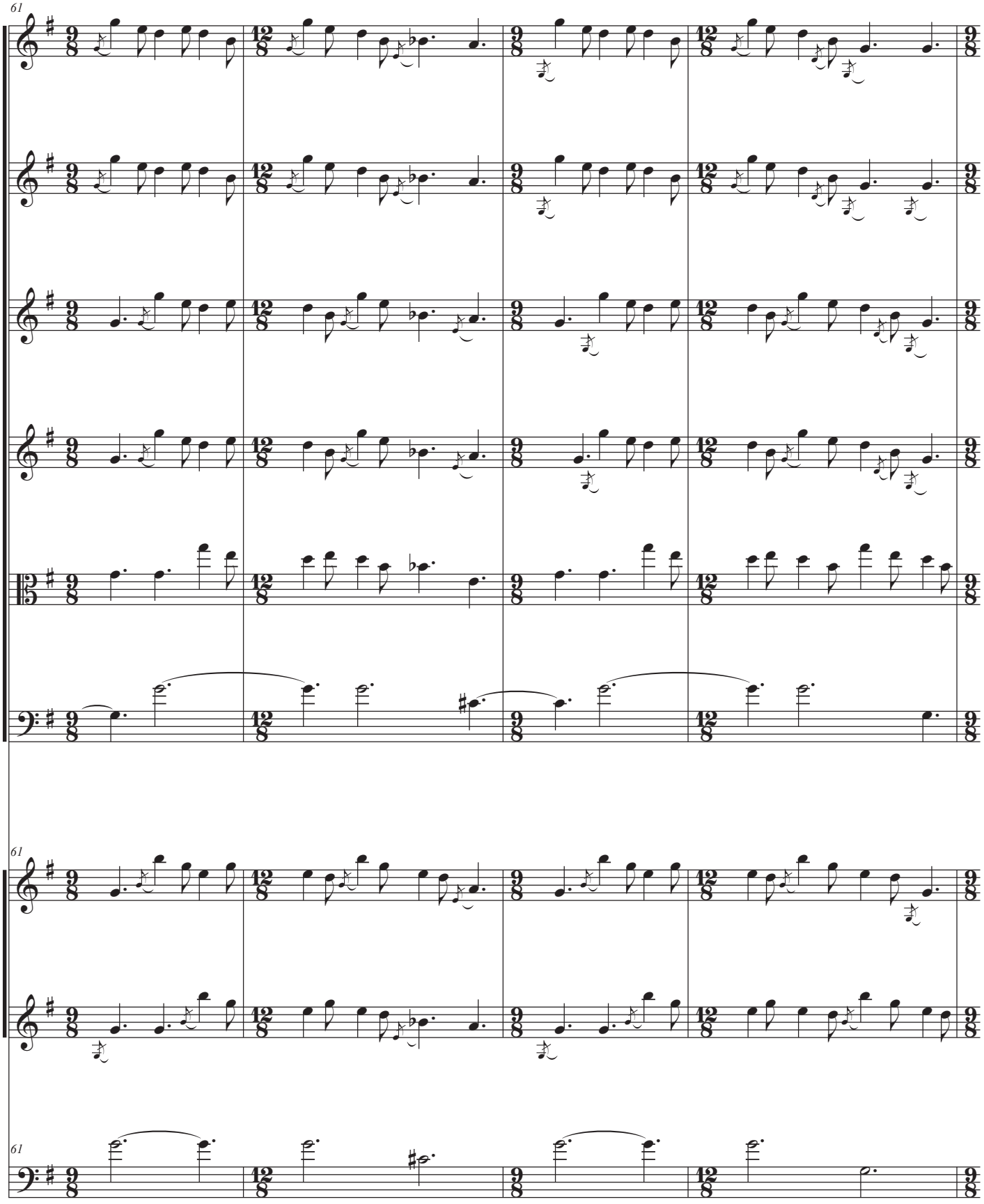
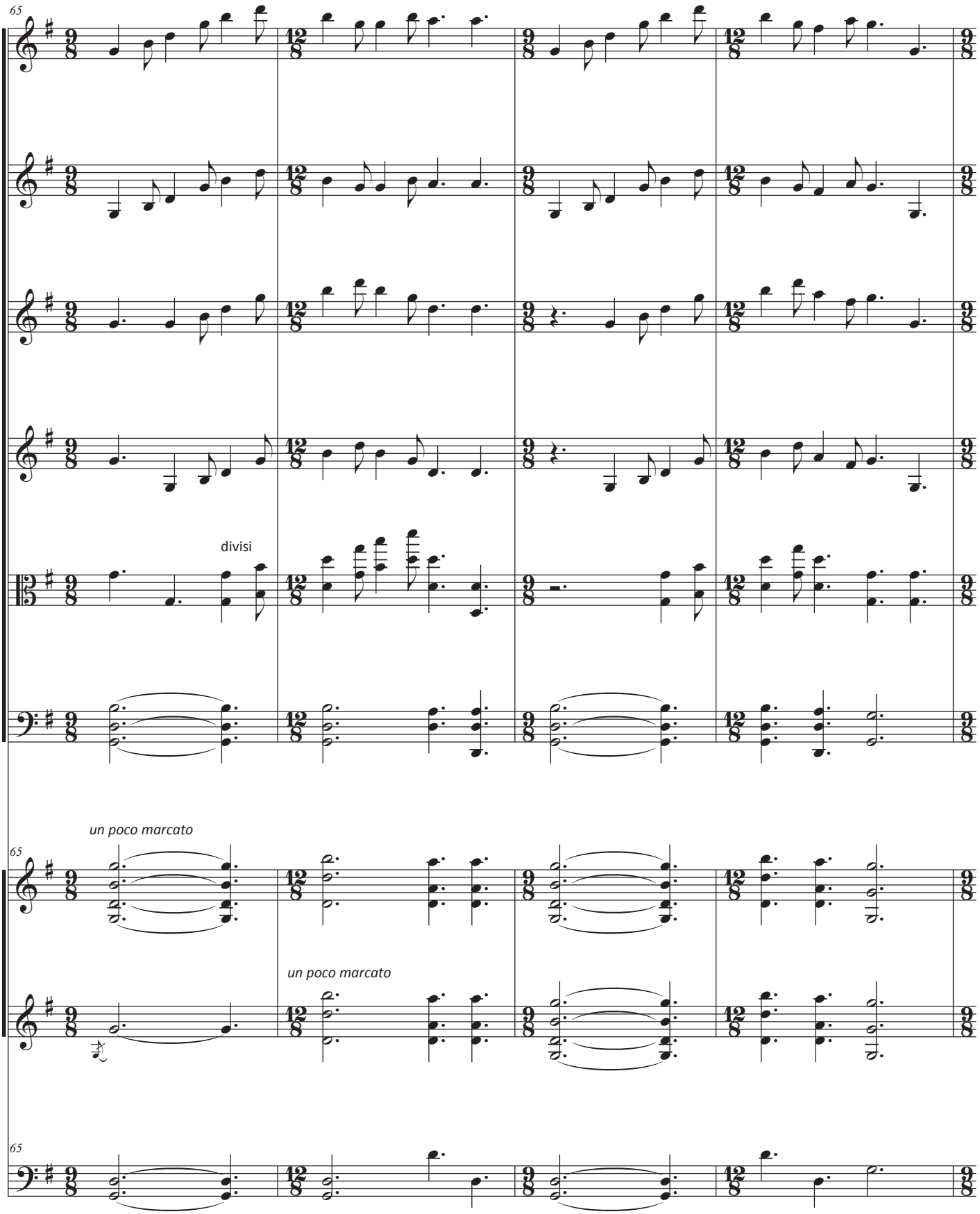
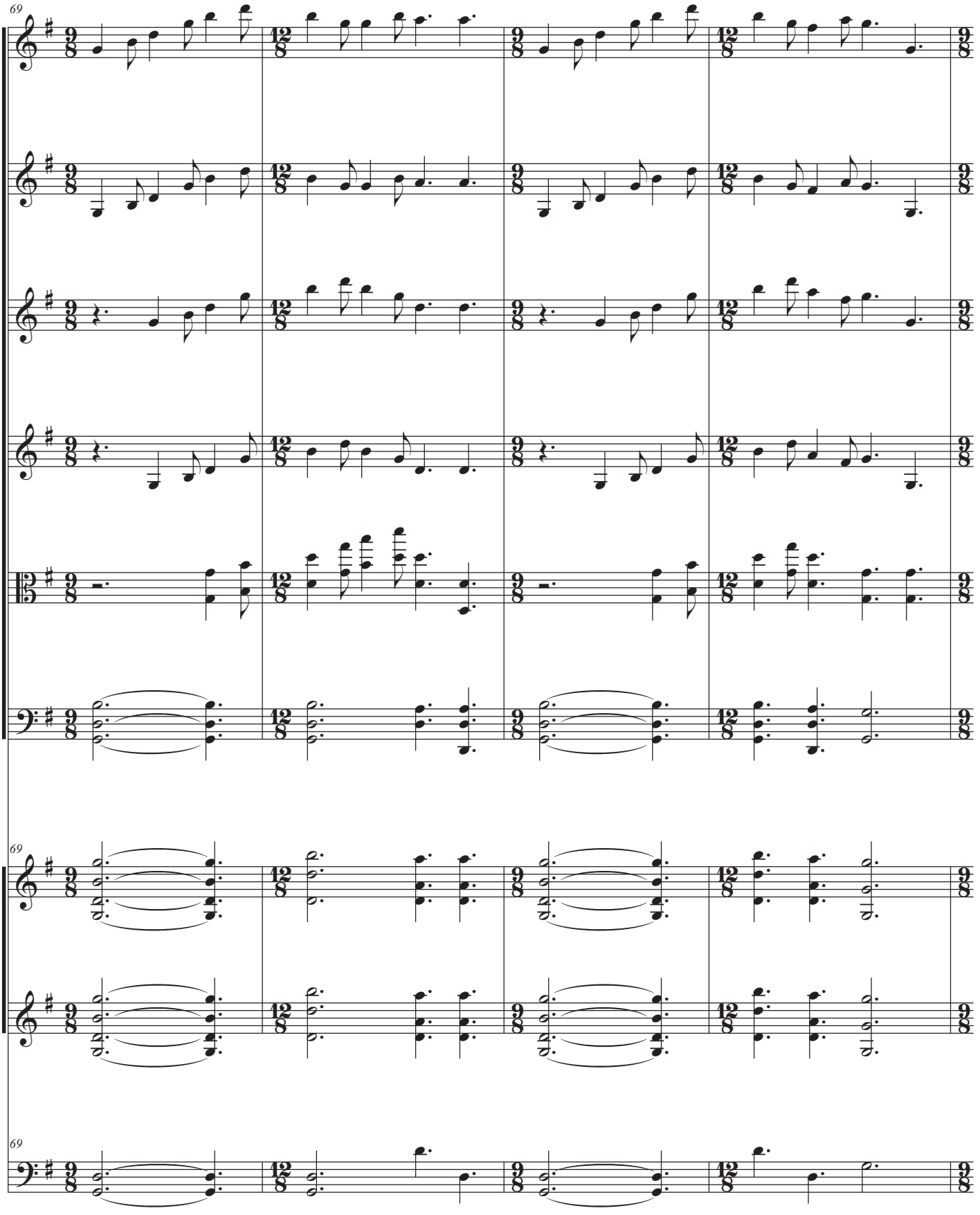
