Laura Newey

Falling

For three violins, two violas, two cellos and double bass

c. 5'30"

Falling describes the journey of a person or object towards the event horizon of a black hole. As gravity becomes stronger and stronger closer to the horizon, the point of no return, light and sound waves from the object reaching an outside observer become progressively more distorted; slower, lower in frequency and stretched out. The first viola's repeating melodic line undergoes this process; it is augmented and lowered in pitch on each repetition, as harmonic and timbral echoes and distortions build up in the surrounding instruments. The melody eventually grinds to a stop on the tonic and dominant of A, impurified by quarter-tones; the traveller appears frozen forever at the event horizon of the black hole.

When 𝄞 appears above the stave,
play the following passage approximately
a quarter-tone flat. When ♮ appears,
return to concert pitch.

Falling

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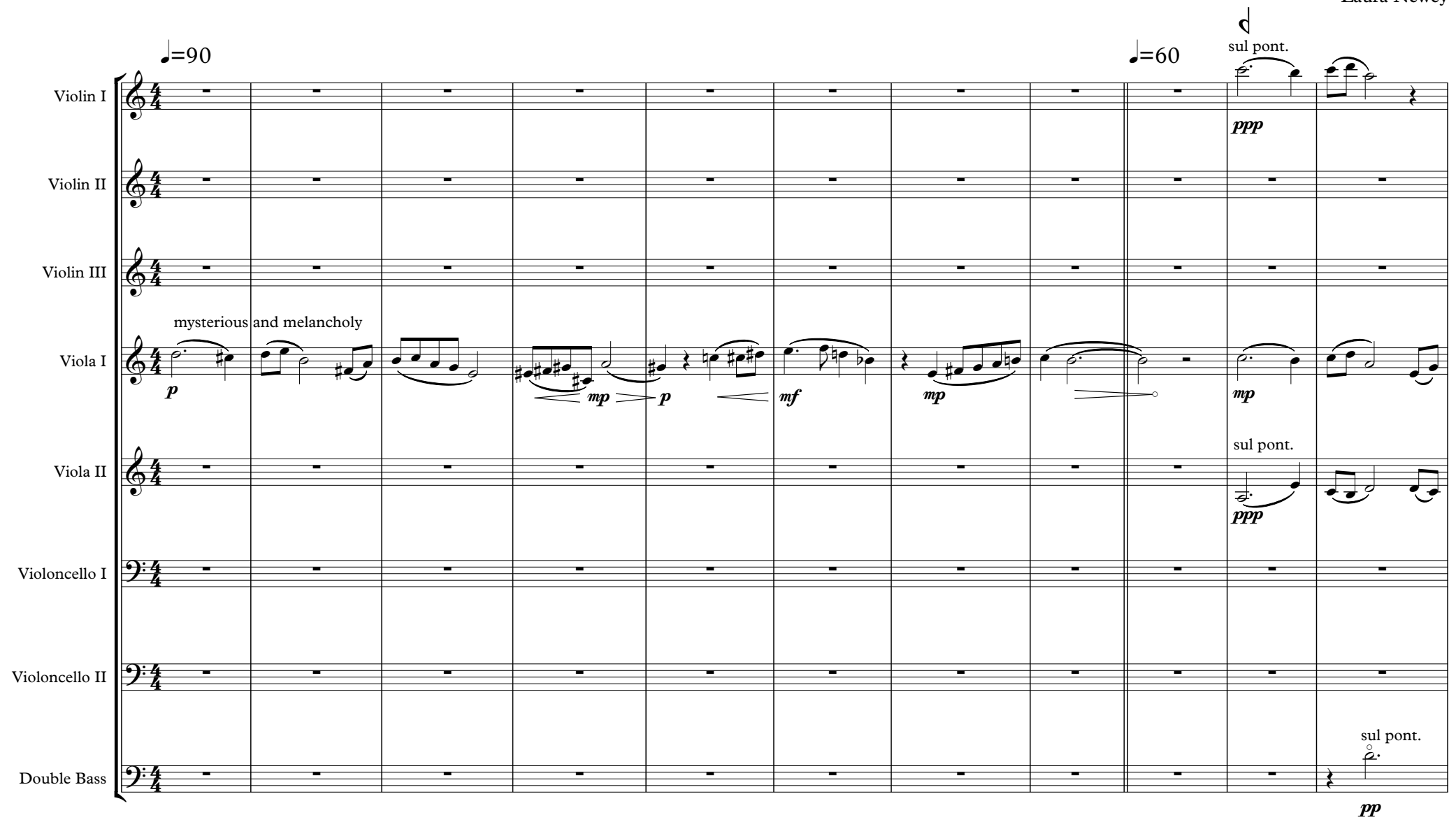
