Béla Bartók

Petite Suite

After the 44 Duos for 2 Violins

Arranged for String Orchestra

(2 Violins, Vla, Cello & C. Bass)

by Alan Bonds

Foreword

Petite Suite, Sz. 105, BB 113 is a reduction for piano of six of Bartók's 44 Duos for Two Violins, arranged by the composer in 1936.
This six-movement work is a collection of excerpts from the 44 duos above mentioned.
The movement list is as follows:

I. *Lassú* (slow tune), which comes from No. 28: *Bánkodás* (Sorrow)
II. *Máramarosi tánc* (Wallachian dance), which comes from No. 32: *Máramarosi tánc* (Dance from Máramaros)
III. *Forgatós* (whirling dance), which comes from No. 38: *Forgatós* (Romanian Whirling Dance)
IV. *Pengetós* (quasi pizzicato), which comes from No. 43: Pizzicato
V. *Oroszos* (Ruthenian dance), which comes from No. 16: *Burleszk* (Burlesque)
VI. *Dudás* (bagpipes), which comes from No. 36: *Szól a duda* (Bagpipes)

It is important thst young string players become aquainted with the music of Béla Bartók. He wrote some of the most beautiful and important works for strings in the 20th century.

Although he was a celebrated concert pianist, Bartók had a natural affinity for string writing which was part of his Hungarian heritage.

Many young violin students meet his music for the first time in the 44 Duos for 2 violins (1931) originally commissioned by Erich Doflein for inclusion in the Doflein Method (Schott). Indeed they become the backbone of the 6 books. Later they were published in 2 books by Universal Edition.

In addition Bartók arranged six of the Duos as the Petite Suite for Piano in 1936 shortly before his departure for Switzerland and eventually the USA, choosing exile from the rise of Nazism. He chose just five pieces.

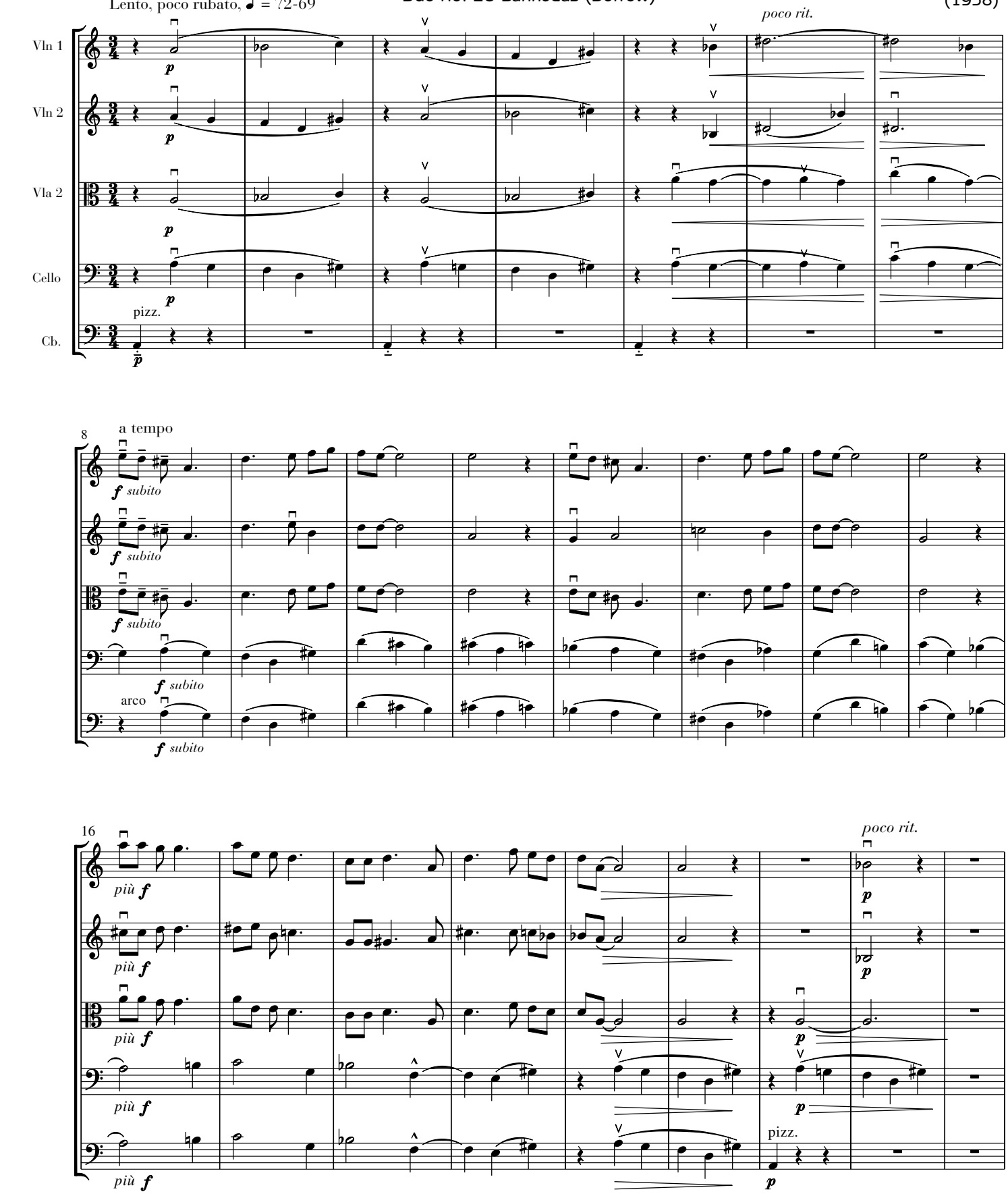
In 1943 he later included one more piece (No. 32 "The Dance from Máramaros") as the 2nd in the Piano Suite. He recorded all of them in USA (available as Hungaraton HCD32790-91) or at (youtube.com/watch?v=R1-lKGahAO0). These are priceless recordings, especially valuable for Bartók's tempi and subtle rubatos.