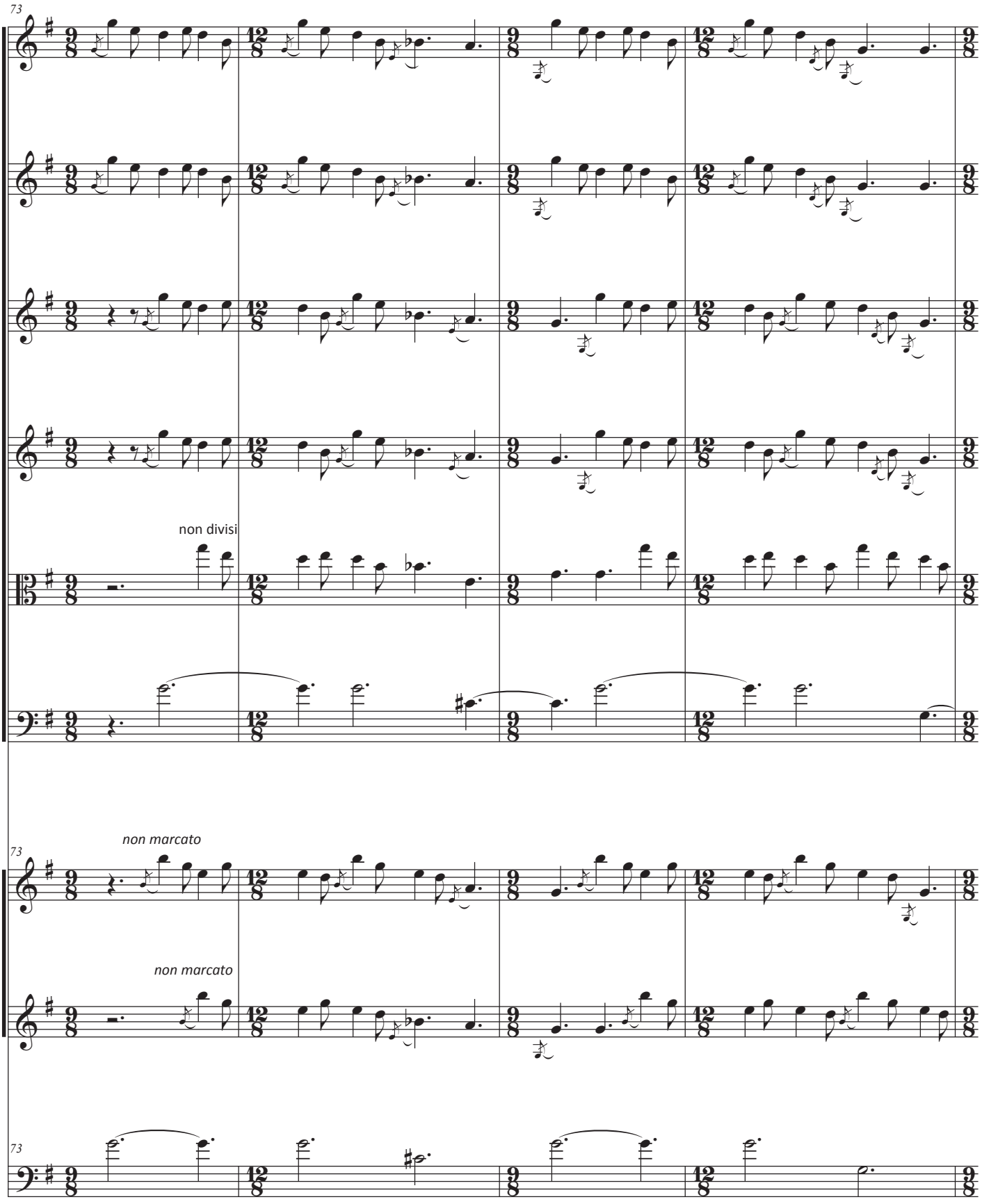
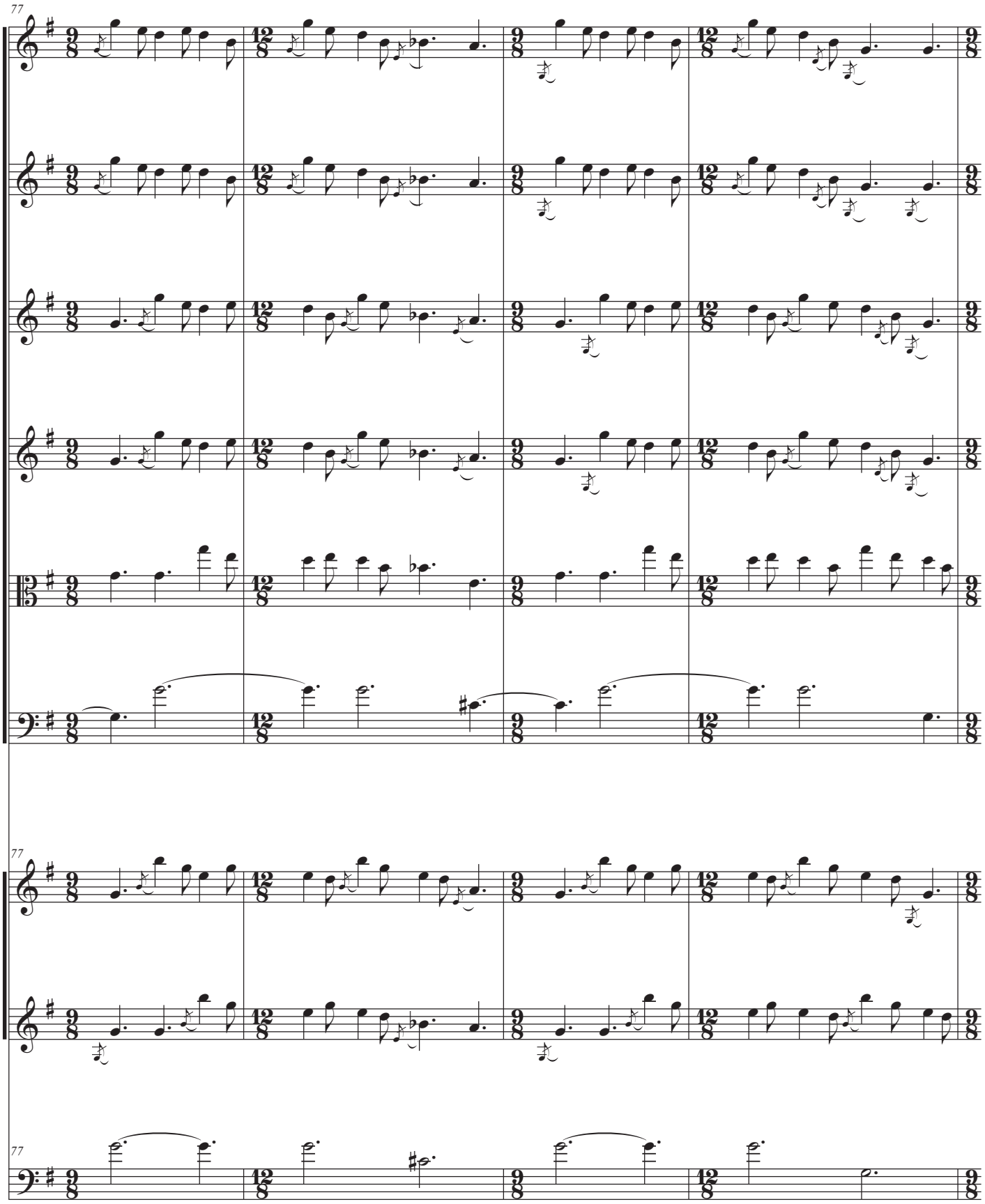
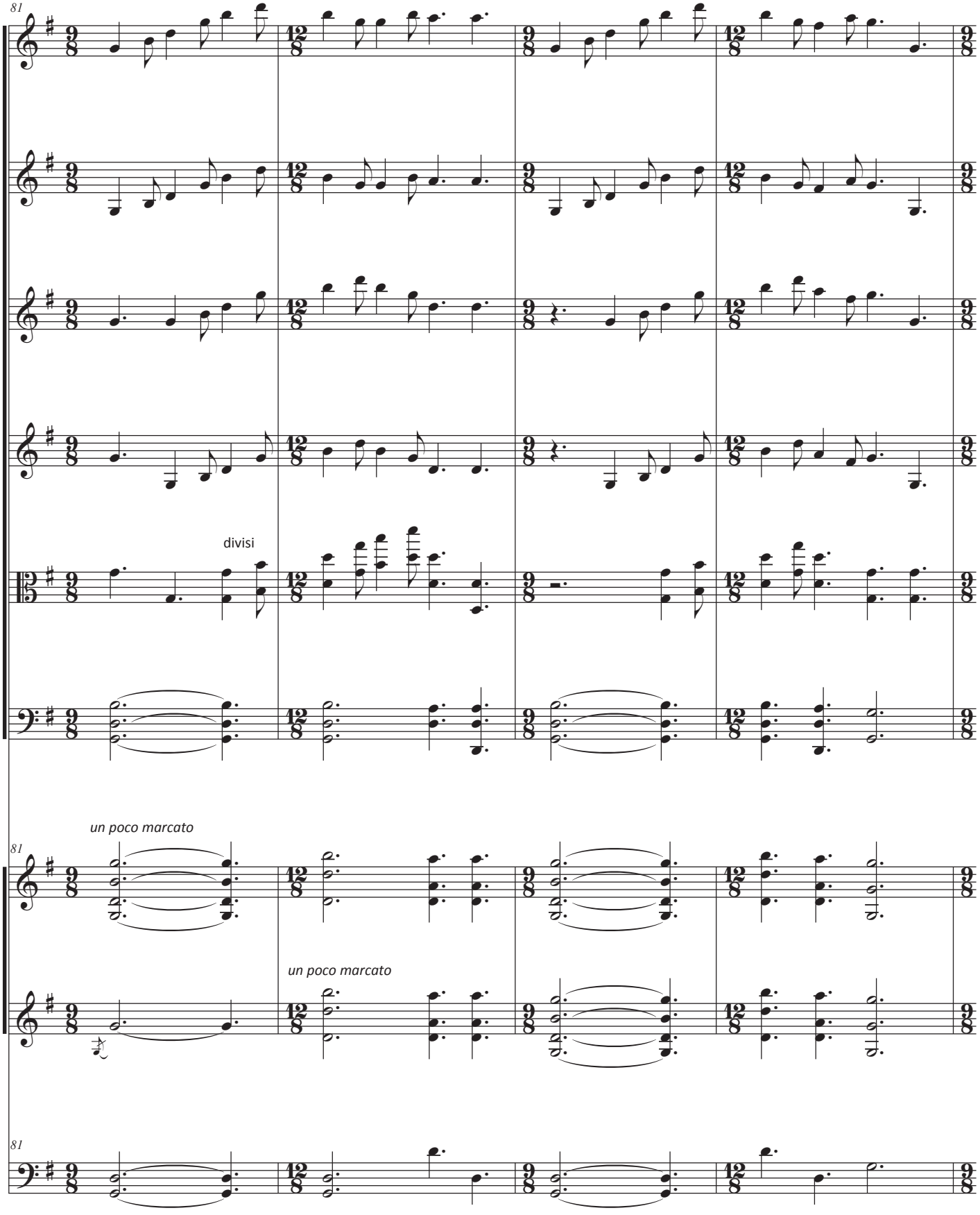
Gently ♩. = ca. 50

