AMERICAN**VIOLA**SOCIETY

Aphorisms II

for viola and piano

Stanley Grill
1954-

AVS PUBLICATIONS 085

Aphorisms II

(for viola & piano)

"a terse statement of a truth or sentiment"

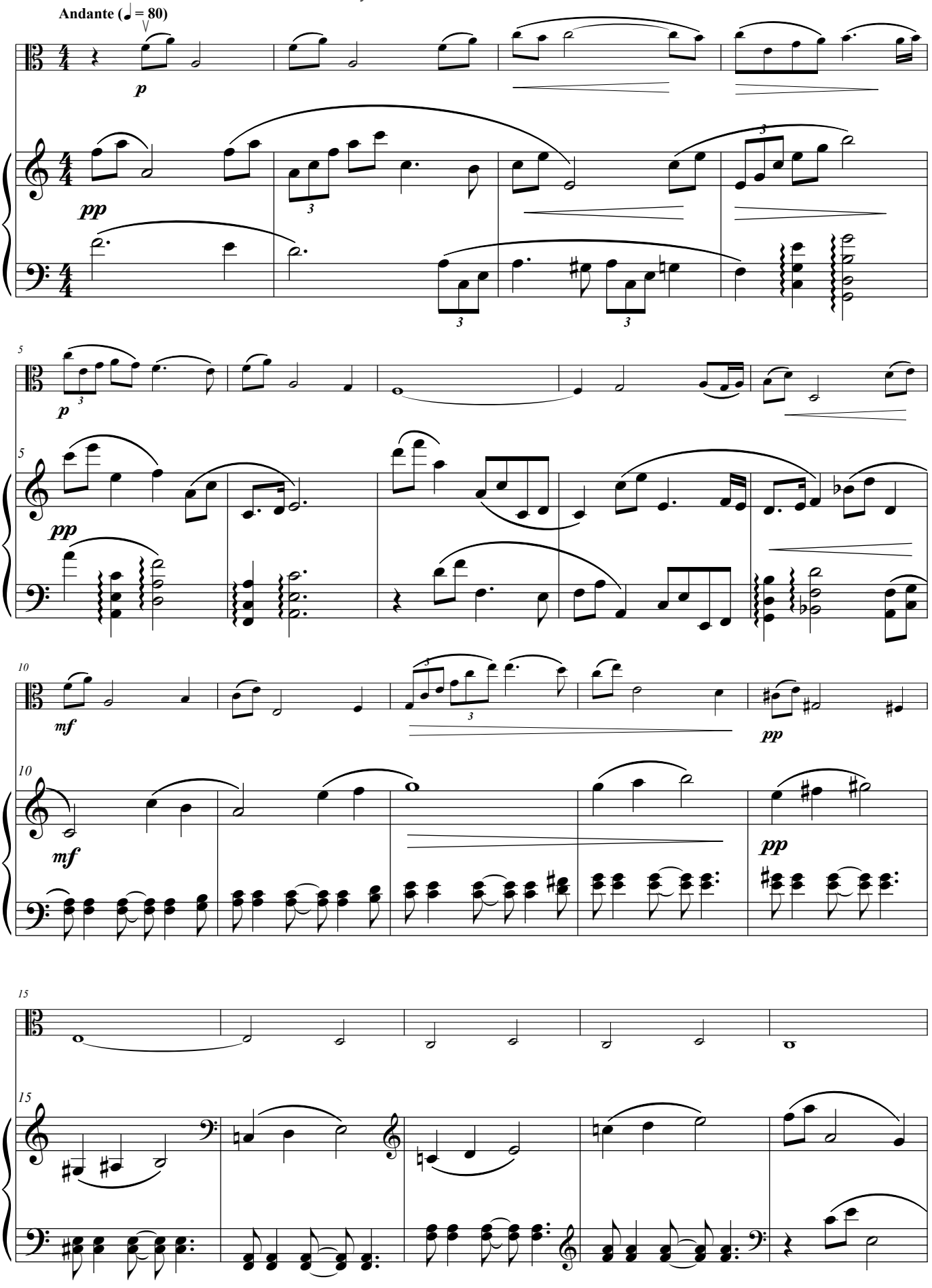
Many authors and thinkers have written aphorisms, but few excelled at this art. The ability to capture a complex thought in a simple, pithy phrase is harder than it looks! Recently reading through a few volumes of aphorisms by François La Rochefoucauld, Franz Kafka and Oscar Wilde, and finding that while the format of these books, in places, has some semblance of order, mostly each maxim or aphorism stands on its own. This arrangement intrigued me for music, as such a method of organization runs so contrary to how music is usually structured – and I wanted to experiment with a piece that flowed from one brief idea to another, without interruption or development. I employed this first in a string quartet, Aphorisms I, and then followed that shortly thereafter with this work for viola & piano.

Stanley Grill
Haworth, NJ

April, 2019

Procured and prepared by Tanya Solomon, Chair of the Scores Committee for the American Viola Society.

