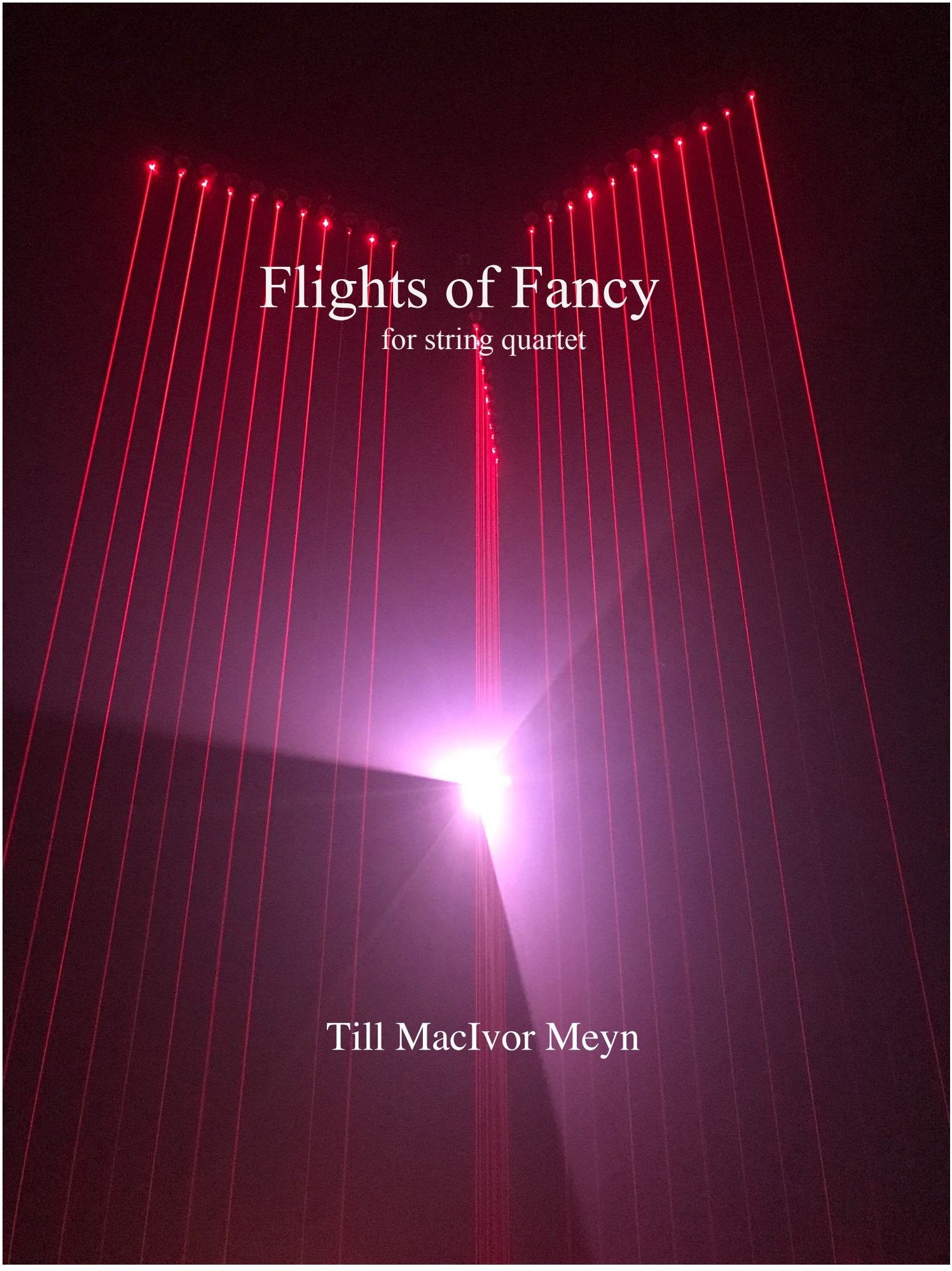

Flights of Fancy

for string quartet

Till MacIvor Meyn

Flights of Fancy

for the Spectrum Chamber Music Society, Fort Worth, TX

Till MacIvor Meyn

Duration: 16'30"

Performance notes

Flights of Fancy for string quartet is a title that gave me license to use material more freely than I might otherwise have done. There are five main sections, or "flights" in the piece, though it is written in one long movement. The first section, *Preflight*, is an introduction to the piece, with a jazzy beginning and then an additive, almost minimalistic segment that builds. *Flight 1* features the cello as a soloist, and then in combination with the other instruments; its jagged edges are fast and frantic. *Flight 2* has violin 2 playing more lyrical music, accompanied by chords and counterpoint from the other strings. For *Flight 3*, I borrowed a well-known Jewish folk tune called "Az Ich Vil Zingen," arranging it with the viola as the featured instrument. This section eventually ends in a transitional area that represents the clamor of sirens, a warning reminiscent of WWII alarms that alerts us to the danger of becoming too complacent. The final section, *Flight 4*, moves through various segments, and has the violin 1 playing virtuosic lines, imitated by the other strings. The piece ends with exuberant chords punctuated by the virtuosic melodies.

Composer Bio

Till MacIvor Meyn is Professor of Theory and Composition at Texas Christian University. He earned degrees from U.C. San Diego, Indiana University, and USC's Thornton School of Music. Till's music has had international performances in Switzerland, France, Italy, Cuba, China, Spain, Ukraine, and Slovenia. Performances of his music in the United States include those at Carnegie Hall; Clarinet Fest in Oklahoma City, MO and in Lincoln, NE; the Biennial Saxophone Congress in South Carolina; the Florida State University Festival of New Music; the SCI/CMS National Convention in San Antonio; the National Flute Association Conventions in Chicago, Washington, D.C., San Diego, and Pittsburgh; at the Manhattan School of Music; and at the Intercollegiate Men's Choruses National Seminar at Harvard. Till was recently commissioned to compose a work for the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra's 2019-2020 season; he was a finalist in the Areon Flutes Commissioning Project for 2016; he was a featured composer at the 2015 Cliburn at the Modern series; he was a finalist in the NFA Newly Published Music Competition for 'Urban Ragas' (2013); and he earned first prize in the NACUSA Texas 2011 Composition Contest for Celestial Mechanics. Till's music is published by Alliance Music Publications, GIA Publications, ECS Publishing, C. Alan Publications, and Alry Publications. He is a member of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra Board since 2015. For further information about Till's music, please visit tillmeyn.squarespace.com or on Facebook: Composer Till MacIvor Meyn.

