Michael Kimber

# Violas on Fire!

for viola quartet

SoundpointMusic
Iowa City, Iowa USA

Commissioned by Angela Baucom and the Firewood Quartet

If you thought nothing could follow *Violapalooza* or the infamous *Viola Fight Song*, consider *Violas on Fire!* Inspired by the Firewood Quartet and what makes a viola different from (better than?) a violin (it burns longer!!!), this outrageous concoction of sounds will leave your audience screaming (for more?)! Duration 3-1/2 scary minutes.

Also available in a version for viola solo with string orchestra (if you dare!).

**Please do not photocopy this music!**
Additional copies, as well as the orchestra score and parts,
are available promptly and at a ridiculously reasonable price
from the composer:

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SCORE

(See note at end.)

*For the Firewood Quartet*

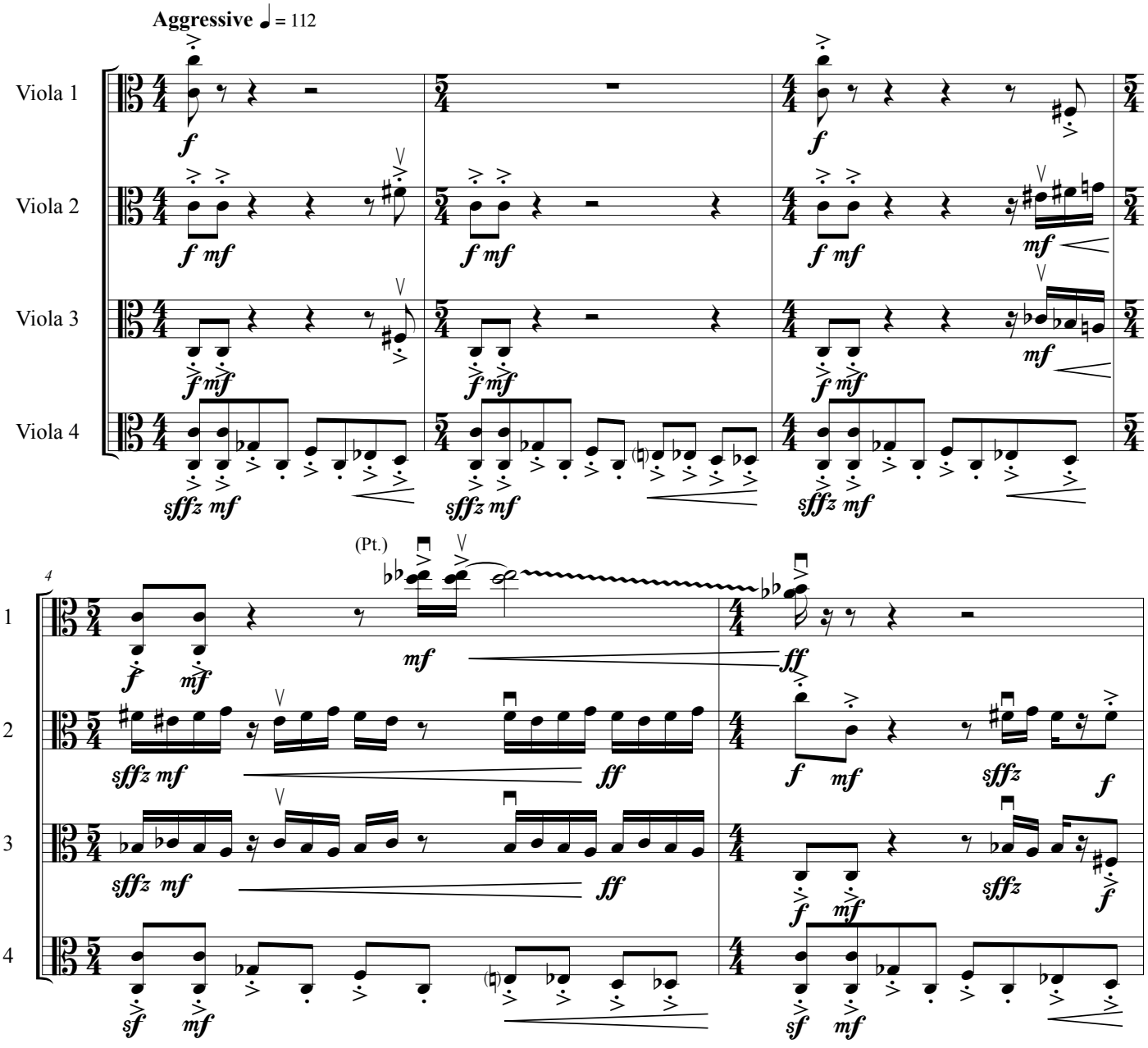
# *Violas on Fire!*

"You've got to be kidding! You really don't know
the difference between a violin and a viola?"

"No, honest, I don't! What is it?"

"The viola ***burns longer!!!"*** [Segue subito!]