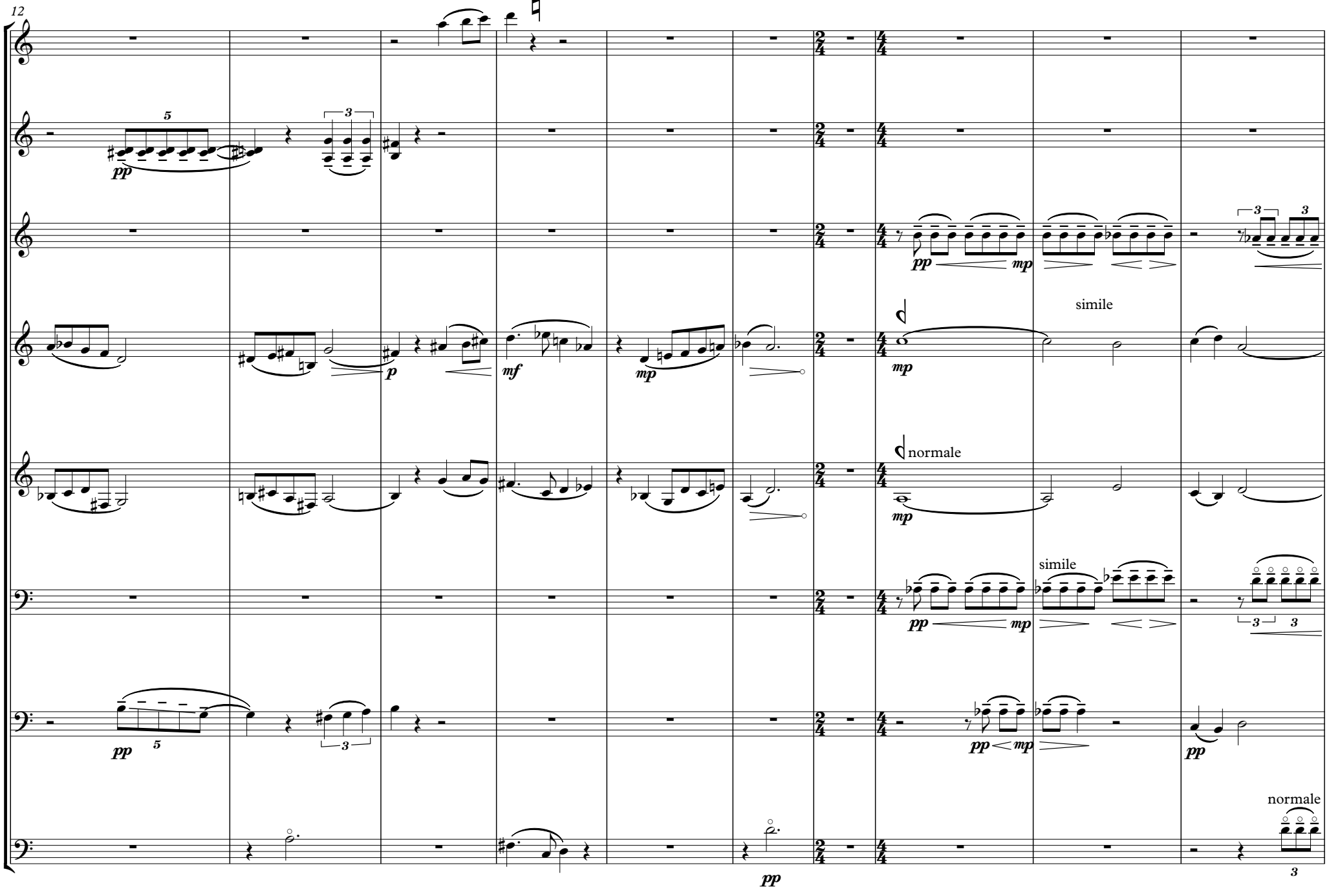
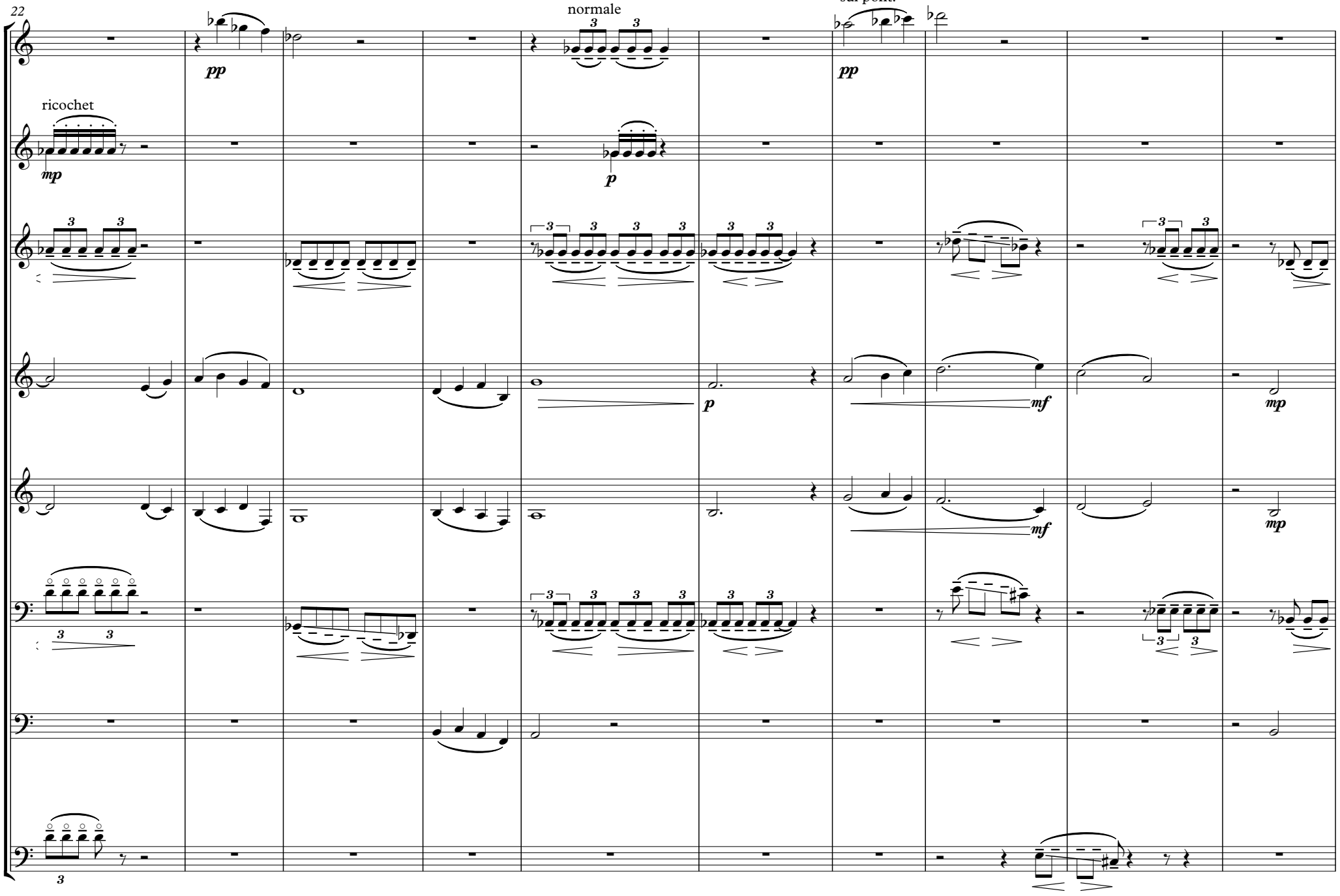
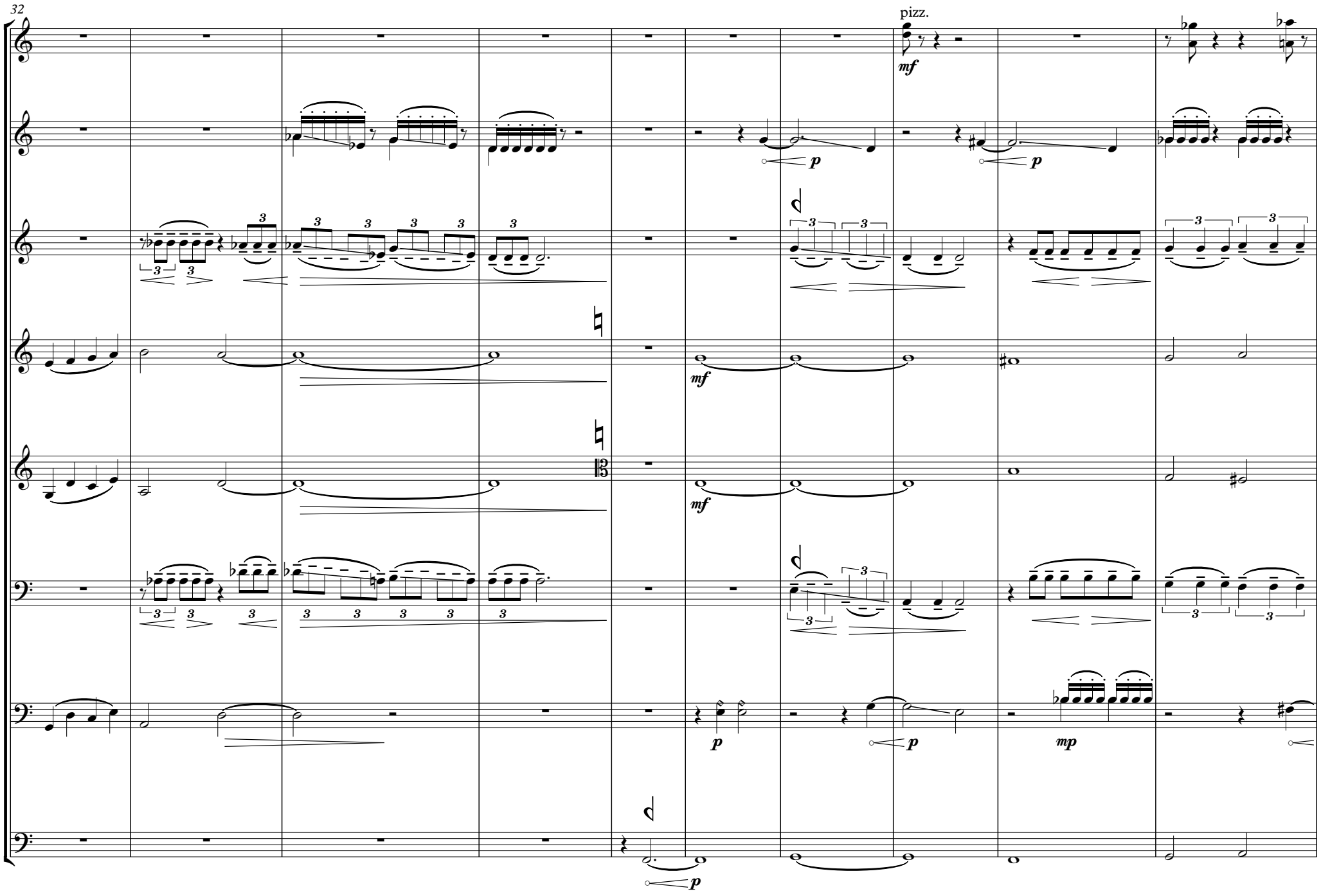
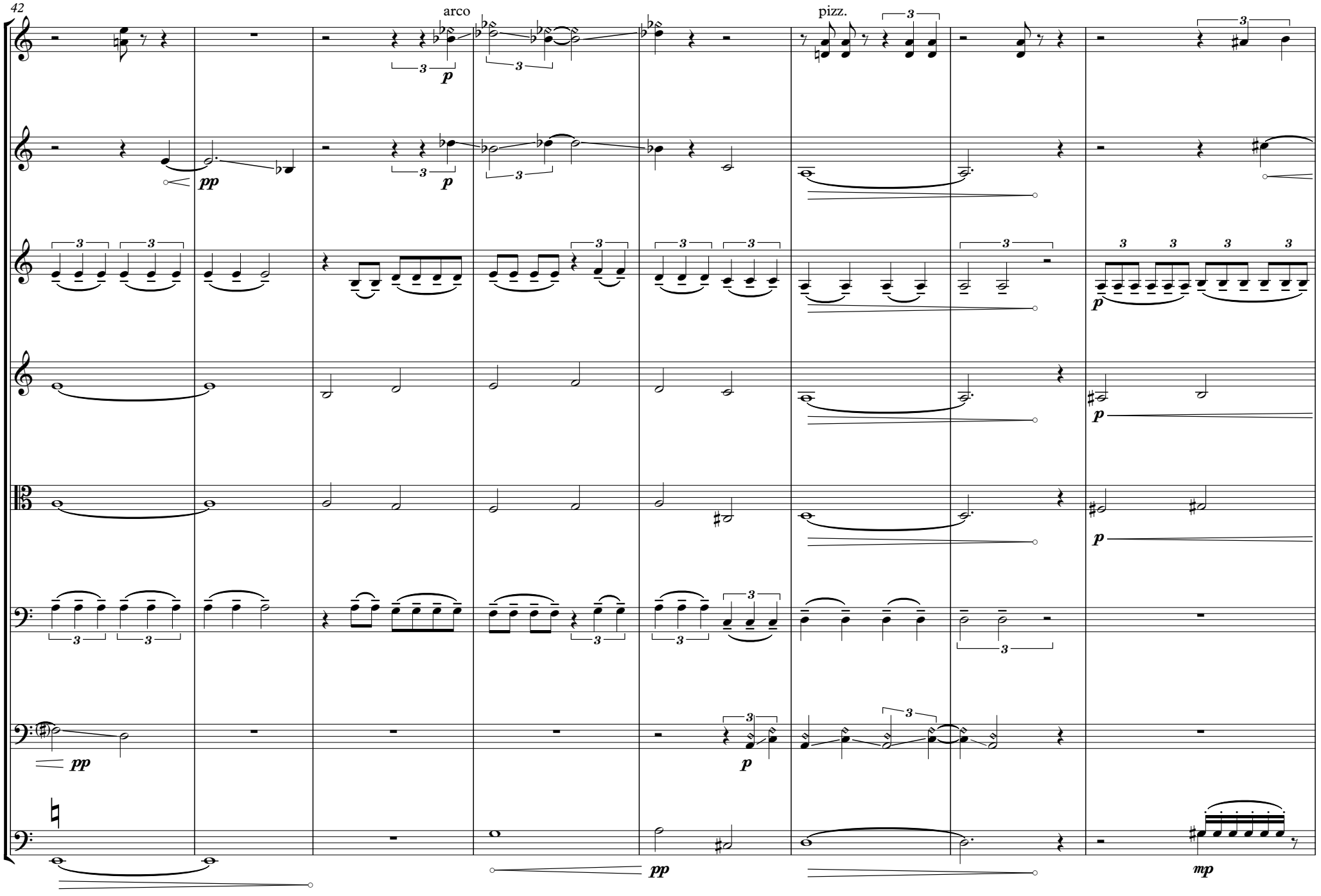
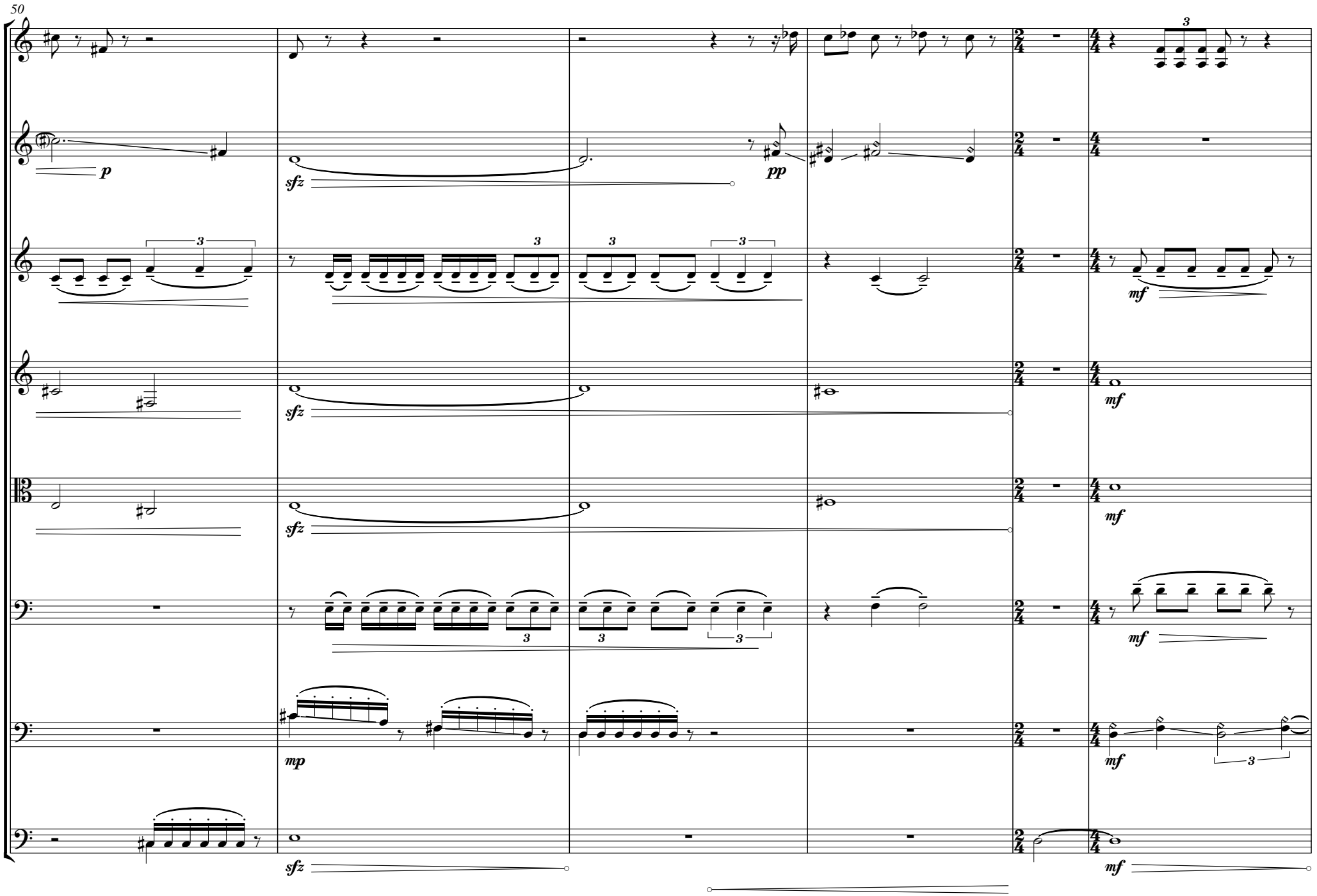


