Mason Meyer

ostinato— an ontology

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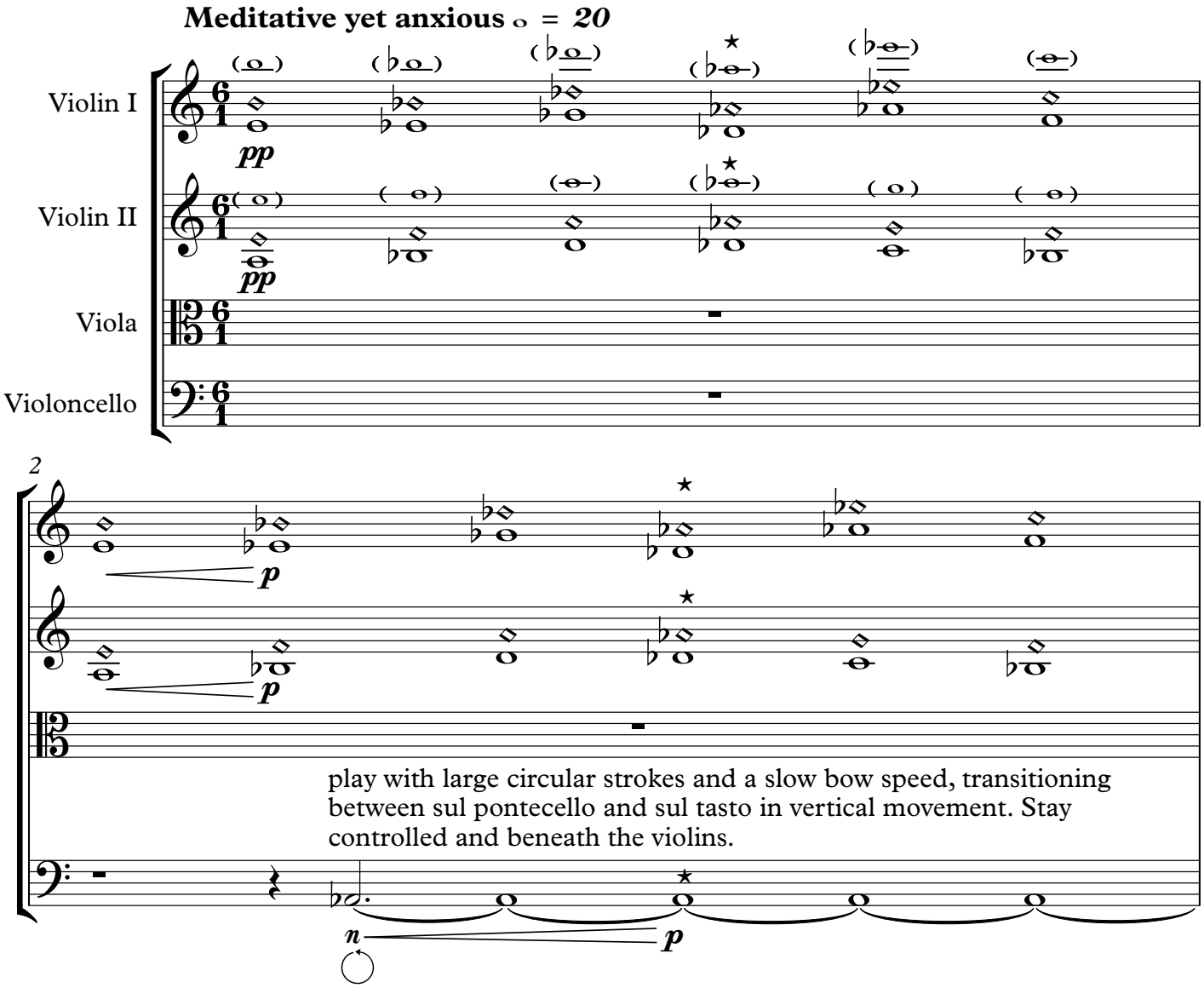
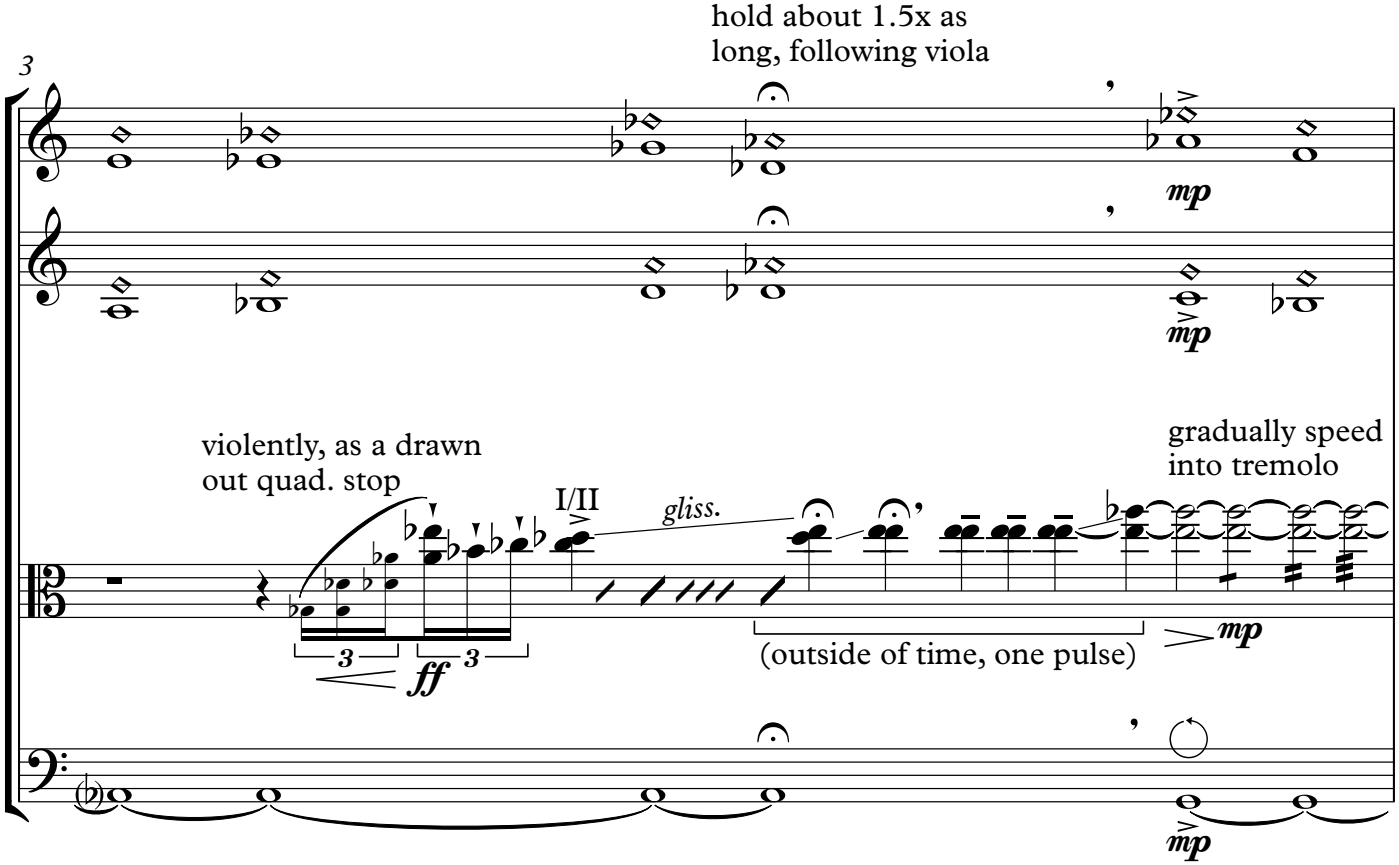
Much of the piece (especially in the violins) is constructed with six pulses in each measure. Aim to spend about three seconds on each pulse, exempting fermatas and notes labeled with an asterisk (*). However, do not aim to make the duration of all notes consistent, and transition between pulses together while leaving as little silence between pulses as possible.

