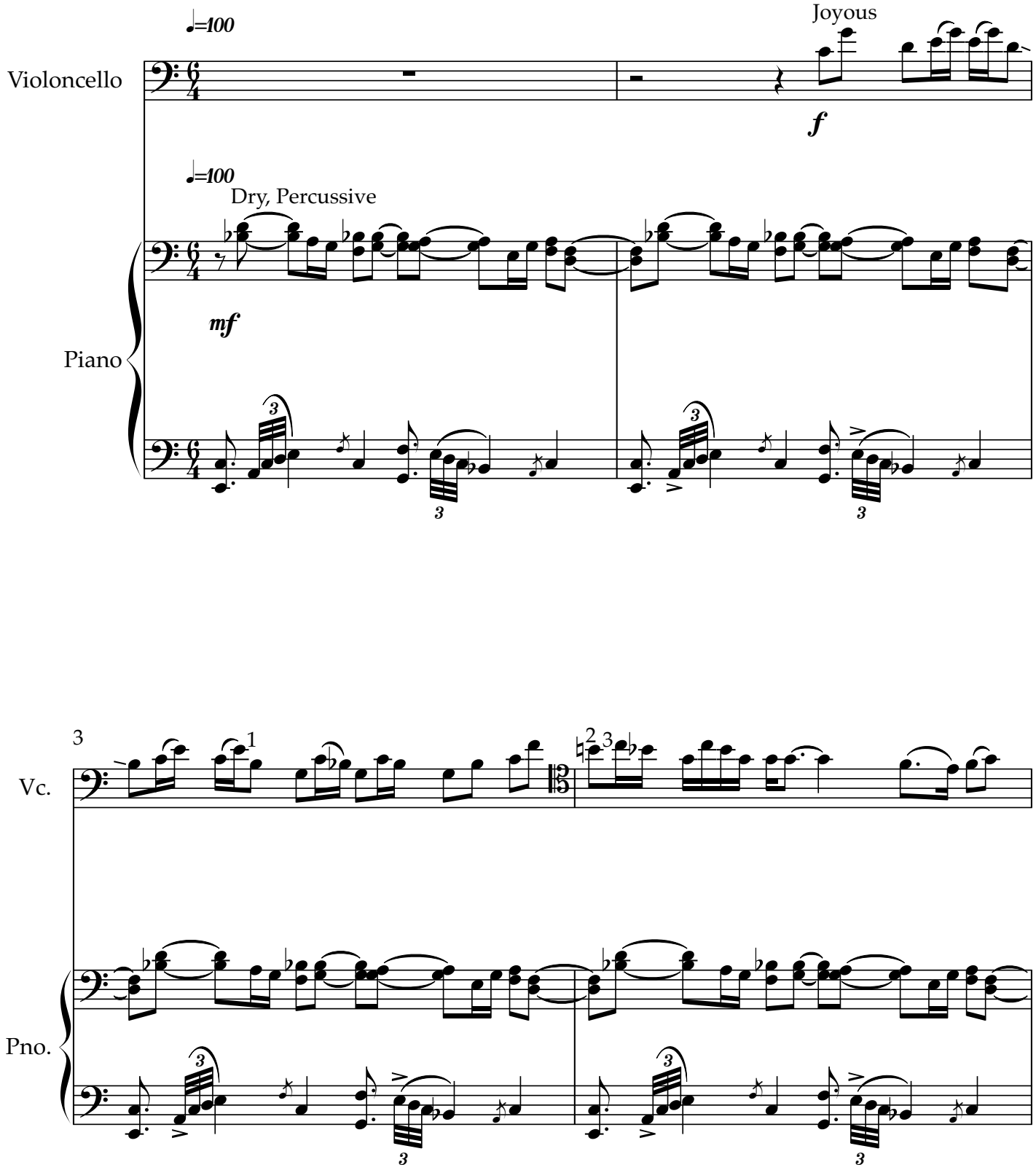
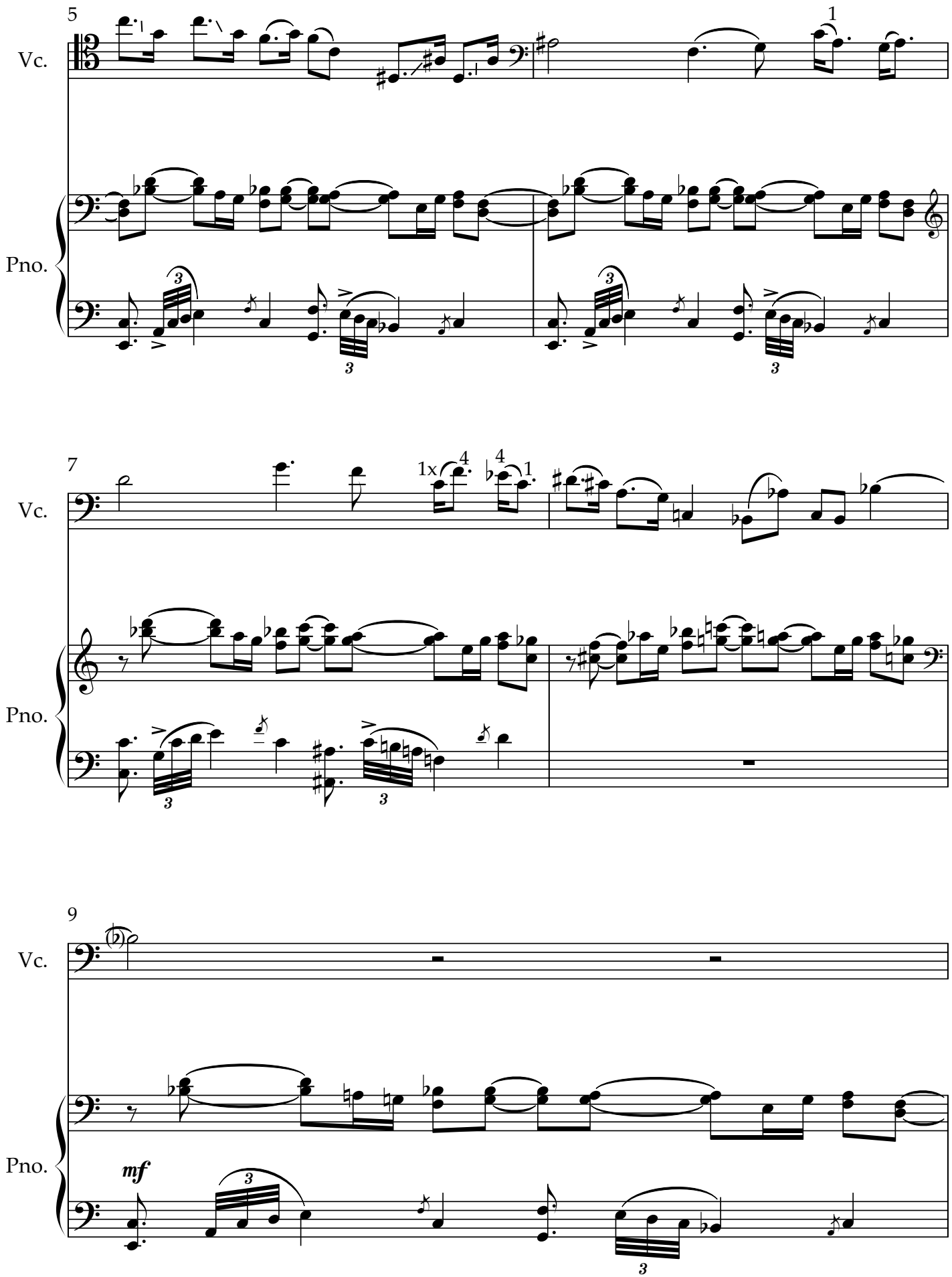
Chris Fenger

Purgatory (2020)

This is a piece for cello and piano that channels rhythmic energy as an essential part of the human spirit. The starting point for this composition was an Arabic rhythm that I discovered by a tabla recording on YouTube, which I transcribed to the piano. The piano essentially acts as a drum loop over which the cello plays melodies. The piece is named *Purgatory* to represent the conditions in which it was written (beginning of the pandemic, when it felt like time was stuck in a loop), but also because the piece came to be a spiritual cleansing, both in the compositional process and the resulting arc of the music. In addition to the religious meaning, an older adjectival form of the word means having the quality of cleansing or purifying.
The percussive and seemingly perpetual piano part of the first half of the piece eventually gives way to a gentler texture and joyous harmonic ideas.

Chris Fenger




5
Vc.
1
Pno.
7
Vc.
1x
4
4
1
Pno.
9
Vc.
Pno.
mf

Joyous

10

Vc.

f

Pno.

11

Vc.

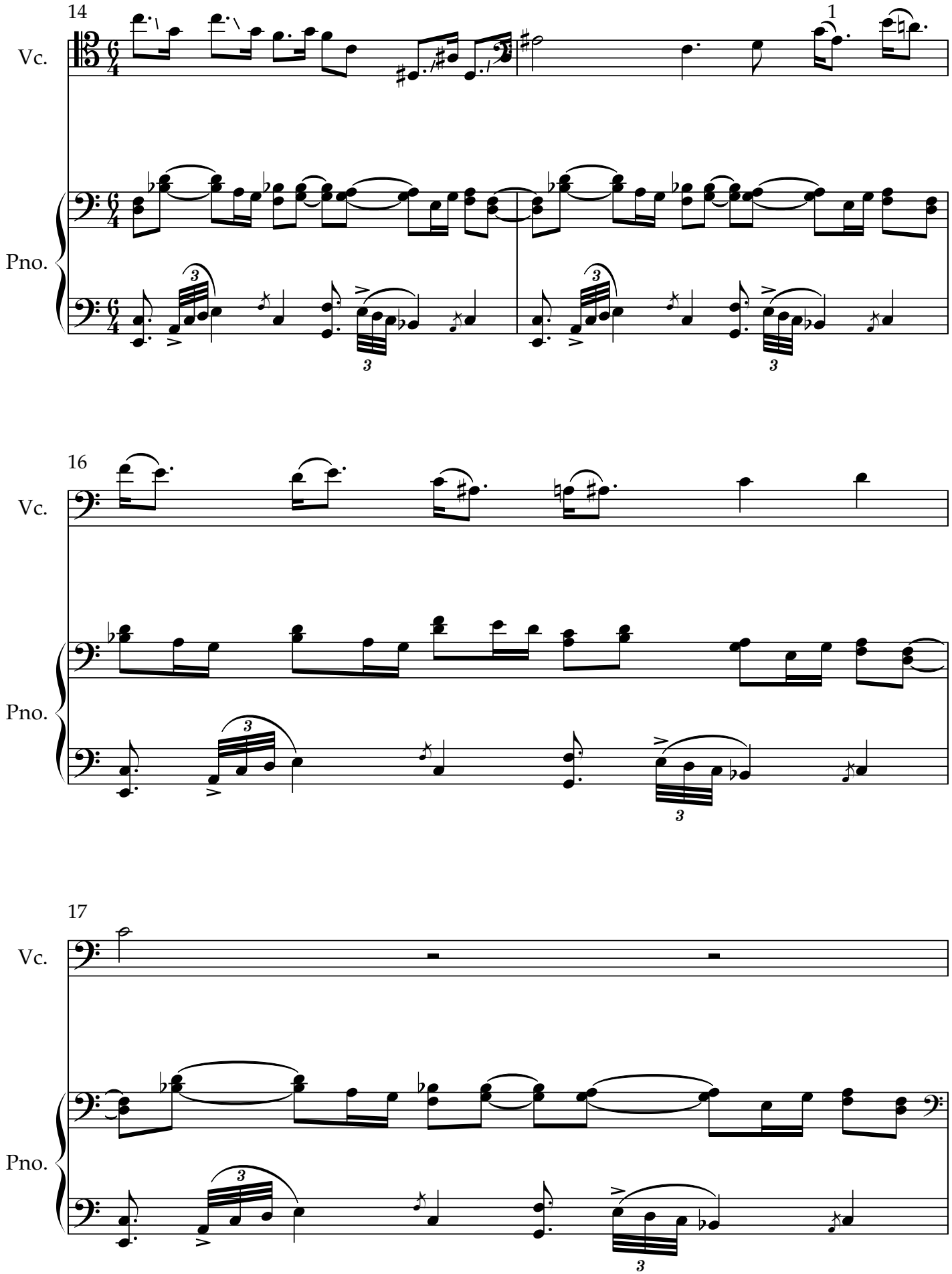
Pno.

