AMERICAN COMPOSERS EDITION

ROBERT GIBSON

Soundings

Quartet for double basses

1st movement - score sample

AMERICAN COMPOSERS ALLIANCE INC. 2017
WWW.COMPOSERS.COM
NEW YORK, NY

Soundings (2001) Robert Gibson (b. 1950)
for double bass quartet

I. Tenuous ..... 3 (ca. 2:15)

II. Diaphanous ..... 9 (ca. 3:00)

III. Nebulous ..... 13 (ca. 2:45)

IV. Luminous ..... 20 (ca. 2:50)

V. Capricious ..... 25 (ca. 3:20)

DURATION: ca. 14:00

PROGRAM NOTES

The title of my double bass quartet, *Soundings*, is a reference in part to the nautical term for measuring the depth of water. This term has an obvious connection to the double bass as the "deepest" sounding string instrument of the orchestra. "Soundings" can also refer to various types of exploration, and the five movements of the piece are my personal "explorations" of the instrument that is closest to me. *Soundings* was commissioned by and is dedicated to Robert Oppelt, Rick Barber, Jeff Weisner and Ali Yazdanfar, all members of the National Symphony Orchestra at the time of this commission in 2000.

—Robert Gibson

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The second movement, "Diaphanous," was written entirely using natural harmonics on the double bass. Some of these harmonics are quite high in the partial series and may be more accurately performed as artifical harmonics. This decision is left to the discretion of the performer, although the ideal of the sound should always be the transparent quality of a harmonic created from an open string. The seventh partial is, of course, flat in relation to more tempered tuning, and for the purposes of the harmonies created in this movement may be adjusted a bit higher by pulling the string to the side.

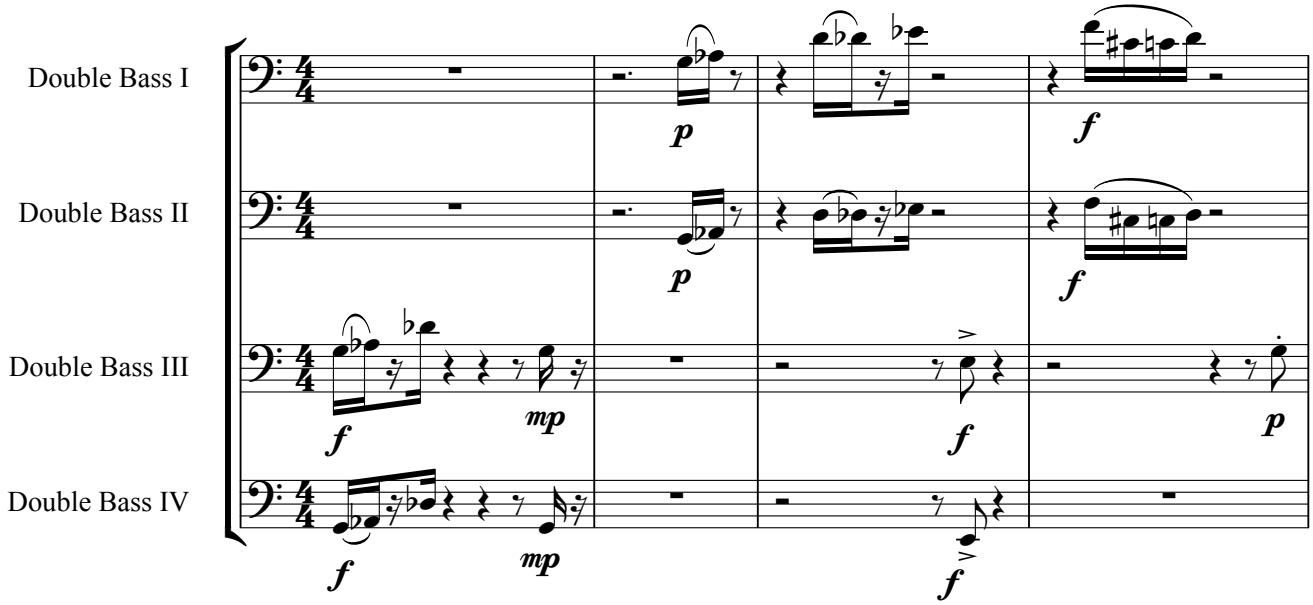
for Robert Oppelt, Rick Barber, Jeff Weisner and Ali Yazdanfar

