A Shaynem Dank Dir Im Pupik

klezmer romps, dirges, and death wishes

for three double basses

David Jason Snow

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Klezmer Romps, Dirges, and Death Wishes for three double basses

The Yiddish curse is a unique species of verbal assault that can be either profligately baroque in execution ("May you inherit a hotel with one hundred rooms and be found dead in every one!") or packaged and delivered with lethal economy ("Get killed!"). By its rules, it just won't do to state the obvious: Aunt Rose doesn't merely look sick, but more tellingly, *shaynera menchen haut me gelicht in drerd* ("they've buried nicer looking people than that"). Part of the genre's charm is to be found in the warmth of the language, in the aural soulfulness of Yiddish that simultaneously sharpens the insult's bite while mitigating it with a subtext of familial connection (being the lingua franca of pre-WWII European Jews, Yiddish was a brickbat wielded mainly at one's own kind; whom else could one abuse so fearlessly?).

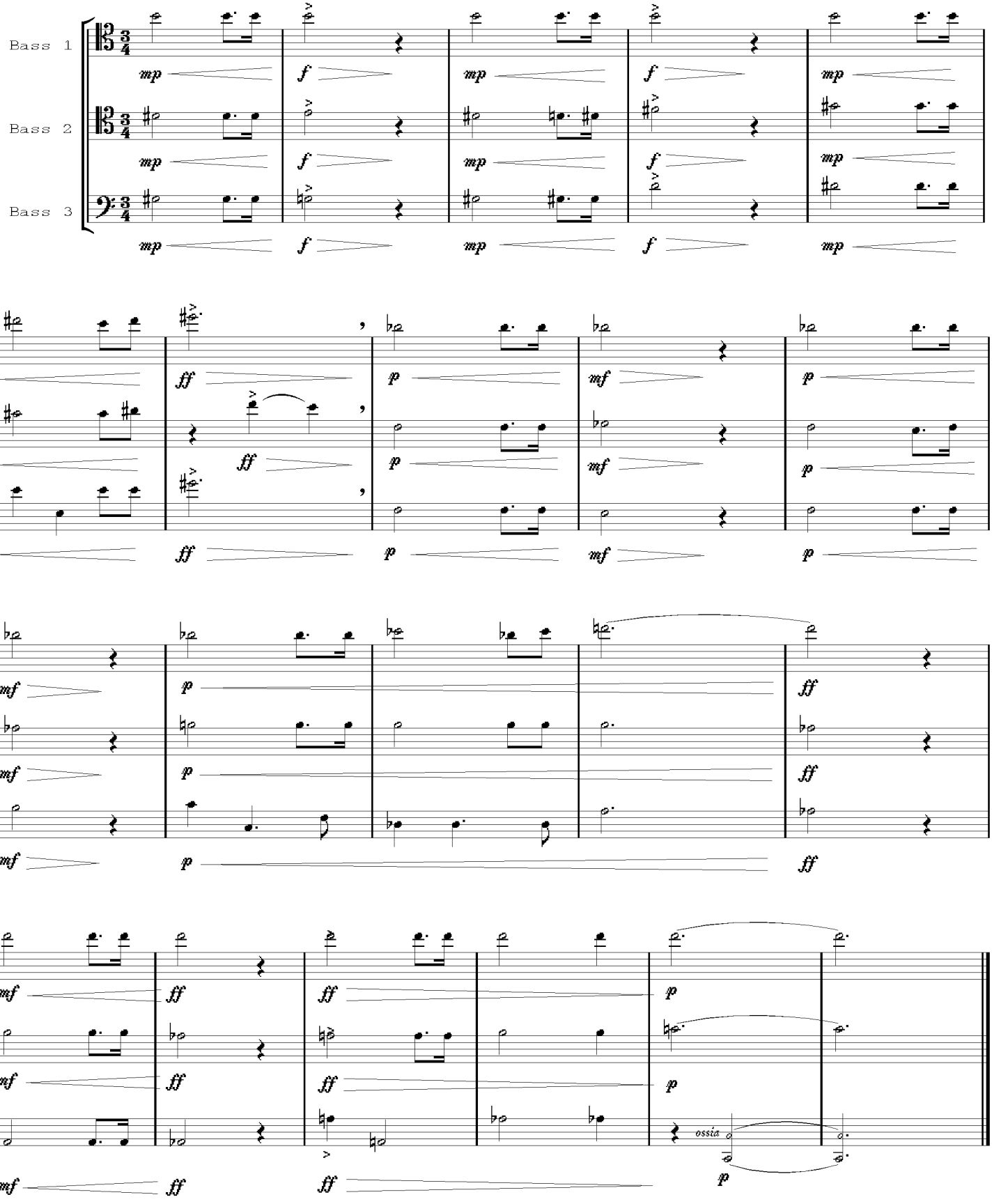
The titles of the suite's six movements constitute a sampling of popular Yiddish invective: 1. *A Shvarts Yor* ("You should have a miserable year!"); 2. *A Brokh Tsu Dayn Lebn* ("Your life should be a disaster!"); 3. *Zolst Ligen In Drerd* ("Drop dead!"); 4. A Khalerye ("A plague on you!"); 5. *Sie Haut Gevain A Courva In De Momma's Bouch* ("She was a whore in her mother's stomach!"); and 6, the always handy *Gai Kakhen Afeynam* ("Go shit in the ocean!"). If the friend who gave you a ride to tonight's concert won't take you home because he's busy trying to score with the ticket lady, look the rat-bastard in the eye and spit out, "*a shaynem dank dir im pupik*!" ("many thanks to your bellybutton!"). He probably won't have a clue about what you just said, but he'll know damn well you're really, really pissed.

Tzu yeden shmuck auf der velt.
(Du vist ver du bist.)

1. A Shvarts Yor

David Snow

Veytig ♩. = 72



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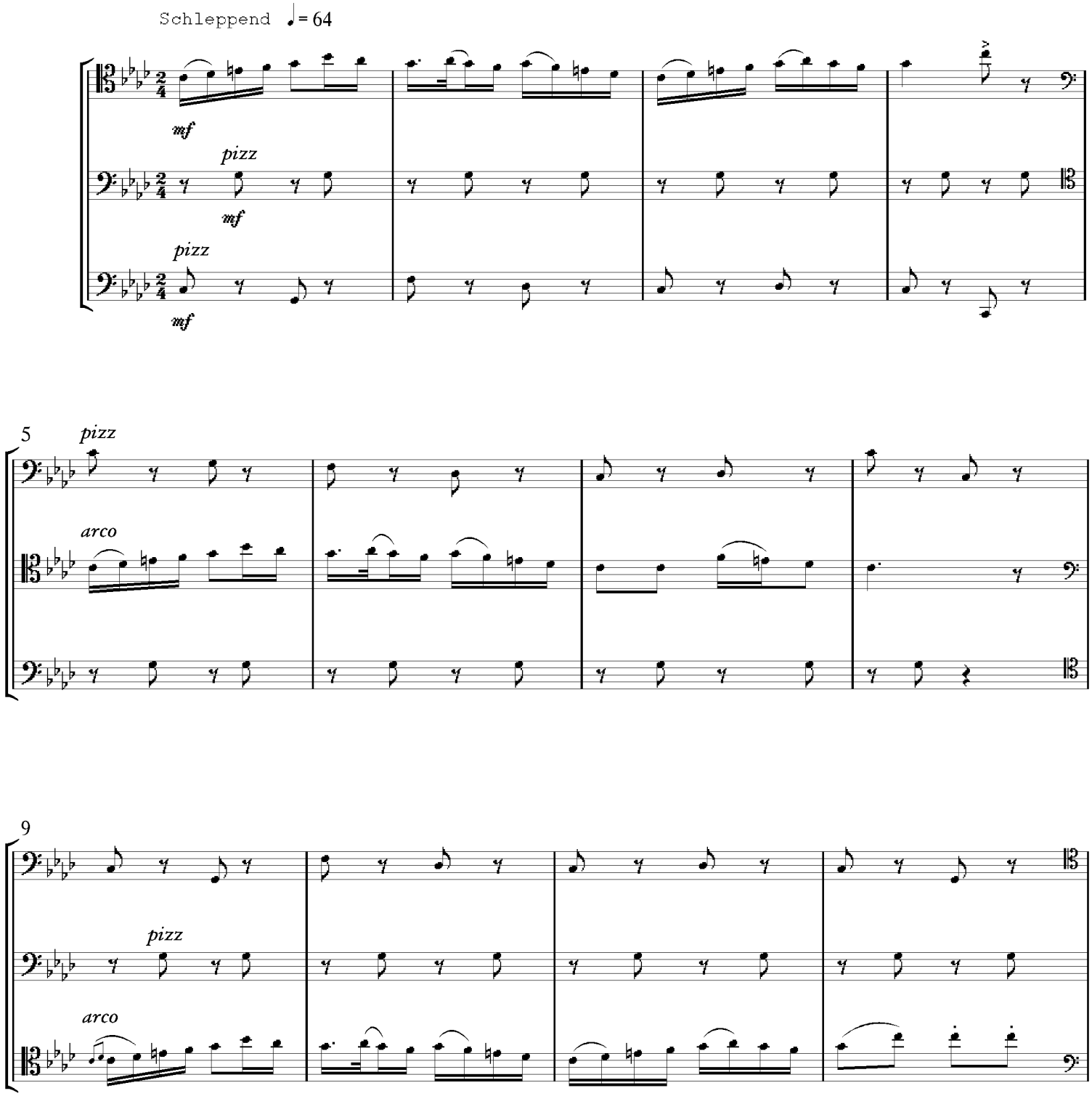
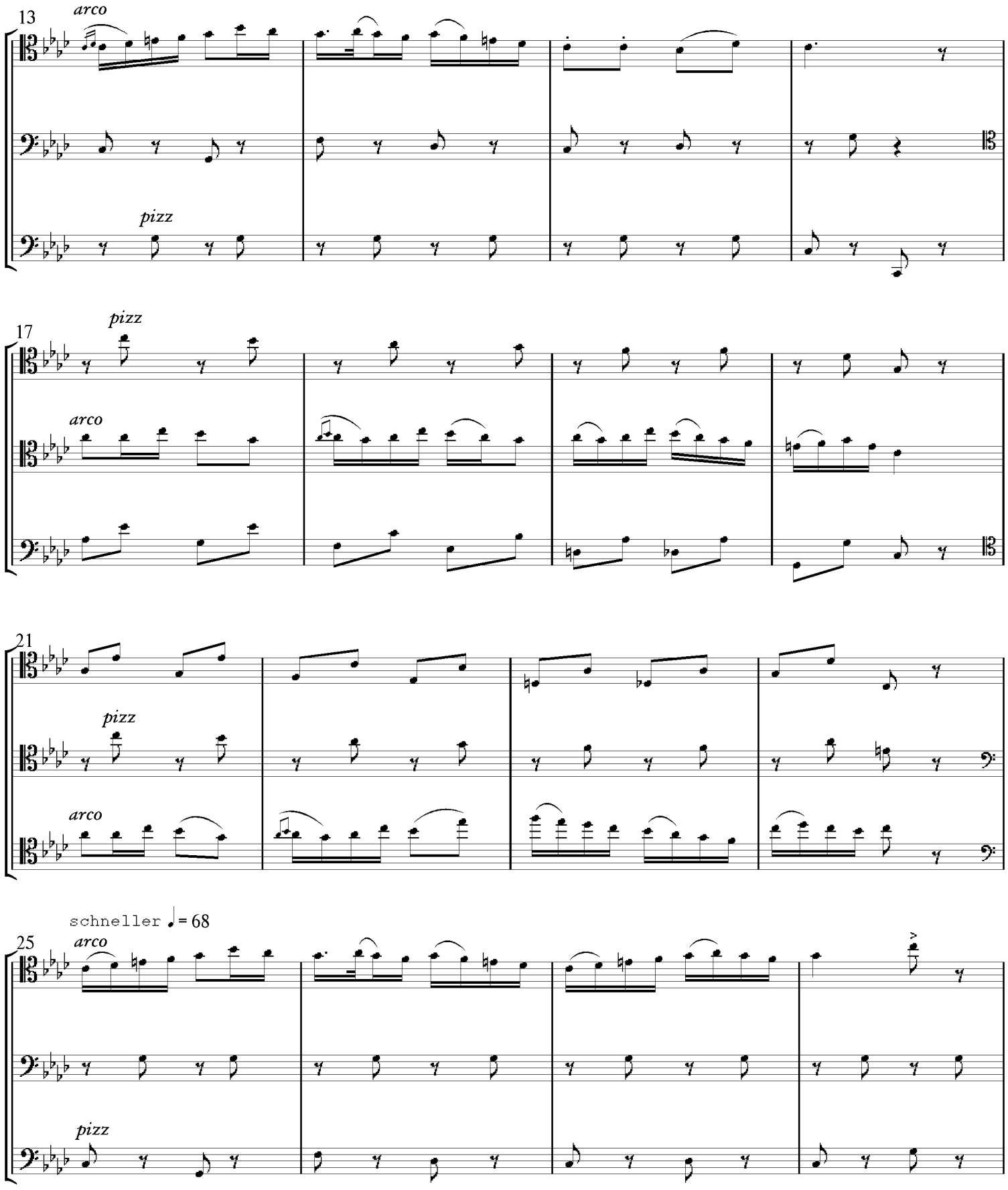
2. A Brokh Tzu Dayn Lebn

