2013 PARMA RECORDINGS

ANTHOLOGY OF MUSIC

Surface Tension

for string quartet

DAVID BIEDENBENDER

PRO Tracking ID: PMsurfacetension

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PARMA RECORDINGS

DAVID BIEDENBENDER

SURFACE TENSION

for string quartet

BENT SPACE MUSIC

Surface Tension was written for the Stenhammar String Quartet and the Masterclass in Composition at the Collegium for Advanced Study at Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden with Anders Hillborg and Steven Stucky.

Performance materials available from the composer:
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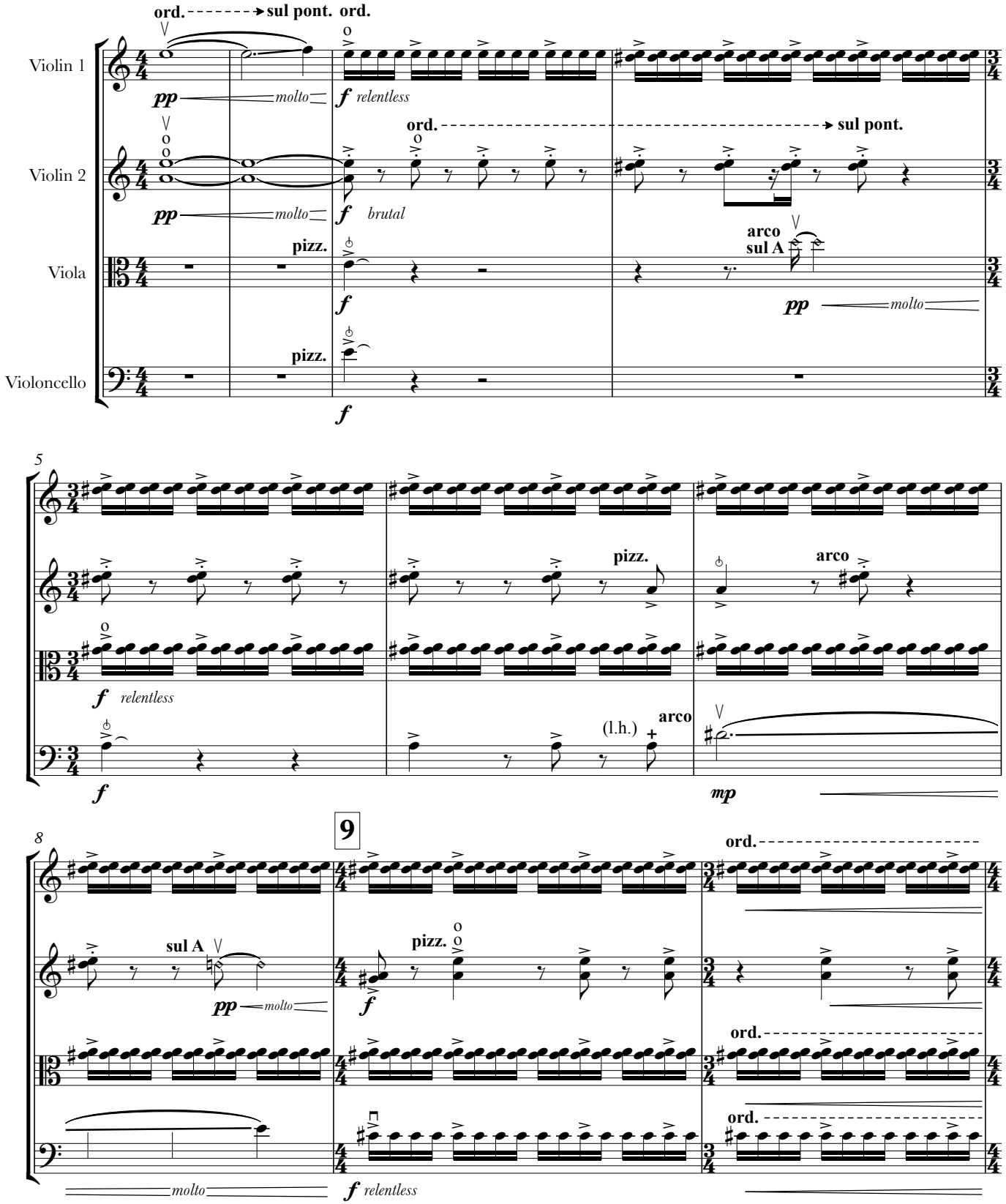
for the Stenhammar String Quartet

SURFACE TENSION

for string quartet

DAVID BIEDENBENDER

Fast, frenetic, aggressive, boiling over ♩=144



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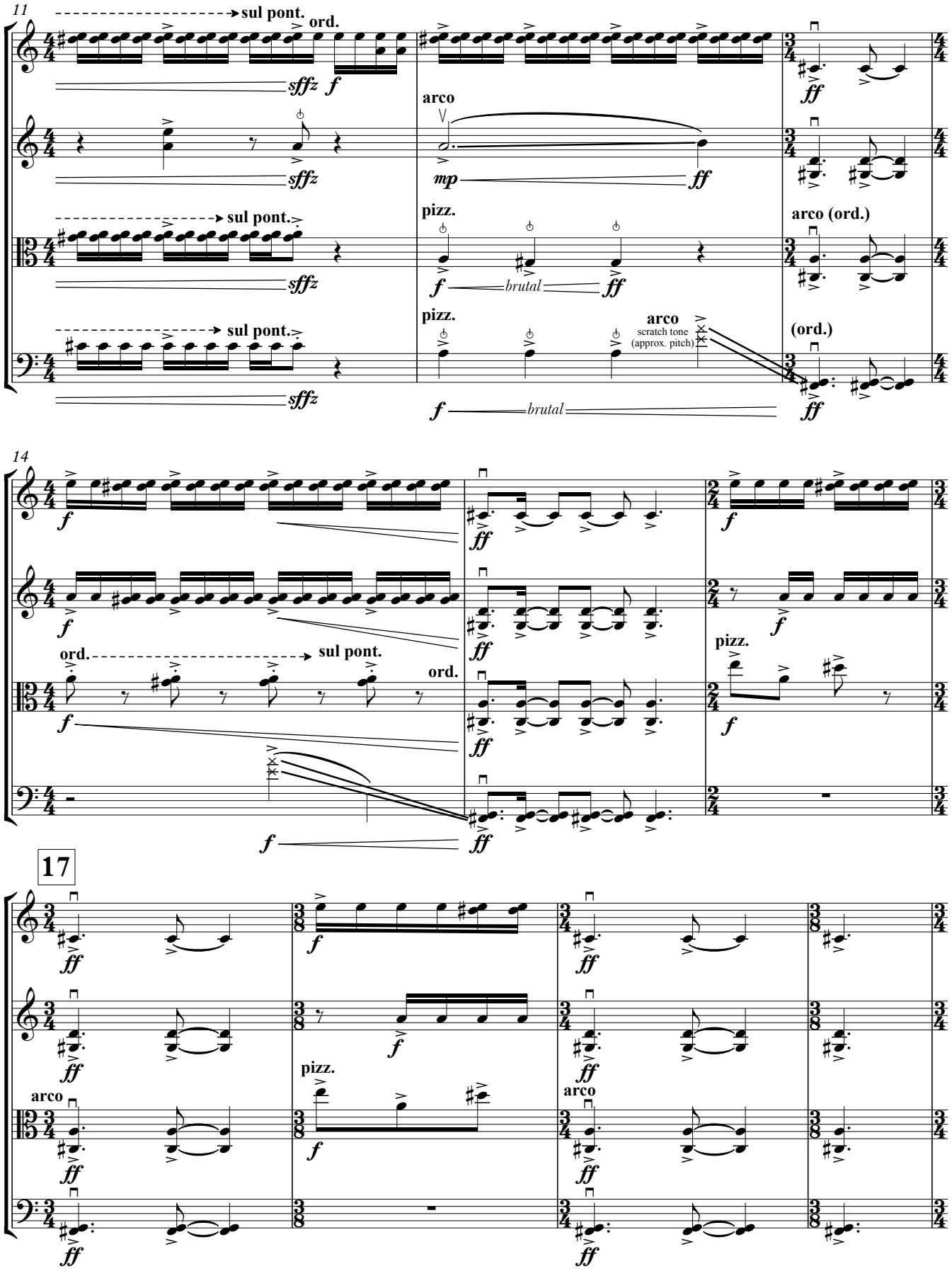
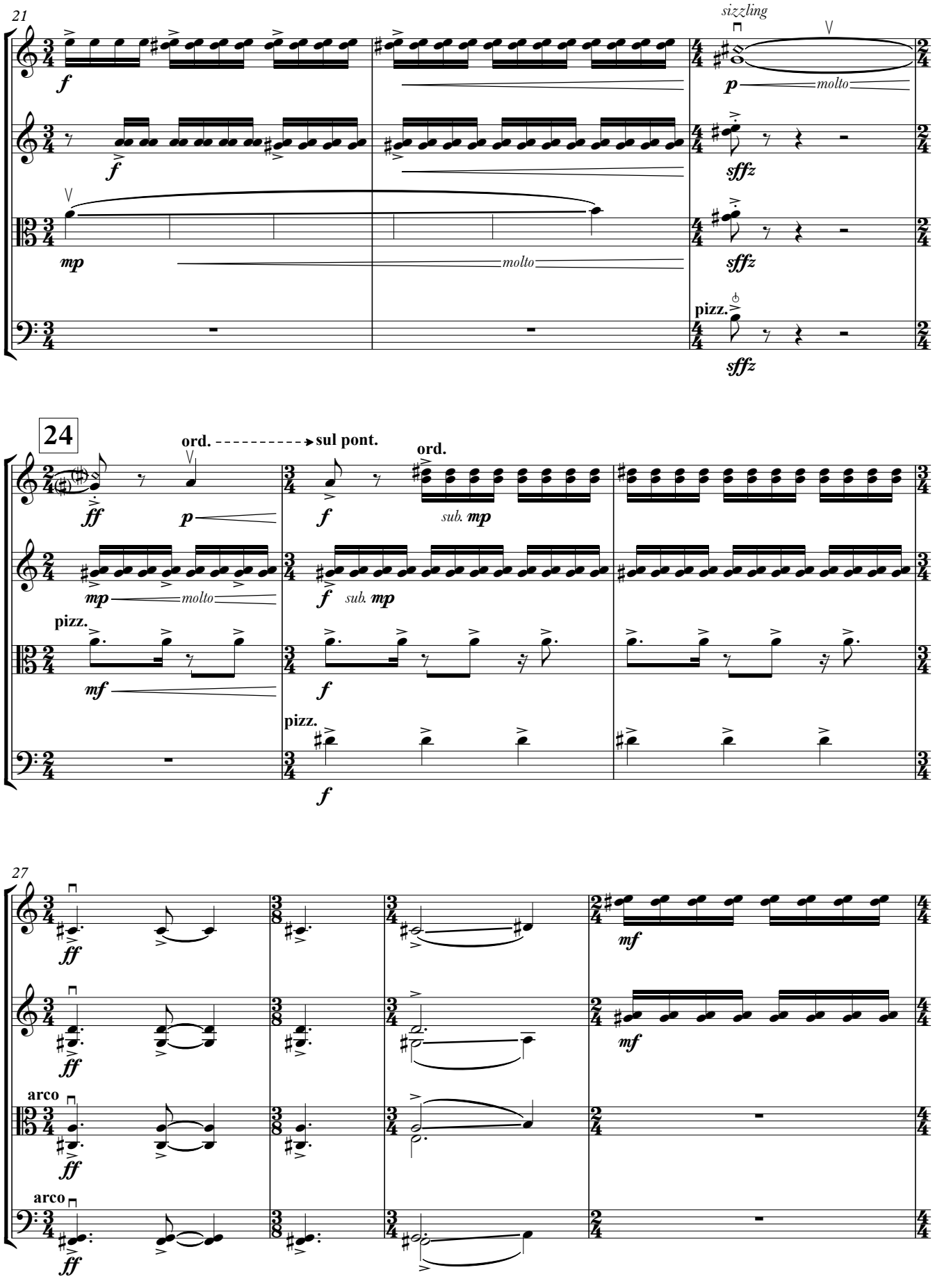
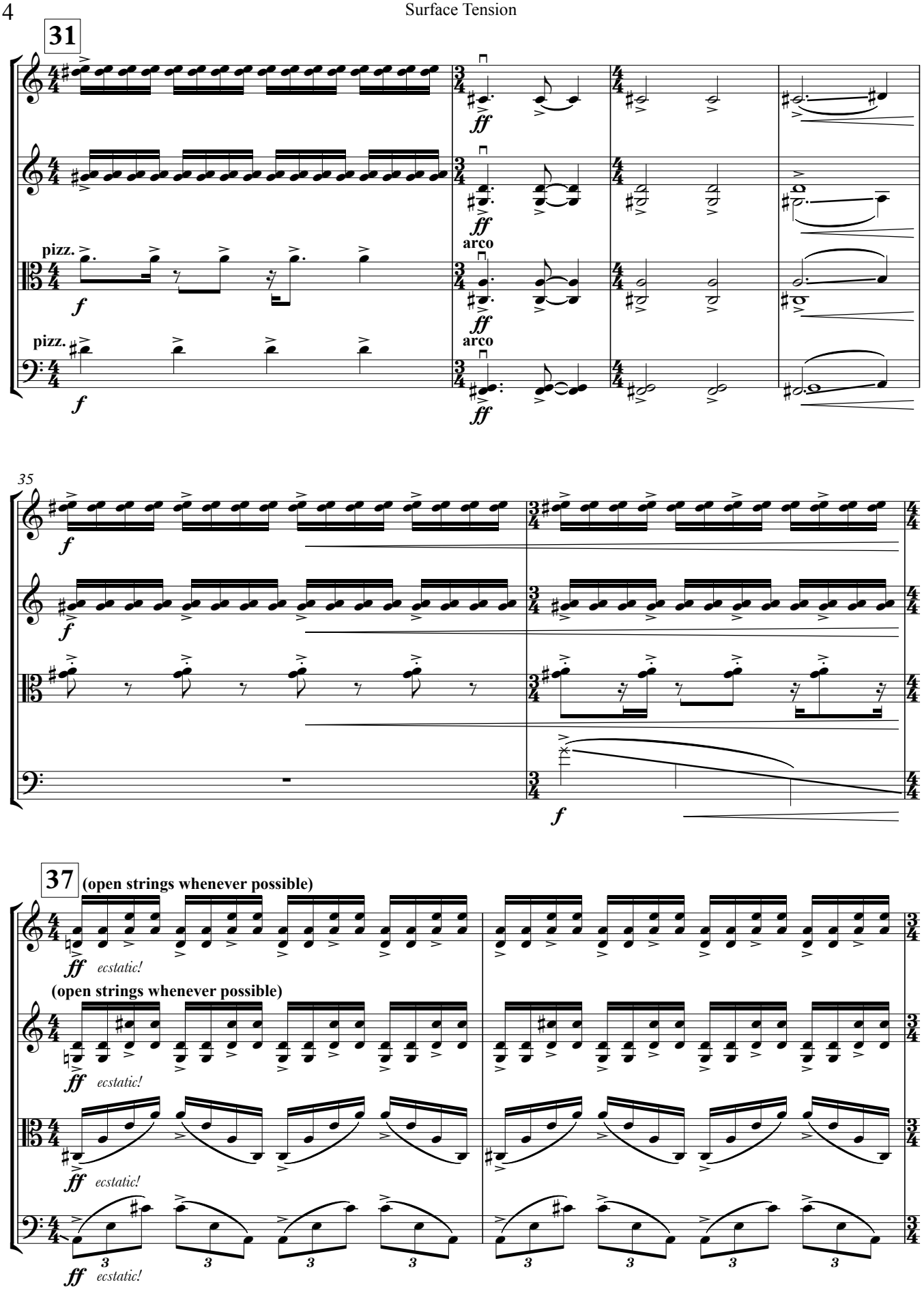
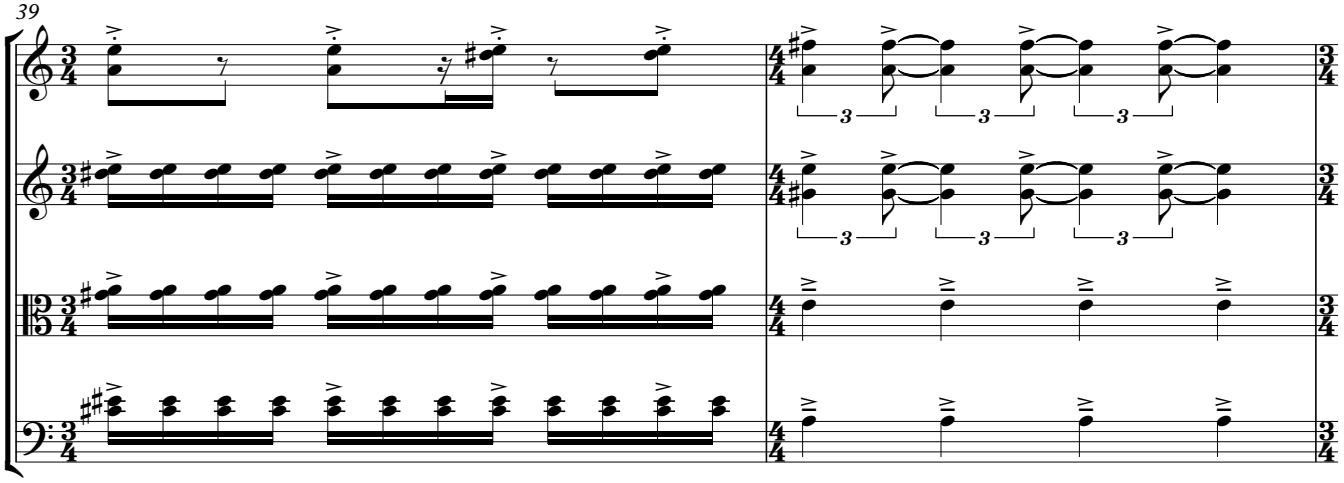

11
sul pont.
ord.
sffz
f
arco
mp
ff
pizz.
brutal
arco (ord.)
arco
scratch tone
(approx. pitch)
(ord.)
14
sul pont.
ord.
pizz.
17
arco

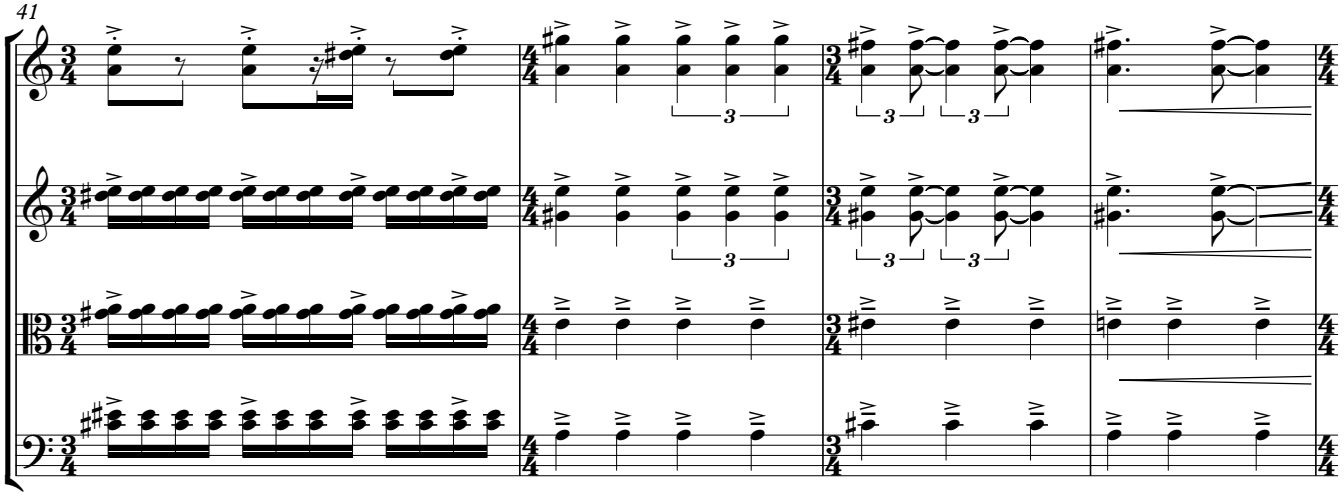

21
sizzling
f
p
molto
sffz
mp
molto
pizz.
24
ord.
sul pont.
ord.
ff
p
f
sub. mp
mp
molto
f
sub. mp
pizz.
mf
f
pizz.
f
27
ff
mf
arco
arco


31
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
35
37
(open strings whenever possible)
ecstatic!
(open strings whenever possible)
ecstatic!
ecstatic!
ecstatic!

39



41



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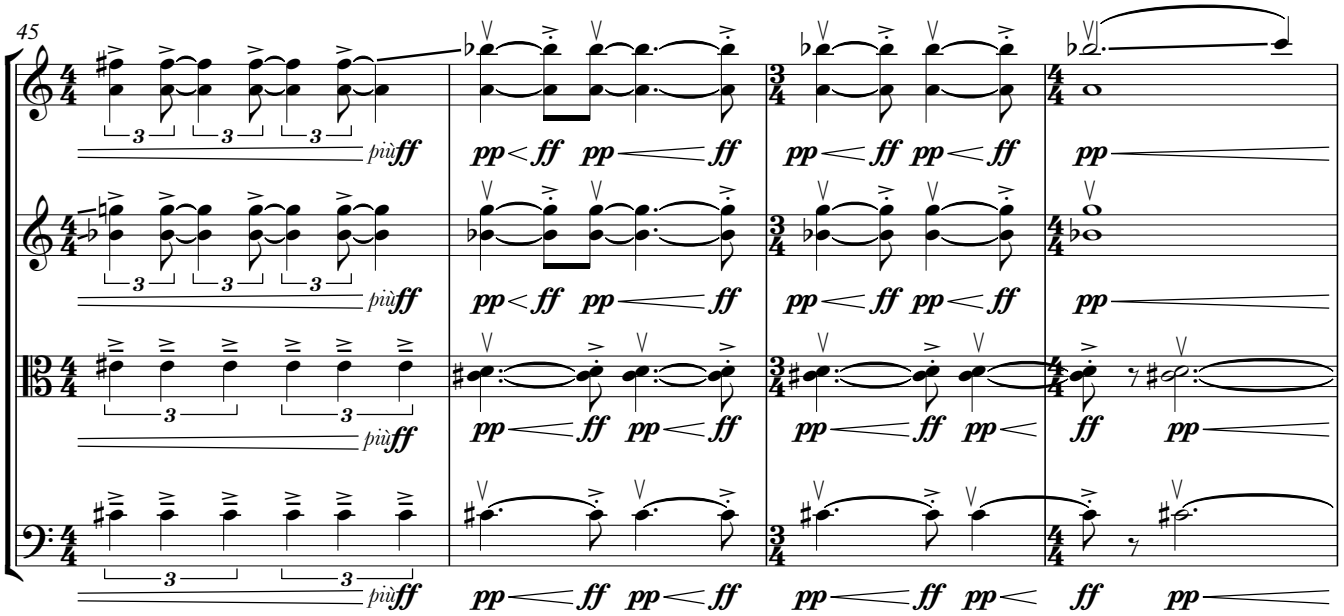
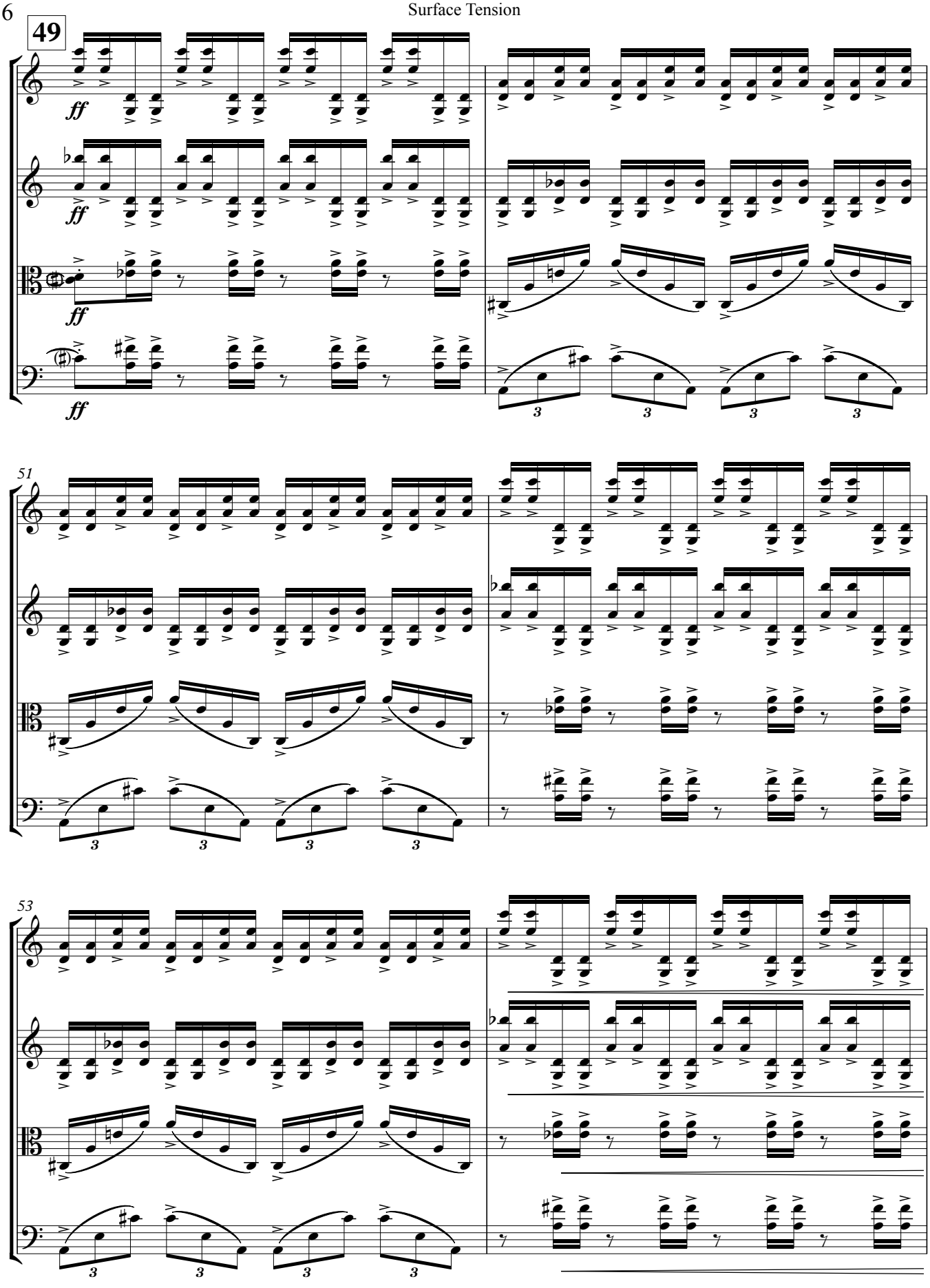
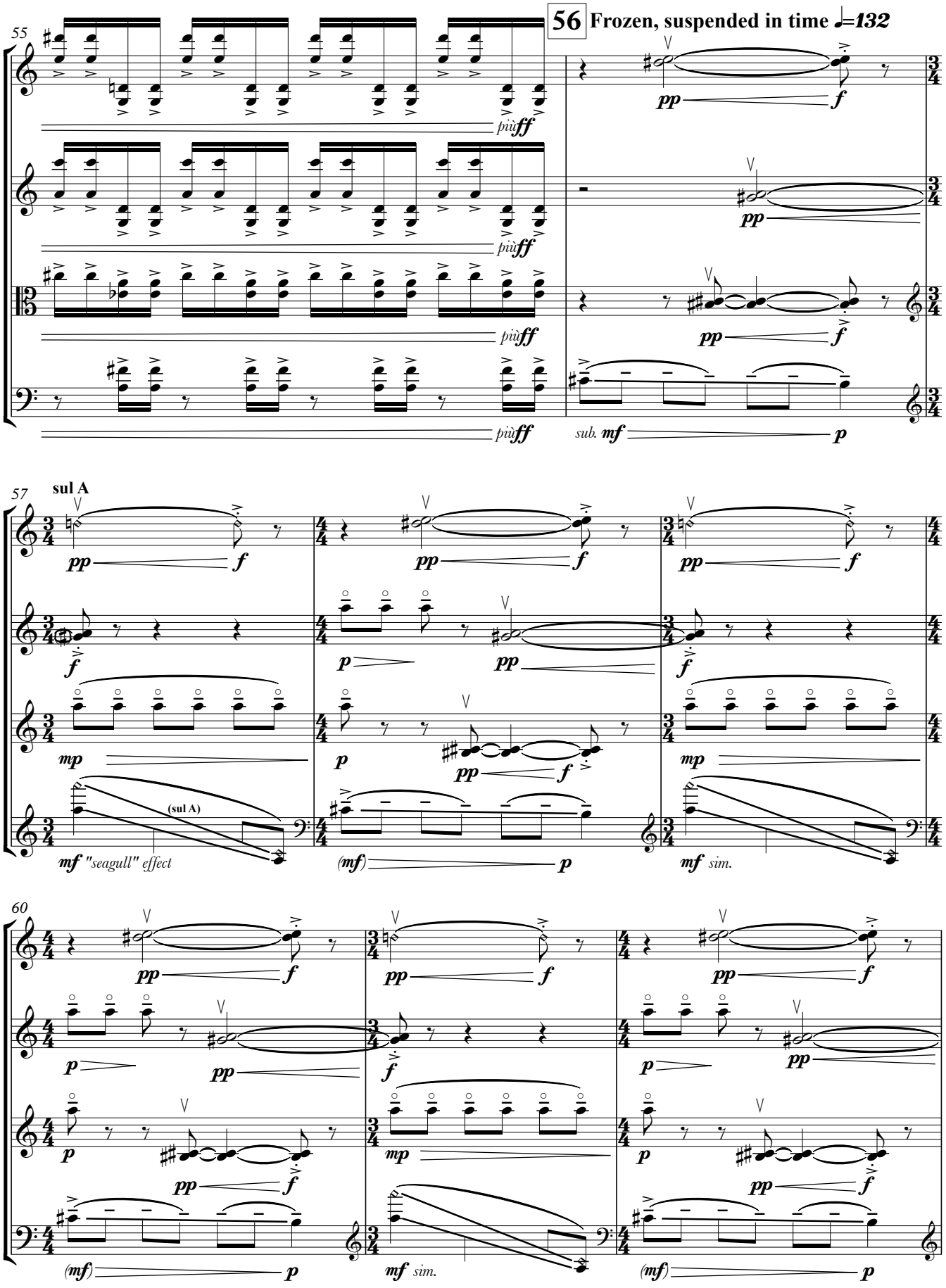
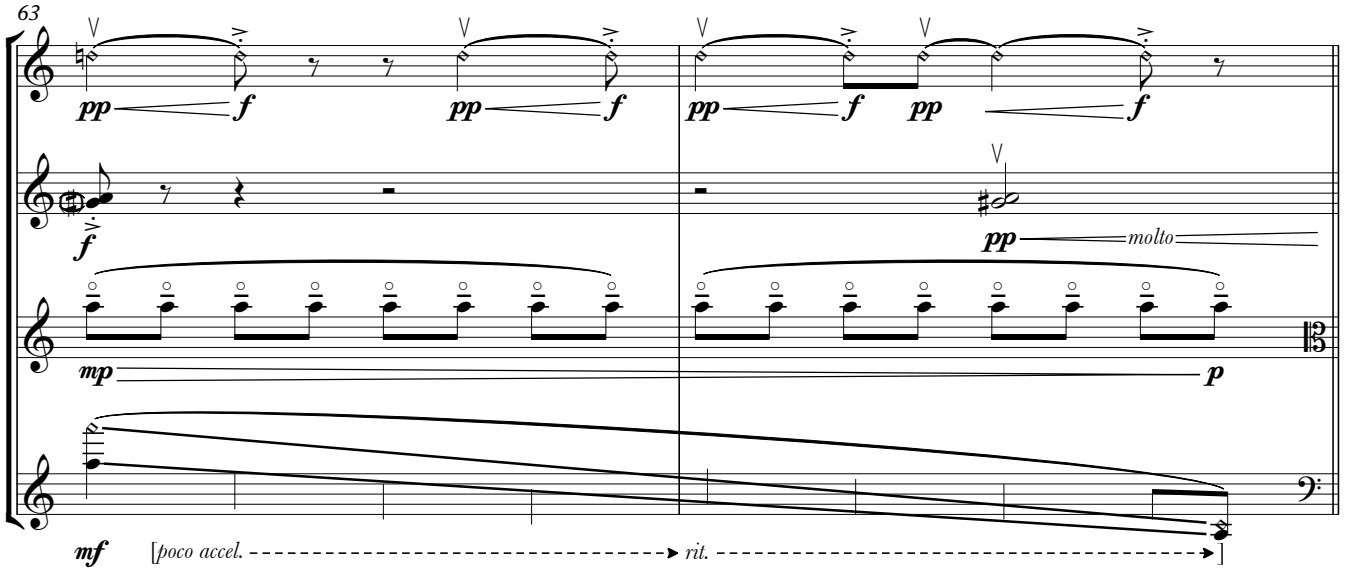
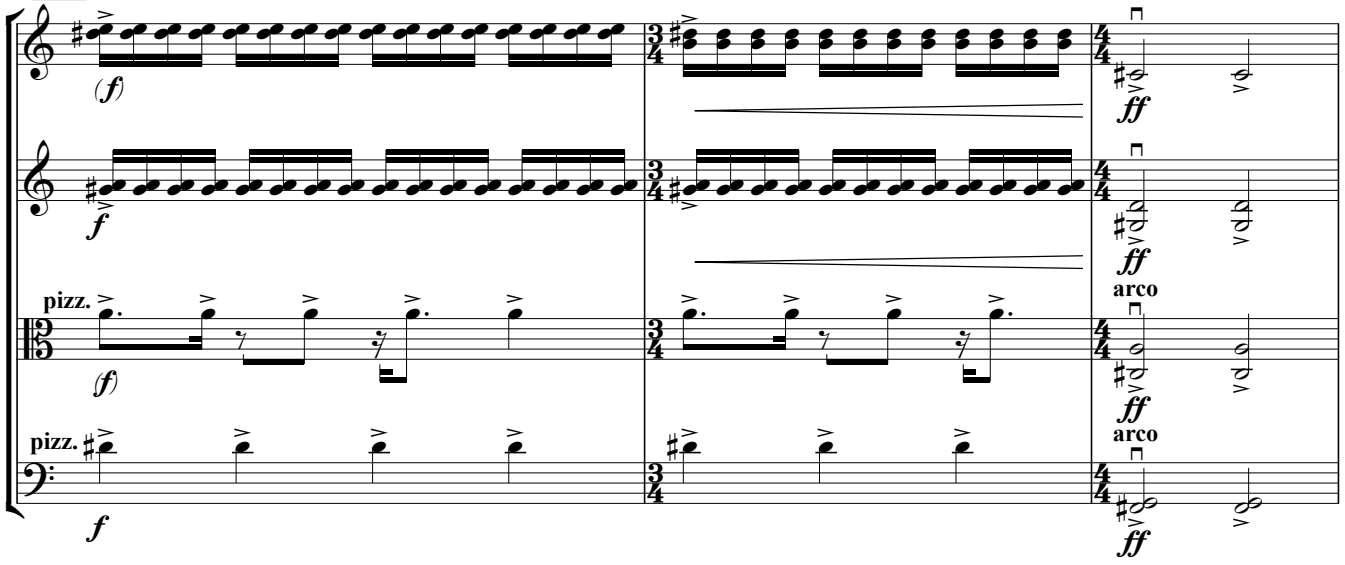


