W. Jay Sydeman

Canons

for Brass Quartet

(2012)

Arts Aeternum

Canons for brass… not the type that go *boom* fortunately. This is a favorite form of mine – so strict, so precise, everybody does the same thing but at different times, the art both of how they combine harmonically while making a whopping good tune. No easy task, but fun fun to play, fun to hear. The last one is perhaps the most inventive, both in the material and its development; it finally does stray from the strict canonic form. A well-deserved liberation, enjoyed fully!

– W. Jay Sydeman, January 2013

W. Jay Sydeman's life mirrors the breadth and variety of his music. Born in New York in 1928 and educated at Manhattan's Mannes School of Music, he quickly became one of the most sought-after and honored composers of his generation, receiving commissions from such prestigious groups as the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Tanglewood Music Center, and the Boston Symphony, which premiered his orchestral work in memory of John F. Kennedy in 1966. "Sydeman uses a whole battery of far out techniques," wrote the *New York Times*, "but he has an uncanny ability to throw in the whole avant-garde machinery as if it were the simplest, most normal way of making music in the world ... More than many of his colleagues, he seems to know what will sound well, and he works for some remarkably attractive, pure textures. His sounds seem to grow from a physical sense of exactly what material is right."

In 1970, after a heady period that included awards from the National institute of Arts and Letters, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Library of Congress, Sydeman left New York – and composition – to begin a journey of personal and artistic exploration.

"Around 1980," he has written, "I returned to composition – at first a large number of choral works which reconnected me to the source of all music – the human voice. Out of this new lyric impulse have evolved all of my works since that time – more romantic, more accessible. I create music for the musician."

– Howard Hersh,
Artistic Director of "Music Now"

Sydeman is part of a composers' group in Nevada City annually producing the "Wet Ink Festival of New Music." He now lives in Mendocino and hosts a bi-weekly program on KZYX, "The Mind of a Composer," 10 am to noon on Mondays, introducing and commenting on contemporary music.

Duration:
I. Andante – circa 2:00
II. Poco andante – circa 2:15
III. Andante – circa 2:00

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Edited and engraved by Rick Shinozaki (Albany, CA), consulting with the composer.

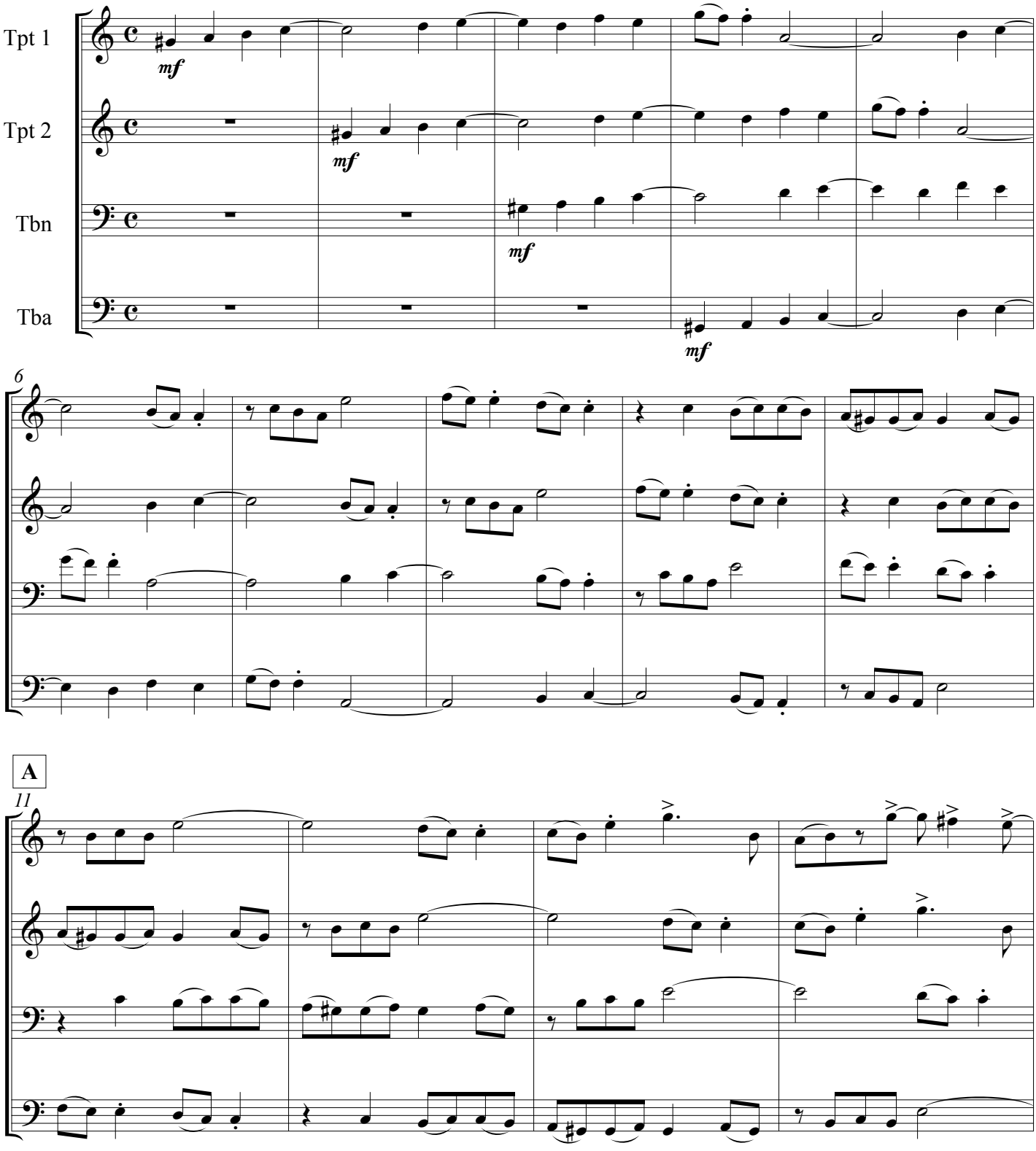
Score

Canons
for Brass Quartet
I.

