ATTACCA!

for violin and piano

Mark Gotham
2008

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For violin and piano
Mark Gotham, 2008
c.4 minutes

A note on the piece

ATTACCA! is in three movements which run as one, without pause (i.e. *attacca!*). It is written almost entirely in the 'octatonic' mode which alternates tones and semi-tones – here rooted on E (e, f#, g, ab …). This mode has a great deal of internal symmetry and a kind of 'equality' among the intervals. In this piece, the first movement centres on the tritone (of which this mode has four), the second focusses on the rising 6^{ths} (of which there are also four), and the last 'settles' on the perfect $4^{th}/5^{th}$ (that's right – four again).

The movements develop material that is emotionally in keeping with their characteristic intervals. The first, tritone-saturated movement has a piquant – perhaps even aggressive or competitive – flavor, and rides a rhythmic-metrical drive.

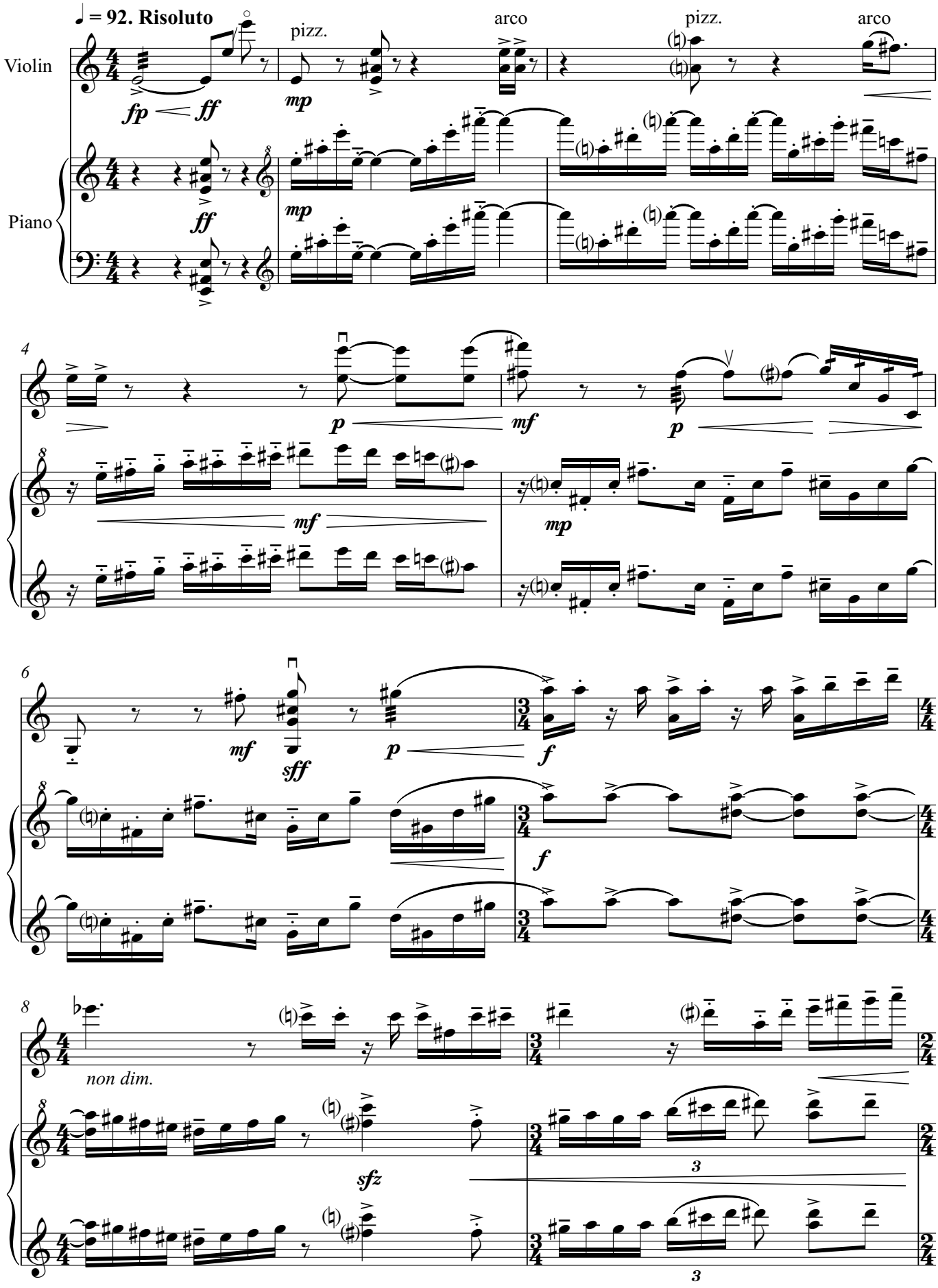
The minor 6^{ths} of the second movement speak to a plaintive mood which is enhanced by oblique allusion to the waltz as a musical topic. The piece is in three, but far too slow and free for dancing dance, and the downbeat is often left conspicuously empty. The tension of the first movement is far from dispelled here.

