solo violin

Glyptolith

duo for violin and piano

dedicated to the memory of Grace May Ayres

James Paul Sain

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program notes

Glyptolith, a stone weathered by time and the elements, was written as a musical monument to the composer's maternal grandmother, Grace May Ayres (1906-2001); like the glyptolith of the title, she saw the passage of nearly a century of time but still stood as a strong sentinel. The first movement uses extended techniques, involving playing the interior of the piano, muting and strumming piano strings, advanced violin articulation, and virtuosic performance. The second movement is based in a verticalization of the hymn tune, "Nearer My God to Thee." The composer's grandmother spoke of an experience she had as a small child at New York Harbor as the severely wounded soldiers returned from WW I, carried off the ships in baskets, as she heard the hymn. The final movement is a rhythmically furious exploration of a hexachord and its morphing to the complement hexachord. There is also a revisitation of some of the techniques used in the first movement.

PERFORMANCE NOTE: This piece incorporates writing for piano interior (not possible on all instrument sizes and brands). It can be successfully performed on just the keyboard (playing all notes on the keys), though not preferred.

brief biography

James Paul Sain (b. 1959) is Professor of Music at the University of Florida where he teaches electroacoustic and acoustic music composition, theory, and technology. He founded and directed the internationally acclaimed Florida Electroacoustic Music Festival for 17 years. His compositional oeuvre spans all major acoustic ensembles, instrumental and vocal soloists, and embraces electroacoustic music. His works have been featured at major national and international societal events. He has presented his music in concert and given lectures in Asia, Europe, South America and North America. Dr. Sain is currently SCI Executive Committee chair and has served on the American Composers Alliance board of governors. His music is available in print from Brazinmusikanta and American Composers Editions and on CD on the Capstone, Electronic Music Foundation, Innova, University of Lanús, Mark Masters, Albany and NACUSA labels.

Most current and machine-readable forms of the above prose can be found at –
http://jamespaulsain.com/ *or via email* – jsain@ufl.edu
duration: 15'00"

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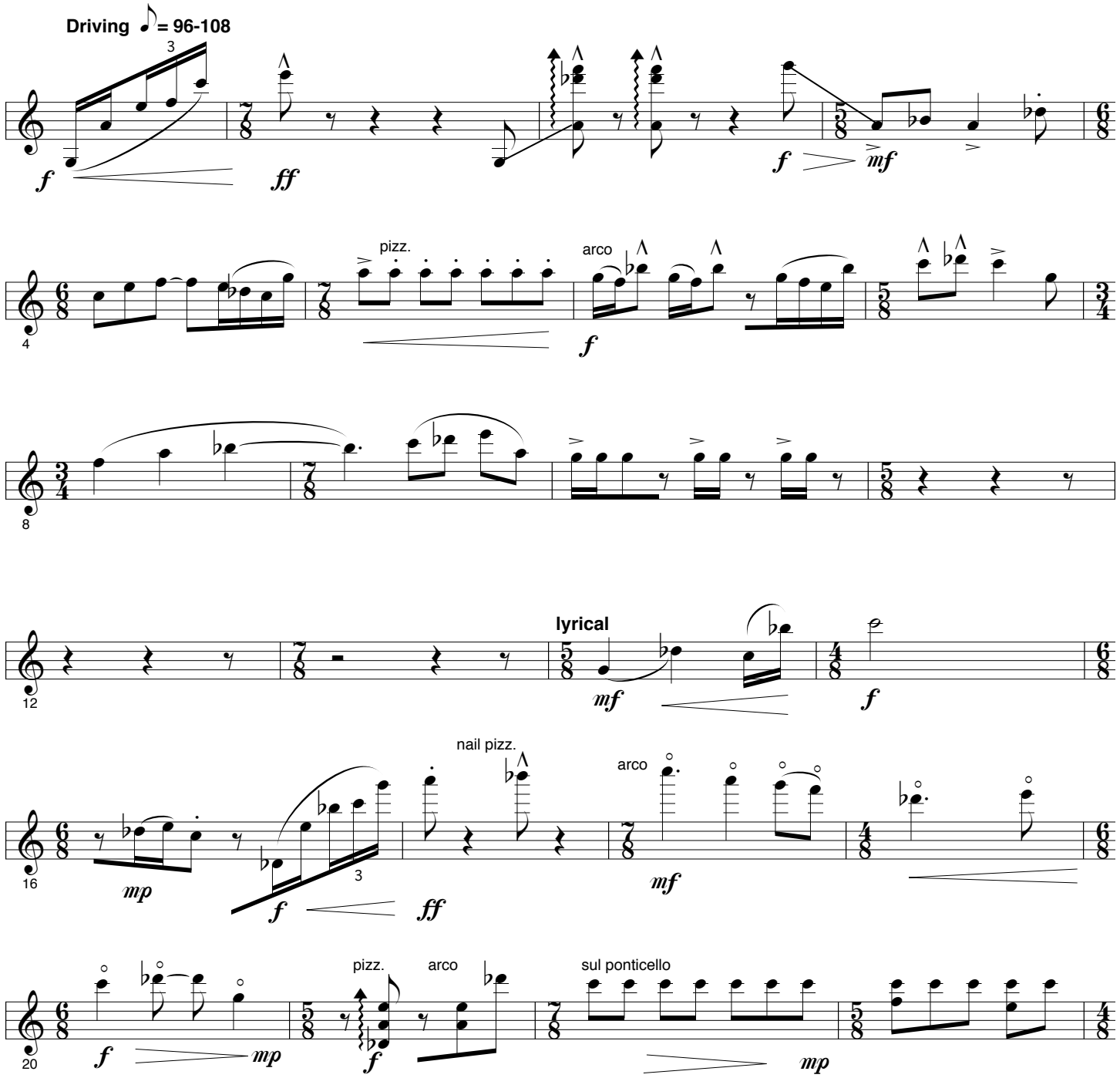
1. Resolved



