Divertimento V in F Major

for

Three Violas

Originally for Three Basset Horns, KV 439b

by

W. A. Mozart

Score

Thomas Hall, editor
Chapman University

Contents

I Adagio I 1

II Menuetto 2

III Adagio II 5

IV Romance 6

V Polonaise 8

Editor's Comment

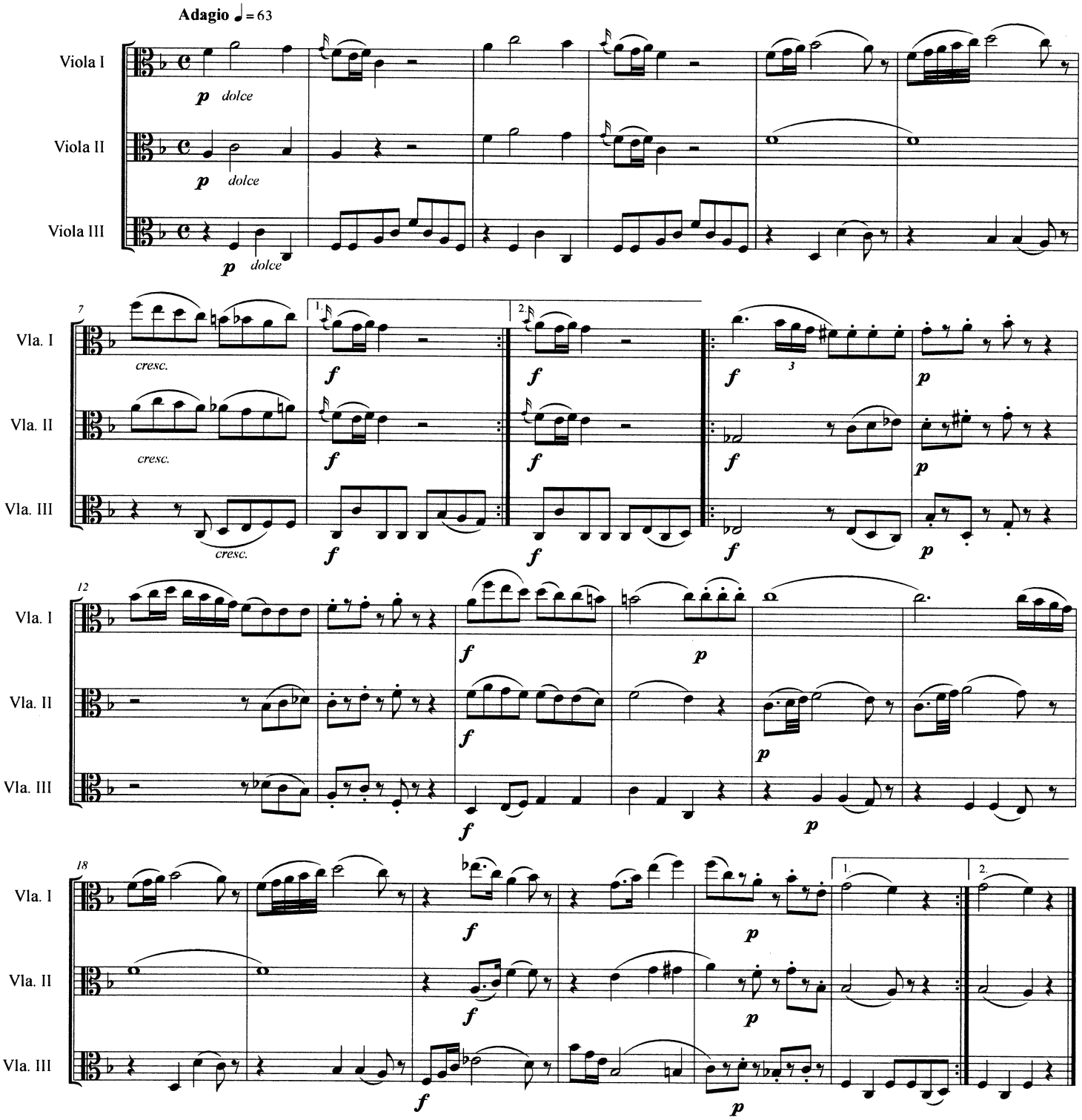
Divertimento V, KV 439b, is found in *W. A. Mozart: Neue Ausgabe sämtlicher Werke*, with the information that it was composed sometime between 1783 and 1788. It is the fifth of five such pieces scored for three basset horns. The ranges of basset horn and viola are similar, and the two instruments, seem to share a popular 21st century identity, both being devoutly middle-range, somewhat covered in timbre, not slow, but primarily not devoted to virtuosity, useful for blending or fitting-in, supplying richness and pleasing, colorful texture. Perhaps the similar personalities of players drawn to these instruments is enough to justify the little adjustment necessary to make this music available to violists, enriching their repertory, and providing a wider reception than would be found in the basset horn community. This last of the five *Divertimenti* differs in form from the others, having no real fast movement, a Menuet, two Adagios, and a Romance. The last movement is a Polish dance, not even in the home key, but in the sub-dominant, B-flat major.

Mozart wrote more than a smattering of music for the basset horn, at a time when the identity of the instrument was not yet well established. These five works, which are a significant effort in this medium, stand out in the literature as trios for three identical instruments. This is clearly "commercial" Mozart . . . garden-party or social background music. It is not serious in execution or presentation, but even the flossiest Mozart has wit, charm, and beauty in abundance.

