Avner Finberg

THE FOUR SEASONS OF ISOLATION

A concerto for one
for violin and electronics

The Four Seasons of Isolation:
A Concerto for One

For violin and live electronics

The pandemic has drastically separated musicians from their audiences, from their colleagues and ensembles. The pandemic world as perceived is solitude is the main theme of my new composition for solo violin and electronics, *The Four Seasons of Isolation*. The expressive sound of the violin is paired with different types of electronic sounds and effects, with each movement represents a season of the pandemic. The concept of the piece is a homage to Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*. In the absence of an orchestra to accompany the violin, the electronics are operated by the violinist in real time through foot pedals connected to a computer.

The first movement, *Sirens*, only pairs the violin with electronic sine waves. The next movement, *Echo Chamber,* is a vast cannon with ever-changing voices. *The Ocean Between Us* pits the violin against a soft accompaniment created from the sound of the violin itself, and the final movement, *In Perpetuum*, is a homage to Bach's Chaconne for solo violin. A fugue developed through a set of variations with intermittent solo passages, while a pre-recorded electro-orchestra is pitted against the sole violinist, who must keep up at breathtaking speed.

The Four Seasons of Isolation is inspired by the collective experience of humanity through the years of the pandemic, the good and the bad, and the psychological toll the pandemic had taken on those who have experienced it. Written in memory of the lives lost during the Covid-19 pandemic and with hope for a better future.

The Movements:

Sirens (Spring) - The violin plays a duet with sine waves that are produced in real time, creating an eerie siren harmony. 8 minutes

Echo Chamber (Summer) - The name of the movement refers to both the literal meaning and to the social media phenomenon of only encountering opinions that reflect one's own. The violin plays a cannon with itself using a delay effect. As the piece progresses, more voices are added with multiple delay cycles, eventually reaching a colossal eight-voice cannon. 11 minutes

The Ocean Between Us (Fall) – The violin pays a meditative melody, reflecting on the separation from loved ones. The ocean effect is created with chords in variable textures, played into convolution reverb effects. 9 minutes

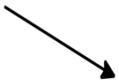
In Perpetuum (Winter) – An anxious theme begins a musical journey through a myriad of accompaniments, all pre-recorded violin samples that are sped up, slowed down, reversed, and played through various effects. The structure of the piece could be described as a constantly developing fugue, or a set of variations on a fugue. 15 minutes

Technical Notes

Activate Next sample/sound.

Turn effect on/off

Expression pedal, from down to up position



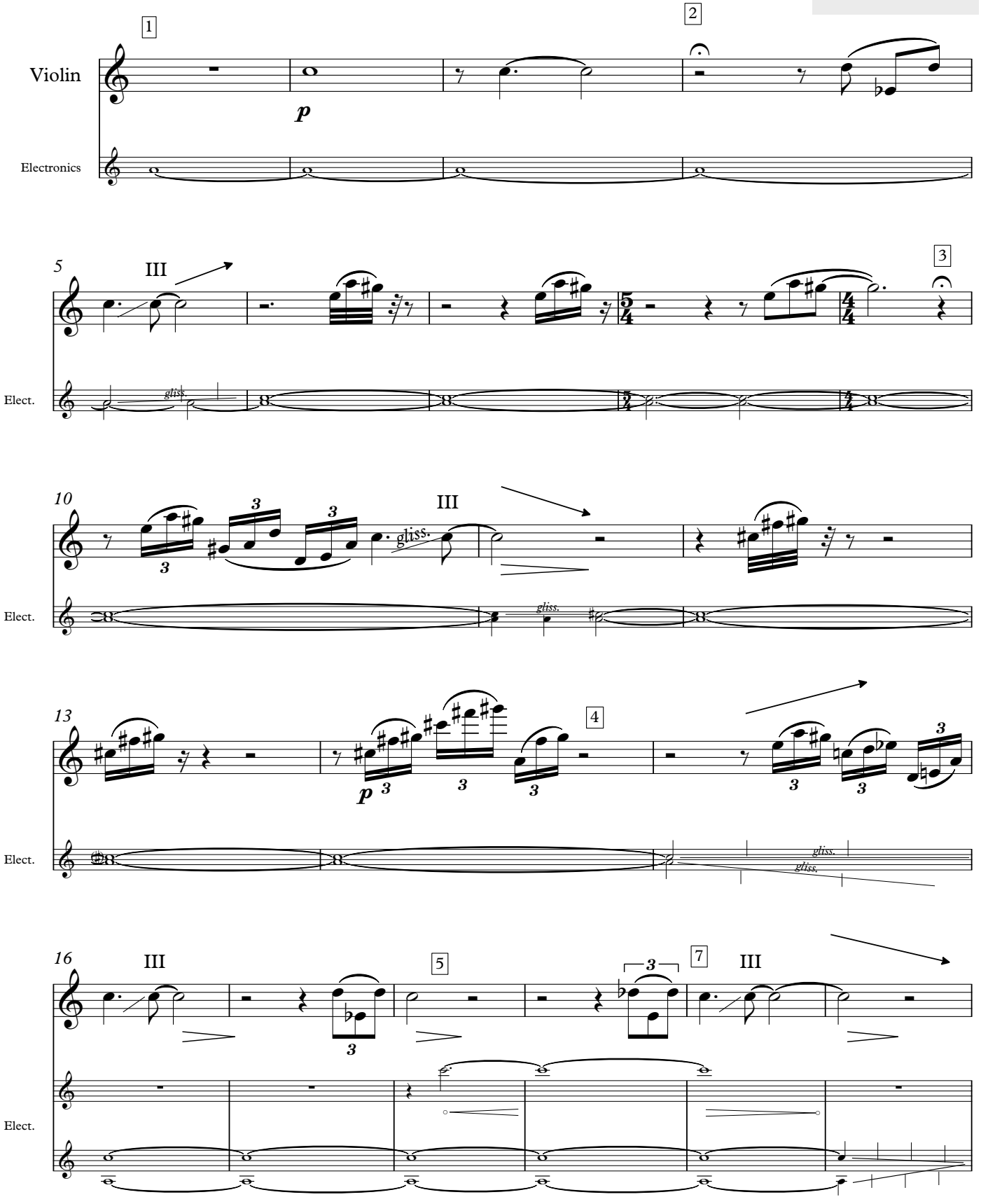
Expression pedal, from down to up position

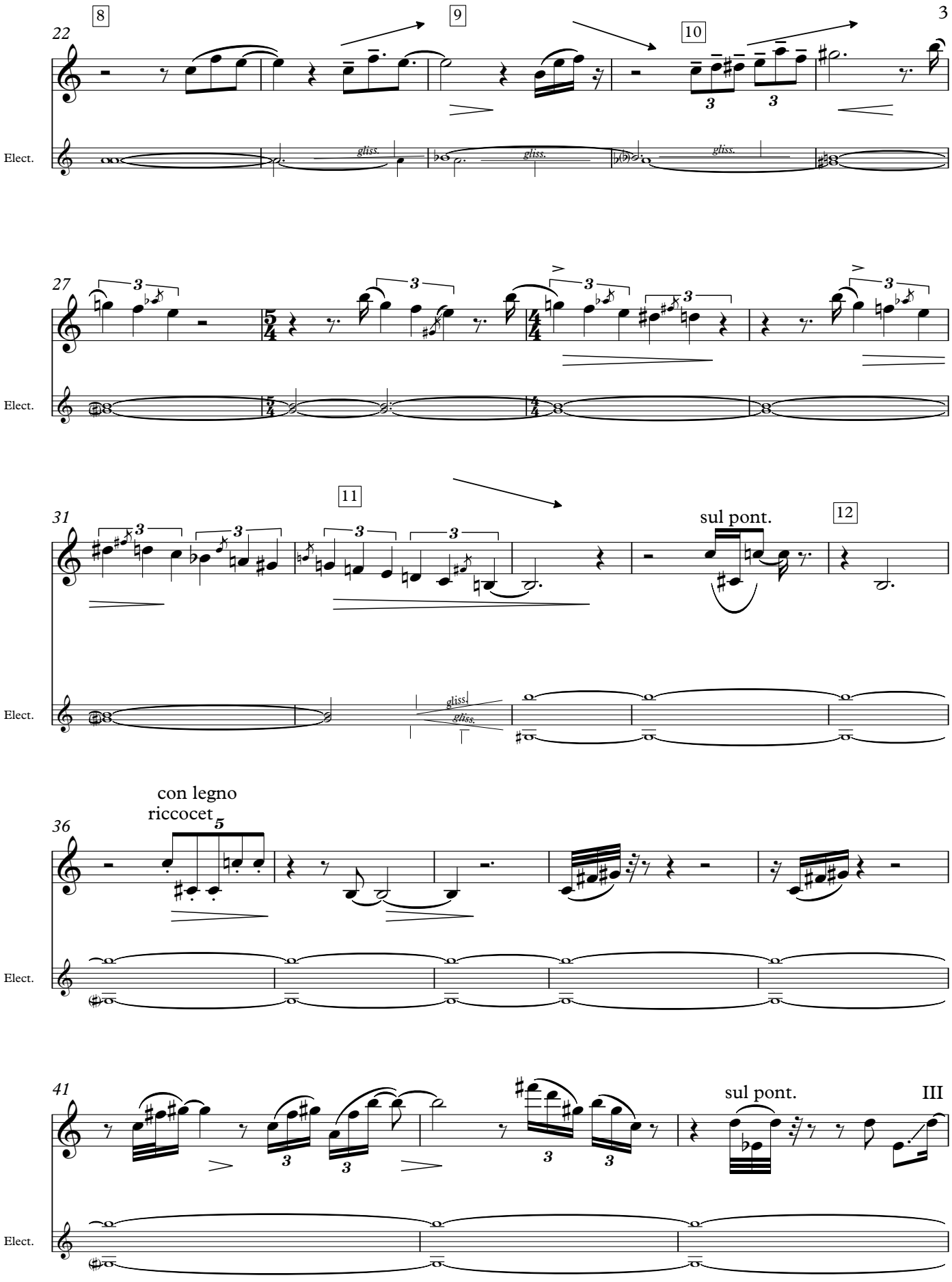
Movements and their starting time on attached recording

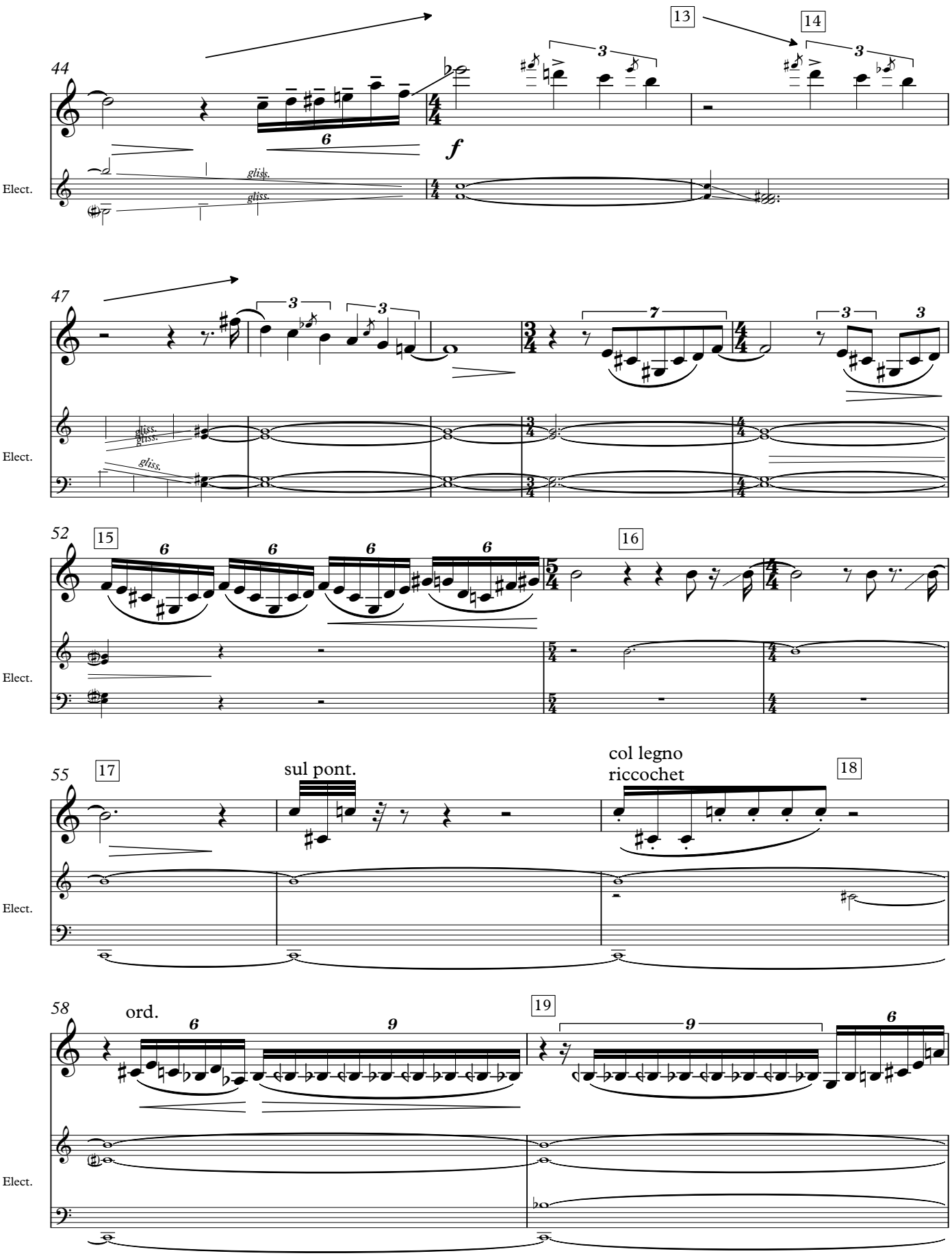
Sine	0:00
Echo Chamber	7:44
The Ocean Between Us	17:50
In Perpetuum	26:03

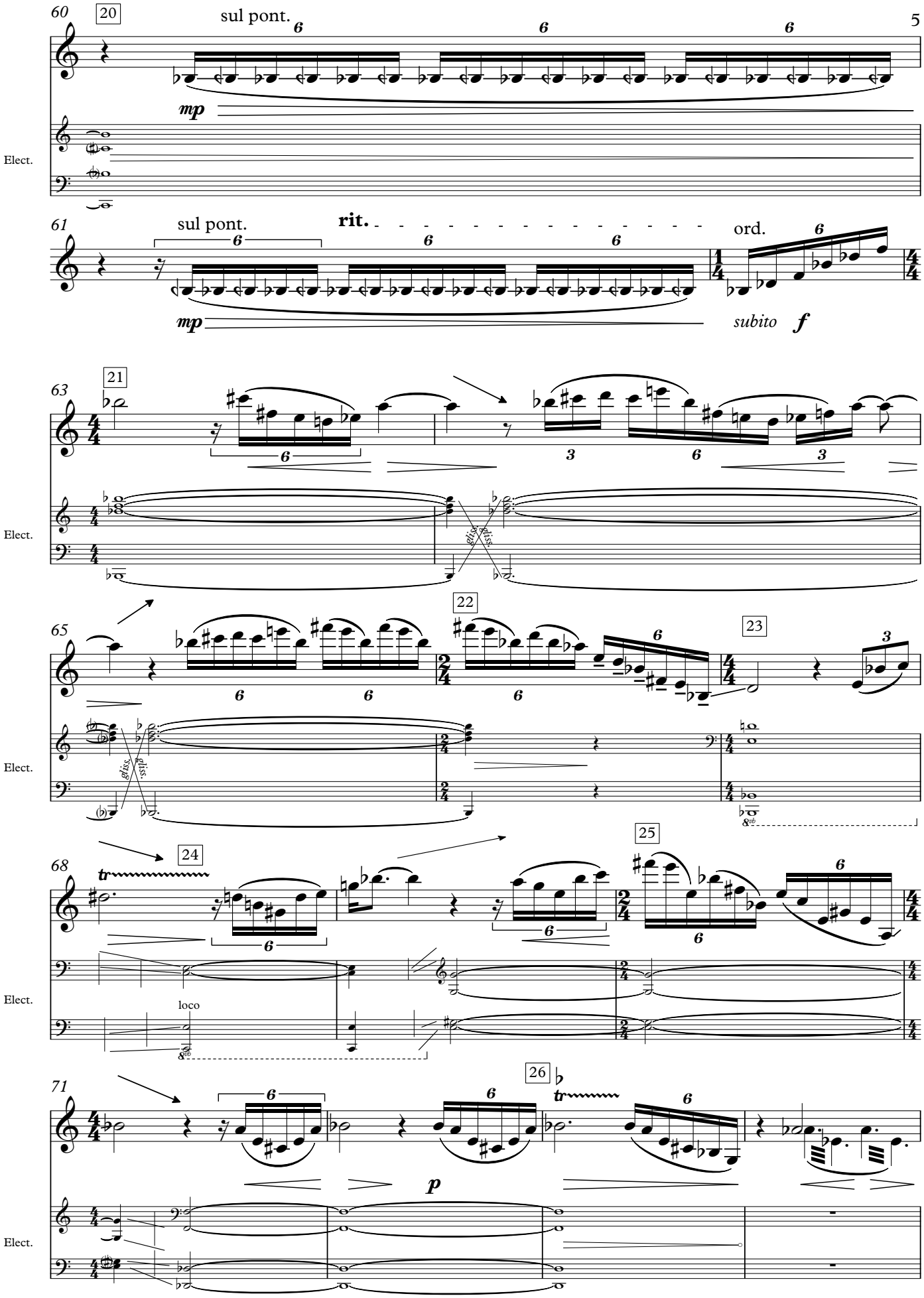
THE SEASONS OF ISOLATION

I. Sirens




8
9
10
22
Elect.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
27
Elect.
11
31
sul pont.
12
Elect.
gliss.
gliss.
con legno
riccocet
36
Elect.
41
sul pont.
III
Elect.


44
13
14
f
Elect.
gliss.
gliss.
47
Elect.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
52
15
16
Elect.
55
17
sul pont.
col legno
riccochet
18
Elect.
58
ord.
19
Elect.


60
20
sul pont.
mp
Elect.
61
sul pont.
rit.
ord.
mp
subito f
63
21
Elect.
gliss.
65
22
23
Elect.
68
24
tr
25
loco
Elect.
71
26
tr
p
Elect.

