Program Notes:

Steps was inspired by the adventure of mountain climbing. One starts at the base, looking up in wonderment. Then comes the climb, the ascent. The summit is reached, and the glory of the journey brings a special closeness to the natural world – a time to listen to the earth.

These duets employ a variety of Cello techniques, enjoying possibilities which include *rolled pizz*, tapping on strings, and *tremoli* up and down the body of the Cello. In the "Summit" movement, one Cello plays arching patterns of harmonics, "suggestive of mountain peaks." The wide range of the Cello allows for dramatic **steps**!

Steps

for Violoncello Duet

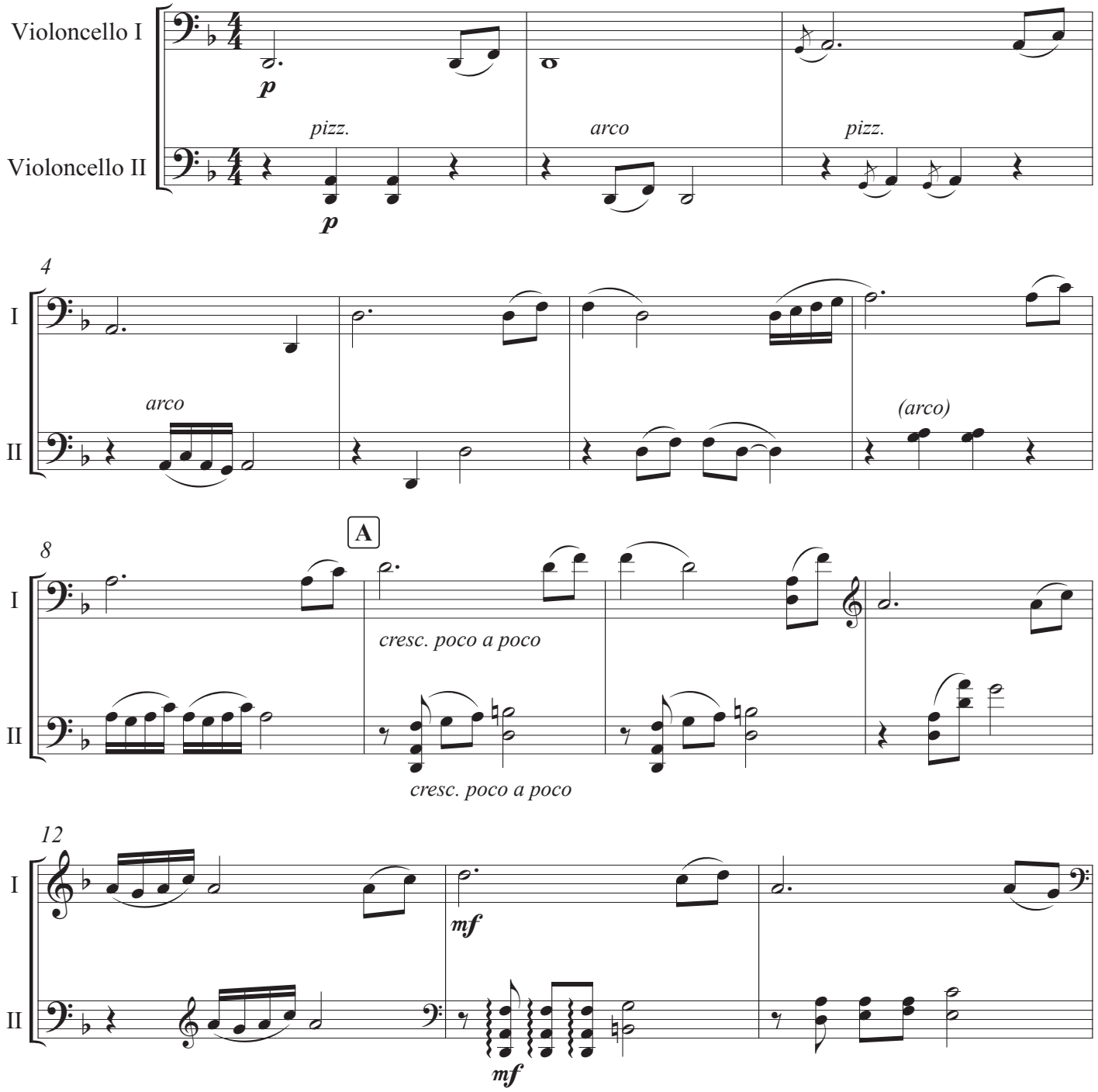
Gwyneth Walker

1. Wonderment

(looking up from the base)

Slowly (♩ = ca. 66)

