Contemporary Composers Series

Sweet Briar Elegies

Soprano Saxophone and Piano

... I saw it was filled with graves.
And tomb-stones where flowers should be:
And Priests in black gowns were walking their rounds,
And binding with briars my joys and desires.
William Blake, Songs of Experience (1794)

Joelle Wallach

To the Fore Publishers
82 Copley Avenue
Teaneck, New Jersey 07666

Sweet Briar Elegies

Written in Sweet Briar, Virginia during the summer of 1992 in the aftermath of the death of the composer's husband, *Sweet Briar Elegies* is set for soprano saxophone and cello ensemble or soprano saxophone and piano. The two movements are not independent "elegies" but comprise a single elegiac whole. The first movement is a recitative of passionate wistfulness; the second movement, an aria of poignant lyricism and longing with an ominous and disturbing middle section.

The piece bears an epigram from William Blake's *Songs of Experience:*

> ... I saw it was filled with graves.
> And tomb-stones where flowers should be:
> And Priests in black gowns were walking their rounds,
> And binding with briars my joys and desires.
>
> William Blake, *Songs of Experience (1794)*

Since 1980 when her choral work, *On the Beach at Night Alone,* won first prize in the Inter-American Music Awards, Wallach has regularly placed first in international composition competitions. Her *String Quartet 1995* was the American Composers Alliance nominee for the 1997 Pulitzer Prize in Music. The New York Philharmonic Ensembles premiered her octet, *From the Forest of Chimneys,* written to celebrate their 10th anniversary; and the New York Choral Society commissioned her secular oratorio, *Toward a Time of Renewal,* for 200 voices and orchestra to commemorate their 1994 35th Anniversary Season in Carnegie Hall. *To the Fore Publishers* is pleased to publish her works for saxophone, which in addition to *Sweet Briar Elegies,* include *Eulogy,* for soprano saxophone and string quartet, and the *Saxophone Quartet.*

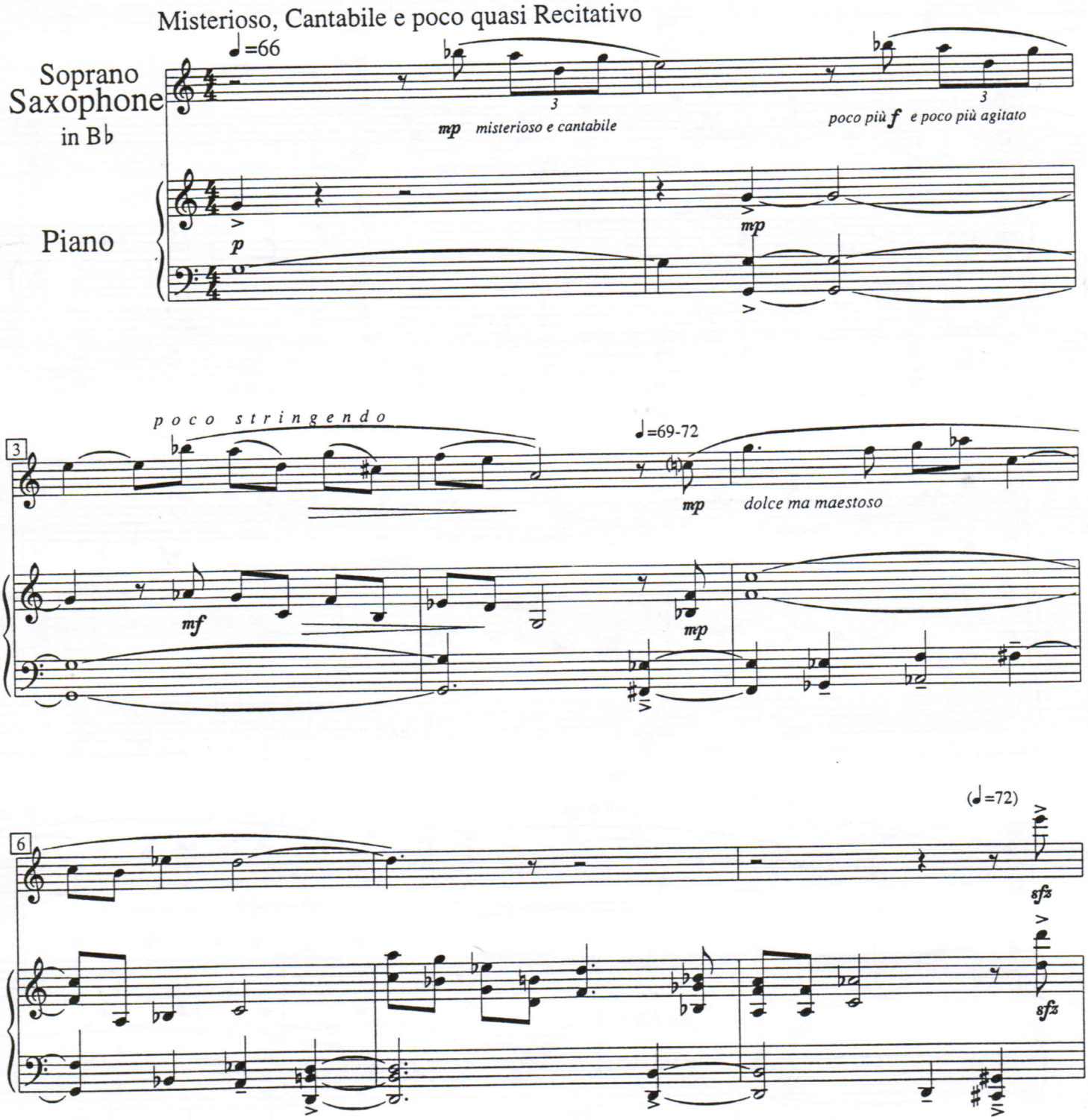
Ms.Wallach lives in New York City, where she was born. She was raised there and in Morocco. Her early training in piano, voice, theory, bassoon and violin included study at the Juilliard Preparatory Division, and she earned bachelors and masters degrees at Sarah Lawrence College and Columbia University respectively. In 1984 the Manhattan School of Music, where she studied with John Corigliano, granted her its first doctorate in composition.