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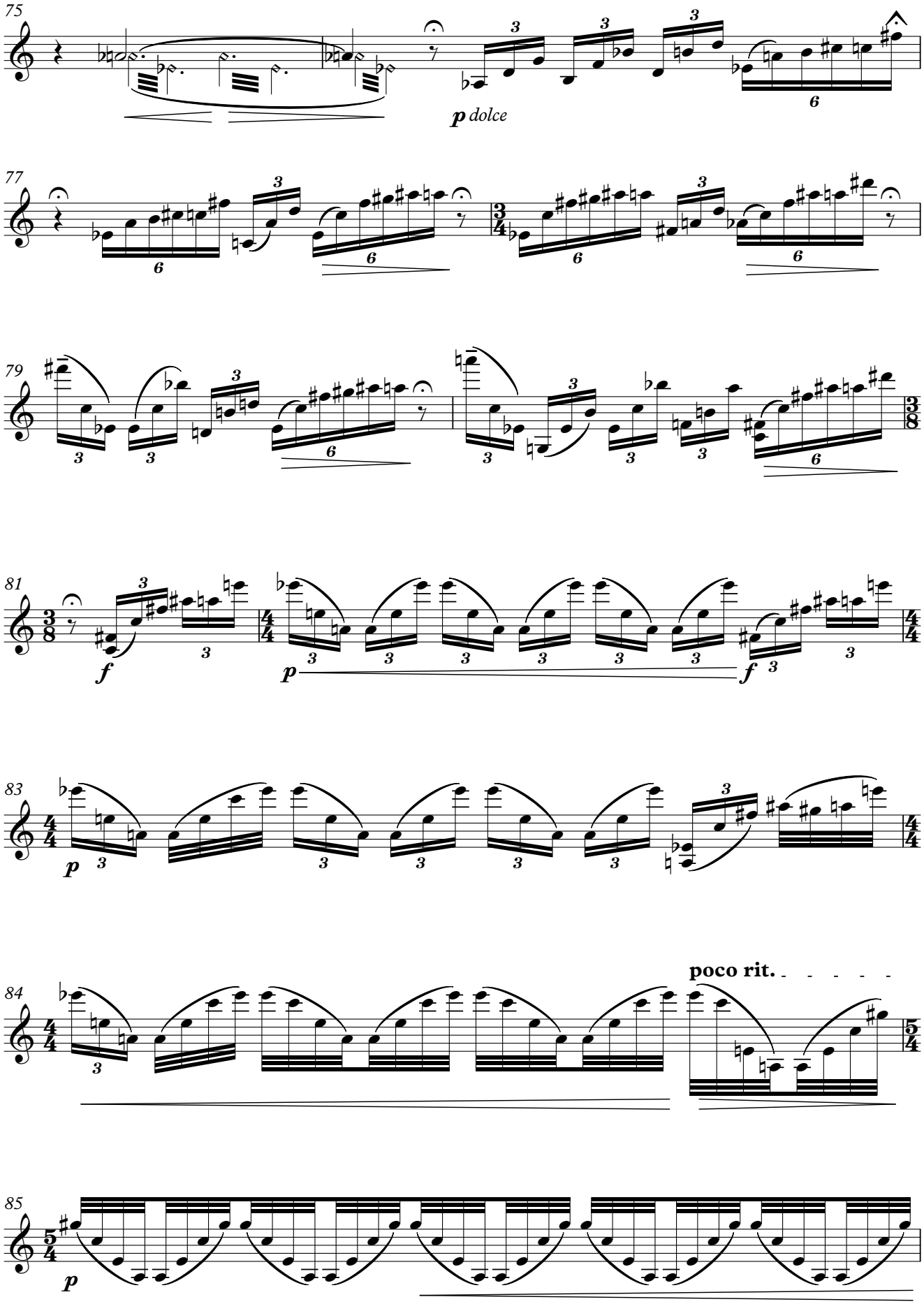
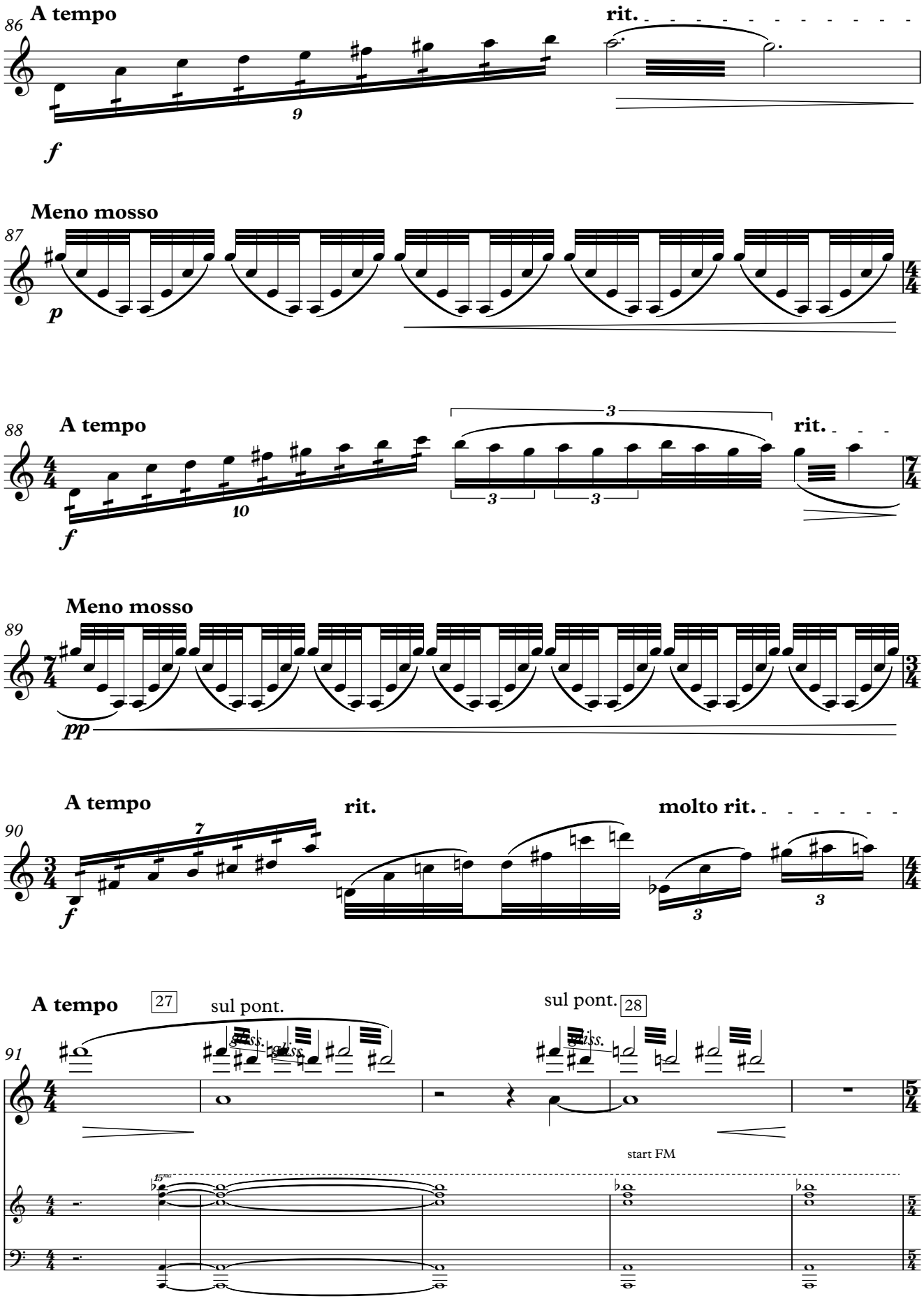
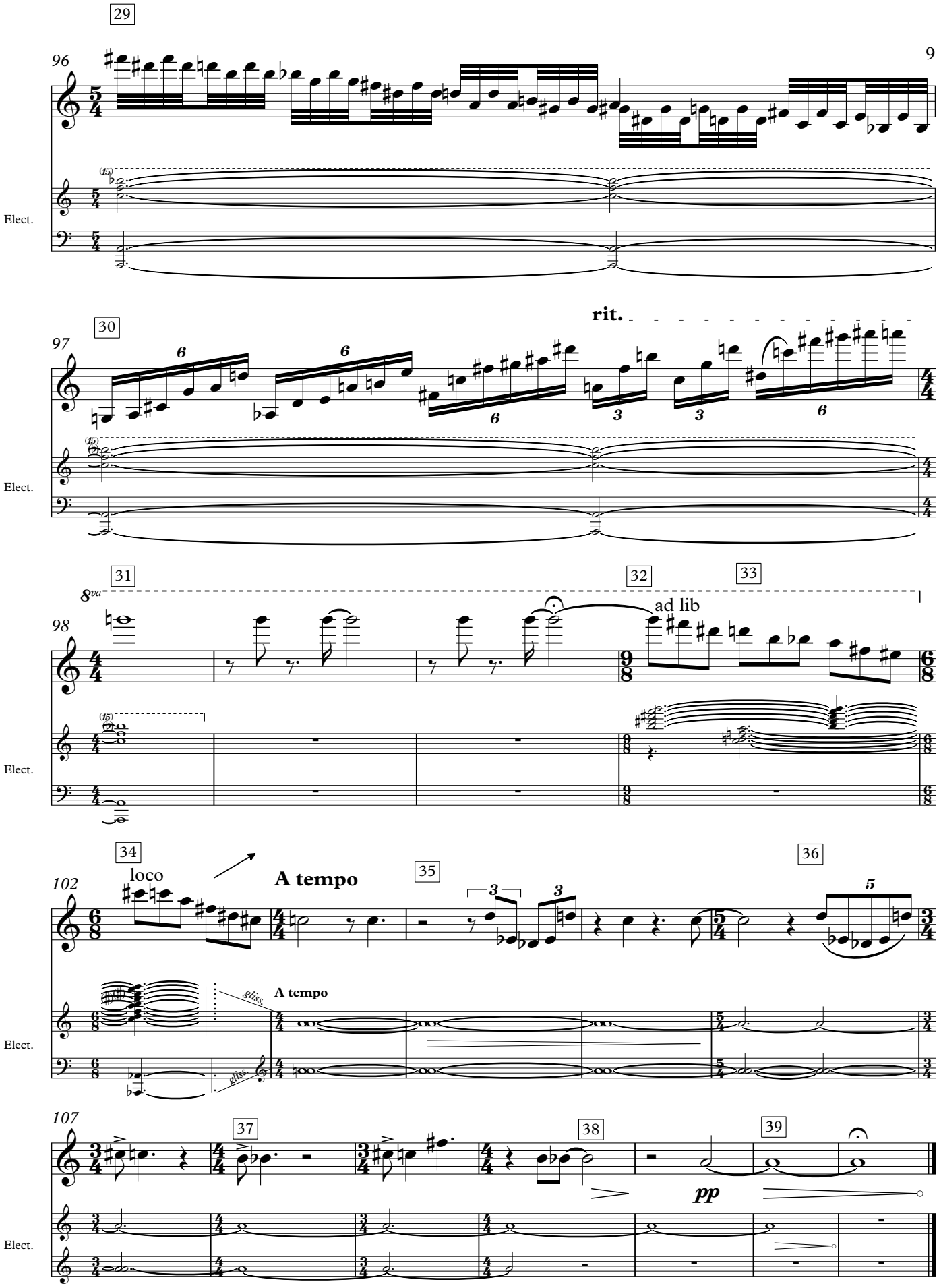

75
p dolce
77
79
81
f
p
f
83
p
84
poco rit.
85
p


86
A tempo
rit.
f
9
Meno mosso
87
p
88
A tempo
rit.
f
10
3
3
3
Meno mosso
89
pp
90
A tempo
rit.
molto rit.
f
7
3
3
A tempo
27
sul pont.
sul pont.
28
91
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
start FM
15ma
Elect.


29
96
Elect.
30
rit.
97
Elect.
31
32
33
8va
ad lib
98
Elect.
34
loco
A tempo
35
36
102
gliss.
A tempo
Elect.
107
37
38
39
pp
Elect.

II. Echo Chamber

Allegretto

♩=90-110

Violin

mf

6

p

1/4 delay

11

mf

Delay 1

mp

14

Delay 1

18

f

mp

Delay 1

f

mp

23

pizz.

arco

f

p

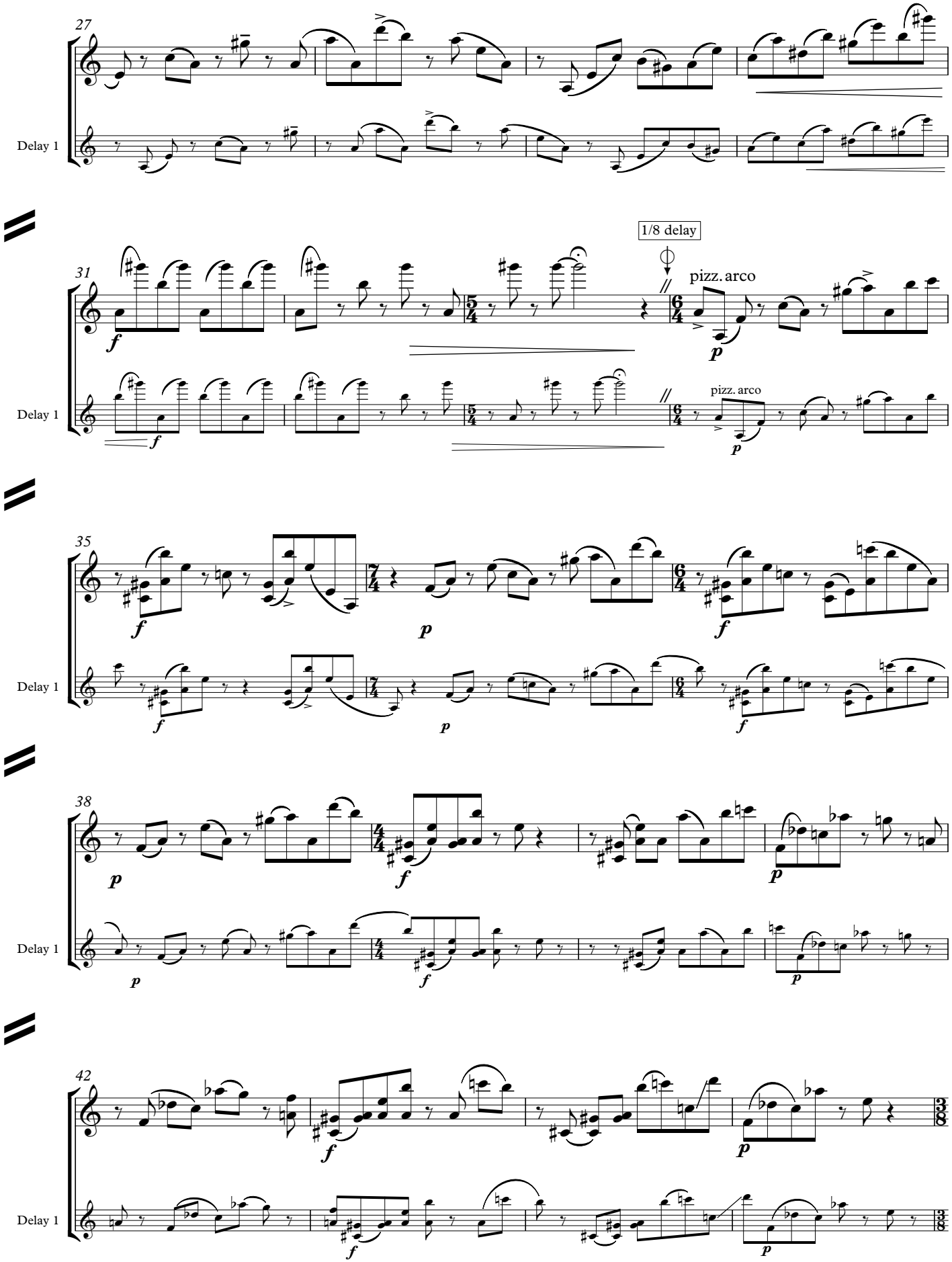
Delay 1

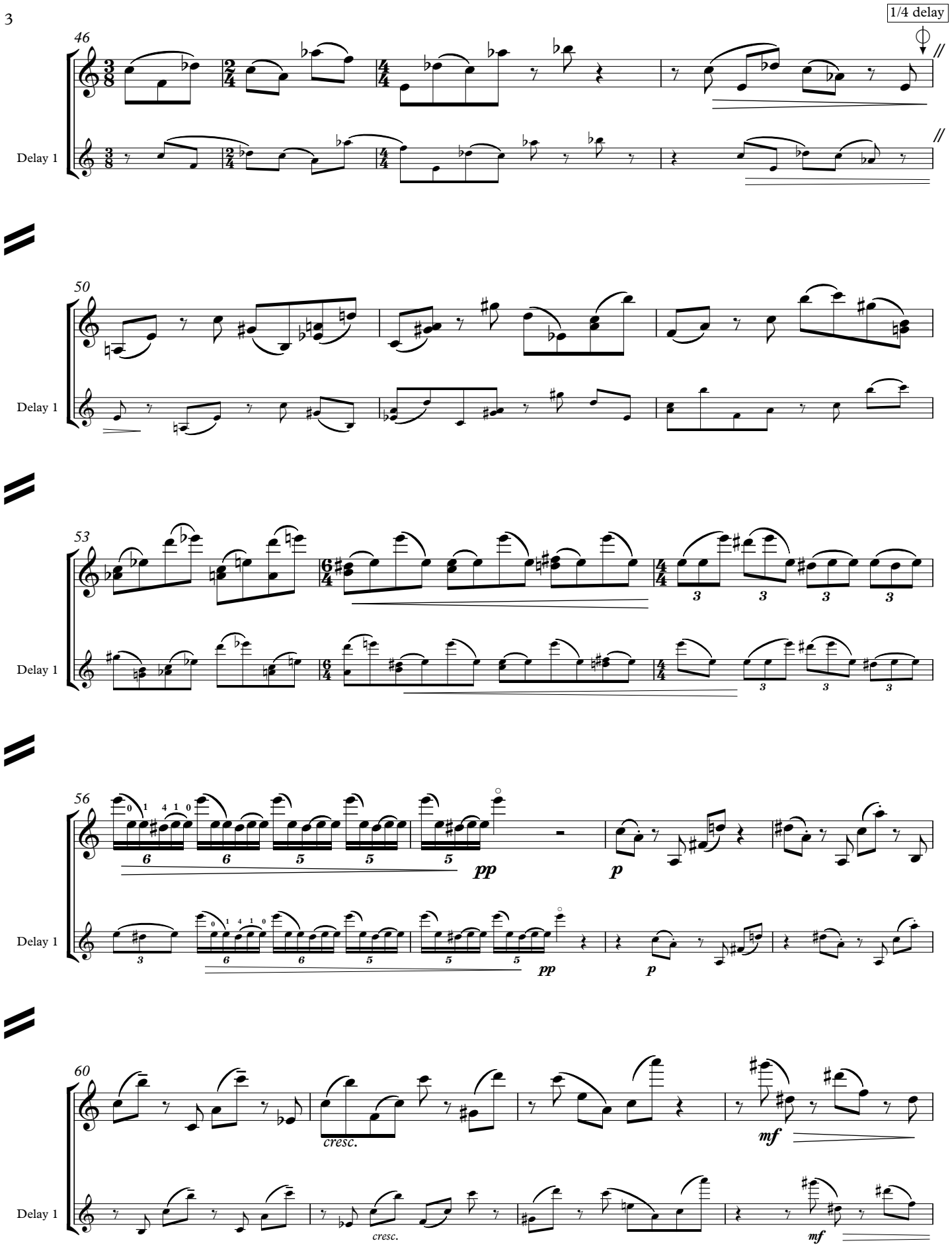
f

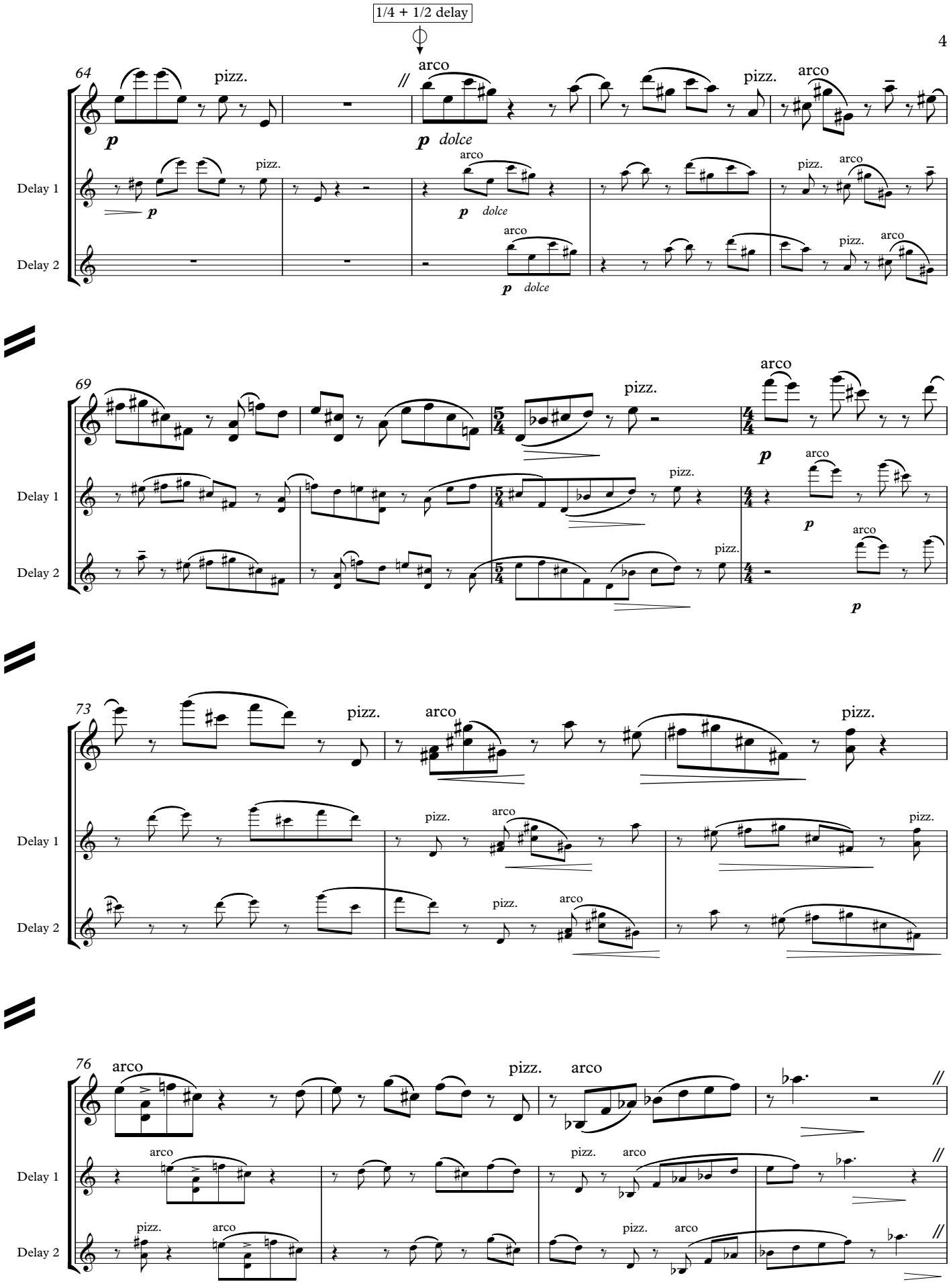
p

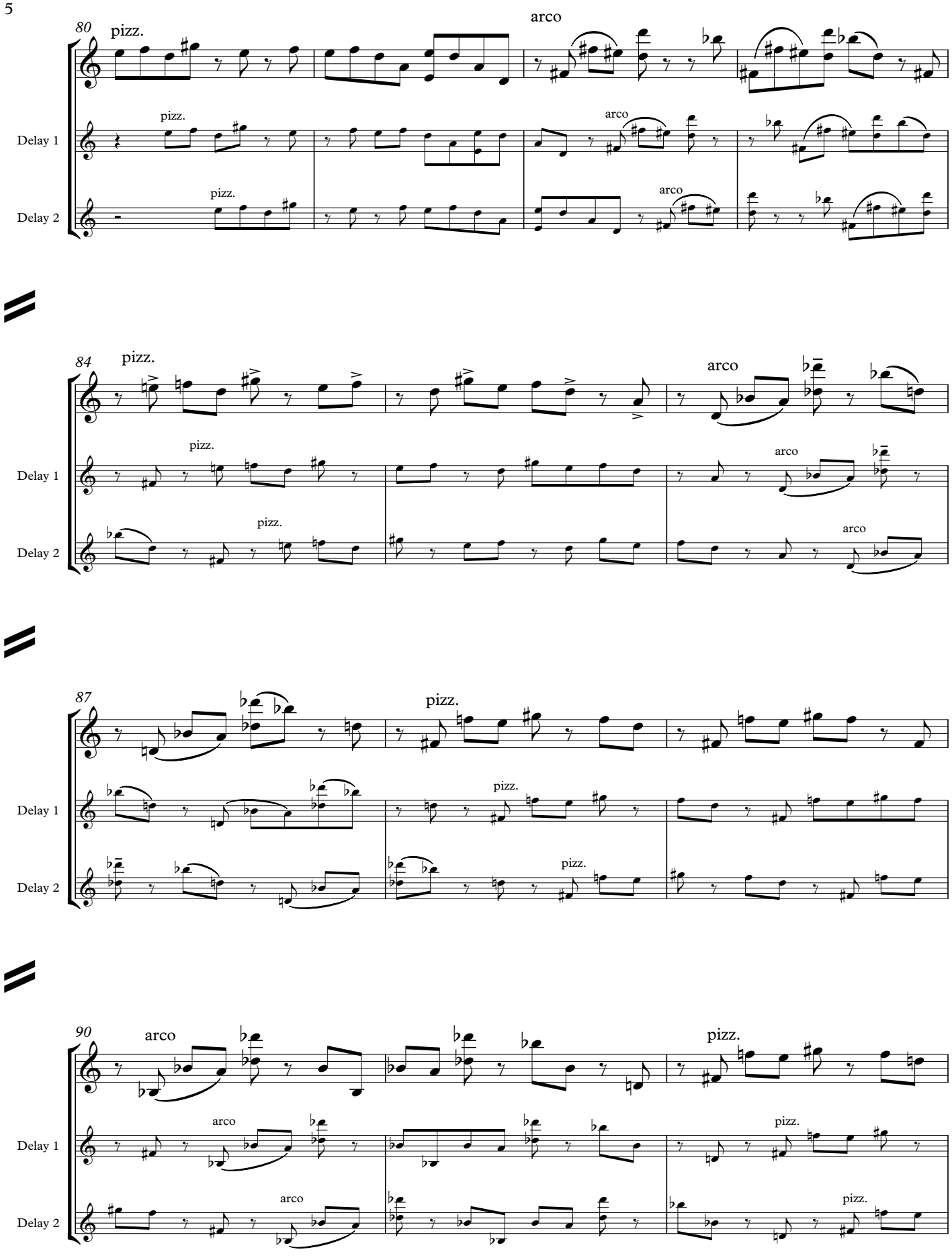
pizz.