T. H.

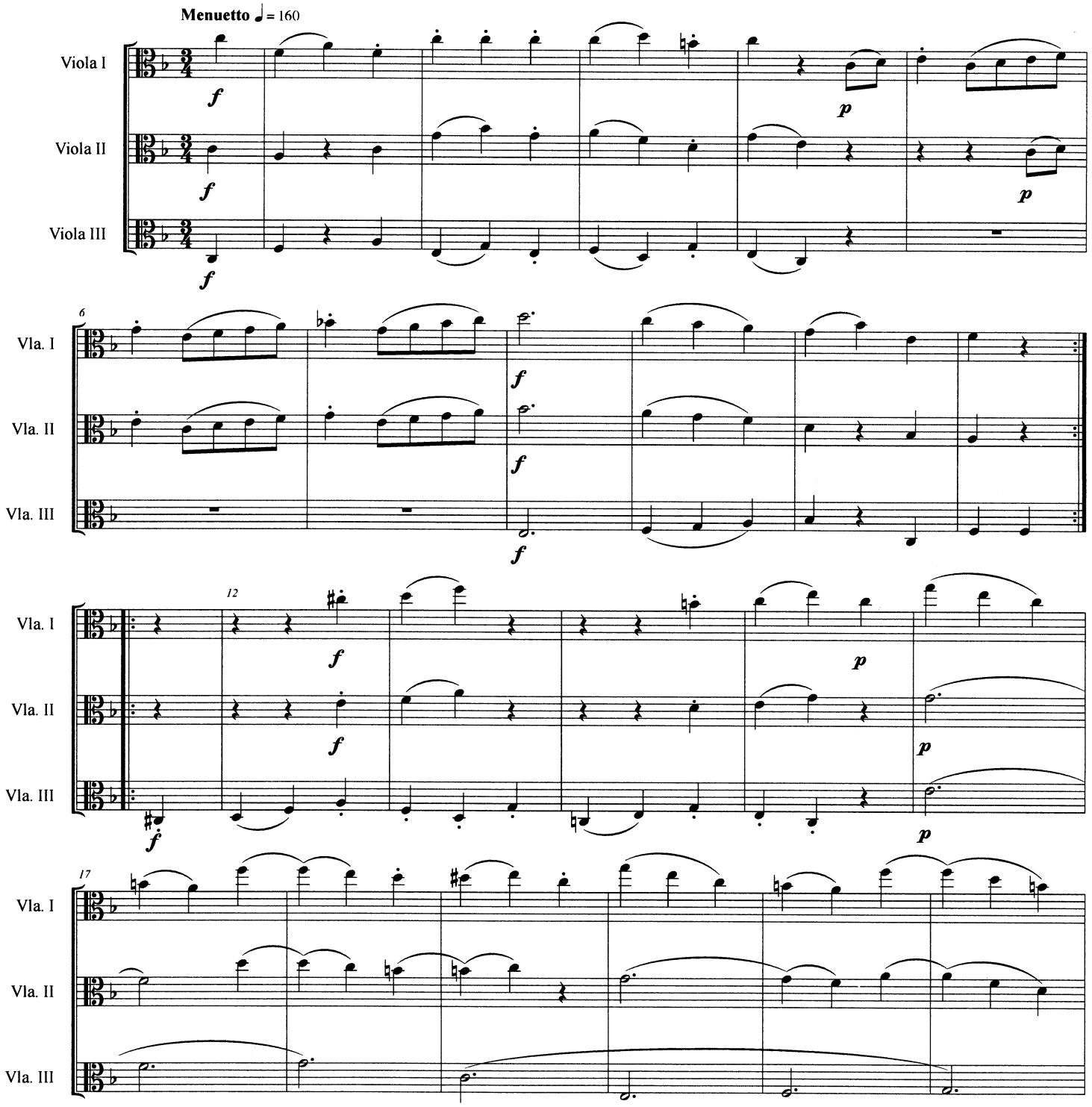
I

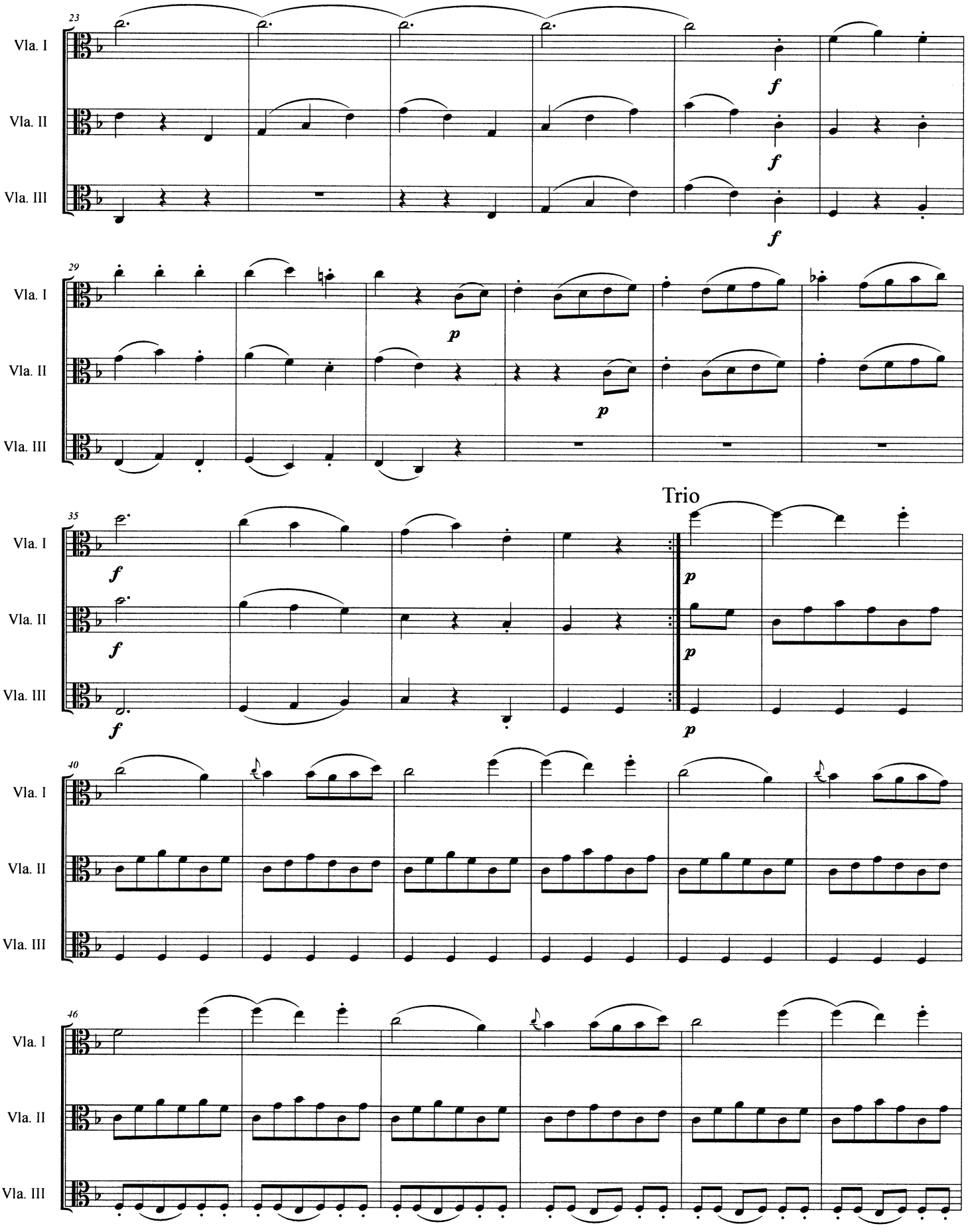
Adagio

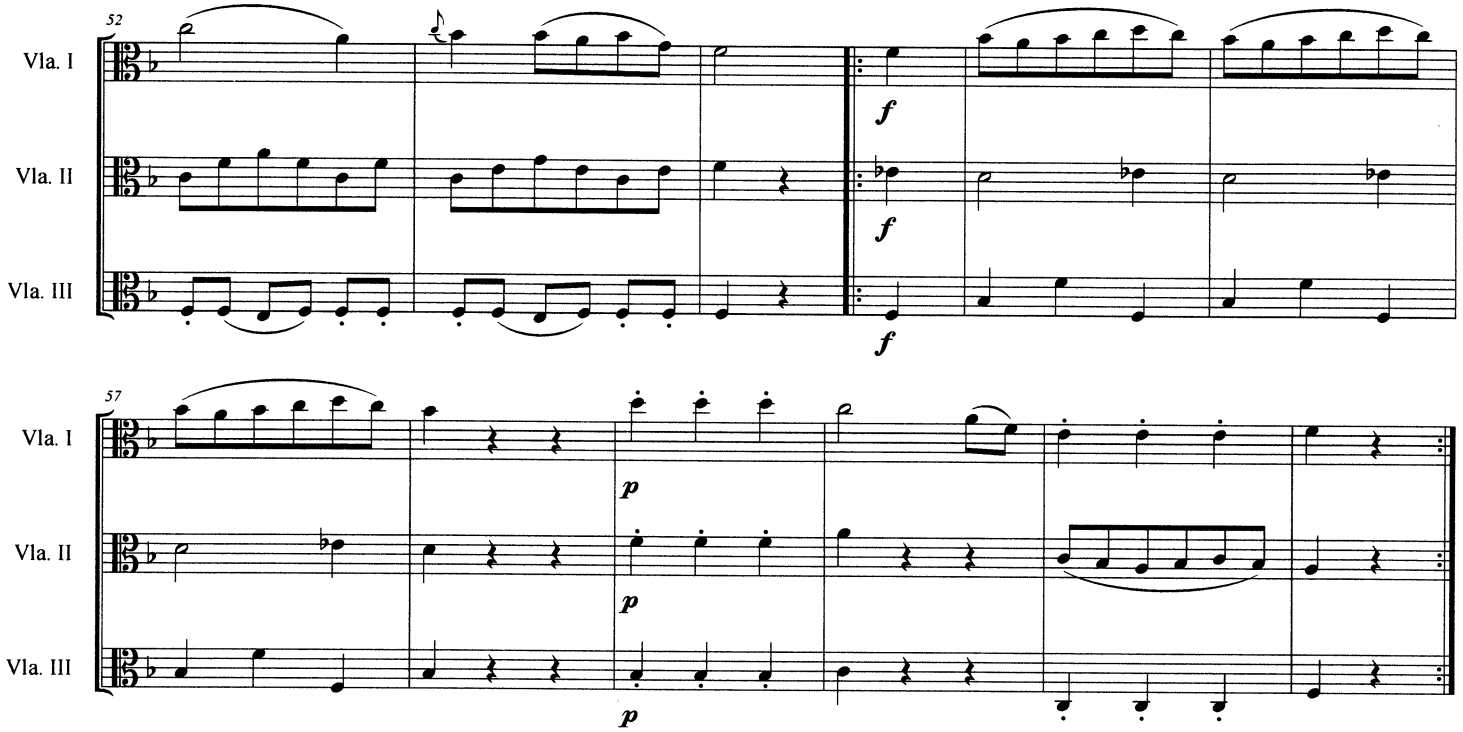

Adagio ♩ = 63
Viola I
Viola II
Viola III
p dolce
Vla. I
Vla. II
Vla. III
cresc.
f
p
1.
2.
3
7
12
18

