*VCL*

*Gwyneth Walker*

# *North Country Concerto*

## *for Cello and Orchestra*

## *Program Notes*

*"Early in the Morning – at the Break of Day" refers to the energy one often has during the first part of the day. The opening rhythm of repeated 8th-notes in the accompaniment speaks the words of the title. The harmonies are open and sparse, perhaps with a morning freshness. The cello is spirited, with glissandi and rapid bowings of repeated notes.*

*"A Stillness" focuses on short patterns, which vary slightly and grow in intensity. The music unfolds slowly. Perhaps one might feel that one is in the forest, with the stillness of trees balanced against gentle calls of birds. The cello might be heard as the subjective voice responding to the sounds of the forest.*

*The third movement is influenced by rough-hewn folk music. The patterns of bowing across the strings suggest a crossing, or 'arcing' motion rising at the end into an image of "An Arc in the Sky."*

*The fourth movement is based on the familiar "Riddle Song" ["I gave my love a cherry that had no stone..I gave my love a baby with no cryin'."] The opening cello solo serves as a bridge between movements III and IV. Then, after an introduction in the accompaniment, the cello enters with the song-theme. The original melody is never fully presented. Rather, the image of "cryin'" engenders the rest of the movement. One might hear sighing motives throughout. Blues harmonies (a mixture of major and minor sonorities) and non-tonal excursions surround the simple tune.*

## *Notes About the Composer*

*Dr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947) is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. She holds B.A., M.M. and D.M.A. Degrees in Music Composition. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, she resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. She now lives on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont.*

*Walker's catalog includes over 130 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E.C. Schirmer of Boston (choral/vocal music) and MMB Music of St. Louis (orchestral/instrumental music).*

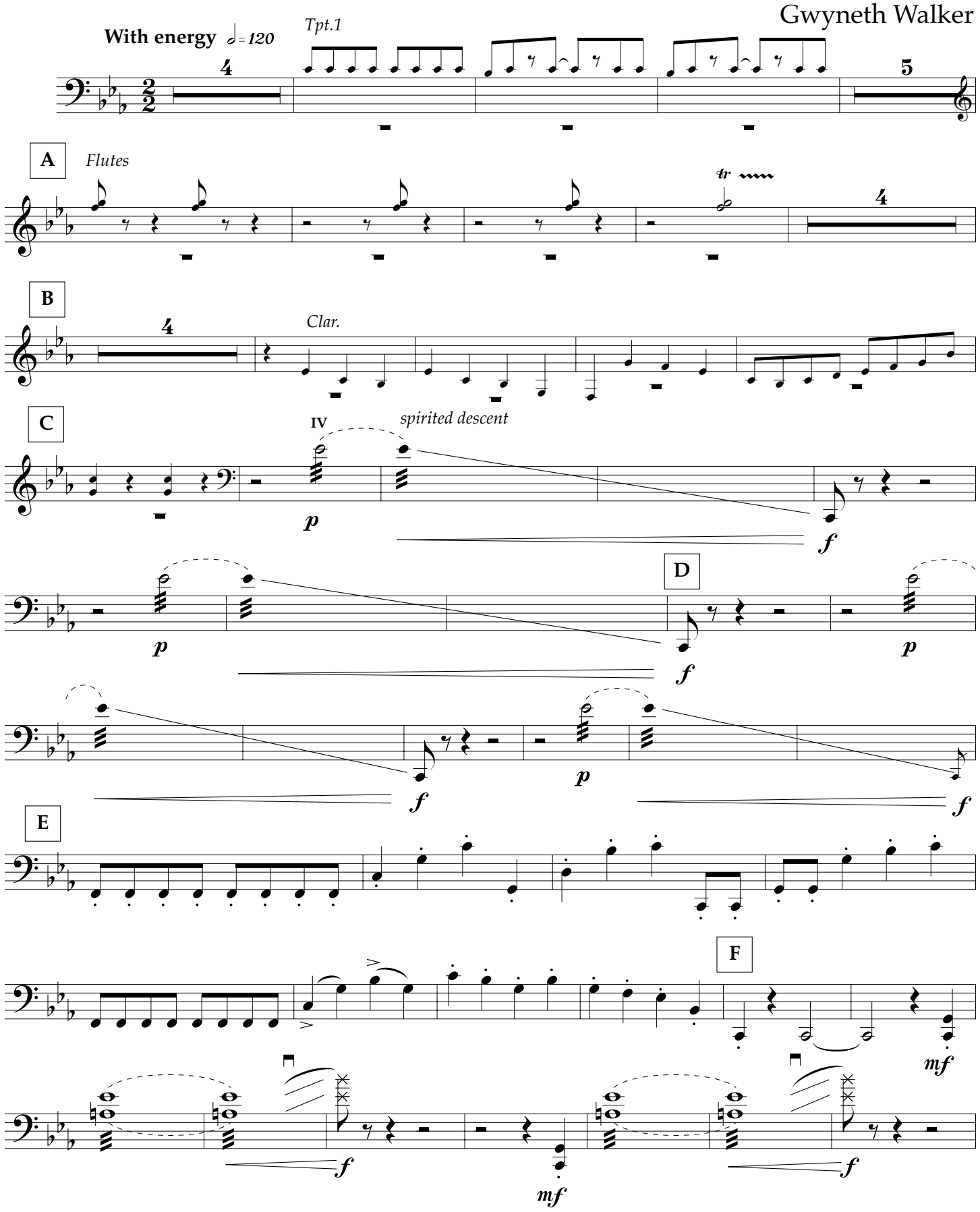
*Gwyneth Walker is a proud resident of Vermont. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Vermont Arts Council. In addition, she has been awarded the Orchestral Commission from the Vermont High School All-State Festival for a new work to celebrate the 25th season of the Festival – 2002.*

