VARIATIONS

for viola and piano

on a theme of Bartók

Karim Al-Zand

(2002)

PROGRAM NOTE:

The piece is a short "theme and variations" using as its theme a melody from Bela Bartók's *Concerto for Orchestra*. The first tune heard in the *Intermezzo* movement of that work is a lilting, folk-like melody that alternates measures of four and five beats. Bartók's melody is remarkable in that it has very little harmonic motion and quite limited pitch material, occasionally repeating a pattern of only three or four notes. Consequently, the five variations of the piece are, in a sense, 'metric variations,' since they focus on exploring contrasting rhythmic patterns, layered between the parts.

September 2002

Premiere performance: *Variations* was written for violist Sheldon Person who gave the work its premiere on January 30, 2003.

DURATION:

ca. 7'

for Sheldon Person

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(on a theme of Bartók)

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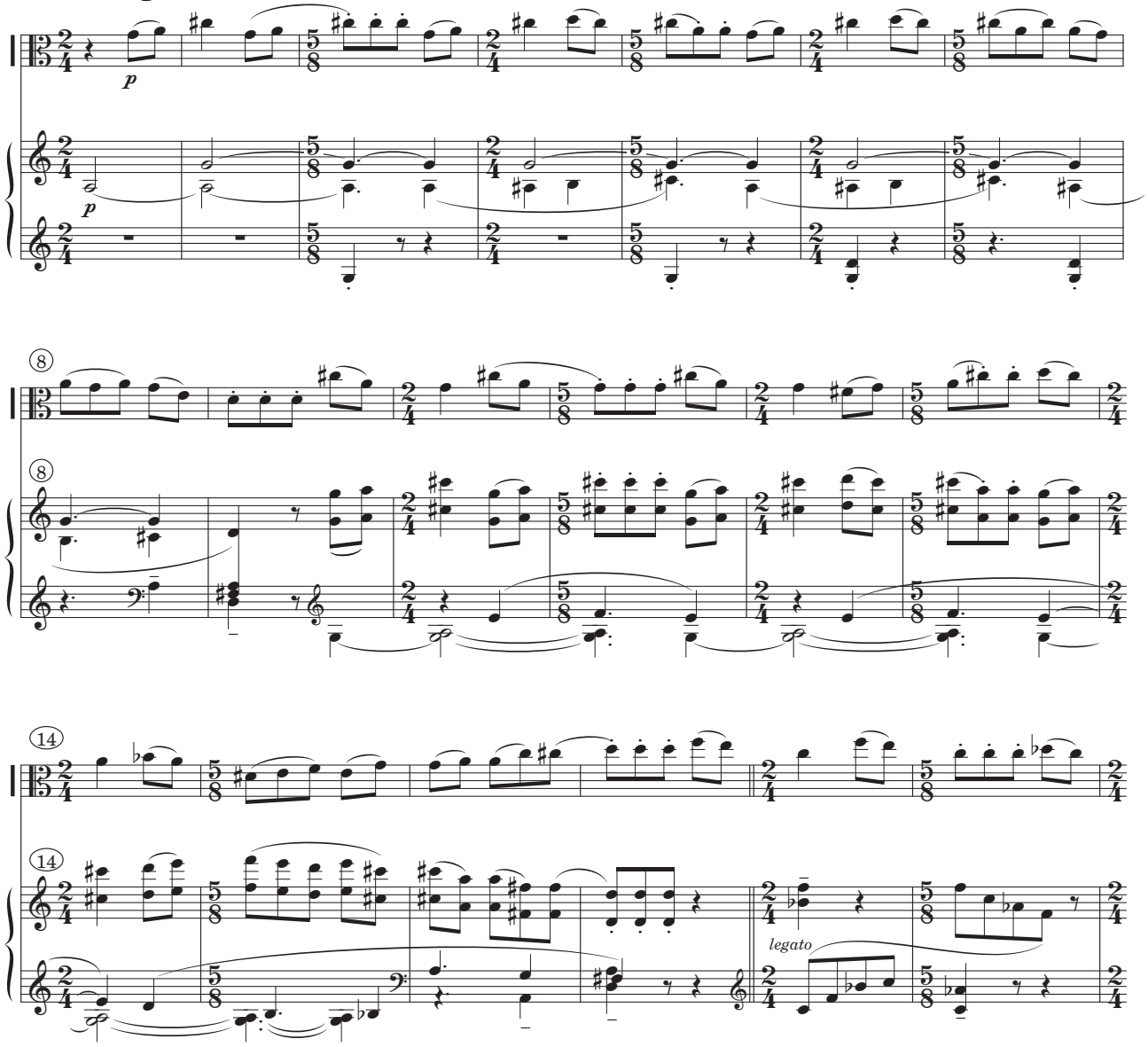
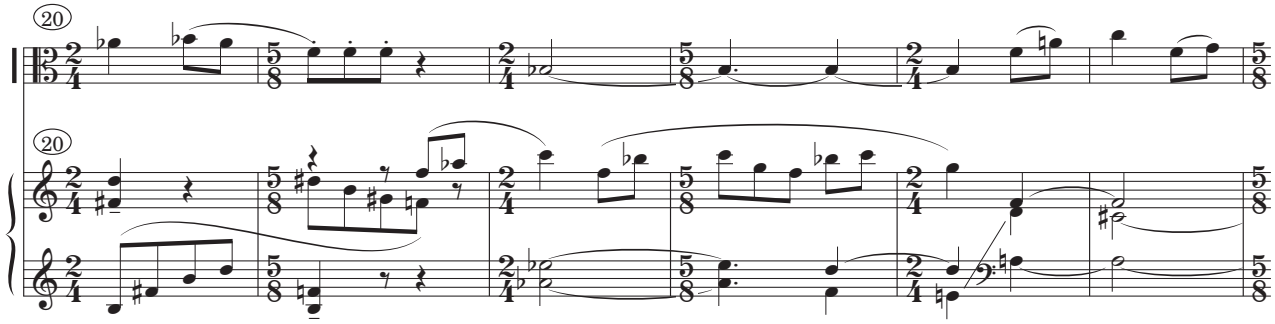
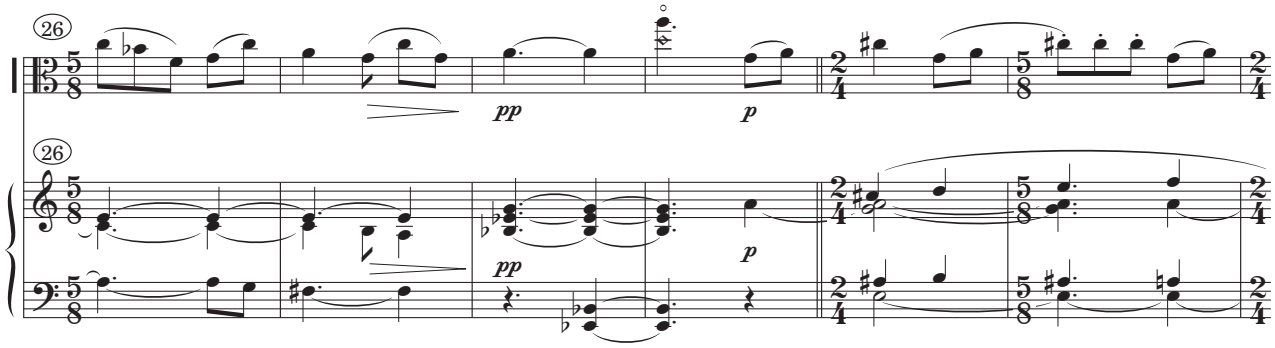
Theme