II

Menuetto


Menuetto ♩ = 160
Viola I
Viola II
Viola III
Vla. I
Vla. II
Vla. III
6
12
17

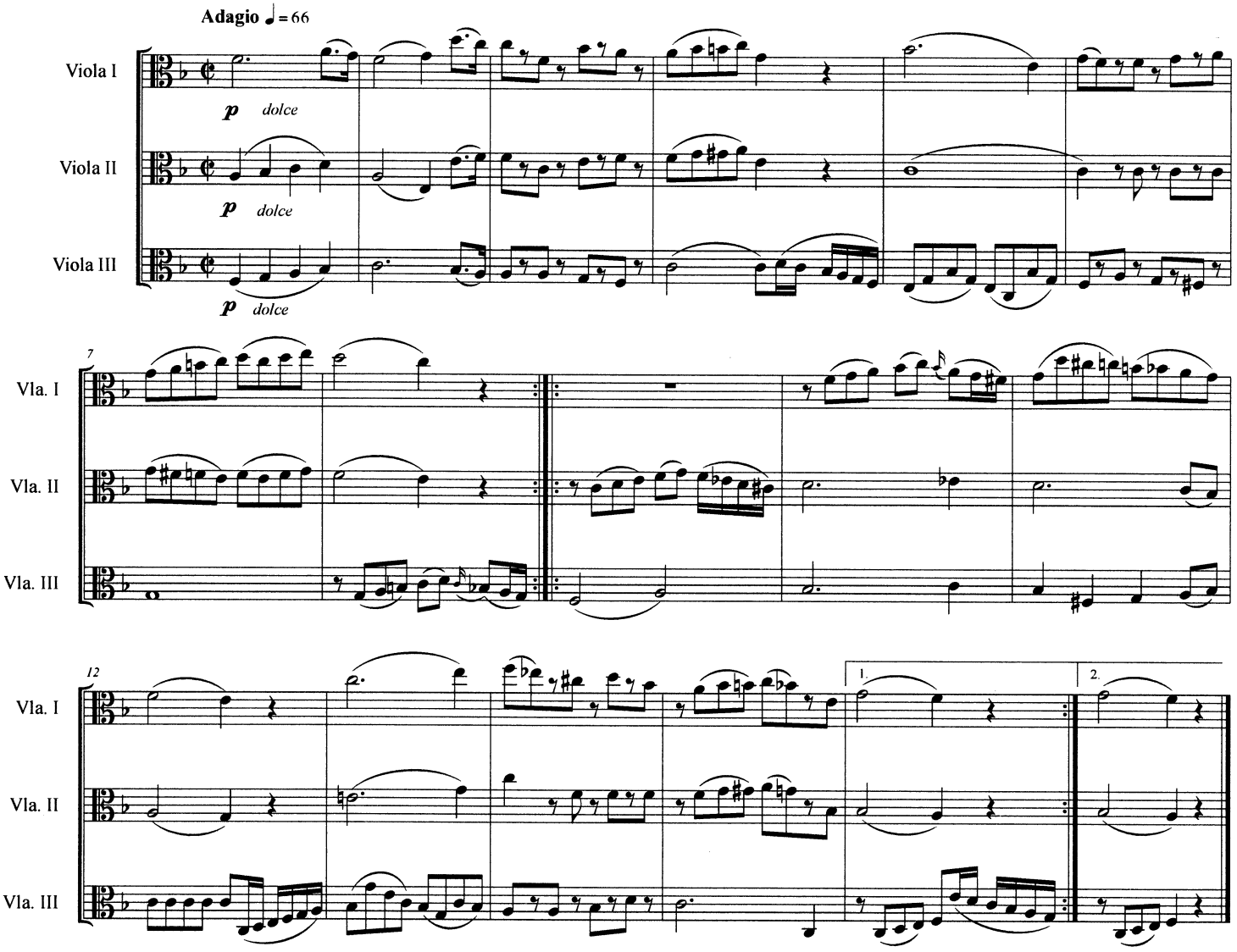

23
Vla. I
Vla. II
Vla. III
f
29
p
Trio
35
40
46



Menuetto da capo

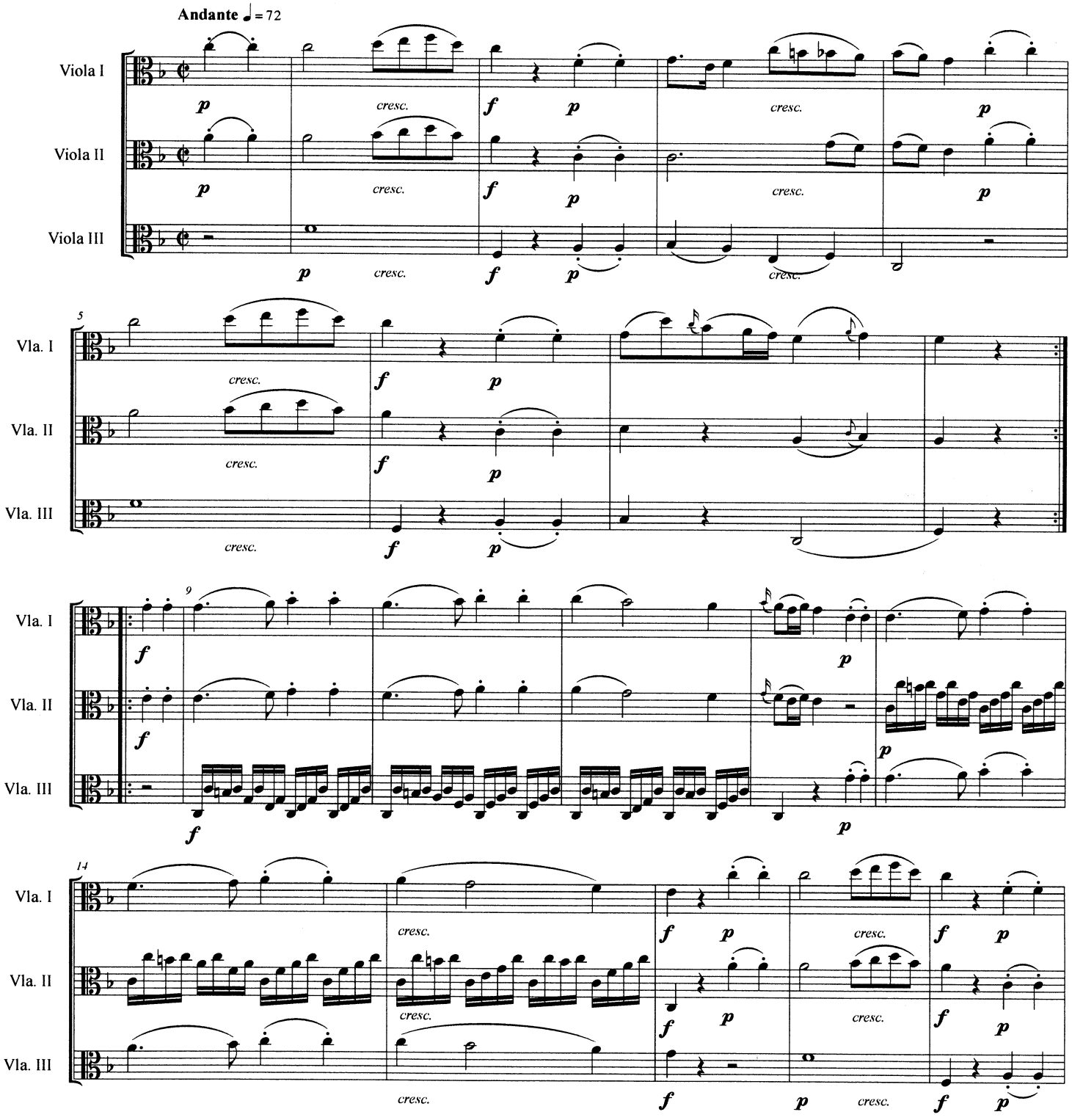
III

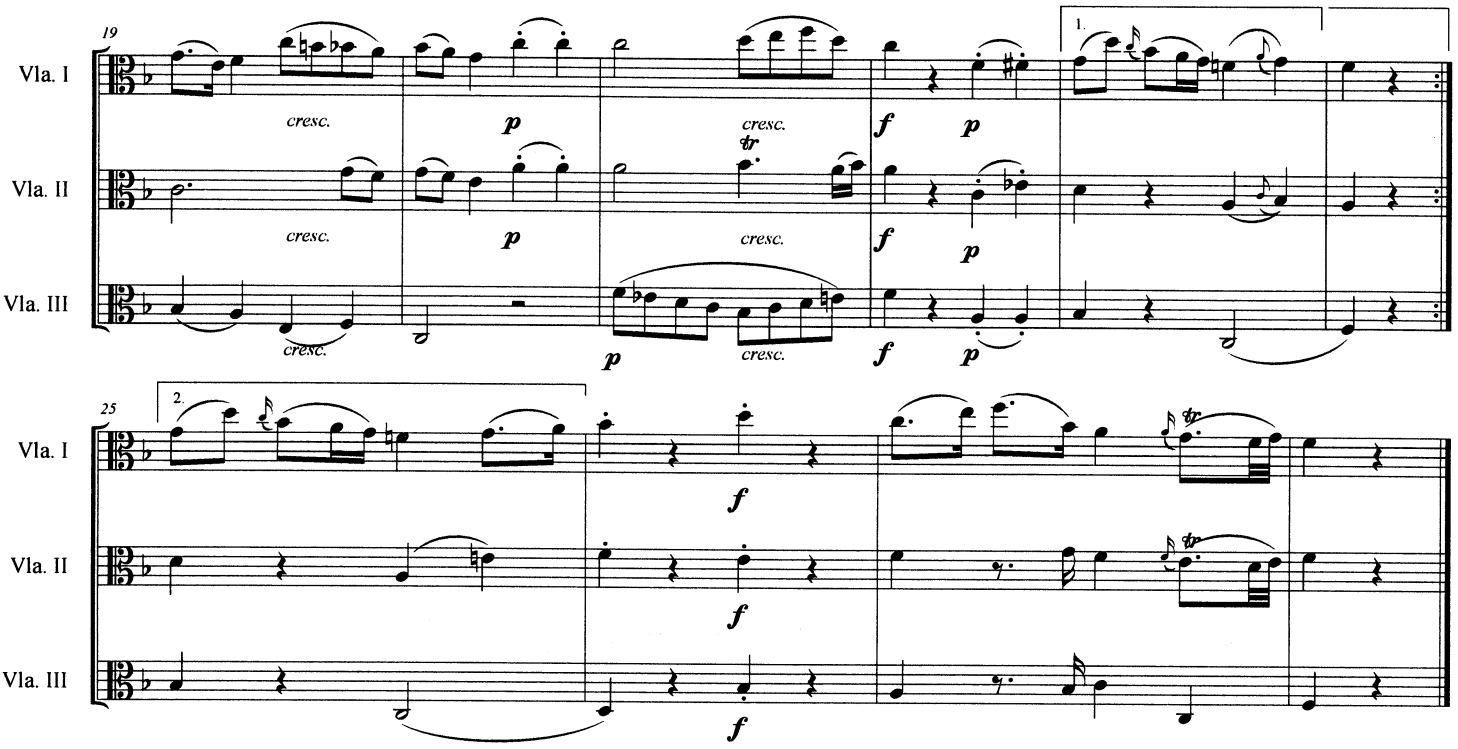
Adagio II



IV

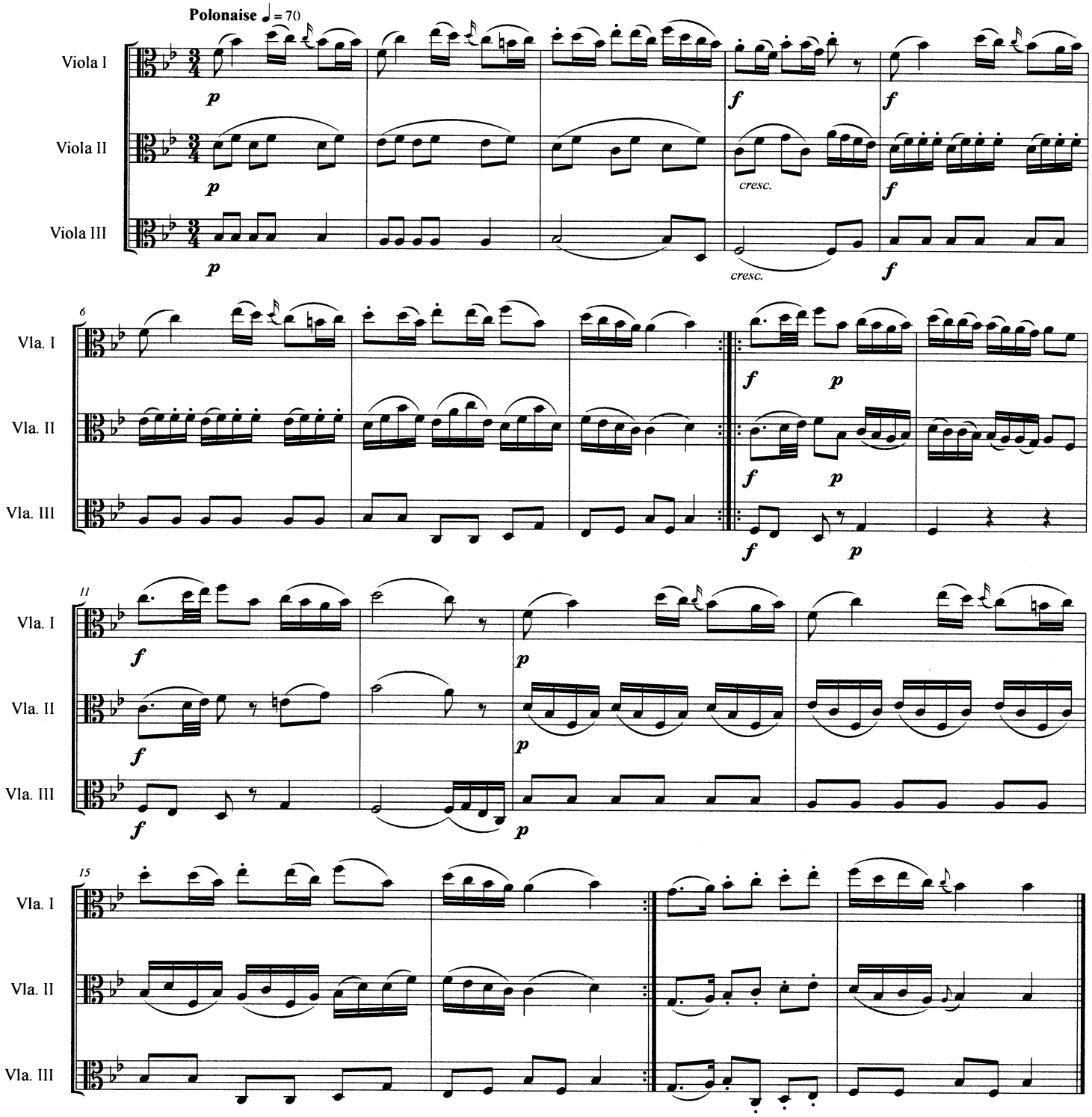
Romance


Andante ♩ = 72
Viola I
Viola II
Viola III
