Andrew Mark Sauerwein

A DARKENED GLASS

Five Odd Movements
for
Unaccompanied Cello

1. Prelude
3. Deep Thunder (Heart's Desire)
5. Needle's Eye of the Storm
7. Moment of Truth
9. Epiphanologue (Now All Has Been Heard)

for
JillMichelle Cosart

1996

Program Note

A Darkened Glass, for cello solo, draws on several musical and extramusical sources: "A Hidden Life," a narrative poem by Scottish writer and theologian George MacDonald; the book of Ecclesiastes (particularly the closing verses), and a turn-of-the-century hymn set by William Jeater, "None Other Lamb." The initial plan for the piece involved punctuating the five movements with interludes by a small instrumental ensemble, but that idea evaporated, leaving only the odd-numbered movements for solo cello. The "Prelude" presents a kind of mysterious puzzle, distilling the material of the above hymn and my reharmonization of it into a strange and obscure brew. "Deep Thunder (Heart's Desire)" elaborates on the prelude, yet does little to unravel the mystery, instead making every effort to take control of the situation and get on with it. "Needle's Eye of the Storm" (a reference to camels and hurricanes) displays a kind of subdued self-importance, interrupted occasionally by moments of skittish paranoia. In "Moment of Truth," the reharmonized hymn begins to emerge. Beginning with a horn-call, the music gradually builds to a peak of agitation and evaporates in resignation, still mystified. "Epiphanologue" (combining "epiphany" and "epilogue") brings the hymn (finally) to the fore, first in relative darkness and then in more direct light. In this way the final verse of the hymn text is linked with Ecclesiastes 12:13b: "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."

For JillMichelle Cosart

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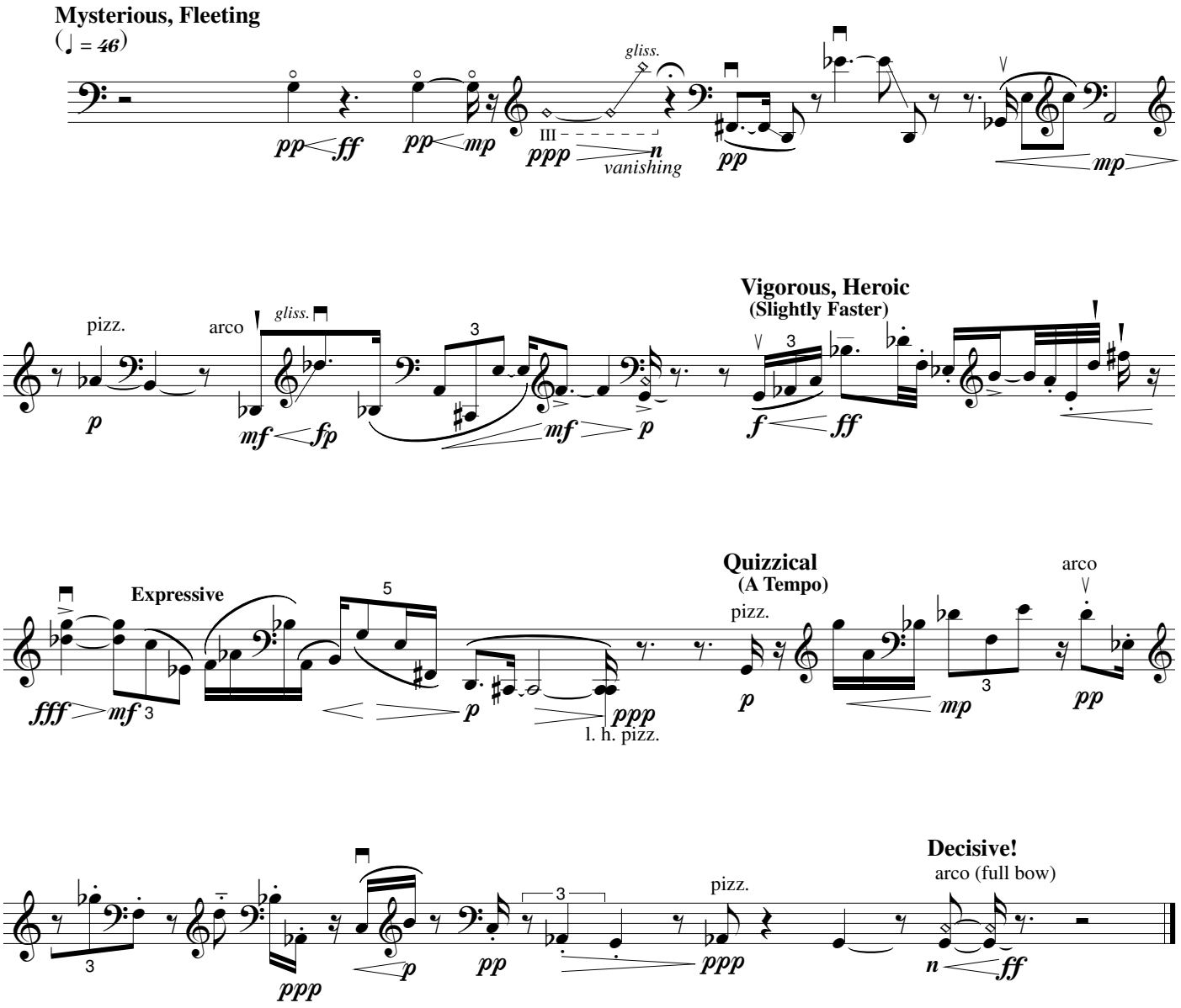
1. Prelude



