We All Inevitably Fall into the Abyss

Yifeng Yvonne Yuan

Composer's note

This piece is about the relentless flow of information, the constant demand for attention and productivity. It is about the void we feel after consuming millions gigabytes of data, the profound isolation we sense amidst the hyper-connectedness. It is about the sense of burning out.

Instrumentation

Fixed Media

Clarinet in Bb or Trumpet

Baritone Saxophone & Tenor Saxophone

Piano (prepared)

Violin

Cello

Performer's Note

Amplification

For the saxophone player, two microphones are preferred:
Place one microphone near the keys for sound capture.
Attach a contact microphone to the performer's throat to enhance the sound texture and capture the nuances.

Piano Preparation:

There are two ways of piano preparing depending on the access of materials.

1. Insert large paper clips in between strings Eb2, G2, B2 and Db3.
2. Place blu tack on the strings of Eb2, G2, B2 and Db3.

Note: the preparation will be removed midway through the piece. Please consider the ease and practicality of removal when setting up.

1/8 tone higher

1/8 tone lower

In the first section, adjust pitches to be 1/8 tone higher or lower as indicated. This is to create a beating effect that matches the intensity of the electronic track. The 1/8 tone measurement is an estimate; the primary goal is to achieve the desired beating effect.

, **Breath marking**

Guitar pick tremolo (for Violin)

The performer should hold the violin like a guitar, and strum with a guitar pick.

Click Track for Conductor or performer

A click track is provided to ensure perfect synchronization between the fixed track and the live performance.
This click track is intended for the conductor (if there is one) or one designated performer.

Metric Modulation

Be aware of several metric modulations throughout the piece.

Card on String knobs

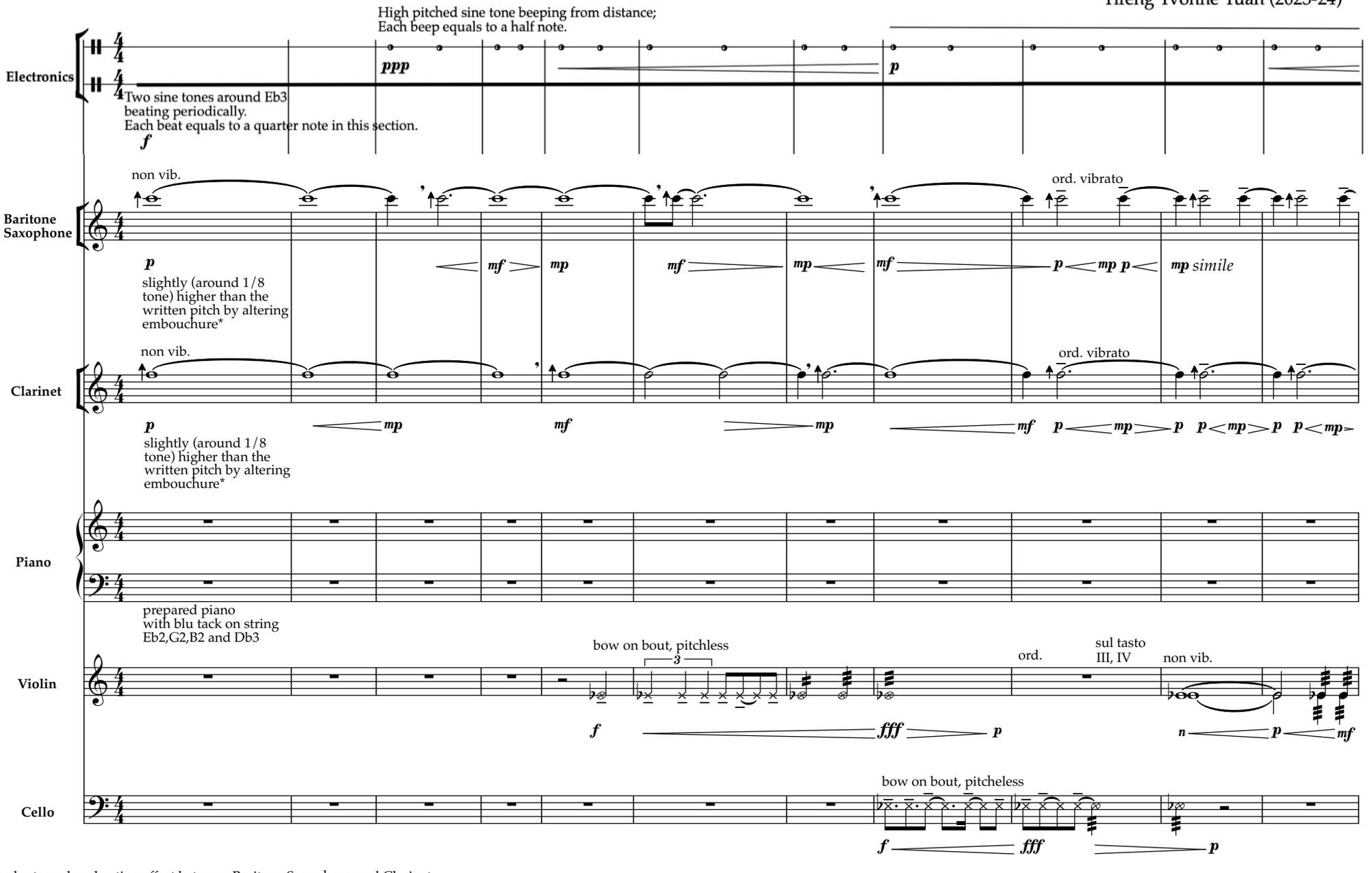
The performer is required to slide on the metal knobs that hold the strings with a card.
This piece specifically calls for this effect in the mid to high register.

[Transposed]

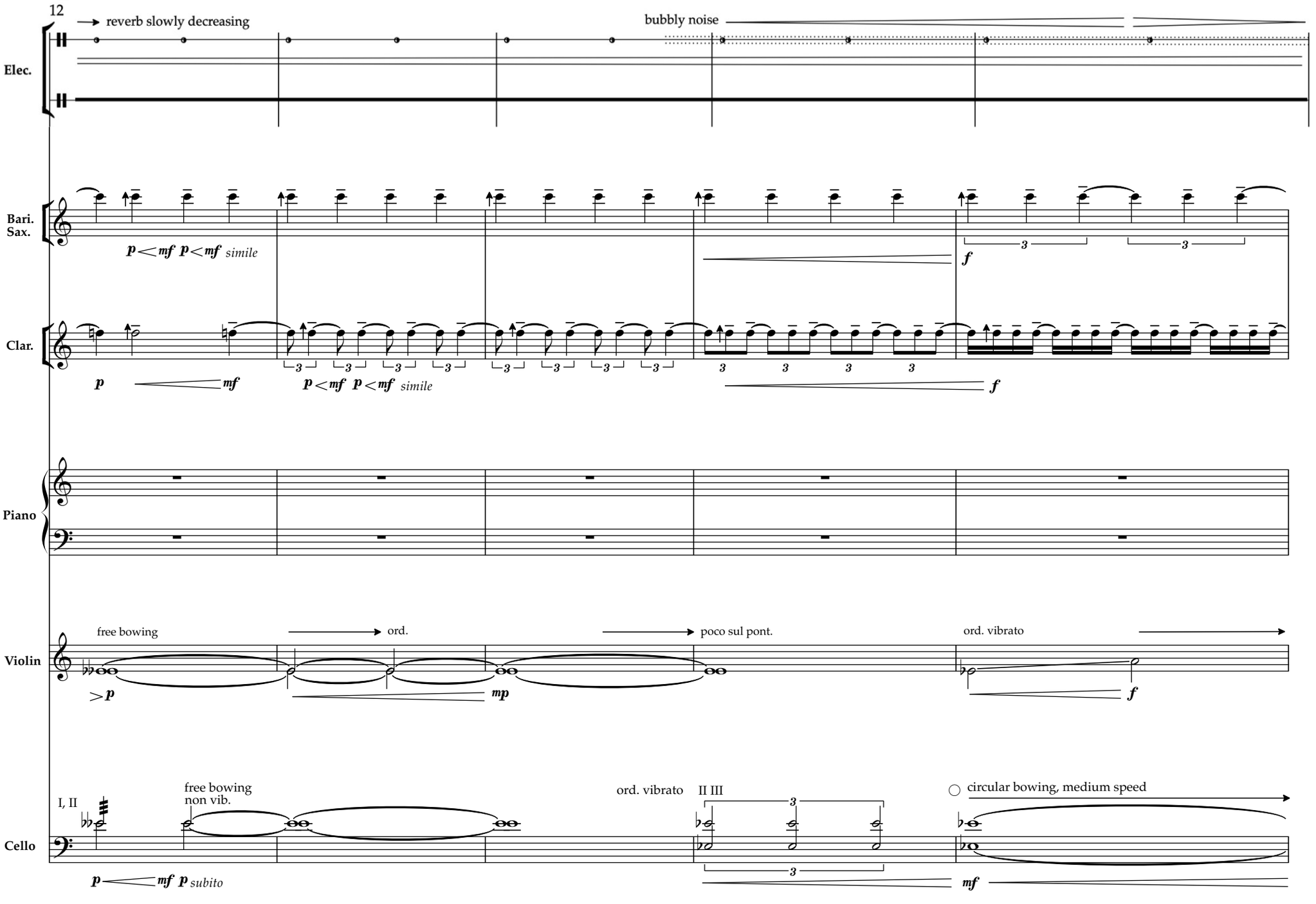
We All Inevitably Fall into the Abyss

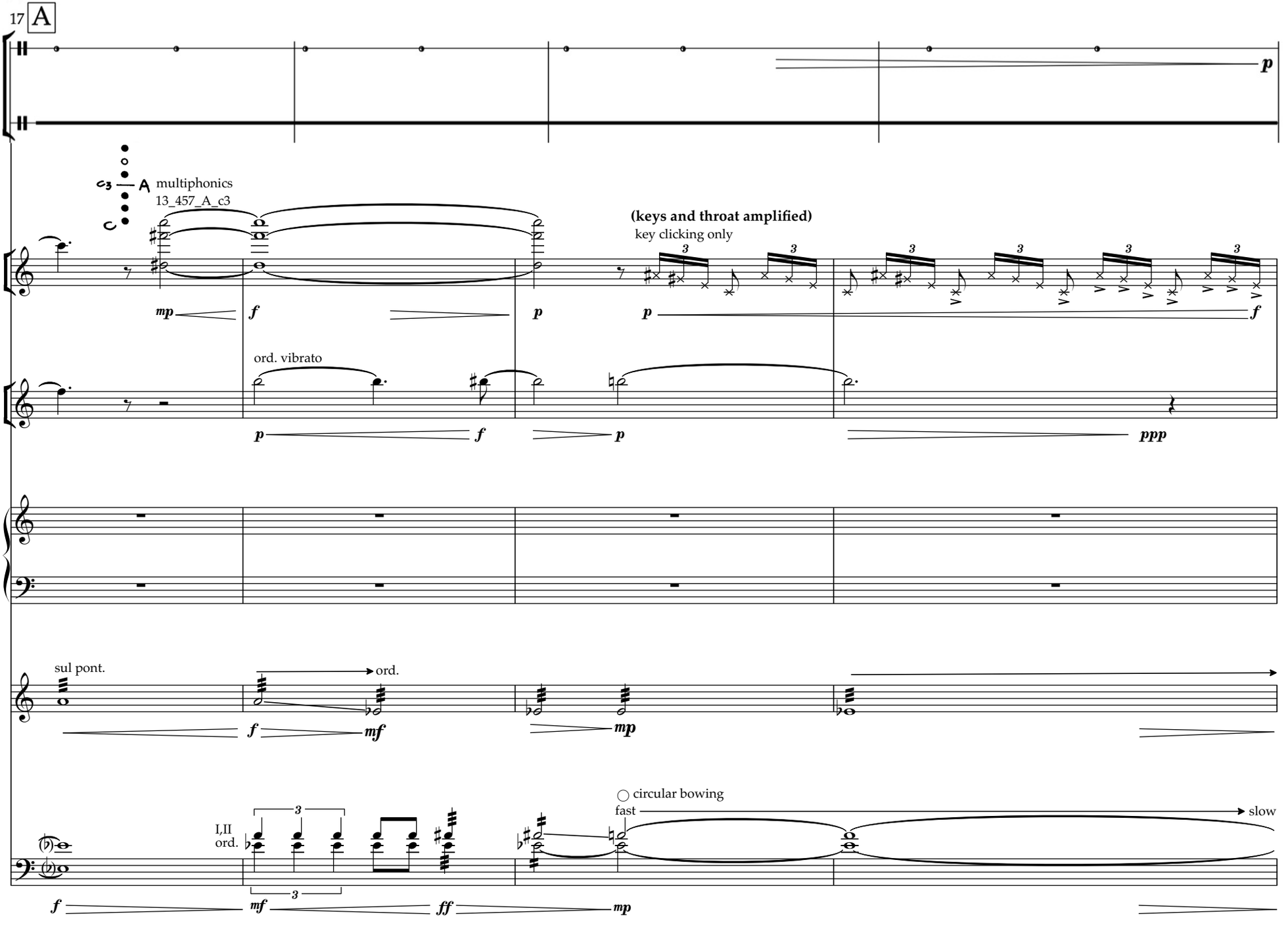
♩ = 55 - 56 **Mechanically subdued, like a train's ghostly tread.**

Yifeng Yvonne Yuan (2023-24)



*In order to make a beating effect between Baritone Saxophone and Clarinet.
^In order to make a beating effect with violin and Cello.