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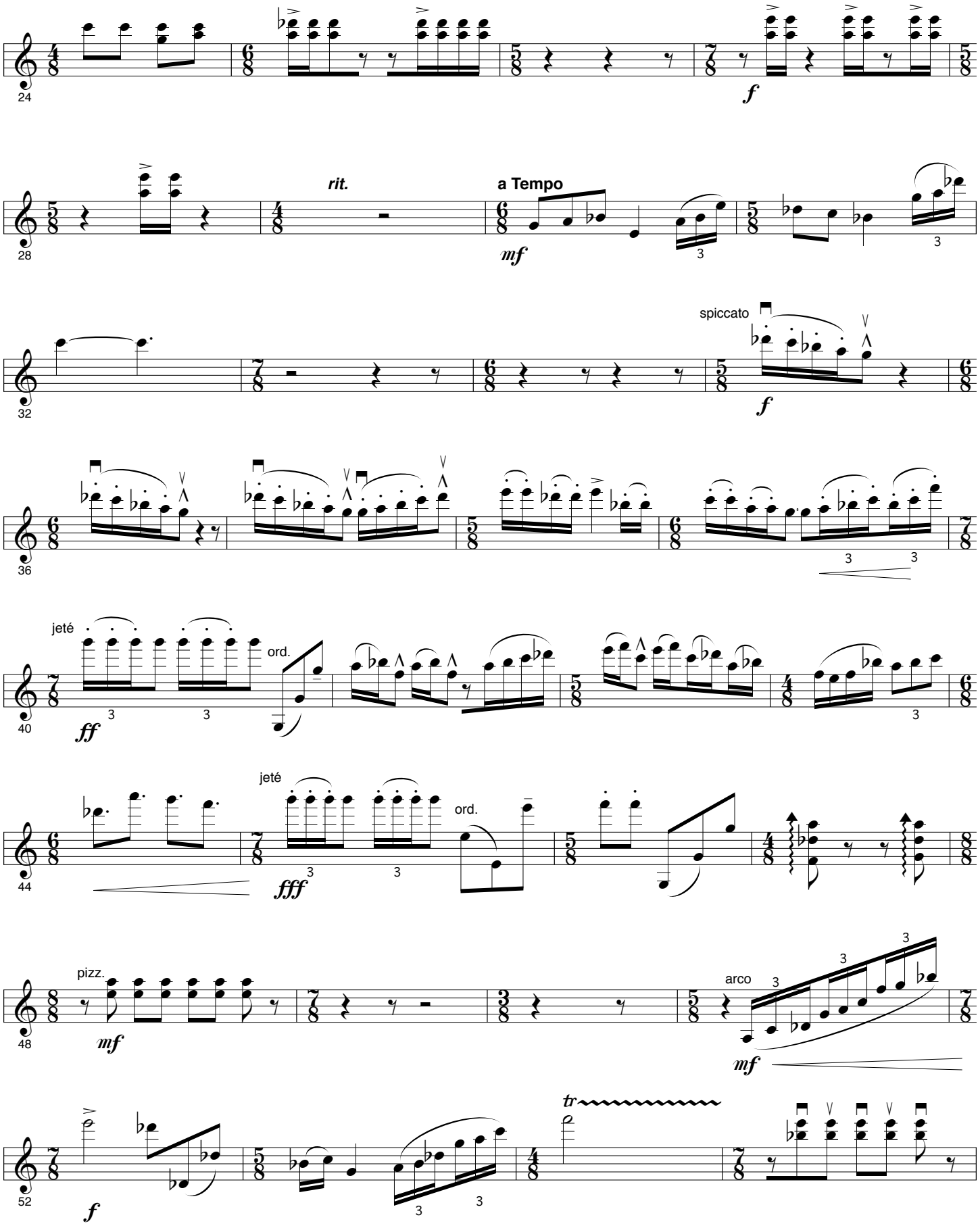
