String Quartet #1

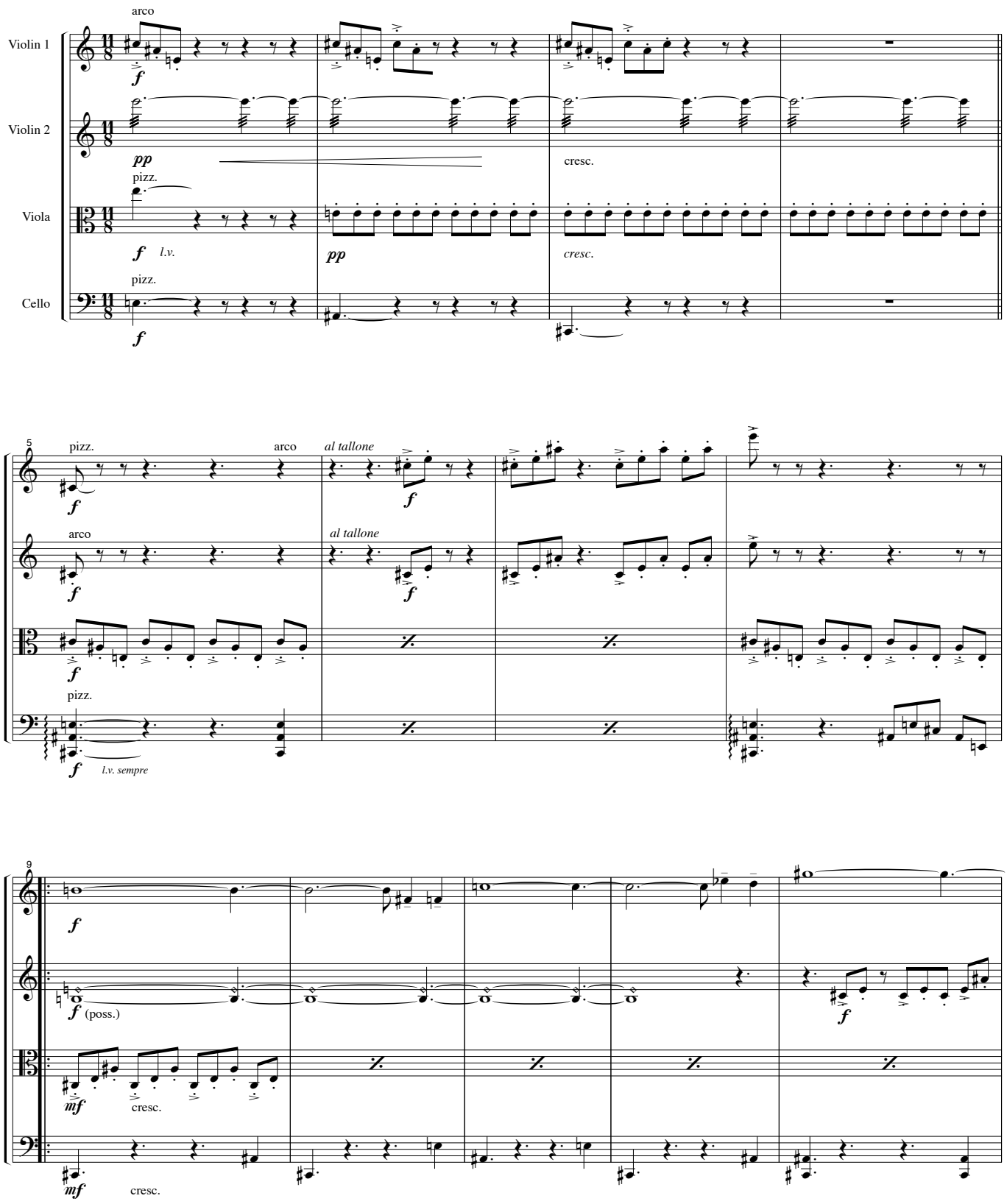
Arcángel Castillo-Olivari

String Quartet #1

I

Arcángel Castillo-Olivari

Allegro (very energetic) ♩.=ca.120



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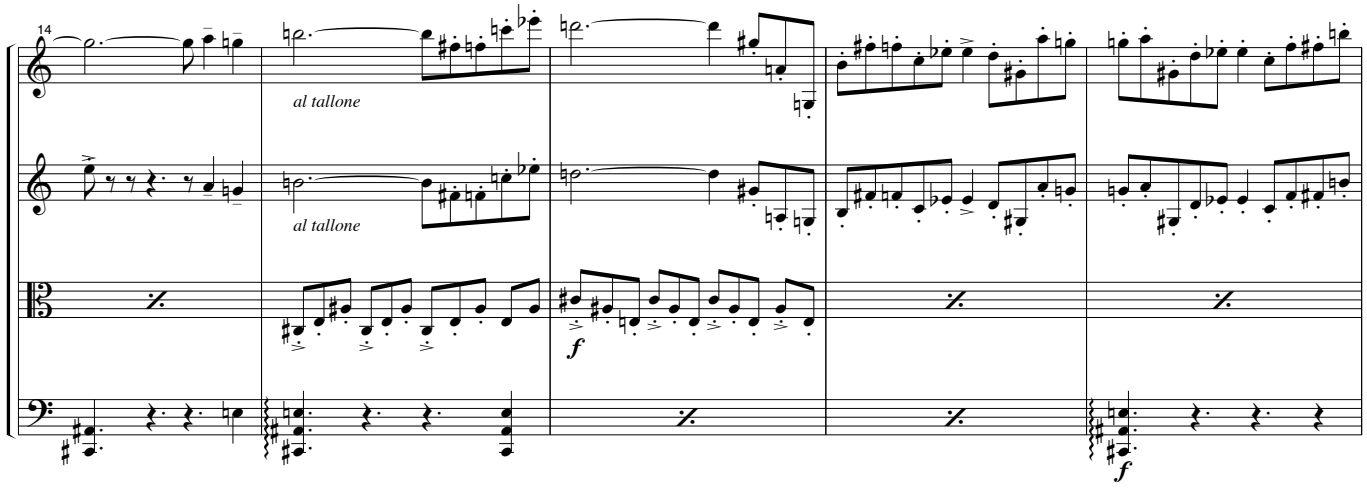