Vla. I
Vla. II
Vla. III
cresc.


19
Vla. I
Vla. II
Vla. III
cresc.
p
f
1.
25
2.

V

Polonaise


Polonaise ♩ = 70
Viola I
Viola II
Viola III
cresc.
cresc.
Vla. I
Vla. II
Vla. III

Divertimento V in F Major

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Viola 1

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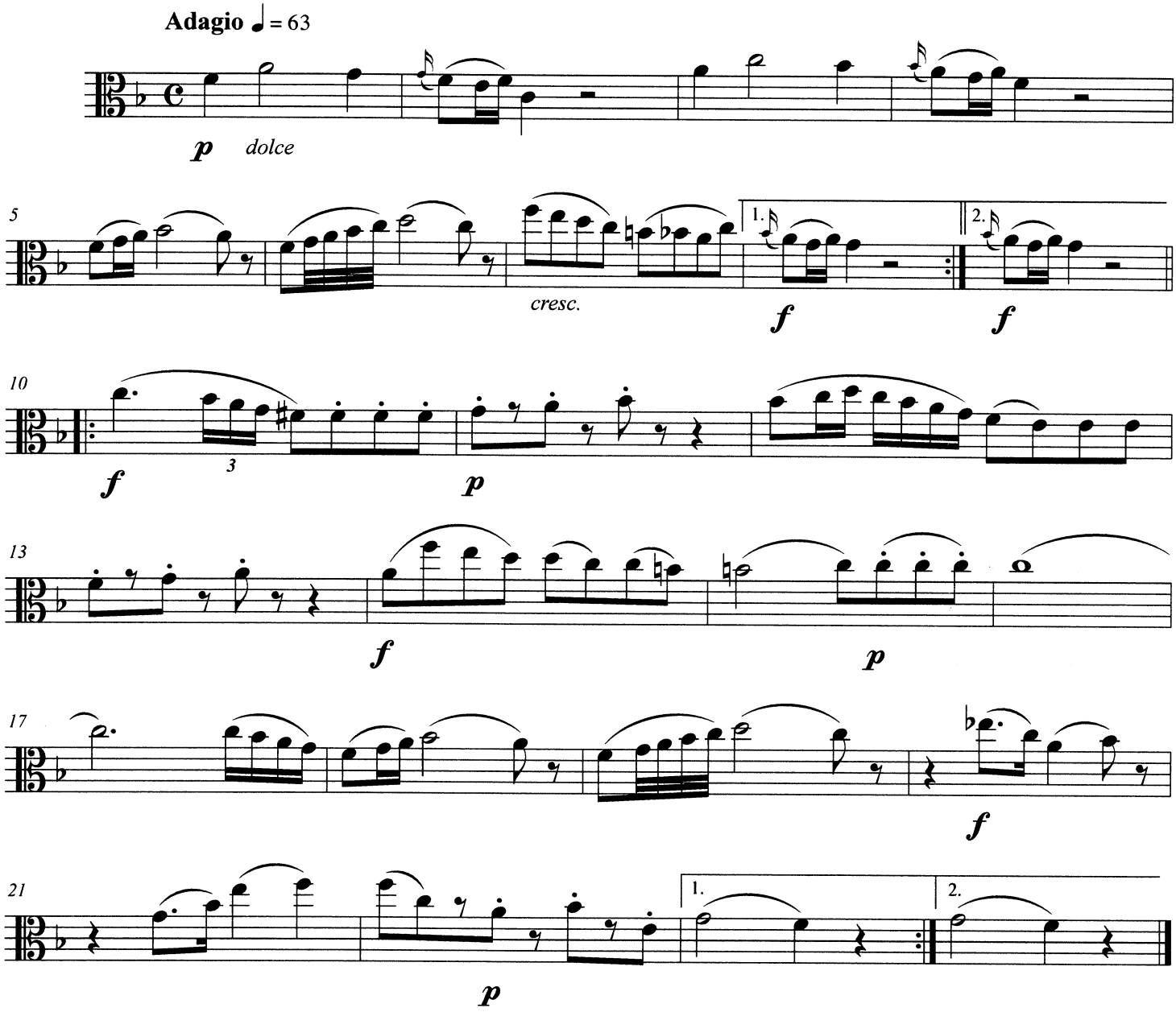
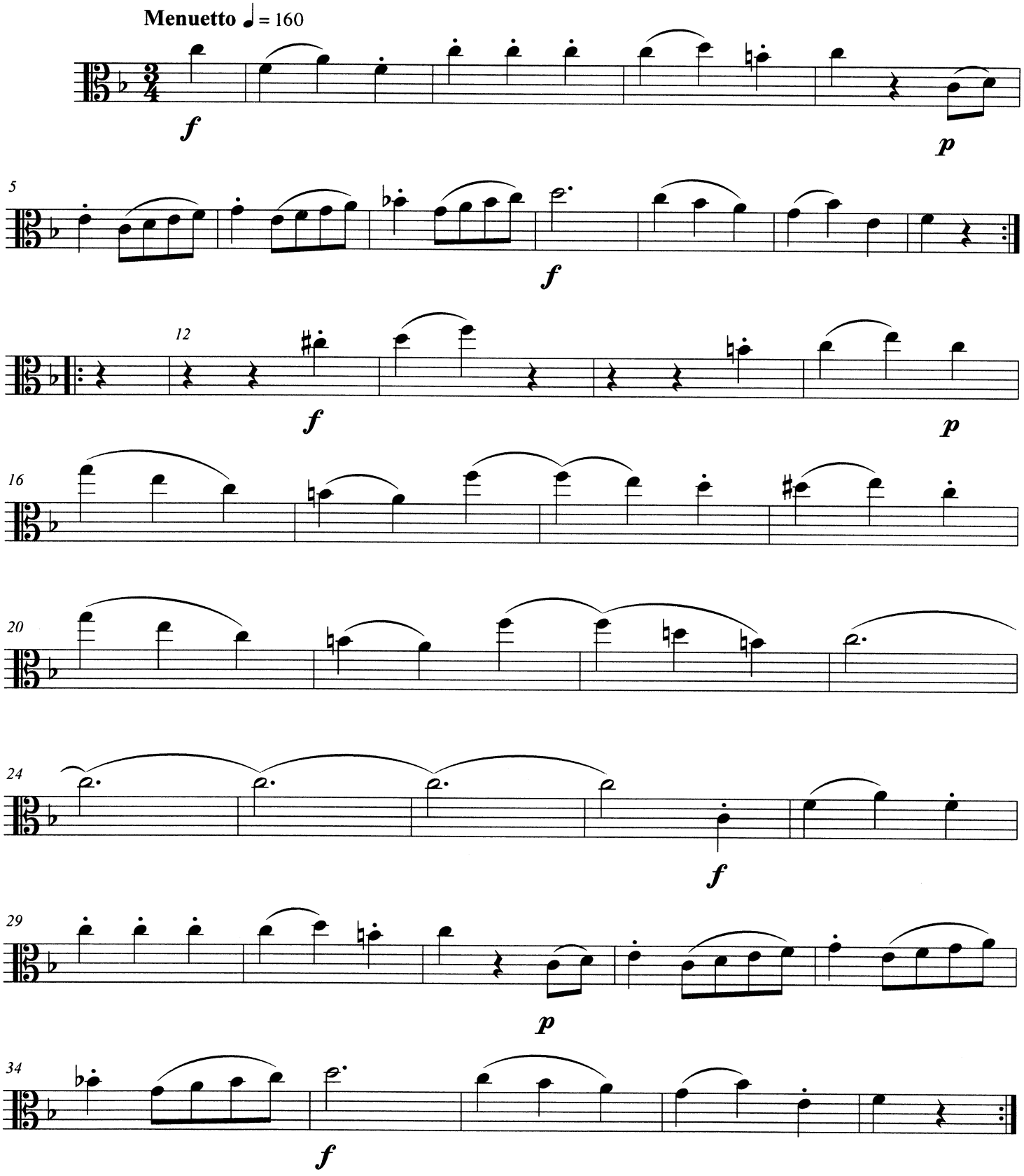
I