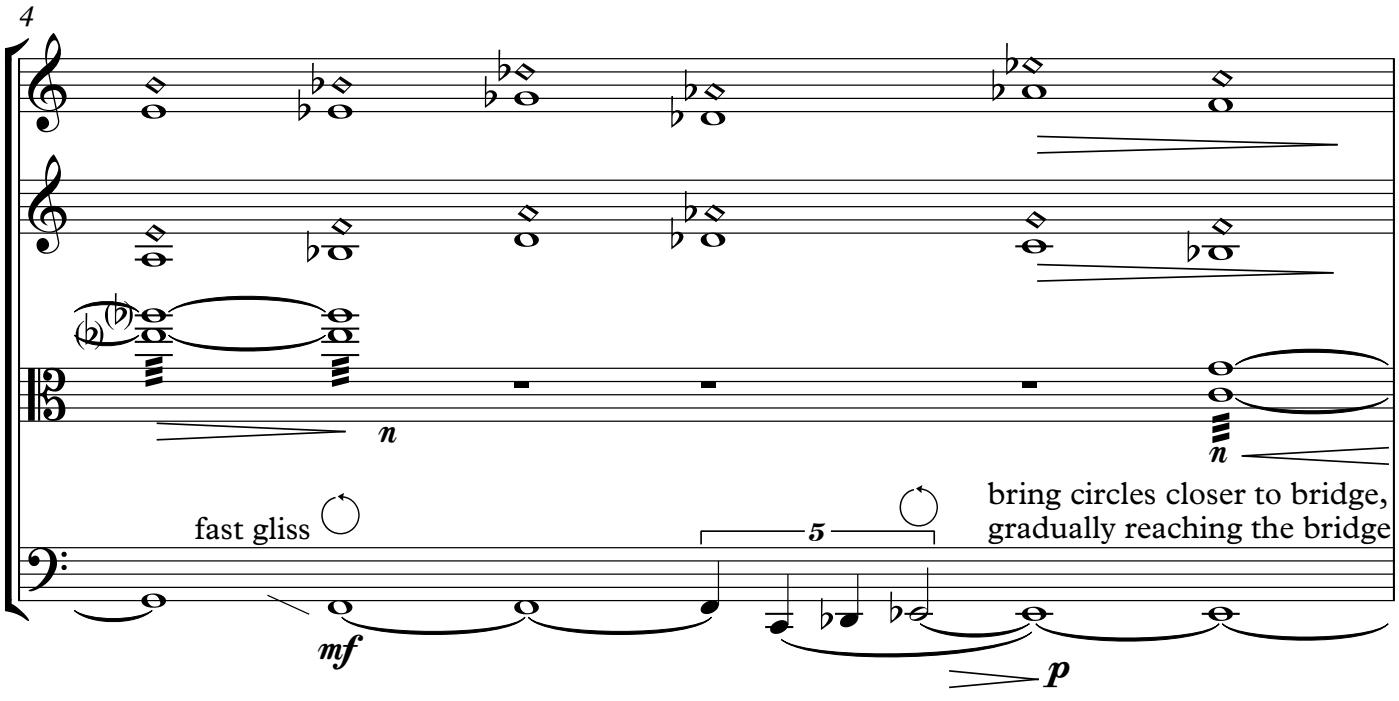
An asterisk (*) indicates that the players should rush through that particular pulse (generally on the fourth pulse, the unison sounding A flat), perhaps lasting two seconds rather than three.