W. Jay Sydeman
(c. 1984)

(Concert pitch)

Andante ♩ = c. 72



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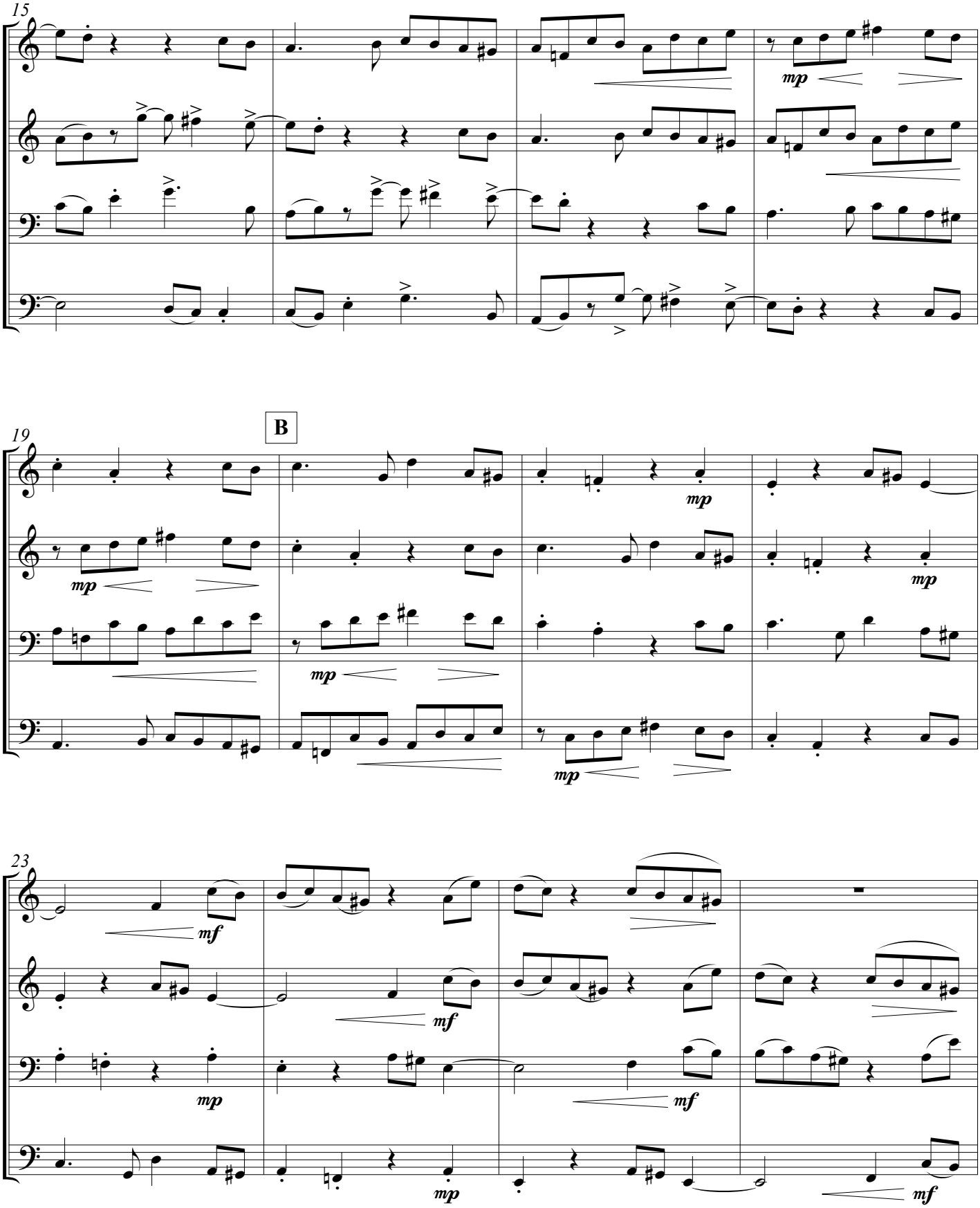
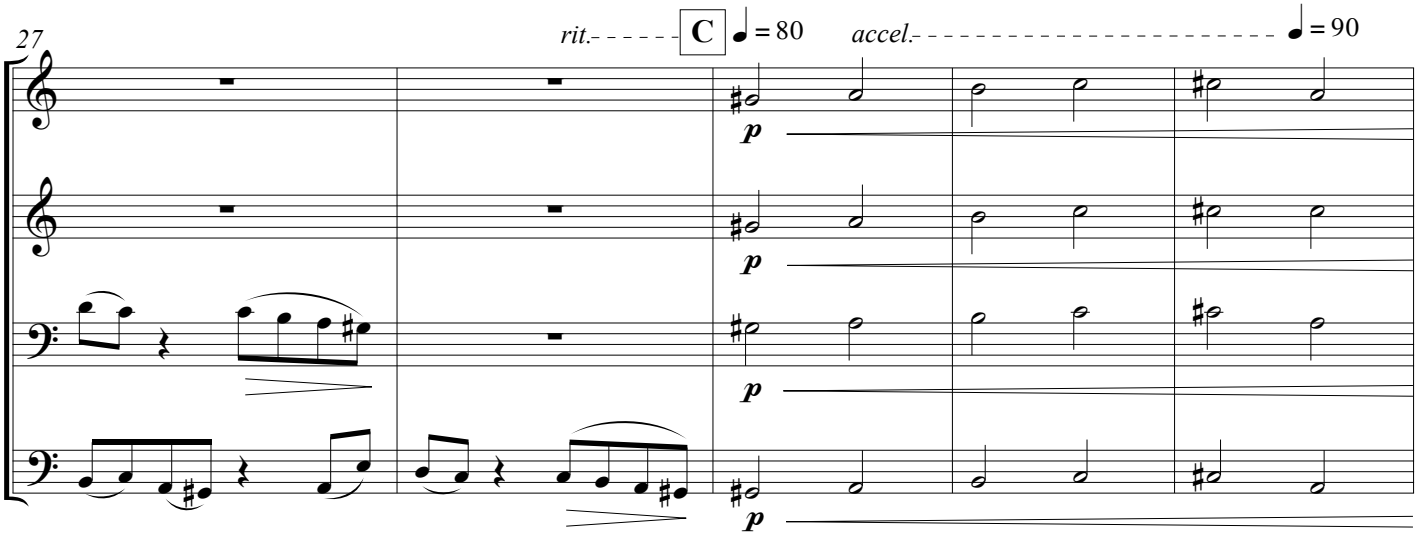