5
5
5

9
tutti
(p)
tutti
p
9
9
pizz. sempre
p

13
13
13

17
mute D
sim.
p
17
17

21
21
21

25
mute D
sim.
p
mute D
sim.
p
25
mute D
sim.
p
mute D
sim.
p
25
mute D
sim.

29
3
3
29
29

33
33
33

37
37
37

41
solo
(p)
pp
pp
pp
pp
41
solo
p
pp
solo
p
pp
41
pp

45
45
45

49
49
49

53
53
53

57
everyone except
mandolin 1a solo
divisi
(p)
57
57

61
(solo)
3
p
p
p
p
61
61
p

65
65
65

69
69
69

tutti rit.

77
pp
pp
pp
pp
77
77
pp

IV. Quail Waddle

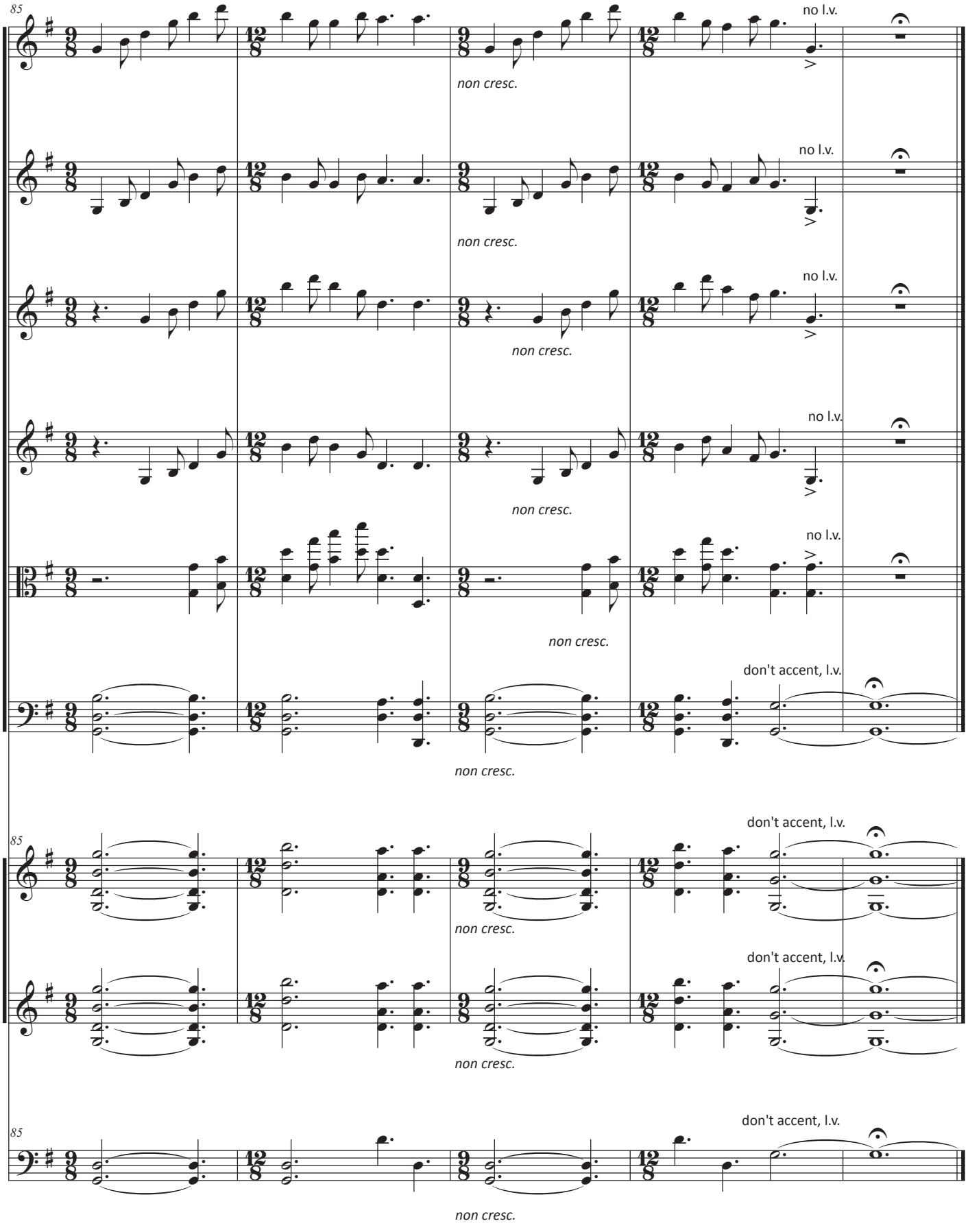
Smoothly, quickly but not rushed ♩. = ca. 132