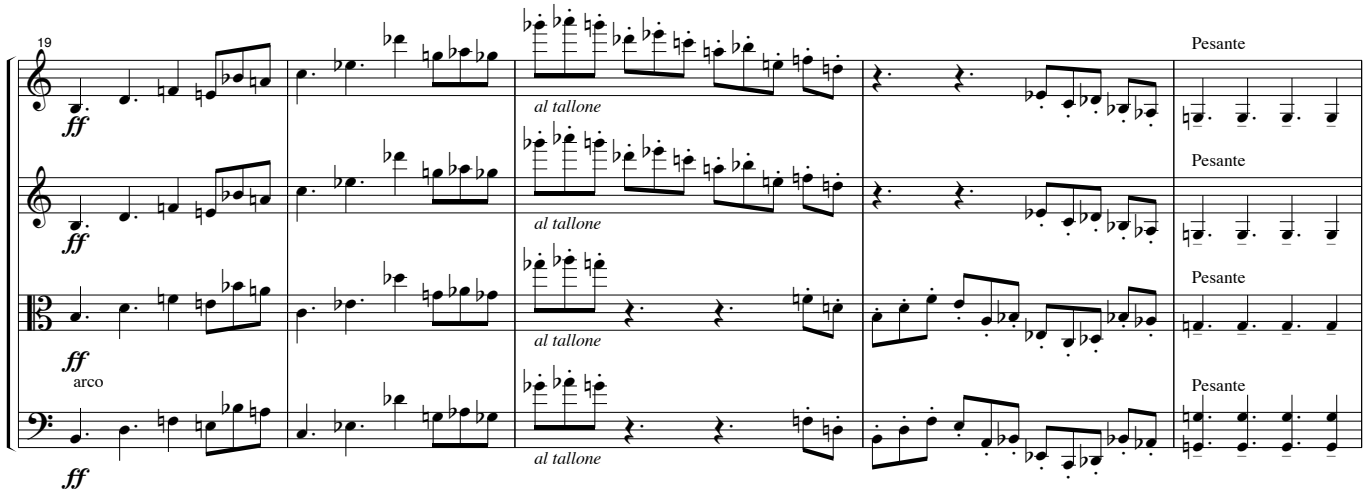

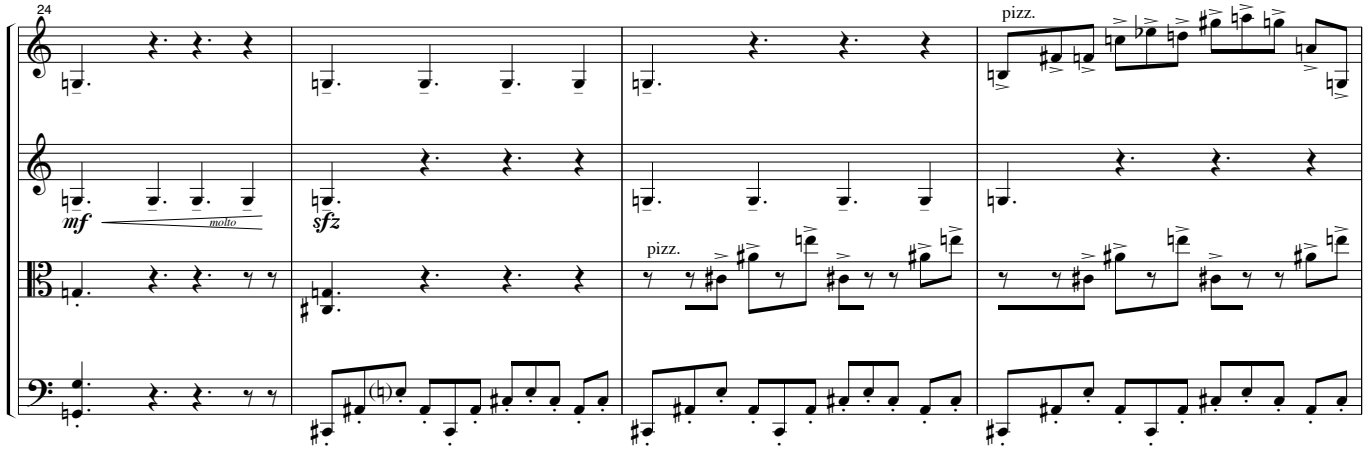

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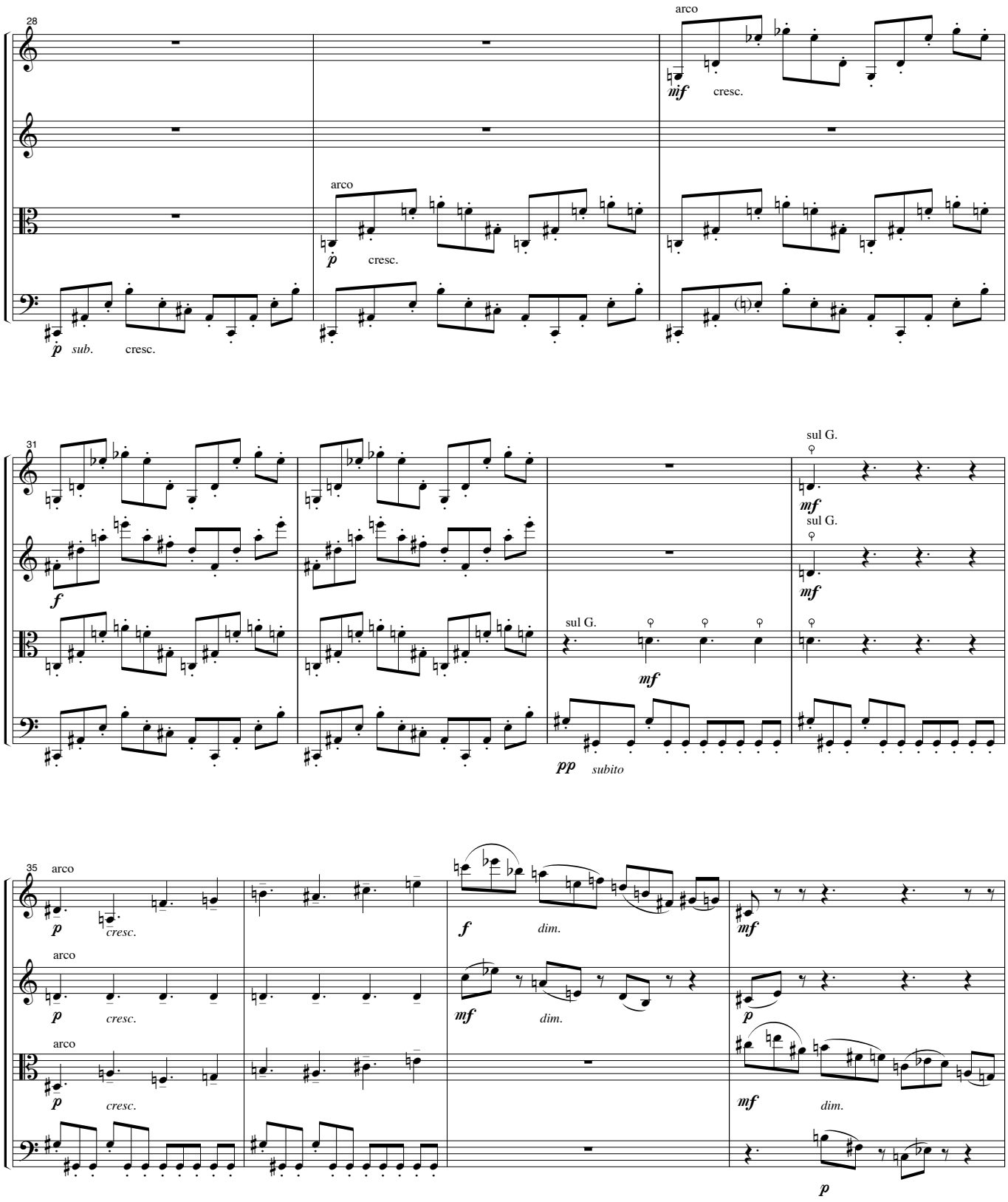

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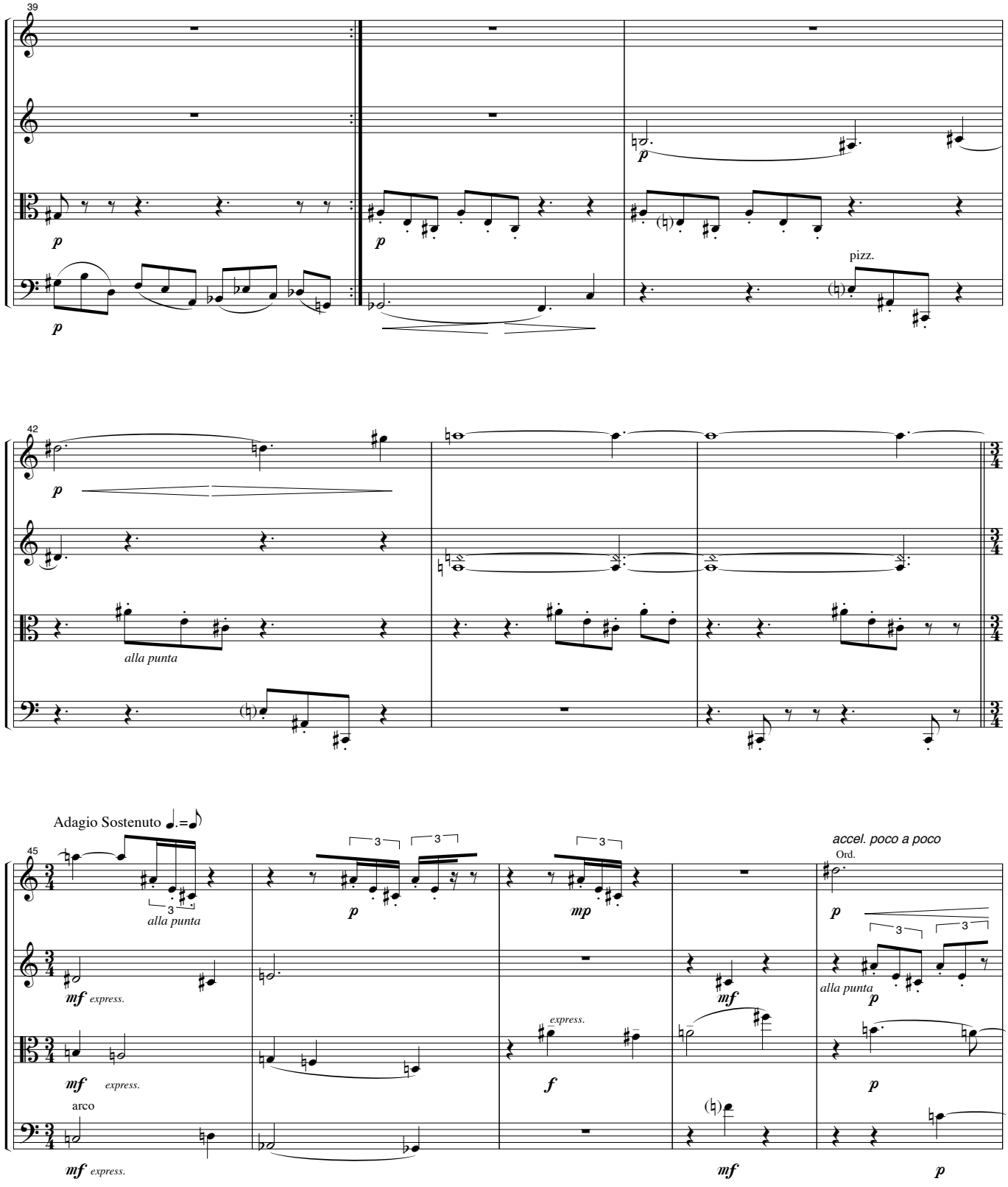

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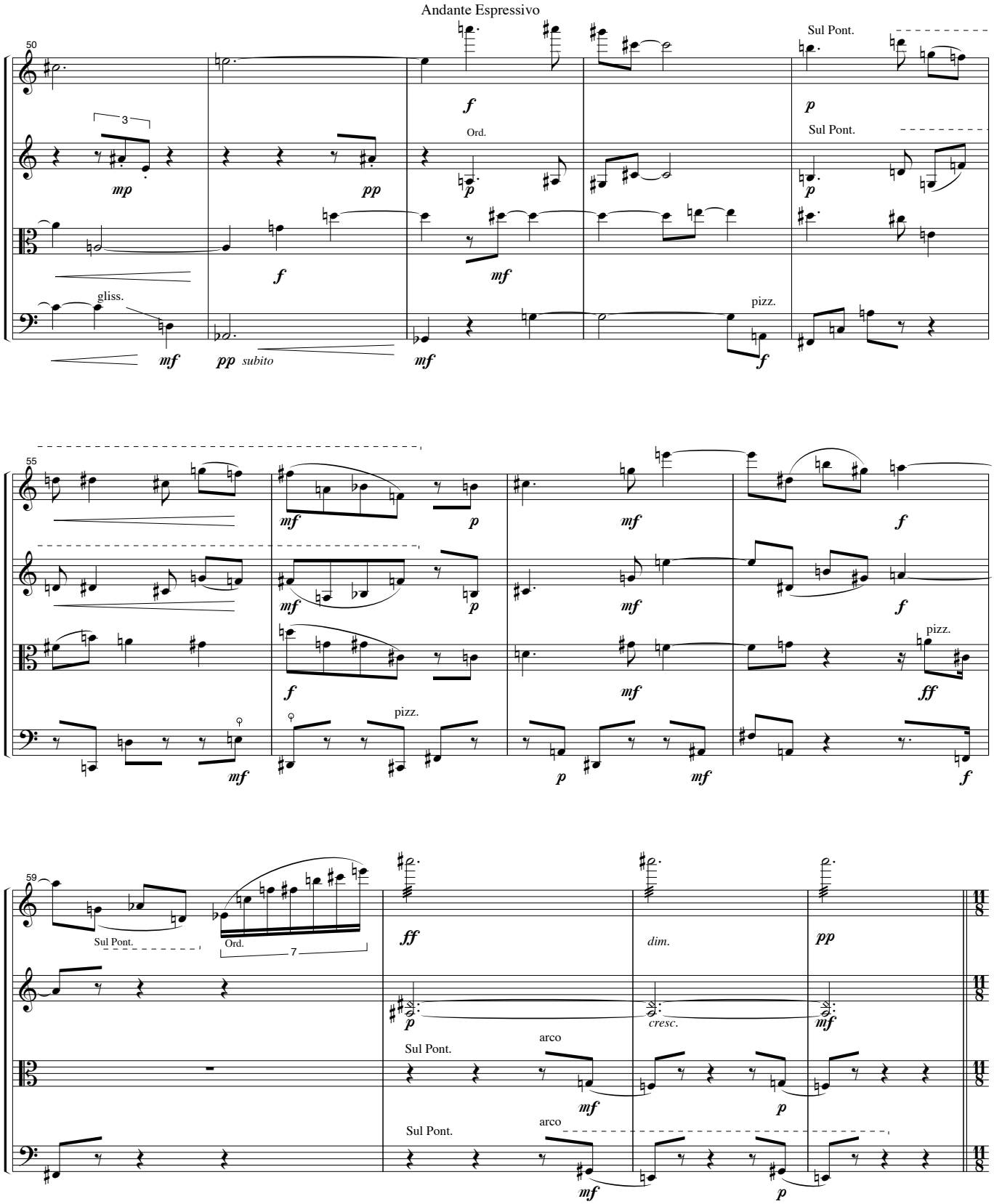