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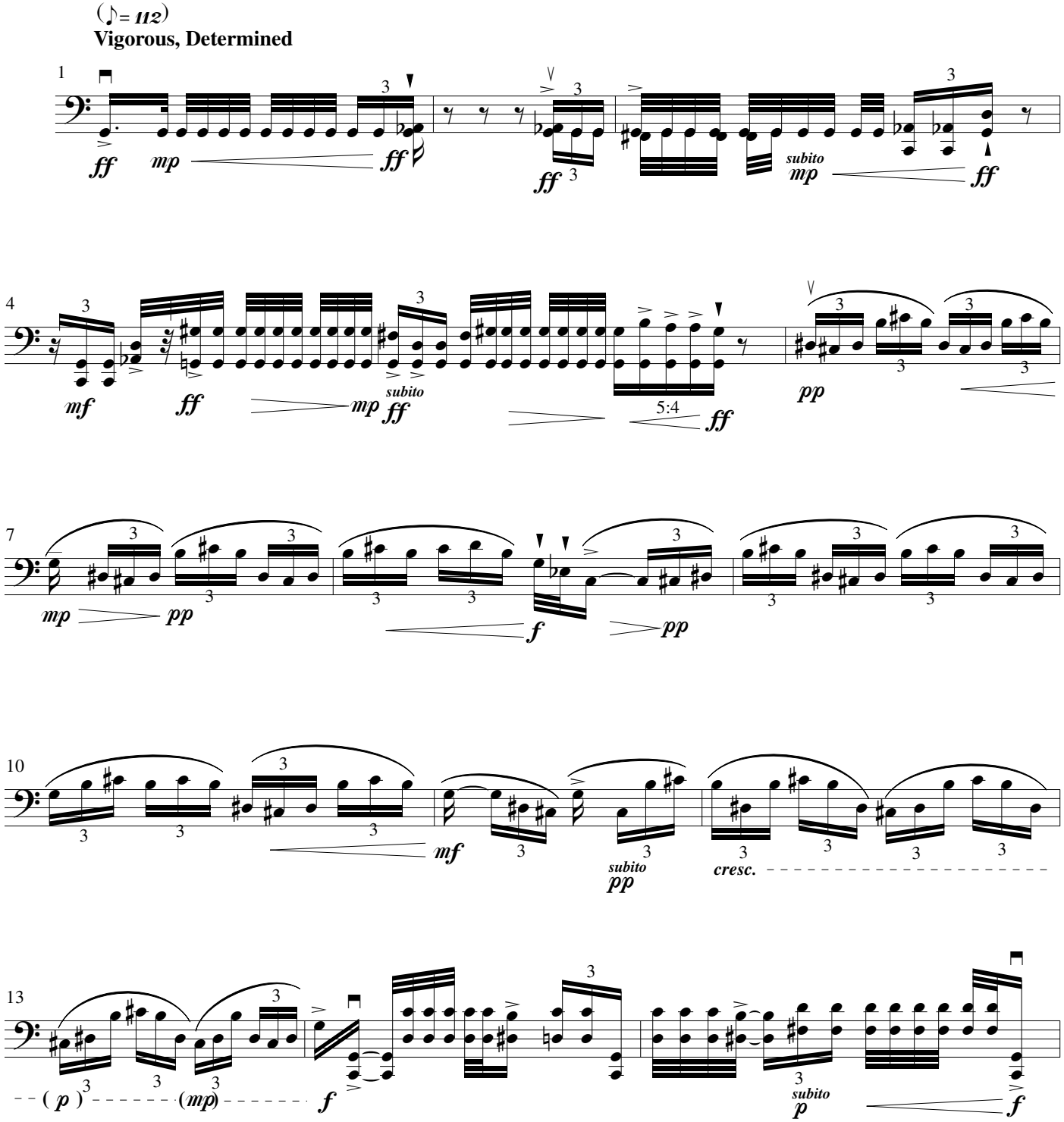