Two Celli: as one, yet distinct



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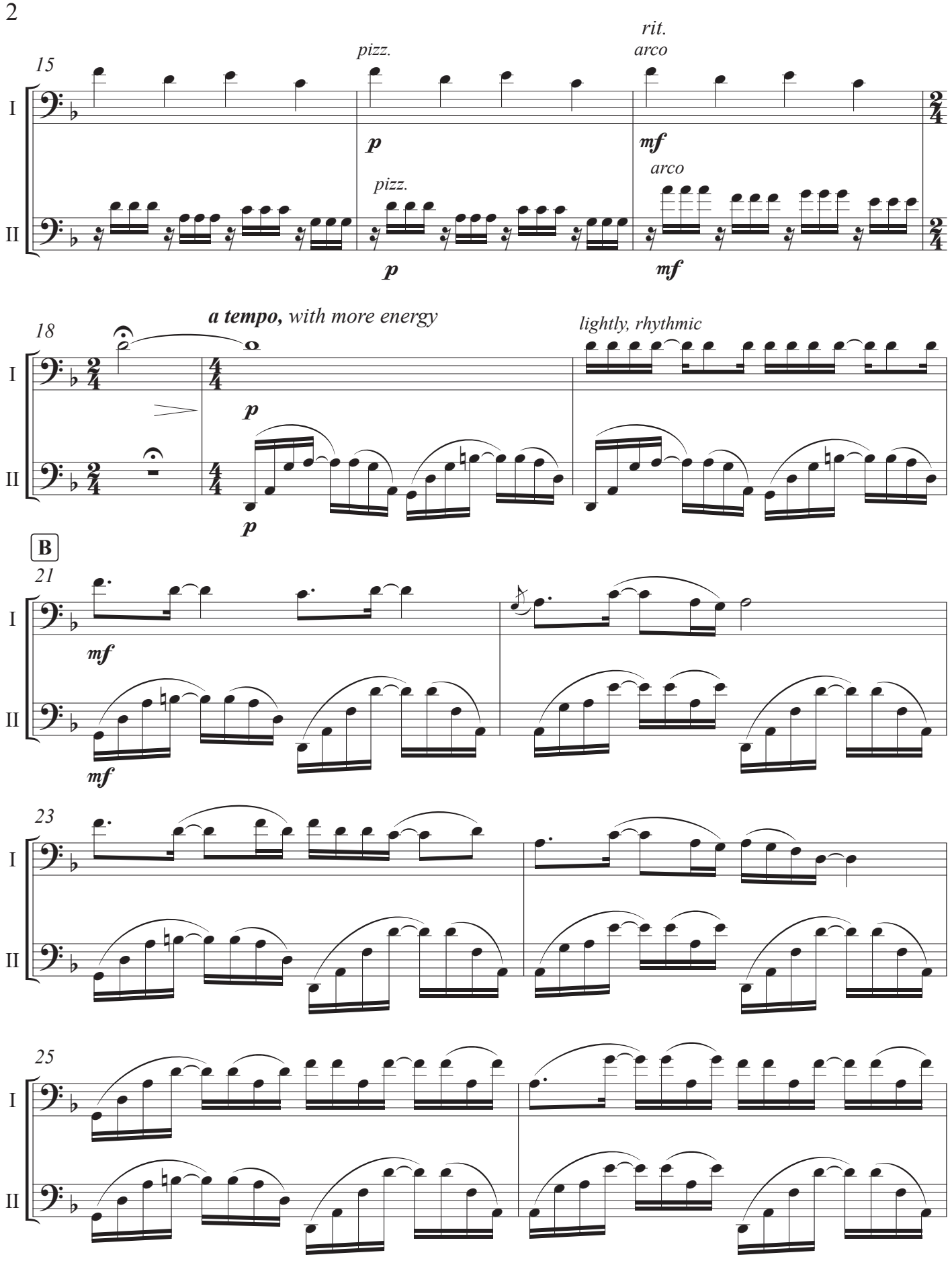