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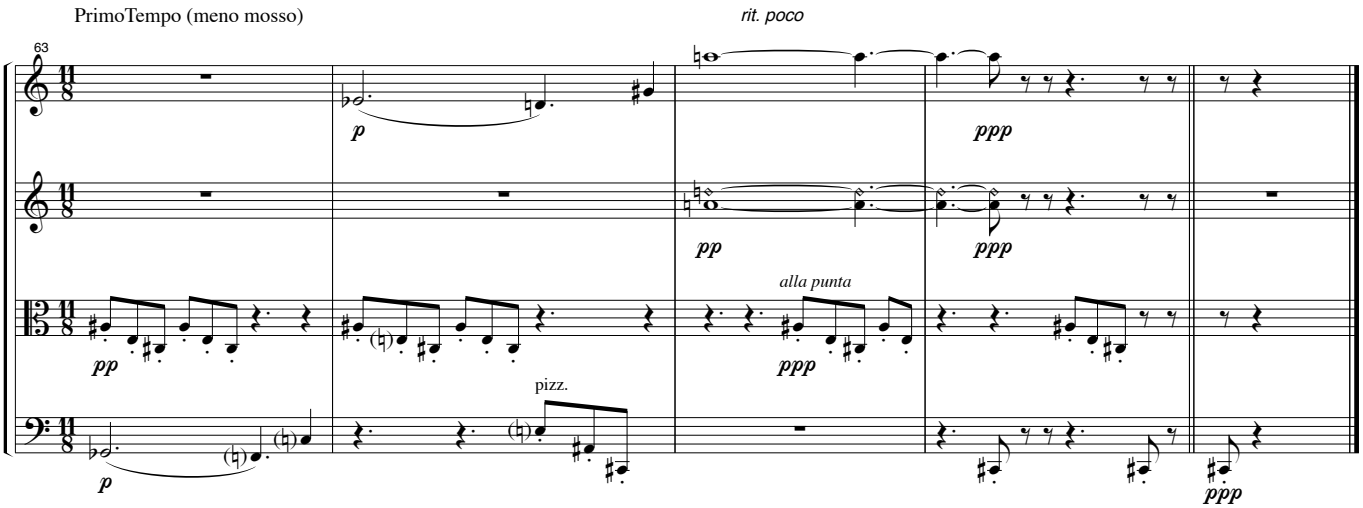

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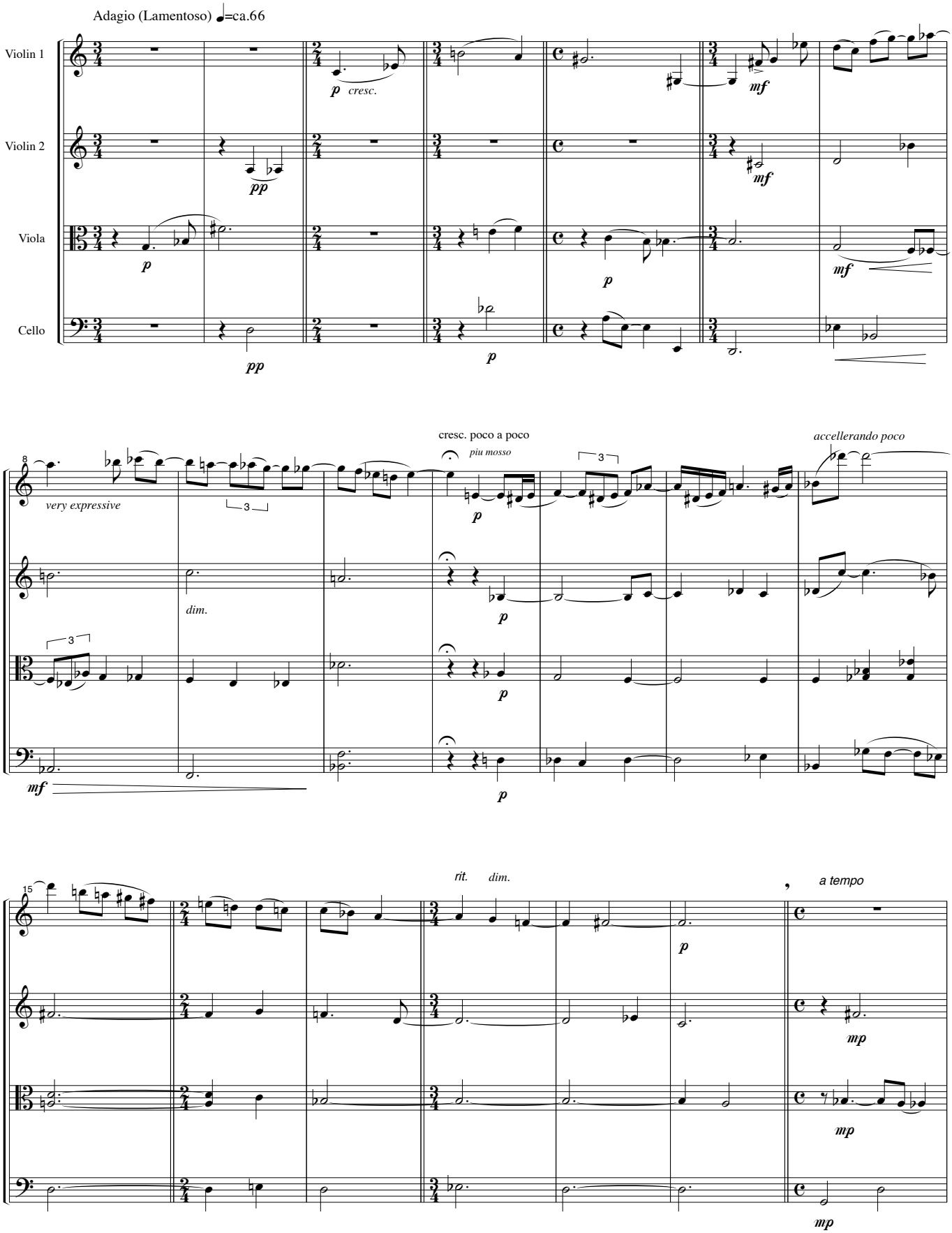
II



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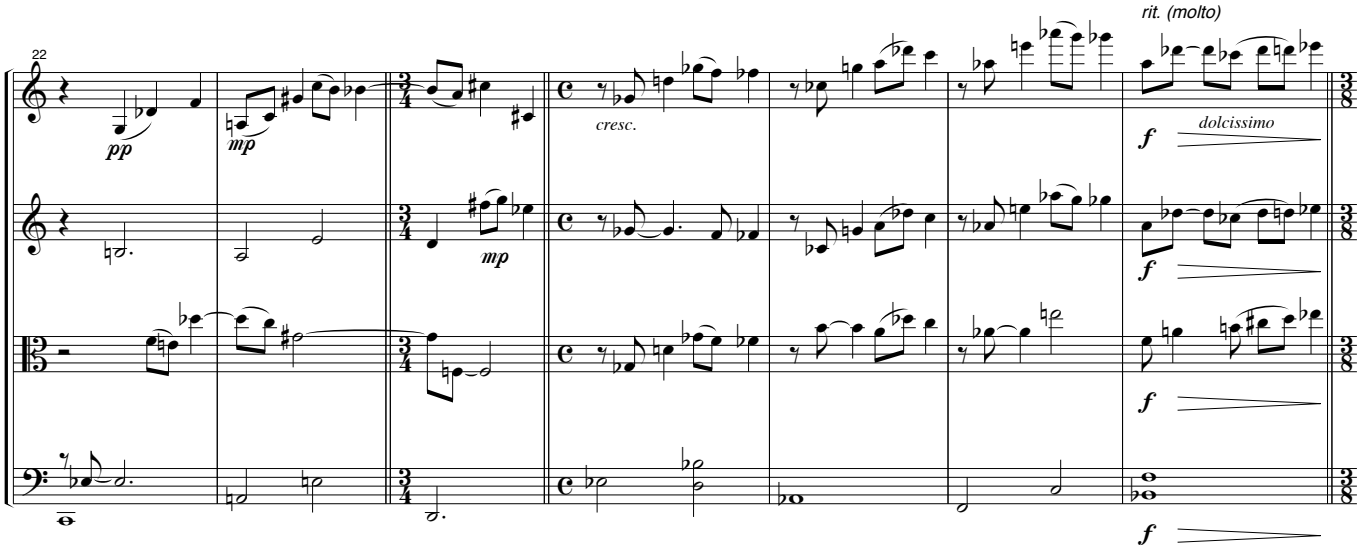