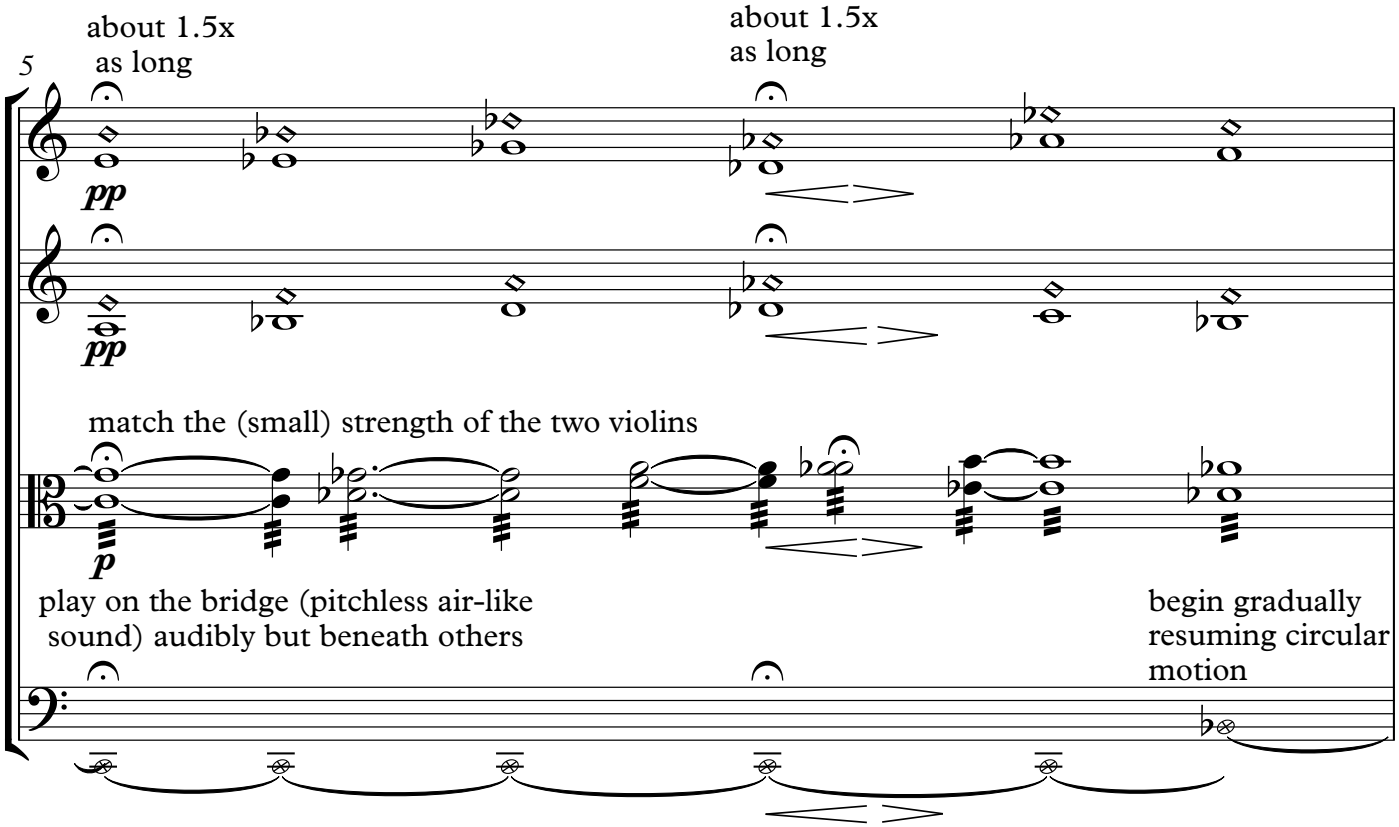
o.b. indicates that a grace note should be accented and played on the beat.

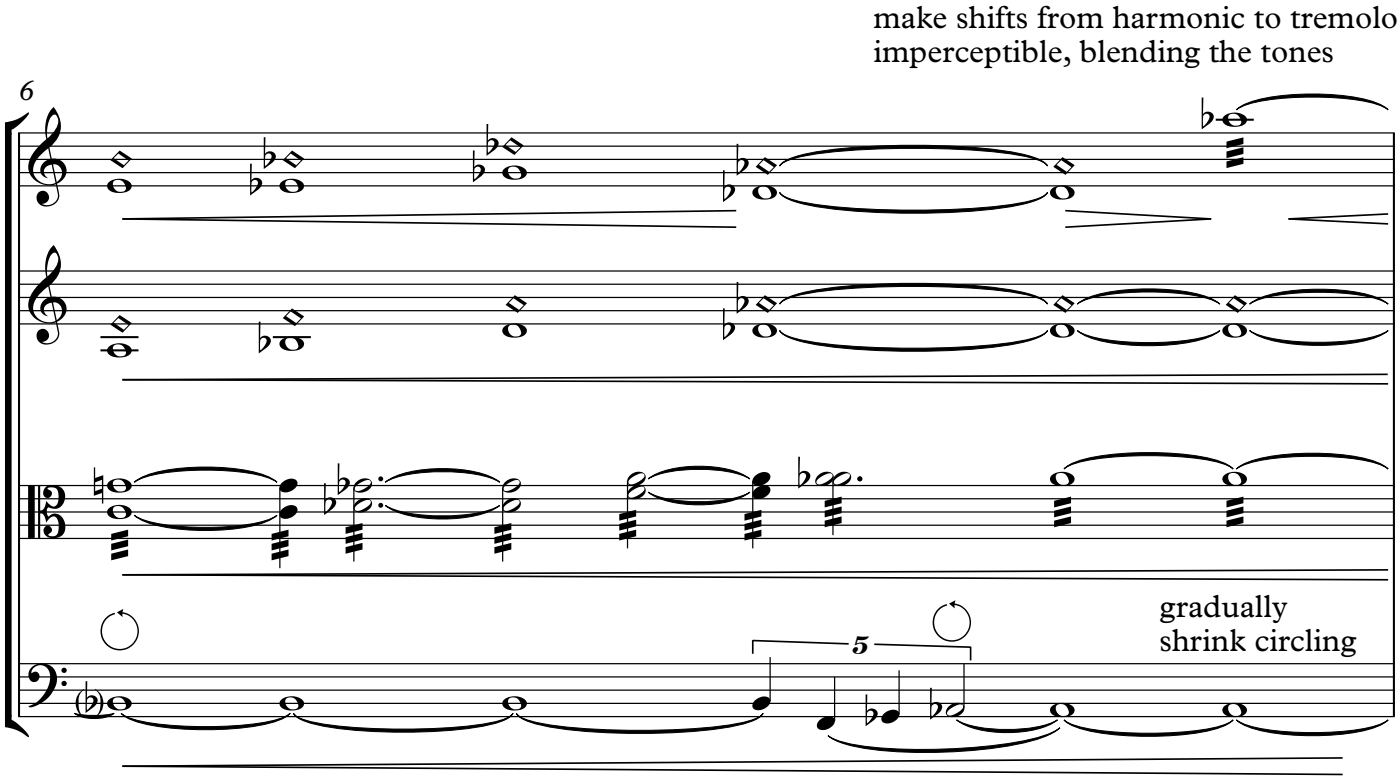
Notated rhythms are approximate, the only significant rhythm being the beginning of each whole note pulse. All other rhythms and entrances should be felt by the player. Players should be familiar with the score (or perhaps read off it), since much of the piece's "rhythm" is really just an acute awareness of the other parts.

