abstractions

for double bass and piano

by

Jon Christopher Nelson

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abstractions for double bass, piano, and optional electronic processor was written during the summer of 1993 at the request of Luis Gomez-Imbert and Juan Francisco Sans. This composition marks a turn back to a more lyrical style after a series of works that experiment with disjunct and somewhat schizophrenic figuration. The musical material is drawn from a group of five-note and seven-note chords that share similar features. The musical surface is lyric, contemplative, and at times ethereal. The electronic processor functions to color the bass, enhancing the musical atmosphere. As the composition unfolds, the musical gestures flow from one to another, creating fluid and organic musical links.

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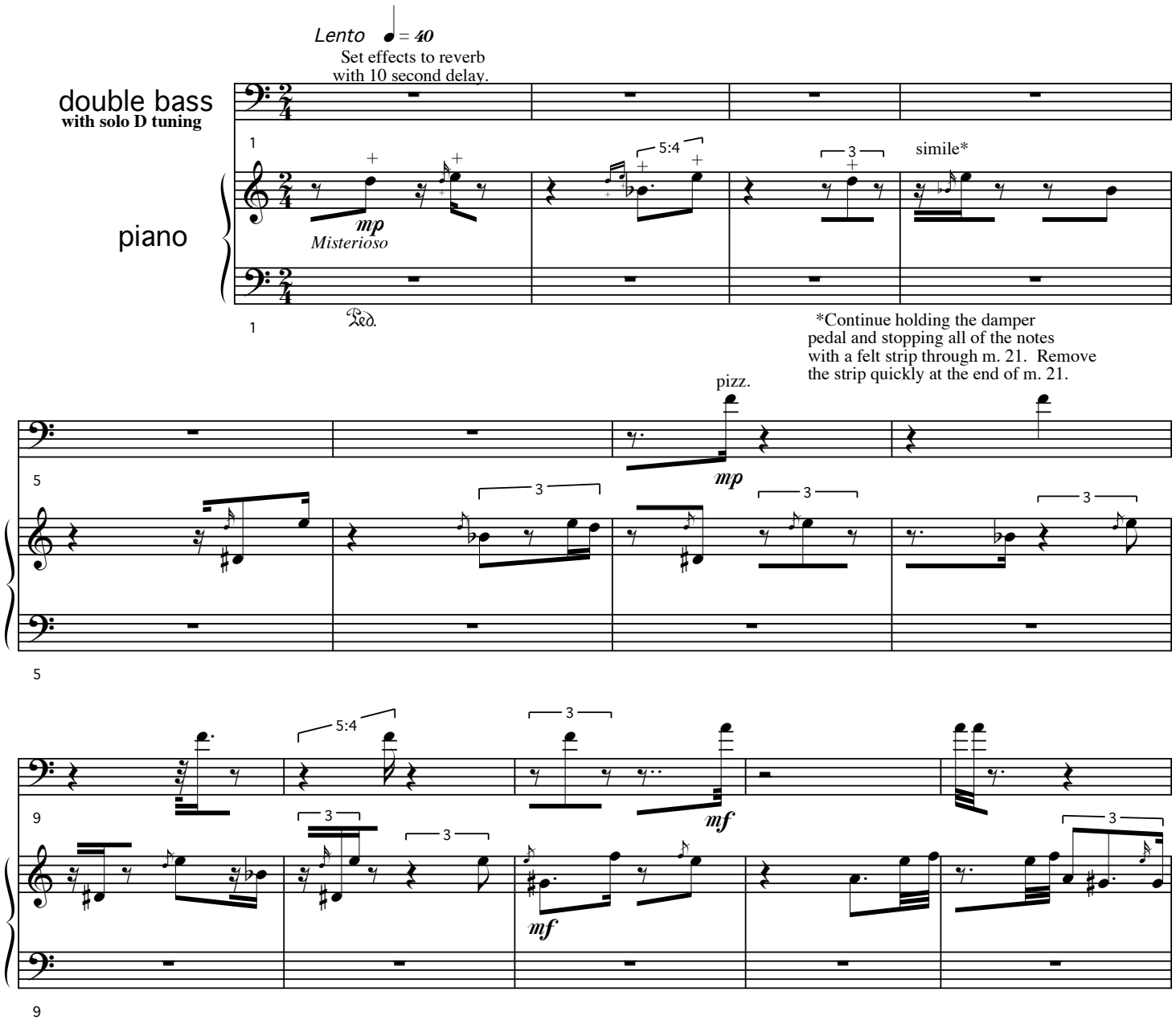
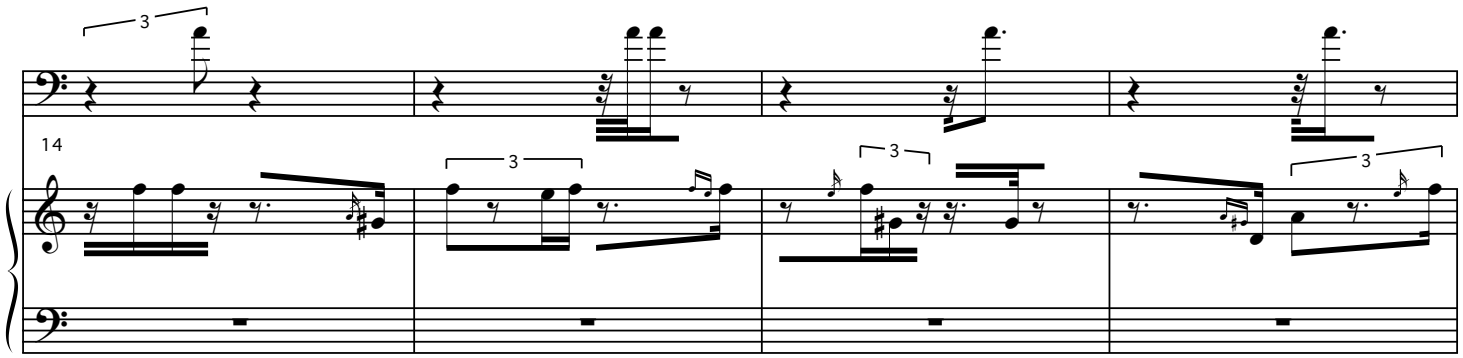
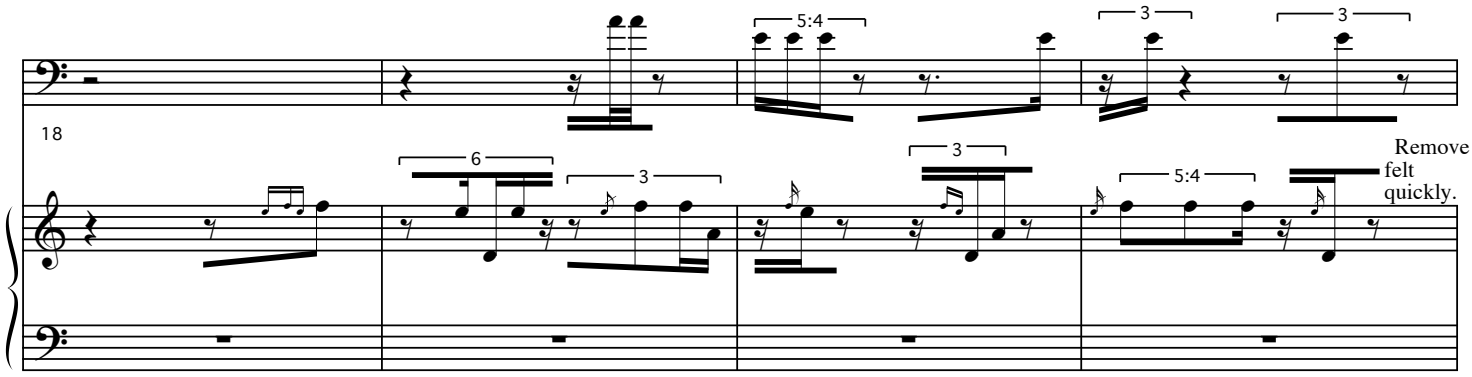
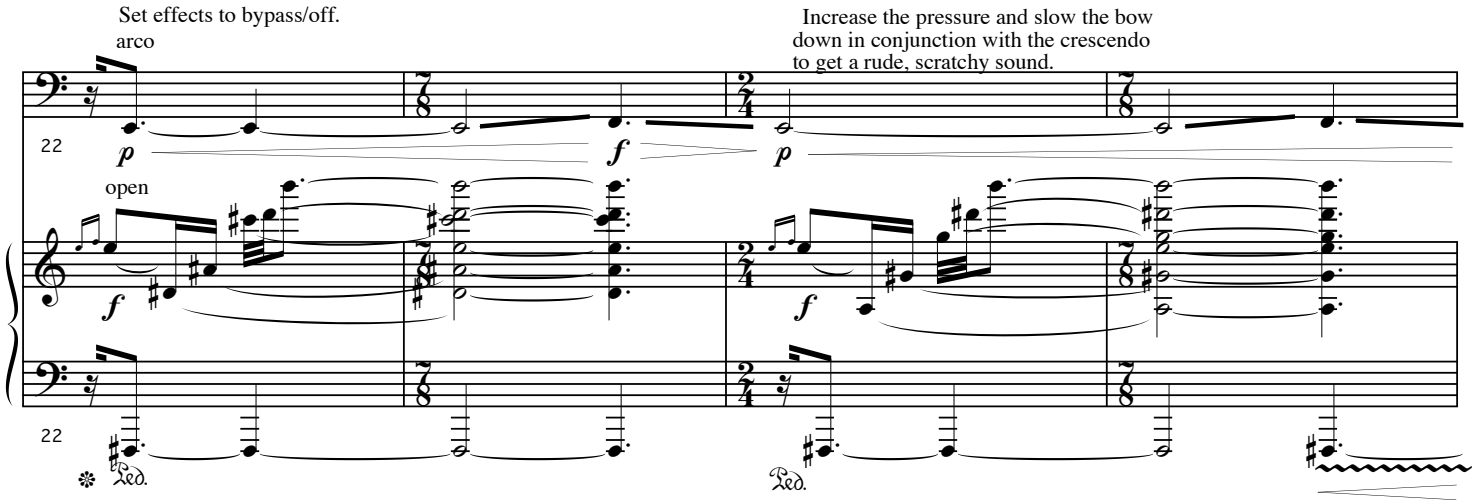
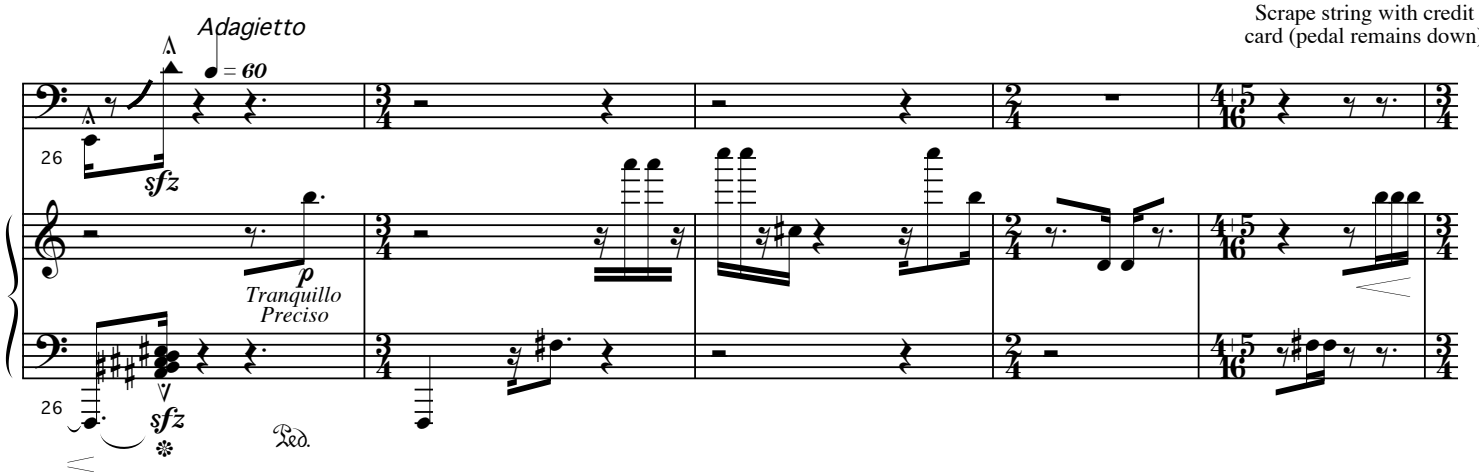
dur.=14 minutes