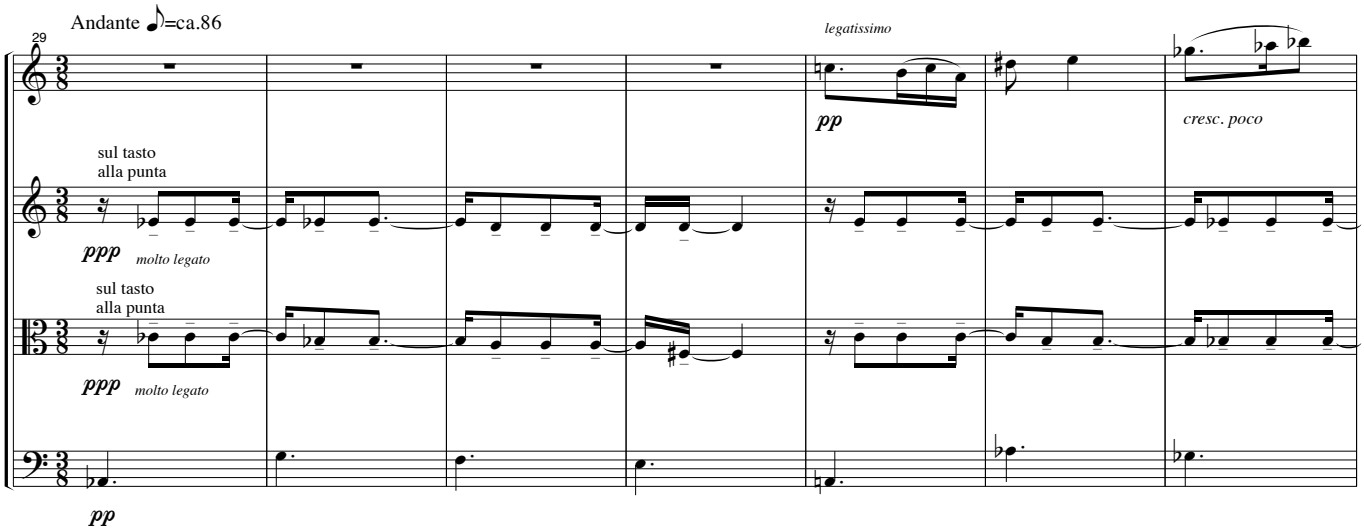

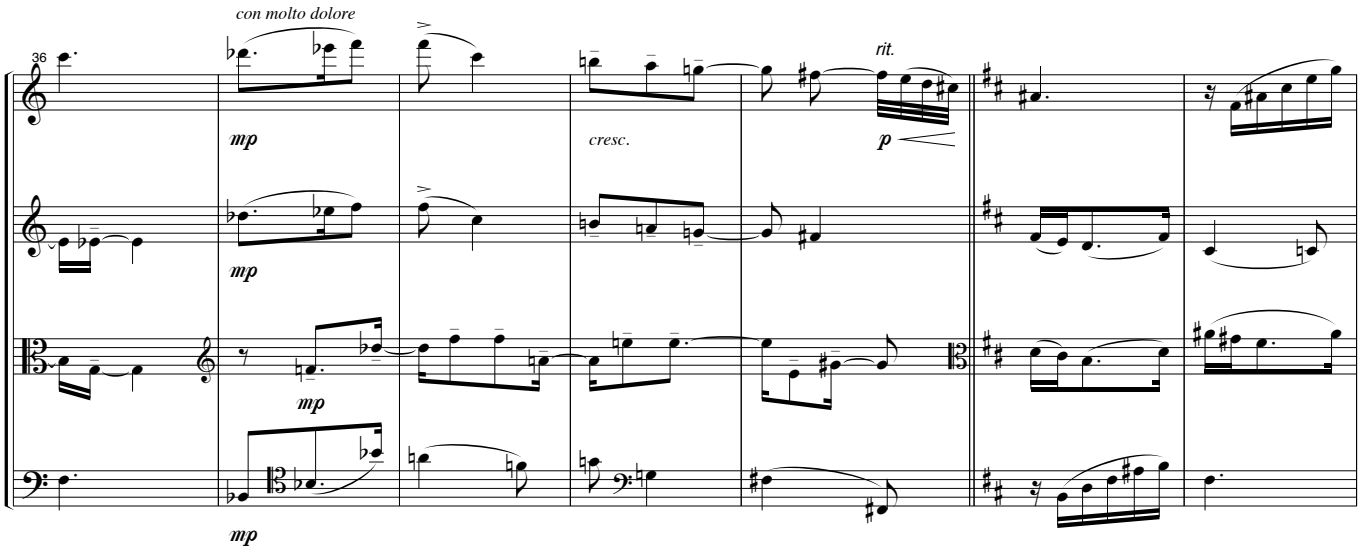

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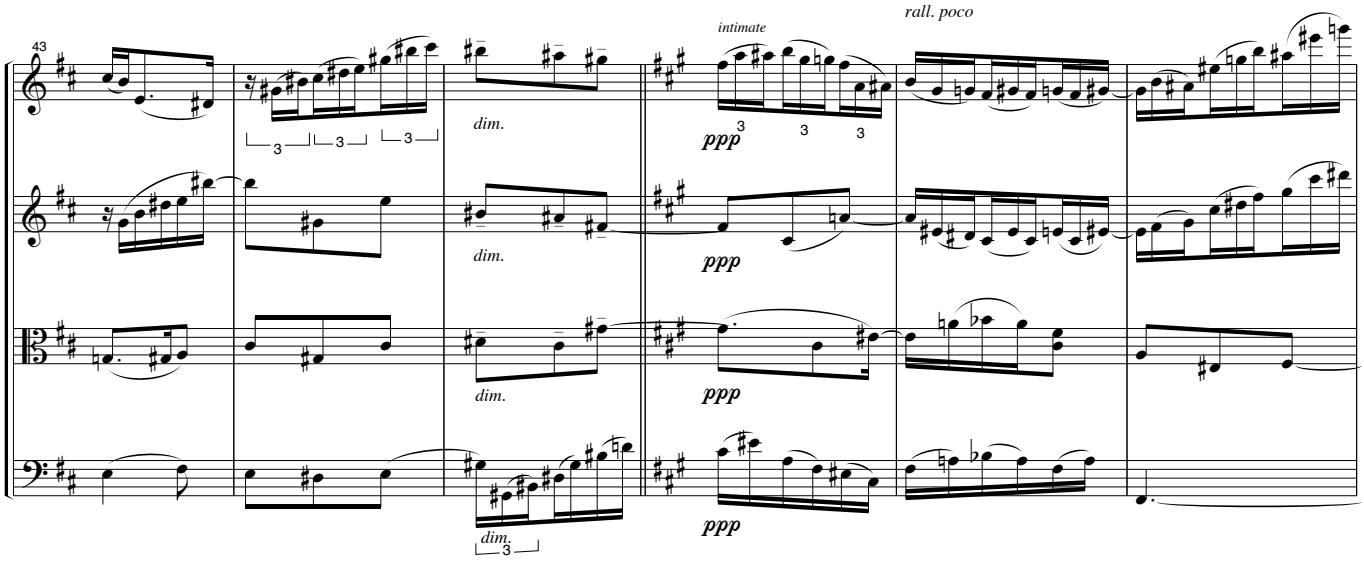

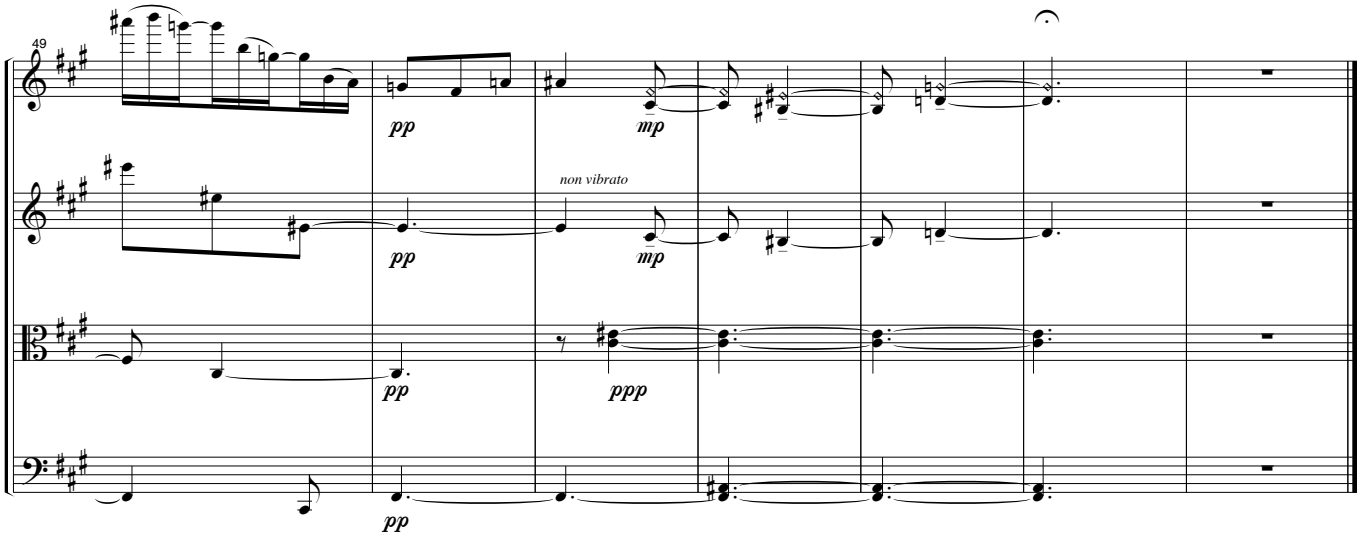

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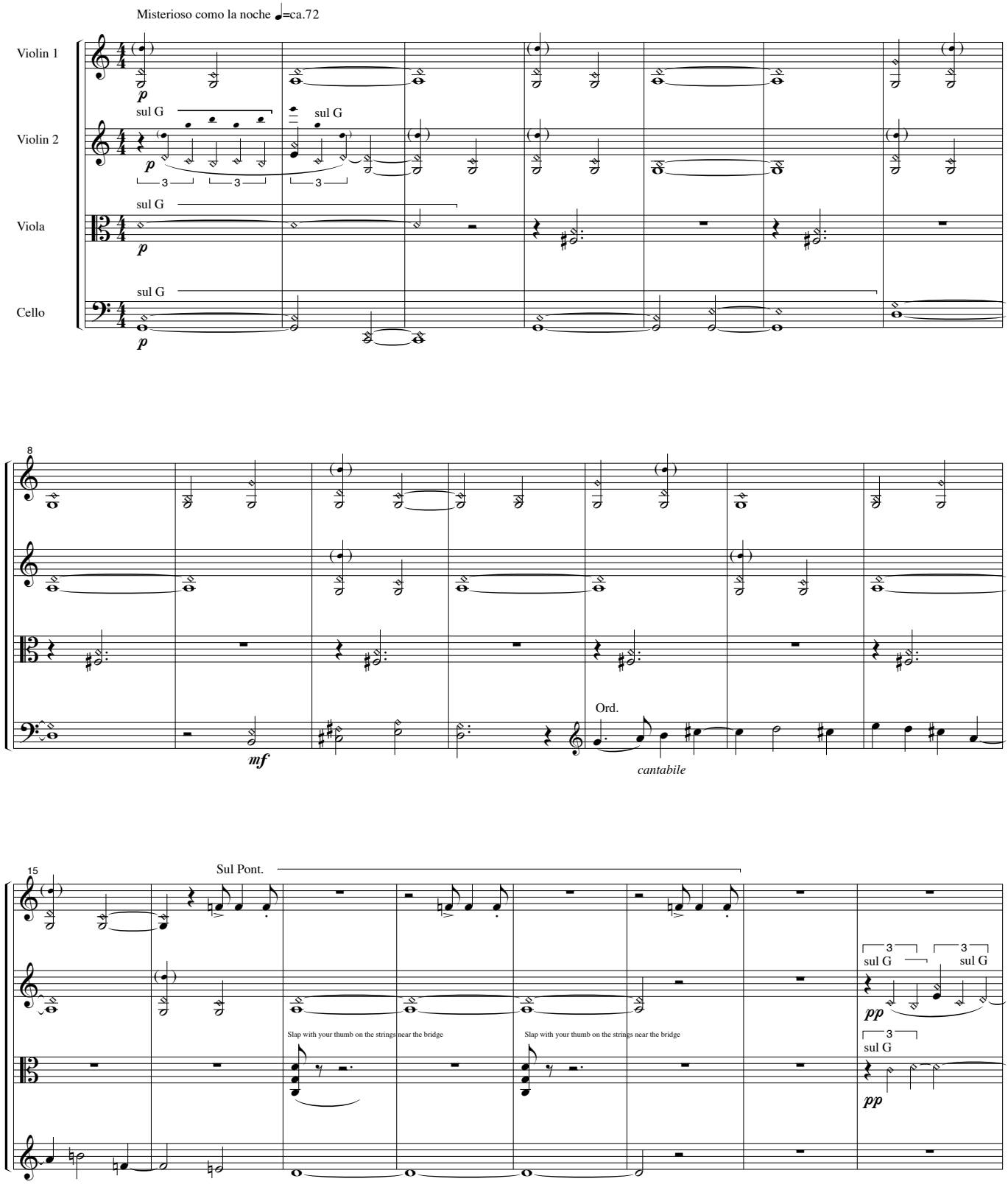