duration: 16'30"

Flights of Fancy

for the Spectrum Chamber Music Society

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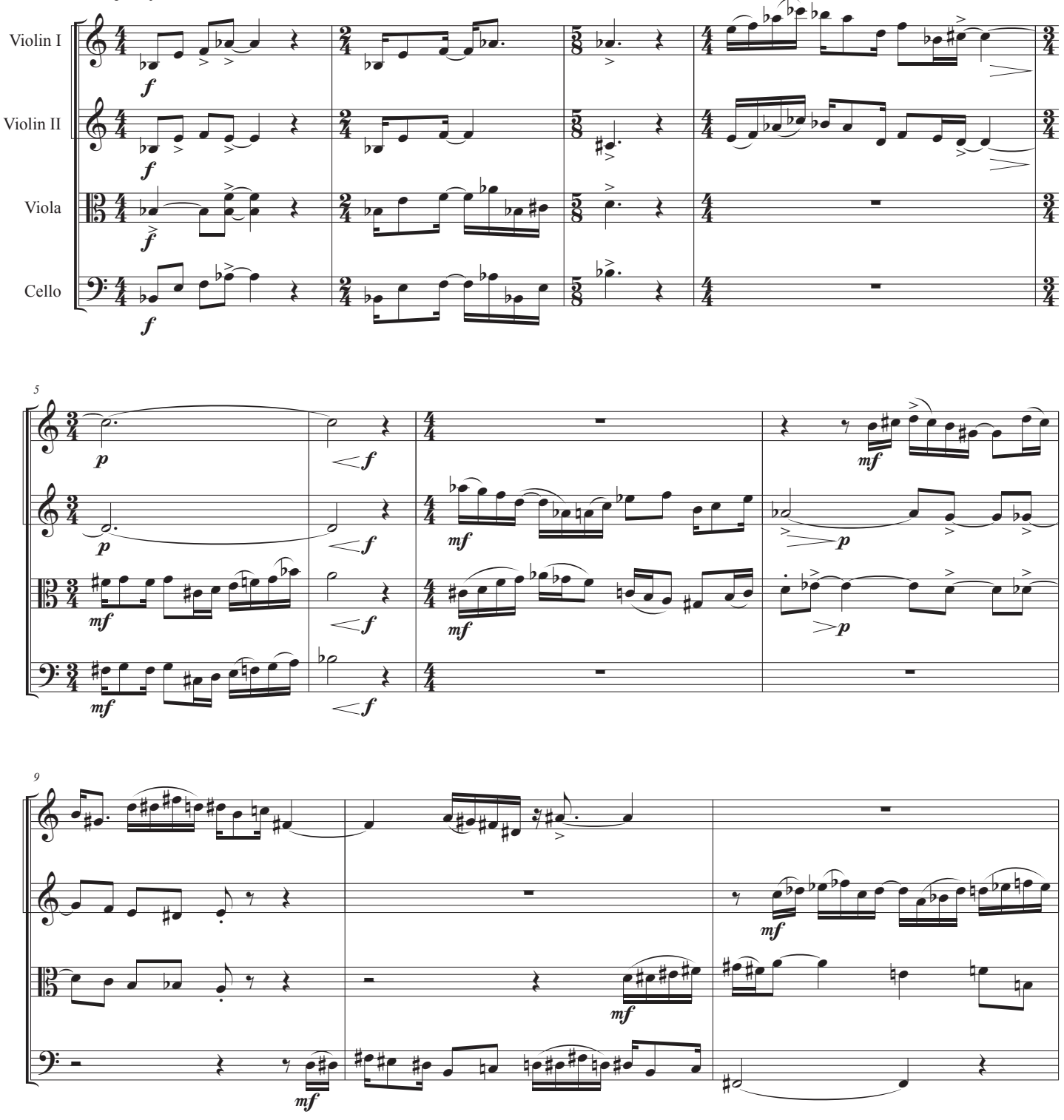
Preflight