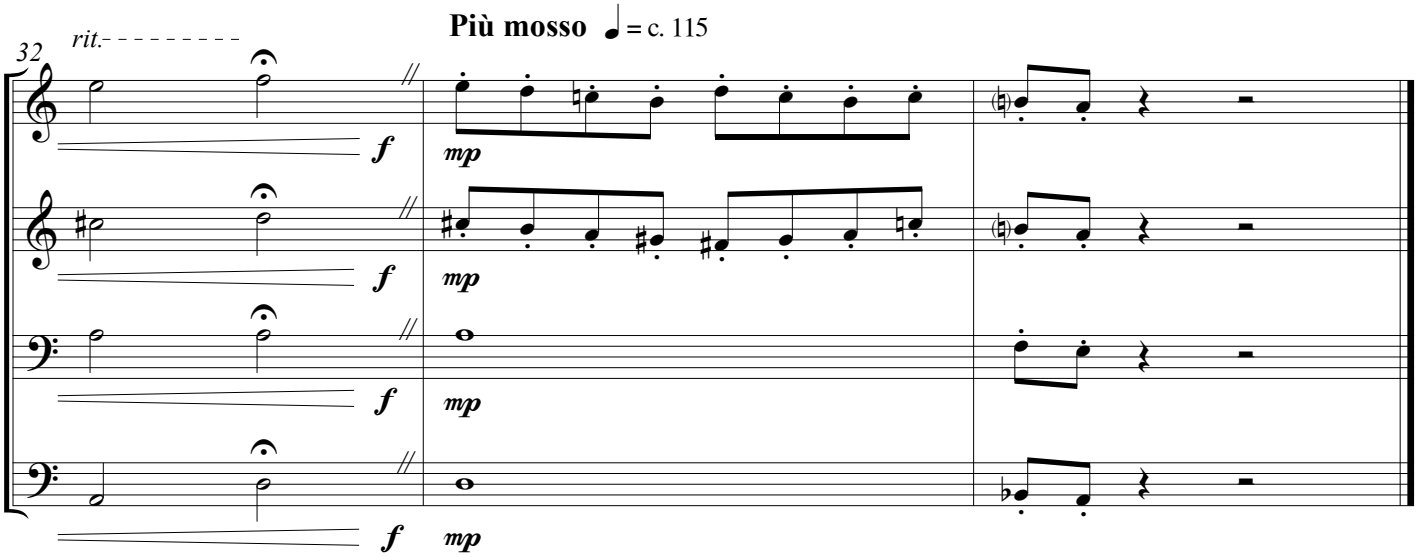
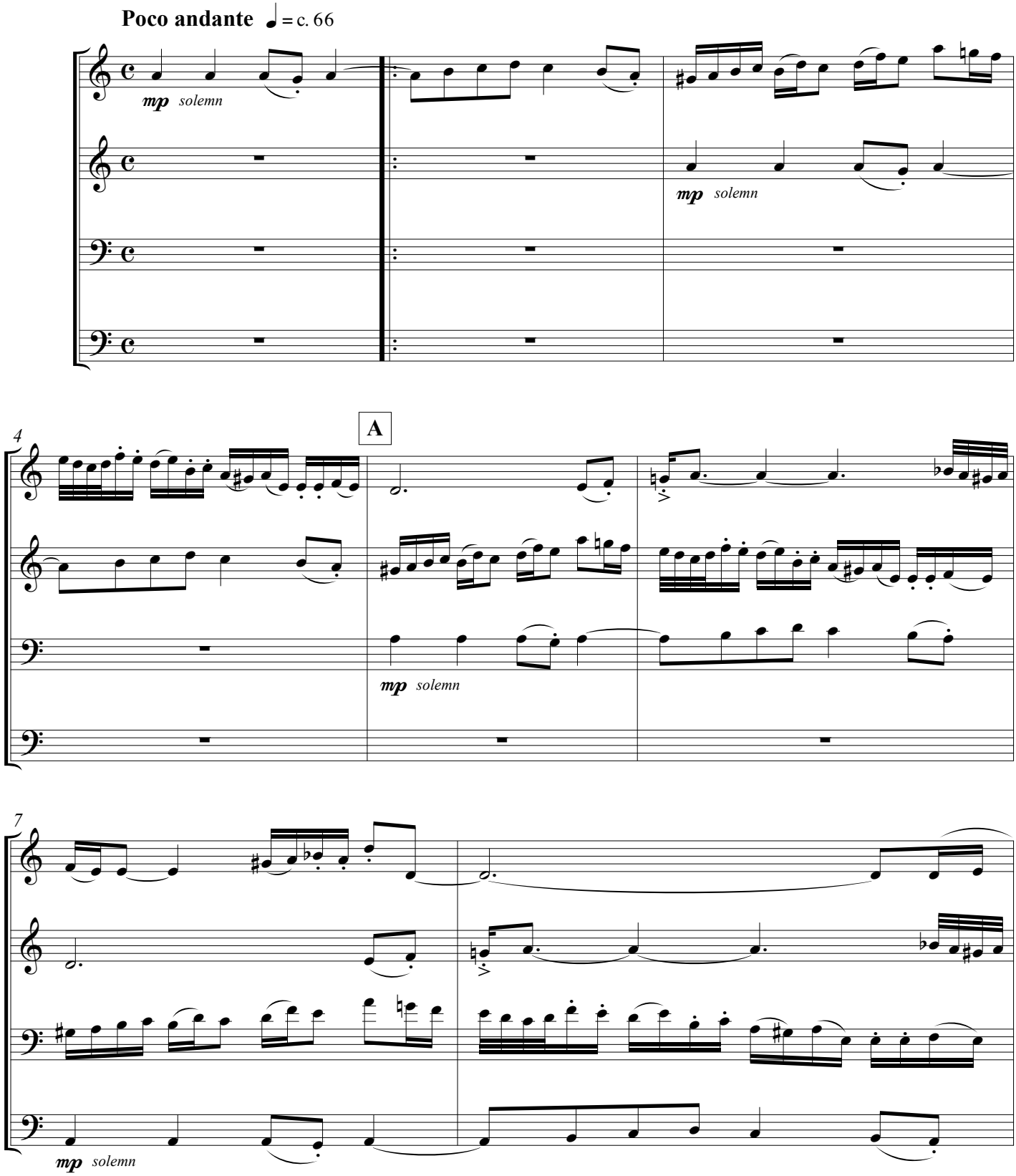
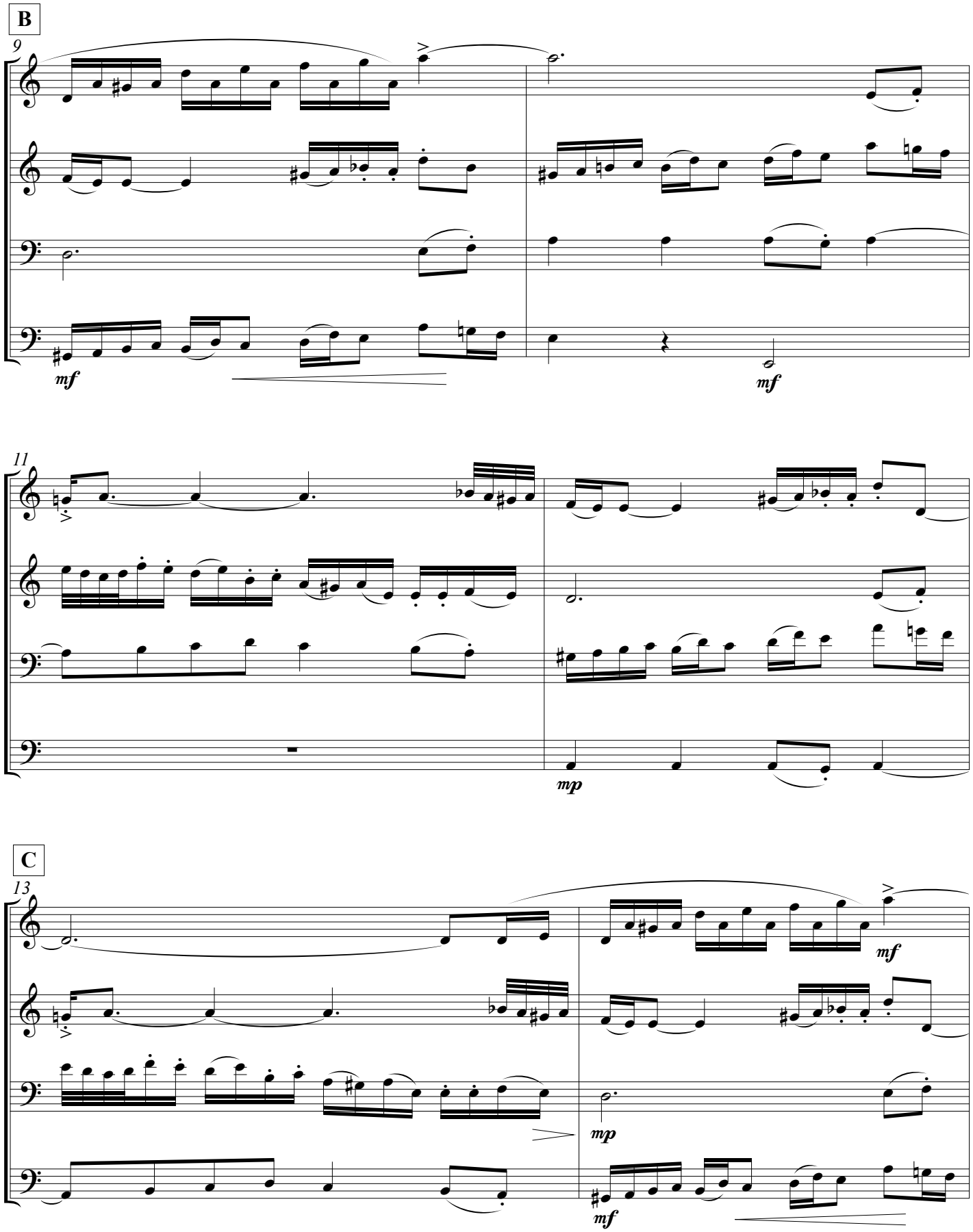