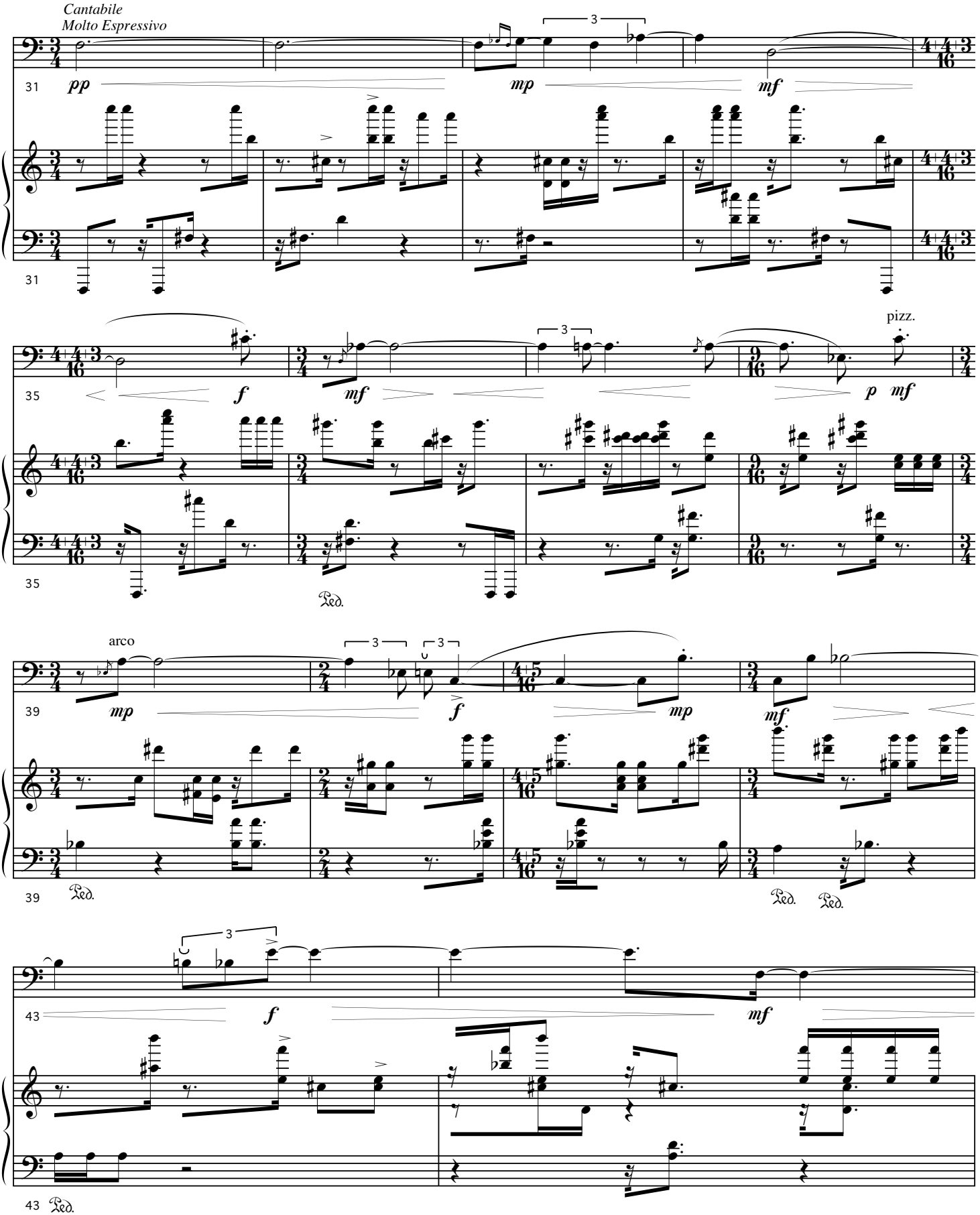


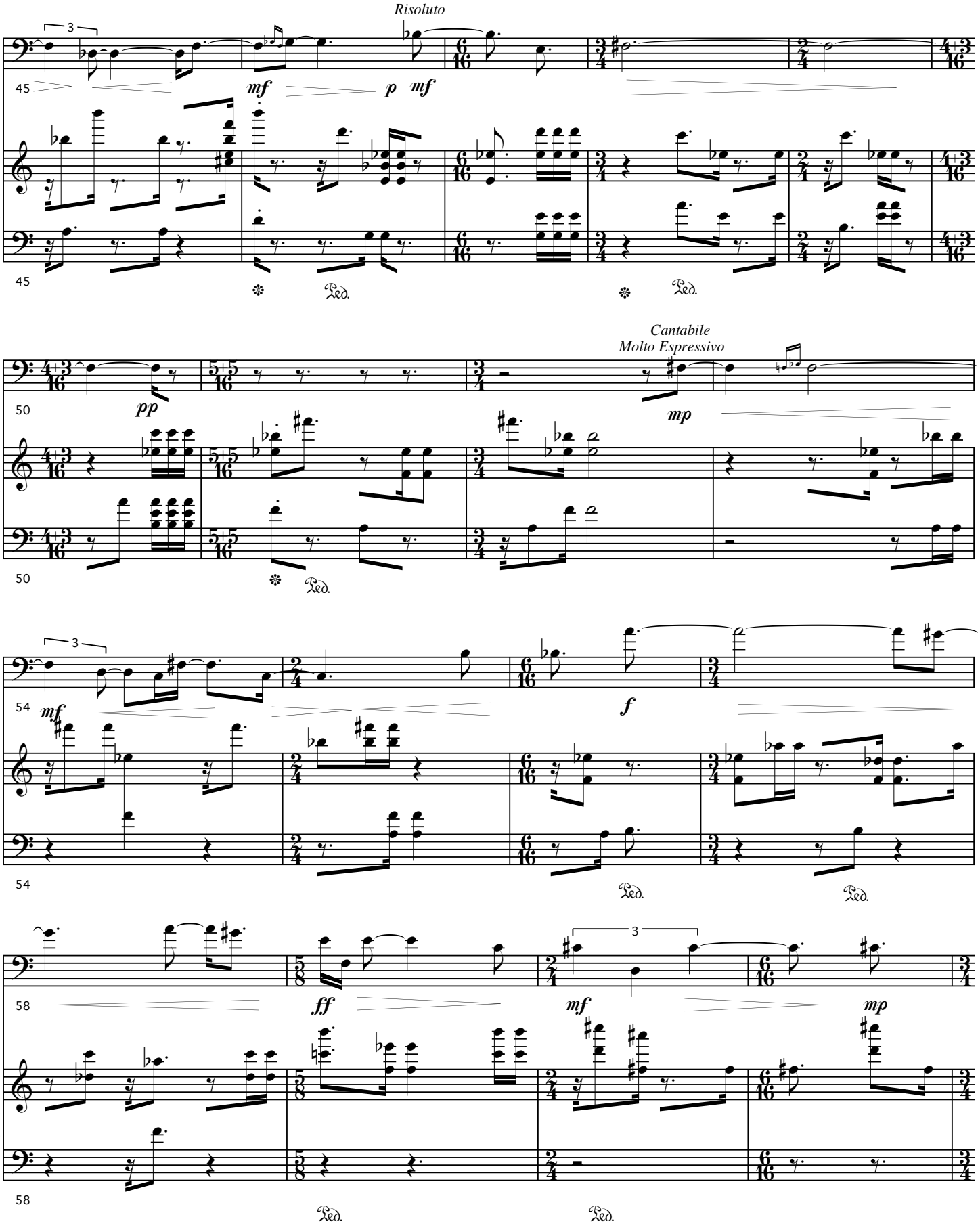

14
3
3
3
3
14

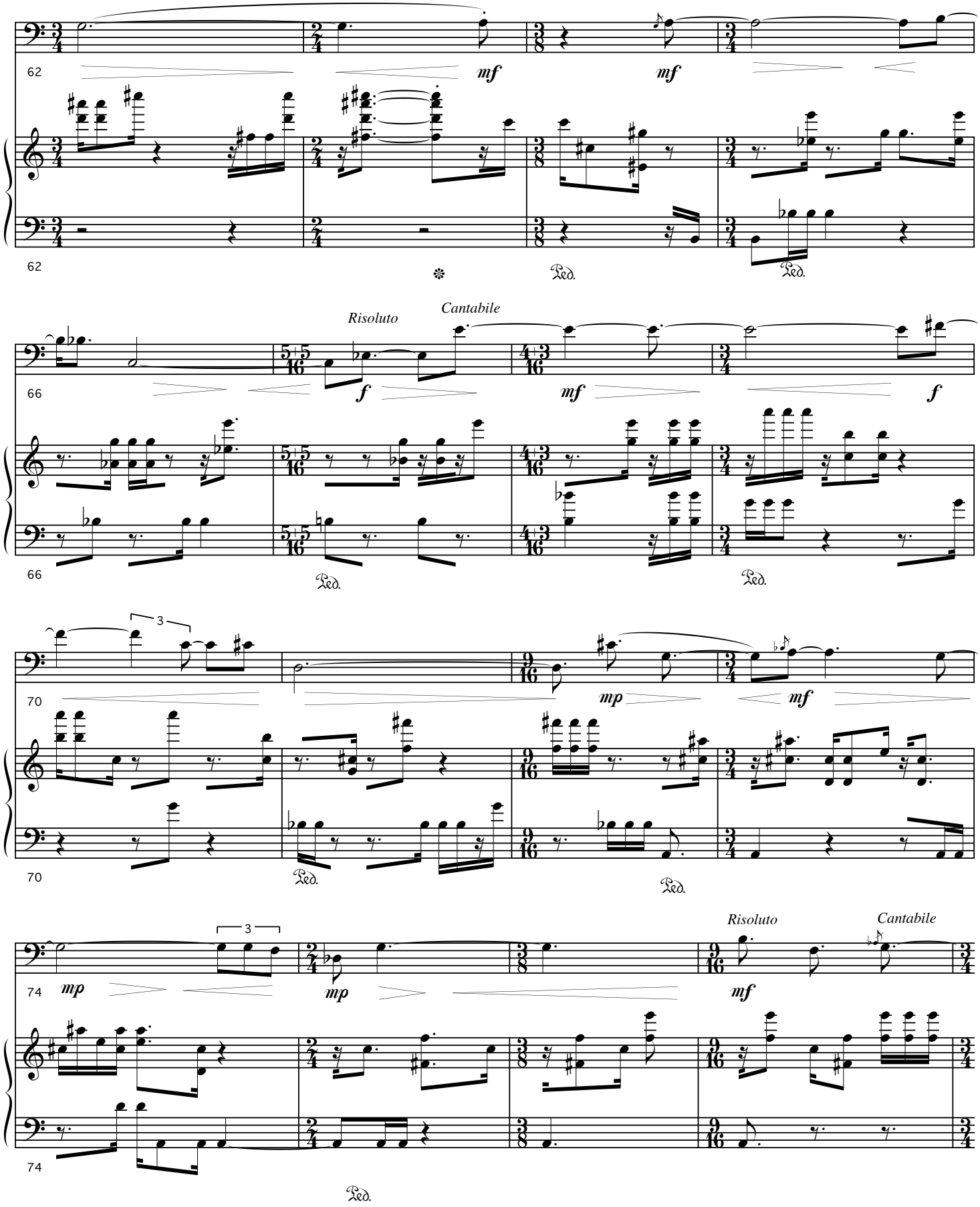

18
5:4
3
3
6
3
3
5:4
Remove felt quickly.
18

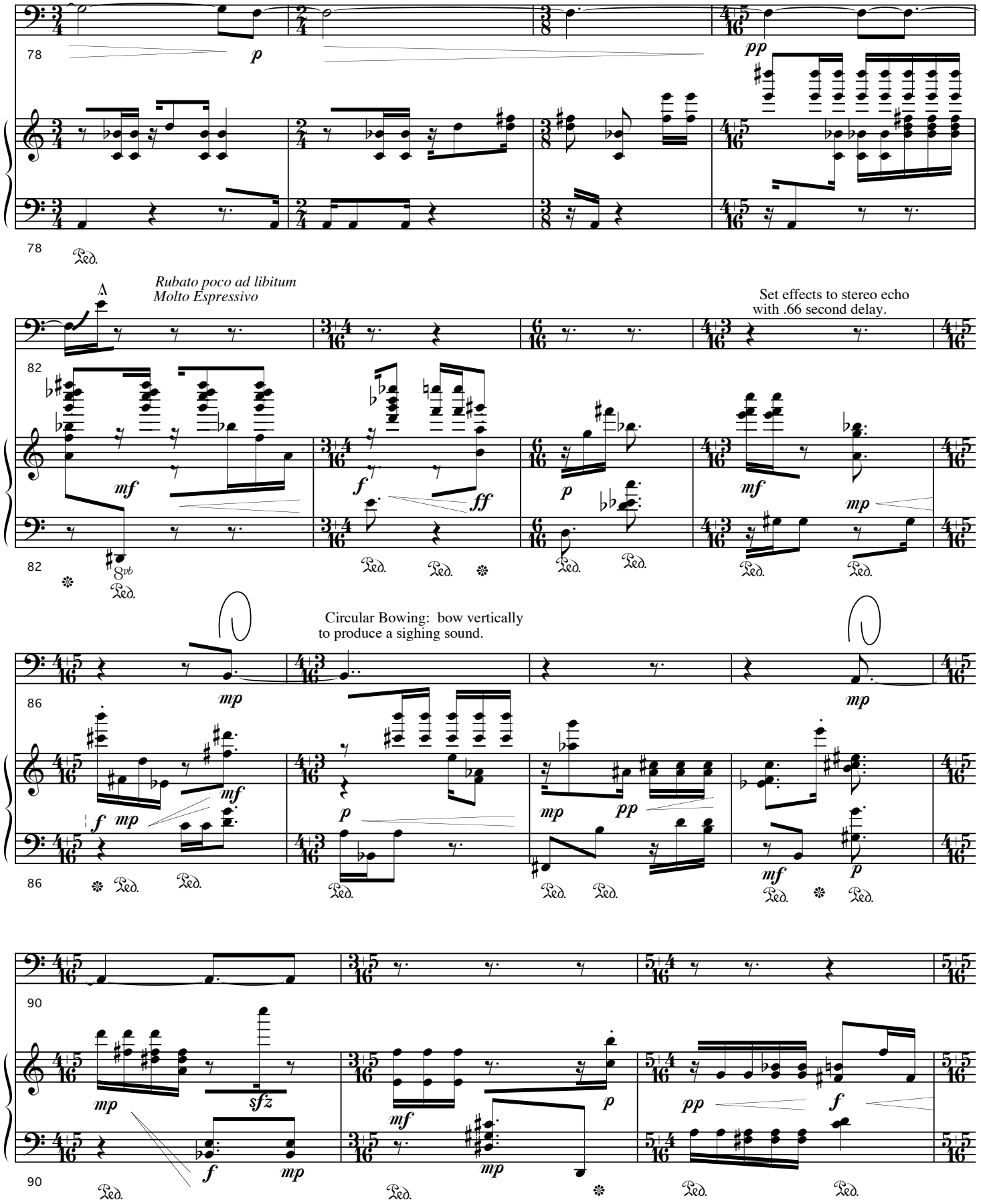

Set effects to bypass/off.
arco
22
p
f
p
open
f
f
Ped.
Ped.
Increase the pressure and slow the bow down in conjunction with the crescendo to get a rude, scratchy sound.
Scrape string with credit card (pedal remains down).