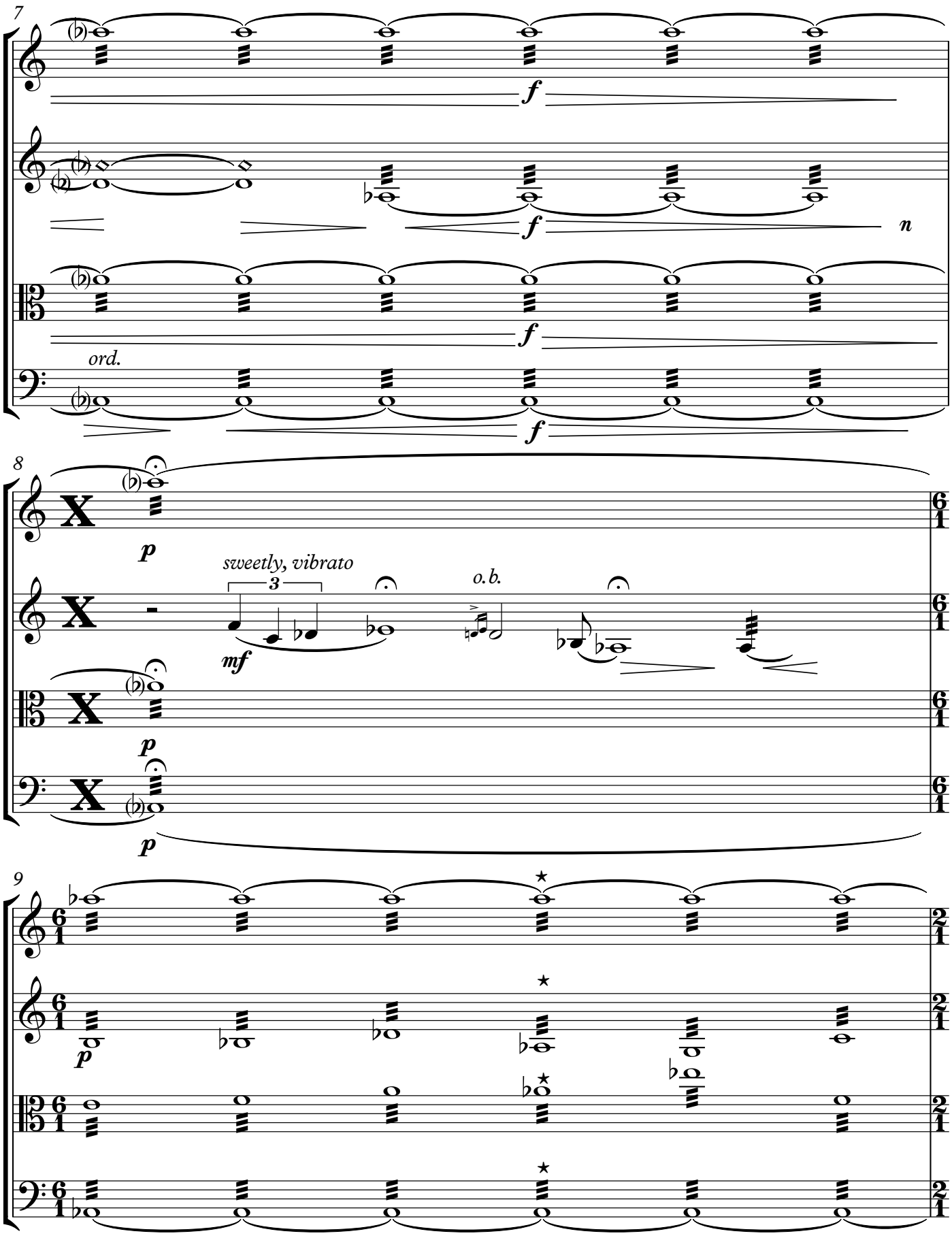


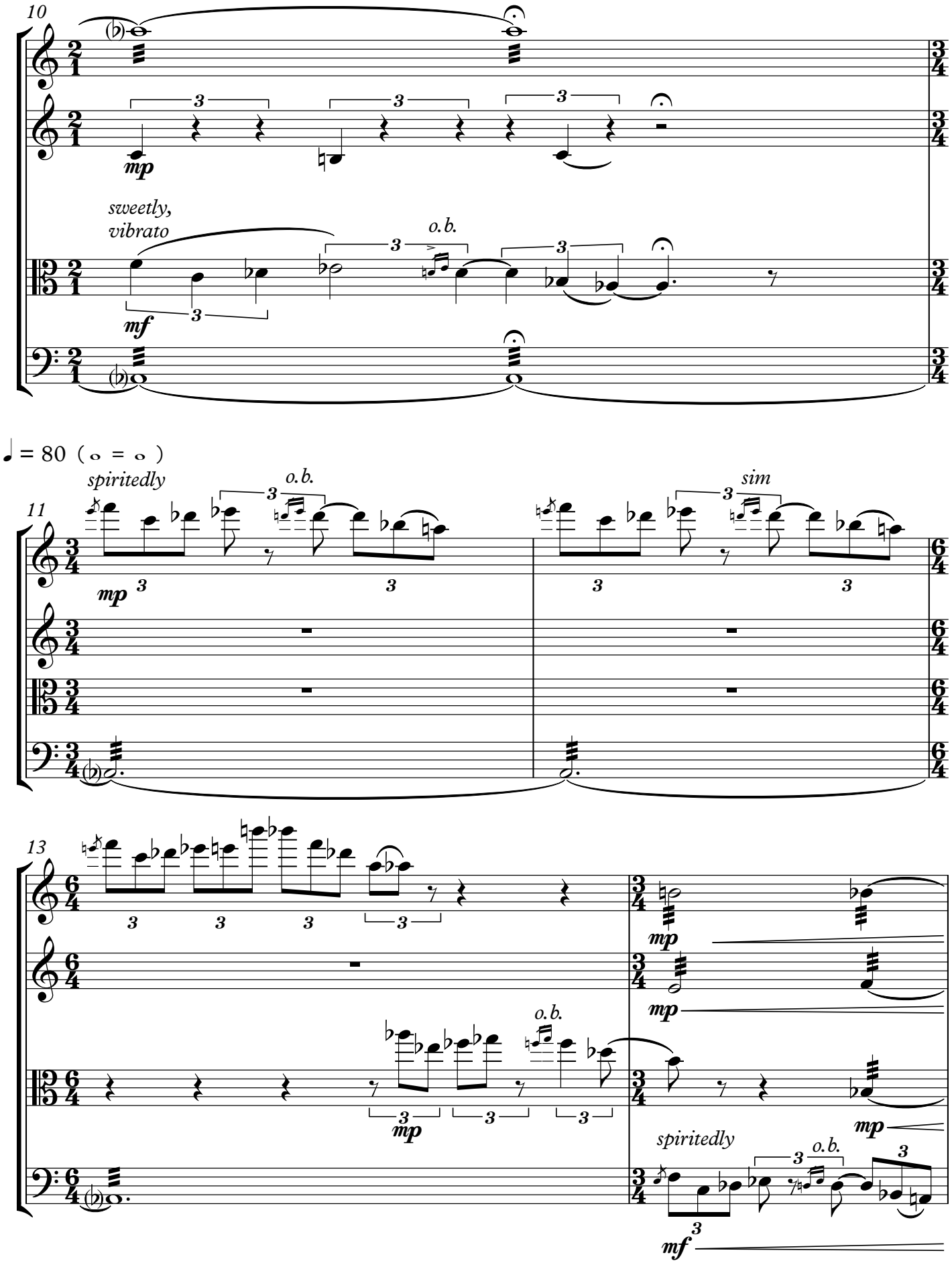

3
hold about 1.5x as
long, following viola
mp
mp
violently, as a drawn
out quad. stop
I/II
gliss.
gradually speed