Michael Kimber

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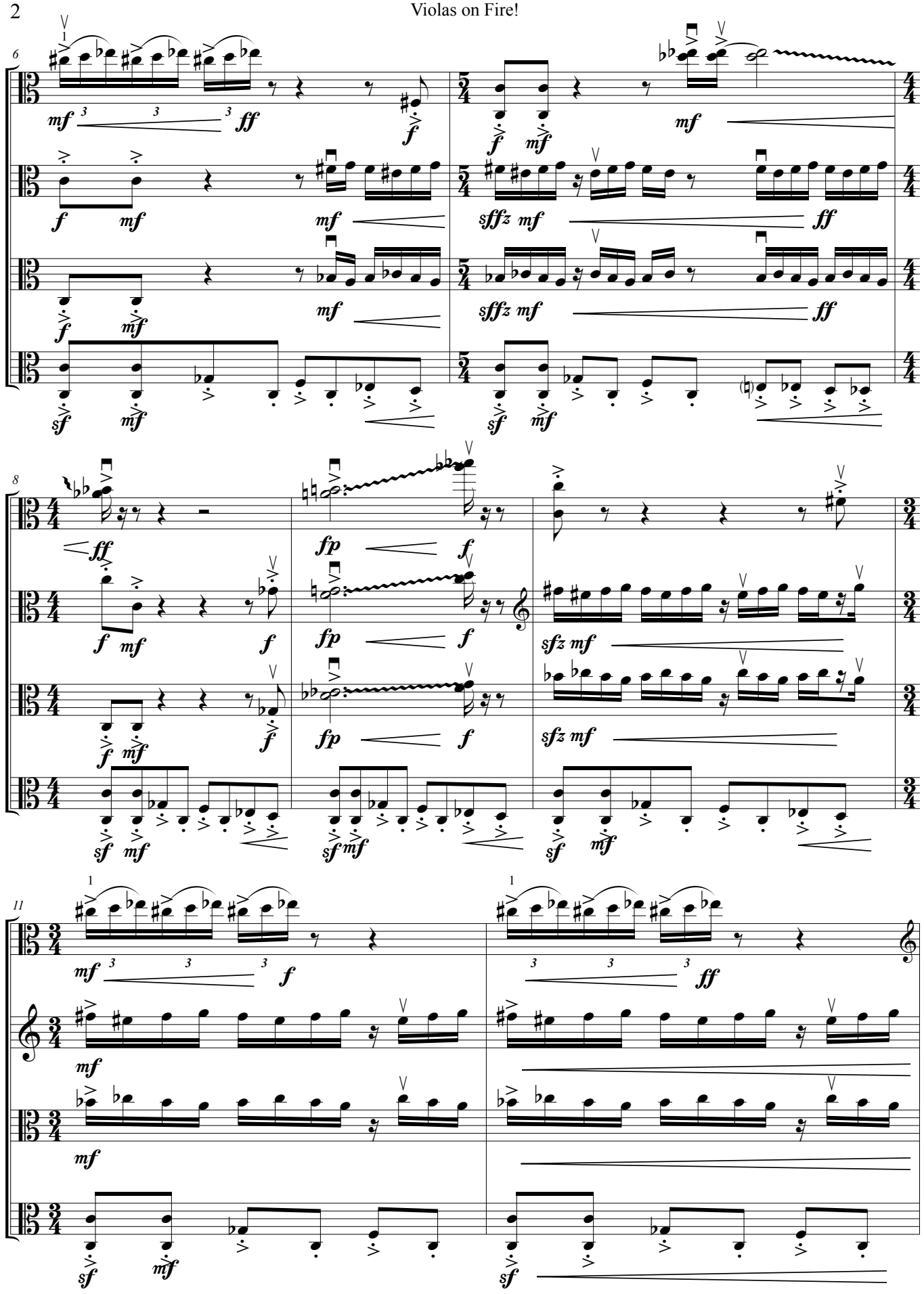
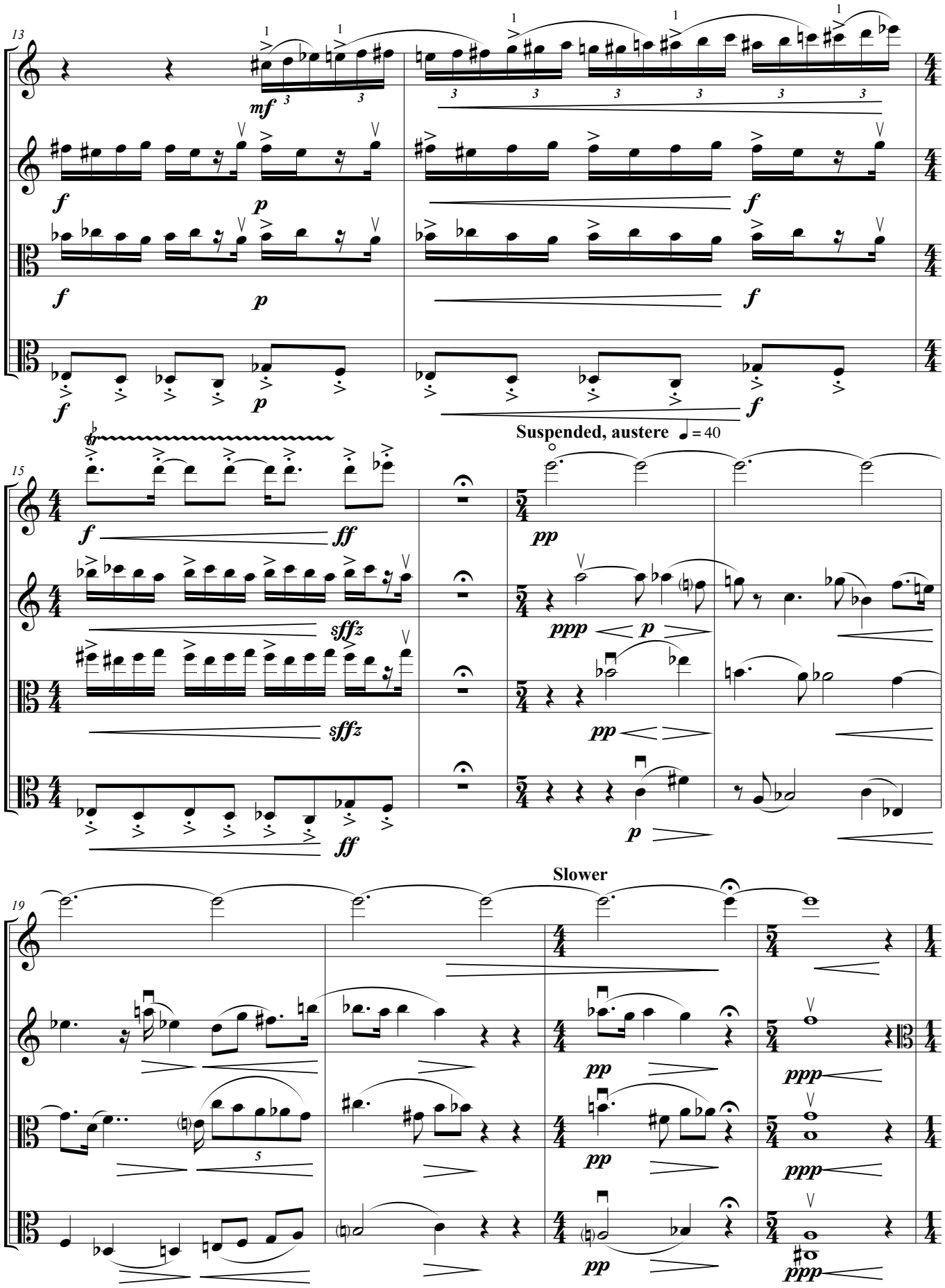
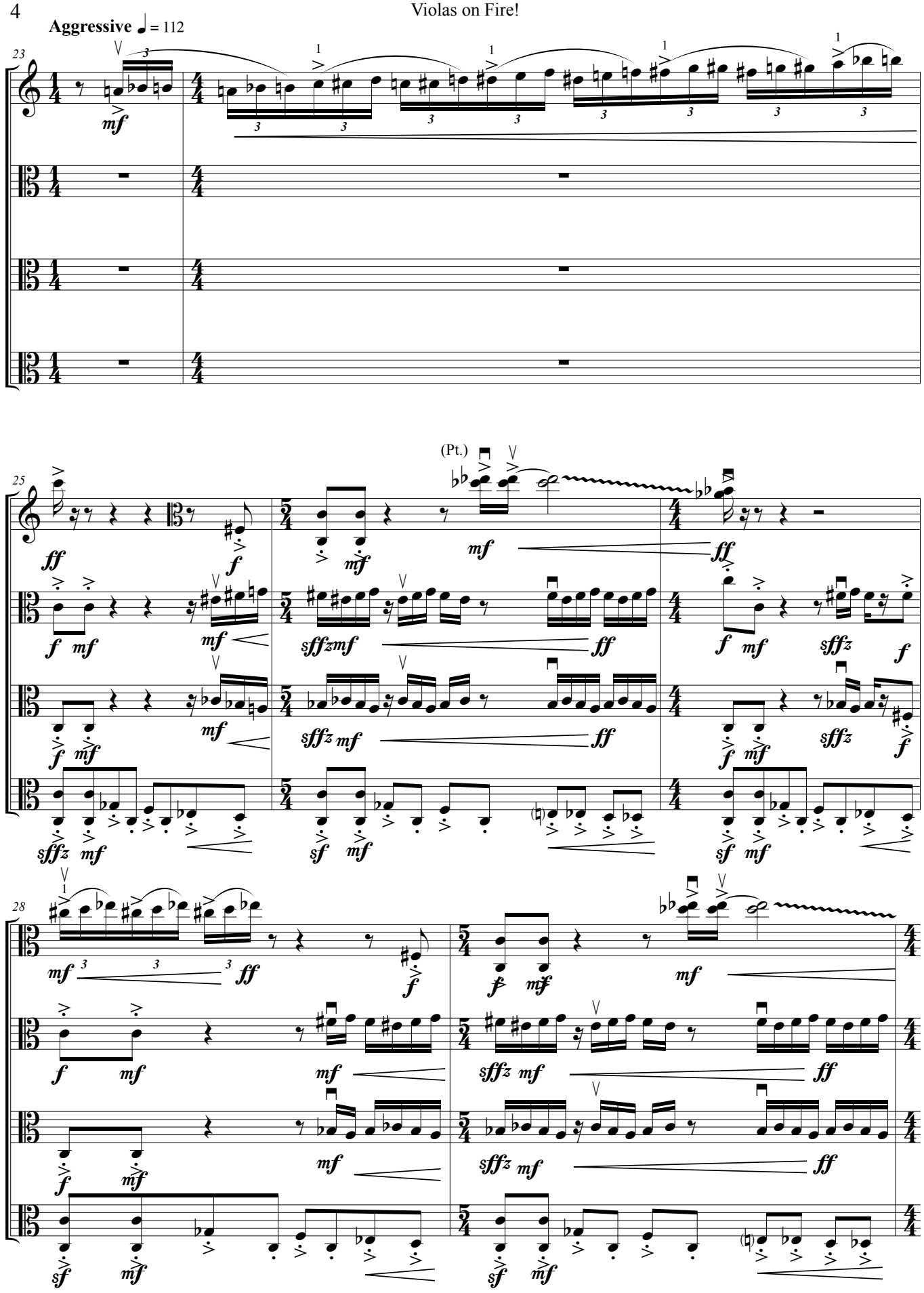
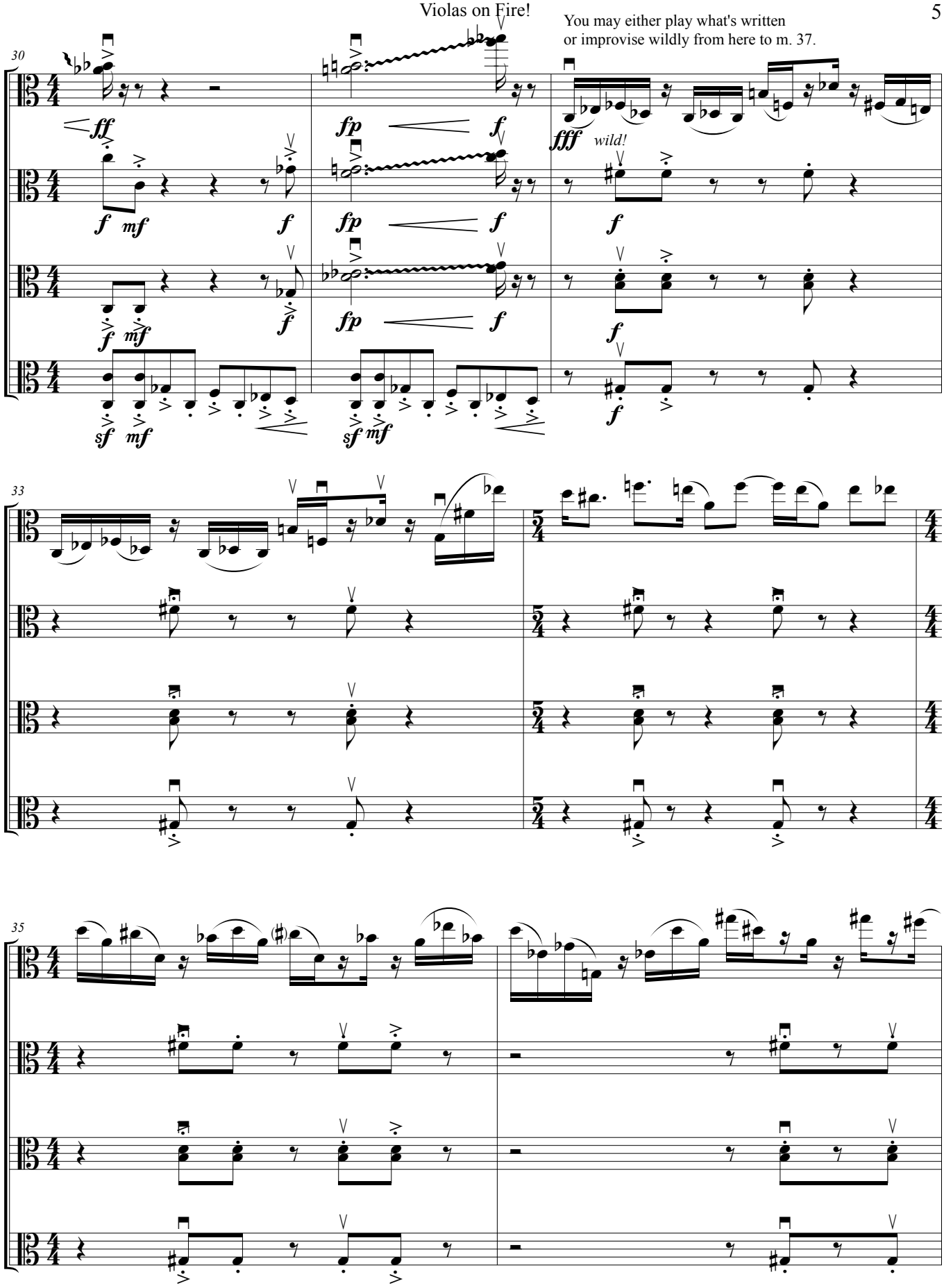
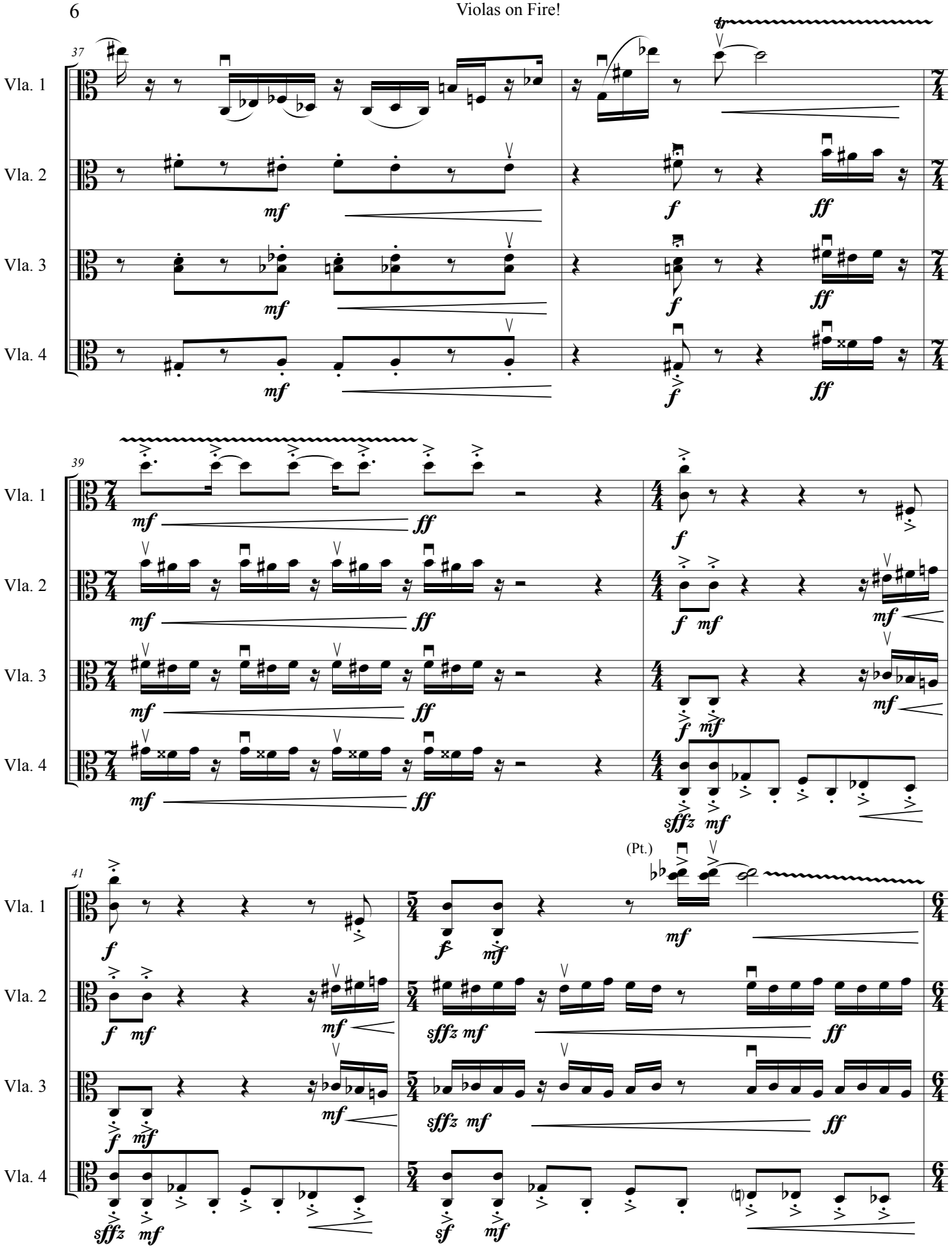