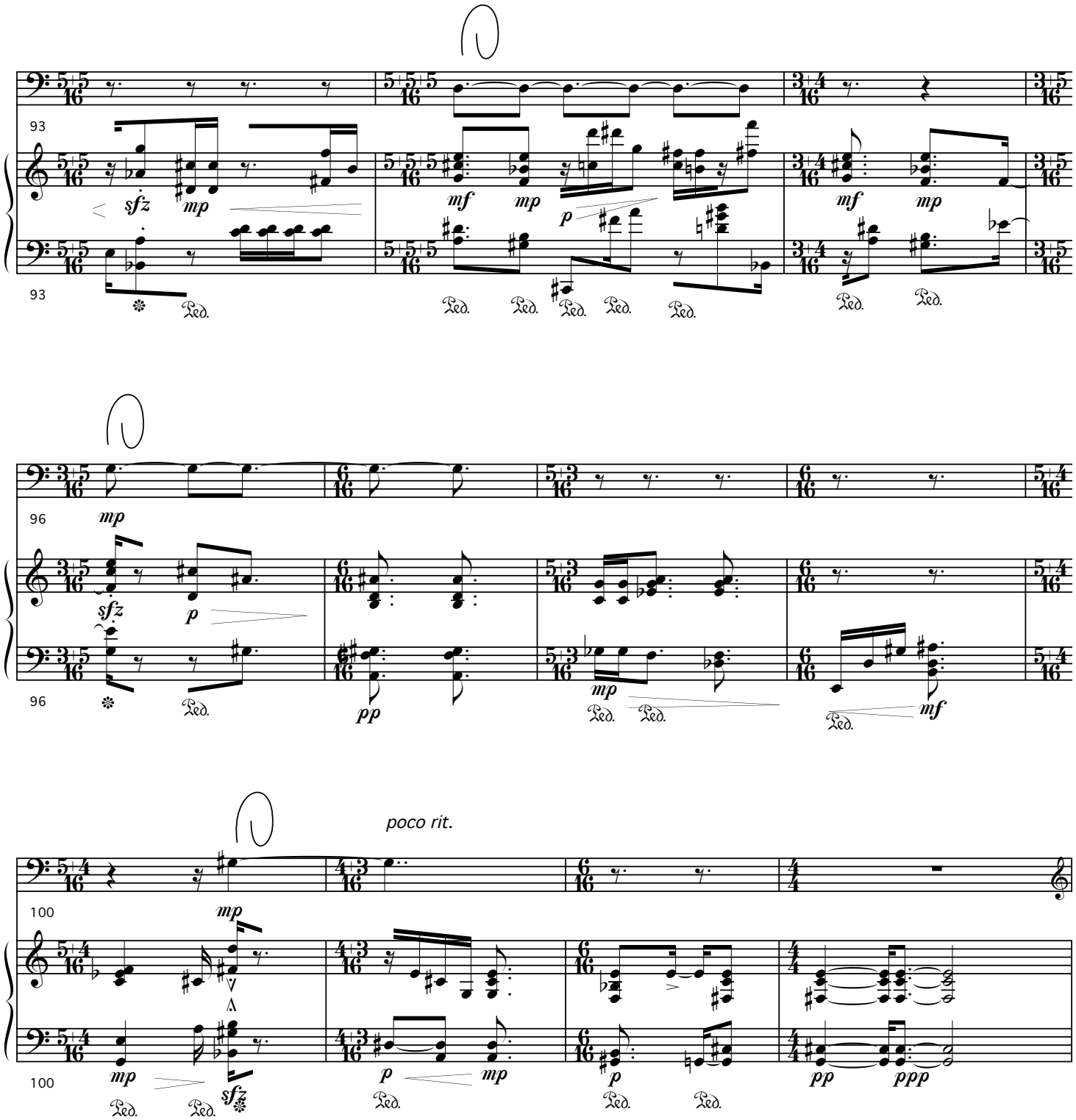

Adagietto
♩ = 60
26
sfz
p
Tranquillo
Preciso
sfz
Ped.
26

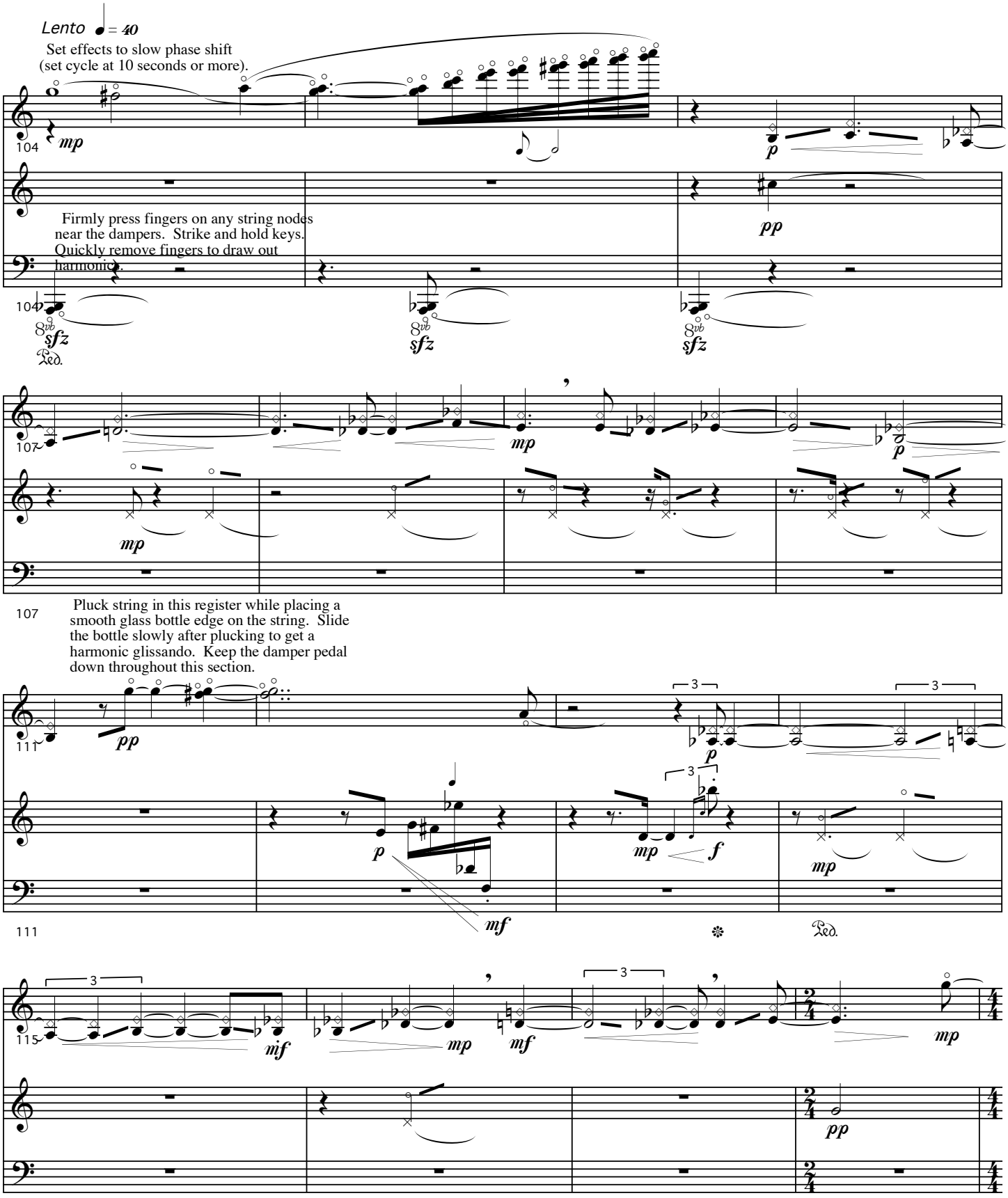

Cantabile
Molto Espressivo
31
pp
mp
mf
31
35
f
mf
p
mf
pizz.
35
Ped.
arco
39
mp
f
mp
mf
39
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
43
f
mf
43
Ped.

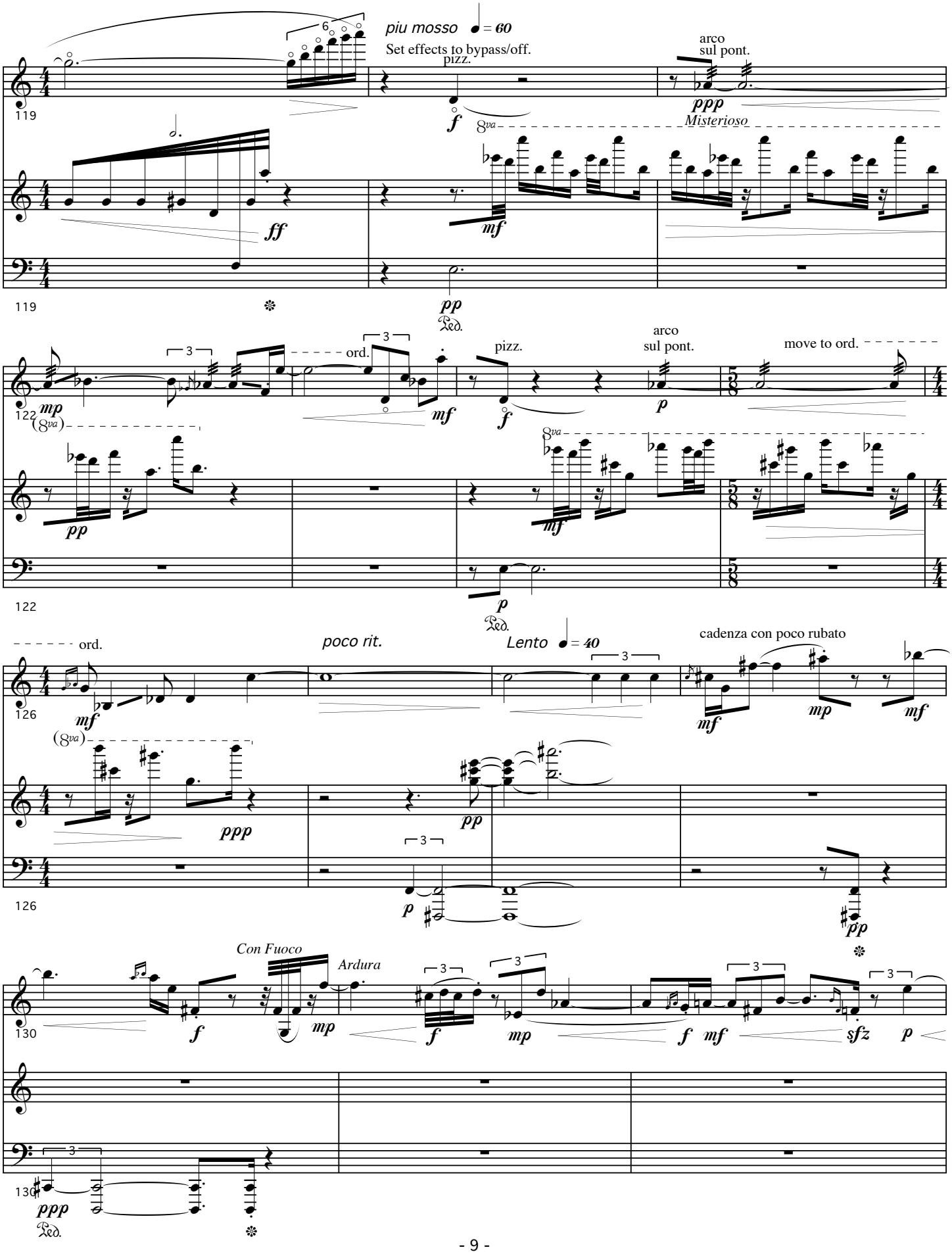

Risoluto
45
mf
p
mf
Ped.
Ped.
Cantabile
Molto Espressivo
50
pp
mp
Ped.
54
mf
f
Ped.
Ped.
58
ff
mf
mp
Ped.
Ped.