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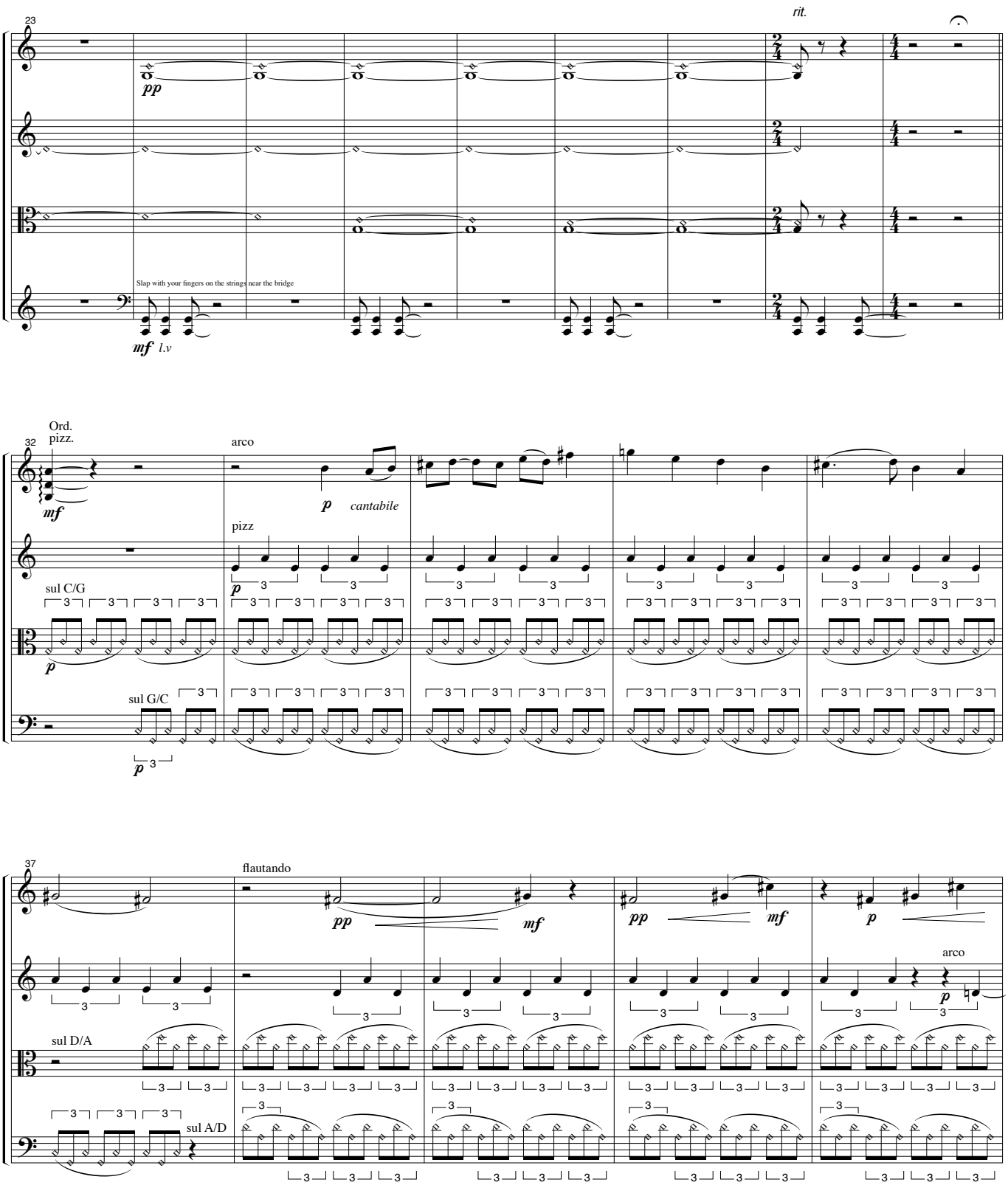

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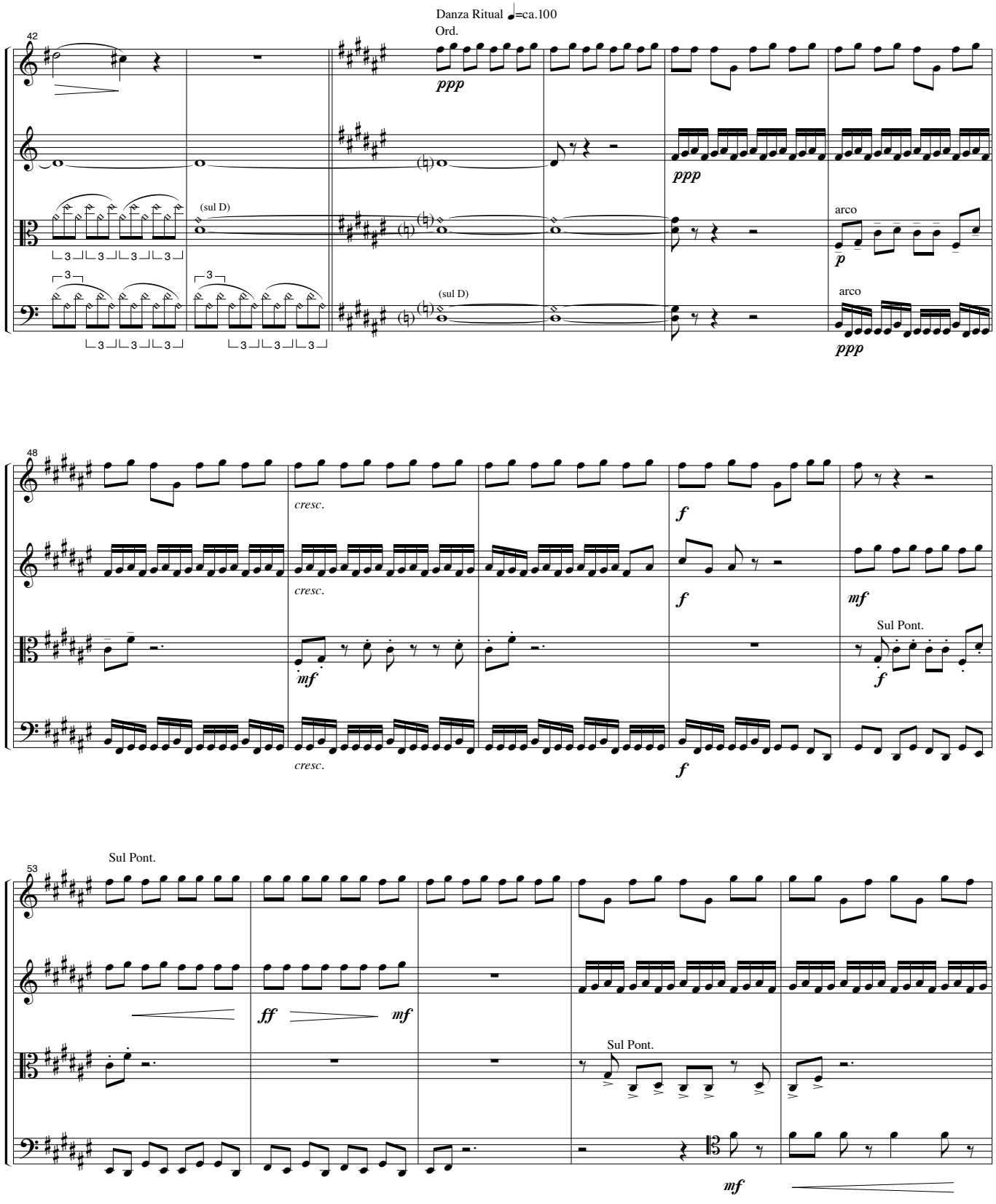

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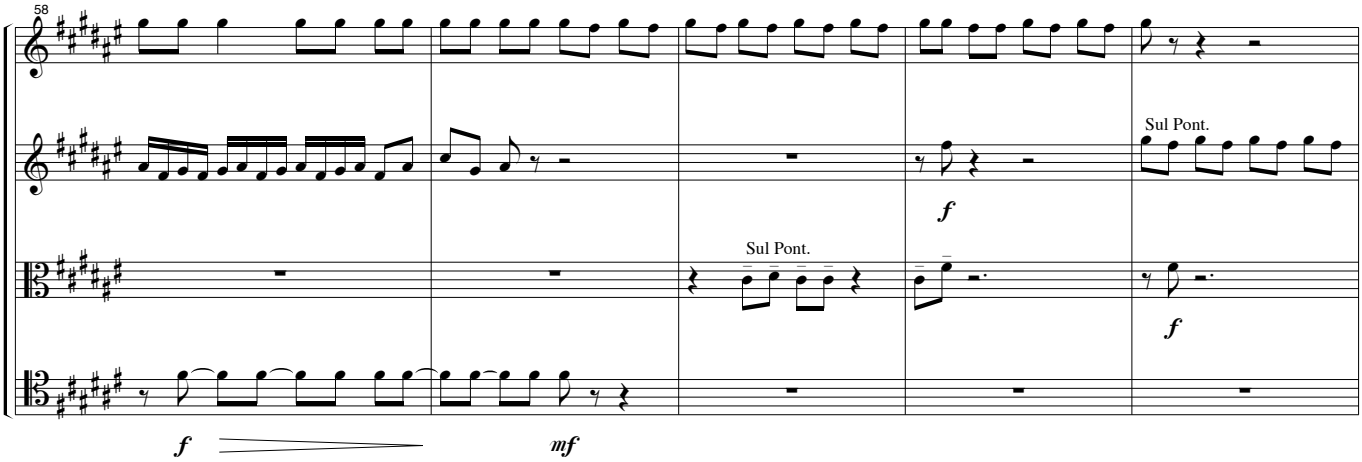