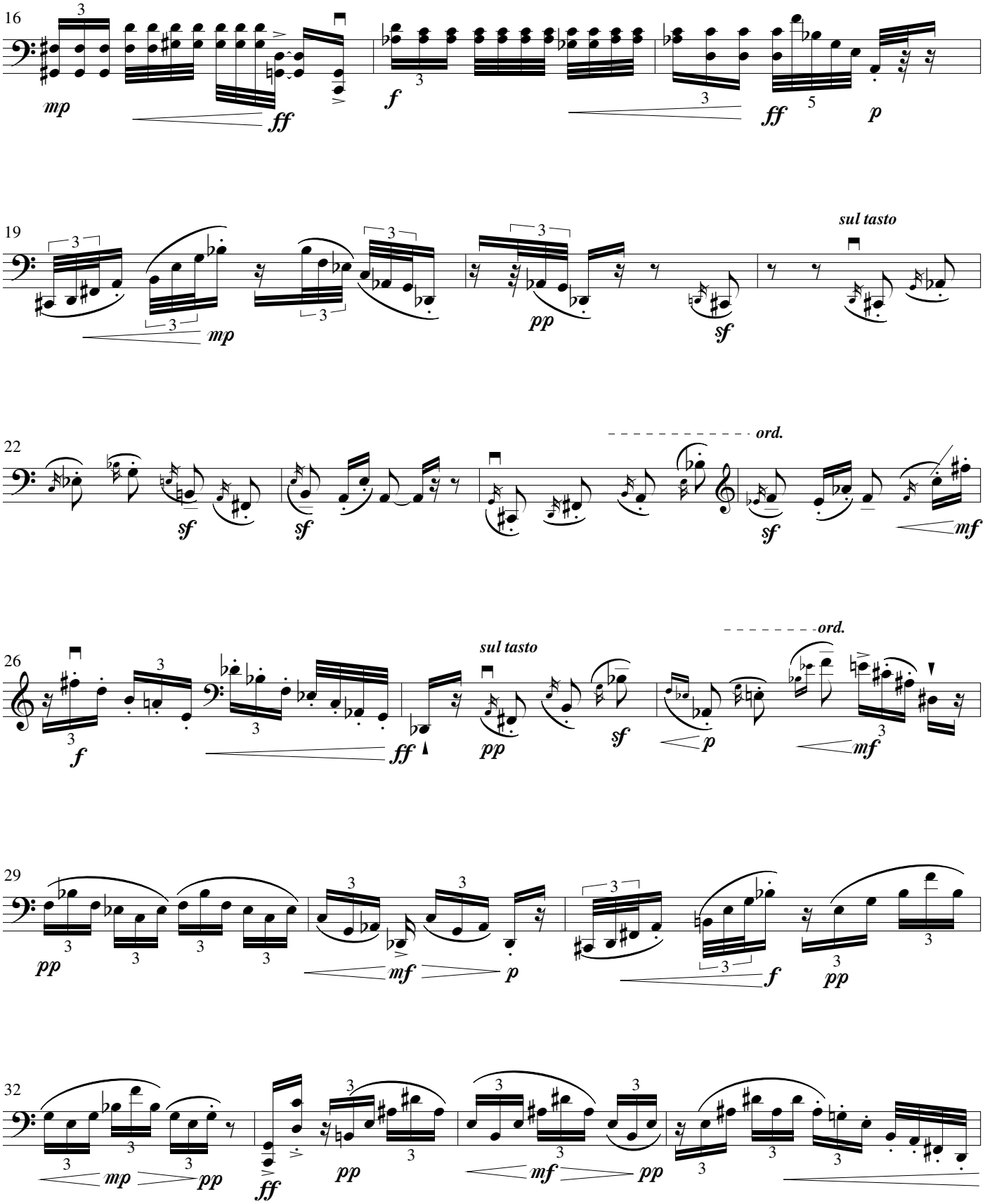
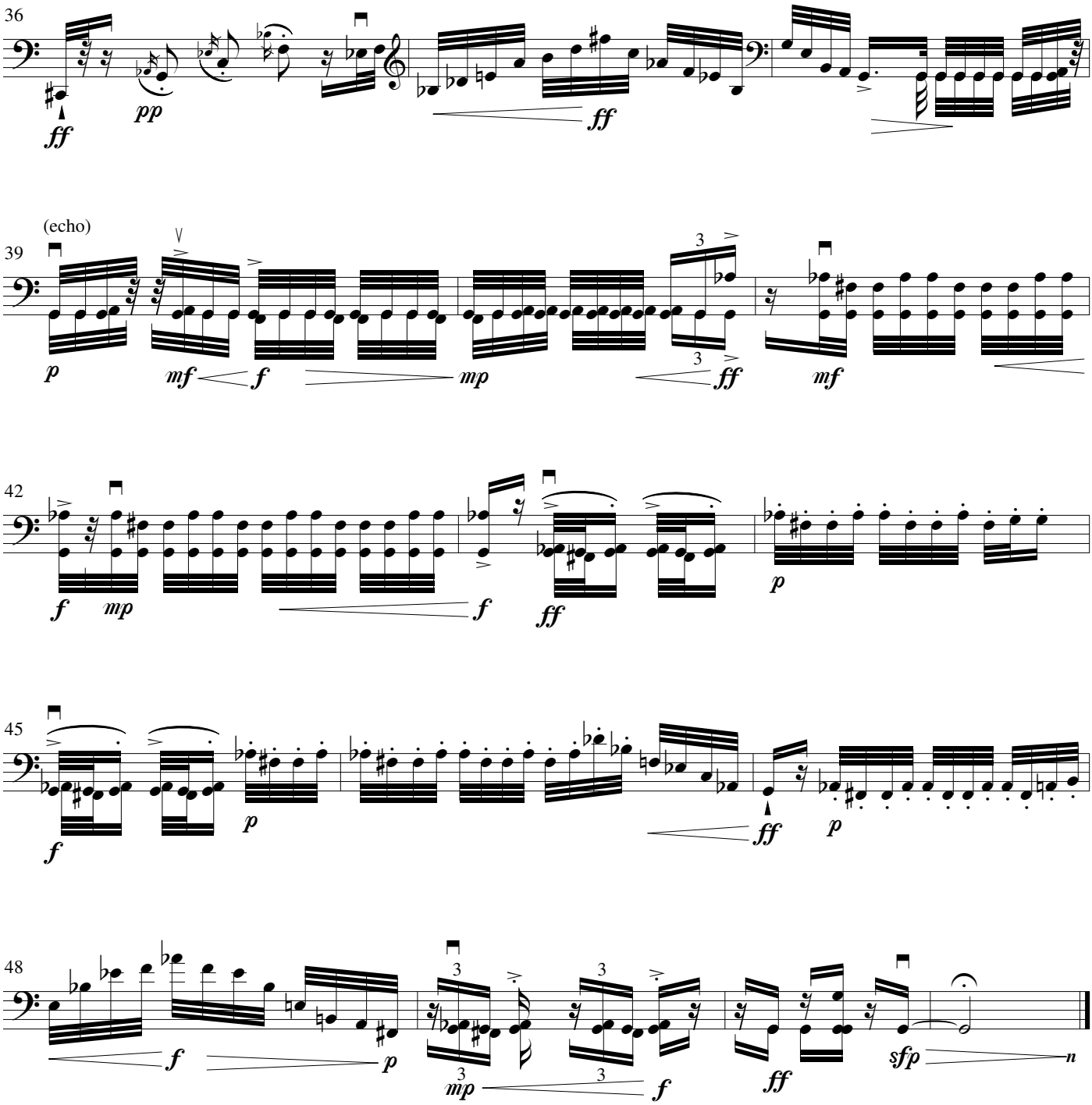
3. Deep Thunder (Heart's Desire)