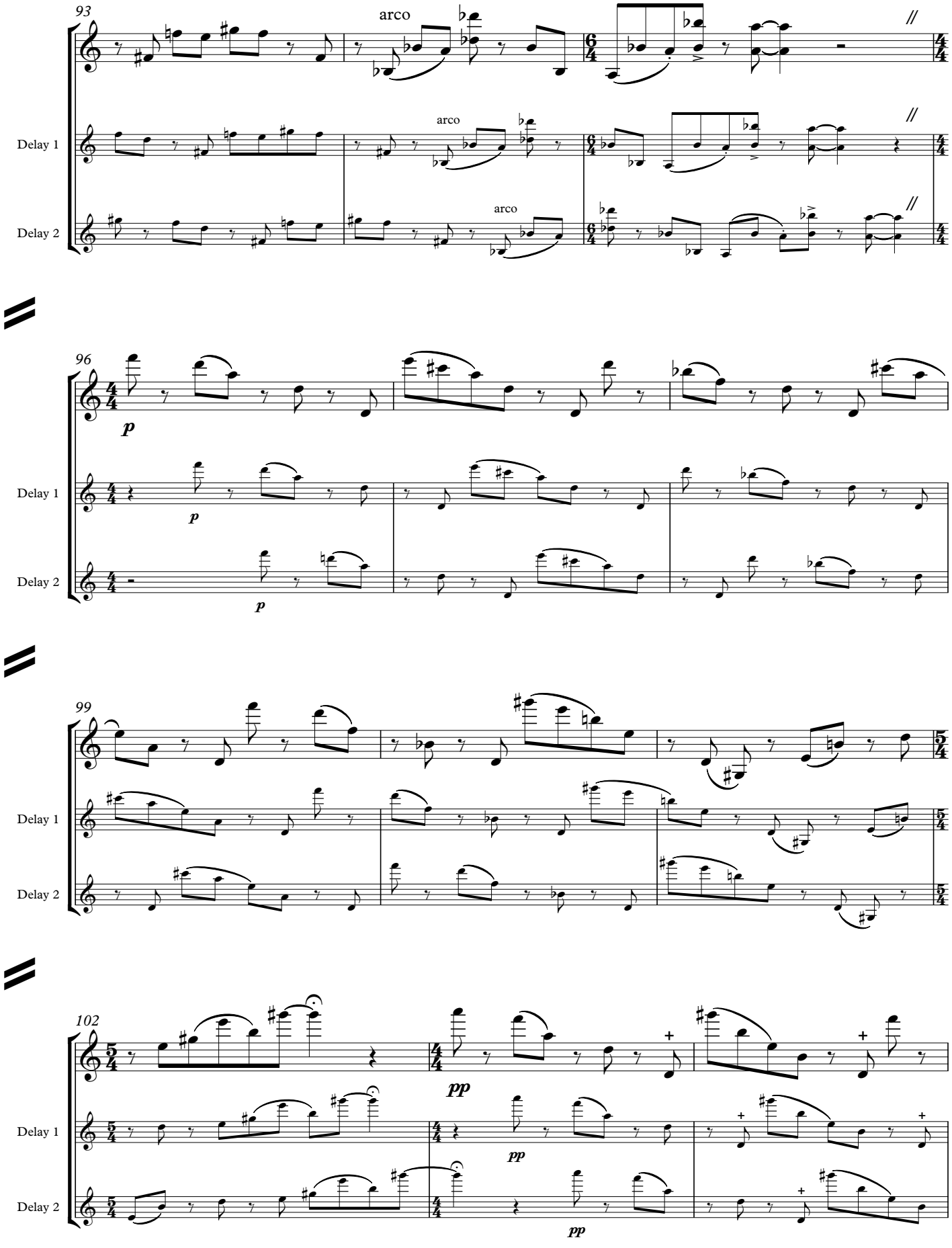
arco

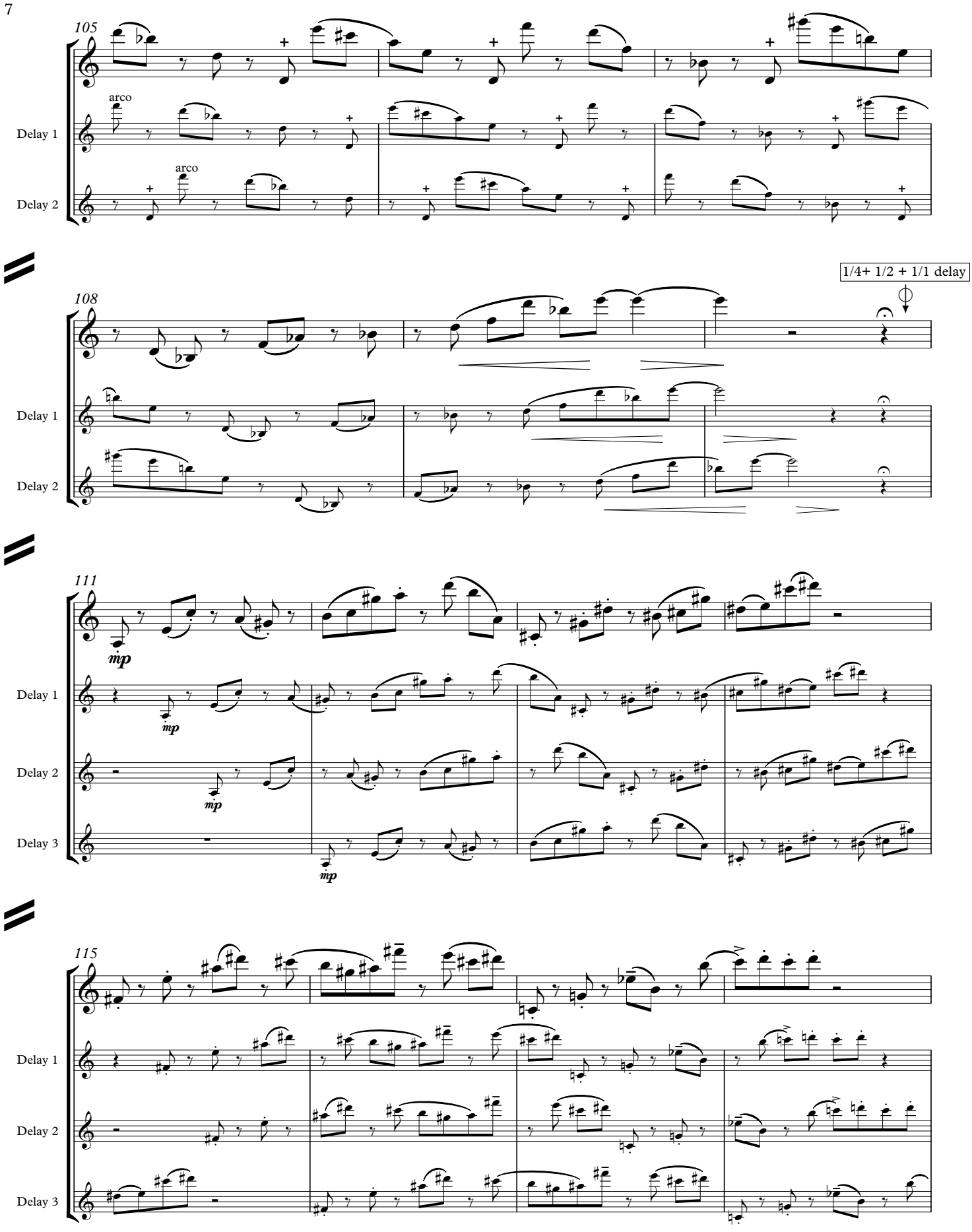

27
Delay 1
31
1/8 delay
pizz. arco
Delay 1
35
Delay 1
38
Delay 1
42
Delay 1

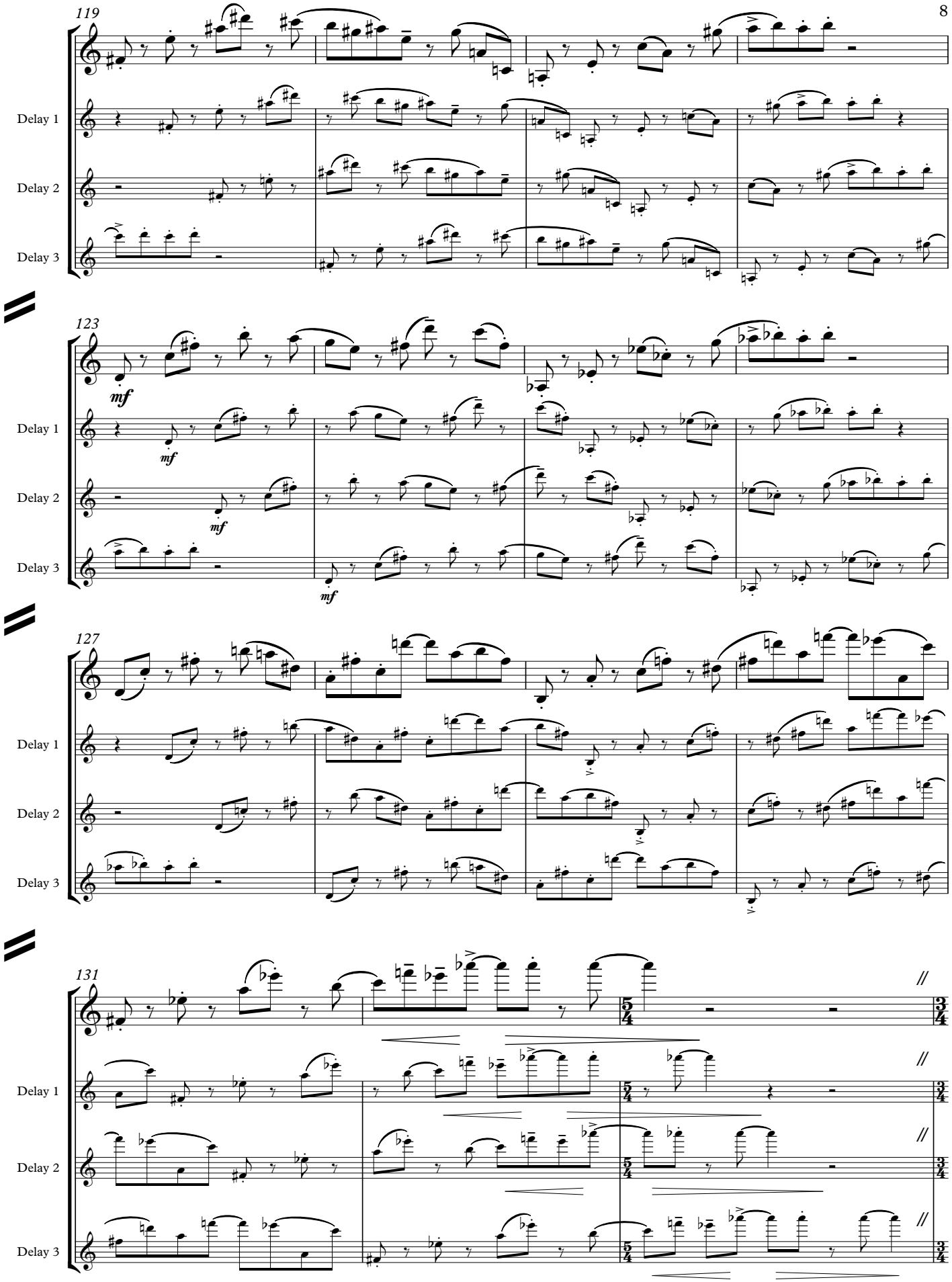

1/4 delay
46
Delay 1
50
Delay 1
53
Delay 1
56
pp
p
Delay 1
60
cresc.
mf
Delay 1


1/4 + 1/2 delay
64
pizz.
arco
p
p dolce
Delay 1
Delay 2
69
5/4
4/4
73
76

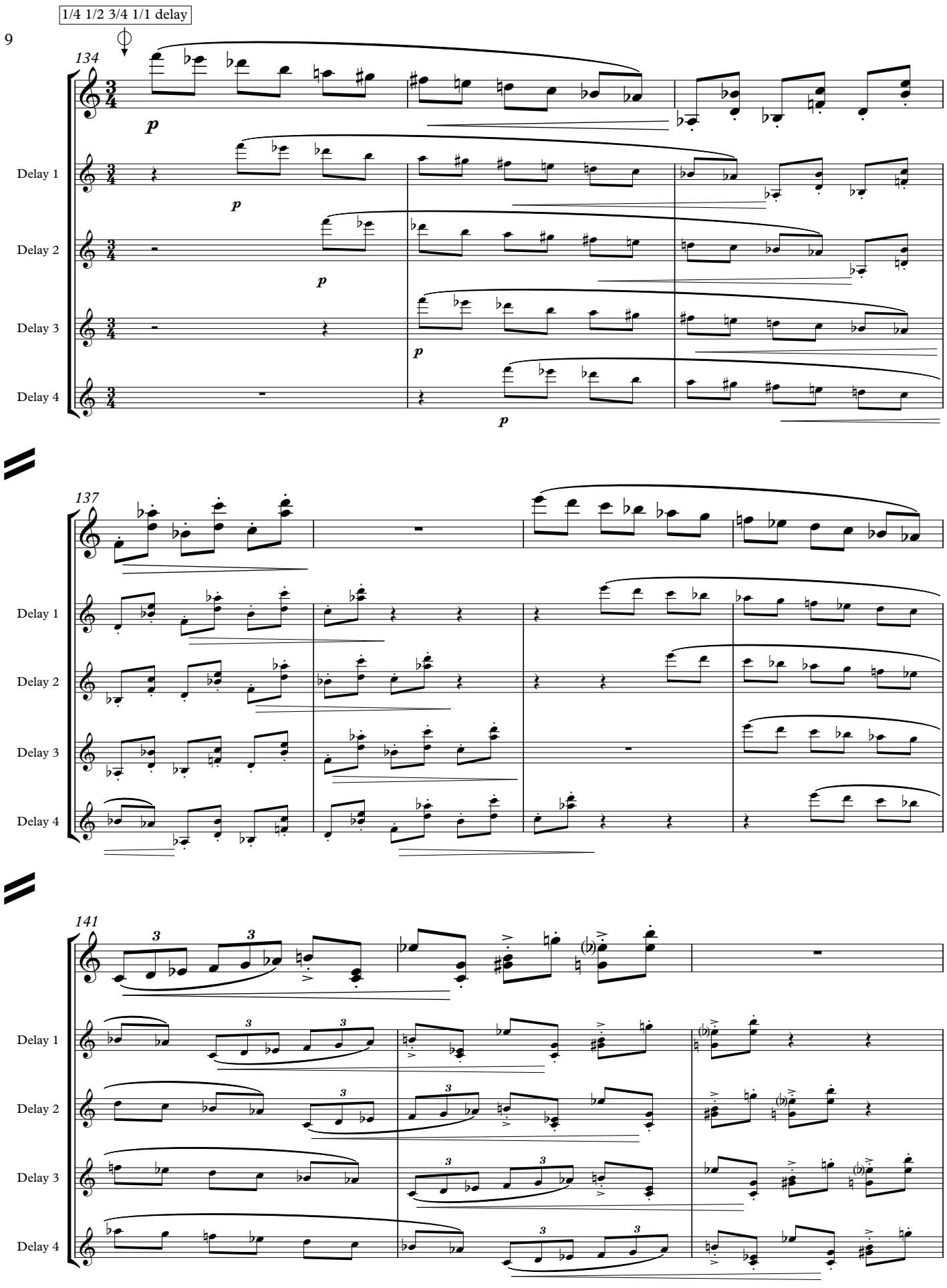

80
pizz.
arco
Delay 1
Delay 2
84
87
90

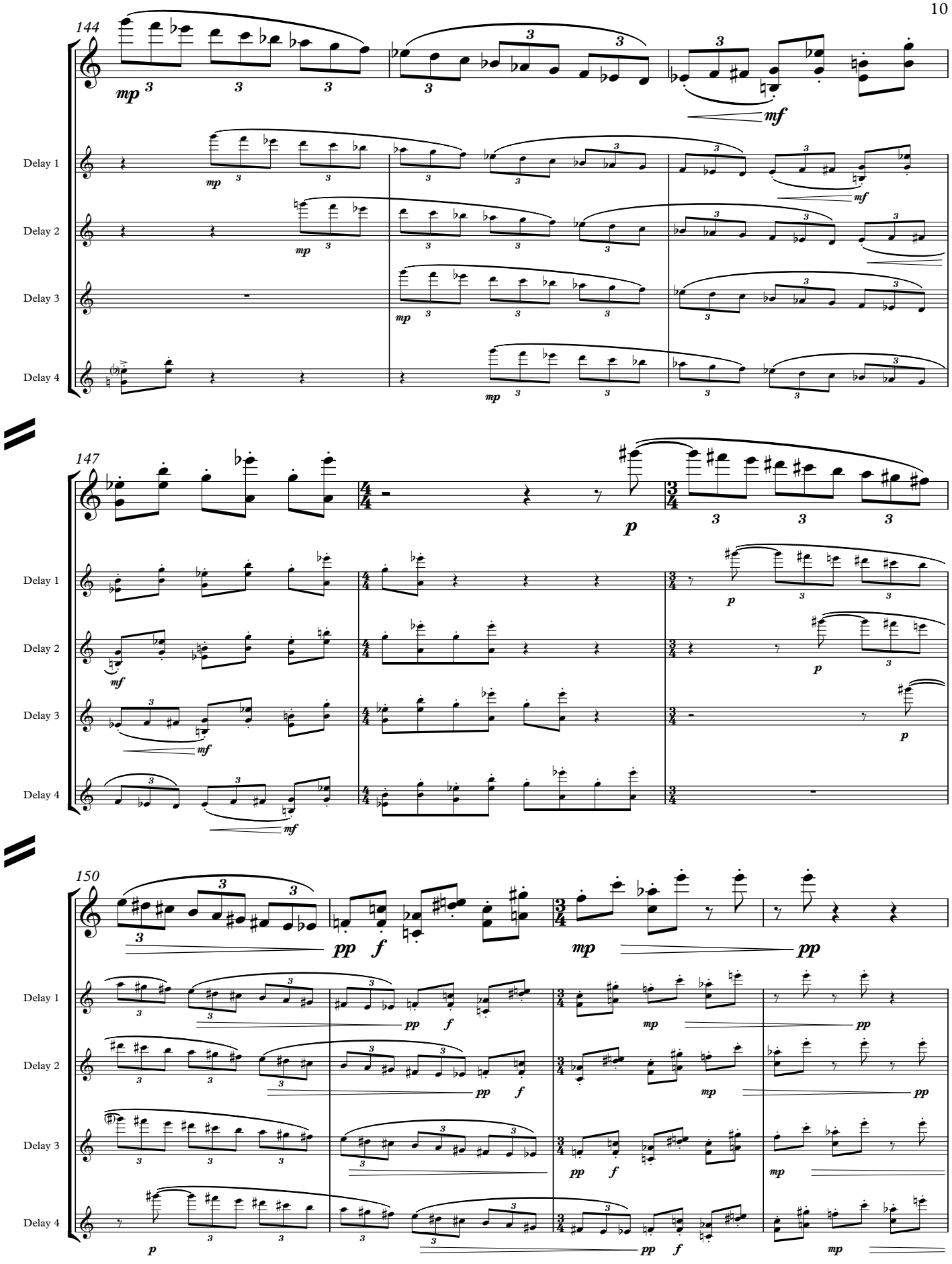

93
arco
Delay 1
Delay 2
96
p
99
102
pp

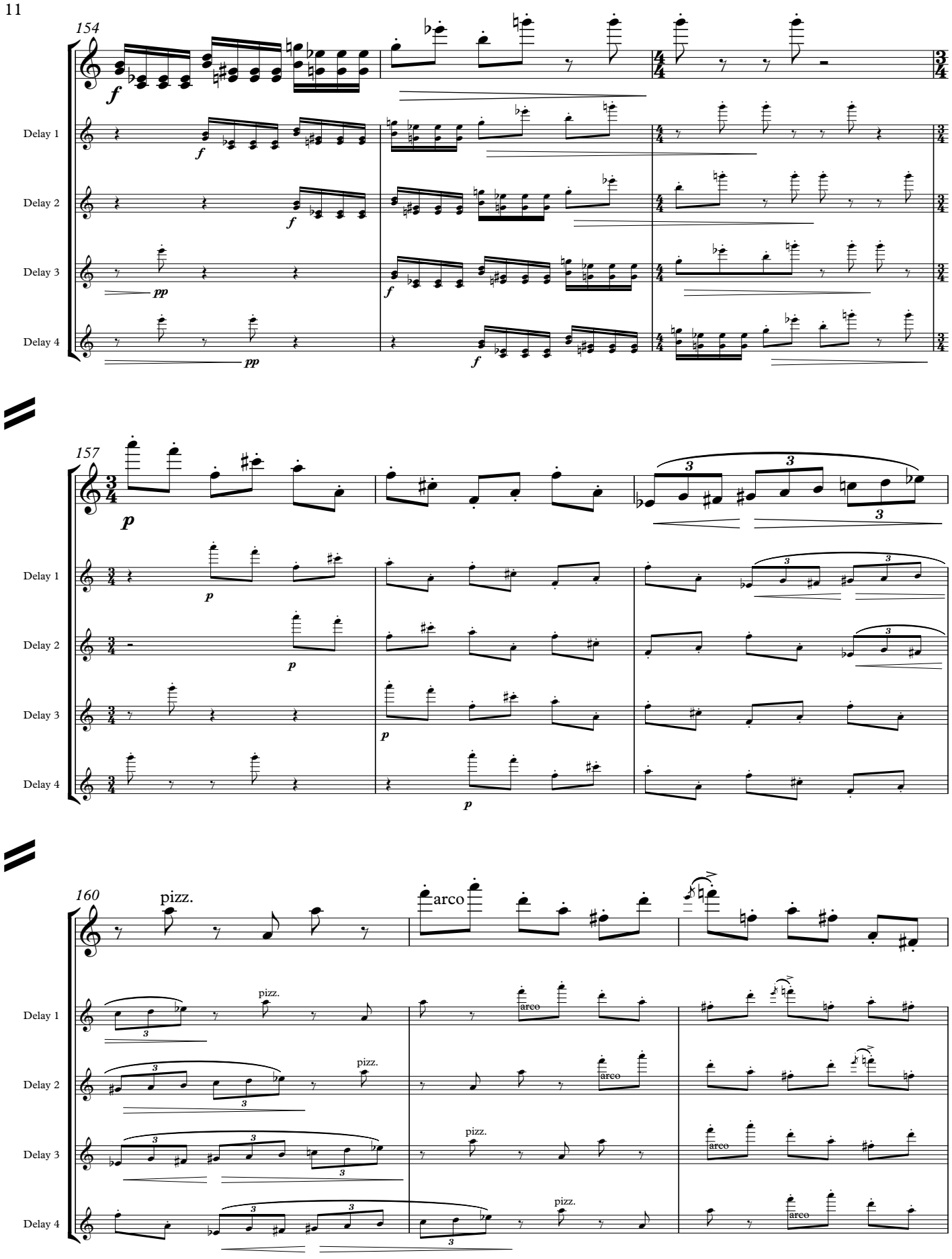

105
arco
Delay 1
arco
Delay 2
108
1/4+ 1/2 + 1/1 delay
Delay 1
Delay 2
111
mp
Delay 1
mp
Delay 2
mp
Delay 3
115
Delay 1
Delay 2
Delay 3