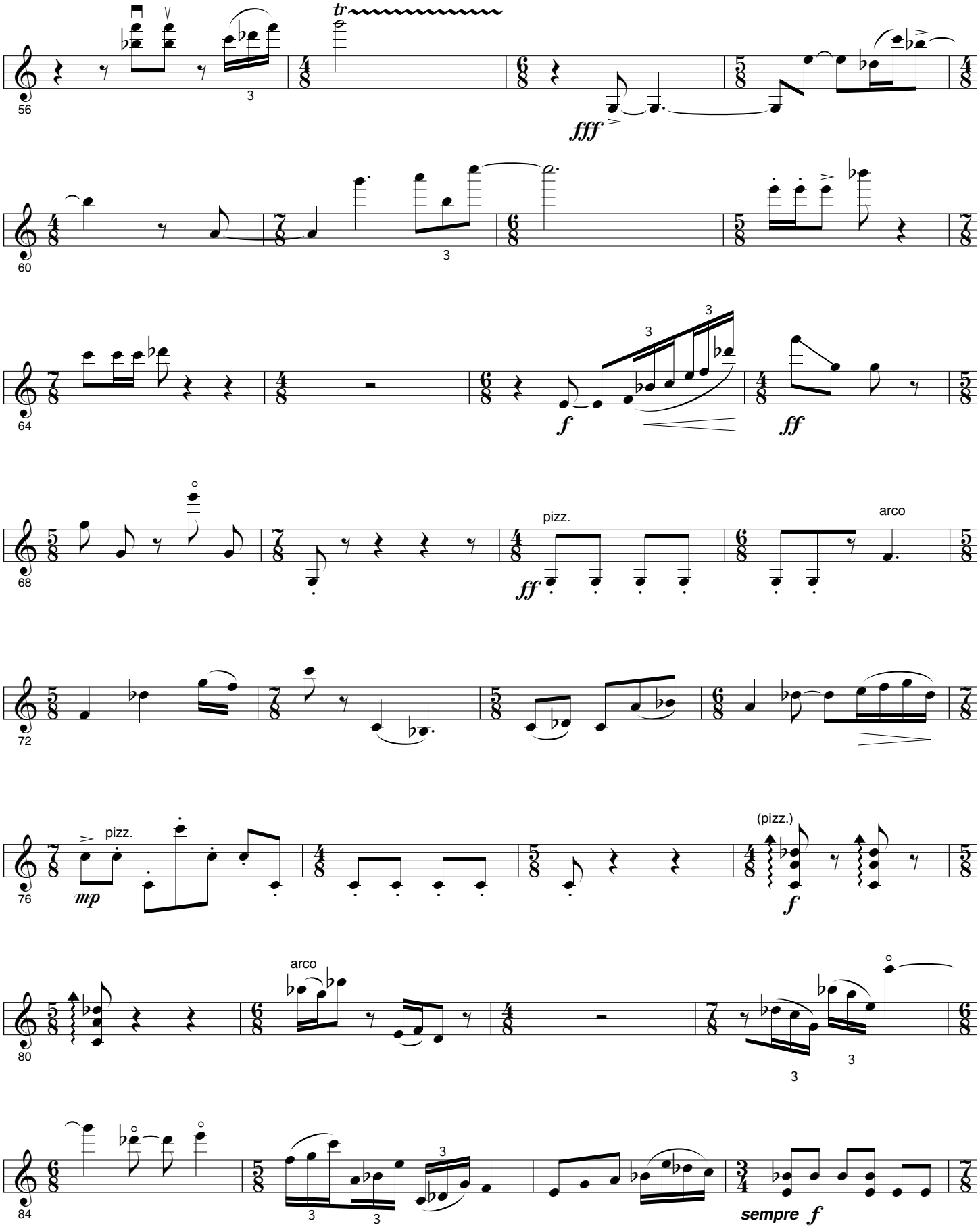
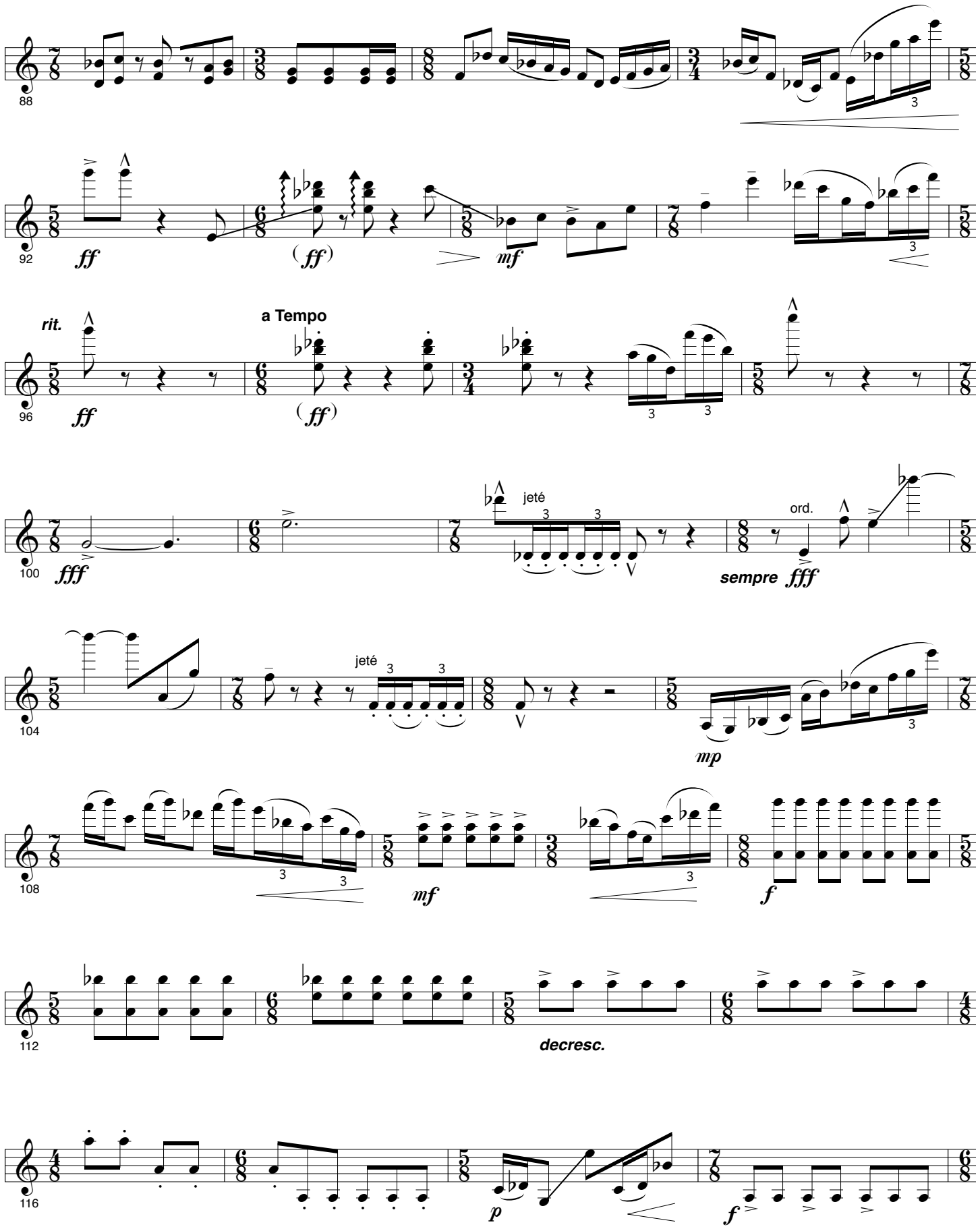
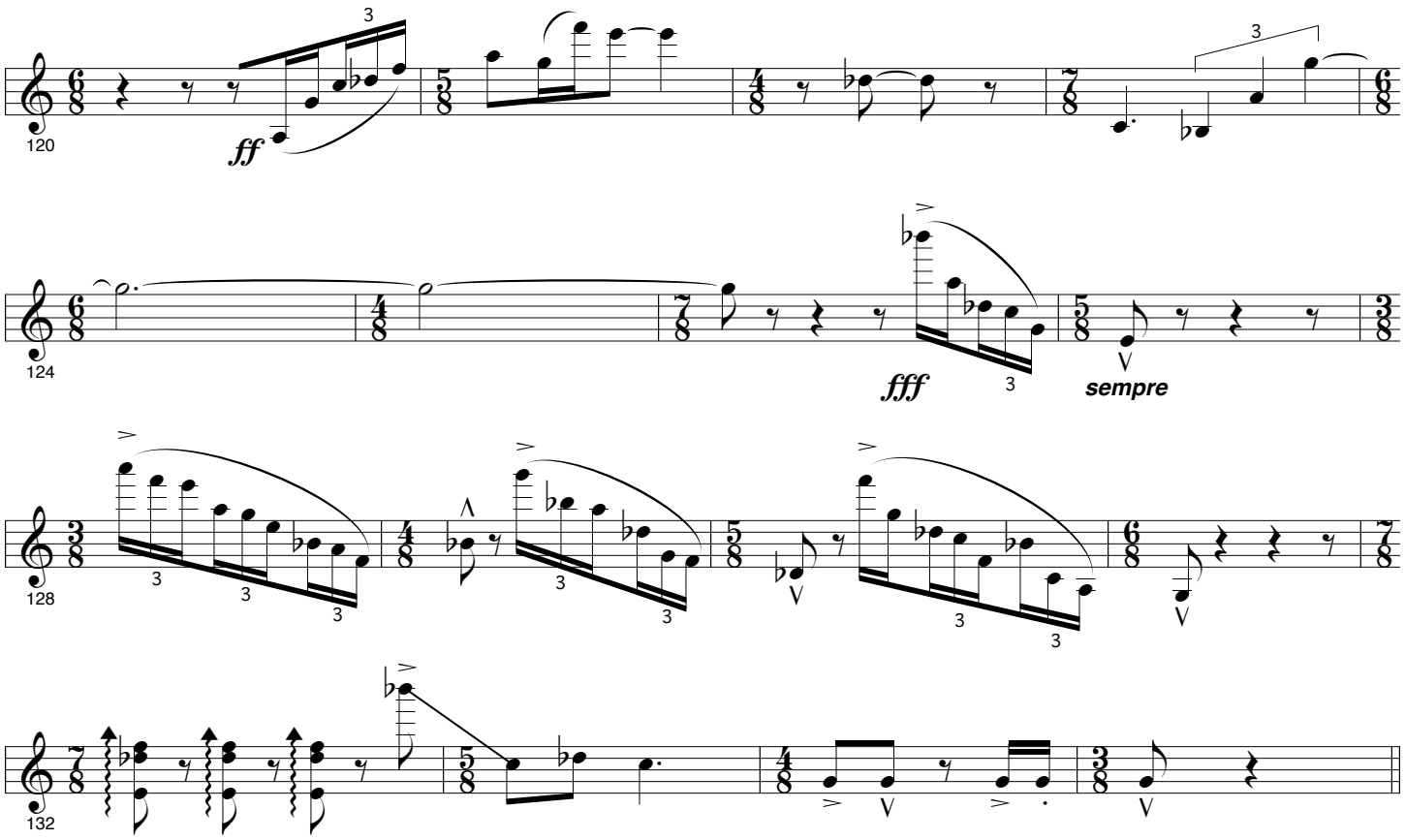