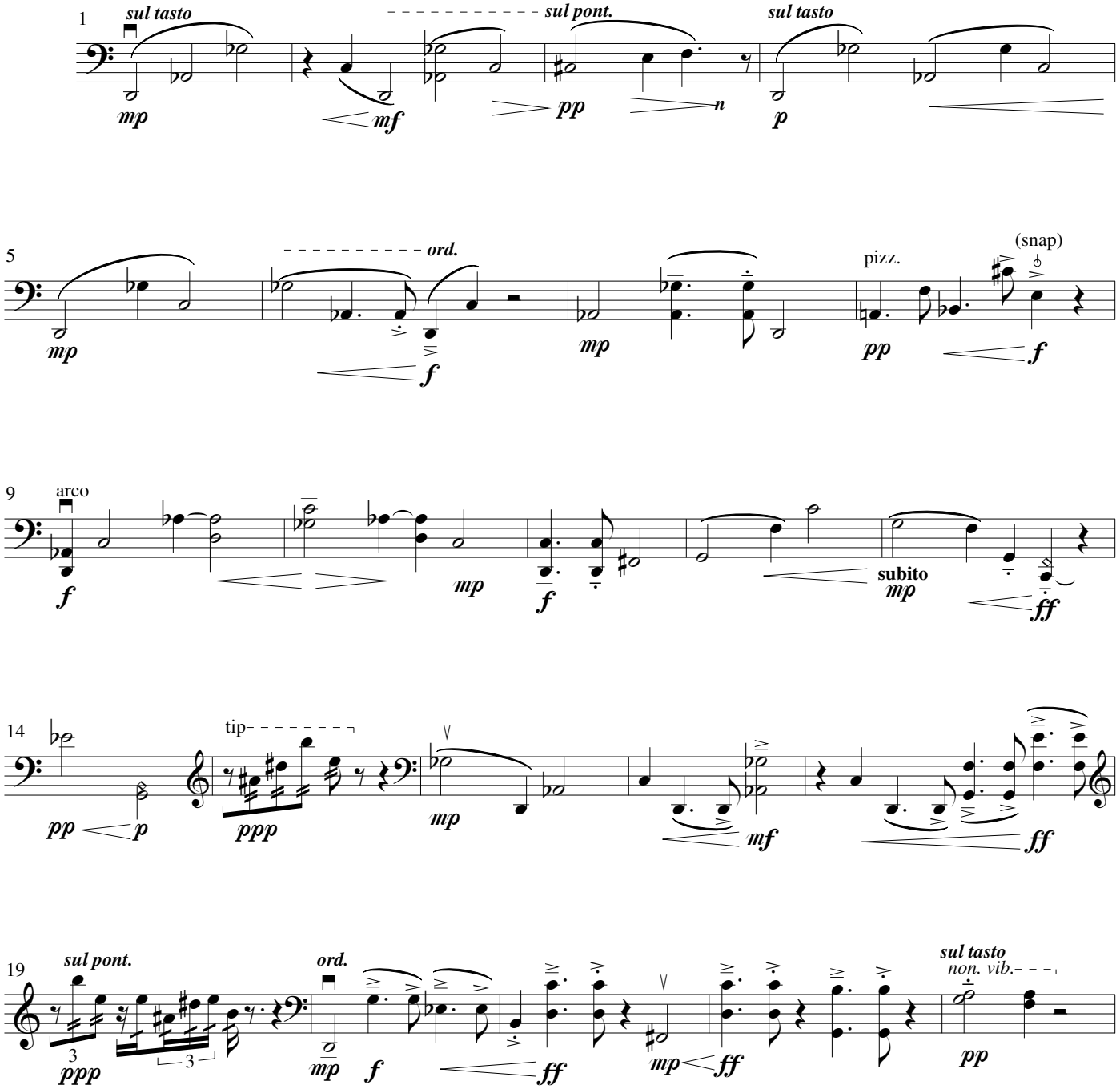

16
mp
ff
f
ff
p
19
mp
pp
sf
sul tasto
22
sf
sf
ord.
sf
mf
26
f
ff
sul tasto
pp
sf
p
ord.
mf
29
pp
mf
p
f
pp
32
mp
pp
ff
pp
mf
pp