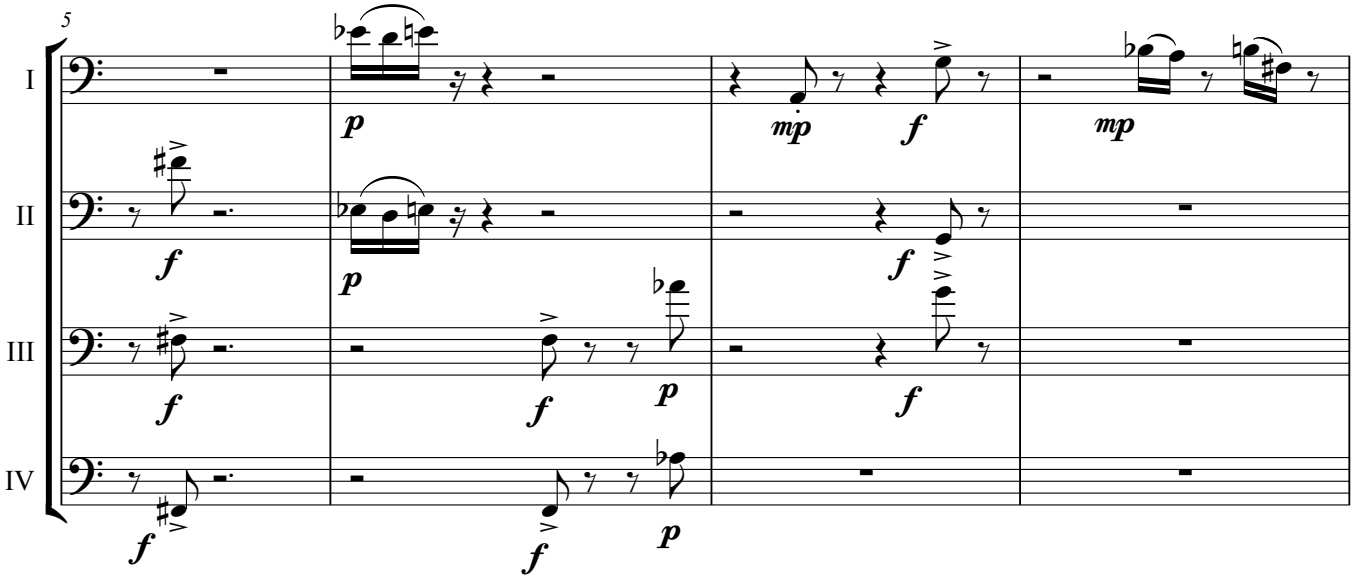
Soundings

Robert Gibson
2001

I. Tenuous

Agitato ♩ = 120