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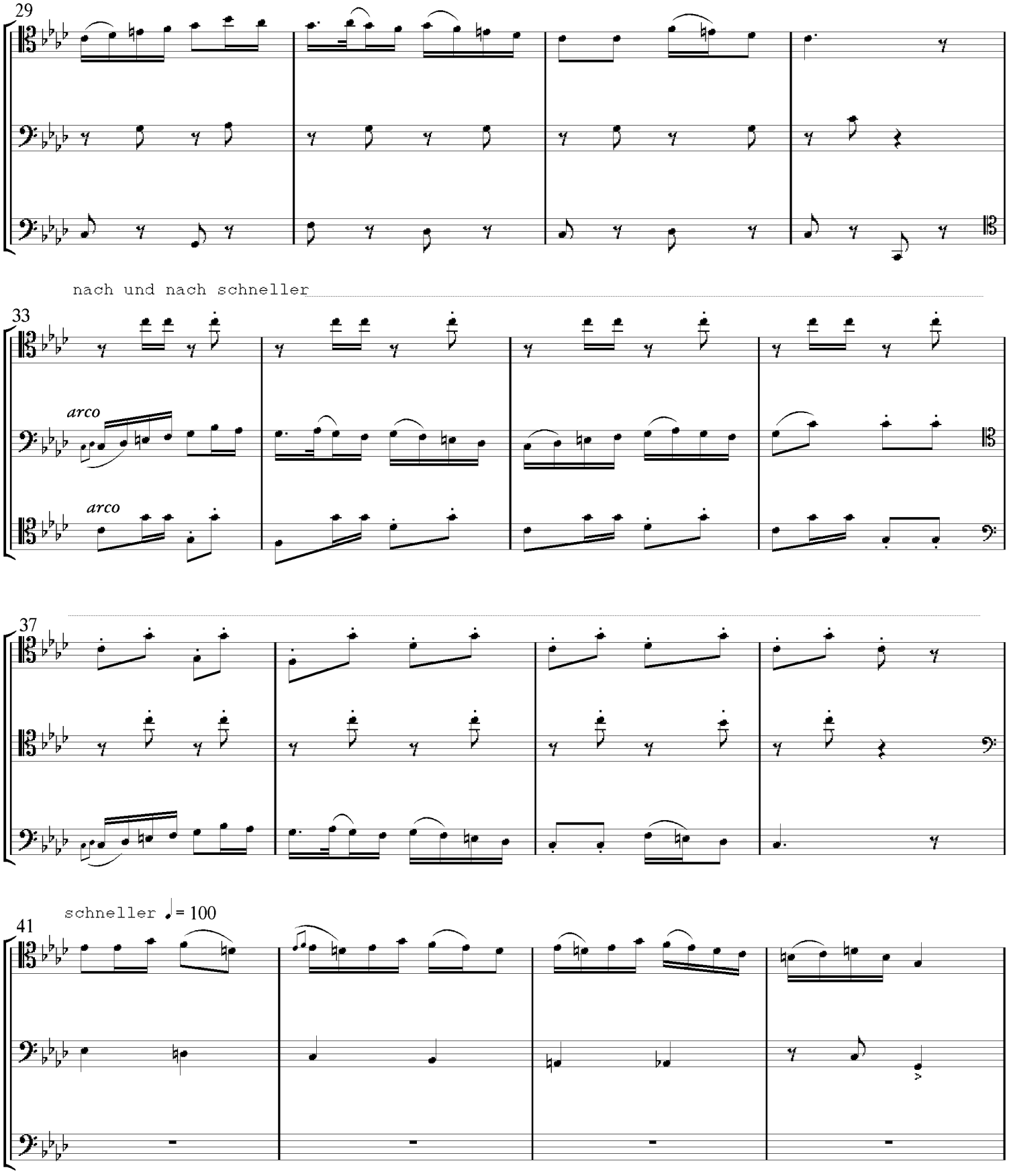
pizz
arco
schneller ♩= 68
25
arco
pizz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nach und nach schneller
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arco
arco
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schneller ♩= 100
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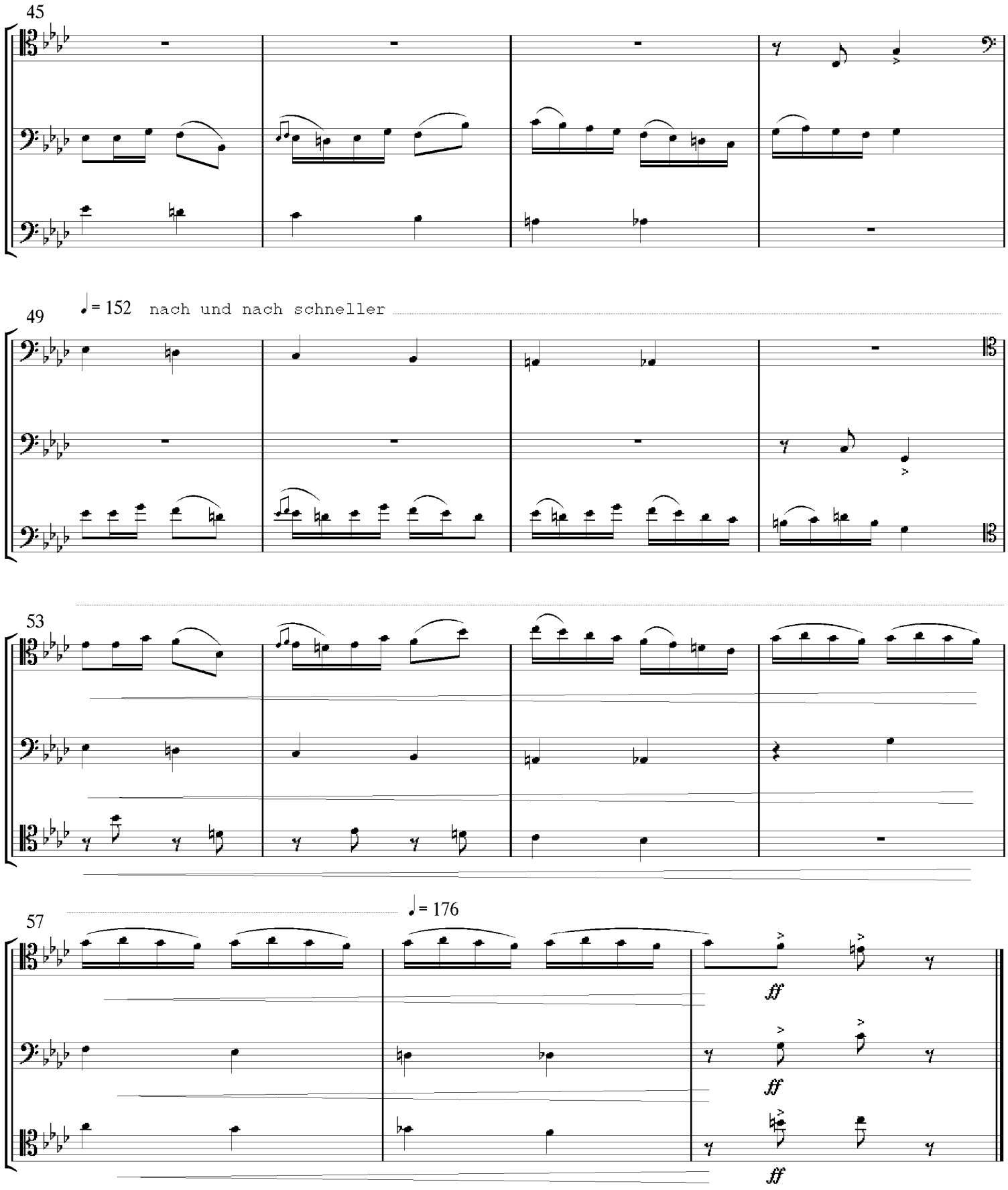
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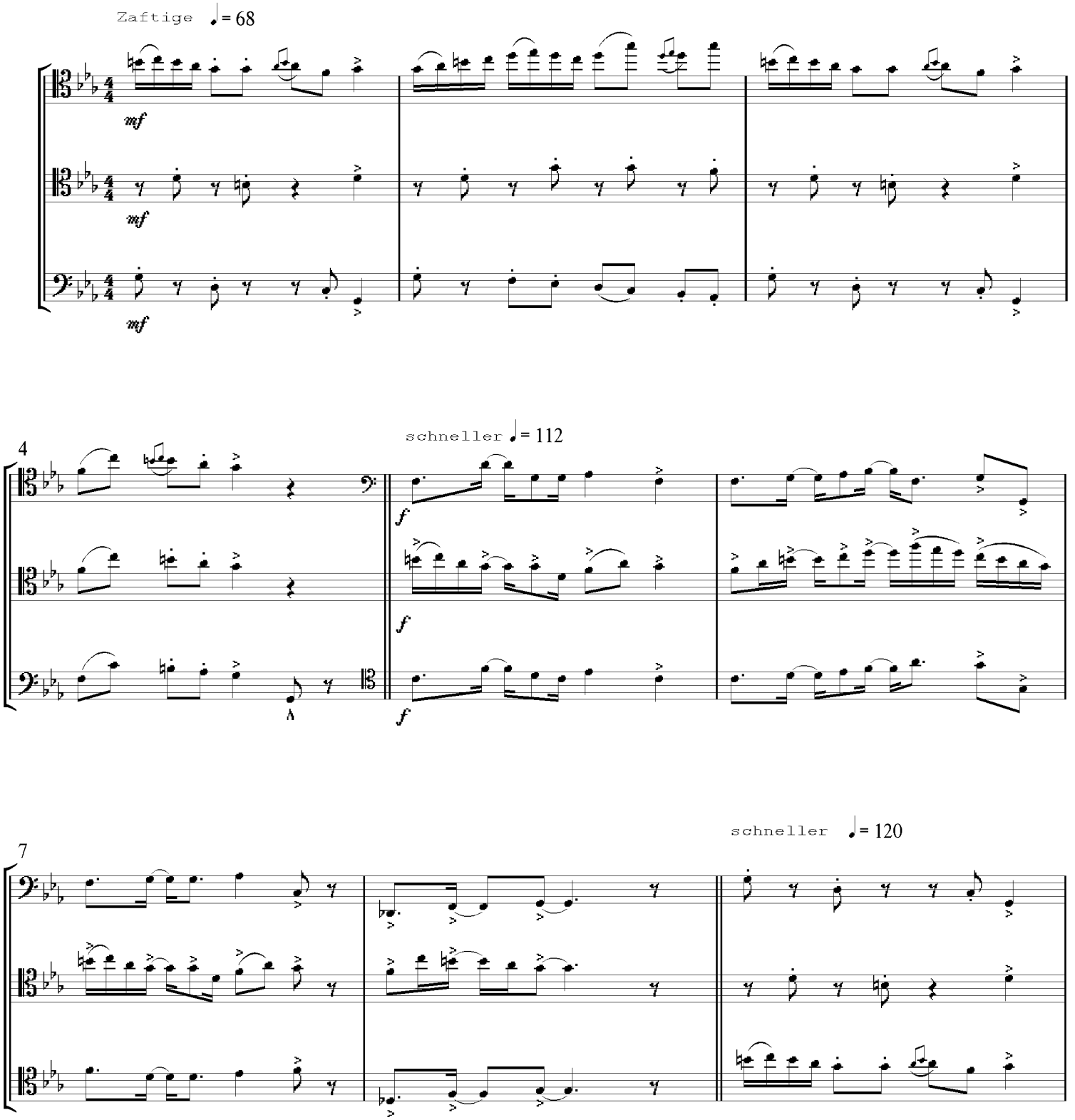
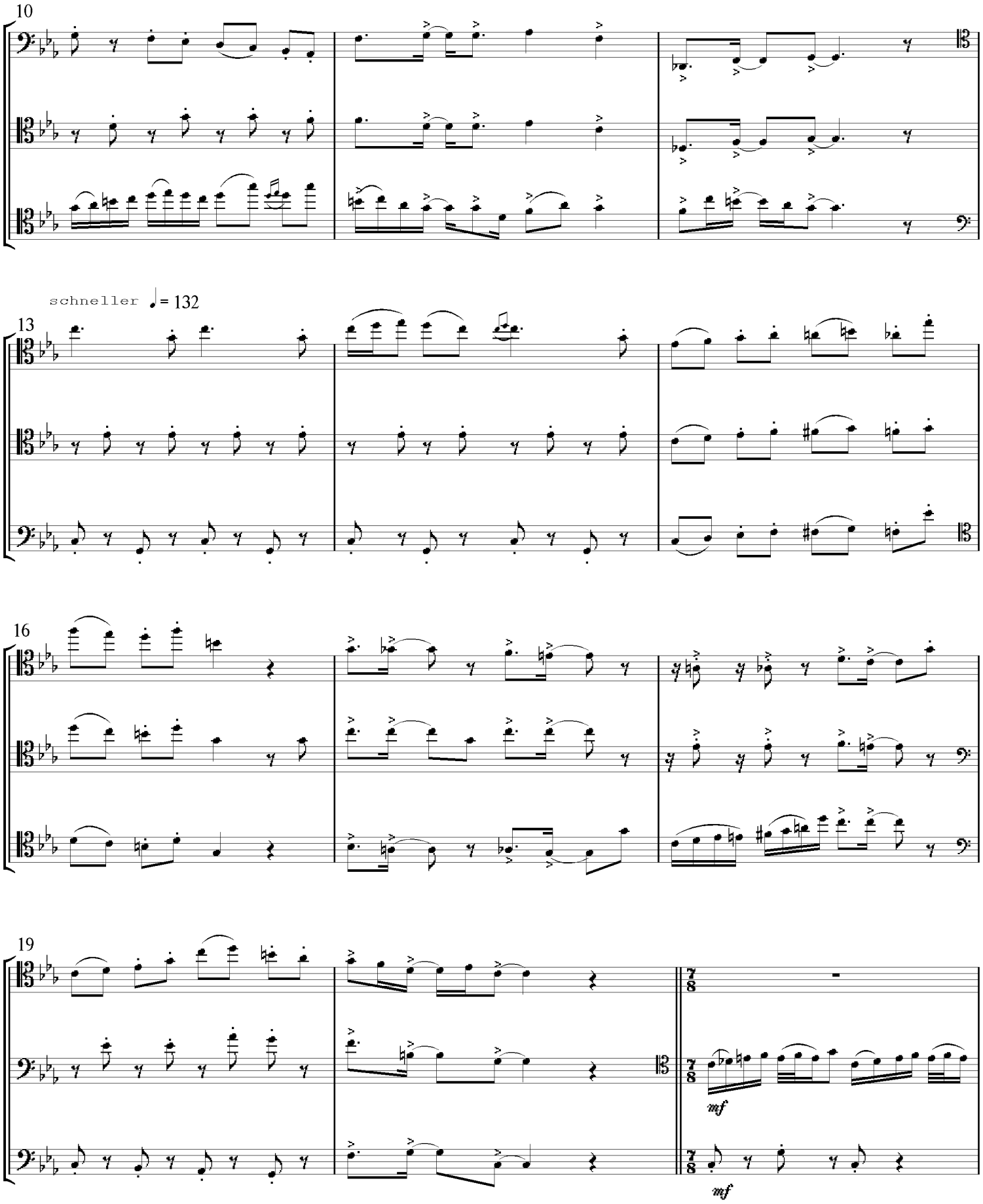
49
♩= 152 nach und nach schneller
53
57
♩= 176
ff
ff
ff