5
f
f
5
5

9
un poco marcato
un poco marcato
9
9

13
non marcato
non marcato
un poco marcato
f
un poco marcato
f
13
13

17
non marcato
un poco marcato
f
17
17

21
21
un poco marcato
f
21

25
25
25

29
29
29

33
33
pizz. sempre
un poco marcato
33
f

37
37
37

41
41
41

45
45
45

49
divisi
49
49

53
53
53

57
non divisi
non marcato
non marcato
57
57

61
61
61

65
divisi
un poco marcato
65
un poco marcato
65

69
69
69

73
non divisi
73
non marcato
non marcato
73

77
77
77

81
divisi
un poco marcato
81
un poco marcato
81

IV. Quail Waddle

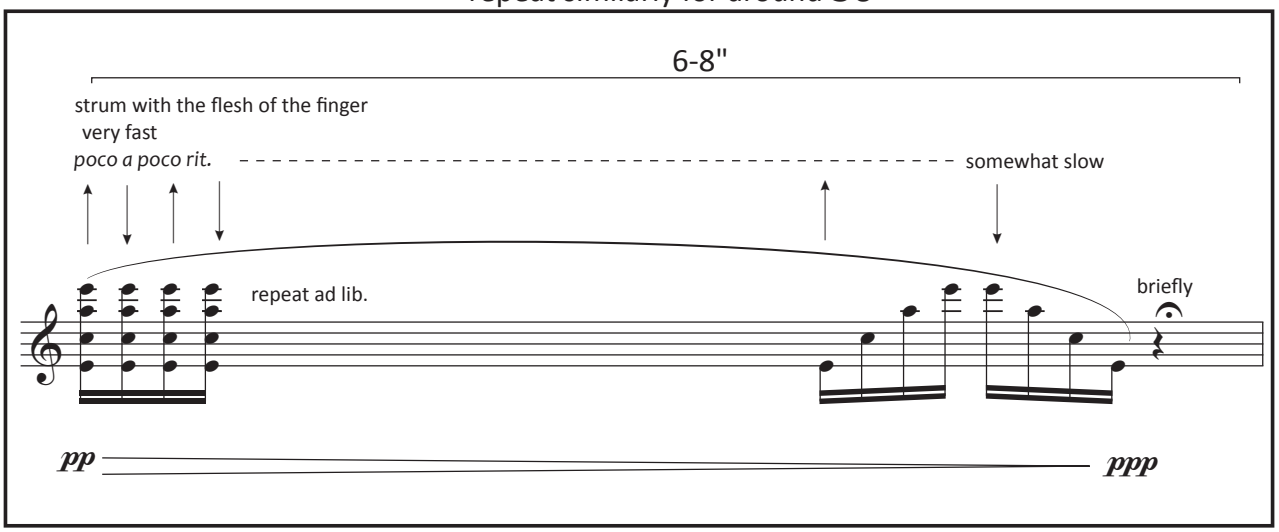
tutti attaca*

* = After letting the strings ring for a while, everyone moves on to movement V.
This should be done before the sound has completely faded away.

V. Wind Settling Down at Dusk

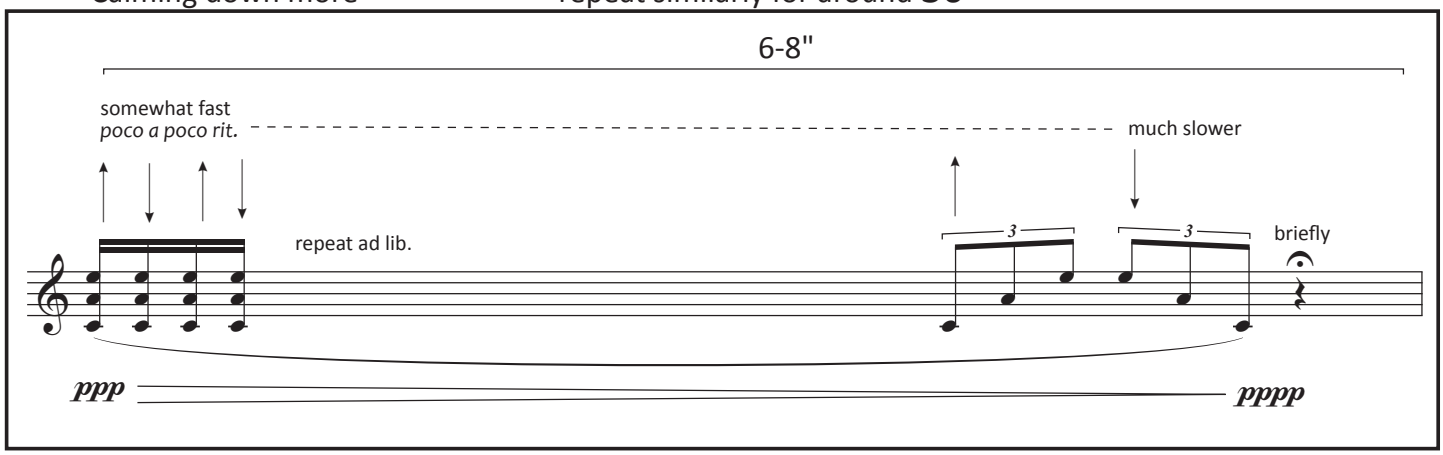
Calm, a quiet rustling, always let ring

Everyone plays independently from each other. Never get loud. The mandolins and mandolas start roughly at the same time, but stagger your entrances slightly.

repeat similarly for around 30"

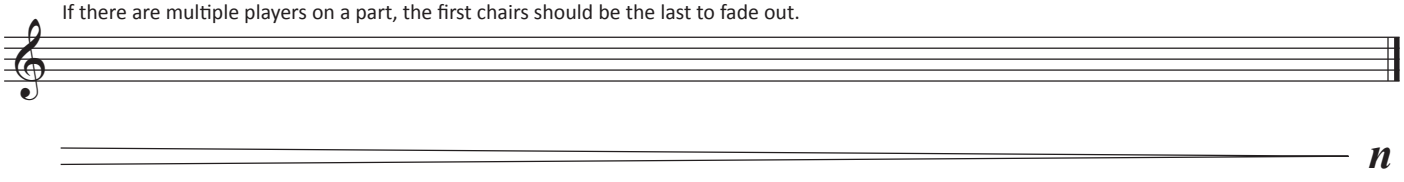


Calming down more repeat similarly for around 30"



15"

Continue similarly, but over 15" gradually get quieter and fade out individually.
If there are multiple players on a part, the first chairs should be the last to fade out.