into tremolo
3
3
ff
(outside of time, one pulse)
mp
mp

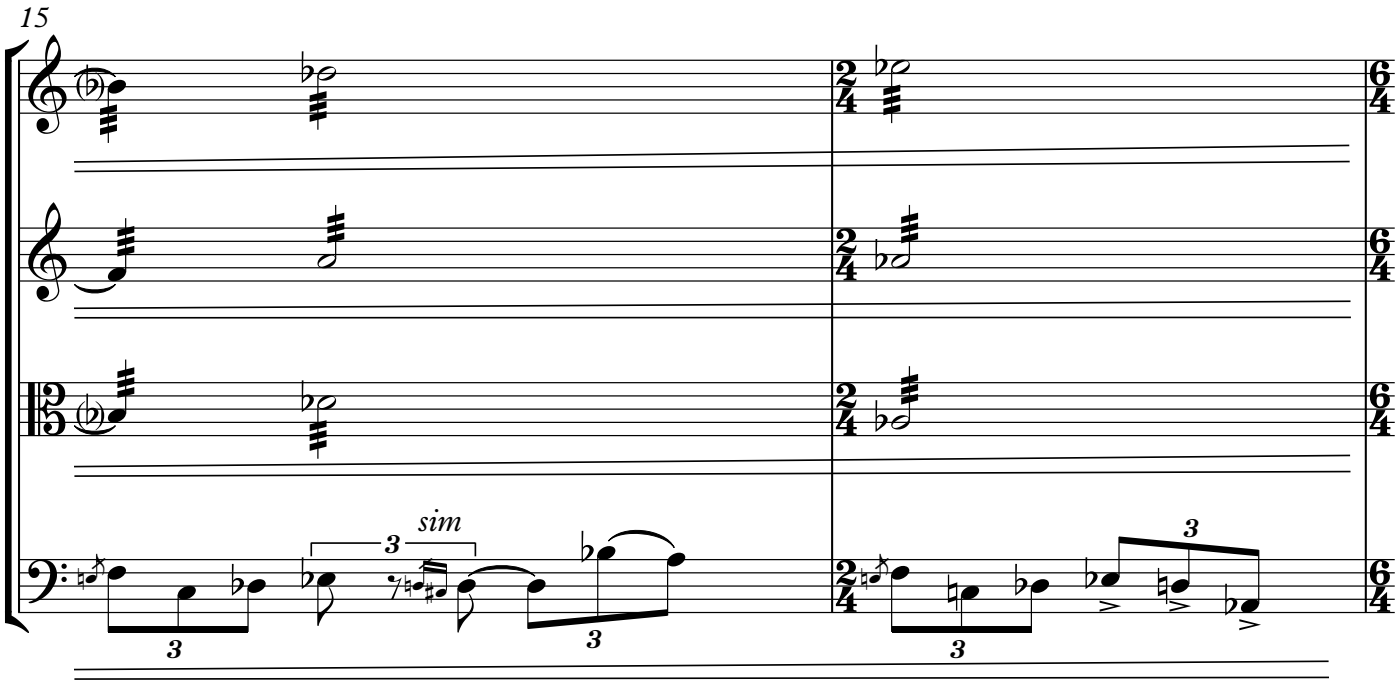

4
n
n
fast gliss
5
bring circles closer to bridge,
gradually reaching the bridge
mf
p

