WALTER ROSS

PORTRAITS

from

LA COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE

I Punchinello's Scherzino

Bass Oboe (Bassoon) & Piano

AMORIS INTERNATIONAL
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AI SI 016

Walter Ross

(1936-)

Walter Ross was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, USA, in 1936. He began to study the French horn at the age of twelve and, by seventeen, was performing professionally with the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra.

Although spending four years at the University of Nebraska studying mechanical engineering and astronomy, he continued playing with the orchestra. Ross decided to return to university to study music. After his master's degree, he went on to Cornell University for his doctorate. There, he was awarded an Organization of American States Fellowship to study composition privately under Alberto Ginastera at the Instituto Torcuato de Tella (Buenos Aires). He has been the recipient of significant grants and fellowships, numerous awards and prizes.

Ross began teaching composition and theory in the Music Department at the University of Virginia in 1967. He established the Charlottesville University and Community Orchestra, which he conducted for two years. Later, he formed a Baroque trio sonata ensemble in which he played flute and recorder.

During his tenure at the University of Virginia he served as Chairman of the Department of Music and was awarded a University Outstanding Teaching Award. He participated in regional, national, and international juries of composition and performance.

Walter Ross has composed over 150 works, which have been widely performed in over forty countries. Many of his compositions have been published, recorded and broadcast. He is, perhaps, best known for his compositions featuring brass and woodwinds. The influences of his own extensive performance background and diverse musical training (with composers who stressed bright orchestration and rhythmic excitement) can be detected in many of his works. Many of his recent pieces are representative of his current interest in neo-modal, pan-diatonic composition.

He has been a visiting composer at the Aspen Music Festival, a featured composer at several universities and forums, and a board member of the Capital Composers Alliance.

In 1997 he wrote a cantata featuring the poetry of Rita Dove, the American Poet Laureate. Recent choral works include 'Lux Aeterna' to honour the victims of 9/11, which has been performed upon a number of occasions.

Retired from full time teaching, Walter Ross currently performs on double bass in the Blue Ridge Chamber Orchestra. In addition to composing, he continues his interest in chess (in 1969 he won a trophy in the U.S. Open Chess Tournament), astronomy, and the History of Science.

Portraits from La Commedia dell'Arte

I Punchinello's Scherzino

Bass Oboe (Bassoon) & Piano

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Scherzino means 'a little joke' in Italian. In 1607 Monteverdi published a group of light pieces for voice as *Scherzi musicali*. The Italian *Commedia dell'Arte* a form of open-air improvisational theatre began in Italy during the XV century and is still performed today.

As my title suggests, this is a lively and spirited work. It was composed in 1999 for Jennifer Paull and dedicated to her. There is humorous interplay between the two instruments, inspired by the antics of the character known in English as *Mr Punch*.

In Italy, he is known as *Pulcinella*- in Russia, as *Petrushka*. Stravinsky composed two distinct ballets for this same character under these separate names: *Pulcinella* and *Petrushka*. Also known as *Punch* or *Punchinello,* this personage is the *Mister Punch* of England's *Punch and Judy* and the inspiration for the satirical *Punch Magazine*.

Punchinello is pitiable, helpless and physically disfigured often by a distinct limp or a hump: a short fat buffoon or clown. He alternates between foolishness and being very shrewd, always dressed in white and masked in black, this character joined the ranks of the *Commedia* in the XVII century.

In the context of a theatrical concert performance, the players are free to dress in the costumes of three characters from the *Commedia dell'Arte*.

Walter Ross
1999

❖❖❖

Works by Walter Ross published by ***Amoris International***

Autumn Pastorale	AI SI 012
Concerto for Oboe d'amore - Keyboard Reduction	AI SI 022
Portraits from *La Commedia dell'Arte* II Trio *di fantasia*	AI CM 004
Old Joe Clark's Musical Offering	AI CM 006
Variations on *'Auprès de ma blonde'*	AI EN 004
Concerto for Oboe d'amore & String Orchestra	AI OR 004

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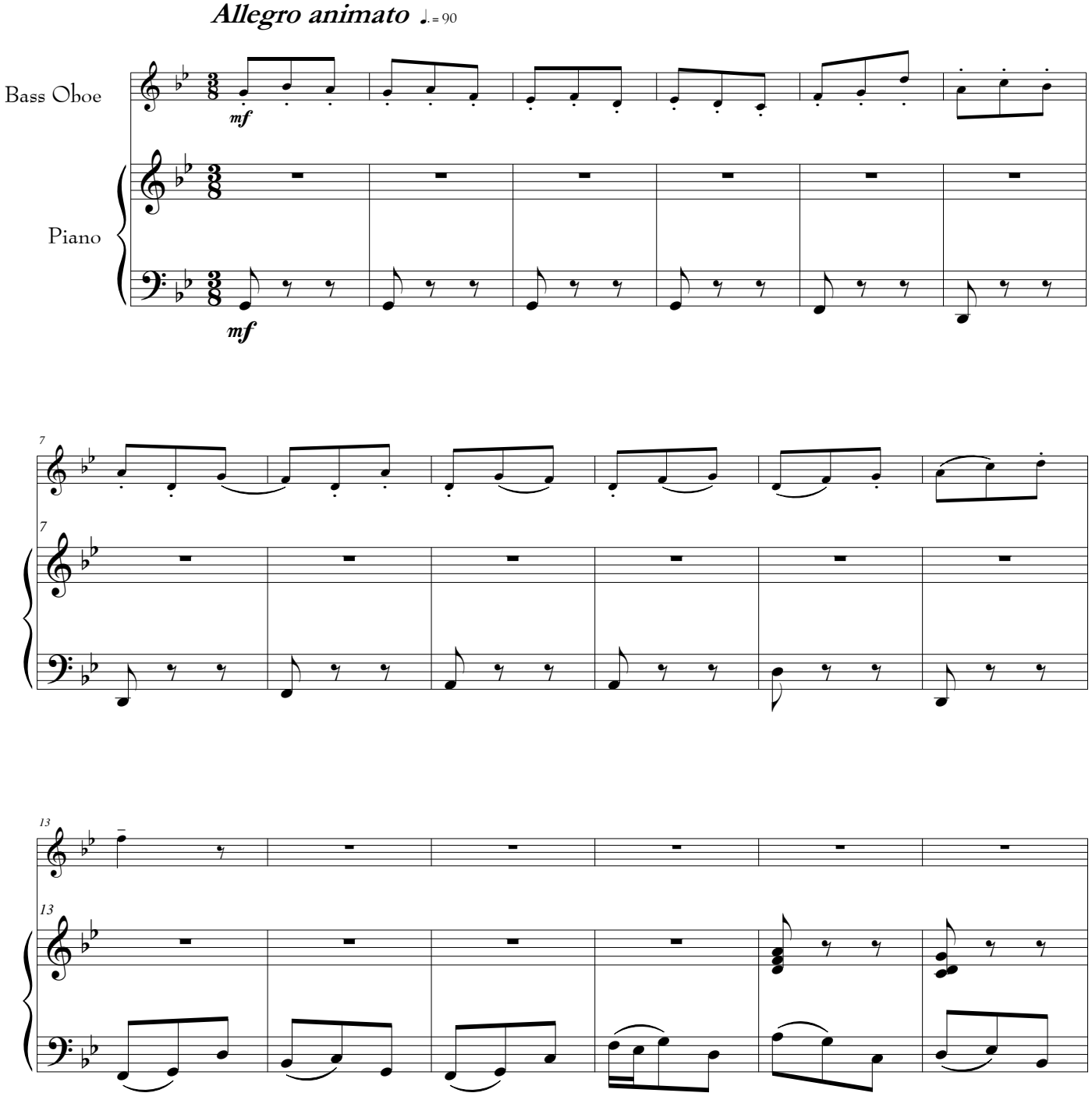
for Jennifer Paull

Portraits from La Commedia dell'Arte

I PUNCHINELLO'S SCHERZINO

Walter Ross
(b.1936)