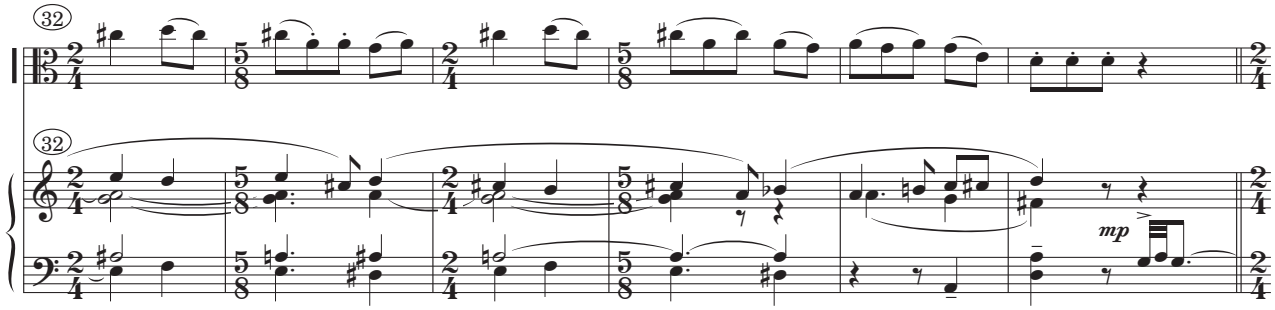
Allegretto ♩=114



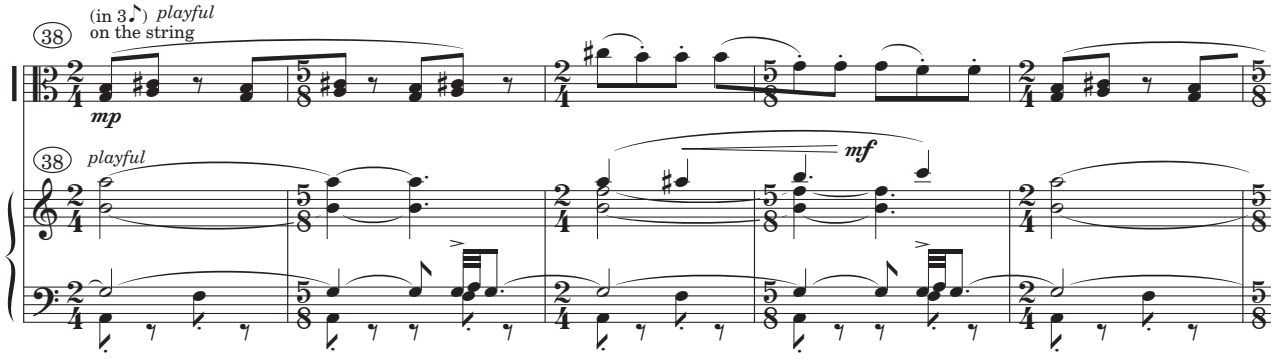


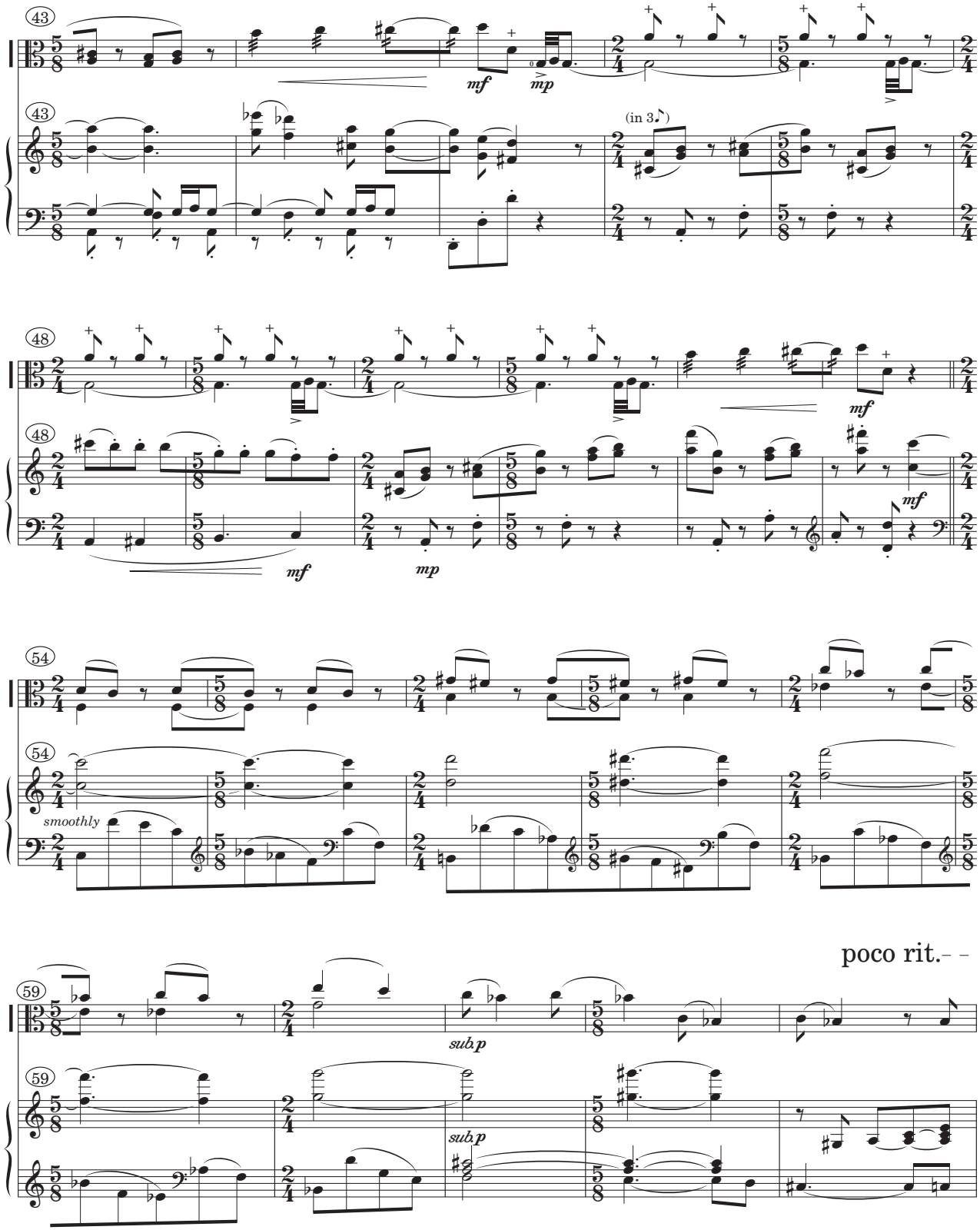
rallent. - - - - - - - - - - - - - - a tempo