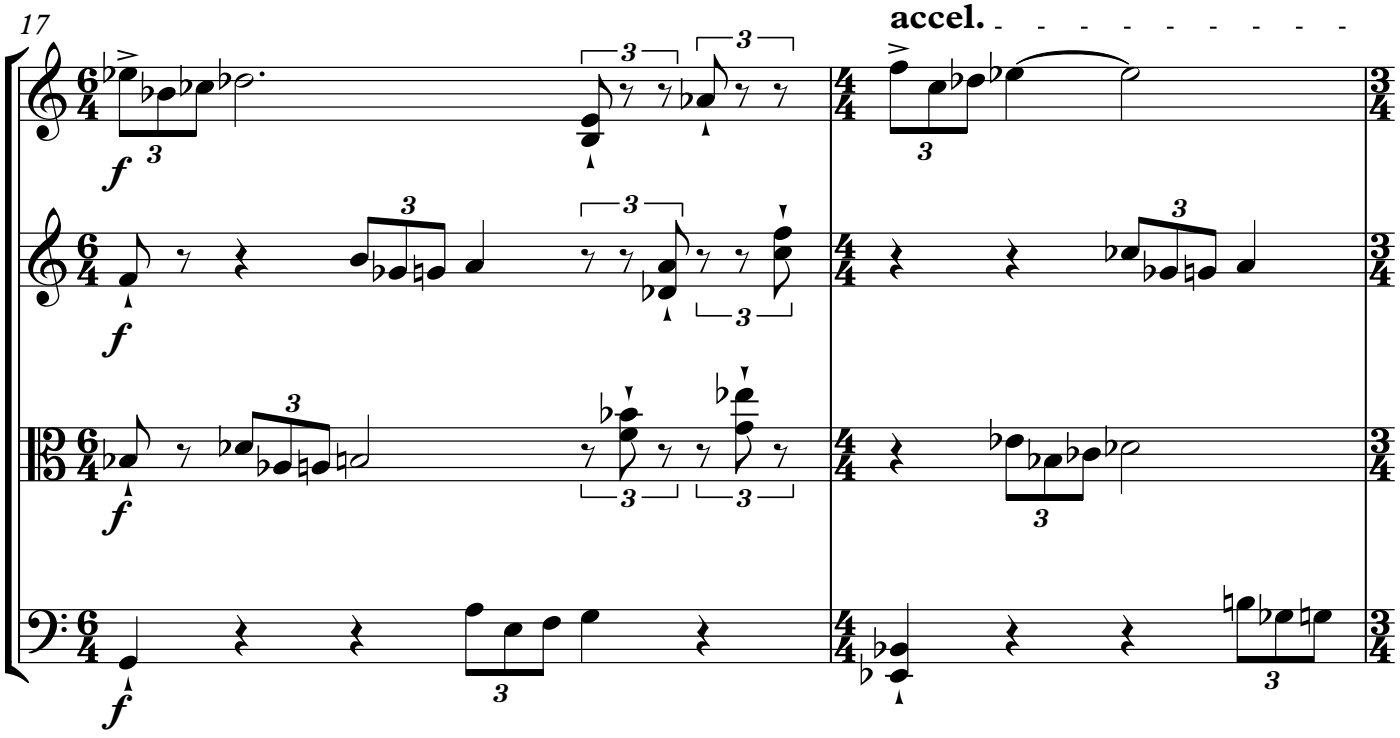

about 1.5x
as long
5
pp
pp
about 1.5x
as long
match the (small) strength of the two violins
p
play on the bridge (pitchless air-like
sound) audibly but beneath others
begin gradually
resuming circular
motion

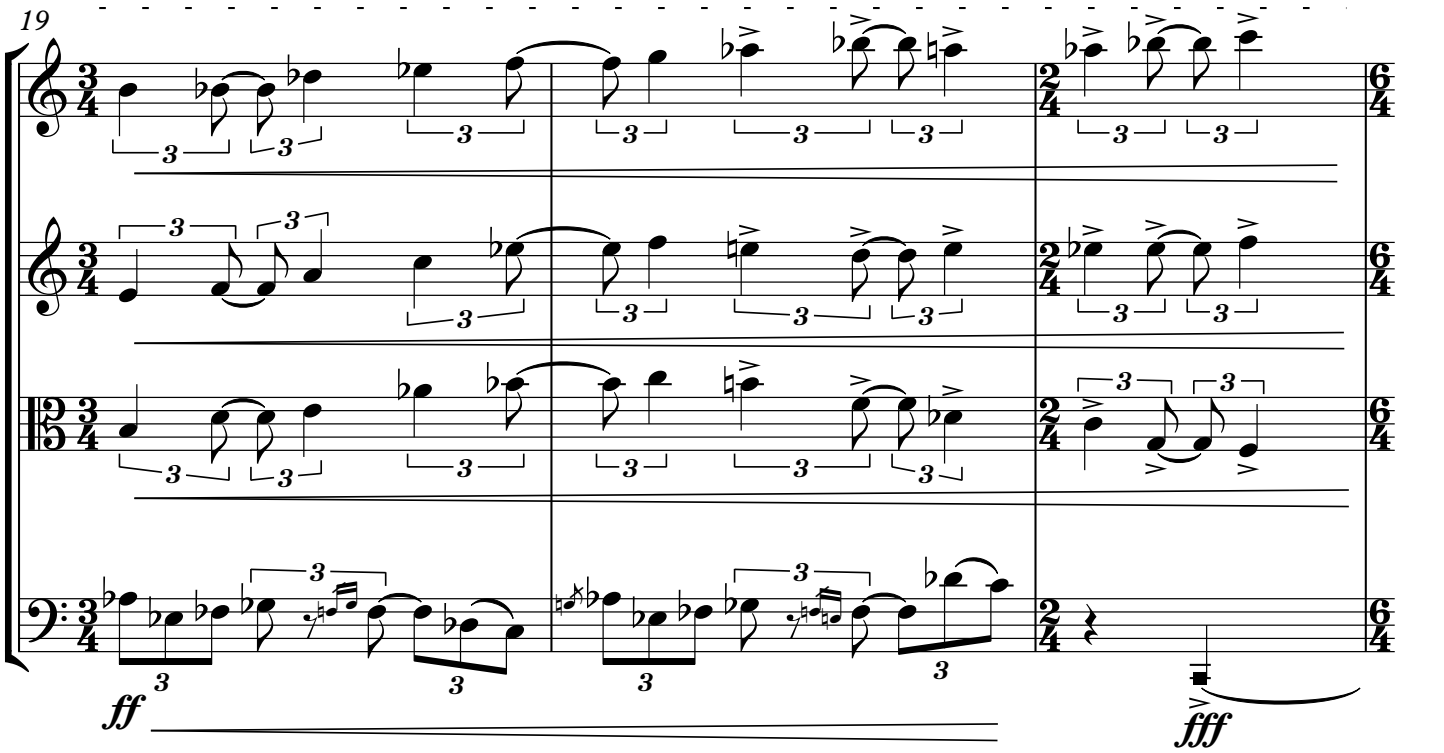

make shifts from harmonic to tremolo
imperceptible, blending the tones
6
5
gradually
shrink circling