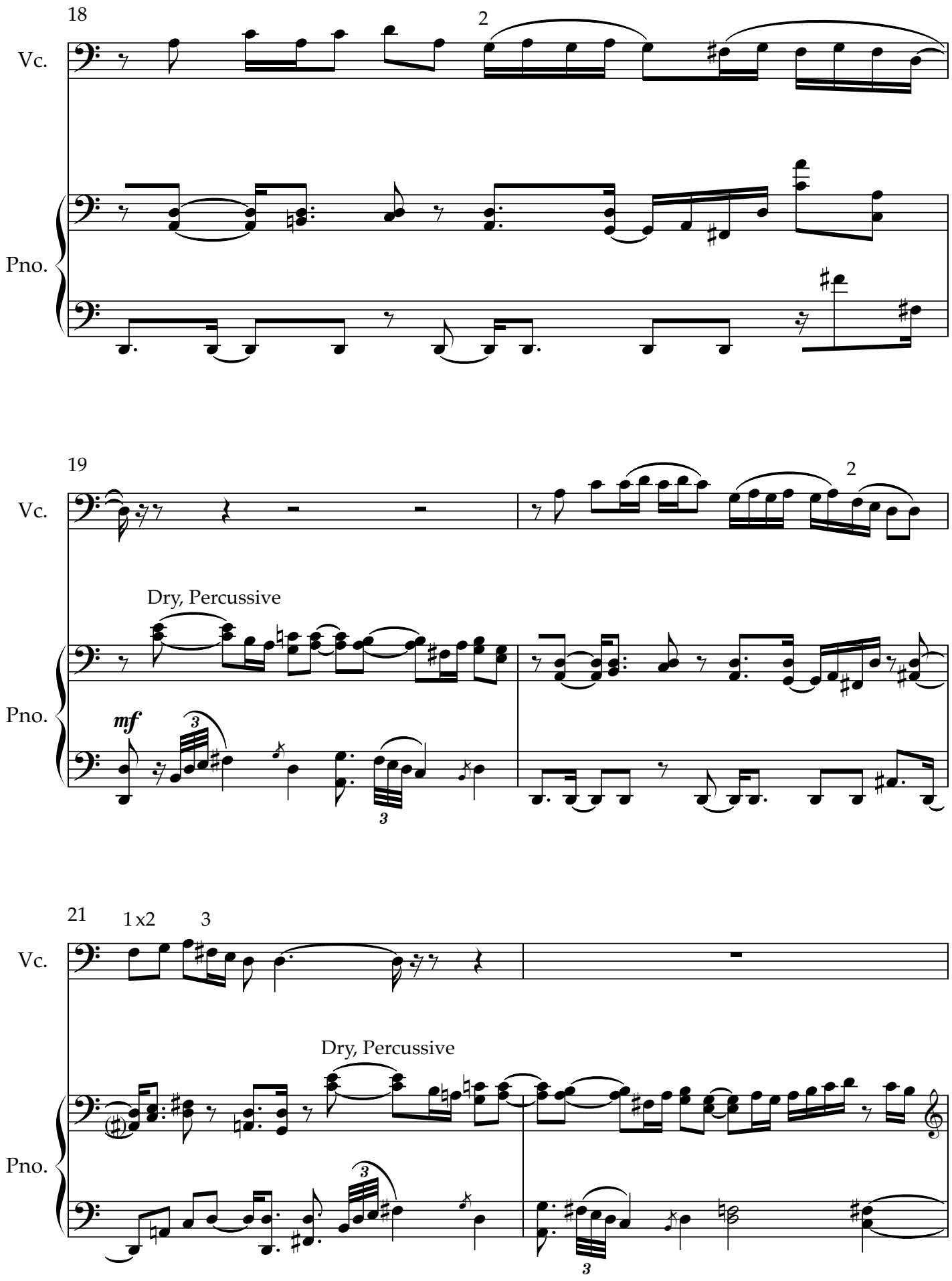
12

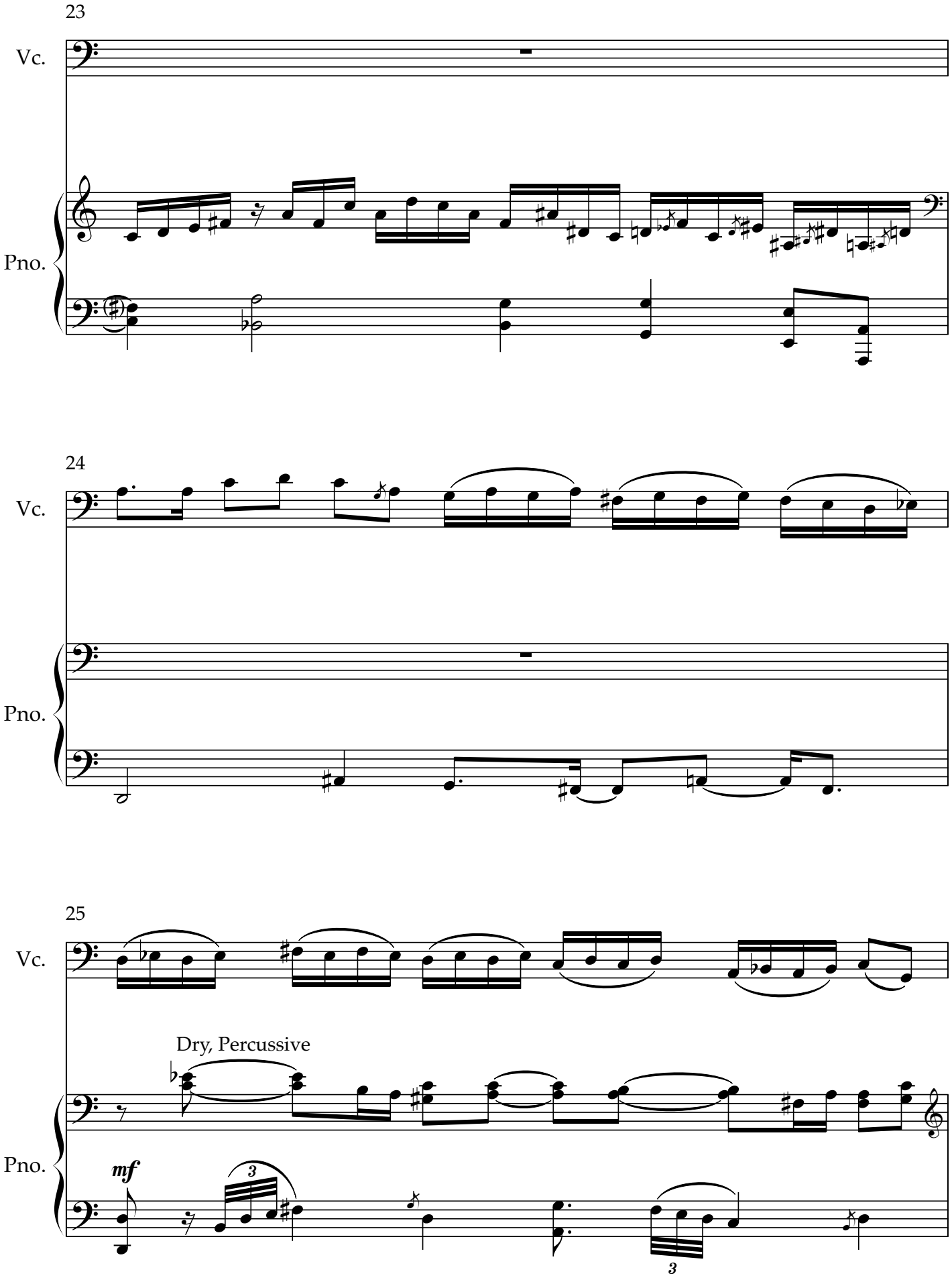
Vc.

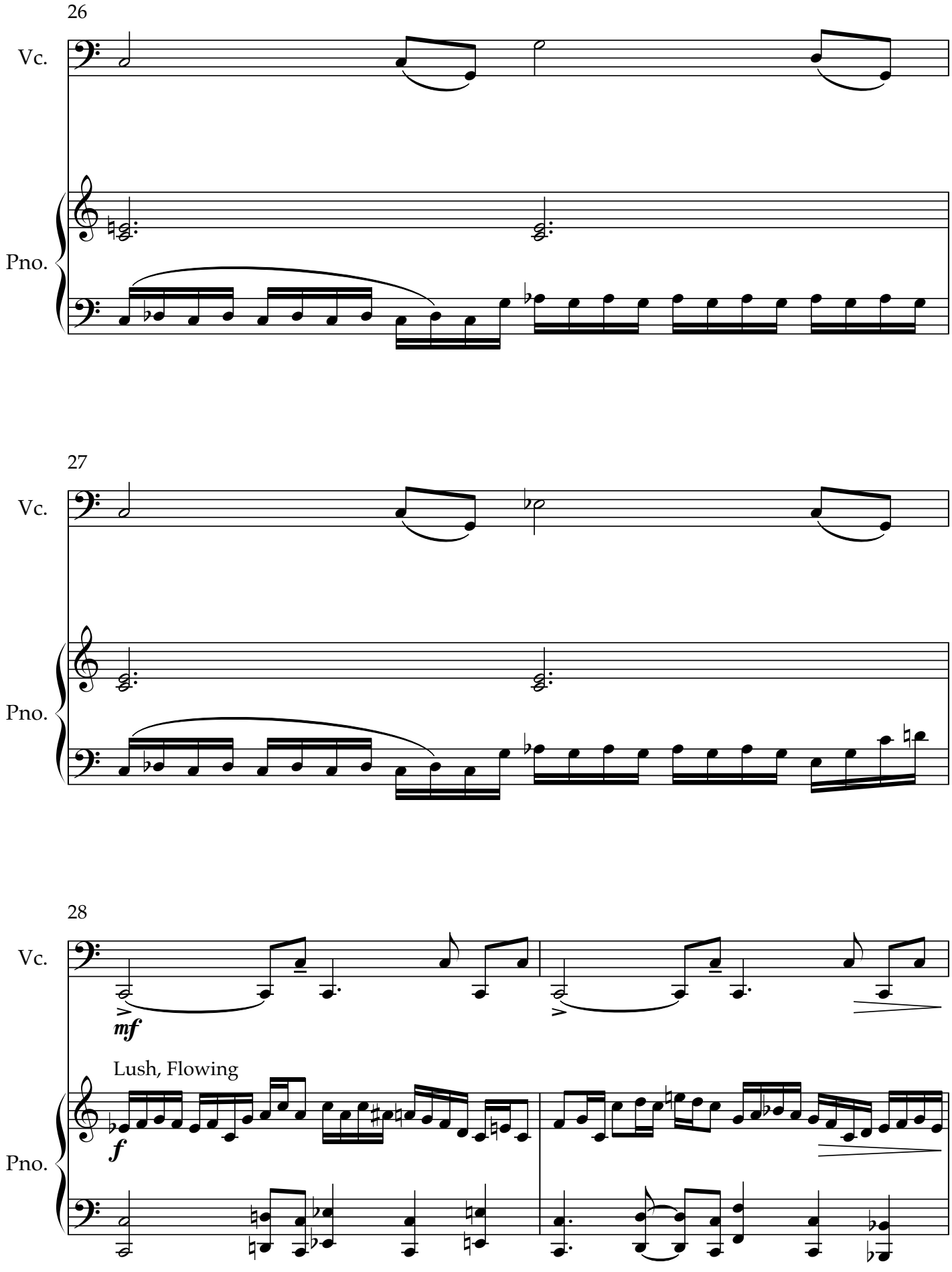
Pno.

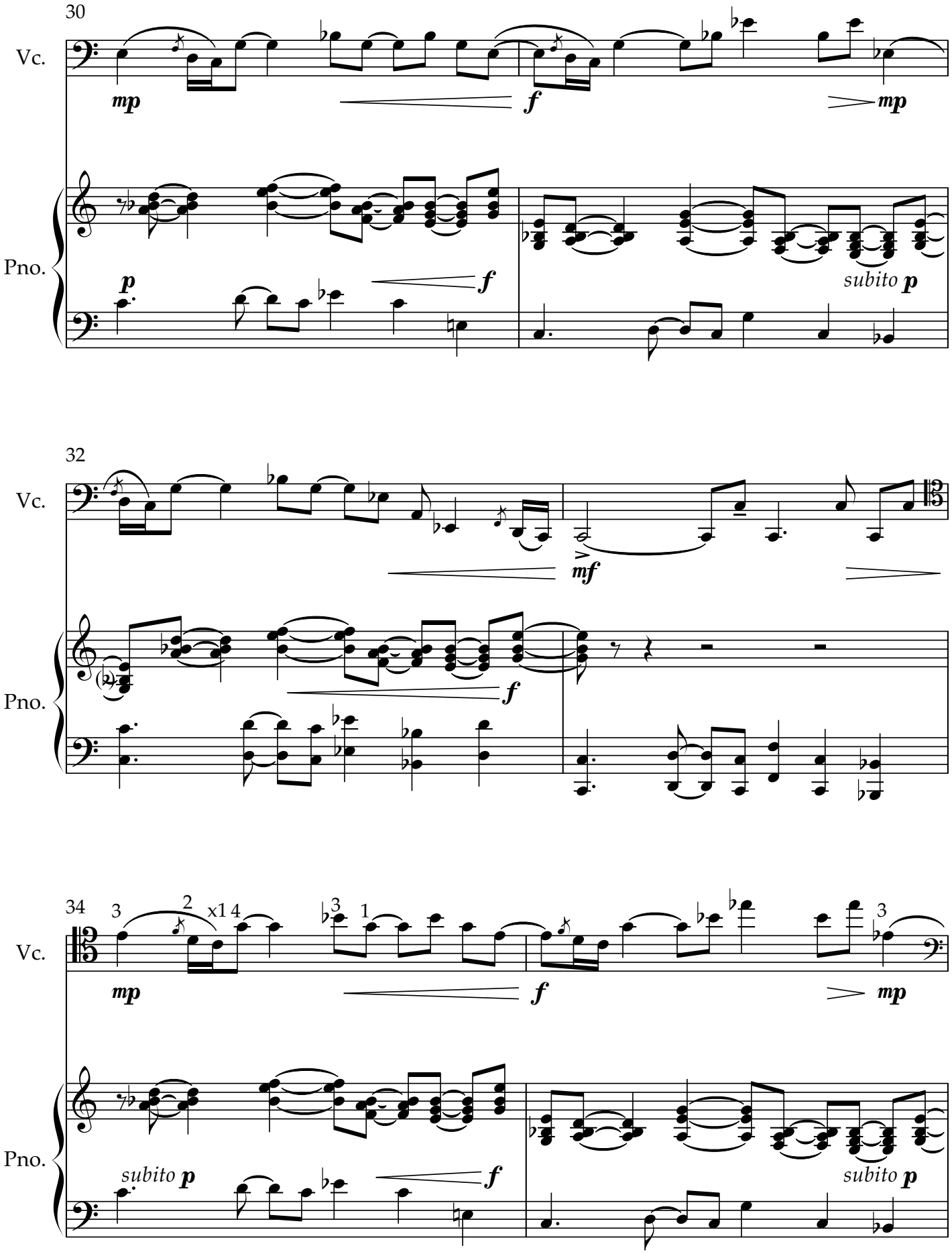
8va

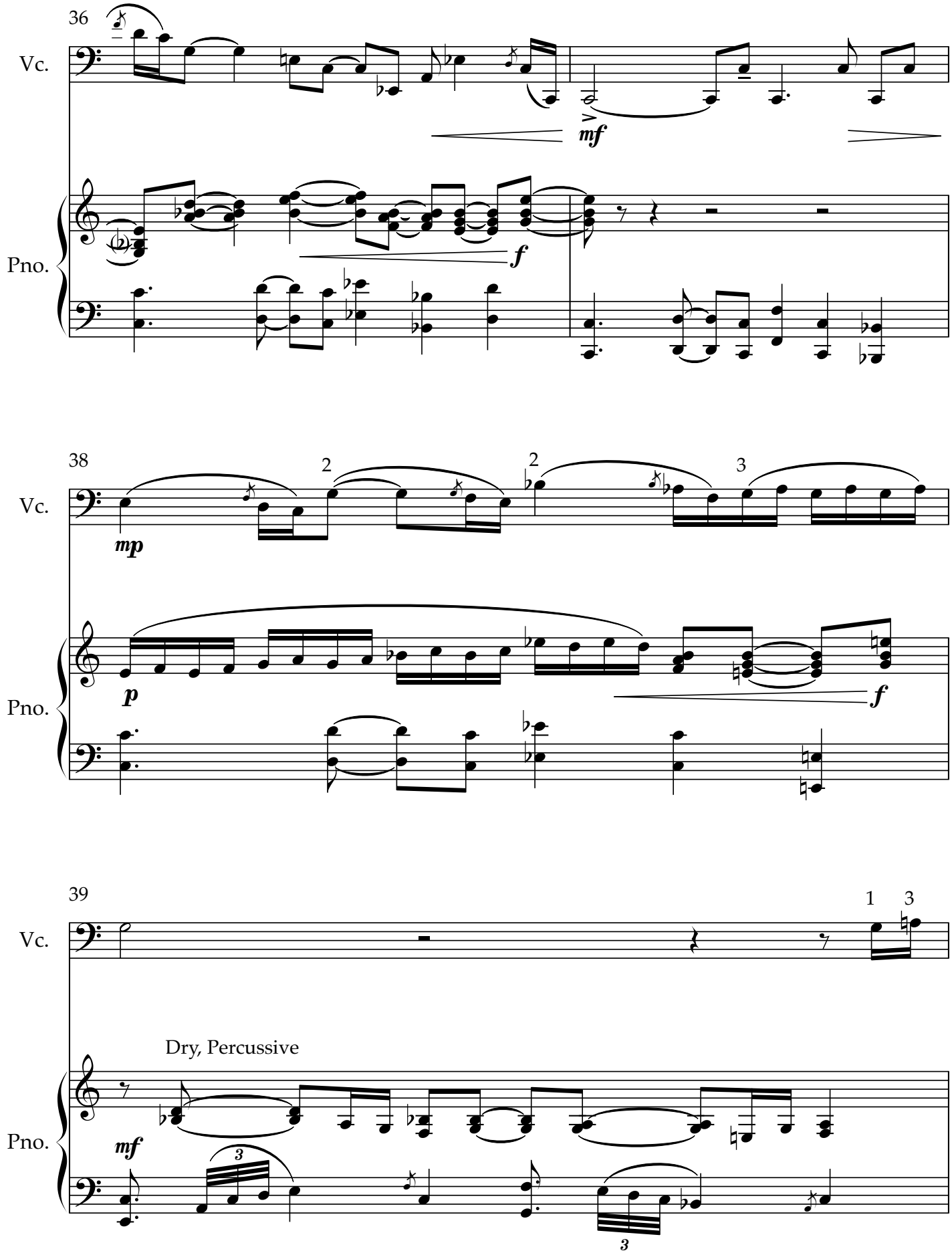

14
1
Vc.
Pno.
16
Vc.
Pno.
17
Vc.
Pno.

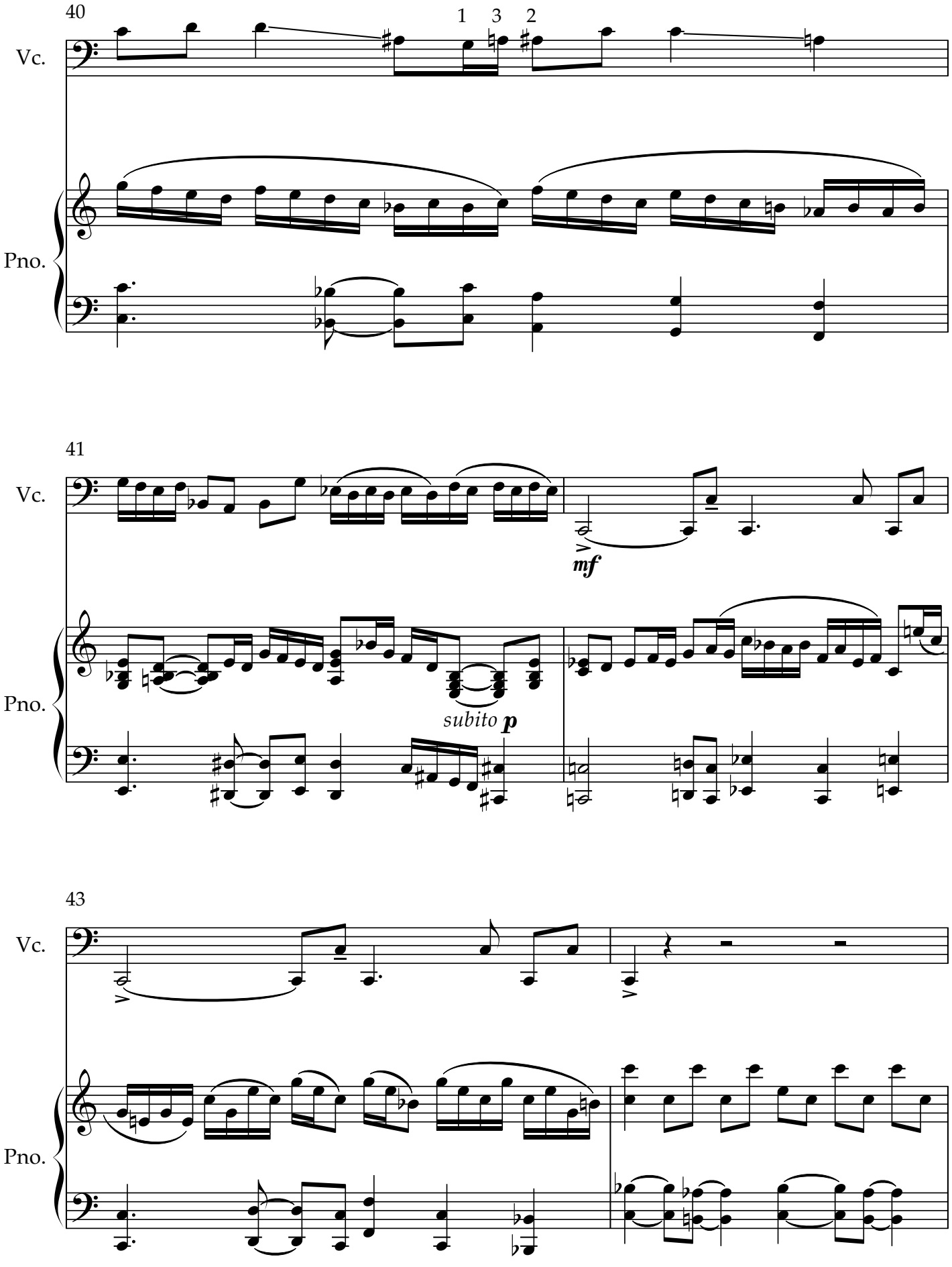

18
2
Vc.
Pno.
19
2
Vc.
Dry, Percussive
Pno.
mf
3
3
21
1 x2
3
Vc.
Dry, Percussive
Pno.
3
3