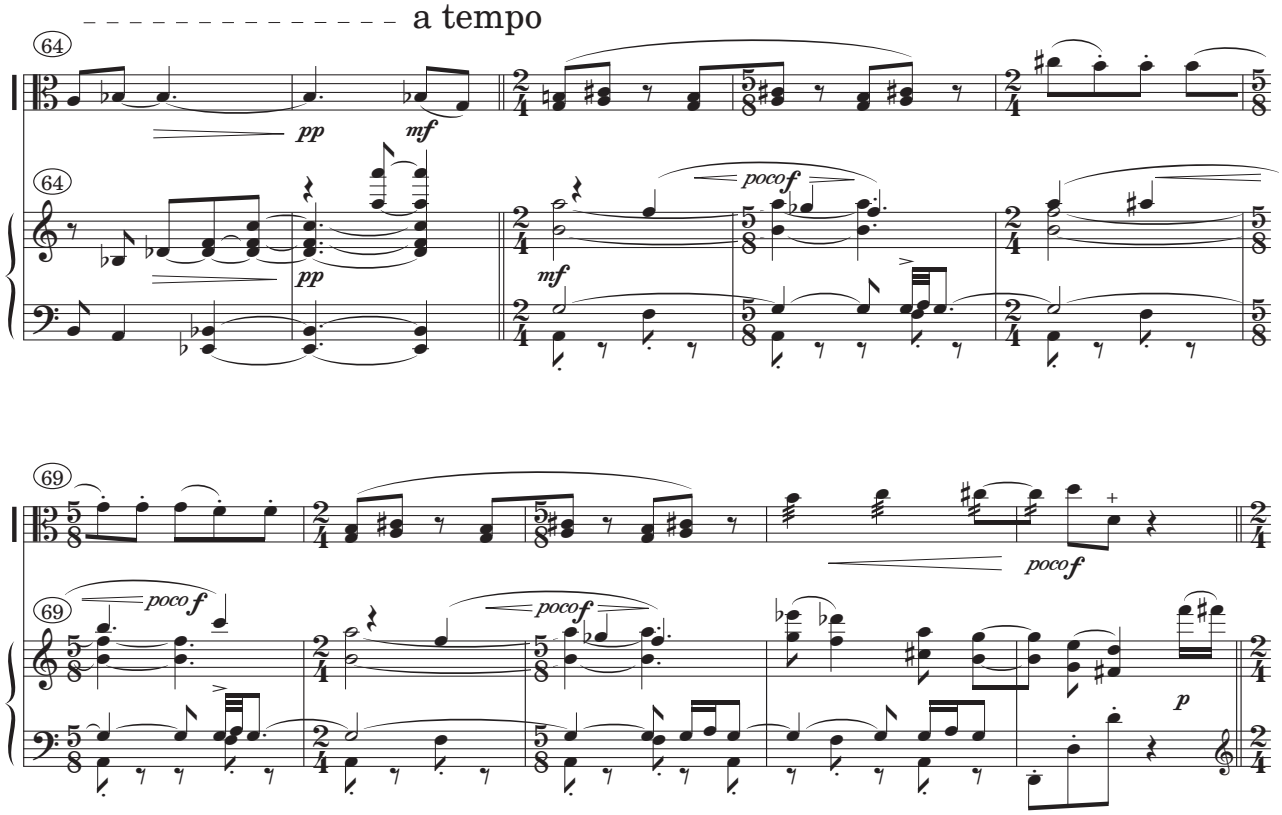




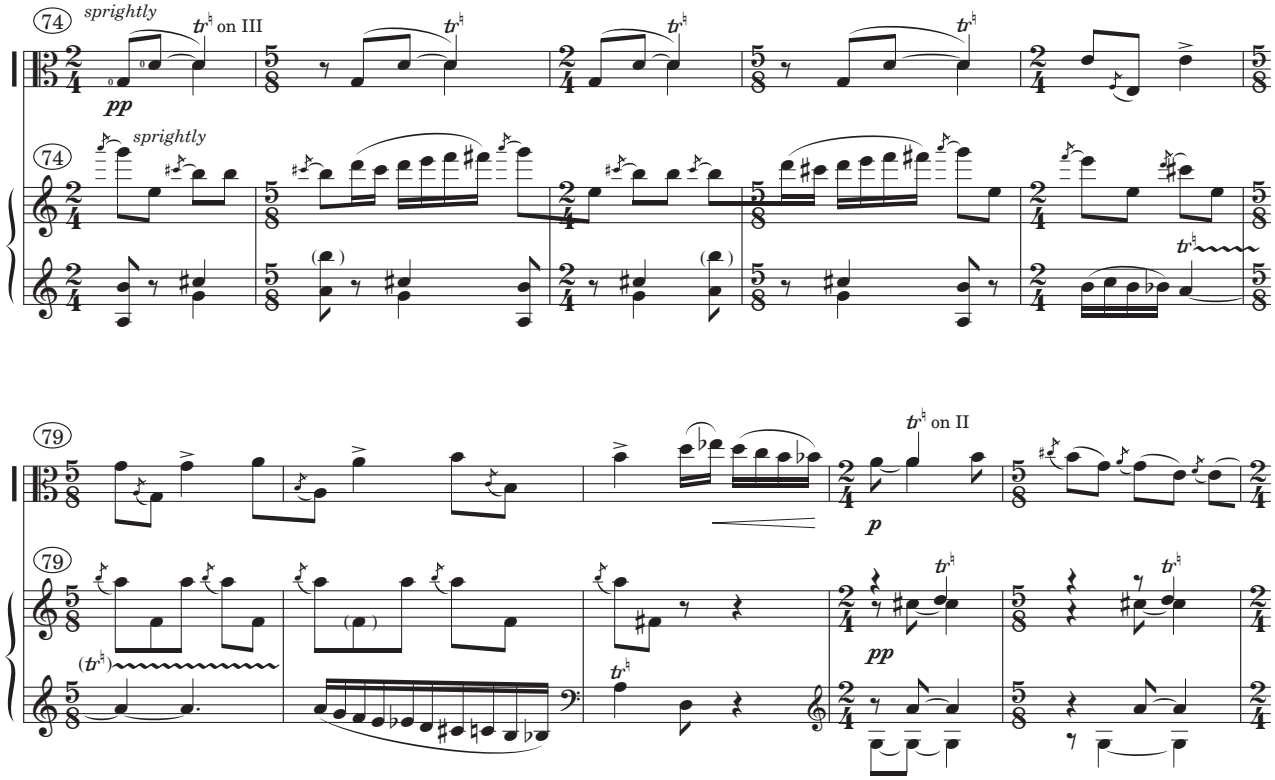
Variation I

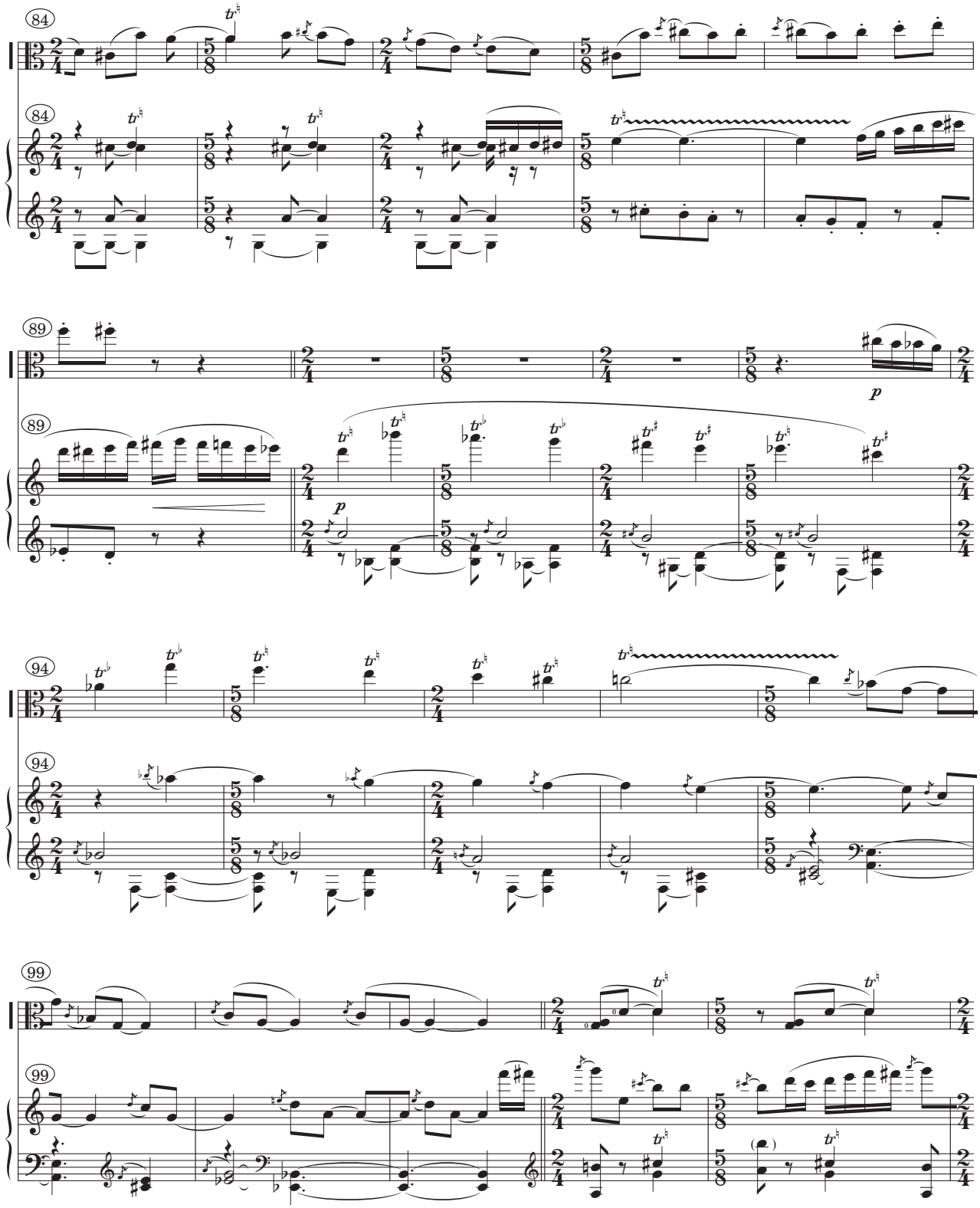


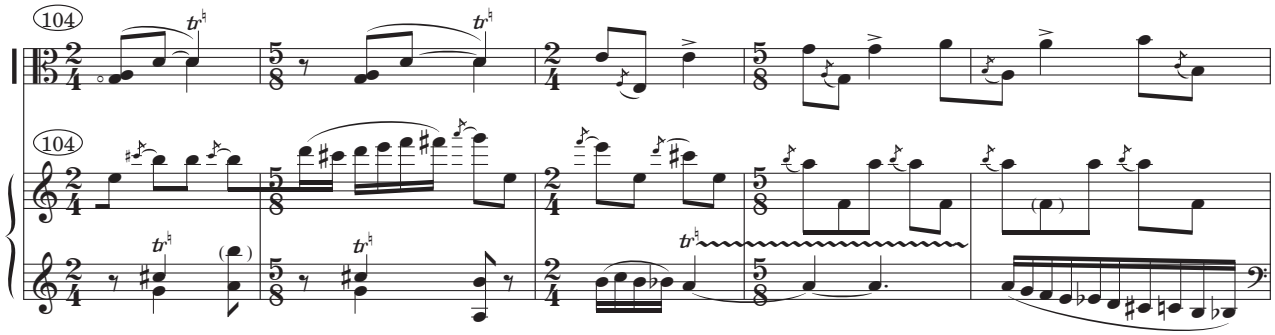

43
mf