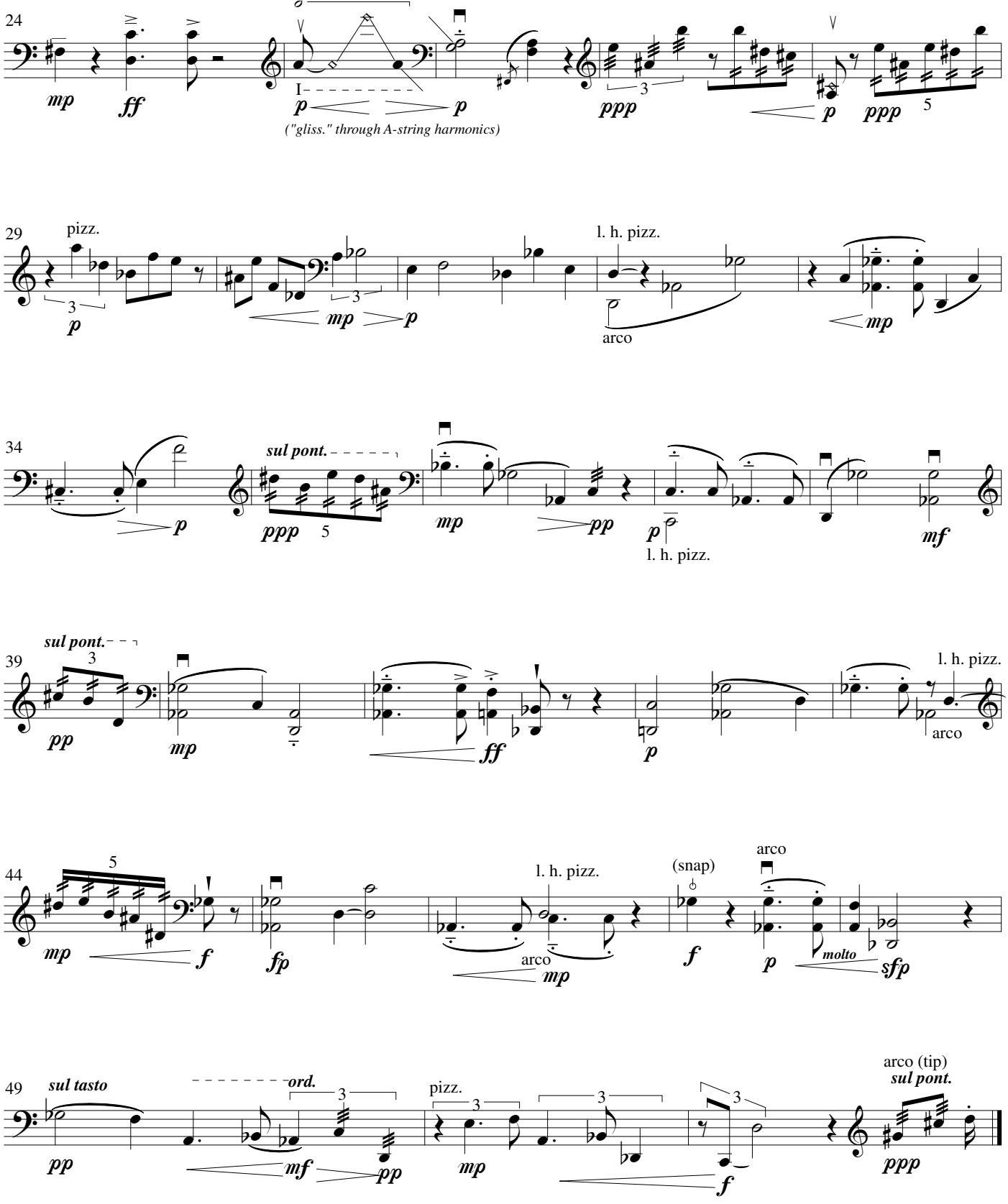

36
ff
pp
ff
(echo)
39
p
mf
f
mp
3
ff
mf
42
f
mp
f
ff
p
45
f
p
ff
p
48
f
p
3
mp
3
f
ff
sfp
n