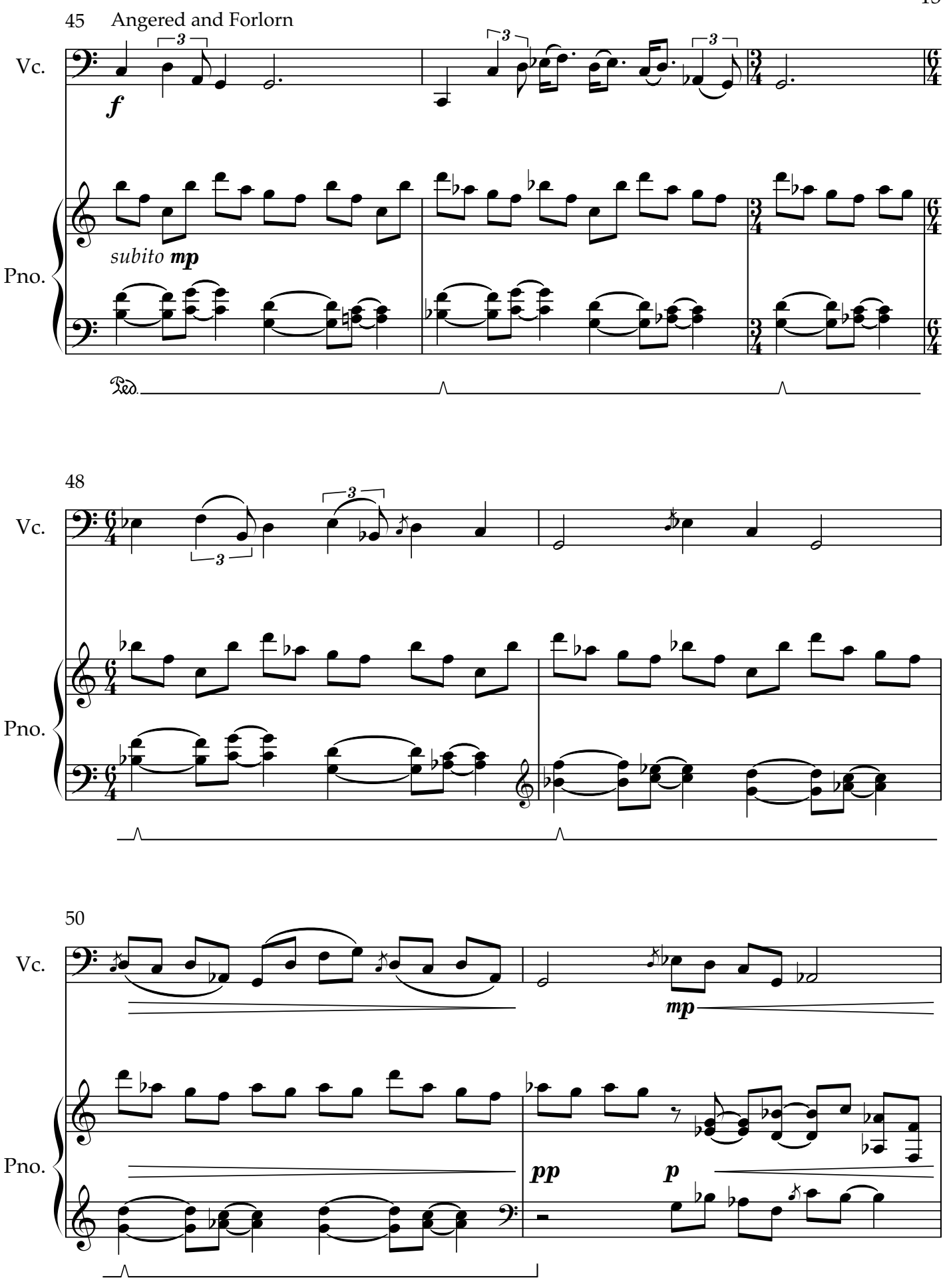

23
Vc.
Pno.
24
Vc.
Pno.
25
Vc.
Dry, Percussive
Pno.
mf
3
3

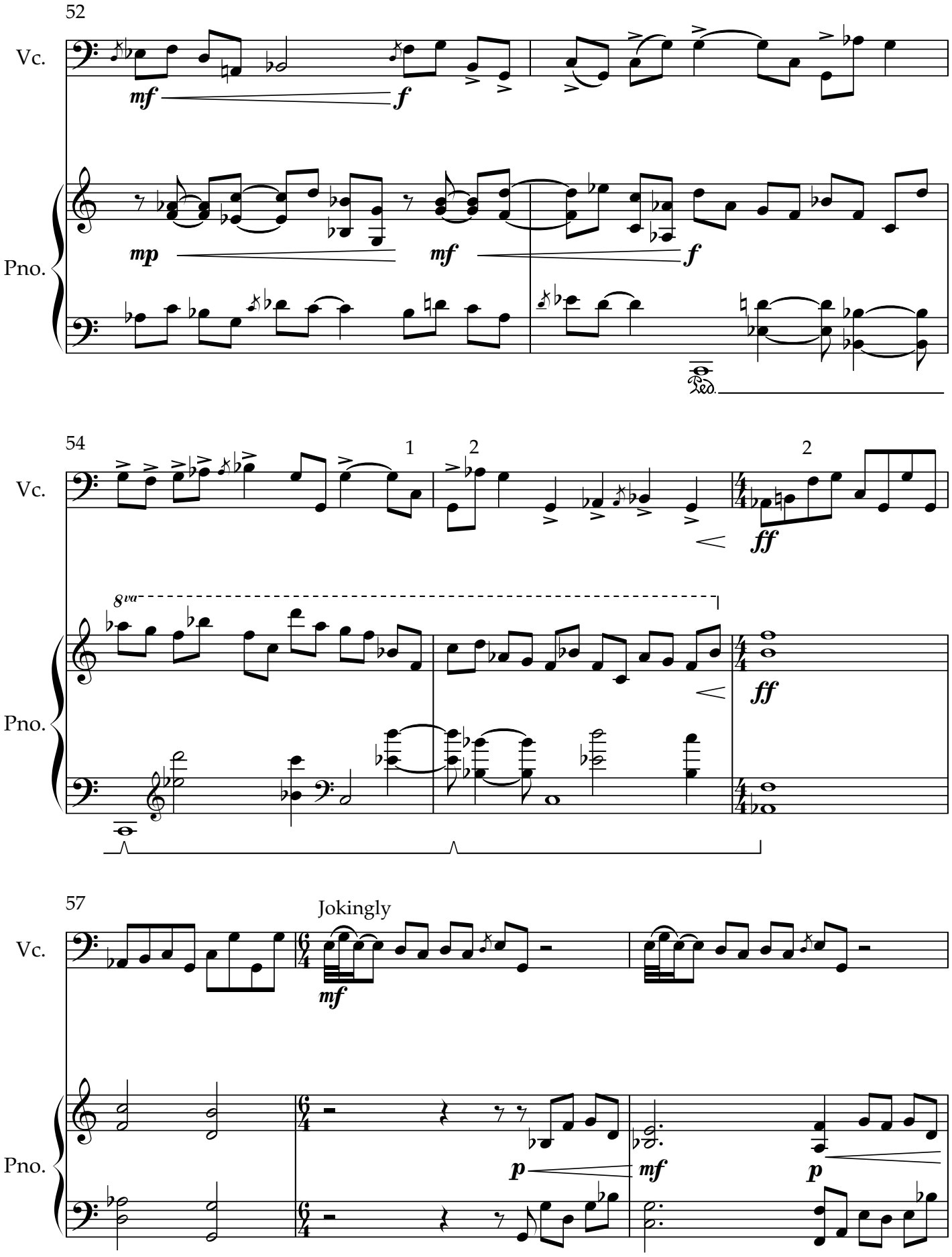

26
Vc.
Pno.
27
Vc.
Pno.
28
Vc.
mf
Lush, Flowing
f
Pno.

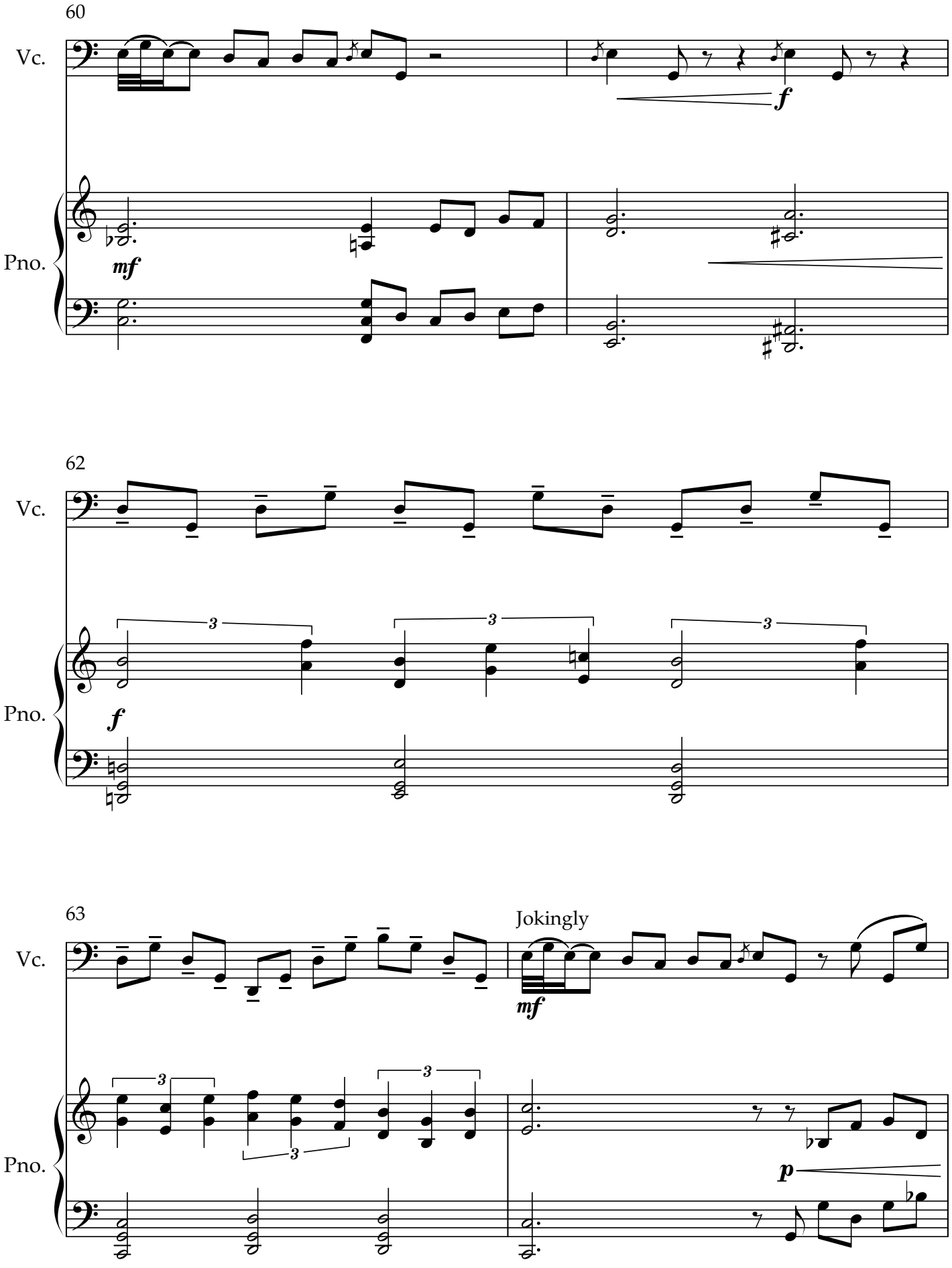

30
Vc.
mp
f
mp
Pno.
p
f
subito p
32
Vc.
mf
Pno.
f
34
3
2
x1
4
3
1
Vc.
mp
f
mp
3
Pno.
subito p
f
subito p

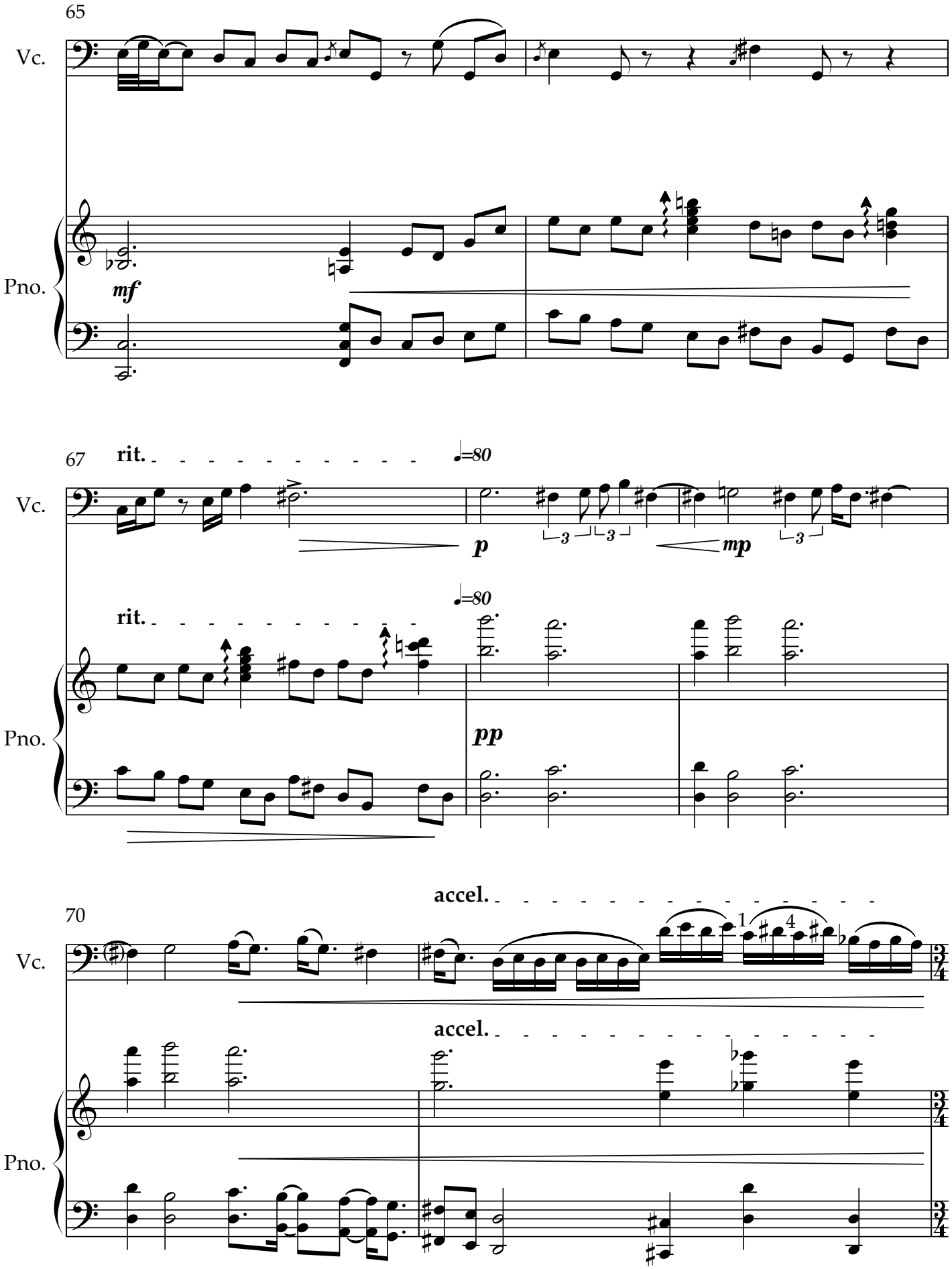

36
Vc.
mf
Pno.
f
38
Vc.
mp
2
2
3
Pno.
p
f
39
Vc.
1
3
Dry, Percussive
Pno.
mf
3
3

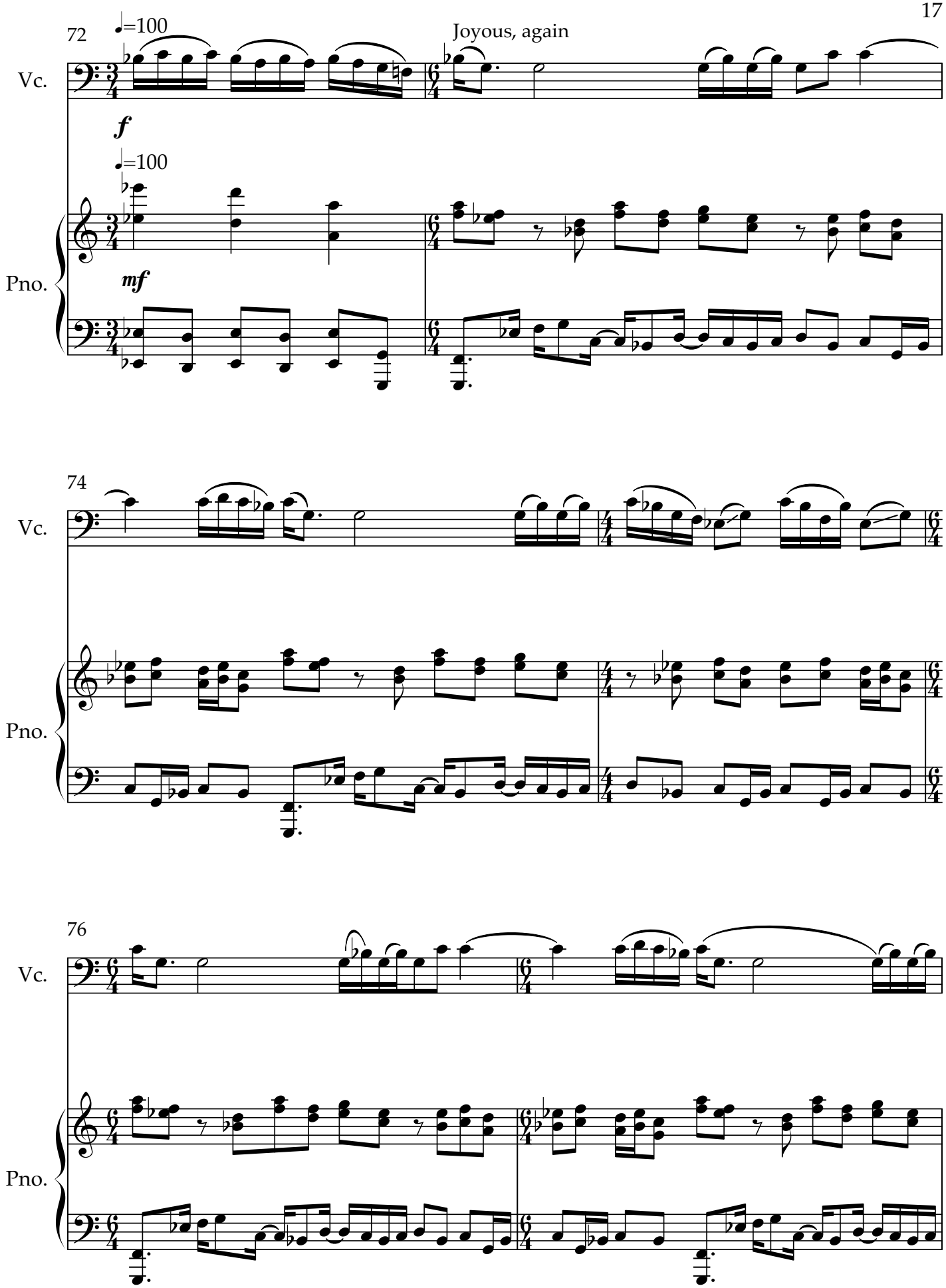

40
1 3 2
Vc.
Pno.
41
Vc.
mf
Pno.
subito p
43
Vc.
Pno.