mp
(in 3)
48
mf
mp
mf
54
smoothly
poco rit.
59
sub.p
sub.p



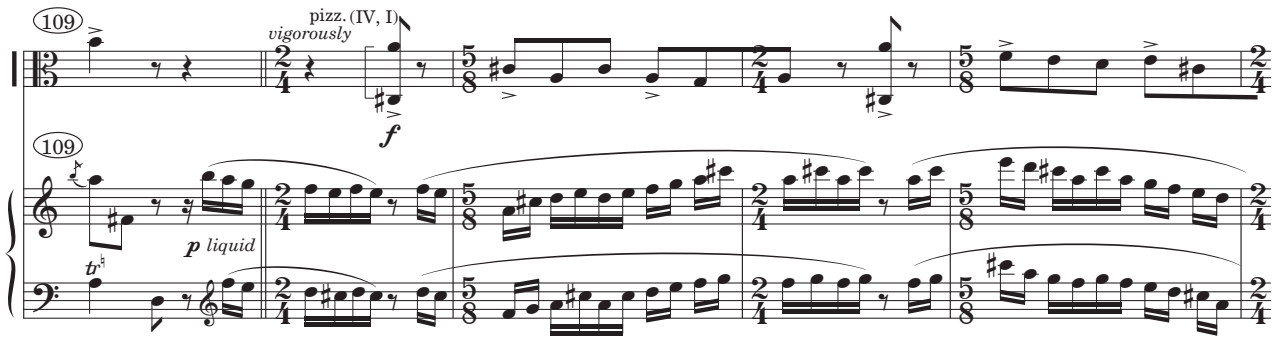
Variation II

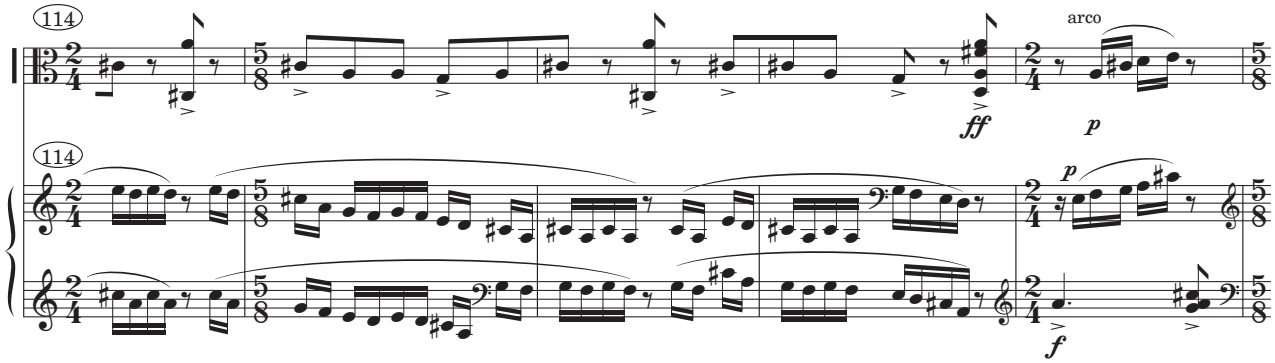


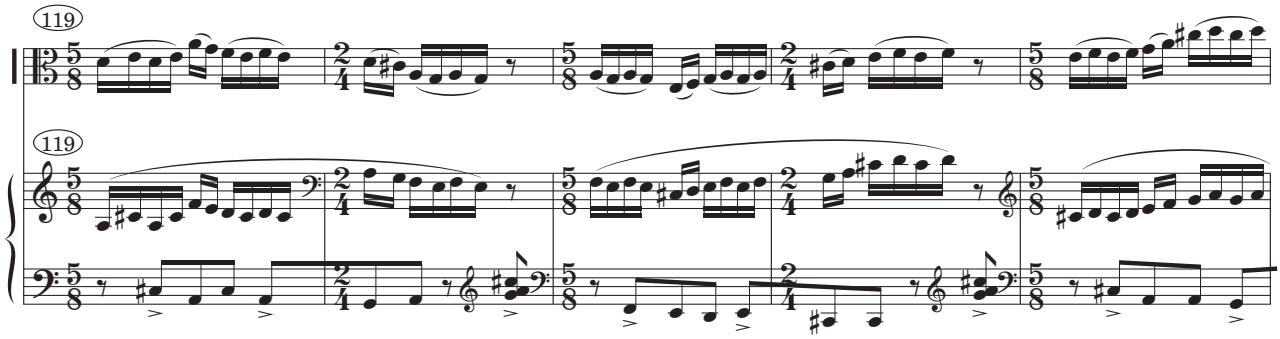