5. Needle's Eye of the Storm

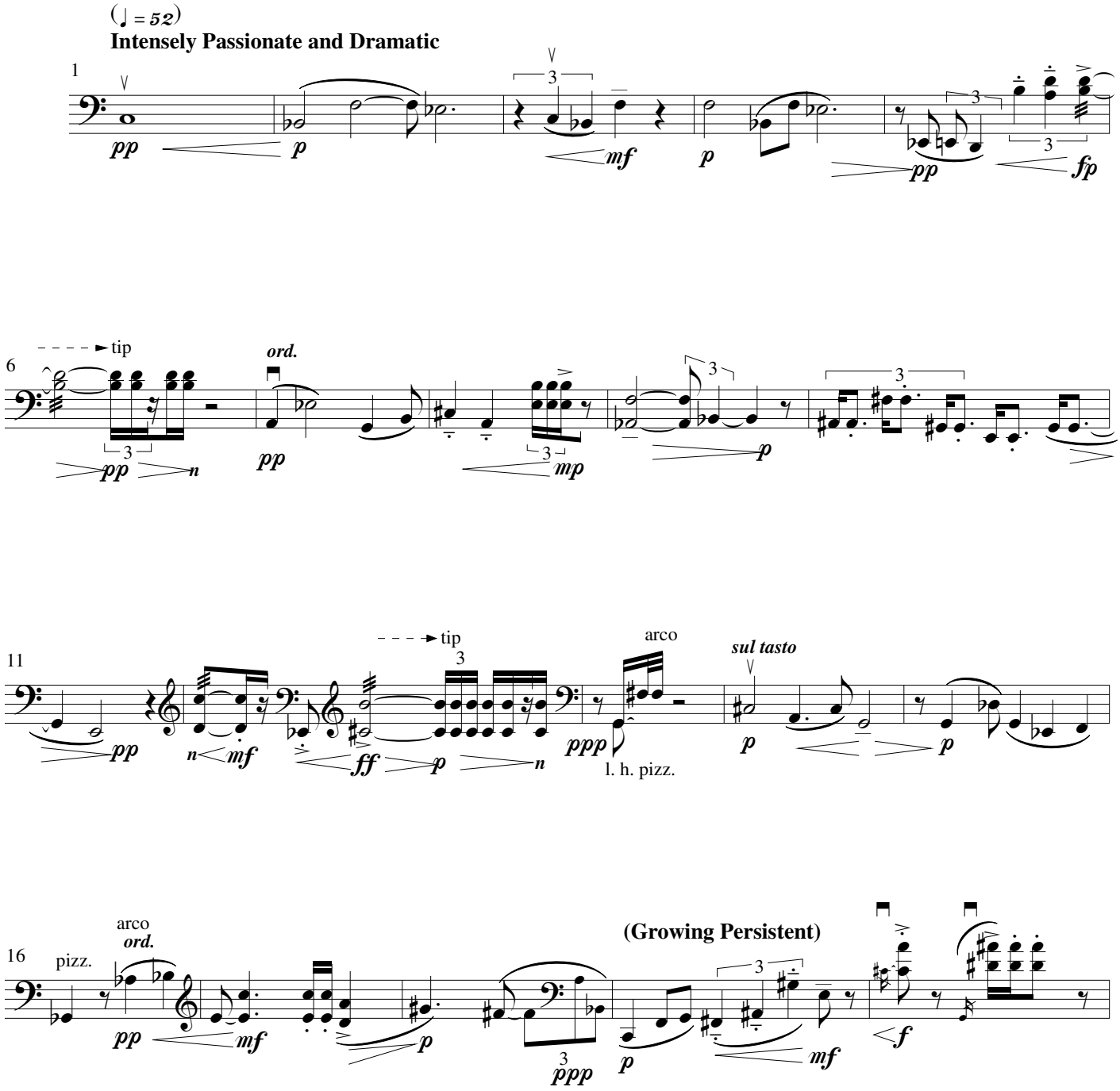
(♩ = 72)

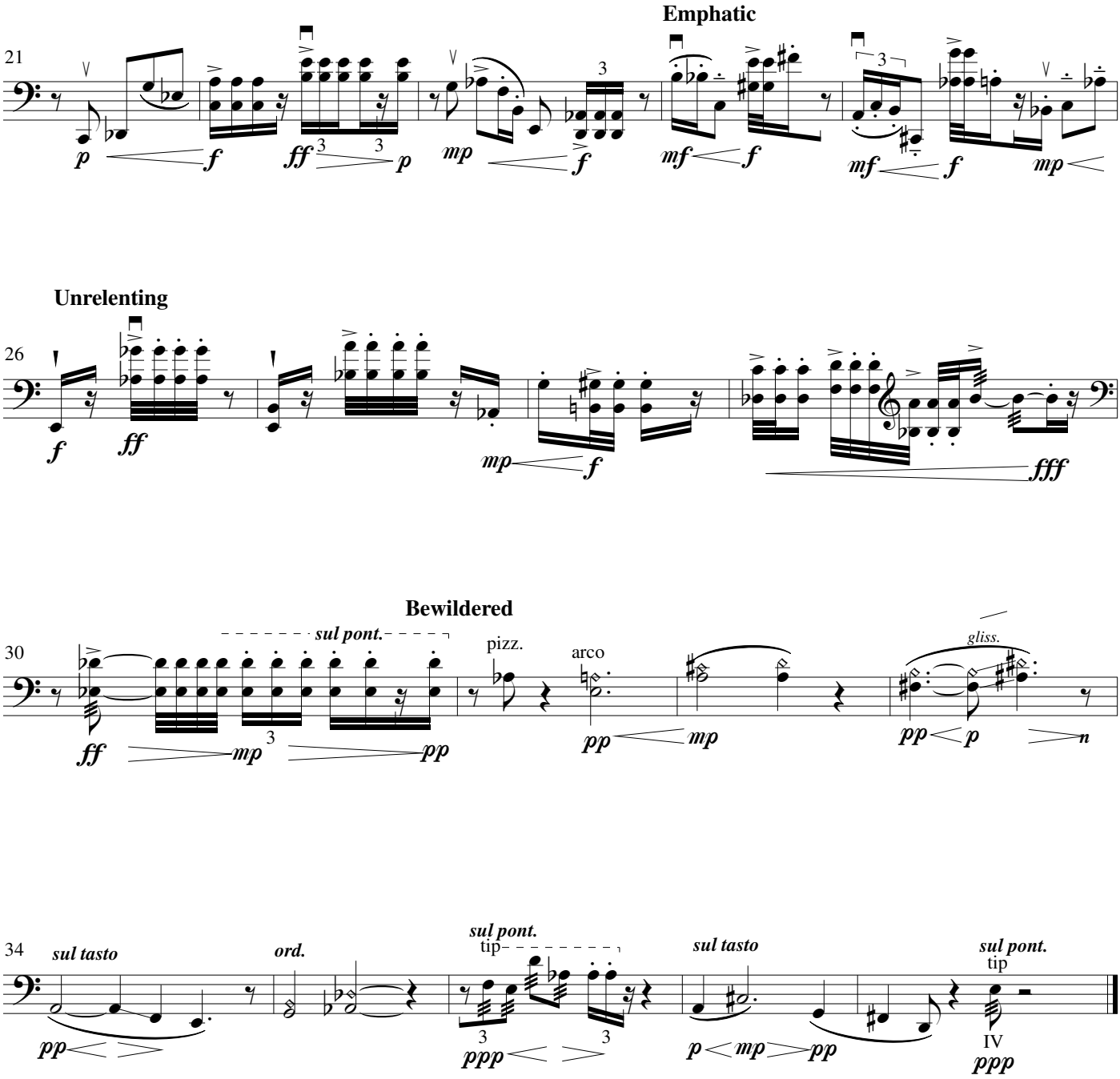
Slow, Stately, Pompous, Vain (Secretly Paranoid)