Vla. 1
Vla. 2
Vla. 3
Vla. 4

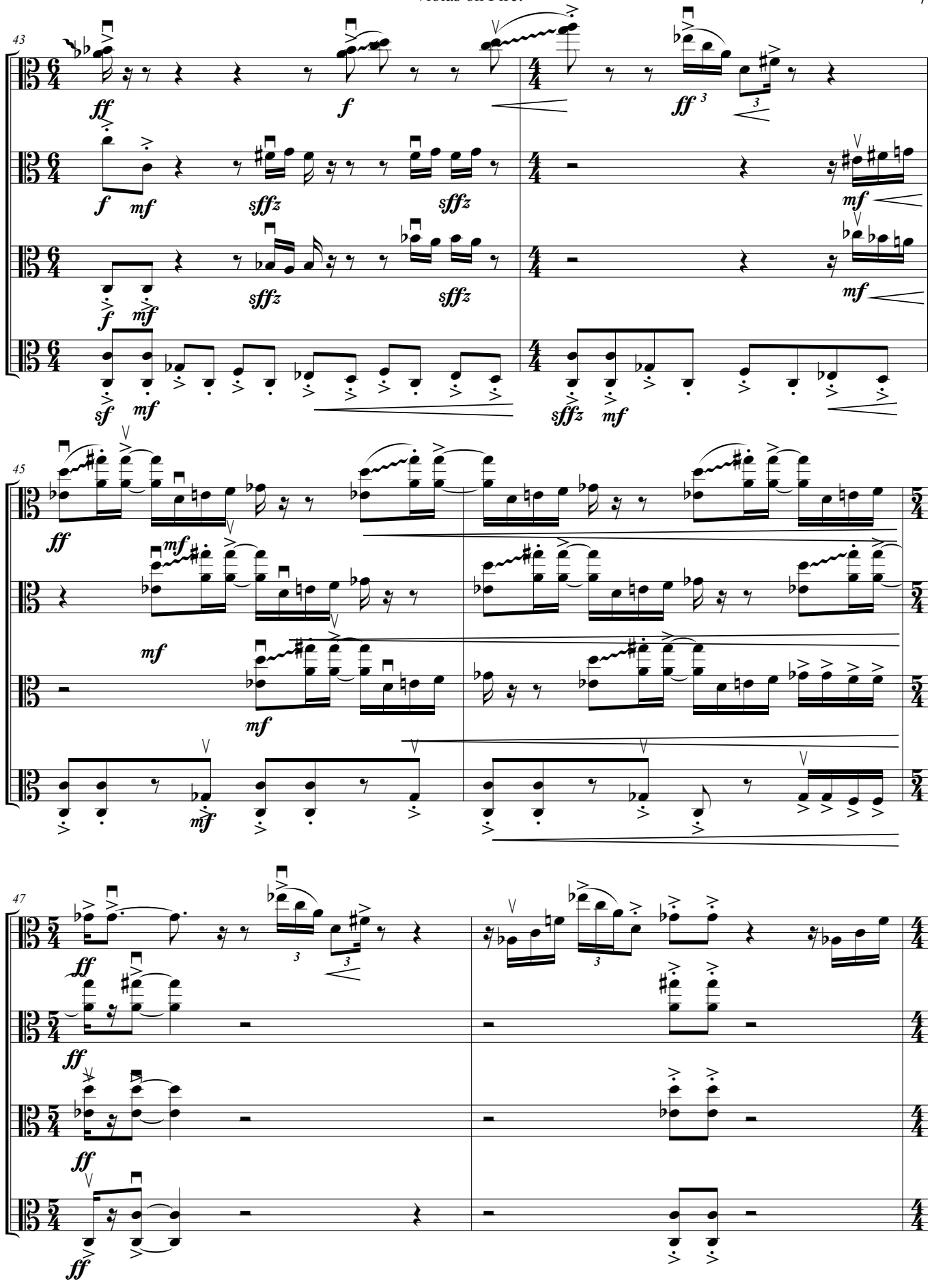

13
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
Vla. 3
Vla. 4
mf
f
p
15
Suspended, austere ♩ = 40
ff
sfffz
pp
ppp
19
Slower

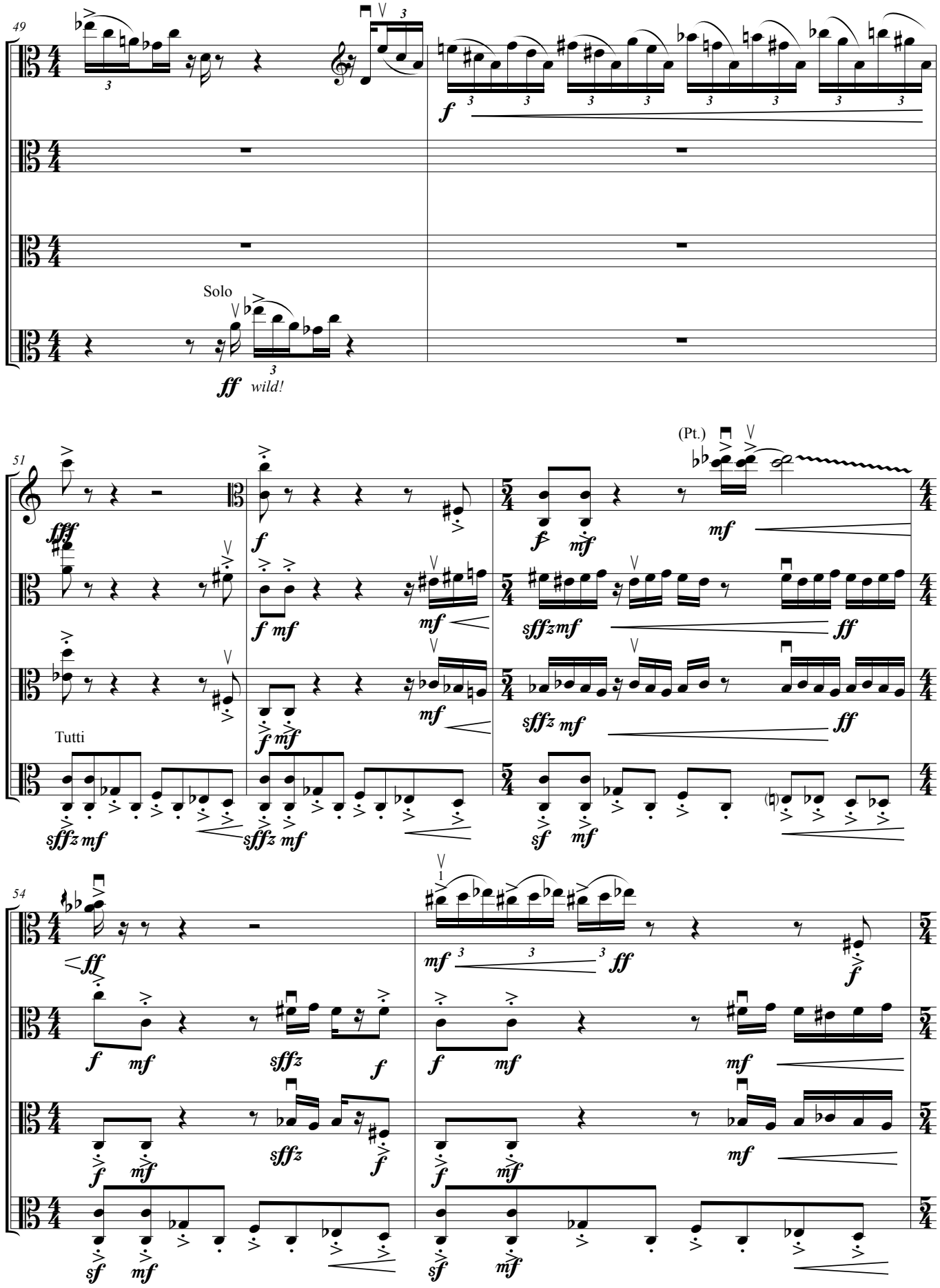

Aggressive ♩ = 112
23
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
Vla. 3
Vla. 4
(Pt.)
25
28