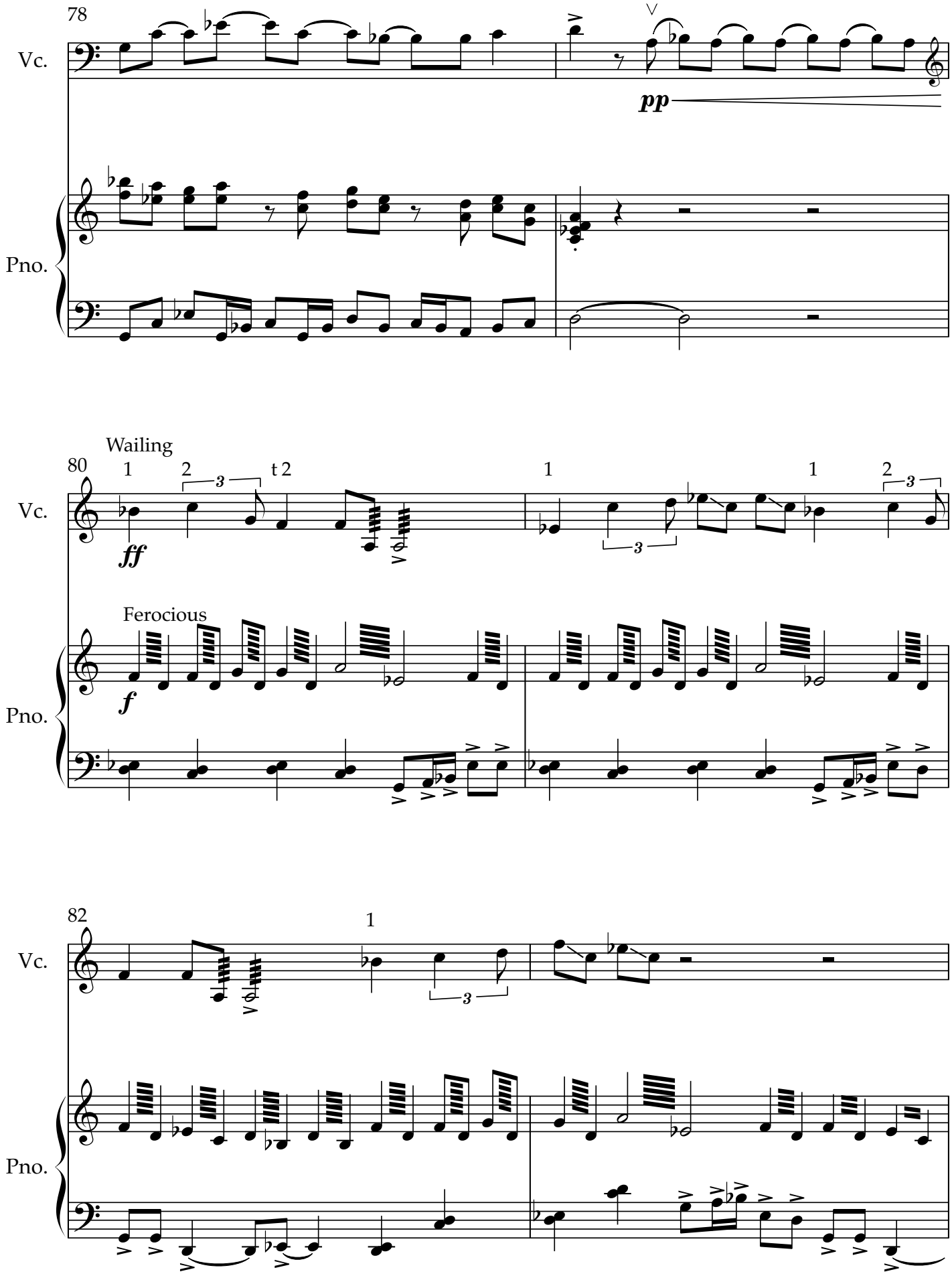

45
Angered and Forlorn
Vc.
f
Pno.
subito mp
Ped.
48
Vc.
Pno.
50
Vc.
mp
Pno.
pp
p

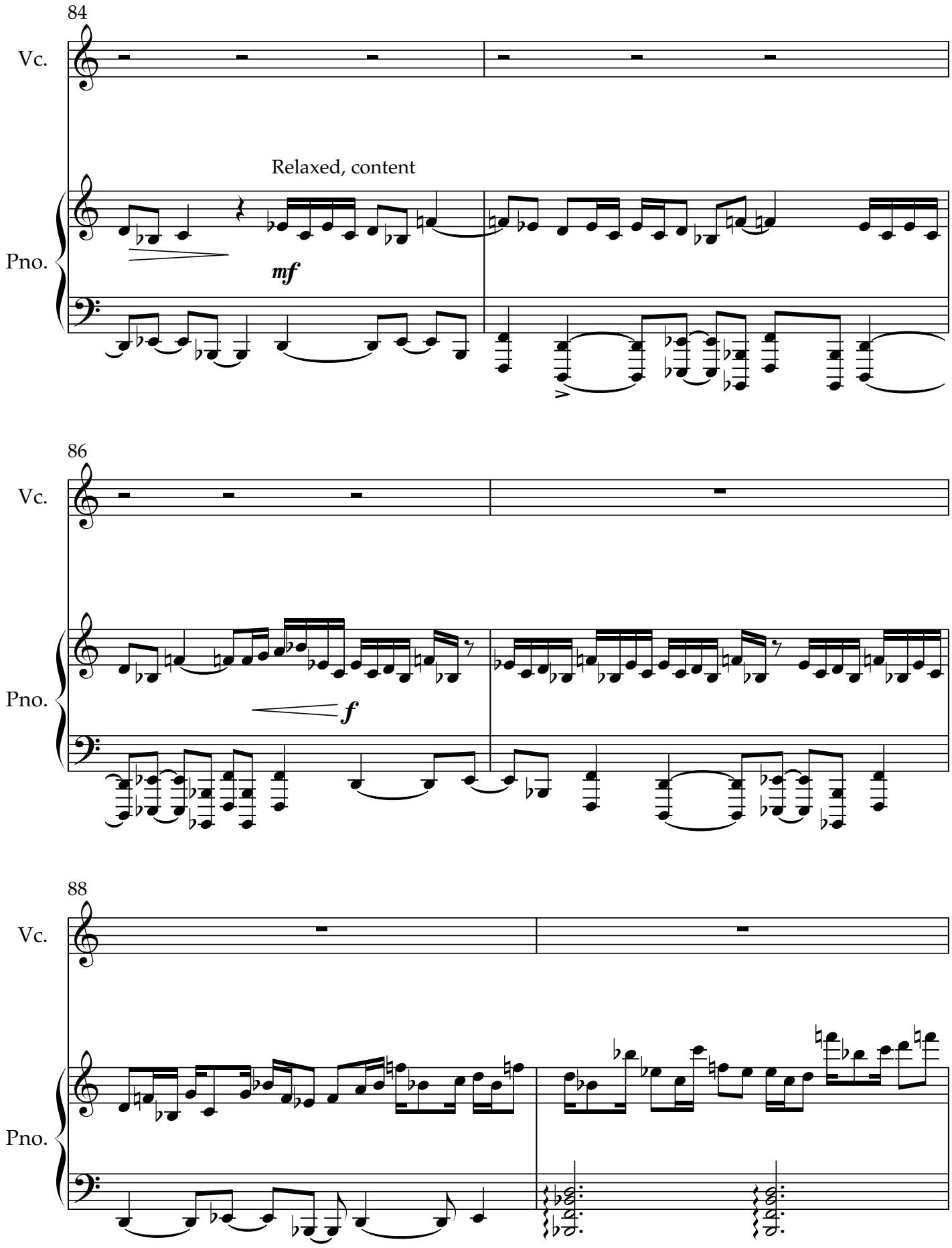

52
Vc.
mf
f
Pno.
mp
mf
f
54
Vc.
1
2
2
ff
8va
Pno.
ff
57
Jokingly
Vc.
mf
Pno.
p
mf
p

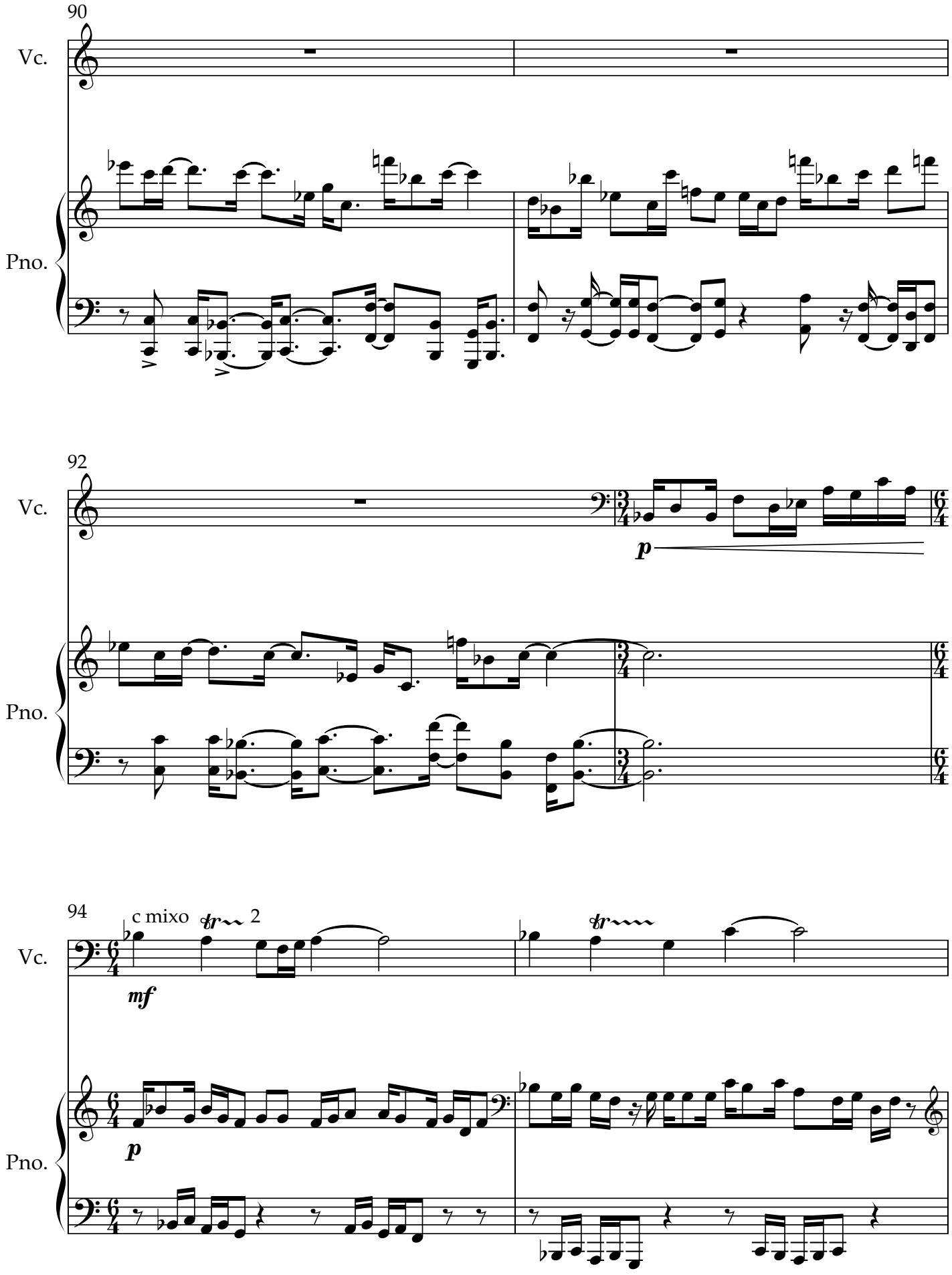

60
Vc.
Pno.
mf
f
62
Vc.
Pno.
3
3
3
f
63
Jokingly
Vc.
Pno.
mf
3
3
3
p

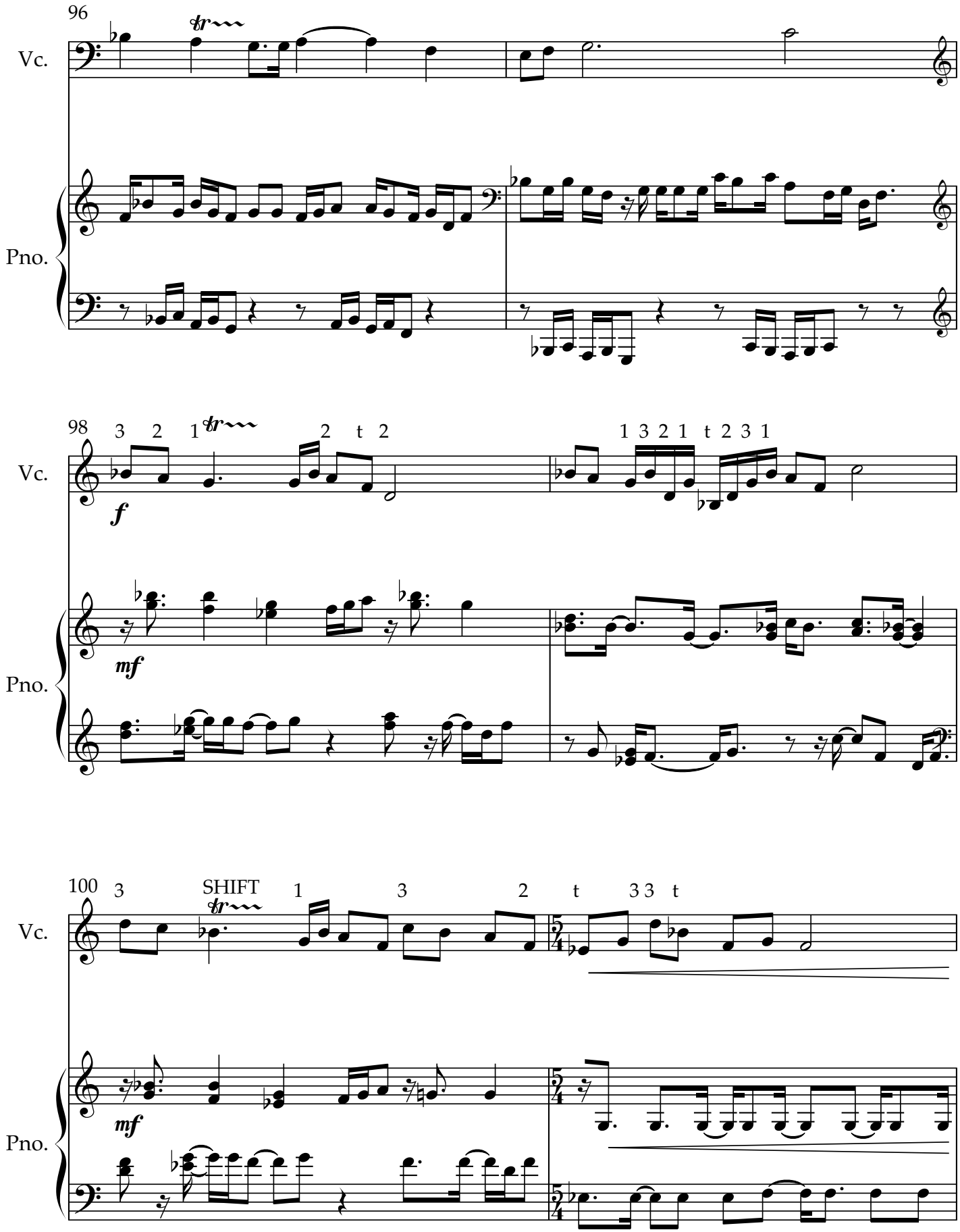

65
Vc.
Pno.
mf
67
rit.
♩=80
Vc.
p
mp
rit.
♩=80
Pno.
pp
70
accel.
Vc.
accel.
Pno.

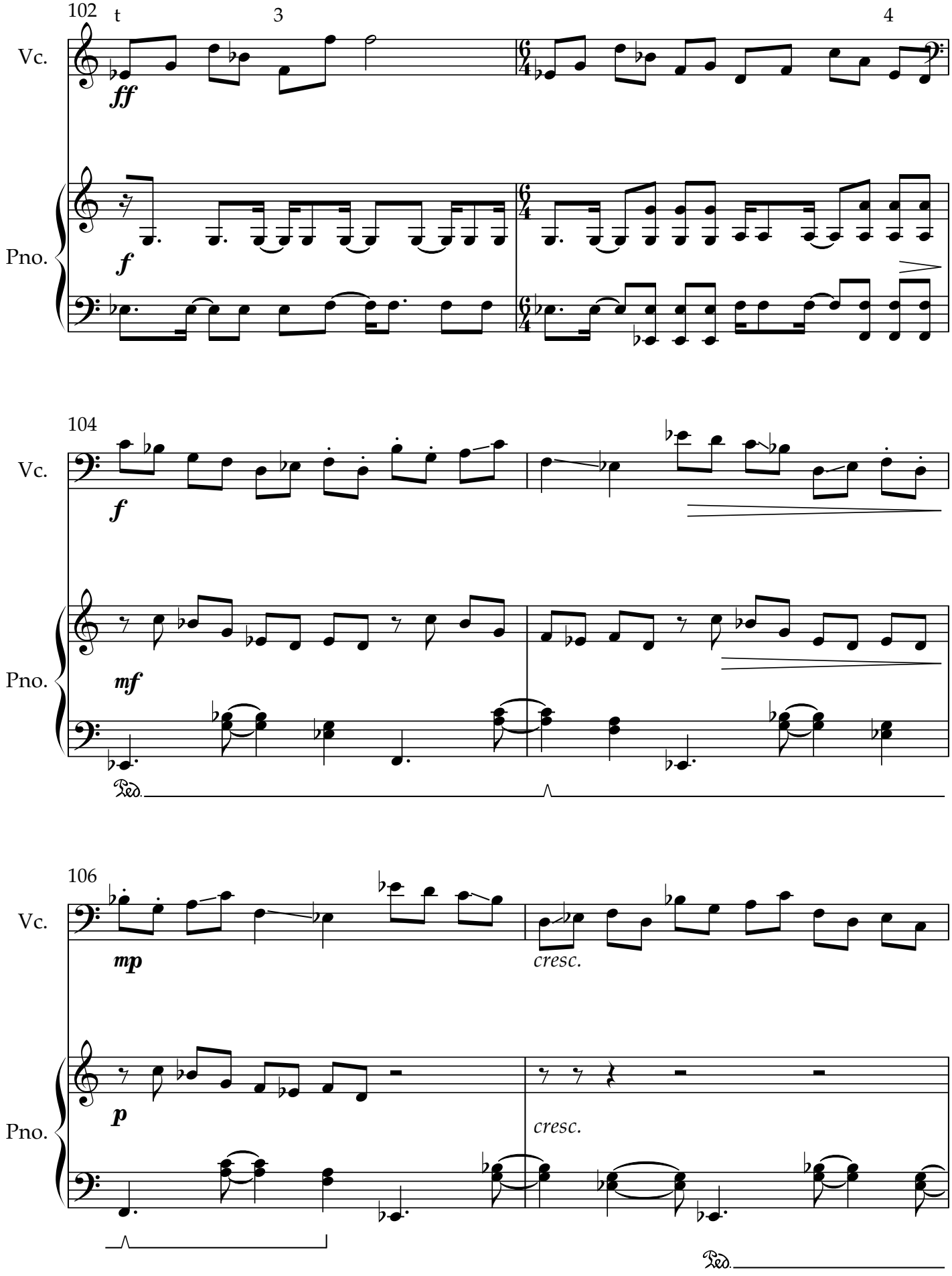

72
♩=100
Joyous, again