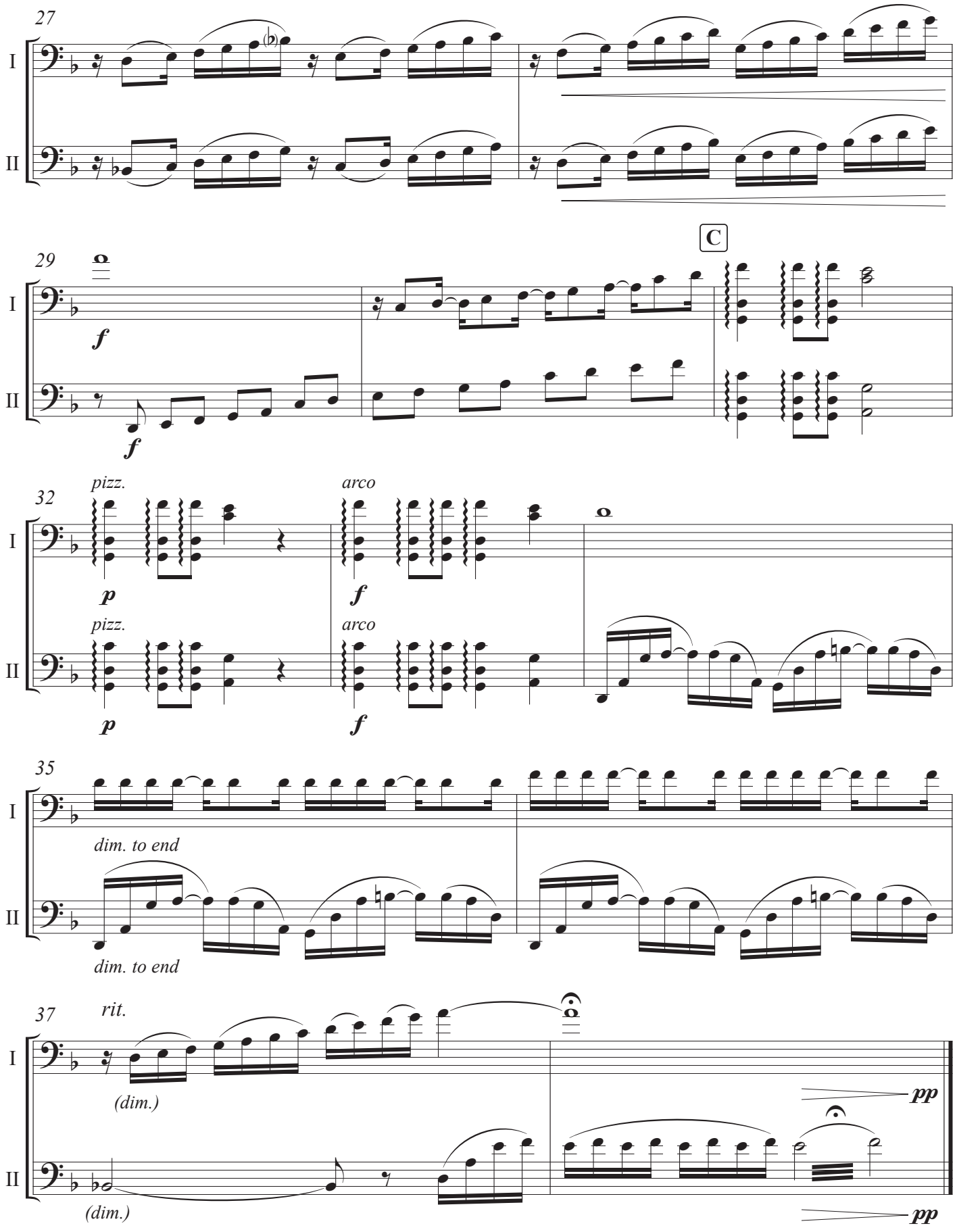
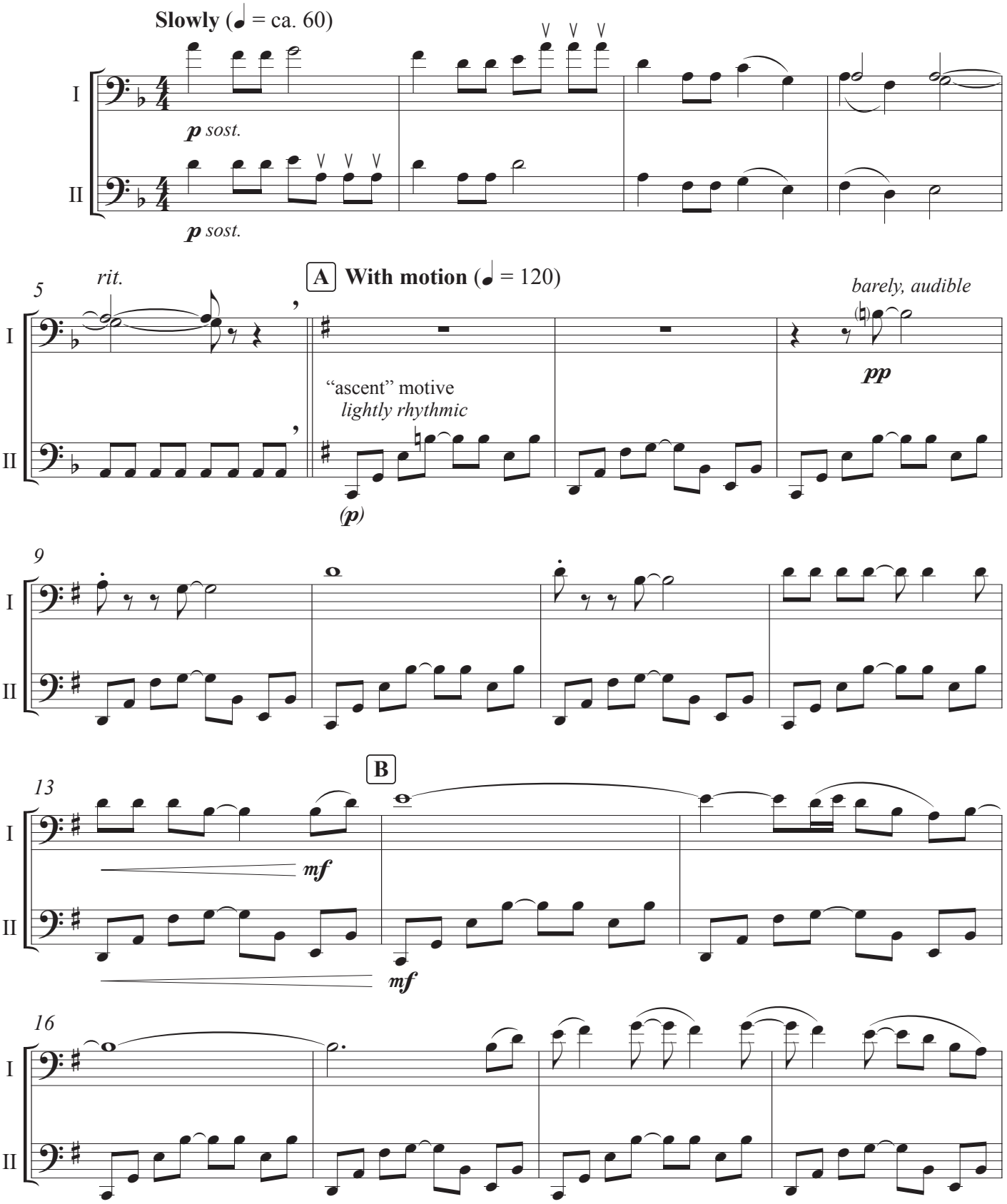
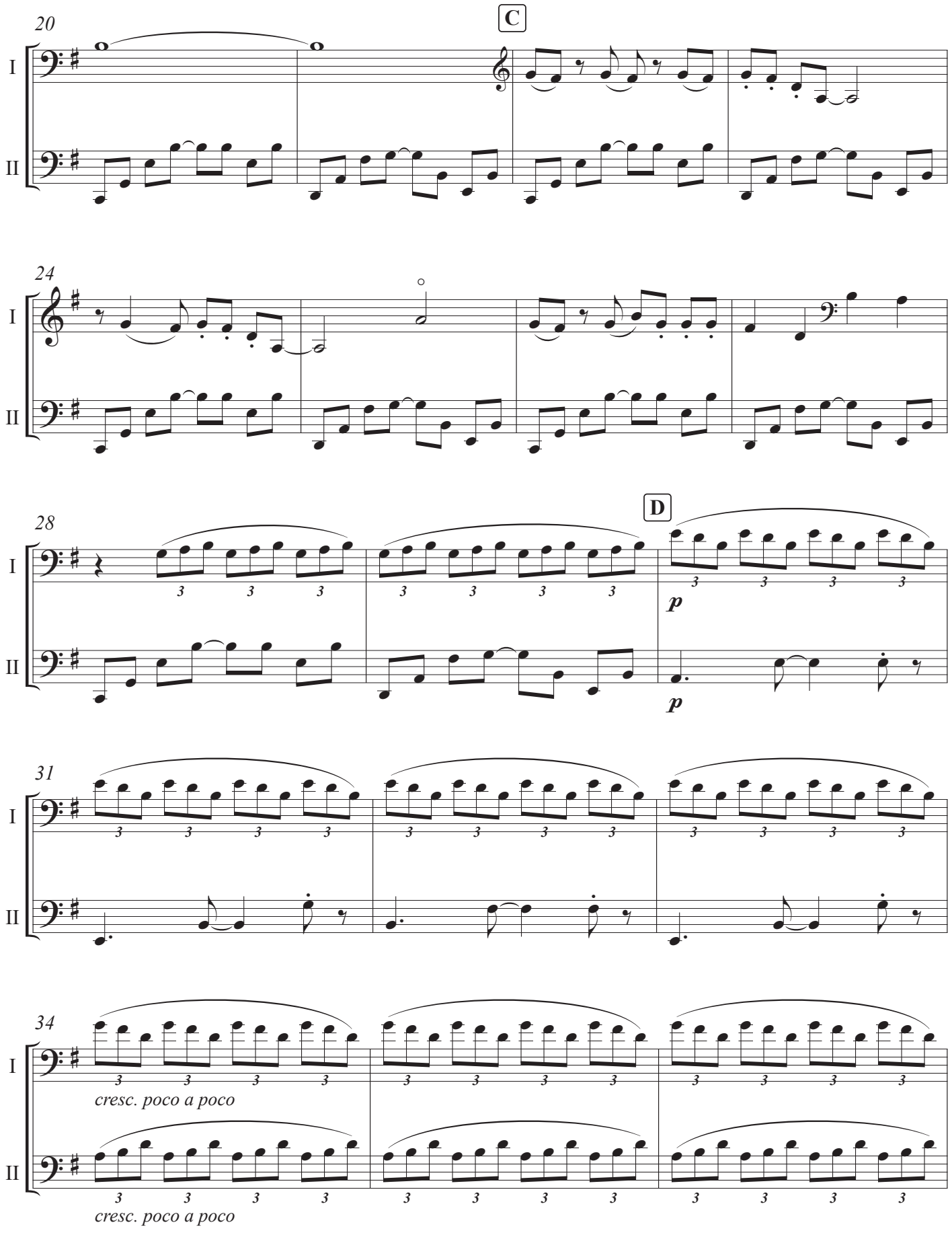