Adagio

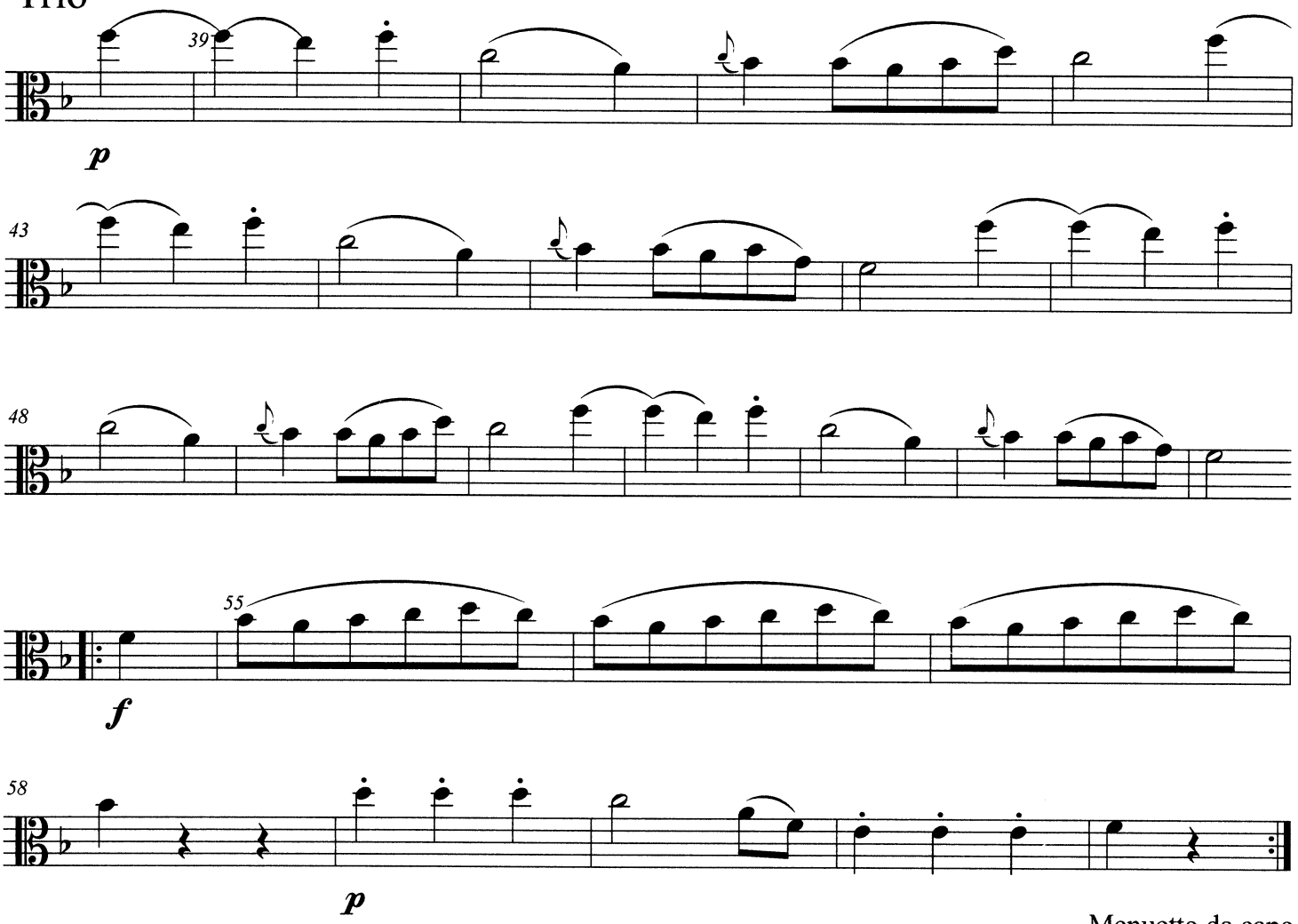


II

Menuetto



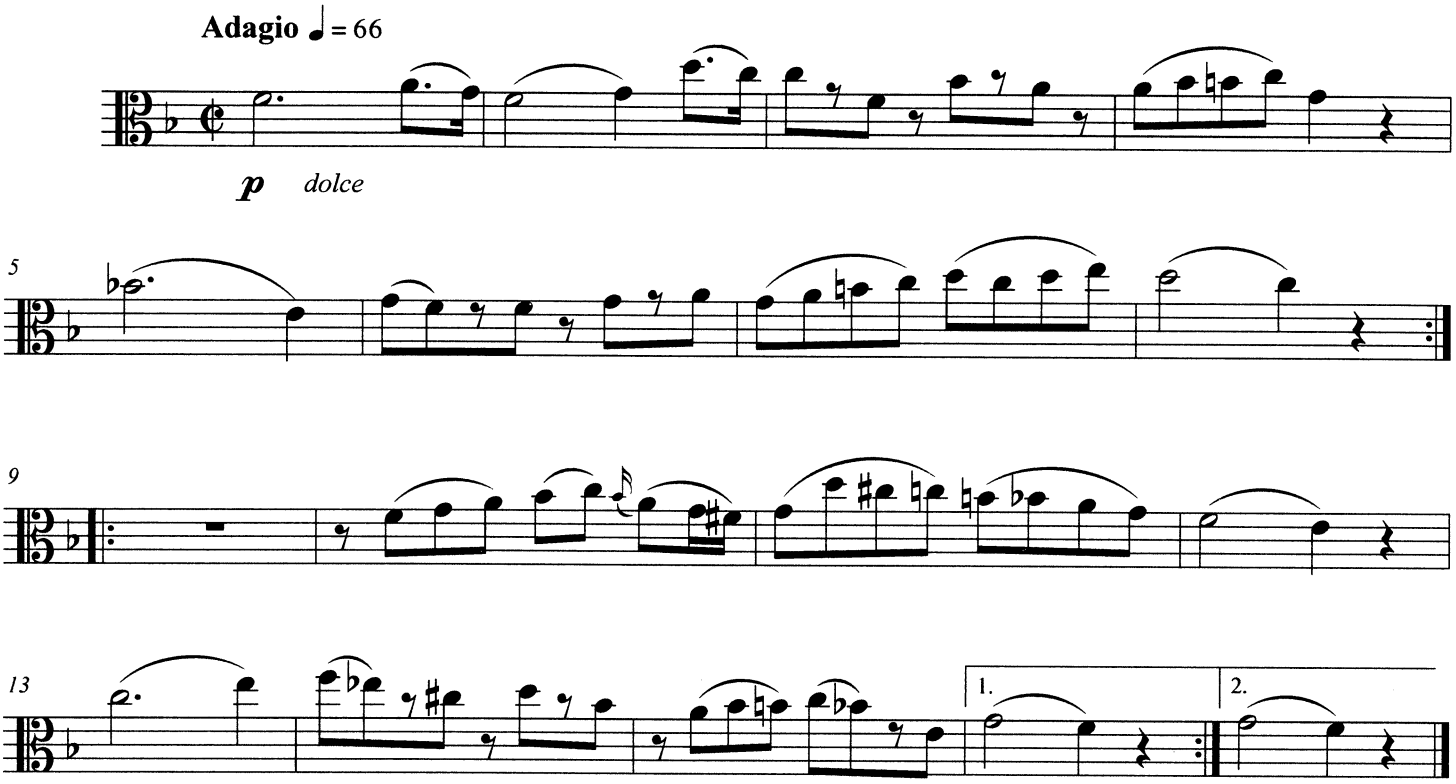
Trio



Menuetto da capo

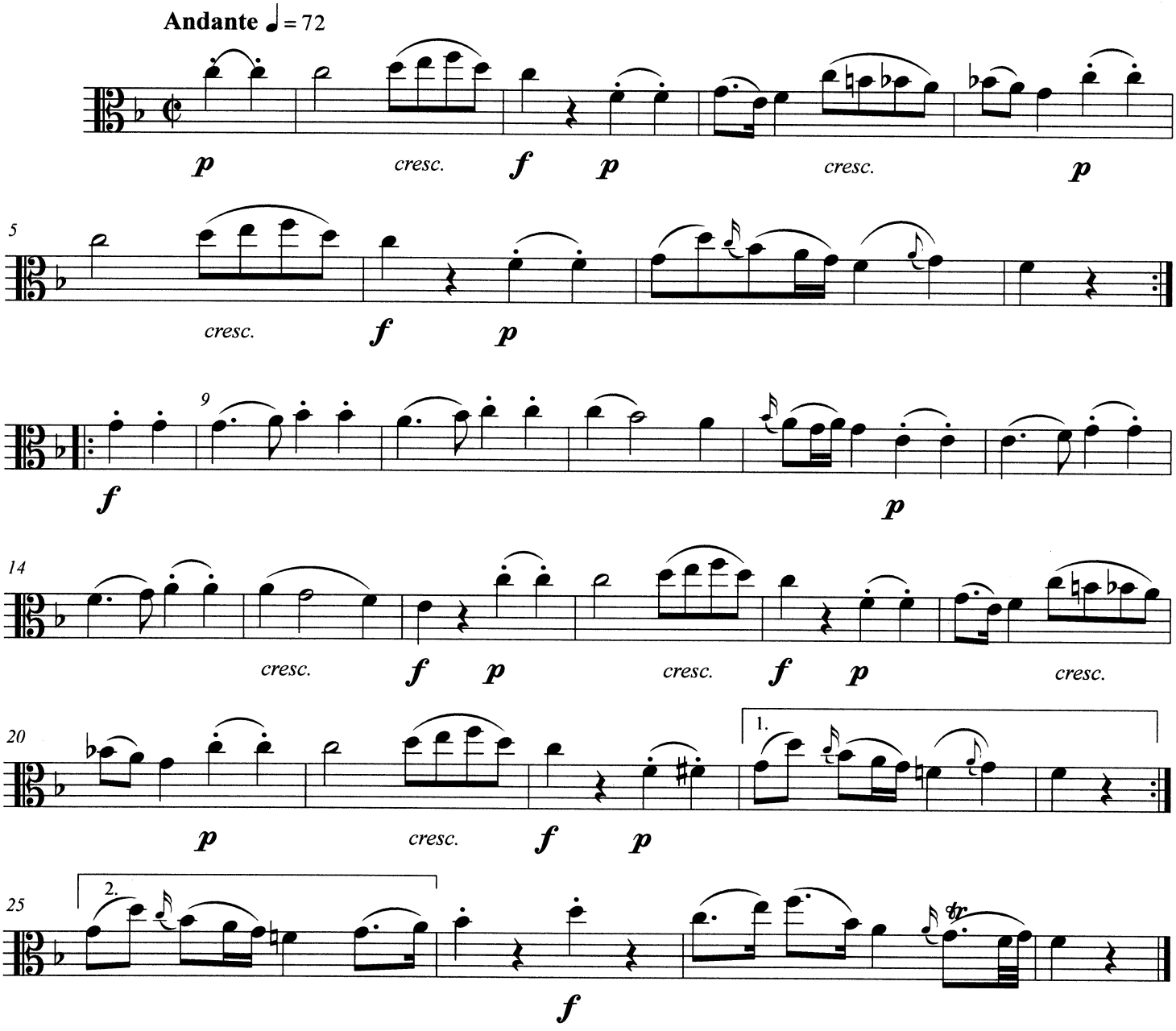
III

Adagio II



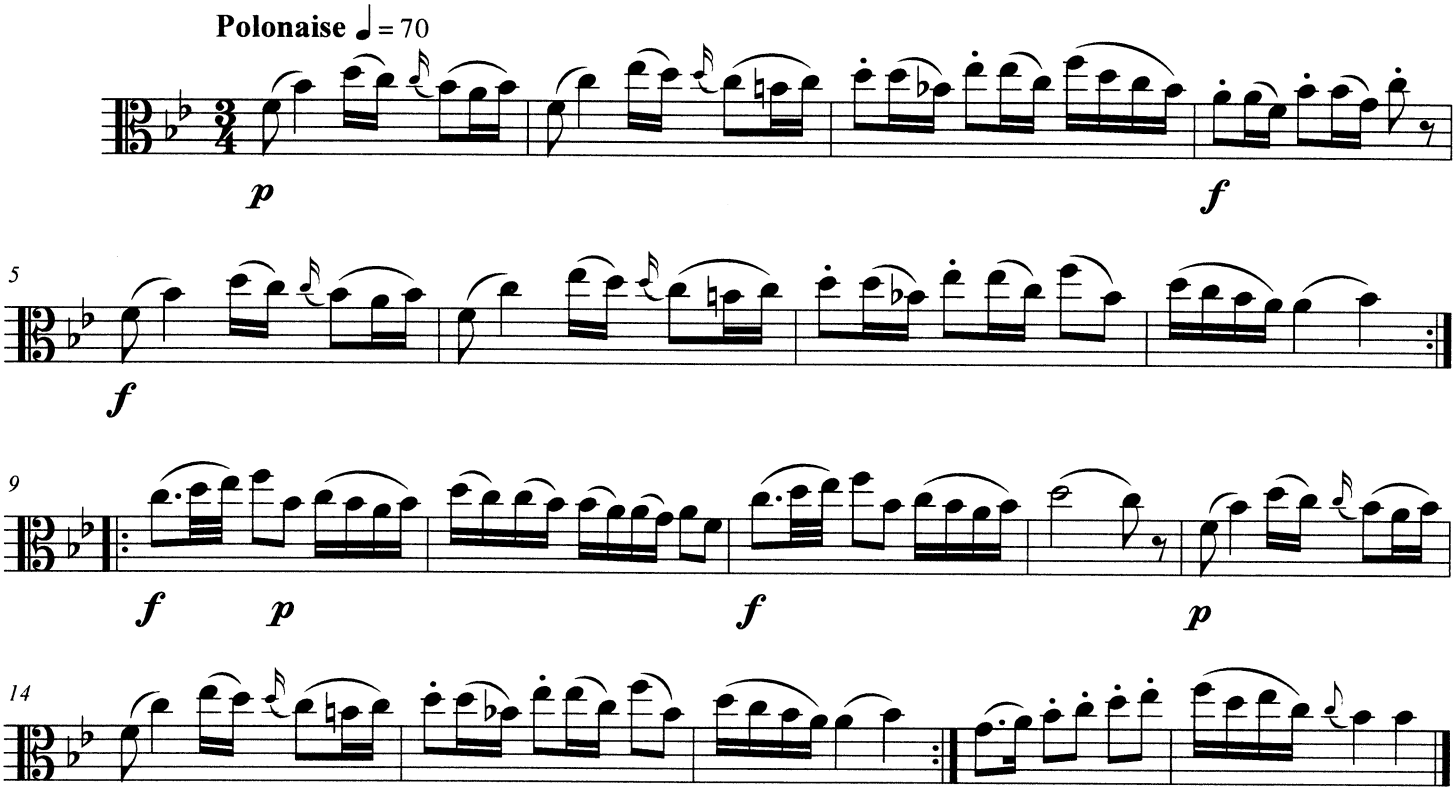
IV

Romance


Andante ♩ = 72
p
cresc.
f
p
cresc.
p
5
cresc.
f
p
9
f
p
14
cresc.
f
p
cresc.
f
p
cresc.
20
p
cresc.
f
p
1.
25
2.
f

V

Polonaise



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Viola 2

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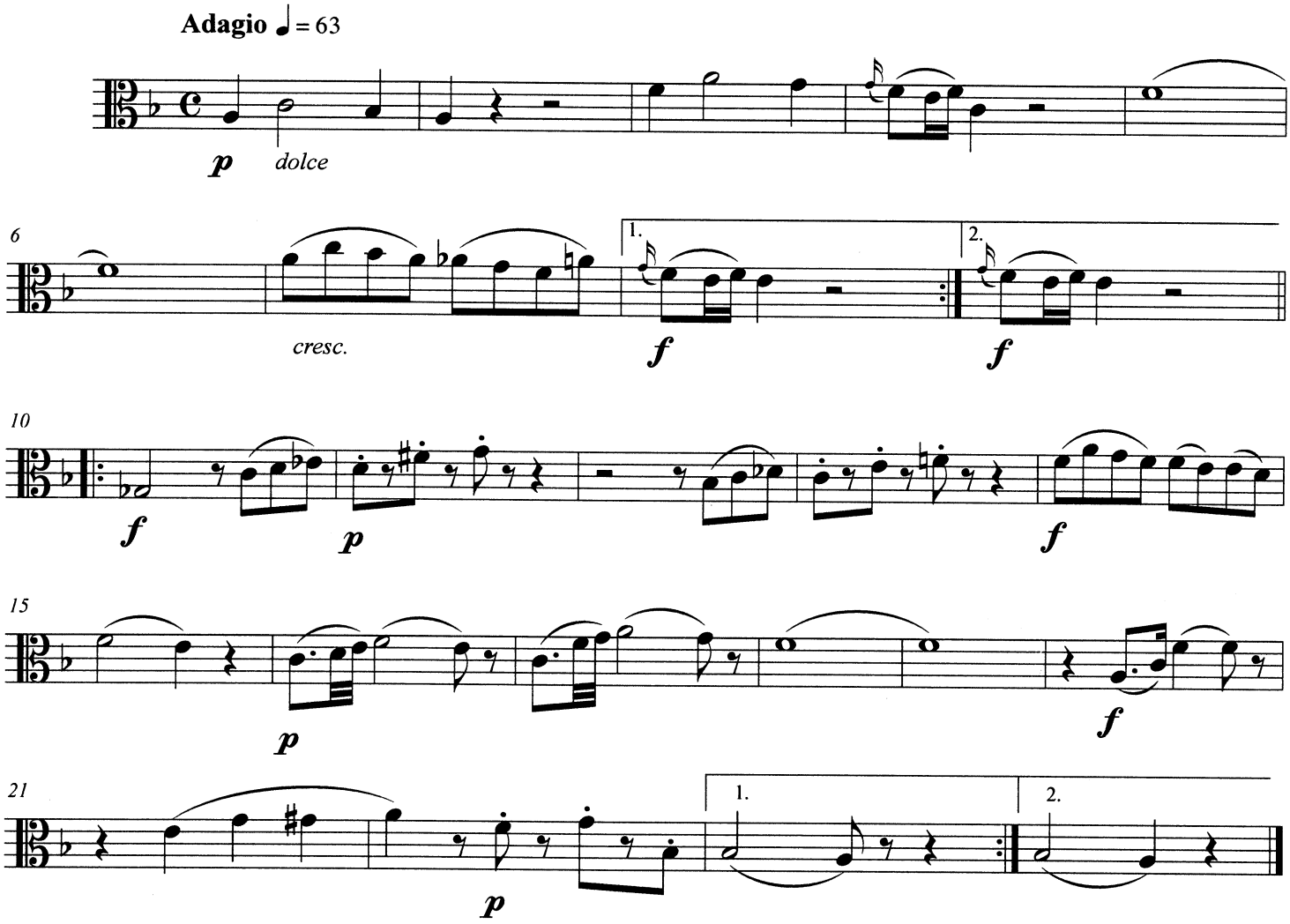
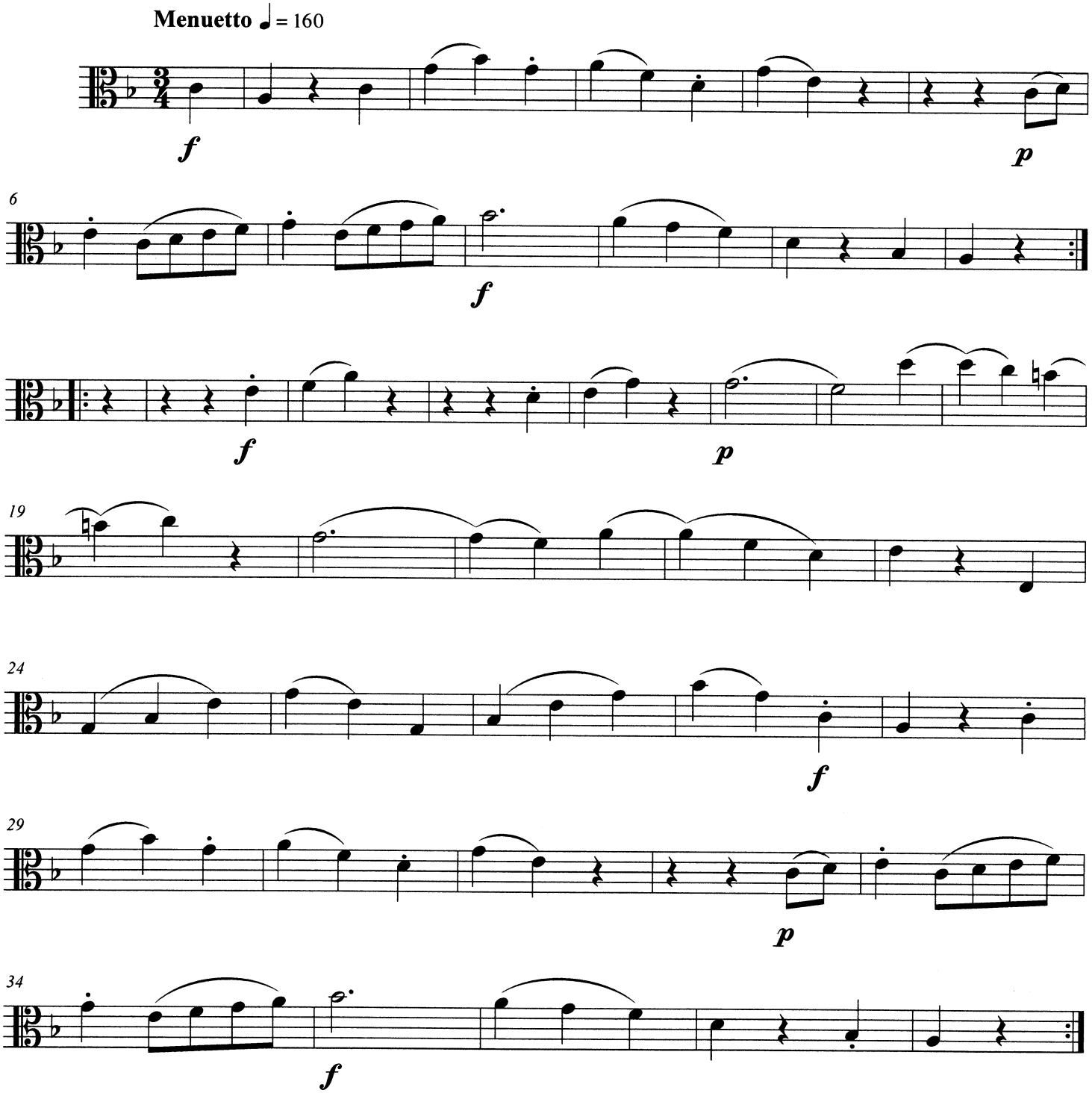
I