24
f
28
rit.
a Tempo
mf
32
spiccato
f
36
40
jeté
ord.
ff
44
jeté
ord.
fff
48
pizz.
mf
arco
mf
52
f
tr

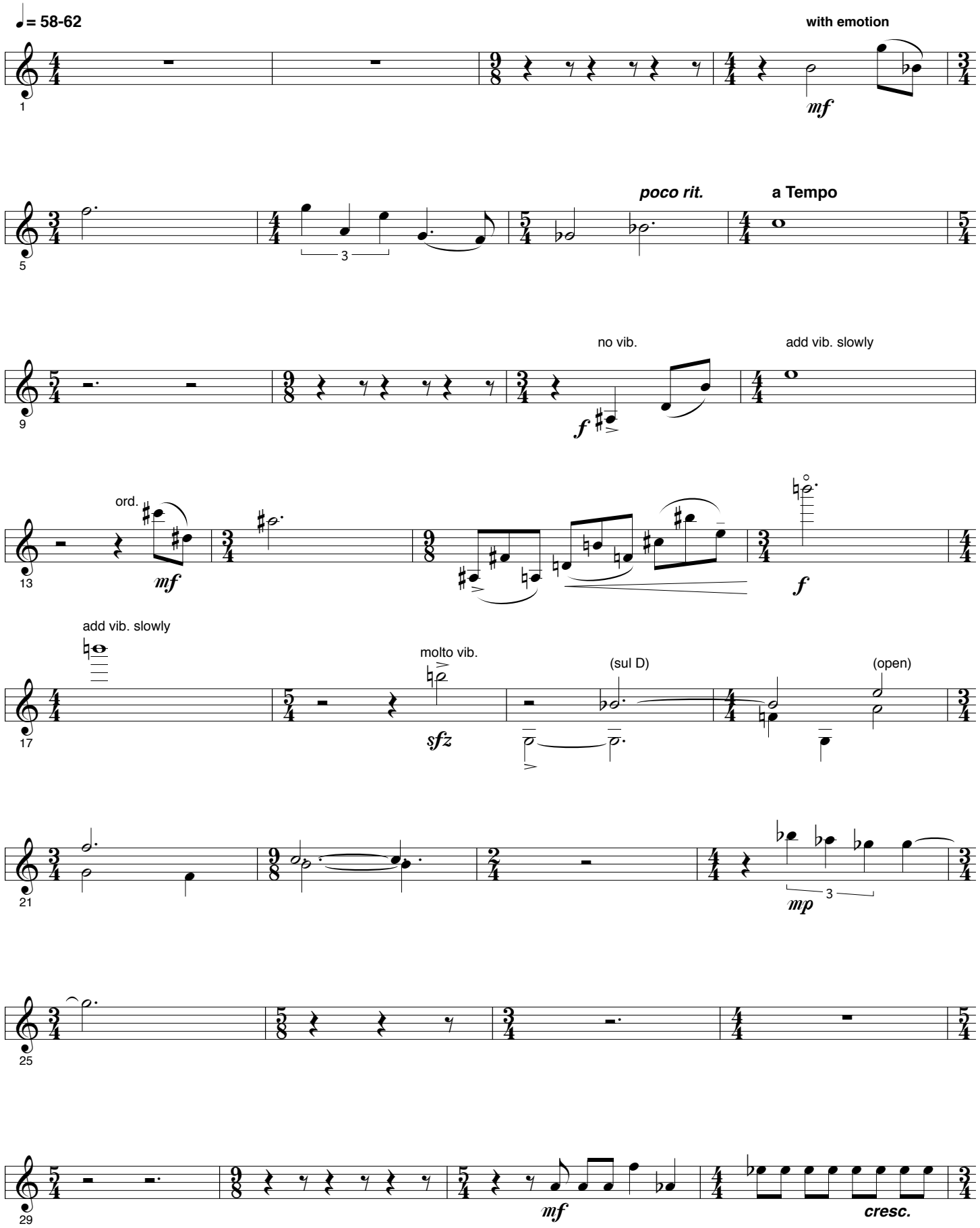

56
tr
fff
60
3
64
3
3
f
ff
68
pizz.
ff
arco
72
76
pizz.
mp
(pizz.)
f
80
arco
3
3
84
3
3
3
sempre f