Vc.
f
♩=100
Pno.
mf
74
Vc.
Pno.
76
Vc.
Pno.

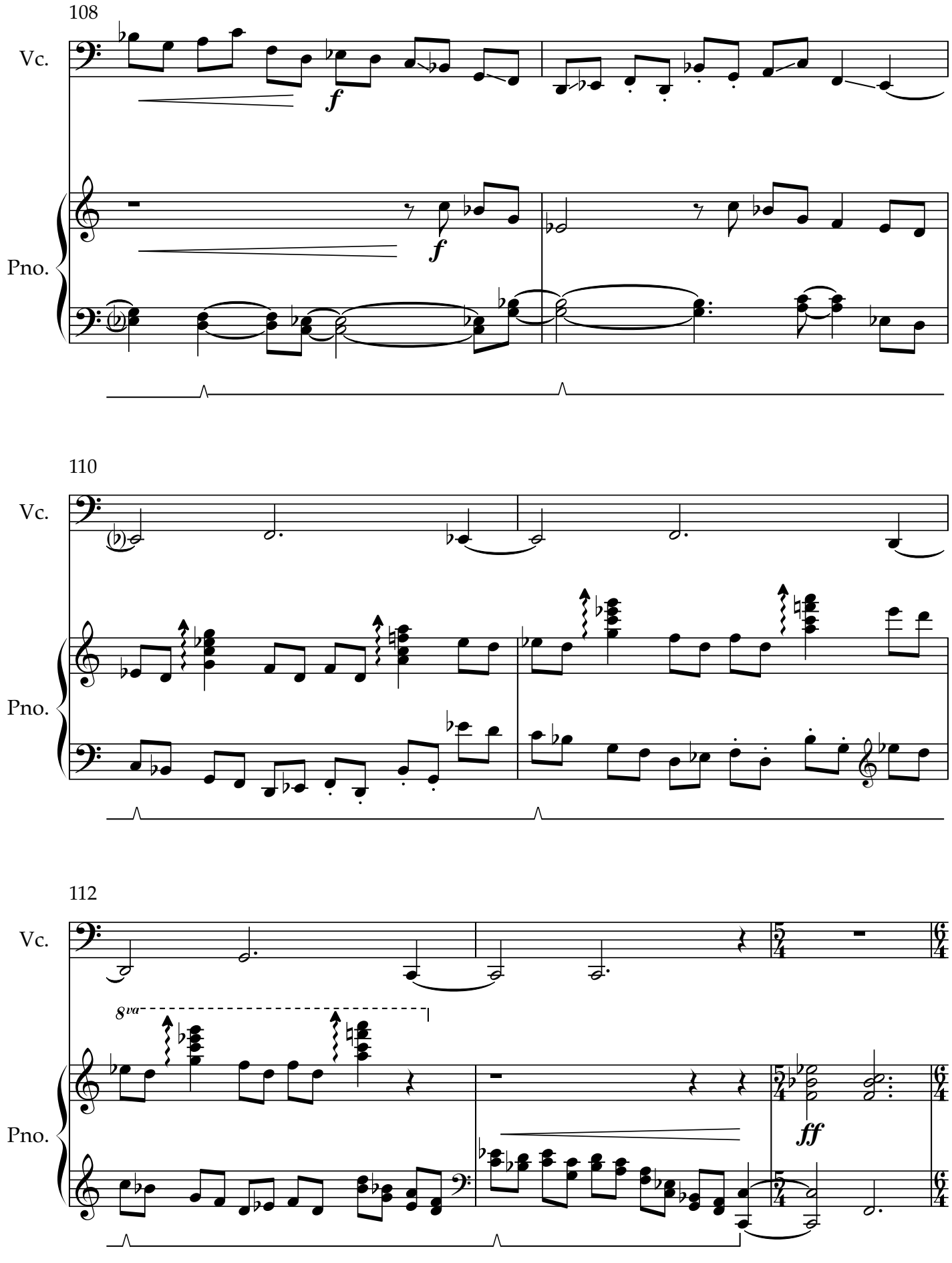

78
Vc.
pp
Pno.
Wailing
80
1
2
3
t 2
1
1
2
3
Vc.
ff
Ferocious
f
Pno.
82
1
Vc.
Pno.

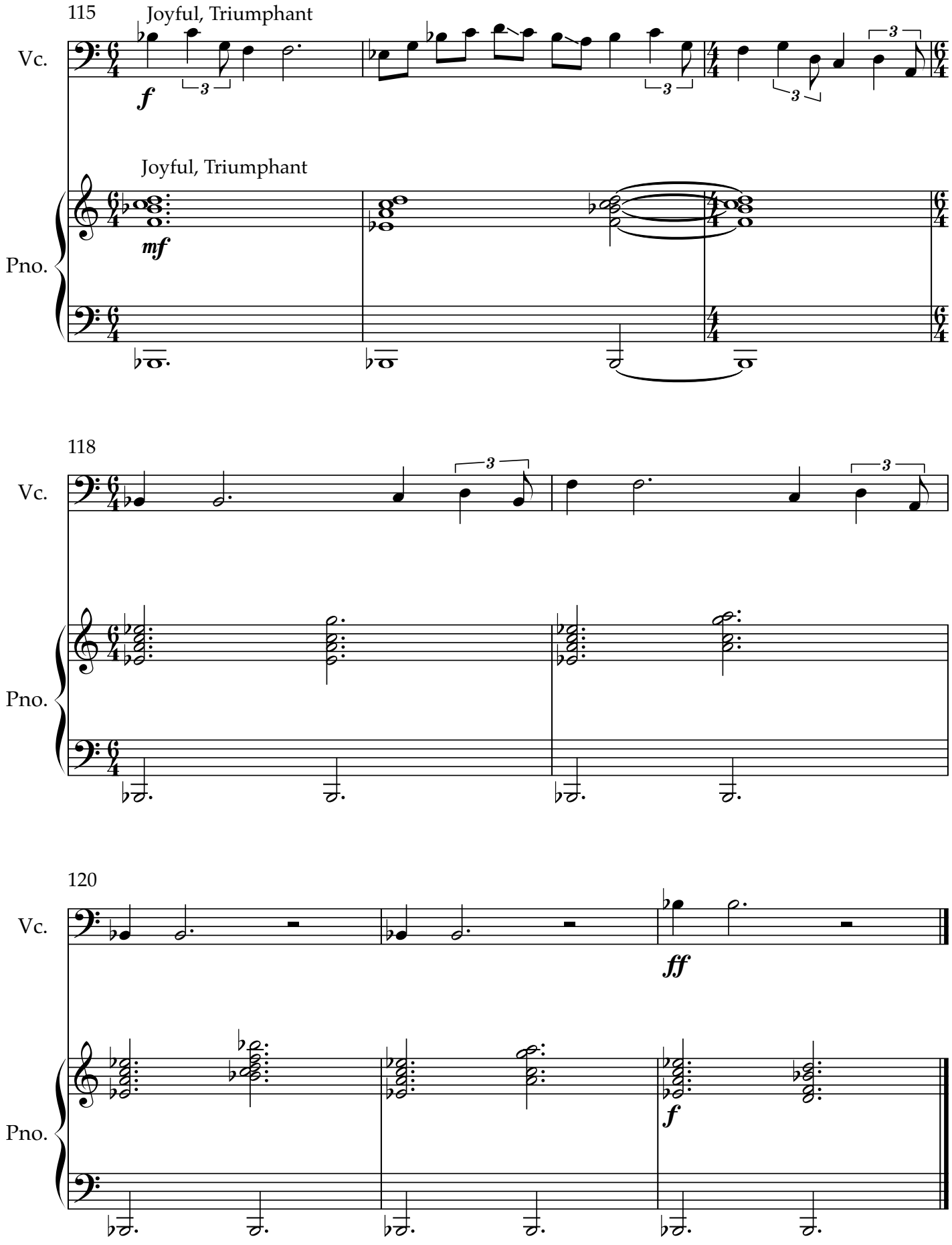

84
Vc.
Relaxed, content
Pno.
mf
86
Vc.
Pno.
f
88
Vc.
Pno.


90
Vc.
Pno.
92
Vc.
Pno.
94
c mixo
2
Vc.
Pno.


96
Vc.
Pno.
98
3 2 1 2 t 2
1 3 2 1 t 2 3 1
Vc.
f
Pno.
mf
100
3
SHIFT
1
3
2
t
3 3 t
Vc.
Pno.
mf

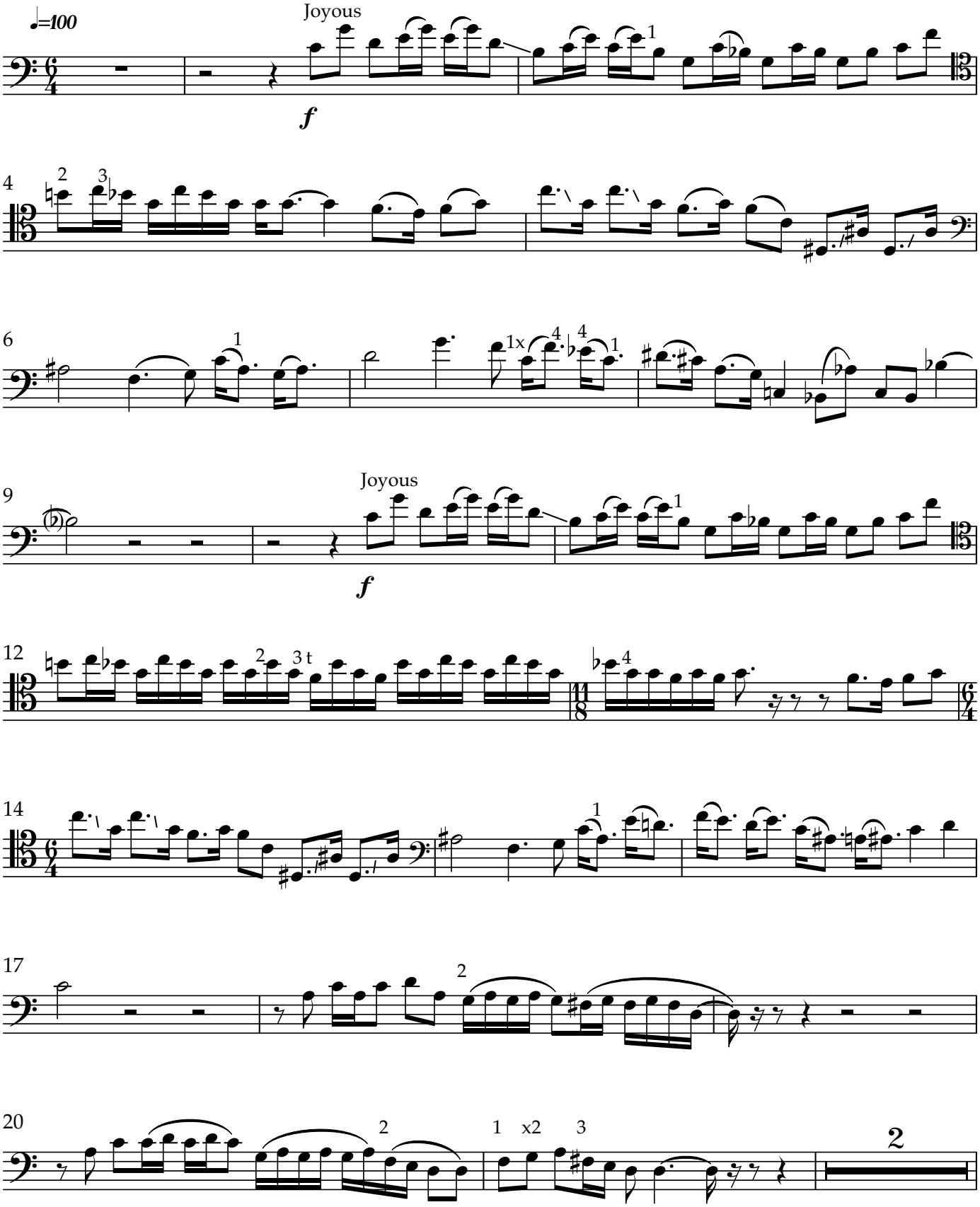

102
t
3
4
Vc.
ff
Pno.
f
104
Vc.
f
Pno.
mf
Ped.
106
Vc.
mp
cresc.
Pno.
p
cresc.
Ped.