Adagio

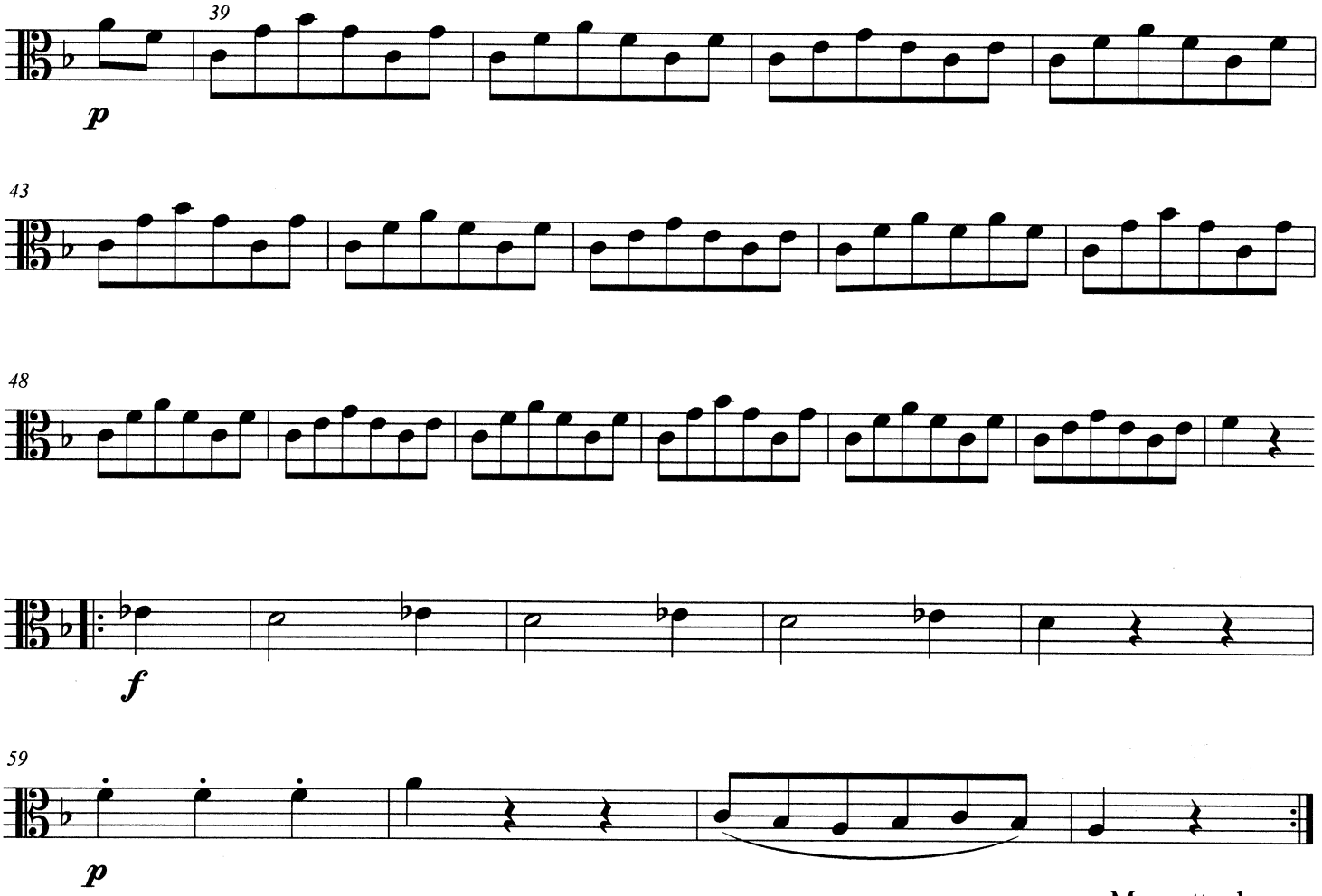


II

Menuetto



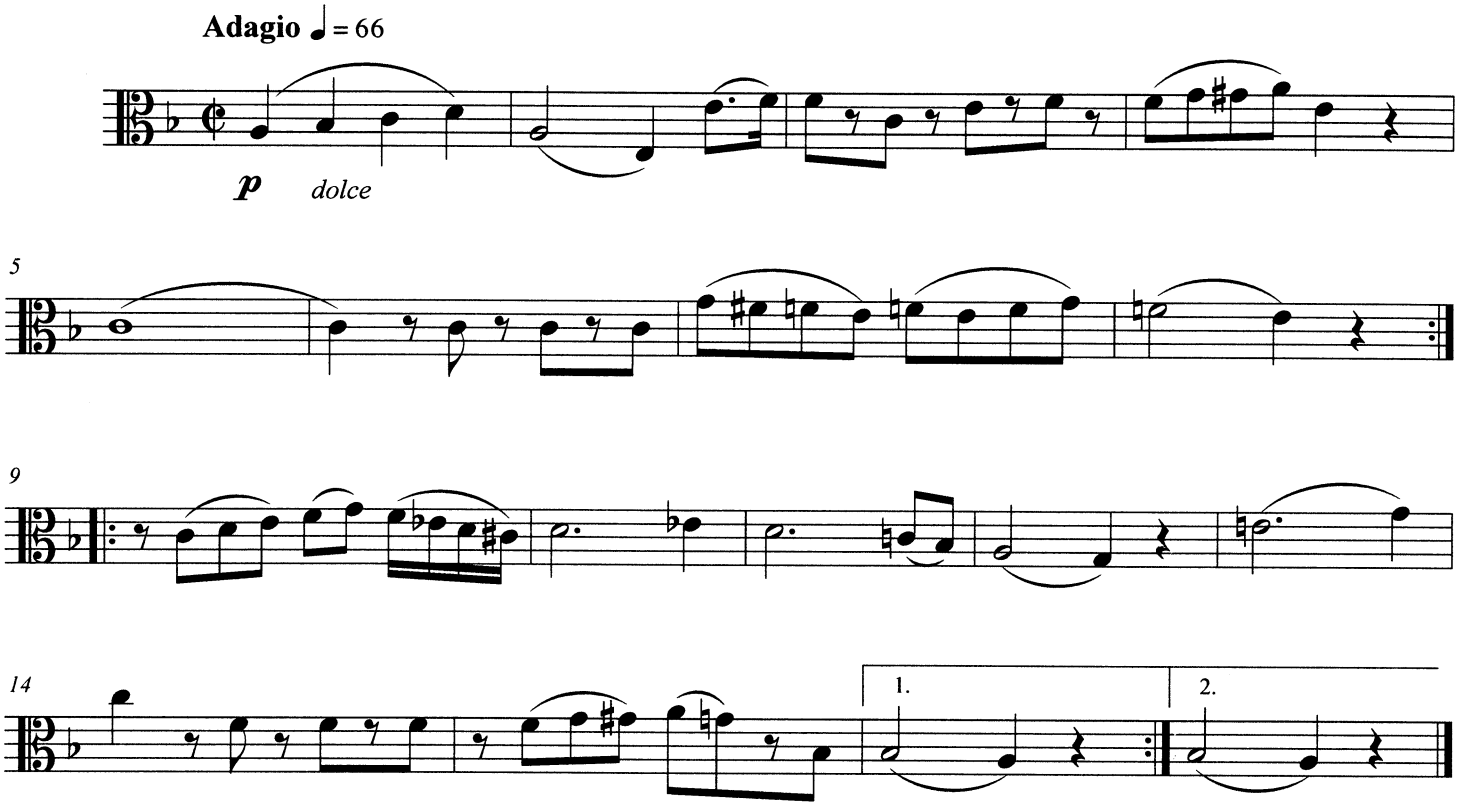
Trio



Menuetto da capo

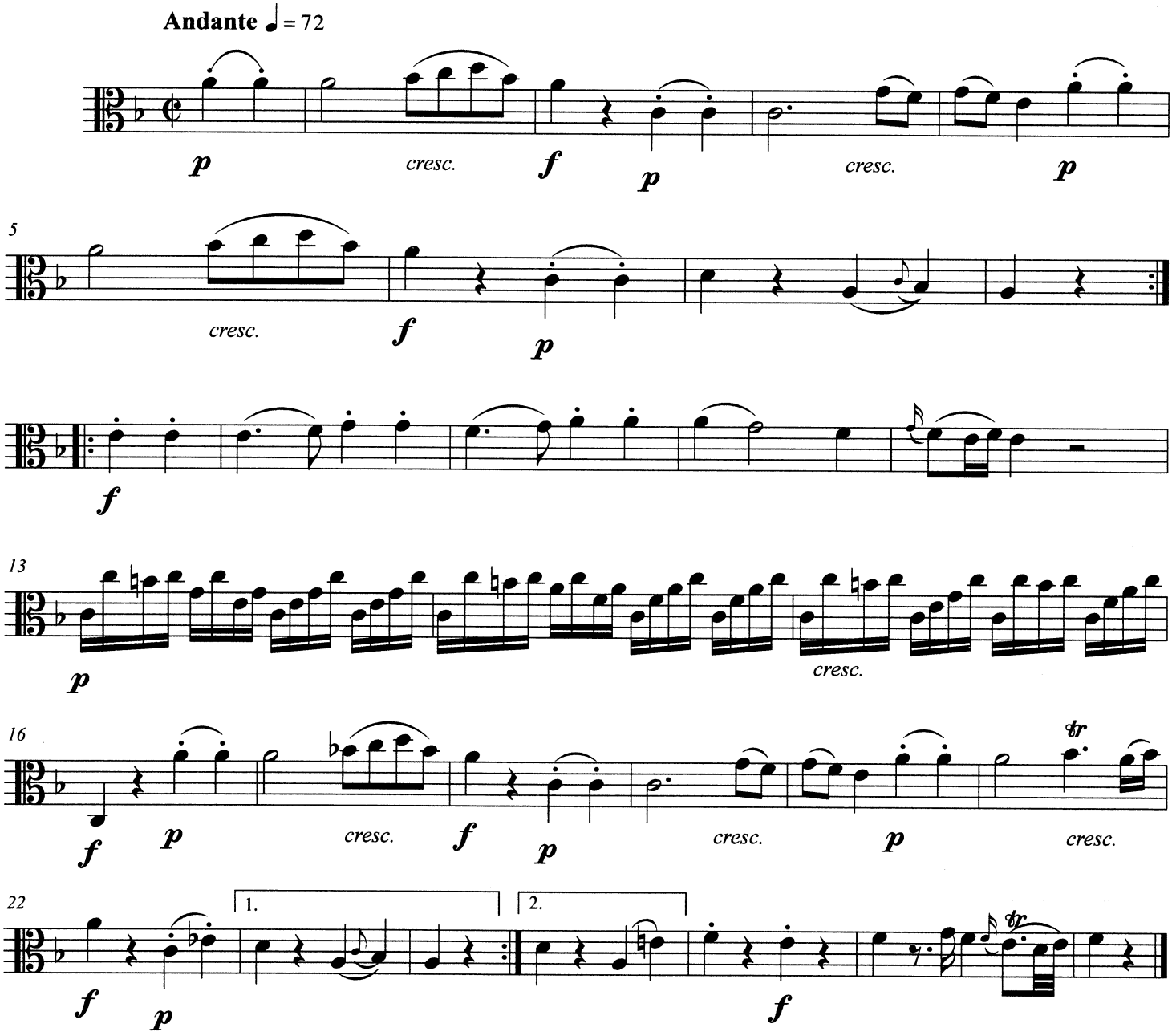
III

Adagio II



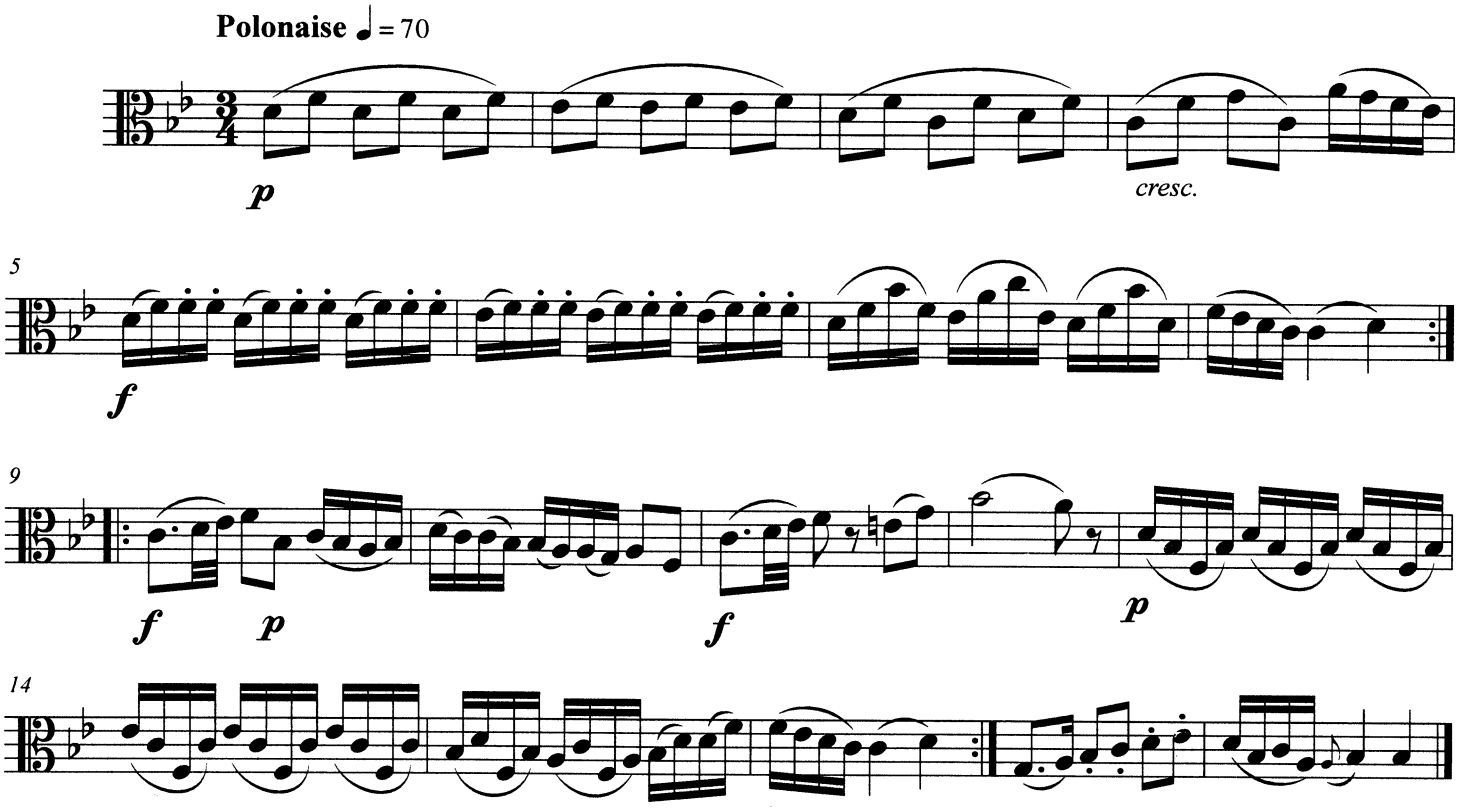
IV

Romance


Andante ♩ = 72
p
cresc.
f
p
cresc.
p
5
