# W. Jay Sydeman

## For Erhu and Violin

for Erhu and Violin
(or for Two Violins)
(c. 2009)

Arts Aeturnum Productions

*Duo for erhu and violin, written for an erhuist who was visiting a violinist in Enschede, Holland - so if nothing else, this has an international flavor. It also can be played as a violin duo.*

*It is somewhat virtuosic, around some lyrical ideas. The erhu is played somewhat like a cello and has an immense virtuosity. I will keep a close watch on Chinese YouTube (is there a Chinese YouTube?) to see if it turns up.*

– W. Jay Sydeman, June 2011

**W. Jay Sydeman**'s life mirrors the breadth and variety of his music. Born in New York in 1928 and educated at Manhattan's Mannes School of Music, he quickly became one of the most sought-after and honored composers of his generation, receiving commissions from such prestigious groups as the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Tanglewood Music Center, and the Boston Symphony, which premiered his orchestral work in memory of John F. Kennedy in 1966. "Sydeman uses a whole battery of far out techniques," wrote the New York Times, "but he has an uncanny ability to throw in the whole avant-garde machinery as if it were the simplest, most normal way of making music in the world ... More than many of his colleagues, he seems to know what will sound well, and he works for some remarkably attractive, pure textures. His sounds seem to grow from a physical sense of exactly what material is right."

In 1970, after a heady period that included awards from the National institute of Arts and Letters, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Library of Congress, Sydeman left New York – and composition – to begin a journey of personal and artistic exploration.

"Around 1980," he has written, "I returned to composition – at first a large number of choral works which reconnected me to the source of all music – the human voice. Out of this new lyric impulse have evolved all of my works since that time – more romantic, more accessible. I create music for the musician."

– Howard Hersh,
Artistic Director of "Music Now"

Sydeman is part of a composers' group in Nevada City annually producing the "Wet Ink Festival of New Music." He now lives in Mendocino and hosts a bi-weekly program on KZYX, "The Mind of a Composer", 10 am to noon on Mondays, introducing and commenting on contemporary music.

**Duration**: circa 3:30

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*Edited and engraved by Rick Shinozaki (Albany, CA) in consultation & collaboration with the composer.*

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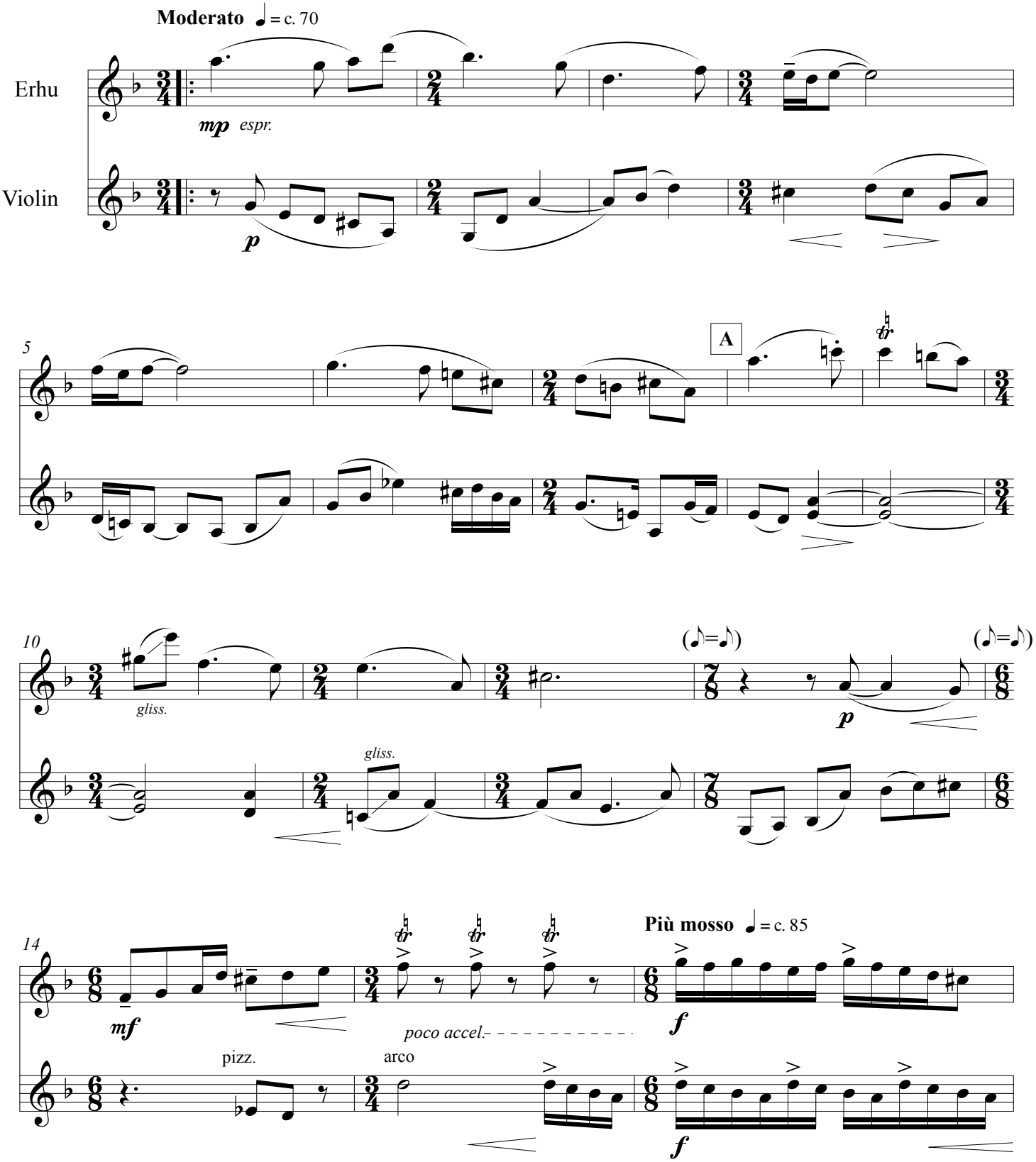