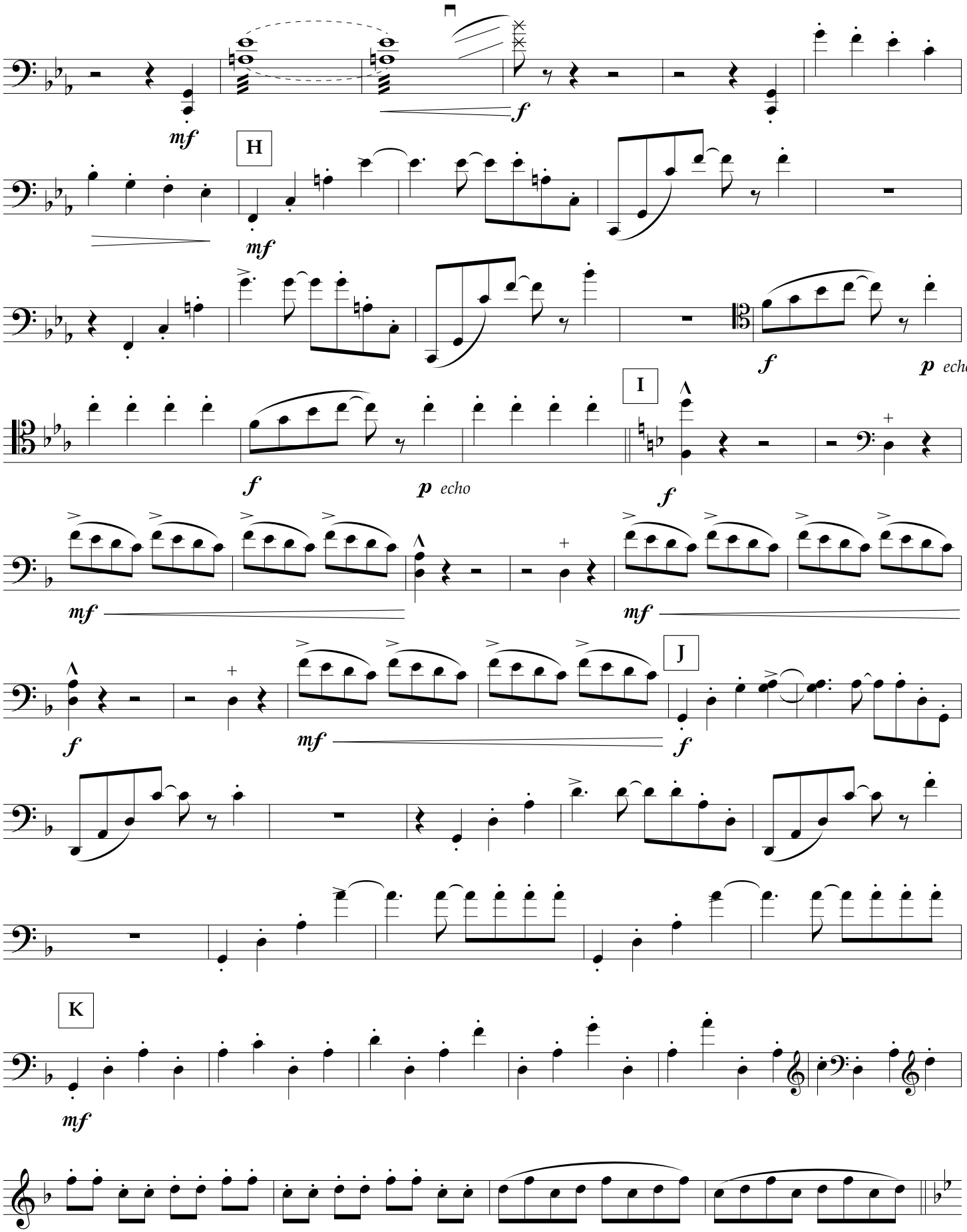
# North Country Concerto

Solo Violoncello

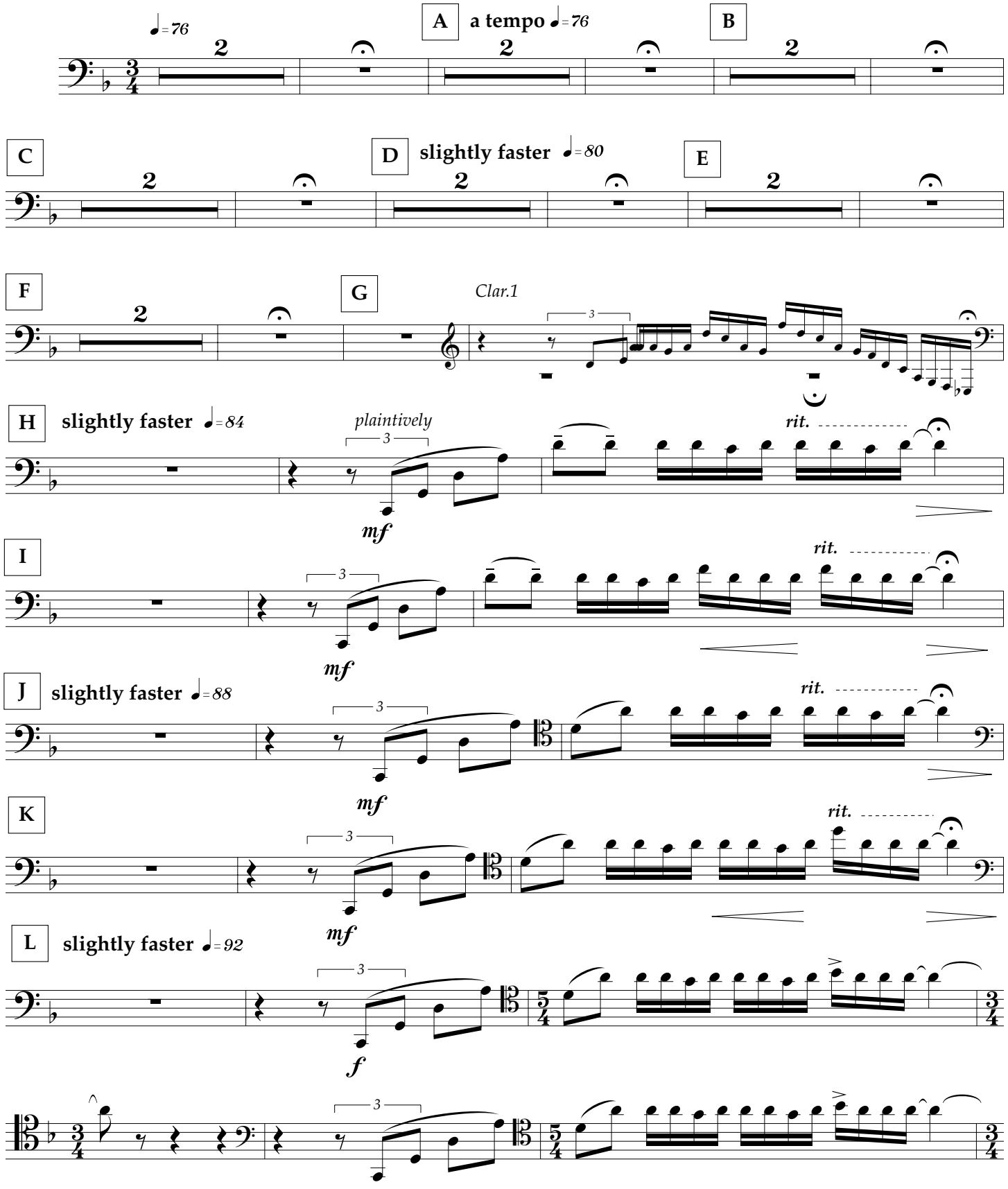
## *I. Early in the Morning — At the Break of Day*