cresc.
f
p
f
13
p
cresc.
16
f
p
cresc.
f
p
cresc.
p
cresc.
22
1.
2.
f
p
f

V

Polonaise



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Viola 3

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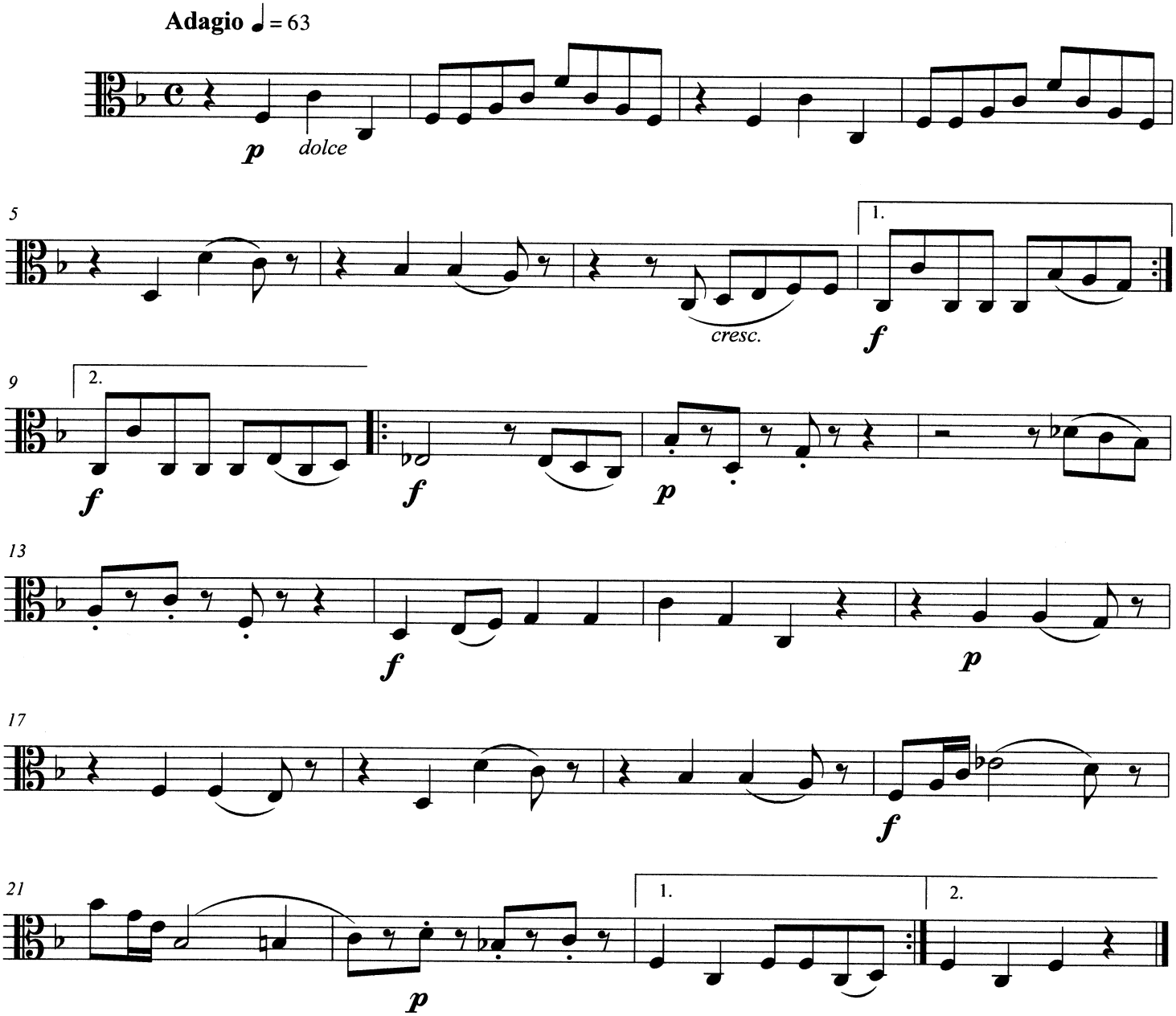
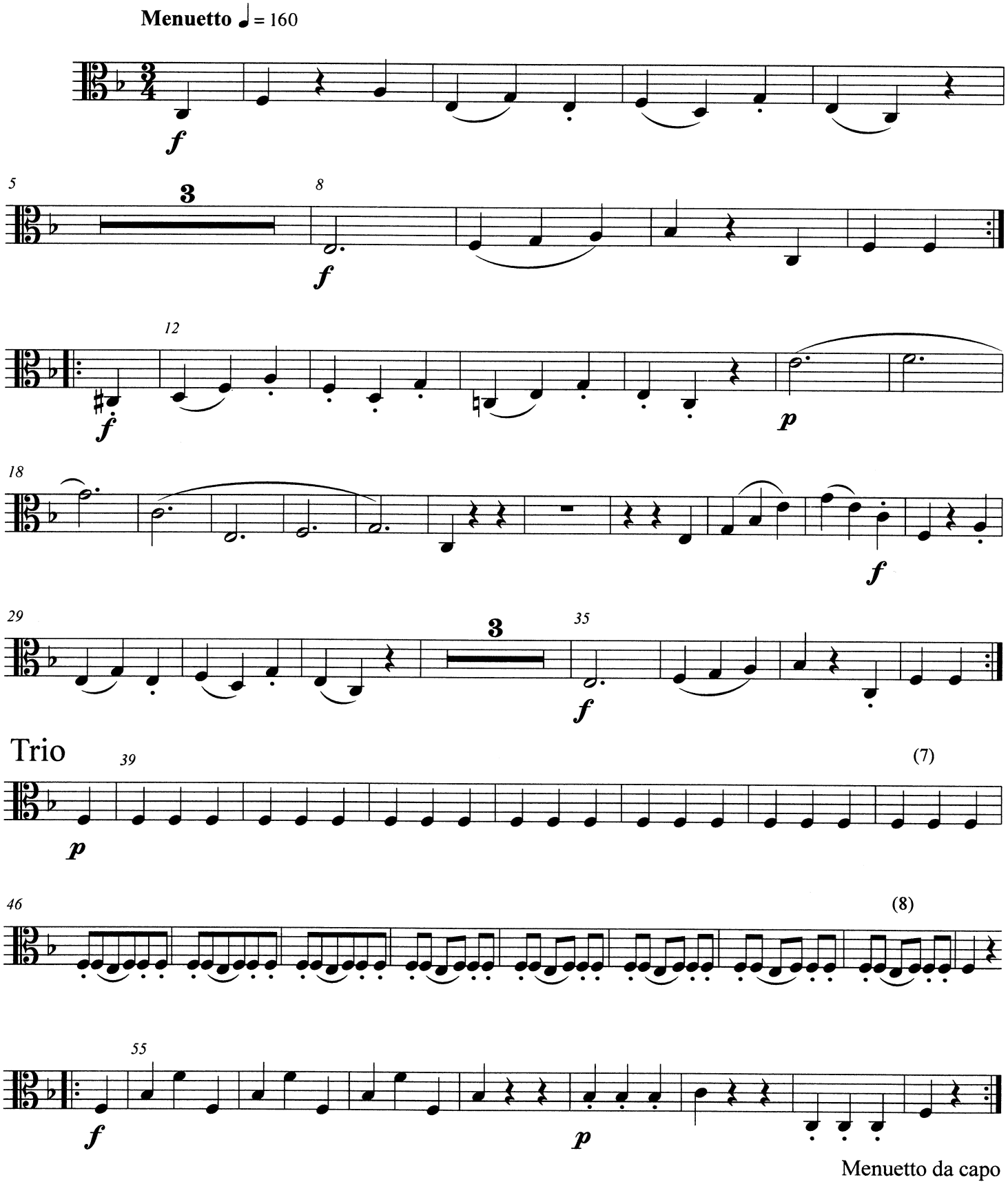
I