Aphorisms II



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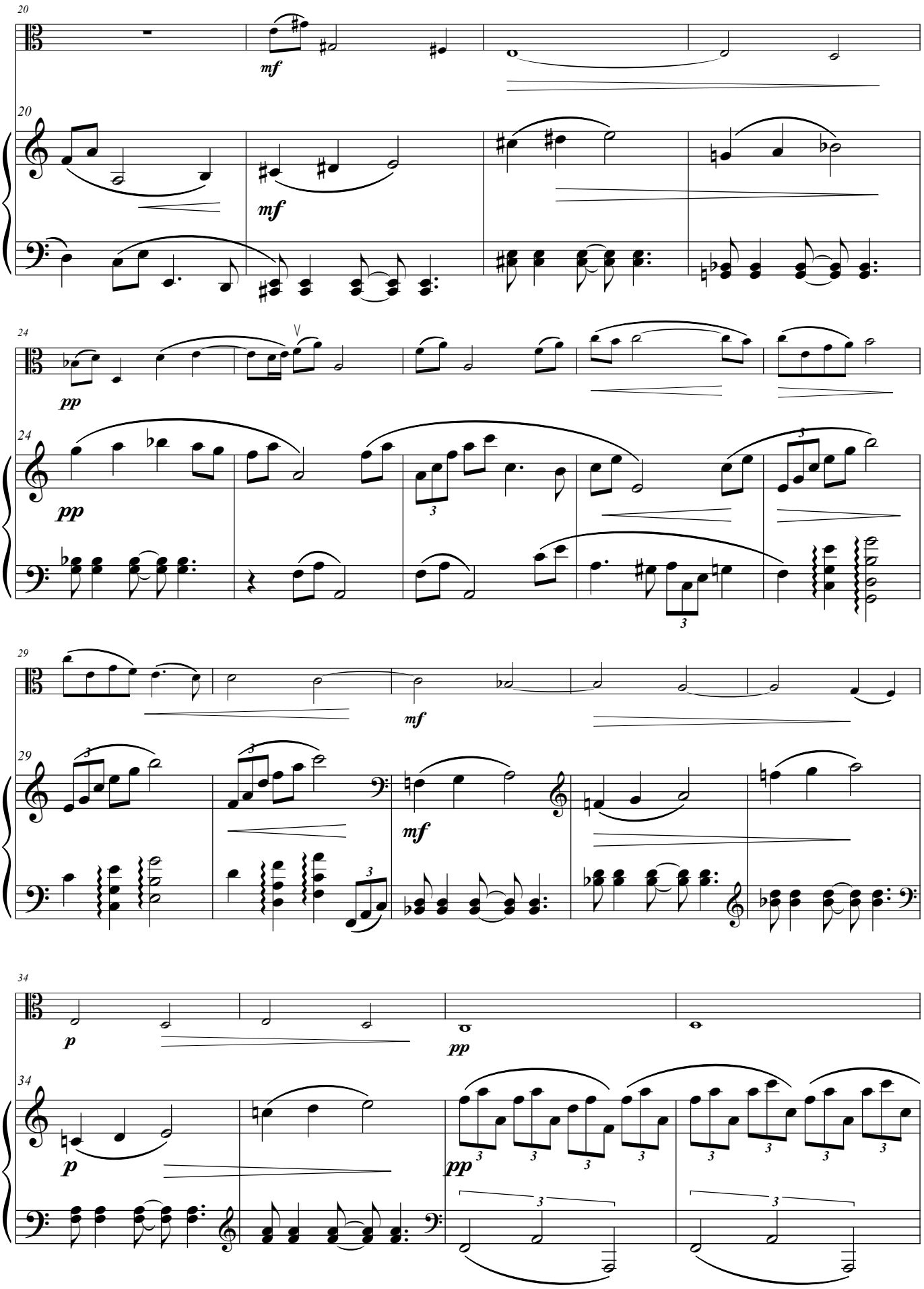
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mf
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3
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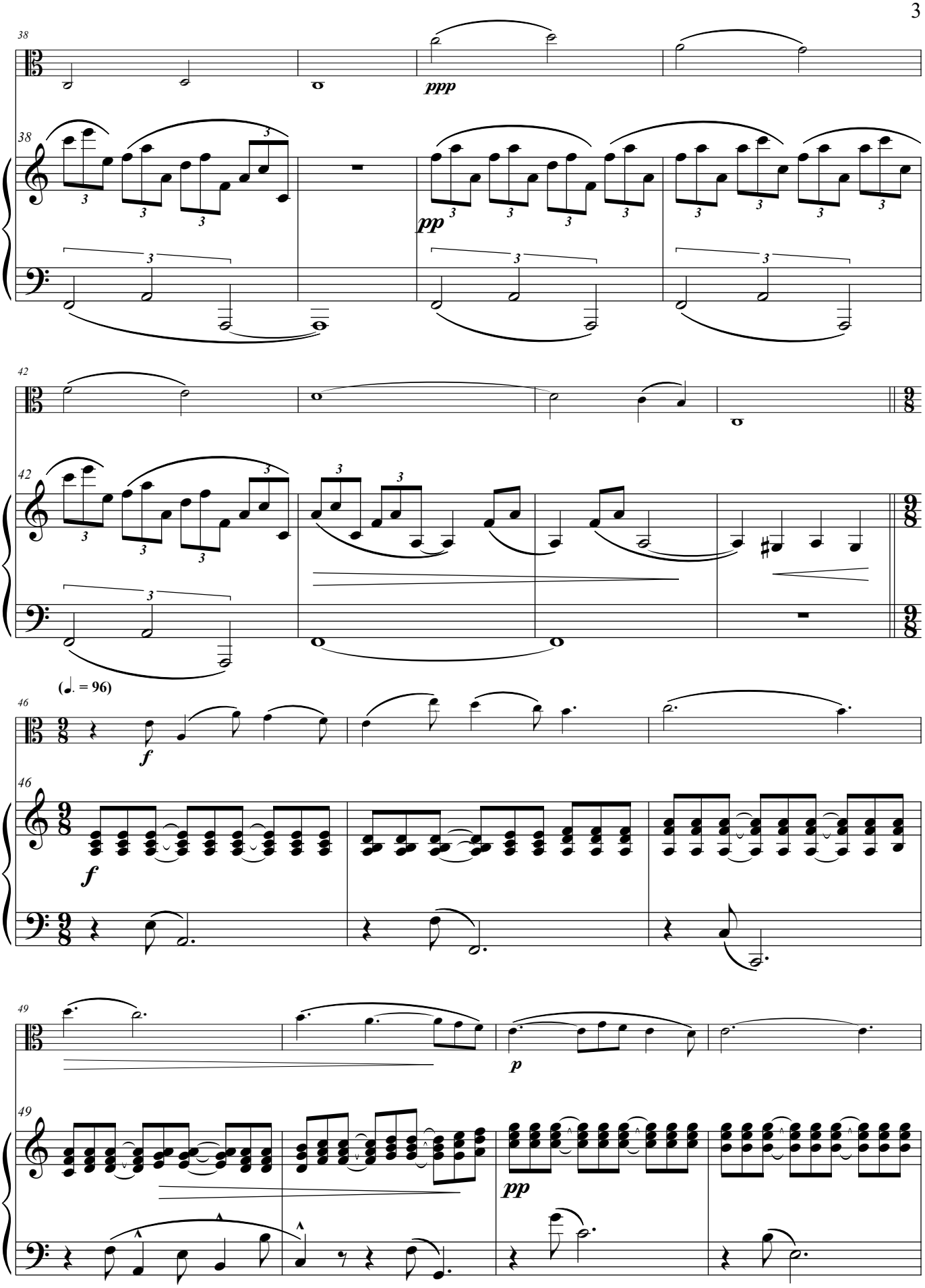
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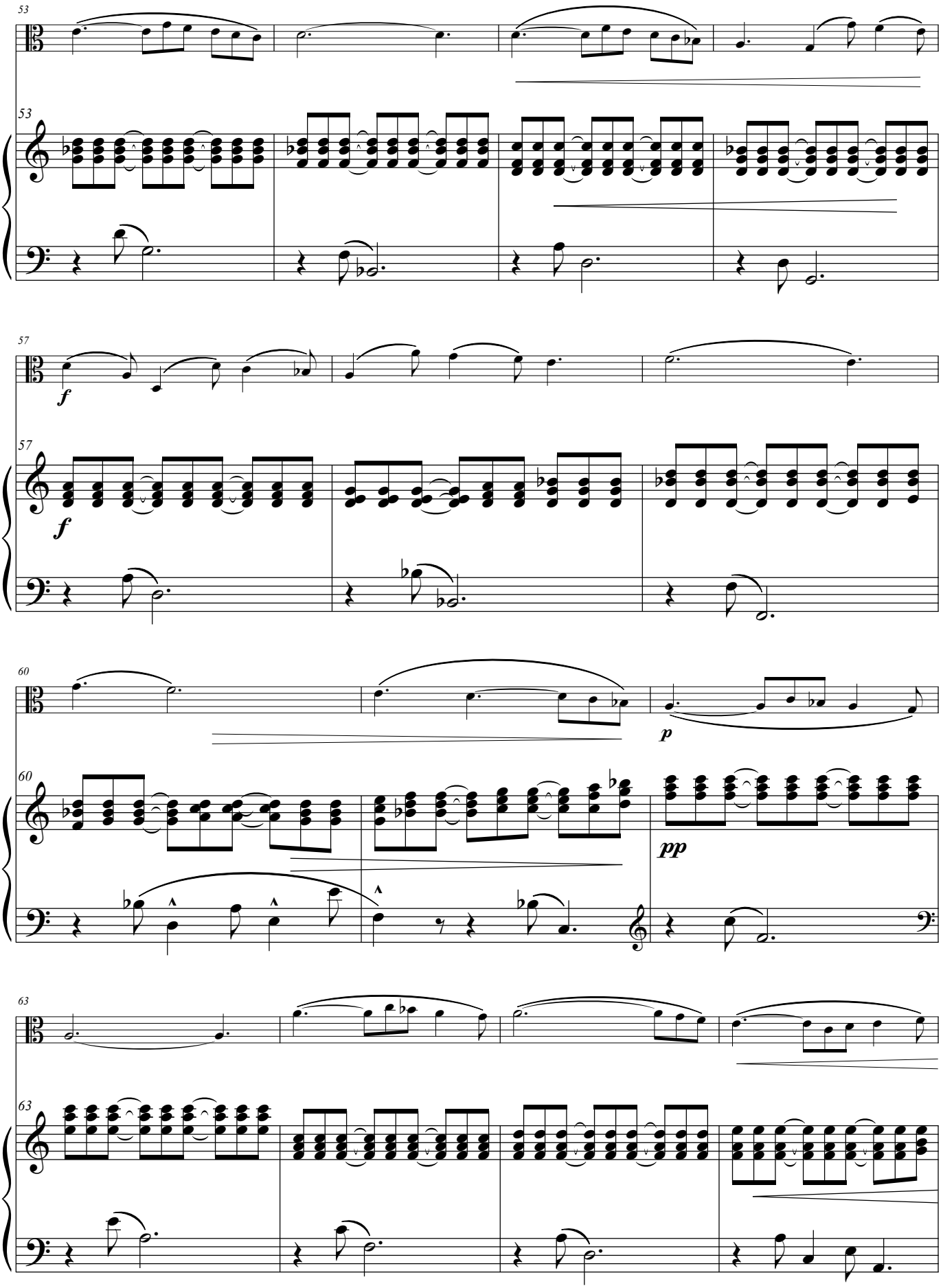
ppp
38
pp
42
42
(♩. = 96)
46
f
46
f
49
p
49
pp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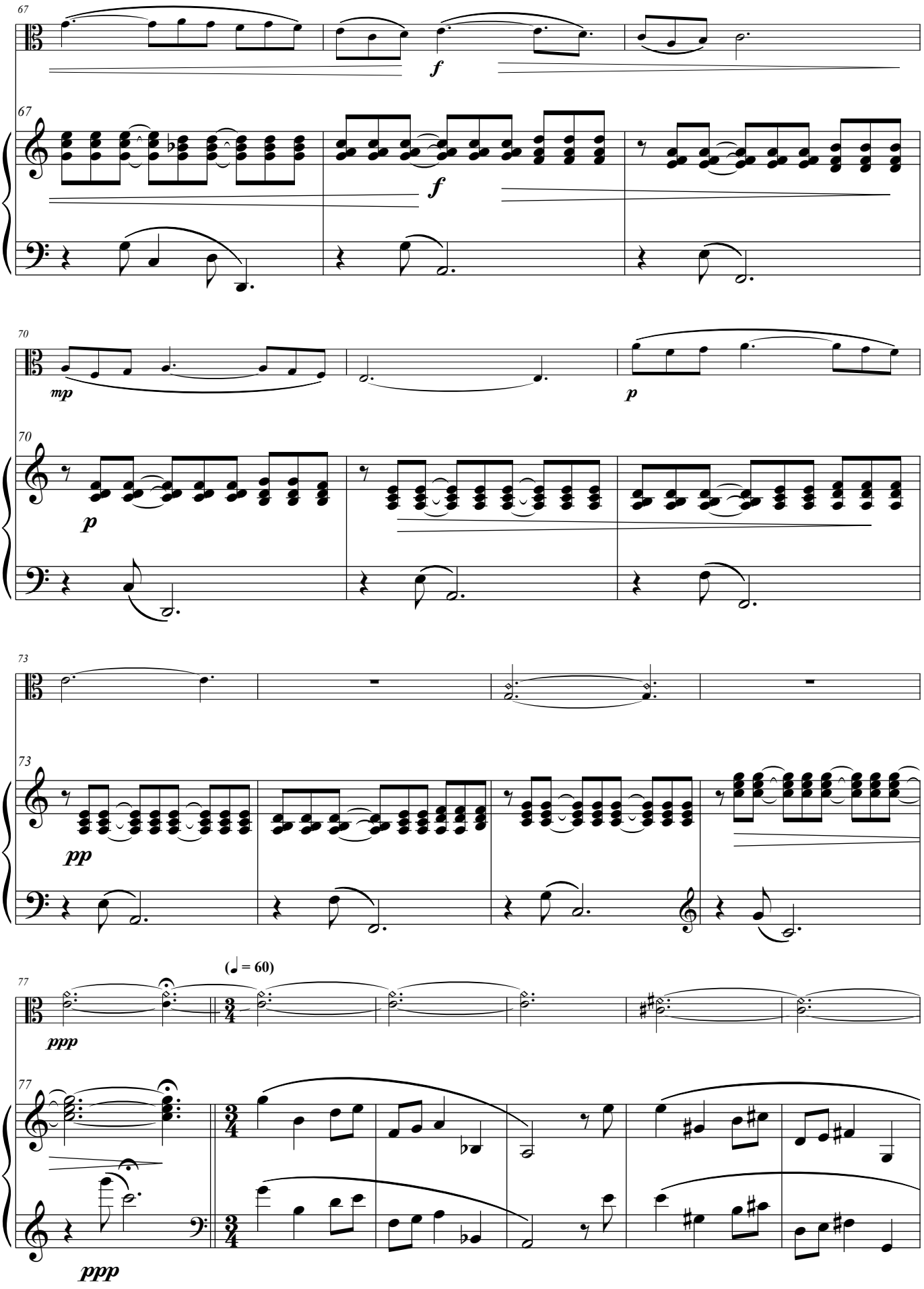
57
f
60
p
60
pp
63
63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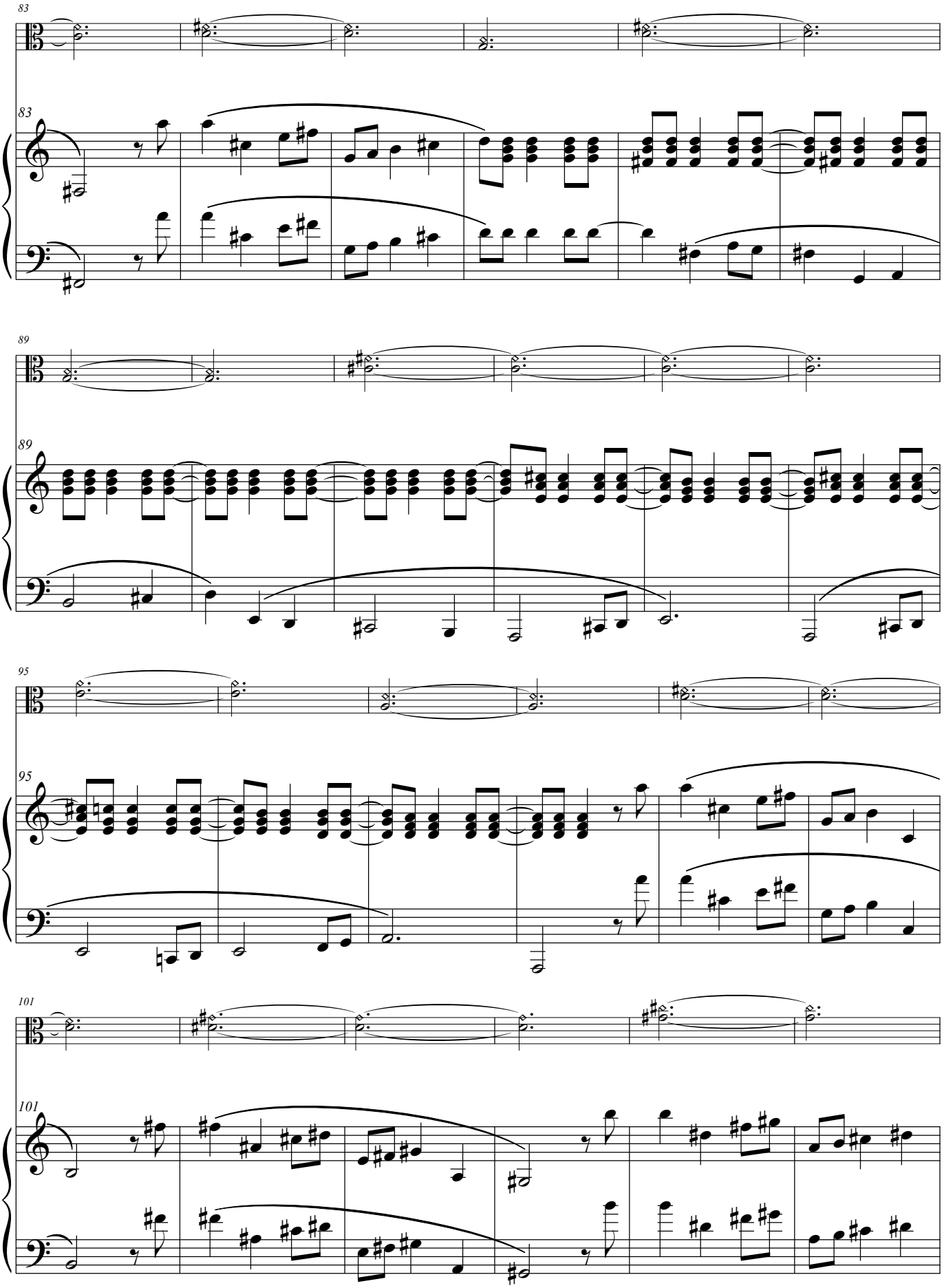
f
67
f
70
mp
p
70
p
73
pp
73
77
(♩ = 60)
ppp
77
ppp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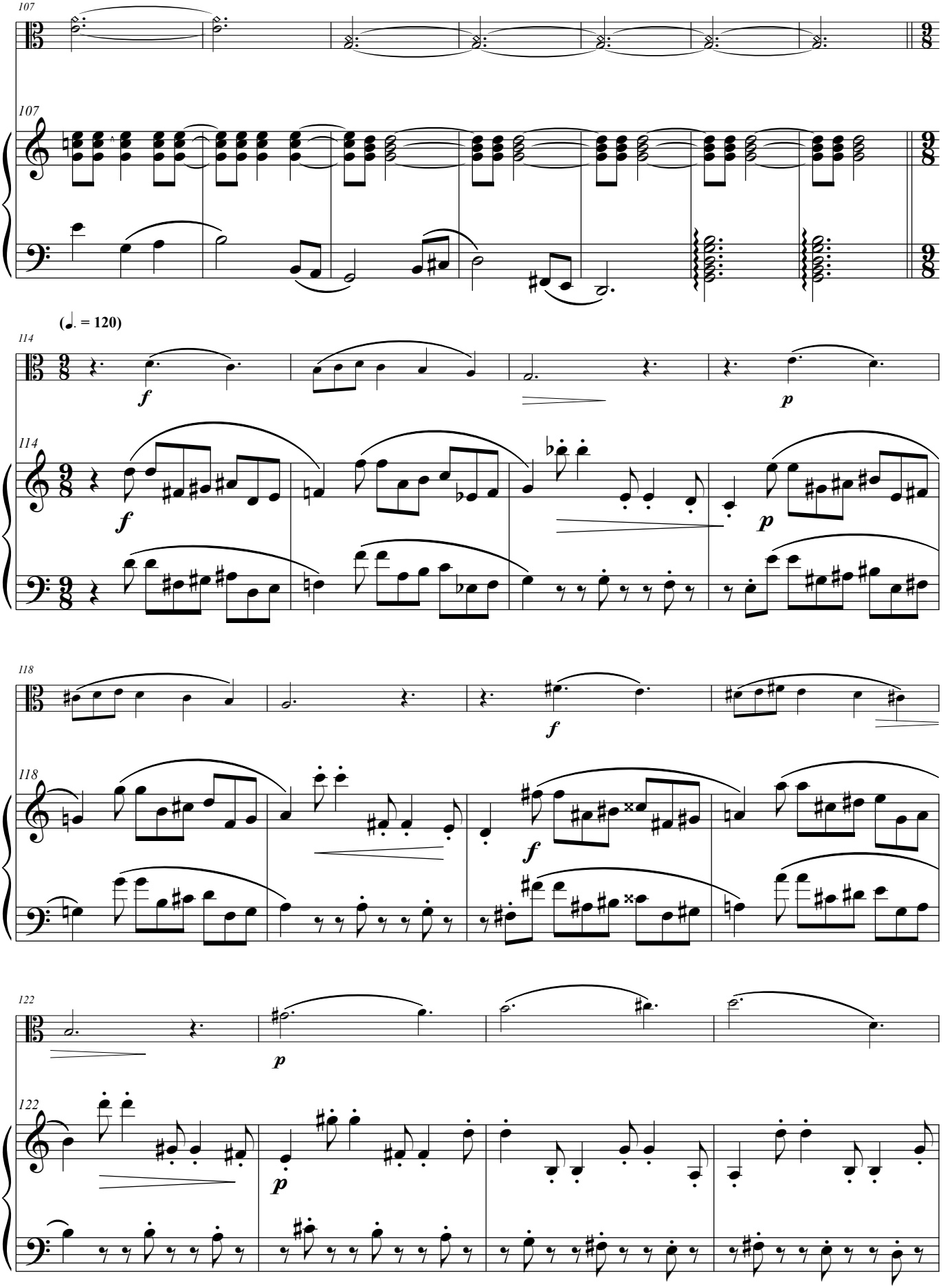
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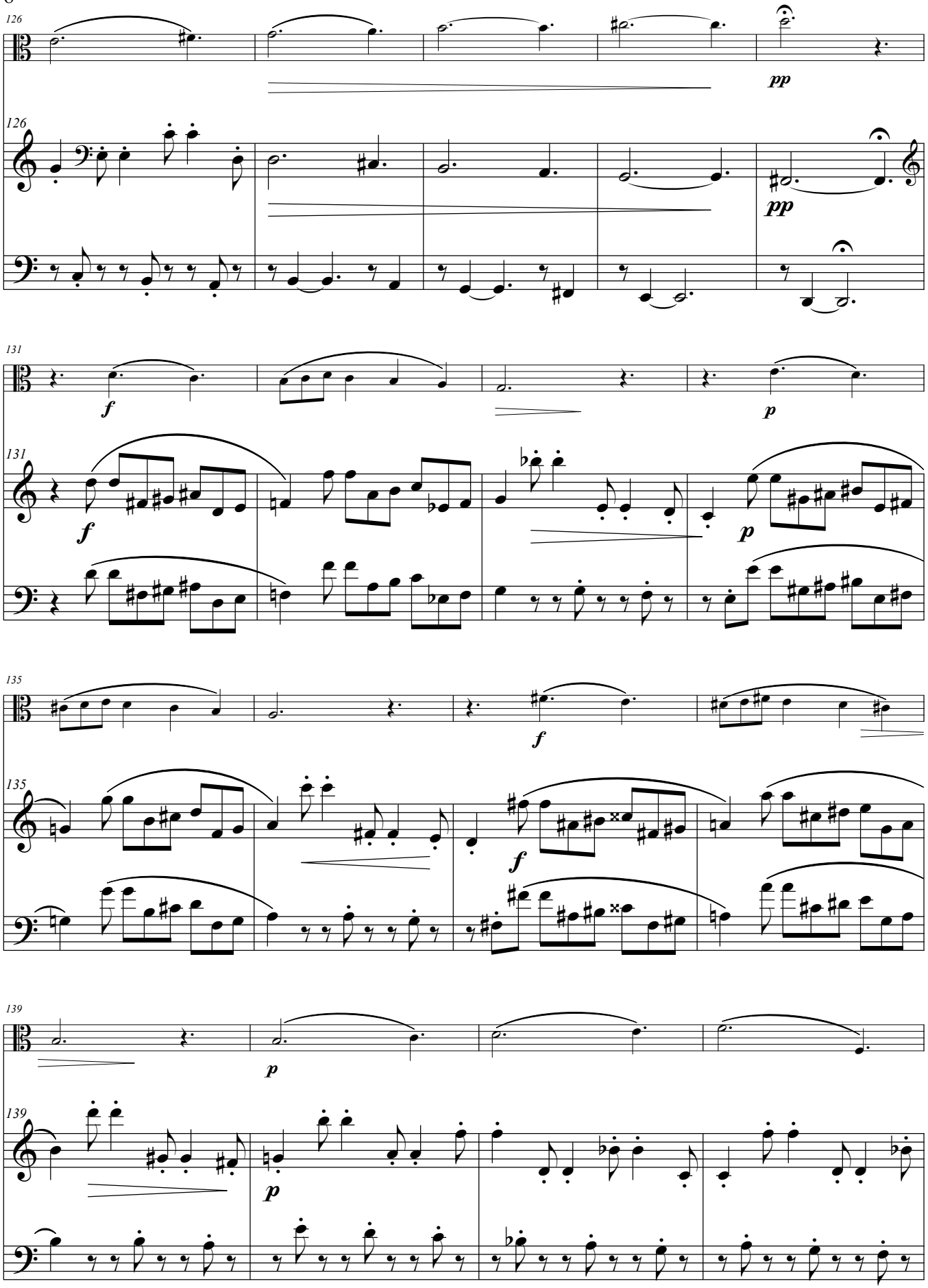