15
mp
19
B
mp
mp
mp
mp
23
mf
mf
mp
mf
mp
mf

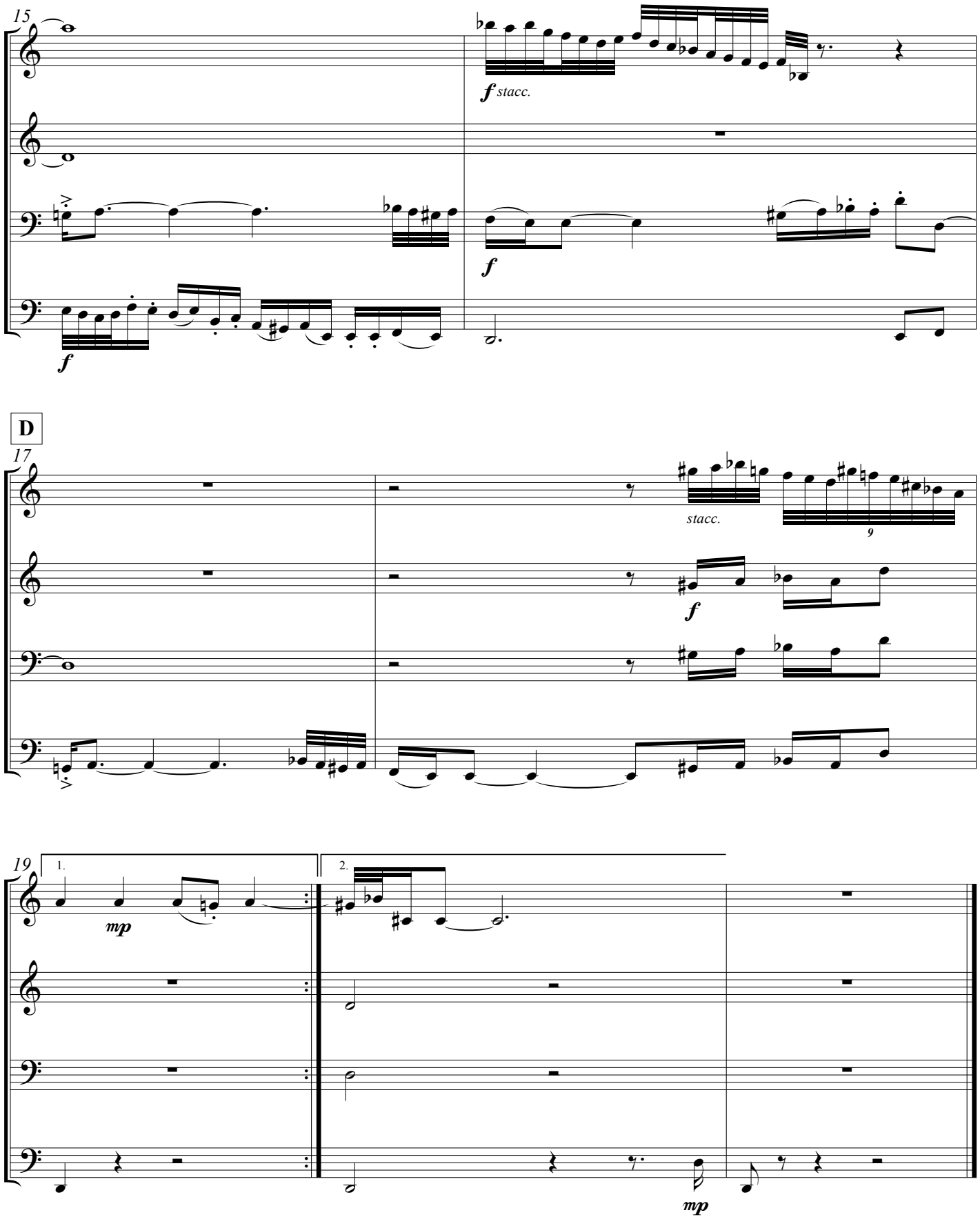

27
rit.
C
= 80
accel.
= 90
p
p
p
p


32
rit.
Più mosso
= c. 115
f
mp
f
mp
f
mp
f
mp

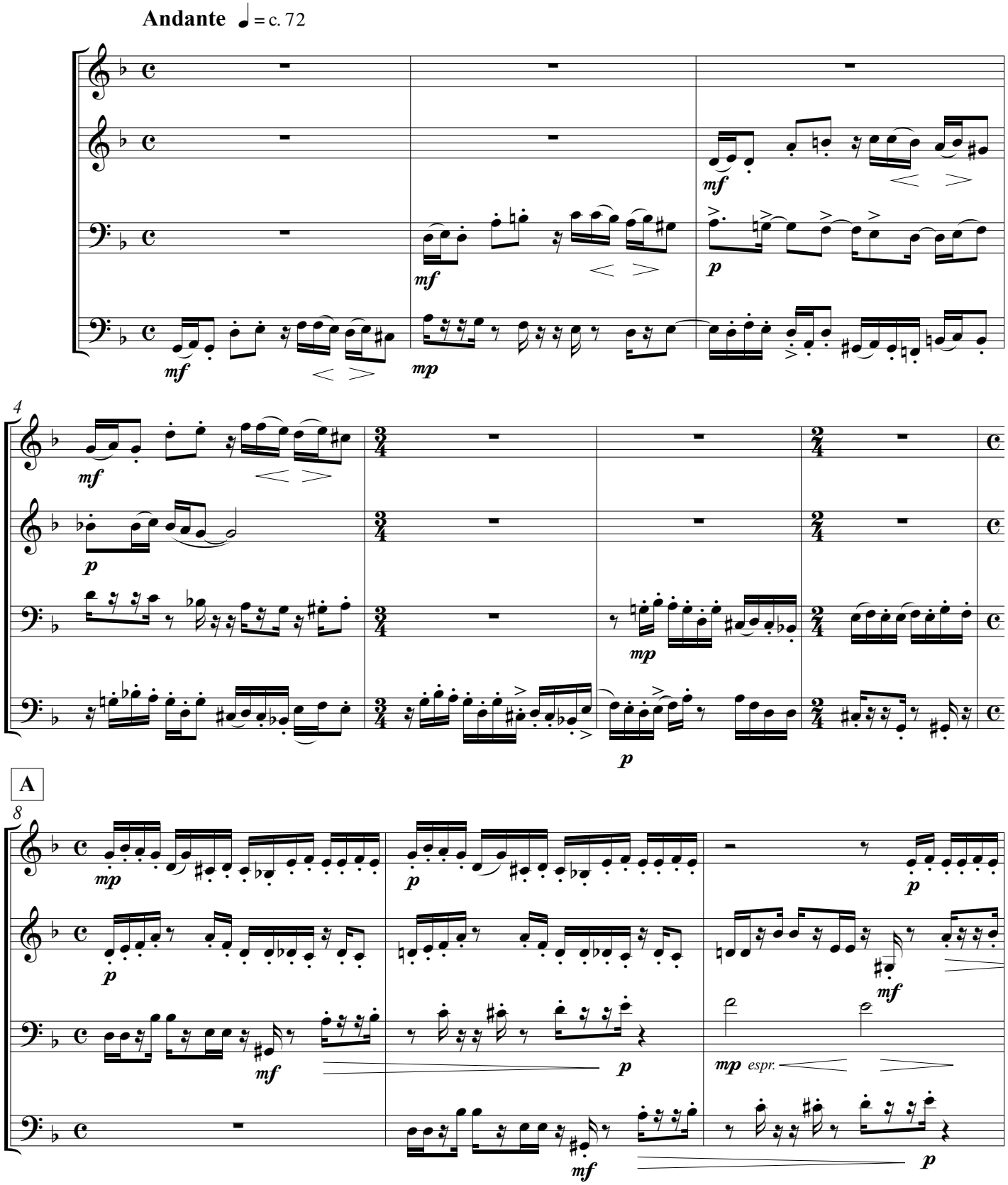
II.