15
pizz.
rit.
arco
I
II
p
mf
pizz.
arco
p
mf
18
a tempo, with more energy
lightly, rhythmic
p
p
B
21
mf
mf
23
25

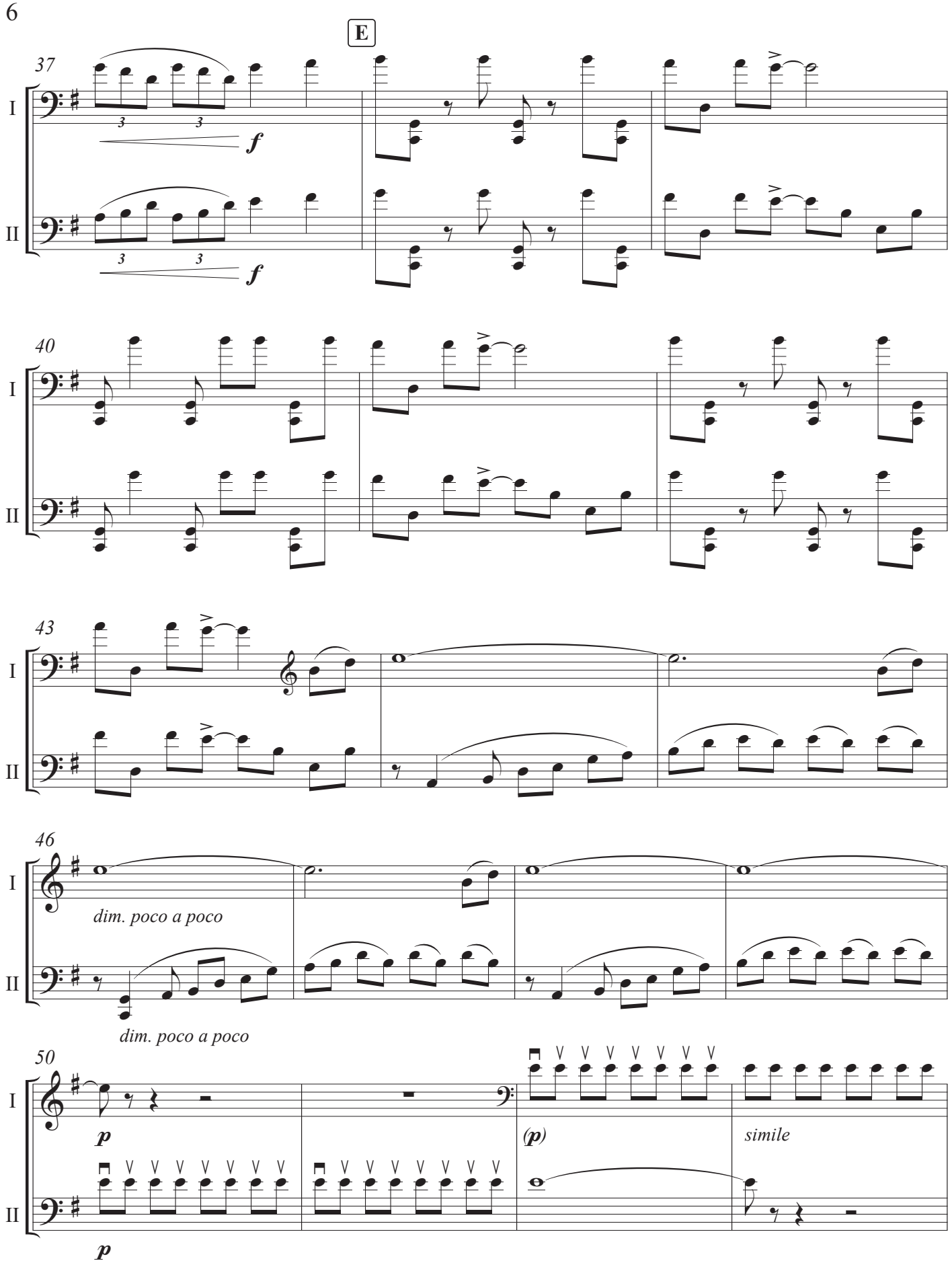

27
I
II
29
C
f
f
32
pizz.
arco
p
f
pizz.
arco
p
f
35
dim. to end
dim. to end
37
rit.
(dim.)
(dim.)
pp
pp

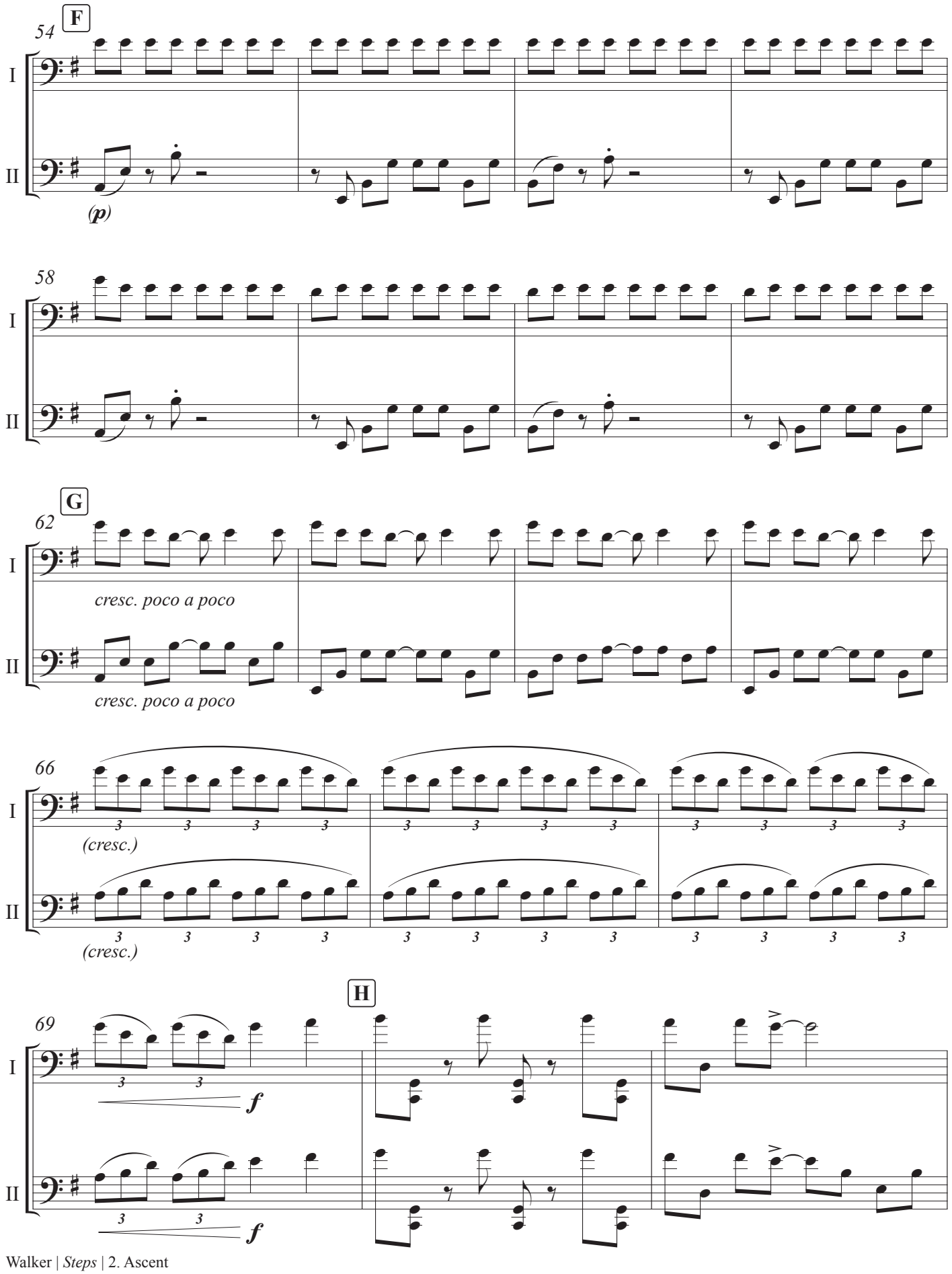
2. Ascent

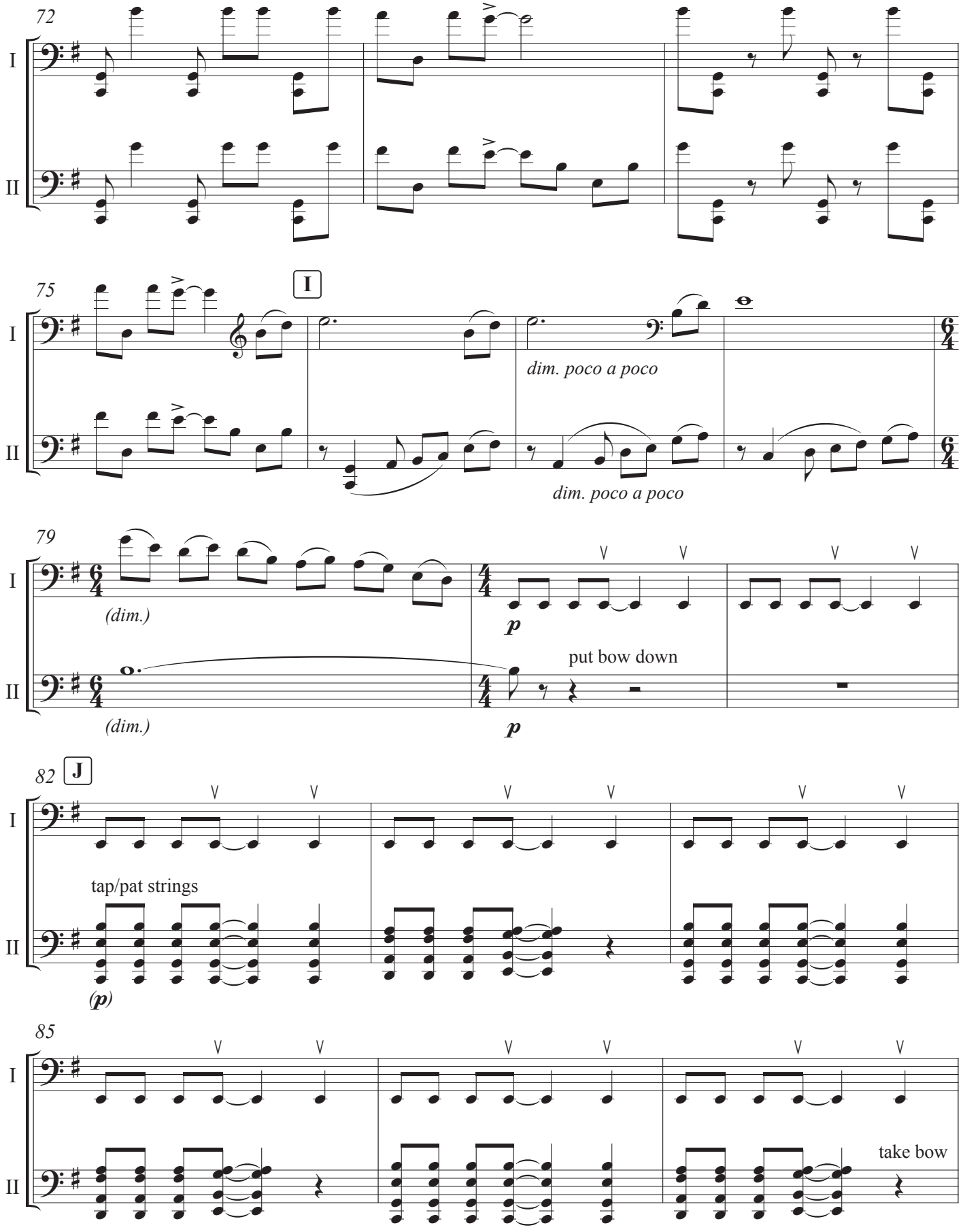
[connector from previous]