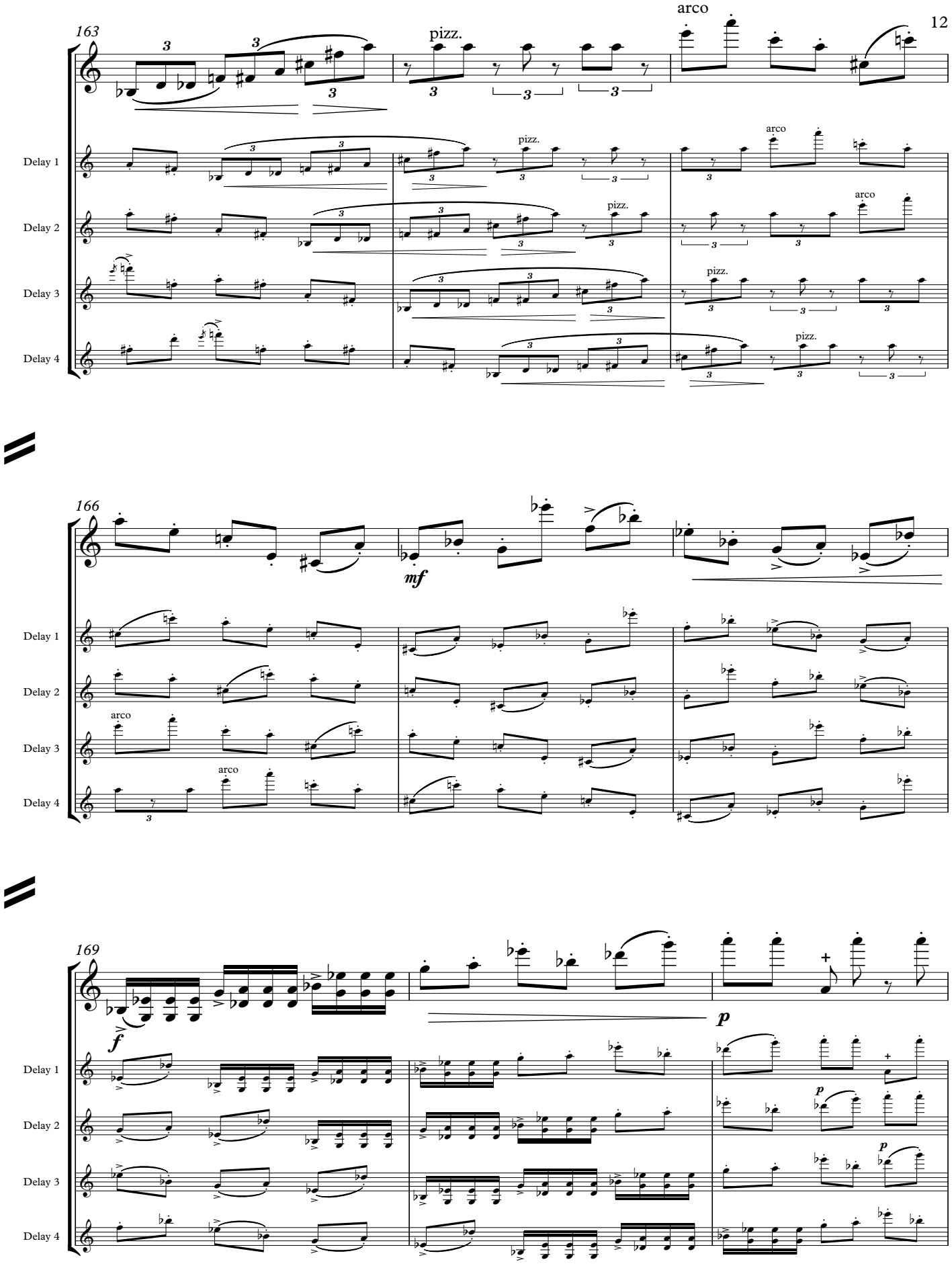

119
Delay 1
Delay 2
Delay 3
123
mf
Delay 1
Delay 2
Delay 3
127
Delay 1
Delay 2
Delay 3
131
5/4
3/4
Delay 1
Delay 2
Delay 3

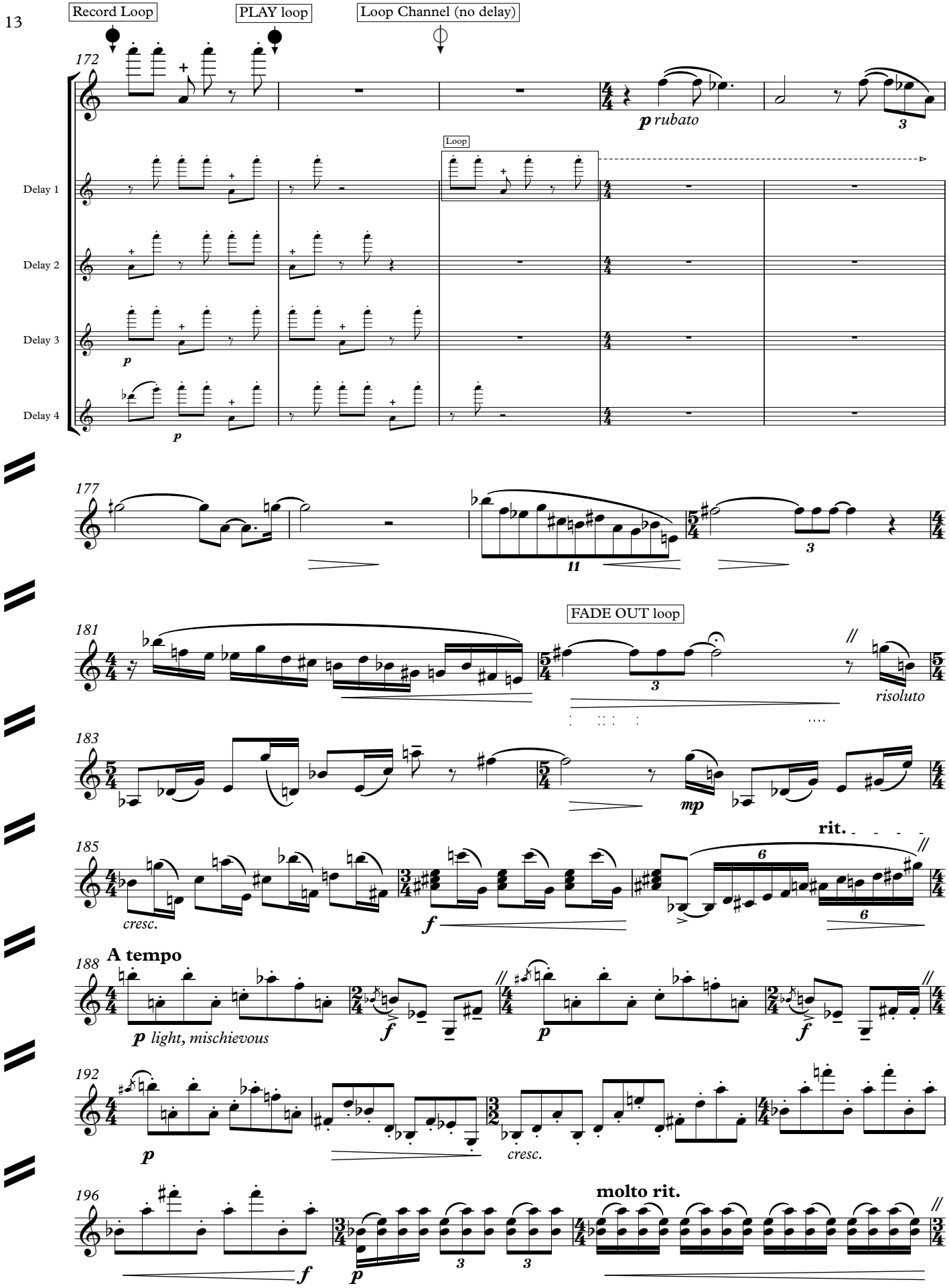
1/4 1/2 3/4 1/1 delay




144
147
150
Delay 1
Delay 2
Delay 3
Delay 4


154
Delay 1
Delay 2
Delay 3
Delay 4
157
160
pizz.
arco


163
arco
pizz.
Delay 1
Delay 2
Delay 3
Delay 4
166
mf
arco
169
f
p


Record Loop
PLAY loop
Loop Channel (no delay)
172
Loop
Delay 1
Delay 2
Delay 3
Delay 4
p rubato
177
FADE OUT loop
risoluto
181
183
mp
185
rit.
cresc.
f
188
A tempo
p light, mischievous
192
cresc.
196
molto rit.