24
mp
ff
I
p
p
("gliss." through A-string harmonics)
ppp
p
ppp
29
pizz.
p
mp
p
l. h. pizz.
arco
mp
34
p
sul pont.
ppp
mp
pp
p
l. h. pizz.
mf
39
sul pont.
pp
mp
ff
p
l. h. pizz.
arco
44
mp
f
fp
l. h. pizz.
arco
mp
(snap)
f
arco
p
molto
sfp
49
sul tasto
pp
ord.
mf
pp
pizz.
mp
f
arco (tip)
sul pont.
ppp

7. Moment of Truth

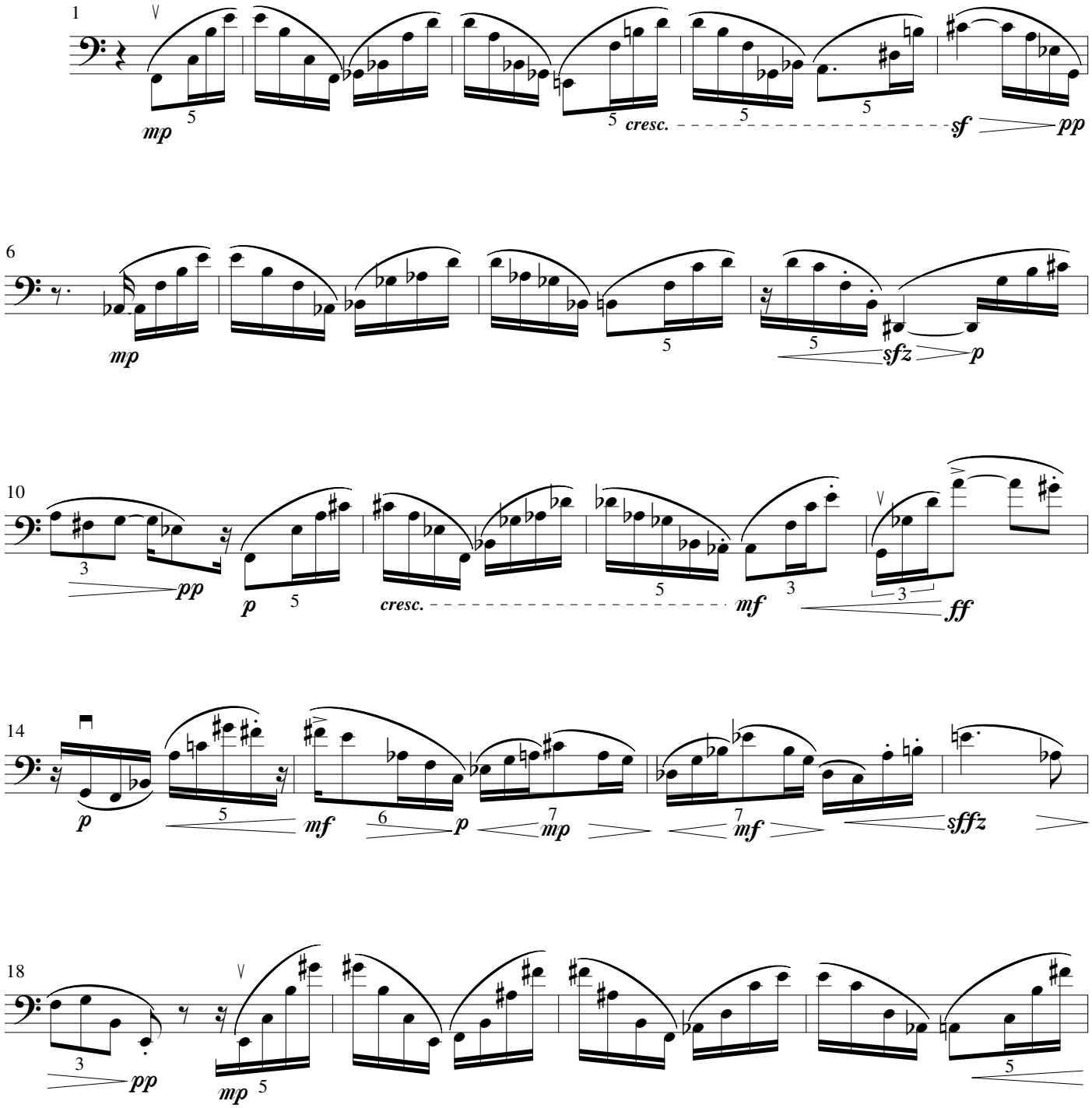


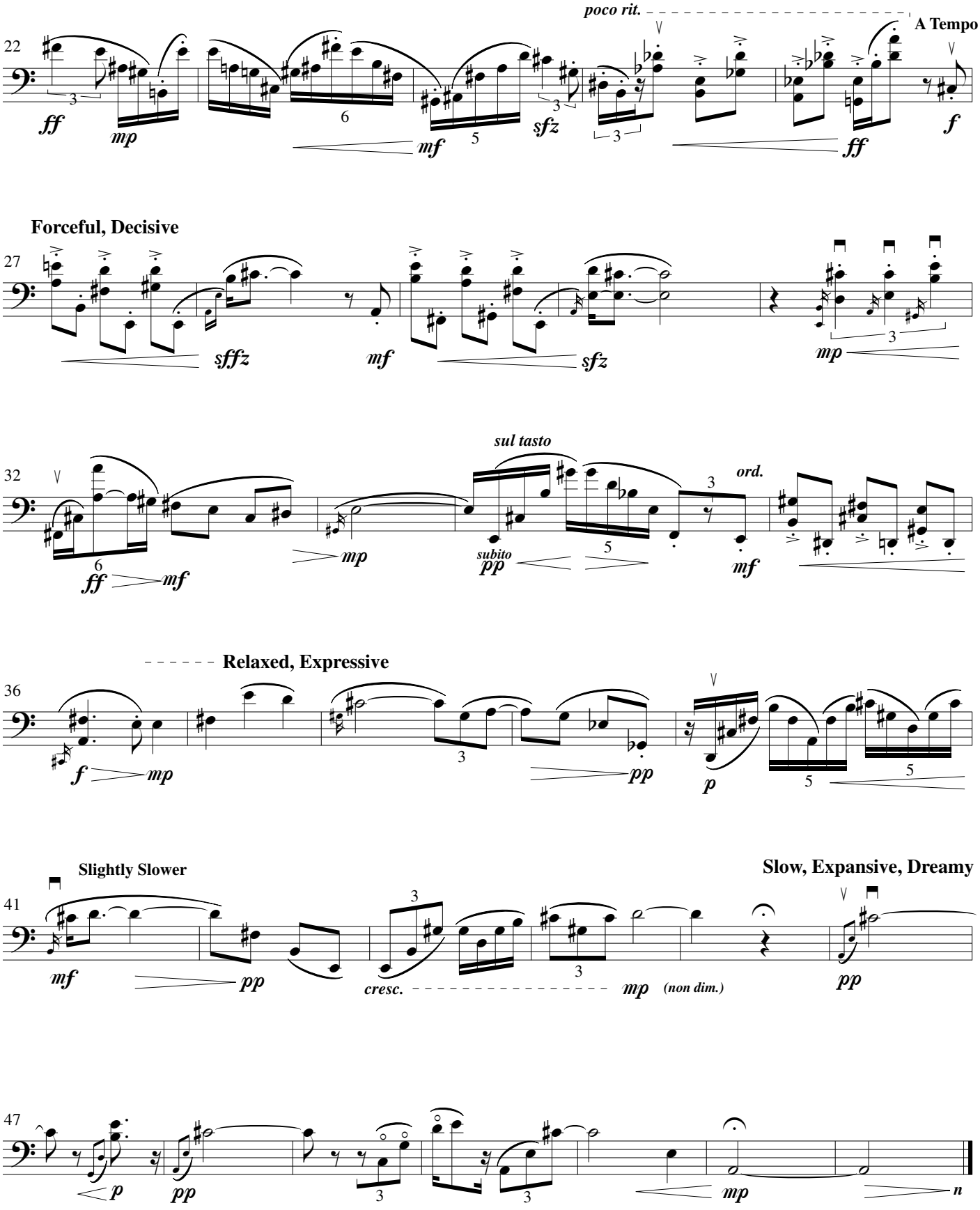

Emphatic
21
p
f
ff
p
mp
f
mf
f
mf
f
mp
Unrelenting
26
f
ff
mp
f
fff
Bewildered
30
sul pont.
ff
mp
pp
pizz.
arco
pp
mp
gliss.
pp
p
n
34
sul tasto
pp
ord.
sul pont.
tip
ppp
sul tasto
p
mp
pp
sul pont.
tip
IV
ppp

9. Epiphanologue (Now All Has Been Heard)

(♩ = 52)

Contented, Exuberant; **with (Baroque) Freedom**




poco rit.
A Tempo
22
ff
mp
mf
sfz
ff
f
Forceful, Decisive
27
sfffz
mf
sfz
mp
sul tasto
32
ord.
ff
mf
mp
subito pp
mf
Relaxed, Expressive
36
f
mp
pp
p
Slightly Slower
Slow, Expansive, Dreamy
41
mf
pp
cresc.
mp
(non dim.)
pp
47
p
pp
mp
n