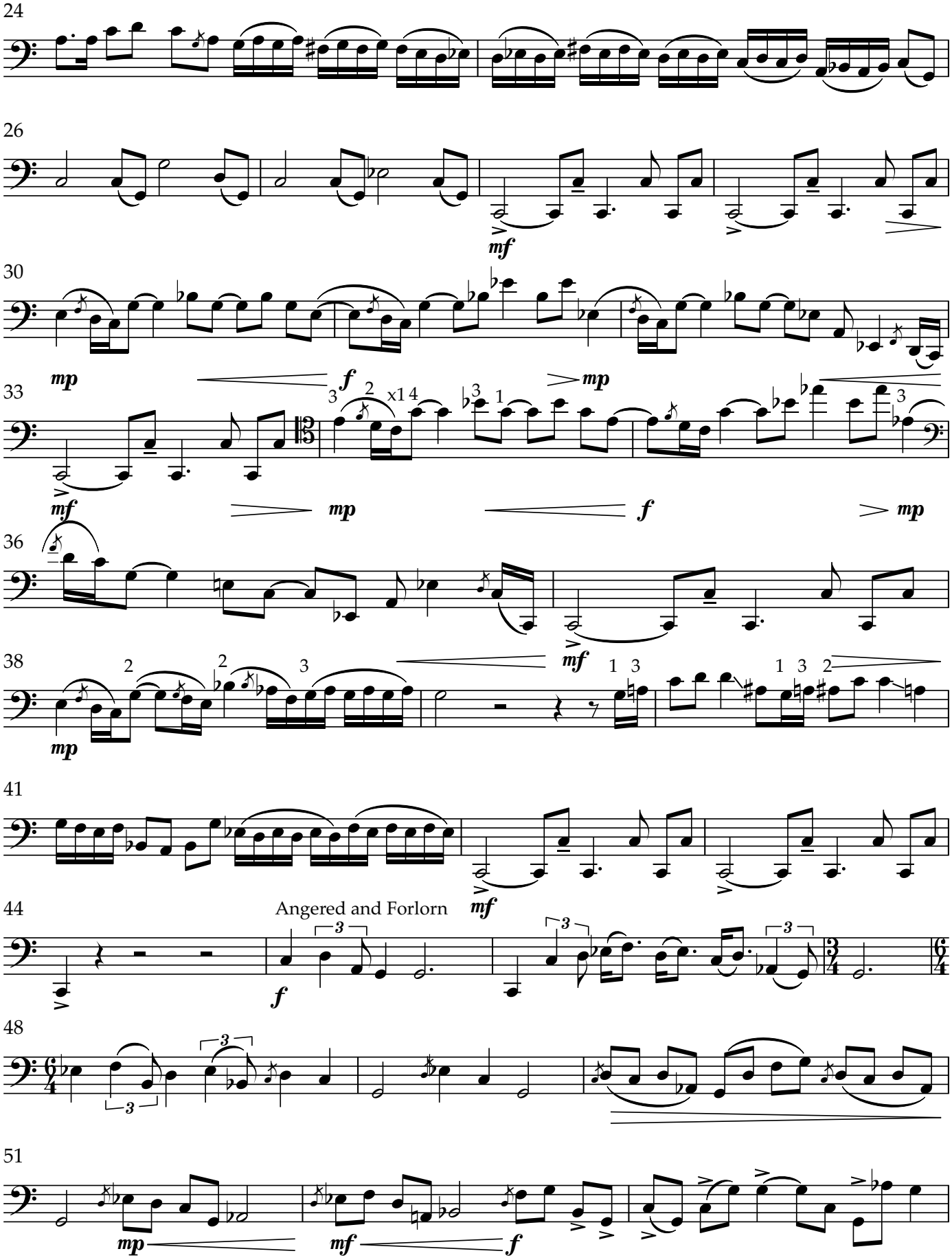

108
Vc.
f
Pno.
f
110
Vc.
Pno.
112
Vc.
8va
Pno.
ff

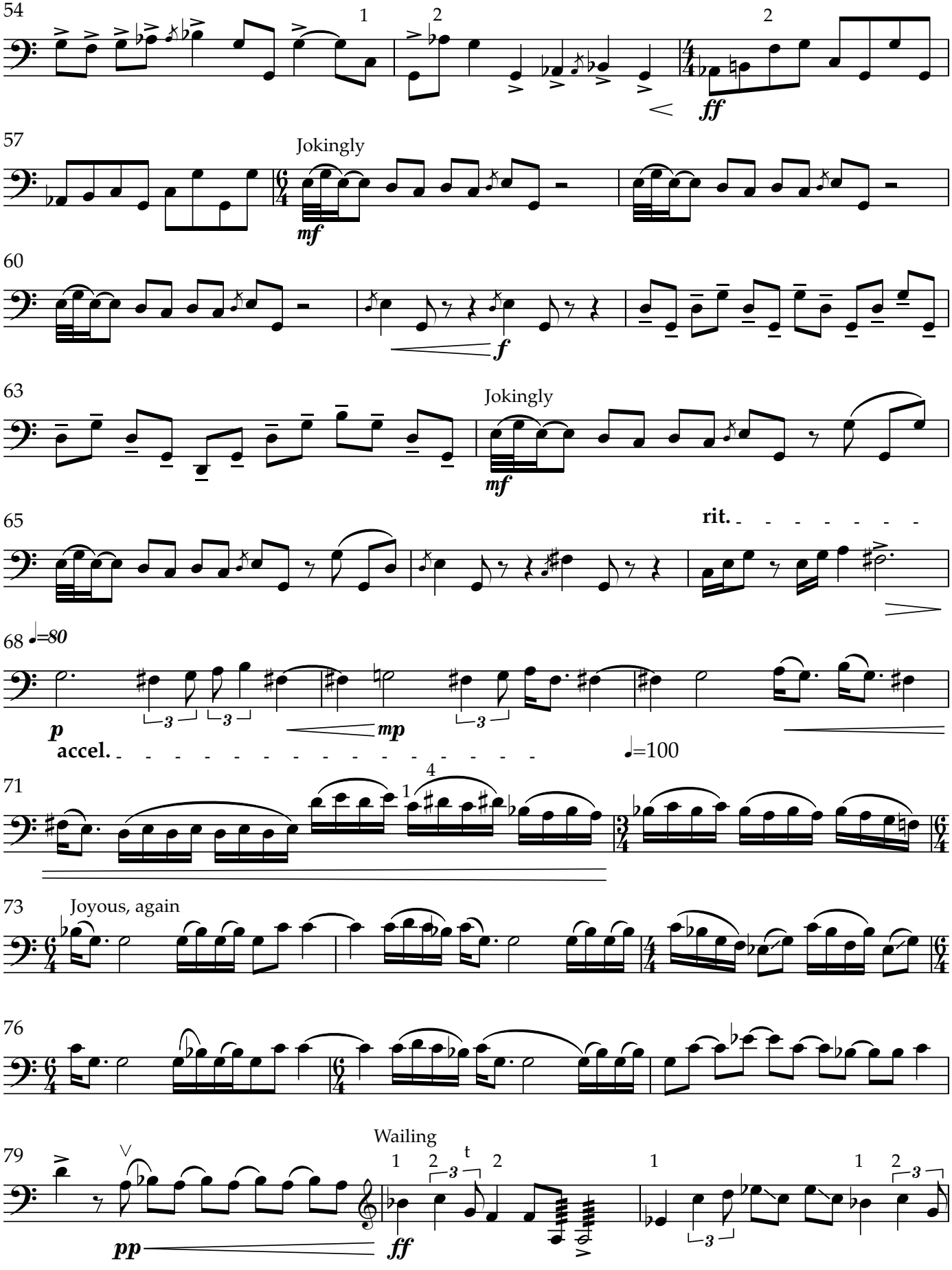

115
Joyful, Triumphant
Vc.
f
Joyful, Triumphant
Pno.
mf
118
Vc.
Pno.
120
Vc.
ff
Pno.
f

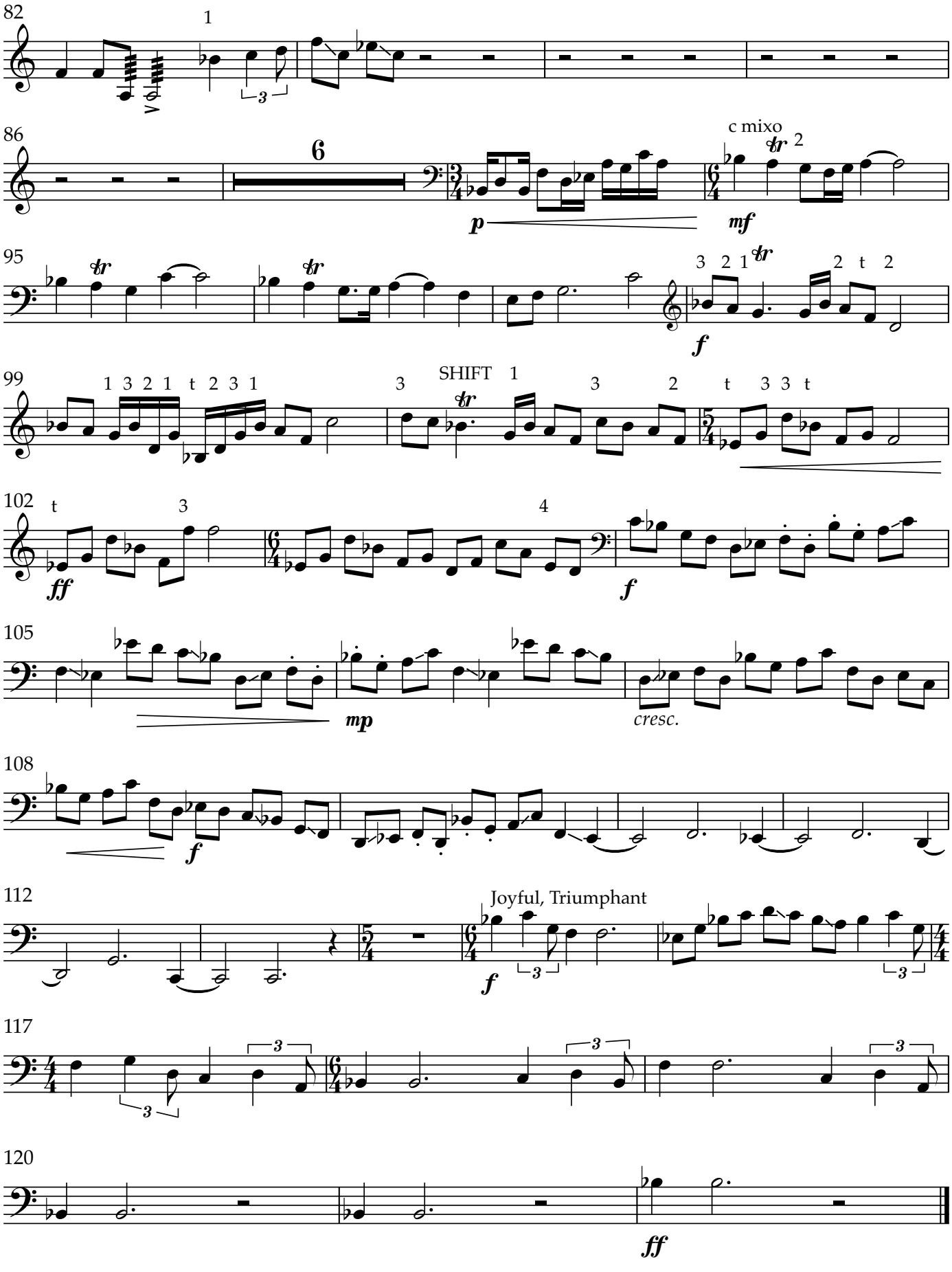
Violoncello

Chris Fenger




24
26
mf
30
mp
f
mp
33
mf
mp
f
mp
36
mf
38
mp
41
mf
44
Angered and Forlorn
f
48
51
mp
mf
f


54
ff
57
Jokingly
mf
60
f
63
Jokingly
mf
65
rit.
68 ♩=80
p
mp
accel.
♩=100
71
73
Joyous, again
76
79
Wailing
pp
ff
V.S.

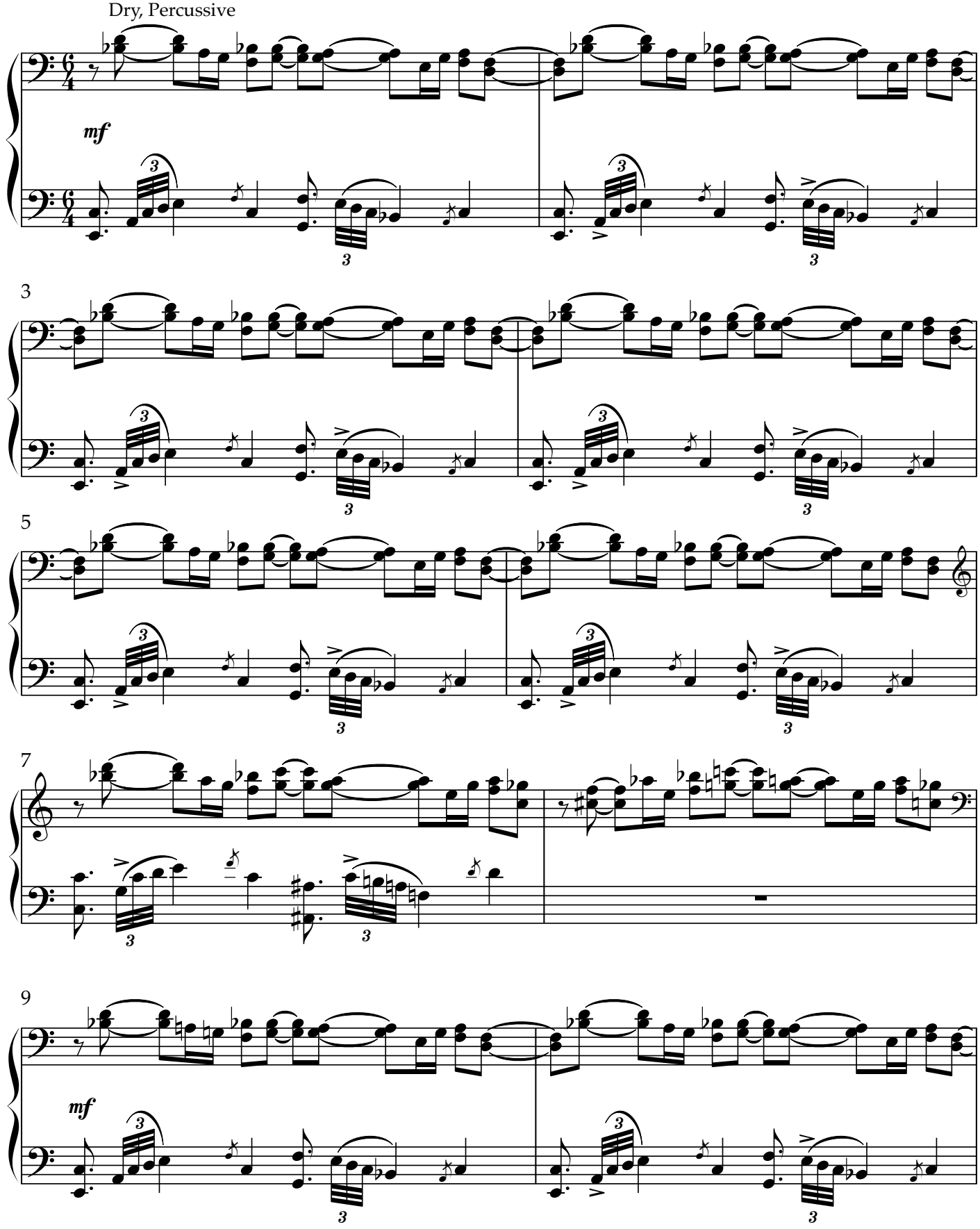

82
1
86
6
p
c mixo
mf
95
f
99
SHIFT
102
ff
f
105
mp
cresc.
108
f
112
Joyful, Triumphant
f
117
120
ff