1/8 1/4 3/8 1/2 5/8 3/4 7/8 delay

A tempo

199

Delay 1

Delay 2

Delay 3

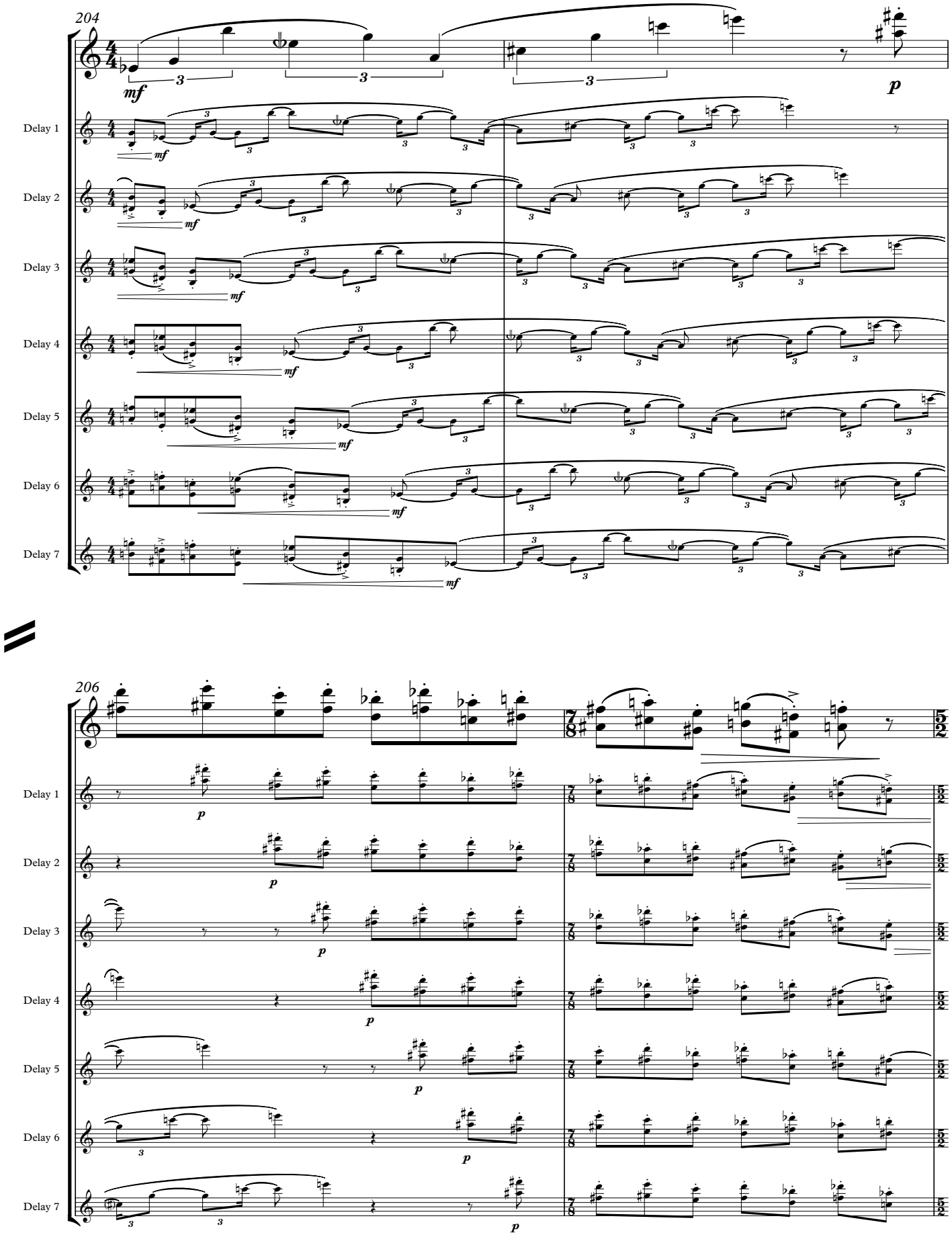
Delay 4

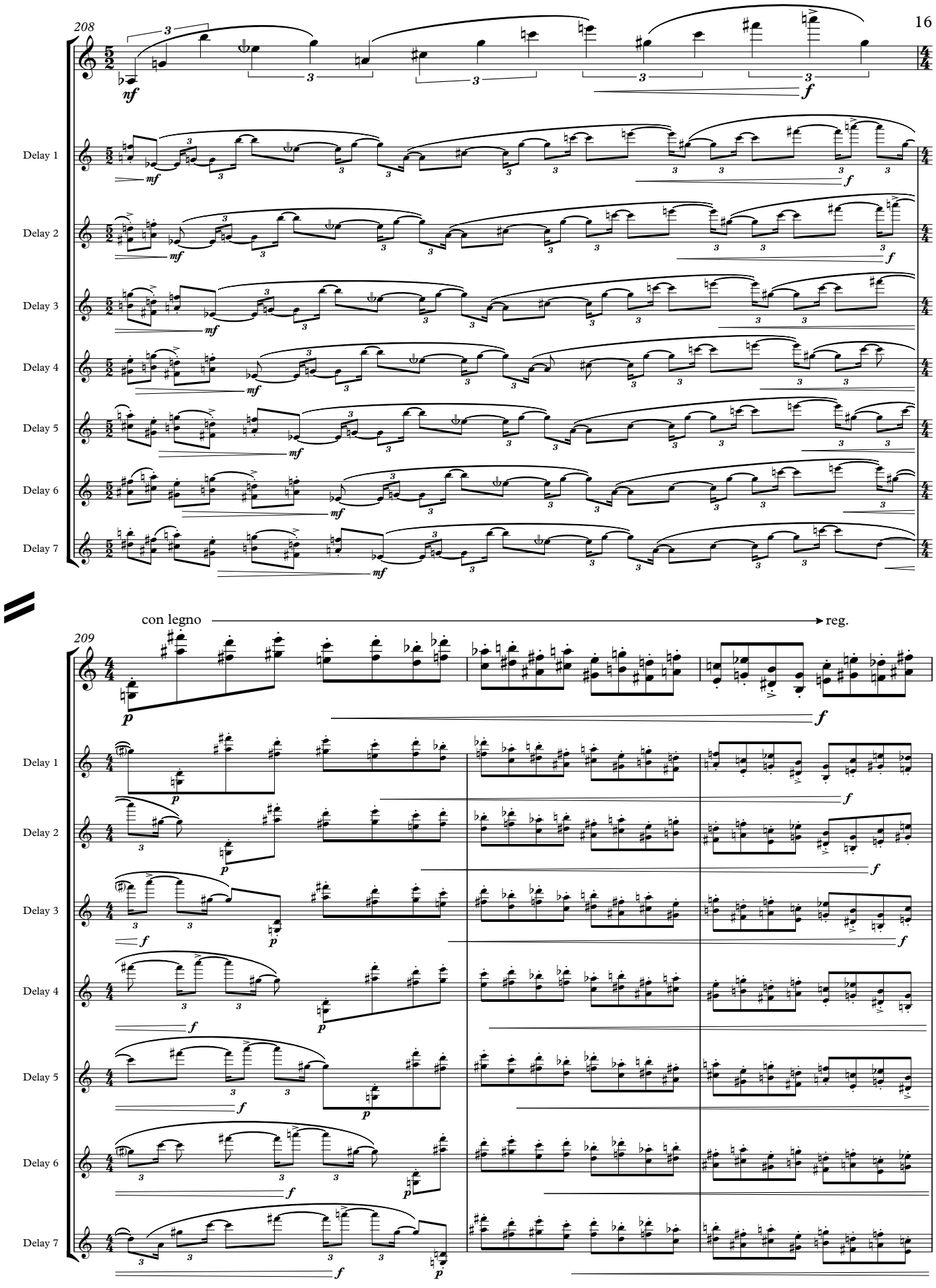
Delay 5

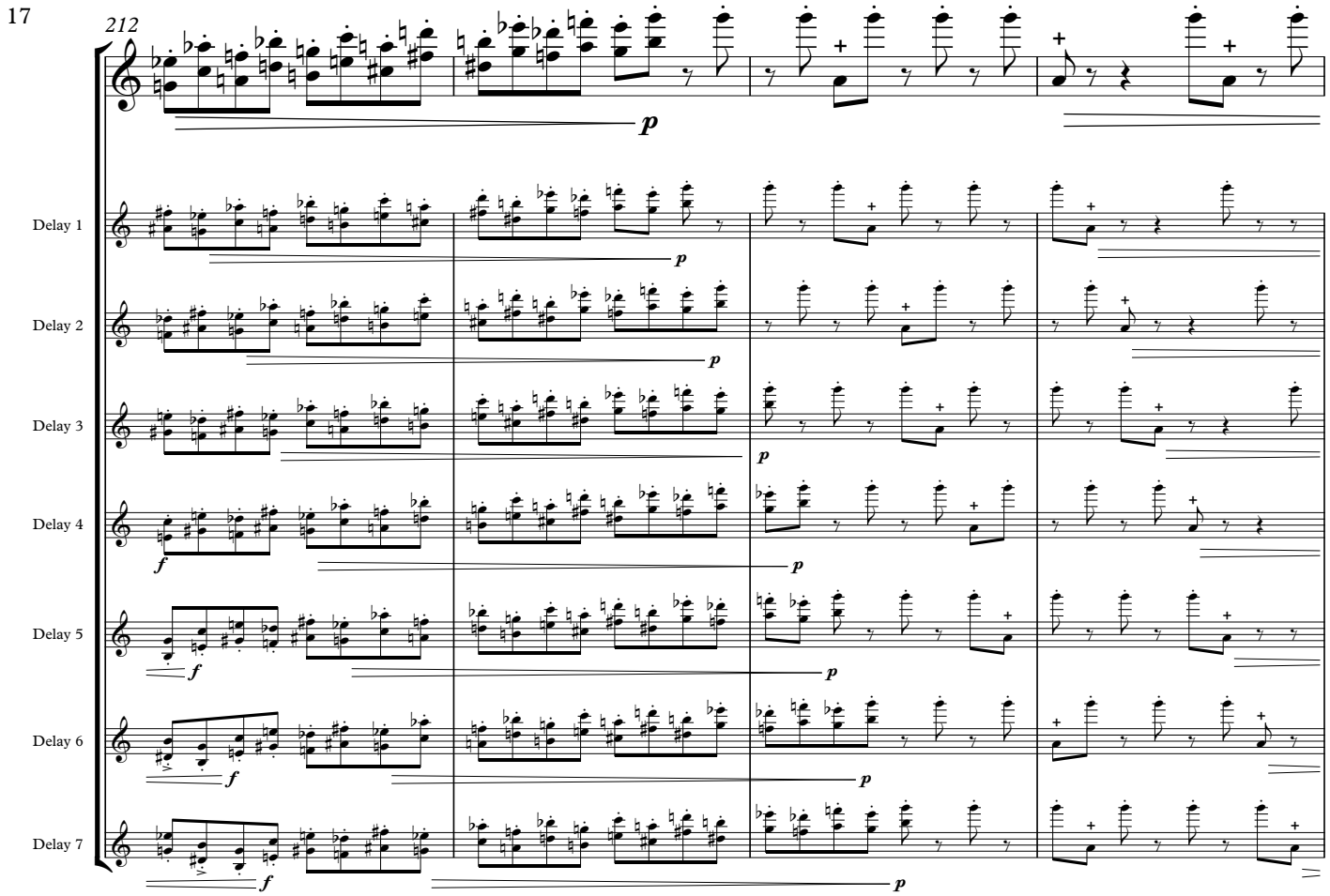
Delay 6

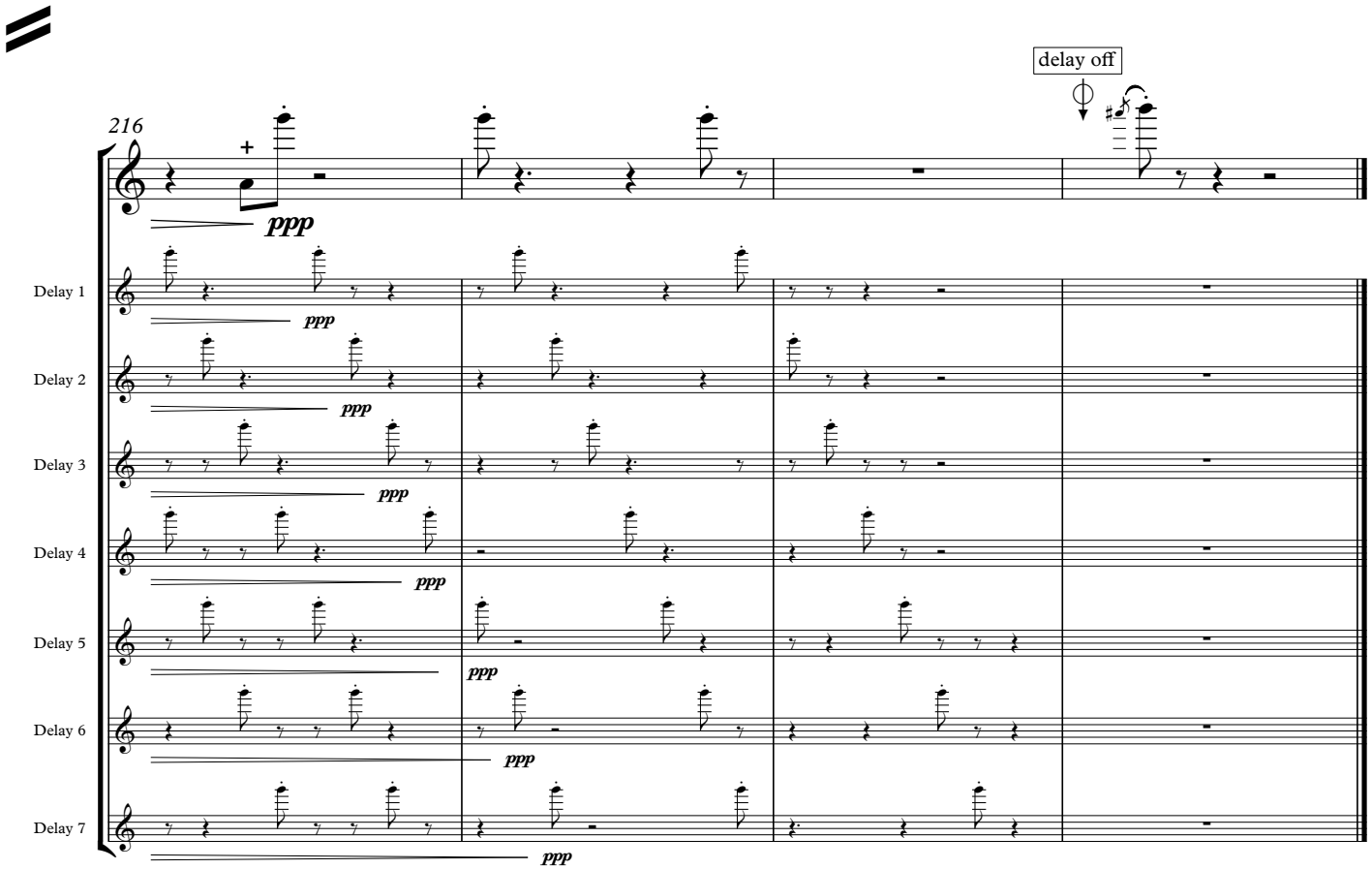
Delay 7

202

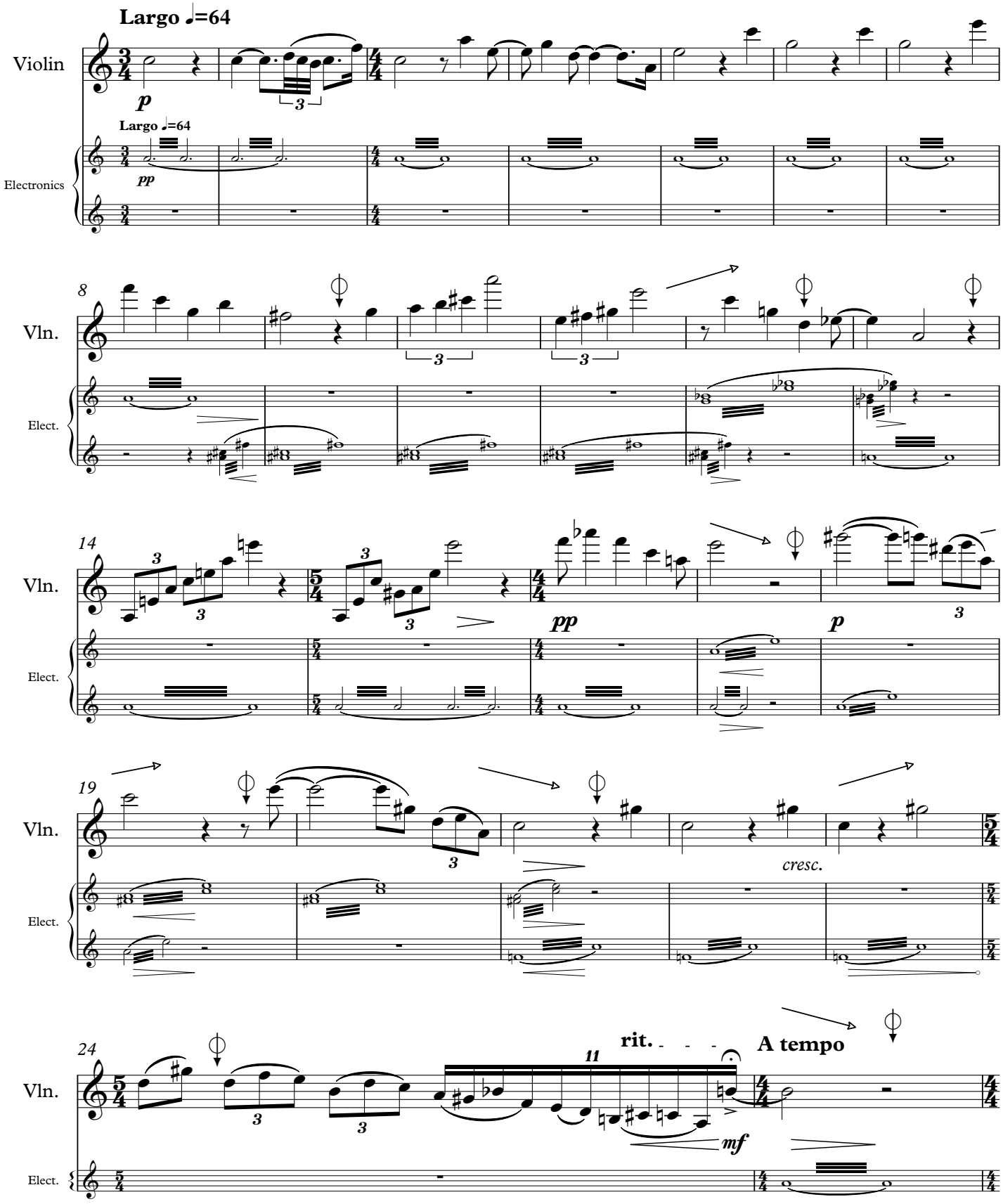

204
206
Delay 1
Delay 2
Delay 3
Delay 4
Delay 5
Delay 6
Delay 7

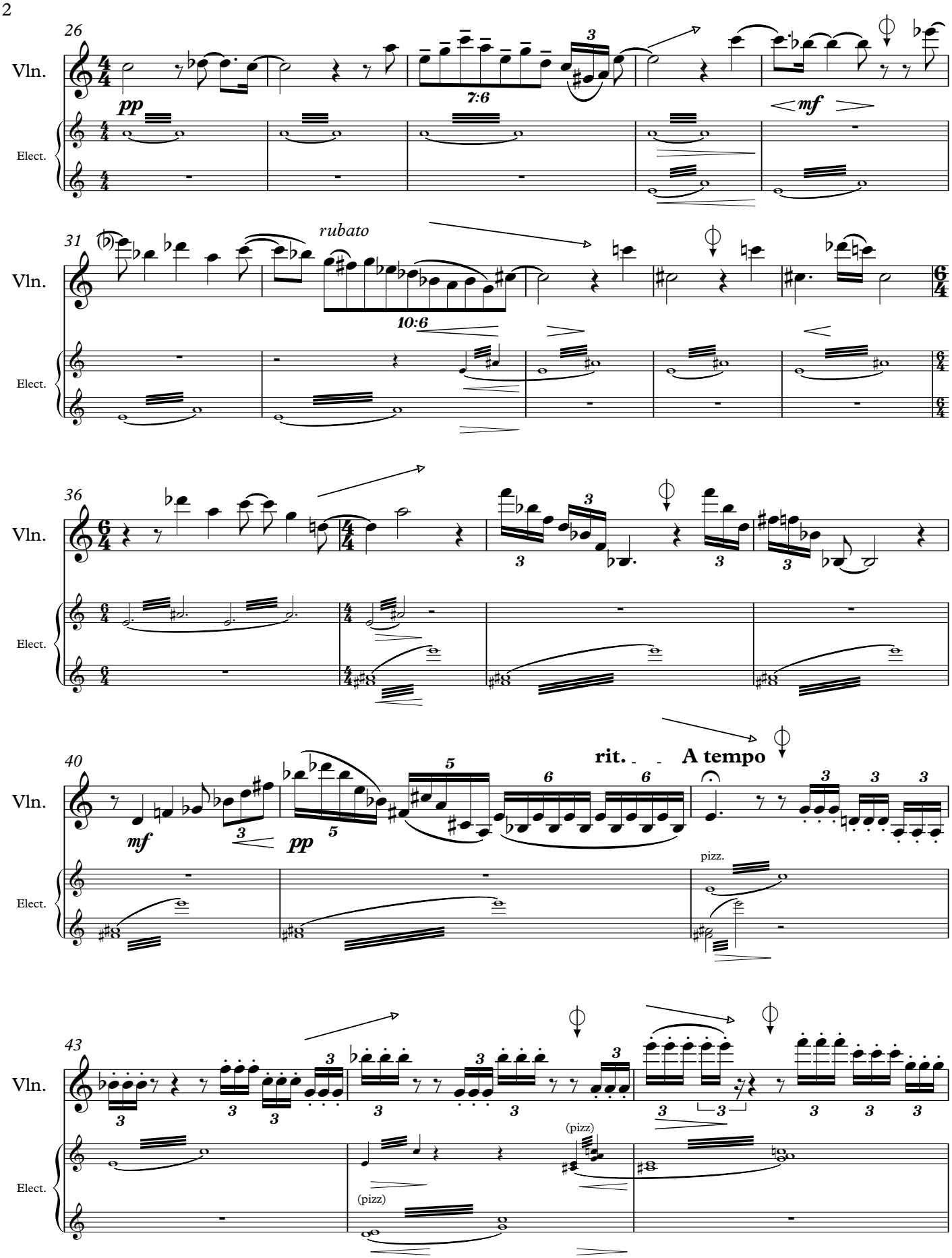

208
Delay 1
Delay 2
Delay 3
Delay 4
Delay 5
Delay 6
Delay 7
con legno
reg.
209

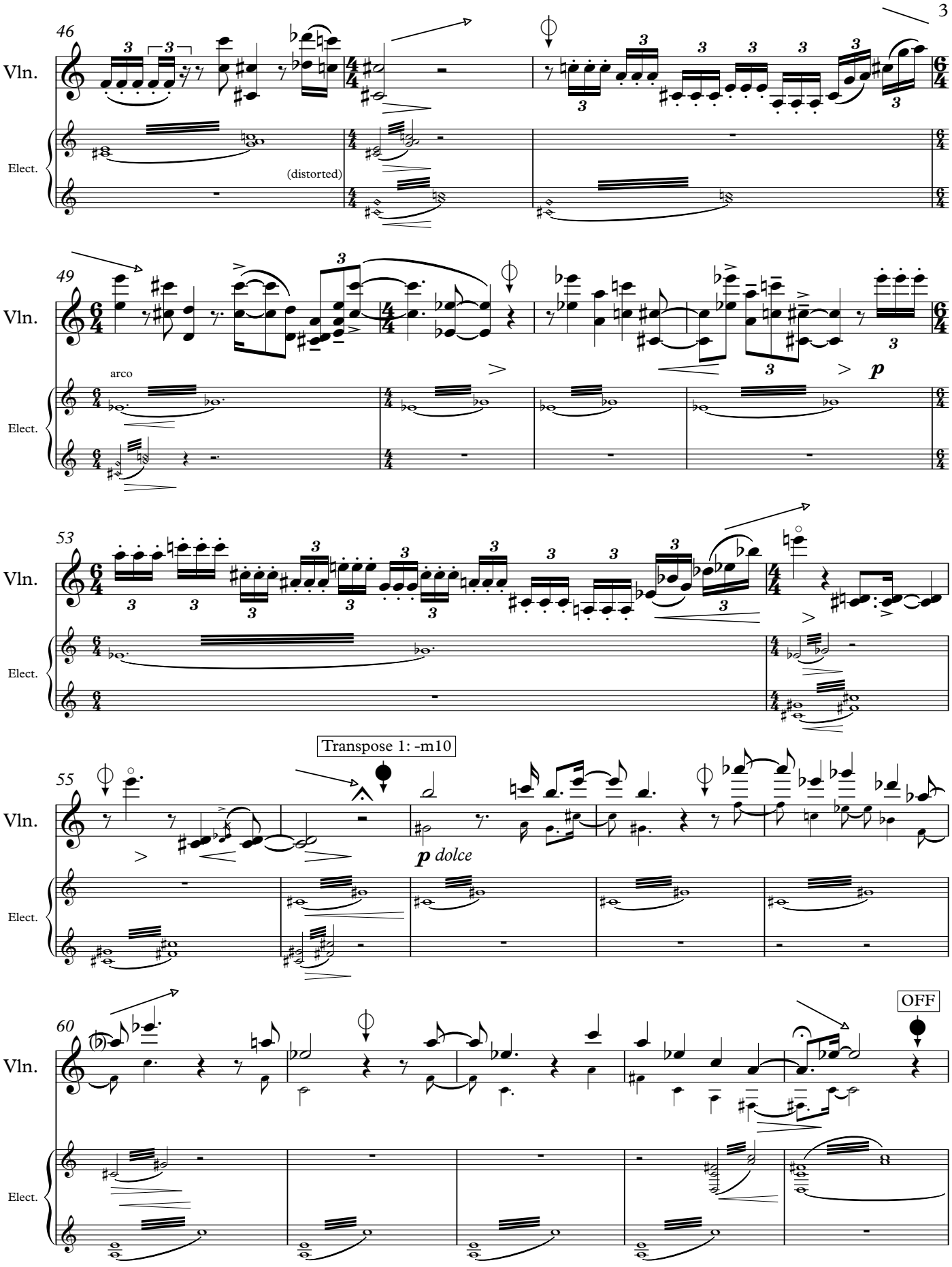

212
Delay 1
Delay 2
Delay 3
Delay 4
Delay 5
Delay 6
Delay 7

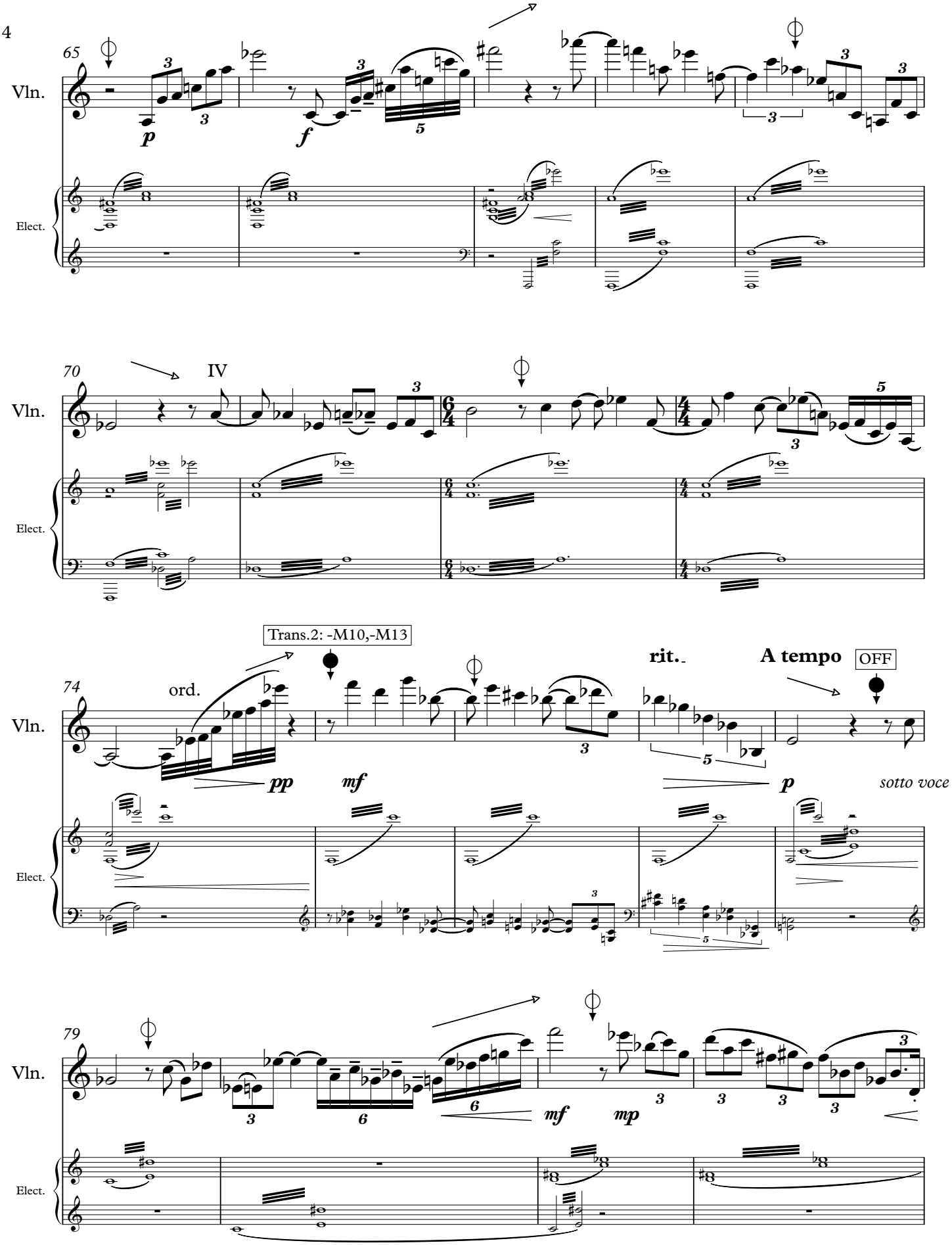

216
delay off
Delay 1
Delay 2
Delay 3
Delay 4
Delay 5
Delay 6
Delay 7

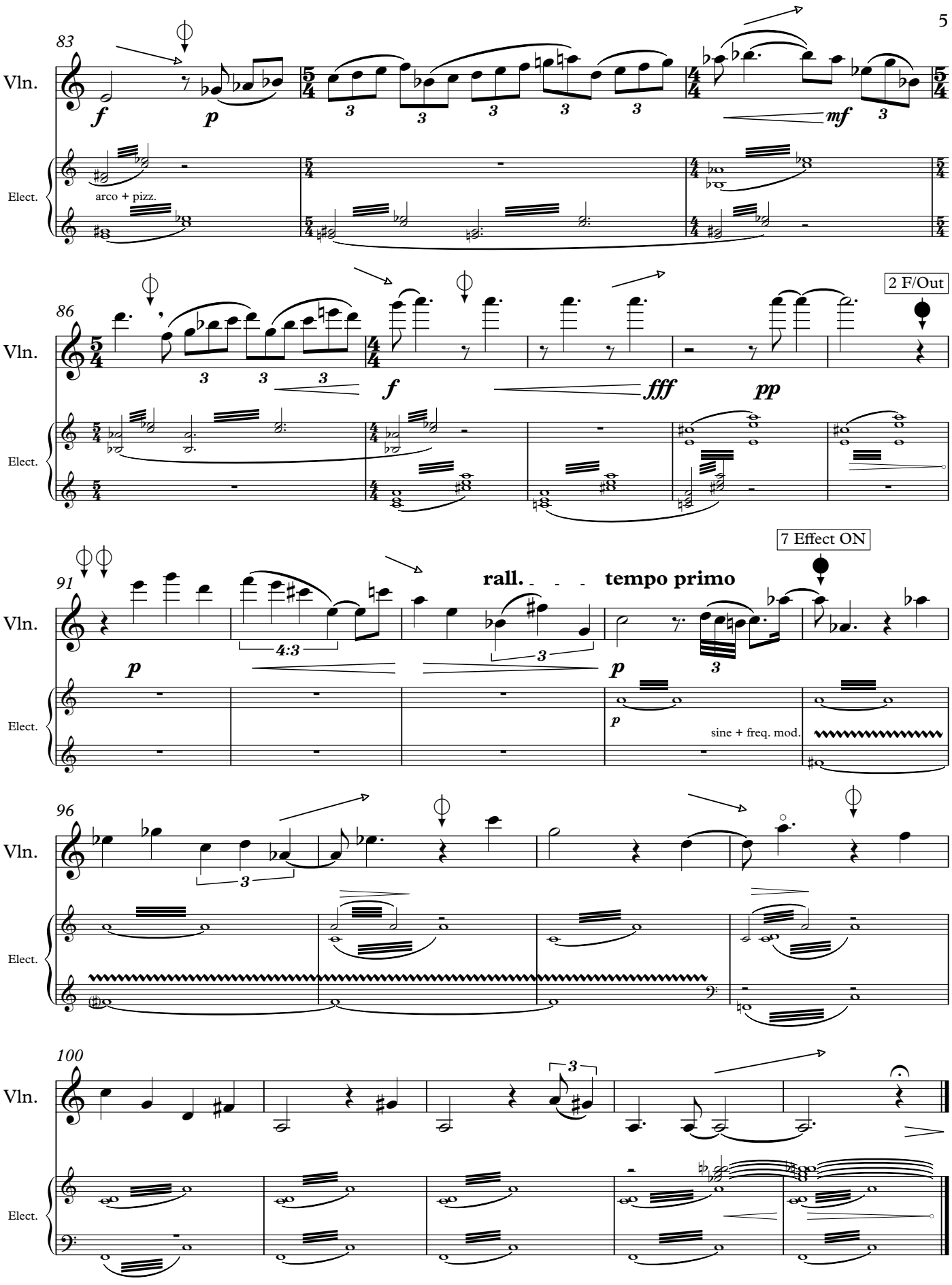
III. An Ocean Between Us



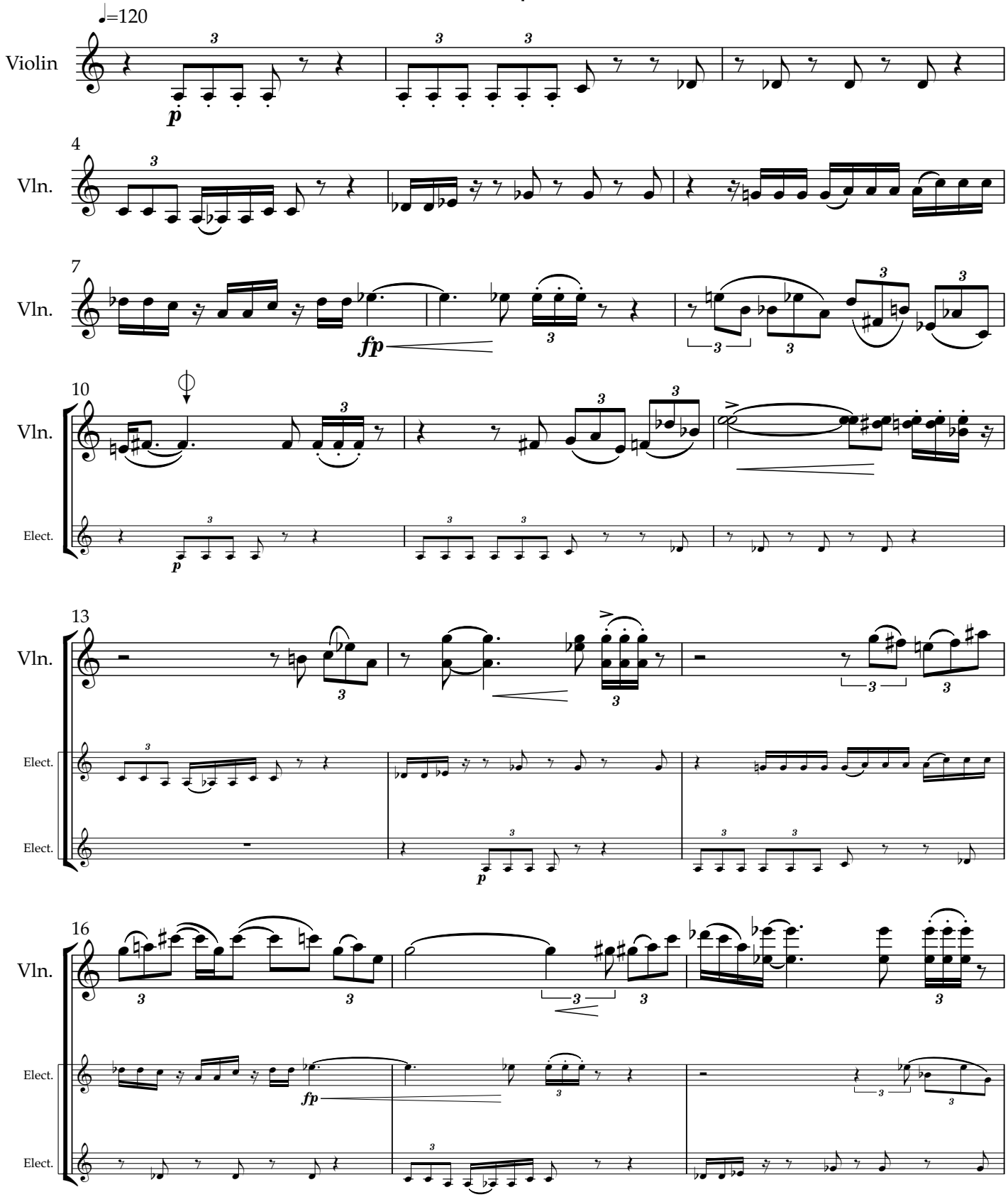

26
Vln.
Elect.
pp
7:6
mf
31
rubato
10:6
36
40
mf
pp
rit.
A tempo
pizz.
43
(pizz)
(pizz)

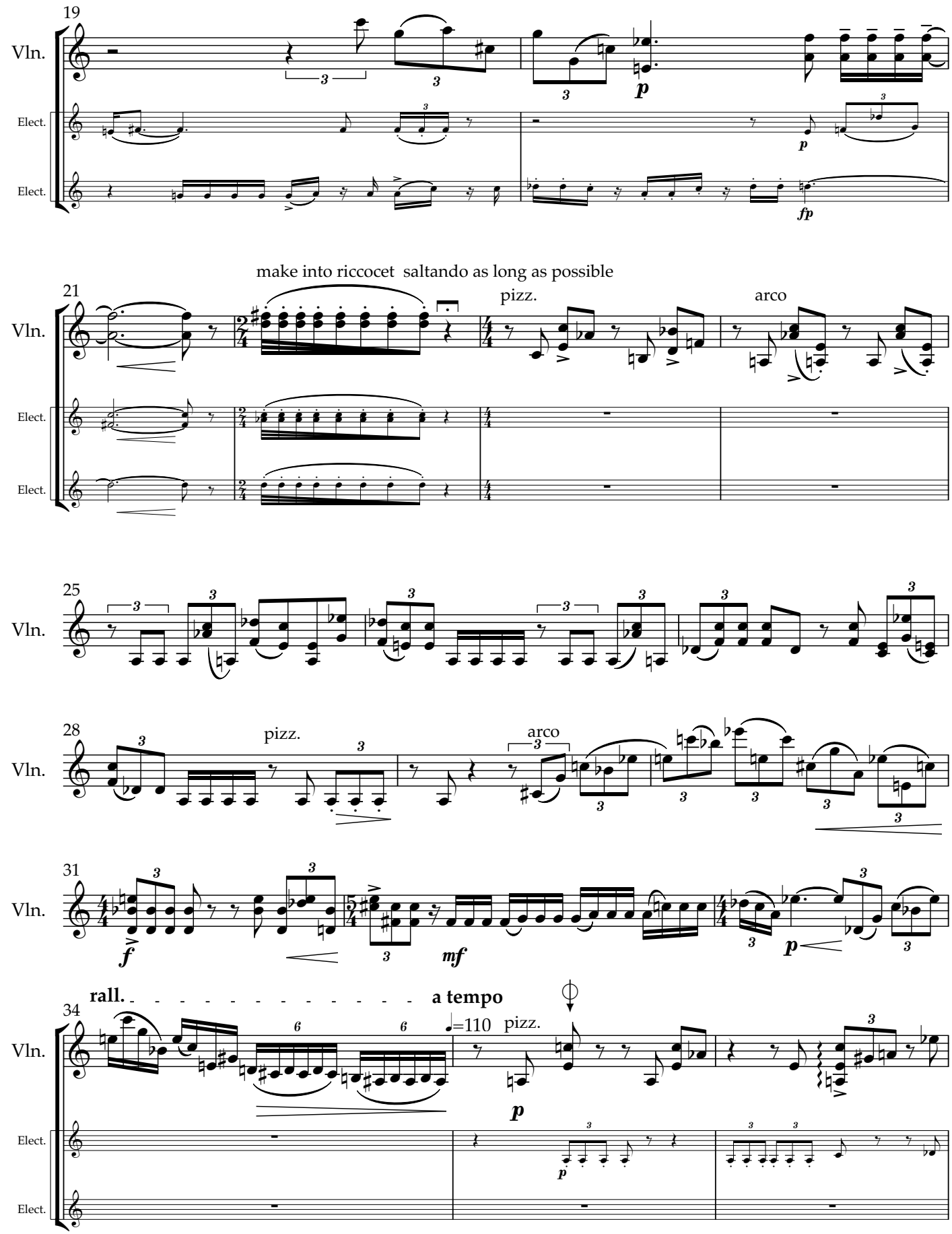

46
Vln.
Elect.
(distorted)
49
Vln.
arco
Elect.
p
53
Vln.
Elect.
Transpose 1: -m10
55
Vln.
p dolce
Elect.
60
Vln.
OFF
Elect.