3. Zolst Ligen In Drerd

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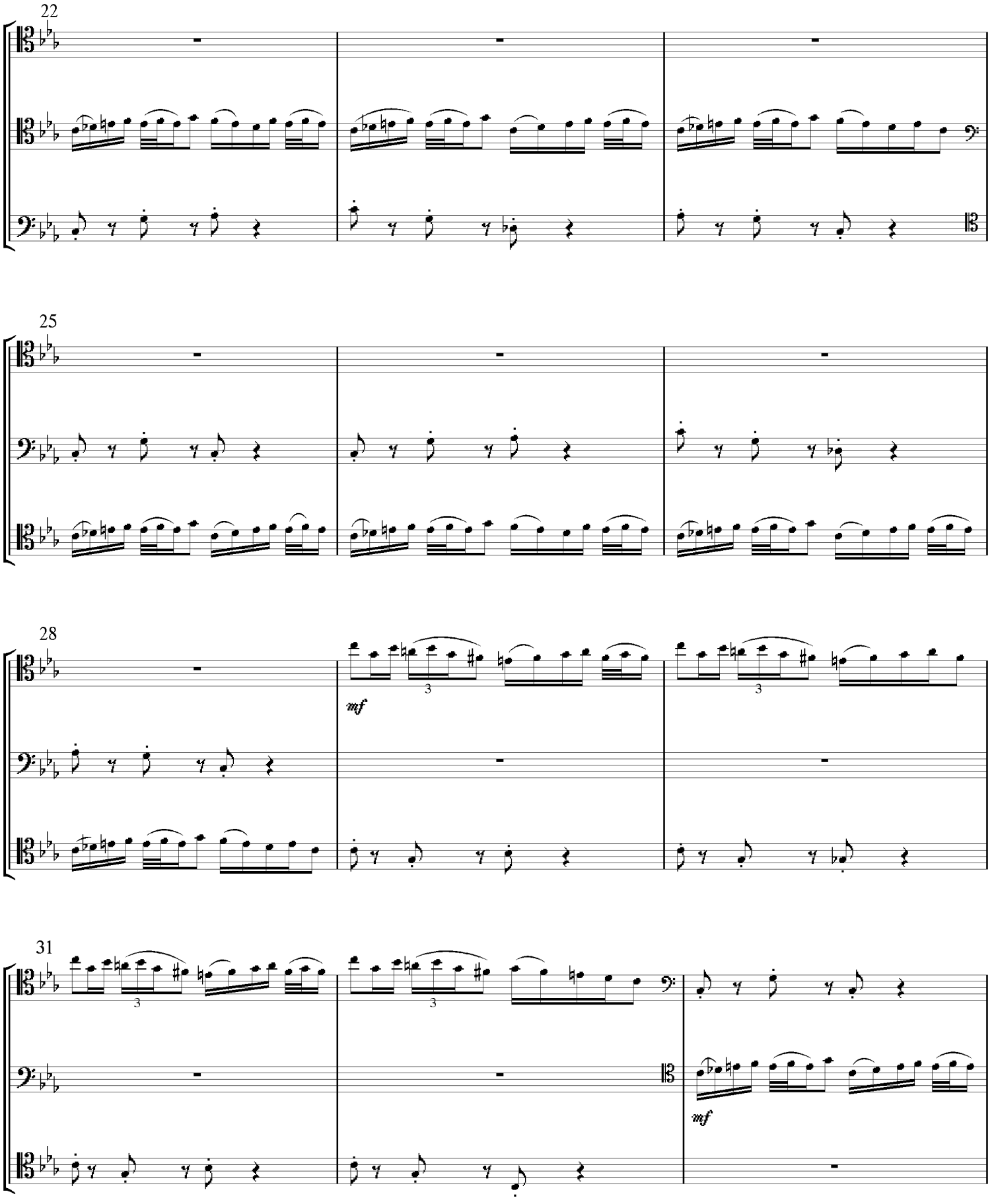
schneller ♩= 132
13
16
19
7/8
mf
7/8
mf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3
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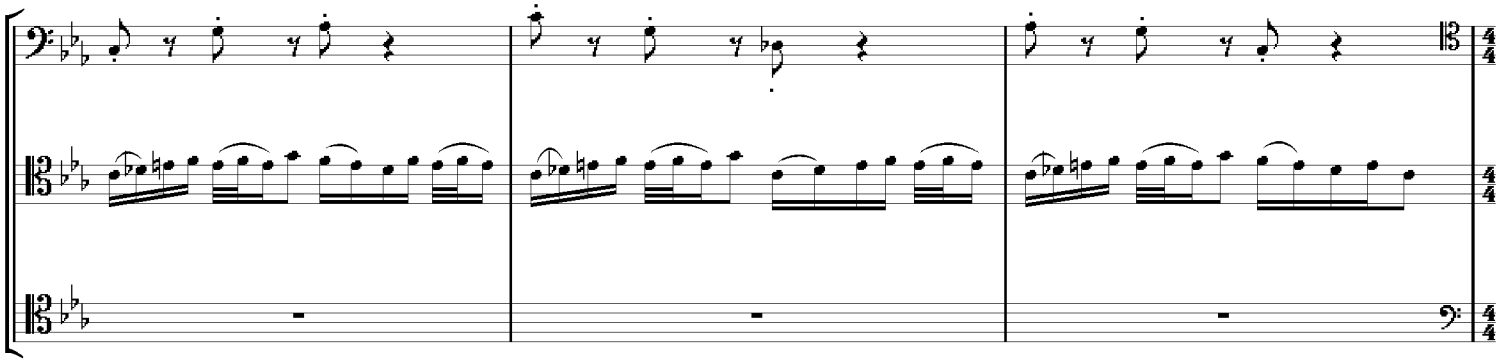
31
3
3
mf