12
reverb slowly decreasing
bubbly noise
Elec.
Bari. Sax.
p < mf p < mf simile
f
Clar.
p
mf
p < mf p < mf simile
f
Piano
Violin
free bowing
ord.
poco sul pont.
ord. vibrato
p
mp
f
Cello
I, II
free bowing
non vib.
ord. vibrato
II III
circular bowing, medium speed
p
mf p subito
mf


17
A
Elec.
p
multiphonics
13_457_A_c3
(keys and throat amplified)
key clicking only
Bari. Sax.
mp
f
p
p
f
ord. vibrato
Clar.
p
f
p
ppp
Piano
sul pont.
ord.
Violin
f
mf
mp
I,II
ord.
circular bowing
fast
slow
Cello
f
mf
ff
mp

21

Elec.

Bari. Sax.

improvized keyclicking

p

f

improvized keyclicking

Clar.

Piano

prepared piano
with blu tack and three big paper clips set between Eb2 to Db4

f

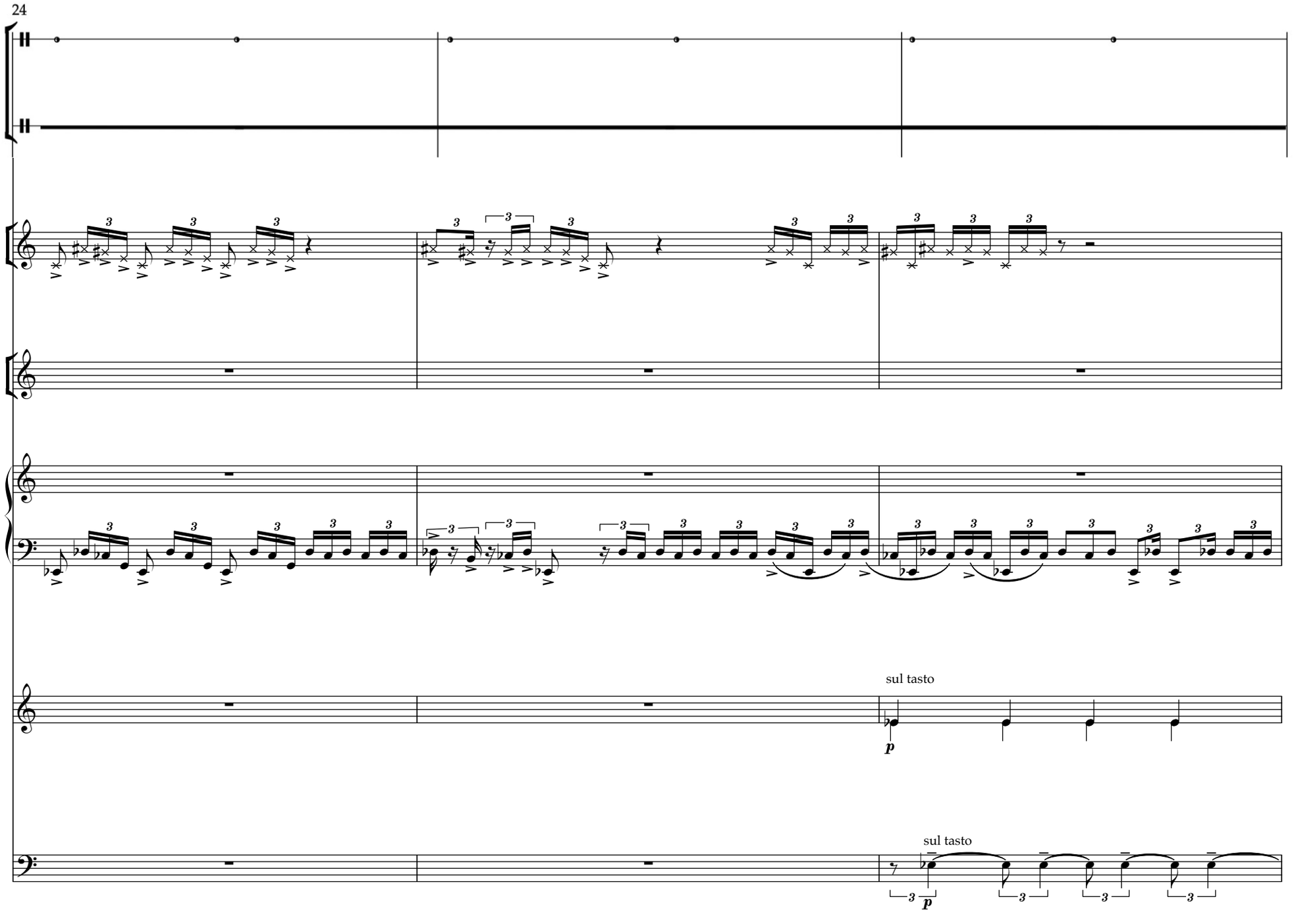
Violin

sul tasto

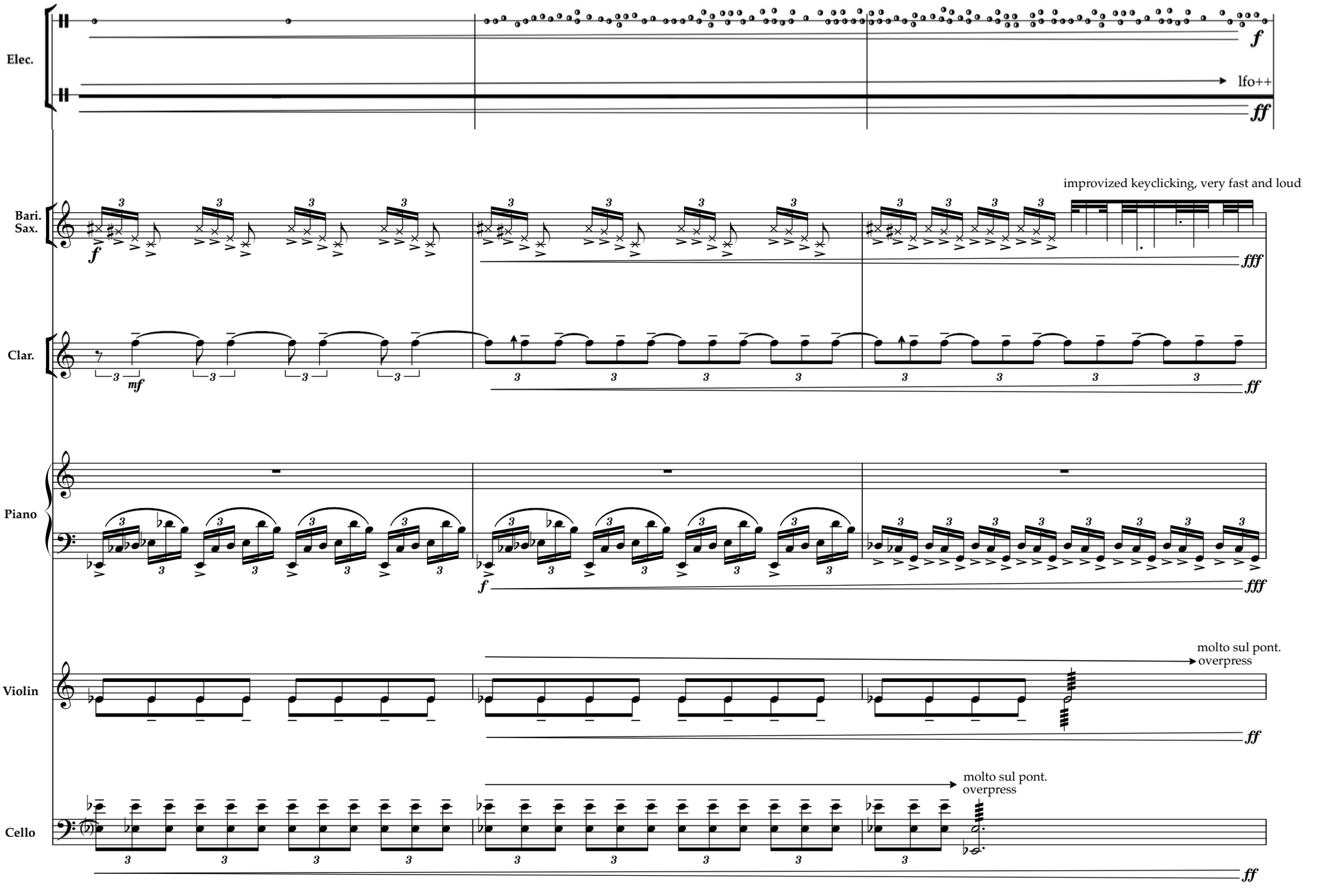
p *ppp*

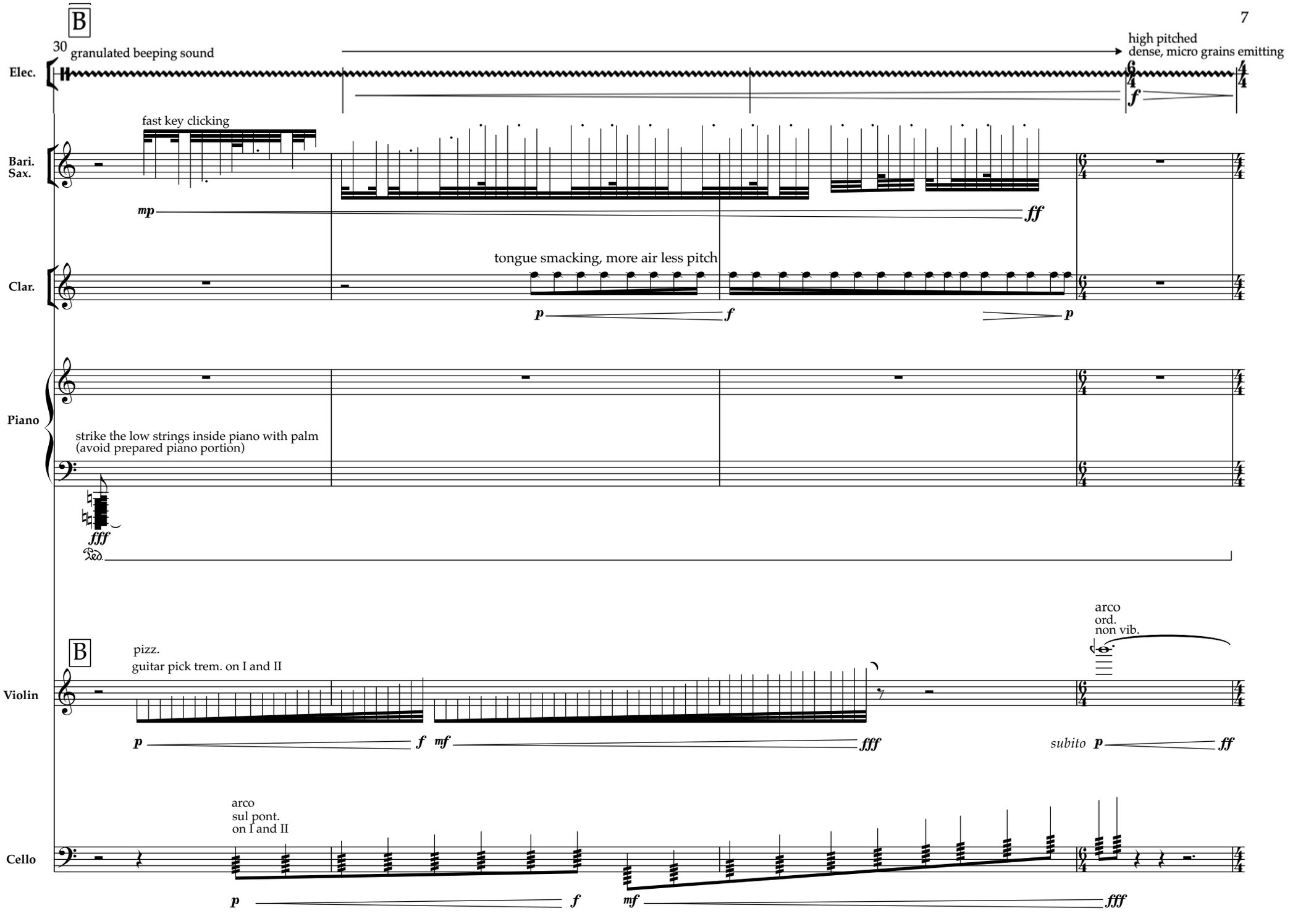
Cello

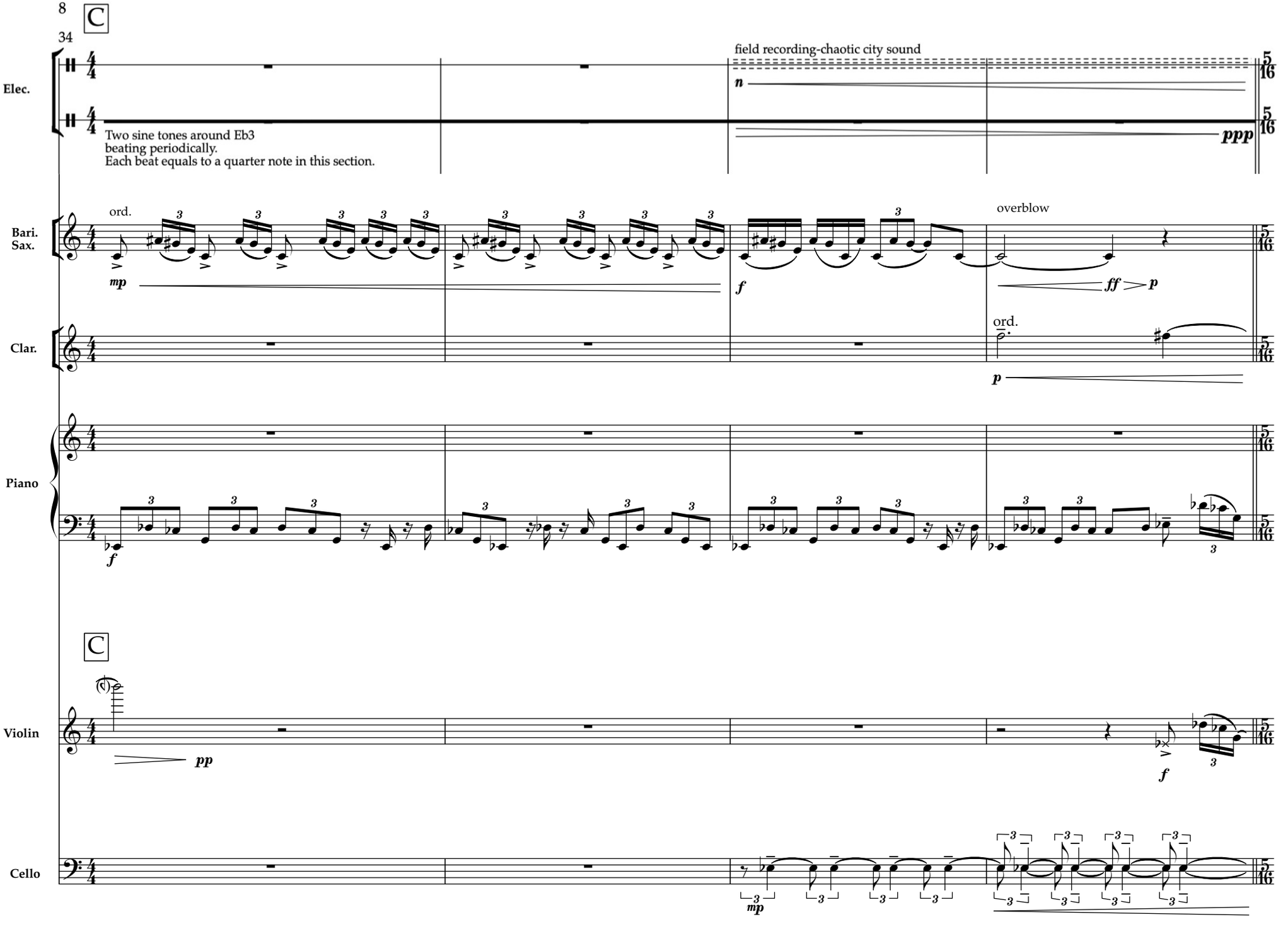
p *ppp*

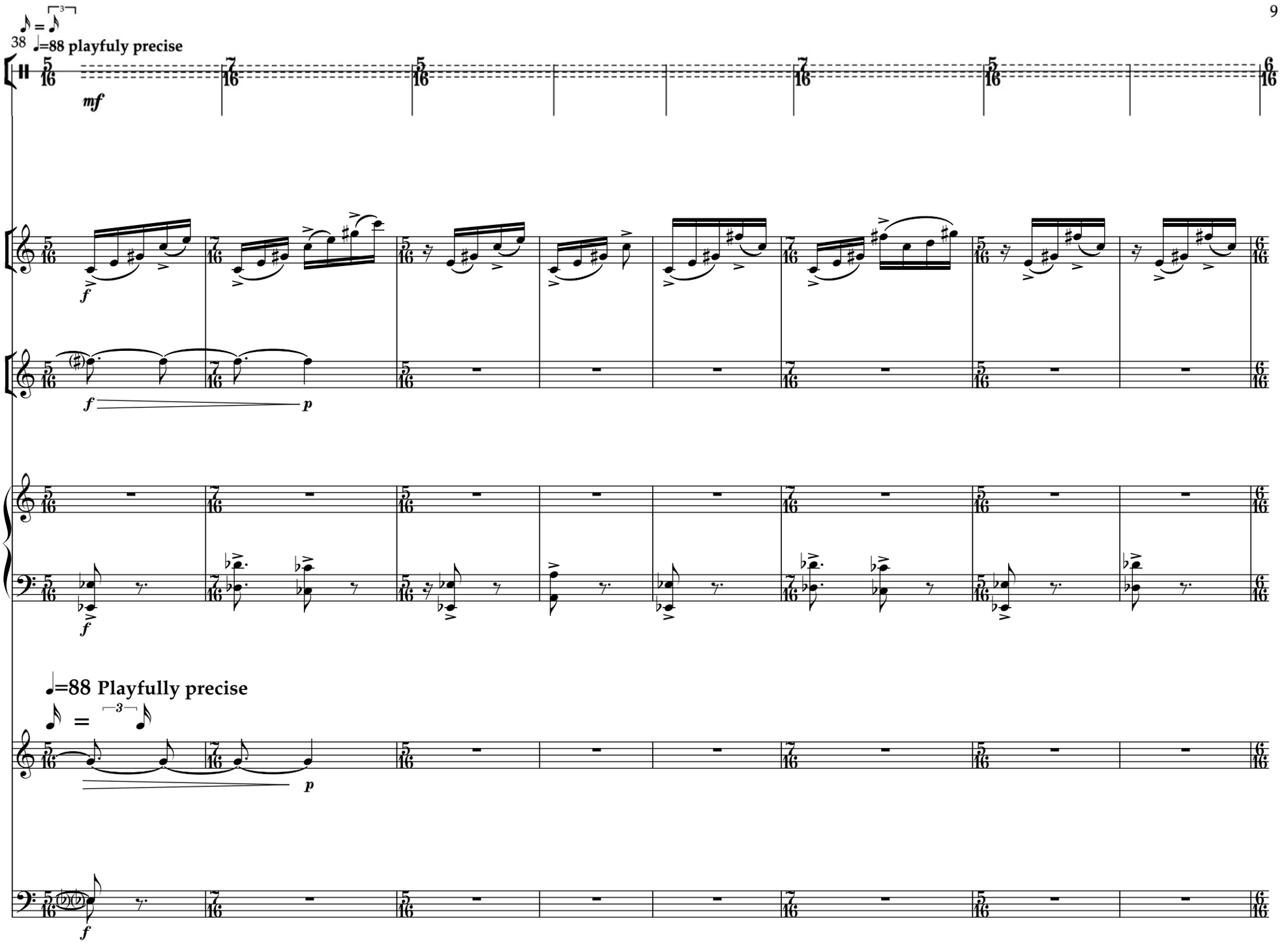

24
Elec.
Bari. Sax.
Clar.
Piano
Violin
sul tasto