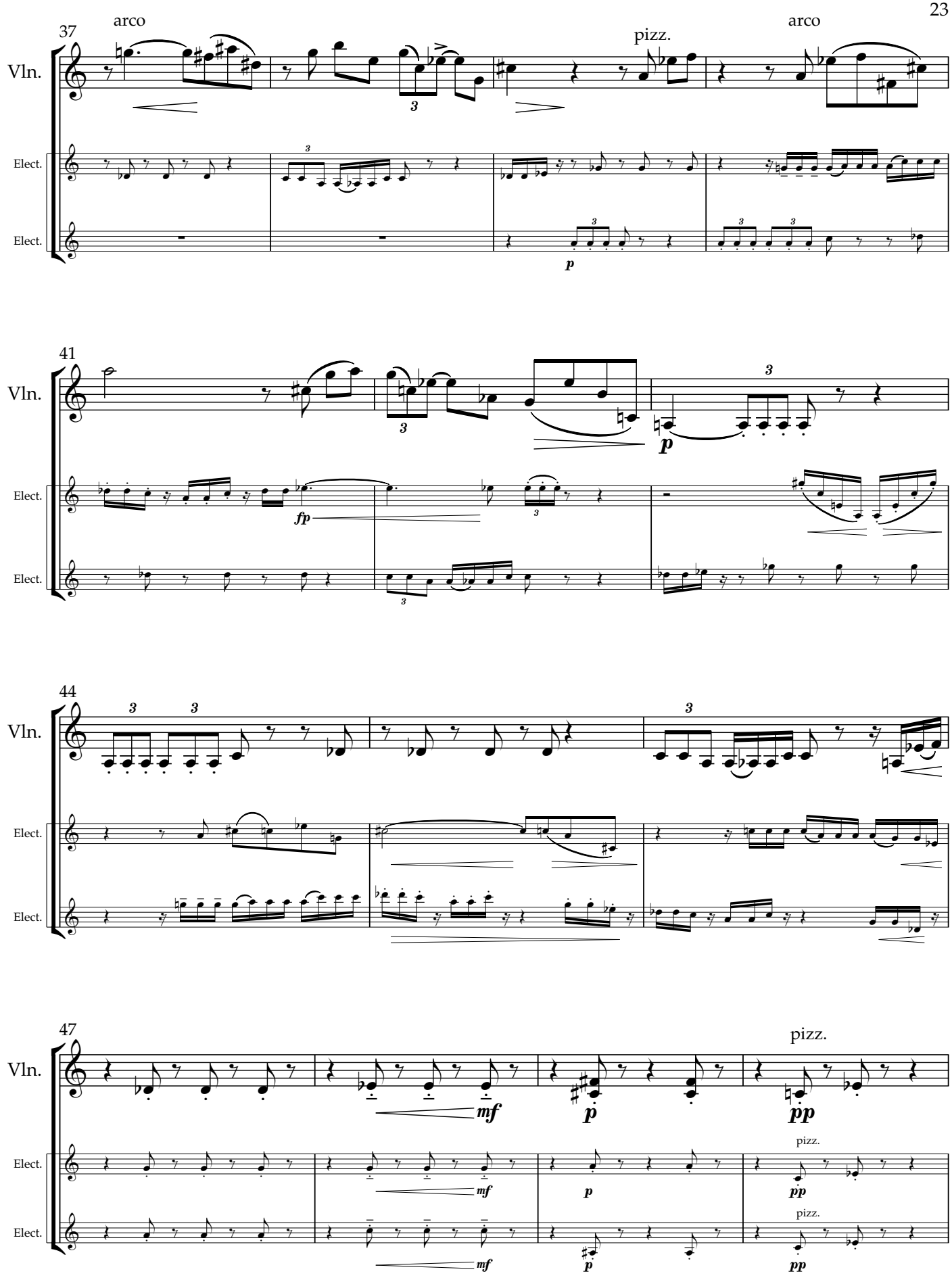

65
Vln.
Elect.
p
f
70
IV
Vln.
Elect.
74
Trans.2: -M10,-M13
ord.
Vln.
Elect.
pp
mf
rit.
A tempo
OFF
p
sotto voce
79
Vln.
Elect.
mf
mp

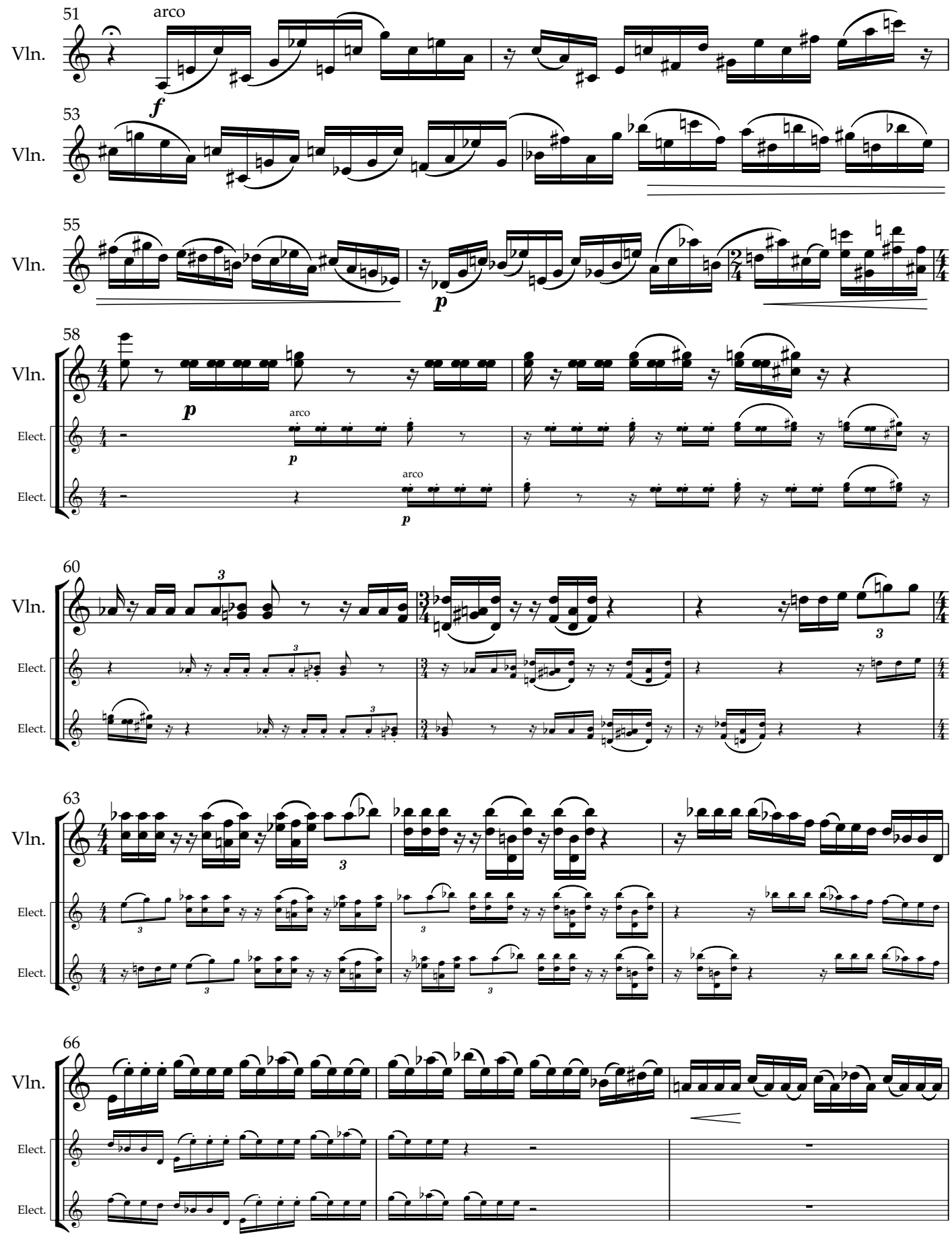

83
Vln.
Elect.
arco + pizz.
86
2 F/Out
91
rall.
tempo primo
7 Effect ON
sine + freq. mod.
96
100

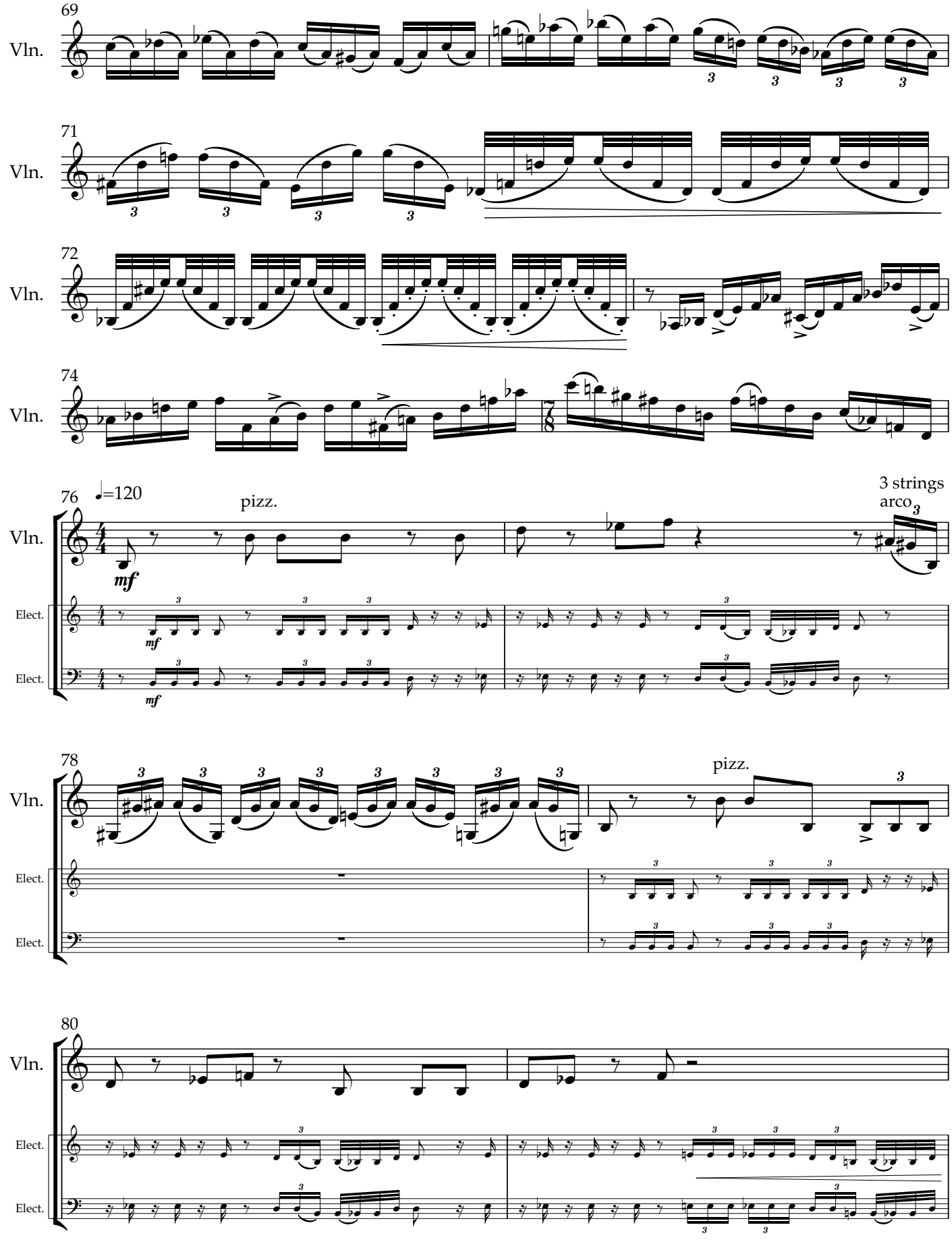
IV. In Perpetuum

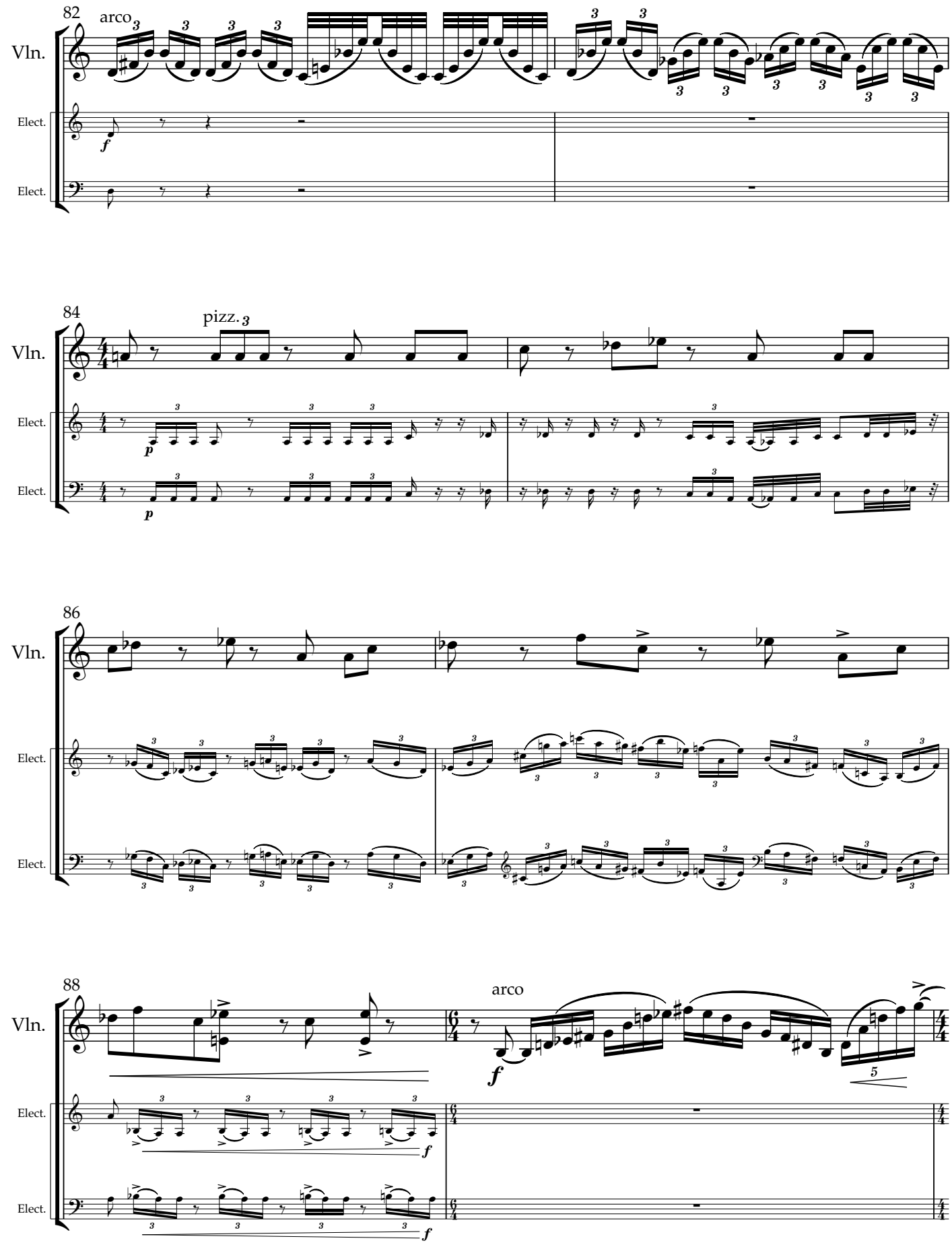


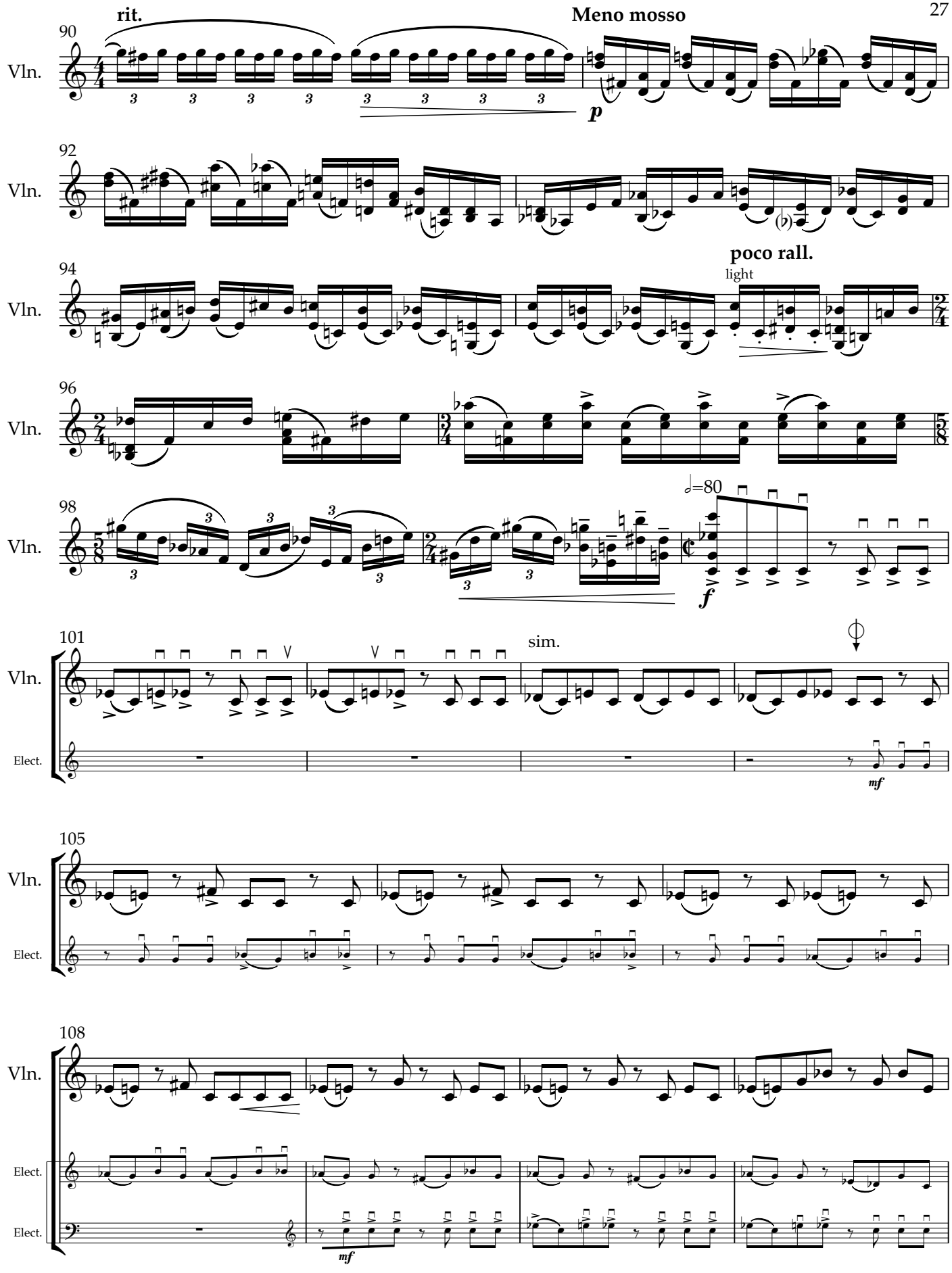

19
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
p
p
fp
make into riccocet saltando as long as possible
21
pizz.
arco
25
28
pizz.
arco
31
f
mf
p
34
rall.
a tempo
=110
pizz.
p
p

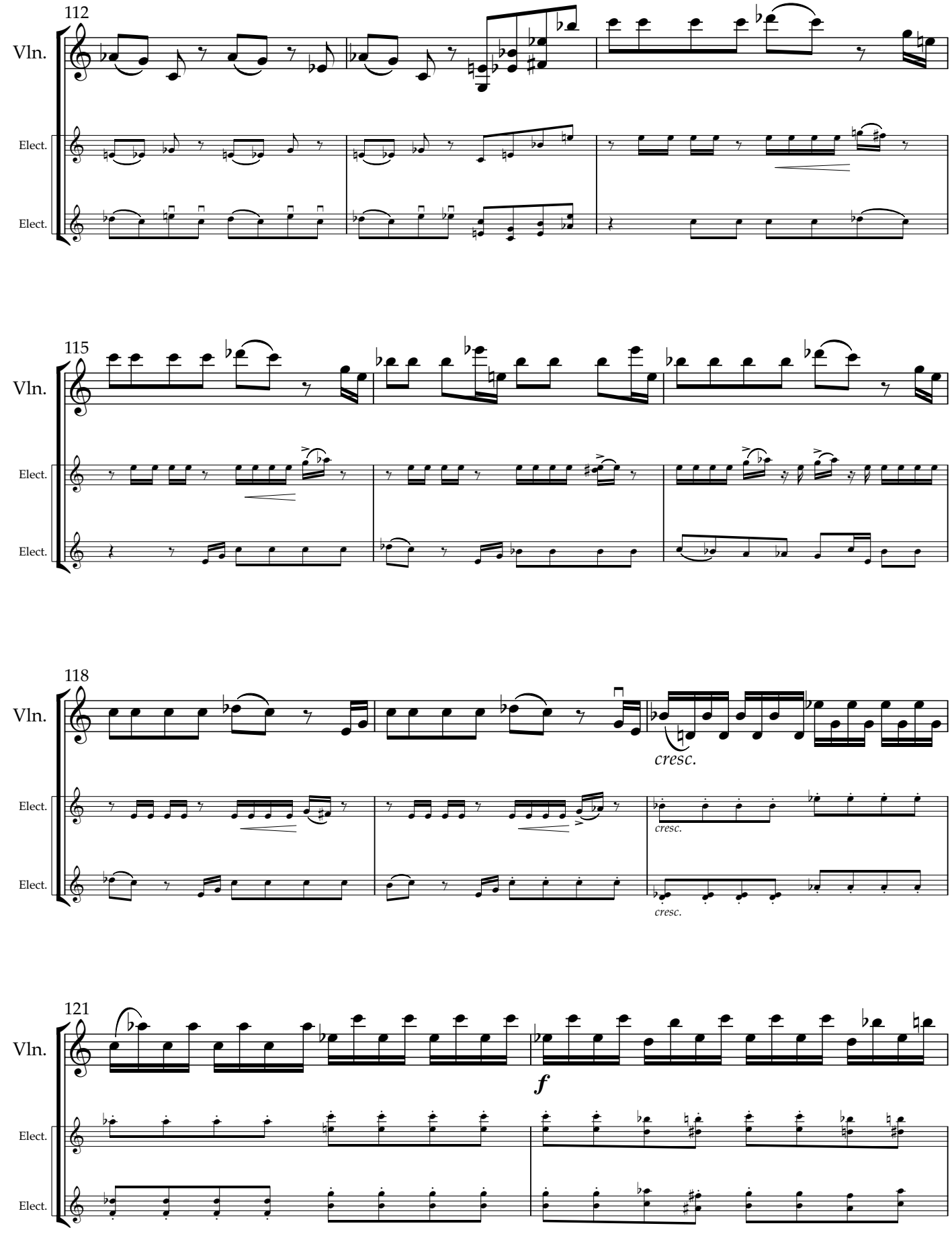

37
arco
pizz.
arco
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
p
41
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
fp
p
44
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
47
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
mf
p
pp
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.