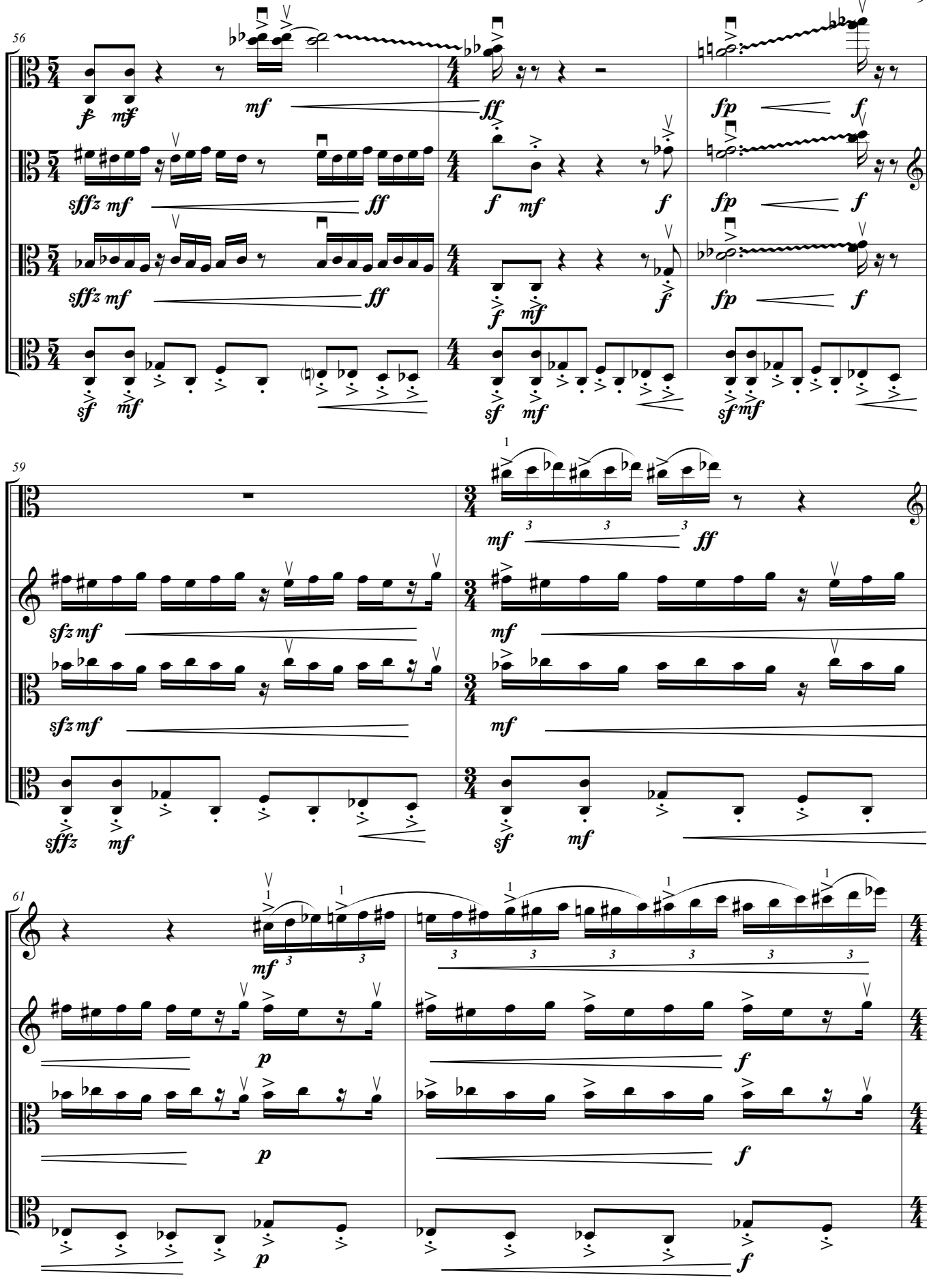
You may either play what's written
or improvise wildly from here to m. 37.