Gradually the second movement yields to a more relaxed, convivial, conciliatory tone for the start of the final, 'perfect' interval movement. However, this hopeful and positive beginning soon sees the clouds of doubt gathering again. Through a barrage of 'DSCH' motifs (Shostakovich's infamous, angst-associated motto), we hurtle toward a turbulent (and perhaps also slightly whimsical) ending.

ATTACCA!

Mark Gotham

1.



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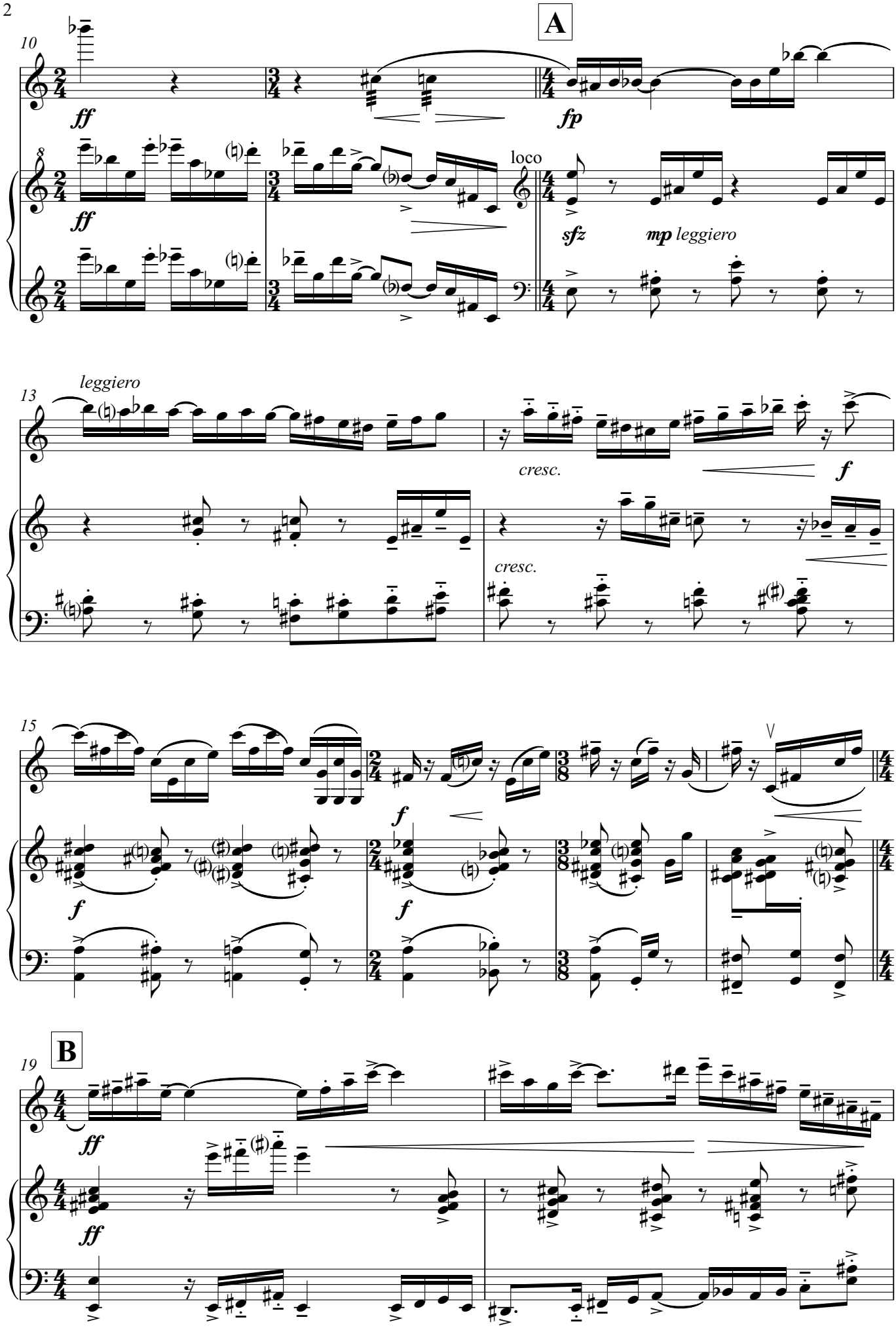
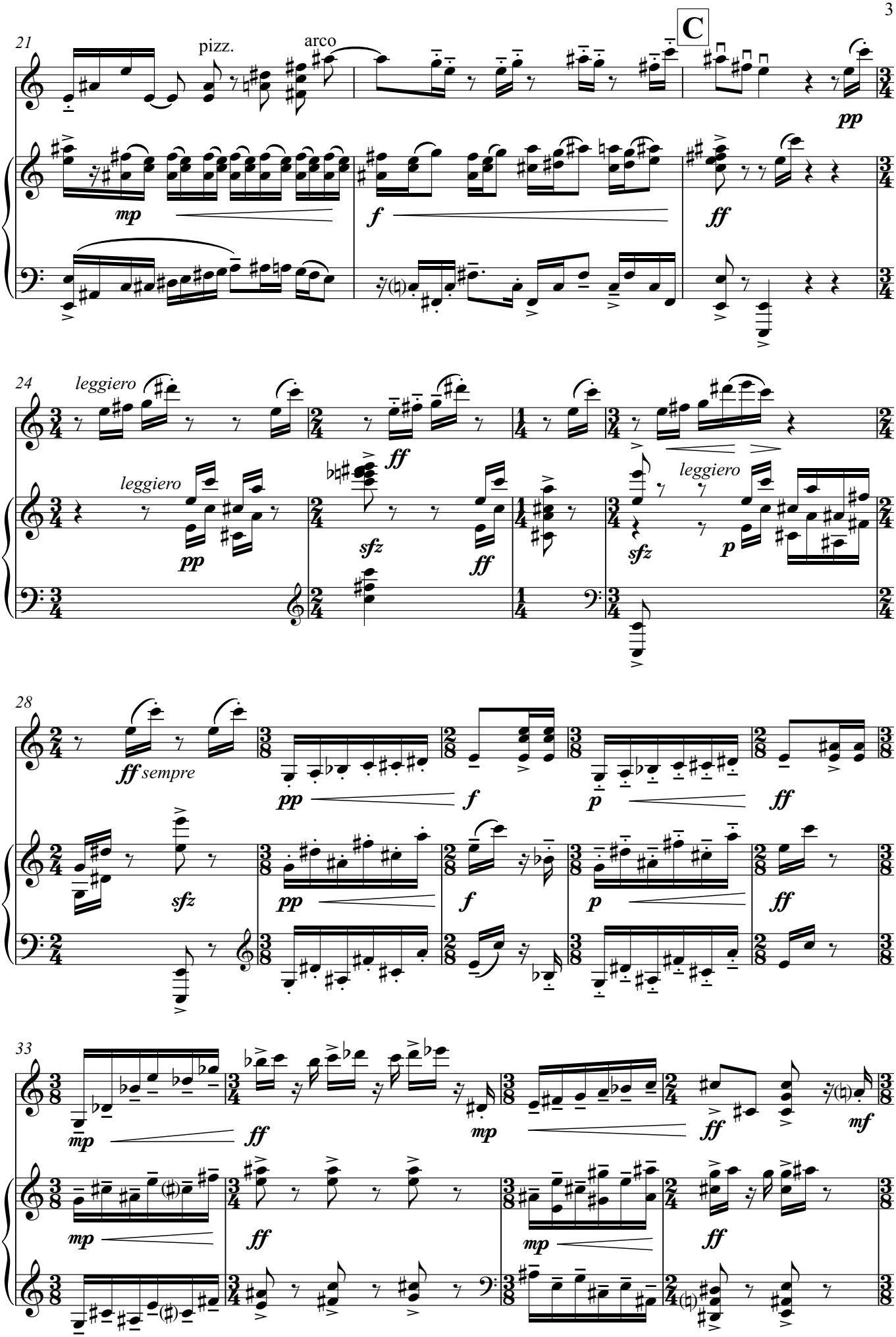