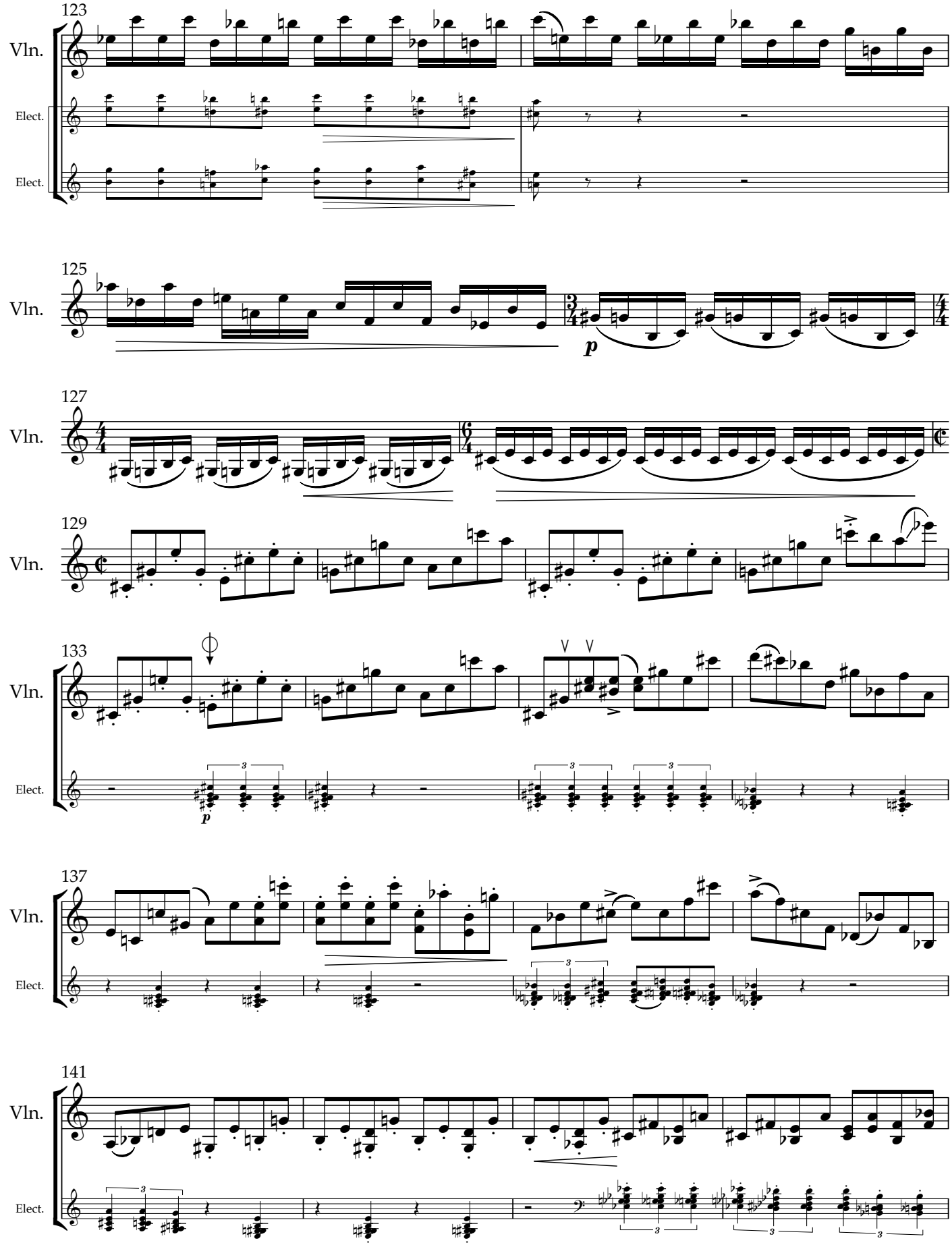

51
arco
Vln.
f
53
Vln.
55
Vln.
p
58
Vln.
p
arco
Elect.
p
arco
Elect.
p
60
Vln.
3
Elect.
Elect.
3
63
Vln.
3
Elect.
Elect.
3
3
66
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.

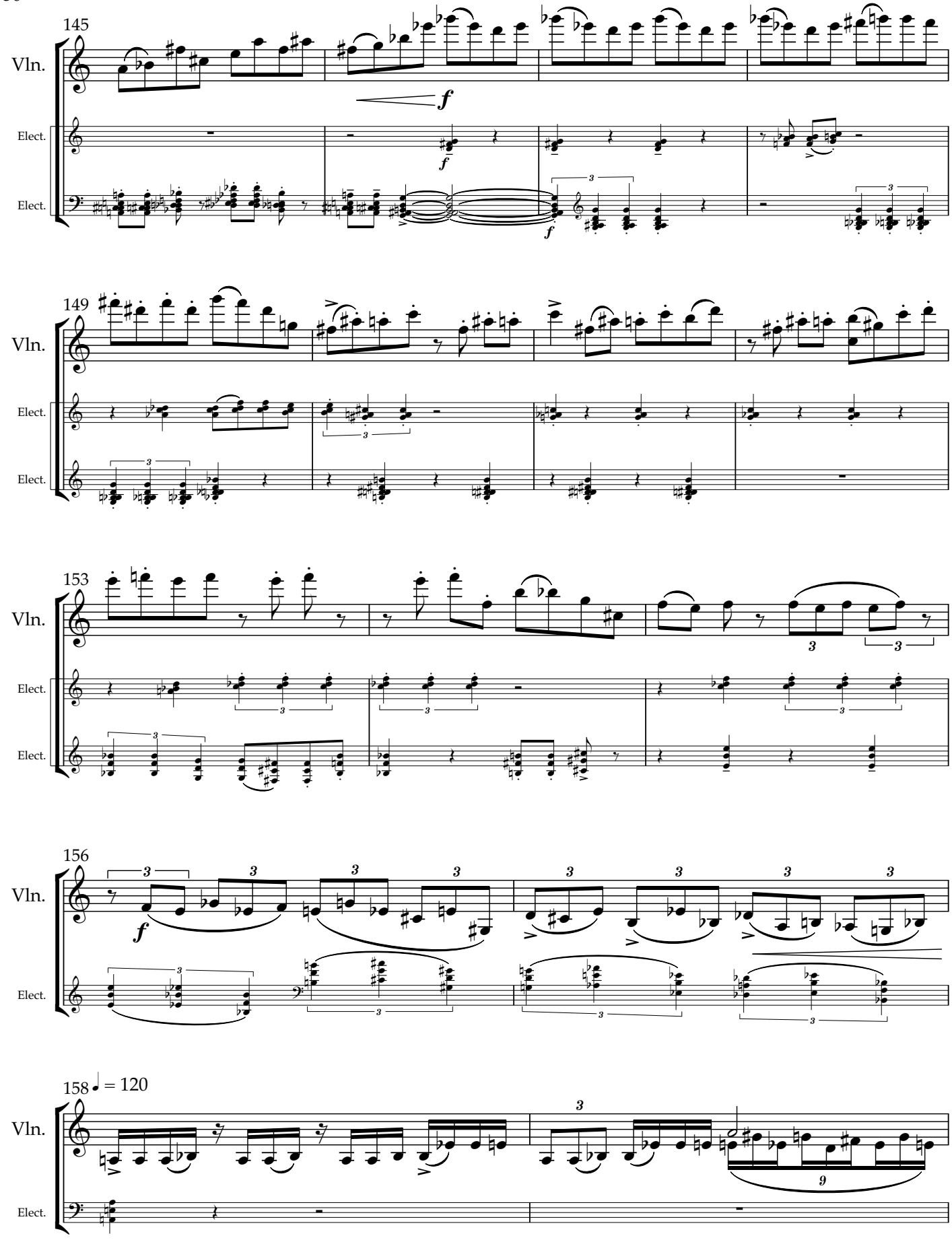

69
Vln.
71
Vln.
72
Vln.
74
Vln.
76
♩=120
pizz.
3 strings
arco
Vln.
mf
Elect.
Elect.
78
pizz.
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
80
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.

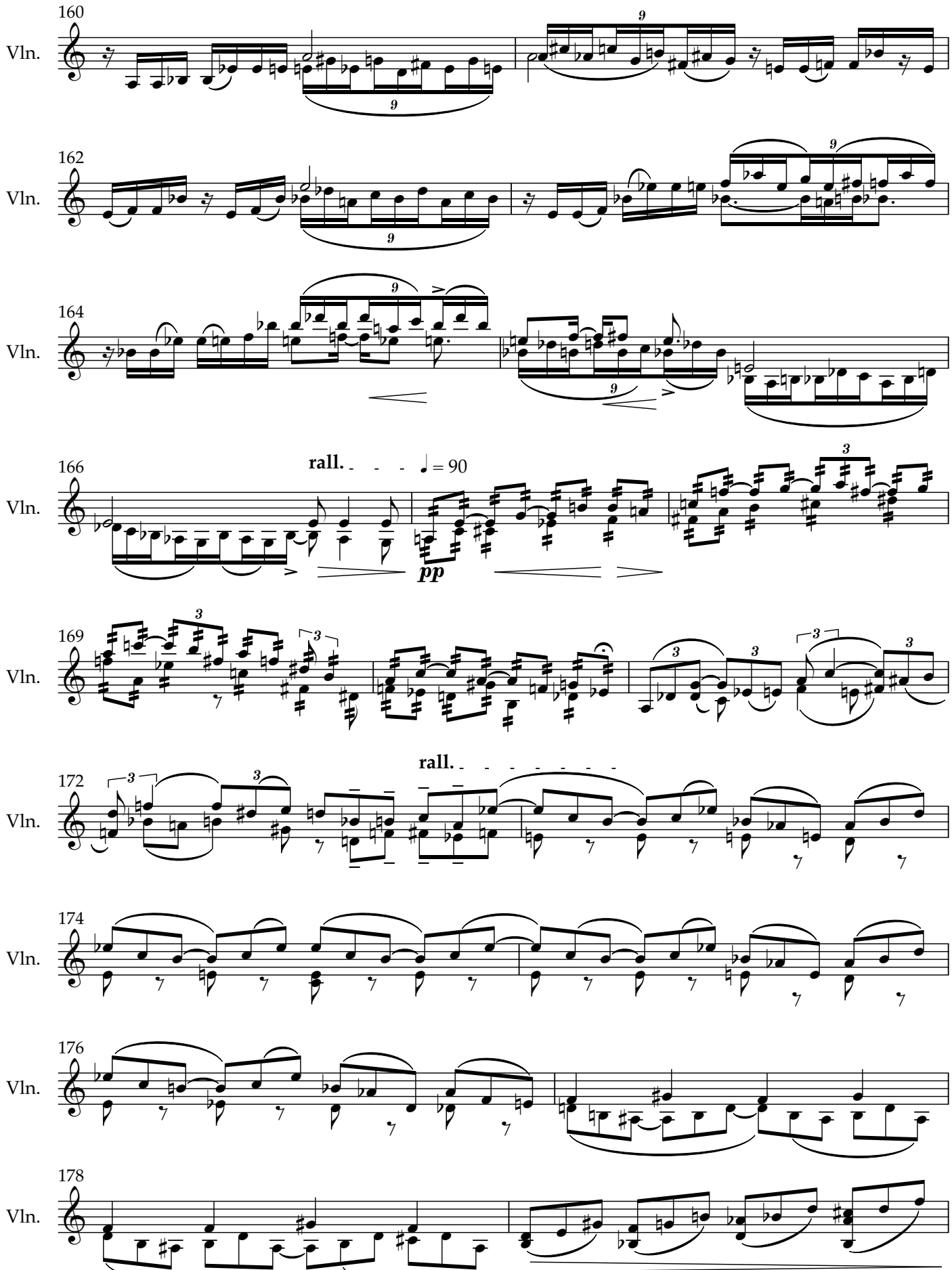

82
arco
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
84
pizz.
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
86
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
88
arco
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.

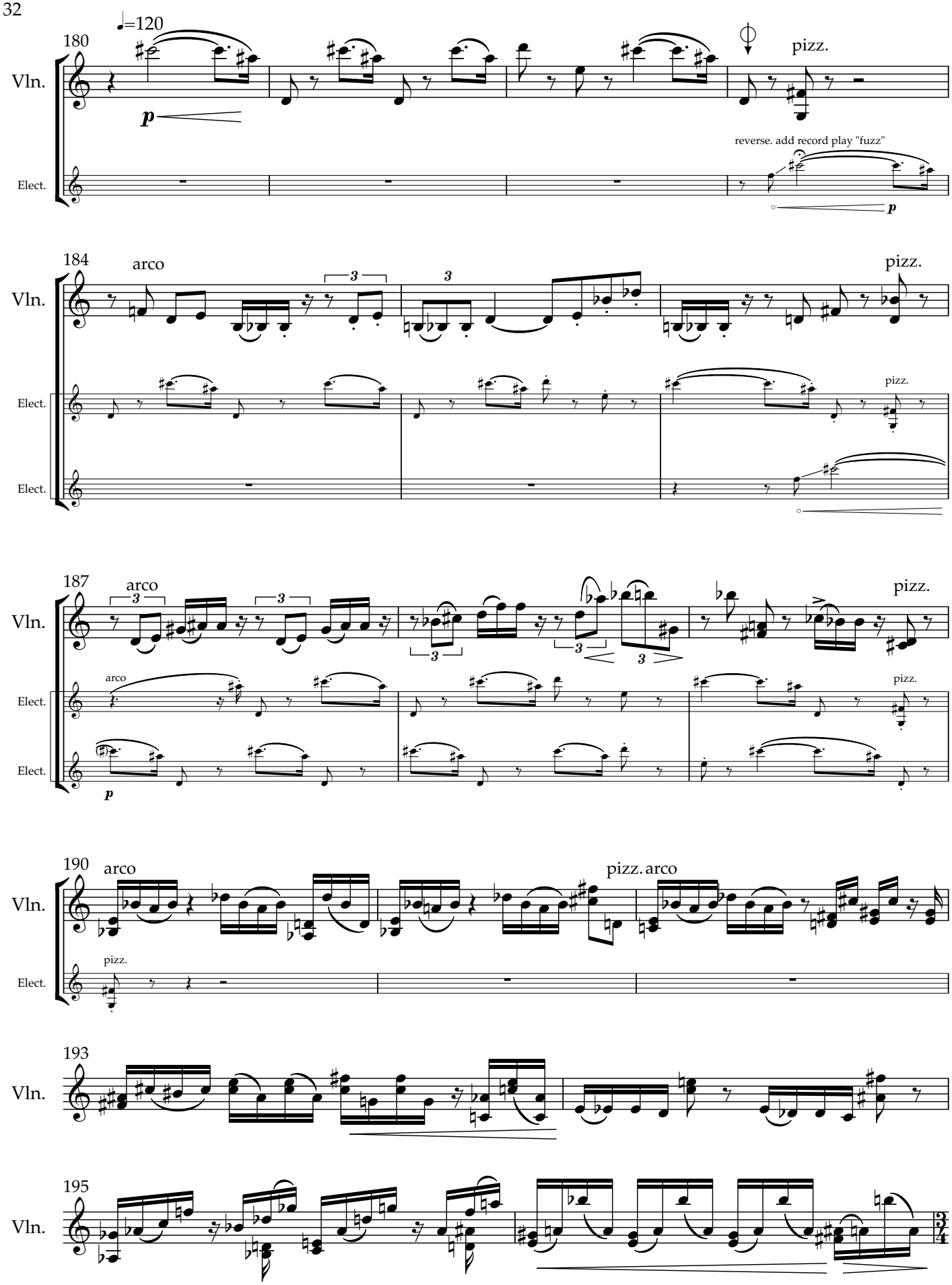

rit.
Meno mosso
90
Vln.
p
92
Vln.
94
Vln.
poco rall.
light
96
Vln.
98
Vln.
♩=80
f
101
Vln.
sim.
Elect.
mf
105
Vln.
Elect.
108
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
mf

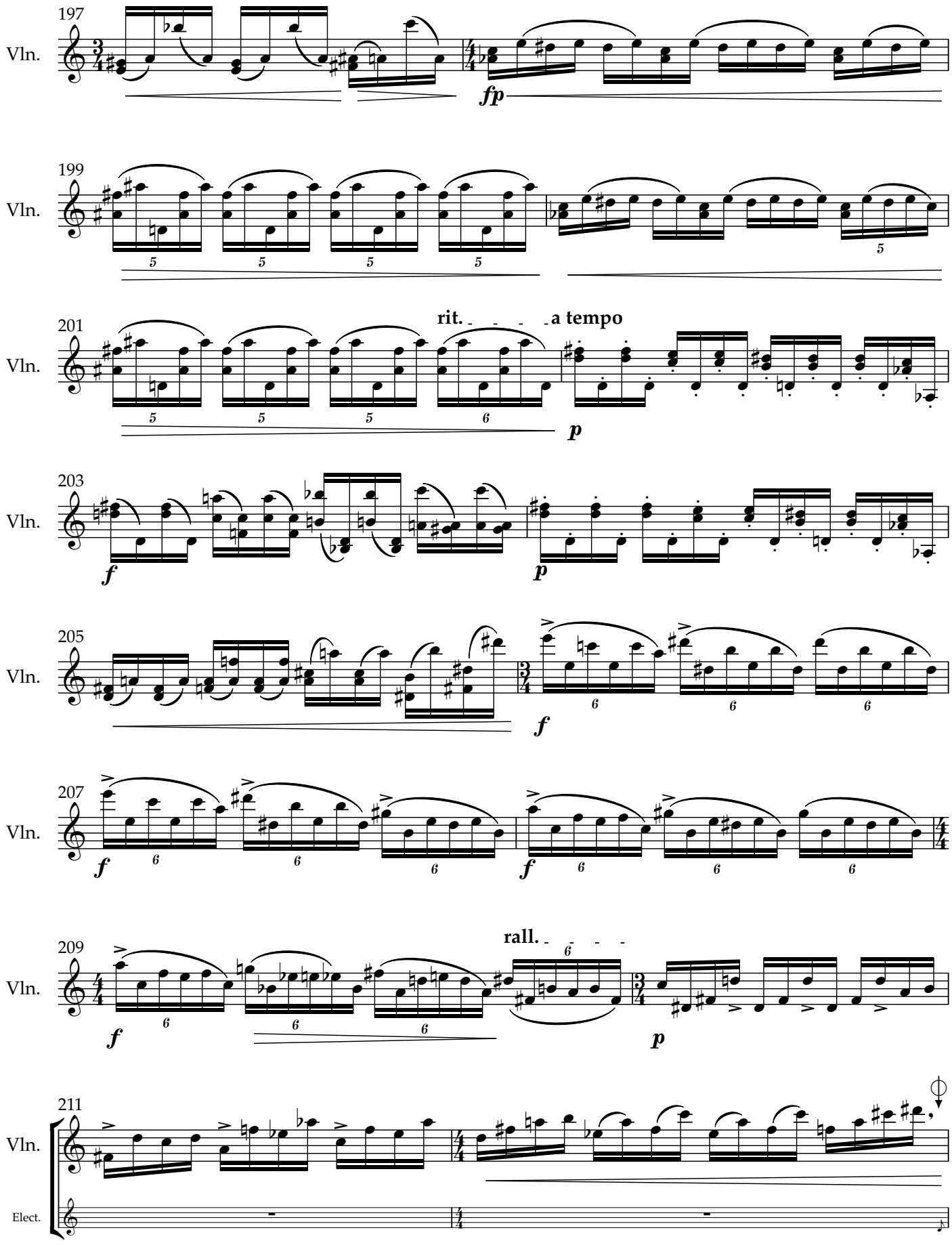

112
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
115
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
118
Vln.
cresc.
Elect.
cresc.
Elect.
cresc.
121
Vln.
f
Elect.
Elect.