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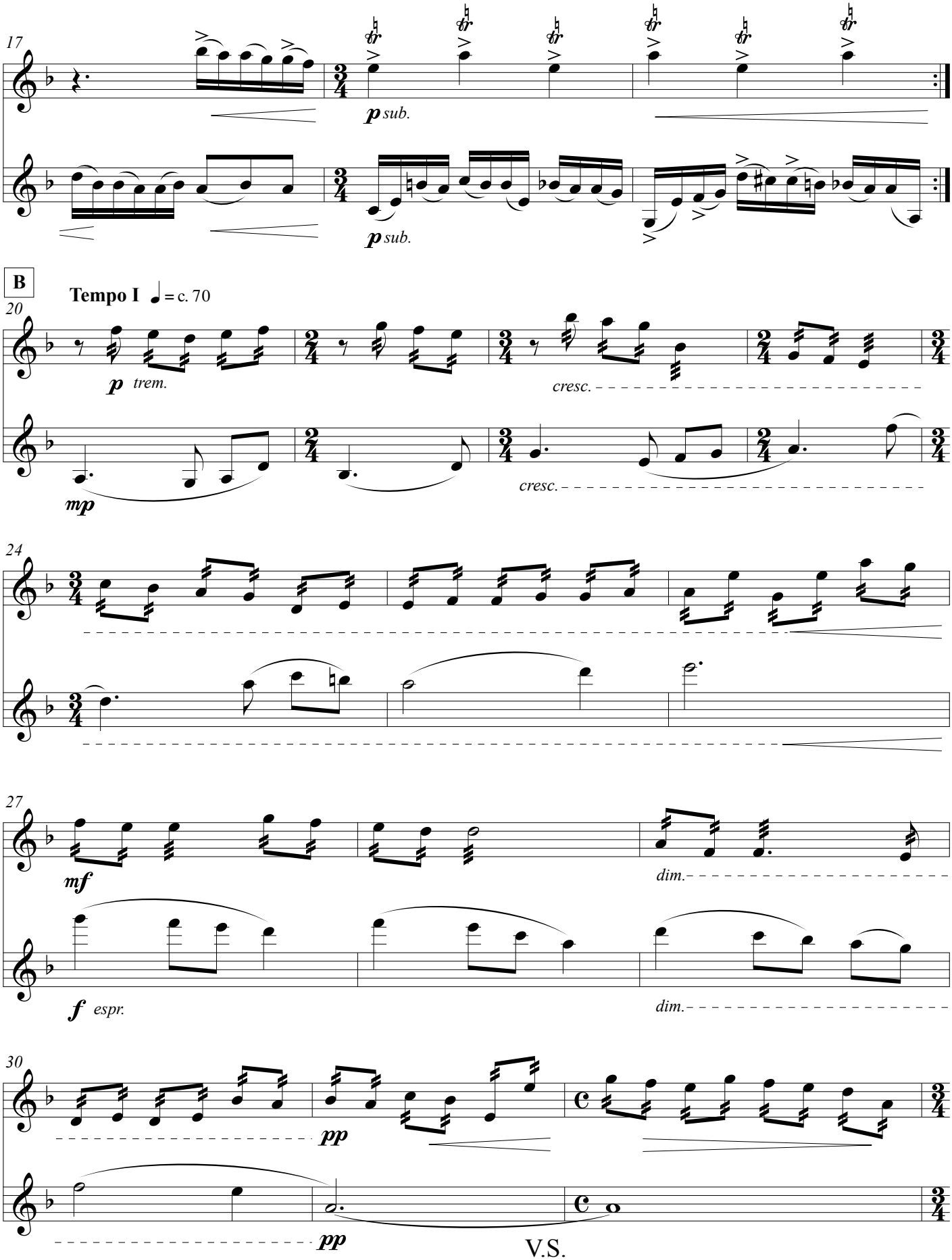