To the Fore Publishers

Sweet Briar Elegies

I

Joelle Wallach



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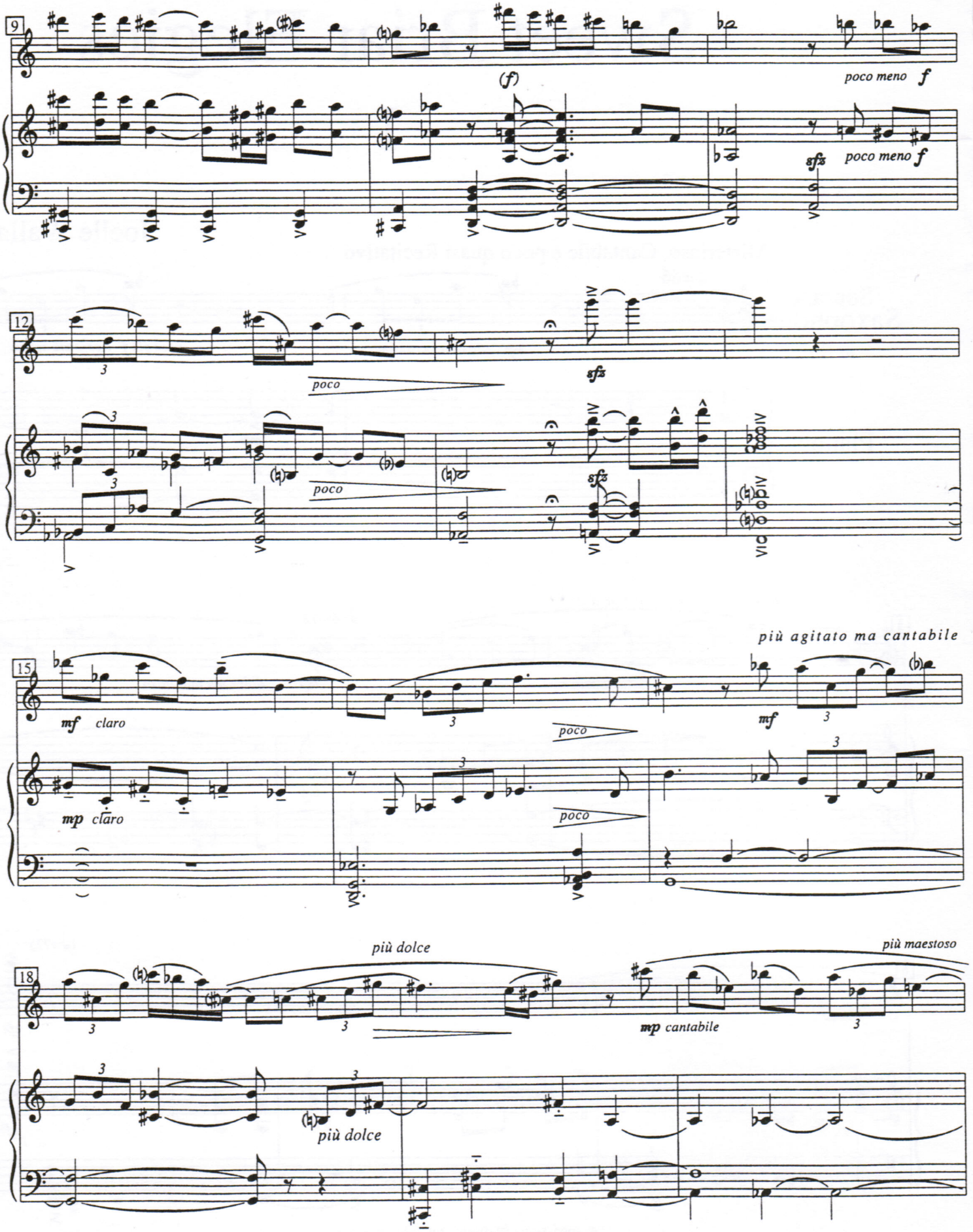
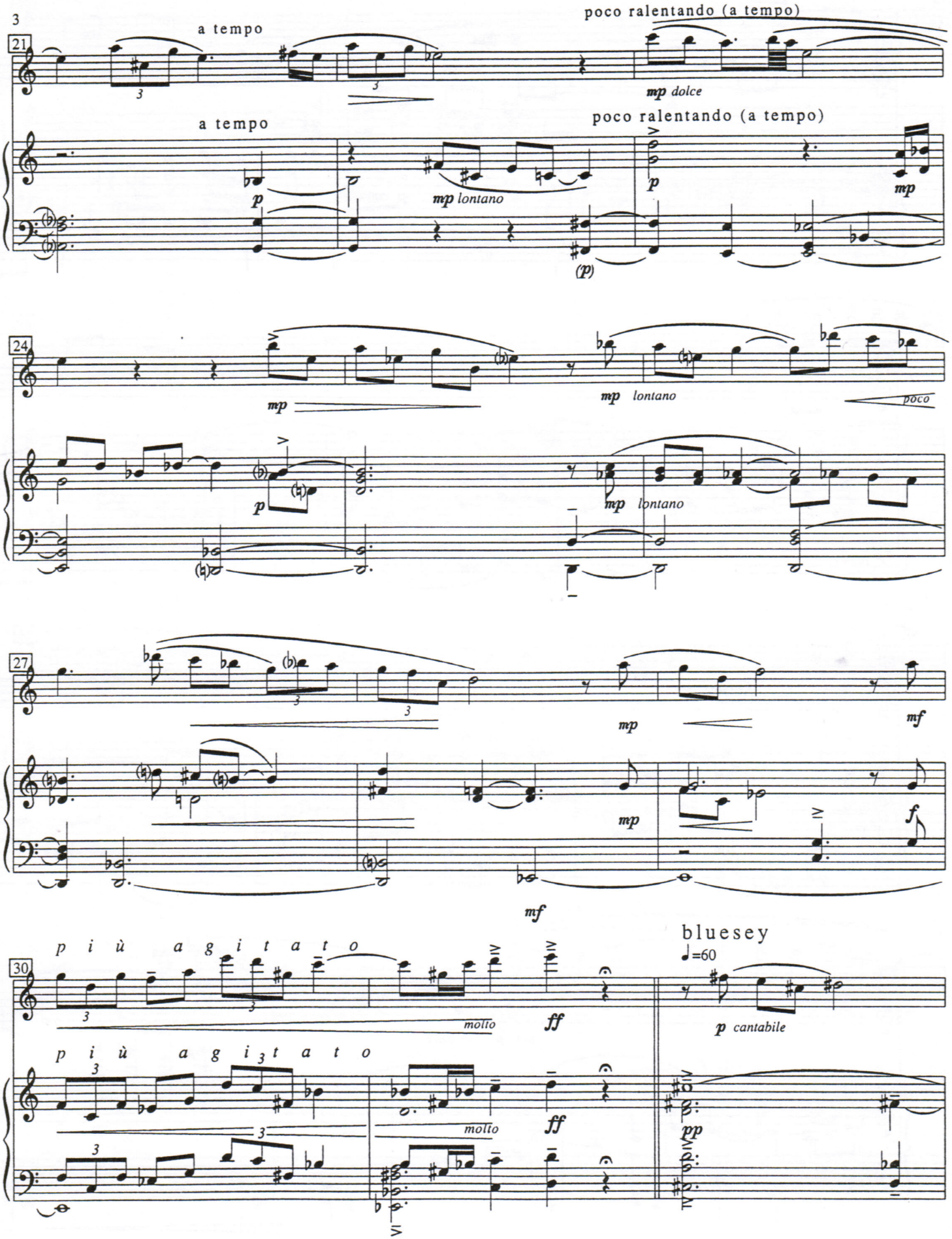
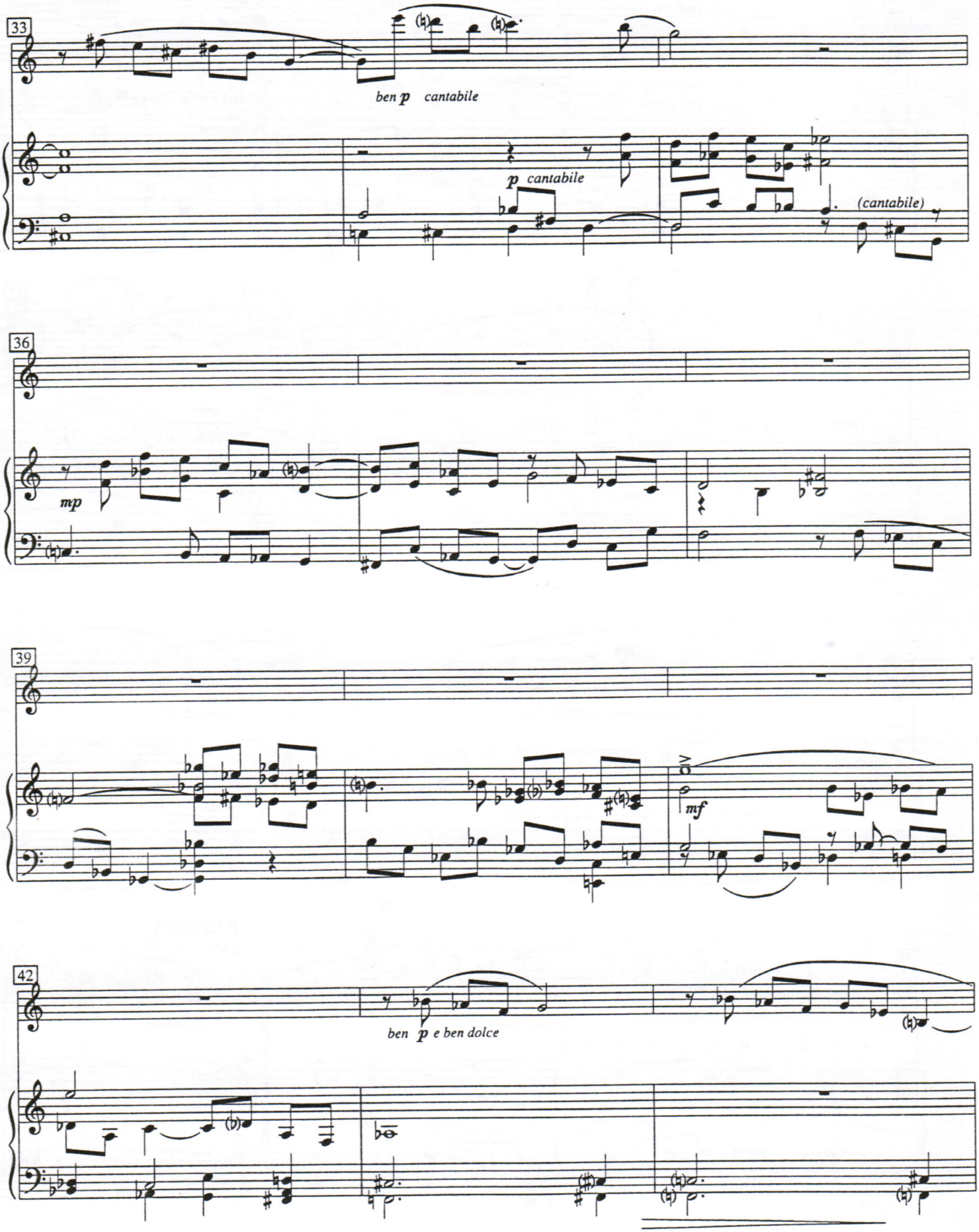