34



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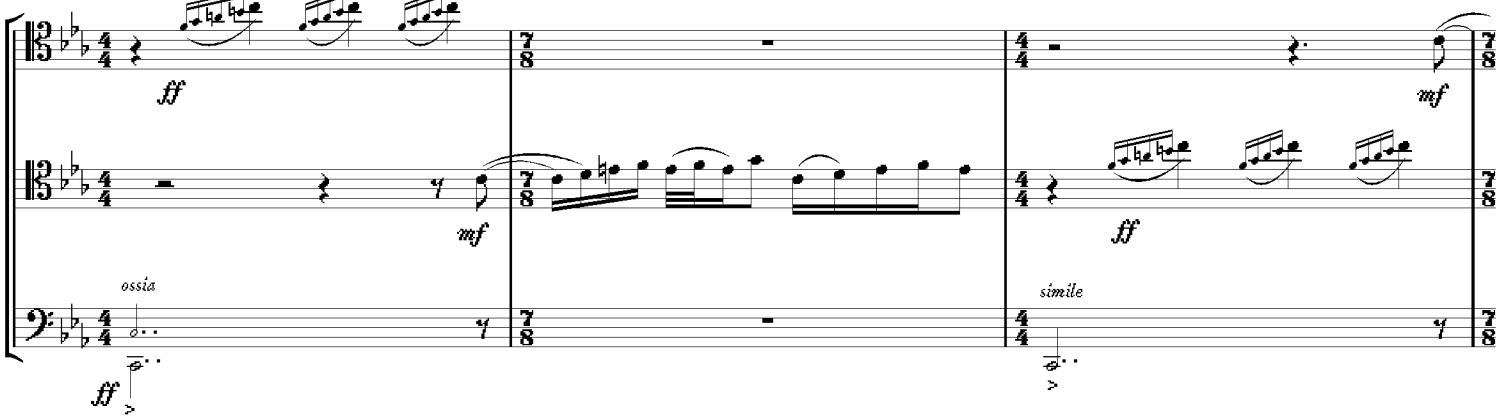

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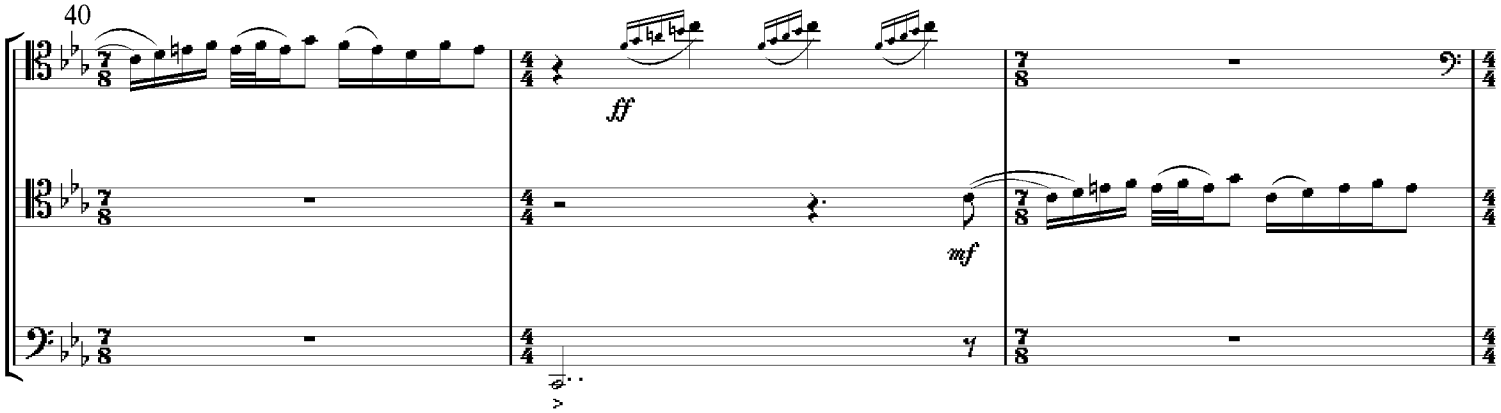