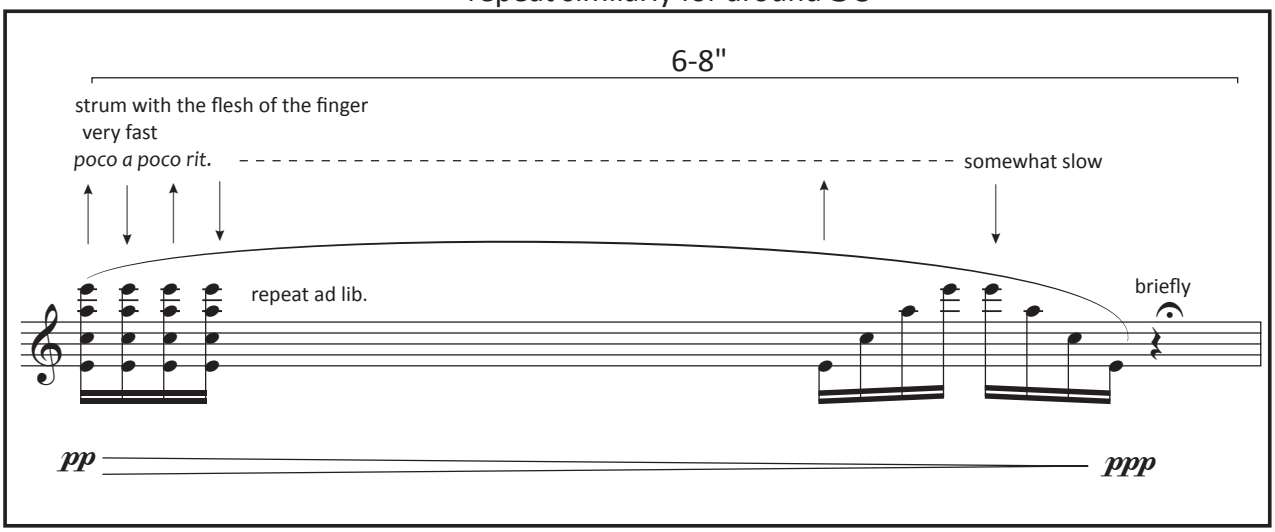
Stuttgart
December 28, 2022

V. Wind Settling Down at Dusk

Calm, a quiet rustling, always let ring

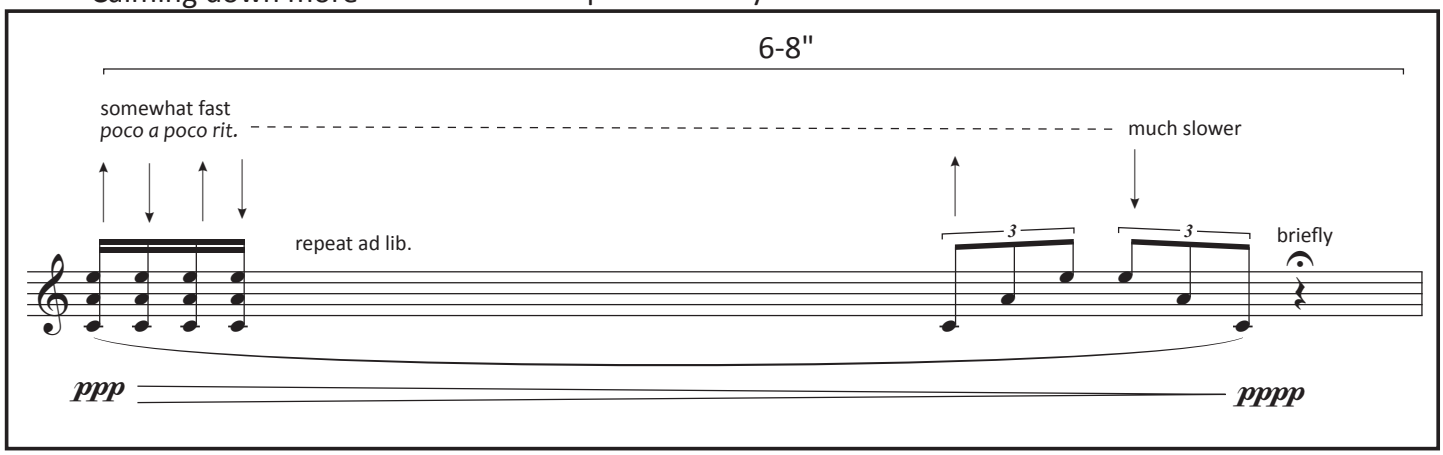
Everyone plays independently from each other. Never get loud. The mandolins and mandolas start roughly at the same time, but stagger your entrances slightly.

repeat similarly for around 30"



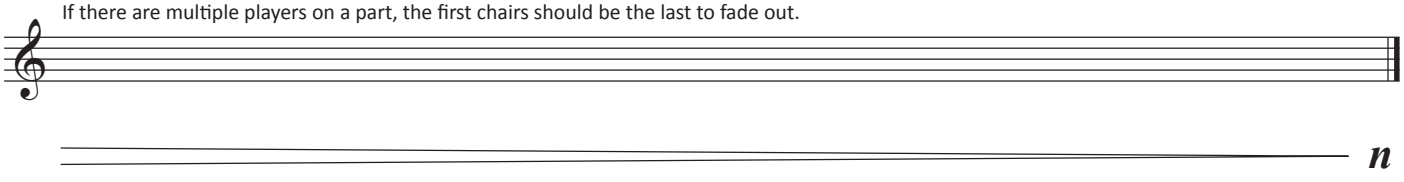
Calming down more

repeat similarly for around 30"



15"

Continue similarly, but over 15" gradually get quieter and fade out individually.
If there are multiple players on a part, the first chairs should be the last to fade out.



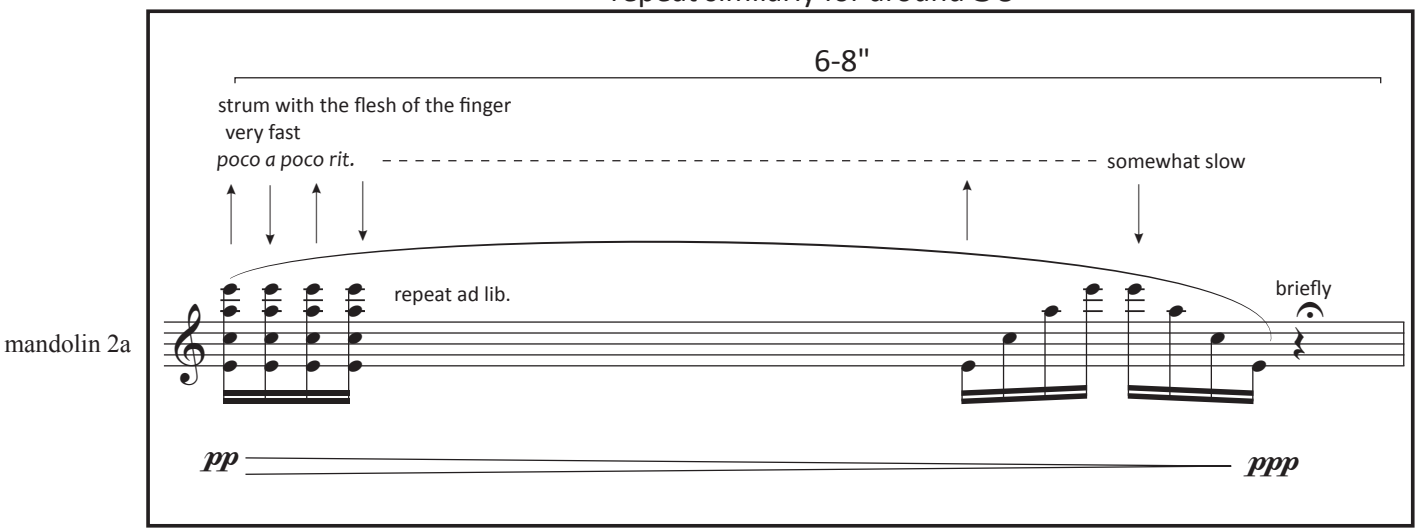
Stuttgart
December 28, 2022

V. Wind Settling Down at Dusk

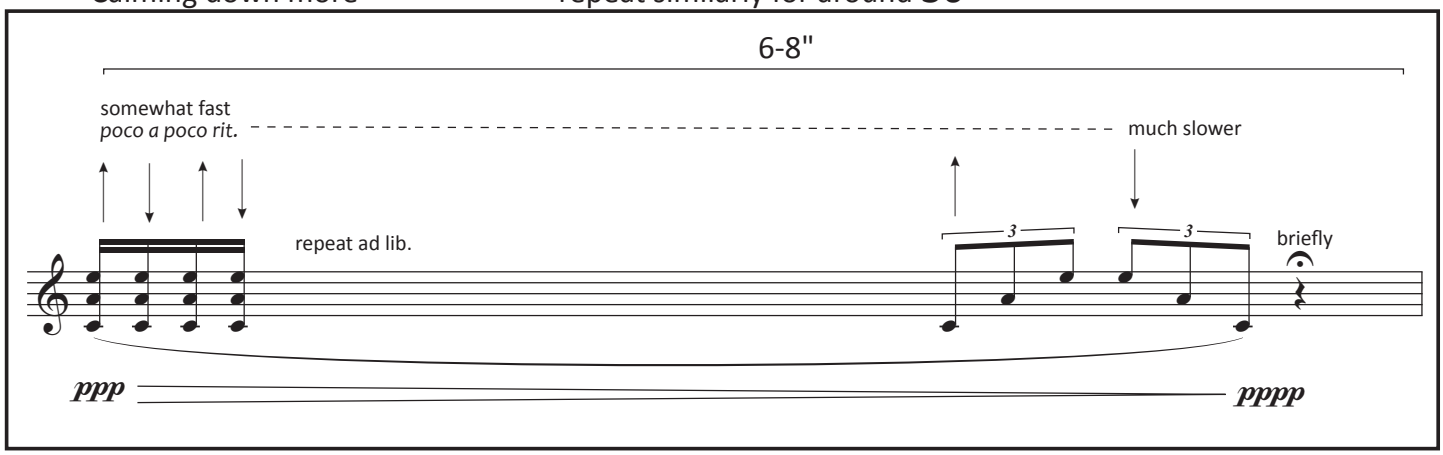
Calm, a quiet rustling, always let ring

Everyone plays independently from each other. Never get loud. The mandolins and mandolas start roughly at the same time, but stagger your entrances slightly.