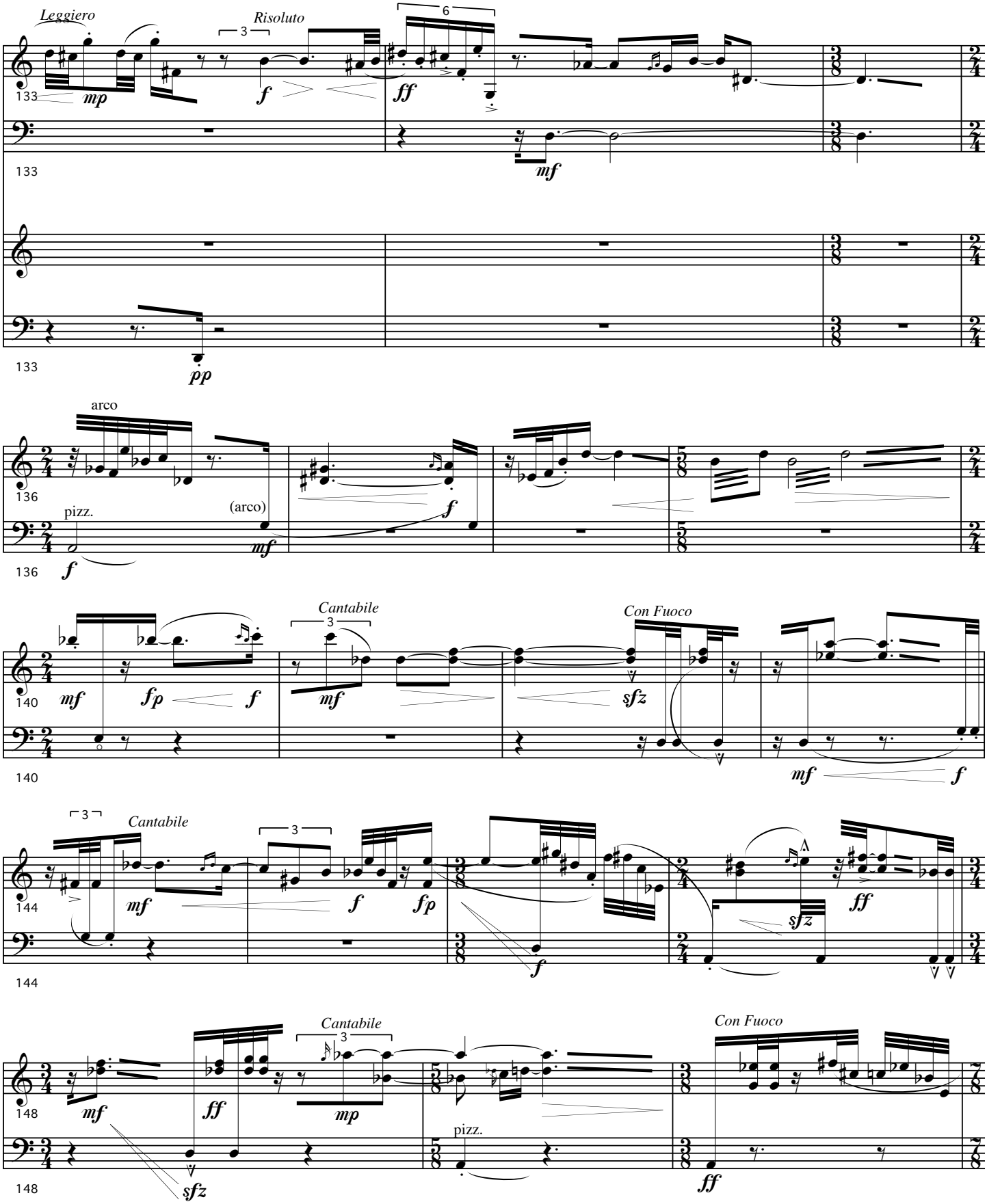

62
mf
mf
62
Ped.
Ped.
Risoluto
Cantabile
66
f
mf
f
66
Ped.
Ped.
3
70
mp
mf
70
Ped.
Ped.
3
Risoluto
Cantabile
74
mp
mp
mf
74
Ped.

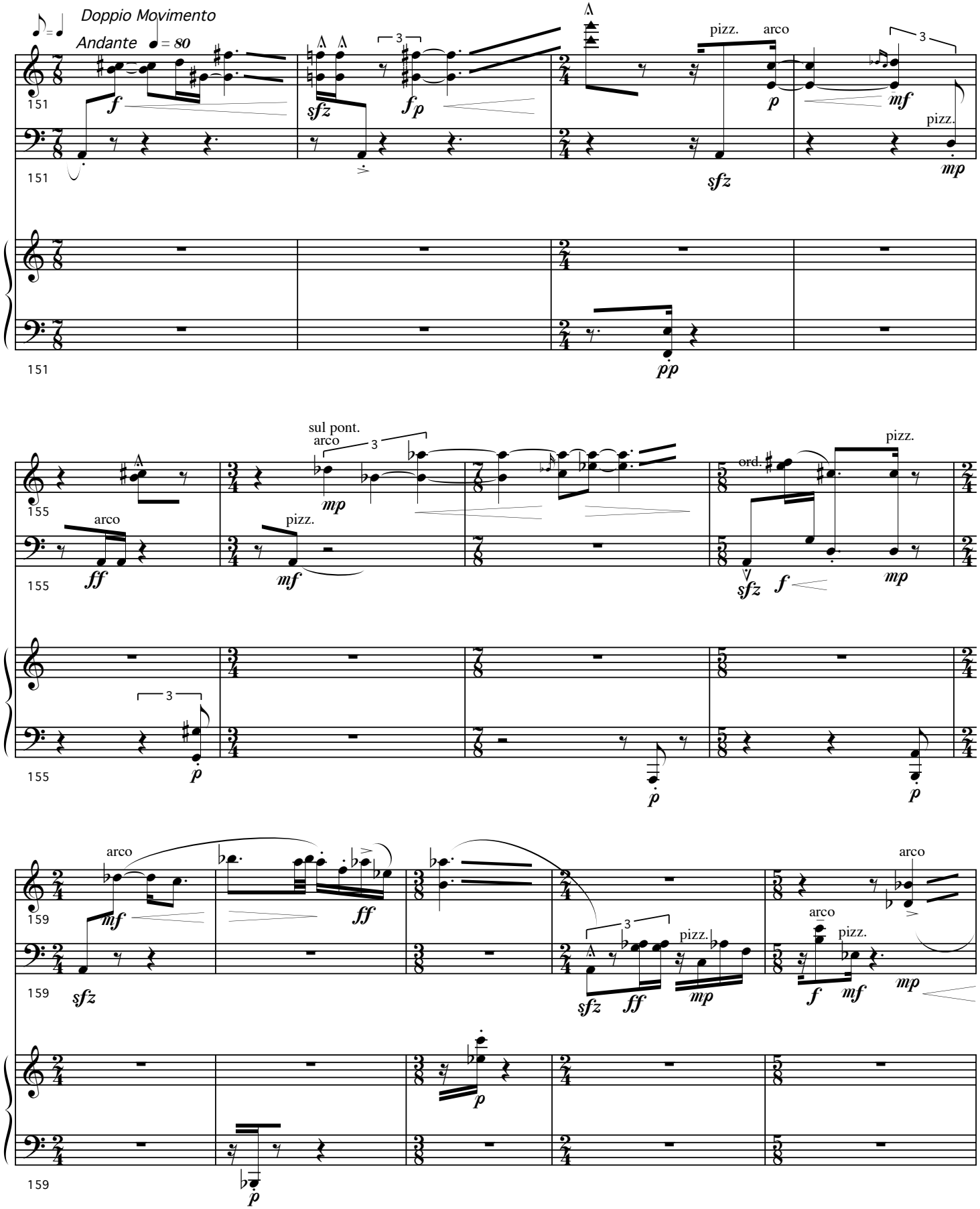

Rubato poco ad libitum
Molto Espressivo
Set effects to stereo echo
with .66 second delay.
Circular Bowing: bow vertically
to produce a sighing sound.