84
84
89
89
p
p
94
94
99
99

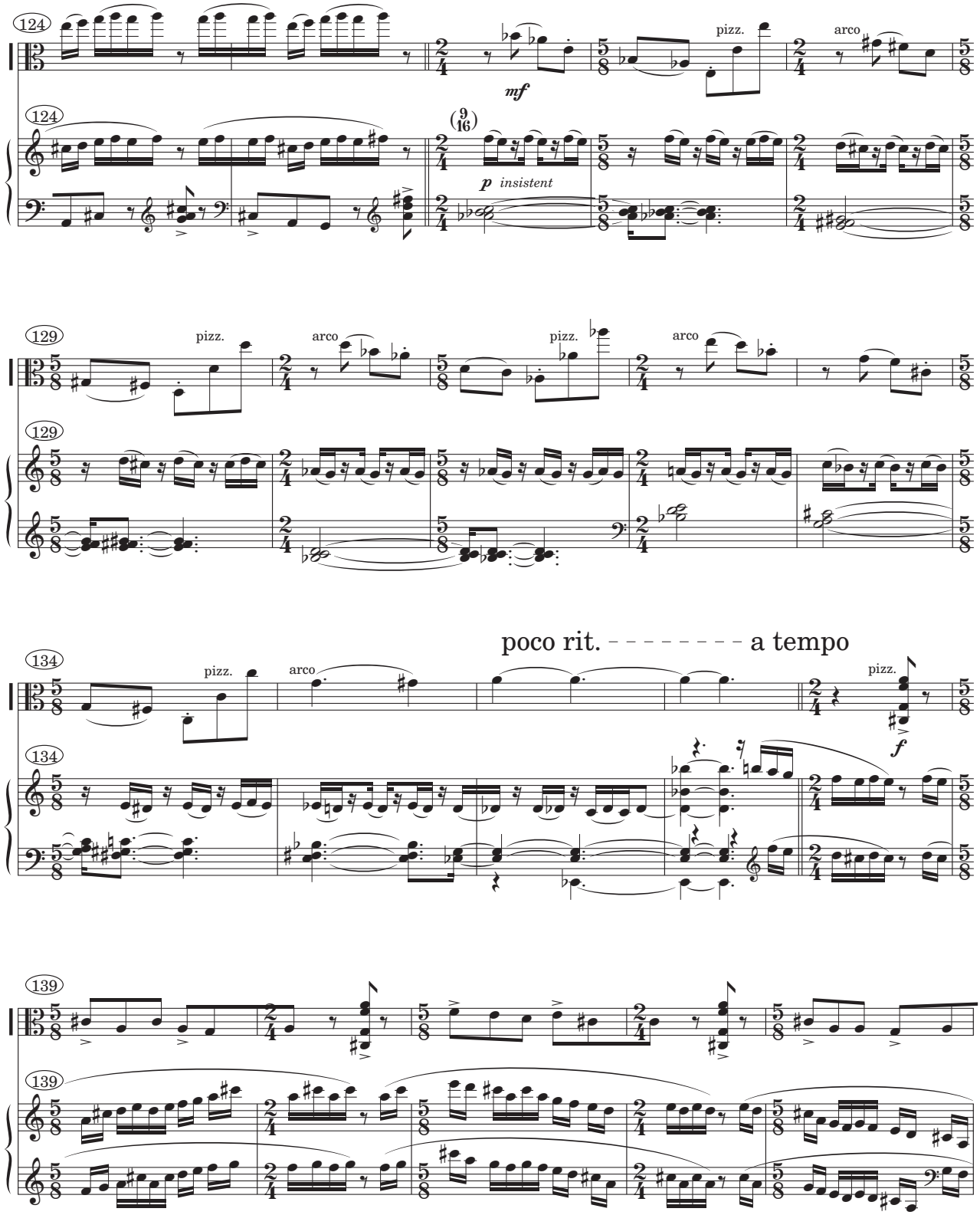


Variation III



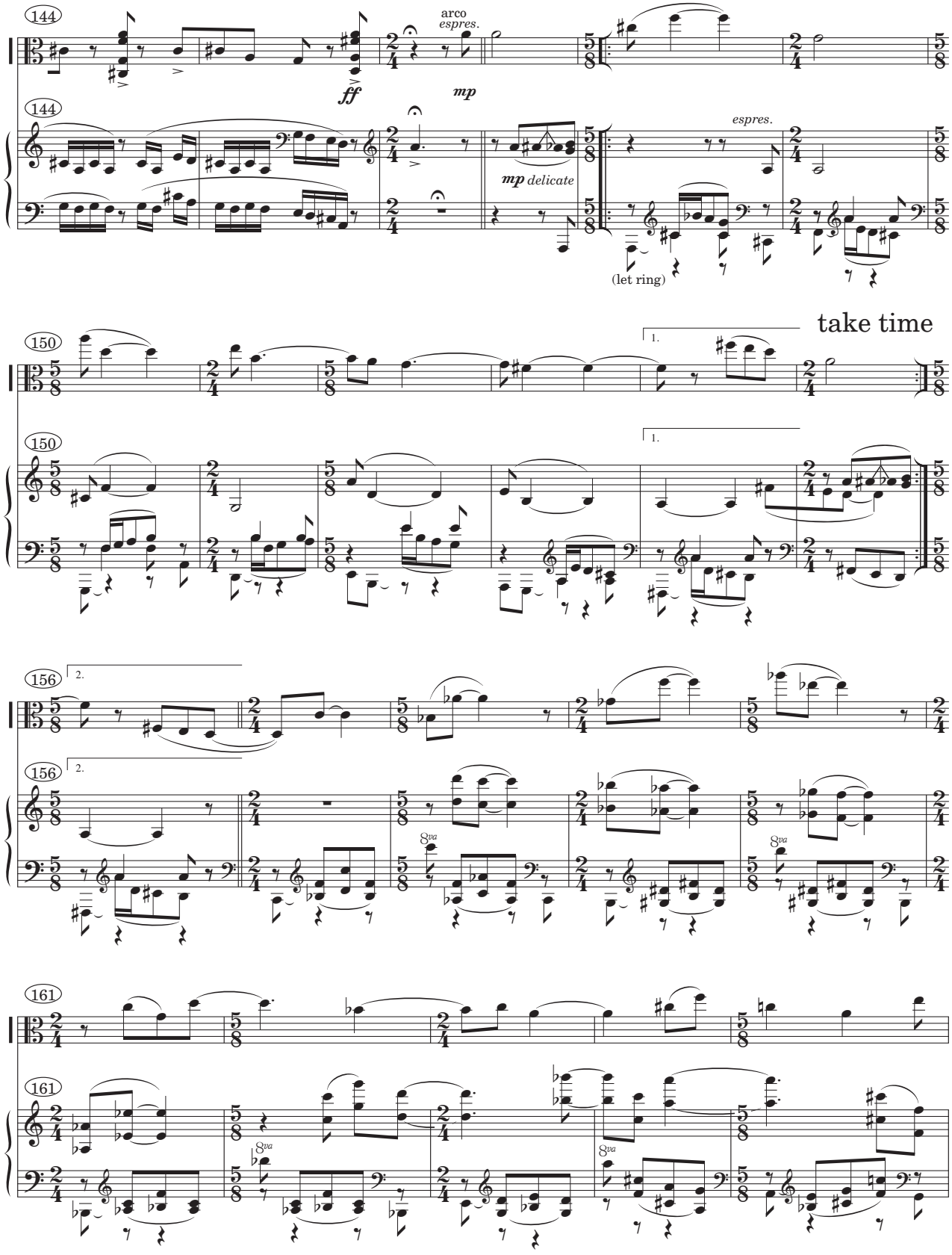


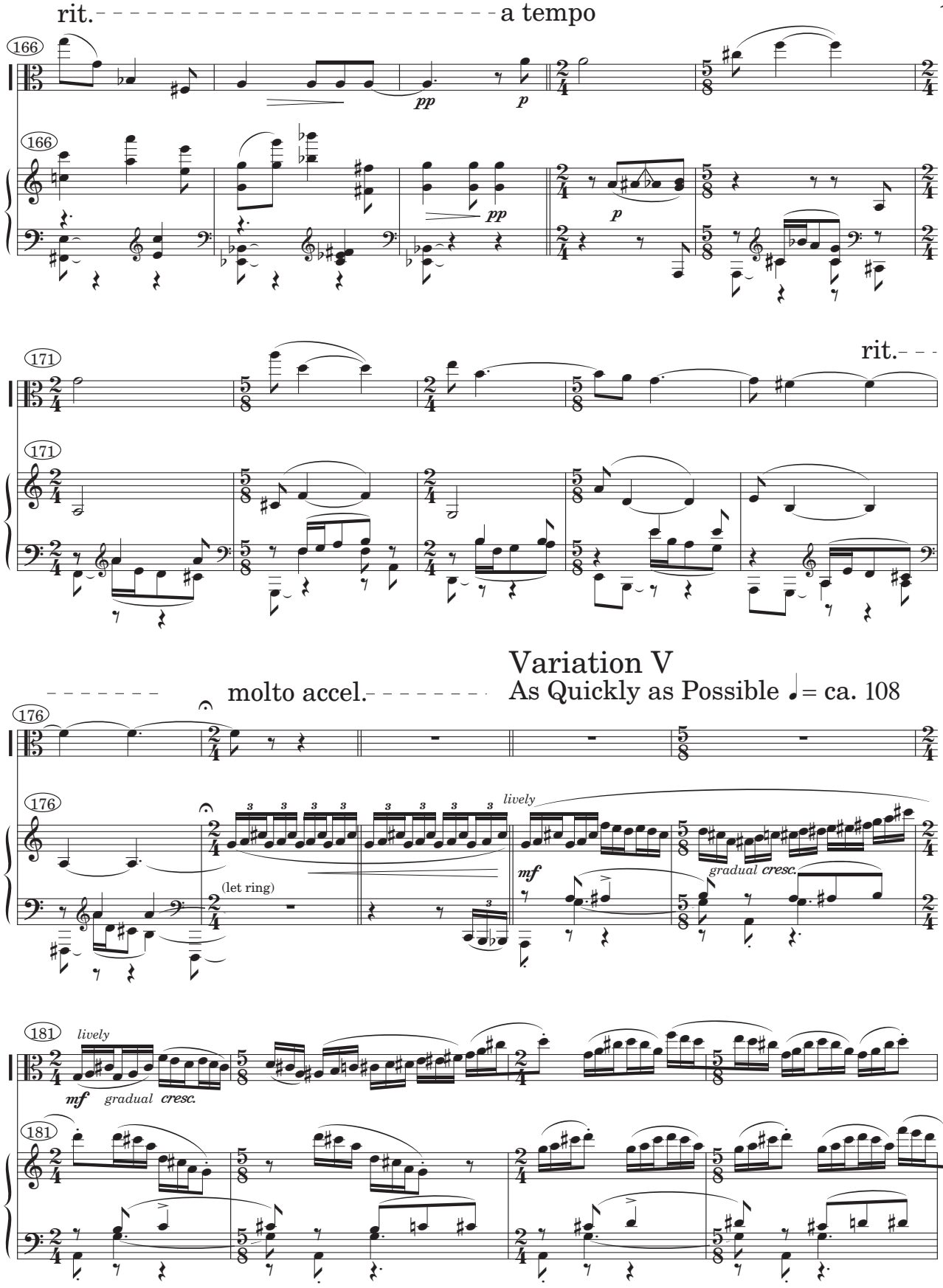