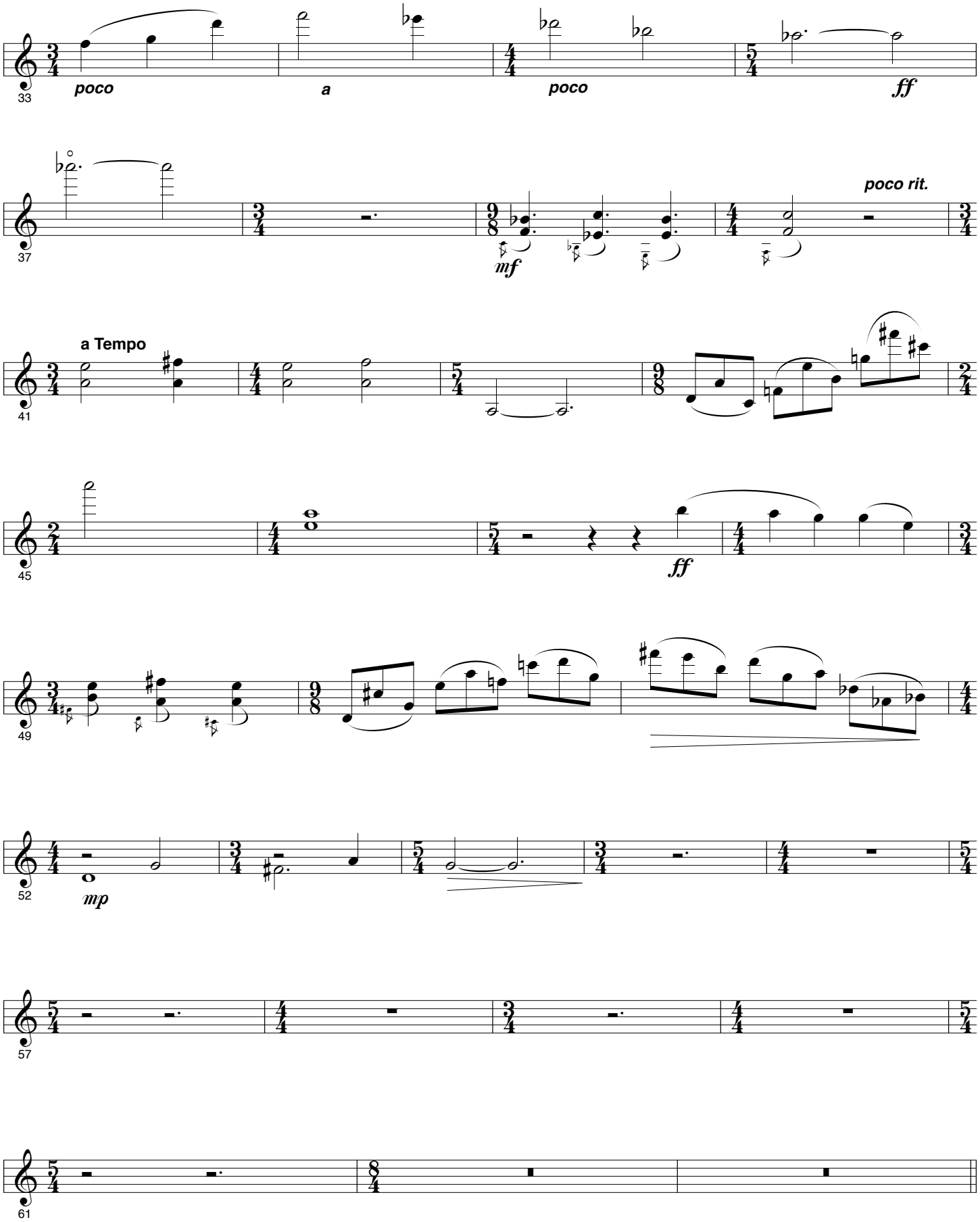

88
92
ff
(ff)
mf
96
rit.
a Tempo
ff
(ff)
100
fff
jeté
ord.
sempre fff
104
jeté
mp
108
mf
f
112
decresc.
116
p
f