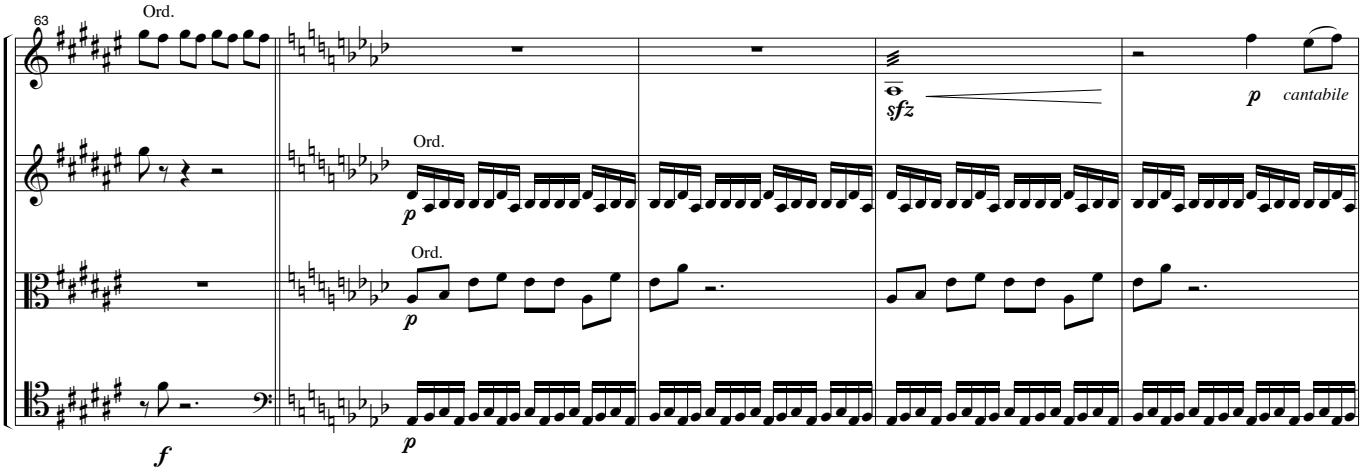

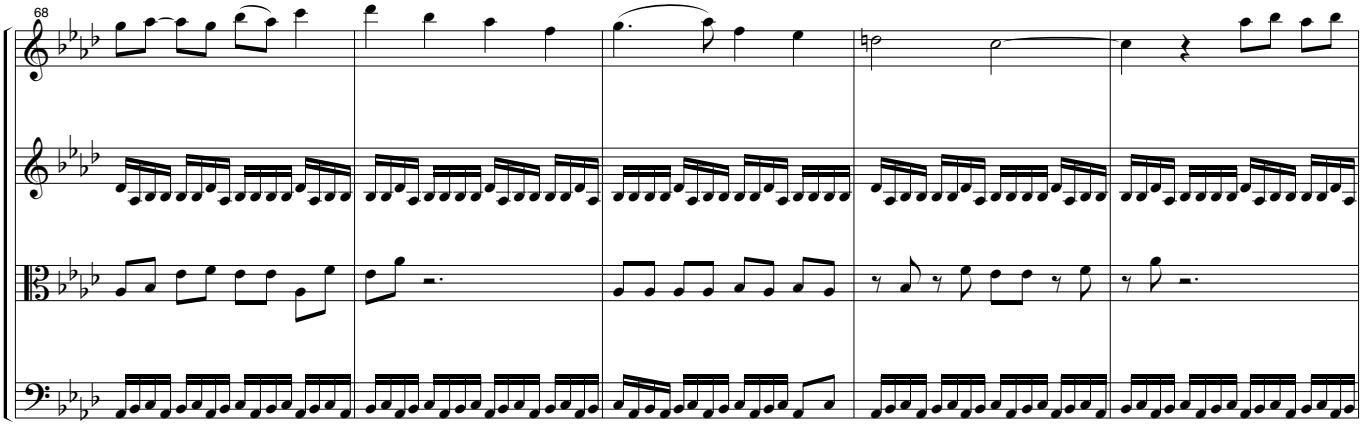

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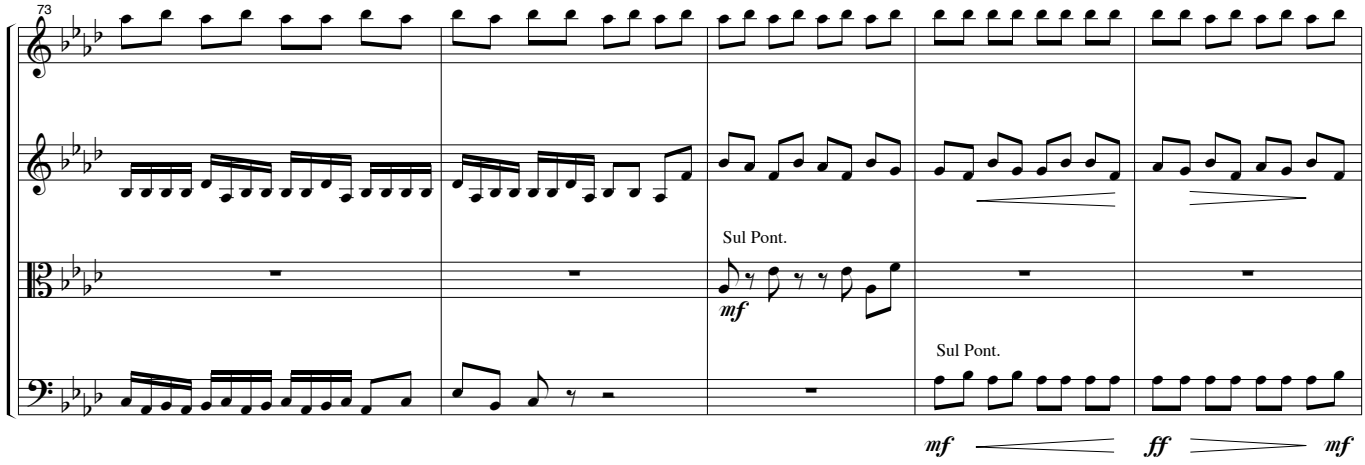