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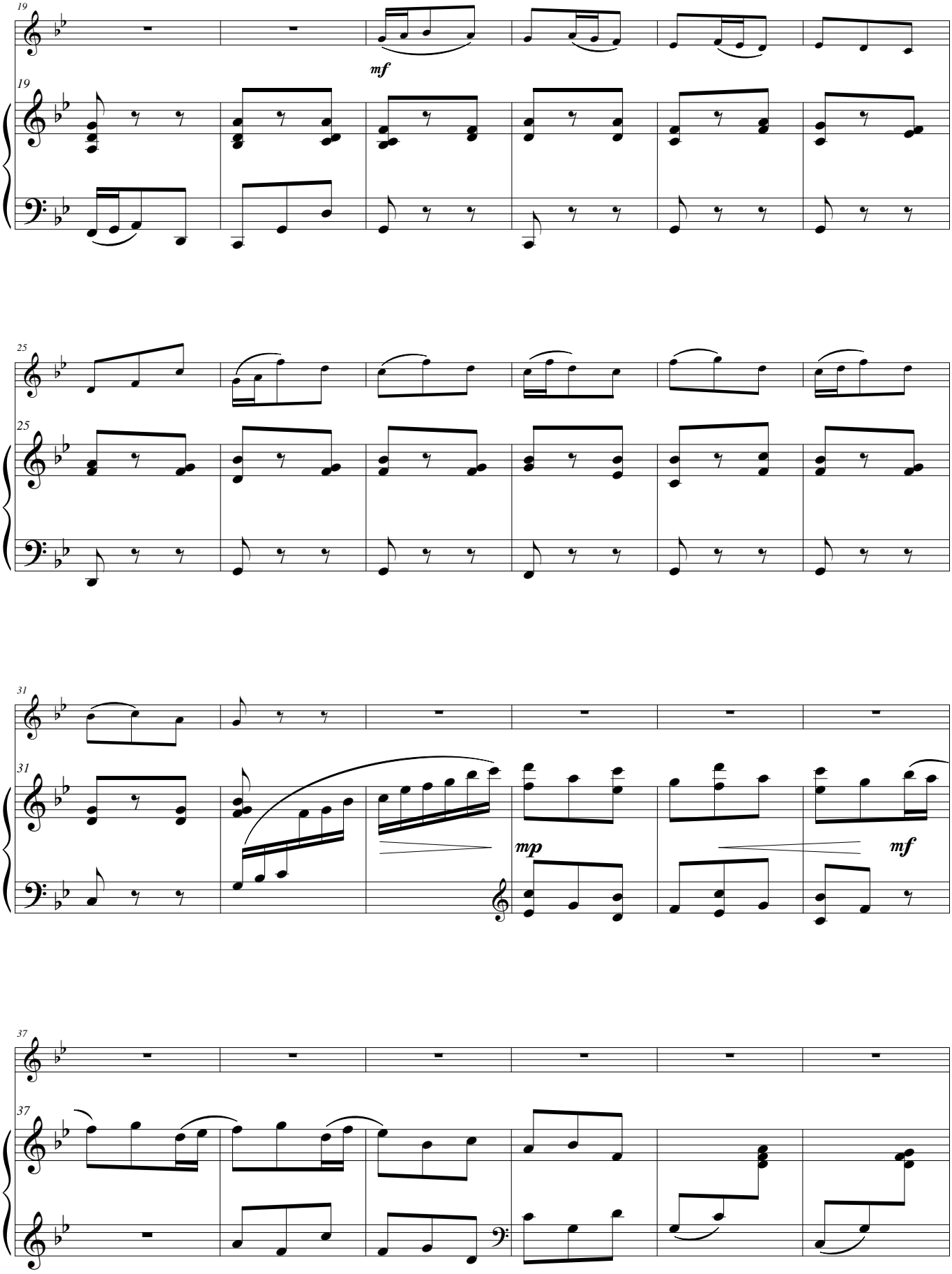
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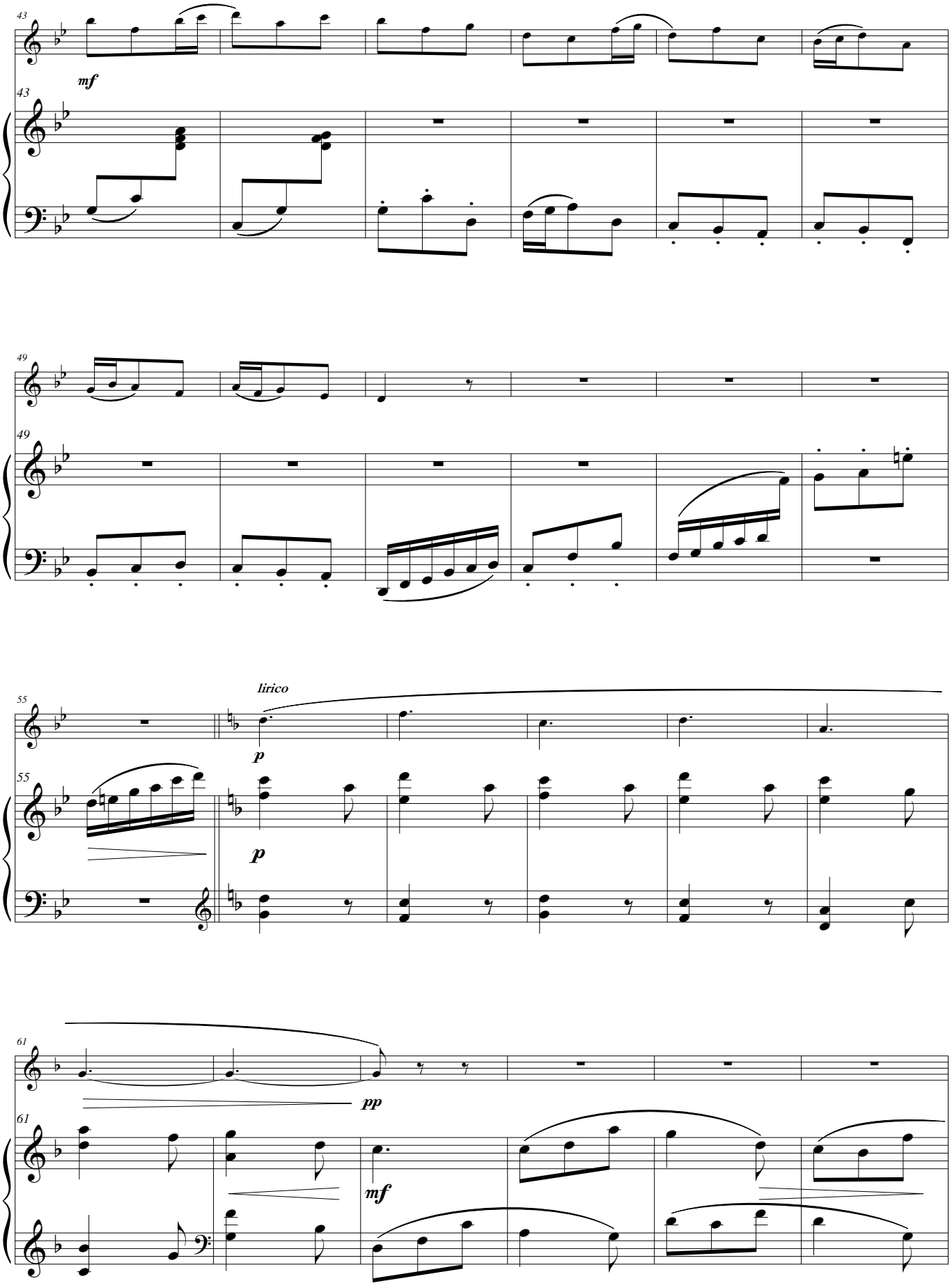
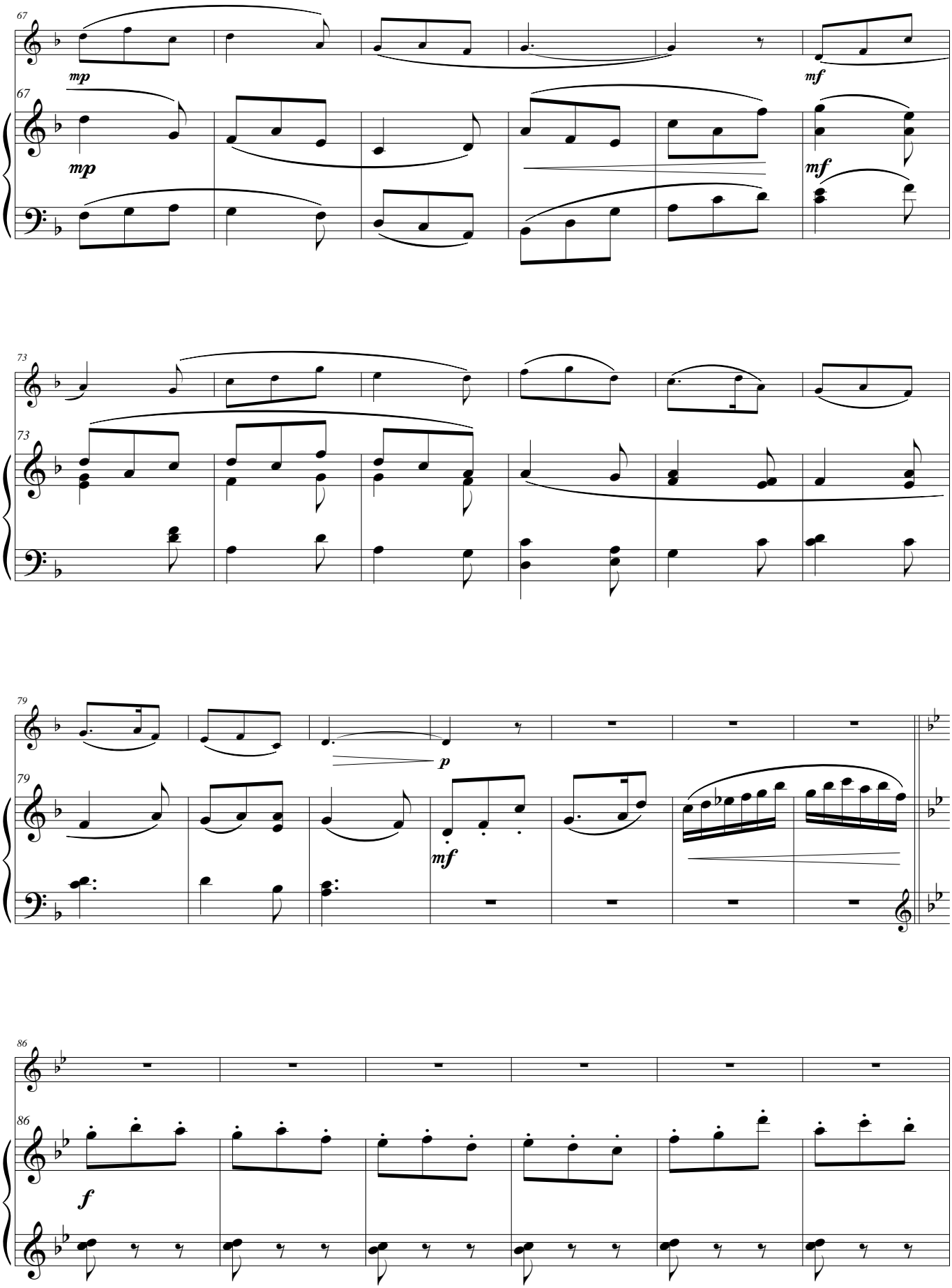
mf
25
31
mp
mf
37