107
(♩. = 120)
114
f
p
114
f
p
118
f
118
f
122
p
122
p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126
pp
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f
p
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p
135
f
135
f
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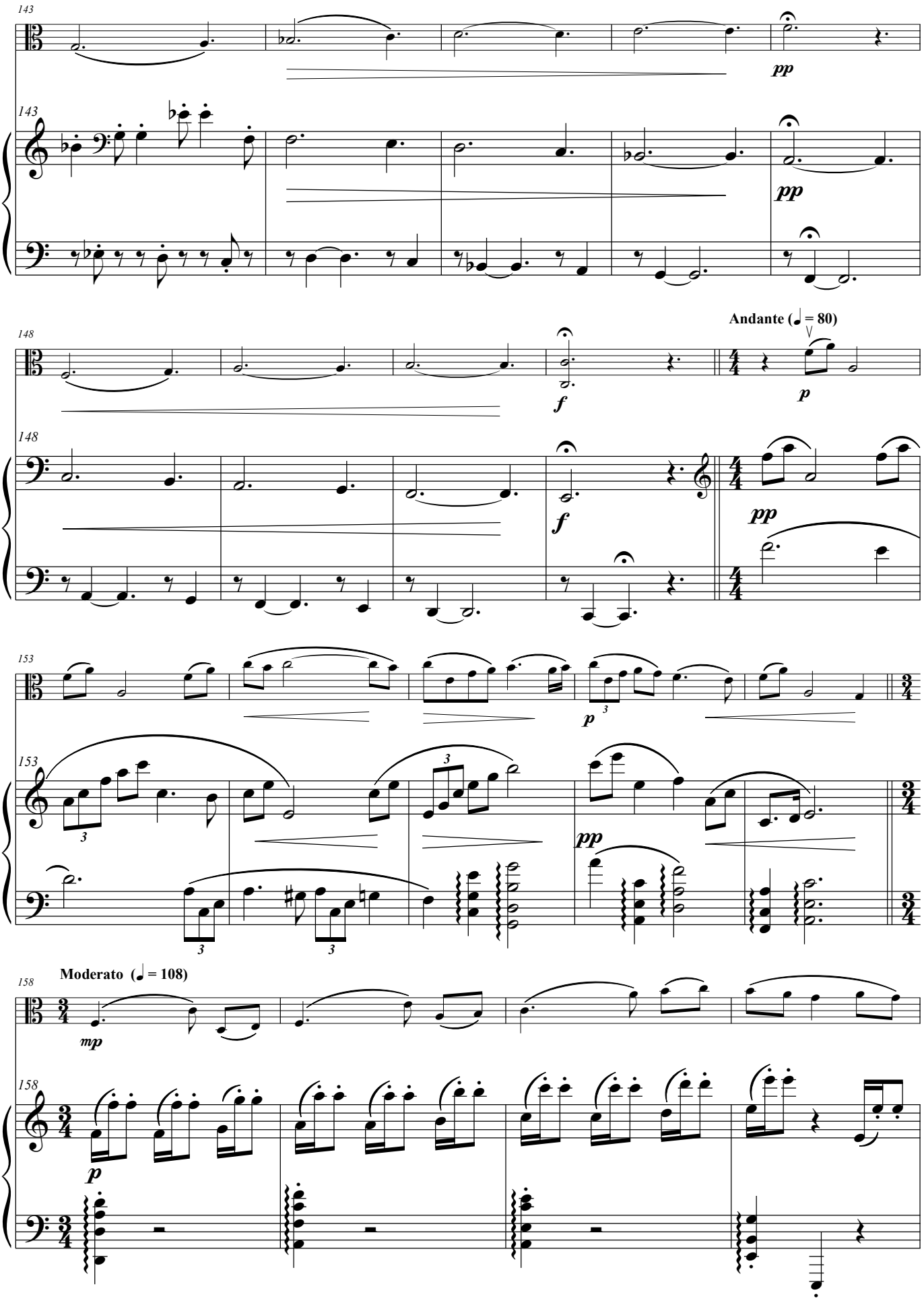
p
139
p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pp
143
pp
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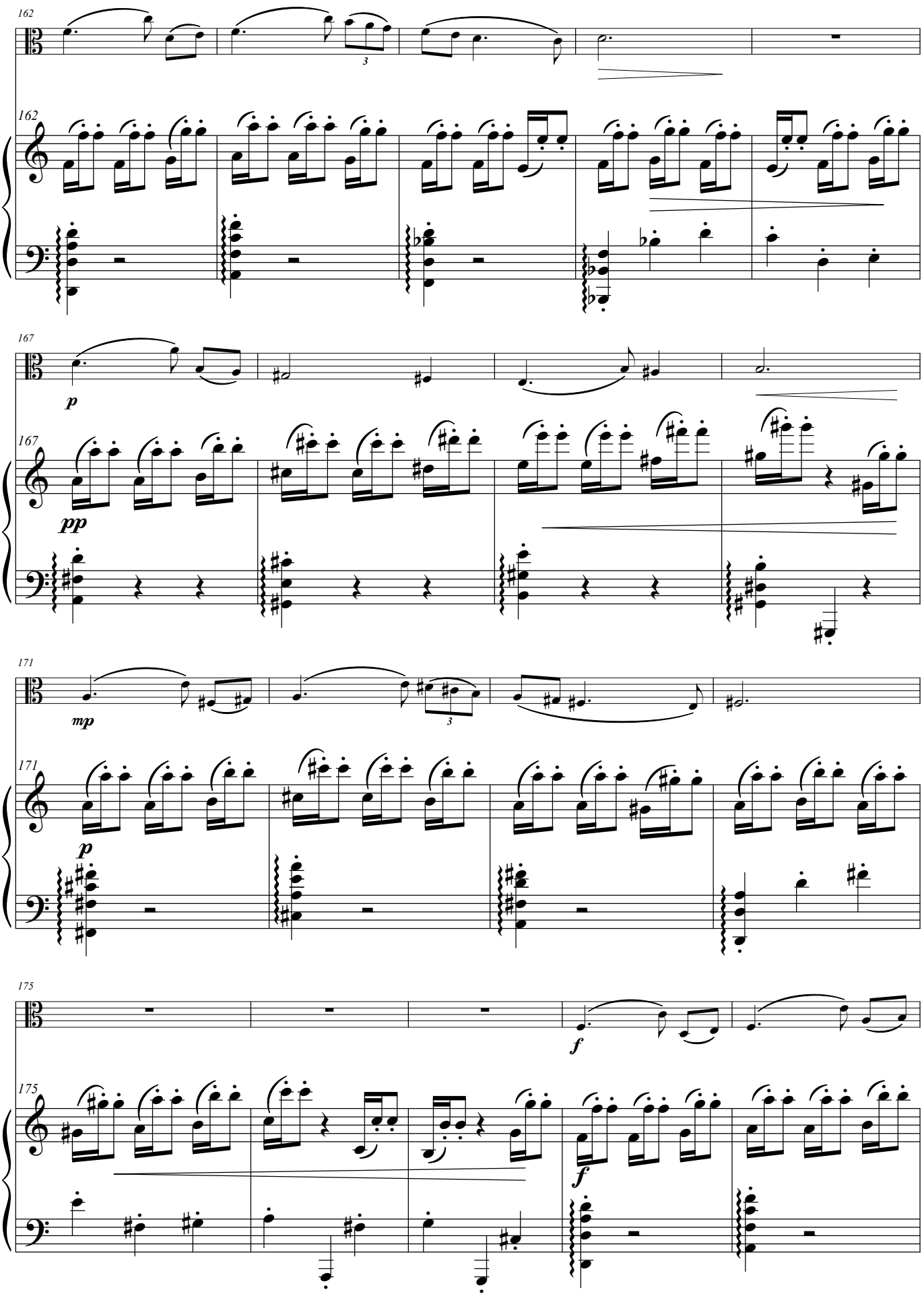
f
Andante (♩ = 80)
p
148
f
pp
153
p
153
pp
158
Moderato (♩ = 108)
mp
158
p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3
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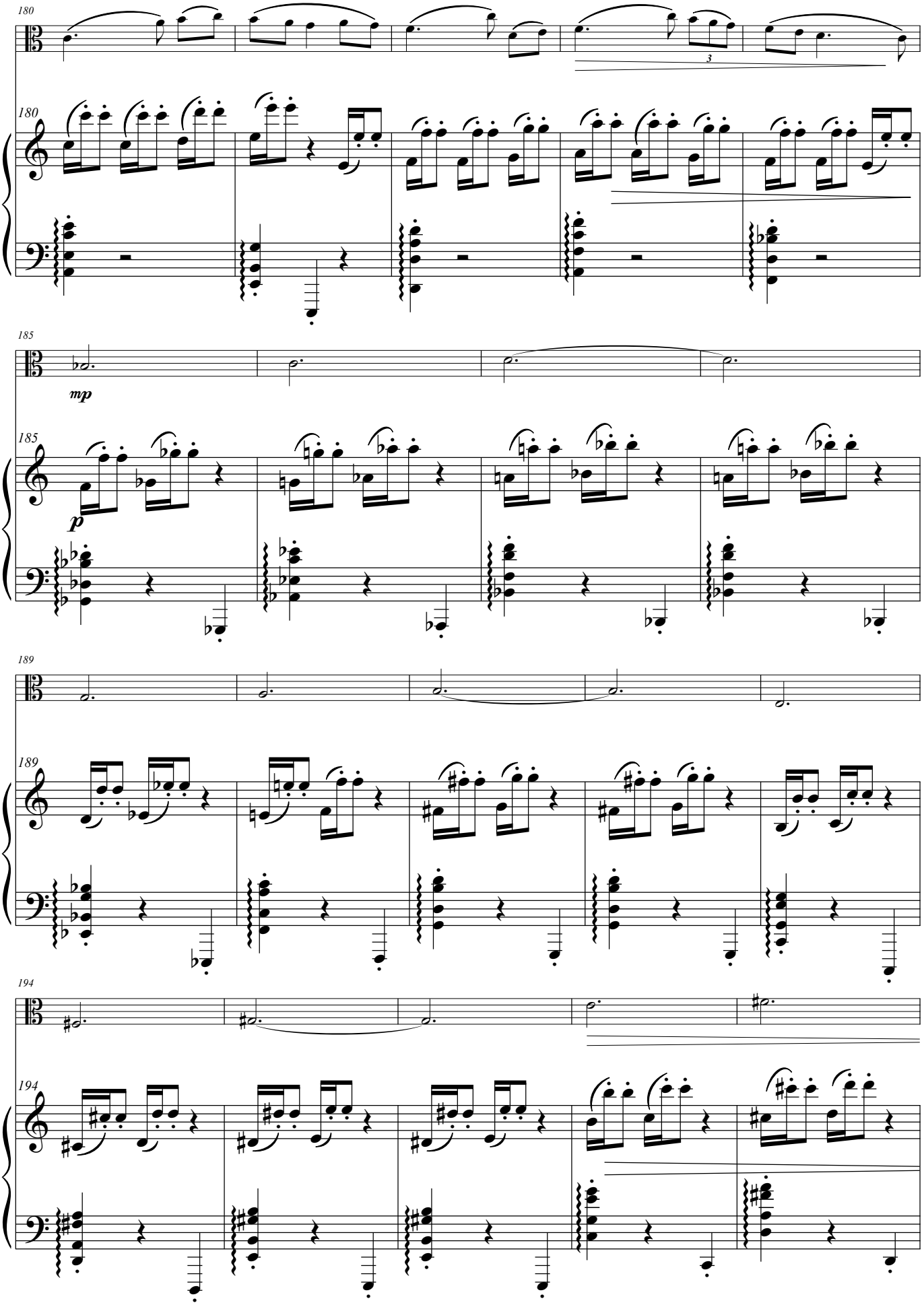
167
p
pp
167
171
mp
3
p
171
175
f
f
175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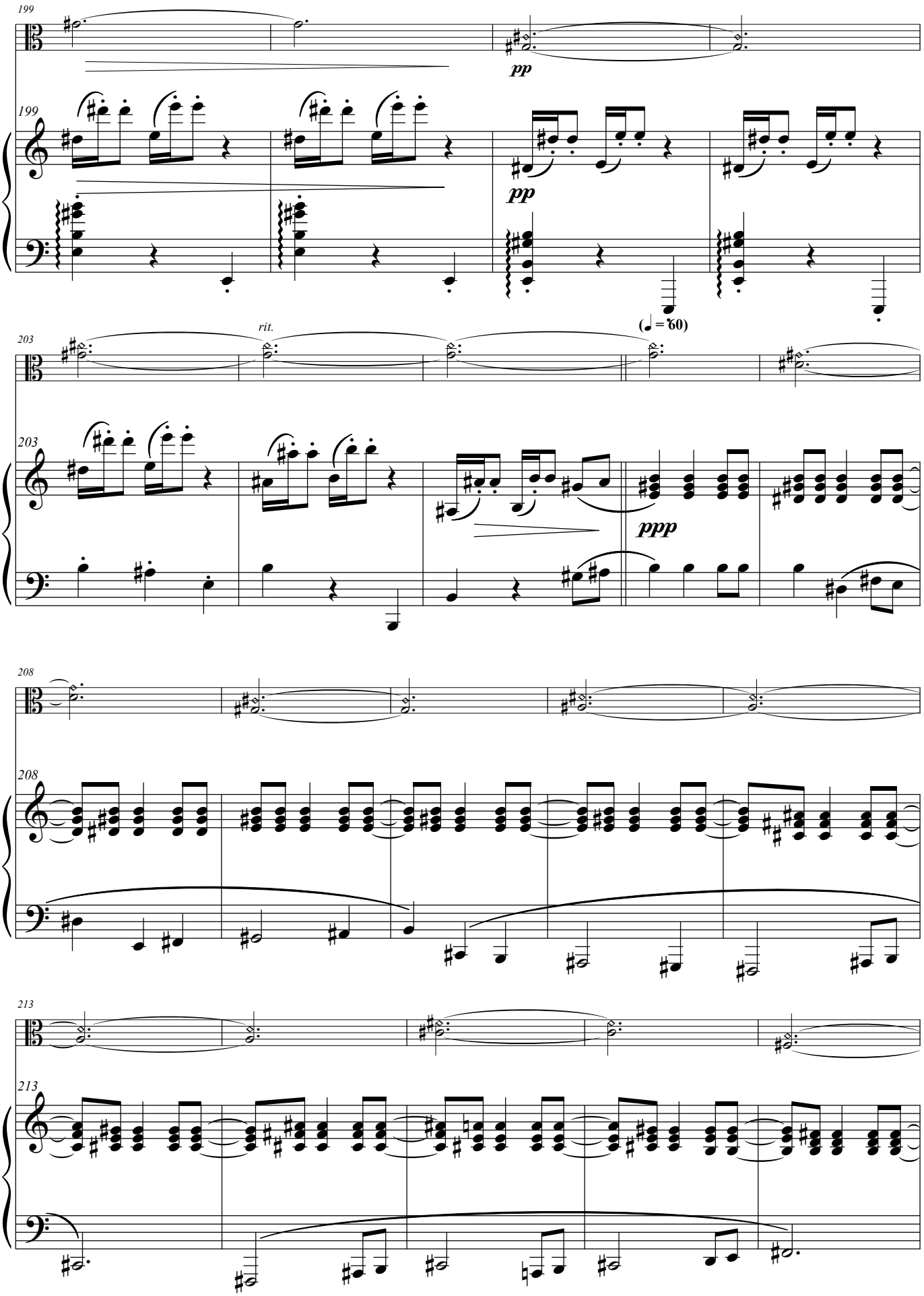
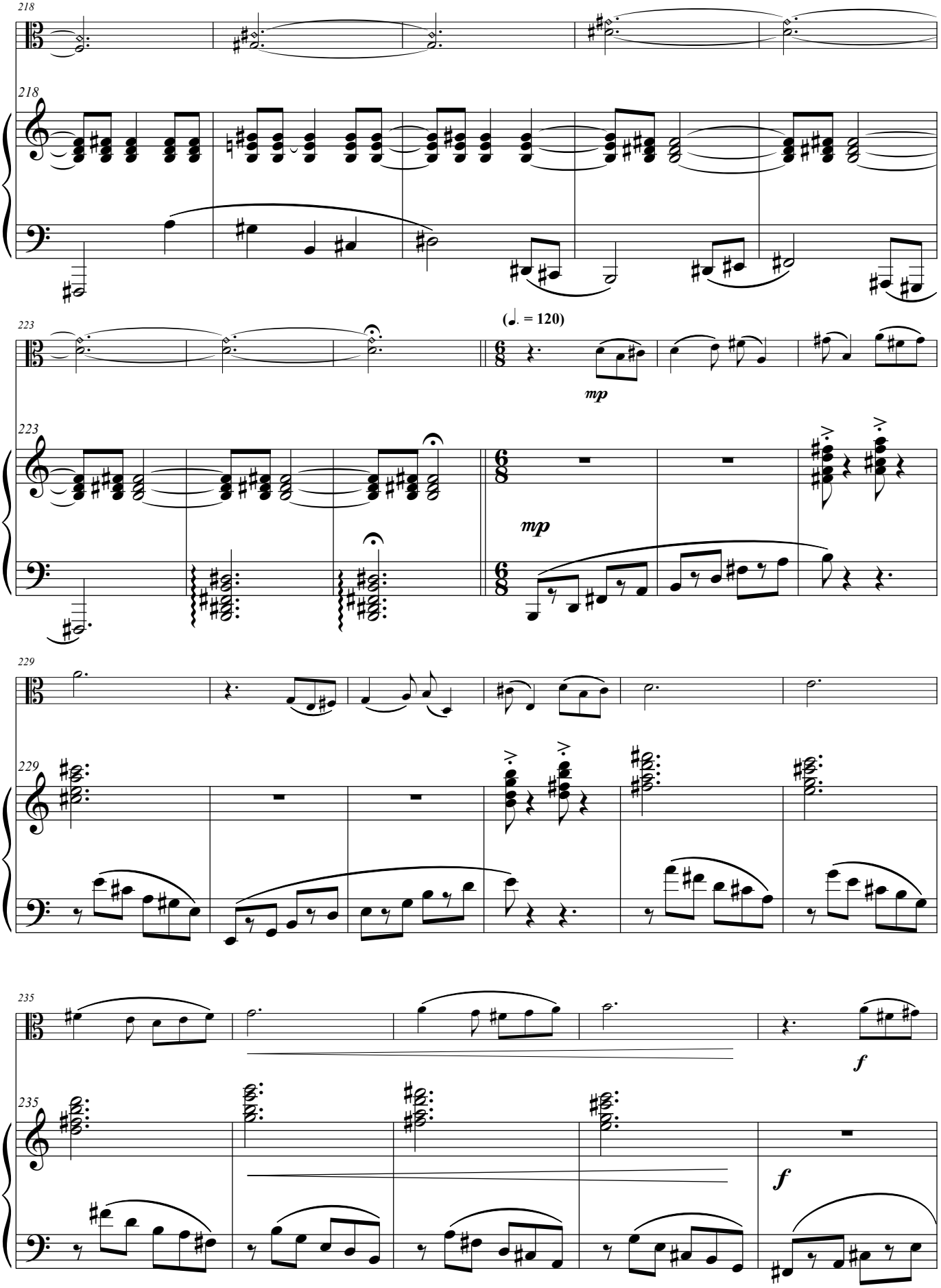