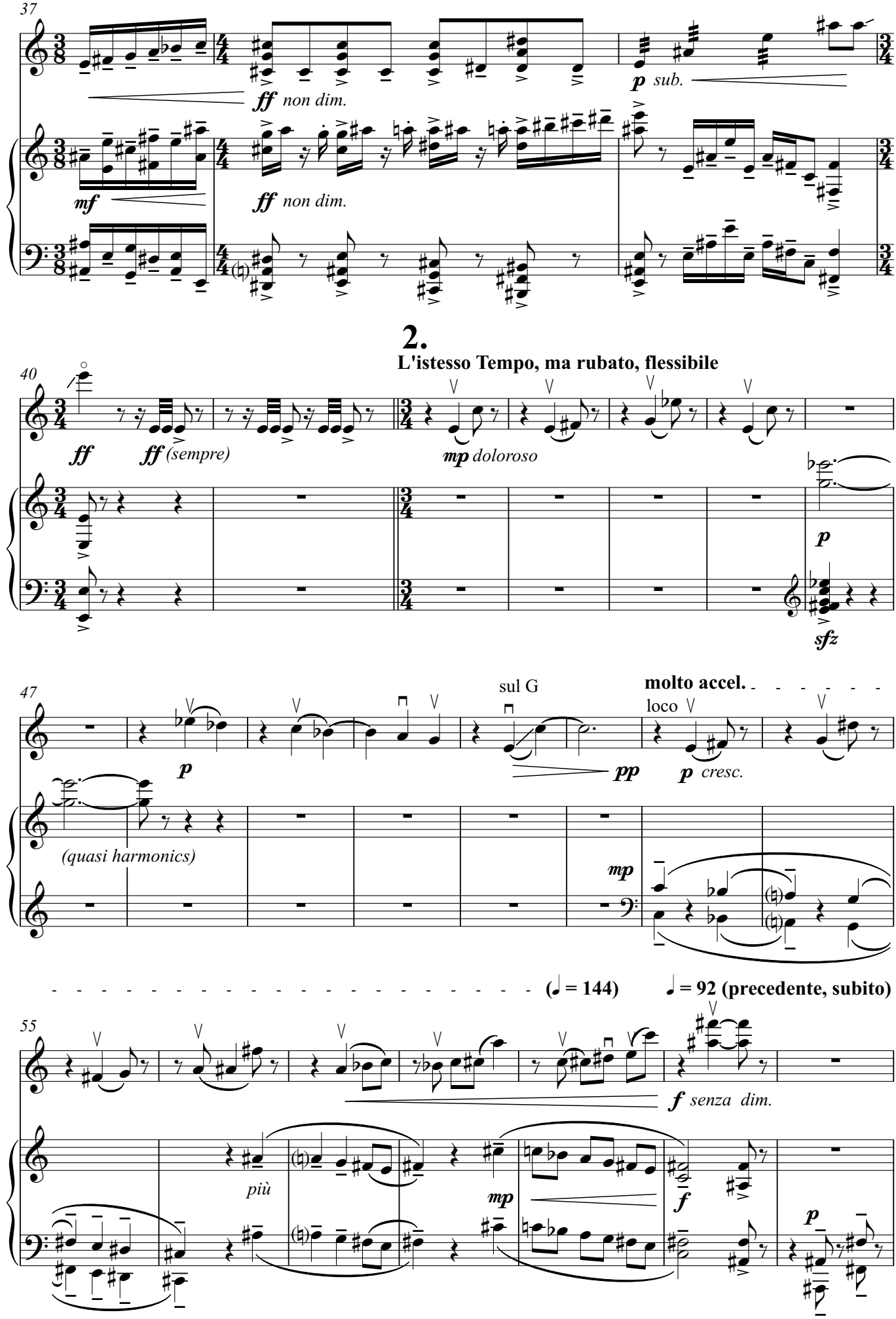
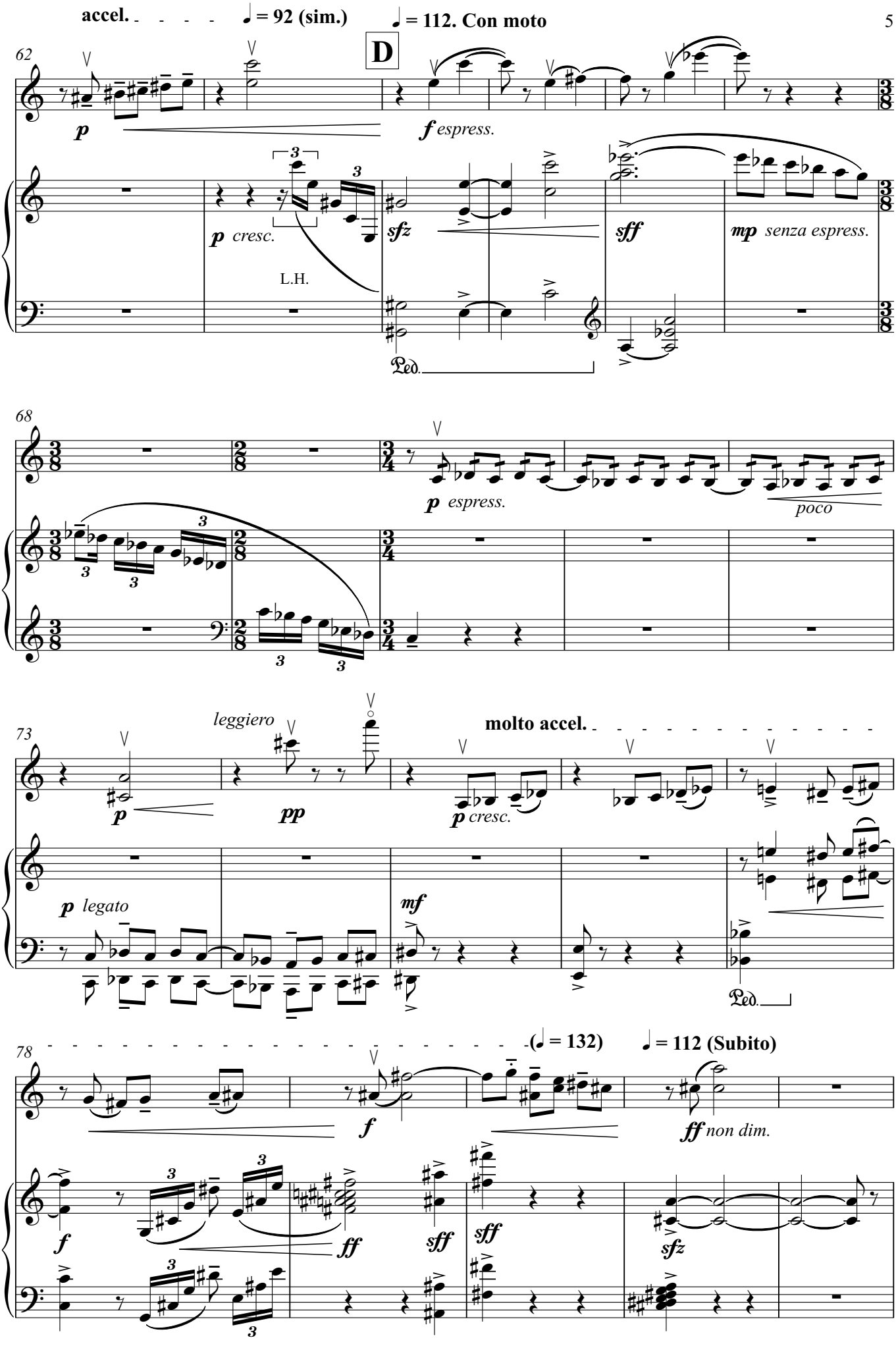
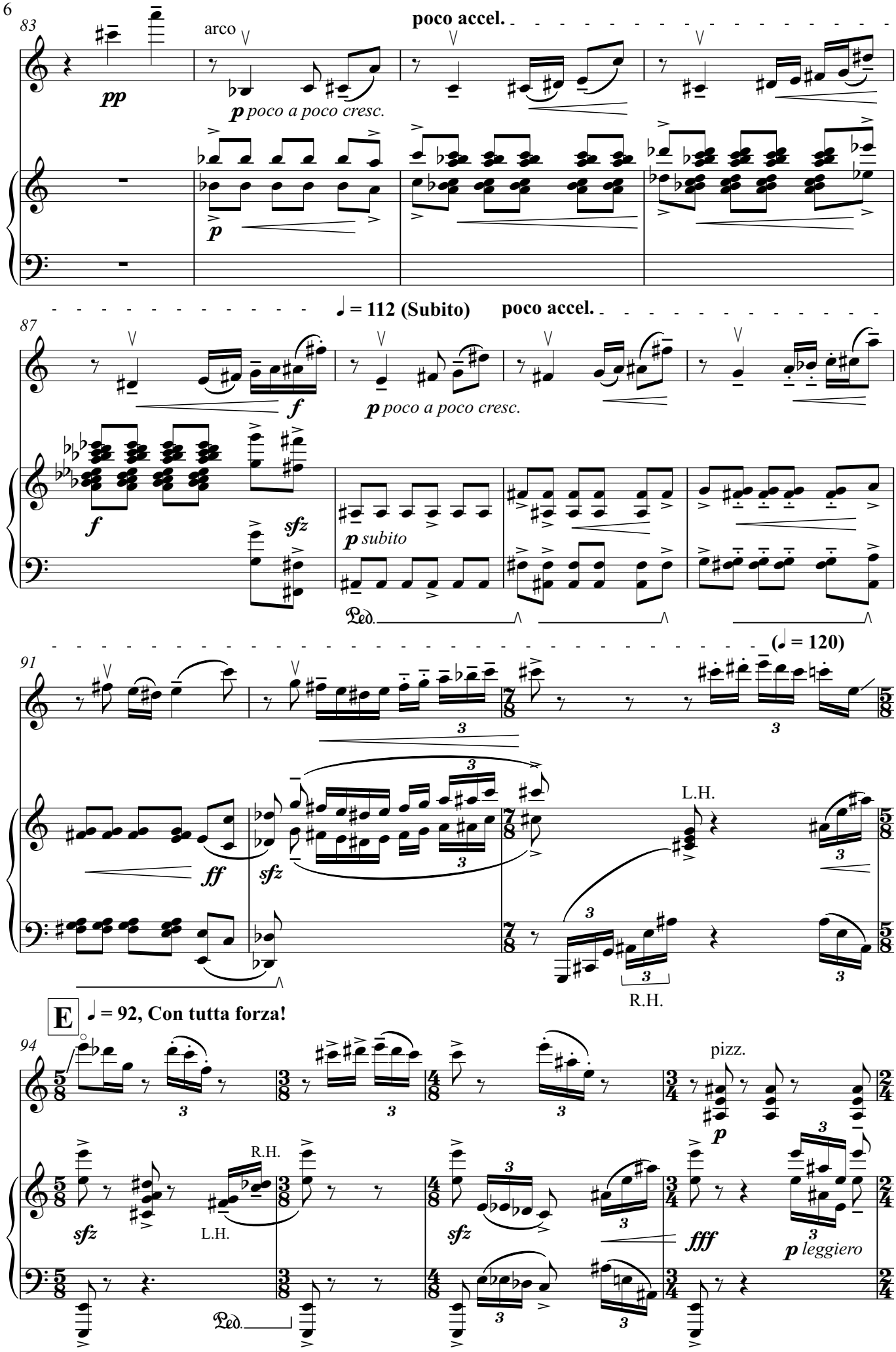
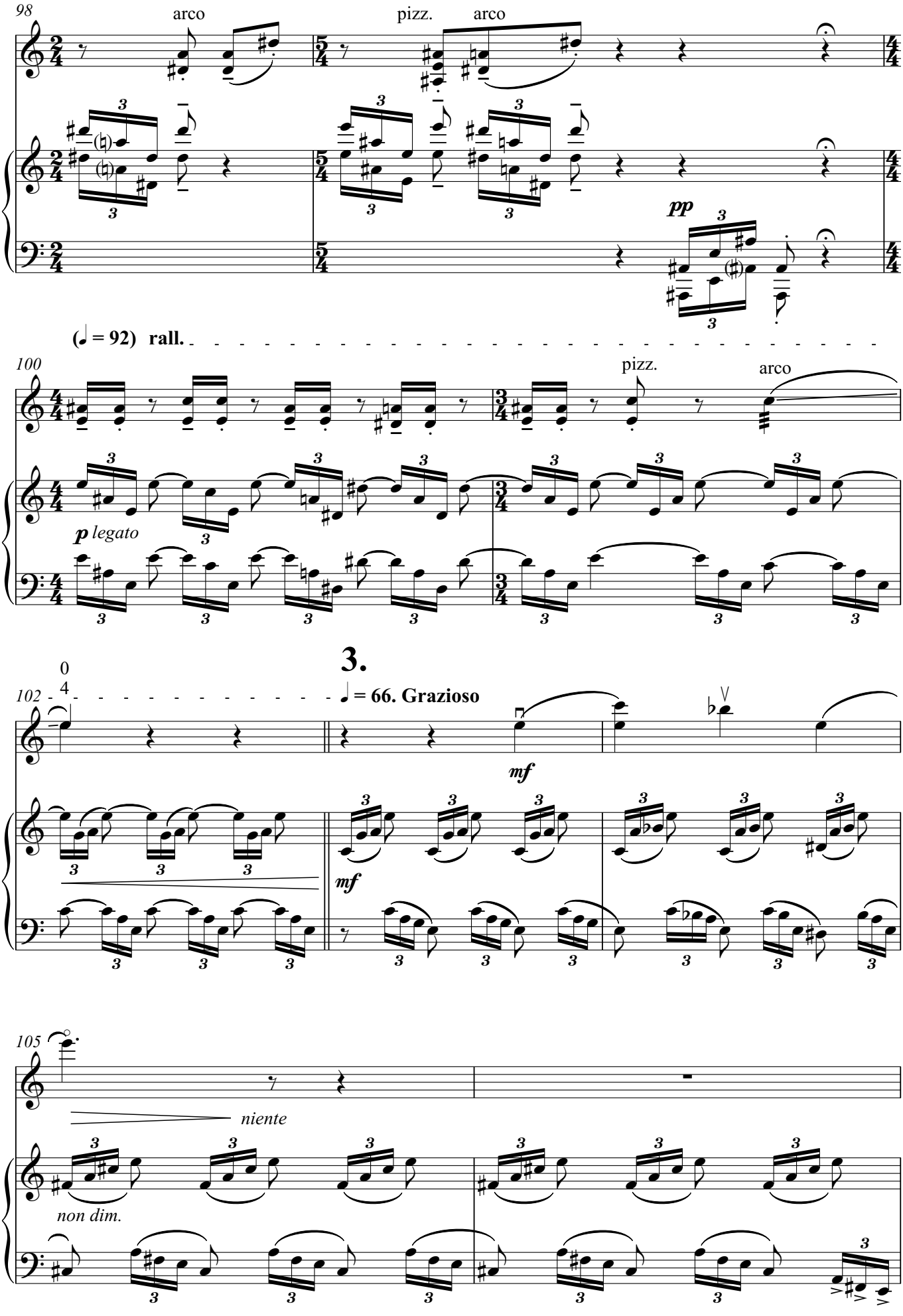