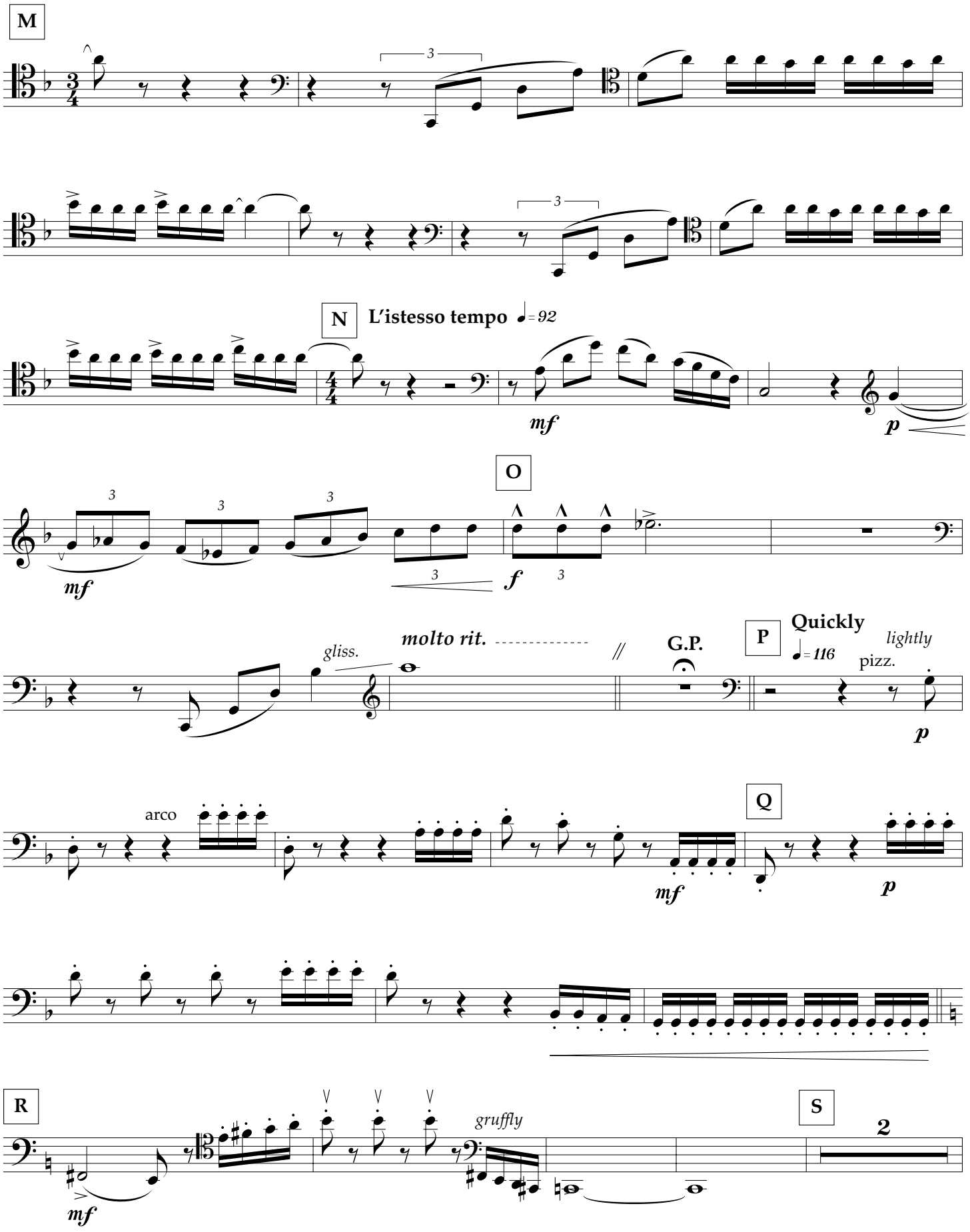
Gwyneth Walker




mf
f
H
mf
f
p echo
I
f
p echo
f
mf
mf
J
f
mf
f
K
mf

# *II. A Stillness*




M
N
L'istesso tempo
92
mf
p
O
mf
f
molto rit.
gliss.
G.P.
P
Quickly
116
lightly
pizz.
p
arco
Q
mf
p
R
mf
gruffly
S
2