p
Cello
sul tasto
p

27


Elec.
f
lfo++
ff
Bari. Sax.
improvized keyclicking, very fast and loud
f
fff
Clar.
mf
ff
Piano
f
fff
Violin
molto sul pont.
overpress
ff
Cello
molto sul pont.
overpress
ff


B
30
granulated beeping sound
high pitched
dense, micro grains emitting
Elec.
f
fast key clicking
Bari. Sax.
mp
ff
tongue smacking, more air less pitch
Clar.
p
f
p
Piano
strike the low strings inside piano with palm
(avoid prepared piano portion)
fff
Ped.
B
pizz.
guitar pick trem. on I and II
arco
ord.
non vib.
Violin
p
f
mf
fff
subito p
ff
arco
sul pont.
on I and II
Cello
p
f
mf
fff


8
34
C
Elec.
field recording-chaotic city sound
n
Two sine tones around Eb3
beating periodically.
Each beat equals to a quarter note in this section.
ppp
Bari. Sax.
ord.
mp
f
overblow
ff
p
Clar.
ord.
p
Piano
f
C
Violin
pp
f
Cello
mp


38
♪ = ♪
♩=88 playfuly precise
Elec.
mf
Bari. Sax.
f
Clar.
f
p
Piano
f
♩=88 Playfully precise
♪ = ♪
Violin
p
Cello
f

46

Elec.

Bari. Sax.

Clar.