199
pp
199
pp
203
rit.
(♩ = 60)
203
ppp
208
208
213
213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218
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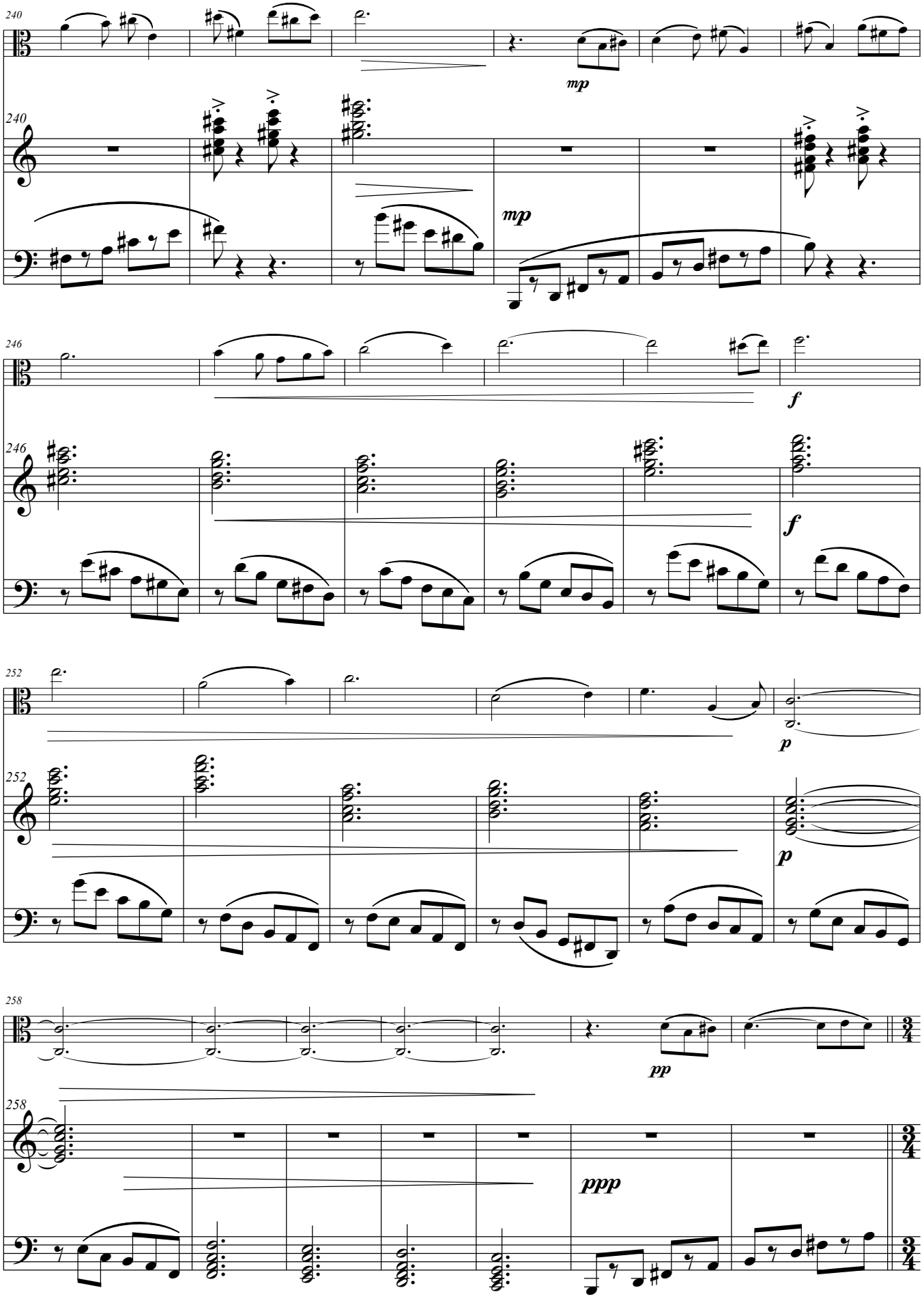
(♩. = 120)
mp
223
mp
229
229
235
f
235
f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mp
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mp
246
f
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p
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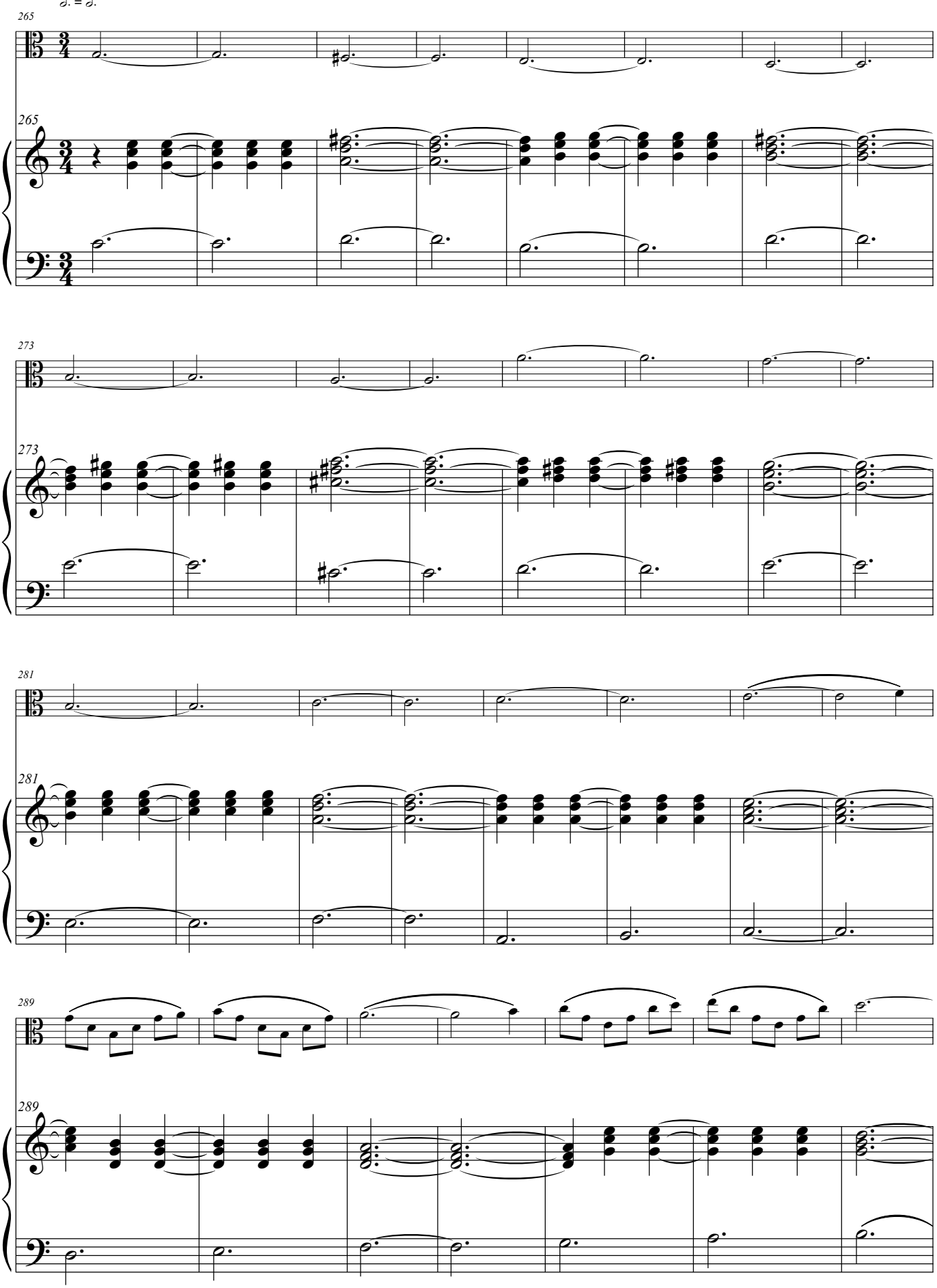
p
258
pp
258
ppp
3/4
3/4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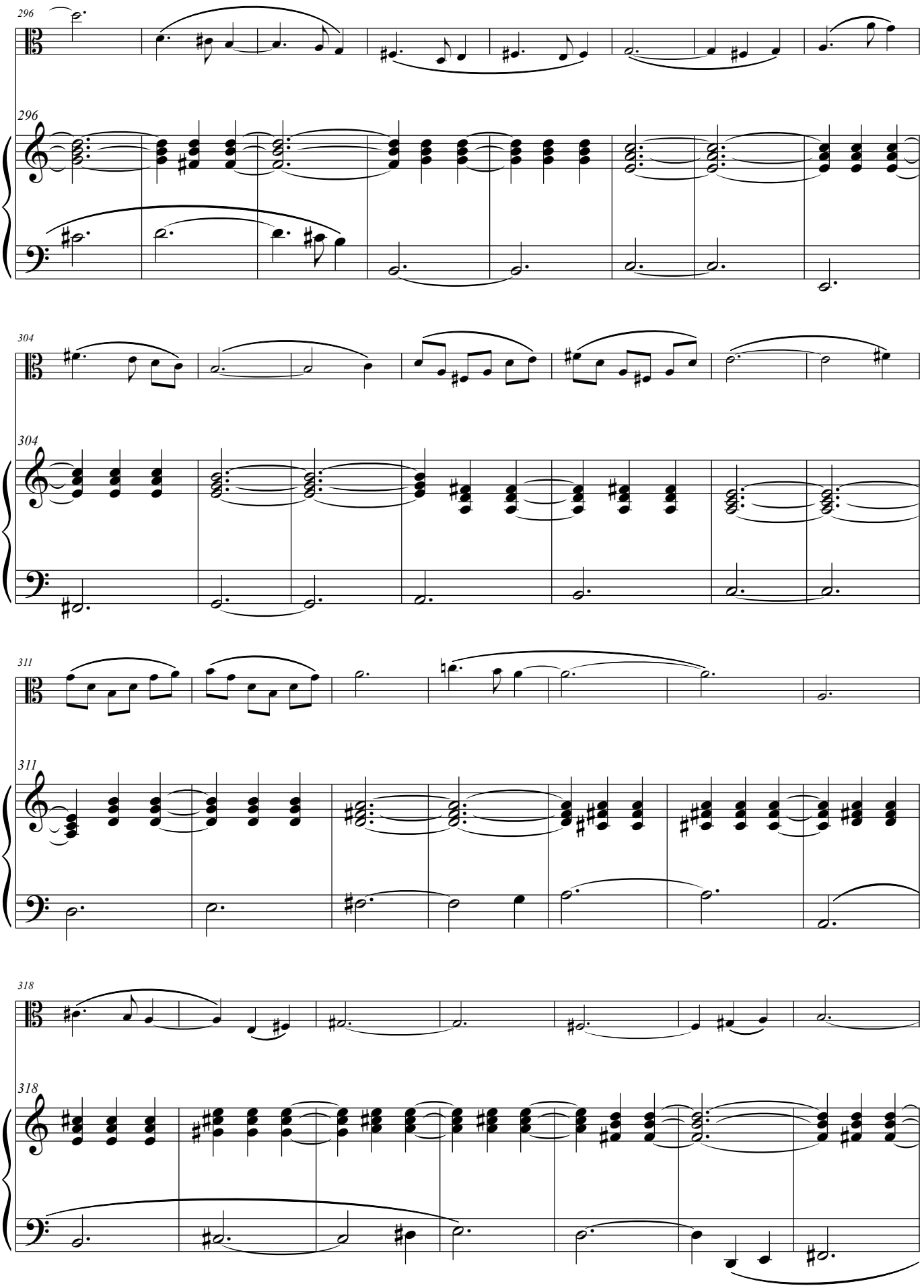
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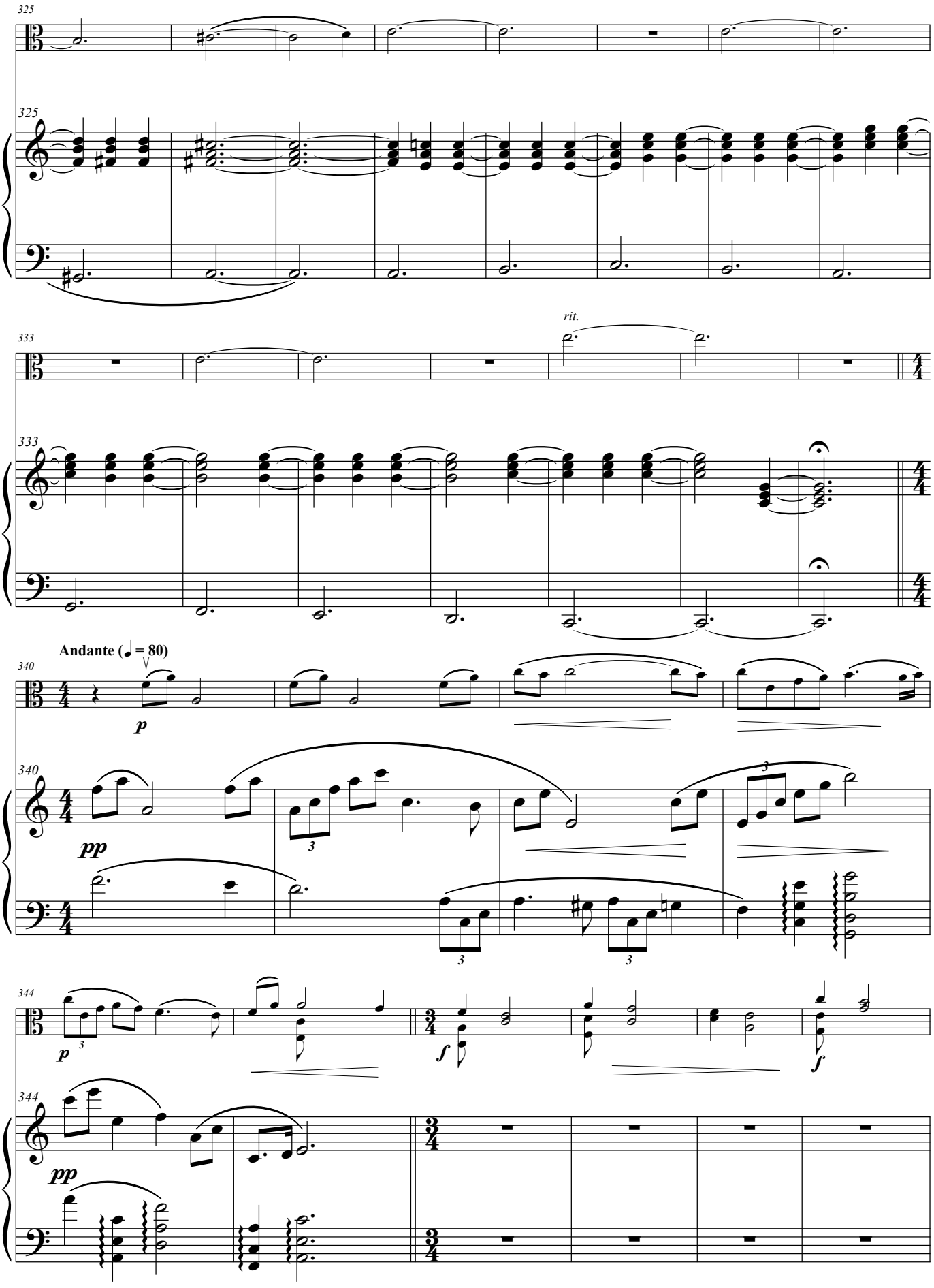
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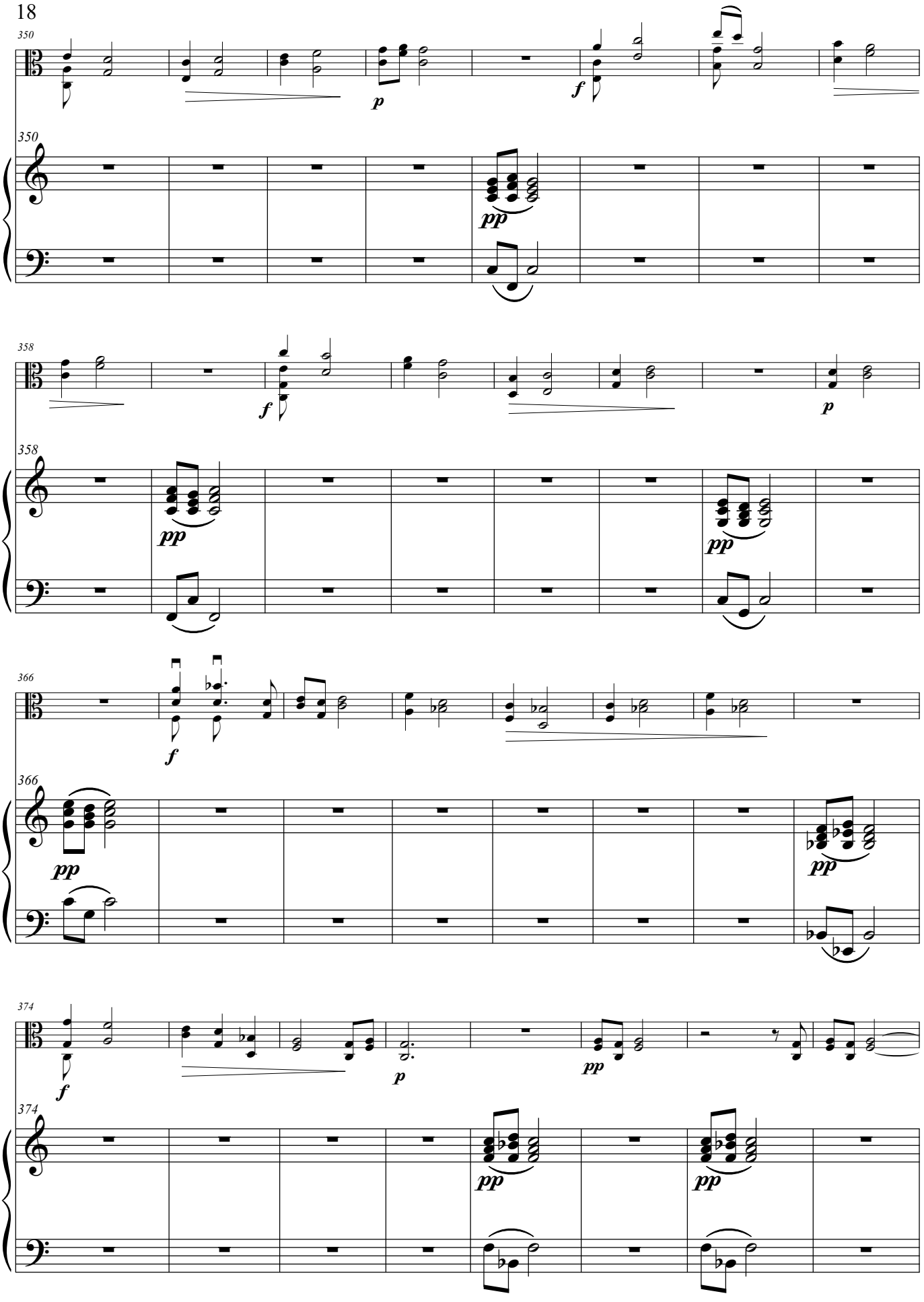
325
333
rit.
333
Andante (♩ = 80)
340
p
340
pp
344
p
f
f
344
pp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f
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358
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p
pp
366
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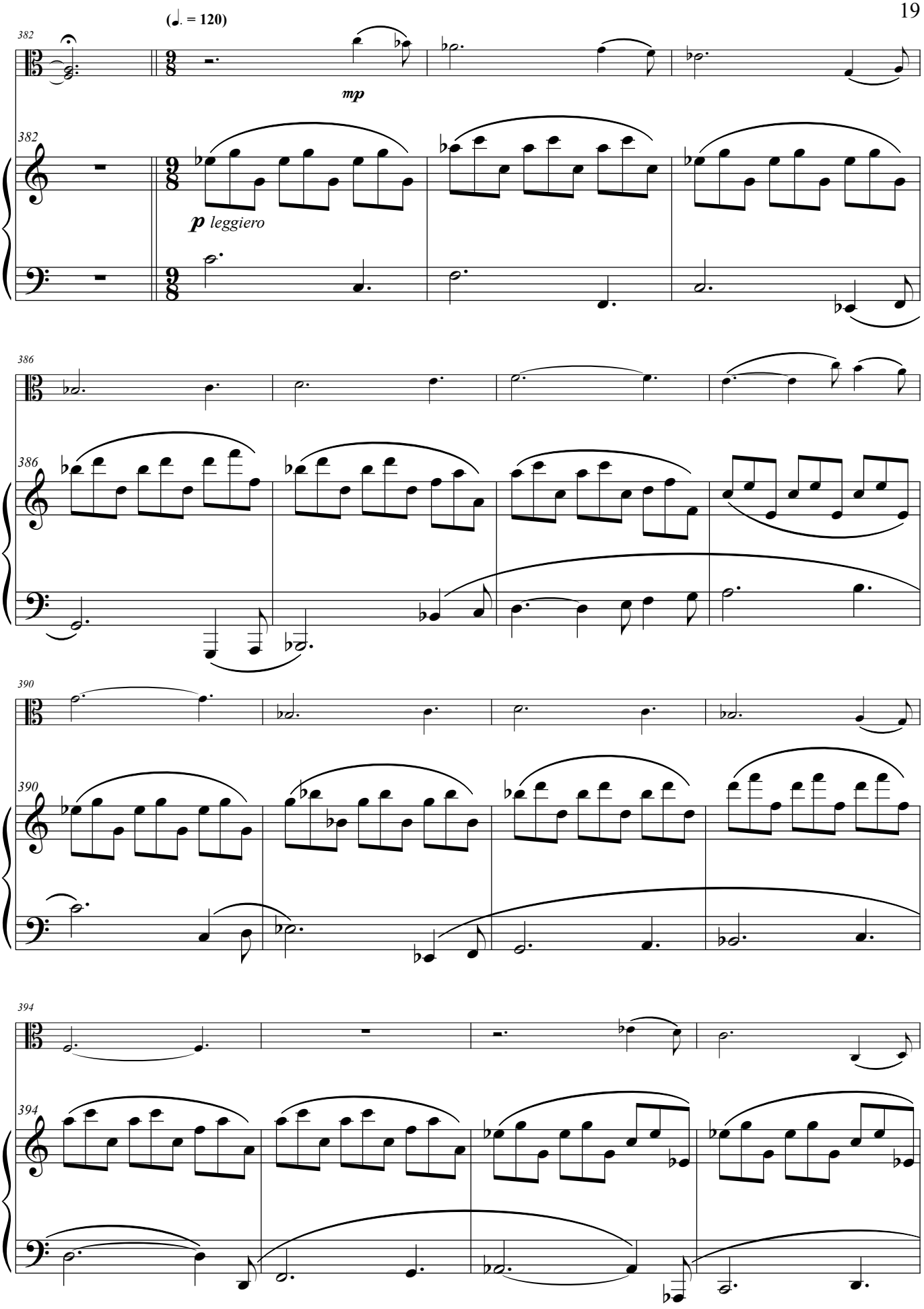
pp
374
f
p
pp