# *III. Arc in the Sky*

**Jagged and interrupted** ♩= *120*

*Solo Violin*

*Violin 1 (Tutti)*

A

B

C

*Vln.1*

D

*mf*

E **with energy**

*mf*

pizz.

F

arco

(*mf*)

G

pizz.

arco

(*mf*)

H

(*mf*)

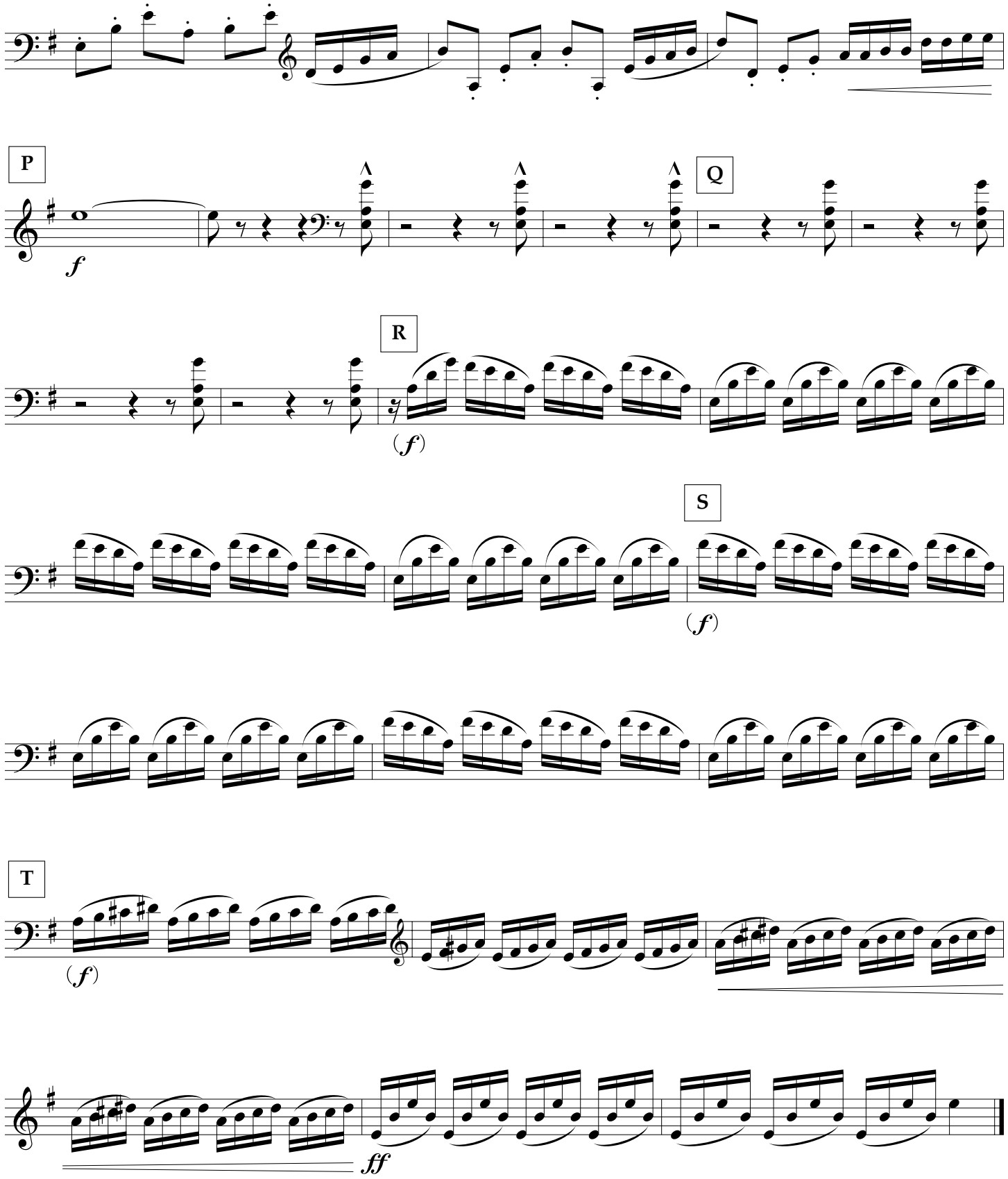
I

(*mf*)