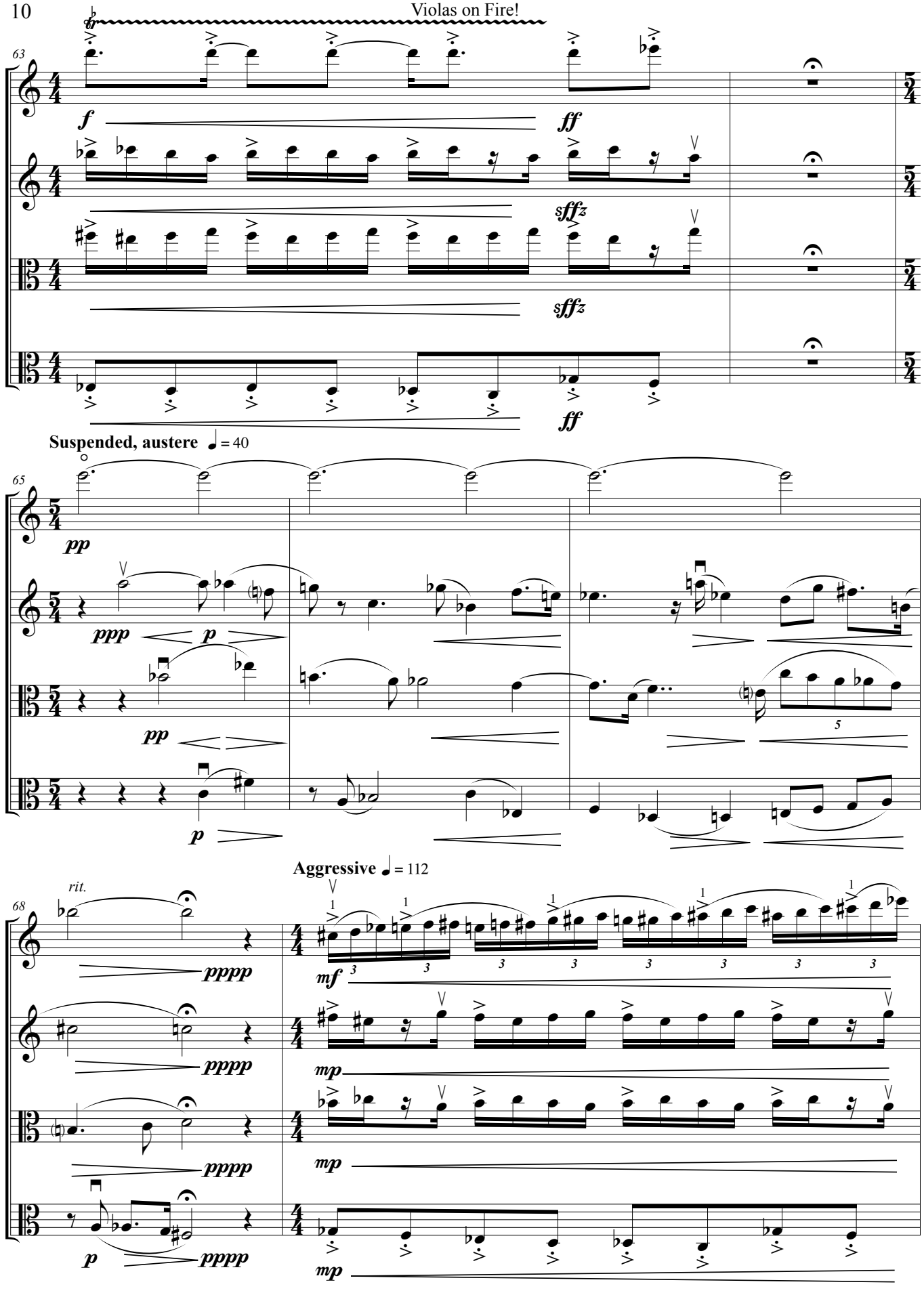


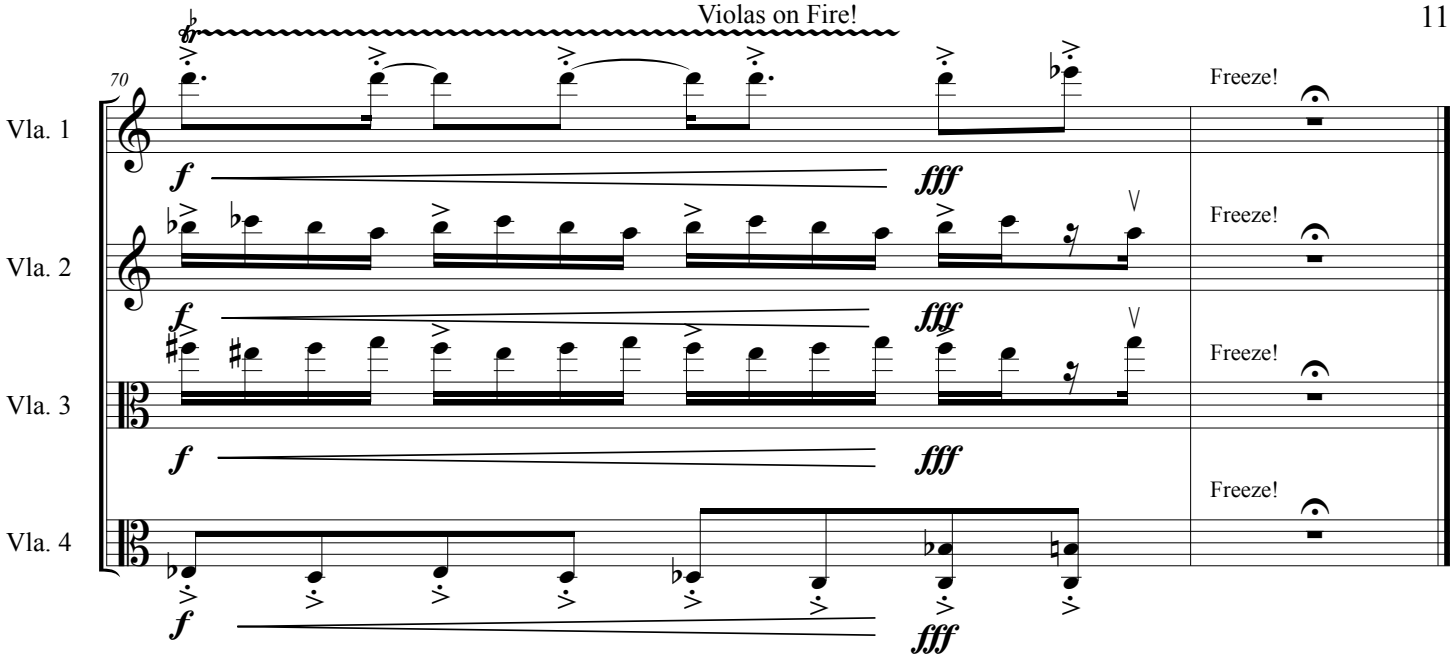

37
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
Vla. 3
Vla. 4
tr
mf
f
ff
39
41
(Pt.)
sfffz


43
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
Vla. 3
Vla. 4
45
47


49
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
Vla. 3
Vla. 4
Solo
wild!
51
(Pt.)
Tutti
54


56
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
Vla. 3
Vla. 4
59
61


Violas on Fire!
63
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
Vla. 3
Vla. 4
f
ff
sffz
sffz
ff
Suspended, austere ♩ = 40
65
pp
ppp
p
pp
p
rit.
68
pppp
pppp
pppp
p
pppp
Aggressive ♩ = 112
mf
mp
mp
mp




A message from the composer:

I'm sure this music looks and sounds scarily difficult, but here are some reassuring thoughts to keep in mind:

1) There's a lot of repetition, so once you get a lick down, you'll usually have several more times to play it.

2) If everything isn't 100% in tune, it probably isn't the end of the world. In a wild piece like this, I sometimes think of the notation as nothing more than an approximate guide. (I'm usually so picky about intonation, I can't believe I'm saying this!)

3) The glissandos should begin and end more or less on the indicated pitches, but again, precision of pitch is not the main thing.

4) The Viola 4 ostinato should keep things together, so just aim to meet on the downbeats, and all will be well.

5) In mm. 13-14, 23-24, 61-62, and 69, notice that each group of three semitones is repeated at successively higher pitch levels. Again, precision of pitch is not the most important thing; just try to keep the bow changes and shifts in time.

6) Enjoy the "suspended, austere" moments, spooky time to cool down and recharge.

7) At mm. 32-37 Viola 2, 3 and 4 should be rock-solid steady. If Viola 1 can't keep up, let the 4th beat of m. 38 be the cue to rejoin the group at m. 39. You may also improvise, if you're into that sort of thing.

8) Mm. 47-49 are short licks that should be playable in tempo. In m. 50, it's okay to fake the pitches, just keep the bow changing in time. If you don't land exactly on a C in m. 51, it's okay!

Can you handle it? I bet you can!

I hope you have a wild, fun time!!

*—Michael Kimber*
*May 2, 2015, Iowa City*

VIOLA 1

*For the Firewood Quartet*

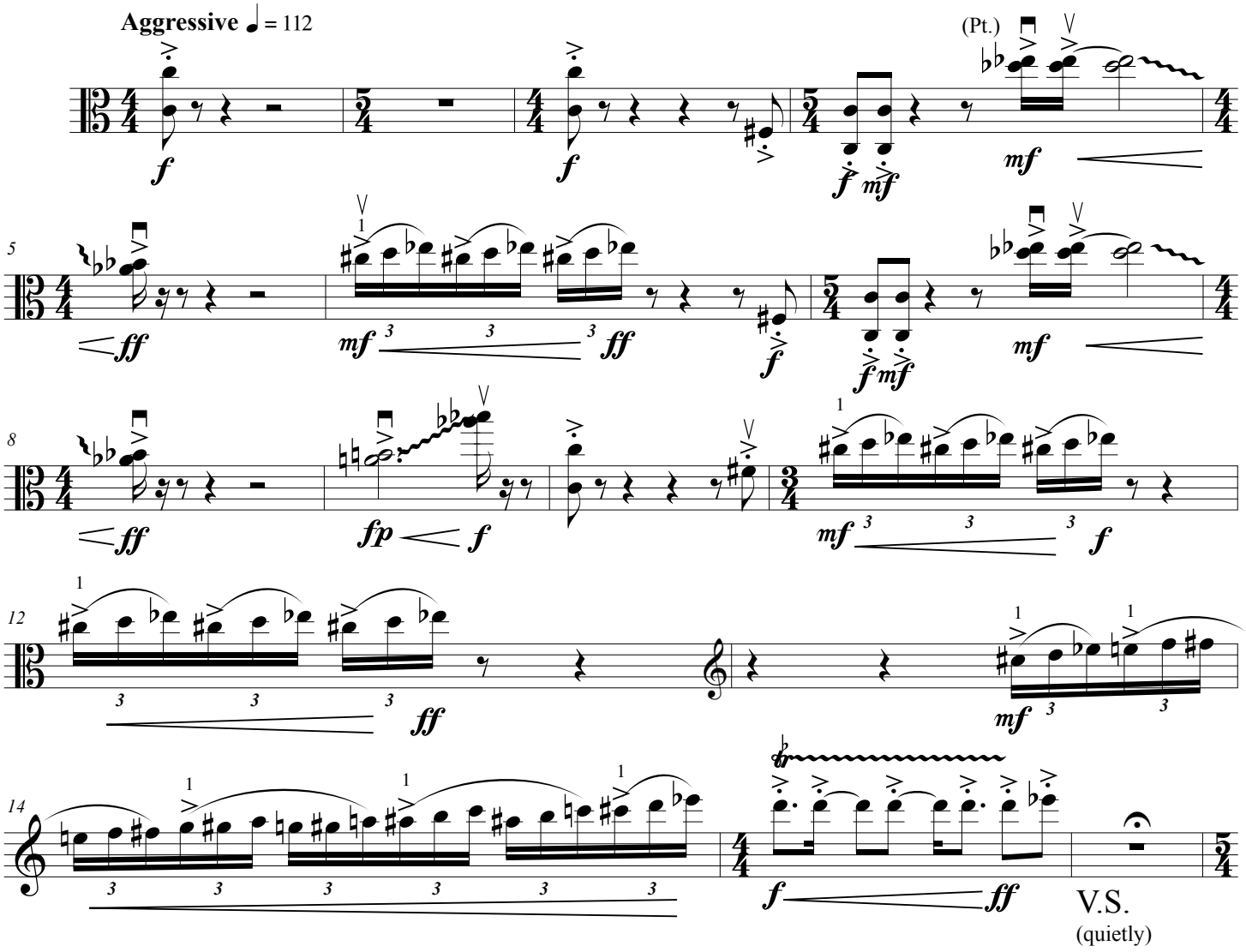
# *Violas on Fire!*

"You've got to be kidding! You really don't know
the difference between a violin and a viola?"

"No, honest, I don't! What is it?"

"The viola ***burns longer!!!"*** [Segue subito!]