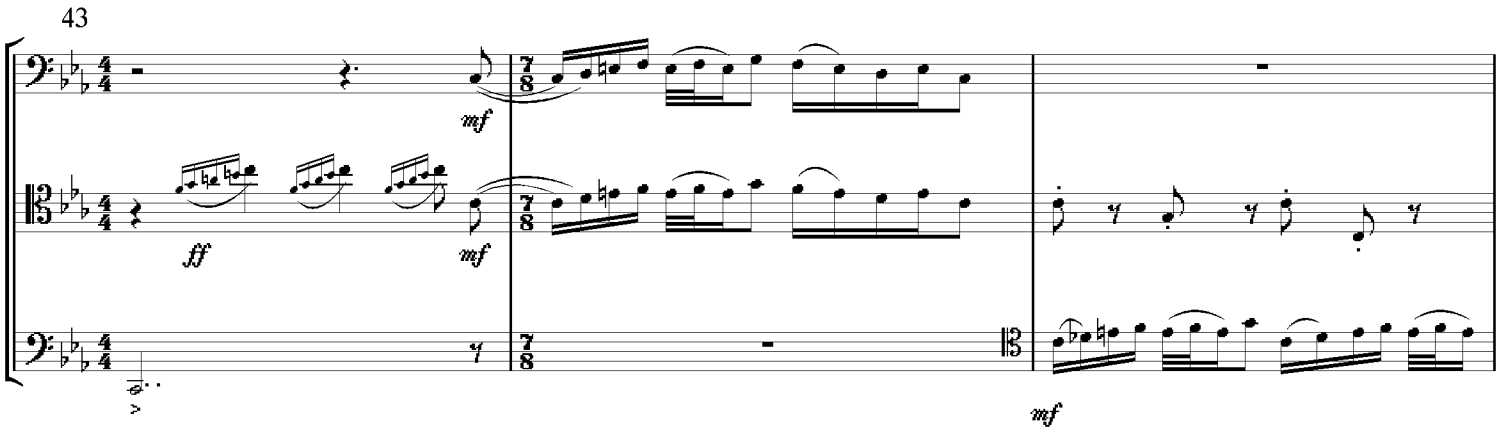
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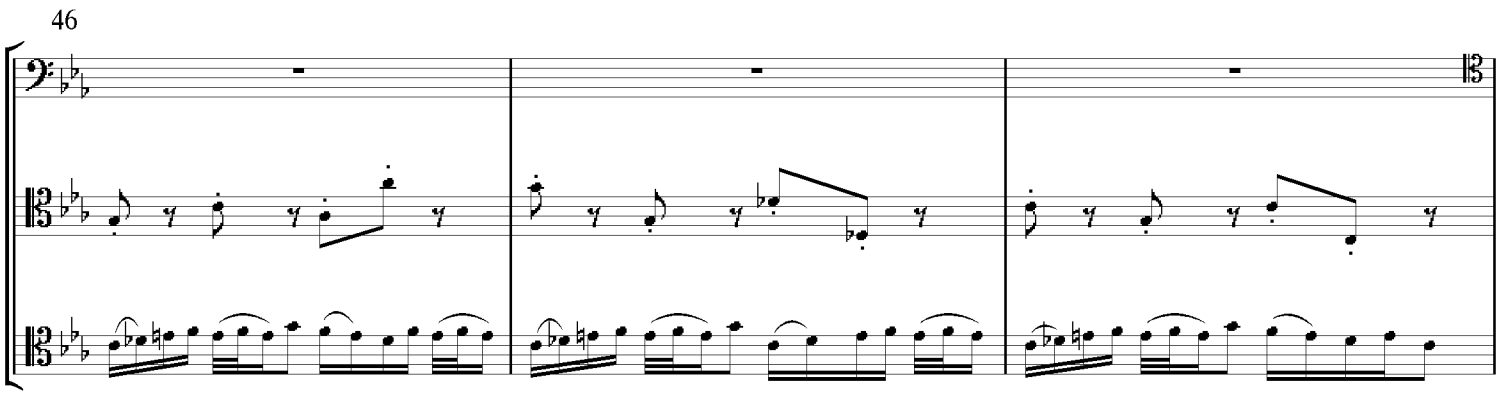
mf
mf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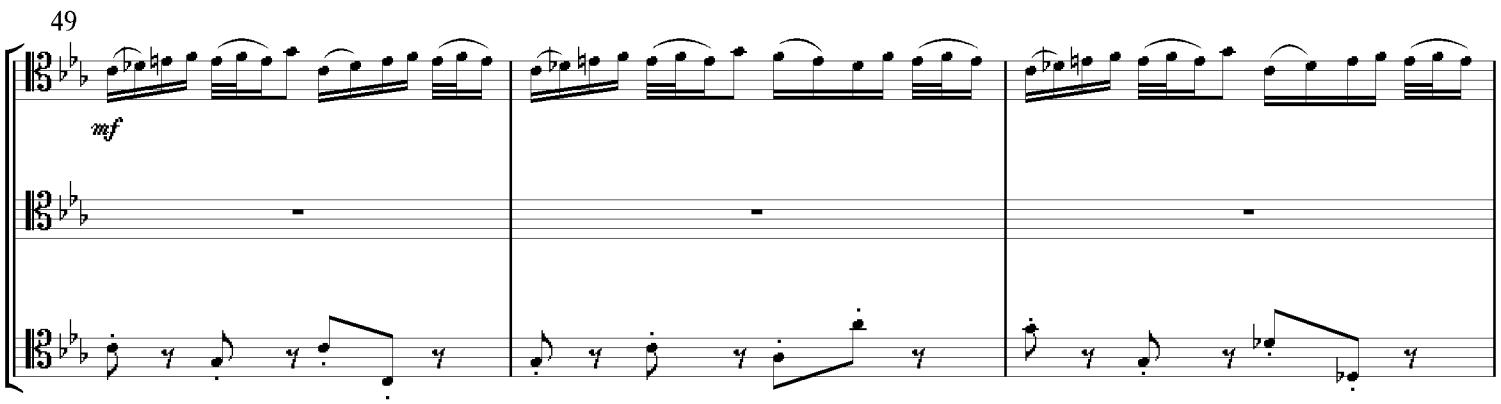
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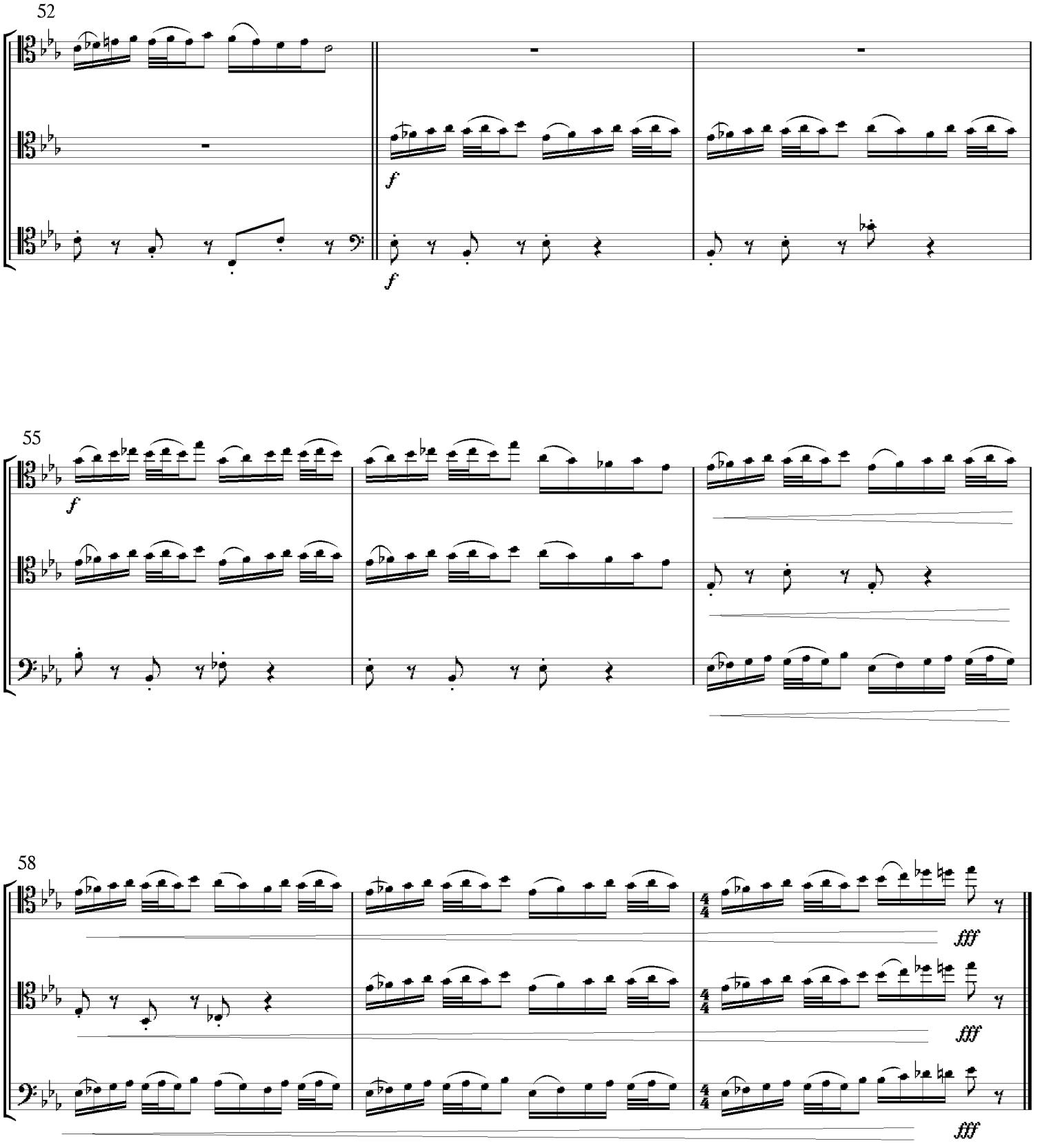
mf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f
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55
f
58
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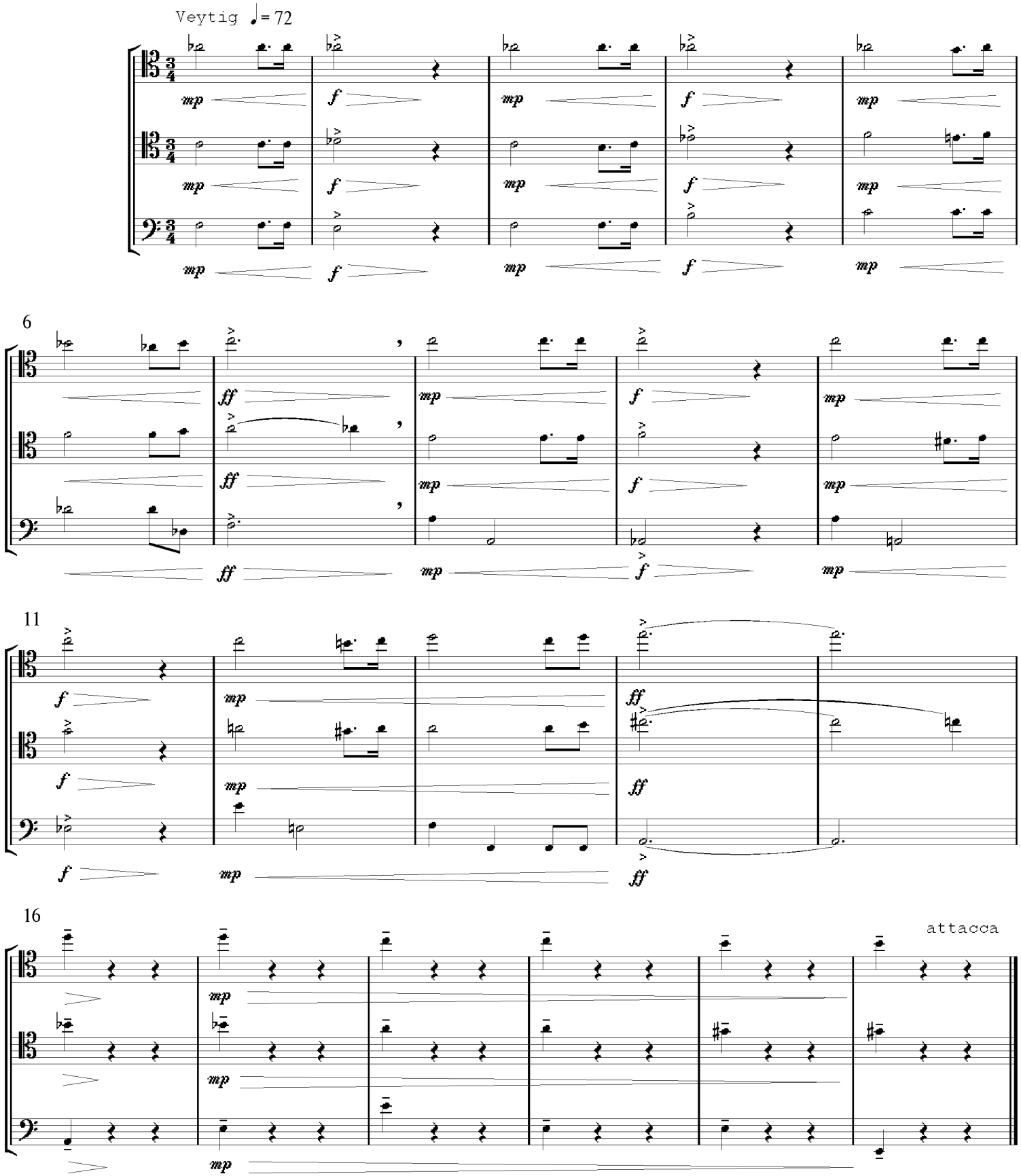
fff
fff