fluttered tongue

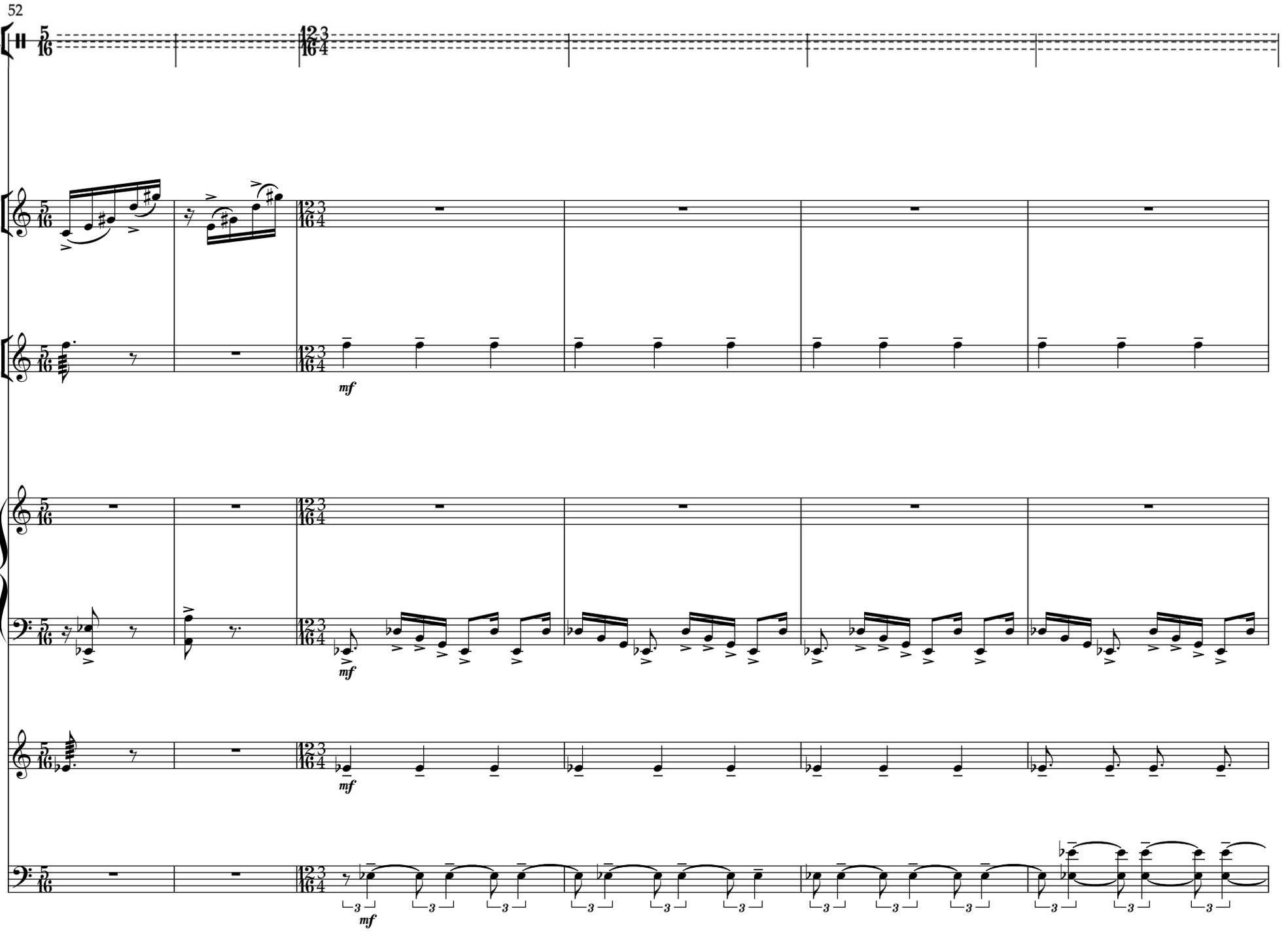
mp

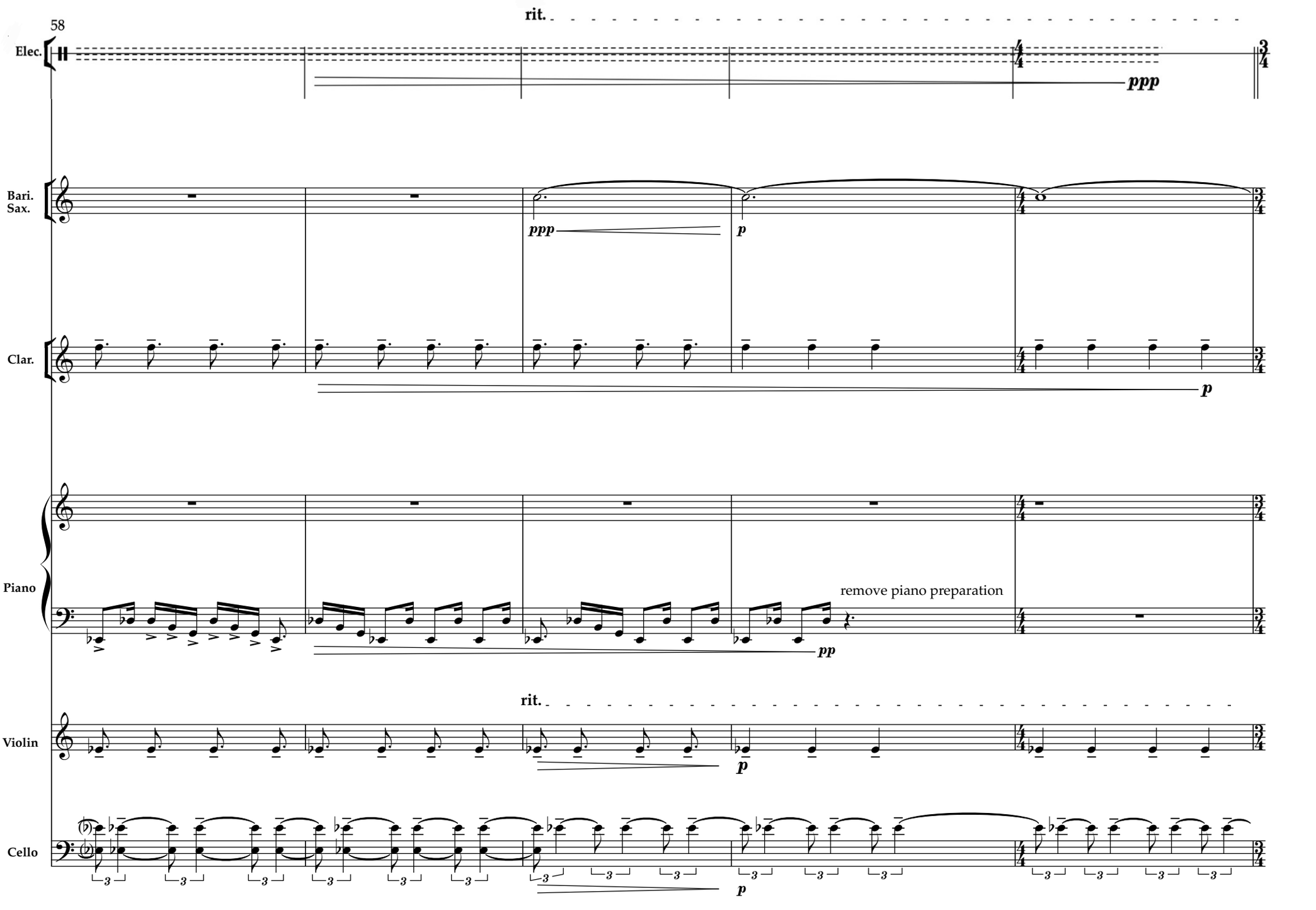
Piano

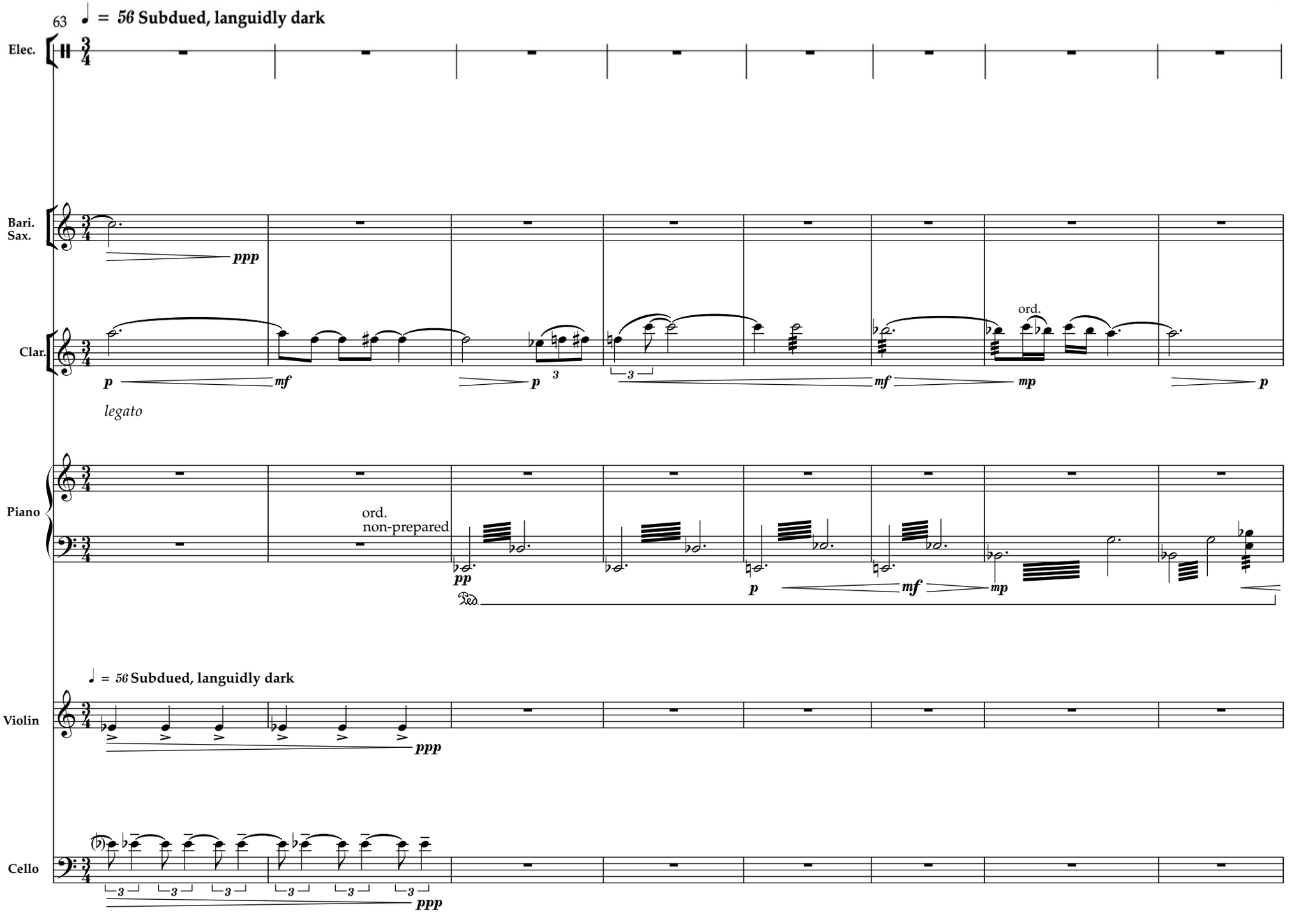
Violin

p

Cello


52
Elec.
Bari. Sax.
Clar.
Piano
Violin
Cello
mf


58
rit.
Elec.
ppp
Bari. Sax.
ppp
p
Clar.
p
Piano
remove piano preparation
pp
rit.
Violin
p
Cello
p


63
♩ = 56 Subdued, languidly dark
Elec.
Bari. Sax.
ppp
Clar.
p
mf
p
mf
ord.
mp
p
legato
Piano
ord.
non-prepared
pp
p
mf
mp
Violin
♩ = 56 Subdued, languidly dark
ppp
Cello
ppp

71

Elec.

Bari. Sax.

Clar.

mp *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

Piano

f *mp* *mf* *p*

Violin

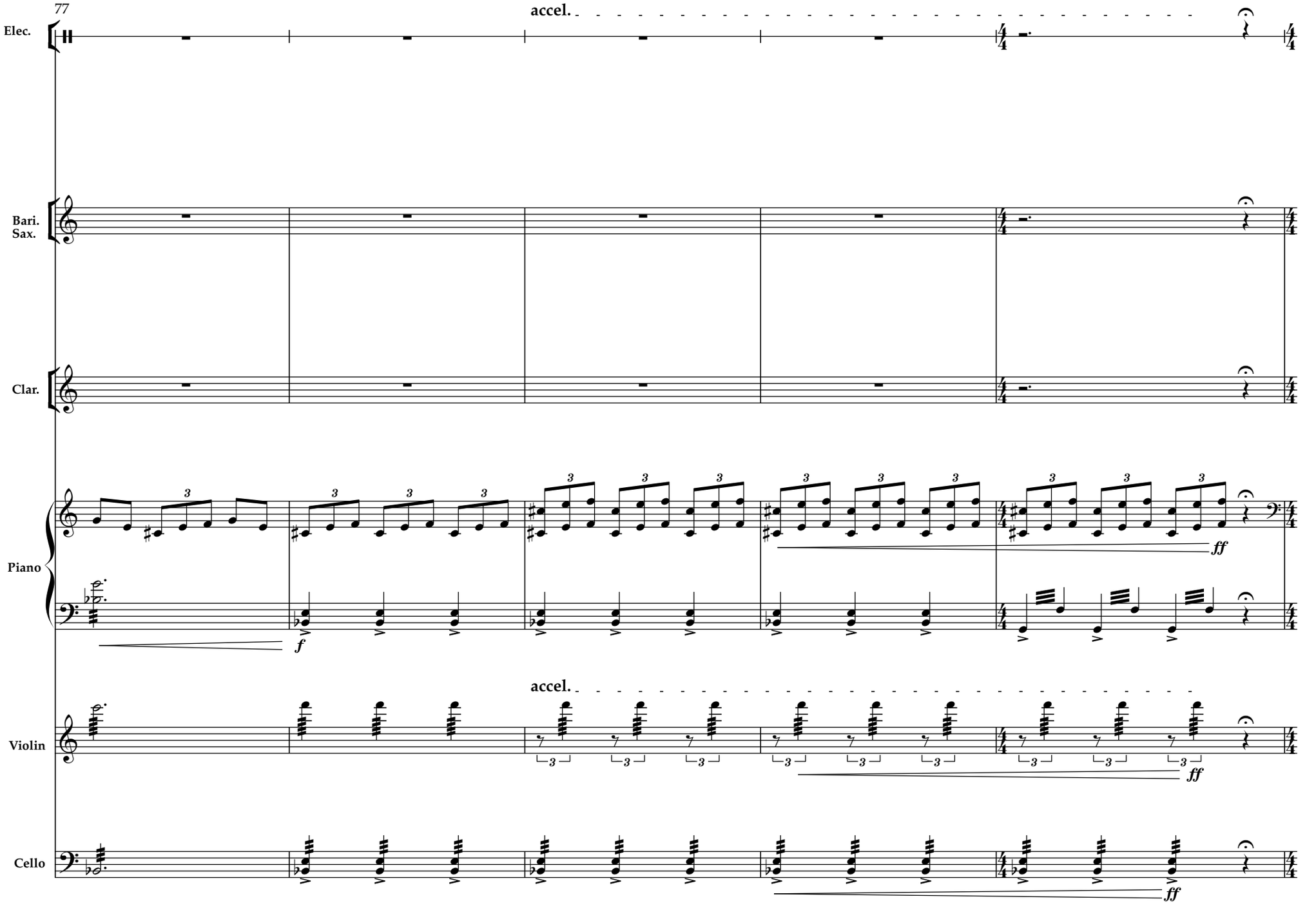
sul tasto

pp

Cello

sul tasto

mp


77
accel.
Elec.
Bari. Sax.
Clar.
Piano
ff
f
accel.
Violin
ff
Cello
ff

82 D ♩ = 62 **like a train running in the darkness**

♩=77.5 ♪=♫[5]

Elec.

mf

High pitched sine tone beeping from distance;
Each beep equals to a half note.

low frequency drone

mf

Bari. Sax.

fff

ff

Clar.