43
mf
43
49
49
55
lirico
p
55
p
61
pp
61
mf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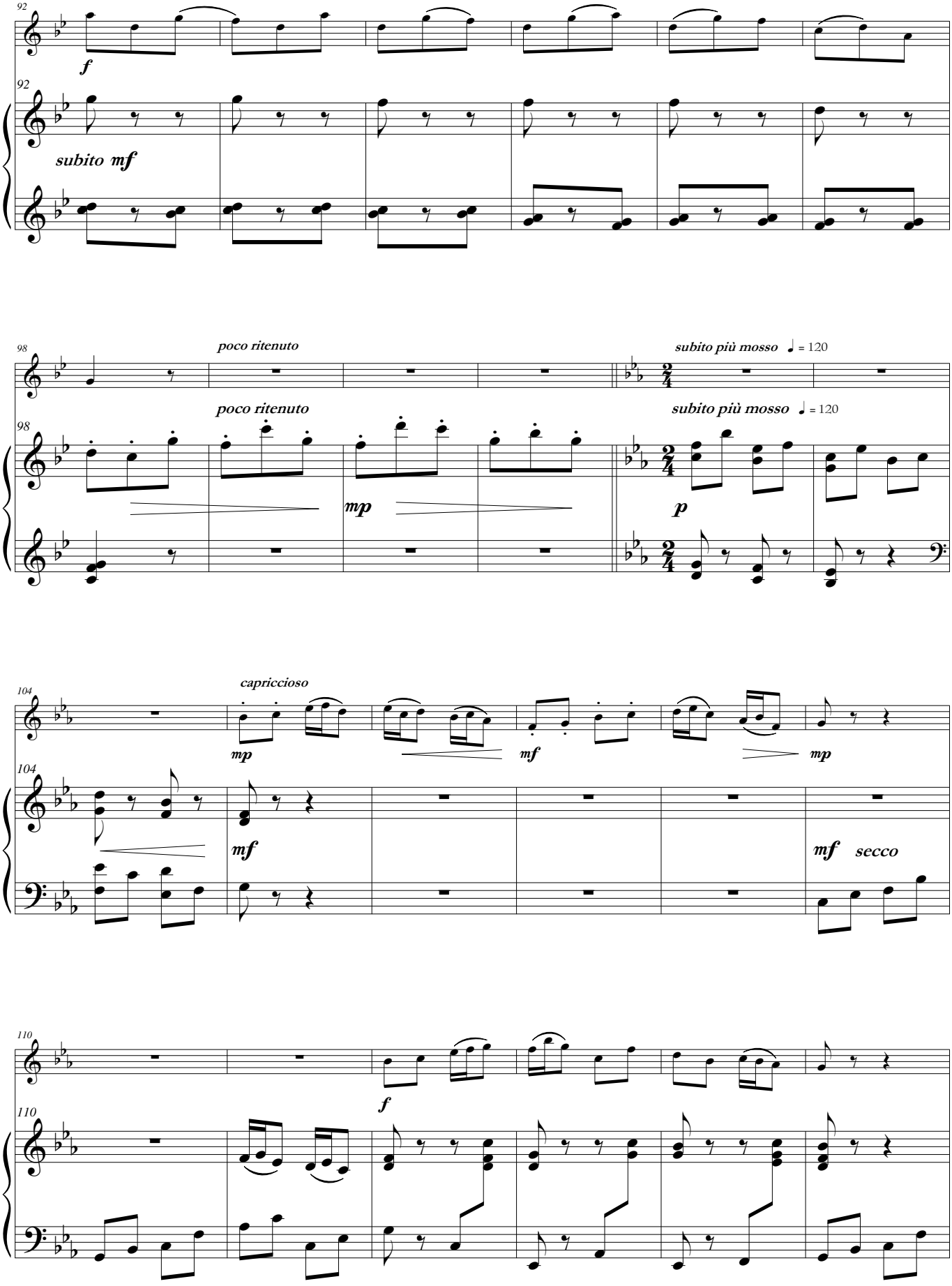
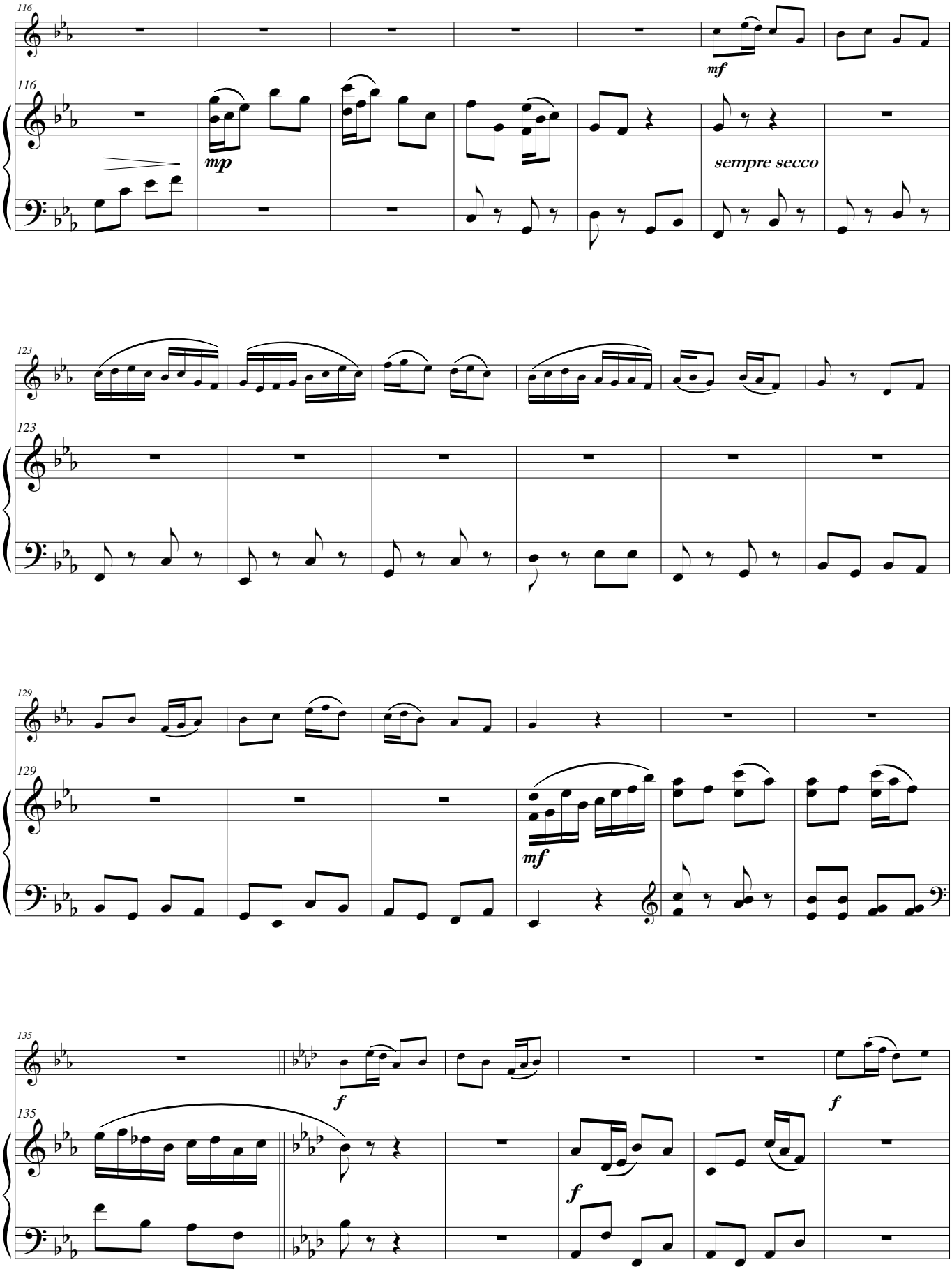
mp
mf
73
79
p
mf
86
f


92
f
92
subito mf
98
poco ritenuto
subito più mosso ♩ = 120
98
poco ritenuto
mp
subito più mosso ♩ = 120
p
104
capriccioso
mp
mf
mp
104
mf
mf secco
110
f
110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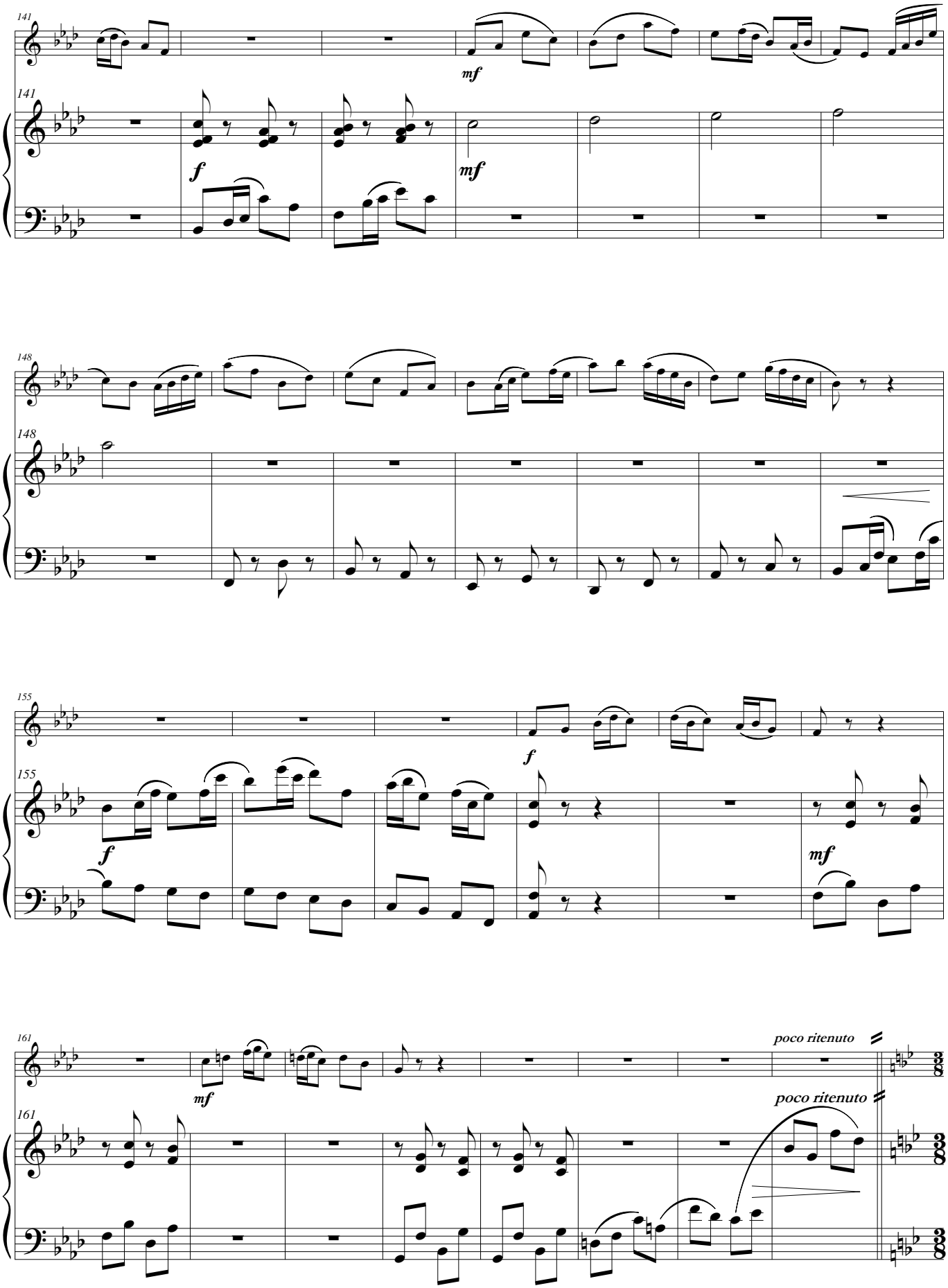
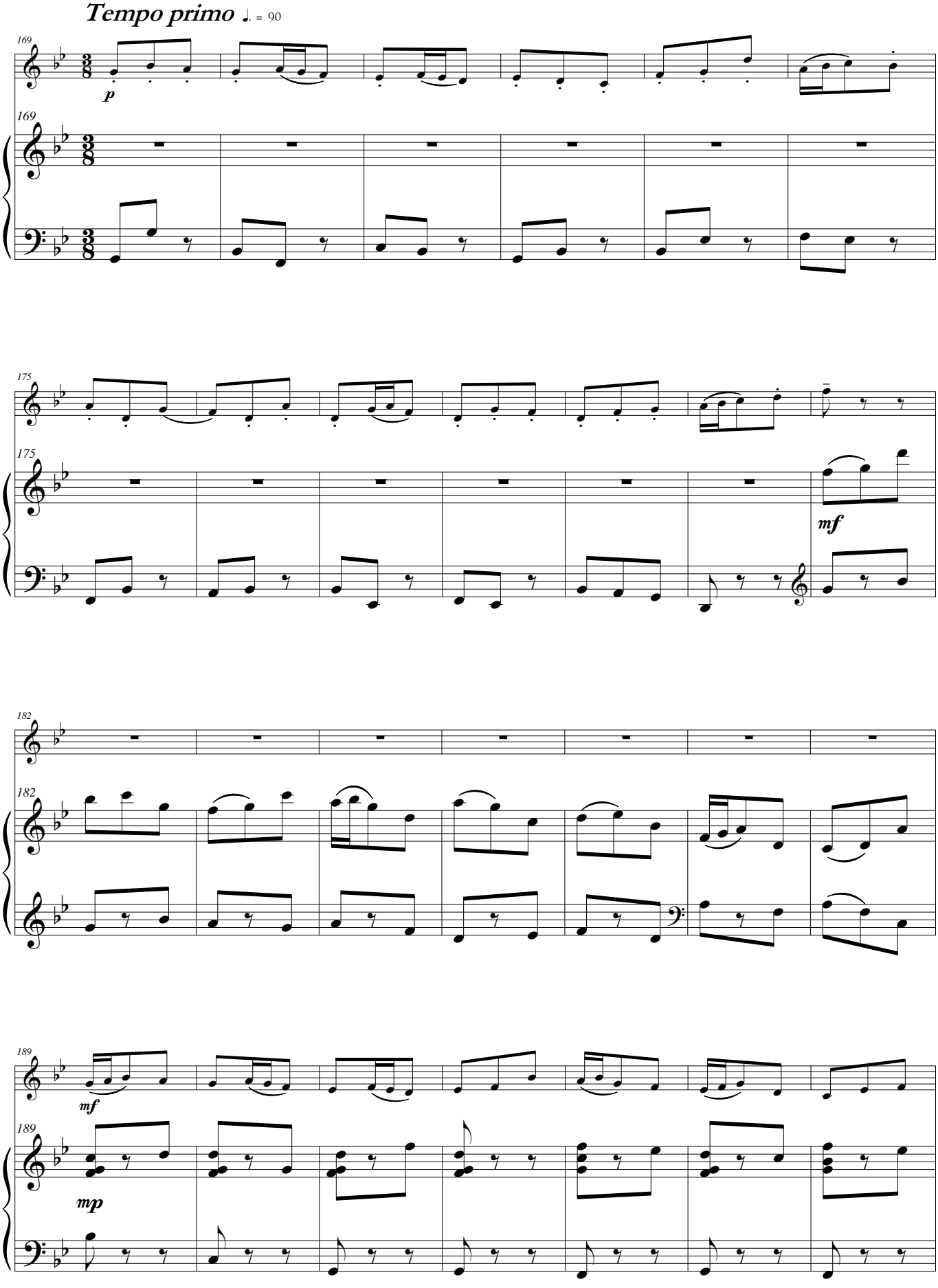
mf
mp
sempre secco
123
129
mf
135
f
f
f