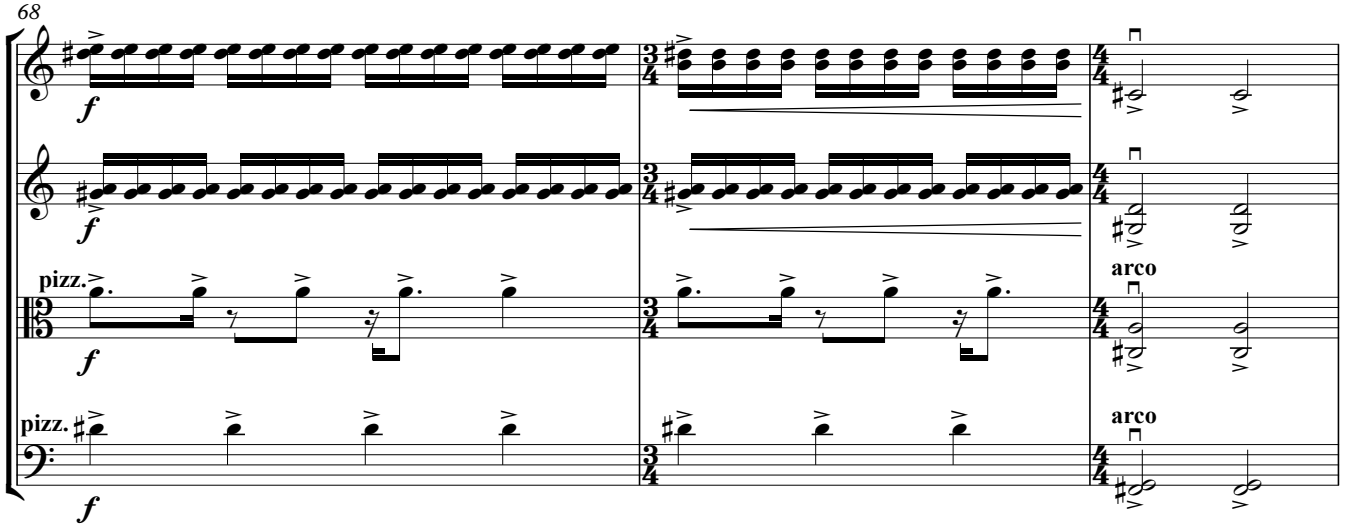

49
ff
51
53

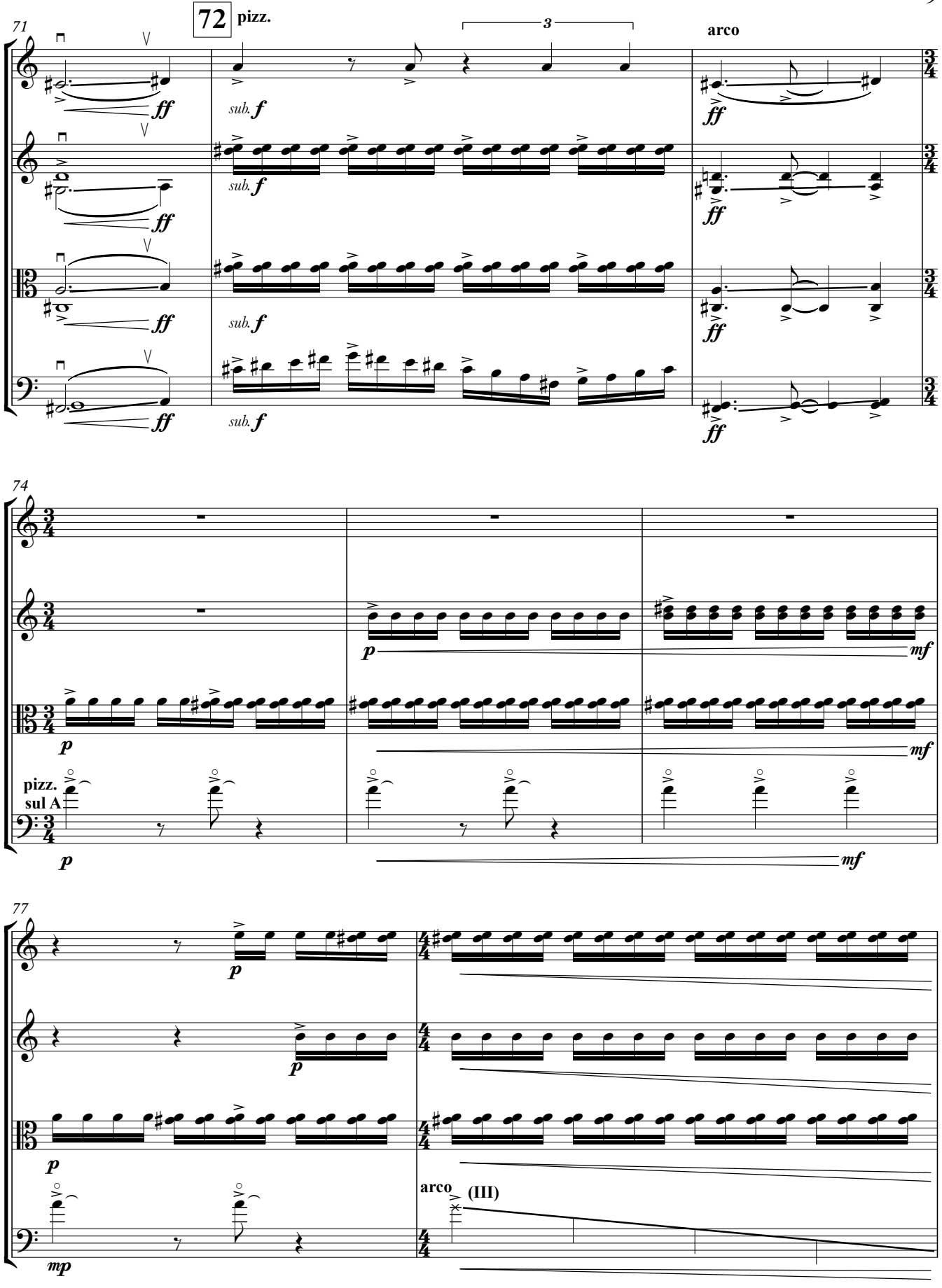

55
56 Frozen, suspended in time ♩=132
più ff
più ff
più ff
più ff
pp f
pp
pp f
sub. mf p
57
sul A
pp f
f
mp
(sul A)
mf "seagull" effect
p
pp
(mf) p
mf sim.
60
(mf) p
mf sim.
(mf) p

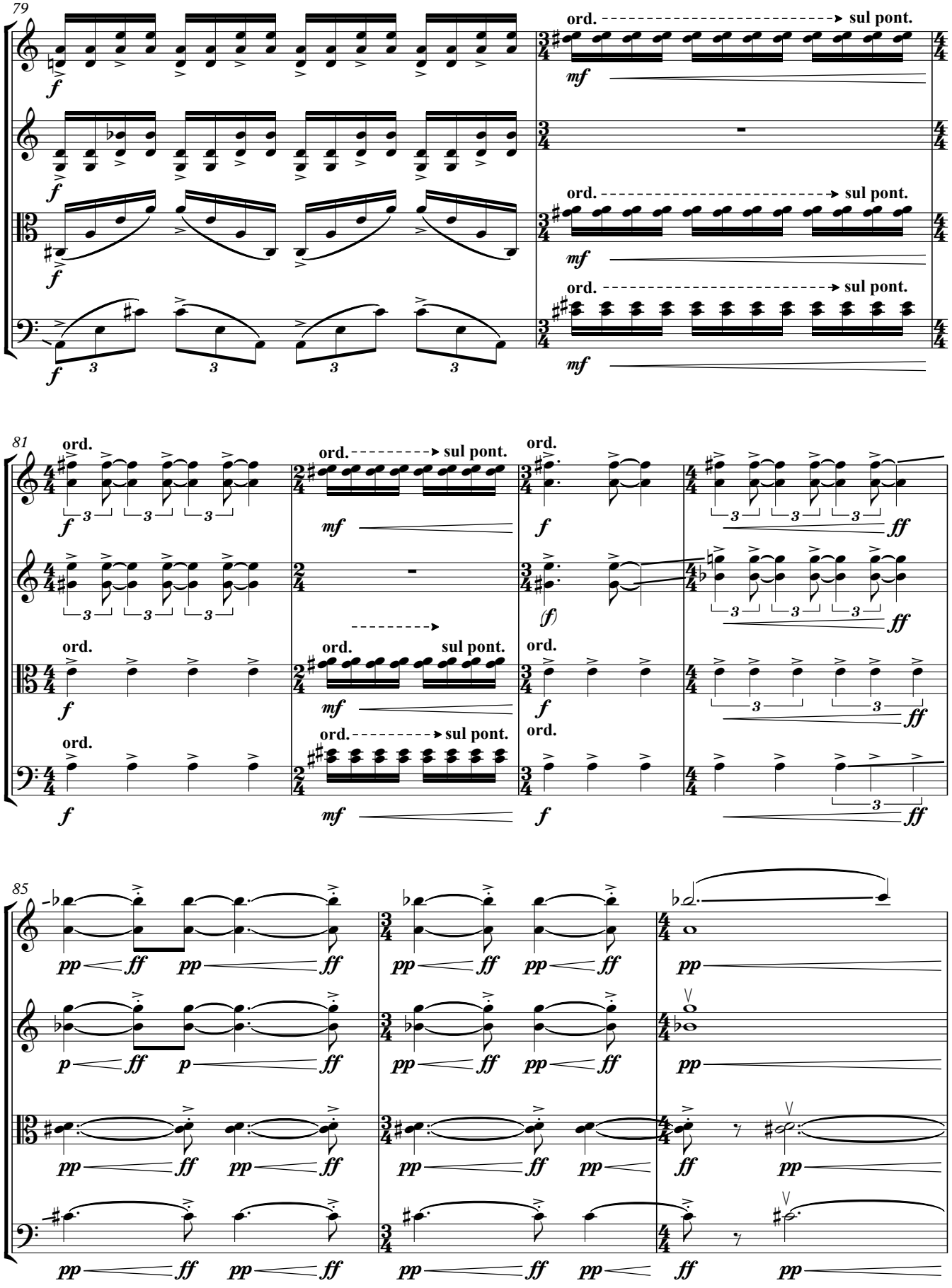


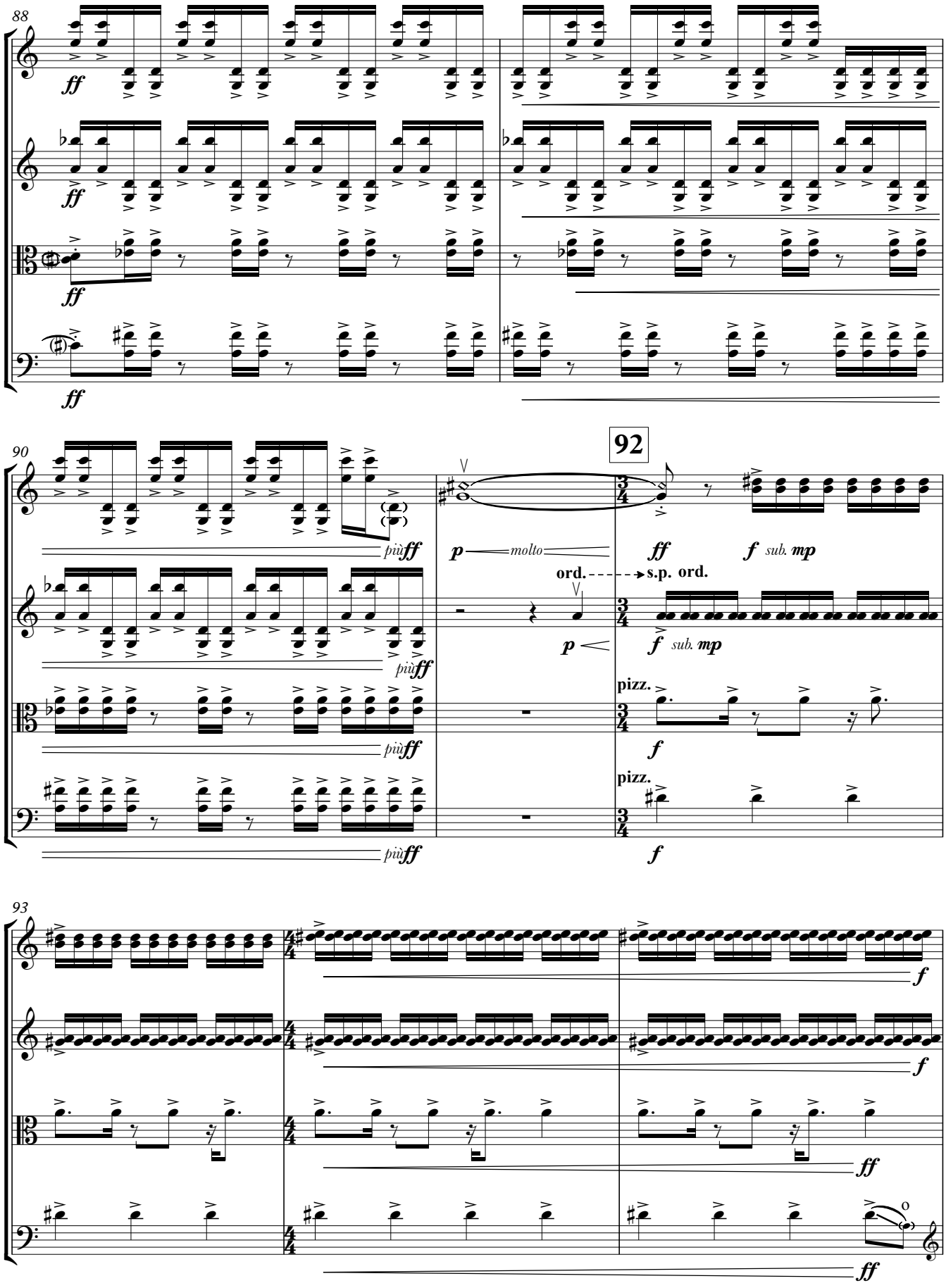
65 **Suddenly, snapped back to reality** ♩=144

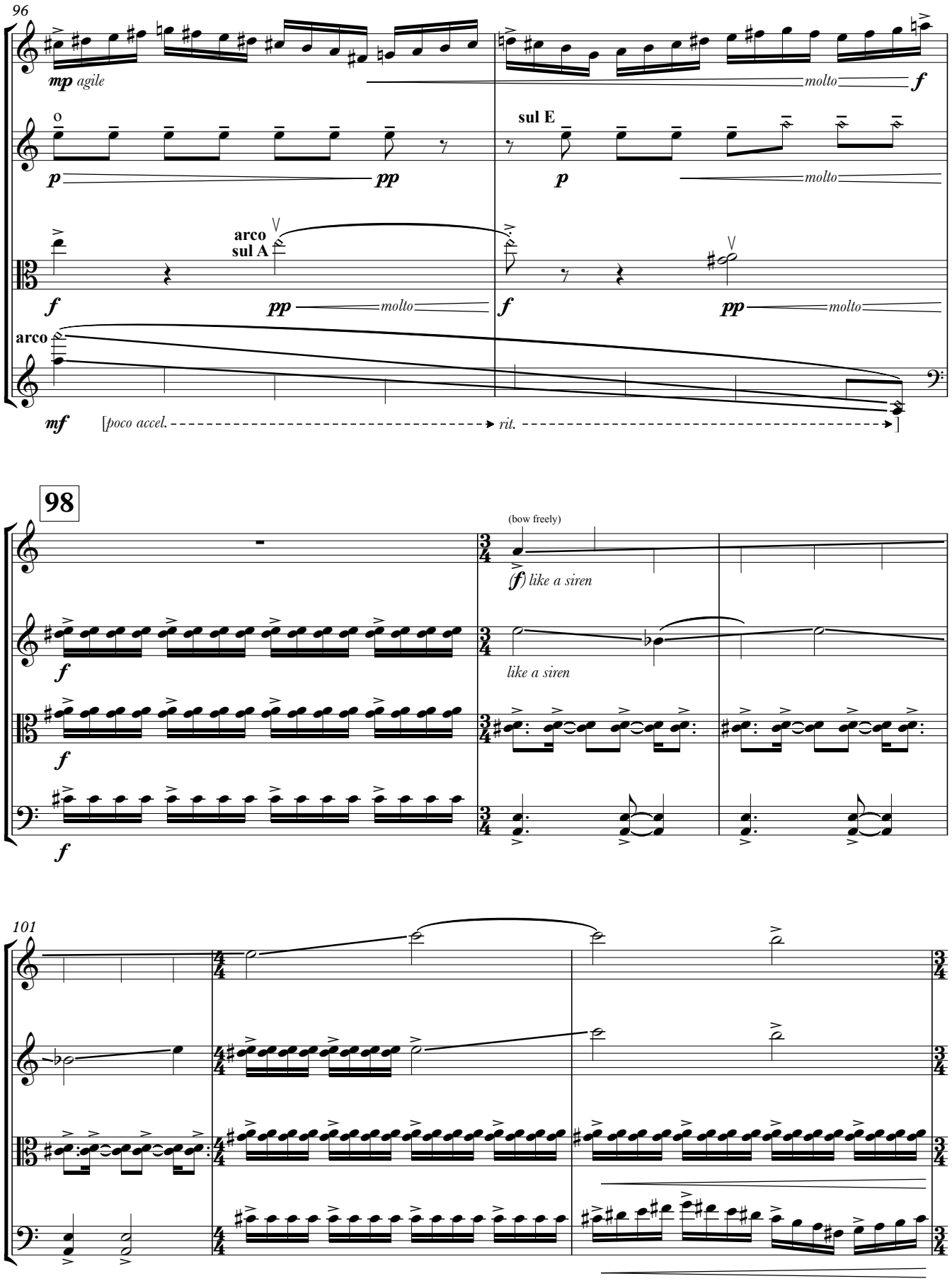


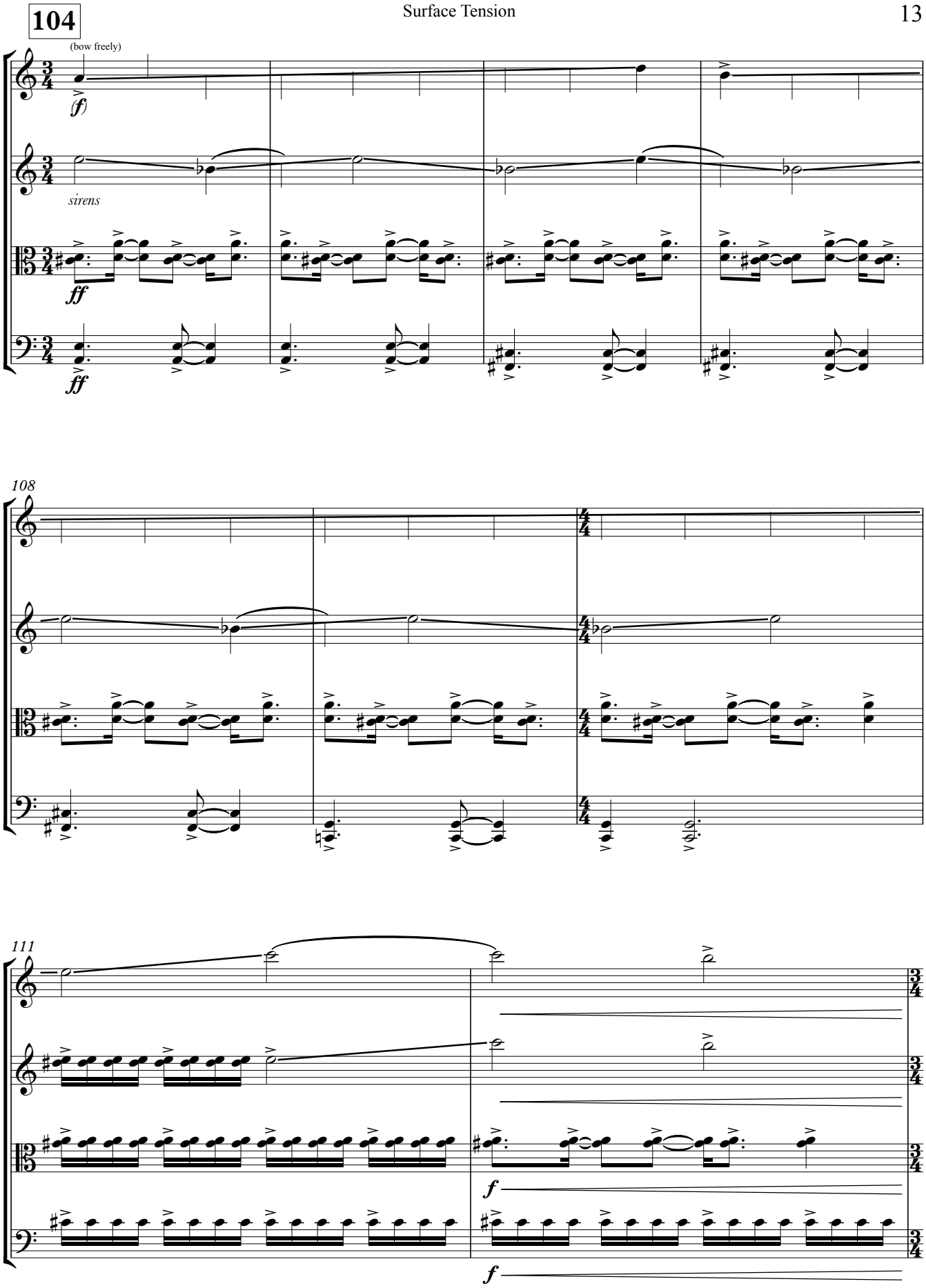


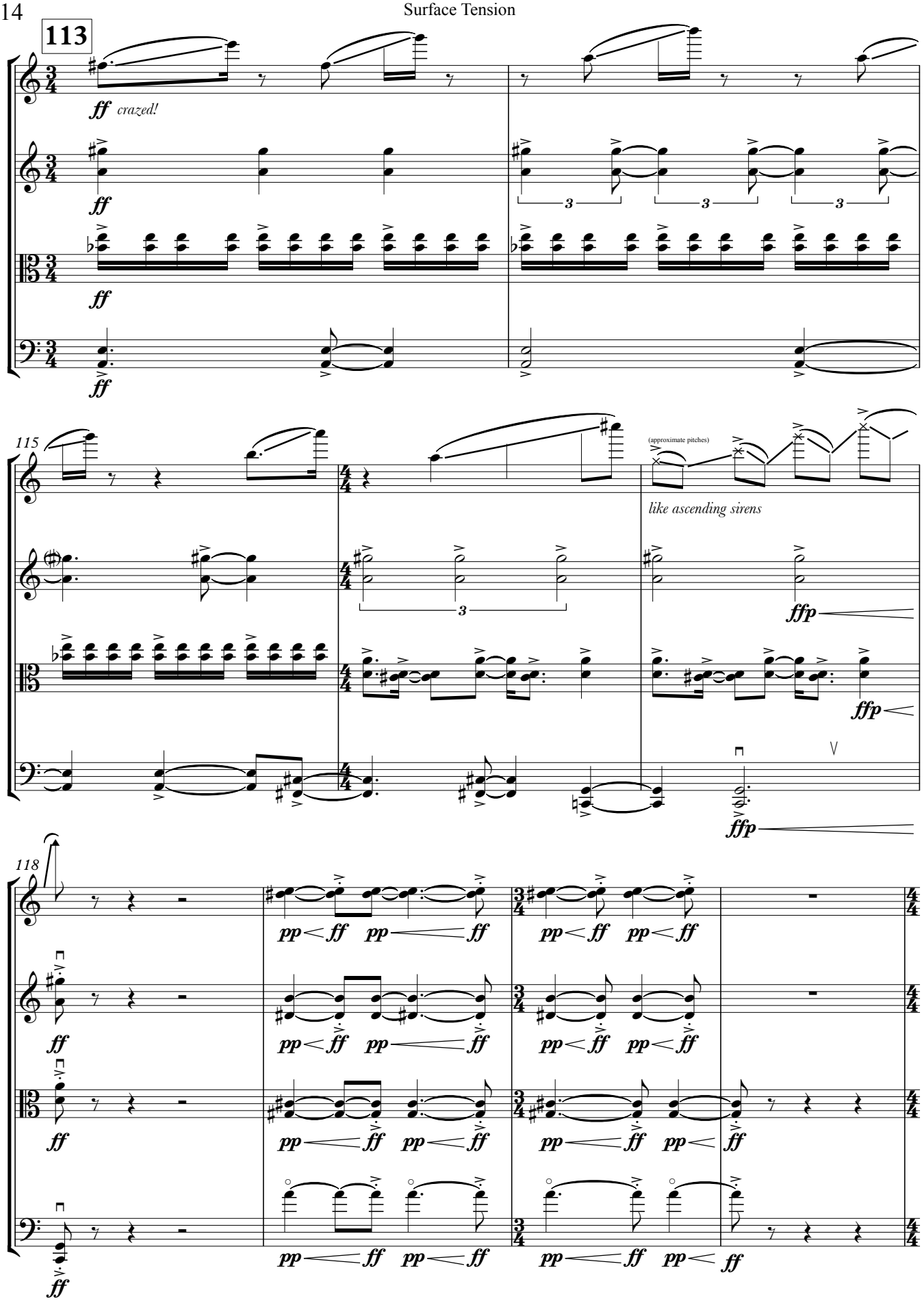

71
72
pizz.
3
arco
sub. f
ff
74
p
mf
pizz.
sul A
77
mp
arco
(III)