(♩. = 120)
382
mp
382
p leggiero
386
386
390
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394
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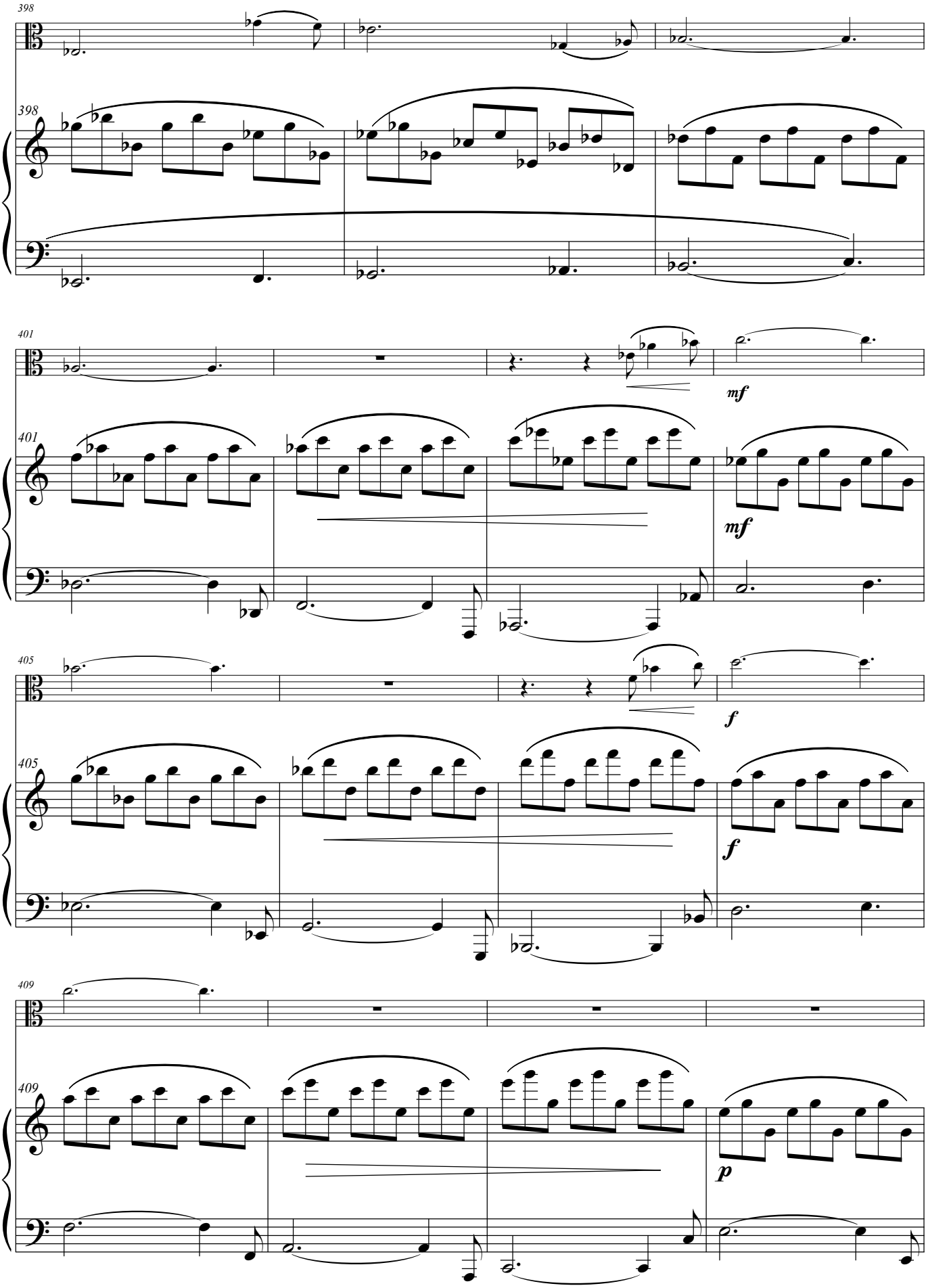
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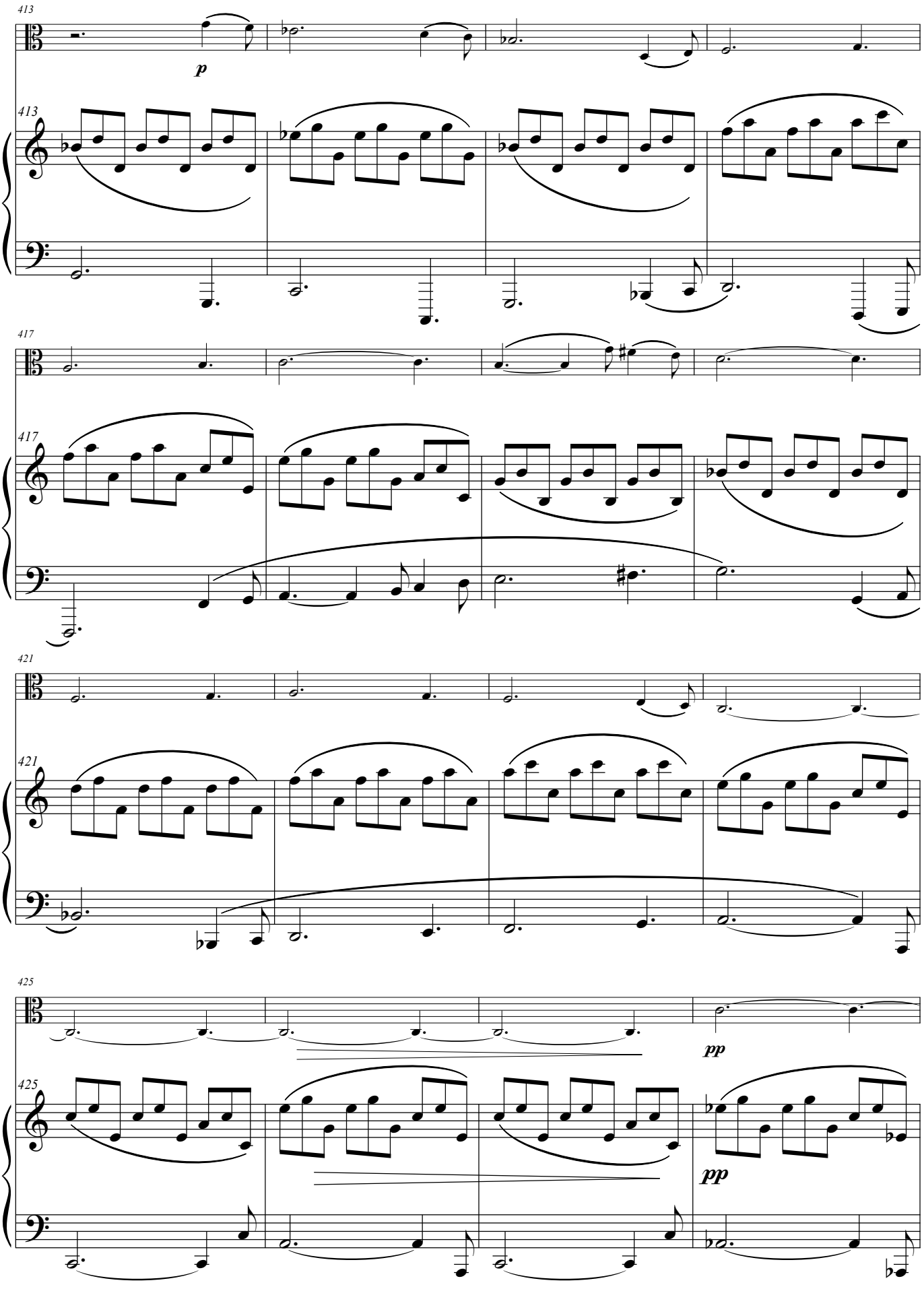
398
401
401
mf
mf
405
405
f
f
409
409
p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p
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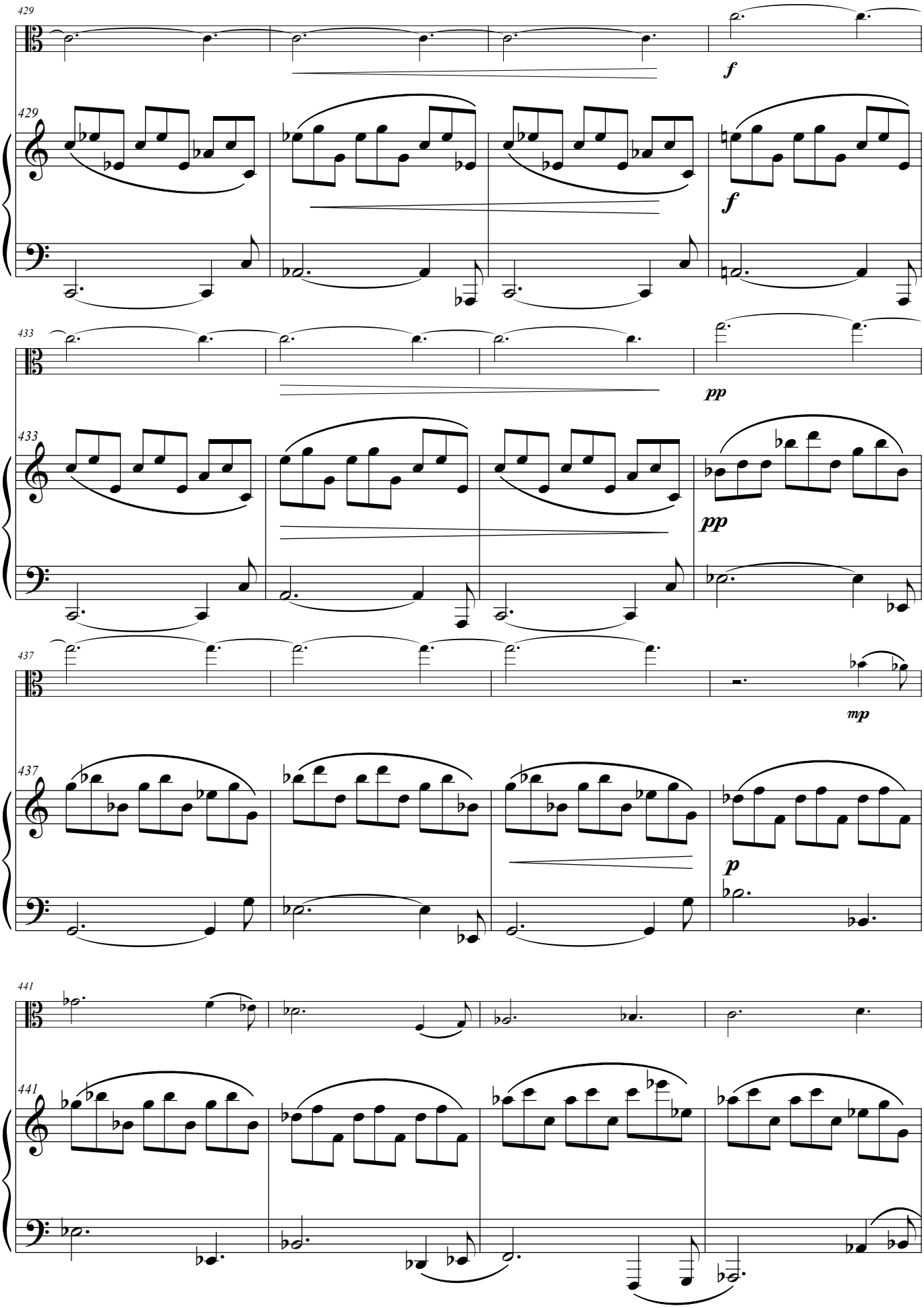
417
417
421
421
425
pp
425
pp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pp
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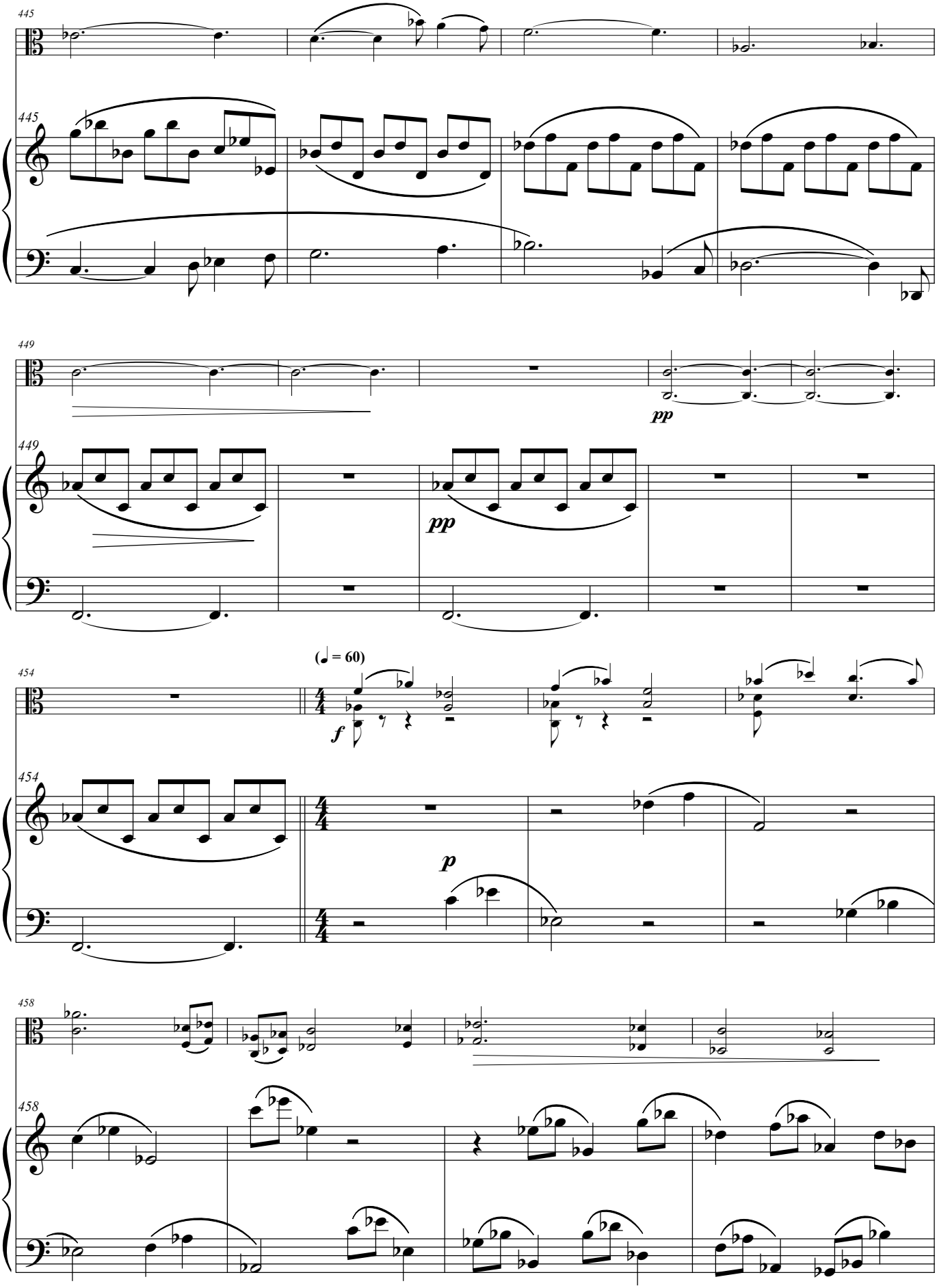
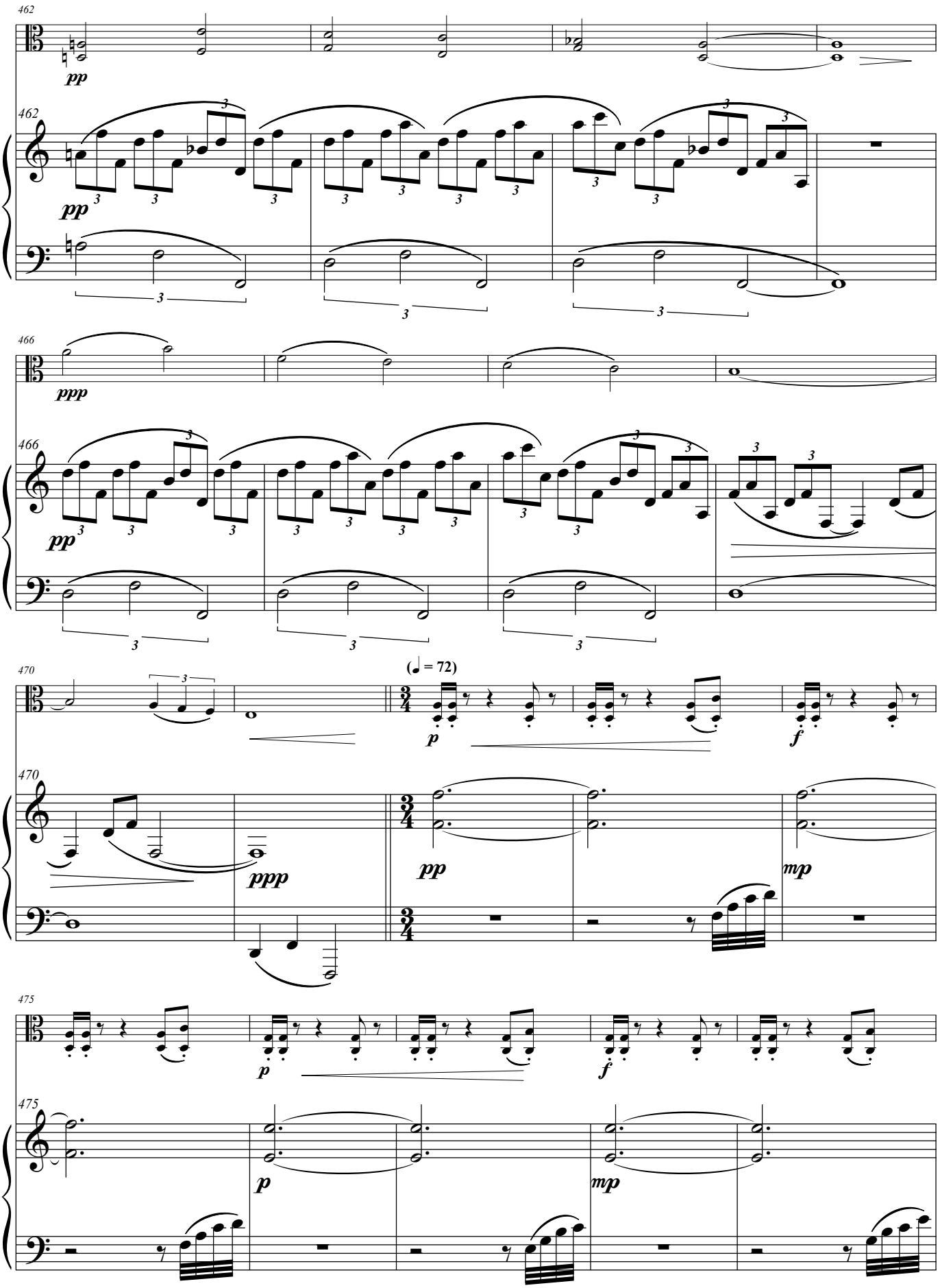
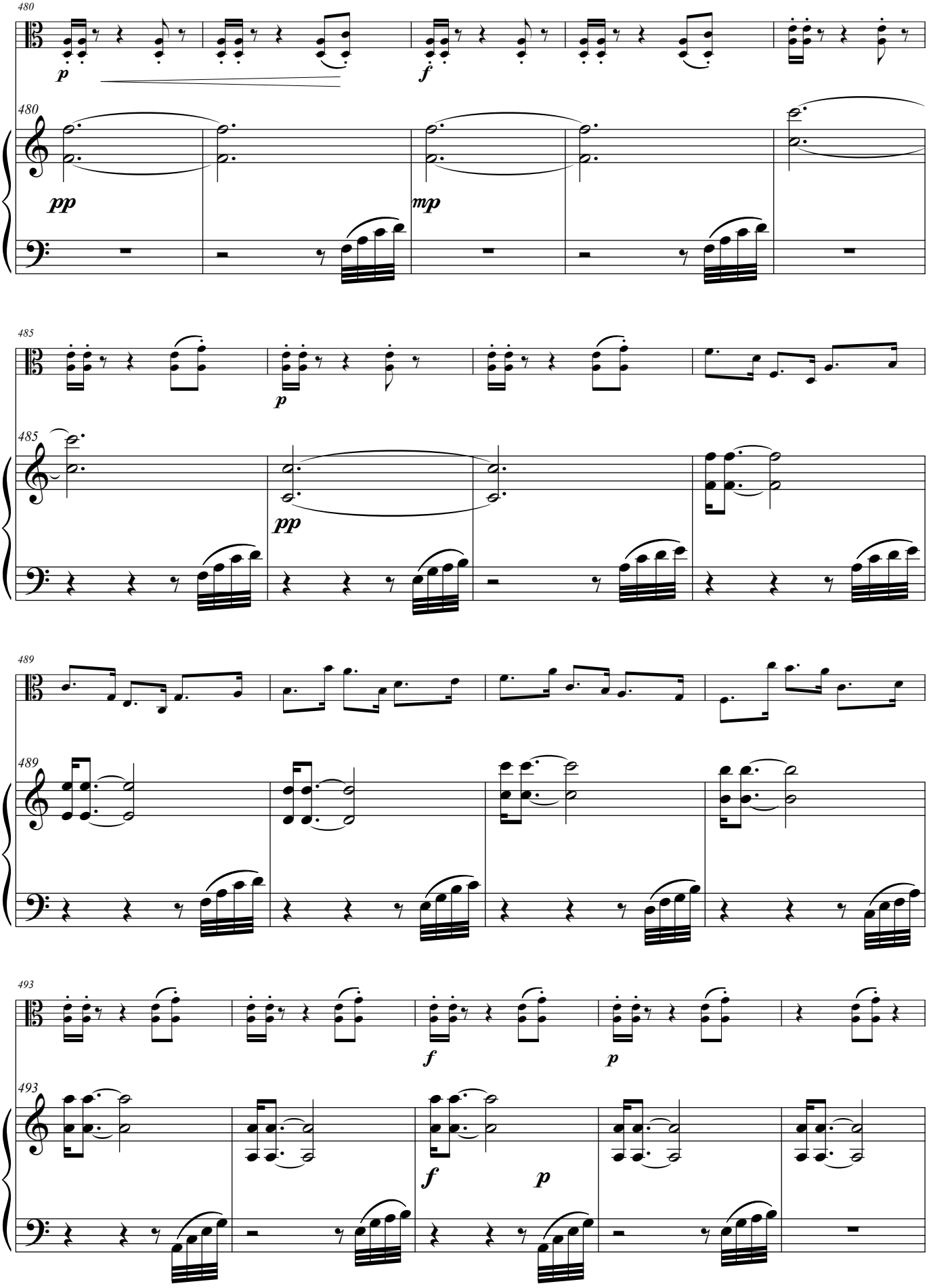