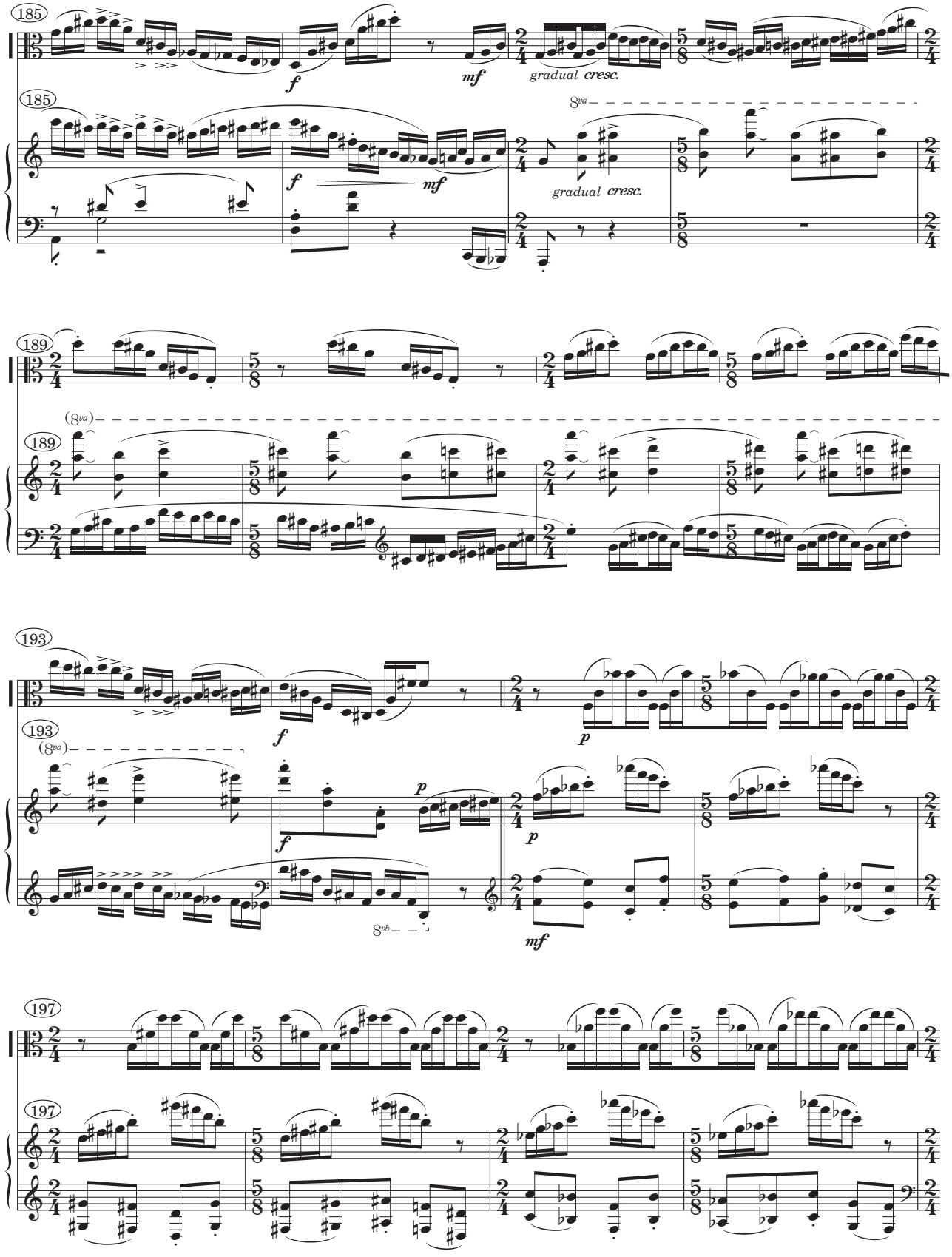

124
mf
pizz.
arco
(9/16)
p insistent
129
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
134
poco rit. - - - - - - - - a tempo
pizz.
arco
f
pizz.
139