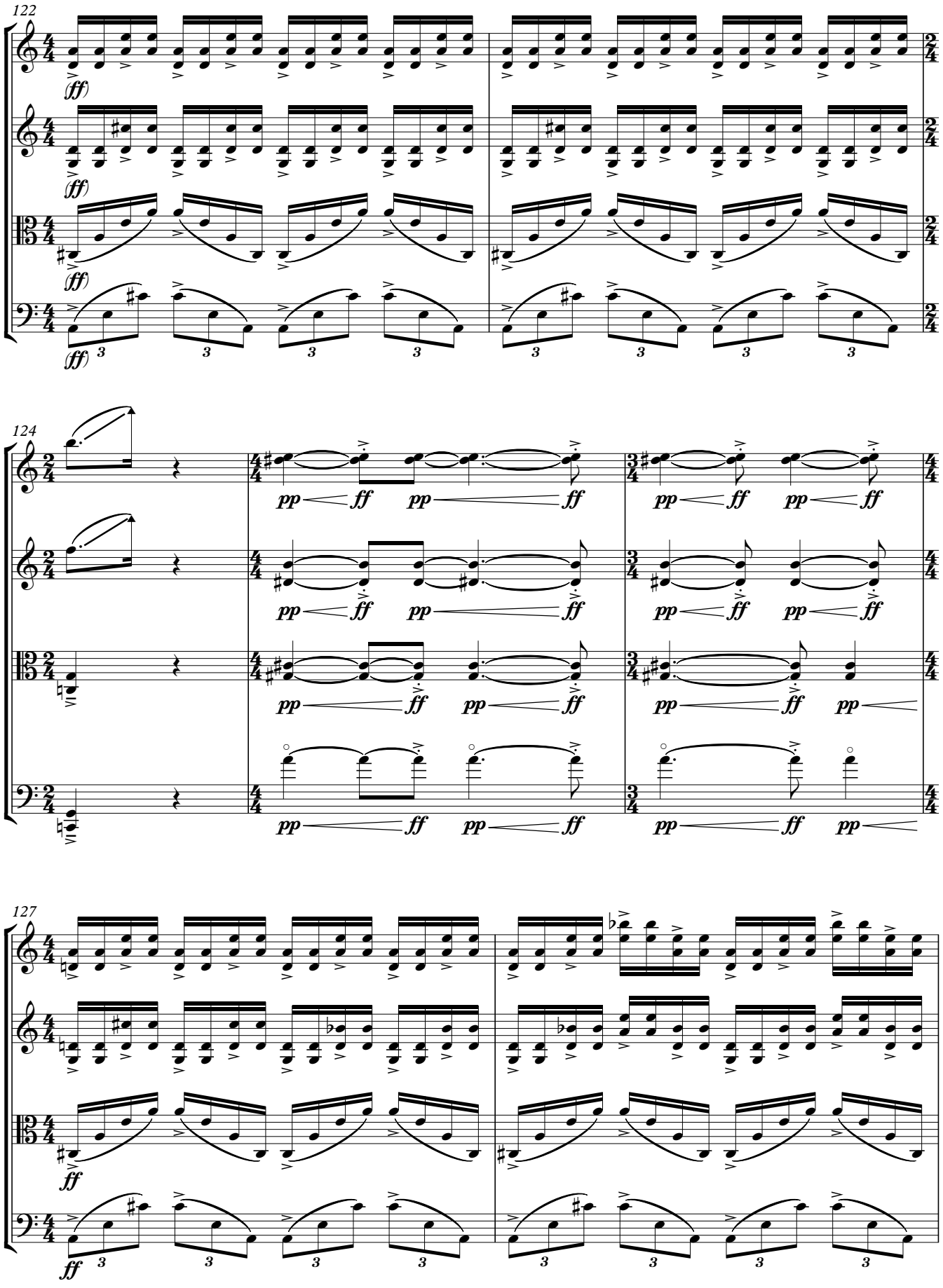

79
ord.
sul pont.
81
85

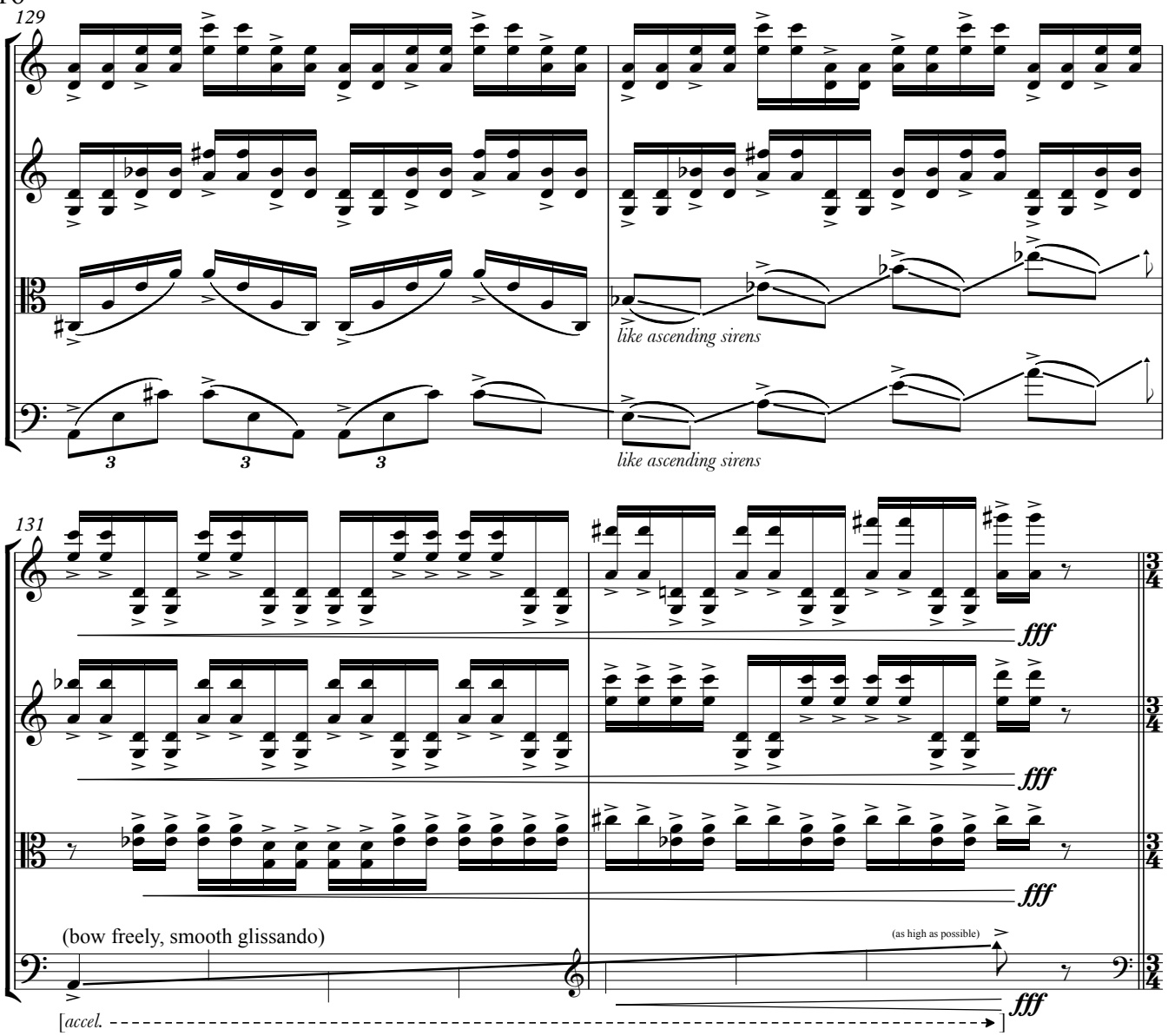

88
ff
90
92
più ff
p molto
ord.
s.p. ord.
ff
f sub. mp
pizz.
93
o


96
mp agile
molto
f
sul E
p
pp
molto
arco
sul A
f
pp
molto
f
pp
molto
arco
mf
[poco accel.
rit.
]
98
(bow freely)
(f) like a siren
like a siren
f
f
f
101

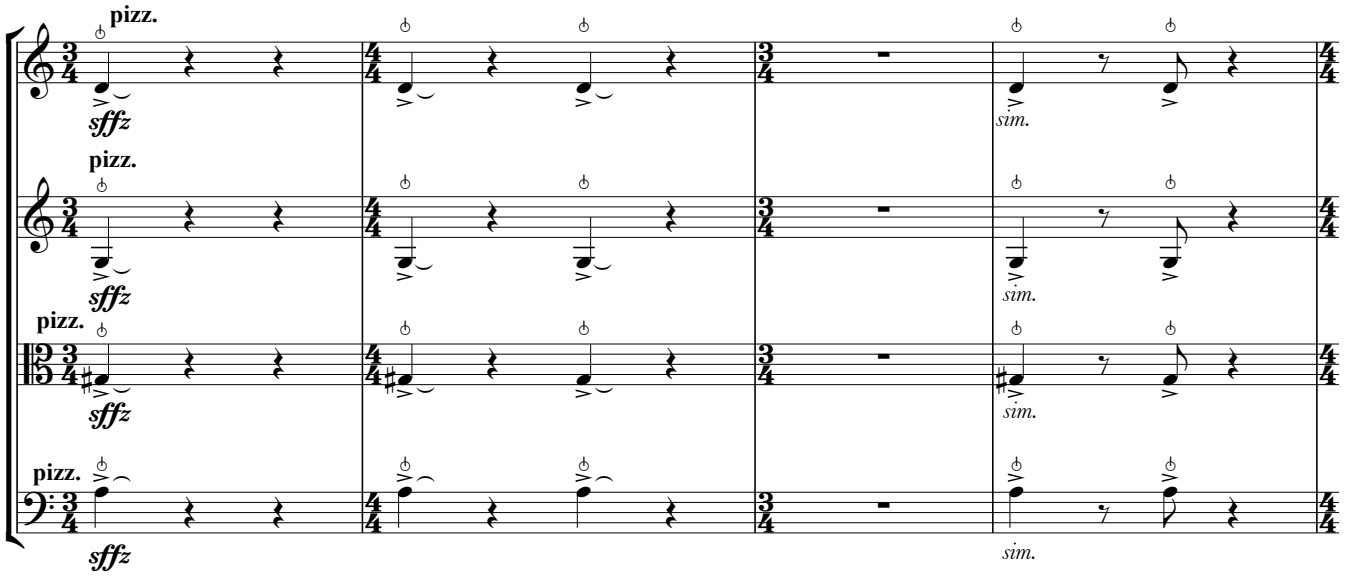

104
(bow freely)
f
sirens
ff
ff
108
111
f
f

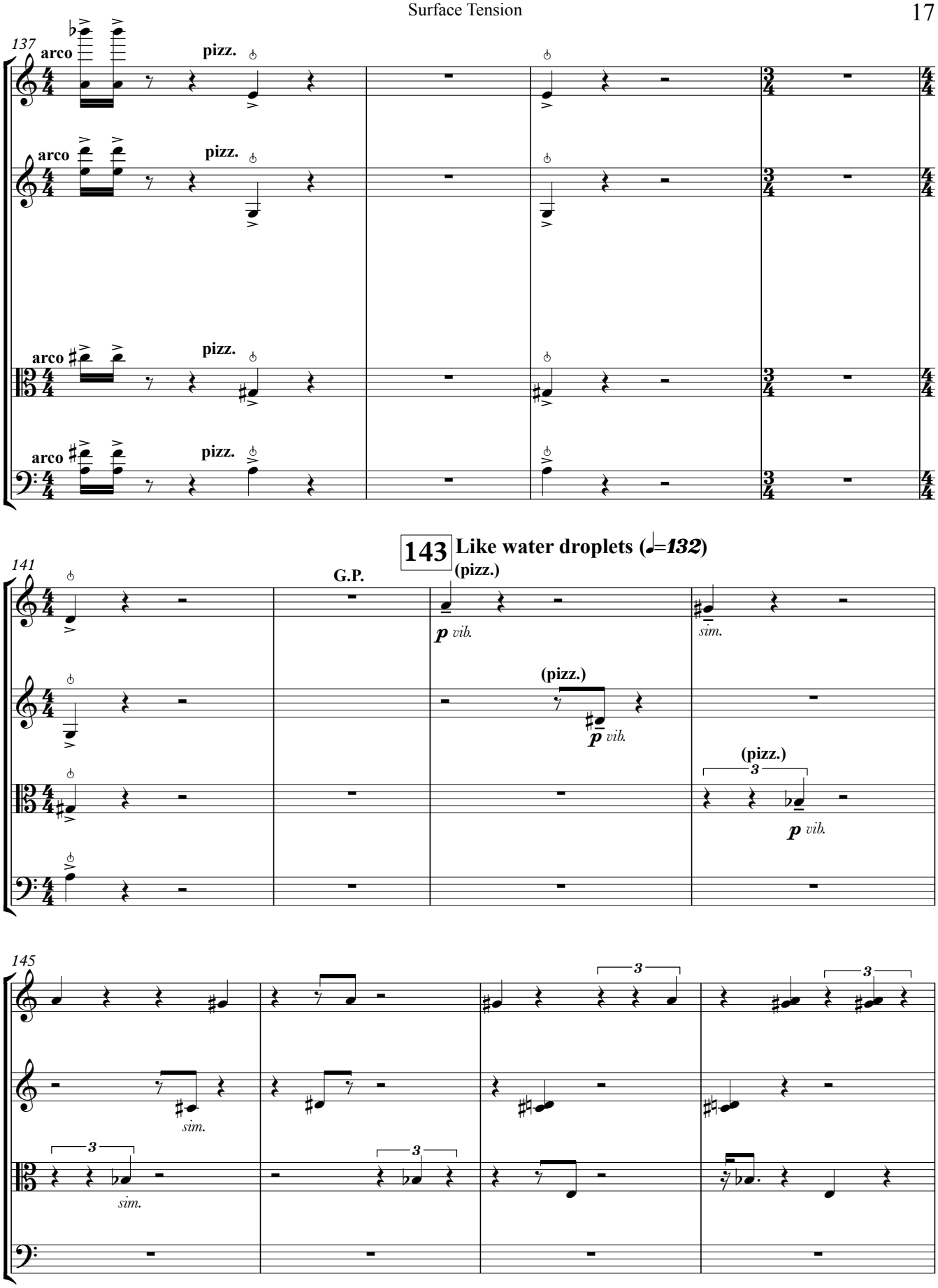

113
ff crazed!
115
(approximate pitches)
like ascending sirens
ffp
118
pp ff

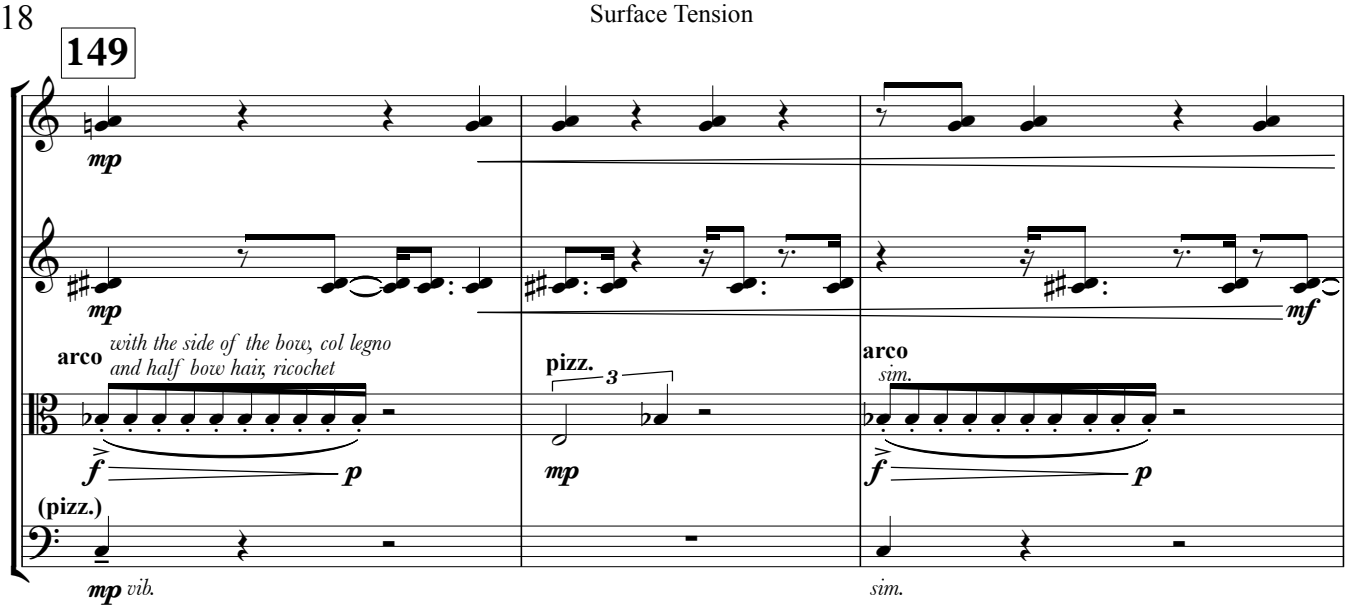

122
(ff)
124
pp
ff
127
ff

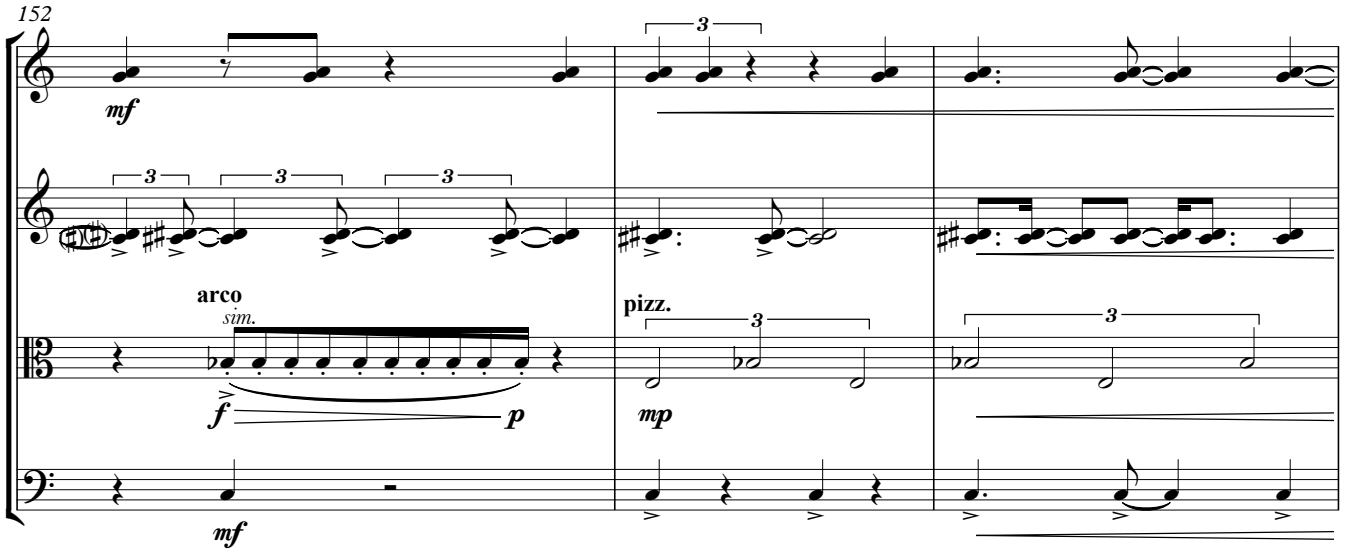


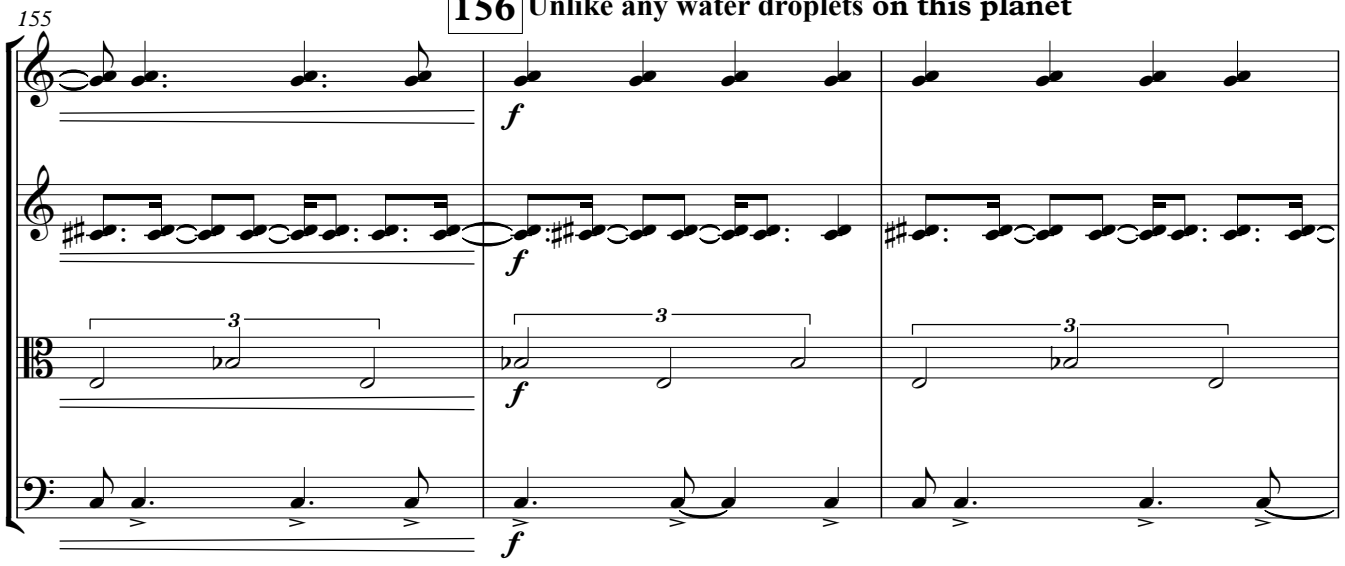
133 **Suddenly slower, abrupt, violent ♩=132**

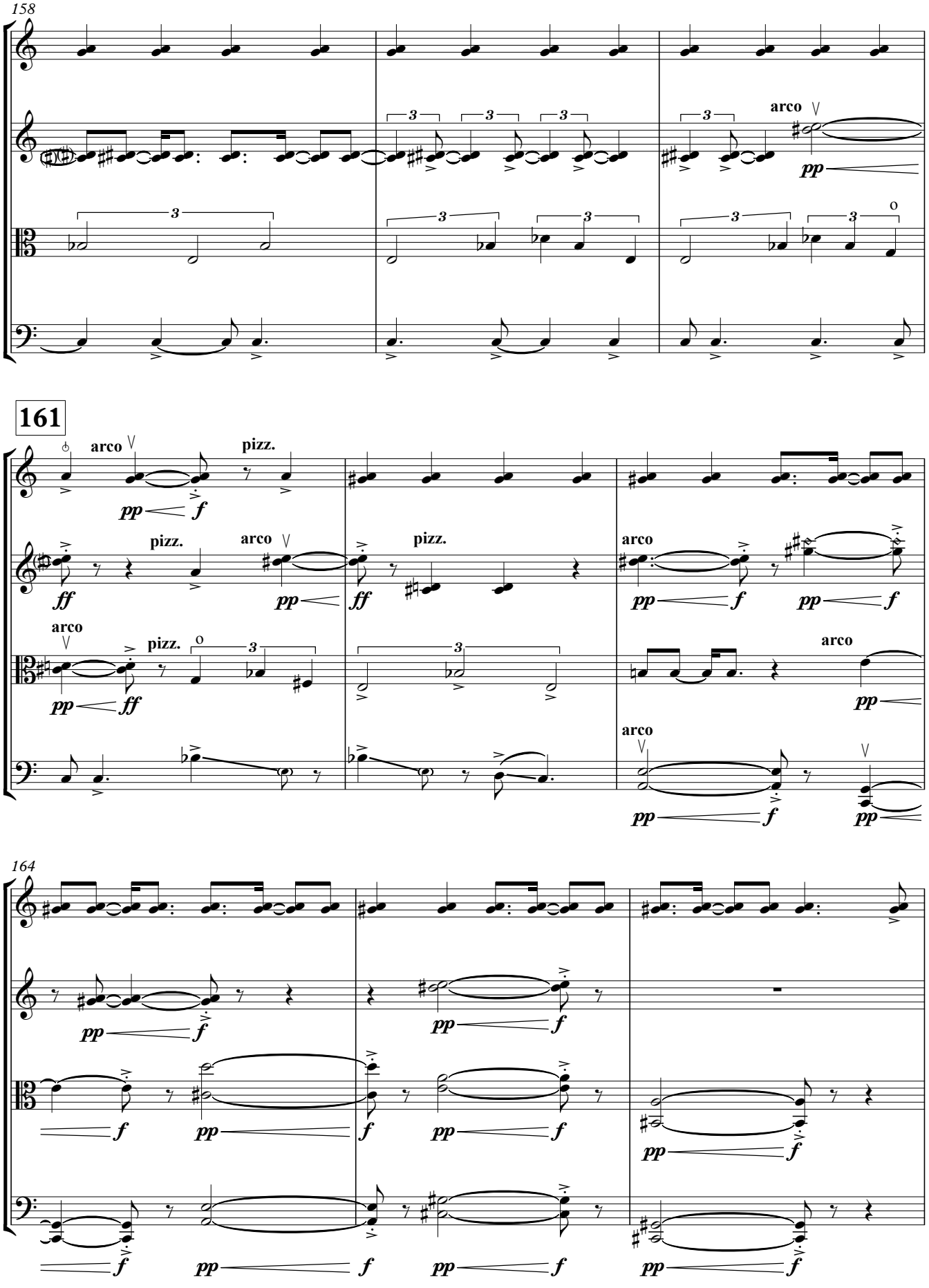


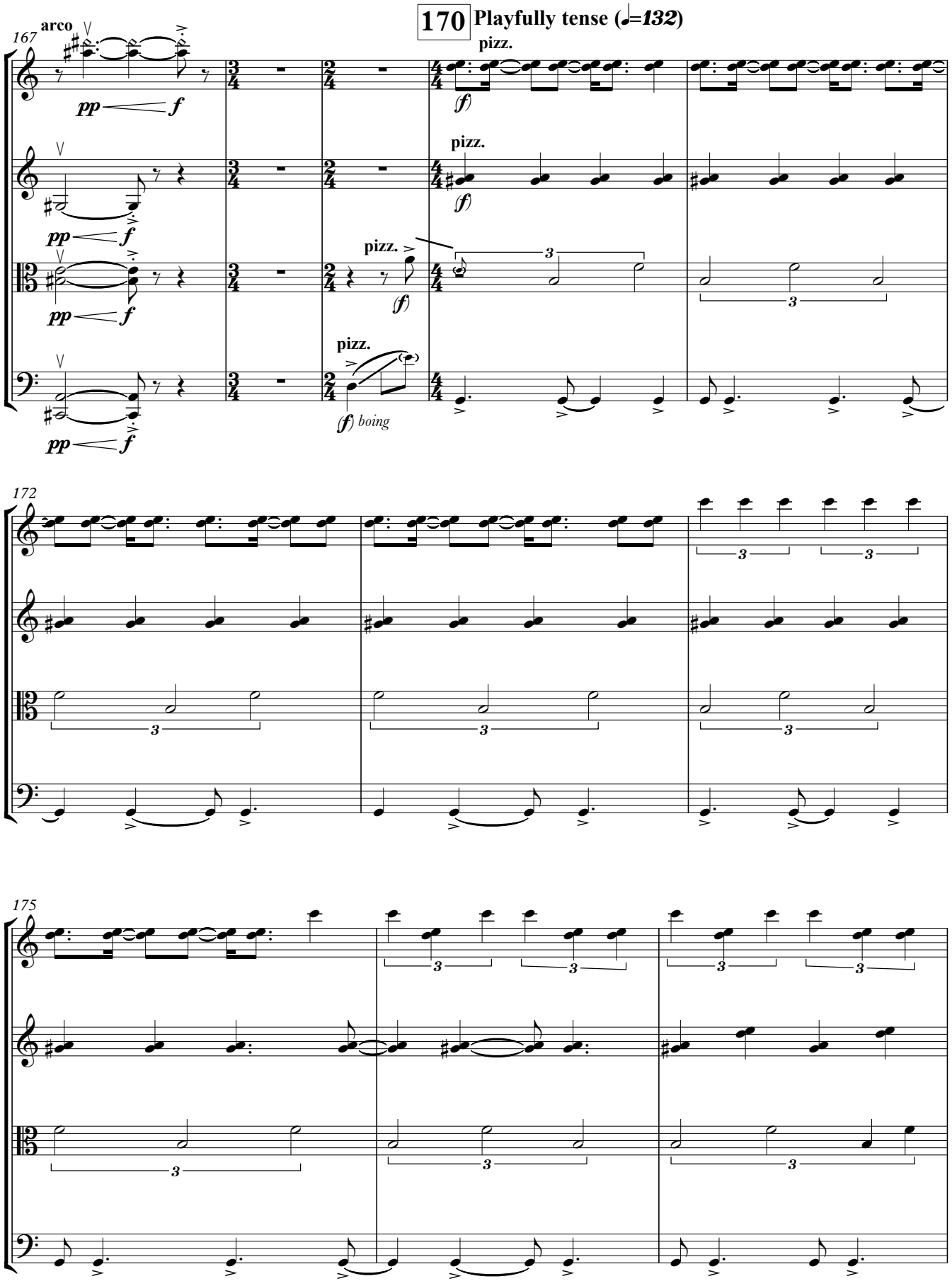

137
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
141
G.P.
143
Like water droplets (♩=132)
(pizz.)
p vib.
sim.
(pizz.)
p vib.
(pizz.)
3
p vib.
145
3
3
sim.
3
3
sim.

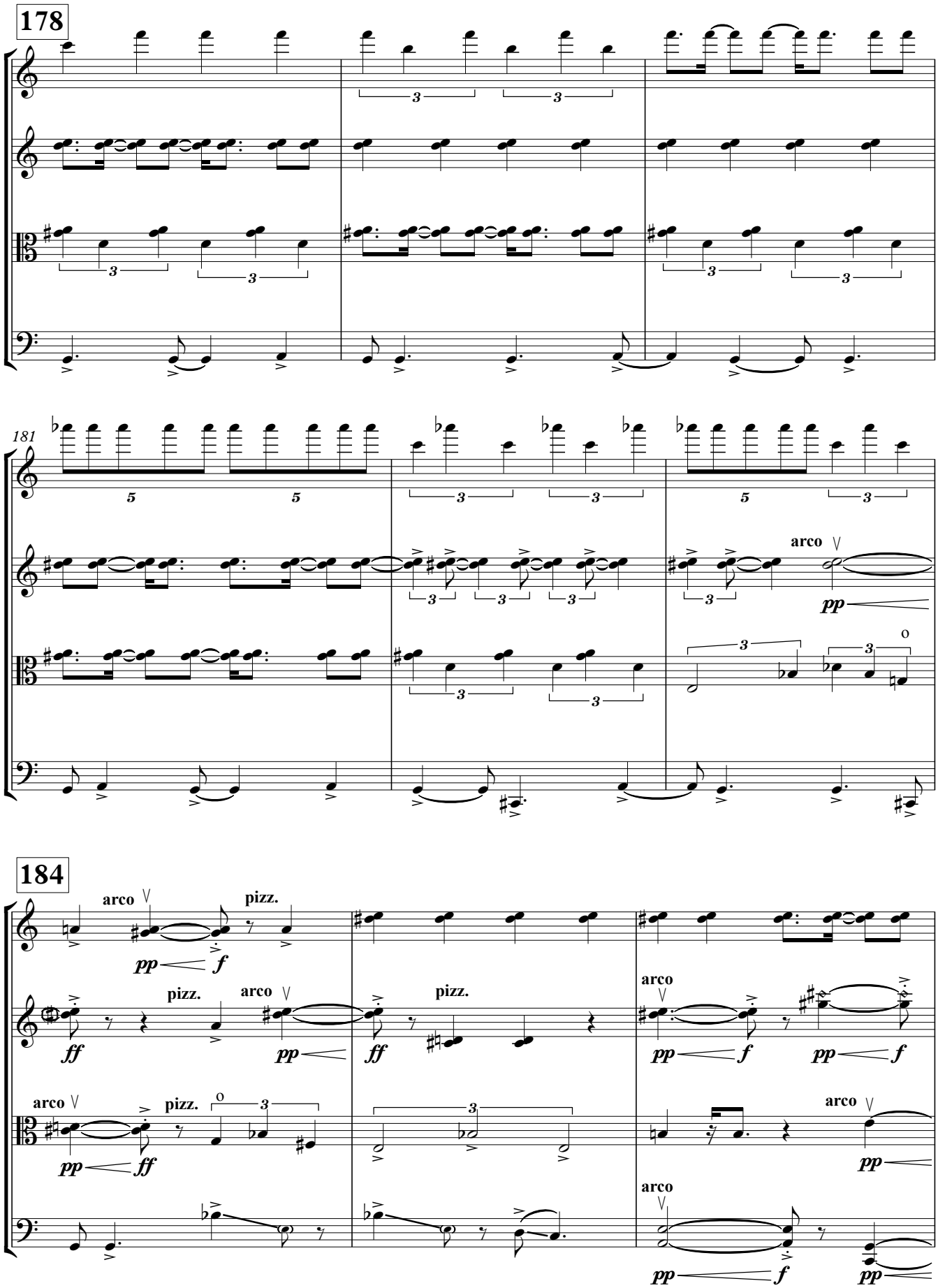

149
mp
mp
mf
arco
with the side of the bow, col legno
and half bow hair, ricochet
f
p
pizz.
3
mp
arco
sim.
f
p
(pizz.)
mp vib.
sim.