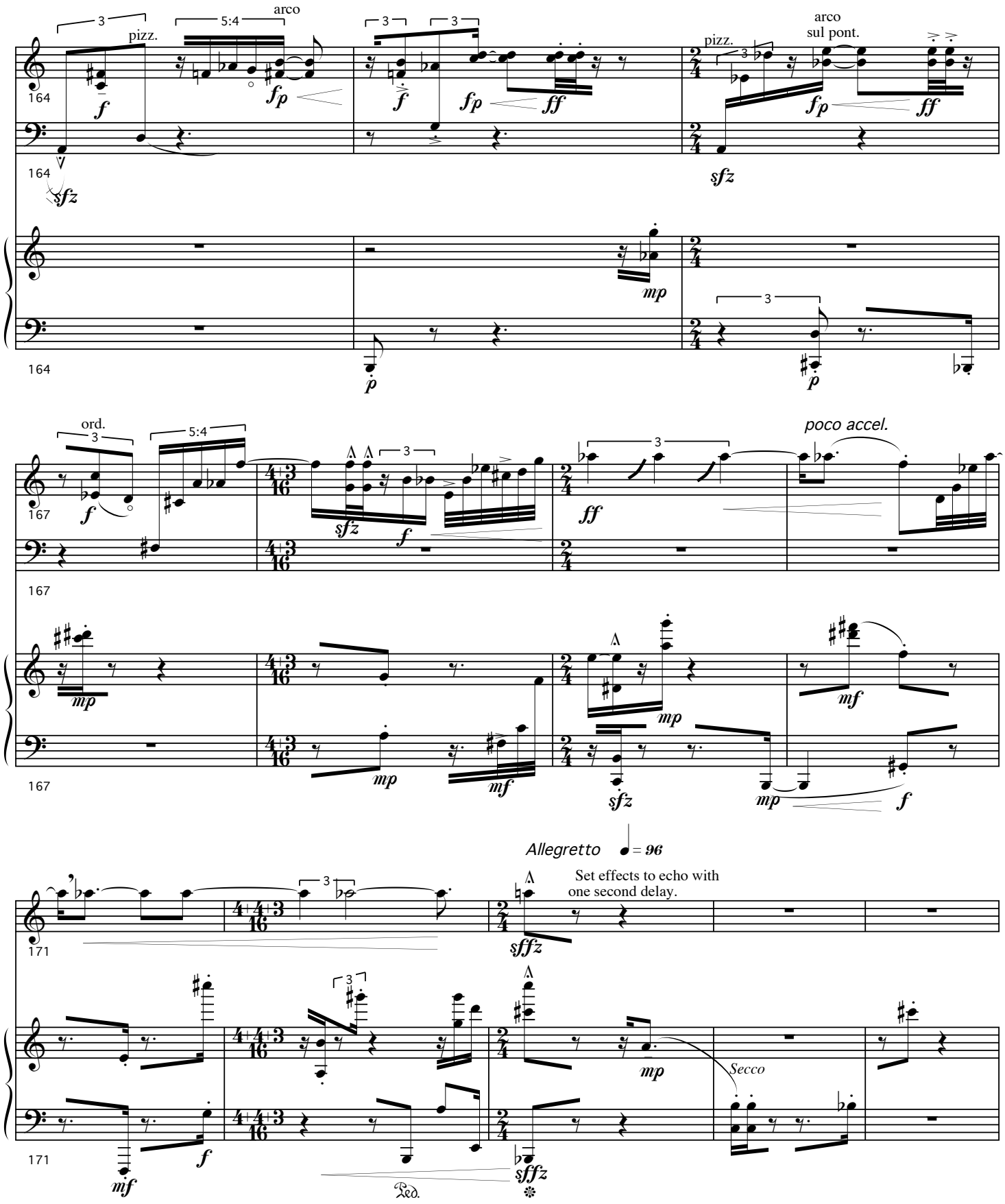

93
sfz
mp
mf
mp
p
mf
mp
Ped.
96
mp
sfz
p
pp
mp
mf
poco rit.
100
mp
mp
sfz
p
mp
p
pp
ppp

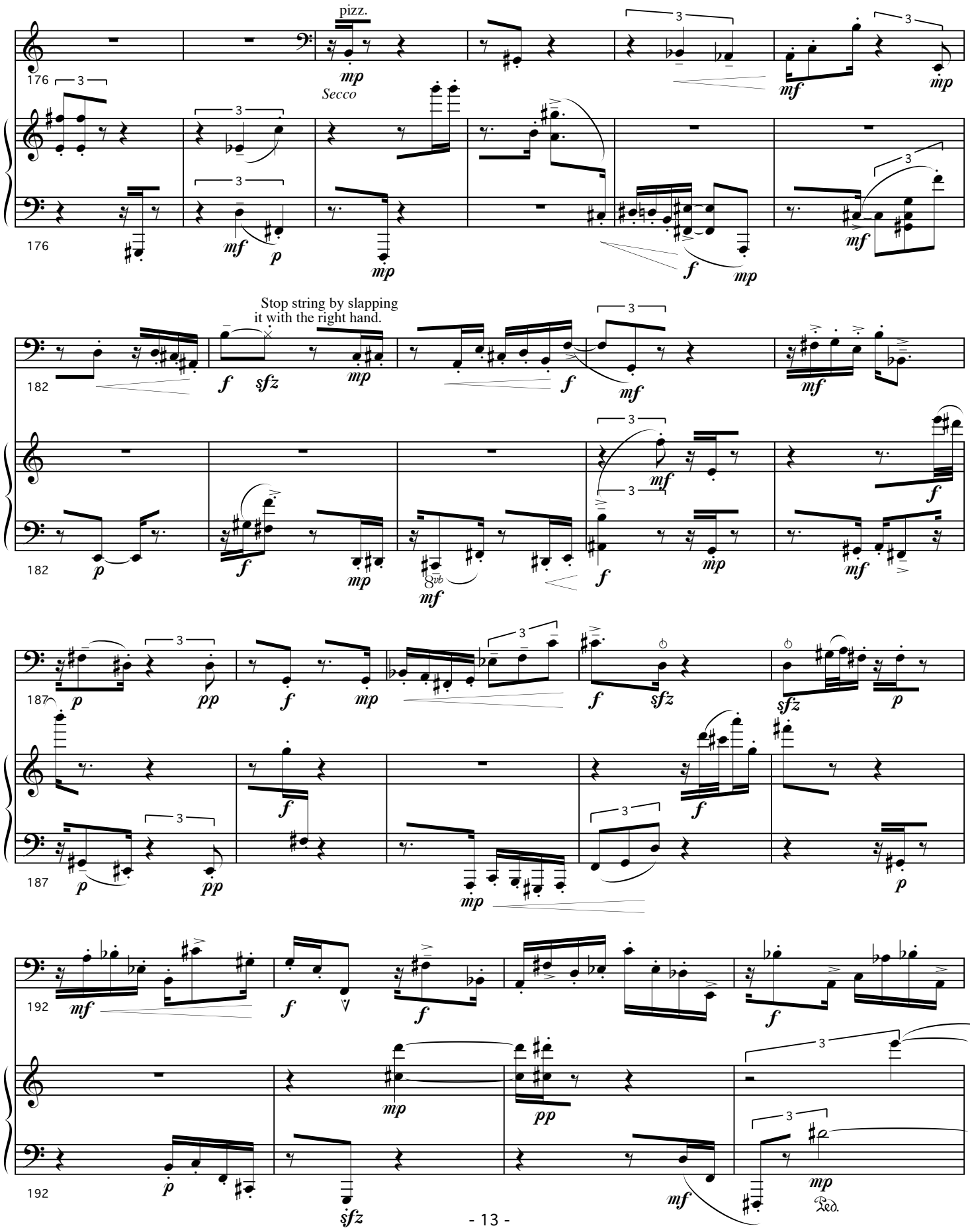

Lento ♩ = 40
Set effects to slow phase shift
(set cycle at 10 seconds or more).
104
mp
p
pp
Firmly press fingers on any string nodes
near the dampers. Strike and hold keys.
Quickly remove fingers to draw out
harmonics.
8vb
sfz
Ped.
107
mp
p
Pluck string in this register while placing a
smooth glass bottle edge on the string. Slide
the bottle slowly after plucking to get a
harmonic glissando. Keep the damper pedal
down throughout this section.
111
pp
3
mf
f
115
mif
pp