141
mf
141
f
mf
148
148
155
f
155
f
mf
161
poco ritenuto
mf
161
poco ritenuto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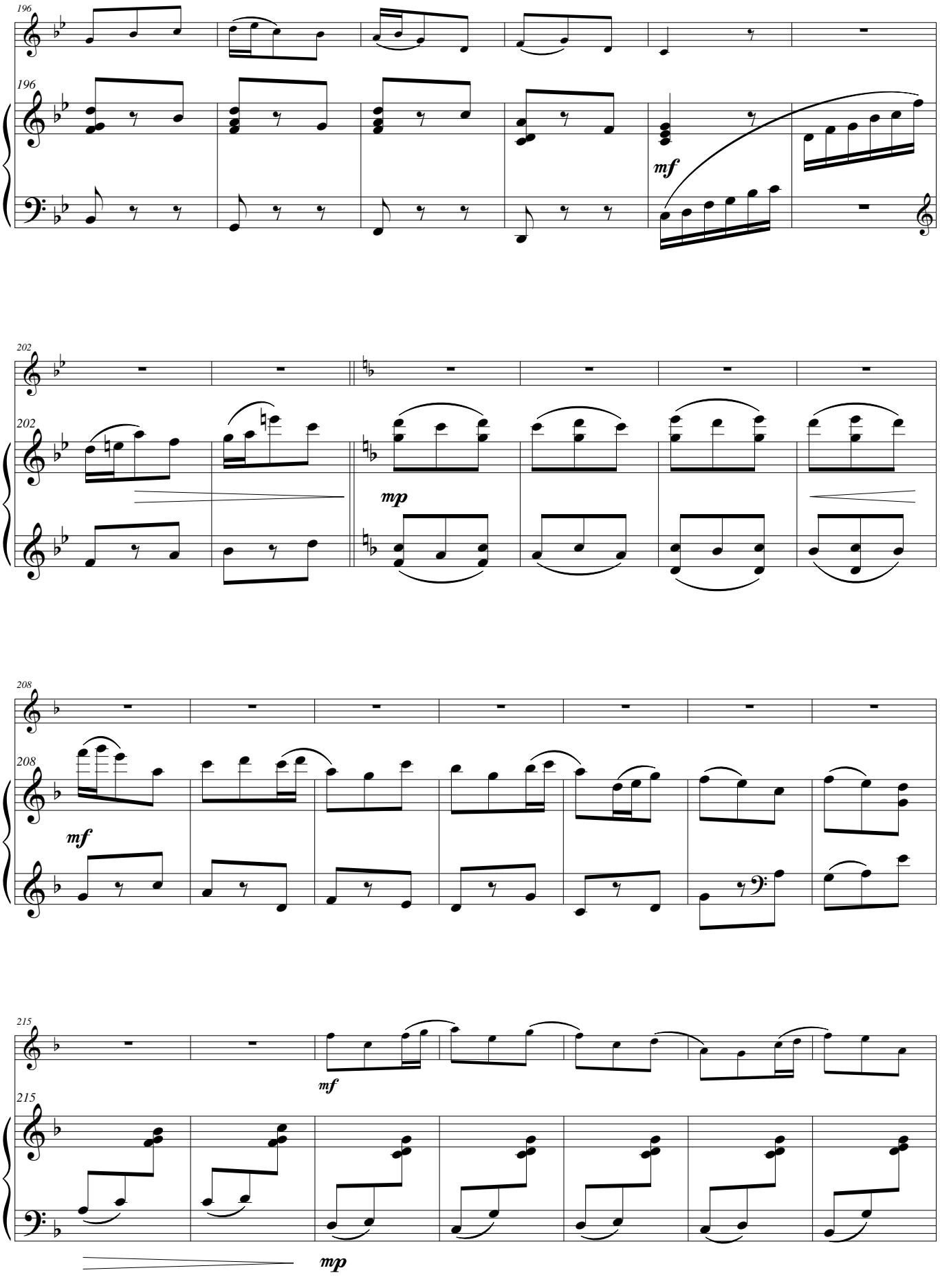
169
p
175
mf
182
189
mf
mp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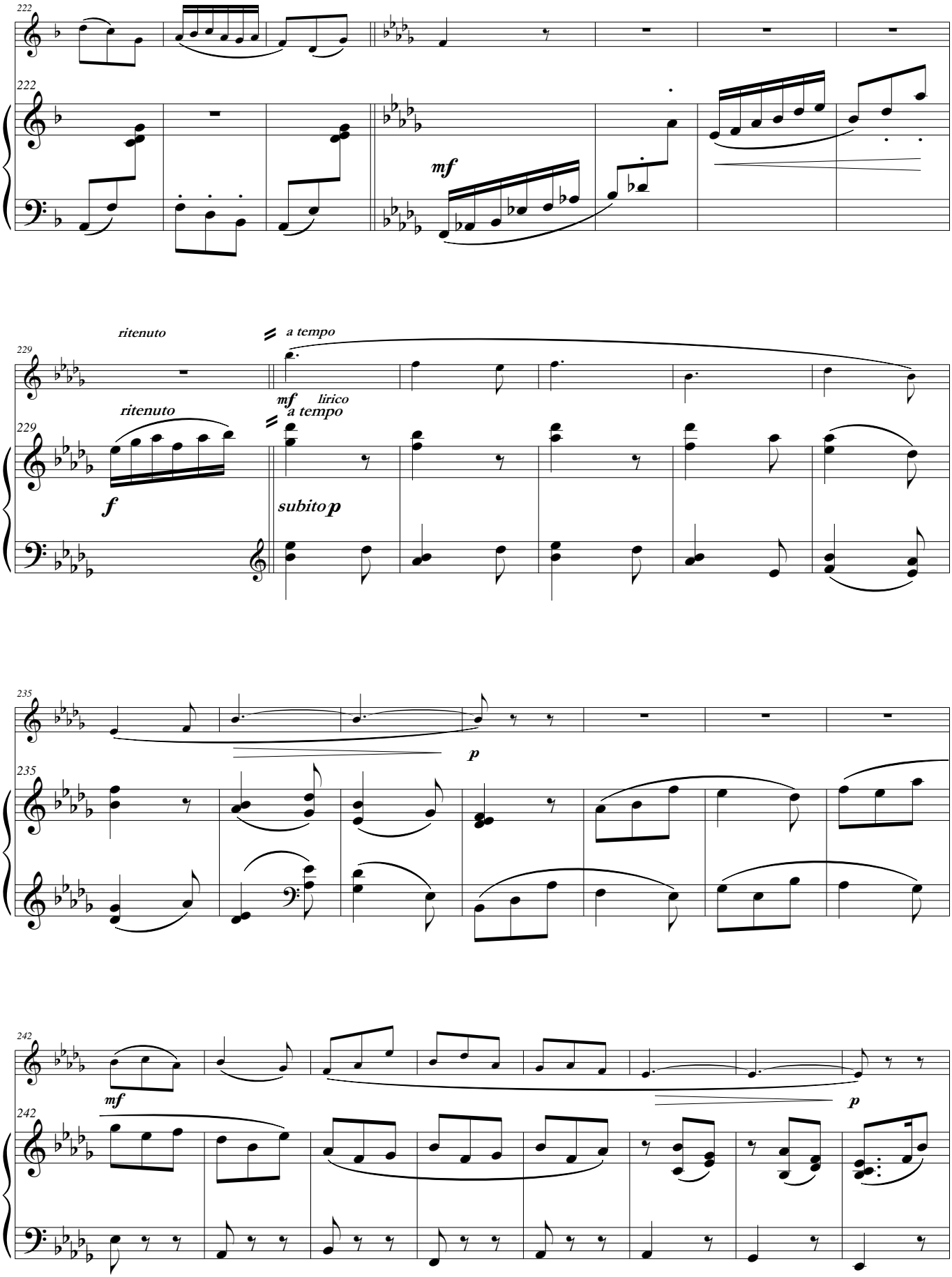
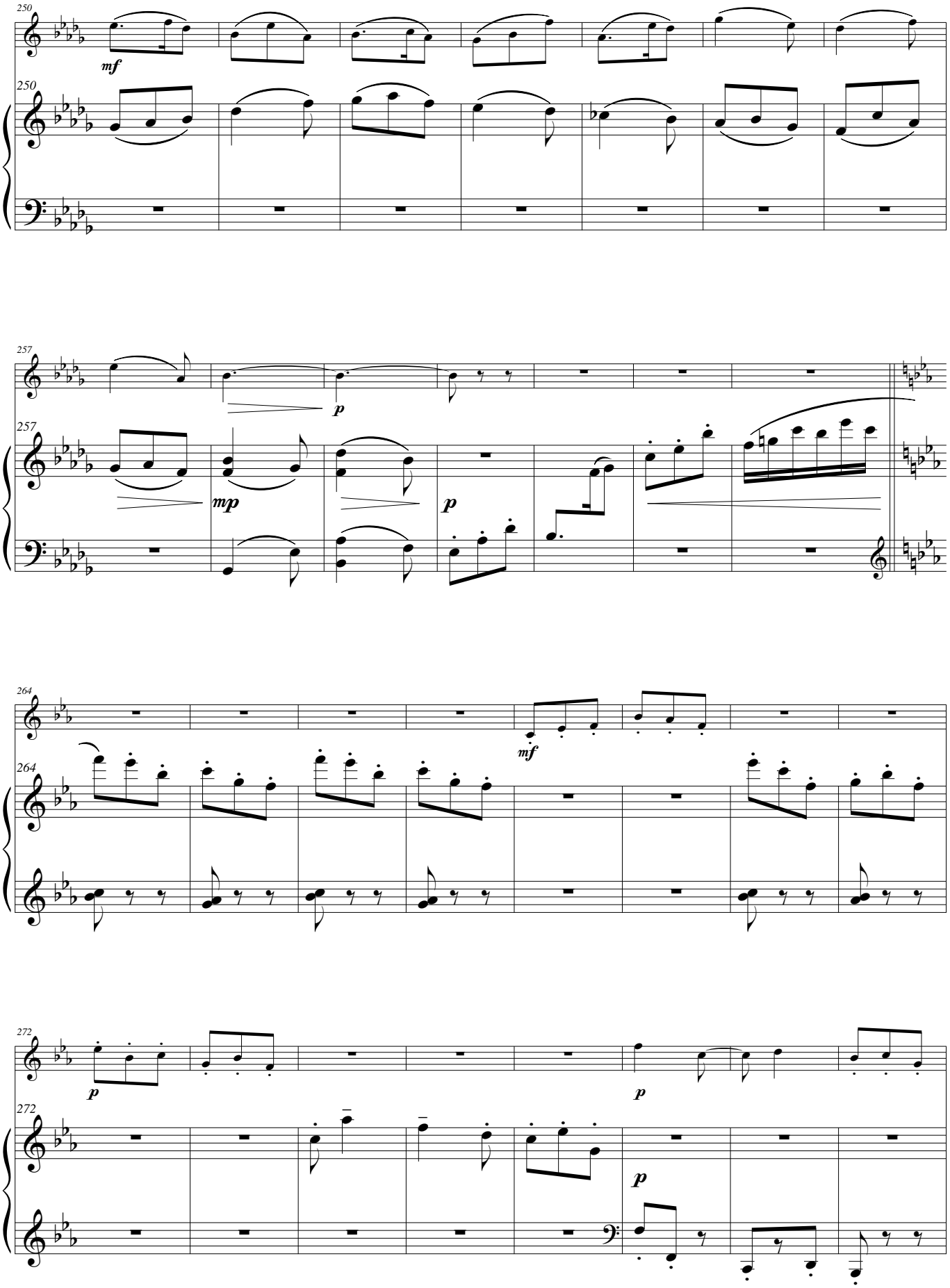
196
mf
202
202
mp
208
208
mf
215
215
mf
mp