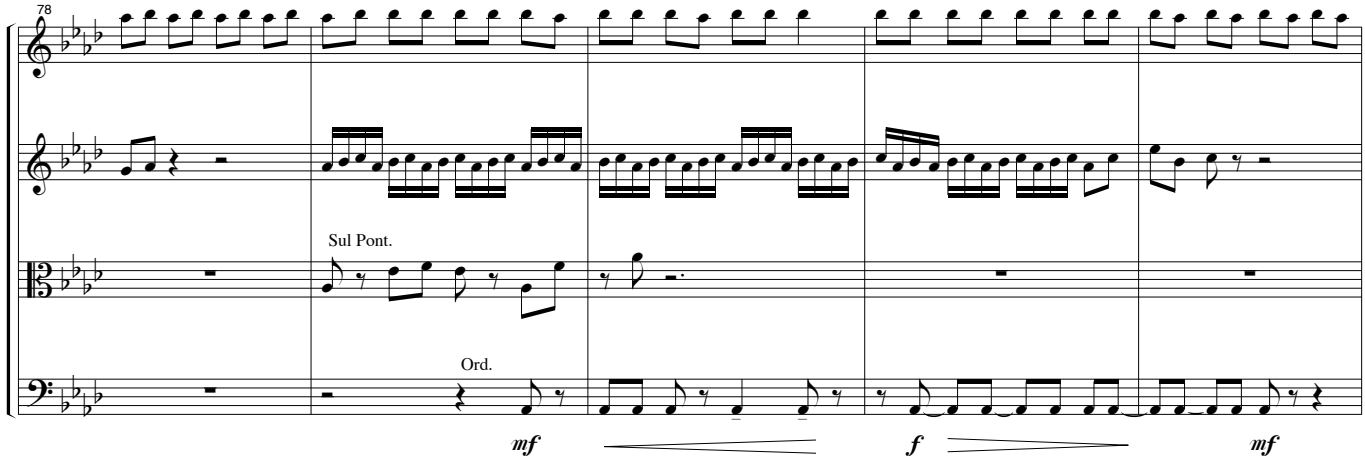

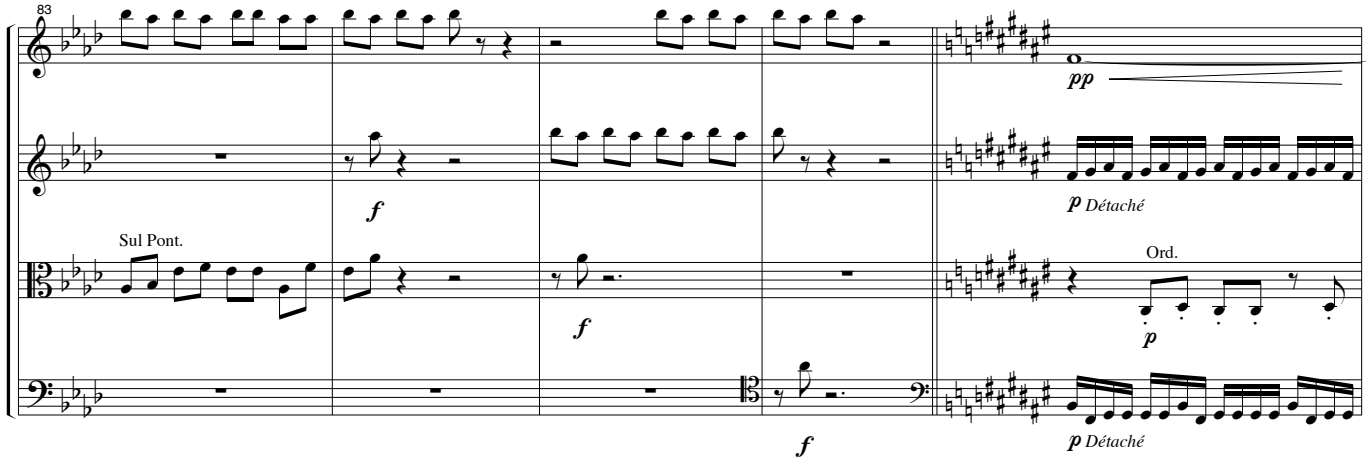

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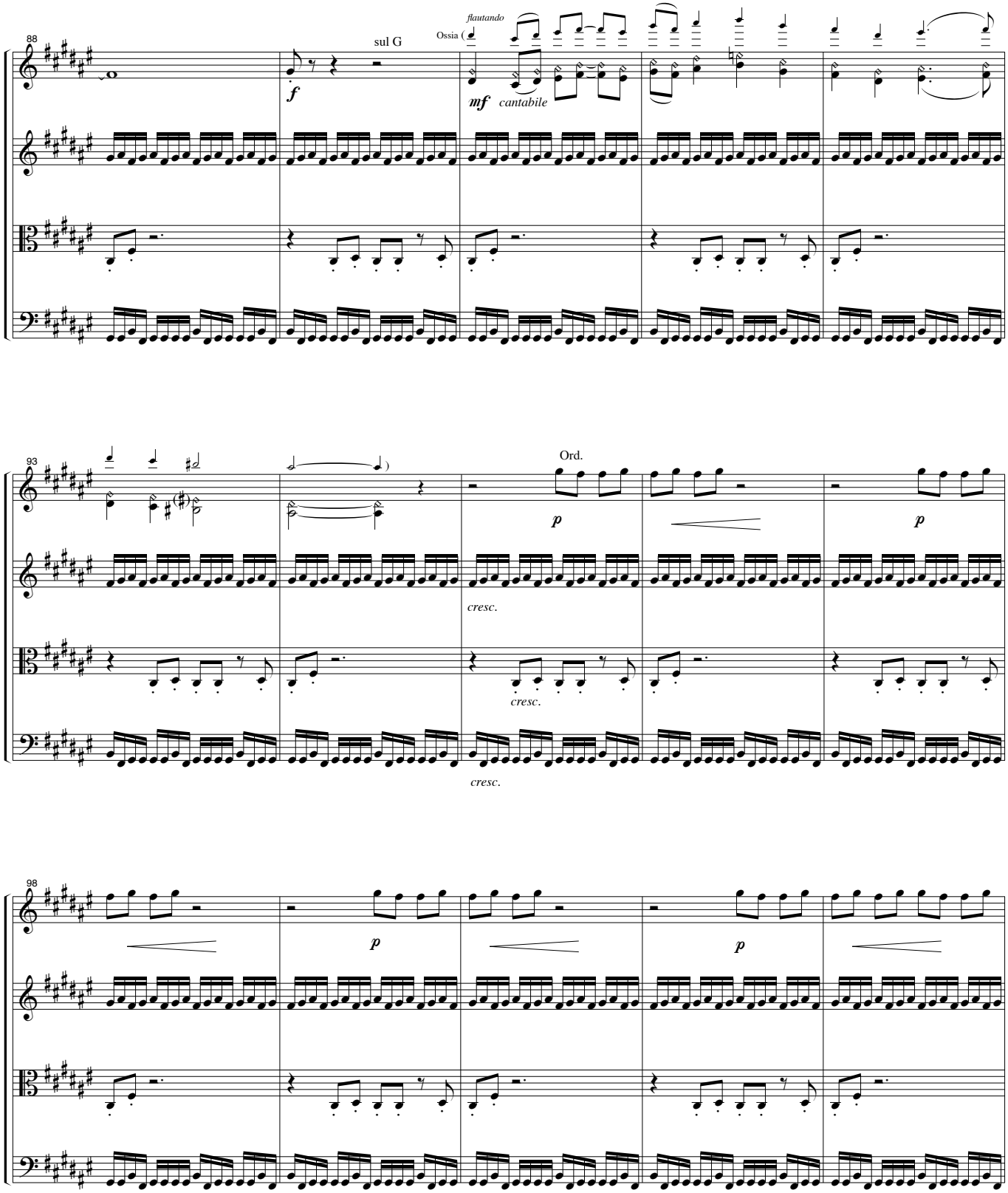

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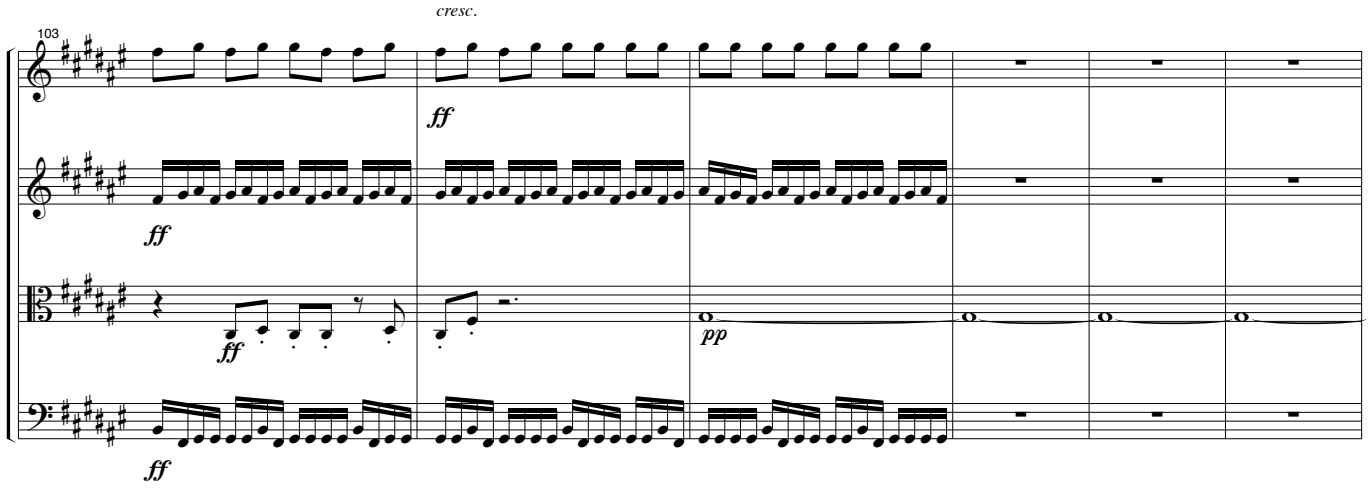
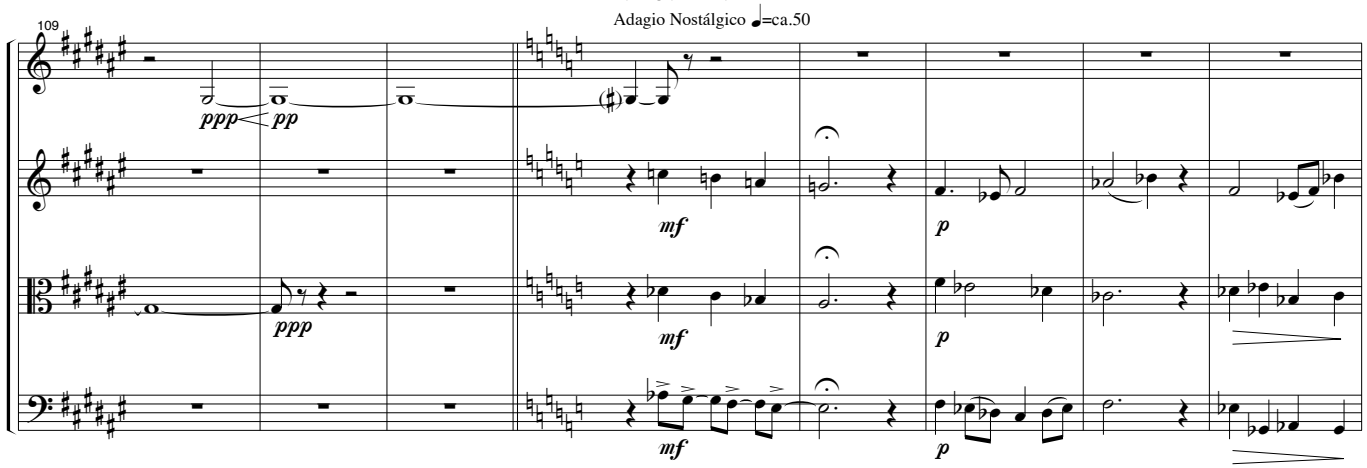
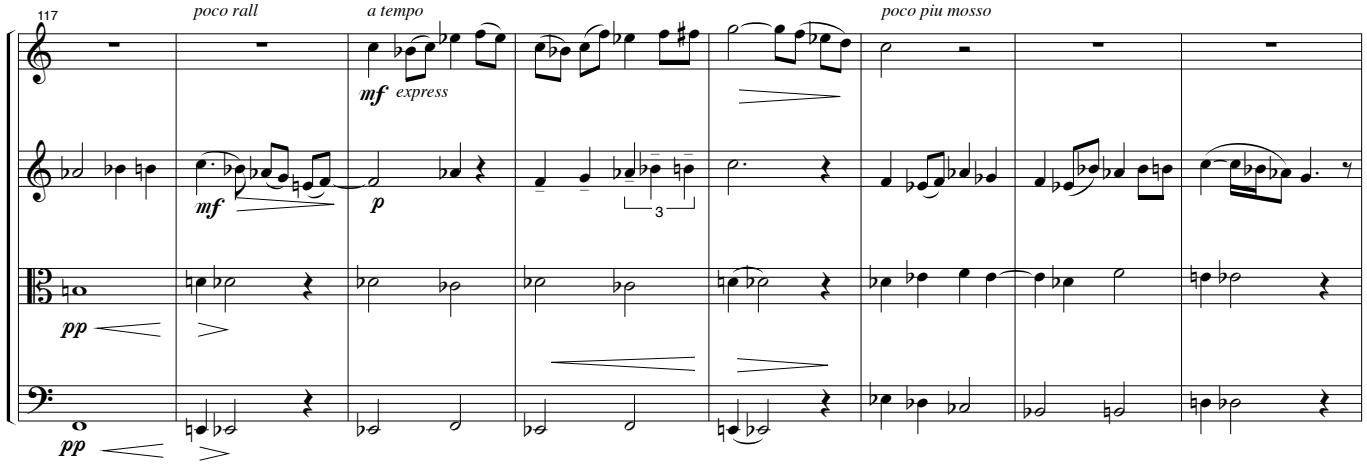


IV MOVEMENT

Adagio Nostálgico ♩=ca.50





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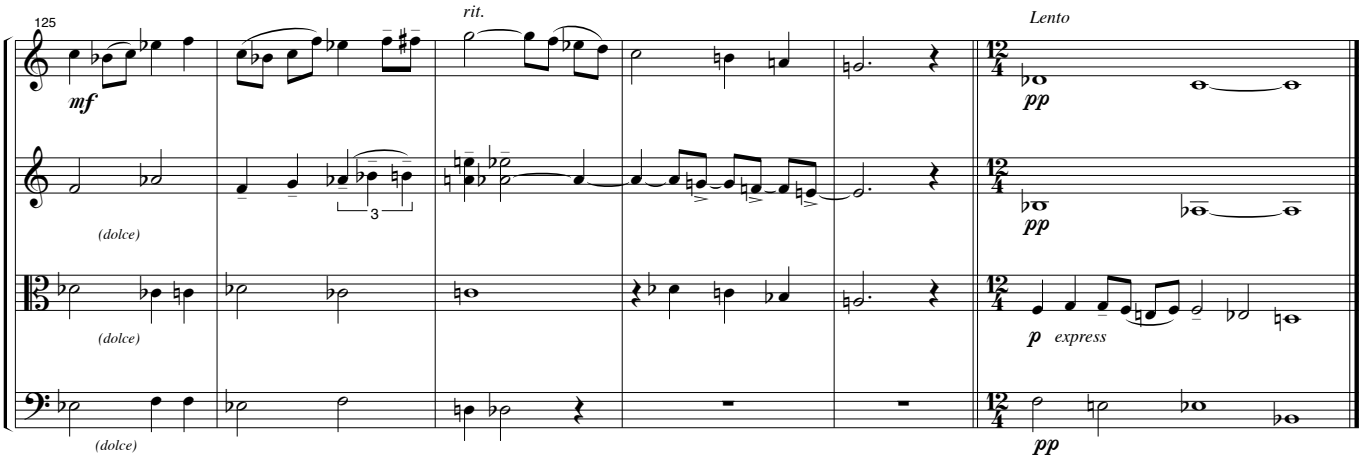