Piano

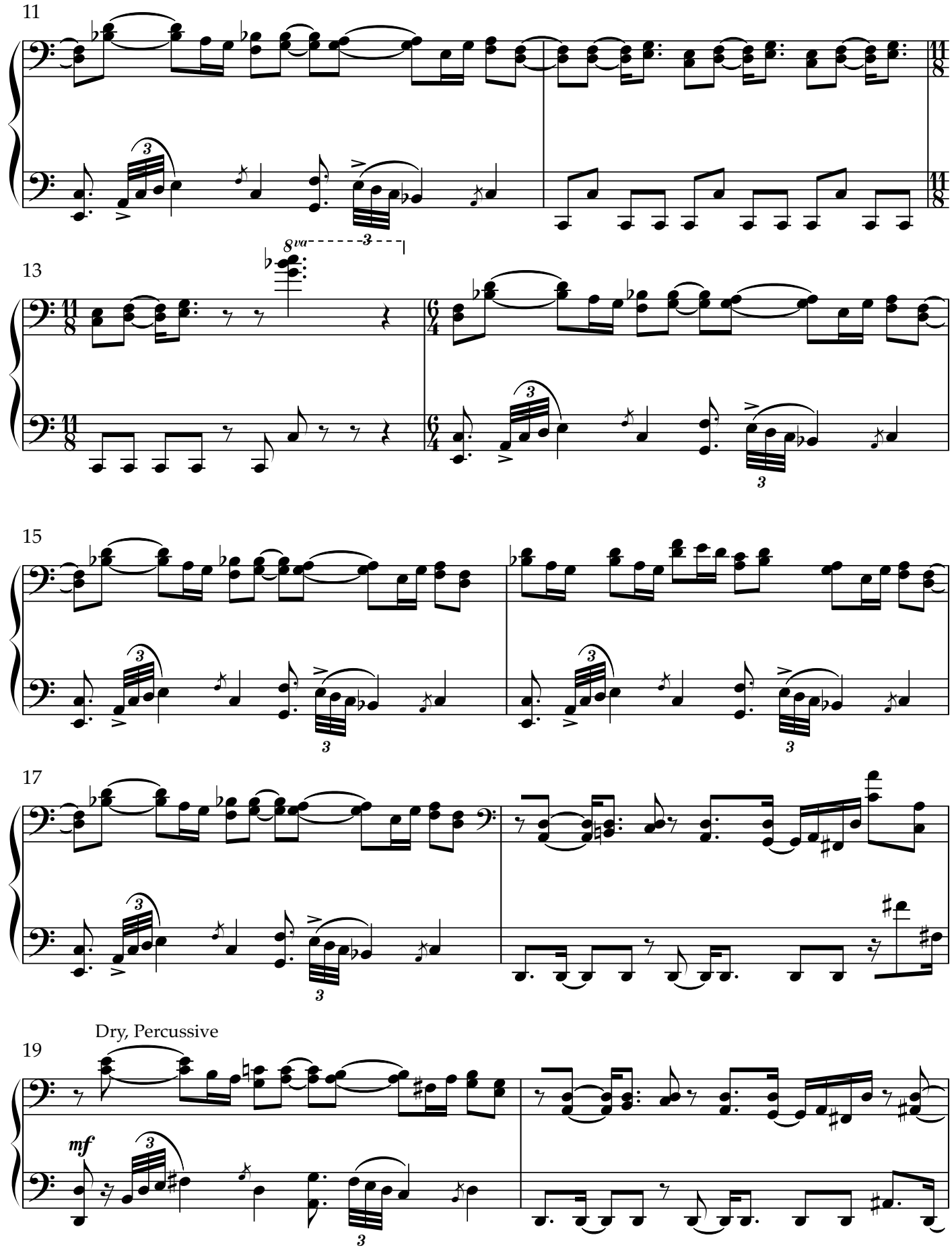
Chris Fenger

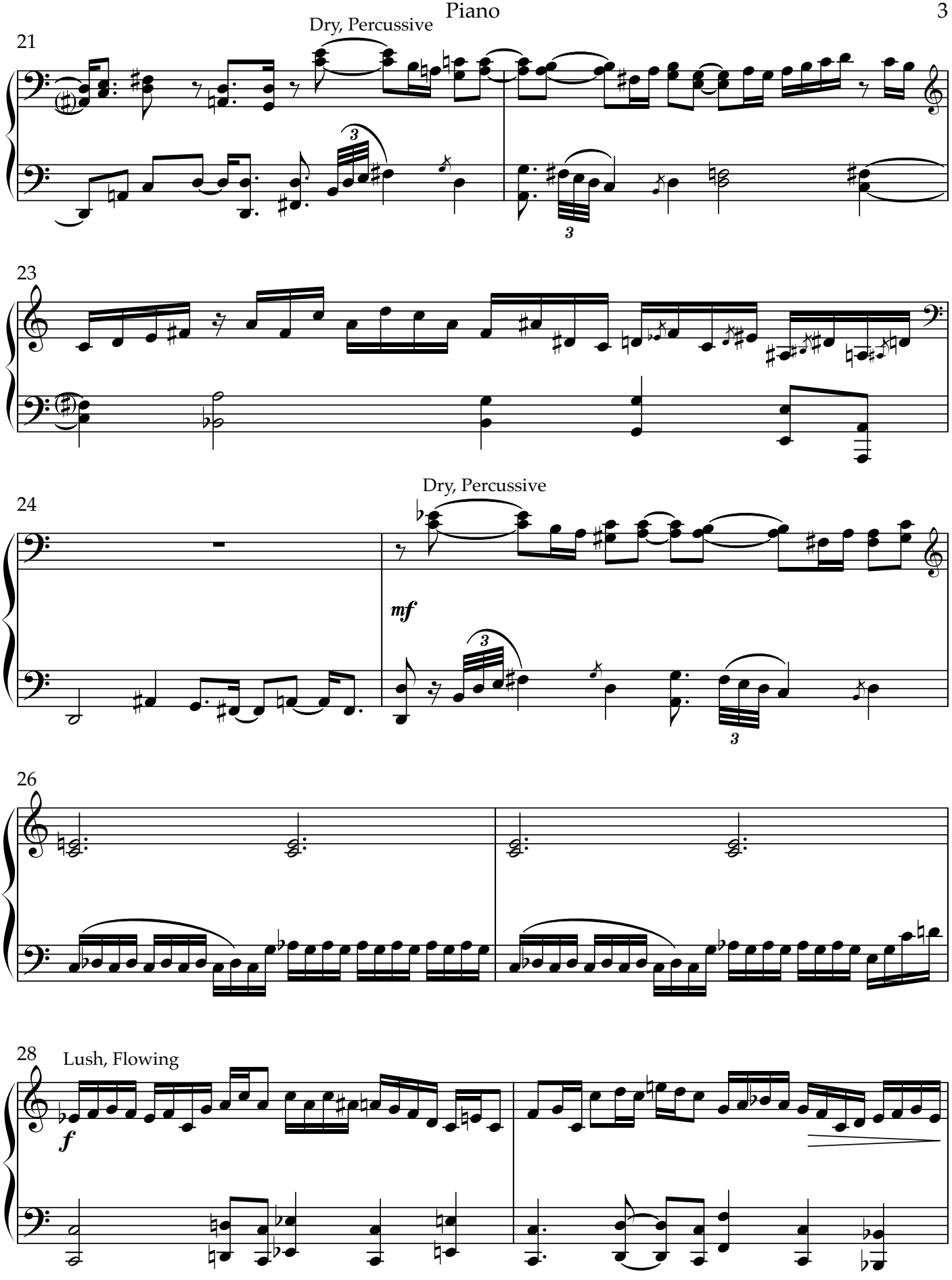
♩=100

Dry, Percussive

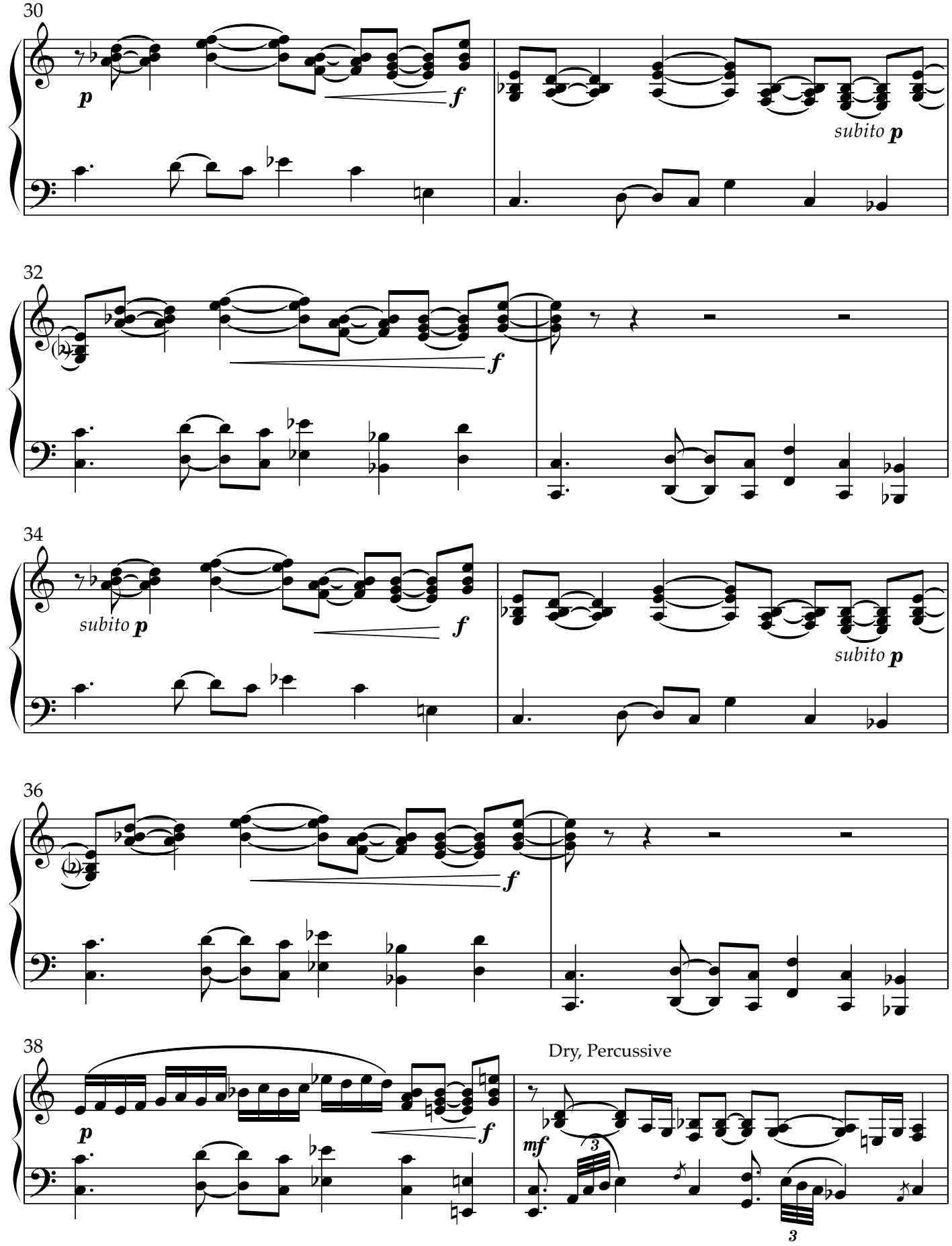


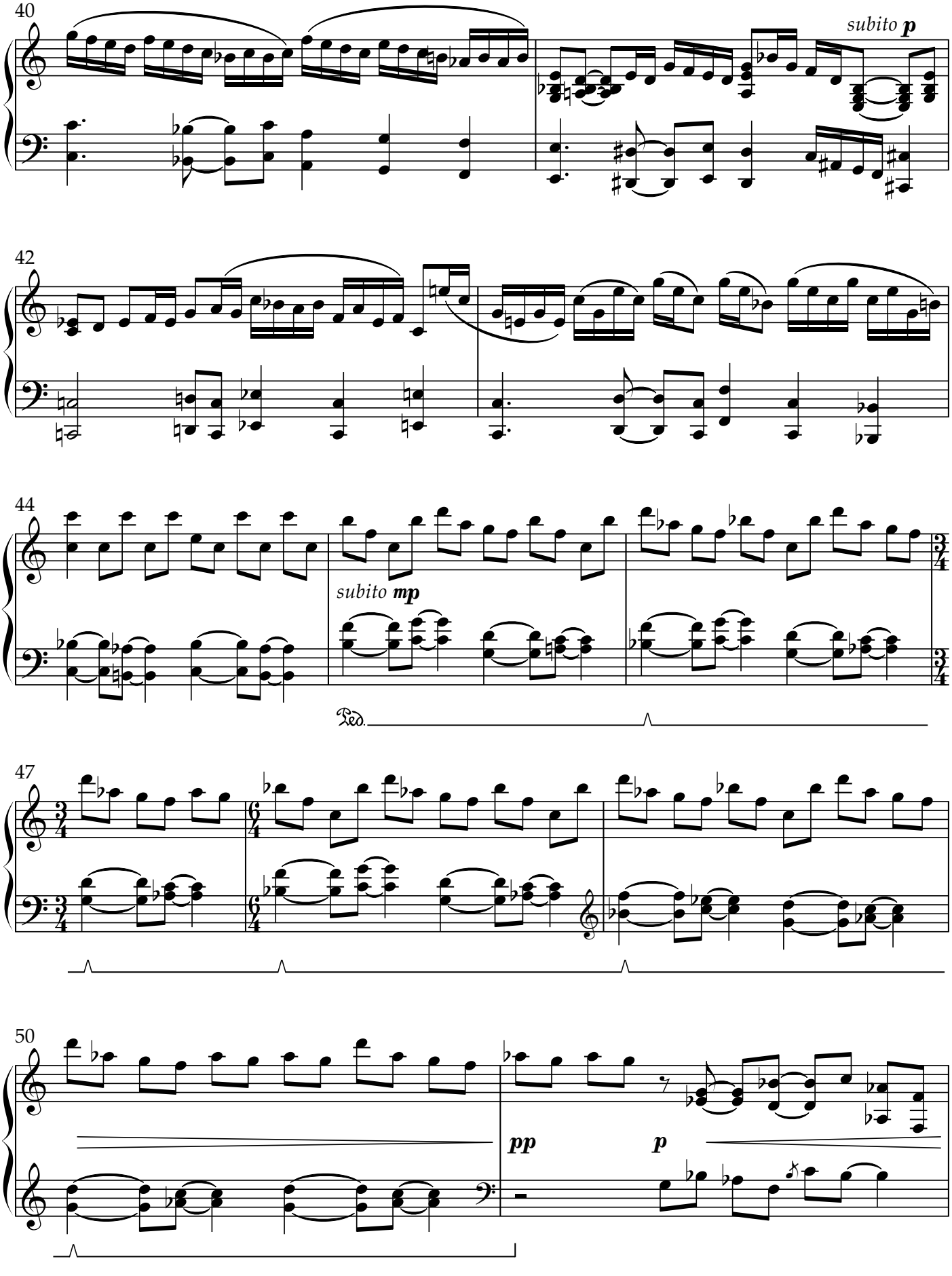
V.S.