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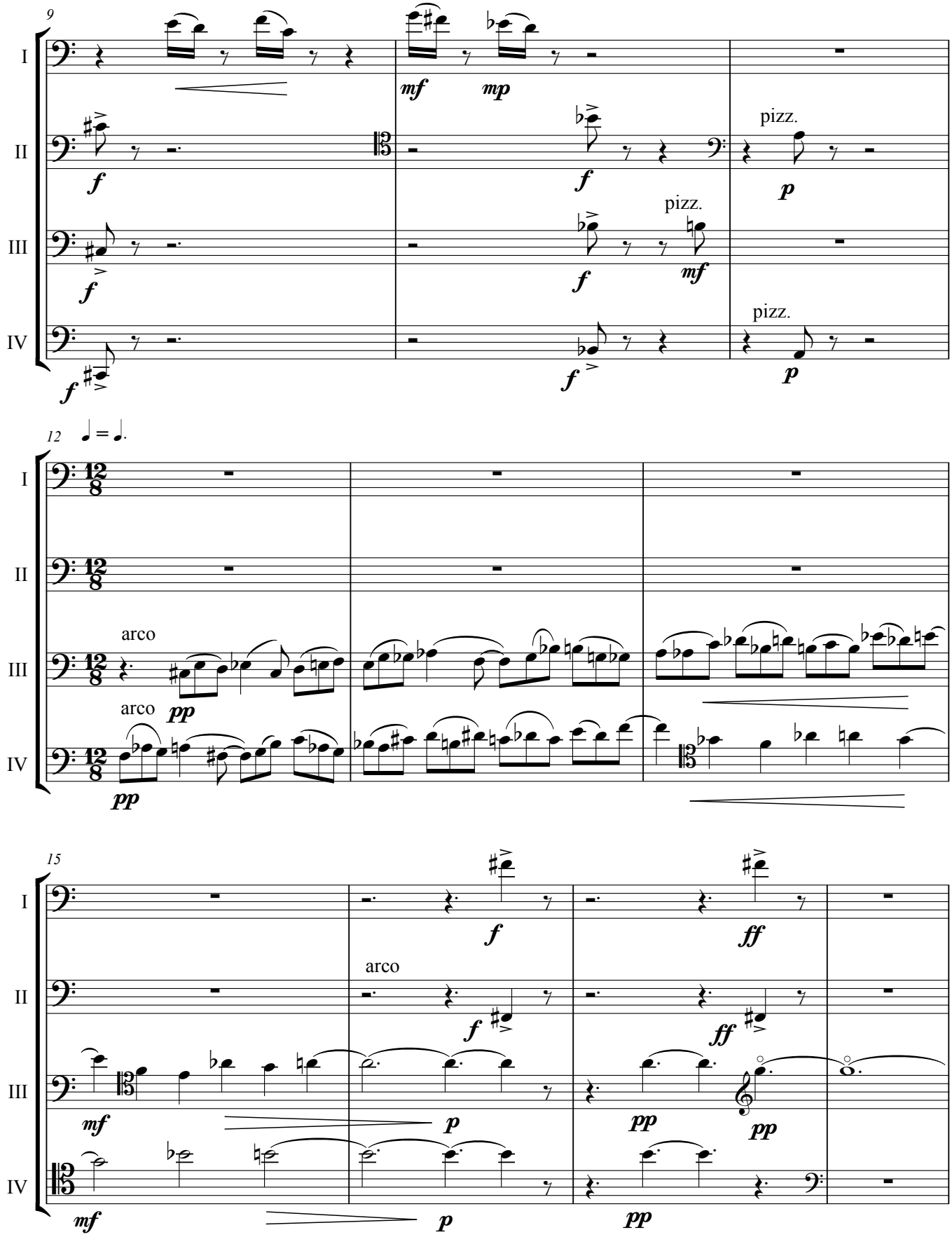
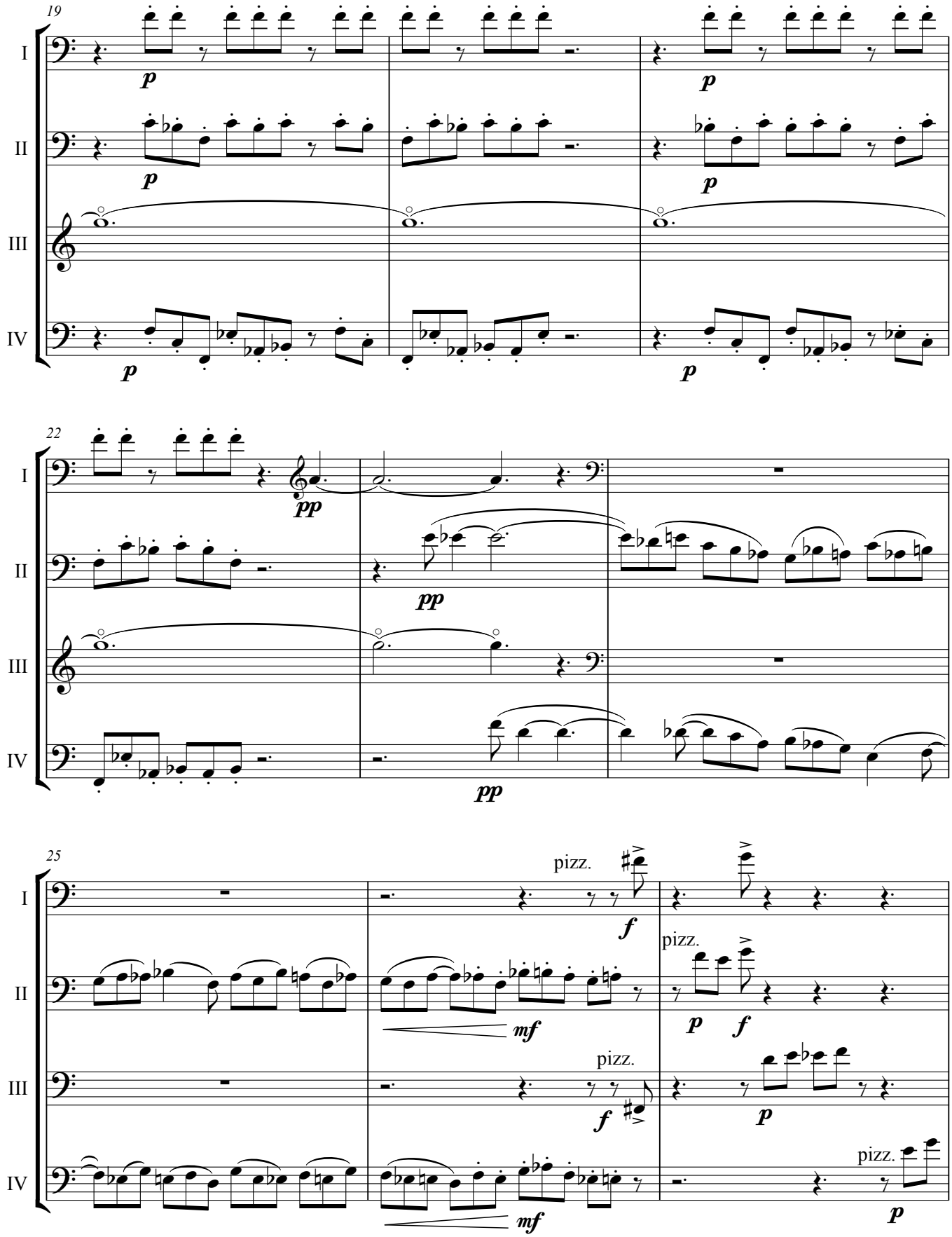