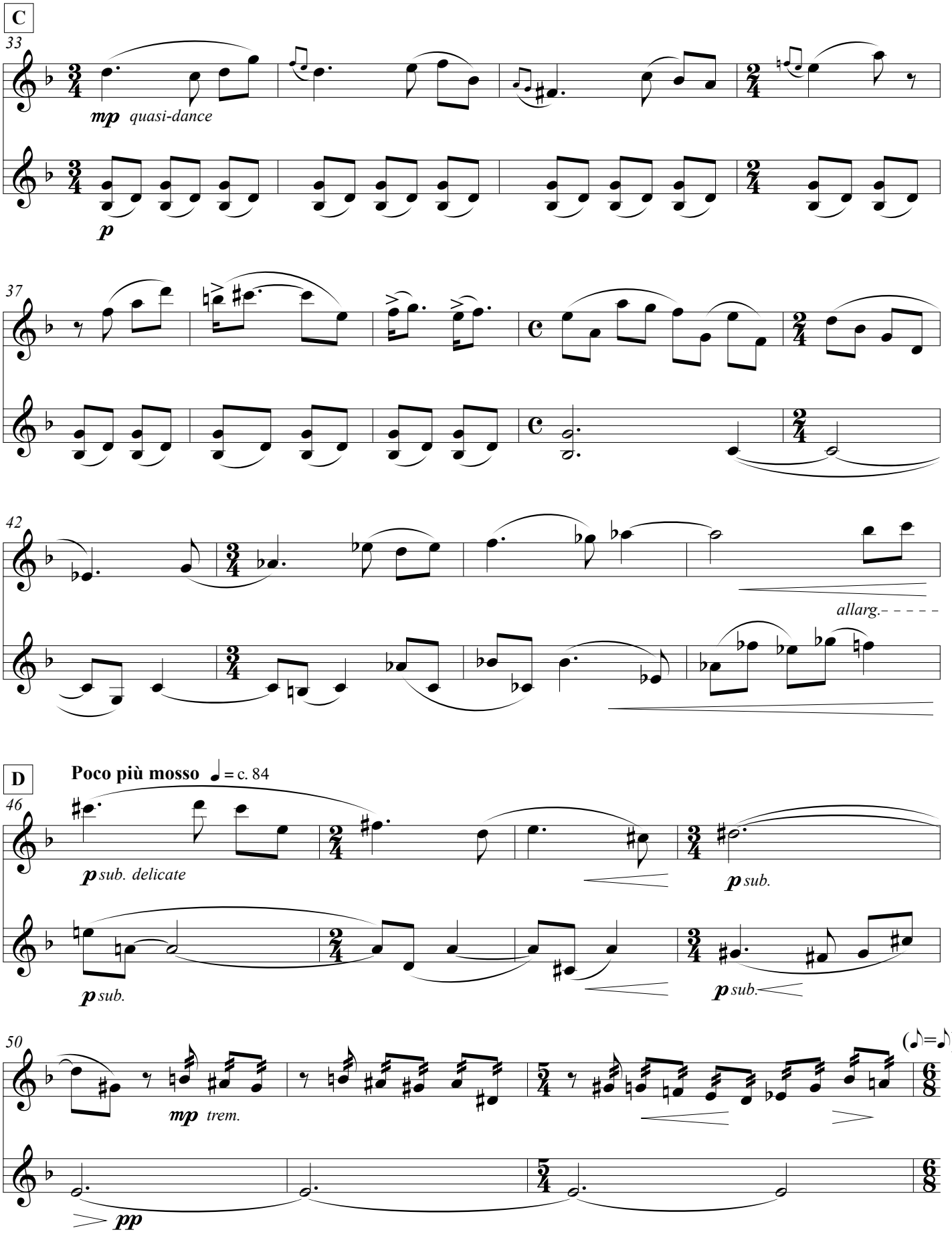
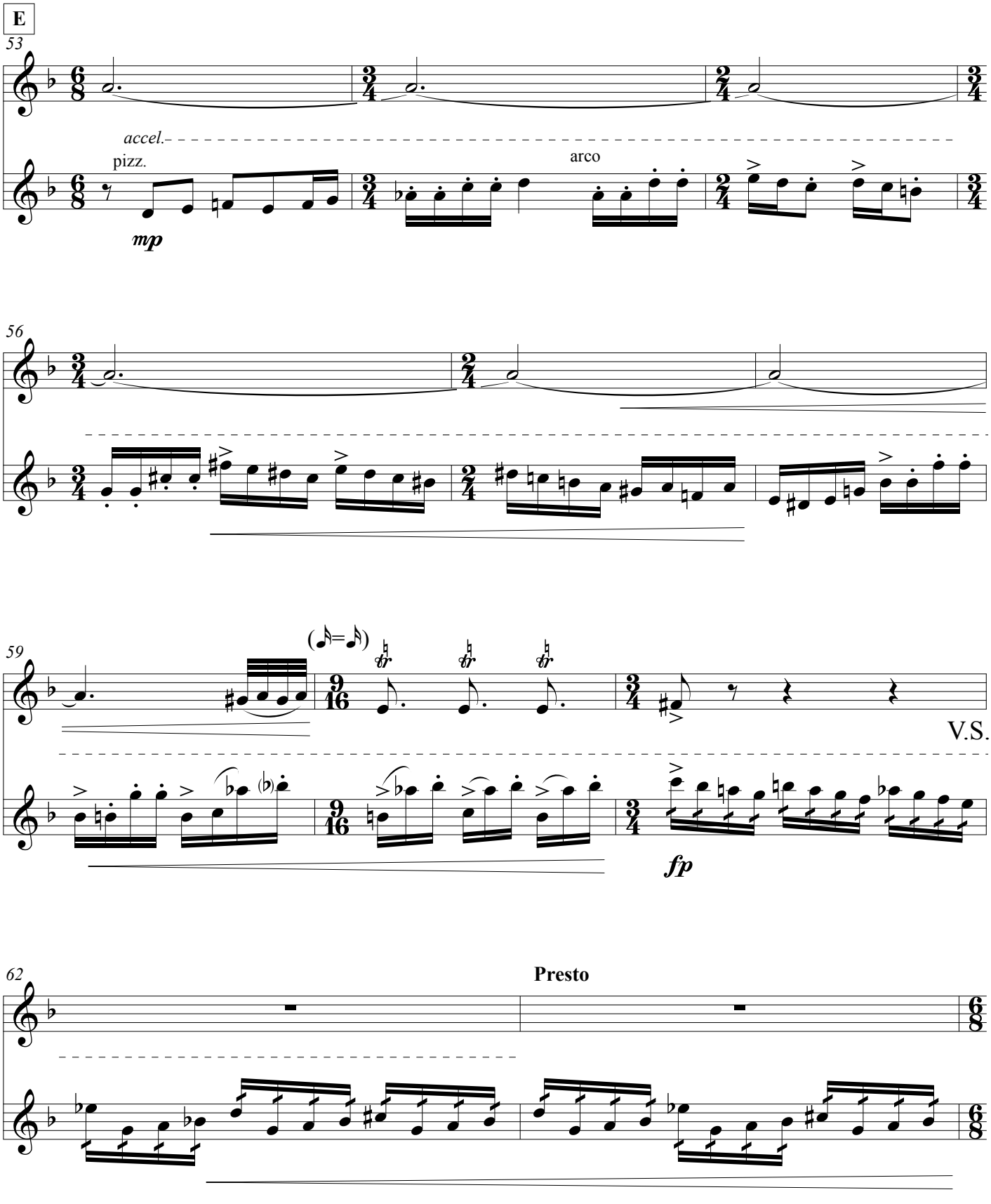