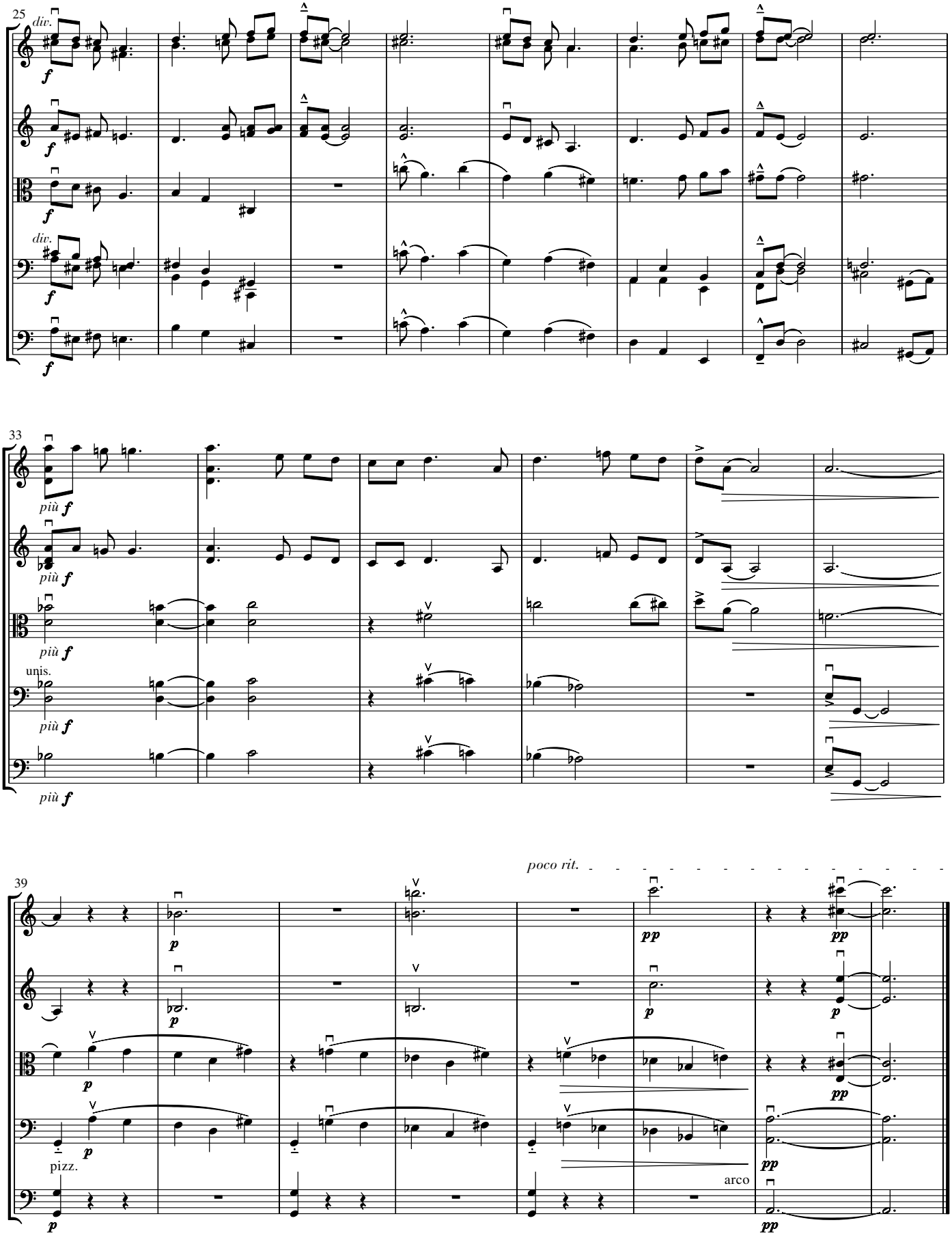
Alan Bonds
Perth, Western Australia,
2019

1. Lassù (slow tune)

Duo No. 28 *Bànkodàs* (Sorrow)

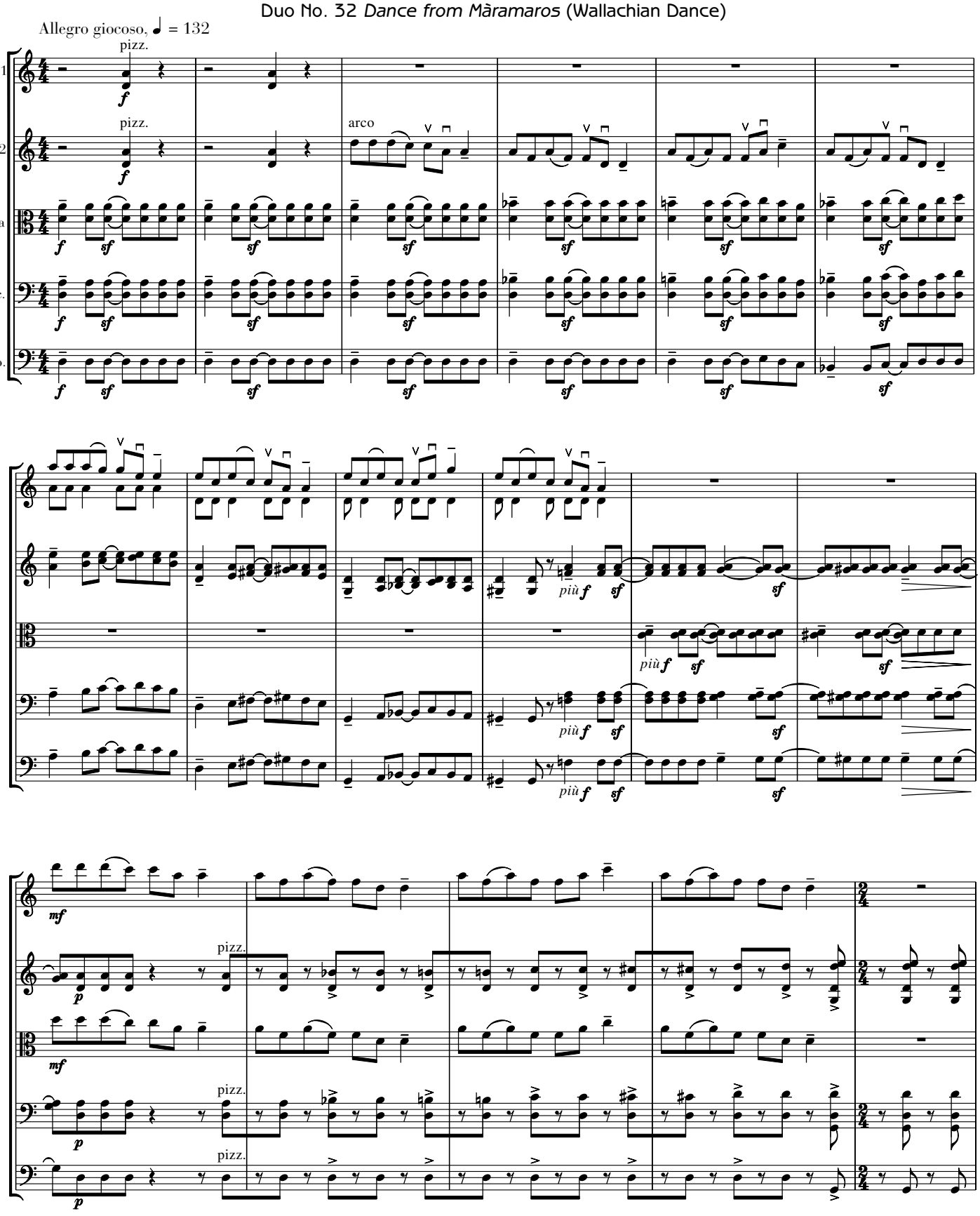
Bèla Bartòk
(1938)