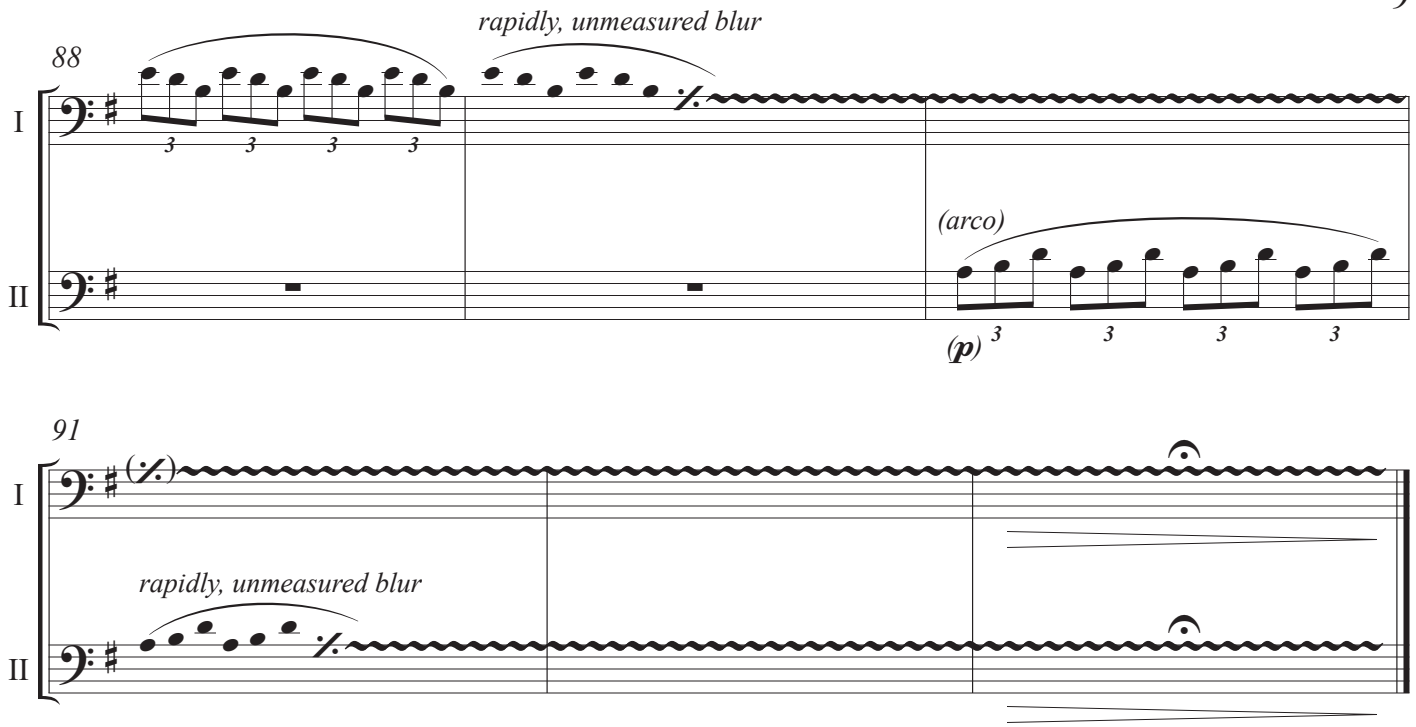



20
C
I
II
24
28
D
p
p
31
34
cresc. poco a poco
cresc. poco a poco


E
37
I
II
3
3
f
40
43
46
dim. poco a poco
dim. poco a poco
50
p
(p)
simile
p


54
F
I
II
(p)
58
I
II
62
G
I
cresc. poco a poco
II
cresc. poco a poco
66
I
(cresc.)
II
(cresc.)
69
H
I
f
II
f

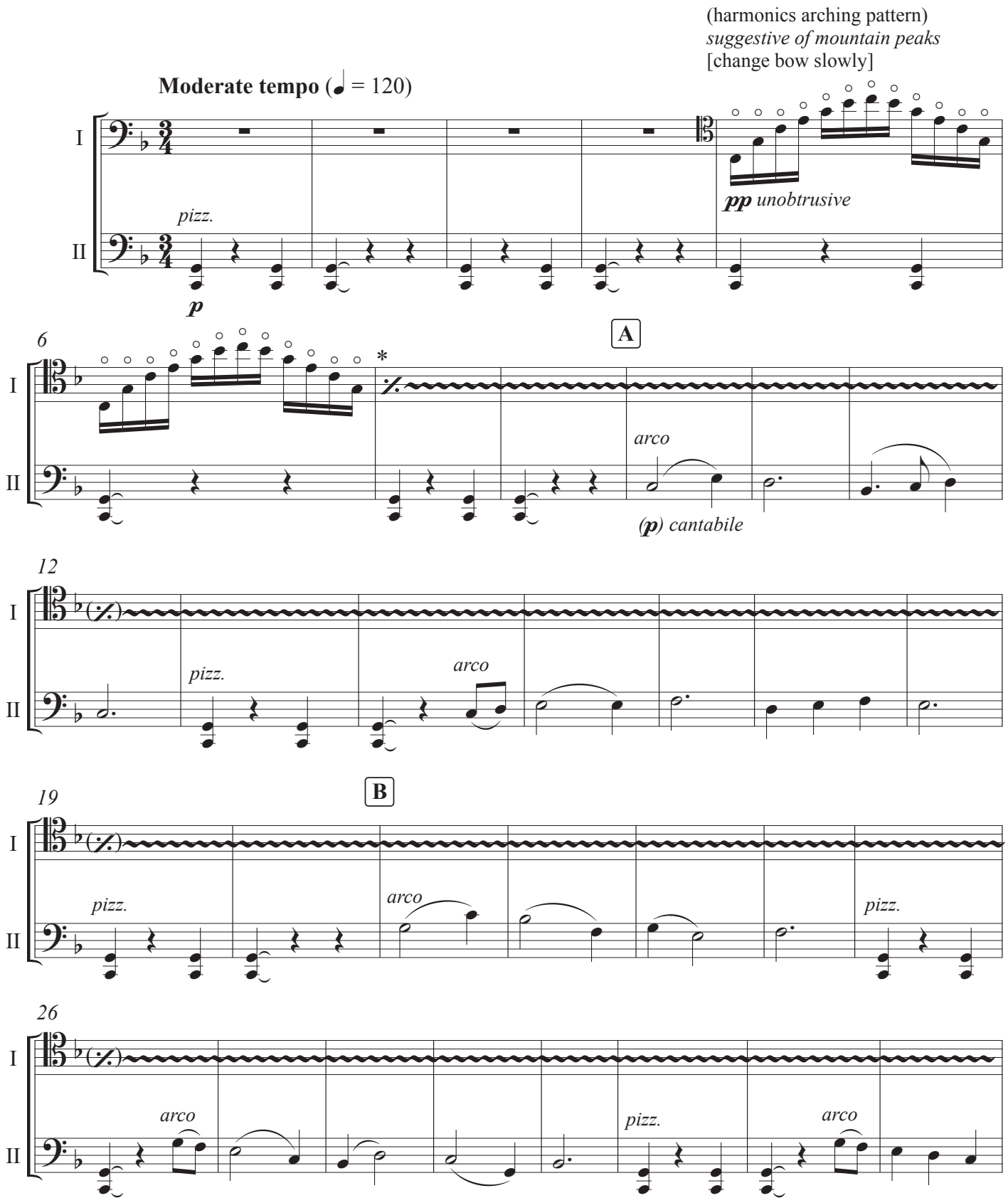

72
I
II
75
I
dim. poco a poco
dim. poco a poco
79
(dim.)
(dim.)
p
p
put bow down
82
J
tap/pat strings
(p)
85
take bow


rapidly, unmeasured blur
88
I
II
(arco)
(p)
3
3
3
3
3
3
3
3