4. A Khalerye



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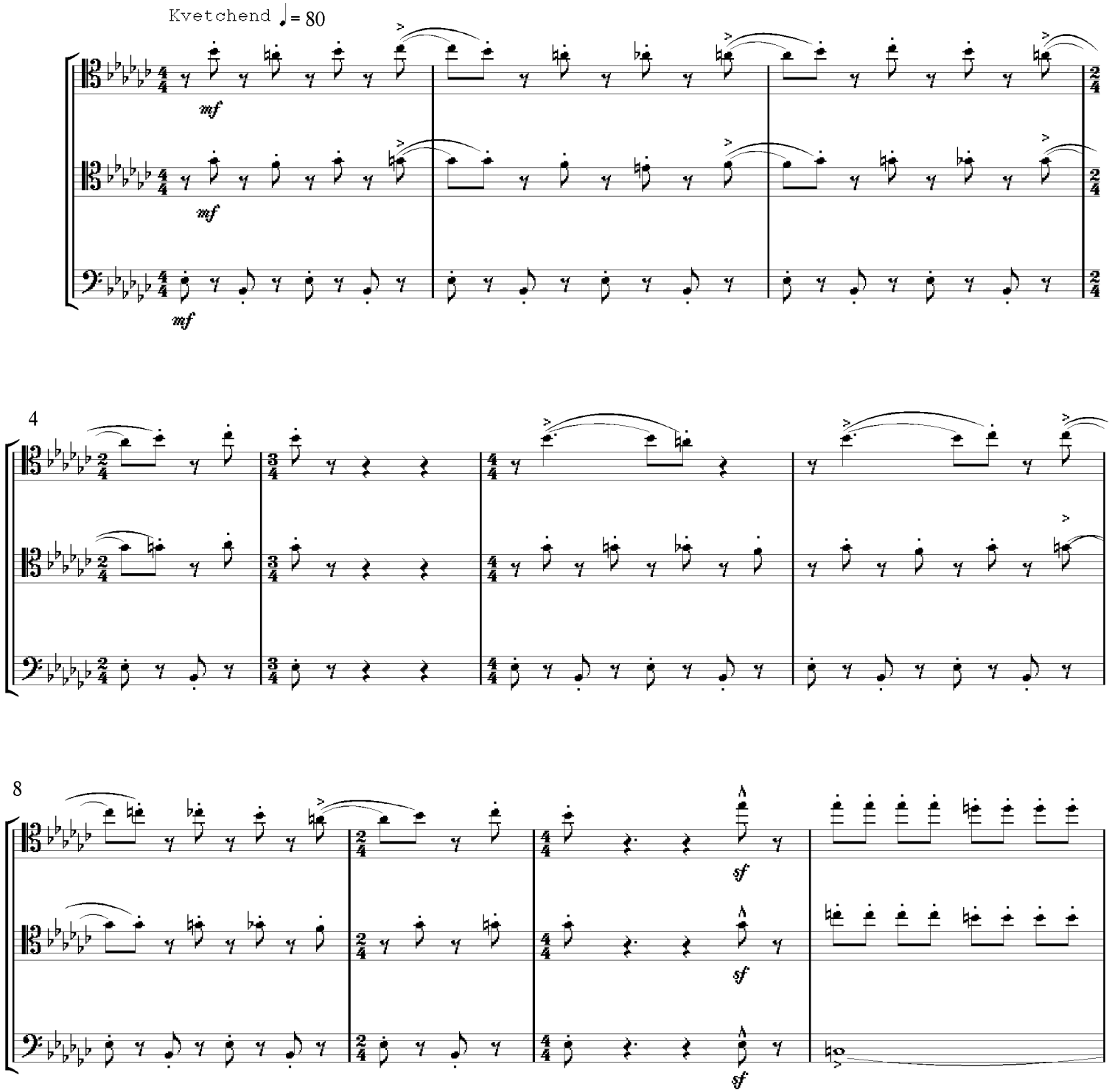

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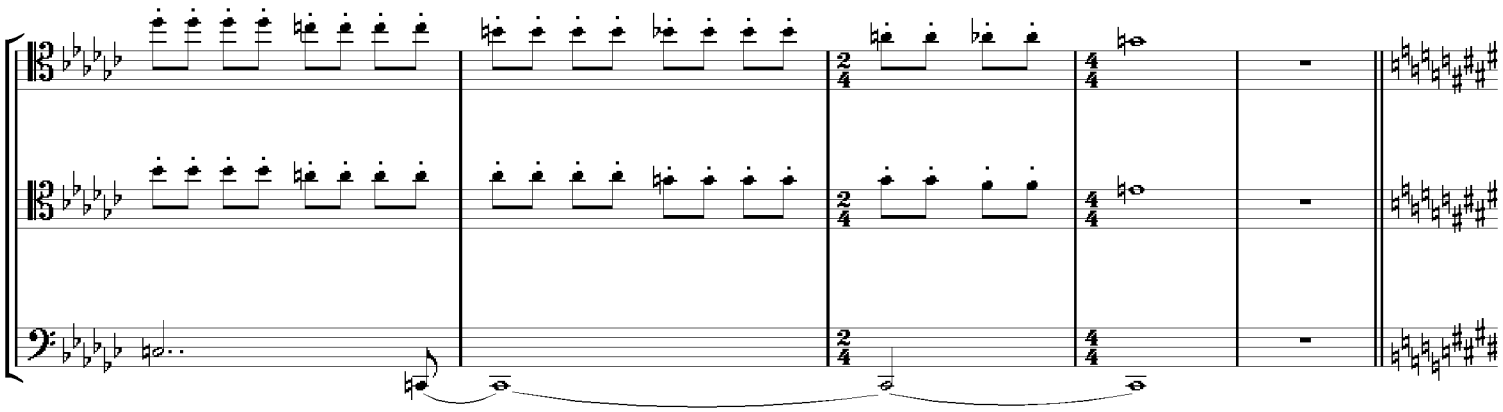

Hauptzeitmass ♩= 80

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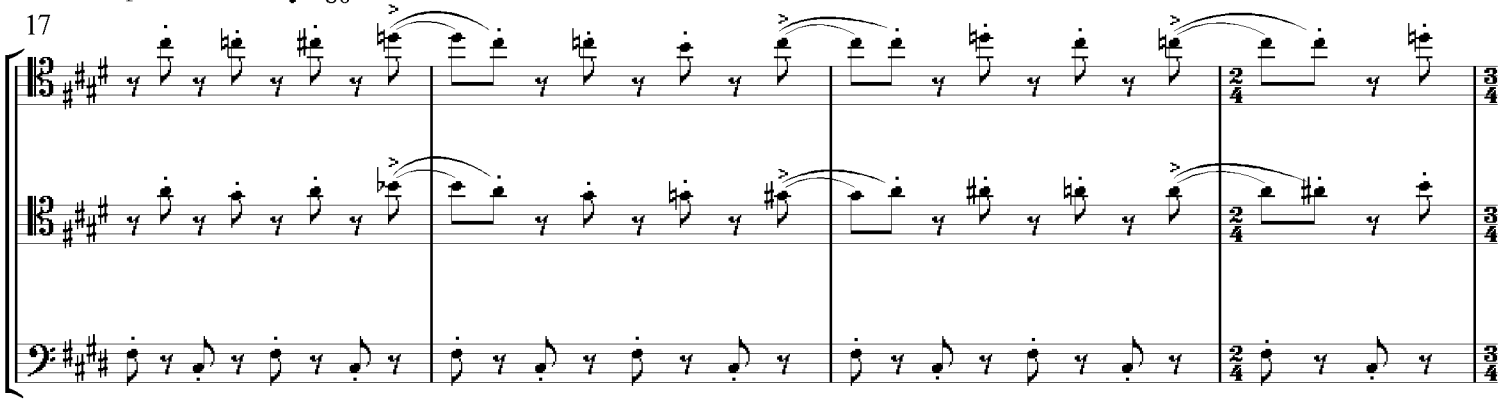

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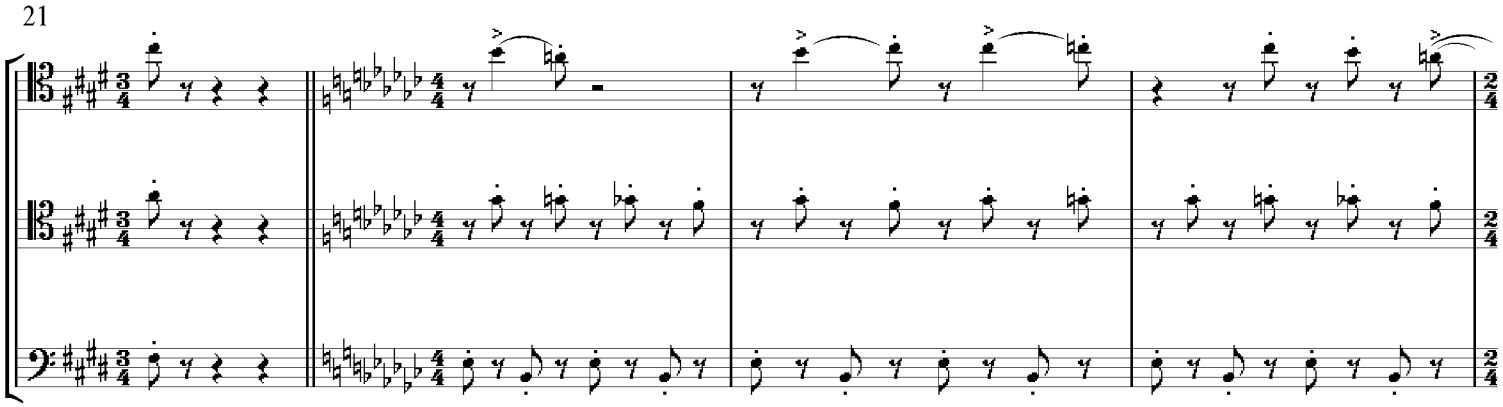