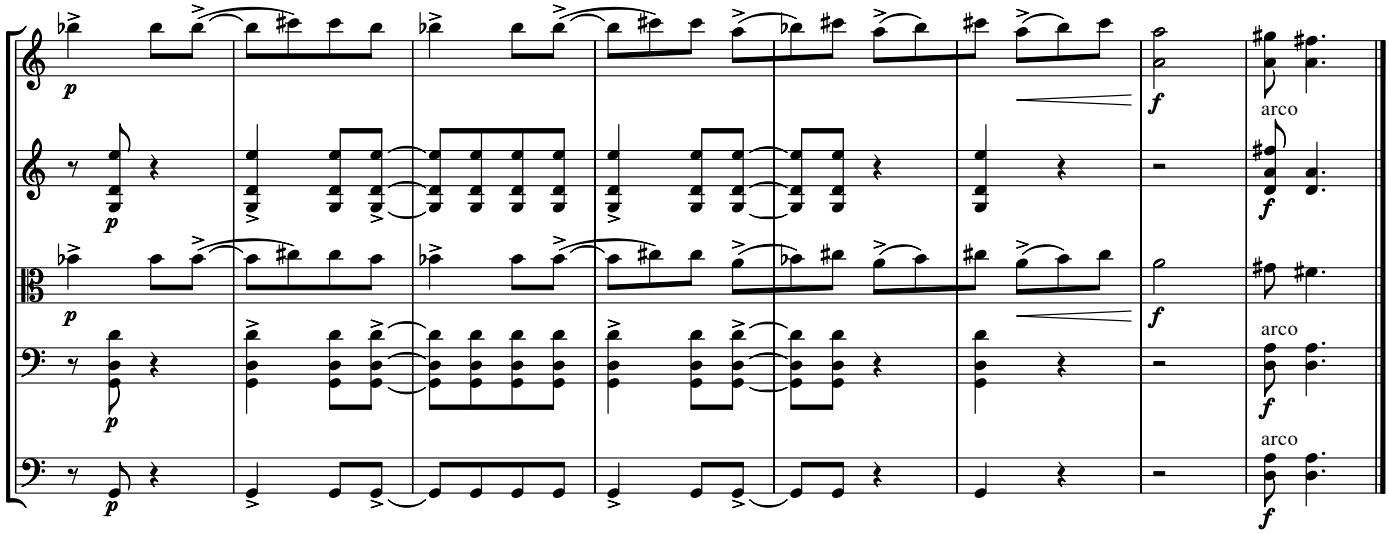



25
div.
f
div.
f
33
più f
più f
più f
unis.
più f
più f
poco rit.
39
p
p
pp
pp
p
p
p
pp
pizz.
arco
p
pp

2. Màramosi Tànc

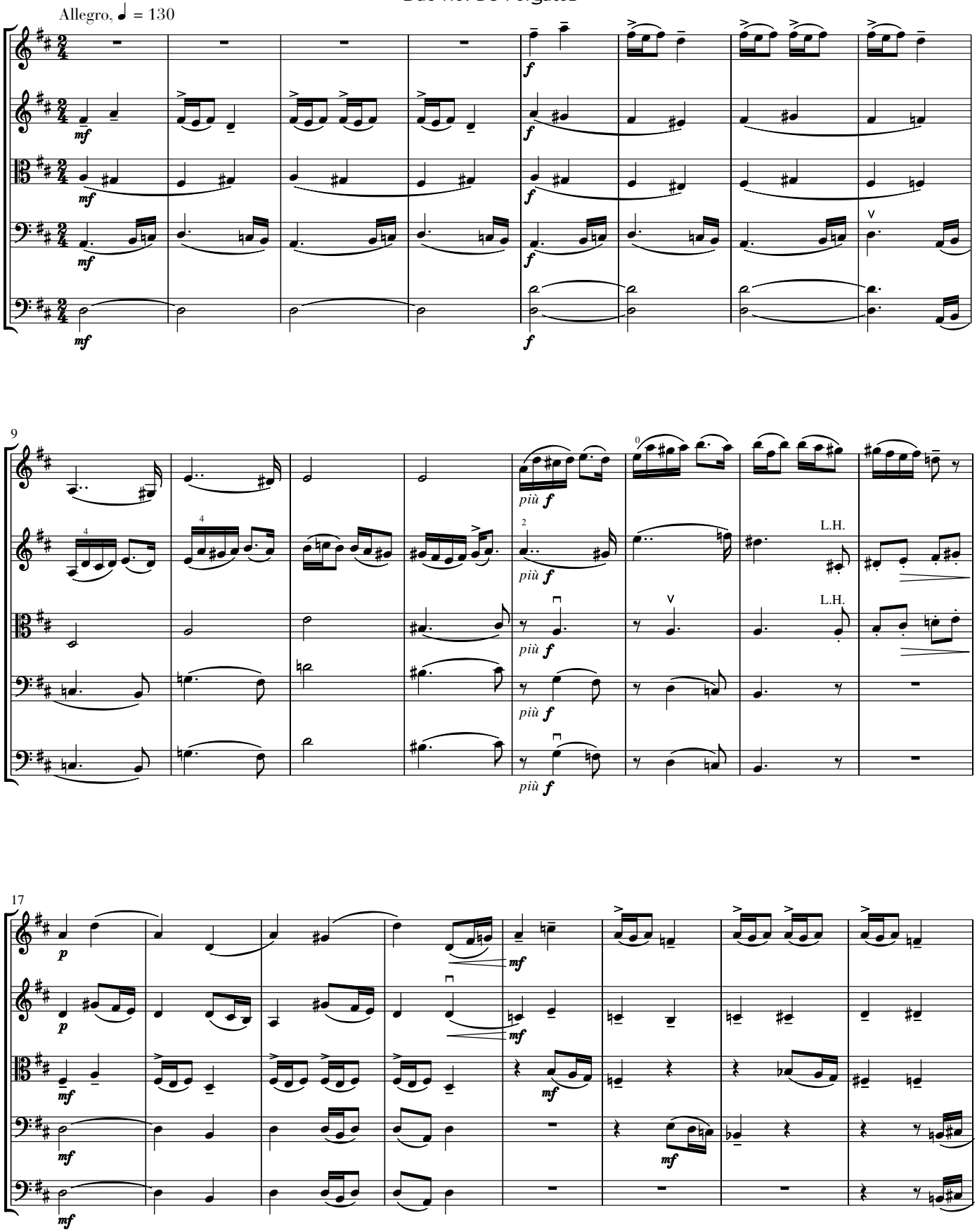
Duo No. 32 *Dance from Màramaros* (Wallachian Dance)