jazzy, ♩ = 104



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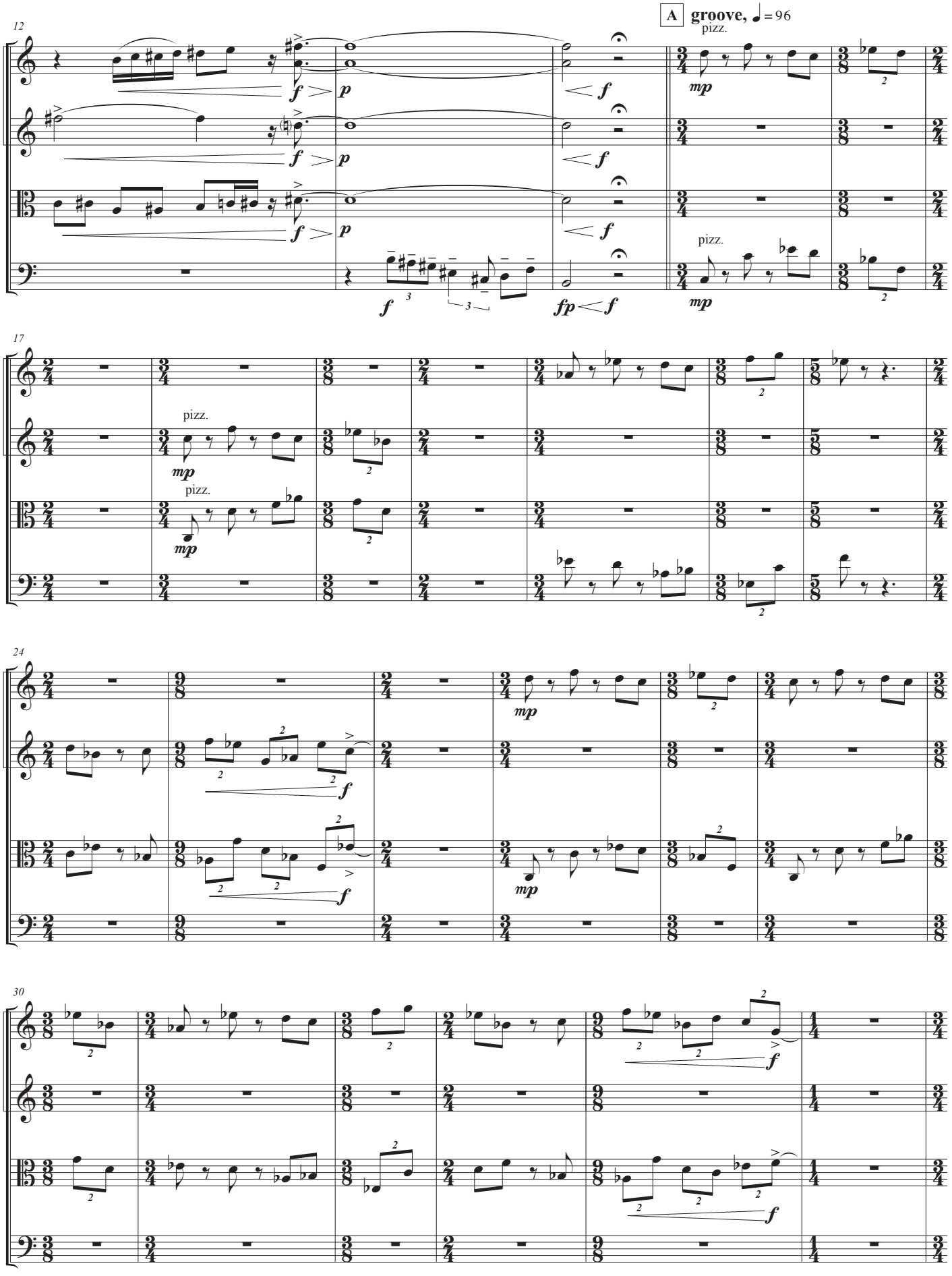