Piano

ff

ff

D ♩ = 62 **Like a train running in the darkness**

♩=77.5

Violin

bartok pizz.

ff

pizz.

arco

f

spiccato

Cello

bartok pizz.

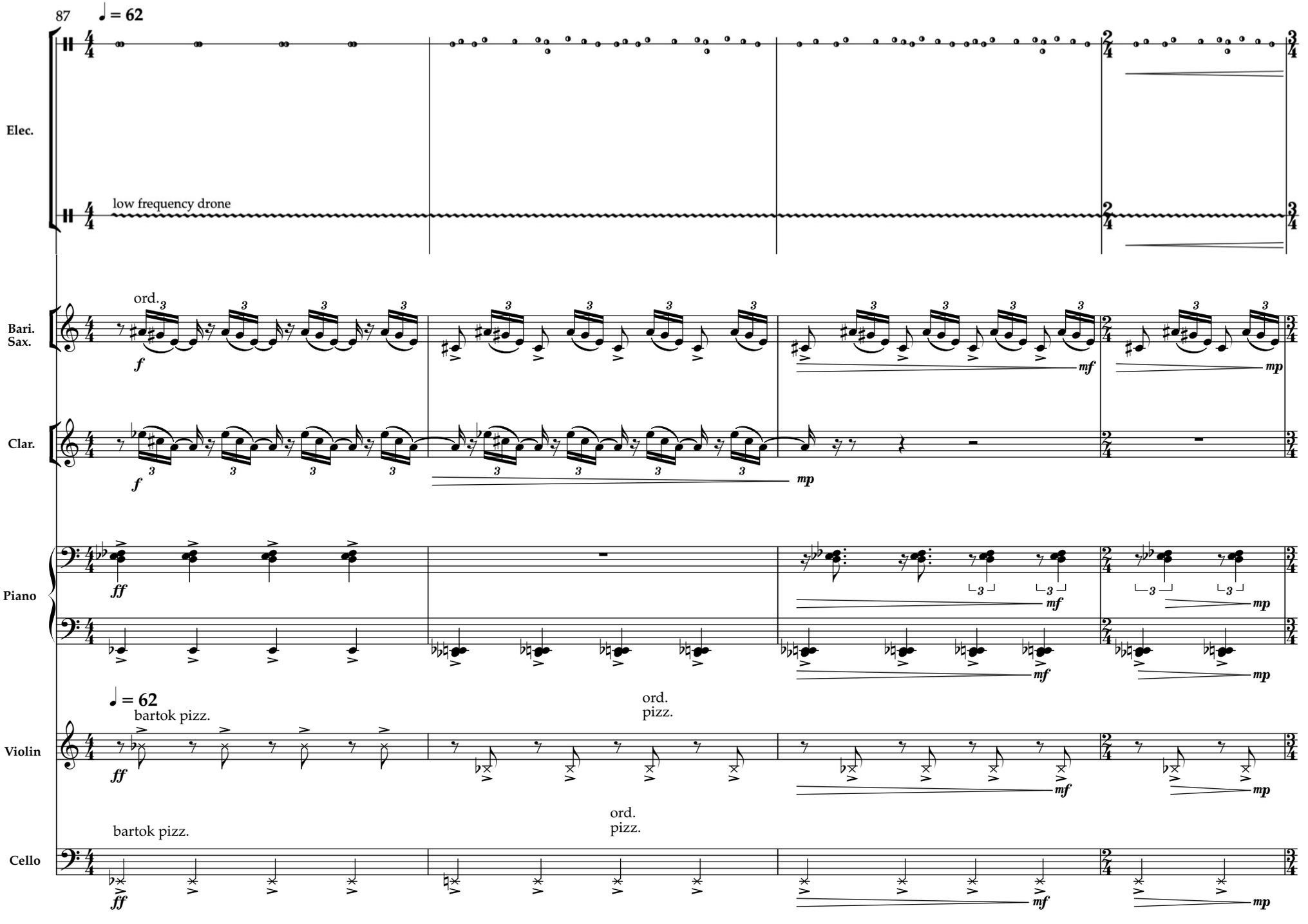
ff

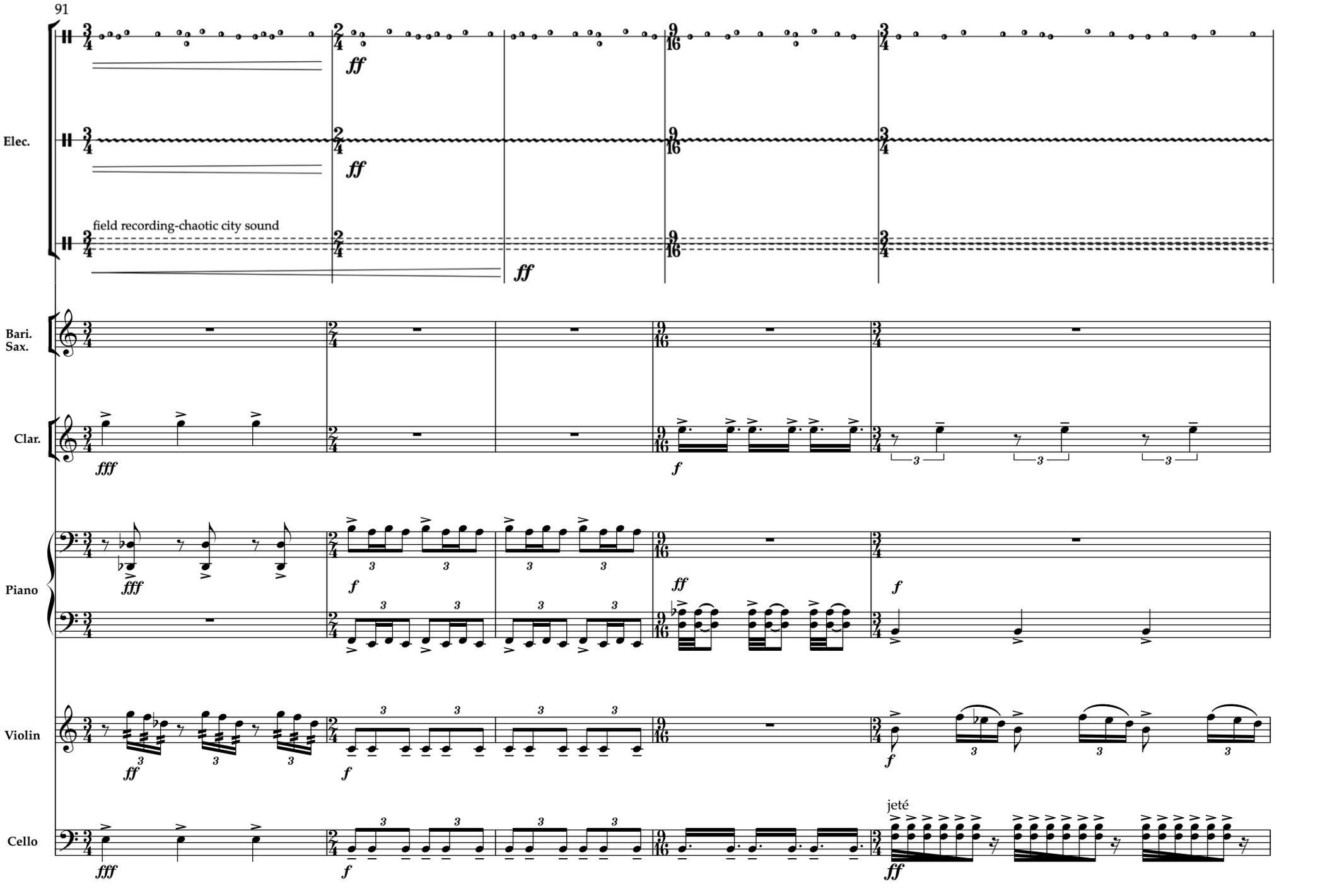
pizz.