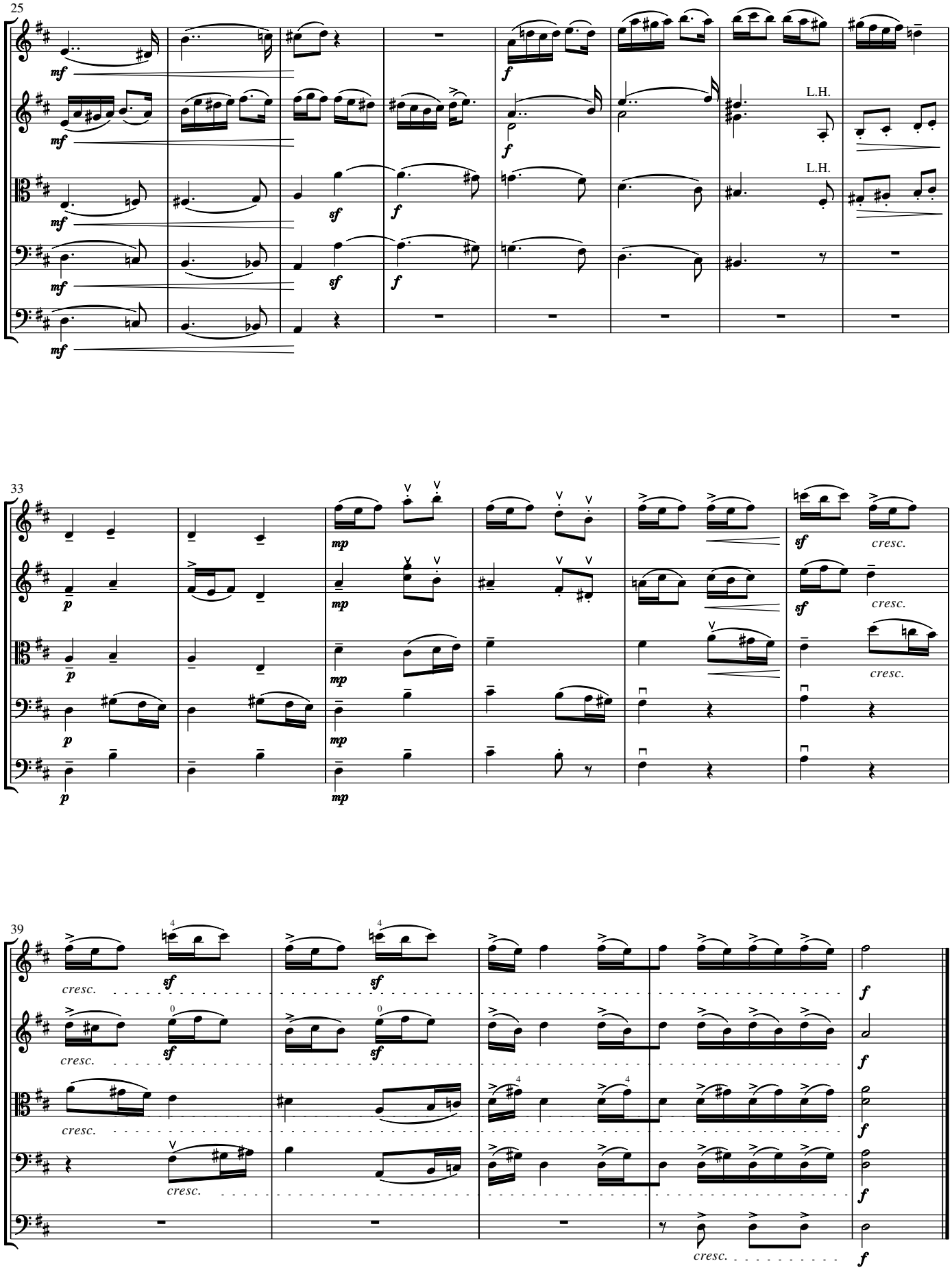



p
f
arco
arco
arco

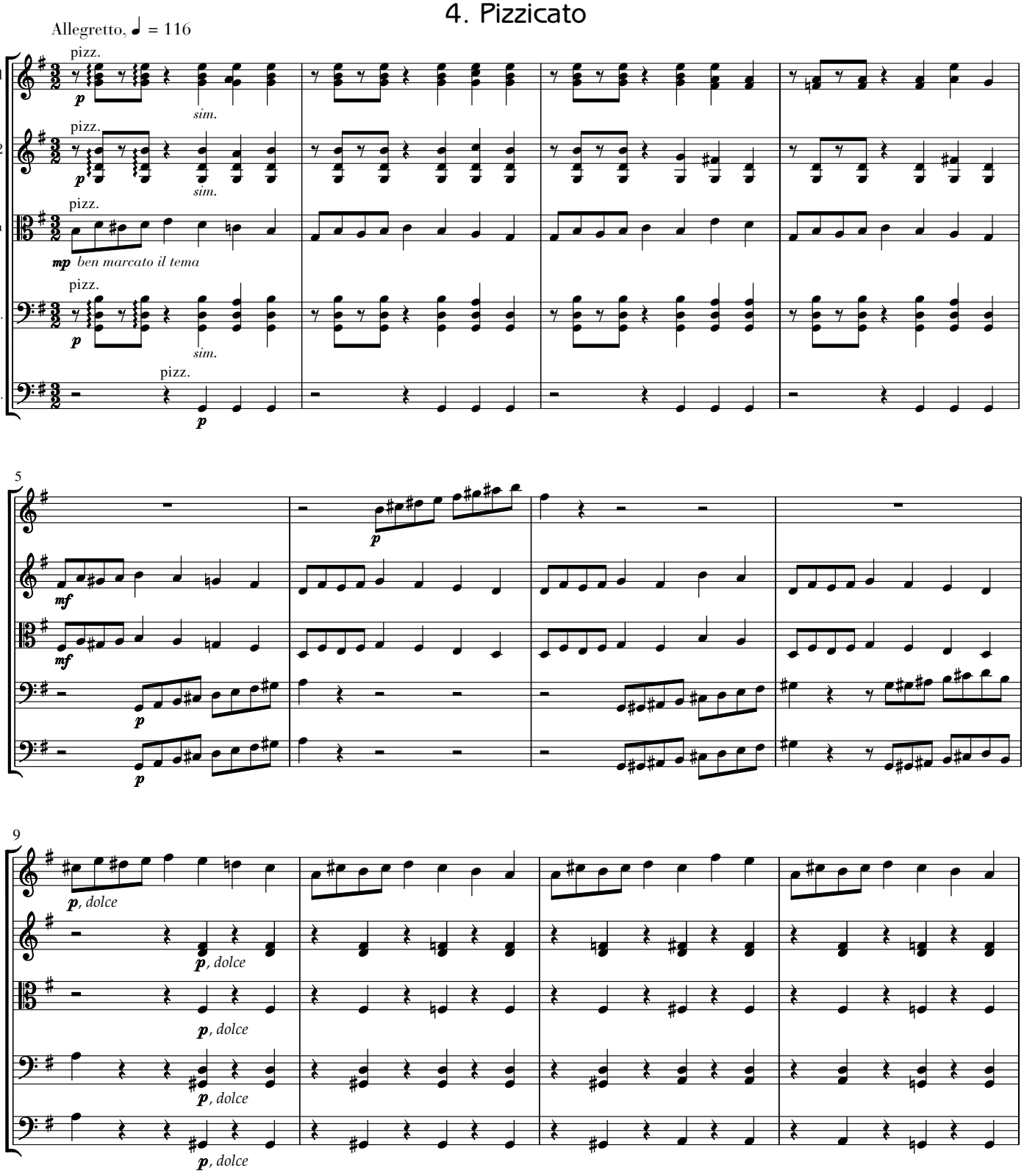
3. Forgatòs (Roumanian Whirling Dance)