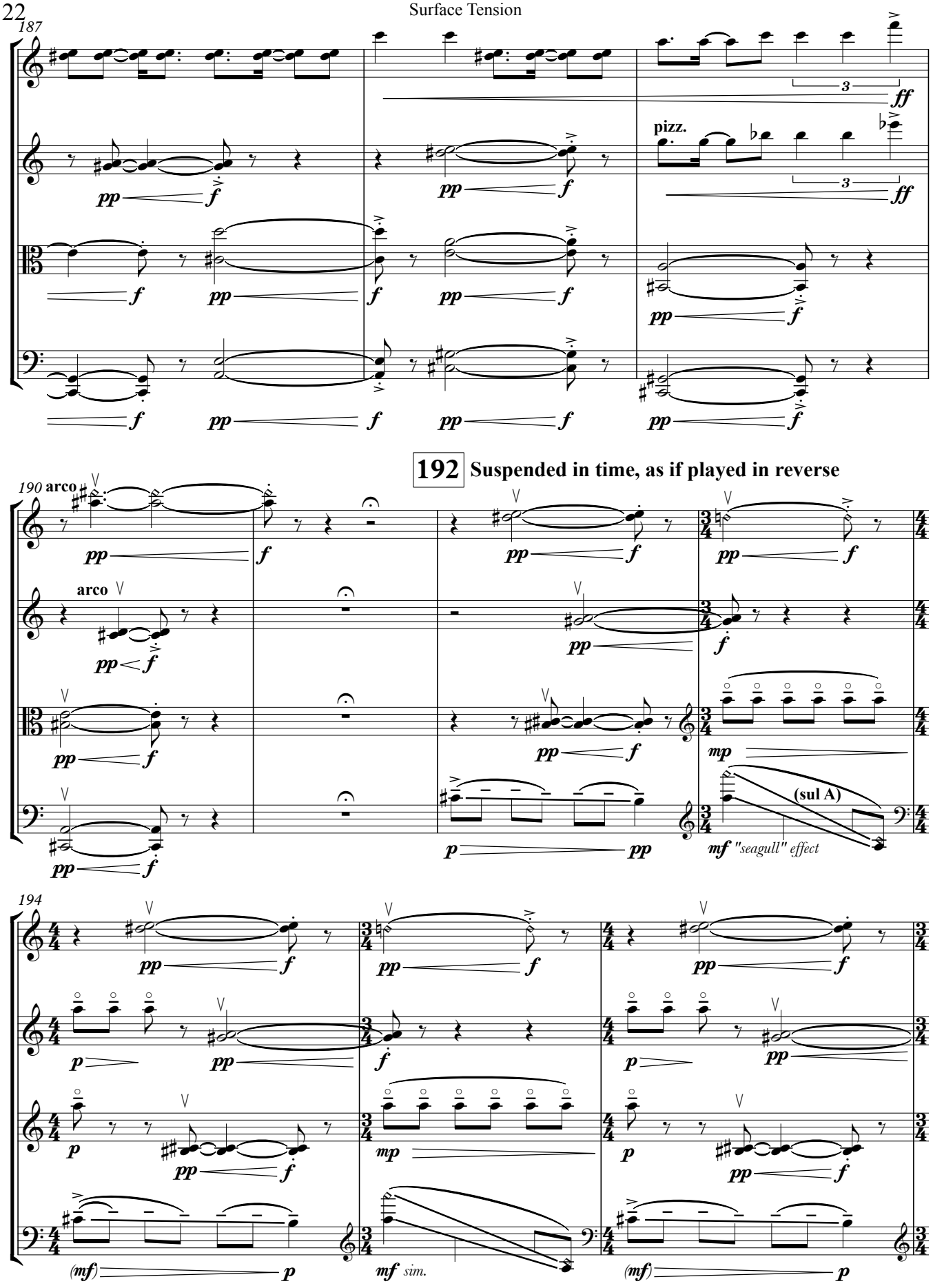

152
mf
3
3
3
3
arco
sim.
f
p
pizz.
3
mp
3
mf

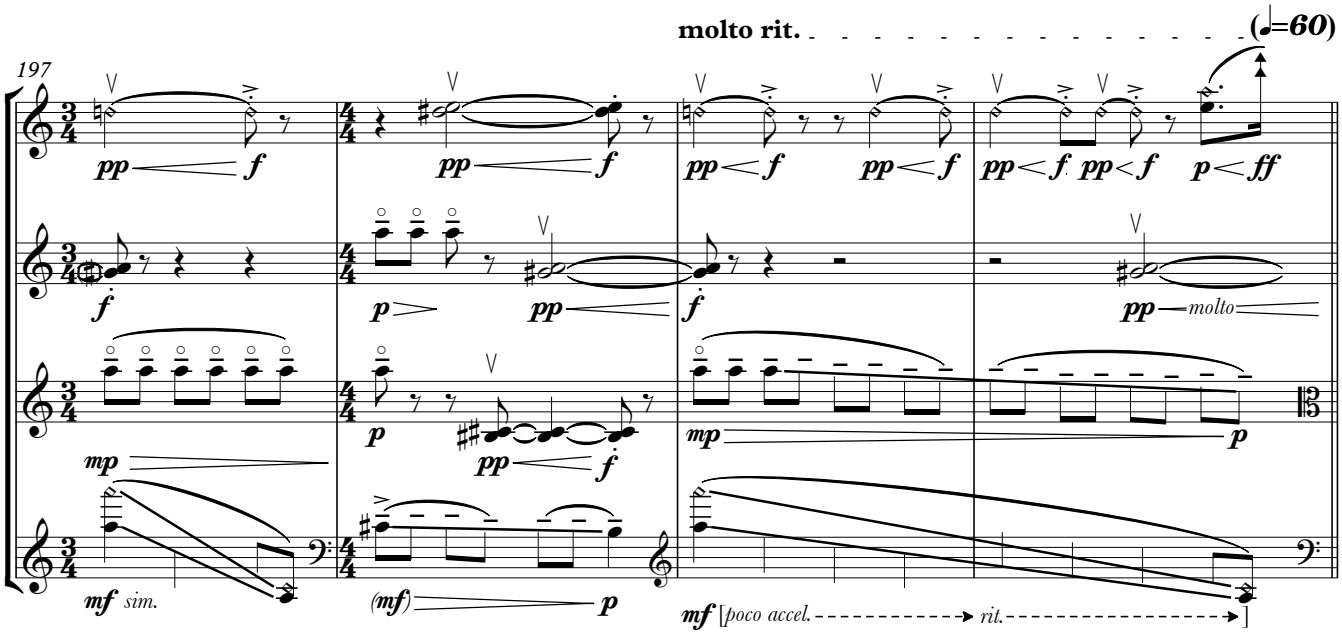

155
156 Unlike any water droplets on this planet
f
f
3
3
3
f
f


158
arco
pp
161
arco
pizz.
pp
f
ff
164

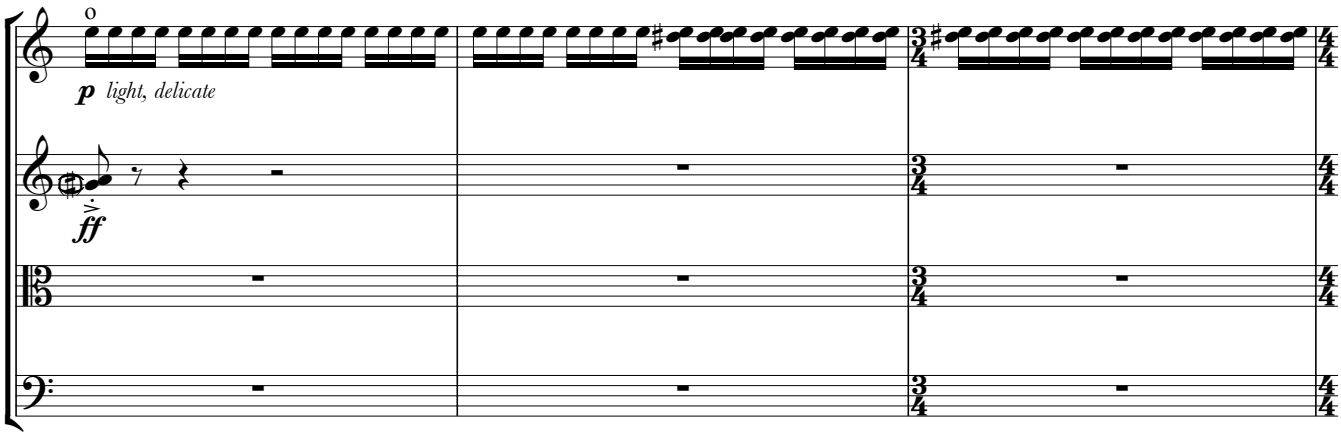

167
arco
pp
f
170 Playfully tense (♩=132)
pizz.
(f)
pizz.
(f)
pizz.
(f)
pizz.
(f) boing
172
175

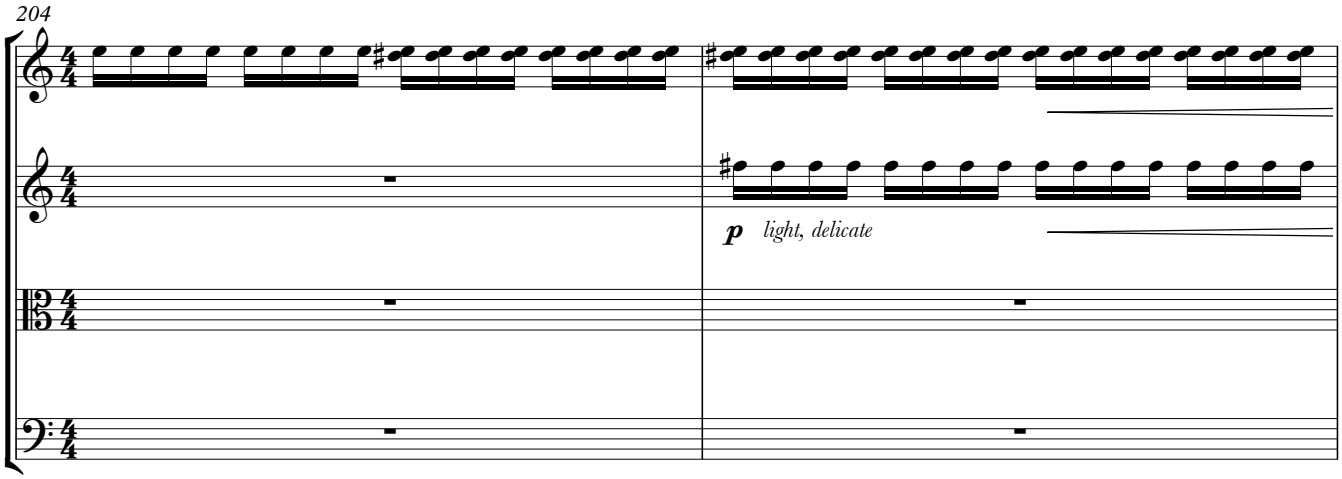

178
181
arco
pp
184
arco
pizz.
pp
f
ff
pizz.
arco
pp
ff
pizz.
arco
pp
f
pp
f
arco
pizz.
pp
ff
arco
pp
arco
pp
f
pp

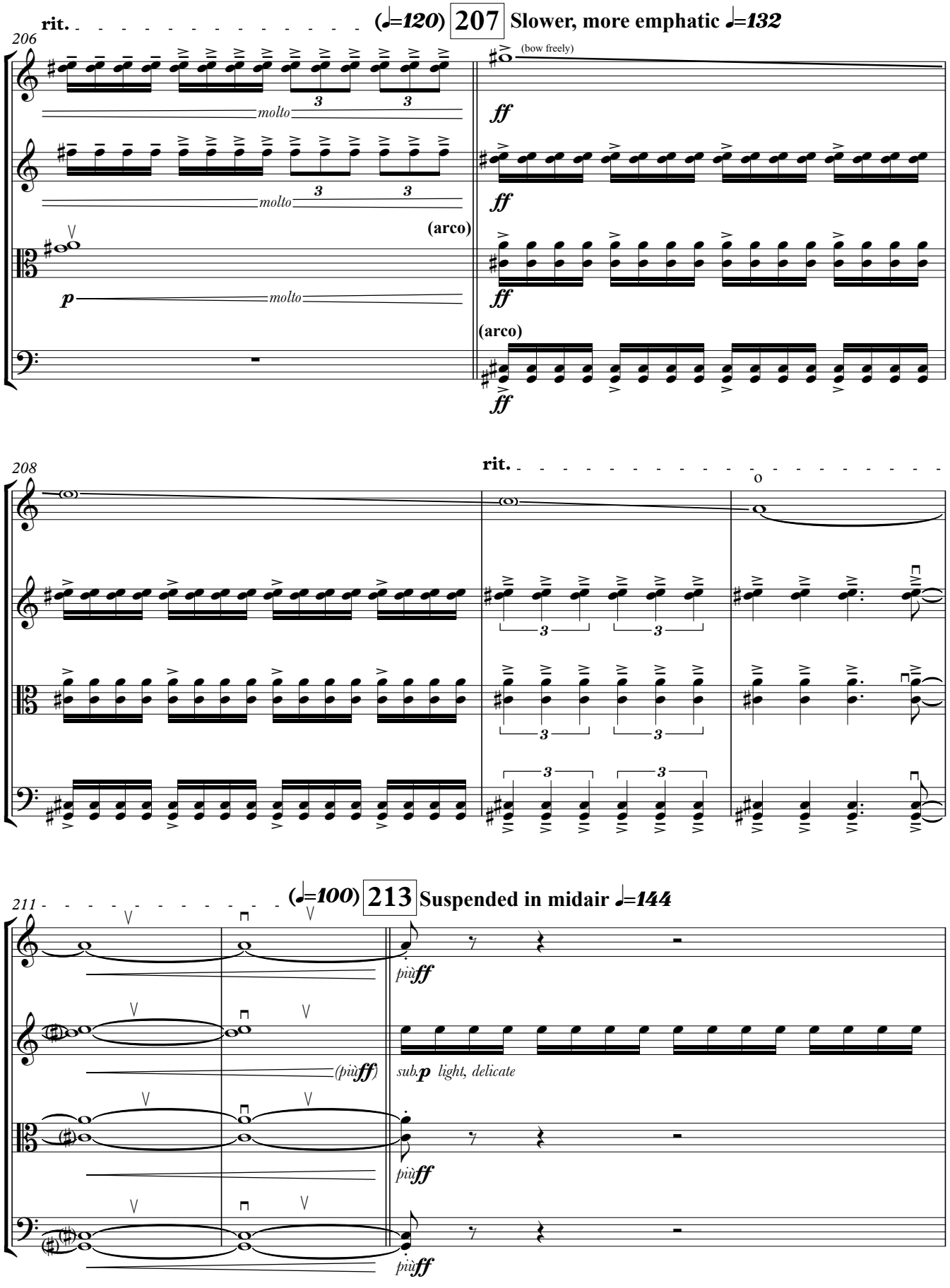

187
pizz.
190 arco
arco
192 Suspended in time, as if played in reverse
(sul A)
"seagull" effect
194
sim.

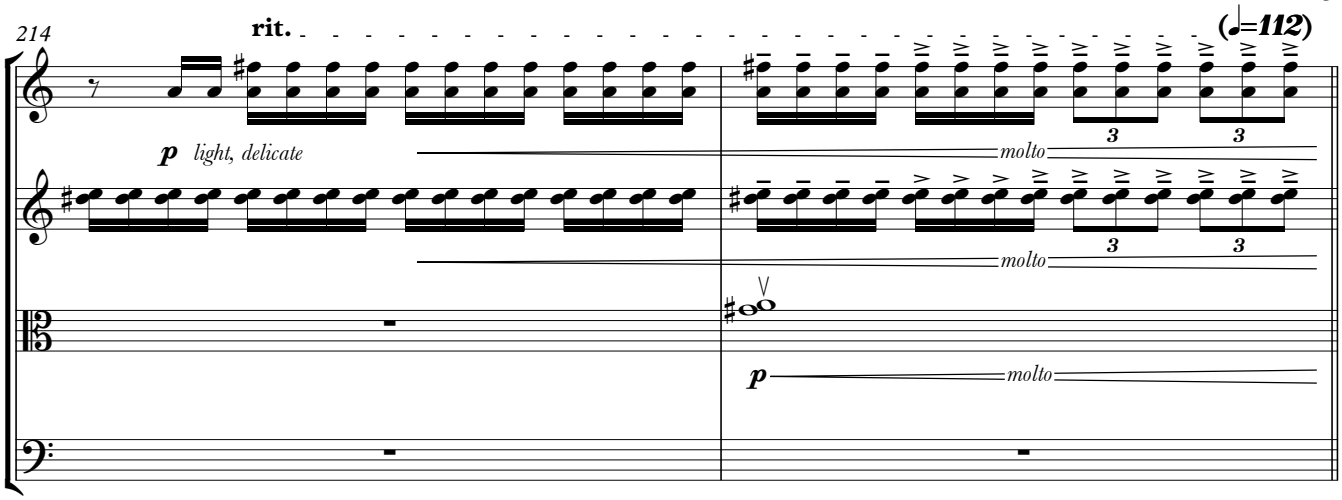


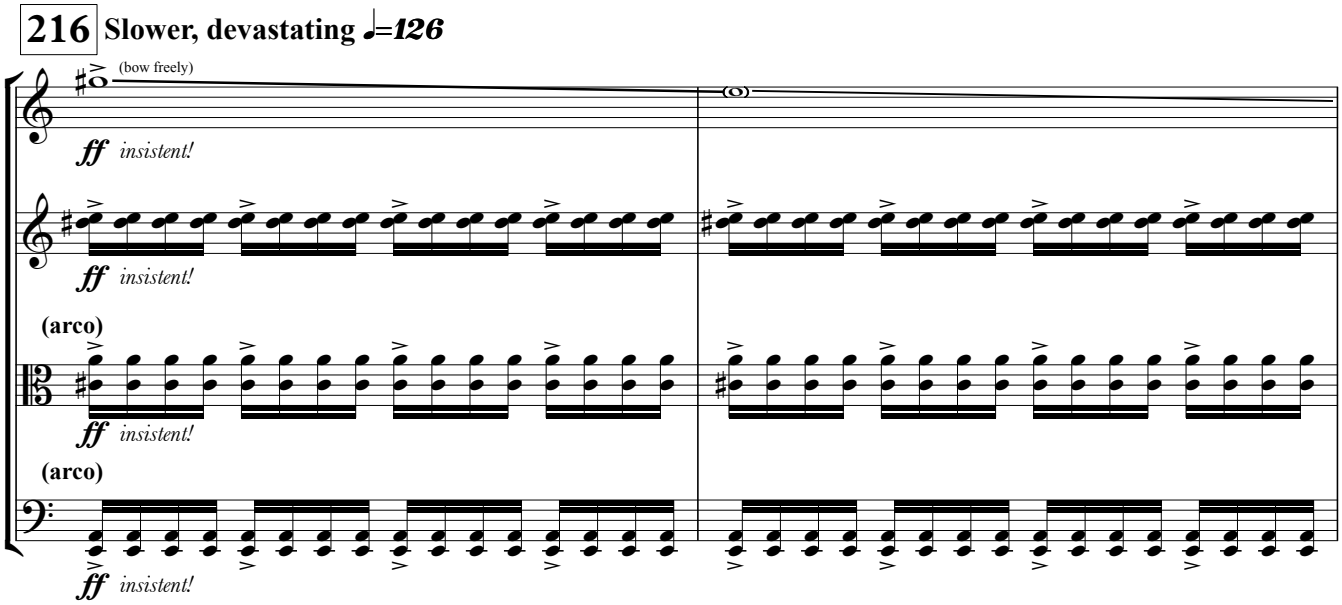
201 **Suspended in midair ♩=144**

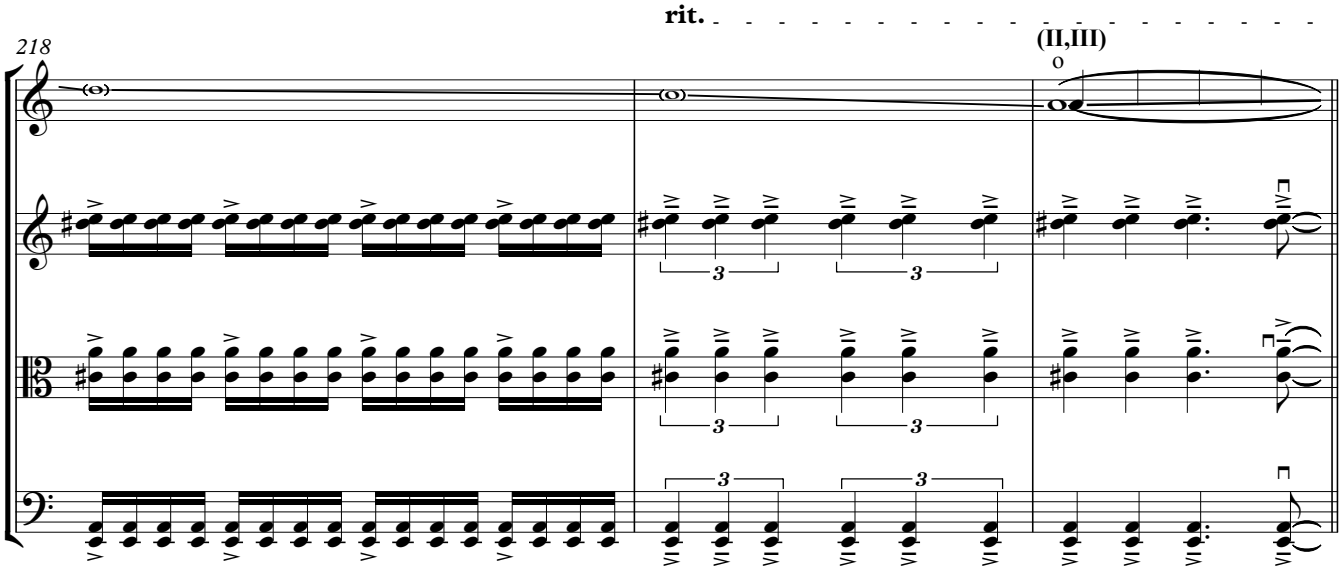


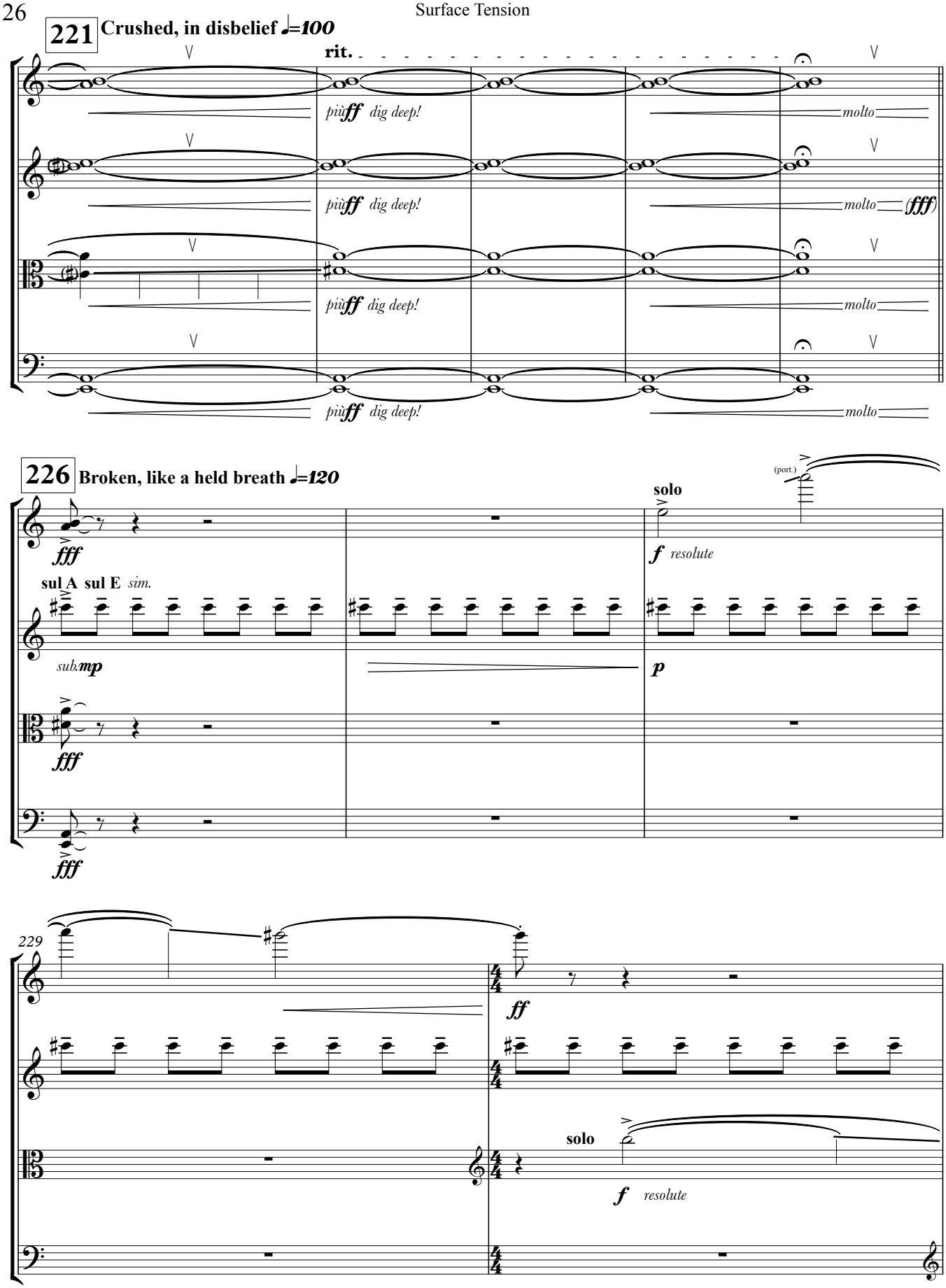


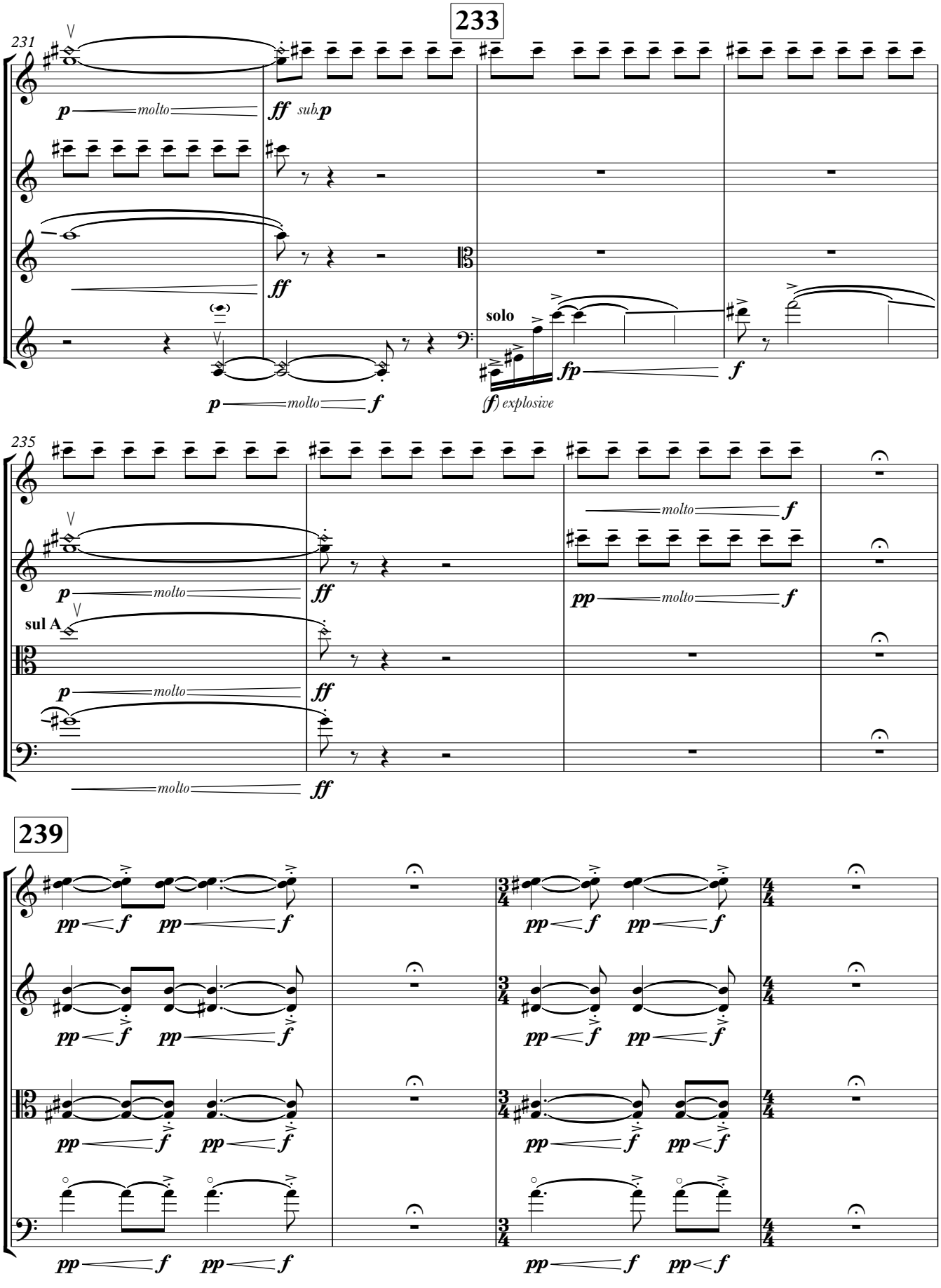

rit.
(♩=120) 207 Slower, more emphatic ♩=132
206
(bow freely)
molto
(arco)
208
rit.
(♩=100) 213 Suspended in midair ♩=144
211
più ff
(più ff)
sub. p light, delicate