445
445
449
449
pp
pp
454
(♩ = 60)
f
454
p
458
458


462
pp
462
pp
466
ppp
466
pp
470
(♩ = 72)
p
f
470
ppp
pp
mp
475
p
f
475
p
mp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mp
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p
485
pp
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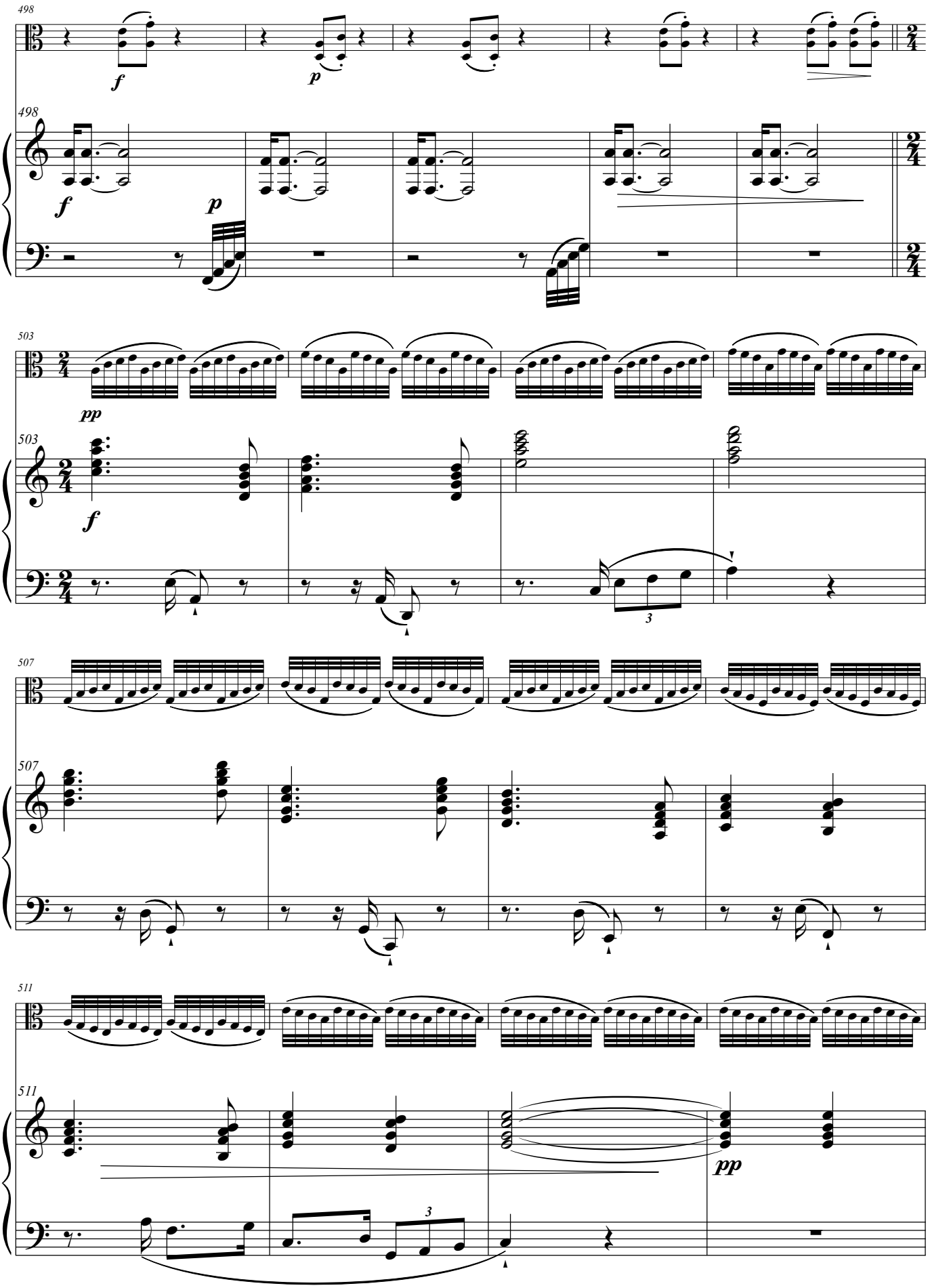
489
493
f
p
493
f
p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pp
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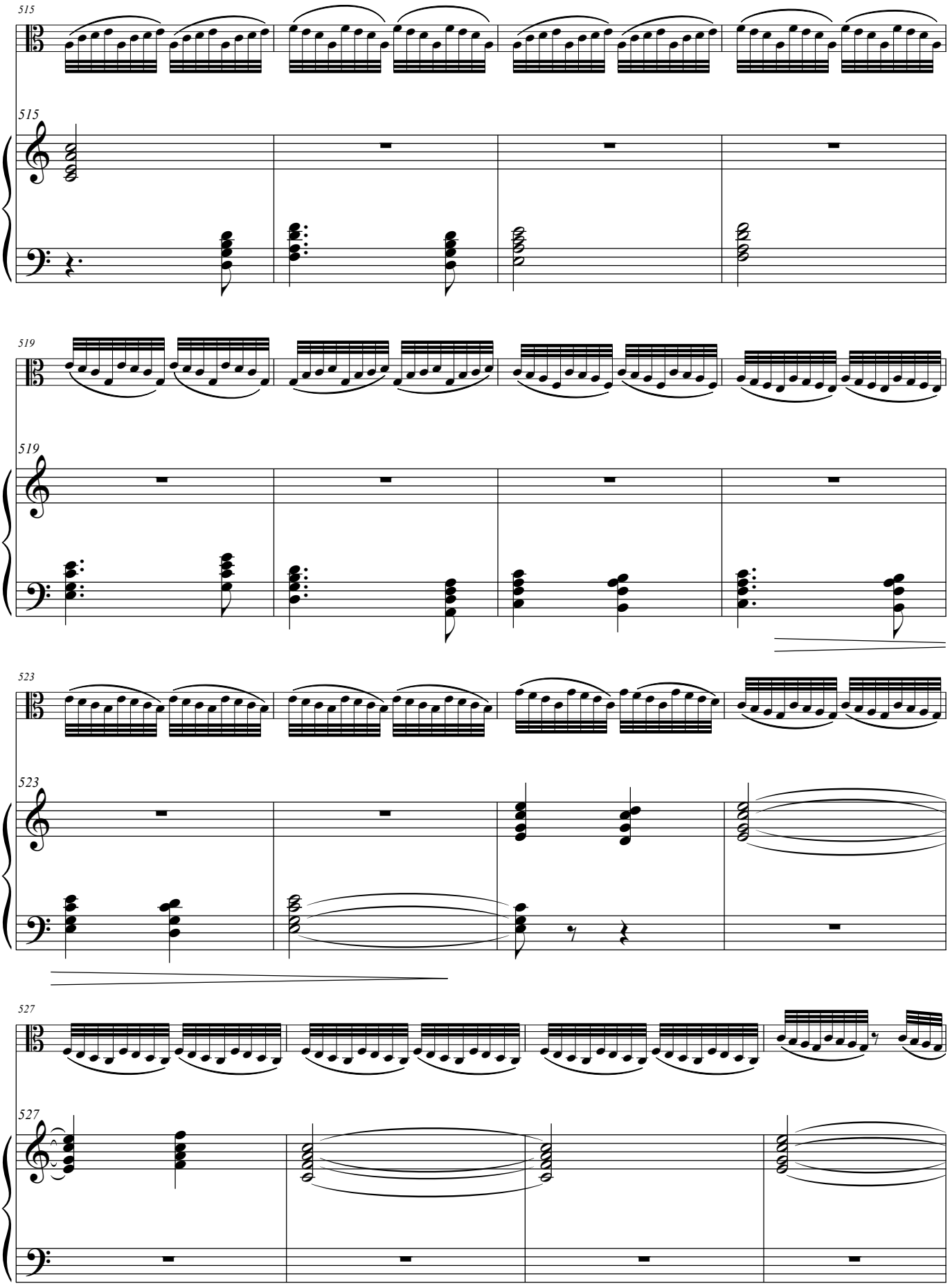
pp
3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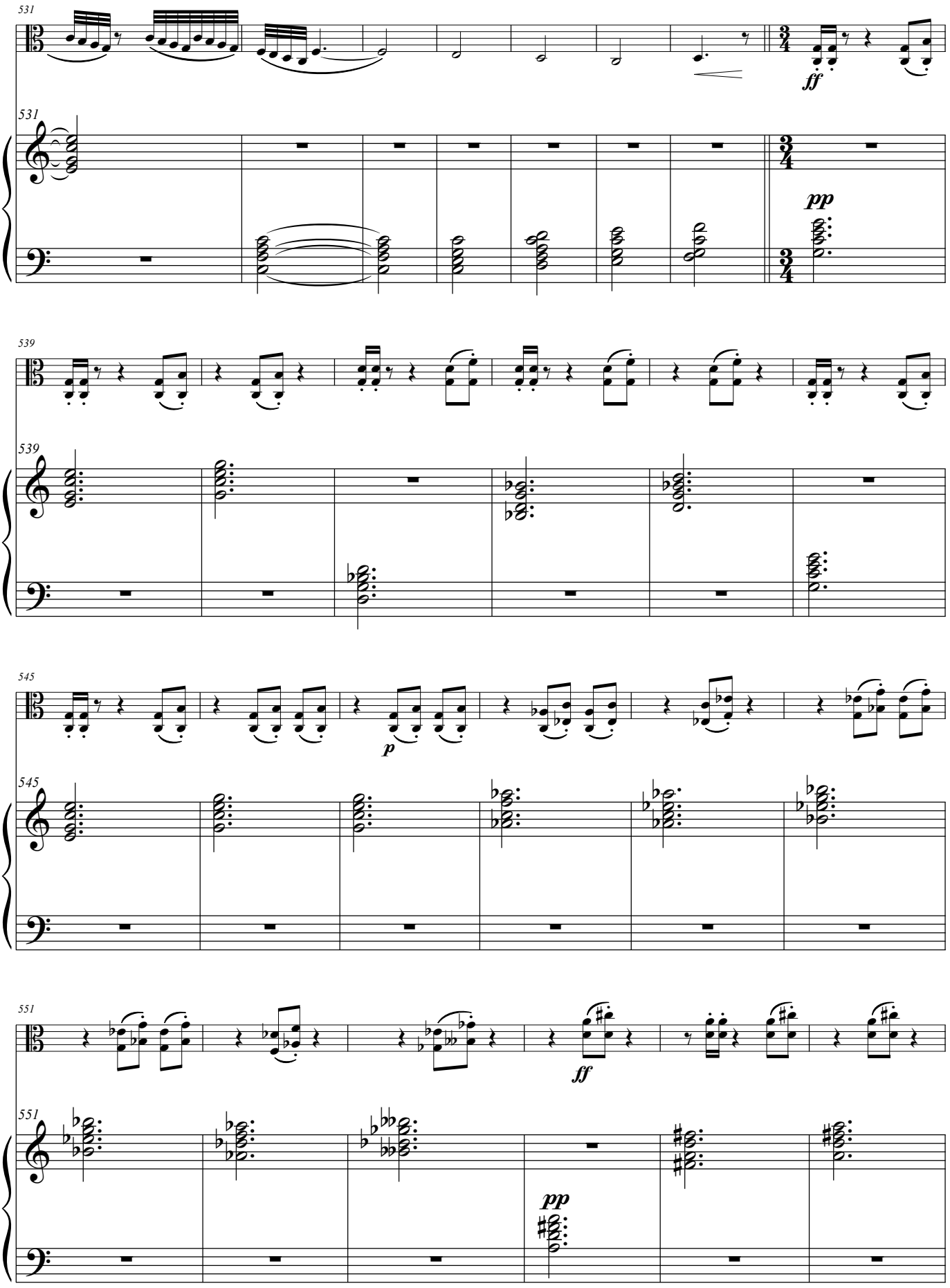
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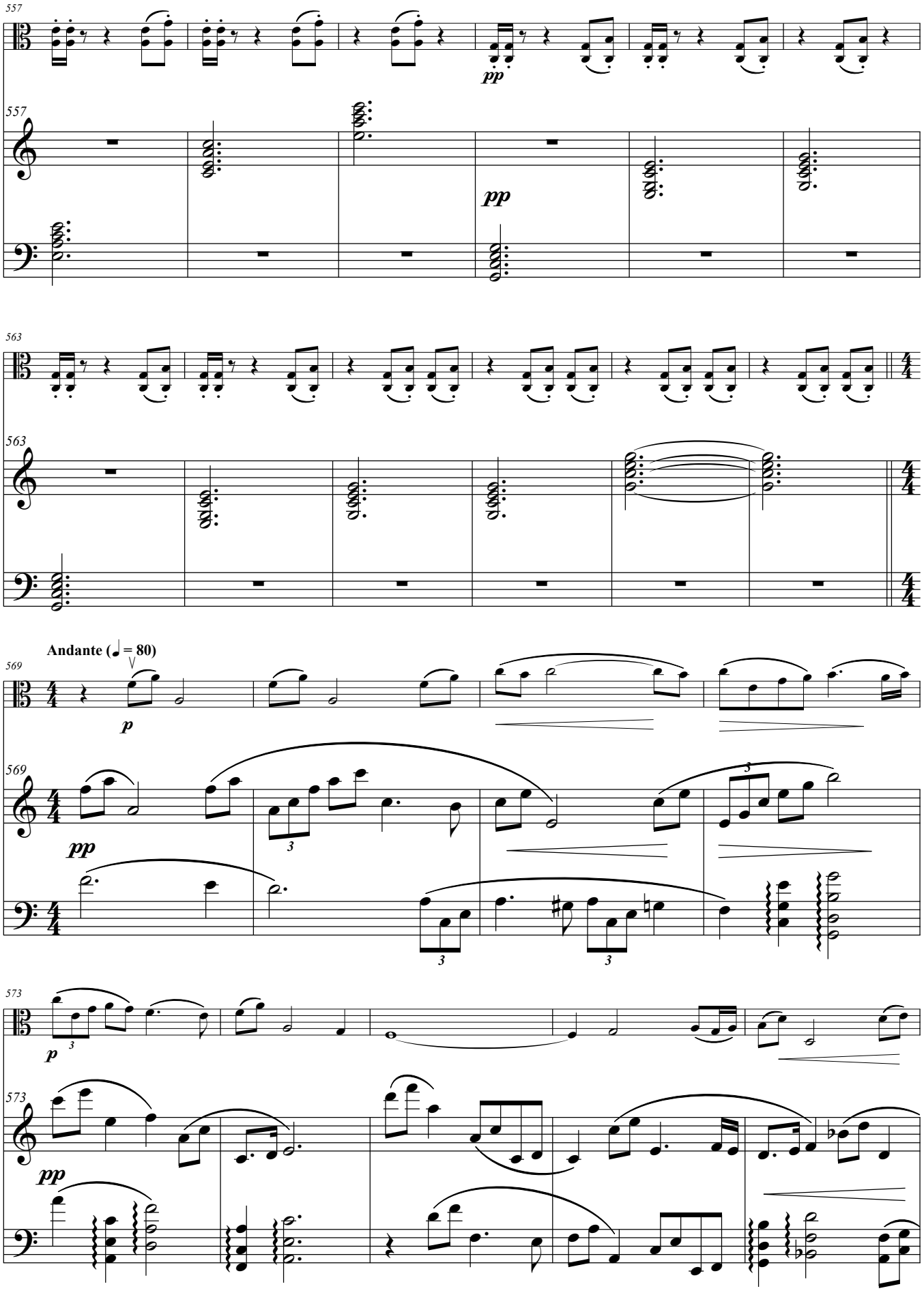
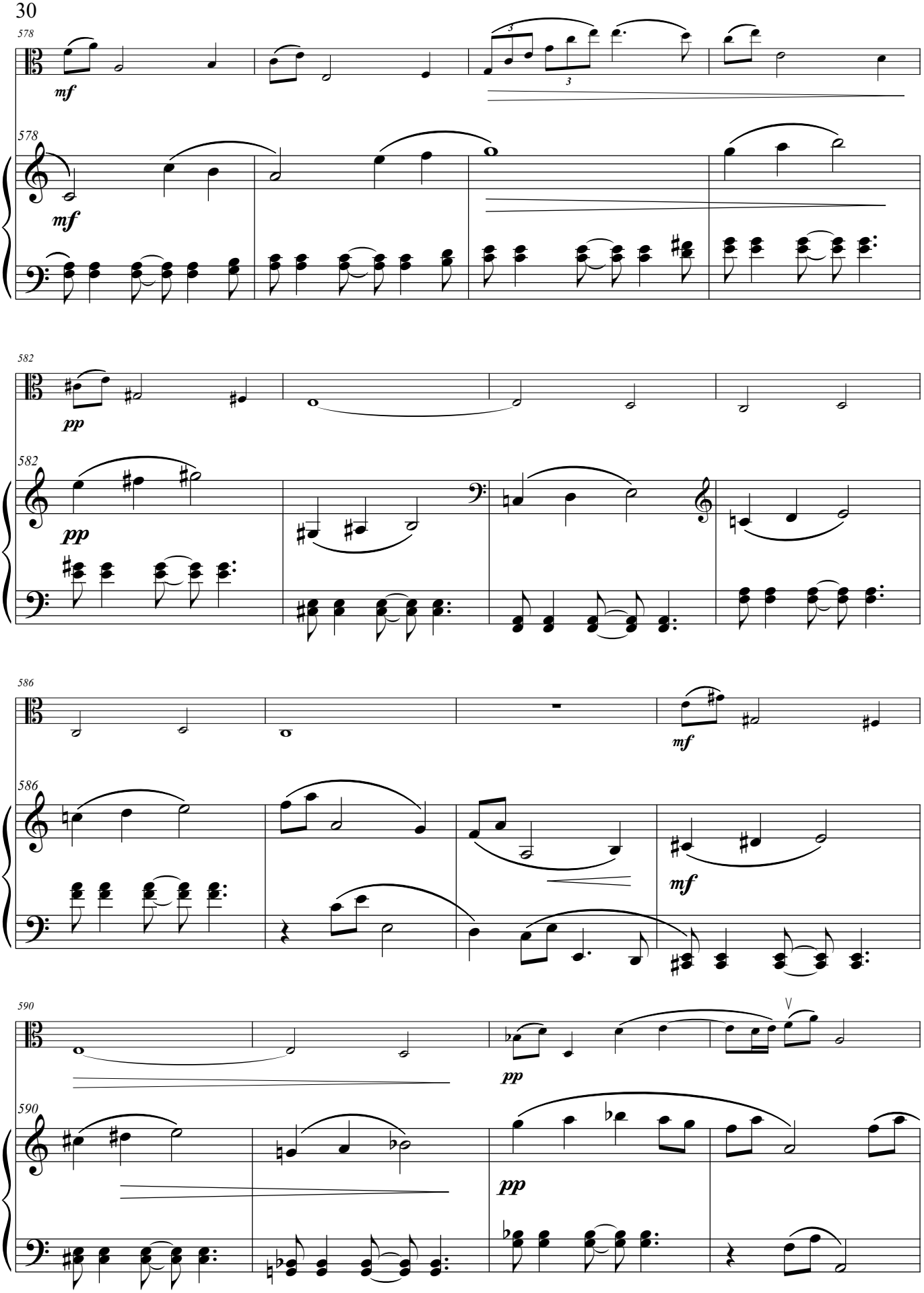

557
pp
563
Andante (♩ = 80)
569
p
pp
573
p
pp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mf
578
mf
582
pp
582
pp
586
mf
586
mf
590
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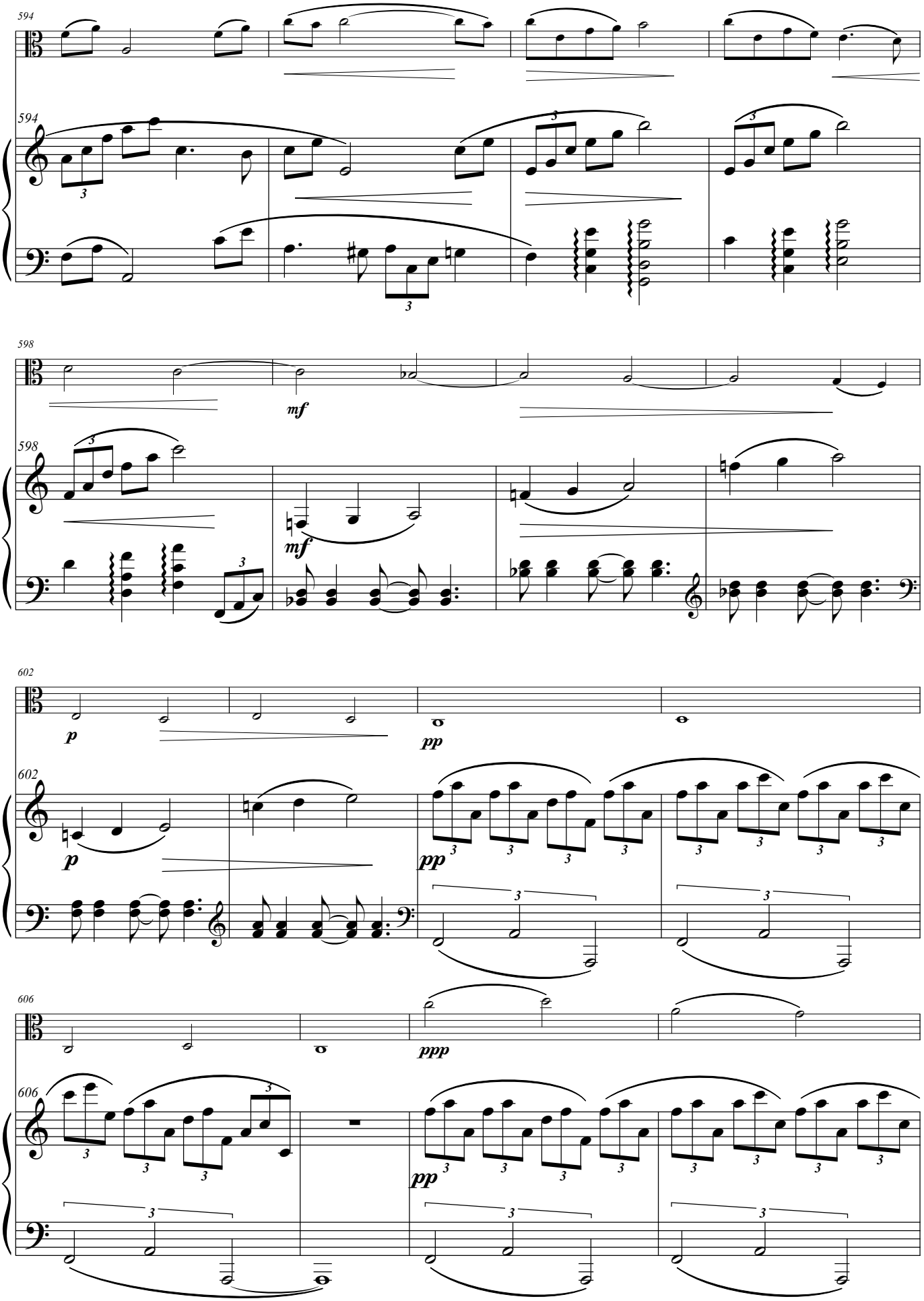
590
pp


594
594
598
mf
598
mf
602
p
pp
602
p
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606
ppp
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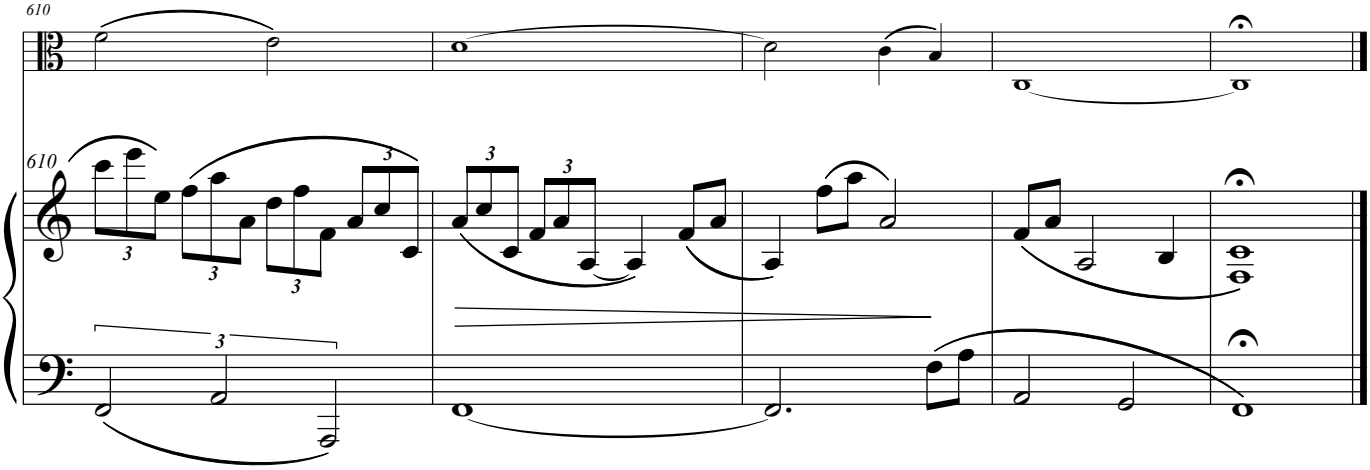
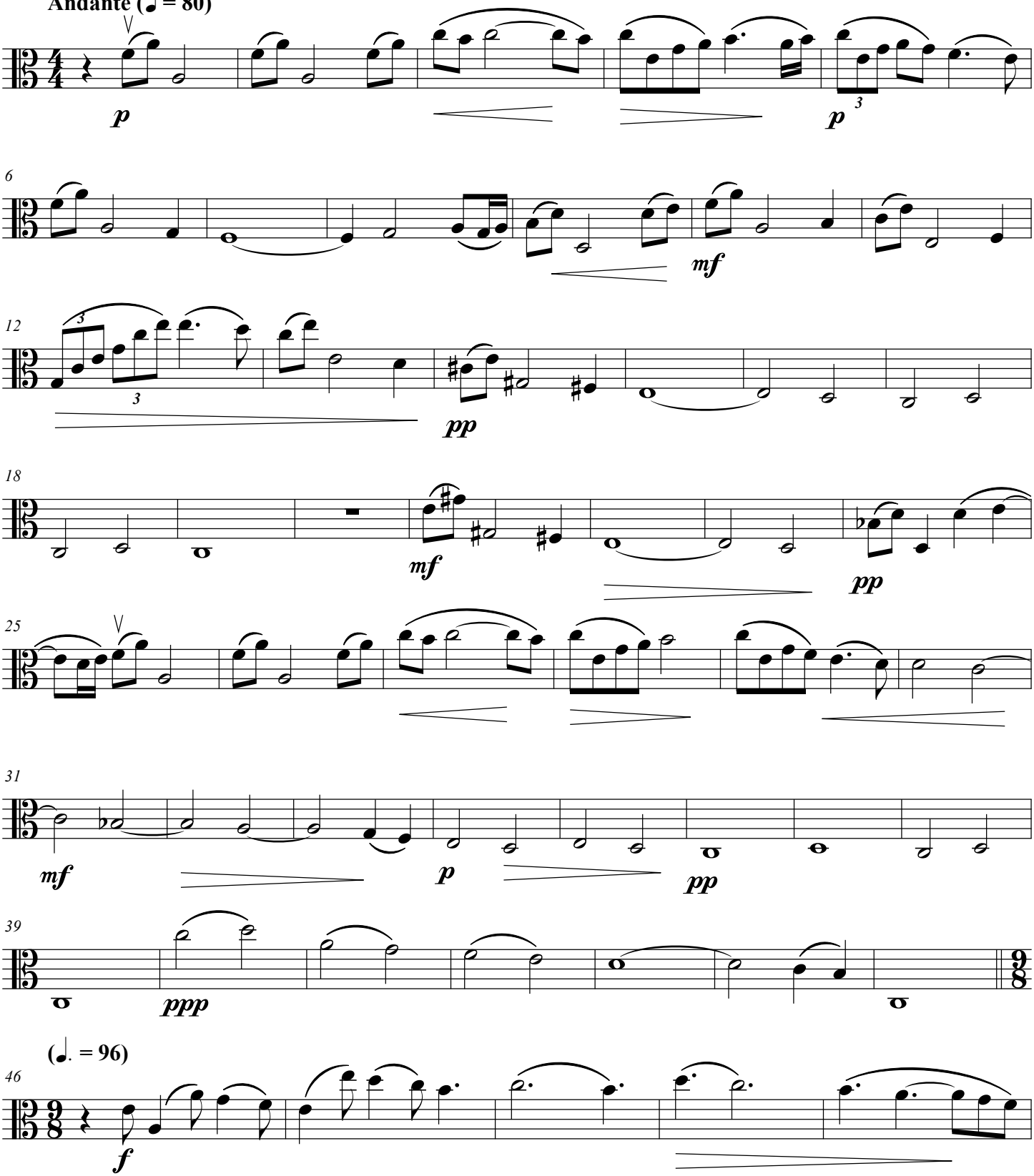