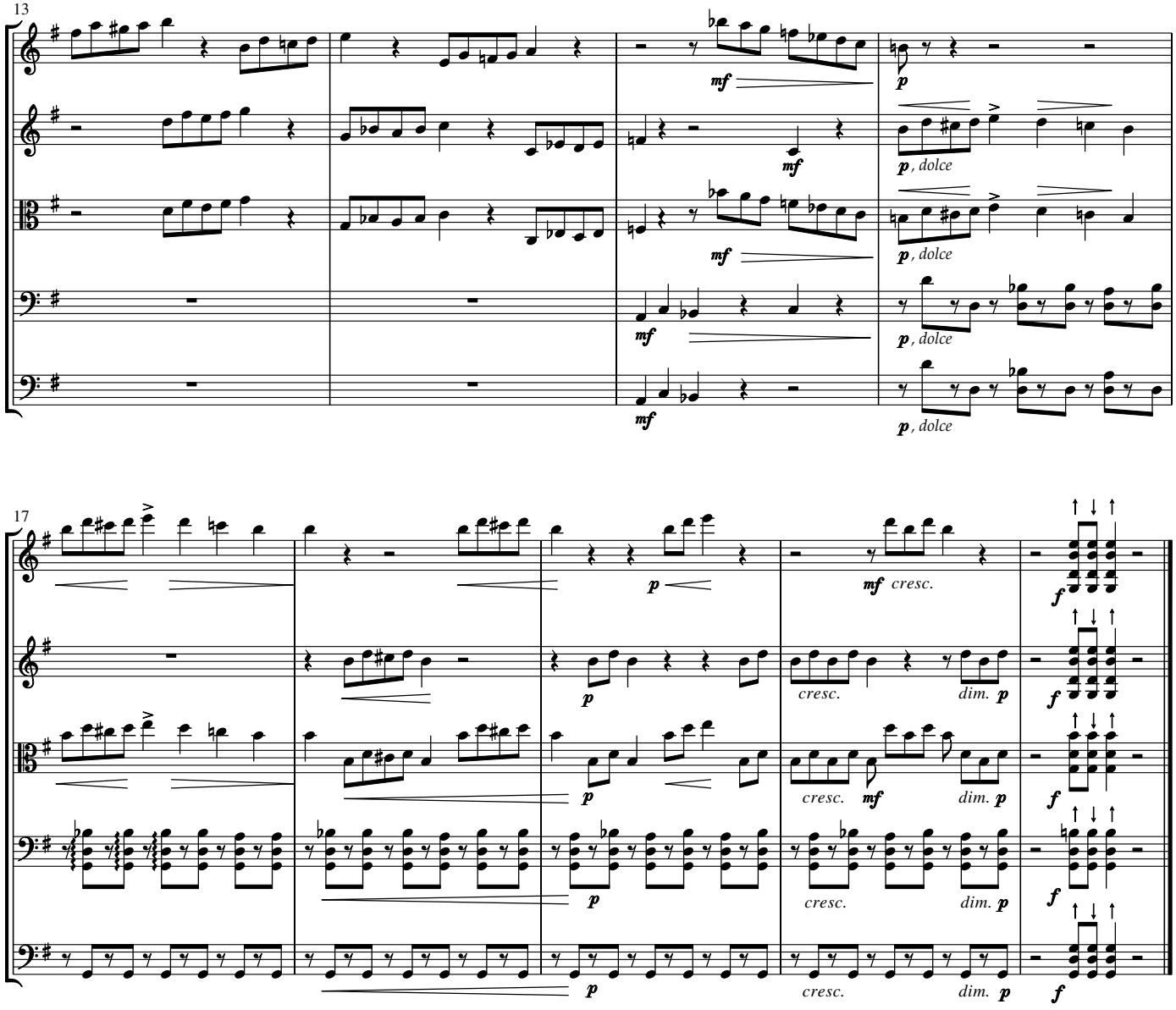
Duo No. 38 *Forgatòs*



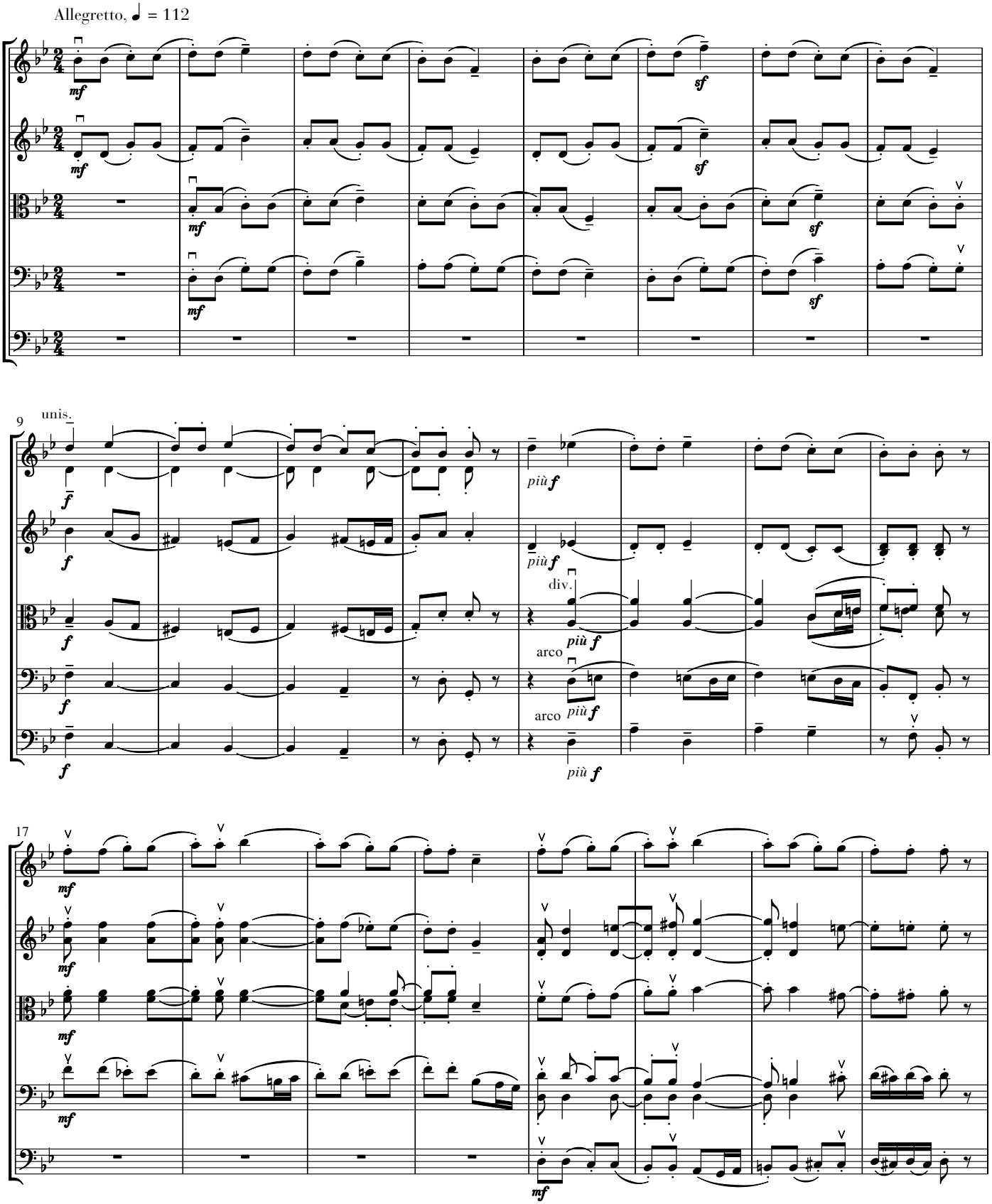

25
L.H.
L.H.
33
cresc.
39
cresc.