120
ff
124
fff
sempre
128
132

2. Introspective

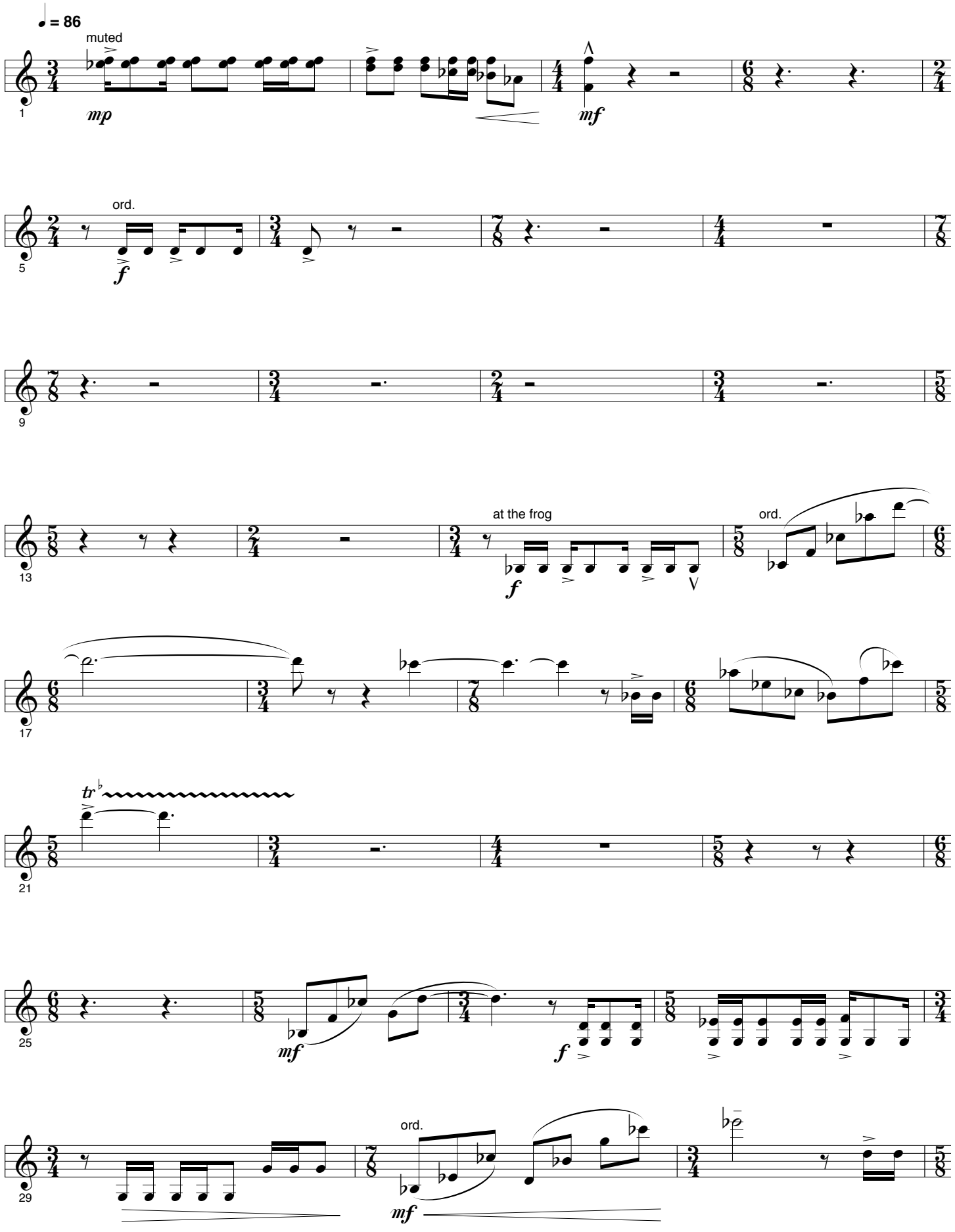
Glyptolith, duo for violin and piano

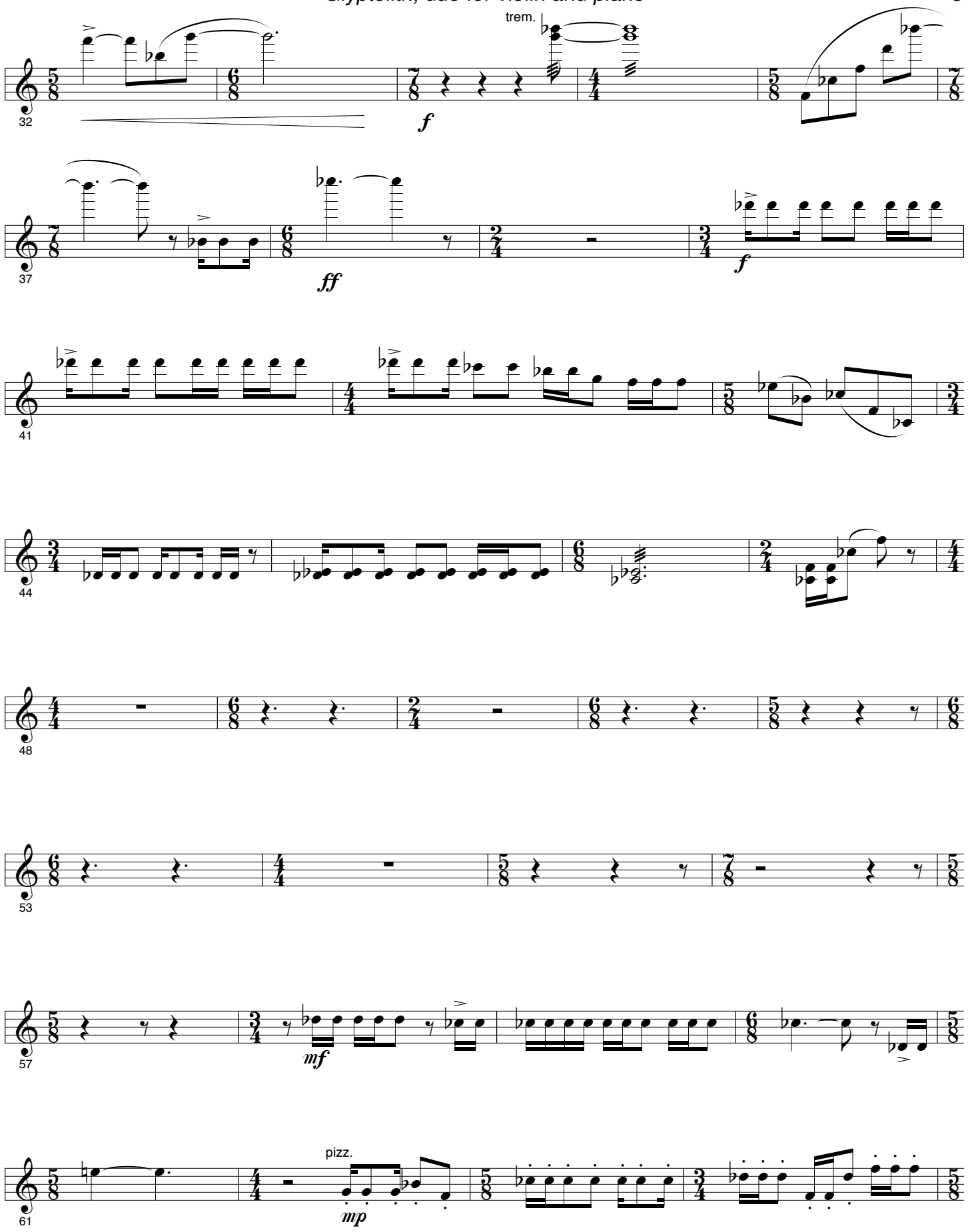


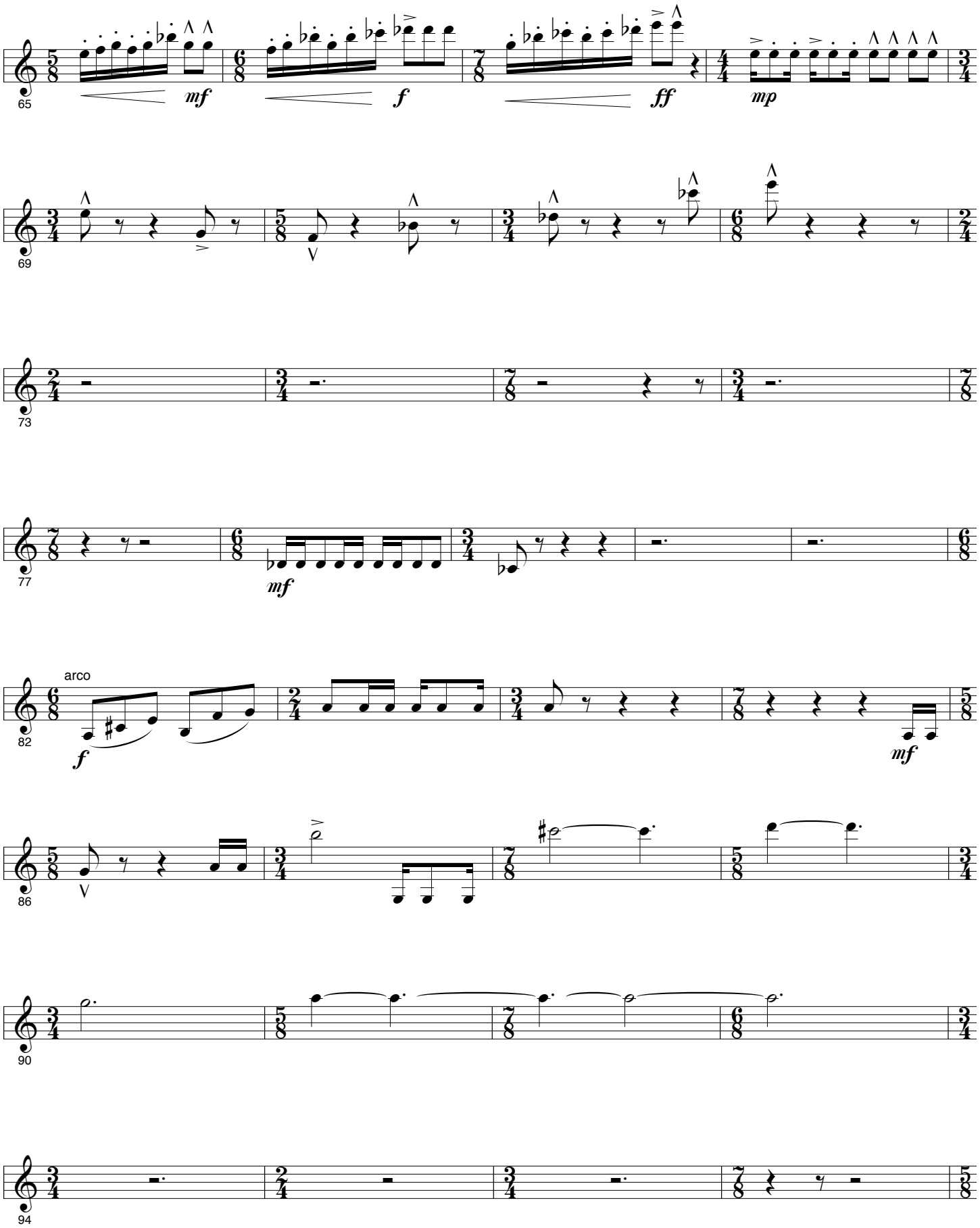