repeat similarly for around 30"

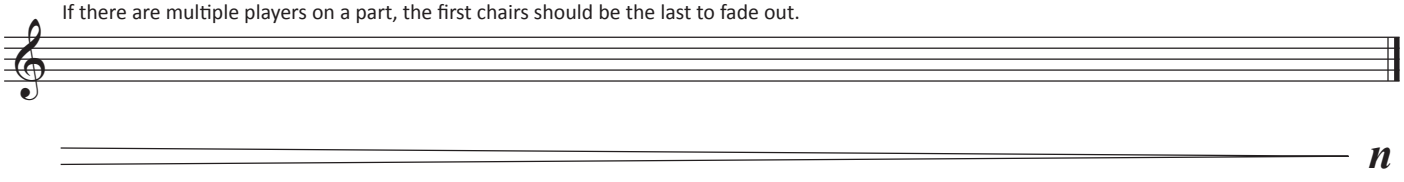


Calming down more repeat similarly for around 30"



15"

Continue similarly, but over 15" gradually get quieter and fade out individually.
If there are multiple players on a part, the first chairs should be the last to fade out.



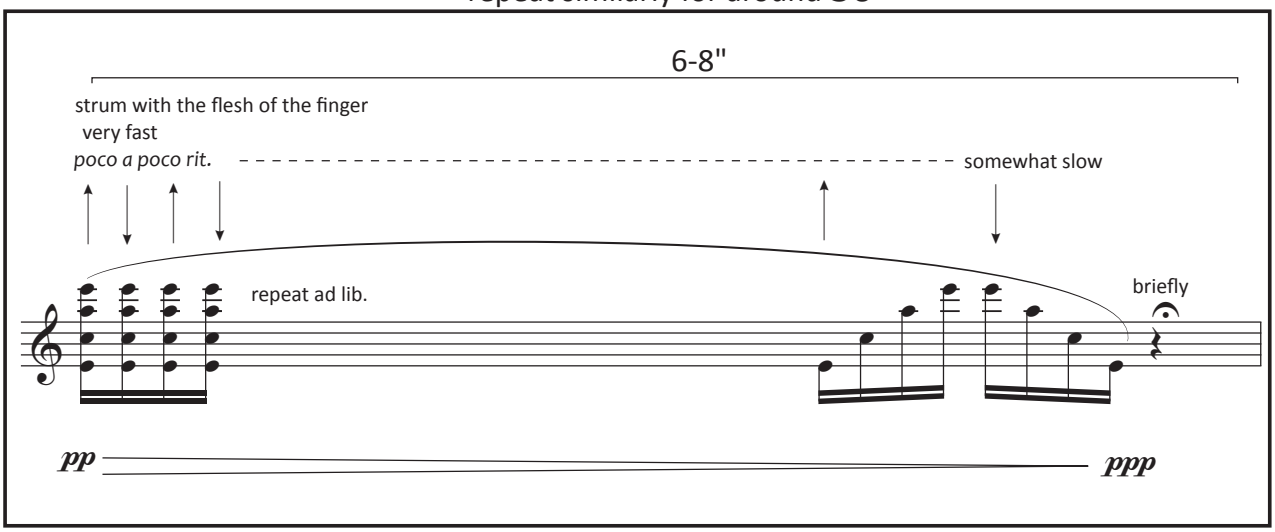
Stuttgart
December 28, 2022

V. Wind Settling Down at Dusk

Calm, a quiet rustling, always let ring

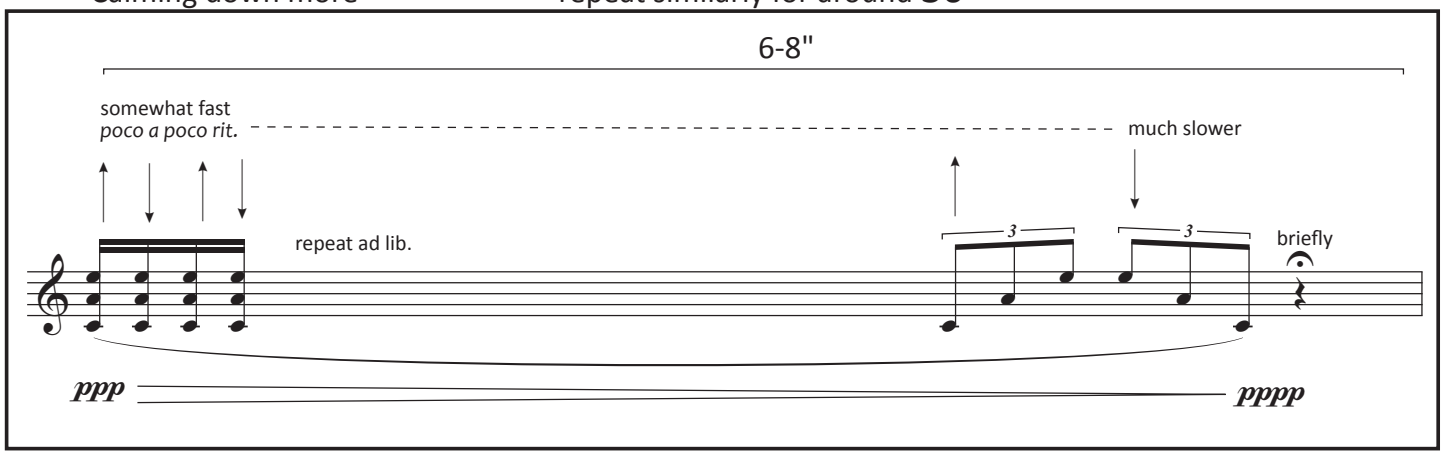
Everyone plays independently from each other. Never get loud. The mandolins and mandolas start roughly at the same time, but stagger your entrances slightly.

repeat similarly for around 30"



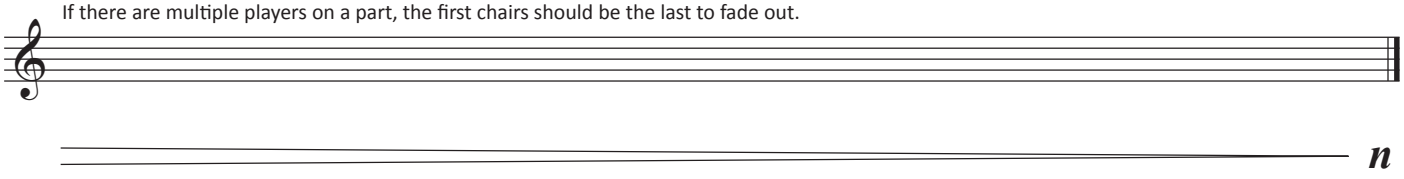
Calming down more

repeat similarly for around 30"



15"

Continue similarly, but over 15" gradually get quieter and fade out individually.
If there are multiple players on a part, the first chairs should be the last to fade out.