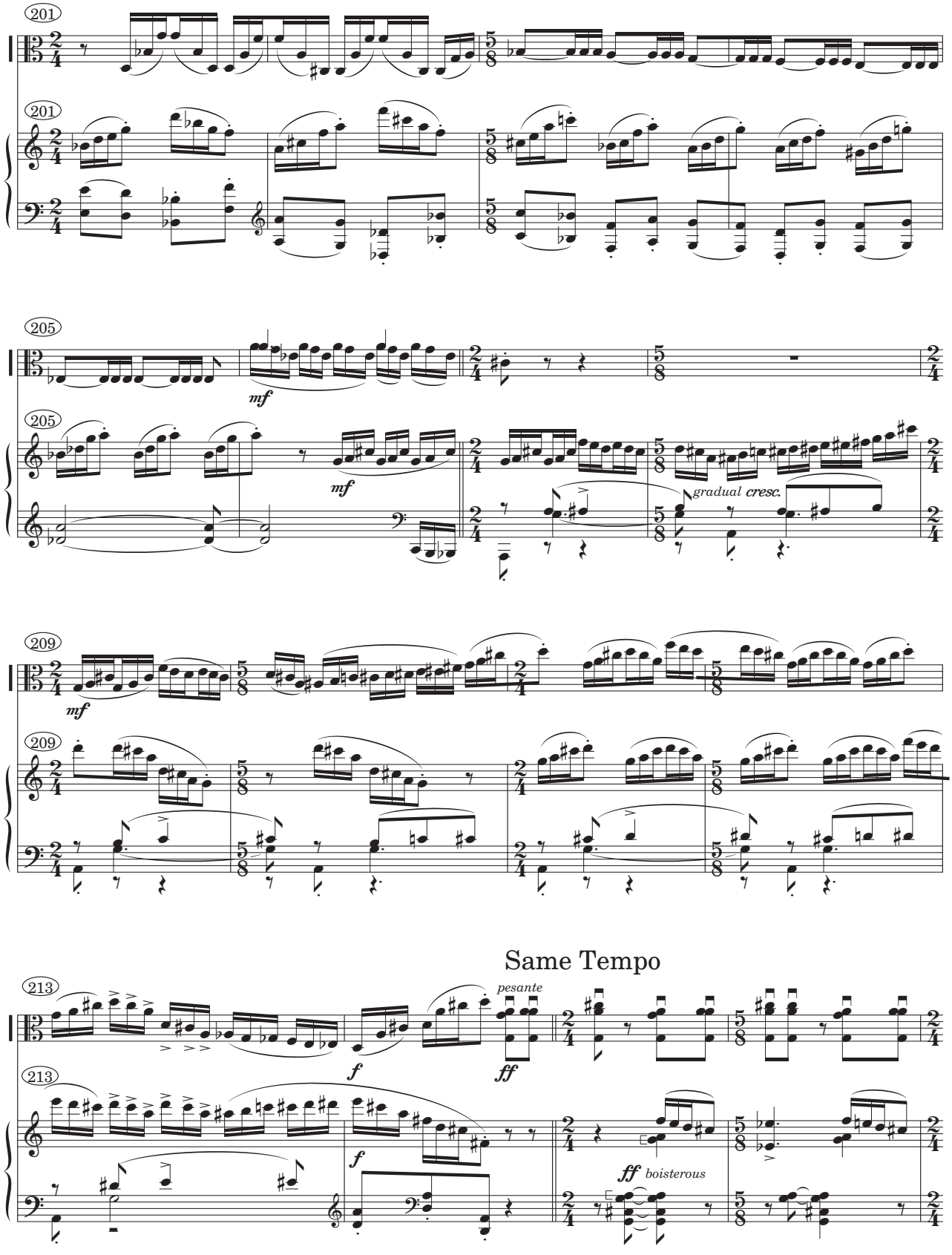
Variation IV

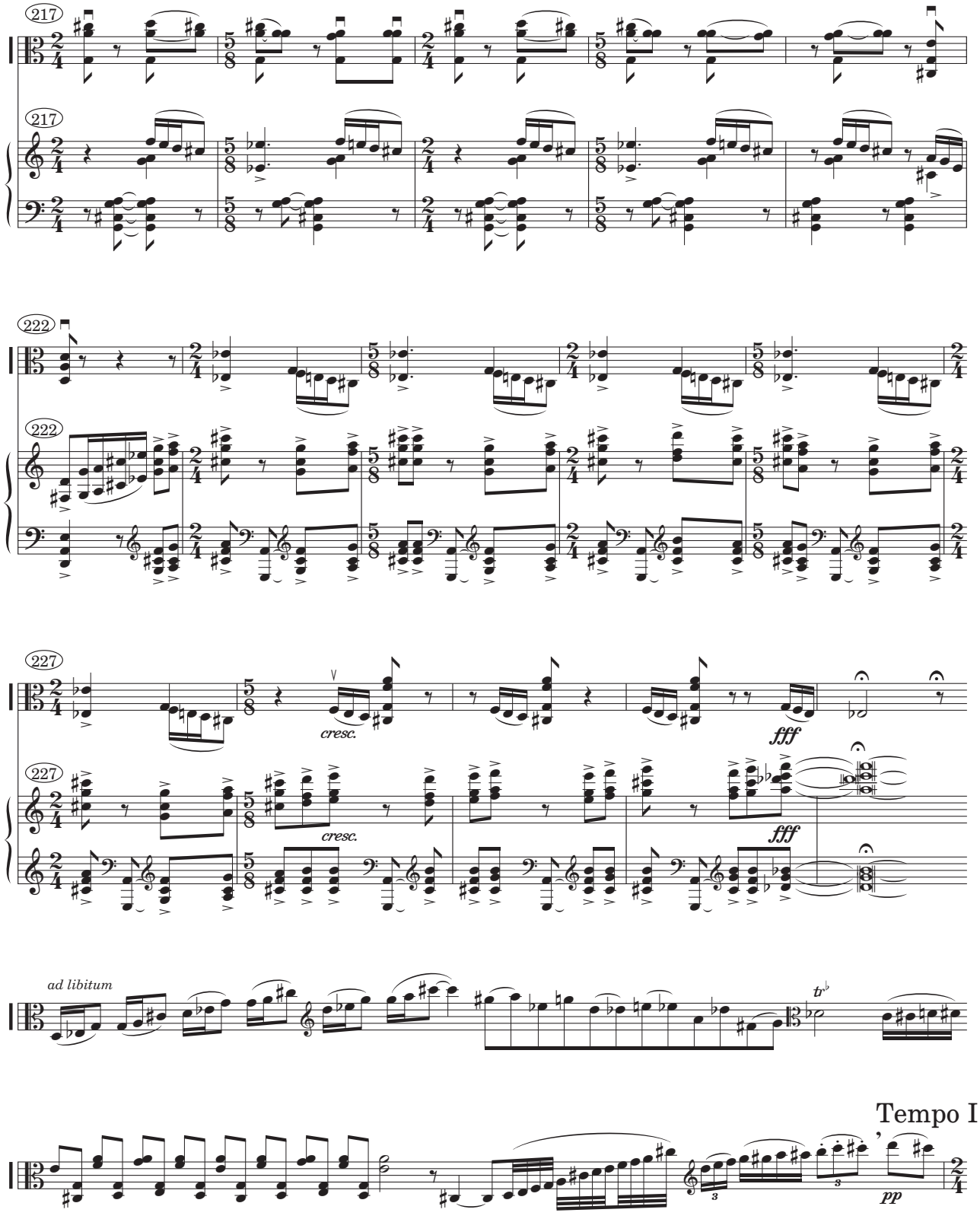
Very Slowly ♩=40

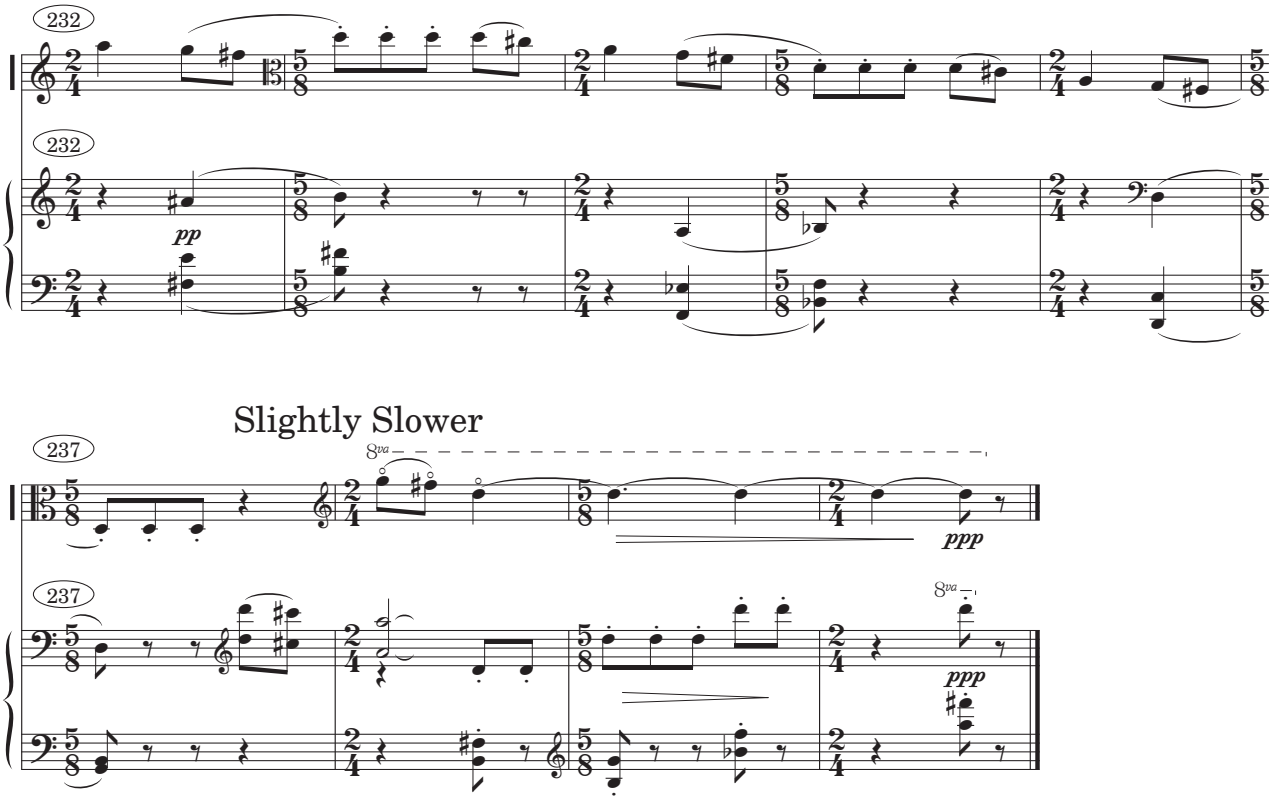



rit.
a tempo
166
pp
p
rit.
171
molto accel.
Variation V
As Quickly as Possible ♩= ca. 108
176
(let ring)
lively
mf
gradual cresc.
181

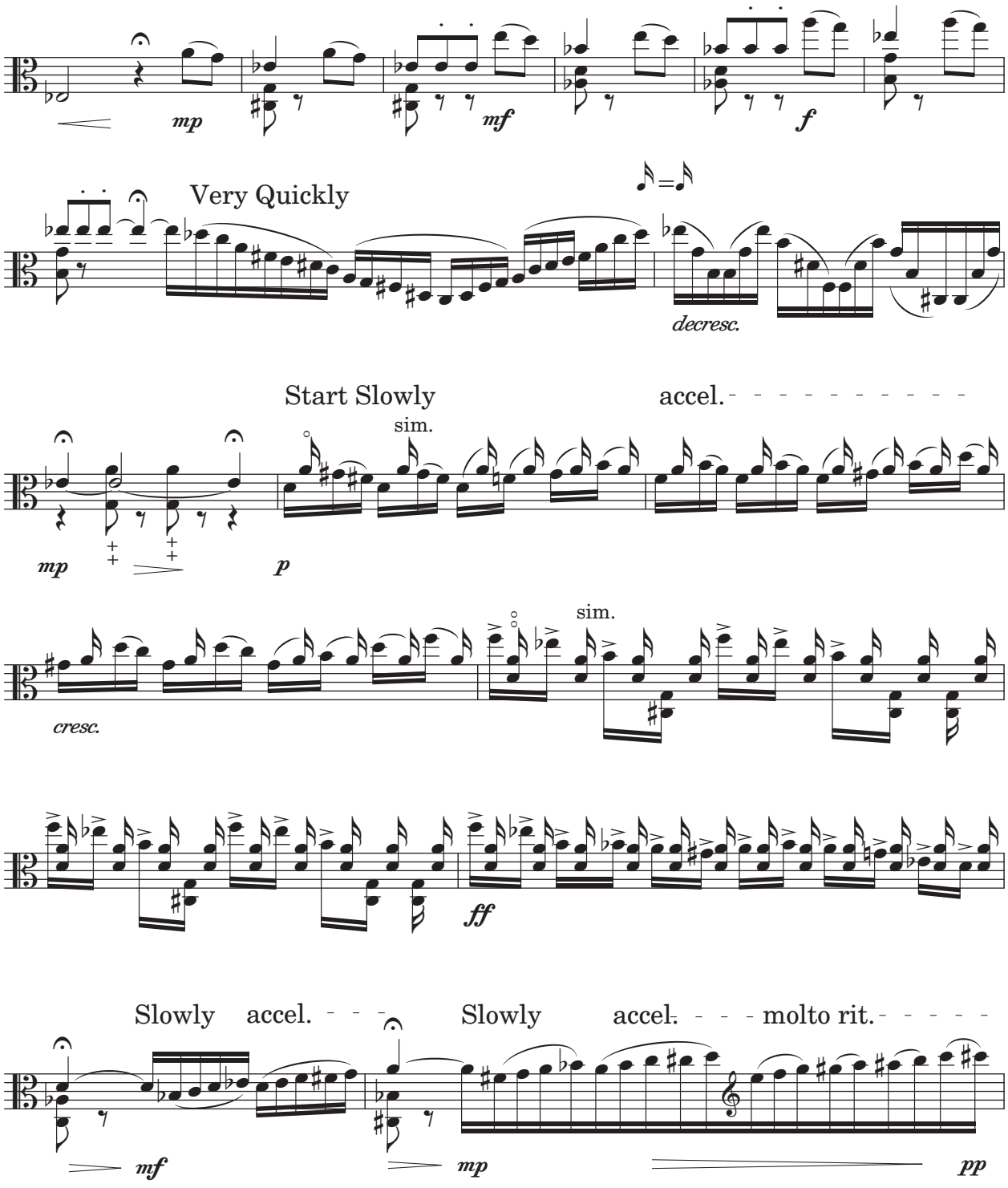

185
f
mf
gradual cresc.
8va
189
(8va)
193
(8va)
8vb
197


201
mf
205
mf
gradual cresc.
209
mf
Same Tempo
213
f
pesante
ff
f
ff boisterous


217
222
227
cresc.
cresc.
fff
fff
ad libitum
Tempo I
pp



Karim Al-Zand. 08/24/2002

Variations for viola and piano
Alternate Cadenza

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