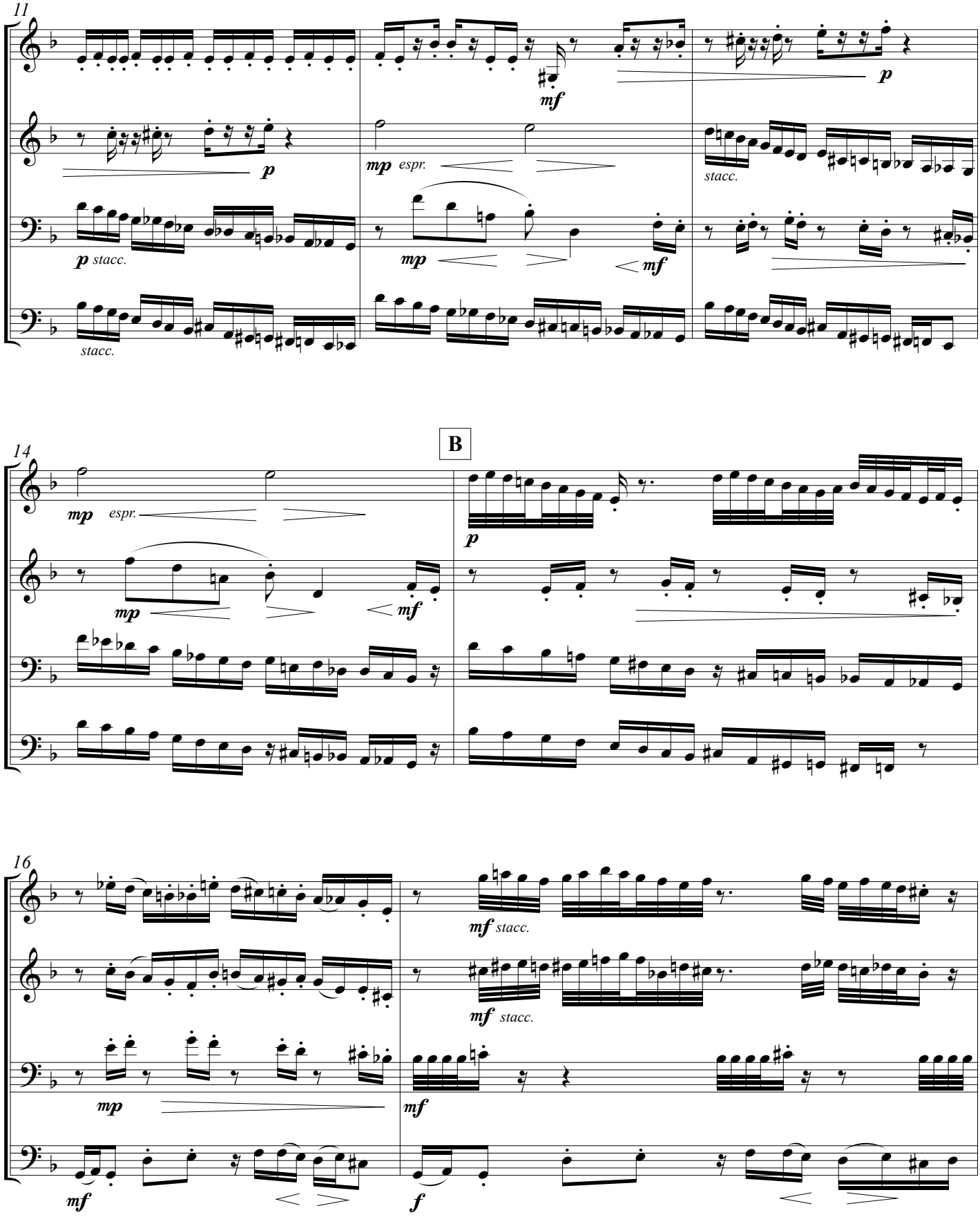


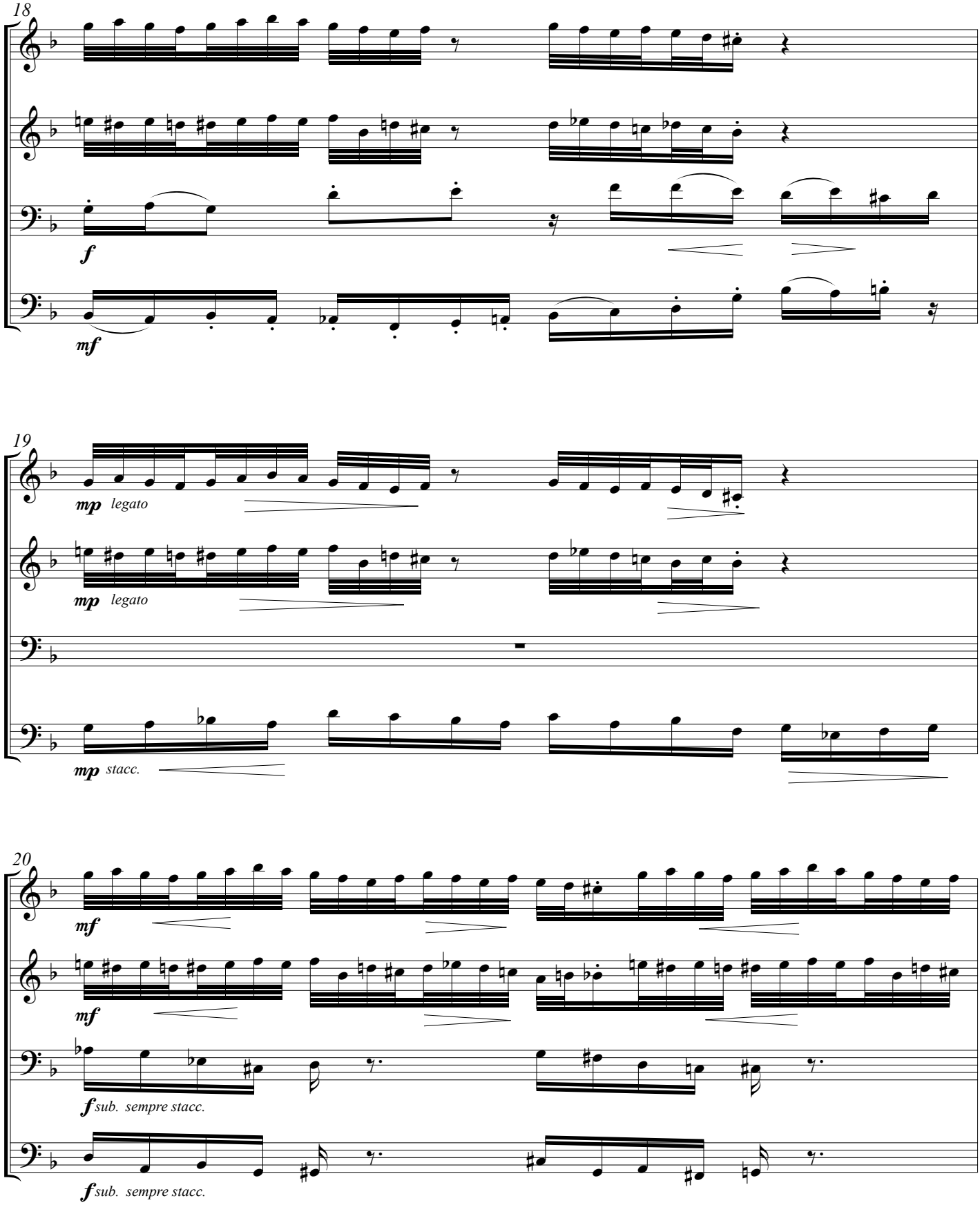

B
9
mf
mf
11
mp
C
13
mf
mp
mf