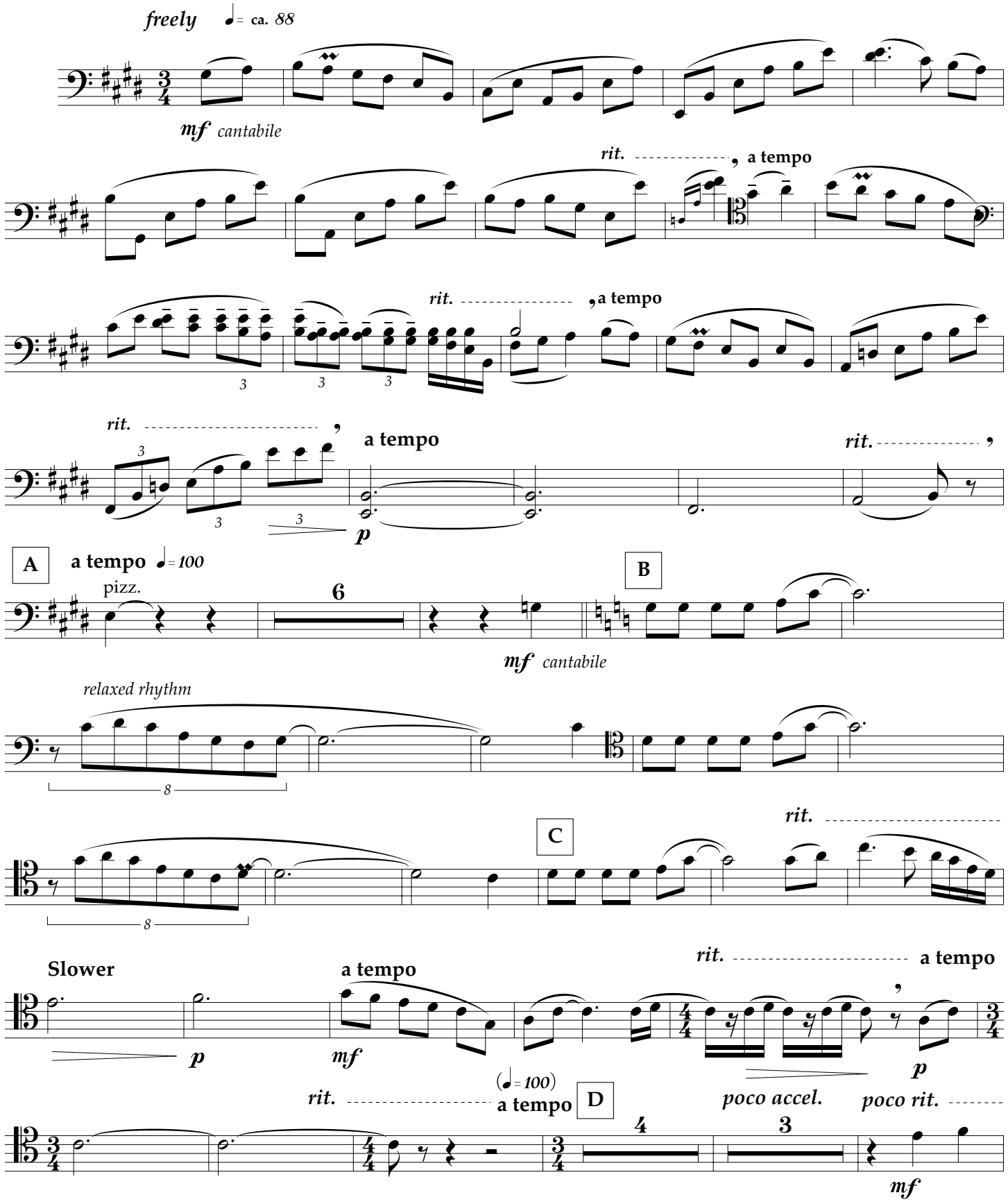
*f*

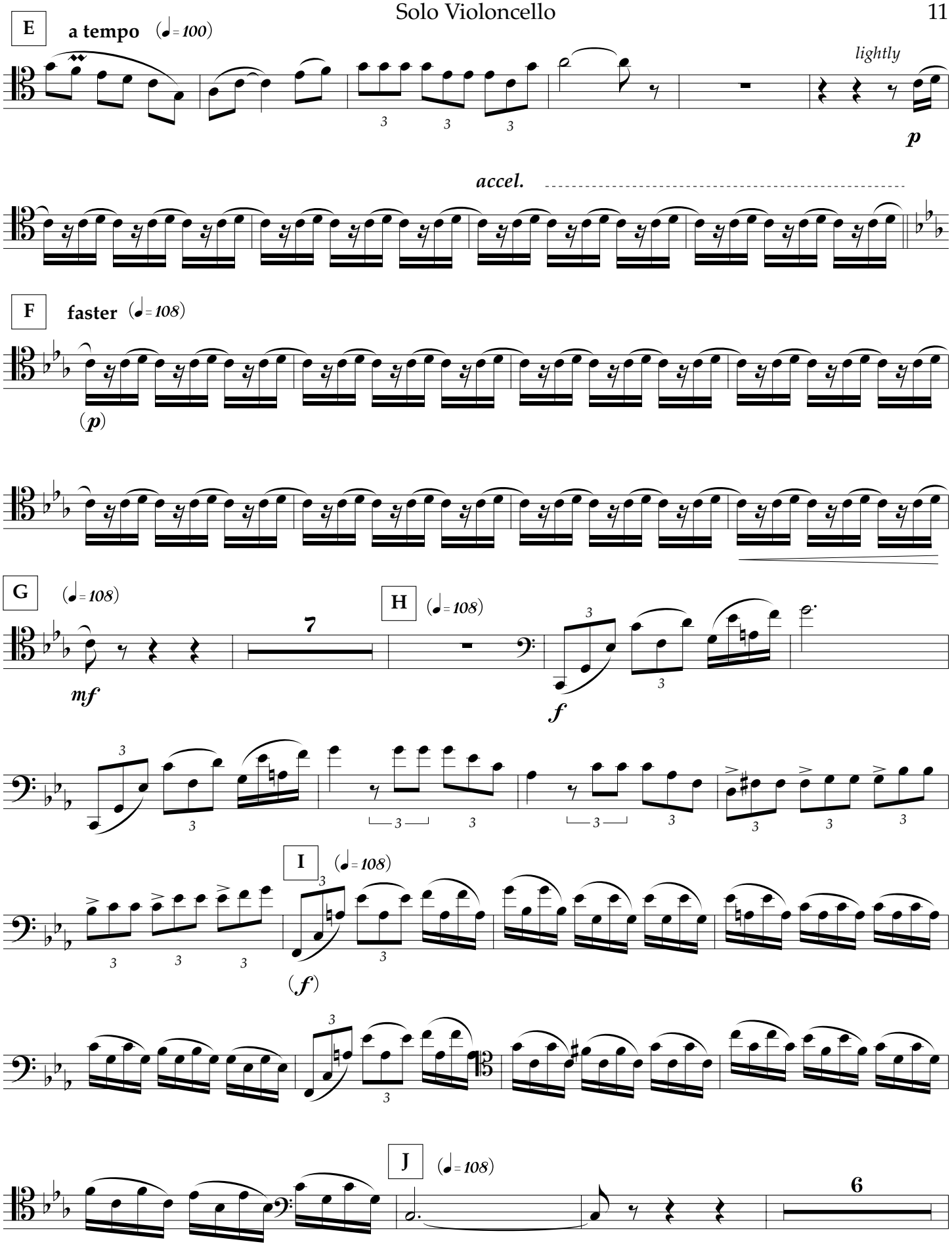