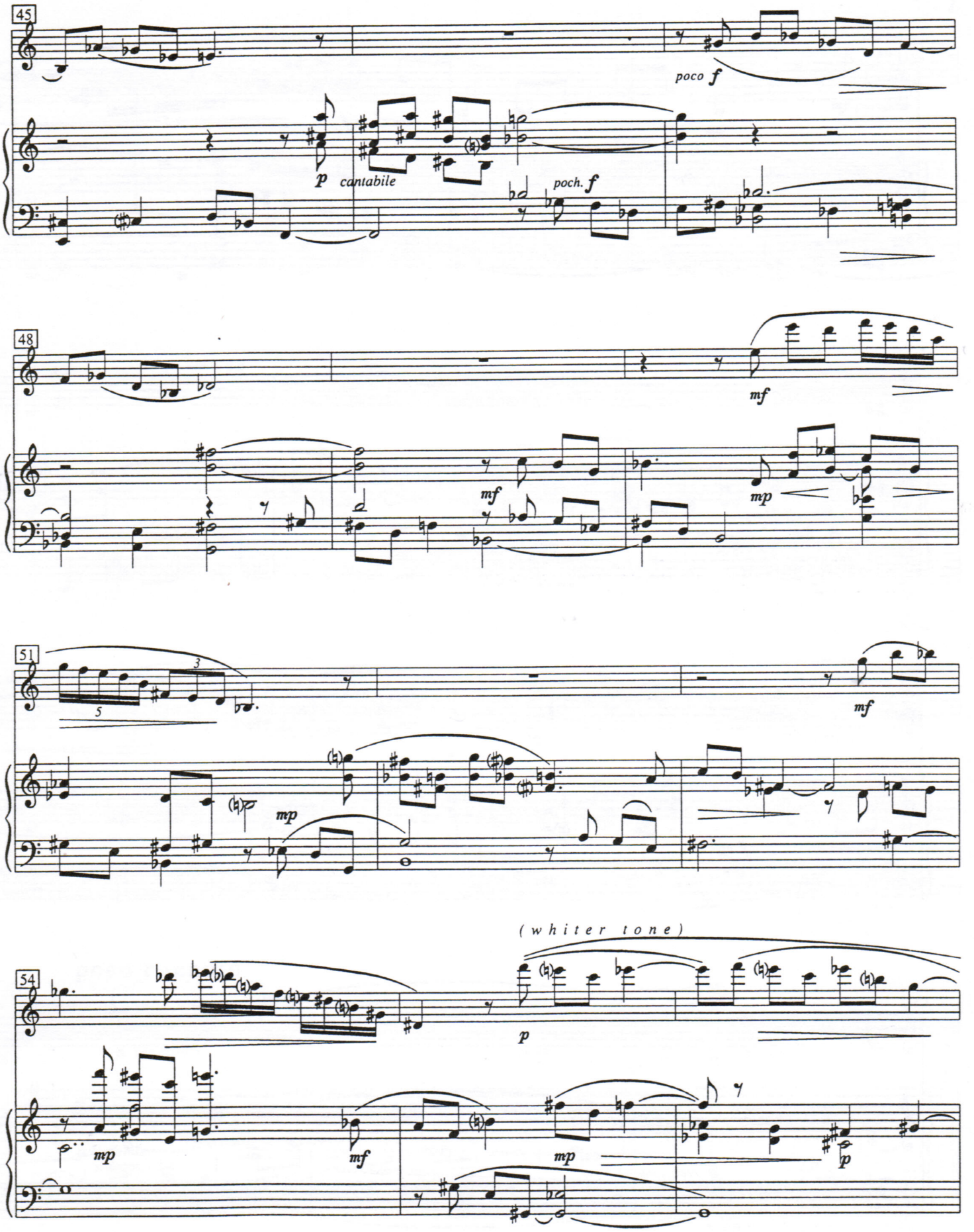
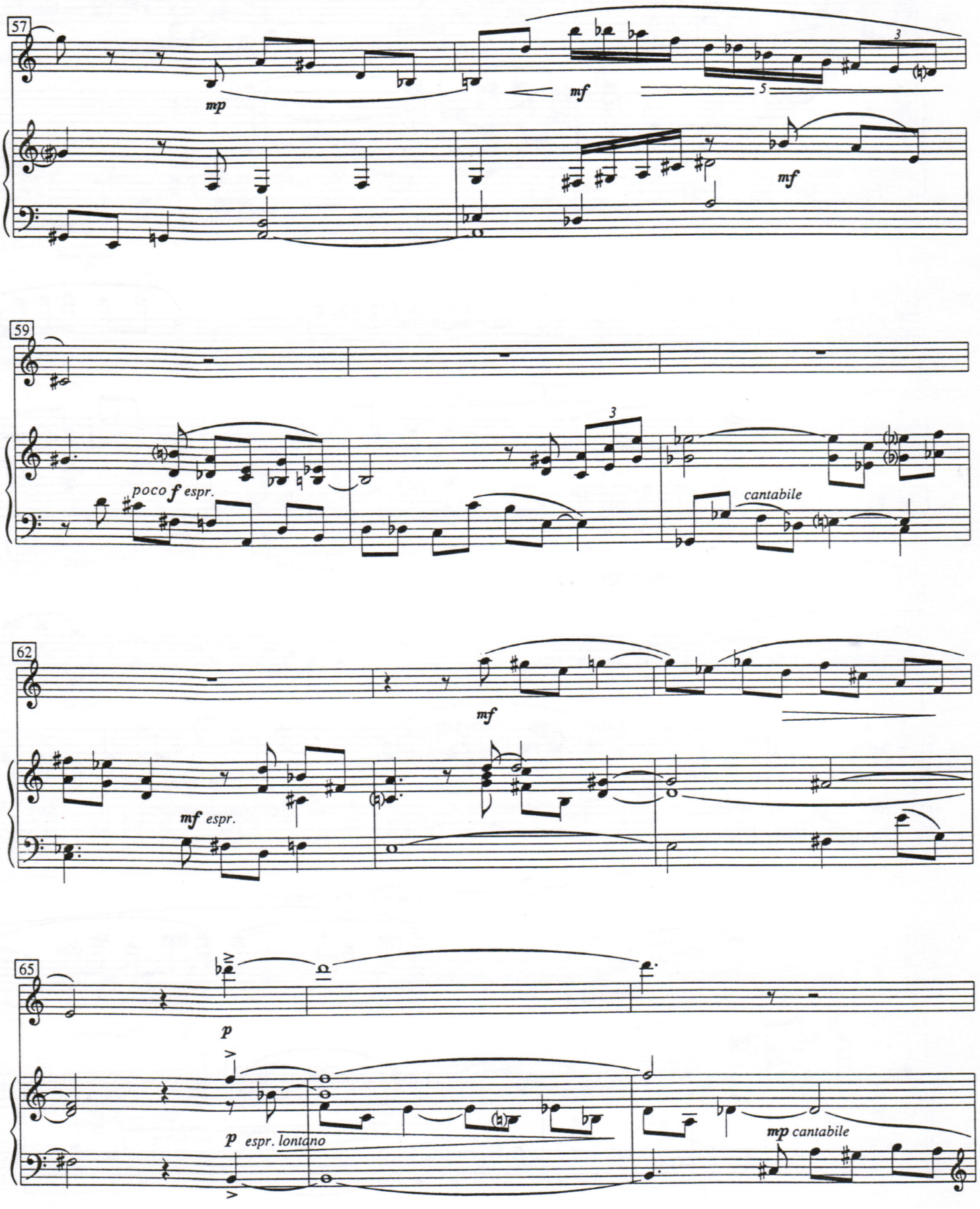
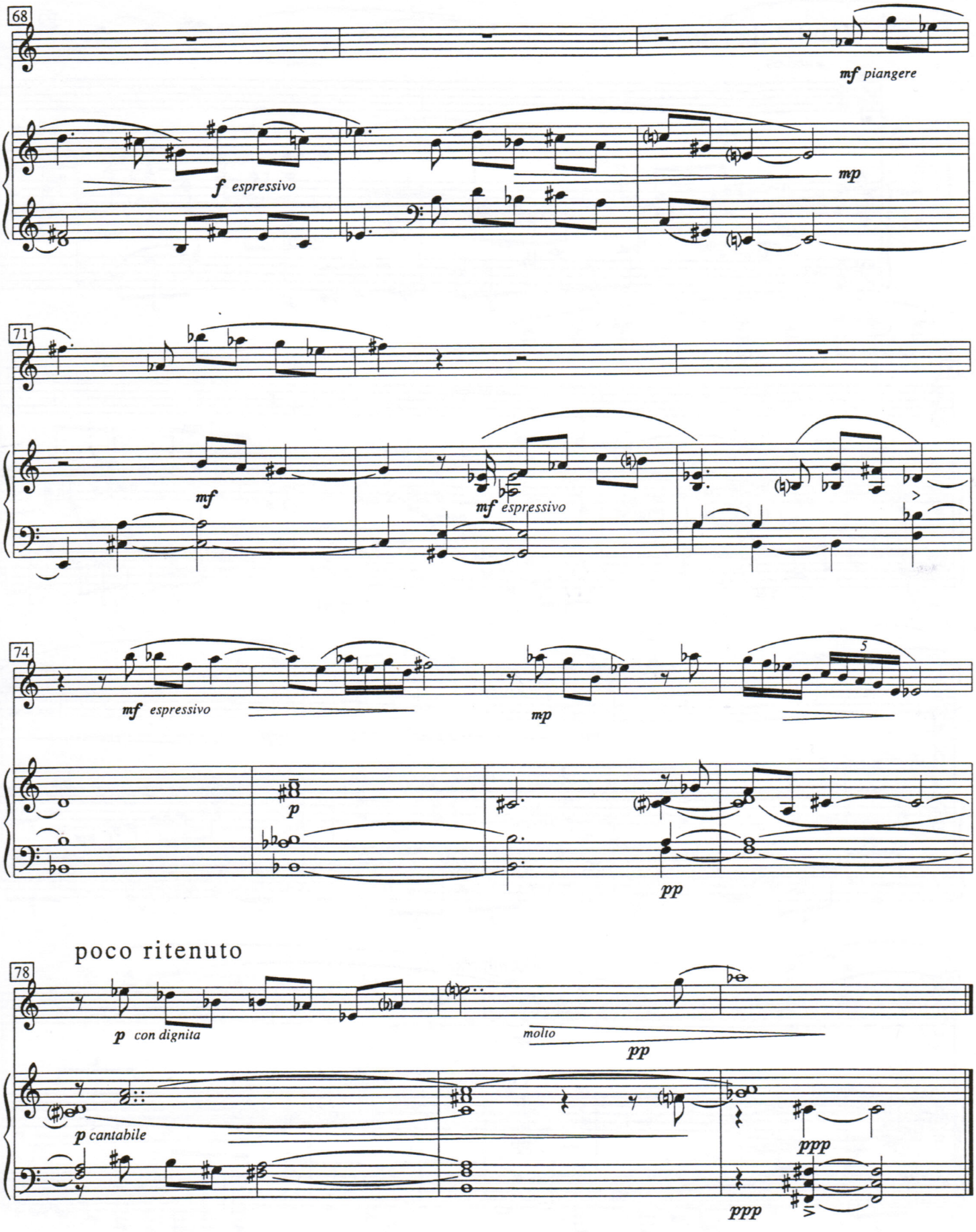