Michael Kimber

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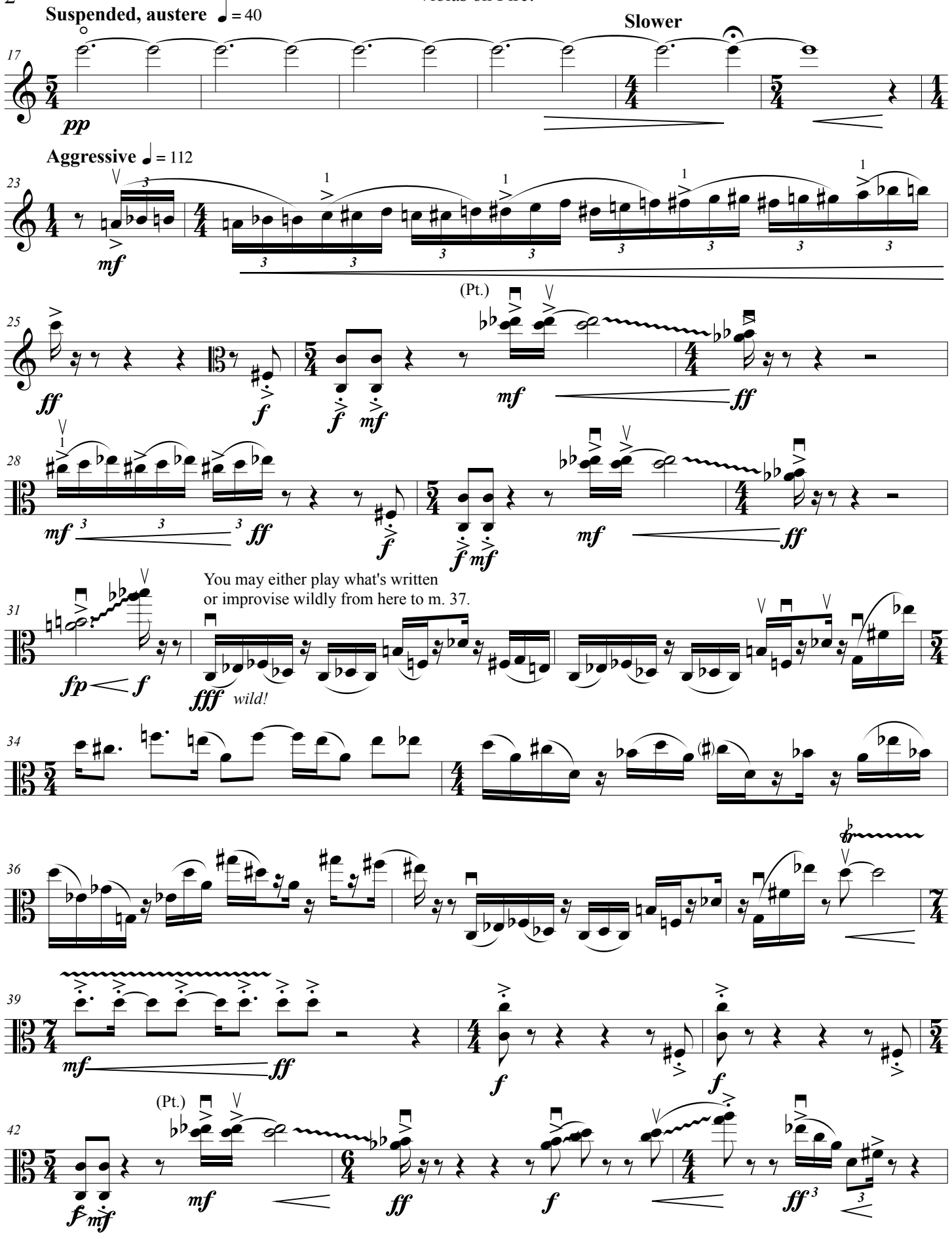
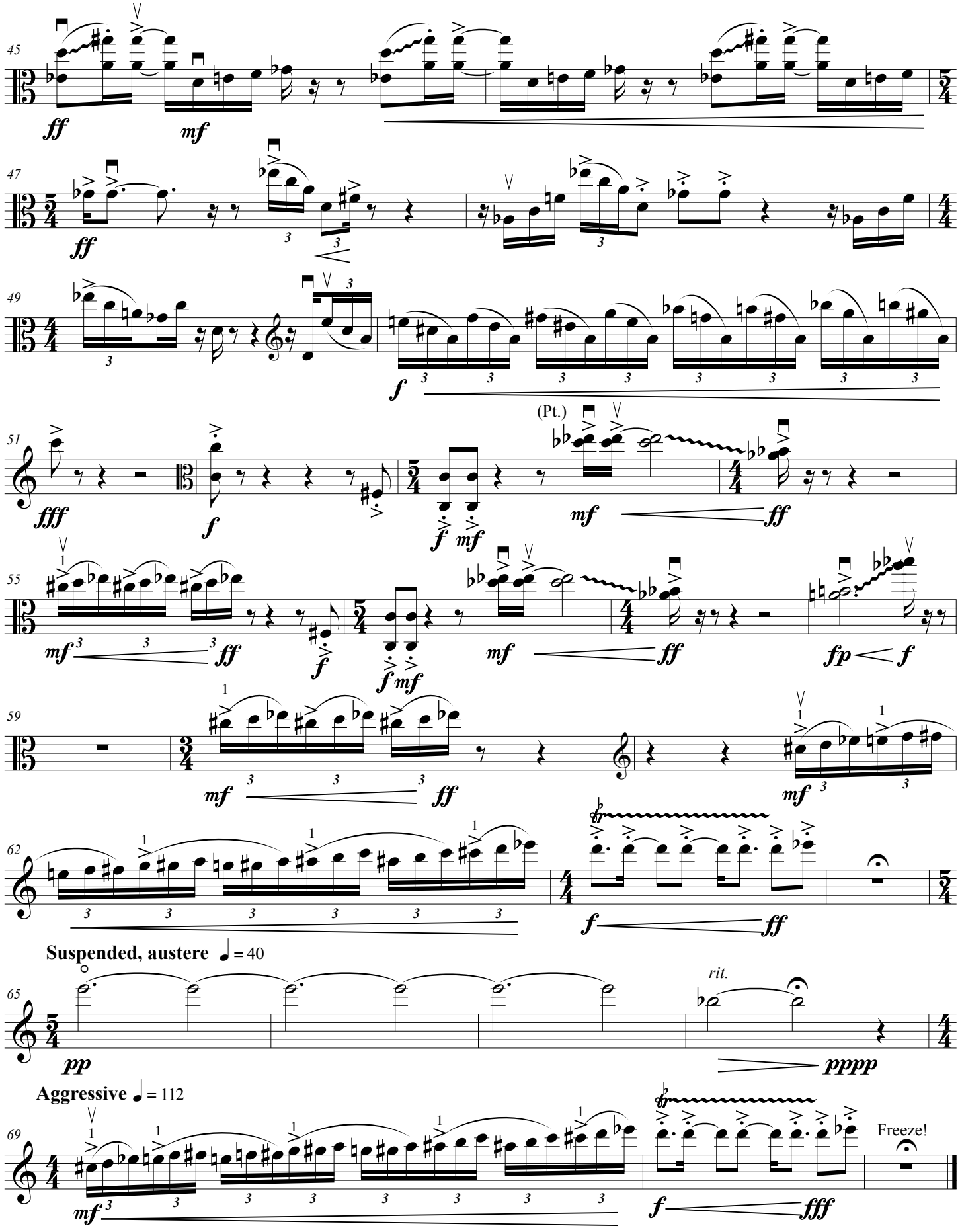

Suspended, austere ♩ = 40
Slower
Aggressive ♩ = 112
(Pt.)
You may either play what's written
or improvise wildly from here to m. 37.
wild!
(Pt.)


45
ff
mf
47
ff
49
f
51
fff
f
(Pt.)
mf
ff
55
mf
ff
f
mf
fp
f
59
mf
ff
mf
62
f
ff
Suspended, austere ♩ = 40
65
pp
rit.
pppp
Aggressive ♩ = 112
69
mf
f
fff
Freeze!

Don't burn...

FREEZE!

VIOLA 2

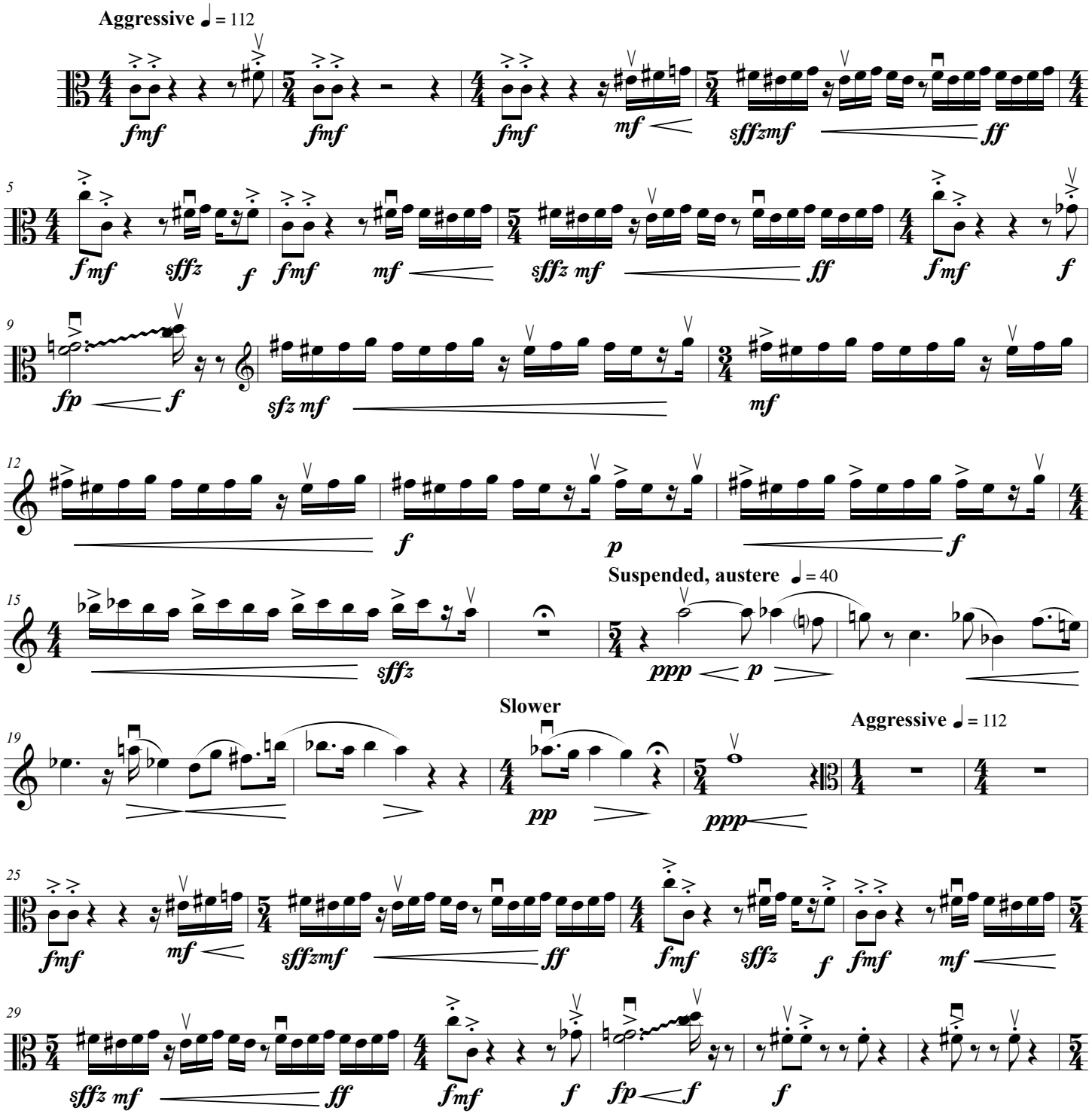
*For the Firewood Quartet*

# *Violas on Fire!*

"You've got to be kidding! You really don't know
the difference between a violin and a viola?"
"No, honest, I don't! What is it?"

Michael Kimber

"The viola ***burns longer!!!"*** [Segue subito!]