A
B
loco
leggiero
cresc.
cresc.
ff
fp
sfz
mp leggiero
f

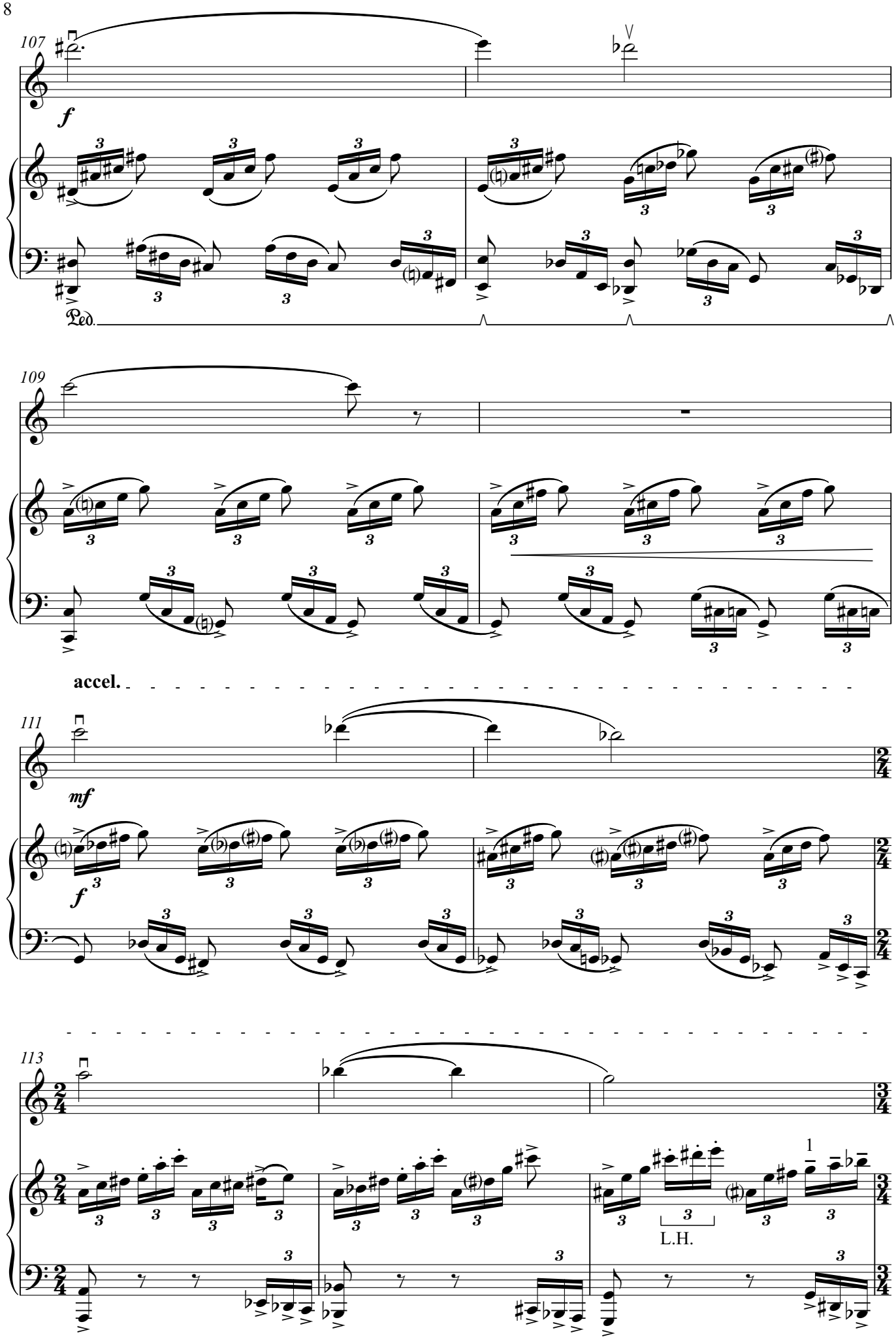

21
pizz.
arco
C
mp
f
ff
pp
24
leggiero
leggiero
pp
ff
sfz
ff
sfz
leggiero
p
28
ff sempre
pp
f
p
ff
sfz
pp
f
p
ff
33
mp
ff
mp
ff
mf
mp
ff
mp
ff