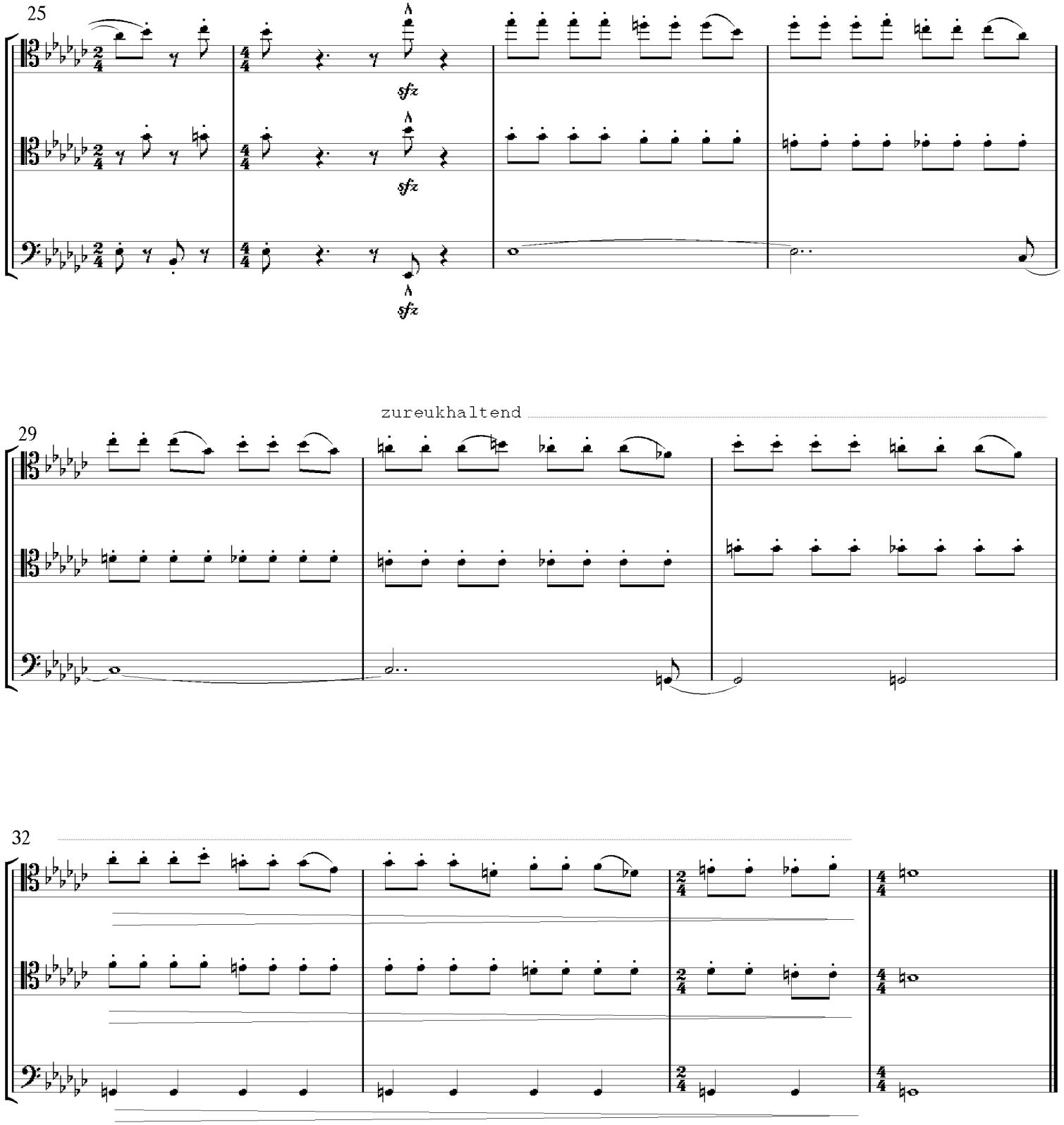
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sfz
sfz
sfz
zureukhaltend
29
32

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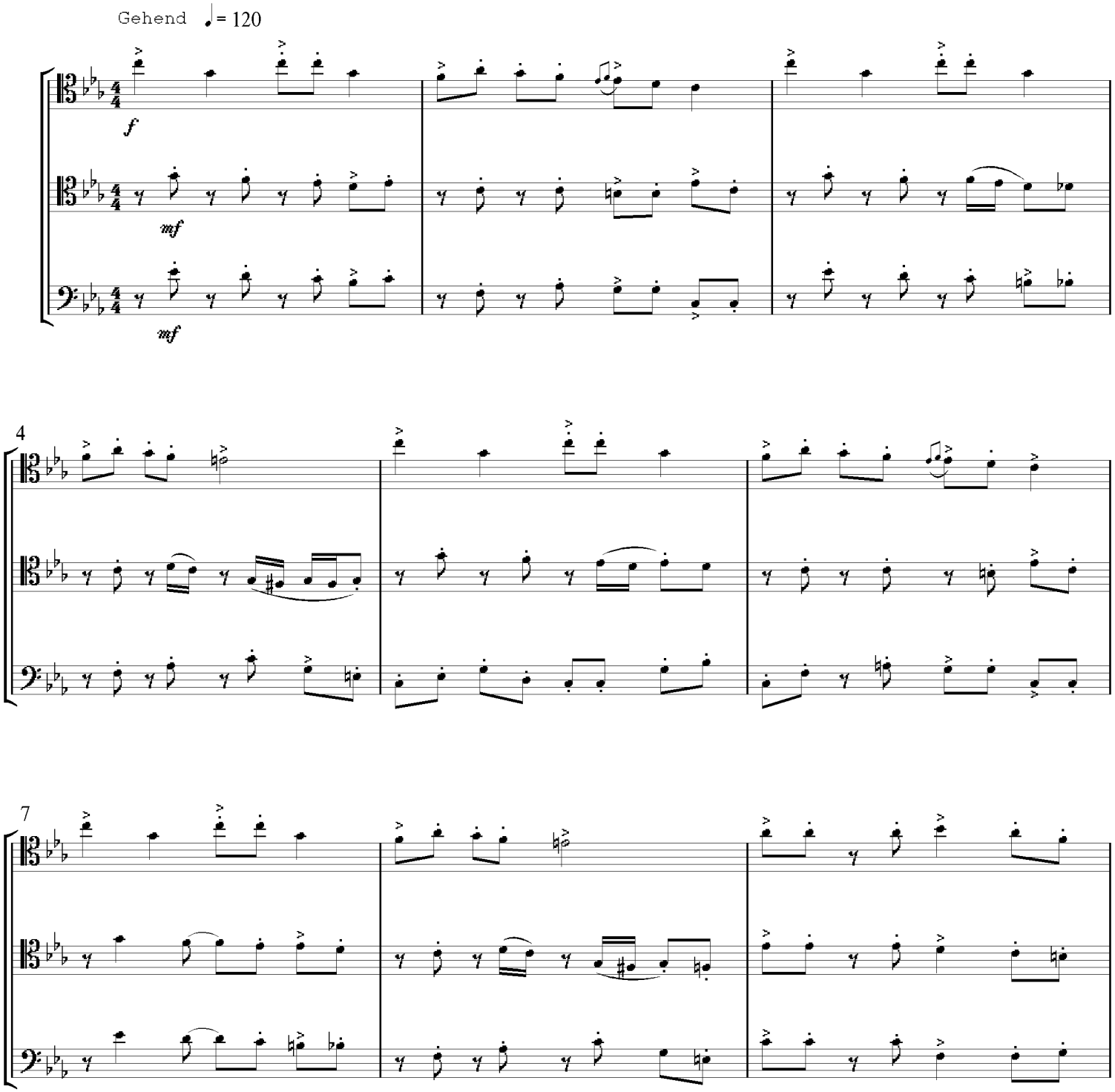