610
610

Viola

Aphorisms II

Andante (♩ = 80)



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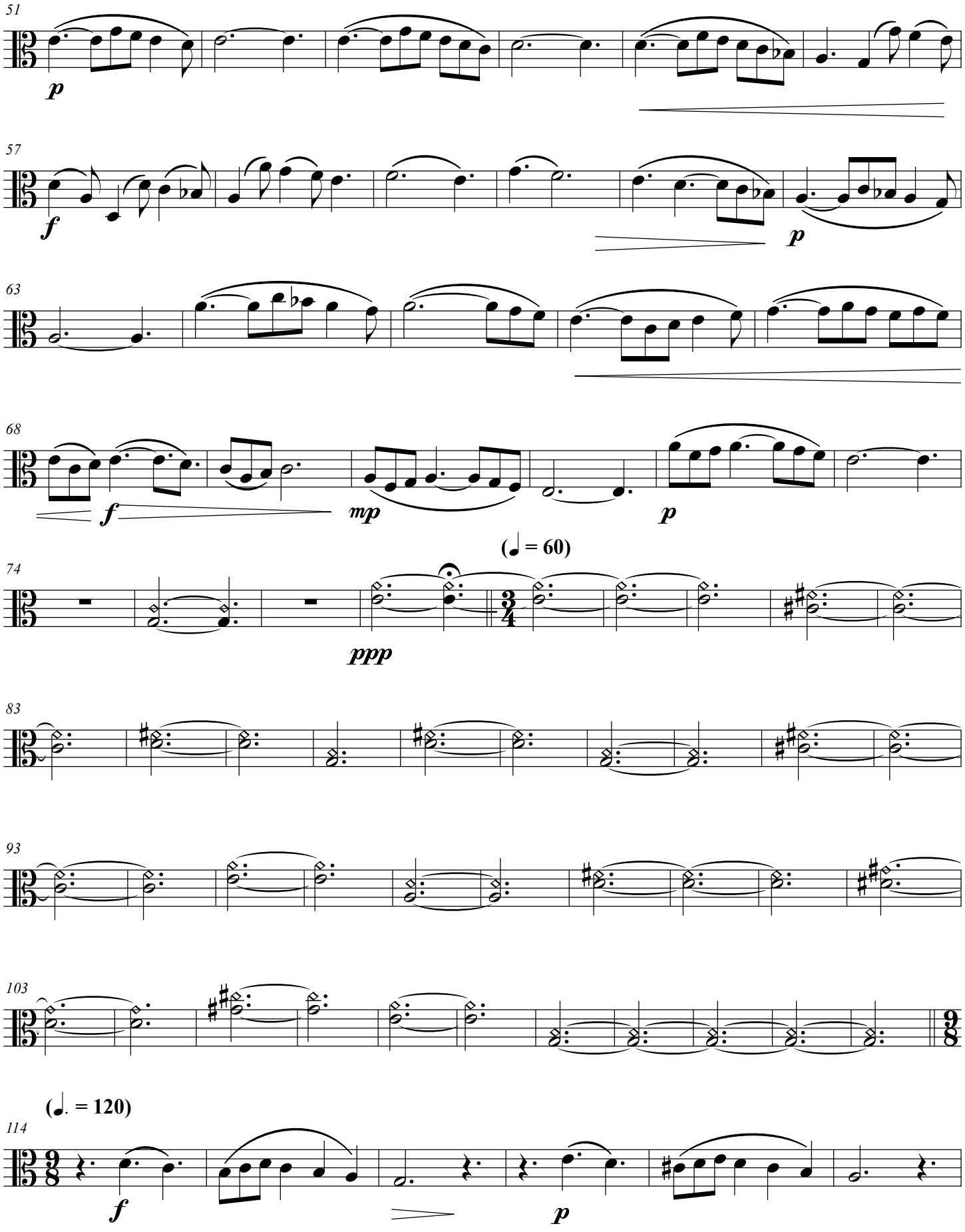
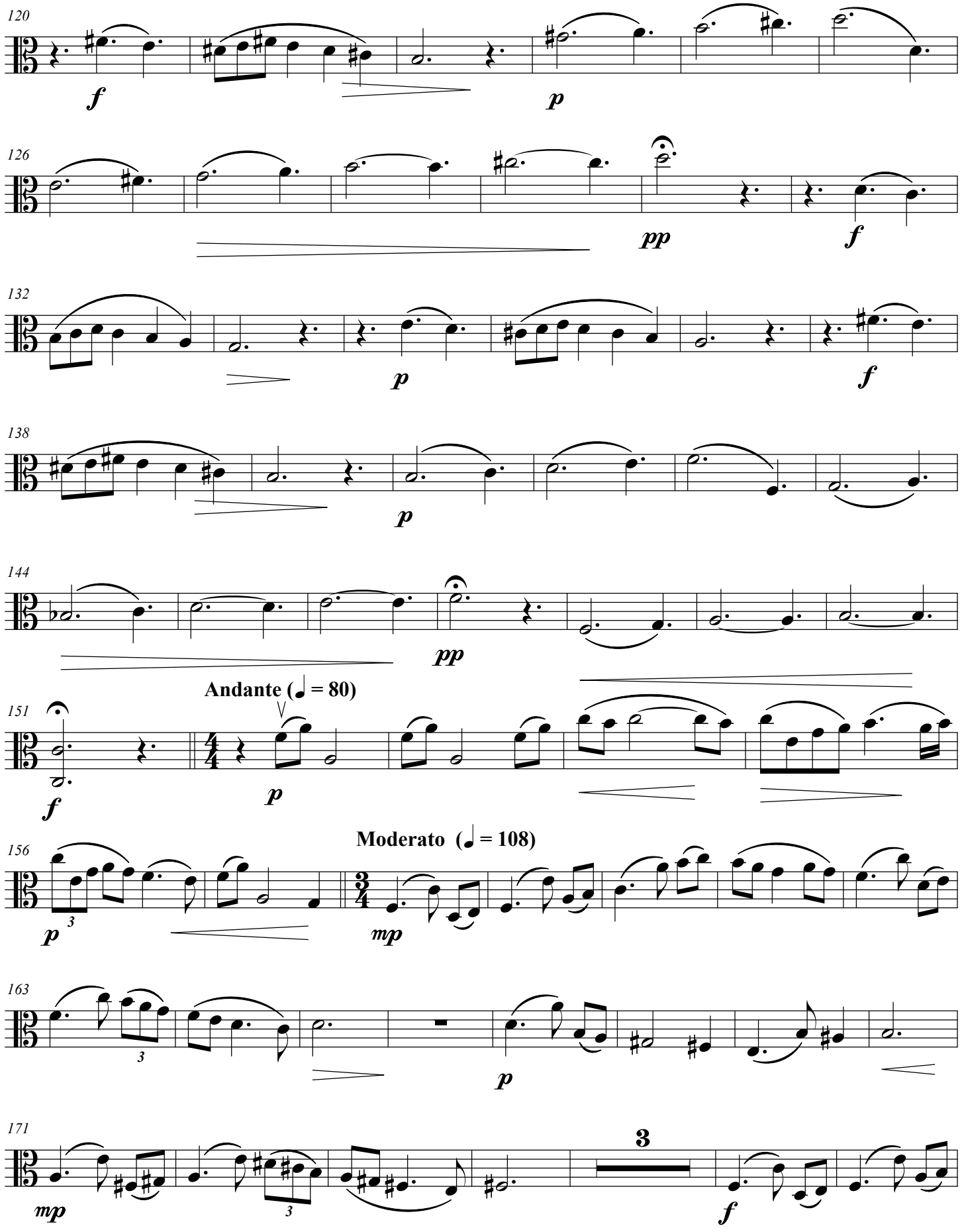
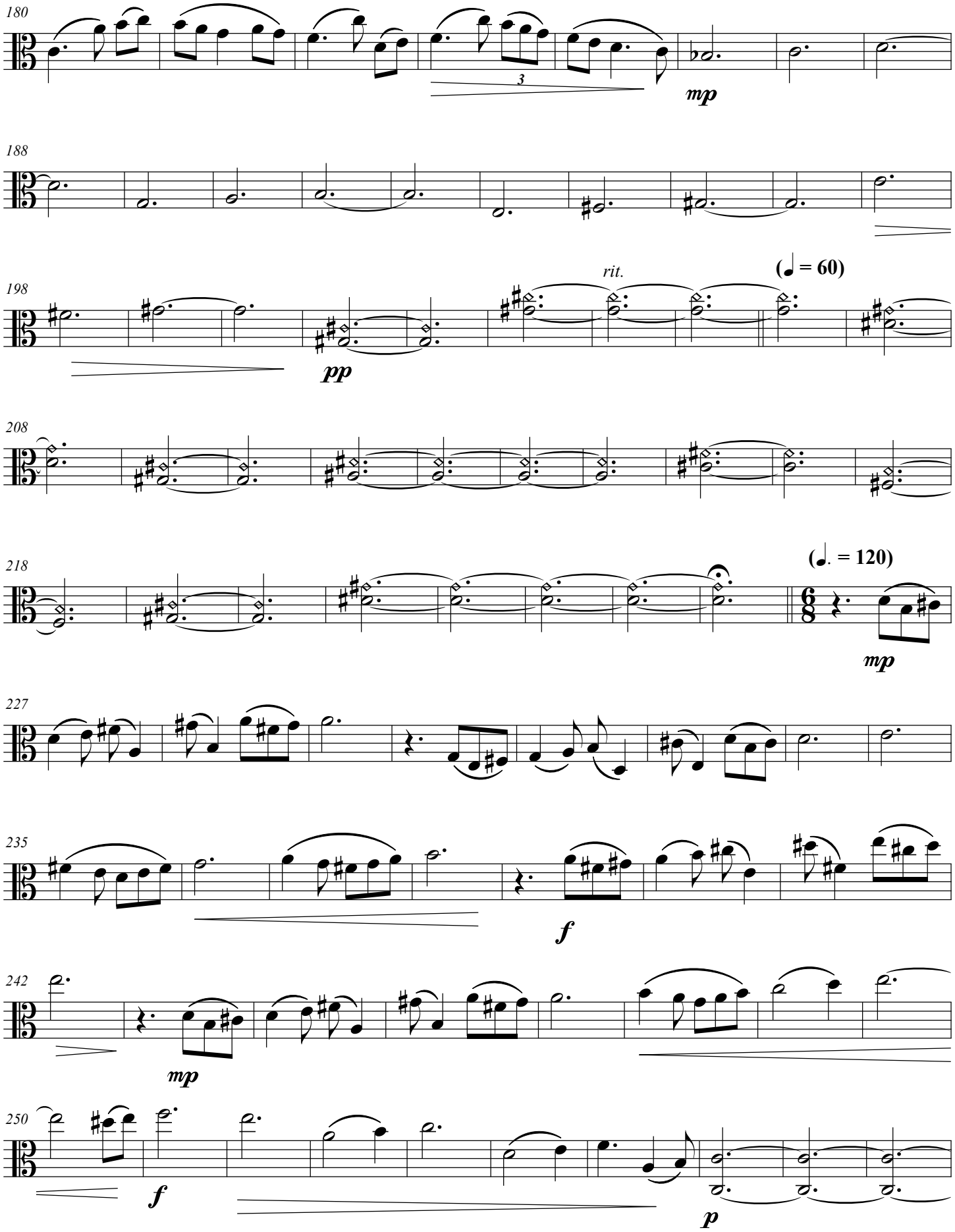

51
p
57
f
p
63
68
f
mp
p
(♩ = 60)
74
ppp
83
93
103
(♩. = 120)
114
f
p


120
f
p
126
pp
f
132
p
f
138
p
144
pp
Andante (♩ = 80)
151
f
p
Moderato (♩ = 108)
156
p
3
mp
163
3
p
171
mp
3
3
f


180
3
mp
188
198
rit.
(♩ = 60)
pp
208
218
(♩. = 120)
mp
227
235
f
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mp
250
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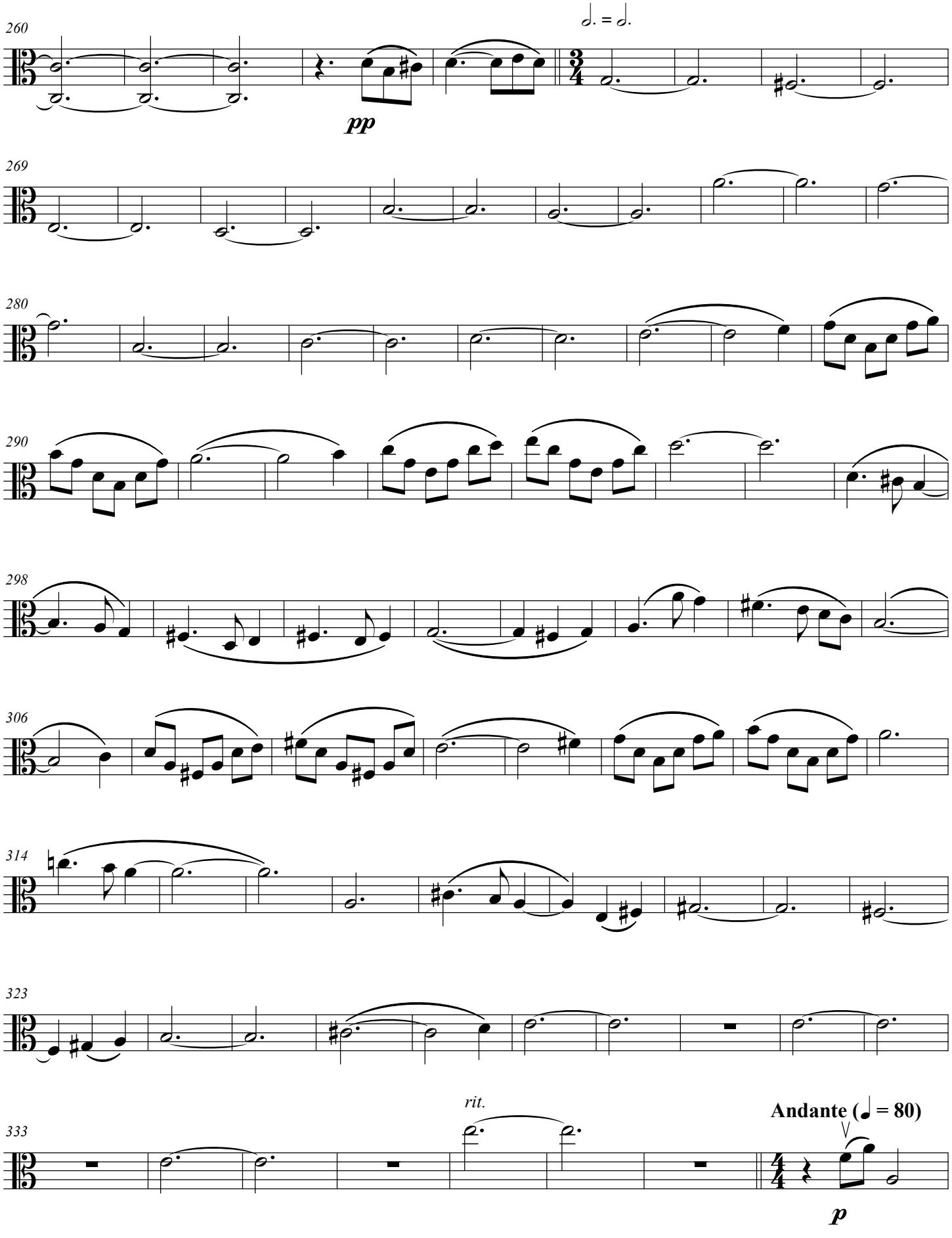
p