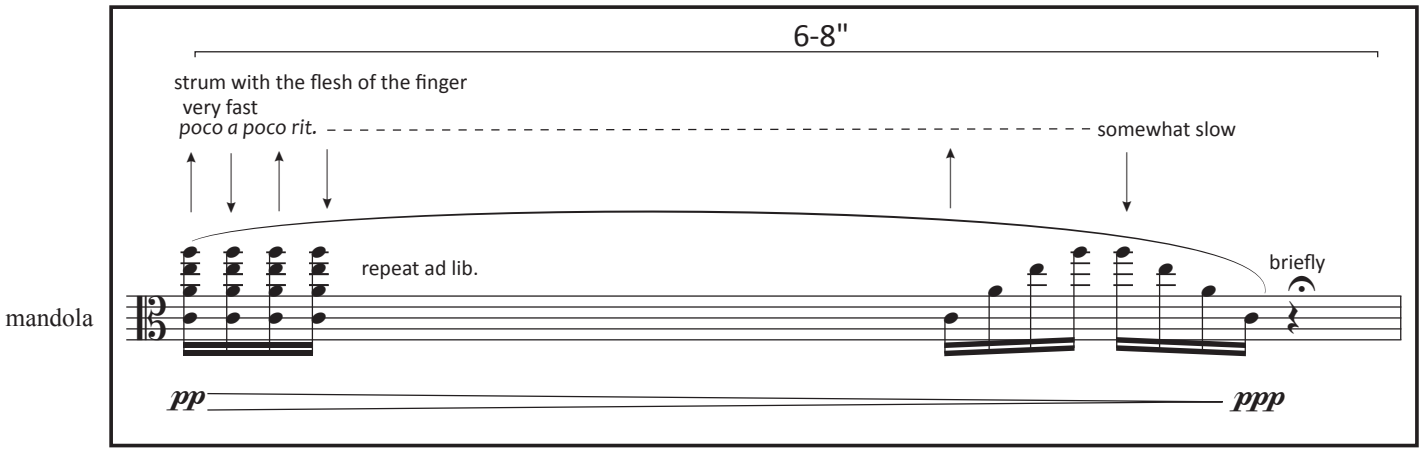
Stuttgart
December 28, 2022

V. Wind Settling Down at Dusk

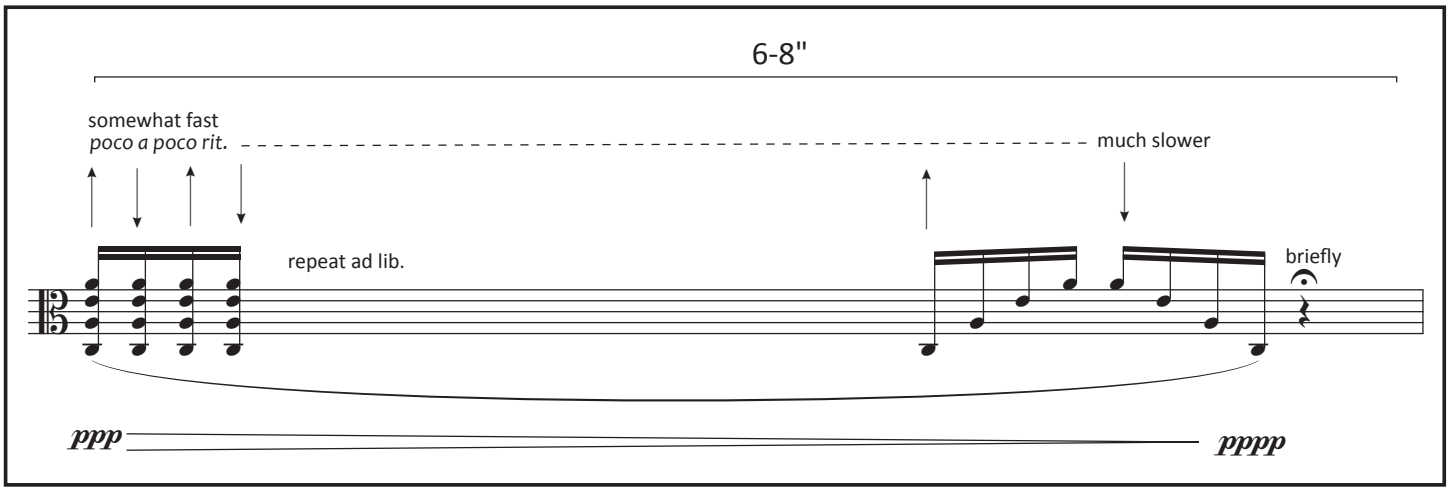
Calm, a quiet rustling, always let ring

Everyone plays independently from each other. Never get loud. The mandolins and mandolas start roughly at the same time, but stagger your entrances slightly.

repeat similarly for around 30"

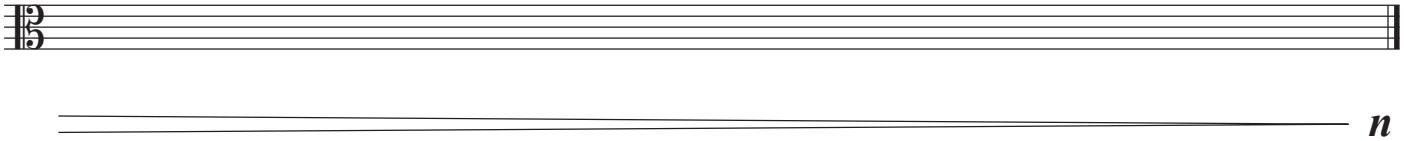


Calming down more repeat similarly for around 30"



15"

Continue similarly, but over 15" gradually get quieter and fade out individually.
If there are multiple players on a part, the first chairs should be the last to fade out.



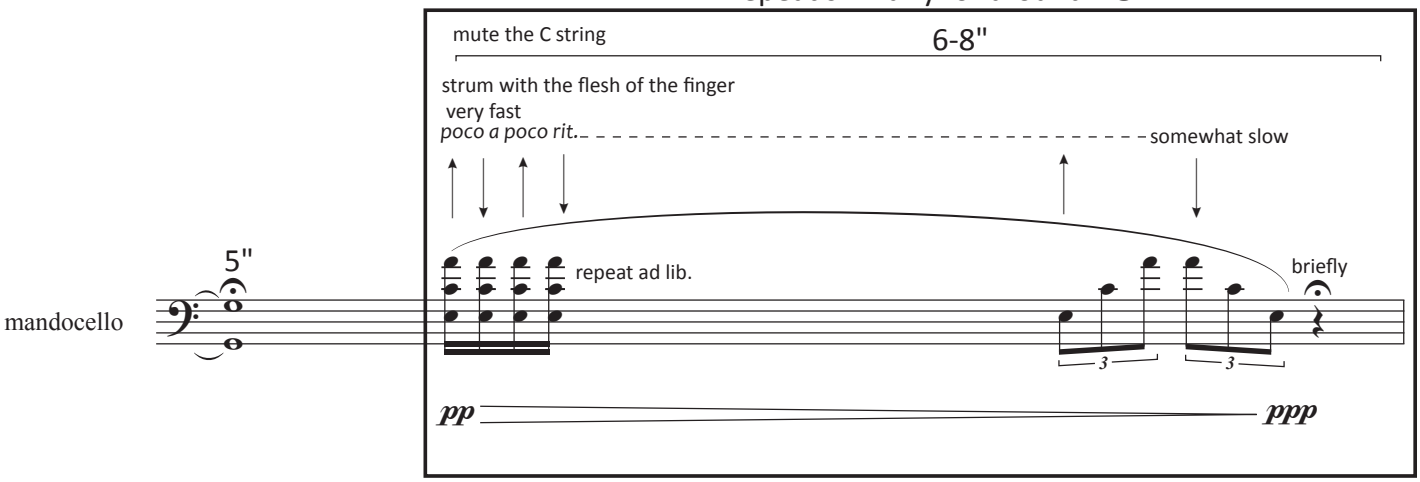
Stuttgart
December 28, 2022

V. Wind Settling Down at Dusk

Calm, a quiet rustling, always let ring

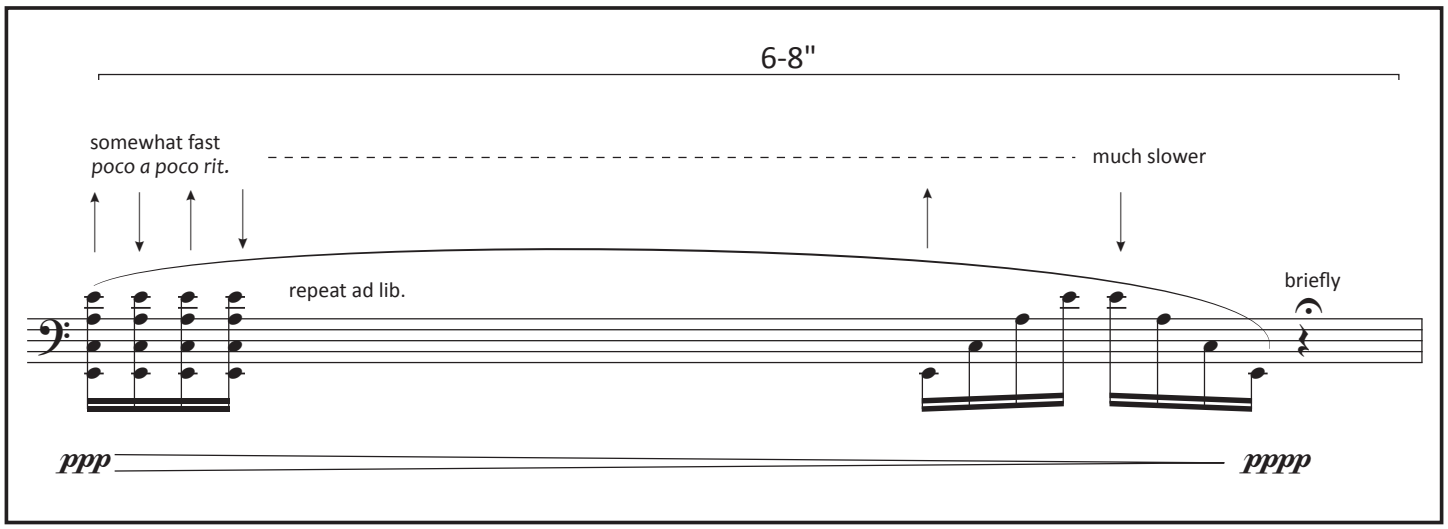
Everyone plays independently from each other. Never get loud. The mandolins and mandolas begin first. The mandocello and guitars should enter around 5" after that at roughly the same time, but stagger your entrances slightly.