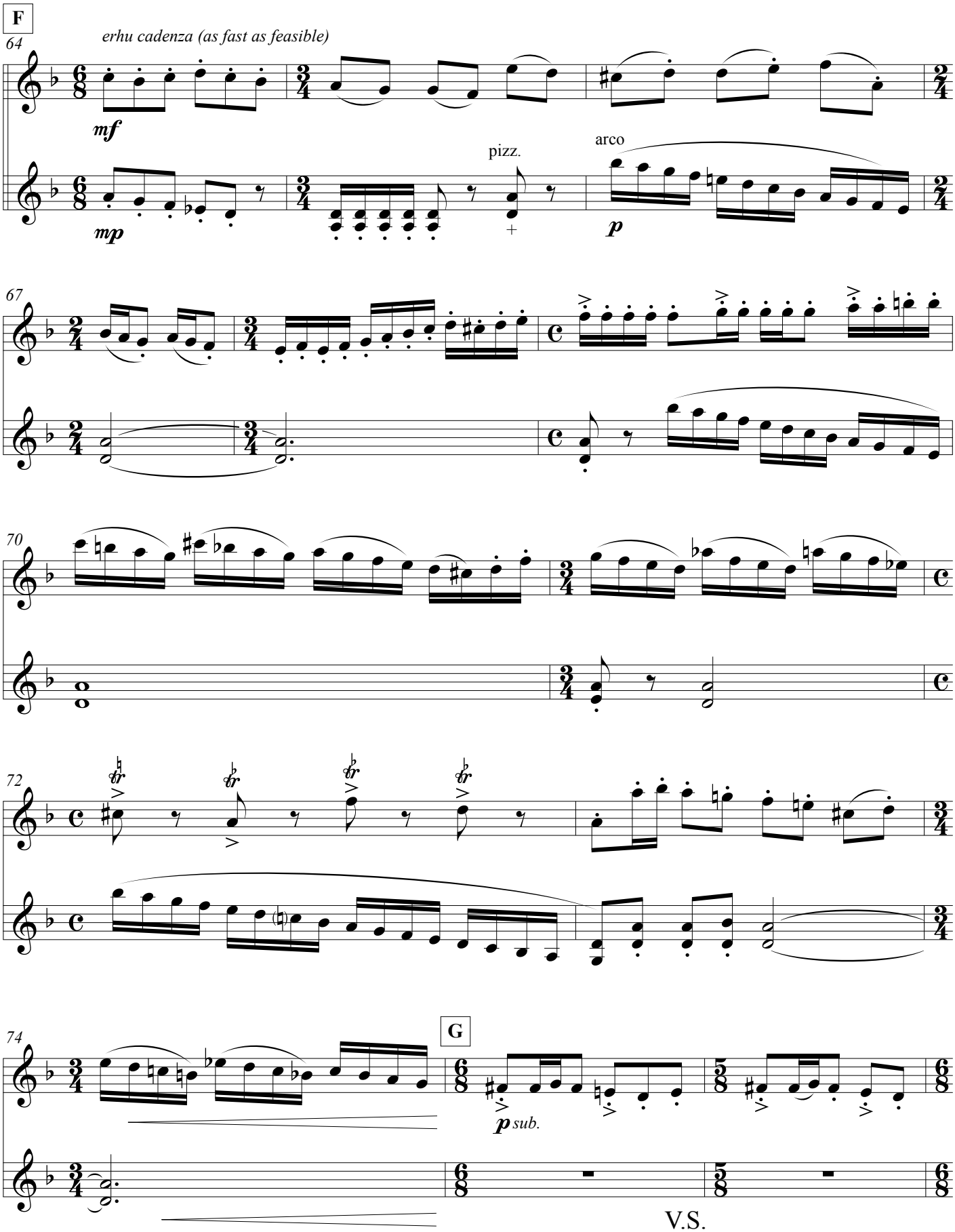