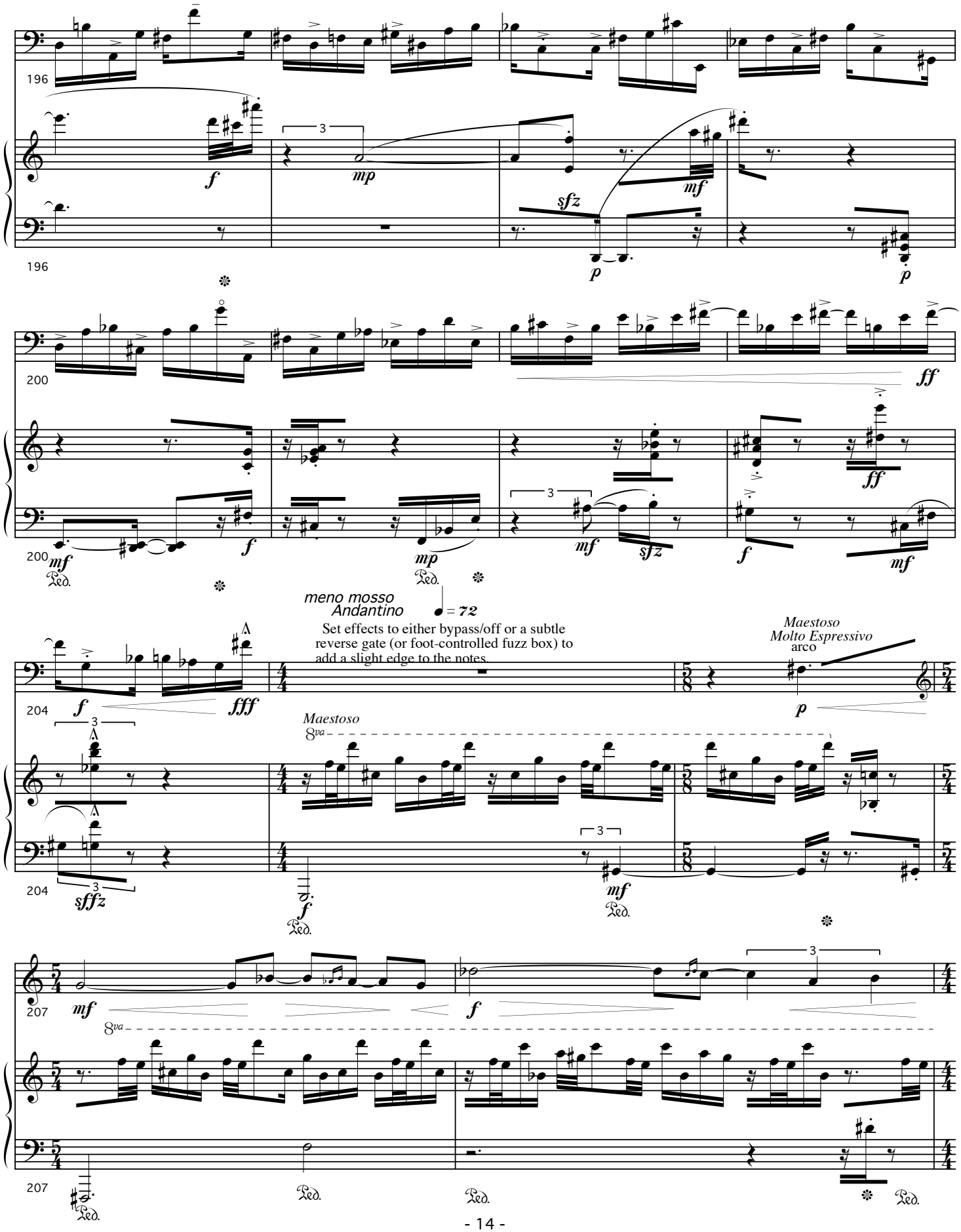

piu mosso ♩ = 60
Set effects to bypass/off.
pizz.
arco
sul pont.
Misterioso
ord.
pizz.
arco
sul pont.
move to ord.
poco rit.
Lento ♩ = 40
cadenza con poco rubato
Con Fuoco
Ardura

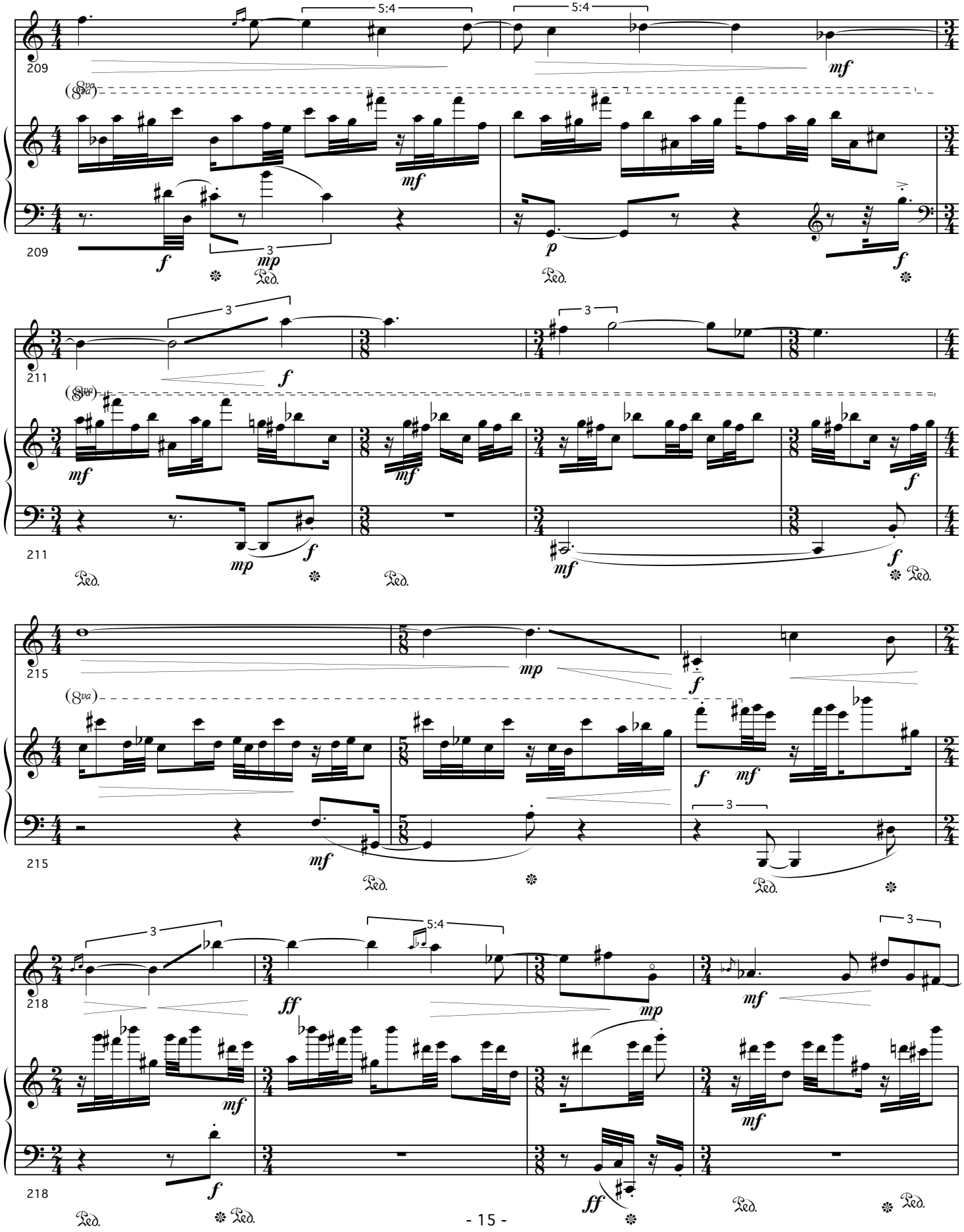

Leggiero
Risoluto
133
mp
f
ff
mf
pp
arco
136
pizz.
(arco)
f
mf
Cantabile
Con Fuoco
140
fp
sfz
144
ff
148
sfz
mp

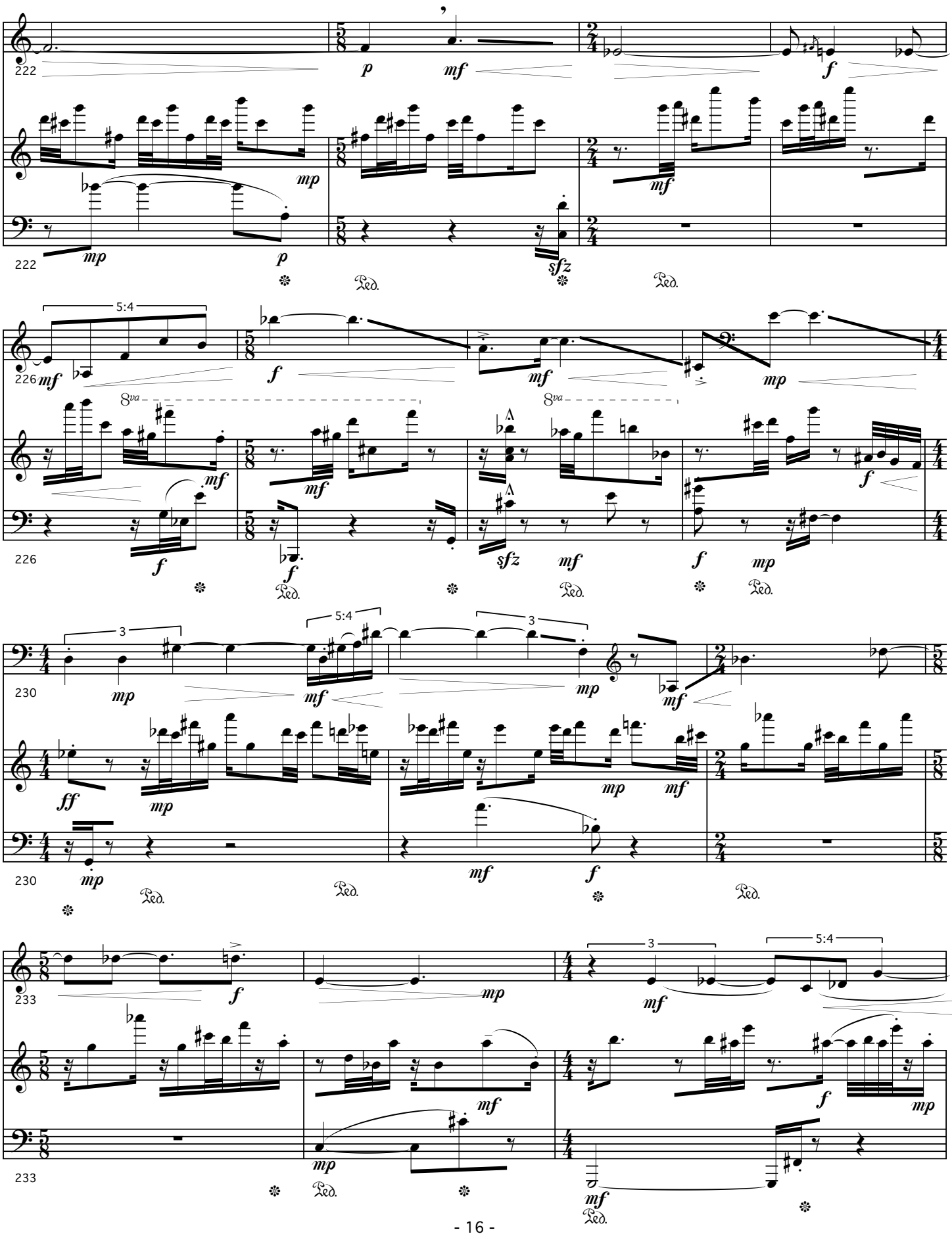

Doppio Movimento
Andante ♩= 80
pizz.
arco
sul pont.
ord.