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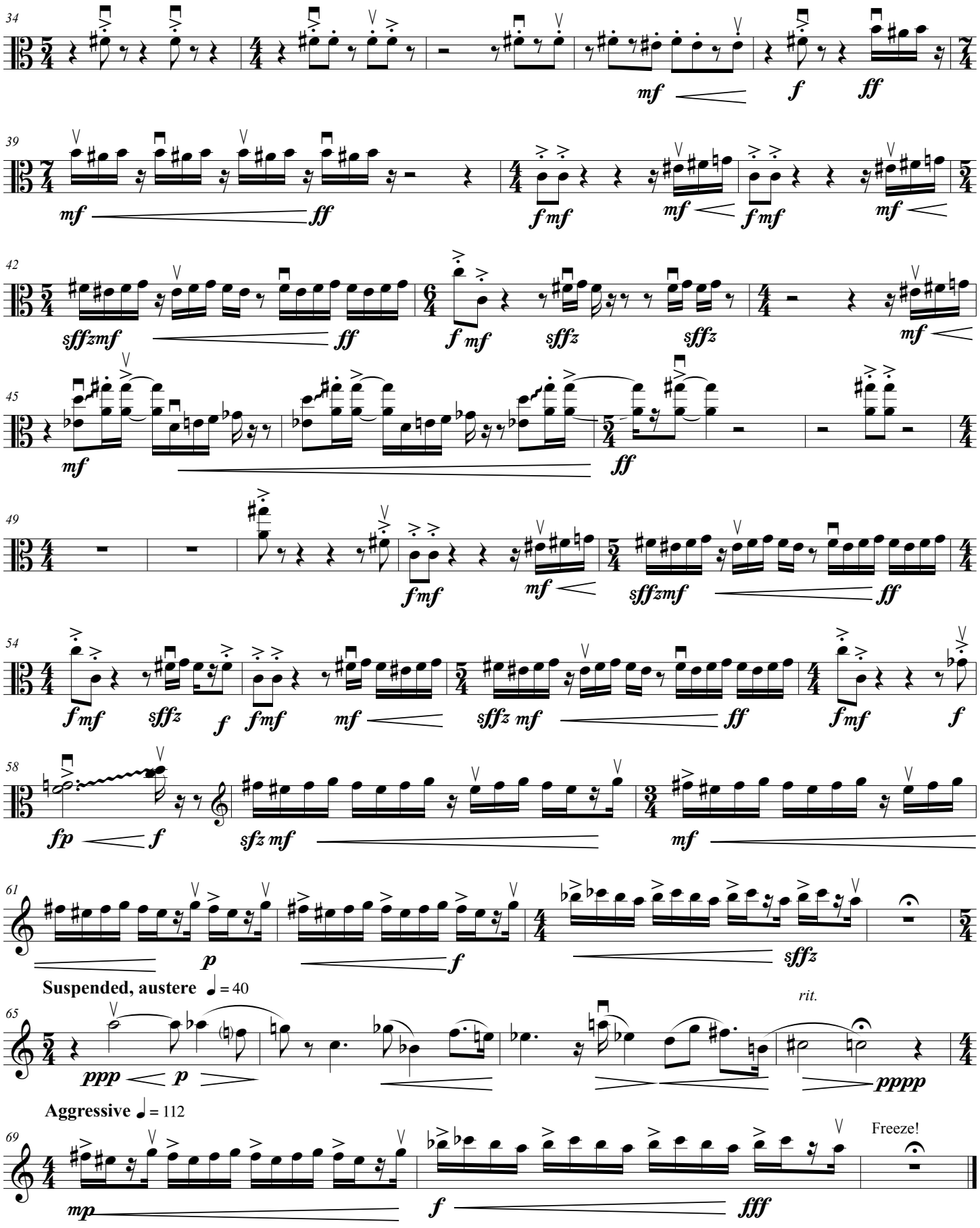

34
mf
f
ff
39
mf
ff
fmf
mf
fmf
mf
42
sffzmf
ff
f mf
sffz
sffz
mf
45
mf
ff
49
fmf
mf
sffzmf
ff
54
fmf
sffz
f
fmf
mf
sffz mf
ff
fmf
f
58
fp
f
sfz mf
mf
61
p
f
sffz
Suspended, austere ♩ = 40
65
ppp
p
rit.
pppp
Aggressive ♩ = 112
69
mp
f
fff
Freeze!

VIOLA 3

*For the Firewood Quartet*

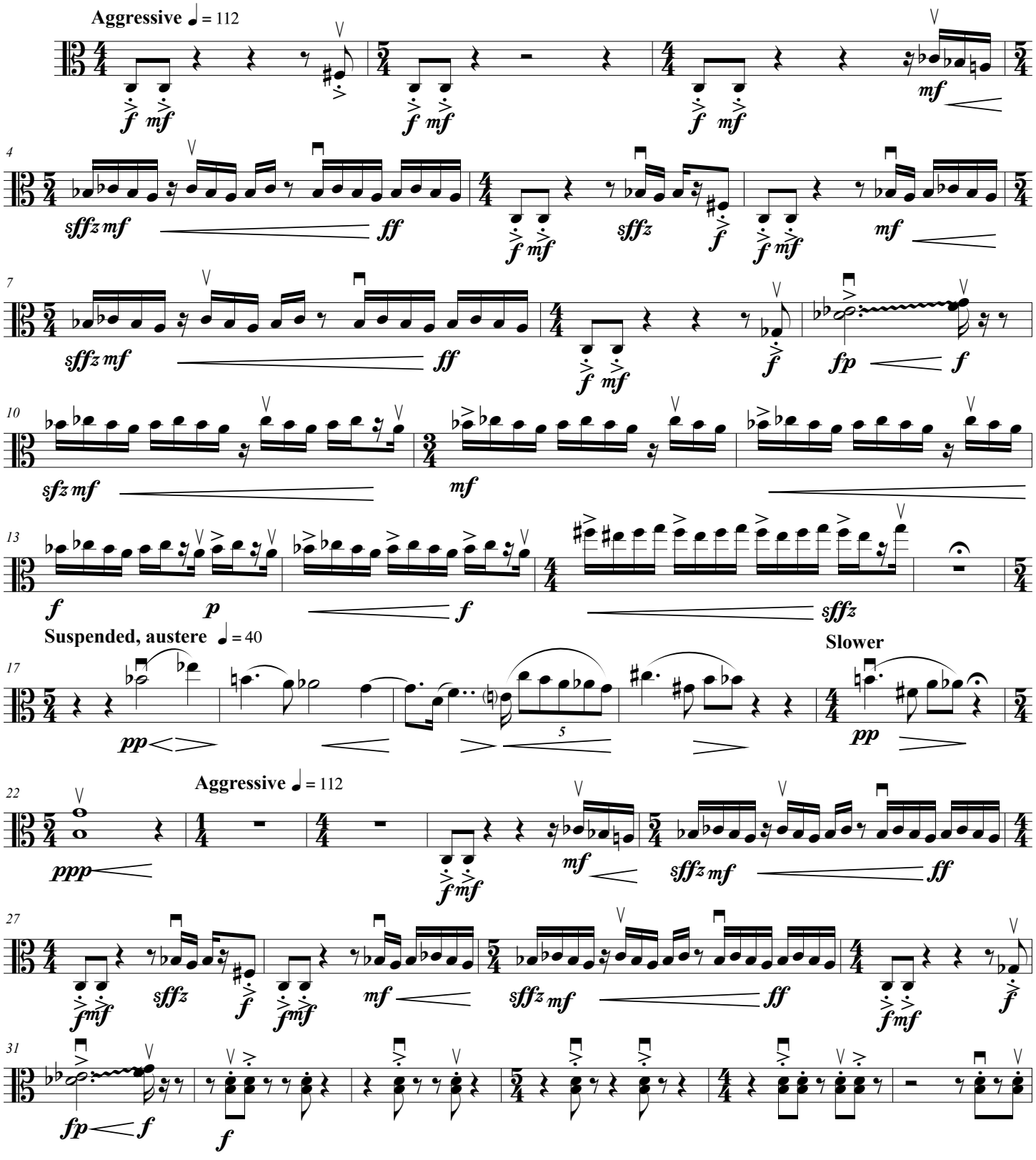
# *Violas on Fire!*

"You've got to be kidding! You really don't know
the difference between a violin and a viola?"

"No, honest, I don't! What is it?"

"The viola ***burns longer!!!"*** [Segue subito!]

Michael Kimber

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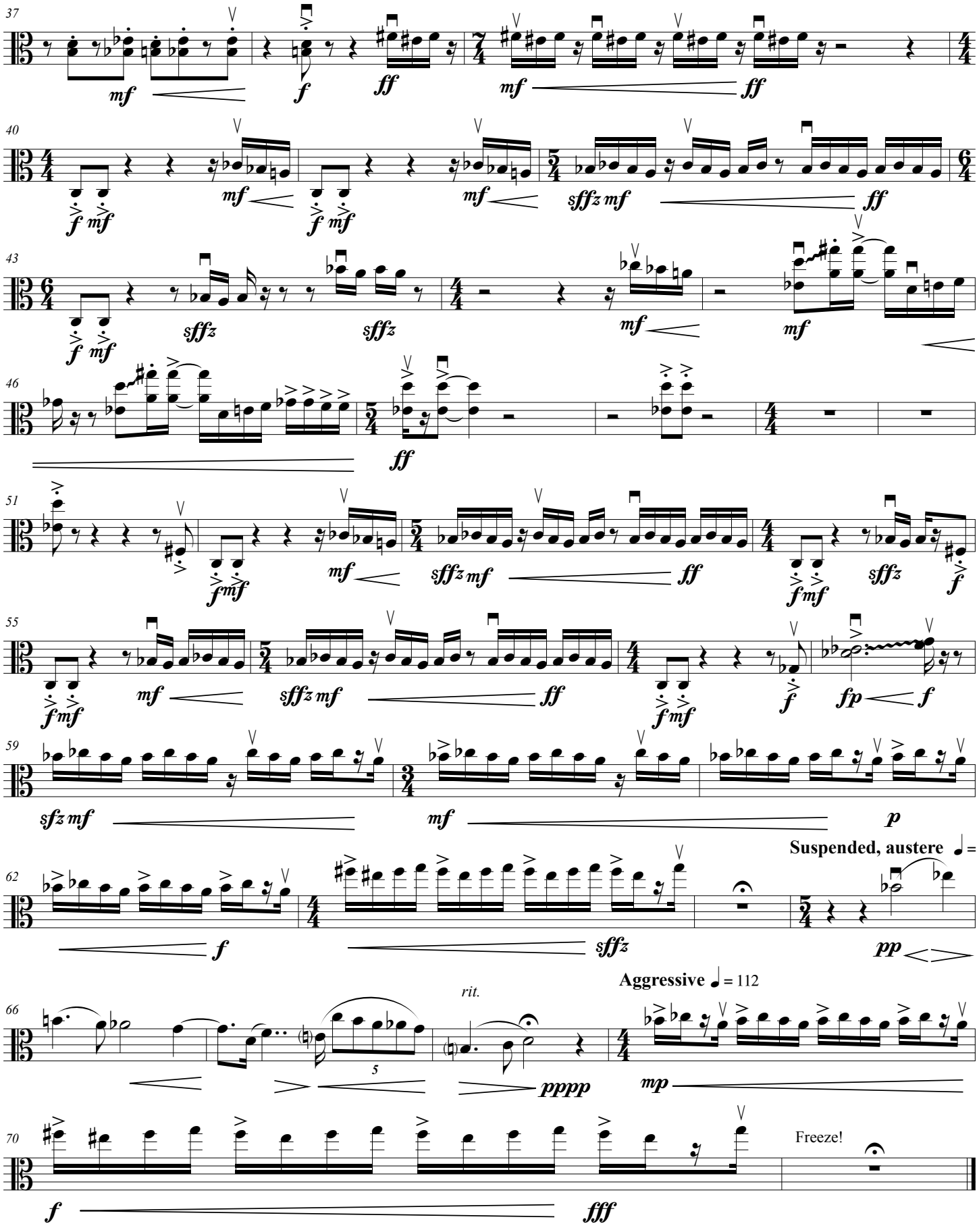