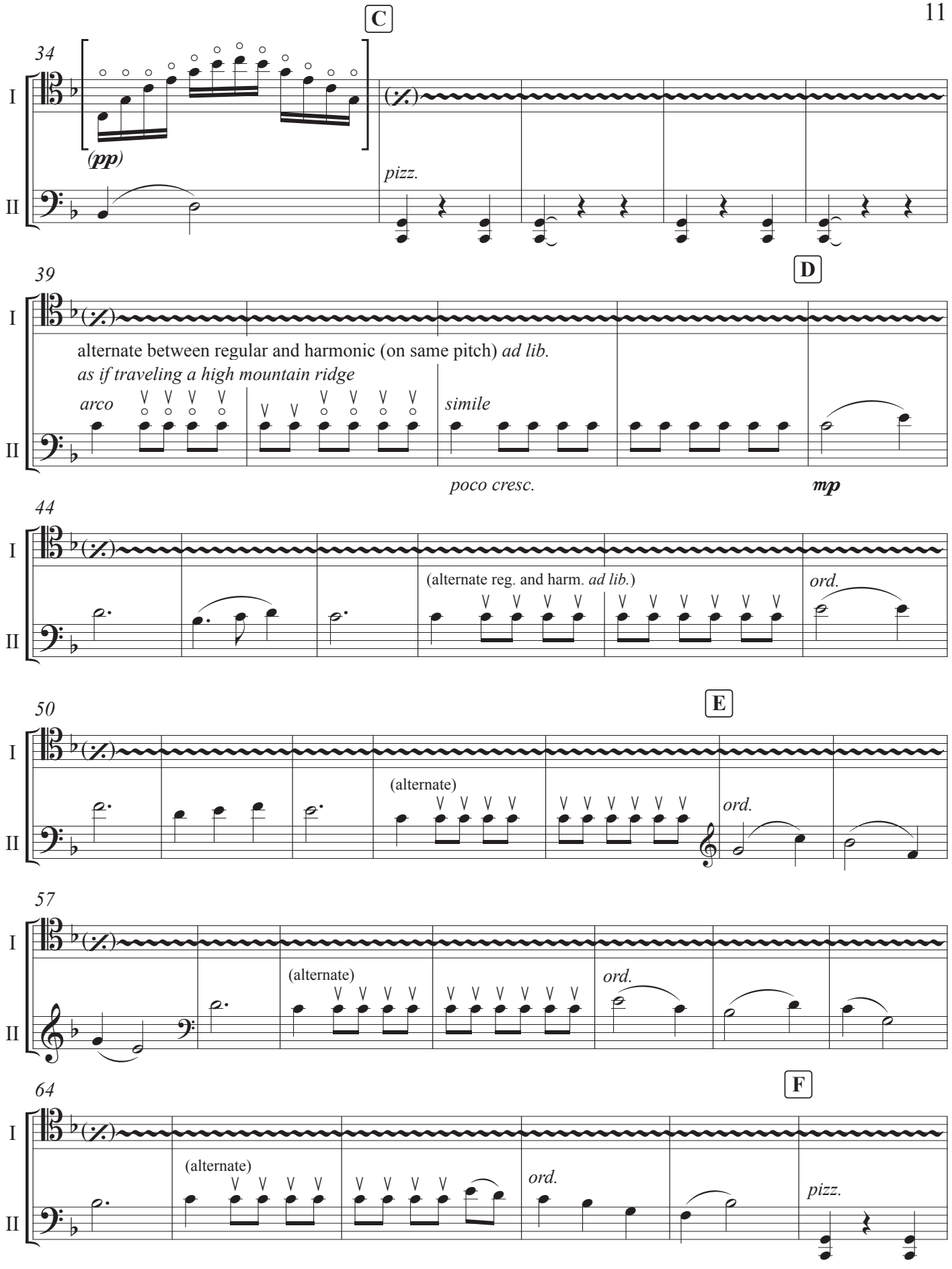
91
I
II
rapidly, unmeasured blur

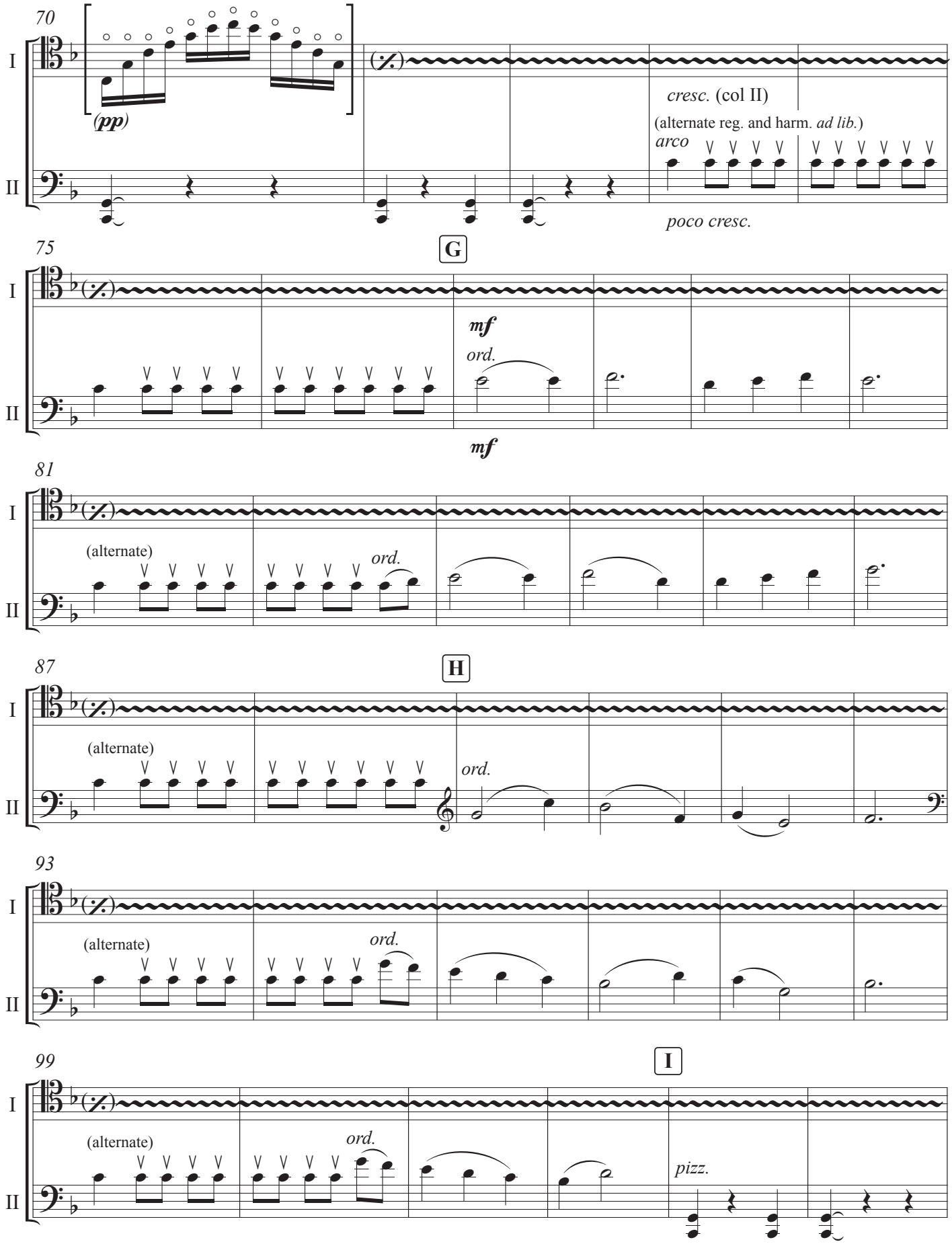
3:00

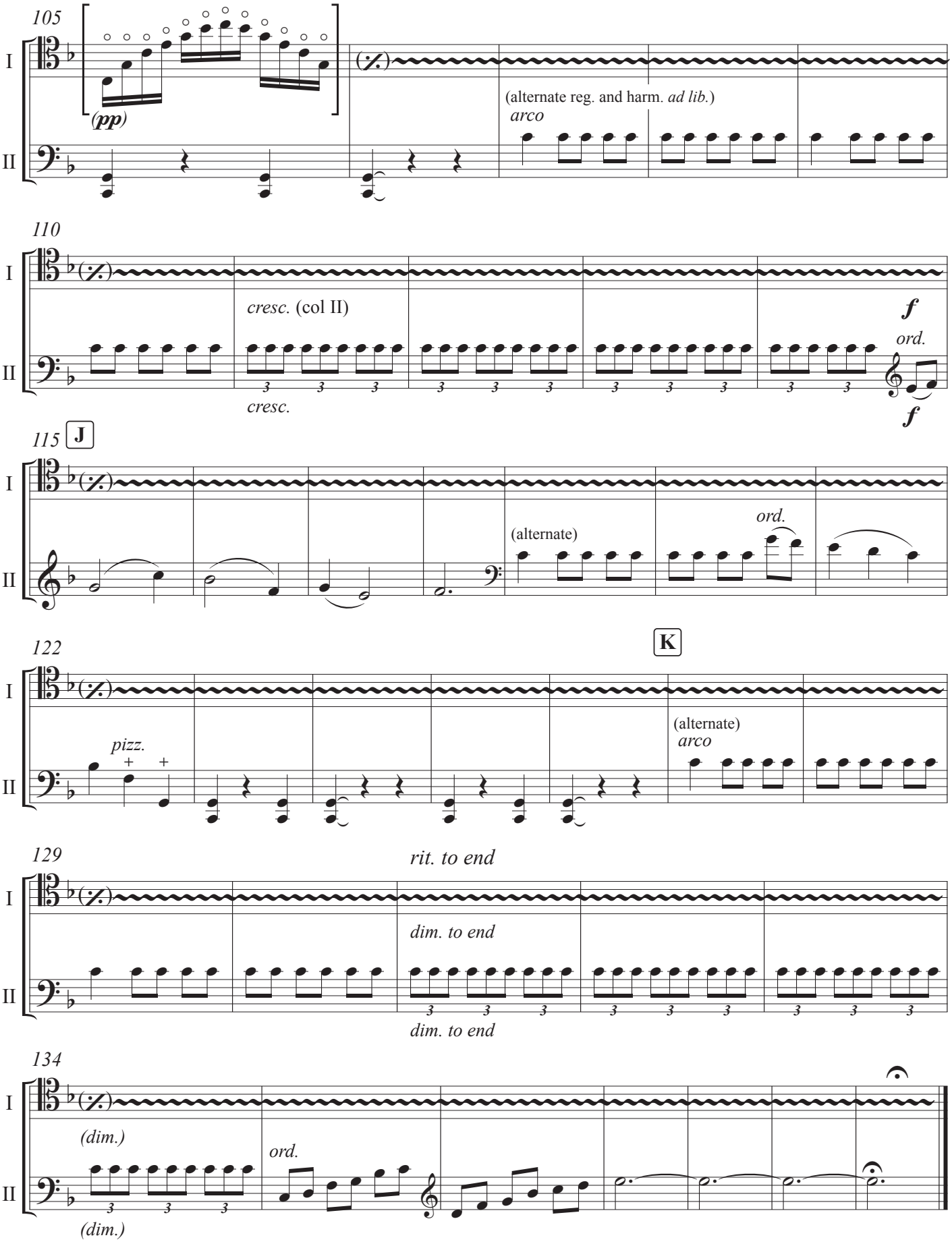
3. Summit



*Cello I continues the ”mountain peaks” harmonics pattern throughout this movement (as a quiet background)


C
34
I
II
(pp)
pizz.
D
39
alternate between regular and harmonic (on same pitch) ad lib.
as if traveling a high mountain ridge
arco
simile
poco cresc.
mp
44
(alternate reg. and harm. ad lib.)
ord.
E
50
(alternate)
ord.
57
(alternate)
ord.
F
64
(alternate)
ord.
pizz.