33
poco
a
poco
ff
37
mf
poco rit.
41
a Tempo
45
ff
49
52
mp
57
61

3. Marked

Glyptolith, duo for violin and piano




trem.
32
f
37
ff
f
41
44
48
53
57
mf
61
pizz.
mp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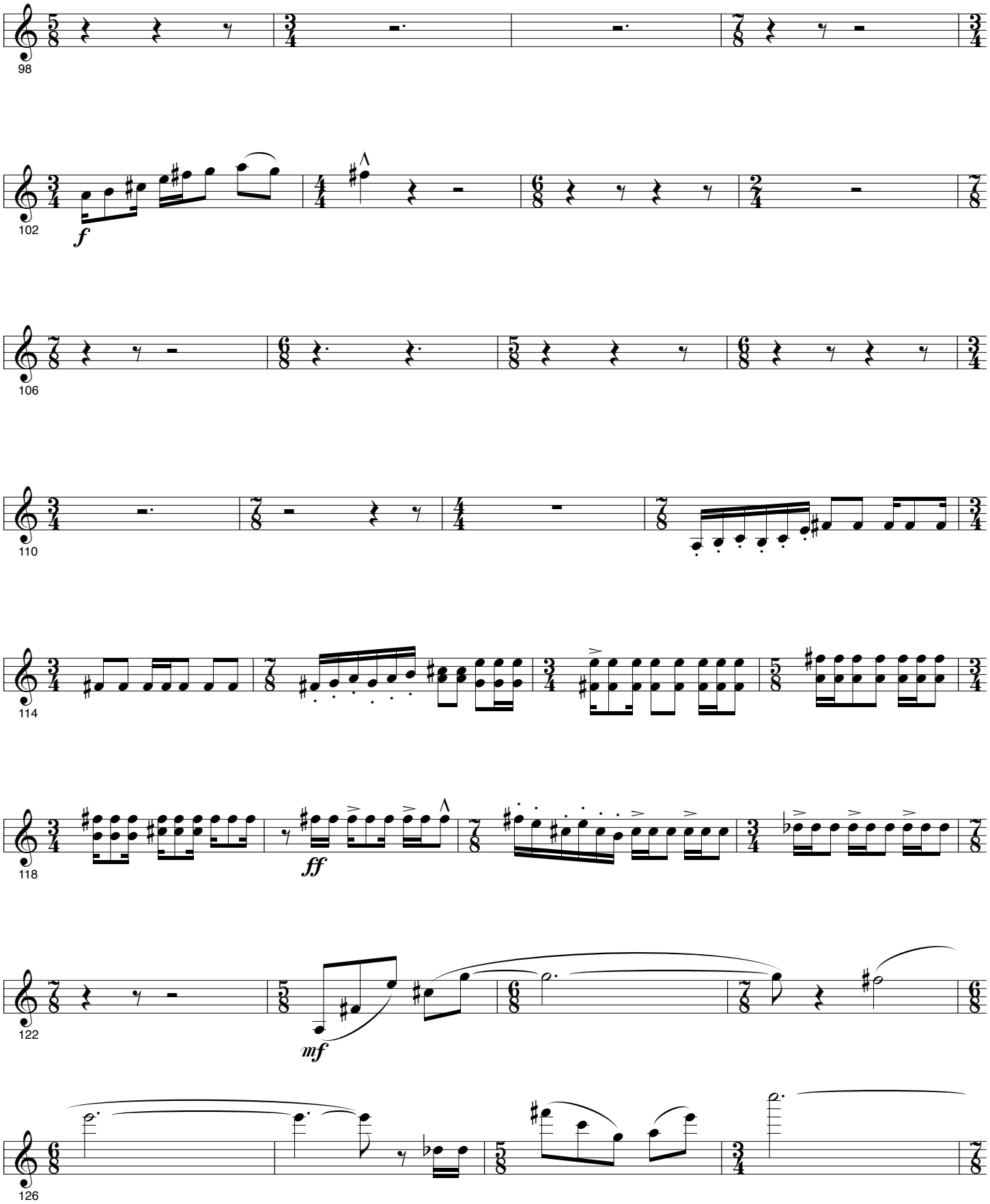
mf
f
ff
mp
69
73
77
mf
82
arco
f
mf
86
90
94


98
102
f
106
110
114
118
ff
122
mf
126

130
134
138
142
146
ff
fff