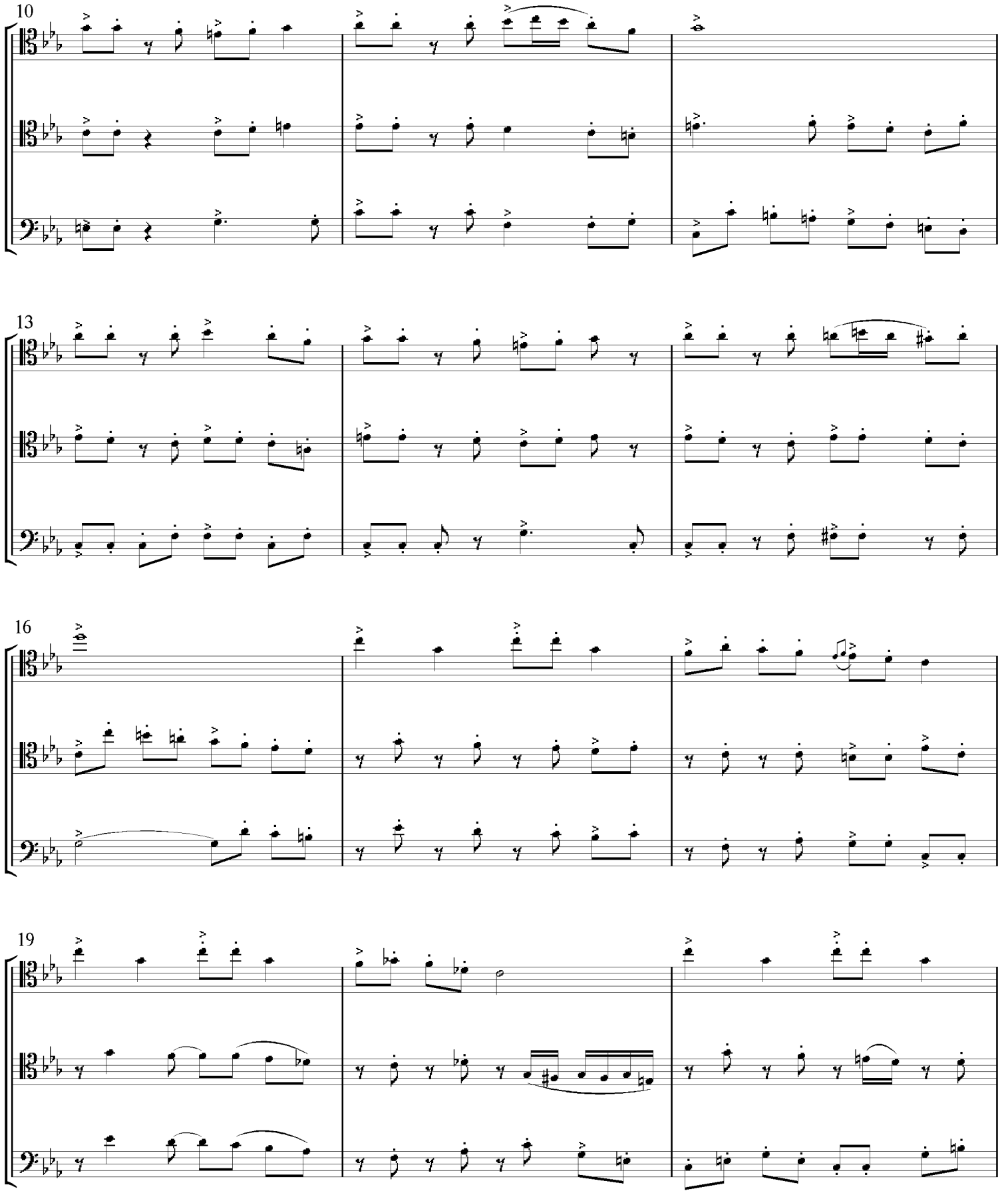
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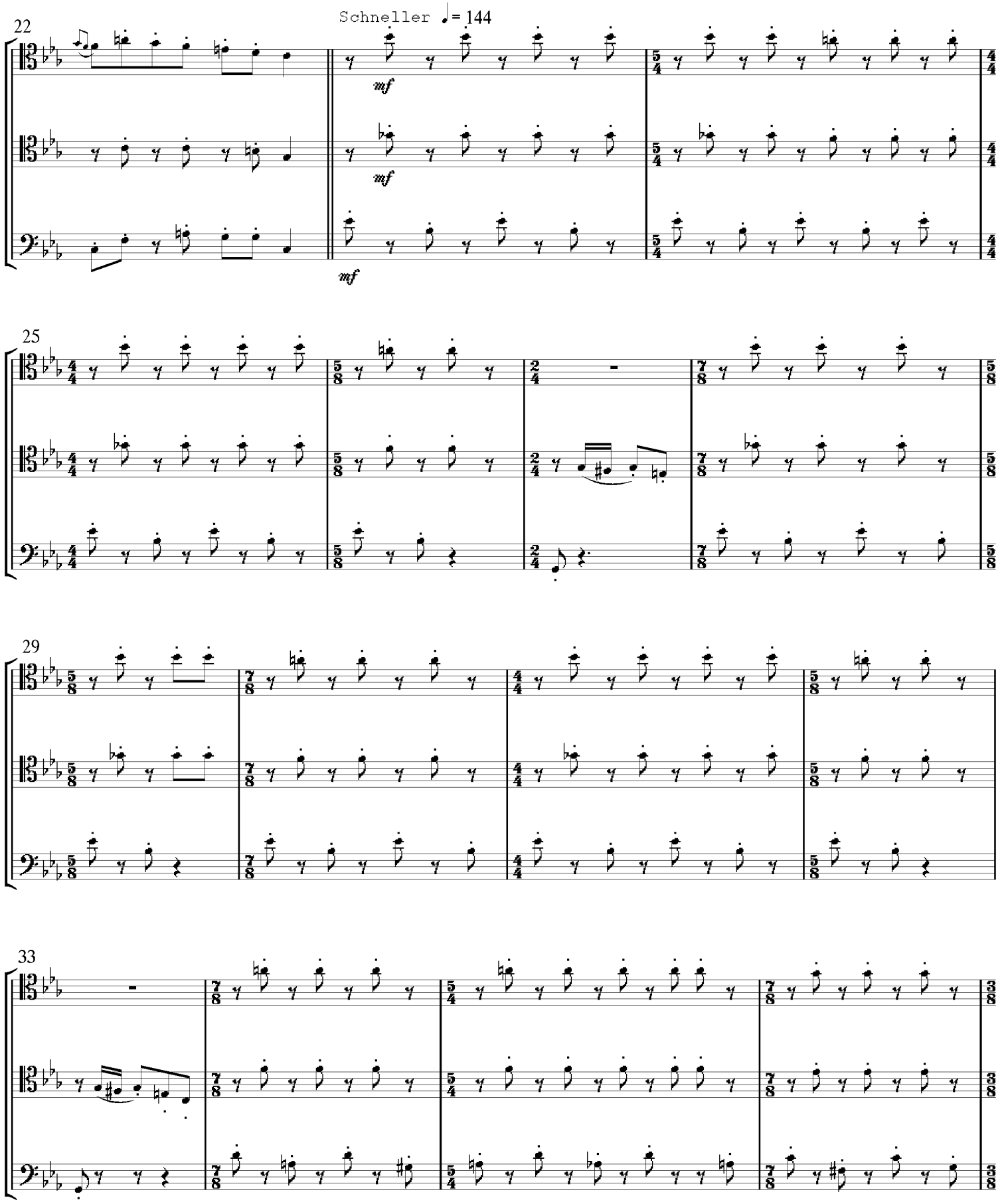
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Schneller ♩= 144
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mf
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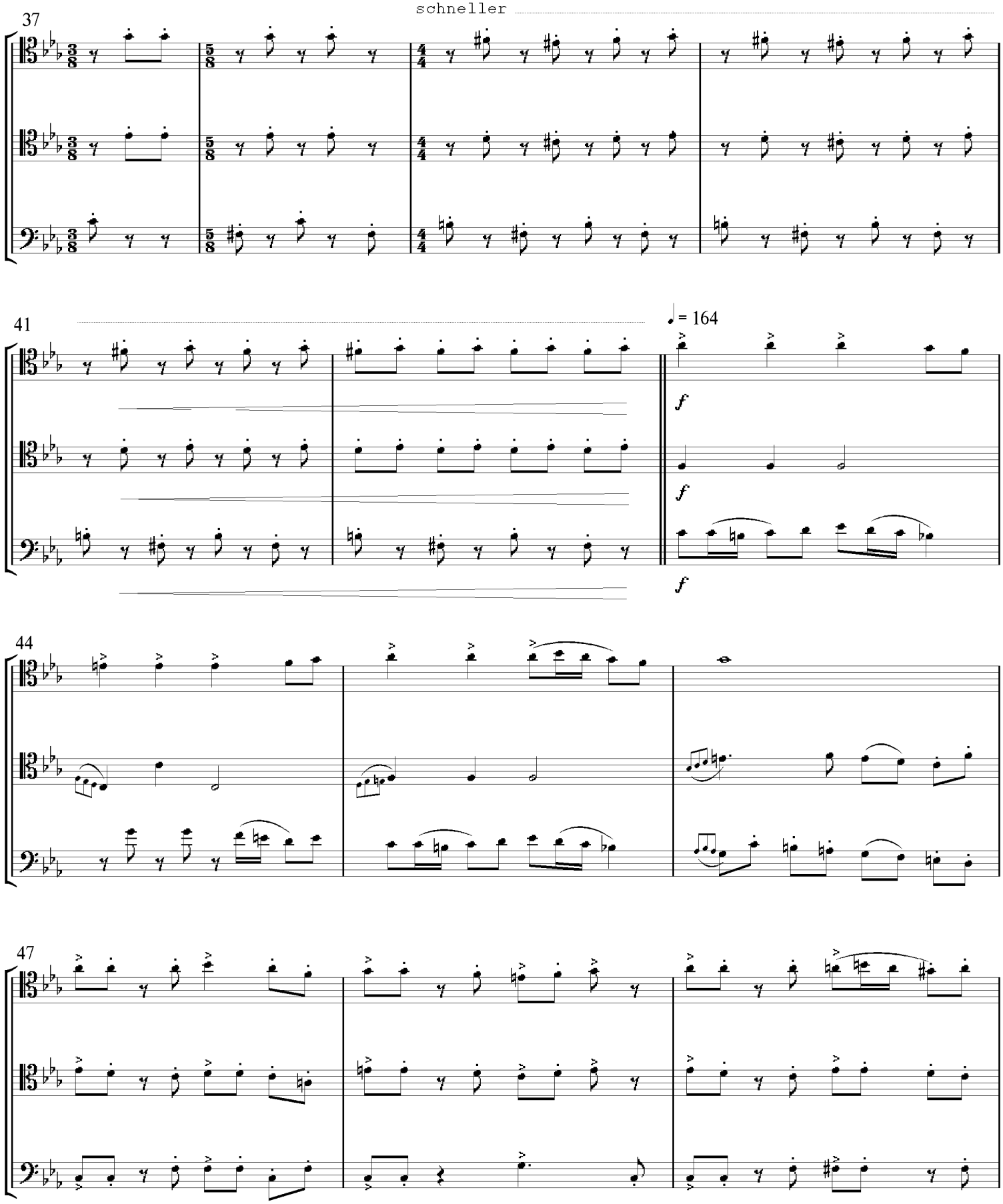
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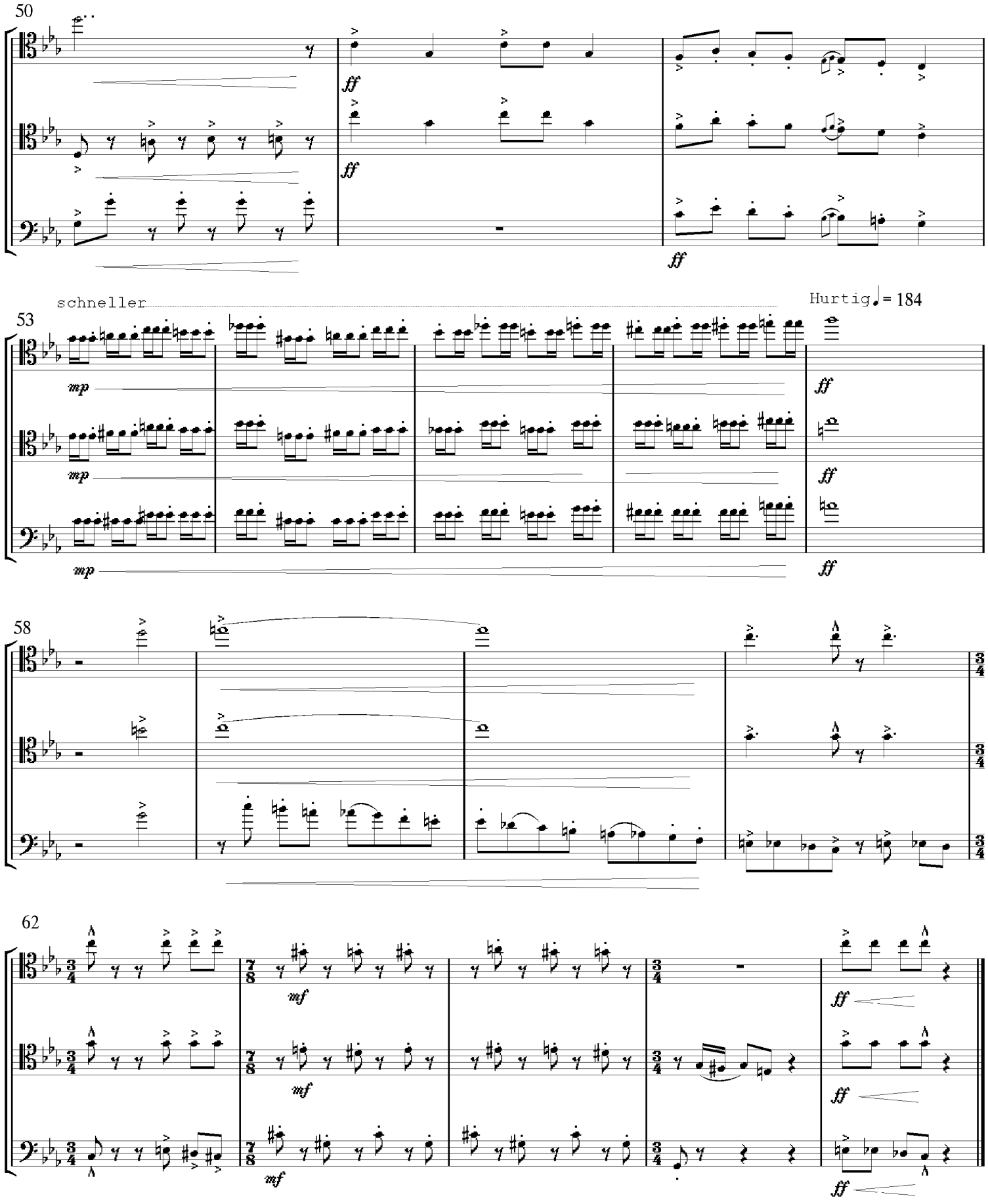
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schneller
Hurtig ♩. = 184
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3/4
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3/4
62
3/4
7/8
mf
3/4
ff
mf
mf
ff
ff