222
222
mf
ritenuto
a tempo
229
mf lirico
a tempo
ritenuto
229
f
subito p
235
235
p
242
mf
242
p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mf
250
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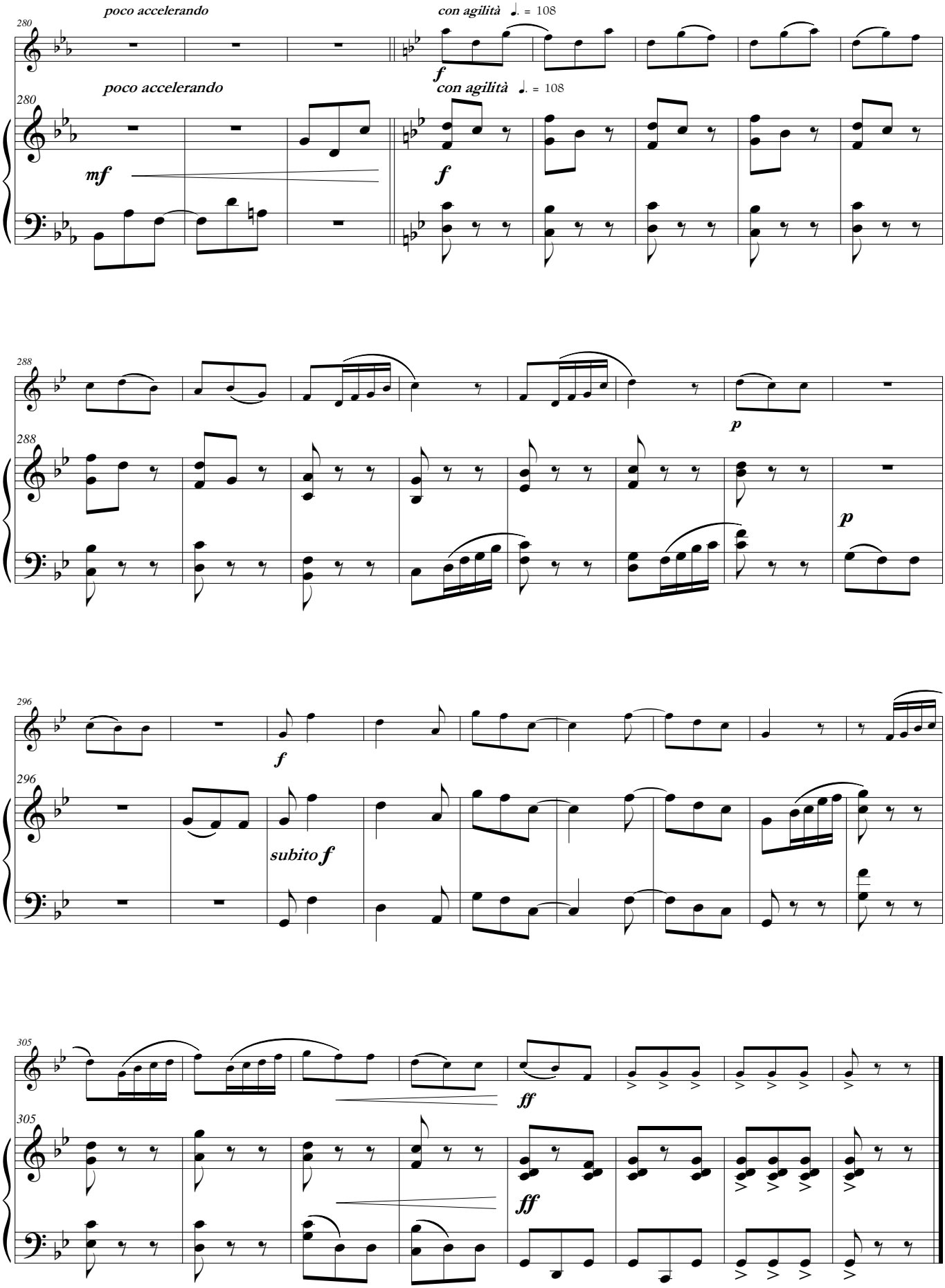
p
257
mp
p
264
mf
264
272
p
p
272
p