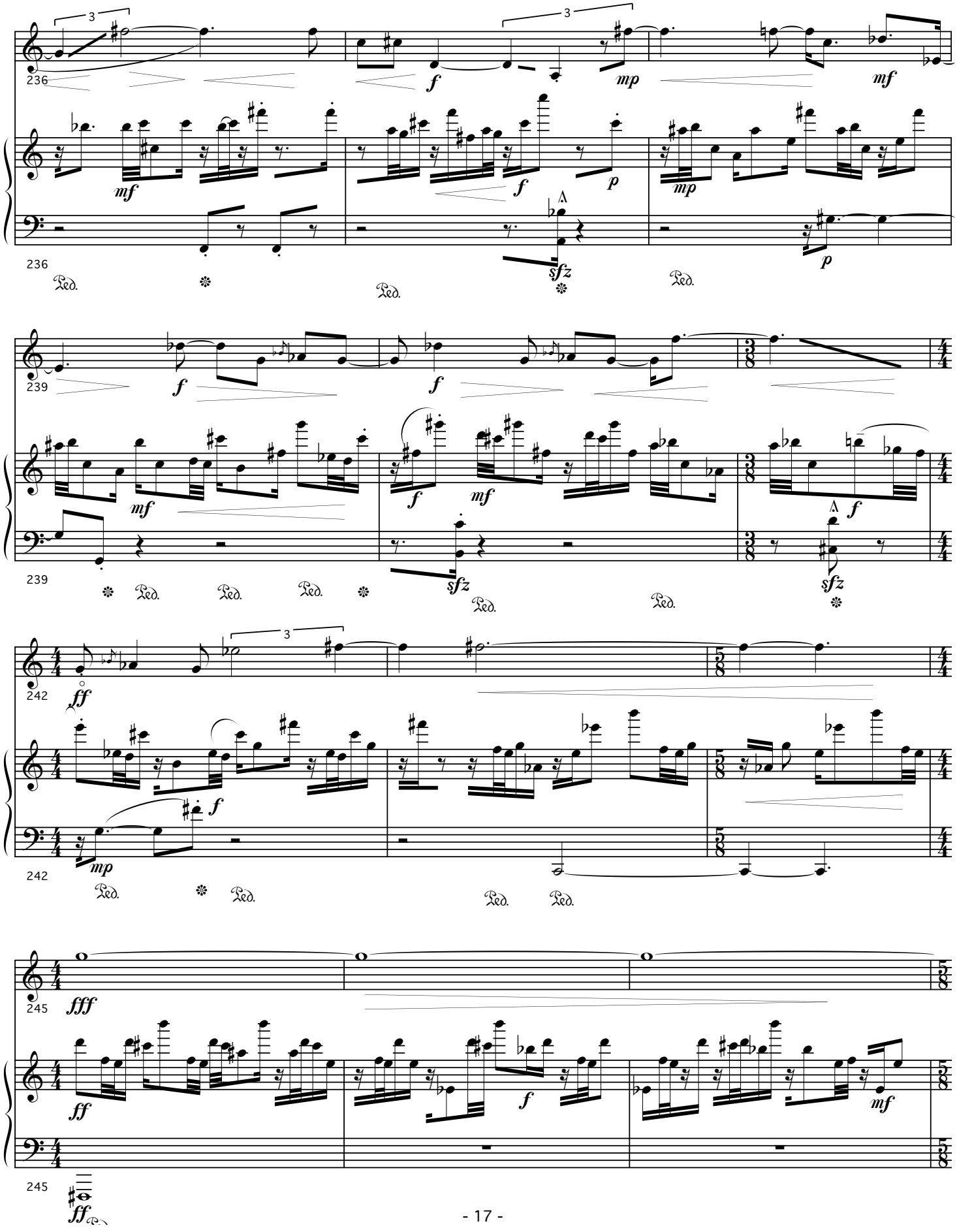

pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
sul pont.
ord.
poco accel.
Allegretto ♩ = 96
Set effects to echo with
one second delay.
Secco
Ped.

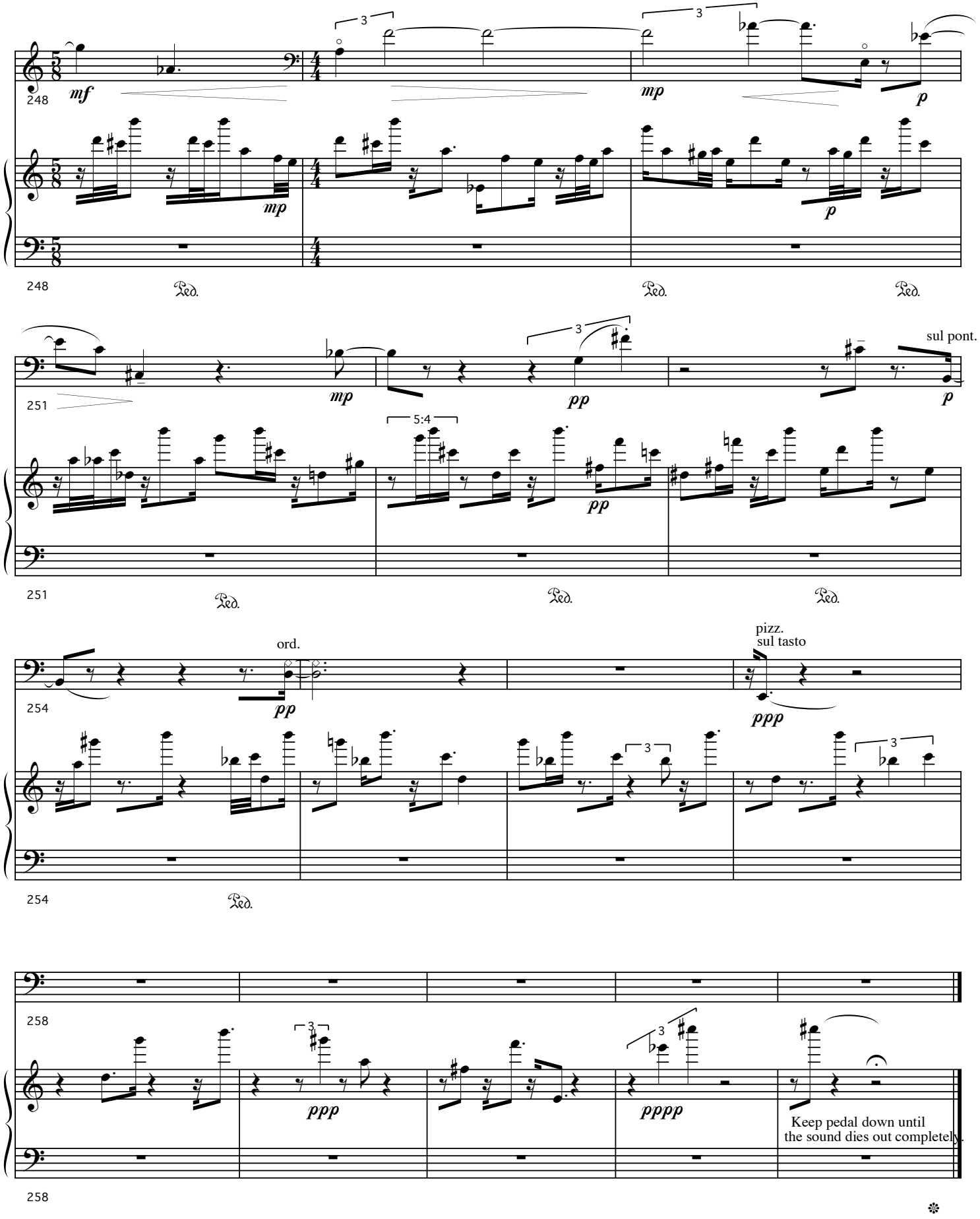

pizz.
Secco
Stop string by slapping
it with the right hand.
Ped.


196
196
200
200
meno mosso
Andantino
♩ = 72
Set effects to either bypass/off or a subtle reverse gate (or foot-controlled fuzz box) to add a slight edge to the notes.
Maestoso
Molto Espressivo
arco
204
204
Maestoso
8va
207
207
8va


5:4
5:4
209
mf
(8va)
mf
f
3
mp
Ped.
p
Ped.
f
211
3
3
f
(8va)
mf
mf
f
mp
f
Ped.
Ped.
mf
f
Ped.
215
mp
f
(8va)
f
mf
mf
Ped.
Ped.
218
3
5:4
3
ff
mp
mf
mf
f
mf
ff
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.


222
p
mf
f
mp
mf
mp
p
sfz
Ped.
Ped.
226
5:4
mf
f
mf
mp
8va
8va
mf
mf
f
f
f
sfz
mf
f
mp
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
230
3
5:4
3
mp
mf
mp
mf
ff
mp
mp
mf
mp
mf
f
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
233
f
mp
3
5:4
mf
mf
f
mp
mp
mf
mf
Ped.


236
239
242
245


248
mf
mp
p
Ped.
251
mp
pp
sul pont.
5:4
254
ord.
pizz.
sul tasto
ppp
258
pppp
Keep pedal down until
the sound dies out completely.