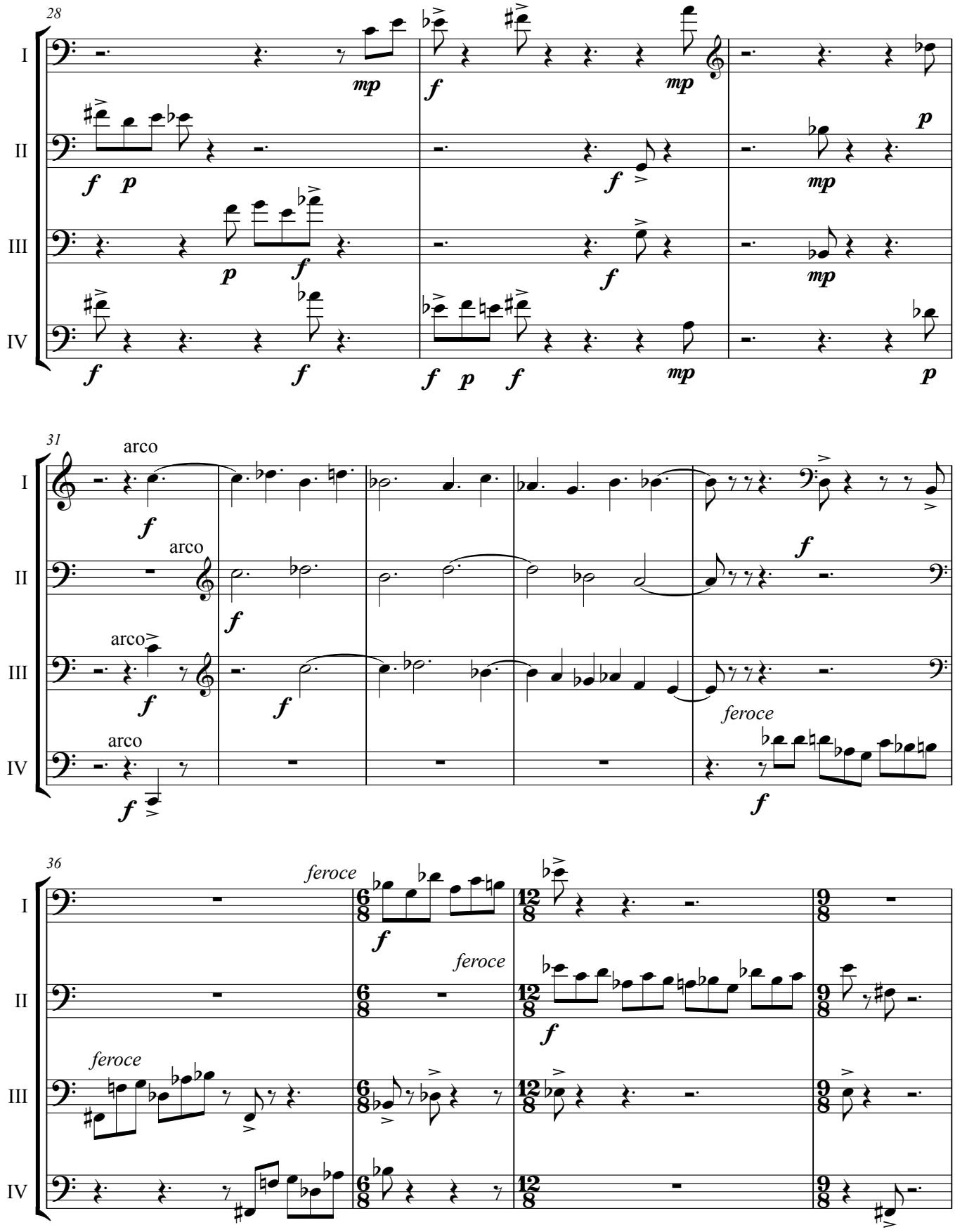
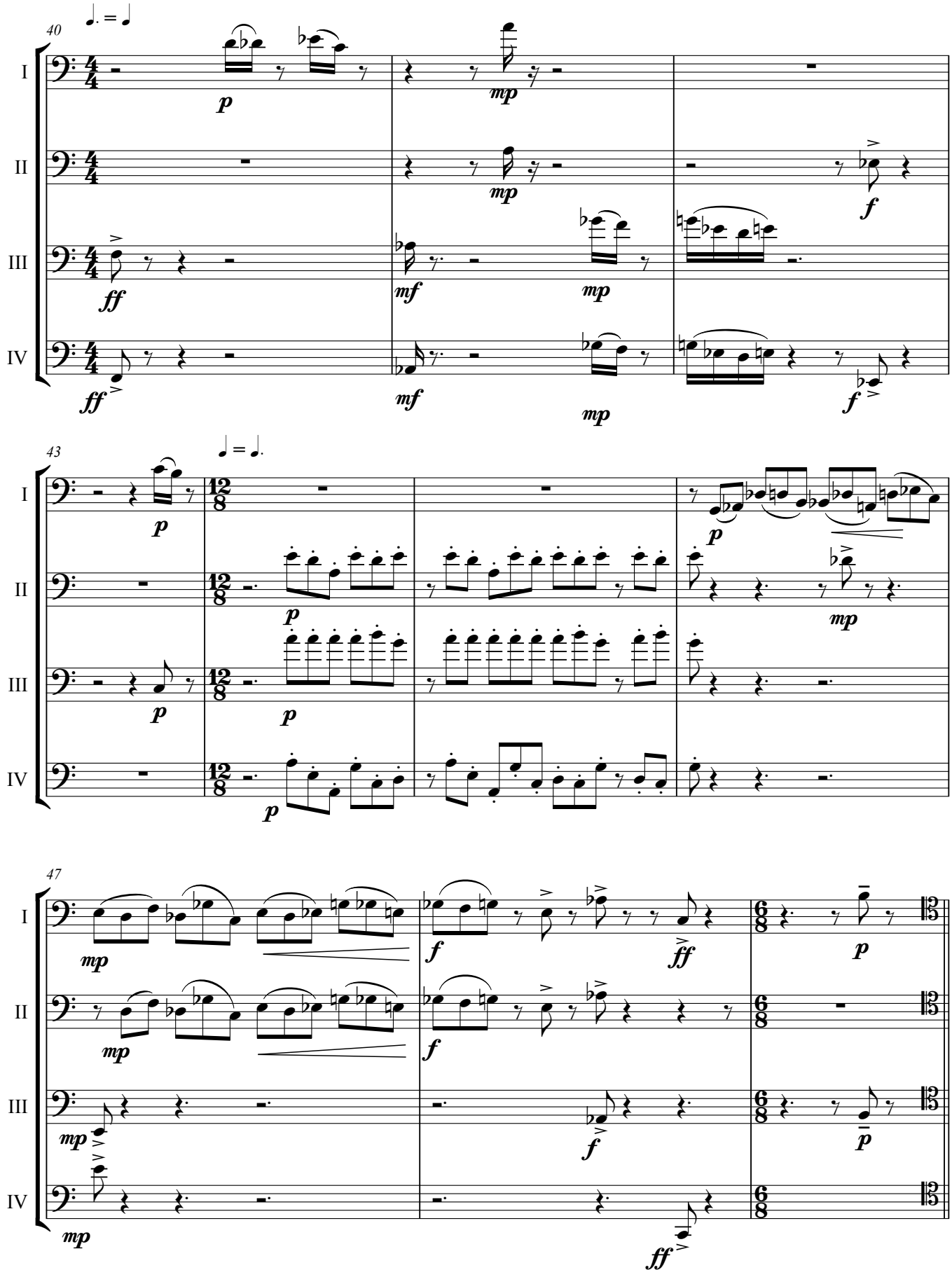