11
8va
13
15
17
Dry, Percussive
19
mf

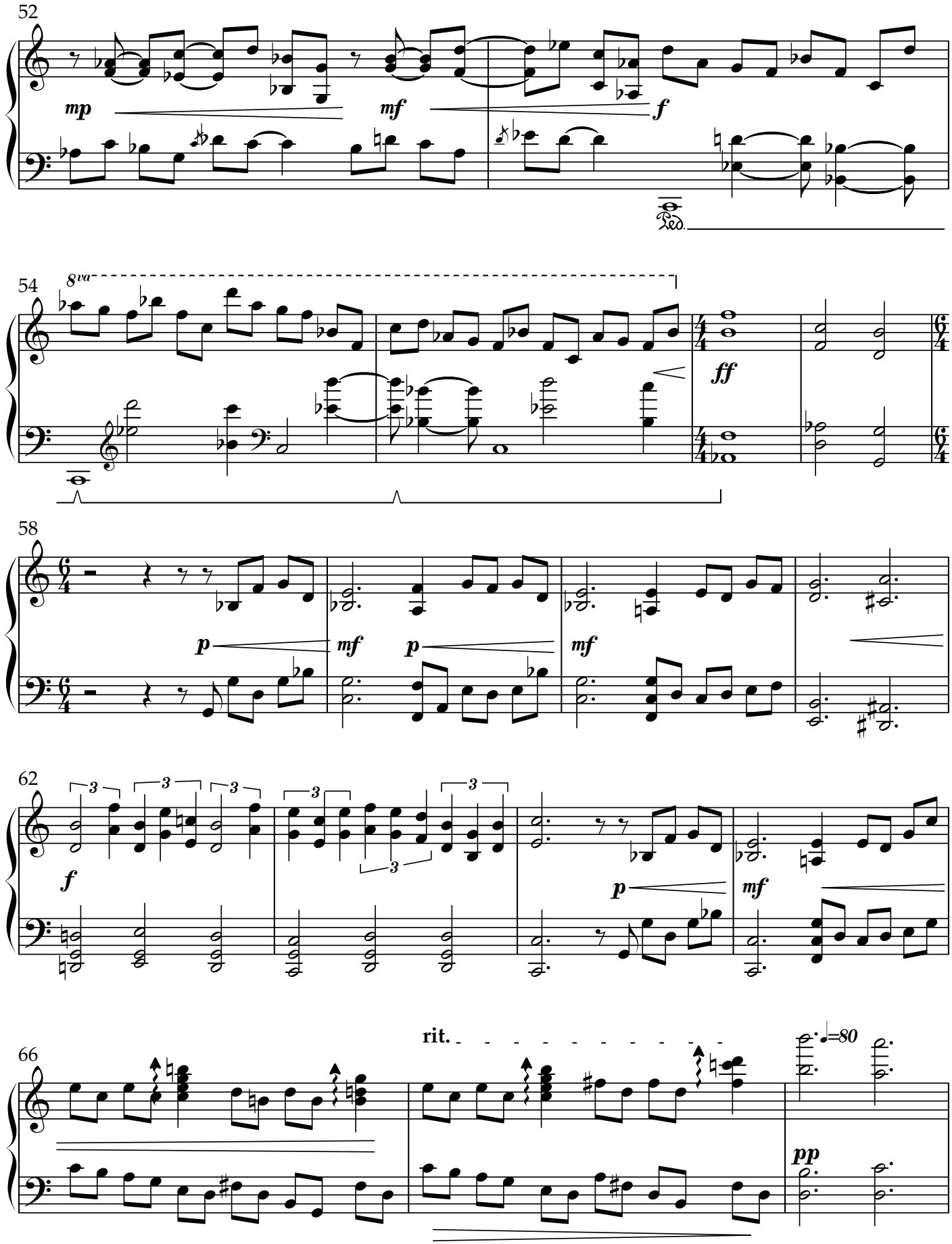

Dry, Percussive
21
23
Dry, Percussive
24
mf
26
28
Lush, Flowing
f

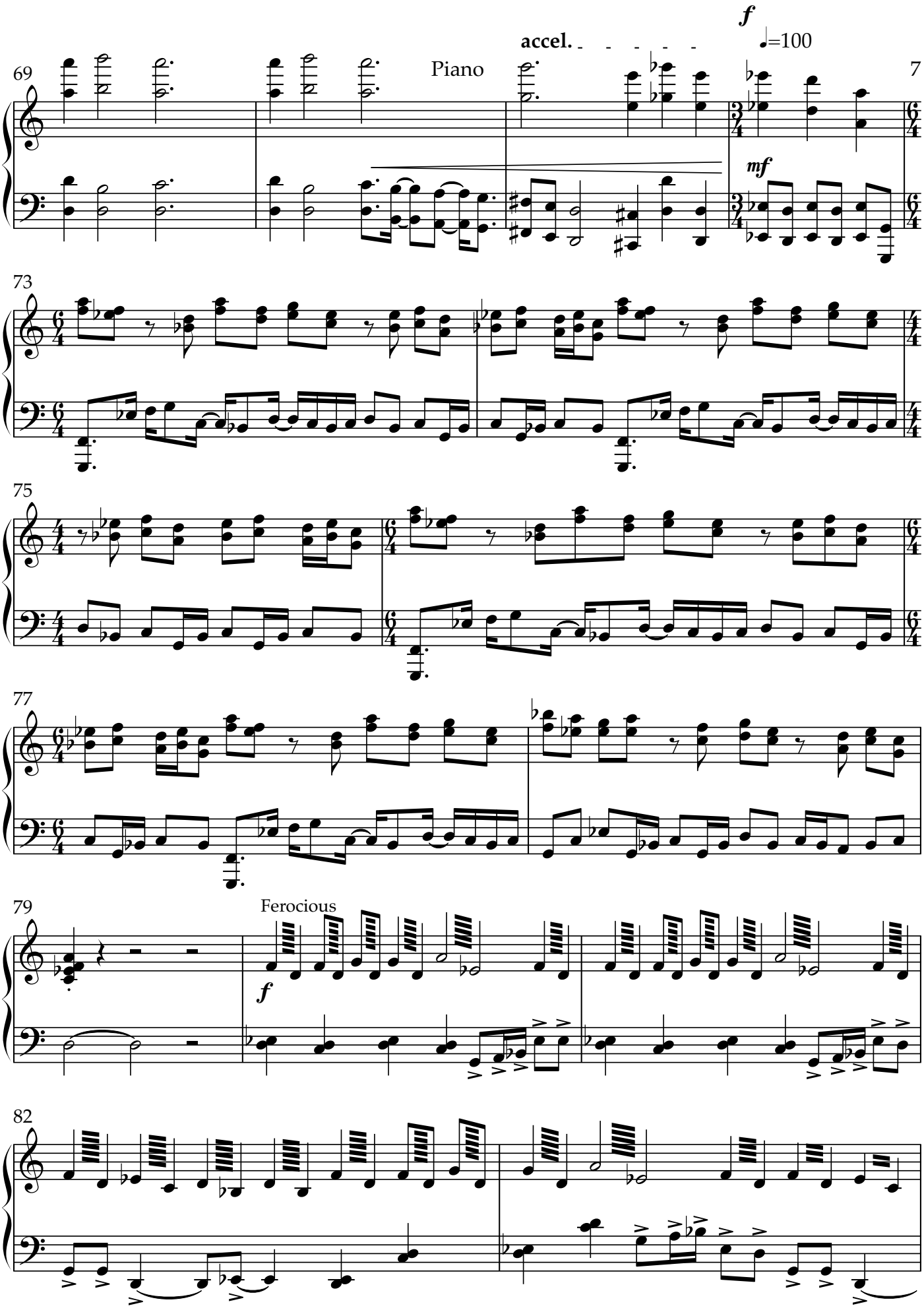
V.S.

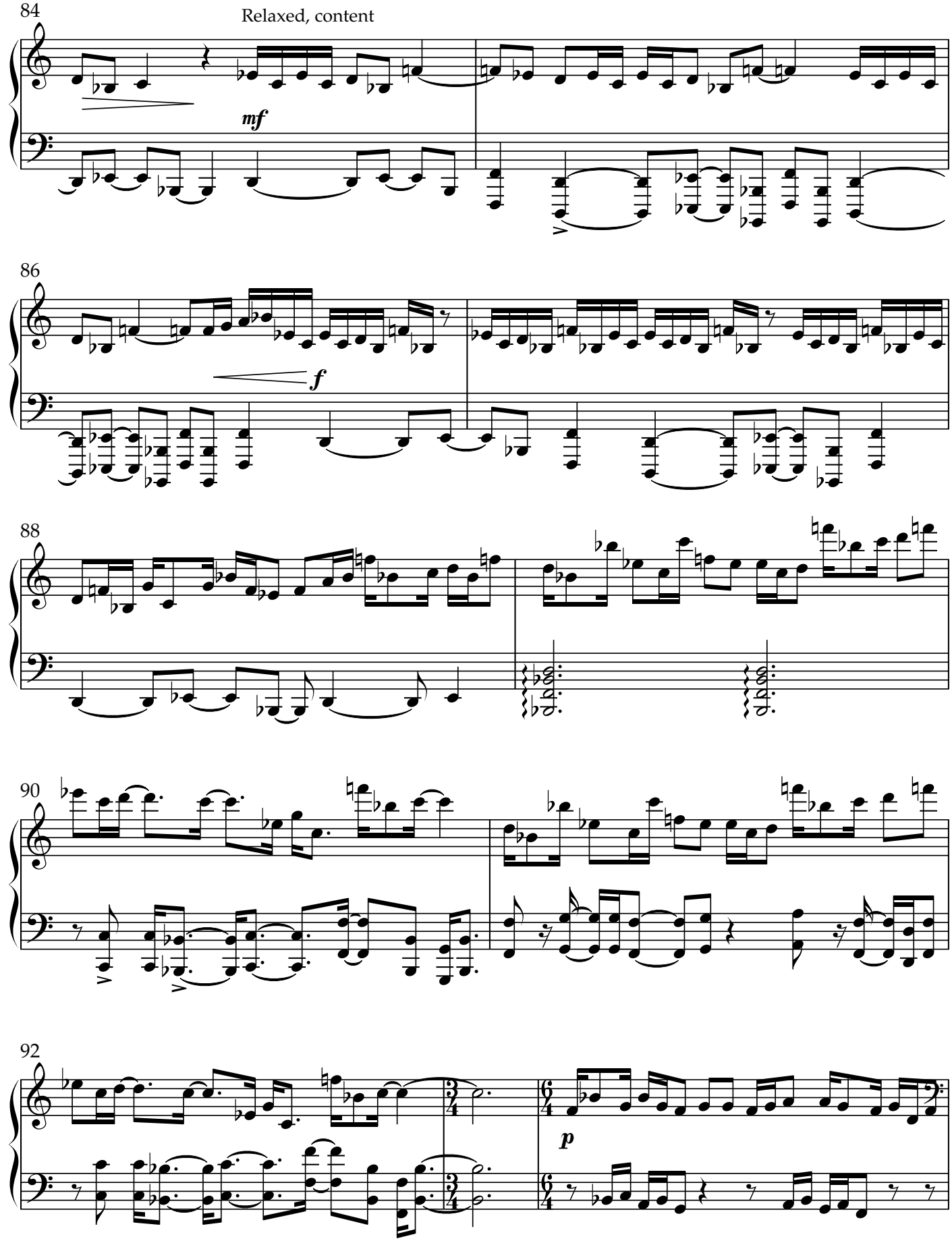

30
p
f
subito p
32
f
34
subito p
f
subito p
36
f
38
p
f
Dry, Percussive
mf
3
3

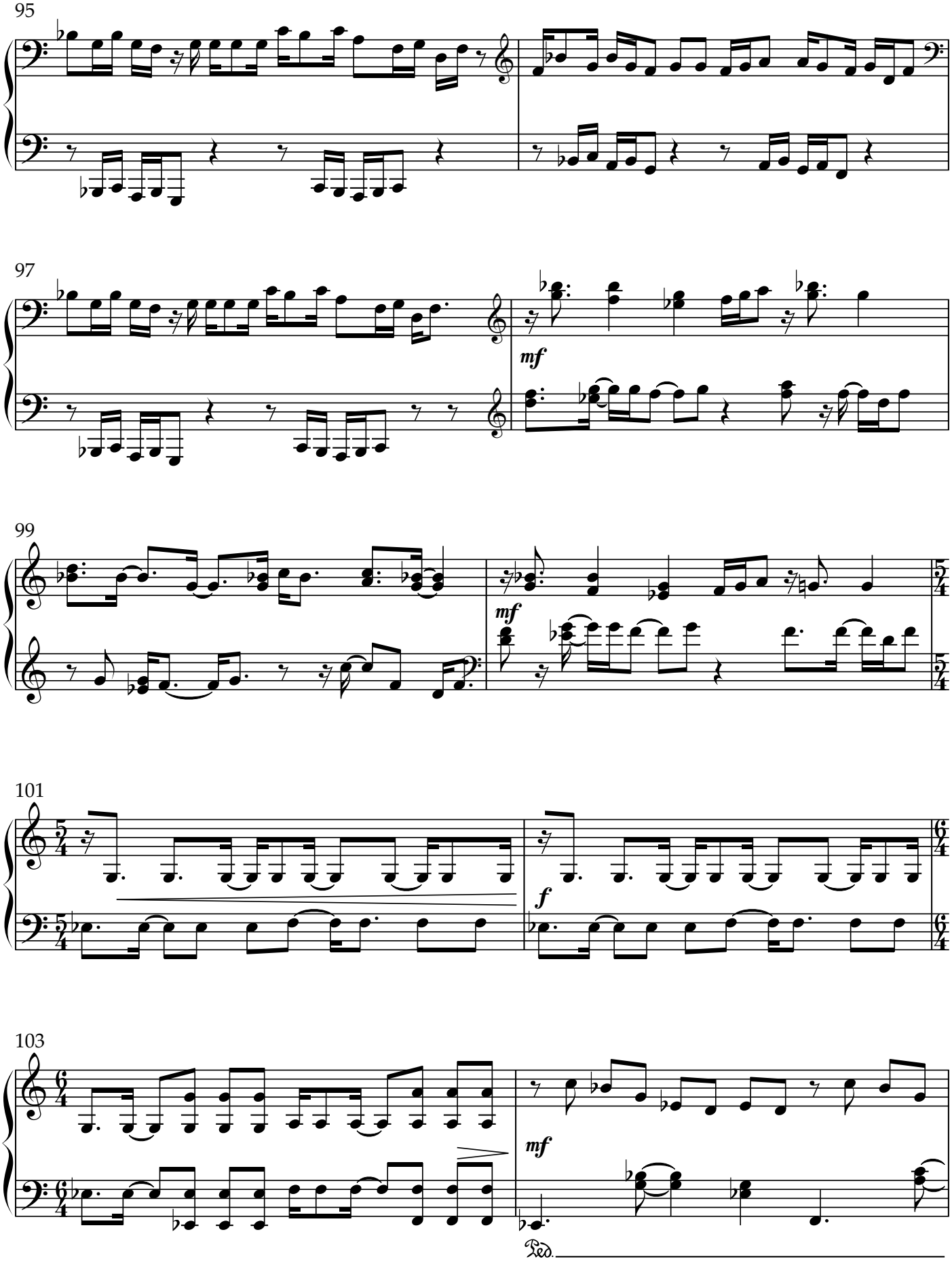


V.S.

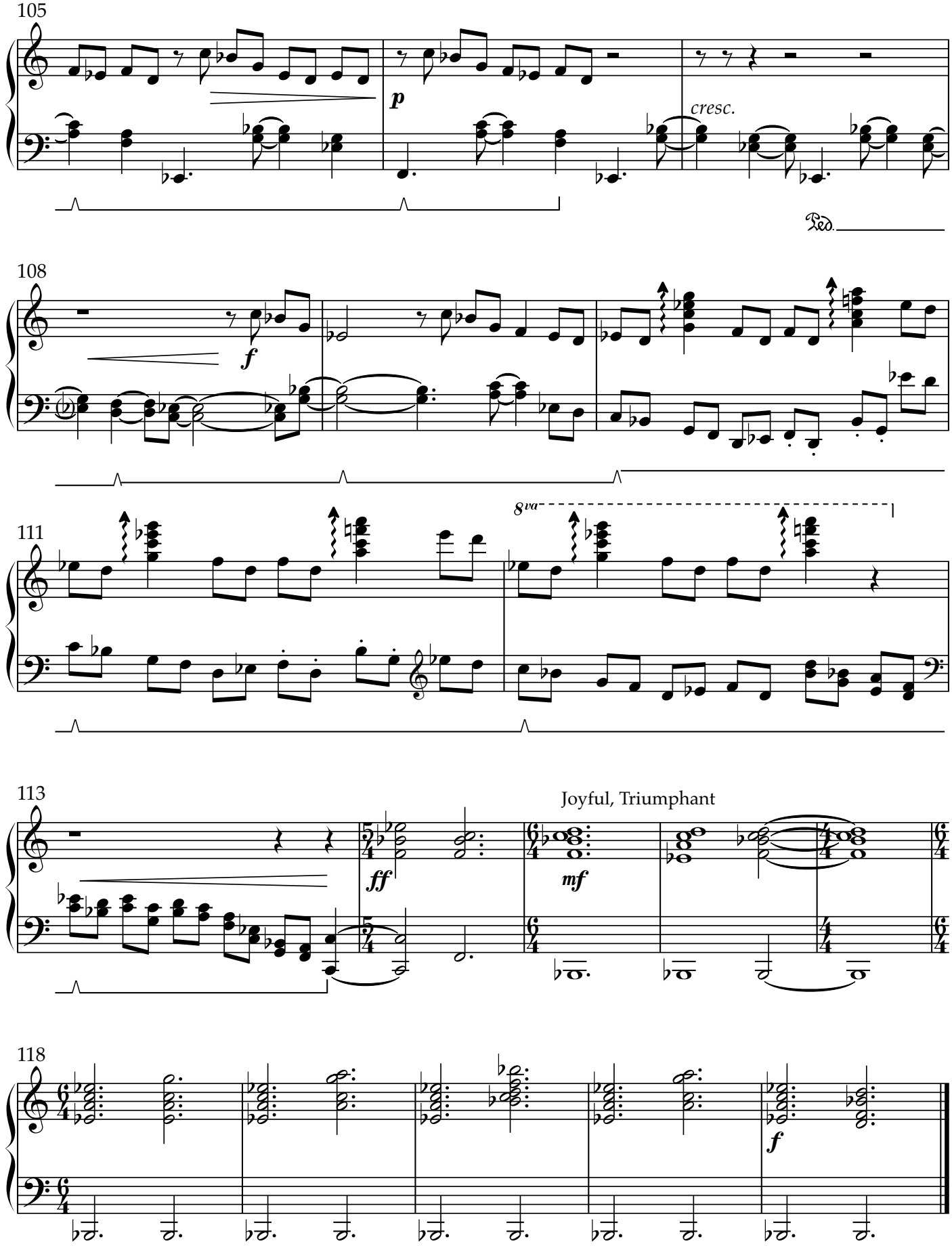

52
mp
mf
f
Ped.
54
8va
ff
58
p
mf
p
mf
62
3
f
p
mf
66
rit.
♩=80
pp


f
accel.
♩=100
69
Piano
7
mf
73
75
77
79
Ferocious
f
82
V.S.


84
Relaxed, content
mf
86
f
88
90
92
p



V.S.


105
p
cresc.
Ped.
108
f
111
8va
113
ff
mf
Joyful, Triumphant
118
f