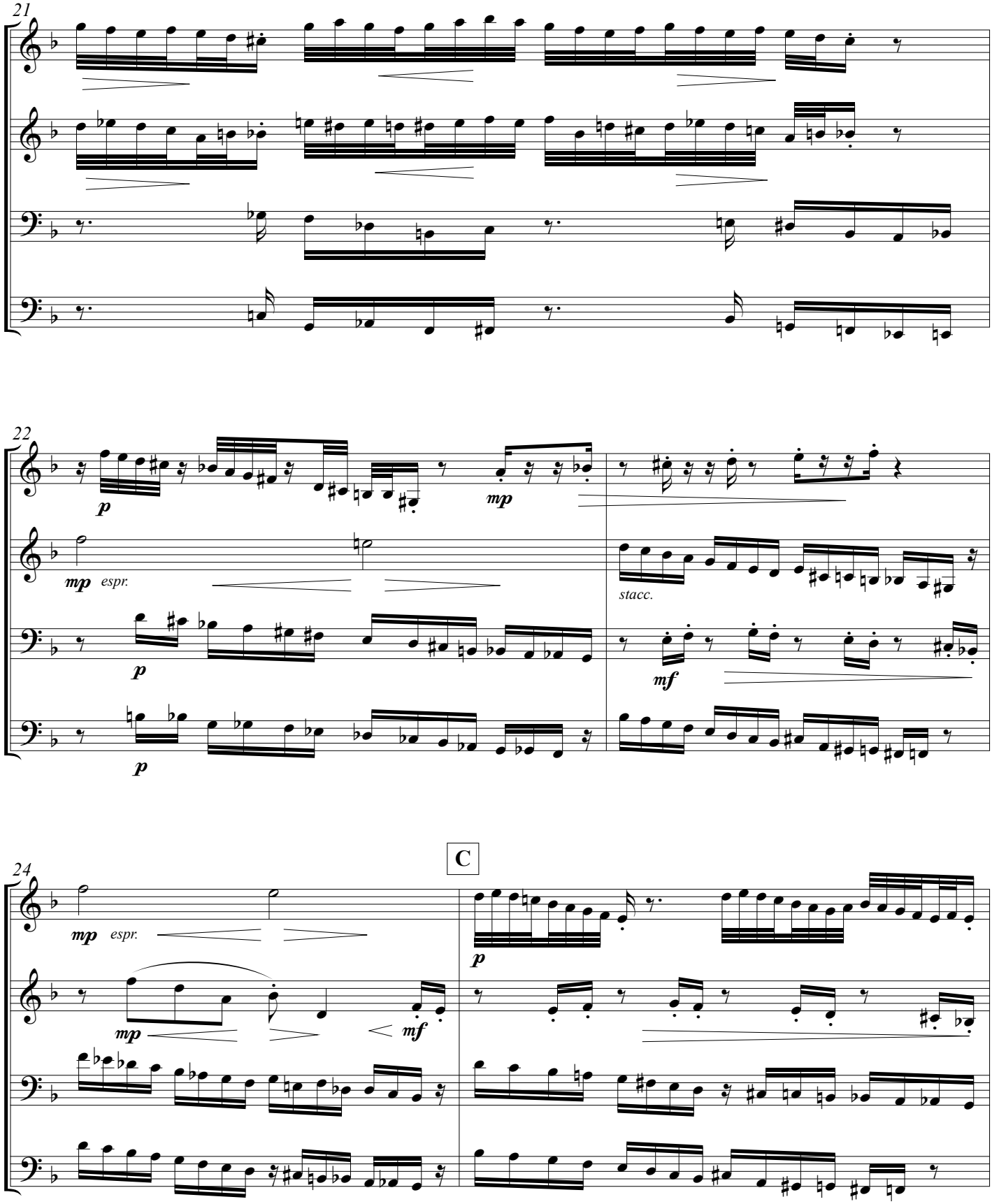

15
f stacc.
f
f
D
17
stacc.
9
f
19
1.
2.
mp
mp

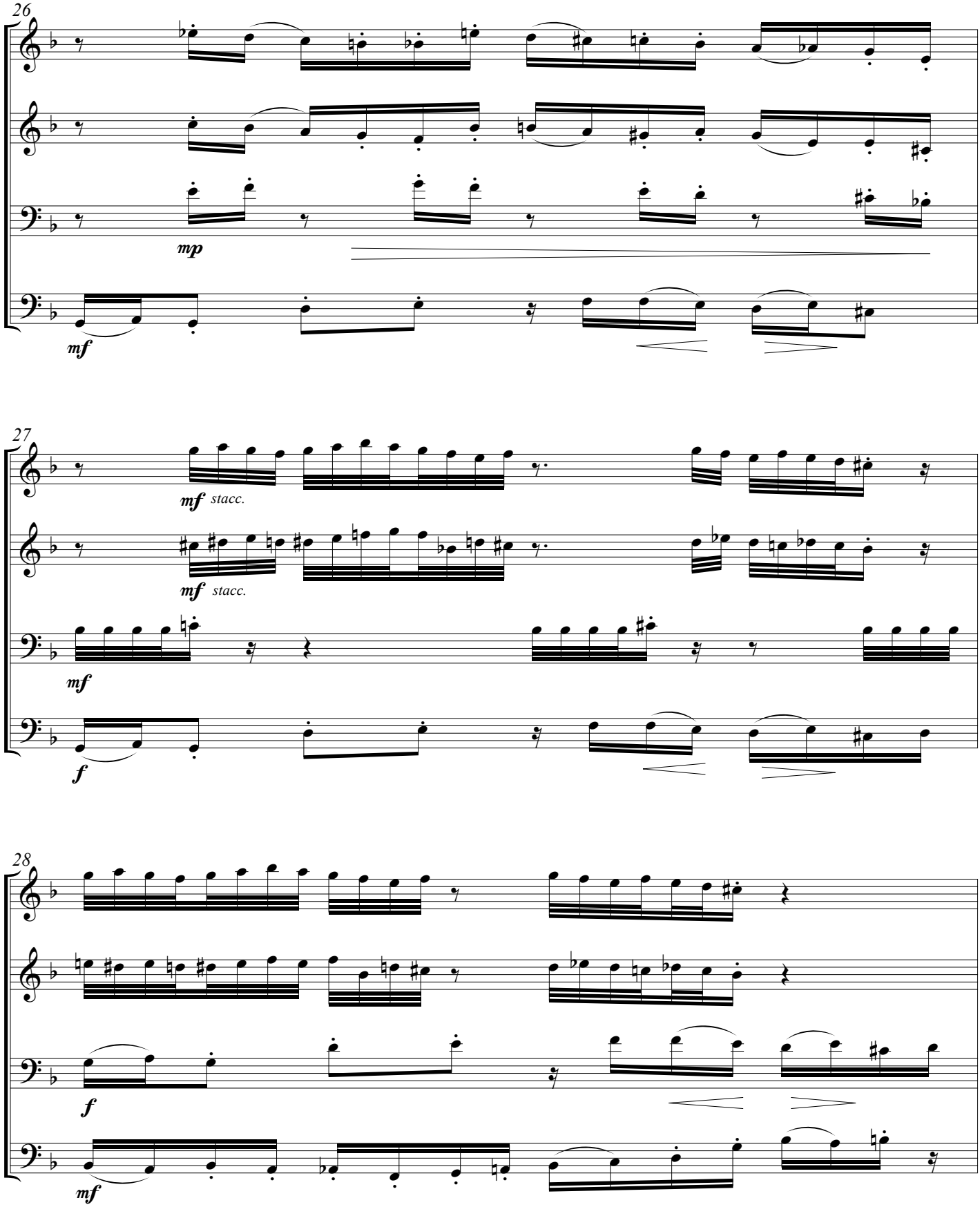
III.