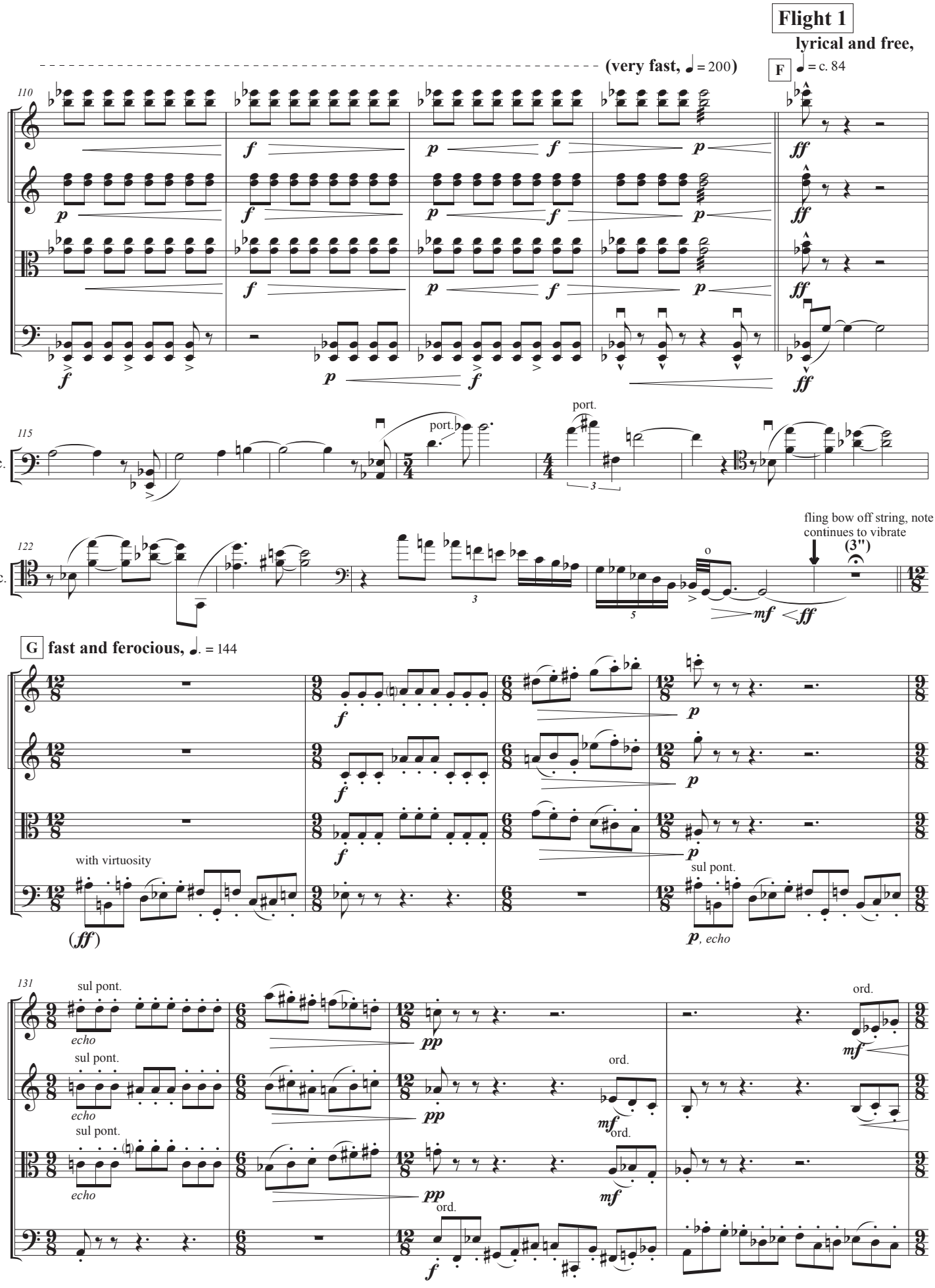
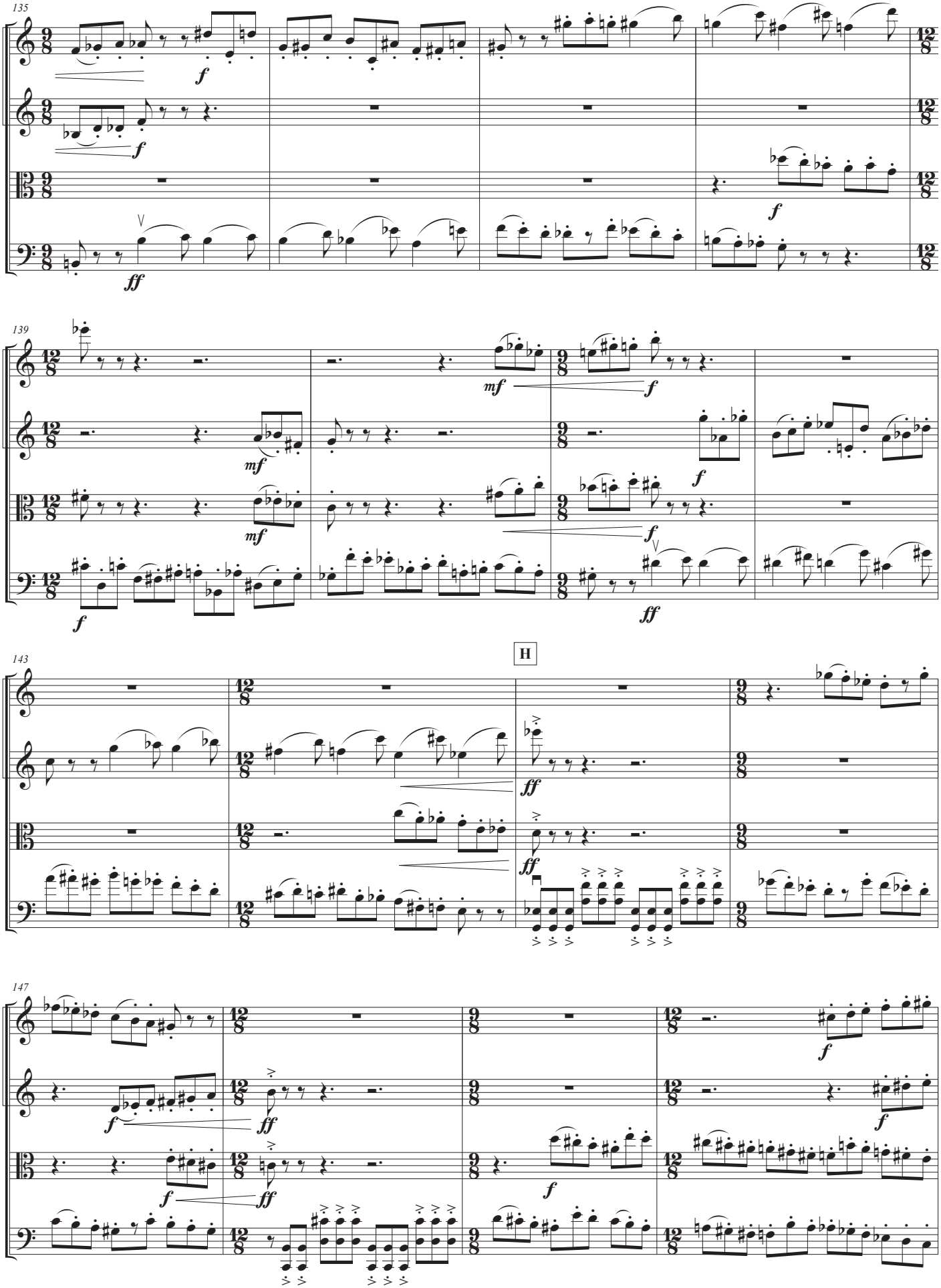