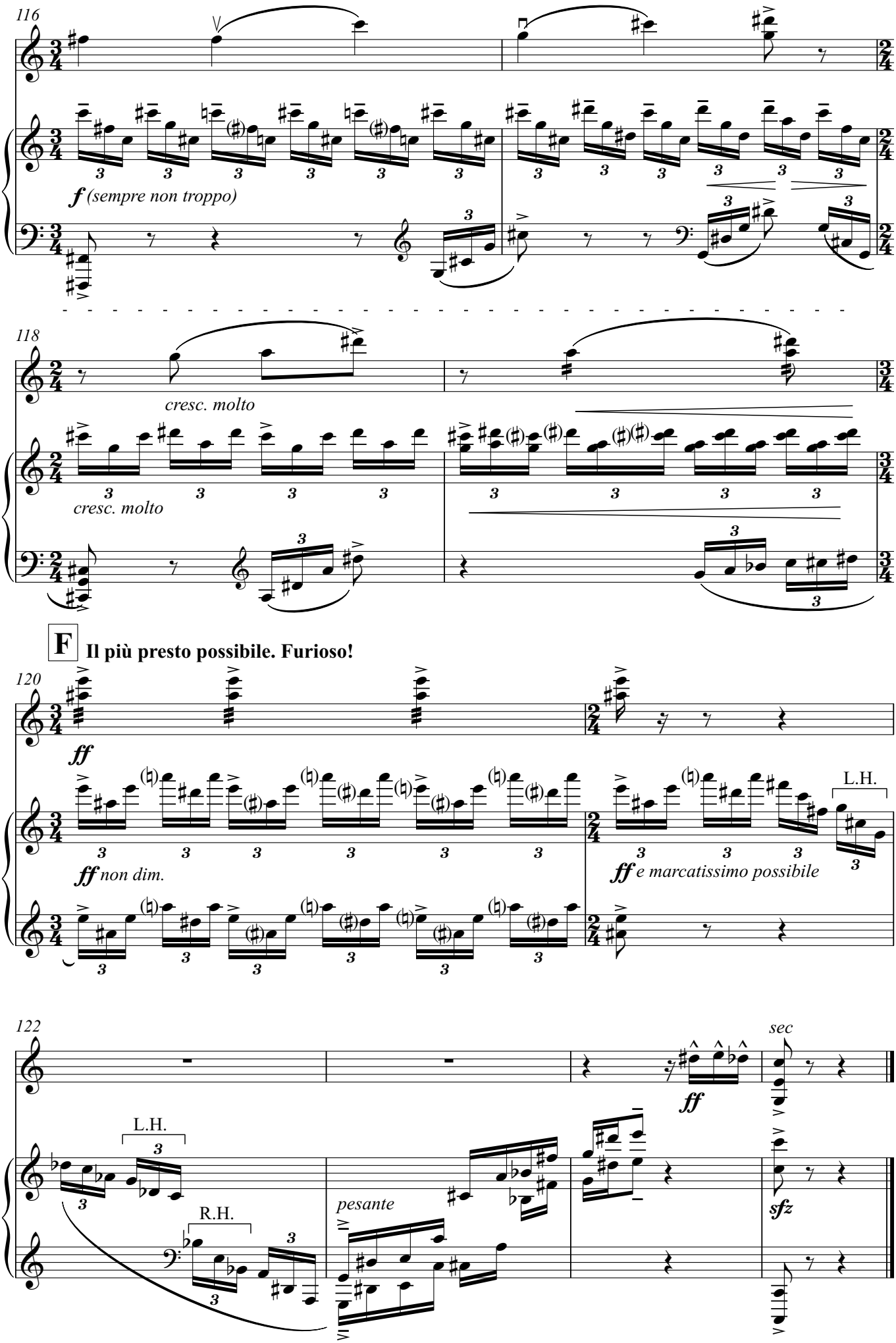

37
ff non dim.
p sub.
mf
ff non dim.
2.
L'istesso Tempo, ma rubato, flessibile
40
ff
ff (sempre)
mp doloroso
p
sfz
47
p
sul G
pp
molto accel.
loco
p cresc.
(quasi harmonics)
mp
(♩ = 144)
♩ = 92 (precedente, subito)
55
f senza dim.
più
mp
f
p


accel.
♩ = 92 (sim.)
♩ = 112. Con moto
D
62
p
f espress.
p cresc.
L.H.
sfz
sff
mp senza espress.
Ped.
68
p espress.
poco
73
leggiero
molto accel.
p
pp
p cresc.
p legato
mf
Ped.
78
(♩ = 132)
♩ = 112 (Subito)
f
ff non dim.
ff
sff
sfz


83
arco
poco accel.
pp
p poco a poco cresc.
p
87
♩ = 112 (Subito)
poco accel.
f
p poco a poco cresc.
f
sfz
p subito
Ped.
91
(♩ = 120)
3
ff
sfz
L.H.
R.H.
E
♩ = 92, Con tutta forza!
94
pizz.
p
sfz
R.H.
L.H.
sfz
fff
p leggiero
Ped.


98
arco
pizz.
arco
pp
(♩ = 92) rall.
100
pizz.
arco
p legato
3.
0
4
102
♩ = 66. Grazioso
mf
mf
105
niente
non dim.


107
f
Ped.
109
accel.
111
mf
f
113
L.H.


116
f (sempre non troppo)
118
cresc. molto
cresc. molto
F
Il più presto possibile. Furioso!
120
ff
ff non dim.
ff e marcatissimo possibile
L.H.
122
ff
sec
L.H.
R.H.
pesante
sfz