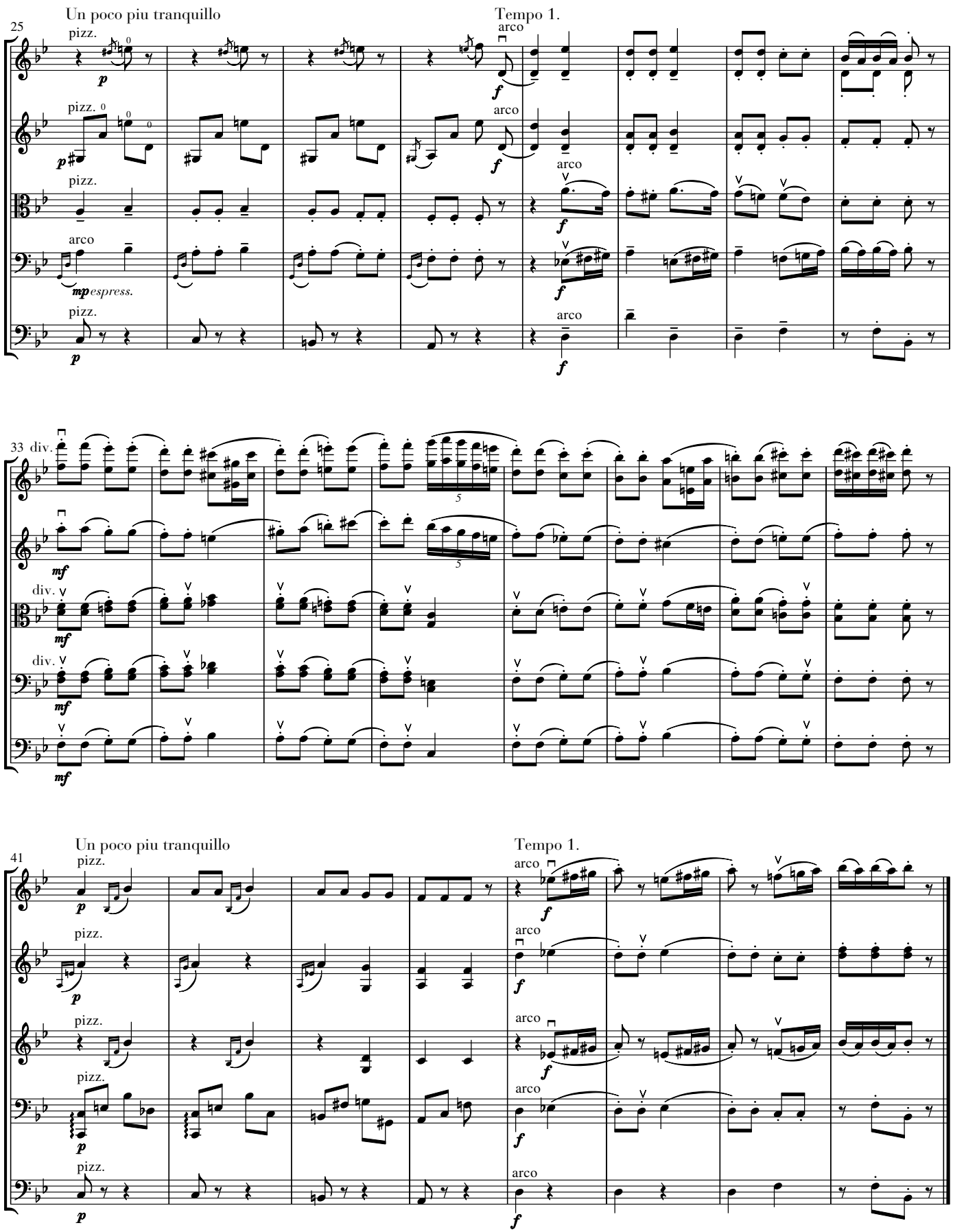
4. Pizzicato


Allegretto, ♩ = 116
Vln 1
Vln 2
Vla
Vc.
Cb.
pizz.
p
sim.
mp ben marcato il tema
5
mf
9
p, dolce