17
p sub.
p sub.
B
Tempo I ♩= c. 70
20
p trem.
cresc.
mp
cresc.
24
27
mf
dim.
f espr.
dim.
30
pp
pp
V.S.


C
33
mp quasi-dance
p
37
allarg.
42
D
Poco più mosso ♩= c. 84
46
p sub. delicate
p sub.
p sub.
p sub.
50
mp trem.
(♪=♪)
pp


E
53
accel.
pizz.
arco
mp
56
59
(𝅗𝅥=𝅘𝅥𝅯)
V.S.
fp
62
Presto


F
64
erhu cadenza (as fast as feasible)
mf
mp
pizz.
arco
p
67
70
72
74
G
p sub.
V.S.

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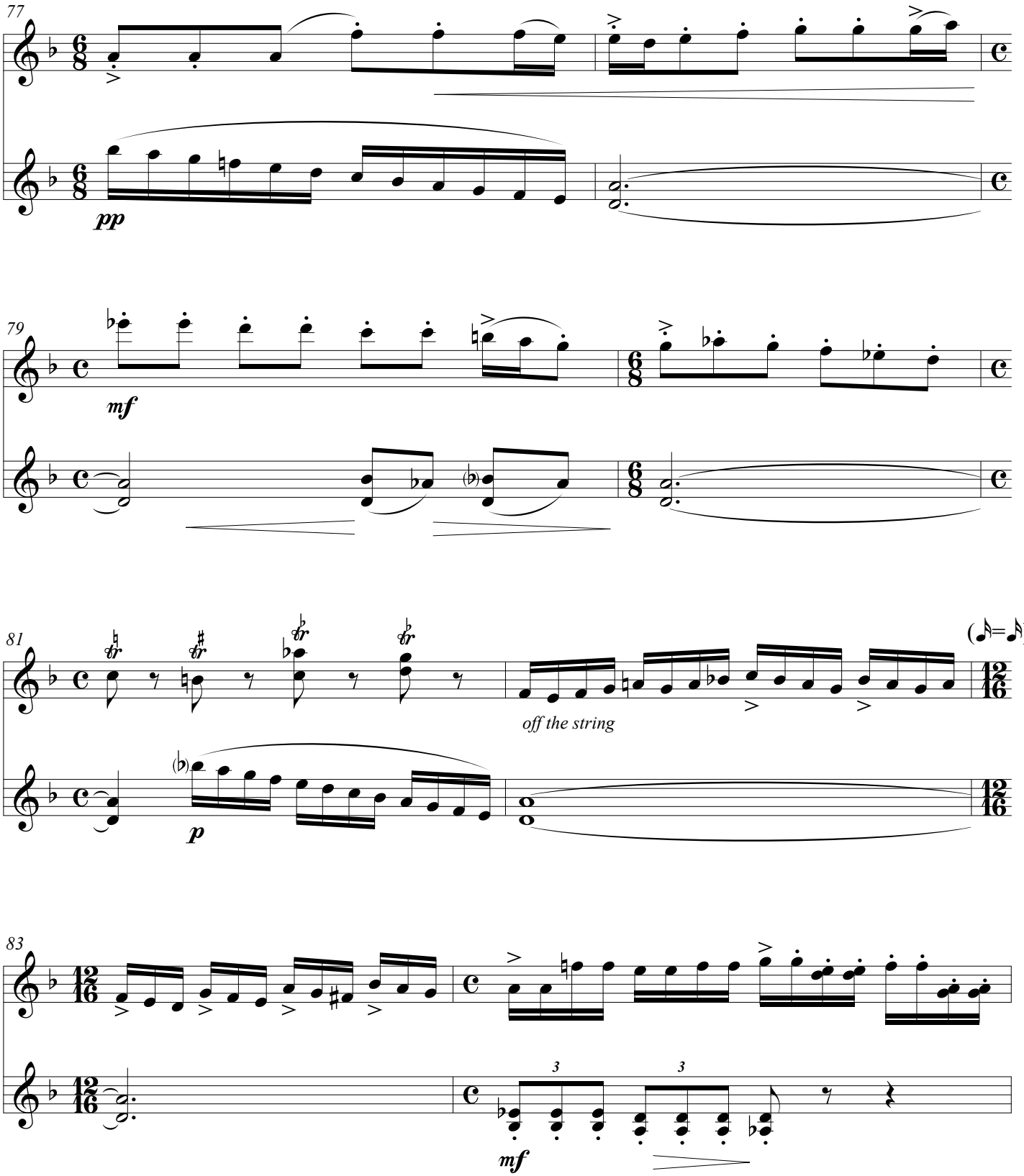
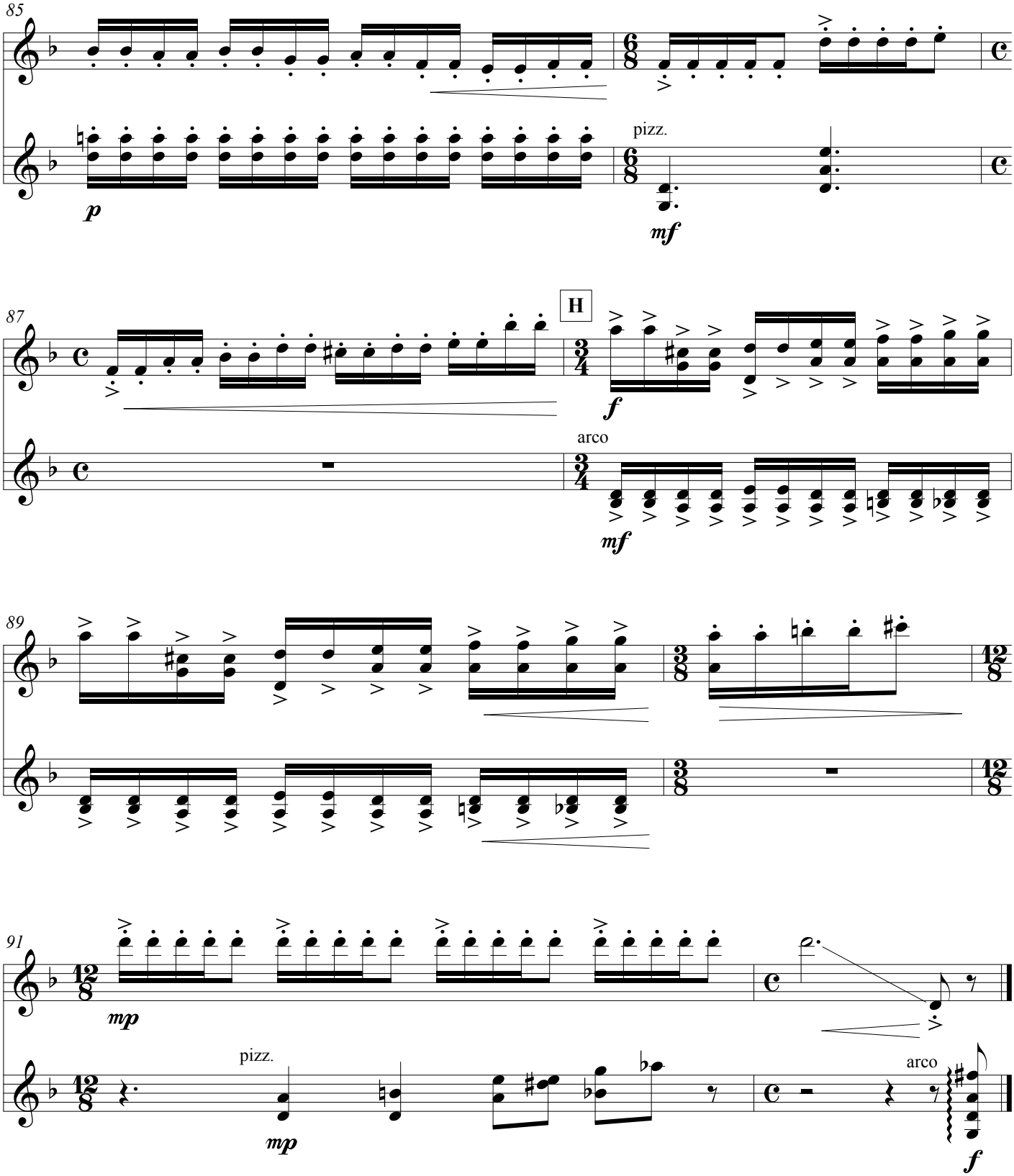

77
pp
79
mf
81
p
off the string
(𝅘𝅥𝅯=𝅘𝅥𝅯)
83
mf


85
p
pizz.
mf
87
H
f
arco
mf
89
91
mp
pizz.
mp
arco
f