poco accelerando
con agilità ♩. = 108
280
f
mf
288
p
296
subito f
305
ff

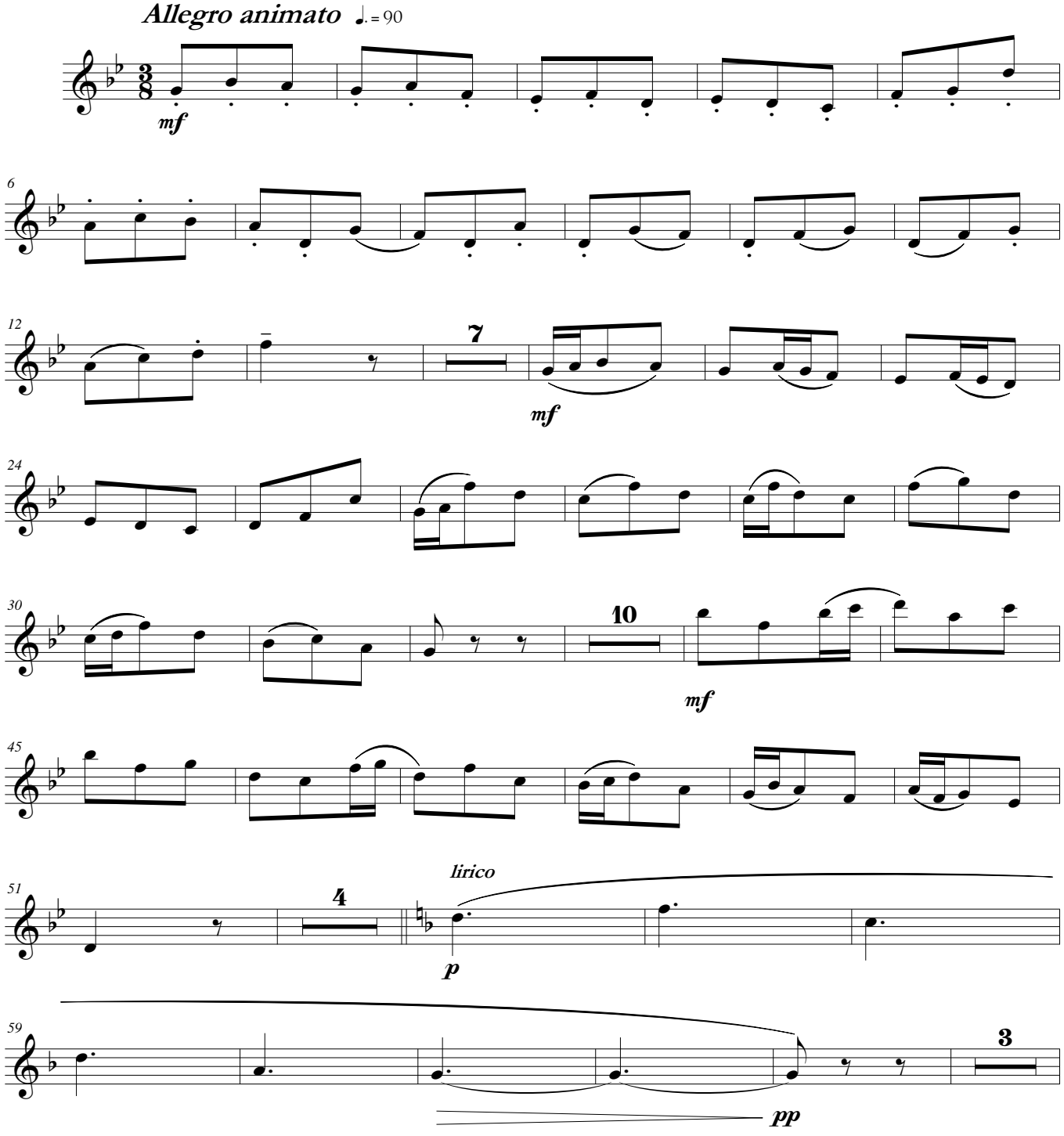
for Jennifer Paull

Portraits from La Commedia dell'Arte

I PUNCHINELLO'S SCHERZINO

Bass Oboe

Walter Ross
(b.1936)



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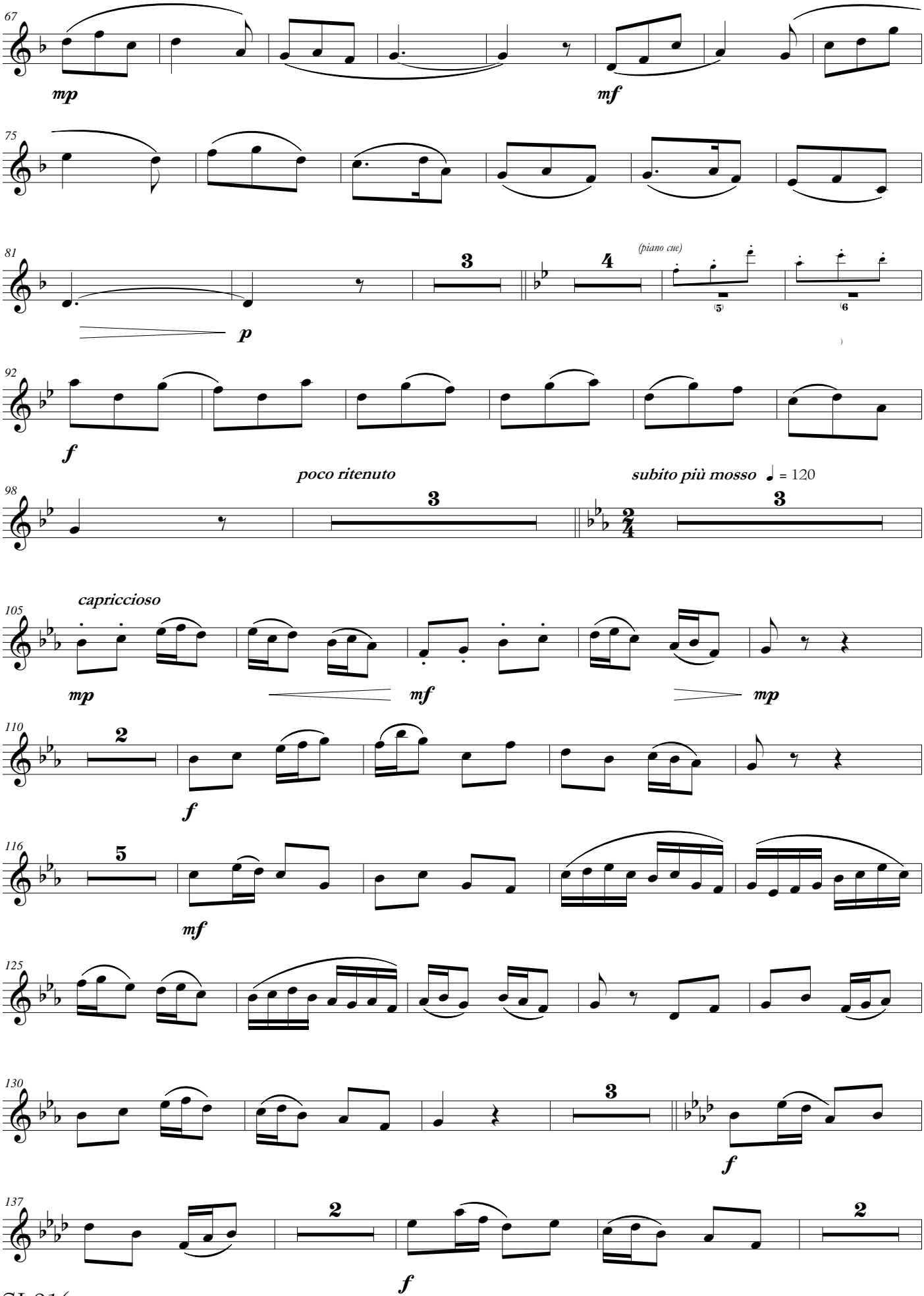
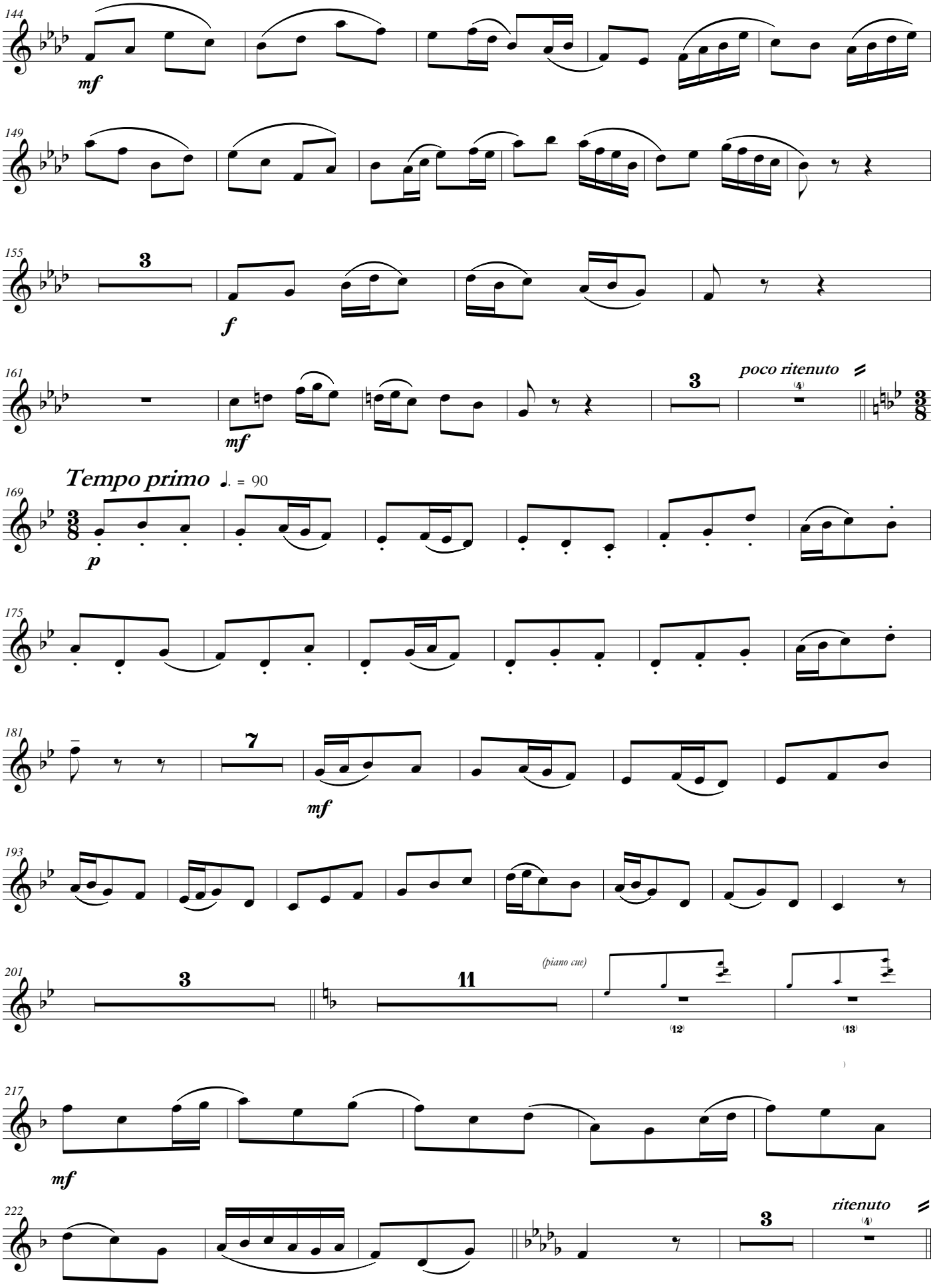
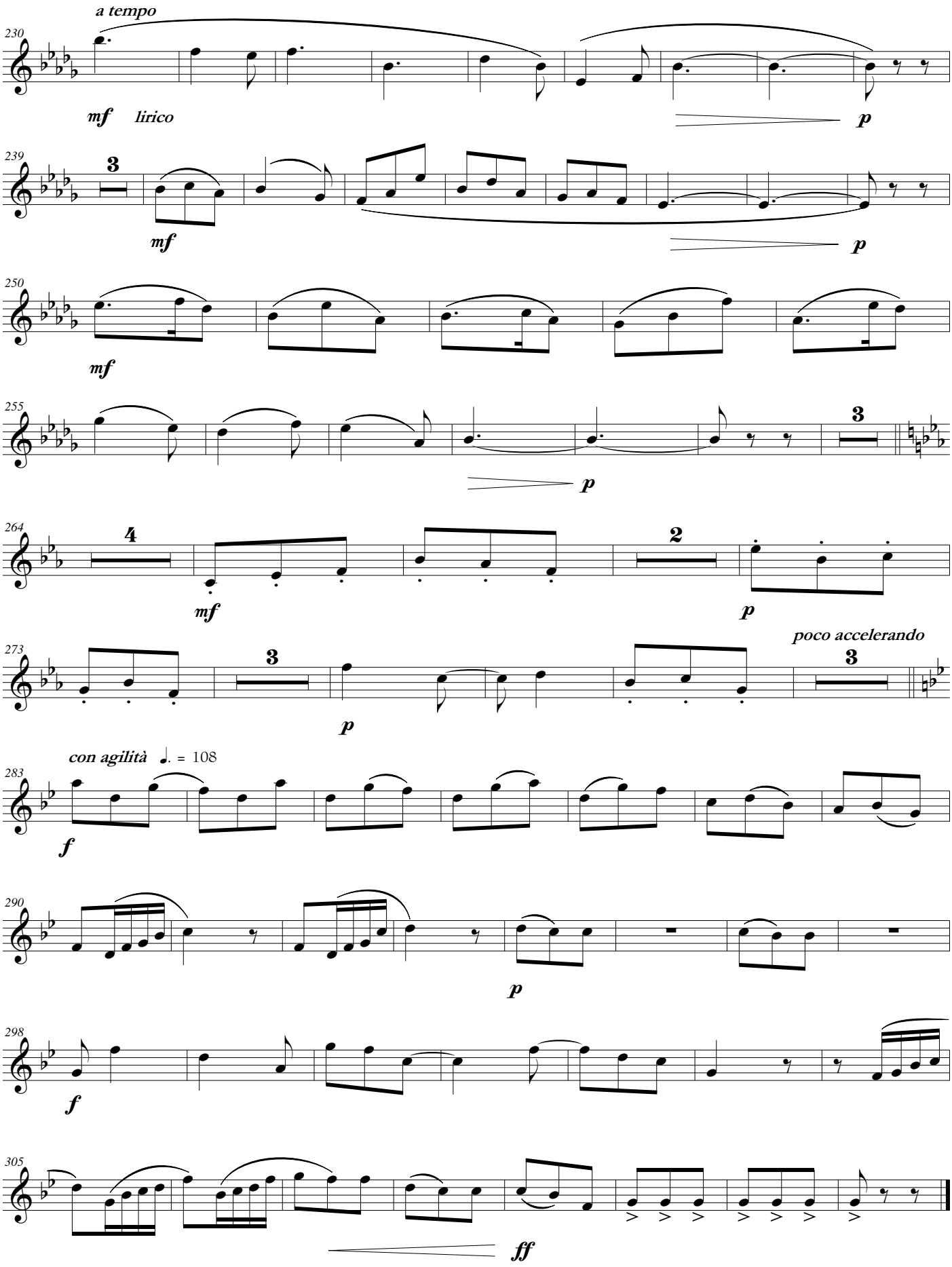