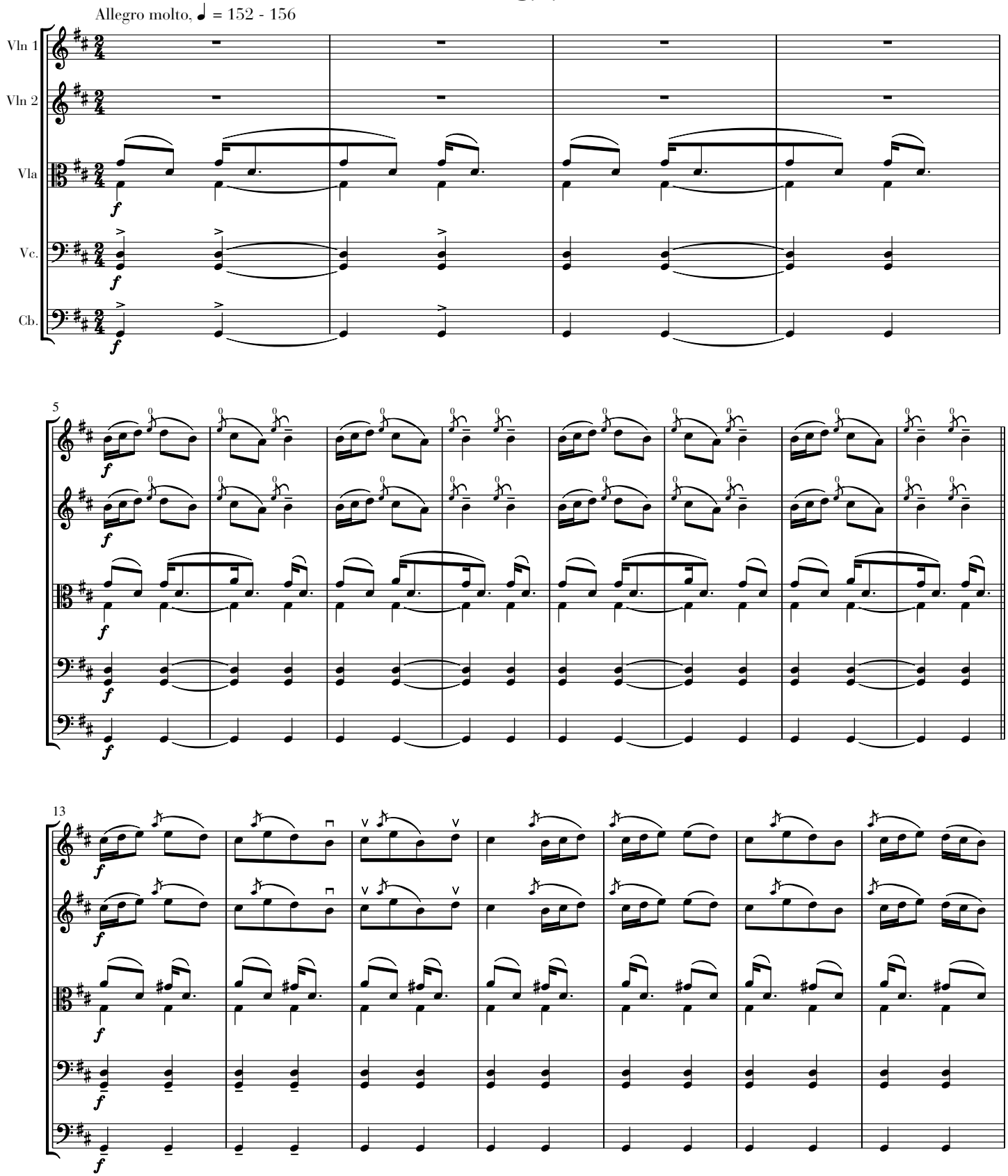

13
mf
p
p, dolce
17
cresc.
dim.
f

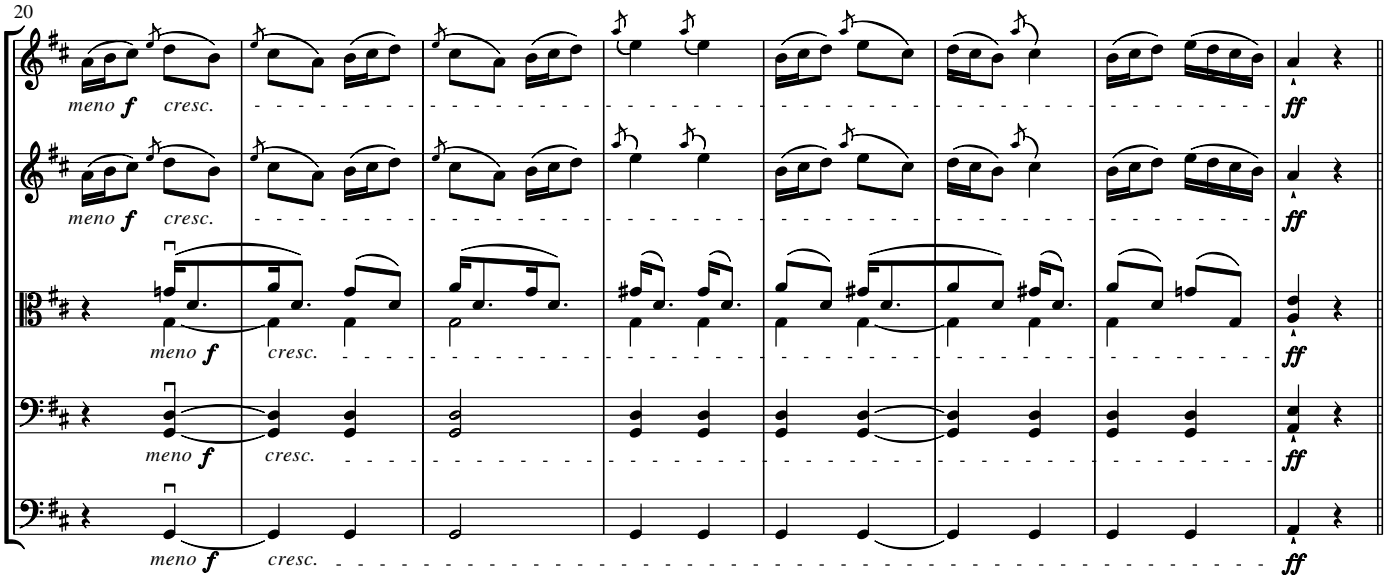
5. Ruthenian Dance

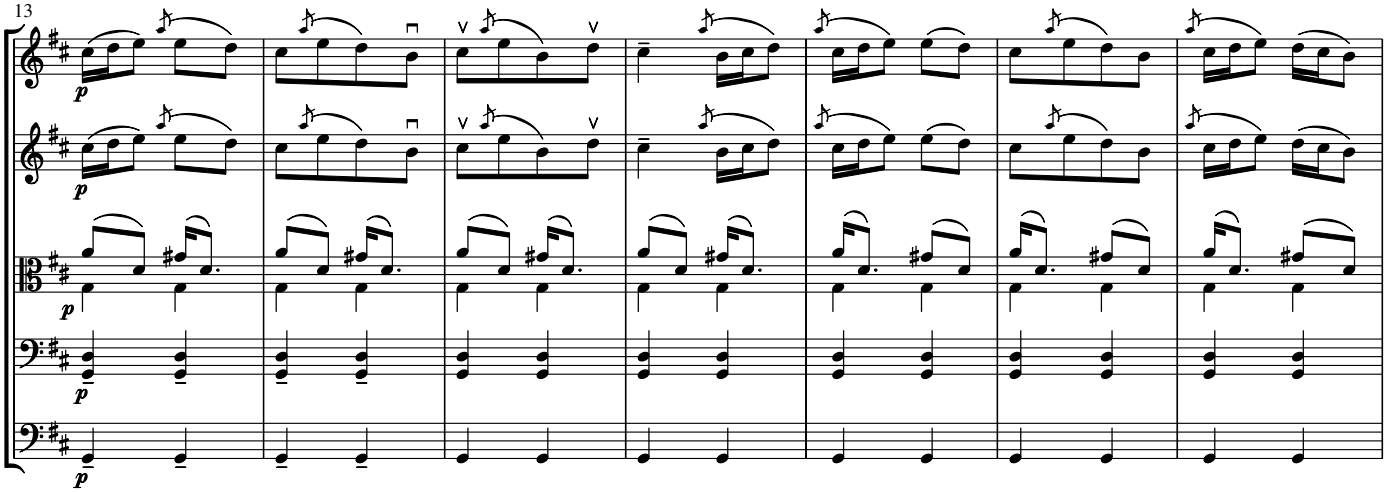


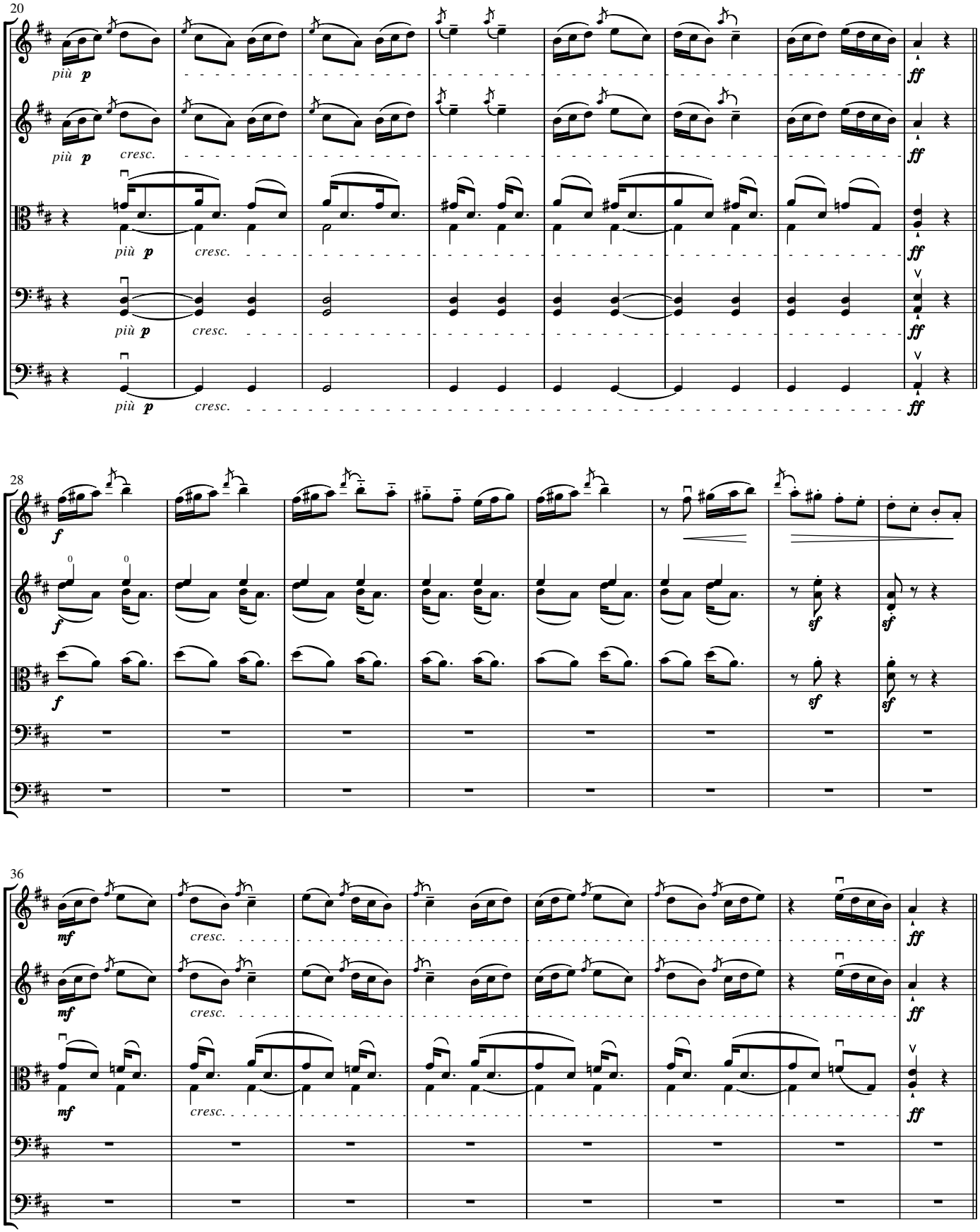

25