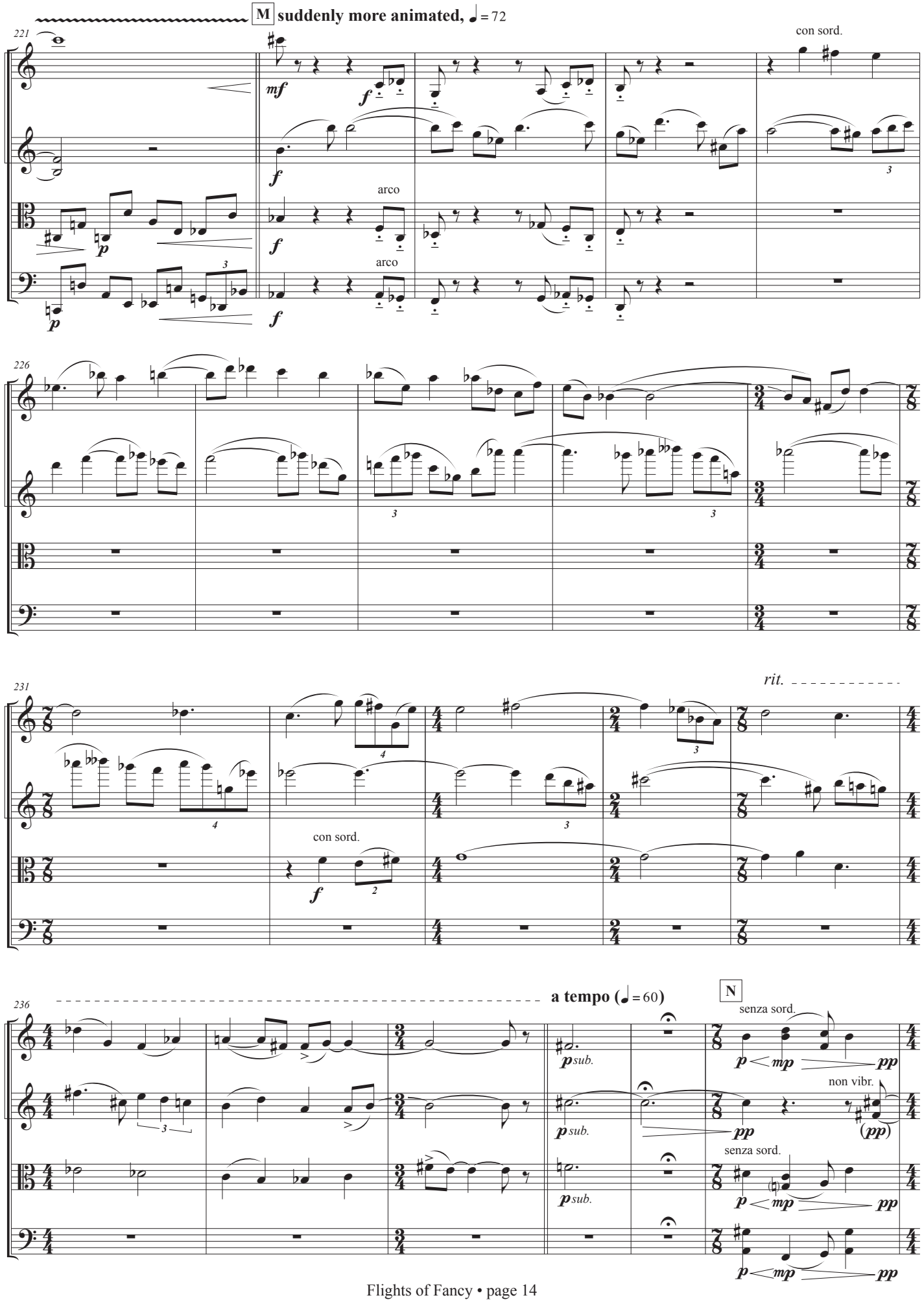
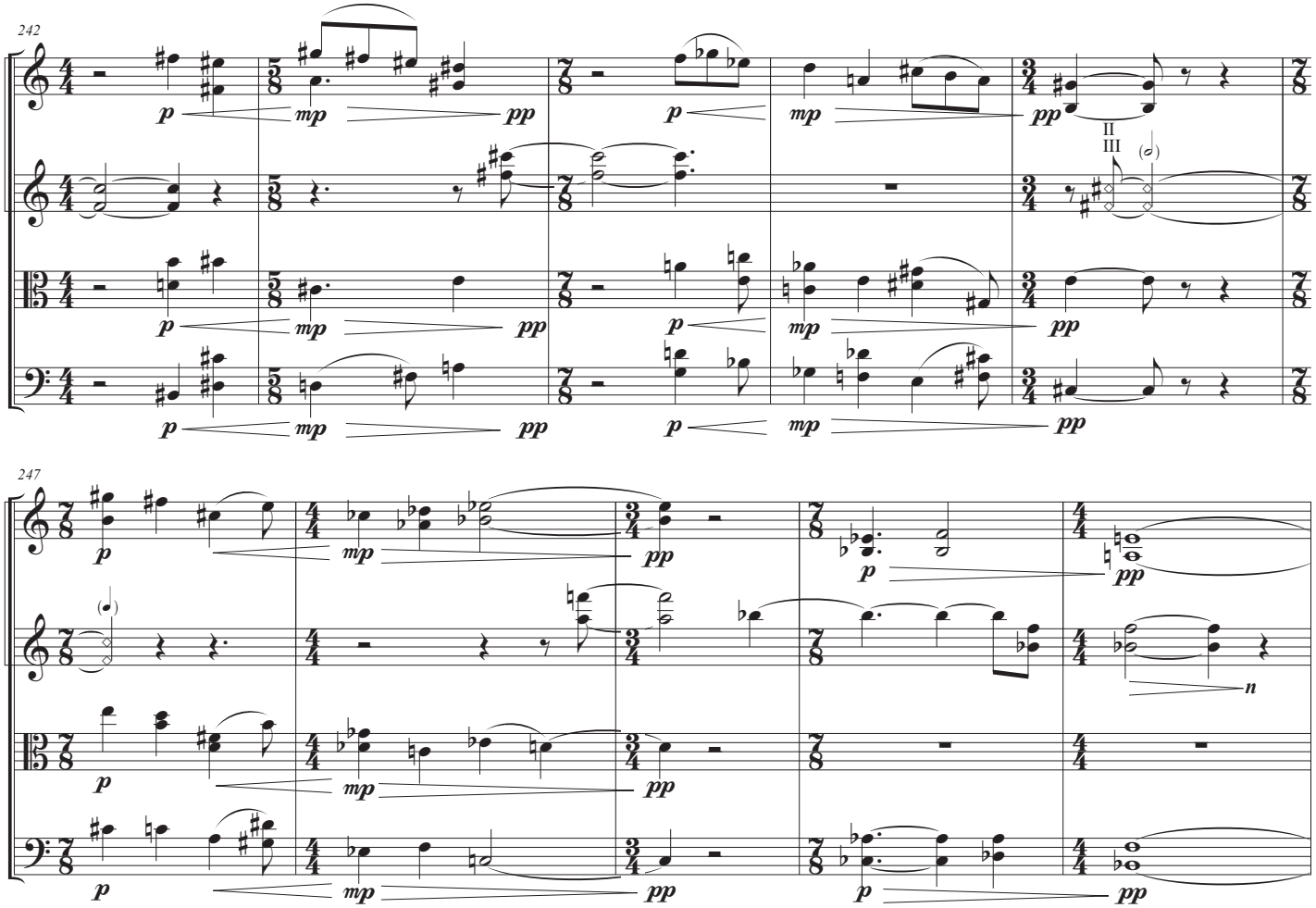