67
mp
mf
75
81
3
4
(piano cue)
(5)
(6)
p
92
f
poco ritenuto
subito più mosso ♩ = 120
98
3
3
capriccioso
105
mp
mf
mp
110
2
f
116
5
mf
125
130
3
f
137
2
2
f


144
mf
149
155
3
f
161
mf
3
poco ritenuto
(4)
Tempo primo ♩. = 90
169
p
175
181
7
mf
193
201
3
11
(piano cue)
(12)
(13)
217
mf
222
3
ritenuto
(4)


a tempo
230
mf lirico
p
239
3
mf
p
250
mf
255
3
p
264
4
mf
2
p
273
poco accelerando
3
3
p
con agilità ♩. = 108
283
f
290
p
298
f
305
ff

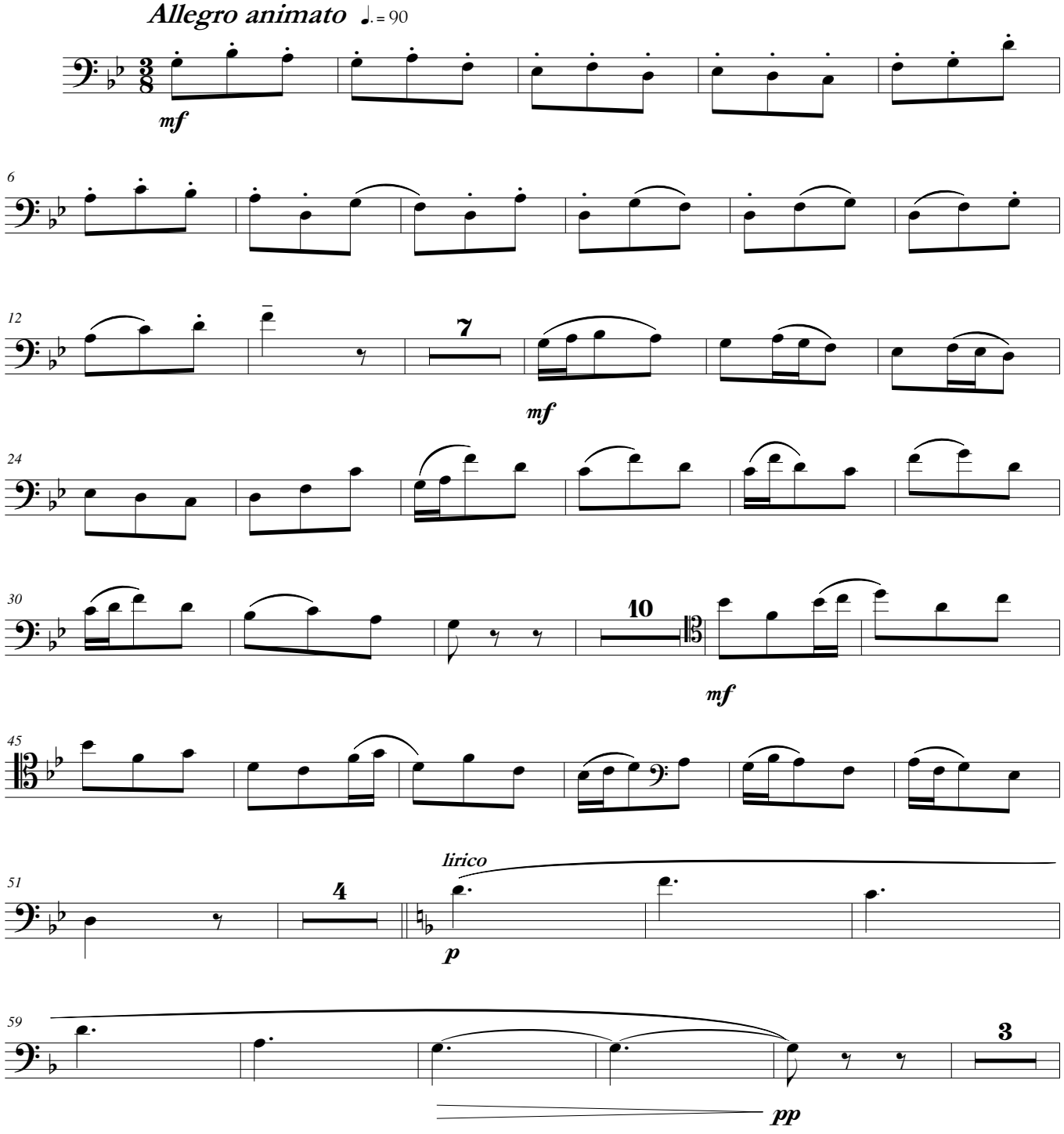
for Jennifer Paull

Portraits from La Commedia dell'Arte

I PUNCHINELLO'S SCHERZINO

Bassoon

Walter Ross
(b.1936)