Un poco piu tranquillo
Tempo 1.
pizz.
arco
mp espress.
33 div.
41
Un poco piu tranquillo
Tempo 1.

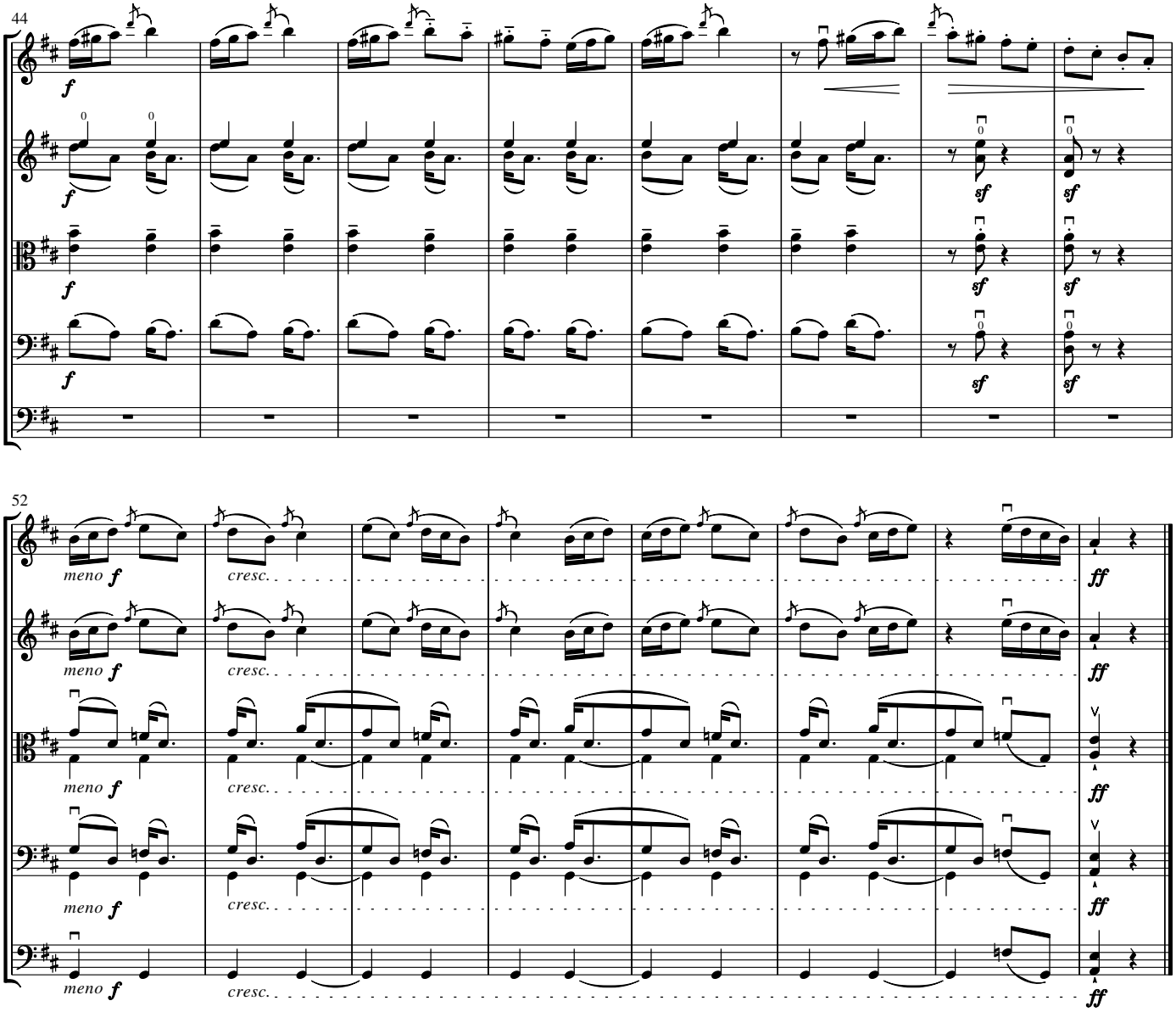
6. Bagpipes




20
meno f
cresc.
ff


13
p


20
più p
cresc.
ff
28
f
sf
36
mf


44
f
sf
52
meno f
cresc.
ff