7
f
f
n
ord.
f
8
p
sweetly, vibrato
3
o.b.
mf
p
p
9
p


10
sweetly,
vibrato
o.b.
mf
♩ = 80 (𝅗𝅥 = 𝅗𝅥)
11
spiritedly
o.b.
mp
sim
13
mp
o.b.
mp
mp
spiritedly
o.b.
mf

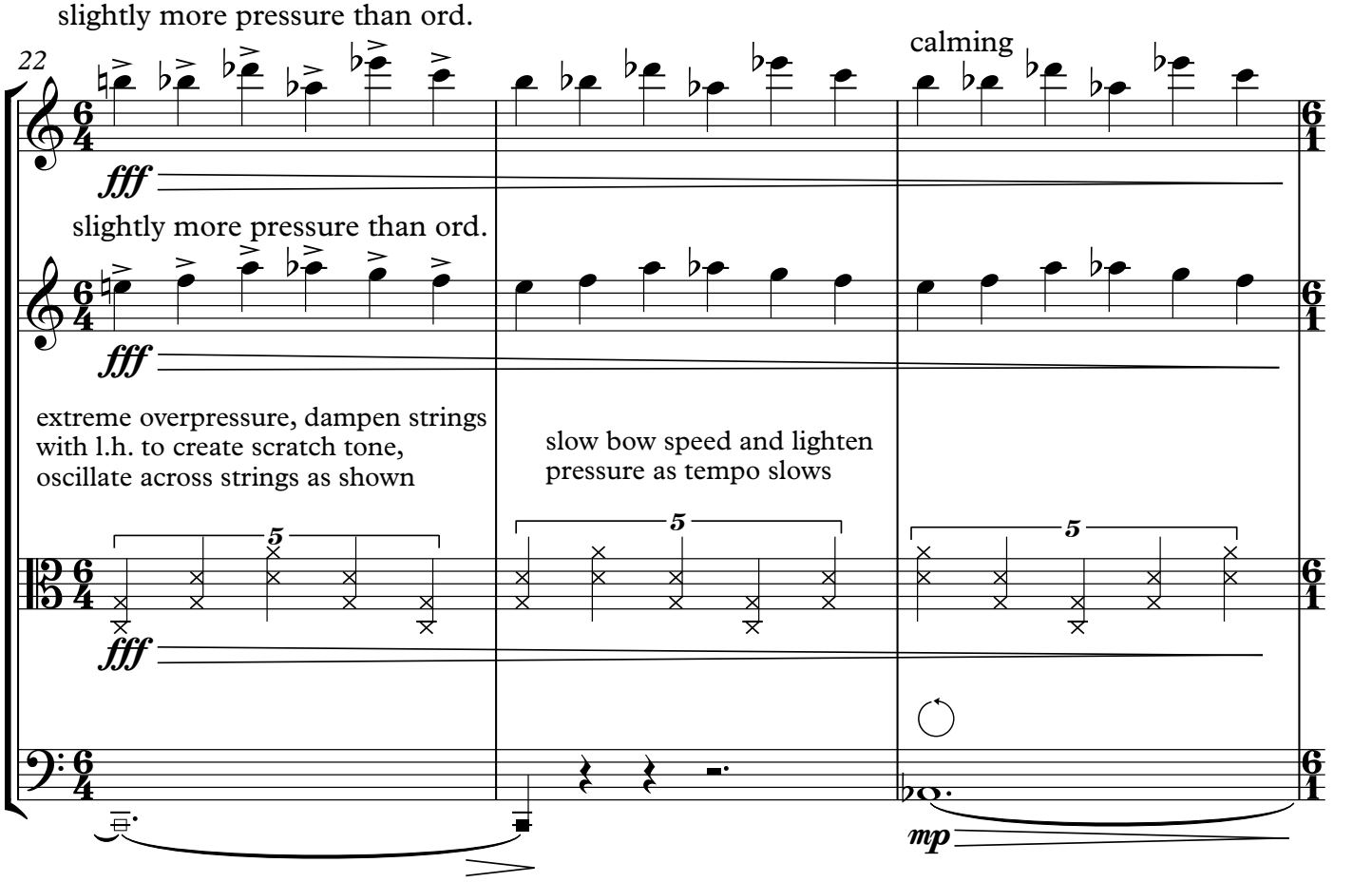

15
sim

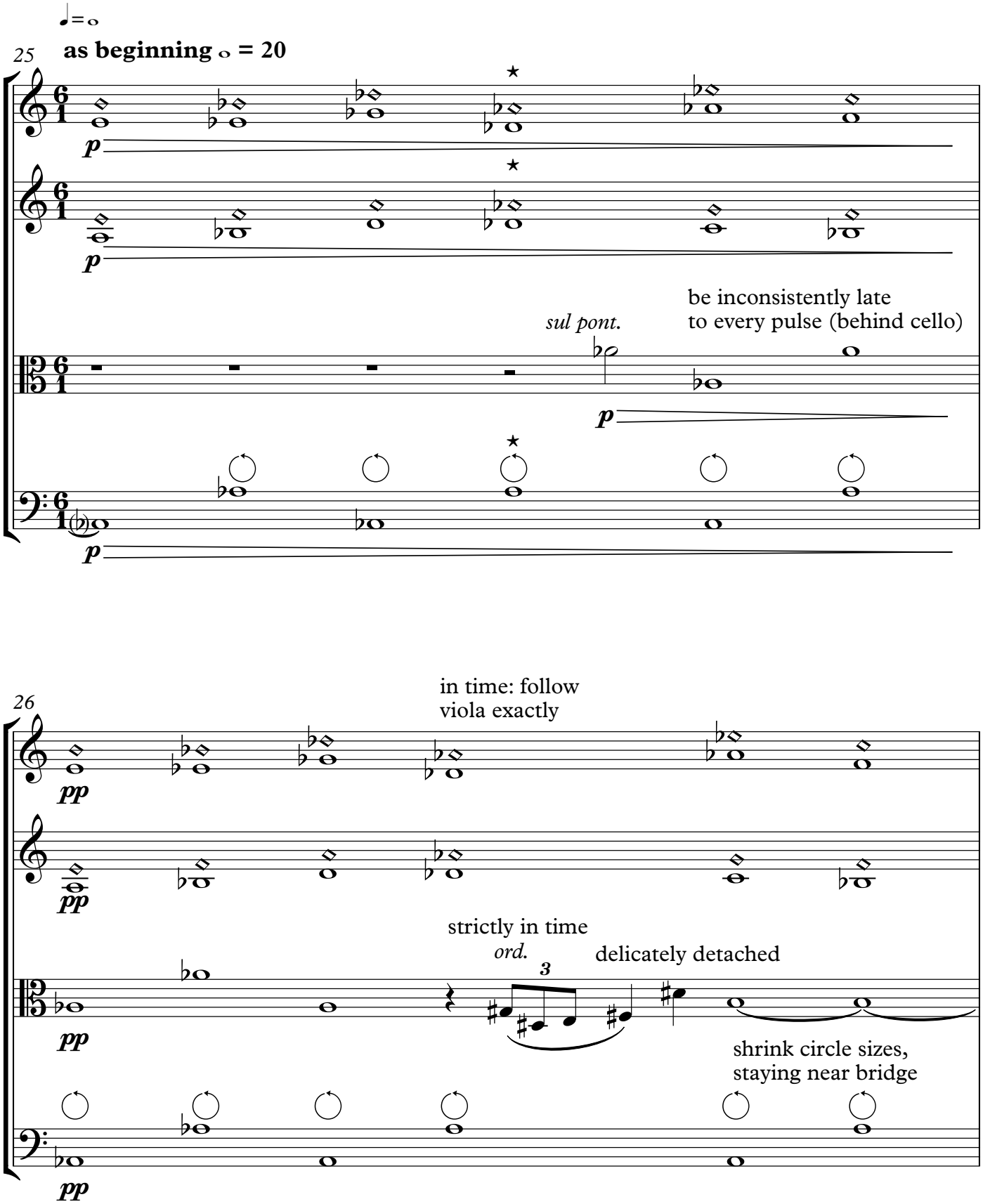

17
accel.

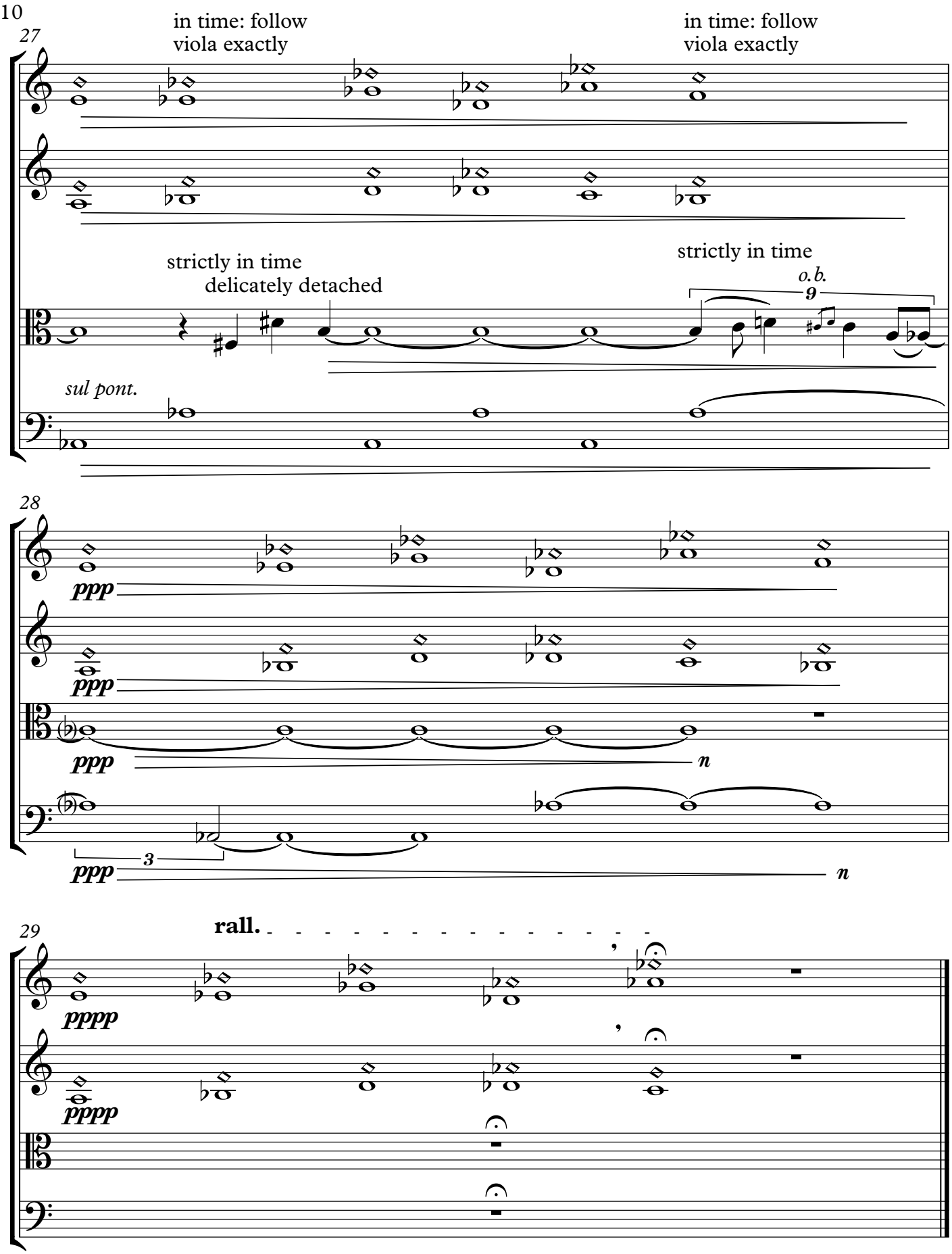


Bombastically ♩ = 100

molto rall.




♩=𝅝
as beginning 𝅝 = 20
25
p
sul pont.
be inconsistently late
to every pulse (behind cello)
26
pp
in time: follow
viola exactly
strictly in time
ord.
3
delicately detached
shrink circle sizes,
staying near bridge


27
in time: follow
viola exactly
in time: follow
viola exactly
strictly in time
delicately detached
strictly in time
o.b.
9
sul pont.
28
ppp
ppp
ppp
n
3
ppp
n
29
rall.
pppp
pppp