37
mf
f
ff
mf
ff
40
f mf
mf
f mf
mf
sffz mf
ff
43
f mf
sffz
sffz
mf
mf
46
ff
51
f mf
mf
sffz mf
ff
f mf
sffz
f
55
f mf
mf
sffz mf
ff
f mf
f
fp
f
59
sfz mf
mf
p
Suspended, austere ♩ = 40
62
f
sffz
pp
Aggressive ♩ = 112
rit.
66
5
pppp
mp
70
Freeze!
f
fff

VIOLA 4

*For the Firewood Quartet*

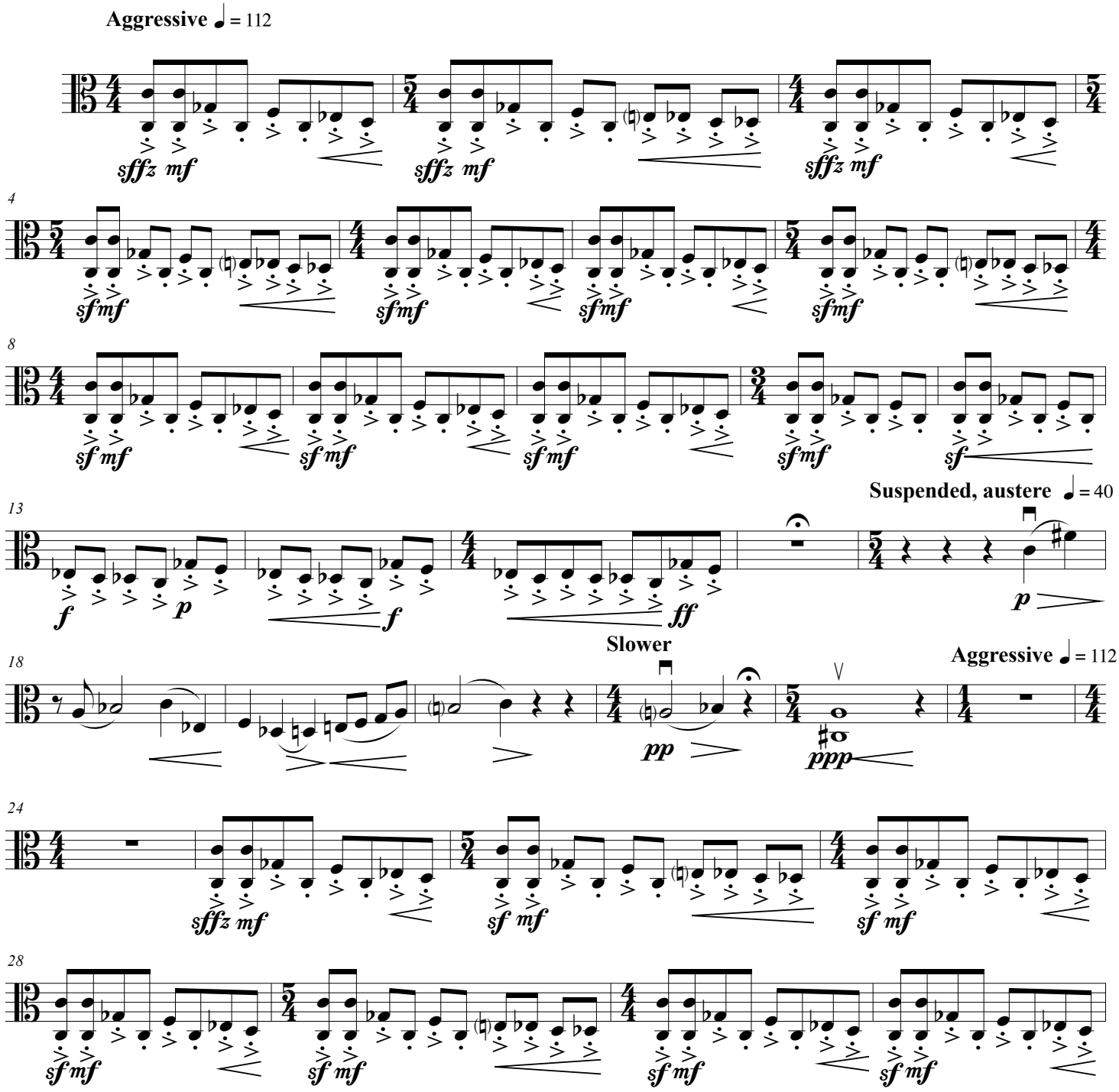
# *Violas on Fire!*

"You've got to be kidding! You really don't know
the difference between a violin and a viola?"

"No, honest, I don't! What is it?"

"The viola ***burns longer!!!"*** [Segue subito!]

Michael Kimber

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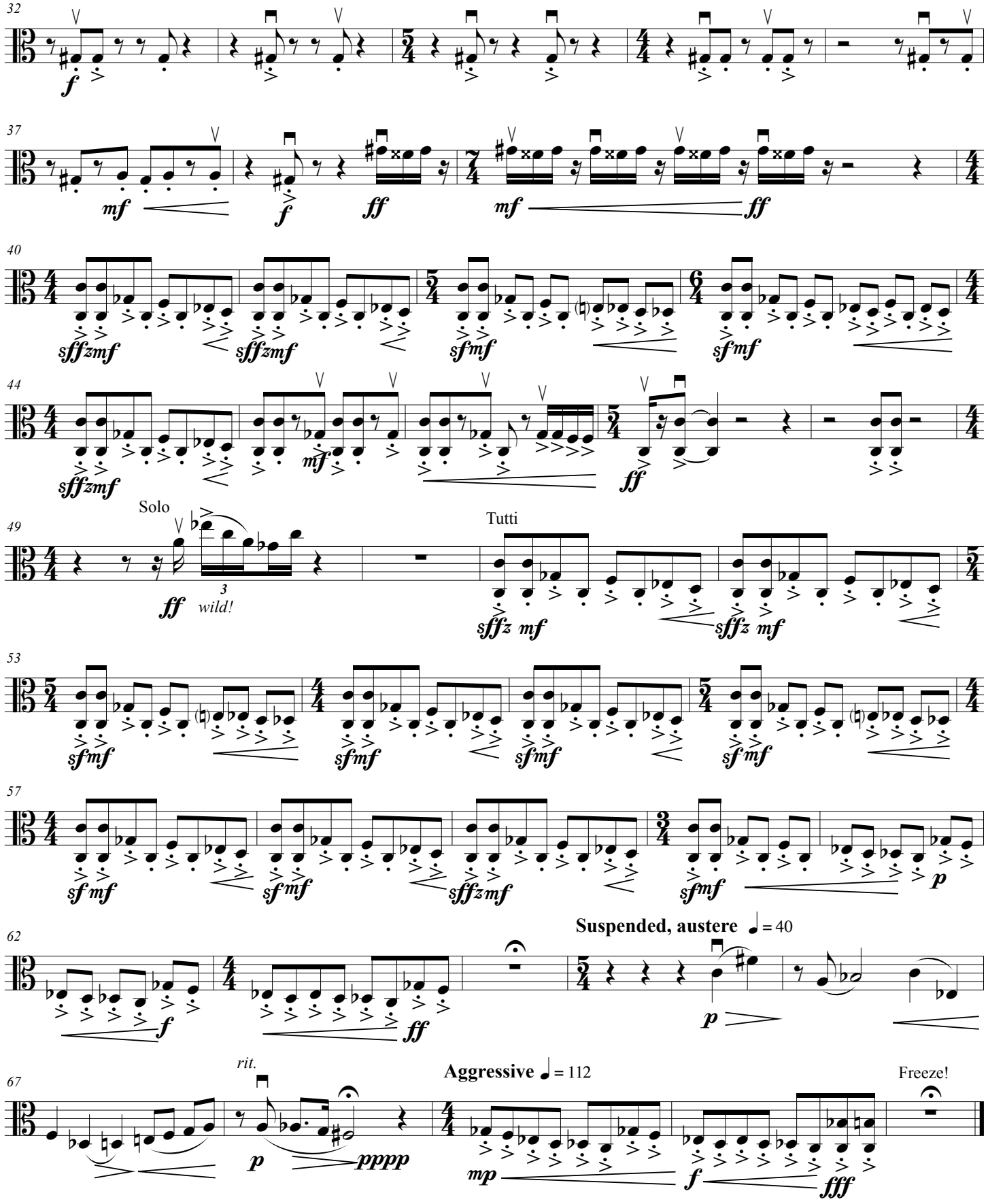
32
f
37
mf
f
ff
mf
ff
40
sffzmf
sffzmf
sfmf
sfmf
44
sffzmf
mf
ff
49
Solo
ff
wild!
Tutti
sffz mf
sffz mf
53
sfmf
sfmf
sfmf
sfmf
57
sfmf
sfmf
sffzmf
sfmf
p
62
f
ff
Suspended, austere ♩= 40
p
67
rit.
p
pppp
Aggressive ♩= 112
mp
f
fff
Freeze!