9
(f)
poco meno f
sfz
poco meno f
12
poco
sfz
poco
sfz
15
più agitato ma cantabile
mf claro
mf
poco
mp claro
poco
18
più dolce
più maestoso
mp cantabile
più dolce


3
21
a tempo
poco ralentando (a tempo)
mp dolce
a tempo
poco ralentando (a tempo)
p
mp lontano
(p)
mp
24
mp
mp lontano
poco
p
mp lontano
27
mp
mf
mp
f
mf
p i ù a g i t a t o
molto
ff
bluesey
♩=60
p cantabile
p i ù a g i t a t o
molto
ff
pp
30


33
ben p cantabile
p cantabile
(cantabile)
36
mp
39
mf
42
ben p e ben dolce

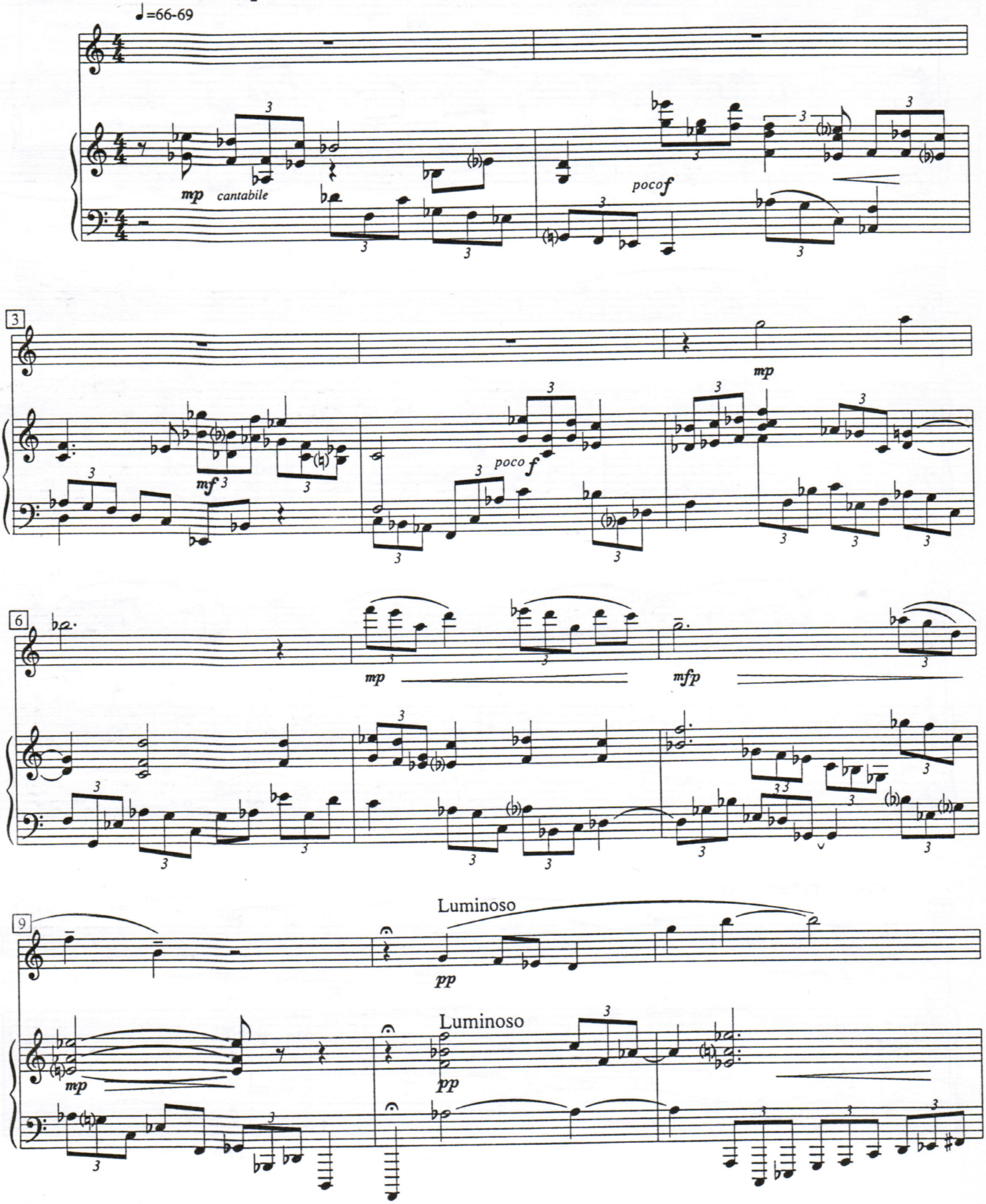

45
poco f
p
cantabile
poch. f
48
mf
mf
mp
51
3
5
mf
mp
54
(whiter tone)
p
mp
mf
mp
p

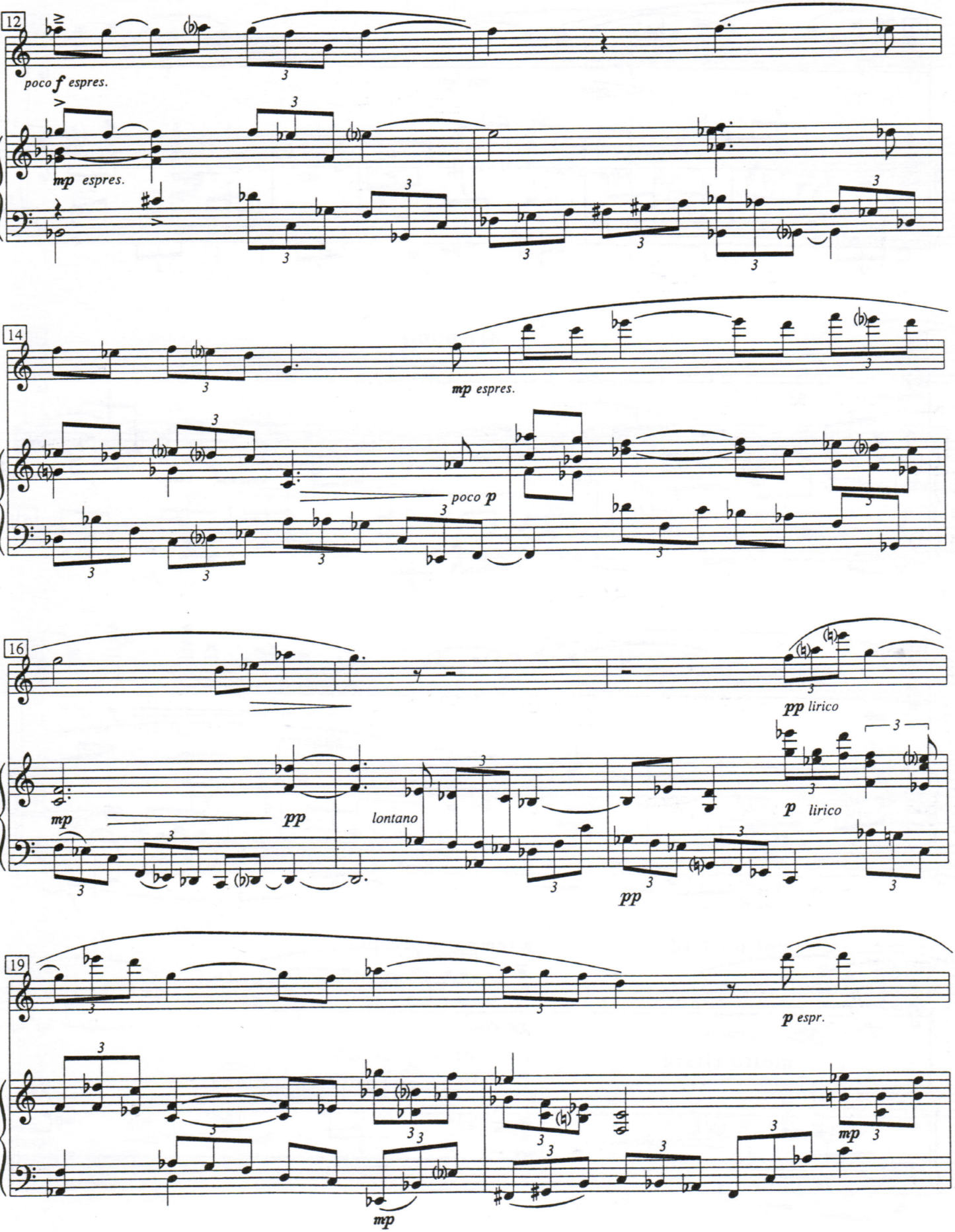

57
mp
mf
3
5
mf
59
poco f espr.
3
cantabile
62
mf
mf espr.
65
p
p espr. lontano
mp cantabile