J

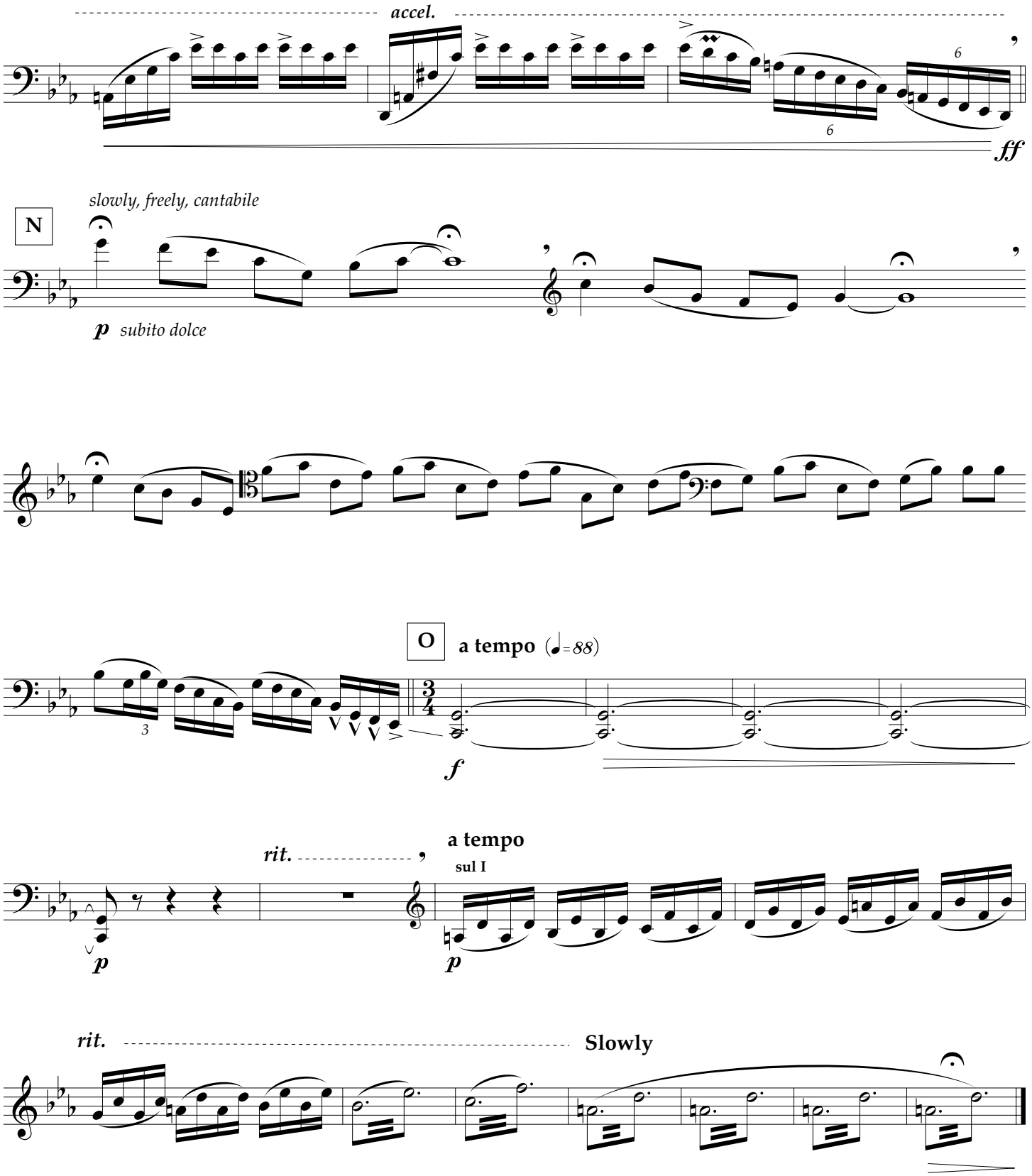
(*f*)