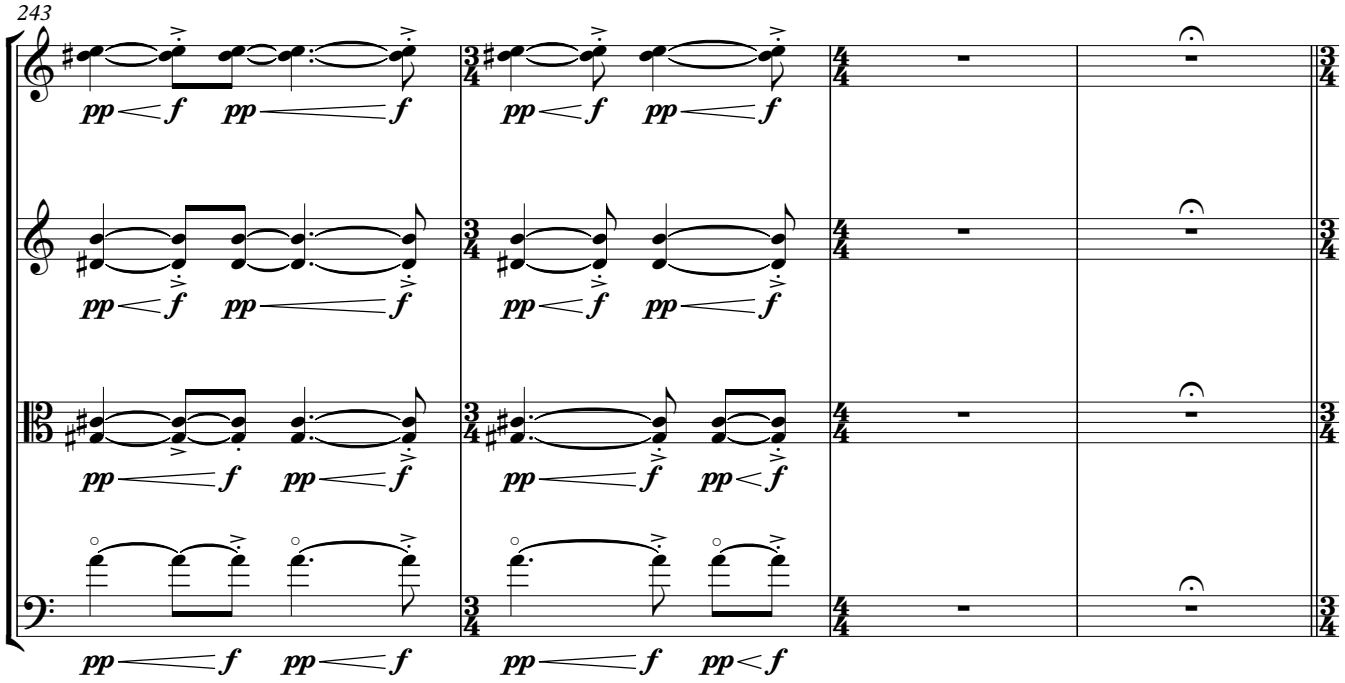

214
rit.
(♩=112)
p light, delicate
molto
molto
p
molto

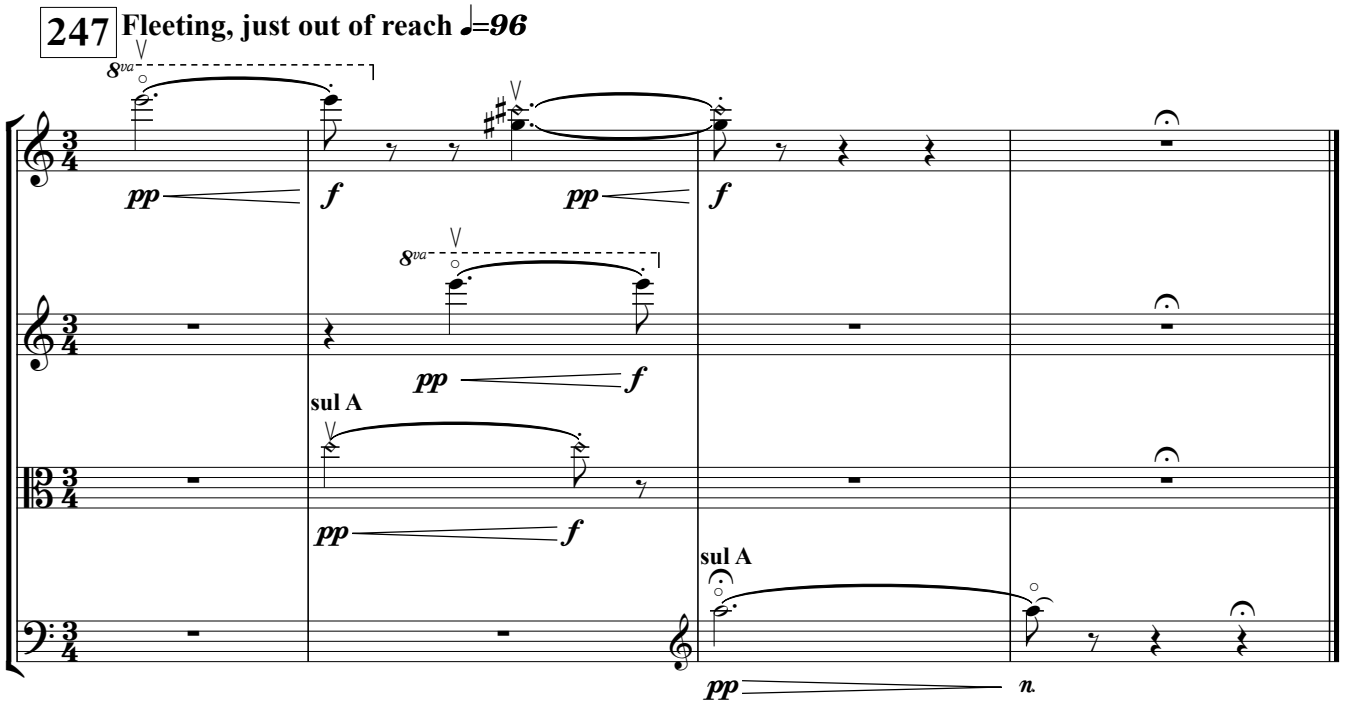

216 Slower, devastating ♩=126
(bow freely)
ff insistent!
ff insistent!
(arco)
ff insistent!
(arco)
ff insistent!


rit.
218
(II,III)


221 Crushed, in disbelief ♩=100
rit.
più ff dig deep!
molto
(fff)
226 Broken, like a held breath ♩=120
(port.)
solo
fff
f resolute
sul A sul E sim.
sub. mp
p
229
ff
solo
f resolute


233
231
p molto
ff sub. p
ff
solo
p molto f
(f) explosive
fp
f
235
molto f
p molto
ff
pp molto f
sul A
239
pp f pp f


243
pp f pp f
pp f pp f
pp f pp f
pp f pp f


247 Fleeting, just out of reach ♩=96
8va
pp f pp f
8va
pp f
sul A
pp f
sul A
pp n.

Violin 1

DAVID BIEDENBENDER

SURFACE TENSION

Violin 1

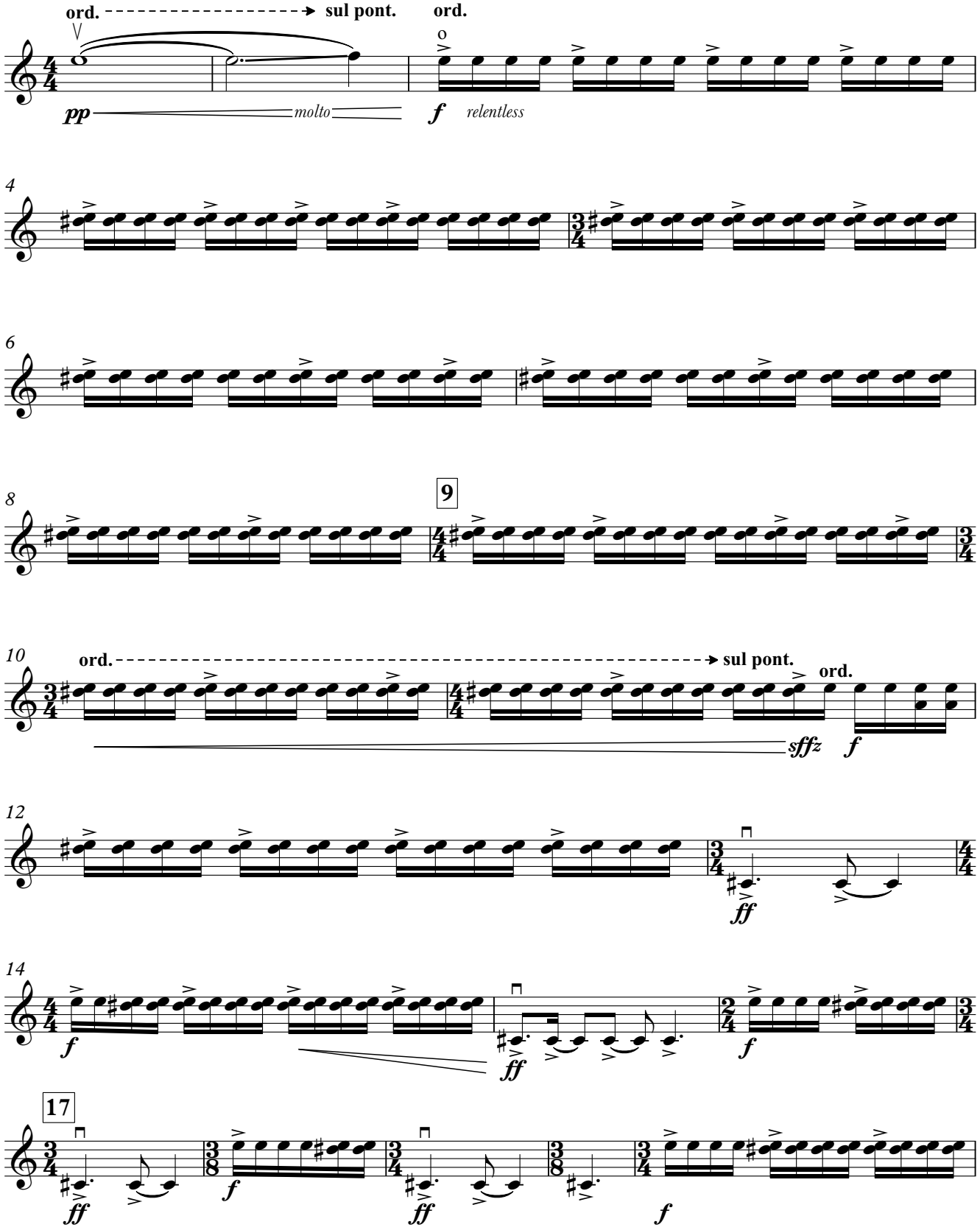
for the Stenhammar String Quartet

SURFACE TENSION

for string quartet

DAVID BIEDENBENDER

Fast, frenetic, aggressive, boiling over ♩=144



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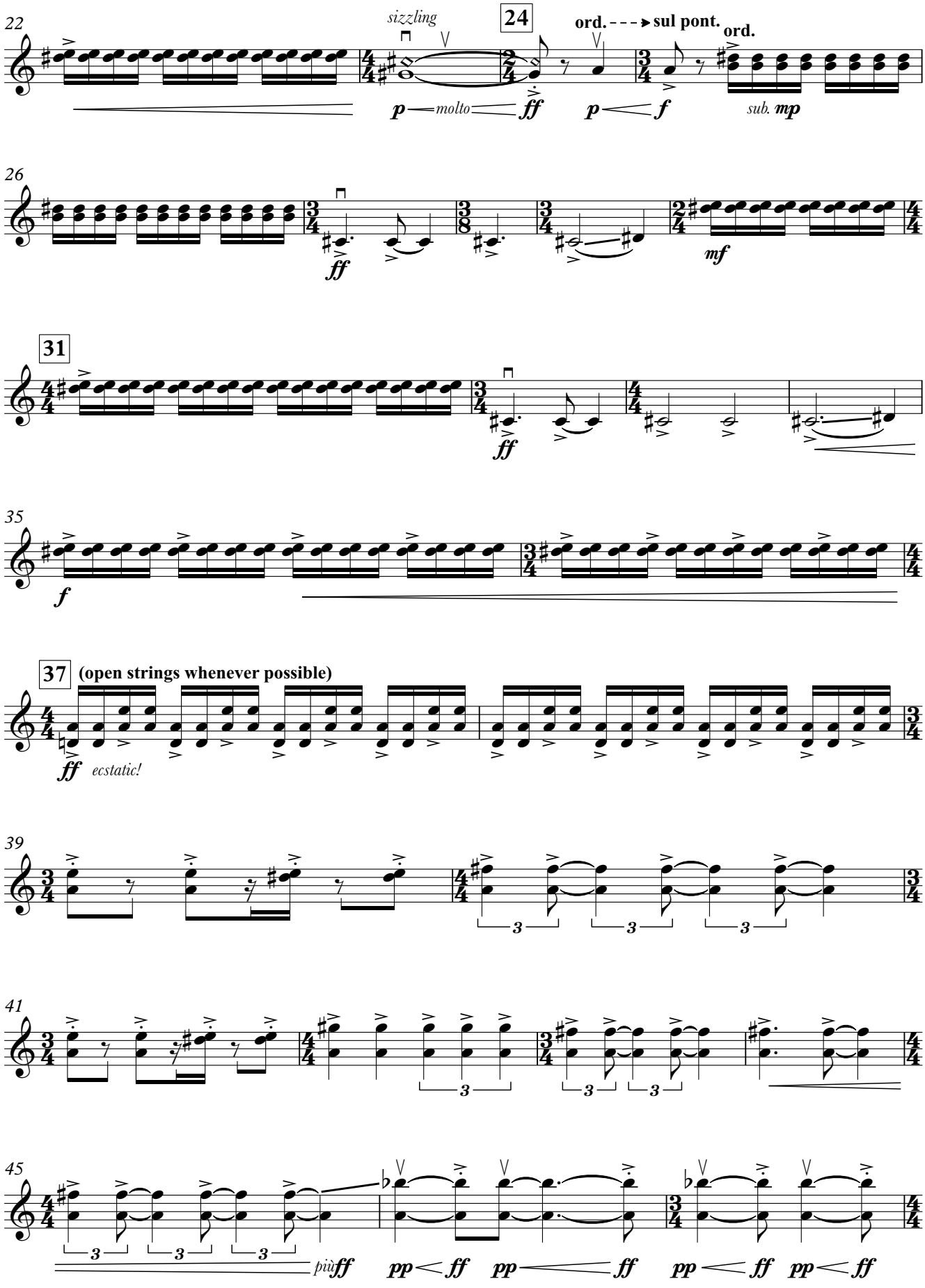
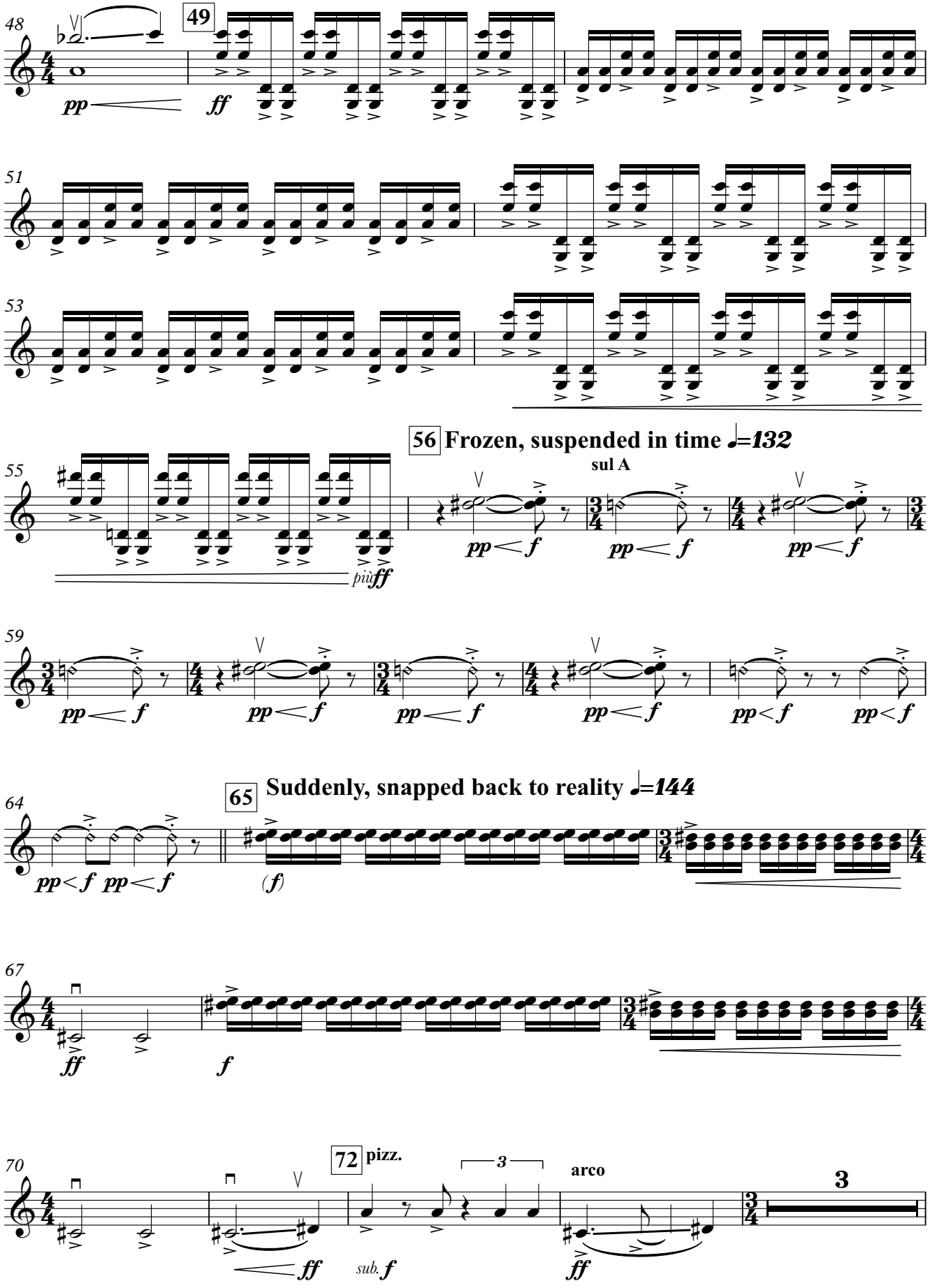

22
sizzling
24
ord.
sul pont.
ord.
p molto ff
p f
sub. mp
26
ff
mf
31
ff
35
f
37
(open strings whenever possible)
ff ecstatic!
39
3
41
3
45
3
più ff
pp ff pp ff pp ff pp ff

Surface Tension
Violin 1



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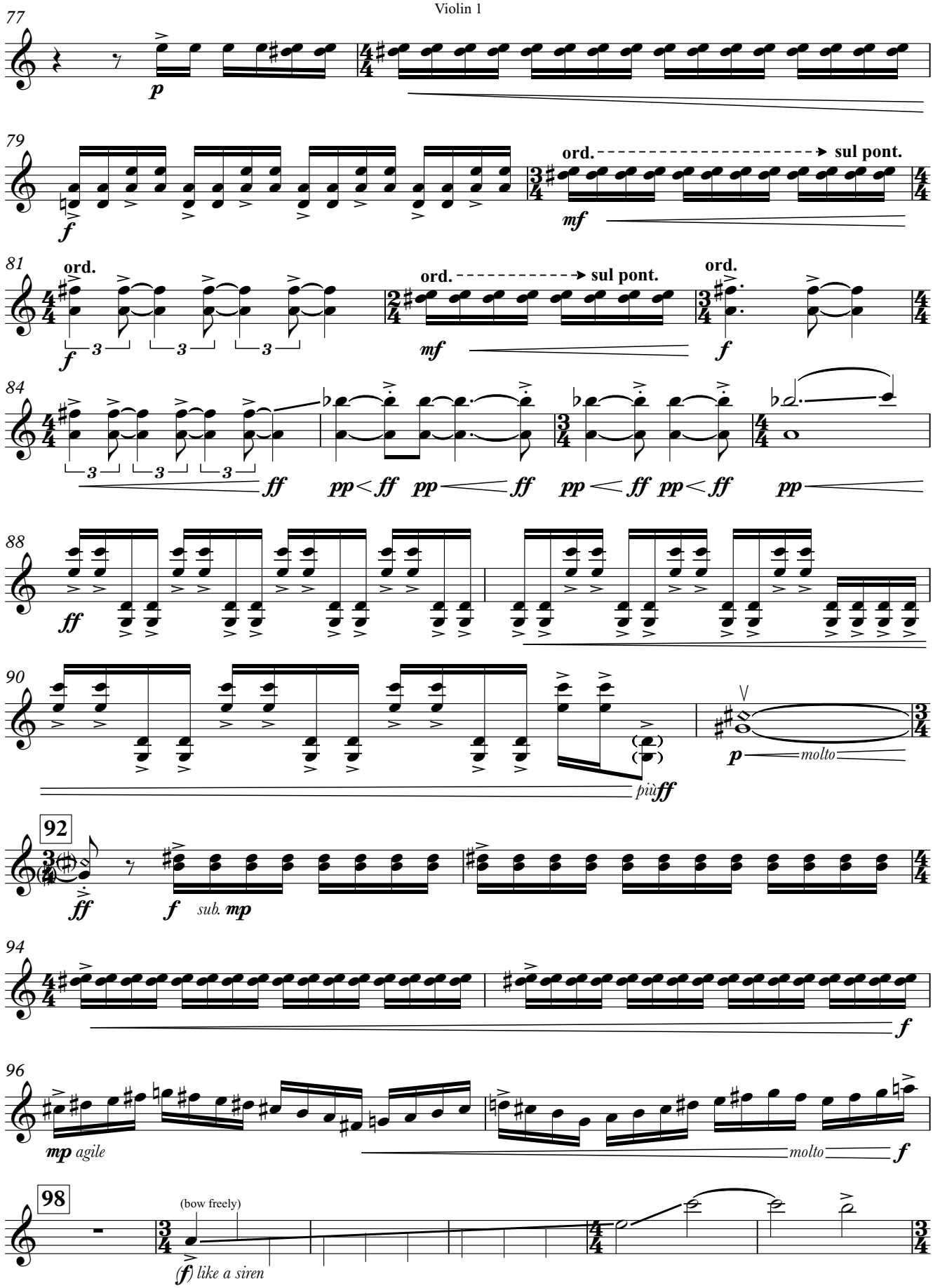
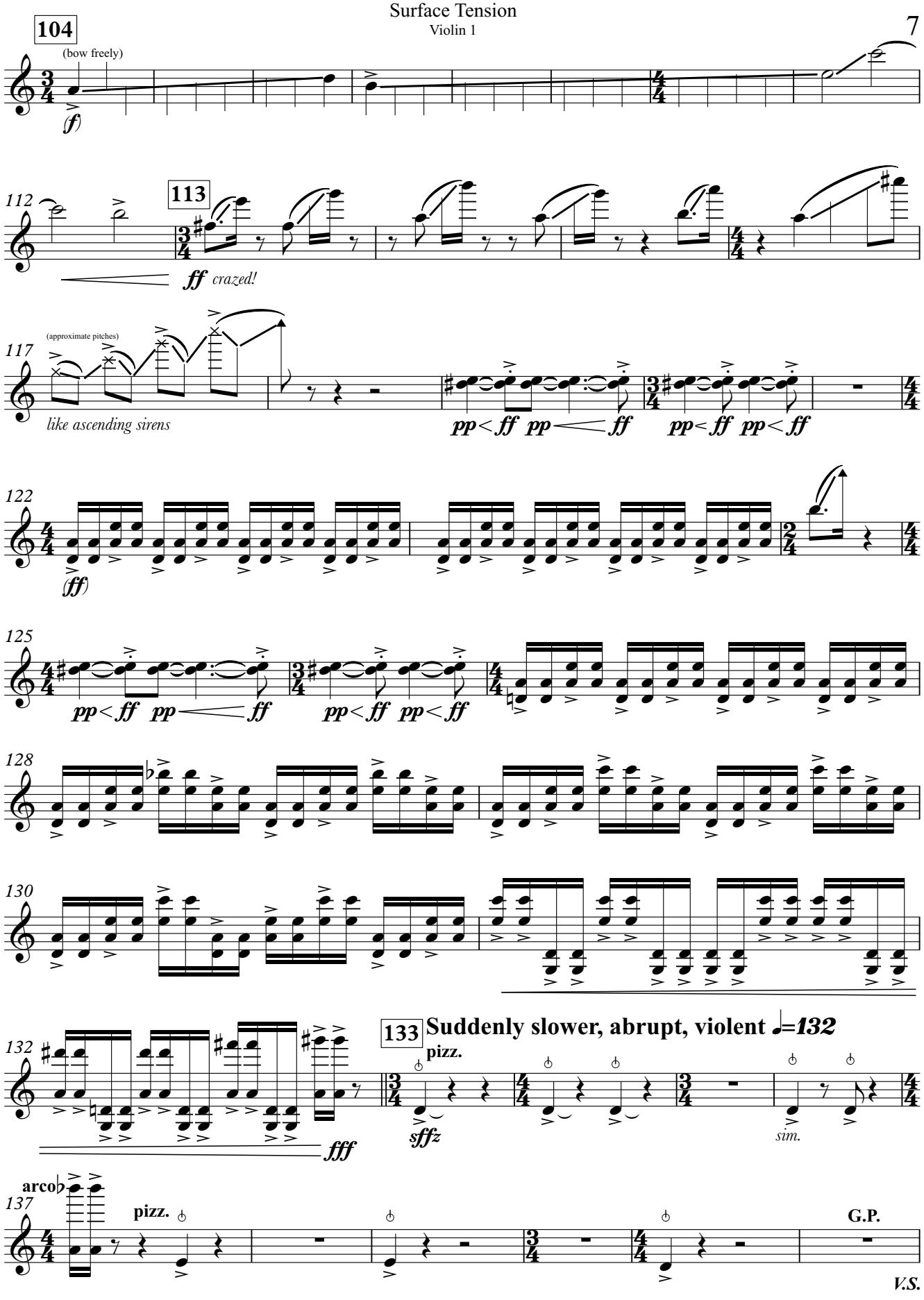

77
p
79
f
ord.
sul pont.
mf
81
ord.
f
ord.
sul pont.
mf
ord.
f
84
ff
pp
ff
pp
ff
pp
ff
pp
ff
pp
88
ff
90
più ff
p
molto
92
ff
f
sub. mp
94
f
96
mp agile
molto
f
98
(bow freely)
(f) like a siren


104
(bow freely)
(f)
112
113
ff crazed!
117
(approximate pitches)
like ascending sirens
pp < ff pp ff
pp < ff pp < ff
122
(ff)
125
pp < ff pp ff
pp < ff pp < ff
128
130
132
fff
133 Suddenly slower, abrupt, violent ♩=132
pizz.
sffz
sim.
137
arco
pizz.
G.P.

V.S.

143 **Like water droplets (♩=132)**

(pizz.)

p vib. *sim.*

149

mp *mf*

155

156 **Unlike any water droplets on this planet**

f

161

arco pizz.

pp< f

165

arco

pp f

170 **Playfully tense (♩=132)**

pizz.

(f)

173

177

178

182

184

arco pizz.

pp< f

187

arco

ff *pp*

192 Suspended in time, as if played in reverse

191

f *pp* < *f* *pp* < *f* *pp* < *f* *pp* < *f*

196

molto rit. **(♩=60)**

pp < *f* *pp* < *f* *pp* < *f* *pp* < *f* *pp* < *f* *pp* < *f* *p* < *ff*

201 Suspended in midair ♩=144

p *light, delicate*

203

205

rit. **(♩=120)**

molto

207 Slower, more emphatic ♩=132

(bow freely)

rit. **(♩=100)**

ff

213 Suspended in midair ♩=144

rit. **(♩=112)**

più ***ff***

p *light, delicate*

molto

216 Slower, devastating ♩=126

rit.

(bow freely)

(II,III)

ff *insistent!*

221 Crushed, in disbelief ♩=100

rit.

226 Broken, like a held breath ♩=120

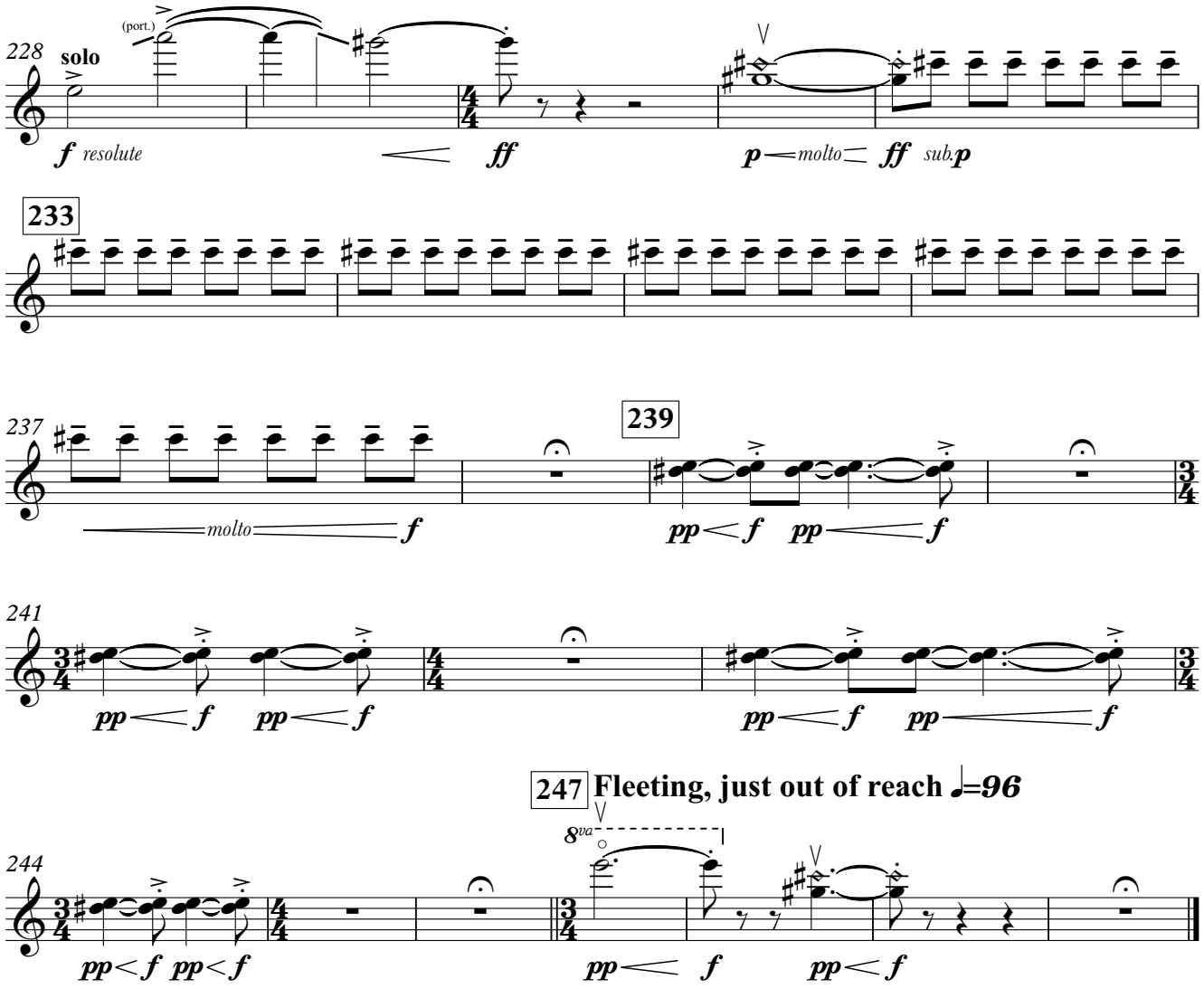
più ***ff*** *dig deep!*

molto

fff

V.S.