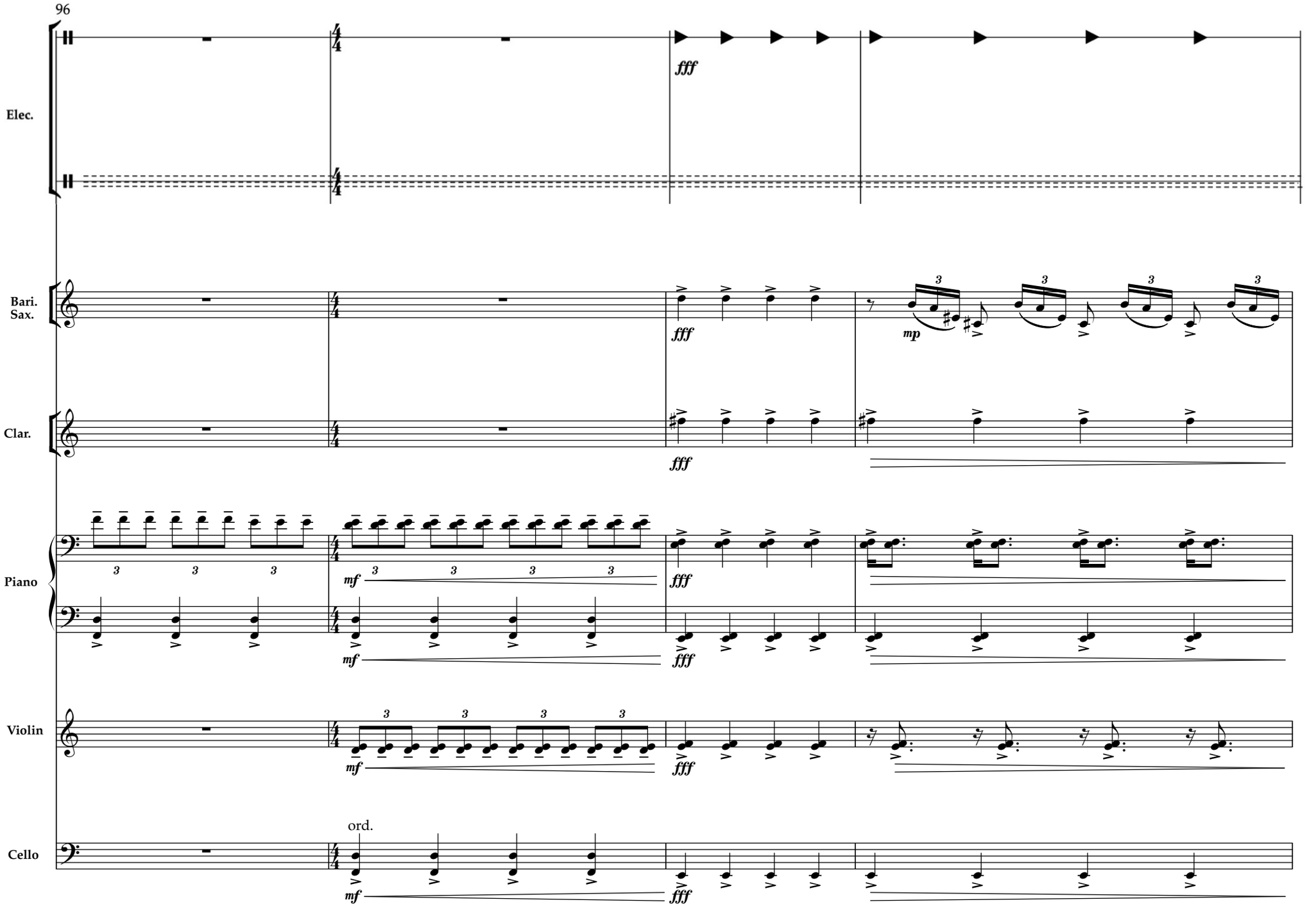
arco

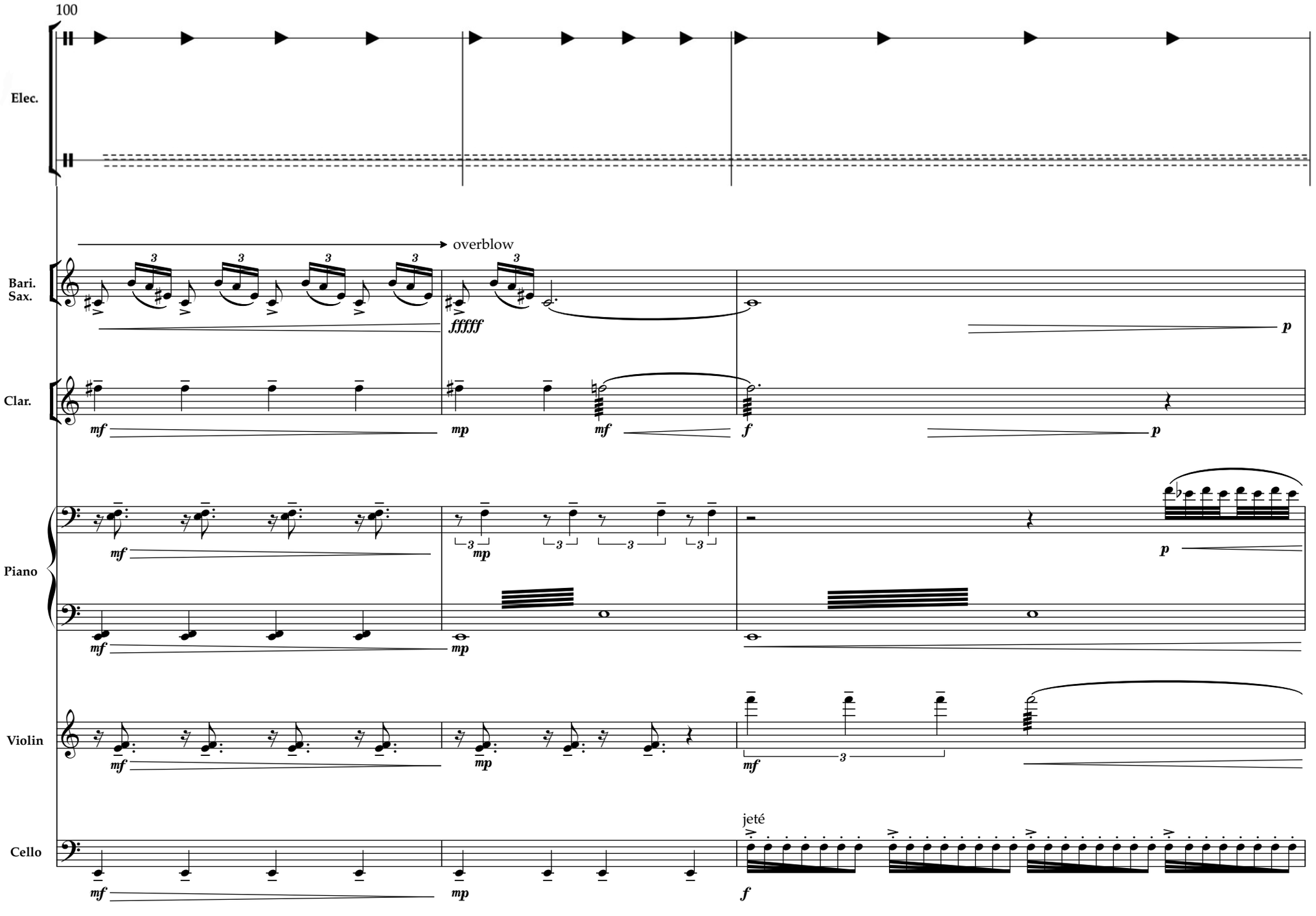
f

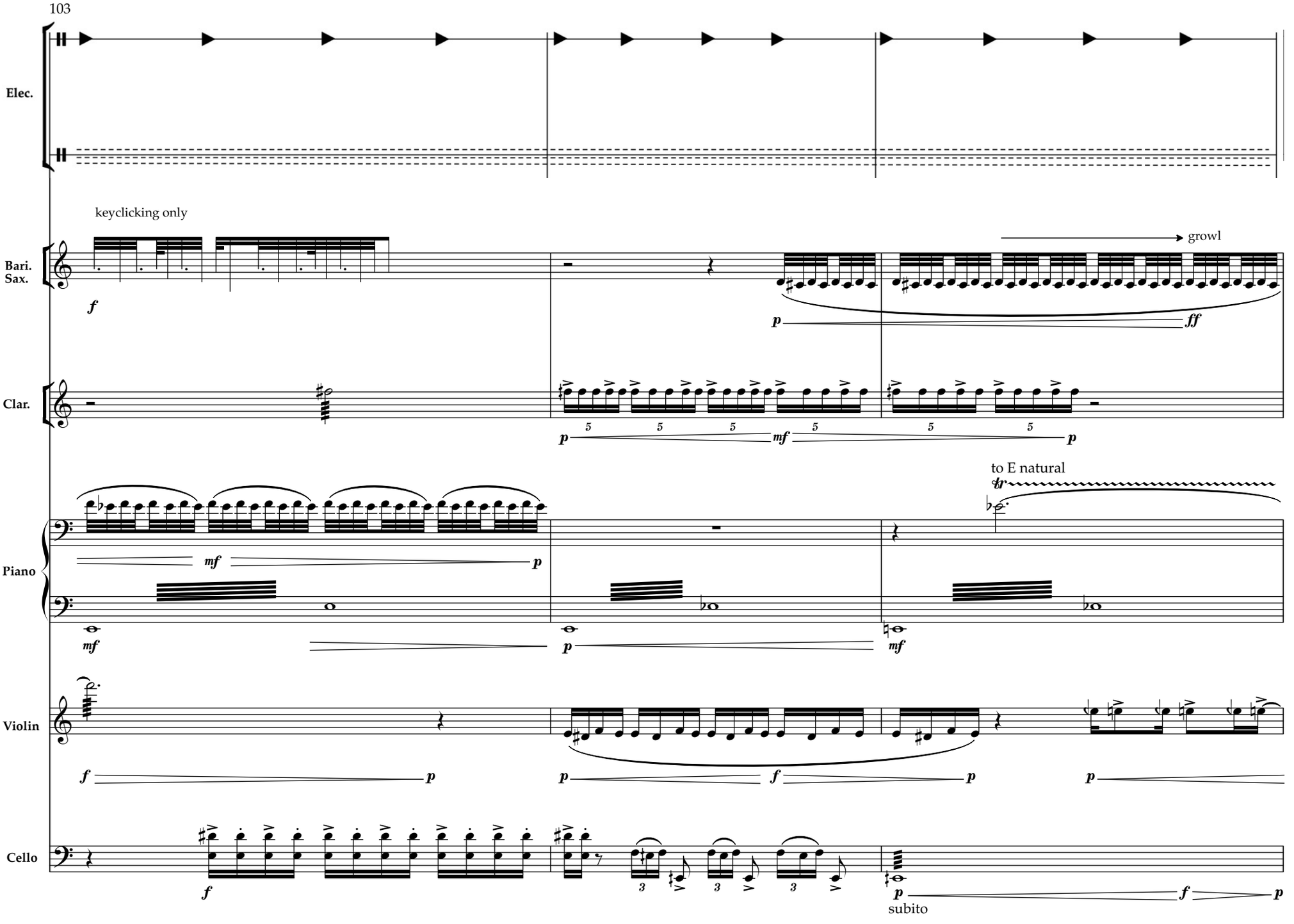
spiccato


87
♩ = 62
Elec.
low frequency drone
Bari. Sax.
ord.
Clar.
Piano
♩ = 62
bartok pizz.
ord.
pizz.
Violin
bartok pizz.
ord.
pizz.
Cello