P
f
Q
R
(f)
S
(f)
T
(f)
ff

# *IV. No Cryin'*


freely
= ca. 88
mf cantabile
rit.
a tempo
rit.
a tempo
rit.
a tempo
rit.
p
A
a tempo = 100
pizz.
6
B
mf cantabile
relaxed rhythm
8
C
rit.
8
Slower
p
a tempo
mf
rit.
a tempo
p
poco accel.
poco rit.
rit.
(= 100)
a tempo
D
4
3
mf


E
a tempo (♩= 100)
lightly
p
accel.
F
faster (♩= 108)
(p)
G
(♩= 108)
7
mf
H
(♩= 108)
f
I
(♩= 108)
(f)
J
(♩= 108)
6

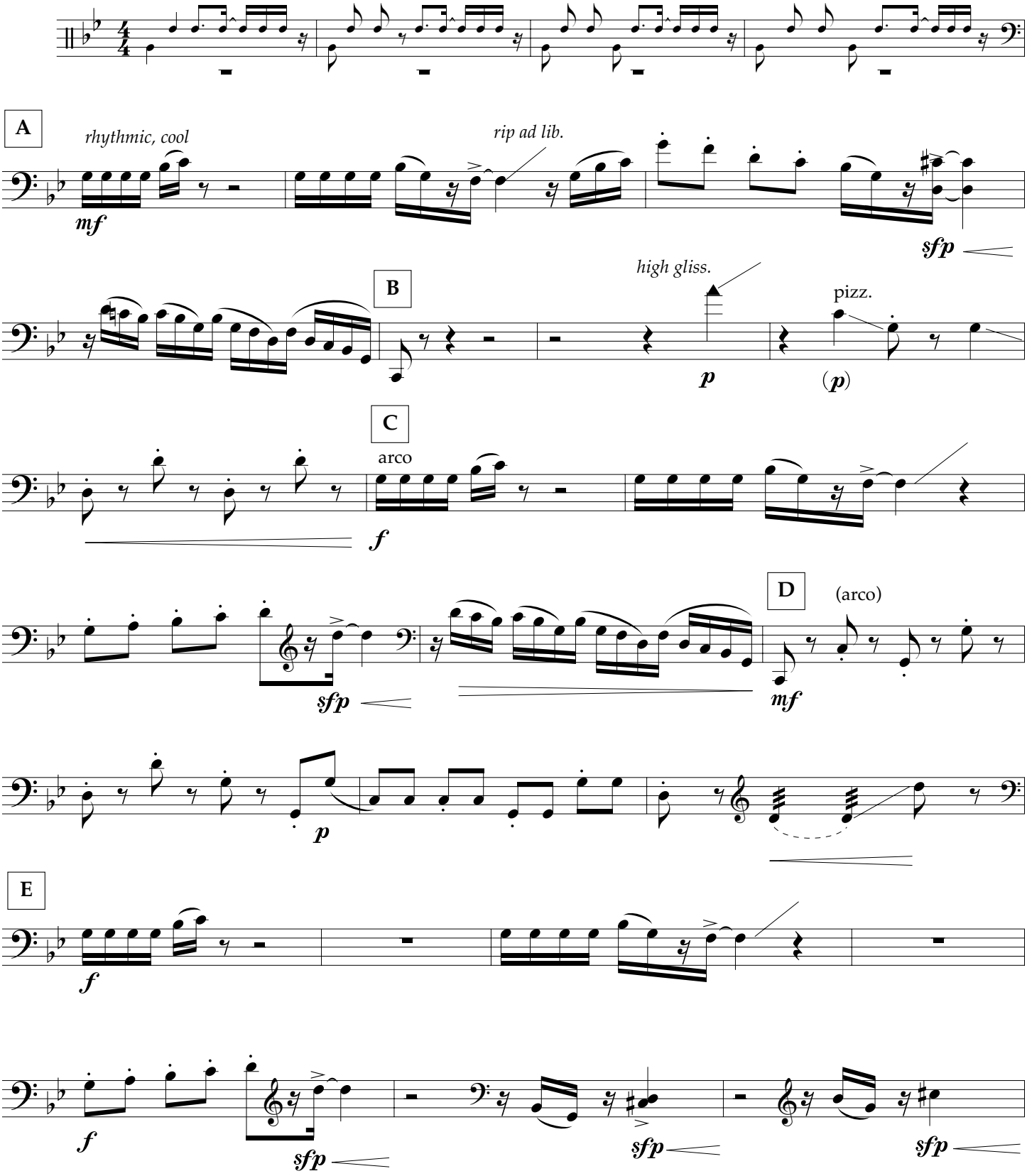

accel.
ff
N
slowly, freely, cantabile
p subito dolce
O
a tempo (♩= 88)
f
rit.
a tempo
sul I
p
p
rit.
Slowly

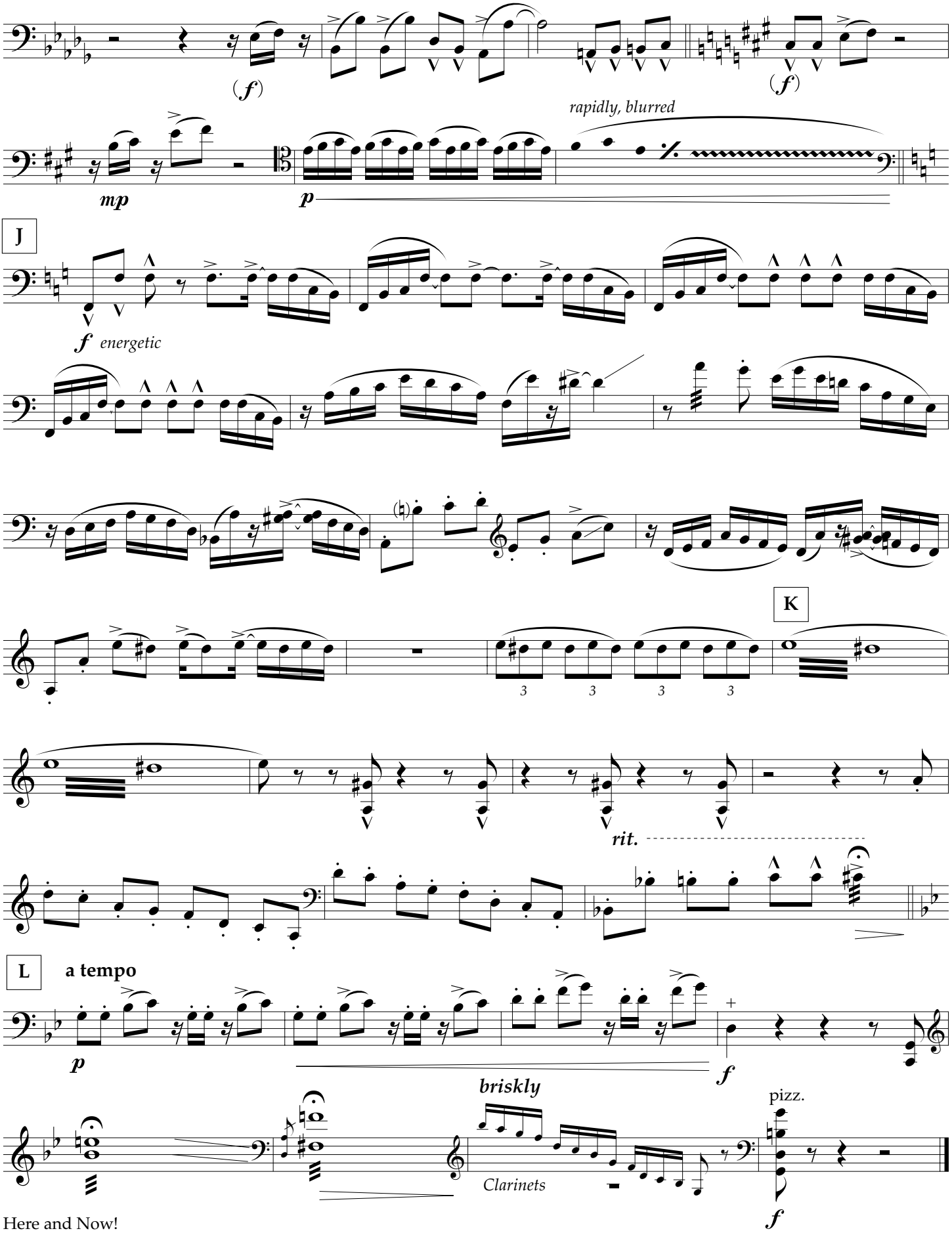
# *V. Here and Now!*

♩=ca. *100*

*swing rhythm*

*Conga Drum*




(f)
(f)
mp
rapidly, blurred
p
J
f energetic
K
3 3 3 3
rit.
L
a tempo
p
f
briskly
Clarinets
pizz.
f