Surface Tension
Violin 1



Violin 2

DAVID BIEDENBENDER

SURFACE TENSION

Violin 2

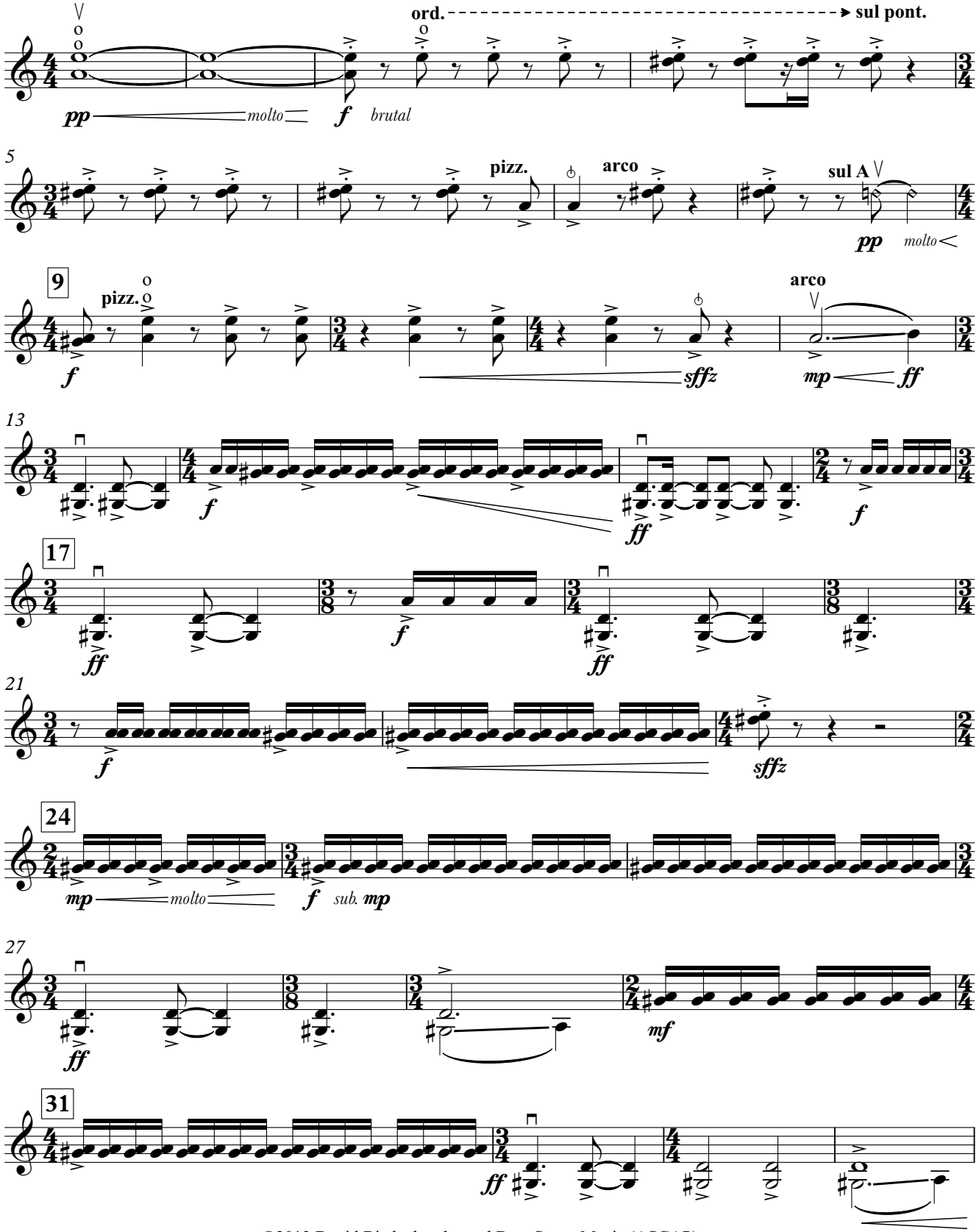
for the Stenhammar String Quartet

SURFACE TENSION

for string quartet

DAVID BIEDENBENDER

Fast, frenetic, aggressive, boiling over ♩=144



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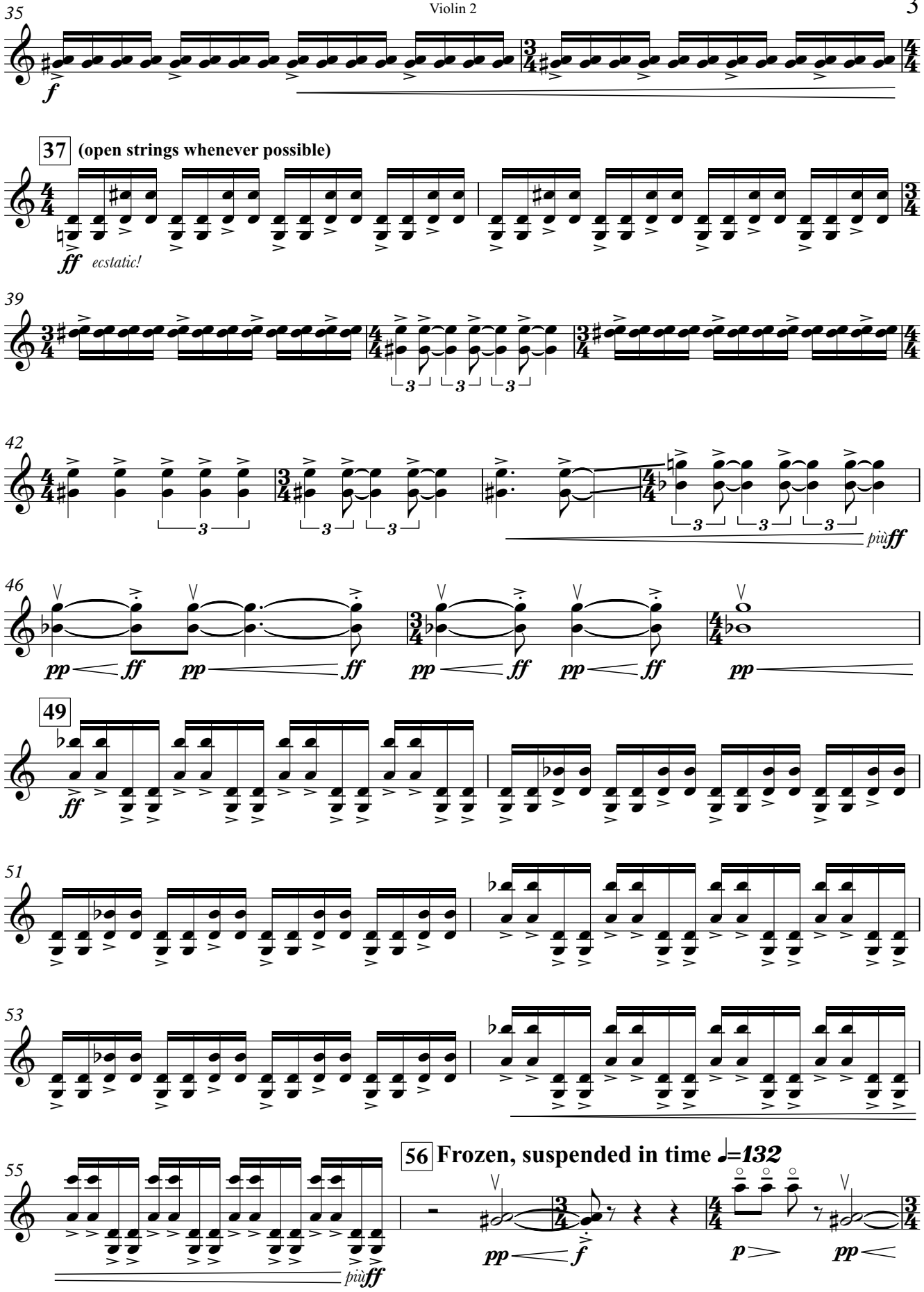
www.davidbiedenbender.com


35
f
37
(open strings whenever possible)
ff
ecstatic!
39
42
più ff
46
pp
ff
49
51
53
55
più ff
56
Frozen, suspended in time
♩=132
pp
f
p
pp

Surface Tension

Violin 2

59

65 **Suddenly, snapped back to reality** ♩=144

68

71

72

75

79

84

88

90

ord.

V.S.

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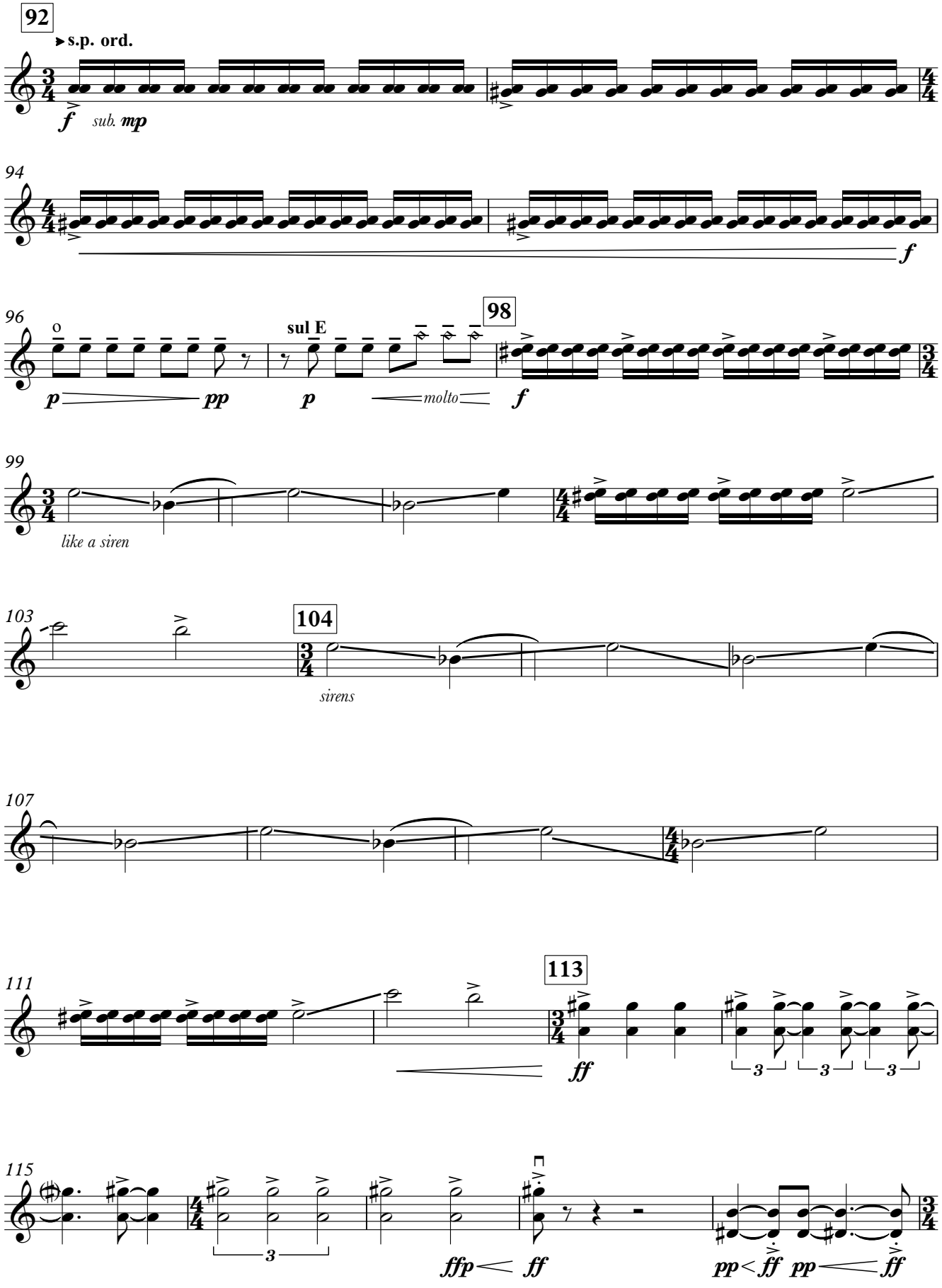
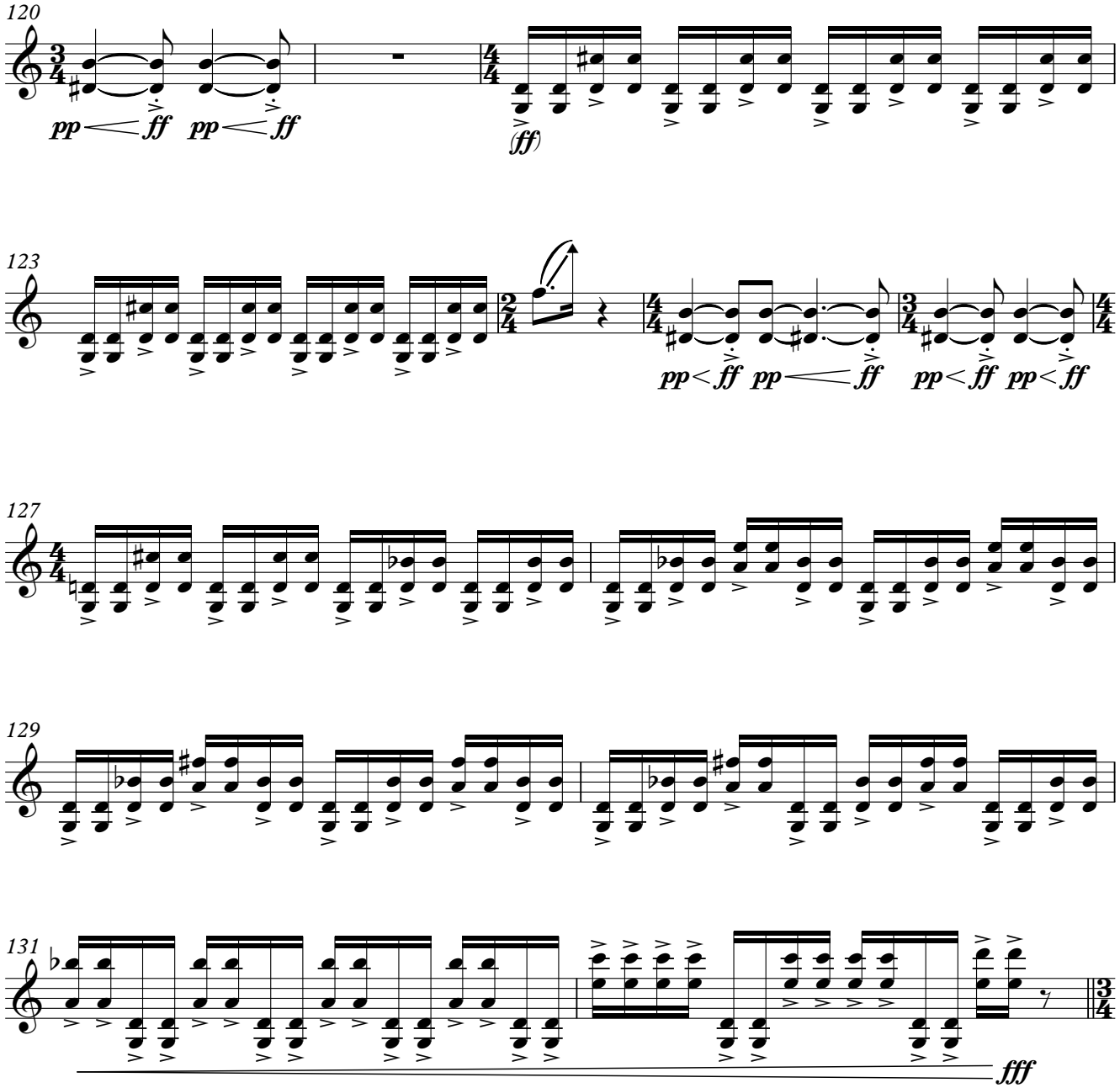
Surface Tension
Violin 2




120
pp ff pp ff
(ff)
123
pp ff pp ff pp ff pp ff
127
129
131
fff
133 Suddenly slower, abrupt, violent ♩=132
pizz.
sffz
sim.
arco
pizz.
138
G.P.

143 **Like water droplets (♩=132)**

(pizz.)

p *vib.*

sim.

149

mp

mf

153

156 **Unlike any water droplets on this planet**

f

158

arco

pp

161

pizz.

arco

pizz.

arco

ff

pp < *ff*

pp < *f*

pp < *f*

pp < *f*

pp < *f*

170 **Playfully tense (♩=132)**

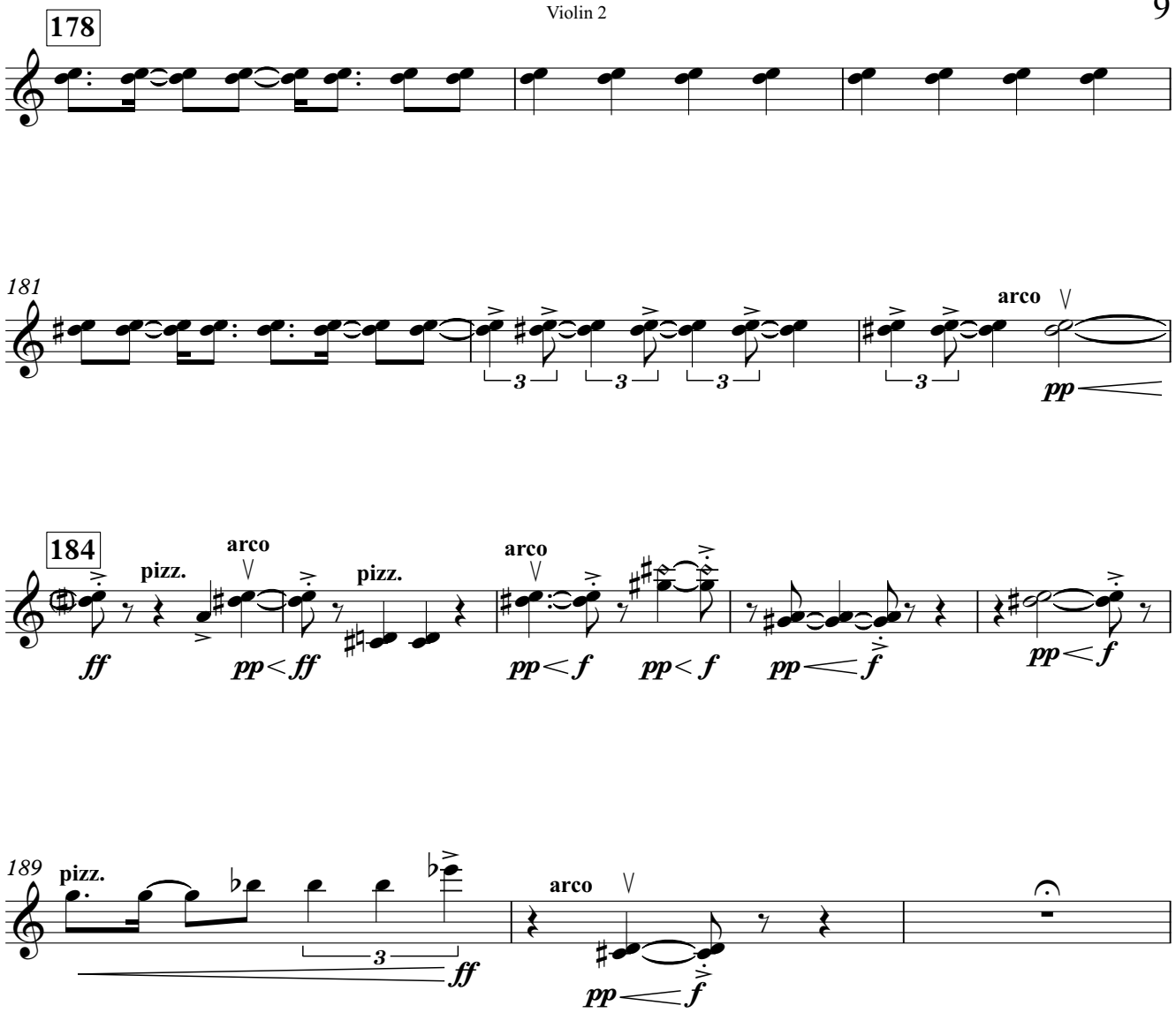
167

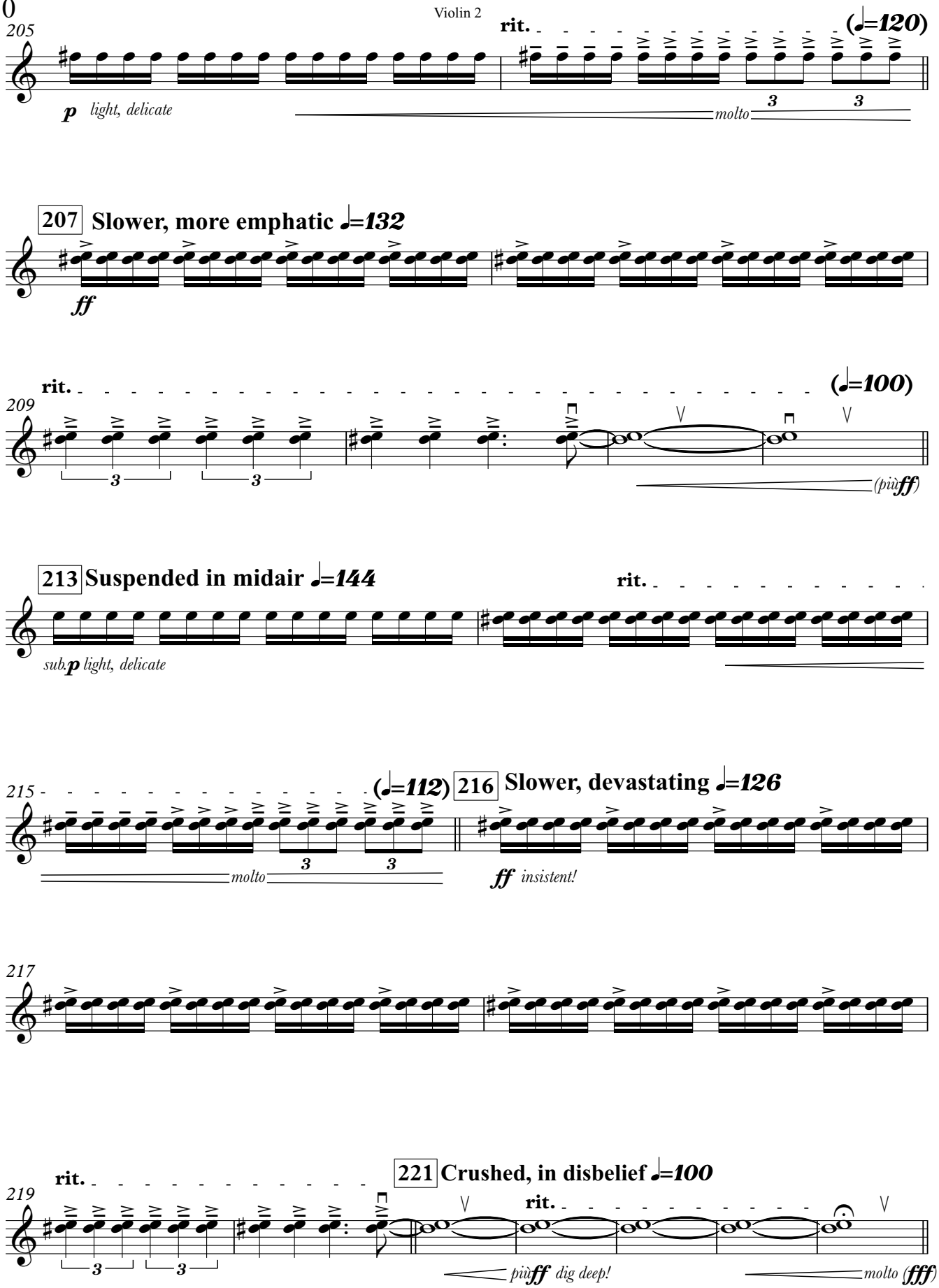
pp < *f*

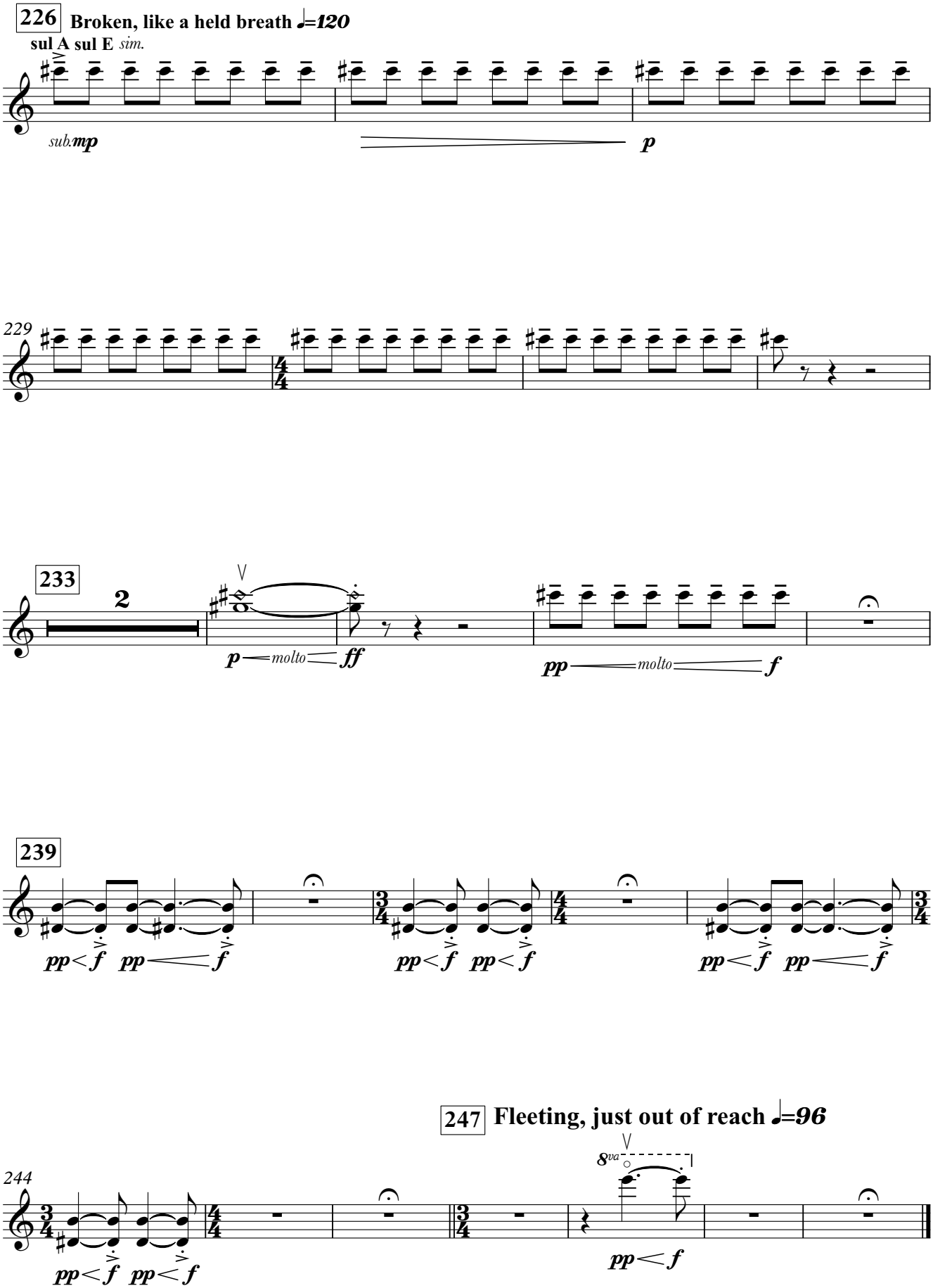
pizz.

(f)

173


178
181
arco
184
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
189
pizz.
arco
192 Suspended in time, as if played in reverse
198
molto rit.
(♩=60)
201 Suspended in midair ♩=144
V.S.