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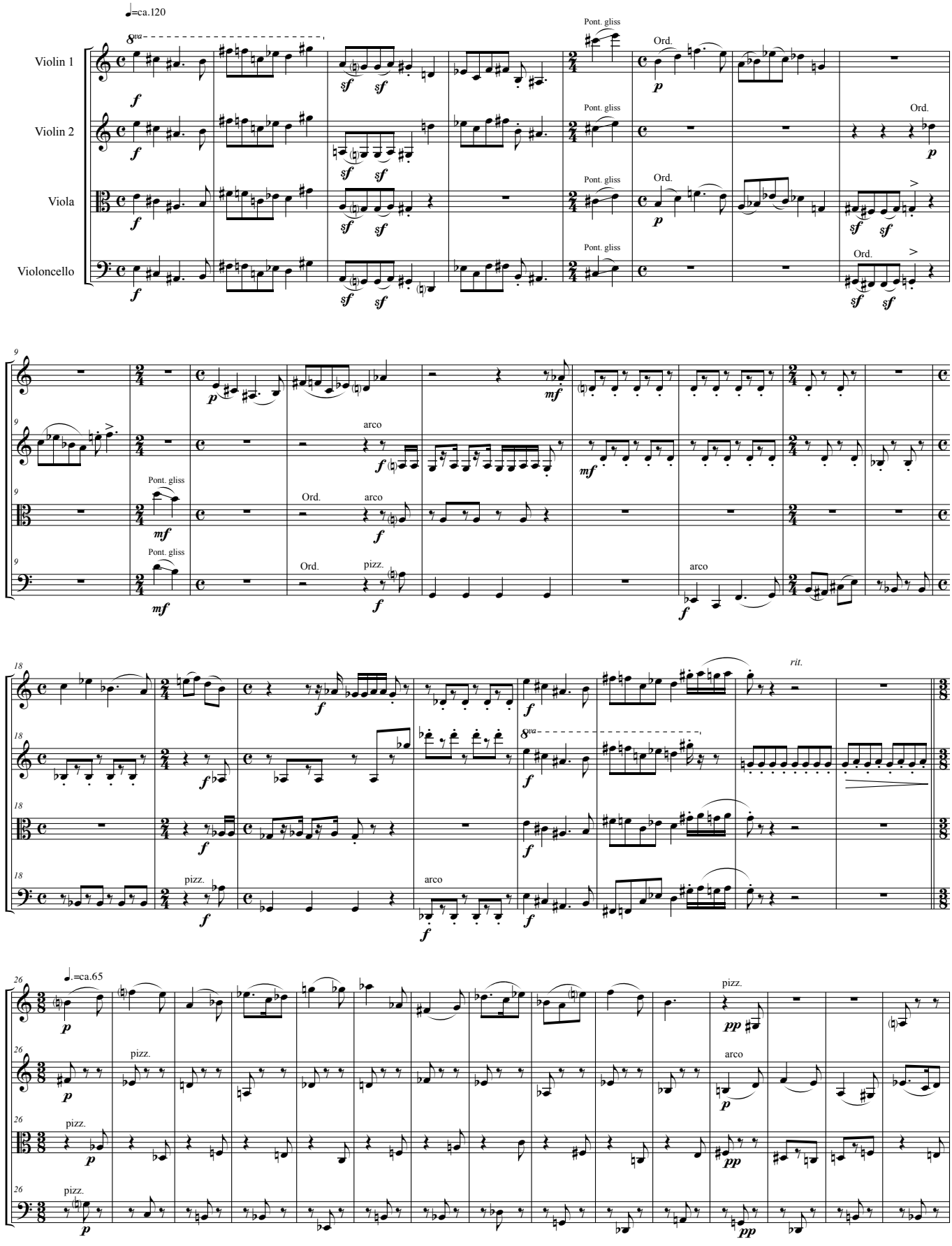
V

Arcangel Castillo Olivari



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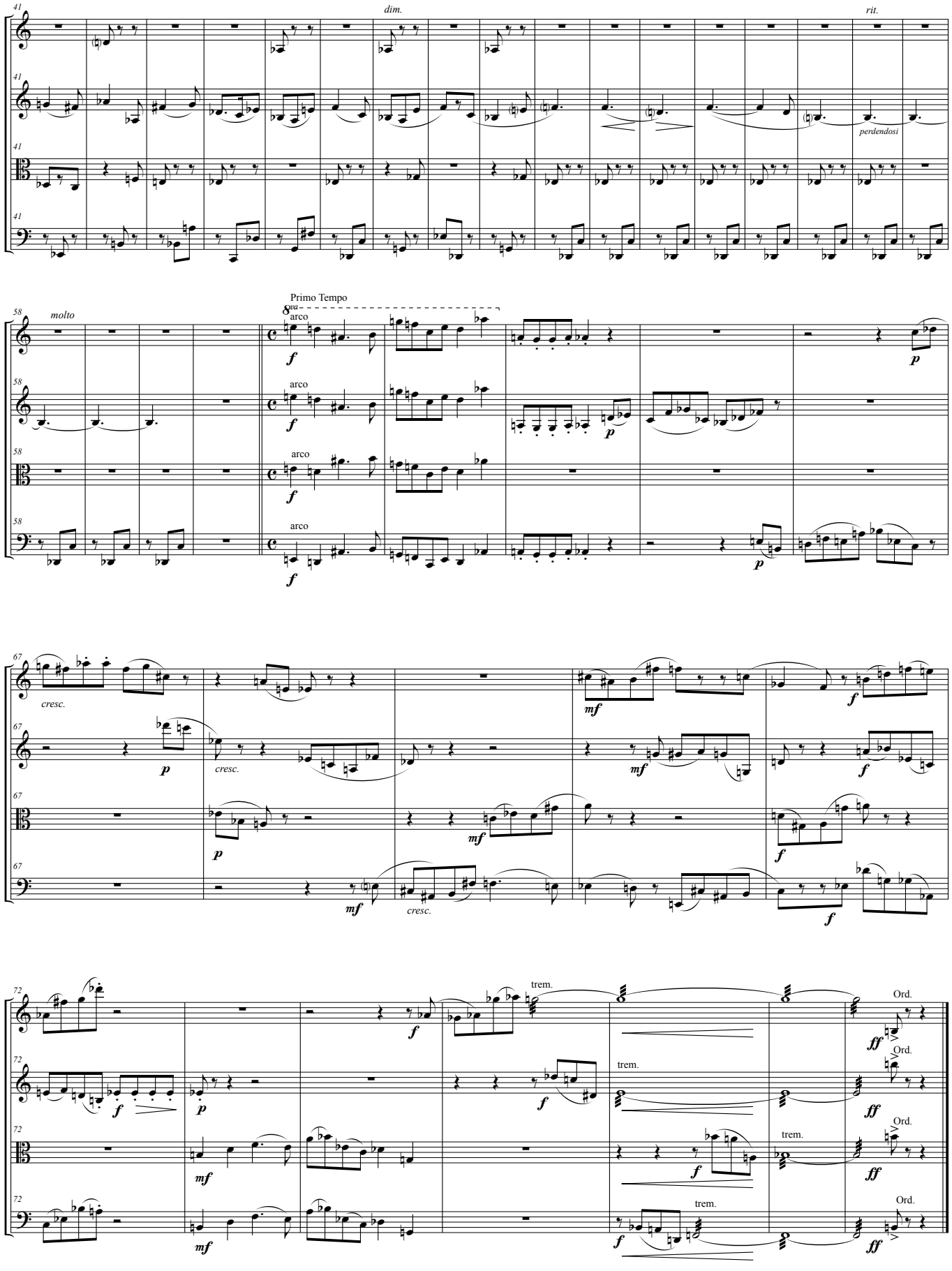

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Arcangel Castillo-Olivari: String Quartet #1

The String Quartet #1 is one of his recent compositions and consists of five movements. In each movement the composer explores different compositional techniques and experiments with sound colors. The first movement, **Allegro (very energetic)**, is an ostinato movement based on a twelve note principal motive. The energetic and aggressive mood of this movement is set up from the very first moment.

The second movement, **Adagio "Lamentoso"**, is very dramatic. It can be cast in three main sections. The composer in this movement is mostly concerned with the harmonies and counterpoint. In the first section the opening motive unfolds again from the viola to the violins. The first violin expands the opening motive in a modulatory passage that finally returns to the initial, opening material. The second section is influenced by the musical elements of late romanticism and is a homage to Alban Berg. A "quasi musical quotation" of his music opens this section. Ostinato patterns in the second violin, viola and cello underline a new theme played by the first violin. The theme makes its presence in all the other instruments and leads to the third section. In this section the texture is more complex and contrapuntal. The lines reach a climax and return to the light texture of the opening.

The third movement, **"Misterioso como la noche" and "Danza Ritual"**, are minimalistic and try to recreate a Festivity or Ritual Celebration danced late in the night by Indian People in the Amazonic Forest. The composer is exploring a new way to express his thoughts. Archaic modality combines with percussive and natural sounds in creating unique sound colors. The opening serves as an introduction where natural harmonics set up the mysterious atmosphere for the entire movement. The first theme makes its entrance in the cello. The cello melodic arch line ascends in a lydian mode and dies out in mixolydian. A second theme in the first violin speaks out a song.

Linked to the third movement, **Adagio "Nostalgico"** means the most to the composer. The colorful scenery with the setting sun on the top of the mountains around the town of Merida, in Venezuela, combines a sequence of orange, red and violet hues. It is a short, tranquil image of his homeland that he reflects with love and nostalgia.

The last Fifth movement return to the same musical material of the first movement with the intention of giving to the work a conclusive and brilliant finale.

Olivari, Arcangel Castillo Venezuelan composer, of mostly orchestral and electroacoustic works that have been performed in the Americas.

Mr. Olivari studied composition and conducting with Alfredo Rugeles at the Instituto Universitario de Estudios Musicales in Caracas from 1986-90, where he earned his BMus in composition. He then studied composition with Joel Hoffman and Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon and computer music with Mara Helmuth at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, on a Fulbright Scholarship, and there earned his MMus in composition in 1996. He is currently working on his DMA doctoral dissertation in composition at this same school.

Among his honors are an honorable mention from the Consejo Nacional de la Cultura (1988, for Five Songs Op. 3) and First Prize in the chamber music competition of the Asociacion Cultural por la Musica de Camara (1989, for Trio de Cuerdas). He has also served residencies at the MacDowell Colony (2001) and the Yaddo Arts Colony (2002).

Mr. Olivari has been also active in other positions in the past. He served as assistant conductor of the Cantoria de Merida from 1979-83 and the children's chorus of the Orquesta Nacional Juvenil in Caracas from 1983-85. He also served as director of the Music Department of the Audiovisual Archive at the Biblioteca Nacional (Public National Library) in Caracas from 1990-92 and conducted the "Banda Sinfonica de la Estado Merida" (Merida State Symphonic Band) from 1992-94 and the "Orquesta Nacional Juvenil" in Merida (Merida Youth Orchestra) from 1992-94.

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