260
𝅗𝅥. = 𝅗𝅥.
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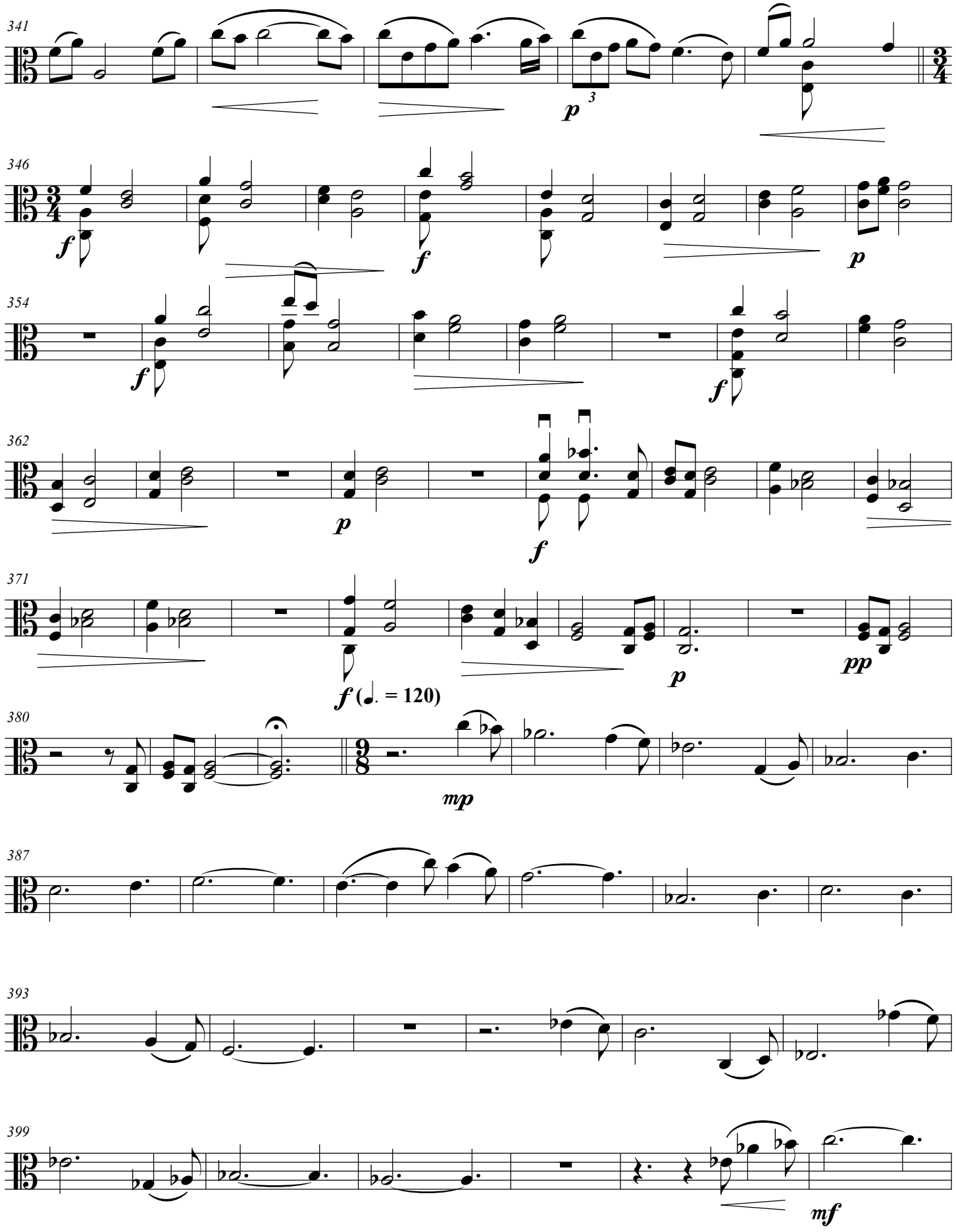
rit.
Andante (♩ = 80)
p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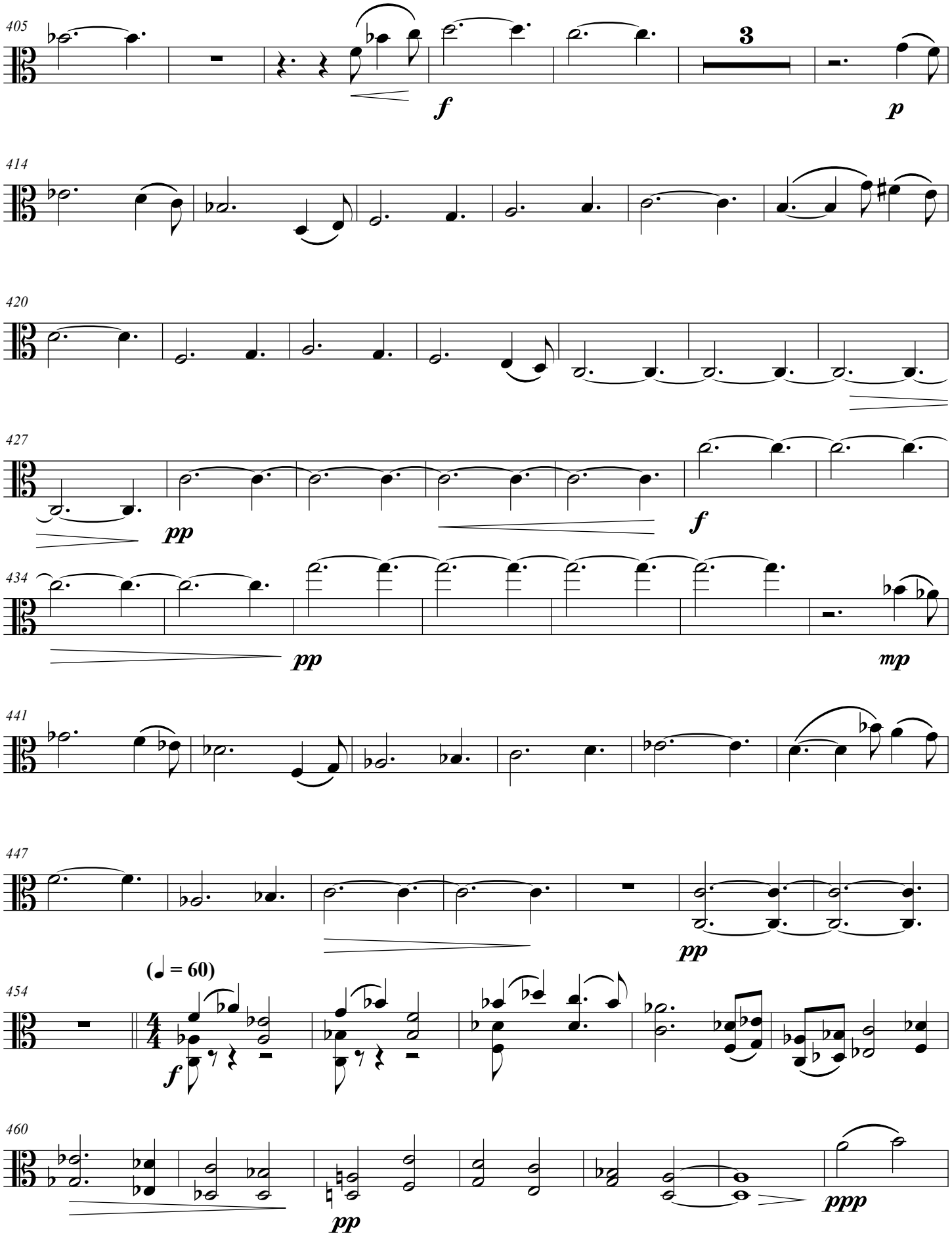
346
354
362
371
f (♩. = 120)
380
387
393
399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3
f
p
414
420
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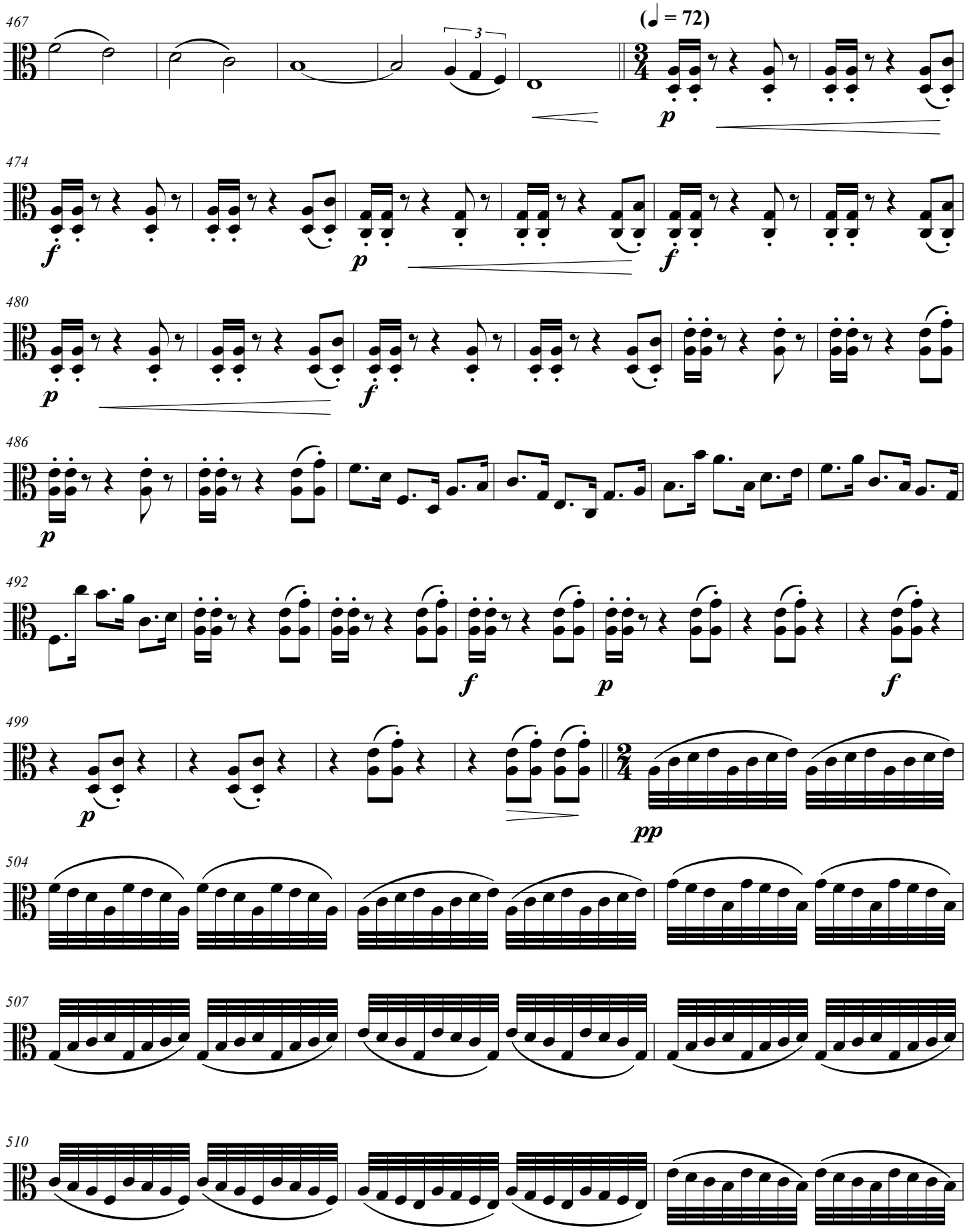
pp
f
434
pp
mp
441
447
pp
(♩ = 60)
454
f
460
pp
ppp


467
(♩ = 72)
3
p
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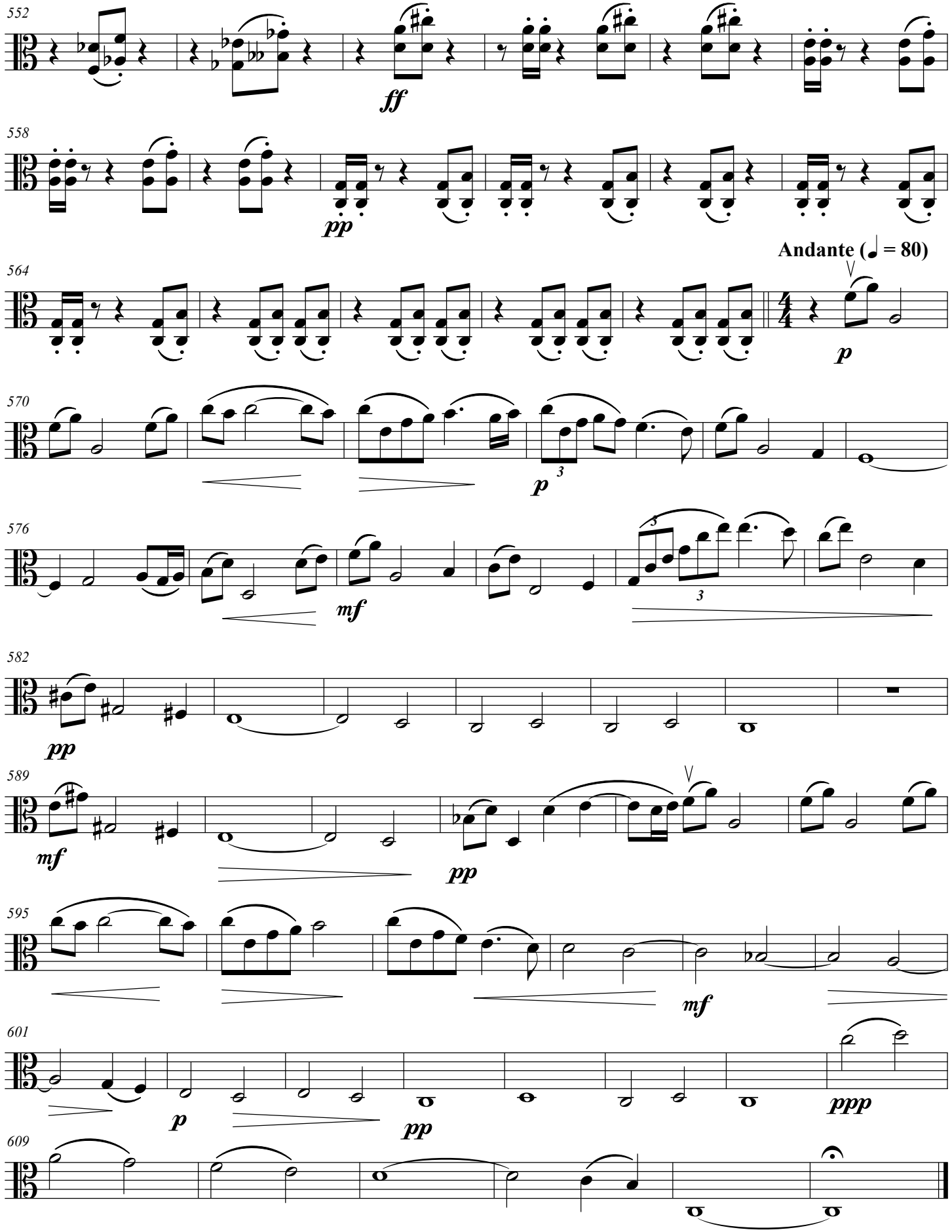
545

ff

p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ff
558
pp
Andante (♩ = 80)
564
p
570
p
576
mf
582
pp
589
mf
pp
595
mf
601
p
pp
ppp
609

A few words about (and by) the composer

Stan Grill was raised in the Bronx, studied at the Bronx House School of Music, and later graduated from the Manhattan School of Music with undergrad and graduate degrees in music theory. He studied piano with Robert Helps and Leon Kushner and composition with Ursula Mamlok and Joseph Prostakoff. Major works include music for string orchestra and various solo instruments, a cello concerto, ten string quartets, a nonet for winds and strings, and numerous song cycles for mixed voices and chamber ensemble. Performances have been produced by the composer, as well as presented by the Composers Guild of New Jersey, the St. Paul's Church Festival of the Arts, the Leonia Chamber Players, the New York Composers Circle, the Northern New Jersey Camerata, One World Symphony, the Bronx Arts Ensemble, the Tokyo based Duo + Ensemble, the Pandolfis Consort, the Diderot Quartet and Camerata Philadelphia.

"As I see it, as much as we strive to find reason and purpose in our having been born into this amazing, mysterious and awe-inspiring universe, that attempt is largely futile. It is however, the best part of our nature that obliges us to make the attempt, though the most we can hope for is to gain some small degree of understanding of the world around us, and, more importantly, of ourselves. To achieve this, we each approach the problem in our own way, uniquely shaped by our cultural background, innate talents and abilities, education and so on. For some, science may be the window through which they best perceive and interpret the world, for others, religion. For those to whom the world seems to express itself most clearly and beautifully through sound, music is the voice that speaks to us and through which we, in turn, best express ourselves. Now, I can write notes that will make pretty music because I've been trained to do so – but the best of my music has arrived, rather inexplicably, as part of a personal effort to understand the world and myself. It is, in a way, an act of translation. The world says something, I try to understand it, and then translate it into musical language. The particular musical language which I speak, is, of course, a product of my conservatory training and personal musical tastes, but hopefully, the outcome, imperfect a translation as it may be, will convey to others something of its original intent."

Stan's music is melodic, modal, contrapuntal, characterized by extended, interweaving lines. His musical influences span the centuries, and include Machaut, Josquin, Palestrina, Monteverdi, Lassus, Britten, Ives, Vaughn Williams and Shostakovich. Two main themes permeate many of the pieces - music intended to influence the minds and hearts of those who hear it in such a way as to encourage thoughts about the possibility of world peace - and music composed in an attempt to translate something about the nature of the physical world.

Complete scores are available at **www.stangrillcomposer.com**. Stan Grill is a member of ASCAP.

VOCAL MUSIC

The Snow Begins (W.C. Williams)	1975	soprano, piano	3 min
Earth and Sea (Eskimo texts)	1975	soprano, piano	3 min
Prelude (T.S. Eliot)	1978	soprano, violin, cello	10 min
6 Songs (W.B. Yeats)	1983	soprano, piano	15 min
To a Child (W.B. Yeats)	1987	soprano, string quartet	20 min
Crazy Jane Sings (W.B. Yeats)	1999	soprano, fl, vn, va, vc, pn	25 min
Vignettes/Flowers (W.C. Williams	2002	SATB, cello	18 min
Love Poems (W.C. Williams)	2003	SSAA	10 min
Vignettes/Trees (W.C. Williams)	2004	sop, mezz sop, 2 cellos	15 min
Thinking of You (John MacKenzie)	2005	soprano, cello, harp	7 min
Ariettas Without Words	2005	soprano, cello, harp	9 min
Scetate (Ferdinando Russo)	2005	SSATTBB	6 min
In Their Flight (Mark Doty)	2006	sop, mezzo, violin, cello	6 min
5 Rilke Songs	2009	soprano, viola d'amore, cello	15 min
4 Songs to Poems by Hart Crane	2010	tenor, piano	35 min
Seasons (W.C. Williams)	2010	SATB	11 min
Sonnets to Orpheus (R.M. Rilke)	2012	tenor, piano	35 min
Songs of Loss and Remembering (R.M. Rilke)	2012	soprano, viola d'amore, viola, cello	12 min
Rozmowa z kamieniem (W. Szymborska)	2013	soprano, 2 violins, cello	15 min
2 Love Songs (H. Heine)	2015	countertenor, va, vc, theorbo	4 min
A Collection of Songs (C.F. Cilliers)	2017	soprano, piano	18 min
The Violin Sings in a Common Language	2017	soprano, violin	13 min
The Waking (T. Roethke)	2017	SATB	5 min
Roses? (H. Stanbrough)	2017	SATB	3 min
Mad Girl's Love Song (Sylvia Plath)	2018	SA	5 min
The Home on the Hill (E.A. Robinson)	2018	SATB	3 min
Der Februar (Erich Kastner)	2018	soprano, viola d'amore	4 min
Vier Gedichte (Inborg Hoflehner)	2018	mezzo soprano, viola d'amore	6 min
La Lay de Plour (Guillaume Machut)	2018	contralto, fl, vn, vc, piano	40 min
Selections from Les Roses (R.M. Rilke)	2019	soprano, cornetto, chamber organ	9 min

MUSIC FOR STRINGS ALONE

6 Contrapuntal Pieces	1986	string quartet	20 min
For Laura	1987	string quartet	25 min
The Beckoning Stars	2001	string quartet	13 min
Imaginary Dances	2001	violin solo	18 min
Short Stories	2003	vn, va, vc, db	18 min
Passion (a love duet)	2003	viola, cello	9 min
Pavanne (for a world without war)	2005	string orchestra	8 min
Meditations	2006	string orchestra	8 min
American Landscapes	2007	string quartet	24 min
Motet	2008	string orchestra	7 min
Ecstasy	2009	viola solo	9 min
Transformations	2009	viola da gamba	12 min
Sonatine	2010	3 violins	9 min
Lieder ohne Worte	2011	2 va, vc, theorbo	12 min
Middle Ground	2012	vn, 2 va, vc	25 min
O mystery!	2012	cello solo	5 min
Music for Viol Consort	2013	6 viols	20 min
Afterwards, there were no more wars	2013	string quartet	21 min
At the Center of All Things	2013	string quartet	17 min
4 Nocturnes	2013	violin, viola	19 min
Lonely Voices	2013	string quartet	26 min

Trance Music	2014	string orchestra	22 min
The Time is Past	2016	string quartet	15 min
Dreaming of a Better World	2016	string quartet	15 min
Trio Sonata	2017	vn, va d'amore, cello	10 min
Transfiguration	2017	viola quartet	14 min
Duets	2018	2 viola d'amore	7 min
Aphorisms, Book 1	2019	string quartet	15 min

CHAMBER MUSIC

Three for Three	1992	violin, cello, piano	16 min
Civil War Songs	1992	viola, piano	18 min
Take Five	1993	piano quintet	25 min
Serenade	1999	fl, vn, va, vc	11 min
Distant Music	2000	cl, vn/va, vc, pn	20 min
Driven by the Wind	2001	flute, cello, piano	25 min
Nonet (for New York)	2002	fl, ob, cl, hn, bn, string quartet	35 min
A Little Sweet	2003	flute, cello	10 min
On the Edge of Sleep & Dreaming	2003	horn, cello, harp	31 min
5 Pastoral Scenes	2004	ob, bn, vn, va, vc	30 min
I was dreaming of the sea...	2004	vn (or fl), vc, pn	7 min
Little Tales of Mirth & Woe	2004	vn (or fl), vc, pn	6 min
An Ode to the Possibility of Piece	2005	clarinet, violin, cello	15 min
Elements	2006	fl, ob, cl, hn, bn	11 min
Motet for Brass Instruments	2006	2 tp, hn, tb, tu	7 min
4 Caprices	2014	violin, piano	14 min
Melville's Dream	2017	alto flute, viola, cello	12 min
Music for Loud Band	2018	2 cornettos & 2 tenor sackbuts	5 min
Fanfare	2018	4 sackbuts (or tenor trombones)	3 min
the children are crying	2018	saxophone quartet	6 min
the children are still crying	2018	saxophone quartet	6 min
Aphorisms, Book 2	2019	viola & piano	21 min

ORCHESTRAL MUSIC

Morning Music	2001	clarinet, string orchestra	22 min
Two Sad Songs (W.B. Yeats)	2002	soprano, string orchestra	15 min
Invisible Ballet	2003	string orchestra & diverse instruments	33 min
Dark Matter (Pluto)	2005	orchestra	15 min
Ophelia Songs (Shakespeare)	2005	soprano, harp, string orchestra	12 min
Love's Little Pleasures (various poets)	2008	soprano, string orchestra	15 min
The Four Elements	2009	viola, string orchestra	22 min
Mystical Songs (Fernando Rielo)	2009	soprano, viola, string orchestra	18 min
In Praise of Reason	2012	cello, 2 horns, string orchestra	13 min
Against War	2018	soprano, orchestra	23 min
Season of Rain	2018	orchestra	38 min
Summer	2018	orchestra	43 min
Declaration of Peace	2019	chamber orchestra	12 min

PIANO MUSIC

Simple Sketches	2015	piano	12 min
Skirmishes	2016	piano 4 hands	10 min
Preludes for Piano, 1-6	2016	piano	10 min
Preludes for Piano, 7-12	2017	piano	10 min