205
rit.
(♩=120)
p light, delicate
molto
207 Slower, more emphatic ♩=132
ff
rit.
(♩=100)
209
(più ff)
213 Suspended in midair ♩=144
rit.
sub. p light, delicate
215
(♩=112)
216 Slower, devastating ♩=126
molto
ff insistent!
217
rit.
221 Crushed, in disbelief ♩=100
219
rit.
più ff dig deep!
molto (fff)


226
Broken, like a held breath ♩=120
sul A sul E sim.
sub.mp
p
229
233
2
p molto ff
pp molto f
239
pp f pp f
pp f pp f
pp f pp f
244
pp f pp f
247
Fleeting, just out of reach ♩=96
8va
pp f

Viola

DAVID BIEDENBENDER

SURFACE TENSION

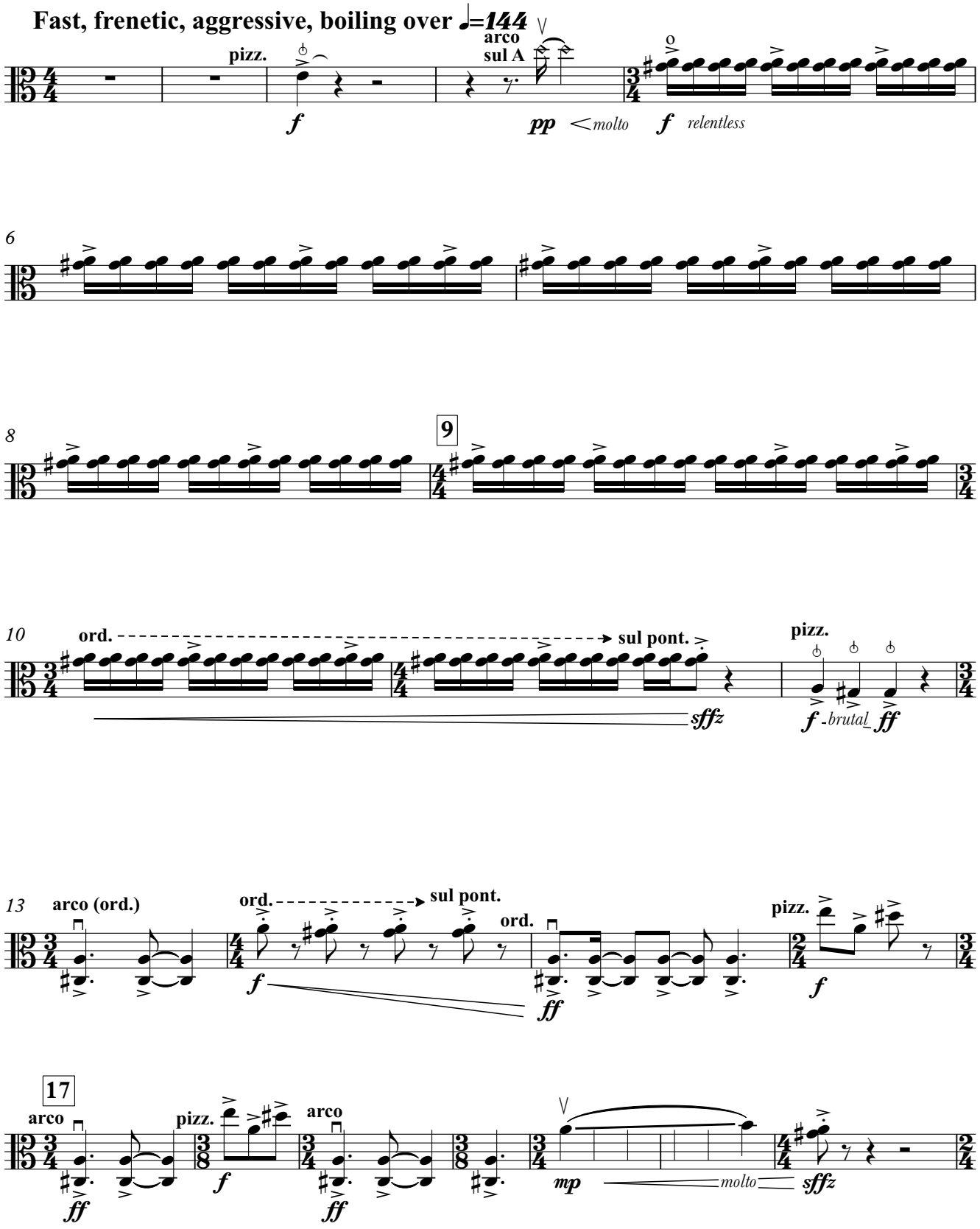
Viola

for the Stenhammar String Quartet

SURFACE TENSION

for string quartet

DAVID BIEDENBENDER



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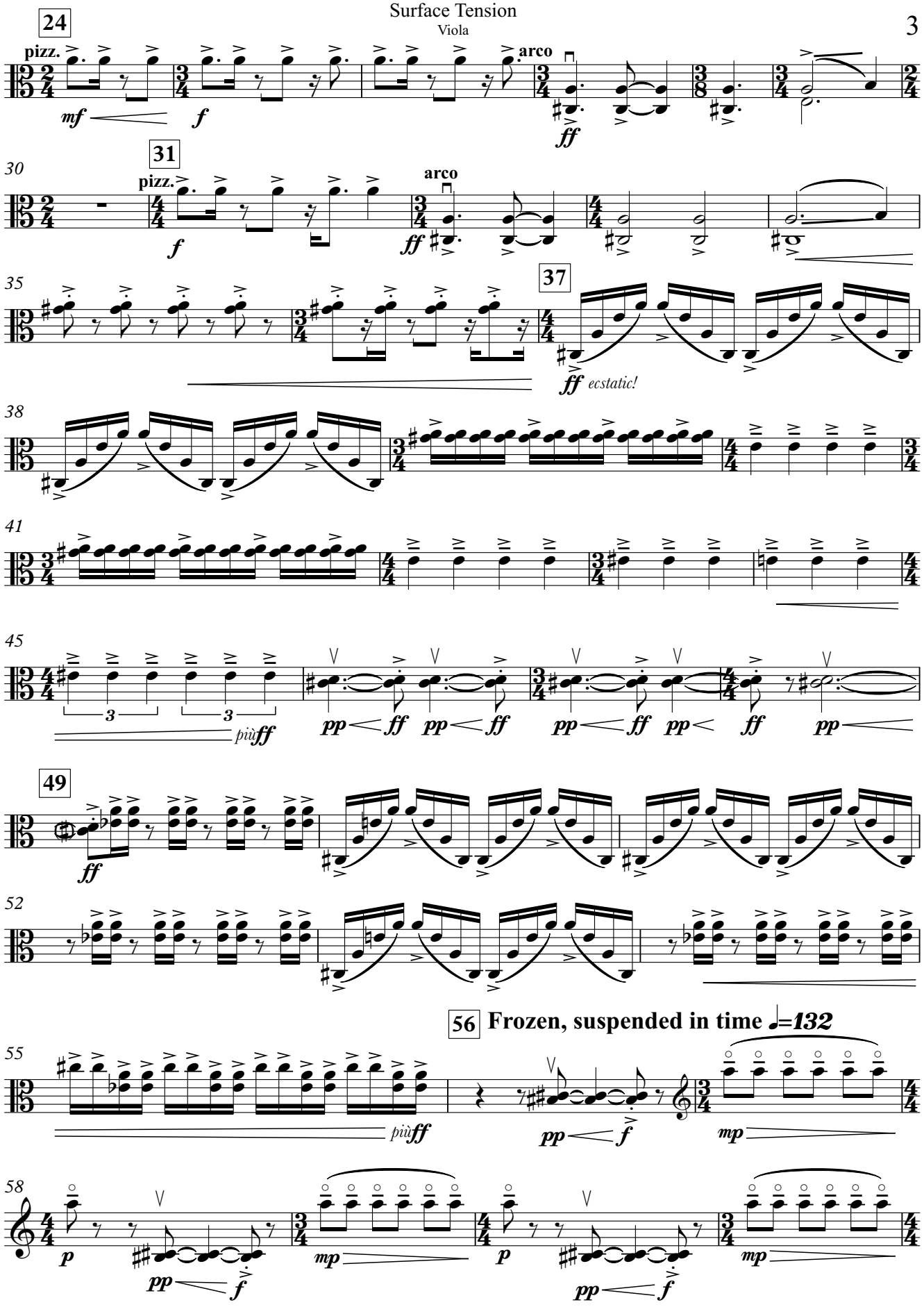
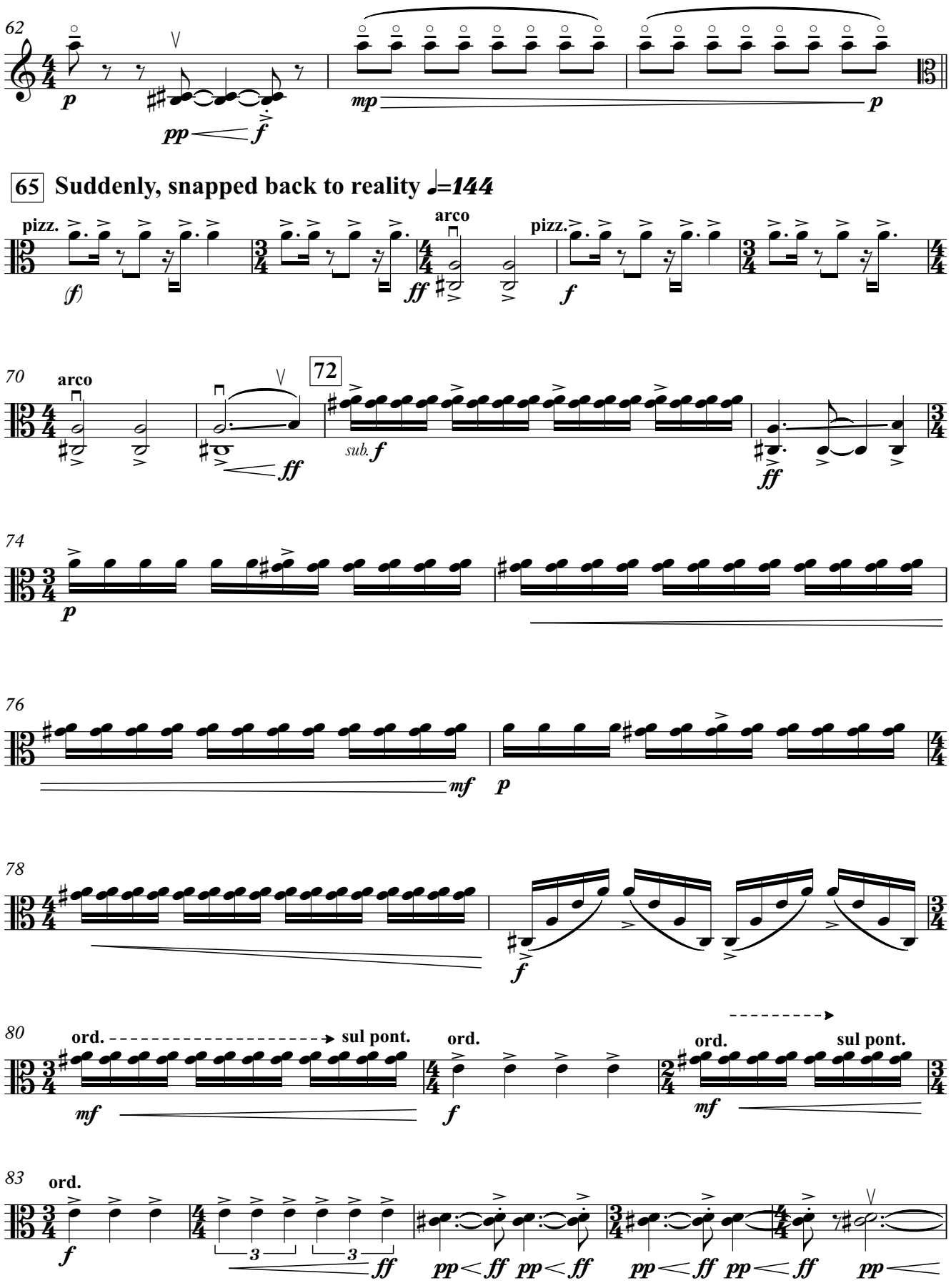
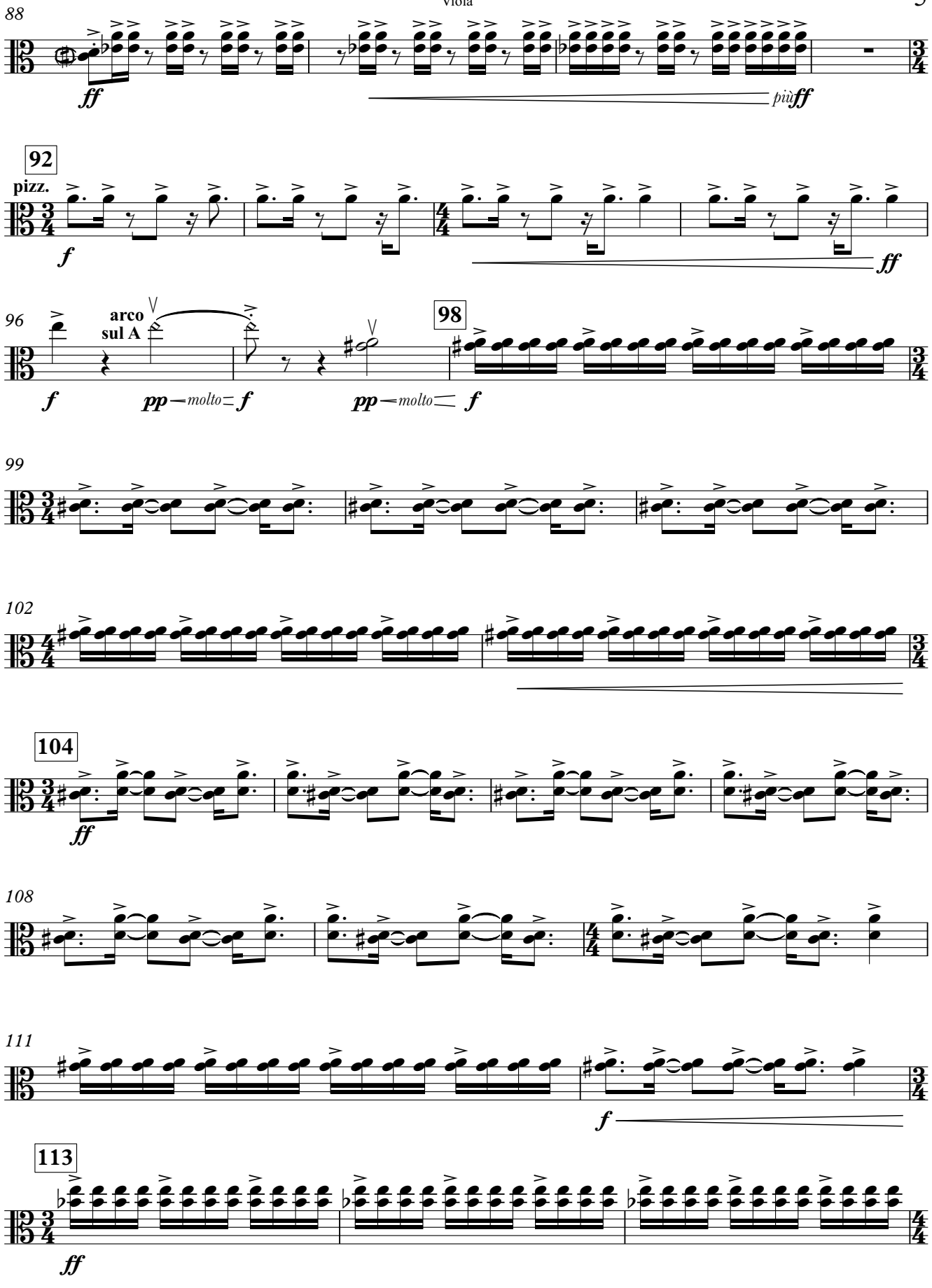

24
pizz.
arco
mf
f
ff
30
31
pizz.
arco
f
ff
35
37
ff ecstatic!
38
41
45
3
3
più ff
pp ff pp ff pp ff pp ff pp
49
ff
52
56 Frozen, suspended in time ♩=132
55
più ff
pp f
mp
58
p
pp f
mp
p
pp f
mp

V.S.


62
p
pp
f
mp
p
65 Suddenly, snapped back to reality ♩=144
pizz.
(f)
arco
ff
pizz.
f
70
arco
ff
72
sub. f
ff
74
p
76
mf
p
78
f
80
ord.
sul pont.
mf
ord.
f
ord.
sul pont.
mf
83
ord.
f
3
3
ff
pp < ff
pp < ff
pp < ff
pp < ff
pp


88
ff
più ff
92
pizz.
f
ff
96
arco
sul A
f
pp — molto — f
pp — molto — f
98
99
102
104
ff
108
111
f
113
ff

Surface Tension

Viola

116

ffp< ff

119

pp< ff pp< ff pp< ff pp< ff

(ff)

123

pp< ff pp< ff pp< ff pp<

127

ff

129

like ascending sirens

133 Suddenly slower, abrupt, violent ♩=132

132

fff

pizz.

sffz

136

arco

pizz.

G.P.

sim.

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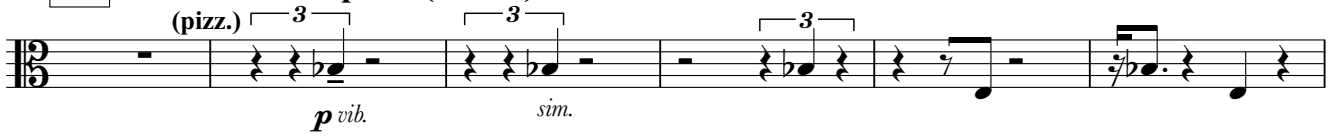
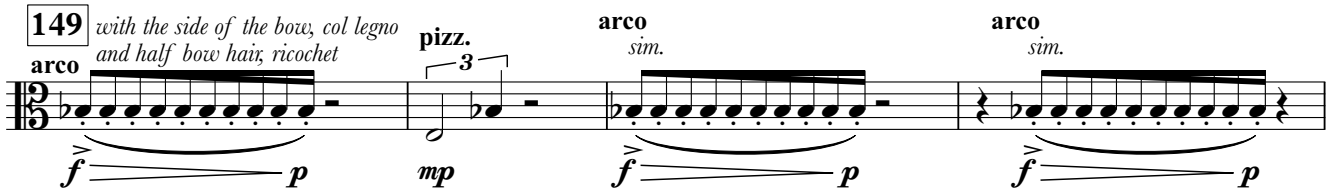
143 **Like water droplets (♩=132)**

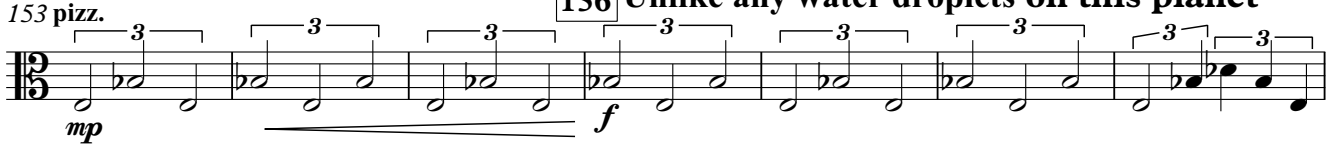


149 *with the side of the bow, col legno and half bow hair, ricochet*



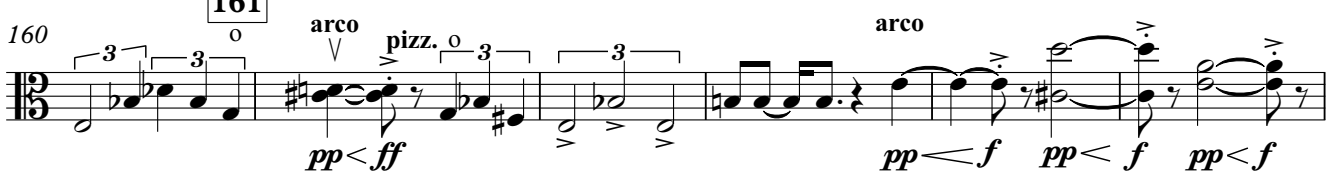
153 **pizz.**

156 **Unlike any water droplets on this planet**



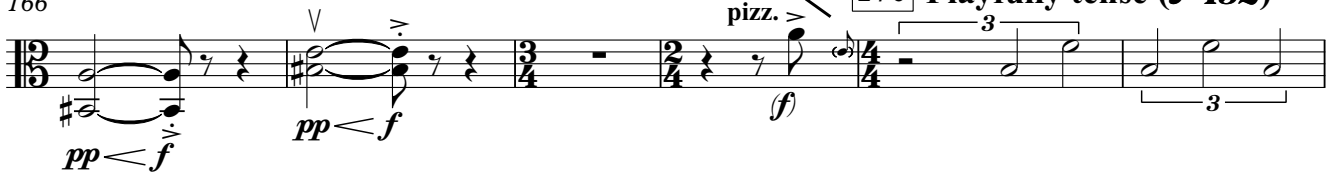
160

161

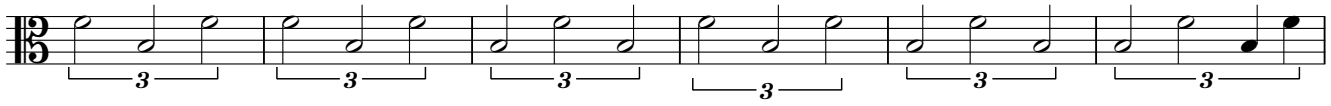


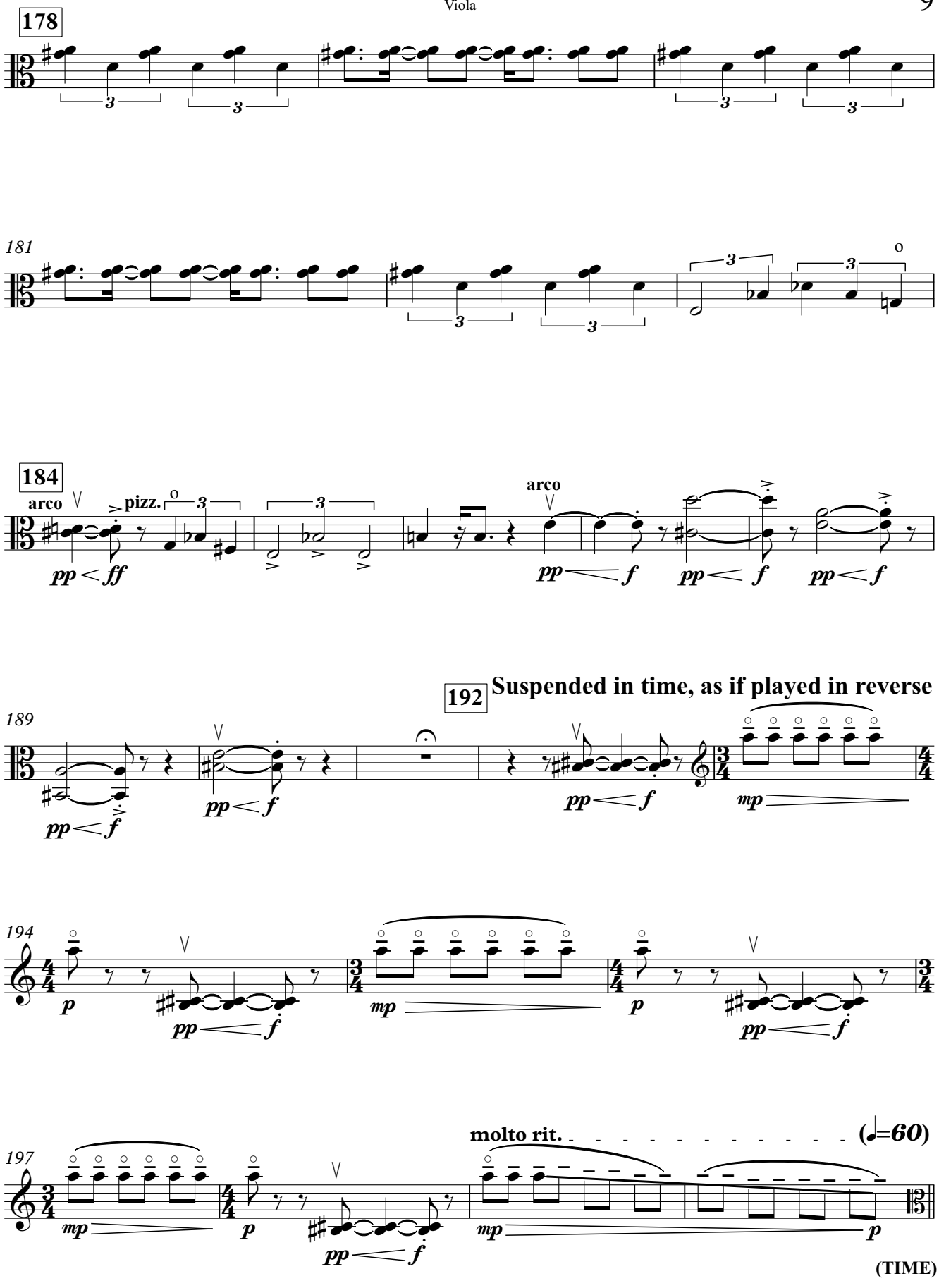
166

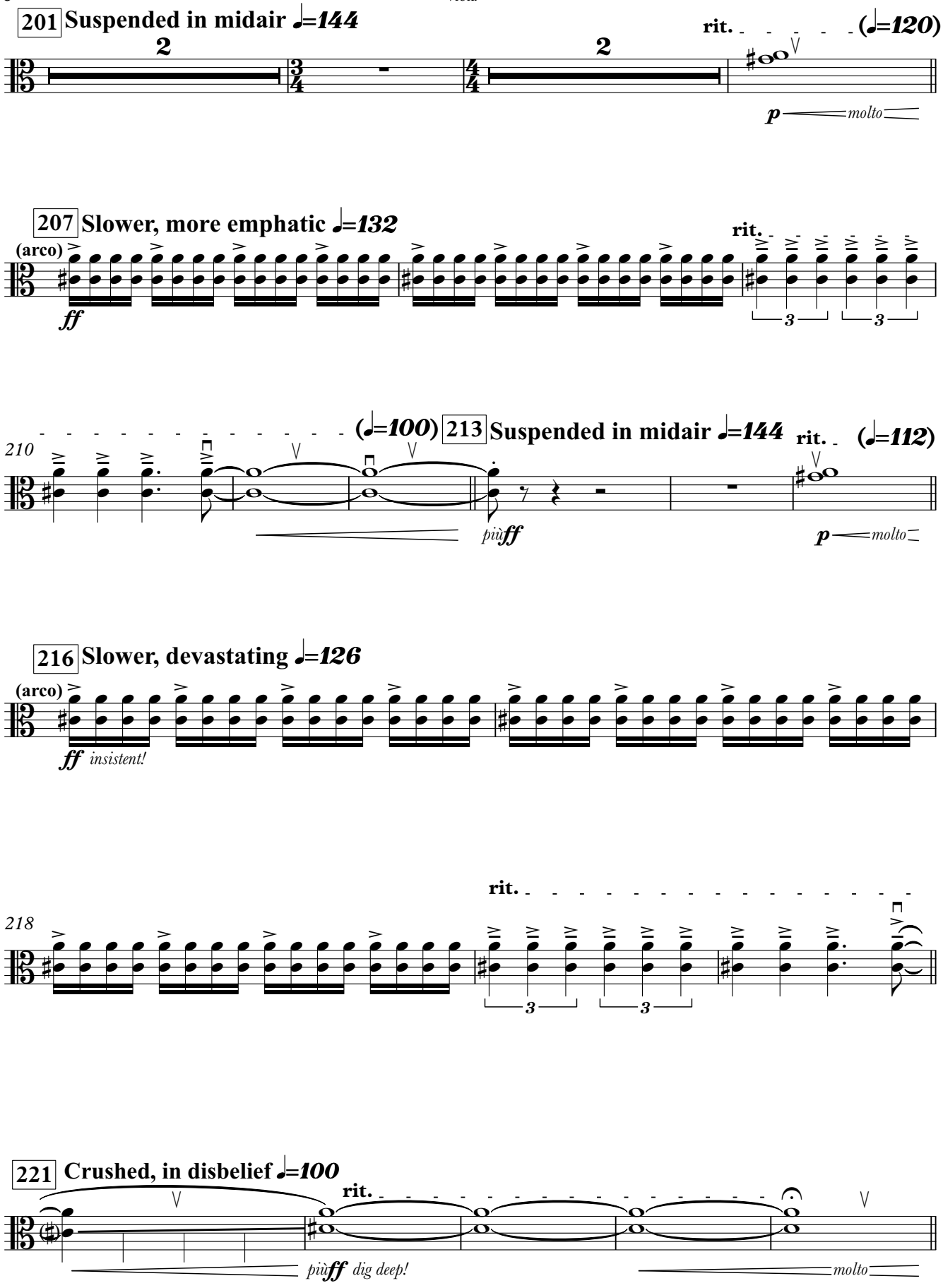
170 **Playfully tense (♩=132)**

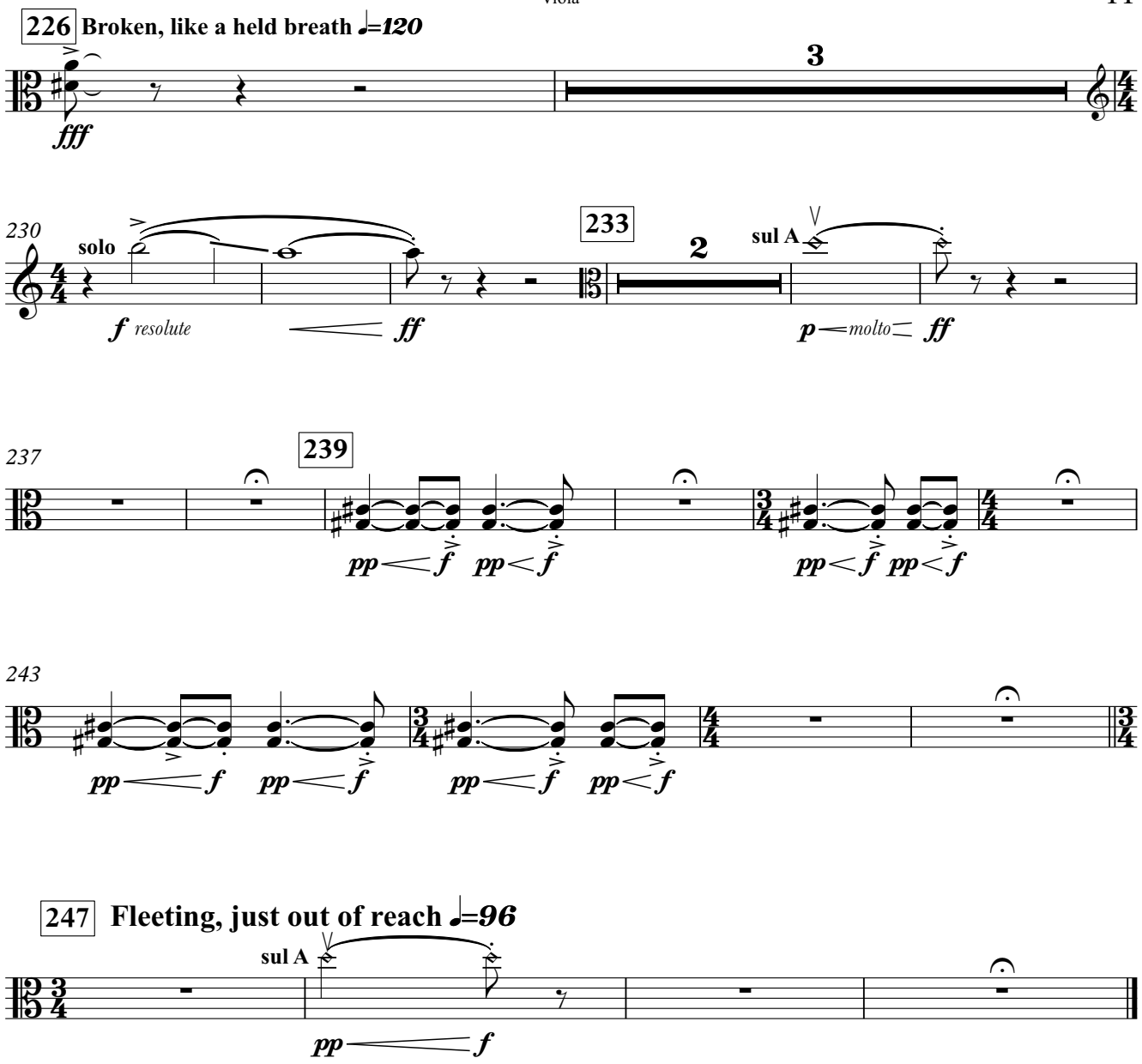


172




178
181
184
arco
pizz.
arco
192
Suspended in time, as if played in reverse
189
194
197
molto rit.
(♩=60)
(TIME)


201 Suspended in midair ♩=144
2
2
rit.
(♩=120)
p molto
207 Slower, more emphatic ♩=132
(arco)
ff
rit.
3
3
(♩=100)
213 Suspended in midair ♩=144
rit.
(♩=112)
210
più ff
p molto
216 Slower, devastating ♩=126
(arco)
ff insistent!
rit.
218
3
3
221 Crushed, in disbelief ♩=100
rit.
più ff dig deep!
molto


226 Broken, like a held breath ♩=120
fff
3
230
solo
f resolute
ff
233
2
sul A
p molto ff
237
239
pp f pp f
pp f pp f
243
pp f pp f pp f pp f
247 Fleeting, just out of reach ♩=96
sul A
pp f