repeat similarly for around 25"



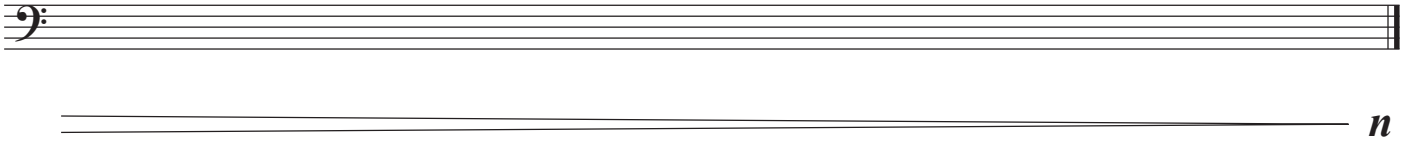
Calming down more

repeat similarly for around 30"



15"

Continue similarly, but over 15" gradually get quieter and fade out individually.
If there are multiple players on a part, the first chairs should be the last to fade out.



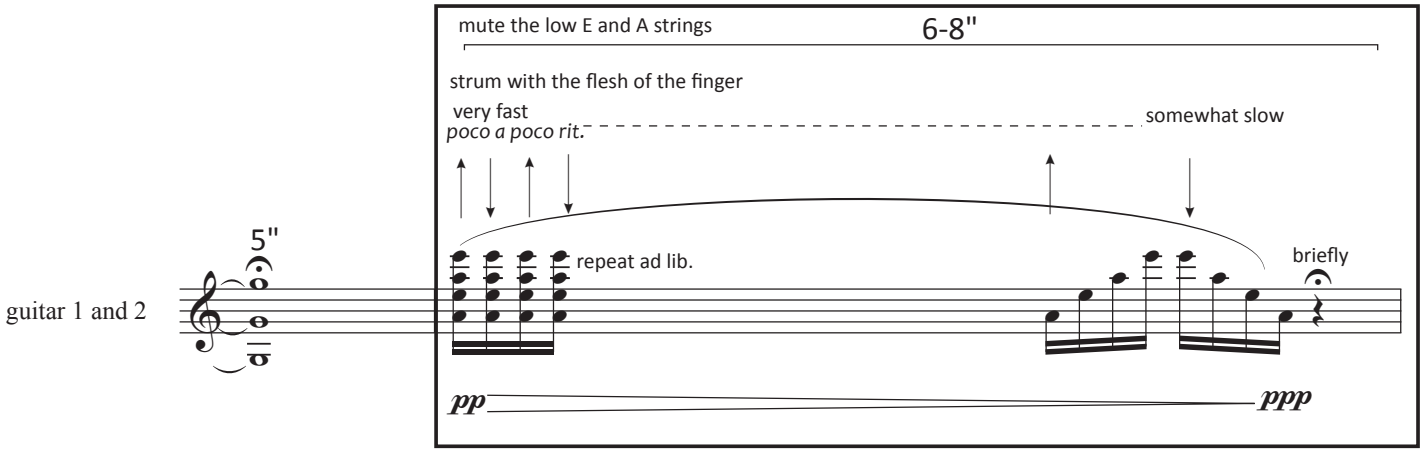
Stuttgart
December 28, 2022

V. Wind Settling Down at Dusk

Calm, a quiet rustling, always let ring

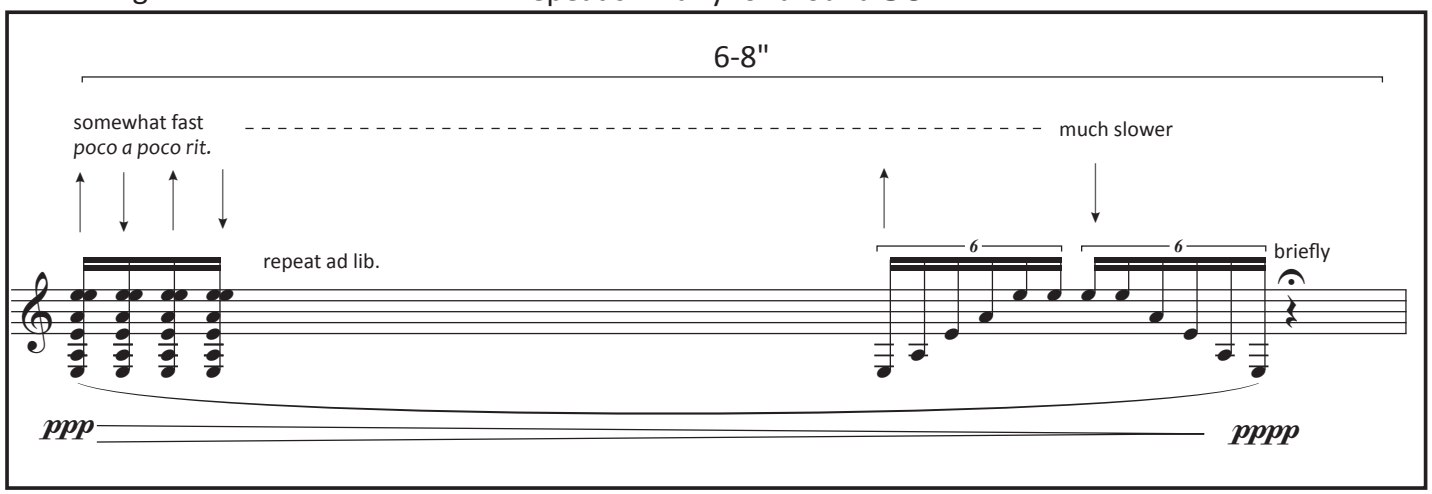
Everyone plays independently from each other. Never get loud. The mandolins and mandolas begin first. The mandocello and guitars should enter around 5" after that at roughly the same time, but stagger your entrances slightly.

repeat similarly for around 25"



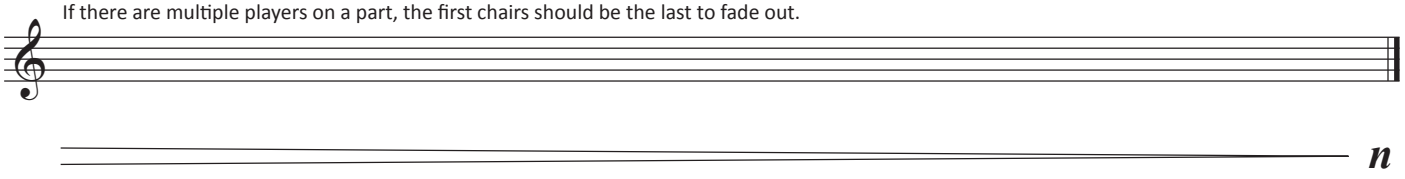
Calming down more

repeat similarly for around 30"



15"

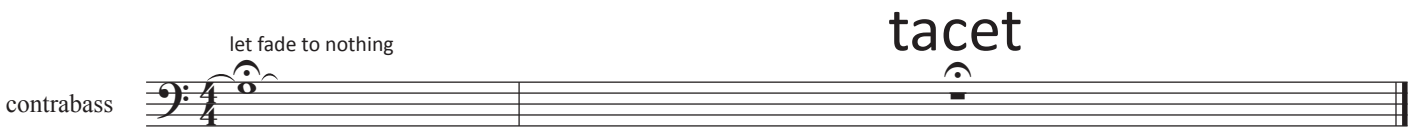
Continue similarly, but over 15" gradually get quieter and fade out individually.
If there are multiple players on a part, the first chairs should be the last to fade out.



n

Stuttgart
December 28, 2022

V. Wind Settling Down at Dusk



Stuttgart
December 28, 2022