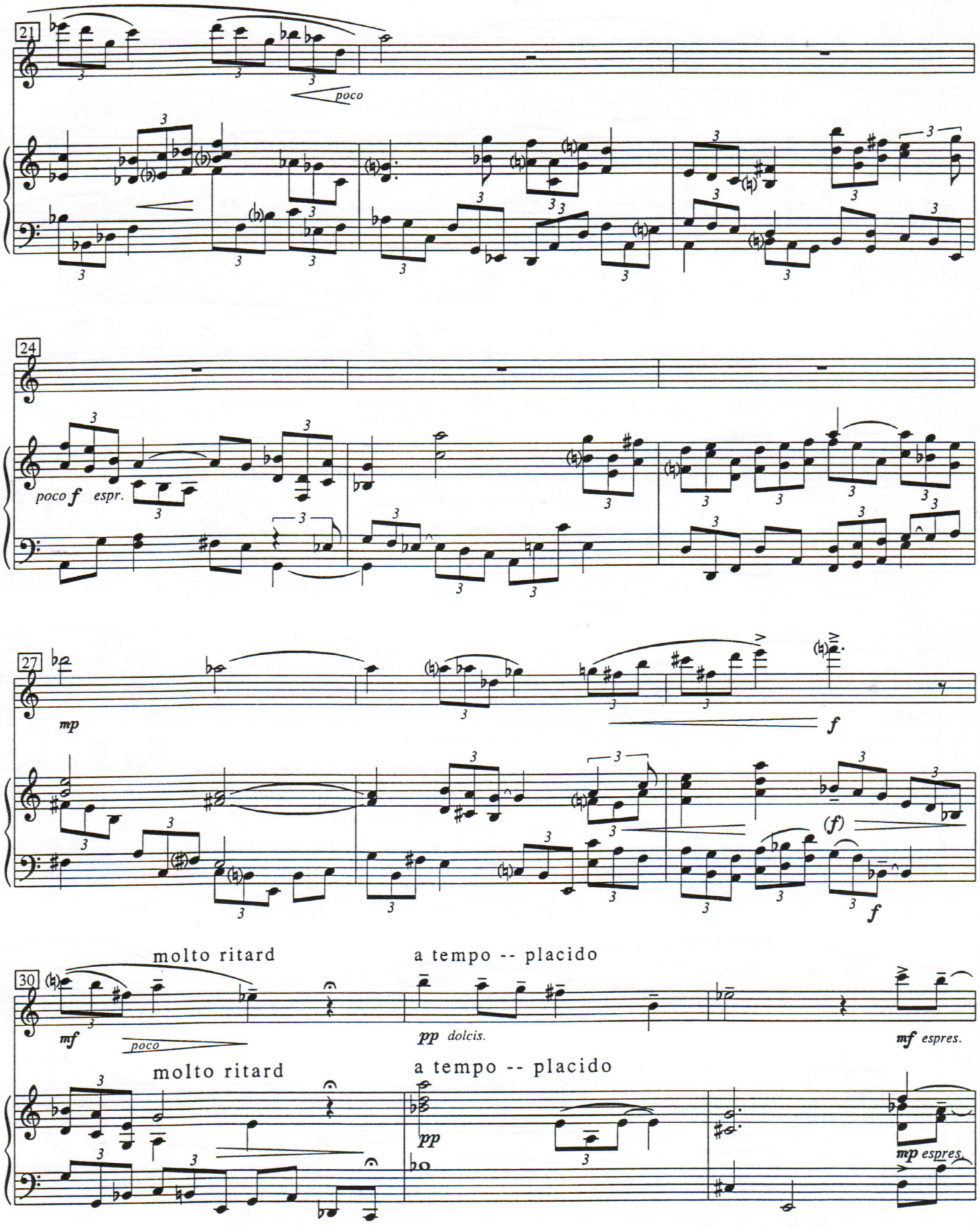

68
mf piangere
f espressivo
mp
71
mf
mf espressivo
74
mf espressivo
mp
5
p
pp
poco ritenuto
78
p con dignita
molto
pp
p cantabile
ppp
ppp