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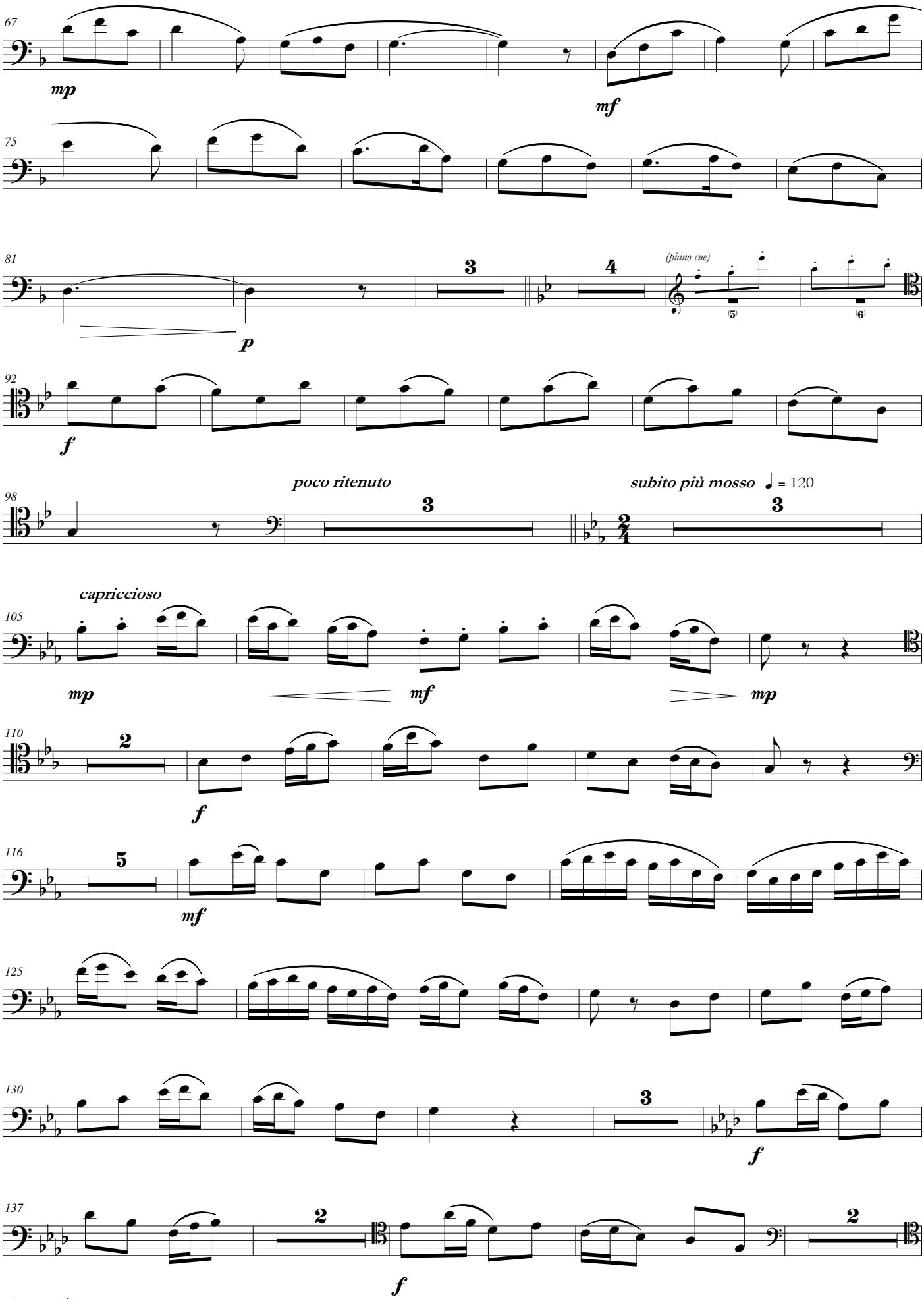
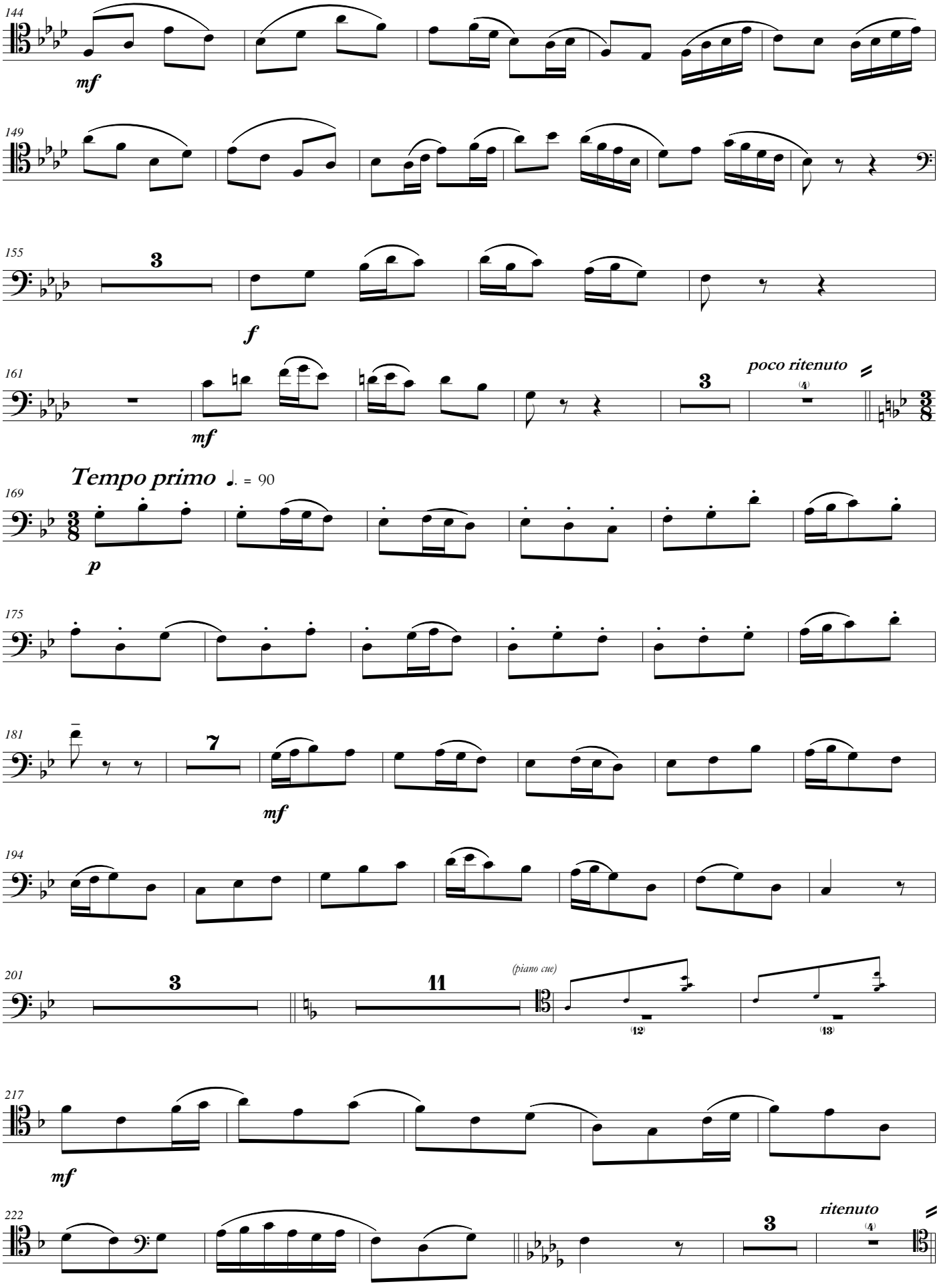
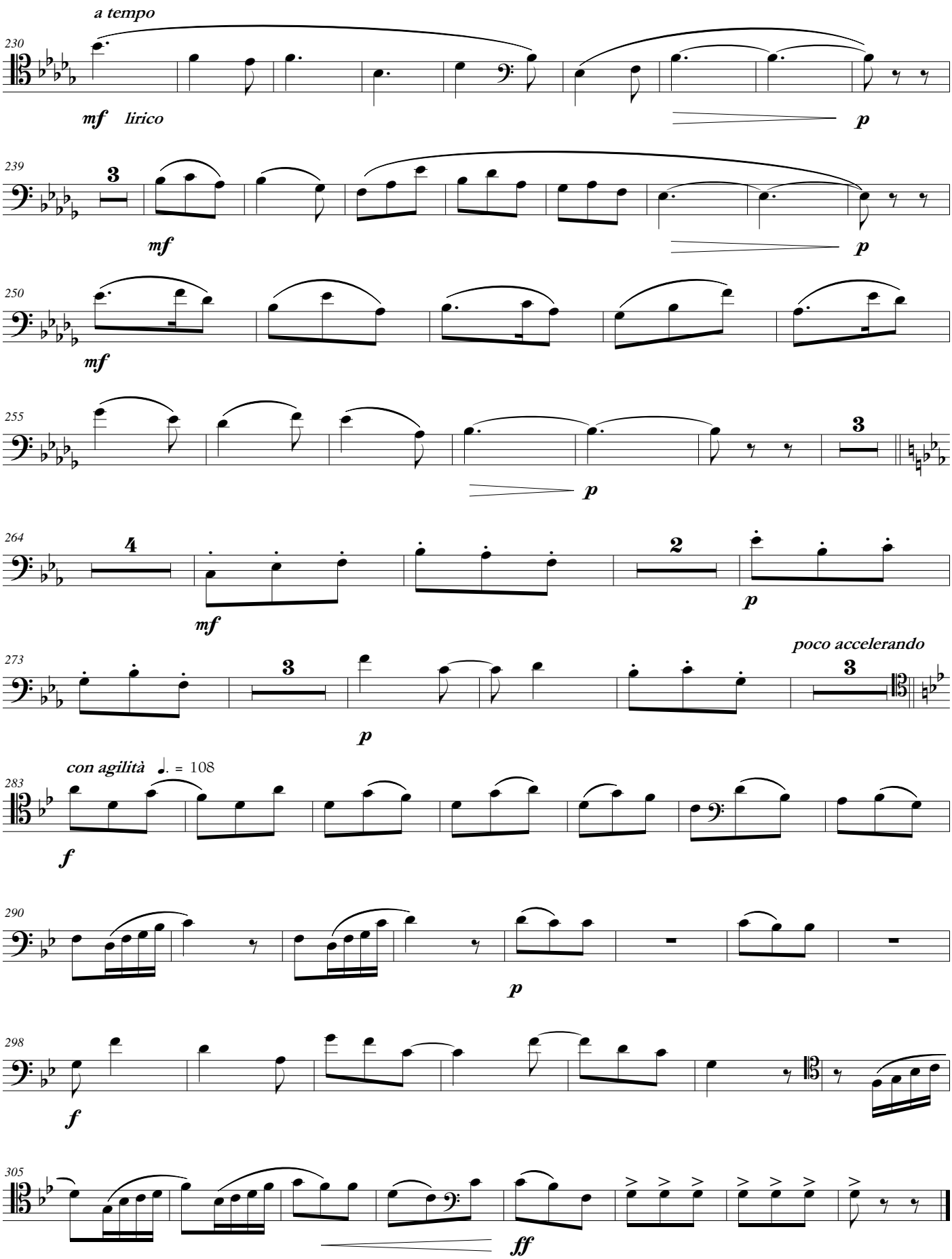

67
mp
mf
75
81
3
4
(piano cue)
(5)
(6)
p
92
f
98
poco ritenuto
3
subito più mosso ♩ = 120
3
capriccioso
105
mp
mf
mp
110
2
f
116
5
mf
125
130
3
f
137
2
2
f


144
mf
149
155
3
f
161
mf
3
poco ritenuto
(4)
Tempo primo ♩. = 90
169
p
175
181
7
mf
194
201
3
11
(piano cue)
(12)
(13)
217
mf
222
3
ritenuto
(4)


a tempo
230
mf lirico
p
239
3
mf
p
250
mf
255
3
p
264
4
mf
2
p
poco accelerando
273
3
p
3
con agilità ♩. = 108
283
f
290
p
298
f
305
ff