A groove, ♩ = 96
12
pizz.
17
pizz.
24
30


Flight 1
lyrical and free,
(very fast, ♩ = 200)
F ♩ = c. 84
110
115
vc.
port.
122
fling bow off string, note continues to vibrate
(3")
G fast and ferocious, ♩. = 144
with virtuosity
sul pont.
echo
131
ord.

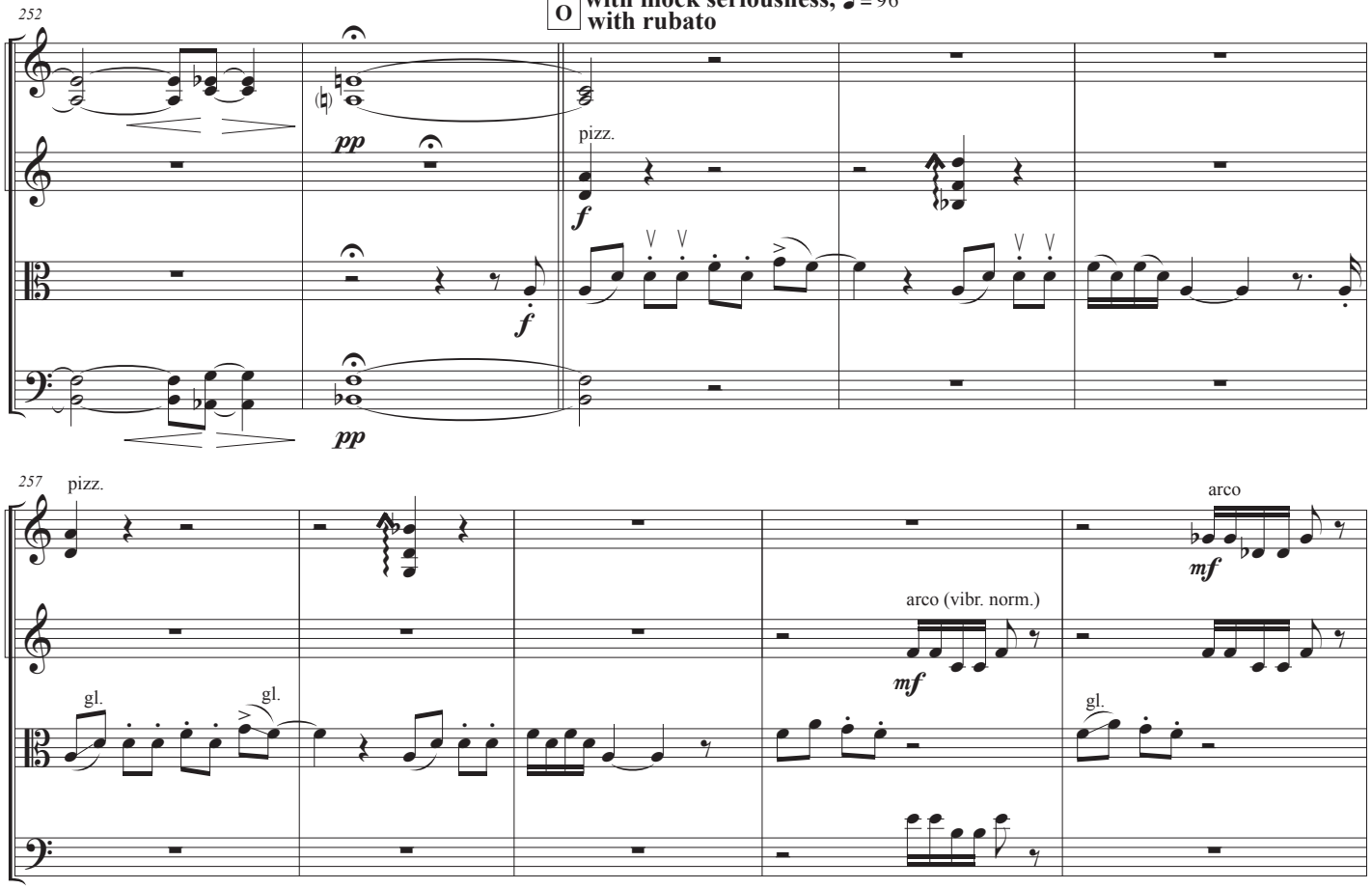

135
139
143
H
147

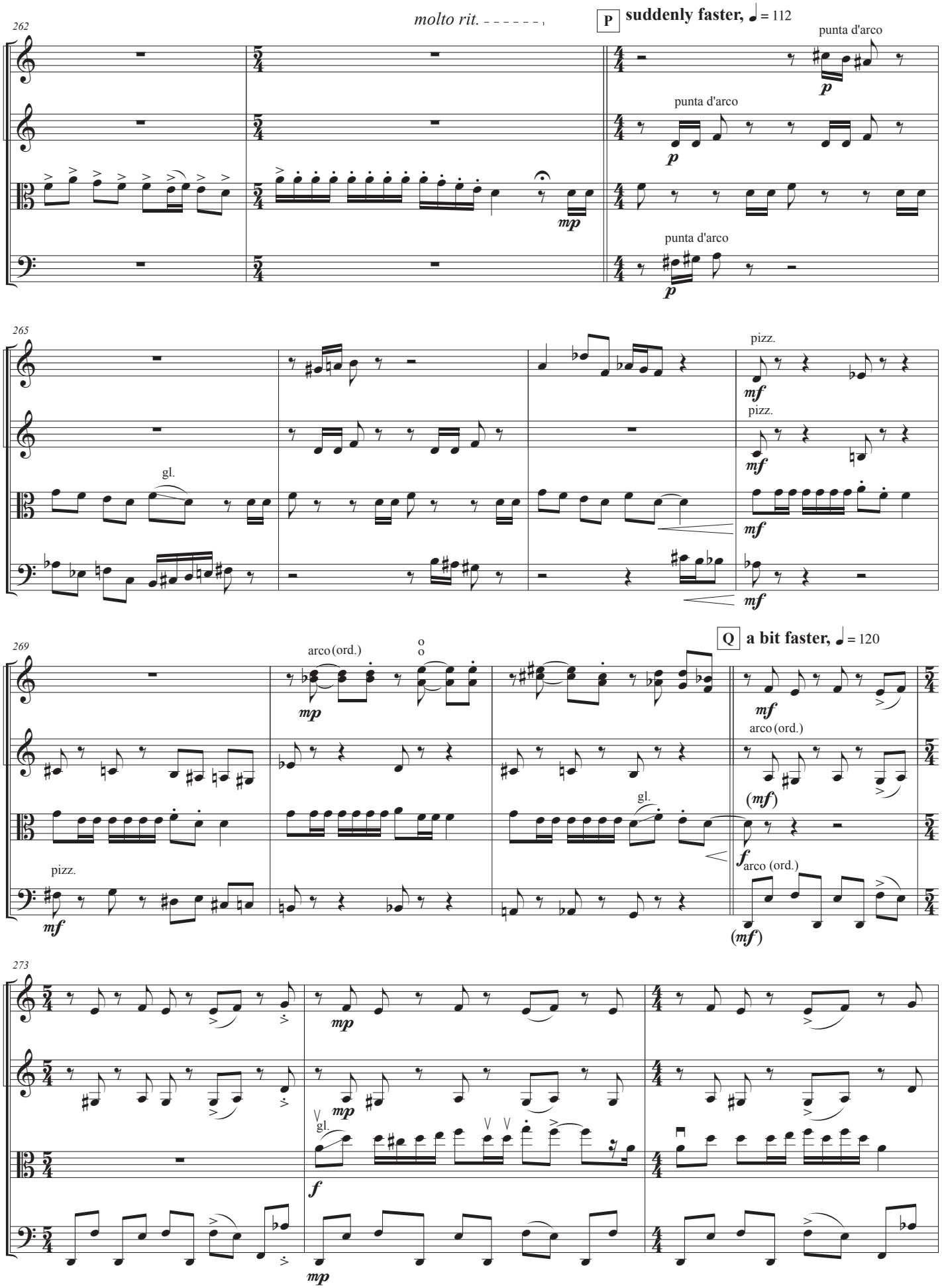

M suddenly more animated, ♩ = 72
221
mf
f
con sord.
arco
arco
226
231
rit.
con sord.
236
a tempo (♩ = 60)
N
senza sord.
non vibr.
senza sord.