Violoncello

DAVID BIEDENBENDER

SURFACE TENSION

Violoncello

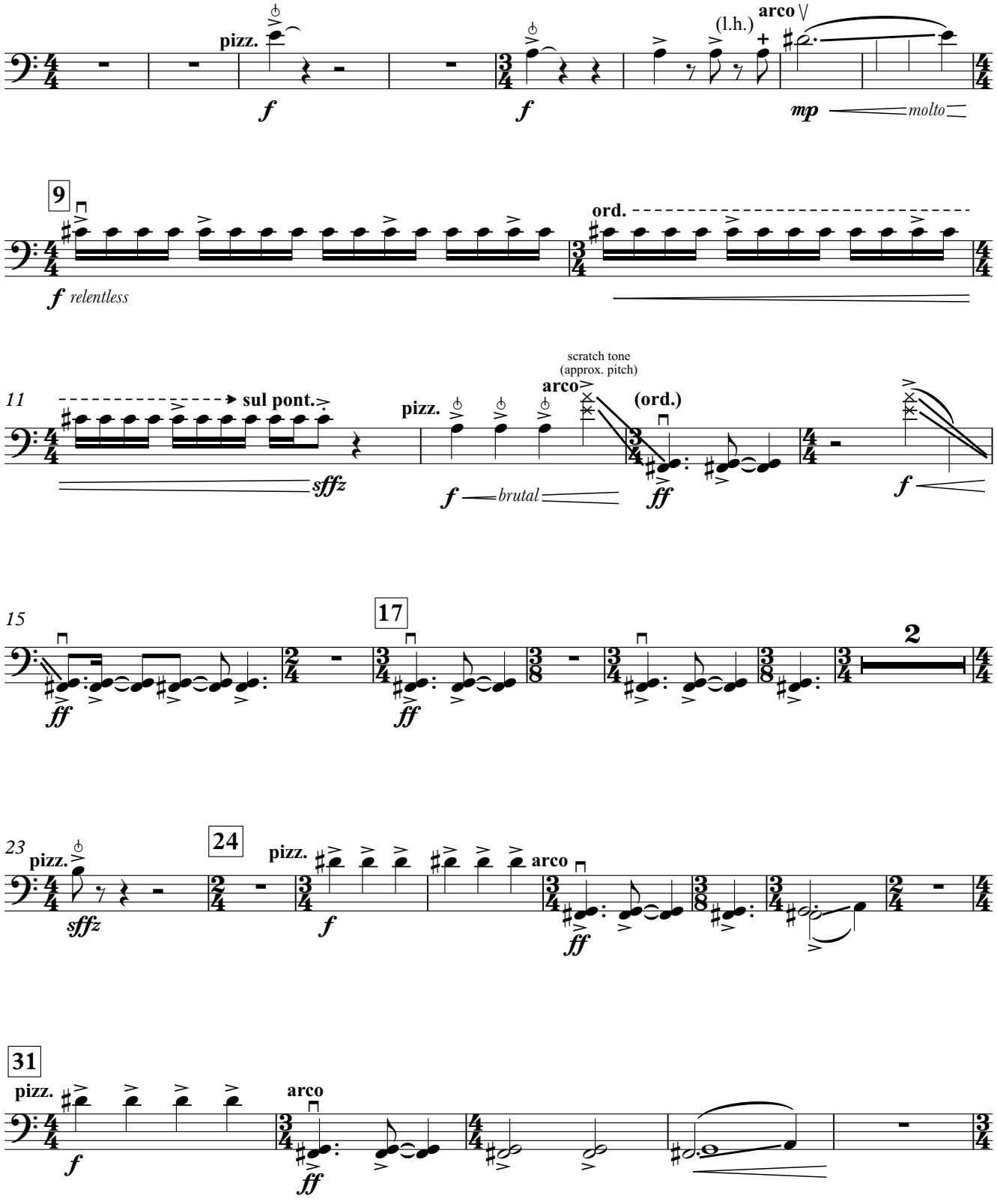
for the Stenhammar String Quartet

SURFACE TENSION

for string quartet

DAVID BIEDENBENDER

Fast, frenetic, aggressive, boiling over ♩=144



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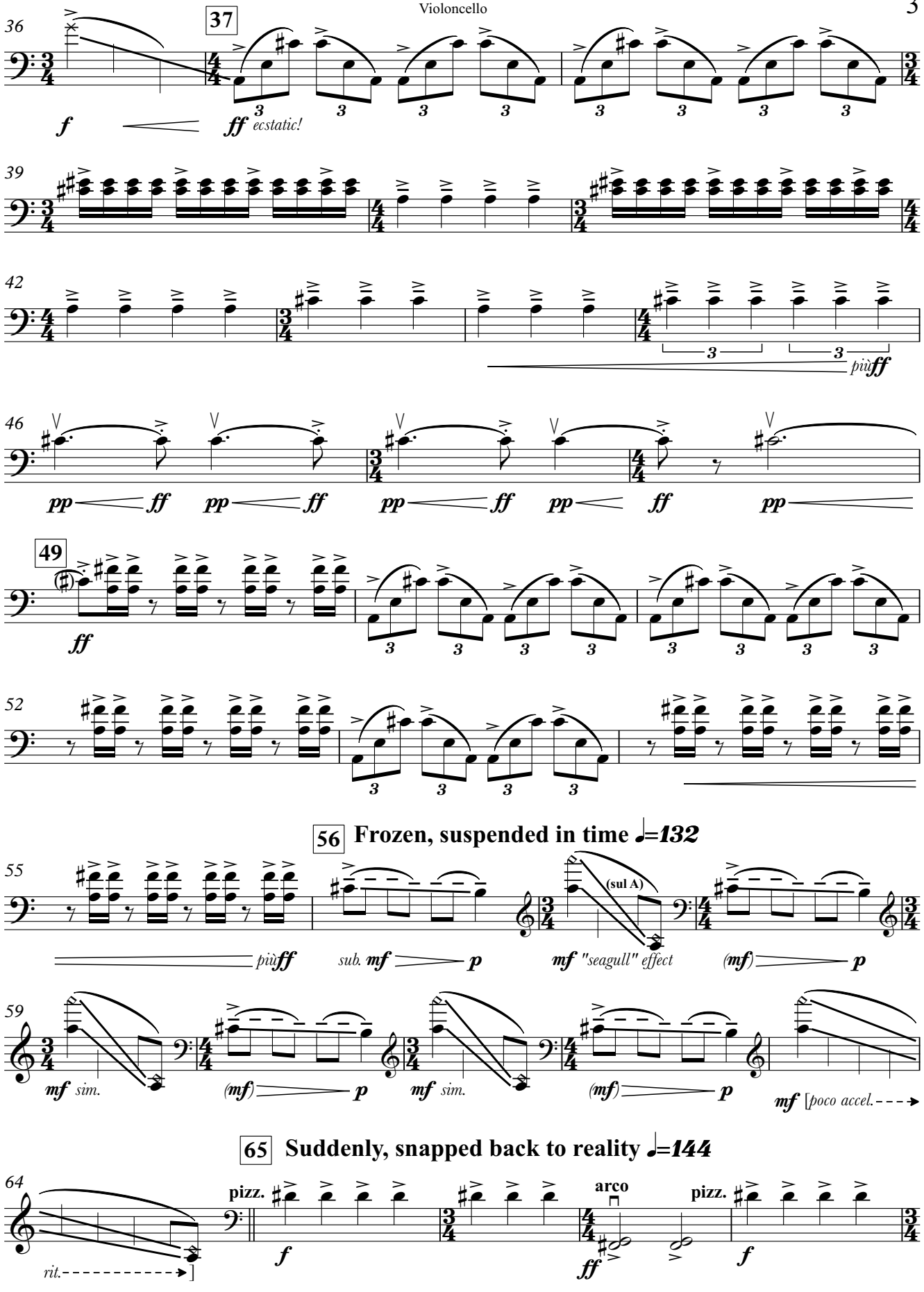
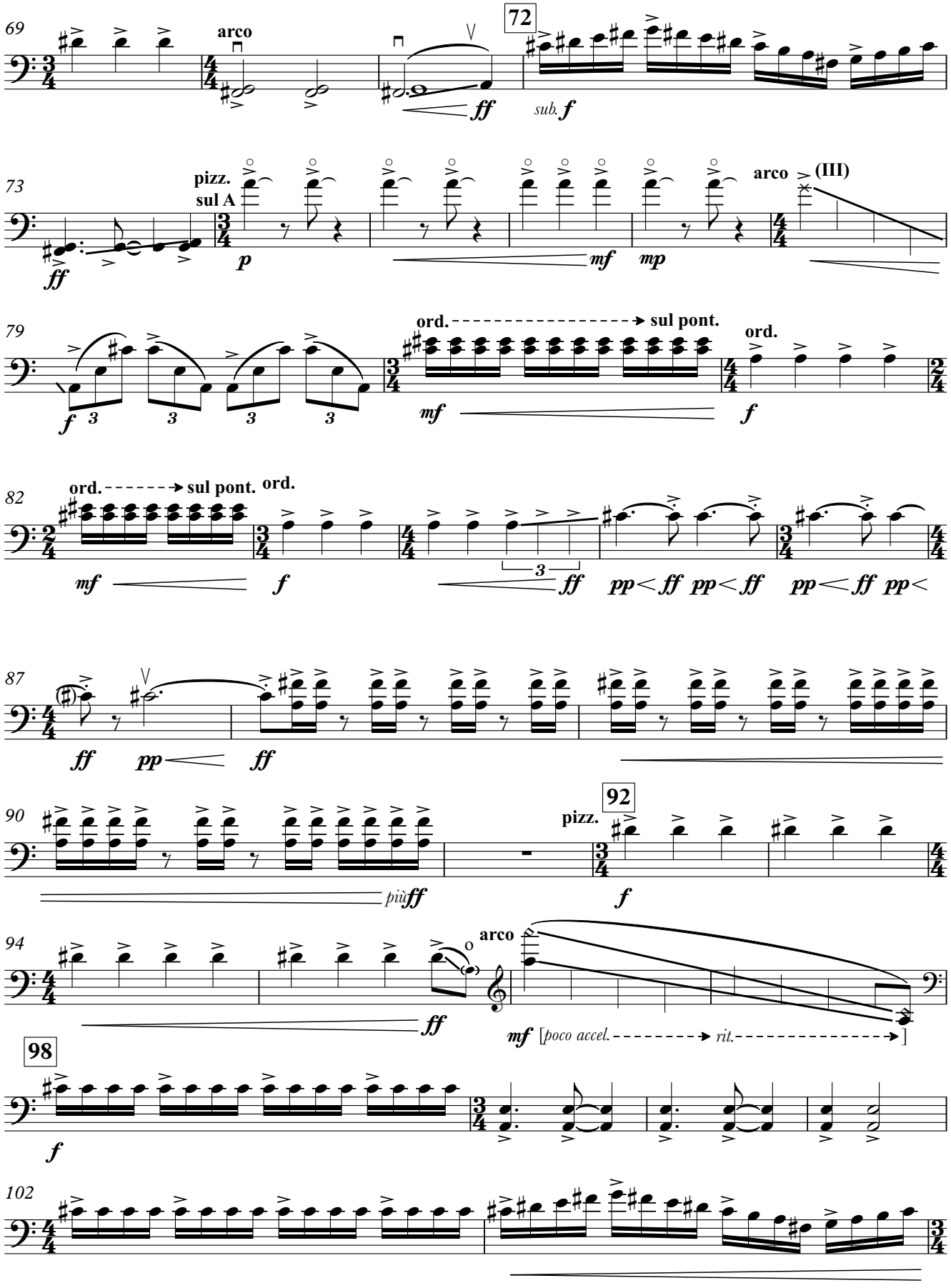
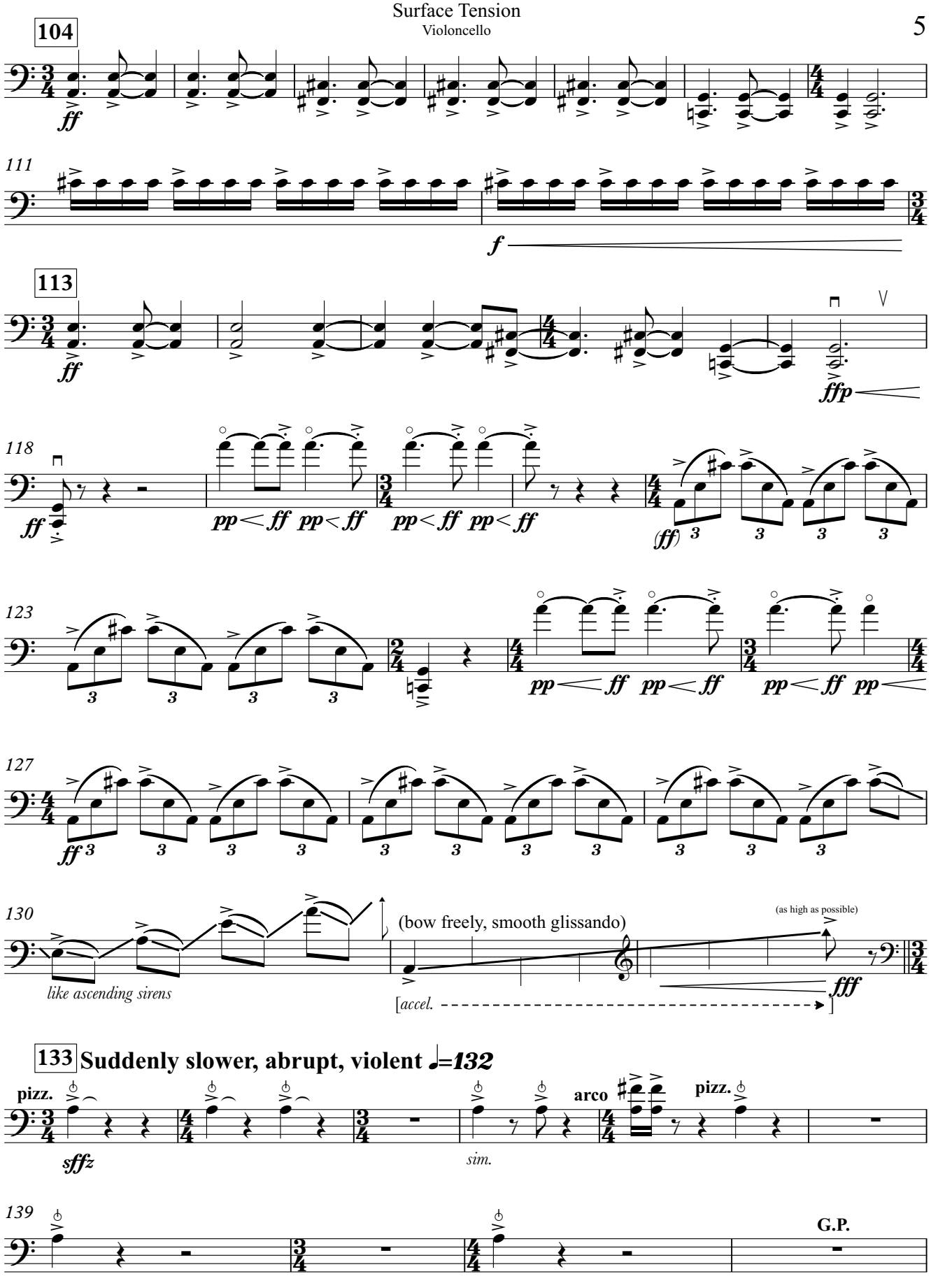
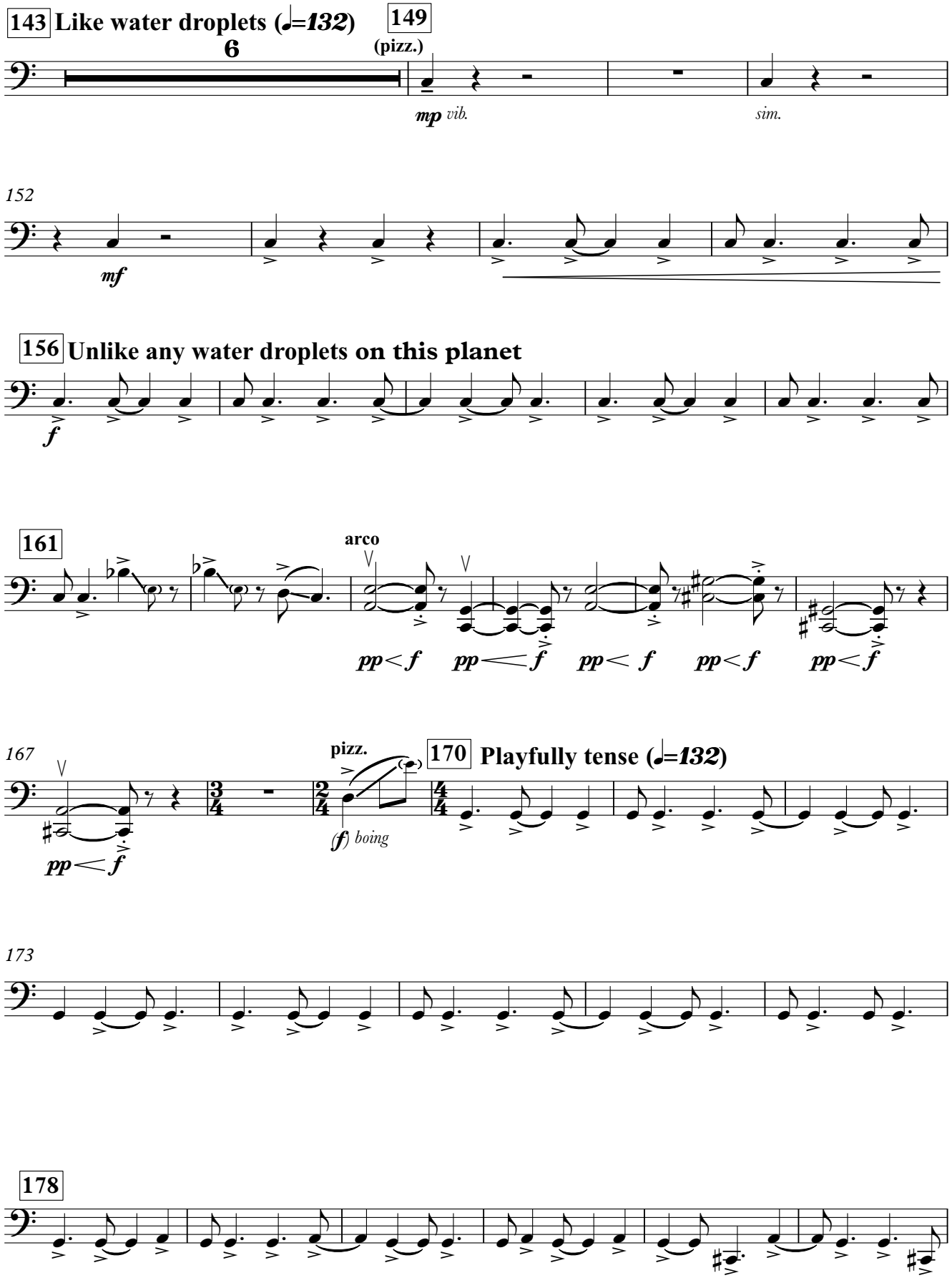
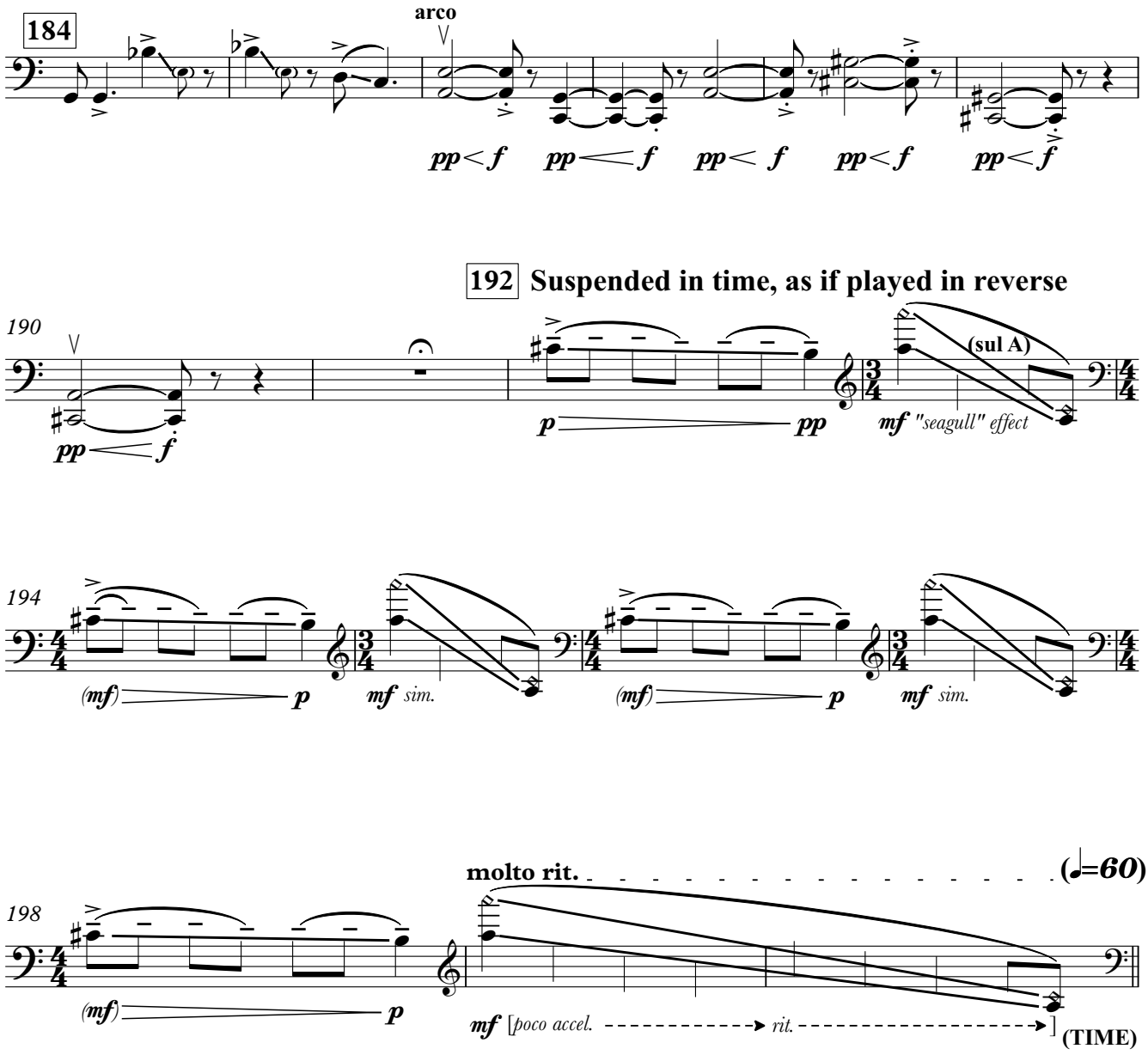

36
37
f
ff ecstatic!
39
42
più ff
46
pp ff pp ff pp ff pp ff pp
49
ff
52
56 Frozen, suspended in time ♩=132
55
più ff
sub. mf p
(sul A)
mf "seagull" effect
(mf) p
59
mf sim.
(mf) p
mf sim.
(mf) p
mf [poco accel.
65 Suddenly, snapped back to reality ♩=144
64
rit.
pizz.
f
arco
ff
pizz.
f

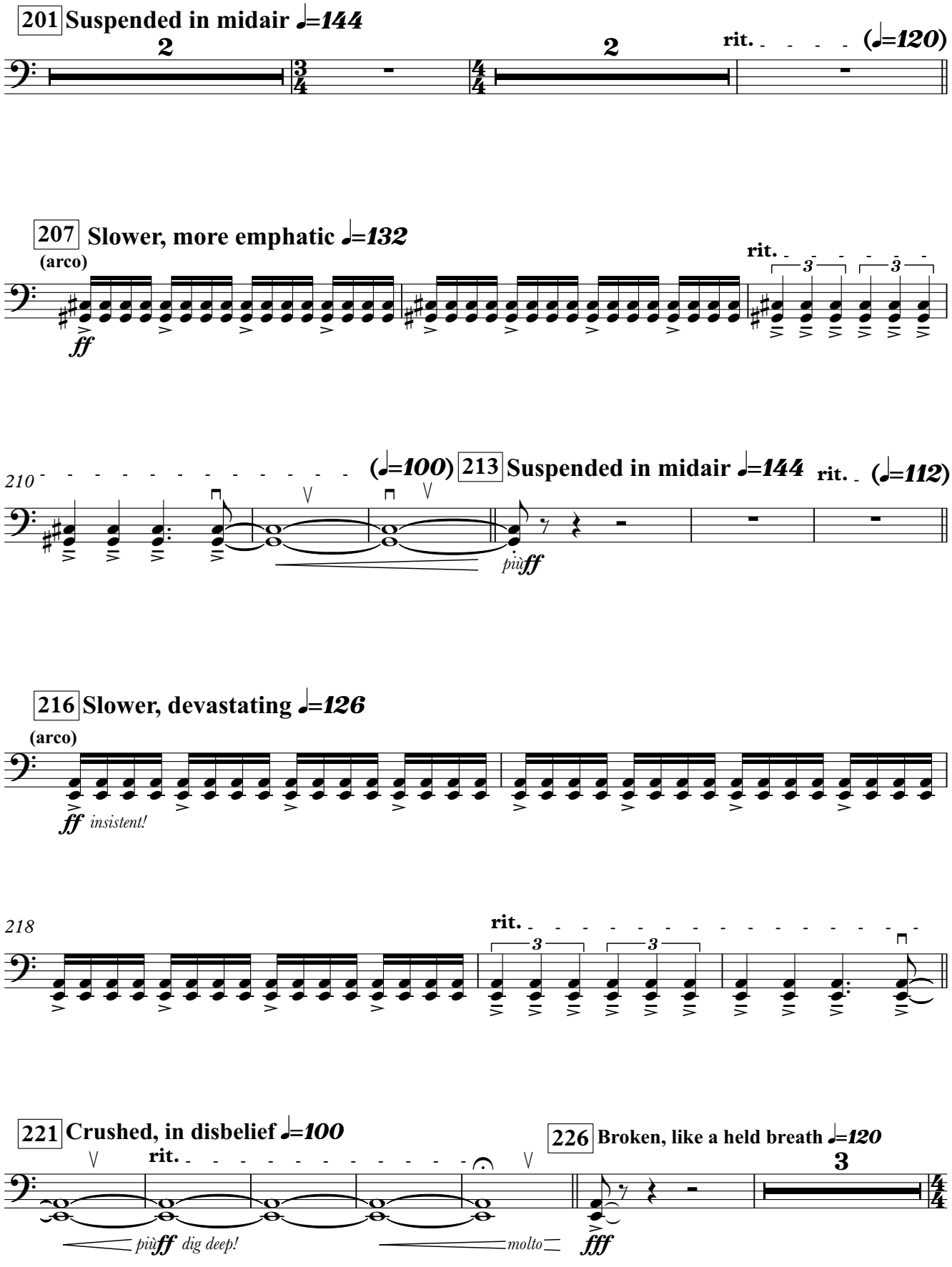
Surface Tension
Violoncello

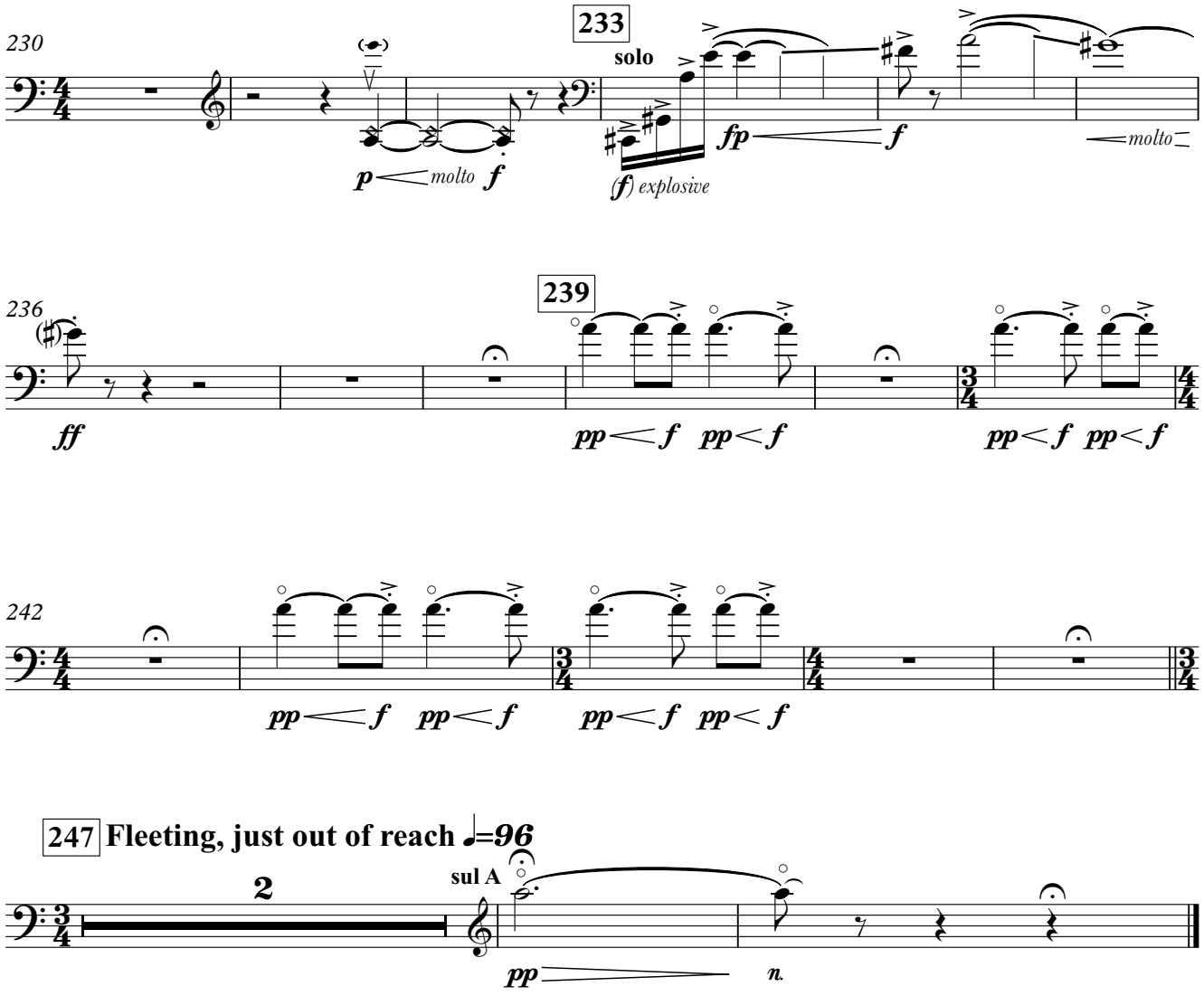



104
ff
111
f
113
ff
ffp
118
ff
pp < ff pp < ff
pp < ff pp < ff
(ff)
123
pp < ff pp < ff
pp < ff pp
127
ff
130
like ascending sirens
(bow freely, smooth glissando)
[accel.
(as high as possible)
fff
133 Suddenly slower, abrupt, violent ♩=132
pizz.
sffz
sim.
arco
pizz.
139
G.P.


143 Like water droplets (♩=132)
6
149
(pizz.)
mp vib.
sim.
152
mf
156 Unlike any water droplets on this planet
f
161
arco
pp< f
pp< f
pp< f
pp< f
pp< f
167
pp< f
pizz.
170 Playfully tense (♩=132)
(f) boing
173
178


184
arco
pp < f
pp < f
pp < f
pp < f
pp < f
192 Suspended in time, as if played in reverse
190
pp
f
p
pp
(sul A)
mf "seagull" effect
194
(mf)
p
mf sim.
(mf)
p
mf sim.
198
molto rit.
(♩=60)
(mf)
p
mf [poco accel.
rit.
]
(TIME)


201 Suspended in midair ♩=144
2
2
rit.
(♩=120)
207 Slower, more emphatic ♩=132
(arco)
ff
rit.
3
3
210
(♩=100)
213 Suspended in midair ♩=144
rit.
(♩=112)
più ff
216 Slower, devastating ♩=126
(arco)
ff insistent!
218
rit.
3
3
221 Crushed, in disbelief ♩=100
rit.
più ff dig deep!
molto
226 Broken, like a held breath ♩=120
3
fff


230
233
solo
p molto f
(f) explosive
fp
f
molto
236
239
ff
pp f pp f
pp f pp f
242
pp f pp f
pp f pp f
247 Fleeting, just out of reach ♩=96
2
sul A
pp
n.