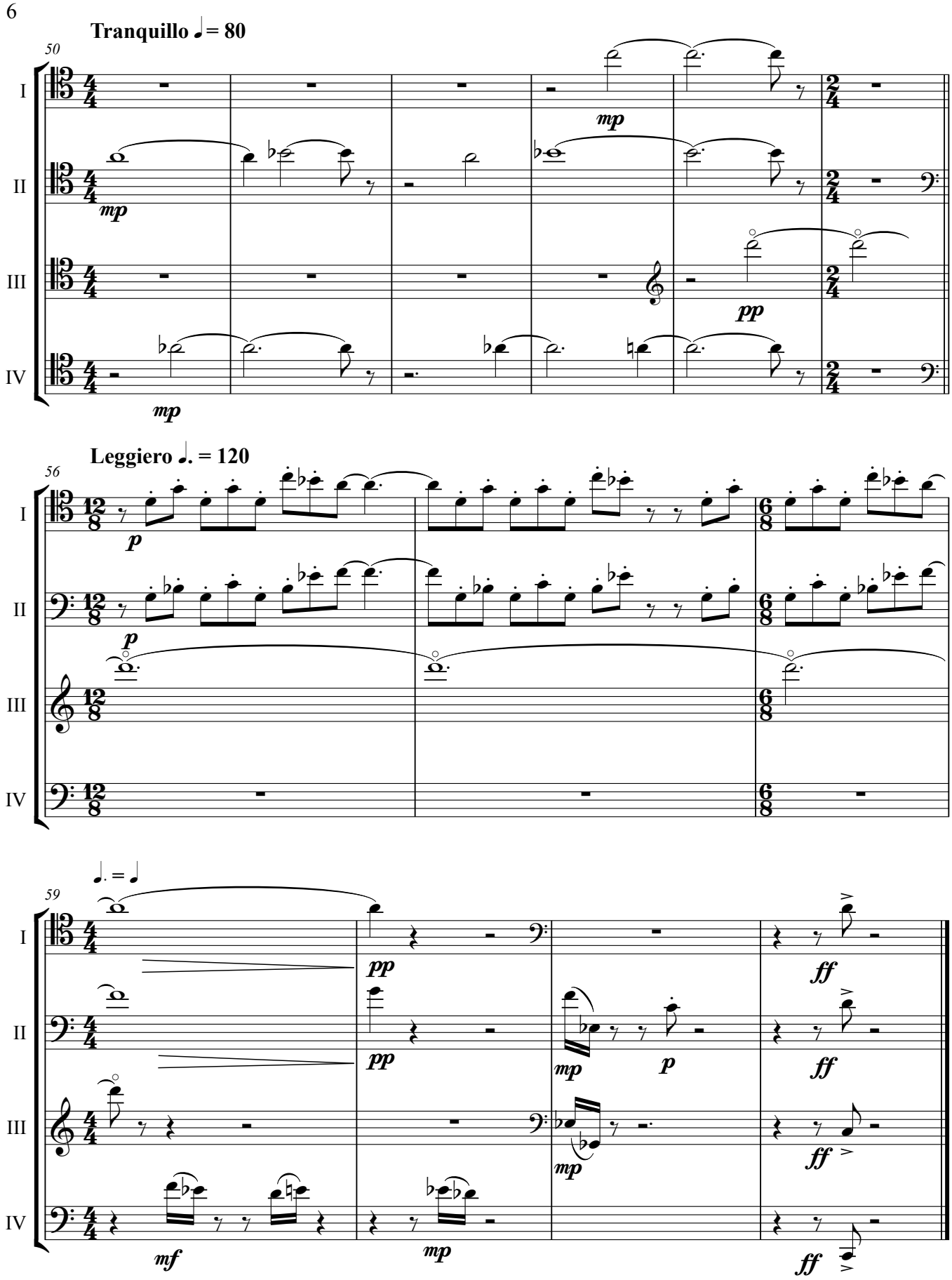

9
I
II
III
IV
mf
mp
f
pizz.
p
12
arco
pp
15
ff


19
I
II
III
IV
p
22
pp
25
pizz.
f
mf
p


28
I
II
III
IV
mp
f
p
31
arco
feroce
36
6/8
12/8
9/8


40
43
47
I
II
III
IV


Tranquillo ♩ = 80
50
I
II
III
IV
mp
mp
mp
pp
Leggiero ♩. = 120
56
I
II
III
IV
p
p
♩. = ♩
59
I
II
III
IV
pp
pp
mp
p
mp
mf
mp
ff
ff
ff
ff