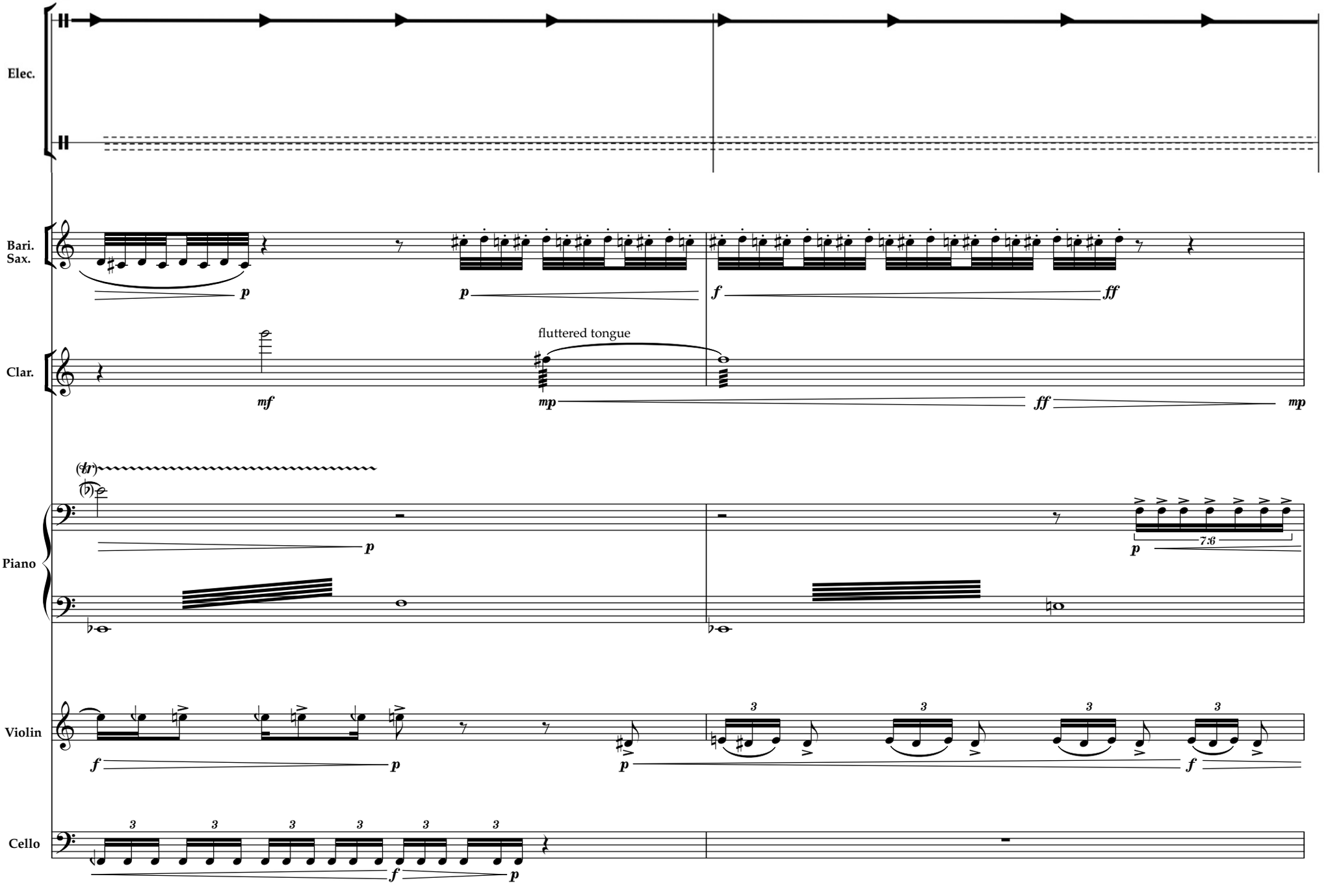

91
Elec.
field recording-chaotic city sound
Bari. Sax.
Clar.
Piano
Violin
Cello
jeté

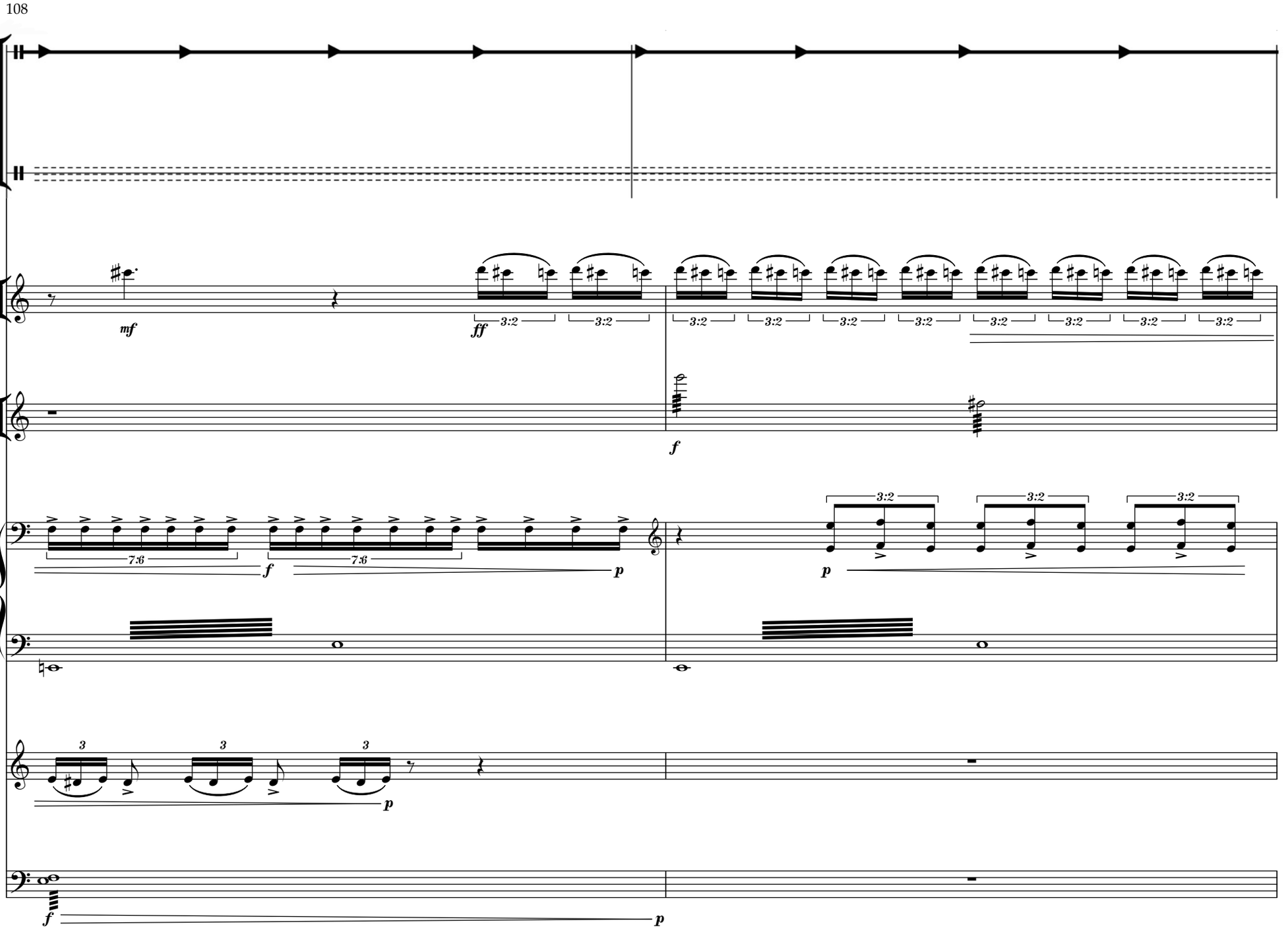

96
Elec.
fff
Bari. Sax.
fff
mp
Clar.
fff
Piano
mf
fff
Violin
mf
fff
Cello
ord.
mf
fff

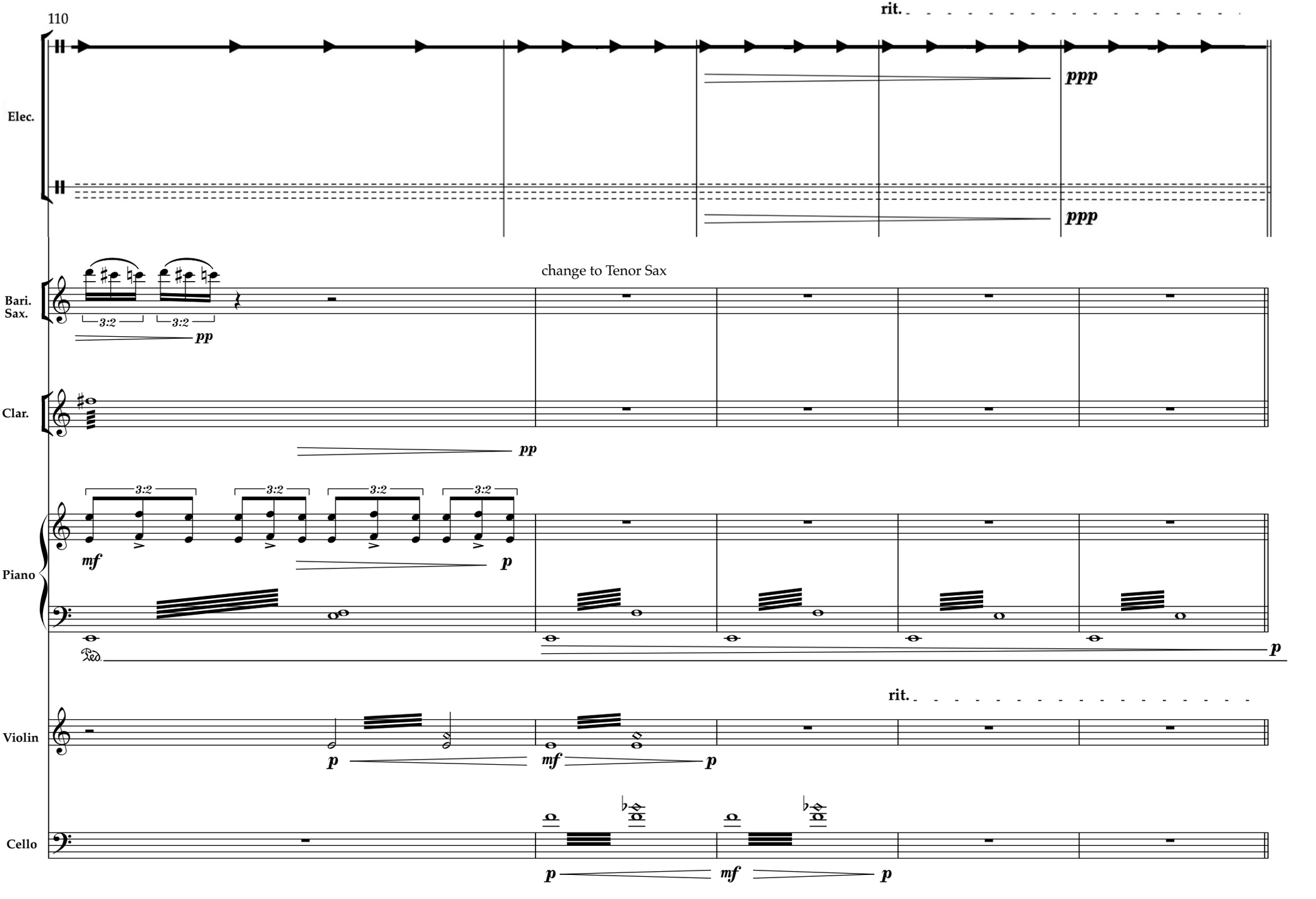

100
Elec.
overblow
Bari. Sax.
fffff
p
Clar.
mf
mp
mf
f
p
Piano
mf
mp
p
mf
mp
Violin
mf
mp
mf
jeté
Cello
mf
mp
f

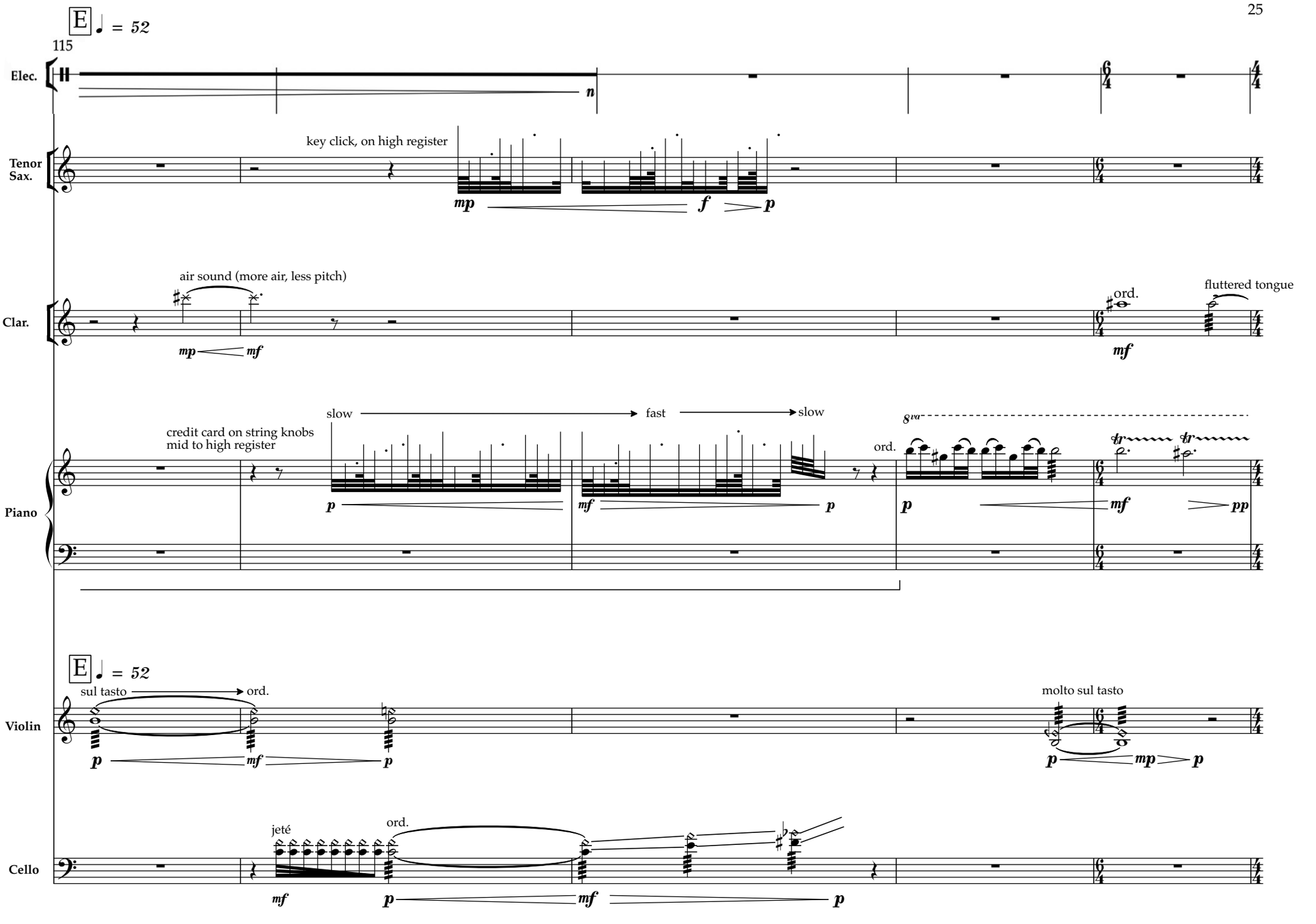

103
Elec.
keyclicking only
Bari. Sax.
growl
Clar.
Piano
to E natural
Violin
Cello
subito

106

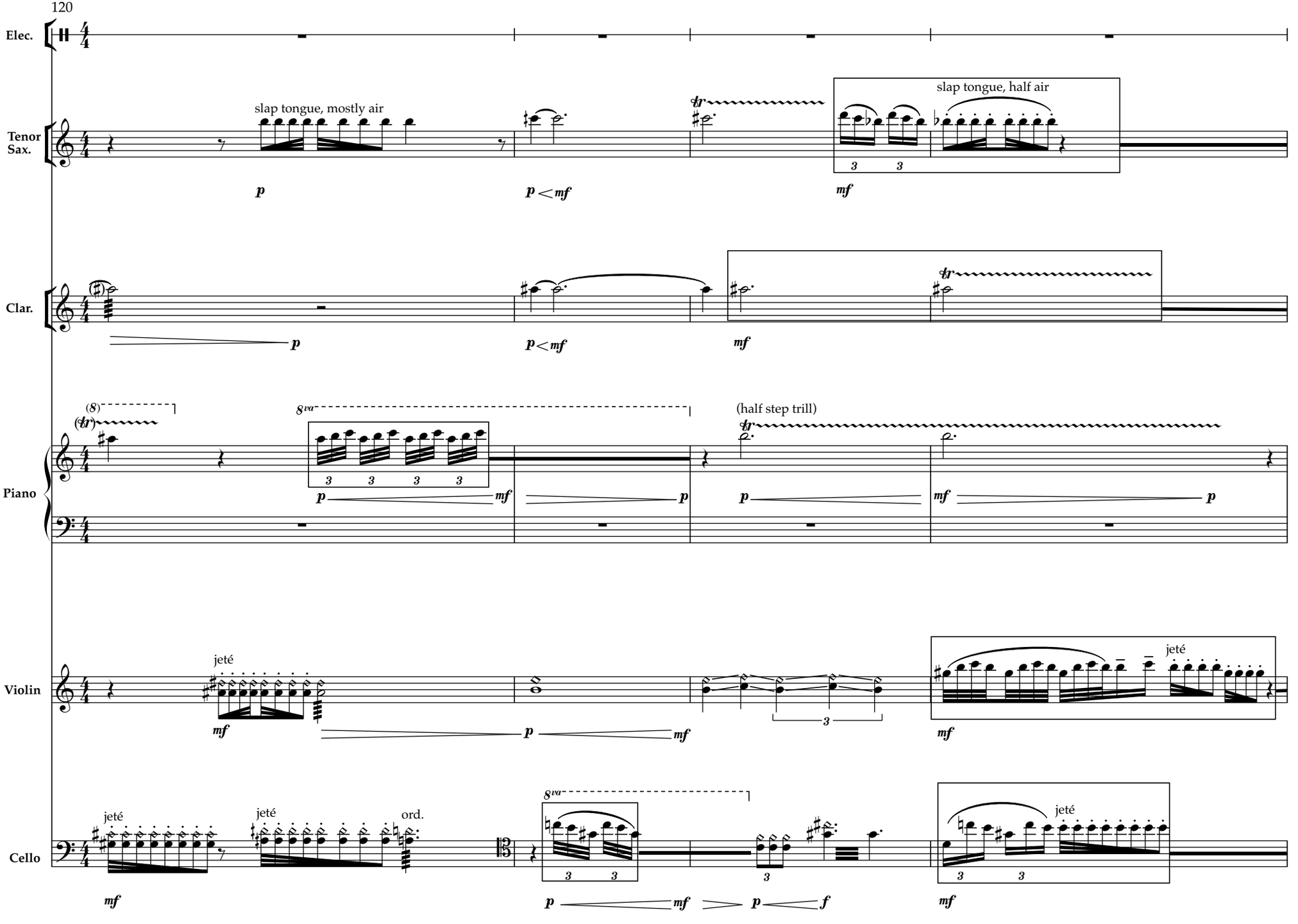

Elec.
Bari. Sax.
p
p
f
ff
Clar.
fluttered tongue
mf
mp
ff
mp
(tr)
Piano
p
7:6
p
Violin
f
p
p
3
3
3
f
Cello
3
3
3
3
3
3
f
p

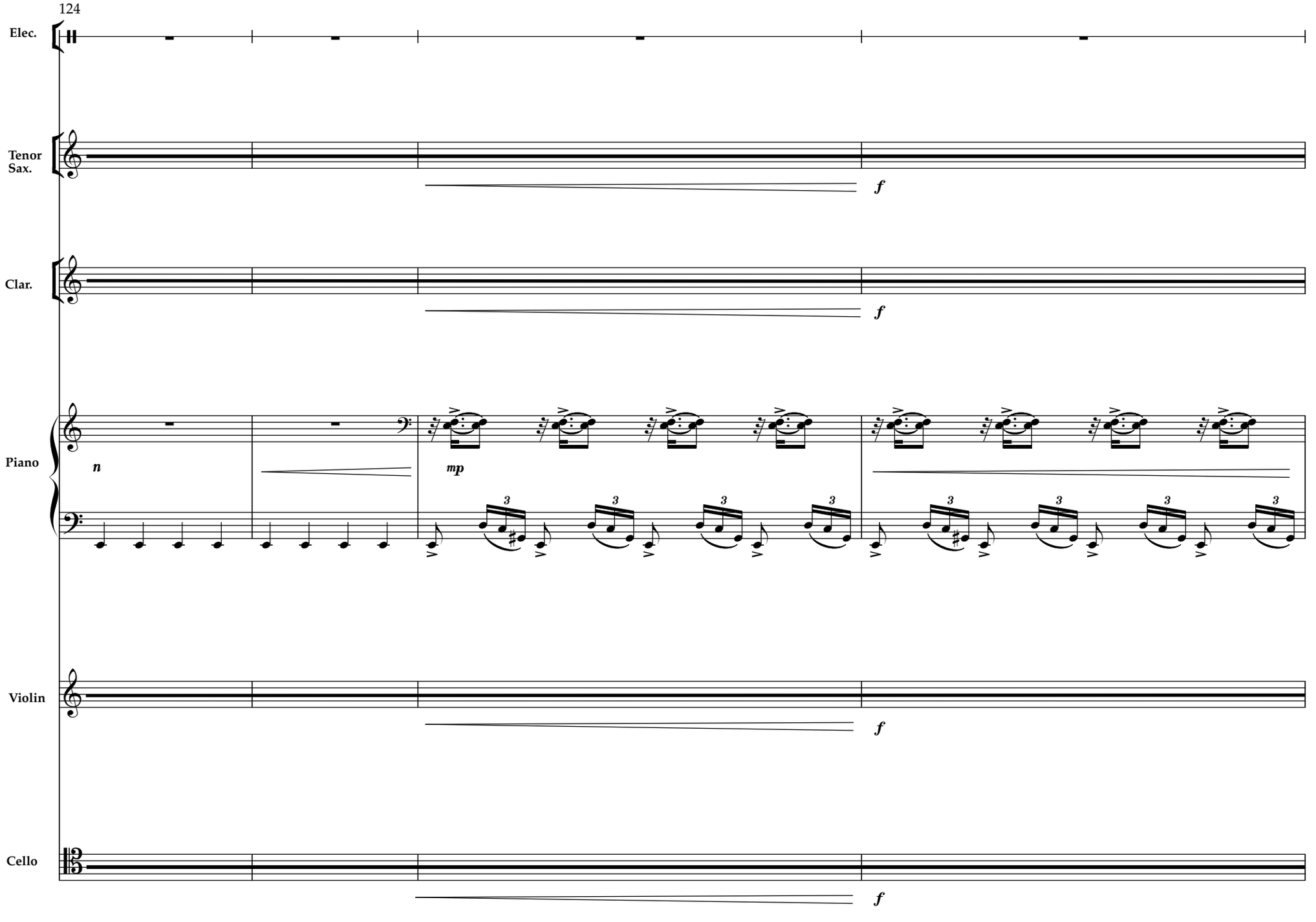

108
Elec.
Bari. Sax.
Clar.
Piano
Violin
Cello
mf
ff
f
p
3:2
7:6
3


110
rit.
Elec.
ppp
ppp
Bari. Sax.
change to Tenor Sax
3:2
3:2
pp
Clar.
pp
Piano
3:2
3:2
3:2
3:2
mf
p
Ped.
p
rit.
Violin
p
mf
p
Cello
p
mf
p


E ♩ = 52