Adagio



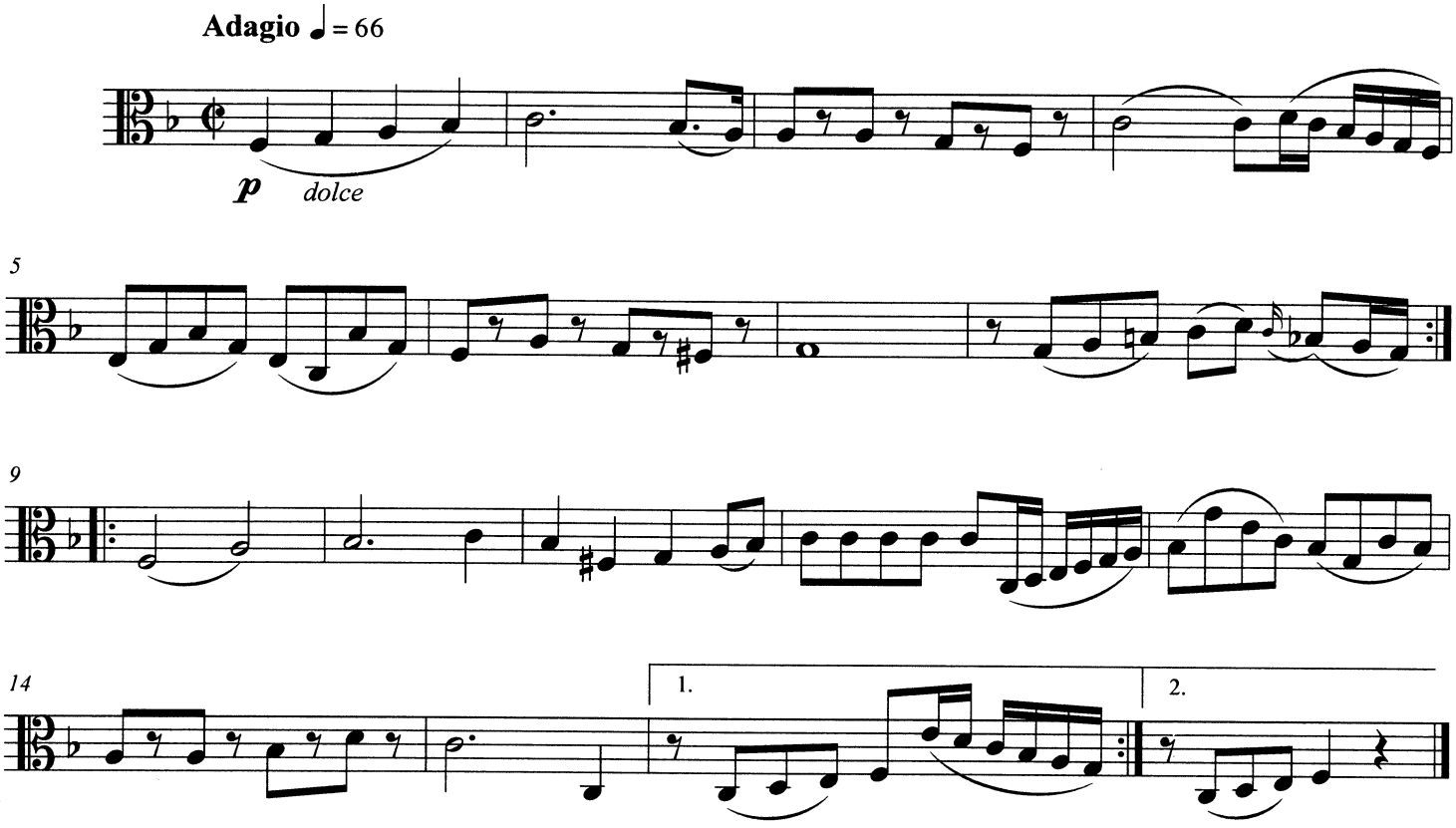
II

Menuetto


Menuetto ♩ = 160
f
5
3
8
f
12
f
p
18
f
29
3
35
f
Trio
39
(7)
p
46
(8)
55
f
p
Menuetto da capo

III

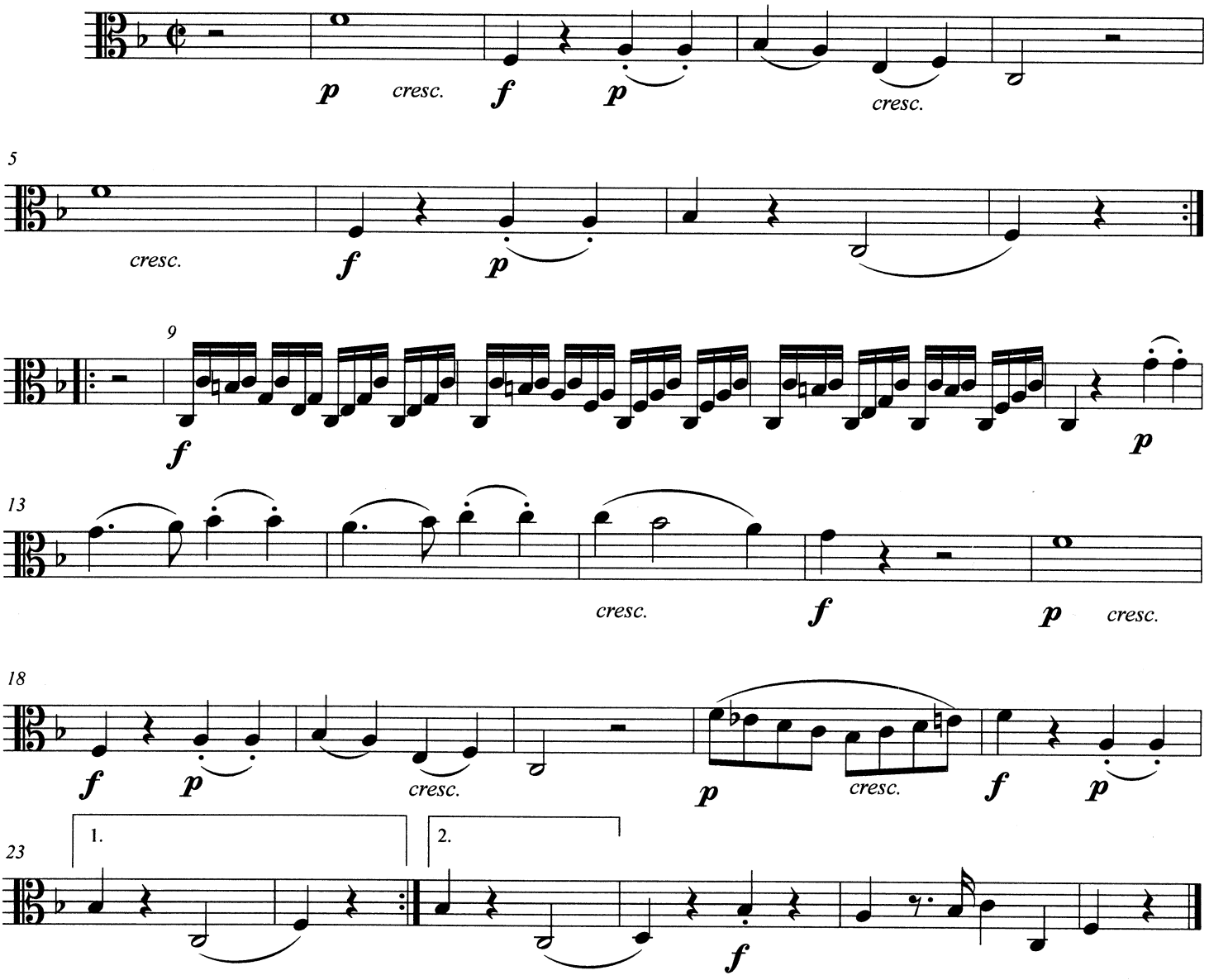
Adagio II

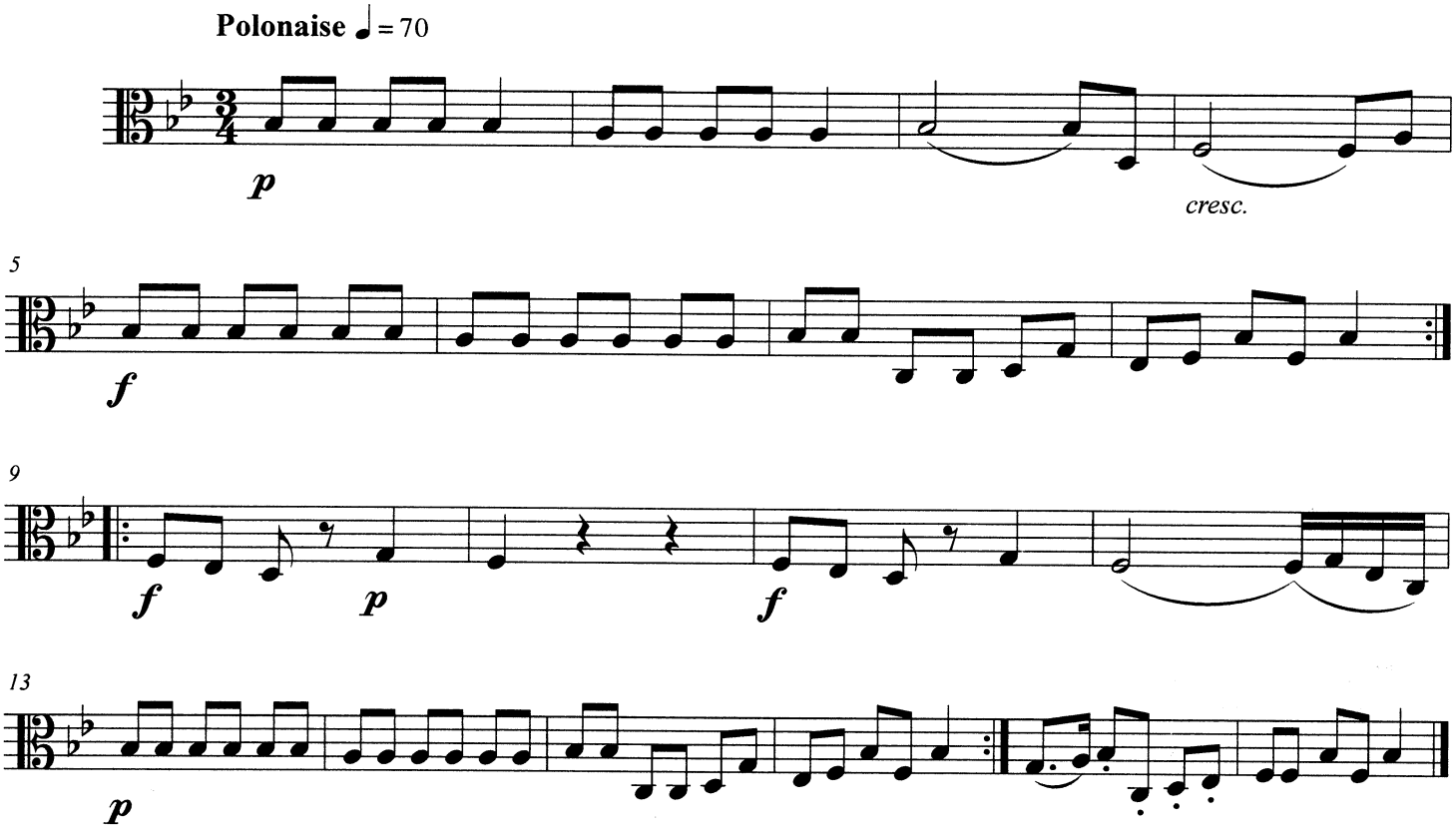


IV

Romance

Andante ♩ = 72



V

Polonaise