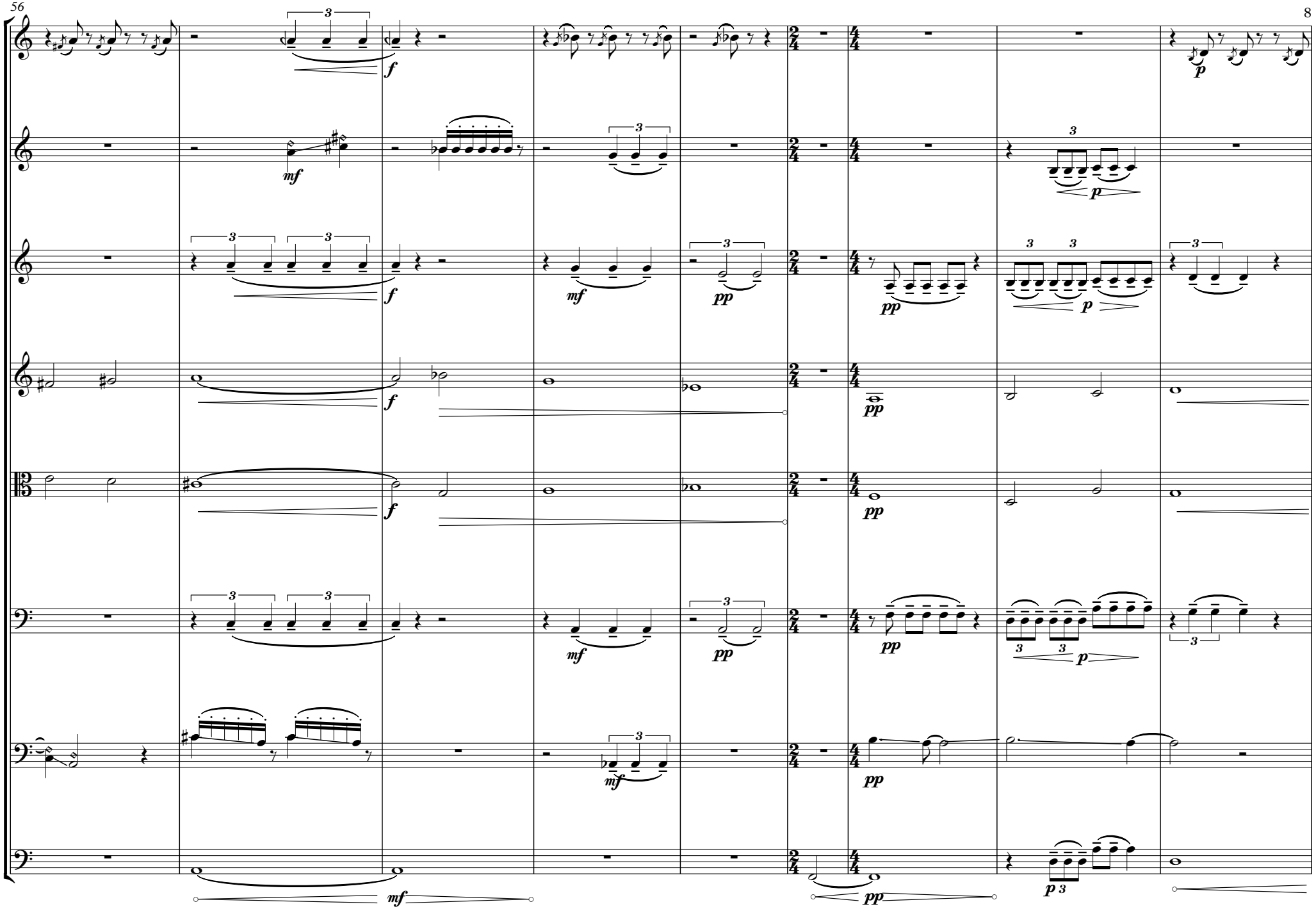

12
simile
normale
simile
normale

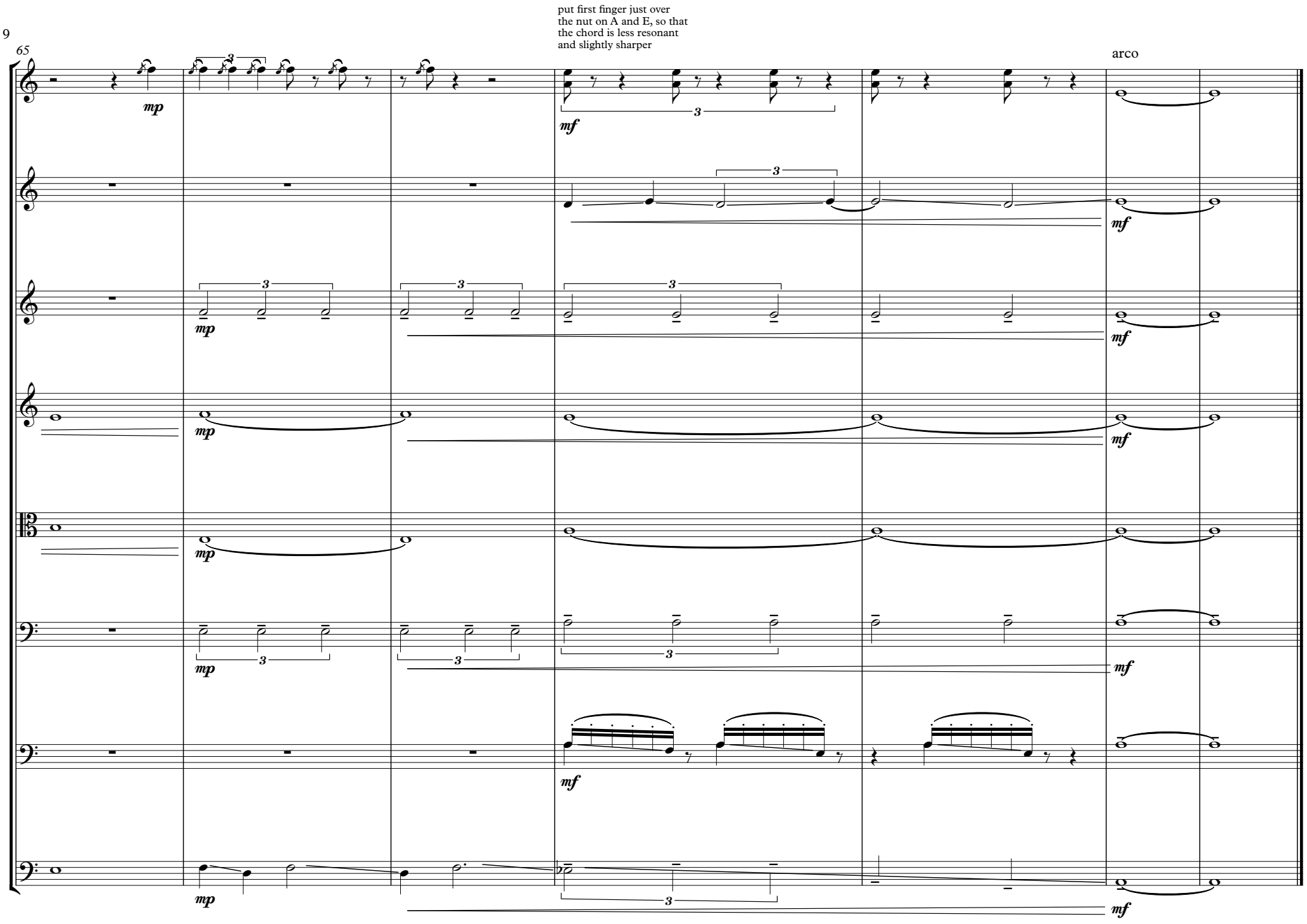

22
ricochet
normale
sul pont.
pp
mp
p
mf


32
pizz.
mf
p
mf
mf
p
p
mp


42
arco
pizz.
pp
p
pp
p
p
p
pp
p
pp
mp


50
p
sfz
pp
mf
mp


f
mf
pp
p


65
put first finger just over
the nut on A and E, so that
the chord is less resonant
and slightly sharper
arco
mp
mf
3