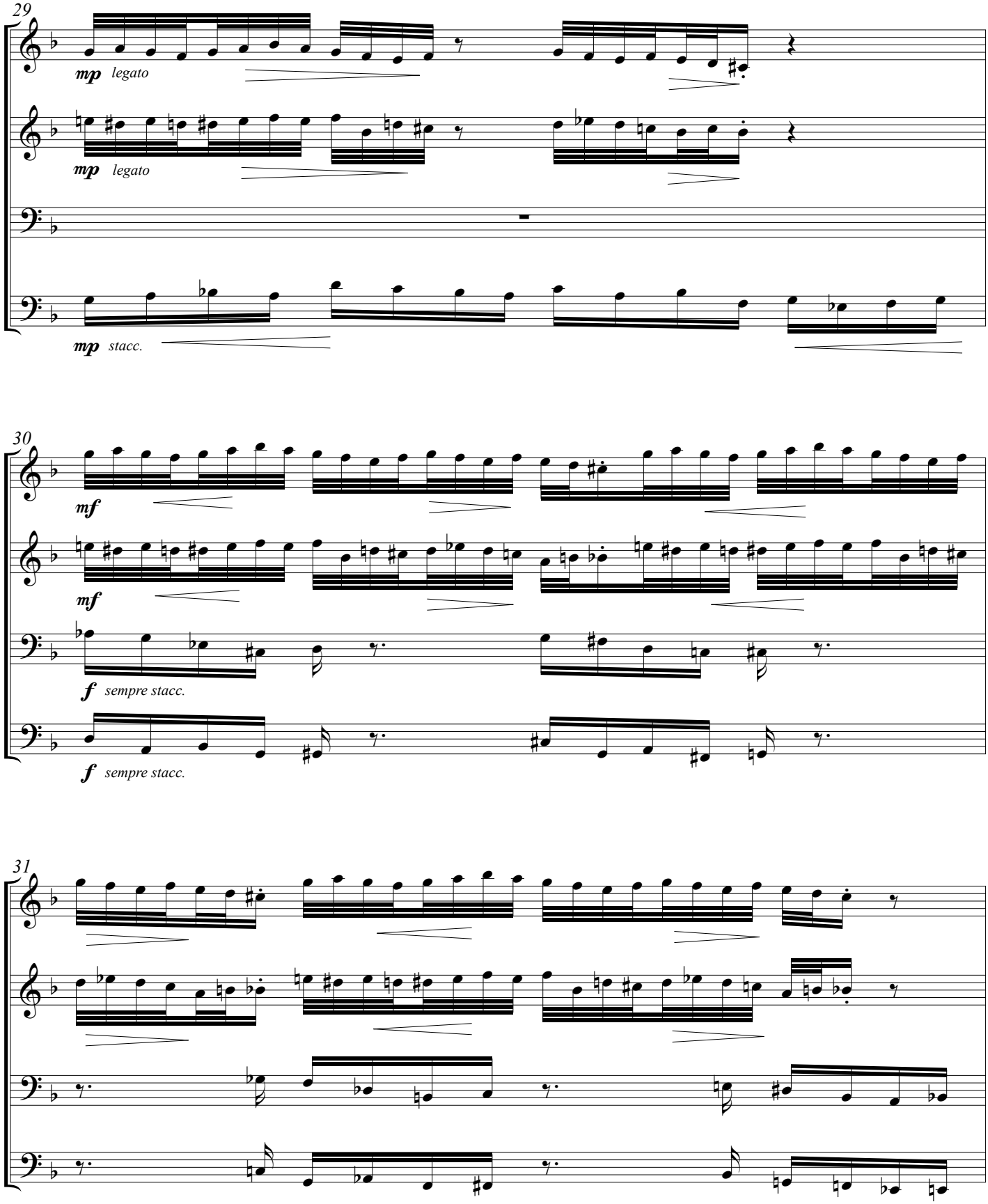


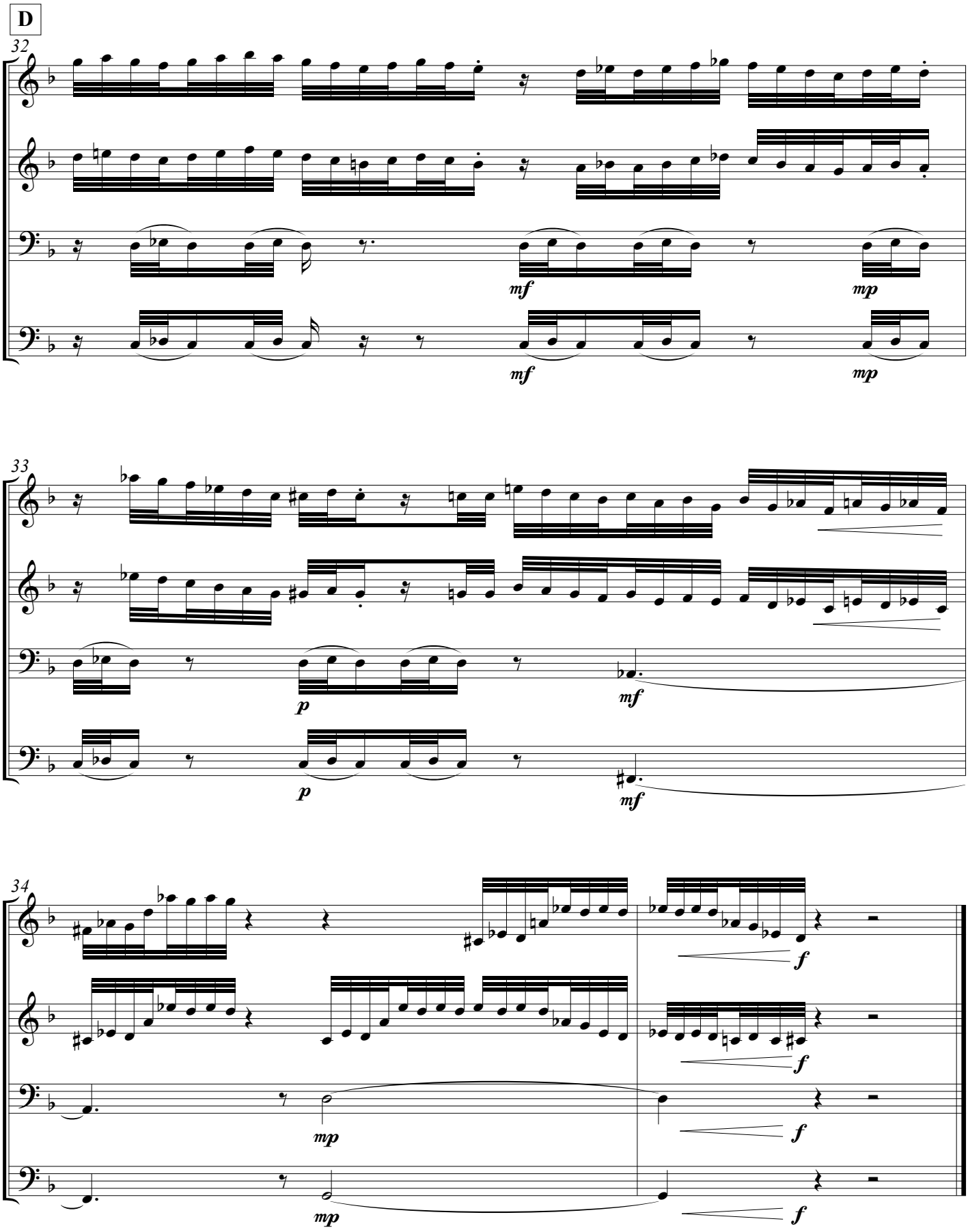

11
mf
p
p
mp espr.
stacc.
p stacc.
mp
mf
stacc.
B
14
mp espr.
p
mp
mf
16
mf stacc.
mf stacc.
mp
mf
mf
f


18
f
mf
19
mp legato
mp legato
mp stacc.
20
mf
mf
f sub. sempre stacc.
f sub. sempre stacc.


21
22
p
mp
mp espr.
stacc.
mf
C
24
mp espr.
p
mp
mf


26
mp
mf
27
mf stacc.
mf stacc.
mf
f
28
f
mf


29
mp legato
mp legato
mp stacc.
30
mf
mf
f sempre stacc.
f sempre stacc.
31


D
32
mf
mp
mf
mp
33
p
mf
p
mf
34
f
f
mp
f
mp
f