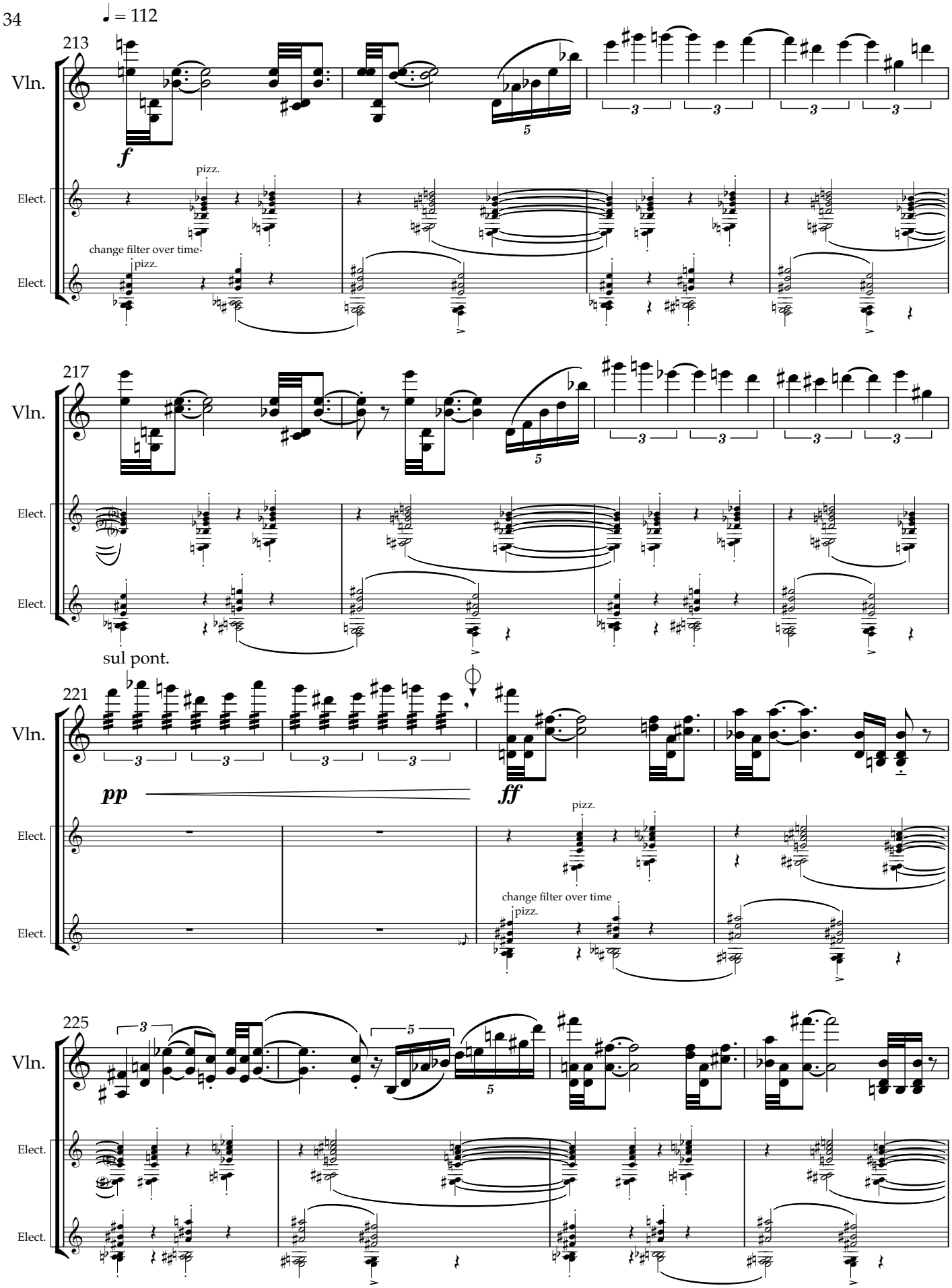

123
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
125
Vln.
p
127
Vln.
129
Vln.
133
Vln.
Elect.
p
137
Vln.
Elect.
141
Vln.
Elect.

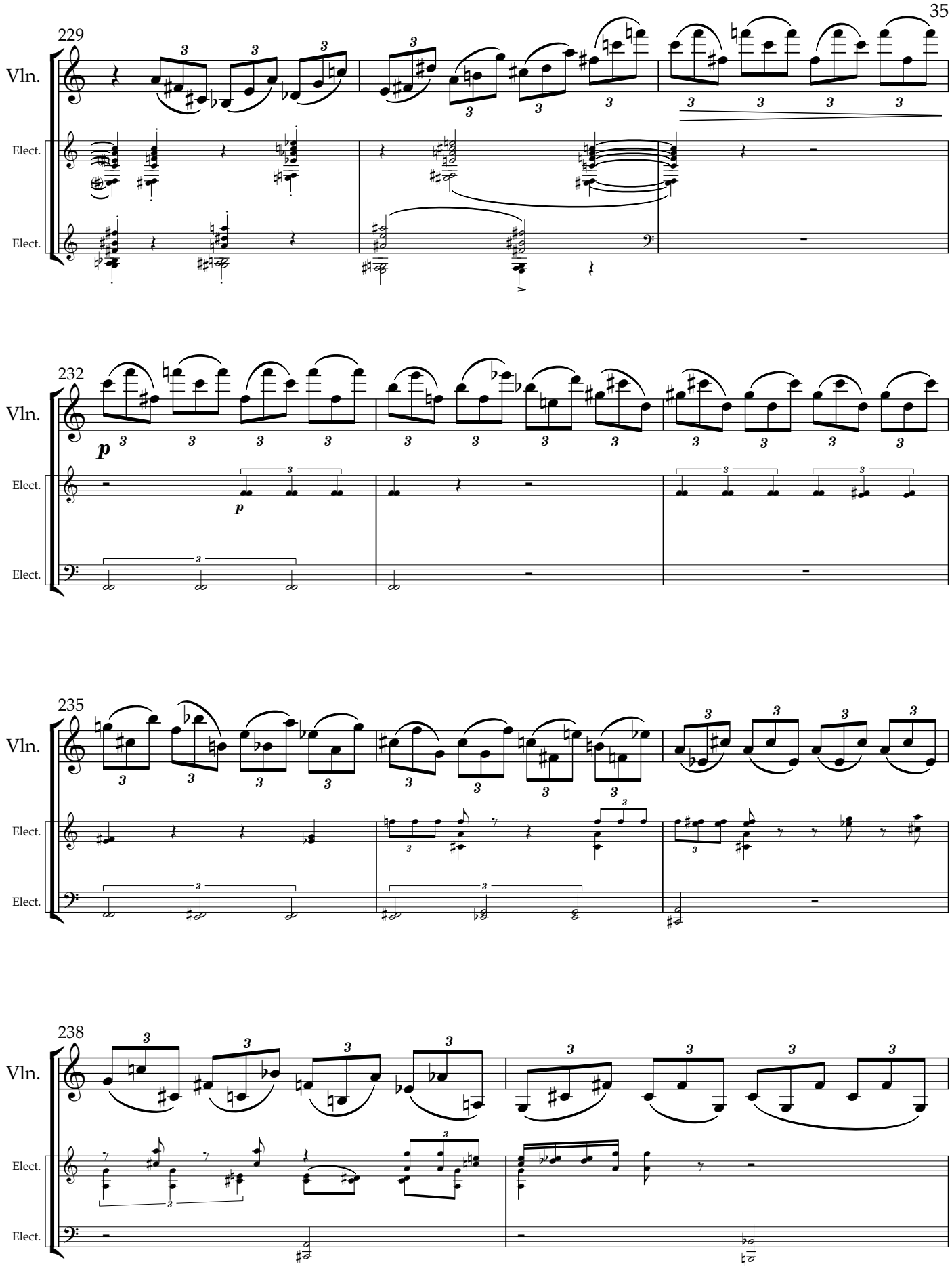

145
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
f
149
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
153
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
156
Vln.
Elect.
f
158
♩ = 120
Vln.
Elect.

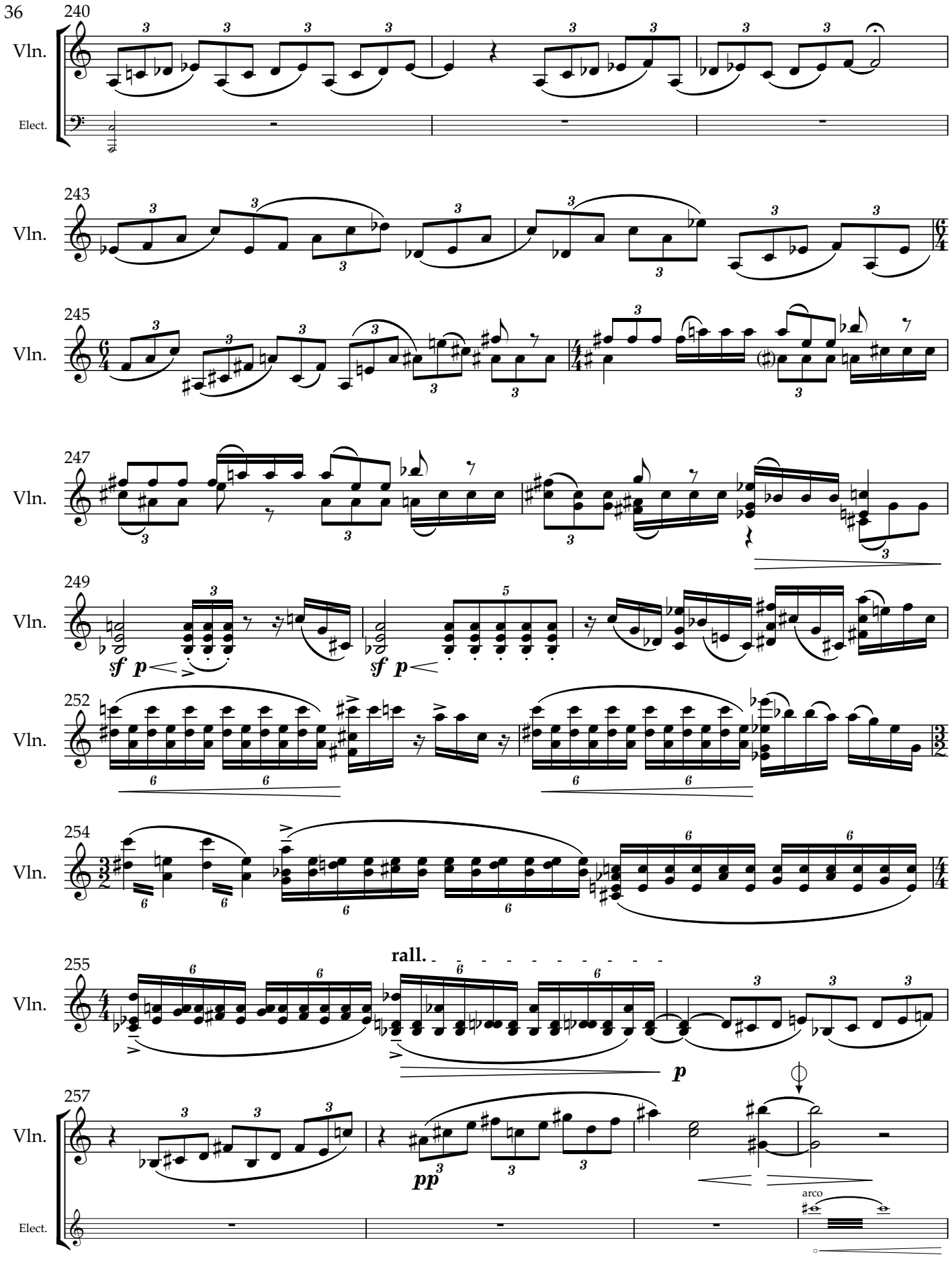

160
Vln.
162
Vln.
164
Vln.
166
rall.
♩ = 90
pp
Vln.
169
Vln.
rall.
172
Vln.
174
Vln.
176
Vln.
178
Vln.

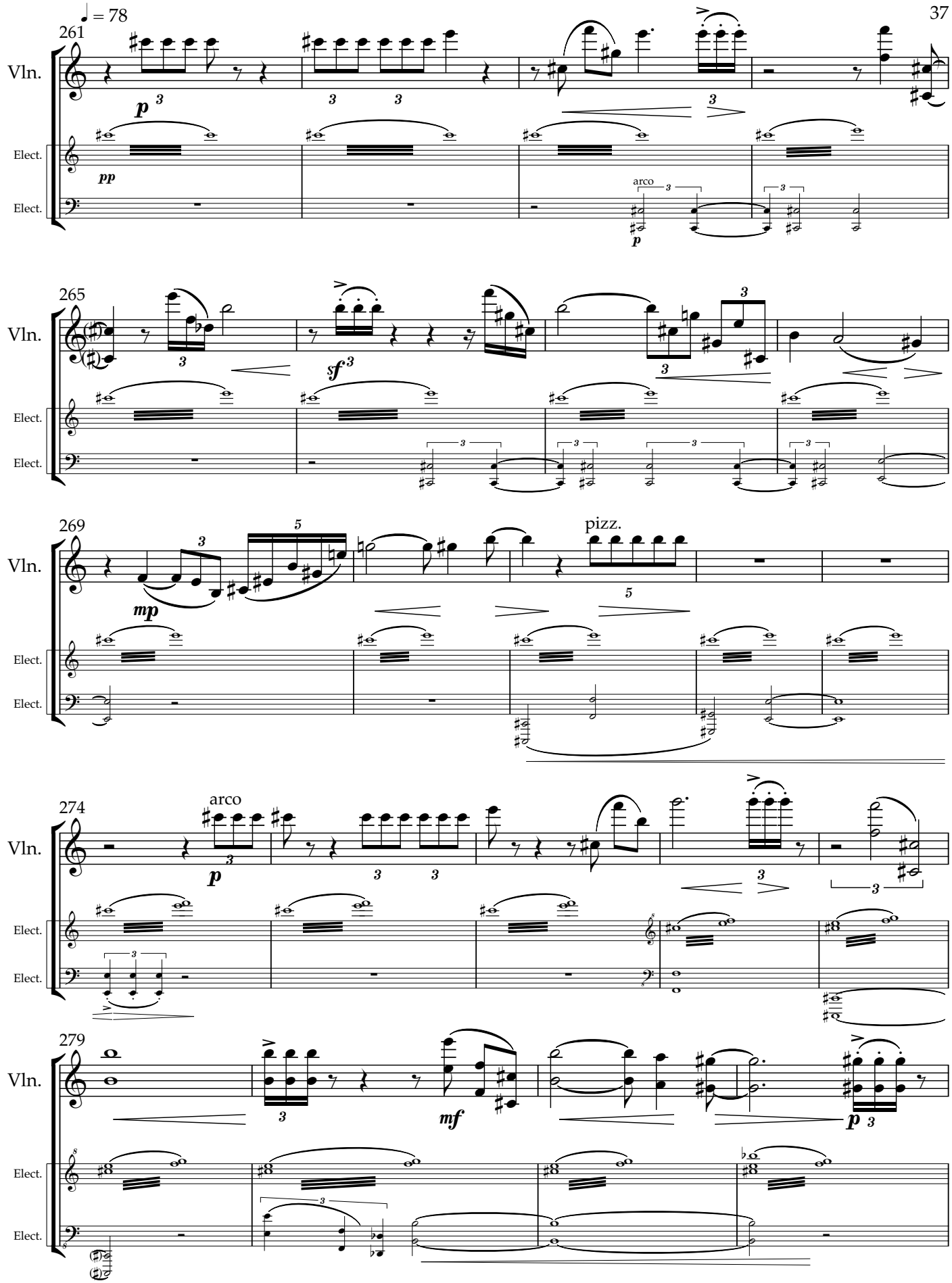

♩=120
180
Vln.
Elect.
p
pizz.
reverse. add record play "fuzz"
p
184
arco
pizz.
187
arco
pizz.
p
190
arco
pizz. arco
pizz.
193
195

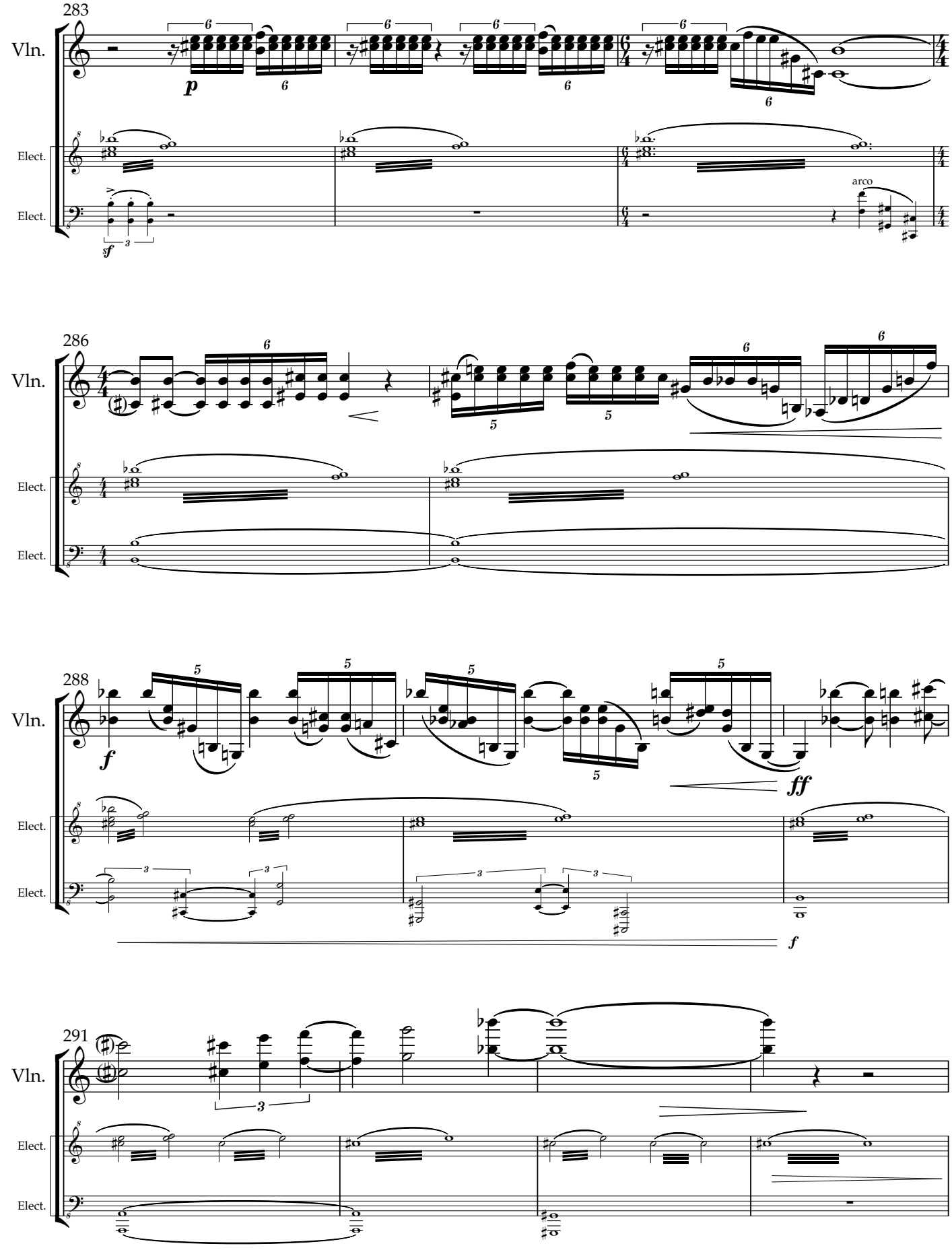

197
Vln.
fp
199
Vln.
201
Vln.
rit.
a tempo
p
203
Vln.
f
p
205
Vln.
f
207
Vln.
f
f
209
Vln.
rall.
f
p
211
Vln.
Elect.

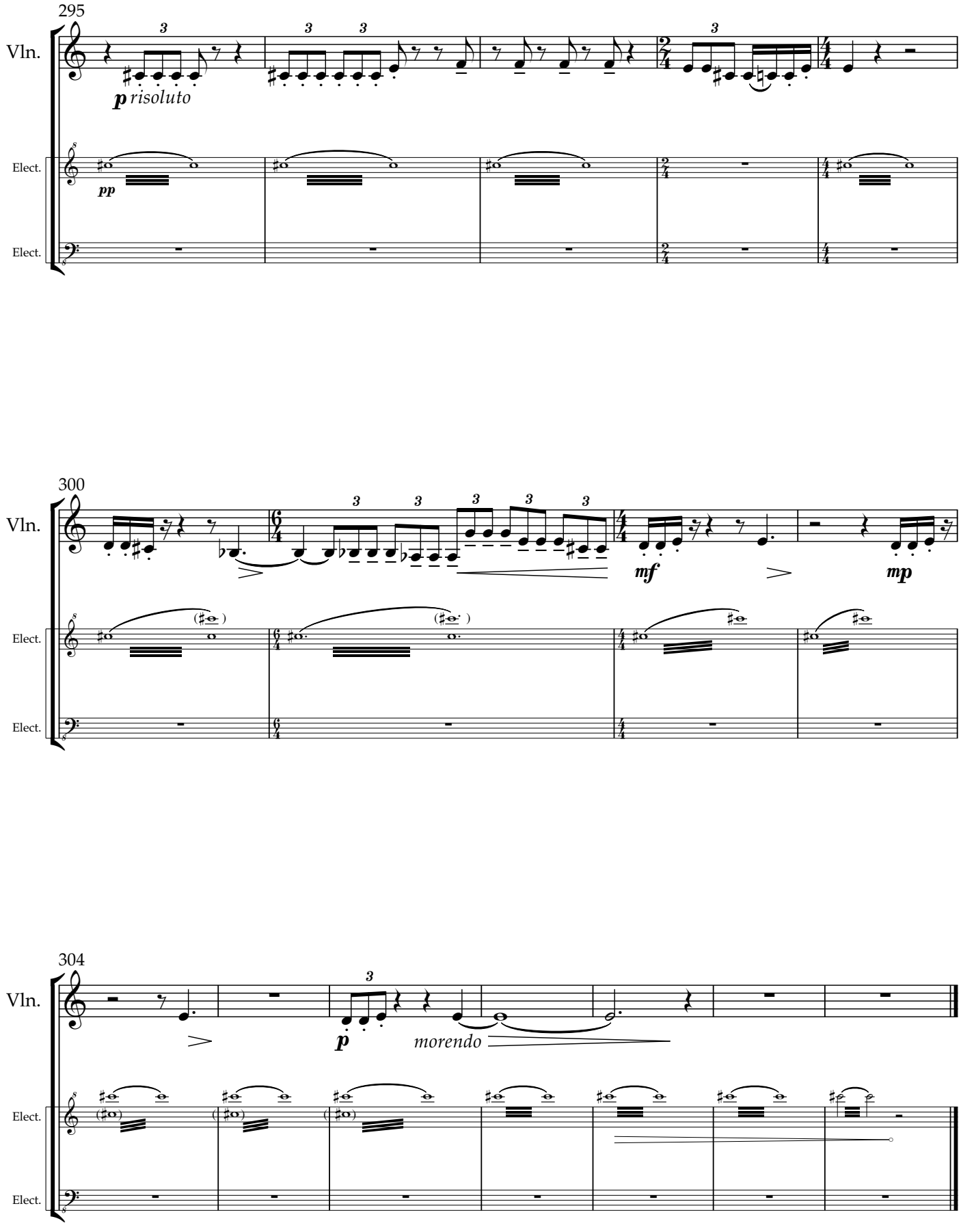

♩ = 112
213
Vln.
f
pizz.
Elect.
change filter over time.
pizz.
Elect.
217
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
sul pont.
221
Vln.
pp
ff
pizz.
Elect.
change filter over time
pizz.
Elect.
225
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.


229
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
232
Vln.
p
p
Elect.
Elect.
235
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
238
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.


240
Vln.
Elect.
243
Vln.
245
Vln.
247
Vln.
249
Vln.
sf p
sf p
252
Vln.
254
Vln.
255
Vln.
rall.
p
257
Vln.
pp
Elect.
arco


♩ = 78
261
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
p
pp
arco
p
265
sf
269
mp
pizz.
274
arco
p
279
mf
p


283
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
p
f
arco
286
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
288
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.
f
ff
f
291
Vln.
Elect.
Elect.


295
Vln.
p risoluto
Elect.
pp
Elect.
300
Vln.
mf
mp
Elect.
Elect.
304
Vln.
p
morendo
Elect.
Elect.