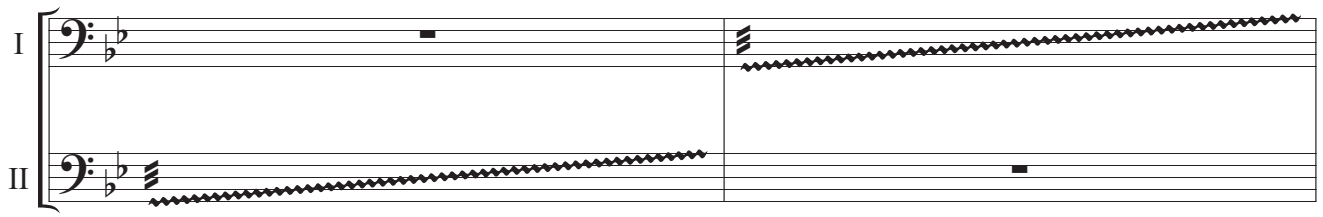

70
I
II
(pp)
cresc. (col II)
(alternate reg. and harm. ad lib.)
arco
poco cresc.
75
G
mf
ord.
mf
81
(alternate)
ord.
87
H
(alternate)
ord.
93
(alternate)
ord.
99
I
(alternate)
ord.
pizz.

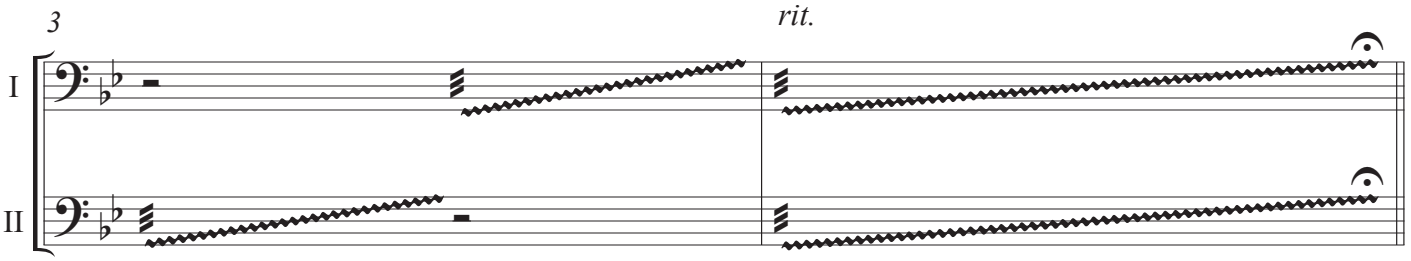

105
I
II
(pp)
(alternate reg. and harm. ad lib.)
arco
110
cresc. (col II)
f
ord.
cresc.
f
115
J
(alternate)
ord.
122
K
pizz.
(alternate)
arco
129
rit. to end
dim. to end
dim. to end
134
(dim.)
ord.
(dim.)

4. Listening to the Earth

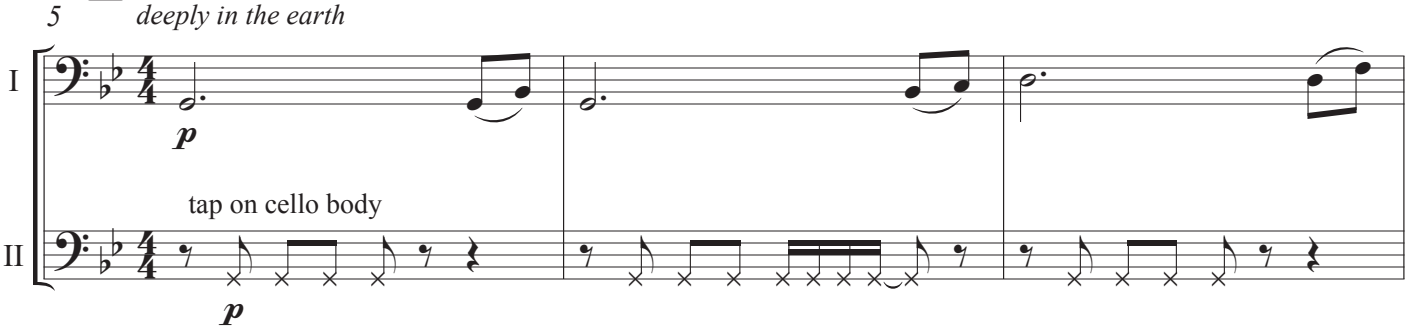
Both players tremolo on the body of their instrument using the flesh of the tip of two fingers (rising and moving down towards the floor) *to suggest tapping sounds of the earth.*