115
Elec.
n
Tenor Sax.
key click, on high register
mp
f
p
Clar.
air sound (more air, less pitch)
mp
mf
ord.
mf
fluttered tongue
Piano
credit card on string knobs
mid to high register
slow
fast
slow
p
mf
p
ord.
8va
p
mf
pp
E ♩ = 52
Violin
sul tasto
ord.
p
mf
p
molto sul tasto
p
mp
p
Cello
jeté
ord.
mf
p
mf
p

120


Elec.
Tenor Sax.
slap tongue, mostly air
slap tongue, half air
Clar.
Piano
(8)
8va
(half step trill)
Violin
jeté
Cello
ord.


124
Elec.
Tenor Sax.
f
Clar.
f
Piano
n
mp
Violin
f
Cello
f

128

Elec.

Alto Sax.

faster, denser, slight overpress

ffff

Clar.

faster, denser, slight overpress

ffff

Piano

f

Violin

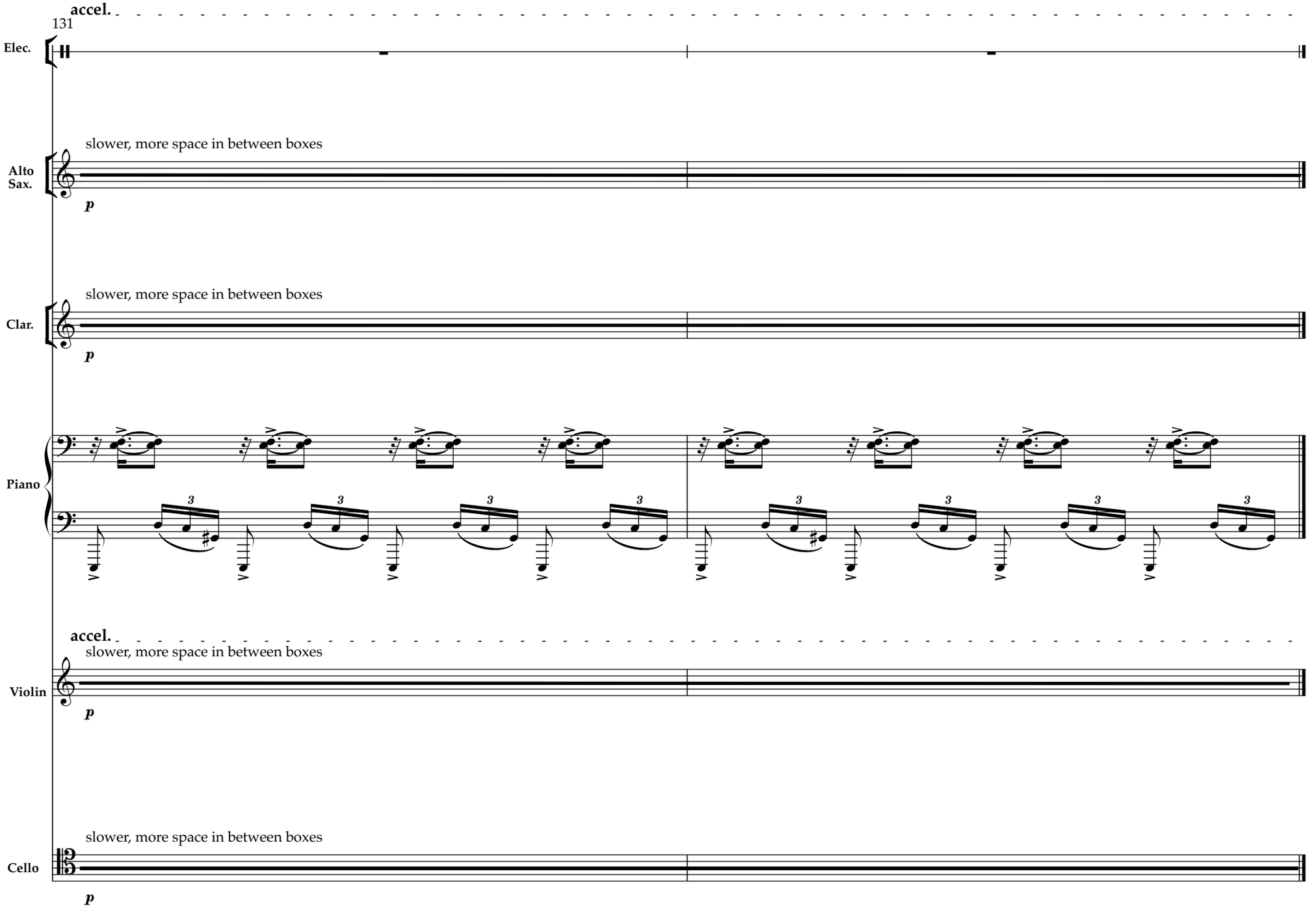
faster, denser, slight overpress

ffff

Cello

faster, denser, slight overpress

ffff


accel.
131
Elec.
slower, more space in between boxes
Alto Sax.
p
slower, more space in between boxes
Clar.
p
Piano
accel.
slower, more space in between boxes
Violin
p
slower, more space in between boxes
Cello
p