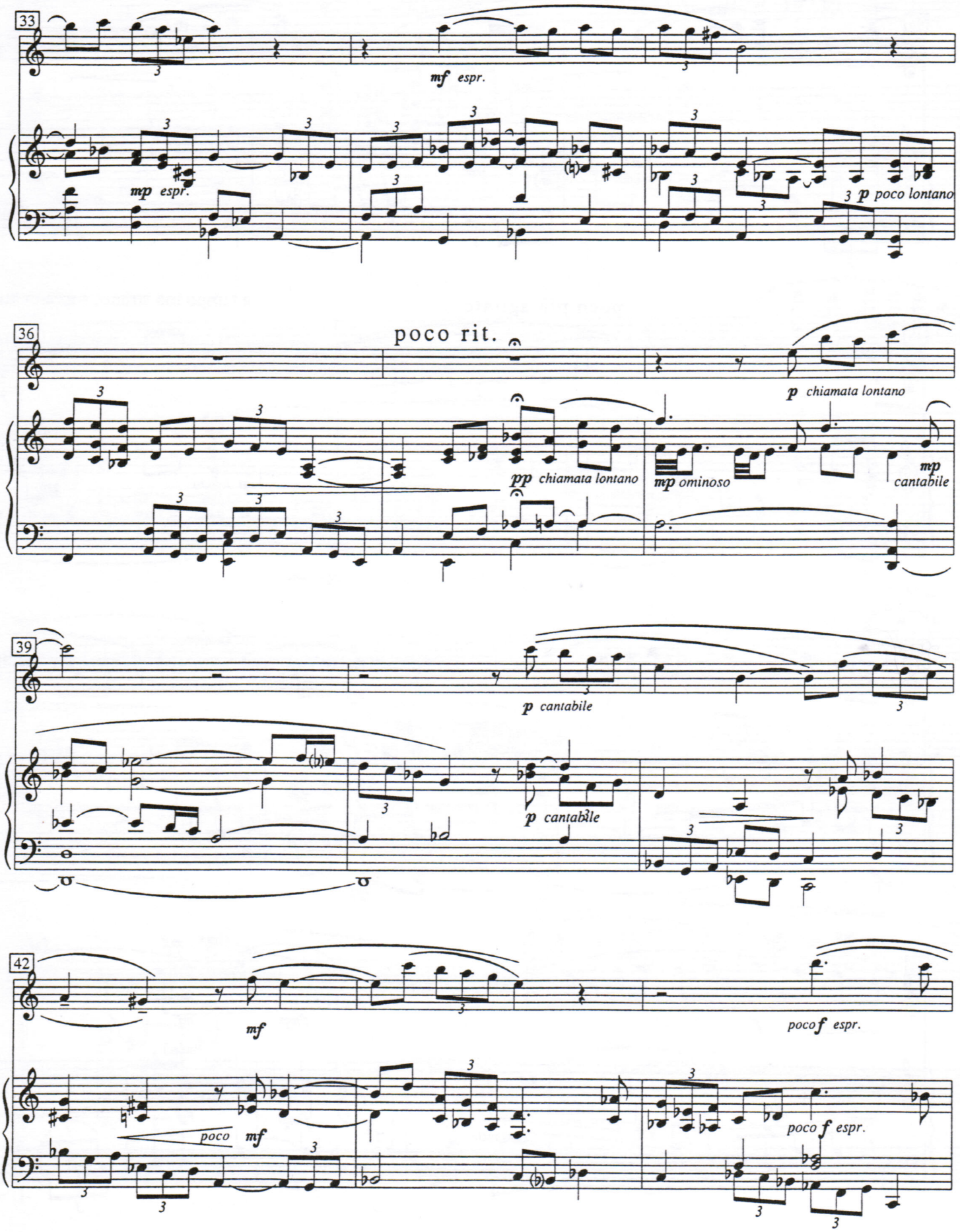
II

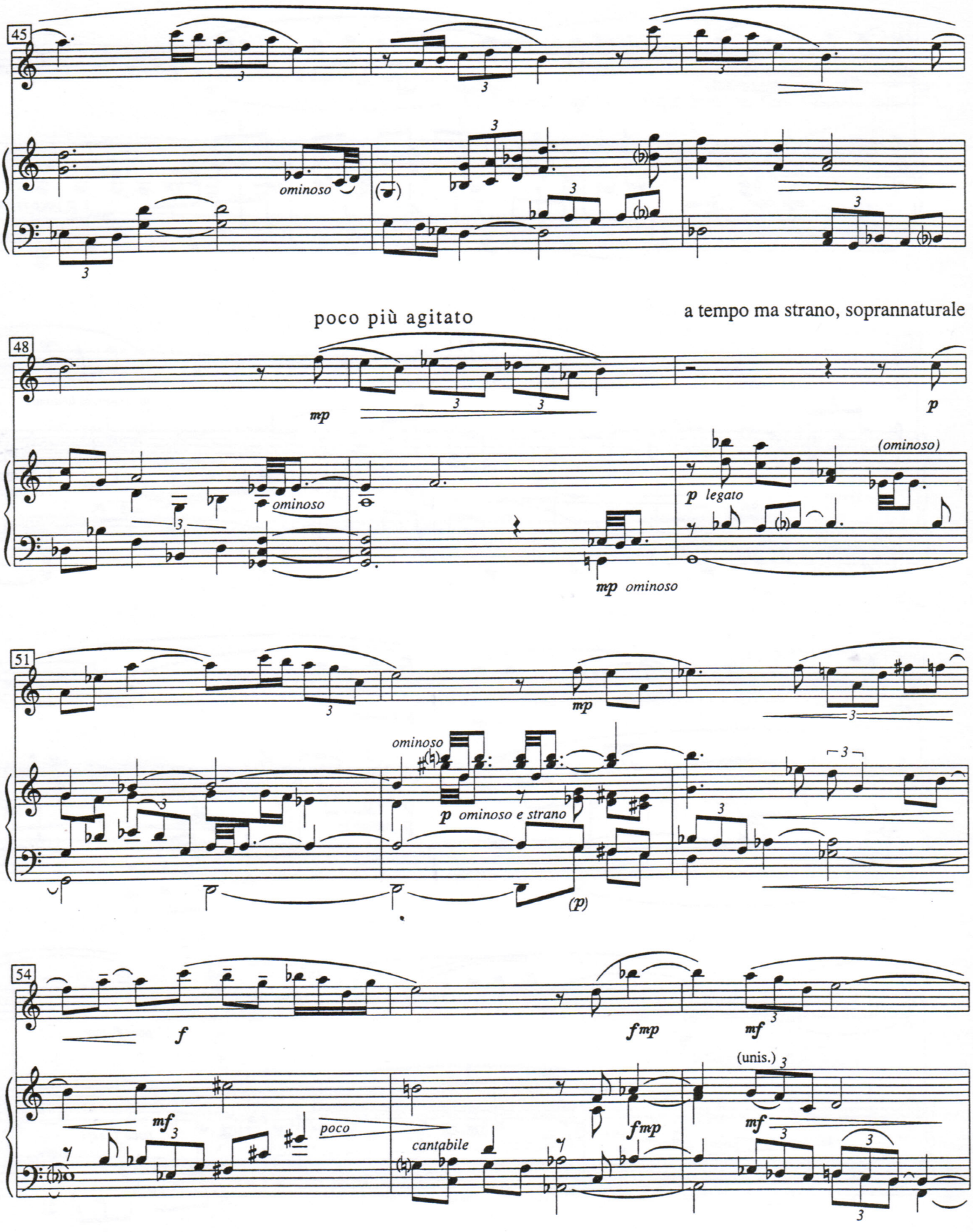
Cantabile rapsodico

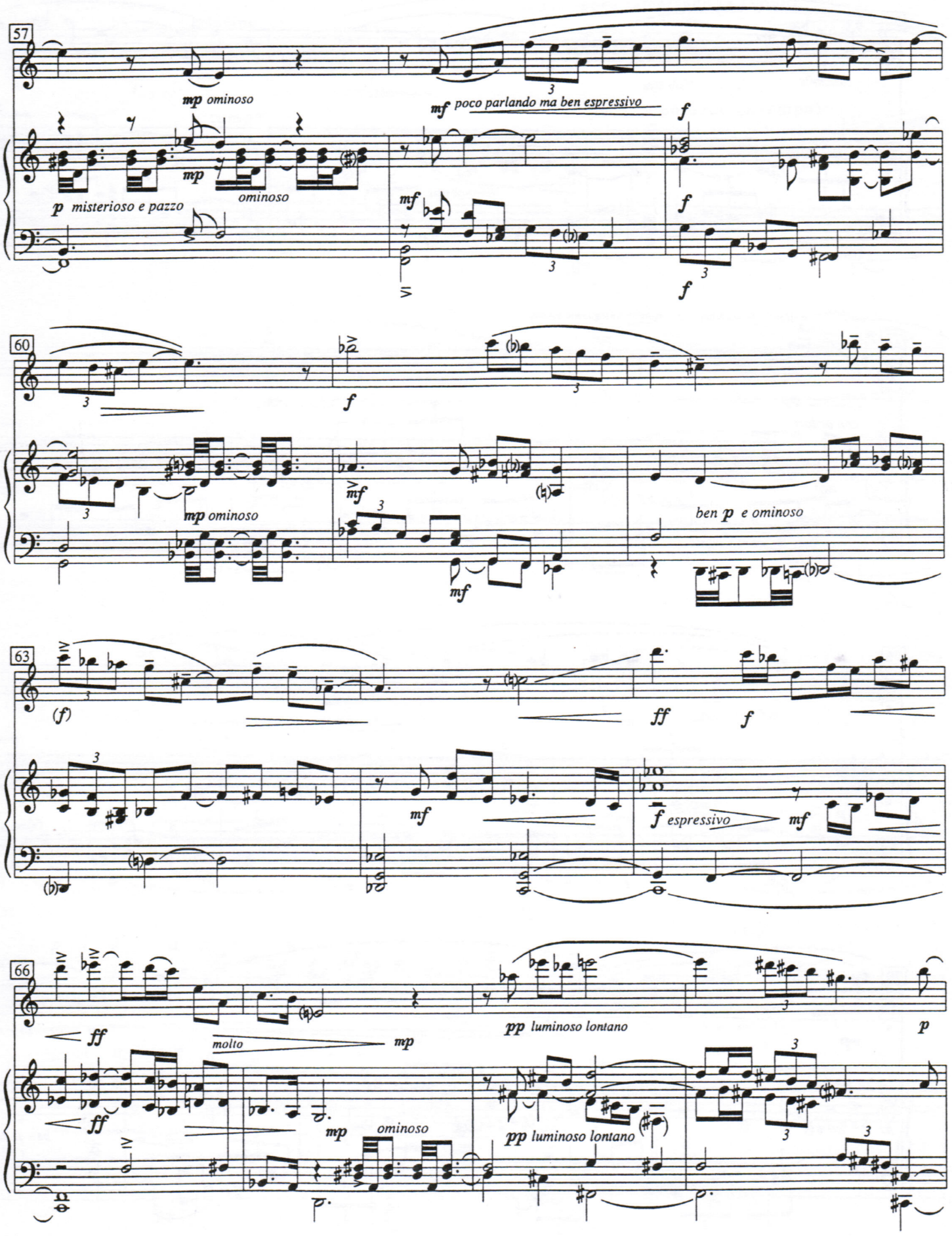


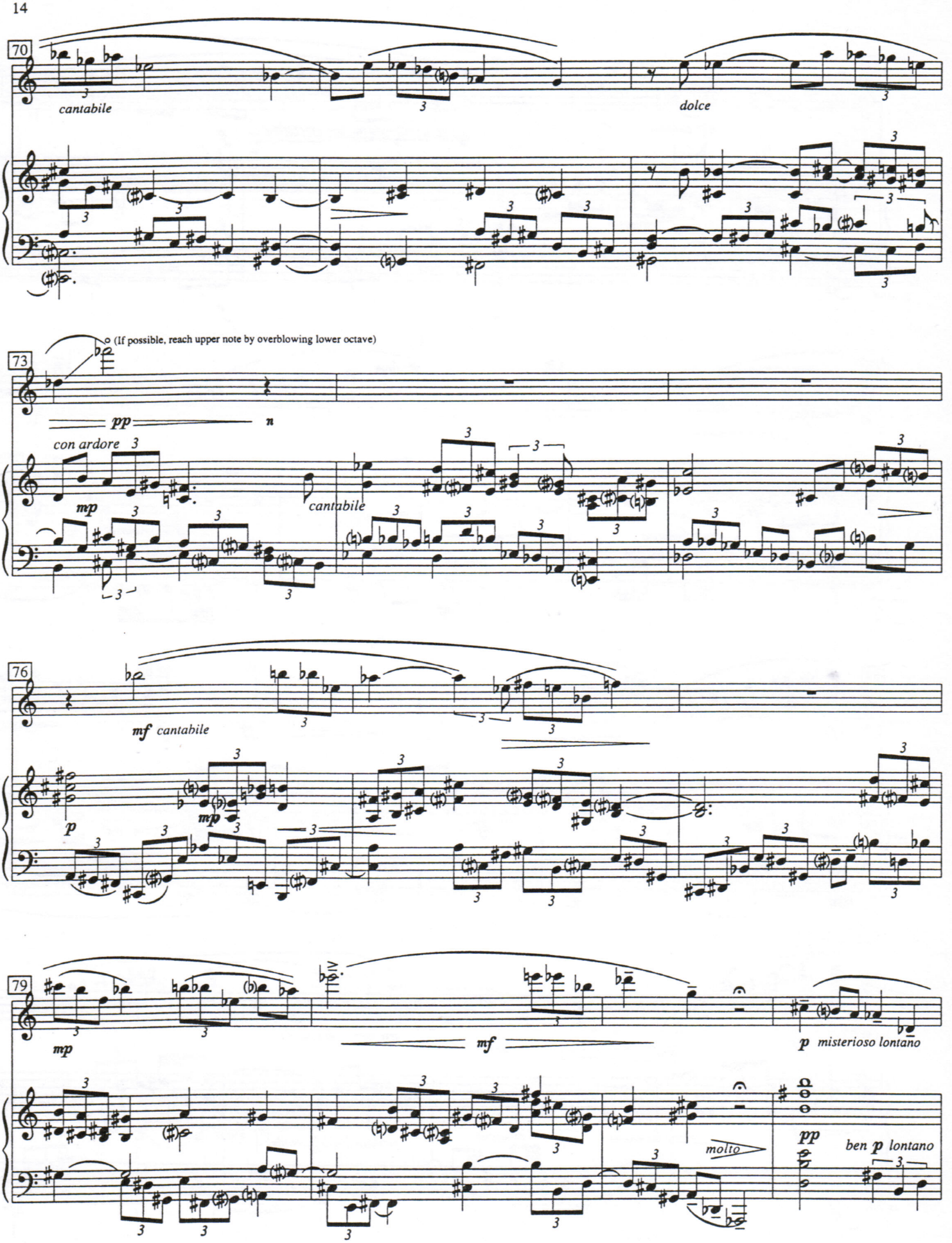

12
poco f espres.
mp espres.
14
mp espres.
poco p
16
pp lirico
mp
pp
lontano
p lirico
pp
19
p espr.
mp
mp

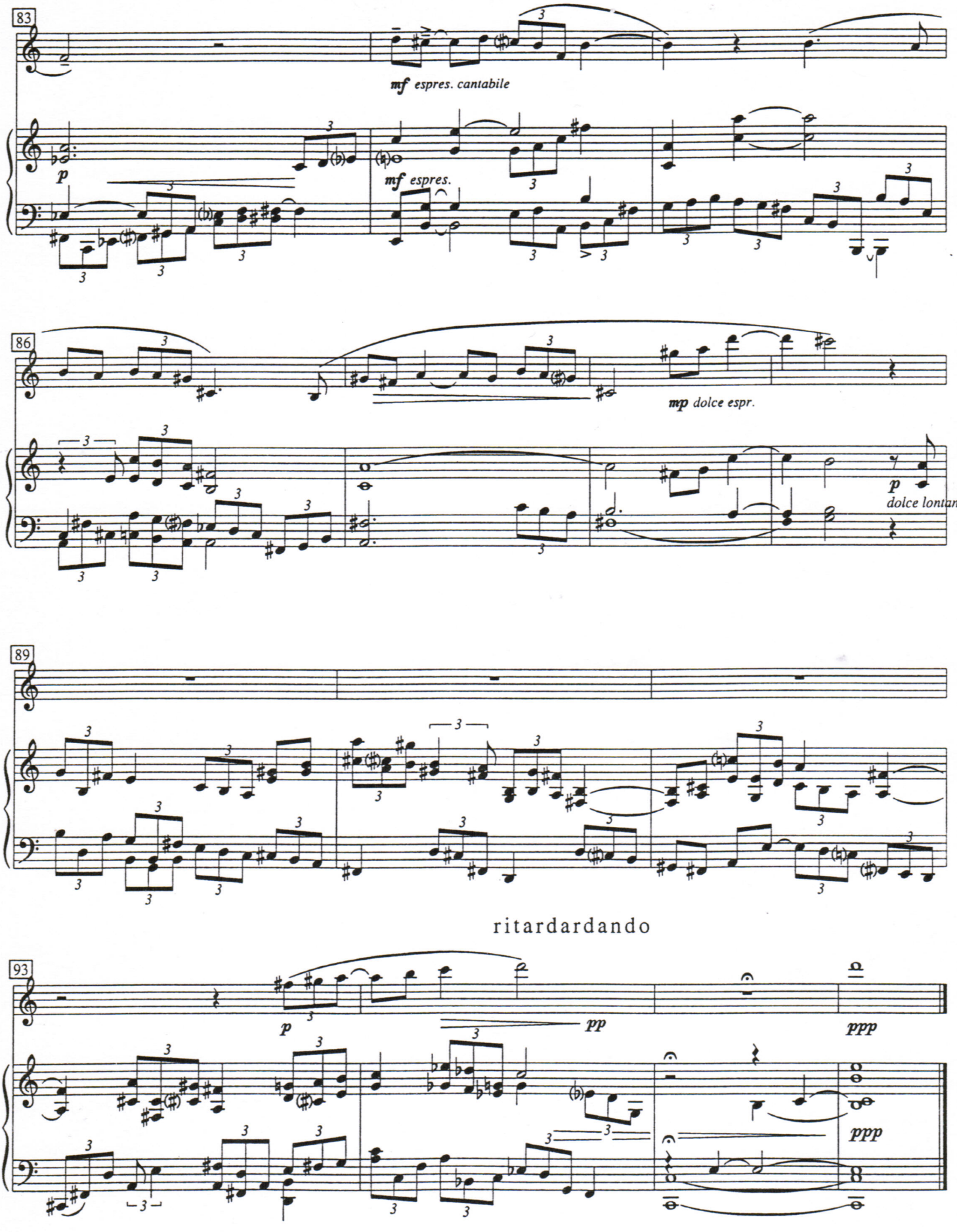

21
poco
24
poco f espr.
27
mp
f
(f)
f
30
molto ritard
mf
poco
molto ritard
a tempo -- placido
pp dolcis.
a tempo -- placido
pp
mf espres.
mp espres.


33
mf espr.
mp espr.
p poco lontano
36
poco rit.
p chiamata lontano
pp chiamata lontano
mp ominoso
mp cantabile
39
p cantabile
p cantabile
42
mf
poco f espr.
poco mf
poco f espr.


45
ominoso
poco più agitato
a tempo ma strano, soprannaturale
48
mp
p
ominoso
p legato
(ominoso)
mp ominoso
51
mp
ominoso
p ominoso e strano
(p)
54
f
fmp
mf
(unis.)
mf
poco
cantabile
fmp
mf


57
mp ominoso
mf poco parlando ma ben espressivo
f
p misterioso e pazzo
mp
ominoso
mf
f
f
60
f
mp ominoso
mf
mf
ben p e ominoso
63
(f)
ff
f
mf
f espressivo
mf
66
ff
molto
mp
pp luminoso lontano
p
ff
mp
ominoso
pp luminoso lontano


70
cantabile
dolce
73
(If possible, reach upper note by overblowing lower octave)
pp
con ardore
mp
cantabile
76
mf cantabile
p
mp
79
mp
mf
p misterioso lontano
molto
pp
ben p lontano


83
mf espres. cantabile
p
mf espres.
86
mp dolce espr.
p
dolce lontano
89
ritardardando
93
p
pp
ppp
ppp