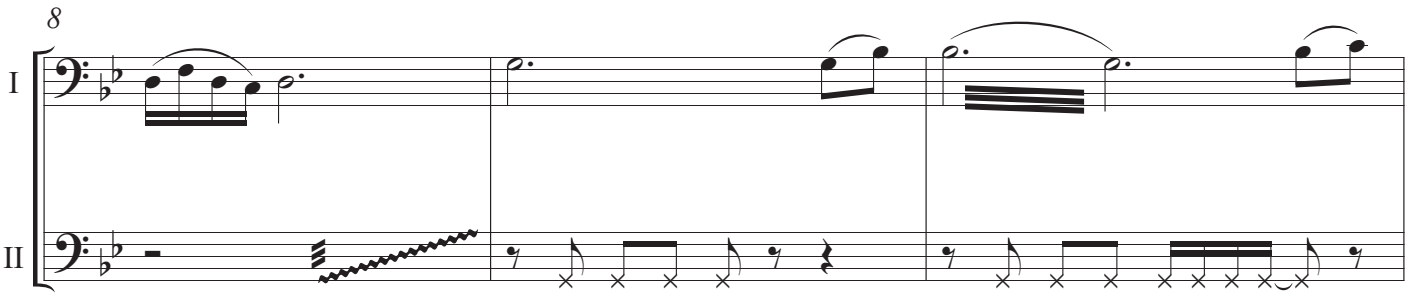
circa 4 seconds per measure

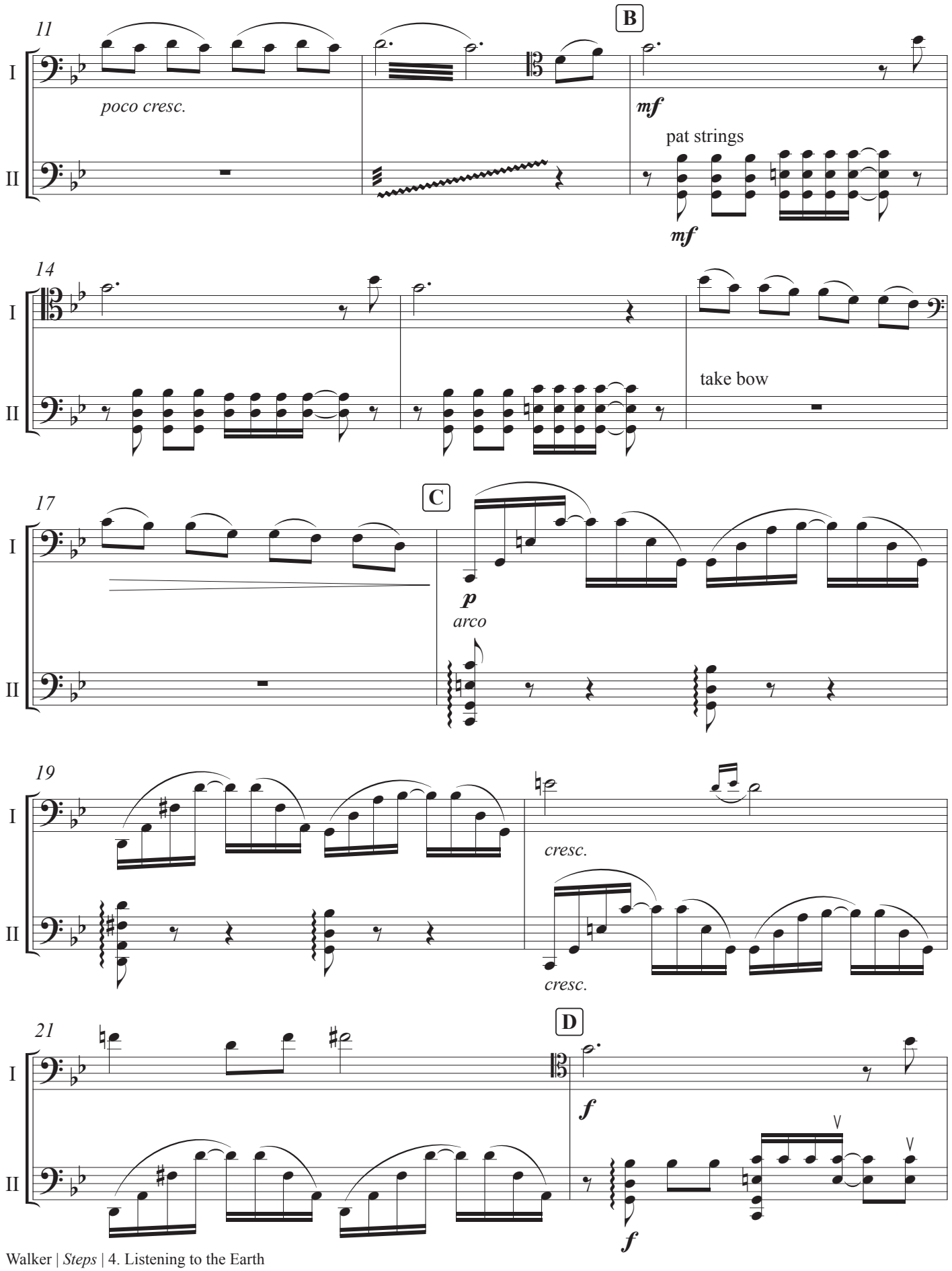


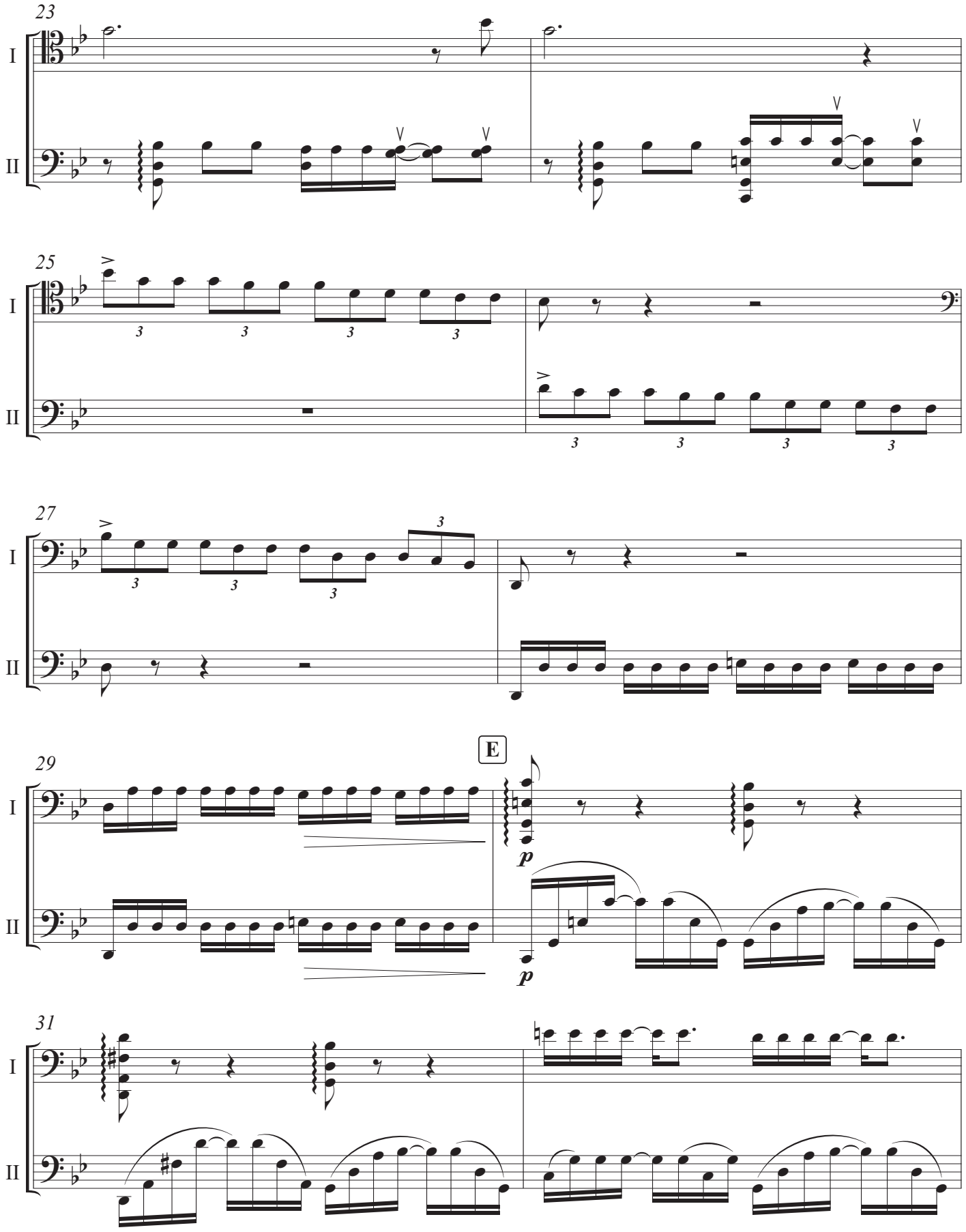


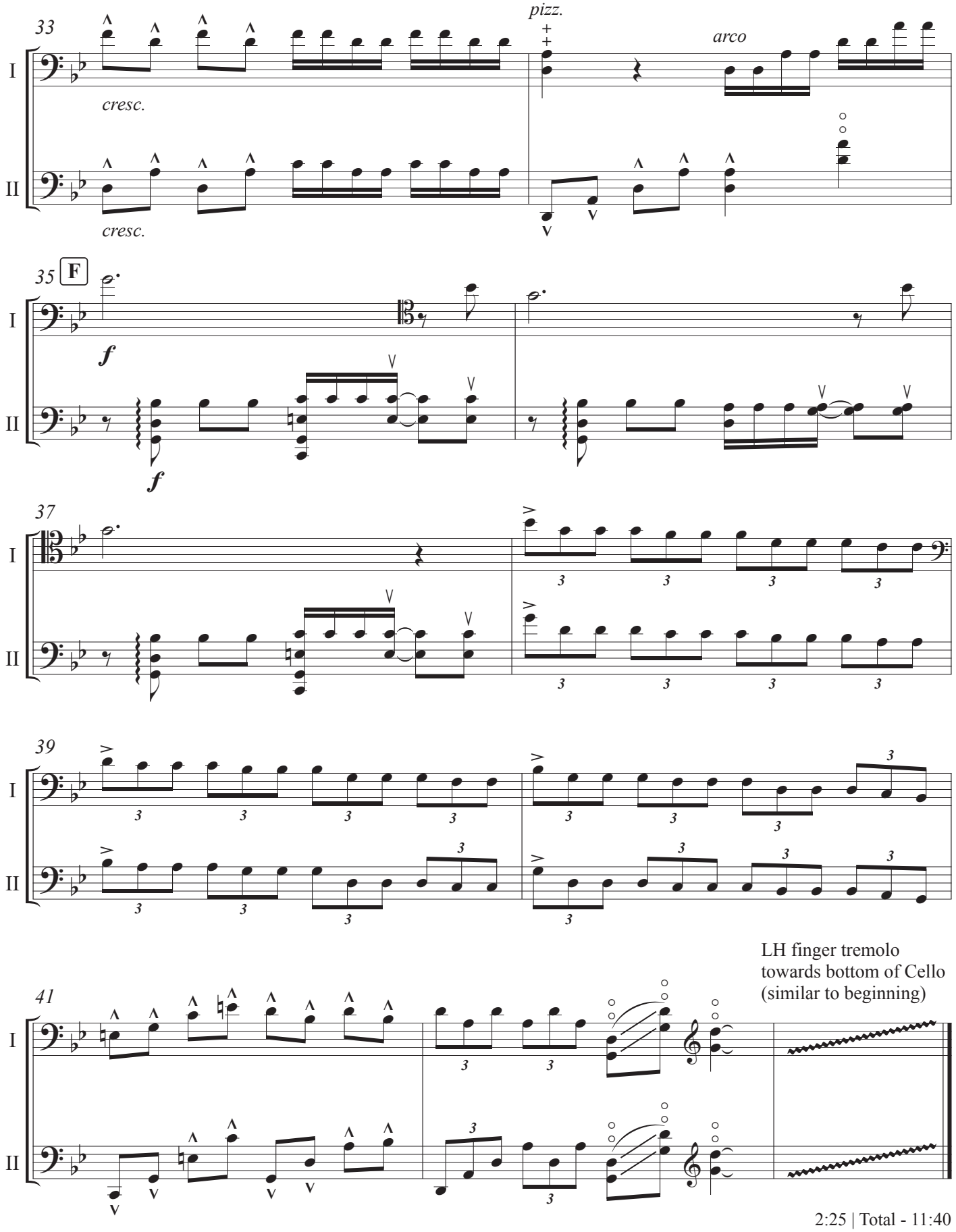
A **Somber** (♩ = 72)






11
B
I
poco cresc.
mf
pat strings
II
mf
14
I
take bow
II
17
C
I
p
arco
II
19
I
cresc.
II
cresc.
21
D
I
f
II
f


23
I
II
25
I
II
27
I
II
E
29
I
II
p
p
31
I
II



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May 4, 2023
New Canaan, Connecticut