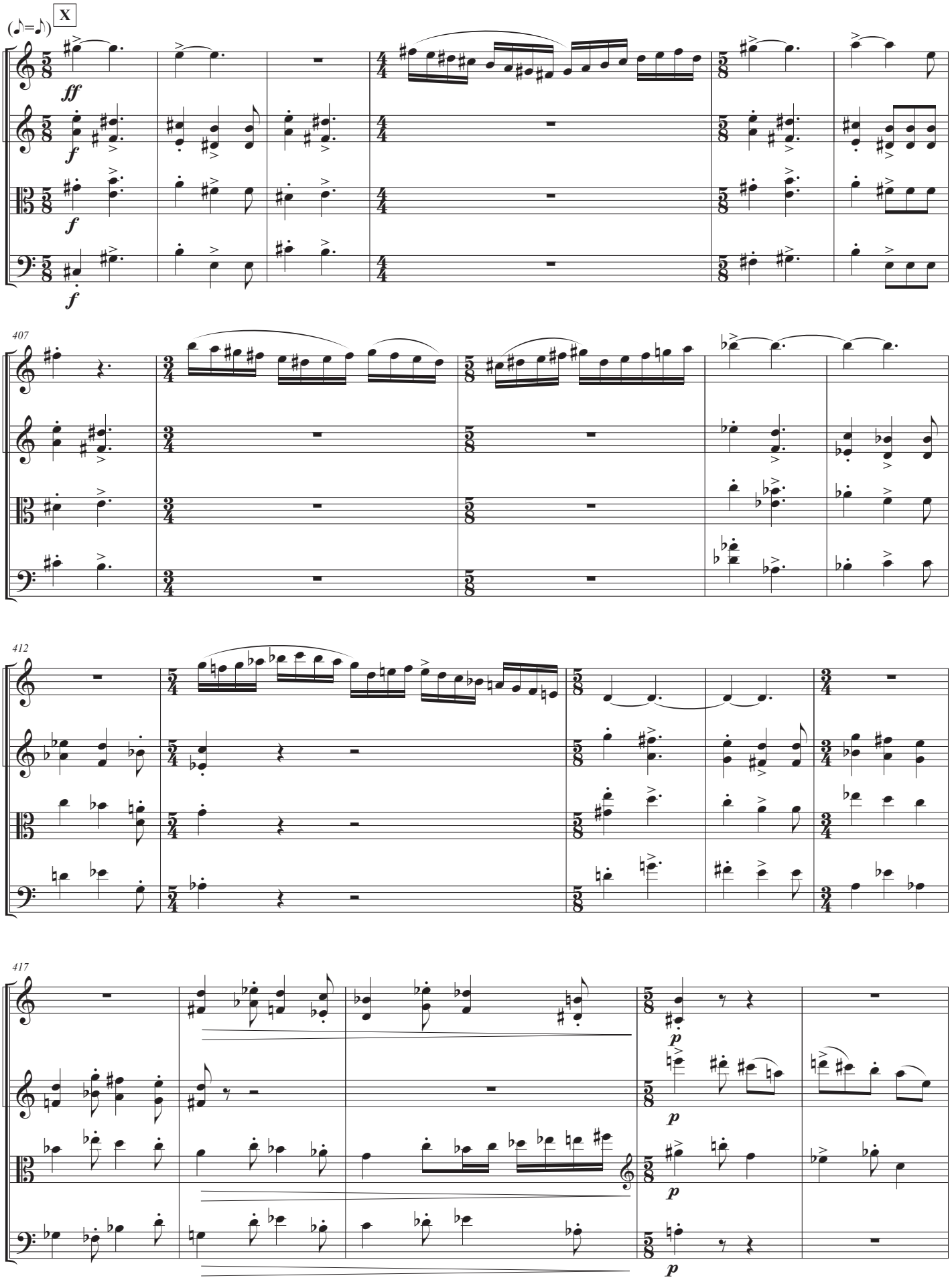


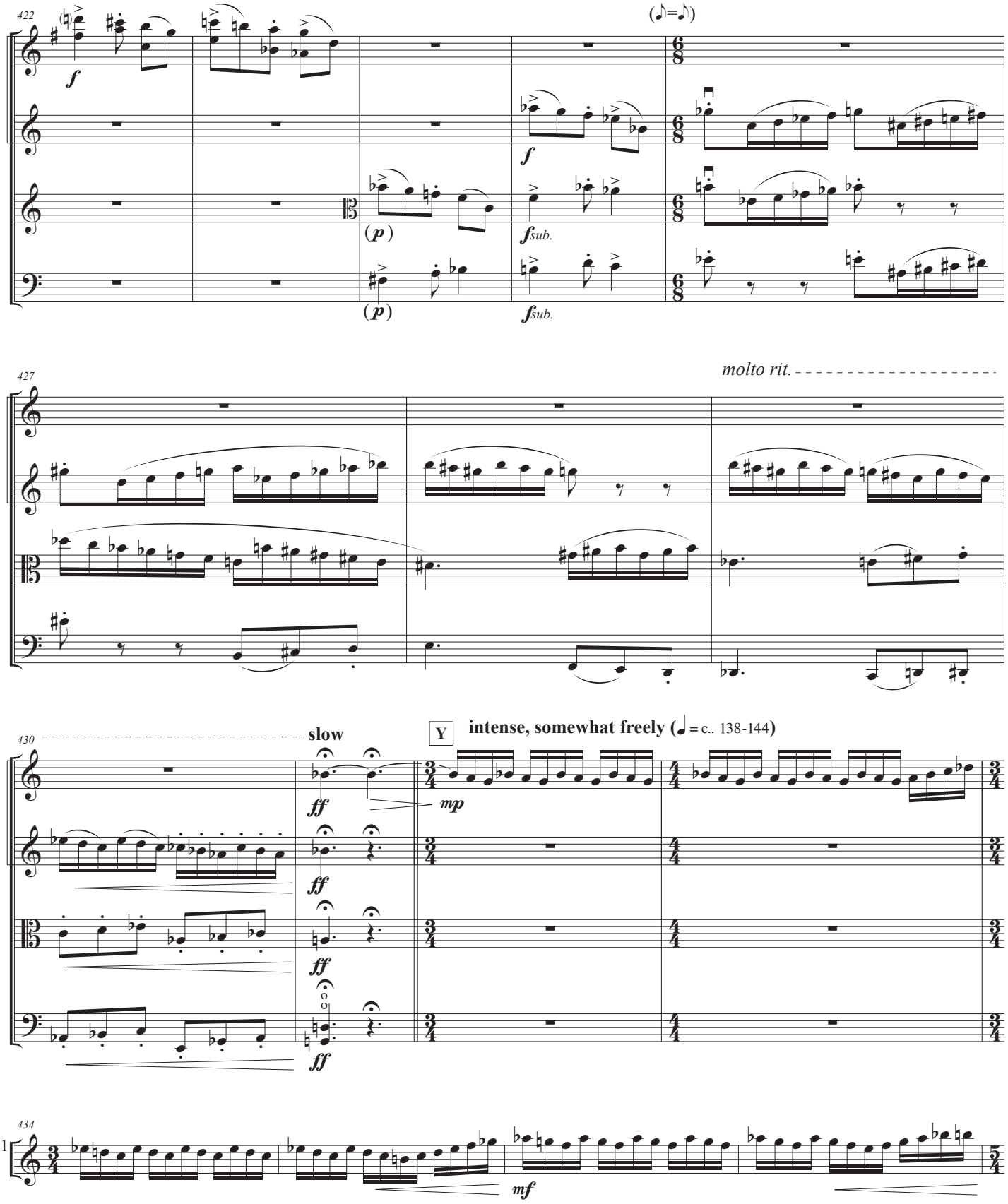
Flight 3

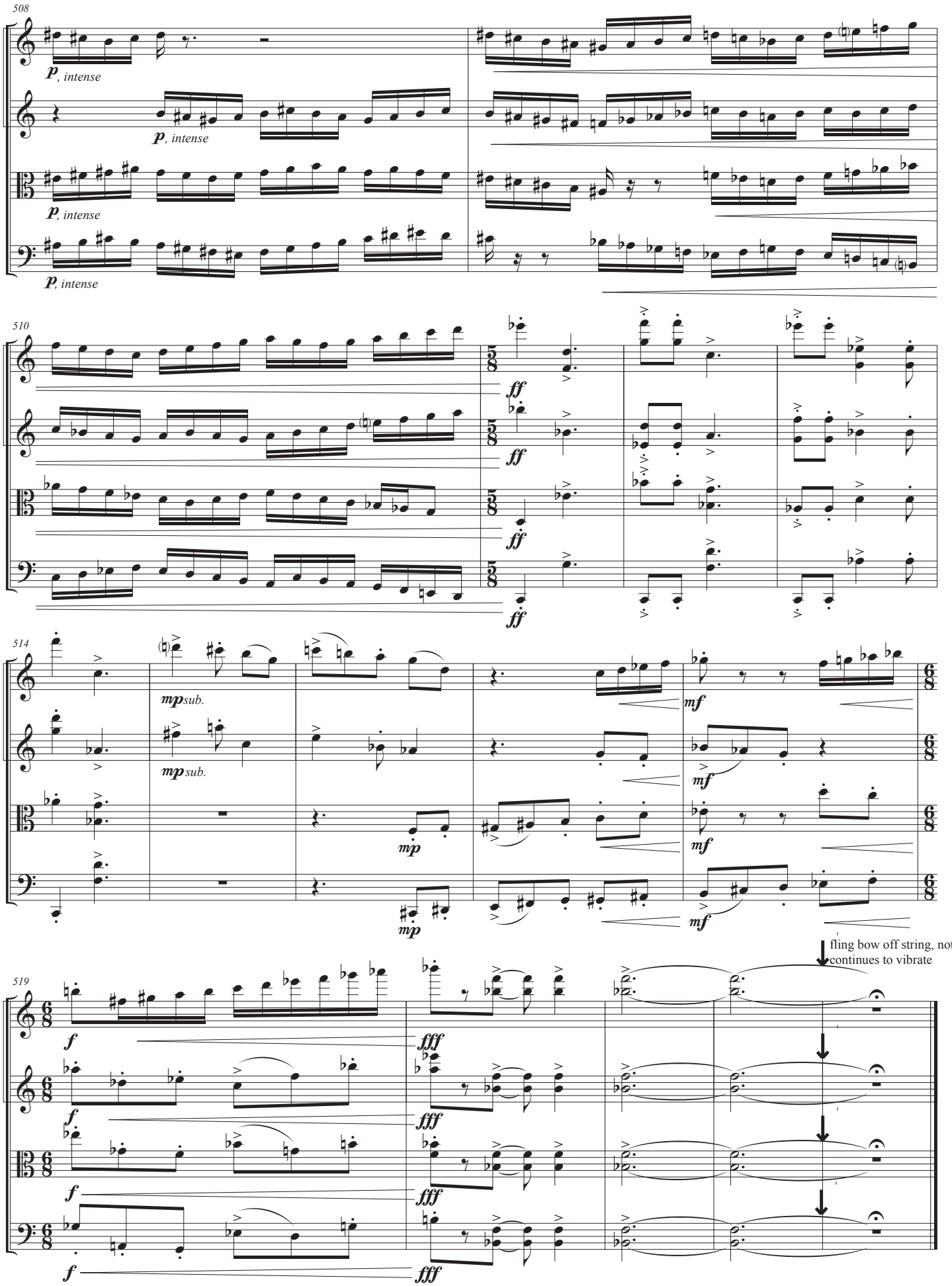
O with mock seriousness, ♩ = 96
with rubato




262
molto rit.
P
suddenly faster, ♩ = 112
punta d'arco
punta d'arco
punta d'arco
265
gl.
pizz.
pizz.
269
arco (ord.)
Q
a bit faster, ♩ = 120
pizz.
gl.
arco (ord.)
arco (ord.)
273
gl.


(♪=♪)
X
ff
f
f
f
407
412
417
p
p
p
p


422
(♪=♪)
f
f
(p)
fsub.
(p)
fsub.
427
molto rit.
430
slow
Y
intense, somewhat freely (♩= c.. 138-144)
ff
mp
ff
ff
ff
434
vln. 1
mf


508
p, intense
p, intense
p, intense
p, intense
510
ff
ff
ff
ff
514
mp sub.
mp sub.
mp
mp
mf
mf
mf
mf
519
f
fff
f
fff
f
fff
fling bow off string, note continues to vibrate